



20 MASCARAS

SLARGE

SIMON M.

SCRIPT

PANEL LAYOUT

COVER

TRANSLATION

(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS

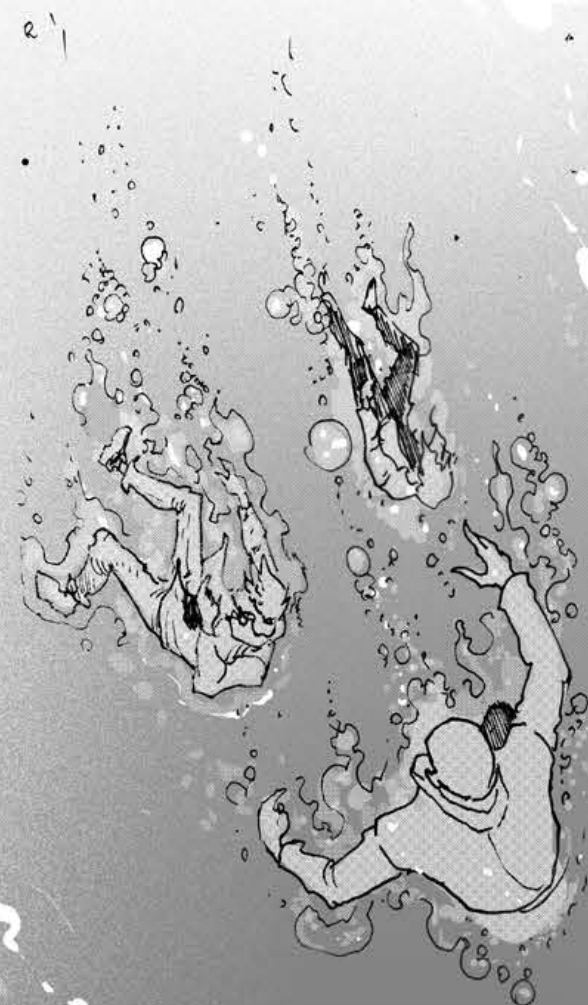
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*EBI = EUROPEAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

UHM...
...I SAW YOUR ARM... YOU FELL INTO THE RIVER WITH THAT WOUND. I'M NOT A DOCTOR, BUT I'M CLEANING IT UP A BIT...

UNGH. HI...?

I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH THEM.

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH THEM.

HEY. HELLO.

I ASSUMED YOU WERE ONE OF THEM. EBI* OR HEREMITES, I DUNNO.

IF YOU HADN'T ATTACKED US OUT OF NOWHERE...

THIS FOREST... HAS SECRET CAVES, AND SUDDENLY I RUN INTO ALL OF YOU. QUITE THE COINCIDENCE.

THE MAN, IS HE OKAY? I DON'T THINK WE'RE SAFE HERE...

UNCONSCIOUS, BUT HE'S OKAY.

...

YOUR ACCENT. AMERICAN?

HM-HM. YOURS? YOUR ENGLISH, I'M NOT ABLE TO LOCATE...

DONE.

THANK THE "MAN" OVER THERE; HE BROUGHT THE FIRST AID KIT.

HMM. FIRST AID KIT, HUH. SO YOU CAME PREPARED. YOU'RE EBI, HEREMITES, CULT OF THE ONE, OR CABALISTS.

SO... YOU'LL ALMOST CERTAINLY CAPTURE ME.

OH, RIGHT, THAT'S WHY I SAVED YOU, TO PUT YOU BEHIND BARS LATER.

EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR KINKS.

C'MON, MAN. I HELPED YOU, DIDN'T I? THAT SHOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING...

I GUESS, YEAH. THANKS, FUTURE CAPTOR.

...WHATEVER. LOOK, JUST RELAX. YOU NEED SOME REST.



HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN ASLEEP?

SEVERAL HOURS.

-TT-. ANYWAY. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?

NOTHING. SHE THINKS WE'RE GOING TO CAPTURE HER.

EVEN AFTER YOU SAVED HER? YOU **THREW** YOURSELF IN FRONT OF HER WHEN YOU...

I MEAN, WE FOUND HER DURING THE CHASE, OF COURSE SHE WAS GOING TO... SHE'S AMERICAN, BY THE WAY.

YES, OF COURSE.

WE'LL QUESTION HER. I ASSUME LEAVING HER HERE AND GOING ON OUR MISSION IS OUT OF THE TABLE, RIGHT?

HRM.

WHAT?

YOU HAD PROBLEMS WHEN ESSEX "FRATER-NIZED", AND NOW....

IT WAS THE EBI! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SAUNIÈRE IN AN UNPOPULATED AREA OF THE GUADALQUIVIR, AND WE JUST HAPPEN TO FIND HER NOW... COME ON, ADAM.

SHE'S A PRETTY GIRL, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

HEY, I'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND!

I DON'T MEAN SEXUALLY...

WHAT THEN.

WHEN I MANAGED TO CLOSE THE RITUAL... I GUESS I WAS EXPECTING...

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT... IF ONE THING BECAME CLEAR TO ME... OUR PERCEPTIONS, WE **FILTER** THEM THROUGH WHAT WE EXPERIENCED AS CHILDREN.



AND?

WELL, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU. THE WAY THE SECOND CITY AFFECTED YOU, SEEING YOUR INTERESTS IN THE THIRD ONE... THE WHOLE SUPERHERO THING... HER, FROM AMERICA...

HEY, YOU USED TO READ COMICS TOO!

ADAM, NO... LOOK, I... I THOUGHT STABILIZING THE SECOND DOOR WOULD BE... DIFFERENT. I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING.

ESSEX... HAS CHANGED, BUT... HE'S STILL THE SAME. WHAT I MEAN IS...

IN THE END, IT'S YOU, IN THE THINGS YOU LIVED THROUGH, **DISTORTING** EVERYTHING. I'M JUST SAYING IT WOULD BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO EXPLORE IT.

EXPLORE WHAT?

THAT GIRL, YOU IMMEDIATELY ACTED ON HER BEHALF... WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE WAS PART OF THE GROUP THAT ATTACKED US.

SHE'S ATTRACTIVE. BLONDE. AMERICAN, LIKE IN THE COMICS.



AH, AMERICAN. NOW I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

CAN YOU JUST LISTEN, ADAM? YOU GOT US IN BIG TROUBLE IN THE ATTACK TO THAT BASE, BECAUSE OF AN EX YOU HADN'T SEEN IN AGES!

I... THANKS TO YOU, I'VE SEEN A LOT I DIDN'T SEE BEFORE. BUT YOU'VE ALSO RUINED MY FUCKING LIFE! I THOUGHT THE SECOND DOOR WOULD HELP ME... BUT IN THE END, HERE WE ARE, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER TIME.

AND WHAT I'M TELLING YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR YOU NOT TO JUMP LIKE A **SPRING**...!



OKAY, OKAY. SORRY.

I THINK YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CONNECTION THROUGH... I DON'T KNOW, IDEAS OUT OF FICTION.

WHAT?

I THINK YOU'RE MAKING UP FOR YOUR PAST WITH ALL THAT COMIC BOOK STUFF... JUST... LOOK, JUST, KEEP AN EYE ON IT SO THEY DON'T USE IT AGAINST YOU.



YEAH, SAME HERE. THAT PULSE THEY ATTACKED US WITH DRAINED THE BATTERIES.

I... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, LATER, WHEN...

ANY GUESSES ON WHO THEY ARE?

THEY'RE NOT EBI OR HEREMITES. THE TECHNOLOGY... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT SINCE I'VE CLOSED THE RITUAL, IT'S LIKE I CAN FEEL THE PATTERNS AS... LIKE COLORS OR...

SO... WHAT DO WE DO? ESSEX AND IRINA HAVE TO BE 'ROUND HERE TOO. WE CAME WITH THE INFORMATION WE GATHERED IN SEVILLA, LOOKING FOR THE CAVE SYSTEM...

DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT'VE TRIED TO ESCAPE OR CONTINUE WITH THE MISSION?

I DON'T KNOW. WE FAILED, THERE.

THEIR TECHNOLOGY... REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT.

BUT... ANYWAY, I'LL THINK ABOUT IT LATER. DO YOU HAVE POWER IN ANY OF YOUR STUFF? MY COMMUNICATORS, EVEN MY PHONE, ARE DEAD.

"WE SHOULD'VE MADE A PLAN IN CASE WE GOT SEPARATED".



IRINA'S SCENT IS A BIT STRONGER NOW.

THE OTHERS, NOTHING. IF JACOB WERE ALONE... HE'D PROBABLY HEAD FOR THE NEAREST TOWN.

BUT HE'S WITH ADAM...

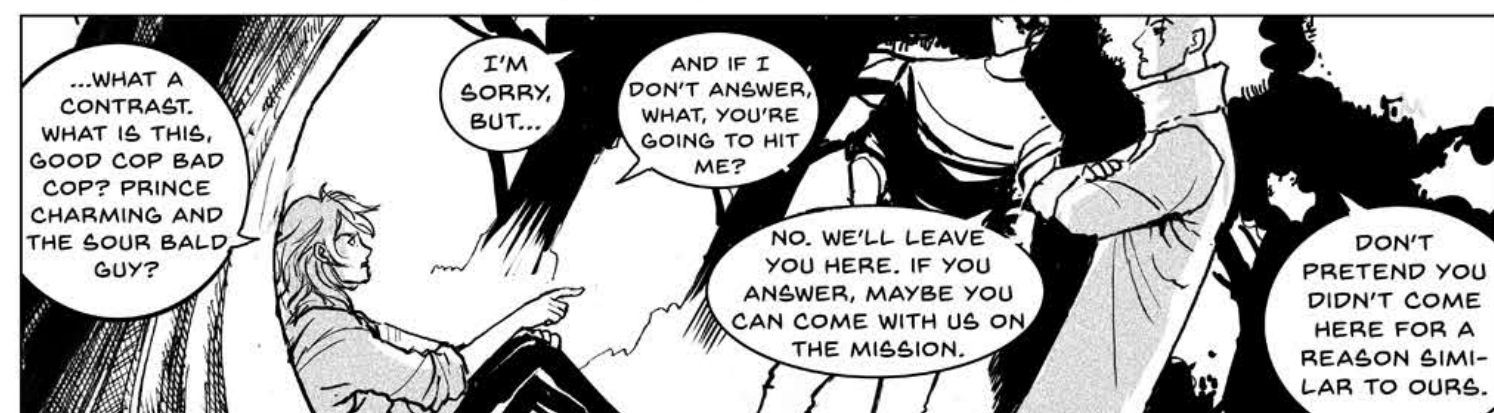


TIME TO WAKE UP, GIRL.



START WITH THE NAME AND THEN WHY YOU'RE HERE.

THEN WE'LL SEE WHAT WE DO.



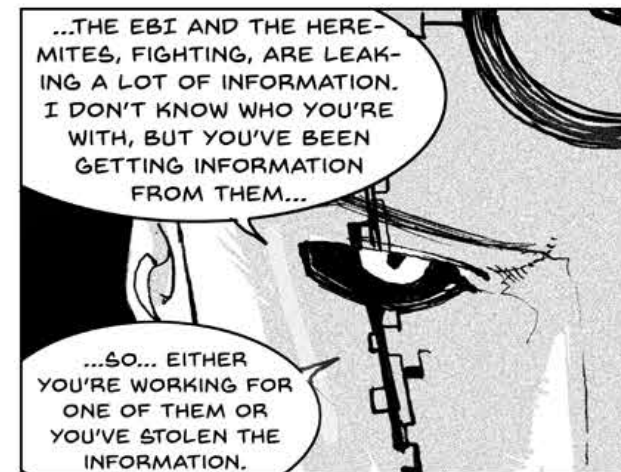
...WHAT A CONTRAST. WHAT IS THIS, GOOD COP BAD COP? PRINCE CHARMING AND THE SOUR BALD GUY?

I'M SORRY, BUT...

AND IF I DON'T ANSWER, WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO HIT ME?

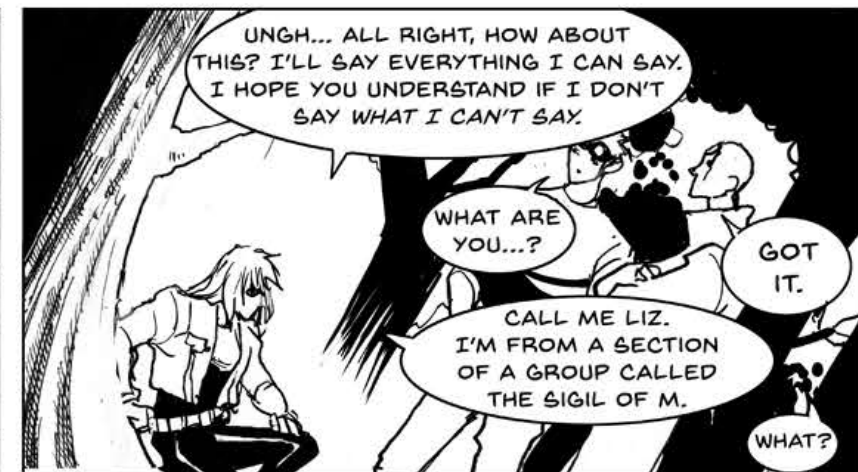
NO. WE'LL LEAVE YOU HERE. IF YOU ANSWER, MAYBE YOU CAN COME WITH US ON THE MISSION.

DON'T PRETEND YOU DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A REASON SIMILAR TO OURS.



...THE EBI AND THE HEREMITES, FIGHTING, ARE LEAKING A LOT OF INFORMATION. I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE WITH, BUT YOU'VE BEEN GETTING INFORMATION FROM THEM...

...SO... EITHER YOU'RE WORKING FOR ONE OF THEM OR YOU'VE STOLEN THE INFORMATION.



UNGH... ALL RIGHT, HOW ABOUT THIS? I'LL SAY EVERYTHING I CAN SAY. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND IF I DON'T SAY WHAT I CAN'T SAY.

WHAT ARE YOU...?

CALL ME LIZ. I'M FROM A SECTION OF A GROUP CALLED THE SIGIL OF M.

GOT IT.

WHAT?



THAT GRO...? AREN'T THEY LIKE A CREEPY CULT?

NO IDEA. MY BRANCH HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING WEIRDER THAN USUAL.



HELP? WHAT KIND OF HELP...?

I WAS... THEY WERE KIND OF IGNORING ME... OR, I GUESS... THEY WERE OFFERING ME TO BE...

ADAM, DROP IT.

CONTINUE.

...A SPY. I DIDN'T WANT... TO BE A **THROW-AWAY THING**, SO I DID SOME RE-SEARCH...

THERE ARE CONFUSING RUMORS ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE GROUP, YOU KNOW? IN THE PAST, IT WAS CALLED SOMETHING DIFFERENT MAYBE, OR THEY WERE JUST PART OF OTHER...

ANYWAY, TO CUT A LONG STORY SHORT, I WAS FOLLOWING A THREAD THAT SAID MANY AMERICAN OCCULT GROUPS CAME FROM EXILES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION...



RIGHT. AND HOW DID THAT LED YOU TO THE CAVES...?

WE HAVE SPIES IN THE BIG EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS, OF COURSE.

RECENTLY, WE HEARD ABOUT SAUNIÈRE, ABOUT HIM INVESTIGATING SOMETHING ABOUT AN AFRICAN MAGIC CULT THAT TRIED TO INFILTRATE SPAIN...



...I WANTED TO SEE IF I COULD FIND SOMETHING THAT SCORED ME POINTS INSIDE MY GROUP. SO, I COME HERE, THOSE GUYS APPEAR...

JUST ONE MORE. WHAT'S YOUR MAGIC SYSTEM? IF YOU HAVE ONE.

AND THAT'S ABOUT IT. THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

YEAH, THAT. I HOPE IT DOESN'T INVOLVE DEMONS...

AH. THE EIGHT NOTES ONE.

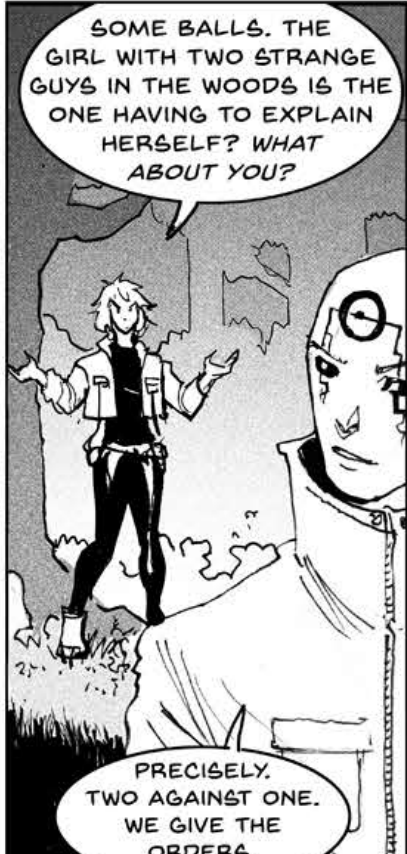
THE WHAT?

IT'S A VARIATION OF OURS. TWO AND A HALF NOTES EQUALS A DOOR.



...OKAY. WE CAN WORK TOGETHER FOR NOW.

LET'S GO.



SOME BALLS. THE GIRL WITH TWO STRANGE GUYS IN THE WOODS IS THE ONE HAVING TO EXPLAIN HERSELF? WHAT ABOUT YOU?

PRECISELY. TWO AGAINST ONE. WE GIVE THE ORDERS.



WE'RE INDEPENDENT, BUT WITH SIMILAR GOALS TO THE CABALISTS.

OH, A LITTLE **COURTESY**.

WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED? WE COULDN'T KNOW IF YOU WERE PART OF THEM UNTIL THEY ATTACKED YOU...

...AND EVEN THAT WON'T MAKE JACOB TRUST YOU.



AND YOU DO TRUST ME?

WELL, ACCORDING TO JACOB I HAVE A CERTAIN DISEASE, PLAYING HERO OR SOMETHING.

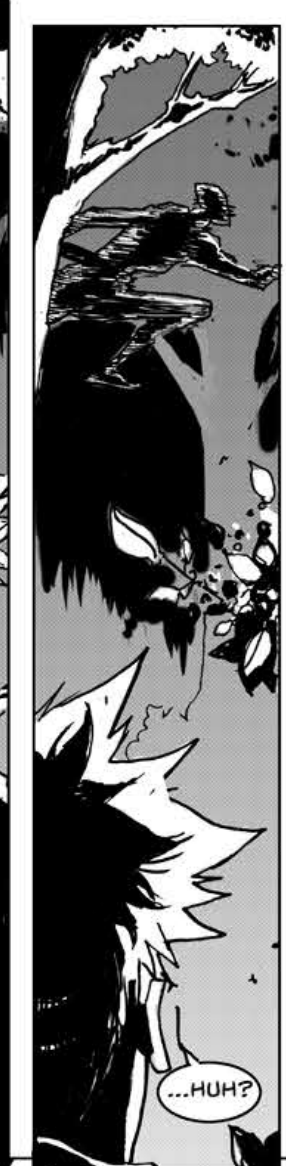
HRM.

AND YOU'RE BLONDE AND SPEAK AMERICAN ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S YEARS OF YOUR MOVIES PROGRAMMING ME TO SAVE YOU.

VERY FUNNY, YOUR SIMPLIFICATION.



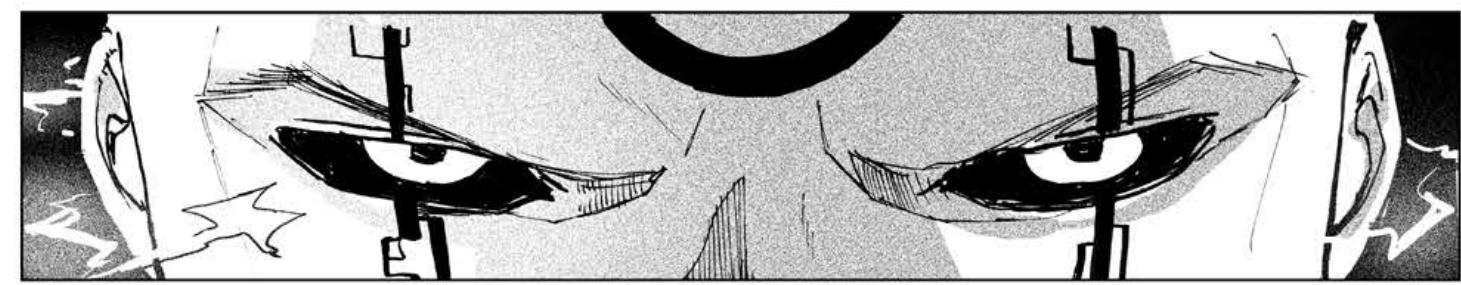
HAH...



...HUH?



RUN!





HMM. SOMETHING STR...

CAREFUL.



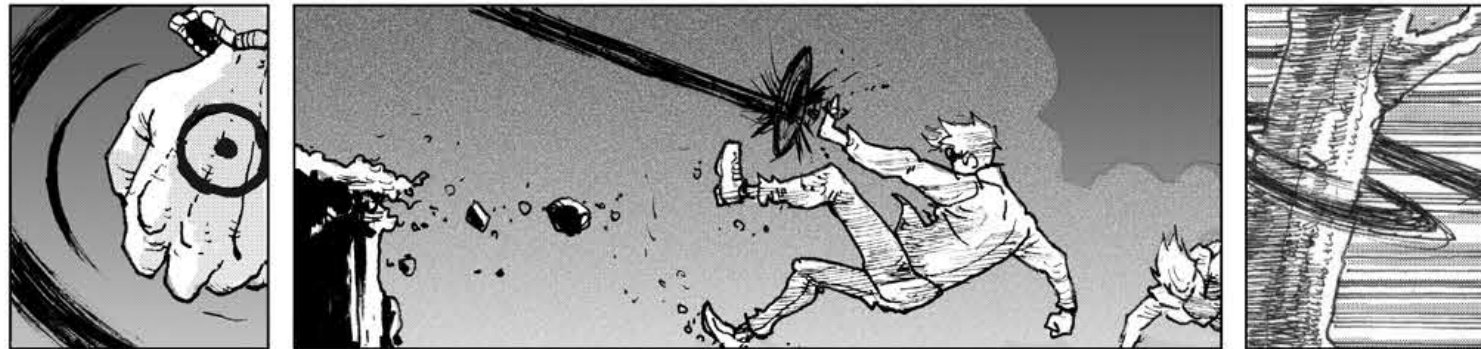
UGH!

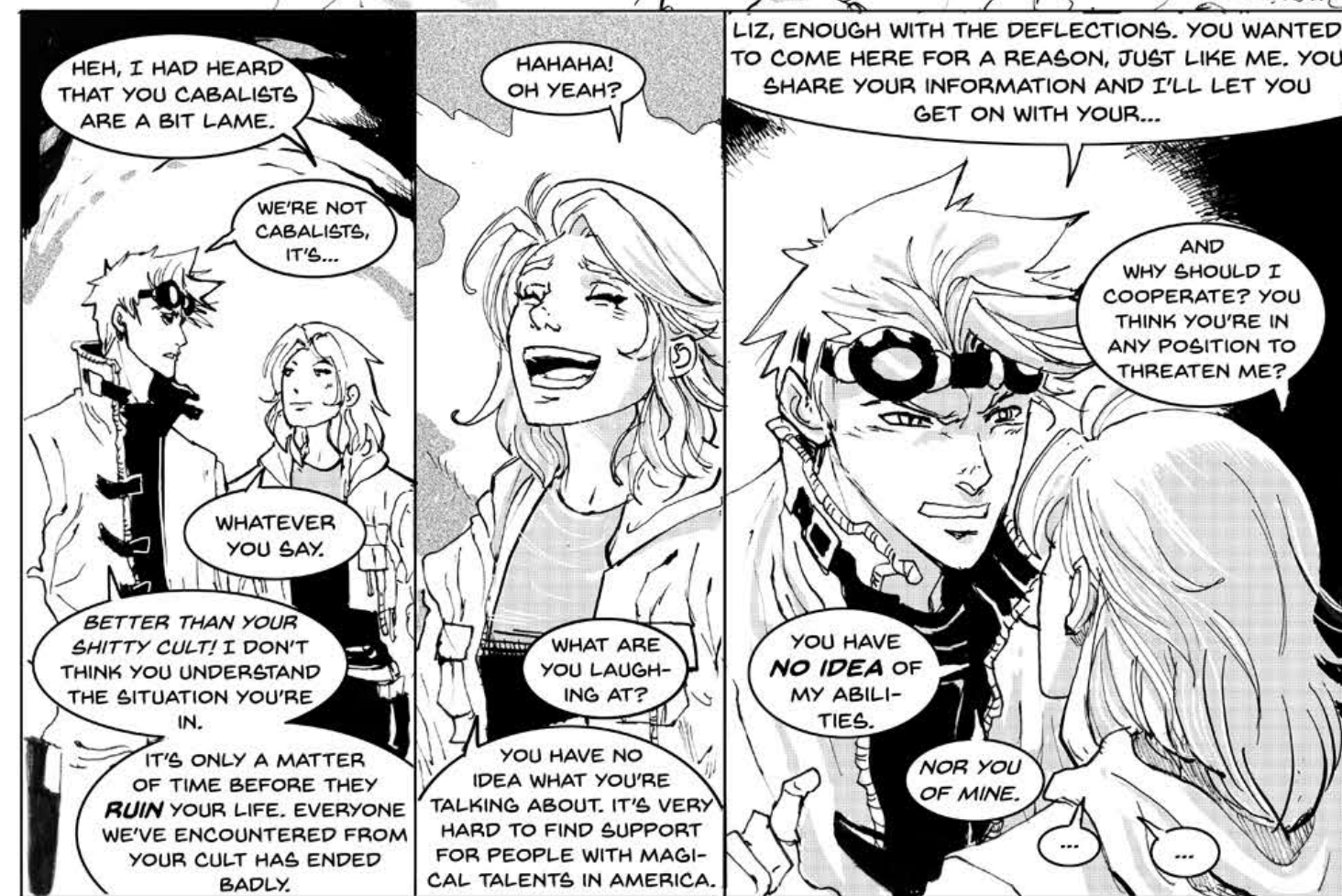


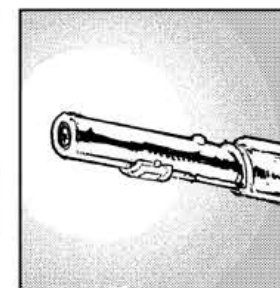
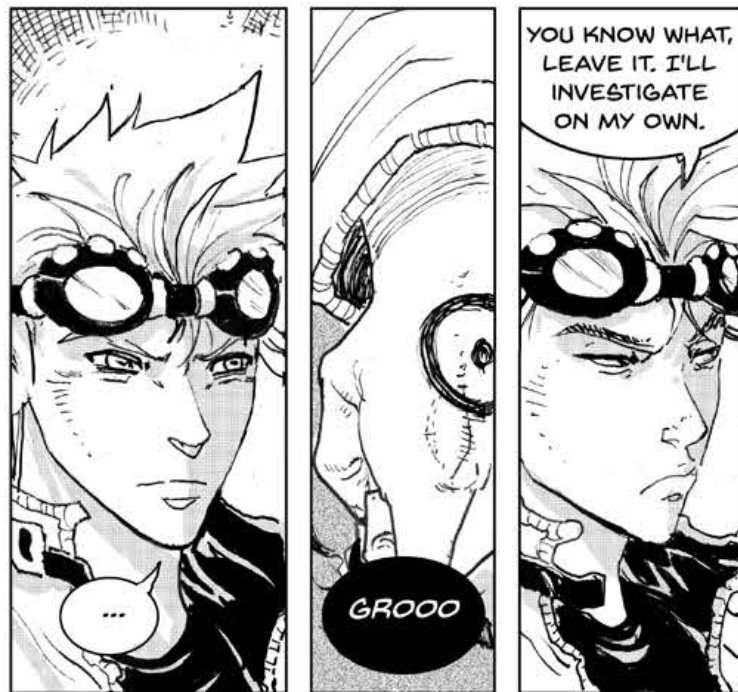
JACOB!



FUCKING AGAIN...!











...TO BE CONTINUED

SEE YOU IN ABOUT ~~40~~⁵⁰ DAYS (IDEALLY; SOME ISSUES IT'S 60 OR, UHM, MORE). WE KEEP THE RELEASE DATE UPDATED ON THE FACEBOOK FIXED POST. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING US SO WE CAN GET ISSUES OUT FASTER AND GET **DRAWINGS/SKETCHES** OF FUTURE ISSUES, **EARLY ACCESS** TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS VERSION OF THE NEXT ISSUE, OR **VIDEOS** SHOWING HOW WE DRAW A PAGE, PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US THROUGH PATREON (LINK BELOW). IF WE GET ENOUGH HELP, WE MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE **UPSURGE** A MONTHLY SERIES. THANKS!

— ah I wish...

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