

Fabulae ATROCES Fausti



“Bait”

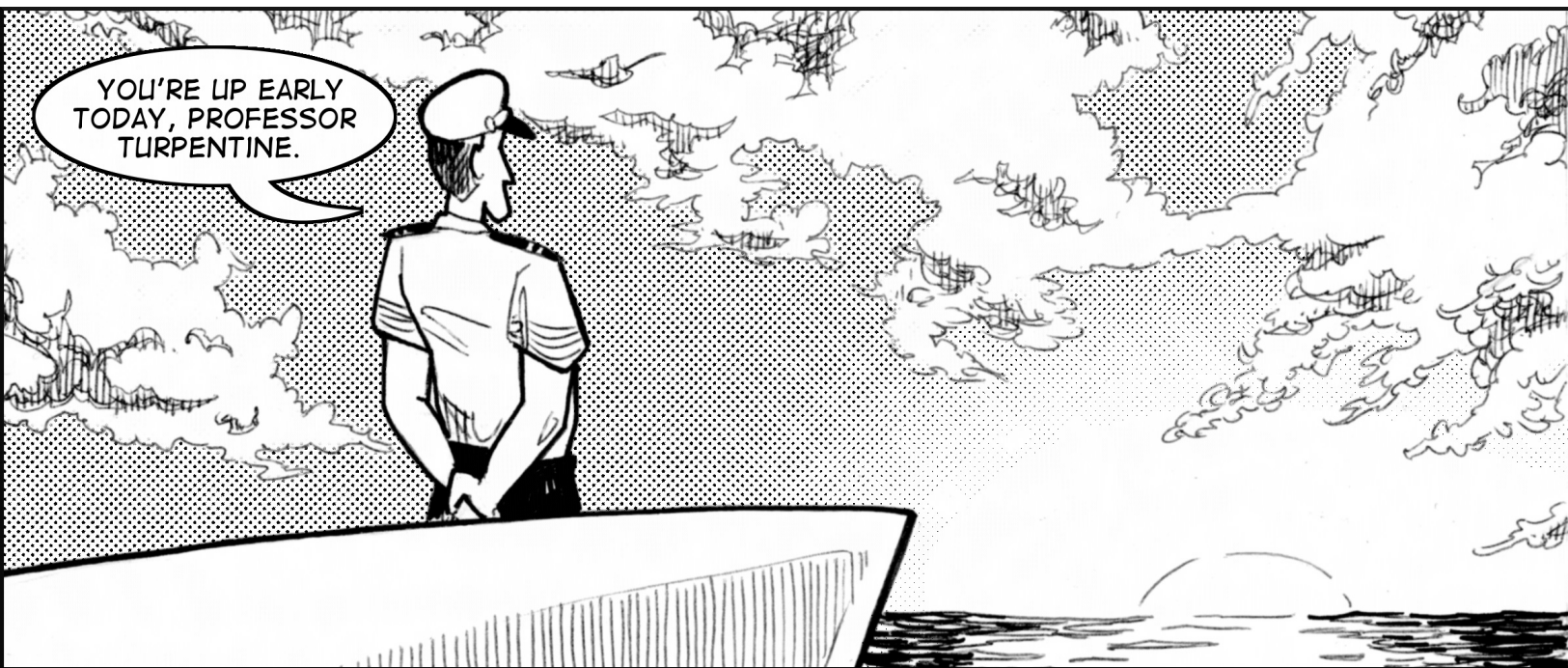
Iago Faustus
Erosarts

Bait is a graphic novella about scientists' pursuit of a mysterious marine tentacle monster and the very unusual bait that is necessary to lure it. Bait contains explicit representations of sexual situations and some disturbing ideas and should not be considered suitable for minors.

The contents of this PDF are the graphic novella Bait and various pieces of artwork associated with it. Bait was written by Iago Faustus, Ph.D. ("Faustus," a pseudonym). Faustus commissioned the illustration of Bait and all the associated artwork herein. The whole work and its individual parts are all published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Details of the license can be found at this URL: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>. Under the terms of the license, you may copy and share this work as much as you like as long as you include the license. You may create derivative works (for example, your own stories or artwork based on the characters or situations in Bait) as long as you publish them under the same license as they are published under here. You may not sell the work or use any derivative works you create from it for commercial purposes. Furthermore, the license protects the moral rights of the artists, so do not alter their work without their consent. Questions about the license or inquiries about possible exemptions from the license should be directed to Faustus, who can be contacted at faustus@eroticmadscience.com or via his contact page at <https://eroticmadscience.com/72-2/>.

Iago Faustus is a failed academic who wishes he had never been born. He writes dirty comics and other things to help himself cope with the burden of being alive. Most of the comics he has written and commissioned, along with a variety of bespoke art and curated material, can be found at his principle website Erotic Mad Science, (<https://eroticmadscience.com>). Faustus also maintains two "scrapbook" sites of imagery he uses for guidance and inspiration, both suitable only for adults. The first of these, Hedonix (<http://hedonix.org>), contains comparatively mild adult and non-adult content. A second, Infernal Wonders (<http://baalberith.net/wp>), explores darker black-comic and erotic-horror themes. Faustus has created a special "Rosetta stone" site (<https://www.wrections.com>), which consists of a short comic he wrote ("Bubbles") translated into at least twenty languages. Finally, he also writes short pessimistic rants and essays at his philosophy blog Pyrosophy (<https://pyrosophy.net>). You can follow Faustus on Twitter at @EroticMadSci and contact him via his contact page (<http://eroticmadscience.com/72-2/>) or at faustus@eroticmadscience.com.

Erosarts is an American professional freelance artist with extensive experience illustrating adult, fantasy, and science fiction comics. He is the illustrator of Tales of Gnosis College, "Bubbles," Bait, and other comics written by Iago Faustus, the creator of They Want Our Women and imMATURE Comics, and a frequent contributor to the adult comics Danger Dolls and Tales of the Stripped. He maintains a DeviantArt site (<https://www.deviantart.com/erosarts>) at which you can see his art and through which he can be contacted.



YOU'RE UP EARLY
TODAY, PROFESSOR
TURPENTINE.



IT'S A BIG DAY FOR
US, CAPTAIN DRUMMINGDALE.
OUR FIRST ATTEMPT.

OH,
AYE.



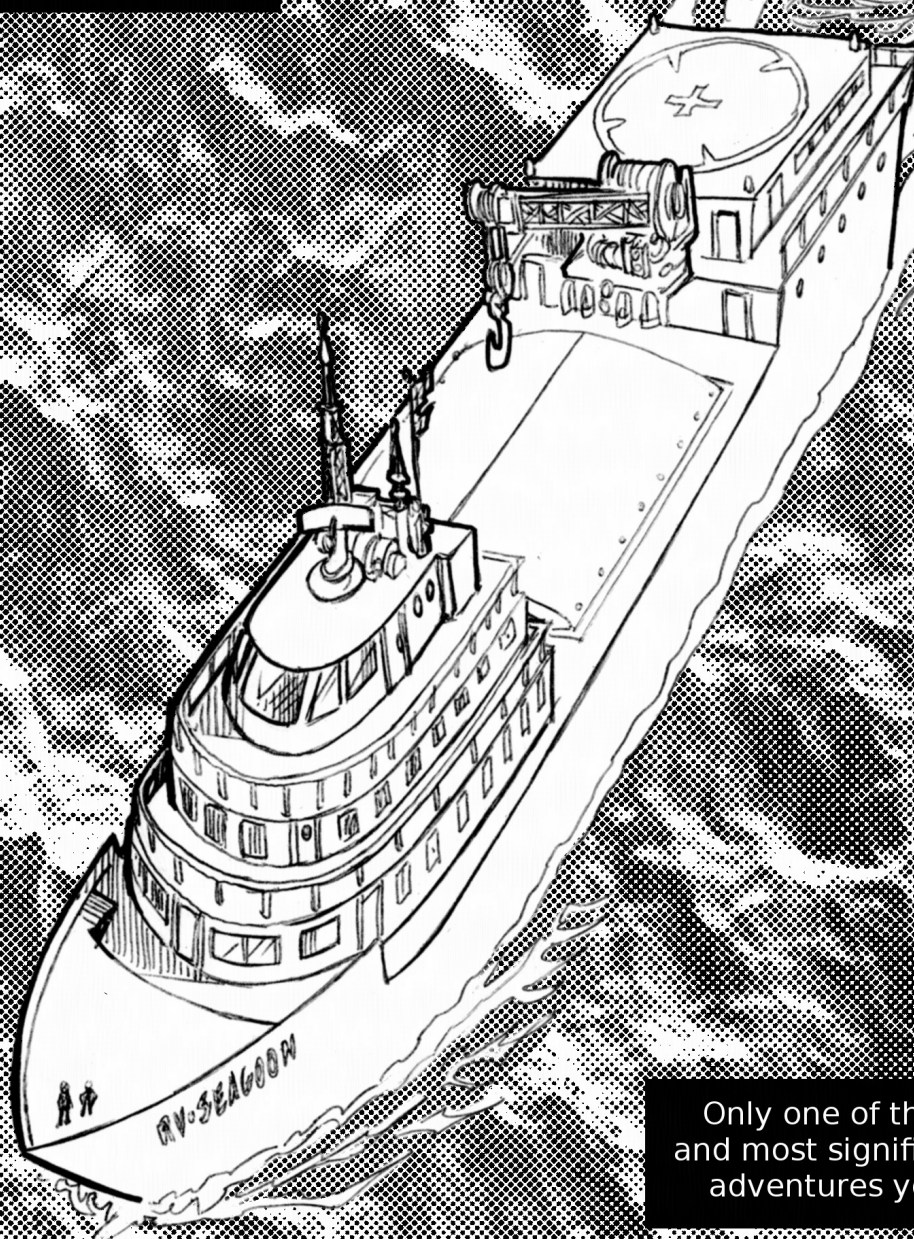
CAN'T
SAY I APPROVE
OF WHAT YOU'RE
GOING TO PUT
THOSE GIRLS
THROUGH.



THEY BOTH
SIGNED THE RELEASE,
CAPTAIN.


THEY
UNDERSTAND
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING.

What is it that Professor
Eustace Turpentine is
proposing that so disturbs
Captain Drummingle?



Only one of the strangest
and most significant scientific
adventures yet recorded.

And we document it here
for you for the first time!



PEOPLE ASK ME,
"WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE DOING, ELIZA?" AND "DON'T
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR WHOLE
LIFE AHEAD OF YOU?"

AND I SEE
THEIR POINT BUT,
THE THING IS,
ABOUT ME...

Eliza Fanshaw, Prospective Subject

...IS THAT I THINK THE MOST AM-
AZING THING ABOUT BEING ALIVE...



...IS SEX!



I'M NOT
SUPPOSED
TO SAY
THINGS LIKE
THIS, BUT
EVER SINCE
I WAS
FIFTEEN, I
HAVE BEEN
SEEKING
OUT SEXUAL
ADVENTURE.

I'VE EVEN ACTED IN
SOME EXPERIMENTAL
ADULT FILMS, JUST
TO SEE WHAT IT
WOULD BE LIKE.



AND
WHAT WAS
IT LIKE?

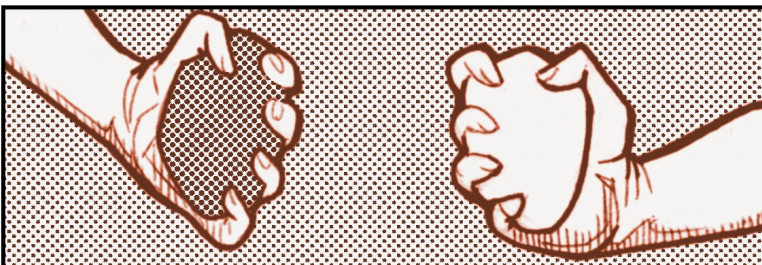
IT WAS
AWESOME!

BUT I DON'T
THINK ANYTHING COULD
COMPARE WITH THOSE MOVIES
I SAW IN ANTHRO.

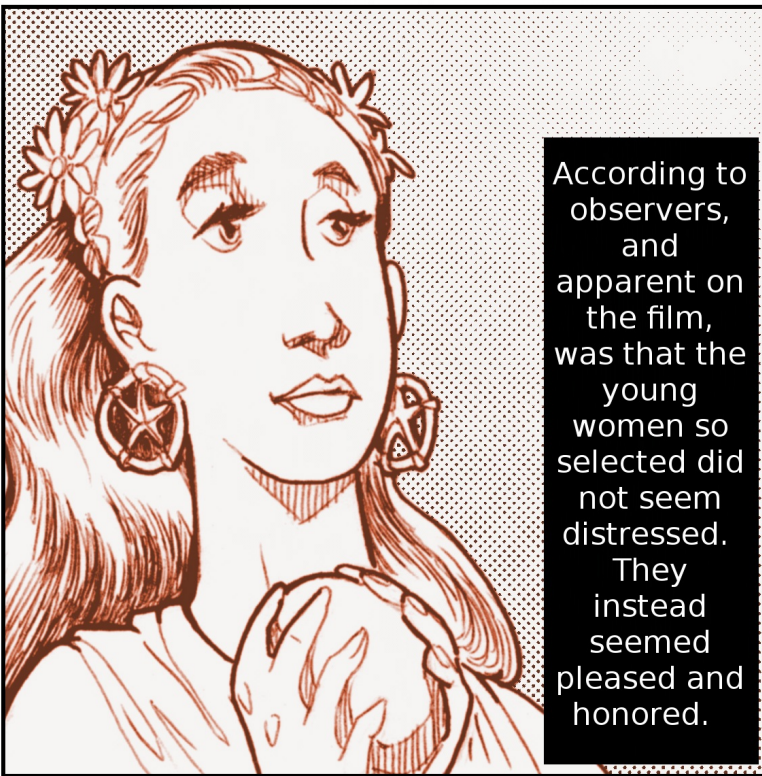
In 1905, Italian brothers Enzo and Guido Scelleratini, following up on sailors' rumors of a strange native cult on the South Seas island of Motofupo, went there with a movie camera in hopes of finding something unusual.



In spite of the fact that their rituals were rumored to include human sacrifice, the indigenous people proved friendly and allowed the Scelleratini brothers to film them and one of those very rituals.

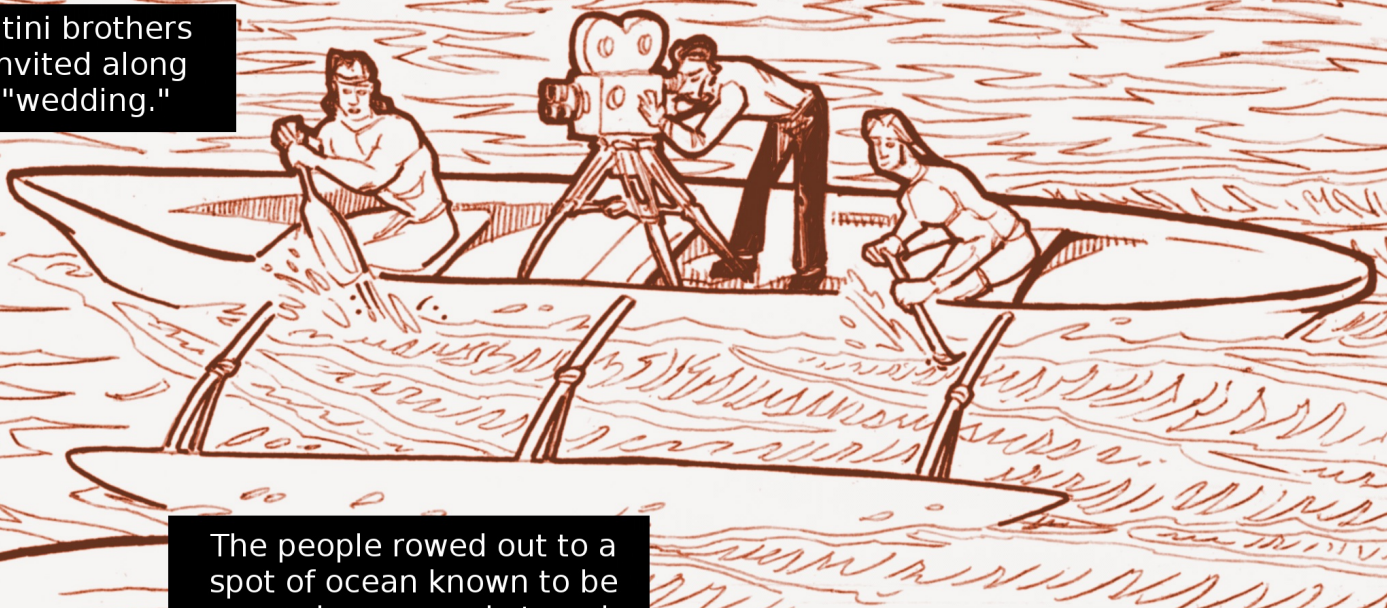


The first part of the ritual was a selection process to pick specific young women to be given to a "God of the Deeps" in marriage.



According to observers, and apparent on the film, was that the young women so selected did not seem distressed. They instead seemed pleased and honored.

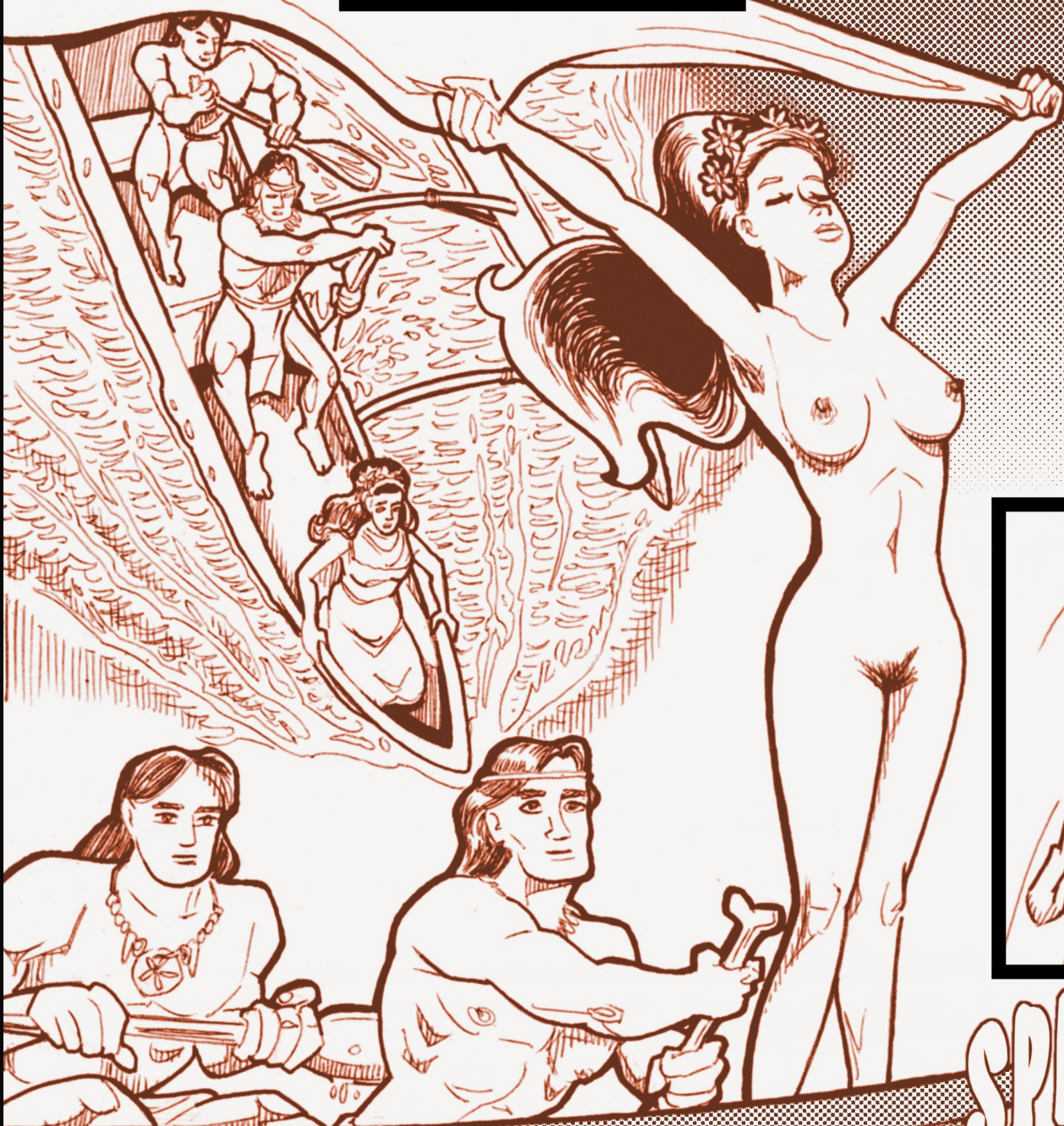
The Scelleratini brothers were even invited along to film the "wedding."



The people rowed out to a spot of ocean known to be over a deep oceanic trench.

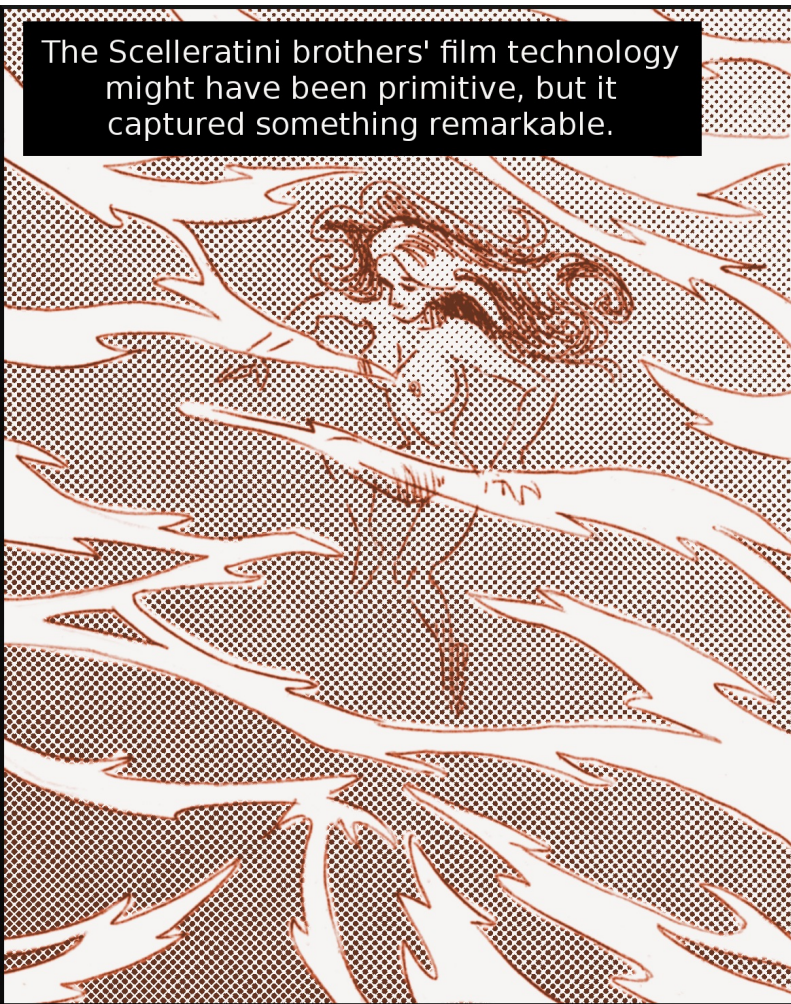
Those involved seemed to regard the entire proceeding as a blessed occasion.

The "bride" seemed to be acting of her own free will.



SPLASH!

The Scelleratini brothers' film technology might have been primitive, but it captured something remarkable.



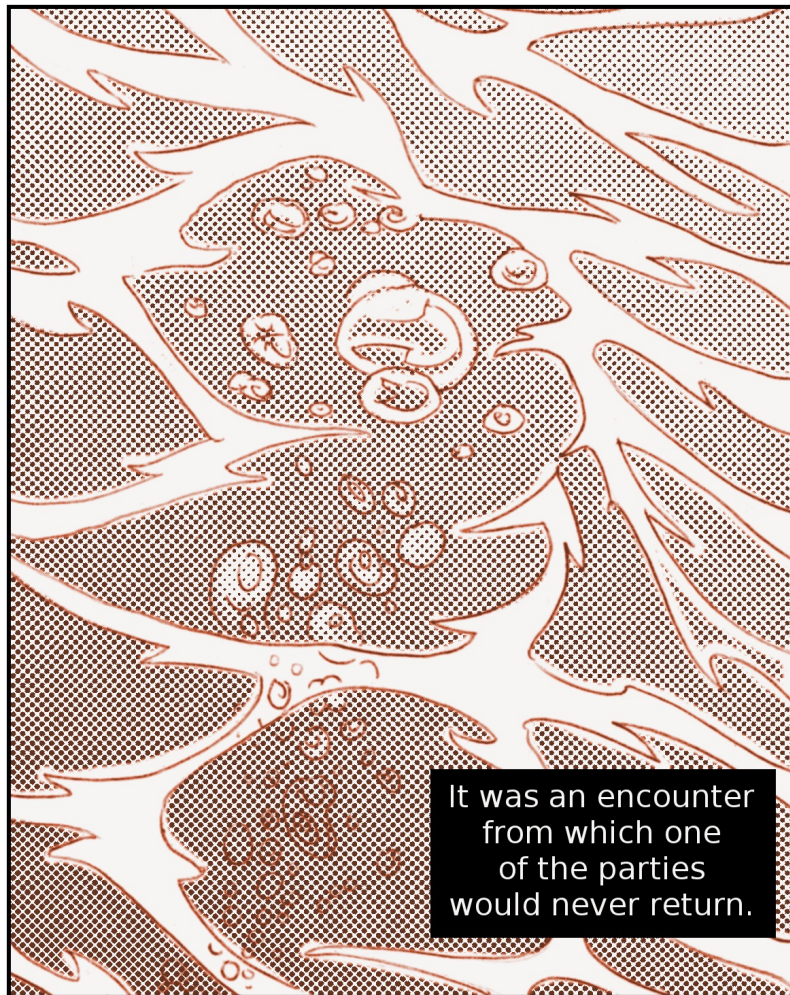
It was something like an alien encounter...



...or even a mating.



It was an encounter from which one of the parties would never return.

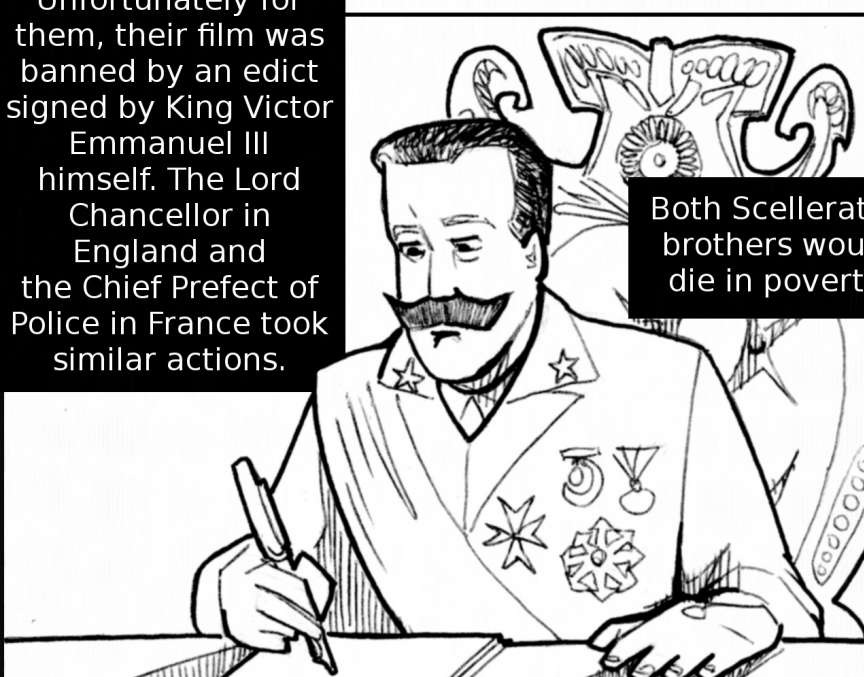


The Scelleratini brothers had hoped, on their return to Italy, to make a small fortune exhibiting their remarkable footage to the public.



Venite a vedere
una bellissima
ragazza dei
tropicali venir
mangiata viva
in un orribile
rituale pagano!

Unfortunately for them, their film was banned by an edict signed by King Victor Emmanuel III himself. The Lord Chancellor in England and the Chief Prefect of Police in France took similar actions.



Both Scelleratini brothers would die in poverty.

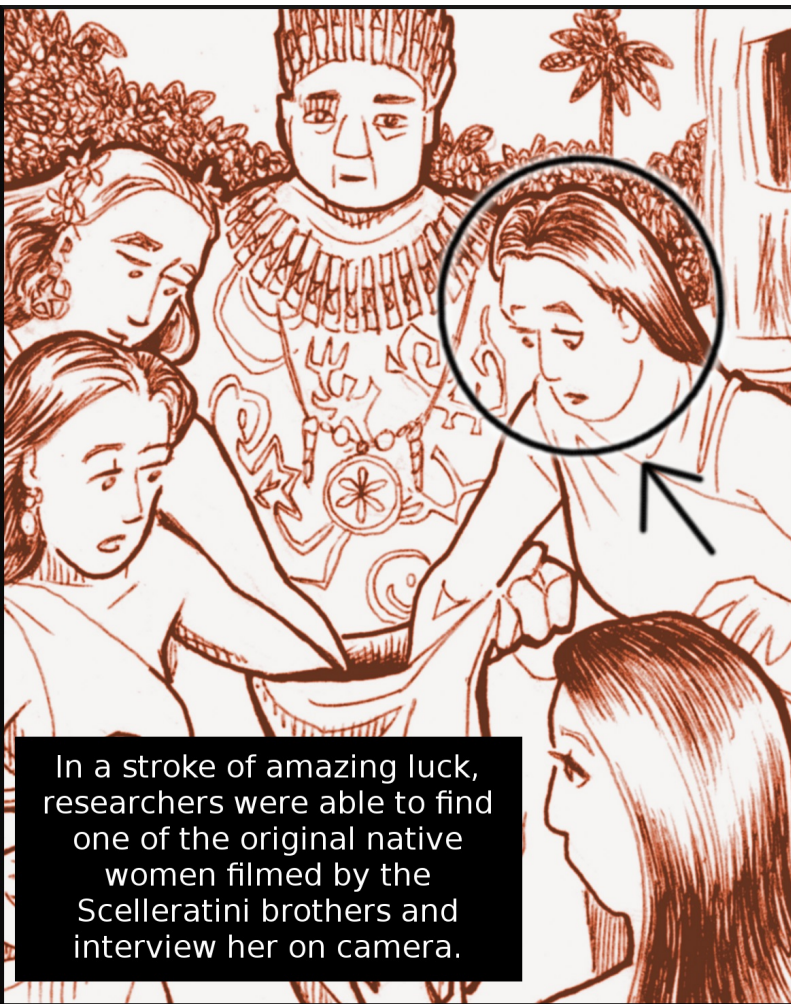


In 1927, Italy's Fascist Grand Council would declare the film a menace to public morality and order all copies of it destroyed.

What the Scelleratini brothers documented would pass out of memory...

But at least one print of the film escaped the destruction order, and in 1977, a researcher found that print in the archives of the *Cineteca di Bologna*, where it had been misfiled, possibly on purpose.





In a stroke of amazing luck, researchers were able to find one of the original native women filmed by the Scelleratini brothers and interview her on camera.



Ketiap sembilan belas tahun, sang dewa akan datang dari kedalaman. Jika kami memberikan pengantin untuknya, ia akan memberkati para penduduk dengan kesehatan yang baik dan ikan yang melimpah.

Every nineteen years, the god would come from the depths. If we gave him brides, he would bless our people with good health and abundant fish.

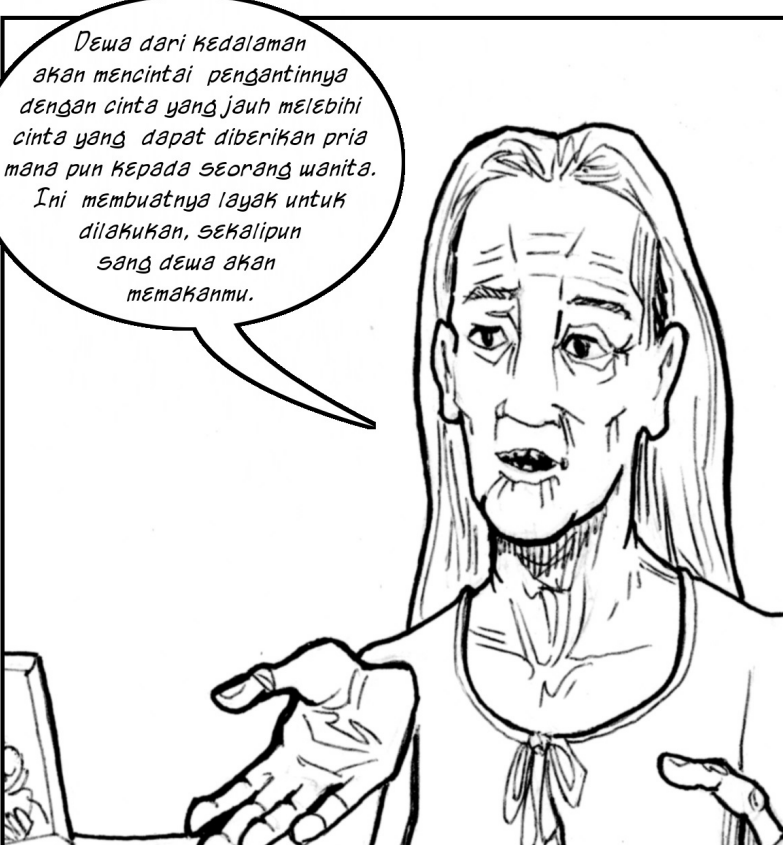


APAKAH ADA GADIS YANG TAKUT TERPILIH?

Were any of the girls afraid of being chosen?


Tidak ada yang takut. Kami semua ingin dipilih.

No one was afraid. We all wanted to be chosen.



Dewa dari kedalaman akan mencintai pengantinnya dengan cinta yang jauh melebihi cinta yang dapat diberikan pria mana pun kepada seorang wanita. Ini membuatnya layak untuk dilakukan, sekalipun sang dewa akan memakanmu.

The god of the depths would love his brides with a love far surpassing that which any man could show a woman. That made it worthwhile, even if he would eat you.

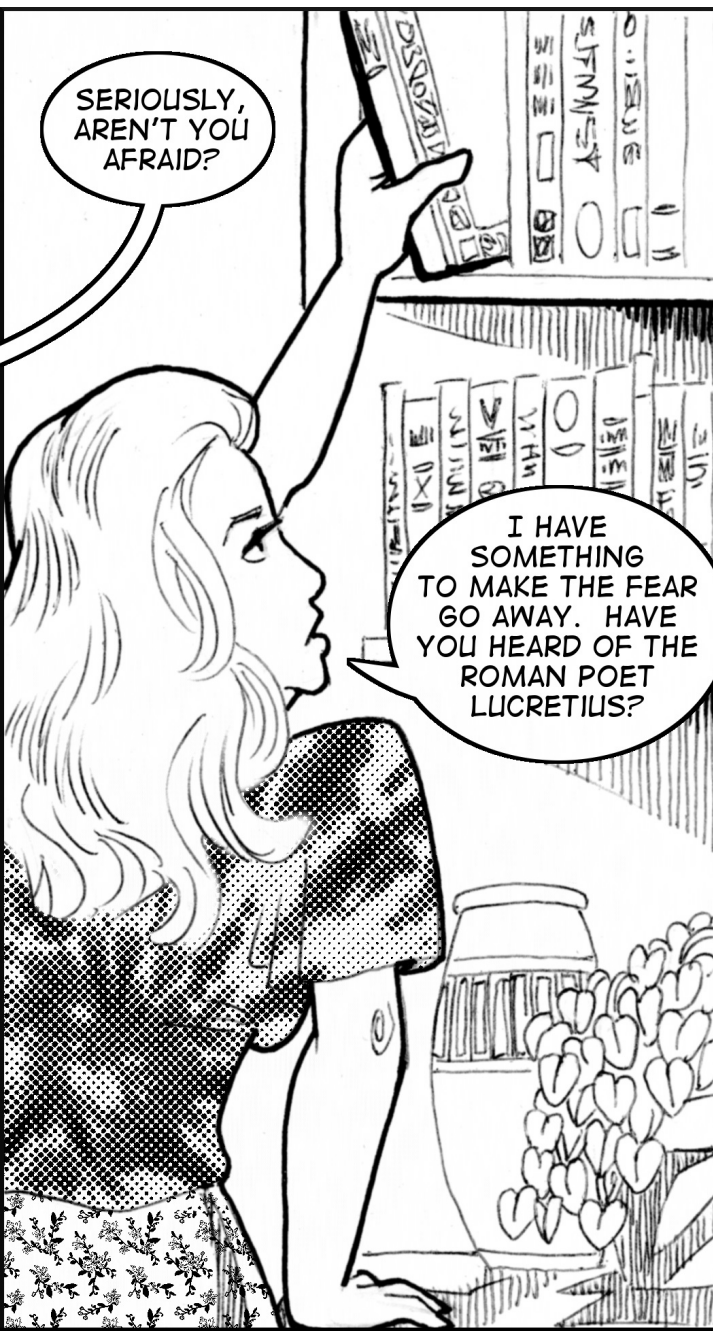
A black and white comic book panel. Two women are seated in ornate, high-backed chairs. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is looking towards the right. The woman on the right is also blonde, wearing a dark, short-sleeved top and a patterned skirt, and is looking towards the left. A third person's face is visible at the bottom right, looking up. A large diagonal line crosses the entire panel. There are four speech bubbles containing text.

I SUPPOSE I
CAN UNDERSTAND
YOUR INTEREST
IN... UNUSUAL
EXPERIENCES, BUT
STILL, THIS WOULD BE
YOUR **LAST** SUCH
EXPERIENCE.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

BUT PERHAPS
INSTEAD OF A LONG
STRING OF EXPERIENCES,
A STRING THAT'S JUST GOING
TO DIMINISH IN QUALITY AS
I GET OLDER AND OLDER, I
MIGHT WANT TO HAVE
ONE EXPERIENCE THAT
SURPASSES
THEM **ALL**.

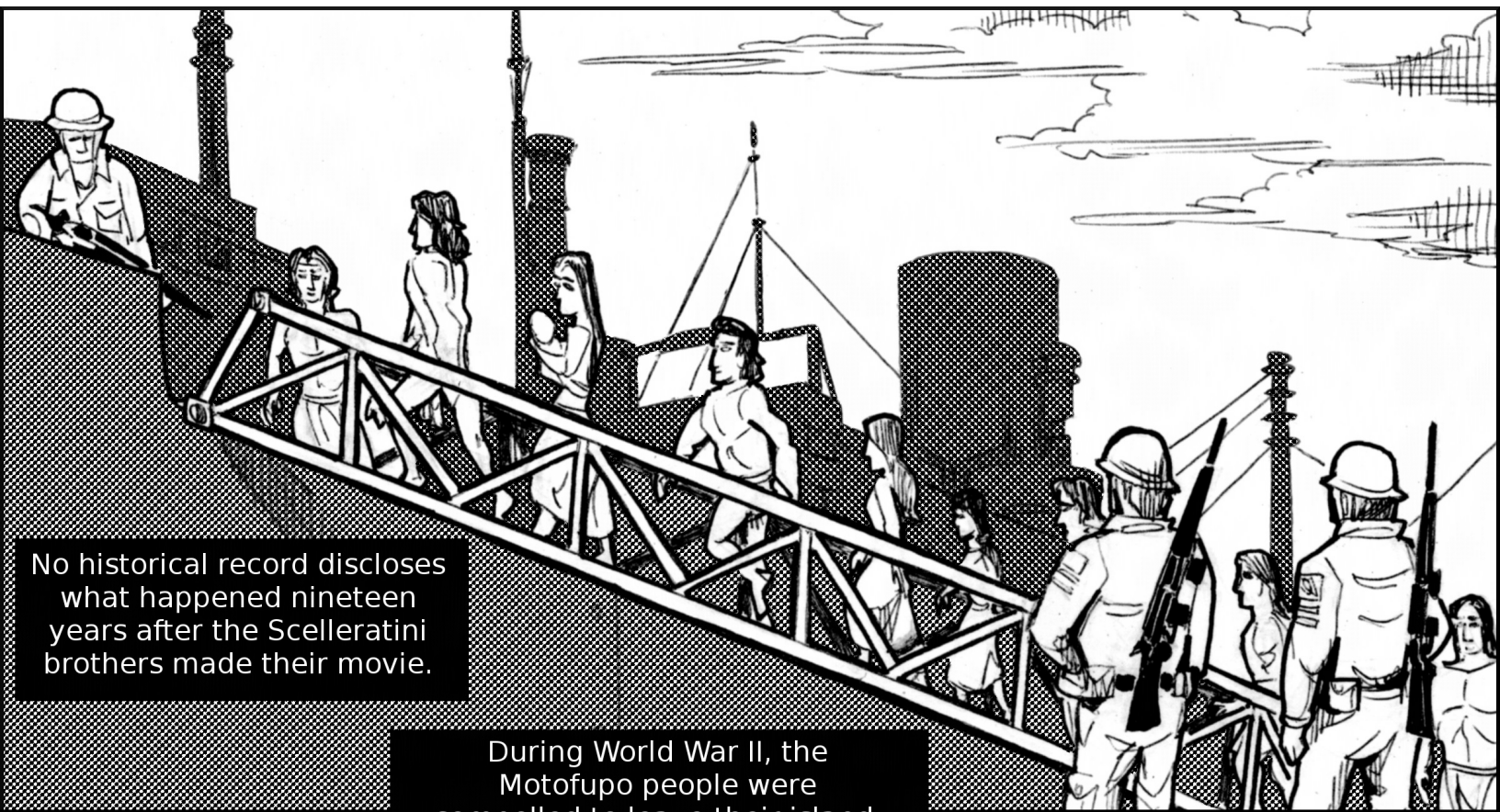
IT SORT OF
GETS ME HOT
JUST THINKING
ABOUT IT.



respice item quam nil
ad nos ante acta vetustas
temporis aeterni fuerit,
quam nascimur ante.
hoc igitur speculum
nobis natura futuri
temporis exponit
post mortem denique nostram

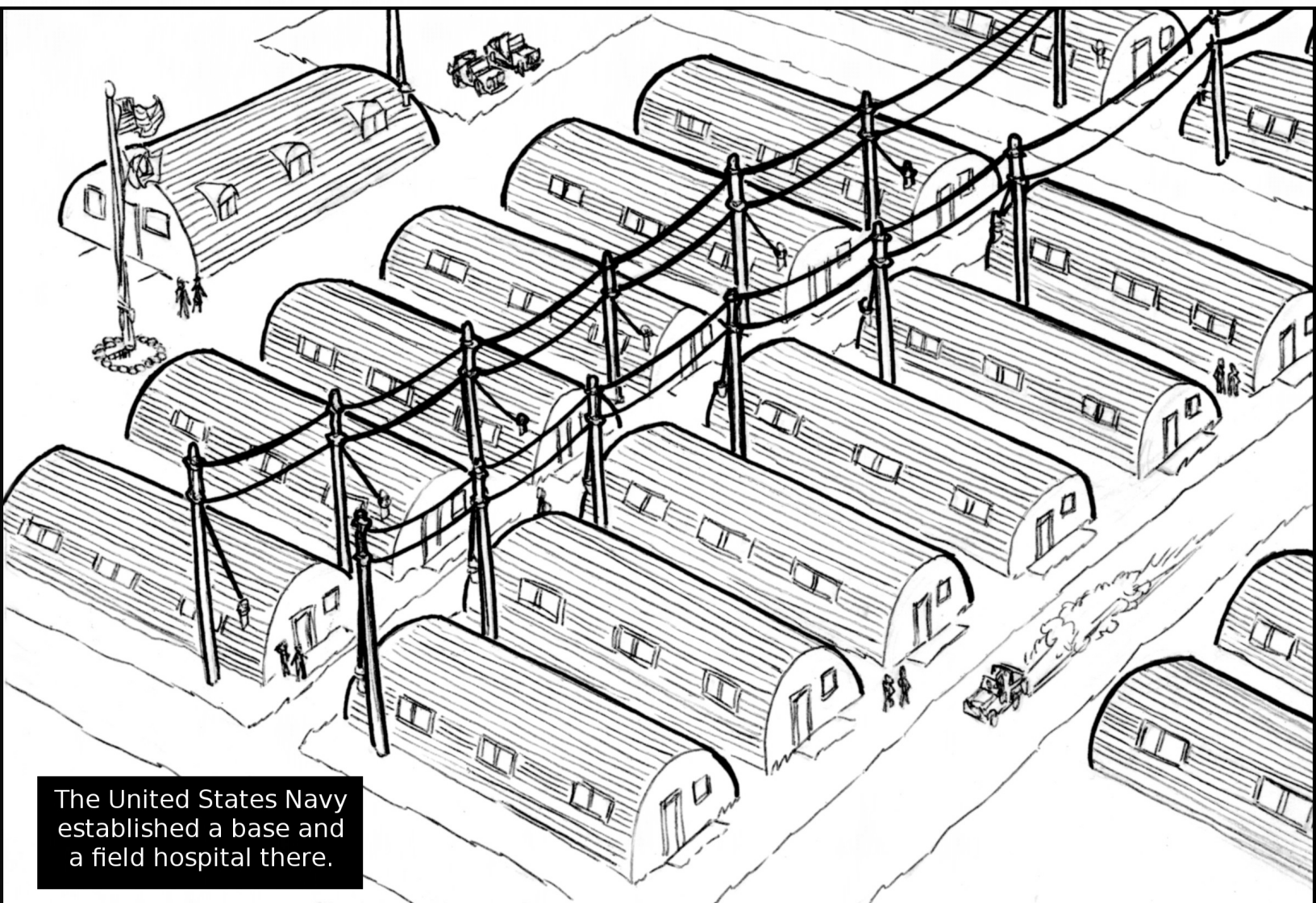
HE EXPLAINS THAT WE DIDN'T EXIST FOR AN ETERNITY BEFORE BEING BORN, AND THAT WASN'T BAD. SO WHY SHOULD IT BE BAD ONCE WE **STOP** EXISTING?





No historical record discloses what happened nineteen years after the Scelleratini brothers made their movie.

During World War II, the Motofupo people were compelled to leave their island.



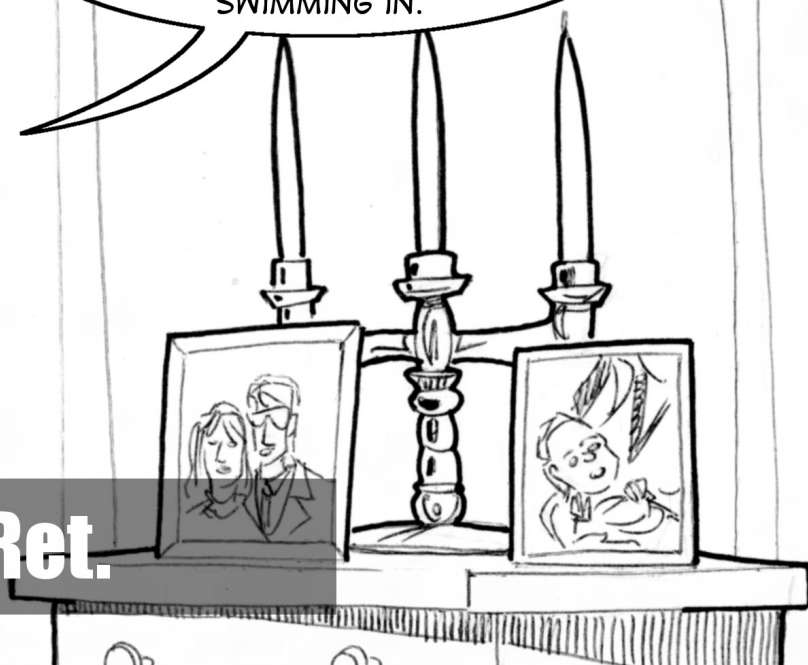
The United States Navy established a base and a field hospital there.

And the presence of a U.S. Navy hospital meant the presence of U.S. Navy nurses. We were able to interview one of the survivors.



Lt. Hazel Gluck, USN, Ret.

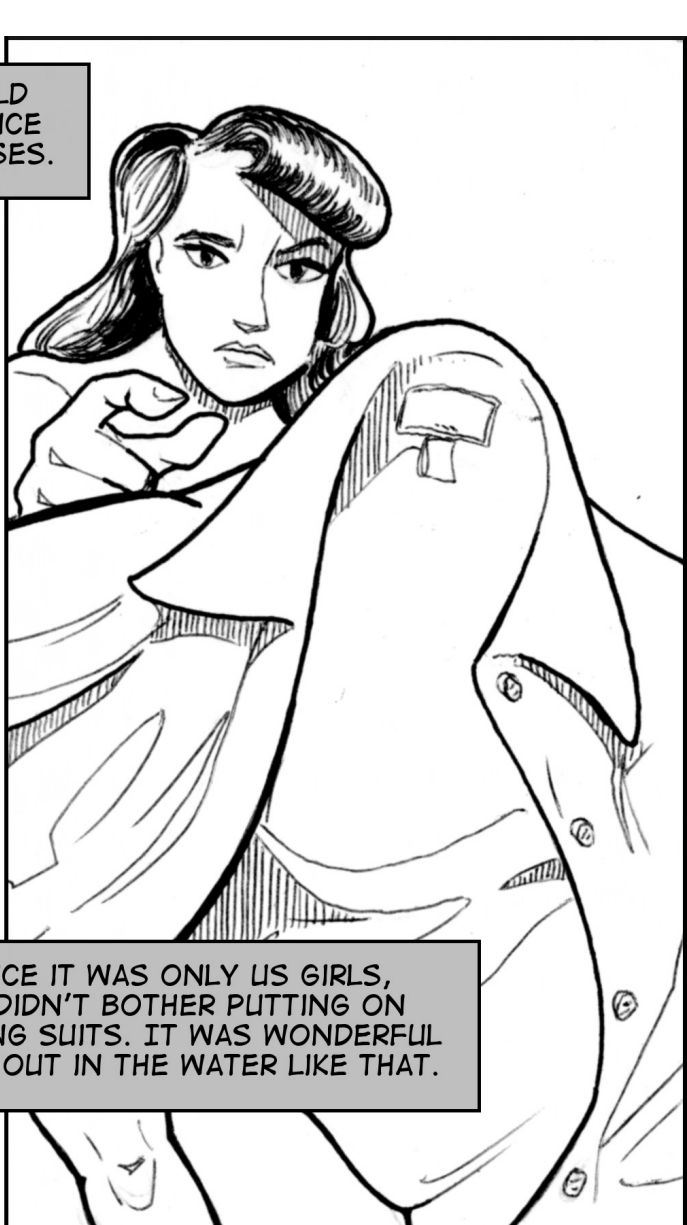
I REMEMBER
HOW WHEN WE WERE FIRST
POSTED TO MOTOFUPO, THERE
WAS THIS LOVELY BEACH WITH
BEAUTIFUL WATER TO GO
SWIMMING IN.




A black and white illustration of a woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a two-piece bikini and a light-colored cardigan draped over her shoulders. She is standing on a sandy beach with palm trees and a cloudy sky in the background. To her right is a rectangular sign on a wooden post.

THE SHORE PATROL WOULD
CLOSE THE BEACH OFF ONCE
A WEEK JUST FOR US NURSES.

**BEACH
STRICTLY
OFF LIMITS
TO ALL
MALE
PERSONNEL**


A black and white illustration of a woman with short, wavy hair, wearing a nurse's uniform. She is looking down with a serious expression, her hand near her face. The uniform has a visible pocket and buttons.

SINCE IT WAS ONLY US GIRLS,
WE DIDN'T BOTHER PUTTING ON
BATHING SUITS. IT WAS WONDERFUL
TO BE OUT IN THE WATER LIKE THAT.

A black and white illustration of an older woman with short, dark hair, wearing large, round glasses and a necklace. She has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the side.

BUT
THEN THE
DISAPPEARANCES
BEGAN. THIS
WAS IN 1943. ONE
OF THEM WAS MY
CABINMATE, WILLA
CONGERMAN.

SHE JUST WENT
SWIMMING ONE DAY
AND... DISAPPEARED.
SHE WAS A REALLY
STRONG SWIMMER,
AND IT WAS A
PERFECTLY CALM
DAY WITH NO TIDES.
NO ONE HEARD HER
CALL IN DISTRESS.

A black and white illustration of a group of nurses in uniform. In the foreground, a woman with short, wavy hair and a nurse's cap looks forward. Behind her, other nurses in similar uniforms are visible, though less detailed.

SOME SAID IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN A CRAMP,
BUT NO ONE EVER
FOUND A BODY. AND
THERE WEREN'T ANY
SHARKS IN THE AREA.



AND SHE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE. TWO MORE OF US ALSO DISAPPEARED IN ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

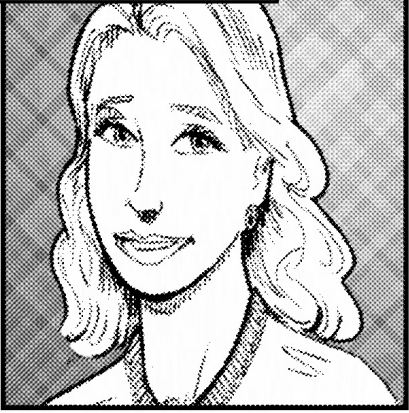


PEOPLE ASKED FEWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ORDERS BACK THEN, YOU KNOW.

I TRIED NOT TO THINK OF IT MUCH MYSELF, BUT IN THE LATE 1970S, I THINK, I SAW A FILM CLIP OF FILM MADE BY SOME ITALIAN PEOPLE OF THE SAME PLACE FROM LONG, LONG AGO. I THINK IT WAS ON PBS LATE AT NIGHT.



AND THEN WE ALL READ THAT TERRIBLE STORY ABOUT THE POOR GIRL FROM TEXAS.



Dallas Morning News

Tuesday
October 6,
1981

TEXAS TEEN STILL MISSING IN SOUTH PACIFIC.

Miss Karen Lee Parker, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Parker of the Main Street Library, reported missing after Williams learned one of Mr. & Mrs. Jackson's letters on Saturday night for the first time. (Parker & Vance Moore). The young woman was last seen up

Make plans to attend a memorial service for the missing teen on Sunday for her disappearance. The 17-year-old Parker, Mr. Harrington, sought the 17-year-old woman and is in need of a few more before she can be. Bring her home and she will help her new family

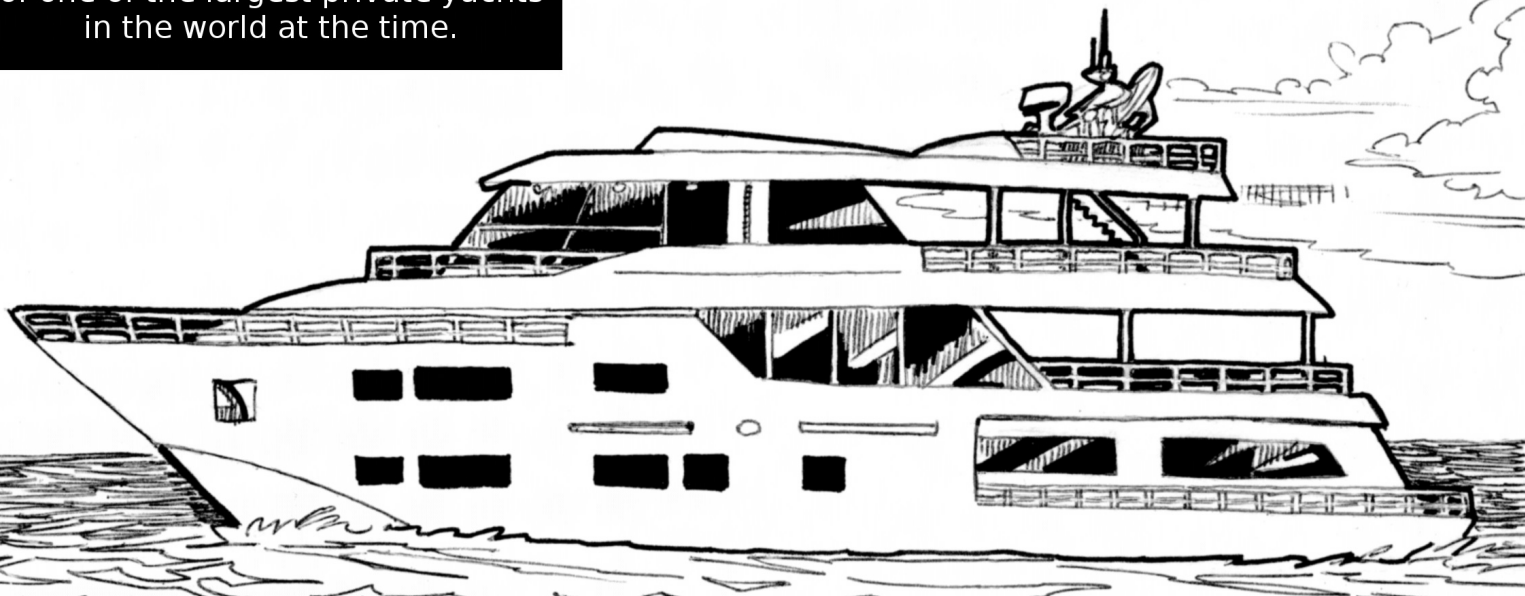
REVEREND SUN MY MOON I FOR TAX

We were at the City News to announce the start of a new tax on the money for the new tax. The new tax will be the same as the one from the old tax. The new tax will be the same as the one from the old tax. The new tax will be the same as the one from the old tax.

In 1981, Barron Petrobux Sr. was a Texas oil and real-estate billionaire, and an important figure in state and national Republican party politics. He had a famously beautiful wife, Peony, and daughter, Phoebe, and a young son passionately interested in making movies, Barron Jr.



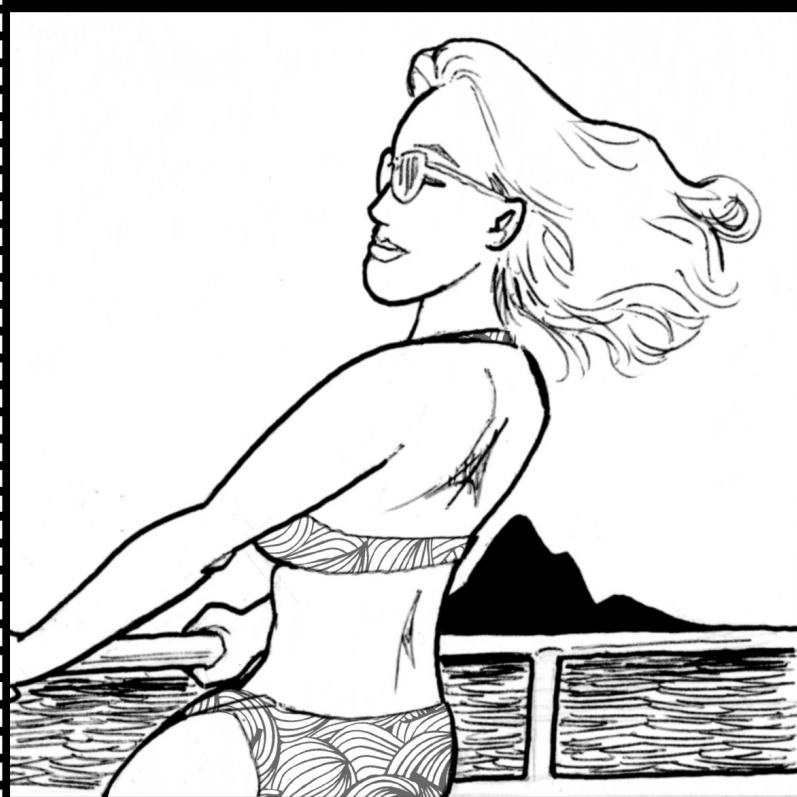
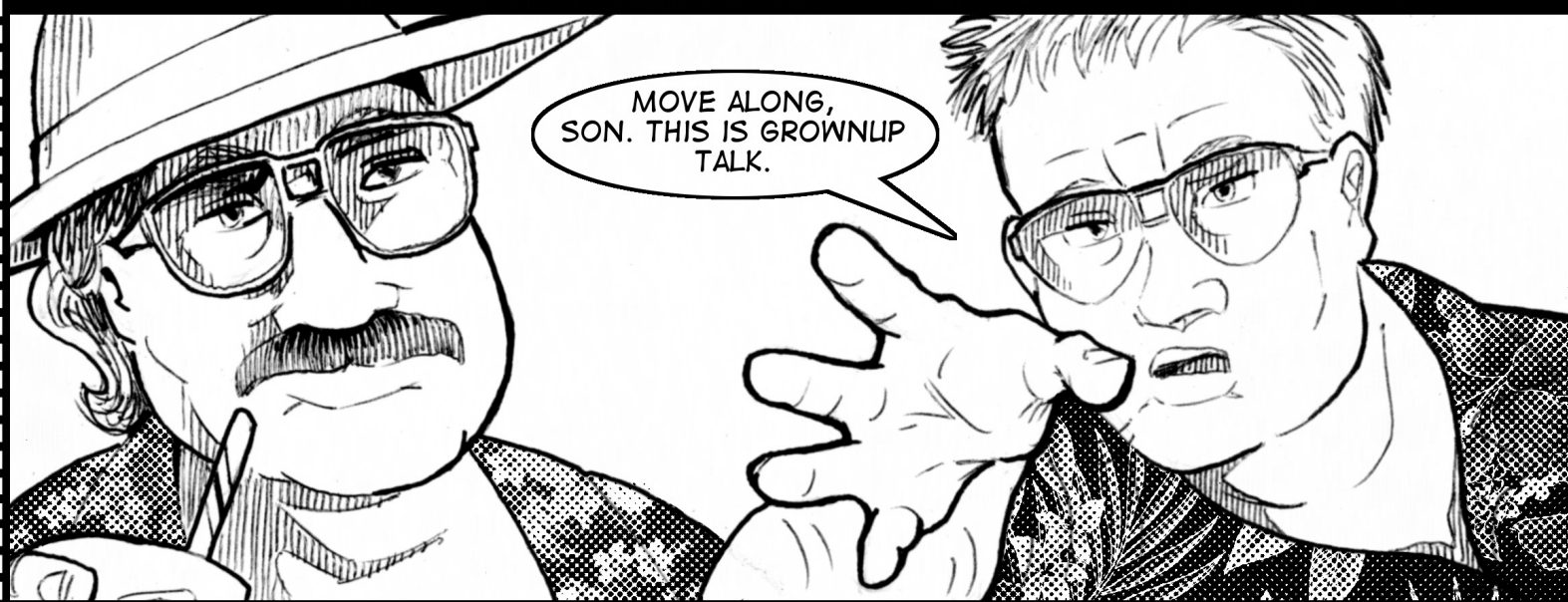
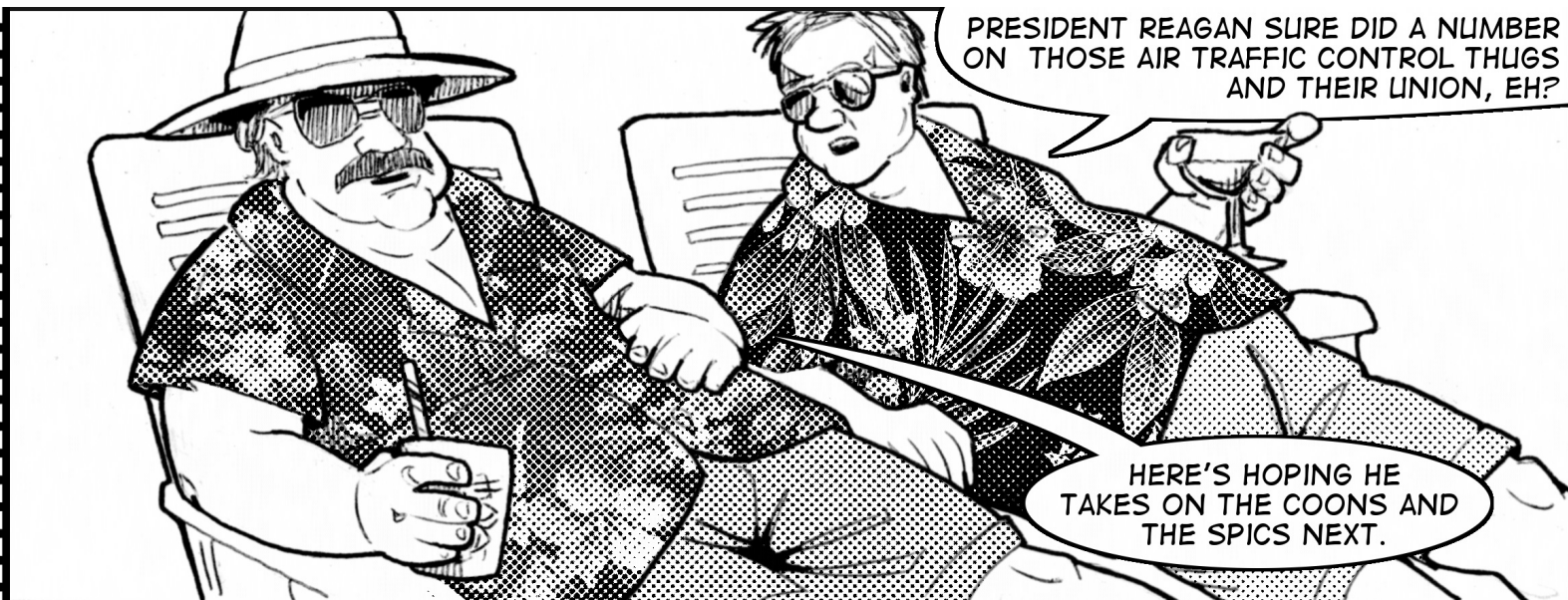
Petrobux was also the proud owner of one of the largest private yachts in the world at the time.

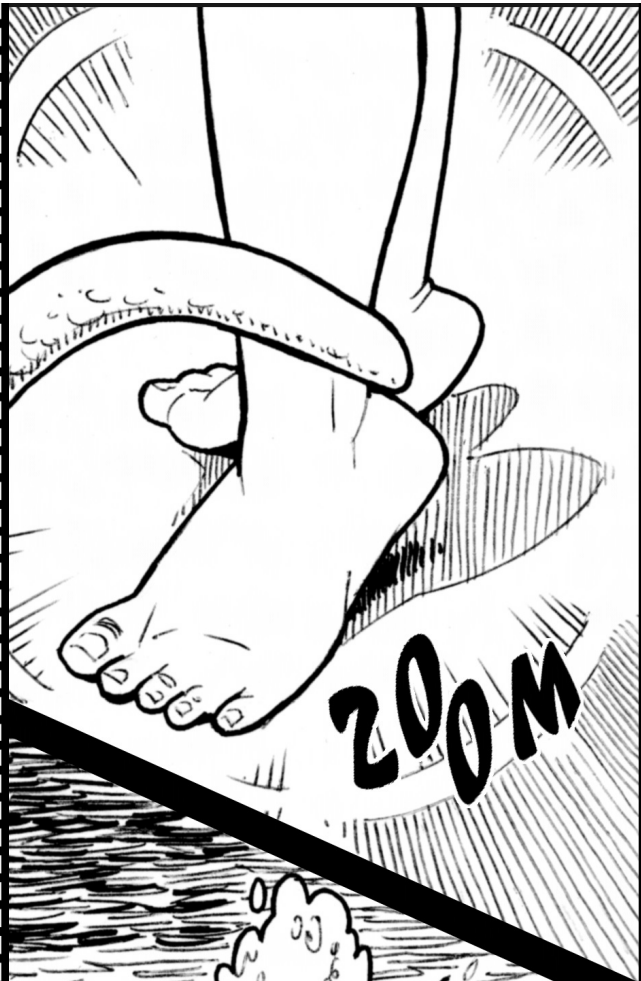


The beautiful waters and beaches around Motofupo had been declared a restricted zone by the U.S. Navy, but exceptions to the restrictions would be made for a man of Petrobux's political influence.

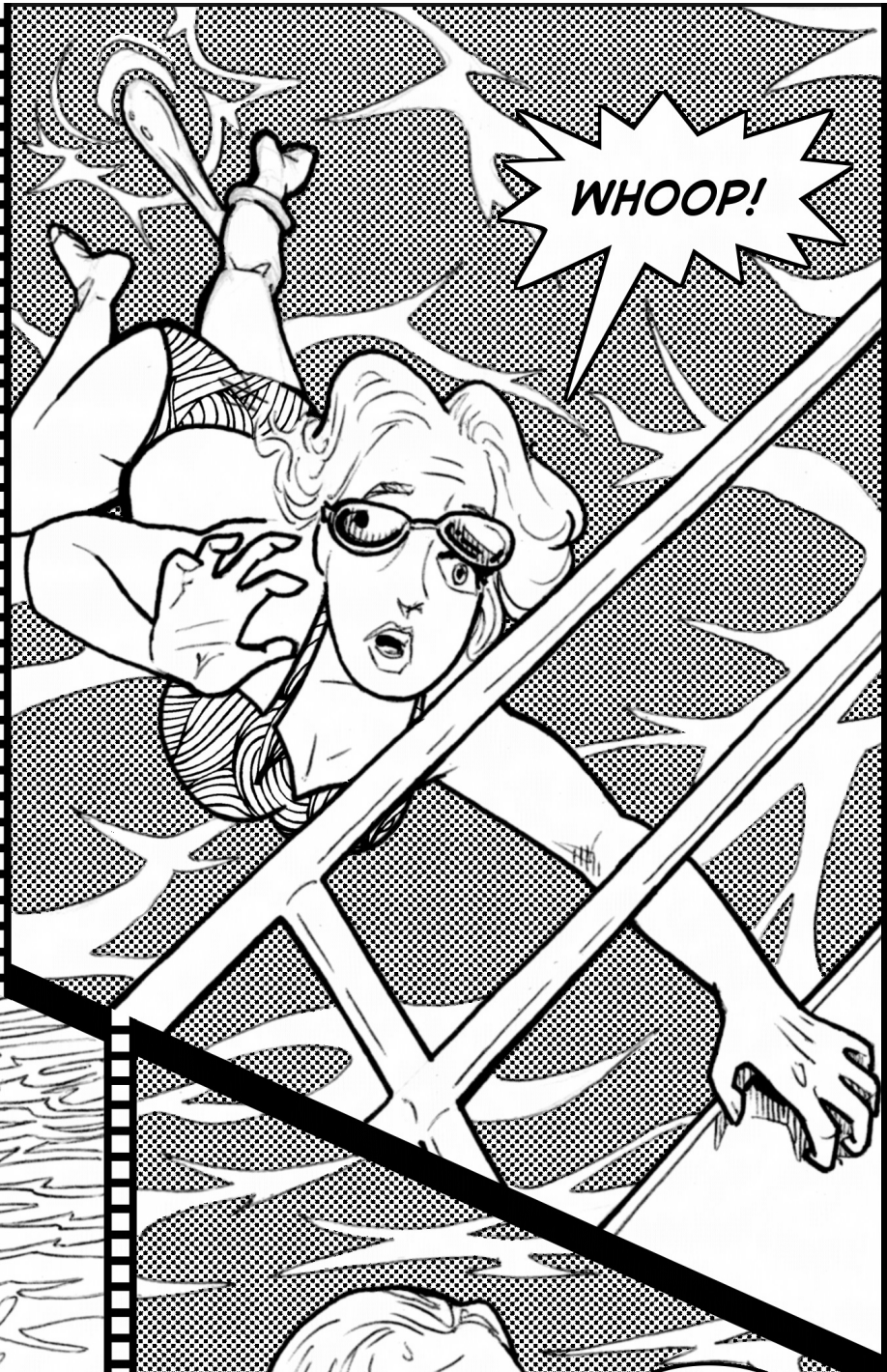
Camera footage taken by Barron Jr.,
son of Barron Sr.



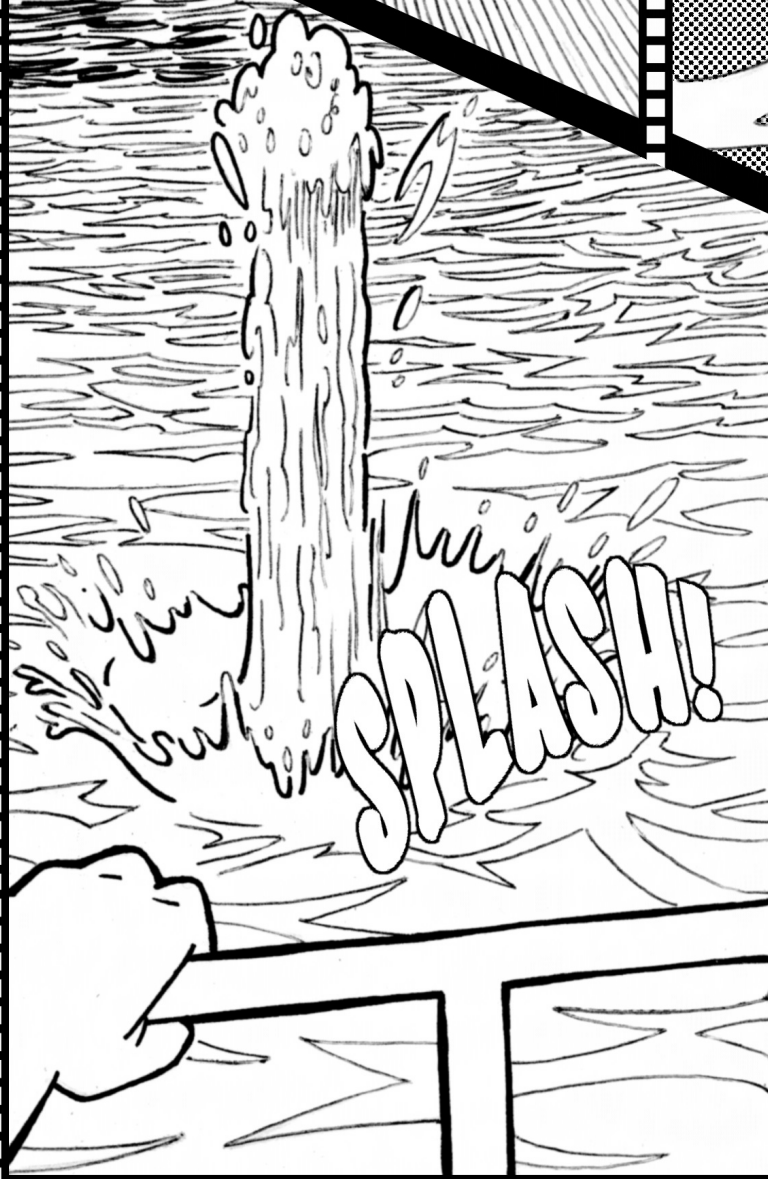




ZOOM



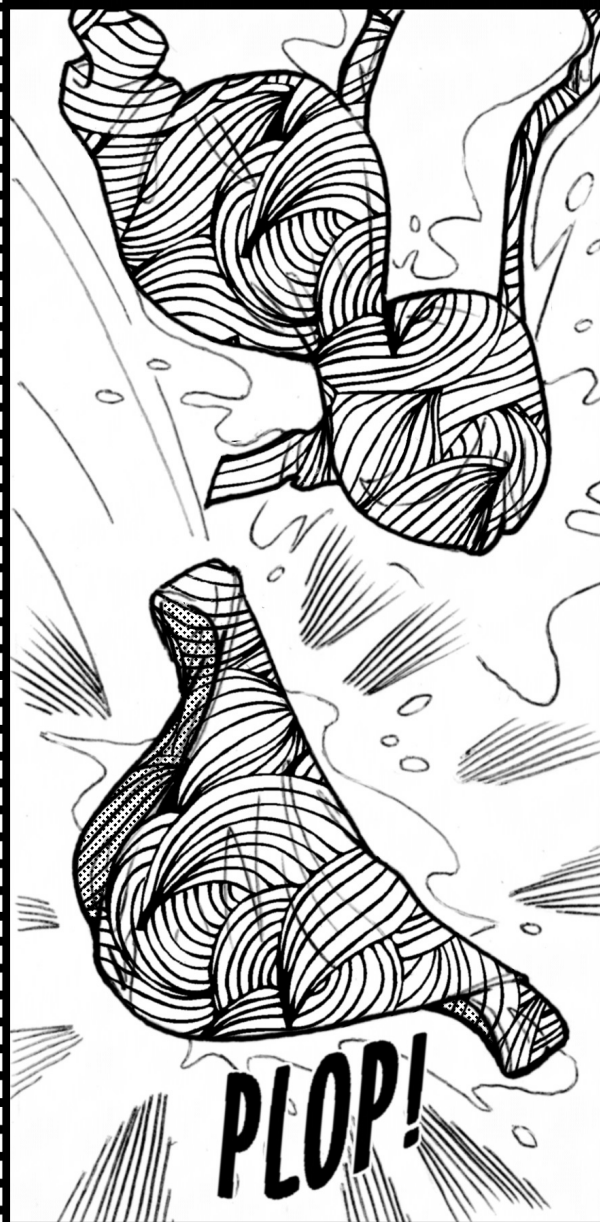
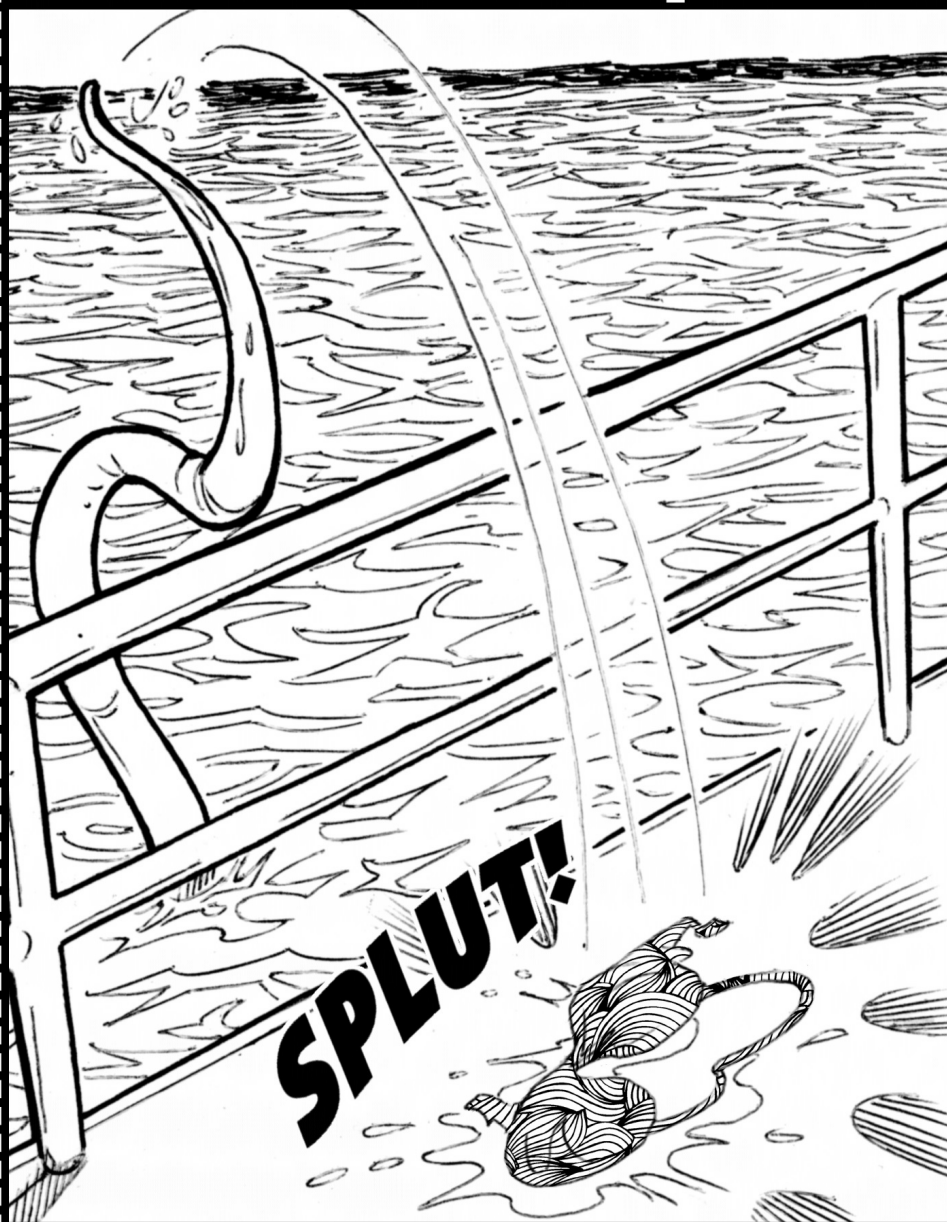
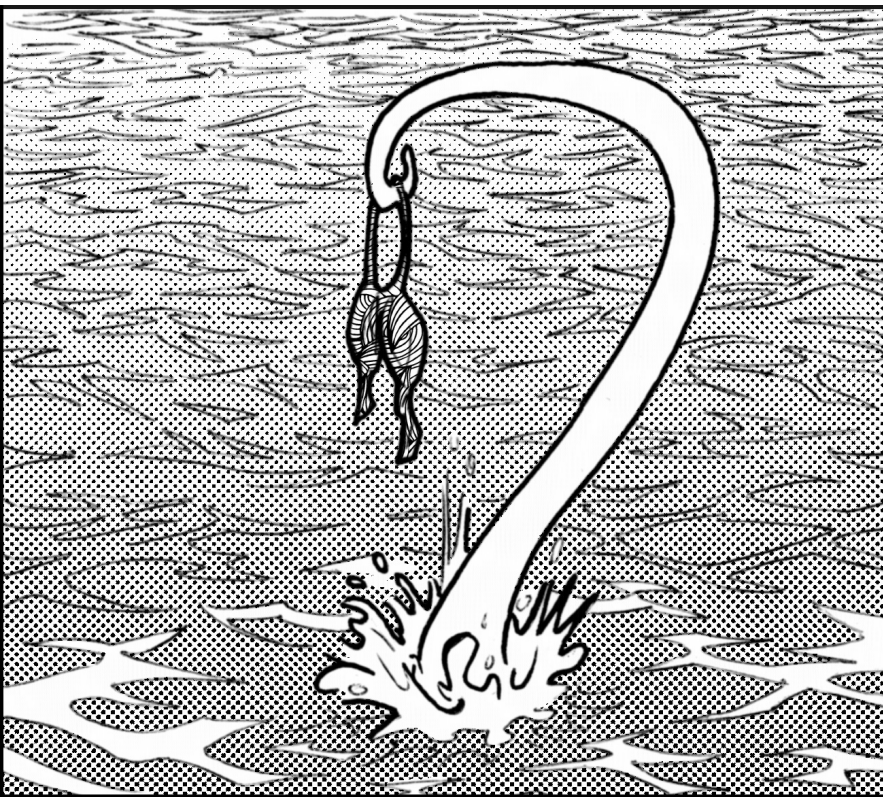
WHOOOP!



SPLASH!



AKHHH!




MY BABY!

MY BABY!

GOD

DAMMIT!





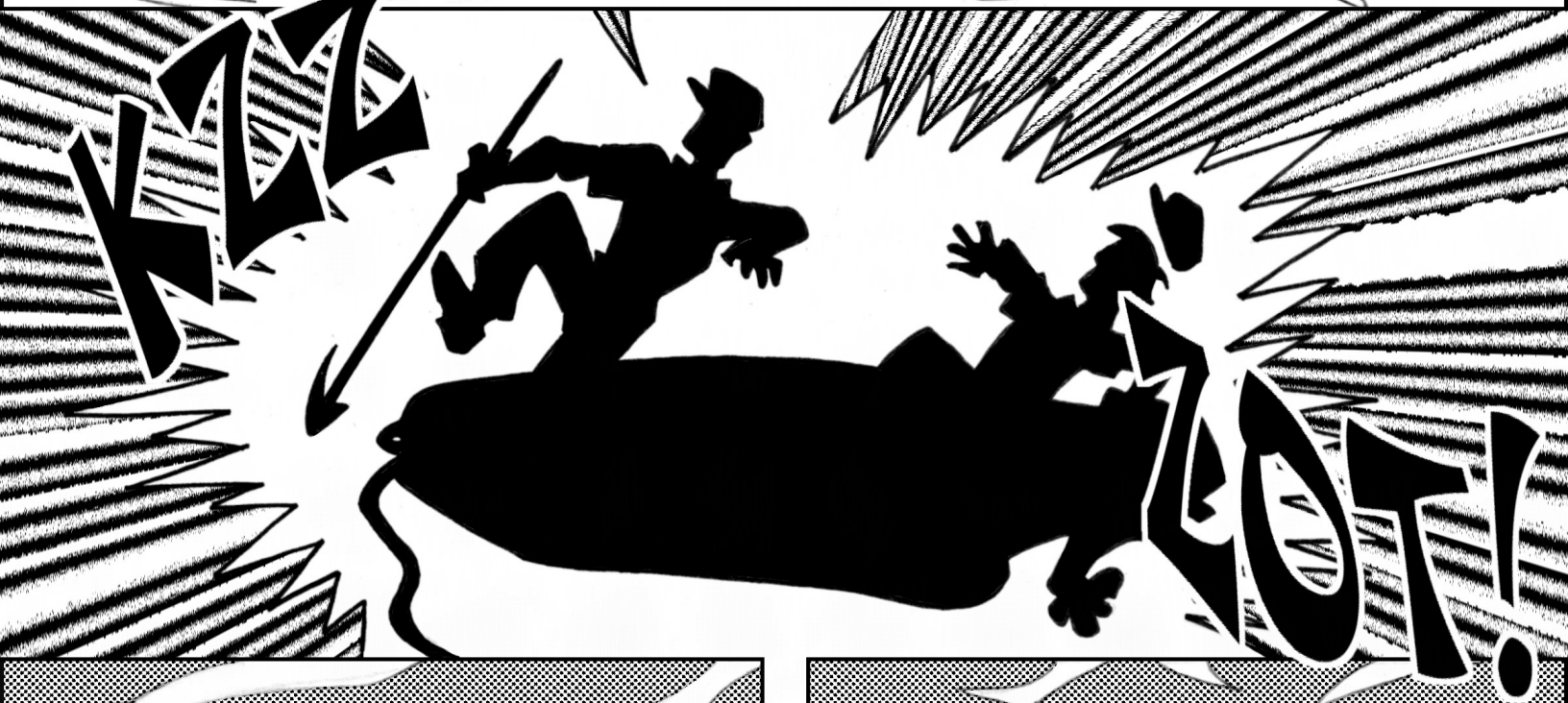
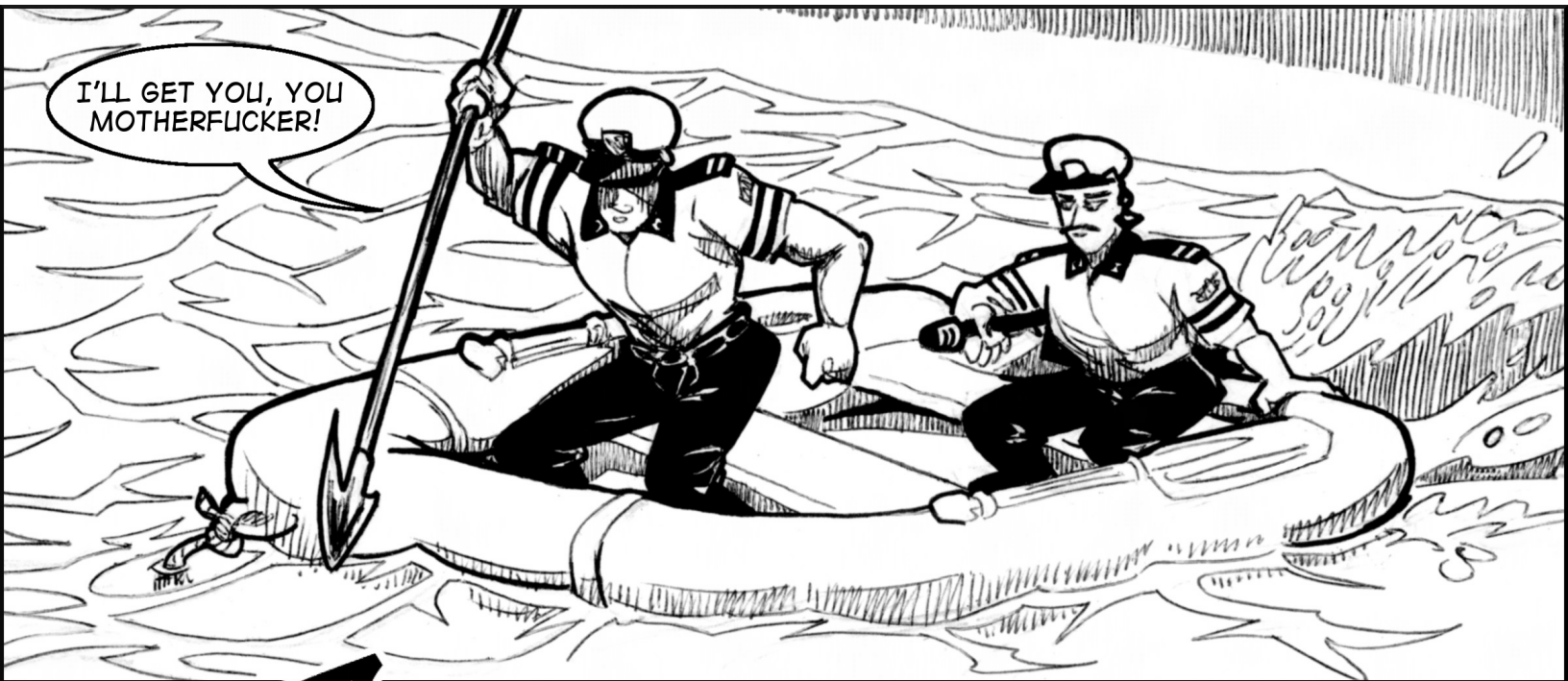
OH, GOD,
OH, GOD!

KILL
THAT
THING!

GET
IT!

YES, MR.
PETROBLUX!

I'M
GETTING
MY GUN!

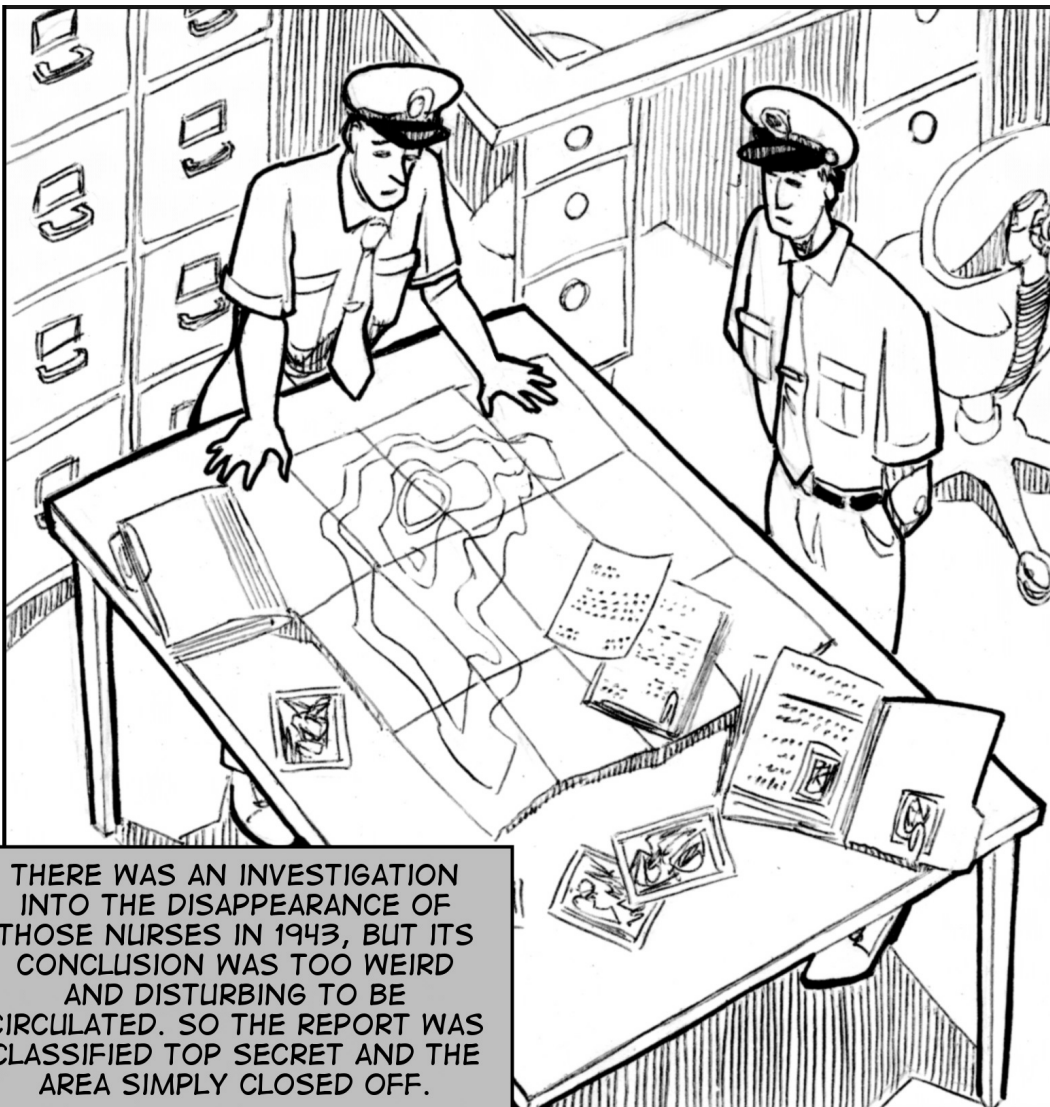




Capt. Carson MacMurdie, USN, Ret.

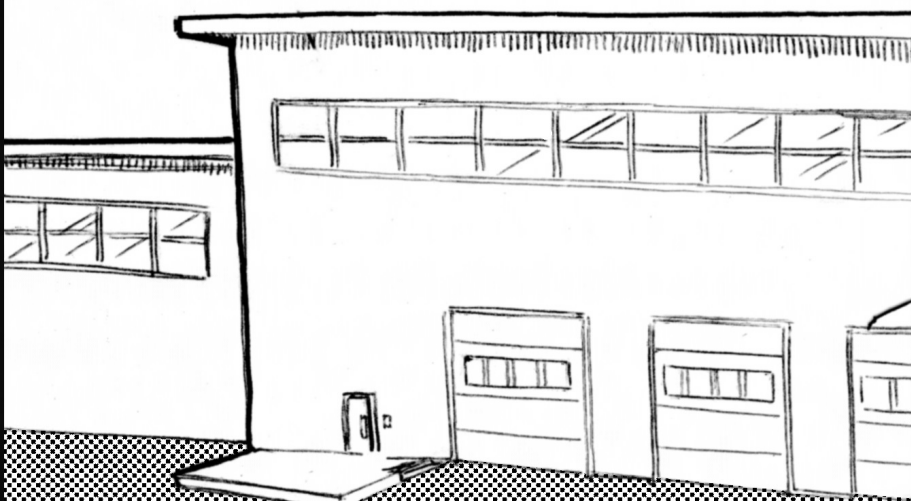


WELL, IT
WAS A FUCKUP,
THAT'S WHAT
IT WAS.



THERE WAS AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF
THOSE NURSES IN 1943, BUT ITS
CONCLUSION WAS TOO WEIRD
AND DISTURBING TO BE
CIRCULATED. SO THE REPORT WAS
CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET AND THE
AREA SIMPLY CLOSED OFF.

BY THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS LATER, EVERYONE HAD
FORGOTTEN WHY THE AREA WAS CLOSED, AND THE
REPORT WAS BURIED DEEP IN SOME NAVY ARCHIVE.

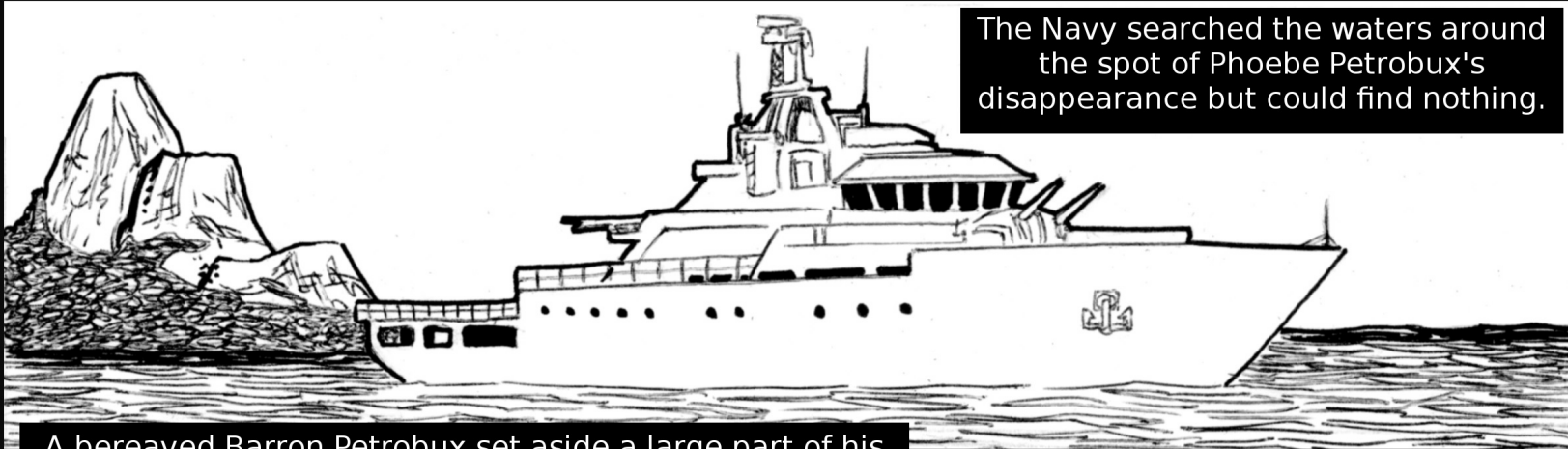


ANYONE CONNECTED WITH THE INVESTIGATION
HAD DIED OR MOVED ON. NOBODY BOTHERED TO
GO BACK TO THE RECORDS AND CHECK.

SO WHEN MR. RICH AND
POWERFUL SHOWED UP AND
SAID HE WANTED TO YACHT
IN THOSE WATERS, THE
NAVY JUST REPLIED
"YES, SIR" AND GAVE
HIM A PERMIT.



TOO BAD
ABOUT THE POOR
GIRL...

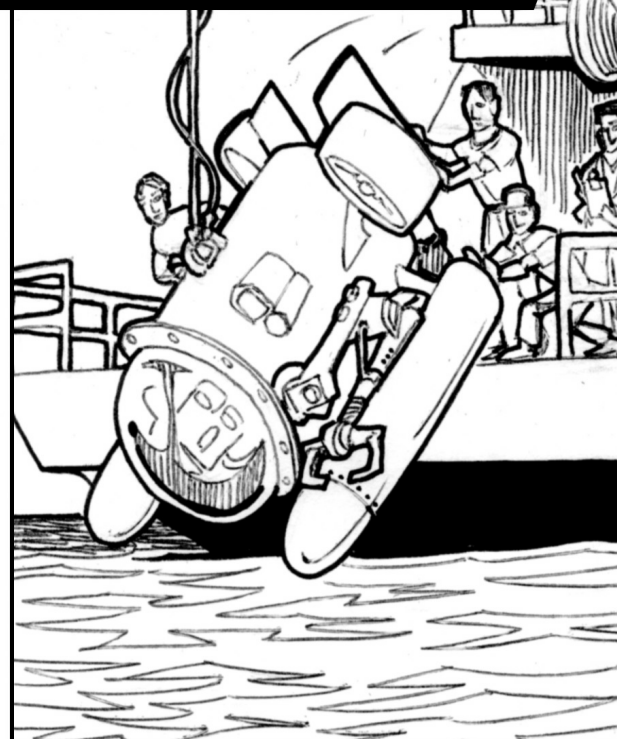


The Navy searched the waters around the spot of Phoebe Petrobux's disappearance but could find nothing.

A bereaved Barron Petrobux set aside a large part of his wealth to create a foundation to study and attempt to capture whatever creature had taken away his daughter.

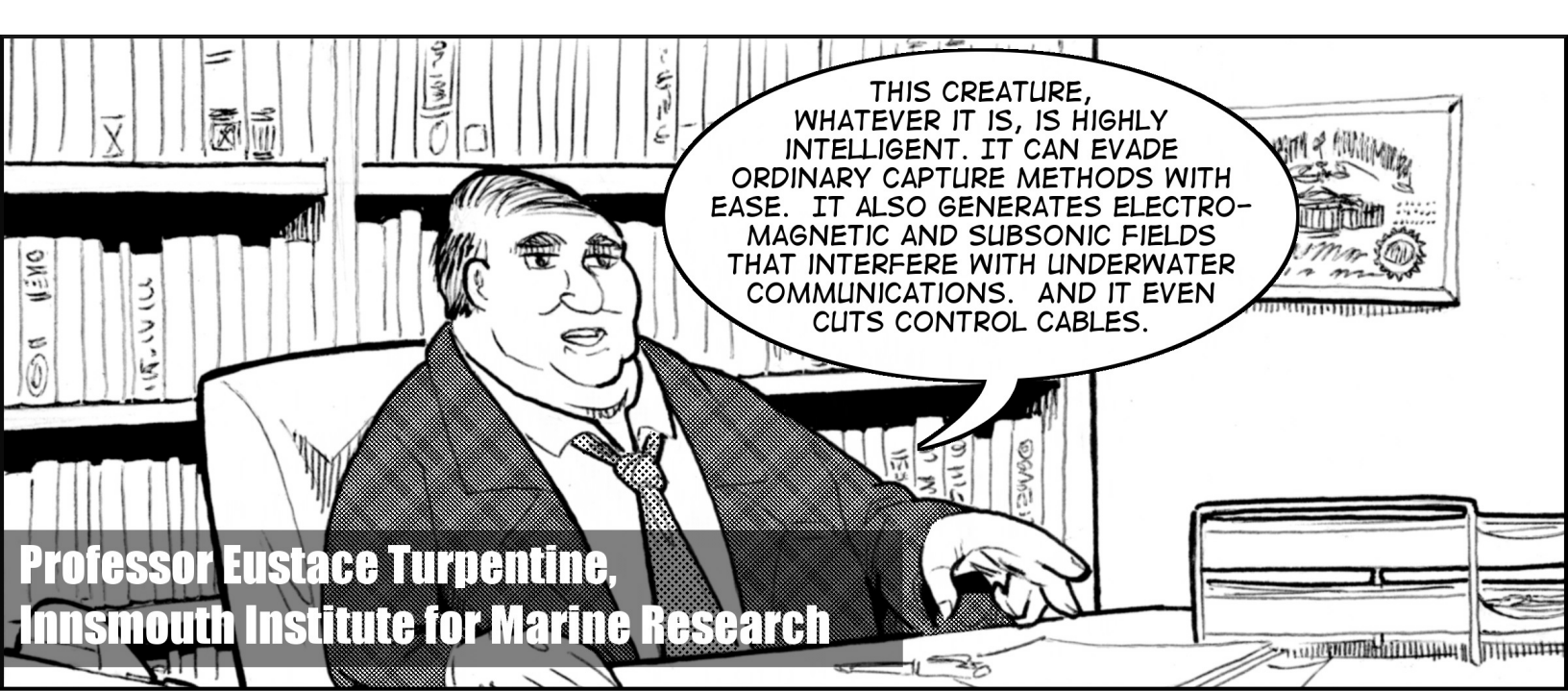


At the next nineteen year-interval, in 2000, a team of scientists attempted to find the creature when it was expected to rise again.




The results of the scientists' research were inconclusive and frustrating.



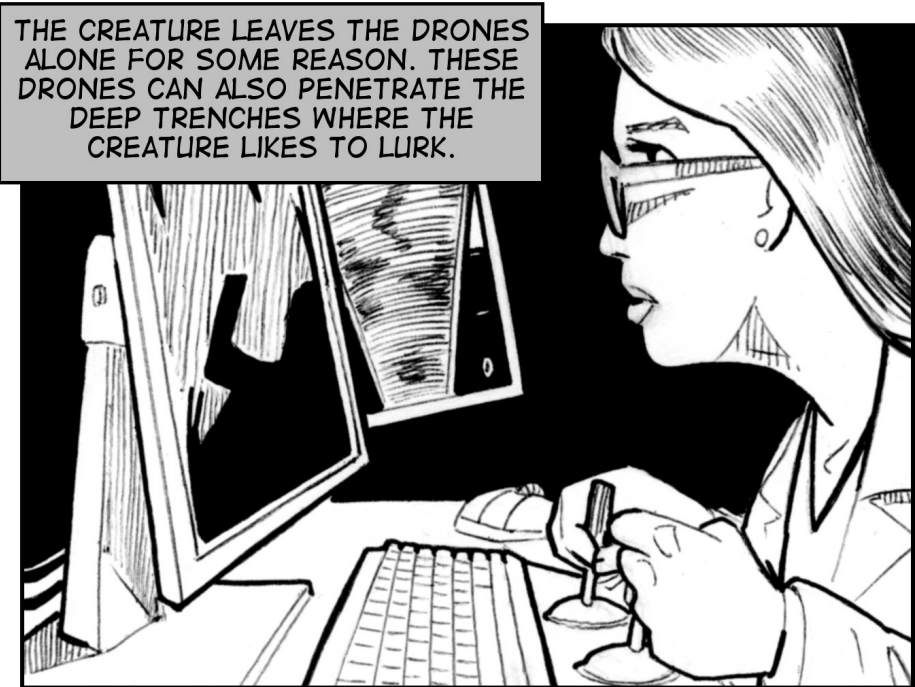
A black and white comic panel showing Professor Eustace Turpentine, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, wearing a suit and tie. He is sitting in a large office chair at a desk, pointing his right hand towards the right. Behind him are bookshelves filled with books. On the desk to his right is a typewriter and some papers. A speech bubble originates from him.

THIS CREATURE, WHATEVER IT IS, IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT. IT CAN EVADE ORDINARY CAPTURE METHODS WITH EASE. IT ALSO GENERATES ELECTRO-MAGNETIC AND SUBSONIC FIELDS THAT INTERFERE WITH UNDERWATER COMMUNICATIONS. AND IT EVEN CUTS CONTROL CABLES.

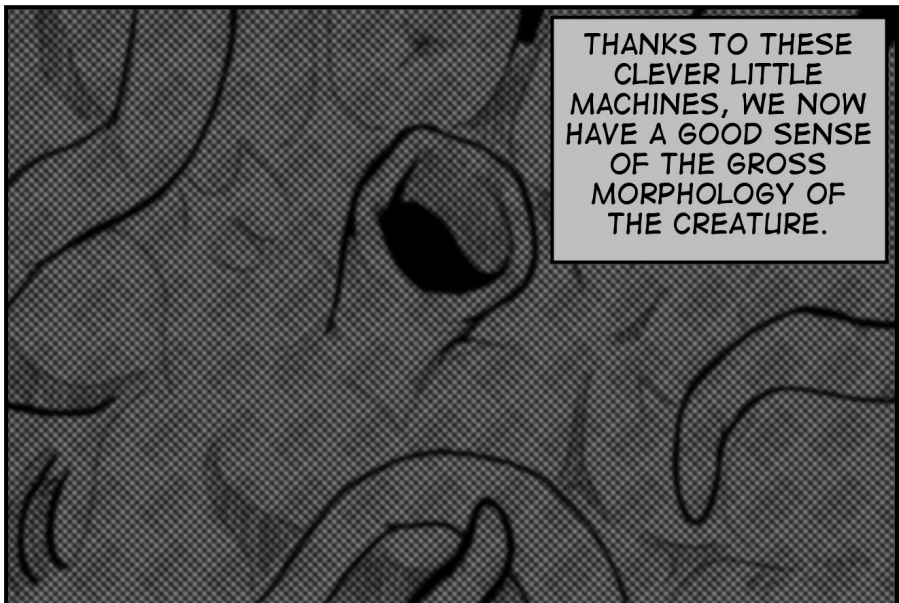
**Professor Eustace Turpentine,
Innsmouth Institute for Marine Research**

A black and white comic panel showing a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a lab coat over a sweater and safety goggles. She is holding a complex, multi-lens underwater camera or probe with both hands, looking directly at the viewer.

BUT RECENTLY, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HAS ADVANCED TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN MAKE EFFECTIVE *AUTONOMOUS* UNDERWATER DRONES.

A black and white comic panel showing a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a lab coat. She is sitting at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. Her hands are on a keyboard. The monitor shows a dark, abstract image.

THE CREATURE LEAVES THE DRONES ALONE FOR SOME REASON. THESE DRONES CAN ALSO PENETRATE THE DEEP TRENCHES WHERE THE CREATURE LIKES TO LURK.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a creature's face, specifically its large, dark, oval eye. The creature's skin appears wrinkled and textured.

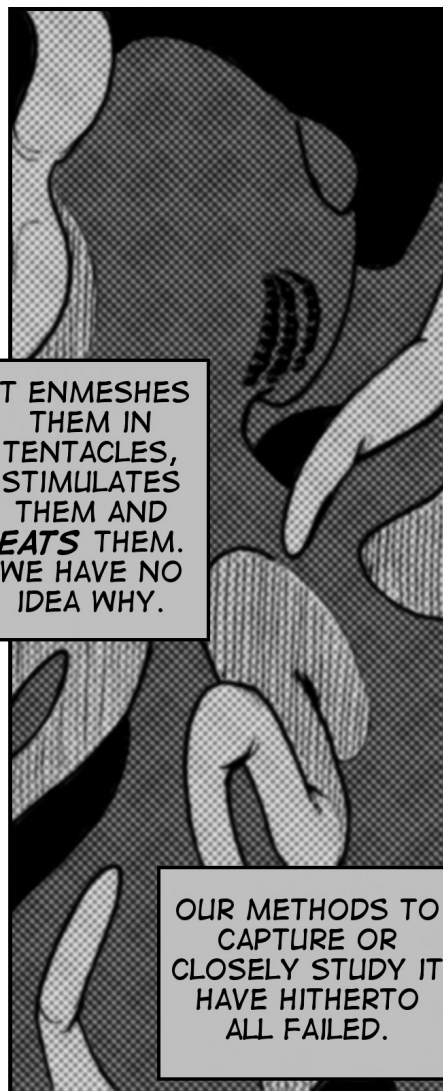
THANKS TO THESE CLEVER LITTLE MACHINES, WE NOW HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF THE GROSS MORPHOLOGY OF THE CREATURE.



SO, I
SUPPOSE THIS STRUC-
TURE IS ACTUALLY A
SPECIALIZED FEEDING
ORIFICE.

WHEN YOU'VE
ELIMINATED ALL THE OTHER
POSSIBILITIES, WHAT REMAINS,
HOWEVER IMPLAUSIBLE...

COMBINING WHAT WE KNOW FROM
THE NATIVE FOLKLORE AND OBSERVED
BEHAVIOR AND MORPHOLOGY, WE
SEEM COMPELLED TO CONCLUDE
THAT EVERY NINETEEN YEARS, THIS
CREATURE COMES NEAR THE SURFACE
AND WANTS TO EAT YOUNG WOMEN.



IT ENMESSES
THEM IN
TENTACLES,
STIMULATES
THEM AND
EATS THEM.
WE HAVE NO
IDEA WHY.

OUR METHODS TO
CAPTURE OR
CLOSELY STUDY IT
HAVE HITHERTO
ALL FAILED.



WE HAVE BEEN
PUSHED TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT IF YOU WANT TO HOOK
A FISH, YOU HAVE TO
HAVE... **BAIT**.



THE BITTER TRUTH IS, I'M FACING A LIFETIME OF ASKING "DO YOU WANT FRIES WITH THAT?"

Daphne Bosselseg,
Prospective Subject

I WROTE AN AWARD-WINNING PH.D. DISSERTATION IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE. "ONE OF THE BEST OF YOUR GENERATION," MY ADVISORS TOLD ME.



BUT THANKS TO YAHOO STATE LEGISLATORS AND ASSHOLE STEM BILLIONAIRES, THERE'S NO FUNDING FOR HUMANISTIC RESEARCH LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

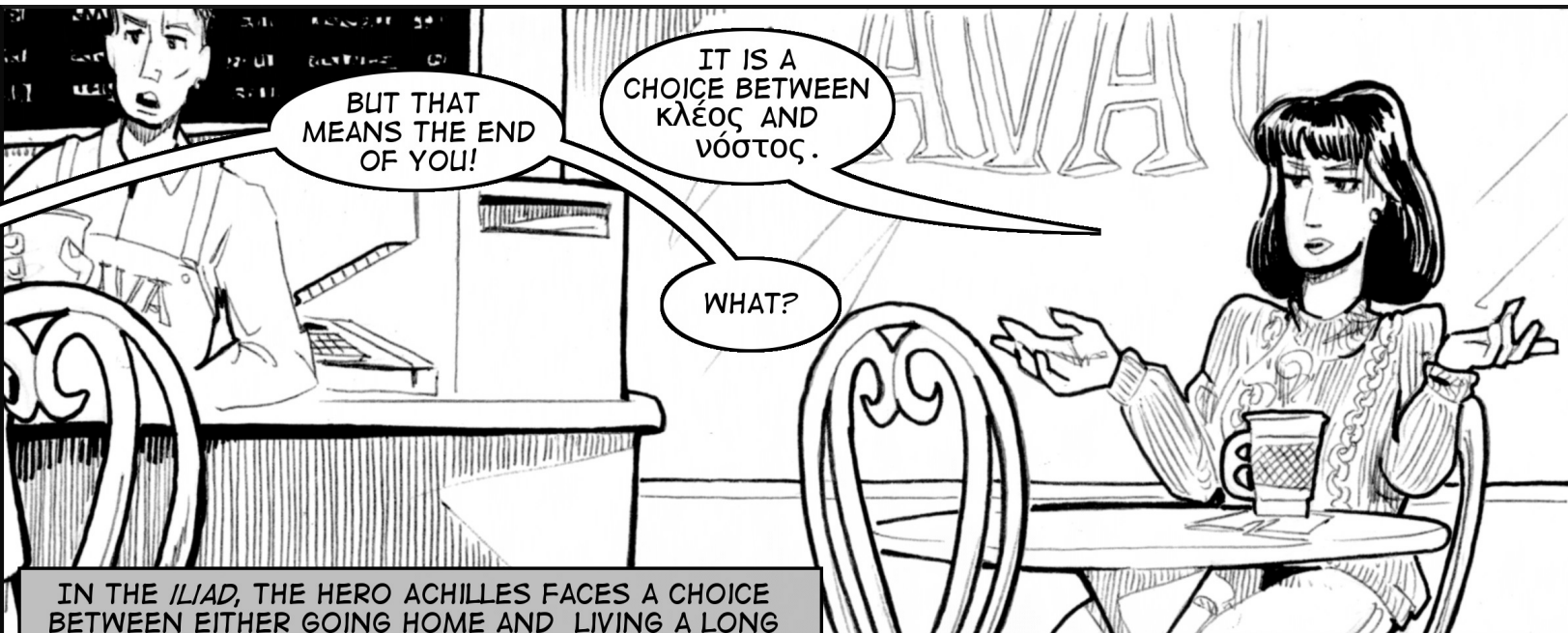
NO ONE WITH MONEY WANTS TO FUND **KNOWLEDGE** ANYMORE. THEY ALL WANT UNIVERSITIES THAT DO NOTHING BUT MAKE A COMPLIANT CORPORATE WORKFORCE.



BUT NOW I HAVE A CHANCE AT SOMETHING.

IF I CAN'T **WRITE** PART OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, THEN PERHAPS I CAN **BE** PART OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE.





BUT THAT
MEANS THE END
OF YOU!

IT IS A
CHOICE BETWEEN
κλέος AND
νόστος.

WHAT?

IN THE *ILIAD*, THE HERO ACHILLES FACES A CHOICE
BETWEEN EITHER GOING HOME AND LIVING A LONG
LIFE - THAT'S νόστος - OR STAYING TO FIGHT AND
LIVING A SHORT BUT GLORIOUS LIFE - THAT'S κλέος.

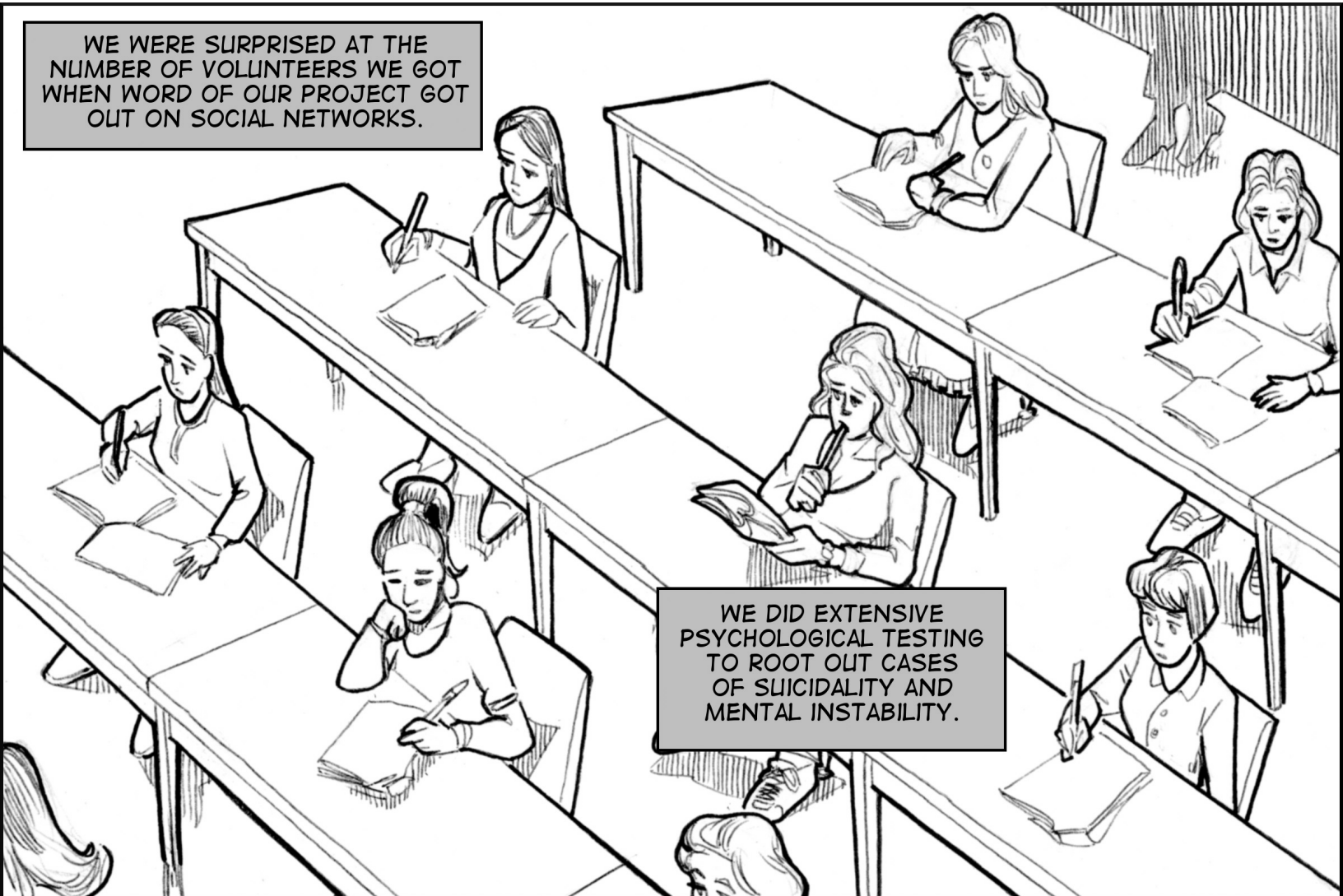


GIVEN THE
CHOICE BETWEEN A
EITHER A LIFETIME AS
A CORPORATE DRONE
AFTER WHICH I SHALL
BE FORGOTTEN OR
BEING PART OF
SOMETHING THAT WILL
BE IN HISTORY BOOKS
FOR CENTURIES, THE
RIGHT ANSWER
SEEMS OBVIOUS.



OR AT
LEAST, THE RIGHT
ANSWER IS OBVIOUS
TO ME.

WE WERE SURPRISED AT THE
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WE GOT
WHEN WORD OF OUR PROJECT GOT
OUT ON SOCIAL NETWORKS.



WE DID EXTENSIVE
PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING
TO ROOT OUT CASES
OF SUICIDALITY AND
MENTAL INSTABILITY.

THERE WERE SOME LEGAL ISSUES, OF COURSE,
BUT OUR PHILANTHROPIC SPONSOR IS
WELL CONNECTED AND FOUND WAYS
TO DEAL WITH THEM.

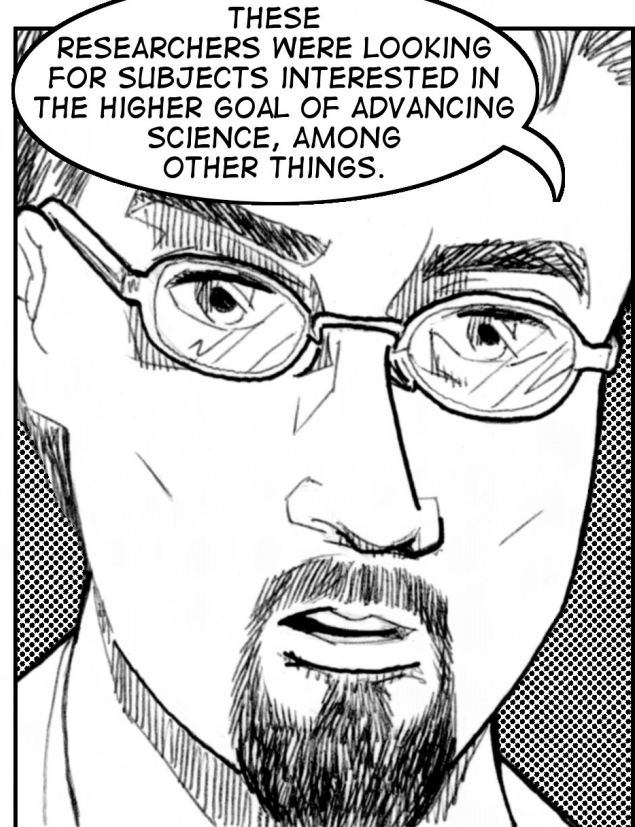
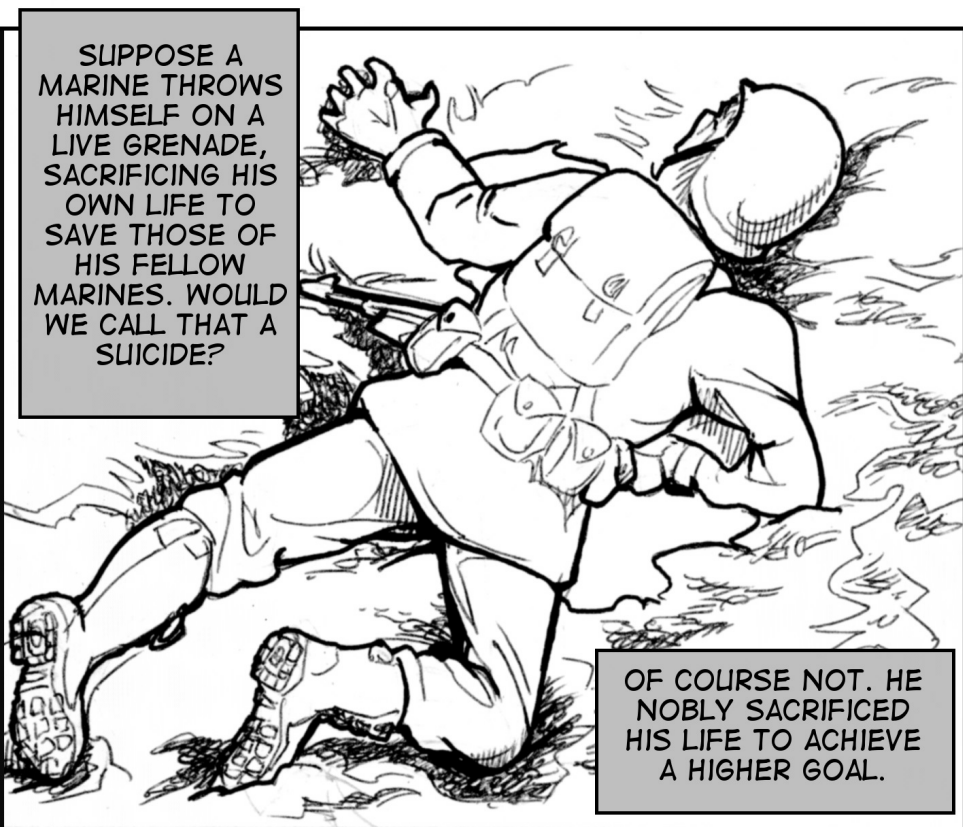


WE DID RIGOROUS
MEDICAL SCREENING.



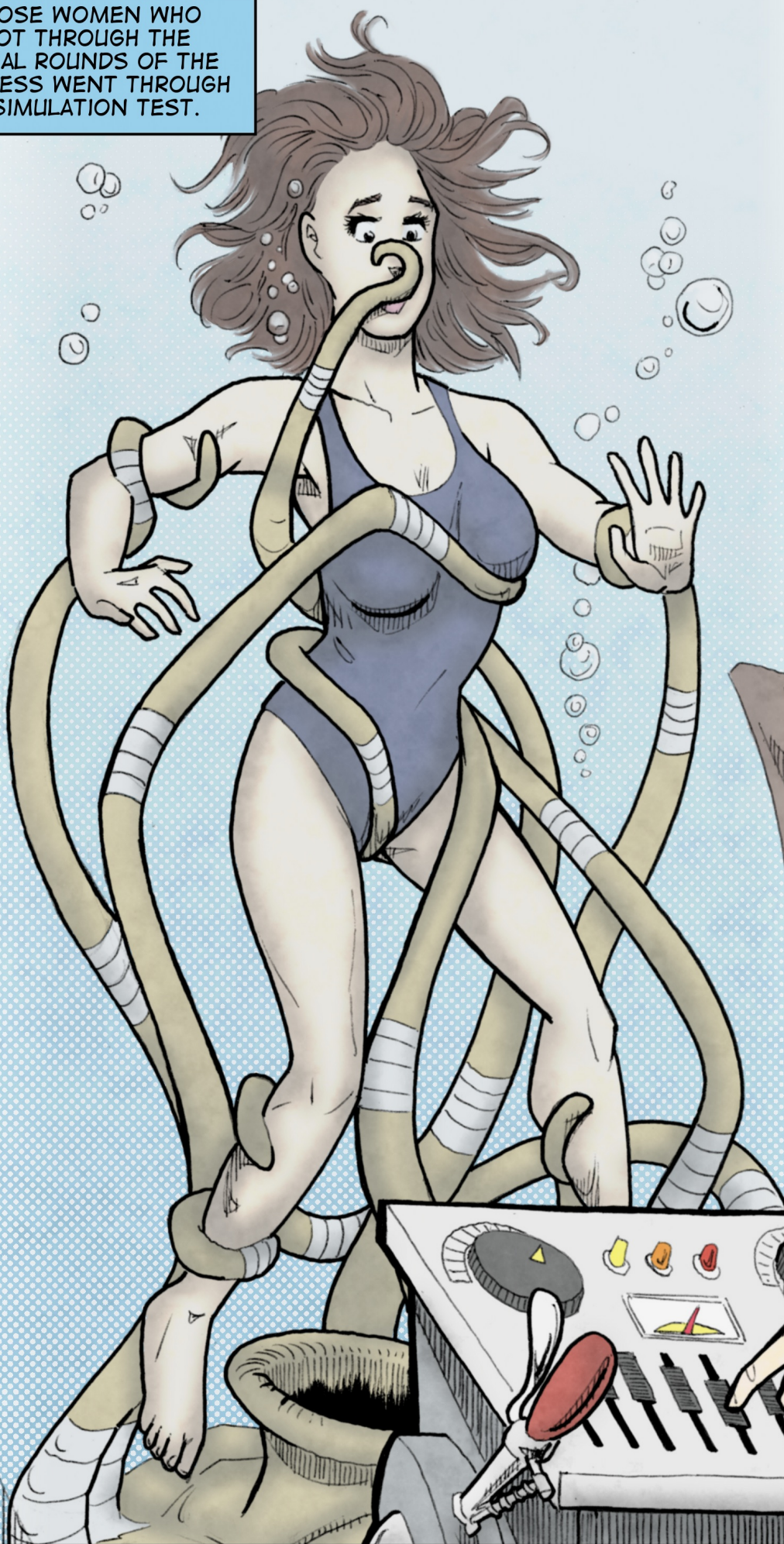


**Harvey Eligos, J.D., Ph.D.,
Legal Psychologist and Consultant**



THOSE WOMEN WHO
GOT THROUGH THE
INITIAL ROUNDS OF THE
PROCESS WENT THROUGH
A SIMULATION TEST.

WE DON'T WANT
SUBJECTS WHO WILL
PANIC AND STRUGGLE
UNDER FIELD
CONDITIONS.

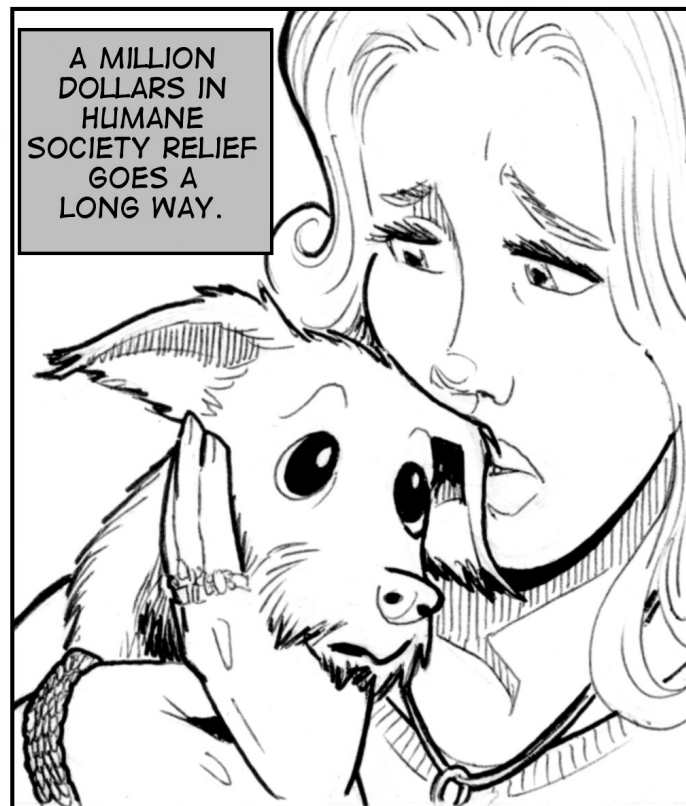
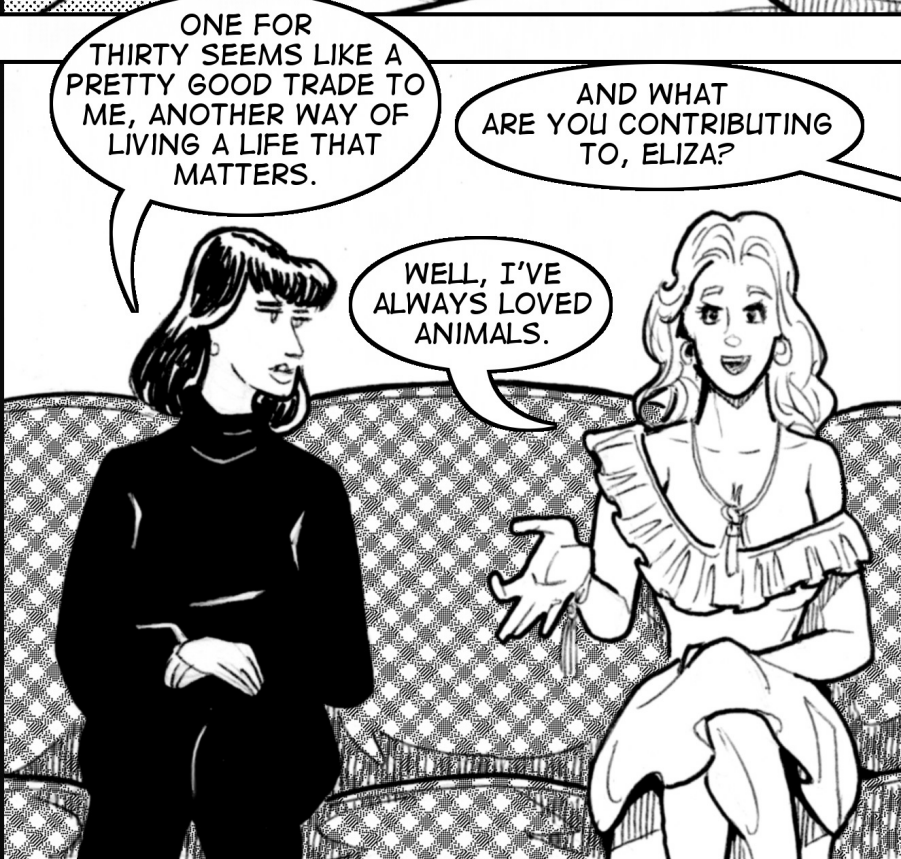


EVENTUALLY, WE WERE DOWN TO TWO CANDIDATES, ONE TO SERVE IN THE PRINCIPAL ATTEMPT AND THE SECOND AS AN ALTERNATE.

UH, HI!

HOW DO YOU DO?

WE HAD THEM SIGN AGREEMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS: CONSENTS TO THE PROCEDURE, AGREEMENTS TO PROMINENT MENTION IN ALL PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE PROJECT, AND ALSO CONTRACTS WITH COMPENSATION OF A SORT: A CHARITY OF EACH'S CHOOSING WOULD GET A CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,000,000 UPON EACH'S COMPLETION OF HER...CONTRIBUTION.



EFFECTIVE
ALTRUISM?
APPALLING!

HERE WE SEE THE BITTER
FRUITS OF A **CENTURY** OF
CONSUMER CULTURE
AND **DECADES** OF
ESCALATING
ECONOMIC
INEQUALITY.

Christa Marxalot,
Professor of Applied Ethics

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SUCH A BLEAK SENSE OF
THEIR OWN FUTURES THAT THE BEST THEY
CAN CONCEIVE OF FOR THEMSELVES IS TO TRY
TO GET A GOOD PRICE SELLING THEMSELVES
AS **PLAYTHINGS** FOR SOME BILLIONAIRE.

HAVE
WE NO
DECENCY
ANYMORE?
NO SENSE
OF HUMAN
DIGNITY OR
THE VALUE
OF HUMAN
LIFE?

ARE YOU
PROPOSING TO RETIRE TO
LET A YOUNGER ACADEMIC
MOVE UP THE CAREER
LADDER, OR PERHAPS GET
A JOB AT ALL?

ARE YOU
INSANE?

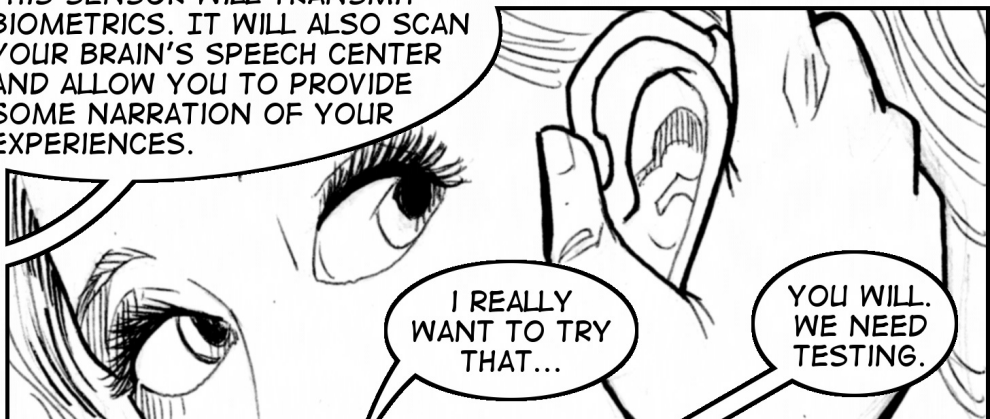


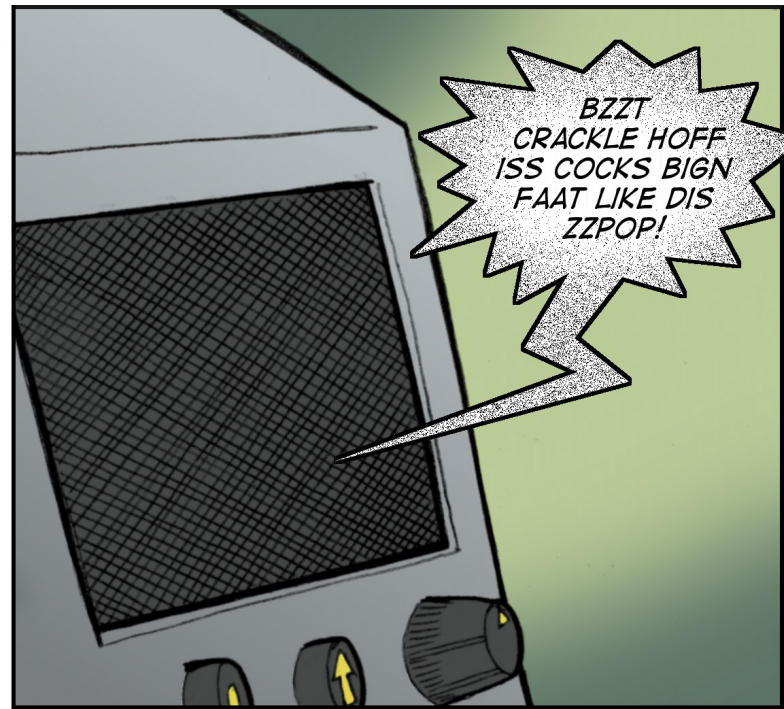
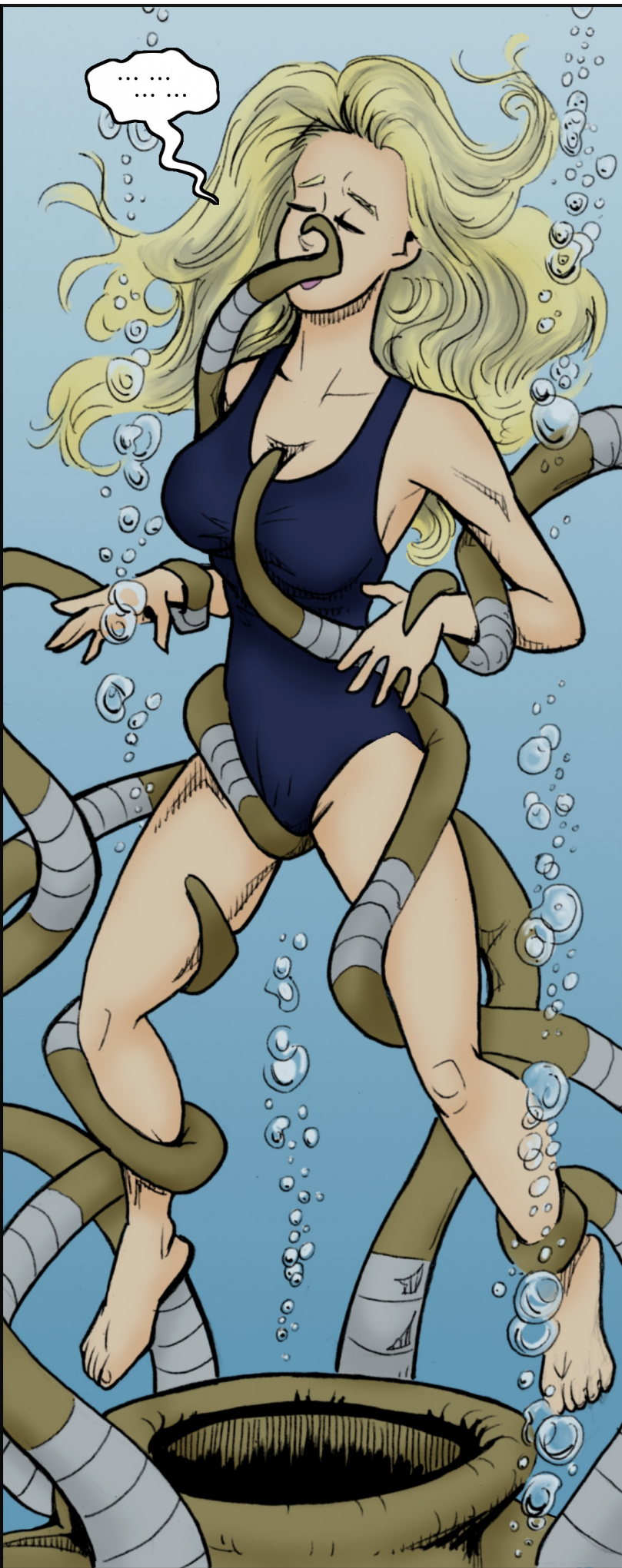
ETHICAL OBJECTIONS ASIDE,
PREPARATIONS FOR AN
EXPEDITION ARE LAID IN.

THE CREATURE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE
TO BLOCK COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR
EXPEDITION SHIP, BUT WE THINK A
TIGHTLY FOCUSED BEAM FROM OUR
SUBJECTS TO A SUBMERSIBLE MIGHT BE
POSSIBLE. WE CAN CAPTURE AND
RETRIEVE DATA FROM IT LATER.



THIS SENSOR WILL TRANSMIT
BIOMETRICS. IT WILL ALSO SCAN
YOUR BRAIN'S SPEECH CENTER
AND ALLOW YOU TO PROVIDE
SOME NARRATION OF YOUR
EXPERIENCES.





BZZT
CRACKLE HOFF
ISS COCKS BIGN
FAAT LIKE DIS
ZZPOP!



DON'T YOU
THINK WE SHOULD
TELL HER SHE HAS NO
INTERNAL CENSOR
GOING?

NO!
THE MORE
WE GET FOR
SCIENCE, THE
BETTER!

OF COURSE,
WE HAVE OUR *BAIT*, BUT
YOU CAN'T JUST STICK A
HOOK THROUGH THIS
BAIT, HEH HEH.

SO WE
HAVE A MORE ELEGANT
SOLUTION.

**Hiram Worthinglock, Assistant
to Professor Turpentine.**

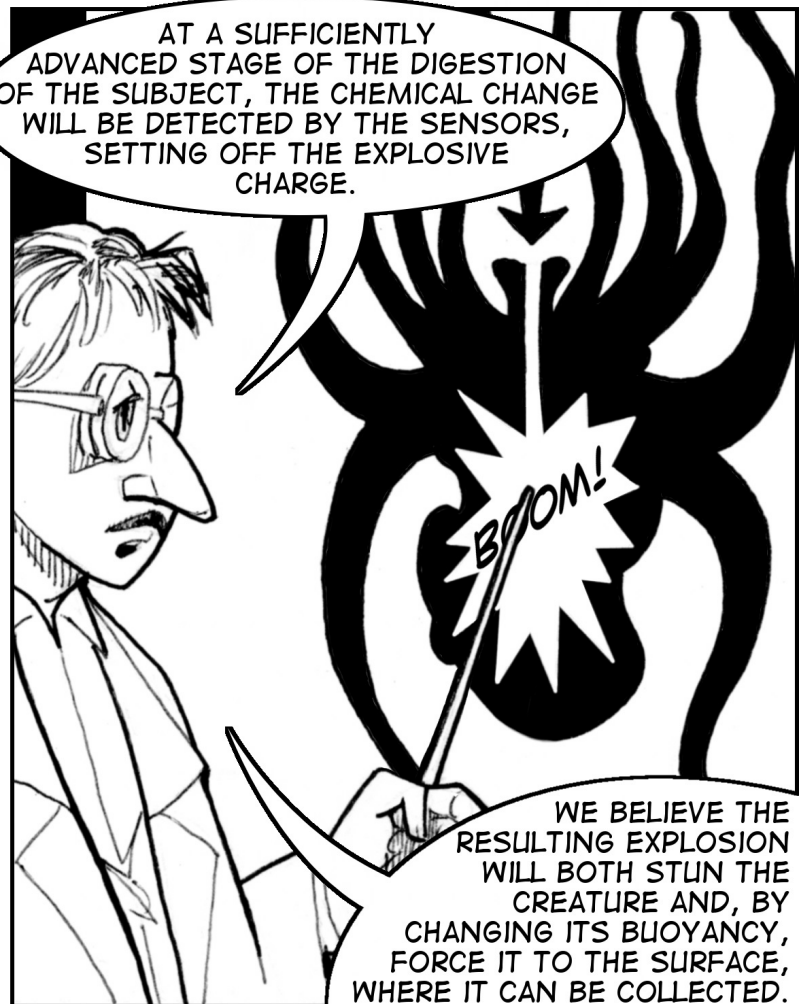
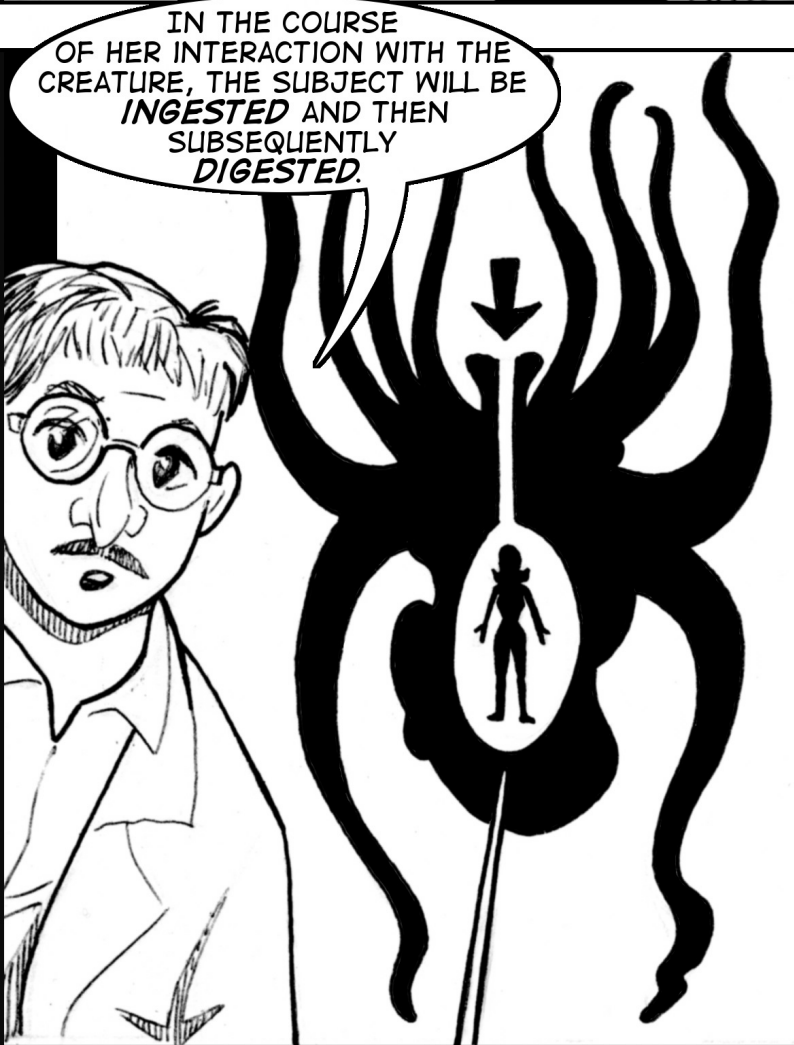
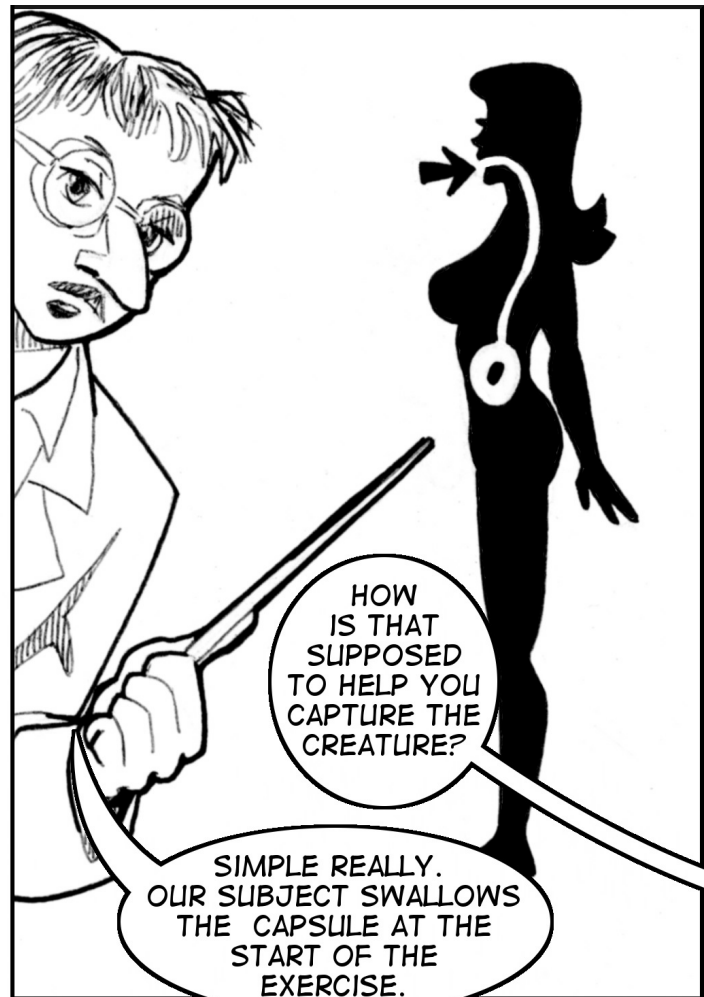
THIS CAPSULE CONTAINS
NANO-SENSORS AND A
TINY BUT VERY
POWERFUL
EXPLOSIVE CHARGE
WRAPPED IN
ULTRA-STRONG
MEMBRANES.

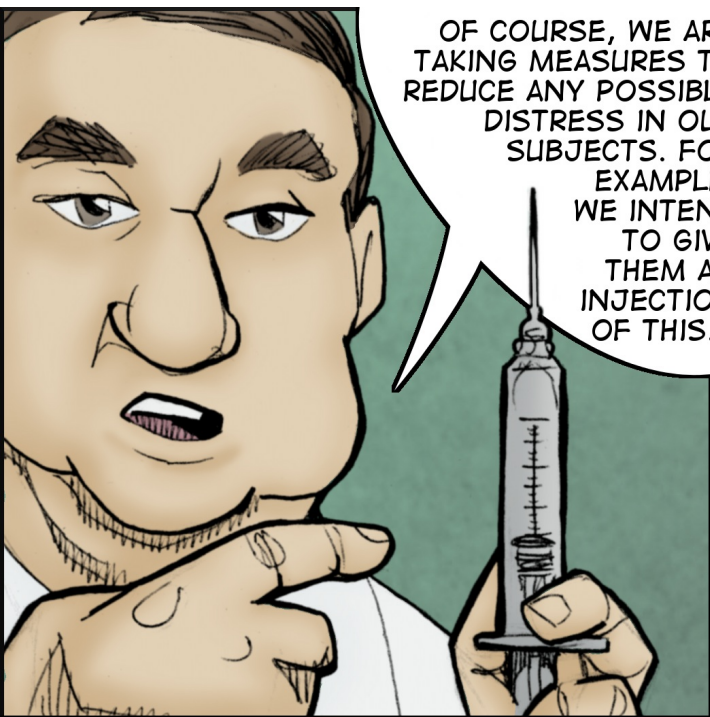
THE CAPSULE'S SENSORS ARE PROGRAMMED
TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHEMICAL CHANGES IN
THE CAPSULE'S ENVIRONMENT, AS WE CAN
SEE BY DROPPING IT IN THIS TANK...

...AND THEN
INDUCING A CHEMICAL
CHANGE.

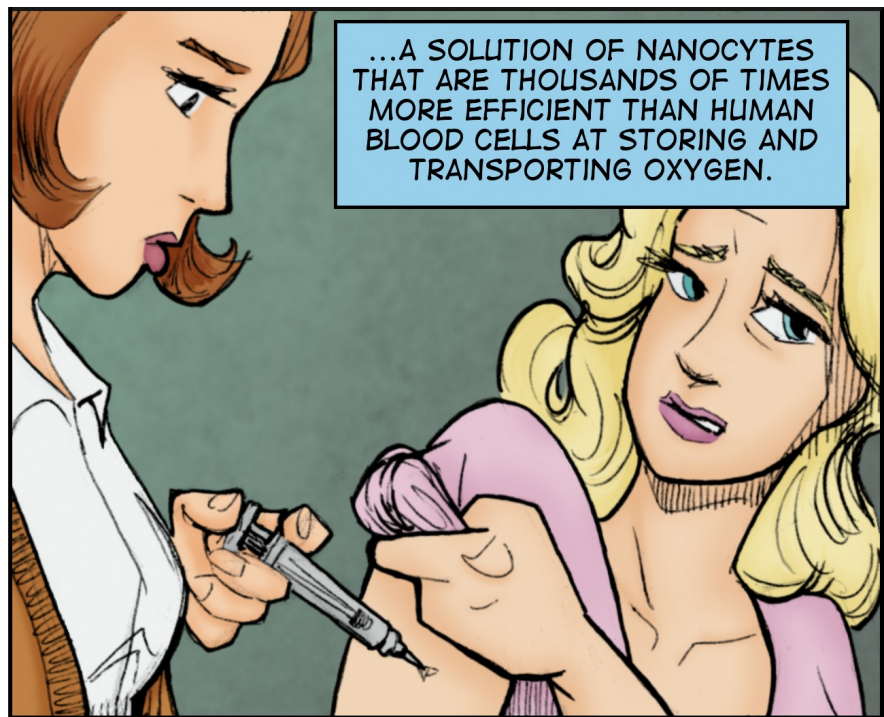
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO BACK
UP A BIT.

ploop!

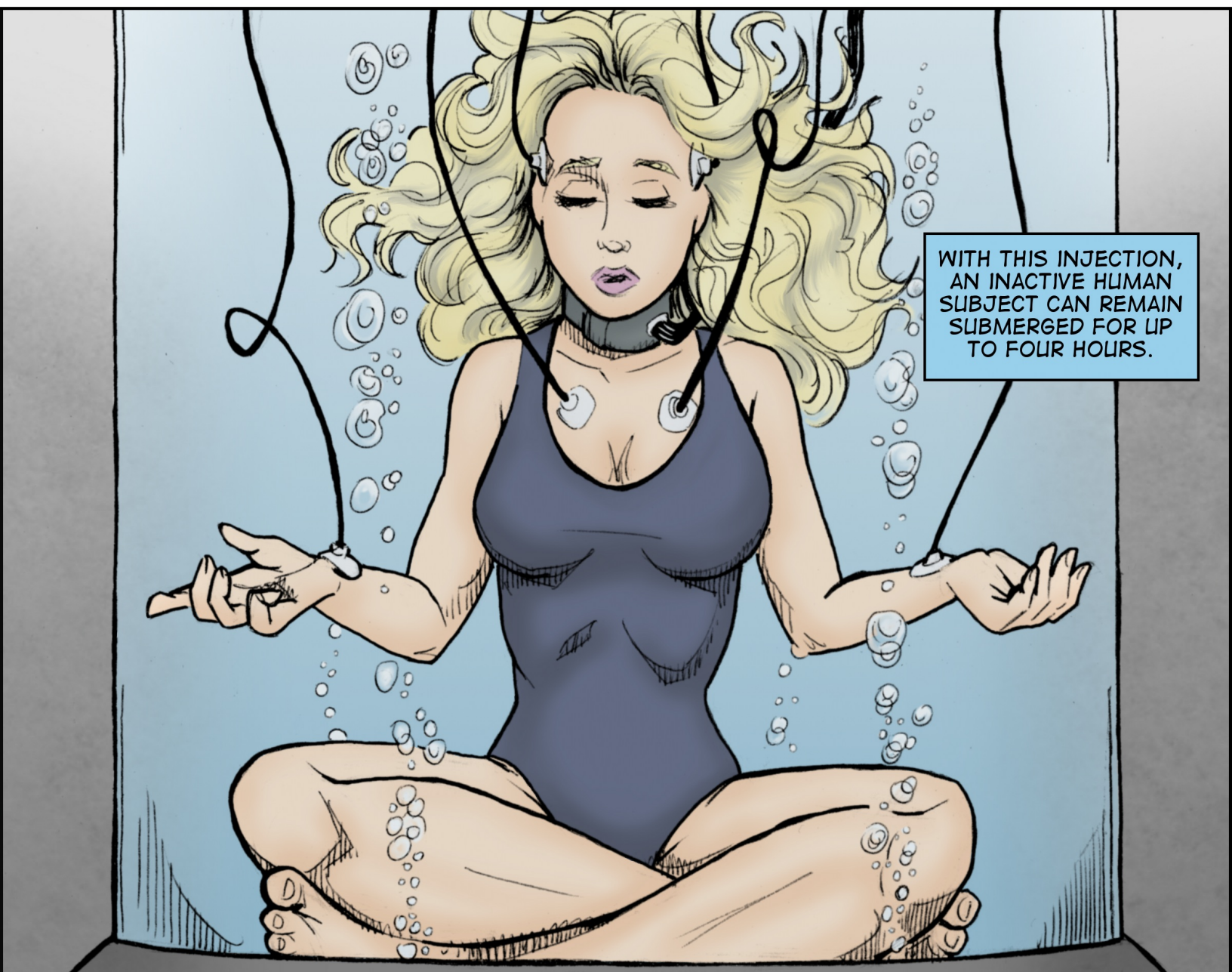




OF COURSE, WE ARE
TAKING MEASURES TO
REDUCE ANY POSSIBLE
DISTRESS IN OUR
SUBJECTS. FOR
EXAMPLE,
WE INTEND
TO GIVE
THEM AN
INJECTION
OF THIS...



...A SOLUTION OF NANOCYTES
THAT ARE THOUSANDS OF TIMES
MORE EFFICIENT THAN HUMAN
BLOOD CELLS AT STORING AND
TRANSPORTING OXYGEN.



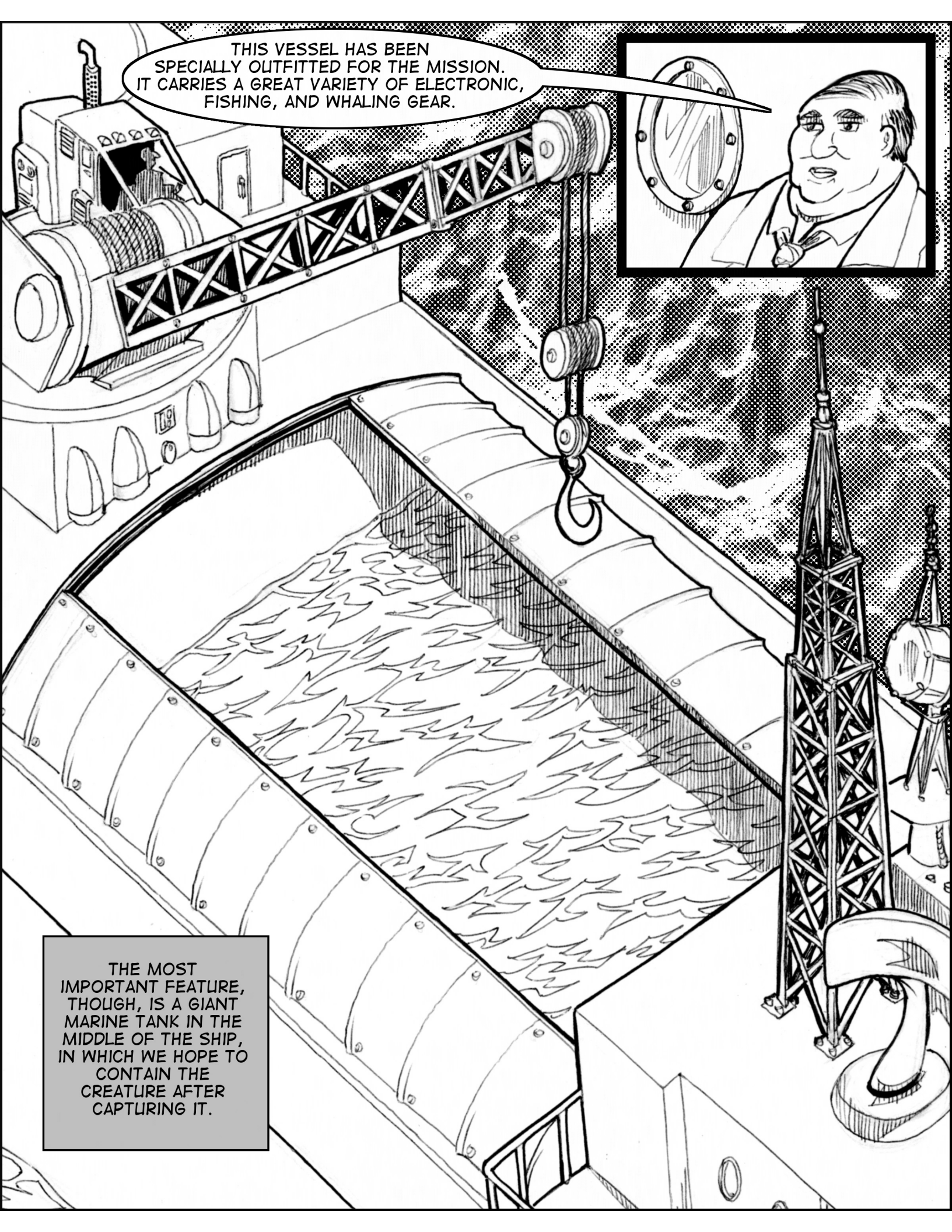
WITH THIS INJECTION,
AN INACTIVE HUMAN
SUBJECT CAN REMAIN
SUBMERGED FOR UP
TO FOUR HOURS.



NONE OF US HAS THE CHOICE AS TO WHETHER TO DIE. WE CAN ONLY MAKE IT SOONER, OR MAYBE JUST A LITTLE LATER.





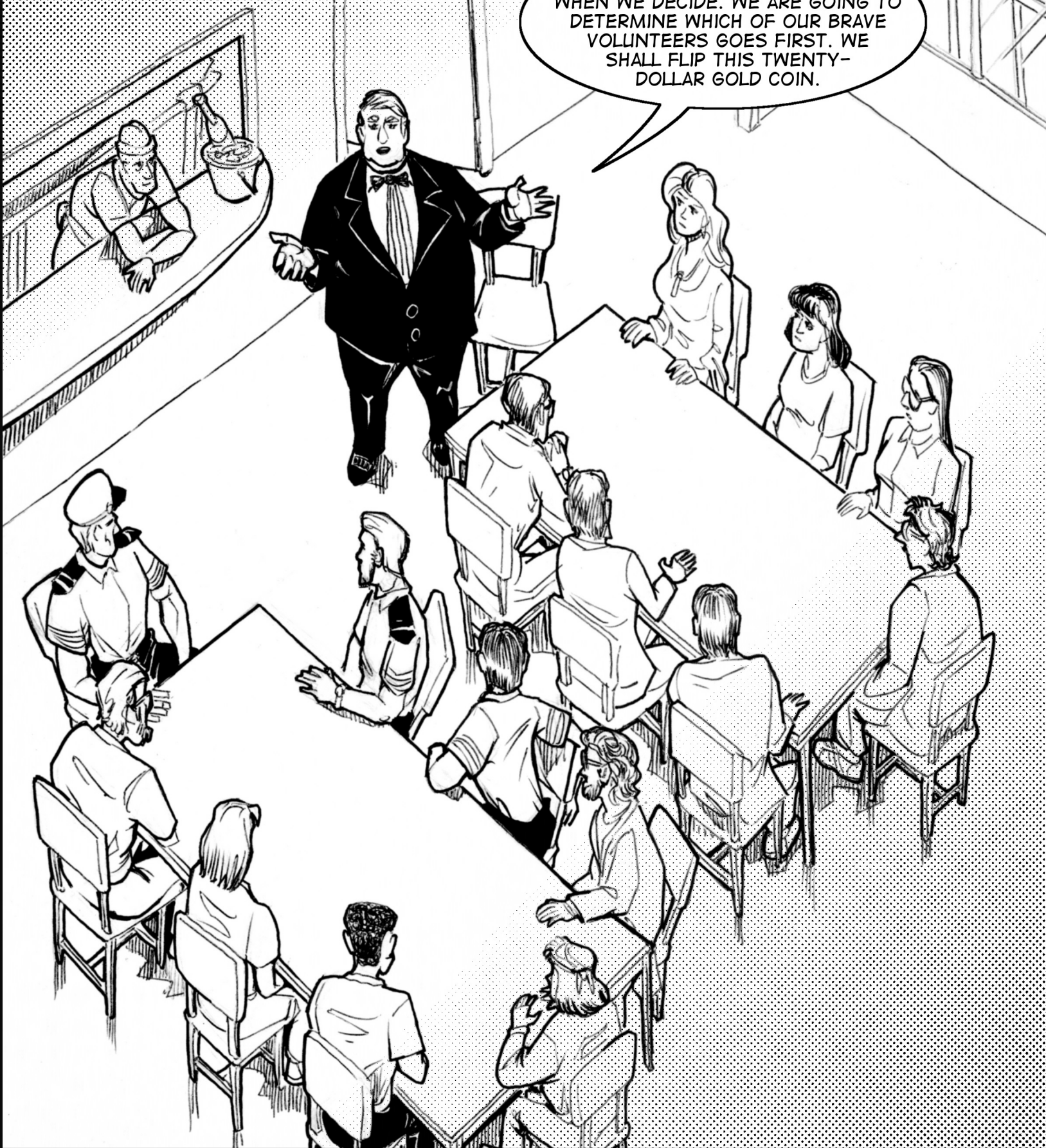


THIS VESSEL HAS BEEN
SPECIALLY OUTFITTED FOR THE MISSION.
IT CARRIES A GREAT VARIETY OF ELECTRONIC,
FISHING, AND WHALING GEAR.

THE MOST
IMPORTANT FEATURE,
THOUGH, IS A GIANT
MARINE TANK IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE SHIP,
IN WHICH WE HOPE TO
CONTAIN THE
CREATURE AFTER
CAPTURING IT.

As the *RV Seagoon* approaches the island of Motofupo, there is a dramatic moment.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE,
NOW COMES THE MOMENT
WHEN WE DECIDE. WE ARE GOING TO
DETERMINE WHICH OF OUR BRAVE
VOLUNTEERS GOES FIRST. WE
SHALL FLIP THIS TWENTY-
DOLLAR GOLD COIN.






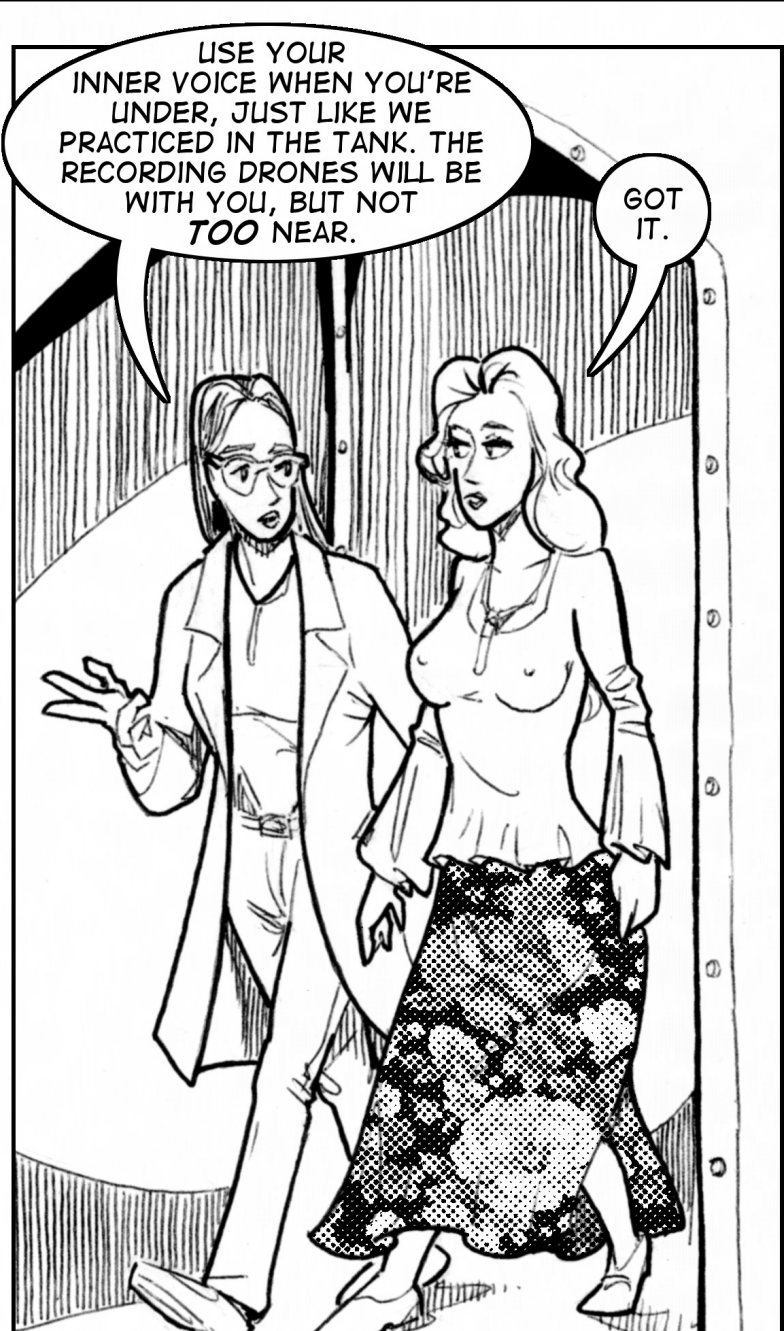




WILL I REALLY
GO THROUGH WITH IT? OF
COURSE, I'M GOING THROUGH
WITH IT!

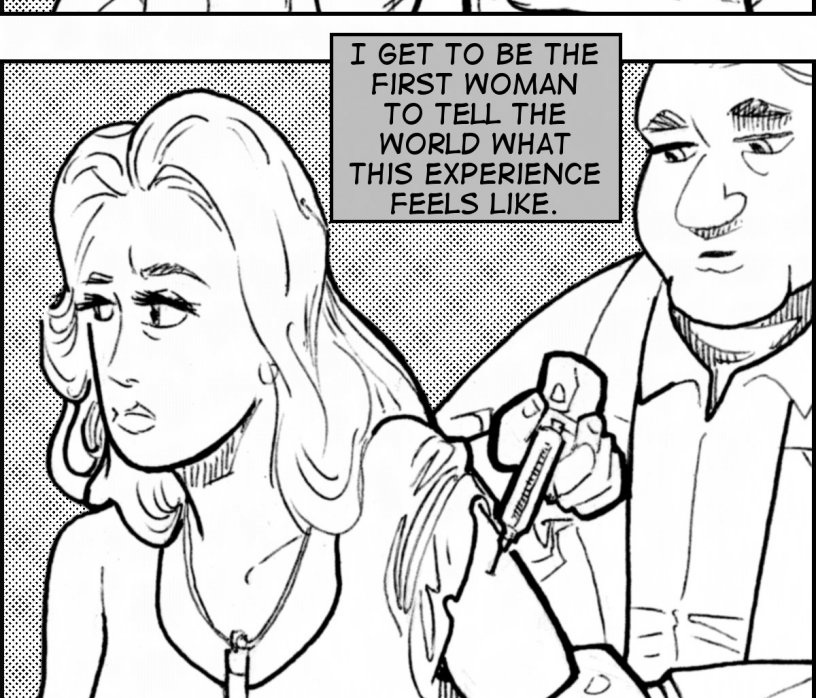


THIS IS THE RIDE
OF A LIFETIME.
I'M NOT GIVING
UP THAT CHANCE.

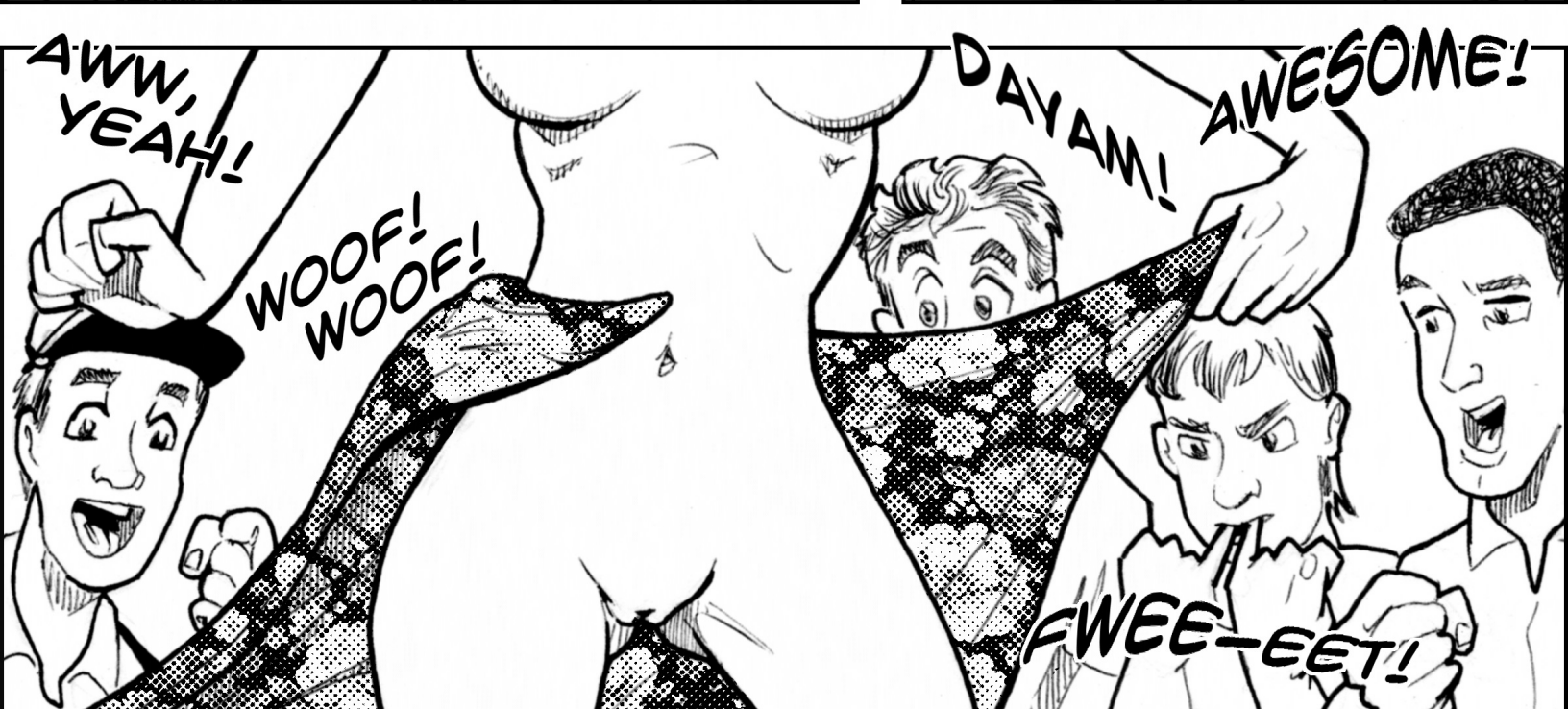
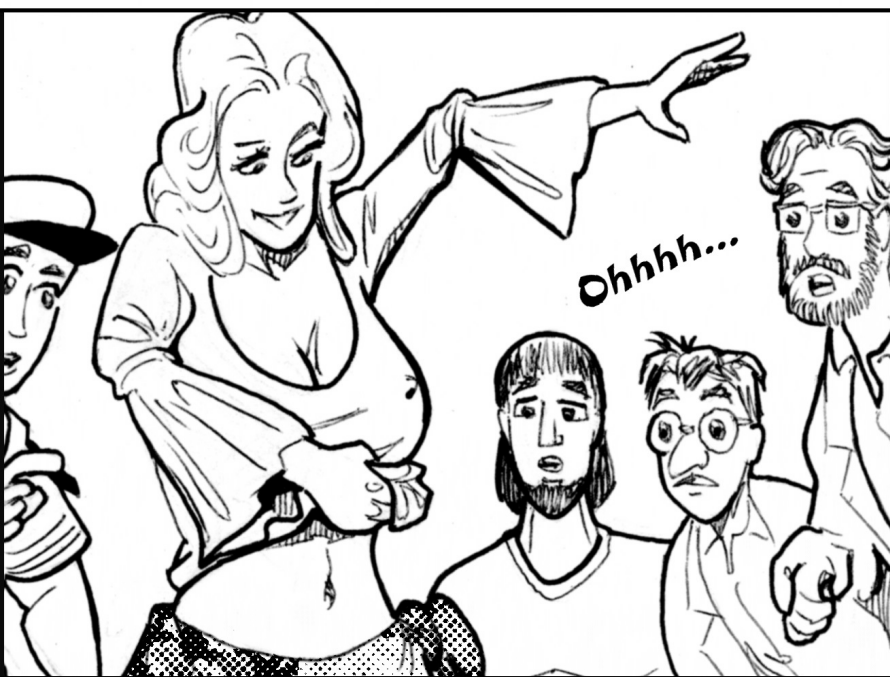


USE YOUR
INNER VOICE WHEN YOU'RE
UNDER, JUST LIKE WE
PRACTICED IN THE TANK. THE
RECORDING DRONES WILL BE
WITH YOU, BUT NOT
TOO NEAR.

GOT
IT.



I GET TO BE THE
FIRST WOMAN
TO TELL THE
WORLD WHAT
THIS EXPERIENCE
FEELS LIKE.



There doesn't seem
to be much hesitation in
this moment of truth.

BABY!

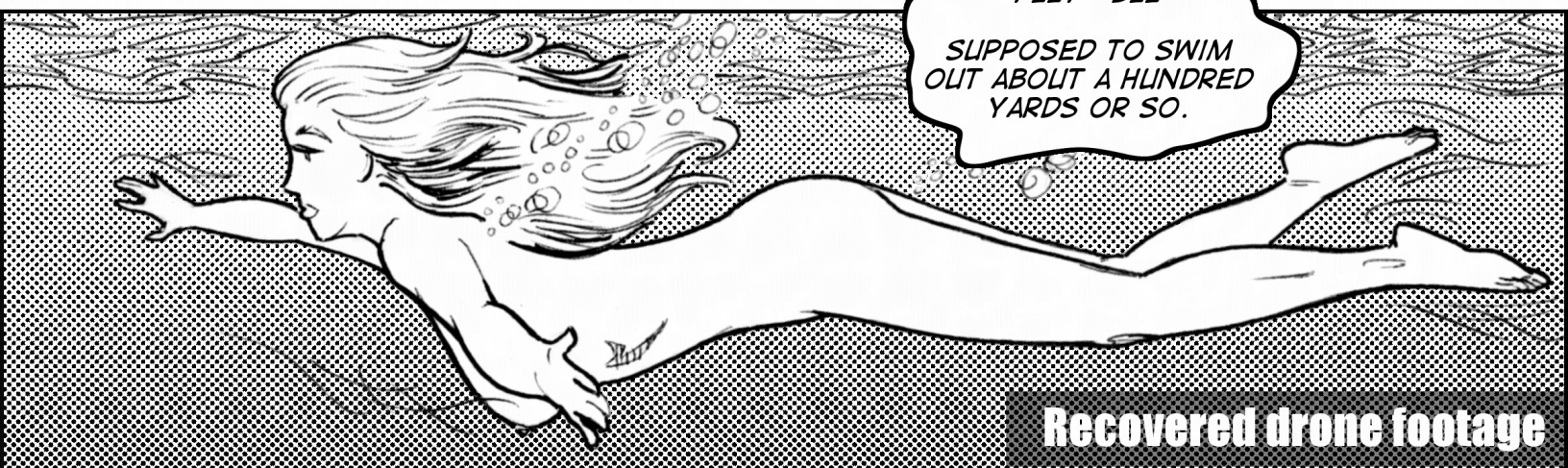
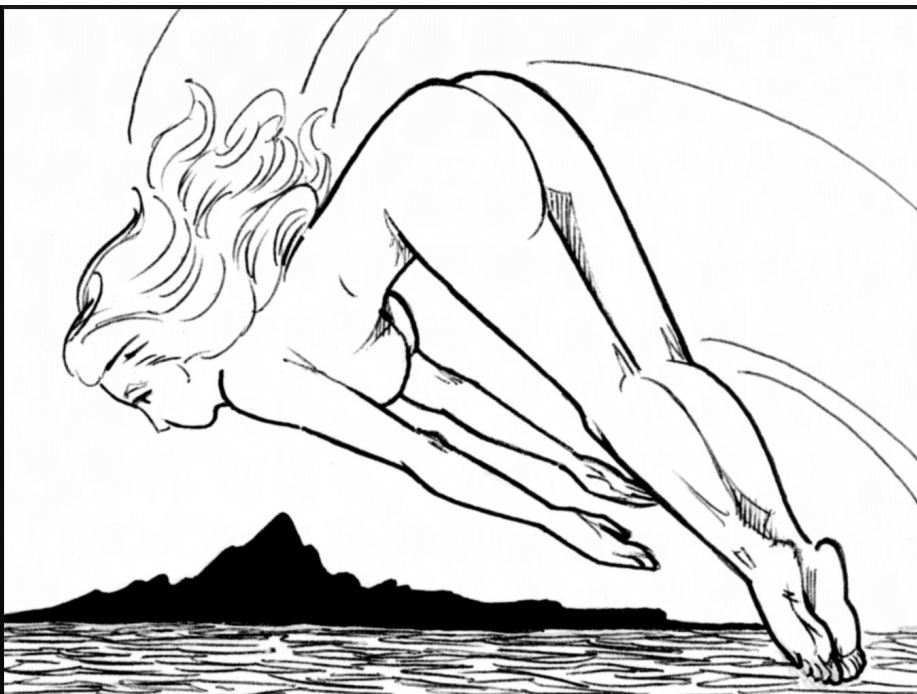
YOWZA!

YEAH!

WOOO!

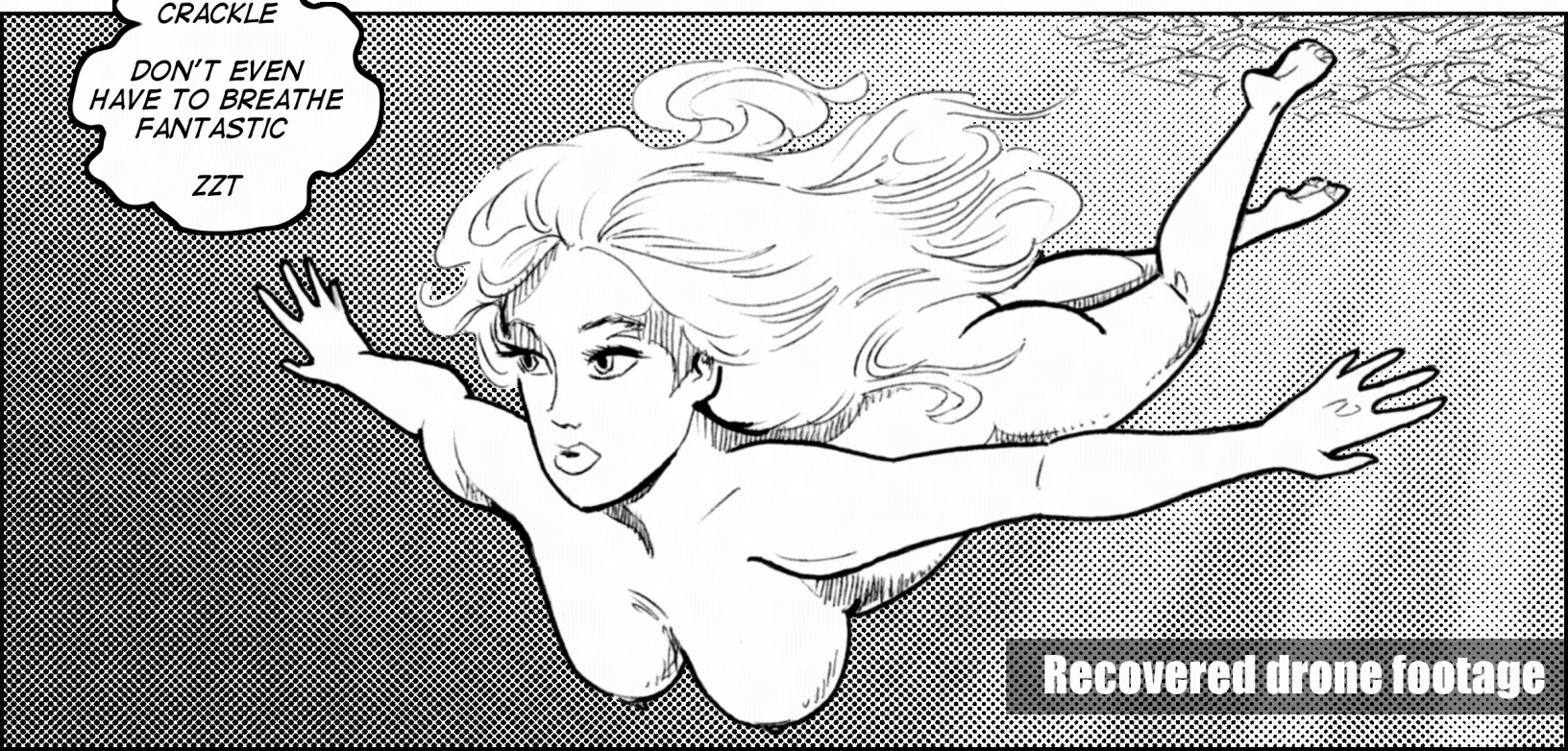
HUZZAH!





FZZT BZZ
SLIPPED TO SWIM
OUT ABOUT A HUNDRED
YARDS OR SO.

Recovered drone footage



CRACKLE
DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO BREATHE
FANTASTIC
ZZT

Recovered drone footage

RRRZZ...
SO PEACEFUL
AND CALM...
POP!

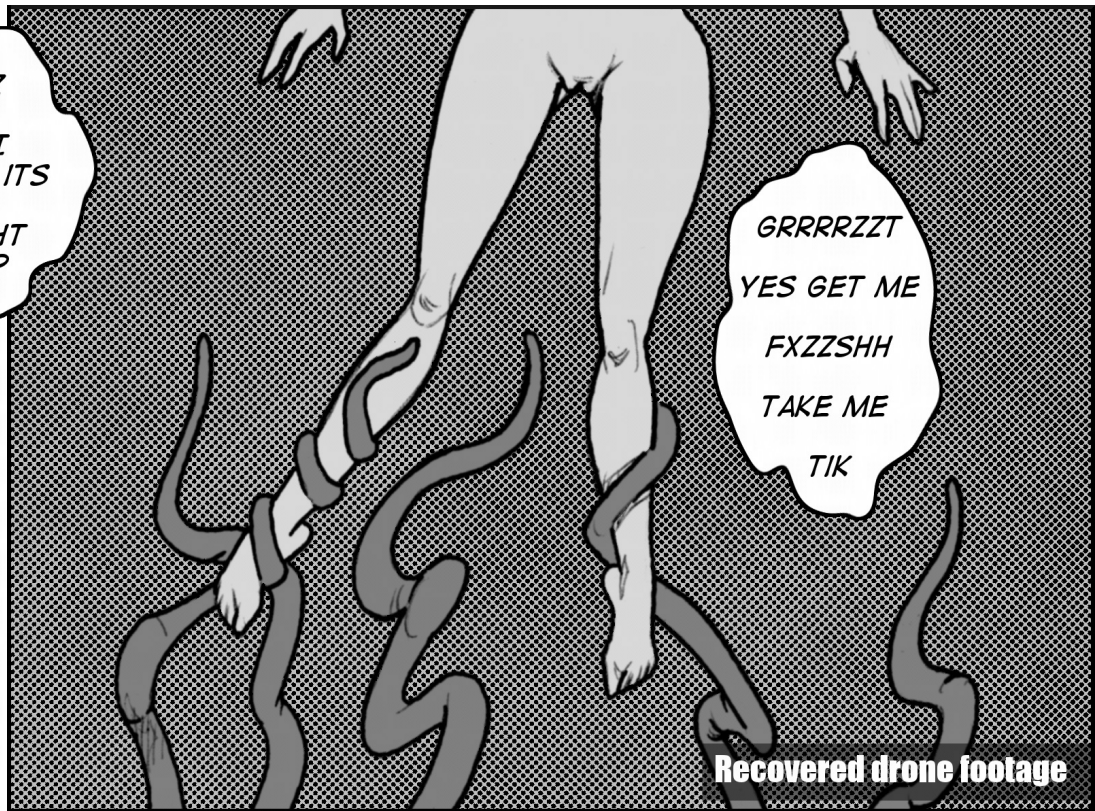


Recovered drone footage



ZZZ
OH I
THINK ITS
FSSHT
POP

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



GRRRRZZT
YES GET ME
FXZZSHH
TAKE ME
TIK

Recovered drone footage



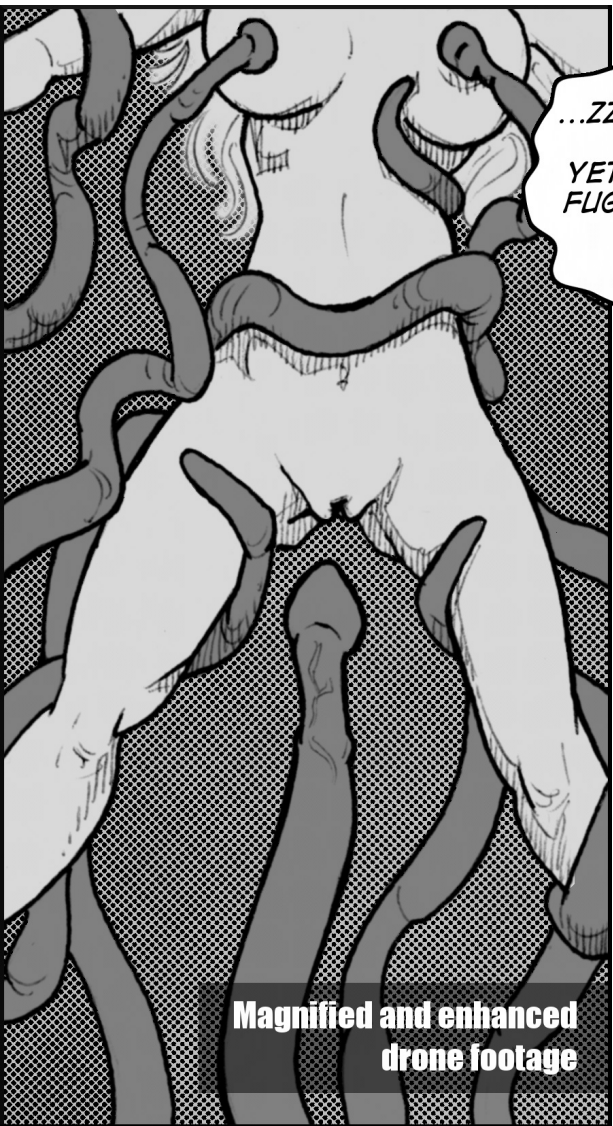
YESSZZT...
SLICK ME...
SKREEEEEE

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



Magnified and enhanced
drone footage

...MLPMH...



...ZZSCHFWEE...

YETH...YETH...
FUG MEEEEEE...

STK...

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage



...YETH...
UETH...
YETH...

FWWW

YESYESYESYES...

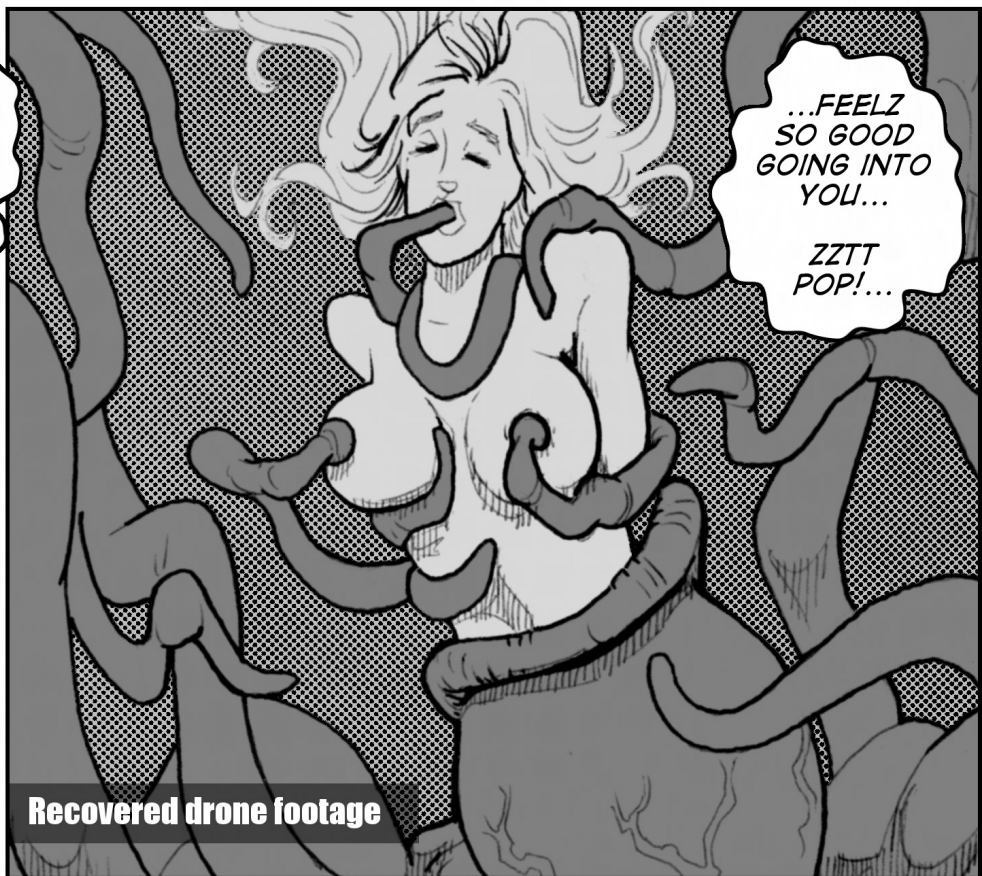
Recovered drone footage



...YETH...
OH EAT ME
PLEASE...
YES...

ZZT

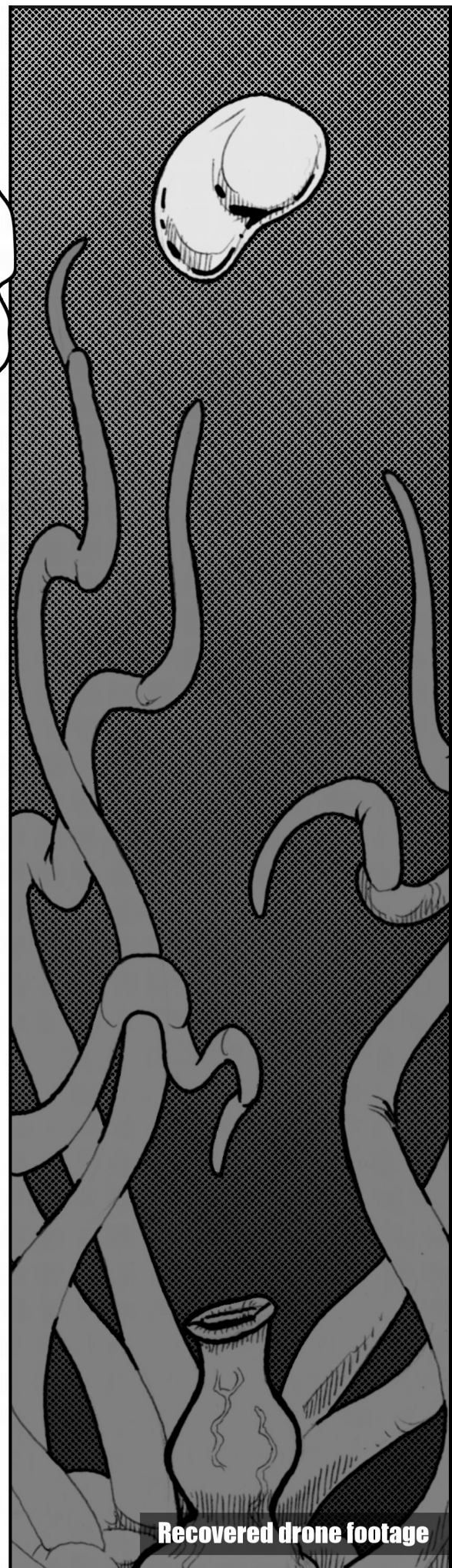
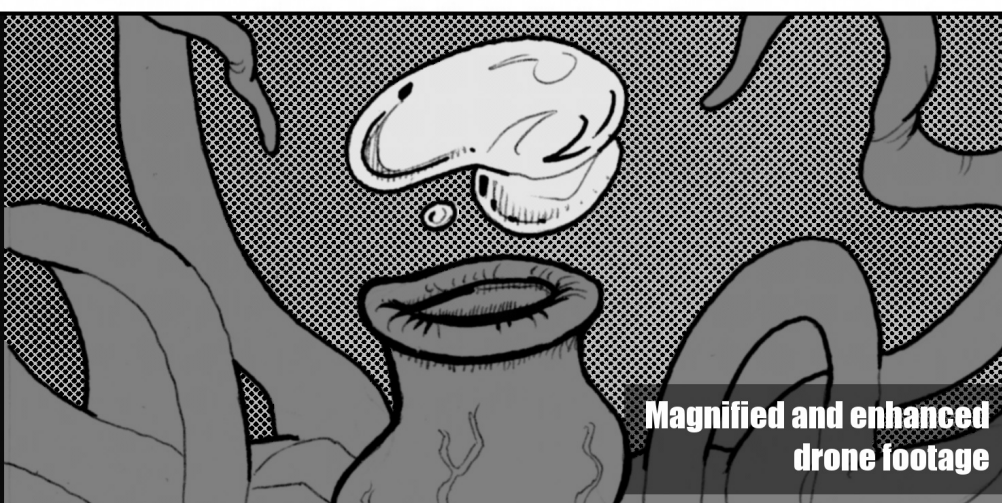
Recovered drone footage



...FEELZ
SO GOOD
GOING INTO
YOU...

ZZTT
POP!...

Recovered drone footage



Back on the *RV Seagoon*,
things are not going well.



HOW LONG
HAS IT BEEN?

THIRTEEN
HOURS,
PROFESSOR.

YOU'RE
RUNNING EVERY
POSSIBLE
SWEEP?

NOTHING
BUT CALM SEA
OUT THERE.

After forty-eight hours,
Professor Turpentine
concludes that their first
attempt has failed.

NO SIGN OF
A DETONATION
AT ALL.

PERHAPS WE
HAD THE CAPSULE
SENSOR SETTING SET
TOO LOW.



YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF MAIL, AND A LOT OF CHATTER ON SOCIAL MEDIA, TO THE EFFECT THAT YOU'RE CRAZY, THAT YOU'RE UNSTABLE, THAT YOU'RE SUICIDAL, THAT SOMEONE SHOULD STOP YOU, AND SO ON.

YES, I KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT. AND I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.

FOR CENTURIES, **MEN** HAVE SET OUT ON EXPEDITIONS TO ADVANCE HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.



SOME OF THESE EXPEDITIONS WERE EXTRAORDINARILY DANGEROUS. THEY HAD TO KNOW IN SOME CASES THAT THE ODDS THAT THEY WOULD SURVIVE WERE QUITE POOR.

EVEN IN MORE MODERN TIMES, MEN HAVE UNDERTAKEN EXPLORATORY VENTURES THAT THEY KNEW POSED A LETHAL RISK.



AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT? **NO ONE** WROTE ABOUT HOW THESE MEN WERE CRAZY UNSTABLE BITCHES WHO NEEDED TO BE STOPPED FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.



INSTEAD, THEY WERE CELEBRATED AS HEROES.

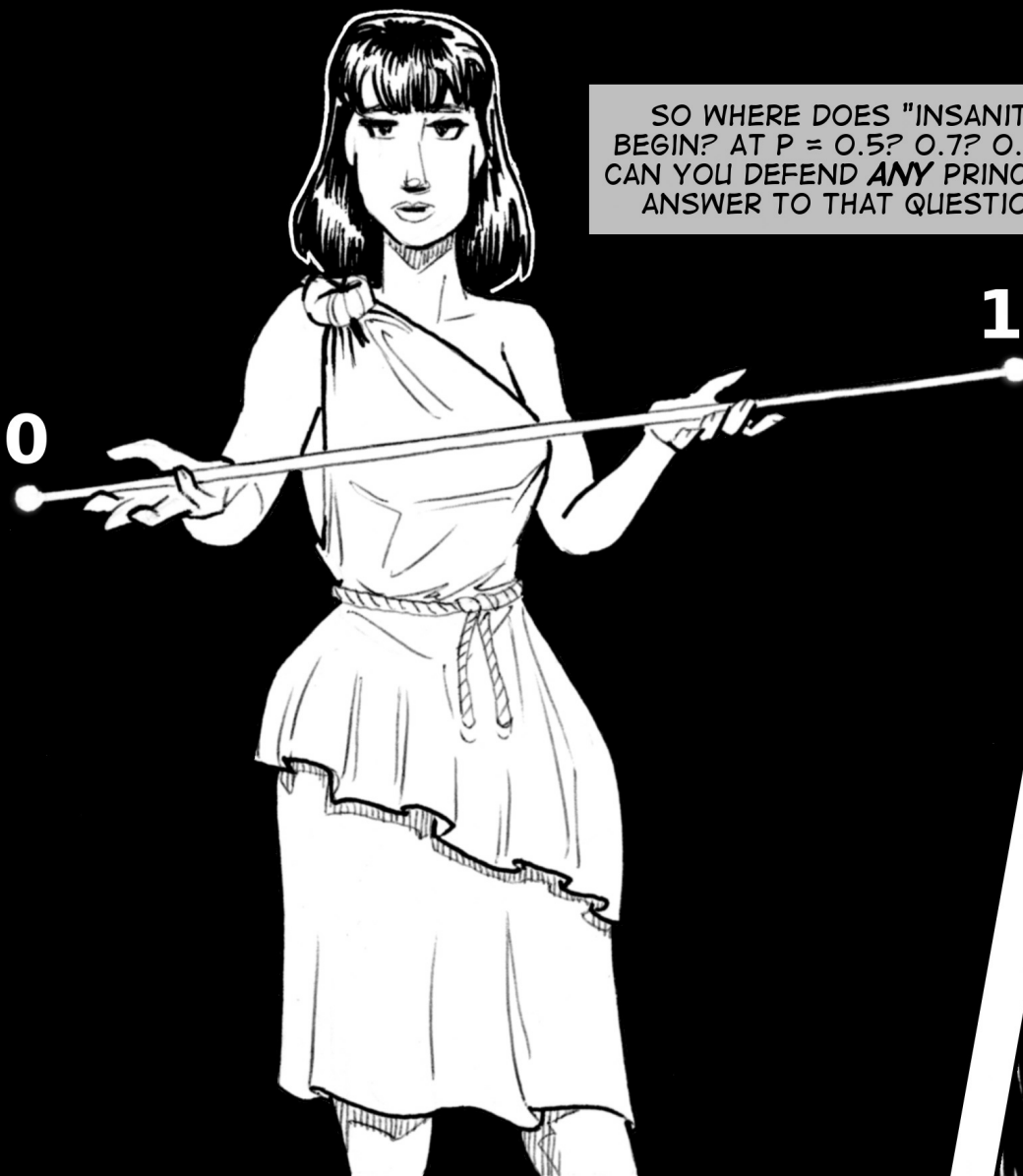


PERHAPS THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
A CHANCE OF DEATH AND WHAT LOOKS
LIKE A CERTAINTY OF...



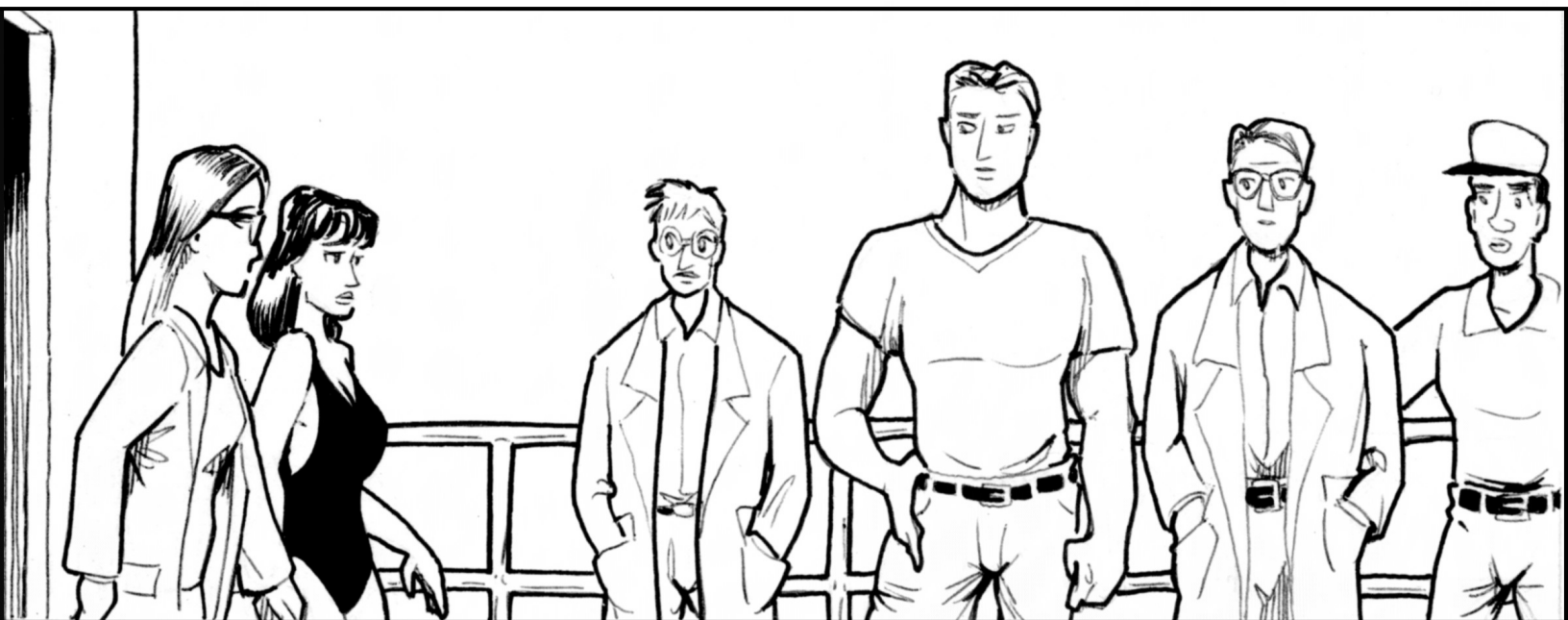
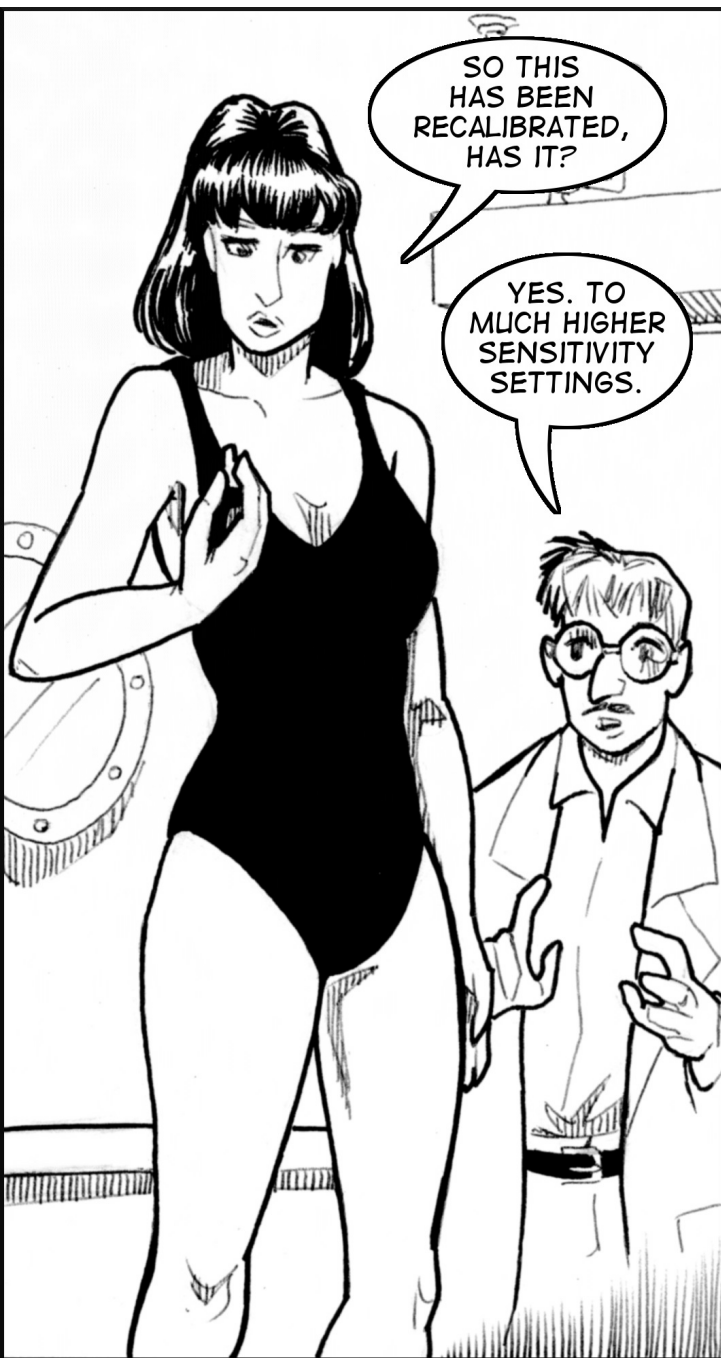
"CERTAINTY" ISN'T METAPHYSICALLY
SPECIAL. IT'S JUST THE ENDPOINT OF
A CONTINUUM OF PROBABILITIES.

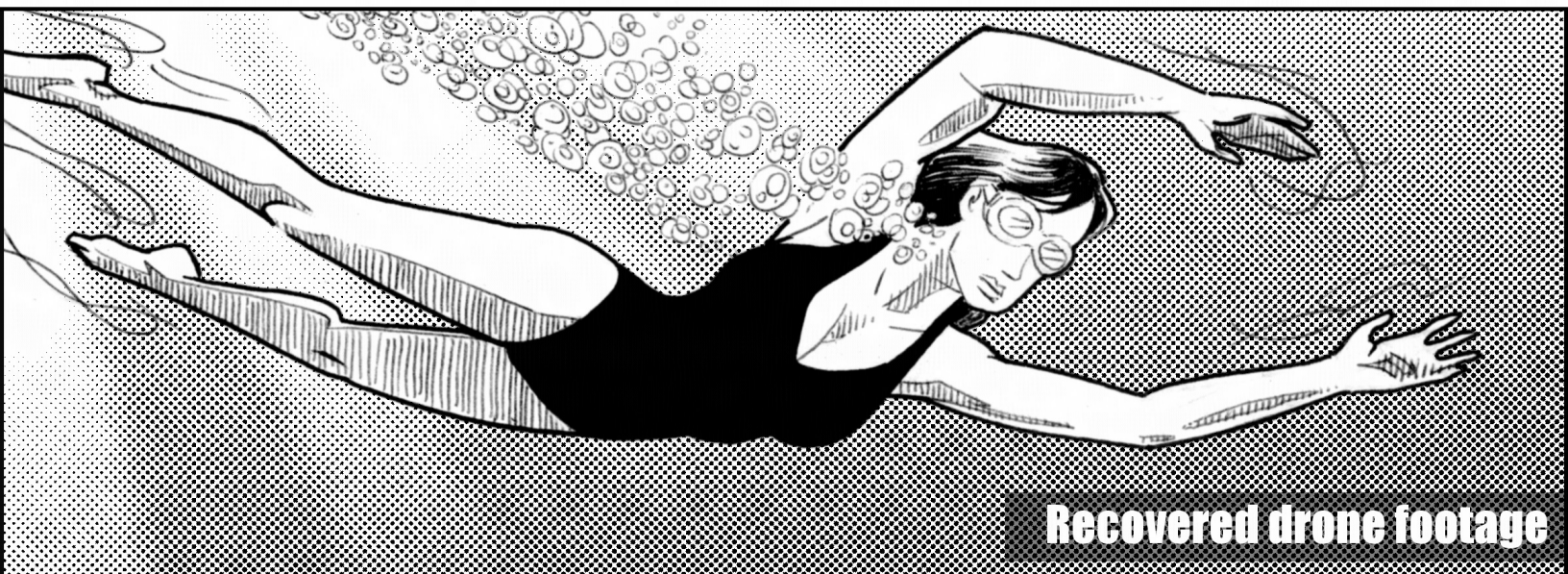
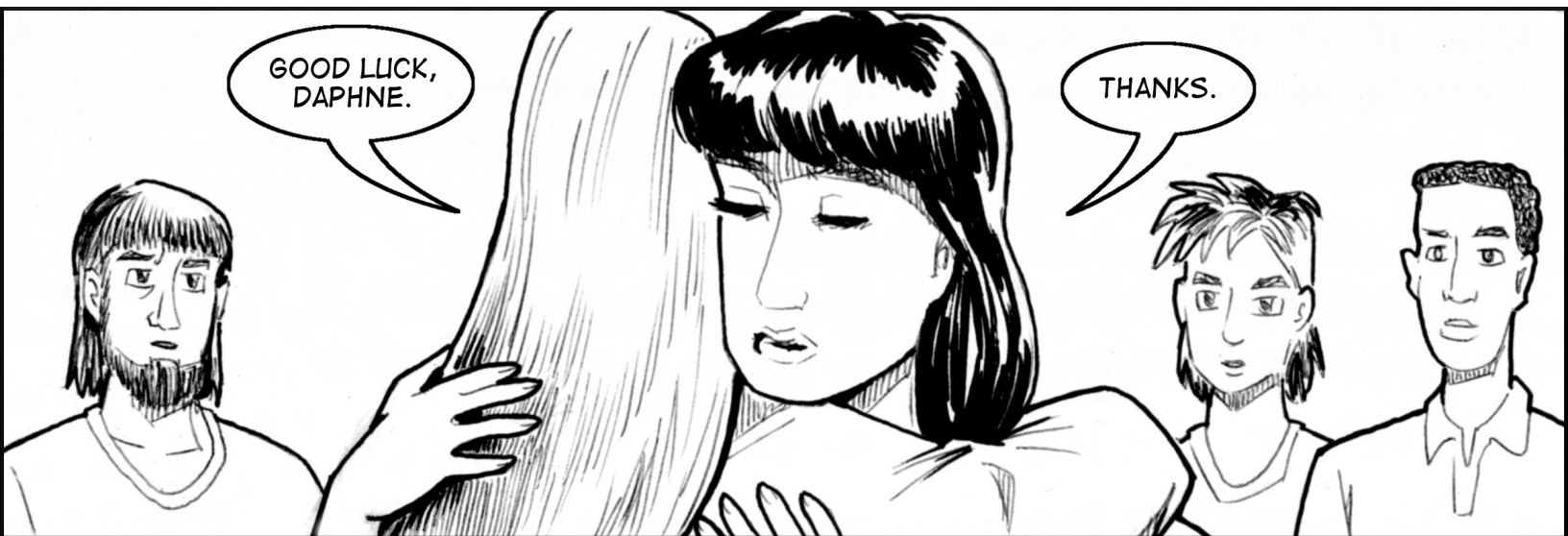
IF NOT, THEN SHUT UP
AND LET ME GET ON WITH
WHAT I NEED TO DO.



SO WHERE DOES "INSANITY"
BEGIN? AT $P = 0.5$? 0.7 ? 0.999 ?
CAN YOU DEFEND **ANY** PRINCIPLED
ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?





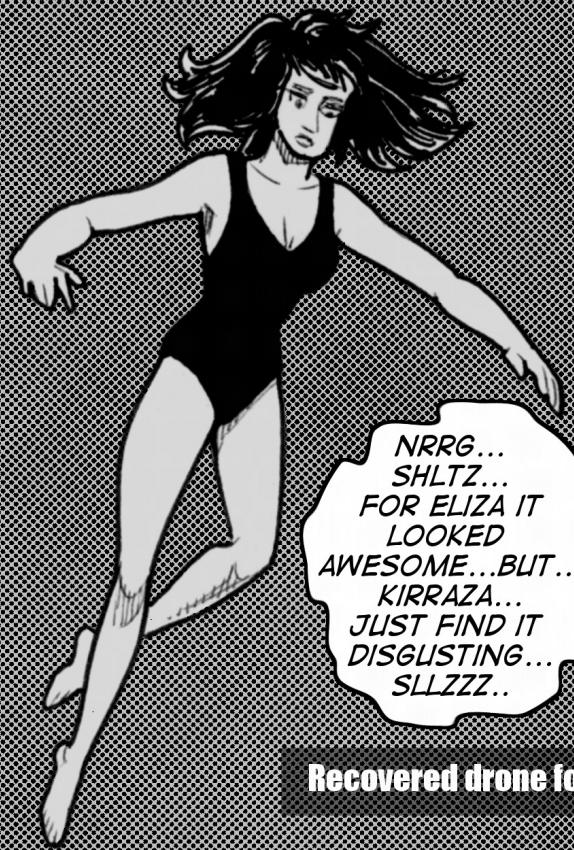


ZZT...HERE I AM OUT
HERE WONDERING...
RZZNNN... WHAT IT WILL
BE LIKE... KAPTIK...



Recovered drone footage

NRRG...
SHLTZ...
FOR ELIZA IT
LOOKED
AWESOME...BUT...
KIRRAZA...
JUST FIND IT
DISGUSTING...
SLLZZZ..



Recovered drone footage

ZZZLTSLX...

GIVES ME
BUTTERFLIES IN
MY STOMACH...

KKRRR...
ZOT



Recovered drone footage

Magnified and enhanced
drone footage

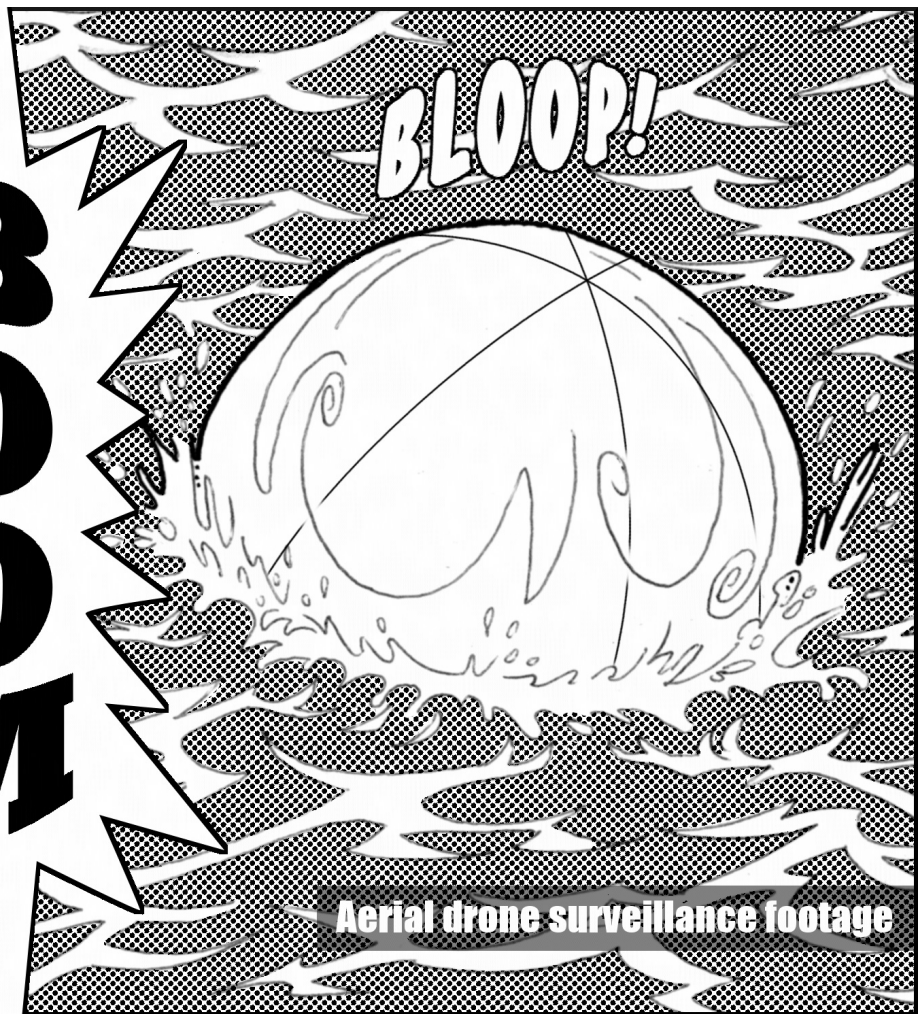
...RRRG...
HEY I DON'T
FEEL SO GOOD...

BLLL





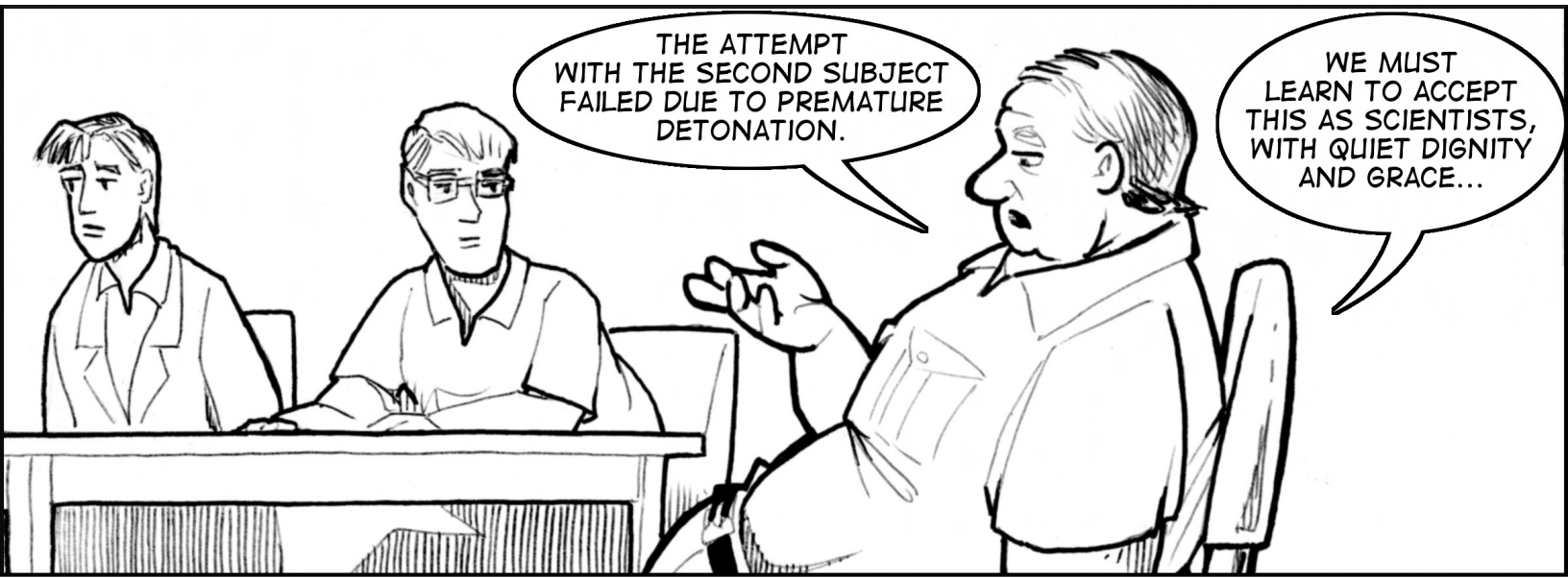
Recovered drone footage



Aerial drone surveillance footage



Aerial drone surveillance footage



THE ATTEMPT
WITH THE SECOND SUBJECT
FAILED DUE TO PREMATURE
DETONATION.

WE MUST
LEARN TO ACCEPT
THIS AS SCIENTISTS,
WITH QUIET DIGNITY
AND GRACE...



ACTUALLY,
PROFESSOR, WE
HAVE NOT FAILED
YET.

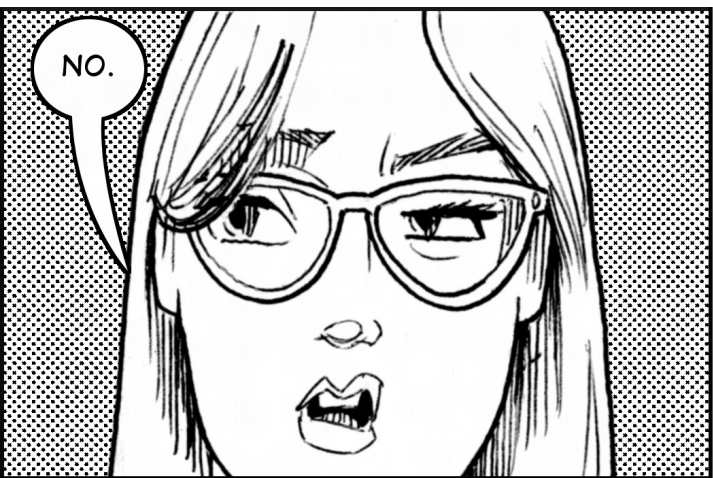


WE HAVE
NO MORE
SUBJECTS.

ALTHOUGH...



WHY IS
EVERYONE
LOOKING AT ME
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?





Professor Turpentine,
as expedition leader,
attempts to deal with the
crisis that has arisen.



DR. HONEYWOOD,
CAN WE SPEAK?

**KNOCK
KNOCK!**



LISTEN, I'VE TALKED WITH THE EXPEDITION
SPONSOR VIA SATELLITE PHONE. HE
UNDERSTANDS HOW CRITICAL YOU'VE
BECOME TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS
EXPEDITION, AND HE HAS SAID HE'S
WILLING TO RAISE THE CHARITABLE
DONATION TO FIVE MILLION
DOLLARS IF YOU CAN...
COOPERATE.



YOU CAN DO
A LOT OF GOOD IN THE
WORLD WITH FIVE MILLION
DOLLARS, CLAUDIA.

Internal surveillance video



AT THIS POINT,
THE EXPEDITION SIMPLY **CANNOT**
SUCCEED WITHOUT YOU. THERE JUST
ISN'T **ANYONE** ELSE WITH THE RIGHT...
ATTRIBUTES, AND IT WILL BE NINETEEN
MORE YEARS BEFORE ANYONE HAS
ANOTHER CHANCE.



IN RECOGNITION
OF WHAT WE'RE ASKING
OF YOU, THE SPECIES WILL
BE NAMED AFTER YOU.
GYNOPHAGOS HONEYWOODIAE.
HOW DOES THAT
SOUND?



Internal surveillance video

FUCK
OFF!



THINK
ABOUT IT.

PLEASE.

After a few days' standoff,
Claudia agrees to speak with us,
but not with the ship's crew.

THE PROBLEM IS
THAT THEY'RE RIGHT.
ASIDE FROM THEIR TWO
VOLUNTEERS, I'M THE ONLY
ONE THEY CAN ACCESS IN TIME.
THERE ARE OTHER WOMEN, BUT THEY
DON'T KNOW THE RIGHT PROTOCOLS.

IT WON'T BE
OTHER PEOPLE'S
FUCKUPS THAT ANYONE
WILL REMEMBER. WHAT
EVERYONE WILL REMEMBER
WILL BE THAT BITCH WHO
WOULDN'T PLAY BALL AND
DISAPPOINTED A VERY
RICH MAN.

LIKE IT
OR NOT, THAT'S
HOW PEOPLE WILL
SEE IT.

I'LL BE BLACKBALLED EVERYWHERE. MY HARD-EARNED CAREER IN SCIENCE WILL BE OVER.

RESEARCH LABORATORY

THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE LATEST... ADMINISTRATION.



AND WHILE I MIGHT NOT HAVE DAPHNE BOSSELSEG'S HEROIC ATTITUDE ABOUT SUCH MATTERS, JUST LIKE HER, I AM SURE I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN SPEND A LIFETIME Eeking OUT A LIVING IN THE TWENTY FIRST-CENTURY SERVICE ECONOMY.



YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY THINKING OF GIVING IN TO THEM, ARE YOU?

WELL, WHY NOT?

FEED LOTS OF HUNGRY CHILDREN, BUY LOTS OF MOSQUITO NETS, GET MY NAME ON AN ELDRITCH HORROR...

AND GO OUT WITH A REAL BANG.



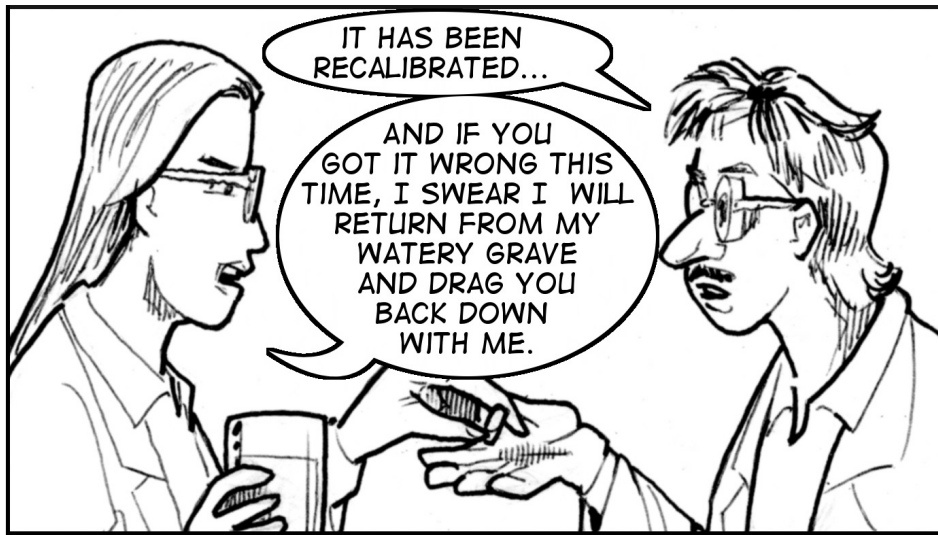
Within a few hours the arrangements are made.

Claudia writes one last letter to her academic advisor, thanking her for her support.



IT HAS BEEN RECALIBRATED...

AND IF YOU GOT IT WRONG THIS TIME, I SWEAR I WILL RETURN FROM MY WATERY GRAVE AND DRAG YOU BACK DOWN WITH ME.



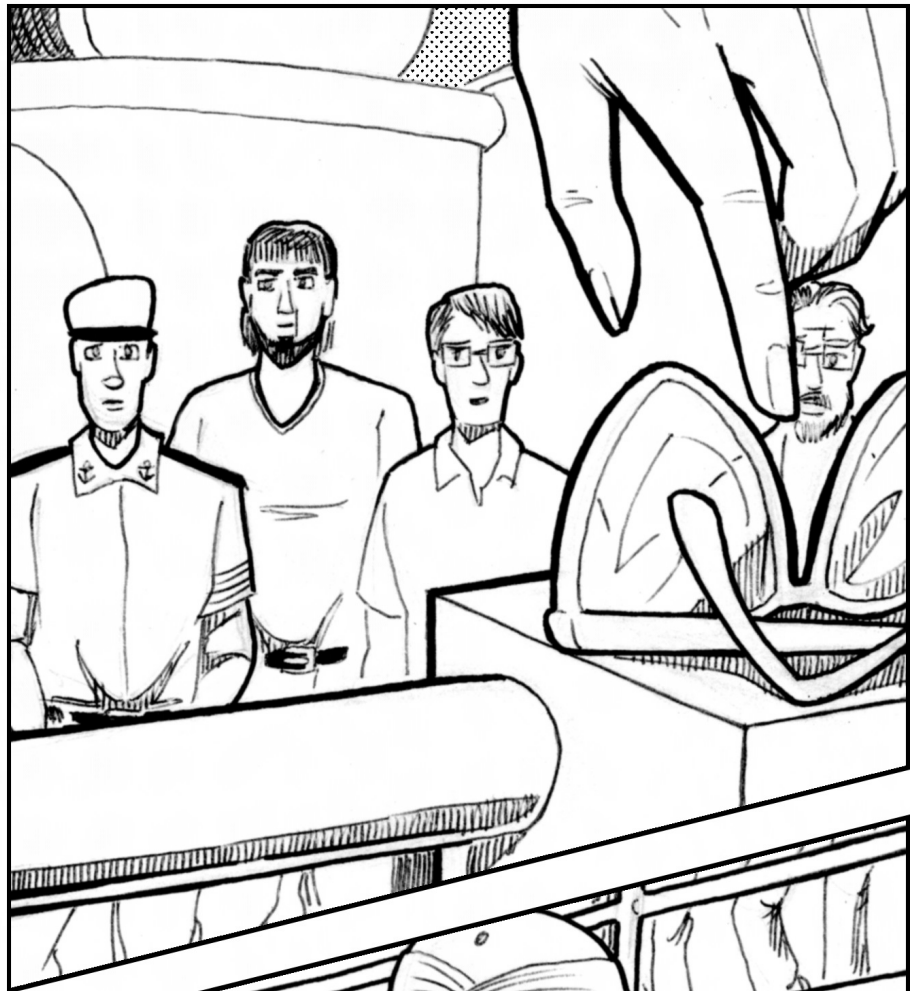
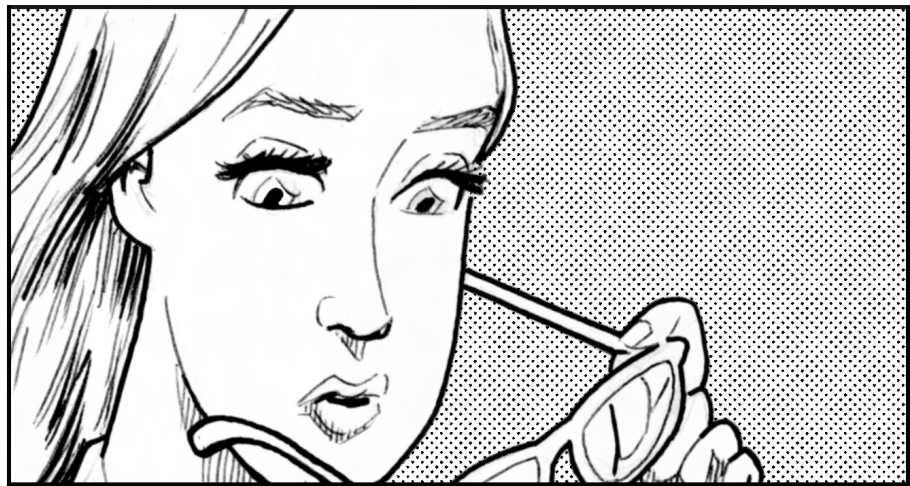
WE CANNOT EMPHASIZE ENOUGH HOW MUCH YOUR SACRIFICE IS APPRECIATED, DR. HONEYWOOD...

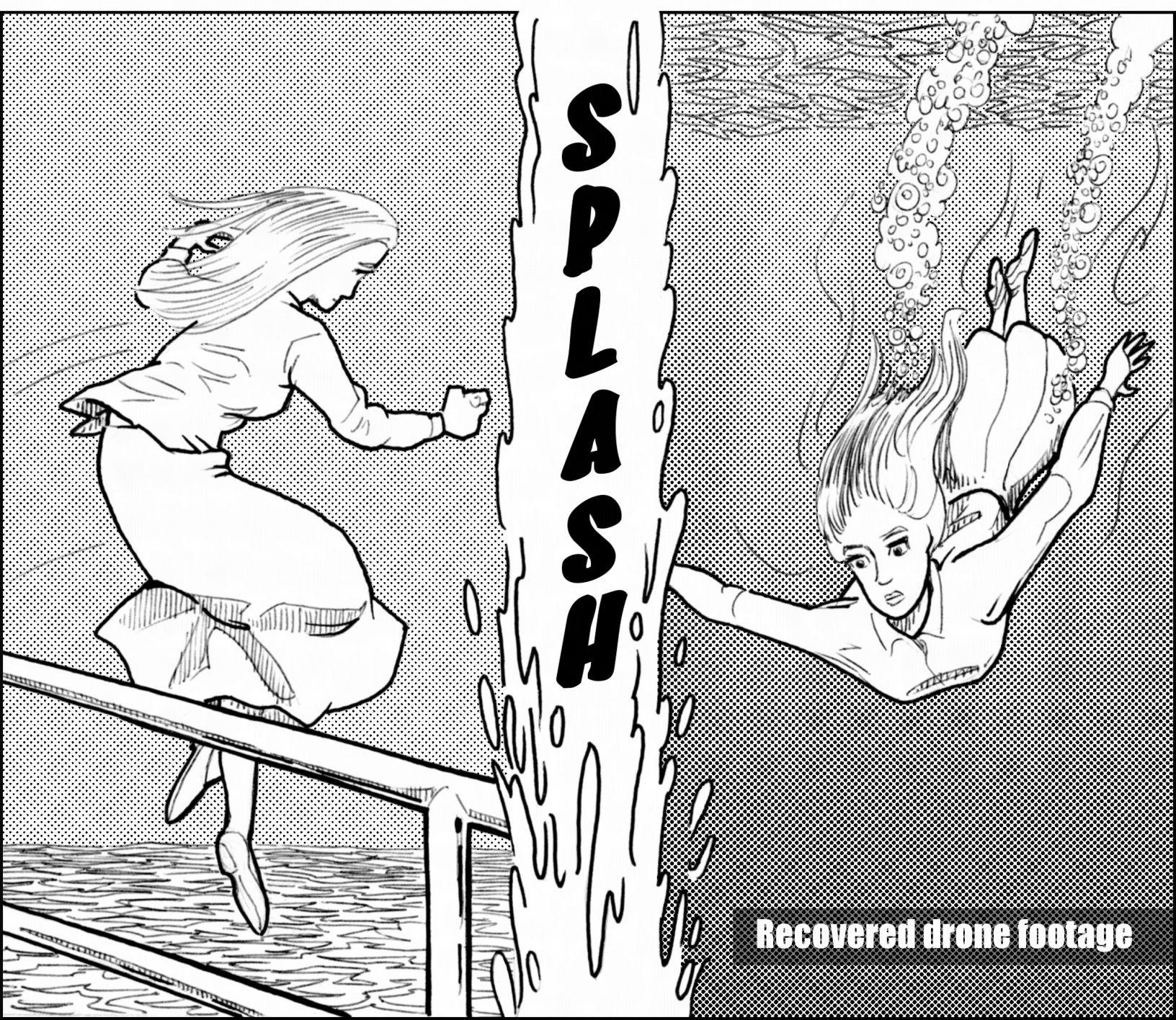
KINDLY GO FUCK YOURSELF, EUSTACE.

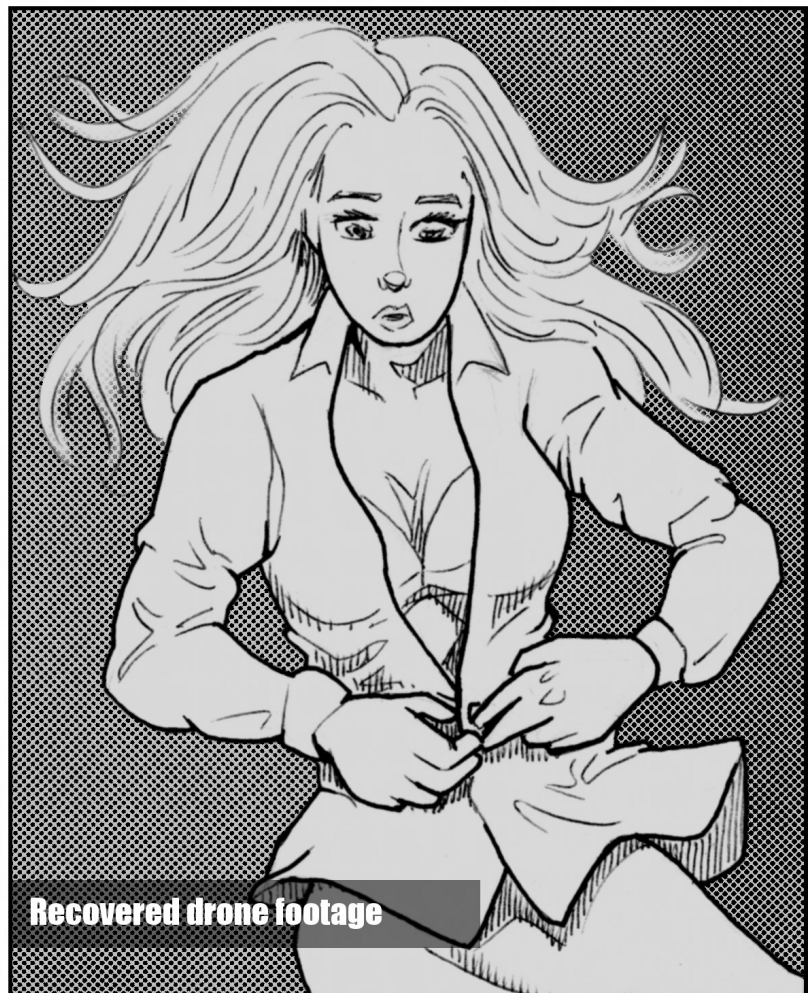
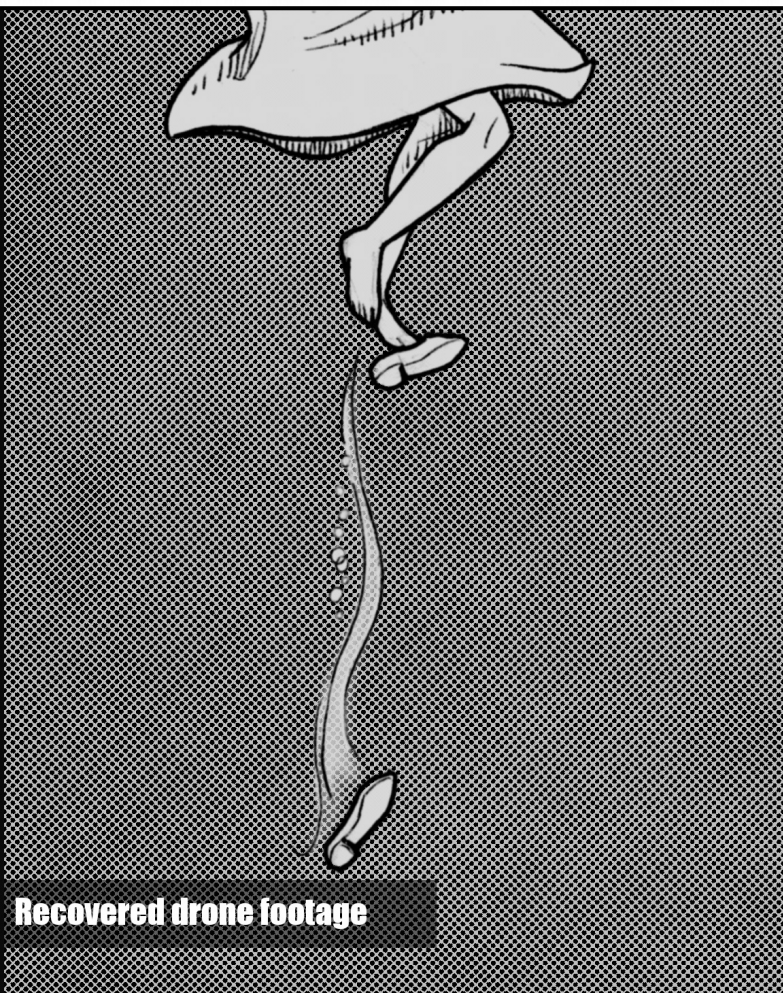
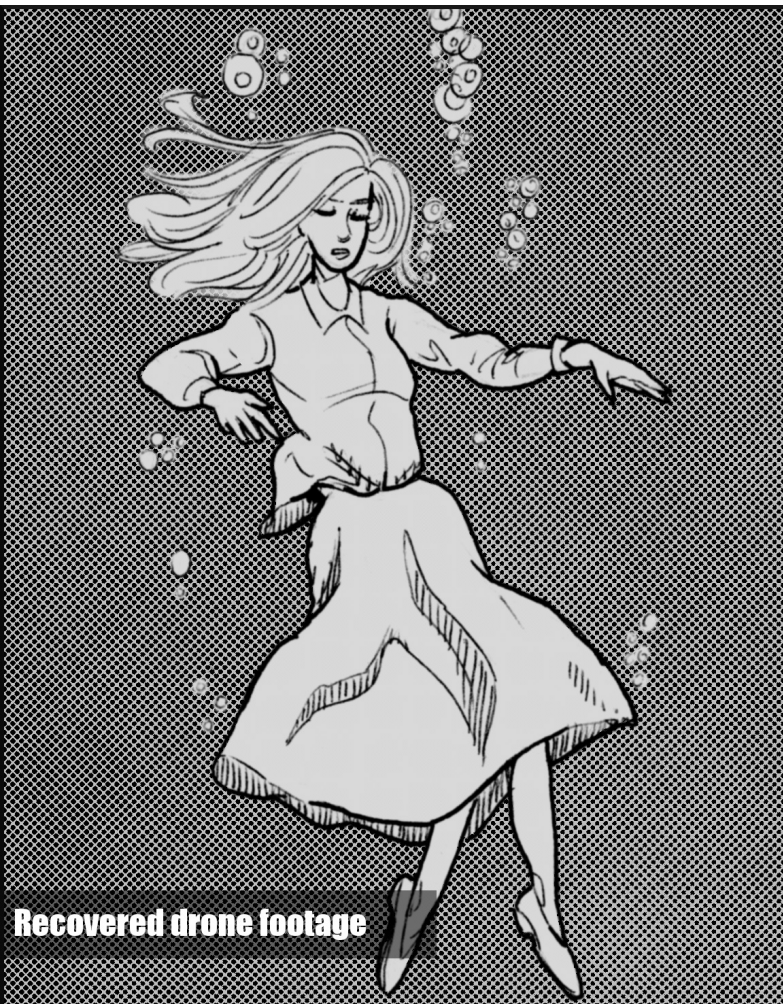


YOU ALL ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET YOUR PEEP SHOW SOMEWHERE ELSE TODAY.



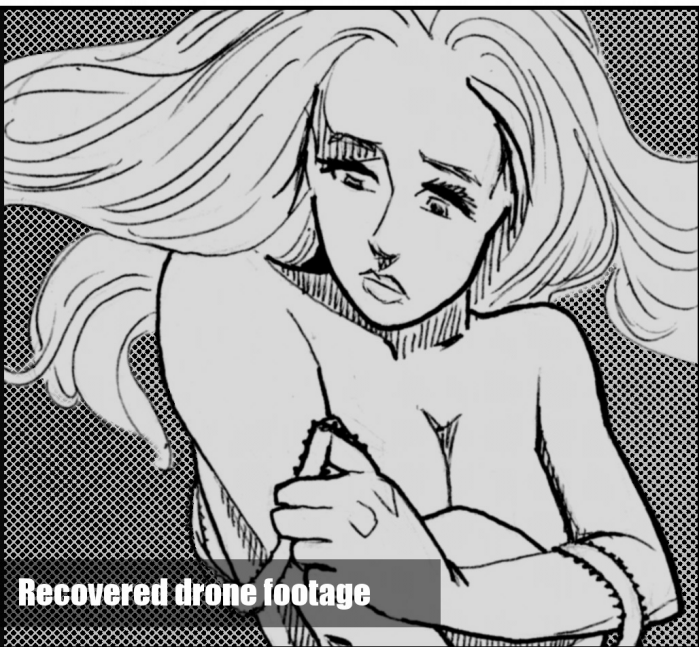




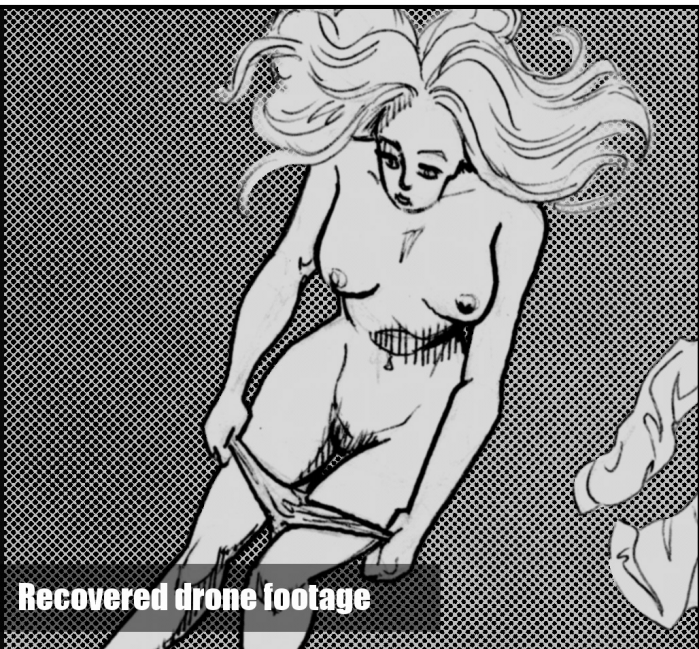




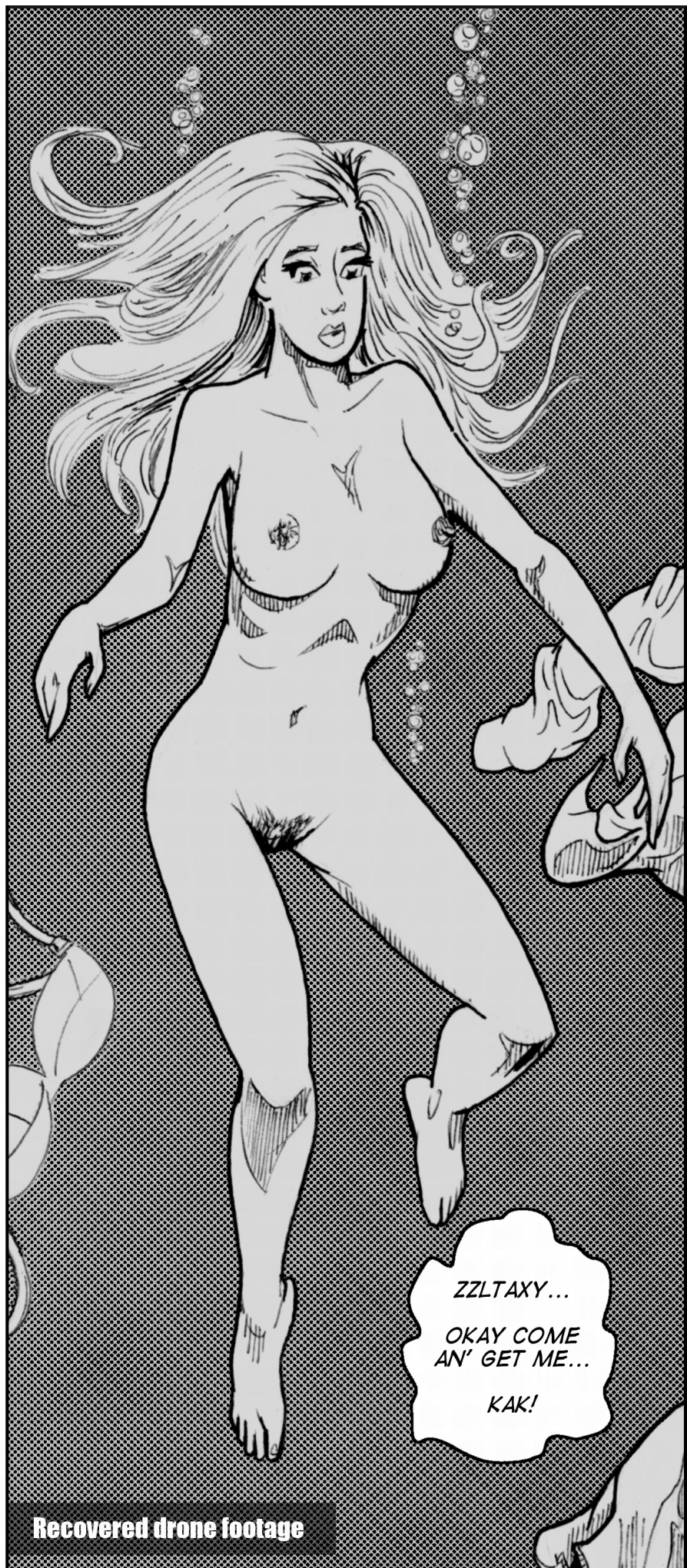
Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage



Recovered drone footage

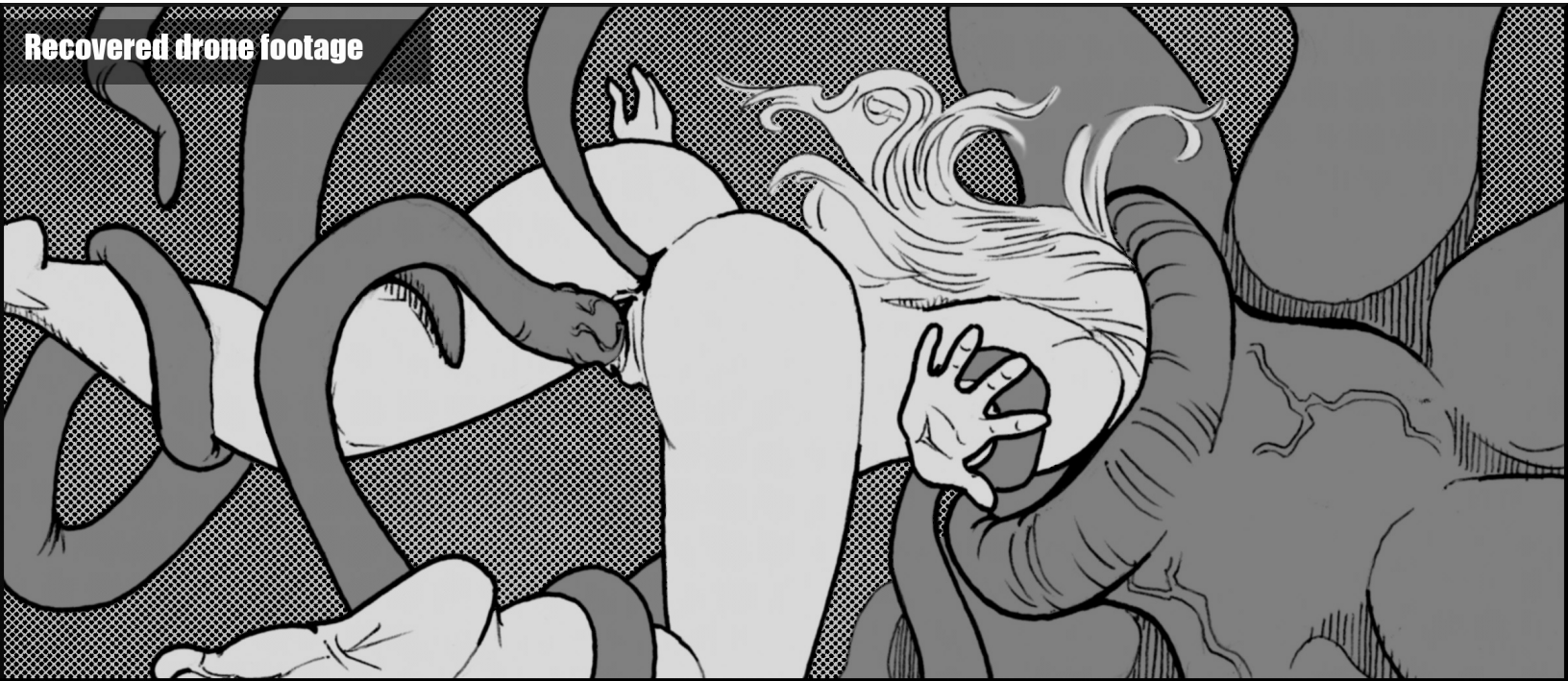
ZZLTAXY...
OKAY COME
AN' GET ME...
KAK!





Magnified and enhanced drone footage

Recovered drone footage



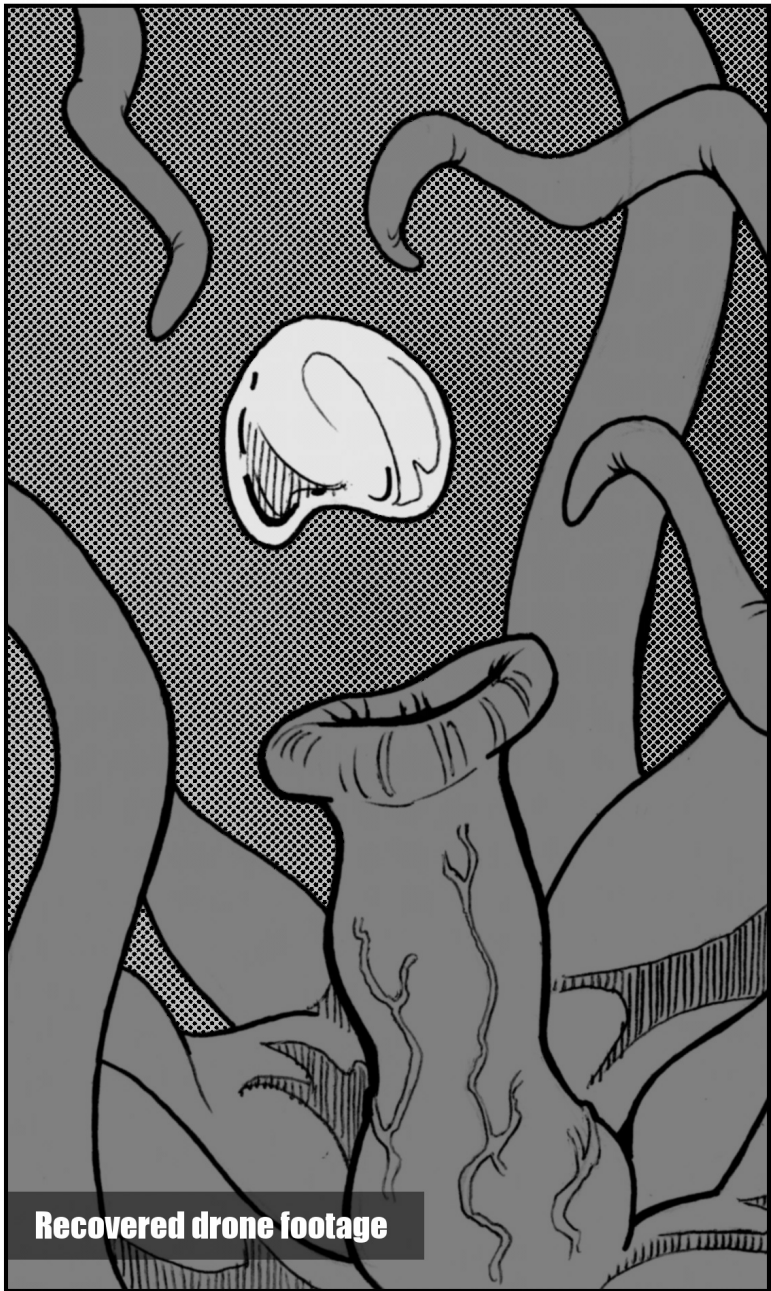
Recovered drone footage

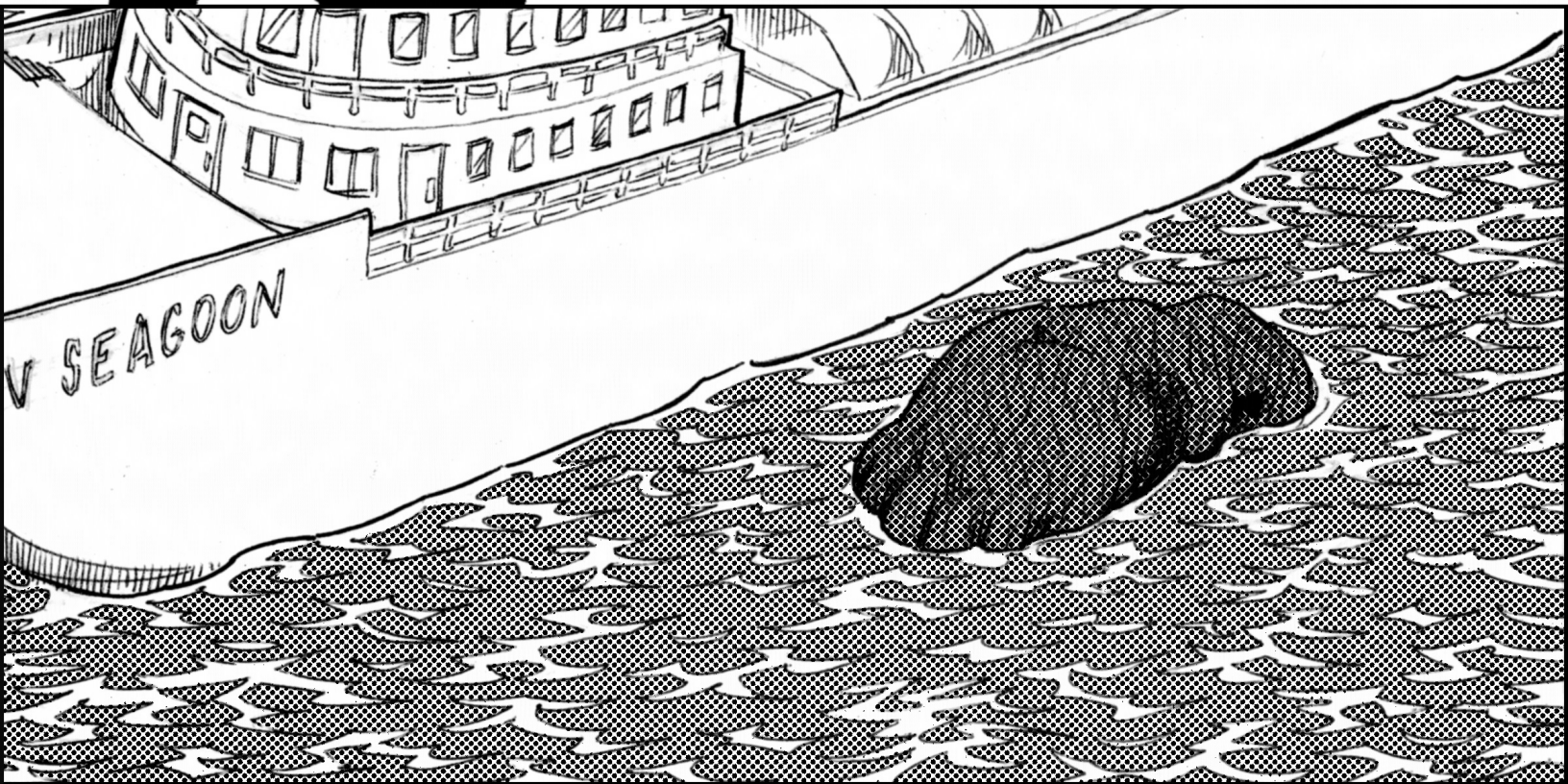
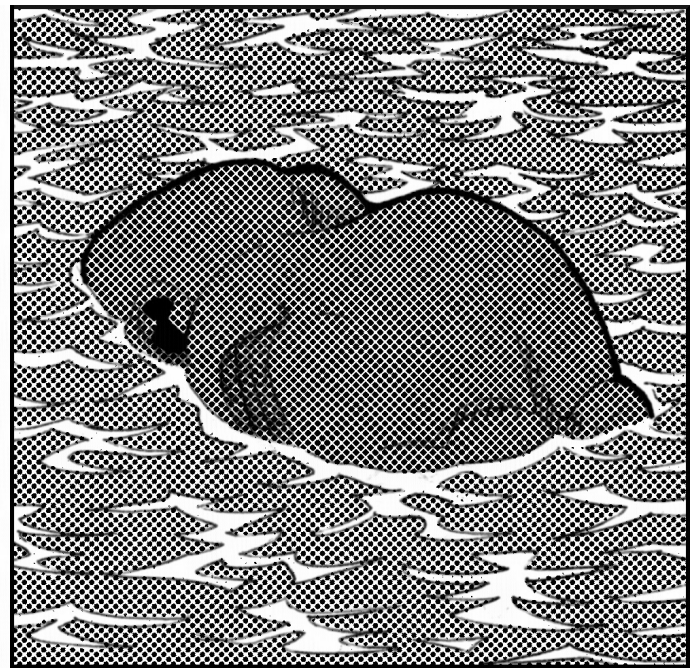


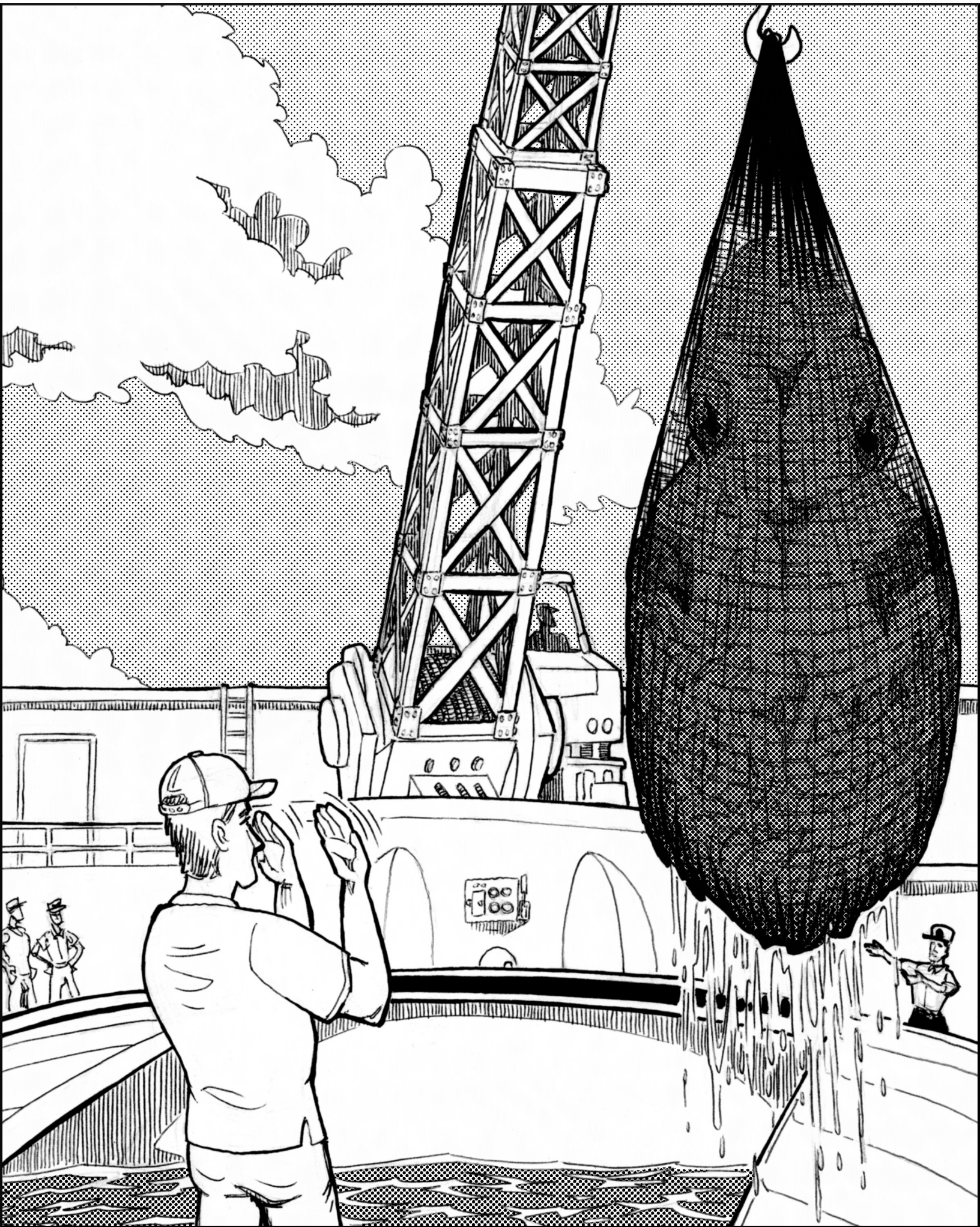
Recovered drone footage

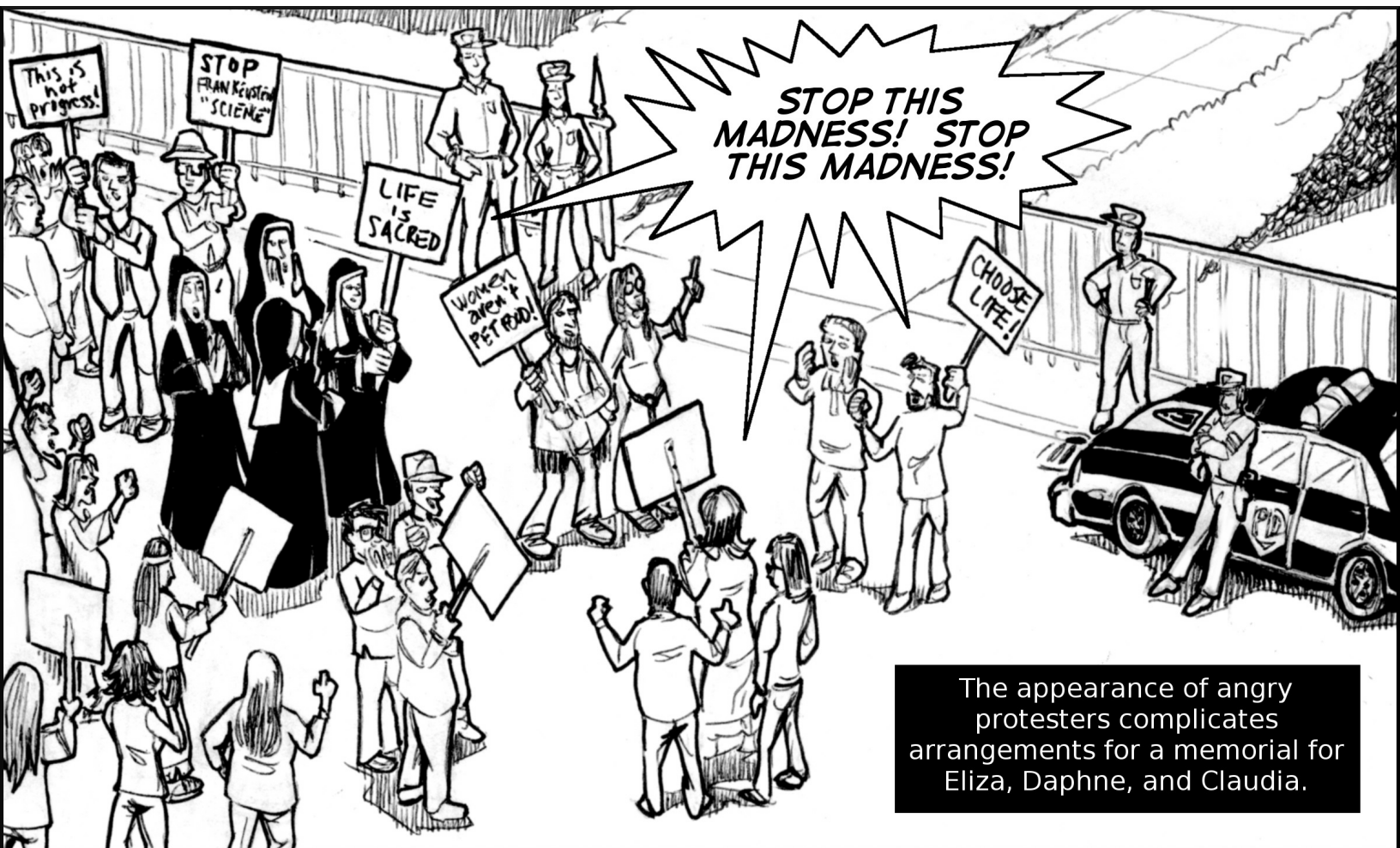


Recovered drone footage



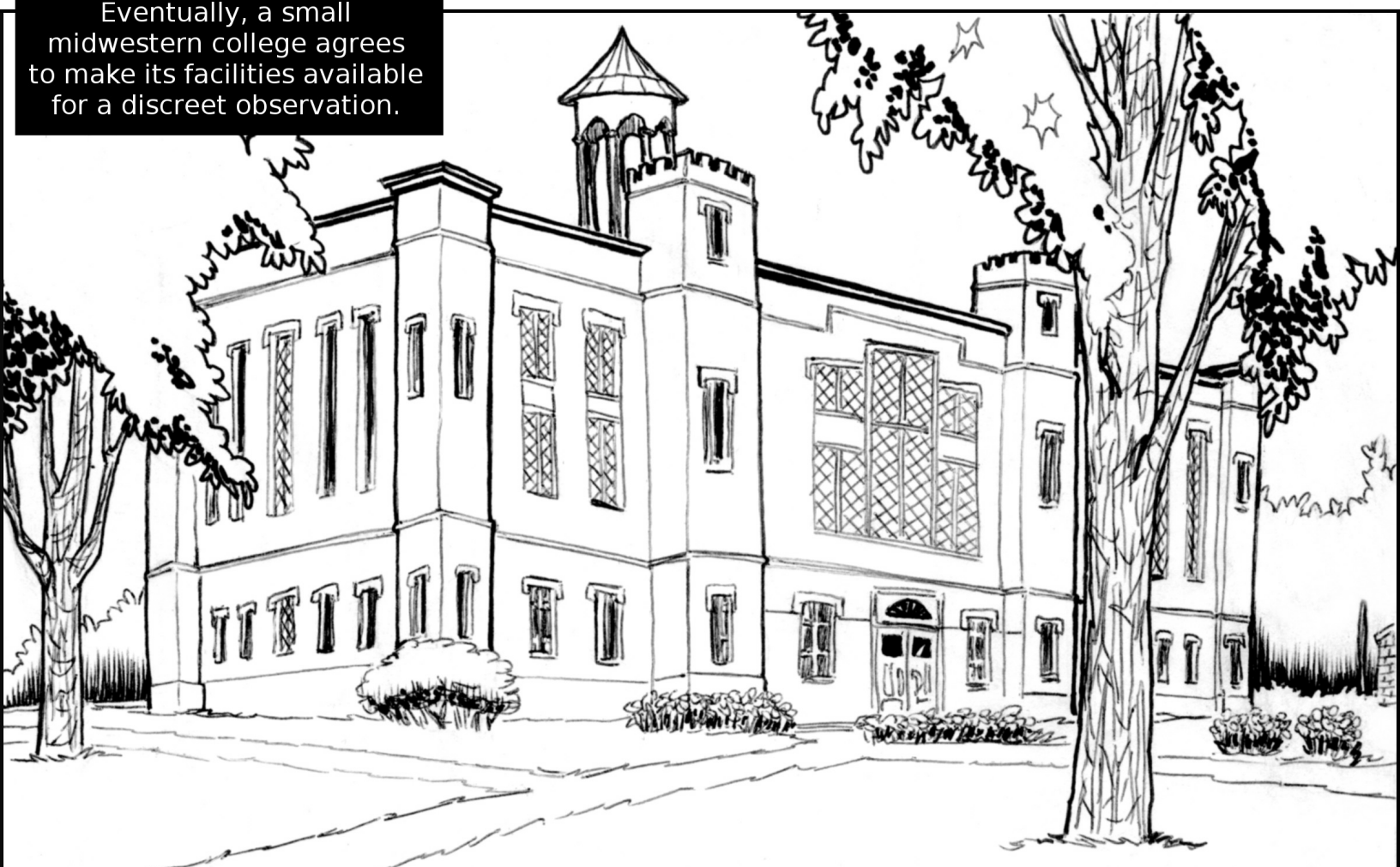


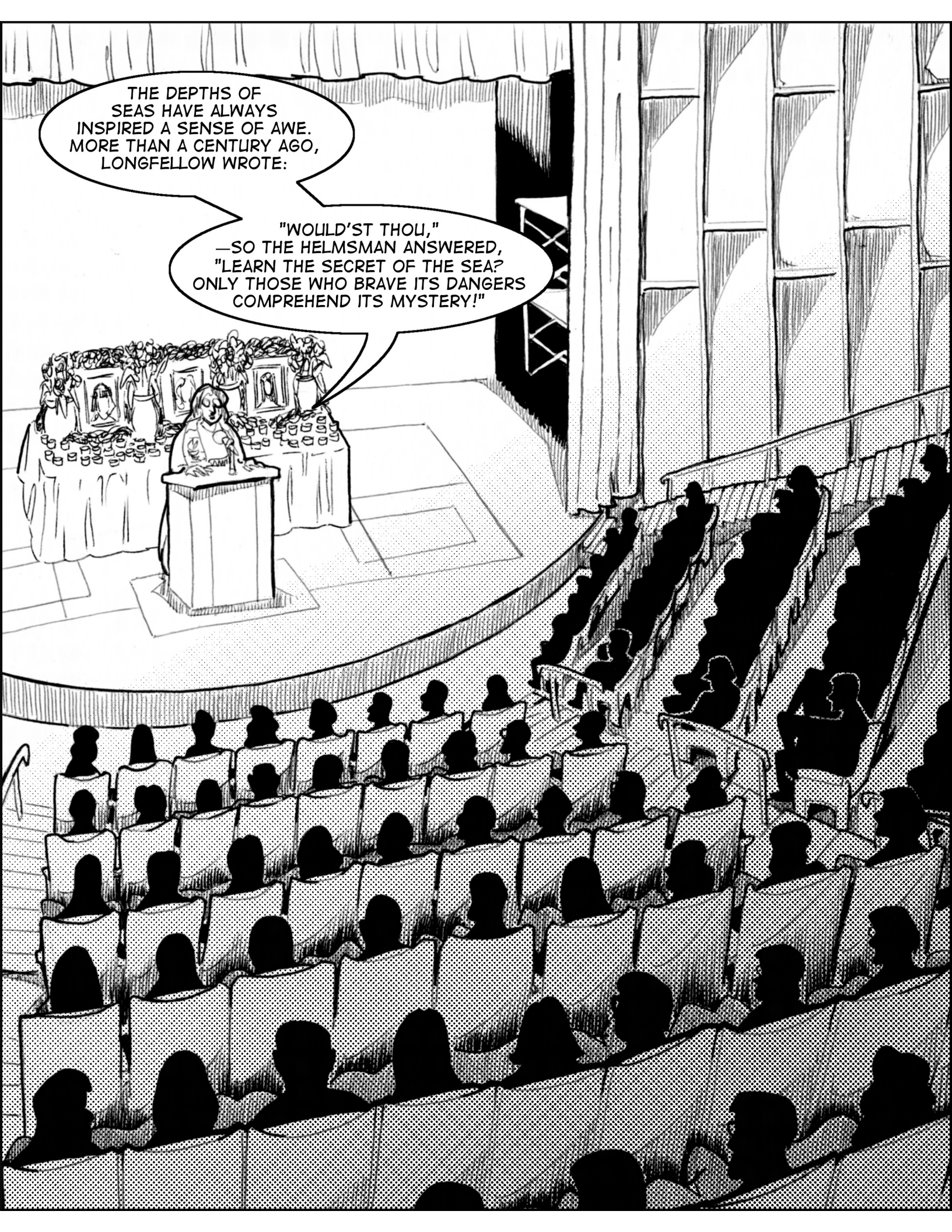




The appearance of angry protesters complicates arrangements for a memorial for Eliza, Daphne, and Claudia.

Eventually, a small midwestern college agrees to make its facilities available for a discreet observation.

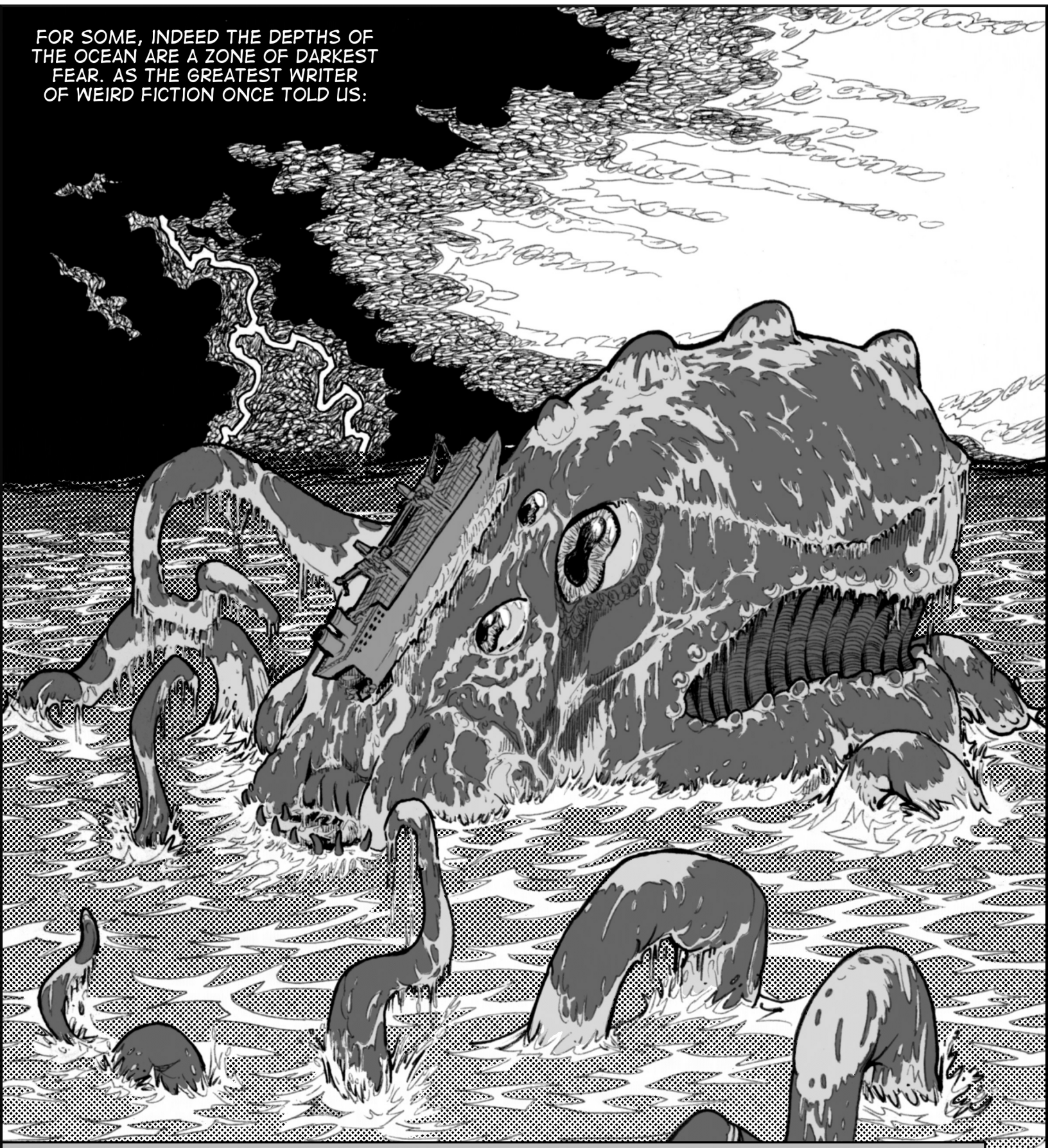




THE DEPTHS OF
SEAS HAVE ALWAYS
INSPIRED A SENSE OF AWE.
MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO,
LONGFELLOW WROTE:

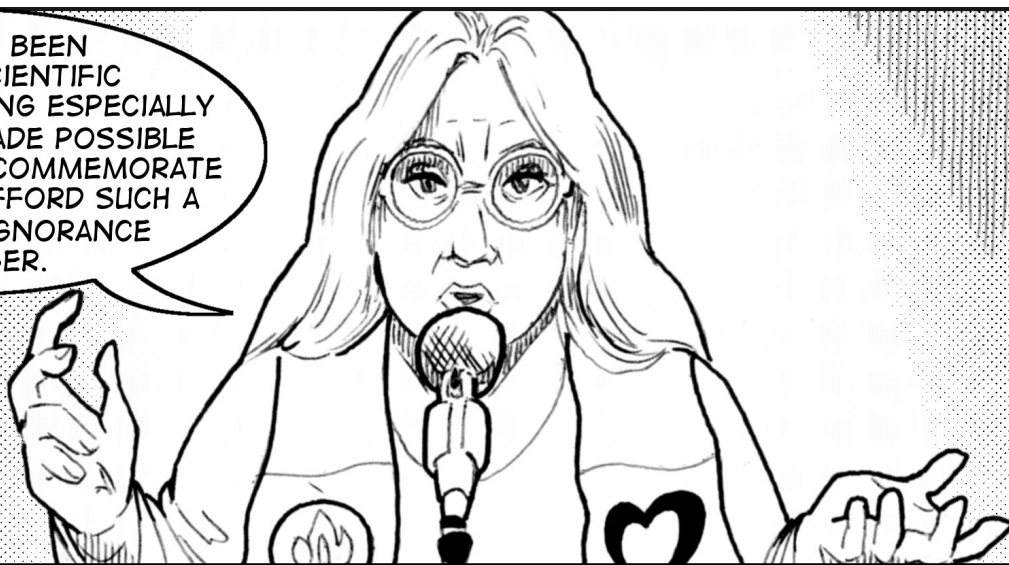
"WOULD'ST THOU,"
—SO THE HELMSMAN ANSWERED,
"LEARN THE SECRET OF THE SEA?
ONLY THOSE WHO BRAVE ITS DANGERS
COMPREHEND ITS MYSTERY!"

FOR SOME, INDEED THE DEPTHS OF
THE OCEAN ARE A ZONE OF DARKEST
FEAR. AS THE GREATEST WRITER
OF WEIRD FICTION ONCE TOLD US:



"THE MOST MERCIFUL THING IN THE WORLD, I THINK, IS THE INABILITY OF THE HUMAN MIND TO CORRELATE ALL ITS CONTENTS. WE LIVE ON A PLACID ISLAND OF IGNORANCE IN THE MIDST OF BLACK SEAS OF INFINITY, AND IT WAS NOT MEANT THAT WE SHOULD VOYAGE FAR. THE SCIENCES, EACH STRAINING IN ITS OWN DIRECTION, HAVE HITHERTO HARMED US LITTLE; BUT SOME DAY THE PIECING TOGETHER OF DISSOCIATED KNOWLEDGE WILL OPEN UP SUCH TERRIFYING VISTAS OF REALITY, AND OF OUR FRIGHTFUL POSITION THEREIN, THAT WE SHALL EITHER GO MAD FROM THE REVELATION OR FLEE FROM THE DEADLY LIGHT INTO THE PEACE AND SAFETY OF A NEW DARK AGE."

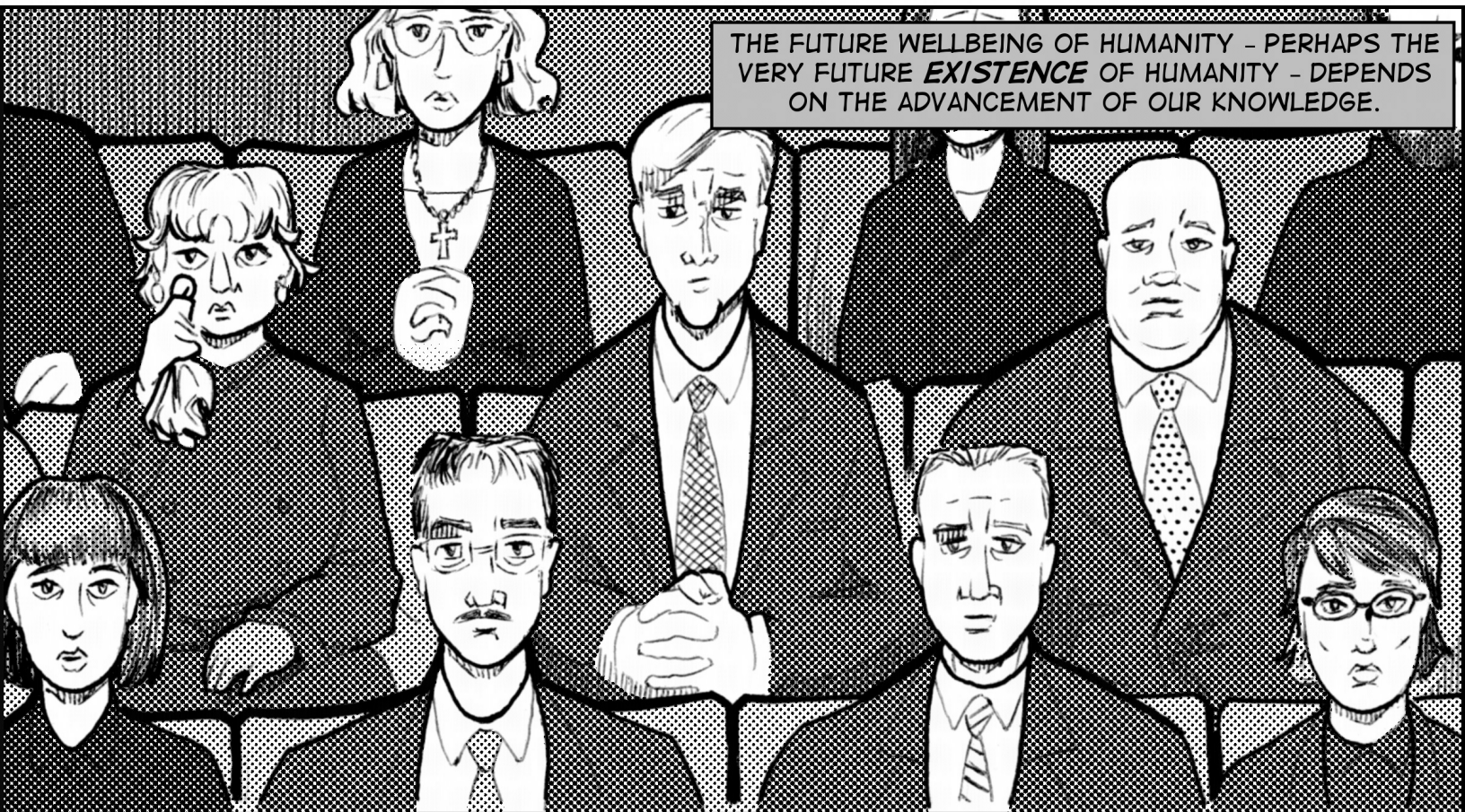
BUT AS HAS BEEN
SHOWN BY SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH - INCLUDING ESPECIALLY
THAT RESEARCH MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE WOMEN WE COMMEMORATE
TODAY - WE CAN AFFORD SUCH A
RETREAT INTO IGNORANCE
NO LONGER.



THE OCEANIC DEPTHS CONTAIN
THINGS FAR BEYOND ANY OF OUR
PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS.



THE FUTURE WELLBEING OF HUMANITY - PERHAPS THE
VERY FUTURE **EXISTENCE** OF HUMANITY - DEPENDS
ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE.



IN GREEK LEGEND, LEOS, THE SON OF ORPHEUS, HAD THREE DAUGHTERS: PRAXITHEA, THEOPE, AND EUBULE. IN RESPONSE TO A PROPHECY FROM THE ORACLE AT DELPHI, THESE THREE DAUGHTERS VOLUNTEERED THEMSELVES FOR SACRIFICE TO SAVE ATHENS FROM FAMINE AND PLAGUE.

WERE THEIR SACRIFICES REGARDED AS TRAGEDY, STUPIDITY, OR WASTE? FAR FROM IT. DEMOSTHENES HIMSELF, IN HIS FUNERAL ORATION, COMPARED THEM TO THE BRAVEST OF SOLDIERS WHO FELL DEFENDING THEIR CITY.

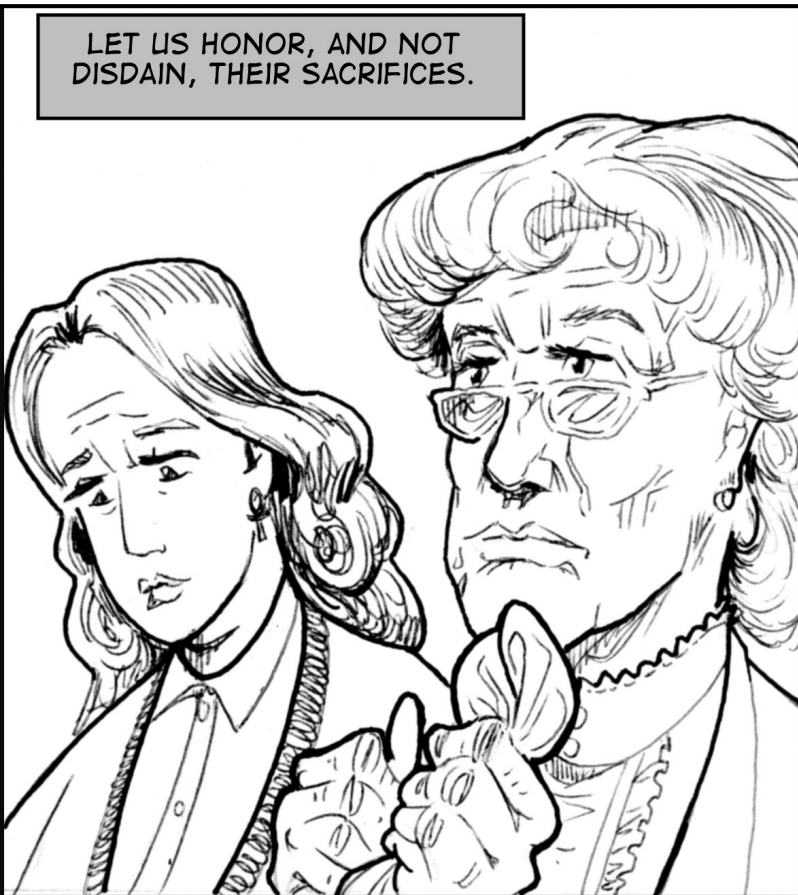
ὅτε δὴ γυναῖκες ἐκείναι
τοιαύτην ἔσχον ἀνδρείαν, οὐ
θεμιτὸν αὐτοῖς ὑπελάμβανον
χείροσιν ἀνδράσιν οὓσιν
ἐκείνων φανῆναι.

"WHEN, THEREFORE, SUCH COURAGE WAS DISPLAYED BY THOSE WOMEN, THEY LOOKED UPON IT AS A HEINOUS THING IF THEY, BEING MEN, SHOULD HAVE PROVED TO POSSESS LESS OF MANHOOD."

LET US THINK OF THE WOMEN WE
COMMEMORATE TODAY AS OUR
PRAXITHEA, THEOPE, AND EUBULE.



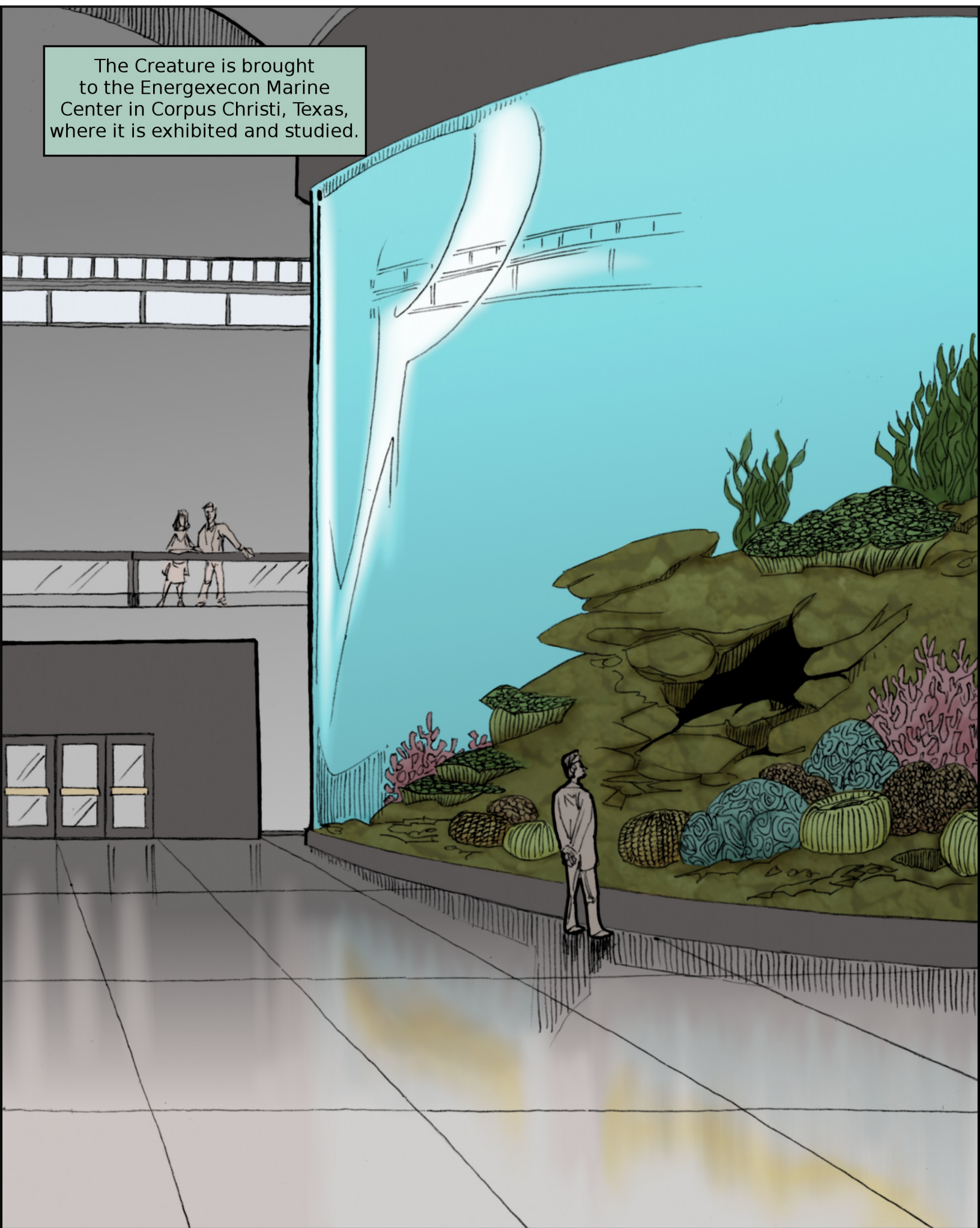
LET US HONOR, AND NOT
DISDAIN, THEIR SACRIFICES.



FOR IS
THAT NOT
WHAT HUMAN
DECENCY
REALLY
REQUIRES?



The Creature is brought to the Energexecon Marine Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, where it is exhibited and studied.

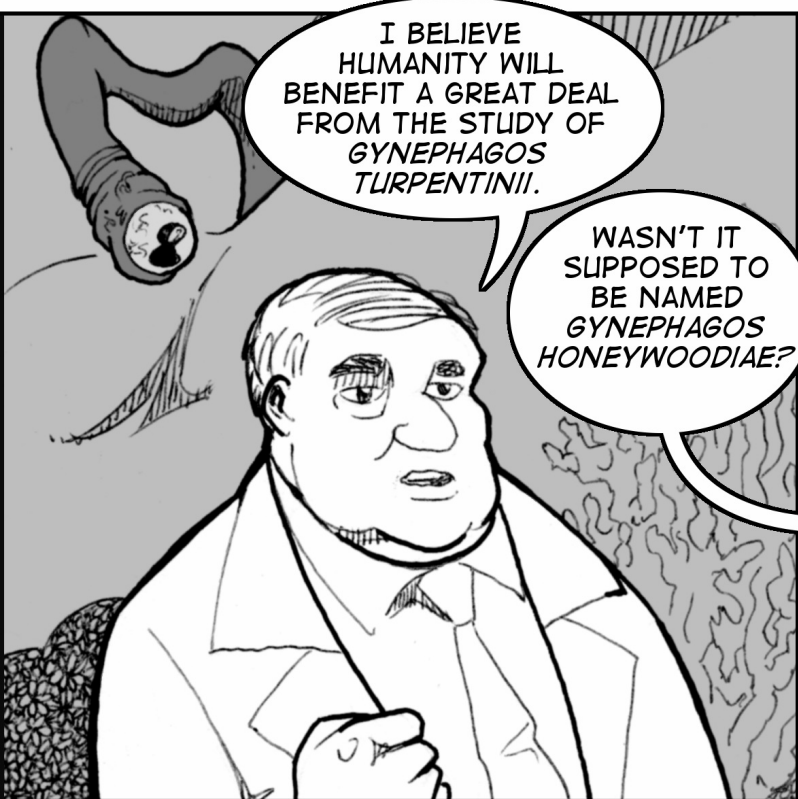




WELL, WE HAD SOME DIFFICULT TIMES THERE, BUT IT IS REMARKABLE HOW WE SUCCEEDED IN THE END.



WE'LL STUDY THE CREATURE AND FIND OUT WHAT MAKES IT TICK. I'D SAY THAT ITS WOMAN-EATING DAYS ARE OVER.



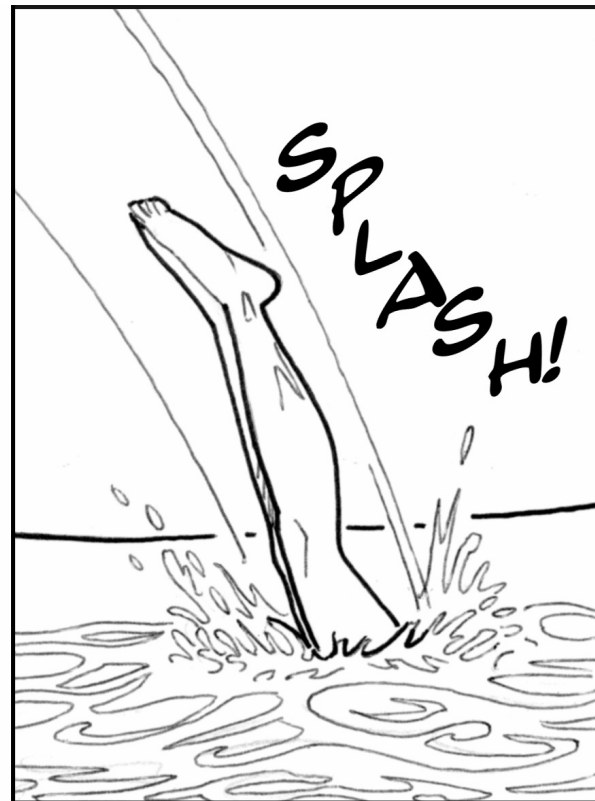
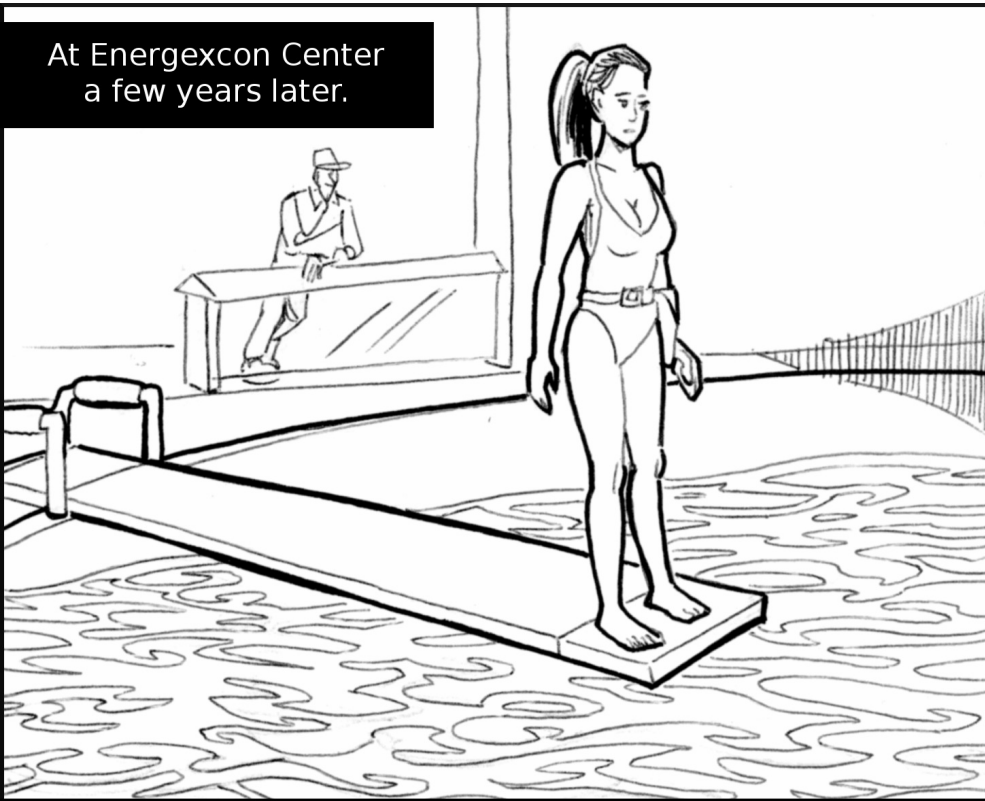
I BELIEVE HUMANITY WILL BENEFIT A GREAT DEAL FROM THE STUDY OF *GYNEPHAGOS TURPENTINII*.

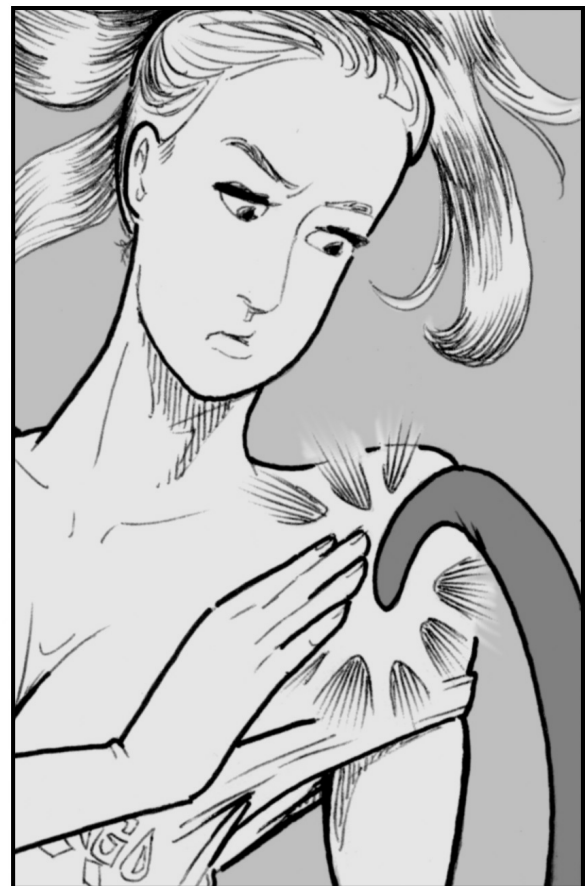
WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE NAMED *GYNEPHAGOS HONEYWOODIAE*?



I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THAT.

At Energexcon Center
a few years later.







私は海事センターでショーを演じるために、私の県出身の別の若い女性と一緒に雇われました。

I was hired along with other young women from my prefecture to put on shows at the Maritime Center.

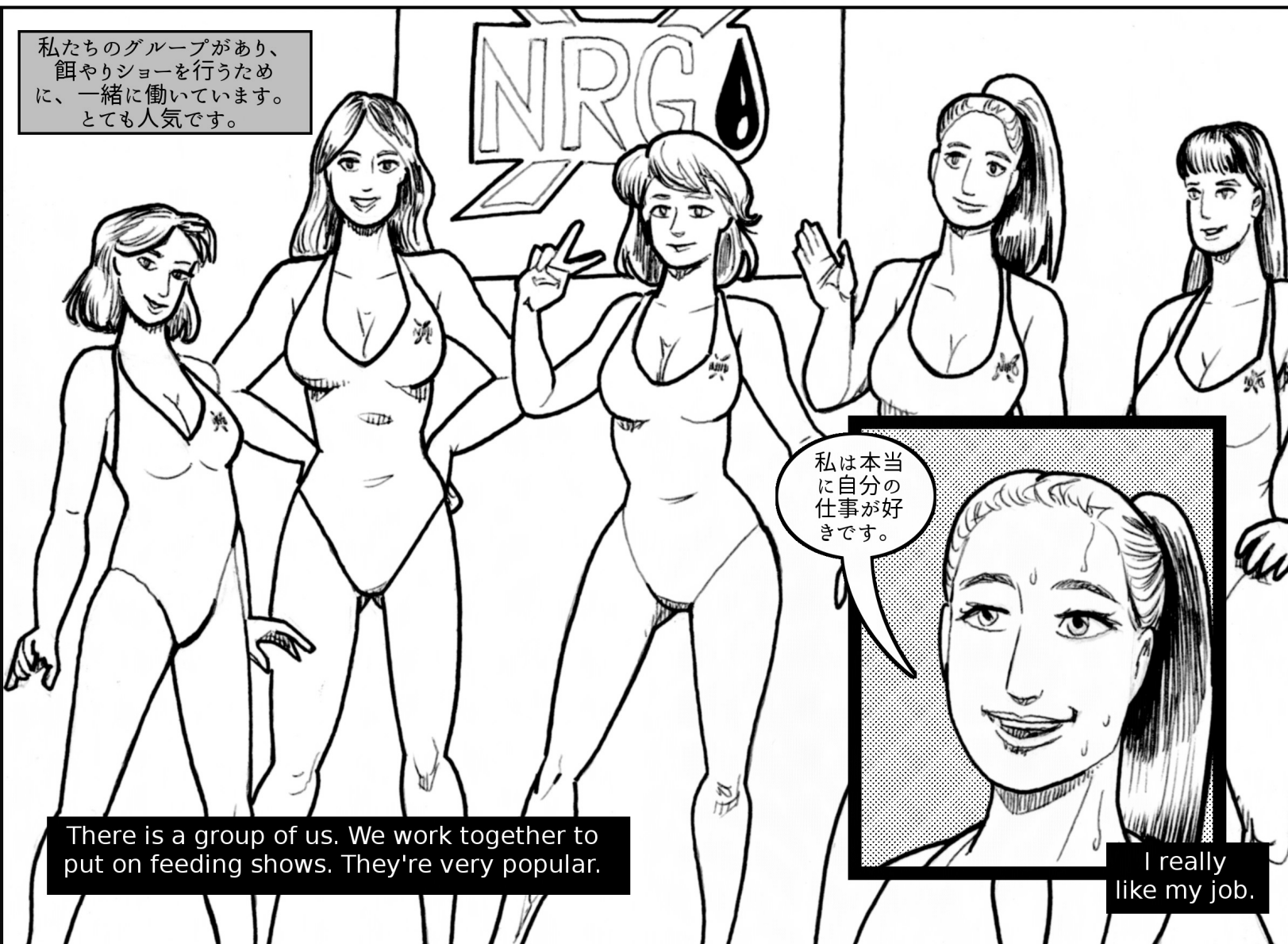


私たちはみな、海女(真珠貝を採る女性潜水士)の村の出身なので、水中で働く素晴らしい伝統があります。

We are all from villages of ama (women pearl divers), so we have a great tradition of working underwater.

Chiba Moe,
Marine Center show worker

私たちのグループがあり、餌やりショーを行うために、一緒に働いています。とても人気です。



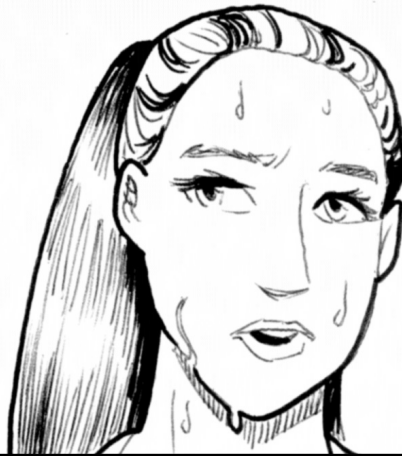
There is a group of us. We work together to put on feeding shows. They're very popular.

私は本当に自分の仕事が好きです。

I really like my job.

あなたがやった
このようなショーは、あなた
が唯一担当しているもので
すか？

Are shows like the
one you just did the
only ones you do?



いいえ、
他にもあります。

No, there
are others.

時々、海事センター
の一般客向けの公
開が終わった後に...

Sometimes,
after the
Marine Center
closes to the
general public...



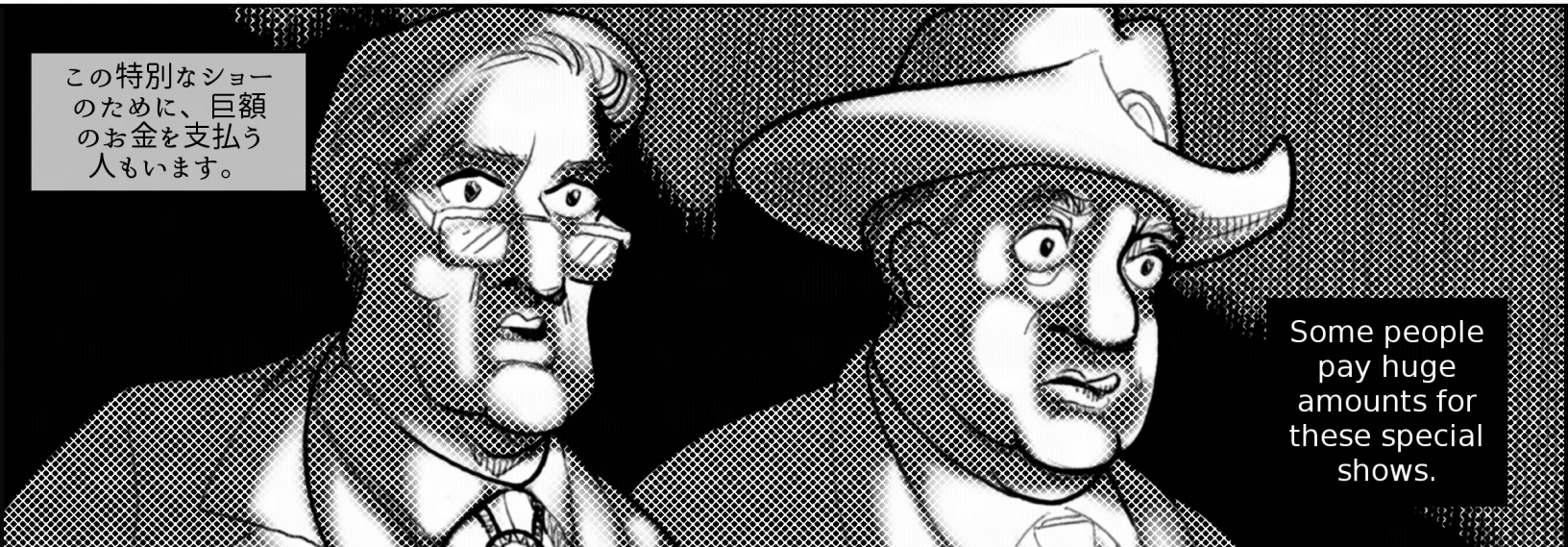
...裕福な寄
付者のた
めに、非
常に特別
なショーを
行うことが
あります。


...we put on some
very special shows
for wealthy donors.



この特別なショー
のために、巨額
のお金を支払う
人もいます。

Some people
pay huge
amounts for
these special
shows.





私からは観客が見えないので、例えプライベートなものでなくても、そんな風に感じます。それにセックスは本当に最高です。男性のことなど、ほとんど忘れてしまっていました。

I can't see the audience, so it feels private even if it isn't. And the sex is truly amazing. I've almost forgotten about men.

食べられないかと、
怖くなりませんか？

You're not afraid
of being eaten?

いいえ、
その対策はされ
ています。

No, they've
taken care
of that.

何ヶ月もずっと彼の
近くにいと、
彼の気持ちがわか
ってくるのです。


They put
some sort of
collar on his
feeding
siphon. No
more girls
for him.

それは安心ですね。

That must
make you feel
relieved.


実際には、
悲しい気持
ちになります。

Actually, it makes
me feel sad.



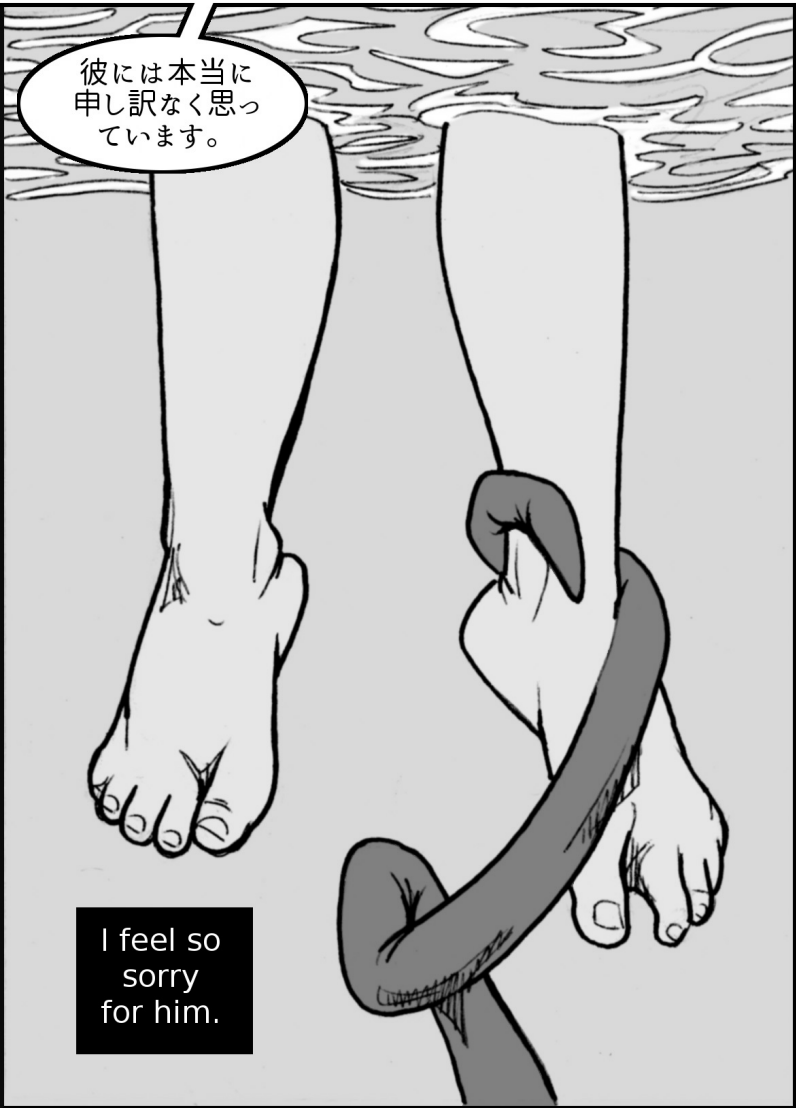
何ヶ月もずっと彼の近くに
いると、彼の気持ち
がわかってくるのです。

Having been close to
him for all these
months, I feel that I
can feel what he feels.




彼は悲しい、
とてもお腹が空いたと思
っています。私のことを
食い尽くしたいと思っ
ているのです。

And what he
feels is sad and
very hungry. He
wants to eat me
so very badly.



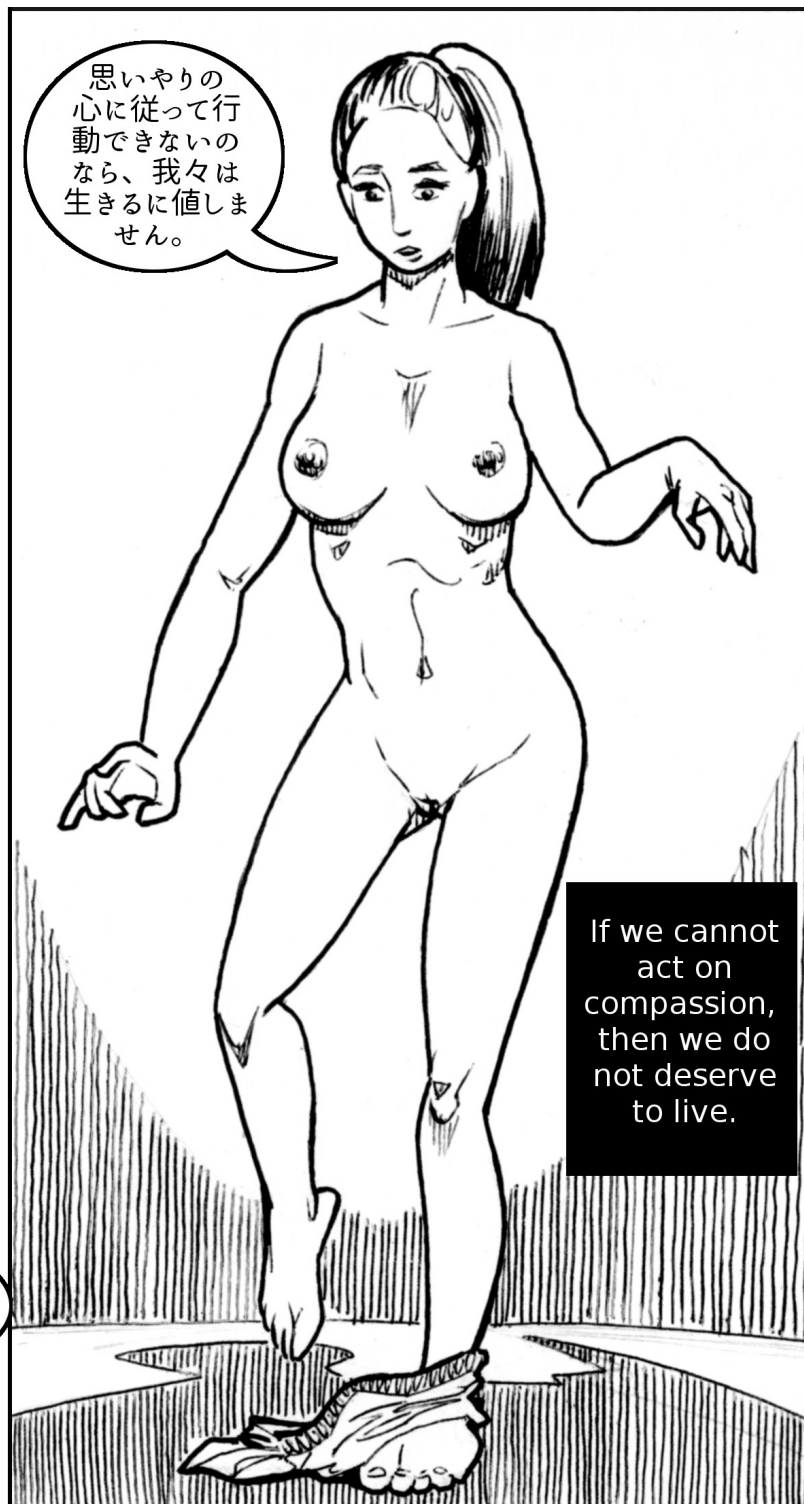
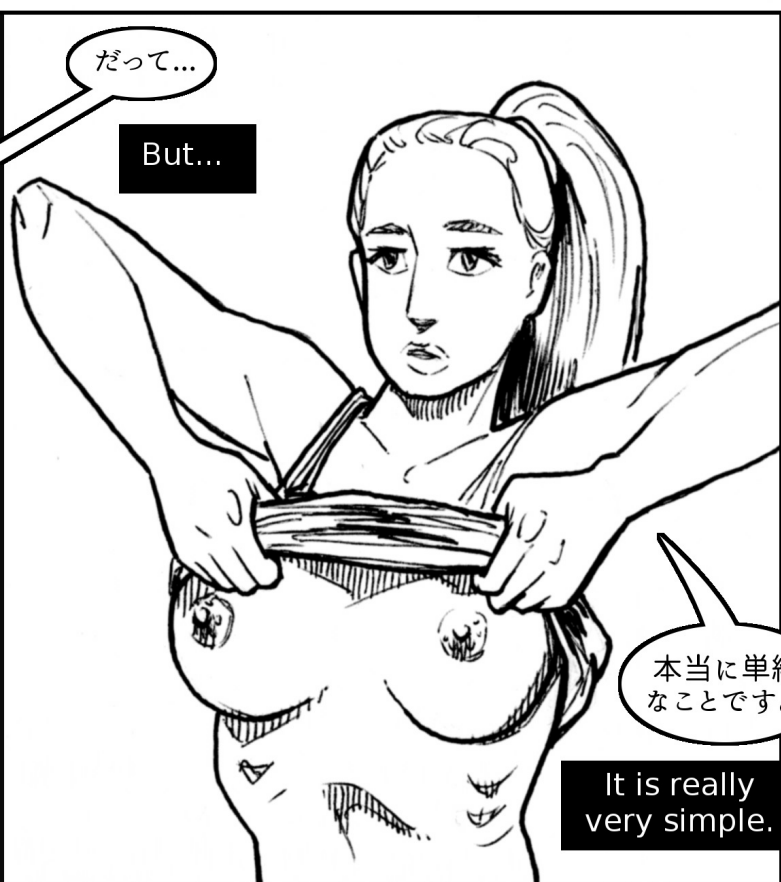
彼には本当に
申し訳なく思っ
ています。

I feel so
sorry
for him.



彼に自分を食
べさせてやりた
い、もし許される
なら、彼に食べ
てもらいたいと思
います。

I would let him
eat me, if they
would let me let
him eat me.



A few days later, Chiba receives a special delivery letter.

手紙には、とても裕福な寄付者が、観客1人の一度限りのとても特別なショーのお返しとして、海事センターに新館を提供すると書かれています。

The letter says that a very wealthy donor will give the Marine Center a new wing in return for a very special, one-time-only show with an audience of one.

チバ、本当にはいと返事するつもりですか？

Chiba, are you really going to say yes?

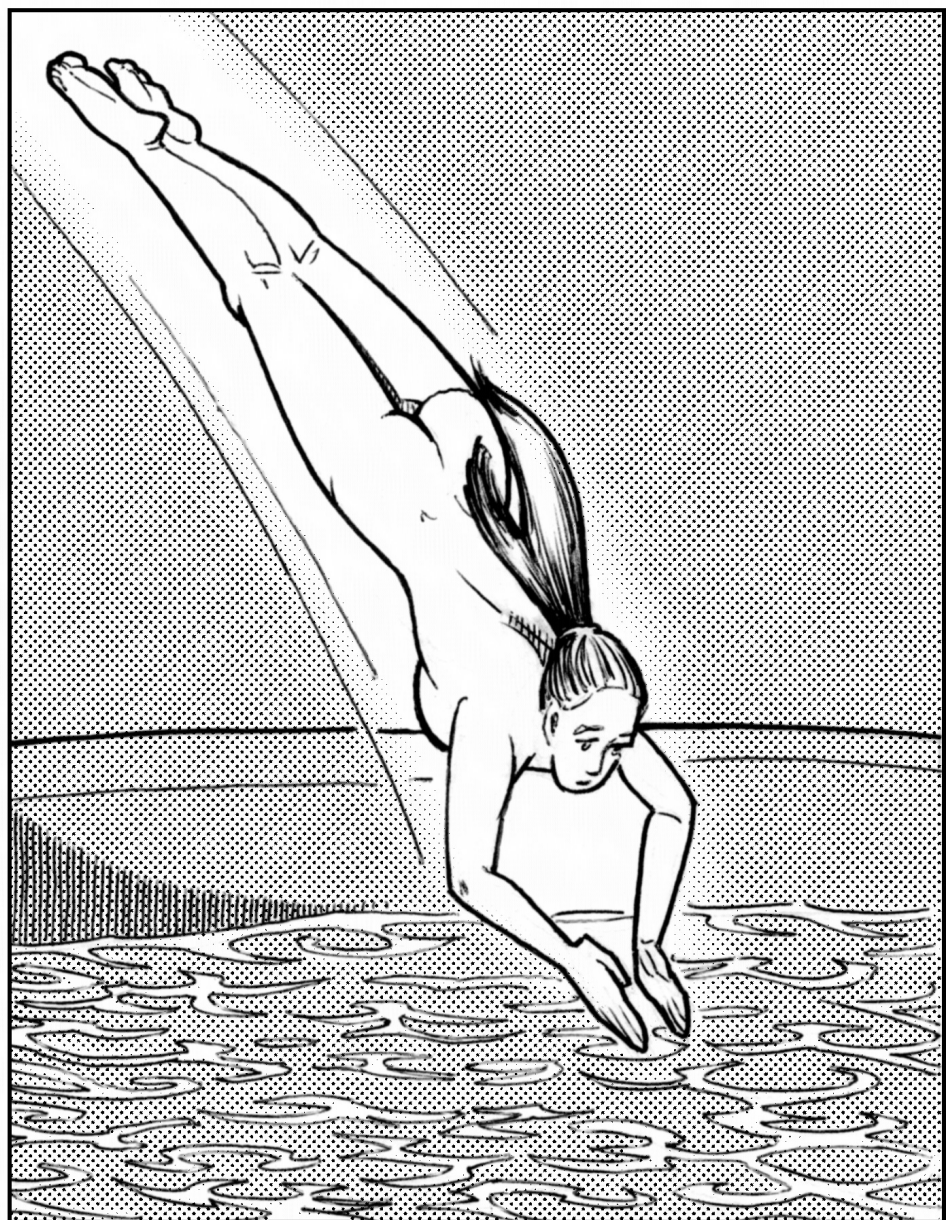
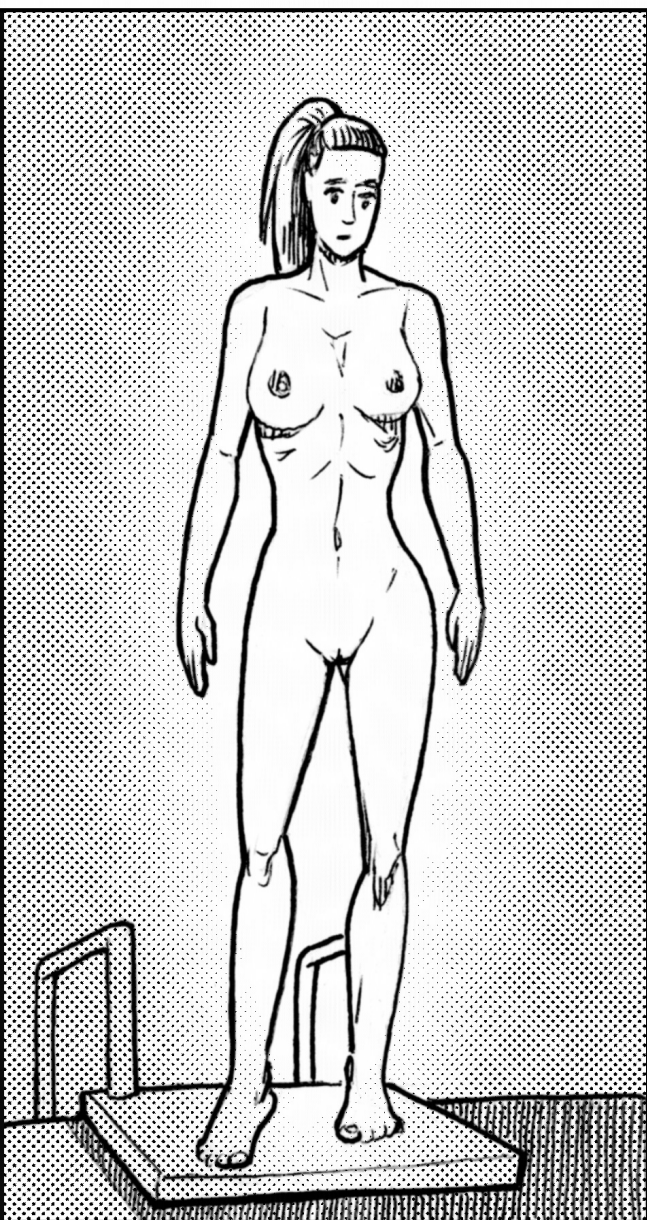
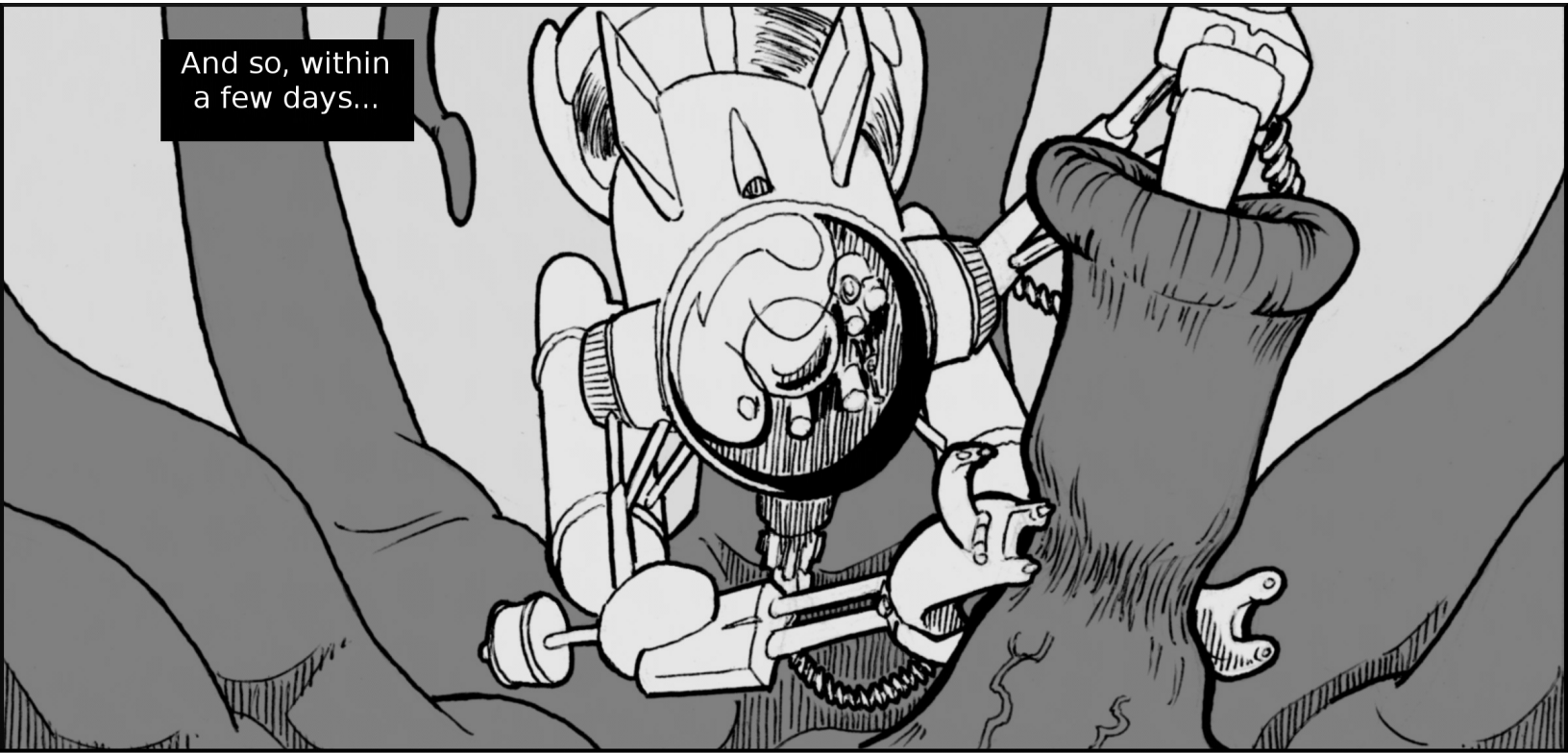
はい。

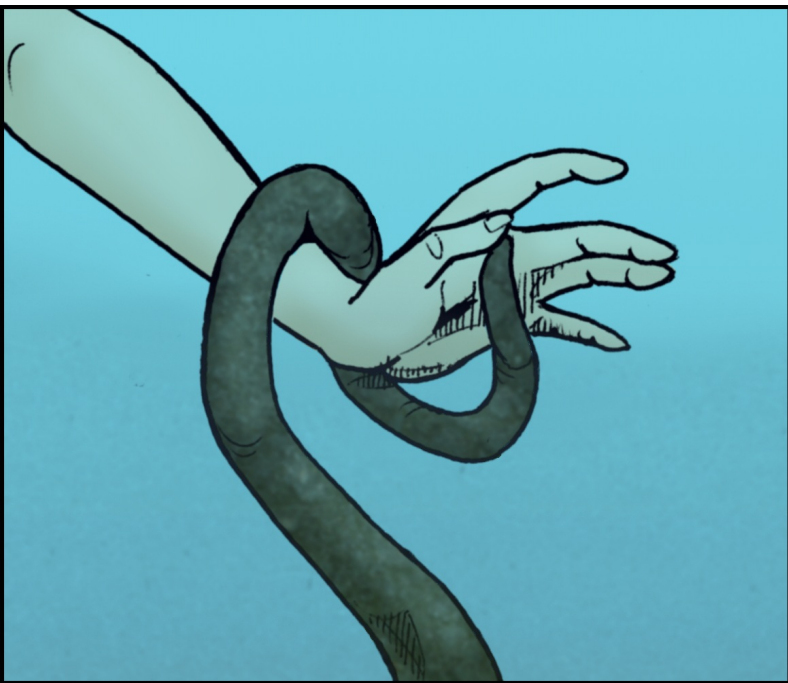
Yes.

あなたには、本当にワクワクさせられます！

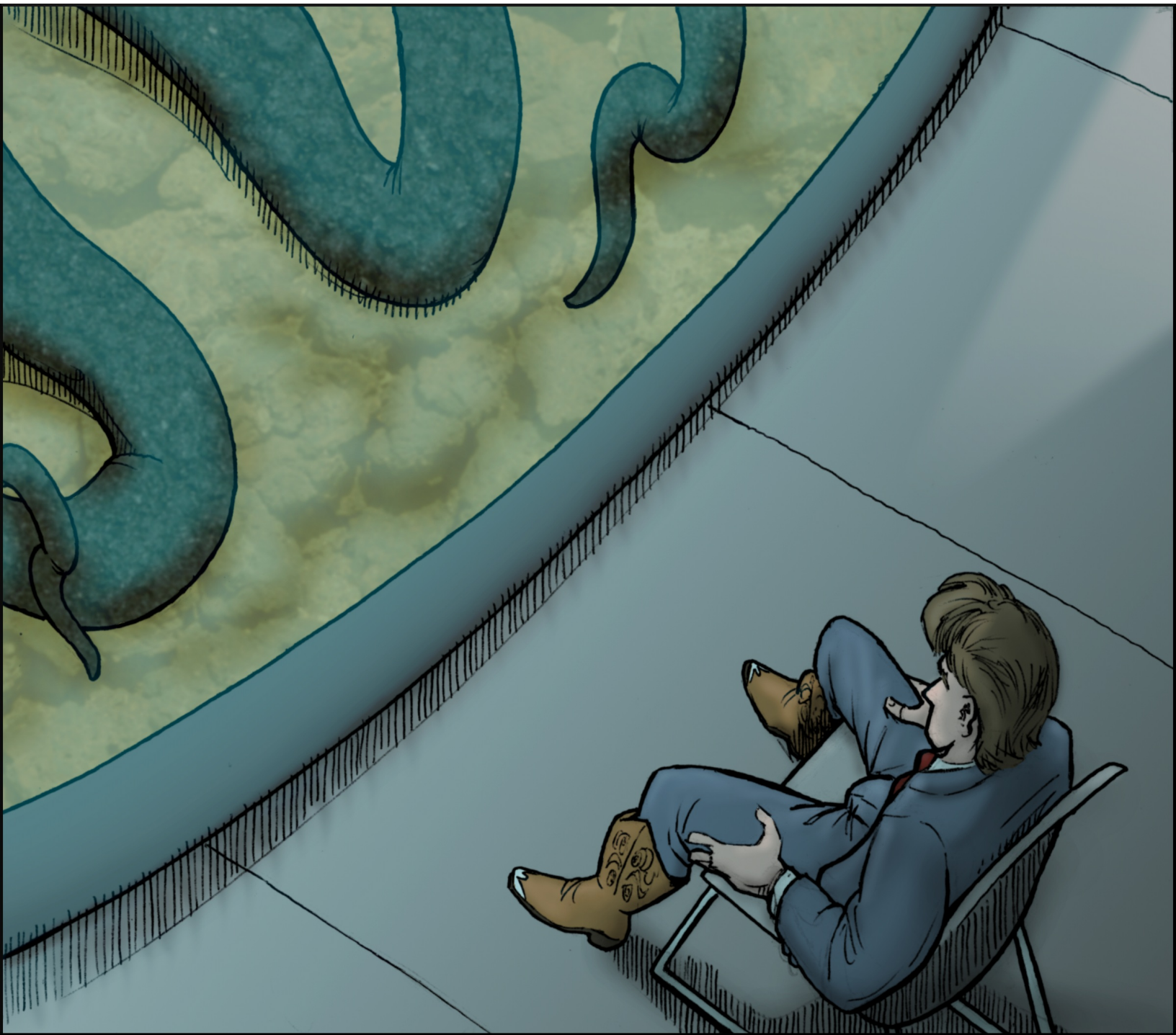
We are so excited for you!

And so, within
a few days...









The End.