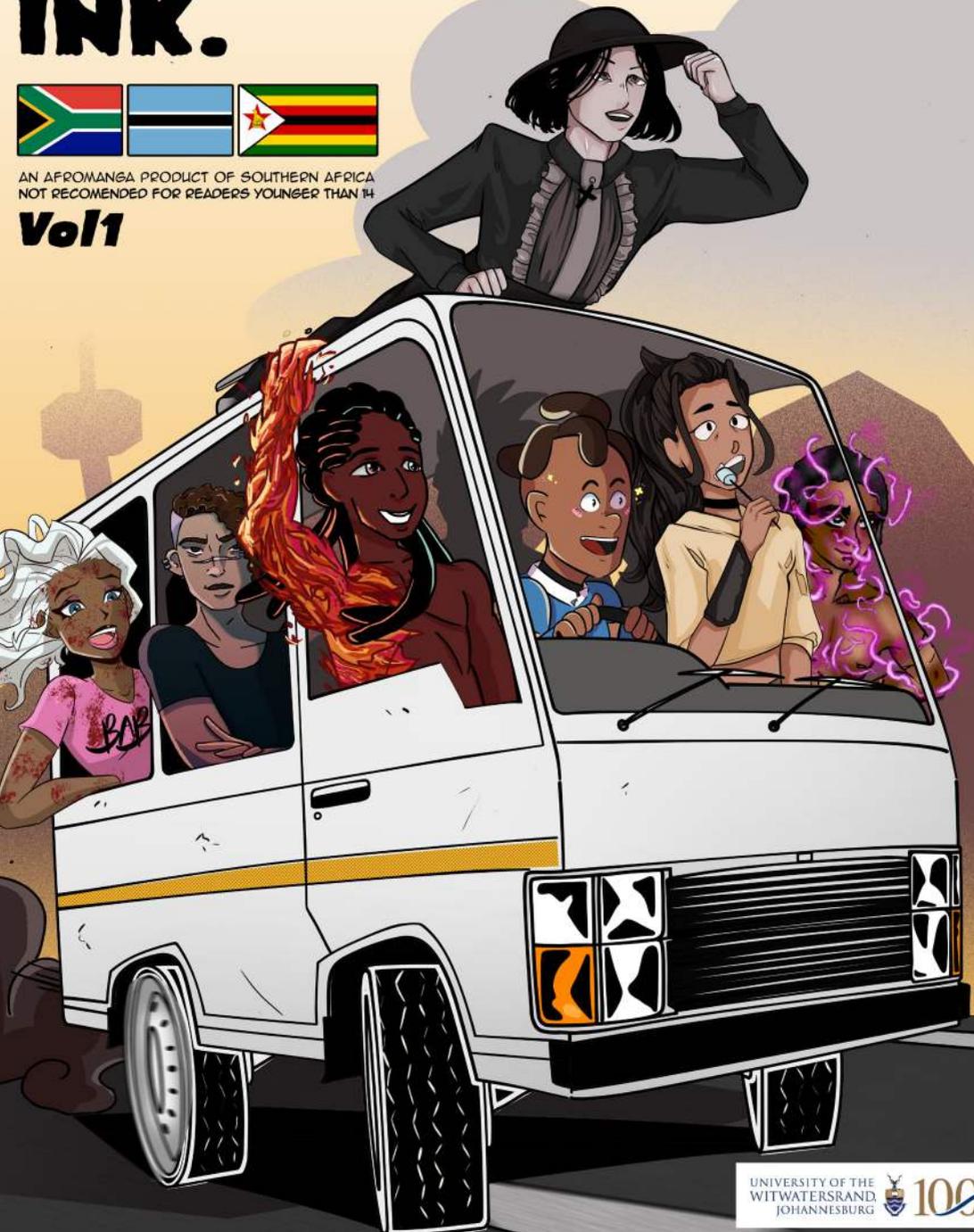


BLOOD. SWEAT. INK.



AN AFROMANGA PRODUCT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
NOT RECOMMENDED FOR READERS YOUNGER THAN 14

Vol 1



FOREWARD

We sit as the generation of change-makers armed with stylus and bold ideas, like those before us and those that come after us; these words dancing so carefree with depictions of the future, fantasy, and culture. There's no singular word yet for what we do and what to call us, but if the principle is that you are what you eat – then we consume the works of great minds from the east, and dine on it under the African sun.

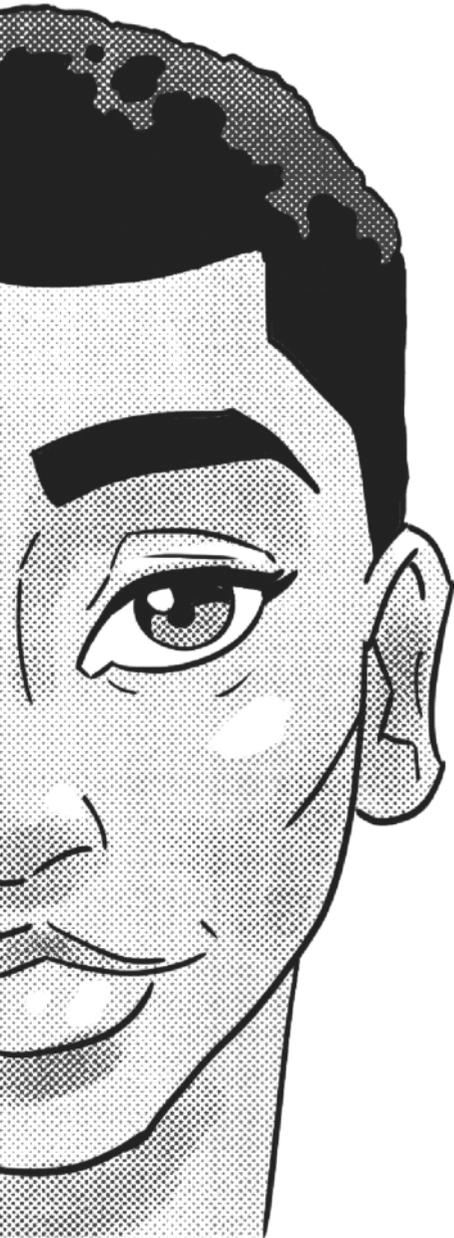
Afromanga.

Remember this word as the progenitor seed of the grand tales and fables that will rise from the continent. Take it in. You're part of the movement now, as your eyes scrub through these very words. Consume these pages, be consumed by the stories, and then sit with us as the generation of change makers armed with stylus and bold ideas. Like those who come after you, and those after them.

Let us speak if the works of these great minds from African, and dine on them under our uniting sun.

~Bill Masuku, founder of the term Afromanga and the first ever Afromangaka*

*See more in his titles *Razor-Man* (the first-ever Afromanga) and *Captain South Africa*.



EDITOR'S NOTE

This is **Blood. Sweat. Ink.** A unique collection of Afromanga produced by the 4th Year Students of the Wits Digital Arts BA Degree Programme. What began as a simple idea tossed between Bill Masuku (the progenitor of the Afromanga Genre) and I grew into a research opportunity - I've always found Intergenre an interesting and valuable theory, so I pitched an idea to my department for a research project. It challenged the student participants to create stories that they would want to read, characters that represent the individuals making the work and, most importantly, an all-new medium through which to express themselves.

Almost 6 months of hard work has gone into the project and we are immensely proud of what we've all achieved. From the striking cover cards to the sumptuous interior, we hope that you, dear reader, find a story (or two, or all) that speaks to you. Everything you will encounter is completely original content and a product of our book's namesake: Blood (not too much, though), Sweat (quite a lot of that) and Ink (both digital and traditional).

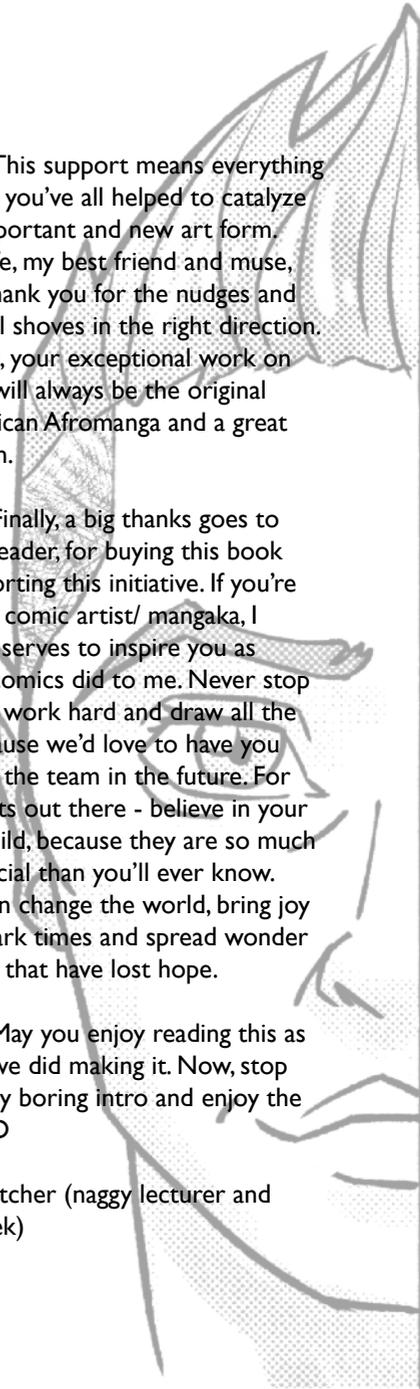
I'd like to offer thanks to several people that made this happen - to Kieran and my colleagues at Wits Digital Arts for believing in this project, to Angus for finding funds to make this book a reality, and most especially, to Kirsten Douglas and the Alexander Family for their generous donations.

This support means everything to us, and you've all helped to catalyze a very important and new art form. To my wife, my best friend and muse, Chanel, thank you for the nudges and occasional shoves in the right direction. To Ziyaad, your exceptional work on *Siri Watu* will always be the original South African Afromanga and a great inspiration.

Finally, a big thanks goes to you, the reader, for buying this book and supporting this initiative. If you're a budding comic artist/ mangaka, I hope this serves to inspire you as much as comics did to me. Never stop dreaming, work hard and draw all the time, because we'd love to have you as part of the team in the future. For the parents out there - believe in your artistic child, because they are so much more special than you'll ever know. Artists can change the world, bring joy in truly dark times and spread wonder to people that have lost hope.

May you enjoy reading this as much as we did making it. Now, stop reading my boring intro and enjoy the comics! :D

~Ray Witcher (naggy lecturer and comic geek)



THE STUDENT TEAMS



Ethan-John Stoffels



Micalen Ramdayal

AMALGAM



Chev Dermitt



Erin Christie

HELLISH



Iman Raffee



Nadia Hassim

LAPDOGS



Mmatebo Kwape



Nolwazi Waugh

OCEAN FIRE



Eric Gardiner



Tamara Tesoriero

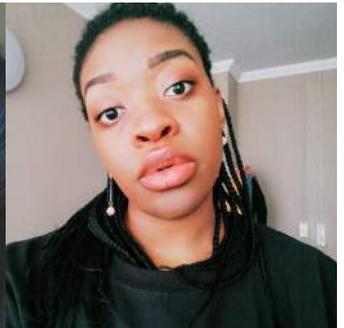
RUSH



Jess Alexander

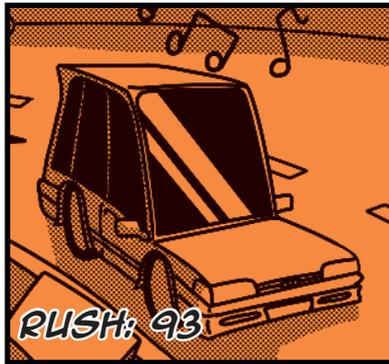
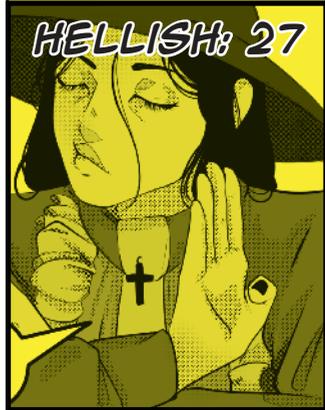
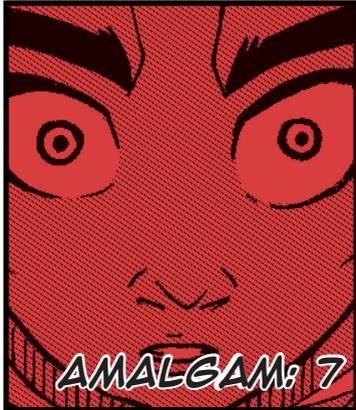


Ravisha Nandlall



Twumwaa Oduro

THE PIRATE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER



MAALGATI



WRITTEN, LETTERED AND
COLOURED BY
MICALEN RAMDAYAL

ART BY
ETHAN-JOHN STOFFELS

Micalen the Writer and Madman (in all the best ways)

I get described as cute when my life long dream is to be sexy :(
I eat food like my life depends on it - which it does!

If you were to ask me what my favorite genre of music is
I would probably smile and say kittens because
I was day dreaming and didn't hear the question
while you thought I was just a good listener.

Black and Pink are my favorite colors and Blackpink is my
favorite music group.

As a writer my hands hurt a lot, but that doesn't stop me
from playing videogames for too long and making the damage worse.
Comics are cool cause it's like watching a really cool anime
on YouTube with really bad internet - so the video buffs and freezes
at the perfect moment to know what's going on!

Ethan Slave to the Pen

It's kinda funny. In high school I always used to joke about making
a manga. A proper one, by the time I was 23. Here I am
22 an a bit working on this manga.

Like Micalen my hand hurts from putting effort into this.
Then again I always end up injuring myself in weird and
wonderful ways. Saying slave to the pen isn't too far from the truth.

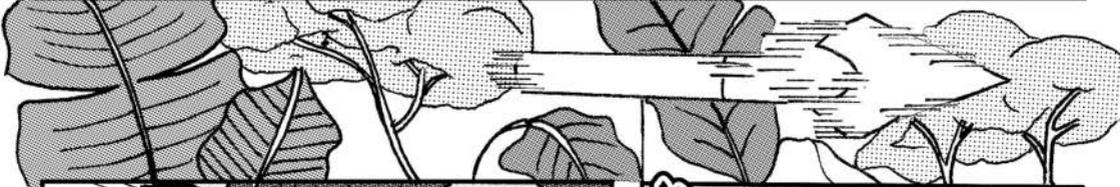
My favourite band is Frightened rabbit. Their playlist got me
through a lot.

A word of thanks to Aleco, Ma'am Gravett, Holden and AA to
name a few (also Micalen for writing this manga).

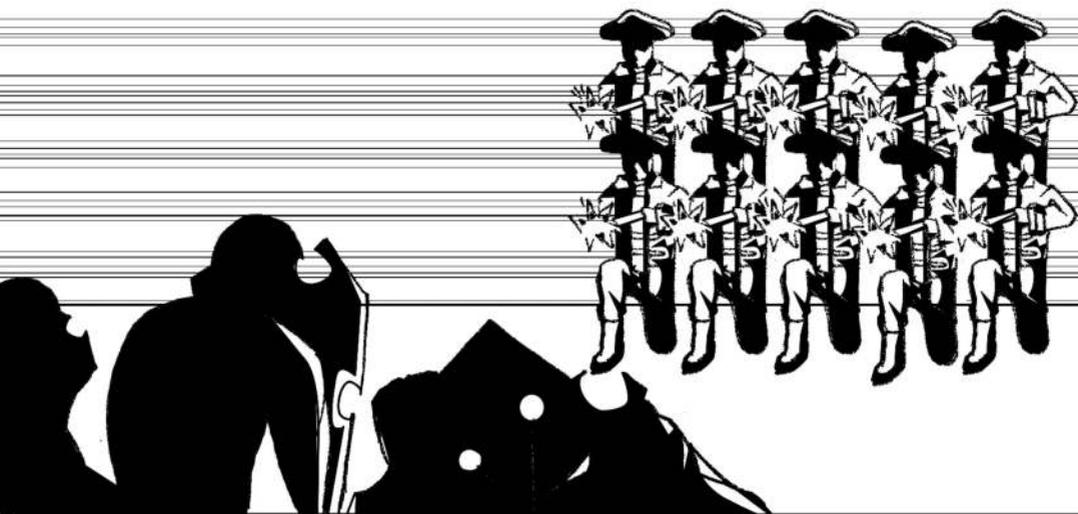
This is me being mushy and sentimental

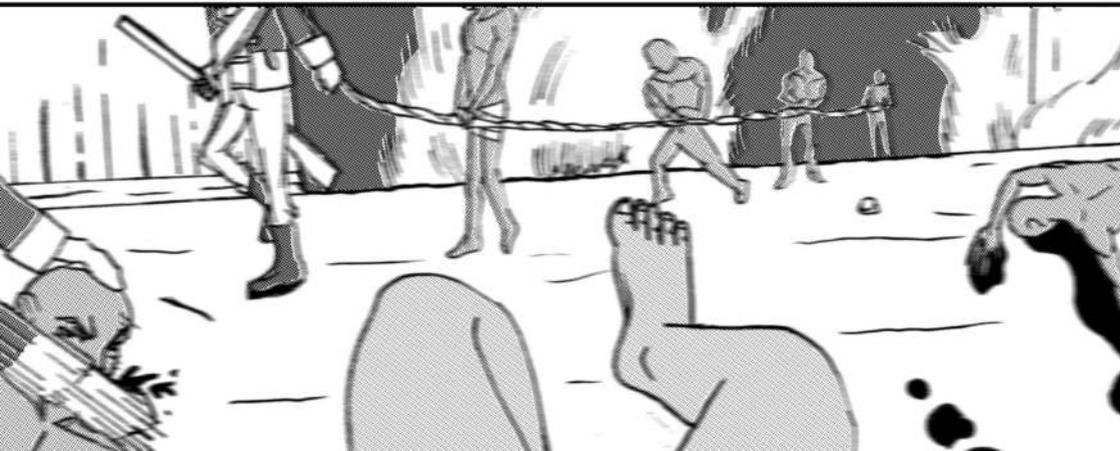
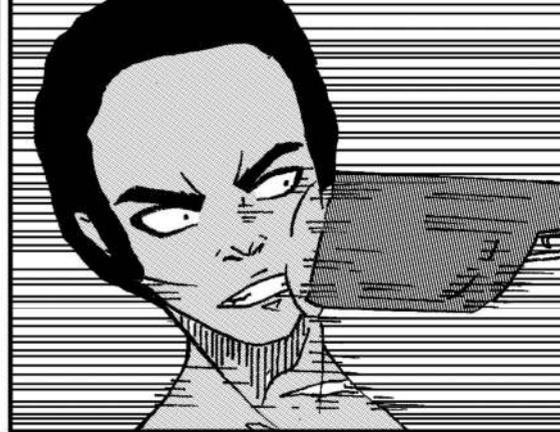
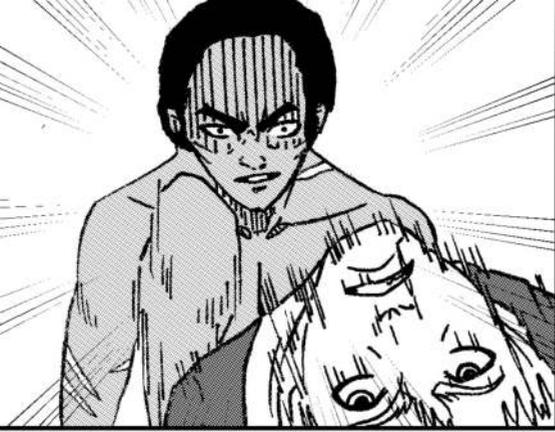
Thank you for all the support over the years.

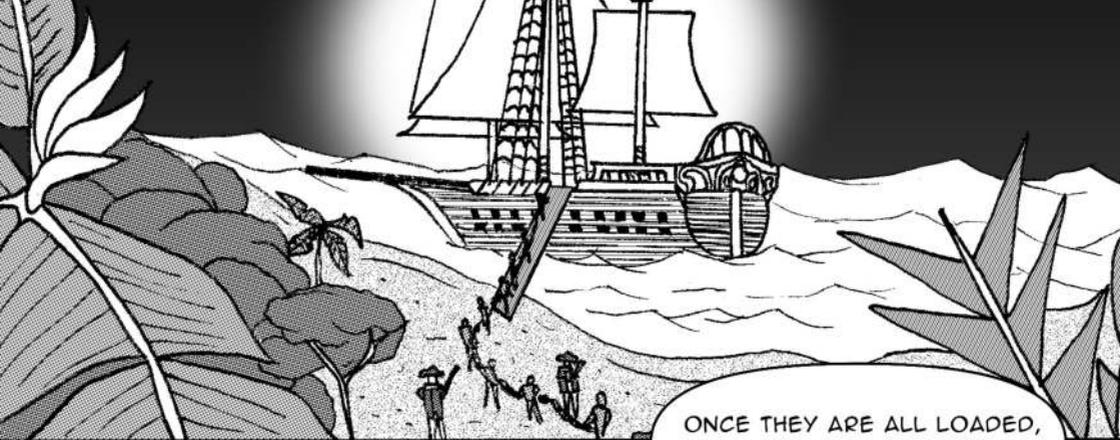
You all encouraged me even when I wanted to drop this crazy
idea. I can't say I did it alone so I'll say we did it!











ONCE THEY ARE ALL LOADED,
WE WILL BE READY TO SET
SAIL CAPTAIN.

HOW MANY
ARE THERE?

SO FAR THERE'S ABOUT SEVEN
HUNDRED ON THE SHIP.
ONCE THESE ARE ON,
WE SHOULD BE CLOSE
TO A *THOUSAND*.

BUT SIR!
THOSE WATERS ARE
TREACHEROUS
AND THE
OTHER CAPTAINS HAVE
SAID THE LOCALS
CLAIM IT IS
CURSED.

WONDERFUL!
WE ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE.
WE SAIL NORTH EAST
FROM THE BAY.

YES CAPTAIN...

FUCKING
FAIRYTALES!!!

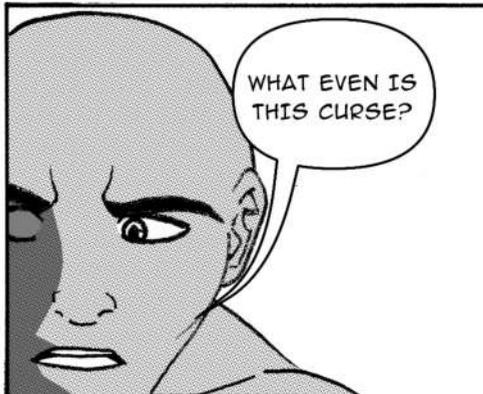
IF IT WERE CURSED THERE
BE NO ONE TO TELL
A BLOODY STORY!



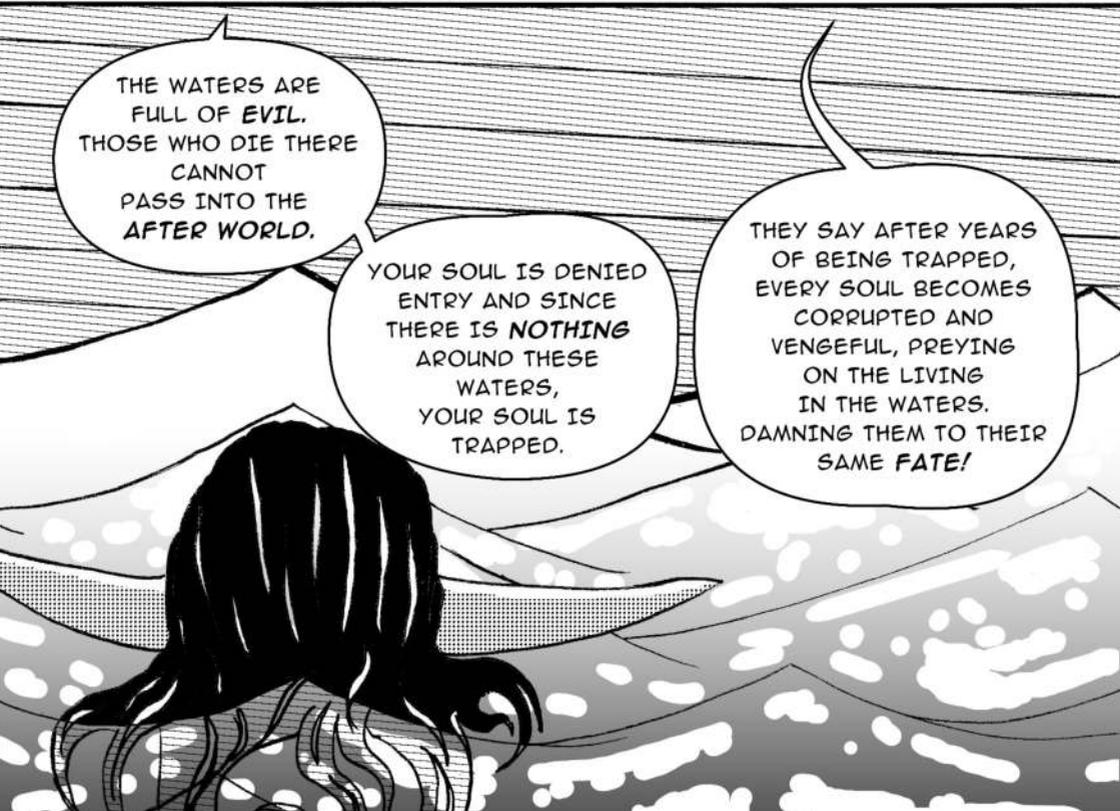
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
THEY ARE GOING
TO CURSED WATERS!



FIRST THEY TAKE US
FROM OUR HOMES
AND FAMILIES.
AND NOW THEY TAKE
CHANCES
WITH OUR LIVES!



WHAT EVEN IS
THIS CURSE?

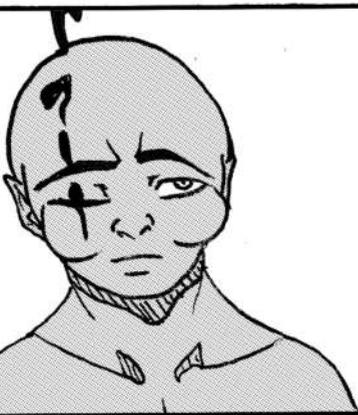


THE WATERS ARE
FULL OF EVIL.
THOSE WHO DIE THERE
CANNOT
PASS INTO THE
AFTER WORLD.

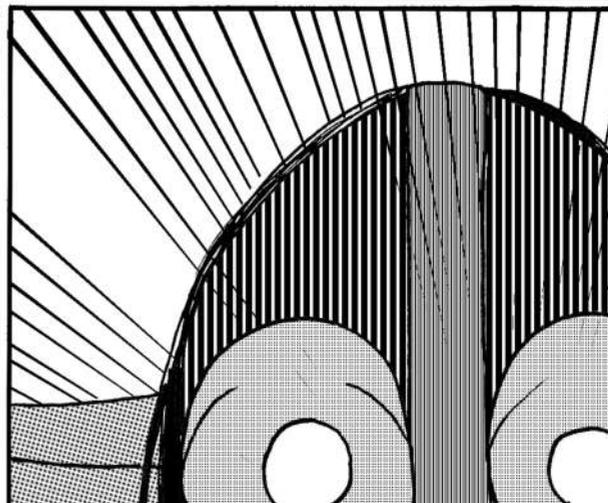
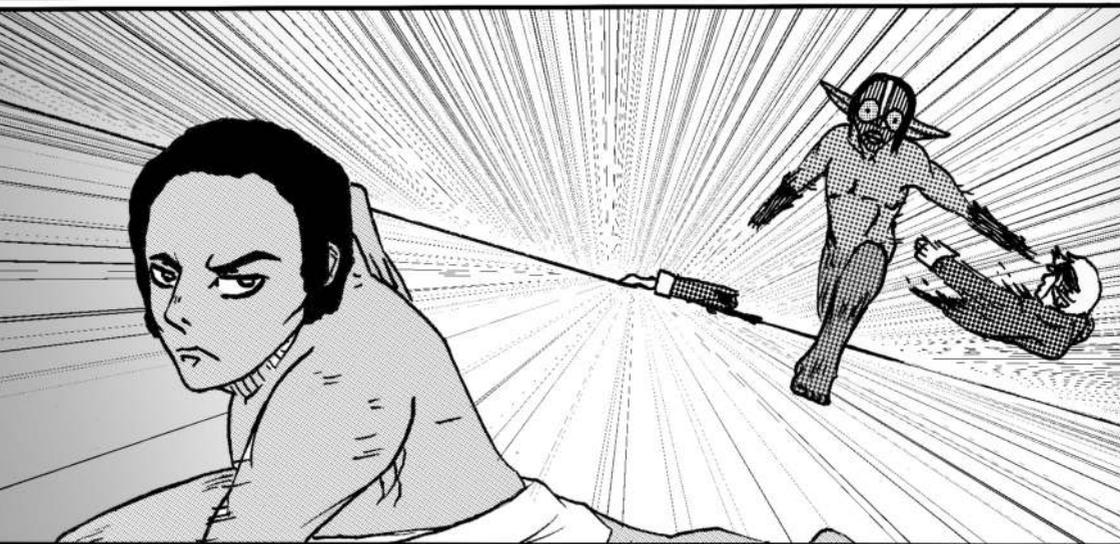
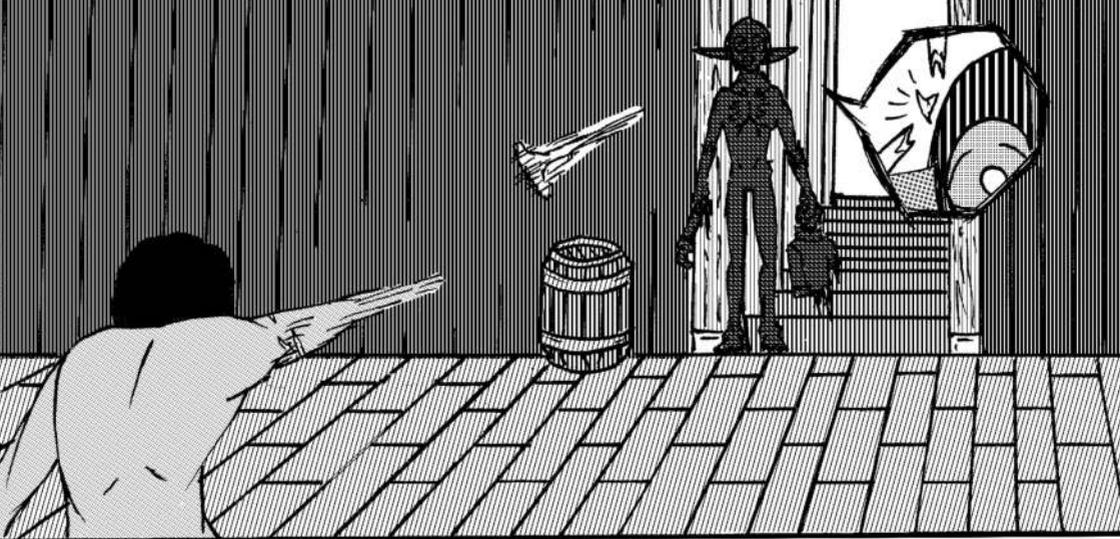
YOUR SOUL IS DENIED
ENTRY AND SINCE
THERE IS **NOTHING**
AROUND THESE
WATERS,
YOUR SOUL IS
TRAPPED.

THEY SAY AFTER YEARS
OF BEING TRAPPED,
EVERY SOUL BECOMES
CORRUPTED AND
VENGEFUL, PREYING
ON THE LIVING
IN THE WATERS.
DAMNING THEM TO THEIR
SAME FATE!









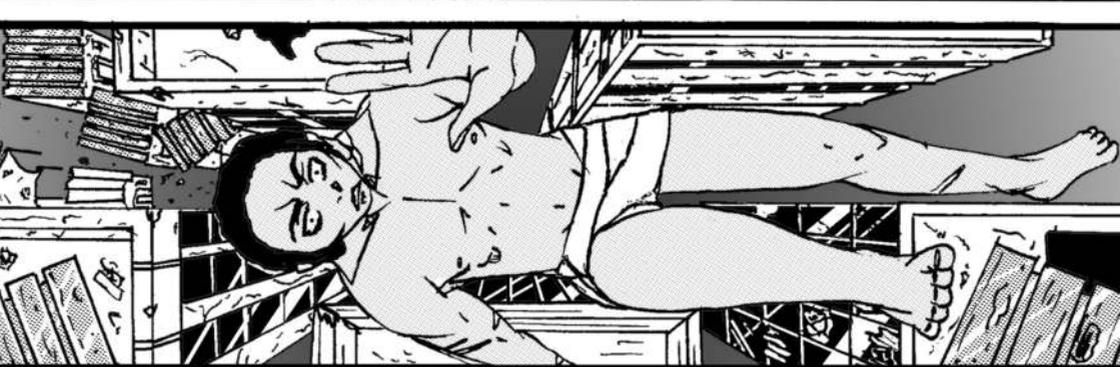
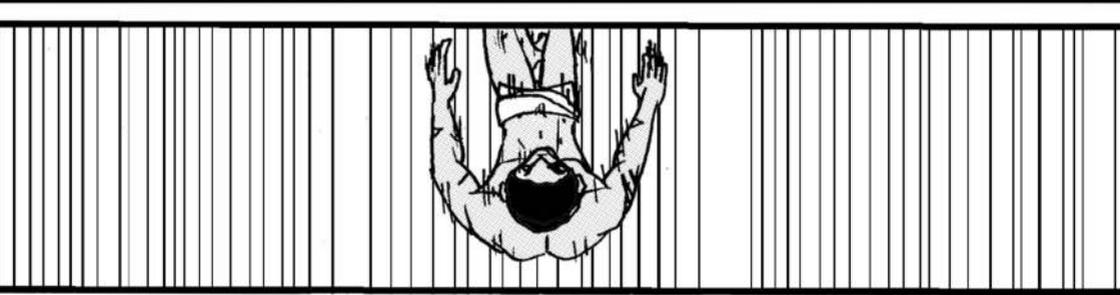












Spirit-Be-Gone



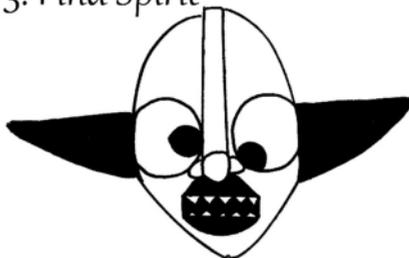
1. Drink



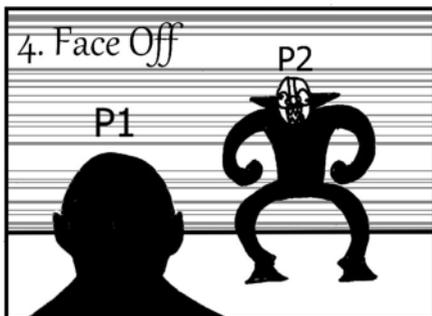
2. Get Dax



3. Find Spirit



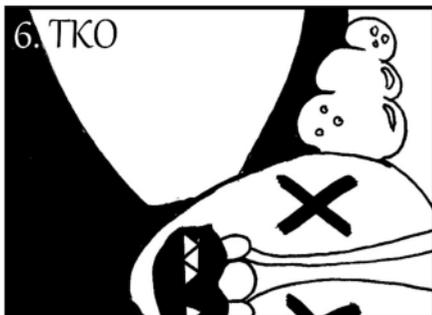
4. Face Off



5. FIGHT



6. TKO



R399-99



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Chapter 2:

WELCOME TO TOMORROW





HELLISH

ART BY CHERVALLE DERMIT

WRITING & COVER BY ERIN CHRISTIE

*GoGo's Home
and
Cleaning Services!*

GARDENING!!



HOUSE CLEANING!!



FUMIGATIONS!!



*We Clean...
With Love*



Call 911 00

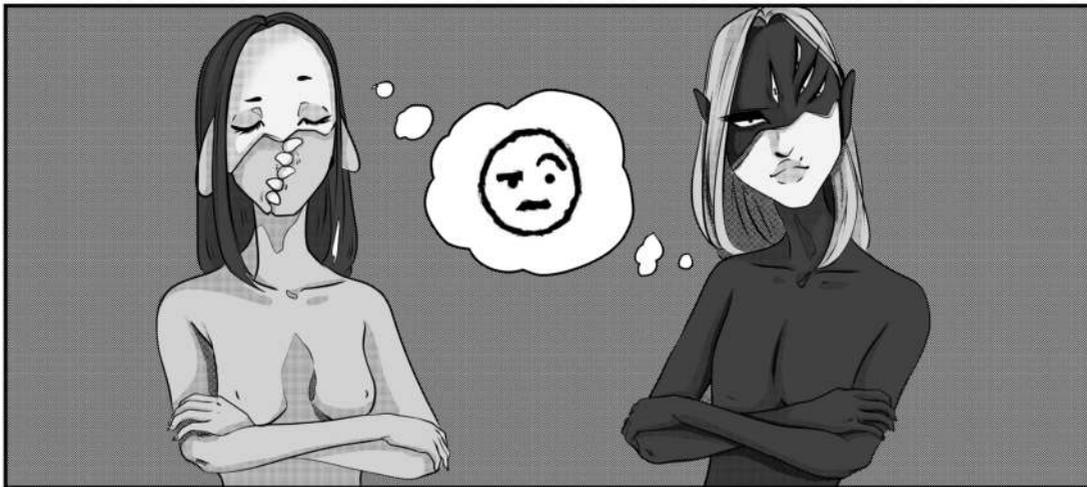




PLEASE STOP



I'M TRYING TO GET RID OF MY HEADACHE, NOT REPLACE IT WITH A MIGRAINE

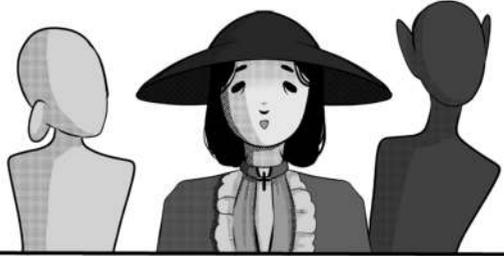


DON'T THINK AT ME LIKE THAT

IT'S RUDE TO BACKCHAT YOUR MEATSUIT-



- WHAT DO YOU MEAN MISSING AGAIN?!











LET ME GUESS...

IT'S SOMETHIN' ABOUT
THAT STRAIGHT-LACED
SON 'O MINE



YOU BETCHA.
YOU SEEN HIM?



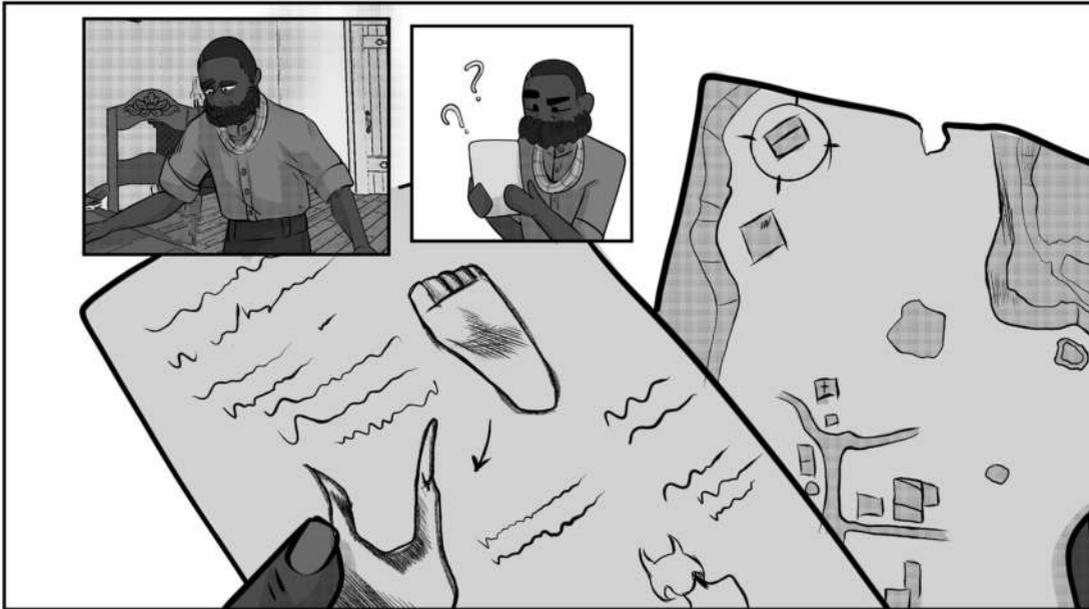
HUH... I THOUGHT HE WAS
WITH YOU...

HE'S USUALLY NEVER LATE.

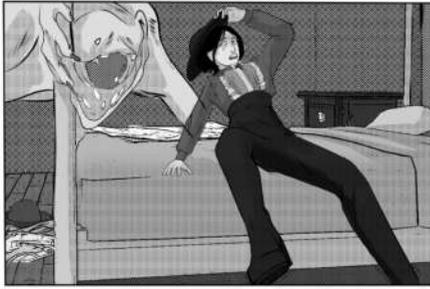










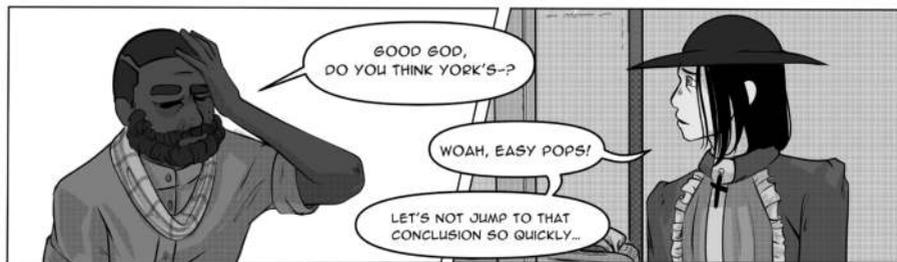






WHAT KIND OF NIGHTMARE FUEL WAS THAT?









地獄のような

HELLISH

LAP DOGS

BY CHERVALLE DERMIT, ERIN CHRISTIE,
IMAN RAFFEE & NADIA HASSIM.





Take Your Breath Away

IN A GALAXY FAR,
FAR AWAY...

STARTING TO THINK GOING TO
JAIL WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER...

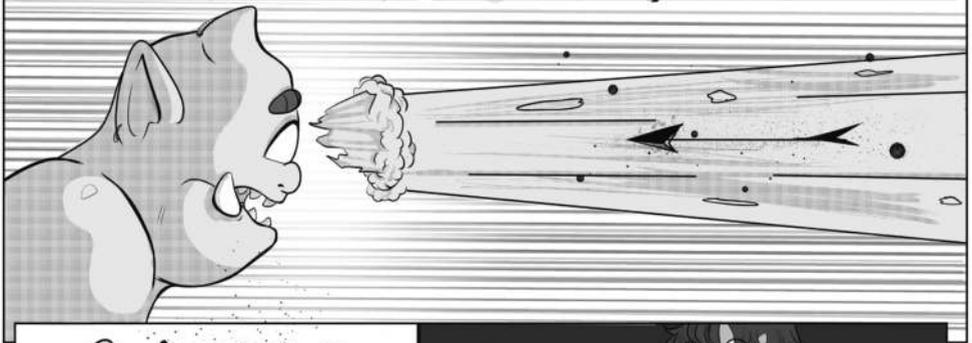
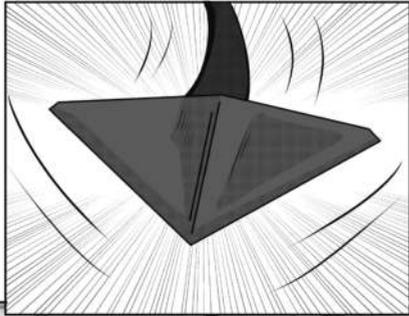
HE HE HE

HE HE







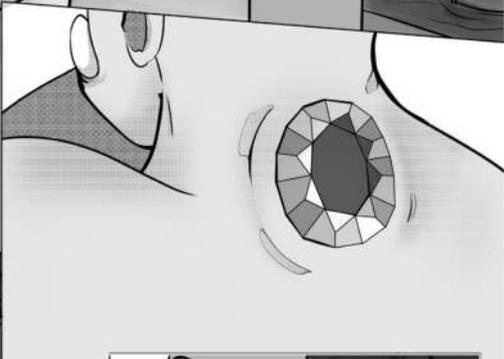








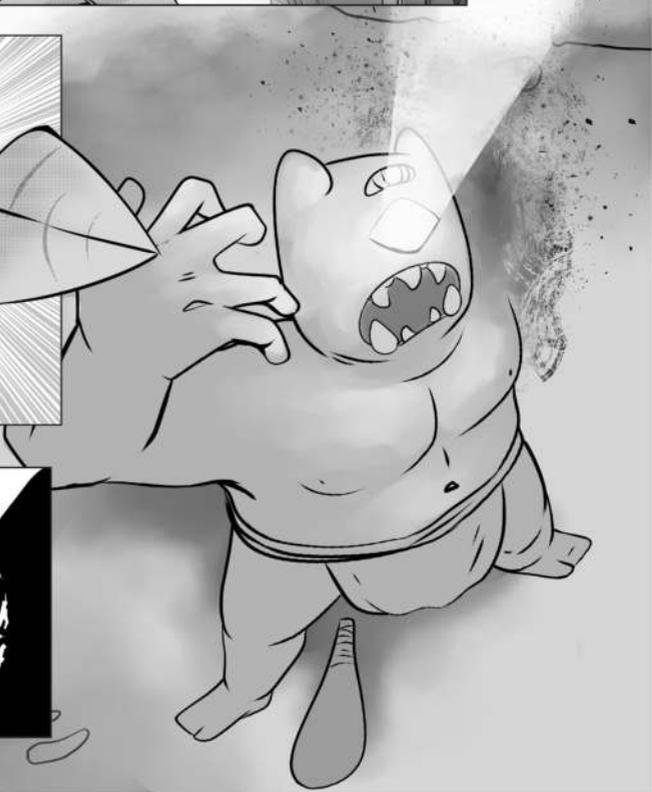
WHAT DO WE DO?
WE CAN'T KEEP
THIS UP FOR MUCH
LONGER!

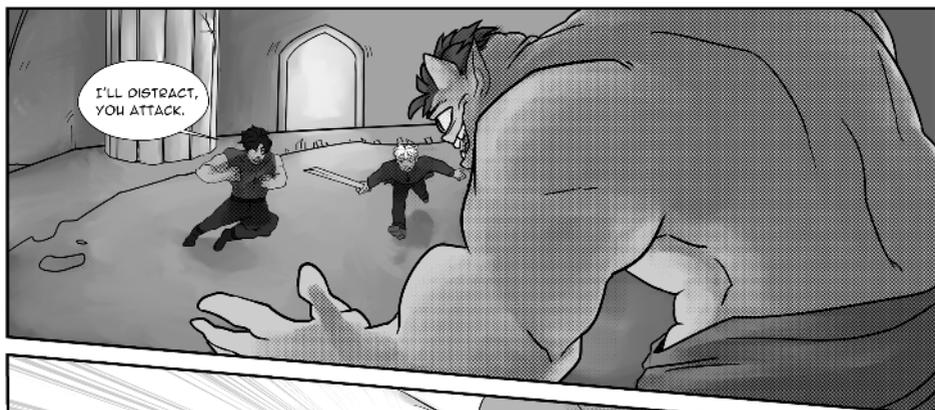


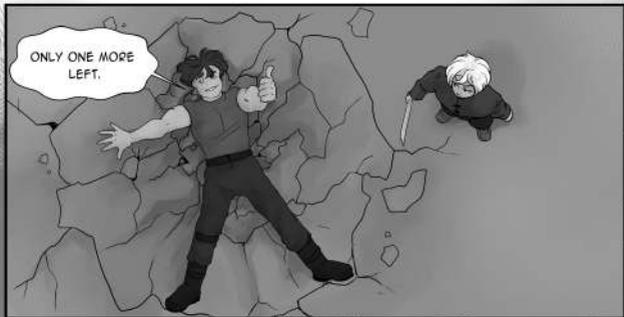
THE STONE!
SHOOT THE
STONES!



HOW'S THAT GOING TO HELP?!

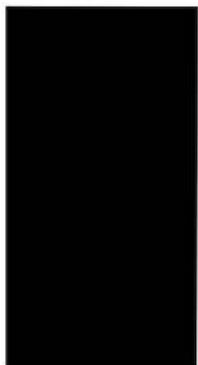






IT'S UP TO YOU NAV!



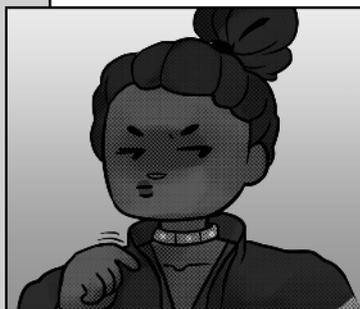








YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT OUR GOAL. WE'RE DOING OUR SENTENCE TO REDUCE THE FIFTY-YEAR PUNISHMENT BY BEHAVING WELL. YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BRINGING THAT UP!









WHAT IN THE GALAXIES IS GOING ON?







WHY ARE YOU HERE?

NOT EVEN A HELLO, ANGEL?

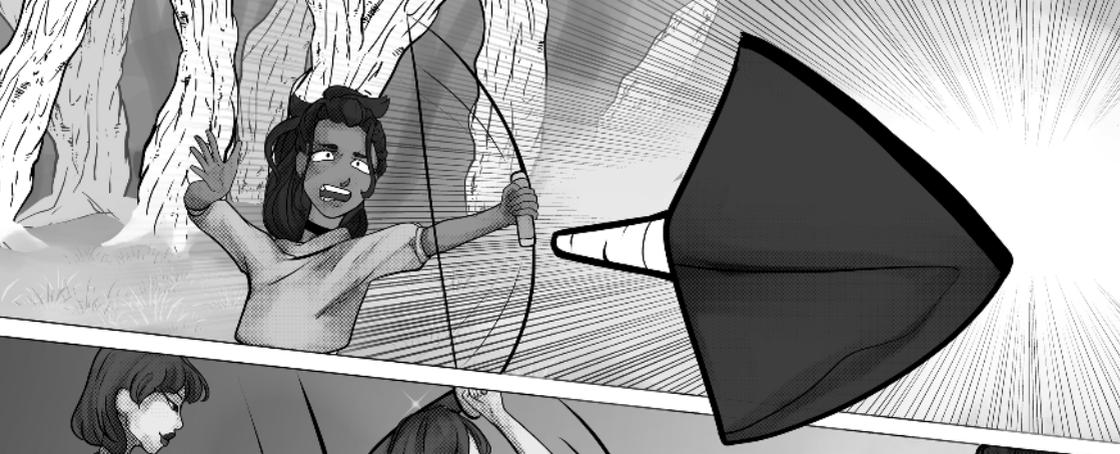
WHAT DO YOU WANT, INGRID?

THAT PRETTY CRYSTAL OF YOURS OF COURSE, HAND IT OVER.

SCARED TO FIGHT ME FOR IT?

YOU KNOW I'D LOVE TO.

OH NO SHE'S HOT



THAT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY. DID YOU LET ME WIN?

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. YOU'RE JUST THE FOURTH TROLL I FOUGHT TODAY.



SINCE I WON OUR FIGHT
FAIR AND SQUARE,
I'LL BE TAKING MY PRIZE.

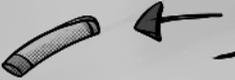
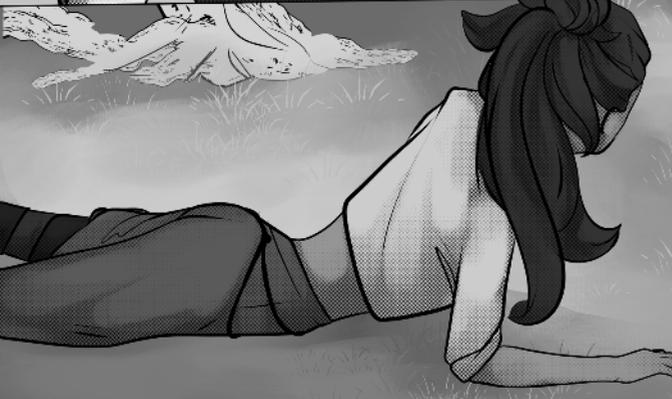


MAYBE NEXT TIME
I'LL LET YOU WIN.



SEE YA',
ANGEL.

S
W
W
I
P
P





LATER, OUTSIDE THE FOREST...



OH MY GOD
NAV! ARE YOU
OK?

THE
COUNCILMEN LEFT
ALL INJURED!

WE GOT HERE TOO
LATE THE PIRATES WERE
ALREADY GONE.

SHE GOT
THE CRYSTAL
DIDN'T SHE?



YA, YA, YA.
CAN WE JUST
GO HOME NOW?

YEAH, WE'RE
ALL CLEAR.

I'VE GOT
THE PORTAL
READY!



I'M
STARVED.

I COULD DO
WITH SOME
FOOD.

I'LL MAKE
EVERYBODY
PANCAKES!

PASS. BEING
LAPDOGS IS ENOUGH
PUNISHMENT FOR
ME.

CAI.

SORRY, KASHI.
I DIDN'T MEAN
THAT...

One Prawn
against the
world...

Prawn In The City



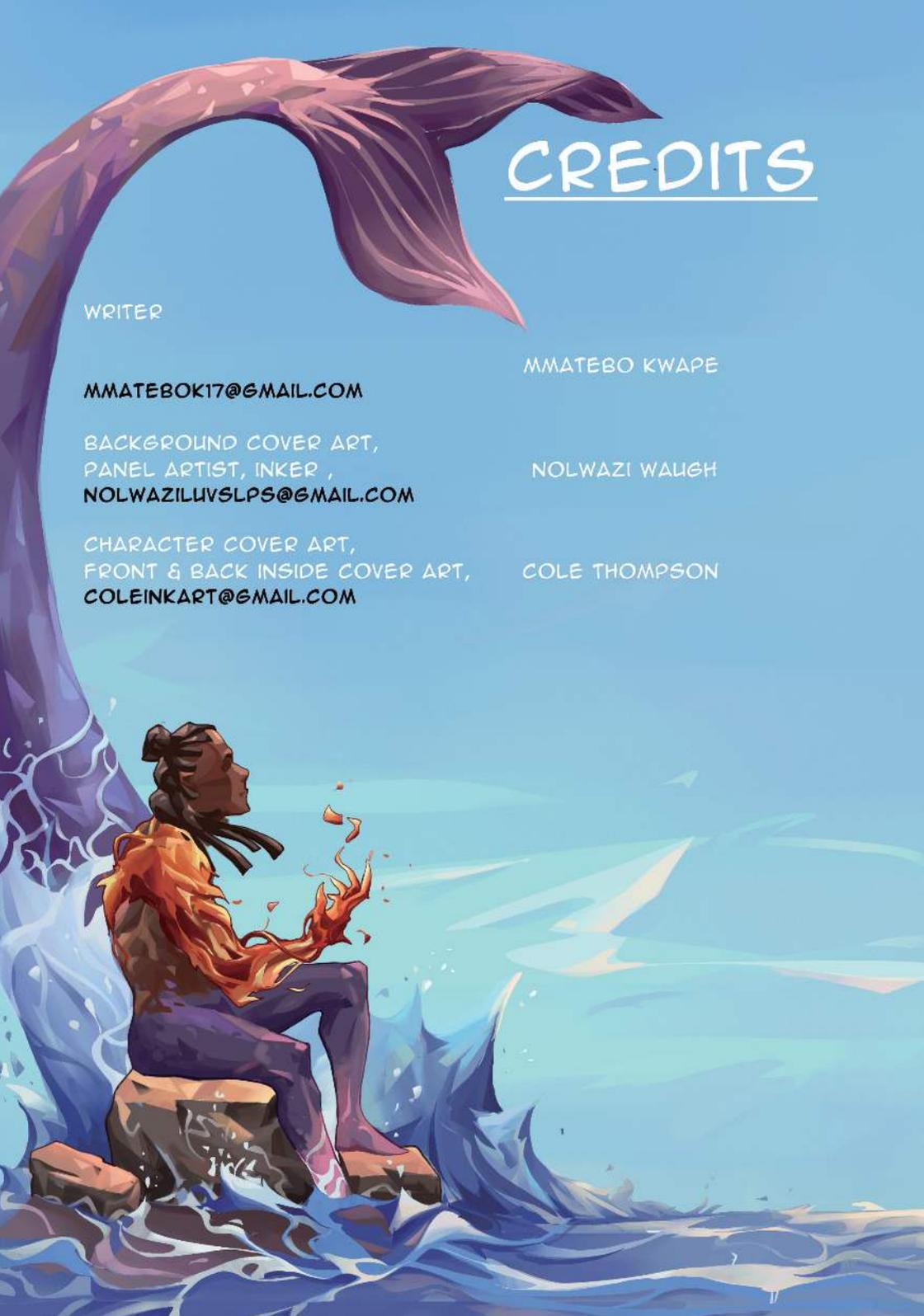
In cinemas this summer

Next time on Lap Dogs...



OCEANFIRE





CREDITS

WRITER

MMATEBOK17@GMAIL.COM

BACKGROUND COVER ART,
PANEL ARTIST, INKER ,
NOLWAZILIVSLPS@GMAIL.COM

CHARACTER COVER ART,
FRONT & BACK INSIDE COVER ART,
COLEINKART@GMAIL.COM

MMATEBO KWAPE

NOLWAZI WAUGH

COLE THOMPSON

TEAM BIOS

MMATEBO IS CURRENTLY A WITS DIGITAL ARTS STUDENT. SHE IS THE WRITER FOR OCEAN FIRE AND THIS STORY WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO BE IF NOT FOR HER.

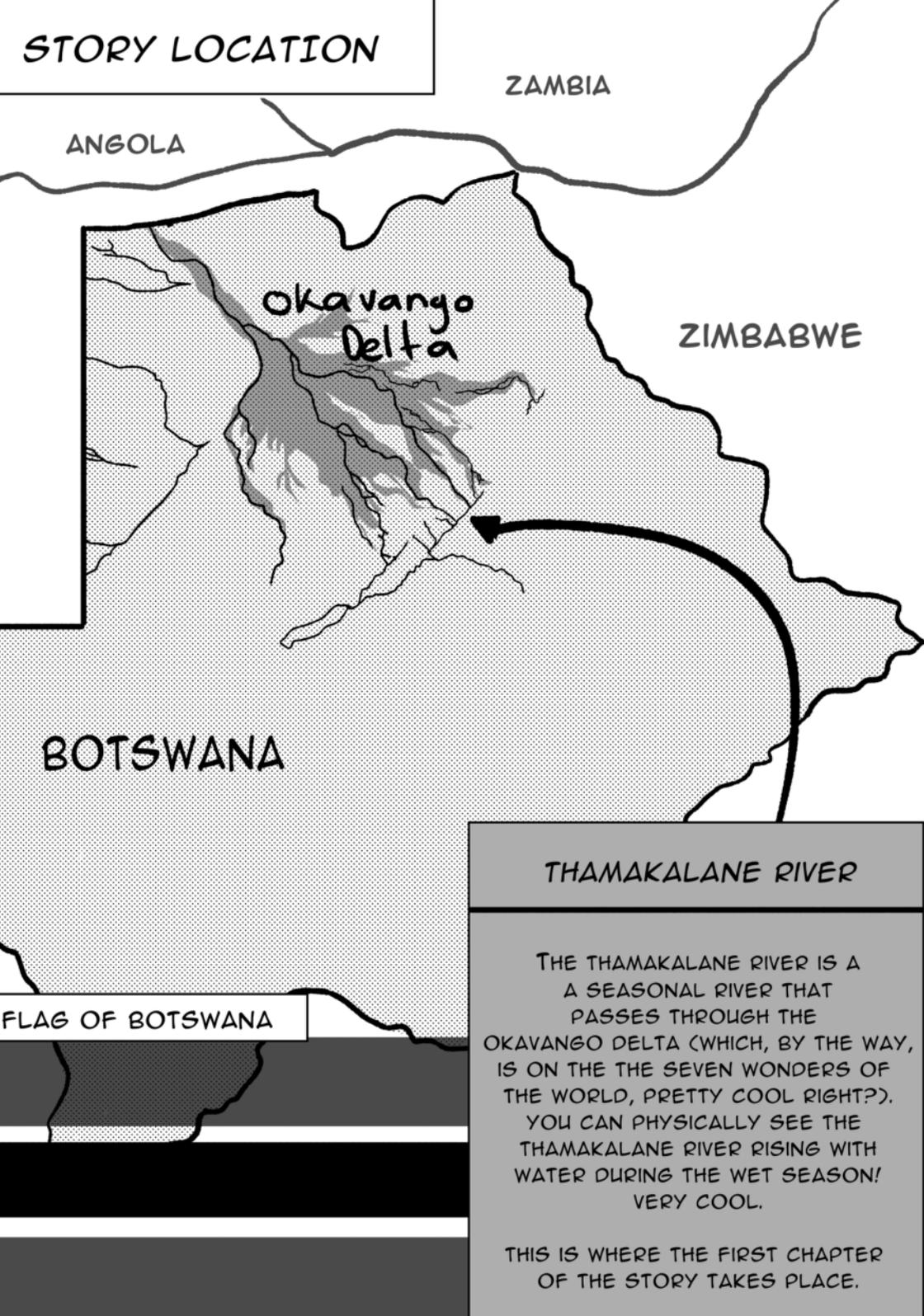
NOLWAZI IS THE MAIN ARTIST, SHE DRAFTED, INKED AND COMPOSED THE PANELS OF THE STORY. SHE IS ALSO PART OF THE WITS DIGITAL ARTS DEGREE. "WORKING ON THIS PROJECT WAS SUPER COOL, I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM IT. IT WAS A LOT OF GRUELING WORK, BUT IT WAS GOOD WORK TOO. BIG THANK YOU TO COLE FOR MAKING THE STELLAR ILLUSTRATIONS, IT WAS AWESOME WORKING WITH HIM."

COLE IS A CONCEPT ARTIST / ILLUSTRATOR INTERESTED IN VISUAL STORYTELLING.

"I TEND TO DRAW CHARACTERS, NARRATIVE SCENES. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED GETTING THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON THIS COMIC WITH SULLY (NOLWAZI). FLESHING OUT VISUAL IDEAS AND SEEING THE WHOLE PROJECT COME TOGETHER WAS AN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE."



STORY LOCATION



ZAMBIA

ANGOLA

Okavango
Delta

ZIMBABWE

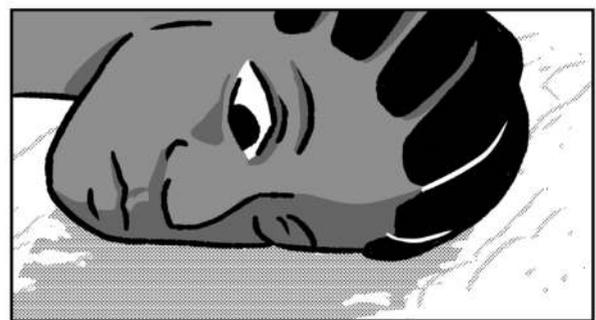
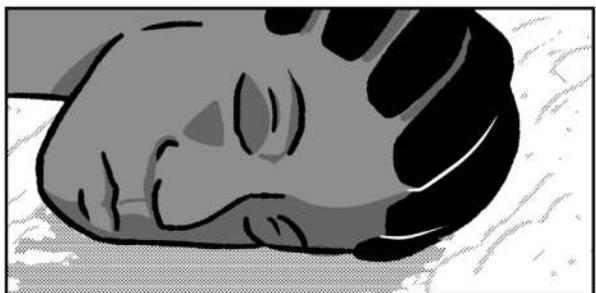
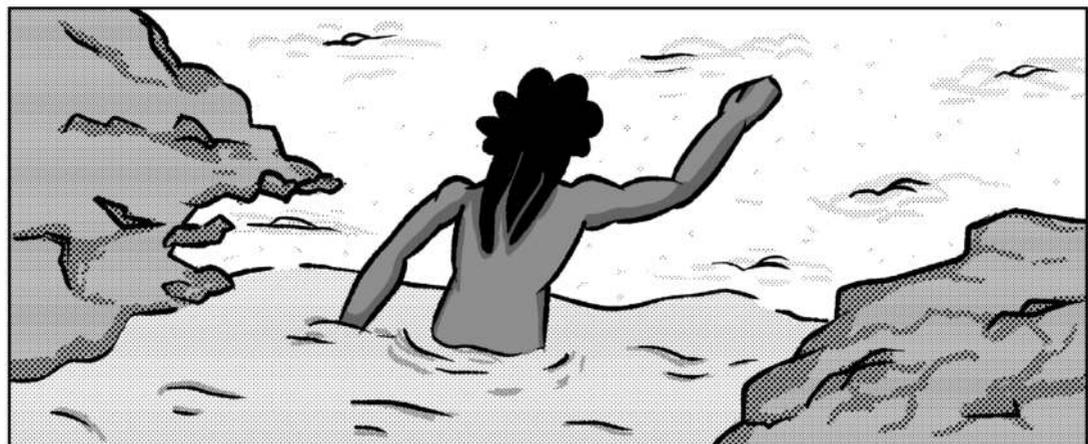
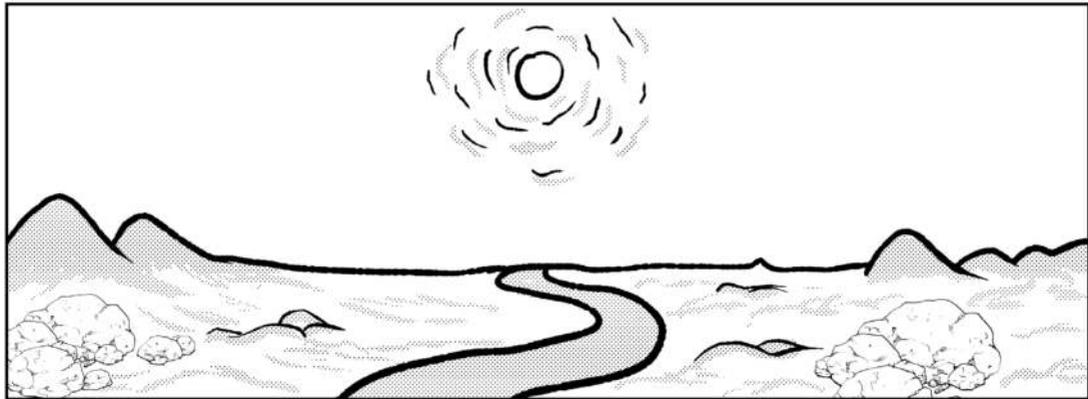
BOTSWANA

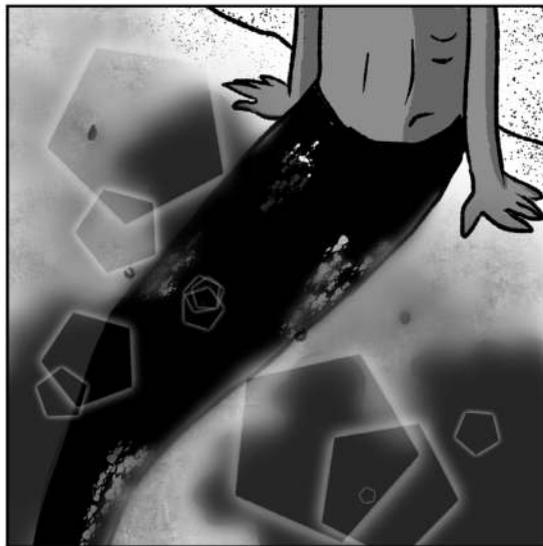
FLAG OF BOTSWANA

THAMAKALANE RIVER

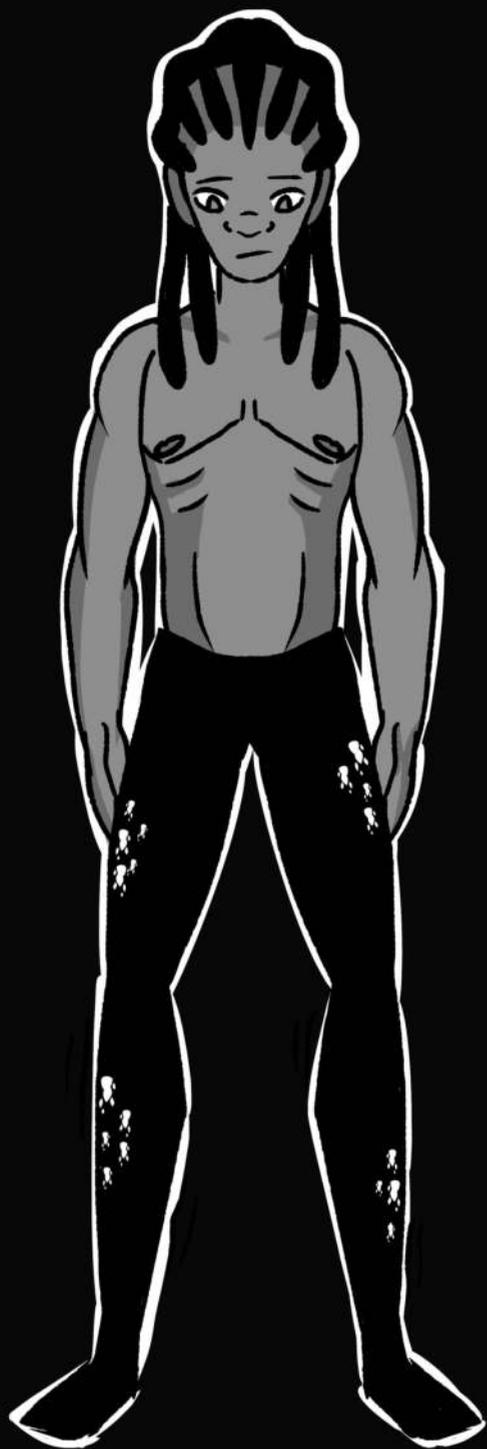
THE THAMAKALANE RIVER IS A SEASONAL RIVER THAT PASSES THROUGH THE OKAVANGO DELTA (WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS ON THE THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD, PRETTY COOL RIGHT?). YOU CAN PHYSICALLY SEE THE THAMAKALANE RIVER RISING WITH WATER DURING THE WET SEASON! VERY COOL.

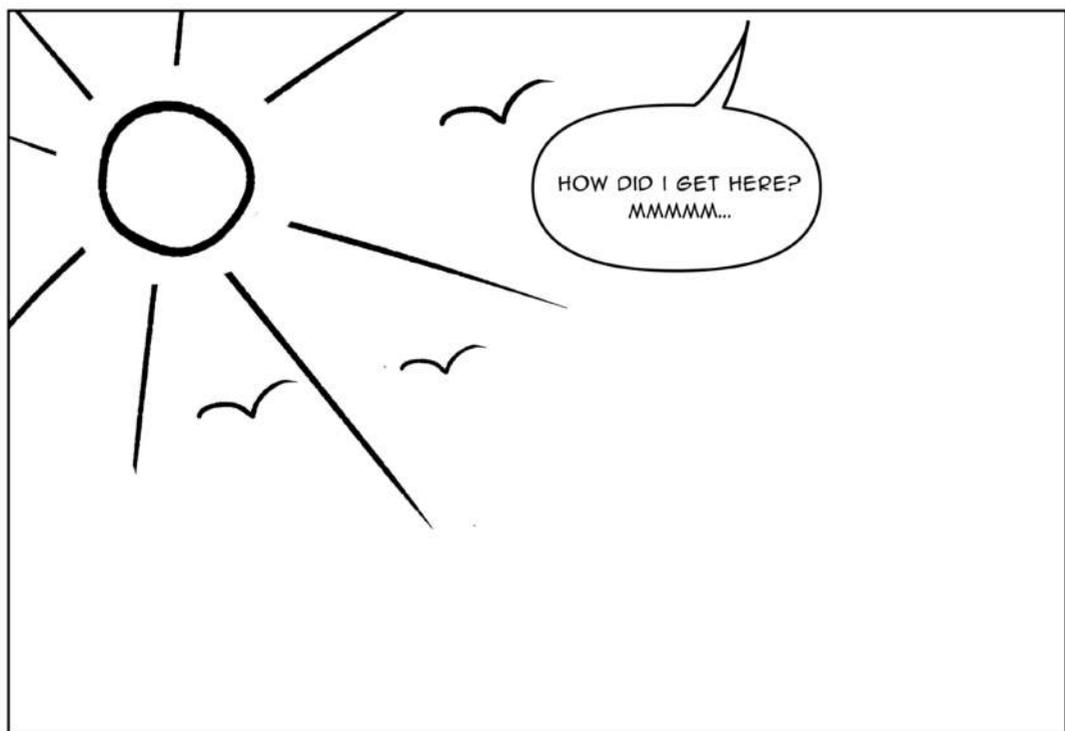
THIS IS WHERE THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE STORY TAKES PLACE.







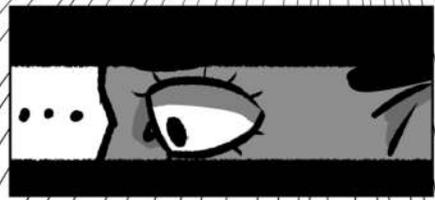
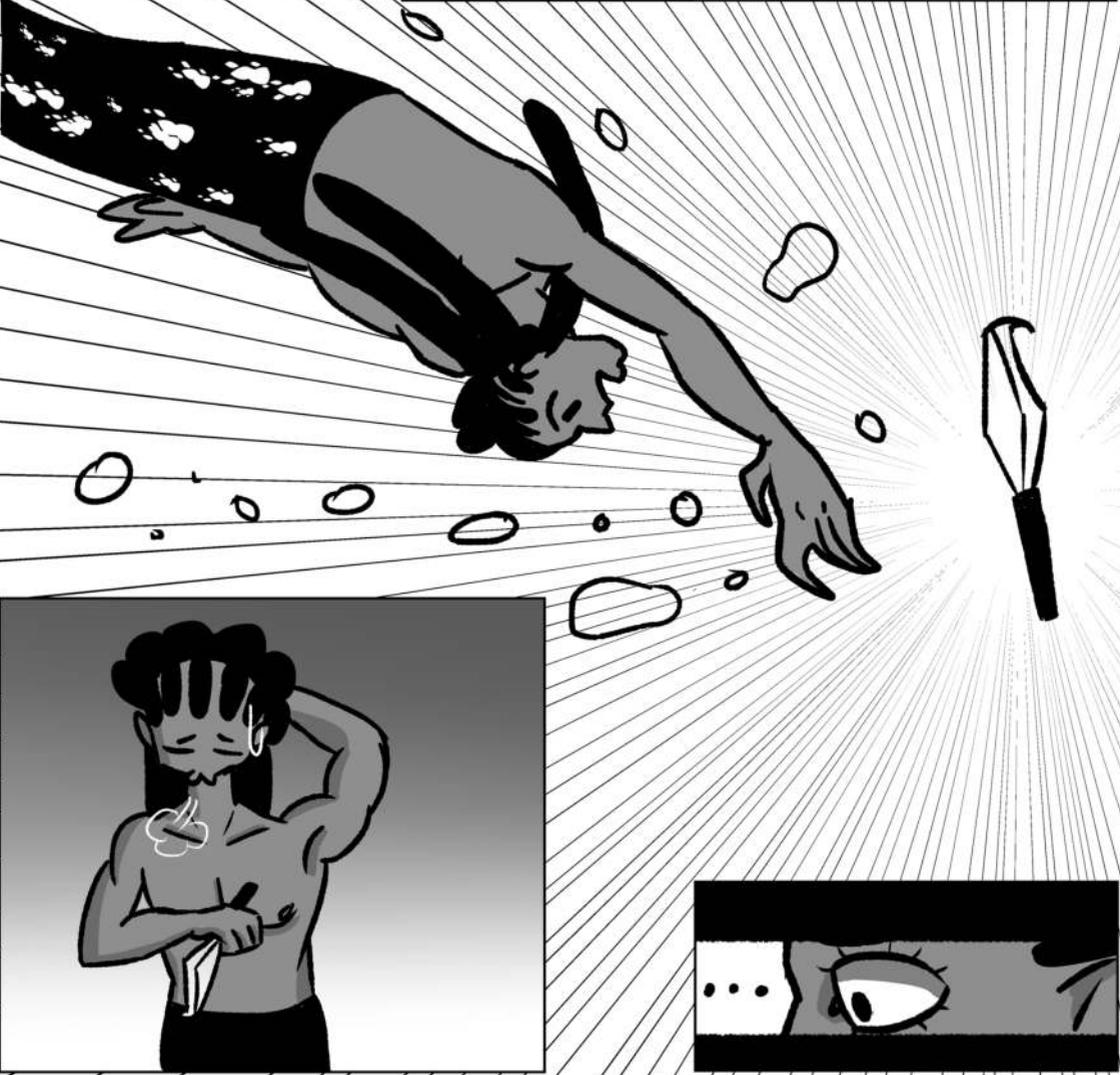
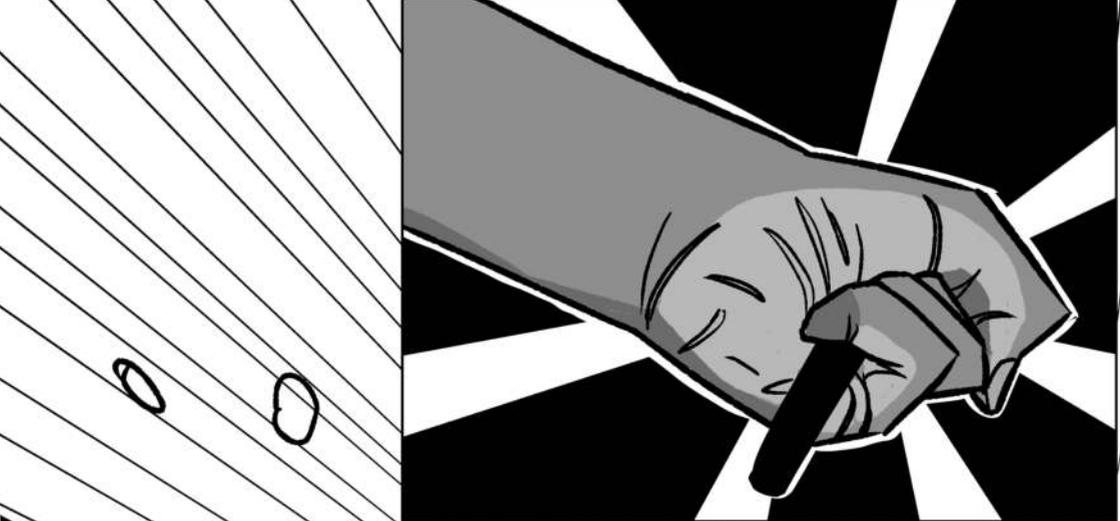




WAIT...
I...REMEMBER..
SOMETHING

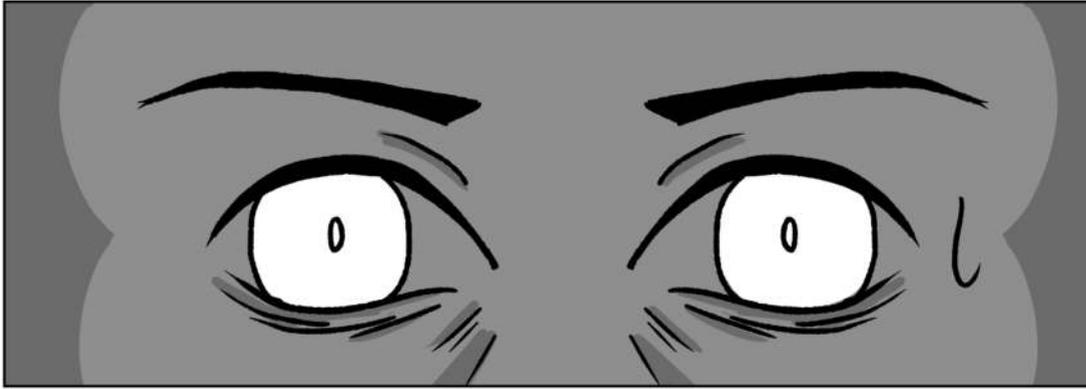


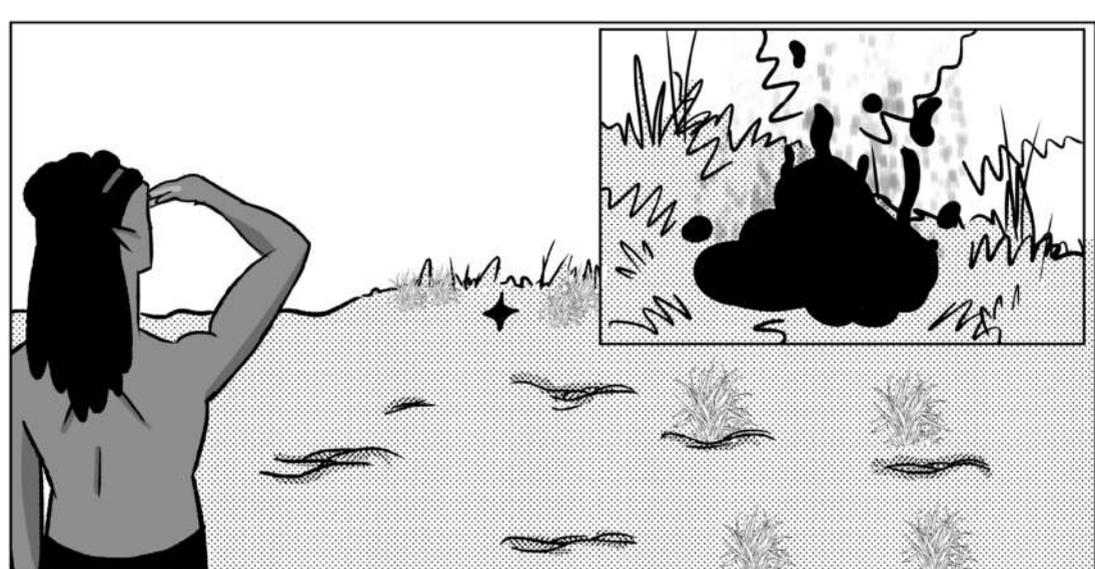
















AAARRRRGGGGHHHHHH!!!!

FISSS

PREVIEW OF THE NEXT CHAPTER...

THIS IS THE POWER
OF MY FIRE!

FISSSSSS

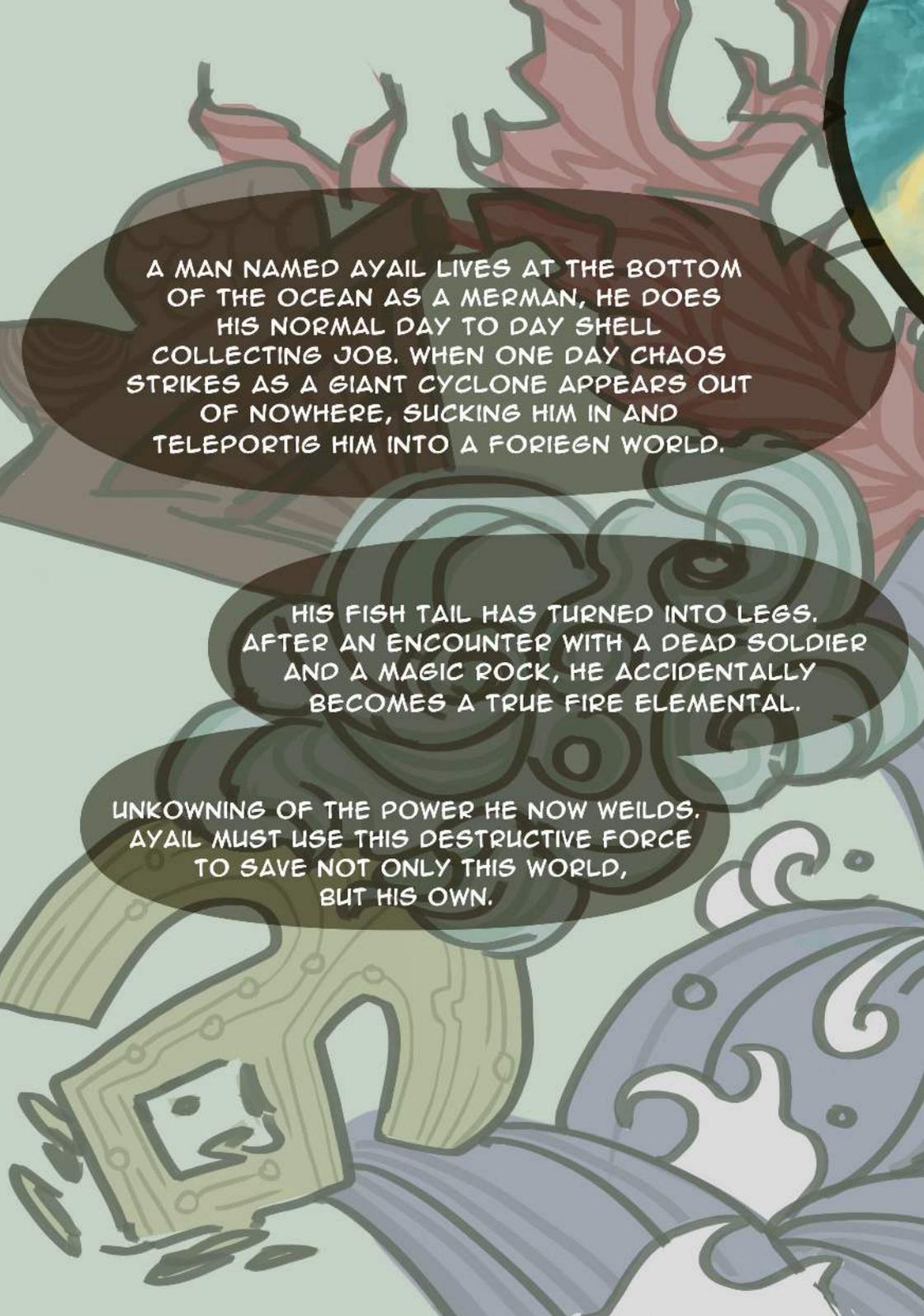
CRACKLE

NOOOO

YYYYYYY

...TET...ON

TO BE CONTINUED...



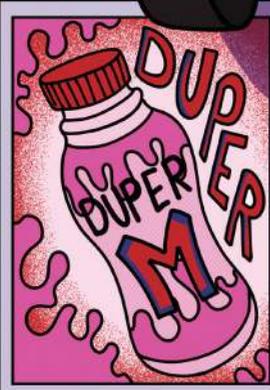
A MAN NAMED AYAIL LIVES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN AS A MERMAN, HE DOES HIS NORMAL DAY TO DAY SHELL COLLECTING JOB. WHEN ONE DAY CHAOS STRIKES AS A GIANT CYCLONE APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE, SUCKING HIM IN AND TELEPORTING HIM INTO A FOREIGN WORLD.

HIS FISH TAIL HAS TURNED INTO LEGS. AFTER AN ENCOUNTER WITH A DEAD SOLDIER AND A MAGIC ROCK, HE ACCIDENTALLY BECOMES A TRUE FIRE ELEMENTAL.

UNKNOWING OF THE POWER HE NOW WEILDS, AYAIL MUST USE THIS DESTRUCTIVE FORCE TO SAVE NOT ONLY THIS WORLD, BUT HIS OWN.

RIP

E. GARDINER T. TESORIERO



The Three Cardinal Rules of Time Travel



1. Do not disrupt major events

Changes to the course of even the smallest timeline events can have monumental effects further down the timeline. It is strictly forbidden for any traveler to alter the course of any timeline event, particularly events that have shaped the course of human history. Interference includes interruption, delay or any alterations that produce outcomes to events that would not have otherwise occurred.

Did you know?

Time reflux generated from movement across time routes results in spatial regularities on the surface of moving matter, these are harvested by capacitors in the temporal regenerator and can generate perpetual time range recharge.

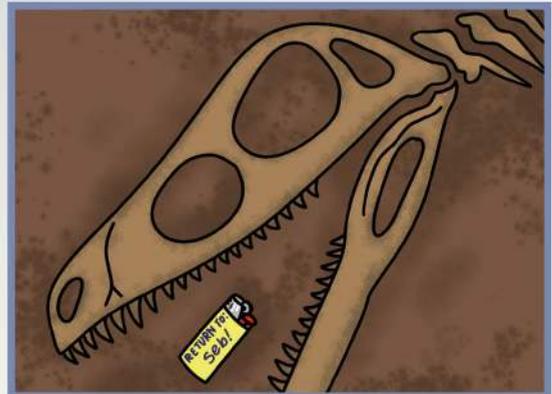
2) Do not associate with locals (non-travellers)

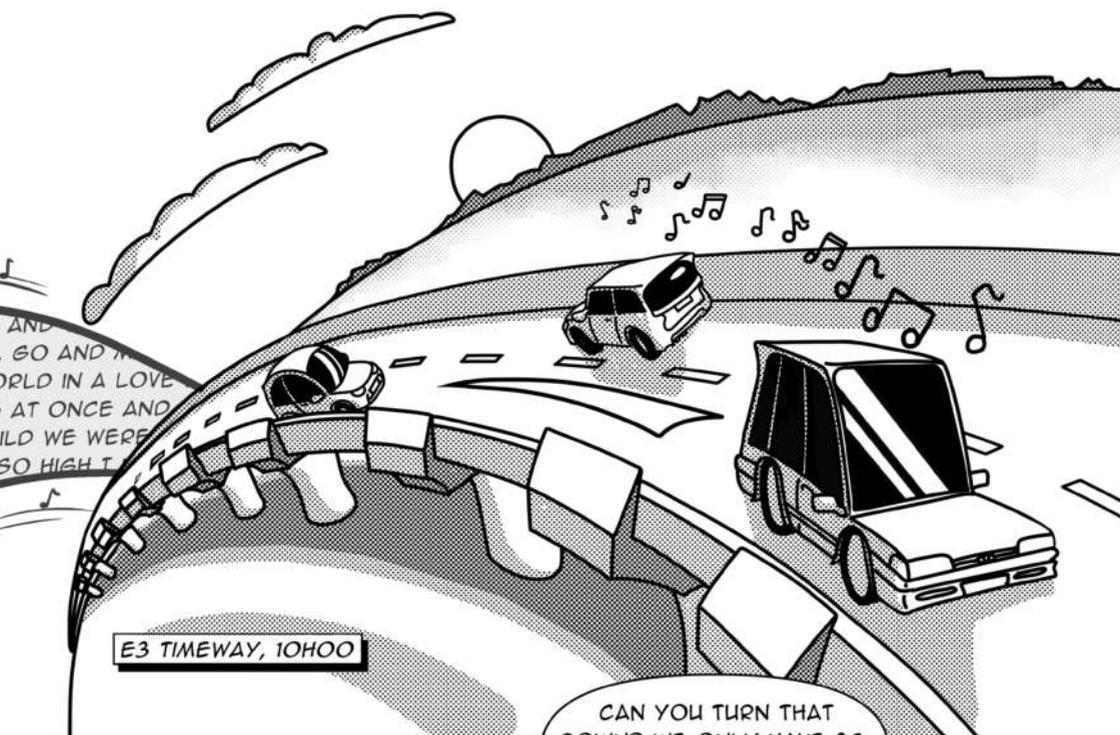
Travelers should keep out of sight from locals as much as feasibly possible. Interaction with locals is extremely dangerous and should not occur, even as a last resort. Association is even more harmful and is outright forbidden, it is punishable with a very severe sentence.



3) Leave no trace behind

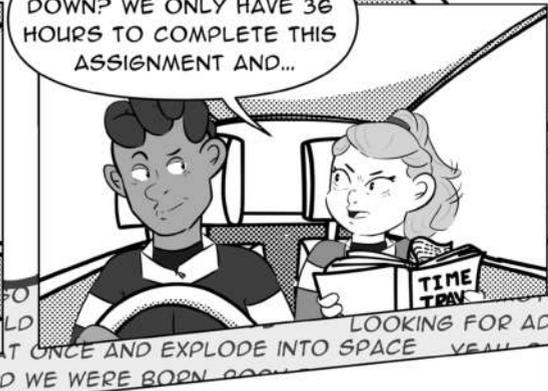
For the sake of preventing any accidental alteration to timelines, and to prevent locals from arousing suspicion, it is of utmost importance that travelers ensure they do not leave any evidence of their presence in any given time location. Travelers should ensure that they always make a clean sweep of all locations before returning to the time routes.





E3 TIMEWAY, IOHOO

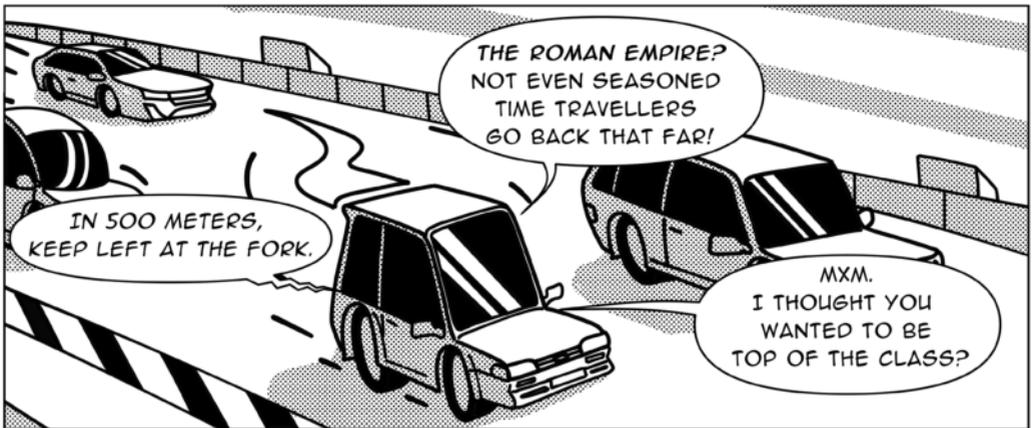
CAN YOU TURN THAT DOWN? WE ONLY HAVE 36 HOURS TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT AND...



...WE NEED TO STAY FOCUSED. GRADUATION IS ONLY A WEEK AWAY.

I'M SORRY, WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING?

SEBASTIAN. I KNOW YOU HEARD ME.





IN 300 METERS,
TAKE THE EXIT ON
THE LEFT.

I BET DANIEL
AND DELILAH ARE
TRAVELLING FARTHER
THAN 700 YEARS.

K54
TIME
DRIVING

VOLUME
5
OLD LANGUAGE

DUPER

DUPER







THE RE... NA & DO
WILL YOU MARRY
THING T...
HINK Y...
HINK T...

!!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
ERROR

VRRRRR PAHH!

WANTED

BY THE TIME CONTROL AUTHORITY

CRIMES:

- UNPAID PARKING TICKET
- MURDER (MANSLAUGHTER)
- MURDER (ANIMALSLAUGHTER)
- POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING
- DISOBEDENCE
- FLEEING A CRIME SCENE
- TIME RULE VIOLATION



DESCRIPTION:

NAME: SEBASTIAN CLEATON
AGE: 19
HAIR TEXTURE: DREADS
FAVOURITE FOOD: PIZZA
LOOKS: CUTE (DECEPTIVELY)
GENDER: MALE
BUILD: SLIM
FAVOURITE MUSIC: CLASSIC ROCK



WANTED

BY THE TIME CONTROL AUTHORITY

CRIMES:

- POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING
- MURDER (MANSLAUGHTER)
- MURDER (ANIMALSLAUGHTER)
- CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
- FLEEING A CRIME SCENE
- TIME RULE VIOLATIONS



DESCRIPTION:

NAME: DONNAY BOTHA

AGE: 19

HAIR TEXTURE: STRAIGHT

FAVOURITE FOOD: PASTA SALAD

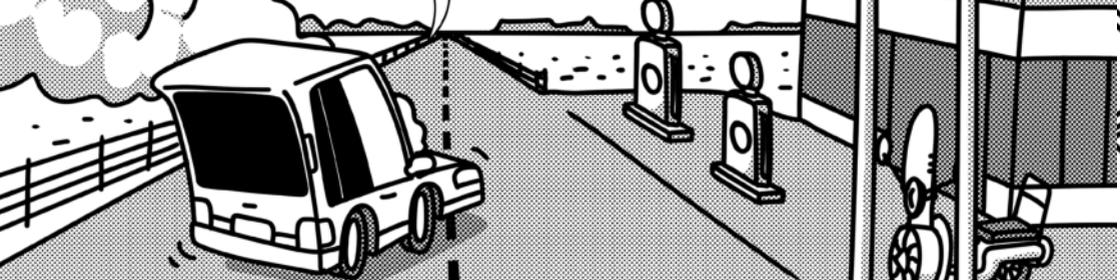
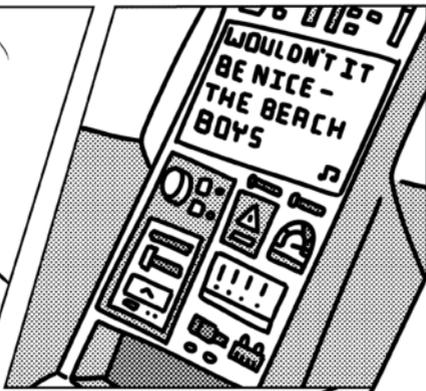
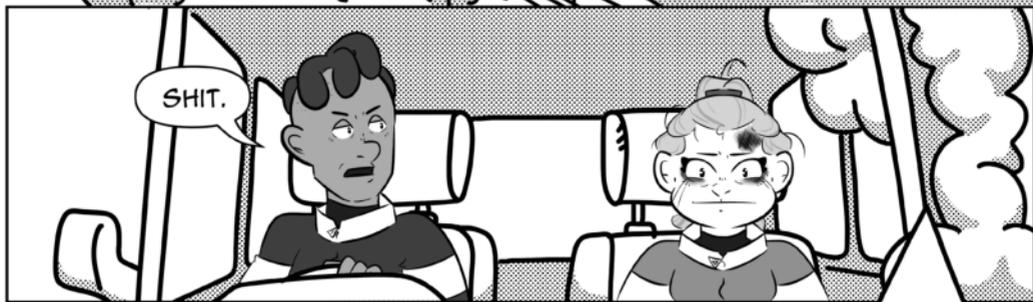
LOOKS: LIKE SHE IS IN CHARGE

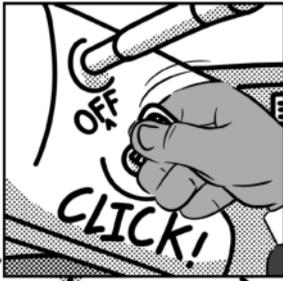
GENDER: FEMALE

BUILD: WILLOWY

FAVOURITE MUSIC: ELECTROPOP



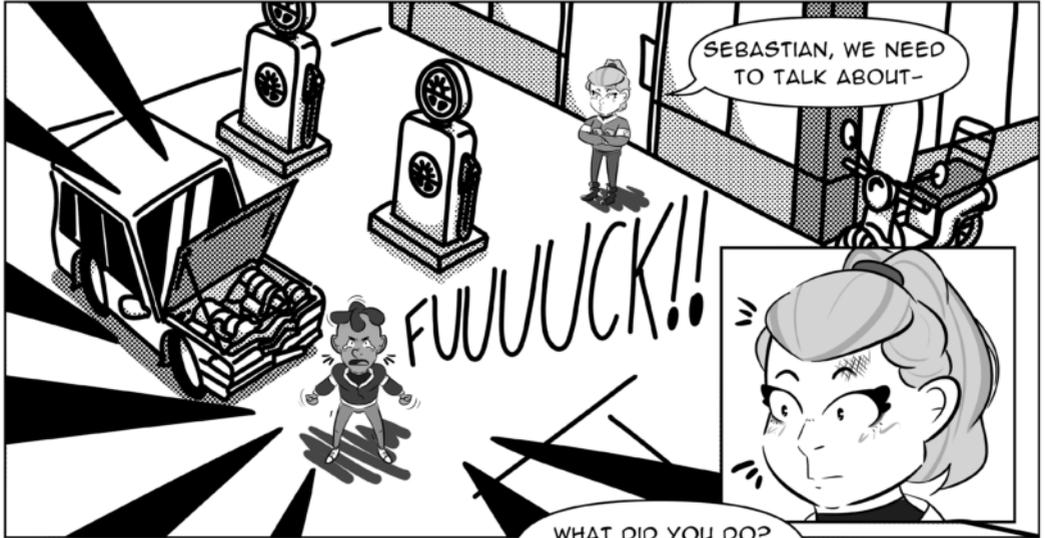
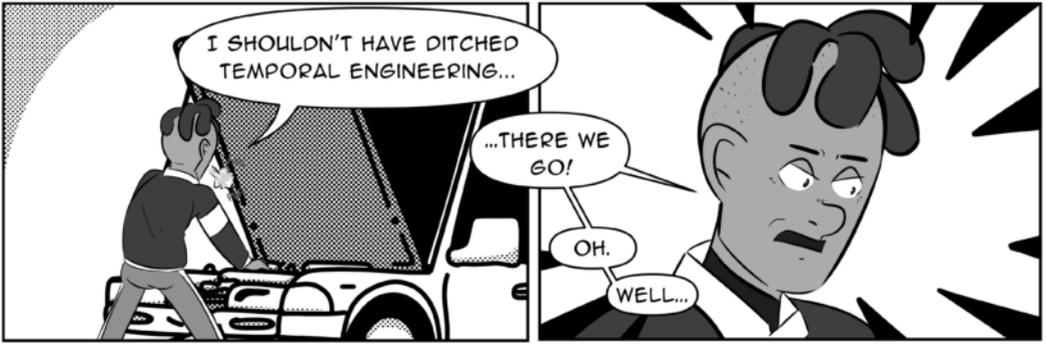


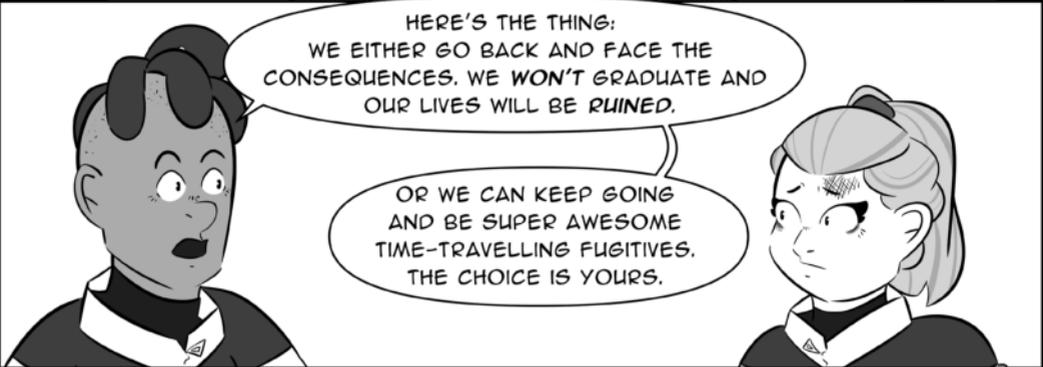
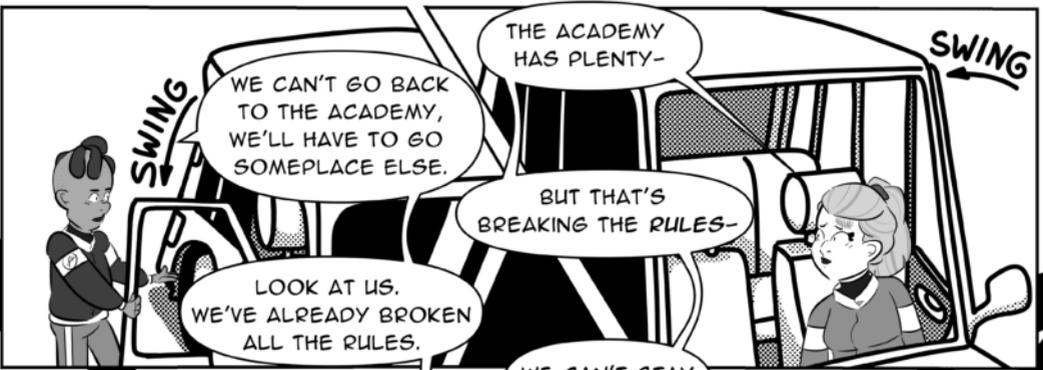
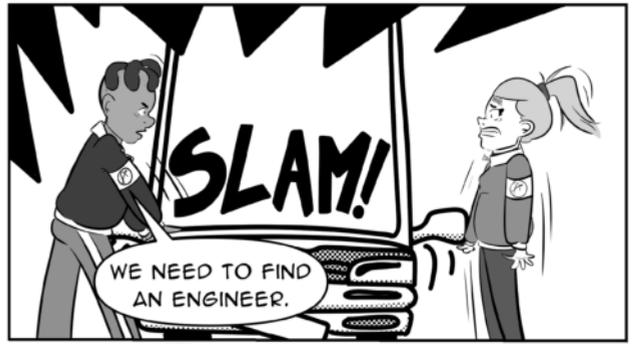


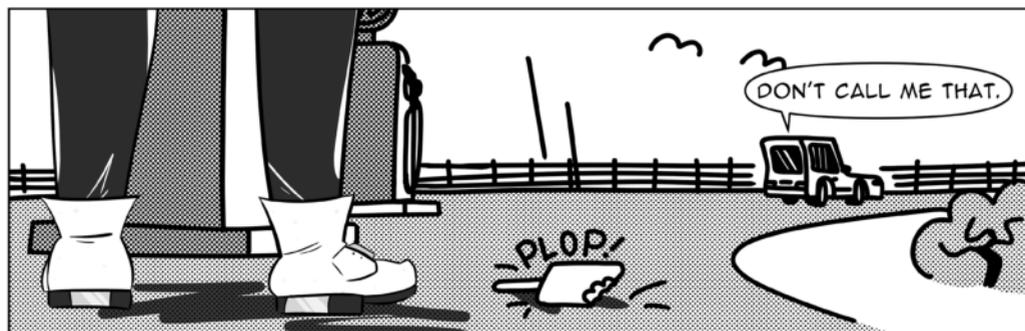
CHECK IF THEY HAVE ANY DUPE M'S!

...OR STERI BUMPES AT LEAST!











WELL, WELL, WELL.
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

DANGER!

WANTED PERSON

CRIMES:

- TREASON
- OTHER CLASSIFIED CRIMES

DESCRIPTION:

NAME: PROSPERO (ALIAS)

AGE: LOOKS APPROX. 35

HAIR TEXTURE: COMB OVER

FAVOURITE FOOD: LOBSTER

LOOKS: FABULOUS

GENDER: UNKNOWN

BUILD: LEAN

FAVOURITE MUSIC: CLASSIC BAROQUE



WARNING! WARNING!
ERRATIC BEHAVIOUR.
WILL INSULT YOU.

REWARD FOR CAPTURE:

COMPENSATION FOR TURNING OVER THIS INDIVIDUAL TO THE TIME CONTROL AUTHORITY (TCA) WILL INCLUDE A VOUCHER TO THE TCA GIFT SHOP VALUED AT R3500!

The Author_

A heart-rending, trope-breakin', ultraviolent seinen isekai afromanga that is not intended for readers under the age of 16, hardcore fancickers and cyborg apologists.

WHITCHER

Writes and Draws

MASUKU

Draws



Good Things to Know:

TROPE [trohp]

1. Rhetoric.

A convention or device that establishes a predictable or stereotypical representation of a character, setting, or scenario in a creative work: *From her introduction in the movie, the character is nothing but a Damsel in Distress trope. The author relies on our knowledge of the Haunted House trope to set the scene.*

[Dictionary.com/trope]

The *Mary-Sue* Trope

The prototypical Mary Sue is an original female character in a fanfic who obviously serves as an idealized version of the author mainly for the purpose of Wish Fulfillment. She's exotically beautiful, often having an unusual hair or eye color, and has a similarly cool and exotic name. She's exceptionally talented in an implausibly wide variety of areas, and may possess skills that are rare or nonexistent in the canon setting. She also lacks any realistic, or at least story-relevant, character flaws -- either that or her "flaws" are obviously meant to be endearing.

[<https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/MarySue>]

_Love, The Authors.



SHHHF...

UNNNNGH...





HI THERE,
MY NAME'S
MARY-SUE.

WHO MIGHT
YOU BE?



HNNNGH...
M-MARY-SUE?



THAT'S ME!

YOU SEEM A LITTLE
LOST, BUT DON'T
WORRY, WE'RE ALL
FRIENDS HERE!

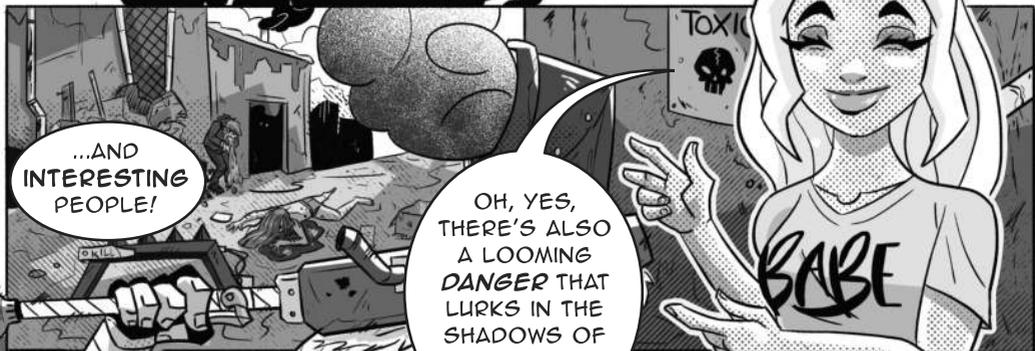


AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR WORLD IS FULL OF COLOUR...

IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES SHE LOOK SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT EVERY TIME I SEE HER?

...BEAUTIFUL VISTAS...

AGAIN! IT'S LIKE SHE'S FROM ONE OF THOSE 'DRAW MANGA GOOD!' BOOKS I USED TO READ AS A KID.



...AND INTERESTING PEOPLE!

OH, YES, THERE'S ALSO A LOOMING DANGER THAT LURKS IN THE SHADOWS OF LINGERING DREAD.



-- WAIT, WHAT WAS THAT LAST BIT?!

ARGH! THE BECHDEL GANG HAS FOUND YOU AT LAST!
PREPARE TO SUFFER FOR THAT TERRIBLE THING YOU DID!



GASP! NOT THE BECHDEL GANG!

WHY DOES THIS FEEL SO FAMILIAR?

<AND WHAT IS UP WITH HER?>



SOUNDS OF VIOLENCE



YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY AS VILLAINOUS AS THIS WOMAN YOU CHOOSE TO KEEP COMPANY WITH!

DESTROY THEM BOTH!



NO! I WILL NOT LET YOU TOUCH MY BEST FRIEND!

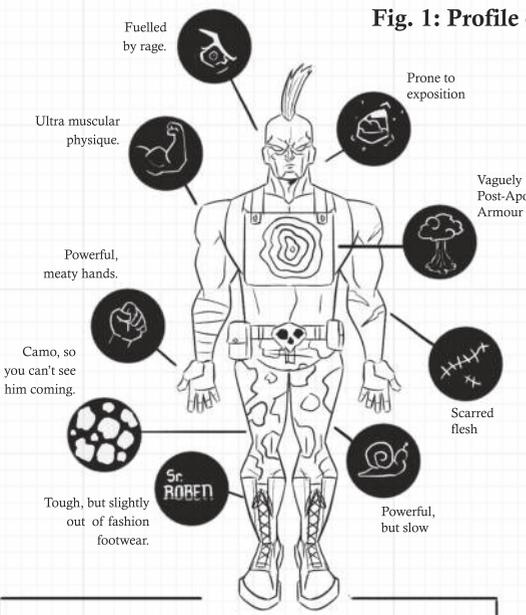


WAIT... I KNOW THIS... I CAN SEE THEIR MOVES SOMEHOW...



PK!

Fig. 1: Profile of Generic Thug Villain.

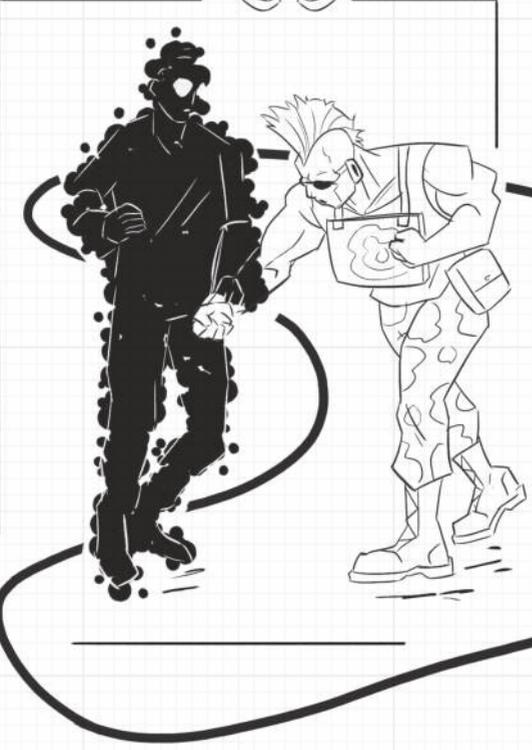


Description: Generic Cyber Thug Villain.
 Really angry, and thus prone to distraction. Extremely strong, but ponderously slow. Wears vague acoutremants synonymous with post-apocalyptic time period - almost entirely for show, but will still hurt if punched.

Combating Generic Cyber Thug Villain:
 Step 1 - Regard direction of attack and attacker's stance.



Step 2 - Void attack coupled with low parry while positioning forward hand over attacker's.



Step 3 - Complete defence while lifting attacker's arm upwards. Move behind attacker and push away.

Handy Tip! Don't forget to check your surroundings to ensure that no other attacker is present.

The next issue will cover what happens if you are attacked by someone armed with a strawberry. Subscribe now for R59.99!





GAH! HOW DOES THIS THING KEEP DODGING US?



STOP!

PLEASE!
PLEASE STOP
THIS NOW!!



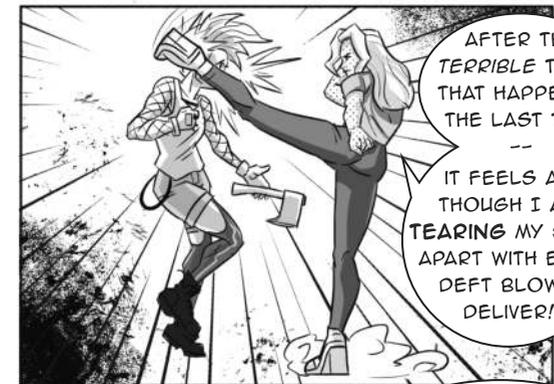


CAN WE NOT FORGIVE EACH OTHER?

I SWORE I WOULD NEVER USE MY MARTIAL ARTS AGAIN...



SHE WILL KICK THE NEXT GUY.



AFTER THE TERRIBLE THING THAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME --

IT FEELS AS THOUGH I AM TEARING MY SOUL APART WITH EACH DEFT BLOW I DELIVER!



SNAP THE NECK...

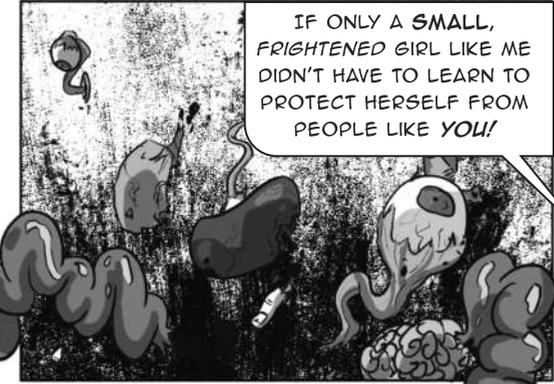


THIS VIOLENCE, THIS PAIN. WHY ARE WE SO INCLINED TO HARM ONE ANOTHER?

KRAK!



BLOOD GOES EVERYWHERE.



IF ONLY A SMALL, FRIGHTENED GIRL LIKE ME DIDN'T HAVE TO LEARN TO PROTECT HERSELF FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU!



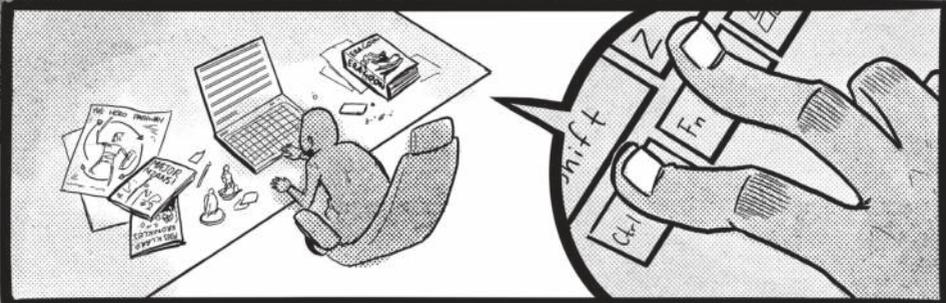


STORY?

STORY...

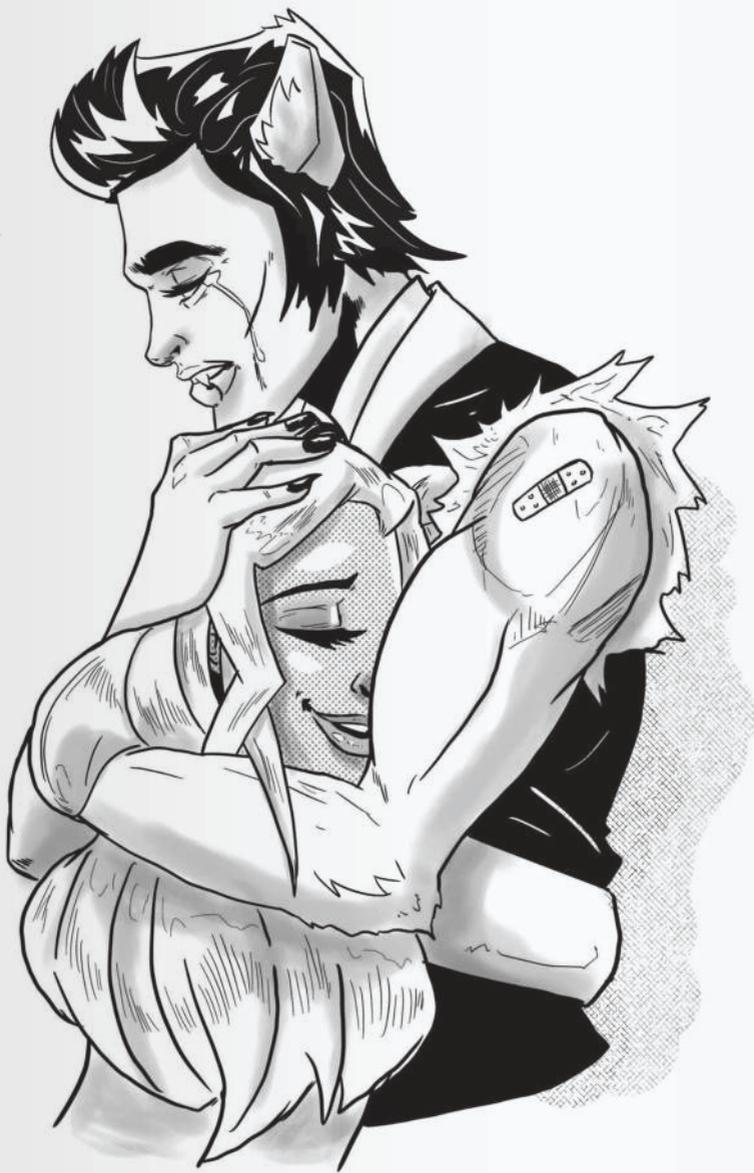
...STORY!

EARLIER. (BUT ALSO WAY PAST BEDTIME.)



UGH, I NEED TO STOP STAYING UP SO LATE, BUT IT'S ALMOST DONE!

She gazed longingly into his forlorn, yet sparkling eyes. He was in terrible pain, but lifted her into a pasionate embrace. She could feel a slight pinch as one of his fangs brushed her lips, the sensation sending shivers down her long, coffee coloured legs.





“You are the moon, the sky, the stones, the grass, the leaves, the bushes, the ferns, the moss...” He whispers raggidly.

“Silly Wolfpire, are you looking around and comparing me to things you see,” she giggle-purrs into his open, wet mouth.

“You are everything I see, you are all that I am, I cannot exist without you.”

“I know that – for you put your heart in my chest when that awful man ate mine and we share one pulse”





“Then you know why I must leave you, for I cannot allow you, a flower as precious and perfect as you are, to be in danger because of me! Goodbye, my ever love!” With that, he puts her down, spittle dangling from his salivating lips and he sprints at the speed of a thousand startled gazelles.



“NO! Don’t leave me Anthony Berkingshire Rupert Junior! I need you!” but it was too late, Anthony Berkingshire Rupert Junior had already vanished over the horizon. Bella fell to her knees, paralyzed with anger but determined to find him, so she got up and ran after her perfect love whom she’d shared a passionate week with.

The End.



IT'S PERFECT!



Perus.AL Message:

Have you considered submitting your trope-breaking work to the mareesew thread, which features a collection of *unique* stories just like yours?



TROPE-BREAKING? WHOA! I KNEW I COULD WRITE AN ORIGINAL ROMANCE FANFIC AND NOT FALL INTO STEREOTYPES!

CLICK!



The Many Faces of Mary-Sue: Concepts



**Next Time:
Enter the Chad.**





THE PIRATE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER

Not intended for readers under the age of 16

WRITER: JESS ALEXANDER
CHARACTER ARTIST: RAVISHA NANDLALL
BACKGROUND ARTIST: TWUMWAA ODURO



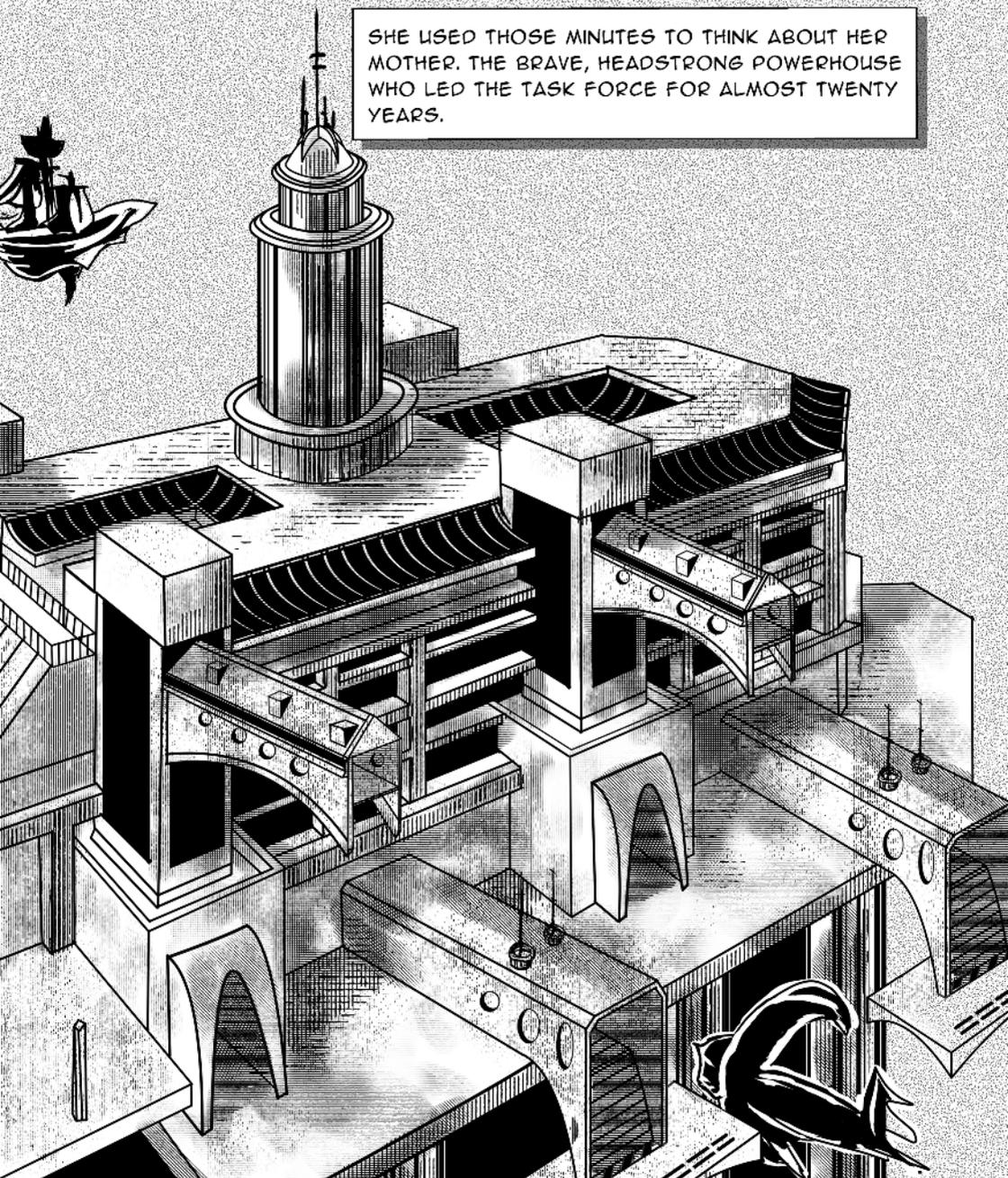
WE NEED
YOU

JOIN THE TASK FORCE
TODAY!!

THE TASK FORCE RESIDENTIAL AREA

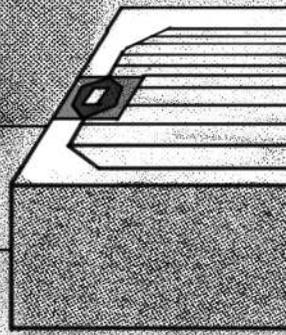
THE FEW MOMENTS BEFORE RAZA GETS UP TO TRAIN AND BRIEF HER SQUAD ARE PRECIOUS.

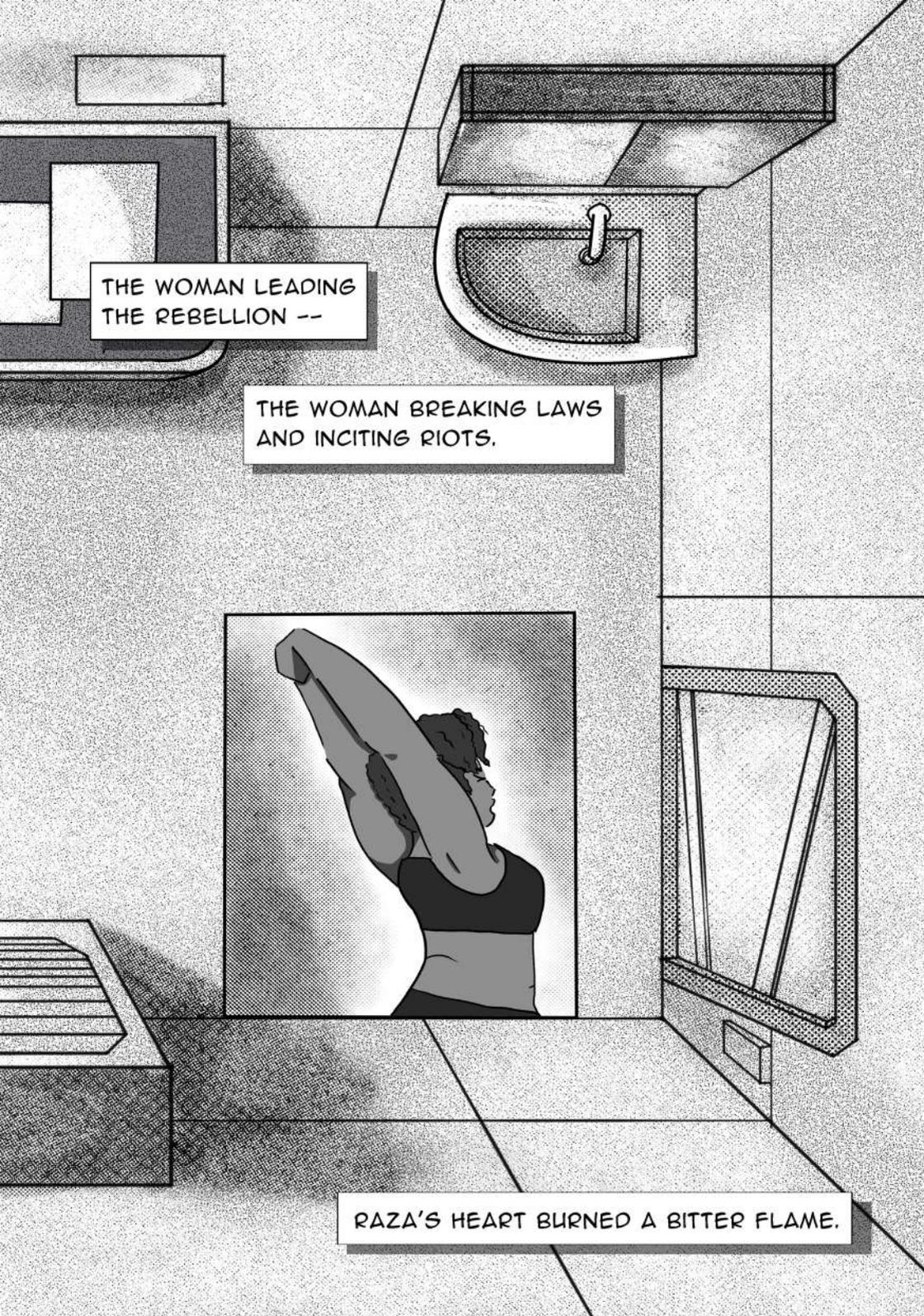
SHE USED THOSE MINUTES TO THINK ABOUT HER MOTHER. THE BRAVE, HEADSTRONG POWERHOUSE WHO LED THE TASK FORCE FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS.



FIRST CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS

THEN SHE THOUGHT ABOUT
THE PIRATE QUEEN.





THE WOMAN LEADING
THE REBELLION --

THE WOMAN BREAKING LAWS
AND INCITING RIOTS.

RAZA'S HEART BURNED A BITTER FLAME.



SHE RECALLED THE DAY KADYN --



SECOND CAPTAIN OF THE TASK FORCE, HAD CHALLENGED HER DURING THEIR SENIOR YEAR.

SHE COULD NOT BACK DOWN FROM A CHALLENGE MADE SO BOLDLY, ISSUED IN FRONT OF THE GENERAL.



THIS WAS HIS REVENGE!

FLASH BACK

KADYN VERSUS RAZA.
NO GUNS, NO KNIVES.
CLOSE COMBAT.



SNEAKY BASTARD.



SHE HAD TO ADMIT--

IT WAS A SMART MOVE
USING HIS CAPTAIN'S
BADGE AS A WEAPON.

WITH HER EYES BEGINNING TO SWELL SHUT,
HE'D GAIN THE ADVANTAGE SOON.

SHE HAD NO CHOICE THEN.

END OF FLASH BACK



THE TASK FORCE PREACHED LOYALTY AND INTEGRITY, BUT THAT DID NOT STOP THE CADETS WITH "LONG FINGERS" - REGARDLESS OF THE INSPECTIONS AIMED AT ROOTING OUT SPINELESS RATS AND TRAITORS FROM THE RANKS.



SO, SHE LOCKED HER QUARTERS WHENEVER SHE LEFT...

INCASE KADYN DECIDED TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

... WHENEVER SHE WAS ALONE...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE WAS ALONE.



HE'D LEFT HER A NASTY SCAR...

... AND SHE'D LEFT HIM WITH A PERMANENT LIMP.

TRAINING YARD

THE TRAINING YARD WAS ALWAYS EMPTIER AT THIS TIME OF THE MORNING.

BEING IN THE TRAINING CIRCLE CLEARED HER MIND.





YOU'RE LATE.



I HAD A HARD TIME LEAVING MY QUARTERS.

CAPTURED ANOTHER BUNNY I'M GUESSING.

THIS WAS ALSO THE BEST TIME TO TOUCH BASE WITH HER SECOND-IN-COMMAND, NAYA.



THE JUNIOR CADETS ARE VERY EAGER AND WILLING.

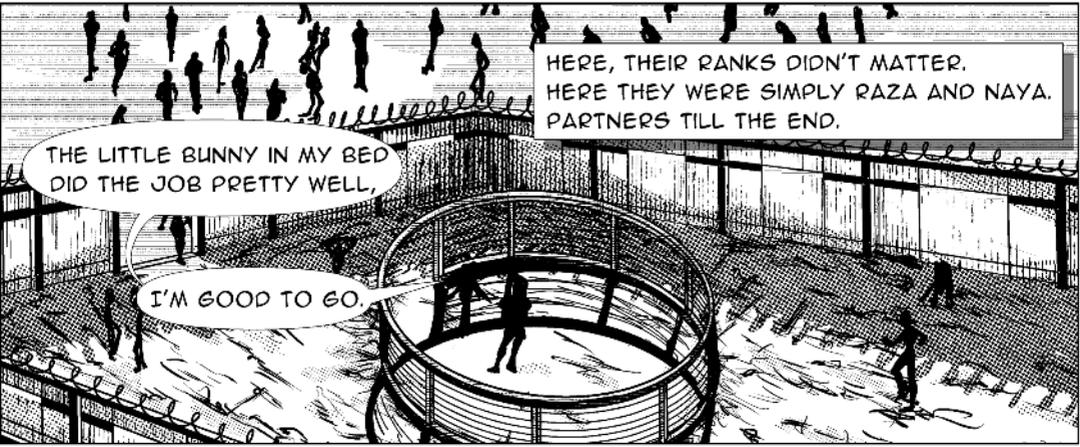
I DON'T CAPTURE THEM --

THEY COME TO ME.



SO WHAT --

NO WARM UP'S THIS MORNING?



HERE, THEIR RANKS DIDN'T MATTER. HERE THEY WERE SIMPLY RAZA AND NAYA. PARTNERS TILL THE END.

THE LITTLE BUNNY IN MY BED DID THE JOB PRETTY WELL,

I'M GOOD TO GO.

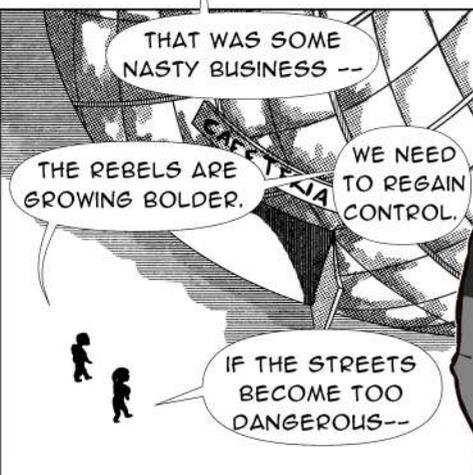


DO WE HAVE ANY FREE TIME TODAY
OR ARE YOU RUNNING US TO THE BONE?

NO, TODAY
IS PRETTY LIGHT.

JUST PAPERWORK.

THE WEAPONS CARRIAGE
IS STILL MISSING.



THAT WAS SOME
NASTY BUSINESS --

THE REBELS ARE
GROWING BOLDER.

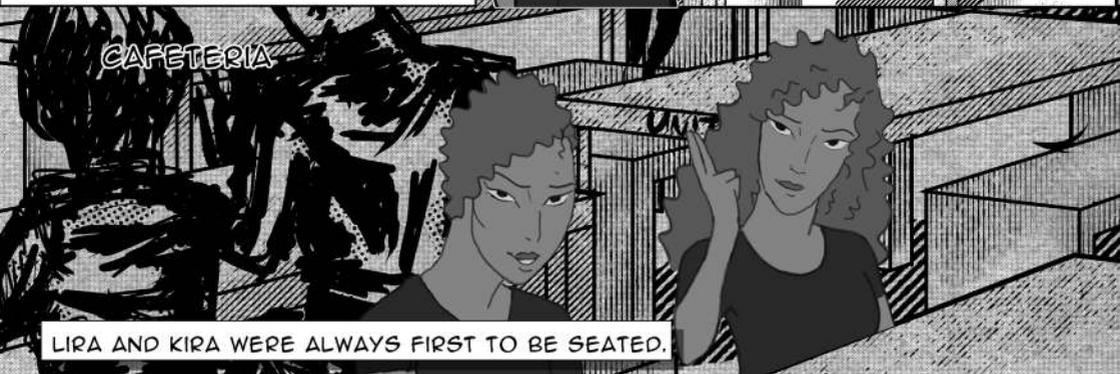
WE NEED
TO REGAIN
CONTROL.

IF THE STREETS
BECOME TOO
DANGEROUS--



WE'LL HAVE TO EVACUATE
AND CLOSE THE PORT.

UNIT
YES, CAPTAIN.

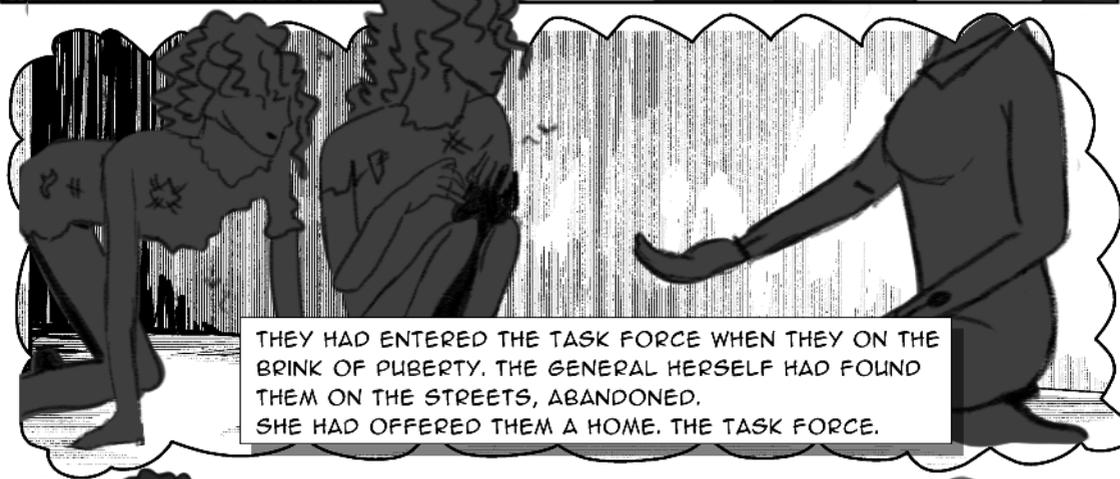


LIRA AND KIRA WERE ALWAYS FIRST TO BE SEATED.

RAZA FOUND HERSELF ADMIRING THE TWIN'S UPTURNED EYES AND SHARP FEATURES. SHE WONDERED WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO HAVE A SIBLING. A SIBLING WHO SHARED A FACE WITH YOU. WAS IT COMFORTING? WAS IT UNNERVING?



HOW BUSY ARE YOU KEEPING US TODAY, CAPTAIN?



THEY HAD ENTERED THE TASK FORCE WHEN THEY ON THE BRINK OF PUBERTY. THE GENERAL HERSELF HAD FOUND THEM ON THE STREETS, ABANDONED. SHE HAD OFFERED THEM A HOME. THE TASK FORCE.



PAPERWORK, SO WE'RE GOOD FOR TODAY.



HMM.



THATS GREA-

CAPTAIN, BEHIND YOU.





EARLY MORNING TRAINING SESSIONS WON'T EARN YOU FAVOUR WITH THE GENERAL.

ASS KISSER.



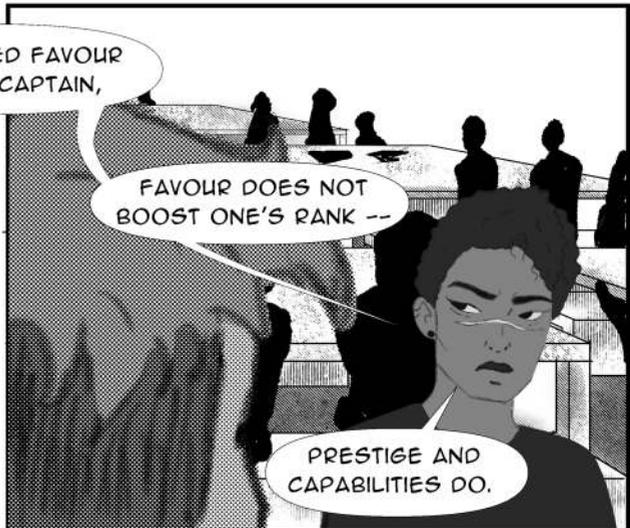
WATCH YOUR MOUTH--

HUSH.



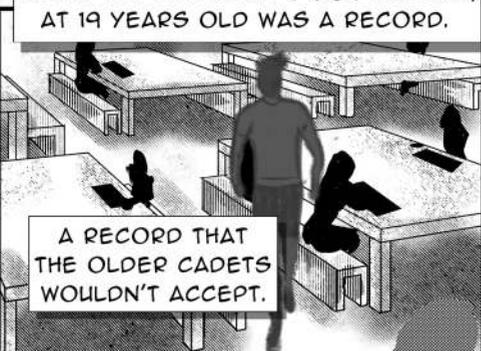
I DON'T NEED FAVOUR
SECOND CAPTAIN,

BEING THE YOUNGEST *FIRST* CAPTAIN,
AT 19 YEARS OLD WAS A RECORD.



FAVOUR DOES NOT
BOOST ONE'S RANK --

PRESTIGE AND
CAPABILITIES DO.



A RECORD THAT
THE OLDER CADETS
WOULDN'T ACCEPT.

YOU'D DO WELL TO
REMEMBER YOU RANK,
KADYN.

NXN
BASTARD!



APPLE SEED IS NOT
DIFFICULT TO FIND.

A FEW CRUSHED INTO HIS
BREAKFAST AND HE'LL BE
OUT OF COMMISSION
FROM FOR A WEEK.



A WEEK?

APPLE SEED
COULD KILL HIM.

HE'S A BIG GUY,
A SMALL DOSE WON'T
DO TOO MUCH HARM.

AAAAAAAAAAAAH

NAYA -



YOU
SHOULD
STOP
LAUGHING
NOW.



FIRST CAPTAIN RAZA --

THE GENERAL REQUESTS THAT
YOU MAKE YOUR WAY TO
HER OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

GENERAL'S OFFICE

CAPTAIN RAZA.

I MUST COMMEND YOU,
CAPTAIN. YOUR ASSIGNMENTS
HAVE GONE EXCEPTIONALLY
WELL --

YOUR SQUADRON HAS
CLOSED OVER FIFTEEN
CASES THIS MONTH..

THANK YOU,
GENERAL.

YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO
GAIN YOUR RANK CAPTAIN...

YOUR RECORD IS REMARKABLE AND YET --

ONE THING STILL TARNISHES
YOUR NOTORIETY.

THE PIRATE QUEEN!

THE REBELS ARE BECOMING
MORE RADICAL, THE STREETS
MORE DANGEROUS!

TOO LONG HAS HER
TRAITOROUS WAYS UNDERMINED
THE TASK FORCE'S AUTHORITY.

INNOCENT LIVES ARE AT RISK CAPTAIN.
MERCHANTS NO LONGER OPEN THEIR STALLS!

HUNDRED'S
HAVE GONE MISSING
AFTER THE LAST RAID!

PEOPLE ARE GOING HUNGRY!
CHILDREN ARE BEING ABANDONED!



HUNT HER DOWN.



DEAD OR ALIVE GENERAL?

PREFERABLY ALIVE,
BUT I'LL UNDERSTAND OTHERWISE.



YES GENERAL.

AND CAPTAIN...
I THINK YOU'RE COMPETENT
ENOUGH, TO UNDERSTAND THE
WEIGHT OF THIS ASSIGNMENT.

I WILL NOT ACCEPT FAILURE.



A DAY OFF WAS
TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

WHAT'S THE
ASSIGNMENT CAPTAIN?

HUNT AND CAPTURE.

WHO?

THE PIRATE QUEEN.



TOO LONG HAVE YOU
HURT THE INNOCENT!

TOO LONG HAVE YOU
PILLAGED AND PLUNDERED
THE PLACE OF MY PEOPLE!

TOO LONG HAS YOUR TYRANNY
RUINED MY REPUTATION!

I'M COMING FOR YOU--

MOTHER.

Hey There! I'm Jess Alexander.



I'm a fourth year Digital Arts student at Wits.
I am the Writer of The Pirate Queen's Daughter.
Some of my responsibilities were foundational prep for this chapter. This included scripting, rough panel layouts and textual treatments both rough and final.

This project has developed a lot and that's all thanks to the two amazing artists who chose to work with me on this story.

Instagram:

Art acc - @ssej.studios_

Writing acc - @writer.jessnovel.tea

Hiiiiii :) I'm Ravisha Nandlall



I am the character artist for this comic.

My responsibilities include character design and illustration, as well as refining the comic's layout.

If you enjoy my art, please feel free to check out my socials:

Instagram: @the_feral_jalapeno

Reddit: The Feral Jalapeno

Hello! I'm Twumwaa Oduro :))



I'm a fourth year Digital Arts student attending Wits.
As one of the artists involved in The Pirate Queen's Daughter,
I am in charge of handling the background art.

You can follow me here:

Instagram: @twum_o_art



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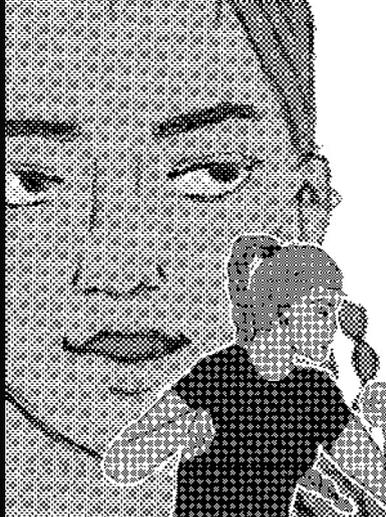
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BLOOD. SWEAT. INK. Is a unique compendium of Afromanga that has been created by a team of talented students from the University of the Witwatersrand's Digital Arts Honours Degree Programme.

With stories that span genres and challenge comic formats, this book contains something for all manner of tastes. Please note, though, that the content within is not recommended for children younger than 14 due to foul language and violence.

