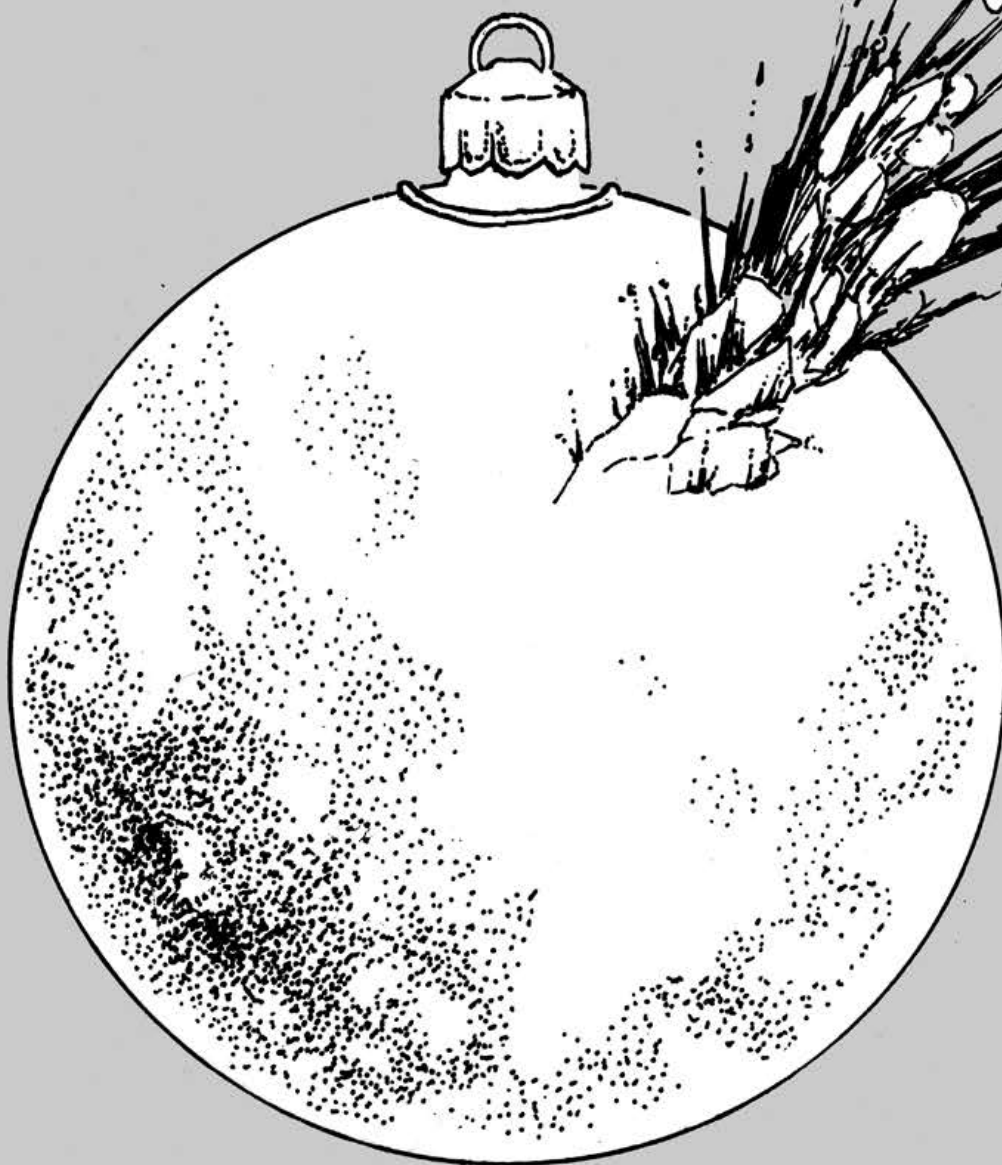




UPSURGE

16:Navidad

SIMON M.

SCRIPT
PANEL LAYOUT
COVER

TRANSLATION
(SORRY, ENGLISH SPEAKERS)

ATANA S.

PENCILS
INK

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WEBPAGE: WWW.UPSURGE.ES/ENGLISH

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"HAVEN'T YOU
NOTICED, JULIÁN?
YOU'RE NOT TALKING
TO A REFLECTION
ANYMORE. DOESN'T
COMFORT YOU TO
SEE THINGS AS THEY
ARE, FOR ONCE?"

"WHY HAVE
YOU COME? I GAVE
YOU WHAT YOU
WANTED..."

"WHAT I WANTED?
NO, SORRY. I GAVE
YOU THE WRONG
IMPRESSION. THAT
WAS FOR SOME
FRIENDS OF MINE.

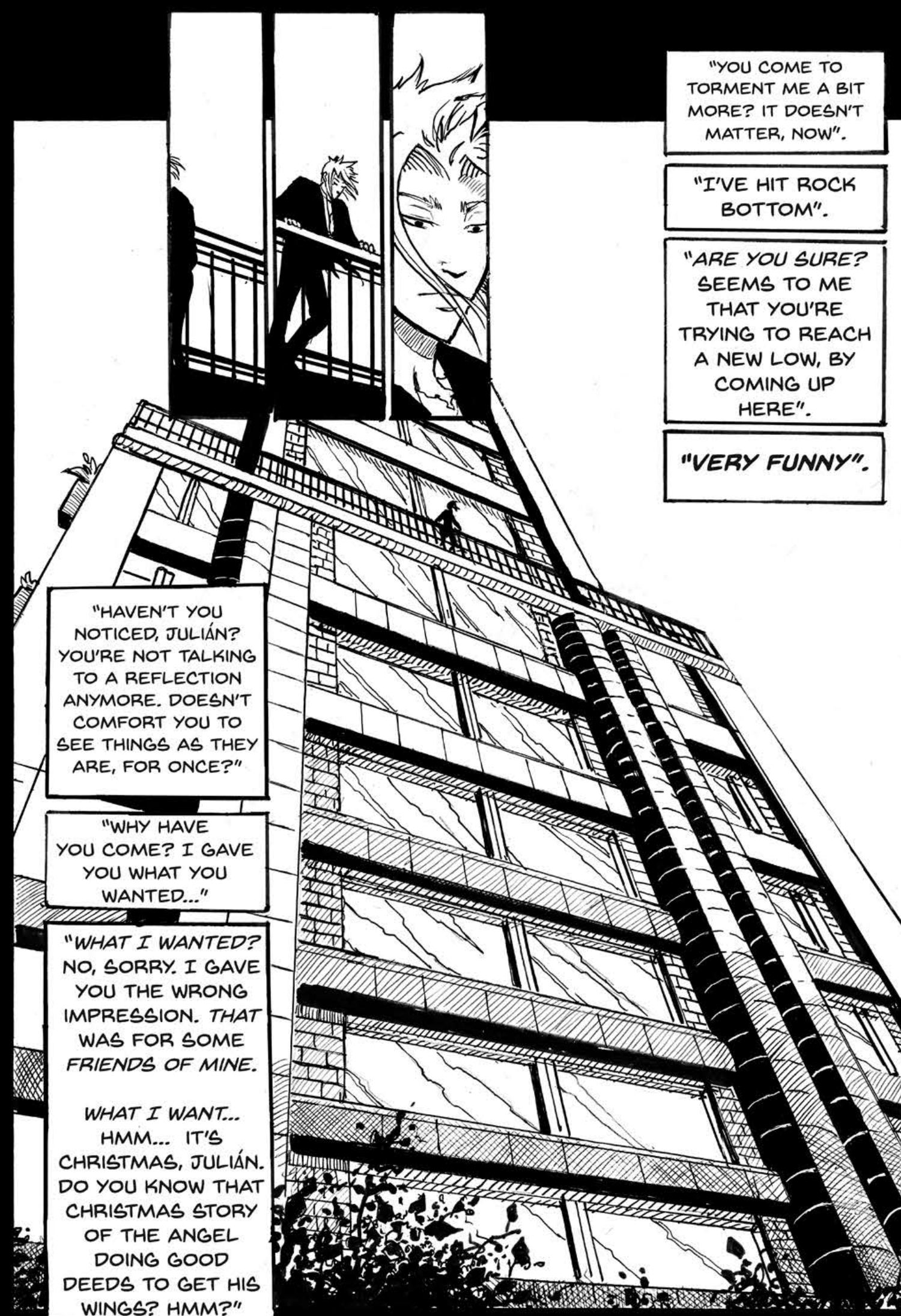
WHAT I WANT...
HMM... IT'S
CHRISTMAS, JULIÁN.
DO YOU KNOW THAT
CHRISTMAS STORY
OF THE ANGEL
DOING GOOD
DEEDS TO GET HIS
WINGS? HMM?"

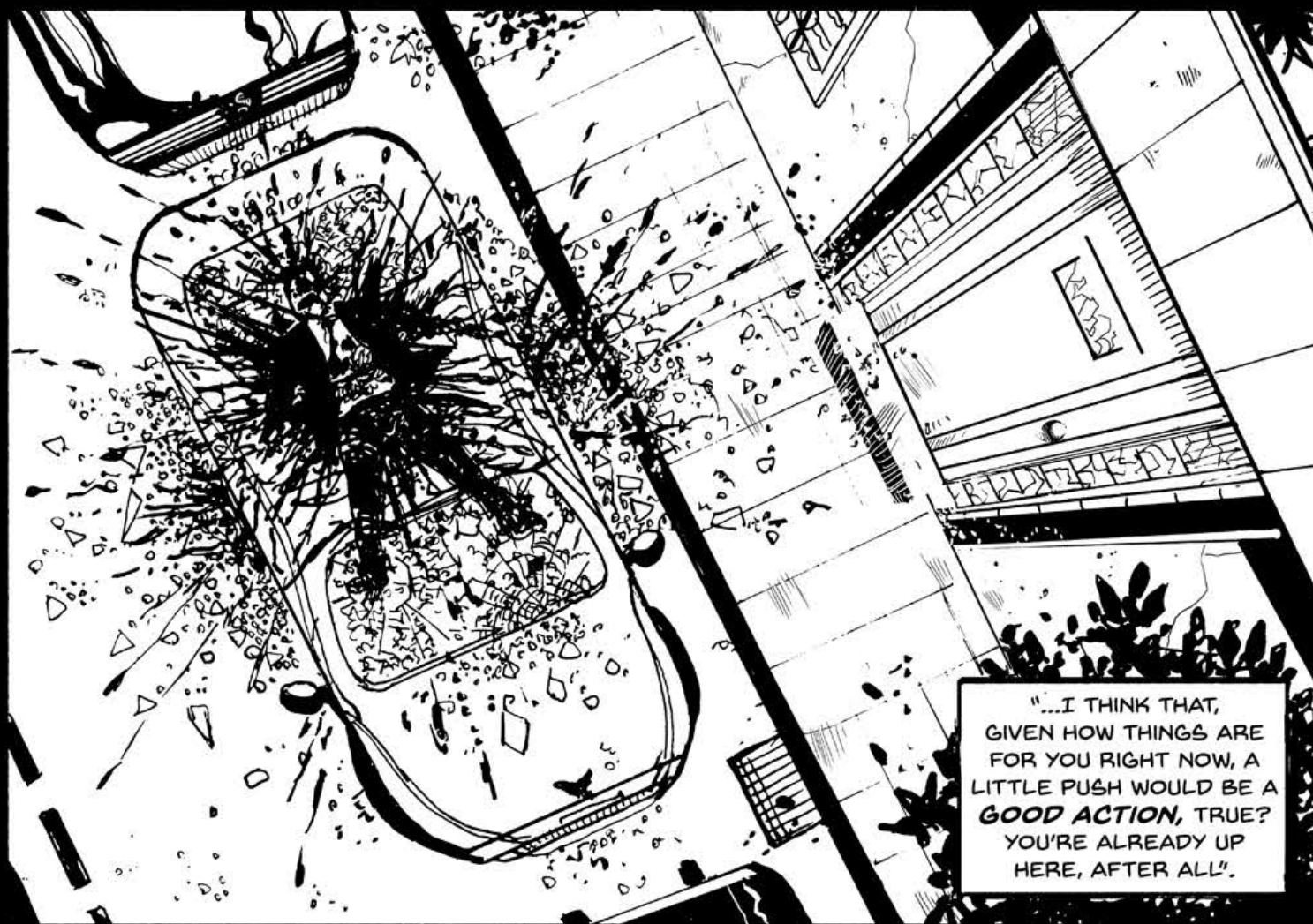
"YOU COME TO
TORMENT ME A BIT
MORE? IT DOESN'T
MATTER, NOW".

"I'VE HIT ROCK
BOTTOM".

"ARE YOU SURE?
SEEMS TO ME
THAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO REACH
A NEW LOW, BY
COMING UP
HERE".

"VERY FUNNY".





"...I THINK THAT, GIVEN HOW THINGS ARE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW, A LITTLE PUSH WOULD BE A **GOOD ACTION**, TRUE? YOU'RE ALREADY UP HERE, AFTER ALL."



THIS IS IT?



THIS PLANE IS SO RIGID THAT I'LL BE TOO FUCKING OLD TO FLY AROUND WHEN I FINALLY GET MY WINGS...



I SAW YOUR TWO PARTNERS ON TV! ESSEX ENDED UP SHOUTING AT THE HOST.

WHO, CUNI? WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME.

YOU'RE A VERY WEIRD BUNCH... I SOMETIMES WONDER WHETHER IT'S GOOD TO BE AROUND YOU, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU MAKE LIFE **SO ENTERTAINING**...



CATHOLICISM BECAME A MINOR RELIGION THROUGHOUT EUROPE SHORTLY AFTER THE **FRENCH REVOLUTION**, RIGHT? THERE ARE OTHER CHRISTIAN BRANCHES, BUT...



JESUS WASN'T BORN ON CHRISTMAS, THAT DAY WAS TAKEN FROM SOME PAGAN THING, RIGHT?



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SOMETHING WE DON'T BELIEVE IN?



YES... BUT THEY **BELIEVED** IN THEIR RELIGION, EVEN IF THEY TOOK THE FESTIVITIES FROM OTHERS.



THEY THOUGHT THEIR BELIEF WAS **THE TRUTH**.



WHAT'S THE **POINT**?



BE IT FOR THE SON OF GOD'S BIRTH OR BECAUSE YOU WANT TO ENSURE THAT SUMMER WILL RETURN...



I DON'T GET IT.

DIDN'T CATHOLICISM DO THE SAME?



...THEY AT LEAST BELIEVED THEY HAD **REASONS** TO DO IT, SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO WHILE THE NIGHTS ARE COLDEST.

WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CELEBRATE LIES, PUT SOME LIGHTS ON TREES, AND BUY SHIT.

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES THAT CELEBRATE STUFF *JUST BECAUSE*. THEY GIVE US DAYS OFF, SO WHY NOT. ISN'T THAT A LITTLE PATHETIC?



MAYBE WE'RE A LITTLE OLD TO GO ON BELIEVING IN GODS, THOUGH.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH KEEPING THE GOOD THINGS AND GETTING RID OF WHAT'S OBSOLETE?

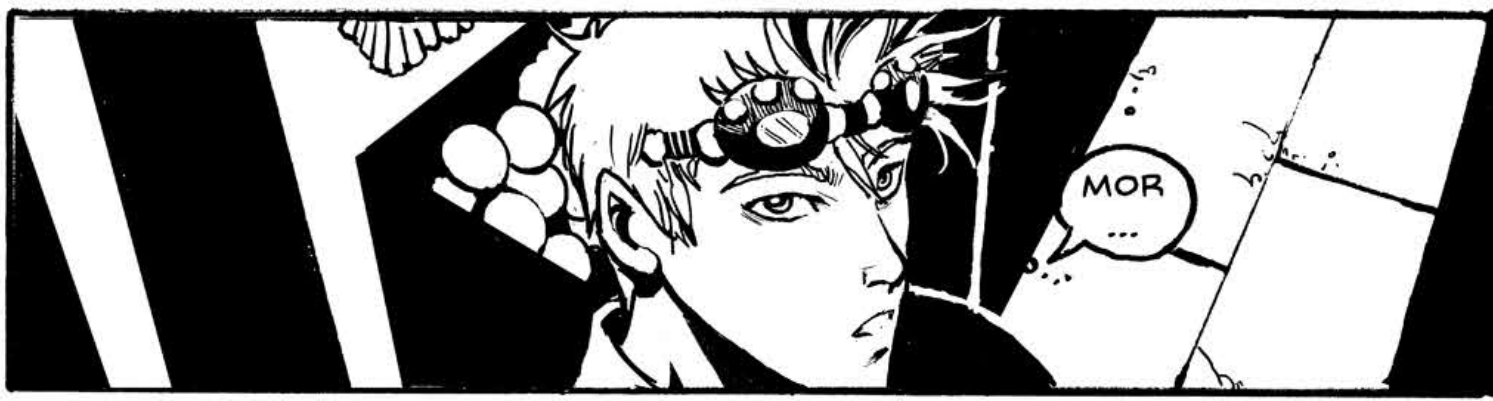


THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE CLINGING TO THE MAST OF A SINKING SHIP. ALSO, HOW ARE YOU SO SURE WE DON'T BELIEVE IN GODS ANYMORE?

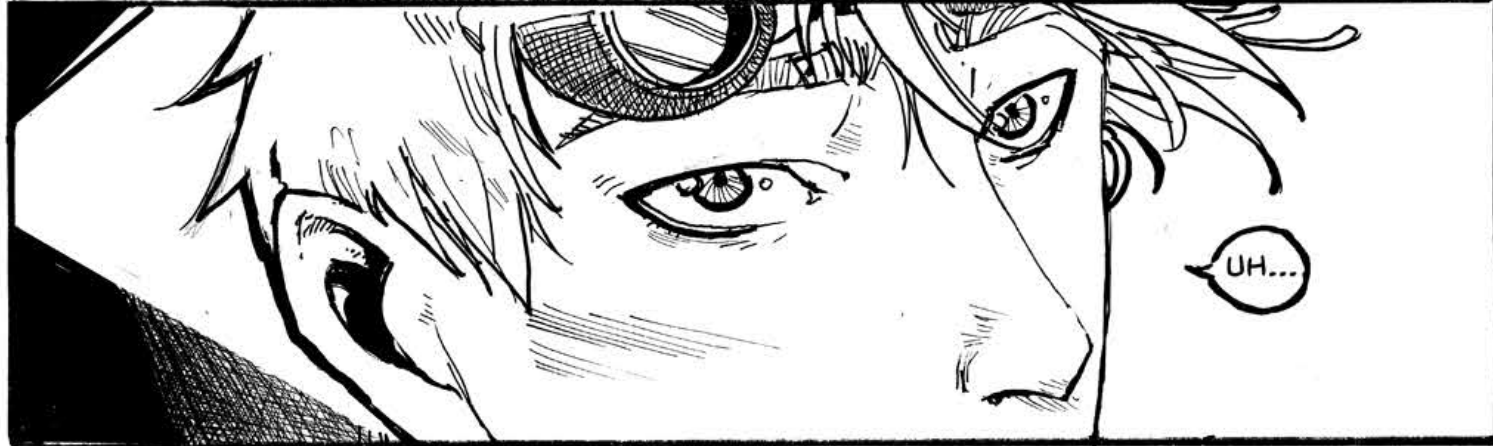
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON BEHIND OUR CURRENT OBSESSION WITH **SUPERHEROES**?



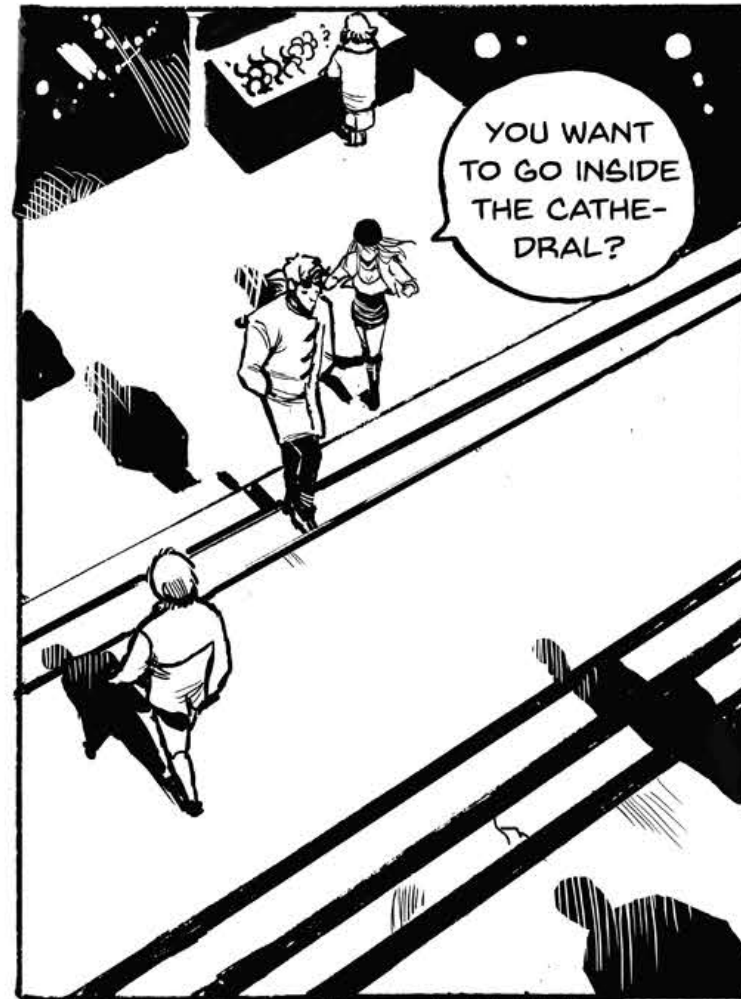
WHAT IF WE'RE STILL AS SUPERSTITIOUS AS EVER AND WE'RE HIDING IT BELOW A THIN LAYER OF RATIONALISM AND "SCIENCE SAID THIS, SCIENCE SAID THAT"?

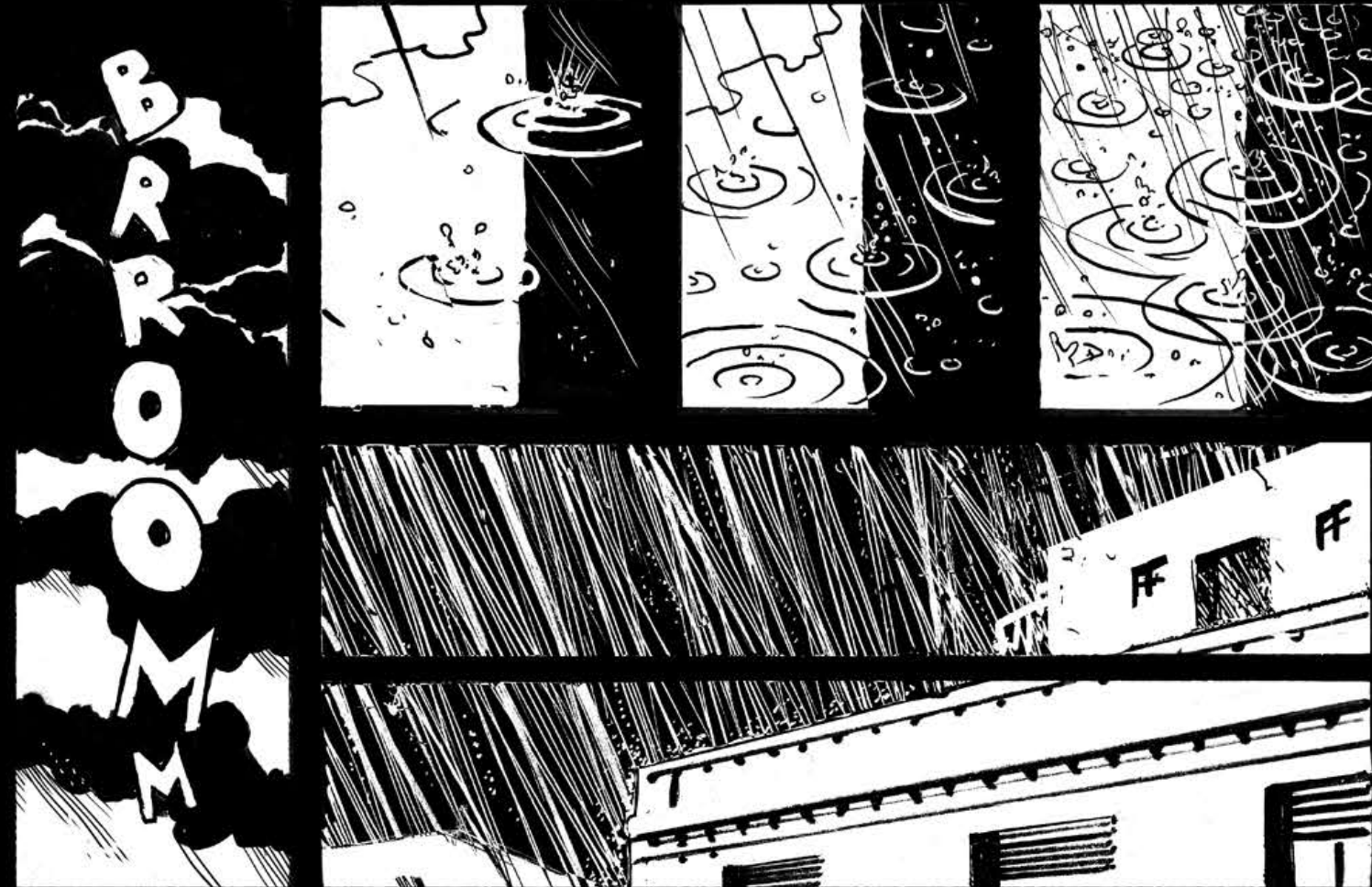
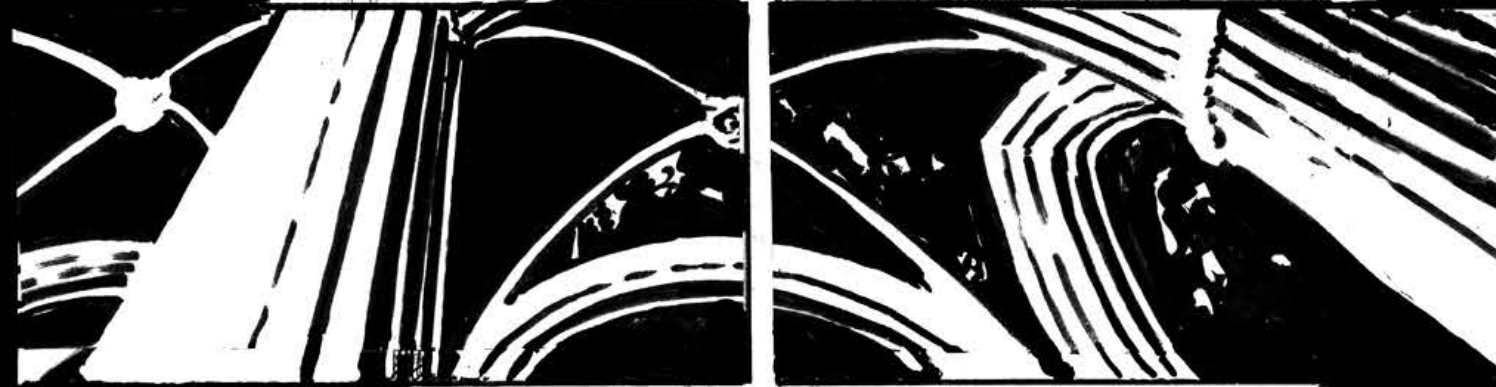
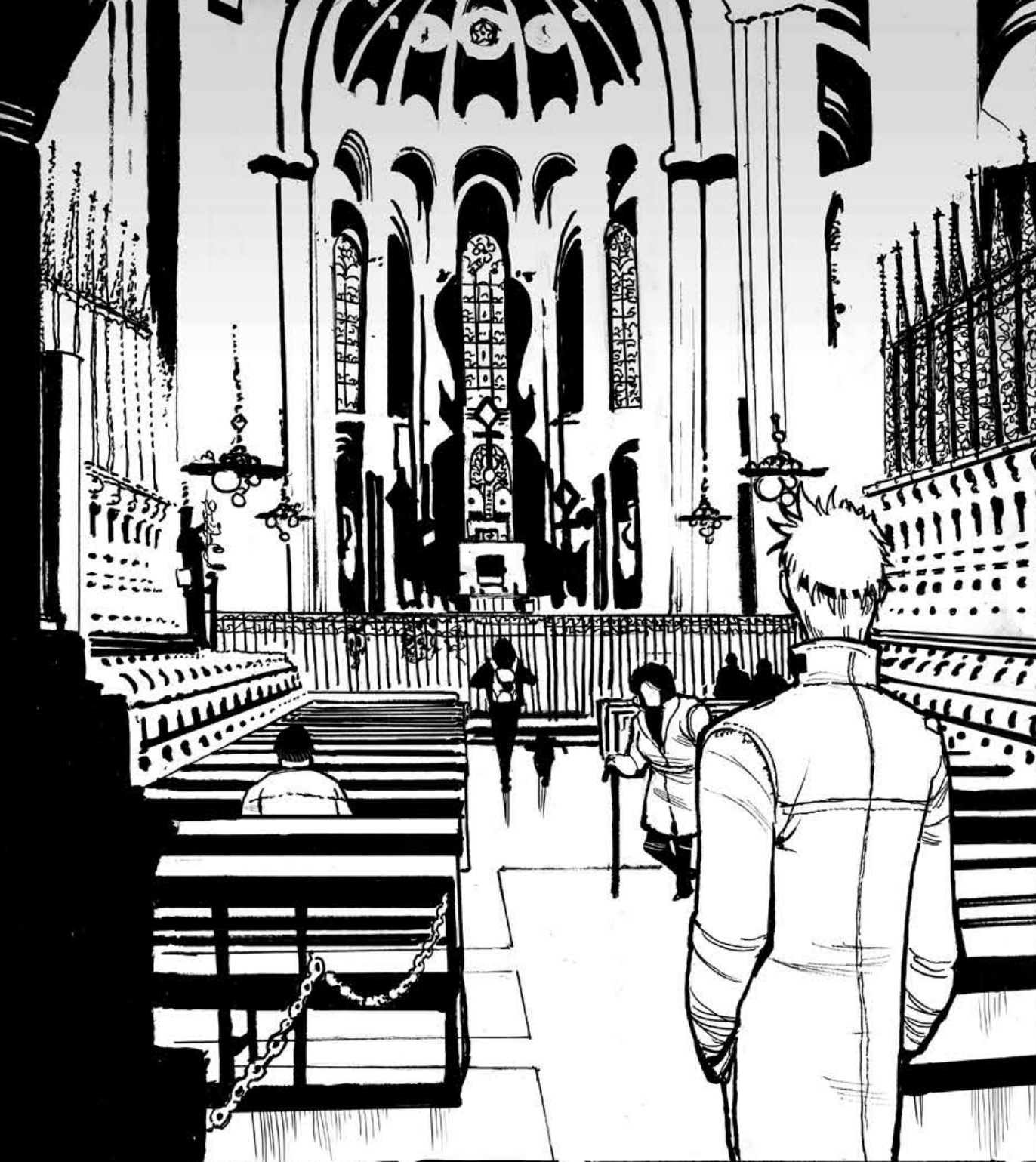


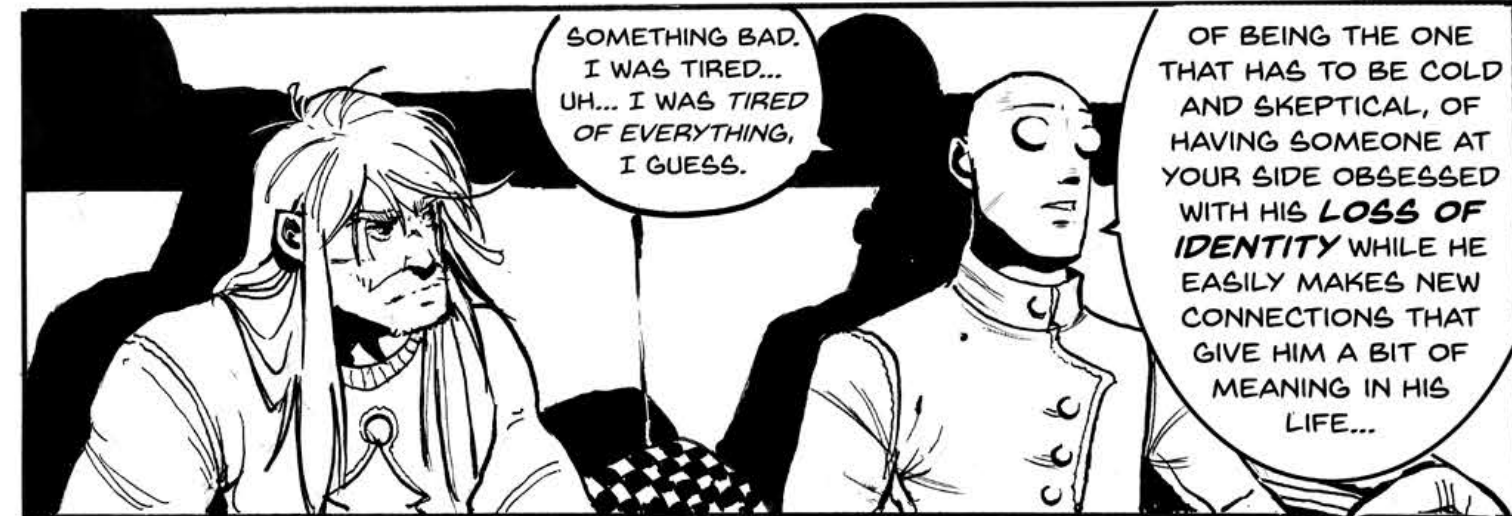
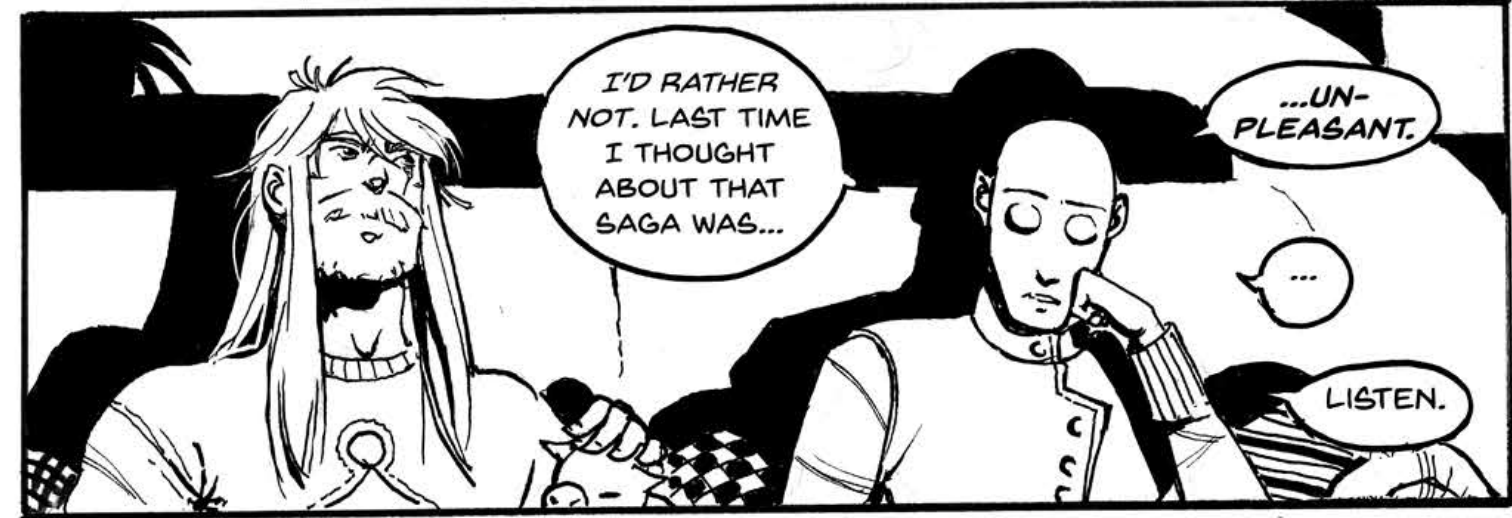
MOR...



UH...









...TIRED OF ALL THE GHOSTS LEAVING THEIR **ROTTEN PRESENTS** LIKE SOME HELLISH VERSION OF SANTA CLAUS.

MAN, SPEAK IN CHINESE AND I'LL UNDERSTAND YOU BETTER.



WE STOLE CONFIDENTIAL BANK DATA. OF THE HEREMITES, ALLEGEDLY.

YOU AND ADAM?

THINGS GOT OUT OF HAND.



IT'S JUST VERY TIRING TO BE **INVISIBLE**.

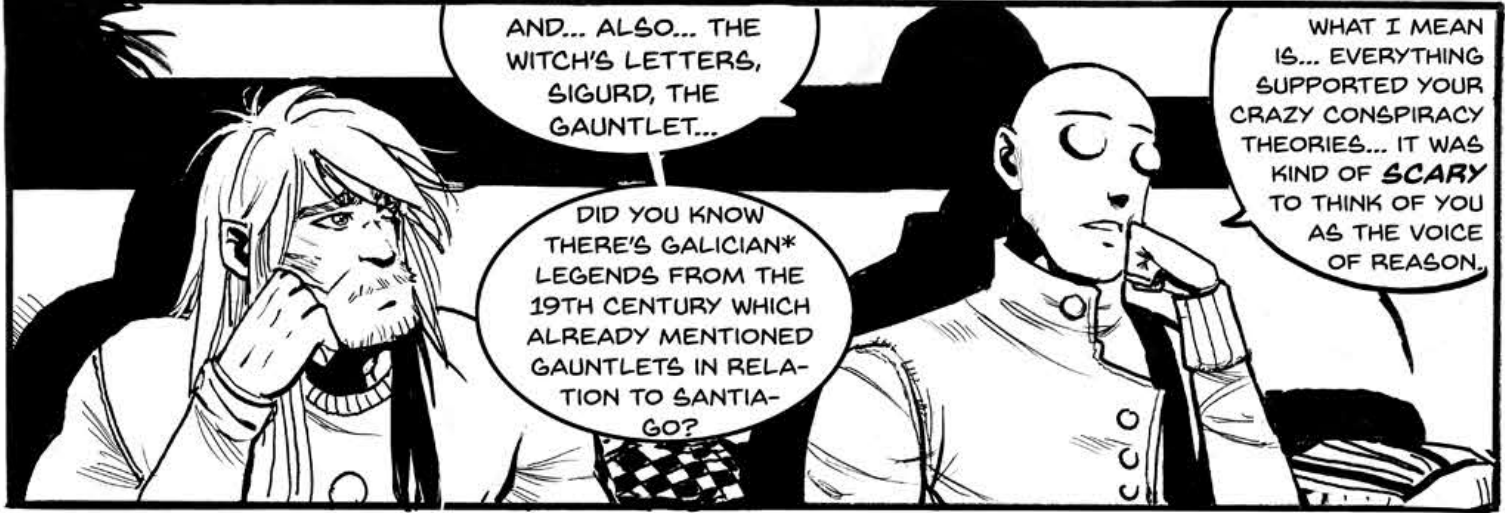
I... SOLVED THE CASE. I FOUND ONE OF THE TWO KILLERS, BUT... WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE ANY OF IT? I WENT THROUGH ALL THAT... FOR NOTHING.



IN WHAT WAY?

IN A WAY WHERE WE LEFT A **GIANT** TRAIL OF CLUES BEHIND US.

...AND GAVE THE HEREMITES AND POSSIBLY OTHER GROUPS A REASON TO WANT US CAPTURED, OR **WORSE**.



AND... ALSO... THE WITCH'S LETTERS, SIGURD, THE GAUNTLET...

DID YOU KNOW THERE'S GALICIAN* LEGENDS FROM THE 19TH CENTURY WHICH ALREADY MENTIONED GAUNTLETS IN RELATION TO SANTIAGO?

WHAT I MEAN IS... EVERYTHING SUPPORTED YOUR CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES... IT WAS KIND OF **SCARY** TO THINK OF YOU AS THE VOICE OF REASON.



WHAT ABOUT THE DATA? SOMETHING INTERESTING IN THERE?

IT'S PROTECTED. I CAN'T ACCESS IT.



THANKS.

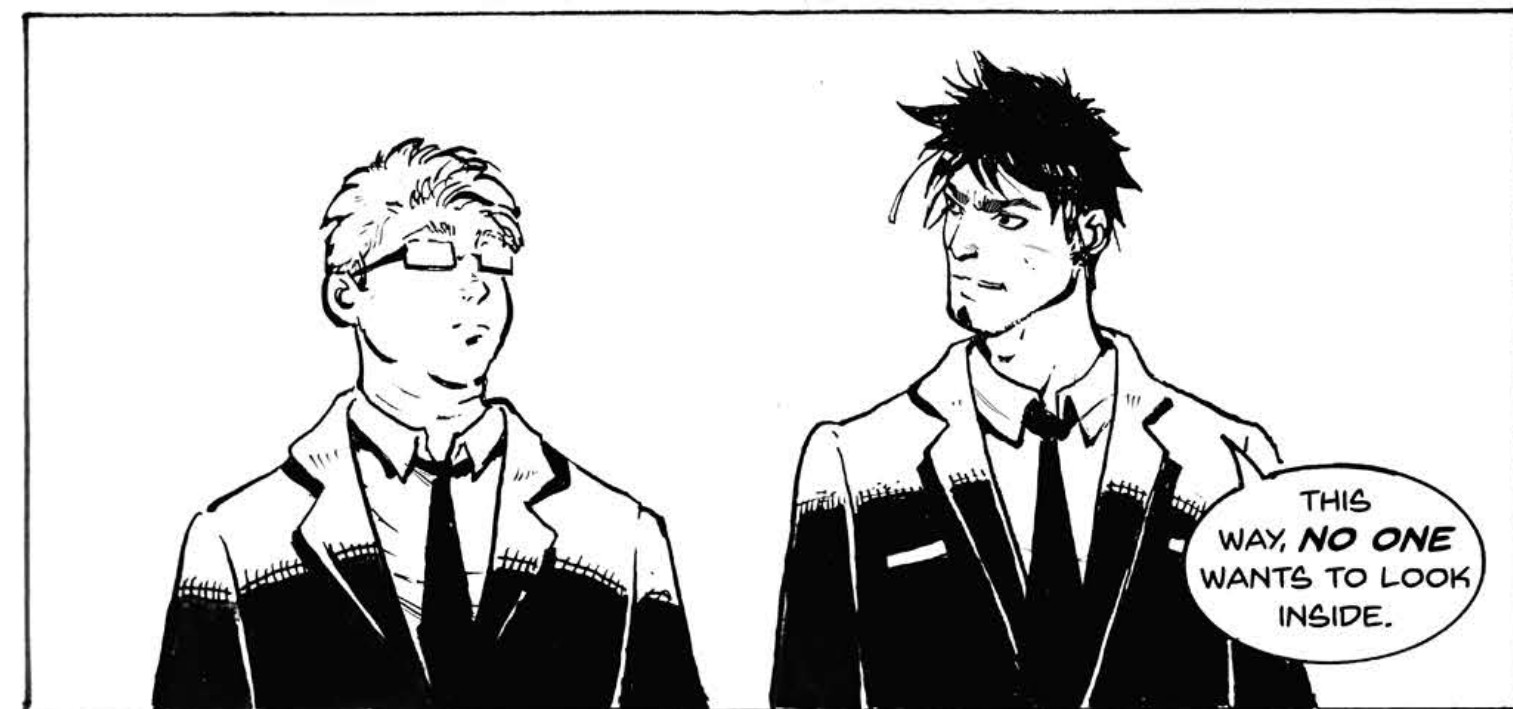
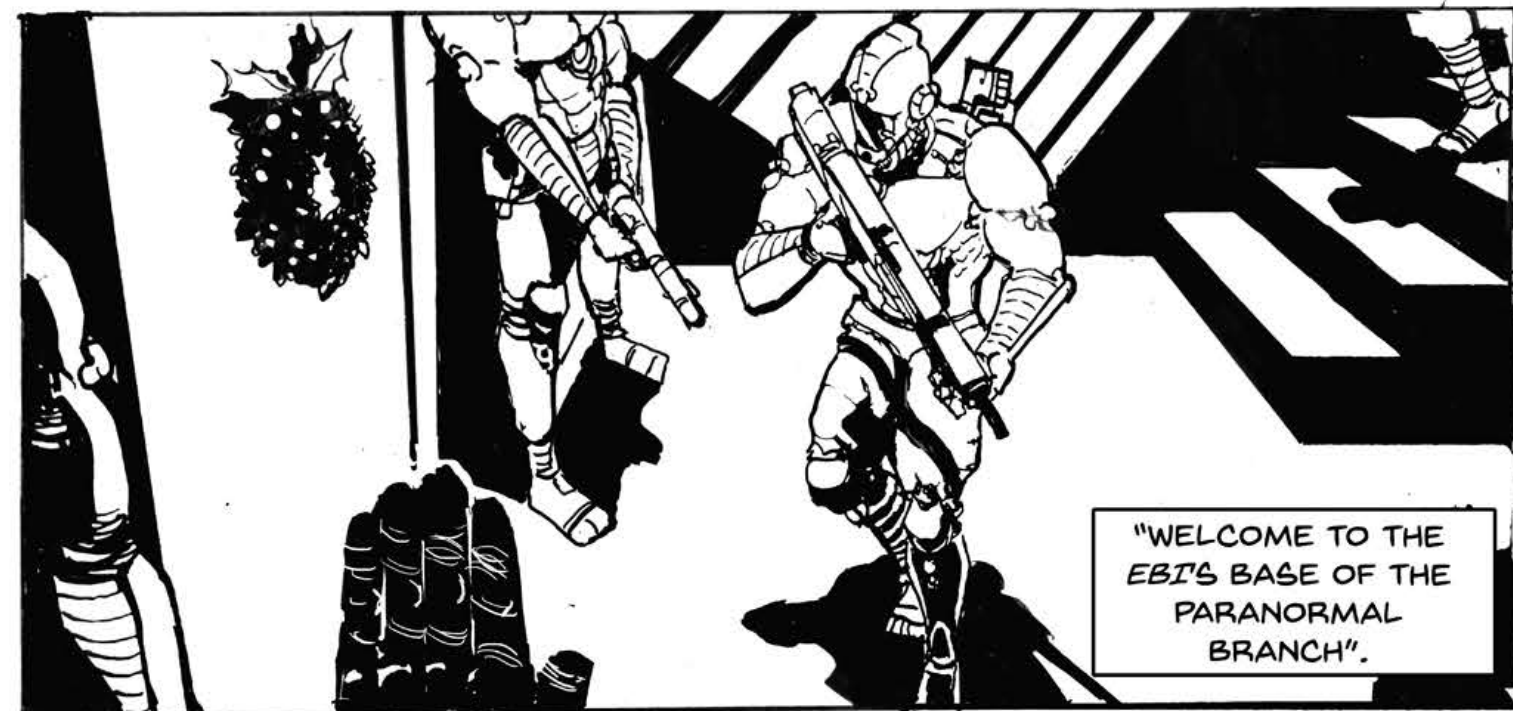
AND ME BEING ME, I CONTAINED MYSELF UNTIL I DIDN'T.

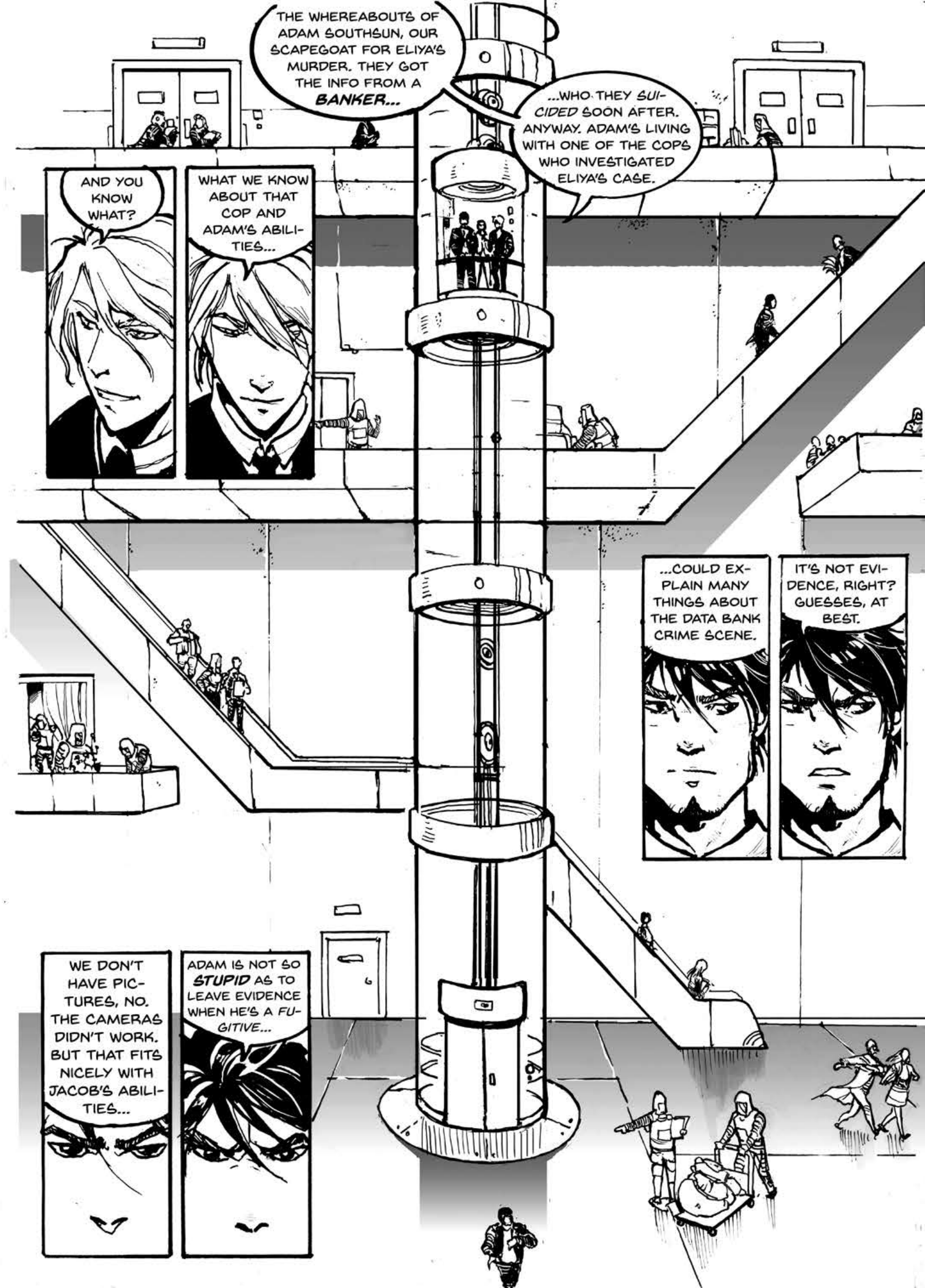
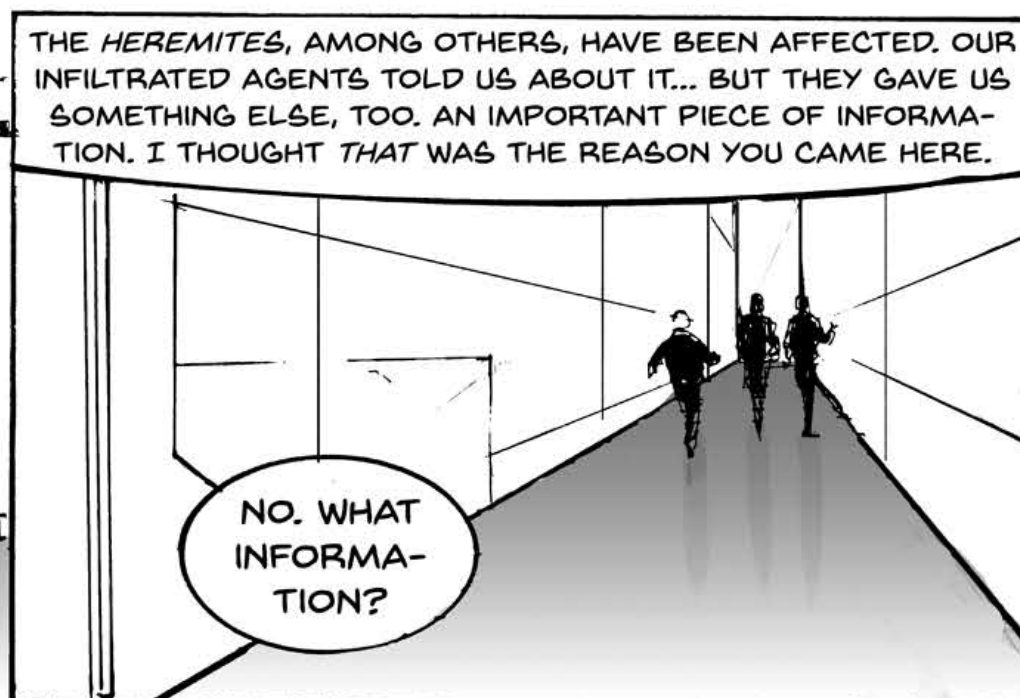
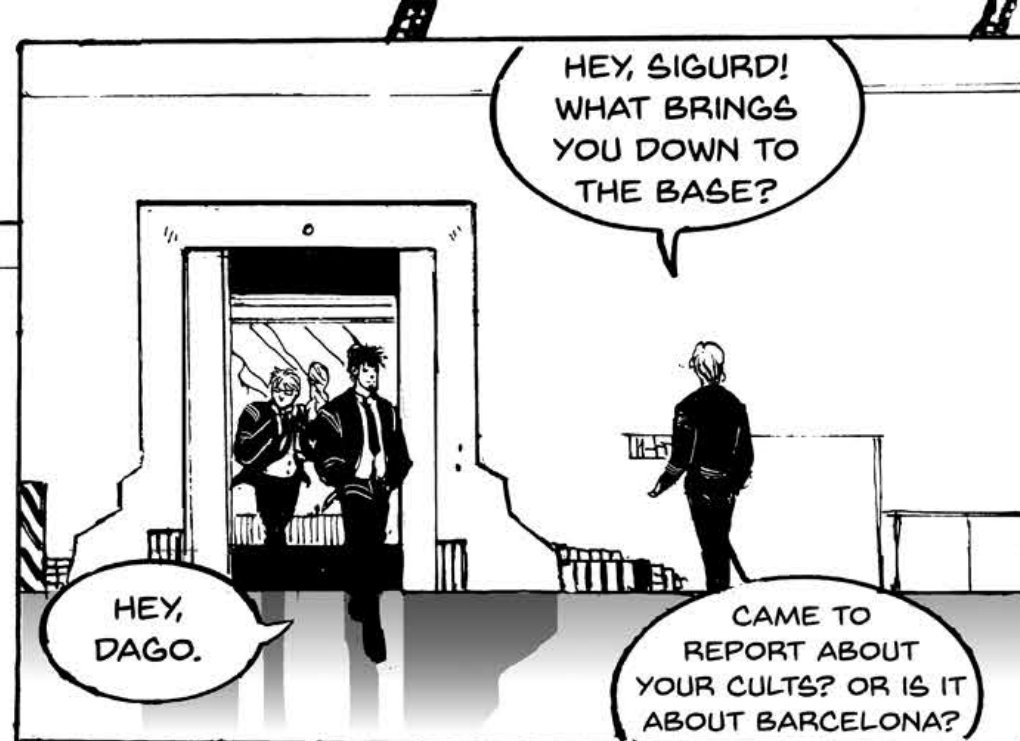
AW SHIT. WHAT.

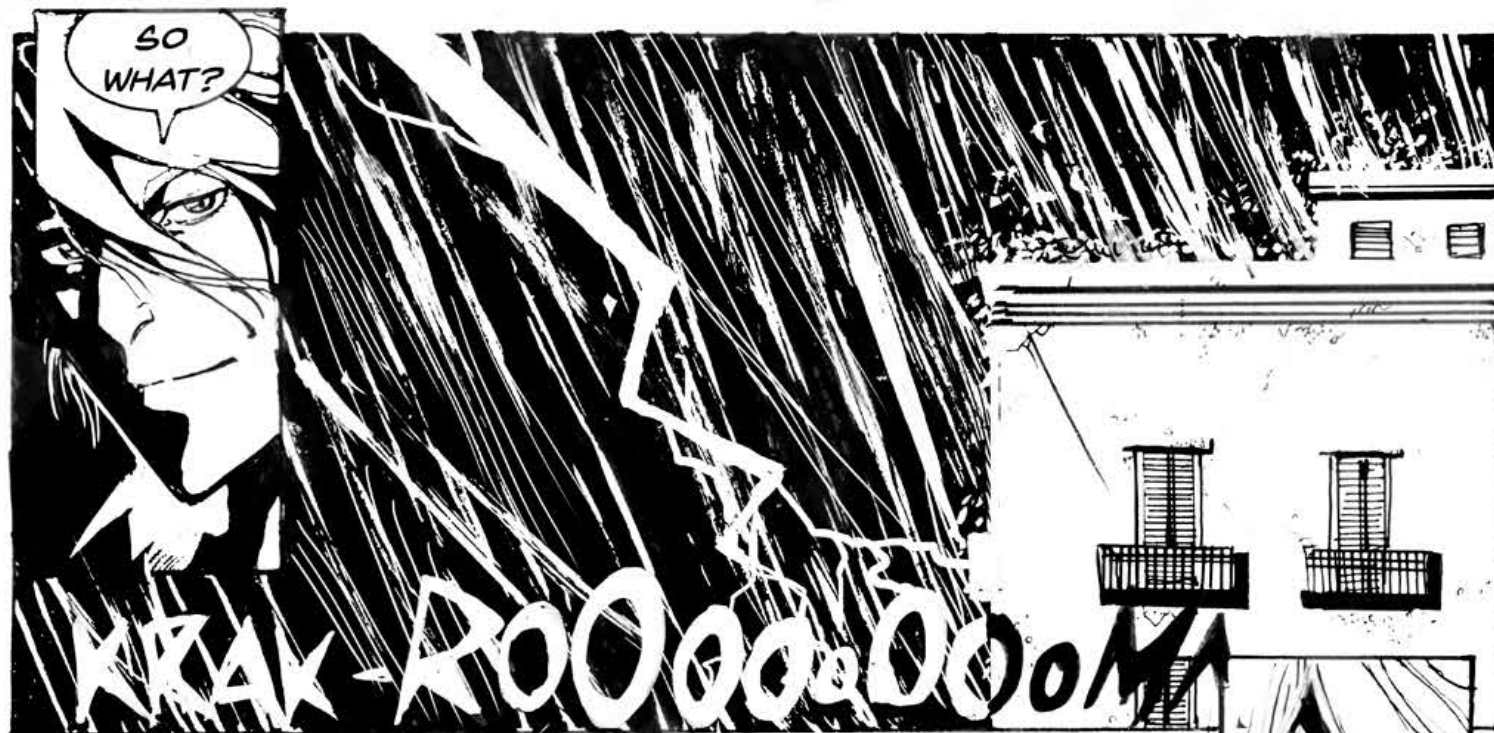


I DON'T THINK ANY OF THIS WILL GO UNNOTICED. I'M PREPARING FOR THE SCENARIO OF HAVING TO FLEE FROM BARCELONA... IN WHICH CASE, YOU CAN IMAGINE THE PLACE WE SHOULD HEAD IMMEDIATELY...

*GALICIA: NORTHWESTERNMOST REGION OF SPAIN. SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA IS THE CAPITAL... IN THE REAL WORLD.







SO WHAT?

KRAK-ROOOOOOOOM



GEEZ, NICE WEATHER, HUH?

THEY'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE, DON'T YOU THINK?



I WOULD TAKE CARE OF ADAM. I SAID SO.



THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT HIM UNDER CONTROL, SIGURD. IT'S **OUR** PROBLEM, NOW.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO? IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME.

"A TIME FOR
GIFTS AND
SURPRISES".

WAIT, I'LL
TURN ON
T...

SHHH, IT'S
BETTER THIS
WAY...

...THE
MORE MYS-
TERIOUS, THE
BETTER.

...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). THANK YOU!

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KRAK-BROOOOOO