



UPSURGE

36: Distorsiones activas

SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

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SO, JACOB.
WE'VE BEEN HERE
FOR AN HOUR.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA
ASK ME THE
QUESTION?

YOU MEAN
ABOUT THE
TECHNOLOGY
YOU'RE GOING
TO...?

NO,
NO.

ABOUT
ELLE. YOUR
HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLFRIEND.

SHE'S WITH A
LAWYER NOW,
RIGHT?

HAS A SON, ALREADY. AND A CHALET
IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS, TOO. THEY
COME TOGETHER, YOU SEE.



YOU'RE
MOCK-
ING ME.



I MEAN...
JACOB.

YOU'VE GOT
TO ADMIT,
IT'S **HILARI-
OUS.**

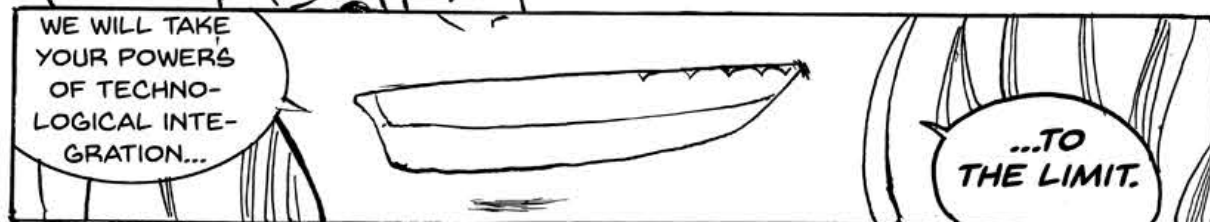
YOU TWO
WERE THE
WEIRD COUPLE
FROM HIGH
SCHOOL!

I'VE SEEN HER ON
THE INTERNET TALKING
ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF AT-
TACHMENT PARENTING, SO SHE'S
NOT GOING BACK TO TEACHING
PHILOSOPHY.

YOU QUOTED SAR-
TRE AND CAMUS, YOU
HAD THAT DEER-
CAUGHT-IN-THE-HEAD-
LIGHTS STARE... AND
LOOK AT HER NOW
THAT SHE CAUGHT
A LAWYER!



NOTE: JACOB AND CLARISSE SPEAK IN FRENCH. THE REST OF THE CHARACTERS IN THIS CHAPTER SPEAK EITHER SPANISH OR ENGLISH. IT IS NOT ESPECIALLY RELEVANT, SO IT WON'T BE MENTIONED AGAIN SO AS NOT TO HINDER THE READING.



Transcript of recording #03/27/2012:

Essex: I see you have a penchant for these secret basements. At least I'm not a confused fucking orphan, this time.

Father Justo: Uh-huh. So that's where your animosity against the Cult of the One comes from. We had the audacity of taking care of you.

Essex: Yeah? Slapping my face red when I didn't wanna pray was part of my involuntary skincare routine?

Justo: ...you have a lot to explain, Essex. After what we just went through...

Essex: Yeah, yeah. I'm starting to know what it was about. I called Jacob... a friend, we work the same job. He knew what this is about, kinda. Last year, we were investigating a case... and he ran into a witch, who used black magic.

Justo: A witch?

Essex: And an American at that, too.

Justo: American? What was she doing here?

Essex: She wanted to go to Santiago, which meant that she needed the hand of Satan. Jacob told me he found some letters... in them, she talked about "controlling a beast"...

Essex: Hmm... Now that I think about it, according to Jacob, the woman died giving birth to the demon that killed Eliya.

Justo: What? Eliya Uwante, murdered? There were some suspicions, but I thought it ended up being just a heart att...

Essex: No. They unleashed a demon upon him.

Justo: But... did they use a demon from the astral plane or...?

Essex: No, they materialized it. They used a hexagram to bring the demon into the material plane.

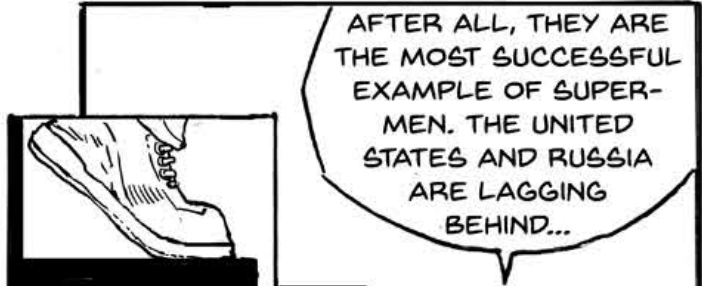
Justo: But the hexagram is a symbol of stability and peace... Who could corrupt such a symbol in that ma...

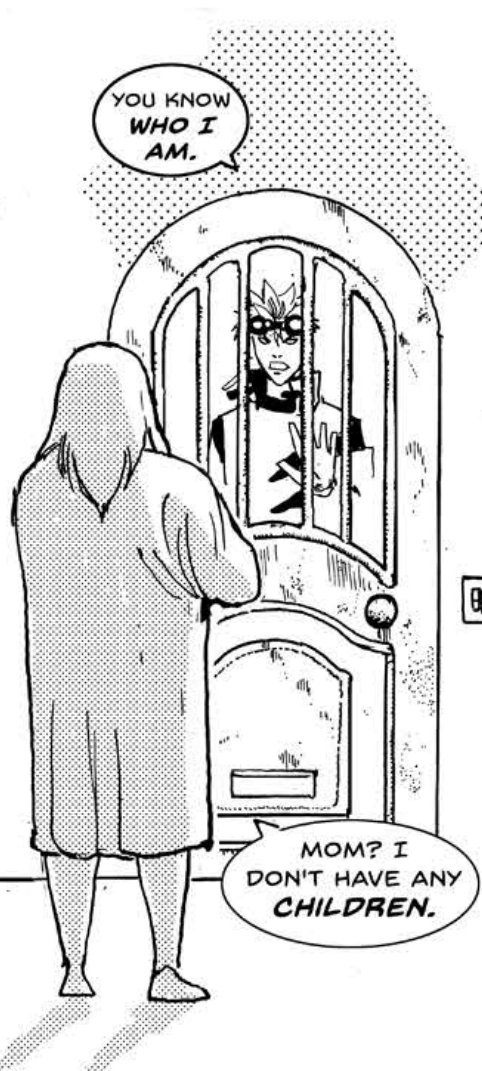
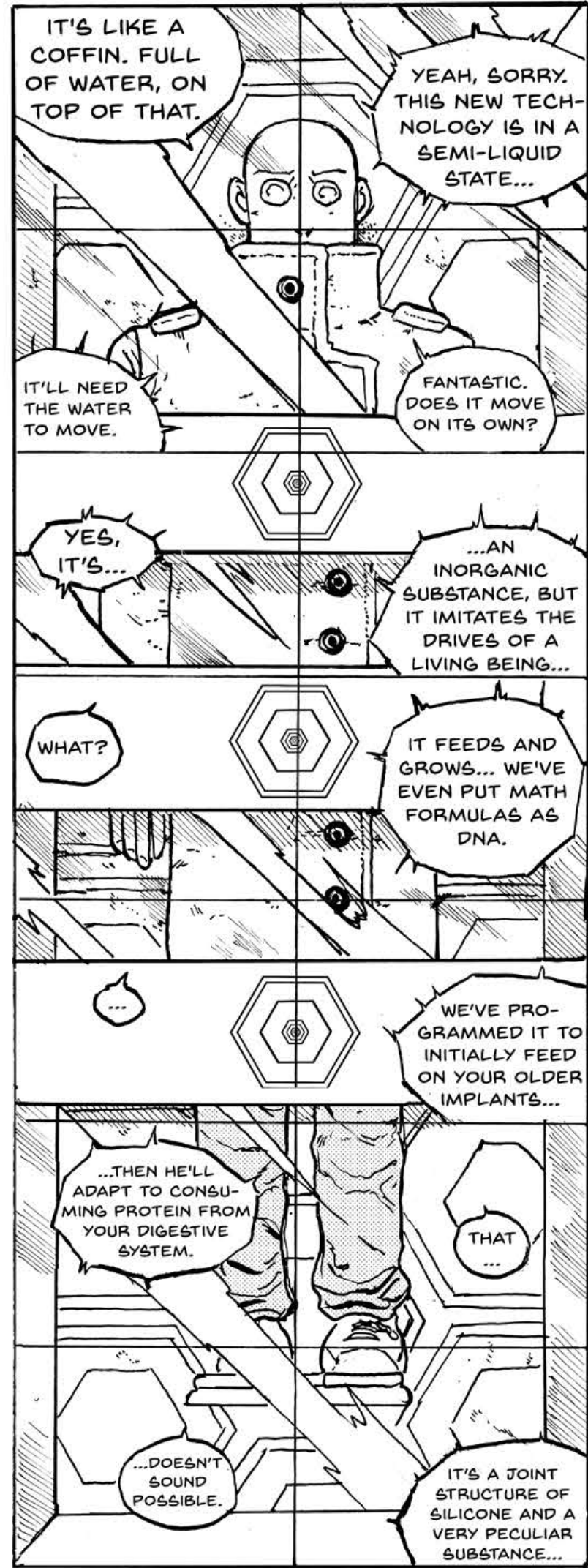
Essex: An asshole, father. An asshole.

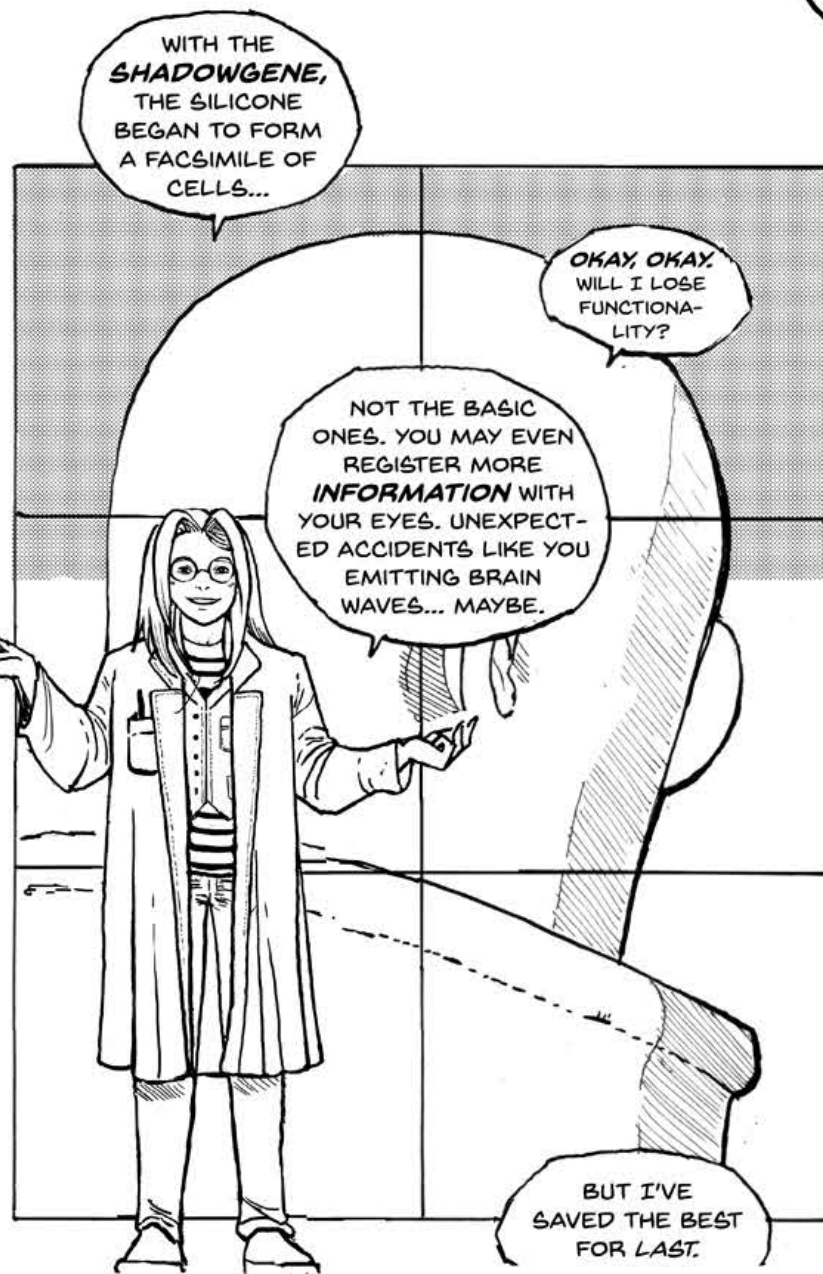
Justo: ...so, I take it that our prisoner followed the trails of the place where the witch died and ended up here, seeking revenge...

Essex: Yes. According to the letters, the witch was part of something called "The Sigil of M", so we can assume that he's also part of that group.

Justo: The Sigil of M? The American cult?







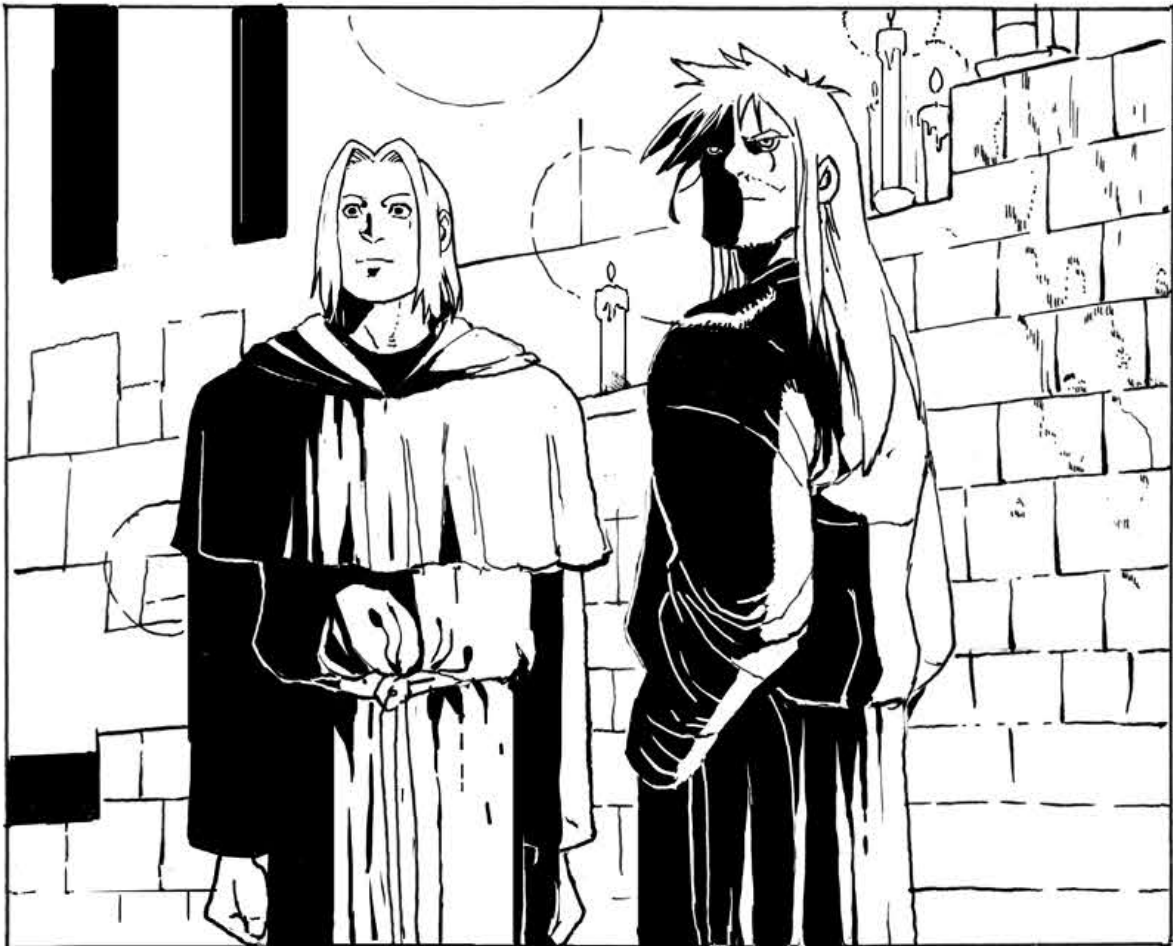
Prisoner: Ha. Singing our exploits! Very good. Very good! But don't sell us short, priest. The reason demons can't appear on the material plane? Us. The reason why the world is embroiled (sic) in materialism? Us. We have lengthened our lives beyond what is humanly possible, and we've brought the Antichrist into the world... I think that deserves bigger words from you, father!

Essex: Wasn't he anesthetized?

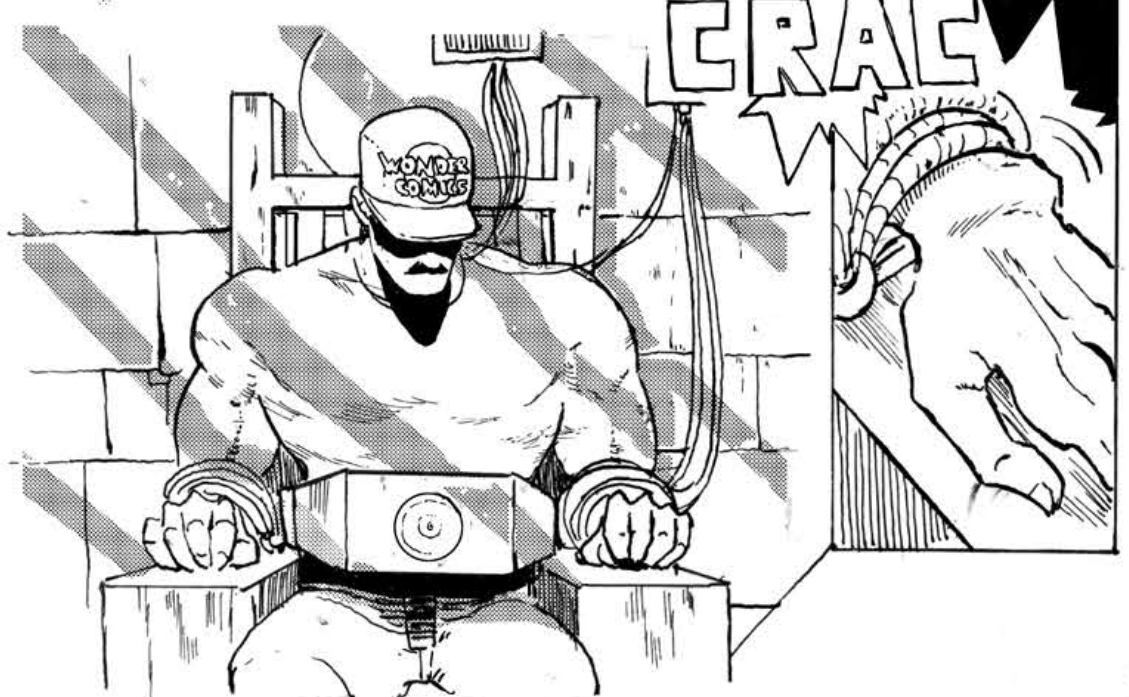
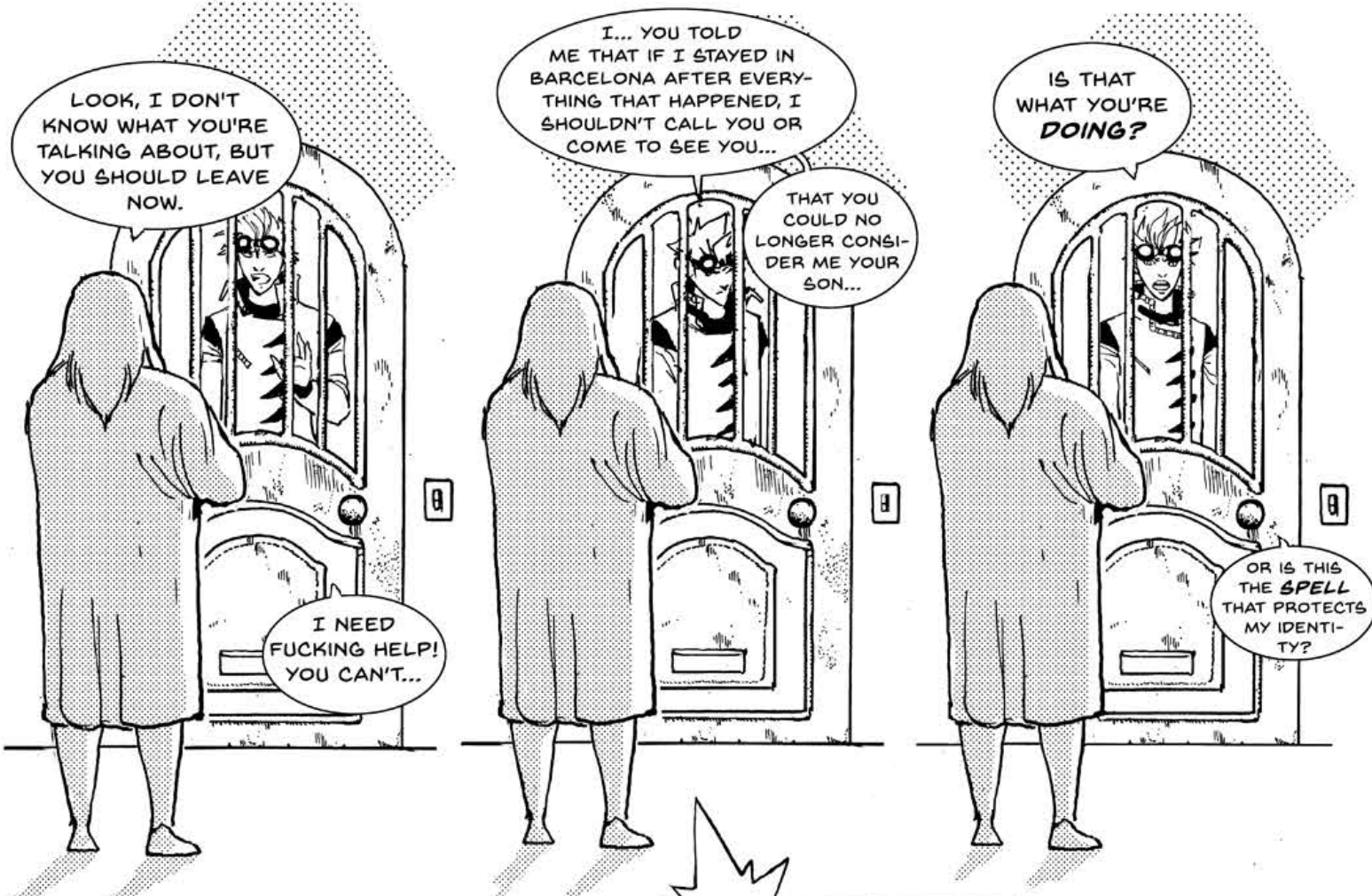
Justo: Yes. I don't understand...



Prisoner: Hmh. Fuck it! I'm going to tell you my story, why not. My name is Walter Raleigh. I was an explorer, a long time ago. I wanted to leave my mark on the world, literally: a fucking space on the map was going to be mine. But you know how it goes. You think you're going to make it, and then it all ends like a wet fart. So I ended up looking in those places where nobody wants to look. Those spaces that others believe to be non-existent; myths and legends. I had heard rumors that the Holy Grail was near some Mayan ruins... so I said to myself, fuck it. Let's give it a try.



Prisoner: I searched the ruins. Obviously, it wasn't there. I'll be brief: I ended up in the Amazon jungle, and there I found it. The so-called Holy Grail. It was a shitty medieval cup. A scam, at least the cup itself was. However... the cup had a bit of water. And it wasn't normal water. Most who dared to drink it died. However, if you had enough willpower to endure your insides burning... well... let's say the reaper is going to have to wait a long time to meet you.



Prisoner: So, anyway. After that, I went to America and met that group you mentioned... They tried to kill me, in fact. Those rituals you talked about? They tried to kidnap my fucking dog, do their bullshit black magic shit on him...

Justo: Are you talking about the rituals during the First World War?

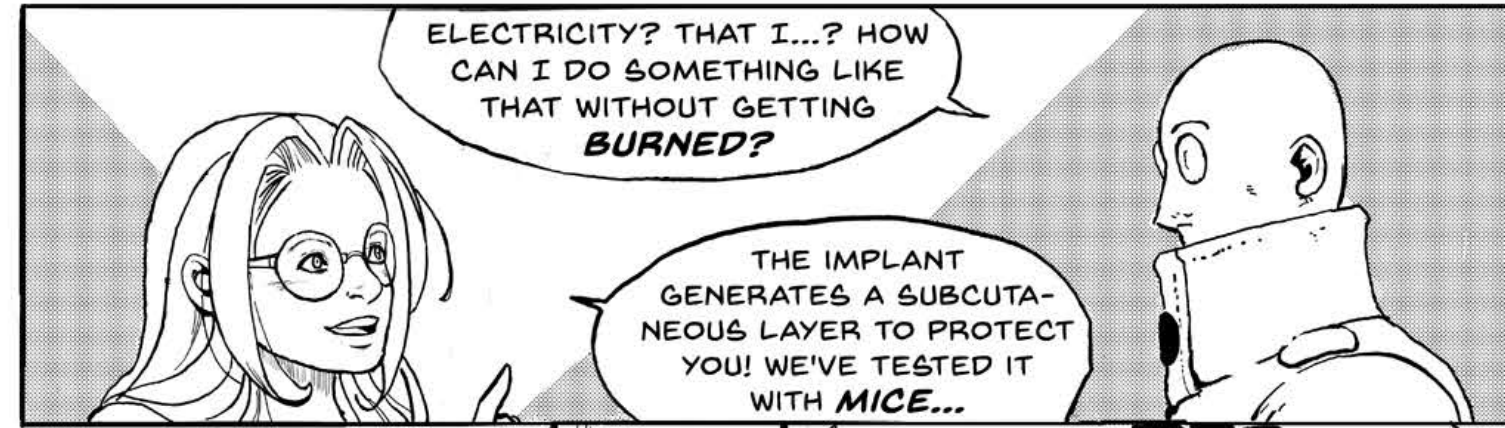
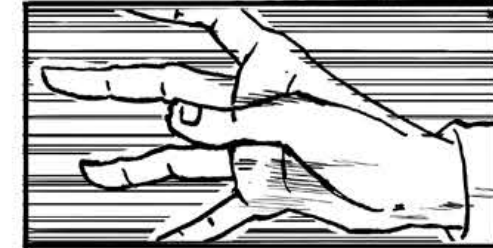
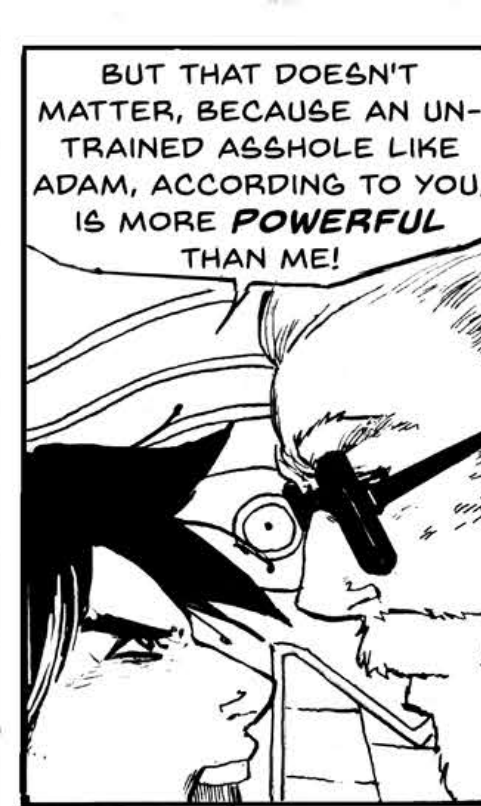
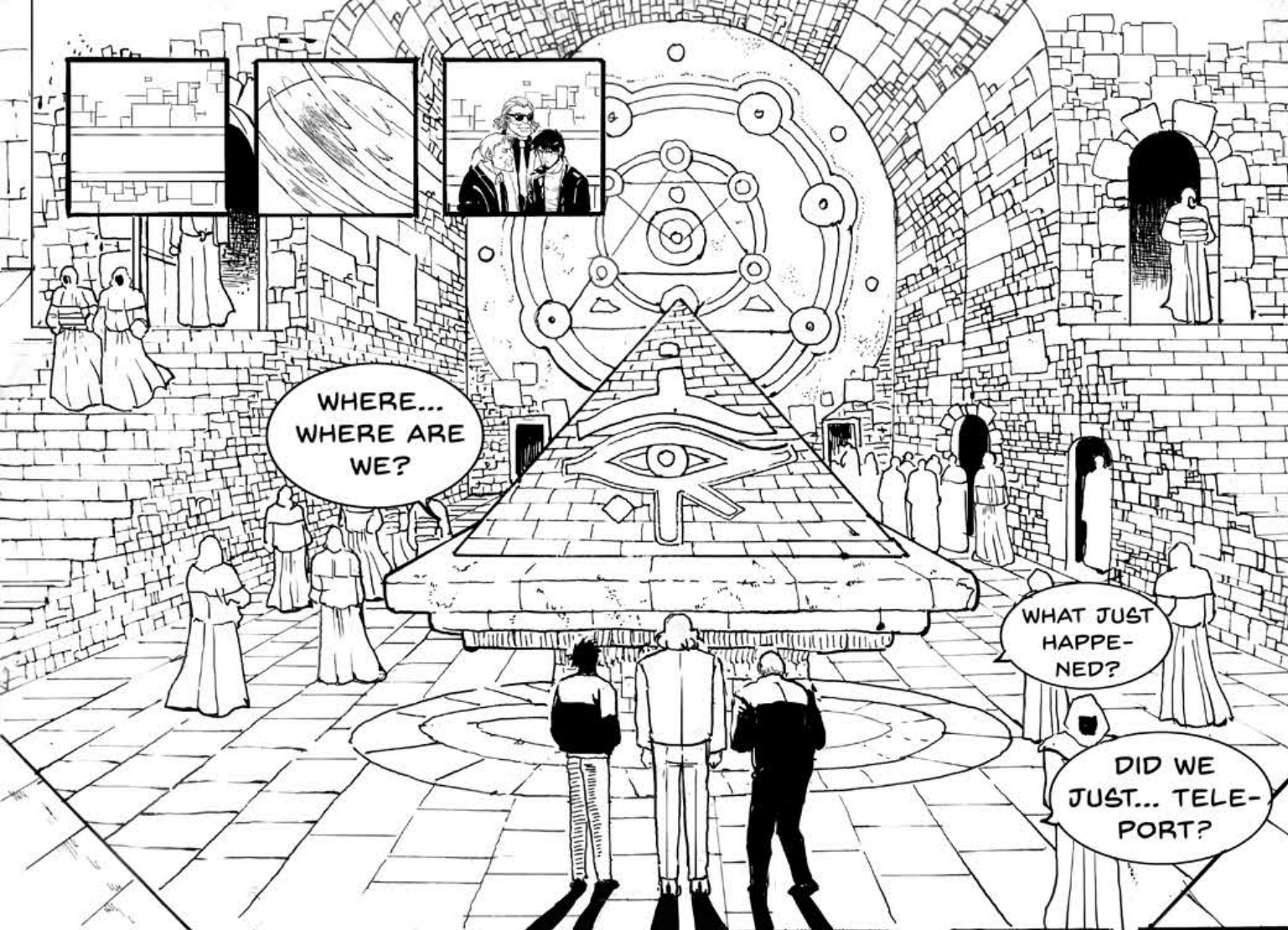
Essex: Hey. Hey! Those sounds... He's...!

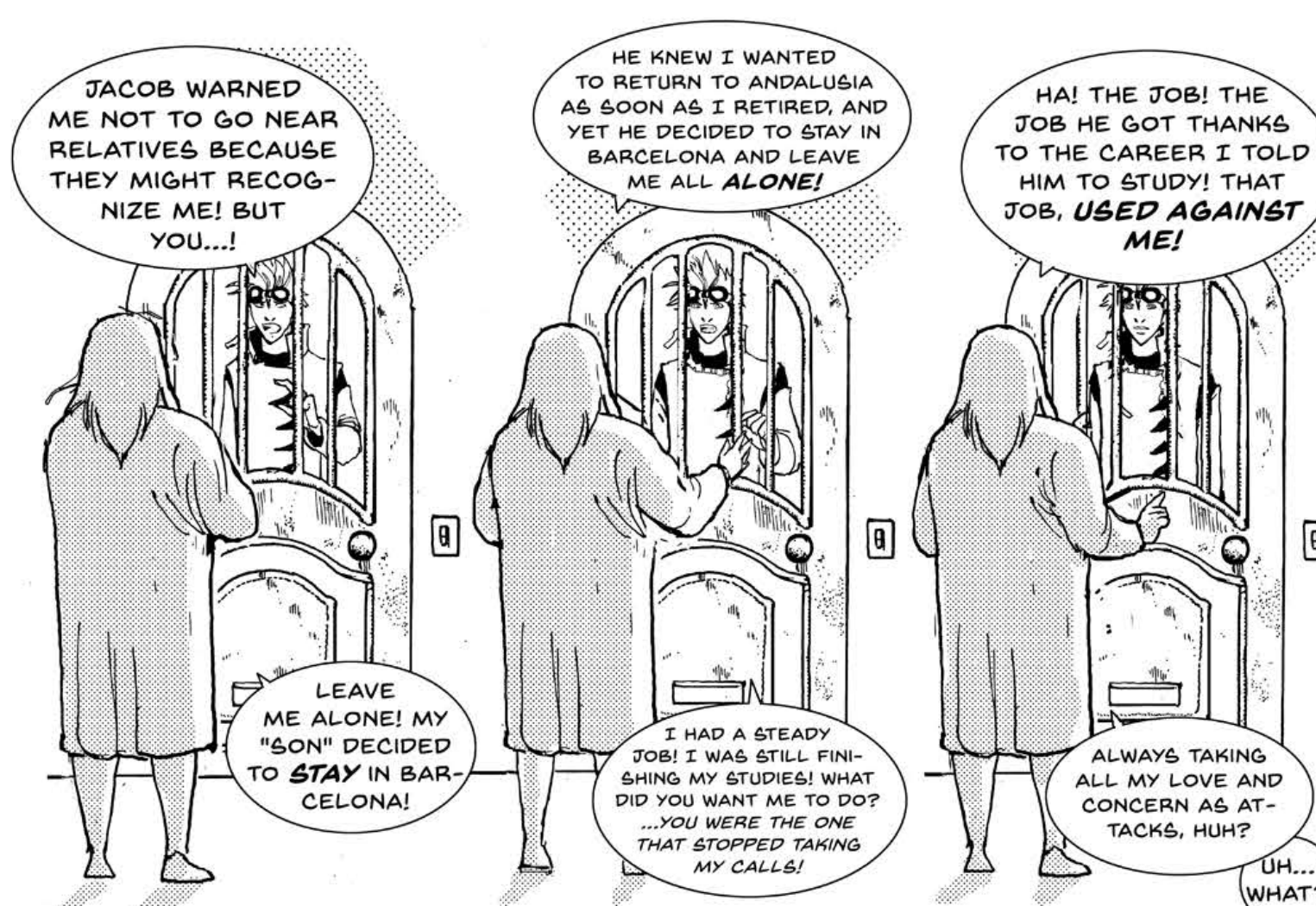
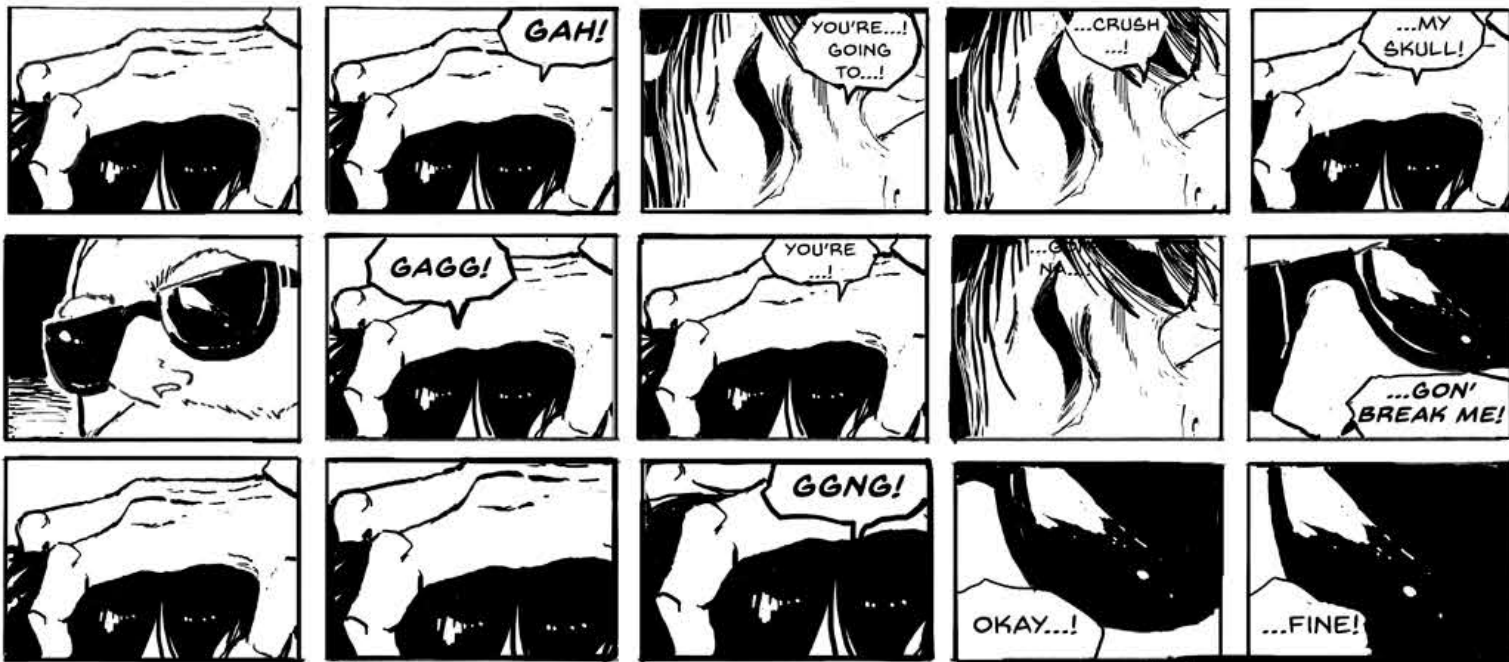
Prisoner: They too discovered that it is not only death that has been altered in my biology.

Essex: He's breaking his bones! Or dislocating them!

Prisoner: Can you imagine living for millennia but doing it with the health of an ultra-elderly man? A bladder so old I piss dust? Nah, man.







Justo: He's... he's reaching the street!

Essex: He hit me! How can he... his arms are broken...

Prisoner: Good-bye, you fucking cunts! Let's go get Jacob and the hand of Satan!



Essex: Not in a million fucking years!

Justo: Leave him! He's out in the streets, it's better to let him escape! He just said what he's looking for...

Essex: Are you that worried about losing reputation among your parishioners?!

Justo: Do you think someone who extracts power from demons would have trouble killing innocents? It's better to let him escape!

Essex: ...I'll do it alone, then.





ALMOST THERE, SIGURD.

GET READY.

WHY?



WE TRAIN FOR YEARS TO ENTER THE **MAGIC CIRCLE**...

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ENTER IT **UNPREPARED**.

WAIT, YOU... THAT LOOK... YOU RECOGNIZE ME!

YOU KNOW WHO I AM!

WHAT? YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, YOUNG MAN.

YOU'RE PLAYING ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR **GAMES**!

THAT'S IT! I **DON'T KNOW YOU!** I DON'T HAVE A SON! I'M CALLING THE **POLICE!**



MOST OF THEM CAN'T STAND THE CONTACT OF THE **OLD ONES**.

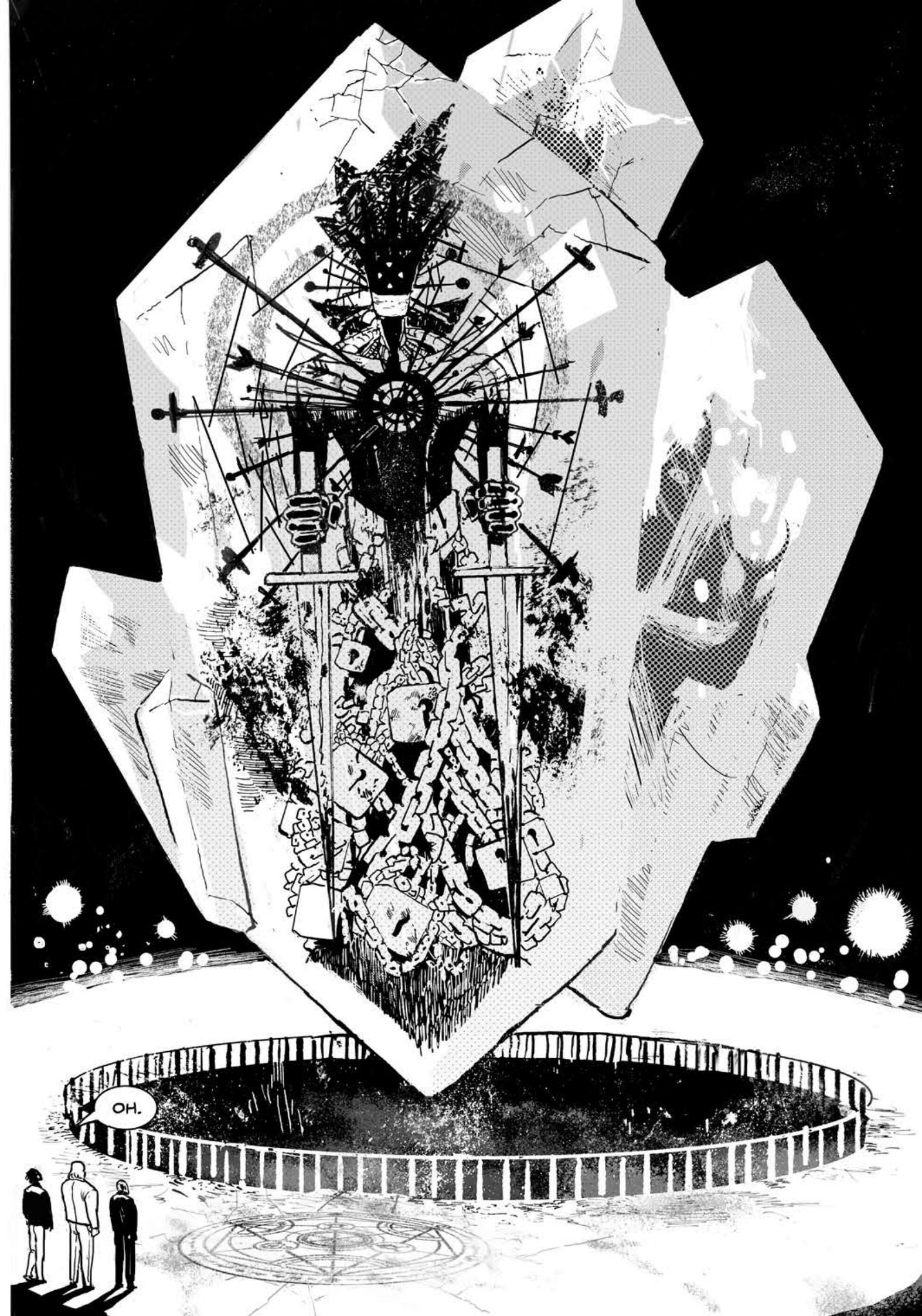
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE SUCH PURITY NATURALLY...

MY PARTNER WAS A PRIEST OF THE ONE... WE MADE HIM GO INTO THE CIRCLE, AND HE ACCEPTED THE TOUCH...

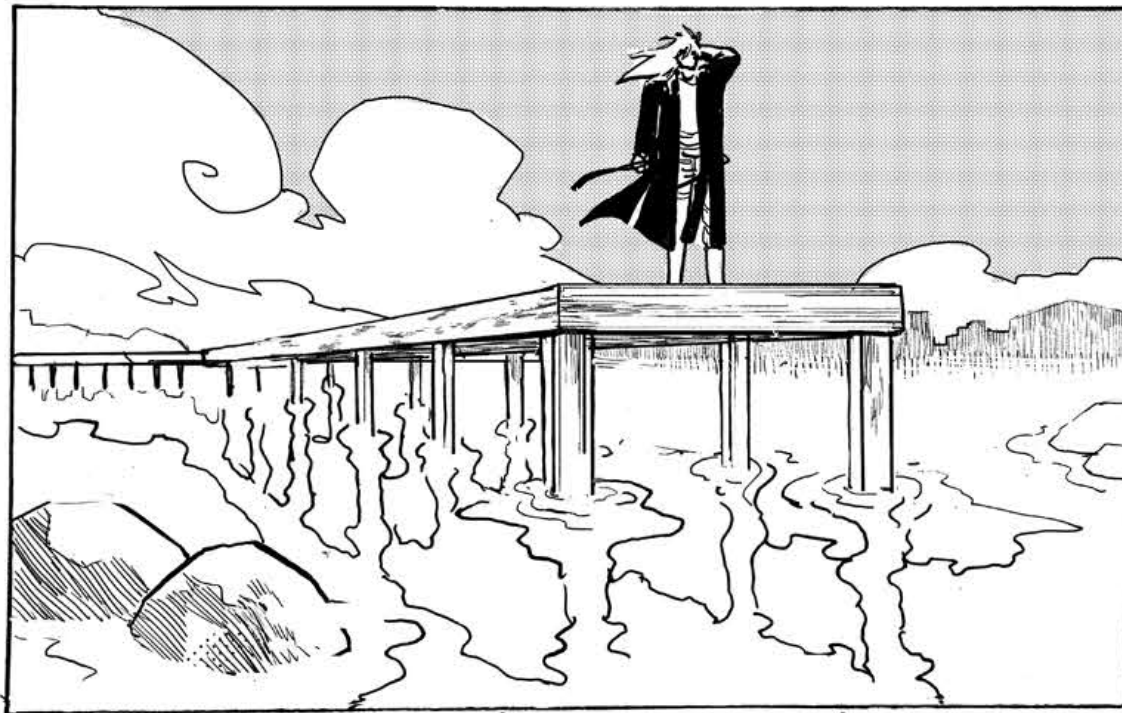


THE **OLD ONES** MADE HIM A HERMITE, RIGHT THEN AND THERE. NO TRAINING WHATSOEVER.

DUDE, WHAT THE FUC...



OH.



Justo: You return empty-handed.

Essex: ...

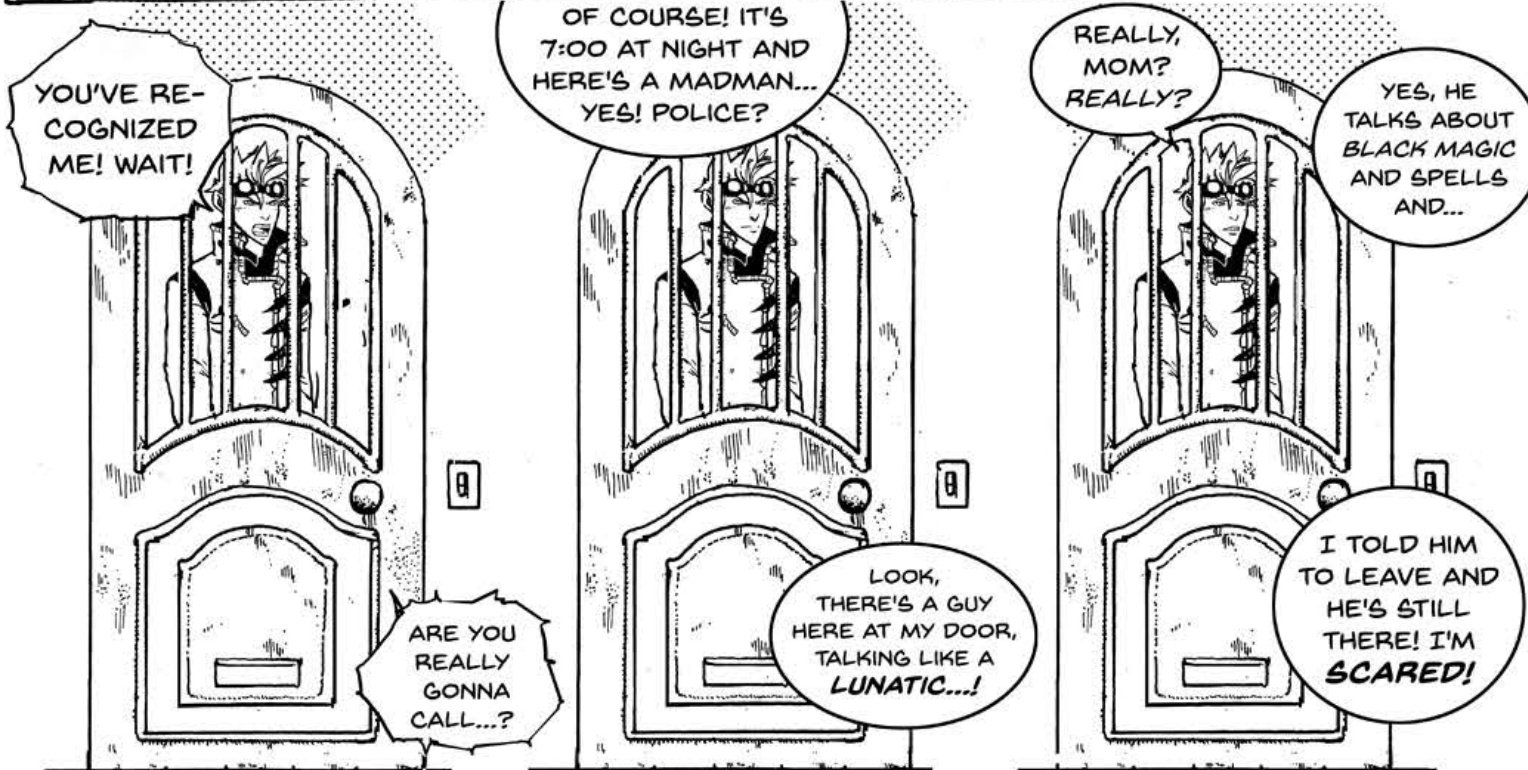
Justo: What happened?

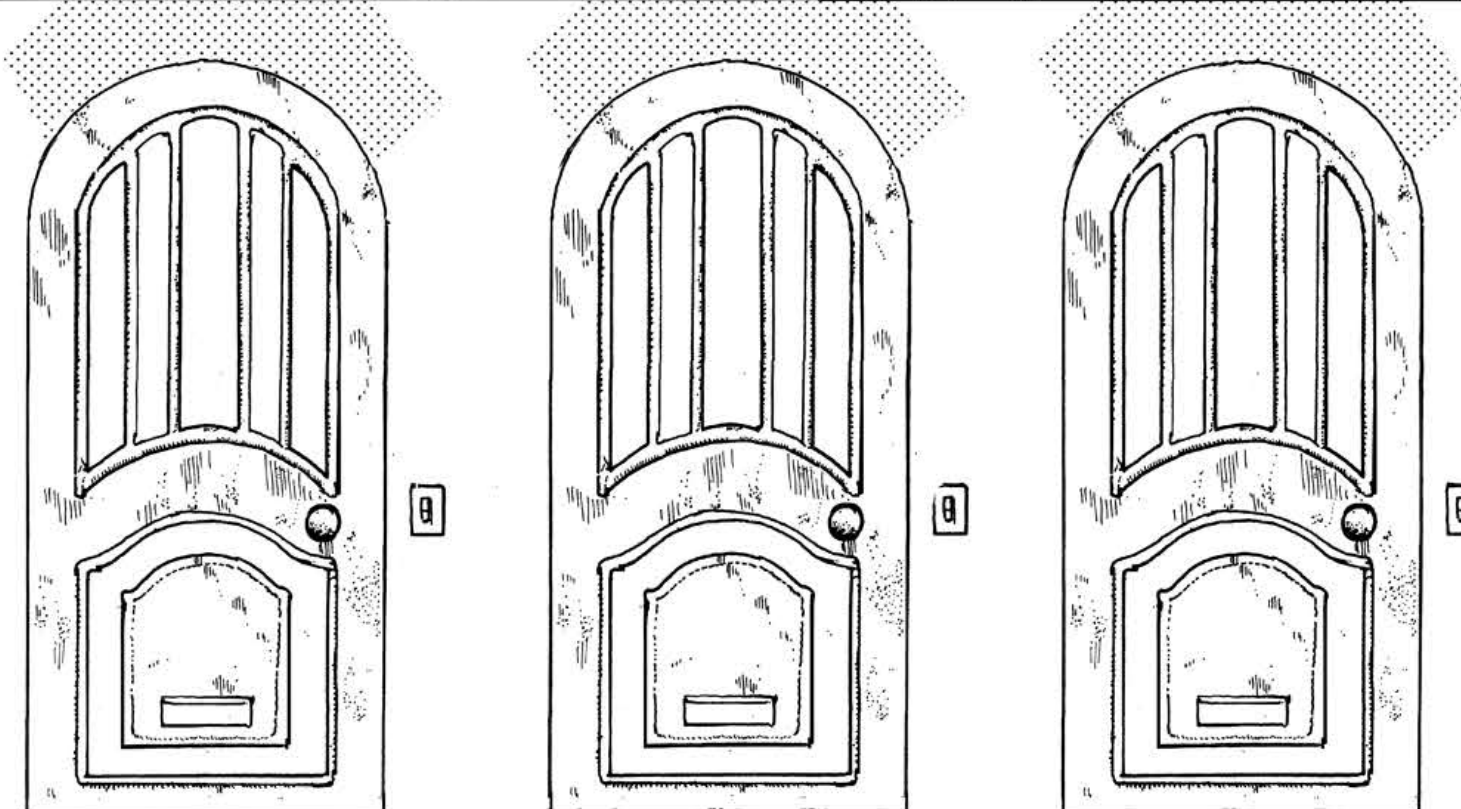
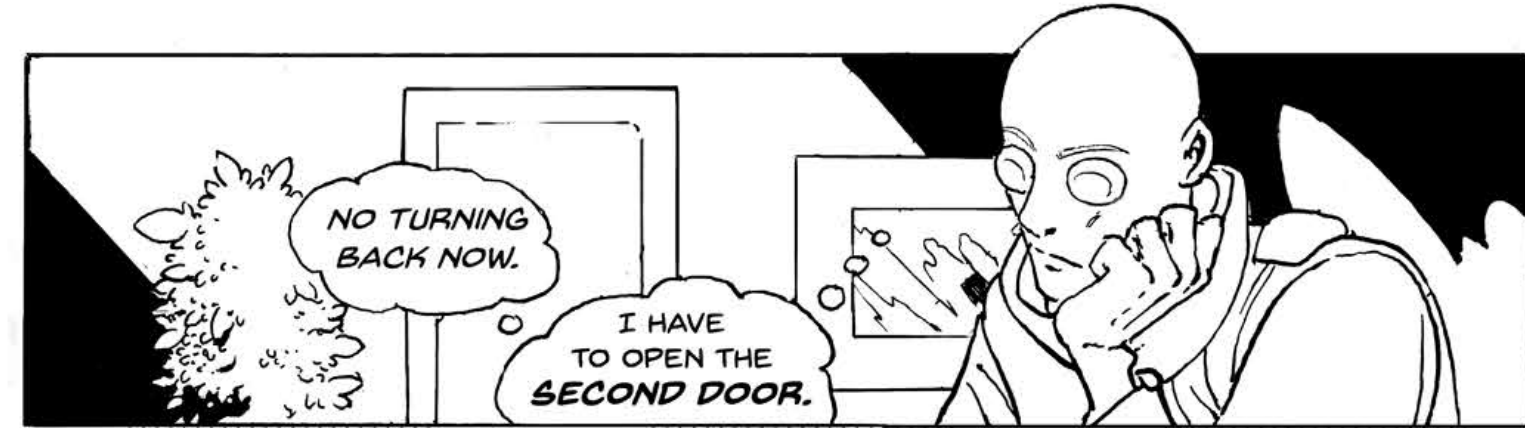
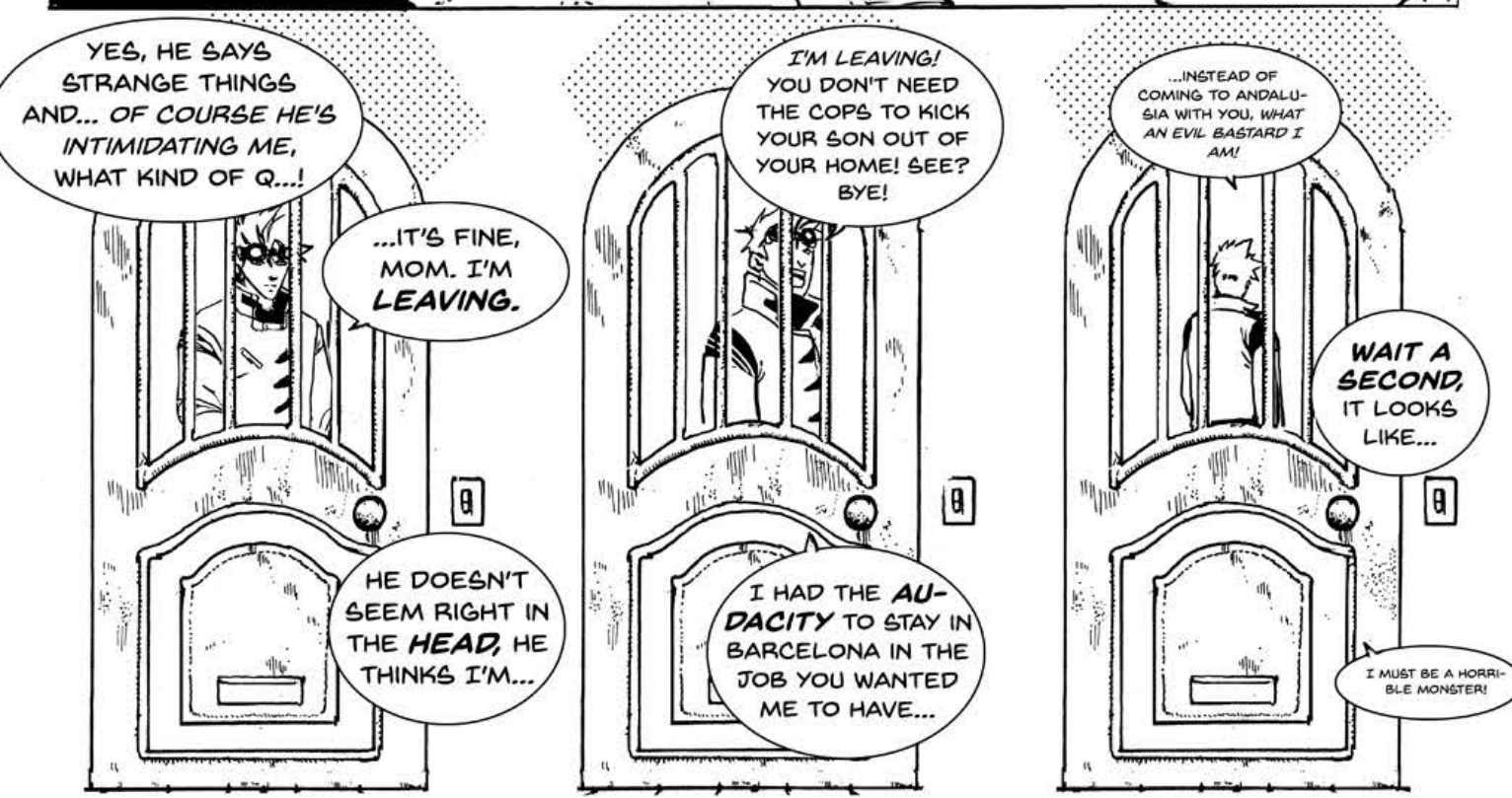
Essex: I followed his trail to the dock. I lost it there, so he probably jumped into the water.

Justo: Heh.

Essex: Nice smirk ya got. You realize that if we both went after him immediately...

Justo: ...We would've put innocents in danger.





...TO BE CONTINUED

UPSURGE IS AN ALMOST MONTHLY (40 DAYS) SERIES THAT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO TO REACH THE INTENDED ENDING. HOWEVER, WE CAN'T KEEP DOING IT FOR "FREE" INDEFINITELY. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US WHILE ALSO GETTING **EARLY ACCESS** TO AN ISSUE, **PREVIEWS** OF FUTURE EPISODES, OR **VIDEOS** AND TEXTS ABOUT OUR CREATIVE PROCESS, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING US THROUGH PATREON AT THE 3\$ PLEDGE LEVEL (LINK BELOW). IF WE HAVE ENOUGH HELP, WE'LL TURN UPSURGE INTO A **MONTHLY** SERIES. THANK YOU!

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