

# JONATHAN'S DESCENT



The background of the page is a grayscale comic book illustration. It features several panels. In the top left, a woman with long dark hair is shown from the back, looking towards a group of people in a town square. A speech bubble from her says "Men are such fools." In the center, a man with glasses and a beard is shown in a close-up, looking down with a somber expression. To his right, another man is shown in a similar close-up, looking towards the first man. The overall style is a detailed line drawing with cross-hatching for shading.

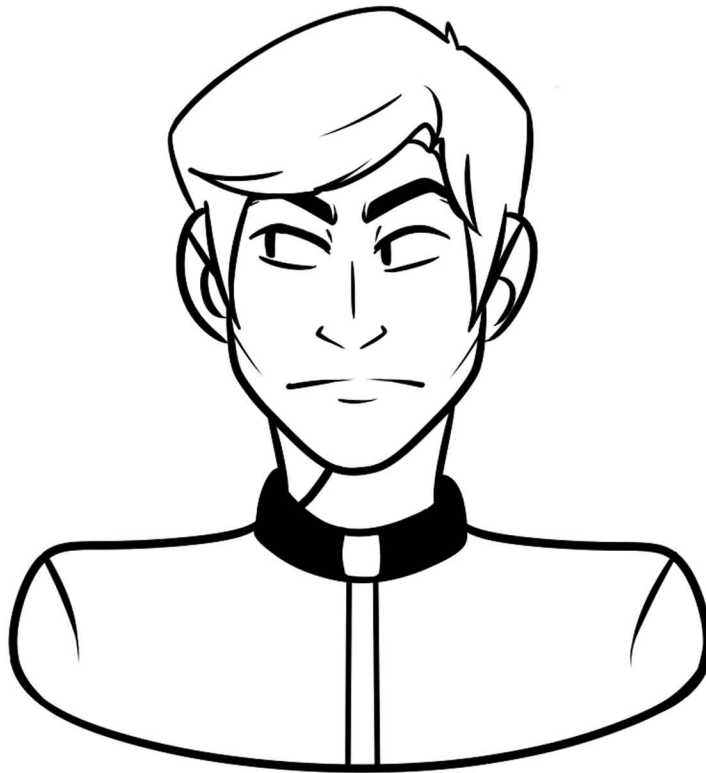
Men are such fools.

## Concrete City Jonathan's Descent

In this comic we follow alternating perspectives of Johnathan Abrams's life events. While a man of the church, Johnathan finds himself struggling with feelings of inadequacy and powerlessness. Those above him do not take his input seriously and constantly critique his way of spreading the holy word. This constant correction and disregard often reminds Johnathan of his past, and it fuels his anger. His frustration turns to obsession when a drought hits his town. The additional strain of the water crisis, and his superiors yet again ignoring his input pushes Johnathan over the edge and subsequently blinds him to the other things important in his life, including his life with his love, Elise. As he grows more distant and colder, tragedy occurs. Elise, with seemingly no other option, takes her own life.

After finding her, he becomes increasingly disturbed and more self-absorbed. Word makes it back to his church of what had happened to Elise and he attempts to save her good name by preaching acceptance and circumstance of her actions; instead of burning in hell for committing such a sin, God had accepted her into heaven. This was the last straw for his superiors. Johnathan is reprimanded for the final time, and relieved of his position in the church. Unable to face what he viewed as his own incompetence as well as a gross miscarriage of justice, Johnathan packs his car and leaves, unsure of where he is even going. On his travels, almost immediately Johnathan stumbles upon an antique shop, called Two Jacks. There he is greeted by a man who calls himself Lucius, sitting at the playing solitaire. He welcomes Johnathan into his shop and encourages him to look around.

What Johnathan does not know is that Lucius actually is shadowy figure with his own malicious intentions. After looking around some Johnathan finds the "Employee's only" room. Lucius, knowing this would happen, does nothing. Wandering into this room and down what looked like a hallway, Johnathan is then mysteriously transported into Concrete City, through a well out into the expanse. To his left the area seemed covered in swamp land, damp, humid and littered with frogs. To his right the area seemed like a desert, desolate and arid, inhabited with a few moths. Upon further inspection of the swamp-like area, he notices that small things change if he wills it to. Curious as to what else he could do in this new found realm he begins to explore his surroundings when he runs into a man with frog like traits. Startled by the grotesque appearance, he steps back. The frogman asks him who he is, and he responds sarcastically, "I am the prophet...!" The frogman instantly agrees with him, apologizing for not noticing earlier and hands him a book. Johnathan is taken by this frogman to others within his side of Concrete City. There he creates his own following, and relishes in his self-proclaimed power. His power trip was interrupted when he encounters another who can manipulate things as he can. Appalled, he must figure out a way reclaim his glory. But what else must he lose?



**NAME: JOHNATHAN ABRAMS**

**AGE: MID 20'S**

### **BACKGROUND AND SYNOPSIS:**

JOHNATHAN HAD COME FROM A HOME WITH A RATHER STRICT MOTHER AND A FATHER DUTIFUL TO THE CHURCH. GROWING UP HE HAD ALWAYS LONGED FOR HIS FATHER'S ATTENTION BUT TO NO AVAIL. HIS FATHER, ALTHOUGH NOT NEGLECTFUL, GAVE MOST OF HIS FOCUS TO HIS CHURCH. JOHNATHAN'S MOTHER ON THE OTHER HAND WAS VERY PARTICULAR WITH HOW THINGS WERE TO BE DONE AT HOME. SHE OFTEN CORRECTED JOHNATHAN, USUALLY WITH A STERN TONE AND FIRM HAND. FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD JOHNATHAN, LIKE HIS FATHER, BECAME A DEVOTED MAN OF THE CHURCH. THROUGH THE TRANSMEDIA NARRATIVE WE SEE JOHNATHAN AFTER SOME YEARS OF SERVICE, STRUGGLING TO MAKE HIS MARK. HE BECOMES PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHERS CORRECTIONS OF HIM, AS WELL AS DISREGARD BY OTHERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS. BECOMING SO NARROW-MINDED AND CONSUMED HE LOSES SIGHT OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT...HIMSELF INCLUDED.



# ELISE

*Jonathan's loving wife.  
After losing her family and childhood home  
to influenza and famine,  
Elise thought she had finally found peace  
once she had met — and married  
Jonathan, a man of the cloth.  
But his cross proved too heavy for her to bear  
and she withered under the pressure.  
However, Elise's devotion is undeterred  
and even now she watches,  
waiting to reach out to him —  
Whether from the great beyond or  
the dark corners of his mind.*



**NAME: LUCIUS**  
**AGE: UNKNOWN**

**BACKGROUND & SYNOPSIS:**

LUCIUS IS A SHADY FIGURE WITH MALICIOUS INTENTIONS. HE LEADS JONATHAN THROUGH THE BACK ROOM IN TWO JACKS WHICH MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSPORTS HIM UP THE WELL INTO THE MIDDLE OF CONCRETE CITY.



**NAME: MATTHEW**

**AGE: ???**

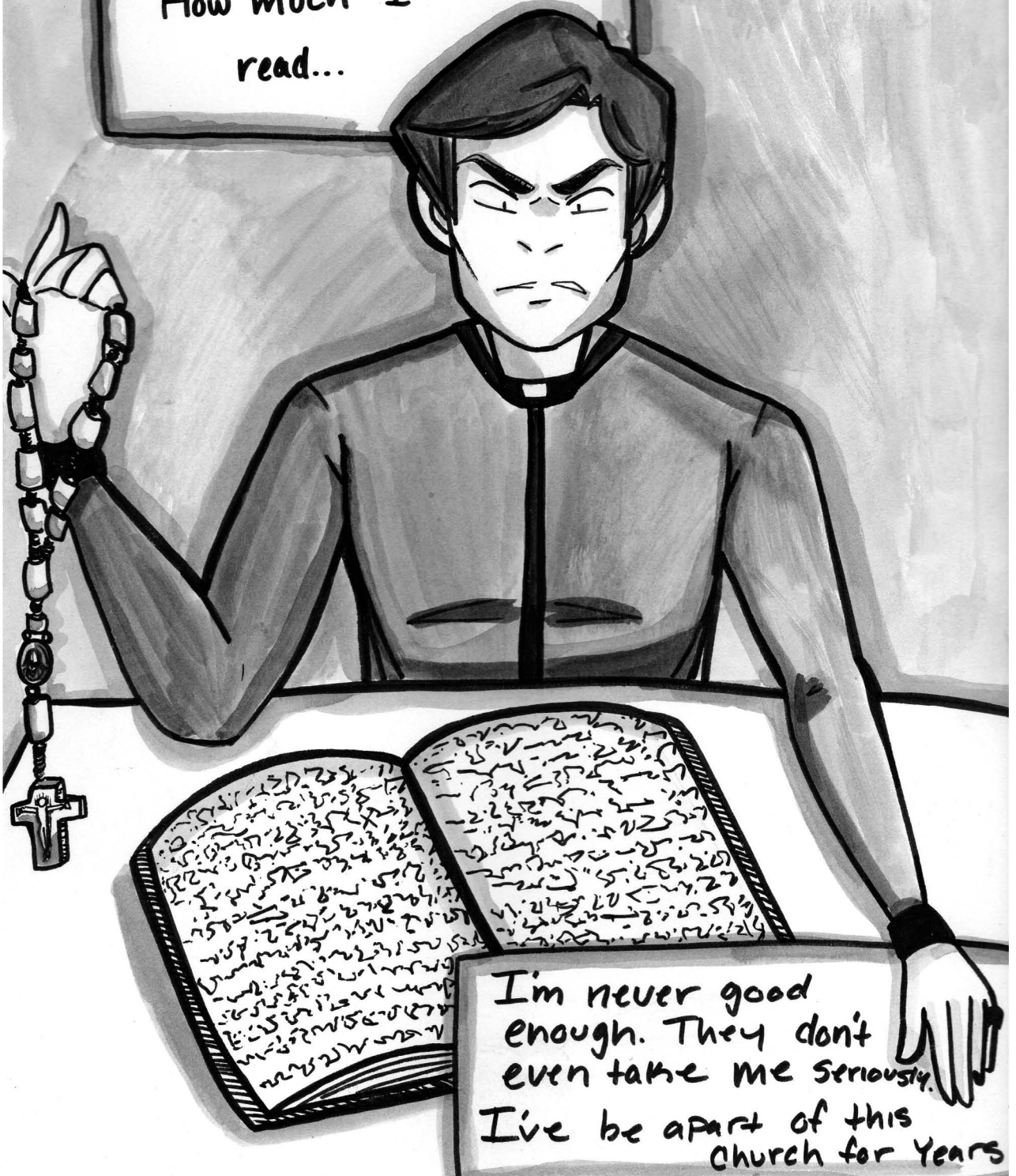
### **BACKGROUND AND SYNOPSIS:**

MATTHEW SERVES AS JOHNATHAN'S NEMESIS, AS HE POSSESSES INFLUENCE AND ABILITIES THAT RIVALS JOHNATHAN'S NEWFOUND POWERS AND AUTHORITY OVER CONCRETE CITY. HE IS JOHNATHAN'S ANTITHESIS: COOL-HEADED, CONFIDENT, AND CALCULATING HE POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO JOHNATHAN'S DOMINION OVER THE MYSTERIOUS LAND. THERE'S A SEMBLANCE TO HIM THAT STRIKES JOHNATHAN REVEALING THAT THERE'S MUCH MORE TO MATTHEW THAN WHAT'S ON THE SURFACE AND CALLS TO QUESTION TO WHAT HE IS AND HIS TRUE PURPOSE.

THE BEGINNING

No matter what I do...

How much I  
read...



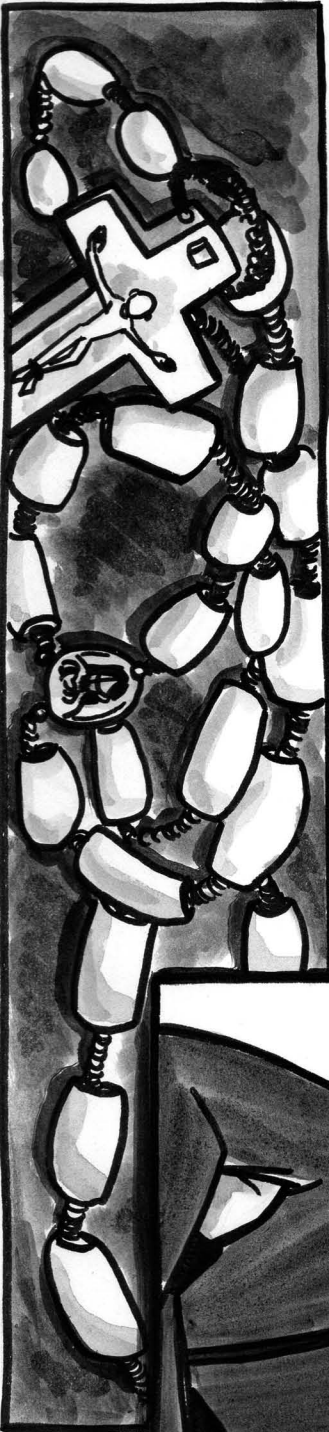
I'm never good  
enough. They don't  
even take me seriously.  
I've be apart of this  
church for years

I feel so useless.

I'm done feeling like this.



I have no agency.



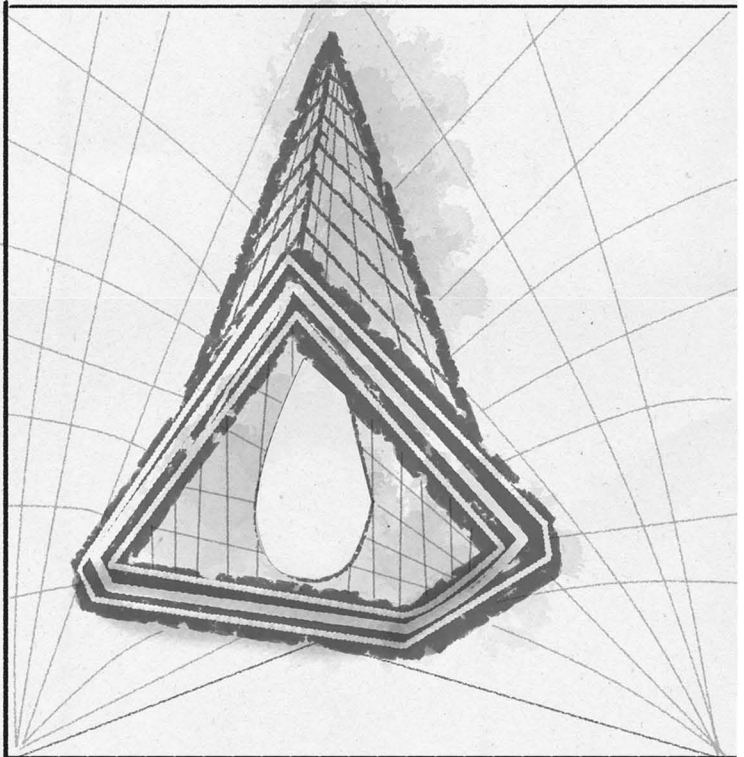
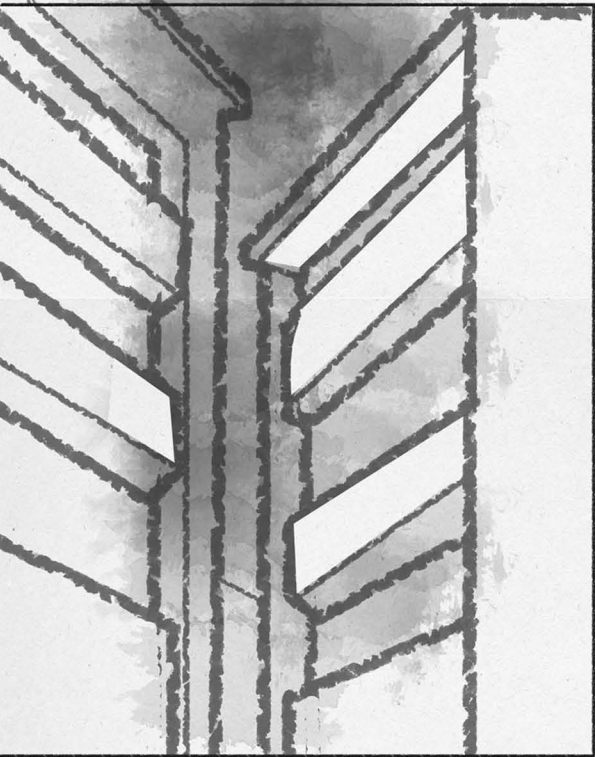
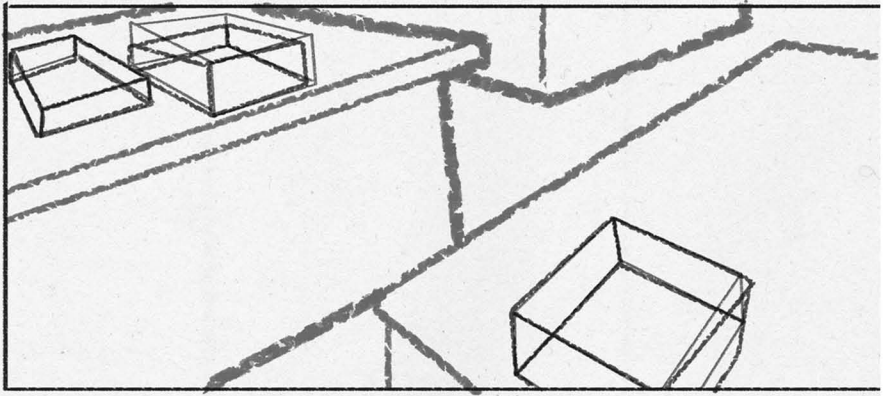


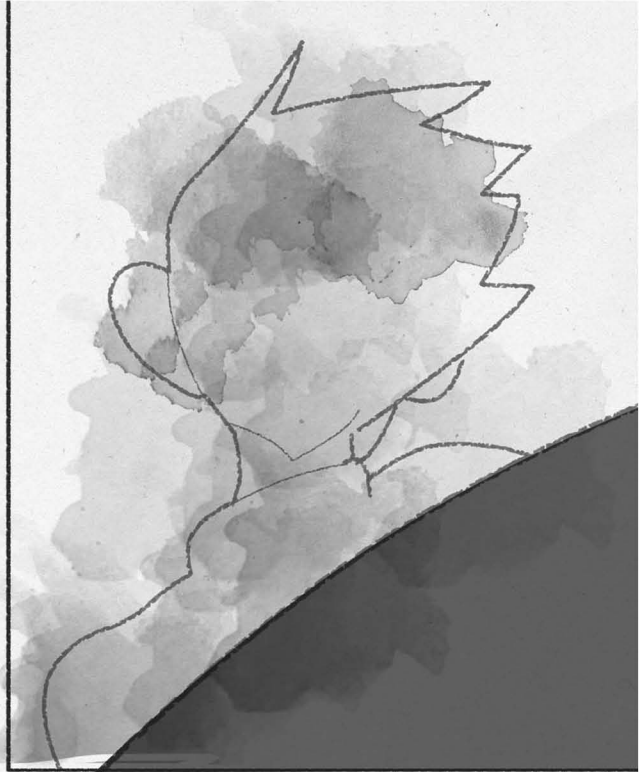
I've been spurred for too long.

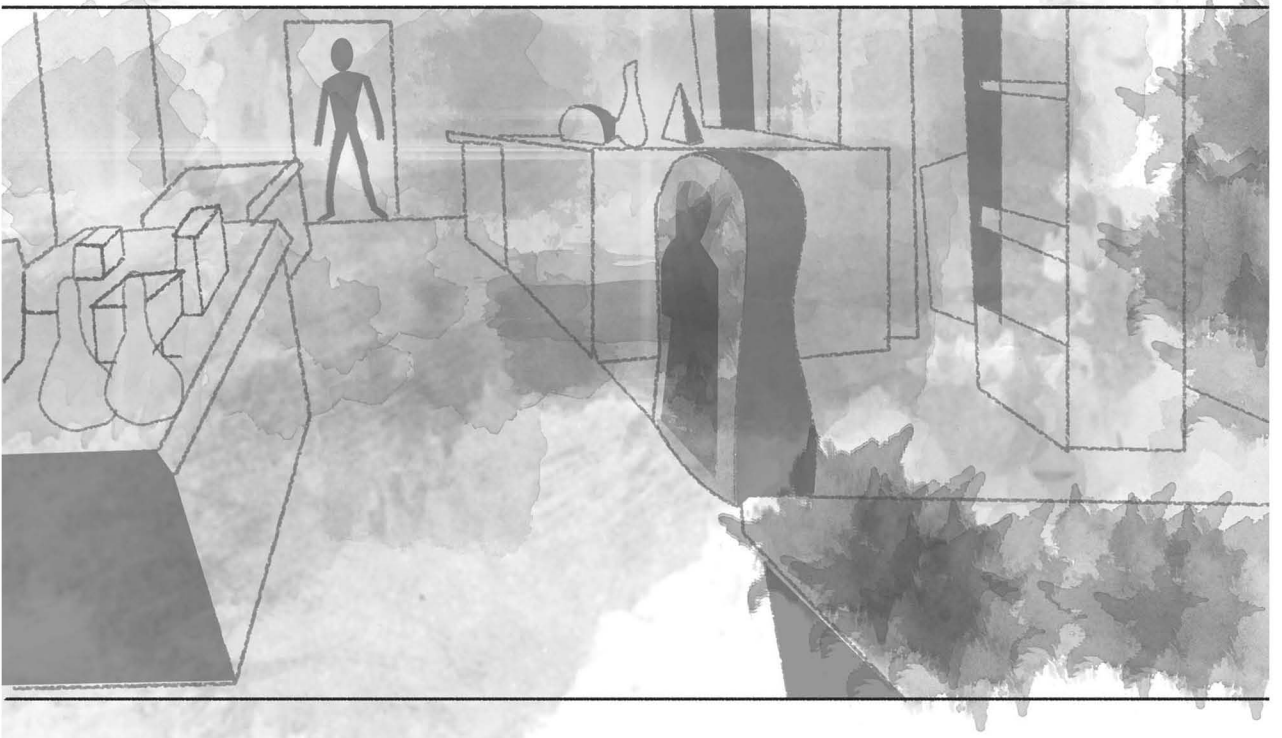
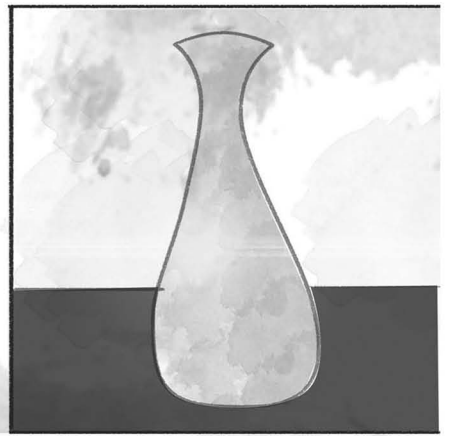
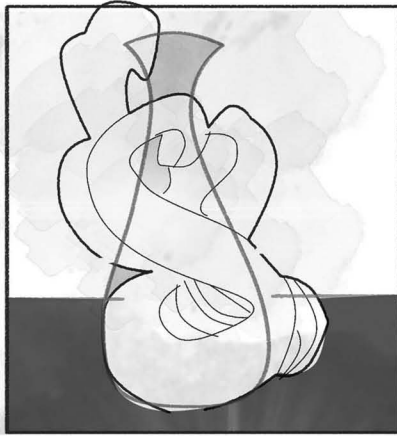
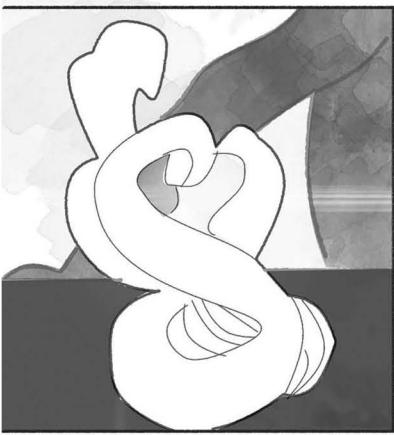
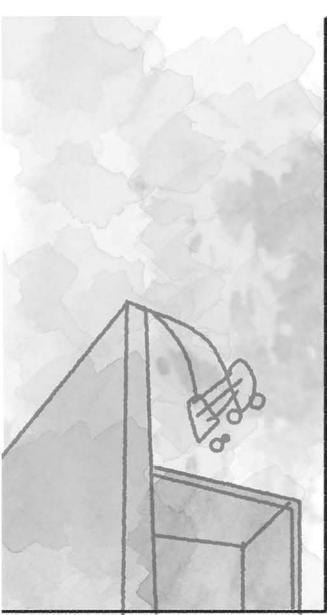



"Elise.... Elise?!?!?"

What awaits  
Jonathan in this strange new  
place...







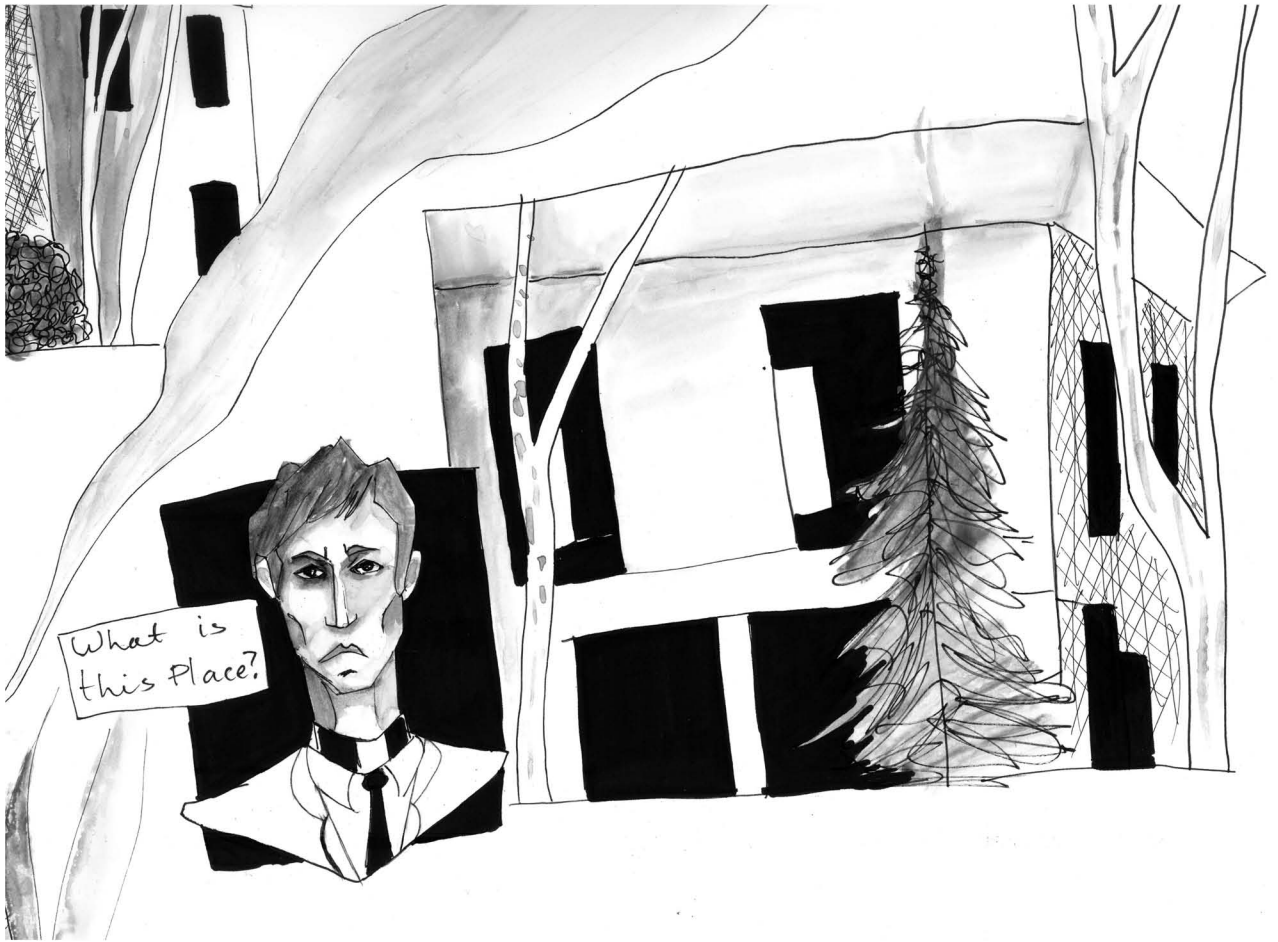
A hand-drawn illustration in black ink. On the right, a man with short hair, a mustache, and a serious expression is shown from the chest up, wearing a white shirt, a dark tie, and a suit jacket. On the left, a white rabbit-like creature with long, pointed ears is shown in profile, facing right. A speech bubble originates from the rabbit, containing the text "Just a Minute!". Another speech bubble originates from the man, containing the text "nobody bothers a man in -". A third speech bubble is positioned between them, containing the text "a run down antique Shop. Except him, Johnathan came to me unknowingly.".

Just a Minute!

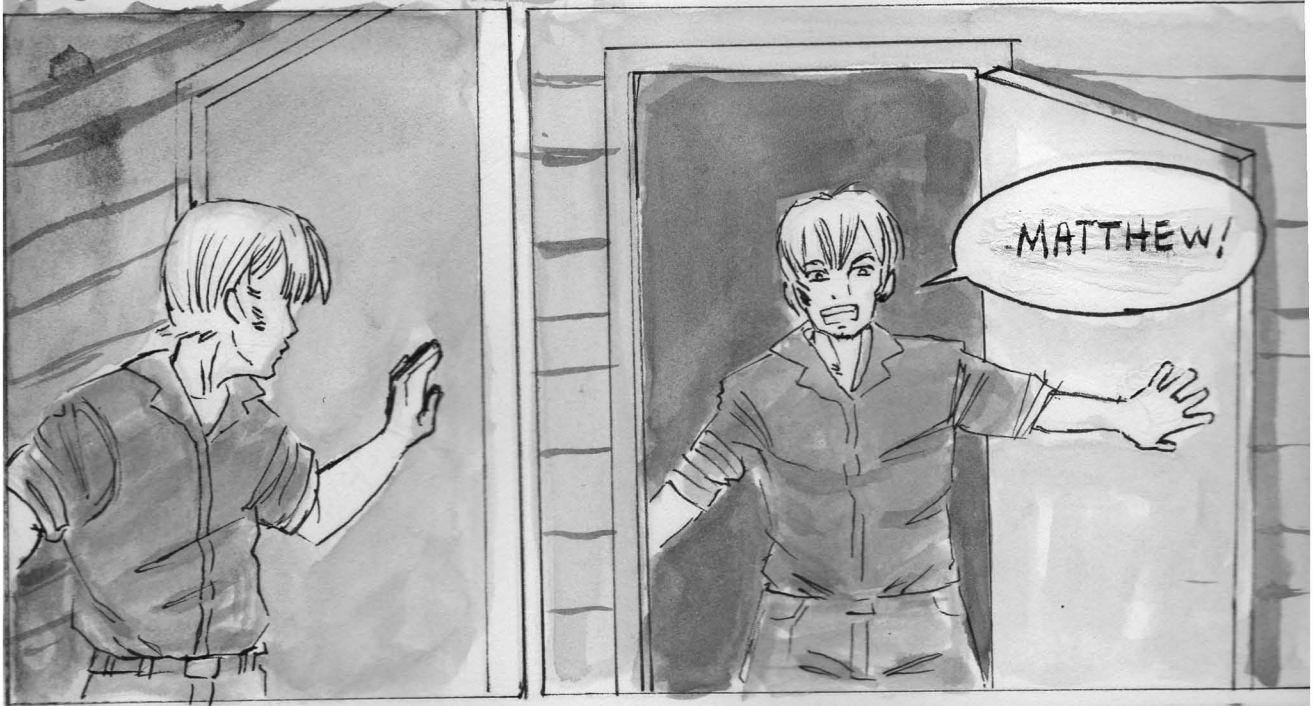
nobody bothers a man in -

a run down antique Shop. Except him, Johnathan came to me unknowingly.





matthew







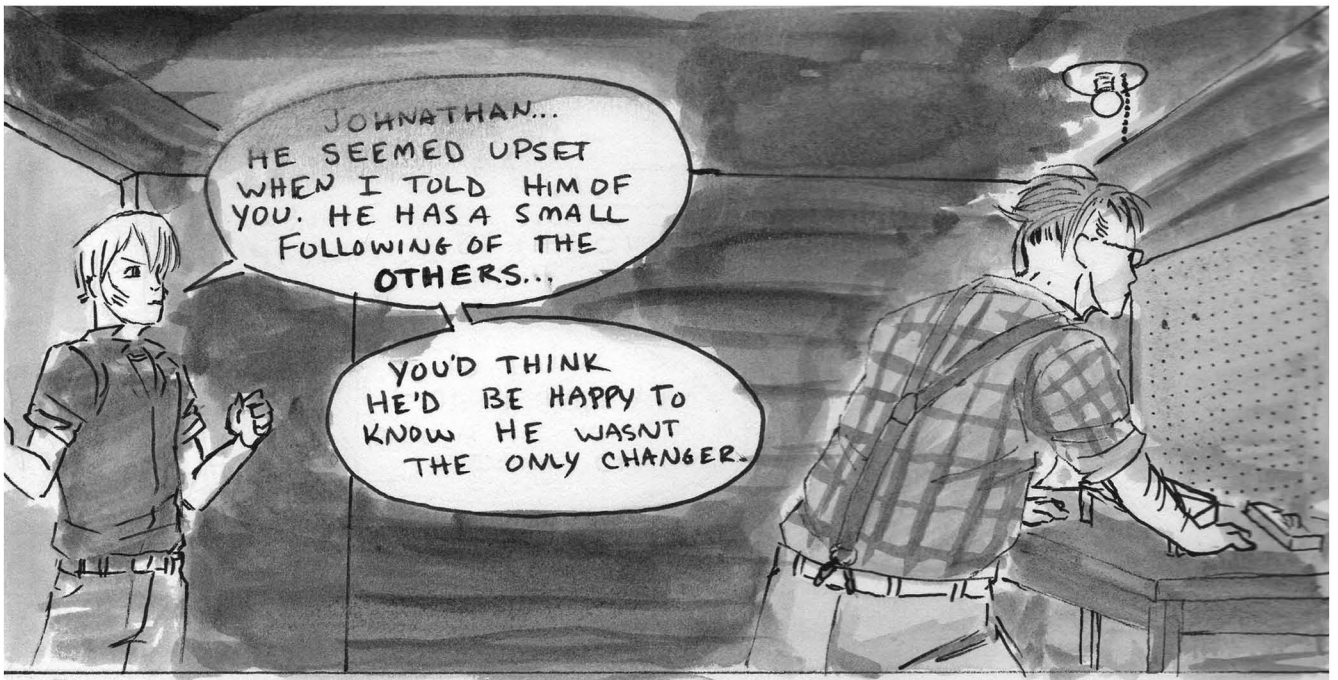
LIKE ME?



HE CAN CHANGE THINGS...



WHAT'S HIS NAME?



JOHNATHAN...  
HE SEEMED UPSET  
WHEN I TOLD HIM OF  
YOU. HE HAS A SMALL  
FOLLOWING OF THE  
OTHERS...

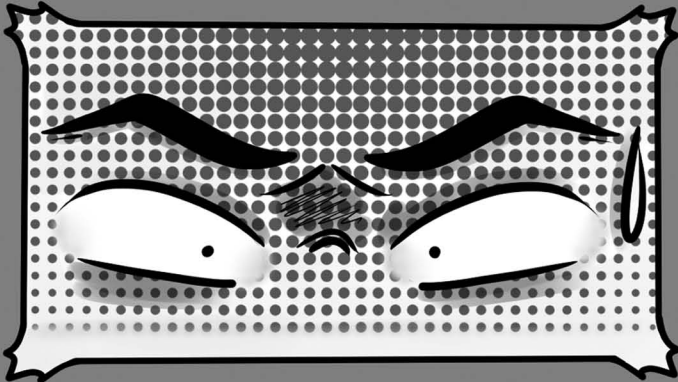
YOU'D THINK  
HE'D BE HAPPY TO  
KNOW HE WASN'T  
THE ONLY CHANGER.

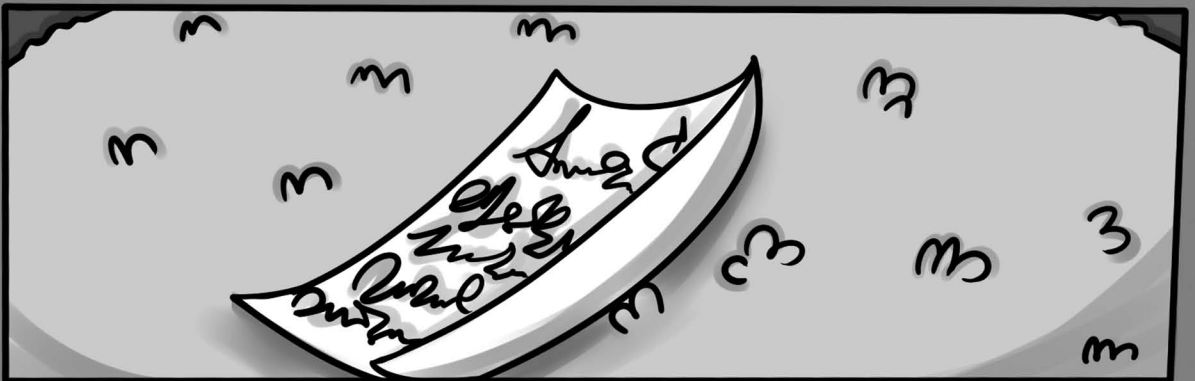


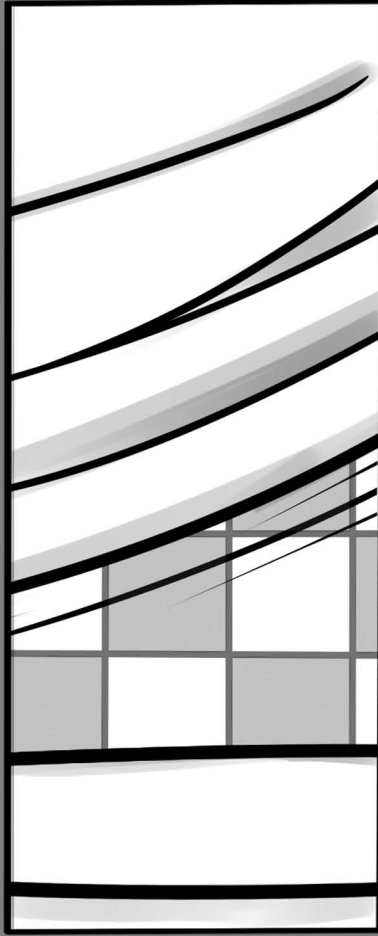
DO YOU PLAN  
ON MEETING HIM?

IF HE IS  
ANYTHING LIKE HE  
APPEARS, HE'LL  
FIND US.

FINDING ELISE









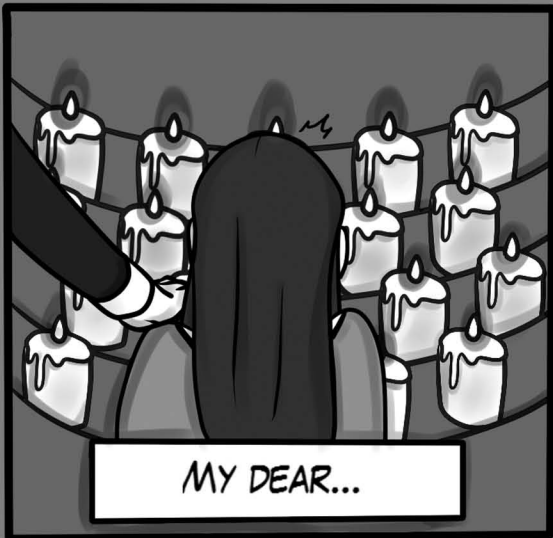
MY DEAR...

...WHAT TROUBLES YOU SO?

John,  
I love you  
more than you  
love yourself,  
but I can't  
love you.  
Love Always,  
Elise



I FIRST MET ELISE IN CHURCH, I FOUND HER CRYING...



MY DEAR...



...WHAT TROUBLES YOU SO?



DON'T WORRY.....

YOU'RE SAFE HERE.



NOW TELL ME,  
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



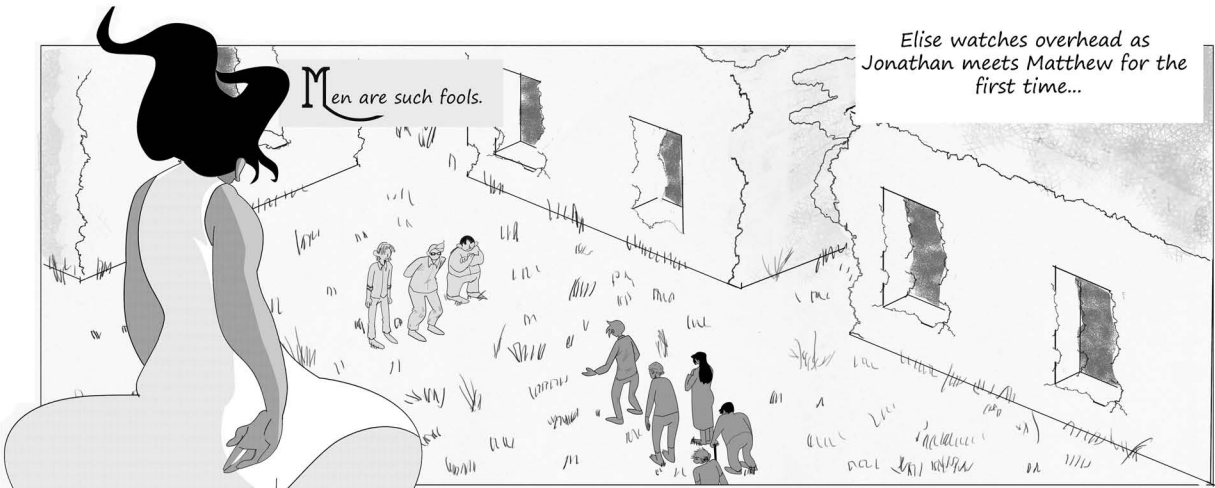
I'M....

ELISE.



Elise watches overhead as Jonathan meets Matthew for the first time...

Men are such fools.



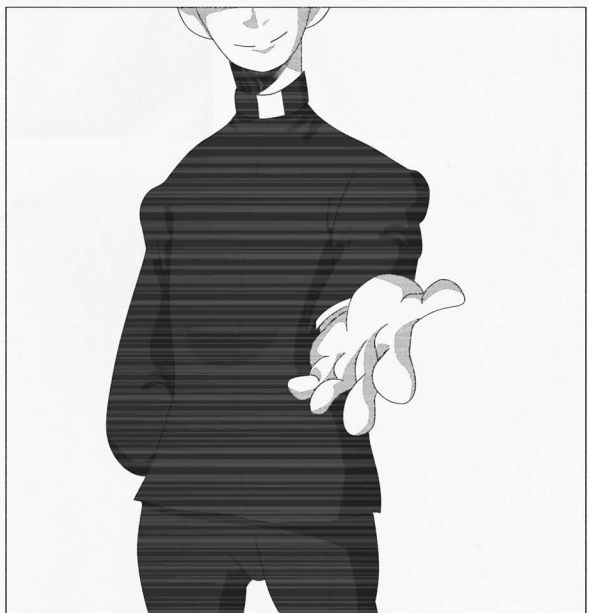
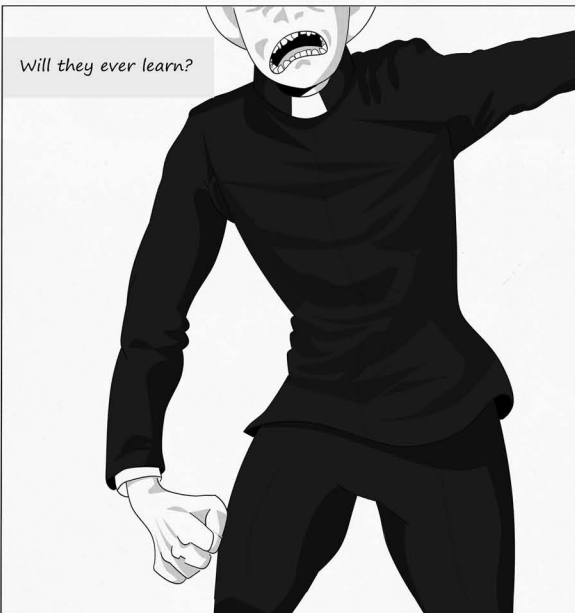
They don't know their place



Look at them arguing

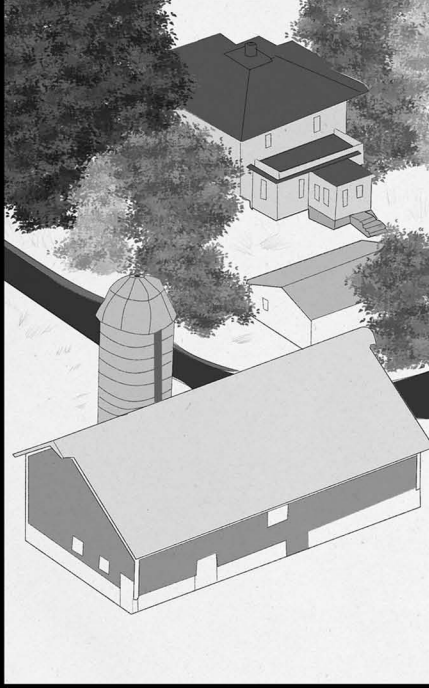


Will they ever learn?



Will he ever learn?

grew up on a farm.  
I know things about  
places and who belongs on  
them.



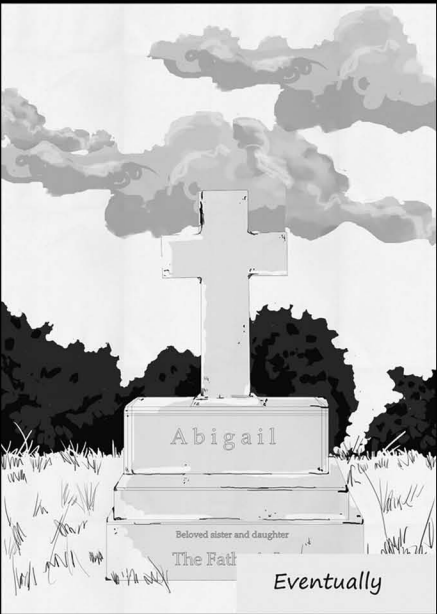
The animals— the cows, the pigs...  
they know their place



The natural way of things



Everything dies



Eventually



My father's pride  
and joy... gone

All he had left was me...



And I...



was useless



Don't touch me, Elise!

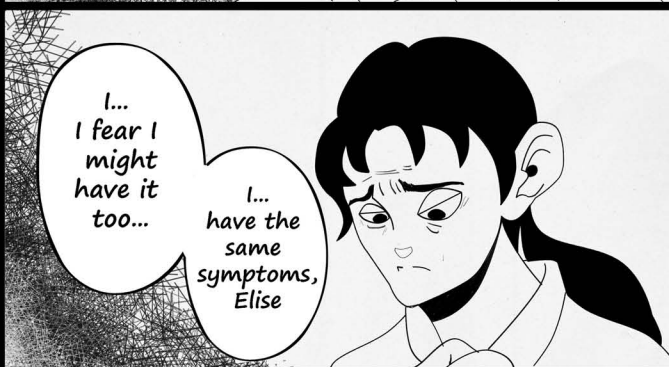


The flu that took your sister ...



I... I fear I might have it too...

I... have the same symptoms, Elise



Indeed



I was alone

And I watched my life  
burn around me...



It burned...

And burned...



And burned

Who is that?!  
Who's there?!

Elise!



Johnathan?!



He's drowning!  
He's drowning in  
the flames!

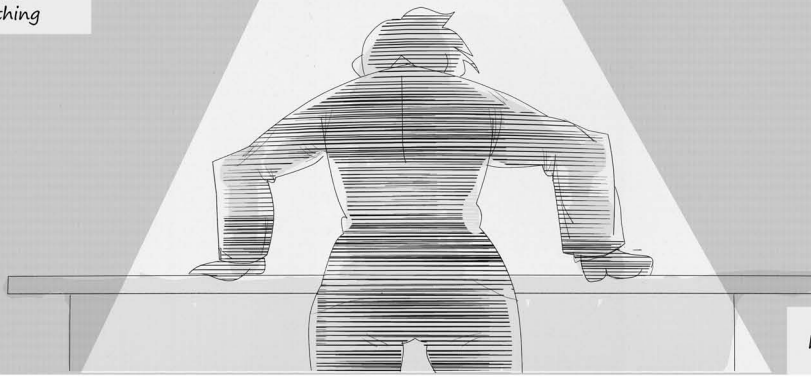
Elise!  
Help me!



NO!

Johnathan!

But he never  
said anything



Never told me to  
help, stopped relying  
on me

I was useless



There wasn't enough water

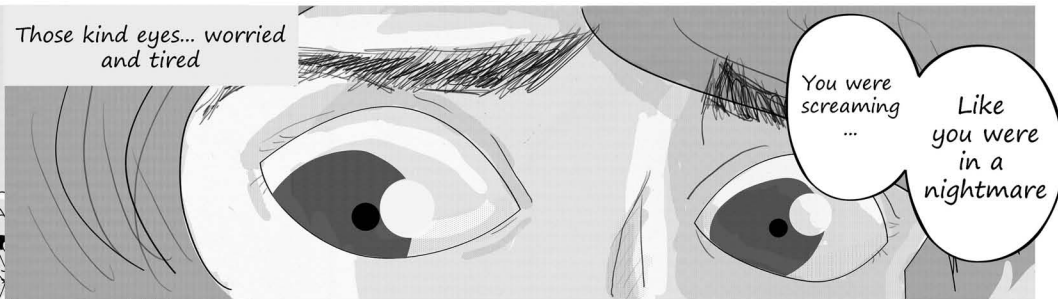


Those kind eyes... worried and tired

You were screaming ...

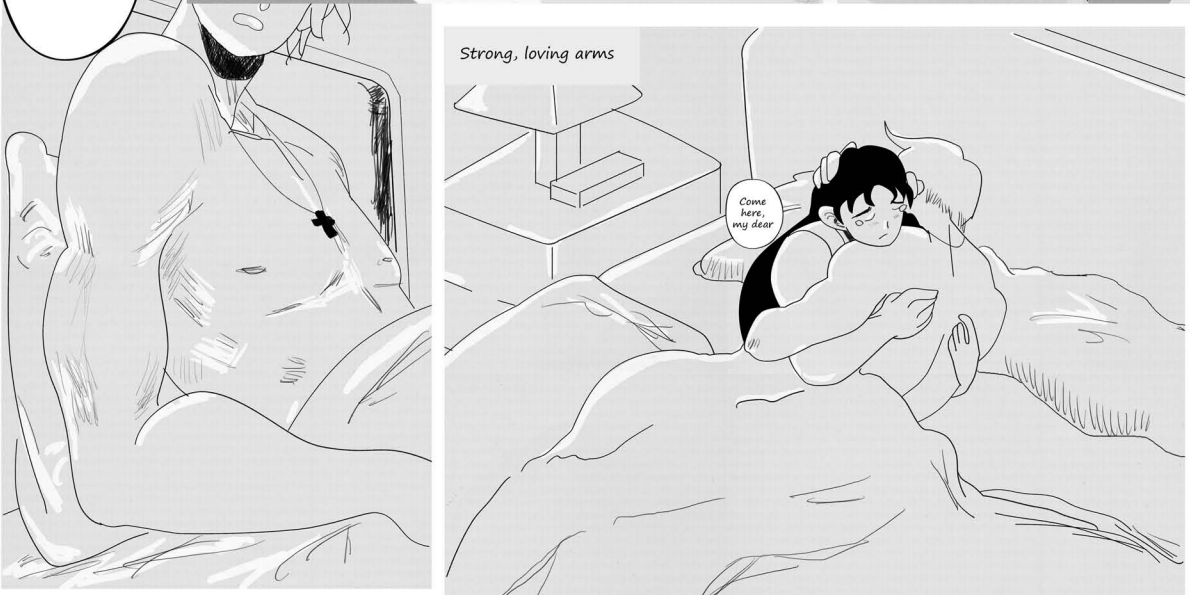
Like you were in a nightmare

You were talking in your sleep



Strong, loving arms

Come here, my dear



Here I feel safe



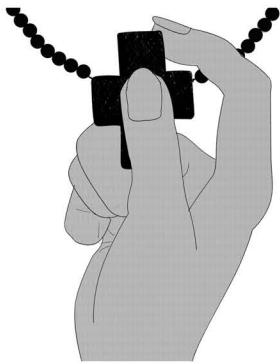
This is the fire I want to burn in



The fire I would burn for

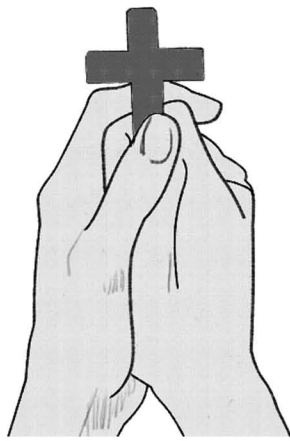


I could ask for nothing more



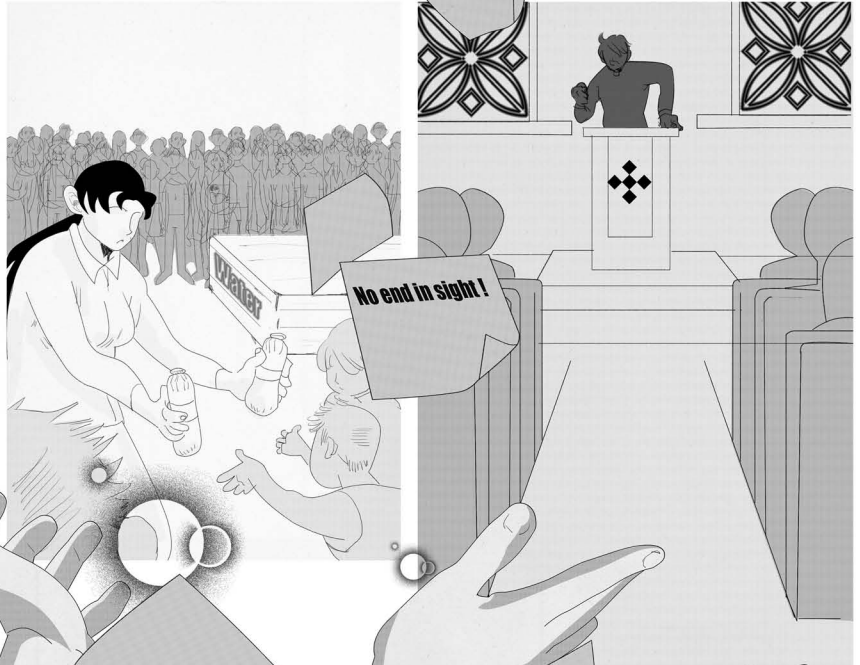


Yet all I do



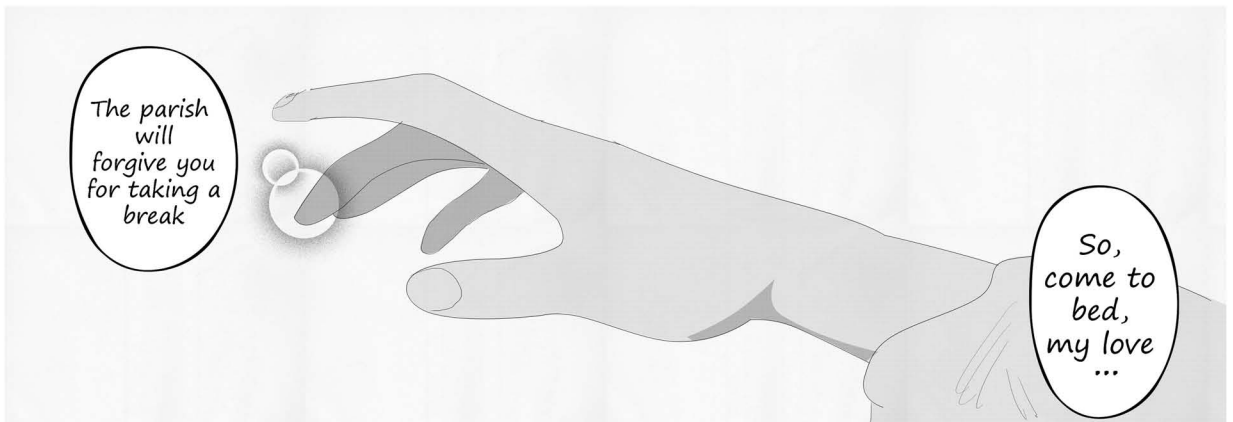
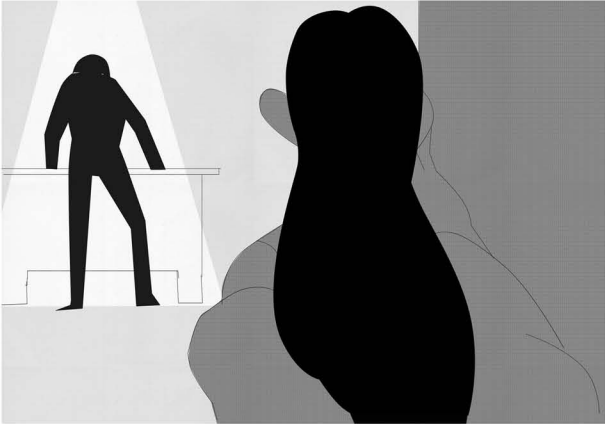
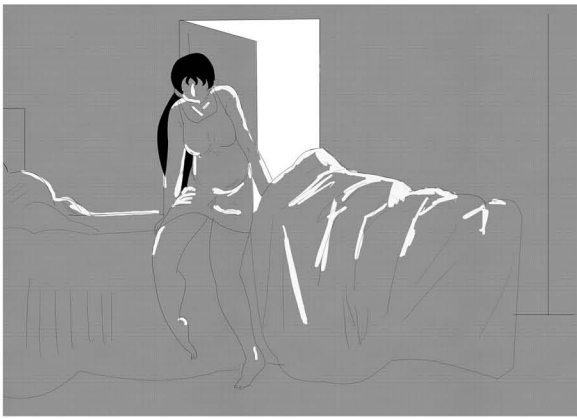
Is ask

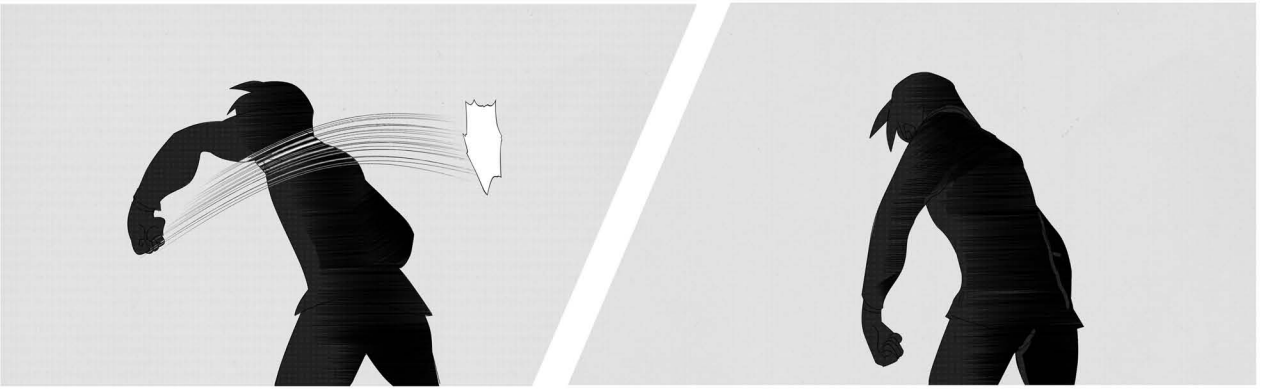
And ask



And ask







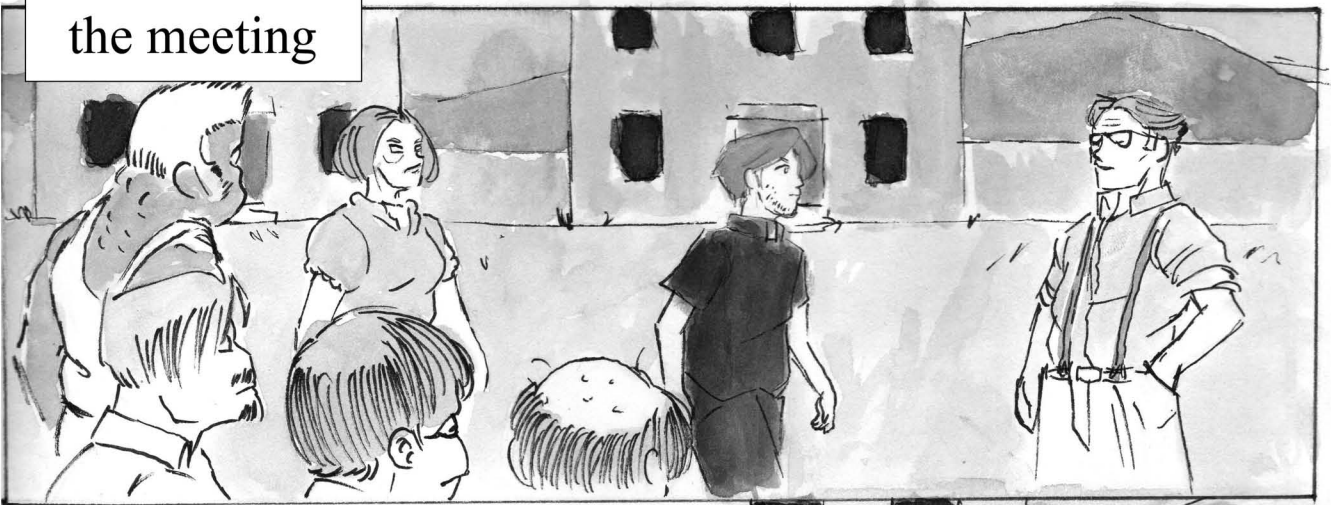
*B*ecause I simply cannot  
bury you

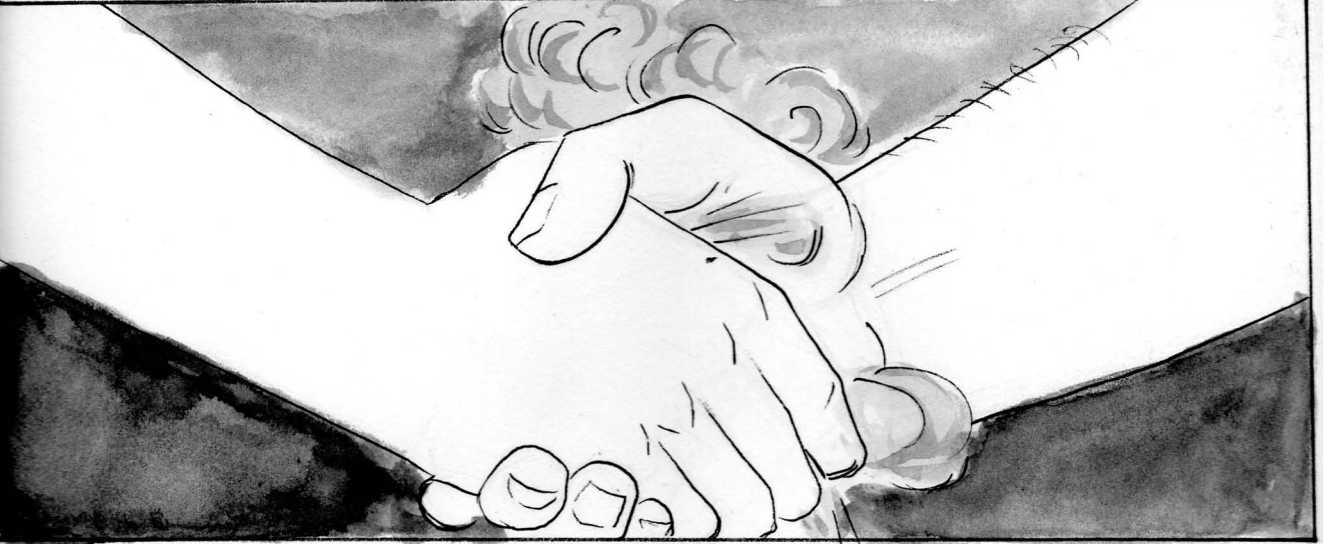
*Jon, Forgive me*

*It's either me or you...*

*And I choose you this time*

the meeting







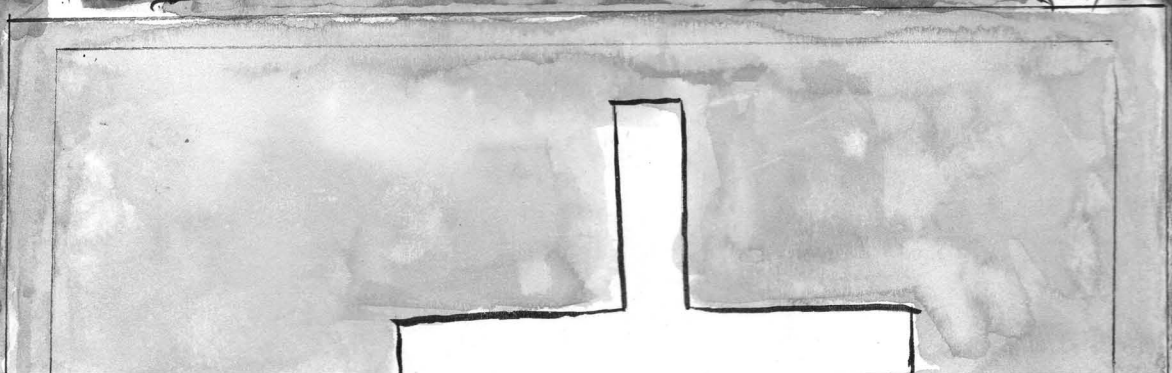
WHY...

WHY DOES HE  
REMINDE ME OF FATHER?





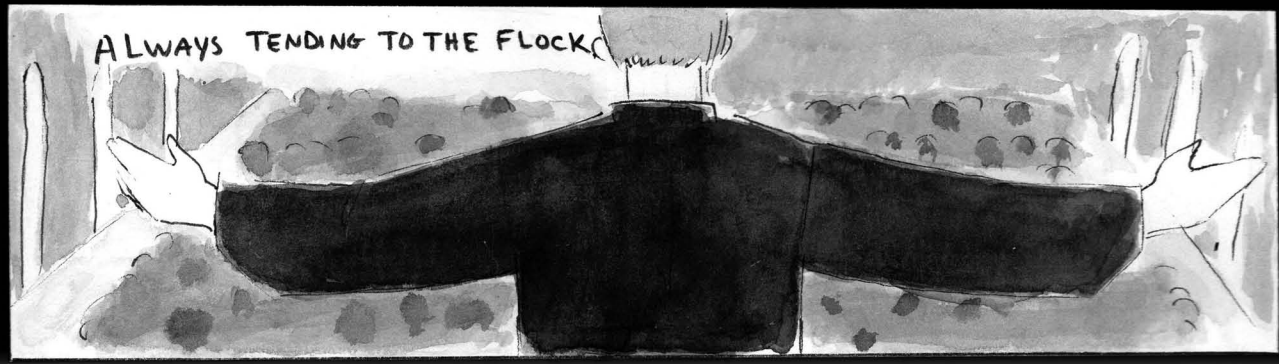
A MAN OF THE  
CLOTH, FATHER  
WAS SOMEONE I  
ASPIRED TO BE.





ALWAYS FOCUSED  
ON HIGHER THINGS...

HIS ATTENTION ON  
THOSE WHO  
NEEDED HIM MOST.



ALWAYS TENDING TO THE FLOCK



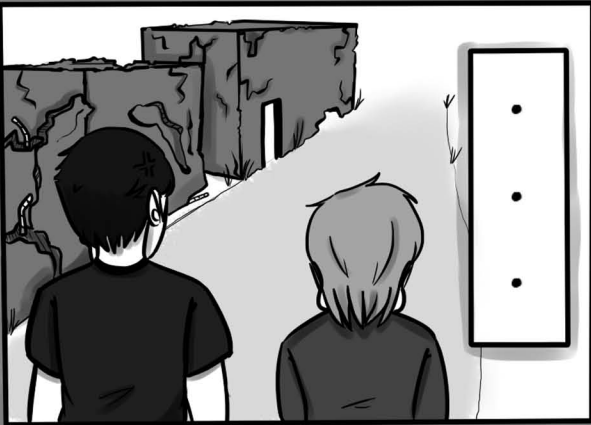
BUT THIS MAN,  
HE ISNT ANYTHING  
LIKE FATHER...

JUST A SMUG  
CHARLATAN

AN OBSTACLE  
TO MY  
GLORY



I MUST DESTROY HIM



AFTER THE MEETING...



DOES NO ONE SEE?!



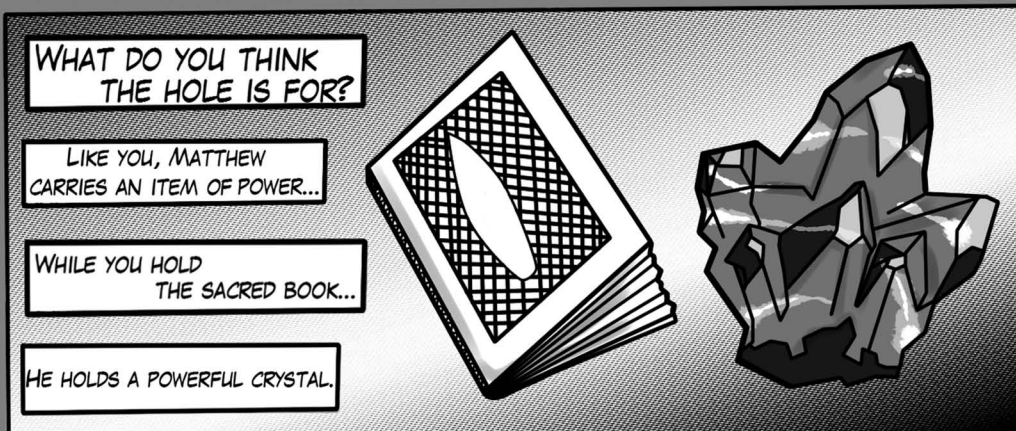
SIR, DON'T GET...

SO ANGR--

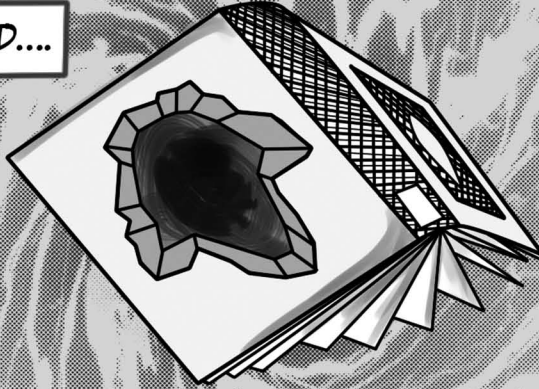


I HOLD THE MOST POWER HERE!

I'M DONE BEING PUSHED ASIDE!!!



I'VE NEVER NOTICED....



THAT SPACE THERE...

IS FOR THE CRYSTAL.

THE ITEMS ON THEIR OWN...

HOLD SEPARATE POWER.

BUT IF YOU HAD BOTH...

YOU WOULD RULE EVERYTHING.



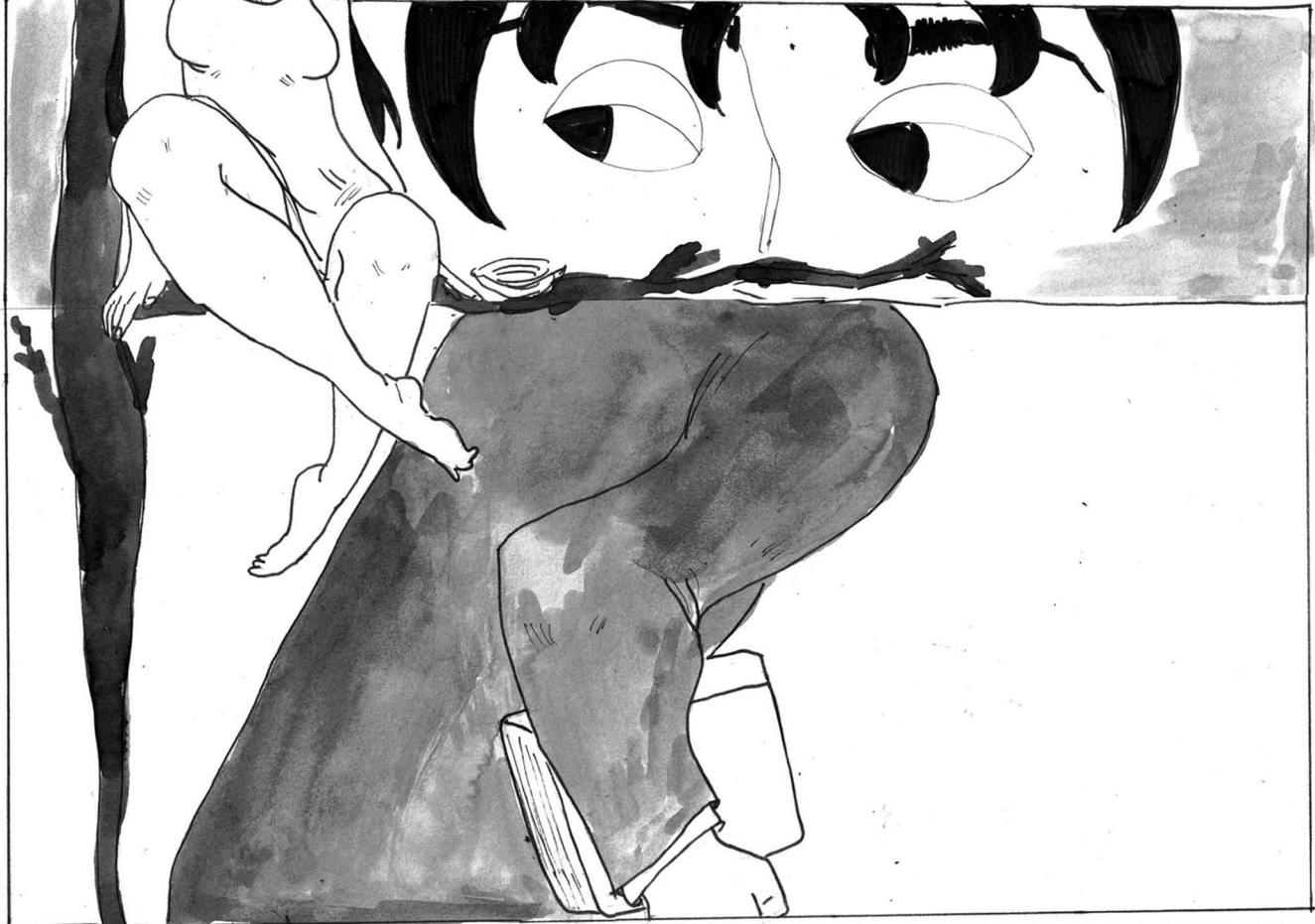
**ABSOLLUTE**

**POWER**



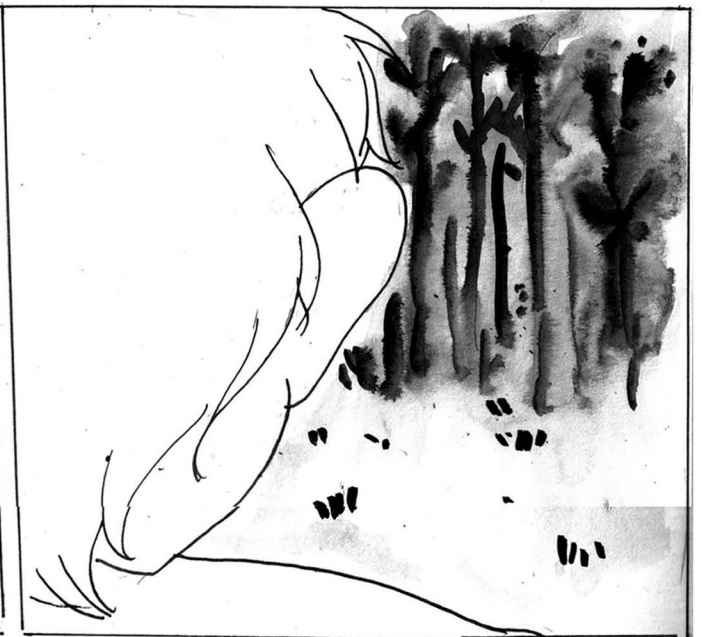
Where is he going?

Elise watches Jonathan run to his final confrontation



I see, he's lost his mind, has he?







Matthew,  
is that you,  
you scoundrel  
?!

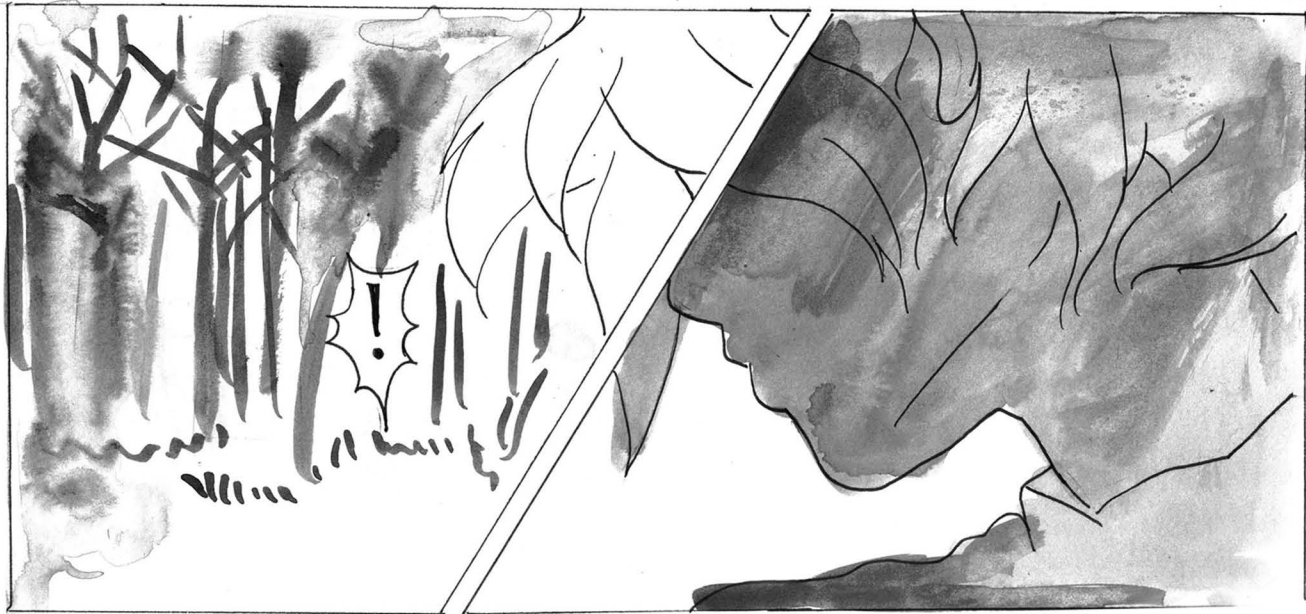
Forgive him



He  
knows  
not  
what  
he is  
about  
to do



Are you  
lost?





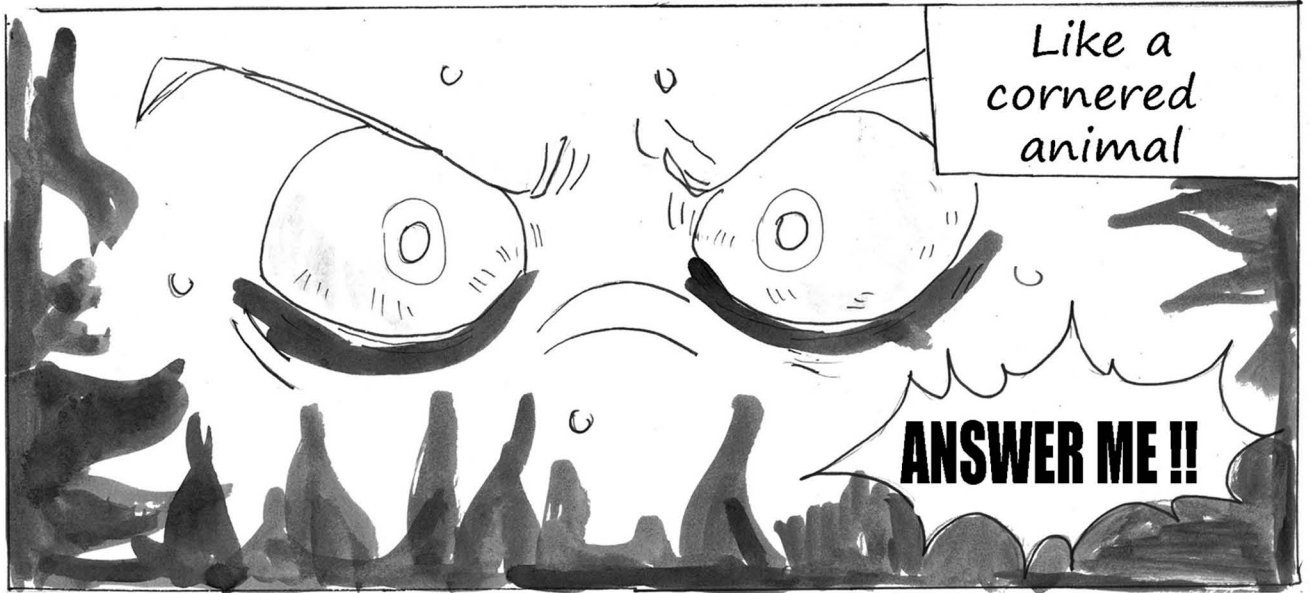
Look at him...

Who are you?!



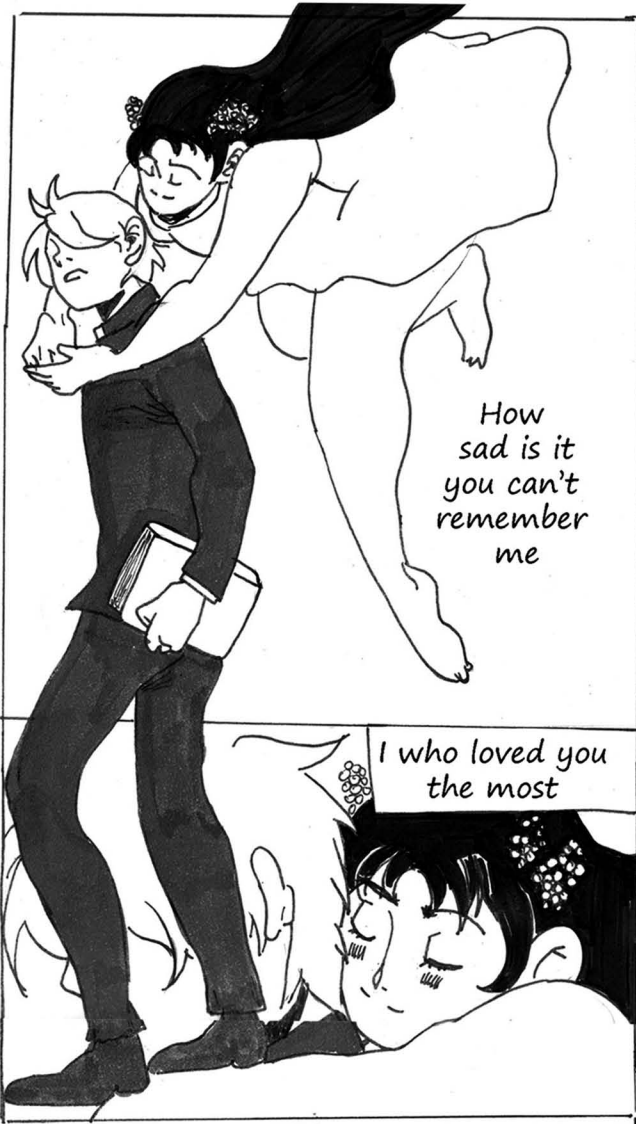
He looks so Scared...

Who's there?!

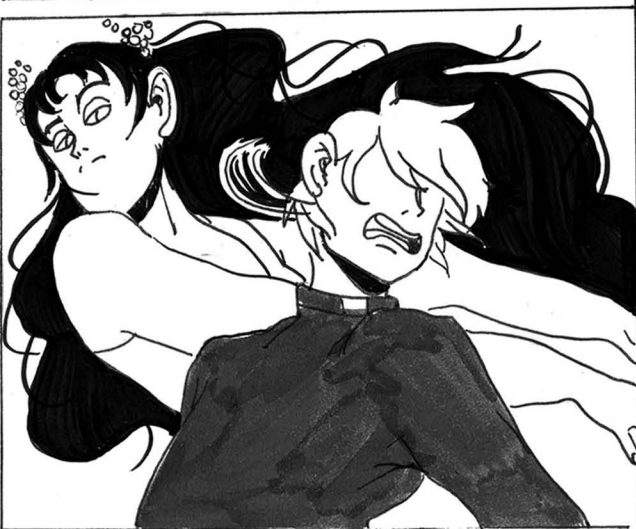


Like a cornered animal

**ANSWER ME !!**



How  
sad is it  
you can't  
remember  
me



I who loved you  
the most

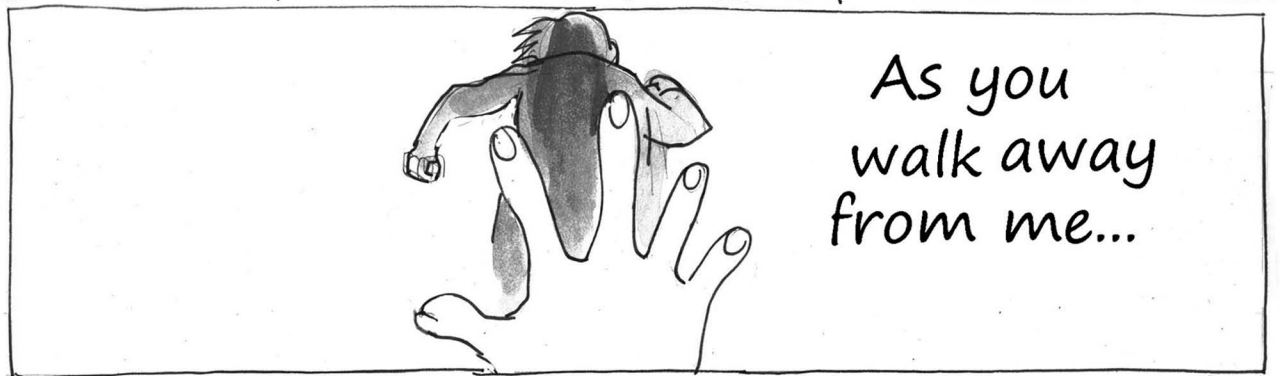
I who saw no fault  
in you...



And held you, though you  
were just a man...



But now, all I can see  
is your back...



As you  
walk away  
from me...



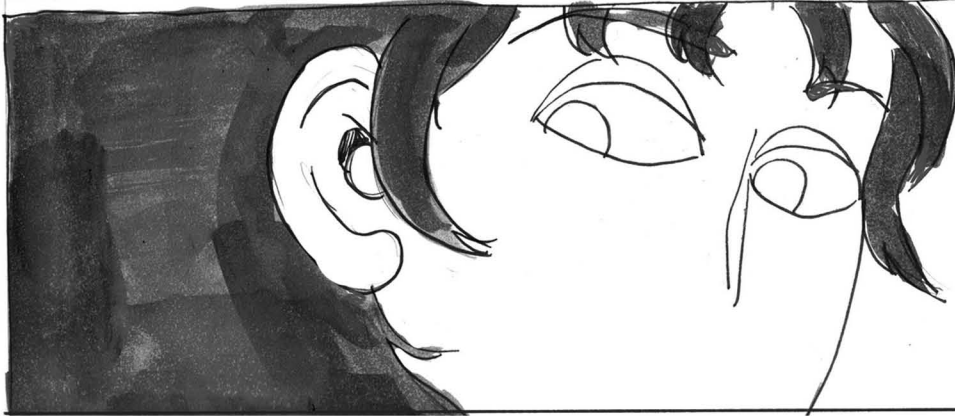
always  
tried my best  
to reach you...



But you were  
always  
a fool,  
Jonathan

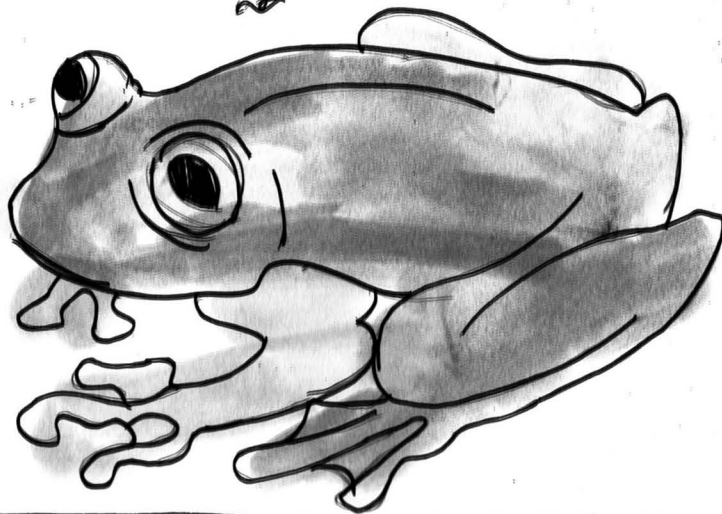


Oh, my beloved  
fool...too small  
for your  
boots



...Would you  
look at that...

A SIGN OF  
LIFE...



finale





THIS IS THE MAN  
YOU ONCE LOVED?  
THIS DEGENERATE?  
LOOK AT HIM NOW.



HE'S FALLEN,  
BEYOND SAVING



THE ONLY THING  
HE'LL GAIN IS EMPTINESS





MY HUSBAND  
IS KIND AND  
CARING



HE WASN'T RECOGNIZED  
FOR HIS WORK



DESPITE HIS SACRIFICE



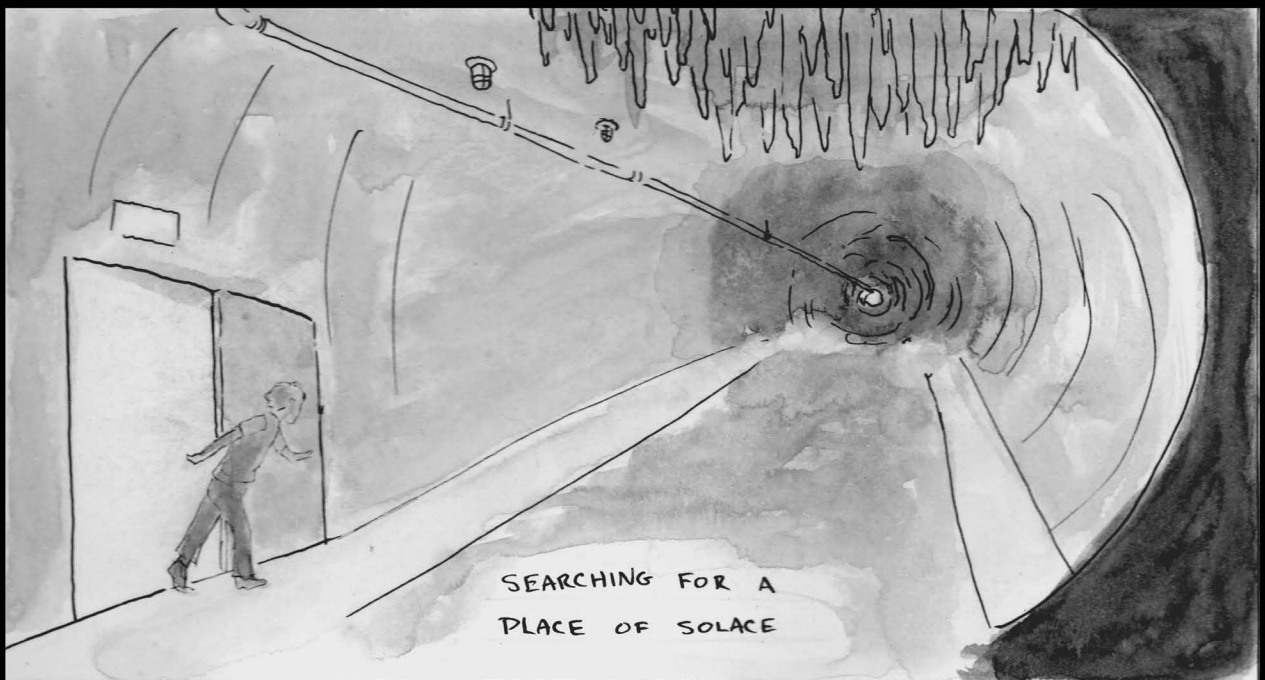
FOR THOSE WHO  
NEEDED HIM MOST



HE LOST SO MUCH  
DESPITE HIS PASSION

HE LOST HIS WAY  
AND WANDERED

TWO  
JACKS



SEARCHING FOR A  
PLACE OF SOLACE



THIS PASSION  
OF HIS...



DROVE HIS  
LUST FOR POWER



HE WAS GRANTED  
A TASTE...

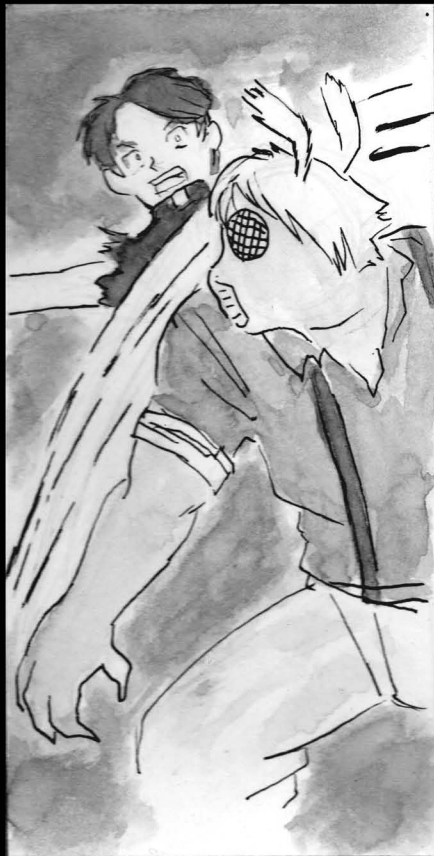


AND COULDN'T  
HANDLE IT.



DESPITE MY  
NEED FOR  
COOPERATION

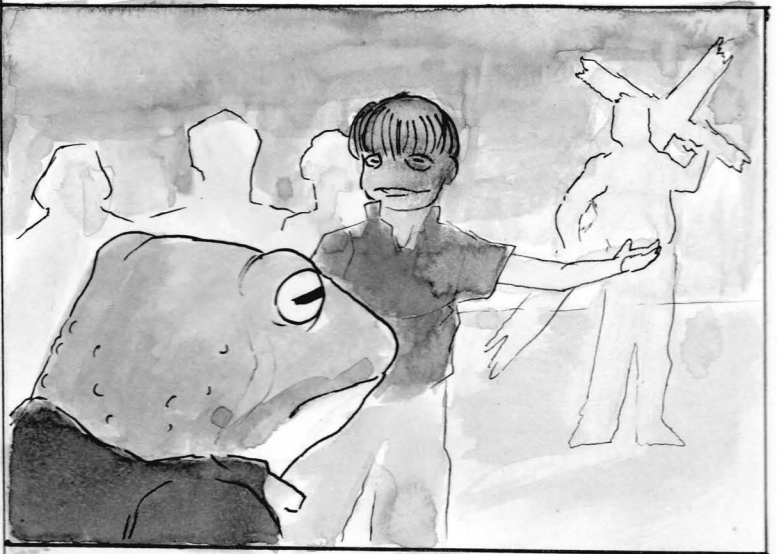
HIS THIRST  
COULDN'T BE  
SATISFIED...



NOW HE IS  
FREE TO PURSUE  
HIS DESIRE



TO BE IMPORTANT  
TO BE A  
"SAVIOR"



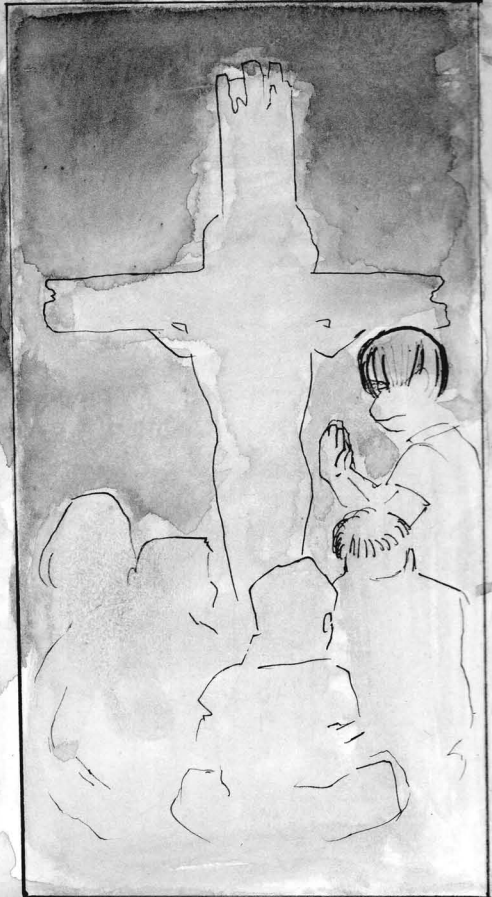
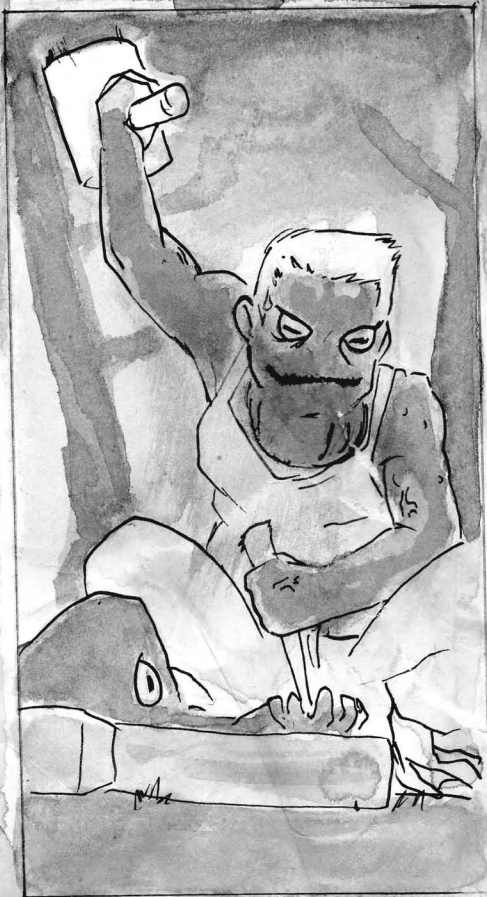
AND IT  
CONSUMED HIM

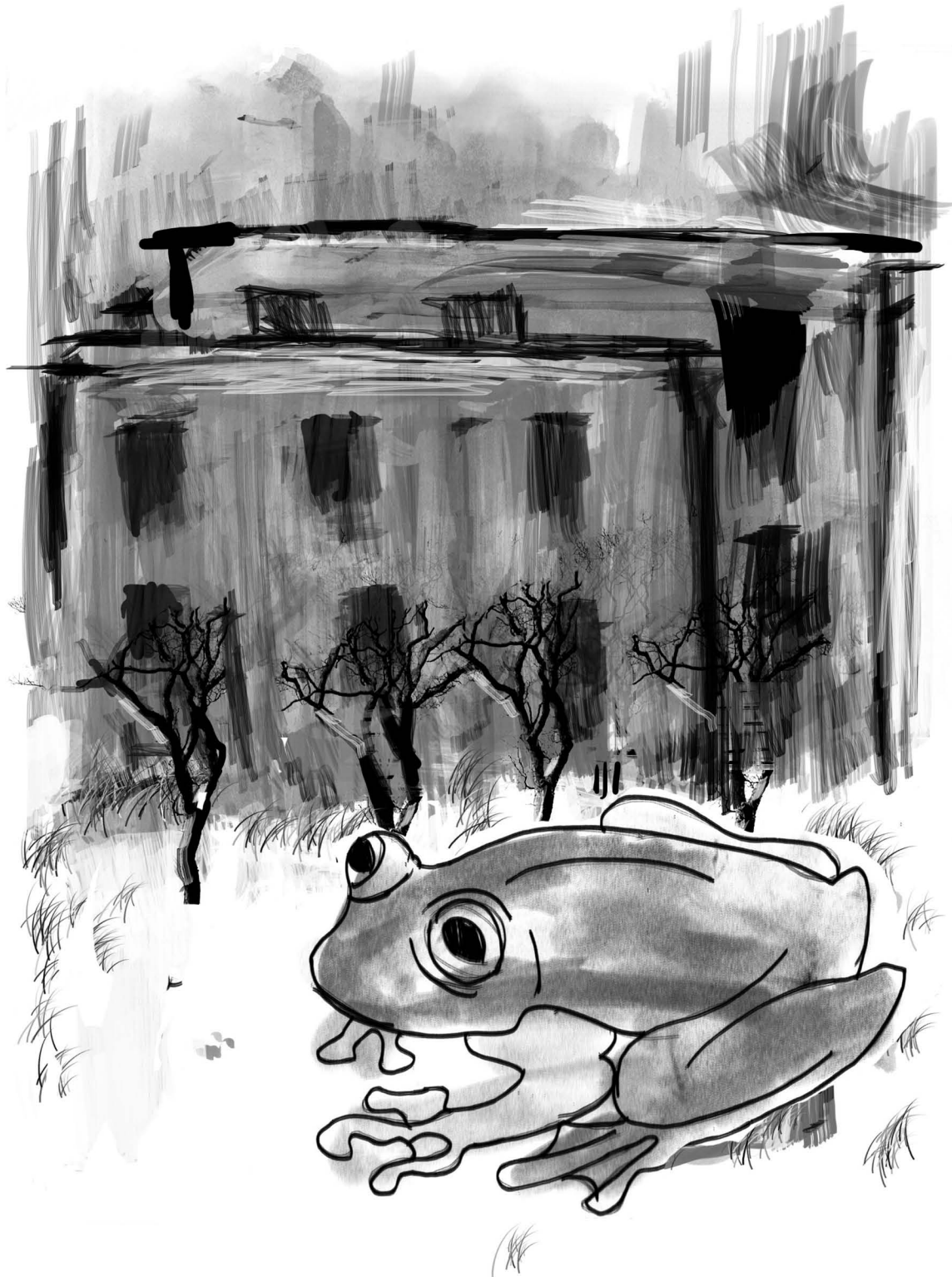




HOW CAN  
YOU SAVE OTHERS?

IF YOU CANT  
SAVE YOURSELF?







NAME: LYNN MORRONE  
USERNAME: QUESTIONIIST

ARTIST NOTE:

I'M A GRADUATING SENIOR HERE AT PSU AND MY MAJOR IS PSYCHOLOGY. HOWEVER, I'VE BEEN DRAWING EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HUGE PART OF MY LIFE. THE MAIN CHARACTER, JOHNATHAN, WAS CREATED BY ME. MY CLASSMATES AND I HAVE PUT EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT INTO THIS COMIC, SO I HOPE YOU GET AS MUCH OUT OF IT AS WE DID! THANK YOU SO MUCH. ☺



How I  
Feel 24/7



PERSON  
WHO DID  
SUM DRAWINGS

Meet the ~~Artist~~

Gigi

Pronounced GEE- GEE (not Gig)  
5'3 (or 5'4 depending on posture)  
Likes large tshirts and sushi  
Swears they aren't an artist,  
just an Art Major (there IS a difference)  
Tries their best sometimes





NAME: ASHAUNDEI SMITH  
USERNAME: SEANDEE

ARTIST NOTE:

I'M AN ART MAJOR AT PSU CONCENTRATING ON NEW MEDIA. I'VE BEEN DRAWING MY ENTIRE LIFE AND I HAVE INTERESTS IN ILLUSTRATION, COMICS, ANIMATION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN. I ASPIRE TO BE A FREELANCE ARTIST AND SHAPE MY OWN CREATIVE CAREER PATH. I AM HONORED TO DESIGN MATTHEW FOR OUR COMIC AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!



**Note to the readers:**

**This comic was constructed to highlight certain parts of the narrative rather than tell the whole story. This was intentional in order to give you the reader some interpretation and creative flexibility. Like the nature of the Transmedia Narrative, each person can add or take away elements as they wish. So please, let your own ideas pick up in the places we left off.**

**Become part of the narrative!**



