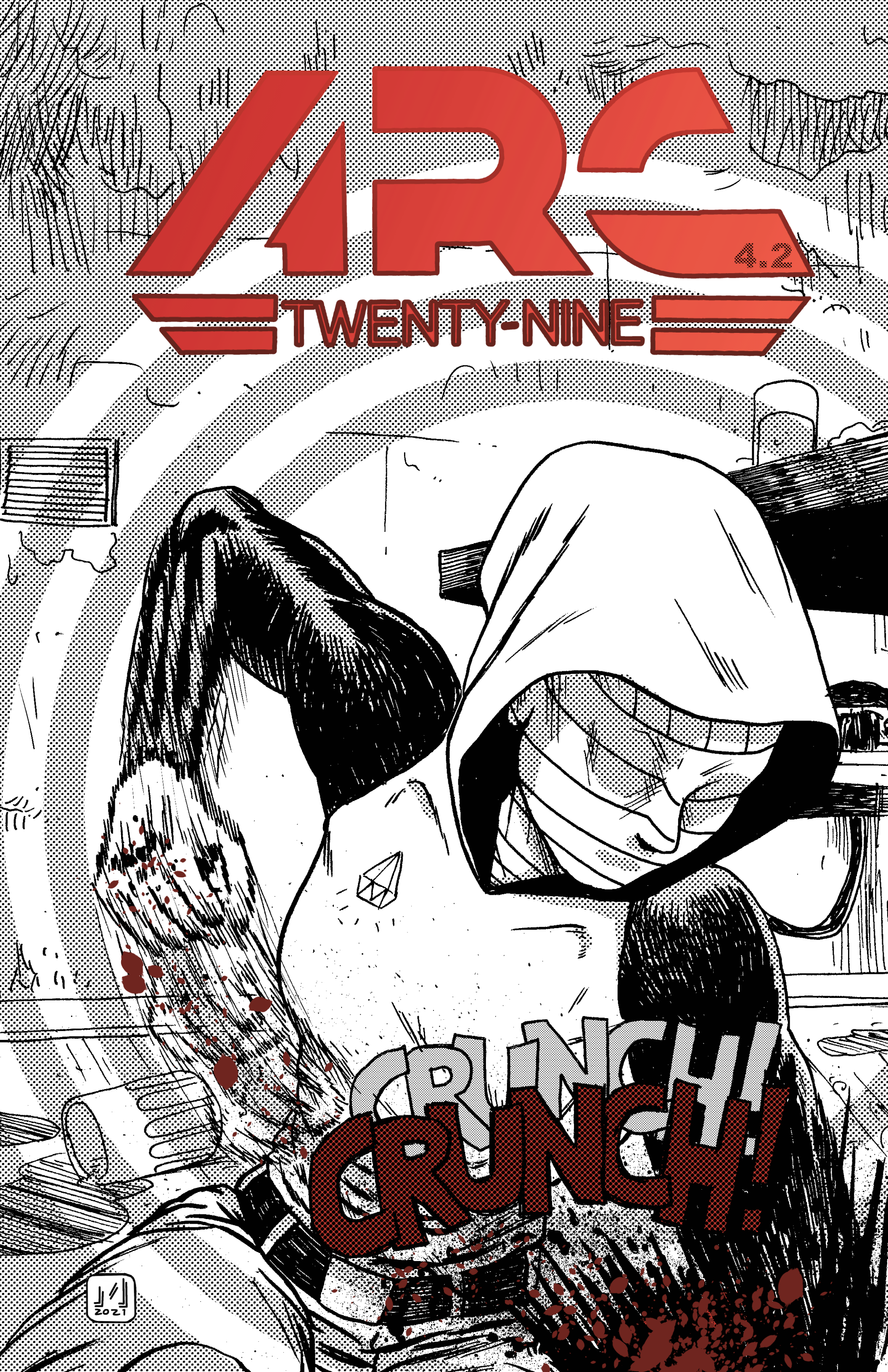


4.2 KRS TWENTY-NINE



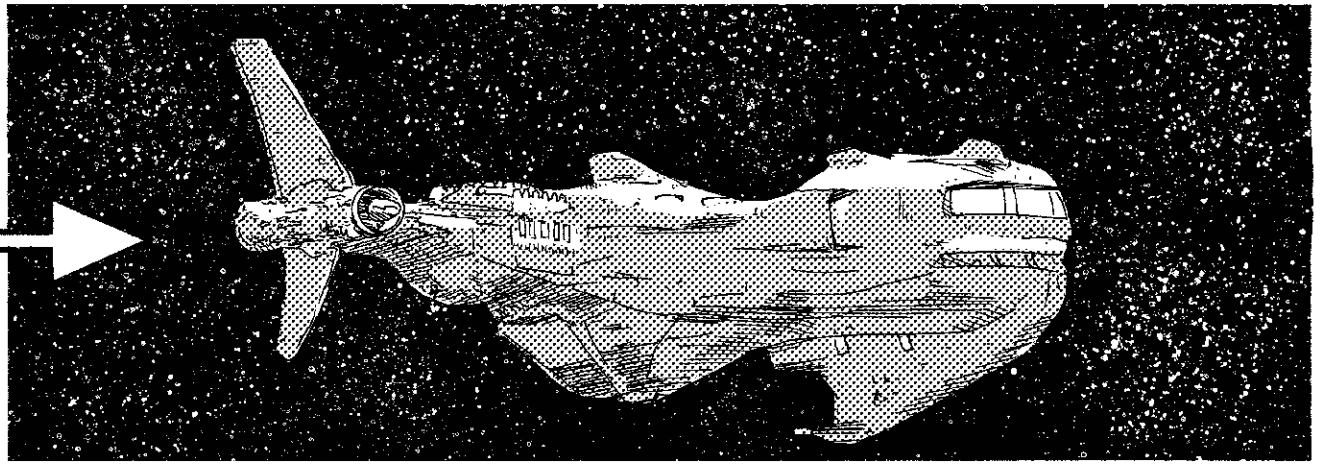
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH!



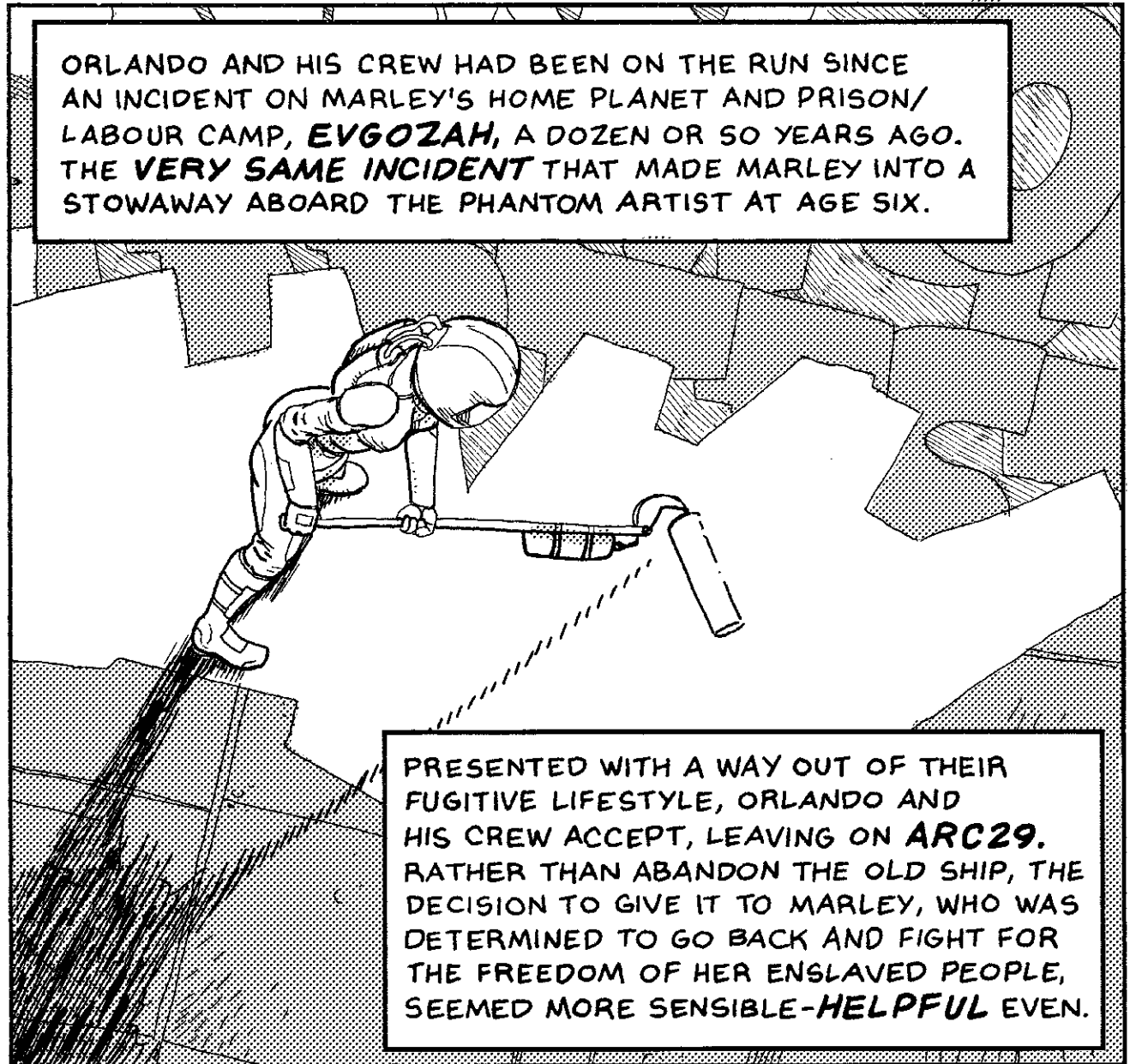
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AN ARC 29 STORY

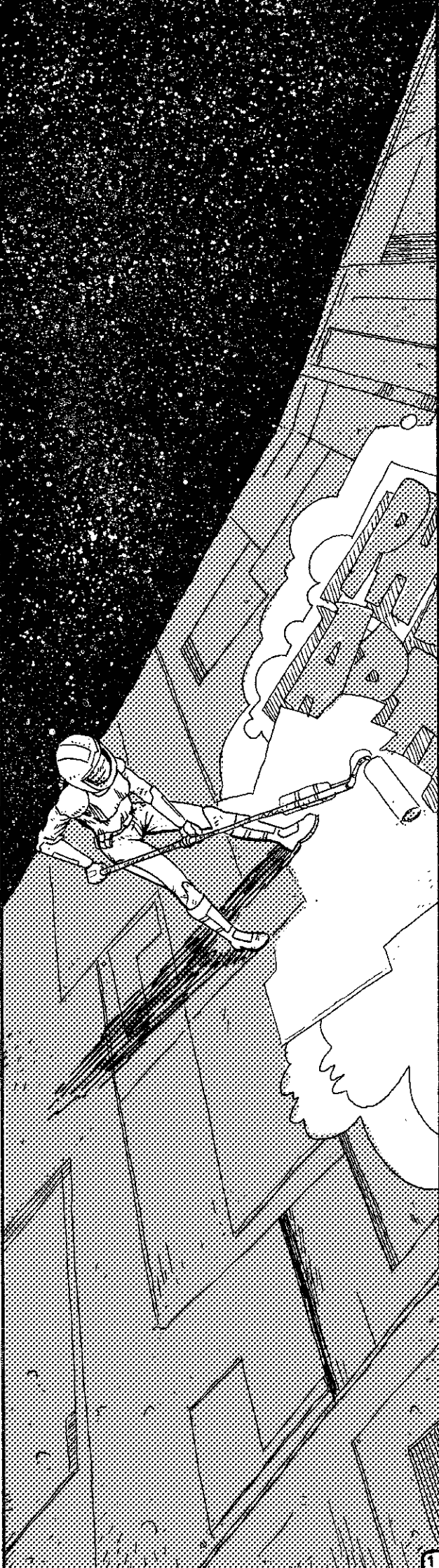
SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, OUR HERO -**MARLEY**- WAS GIVEN AN OLD SPACE HAULER, THE **PHANTOM ARTIST**. THIS GIFT CAME FROM HER MENTOR, FRIEND, AND FATHER FIGURE, **ORLANDO SHARP**.



ORLANDO AND HIS CREW HAD BEEN ON THE RUN SINCE AN INCIDENT ON MARLEY'S HOME PLANET AND PRISON/LABOUR CAMP, **EVGOZAH**, A DOZEN OR SO YEARS AGO. THE **VERY SAME INCIDENT** THAT MADE MARLEY INTO A STOWAWAY ABOARD THE PHANTOM ARTIST AT AGE SIX.



PRESENTED WITH A WAY OUT OF THEIR FUGITIVE LIFESTYLE, ORLANDO AND HIS CREW ACCEPT, LEAVING ON **ARC29**. RATHER THAN ABANDON THE OLD SHIP, THE DECISION TO GIVE IT TO MARLEY, WHO WAS DETERMINED TO GO BACK AND FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF HER ENSLAVED PEOPLE, SEEMED MORE SENSIBLE-**HELPFUL** EVEN.

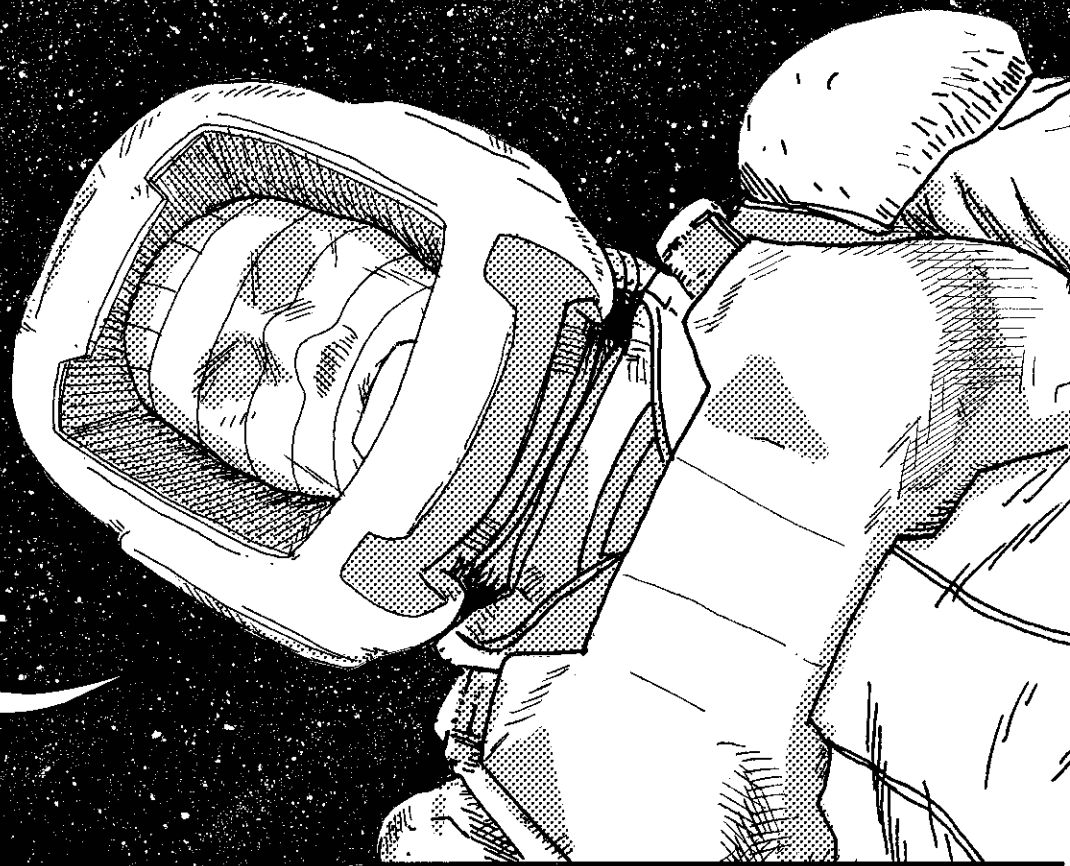


ALMOST DONE HERE, SHIP. HOW MANY OF THESE DID YOU SAY HE LEFT BEHIND?



WELL, ORLANDO LEFT
A TAG ON ME FOR
EVERY YEAR HE WAS
CAPTAIN, SO, SEVENTEEN.

WHAT!?
THAT'S SO MANY!



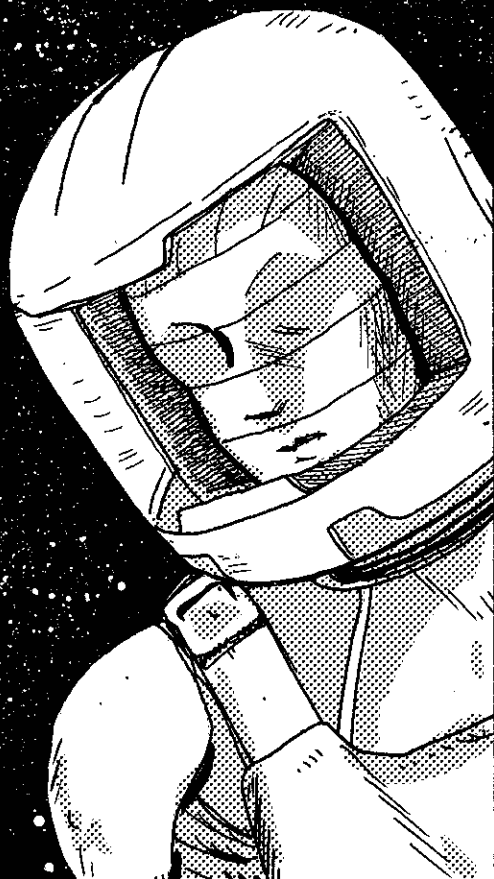
THIS IS THE ONLY
ONE I'VE EVER NOTICED
AND CERTAINLY THE
ONLY ONE I CAN SEE
FROM HERE.



WELL, SOME ARE VERY
SMALL AND HE ALSO
AMUSED HIMSELF BY
HIDING THEM ALL AROUND
IN NOOKS AND CRANNIES.

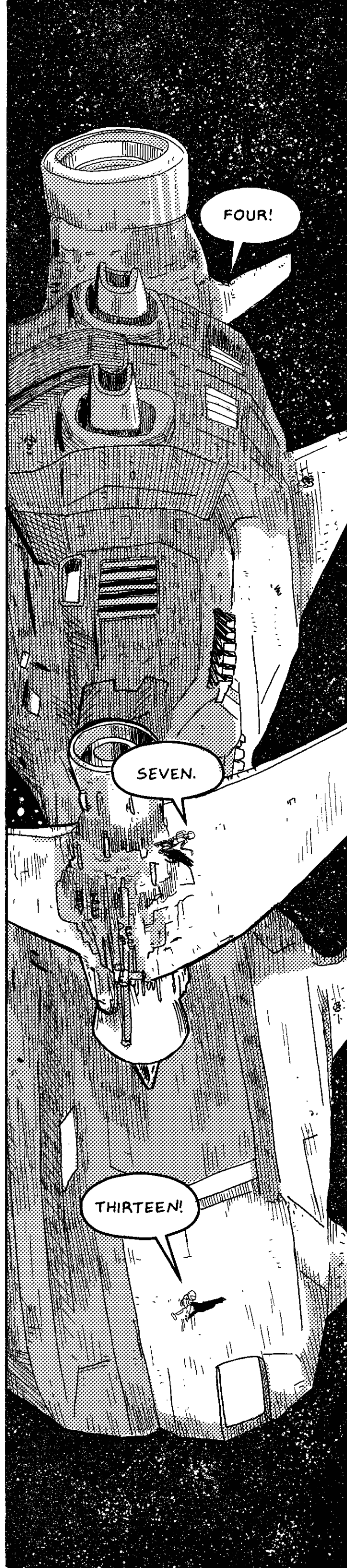
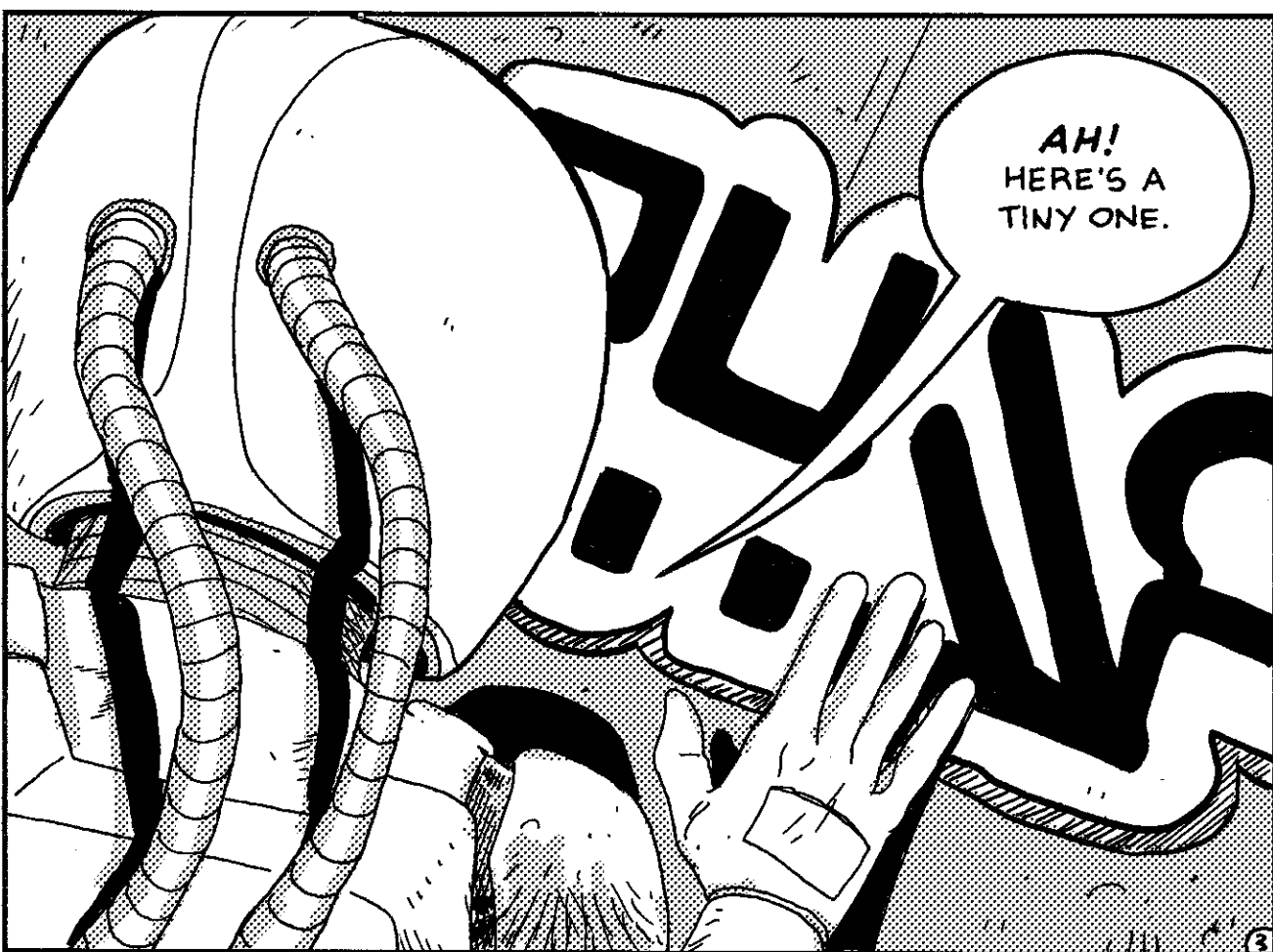
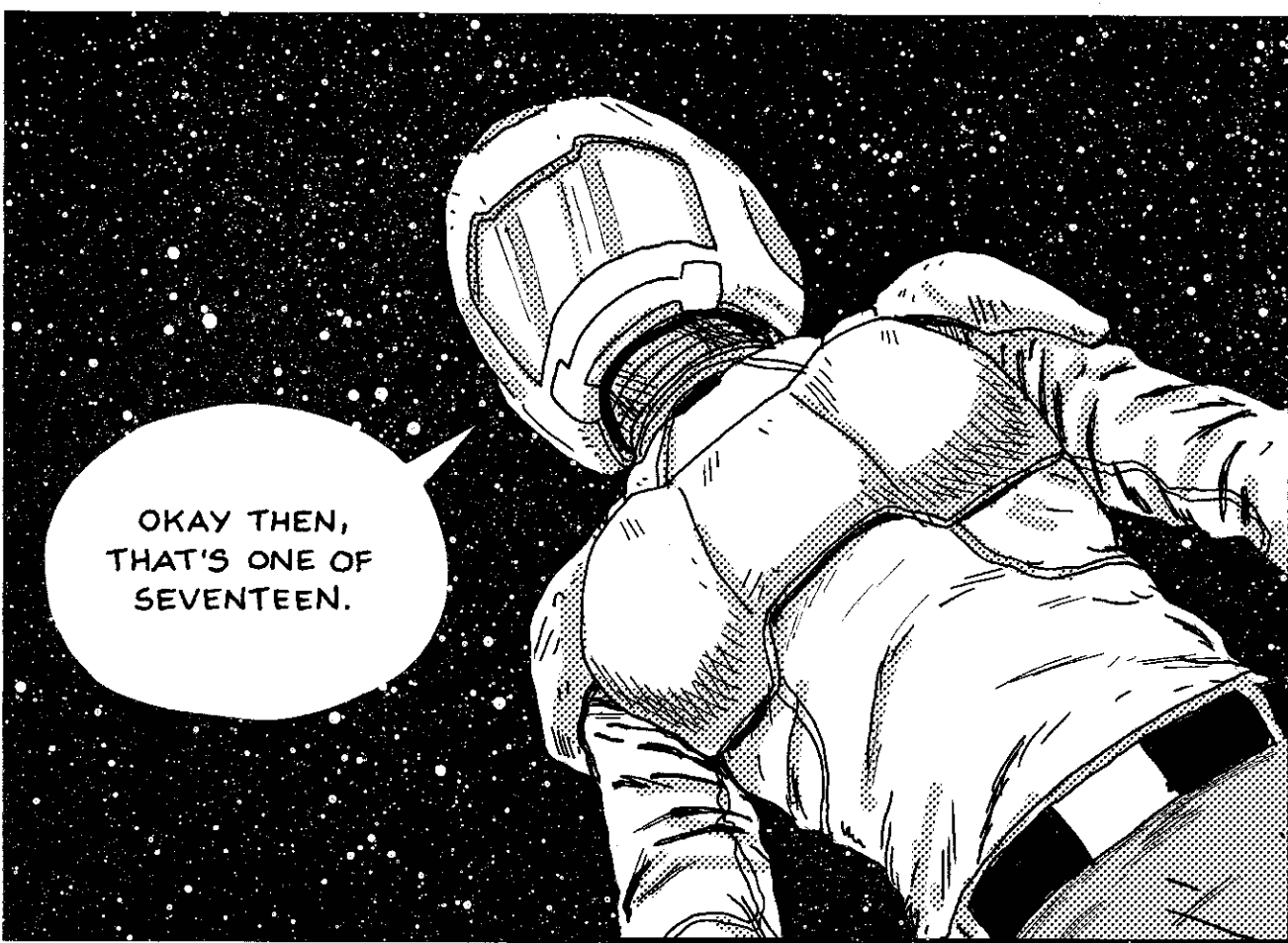
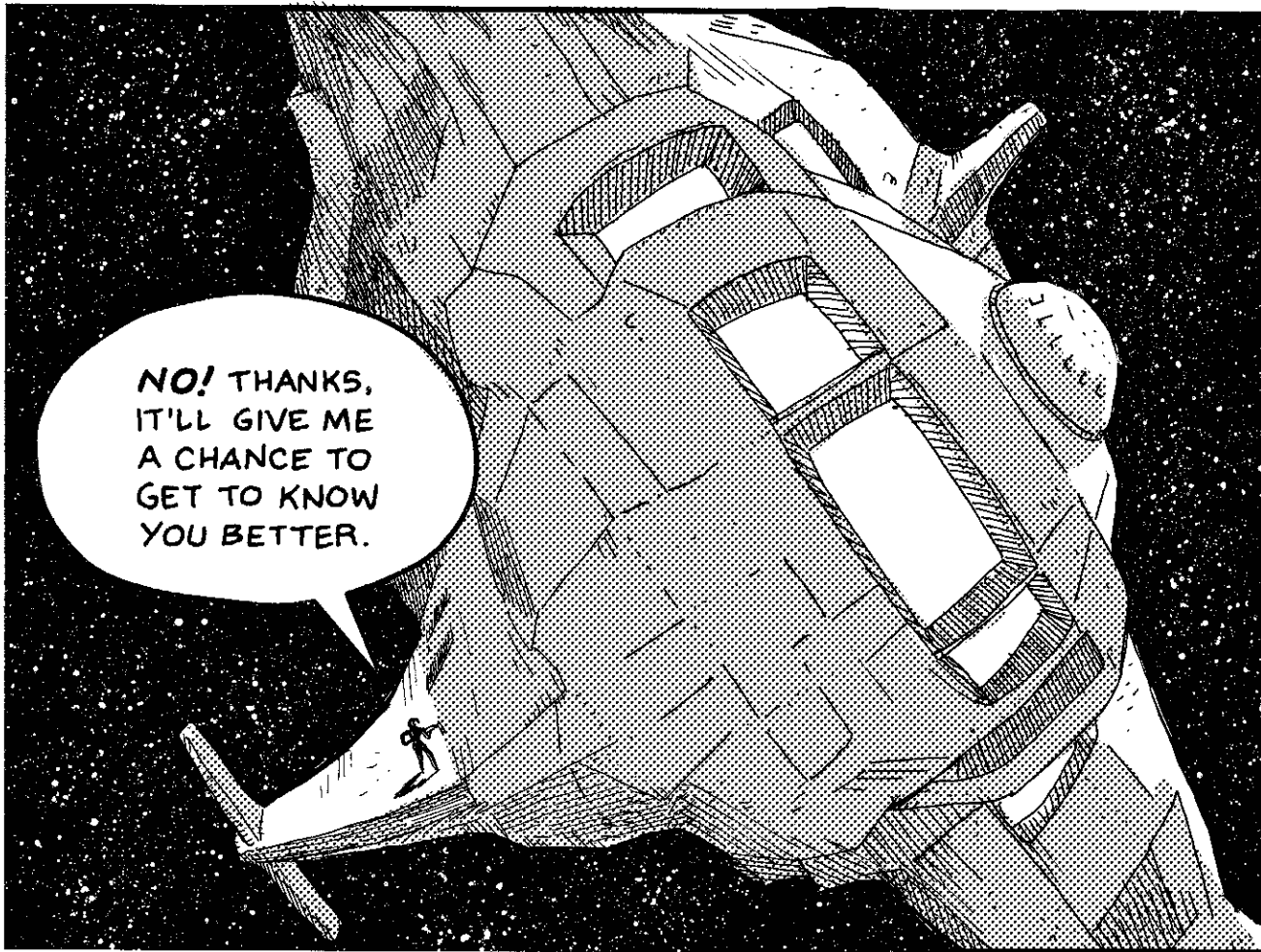


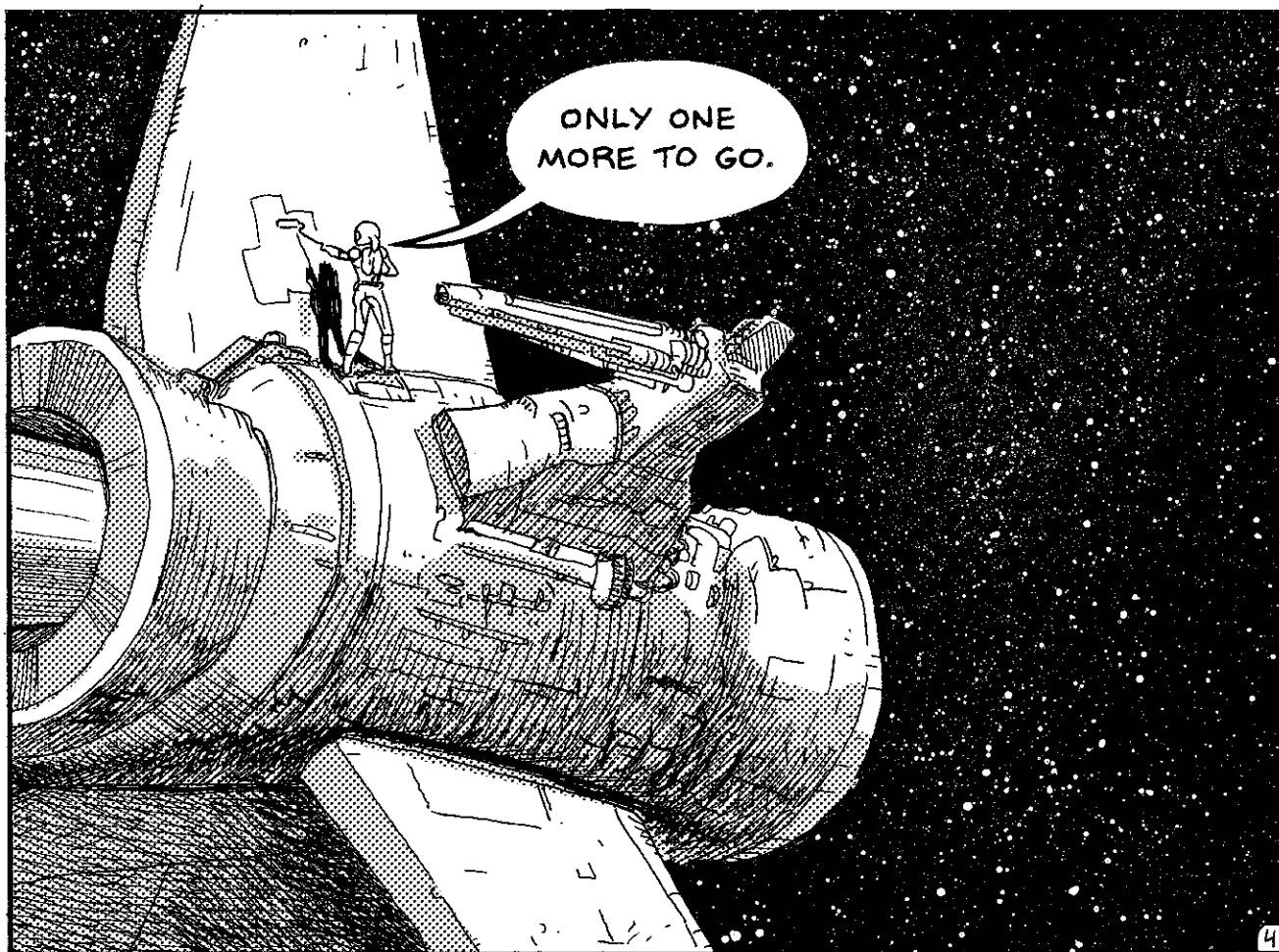
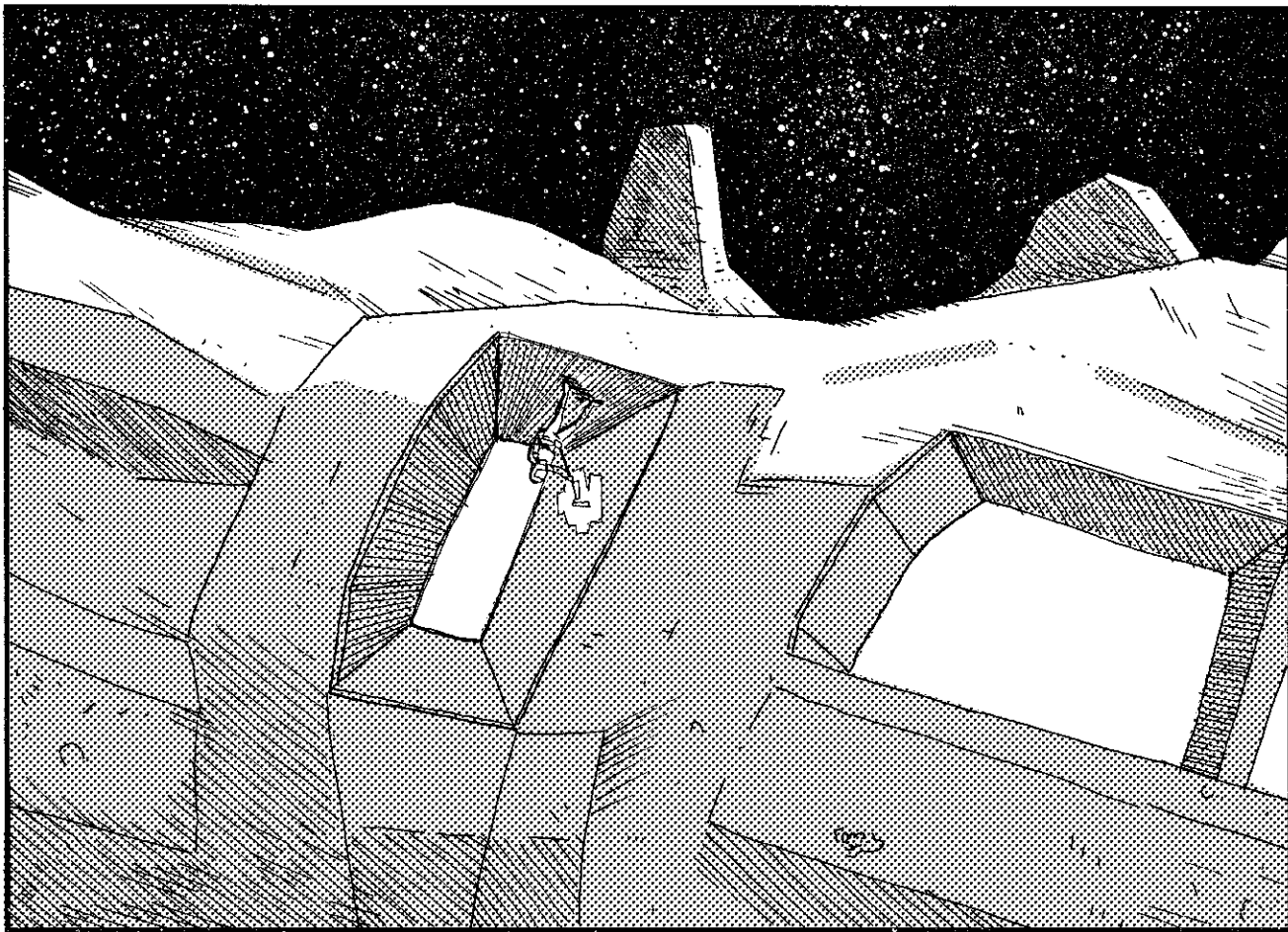
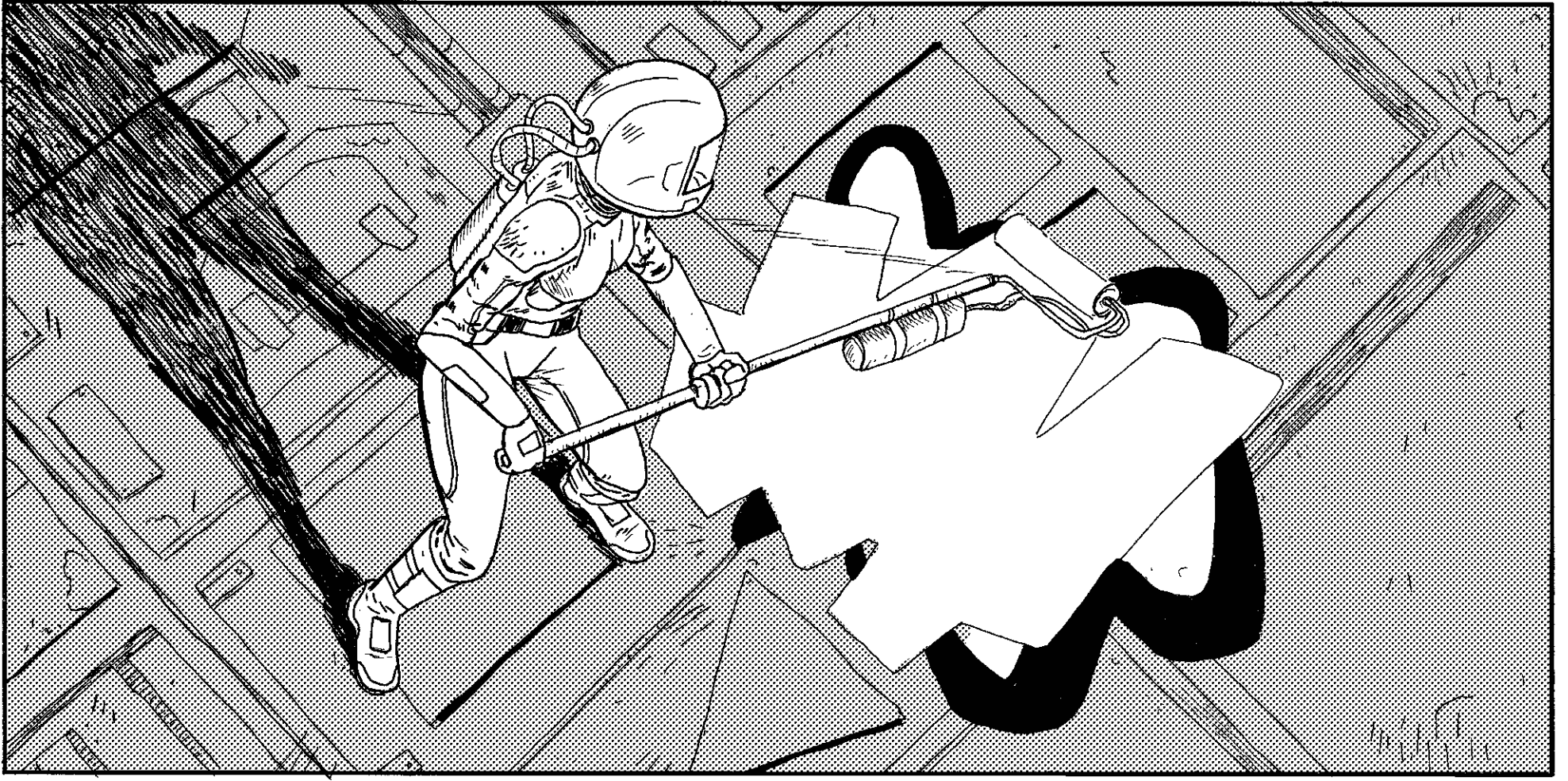
IF YOU'D LIKE,
I CAN SHOW
YOU WHERE
THEY ALL ARE.

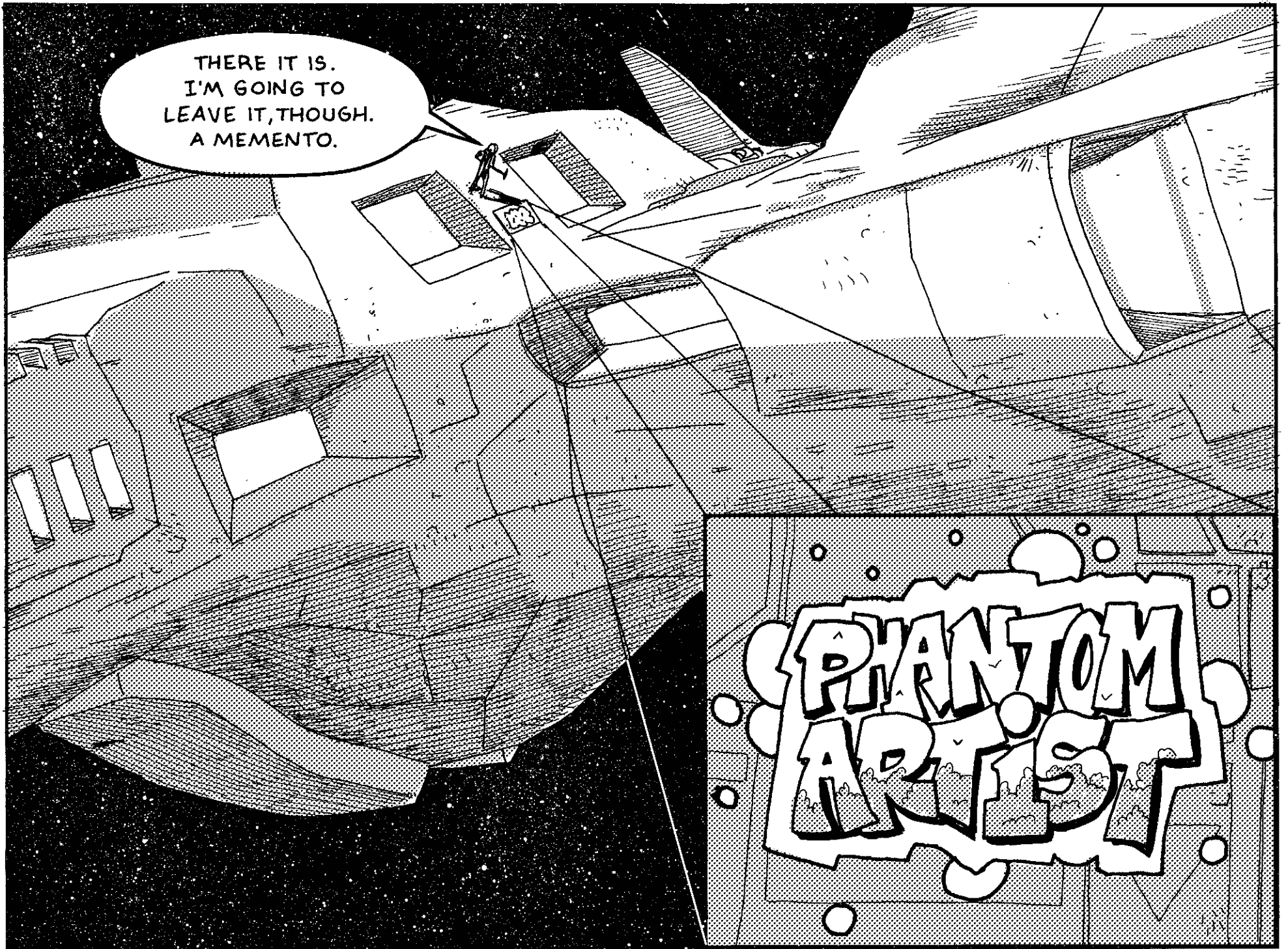


I COULD EVEN
PUT BOTS ON THE
JOB, IT'LL TAKE
NO TIME AT ALL.



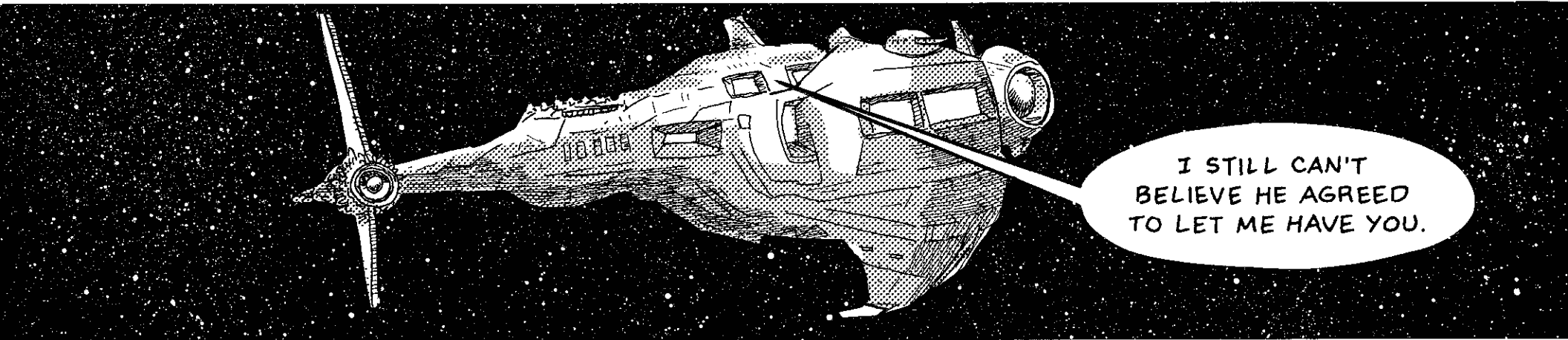






THERE IT IS.
I'M GOING TO
LEAVE IT, THOUGH.
A MEMENTO.

PHANTOM
ARTIST



I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE HE AGREED
TO LET ME HAVE YOU.



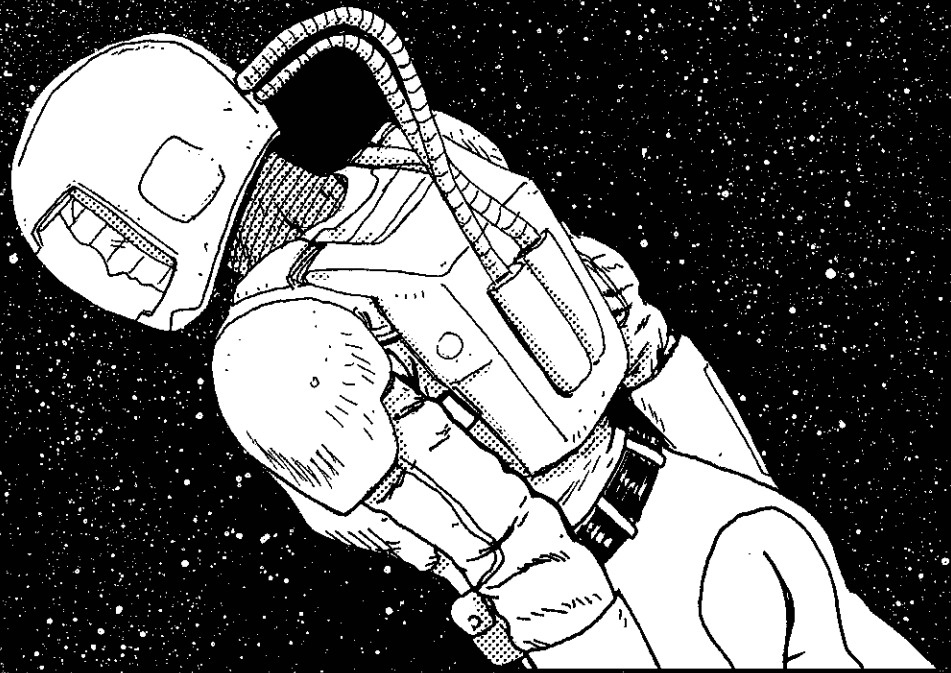
SORRY I STILL
HAVEN'T THOUGHT
OF A NAME FOR
YOU YET.



FOR NOW, CAN
YOU SIMPLY IDENTIFY
AS YOUR ORIGINAL
SERIAL NUMBER?

AS YOU
GET BACK
ONLINE,
I MEAN?

OF COURSE. I DO HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOU ON THAT FRONT. WHILE WE WERE FUGITIVES, I REMAINED MOSTLY OFFLINE. SINCE YOU TOOK OVER, I'VE BEEN UPDATING MY STAR MAPS AND CHARTS.



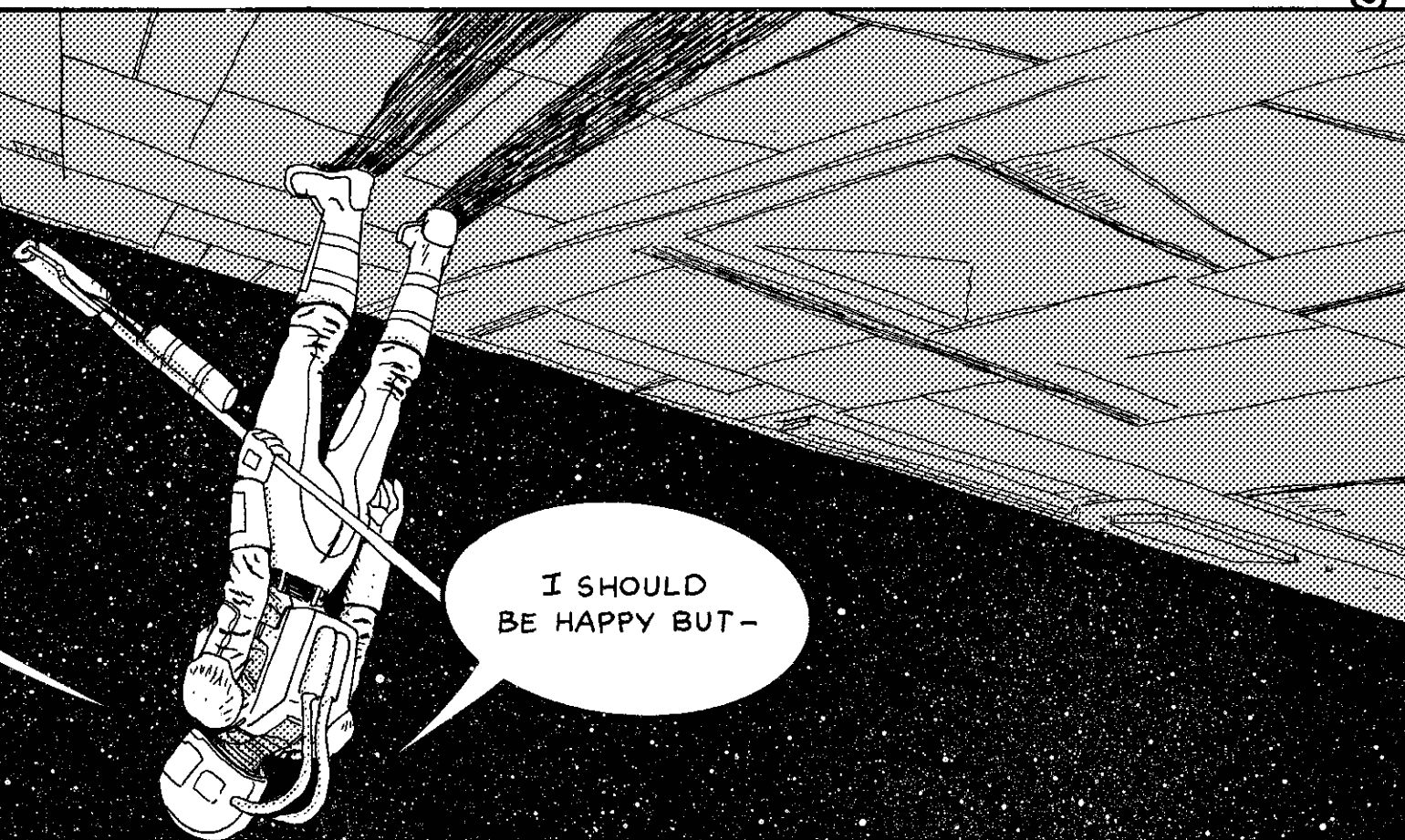
YOUR HOME WAS THREE HYPER JUMPS BACK, SO IT'S BEEN SLOW AND DIFFICULT TO GET RELIABLE INTEL THIS FAR OUT -

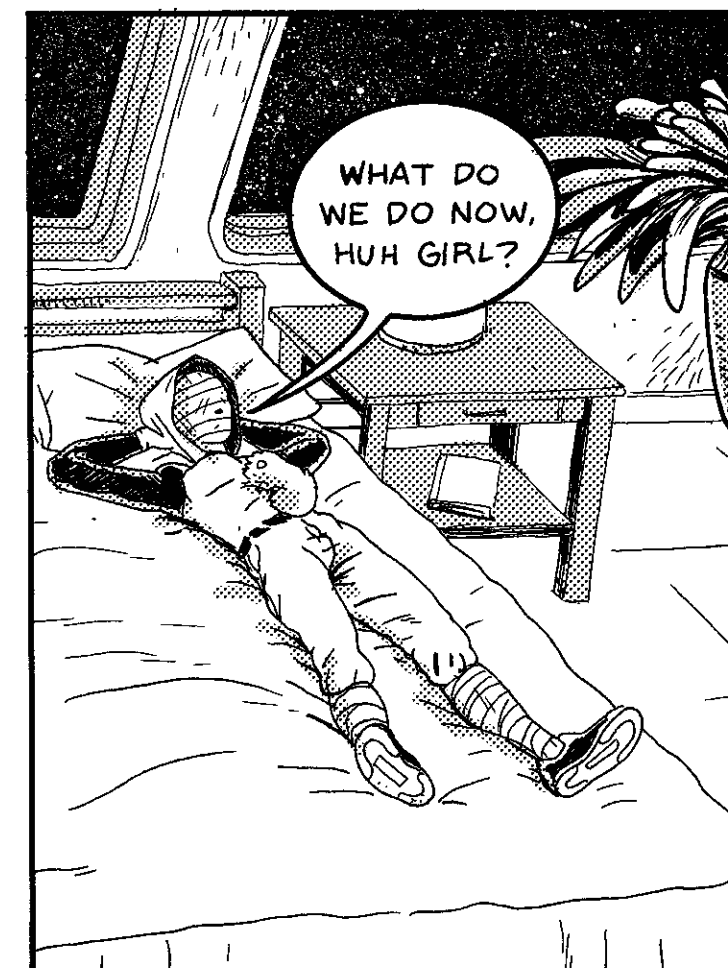
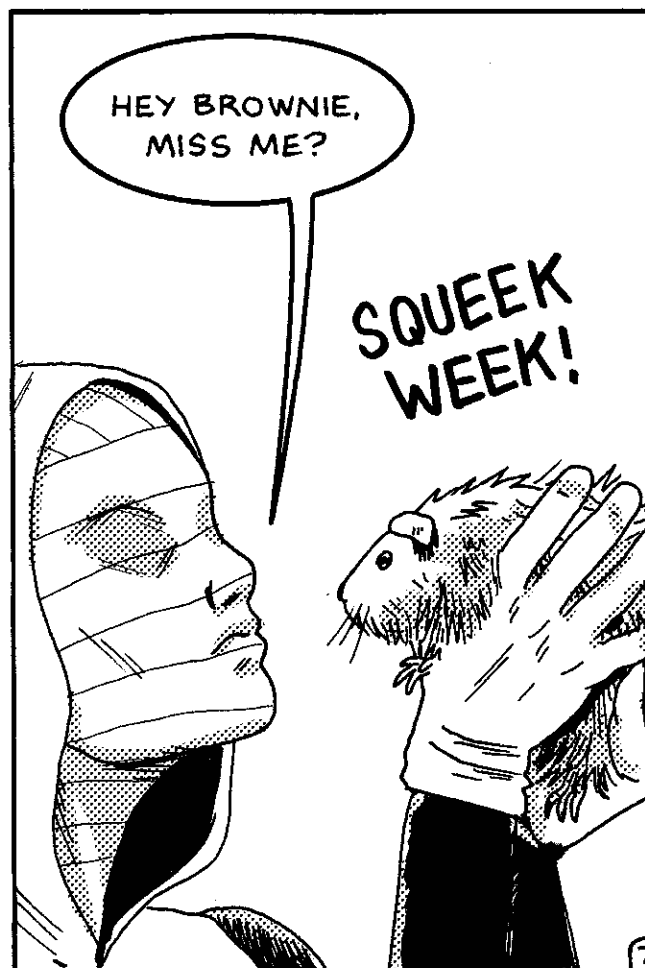
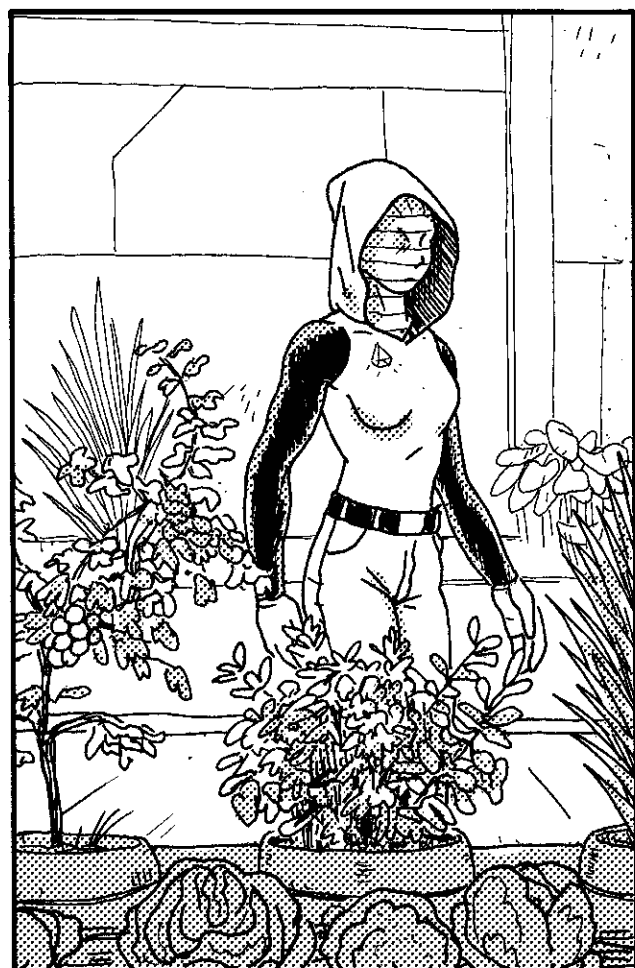
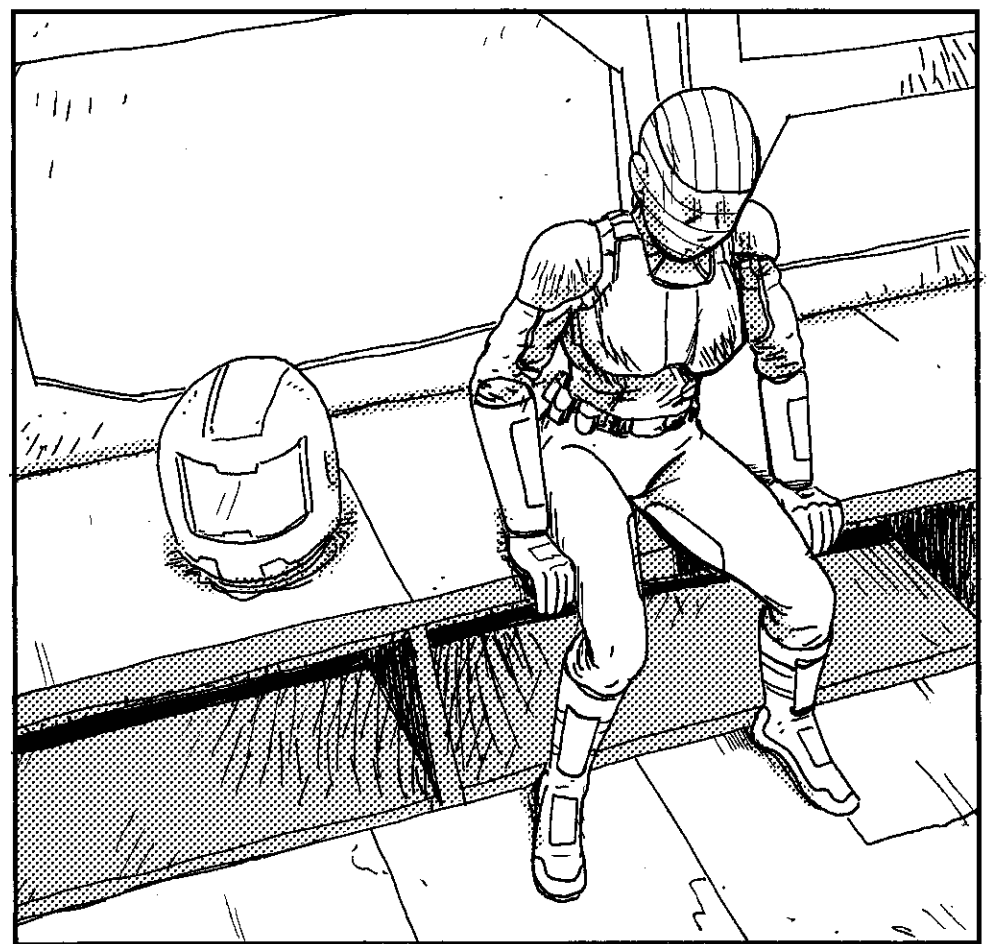
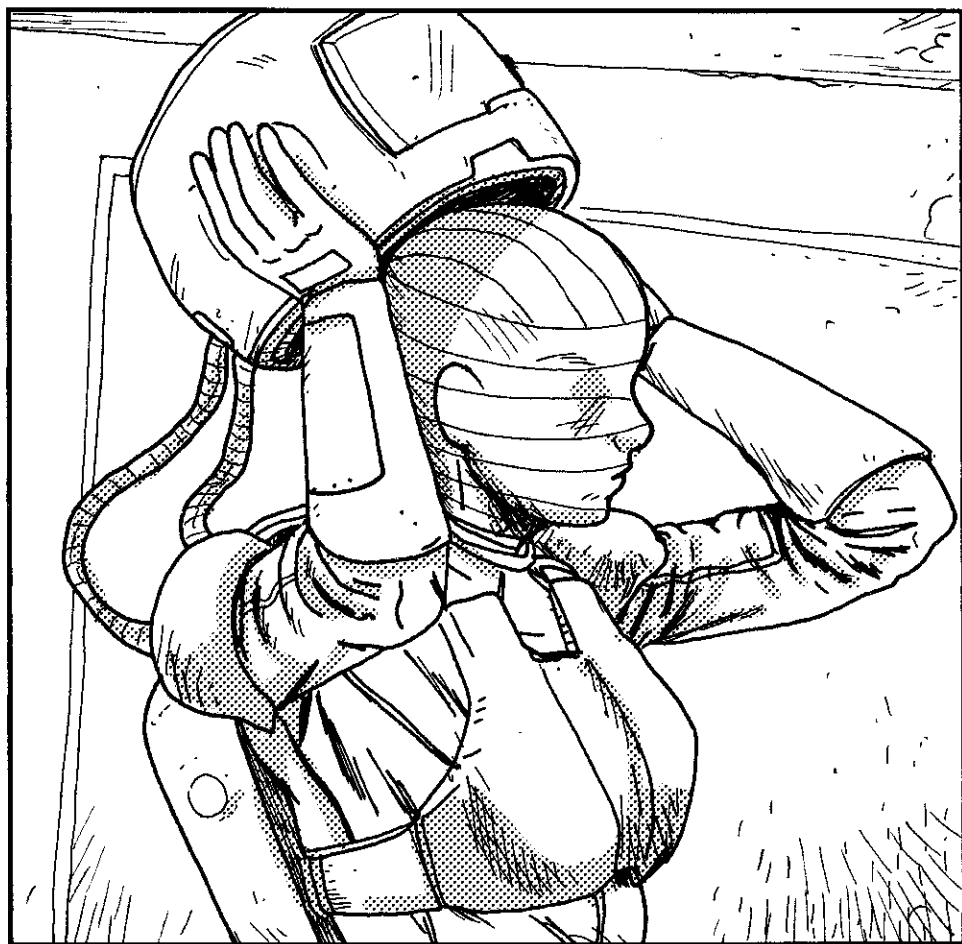
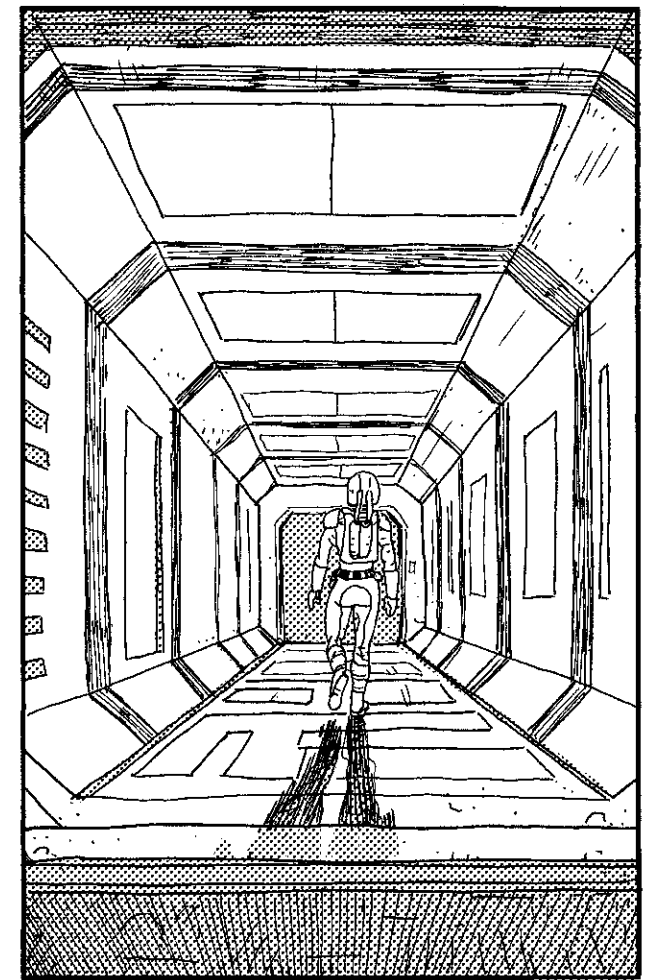
AND?

IT SEEMS YOUR PLANET WENT THROUGH A REVOLUTION, MARLEY. - **SUCCESSFULLY** - THEY'VE JOINED THE LOCAL PLANETARY COUNCIL WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS AND REPRESENTATION.

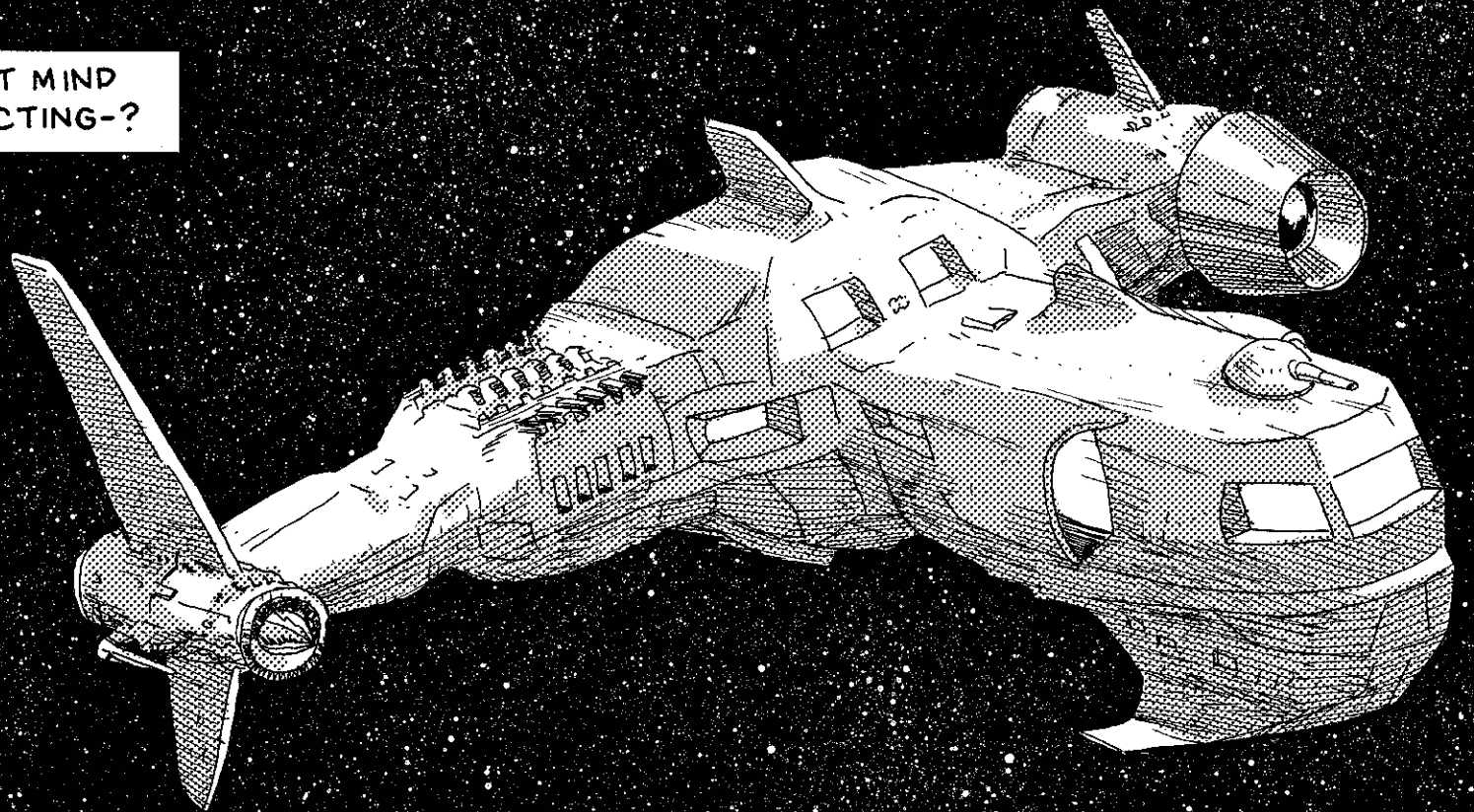
WHAT?

I SHOULD BE HAPPY BUT -

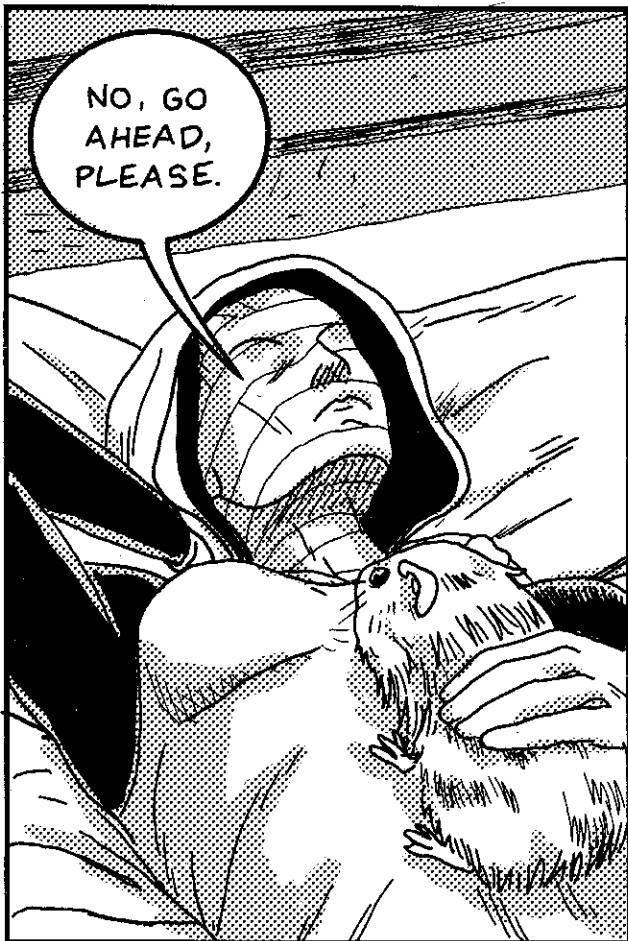




IF YOU DON'T MIND
MY INTERJECTING-?



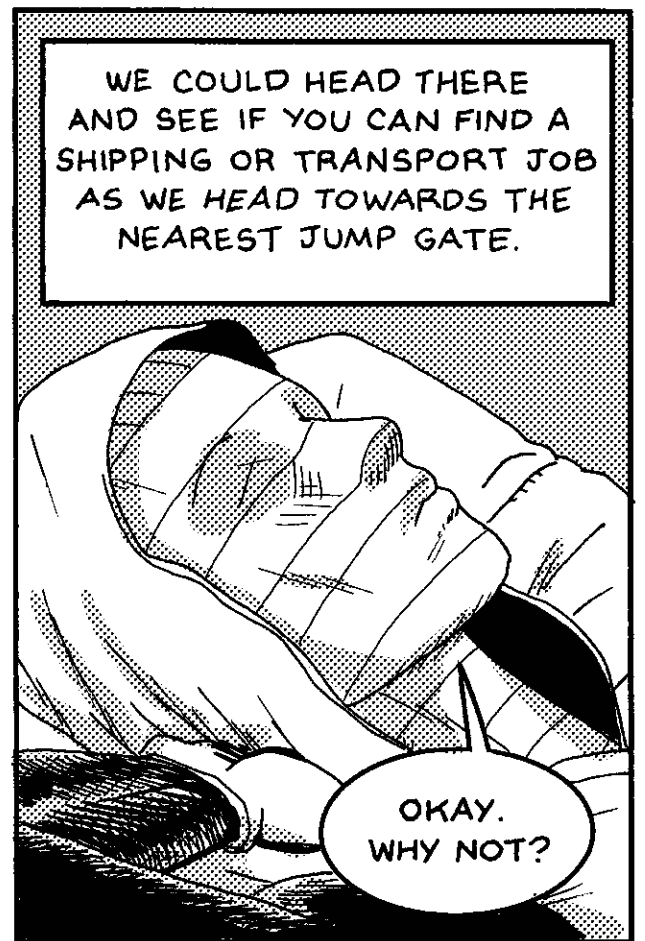
NO, GO
AHEAD,
PLEASE.



WHILE WE ARE IN A
REMOTE PART OF SPACE,
THERE IS A STATION ONLY
A SHORT TRIP FROM HERE.

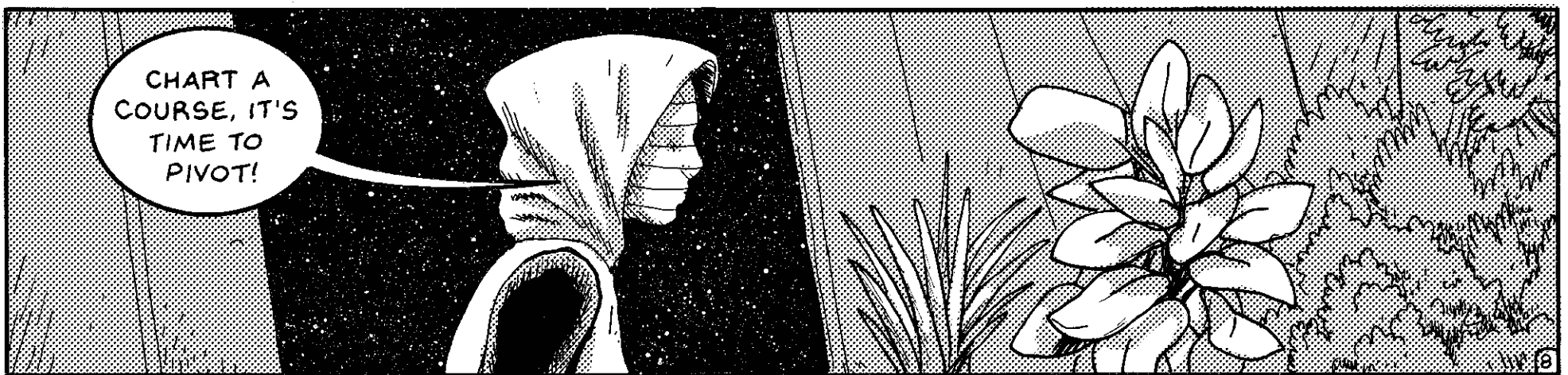


WE COULD HEAD THERE
AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A
SHIPPING OR TRANSPORT JOB
AS WE HEAD TOWARDS THE
NEAREST JUMP GATE.



OKAY.
WHY NOT?

CHART A
COURSE, IT'S
TIME TO
PIVOT!



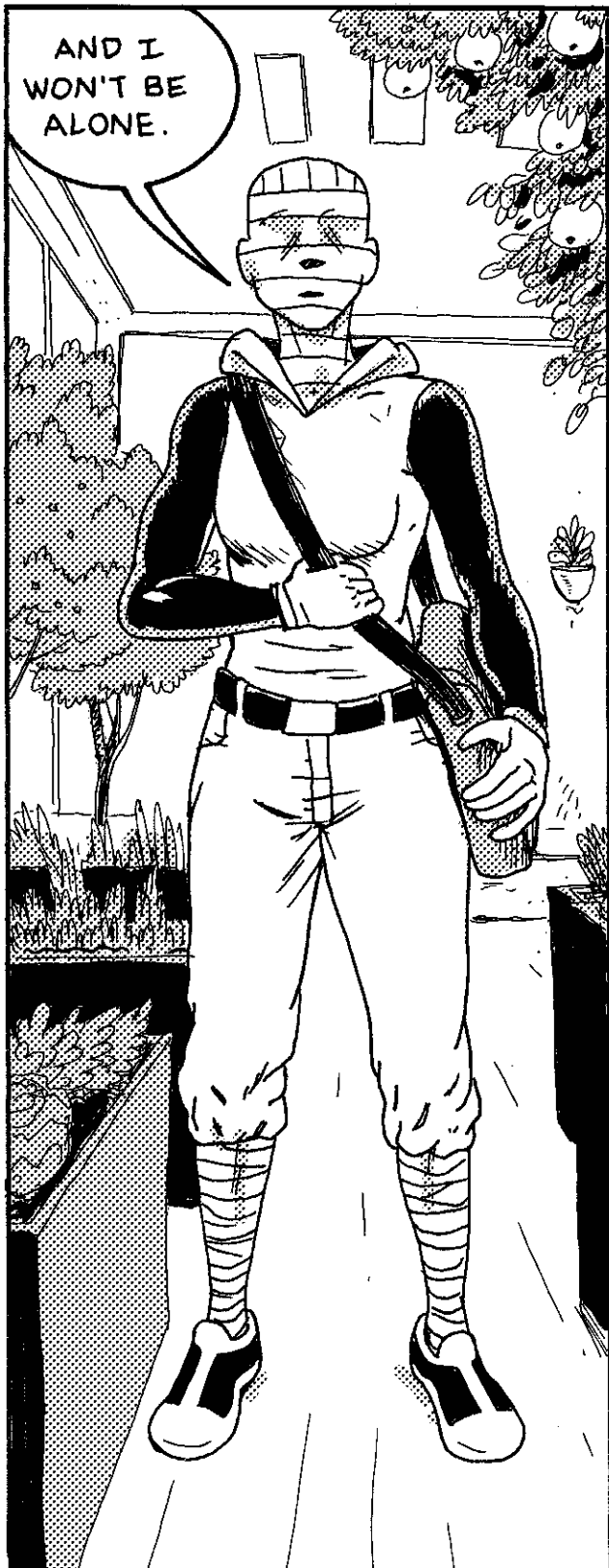
WE'VE ARRIVED, MARLEY,
I'VE GOT THE DOCKING CODES.
I ALSO HAVE A WARNING FOR YOU-
THIS FAR OUT YOU CAN EXPECT
THE STATION **AND** THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVE AND WORK THERE- TO
BE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.



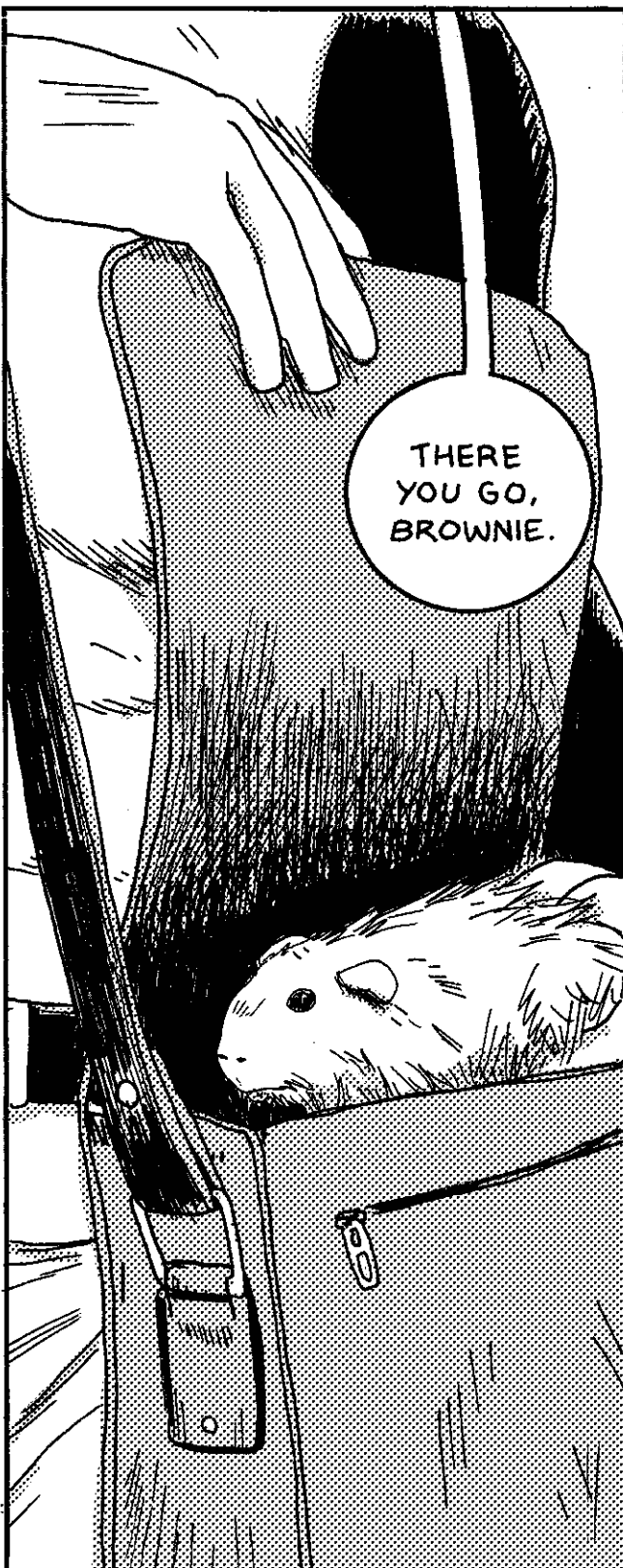
IT'S OKAY.
I CAN TAKE
CARE OF
MYSELF.



AND I
WON'T BE
ALONE.

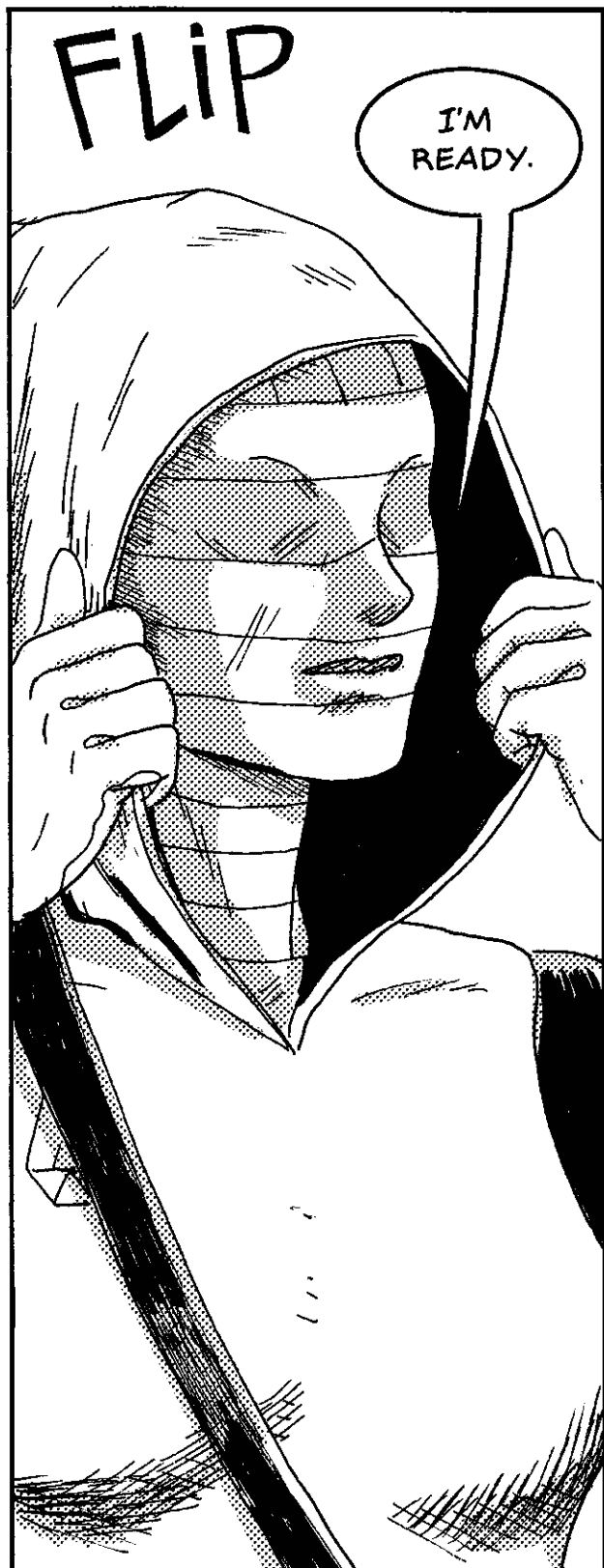


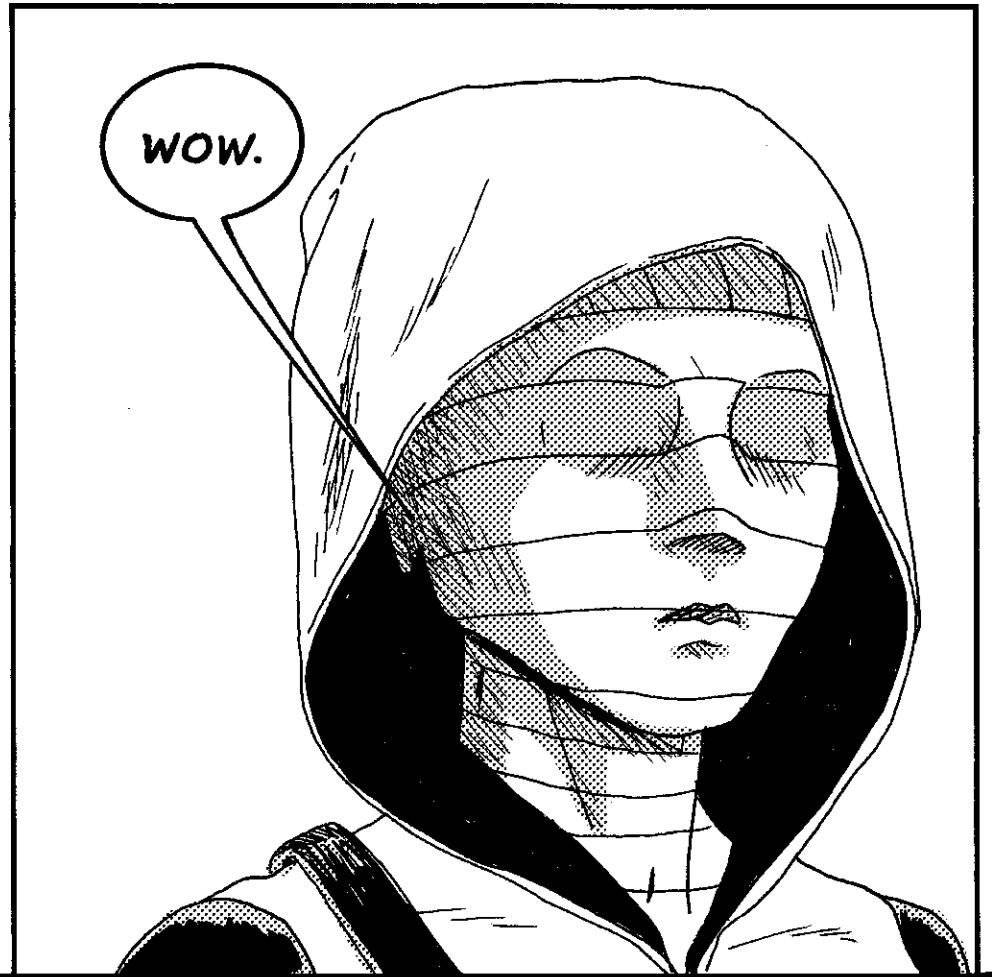
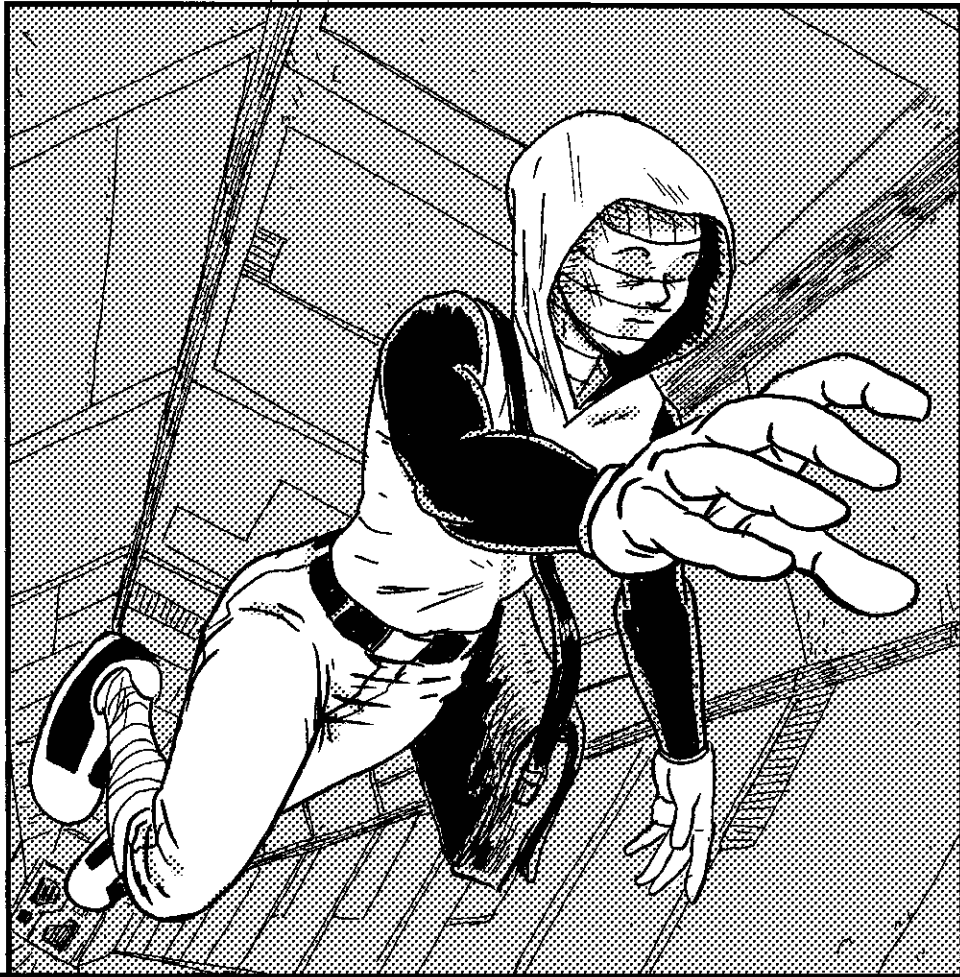
THERE
YOU GO,
BROWNIE.

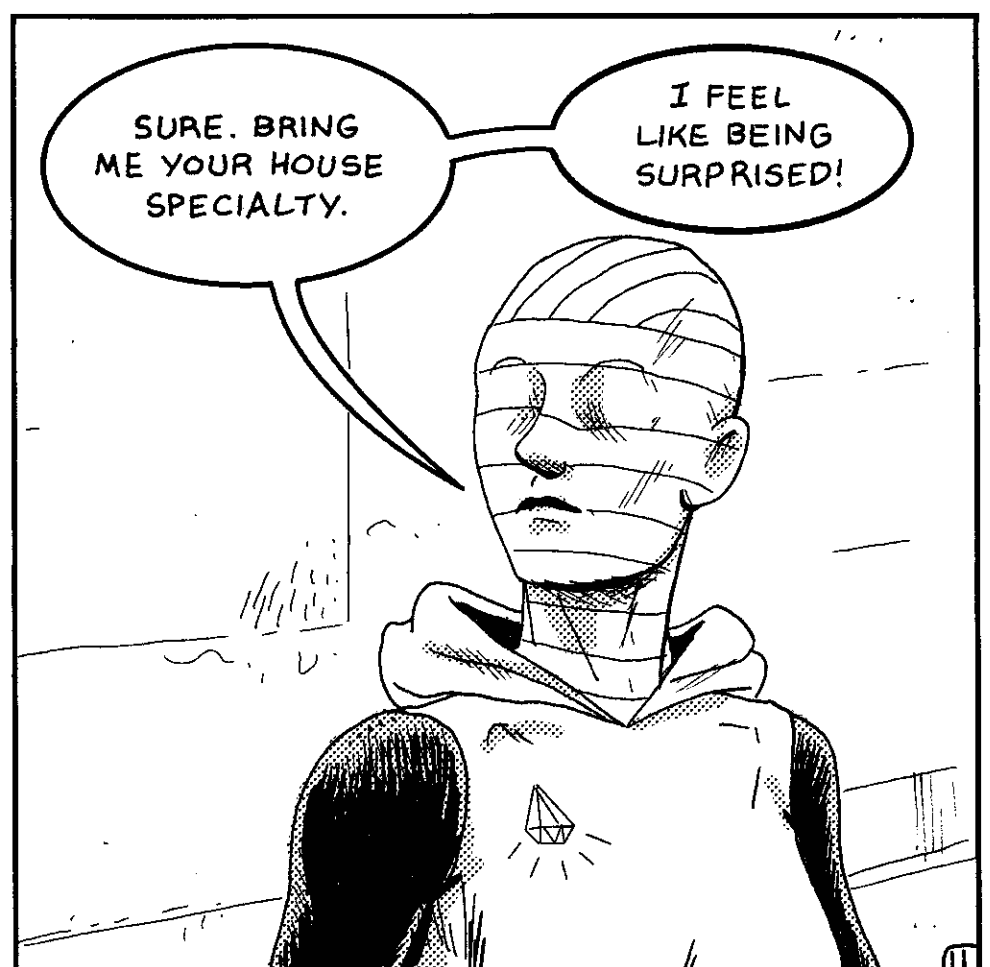
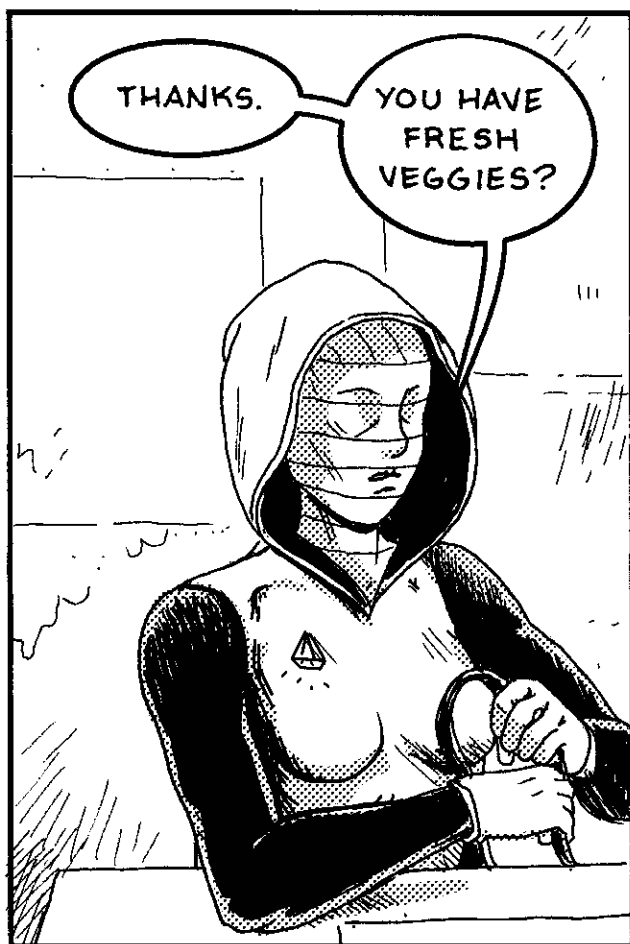


FLIP

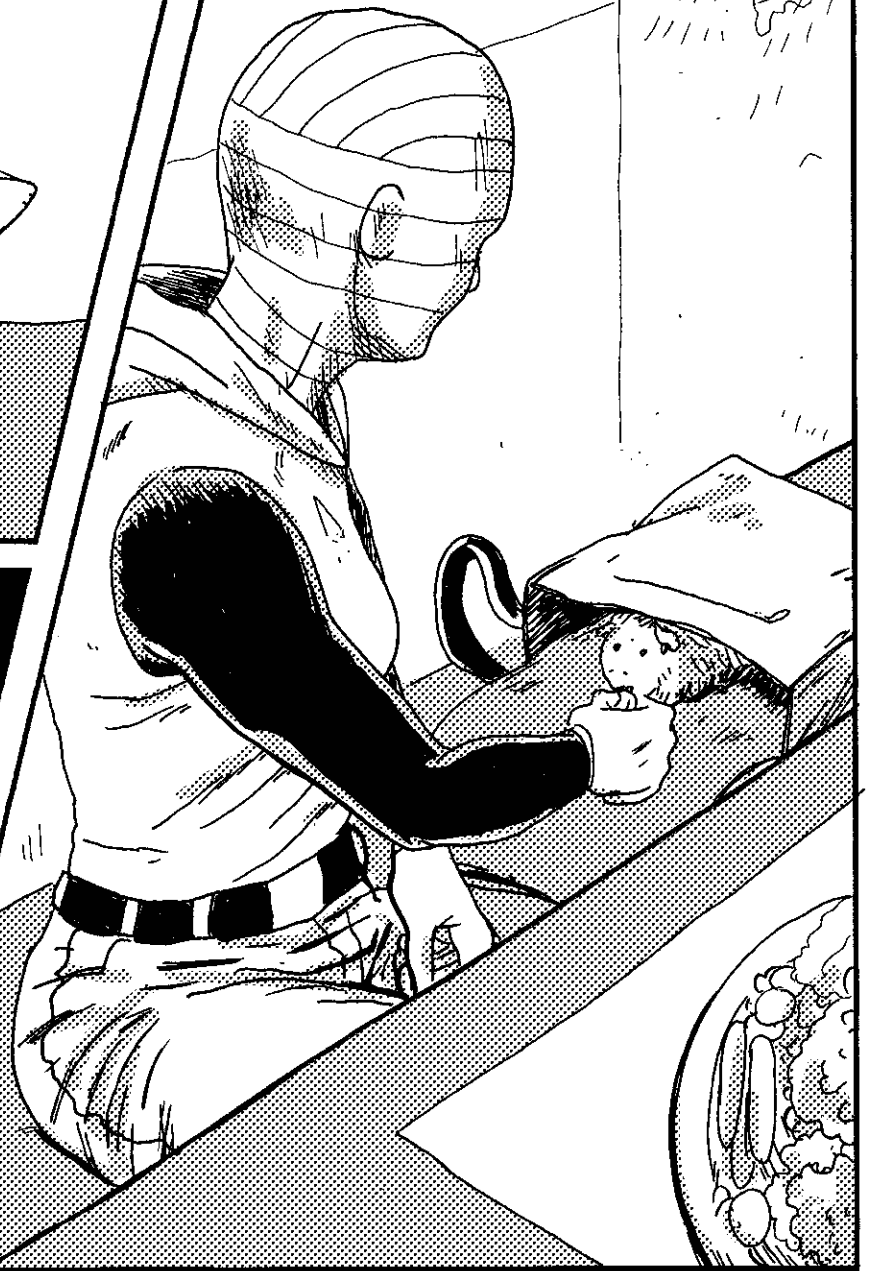
I'M
READY.



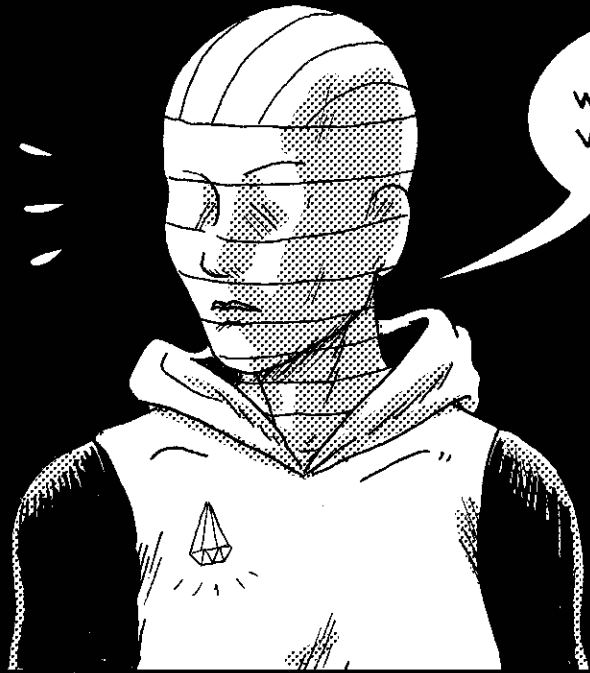




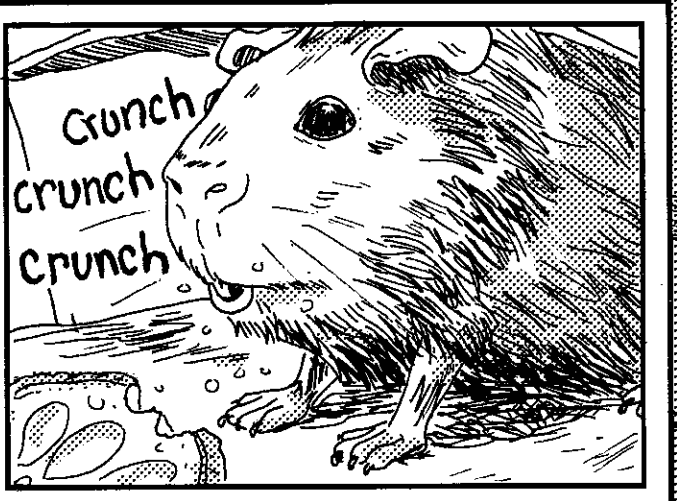
KLANG!

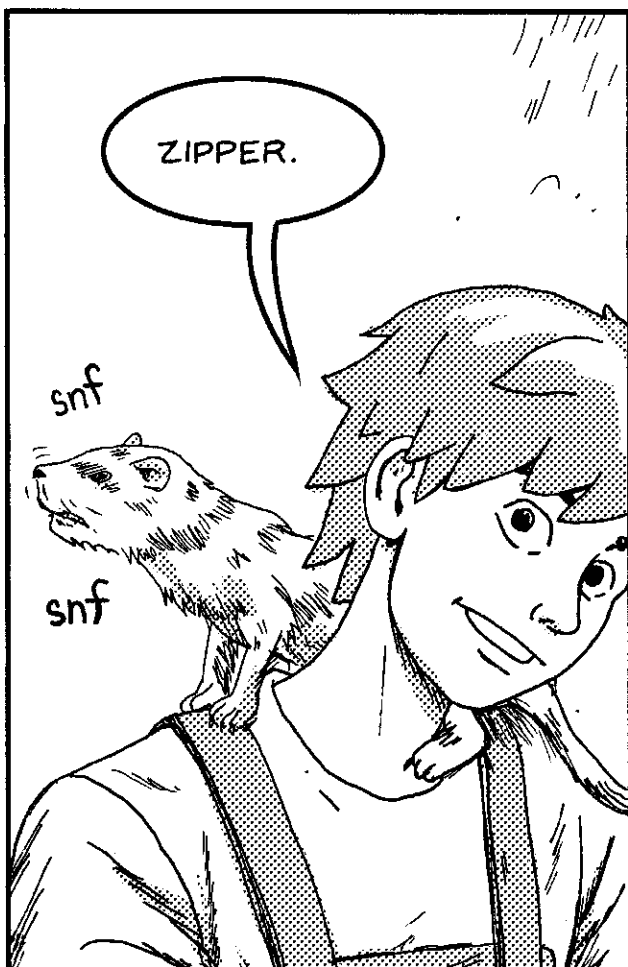
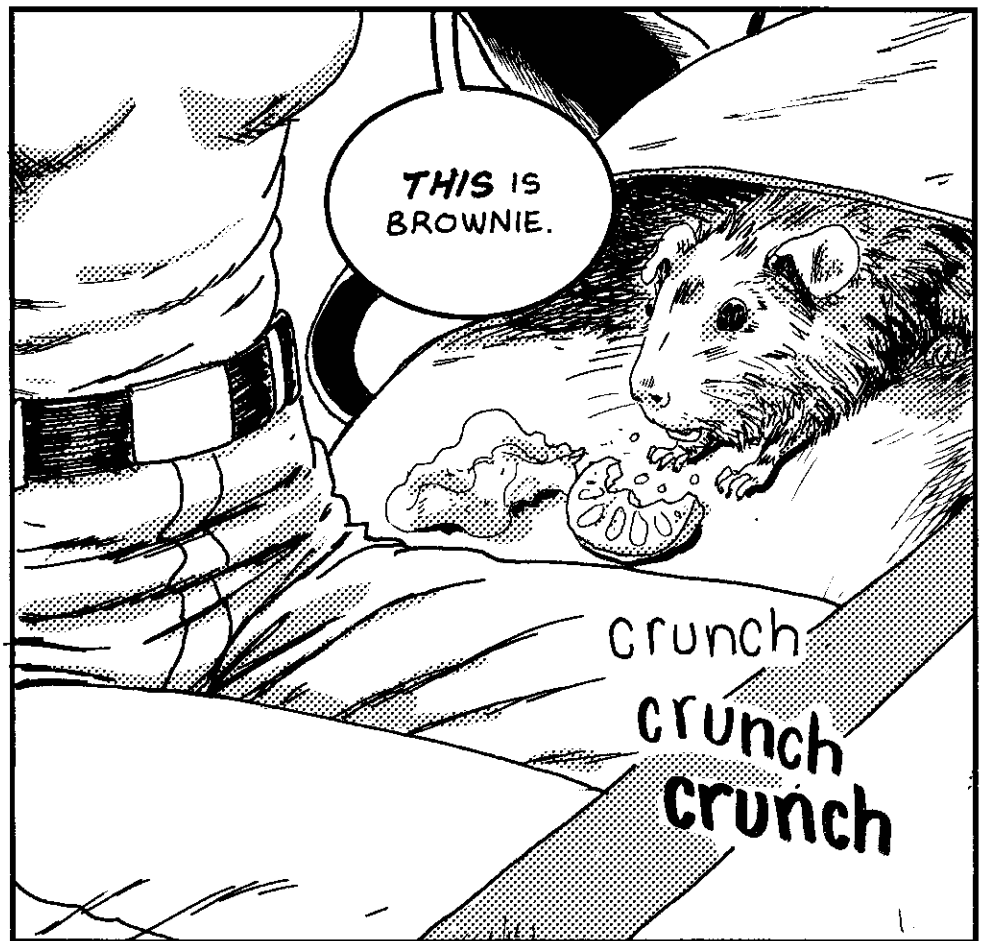
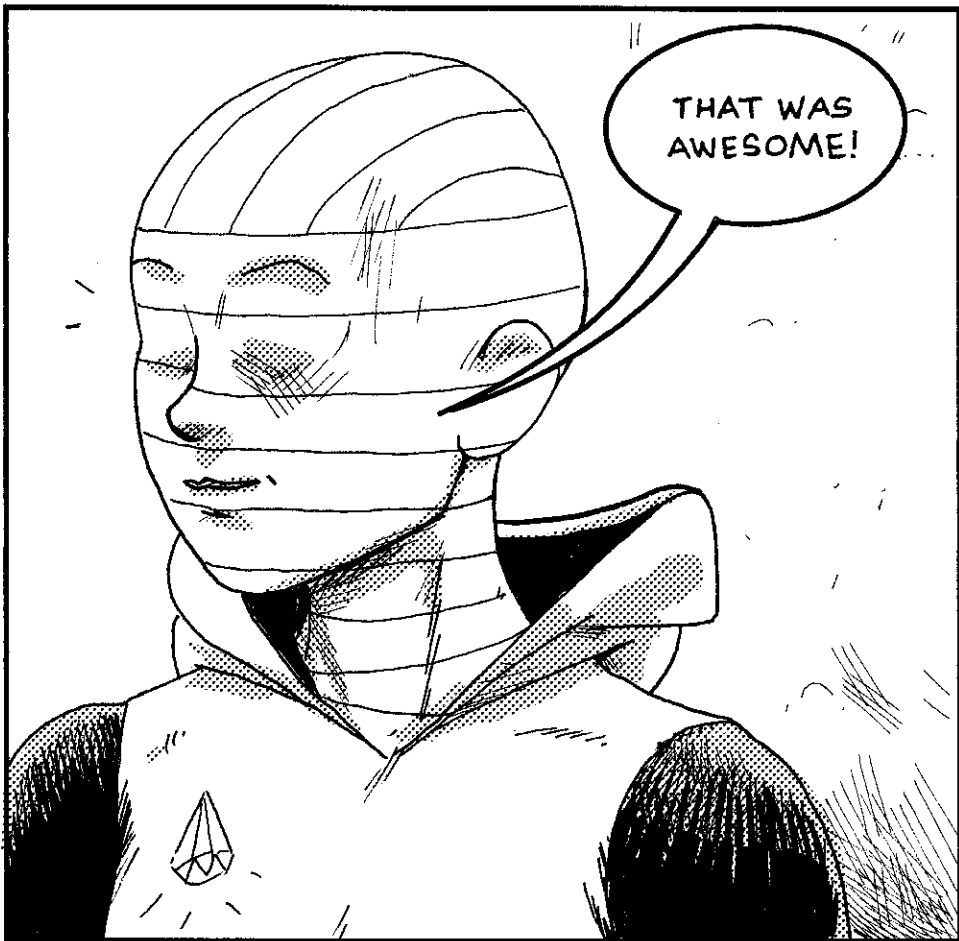
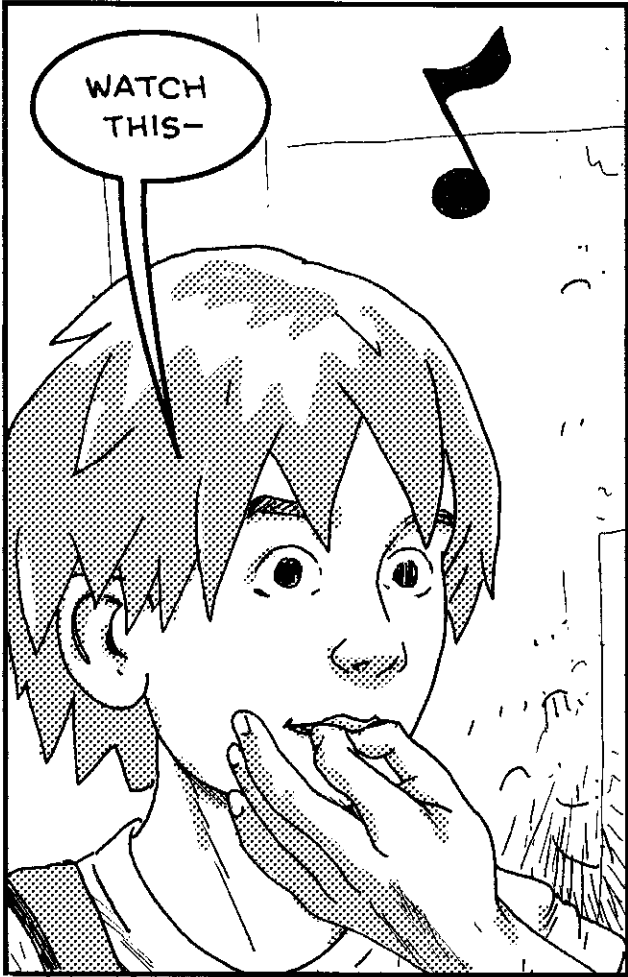


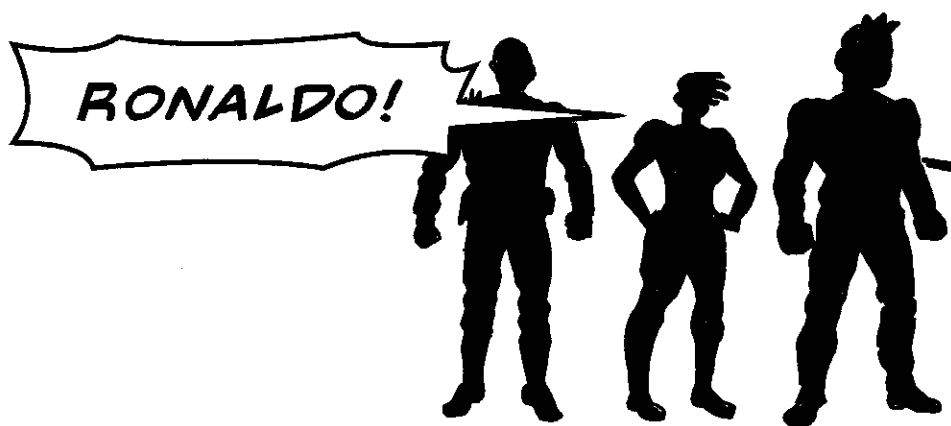
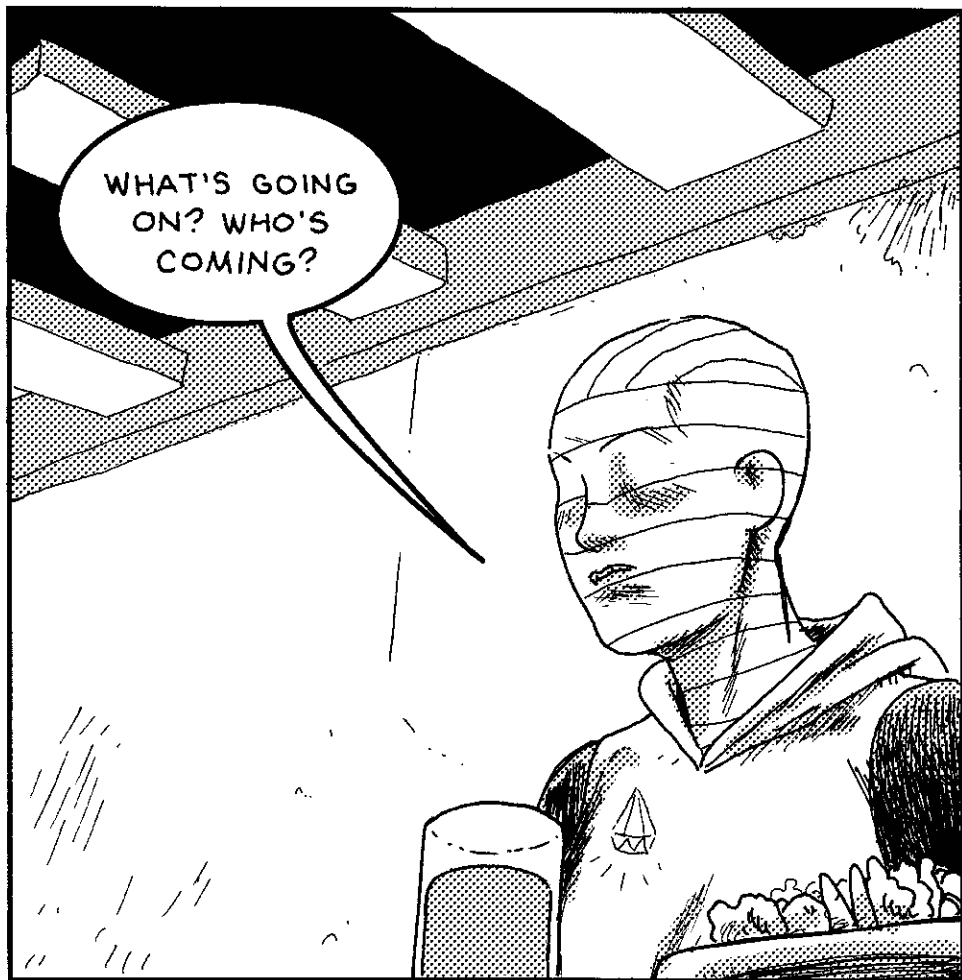
WOW, THAT WAS QUICK!

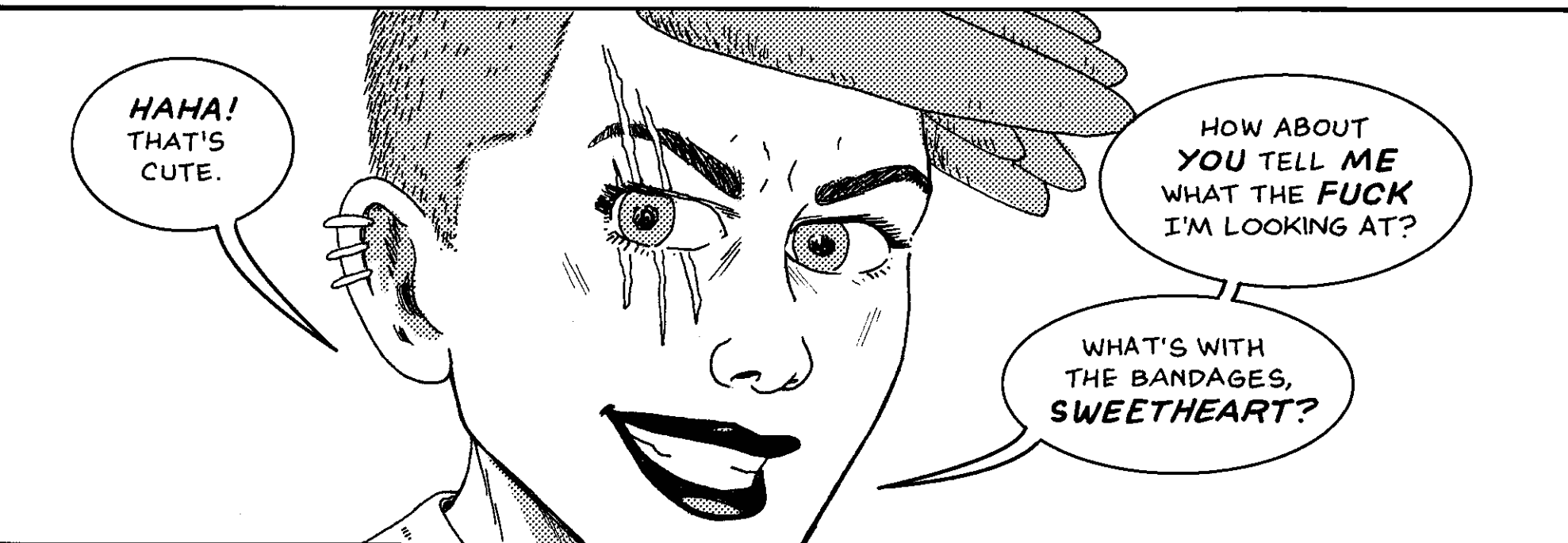
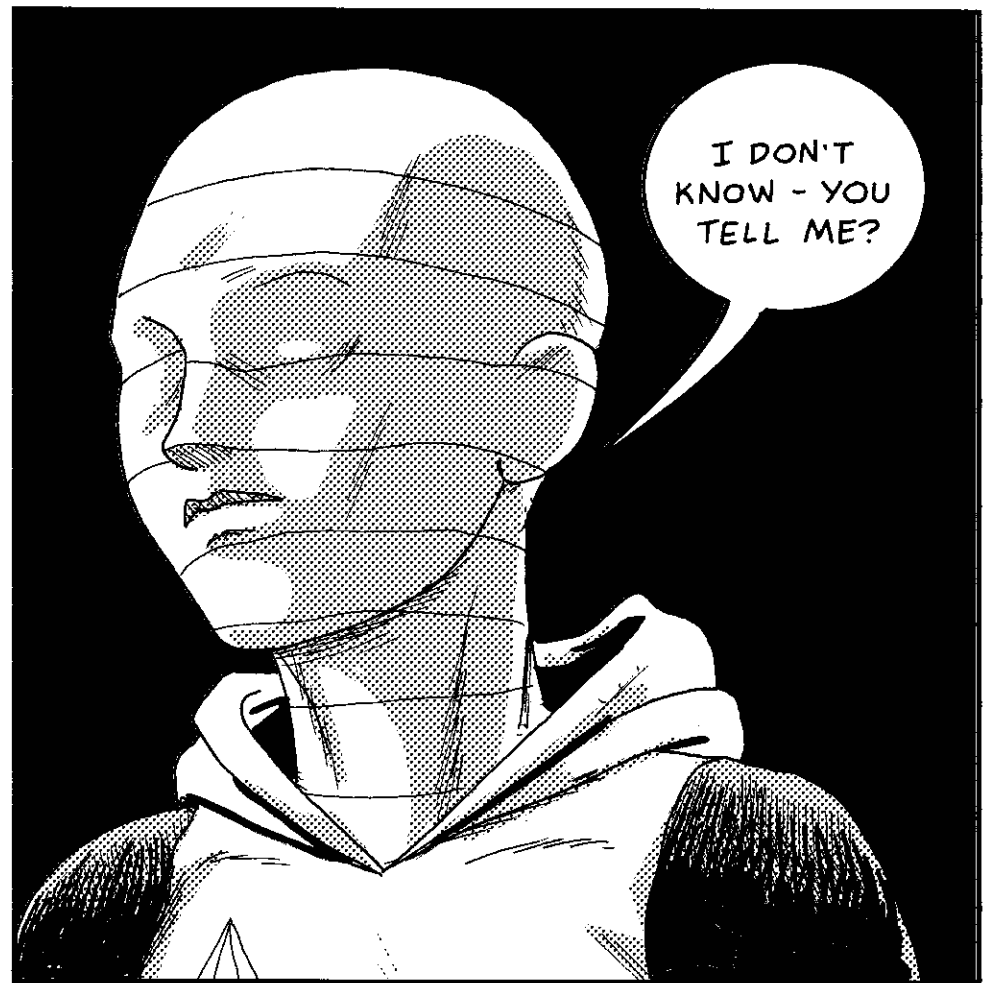


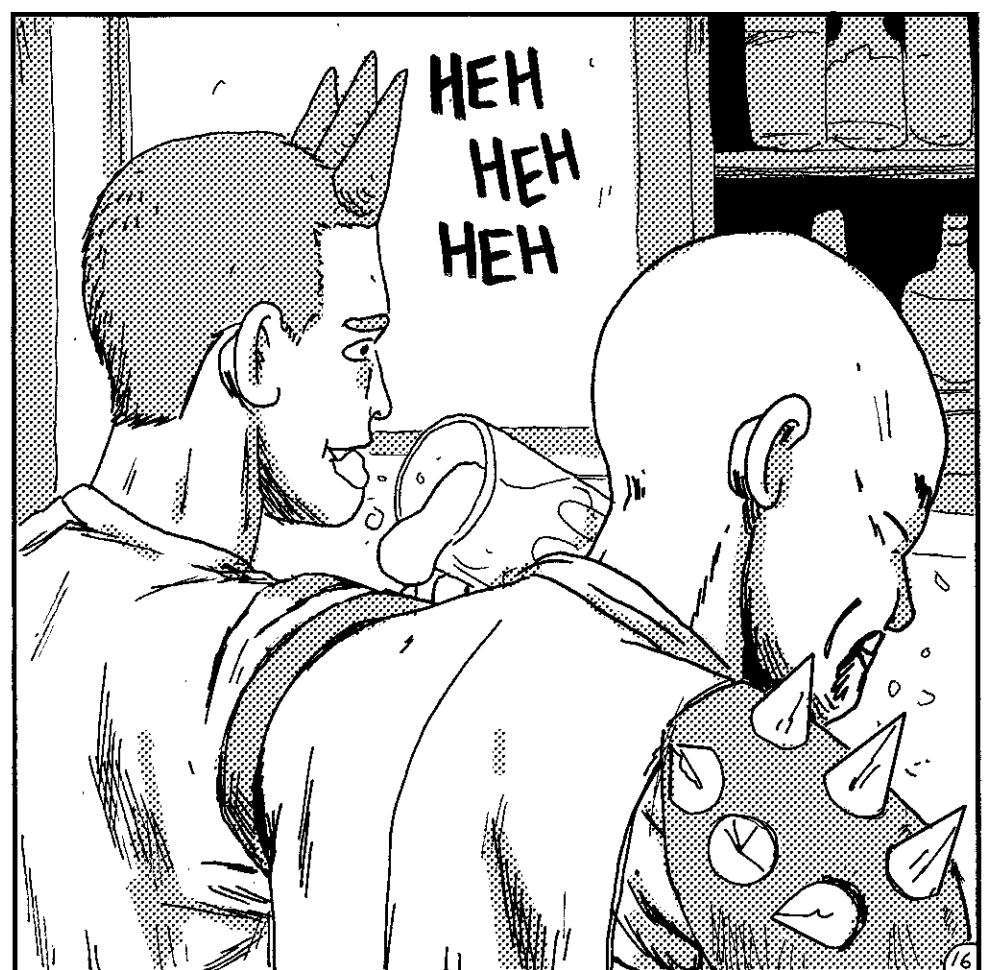
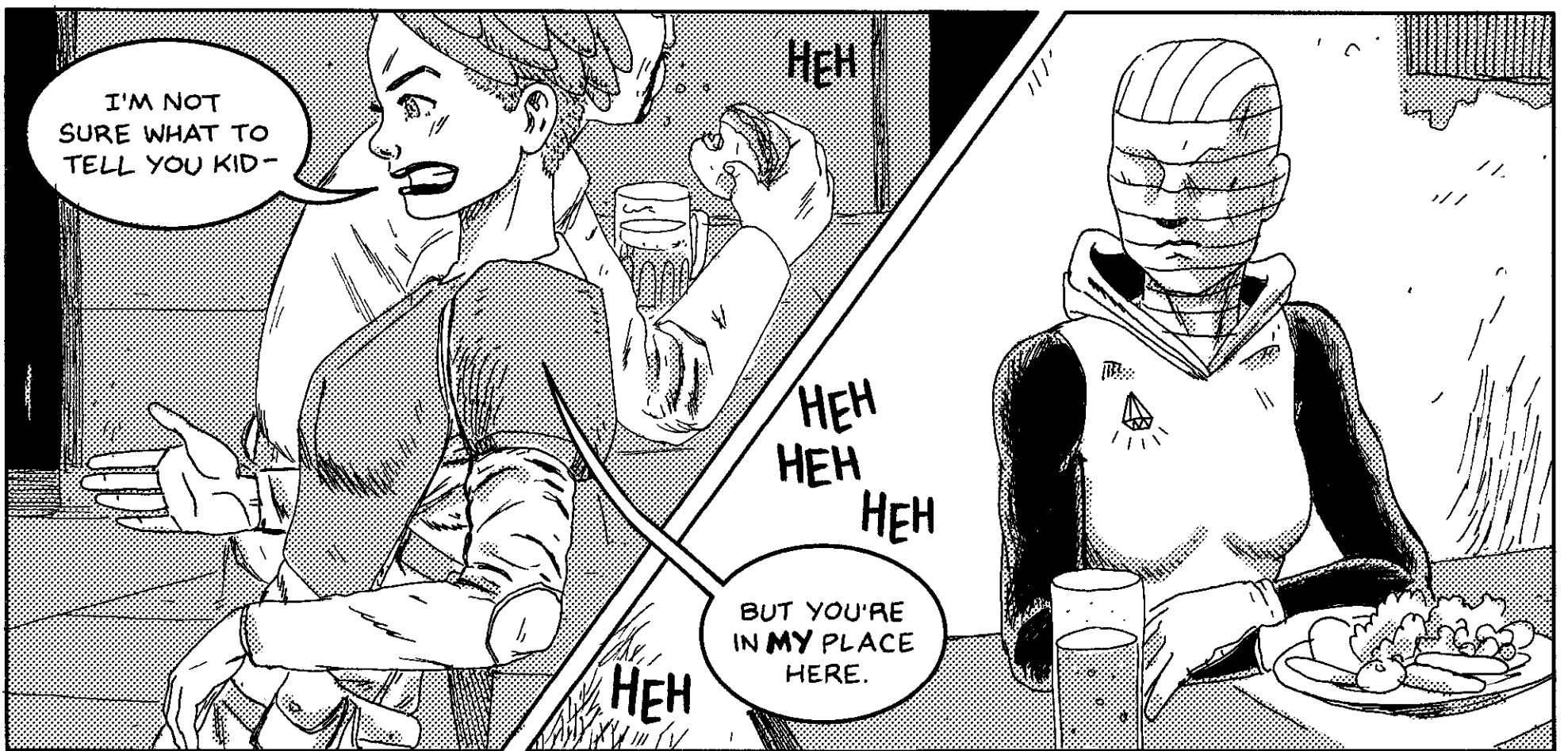
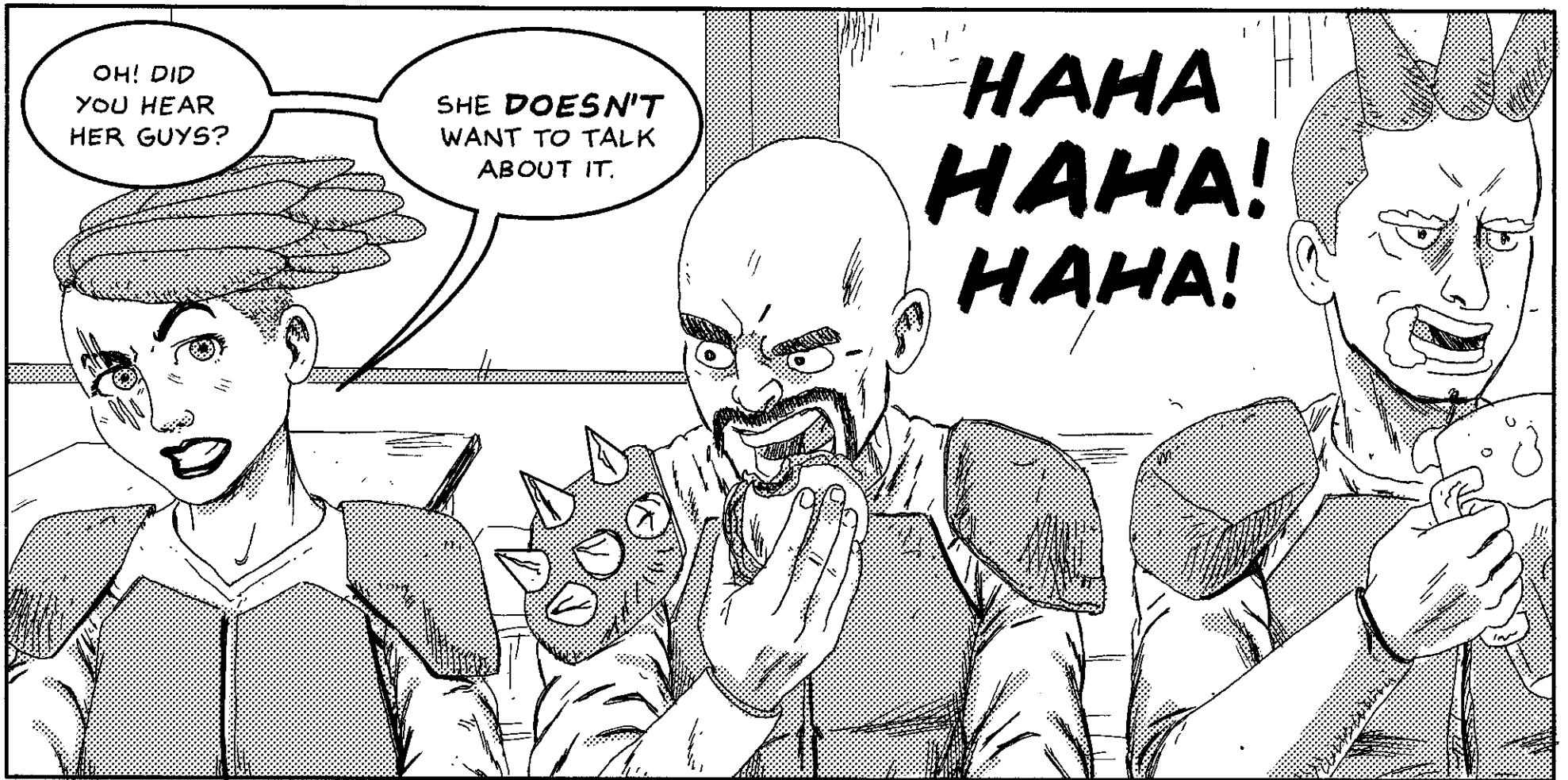
HERE YOU GO GIRL.

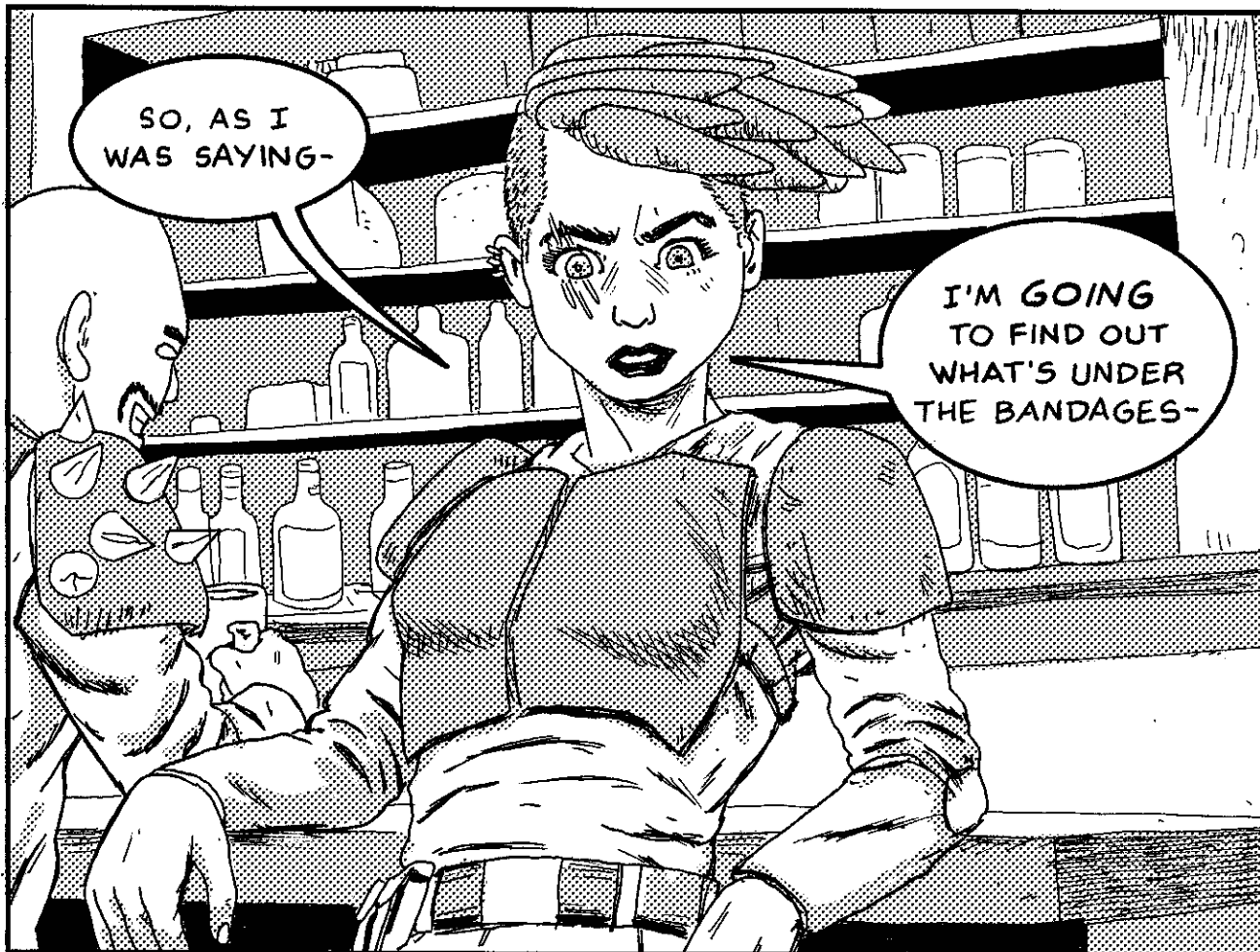






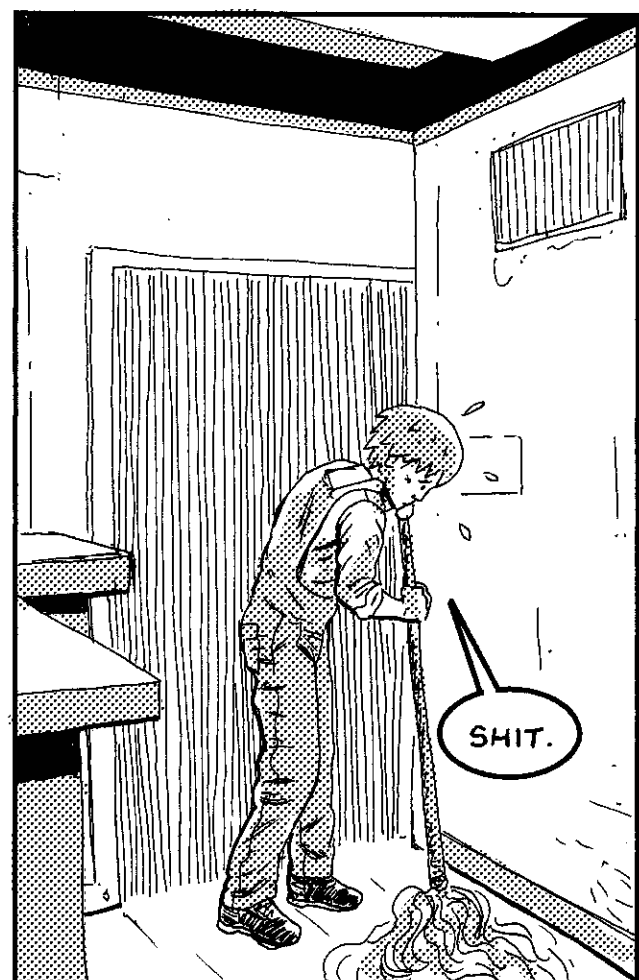




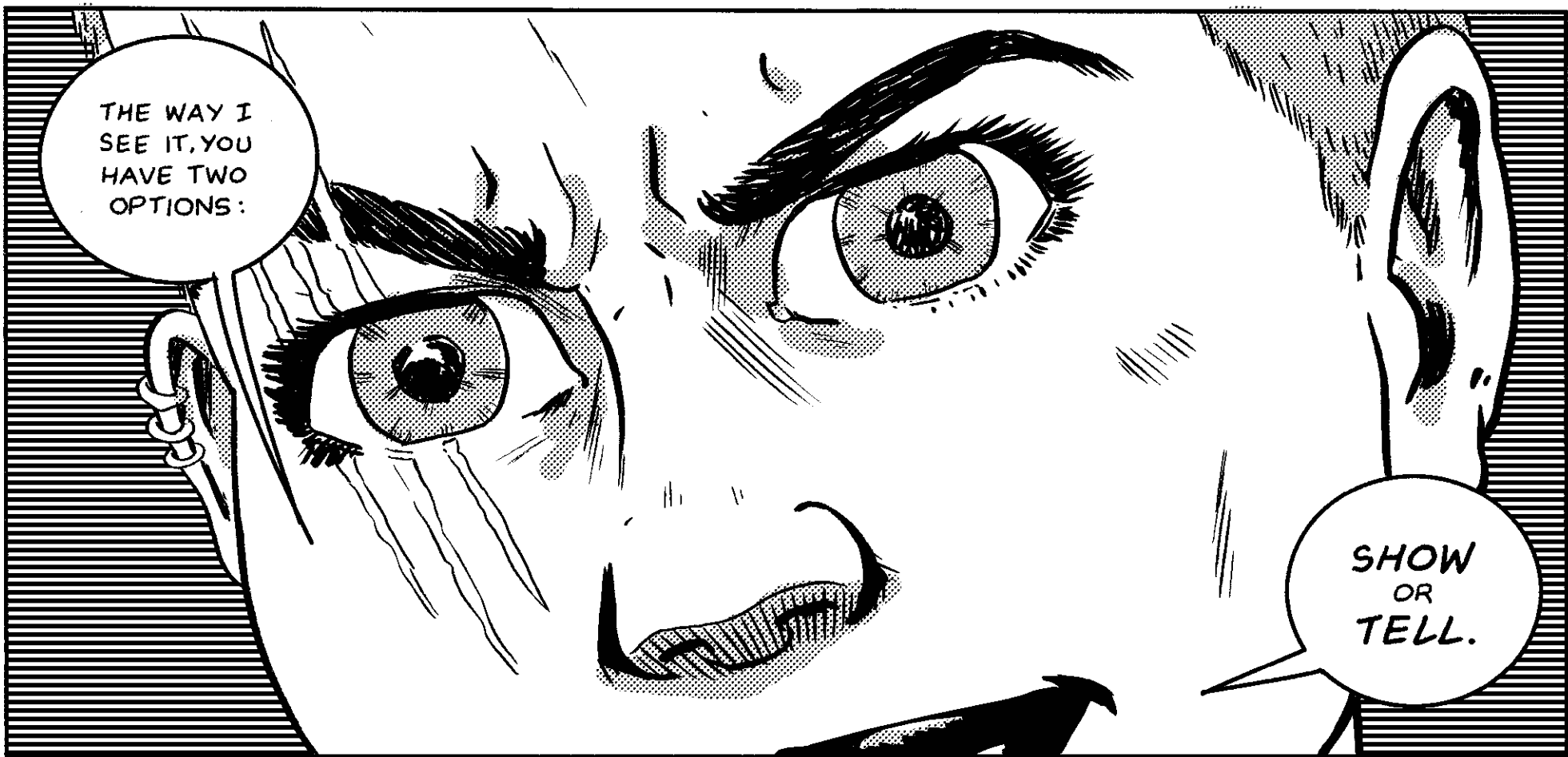


SO, AS I WAS SAYING-

I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S UNDER THE BANDAGES-

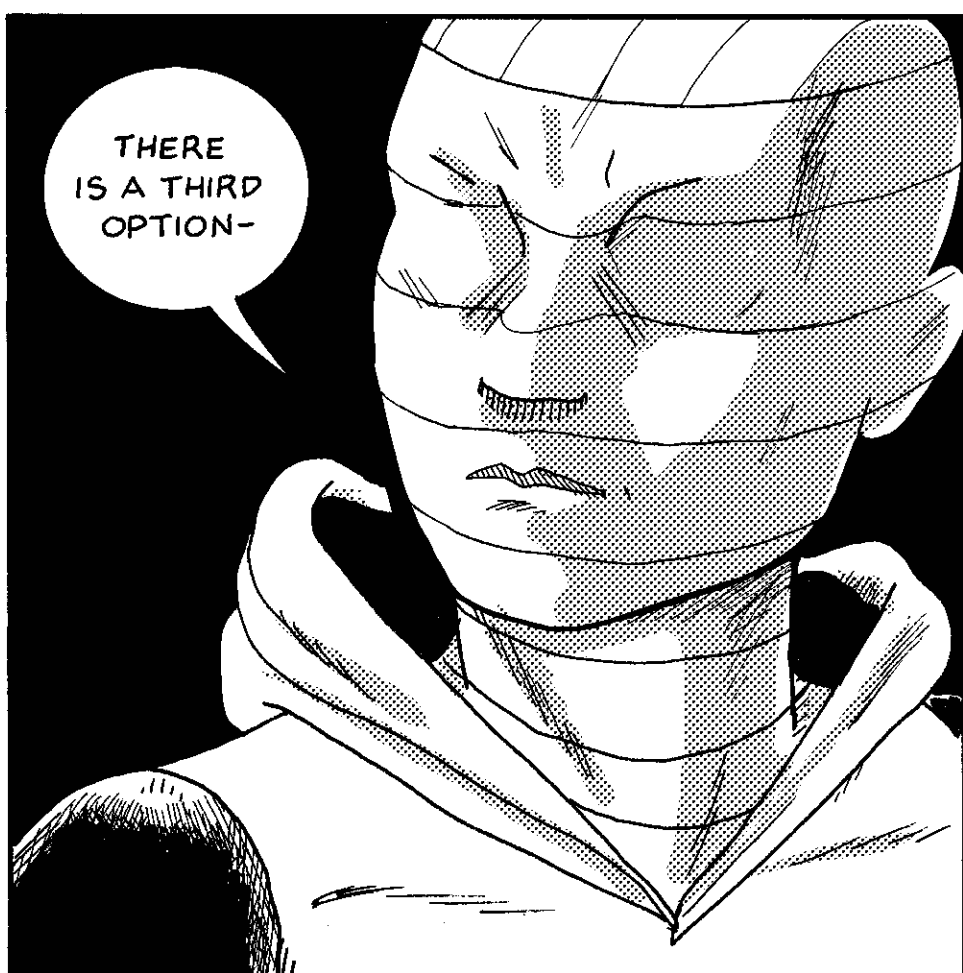


SHIT.

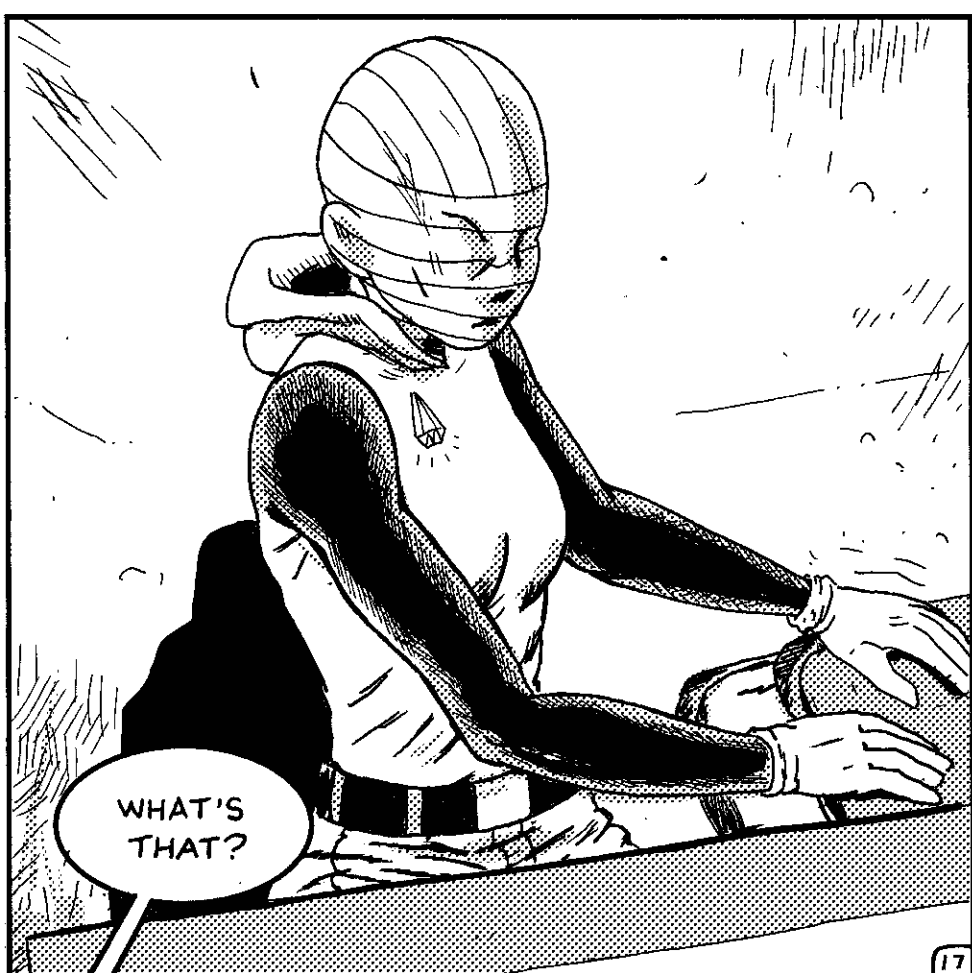


THE WAY I SEE IT, YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

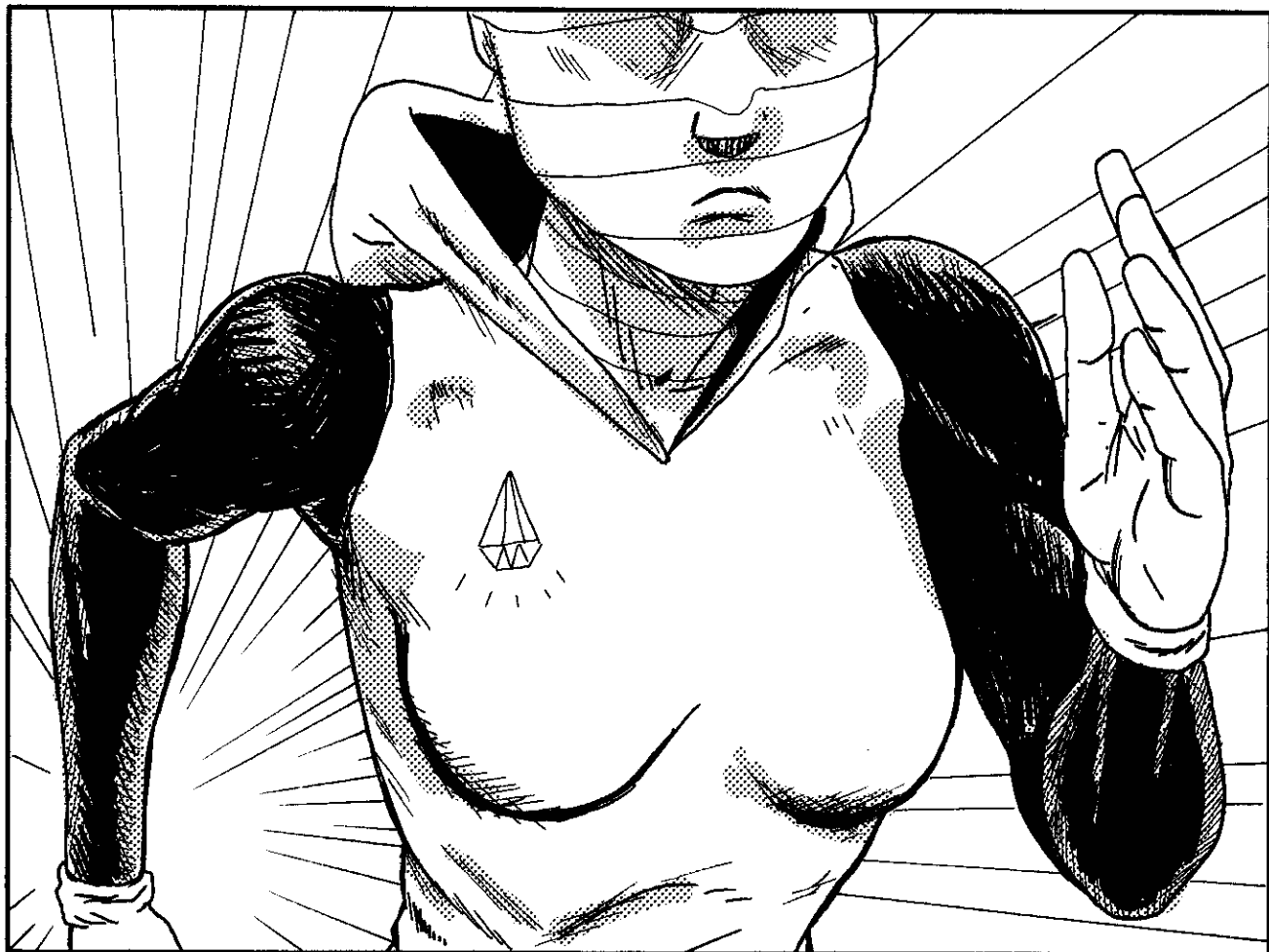
SHOW OR TELL.



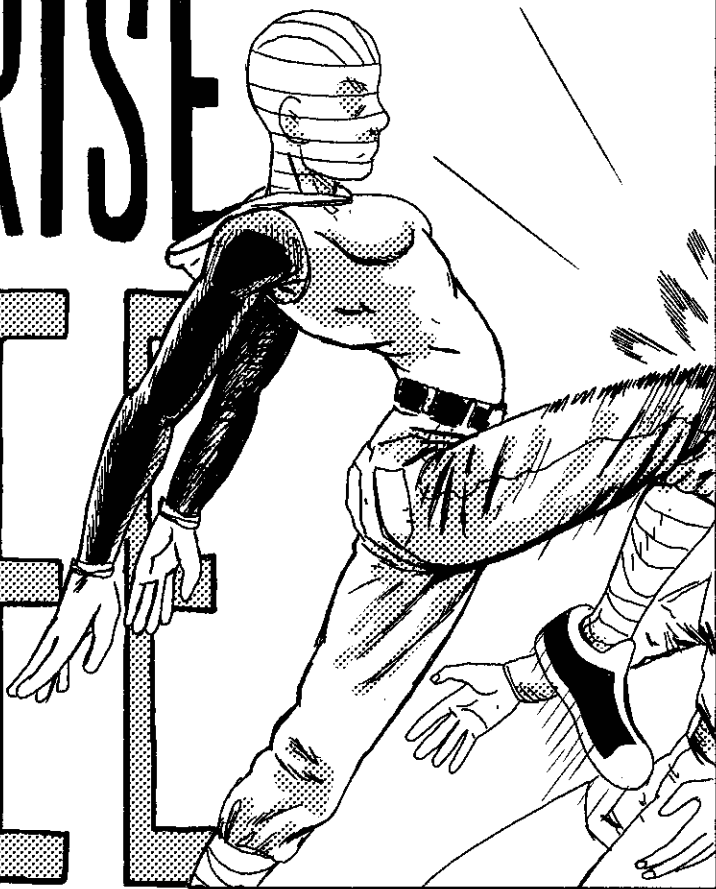
THERE IS A THIRD OPTION-



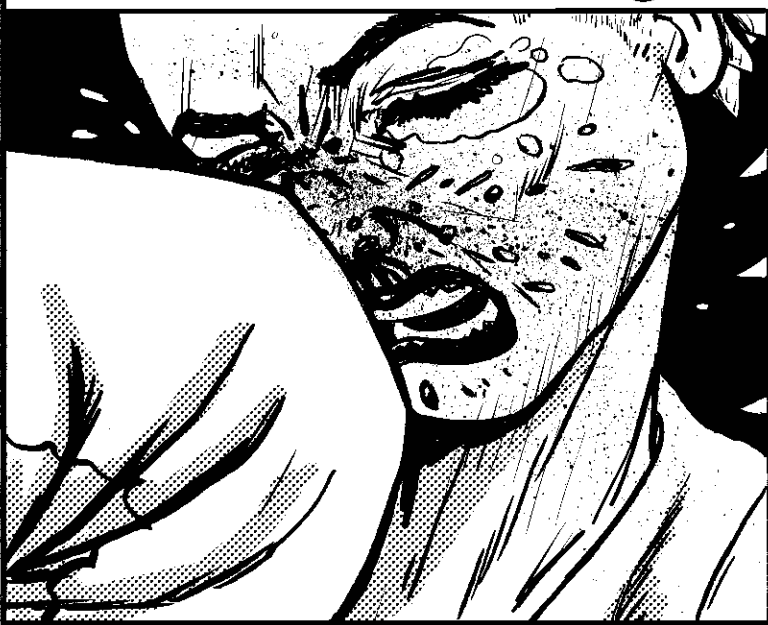
WHAT'S THAT?



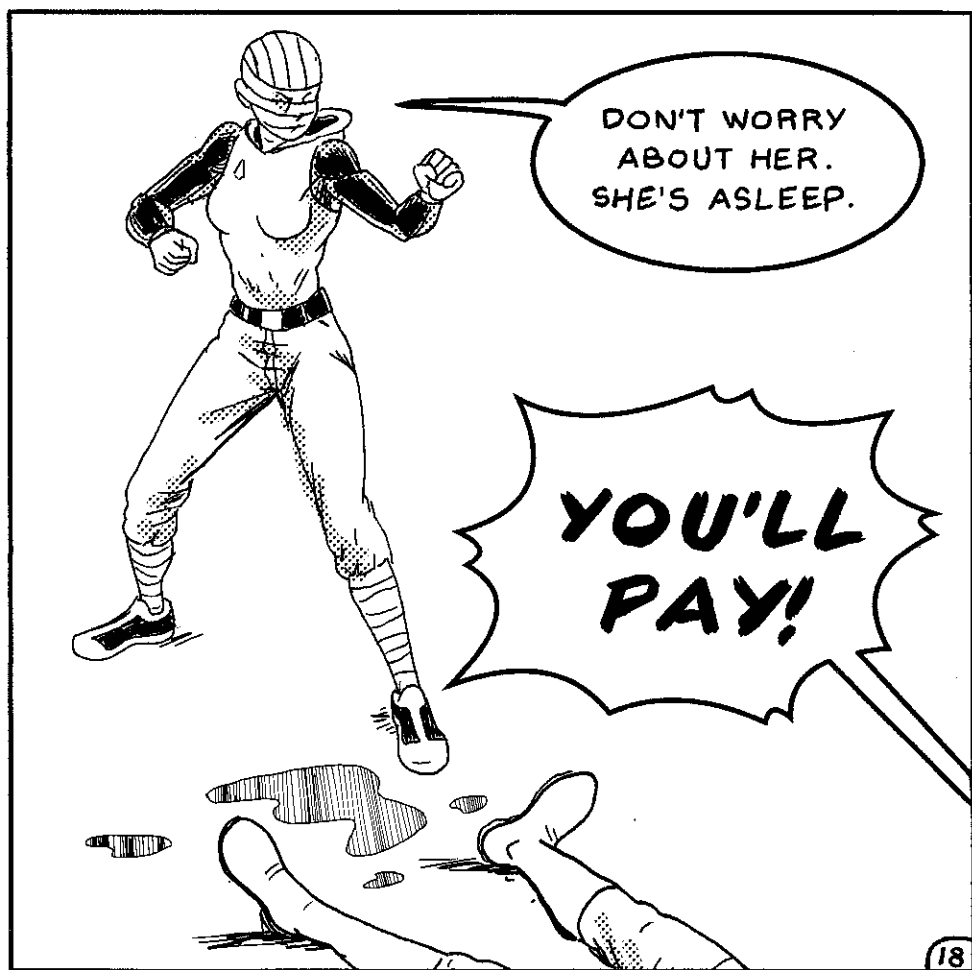
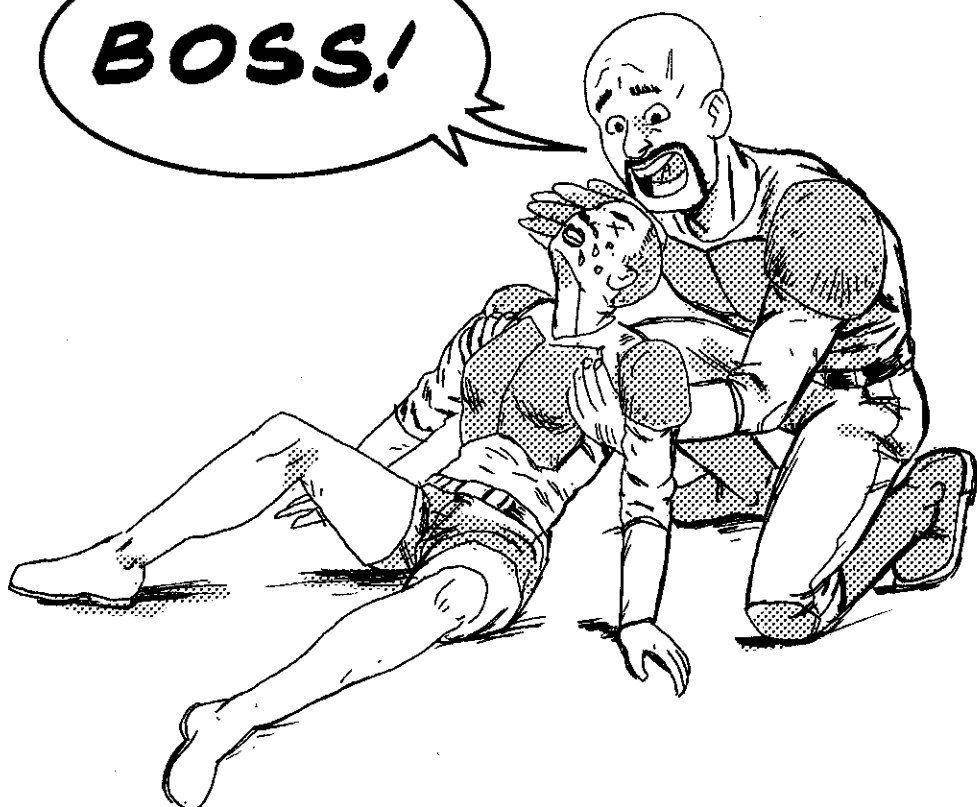
**SURPRISE
KNEEL**

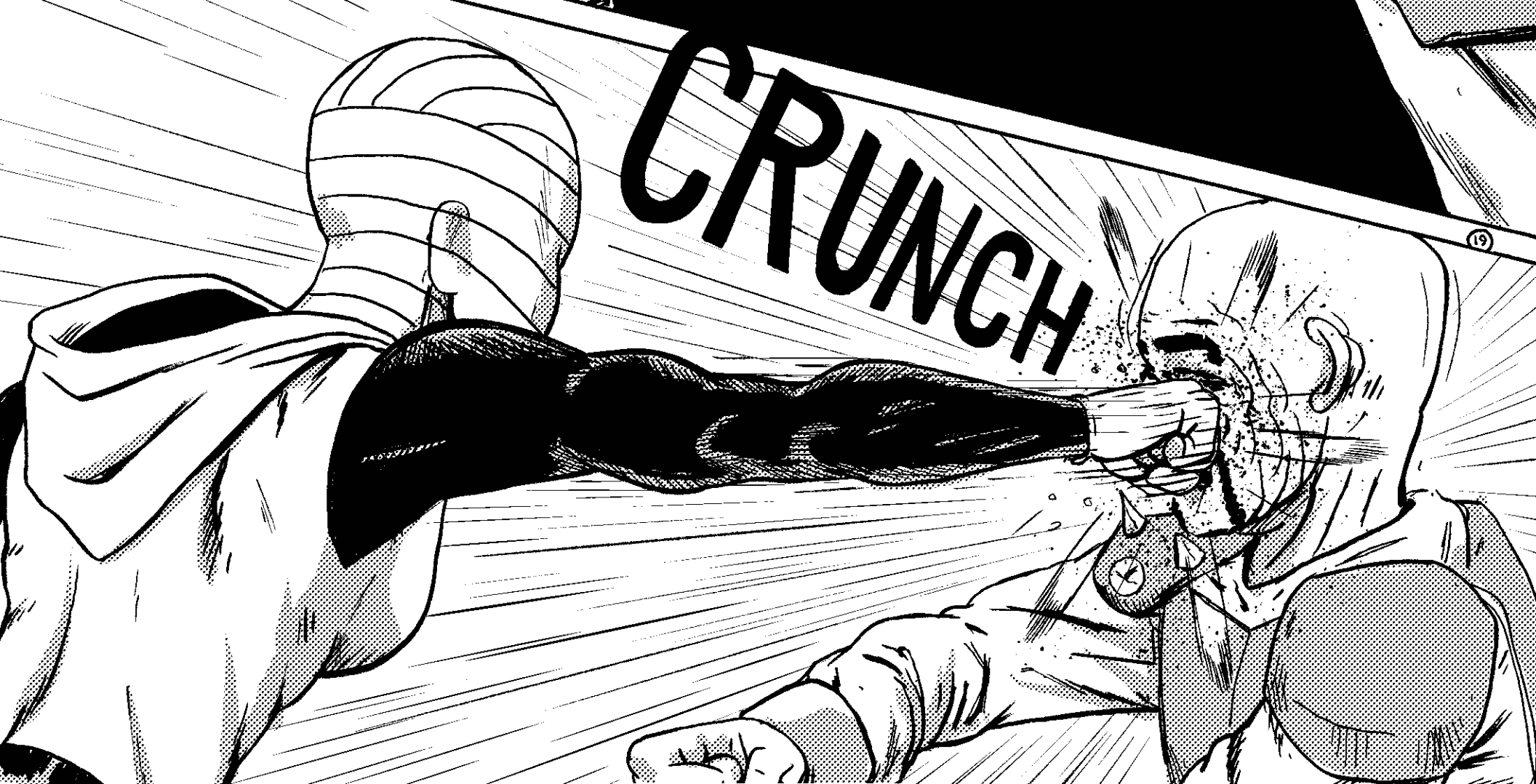
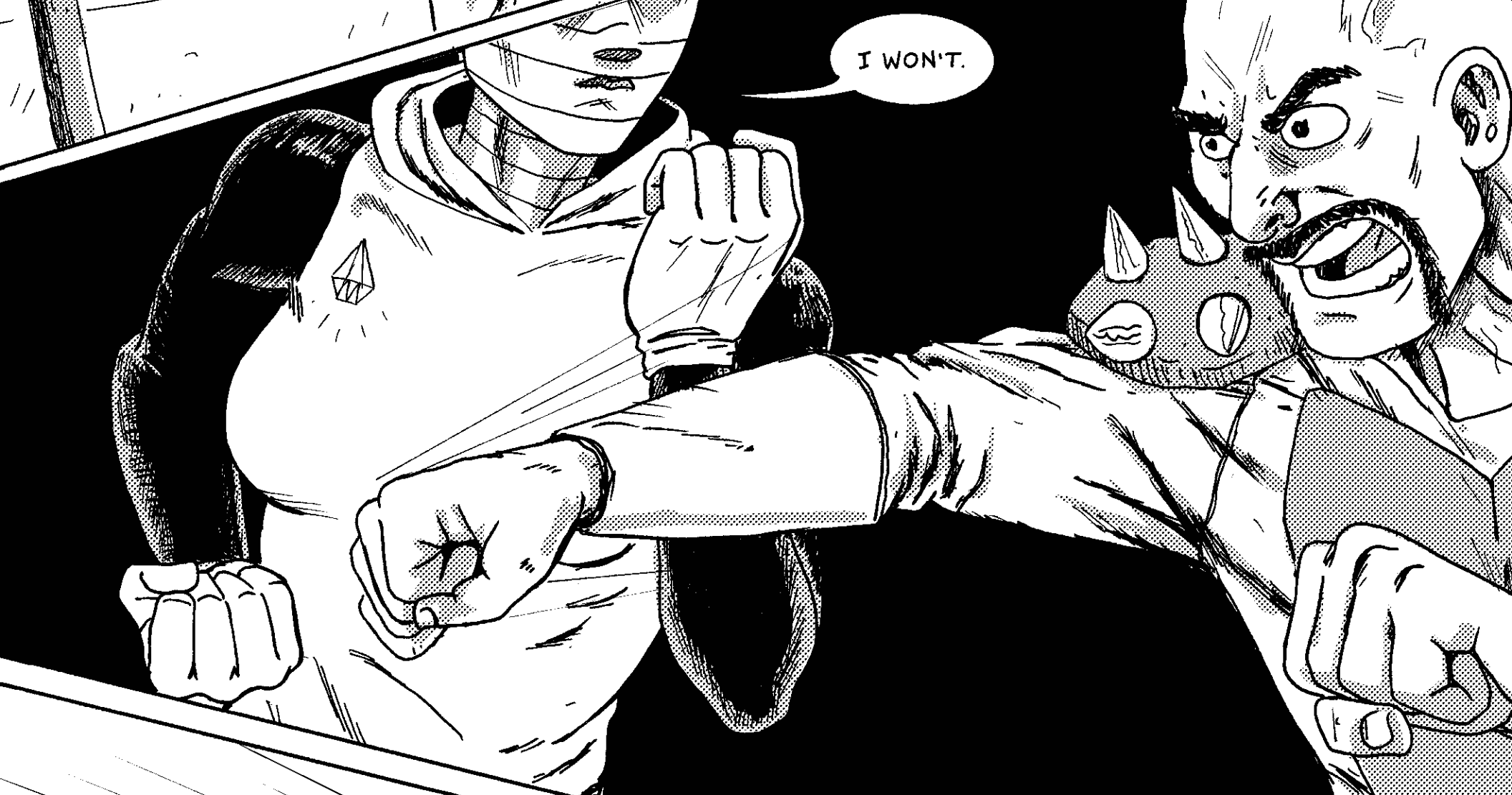


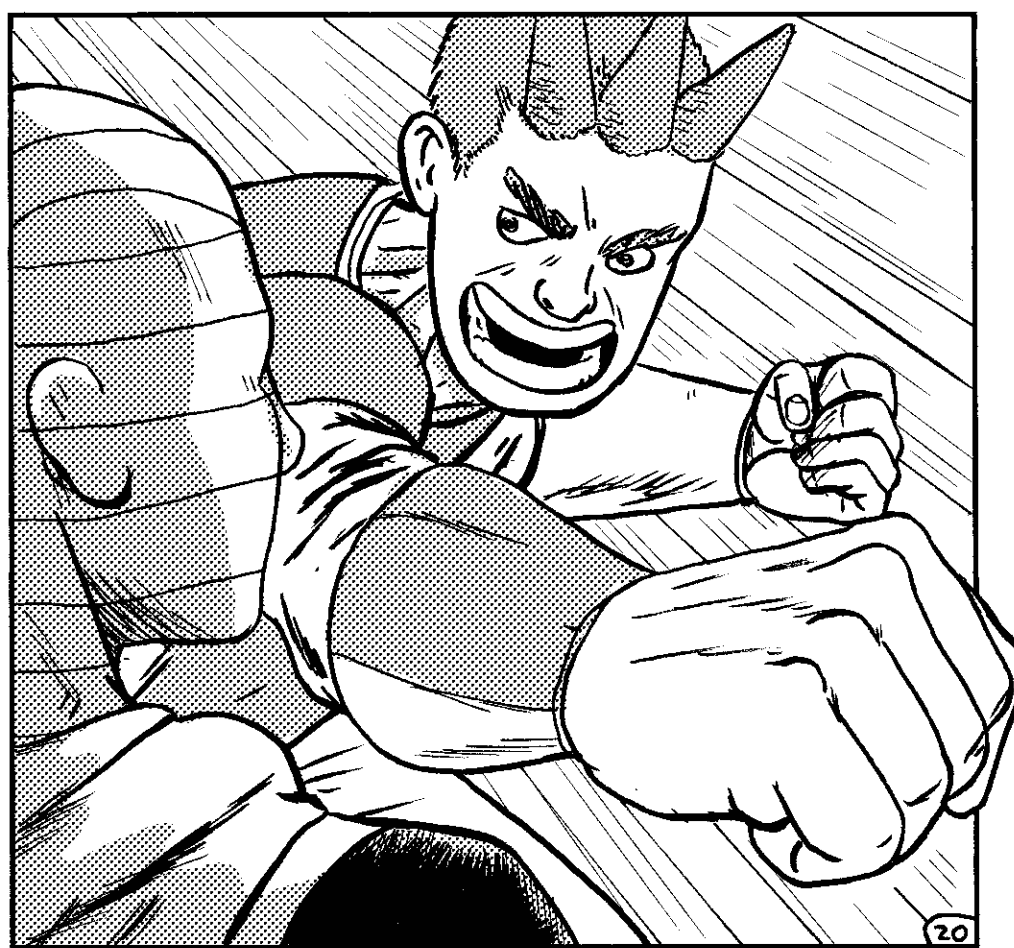
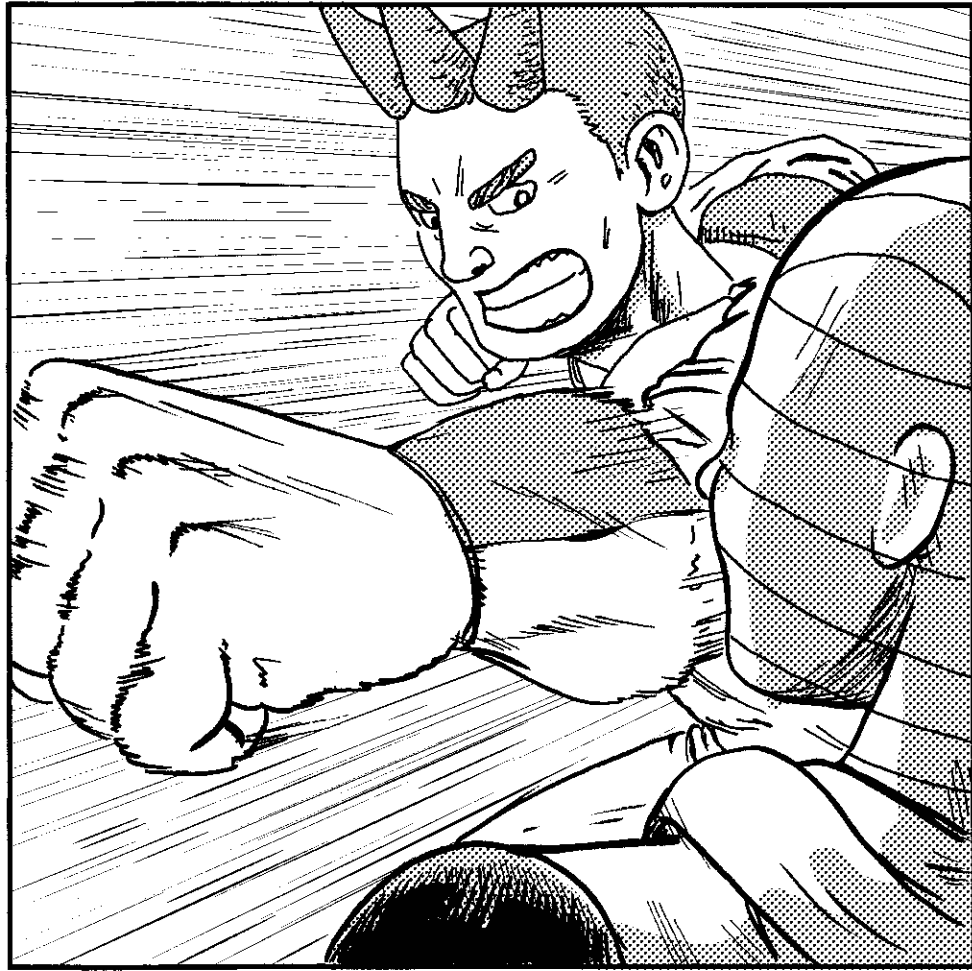
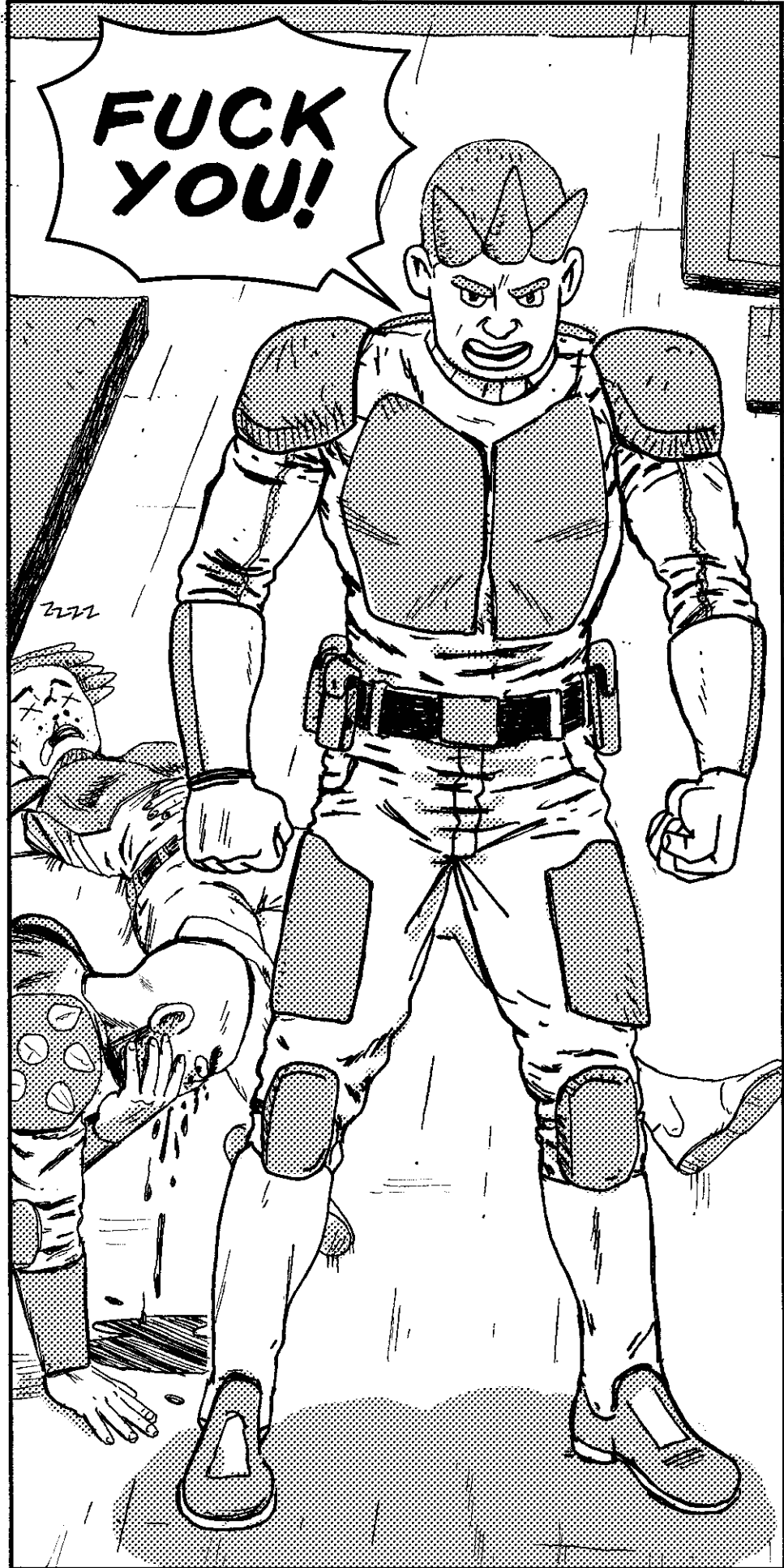
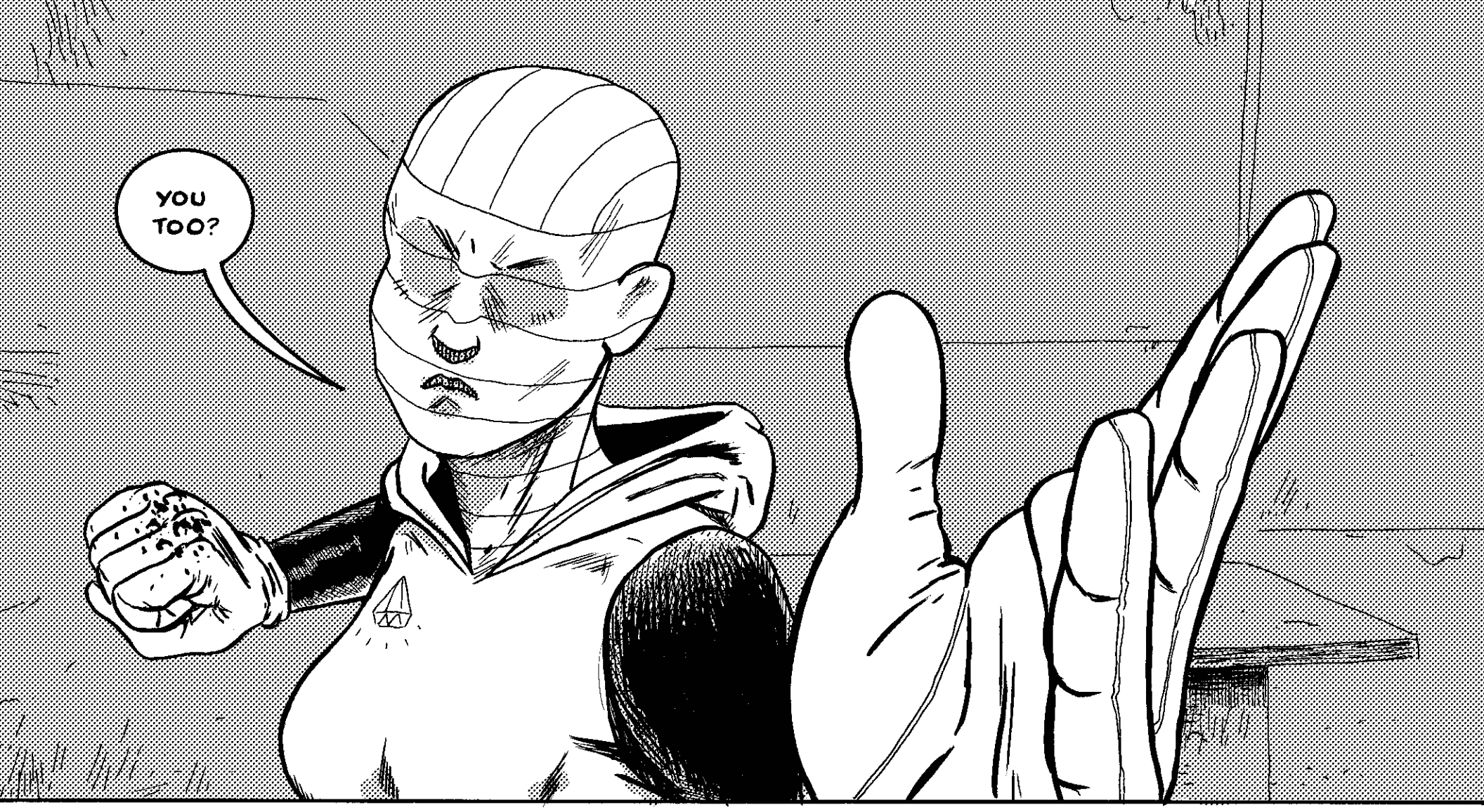
CRACK!

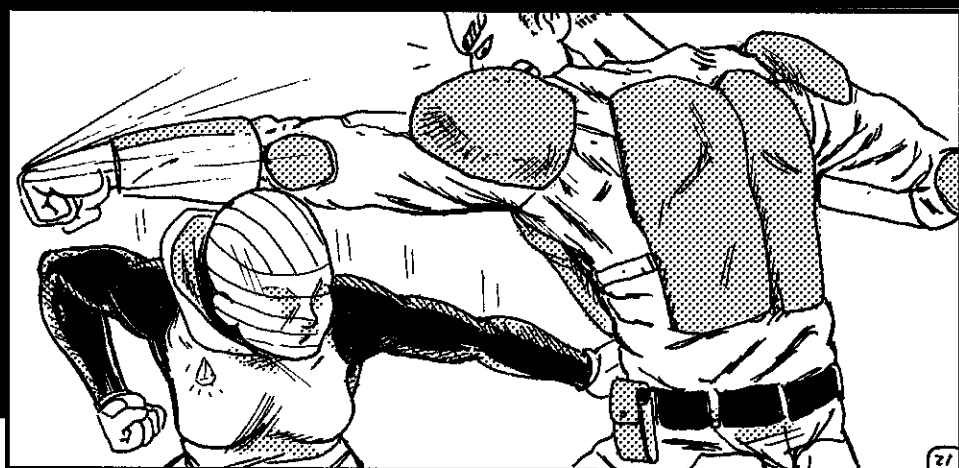
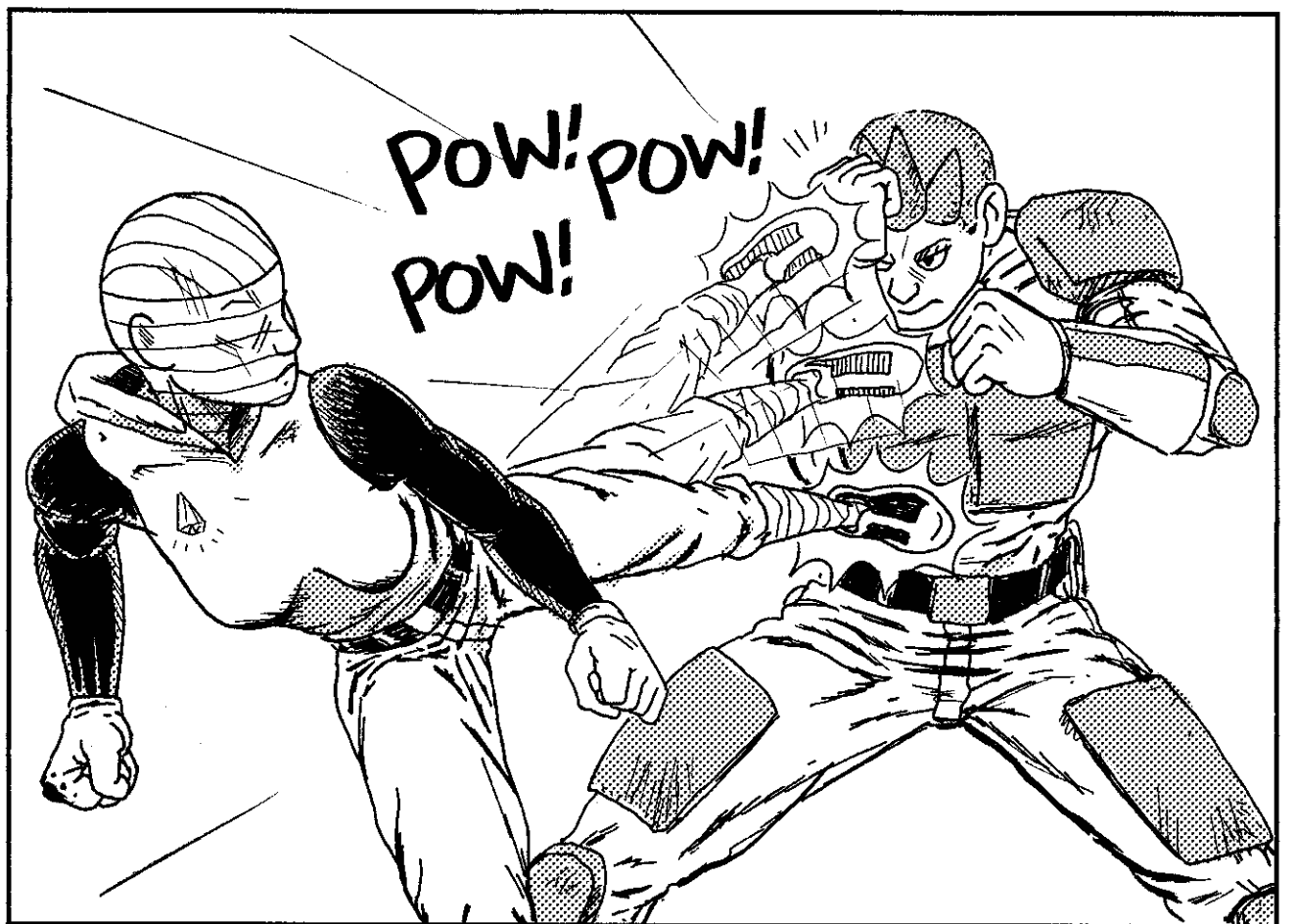
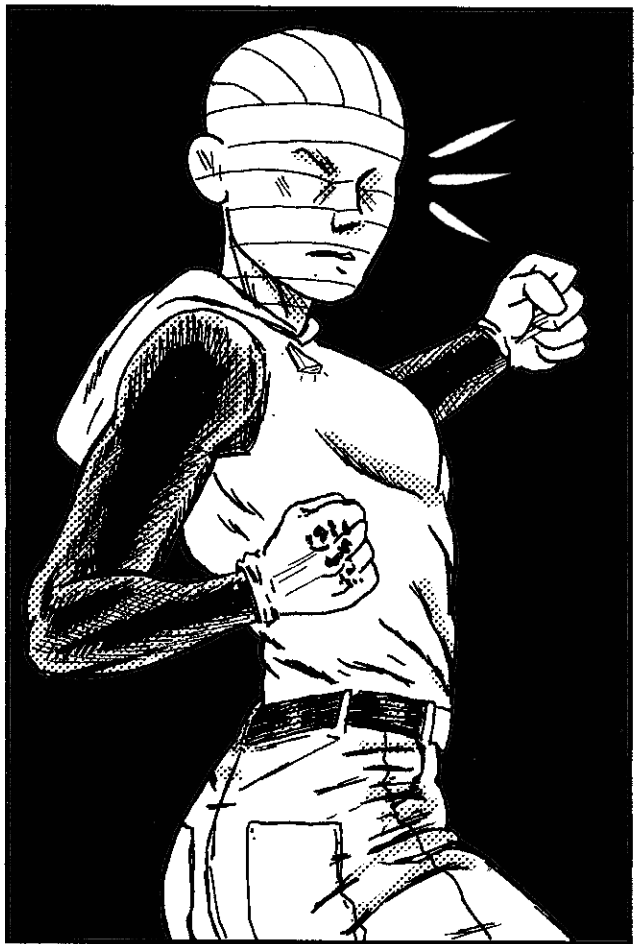


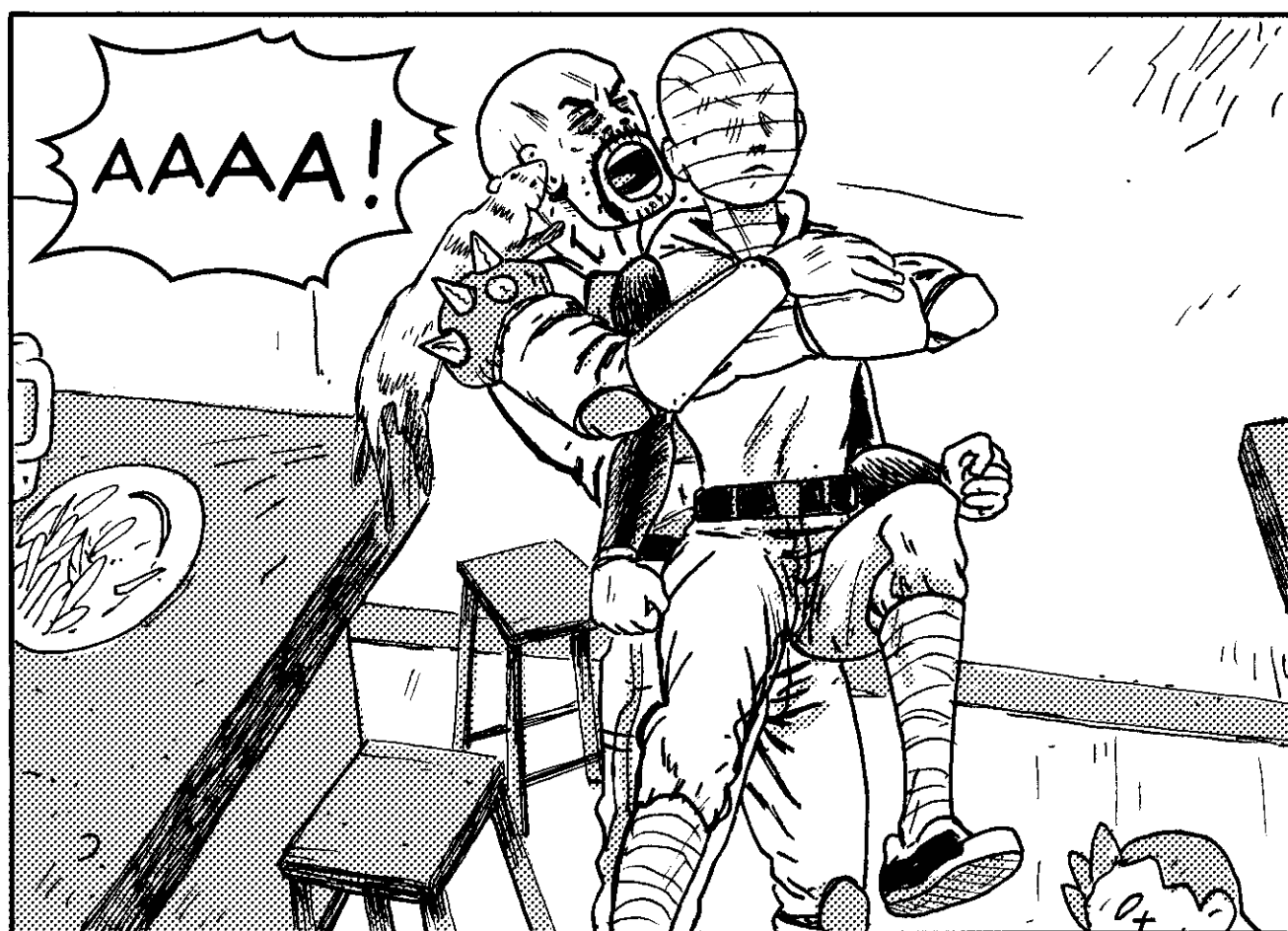
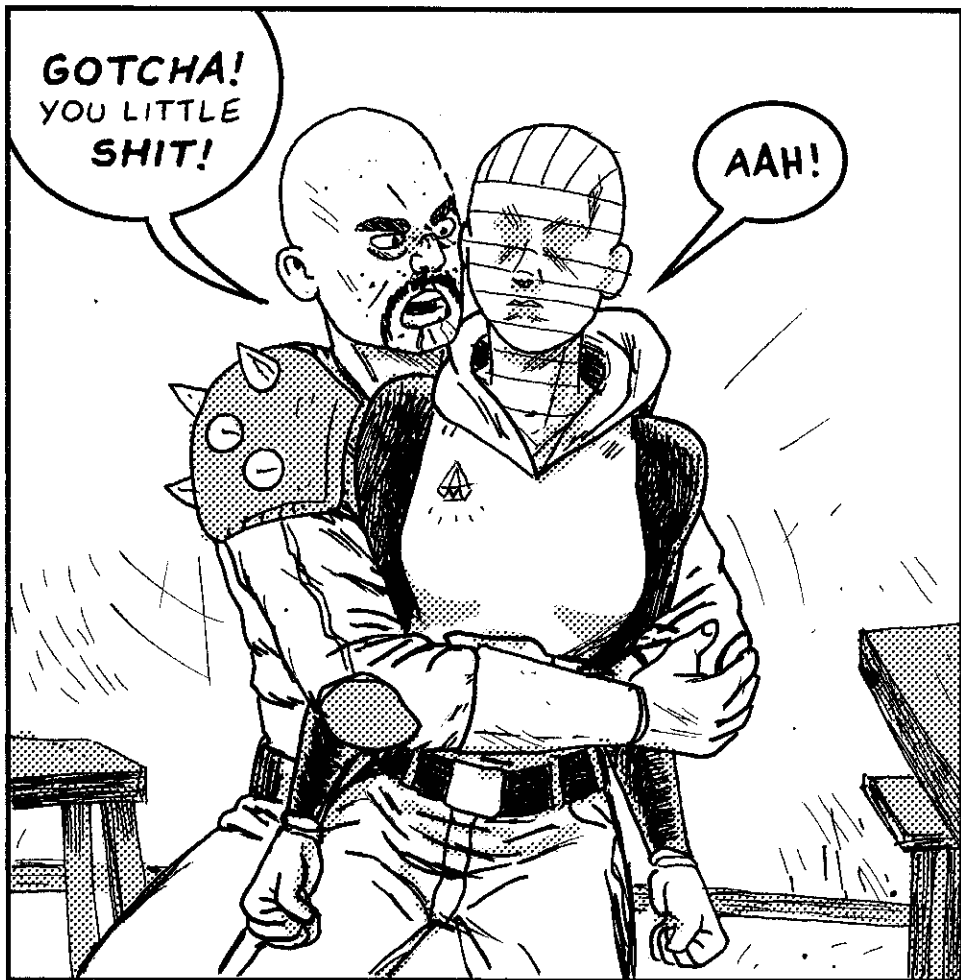
BOSS!











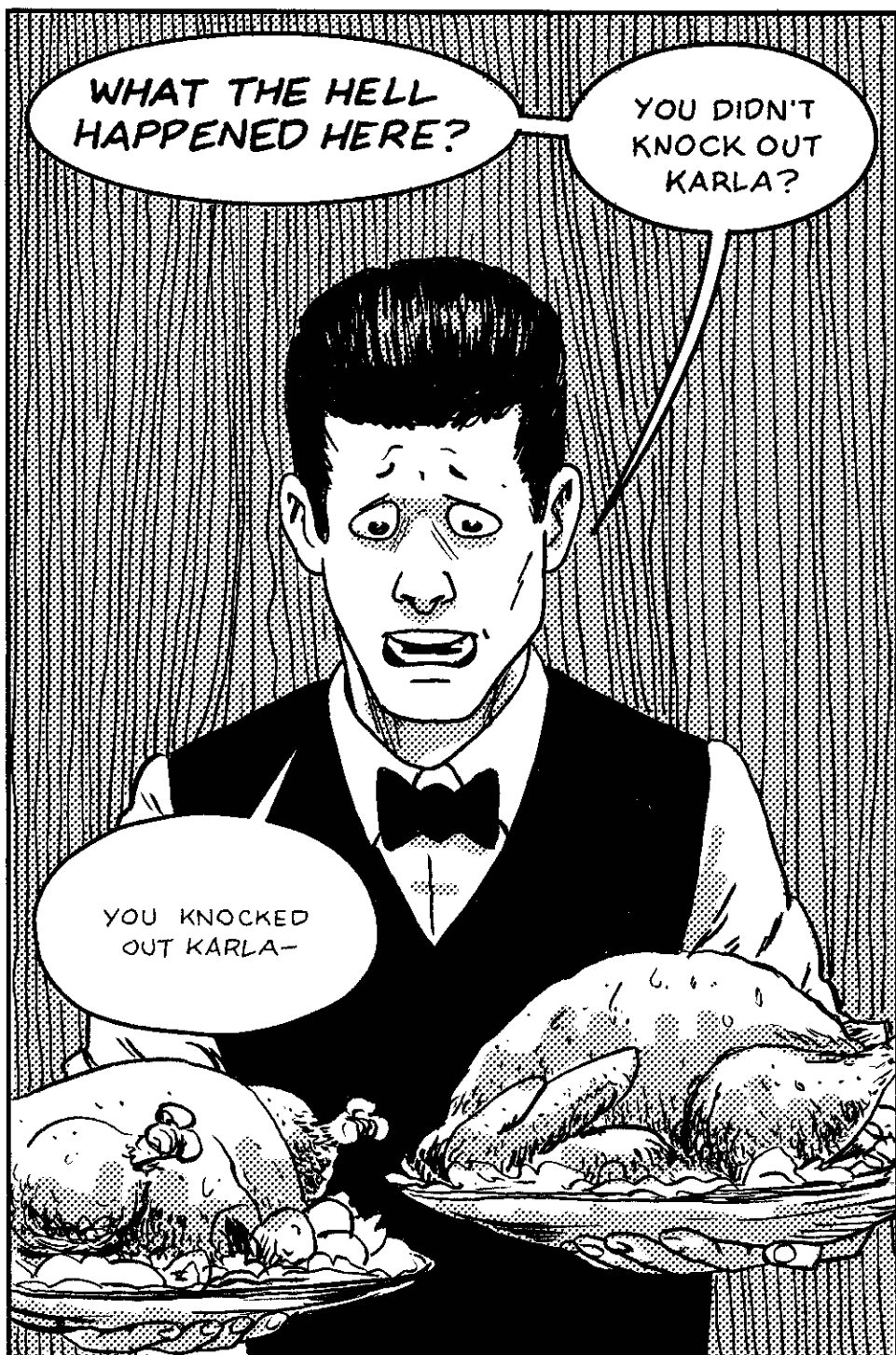


OMIGOSH
OMIGOSH!

THANKS.

I THINK
I SHOULD
LEAVE.

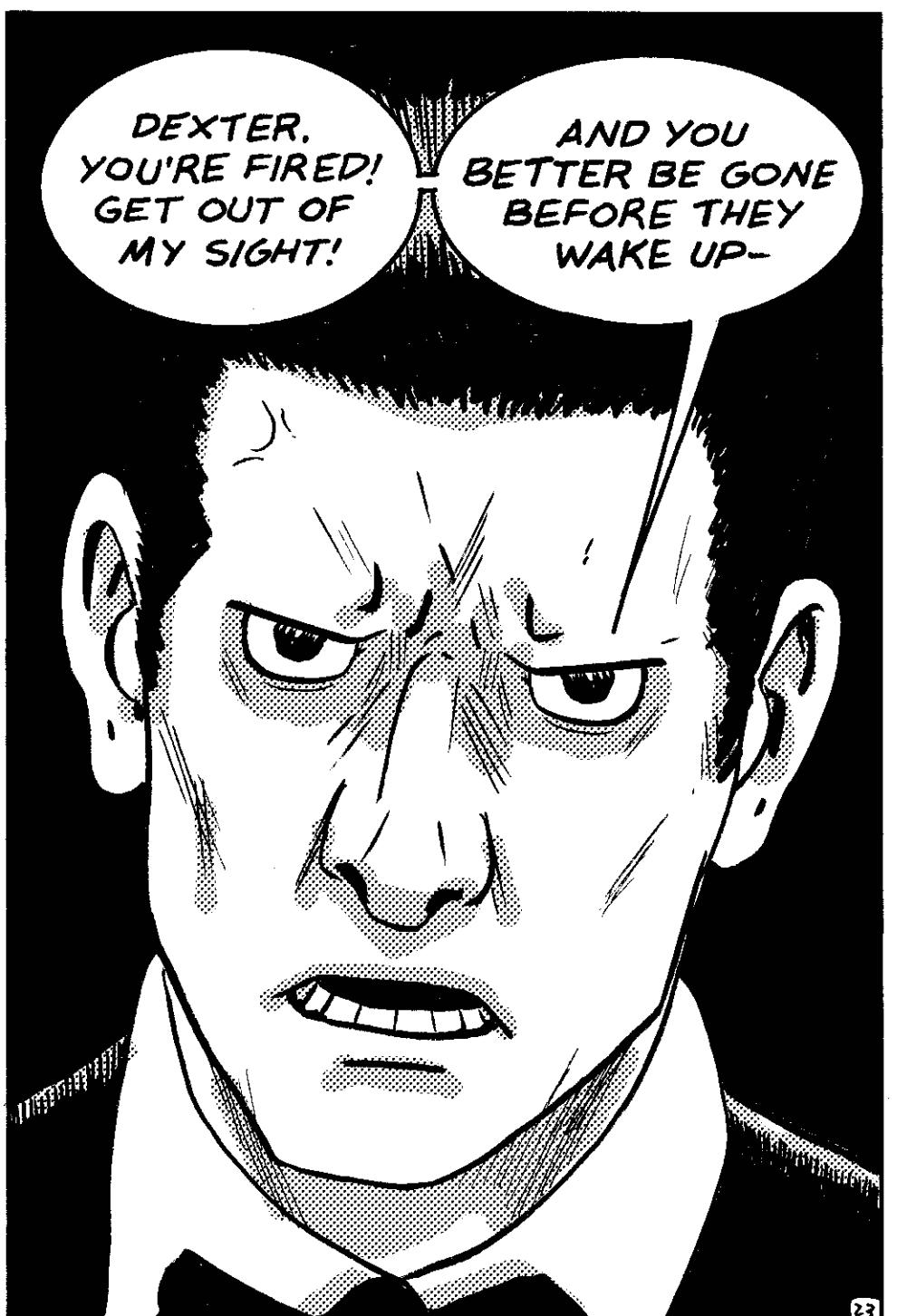
ZZZZZZ



WHAT THE HELL
HAPPENED HERE?

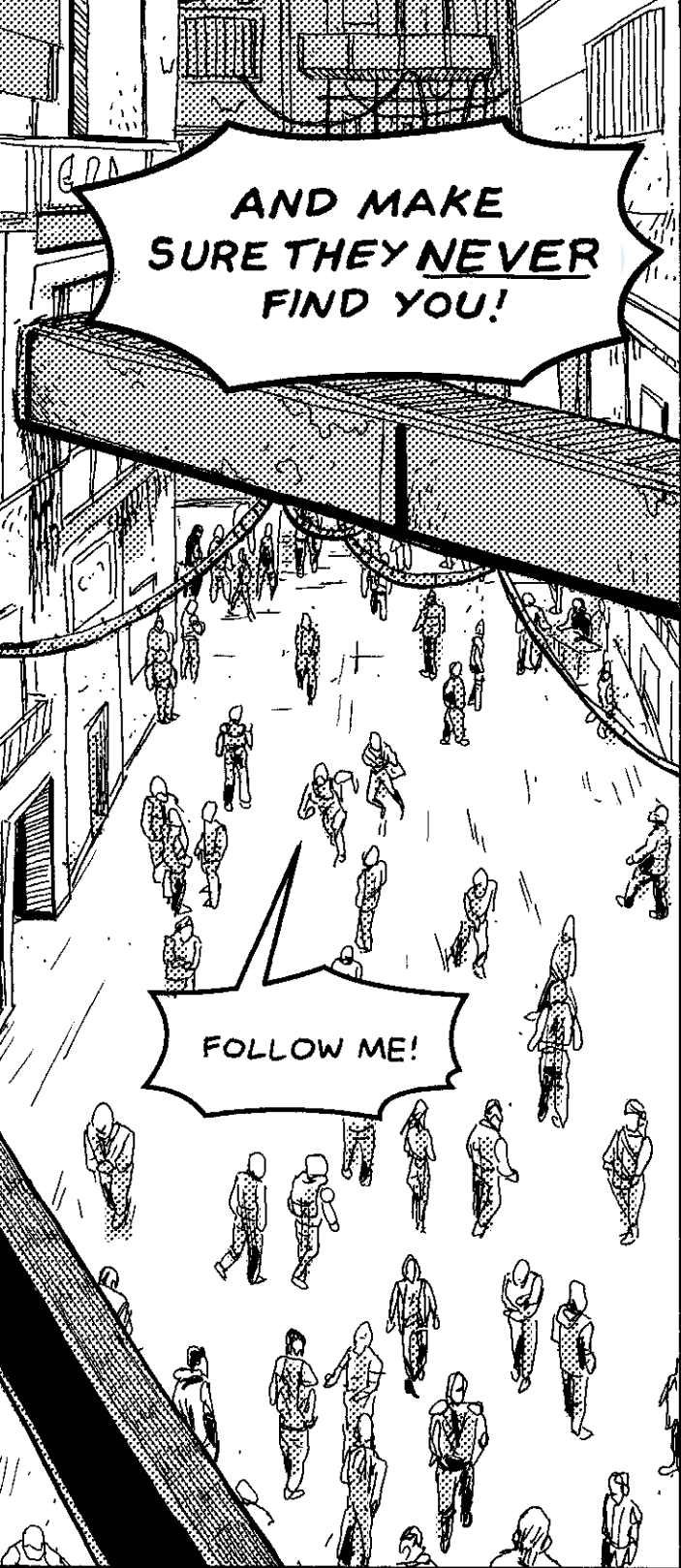
YOU DIDN'T
KNOCK OUT
KARLA?

YOU KNOCKED
OUT KARLA-



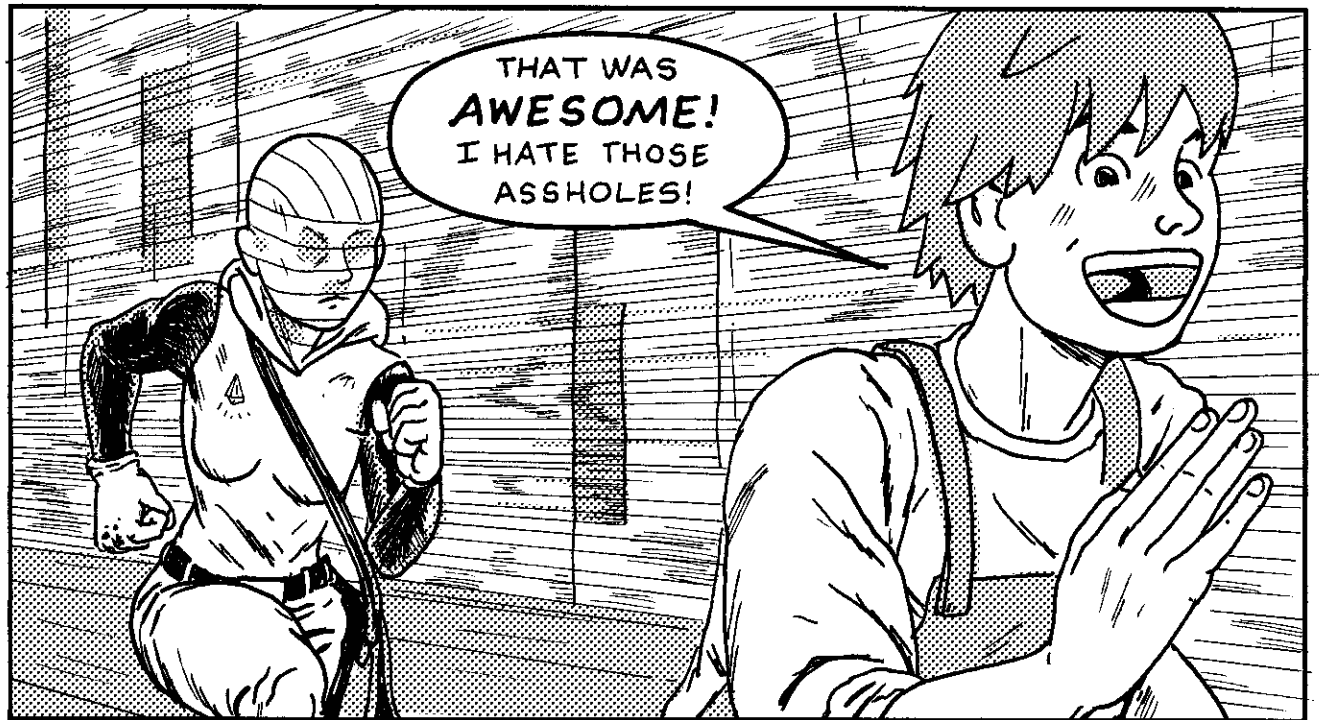
DEXTER,
YOU'RE FIRED!
GET OUT OF
MY SIGHT!

AND YOU
BETTER BE GONE
BEFORE THEY
WAKE UP-

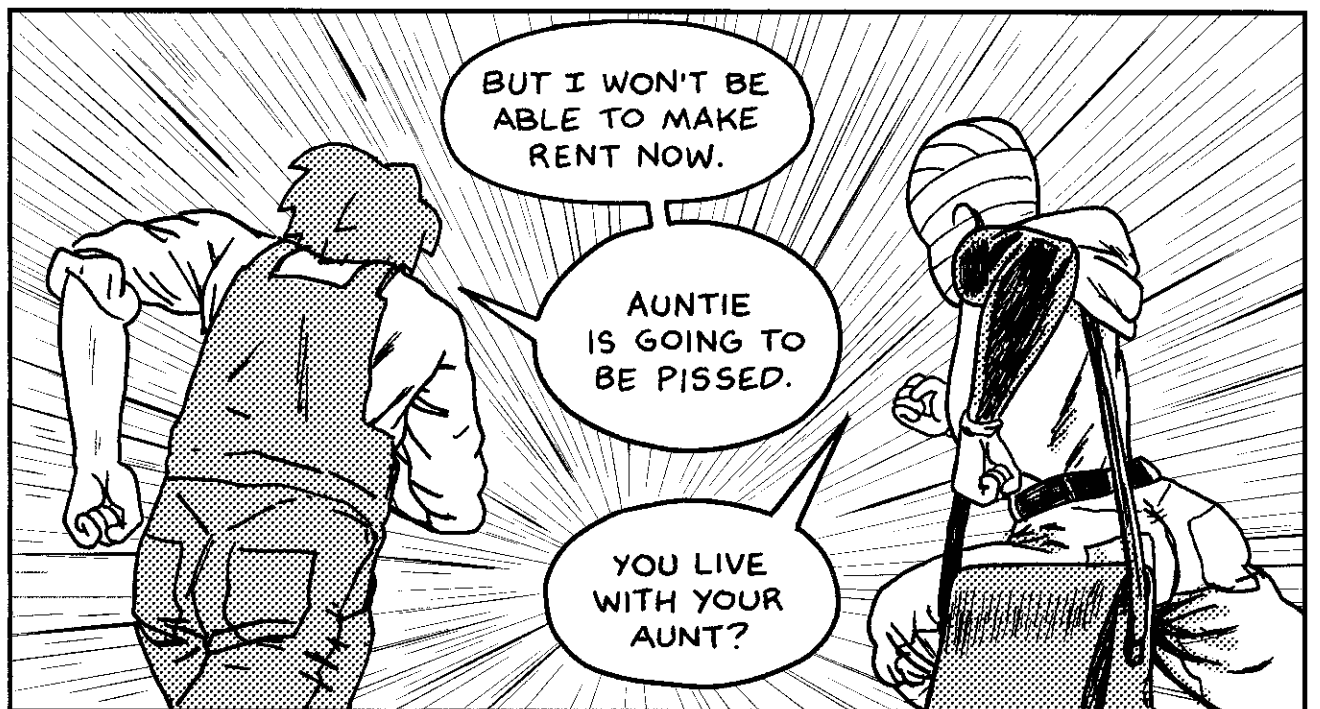


AND MAKE SURE THEY NEVER FIND YOU!

FOLLOW ME!



THAT WAS AWESOME!
I HATE THOSE ASSHOLES!



BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE RENT NOW.

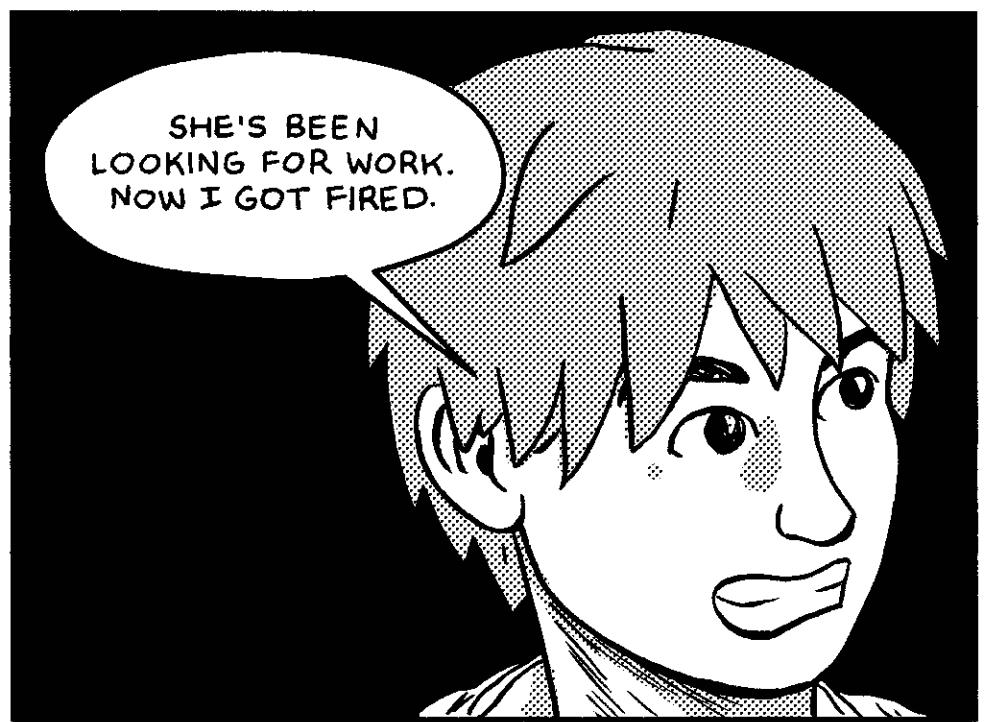
AUNTIE IS GOING TO BE PISSED.

YOU LIVE WITH YOUR AUNT?



KIND OF. OUR PARENTS LEFT US TOGETHER A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO.

THEN CREDIT STOPPED APPEARING A WHILE BACK.

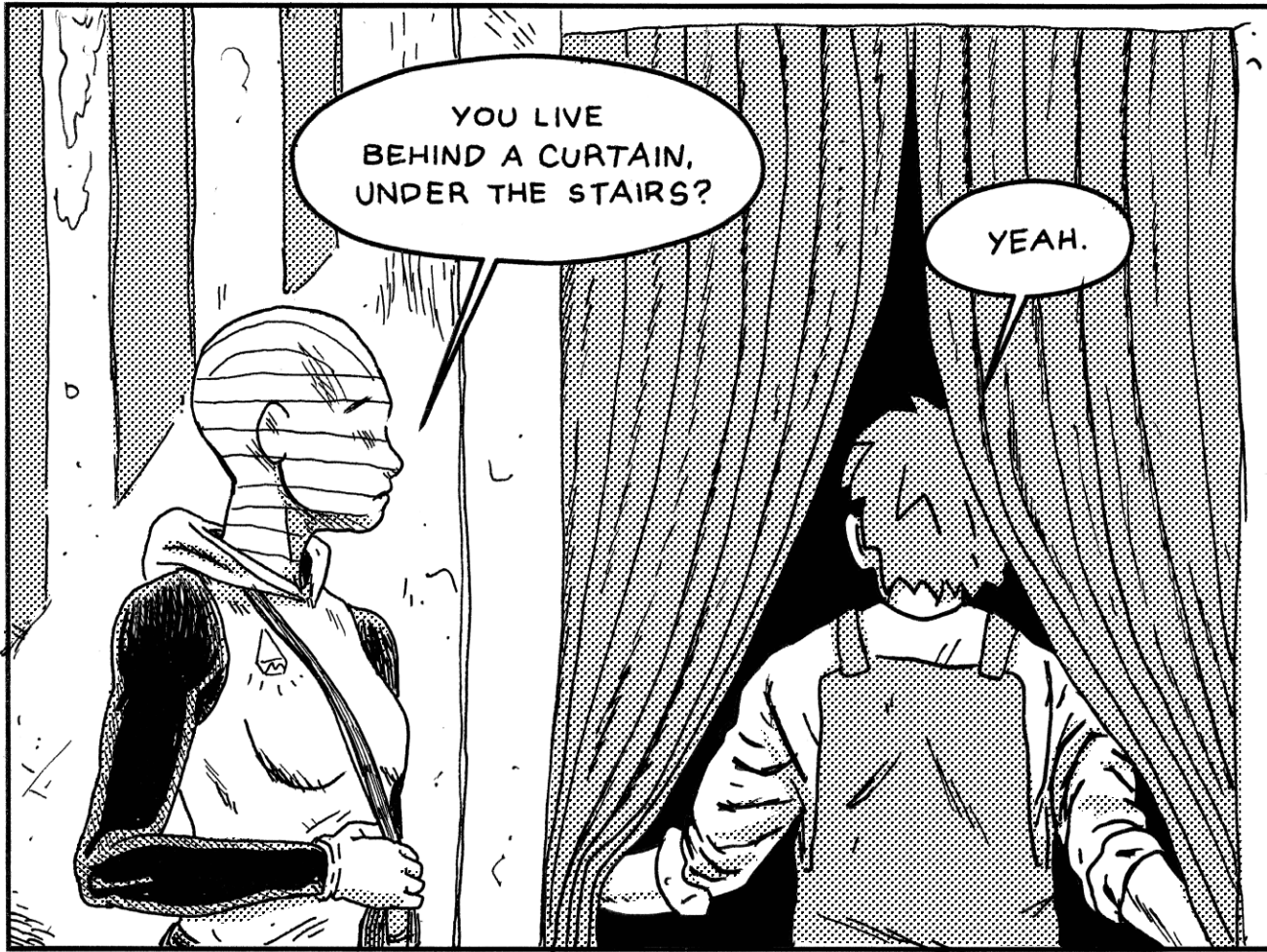


SHE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK. NOW I GOT FIRED.



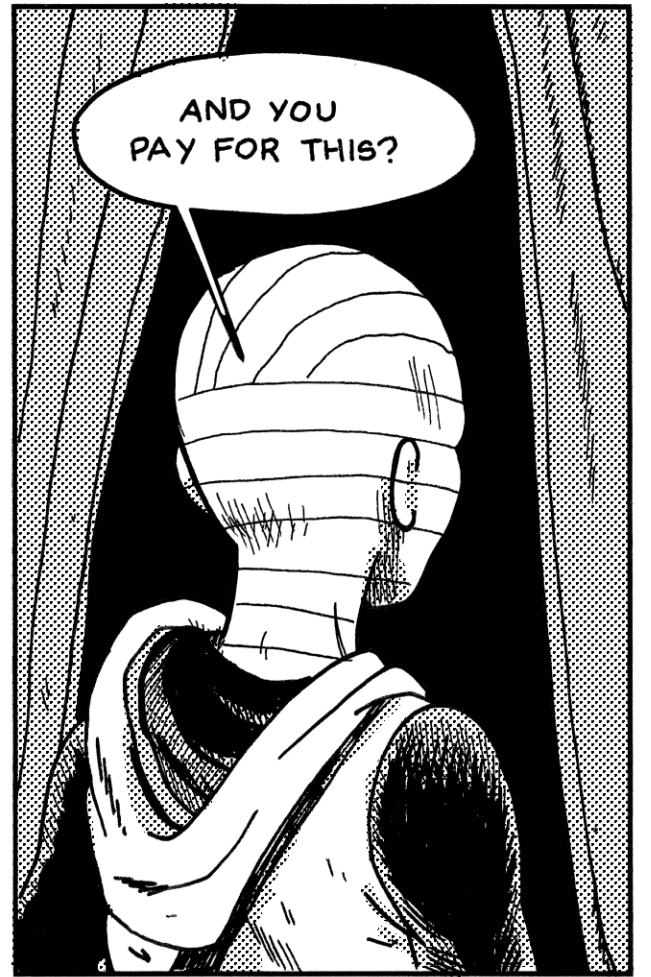
BASICALLY, WE'RE SCREWED.

AUNTIE?



YOU LIVE BEHIND A CURTAIN, UNDER THE STAIRS?

YEAH.



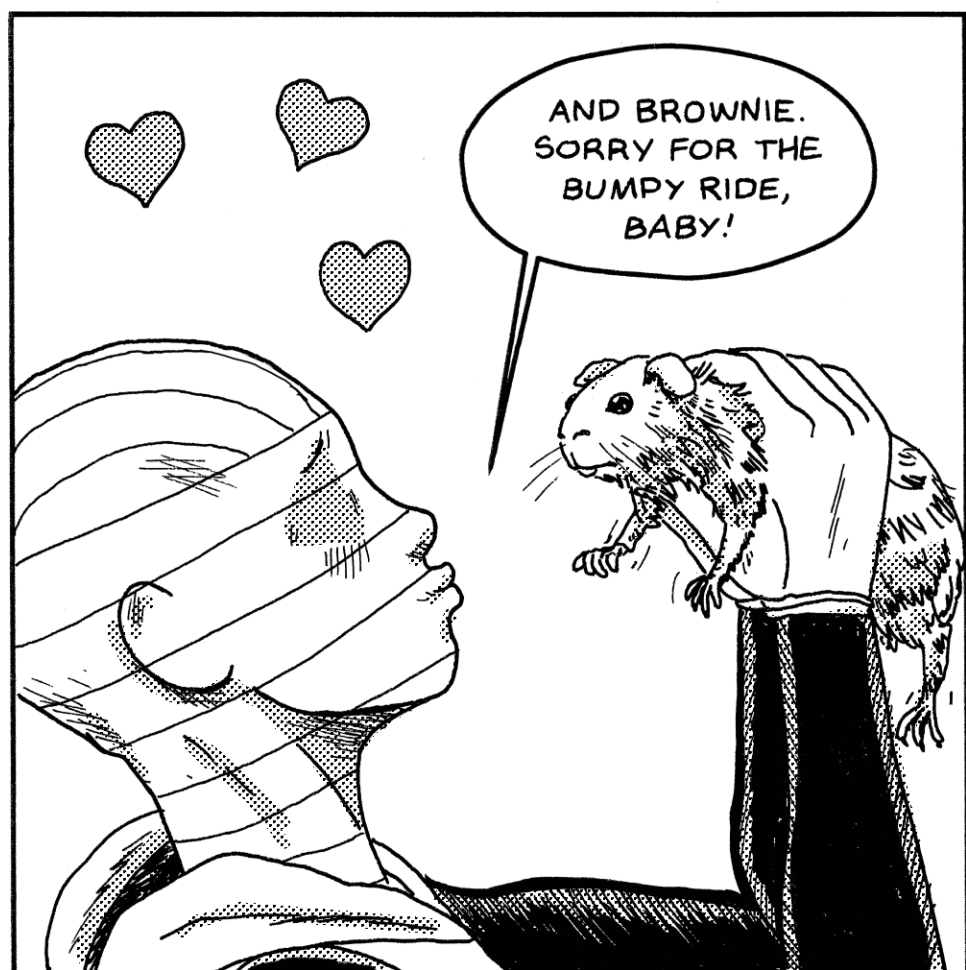
AND YOU PAY FOR THIS?



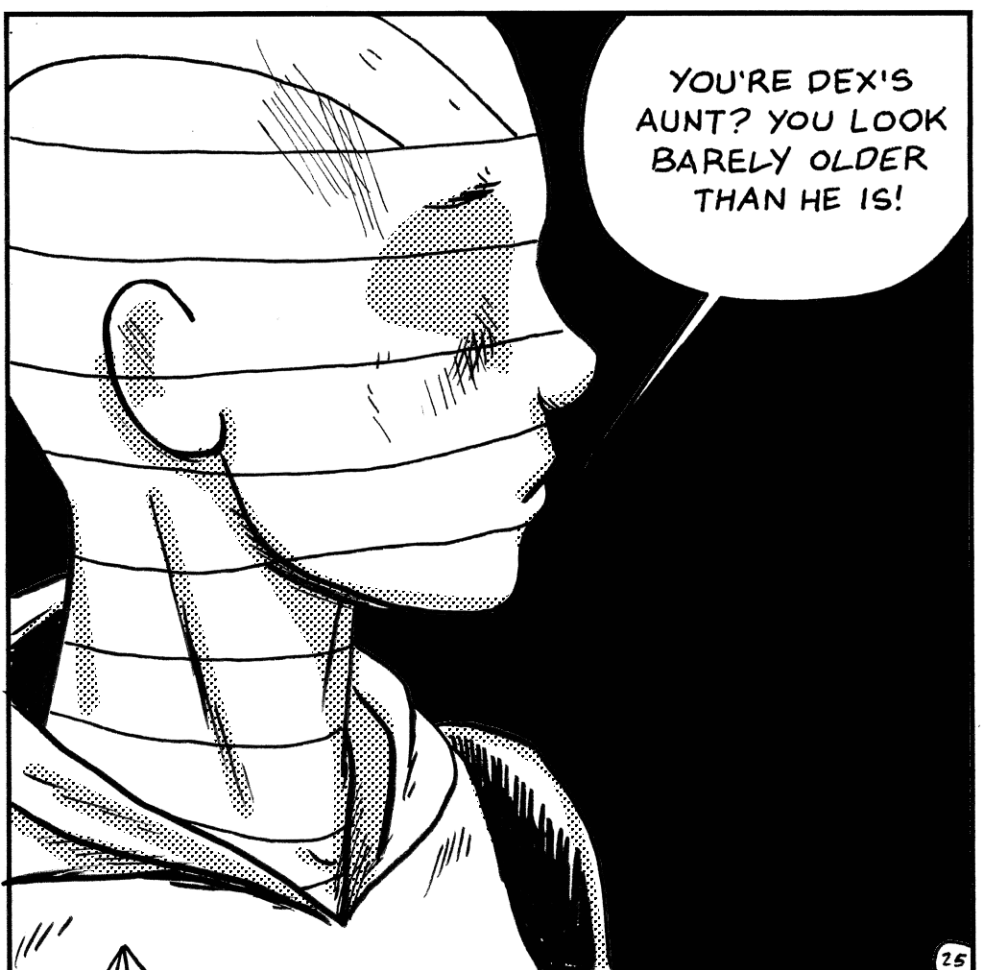
NOT FOR LONG. AUNTIE, THIS IS, UH-

I NEVER GOT YOUR-

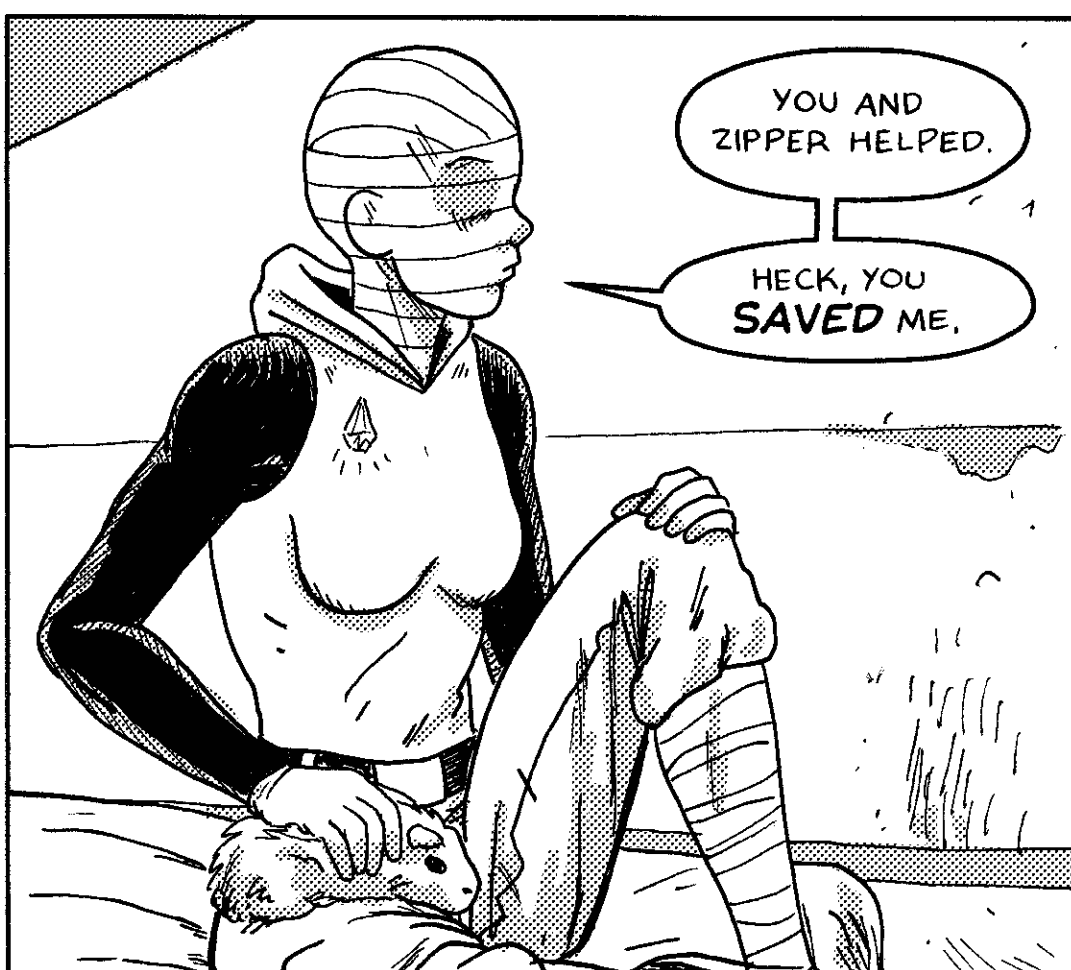
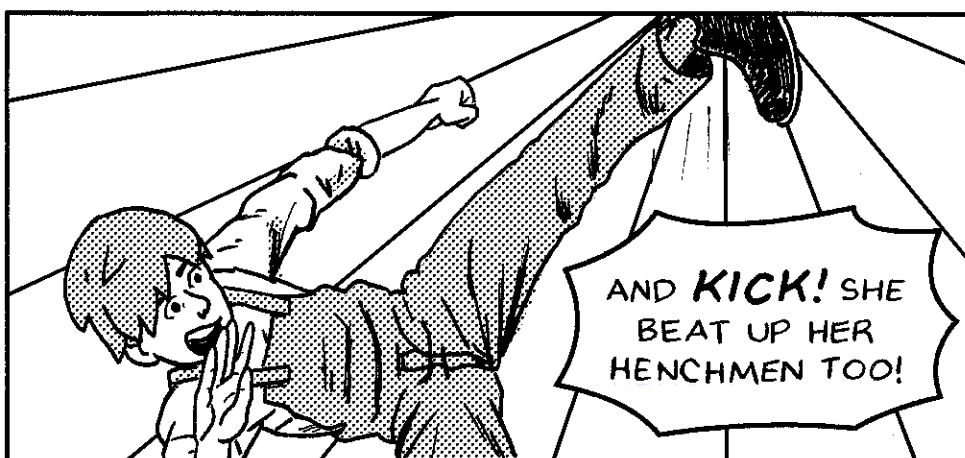
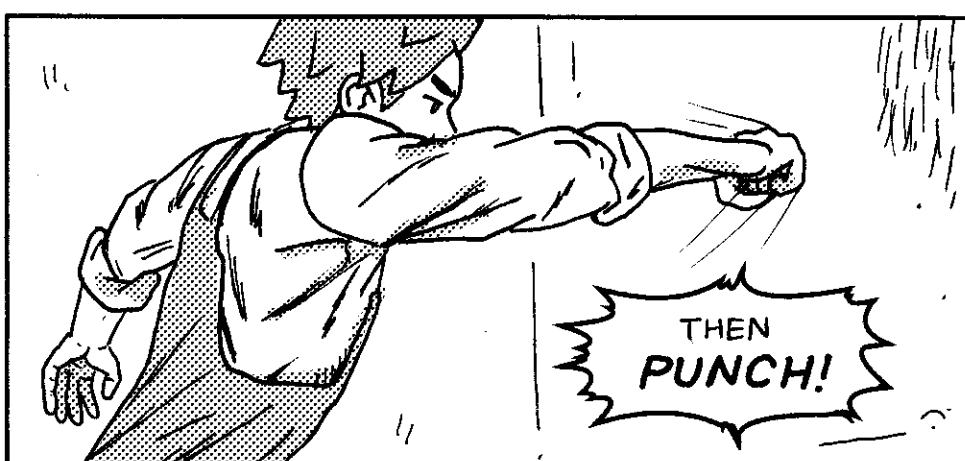
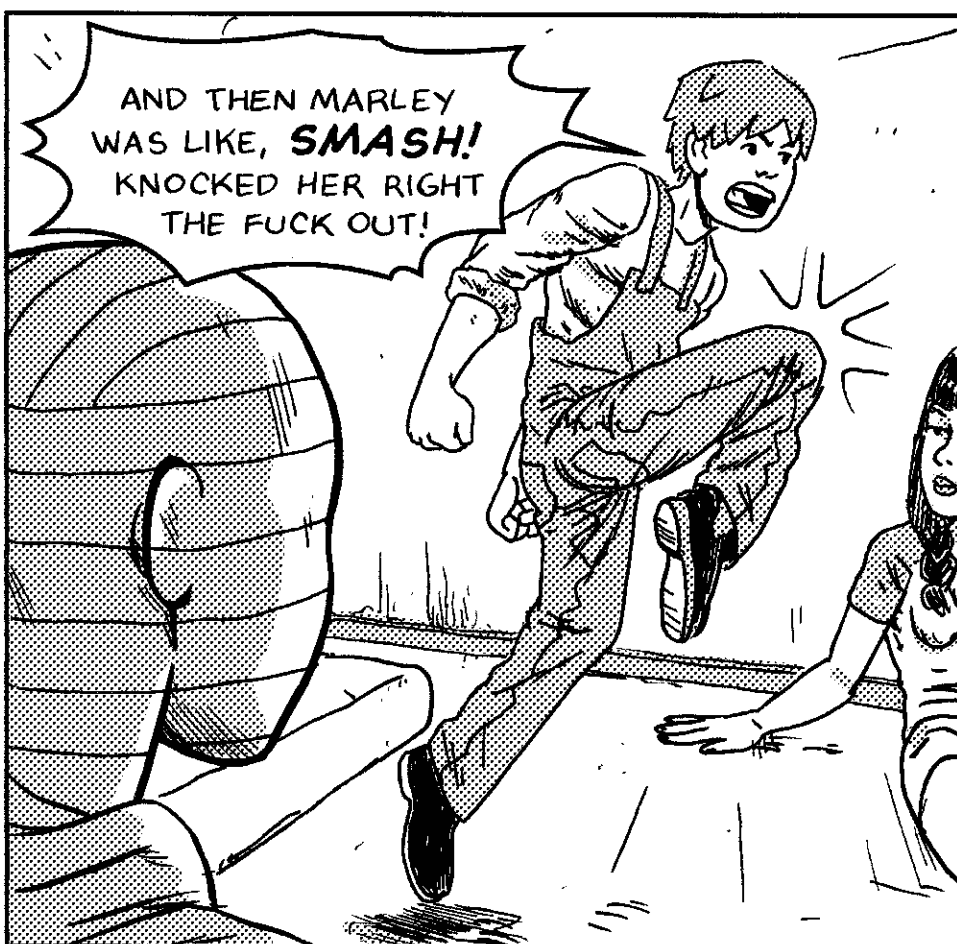
MARLEY.

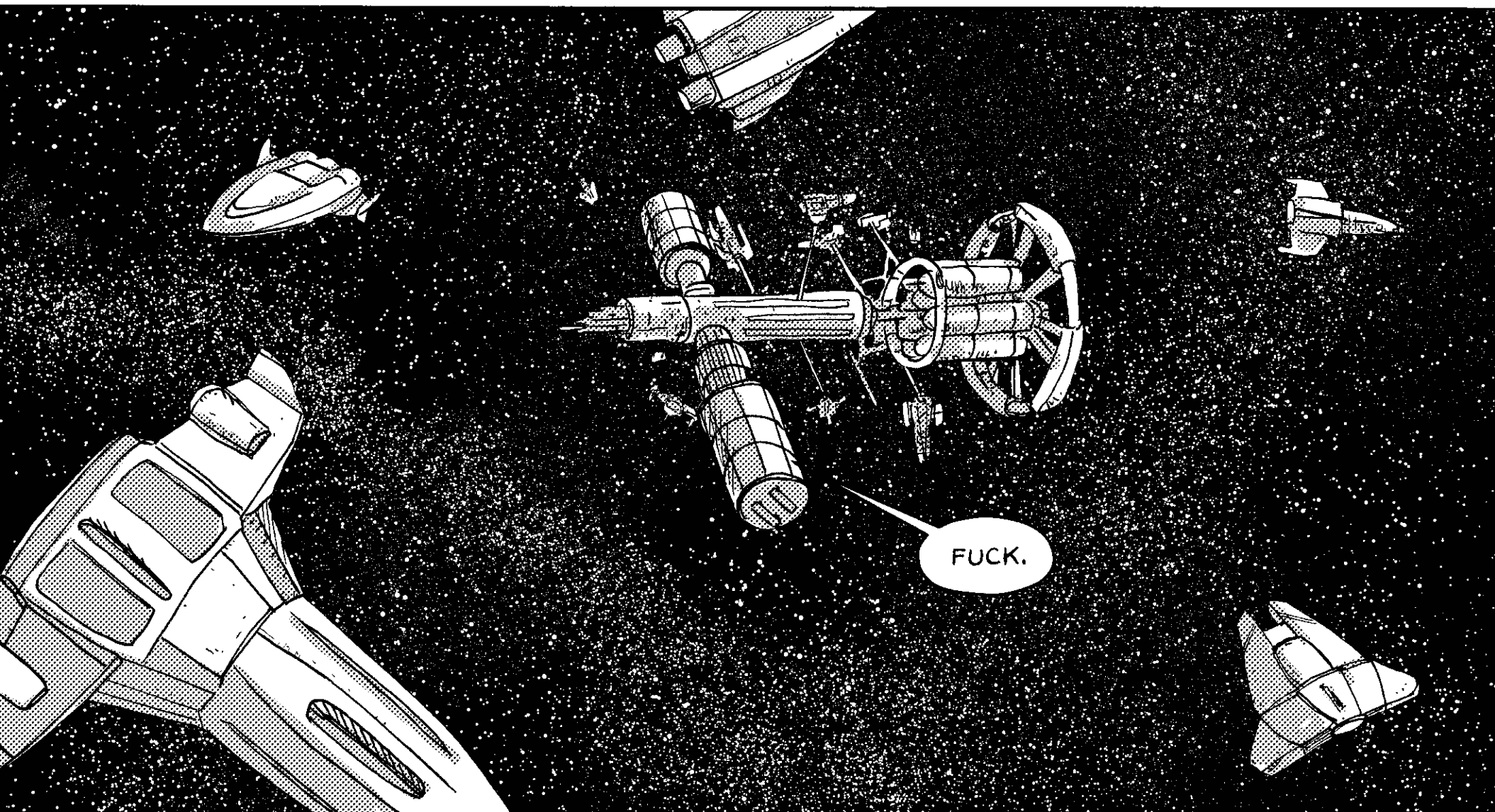
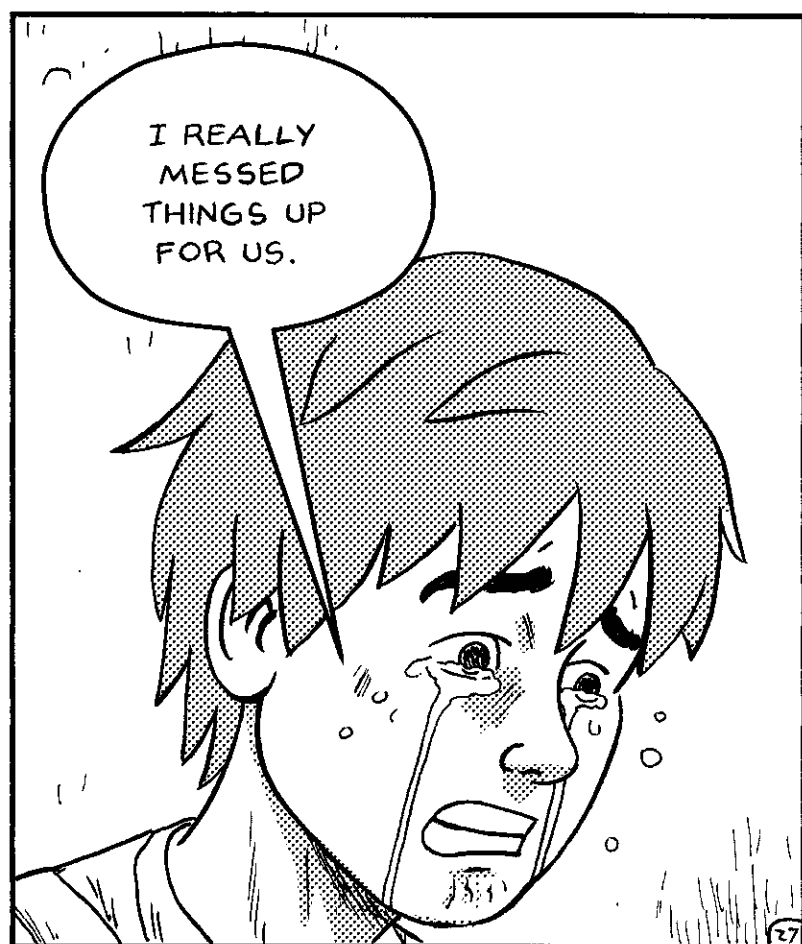
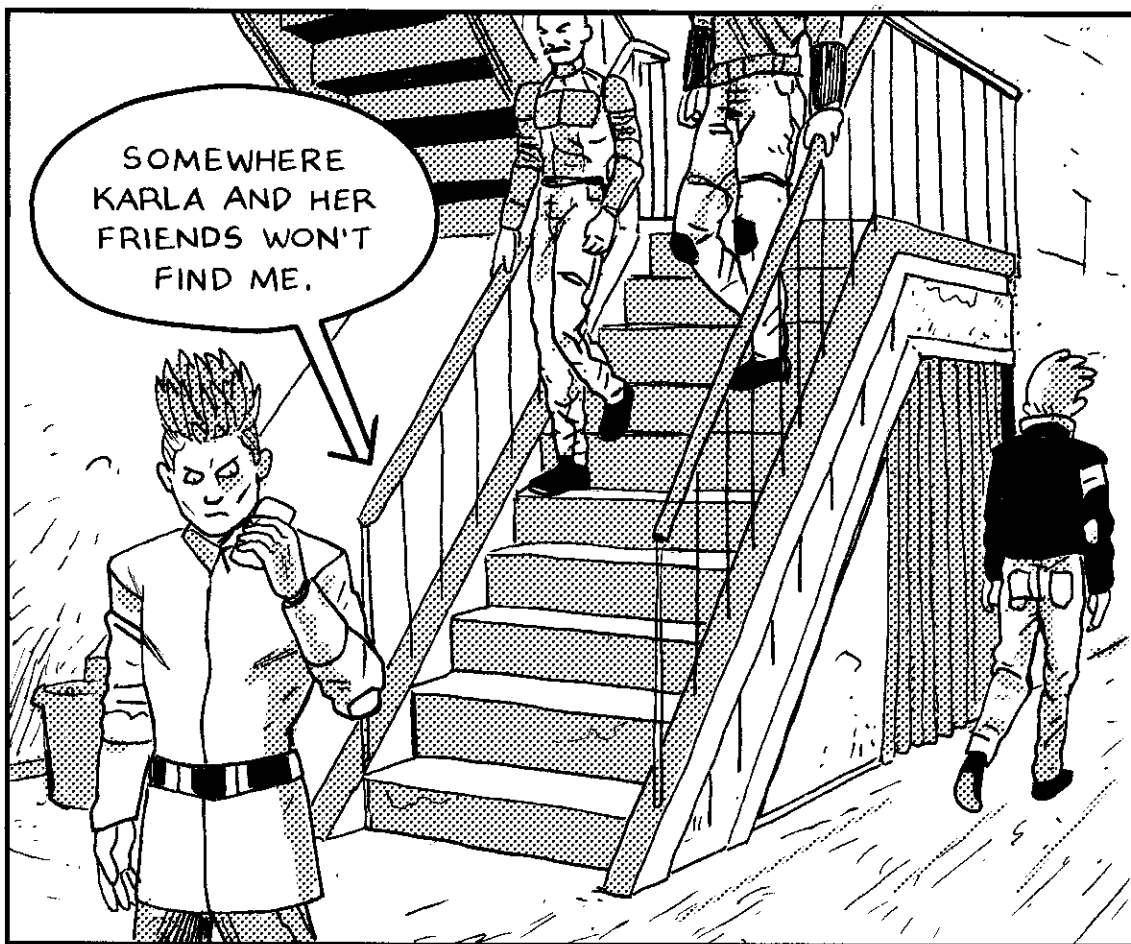


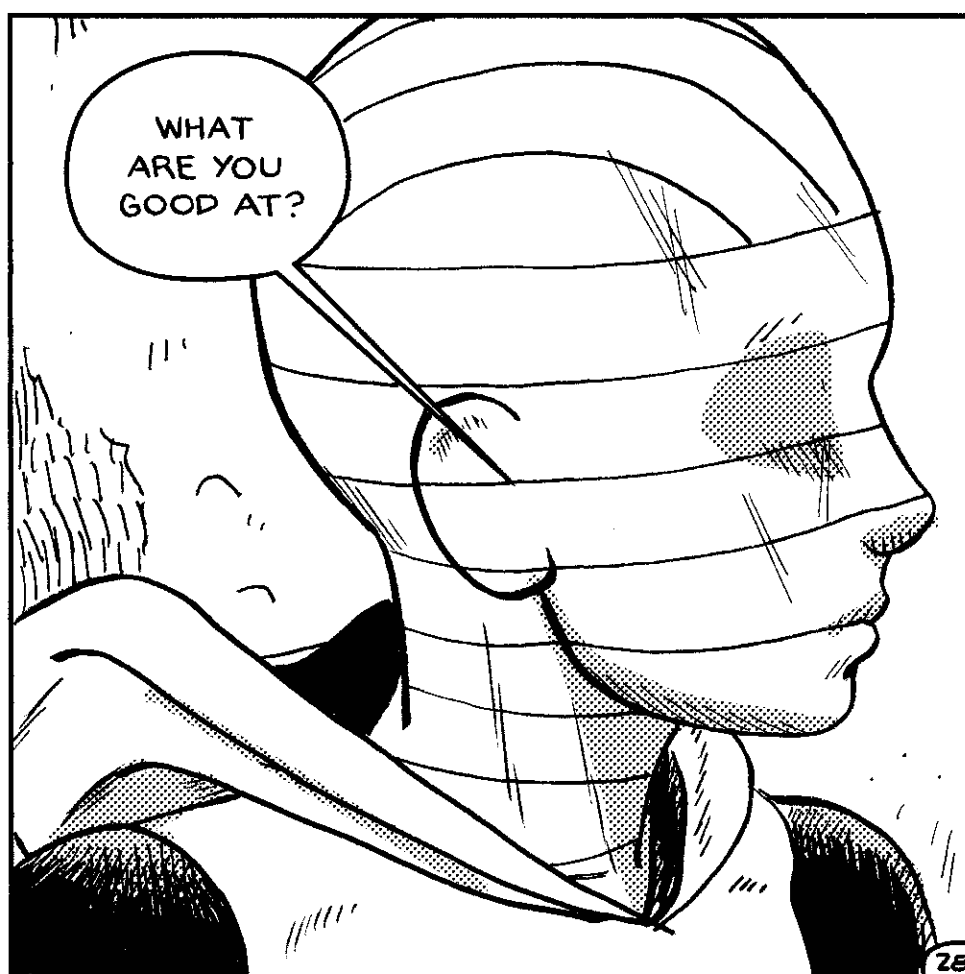
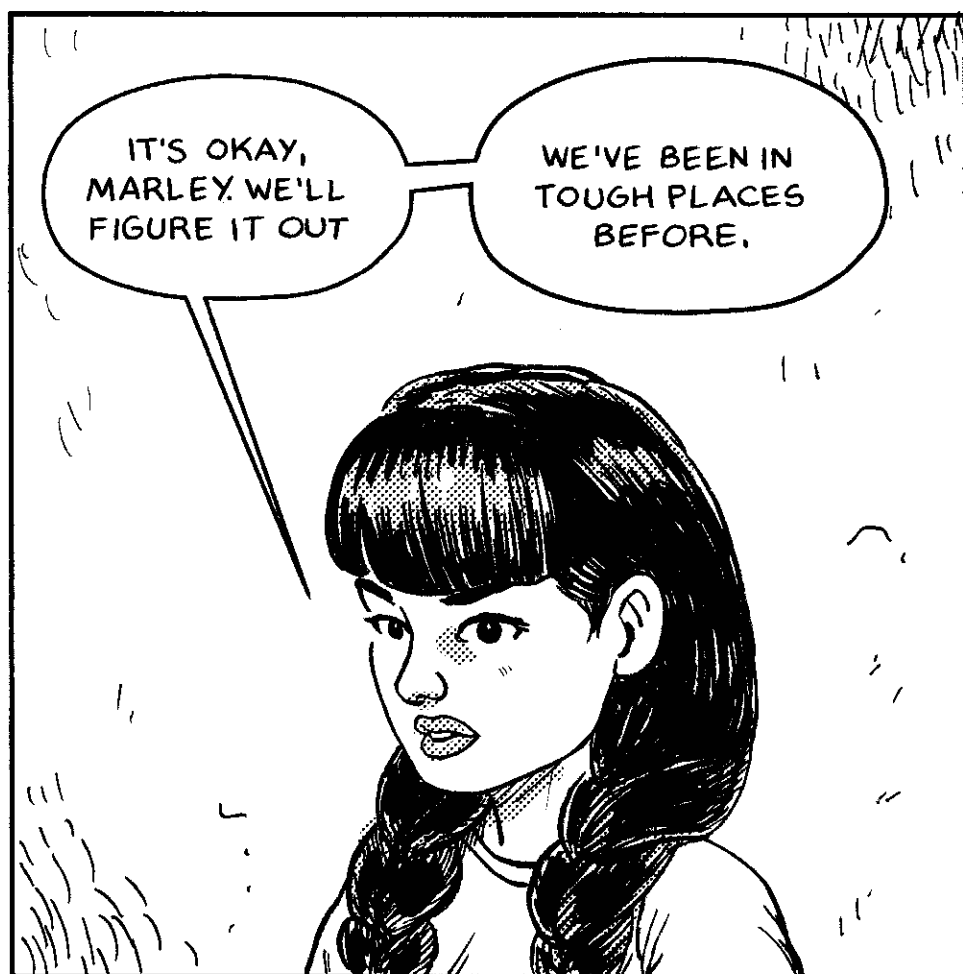
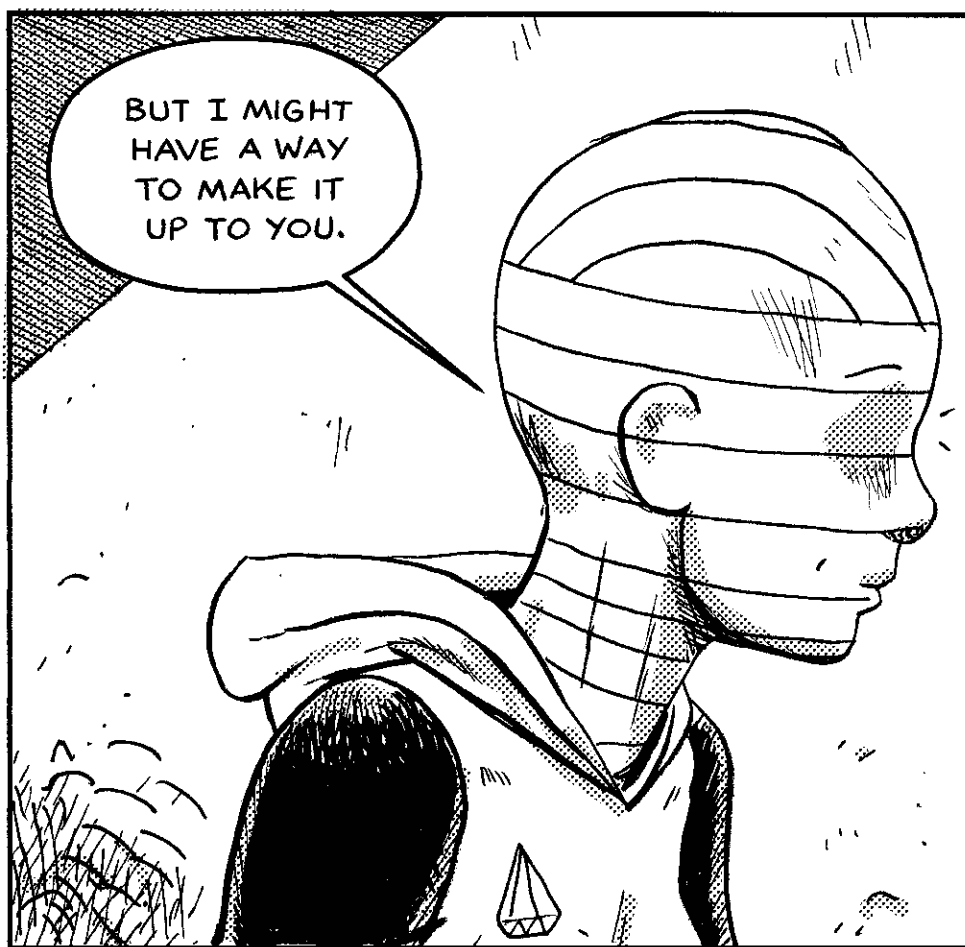
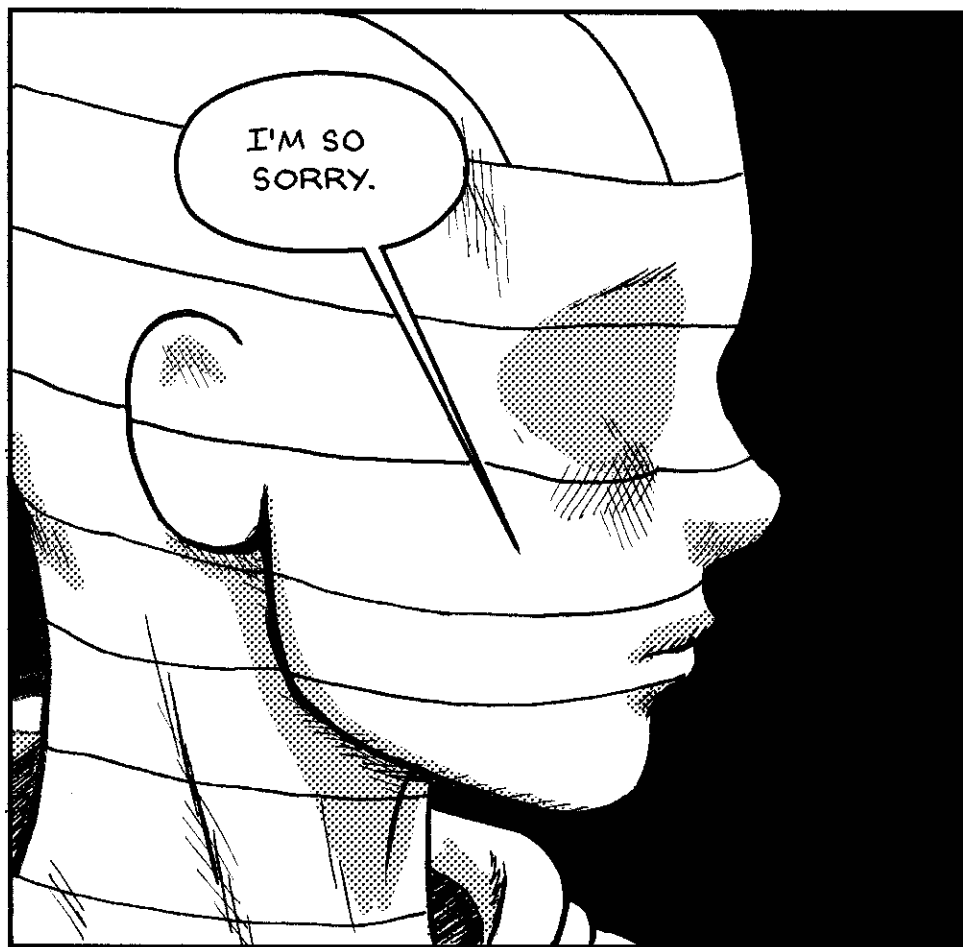
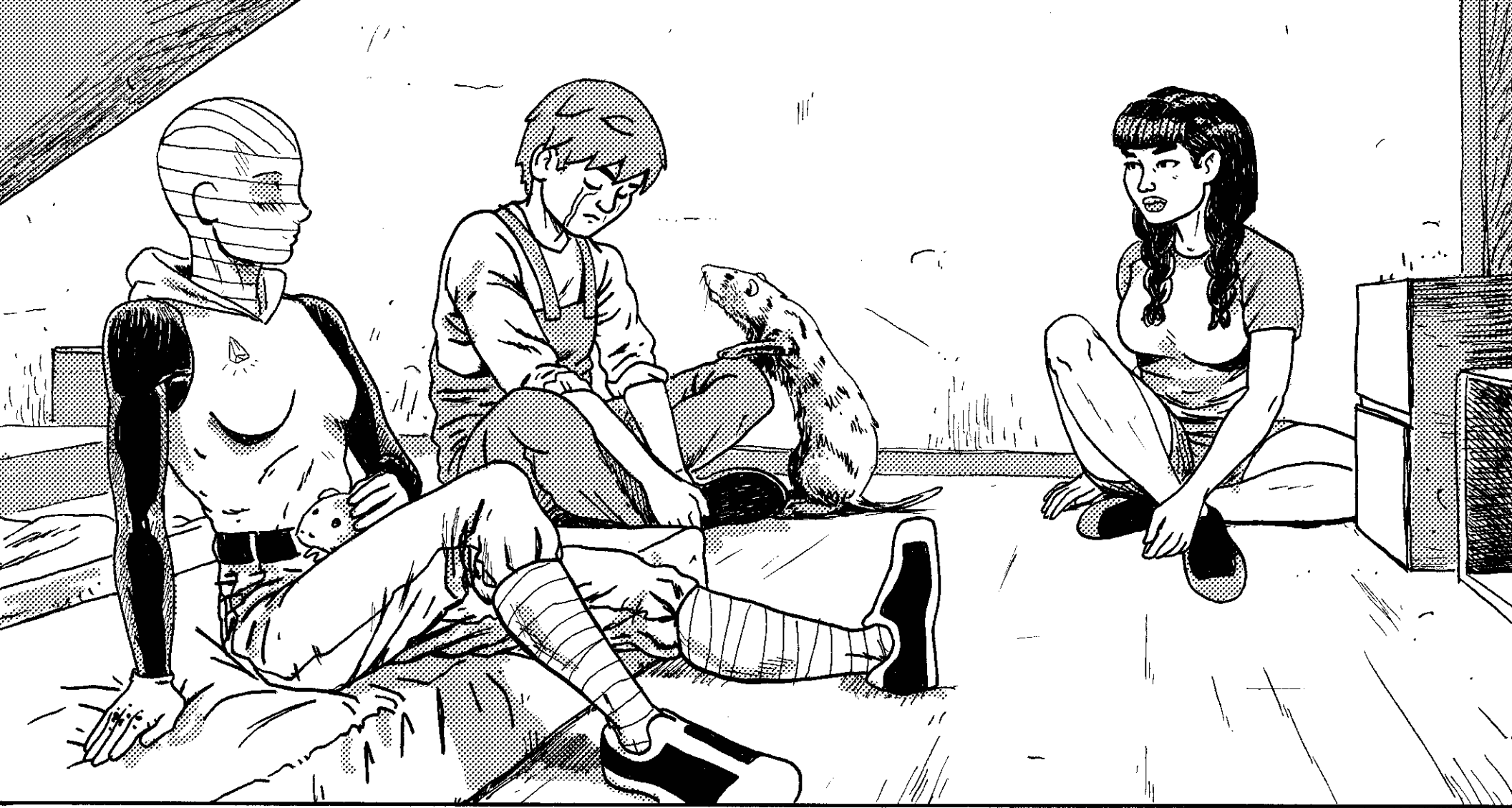
AND BROWNIE. SORRY FOR THE BUMPY RIDE, BABY!

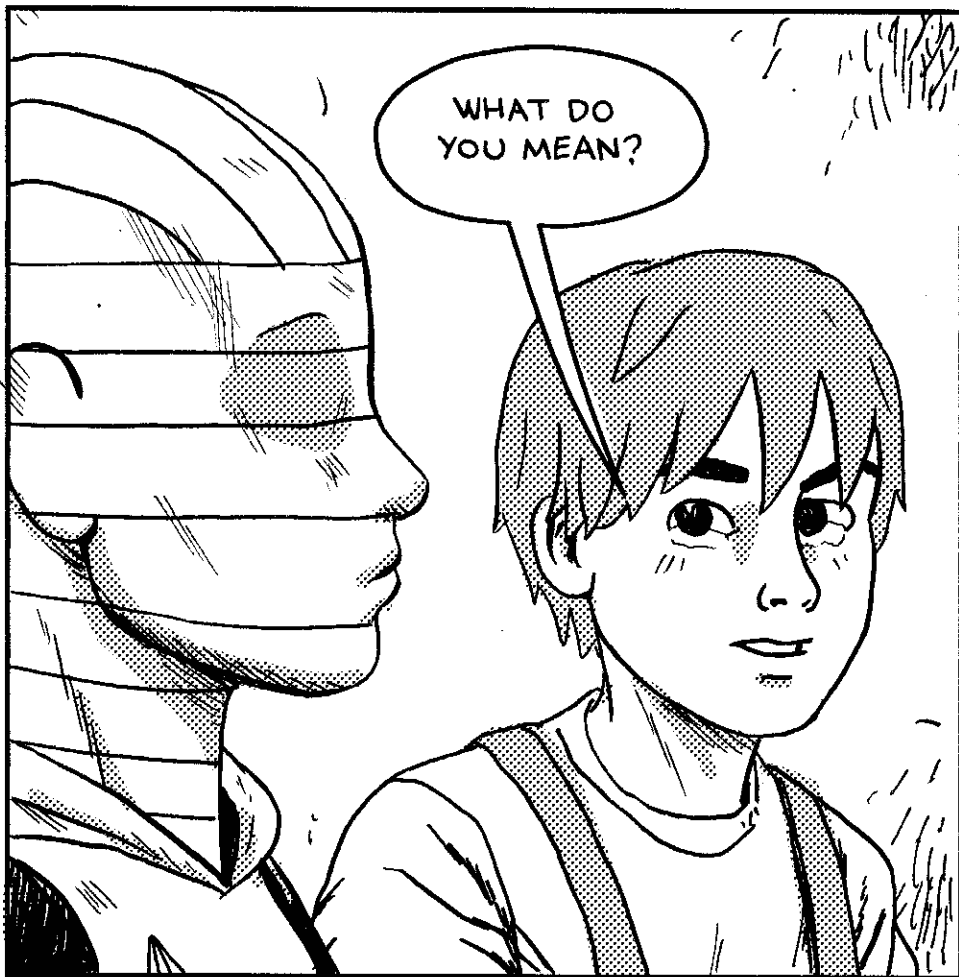


YOU'RE DEX'S AUNT? YOU LOOK BARELY OLDER THAN HE IS!

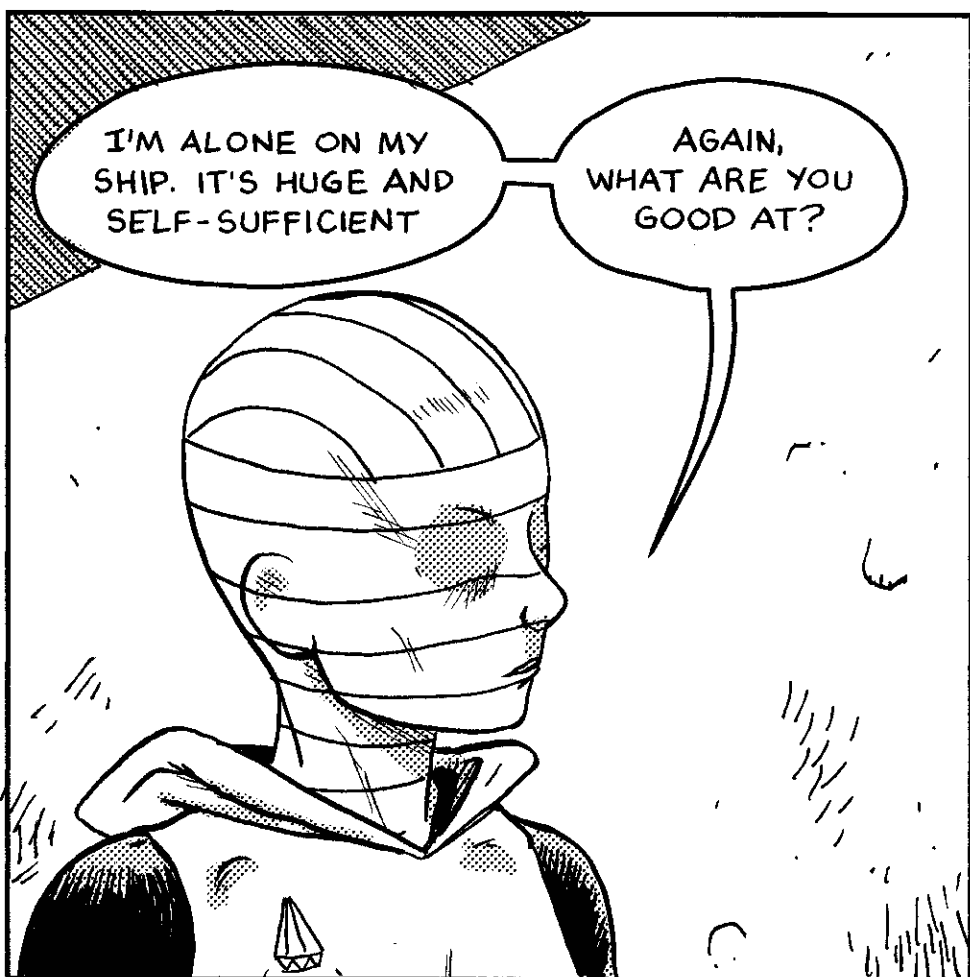








WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



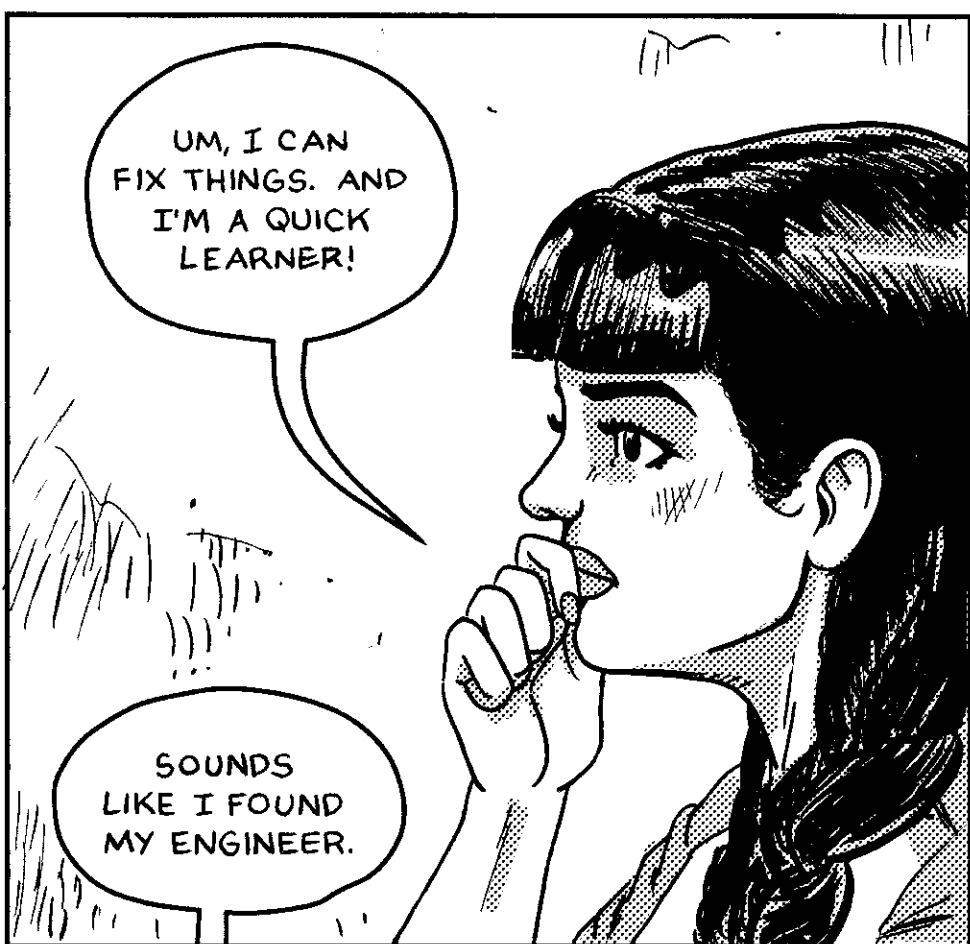
I'M ALONE ON MY SHIP. IT'S HUGE AND SELF-SUFFICIENT

AGAIN, WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?



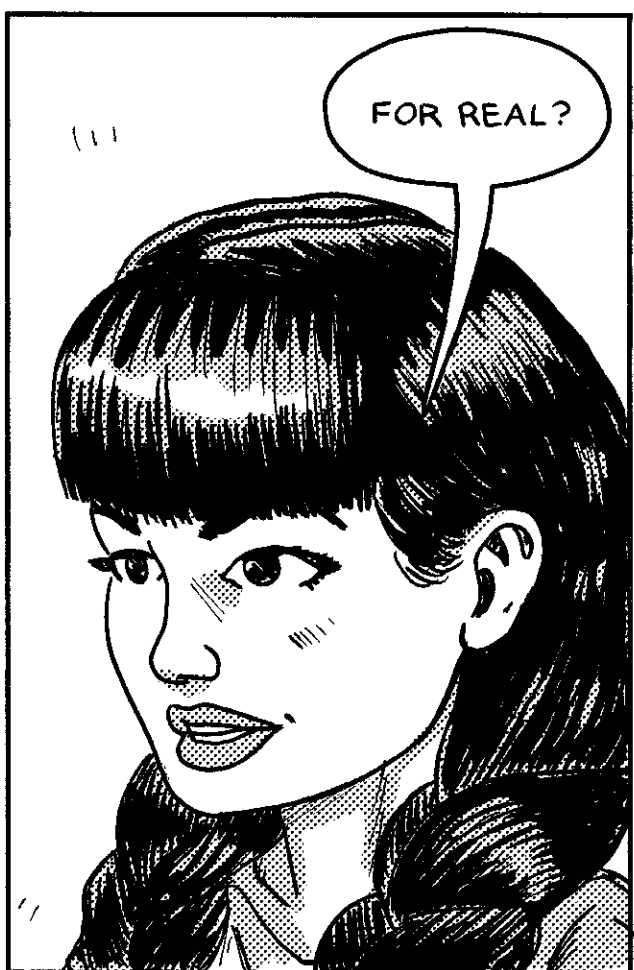
I COOK PRETTY GOOD. I WORKED A LONG TIME AT THE RESTAURANT!

YOU CAN BE CHEF.

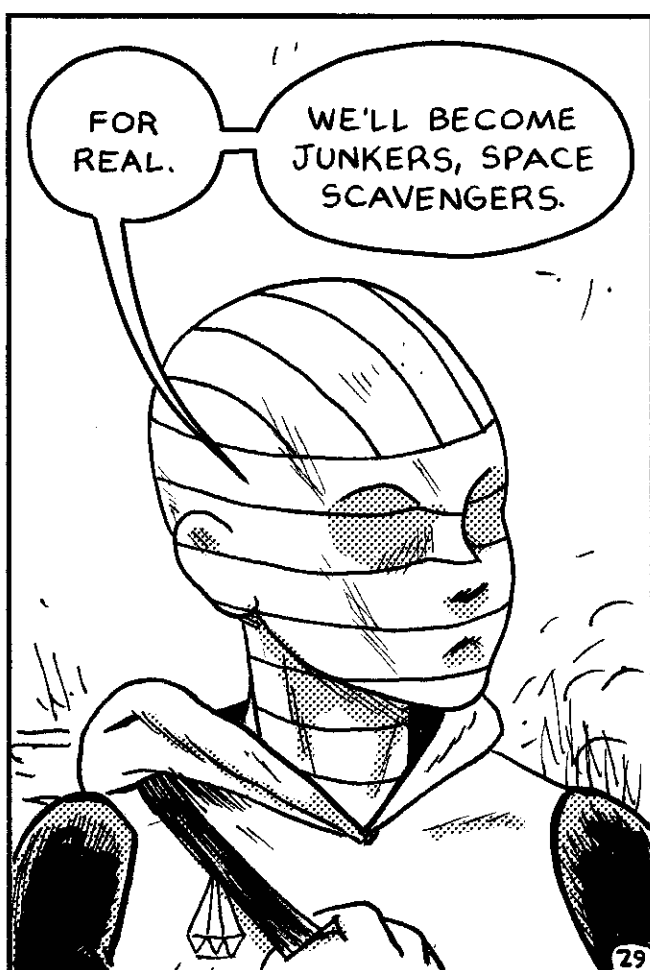


UM, I CAN FIX THINGS. AND I'M A QUICK LEARNER!

SOUNDS LIKE I FOUND MY ENGINEER.



FOR REAL?



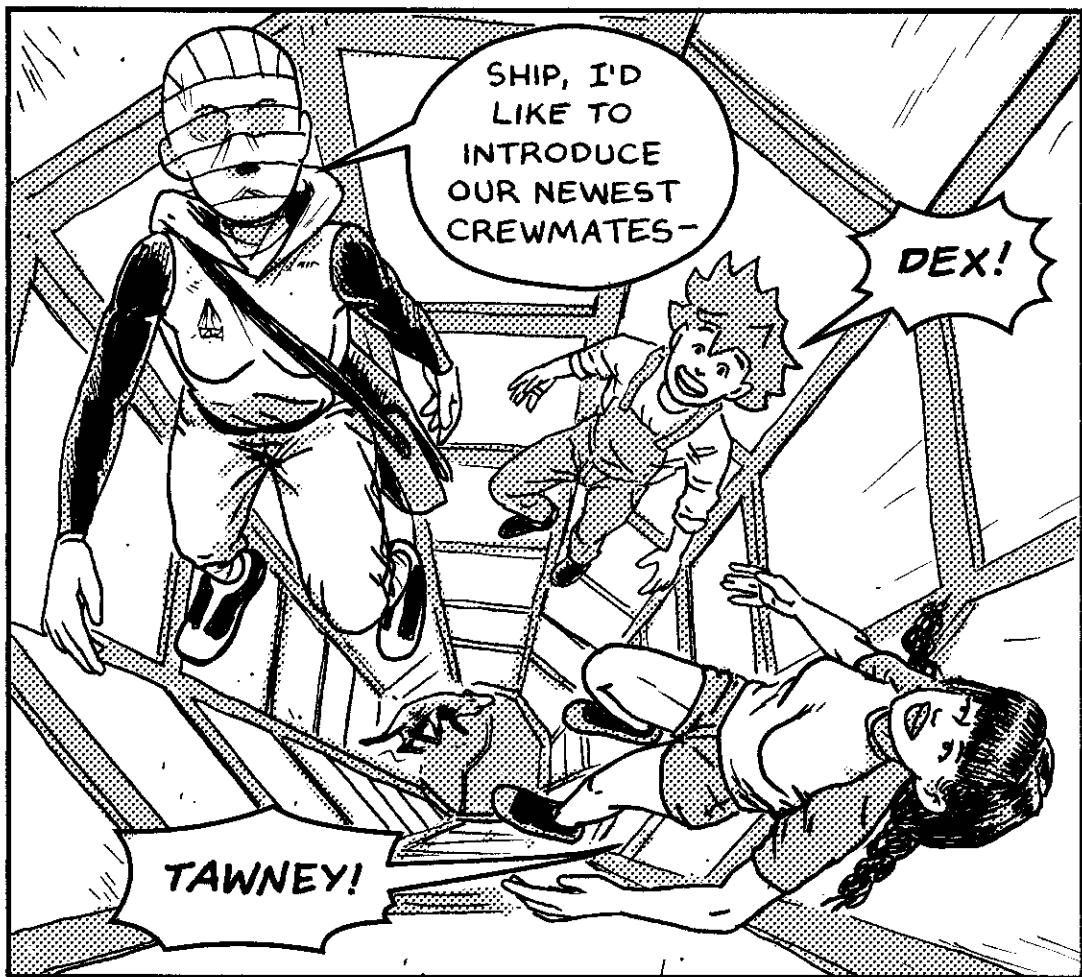
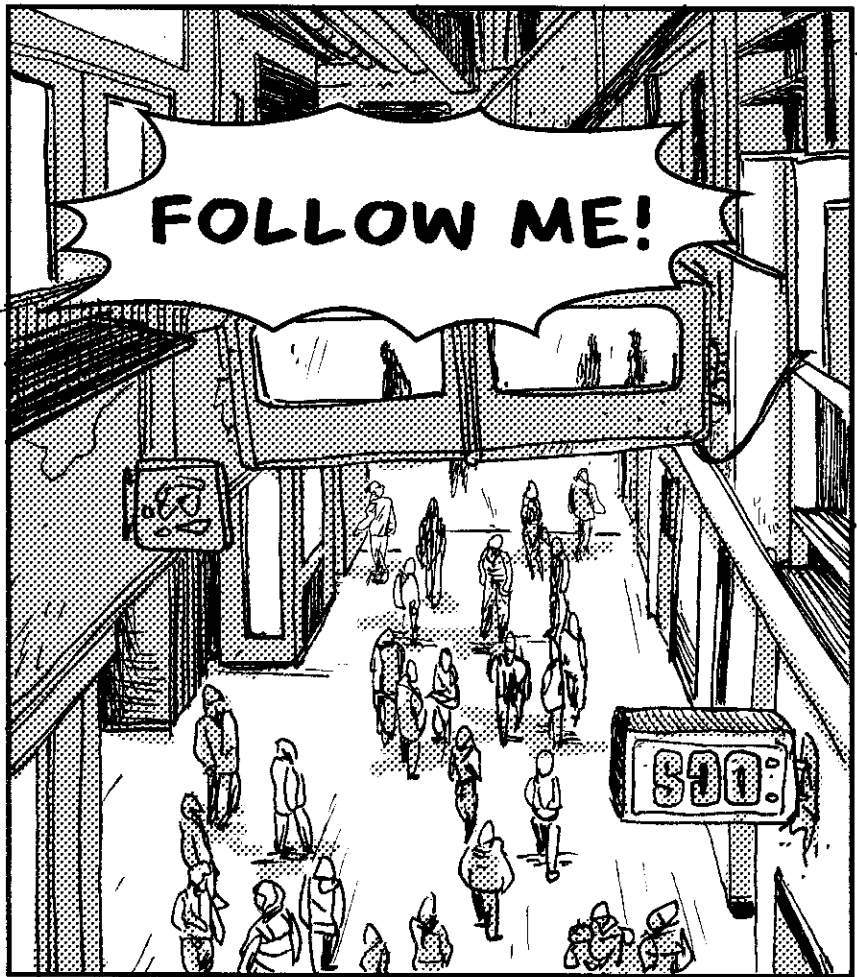
FOR REAL.

WE'LL BECOME JUNKERS, SPACE SCAVENGERS.

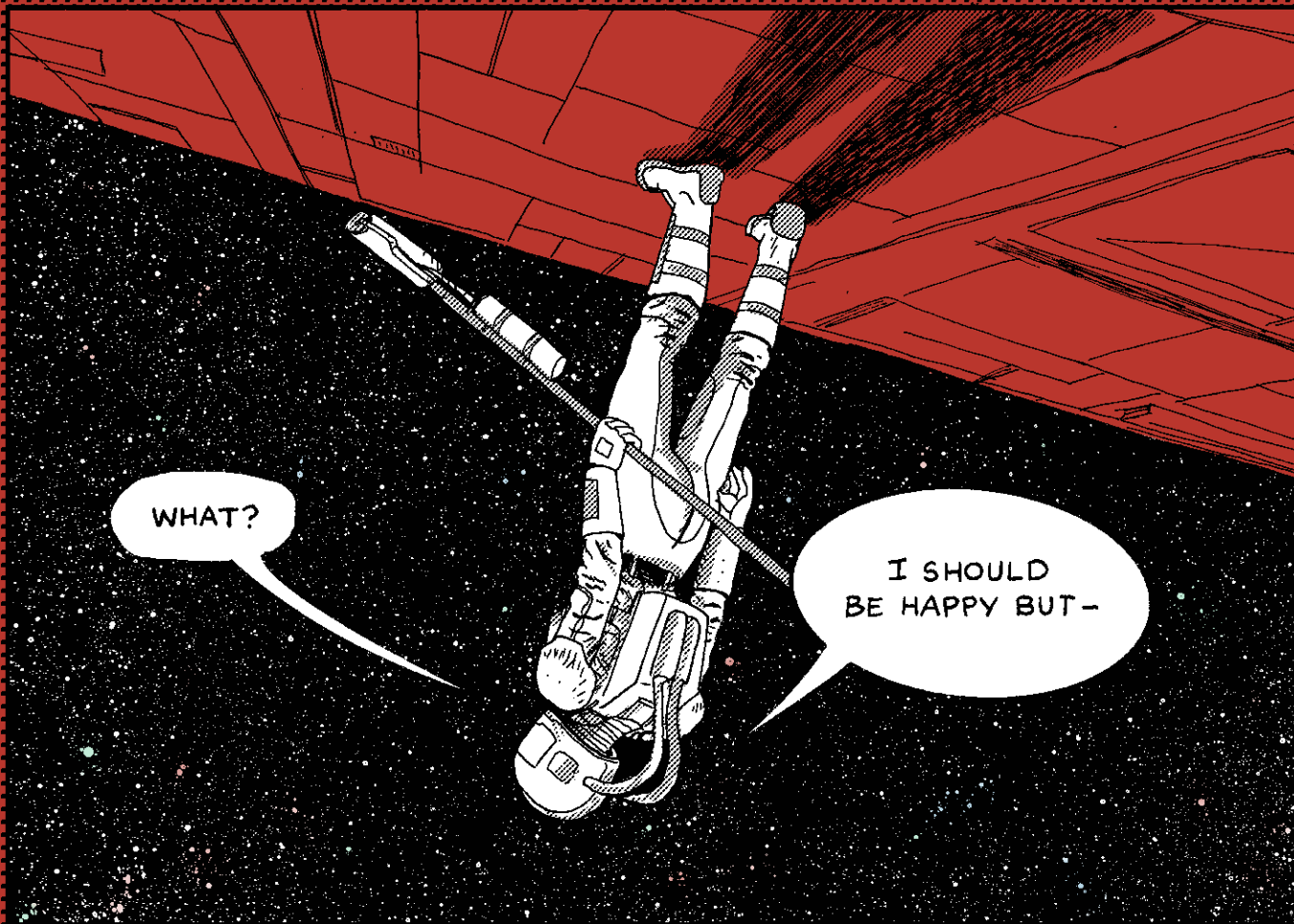


IF YOU CAN GET US TO THE SHIP UNSEEN, WE CAN GO RIGHT NOW.

FOR SURE!







WHAT?

I SHOULD
BE HAPPY BUT-