

R I V E N I S  
**DISKORDIA**™

S T R A N G E D A Y S

12

THE  
RETURN OF  
MR. PUNCH

*Riveniz*





# STRANGE DAYS

Recollection II:

## The Return of Mr Punch

Created by  
**Rivenis**

Dedicated to  
Testament  
Abbott



**/diskordiacomic**

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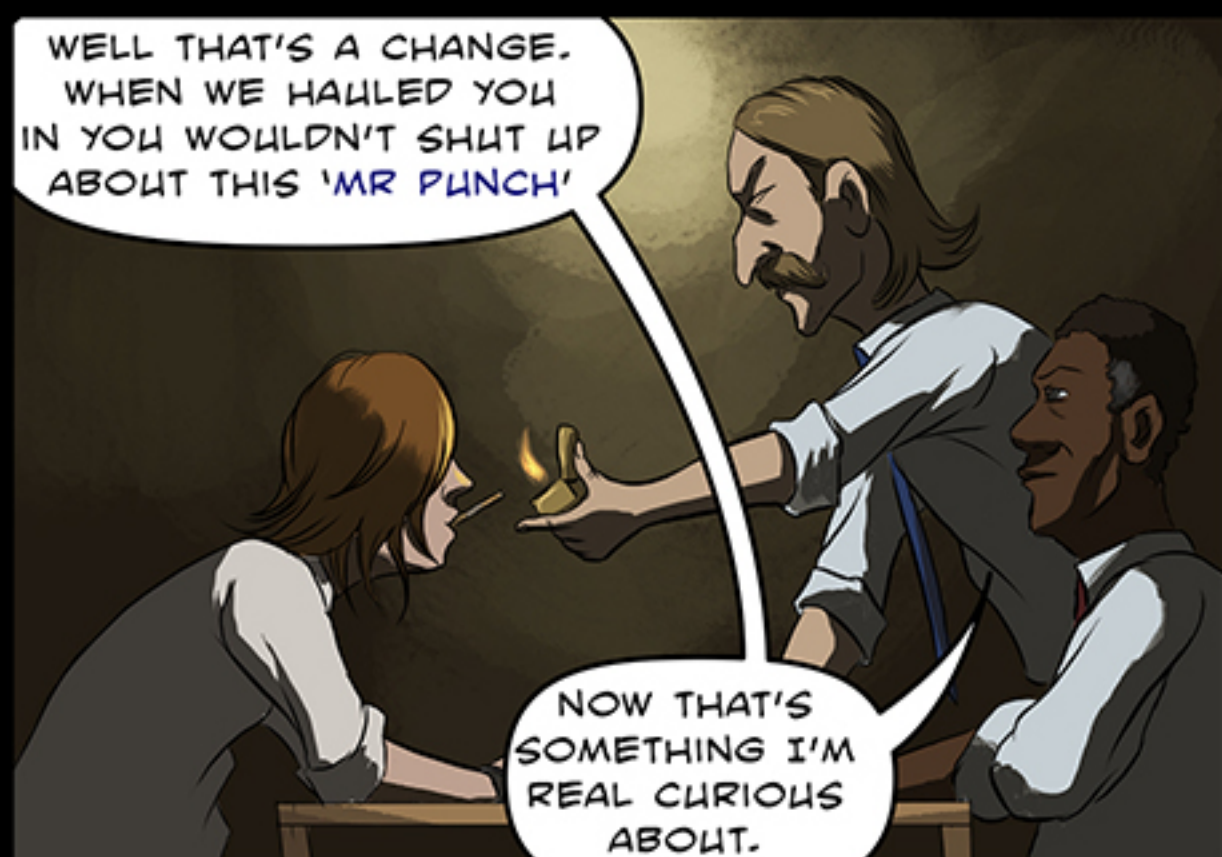
# THE RETURN OF MR. PUNCH

SO  
**VINCENT FAIRCHILD**  
IT IS. CONGRATULATIONS,  
YOUR I.D CHECKS OUT.

NOW FOR THE  
NEXT ORDER  
OF BUSINESS  
WOULD YOU MIND  
TELLING US JUST  
HOW YOU CAME TO BE  
AT THE CENTRE OF  
THIS MASSACRE?



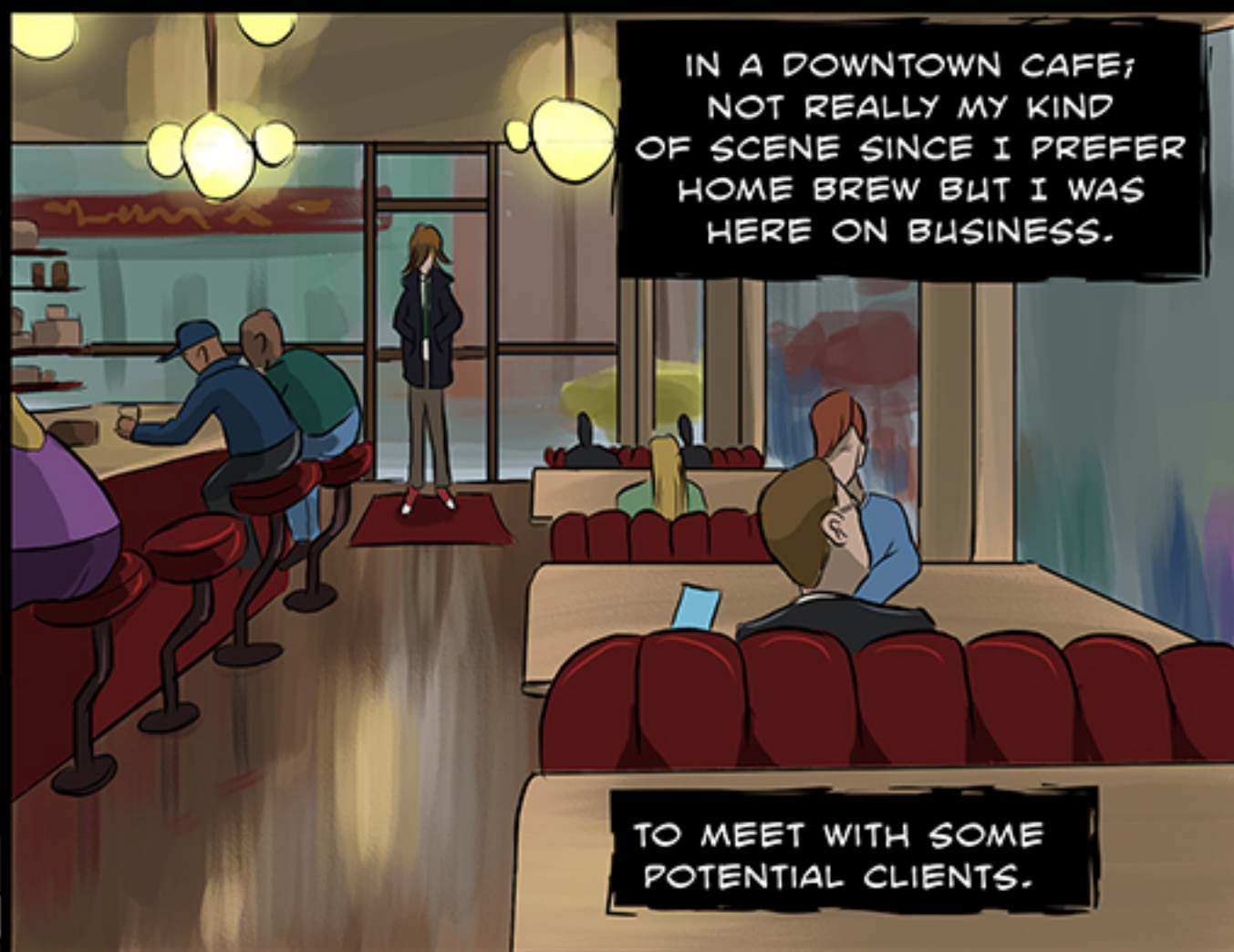








WELL SINCE WE'RE ONLY DEALING WITH HYPOTHETICALS AND WHAT IF'S THEN I GUESS THIS PARTICULAR FAIRY TALE STARTS TWO DAYS AGO...



IN A DOWNTOWN CAFE; NOT REALLY MY KIND OF SCENE SINCE I PREFER HOME BREW BUT I WAS HERE ON BUSINESS.

TO MEET WITH SOME POTENTIAL CLIENTS.



OH HERE HE IS.

VINCENT, THIS IS THE COUPLE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.

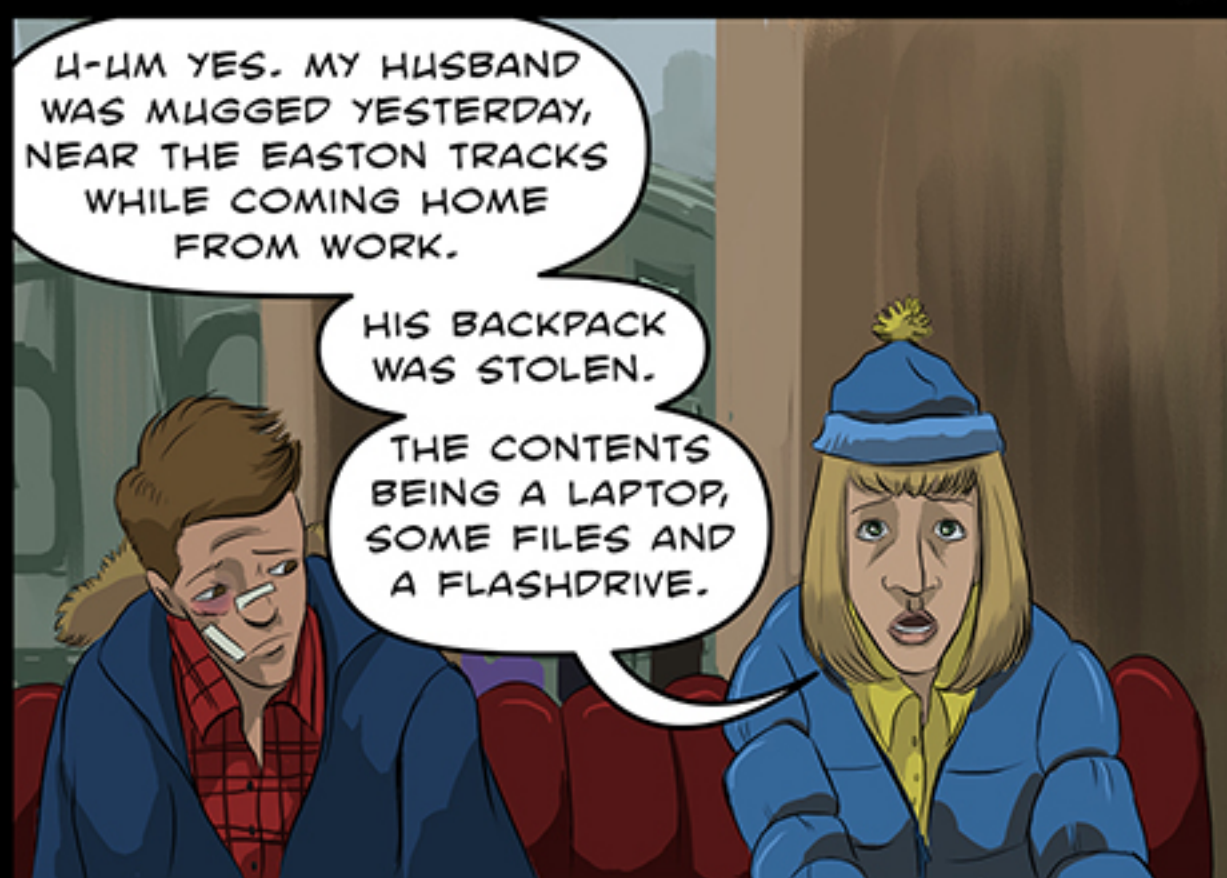
THE BARKERS; JOY AND PETER.



YOU WANT ANYTHING FROM HERE?

NAH MAN, YOU KNOW I DON'T DO COFFEE.

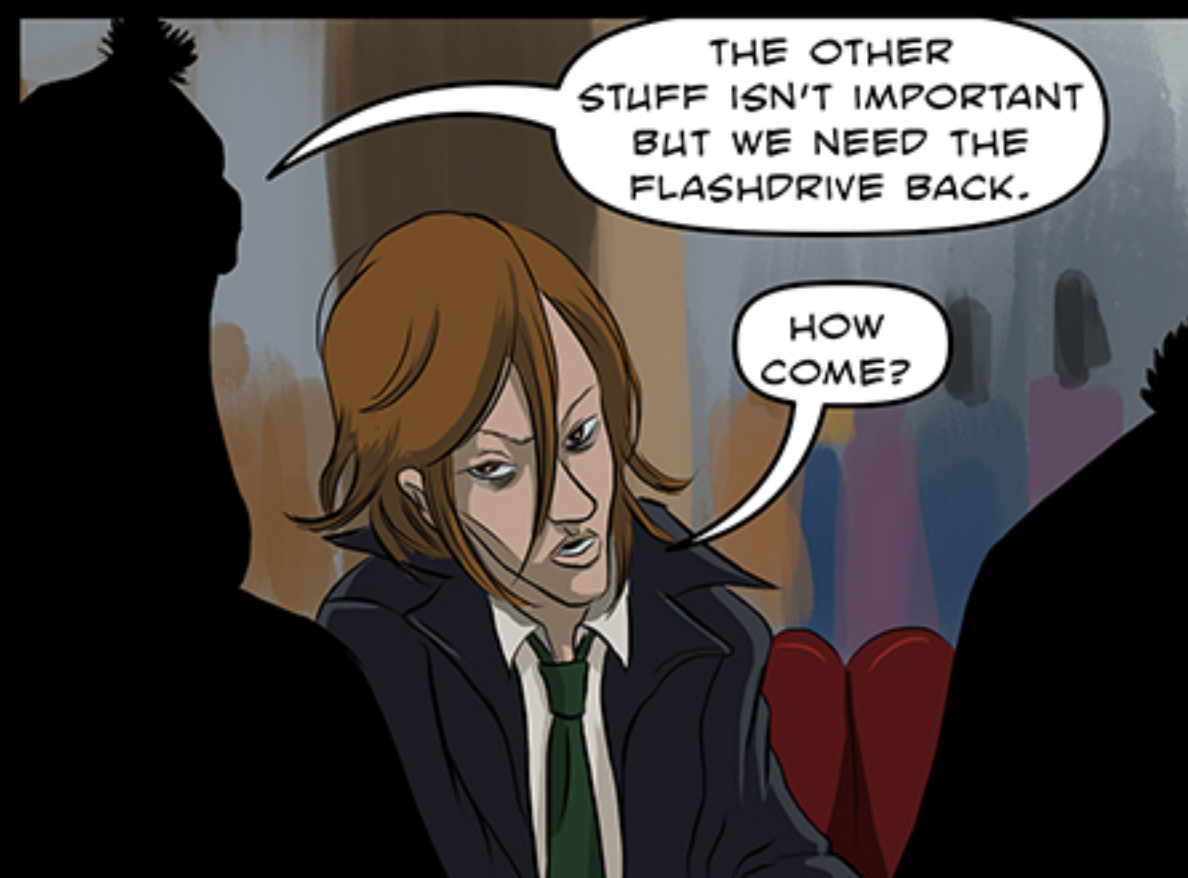
ONTO BUSINESS THOUGH. WHAT IS IT YOU FOLKS WANT ME TO FIND?



U-UH YES. MY HUSBAND WAS MUGGED YESTERDAY, NEAR THE EASTON TRACKS WHILE COMING HOME FROM WORK.

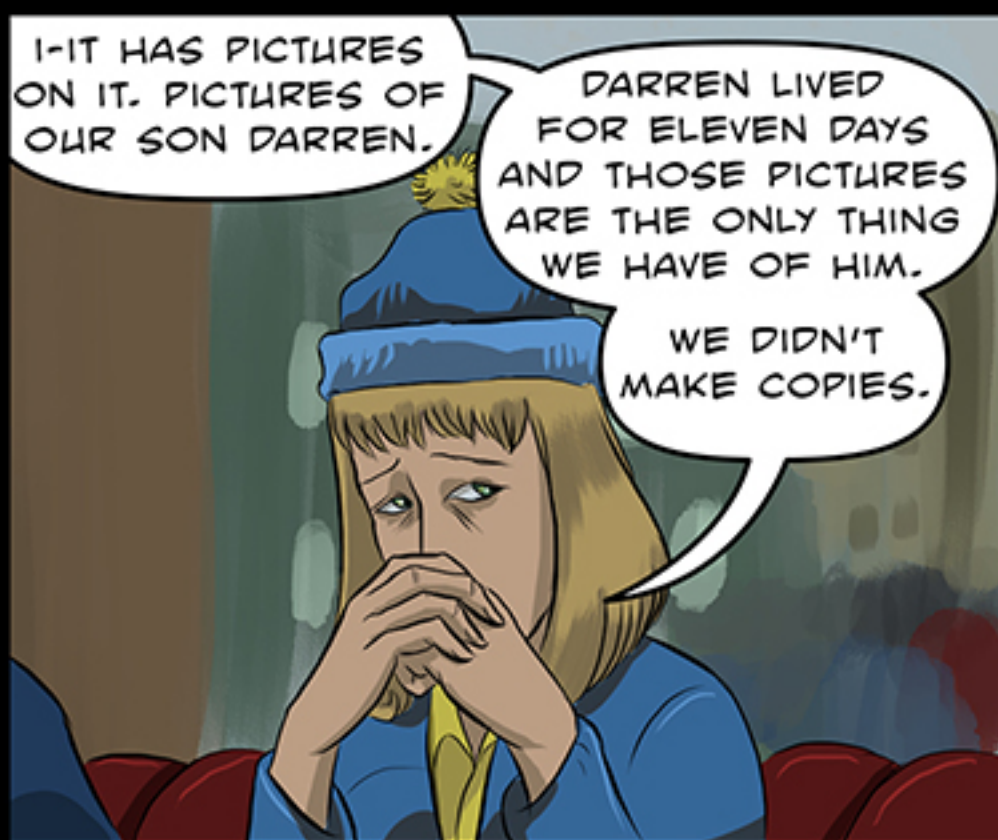
HIS BACKPACK WAS STOLEN.

THE CONTENTS BEING A LAPTOP, SOME FILES AND A FLASHDRIVE.



THE OTHER STUFF ISN'T IMPORTANT BUT WE NEED THE FLASHDRIVE BACK.

HOW COME?



I-IT HAS PICTURES ON IT. PICTURES OF OUR SON DARREN.

DARREN LIVED FOR ELEVEN DAYS AND THOSE PICTURES ARE THE ONLY THING WE HAVE OF HIM.

WE DIDN'T MAKE COPIES.



GOD I'M SO STUPID!!

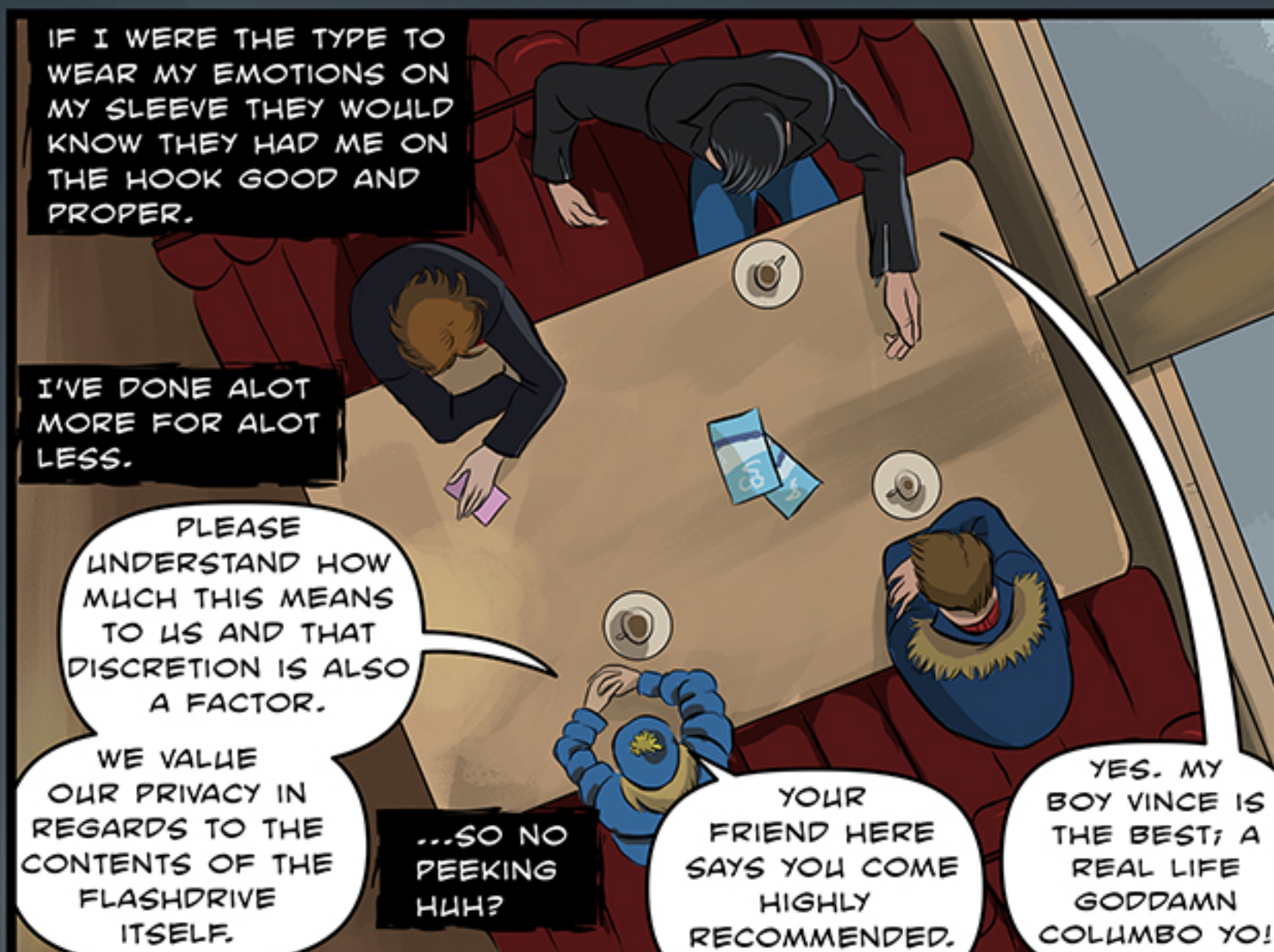




THIS IS THE AMOUNT WE'RE PREPARED TO PAY YOU ON TOP OF YOUR UPFRONT FEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS FOR US.



THE AMOUNT WILL DOUBLE IF YOU CAN GET IT BACK TO US WITHIN 48 HOURS.



IF I WERE THE TYPE TO WEAR MY EMOTIONS ON MY SLEEVE THEY WOULD KNOW THEY HAD ME ON THE HOOK GOOD AND PROPER.

I'VE DONE ALOT MORE FOR ALOT LESS.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO US AND THAT DISCRETION IS ALSO A FACTOR.

WE VALUE OUR PRIVACY IN REGARDS TO THE CONTENTS OF THE FLASHDRIVE ITSELF.

...SO NO PEEKING HUH?

YOUR FRIEND HERE SAYS YOU COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

YES. MY BOY VINCE IS THE BEST; A REAL LIFE GODDAMN COLUMBO YO!

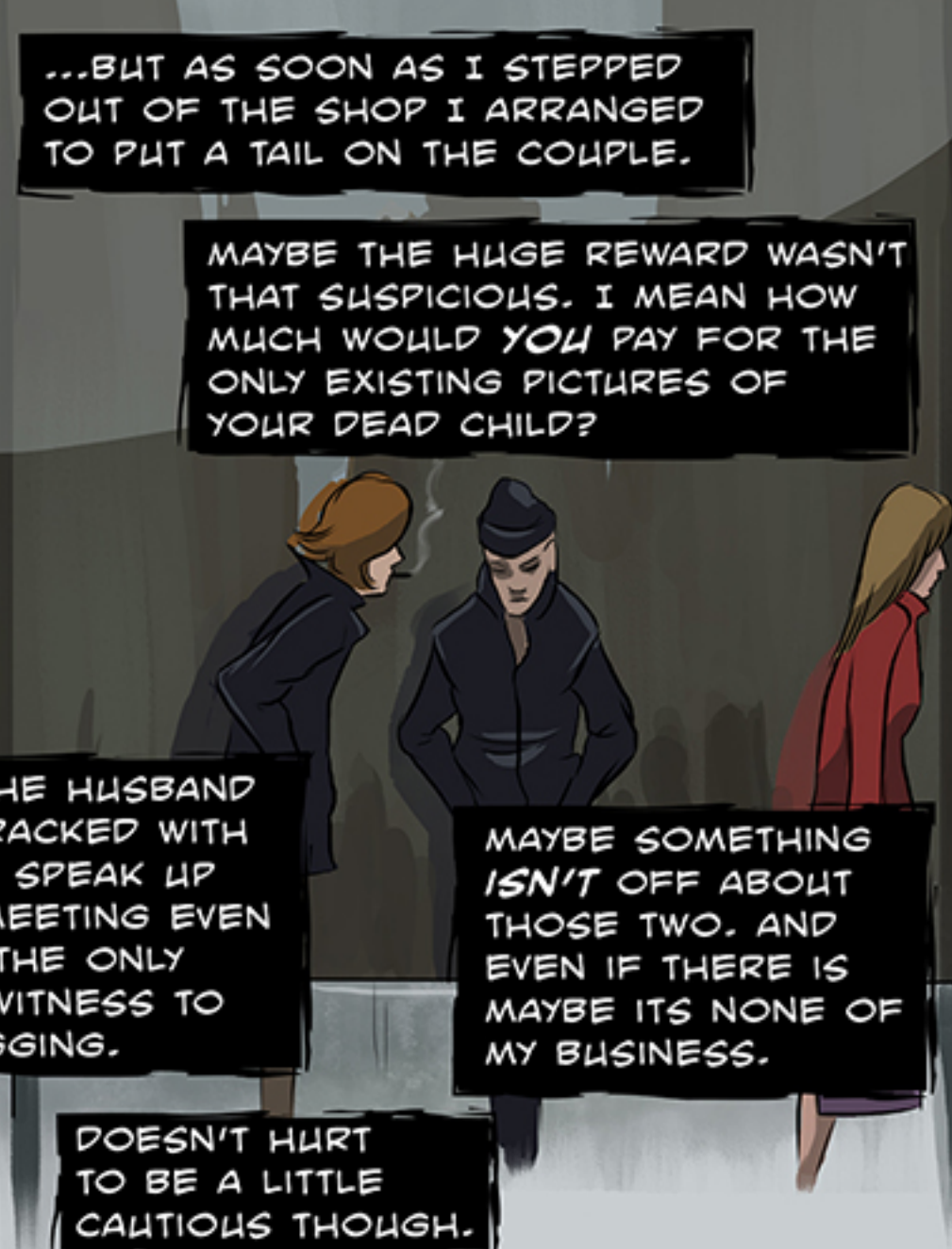


NICE JOB EDDIE, SHOW THEM JUST HOW MUCH WE WANT THEIR MONEY.

DOESN'T MATTER THOUGH, JOB'S AS GOOD AS TAKEN.



NOW IT MAY JUST BE THAT I'M A CYNICAL, PARANOID ASSHOLE OR THE UNREASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED MADE ME NERVOUS....



...BUT AS SOON AS I STEPPED OUT OF THE SHOP I ARRANGED TO PUT A TAIL ON THE COUPLE.

MAYBE THE HUGE REWARD WASN'T THAT SUSPICIOUS. I MEAN HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY FOR THE ONLY EXISTING PICTURES OF YOUR DEAD CHILD?

MAYBE THE HUSBAND IS TOO RACKED WITH GUILT TO SPEAK UP IN THE MEETING EVEN IF HE'S THE ONLY ACTUAL WITNESS TO THE MUGGING.

MAYBE SOMETHING ISN'T OFF ABOUT THOSE TWO. AND EVEN IF THERE IS MAYBE ITS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

DOESN'T HURT TO BE A LITTLE CAUTIOUS THOUGH.



SO I START WORKING THE  
JOB LIKE ANY OTHER.

9 TIMES OUT OF 10  
THESE KINDS OF  
CASES ARE REALLY  
STRAIGHTFORWARD.

THE KIND OF CRIMINAL WHO WOULD  
RUSH A WELL-OFF LOOKING WHITE  
DUDE IN A BAD NEIGHBOURHOOD  
ISN'T GOING TO MAKE TOO MANY  
DETOURS ON THE WAY TO THE  
NEAREST PAWN SHOP.

IMPULSIVE.

GREEDY.

STUPID.

AND APPARENTLY MY  
GUY WAS NONE OF  
THOSE THINGS.

THE PAWN SHOPS CAME  
UP EMPTY. NO ONE TRIED  
TO SELL THE LAPTOP.

THE WIFE GAVE ME A  
SECOND HAND DESCRIPTION  
OF THE GUY. THAT CAME UP  
EMPTY TOO.

THIS WAS **NOT** DOING  
WONDERS FOR MY  
DESIRE TO TAKE THIS  
CASE AT FACE VALUE  
I CAN TELL YOU.

ONLY LOGICAL COURSE TO TAKE IS TO  
SEE THE CRIME SCENE FOR MYSELF.

WHAT THE HELL WOULD  
MR WHITEBREAD BE DOING  
PASSING THROUGH A  
MEATGRINDER LIKE THIS?



THE KID I RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY.

'UNDERGROUNDERS' THEY'RE CALLED.

THEY EARN A LIVING BY KEEPING THEIR EYES AND EARS OPEN. THEY LEVERAGE INFORMATION.

VERY USEFUL FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY KNOW THEY EXIST THOUGH.

YOU GOTTA BE ABLE TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE; WALK INTO THEIR WORLD AND BELONG THERE.

THEY CAN SMELL A COP OR AN UPSTANDING CITIZEN A MILE AWAY.

I AM NEITHER.

I GIVE HIM THE RUNDOWN OF THE INCIDENT AS WELL AS THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION



AND THATS WHEN I GET MY FIRST BIG SURPRISE.

THE MUGGING HAPPENED YESTERDAY LIKE YOU SAID. I EVEN KNOW THE BUM THAT DID IT.

BUT WEREN'T NO RICH WHITE MAN GOT HIT.

WEREN'T NO WHITE MAN AT ALL.

I DIDN'T NEED TO ASK IF THE KID WAS SURE. IT WAS HIS BUSINESS TO KNOW. HIS LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON HIS DEPENDABILITY.

I'M THINKING RIGHT ABOUT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO WALK; FORGET ABOUT THIS WHOLE SMELLY DEAL.

I'M NOT SMART THOUGH.

I'M A WORTHLESS MONEY-GRUBBING MAGGOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AND THIS PAYDAY IS JUST TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

A MUGGING ON EASTON LAST NIGHT. I NEED THE POLICE REPORT ON IT.

SURE MAN, WHEN YOU CALL I JUST DROP EVERYTHING.

SO AS NOT TO BE COMPLETELY INCOMPETENT I CALL A FRIEND I HAVE IN THE PRECINCT.

GIVE ME A BREAK. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN STILL **BE** ON THE FORCE IF IT WASN'T FOR ME.

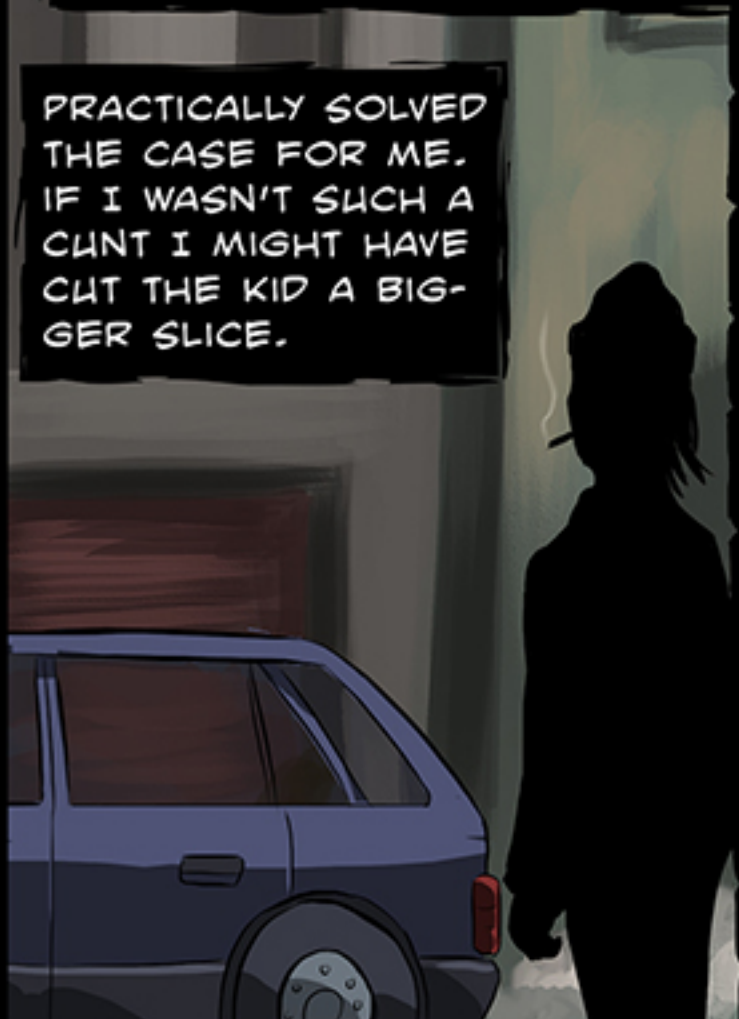
GONNA KEEP MILKING THAT ONE ARE YOU?

I'LL HAVE IT FOR YOU IN A FEW HOURS.



I HAD A STREET NAME AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE MUGGER FROM THE KID. HELL, HE EVEN GAVE ME AN ADDRESS.

PRACTICALLY SOLVED THE CASE FOR ME. IF I WASN'T SUCH A CUNT I MIGHT HAVE CUT THE KID A BIGGER SLICE.



BUT I AM, AND HE GETS TO STAY ON HIS BLOCK BEING USEFUL TO PEOPLE LIKE ME.



THE ADDRESS IS UPPER MIDDLETOWN. NOT QUITE THE SHITHOLE I WAS EXPECTING BUT STILL NOTHING TOO FANCY.



THE GUY I'M AFTER GOES BY THE NAME 'JAME GUMB'; AN OBVIOUS ALIAS.

A SKINNY WHITE BOOKISH-LOOKING DUDE. THE TYPE YOU'D EXPECT TO FIND ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS.



NOT BASHING BLOKES ON THE HEAD FROM BEHIND.



I'M STARTING TO GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS NO SIMPLE MUGGING.

I STOP BY MY OWN PLACE ON THE WAY THOUGH. I NEED TO MAKE SOME PREPARATIONS.



NOW TO LOOK AT ME I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D USE THE WORD 'INTIMIDATING' IN YOUR DESCRIPTION.



SO I GET MY AID IN THAT DEPARTMENT. I CALL HER SALLY.

I ALSO GET A GOOD STRONG DOSE OF 'COFFEE' TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE PLAYING THE PART.






THEN IT'S DOWNTOWN AT A GOOD CLIP. LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CLOSE THIS CASE BY TEATIME.

A dark blue sedan is shown from a high-angle, rear-quarter perspective, driving away from the viewer on a road. The background is filled with diagonal motion blur lines, suggesting high speed. The car has a yellow license plate and a small white mark on its rear right side.

PLACE MAY NOT BE A TOTAL DIVE BUT THE GUY AT THE COUNTER DOESN'T THINK HE'S TOO GOOD TO TAKE MY MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR A ROOM NUMBER.



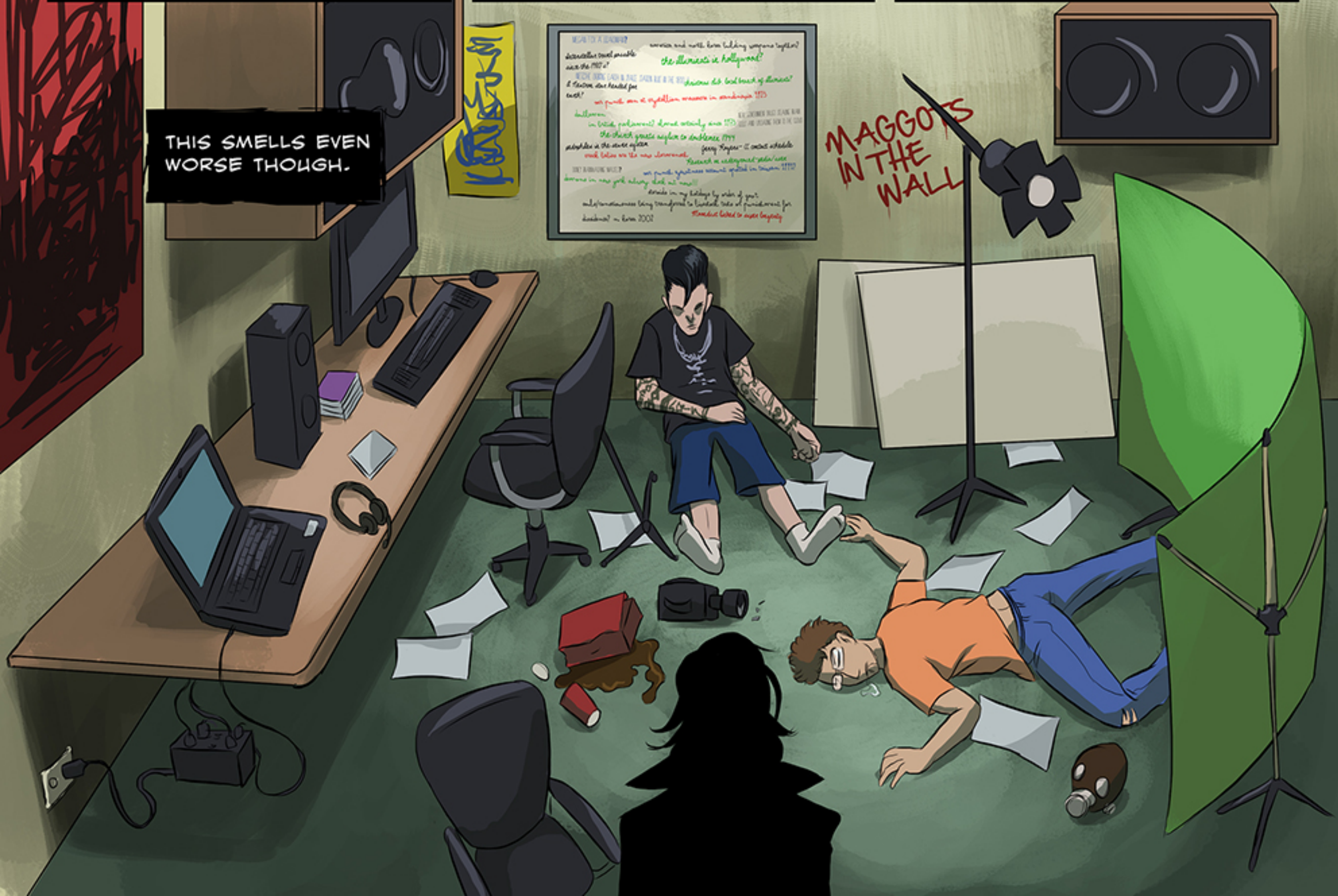
DOOR'S NOT LOCKED. I SMELL THE TROUBLE IN THE AIR AS THICK AS A TACO FART.



THIS SMELLS EVEN WORSE THOUGH.

[illegible]

MAGGOTS  
IN THE  
WALL





BOO WIFE BOO Christmas dub, local branch of...  
ystallion massacre in scandinavia 1923  
NEW GOVERNMENT DRUGS STEALING BRAIN  
CELLS AND UPLOADING THEM TO THE CLOUD  
almost certainly since 1973  
asylum to doublemen 1944  
jerry Rogers- CC contact schedule  
ulermensch Research on underground-pedia/user  
punch eyewitness account spotted in taiwan 1991?  
check out now!!!  
roids in my hotdogs by order of govt  
transferred to livestock tests or punishment for  
Moondust linked to super longevity

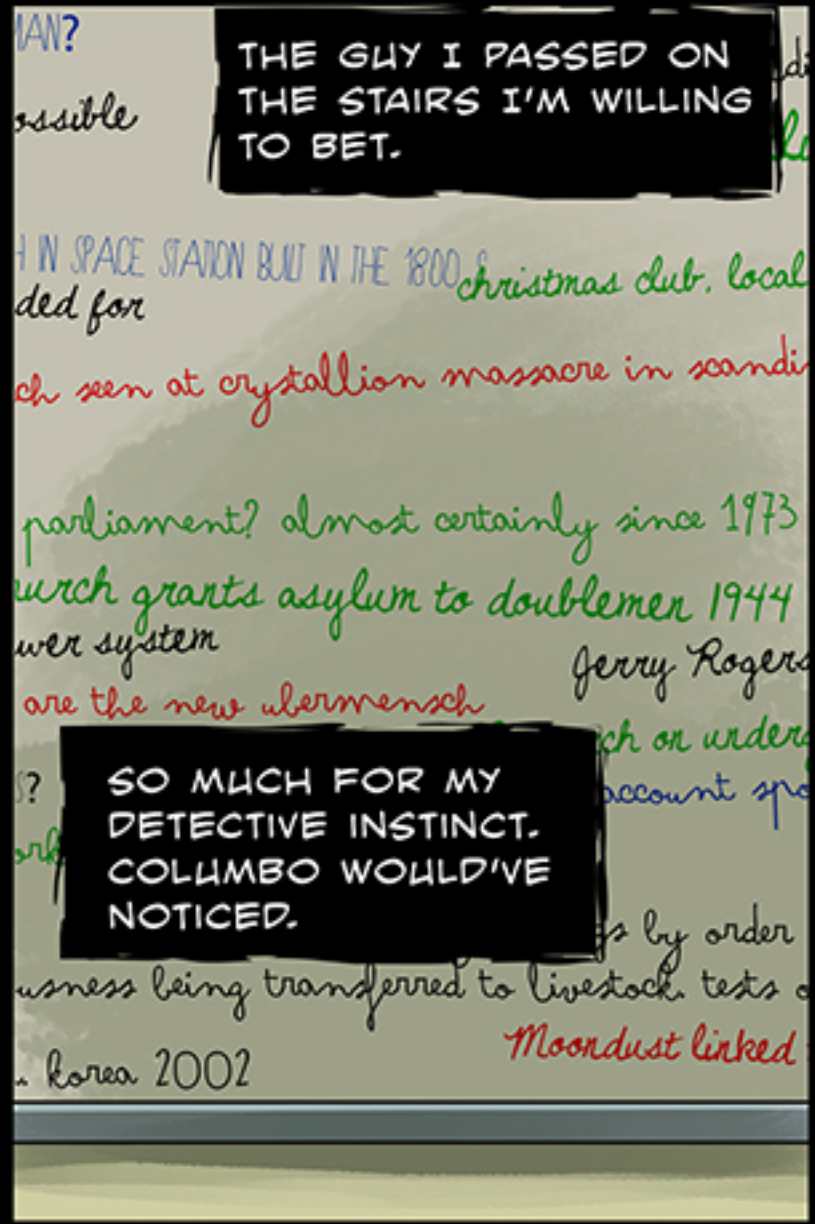


MAGGOTS  
IN THE  
WALL

IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT  
OF MY FACE THEN. OF  
COURSE I DIDN'T NOTICE  
IT AT THE TIME.



IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD  
ANY WAY OF KNOWING  
ITS SIGNIFICANCE.



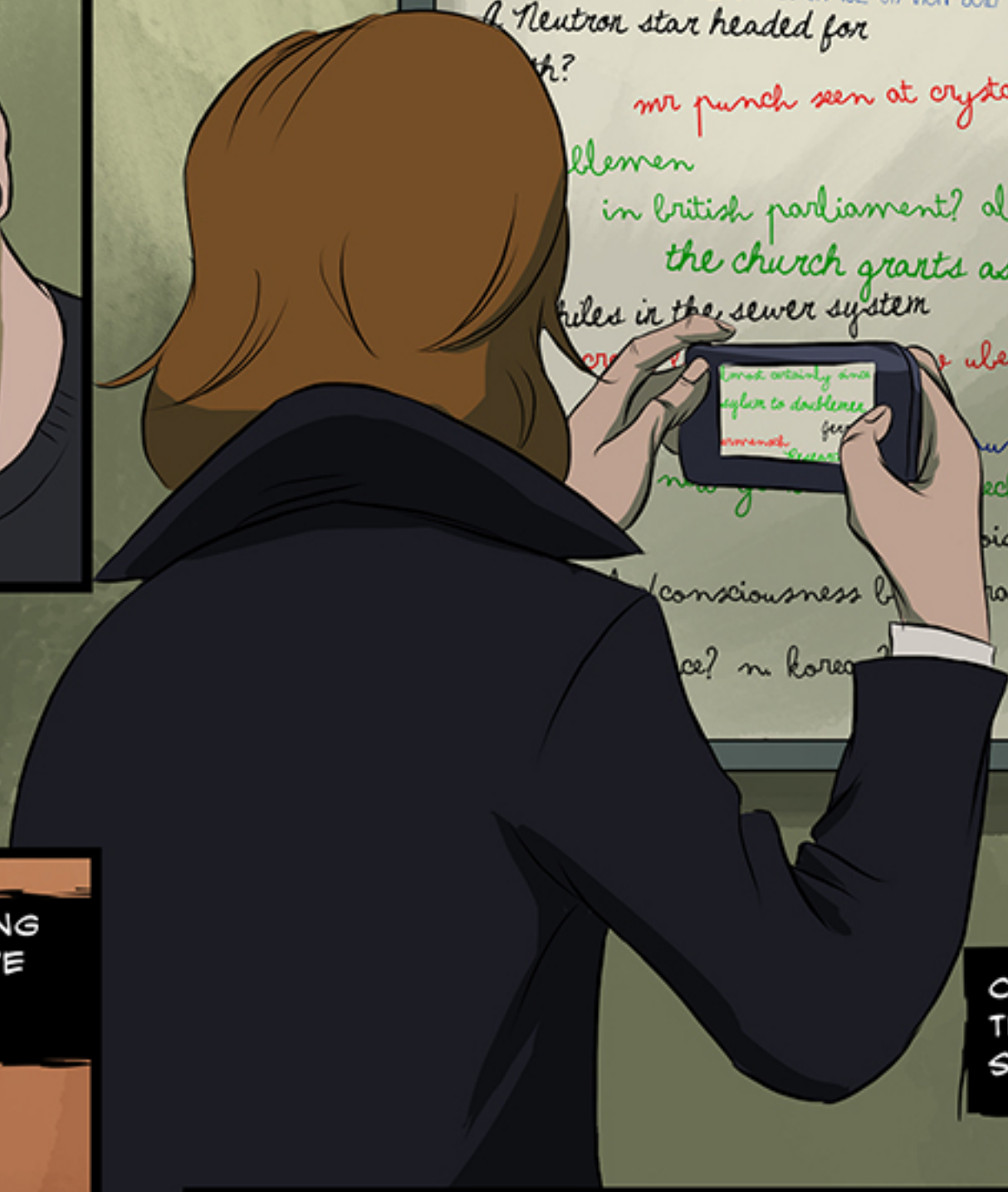




THE GUY PASSES OUT.  
I'M NOT GETTING  
ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S FINE. I THINK  
I HAVE WHAT I NEED.

I GET SOME PICTURES  
OF THE WHITEBOARD.  
'JUST IN CASE' I THINK  
TO MYSELF.



MEGAN FOX A LIZARDMAN?  
Interstellar travel possible  
since the 1980's?  
NEUTZSHE ORBITING EARTH IN SPACE STATION BUILT IN THE 1800's  
A Neutron star headed for  
Earth?  
America and north Korea building weapons  
*the illuminati in hollywood?*  
christmas club, local branch of  
mr punch seen at crystallion massacre in scandinavia 192?  
doublesmen  
in british parliament? almost certainly since 1973  
the church grants asylum to doublesmen 1944  
hides in the sewer system  
almost certainly and  
asylum to doublesmen  
newman? doublesmen  
newman? doublesmen  
NEW GOVERNMENT  
CELLS AND UPLD  
jerry Rogers- CC conta  
Research on underground-pe  
punch eyewitness account spotted in ta  
check out now!!!  
oids in my hotdogs by order of gov't  
transferred to livestock. tests or punish  
*Moondust linked to super lo*

THEN I CALL FOR AN  
AMBULANCE SO AS  
NOT TO BE A TOTAL  
BASTARD.

COURSE I DO TAKE THE  
TIME TO FIND A PAYPHONE  
SO THERE'S THAT.



TAKES A FRUSTRATING  
HALF HOUR TO DRIVE  
TO THE NEAREST  
INTERNET KIOSK.

I NEED SOME  
FREE WI-FI.



MY HUNCH IS ON THE MONEY.  
'MAGGOTS IN THE WALL' IS THE  
NAME OF THESE CONSPIRACY  
THEORIST'S XYZ-TUBE CHANNEL.



THESE KIND OF GUYS  
**ALWAYS** HAVE A TUBE  
CHANNEL.

I'VE GOT  
THE REPORT  
RIGHT HERE  
IN FRONT OF  
ME.

GIVE ME  
THE RUN-  
DOWN.



MUGGING TOOK PLACE  
IN EASTON AROUND  
11:45PM.

VICTIM'S A  
BLACK MALE, LATE  
30'S TO EARLY 40'S.  
DOESN'T STAY TO  
MAKE A STATEMENT.

ACTUALLY IT  
SAYS HERE  
HE FLED  
THE SCENE.

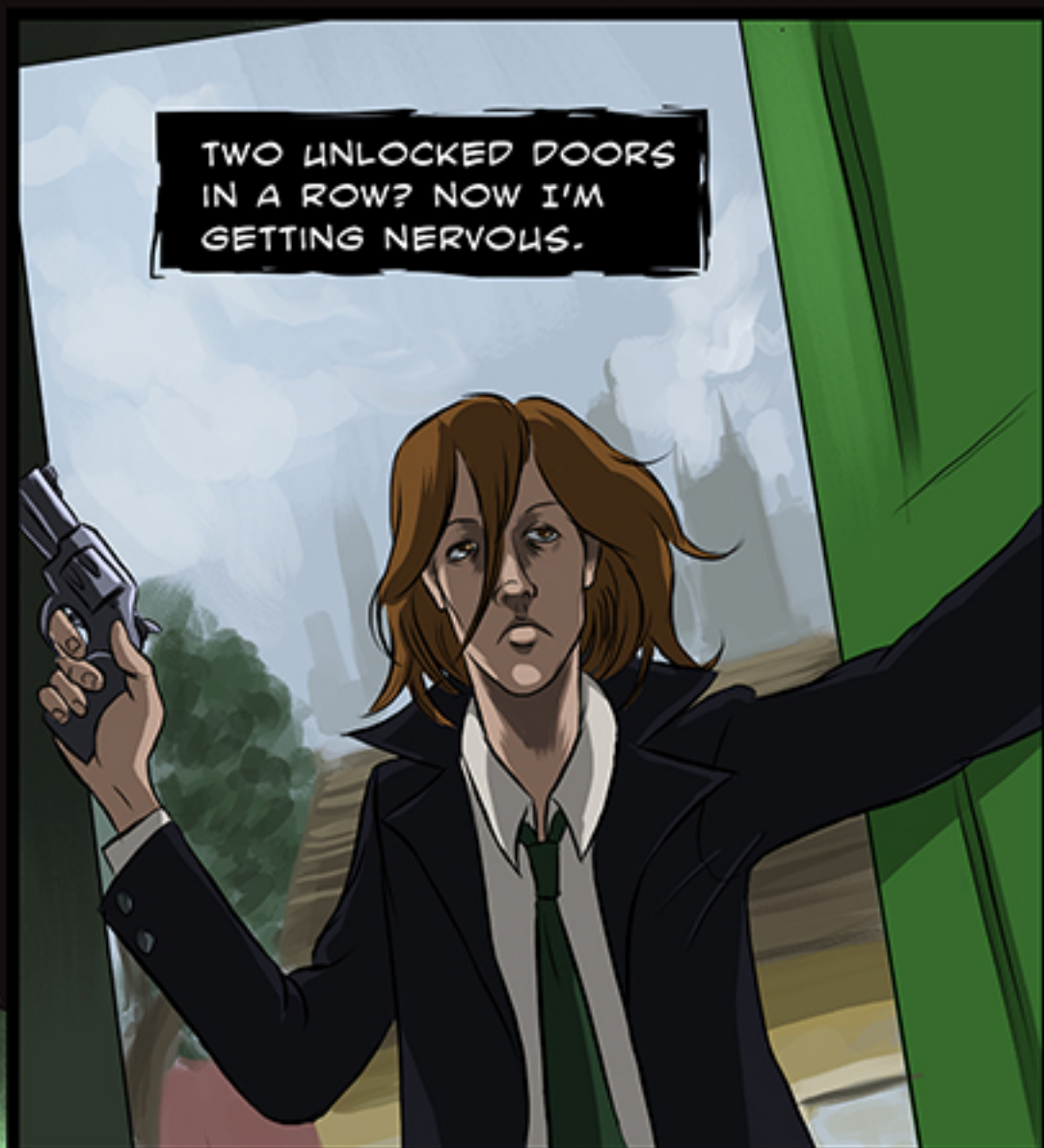


CURIOUSER  
AND  
CURIOUSER.











SMELT LIKE A POT ROAST. FUNNILY ENOUGH IT REMINDED ME THAT I'D SKIPPED LUNCH.

HEY...

HE SAID THAT. ALL PROPER WITCHES NEED TO BE COOKED LIKE IN THE FAIRY TALES.

I DON'T FUCKING GET IT! FIRST MY FRIENDS AND NOW I COME HOME TO THIS SHIT.

LOOK MATE, THIS ISN'T A WATER PISTOL IN MY HAND. NOW START MAKING SOME SENSE.

WHO DID THIS?

I-IT WAS MR PUNCH. IT REALLY WAS.

WHO?

HE DIDN'T EVEN LAY A SINGLE HAND ON HER.

HE JUST SPOKE. HIS VOICE WAS SO SWEET, SO PERFECT.

IT WAS LIKE A SUGGESTION; A SUGGESTION SHE COULDN'T REFUSE. POOR, POOR JANICE.

HE TOLD ME TO WATCH. TOLD ME NOT TO MISS A SECOND OR A SOUND OF HER SWEET AGONY.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE AN EXPRESSION OF OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.

HE MUST'VE DONE IT 'CAUSE OF THE KID.

H-HIS FACE. WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER IT?

WHAT KID?

J-JANICE'S DAUGHTER, LOOK.





JANICE HATED THAT KID. SHE WAS ALWAYS SO HARD ON HER.

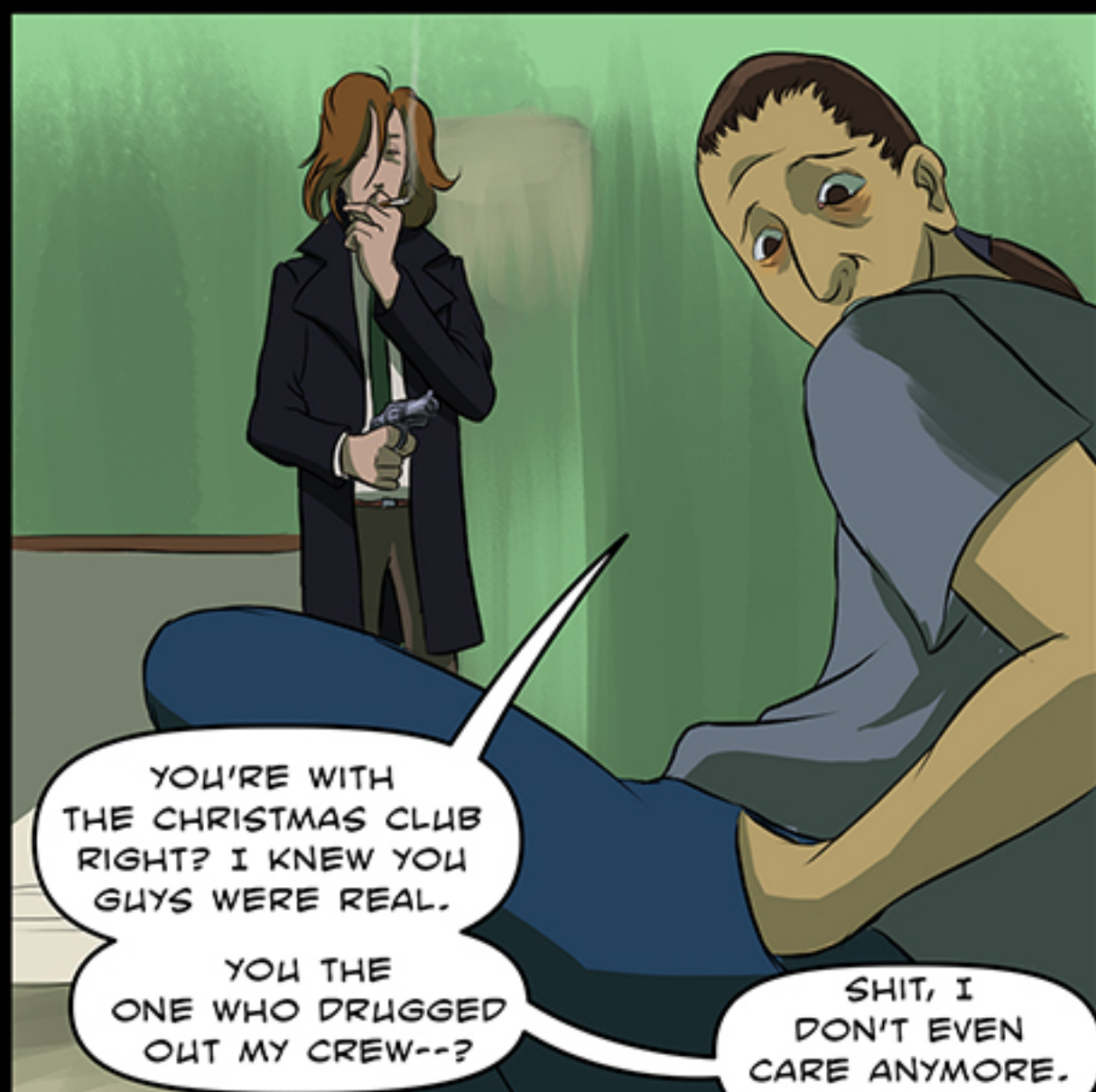


CHRIST, I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D GO THAT FAR THOUGH.



LOOK, I DON'T REALLY GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

WHERE'S THE FLASH-DRIVE?



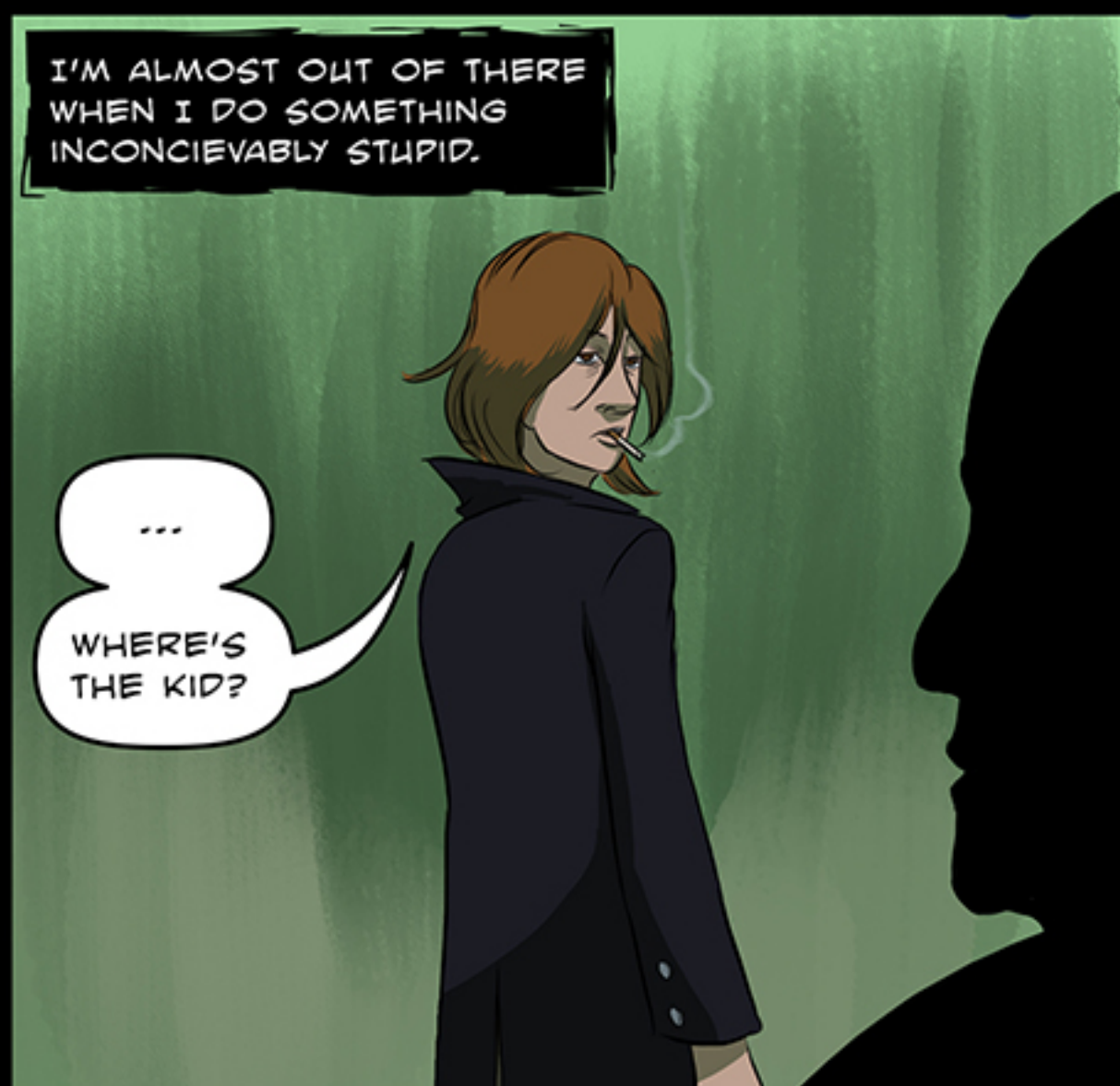
YOU'RE WITH THE CHRISTMAS CLUB RIGHT? I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE REAL.

YOU THE ONE WHO DRUGGED OUT MY CREW--?

SHIT, I DON'T EVEN CARE ANYMORE.



'THE CHRISTMAS CLUB' THAT NAME'S COME UP IN MORE THAN A FEW OF THEIR VIDEOS. MR PUNCH AS WELL.



I'M ALMOST OUT OF THERE WHEN I DO SOMETHING INCONCEIVABLY STUPID.

...

WHERE'S THE KID?



PUNCH, HE TOOK HER.

I-I COULDN'T STOP HIM. I COULDN'T EVEN WANT TO.





I DON'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE CAR BEFORE THE NEXT BOMB IS DROPPED.



BEEN DEAD AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

HE DID HAVE I.D ON HIM THOUGH. NAME'S JERRY ROGERS. THAT MEAN ANYTHING AFTER AWHILE I STOP HEARING HIM.

YO, ITS ME. SO WE FOUND YOUR MUGGING VICTIM.

I KNOW IT IN MY BONES BEFORE HE EVEN SAYS IT.

IN THE EAST RIVER. FULLA HOLES.



I LEAVE THE SUBURBS. THIS TIME I DON'T BOTHER CALLING THE COPS. I DON'T WANT THE STENCH OF THAT PLACE ANYWHERE NEAR ME.



I PULL OVER AS SOON AS I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY FOR THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY TO SINK IN.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION.

I CAN NO LONGER PRETEND THERE'S A POT OF GOLD WAITING AT THE END OF THIS RAINBOW.

THERE'S SOMETHING BAD GOING ON. REALLY BAD. AND ONCE I TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S ON THIS FLASH-DRIVE THERE'S NO GOING BACK.



THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE GIRL; TAKEN FROM HER ABUSIVE MOTHER AND IN THE HANDS OF A KILLER; A KILLER WITH THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL.



MR PUNCH

WHO IS HE AND WHAT'S HIS CONNECTION TO THE CHRISTMAS CLUB?

I SCOUR THE MAGGOT'S CHANNEL FOR ANY VIDS THAT MENTION HIM.

MR PUNCH IS A SHADOW, A WHISPER IN THE WIND. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, HE IS VERY REAL

WE BELIEVE HE MAY EVEN BE ACTING AS AN ENFORCER FOR THE CHRISTMAS CLUB. THE THEORY IS--



THESE GUYS MAY HAVE IN THEIR LUNATIC RAVINGS HIT UPON SOME CHANCE TRUTHS. BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO KNOW WHICH ONES.



UNCONSCIOUSLY I SUPPOSE I'D ALREADY MADE MY DECISION.



THE FLASHDRIVE WAS OF COURSE ENCRYPTED. BUT IF THAT WERE A SERIOUS PROBLEM I WOULDN'T BE VERY GOOD AT MY JOB NOW WOULD I?

Operating expenses		\$667,000	\$
Operating Profit/Loss		\$2,061,000	-\$
Management Charges		\$1,021,000	
Loss		\$253,000	-\$
Operating Margin %		22.78%	

DATES, TIMES, DELIVERY MANIFESTS, ACCOUNTS.

Operating Costs Budget	27.34%	Totals	
Variable Costs	Variable %	\$336,000	

IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A RECORD. THE KIND ANY DECENT BUSINESS WOULD KEEP

	19th Feb
Final operations	C. Schmitt
	The CC Club

AS BANAL AS THIS INFO IS ITS STILL PROOF OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST.

WELL, ITS GETTING TO BE THAT KIND OF TIME.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME BENNY?

WHERE ARE MR AND MRS WHITEBREAD HOLDING UP?

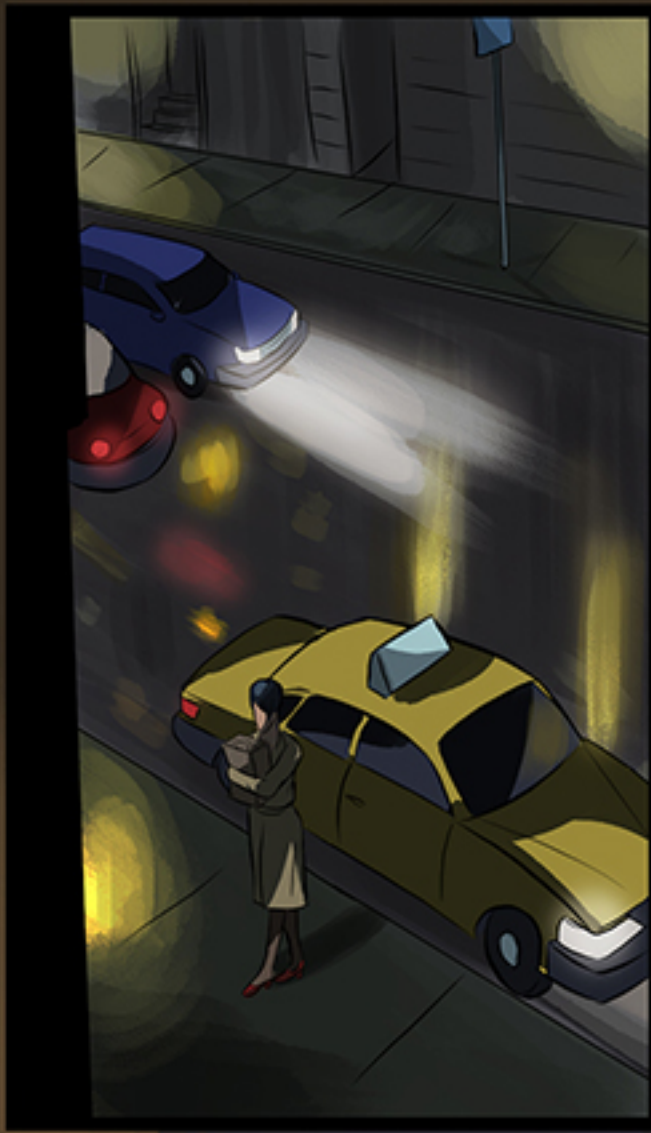
TIME TO GO BACK TO THE SOURCE.

TURNS OUT THE HUSBAND ISN'T A HUSBAND AT ALL. AT LEAST NOT TO THE WOMAN WHO HIRED ME.

LOOK MAN I'M JUST AN ACTOR. THAT WOMAN NEEDED A COVER.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME.







I THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE CHRISTMAS CLUB. THINGS WENT WRONG FOR YOU WHEN YOUR SCHEDULING MANIFEST FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WAS STOLEN FROM YOUR ASSISTANT OR WHOEVER HE WAS. STOLEN BY A BUNCH OF CONSPIRACY NUTS WHO HAPPENED TO BE RIGHT FOR ONCE, OR CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT.

ALL THAT VITAL INFO OUT THERE IN THE WORLD AND YOU HAD NO IDEA WHO HAD IT. YOU PROBABLY ASSUMED IT *WAS* A RANDOM MUGGING. NO REAL REASON TO THINK OTHERWISE. I'M GUESSING YOUR EMPLOYERS AREN'T THE TYPE TO ACCEPT A FUCK UP THIS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING. NO, YOU HAD TO FIX THIS ONE BY YOURSELF WITHOUT THEM OR ANYONE ELSE KNOWING.

YOU WERE SO PARANOID YOU OFFED YOUR POOR ASSISTANT TOO. AND YOU HIRE ME HOPING I'D BE SO BLINDED BY THE MONEY I'D TRIP ALL OVER MYSELF TO GET THE OH-SO-POIGNANT DEAD BABY PICS BACK TO YOU FOR A TEARFUL HAPPY ENDING.



NOT BAD AT ALL.

I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH SOMEONE A LITTLE DUMBER.



OF COURSE WE COULD STILL HAVE THAT HAPPY ENDING. MY EMPLOYERS ARE STILL IN THE DARK.

YOU COULD GIVE ME THE DRIVE RIGHT NOW AND I COULD MAKE YOU MODERATELY RICH.



I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

WHO IS MR PUNCH?







YOU SAW  
HIM?!  
YOU SPOKE  
TO HIM?!



I'M THE  
ONE ASKING  
THE FUCKING  
QUESTIONS  
HERE.

WHO  
IS HE?



I-I'M NOT  
SURE REALLY. MOSTLY  
I HEAR RUMOURS.

MEMBERS OF  
THE CLUB, THE ONES  
AT THE TOP. THEY  
REVERE HIM.



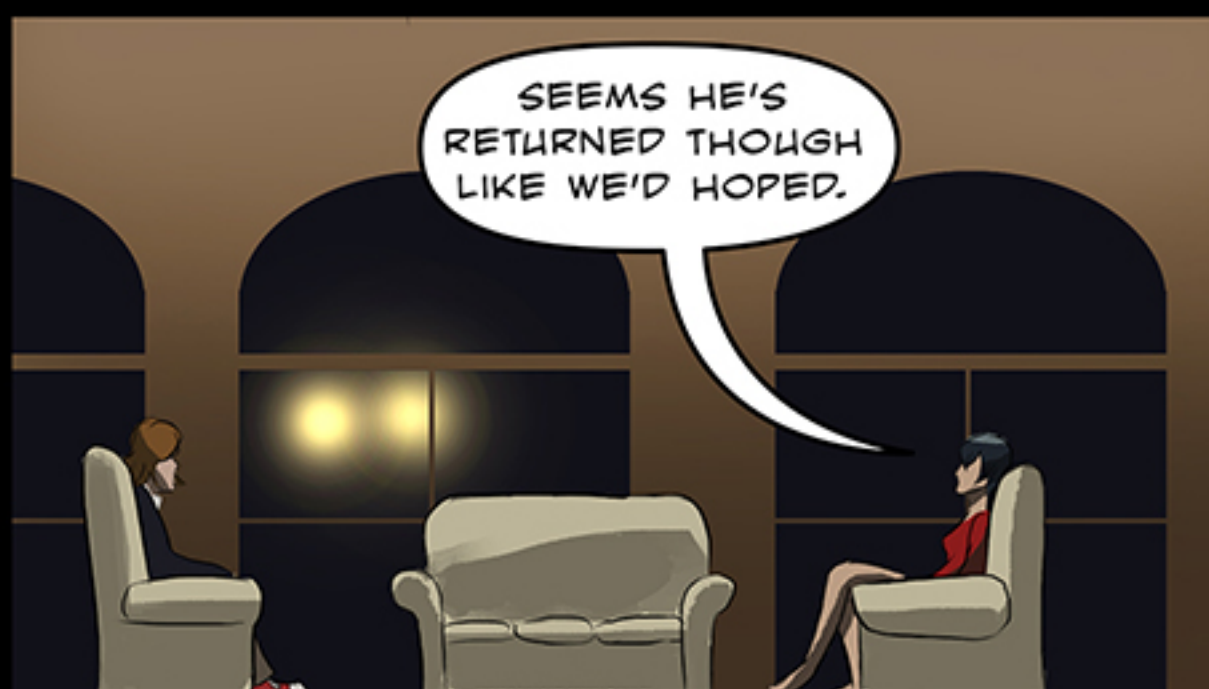
THEY ACT LIKE  
HE'S CLOSE TO THEM;  
LIKE HE'S PRACTICALLY  
AN HONORARY  
MEMBER.

THEY'RE  
JUST DELUDING  
THEMSELVES, THE  
ARROGANT PRICKS.



HE'S LIKE  
A CAT; COMES  
AND GOES AS  
HE PLEASES.

BEEN THAT  
WAY FOR  
CENTURIES.



SEEMS HE'S  
RETURNED THOUGH  
LIKE WE'D HOPED.





SO THAT'S  
IT THEN?

DO YOU GUYS  
DANCE AROUND  
CAMPFIRES AND  
PERFORM MAJICK  
RITUALS  
TOO?



FOR SOMEONE  
AS *UNIQUE* AS YOUR-  
SELF YOU DO HAVE  
A RATHER PEDANTIC  
VIEW OF REALITY.



...  
DID YOU  
REALLY THINK  
I'D HIRE YOU  
WITHOUT CHECKING  
YOU OUT?

I'M NOT  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO USES A  
FALSE NAME.



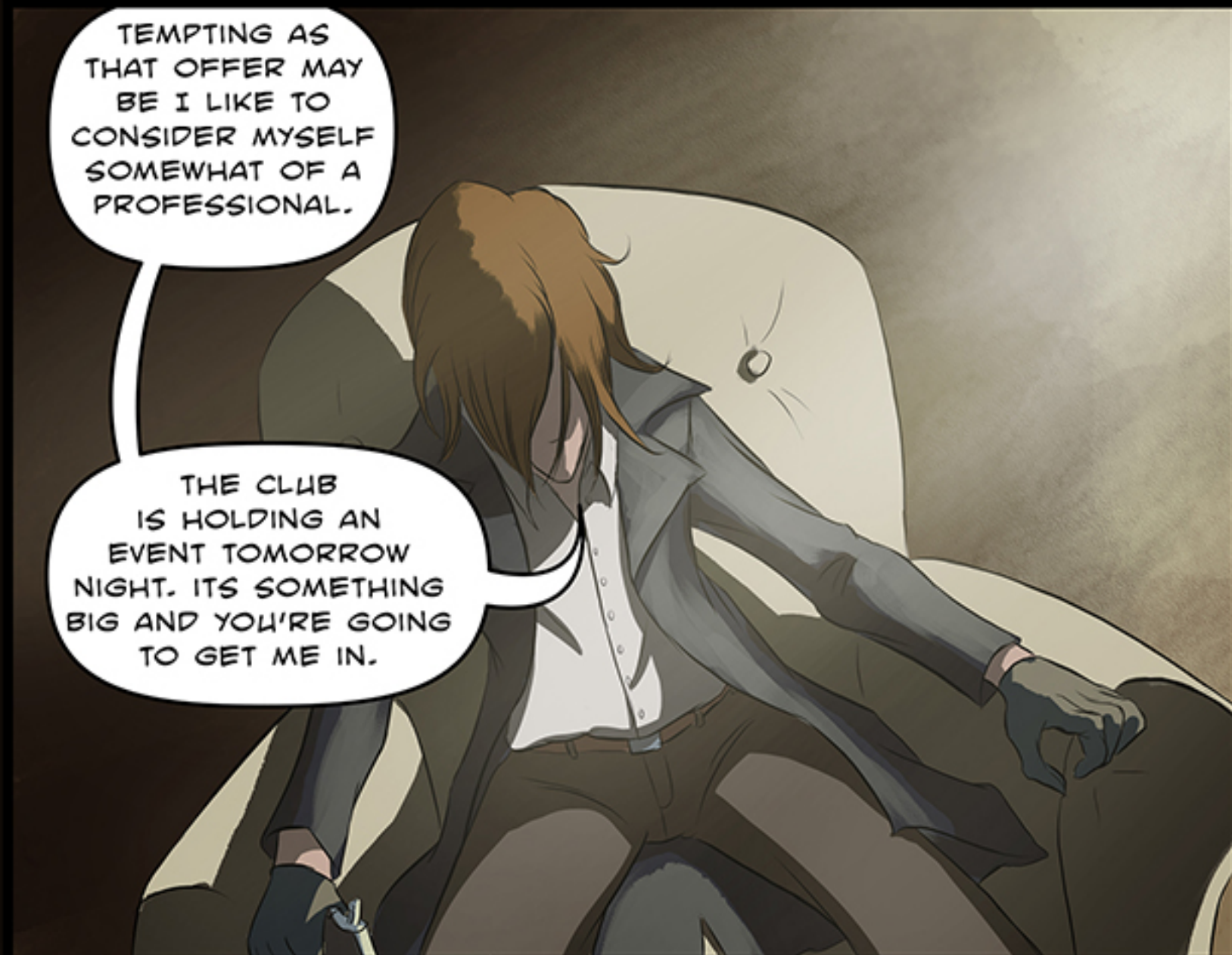
AND I'D  
HAVE TO SAY, I'M  
RATHER CURIOUS  
ABOUT YOUR LITTLE  
SECRET...





TEMPTING AS THAT OFFER MAY BE I LIKE TO CONSIDER MYSELF SOMEWHAT OF A PROFESSIONAL.

THE CLUB IS HOLDING AN EVENT TOMORROW NIGHT. ITS SOMETHING BIG AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME IN.



YOU CAN'T BE THAT STUPID. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THESE ARE?

YOU'LL GET US BOTH KILLED.



THAT MAY BE SO, BUT YOU'RE FUCKED EITHER WAY.

WHETHER THEY FIND OUT YOU ALLOWED VITAL INFO TO BE LEAKED.

OR YOU TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH ME.



WHAT'LL IT BE?



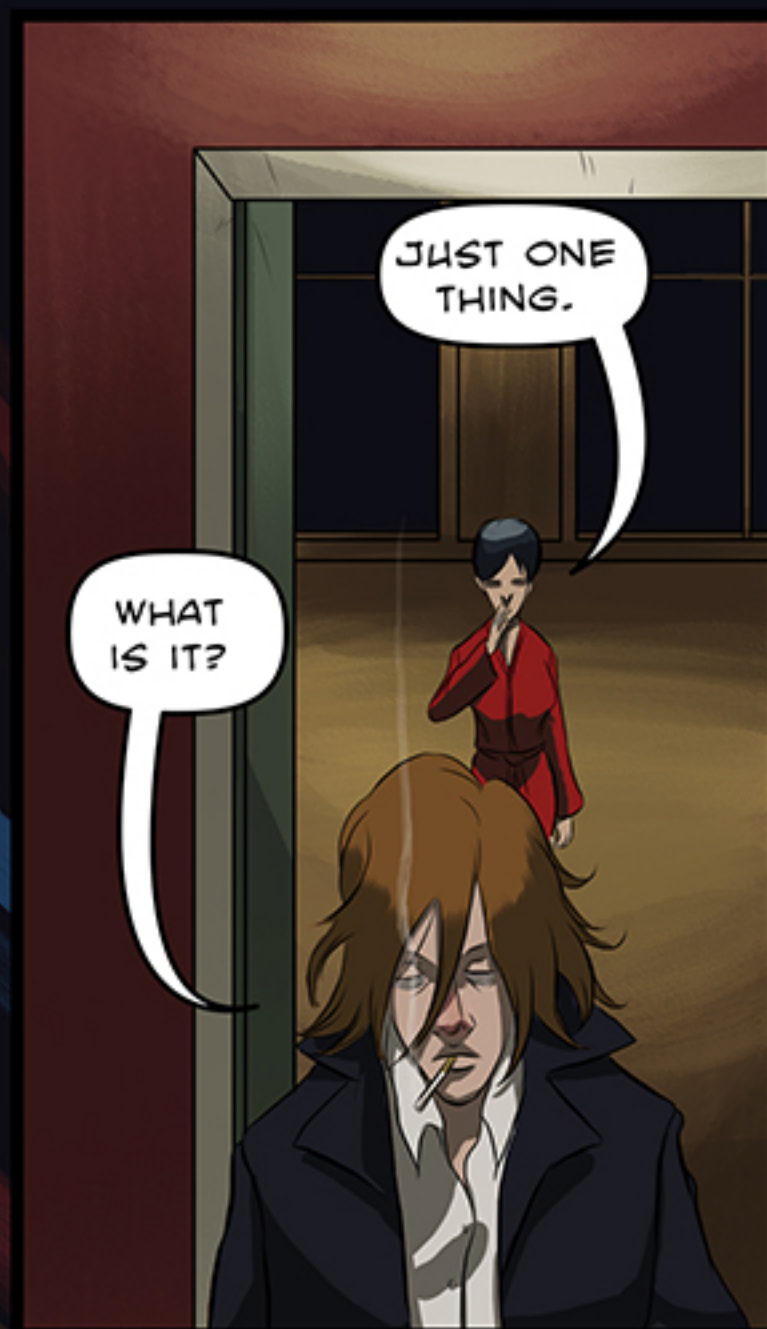
WHY? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING TO GO INTO THE LION'S DEN?

WHY RISK EVERYTHING?



CURIOSITY'S THE GODDESS I SERVE.





DID I REALLY CARE ABOUT  
SOME UNLUCKY LITTLE  
BRAT MOST LIKELY DEAD  
IN THE GUTTER OR  
SACRIFICED TO SOME  
IMAGINARY DARK GOD?

OR PERHAPS I'M JUST  
ANOTHER MAGGOT IN THE  
WALL, EAGER TO UNCOVER  
THE MYSTERIES BEHIND  
EVERYTHING, DESPERATE  
NOT TO BE ANOTHER  
SCARED LITTLE SHEEP LOST  
IN THE DARK.



I HATE  
SHEEP.



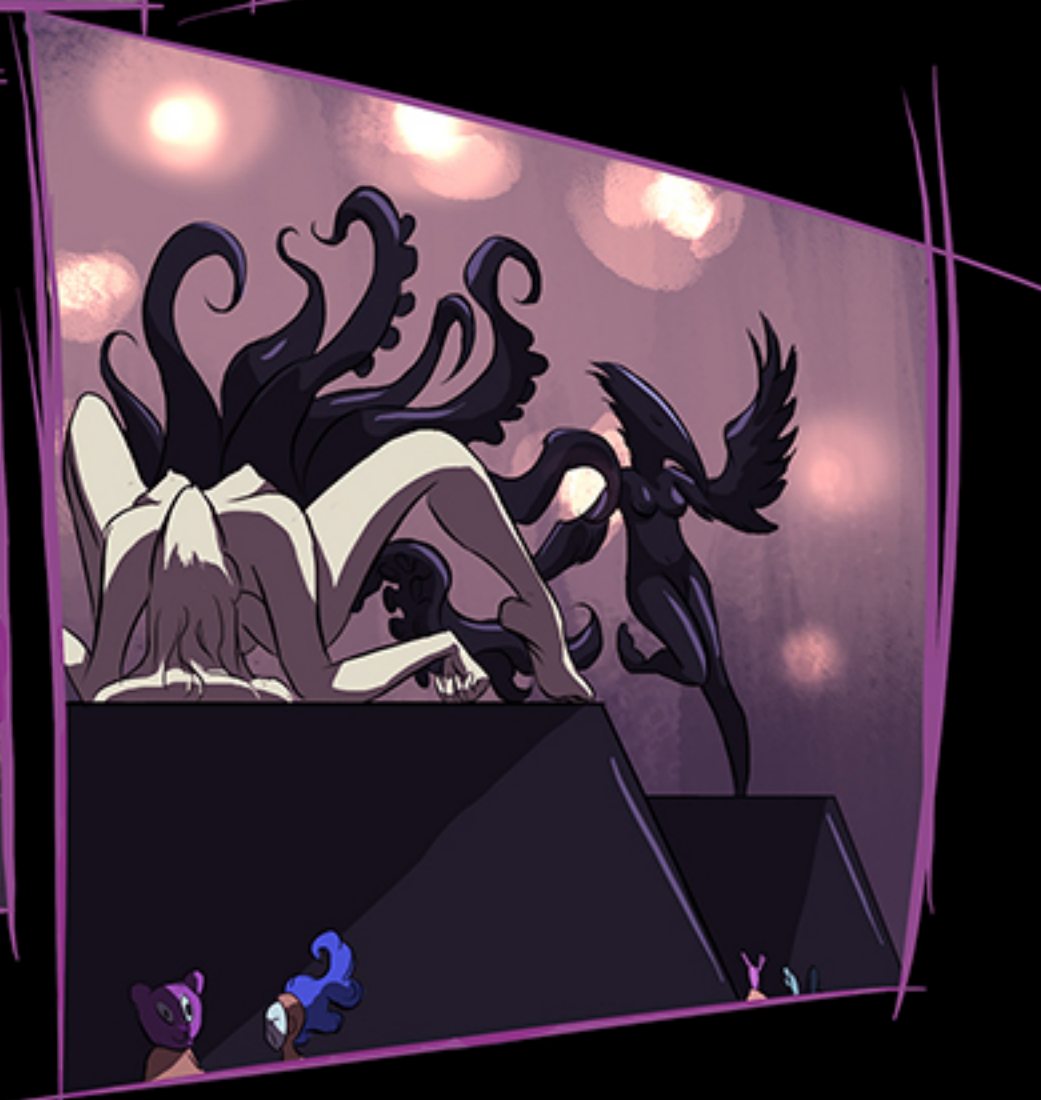
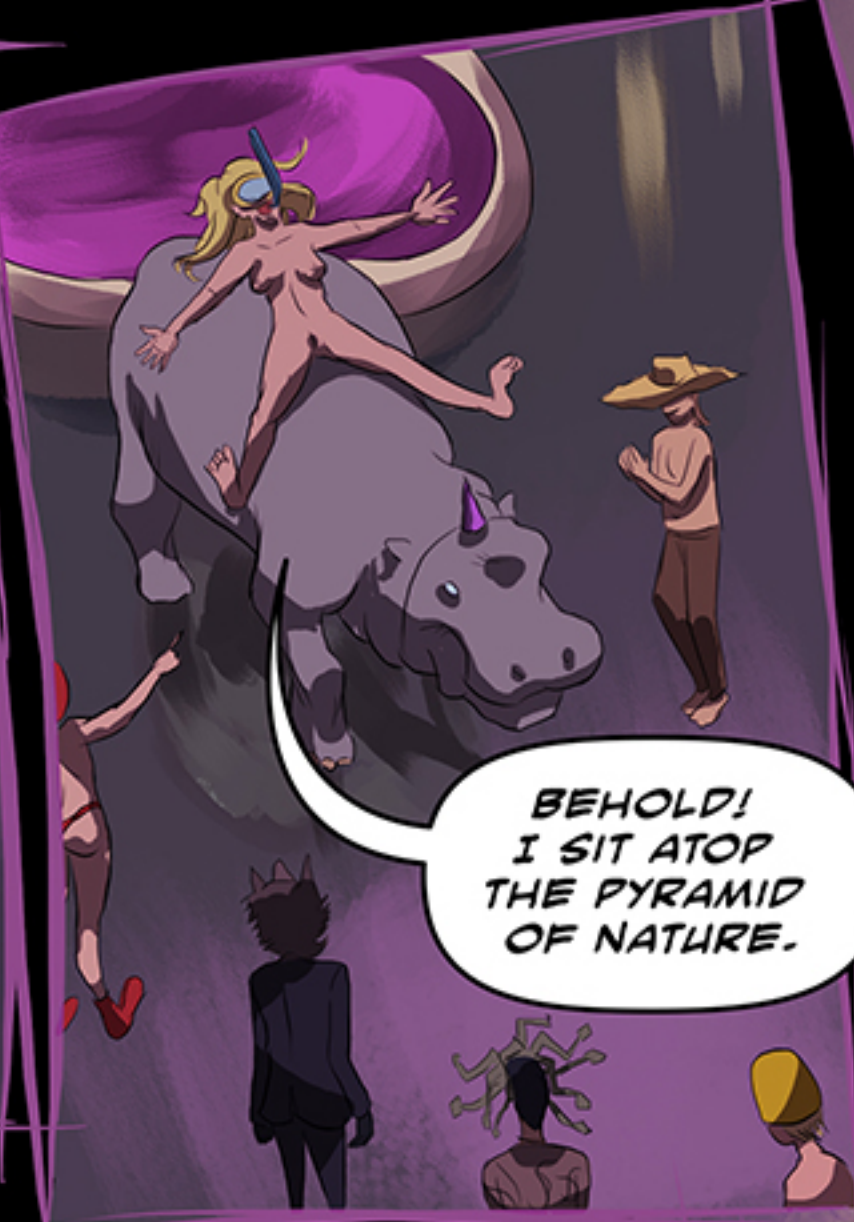




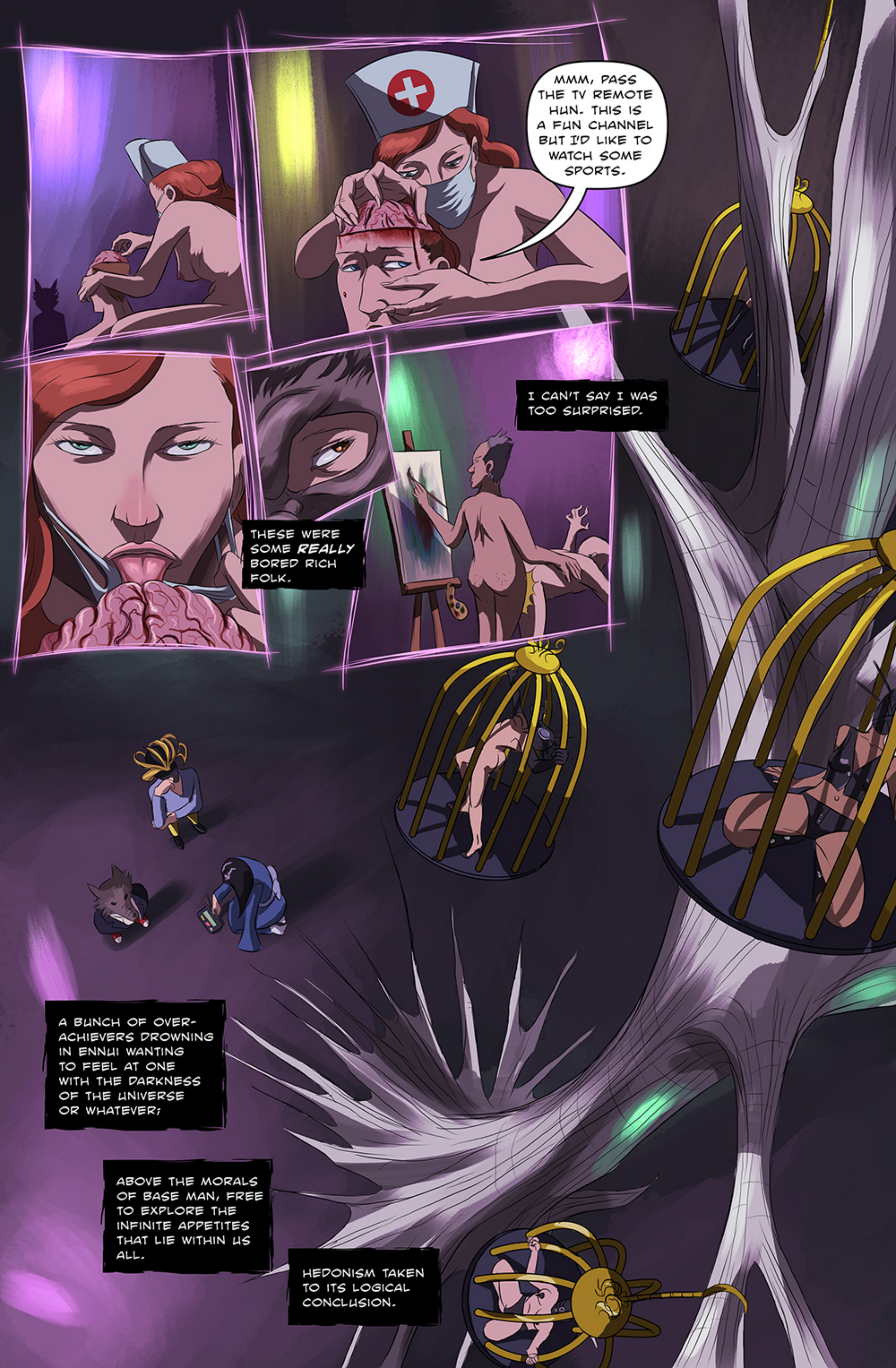
THE CHRISTMAS CLUB.











MMM, PASS THE TV REMOTE HUN. THIS IS A FUN CHANNEL BUT I'D LIKE TO WATCH SOME SPORTS.

I CAN'T SAY I WAS TOO SURPRISED.

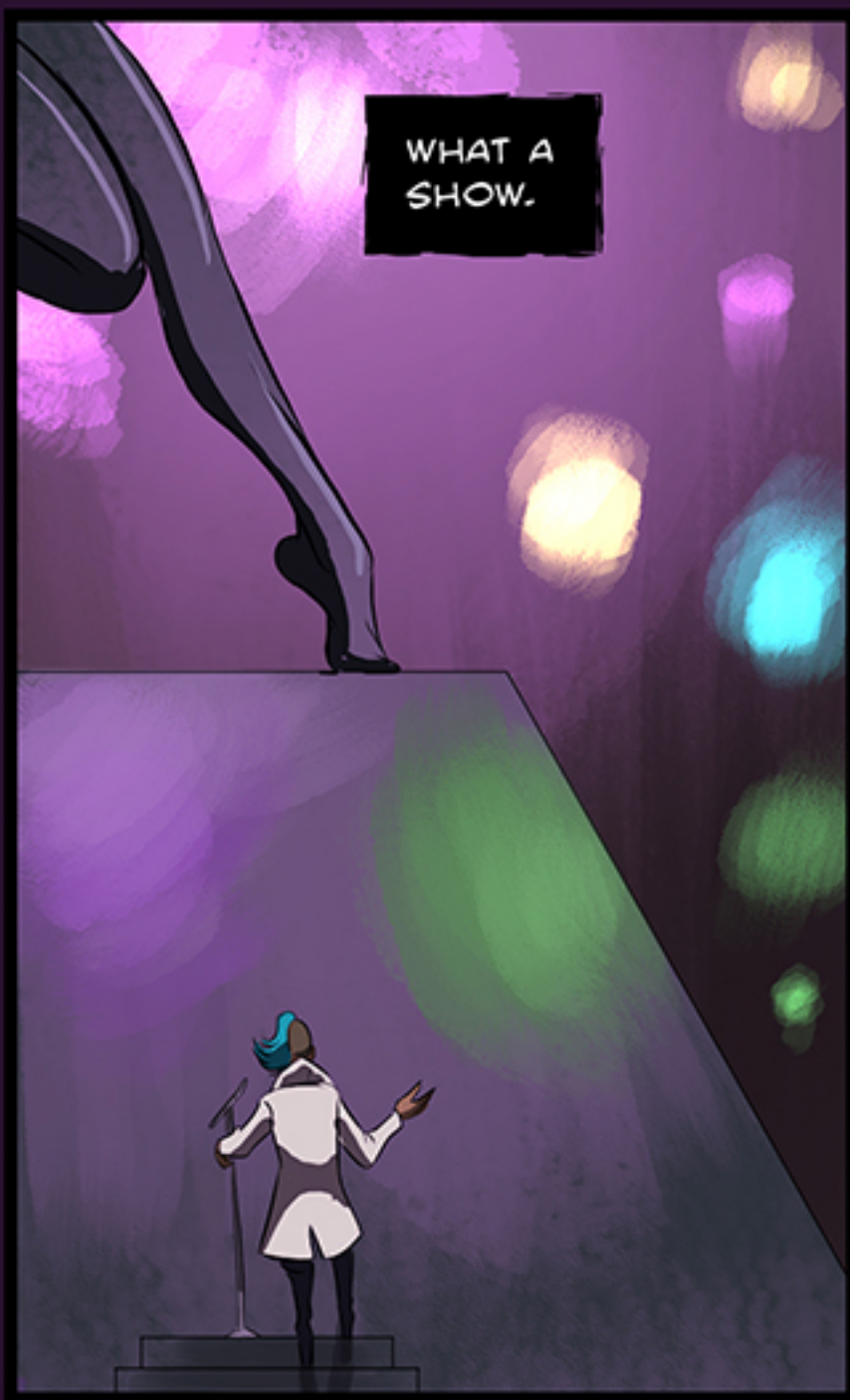
THESE WERE SOME *REALLY* BORED RICH FOLK.

A BUNCH OF OVER-ACHIEVERS DROWNING IN ENNUI WANTING TO FEEL AT ONE WITH THE DARKNESS OF THE UNIVERSE OR WHATEVER?

ABOVE THE MORALS OF BASE MAN, FREE TO EXPLORE THE INFINITE APPETITES THAT LIE WITHIN US ALL.

HEDONISM TAKEN TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION.





WHAT A  
SHOW.



I DIDN'T GIVE  
A SHIT ABOUT  
THE GIRL DEAD  
IN THE GUTTER.

NO, I CAME  
FOR THIS.

MY BEAUTIFUL,  
BEAUTIFUL  
CHILDREN OF  
THE DAWN.

FOR A  
MOMENT MIGHT  
YOU PAUSE IN YOUR  
BLESSED ACTIVITIES THAT  
I, YOUR BENEFACTOR  
MAY SAY A FEW  
WORDS.



IT'S SO WONDERFUL WATCHING  
YOU ALL PARTAKE FREELY WITHOUT  
HESITATION OR RESERVATION  
LIKE THE CAREFREE CHILDREN  
YOU TRULY ARE.



WE OF THE CHRISTMAS CLUB ARE  
THE ONLY TRUE WAY TO THE LIFE  
OF ENDLESS WONDERMENT  
THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER.



NO FALSE RELIGION HERE, NO  
FAKE MESSIAH OFFERING A  
PATH TO SALVATION PAVED  
WITH YOUR OWN GUILT AND  
SUFFERING.



WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW  
DAWN. WE HAVE CAST AWAY ALL  
DELUSIONS.  
WE WILL ALL DIE.  
AND THE LIFE THAT PRECEEDS  
IT WILL BE GLORIOUS  
AND INFINITE.

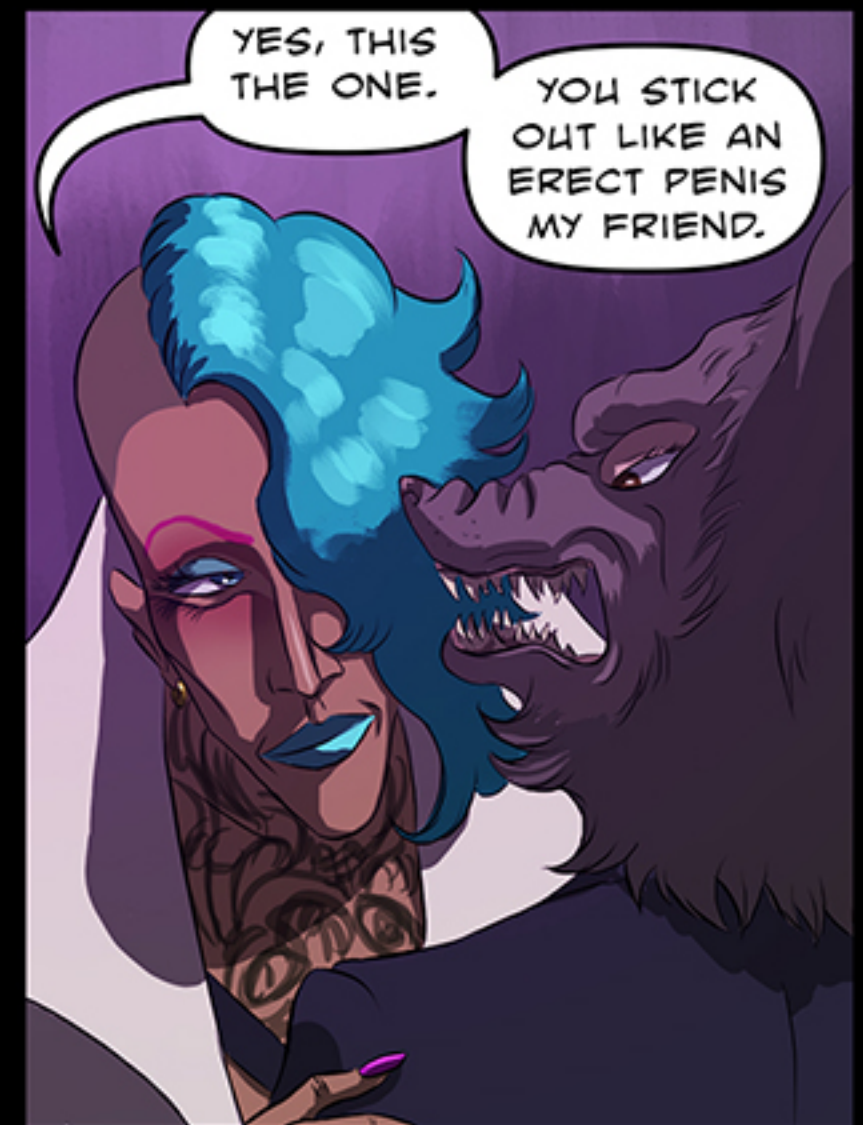


HOO HOO. OH I DO GET CARRIED  
AWAY DON'T I? BUT I KNOW WHAT'S  
TRULY ON YOUR MINDS.  
WHERE IS OUR HONOURED  
GUEST WHOSE NAME LURED  
YOU ALL HERE.  
WHAT OF MR PUNCH?



TRULY HE IS THE MAN OF THE  
HOUR. RECLUSIVE YES, BUT  
WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT ENTICE  
HIM WITH THIS LITTLE GET-  
TOGETHER IN HIS HONOUR.





SO THEY KICK MY ASS A BIT.

OUCH.



IT'S NOT TERRIBLY INTERESTING SO LET'S MOVE ON.





G-GODDAMMIT  
KAFF

DON'T WORRY  
KITTEN. THIS IS NOTHING  
COMPARED TO WHAT'S  
COMING.

GUSTAVE  
LISTEN TO ME.  
HE WAS BLACKMAILING  
ME. I HAD NO  
CHOICE.



I-I'VE BEEN  
LOYAL TO YOU FOR  
YEARS, YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO--

OH I KNOW  
DEAR I KNOW.

SSSH SSSH  
YOU'VE BEEN  
AN EXEMPLARY  
EMPLOYEE.  
5 STARS.



SET THE  
ANGEL OVER  
THERE RIGHT  
NEXT TO PUNCH'S  
GIFT.

I'LL HAVE FUN  
WITH THAT ONE.  
WHAT A PERFECT  
SPECIMEN.





THE  
GIRL!

SHE'S IN BAD  
SHAPE. IS SHE  
EVEN ALIVE?

O! MAKE SURE  
IT'S LOOKING. IT  
MUST SEE THIS.

I WANT TO  
SHOW MY  
FAVOURITE  
EMPLOYEE  
JUST HOW  
STRONG MY  
LOVE IS  
FOR HER.

NOW WATCH  
VERY CLOSELY. THIS  
WILL BE THE MOST  
INTENSE EXPERIENCE  
YOU CAN  
IMAGINE.

AND IT  
WILL JUST BE  
A PRELUDE.

HE MADE ME WATCH  
ALL RIGHT, THAT SICK  
BASTARD.

HER SCREAMS WERE  
THE WORST THING.

THEY CURDLED  
THE AIR RED.

YOU OKAY  
CAROL?  
CAROL?  
HEE HEE  
HEE

UNTIE  
THAT  
ONE.

WELL, I  
HAVE TALENT  
I THINK I  
DO.

UUUUHHH...

WITH IT  
I CAN TRY  
THINGS I'VE  
ONLY DREAMT  
ABOUT.

I'M SO  
EXCITED I  
CAN BARELY  
KEEP THIS  
ONE IN  
CHECK.



AND THERE  
HE WAS.



ALL I COULD DO WAS  
WATCH AS HE TALKED.



FOR EACH OF THEM  
HE CHOSE SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT.

A COMMAND, A UNIQUE  
TASK TO PERFORM.



THEY ALL HAD ONE  
THING IN COMMON  
THOUGH...





THE RESULT.



I CAN'T REMEMBER  
HIS FACE NO MATTER  
HOW HARD I TRY.

You look  
terribly weary.  
Perhaps you should  
take a nap.

BUT I'LL NEVER  
FORGET THE SOUND  
OF HIS VOICE.

IT WAS THE  
SWEETEST THING  
I'D EVER HEARD.

AND THAT'S IT. YOU  
GUYS FOUND ME  
BECAUSE I MESSAGED  
AN ASSOCIATE WITH MY  
GPS COORDINATES  
BEFORE I WENT INTO  
THE WAREHOUSE.

FIGURED  
THINGS MIGHT GET  
OUT OF HAND SO  
I TOLD HIM TO CALL  
THE COPS IF I  
MISSED MY HOURLY  
CHECK-IN.

MMM





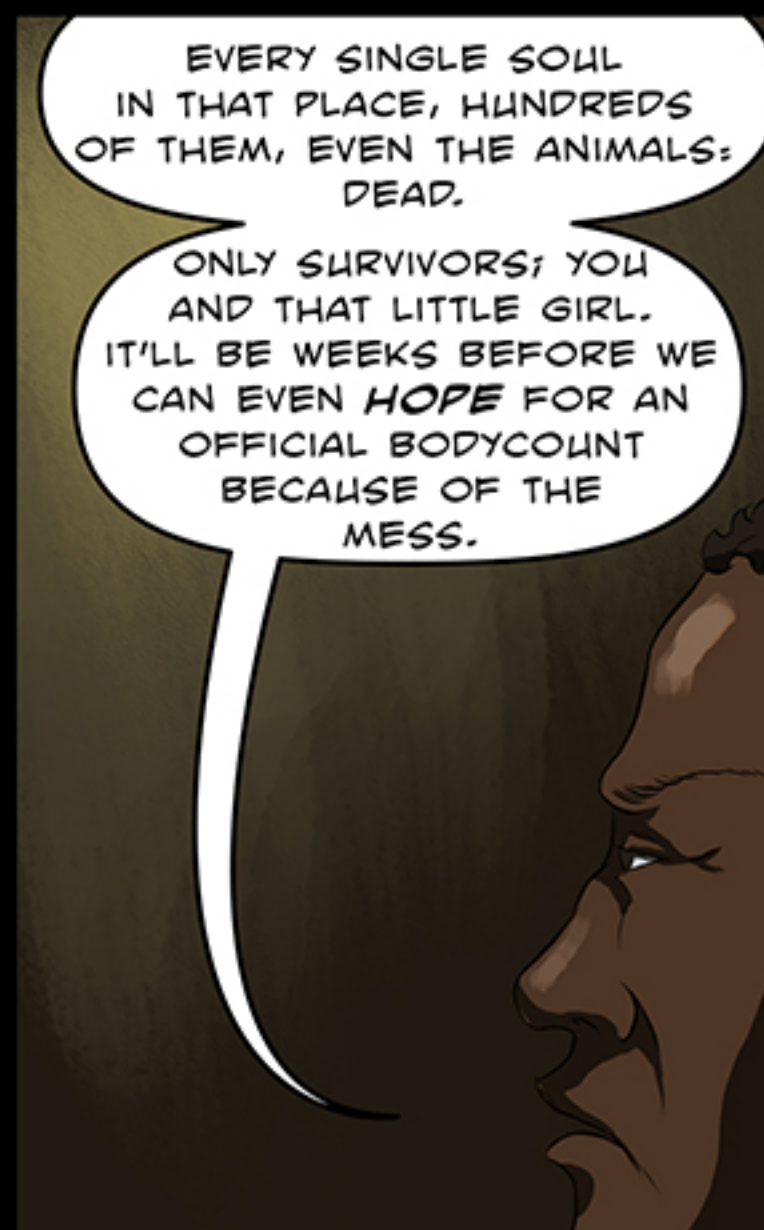


WHY DO YOU THINK MR PUNCH SPARED YOU?



MAYBE CUZ OF MY 'SPECIAL' CONDITION. I'M SURE YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT IT.

MAYBE BECAUSE I WASN'T ONE OF THEM. I DIDN'T KNOW HE GOT THEM ALL TILL YOU TOLD ME.



EVERY SINGLE SOUL IN THAT PLACE, HUNDREDS OF THEM, EVEN THE ANIMALS: DEAD.

ONLY SURVIVORS; YOU AND THAT LITTLE GIRL. IT'LL BE WEEKS BEFORE WE CAN EVEN *HOPE* FOR AN OFFICIAL BODYCOUNT BECAUSE OF THE MESS.



ALL SELF-INFLICTED I'LL BET.

...  
YOU GUYS ARE AFTER HIM AREN'T YOU?



YOU TWO ARE NUTS.

THAT'S SOMETHING I *NEVER* WANT EXPERIENCE AGAIN.



GET THOSE CUFFS OFF HIM.

MY CLIENT WILL BE LEAVING NOW SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HIM.



YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THESE GUYS DID YOU?

NOT A WORD.







THE LITTLE  
GIRL. SHE  
GONNA BE  
OK?



TOO EARLY  
TO TELL. THEY'VE  
GOT HER IN THE I.C.U  
RIGHT NOW. SHE'S  
REALLY BEEN THROUGH  
THE RINGER.

WE'RE  
GONNA FOLLOW UP  
ON THE ADDRESS  
YOU GAVE. GOT A  
NAME FOR US?



NOPE. I  
GUESS I WAS TOO  
BUSY CHASING  
THE CAT'S TAIL TO  
FIND OUT THE  
IMPORTANT STUFF.



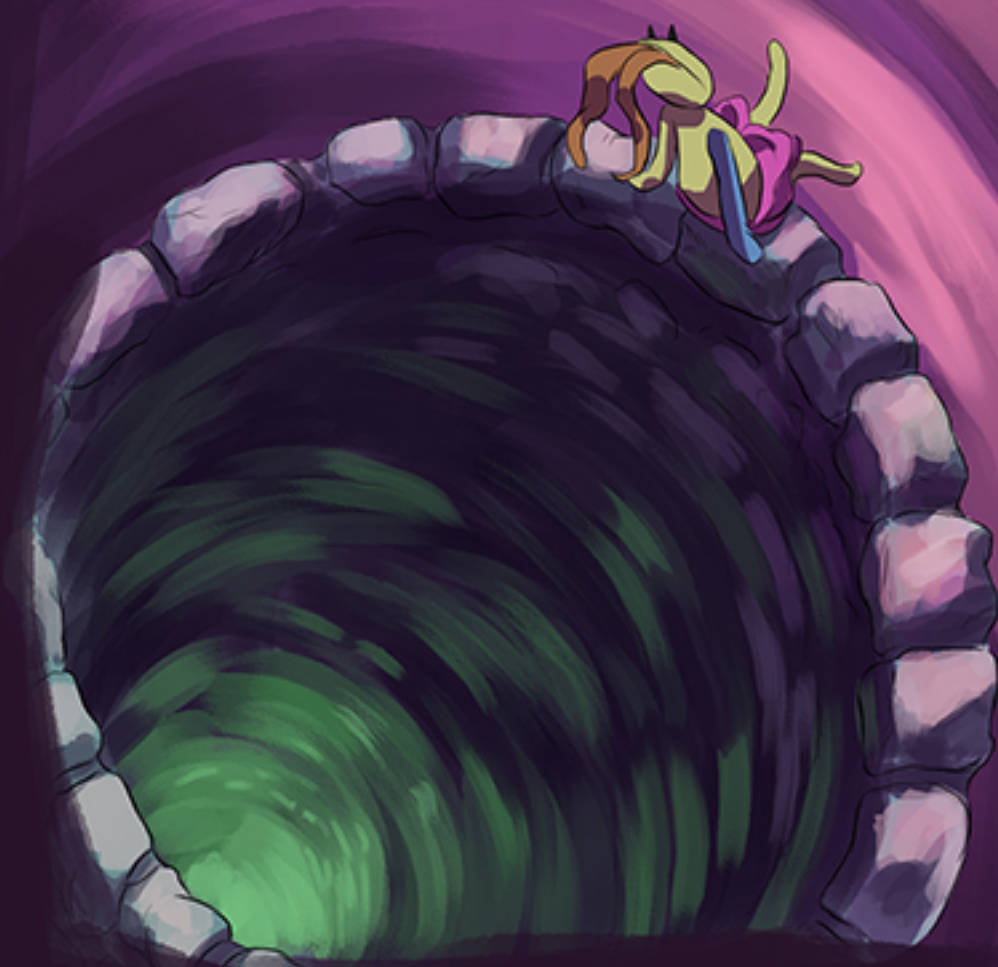
ONE LAST  
THING. I WOULD  
STRONGLY CAUTION  
AGAINST CHASING A  
FAIRYTALE.

SHEEP AND  
PIGGIES TEND  
TO GET EATEN.



CHEEKY  
LITTLE  
BASTARD.





I THINK SHE'LL BE OK.

TRUE, SHE MAY HAVE LOST A FEW THINGS. BUT DON'T WE ALL?



I SHOULD'VE ACTED SOONER THOUGH.

I CAN BE SUCH AN INDECISIVE TWAT SOME-TIMES



ANYWAYS, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED WE'RE SQUARE NOW.



Splendid.



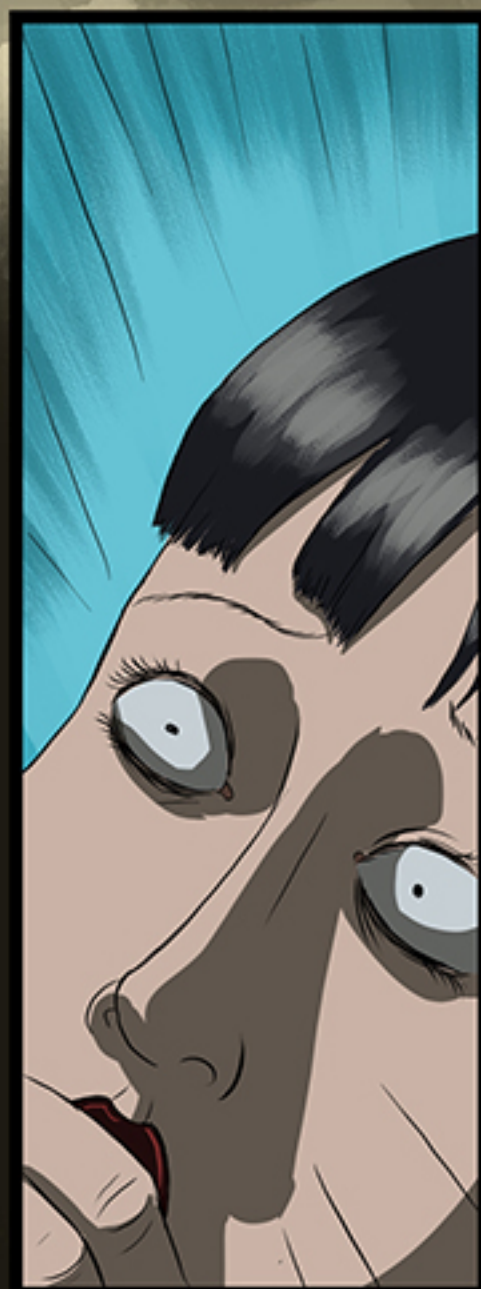


MMM, I  
CAN JUST TELL  
YOU'VE HAD A  
REALLY HARD  
DAY.

LET ME  
SOOTHE  
YOUR TIRED  
BODY BABY.



OOH~♥  
**THIS**  
ONE SEEMS  
TO BE ALOT  
MORE  
INTERESTED  
THAN YOU.







TCH..  
AM I PAYING  
YOU TO  
STARE?













Moral:  
Admiration & Understanding  
are rarely co-incident.



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