

SHANE RONZIO

THE  
**TEMPEST FUGITIVE**  
SAGA

PART TWO





*In this issue...*



*Hexes*



*Cap 'n Skinny*



*Thax*

*Our Story follows the Crew of the Outlaw Vessel, The Nautee Lass. The Ship has many treasures in her Cargo Hold, the Statue of the Bleeding Heirophant, The Crystal Whale of Indigo Island, the Lost Bells of San Luc de Indestructables, However on this day, only one Treasure Weighs heavy on Cap 'n Skinny's Mind...*

*The Newly Acquired Gauntlets of the Drunken Travel Agent that was found and smuggled aboard the ship. The Travel Agent was later Abandoned to the Mercy of the Lava Beast. His Belongings became the property of Cap 'n Skinny.*

*So far, the Technological Mastermind, Dr. Zig has yet to break the code that locks the Gauntlets power just out of reach of Cap 'n Skinny's Grasp.*



*Cap'n Skinny Docks for  
Shore leave at  
The ancient Tree Fortress  
known as -  
THE TRUNK*

WHY! ...WHY DOES THE CREATOR DENY ME BONES THE, ---A FINE UPSTANDING, RESPECTABLE EXAMPLE OF AN INDIVIDUAL, I MIGHT ADD, ---THE POWER OF THE GAUNTLETS! DR.ZIG, CAN YOU NOT WORK ANY FASTER!  
ME PATIENCE RUNS THIN! THIN LIKE THE AIR AT THE TOP O' THE MOUNTAIN!  
I NEED A DRINK! A DRINK FOR MY DRY, DUSTY GUTS!



BLEEP  
BLEEP

Soundz like ol'  
Cap'n  
Skinnyz  
Temper  
iz goin' to  
blow  
over  
soon

I like it when he gets Angry,  
It's Excitin'



Pour me another Round, Girlie  
Okie Dokie, mistah Thax, Sir.

WHY DOES I HAVE TA BE PUT THROUGH THIS!, I BEEN GOOD LATELY!

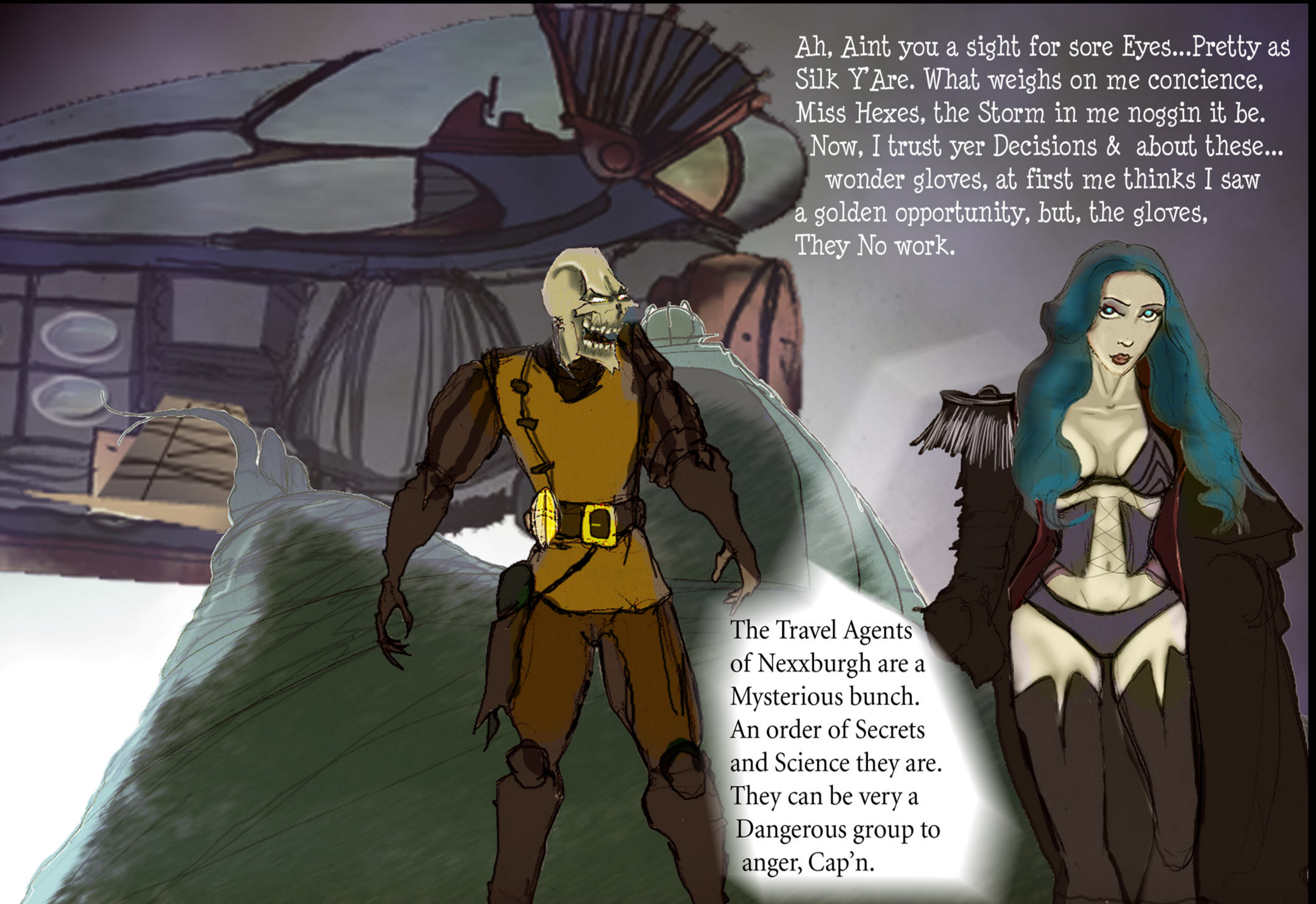


MISTER THAX, HOLD  
DOWN THE SHIP

PRETTY HEXES,  
WALK A WHILE WITH ME, I  
NEED COUNCIL.

Aye  
Cap.

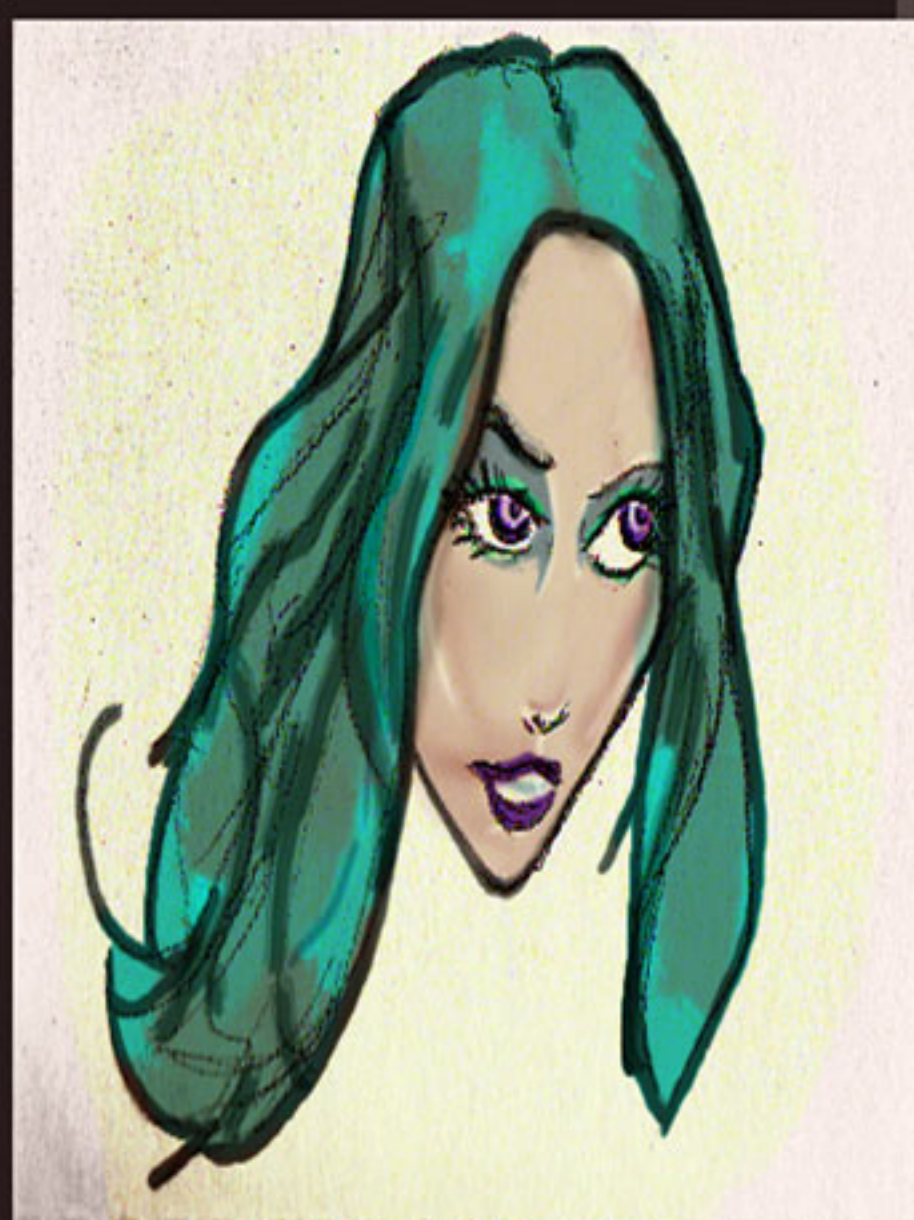
Yes  
Sir



Ah, Aint you a sight for sore Eyes...Pretty as Silk Y'Are. What weighs on me concience, Miss Hexes, the Storm in me noggin it be. Now, I trust yer Decisions & about these... wonder gloves, at first me thinks I saw a golden opportunity, but, the gloves, They No work.

The Travel Agents of Nexxburgh are a Mysterious bunch. An order of Secrets and Science they are. They can be very a Dangerous group to anger, Cap'n.

He did just that, he would skip in and out of time, convincing his people that he was a false god, and he used the ultimate broadcast tower that he had his minions build to enslave all of the people of the earth. He used a type of radio wave to cause the brain to become docile. he ruled from his Sky Chariot.\*



# Time Skavenger



You have probably never heard of the Time Skavenger. He is a Techno Warlok that has breached the time flow numerous times, Once he even discovered a way to Steal the Future.



SO HE IS THE RULER OF EARTH IN THE FUTURE ...HOW ABOUT THAT!

THE FREQUENCY USED BY THE TIME SKAVENGER CAUSES EVEN THE MOST HOSTILE REBEL TO BECOME A DOCILE PUPPET.



By the Divine Order of the Cross Worlds Nexus, You have been found guilty of crimes against reality.

So, that's why I Never Heard of Him.

GAME OVER



No. The Travel Agents went back to when he first breached the time flow and Shut him down. He is now held in the Zartacla prison.



SHIVER ME TIMBERS... WELL THAT IS ALOT TO MULL OVER.

Yes, El Capitan. And The Crew has been talking. Ofcourse away from your hearing...

They don't like how risky this most recent venture is.

See the inside of the statue of the Founder of The Trunk, the Wise sage of the Ages, Climb to the top and read the Quotations of the Founder, Buy your tickets here...



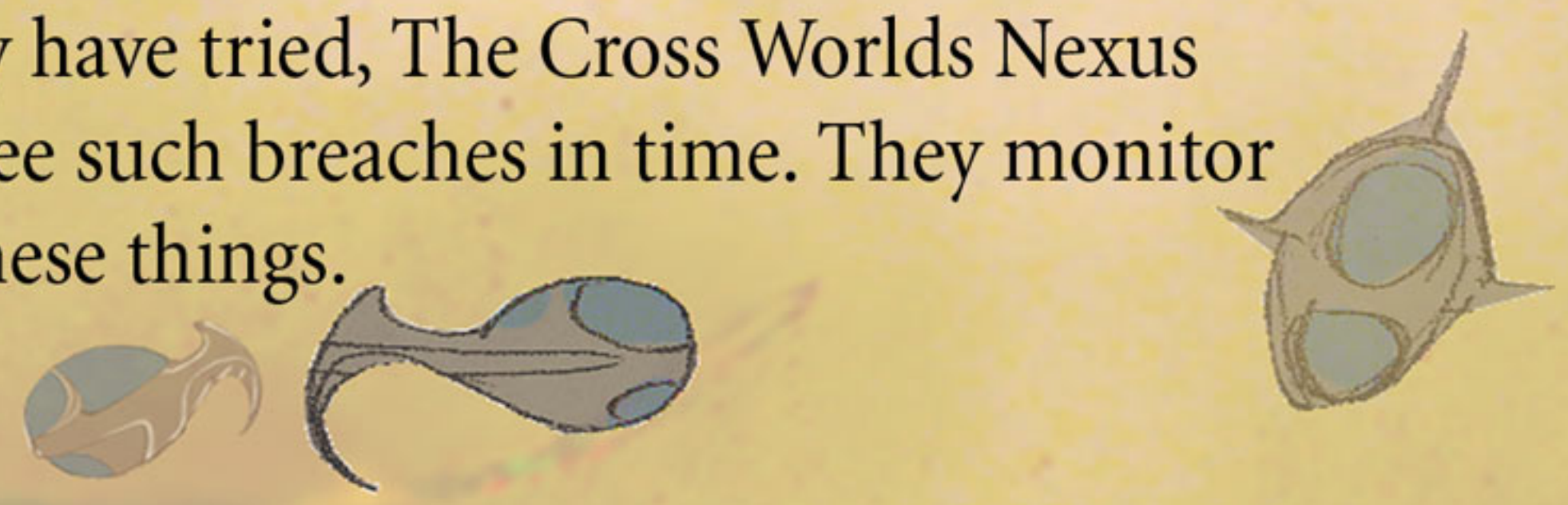
DOES THEY THINK IT'S RISKY, NOW YOU WOULD THINK THAT AFTER A WHILE ABOARD THE NAUTEE LASS, THEY WOULD EXPECT SUCH THINGS. IT'S NOTHING NEW. ONCE OLD DR. ZIG BREAKS THE RIDDLE OF THE GAUNTLETS...

AWW, NOW... BUT THE REWARDS! WE CAN RAID MUSEUMS...

CASTLES, TREASURIES... AND NO ONE WILL BE THE WISER. WE WILL BE GONE AS SOON AS WE GET THERE!

WHAT'S TO SAY YOU AINT JUST SWEET ON THAT TRAVEL AGENT?

Many have tried, The Cross Worlds Nexus can see such breaches in time. They monitor for these things.



They are a swift and unyielding force to be reckoned with, Captain.



HA! that Travel Agent! I honestly could care less about that fool of a man, his fate is not the issue, it is the crew... Possibly even a Mutiny against your rule, Cap'n.

Yes, that's right. Don't think the subject hasn't been whispered about in the wee hours after drink and song has made some bold enough to discuss such things. I have seen the crew follow you into some dangerous adventures, but, this business with the Travel Agents of the Cross Worlds Nexus and getting on thier Bad side has them spooked. Fear does strange things to people, Cap'n. But I know you are as wise as you are handsome and you will make the right choice.

Mutiny, aye?



*Later, Back aboard  
the Nautee Lass...*



I'VE DECIDED TO SELL  
THE GAUNTLETS.

Excellent  
Choice Cap'n

Hey HEY,  
Drinks  
all  
Around!



connection is made

GREAT, NOW  
I HAVE TO  
DEAL WITH  
MR. CREEPY  
HIMSELF...  
WINSTON  
ALLDARK..

GREETINGS AND  
SALUTATIONS,  
WINSTON ALLDARK  
HOW IS THE  
MECHANIKA  
TREATING YOU  
THESE DAYS?



**Who is there? Who dares to disturb me?**  
**Oh, Captain Skinny...**  
**The Skallywag Liar and Thief.**  
**Why are you contacting me?**  
**Finally decide to Sell your soul?**  
**Mechanika is always looking for**  
**a few good idle hands...**



SO HERE IS THE DEAL OL' BUDDY, OL' CHUM...  
I HAVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED A  
SET OF PERFECTLY GOOD  
...OFFICIAL TIME TRAVEL GAUNTLETS  
FROM...WELL...DON'T WORRY ABOUT HOW  
I GOT THEM, I JUST REALIZE THAT THEY BE  
SOMETHING THAT IS JUST A WEE BIT OUT OF MY  
LEAGUE, NOW I KNOW YOU ARE ALWAYS LOOKING  
TO BUY ARTIFACTS...

**DONE. I WILL MEET YOU**  
**AT THE LOCATION THAT**  
**I AM SENDING TO**  
**YOUR FRIEND DR. ZIG.**

**I Will Bring a hefty reward for you, Cap'n Skinny.**  
**You were right to come to me. I have a score to settle**  
**with the Travel Masters. I will see you soon.**



GOOD DAY...




THAT WAS TOO EASY.

HEXES, YOU HAVE JUST MADE ME MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.

I HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY. BECAUSE I HATE THAT GUY. ONE ...CREEPY CREEPY DUDE.

OH WELL, AS LONG AS I'M RICH.





One fine day, aboard the Nautee Lass, Cap'n Skinny's Ship...An experiment is about to take place as soon as a crew member becomes a volunteer...



Inside the Stumbling Mumbler Pub, the crew of the Nautee lass enjoy Cap'n Skinny's Private Stock of fine refreshments.

Ahoy thar, Mr. Thax...how would ye be like to be a genuine pioneer of Science...

WOT...I NOT BE HAVIN' A DULL CARE TO BE INVOLVED IN ...

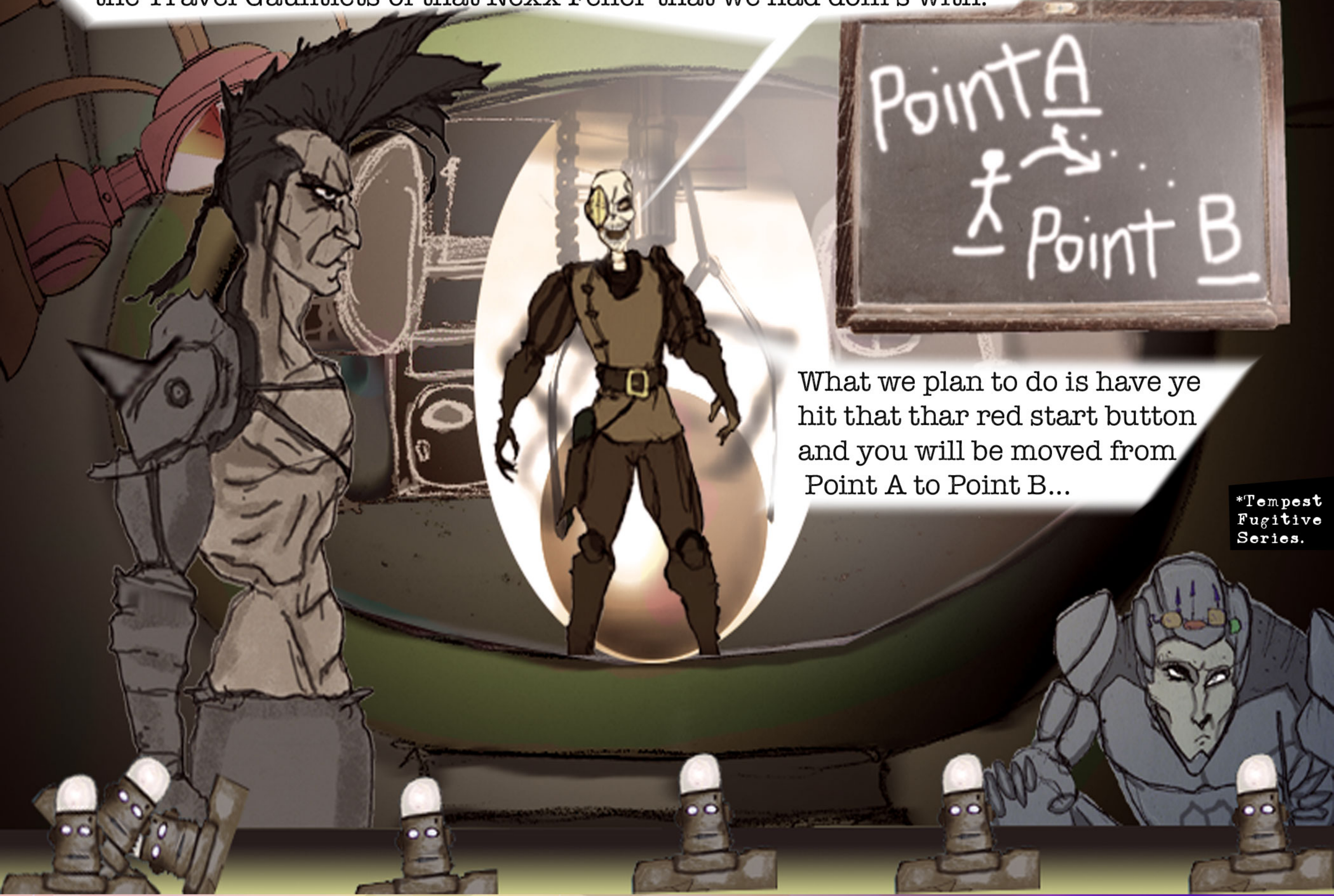


The next round is on ME!

WHEN DO WE START?

Later, Back in the on board secret laboratory of the mad inventor Dr.Zig...

Yar, Me Boy! Tis the newest invention from our own in house science pro... Dr.Zig...He has made these sparkey gloves after he done studied the Travel Gauntlets of that Nexx Feller that we had doin's with.\*



What we plan to do is have ye hit that thar red start button and you will be moved from Point A to Point B...

\*Tempest Fugitive Series.

OY, CAPPY...YA MEAN DIS BUTTON RIGHT HEA?



POOSH.





# התחברות

www.ynet.co.il

In an instant, Thax, the Ruffian of the Nautee lass finds himself in a very strange place. The air smells of sea salt and herbal aroma and he can hear the wind rip across the foreign landscape.

Thax begins to Wander along what could be an old animal passage way, with his past experience surviving for many years in the outer lands of anarchy, he is well aware that animal passage ways can lead to food and potable water... possibly even shelter.

DIS LOOKS LIKE IT BE A BIG OL CRITTAH PAF.

Thax spots what could be an old directional sign along this passage...unfortunately the sign is broken and has a foreign language written on it.



KRAGLE  
SQUAK!

Thax then notices a large shadow pass over the ground and he hears a terrible shriek echo through the sky.



KRAGLE  
SQUAK!

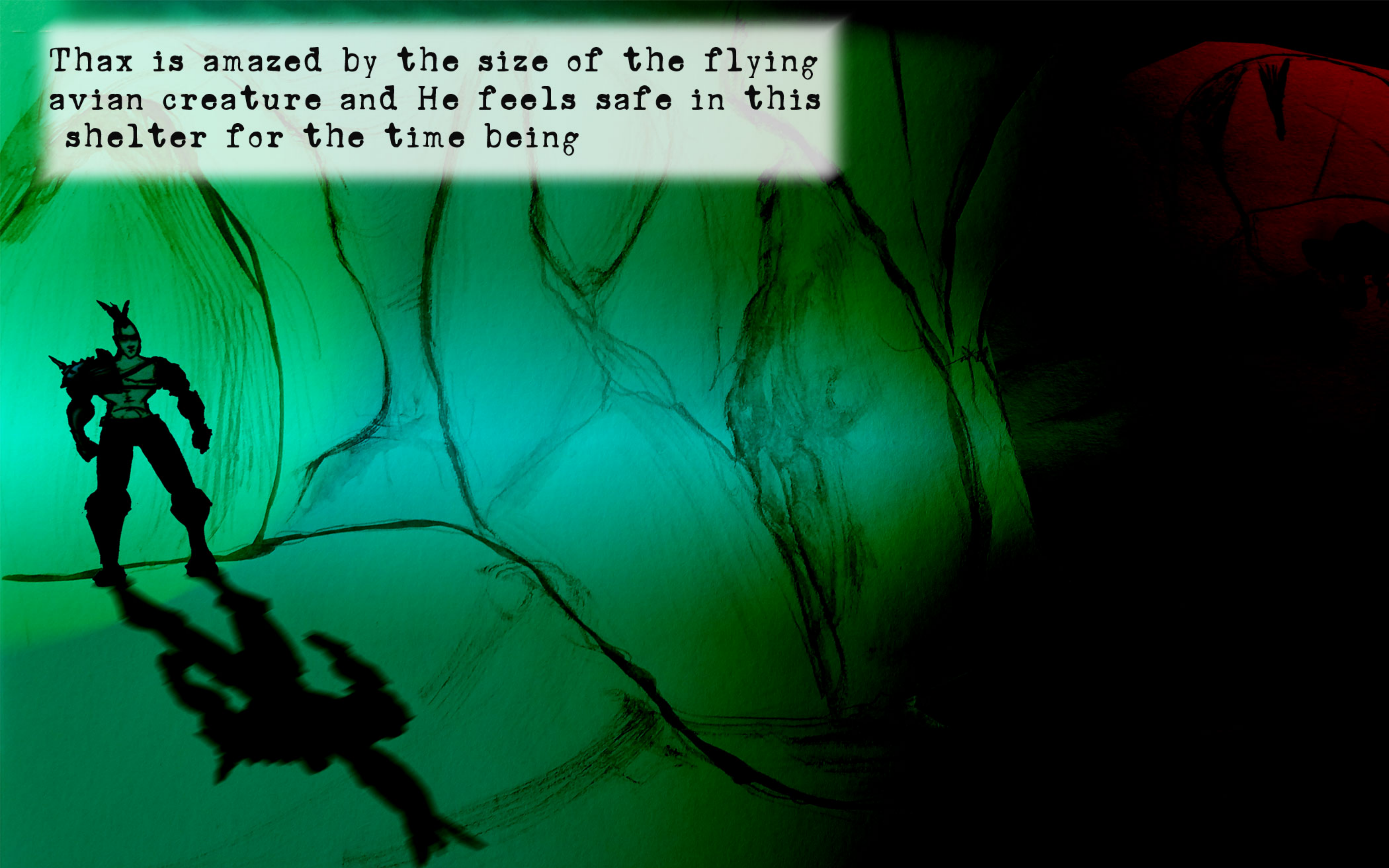
He is pursued by a large winged shrieking creature. He runs for the nearest cover to hide under. It appears to be a small cave.

LOOKS AT DA  
SIZE OF DAT  
BIG PISSED  
CHICKEN!

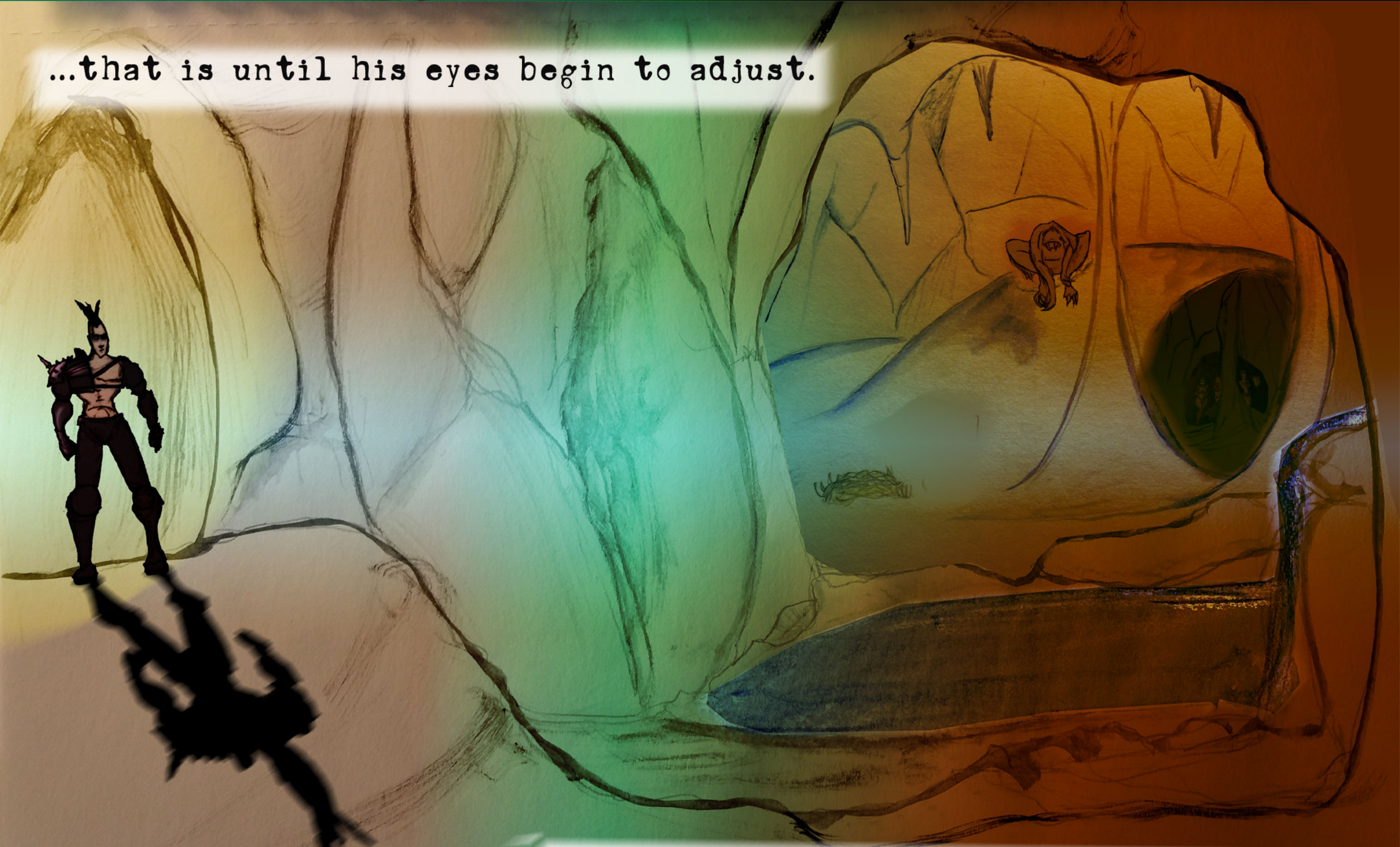


I PROLLY SAFE IN HEEA!

Thax is amazed by the size of the flying avian creature and He feels safe in this shelter for the time being



...that is until his eyes begin to adjust.

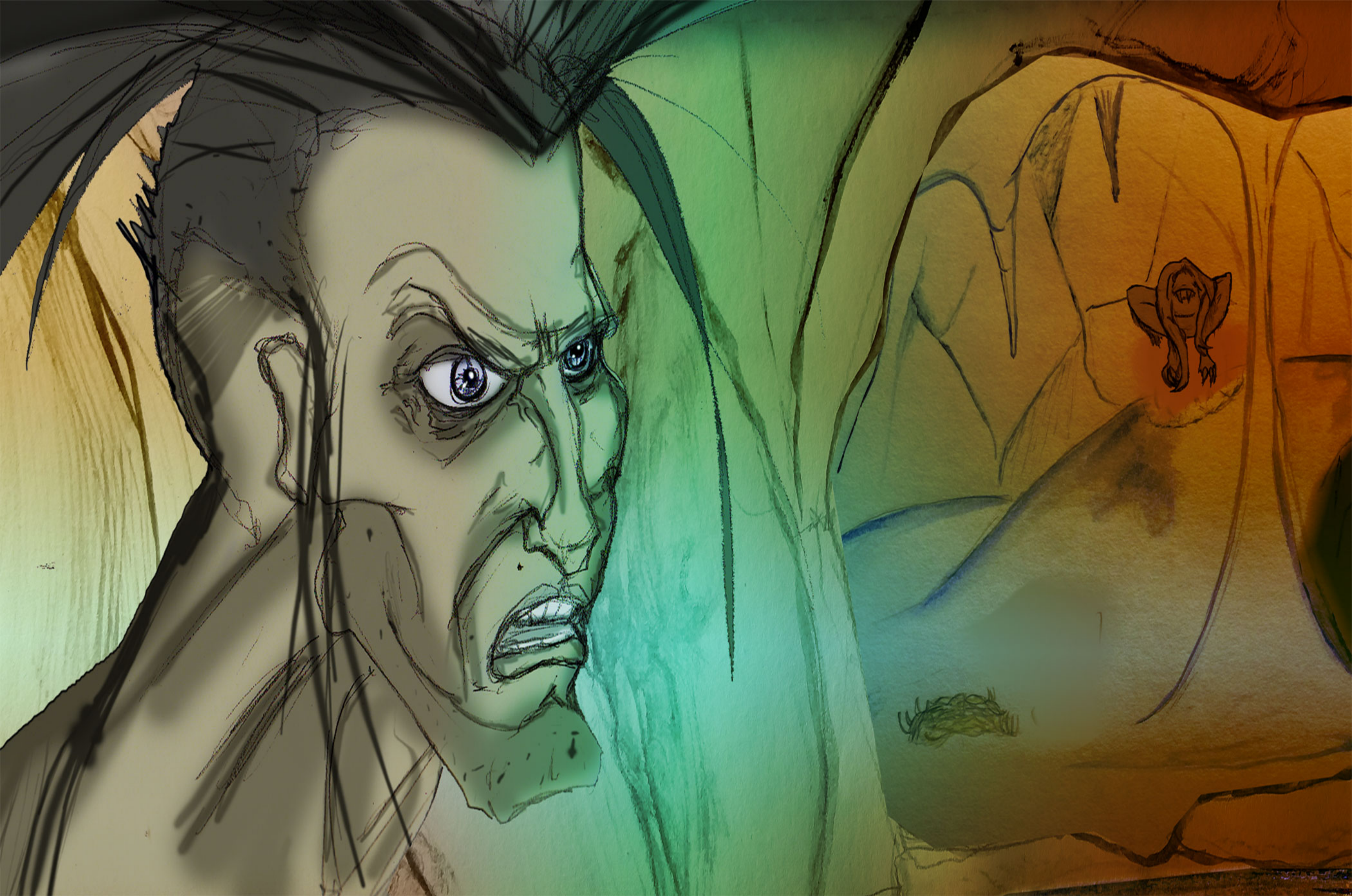


Thax exclaims a vulgar profanity after seeing the large angry dweller at the other end of the cavern.

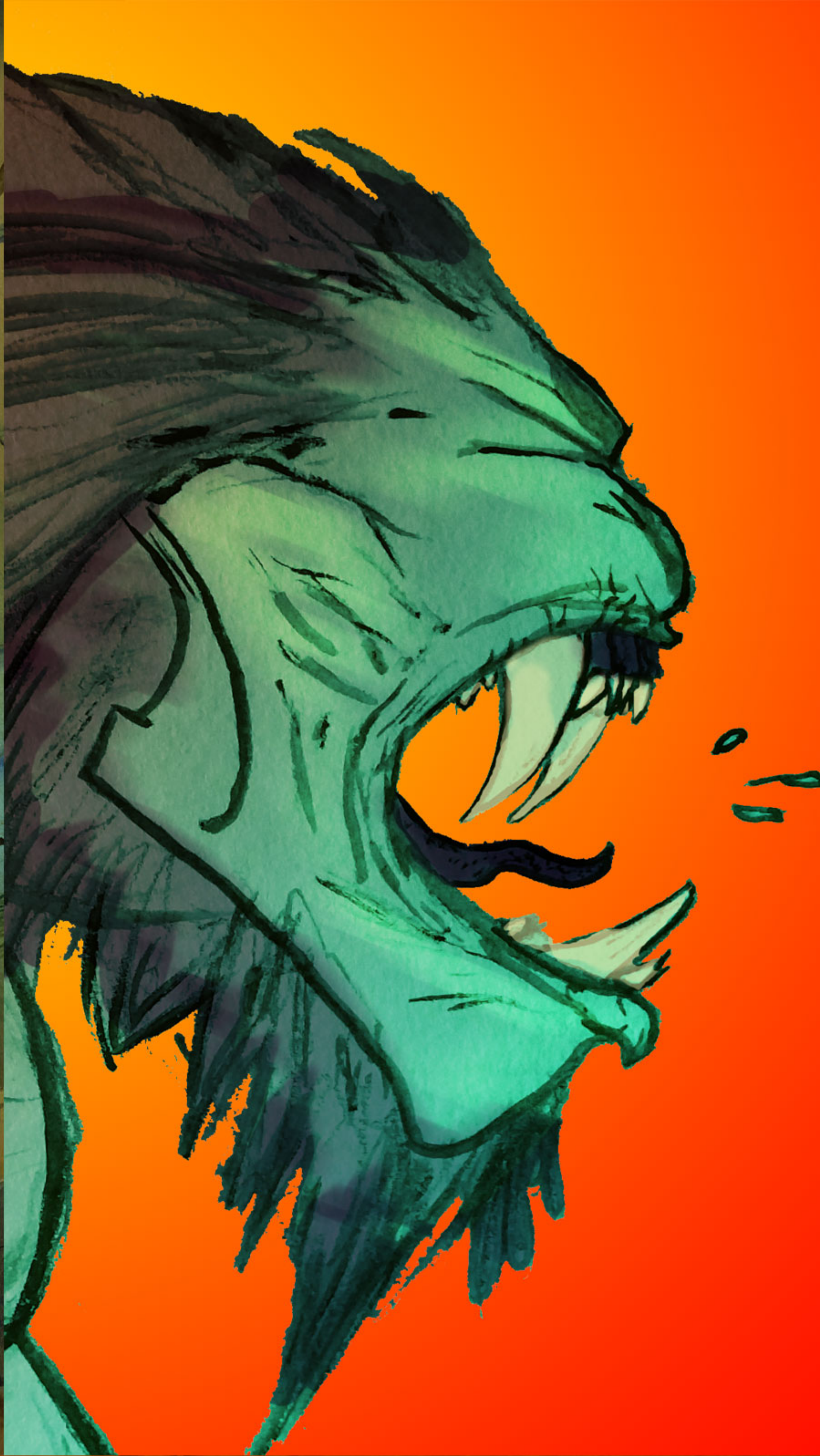


OWEAKKA!

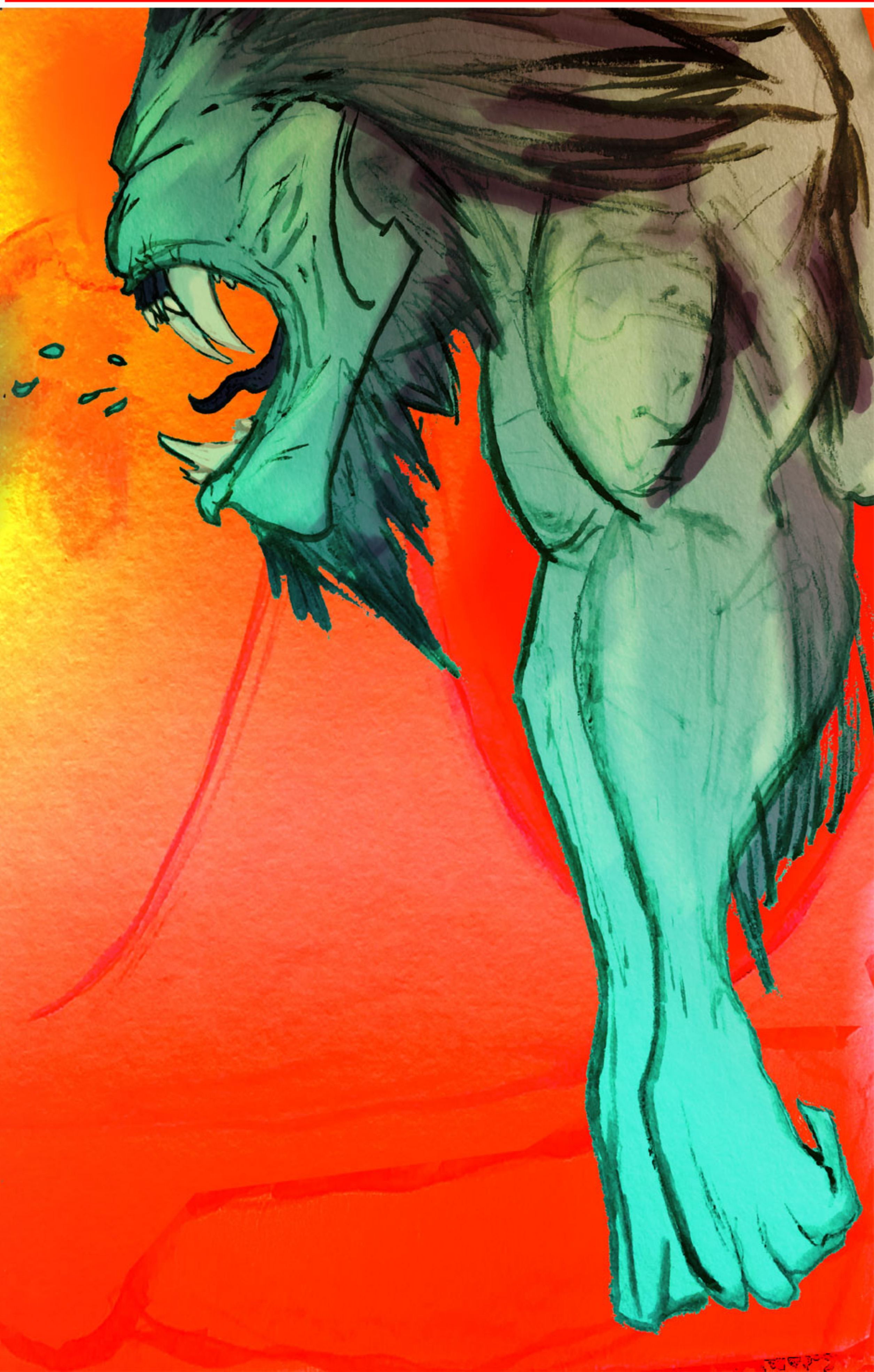




The two embrace in the fight to the death.



OY THEN...BRING YOUR SHITE!



Thax is the victor in this struggle for survival...



Then he notices a chamber of maidens cowering in the darkness.

*Oh! Now you've done it! WHO is going to protect us from that large angry beast of a bird outside now?*



**WE are most certainly DOOMED!**

**I am so hungry, when do we eat?**

**He surely can't scare off that winged monster.**

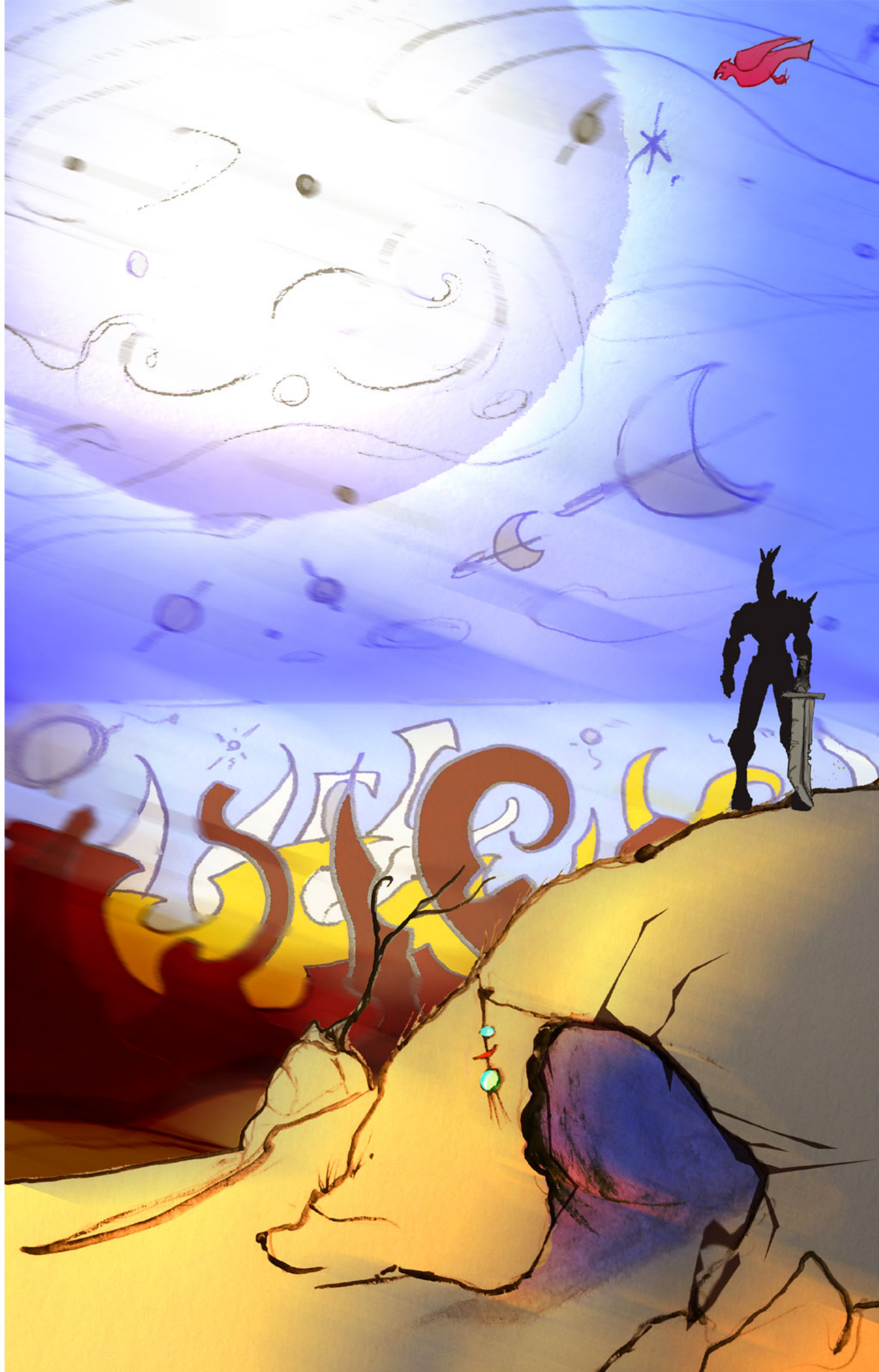
**OY! I KILLS IT ...YOU COOKS IT! SQUARE?**

**That'll be the day.**

Thax strikes up a bargain with the fair maidens that if he could indeed slay the bird, then they will prepare it into a feast.

Thax leaves the cave ...stands his ground and waits for the sword like talons of the sky beast to descend from above. He hears the feirce call as the winged terror attacks.

KRAGLE SQUAK!



WE DO DIS!



KRAGGLE SQUAK



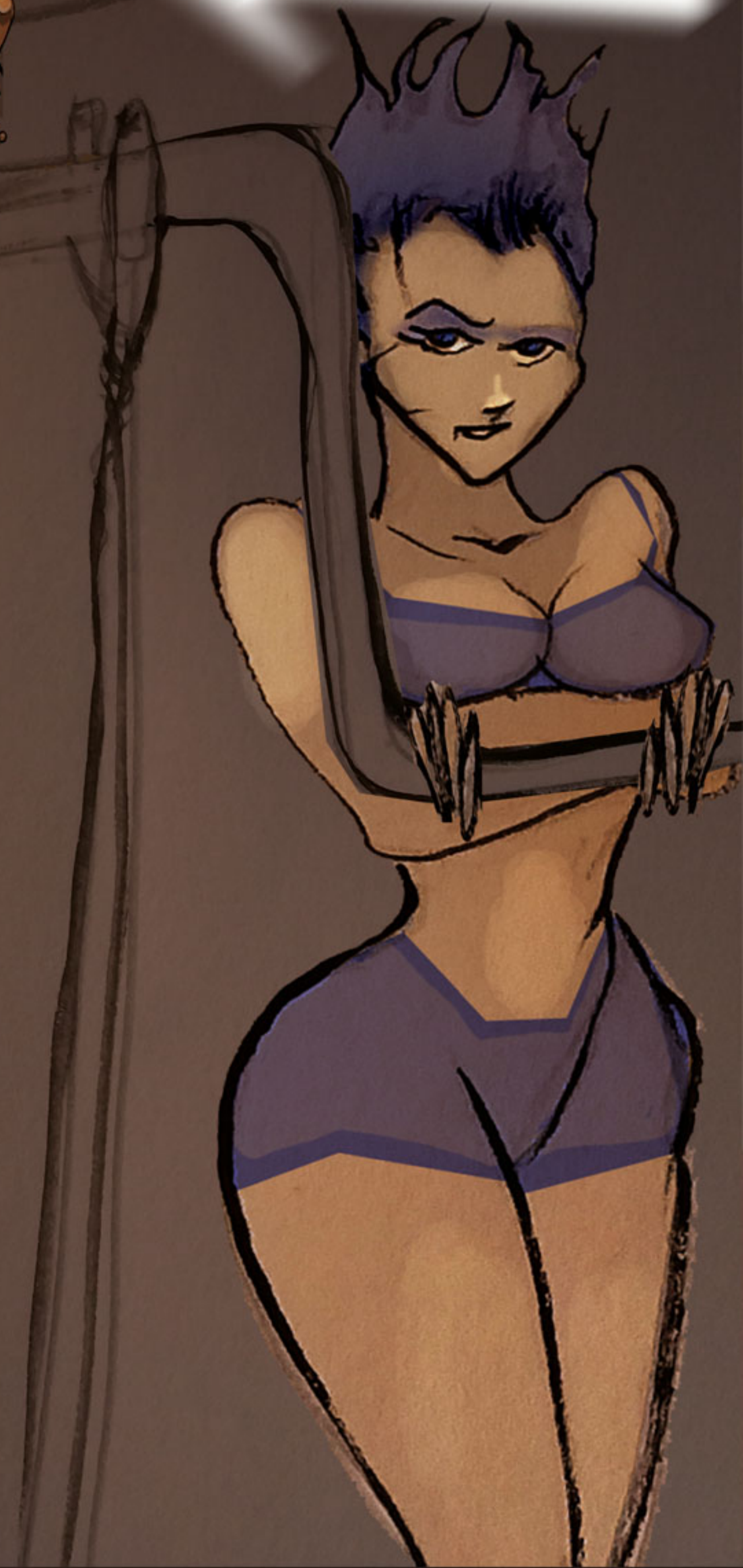
...then there is blood.

Later.

OY GIRLIE! TURN DAT SPIT, NEEDS COOKIN ALL DA WAY THRU!



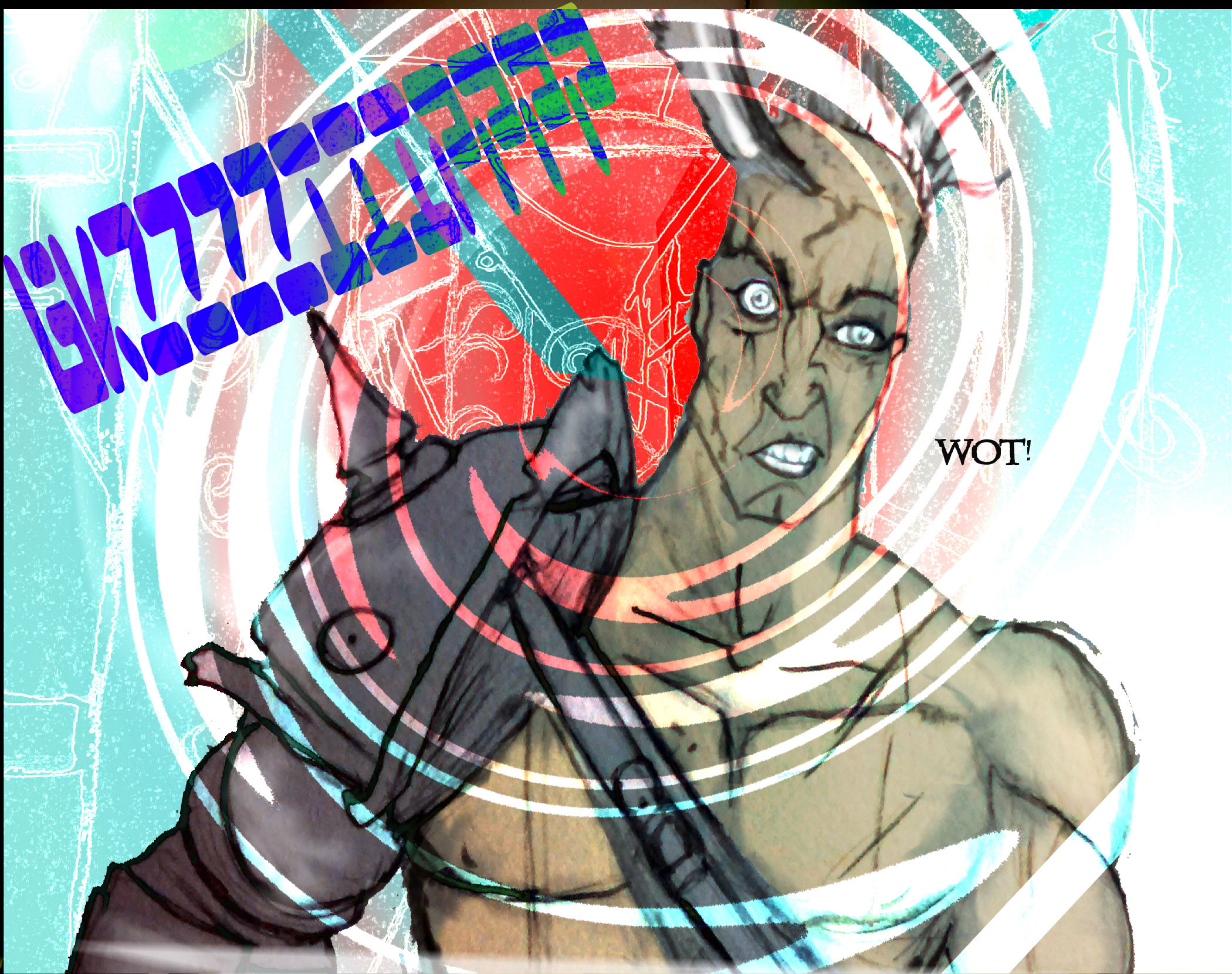
Yeah yeah.



Mr. Chax, you are such a brave man, thank you, we have all decided to bear your children, please give us this honor!







WOT!

IN AN INSTANT, Mr. Thax finds himself back in the laboratory of Dr.Zig.

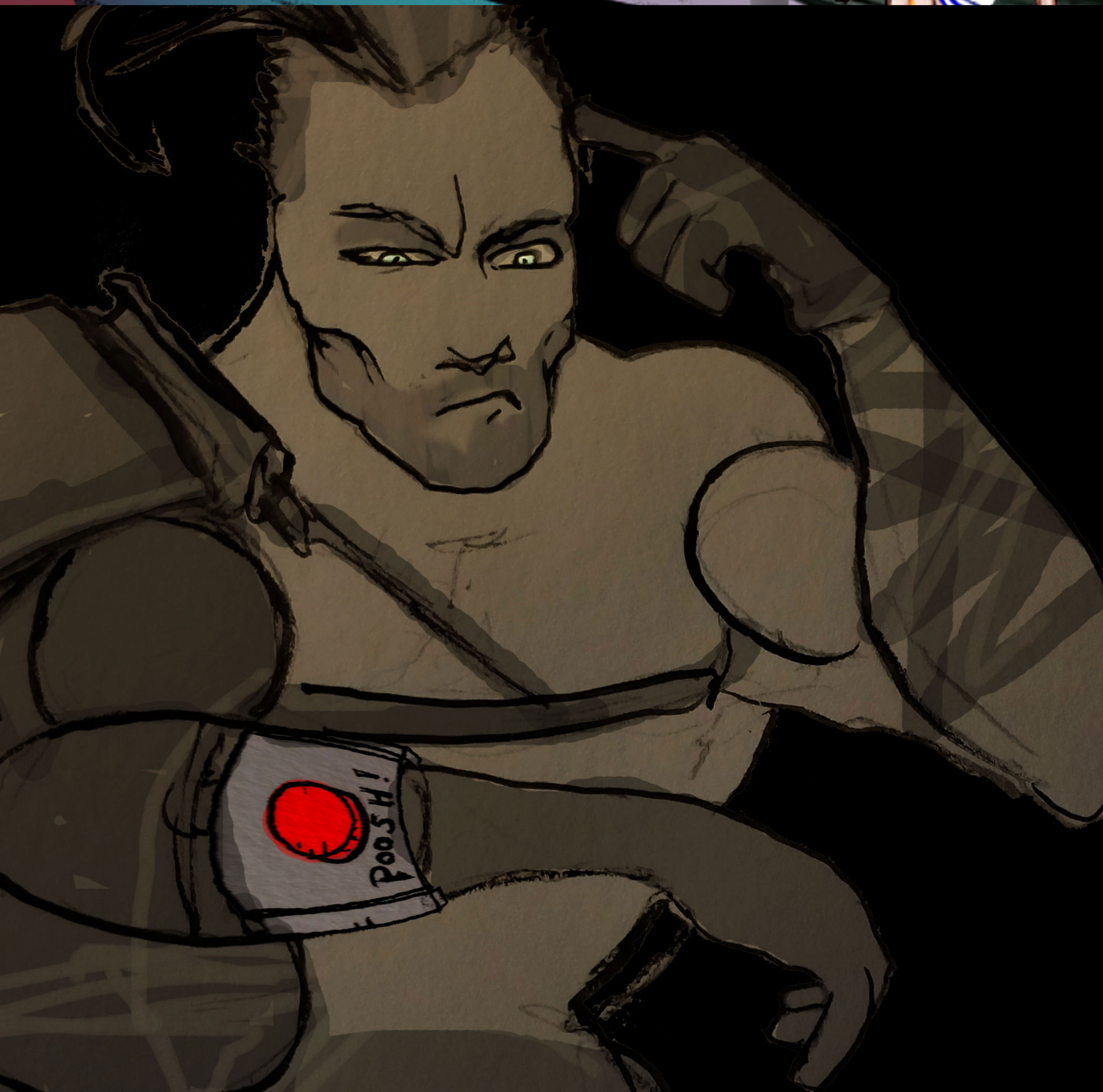
Er, ah, Sorry, lad, looks like it didn't work ...ye only sort of vanished for a second. Dr. Zig still has to work the bugz out!



KRYKEY!

Point A  
→  
— Point B

Thax begins to press the red button again and again, but he can not seem to make this strange invention work the same way as before.





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*In this issue...*



*Hexes*



*Cap 'n Skinny*



*Thax*

*The Crew of the Outlaw Vessel, The Nautee Lass has put the Newly Acquired Gauntlets of the Drunken Travel Agent on the market.*

*Cap 'n Skinny has contacted the Infamous Industrialist and Sketchy Warlock, Winston AllDark to see if he would like to Purchase said Gauntlets.*

*The Answer was a resounding Yes.*

*However, Independent Rescue, has intercepted the Transmission and would like to ask a few Questions concerning the matter.*

*Thax, Warrior of the forgotten lands, has consumed too many Dream Lagers and currently slumbers through an attack on the Nautee Lass...*

**IN MY DREAMS,  
I AM THE POWERFUL  
VISIONARY RULER  
OF A VAST KINGDOM.  
MY LADY IS AT MY  
SIDE AND ALL TRUST  
IN MY INFINITE  
WISDOM.  
...AND THERE IS ALWAYS  
A FULL GOBLET OF WINE  
IN MY HAND.**



**BLATT!  
BLATT!  
BLATT!**

**IN MY LIFE I AM A SKULL  
BASHING RUFFIAN  
WHO KEEPS CAP'N SKINNY'S SHIP...  
THE NAUTEE LASS  
DRAINED OF IT'S ALE SUPPLY.  
I WAKE UP TO THE TROUBLE ALARM.**



STUFF MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHILE I WAS CATCHING A SNOOZE FROM TOO MUCH DRINK. THE CREW IS MISSING. GREAT. INDEPENDENT RESCUE GUNS ARE HERE. LOOKS LIKE CAP'N SKINNY'S SHIMANIGANS HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH US. THEY LOOK MAD.



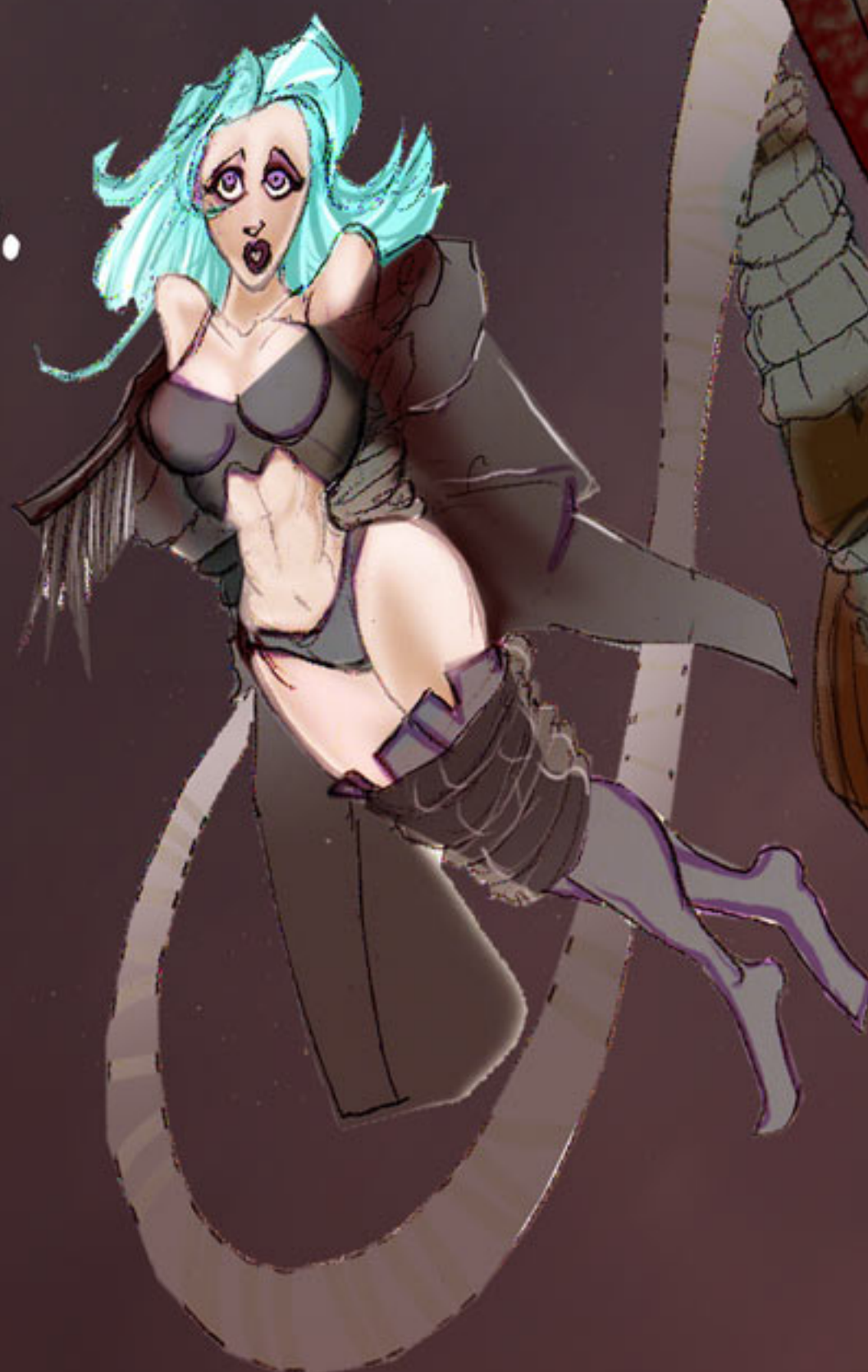
DAMN, THEY IZ MAD.  
THEY IZ SHOOTIN' MAD!



<---GIVE UP. YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR INDEPENDENT RESCUE.--->



They got us.



DAGBLAST IT!



INDEPENDANT RESCUE, TIS THE ONLY THING CLOSE  
TA ANY AUTHORITY OUT HERE IN THE WILD NEXUS  
FRONTIER...TIS ONLY CAUSE THEY HAS THE MOST  
GUNS. THEY IS THE HIRED GUNS FOR THE  
MERCHANT GUILD WHO BE HAY'N A GOOD OL TIME  
LOOTIN THE UNCHARTED SPACES BEYOND  
THE KNOWN BORDERS OF THE MAP .  
WHEN EVER THE MERCHANTS GETS  
IN TOO MUCH HEAT WITH THE  
CLAIM HOLDERS OR THE NATIVES, THEY BE CALLING  
IN THE INDEPENDANT RESCUE, AND INDEPENDANT  
RESCUE SHOWS UP AND SAVES THE DAY AS  
LONG AS THEY BE GETTIN A HEFTY SHARE OF  
THE FEAST, WHAT EVER THE FEAST MAY BE AT  
THE TIME OF THE DISTRESS.  
THEY IZ THE  
ONES WHO  
CAPTURED ME  
SHIP!



SIR! We have the Nautee Lass!  
She is in Tow now. Her crew are in custody  
as well, un harmed as ordered.

Excellent News, Good Show.  
The Silent Partner, Our main  
investor and top share holder will  
be arriving shortly at your location.  
He will be pleased to hear this  
information. He wants to over see  
How this Operation is executed.

INCOMING MESSAGE  
FROM FEILD OPERATIVE:



We will not  
let you down, Sir.

I will forward  
the coordinates  
to the Private  
Investor Right  
away.  
Everything  
has followed  
the designated  
course of action  
on this one.  
Plan executed.



# 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





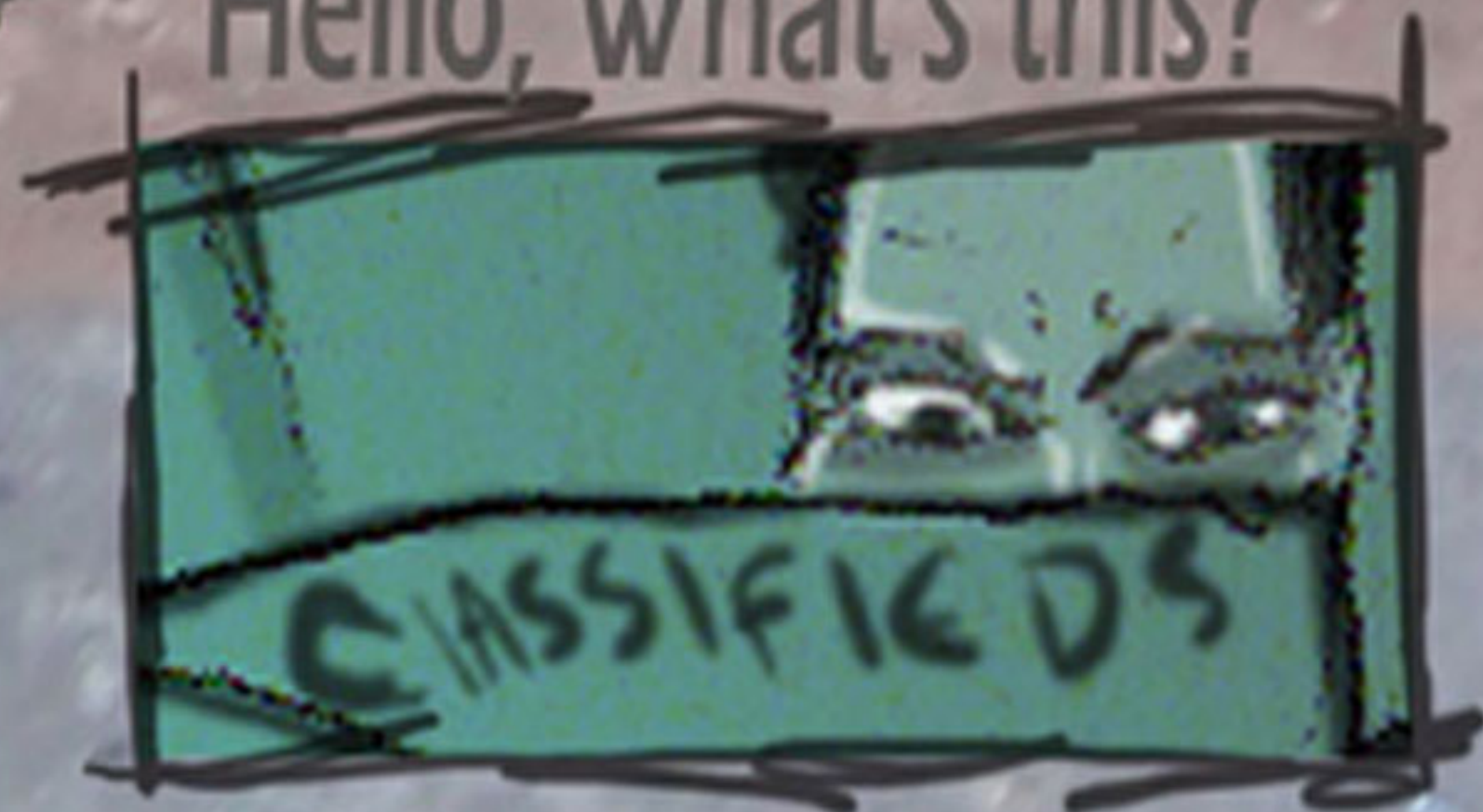


**My name is not important. Where I am located, doesn't matter...I stay mobile. What I do? If a politician gets a bit too greedy and selfish for his own good or a dictator becomes too much of a dick, or say an insurgency needs to be surgically undone, I am the person that gets things done. I take out 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.

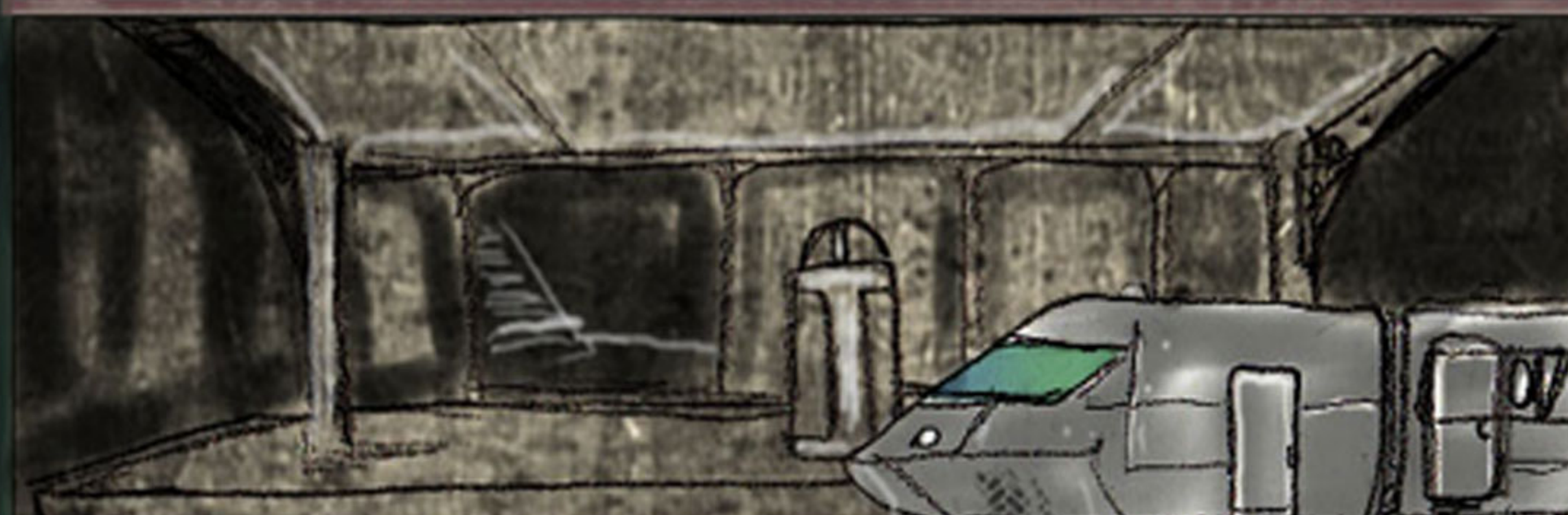
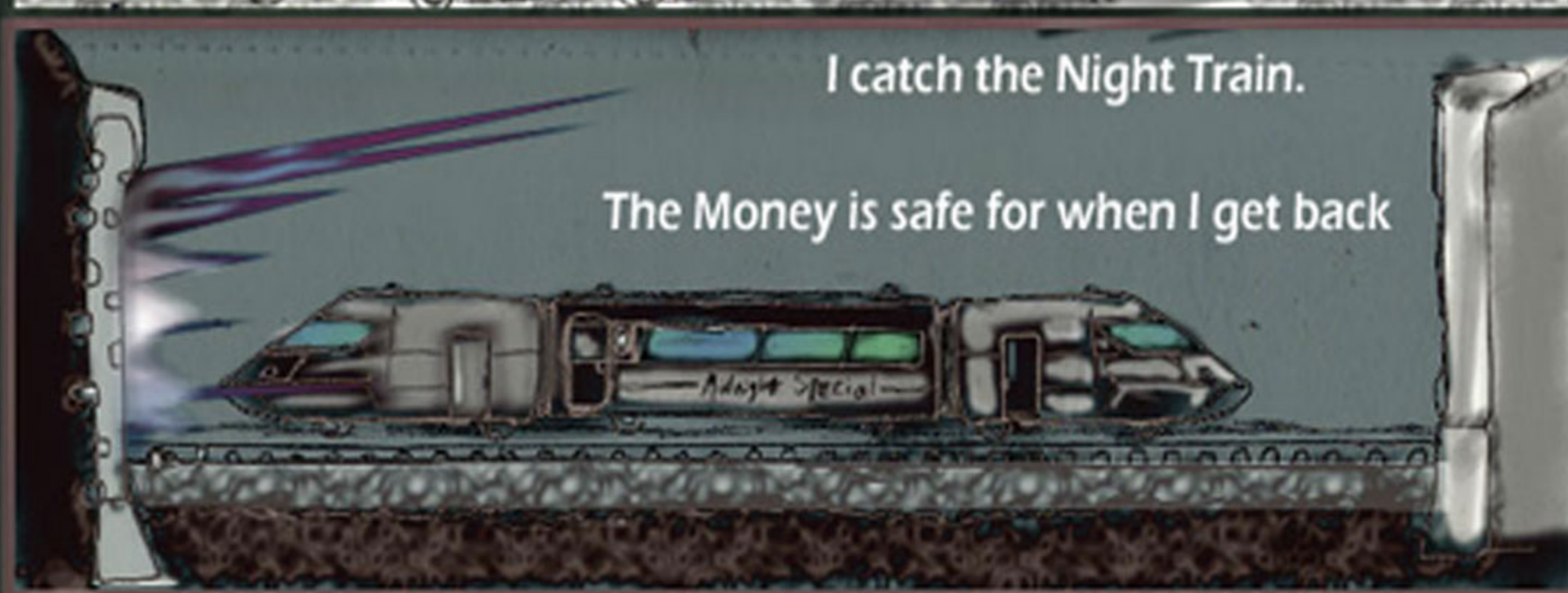
...  
That's a bit  
Extreme.  
Whatever.  
I take the  
money...

...And the Ticket.



I catch the Night Train.

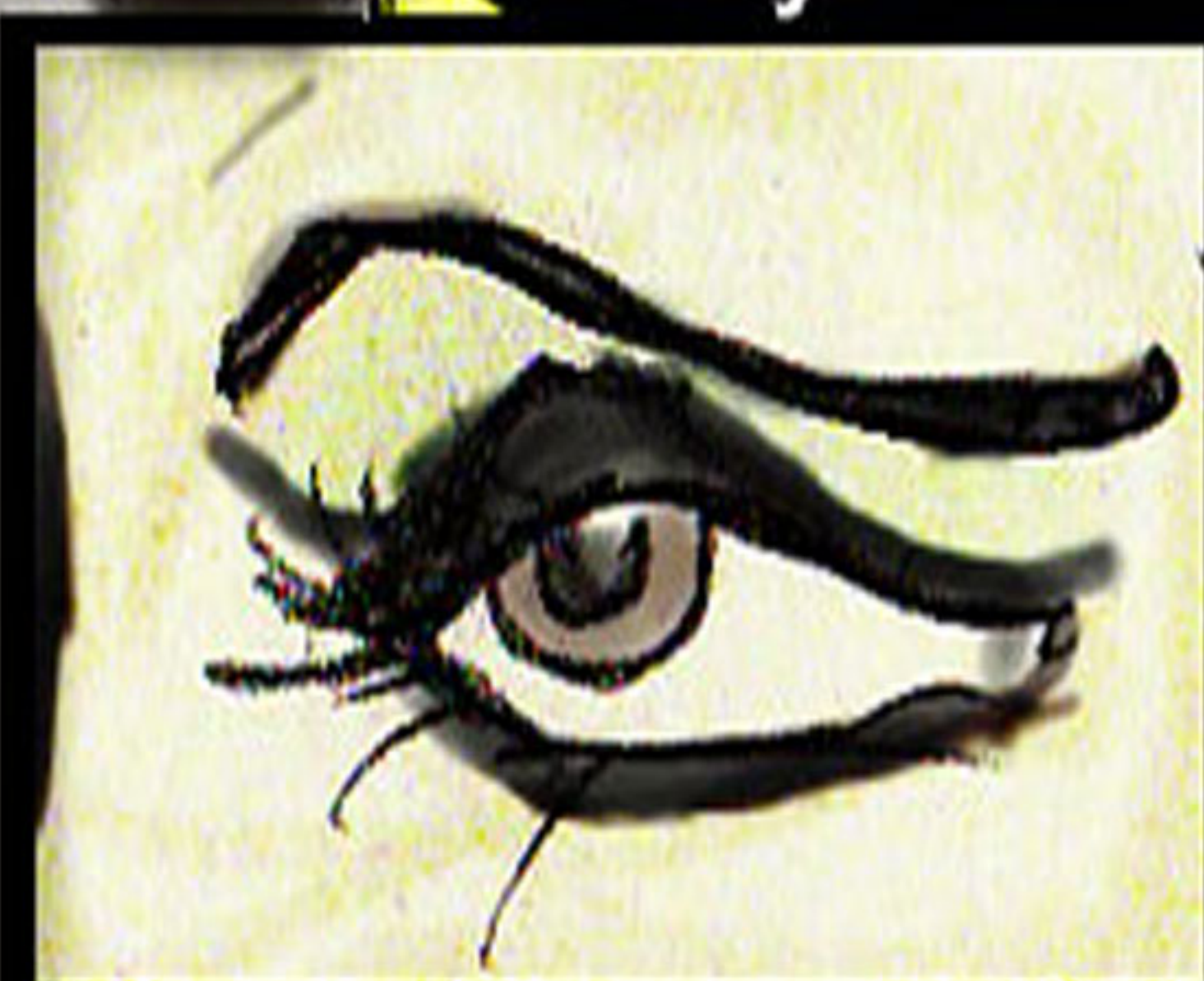
The Money is safe for when I get back



And the Job.



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.



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

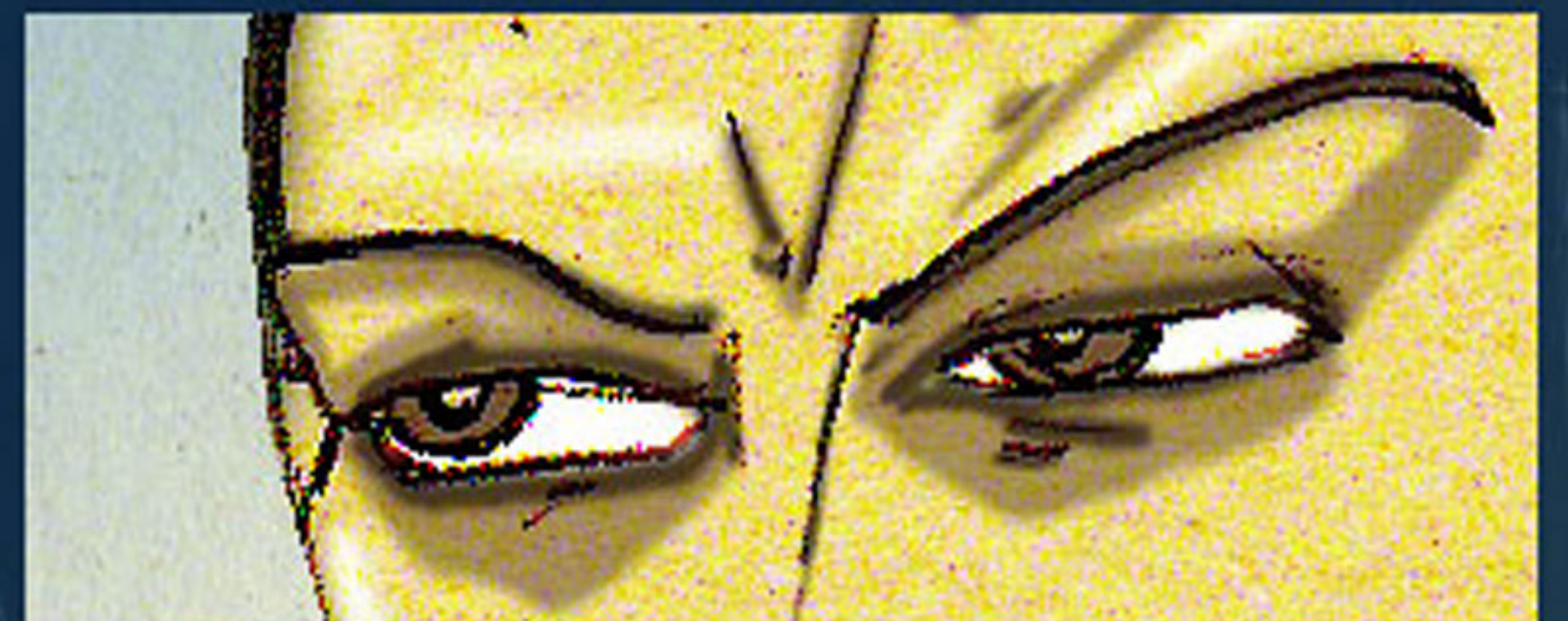
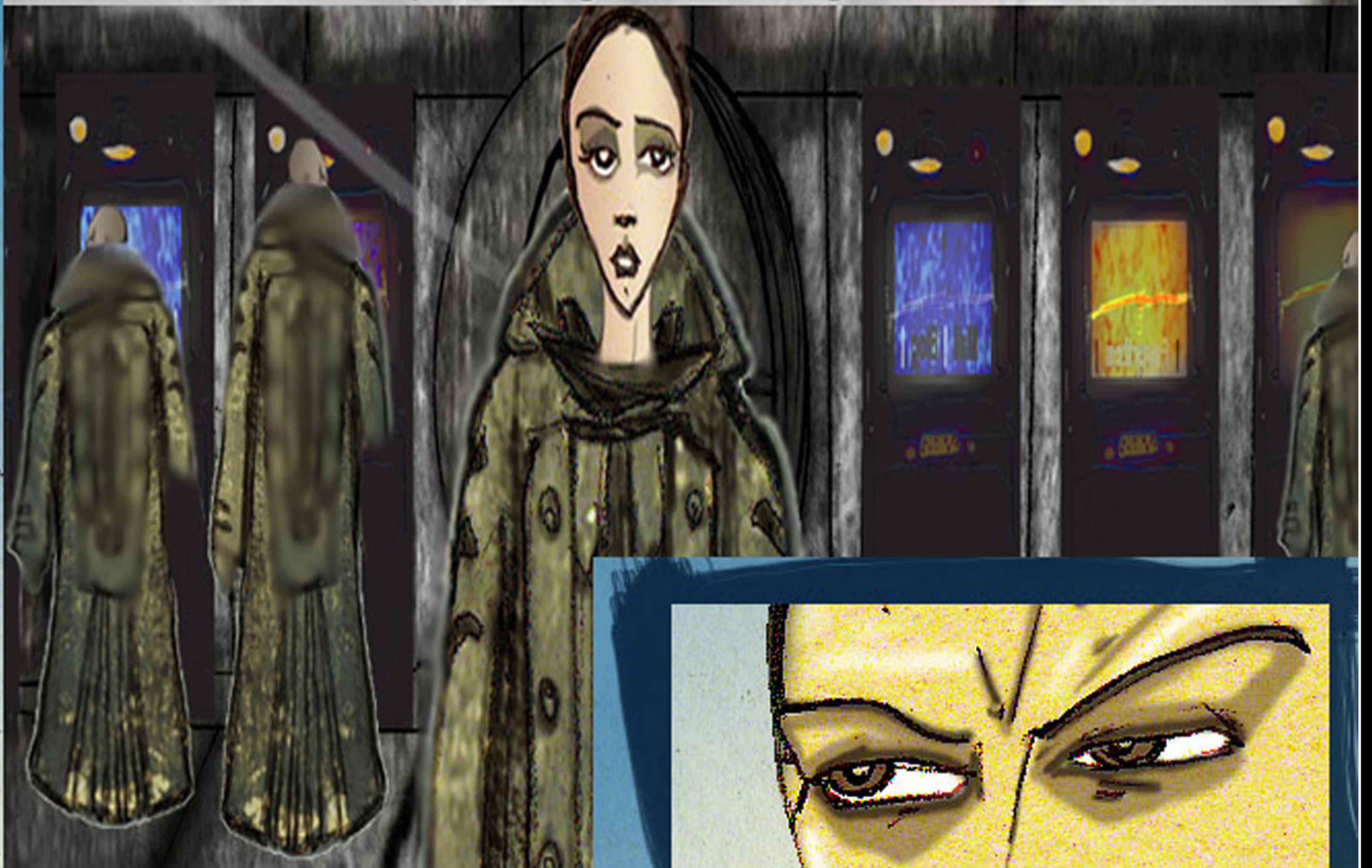
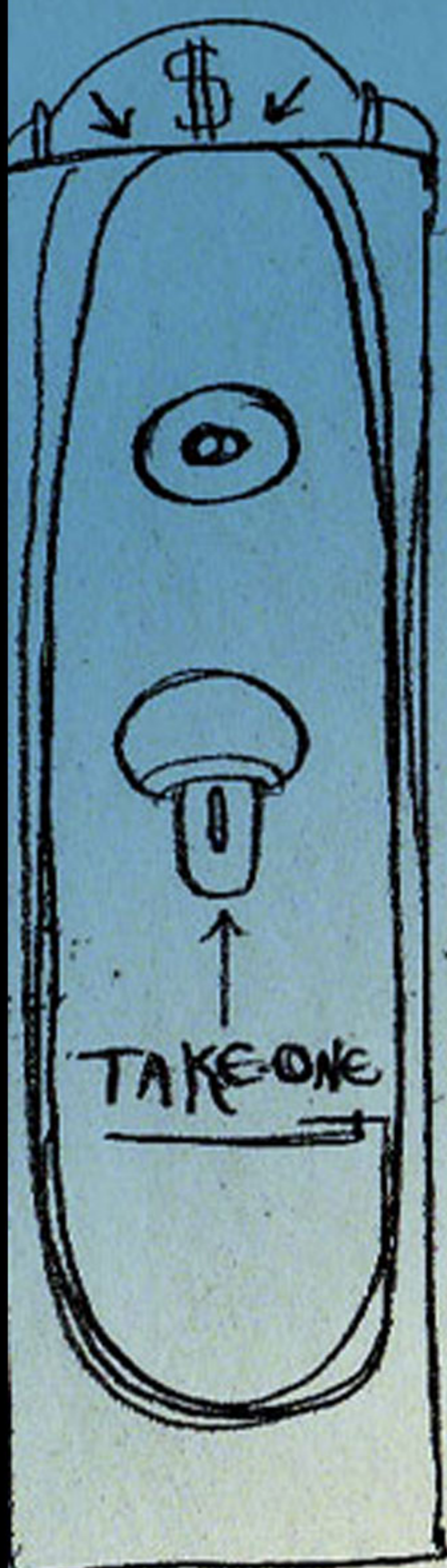
I follow the herd of groaning workers. It seems that every one uses a money card.

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?



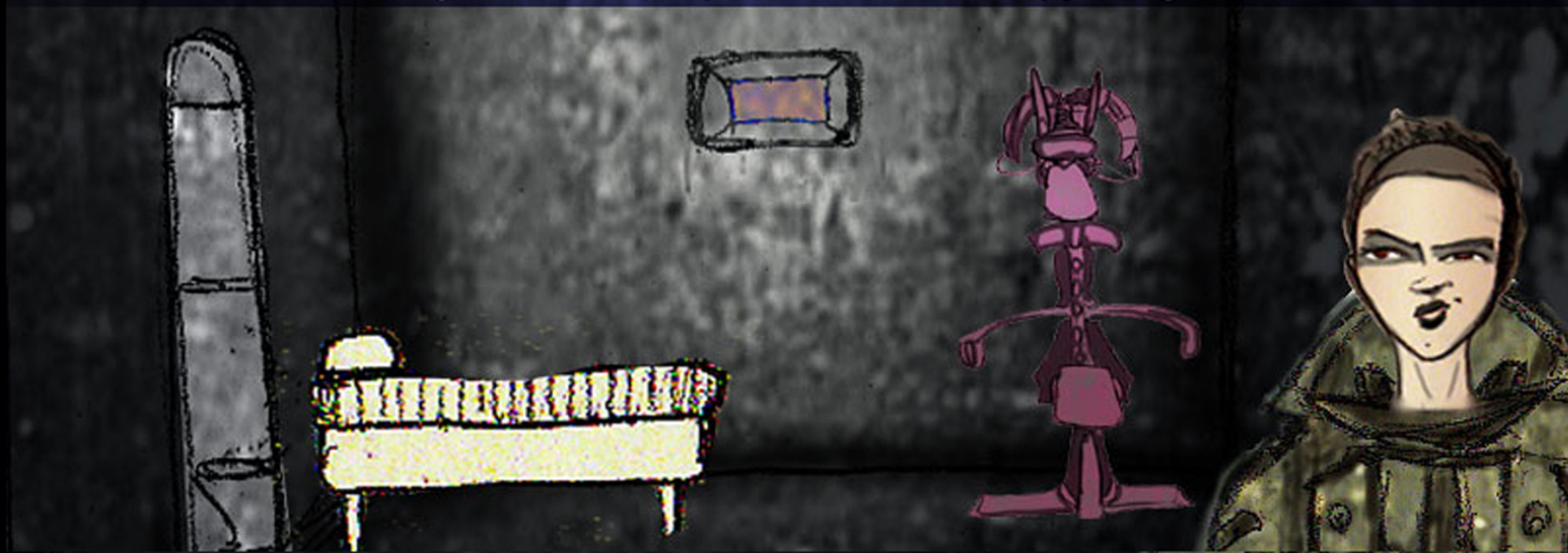
Funds are put on the card when you work... And "work"...

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

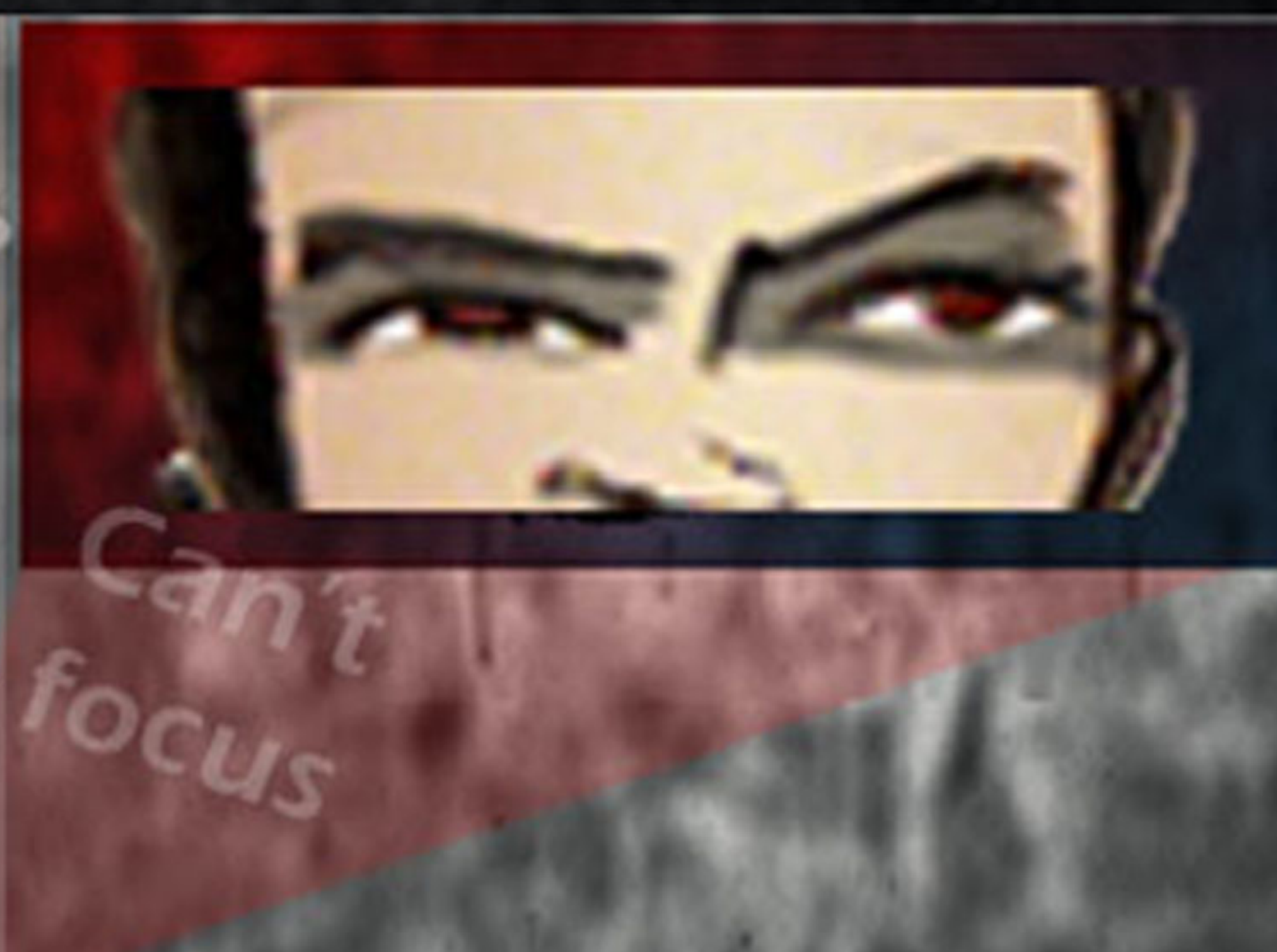
I got an apartment. If you can call it that. Every apartment is exactly the same. A window too high to see out of, Small bathroom, clean bed...and a weird piece exercise equipment?

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



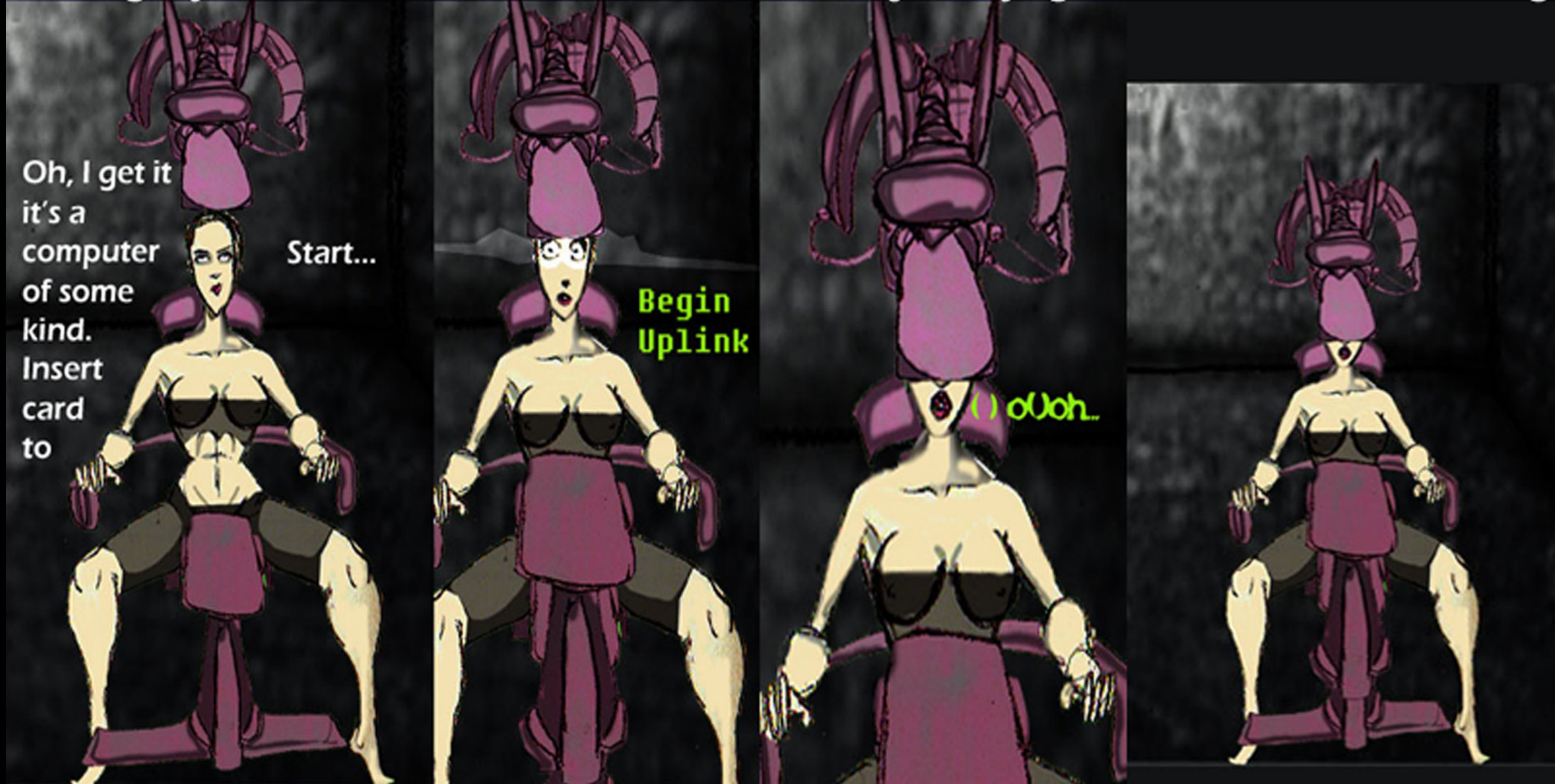
Can't focus

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

oOoh

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

Out of funds...  
Insert card to  
continue.

must uplink

WHO needs freedom when you have automated comfort.

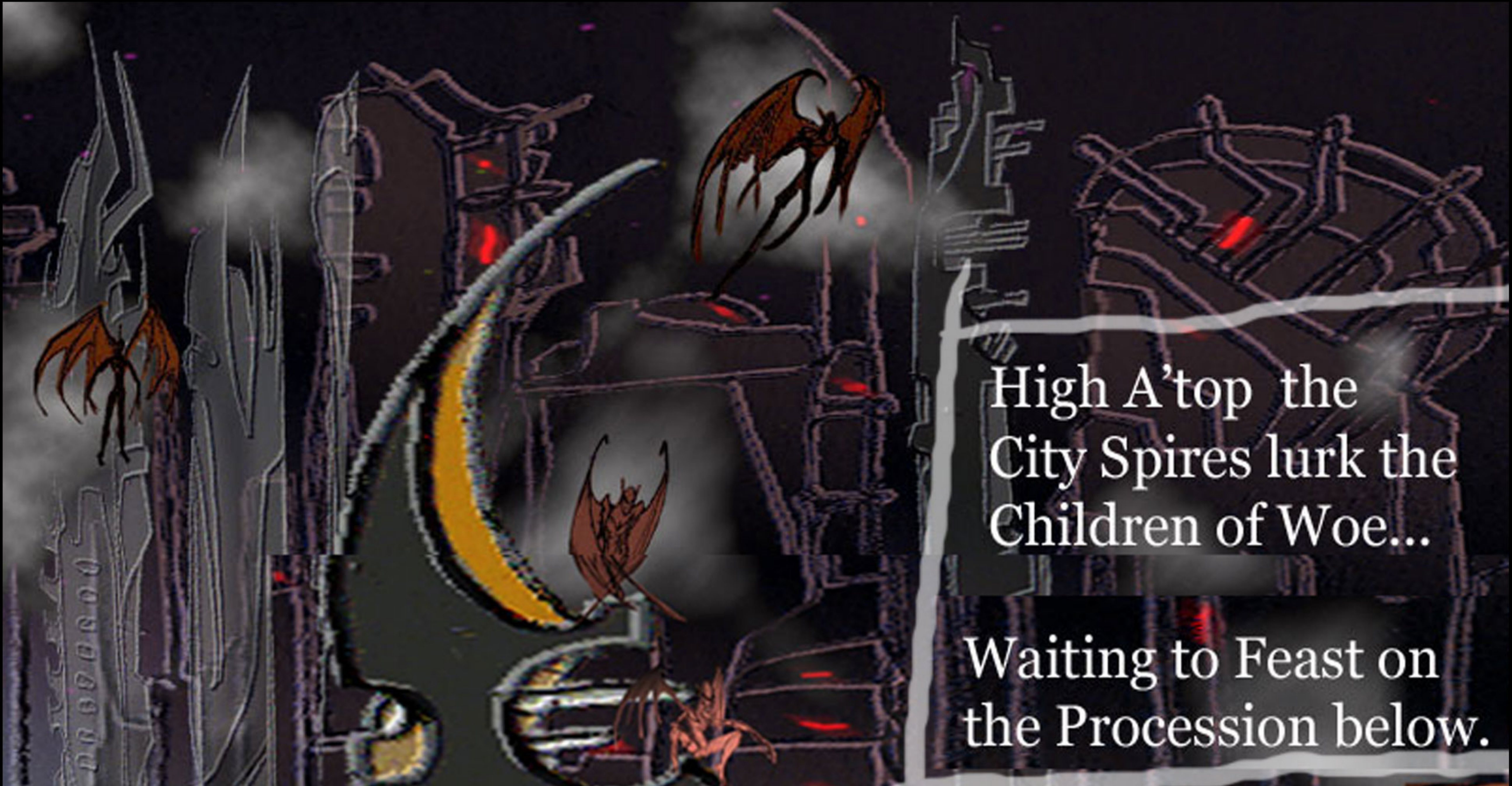
must uplink

must uplink

must uplink

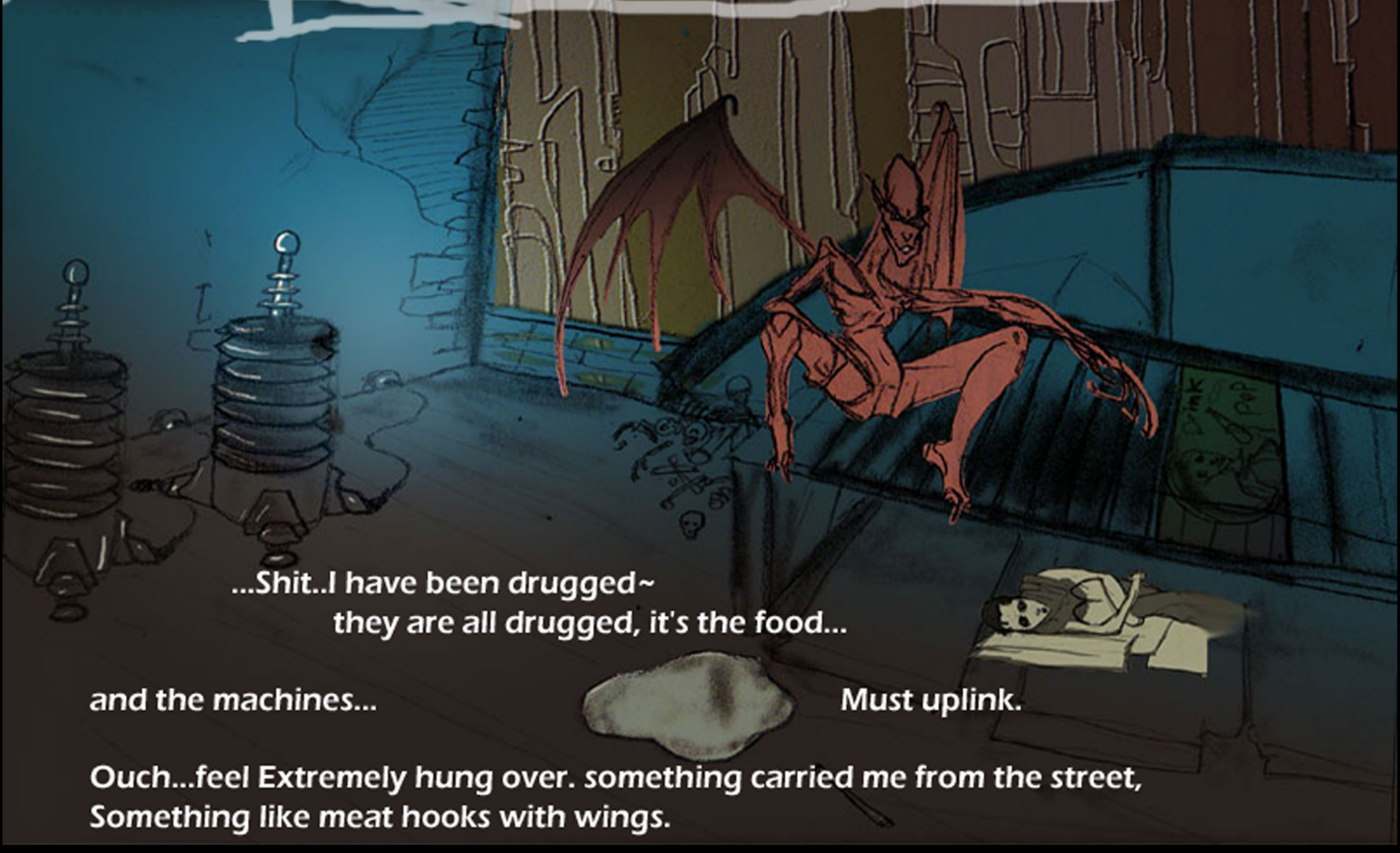
And so, the City eats  
another soul and  
not a tear was shed  
by any one.

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!

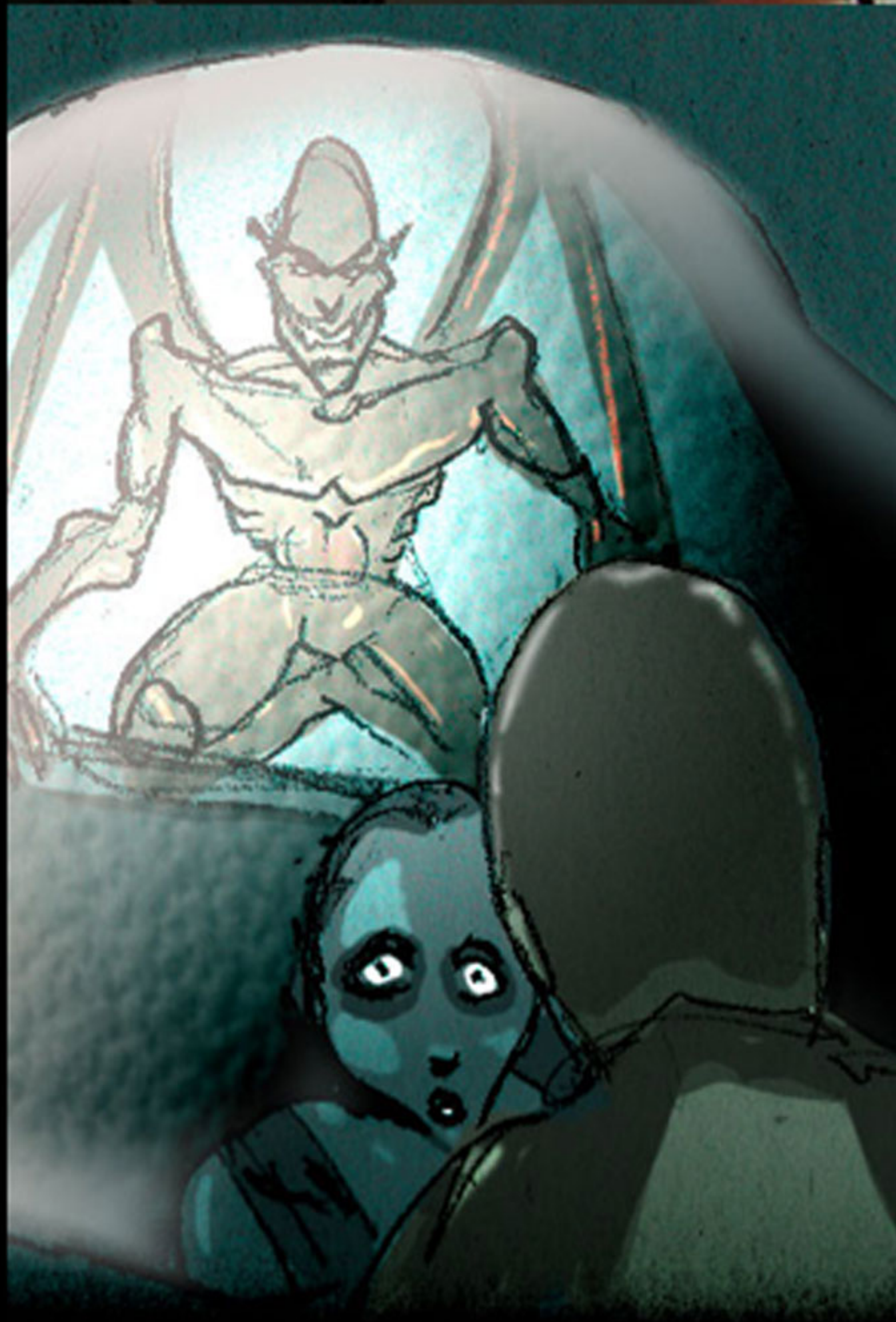
Then the feeling  
of being weightless.

I was lifted  
into the Air...

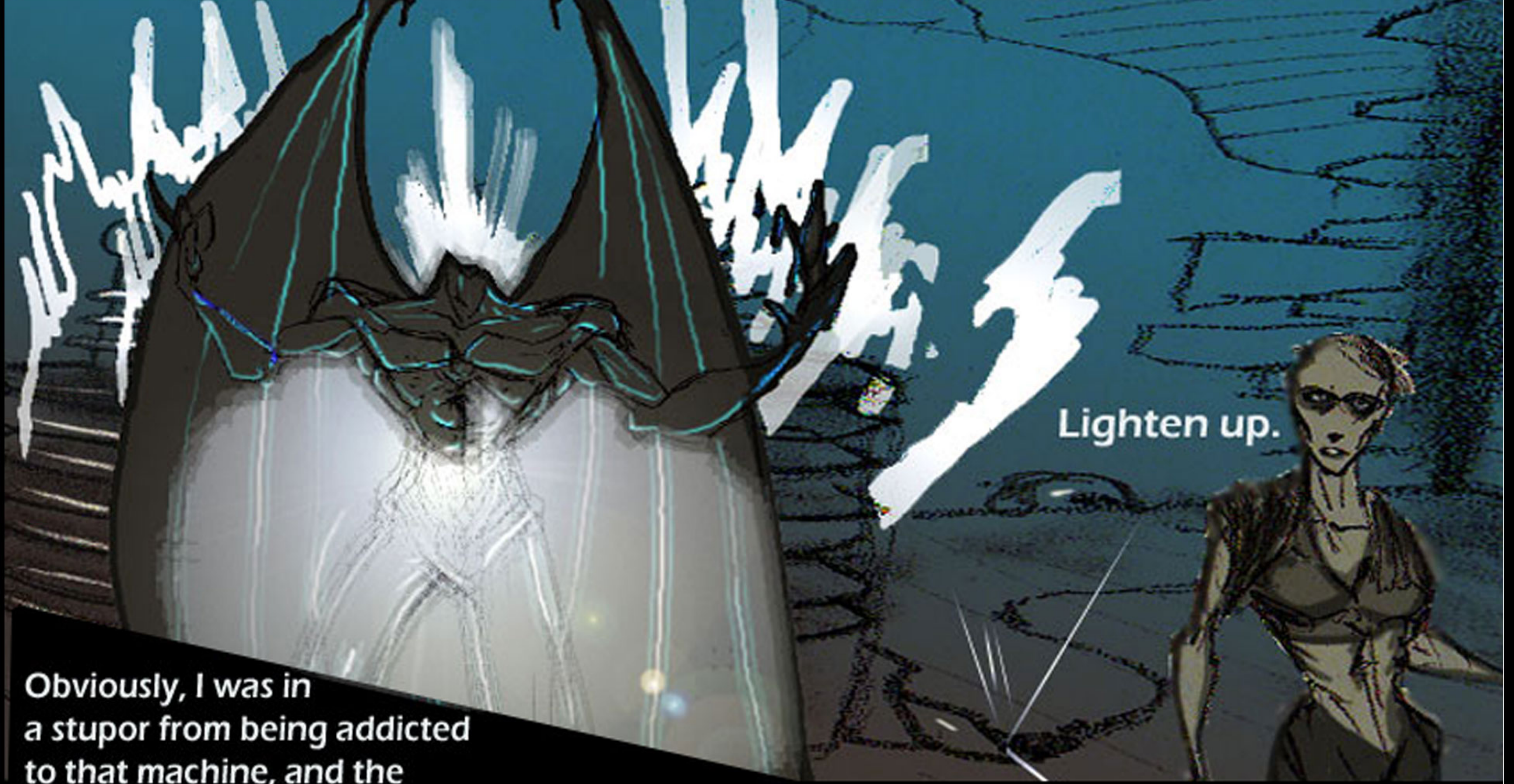
Gotta get  
up and  
walk it off  
... ugh  
look at my  
reflection.  
I look  
awful...  
so hungry,  
wait,  
movement  
behind me.

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...?

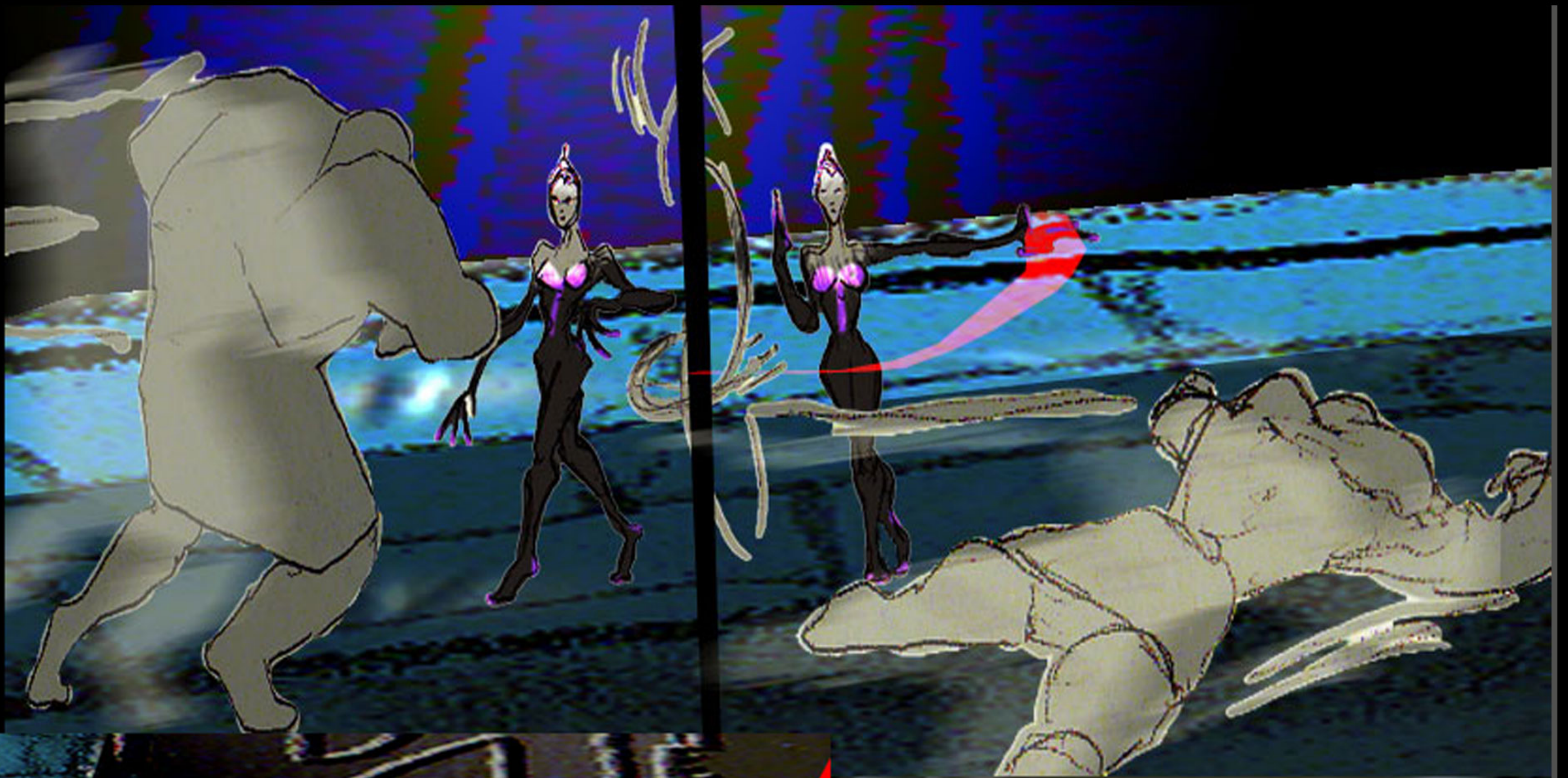


MECHANIKA,  
and I have been  
sent to Destroy you.

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.

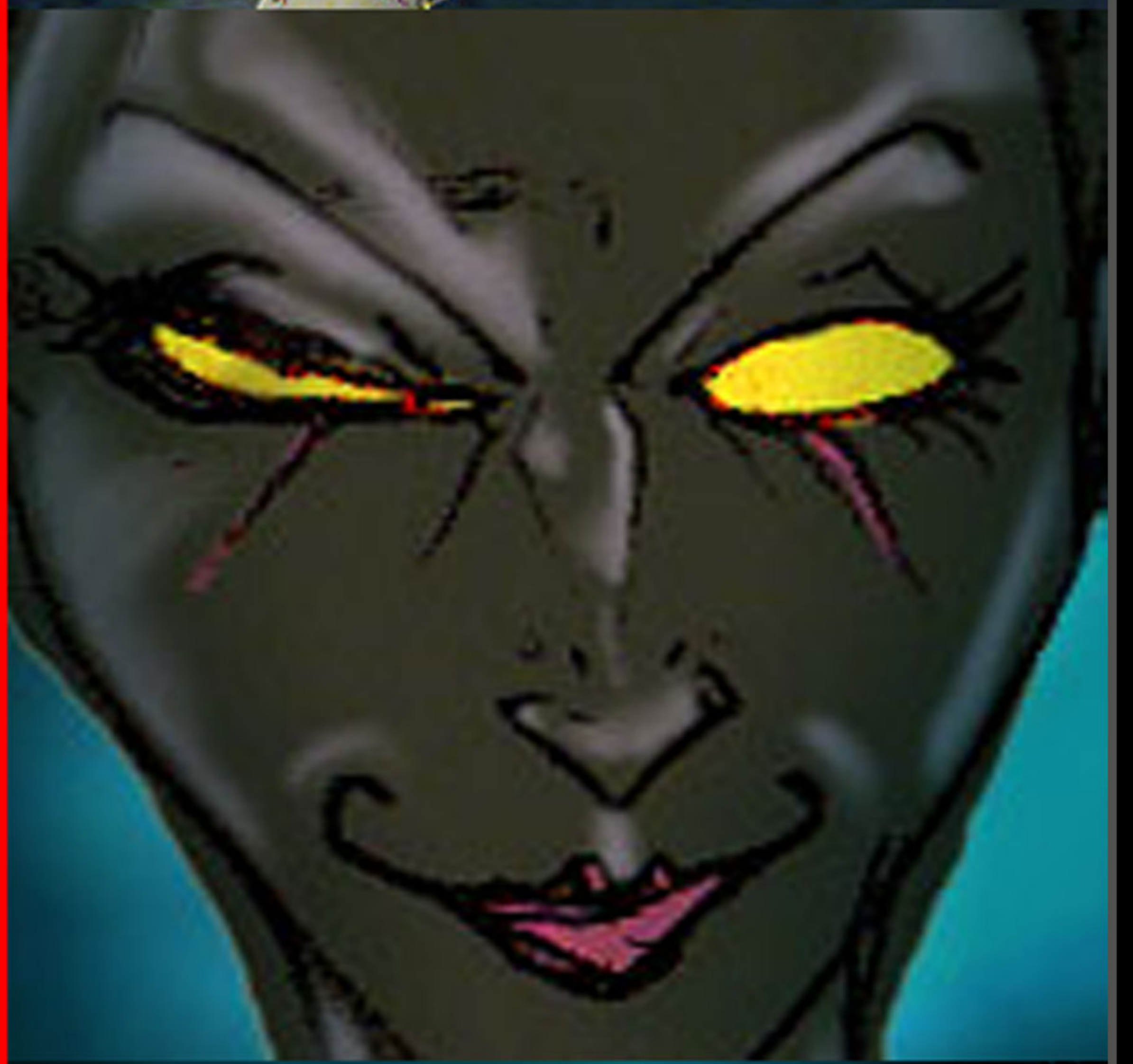


I feel different. I have changed. After eating that thing~Hearing more acute. Vision~ different, heart rate...every thing has changed.  
I can move so fast...and I am Strong!



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.

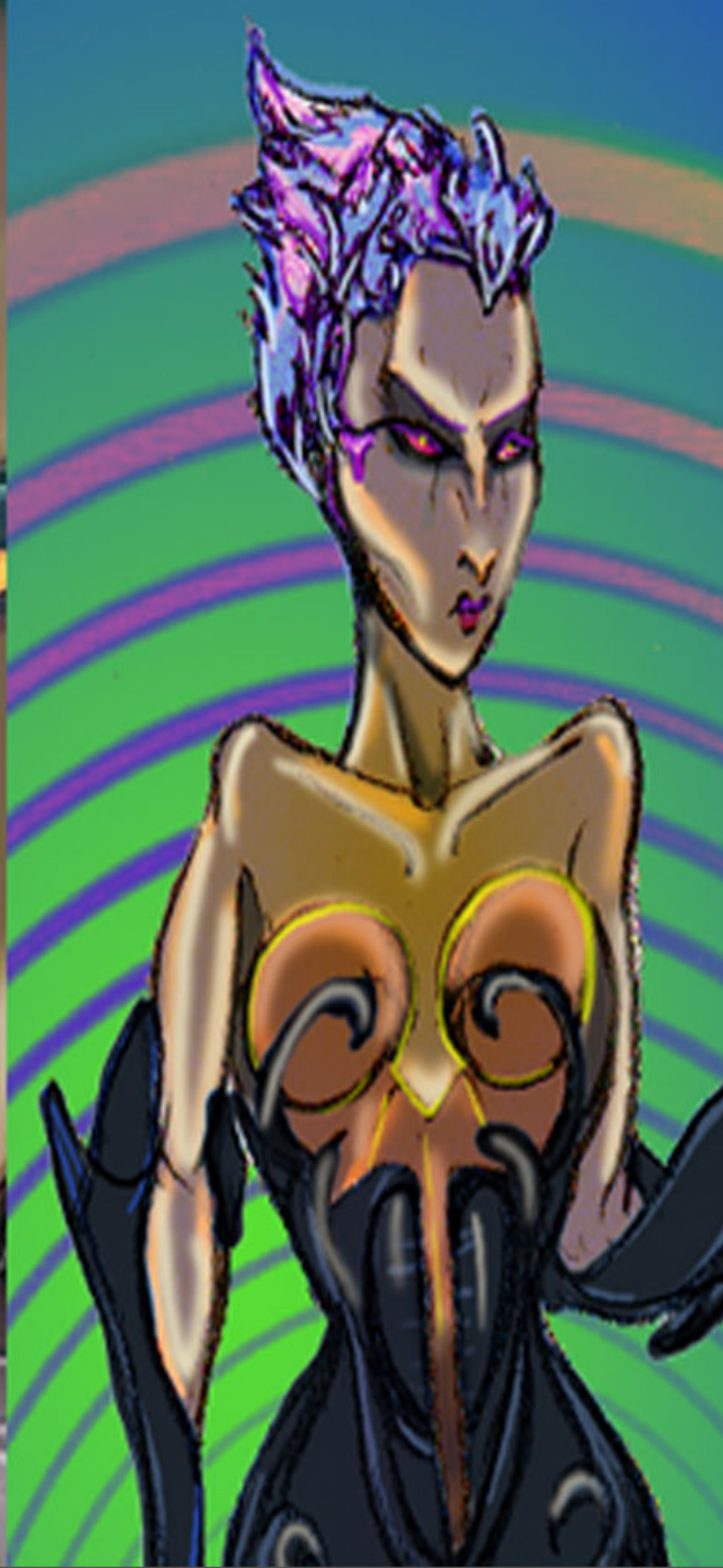


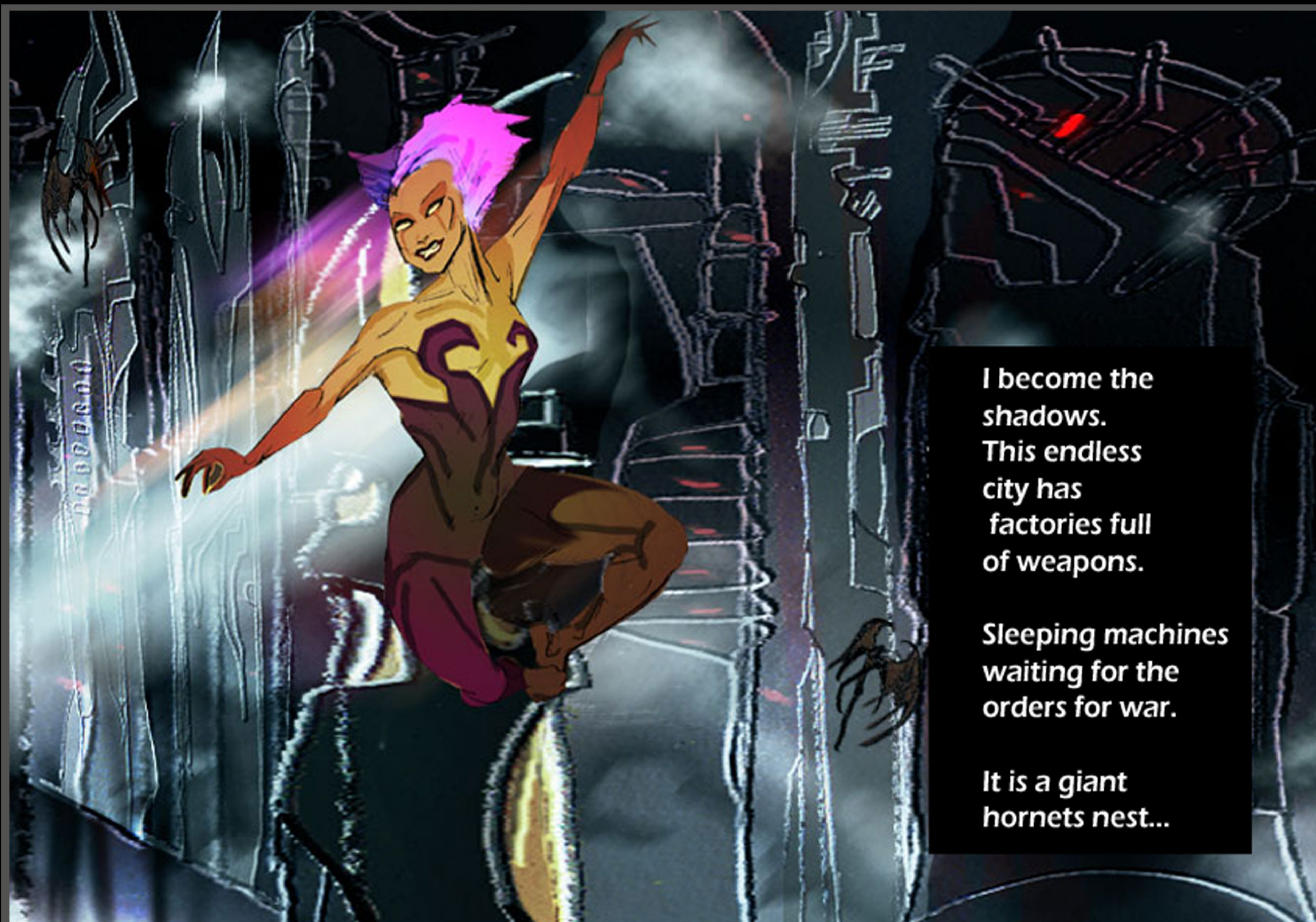
Toasty

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!*

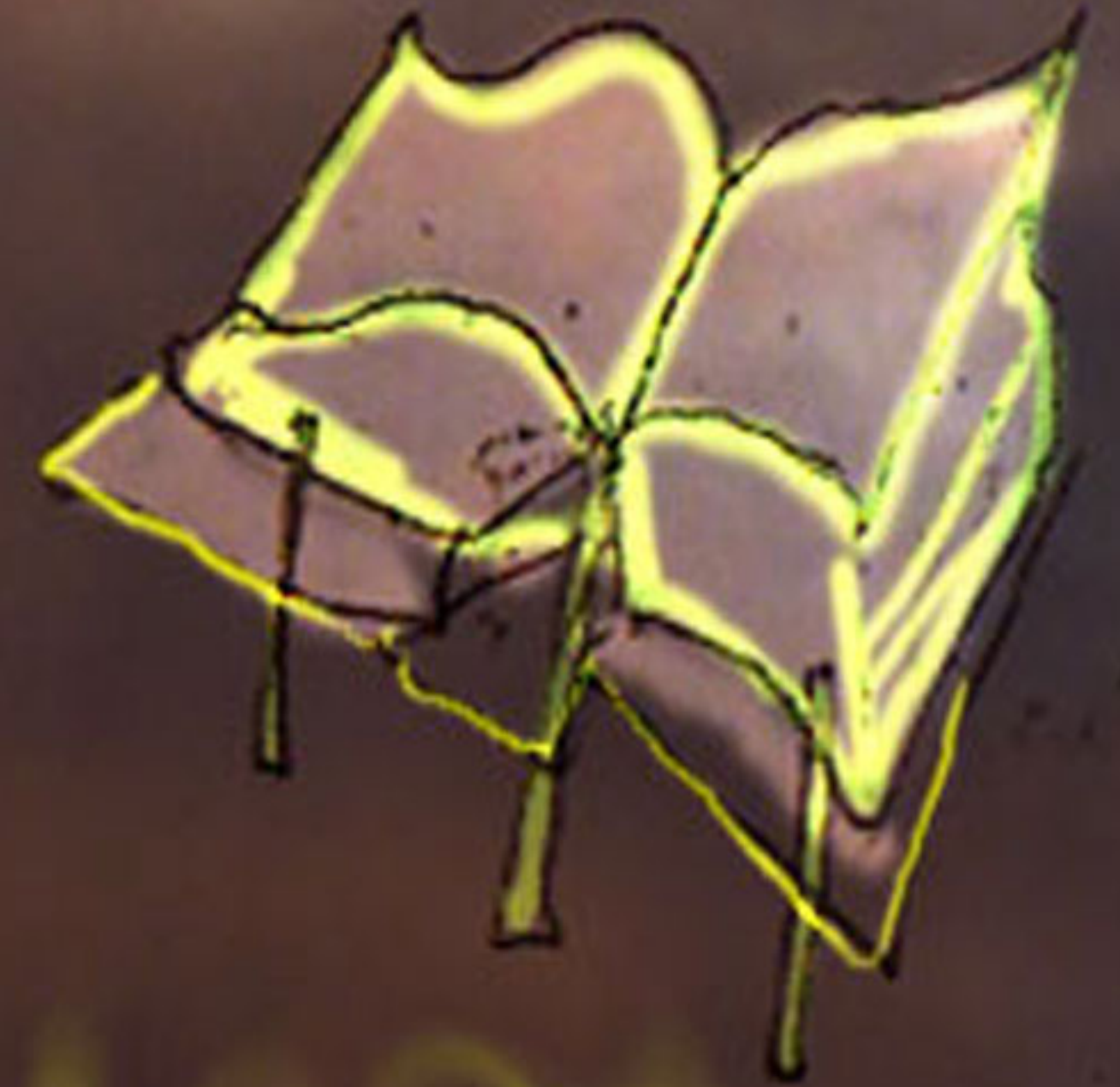
*I have everything ready, now I gather my things to go and fetch what is rightfully MINE!*

*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**

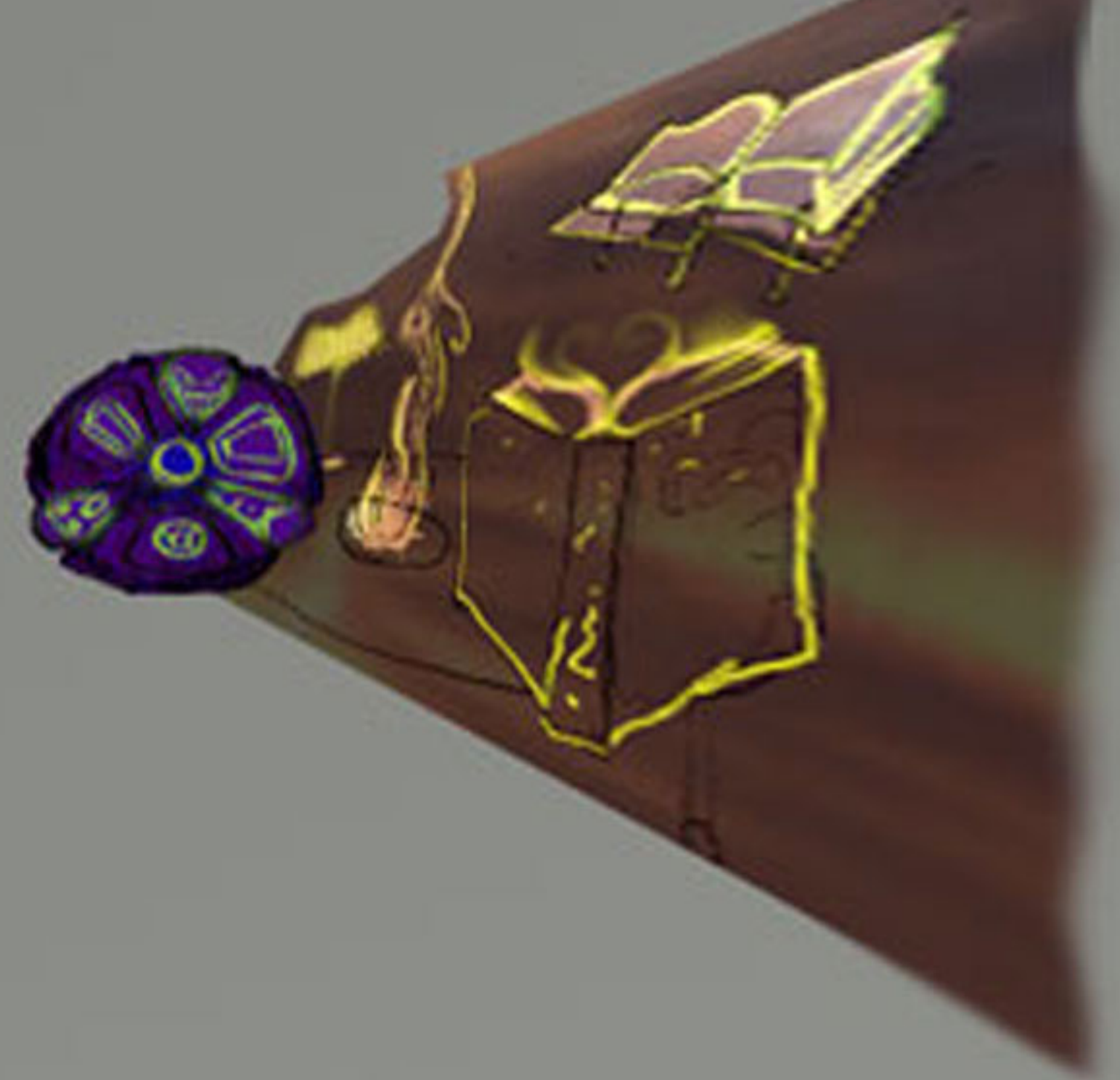
*soon I will say the same about the Travel Gauntlets!*



\* 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.



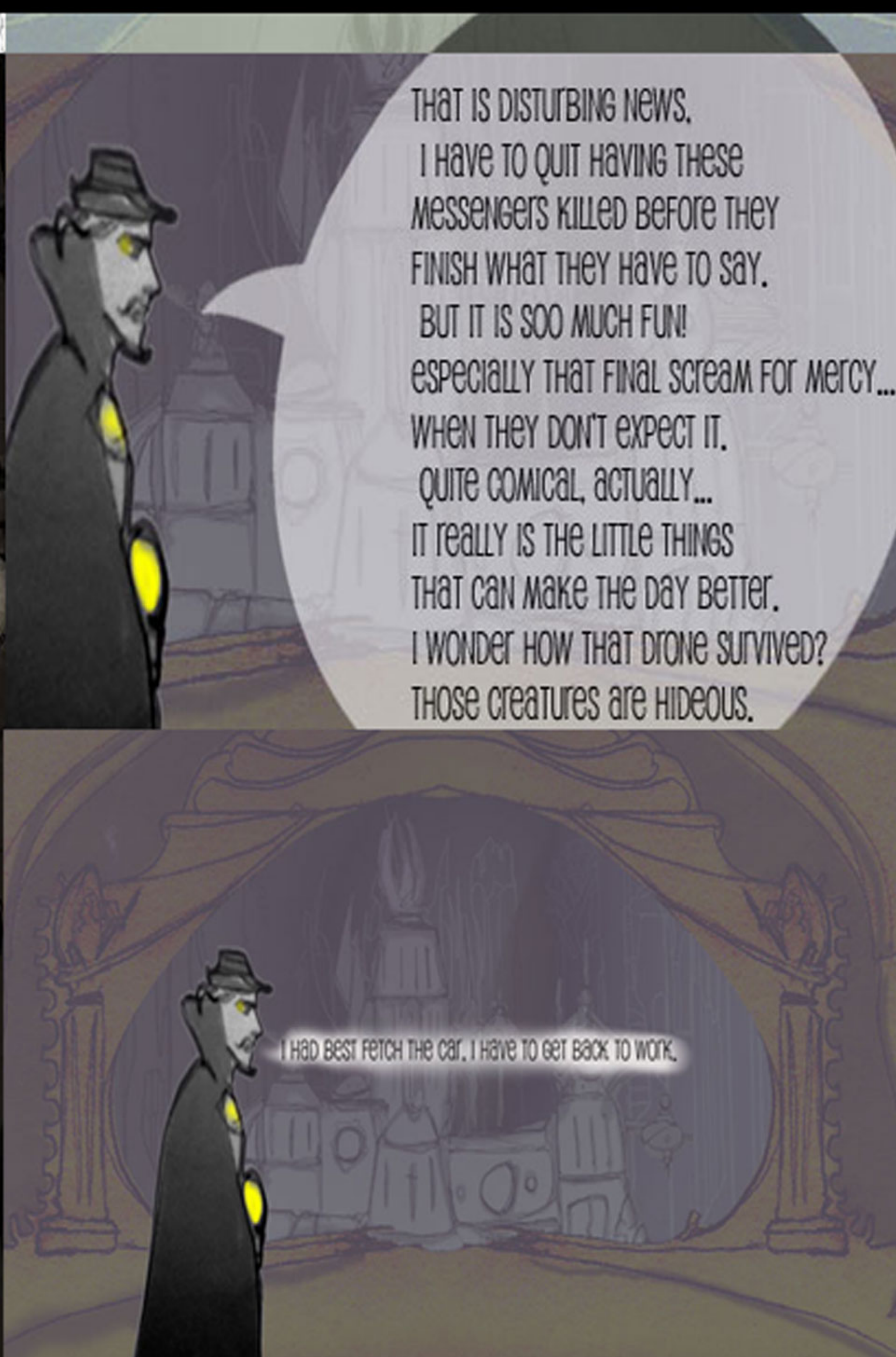
YOU ARE JOKING...THE CITY IS FULL OF THEM...  
LIKE DAMN PIGEONS THEY ARE...!  
THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF WOE...THE  
GEAR DRONE FOOD PROJECT WAS DESIGNED TO  
KEEP THEM FED, REMEMBER...  
IT WAS A DAMN NASTY SIDE EFFECT OF WHEN  
MECHANIKA WAS BORN.  
AHH THOSE WERE GOOD DAYS,  
HAHAHAHA!

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

WHAT!? JULIUS...KILL HIM!



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



I HAD BEST FETCH THE CAR. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.

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.

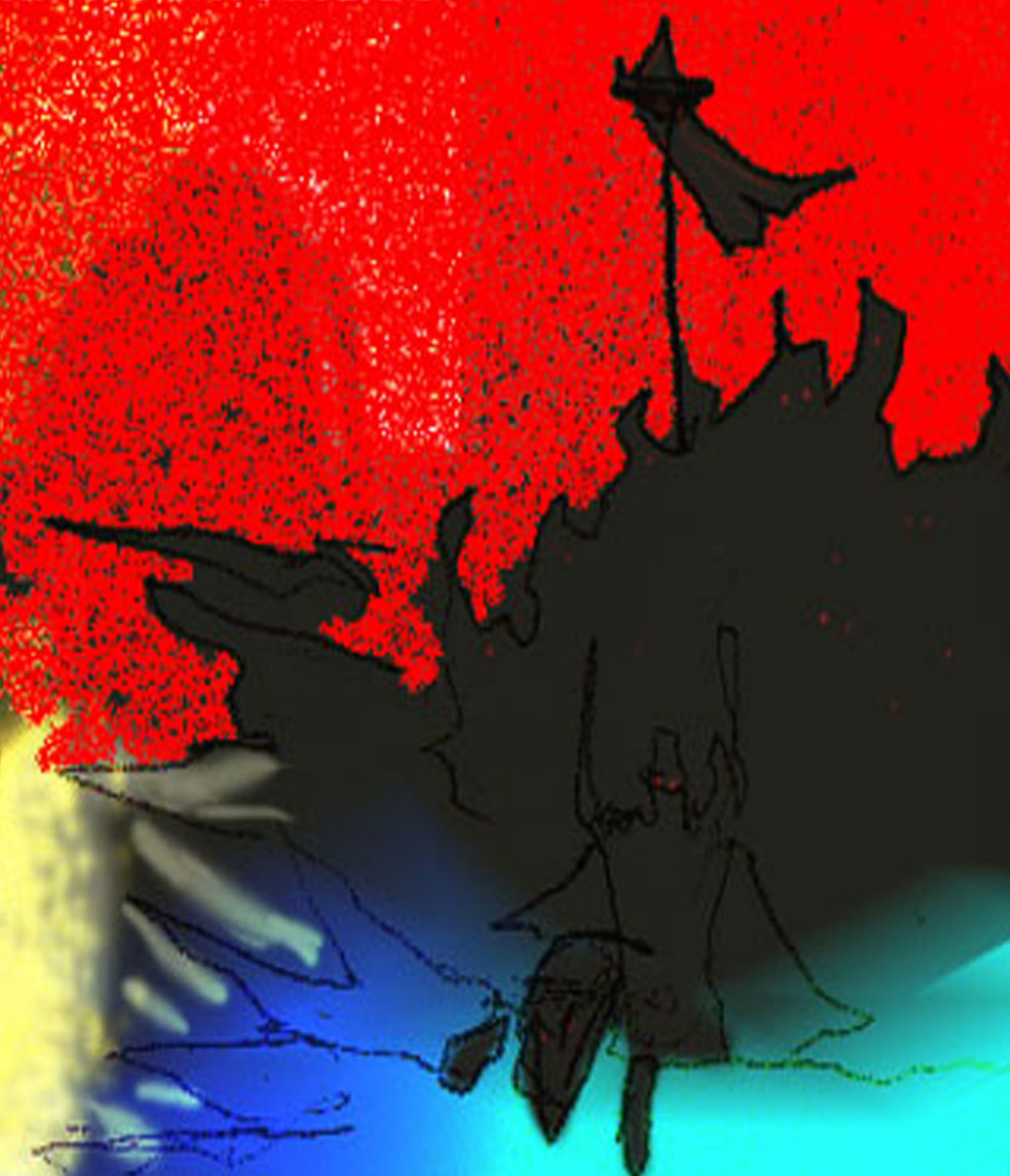
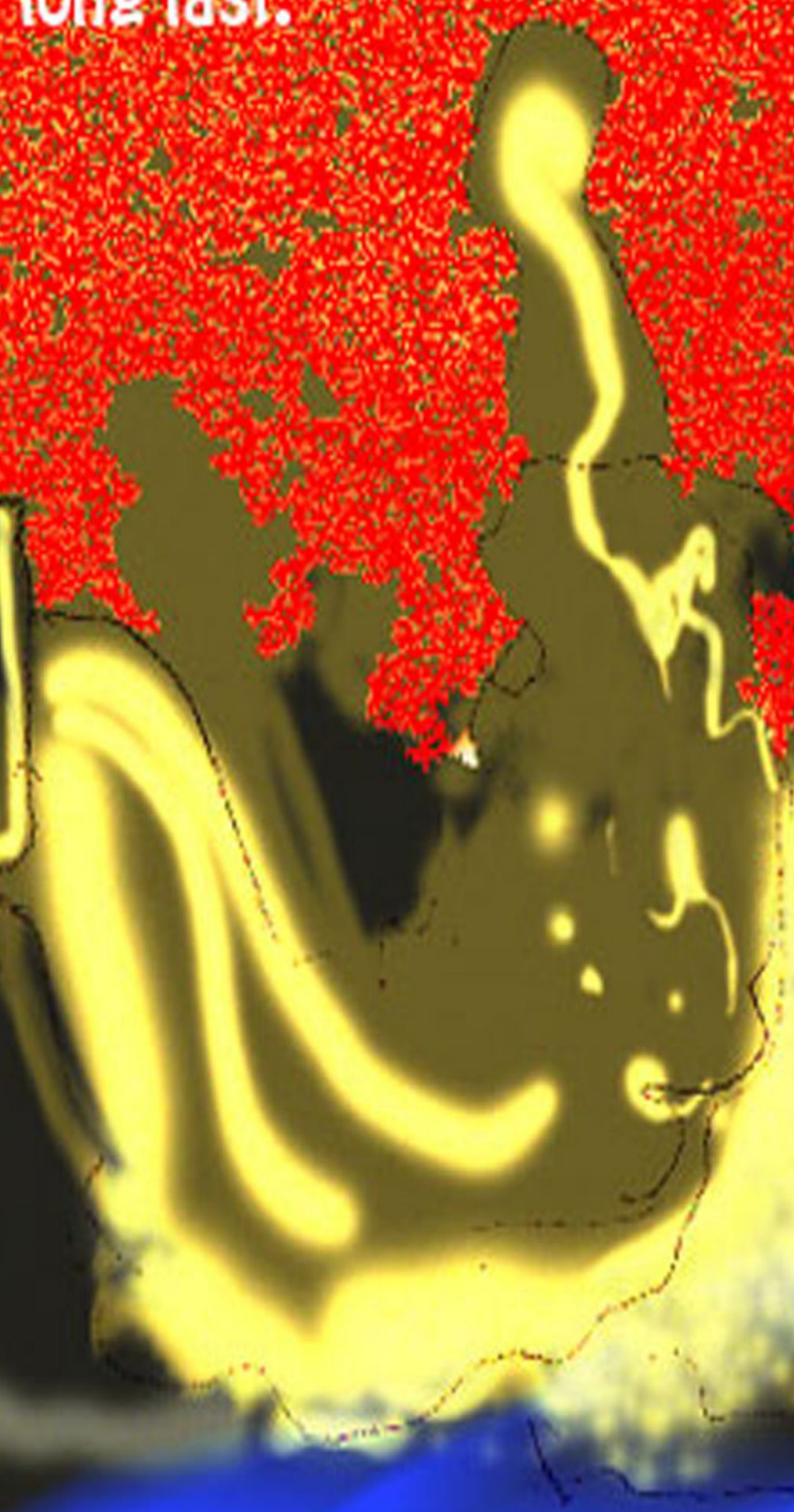
We would serve the land and the people within as wise rulers.  
Humble stewards with respect and kindness for all.

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.

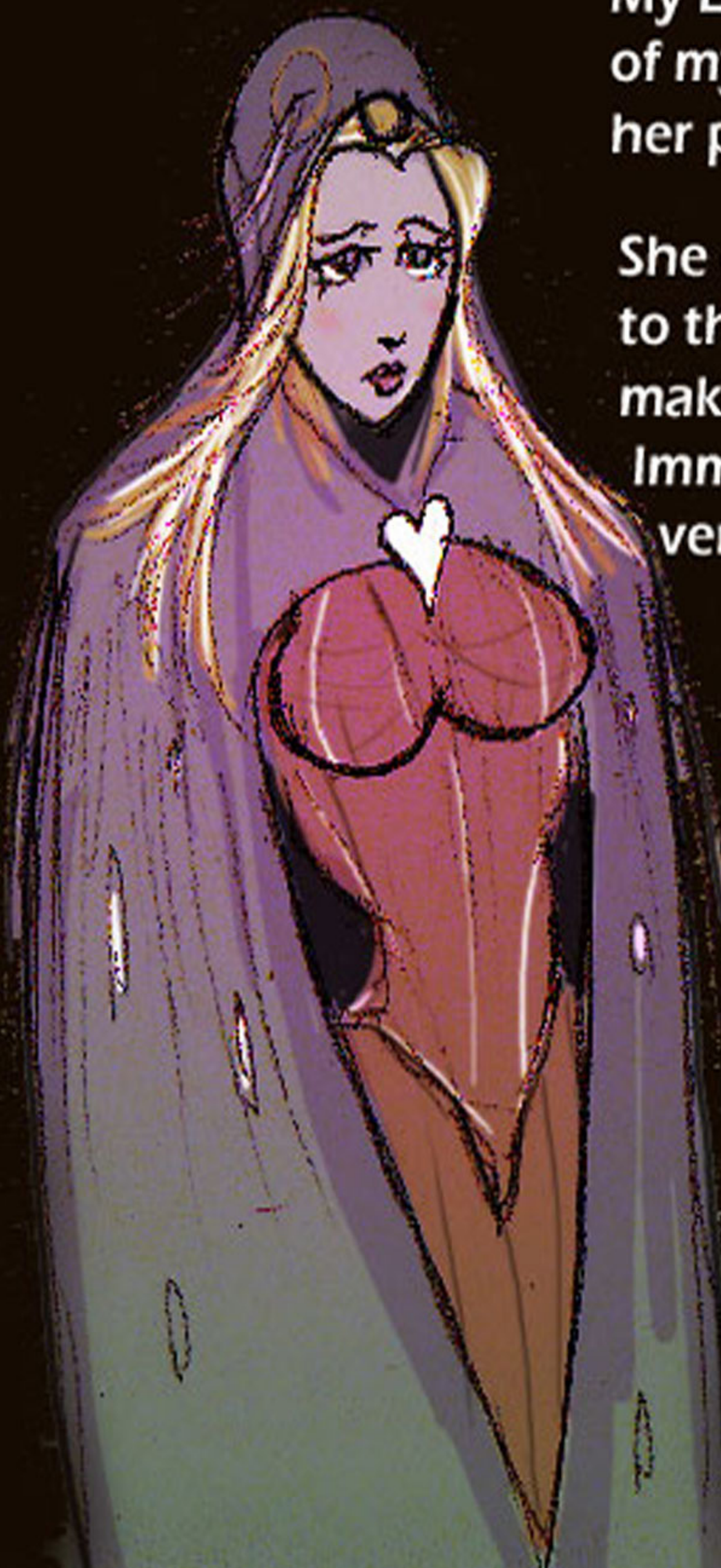
She devised a plan to go to the Sorcerer and have him make us an Elixer of Immortality, for he was very powerful.

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.

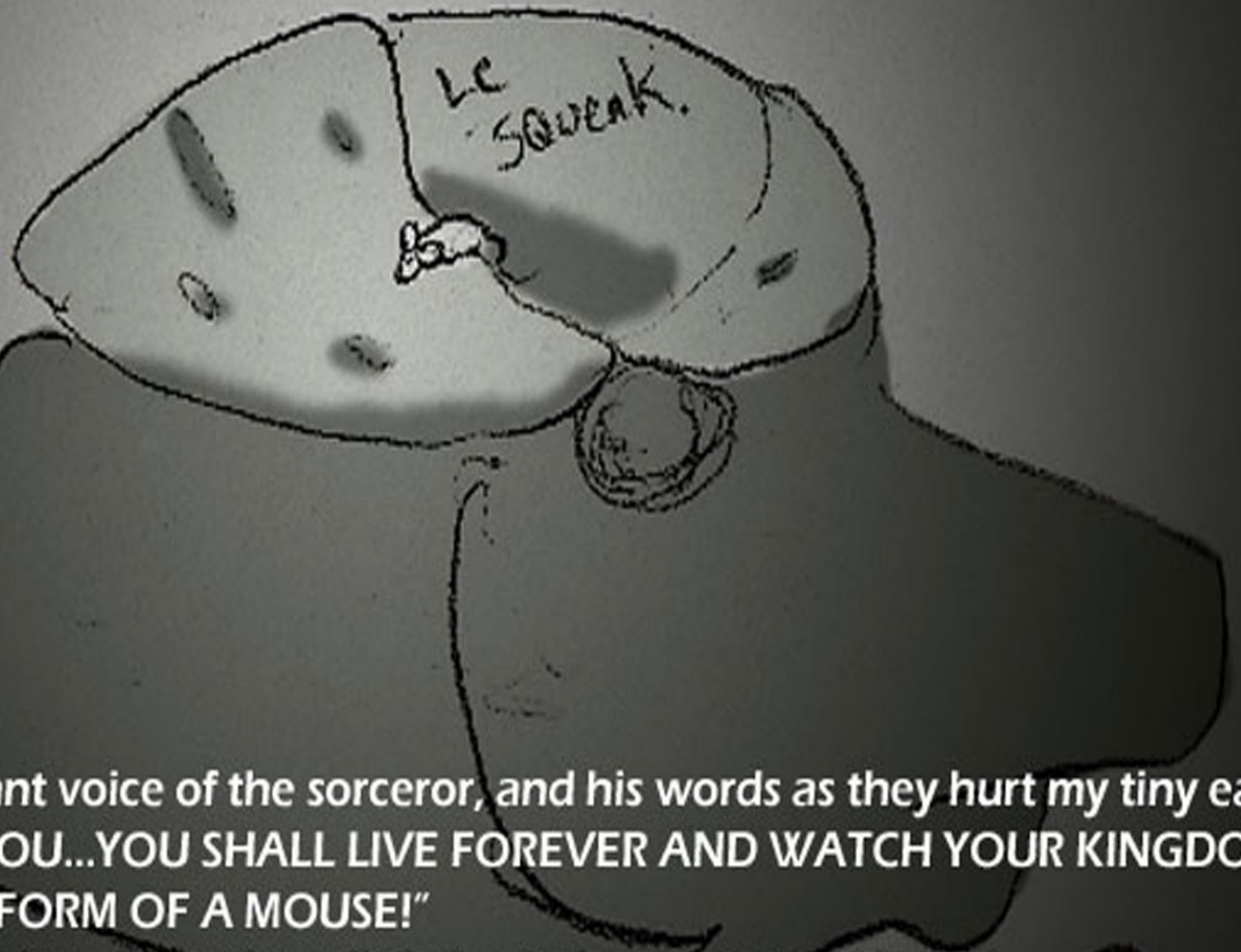
When I had met with that All Dark soul,  
I stood my ground and said... BE Gone of these lands for I am King Now, and you are no longer welcome here. Remarkably, in the most humble fashion, he agreed to go, but explained that my love had a cure for the plague made for me... and it was a very expensive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

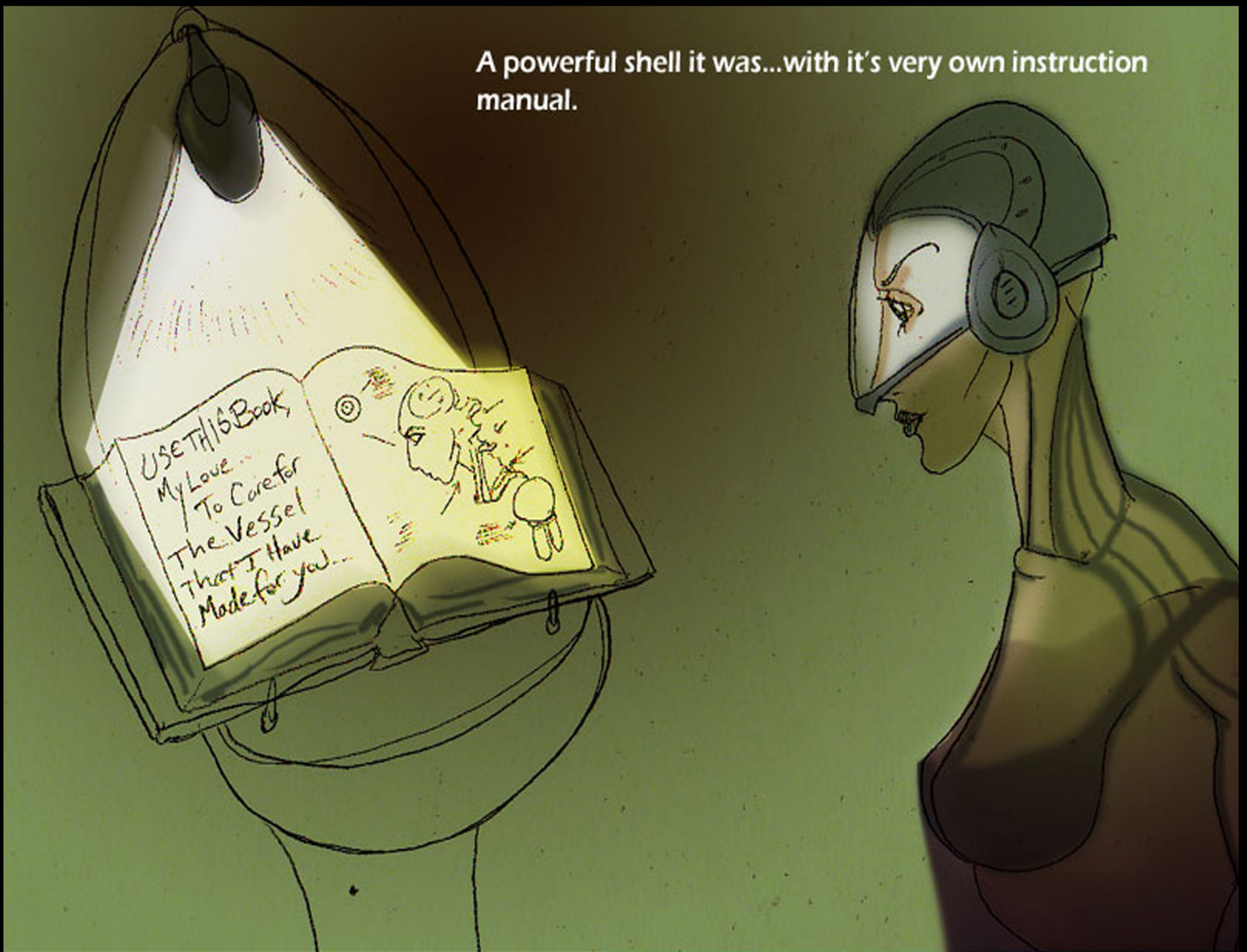
I saw Winston befriend the mourning robotics Genius in a far off future time.



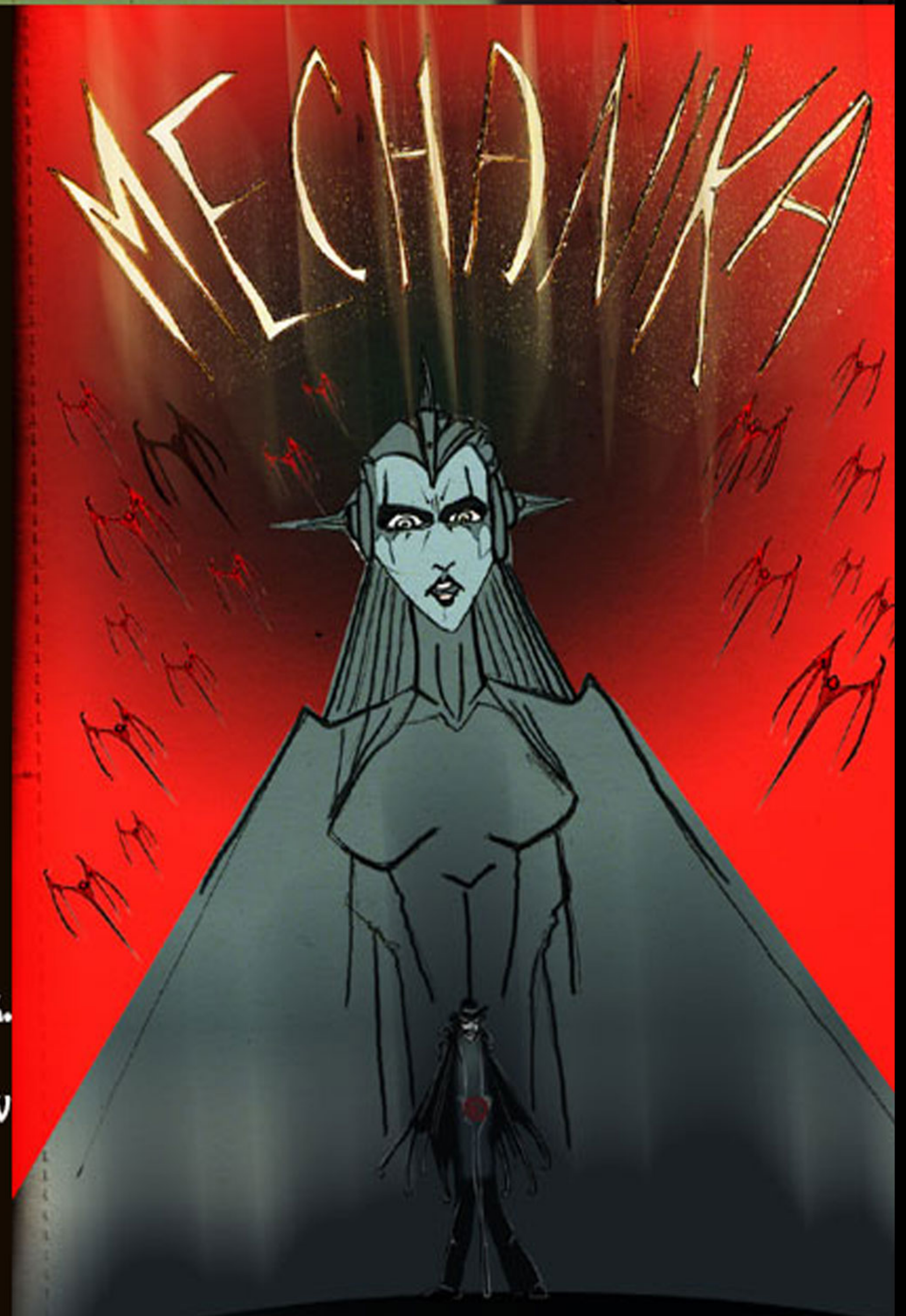
And through dark rituals, he cast your soul into the fine Machine that the robotics genius thought he was making for the resurrection of his wife. AllDark lied to the man.

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

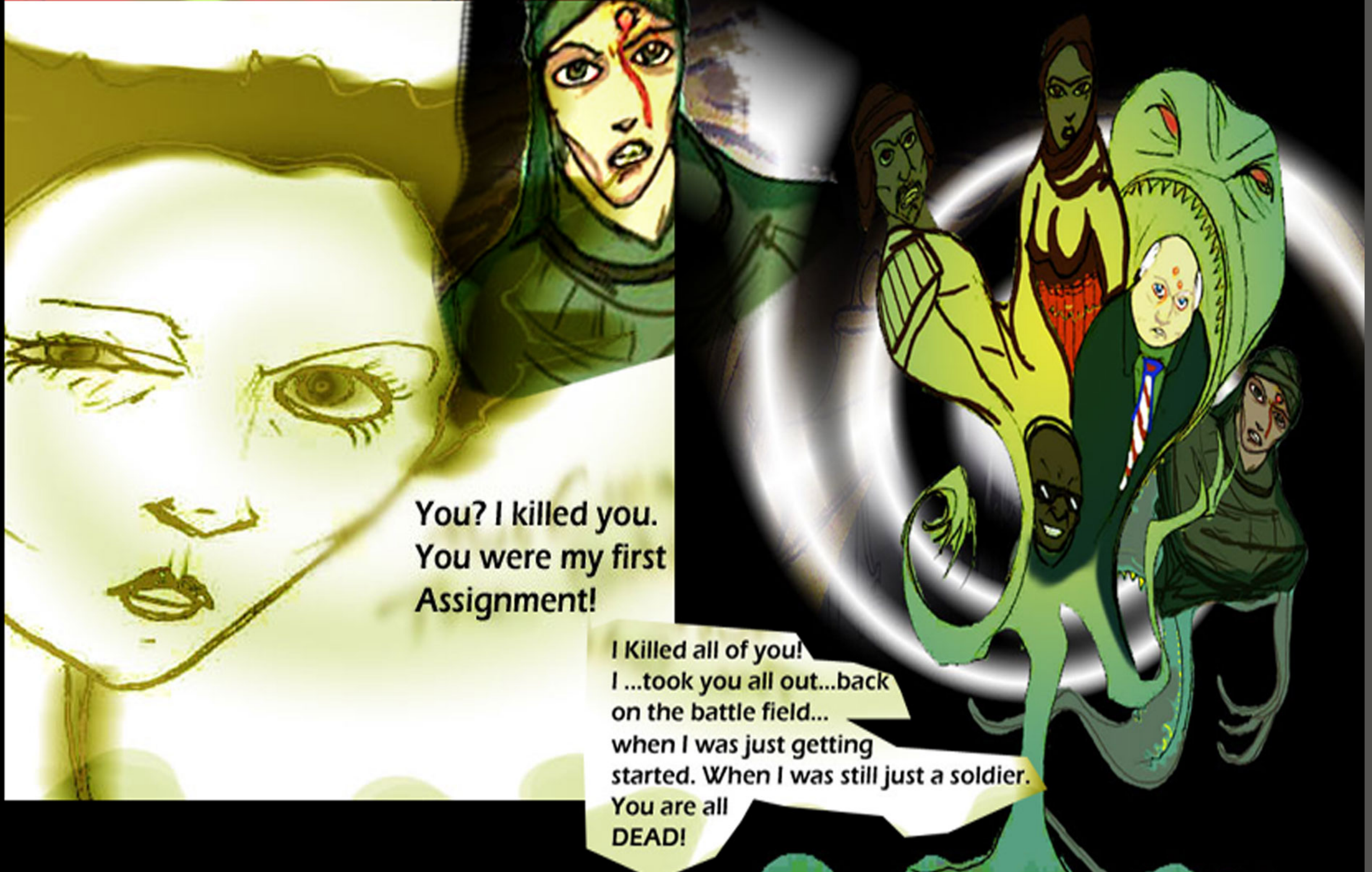
I am Much more than just that.

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

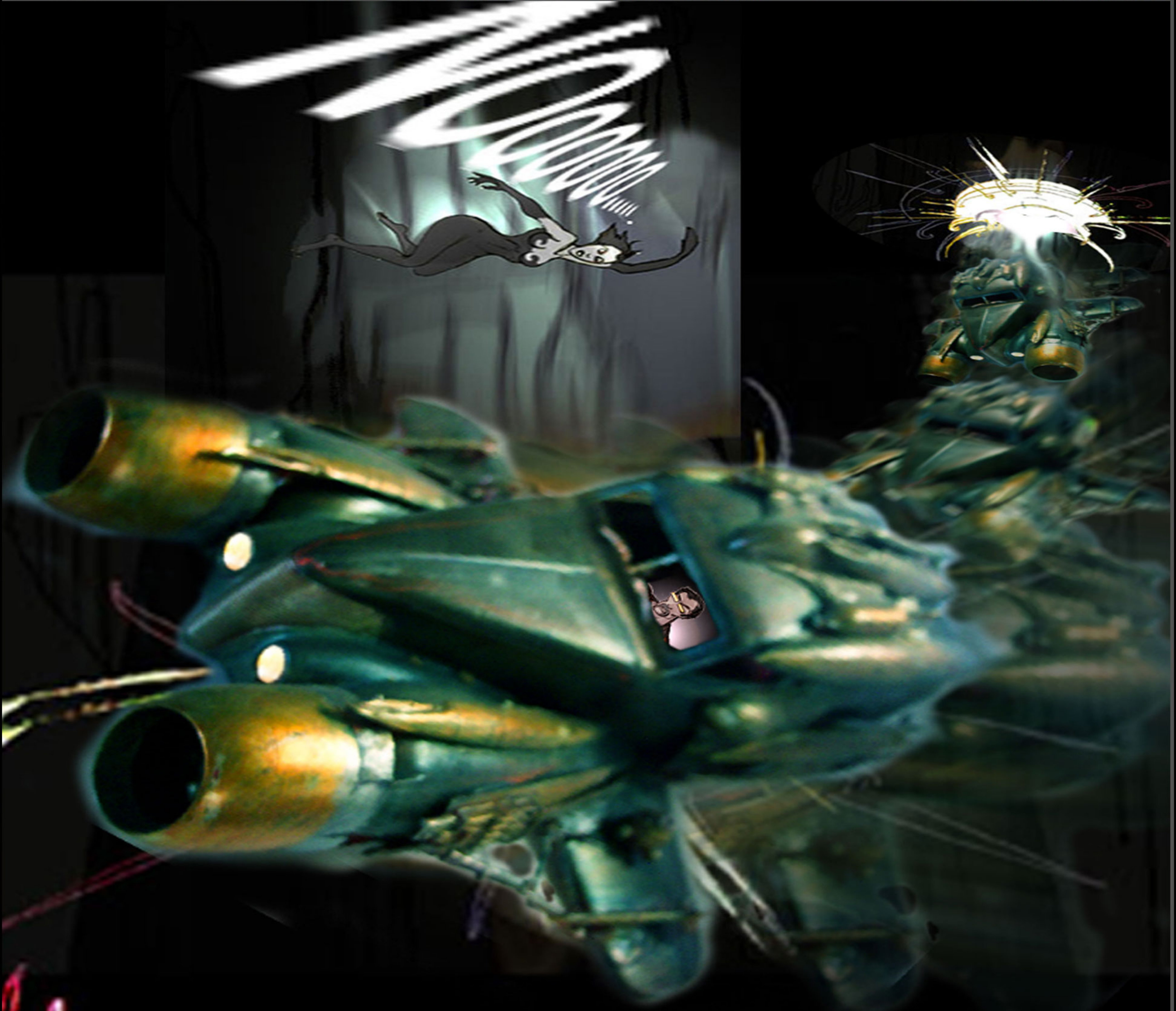
some  
one  
here  
that  
wants  
to see  
you.



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!







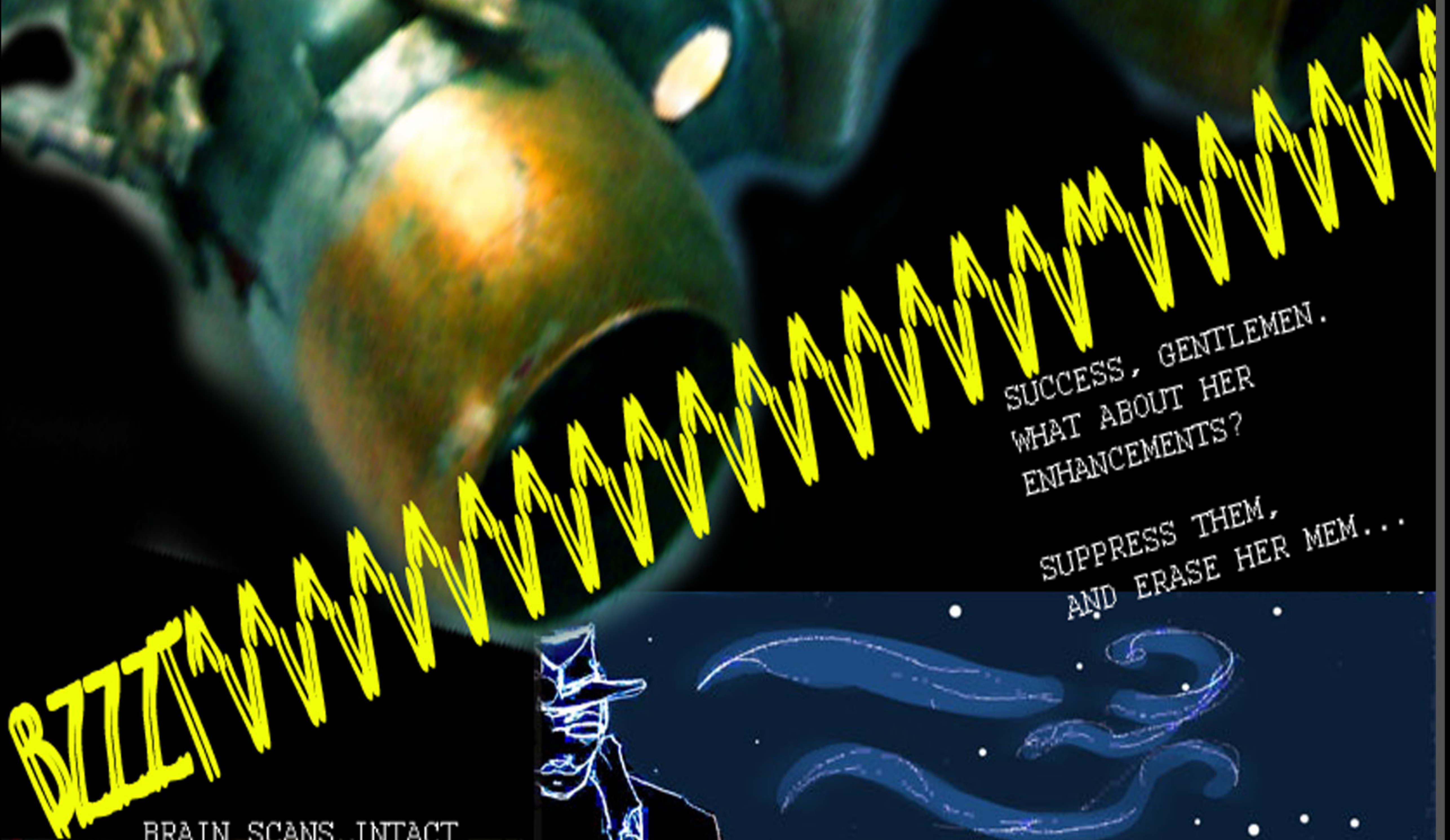
What~you! How? \_Damn It!  
Go Back! Not Done! Let me finish him!

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...

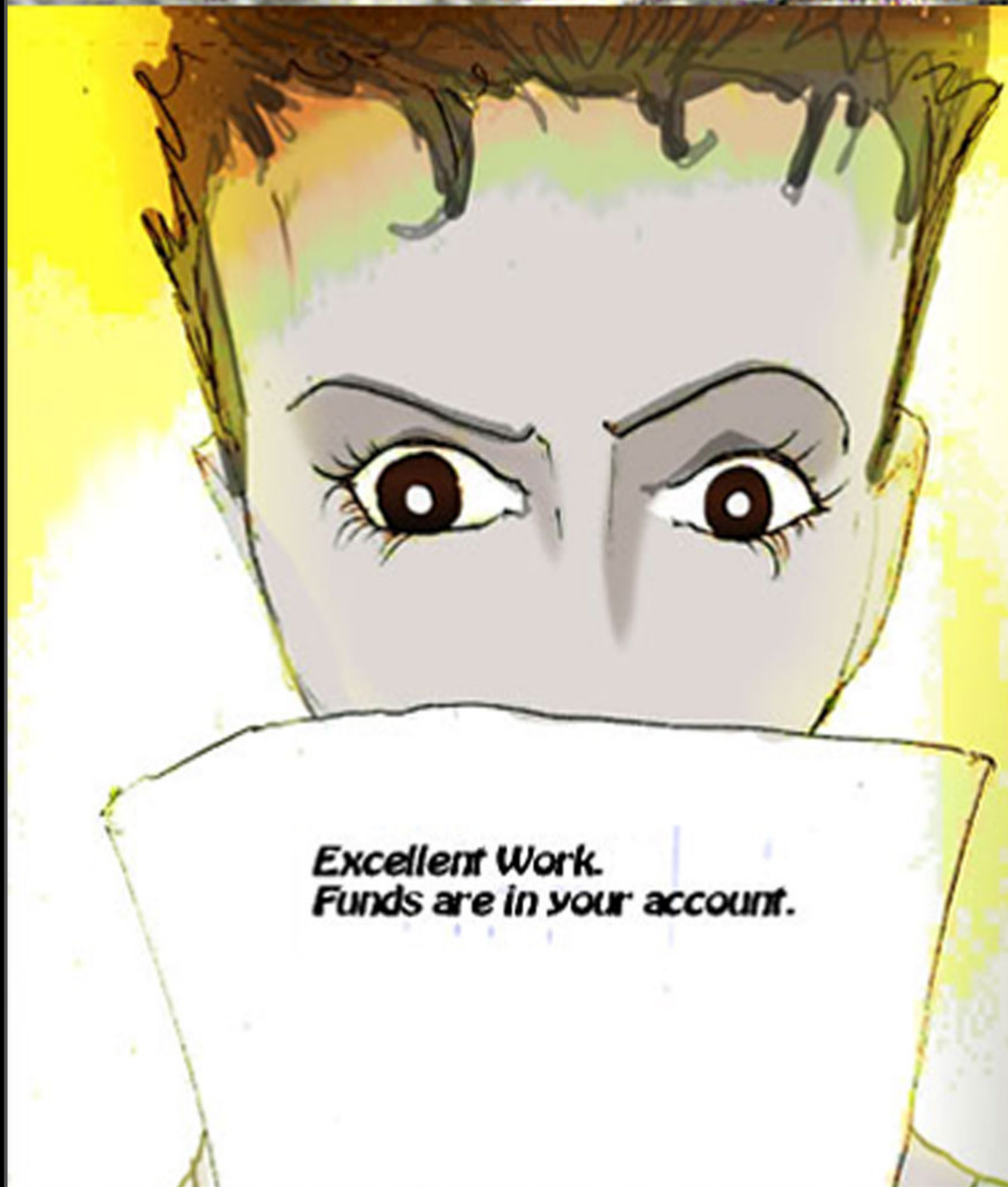
BRAIN SCANS INTACT  
MEMORY REVIEW ATTAINED



*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?*



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