

1 Shot

CROSS WORLDS NEXUS PRESENTS



Ferocity

THE STEALTH FIGHTER

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CROSS WORLDS NEXUS

Presents

THE STEALTH FIGHTER

This was either the easiest job of my career or the most bizarre. Sort of both, I guess. I have the evidence...In One minute!? I made enough money to possibly retire and live comfortably on for the rest of my life... and that is even factoring in for inflation... and living to be a ripe old age. I am looking at it, but I can't believe it.

I am remembering fragments of a... dream?

Dreams do not pay out in suitcases full of cash. I woke up at the station, from what I understand, these are the facts~
Midnight, meet with client

20:00 hours- catch train bound for ...where?

20:01 hours-wake up at same station that

I just left, with a letter and a suitcase full of cash.
Memory is shredded.

I dont remember all that happened, I know I have the letter and the payment from the client. So it has to be real as impossible as it seems.

I think that the very best thing to do in a situation like this is tell no one and just enjoy all of this sweet cash.

Ferocity





My name is not important. Where I am located, doesn't matter...I stay mobile. What I do? If a politician gets a bit too greedy and selfish for his own good or a dictator becomes too much of a dick, or say an insurgency needs to be surgically undone, I am the person that gets things done. I take out the bad guys. I am the Stealth fighter. I took a job. I saw an ad in the shit list, sort of a need to know classified ad section for people that do my variety of work...

- HELP WANTED -
\$\$\$ GREAT PAYS \$\$
for the Right Person.
EXPERIENCE A MUST.
NO AMATEURS contact M
1-555-555-5555



Hello, What's this?



So, I follow thru
on the ad in the
paper.
Cash, up front
to do the 007
on a city.
Mecha-nika?



The man with
the cash says
that there will
be double
when I return.
He says that
the freedom
of all
mankind
depends on
my success.

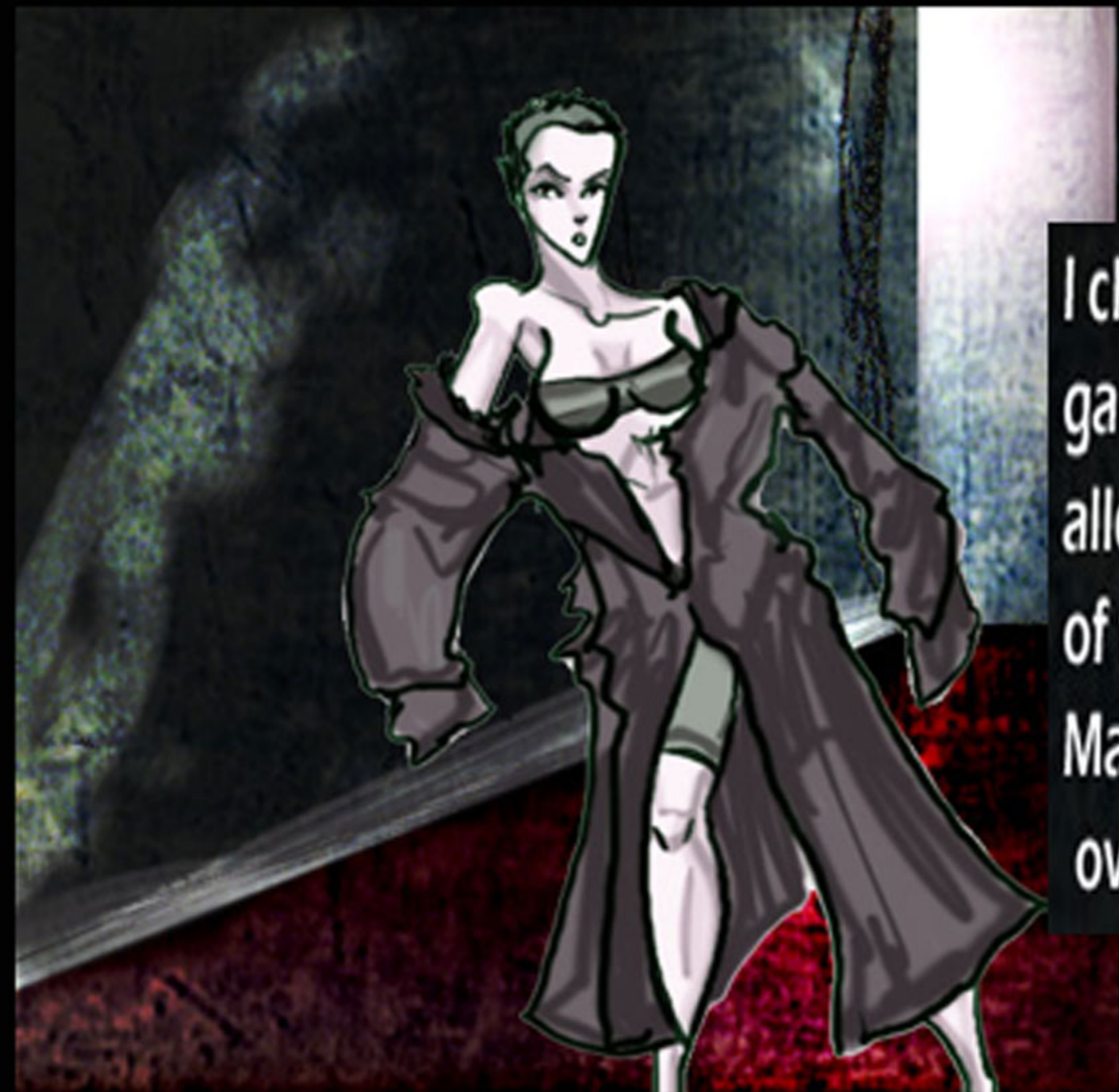
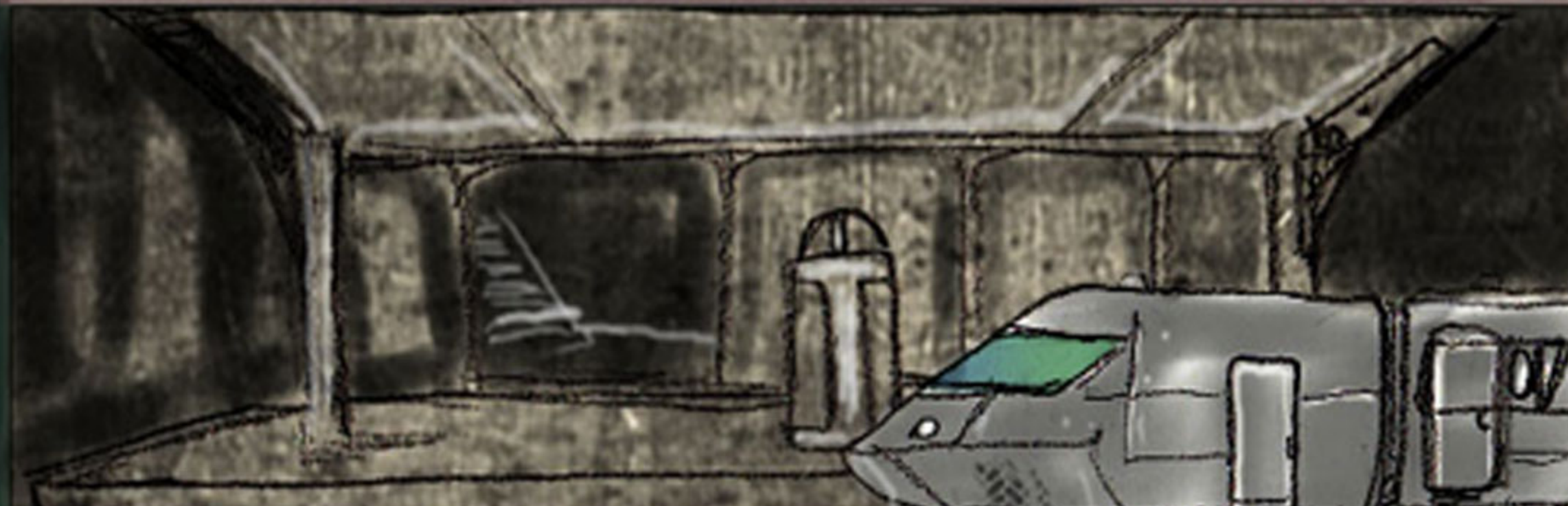
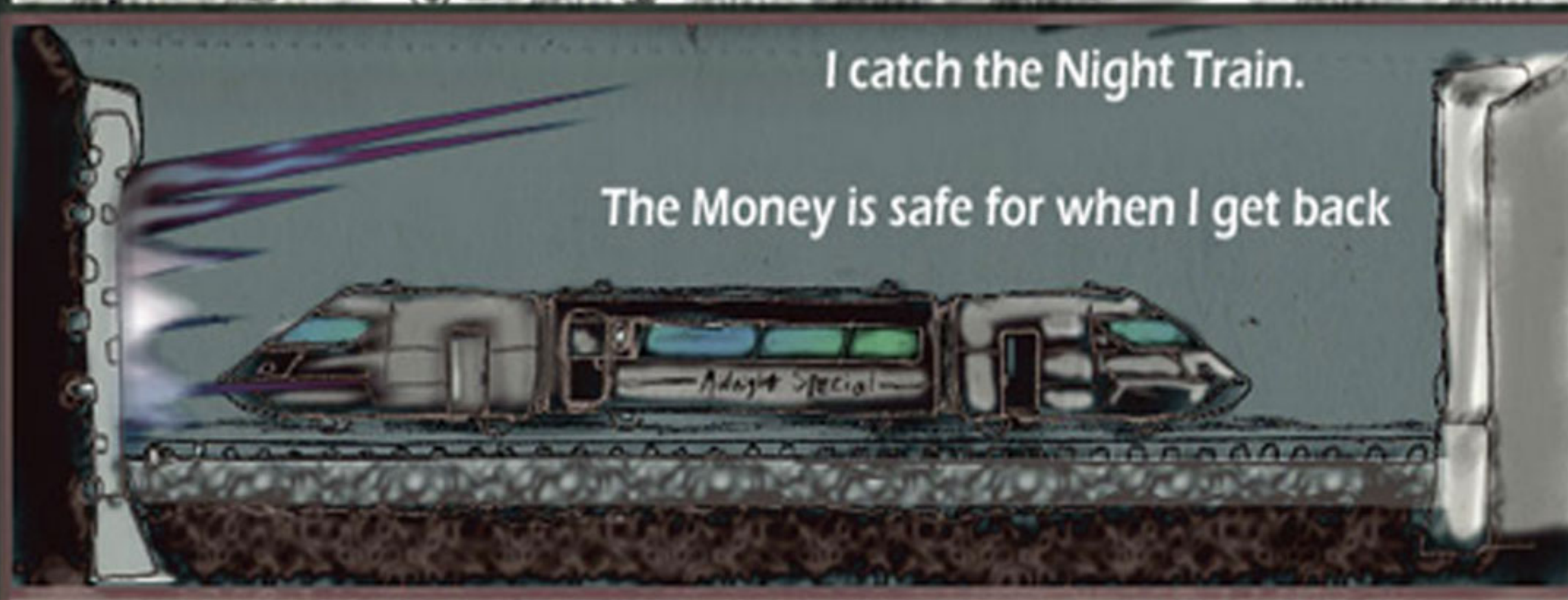
...
That's a bit
Extreme.
Whatever.
I take the
money...

...And the Ticket.

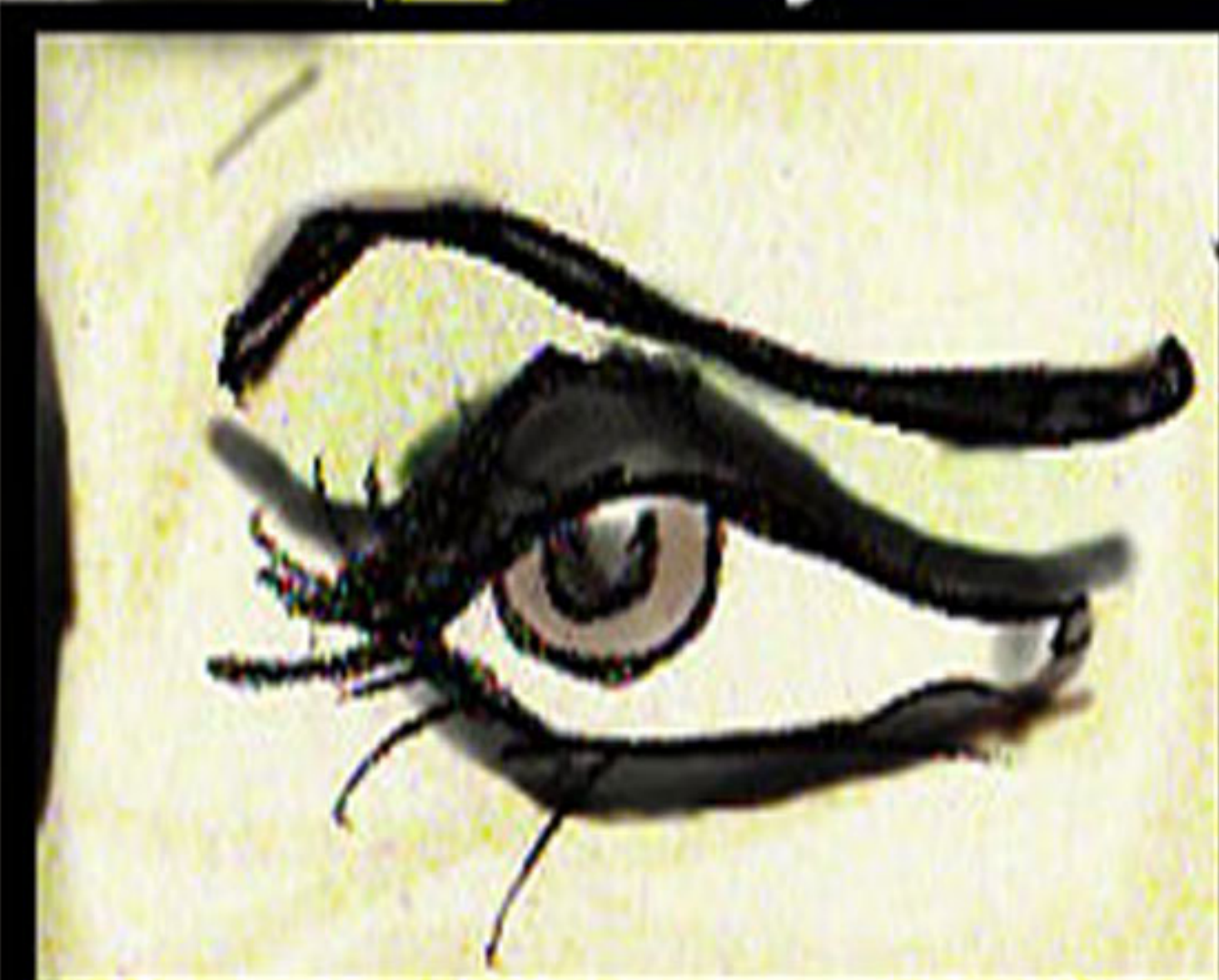


I catch the Night Train.

The Money is safe for when I get back



I change out of my common travel
garb, walk down the soul less
alley way into the buzzing noise
of the street. I hear chants and
Machines and the groans of the
overworked.



And the Job.

They speak english here, where ever here is. All the same to me. Can't be any worse than anything I have seen, and with that kind of money, I'll Adjust.

must uplink

must uplink

The scent of gun oil, smog and hot engines fills the stale air. I hear screeching echoes, far over head...like a loud bird or bad brakes on a car, the flapping of Leathery wings.

It looks like this place hasn't seen daylight or rain for a very long time.

I haven't seen any management, No Cops, No Suits, just machines

It seems like the Sun never rises or sets

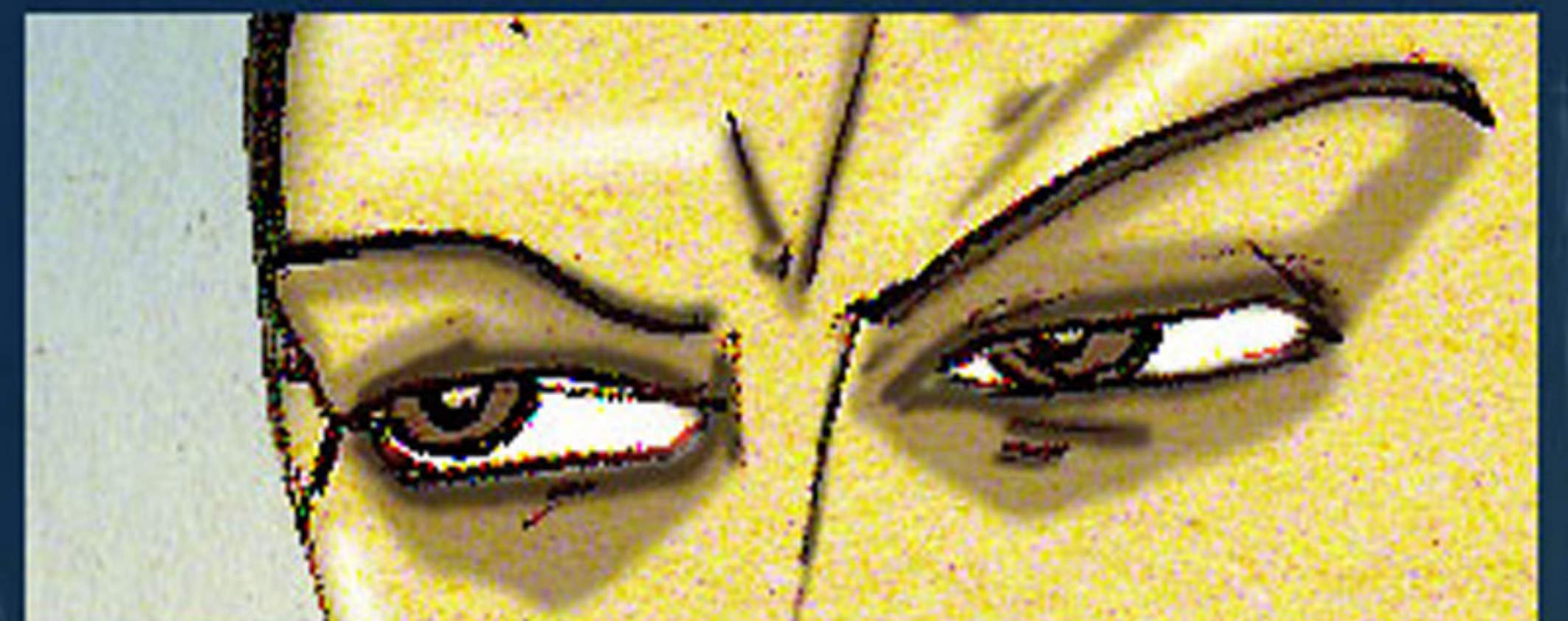
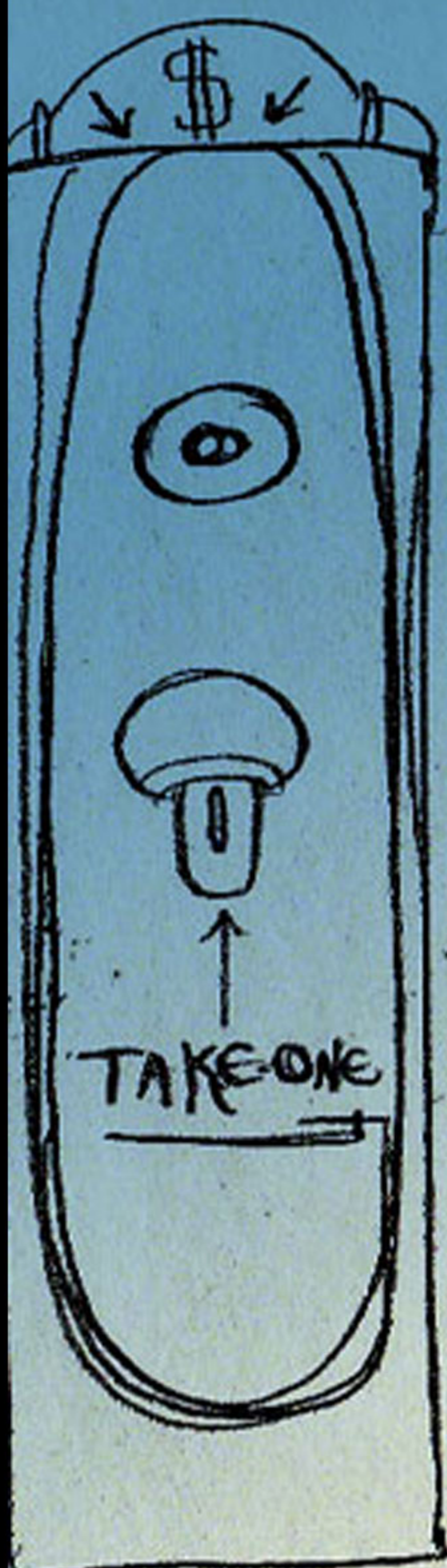
I follow the herd of groaning workers. It seems that every one uses a money card.

Food, clothing, rest areas are provided near the work stations. Good Coffee. The food is Bland, but, edible...sort of like Airplane food. Drop dirty clothes, get new. All the same.

RE-FRESH

...Good coffee, tho.

Work is just Simple repetitive tasks for hours...and hours. The more you do, the more funds get put onto the card, not many conversationalists around here... "Must Up Link". I guess it is a big internet town?



Funds are put on the card when you work... And "work"...

If it can be called that...it is easy to find and talk about Brain Drain...

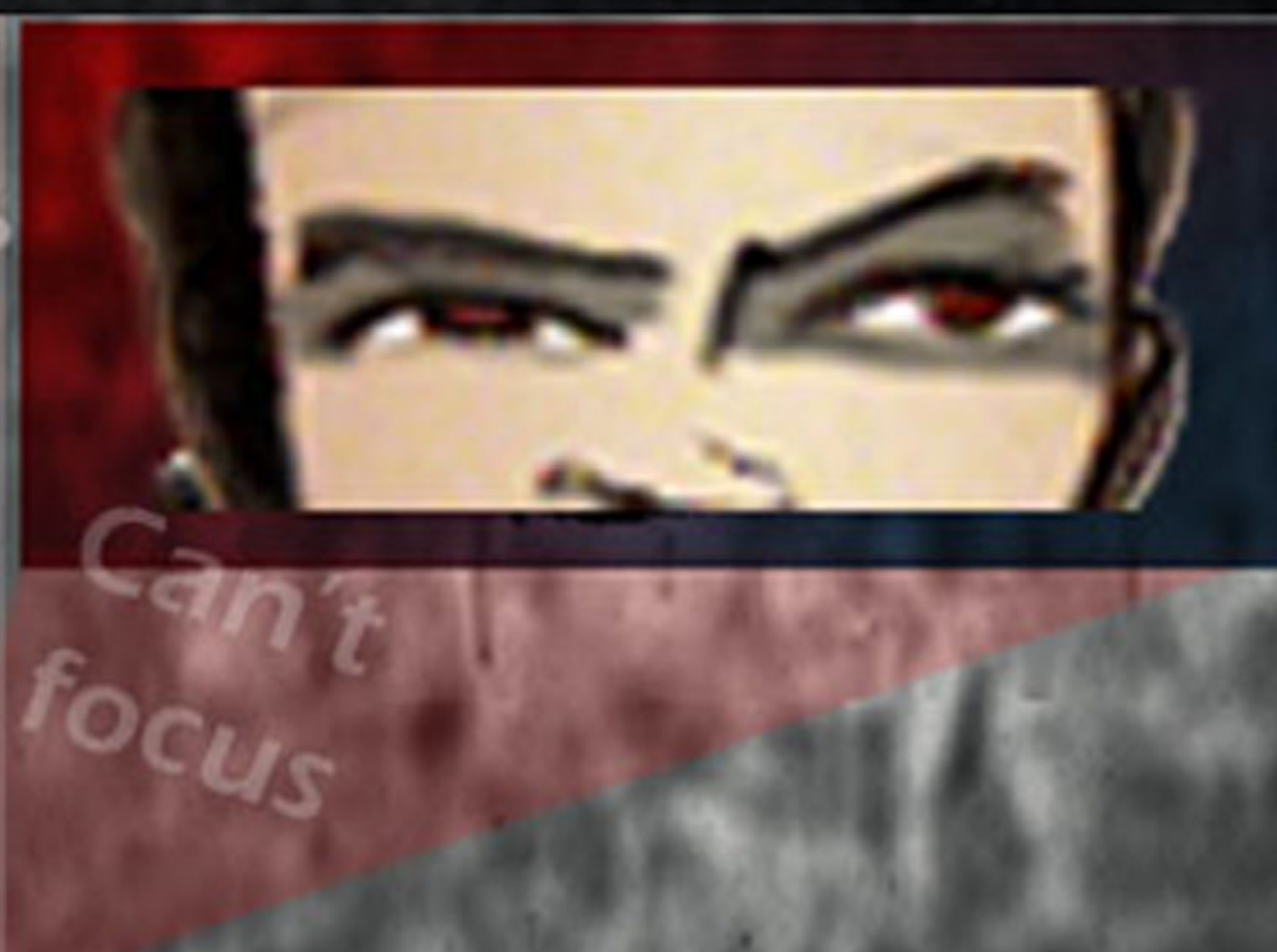
I got an apartment. If you can call it that. Every apartment is exactly the same. A window too high to see out of, Small bathroom, clean bed...and a weird piece exercise equipment?

And that's all, folks.

I have been spying on evil operations for my whole life. I grew up in the post industrial American inner cities. I saw the failure of the system and the crime it gave birth to. This was no different. I just have to keep track of what is happening here.



Can't focus



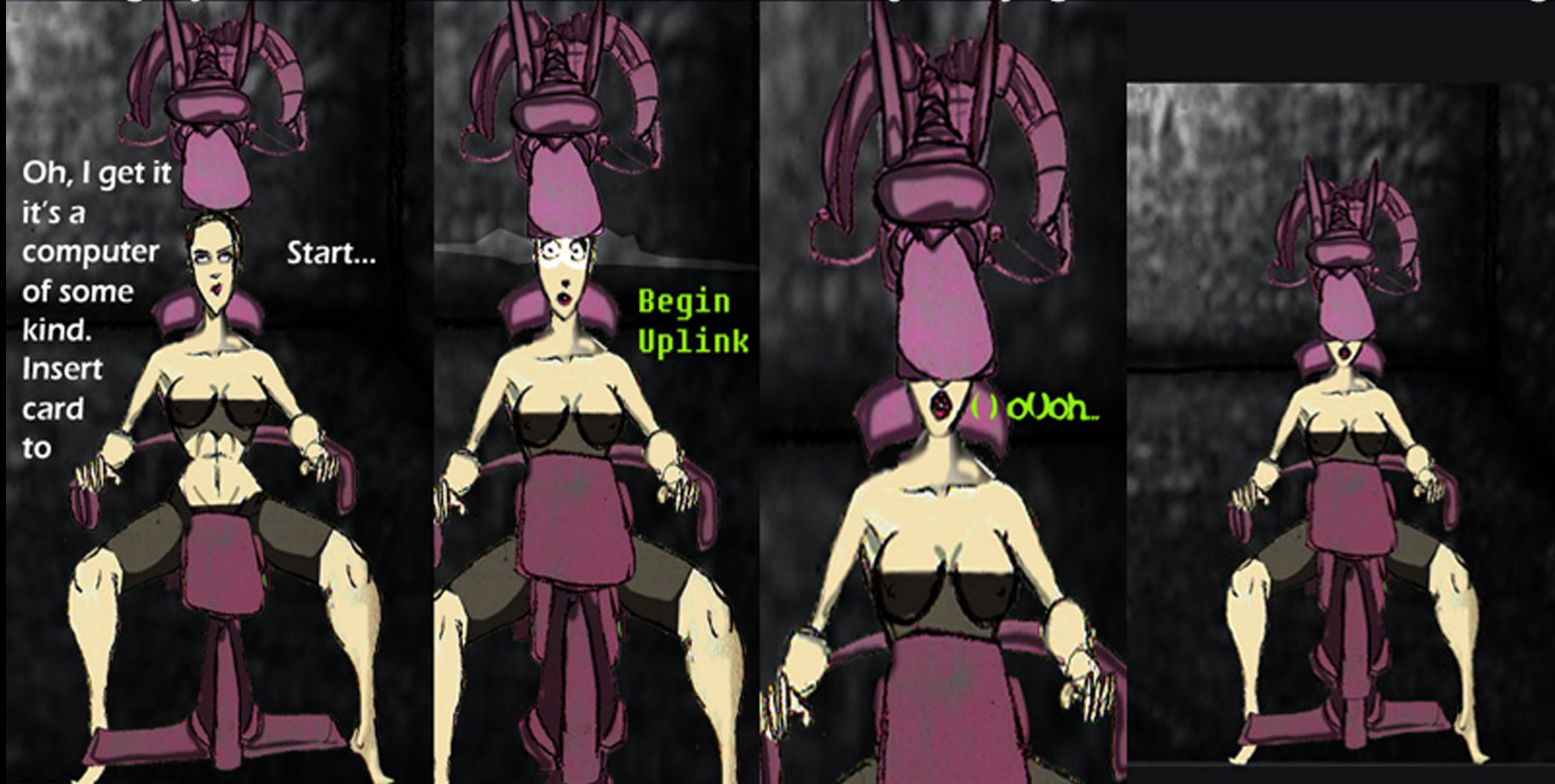
Can't focus

Maybe I should work out.



Trying to make a map
The city makes
no sense.
Endless

I am slightly dis oriented, the sun does not rise or set. just city lights on a thick red black smog



Oh, I get it
it's a
computer
of some
kind.
Insert
card
to

Start...

Begin
Uplink

Ooh

Not my self...
Not able to
...focus.

Out of funds...
Insert card to
continue.

must uplink

WHO needs freedom when you have automated comfort.

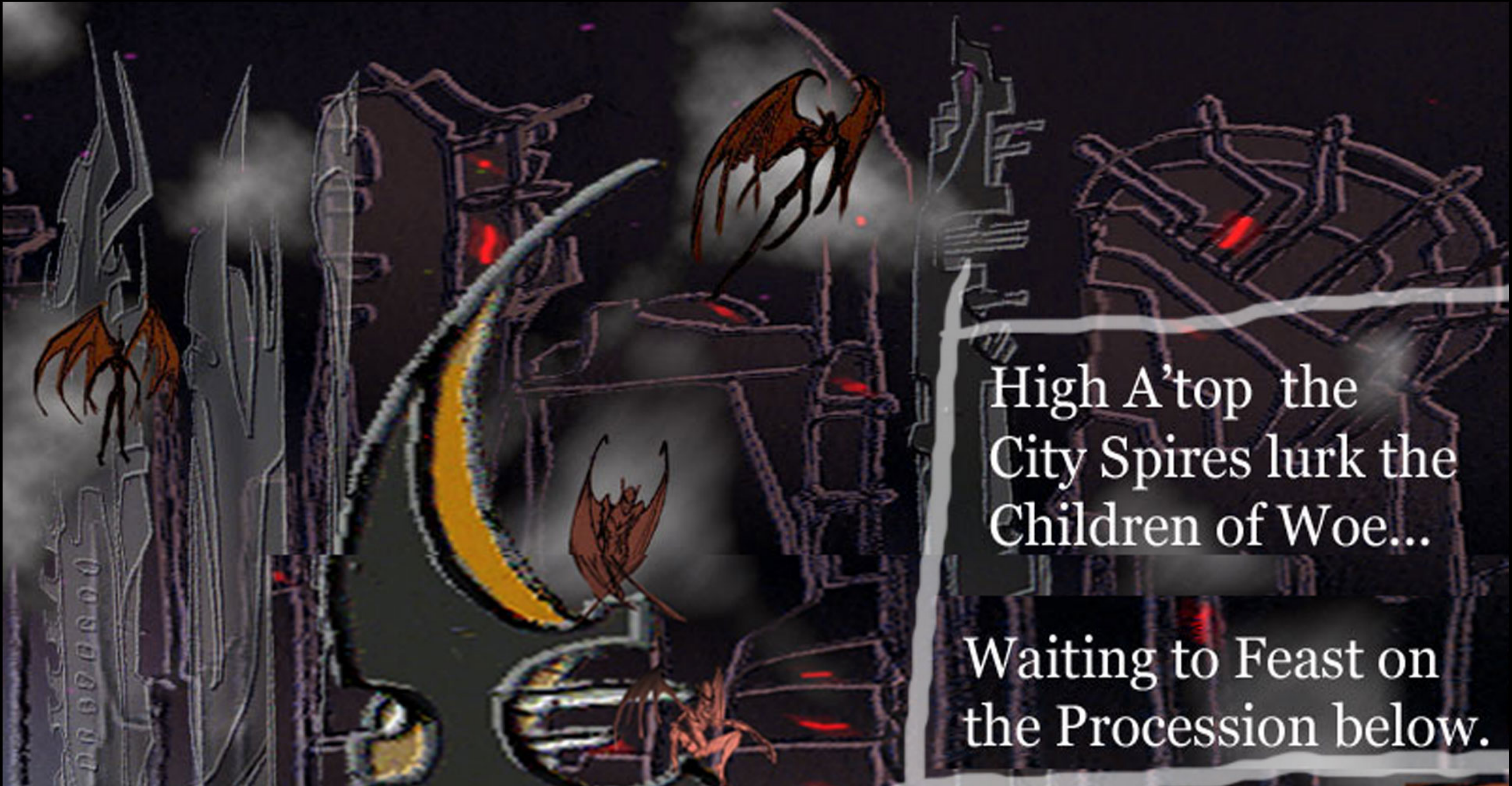
must uplink

must uplink

must uplink

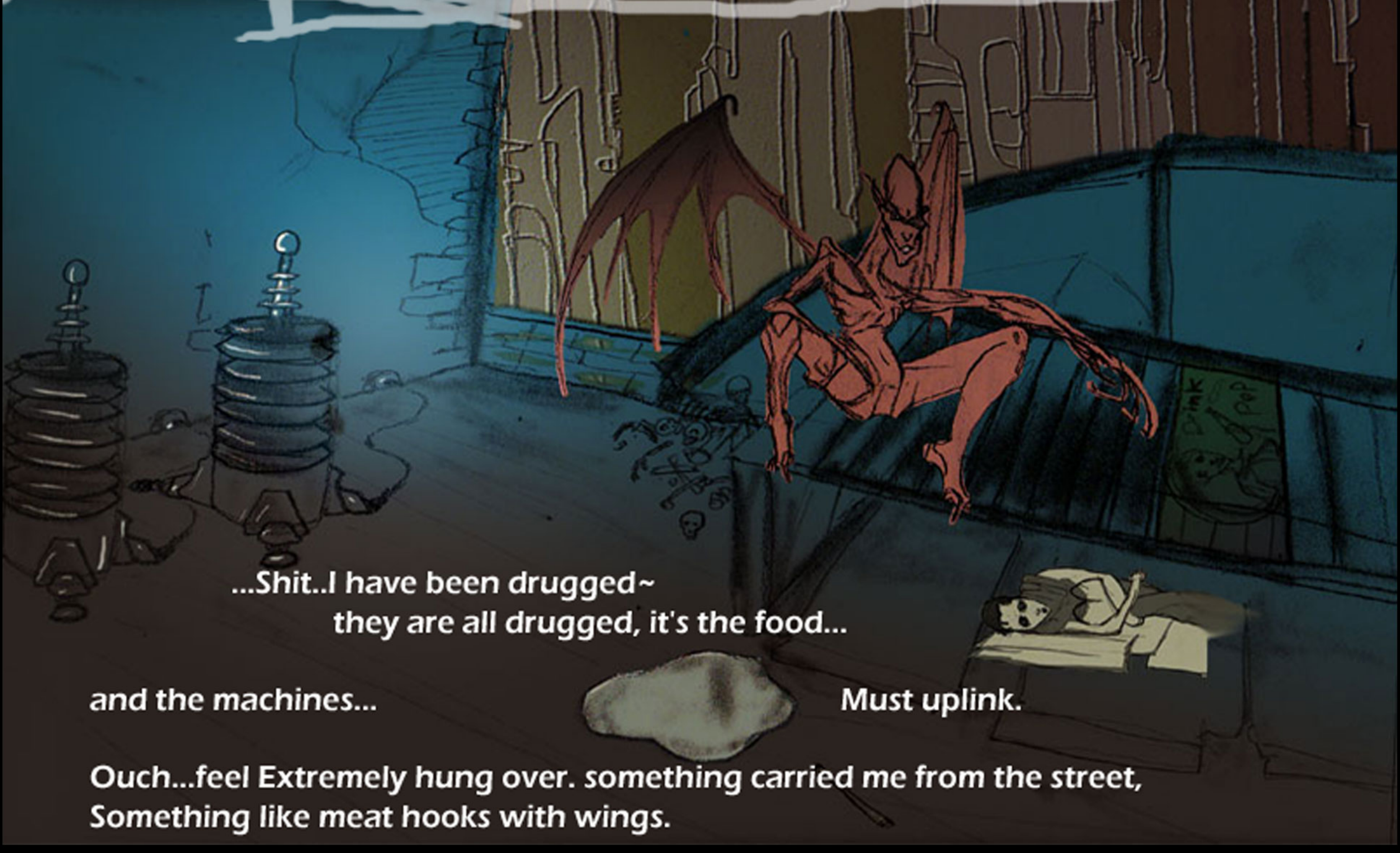
And so, the City eats
another soul and
not a tear was shed
by any one.

Such is the way of
Mechanika.



High A'top the City Spires lurk the Children of Woe...

Waiting to Feast on the Procession below.



...Shit..I have been drugged~ they are all drugged, it's the food...

and the machines...

Must uplink.

Ouch...feel Extremely hung over. something carried me from the street, Something like meat hooks with wings.

I feel awful...thinking clearer now...I think I have been poisoned...

I need that food that I have been eating,
I have to get out of here so I can go uplink.

Oh, no...that too...It has a hold on me also.
Where is that pathetic whimpering coming from?

..food..Uplink..

I am making that pathetic sound!

What has happened?

I remember...
Being snatched up
into the air.

I heard the flap
of leather wings
swooping down...
and then the
sharpest pain!

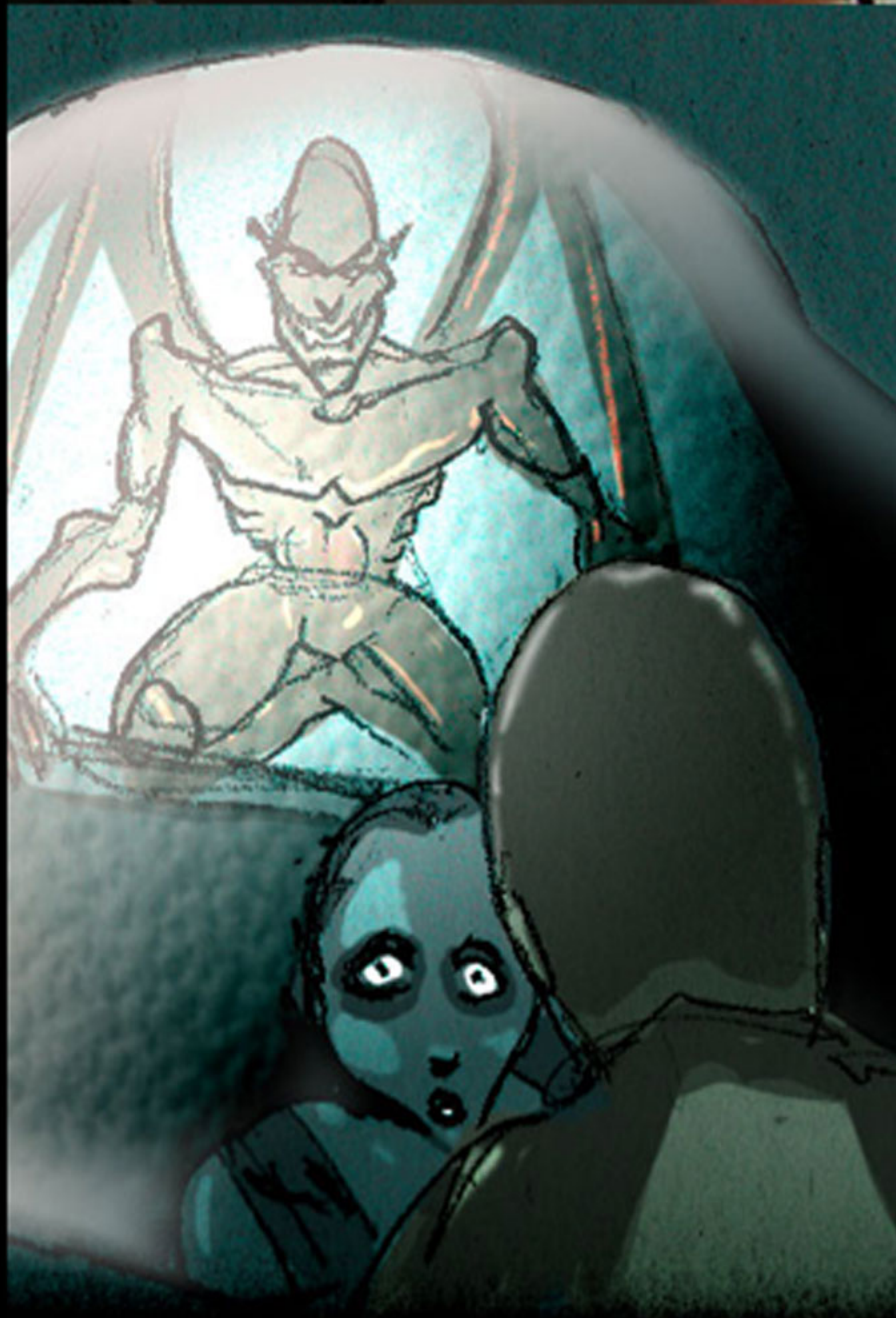
Then the feeling
of being weightless.

I was lifted
into the Air...

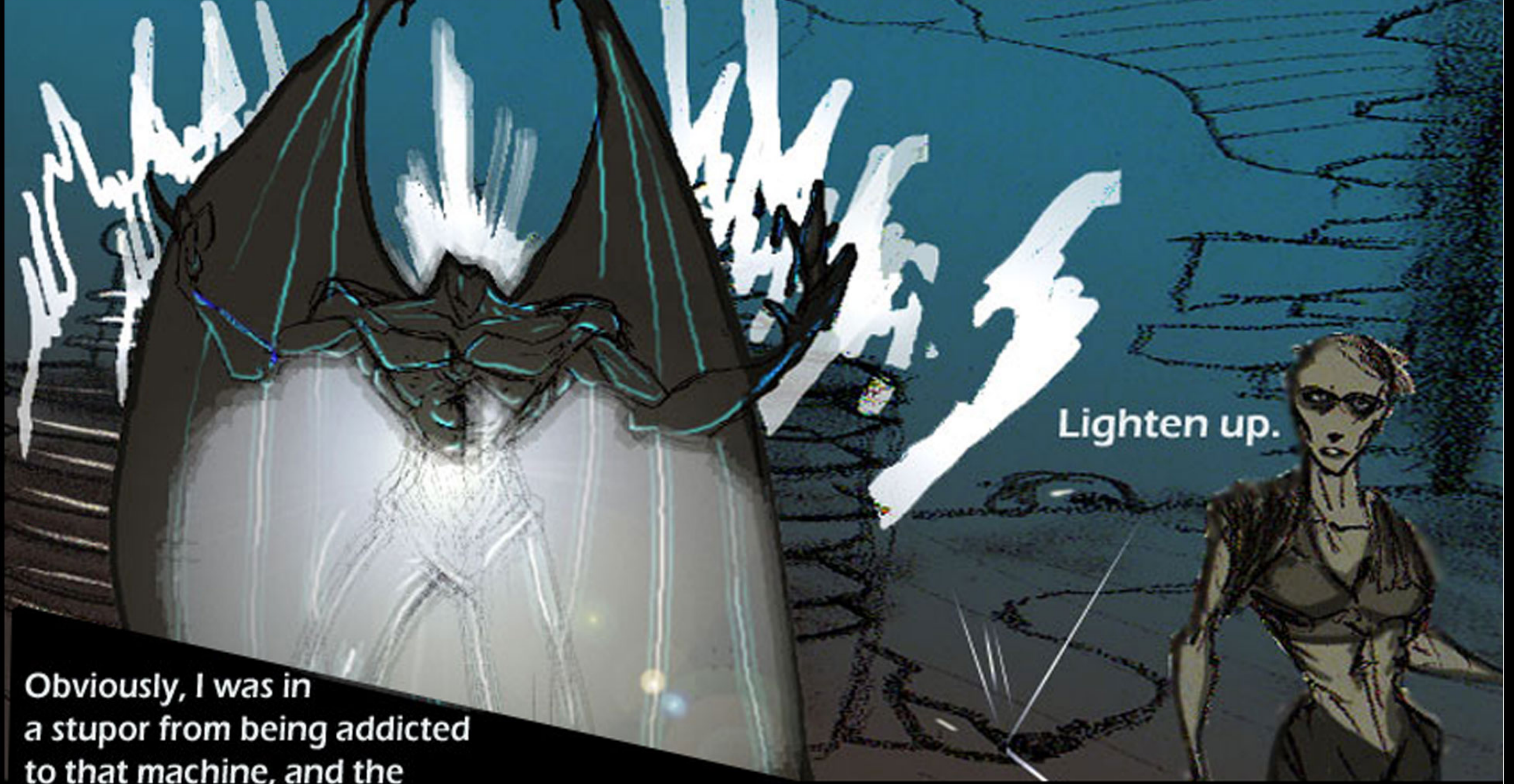
Gotta get
up and
walk it off
... ugh
look at my
reflection.
I look
awful...
so hungry,
wait,
movement
behind me.

What the
Hell?

He looks
nasty.
I do
believe
it wants to
eat me.



Uh oh...looks like you really got me.
I Guess I should scream and cry now, right?



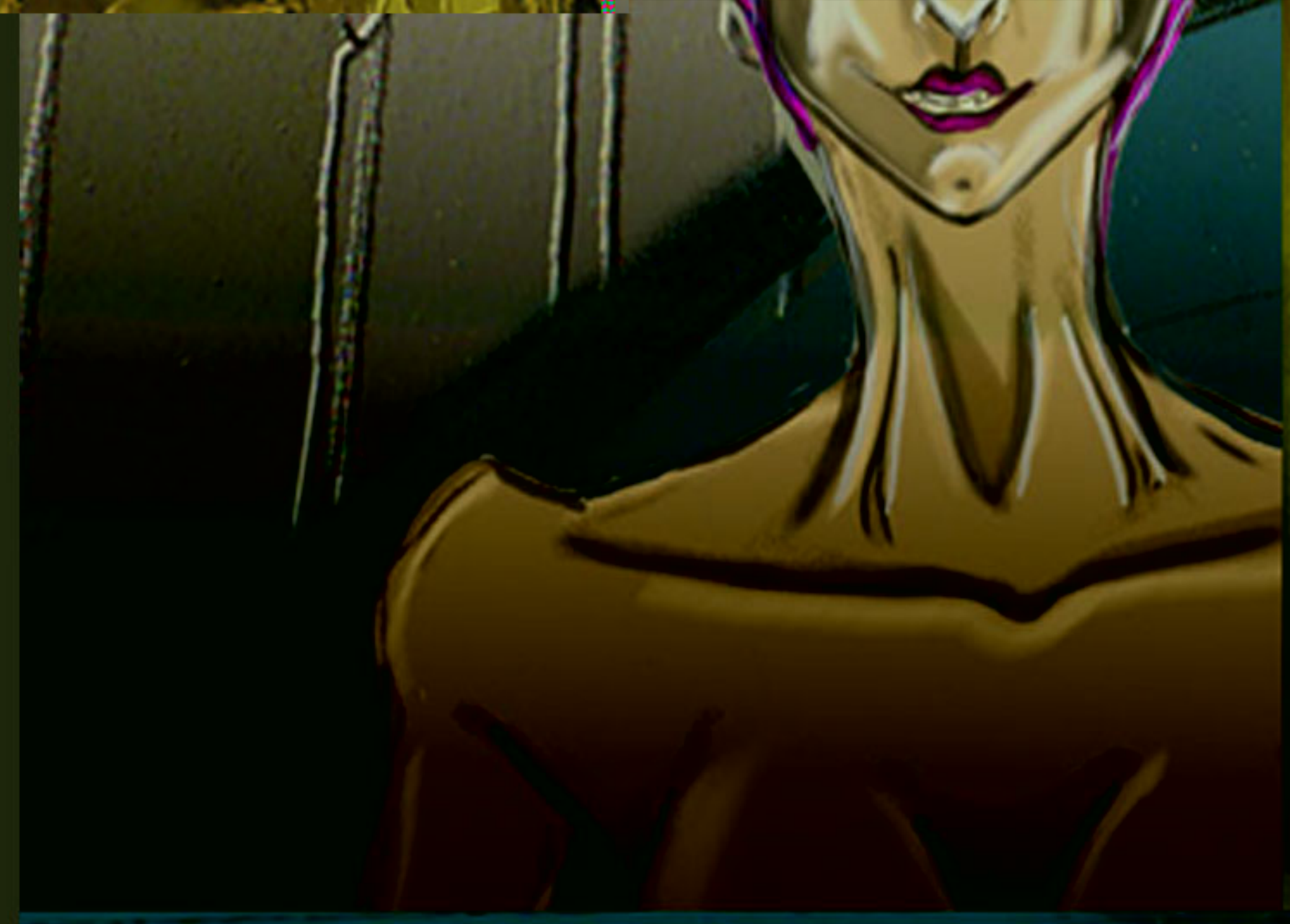
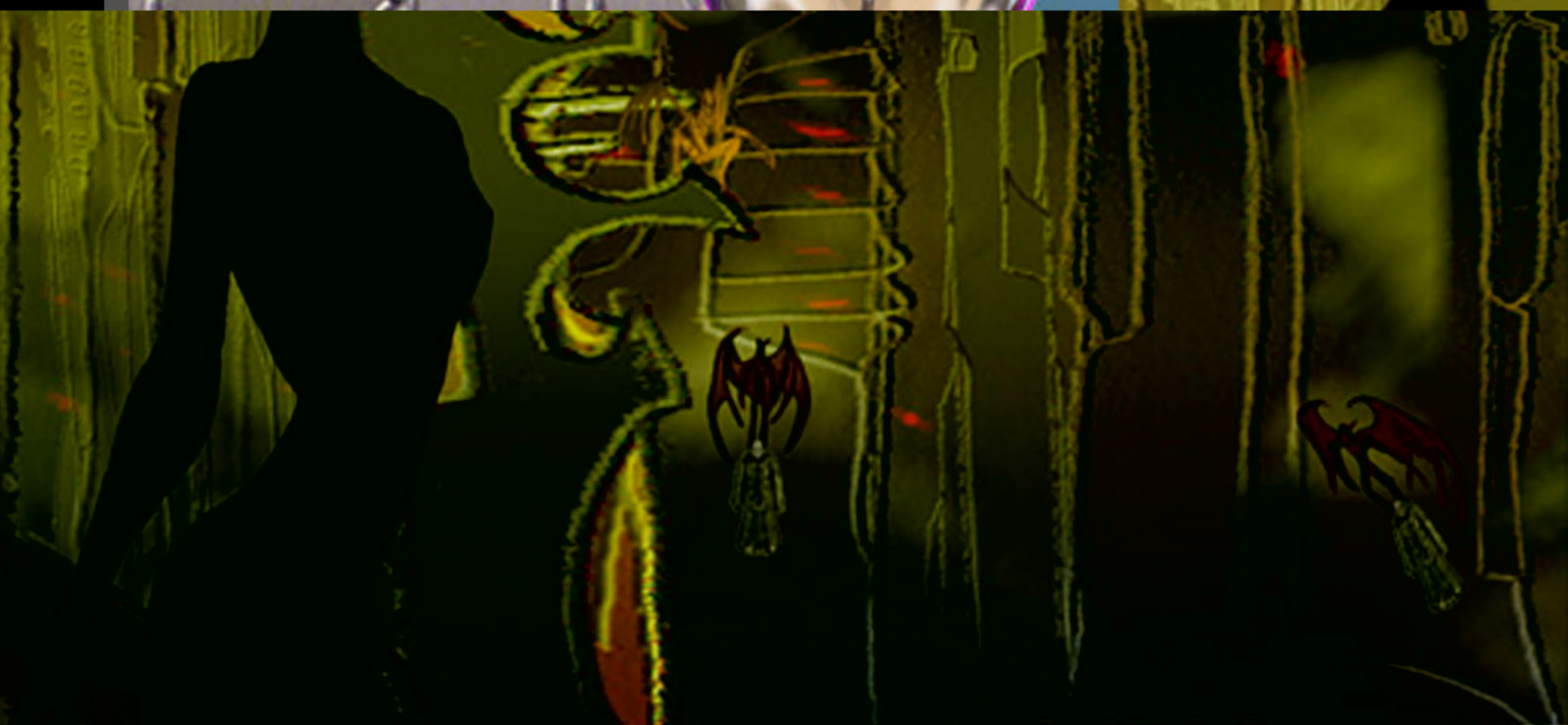
Obviously, I was in a stupor from being addicted to that machine, and the food at the break area. Then sparky brought me up here to eat me.

So hungry, All I can think of is that it reminds me of popcorn popping...smells like bacon.



Ahhhh, a good
nites sleep...I feel
...better, Stronger.

Where the Hell am I...?



MECHANIKA,
and I have been
sent to Destroy you.



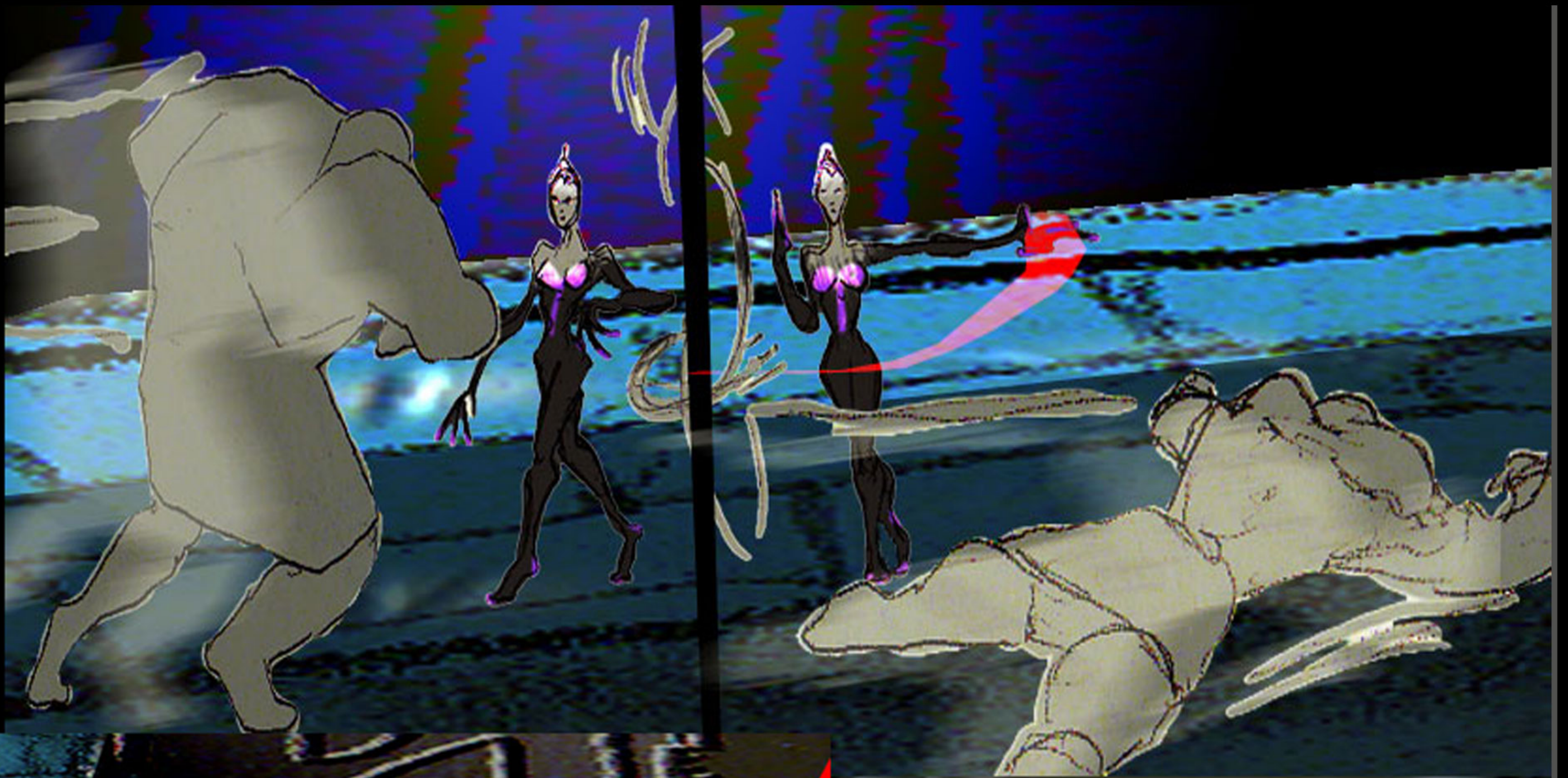
We do not often see this situation of yours, the Gears are usually so sedated from thier lifestyle that they never put up a fight When the Children of Woe feed on them. You actually killed one. The Children of Woe are not easy to Kill, it takes years of Special Training. I should know, I am a Slayer. Needless to say, They are Disturbed by you so they sent me and Bobo here... BoBo...Kill Girl.



rent. I have changed. After eating that thing~Hearing more
vision~ different, heart rate...every thing has changed.
I can move so fast...and I am Strong!

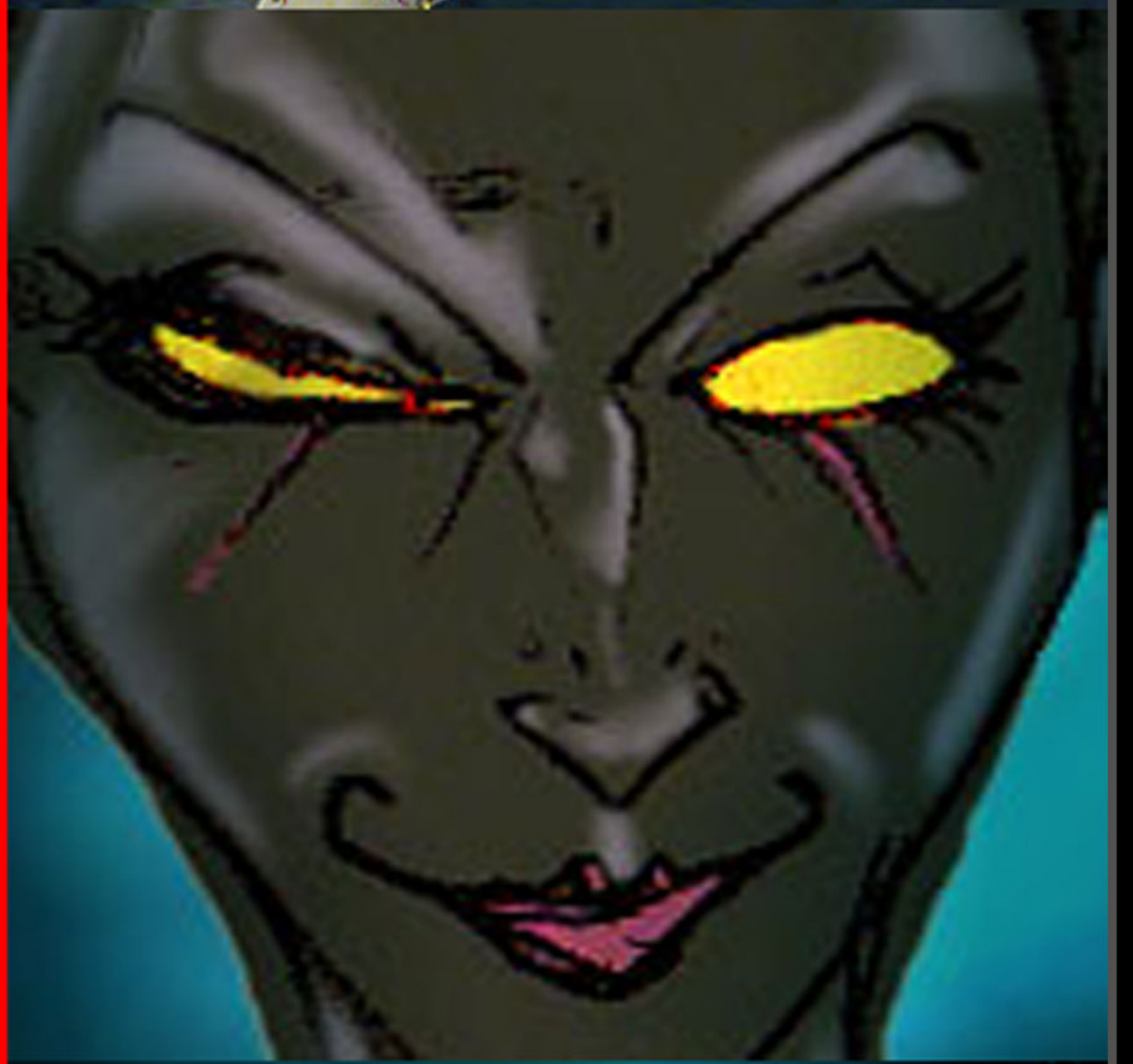


I feel differ
acute. V



Enough of this,
Now We...

FWOOSH
THWAK
SPLAT



So it seems that I have
Become faster and stronger
than I was before.

And he said that he was some
sort of Slayer?
I bet he has some
good weapons on him.

Well, looks like they are
my weapons now, It's
not like he is going to
need them anymore.

Just in time too, those
Bat People sound Pissed.



THIS HAS GONE
ON LONG ENOUGH.
GET HER!

SCREEECH

One un-holy hand
grenade coming right
up.

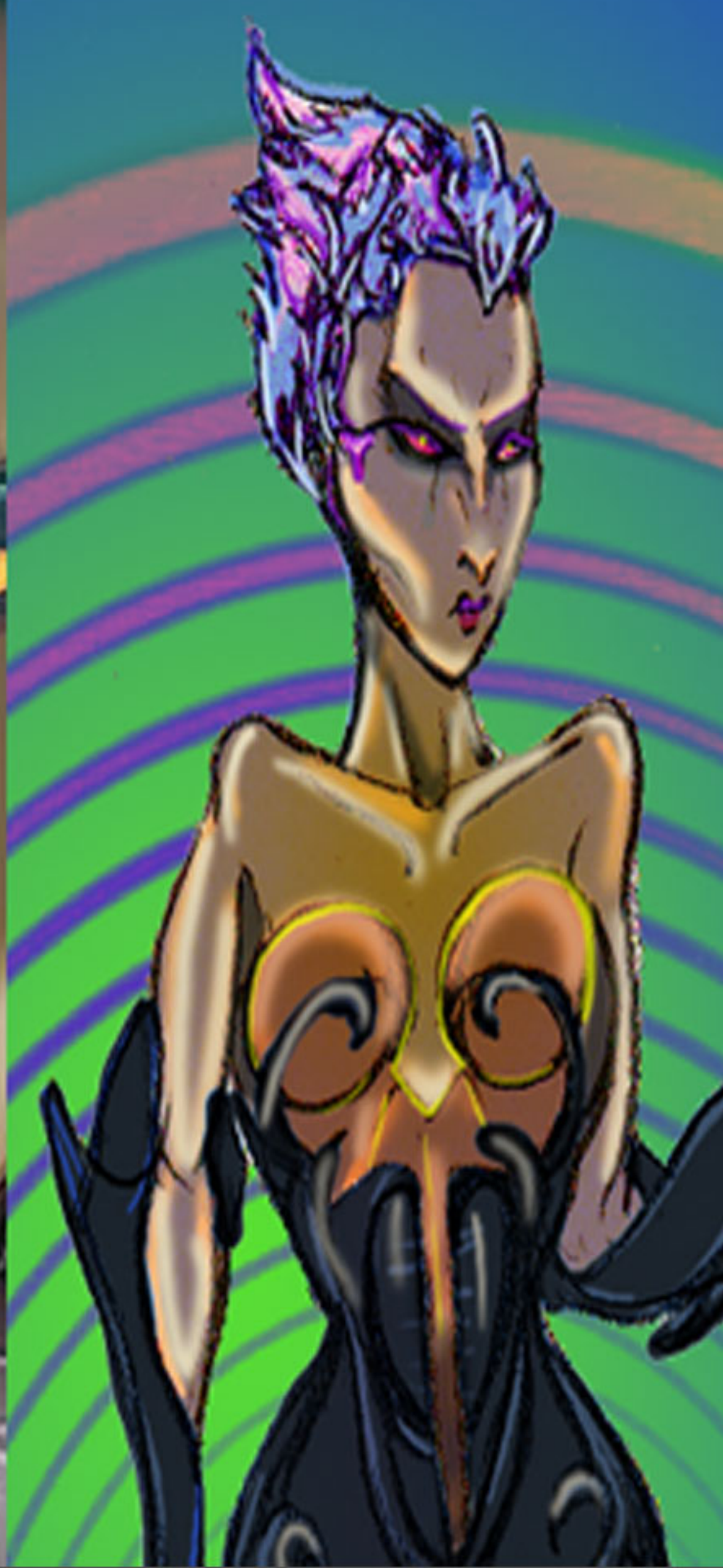


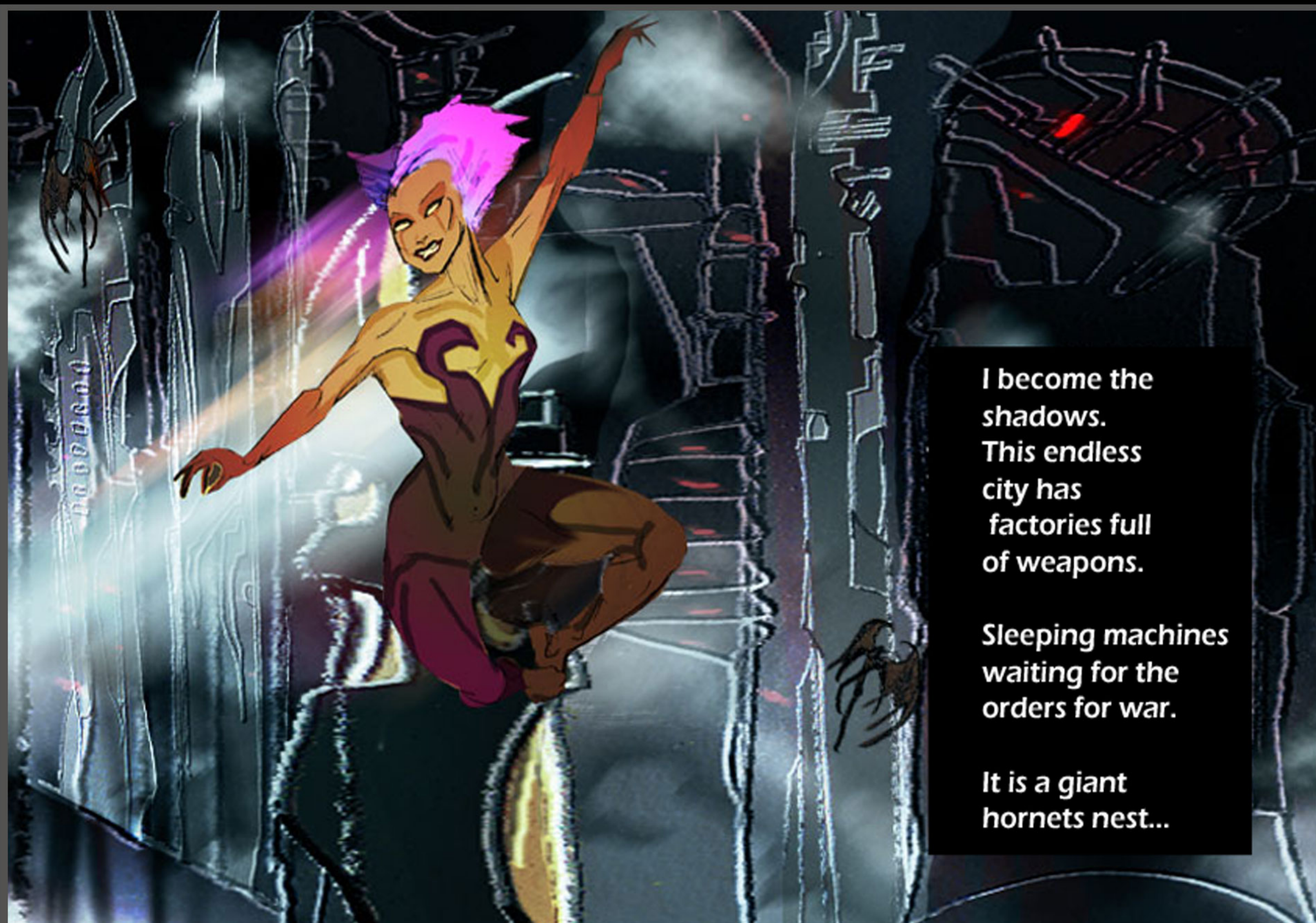
Toasty

The weapon from this Slayer kills all of these bat creatures. I now have a steady food supply.



I am going to eat good tonite.
So, This is Mechanika.
I had best collect myself,
stay in the shadows.





I become the shadows.
This endless city has factories full of weapons.

Sleeping machines waiting for the orders for war.

It is a giant hornets nest...

I have finally found the Queen...
She is either locked in a state of meditation or that guy is really running the show.
Only one way to find out, I just have to watch and learn.



Winston AllDark Reads his Magic Tomes out in the Desert

Soon, there will be no more waiting, I Winston AllDark will have the gauntlets of the Travel Masters!*

That wretched Captain Skinny has realized that he has meddled in things that are beyond even his potential for Greed!

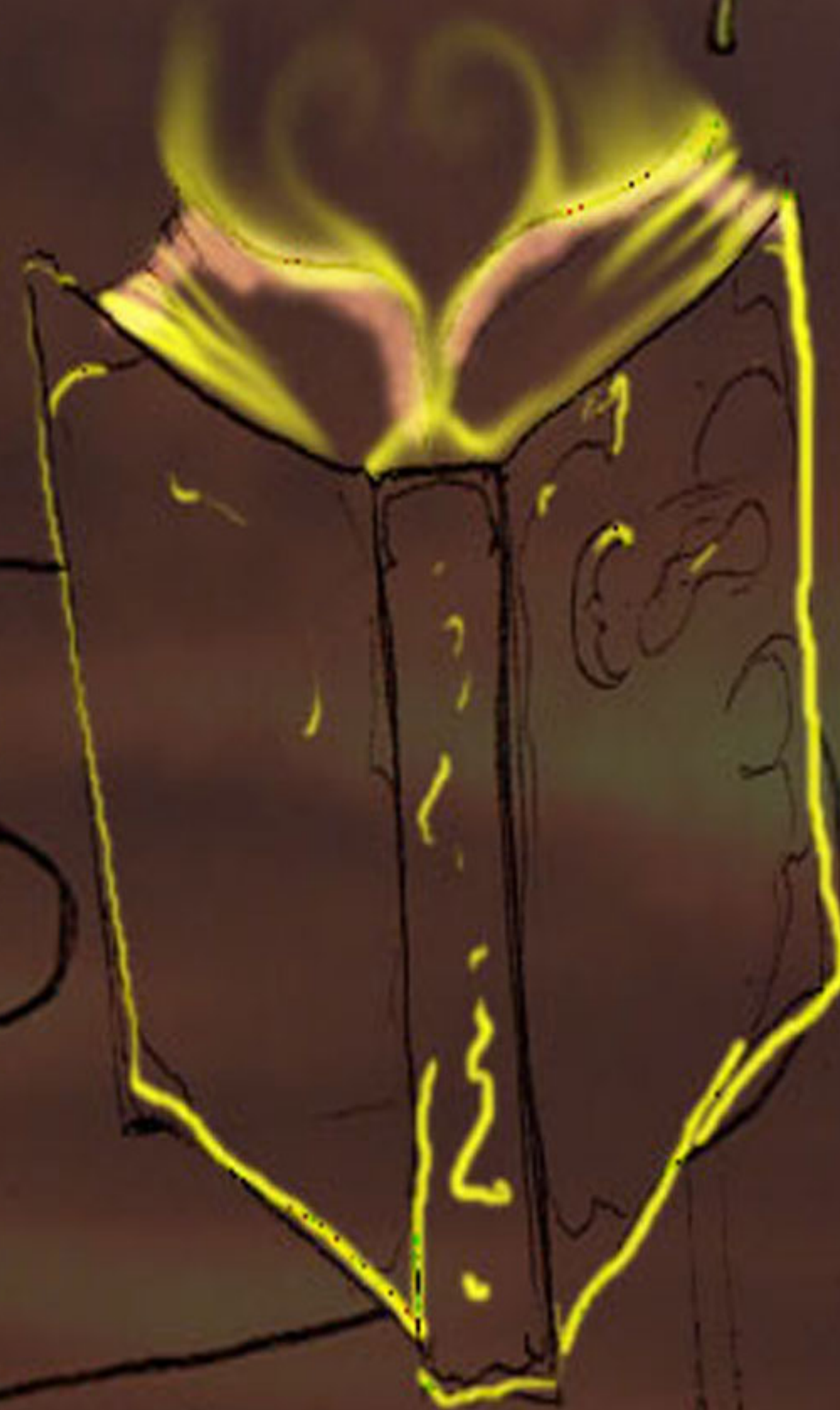
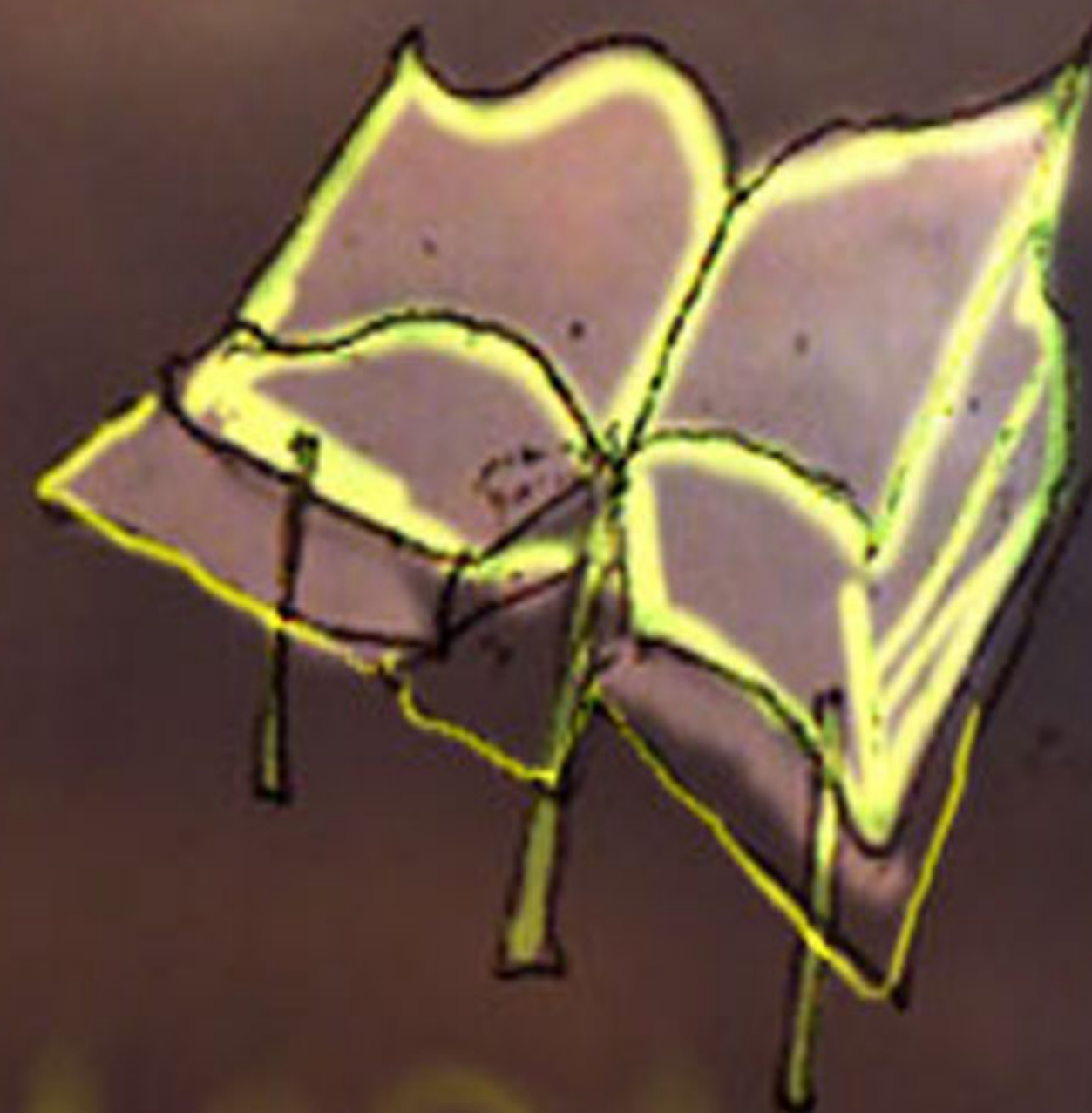
I have everything ready, now I gather my things to go and fetch what is rightfully MINE!

The Queen has lost her mind, Even the Book can not save her!

She is a useless figurehead of a conquered realm and it is time to make my move!

MY SECRET LIBRARY, MY BOOKS OF POWER
SAFE FROM ANY AND ALL PRYING EYES...MINE TO EXPLOIT

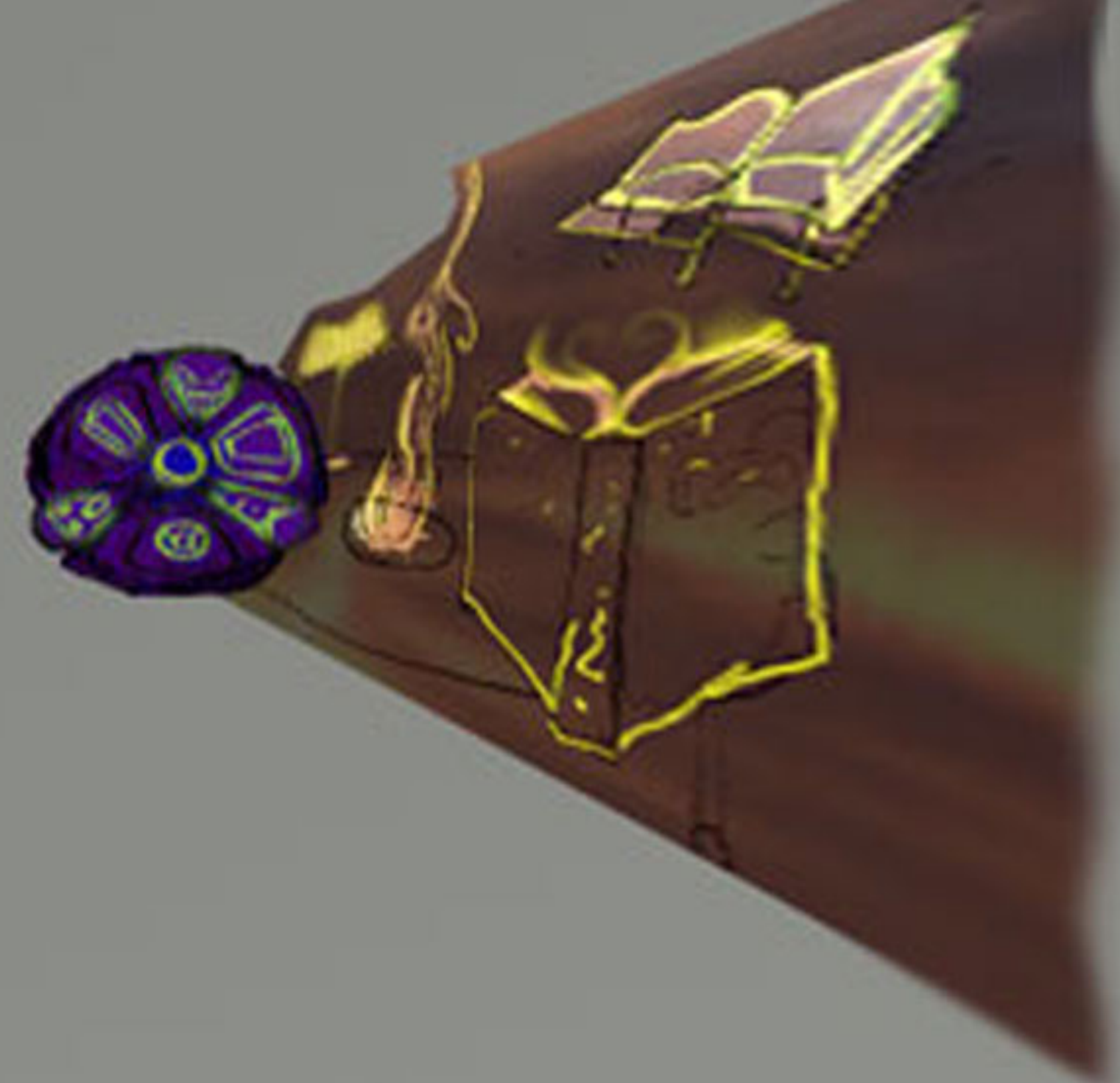
soon I will say the same about
the Travel Gauntlets!



* see CROSS WORLDS NEXUS presents The NAUTEE LASS issue # 1

WHO IZ IT?

Knock
Knock



* Winston Aldark keeps this Hidden Desert inside the Amulet of the Three Tomes.

Lord AllDark...
Important...
very important news
private stuff,
Dangerous.
It appears that there
is something
on the roof tops...a
killing menace...
It Killed Demon Slayers...
it has been seen watching key
Weapons development stations.
It moves like a Shadow.



YOU ARE JOKING...THE CITY IS FULL OF THEM...
LIKE DAMN PIGEONS THEY ARE...!
THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF WOE...THE
GEAR DRONE FOOD PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO
KEEP THEM FED, REMEMBER...
IT WAS A DAMN NASTY SIDE EFFECT OF WHEN
MECHANIKA WAS BORN.
AHH THOSE WERE GOOD DAYS,
HAHAHAHA!

YOU HAVE WASTED MY TIME, MESSAGE MAN,
YOU SHOULD KILL YOURSELF...
BETTER YET...

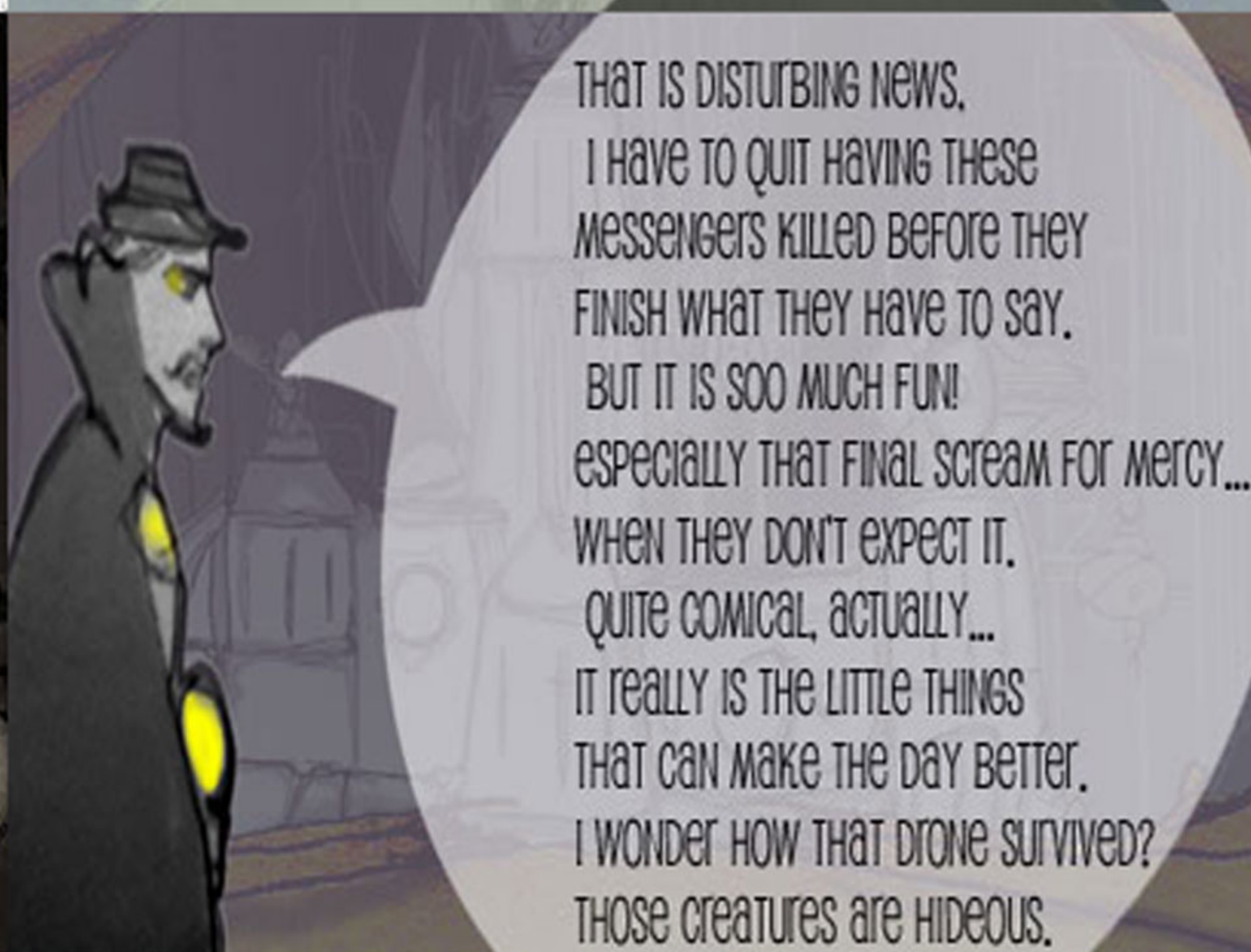
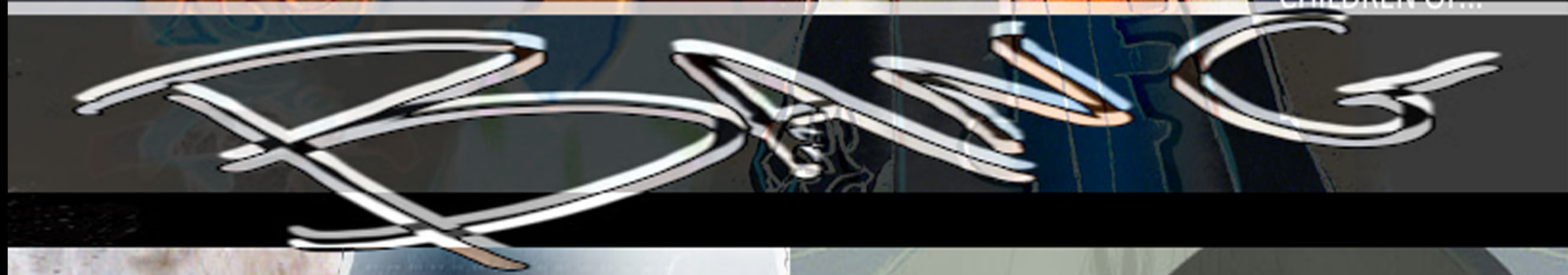
WHAT!? JULIUS...KILL HIM!

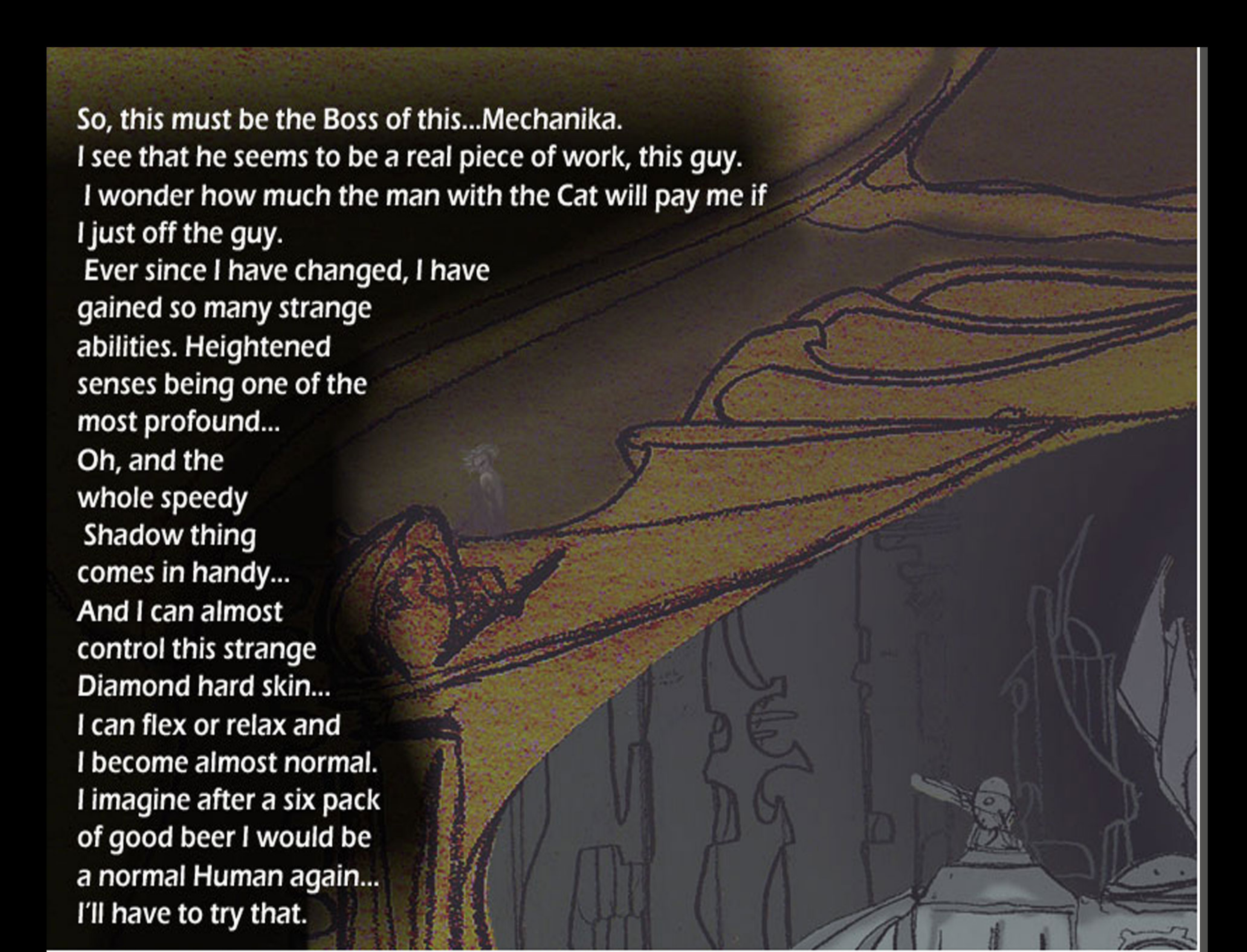


Do it.


CHA-CLICK

Wait No...
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IT WAS A DRONE
A DRONE HAS BEEN
EATING THE
CHILDREN OF...





So, this must be the Boss of this...Mechanika.
I see that he seems to be a real piece of work, this guy.
I wonder how much the man with the Cat will pay me if
I just off the guy.
Ever since I have changed, I have
gained so many strange
abilities. Heightened
senses being one of the
most profound...
Oh, and the
whole speedy
Shadow thing
comes in handy...
And I can almost
control this strange
Diamond hard skin...
I can flex or relax and
I become almost normal.
I imagine after a six pack
of good beer I would be
a normal Human again...
I'll have to try that.



I can even...hear that...
well dressed ...mouse...
mumbling to himself about his
lost love...what the?

oh my love
How I have
Wronged you and
lost you forever...



Once a Man, I was.
Heir to a Great Kingdom.
That was before...
Long before that Devil
Showed up, my love.
Long before he
Stole you away
from me.



I don't think he can see me.
I must blend in with the shadows.
I may as well listen to his tale.

I remember when he first
arrived in our kingdom.
Our Secluded castle, cut
off from the rest of the world
by a river. Supply and trade
with the outside world would
happen in the deep winter
when the river would freeze.
However, the winter that he
arrived was Very Cold and
the Horde of Barbarians
was rumored to be about.

Look at him,
how he sits there at your
feet! How I would love to
have my sweet Vengeance
on him for what he Stole
from us. True Love!
A lifetime of happiness
Together.



My kingdom of Talos, home to many wonders of nature, No wonder more special and grand
then my soon to be queen and the love that we shared. A bond that was unbreakable.

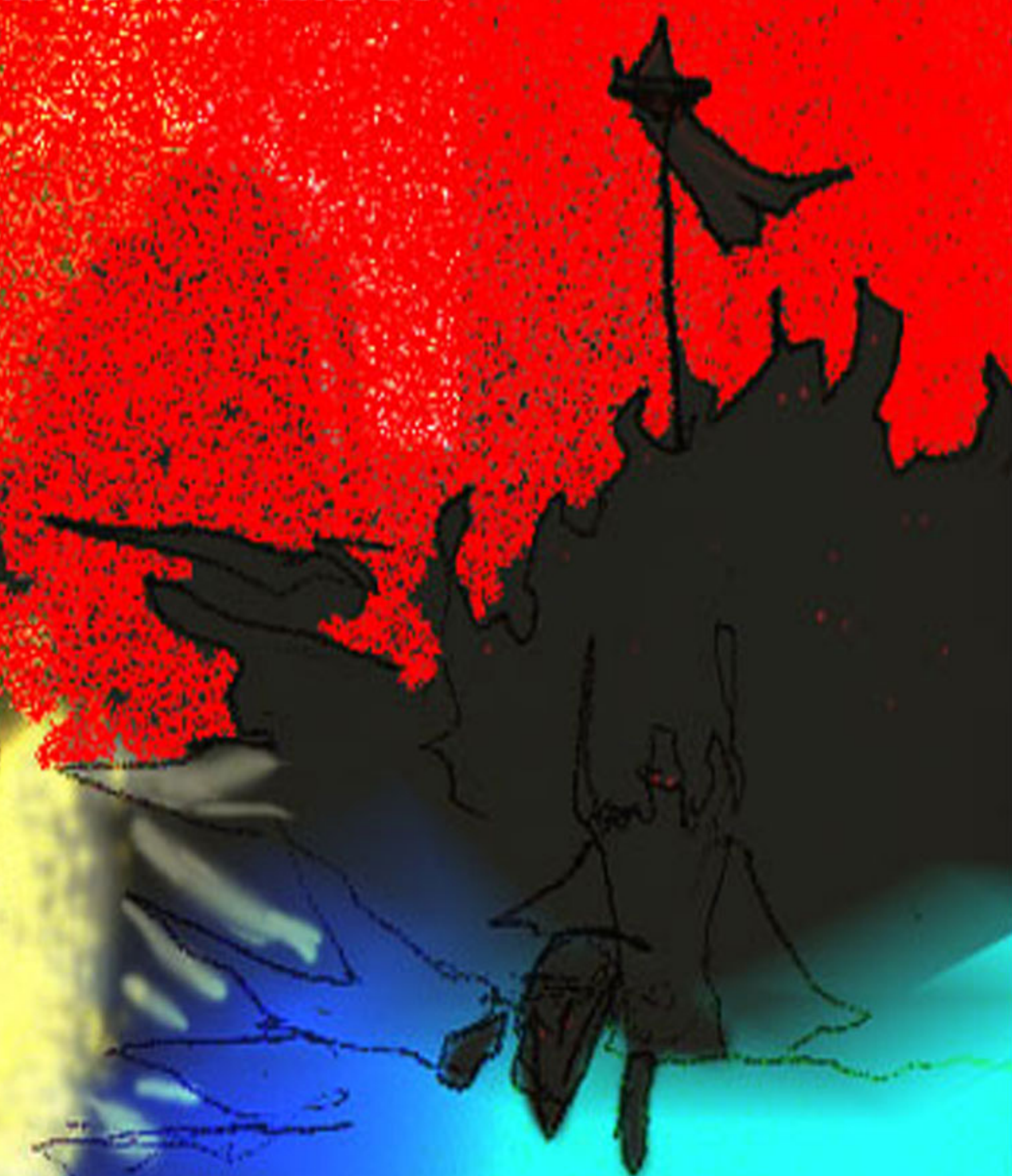
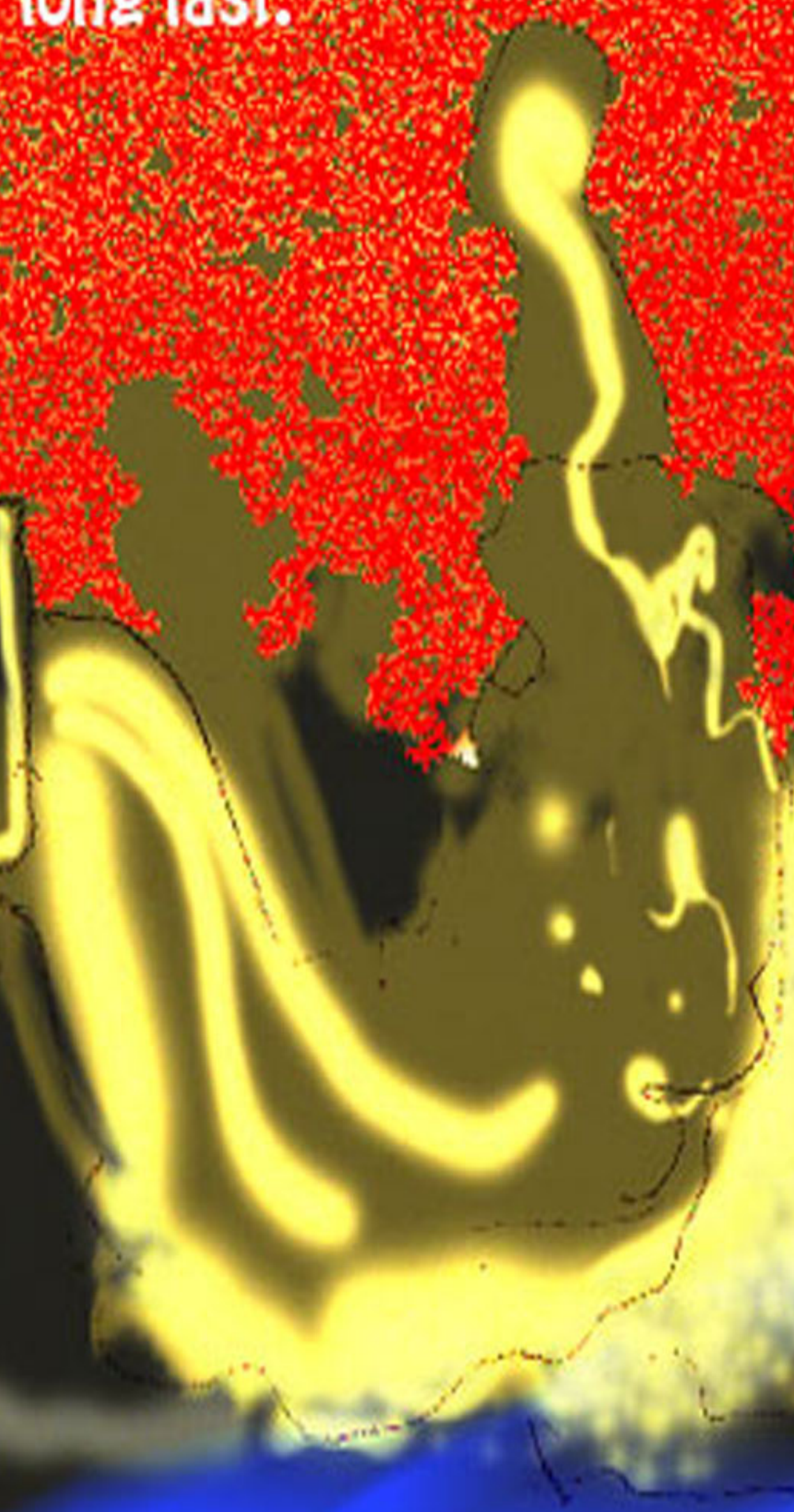
We would serve the land and the people within as wise rulers.
Humble stewards with respect and kindness for all.

We would be protected by the land that we would serve.



But the Barbarians were coming, And a Wandering Sorcerer arrived and promised to rid the land of them.

The sorcerer used a steam weapon to break the ice bridge. The Barbarian hord fell into the icy river and lost thier lives. He was viewed as a savior and was welcomed as the court advisor, but the old King soon passed and the old Queen fell ill. I would very soon take the throne and my love would be my Queen at long last.



My Lady love saw the Misery upon my face at the mourning of my Father the King and Mothers illness was soon to make her pass...and the sickness was looking more like the Plague.

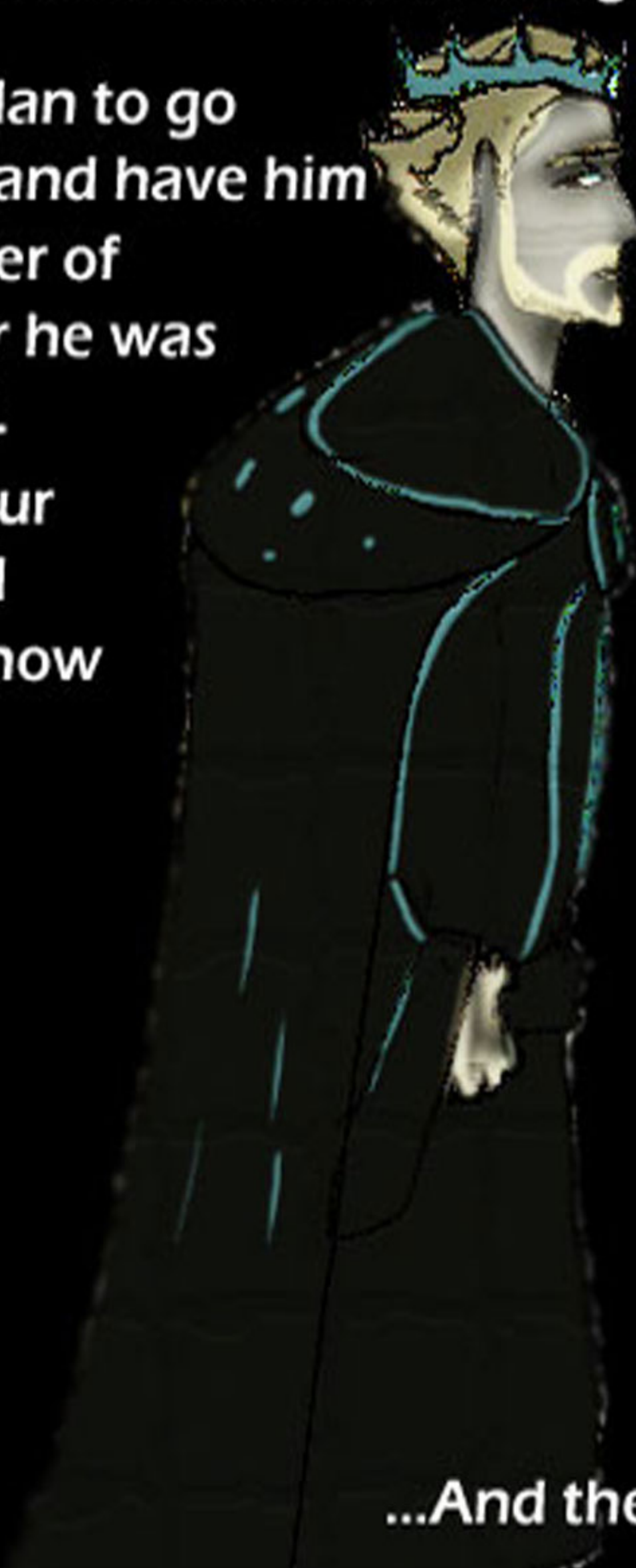
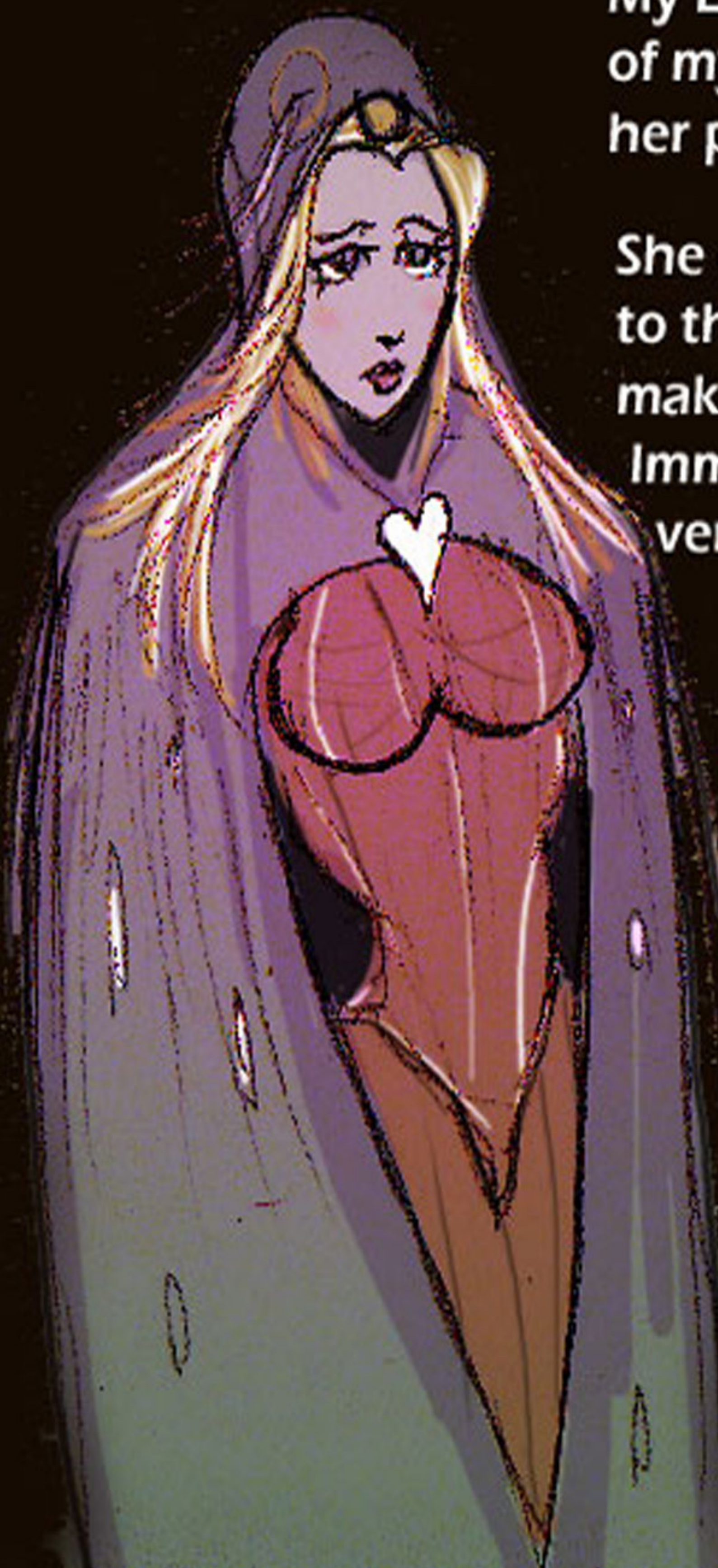
She devised a plan to go to the Sorcerer and have him make us an Elixer of Immortality, for he was very powerful.

This way our love would not ever know Death.

I forbid such musings.

I too had want for words with the sorcerer, For I had begun to put the pieces together. All Dark things arrived with the coming of the Sorcerer. It was as if the Barbarians were after him...knowing what I know now, no doubt they were.

...And then there was the sickness.



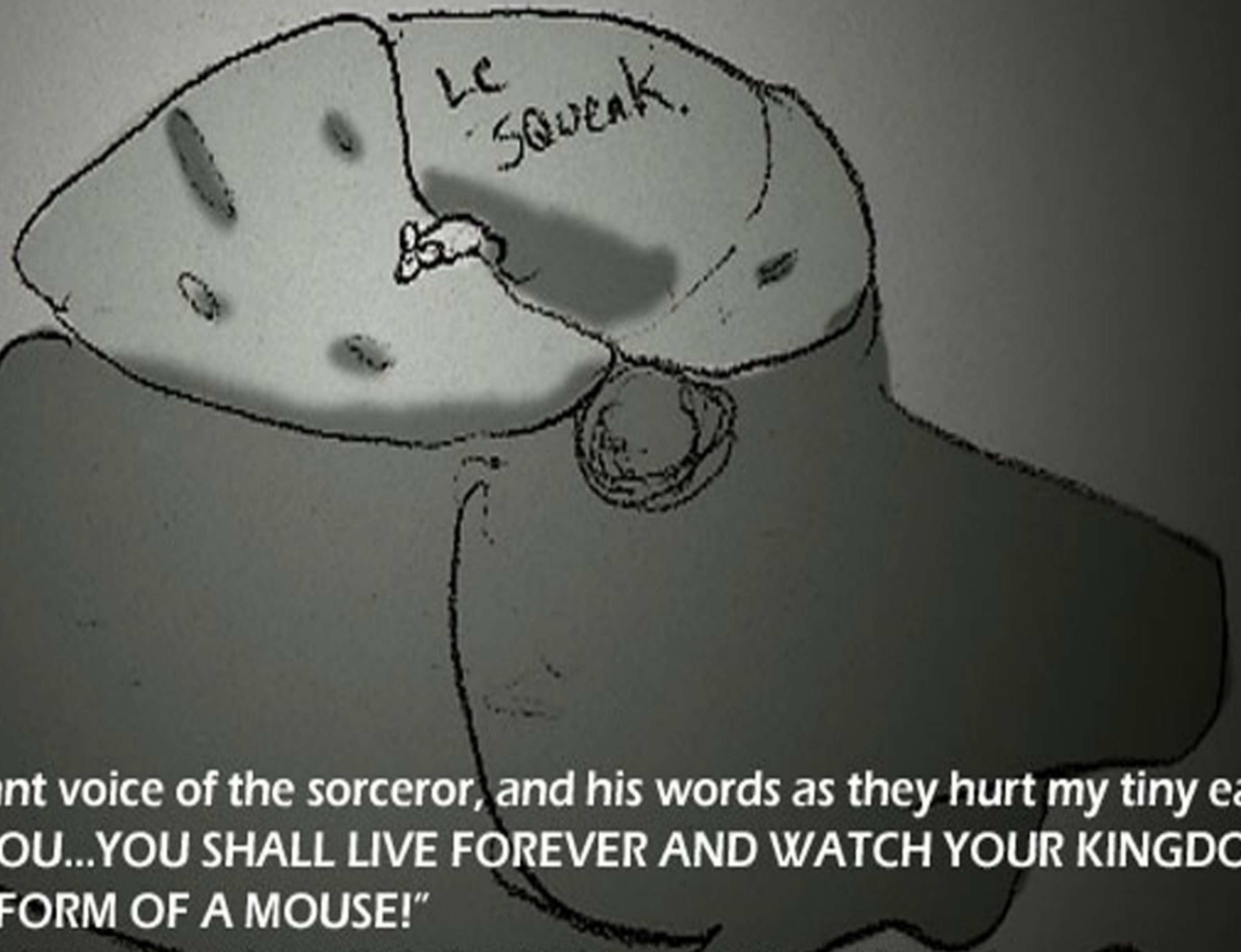
Oh, but you were always so head strong, as a Queen should be, I Guess. You did steal away with the Sorcerer and Beseched him to make the powerful elixer of immortality so that we would not know death, and For you, it was so important. You were a Lady, and if I would fall Ill as Mother and Father did, your chance to lead the land that you loved would be lost to the bloodlines of far away heirs who never set foot in our fine lands, save to come and take your rightful place as the Ruler... so... I can understand in your desperation why you would agree to the Sorcerors terms.

He made you swear your soul to him, in secret, by the light of the moon, you signed the parchment with your blood... for blood, as he explained, has such special properties to it. You made haste to do so, for you had heard tales of how fast the plague can ravage a land. You knew of how time was a factor in the matter, therefore, you decided to do his bidding.

When I had met with that All Dark soul,
I stood my ground and said... BE Gone of these lands for I am King Now, and you are no longer welcome here. Remarkably, in the most humble fashion, he agreed to go, but explained that my love had a cure for the plague made for me... and it was a very expensive cure, one that would have me live to a ripe old age.



I ...drank the potion, the magic elixer of immortality. I began to feel strange as my clothes no longer fit me, I became lost in piles of clothing as I raced through the falling maze of Cloth...I emerged and said...



And I will never forget that Giant voice of the sorcerer, and his words as they hurt my tiny ears... " FOOL OF A MAN, I BANISH YOU...YOU SHALL LIVE FOREVER AND WATCH YOUR KINGDOM... FROM THE SHADOWS IN THE FORM OF A MOUSE!"

...a mouse? I looked at my little hands, my furry little body, I was now...a Mouse! I wanted to go tell mother, but she was gone, Father, so wise...now no more... and my Love? What of her opinions of me? How could she wed a mouse? She could not. Would not. I scurried on my four feet into the shadows as the All Dark Sorcerer picked up my Signet ring.

My oh so fair and trusting lady love, she came to the Sorcerer at midnight that night. He had prepared a Lie that would Break her heart and her Will and leave what was left for his desires alone. She knelt at his feet and asked...

Oh Sorcerer, has my Love taken the Potion. He then poured the venom into her ear...

"~NO. The heir and future king threw down the signet ring, for here it is, you see, and he said to me...WHAT USE IS A KINGDOM FULL OF SICK AND DIEING WRETCHES...

then he fled on the north pass through the mountains."

But, sorcerer, what did he say about me?

"Nothing.He said nothing about you..."

--then the heavy pause of broken dreams ended with her whimper and heavy sobs.

" There there, such is the nature of men to be cowards and cheats. I promise, I will not leave you." ...really...? "Of Course not."

Outside the windows, the orange glow of fire did grow as the town folk spread news of the passing of the king and queen and the heir fleeing for the hills...total chaos erupted... and I could only watch from the shadows.



She pleaded to him...

"I don't want to die, I want to be Queen."

I remember the glint in the Sorcerors eye as it did shimmer.

And his voice echoed off the ancient stone castle walls...

"I CAN ARRANGE ALL THAT YOU WISH."

He kept the promise She would not die She became Queen and he guided her cold and heartless wrath.

I watched you from the shadows. I became your shadow, my love. Where ever you would go, I would follow.

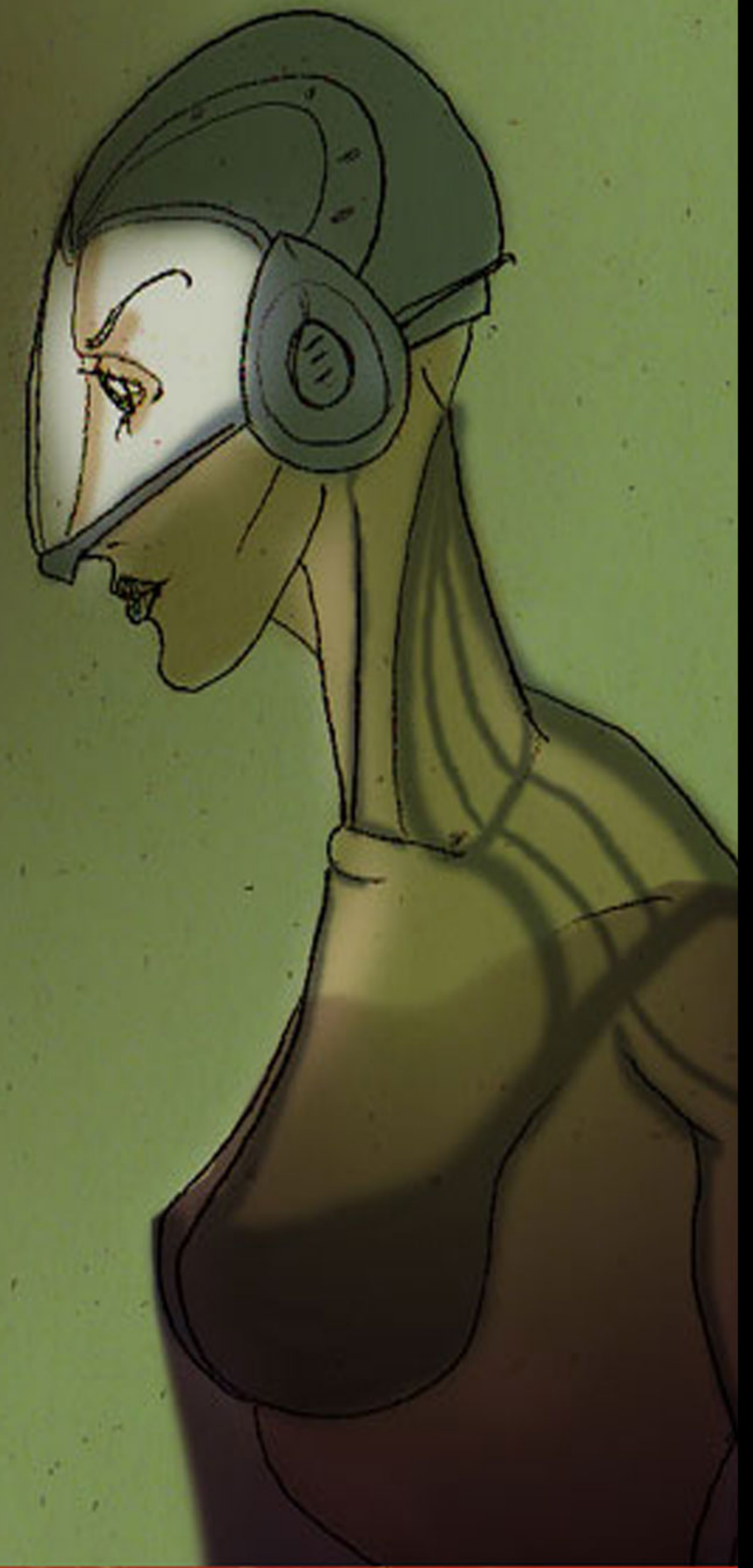
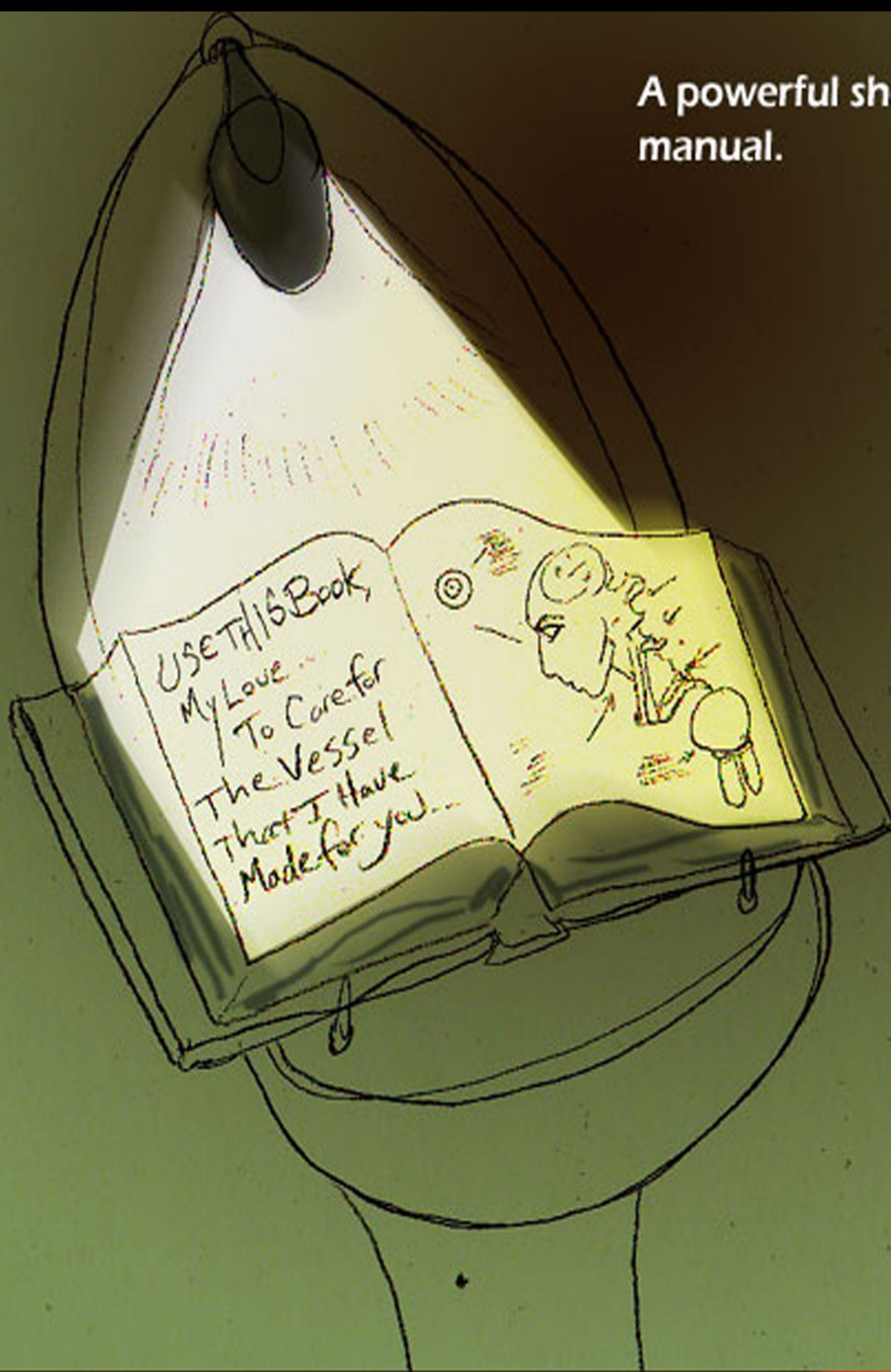
I saw Winston befriend the mourning robotics Genius in a far off future time.



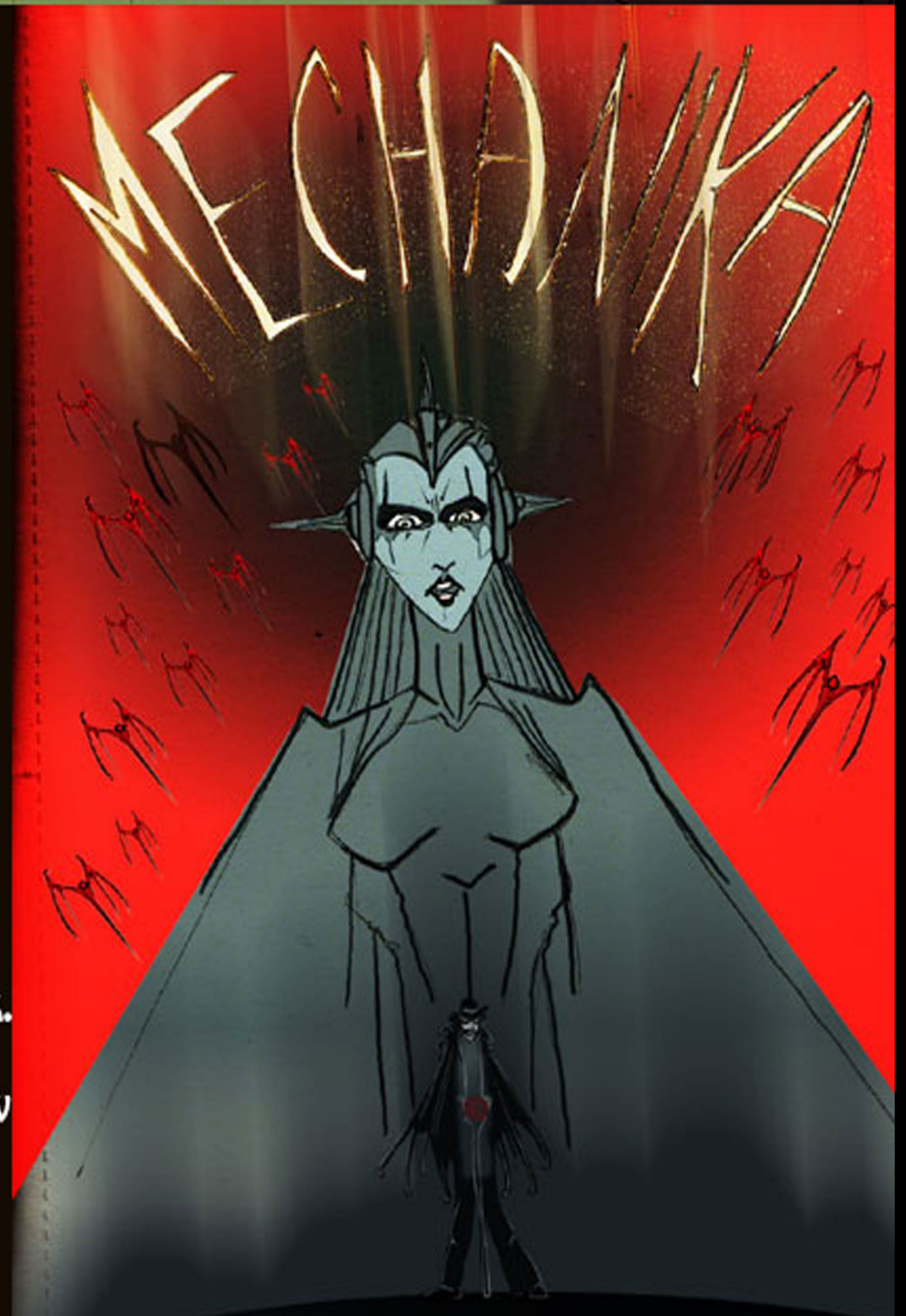
And through dark rituals, he cast your soul into the fine Machine that the robotics genius thought he was making for the resurrection of his wife. AllDark lied to the man.

And you were reborn into that shell.

A powerful shell it was...with it's very own instruction manual.



I watched AllDark direct your wrath and I saw you become full of lust for power, you could not be defeated. I believe in time, he even began to fear you as you became addicted to the thrill of Conquest. Nations fell at your feet. Other times, Other Places... you kept grasping for power. Always more power...It has become your Drug...and his motivation. My love, I have watched you become a monster. With each wicked scheme, You and AllDark become a little more powerful ...and you gave your twisted mad alliance a Name...
MECHANIKA.
Many would shriek that name as they tried to escape, full of fear and Terror. after the battles, you would study that book, you would fix yourself. But after one Battle, That Maximus fellow dealt you an awful blow to the noggin, didn't he, love? And those other Time wizards made off with your precious book.



And there he is. High on a Power Trip and totally insane. There is his staff with the Orb of Strange awful Powers. His Medallion that takes him to that secret desert where he keeps his shadow books. That golden numbered breast plate, I have seen the symbol change at times, it must be a shield of some sort...powers of protection, no doubt. AllDark. That old Maximus cut your power in half back in that battle in the new World, though, didn't he? Yes, he cut you free from your Demon, he did. Then it was Exorcised. How much of your evil is just an illusion, Winston AllDark...and How long before you get shut down for good? Not soon Enough!

If there was some way that I could just disarm you...maybe you would be weaker...

Yes, the longer I observe, I realize that it is this guy who is running things.

Maybe.

Now you sit in your chair...in a screaming silence, broken, unable to fix the immortal shell with the book that was lost. At last you are undone. But for how long can AllDark keep it a secret from the Empire? Most of them are all Poisoned with that strange machine and the food drugs anyway... They don't pay attention much as it is right now.

I wait. like a Sniper I camp.

I Can Take Him



O.K., this ends now.

HEY!
YOU DEVIL MAN, You want some fight?

CLACK
TAP

AHH, YOU MUST BE THE WOE CHILD EATER. THE RENEGADE DRONE

I am Much more than just that.

HMMM, I WONDER IF WE COULD PULL YOUR BLOOD AND MAKE A NEW BATCH OF SLIP DRUG WITH IT...OR SOMETHING ELSE. WITH SUCH A MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN ONLY A TOTAL DISECTION COULD REVEAL THE POSSIBILITIES.

NOW WATCH AS THIS
MAGNIFICENT SPECIMEN
EVISCERATES YOU!

My oh my...you are a
Strong one...and Fast!
Before you go and try
your luck at that...there is

some
one
here
that
wants
to see
you.



You? I killed you.
You were my first
Assignment!

I Killed all of you!
I ...took you all out...back
on the battle field...
when I was just getting
started. When I was still just a soldier.
You are all
DEAD!



No, this can't be happening!
This is impossible!
No!



SO MUCH FOR THAT NONSENSE,
NOW, WHERE WAS I, AH YES
MY CAR...
SO LONG, MECHANIKA...NO REST
FOR THE WICKED,
I HAVE WORK FOR IDLE
HANDS TO DO,
TIME TO
VA VA VOOM.





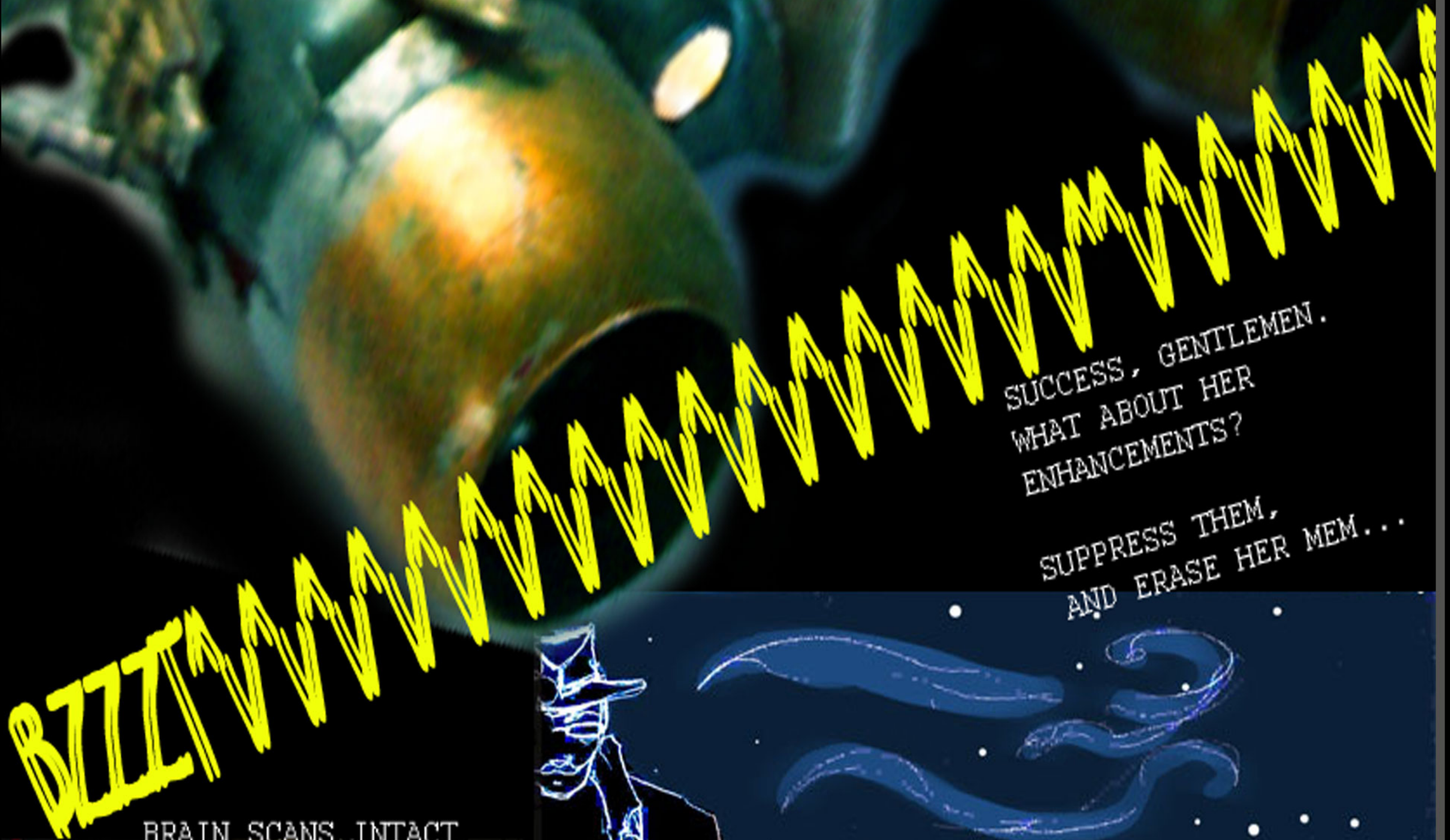


What~you! How? _Damn It!
Go Back! Not Done! Let me finish him!

Fear.

Fear is your Achilles' heel.
For him it is just the opposite, the fear of others
will enhance his power .You must focus...
you want another shot at him?

more than anything.



SUCCESS, GENTLEMEN.
WHAT ABOUT HER
ENHANCEMENTS?

SUPPRESS THEM,
AND ERASE HER MEM...

BRAIN SCANS INTACT
MEMORY REVIEW ATTAINED



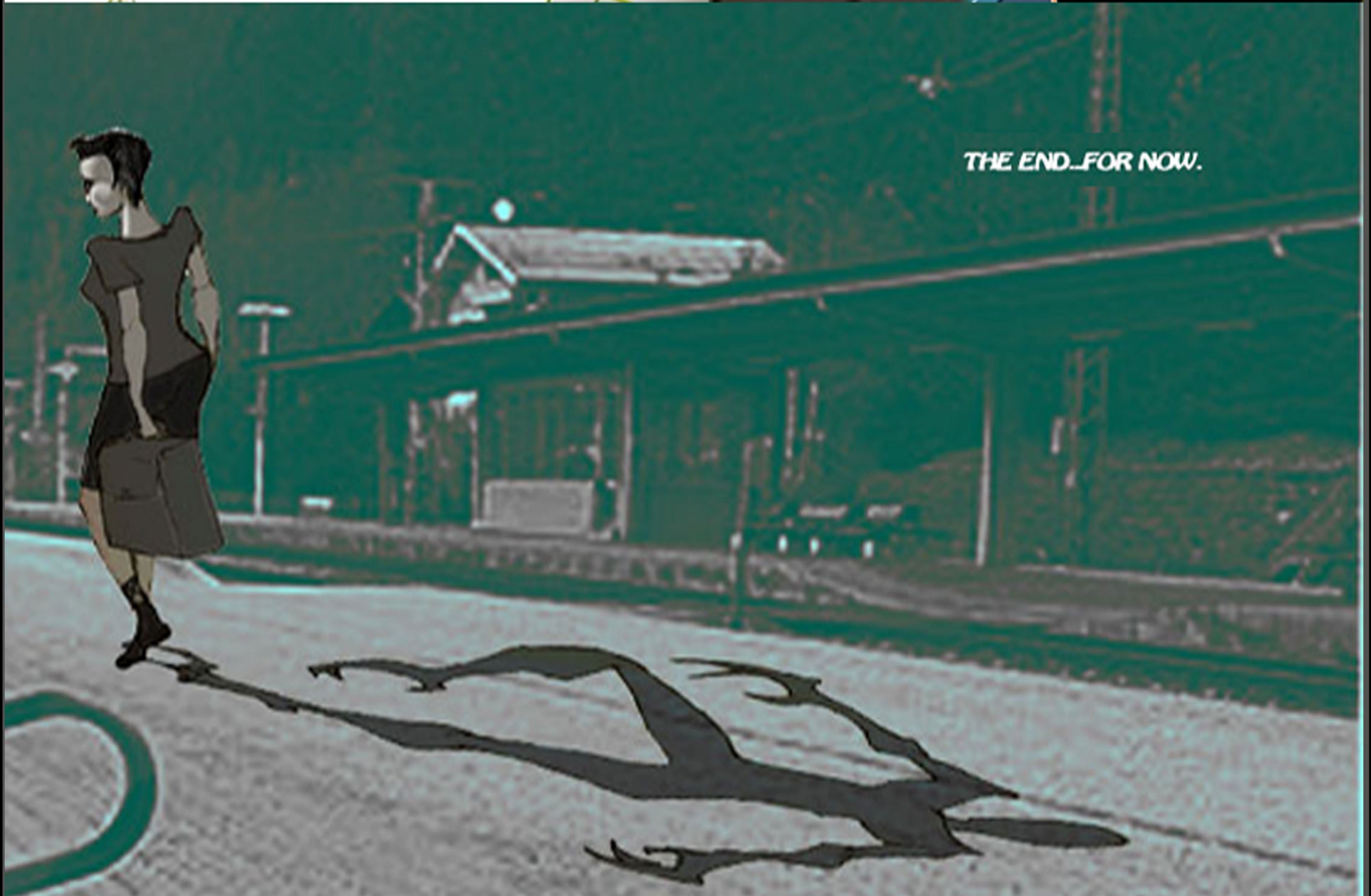
Did I fall asleep waiting for the train?

*No. I remember...coming back on the train.
I remember...everything...
wait, no...it is...gone. Something about a weird
city and I was ...*

What was I doing?



*Excellent Work.
Funds are in your account.*



THE END...FOR NOW.

OH she got another shot~
Read CROSS WORLDS NEXUS
Presents TEMPEST FUGITIVE

Issue # 6.
meow.

