

# HAPPY MISFITS

JÉRÉMY HUET  
WRITER

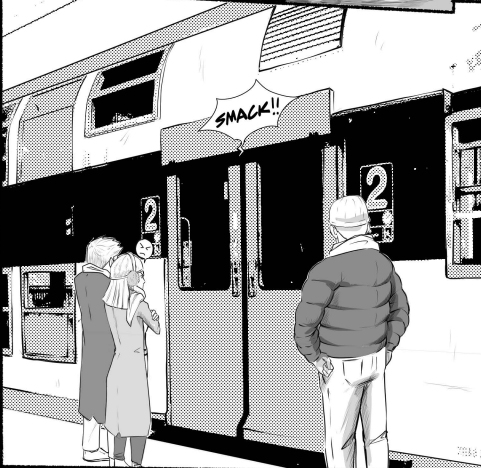
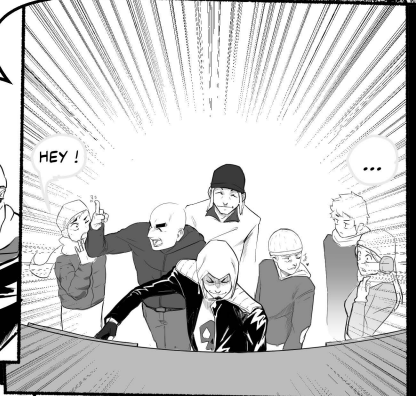
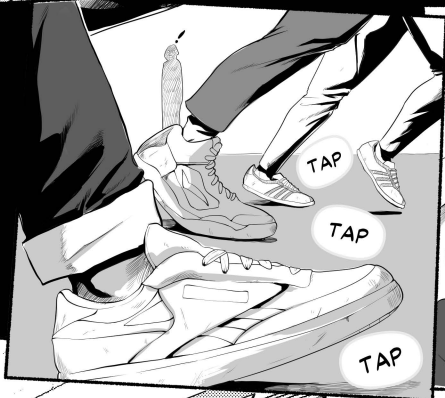
HUAN WILCHES  
ARTIST

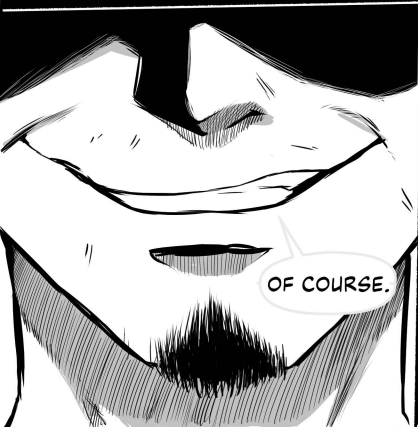
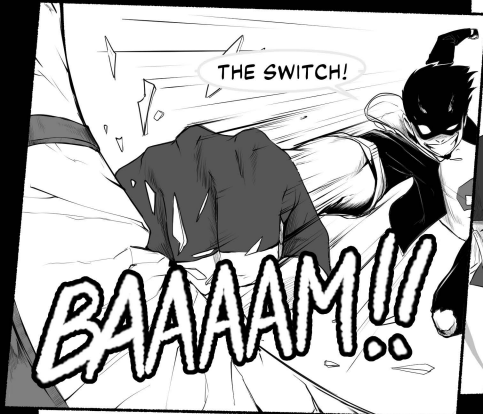
## ASCENDANT'S DEMON

a Ghosts Within Us story

EDITED,  
TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH  
AND LETTERED BY  
STEEVE AUBERT

**BIIIIIP**





HUH?!



WHAT YOU GONNA DO?!!



SO, YOU TAKE THE TRAIN EVERY DAY?



YES, EVERY DAY. SINCE LAST YEAR...  
... FOR MY INTERNSHIP, AND NOW FOR MY JOB.



WE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT IT ON THE PHONE...



OTHERWISE,  
HOW IS YOUR  
MOTHER?



SHE'S DOING  
WELL. A BIT TENSE  
LATELY.



BUT YOU  
KNOW YOU COULD  
ASK HER YOURSELF,  
RIGHT?



WHAT'S  
WRONG? YOU SEEM  
ALL CLOSED OFF ALL  
OF A SUDDEN.

OH, IT'S...  
THIS STATION.



IT BRINGS  
BACK MEMORIES  
...

NOT ALL  
OF THEM  
GOOD.

REALLY?



WHEN I WAS YOUNG,  
I WAS RESTLESS.  
ANGRY.

WE WERE A SMALL  
GANG OF SCOUNDRELS,  
THINKING WE KNEW IT ALL.

I WAS THE WORSE.

I STOLE,  
I RANSACKED,  
I...



RUBEN DARBINIAN  
THE DELINQUENT.

THAT  
EXPLAINS A LOT  
OF THINGS...

HMPH



I HAD  
A KIND OF...  
ANGER...

... SOMETHING  
BESTIAL, WILD.

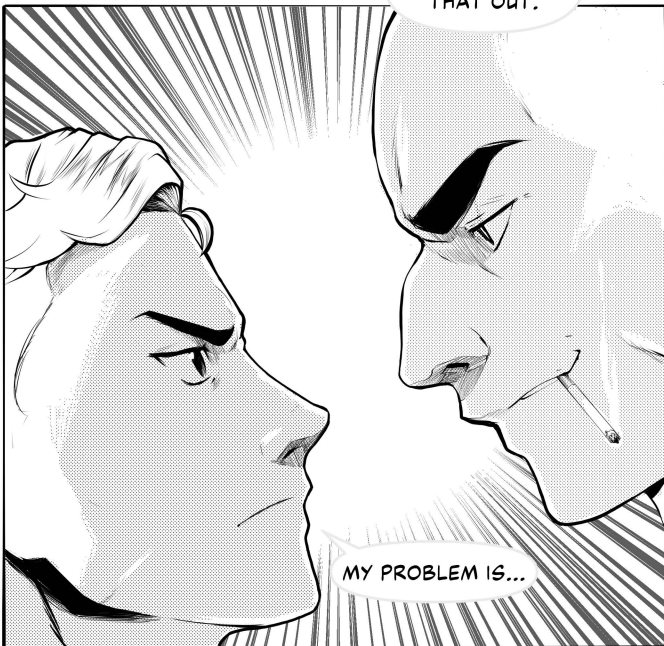
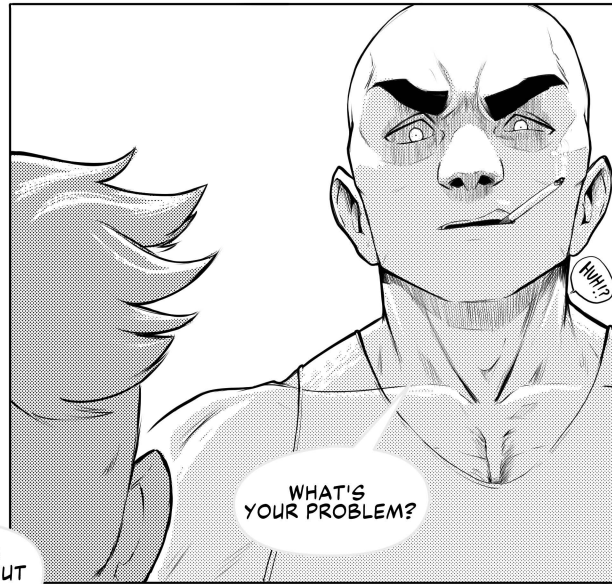
I WAS OUT OF CONTROL.

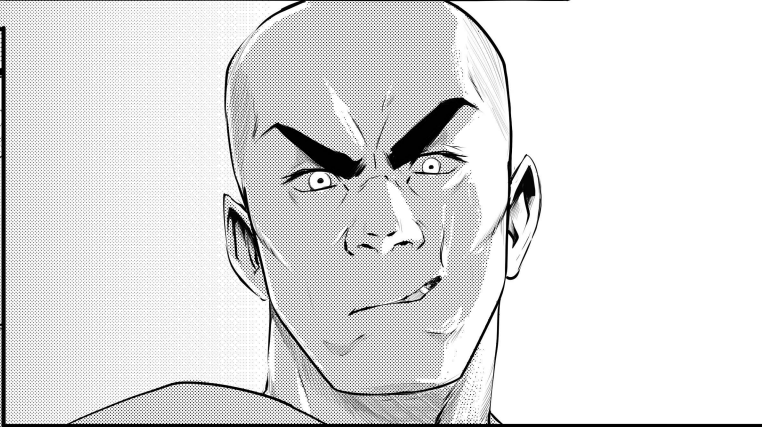
BUT YOU'RE  
BETTER THAN  
THAT!

NO  
SELF-CONTROL ISSUES  
WITH YOU.

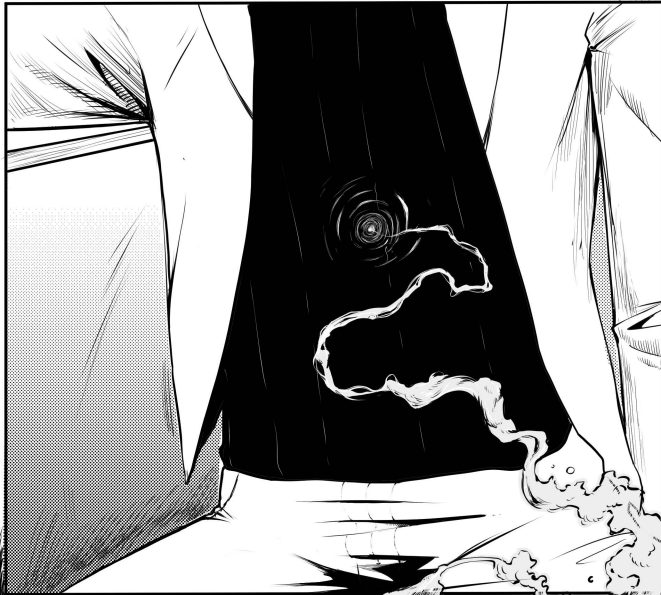
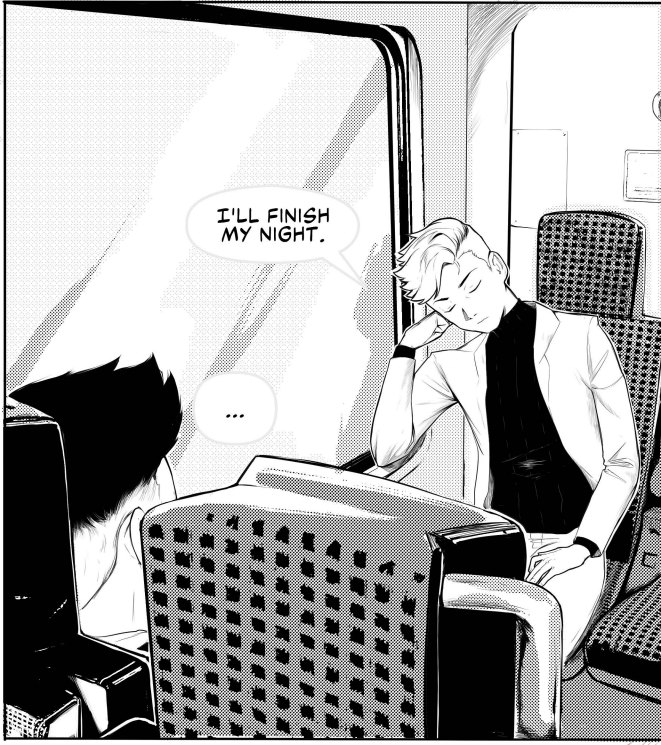


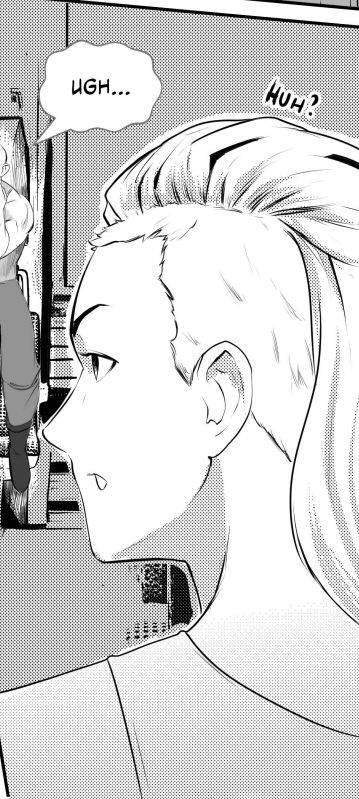
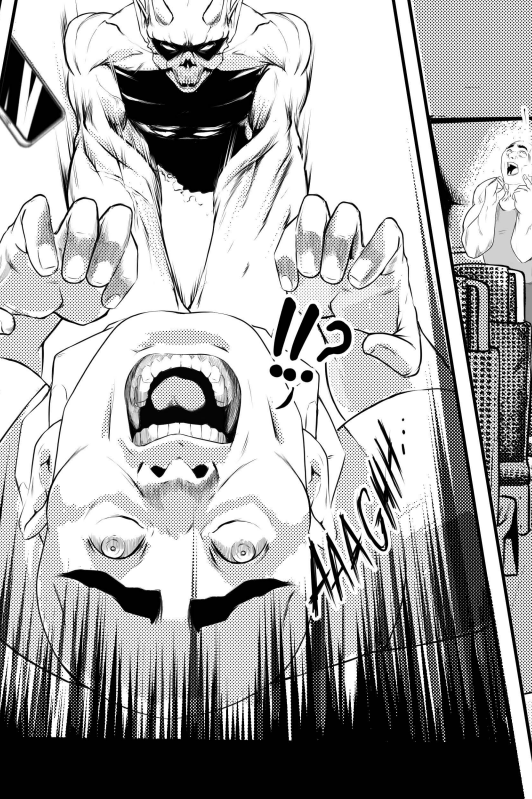
TSK.

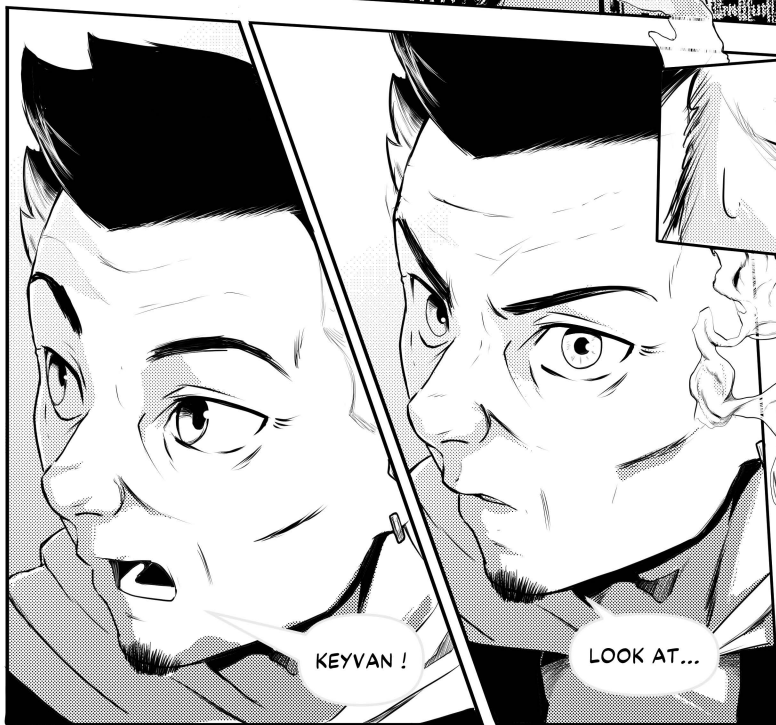
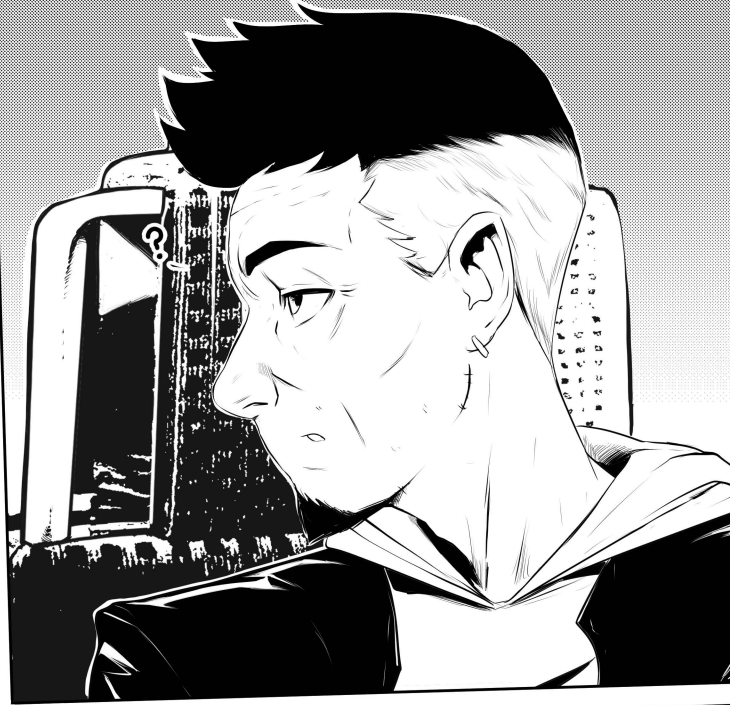






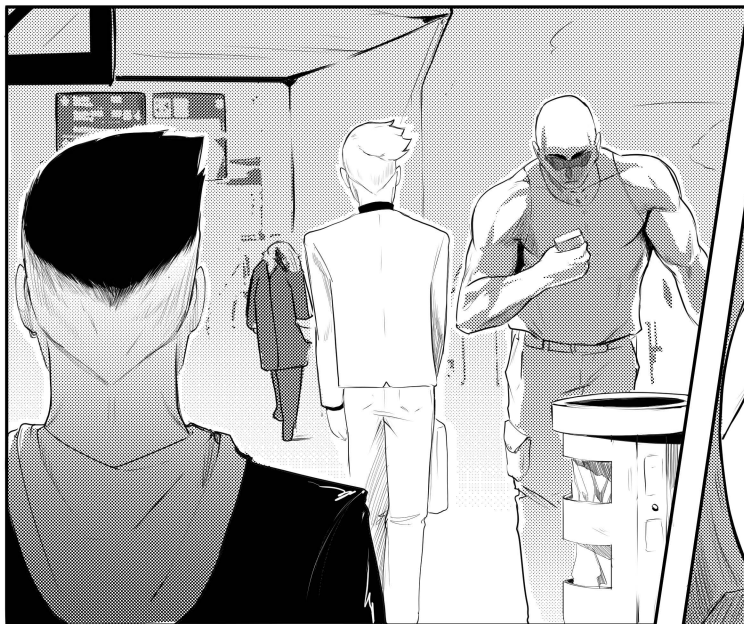
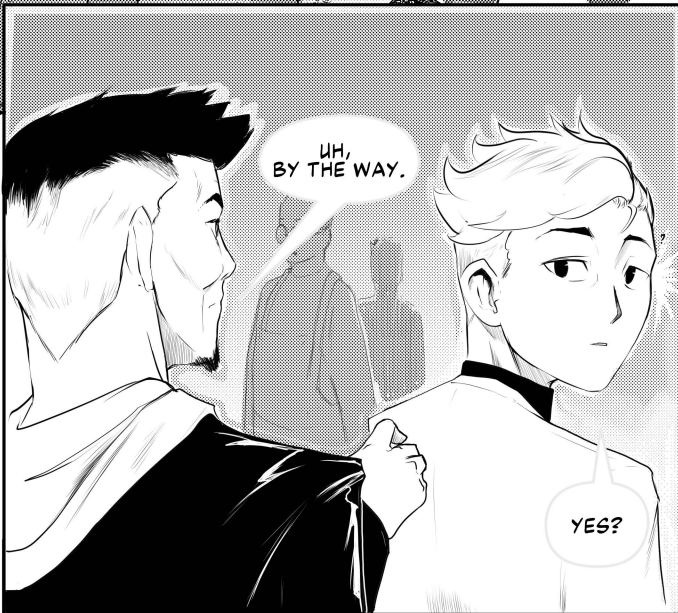


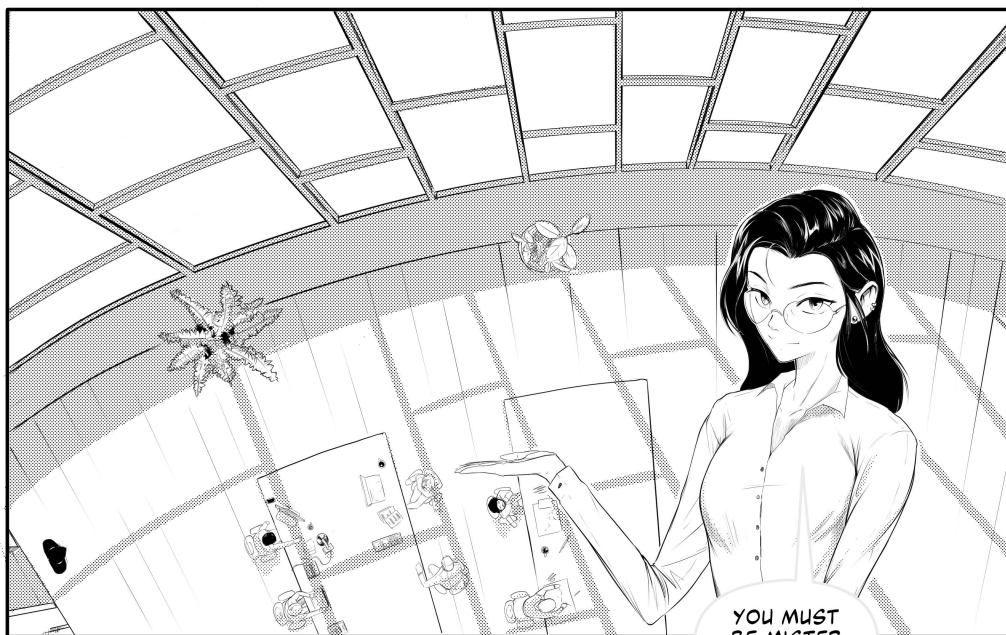






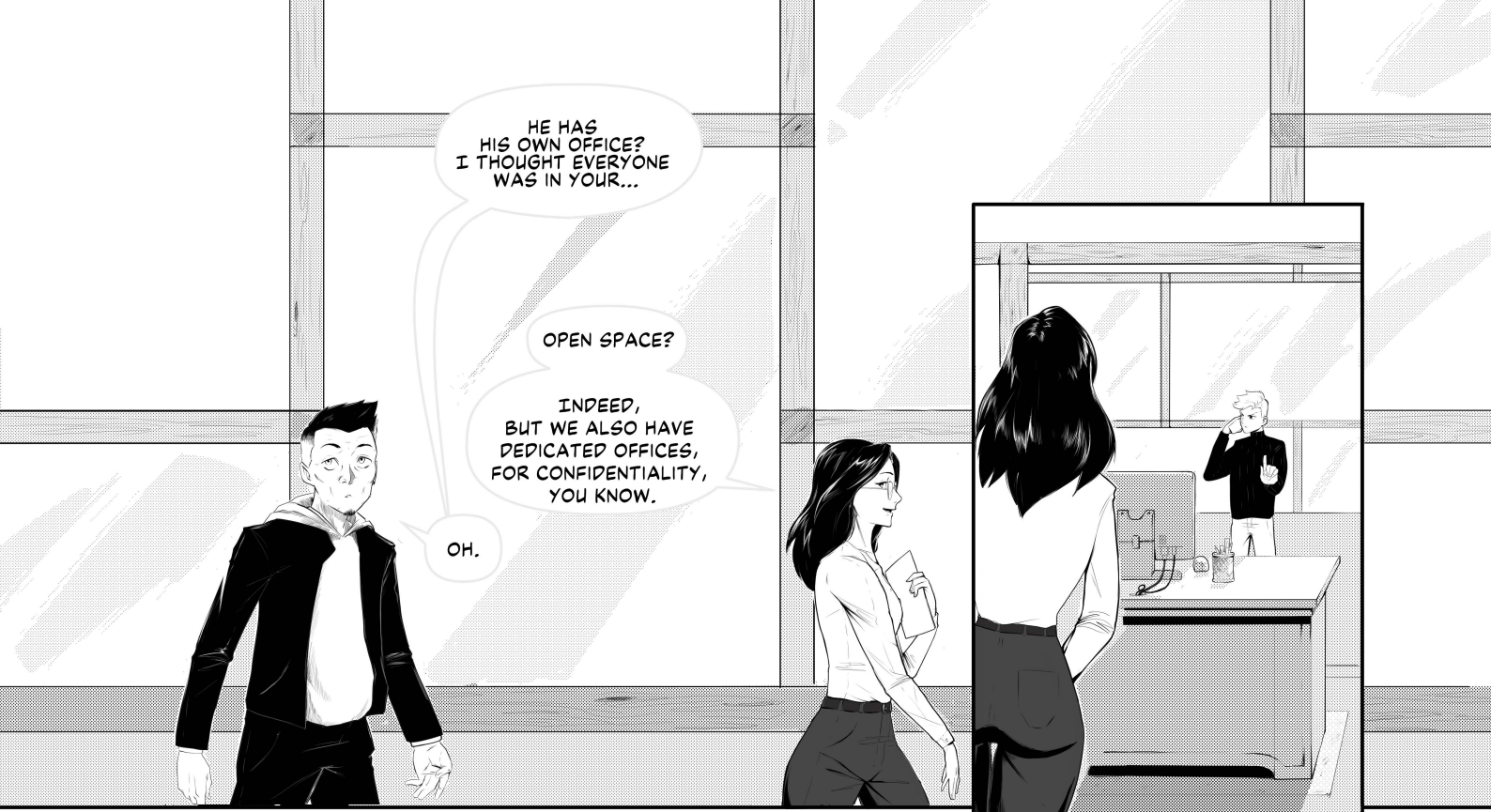






YOU MUST  
BE MISTER  
DARBINIAN'S  
FATHER?

WOULD YOU  
FOLLOW ME  
PLEASE?

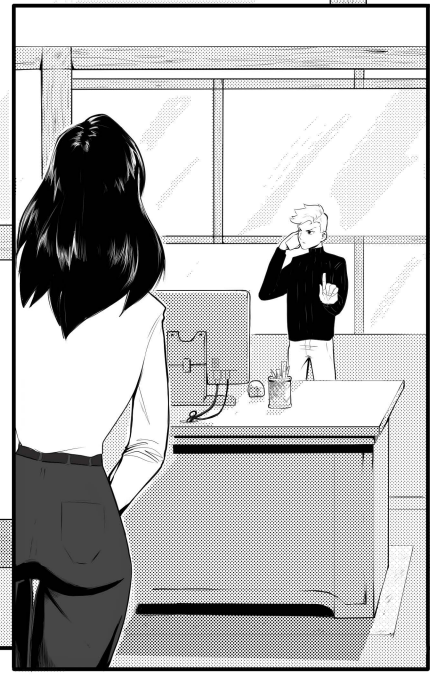


HE HAS HIS OWN OFFICE? I THOUGHT EVERYONE WAS IN YOUR...

OPEN SPACE?

INDEED, BUT WE ALSO HAVE DEDICATED OFFICES, FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, YOU KNOW.

OH.



I'M SORRY, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A MOMENT.

IT'S BEST NOT TO DISTURB HIM, HE'S VERY BUSY AT THE MOMENT.

AIN'T YOU ALL?

HE IS A BIT MORE THAN THE OTHERS. MR. DARBINIAN HAS SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES DESPITE HIS YOUNG AGE.

YES, WE HAD JUST BEEN ACQUIRED BY A LARGE CONSORTIUM WHEN OUR CFO FELL SERIOUSLY ILL.

FORTUNATELY, MR. DARBINIAN WAS THERE TO STEP IN. HE HAS GREAT INSTINCT AND KNOWS HOW TO READ PEOPLE.

OOOH, SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITIES?

YOU DON'T SAY. THAT DOESN'T SOUND MUCH LIKE...

IS IT GOING TO TAKE LONG?



RUBEN! SHALL WE GO FOR LUNCH?

ABSOLUTELY! FOLLOWING YOU, MISTER DARBINIAN.





HOW'S WORK GOING?

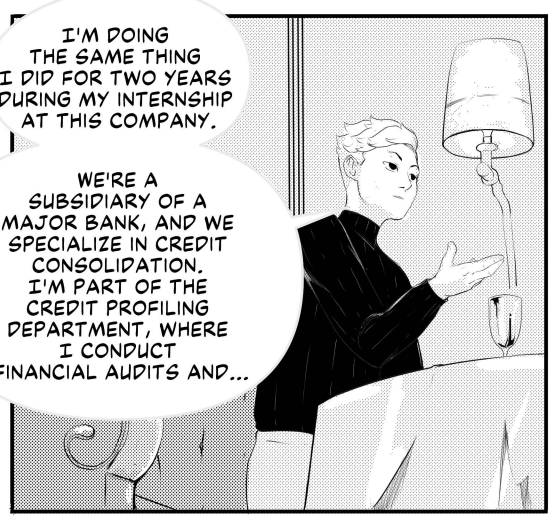


...

BECAUSE YOU'RE INTERESTED?

OUCH.

NO... WELL, YES, IT DOES INTEREST ME. WHAT DO YOU DO EXACTLY?



I'M DOING THE SAME THING I DID FOR TWO YEARS DURING MY INTERNSHIP AT THIS COMPANY.

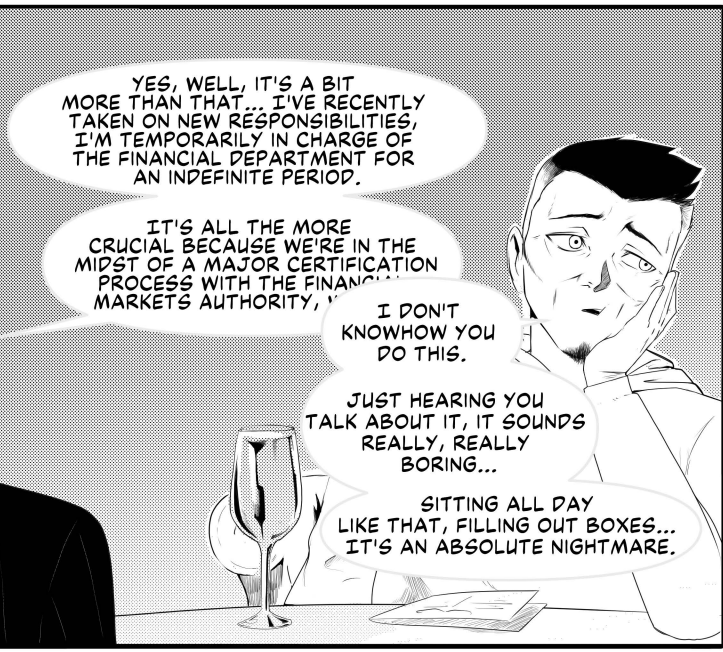
WE'RE A SUBSIDIARY OF A MAJOR BANK, AND WE SPECIALIZE IN CREDIT CONSOLIDATION. I'M PART OF THE CREDIT PROFILING DEPARTMENT, WHERE I CONDUCT FINANCIAL AUDITS AND...

OH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT. THINGS WITH EXCEL, NUMBERS...



...

AND PAGES OF TEDIOUS RAMBLINGS...



YES, WELL, IT'S A BIT MORE THAN THAT... I'VE RECENTLY TAKEN ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, I'M TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE OF THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

IT'S ALL THE MORE CRUCIAL BECAUSE WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF A MAJOR CERTIFICATION PROCESS WITH THE FINANCIAL MARKETS AUTHORITY, Y

I DON'T KNOWHOW YOU DO THIS.

JUST HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT IT, IT SOUNDS REALLY, REALLY BORING...

SITTING ALL DAY LIKE THAT, FILLING OUT BOXES... IT'S AN ABSOLUTE NIGHTMARE.

IT SURE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SOCIAL WELFARE.

SOCIAL WORK, THERE'S A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE.

BY THE WAY, I WAS THINKING, MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME OUT. I WORK WITH KIDS WHO AREN'T EVEN TWENTY YET AND WHO ARE ALREADY COVERED IN DEBT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY DO IT. IT'S A DISASTER.

"EVEN YOU" ?

COME ON, I'M SURE IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED. EVEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

LET ME THINK... LAZY, INACTIVE, AND ENTITLED YOUNG PEOPLE... NO, I DON'T THINK I CAN HELP THEM.

WE BOTH KNOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PUT NUMBERS IN THE RIGHT COLUMNS.

YES, OF COURSE, WE WORK ON EIGHT-FIGURE PROJECTS, BUT IT MUST BE WITHIN ANYONE'S REACH.

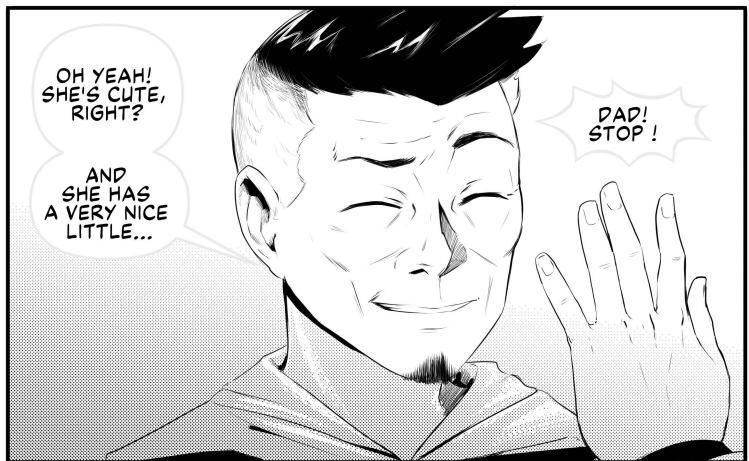
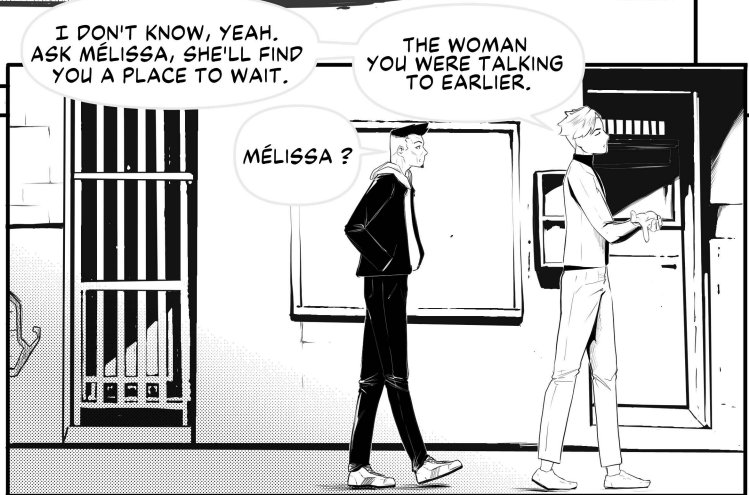
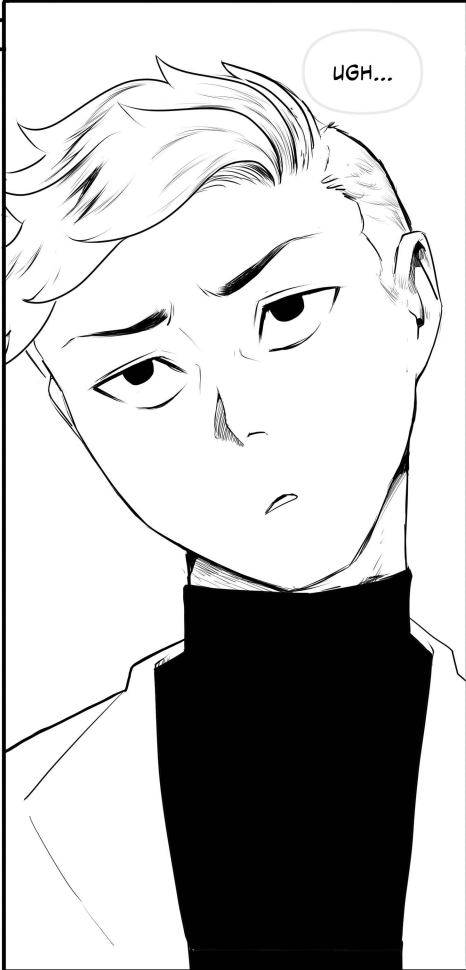
LISTEN, I'M JUST SAYING THAT WITH LITTLE EFFORT, YOU COULD CHANGE THEIR LIFE.

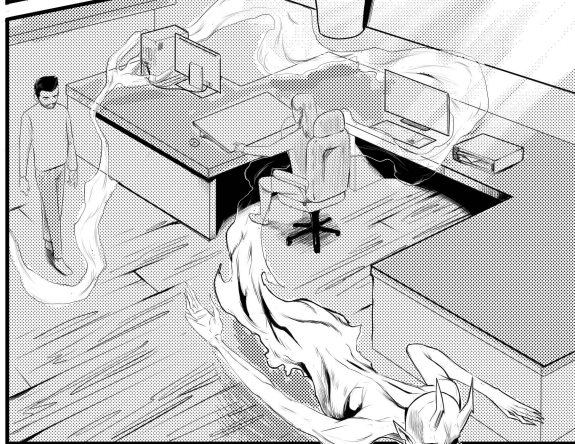
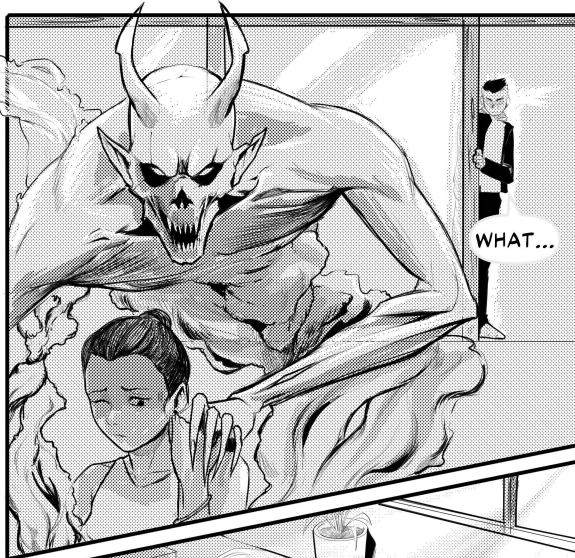
HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON THINGS.

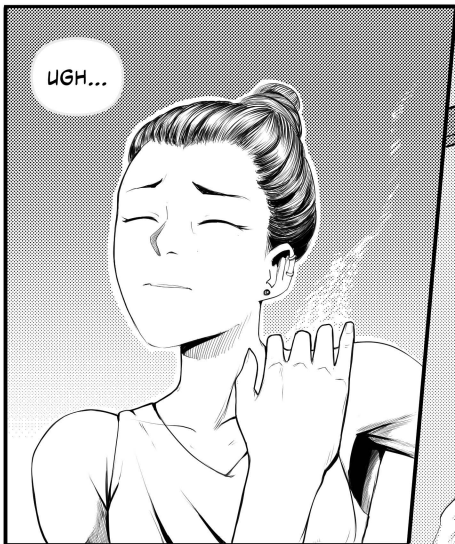
THINK ABOUT IT, KEYVAN, IT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO GIVE MEANING TO YOUR LIFE.

YES, LET'S DO THAT. I'LL THINK ABOUT THE MEANING OF MY LIFE.

THAT'S GREAT, SON. YOU KNOW, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HELP OTHERS.







UGH...



...DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE EBITDA MARGIN RATE WITHIN...

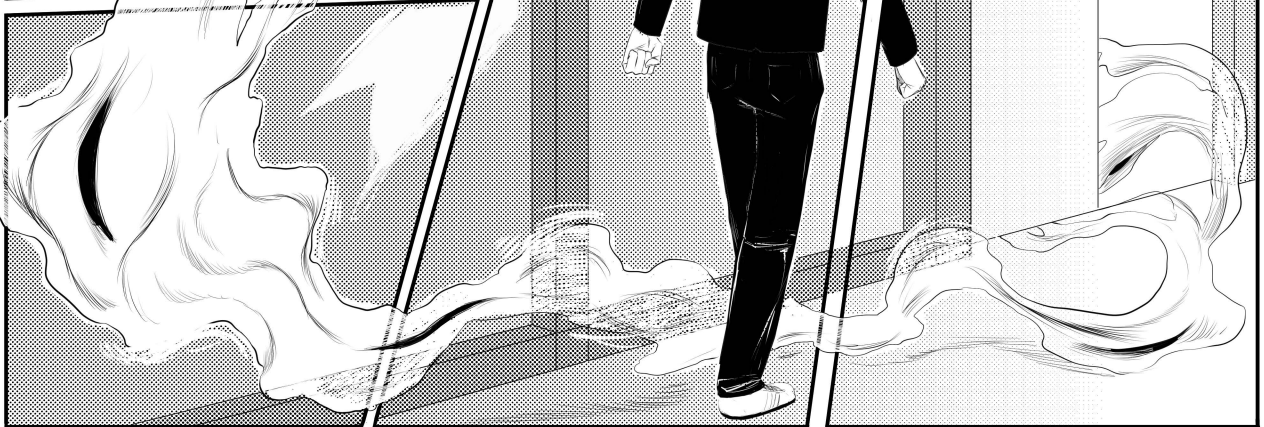
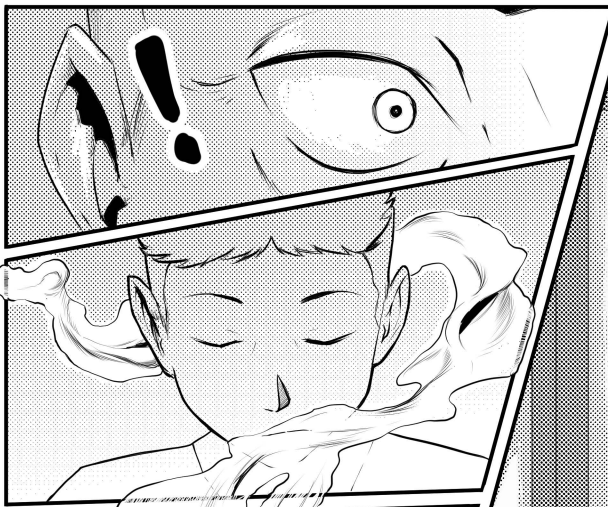
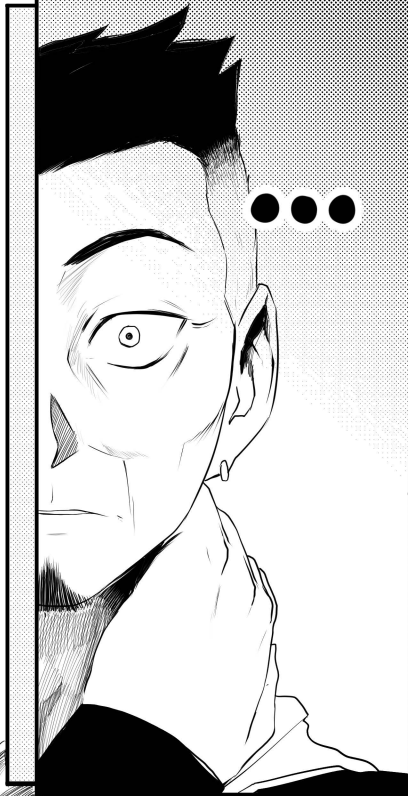


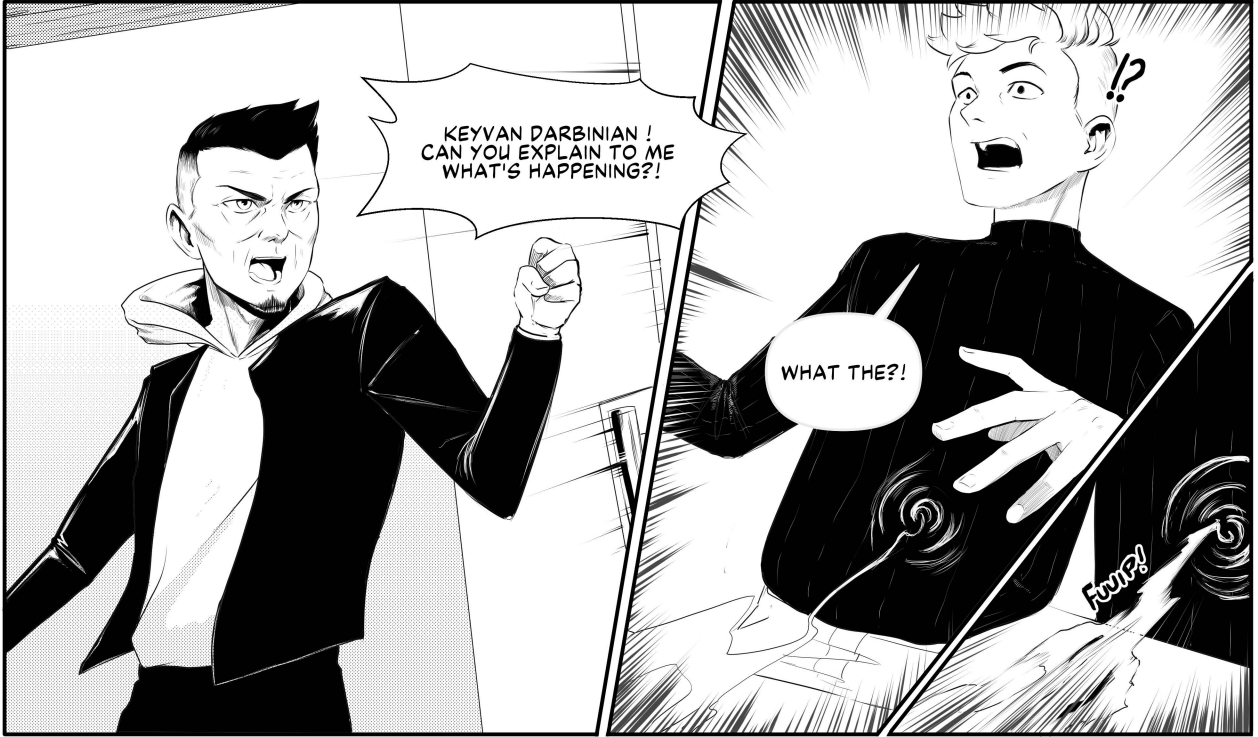
OH, DARN!



SCREW IT...







KEYVAN DARBINIAN !  
CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO ME  
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

WHAT THE?!

Fwoop?



CALM DOWN,  
CALM DOWN.

FIRST,  
LOWER YOUR  
VOICE...

TAP  
TAP



WHAT ARE YOU  
STILL DOING HERE?  
I THOUGHT YOU HAD  
LEFT.



MY APPOINTMENT  
GOT CANCELED.

IT ALLOWED ME  
TO SEE WHAT YOU  
WERE DOING, YOUR  
STRANGE DEALINGS  
WITH THAT  
SORT OF...

...APPARITION.





SO...

YOU CAN SEE IT...



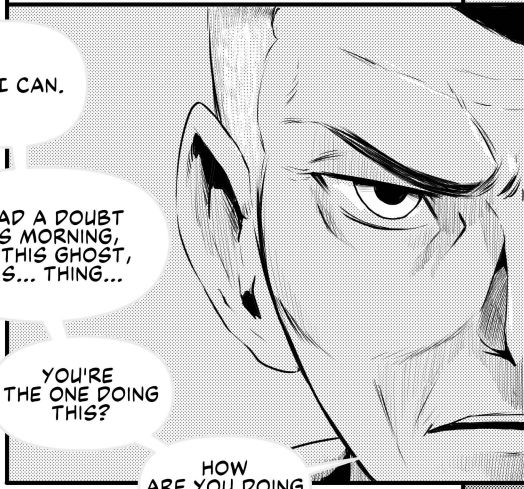
I DON'T KNOW I DO. THAT'S IT.

BUT WHAT IS IT?!

WHY DOES IT LOOK SO FAMILIAR TO ME?



"FAMILIAR" HOW? CAN YOU MAKE IT APPEAR TOO?

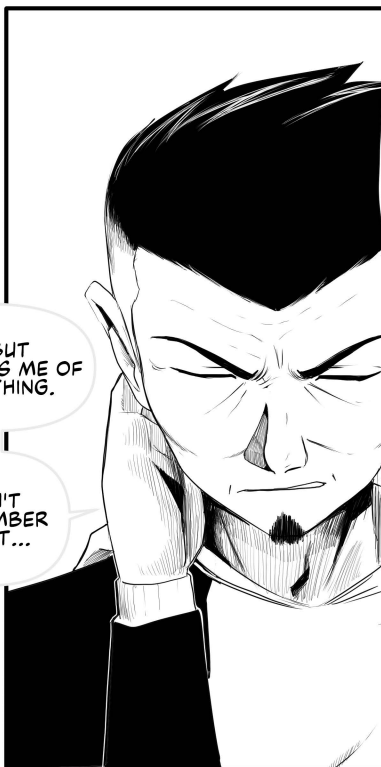


YES I CAN.

I HAD A DOUBT THIS MORNING, BUT THIS GHOST, THIS... THING...

YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THIS?

HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?



NO, BUT IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING.

CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT...



INTERESTING...

ACTUALLY, CONSIDERING YOUR HISTORY... IT COULD...



"IT COULD" WHAT?!



I DO THINK THAT...

I BELIEVE IT'S MY ANGER.





YOUR ANGER?

BUT HOW?

YOU'RE THE CALMEST PERSON I KNOW...



THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, DAD.



I SEE THAT. FIRST THE GUY ON THE TRAIN, AND NOW YOUR COLLEAGUES...

WHAT DO YOU REALLY DO? ARE YOU SPYING ON THEM?



NOT AT ALL.

AND DON'T SPEAK SO LOUDLY.



OH, I'VE FIGURED OUT YOUR PLAY.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU BECAME "MISTER" DARBINIAN SO QUICKLY.

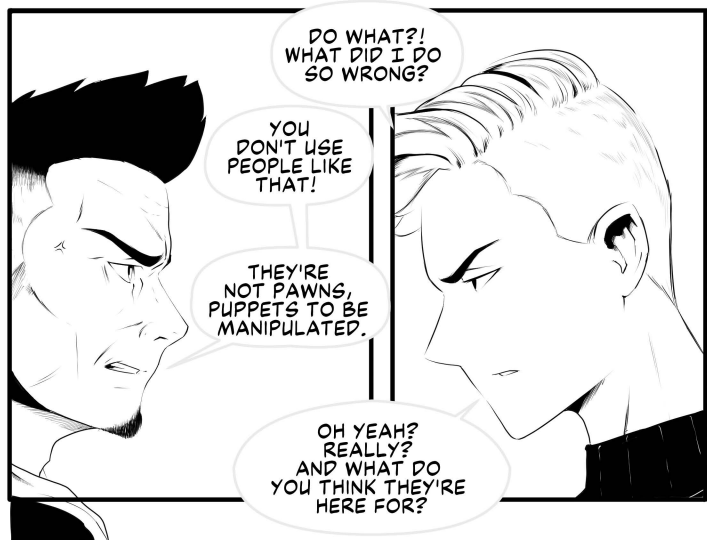


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR COLLEAGUES!

HOW CAN YOU DO THAT TO THEM?!



DO WHAT?! WHAT DID I DO SO WRONG?

YOU DON'T USE PEOPLE LIKE THAT!

THEY'RE NOT PAWNS, PUPPETS TO BE MANIPULATED.

OH YEAH? REALLY? AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE HERE FOR?

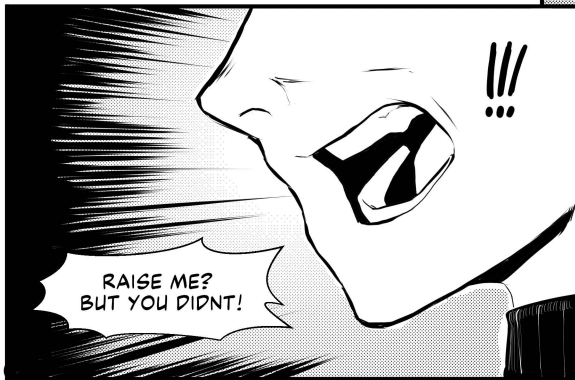


I DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BECOME SO DEVIANT.



EXCUSE ME?

YOU UNDERSTOOD ME DAMN WELL!



RAISE ME? BUT YOU DIDNT!



YOU WERE NEVER THERE, IT WAS JUST WORK, CONSTANTLY, EVERY DAY.

WELL, LOOK AROUND YOU, YOUR SON IS SUCCEEDING.

BUT ALL OF THIS IS BASED ON A LIE!

YOU SPY ON YOUR COLLEAGUES AND YOUR BOSS.

WHERE IS YOUR SENSE OF HONOR?



YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO TALK ABOUT HONOR.

HOW CAN YOU TWIST MY WORDS LIKE THAT?

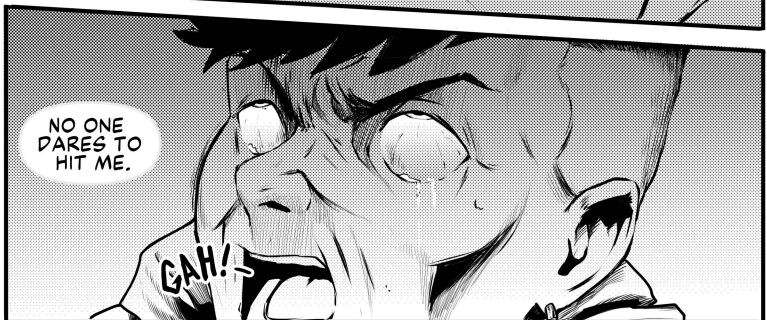
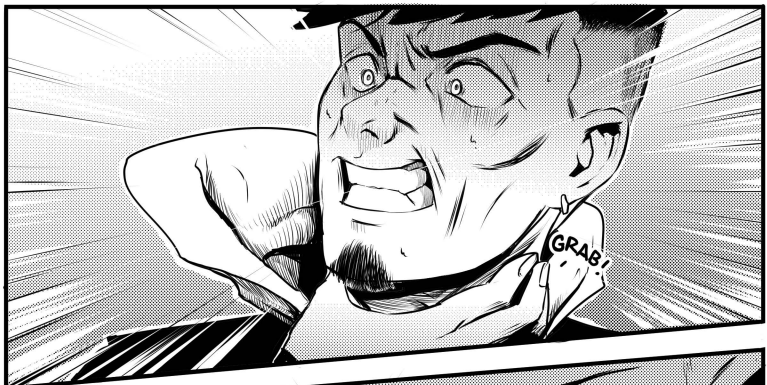
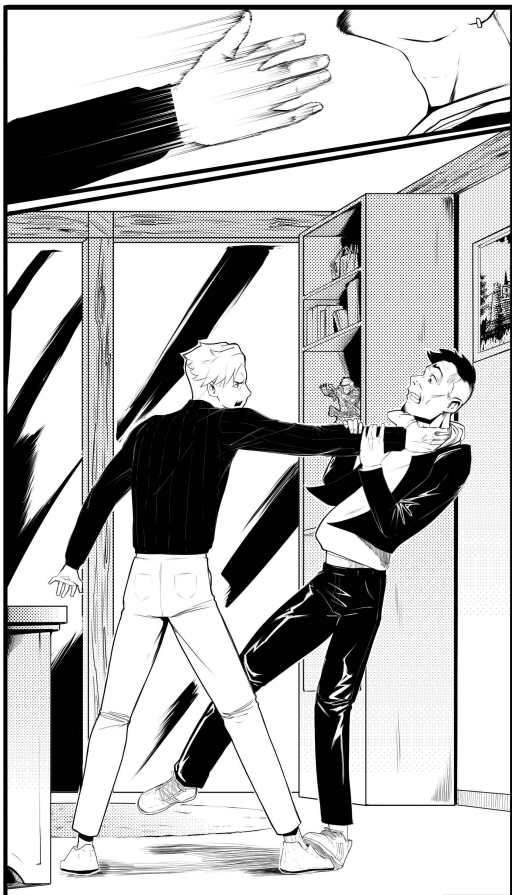
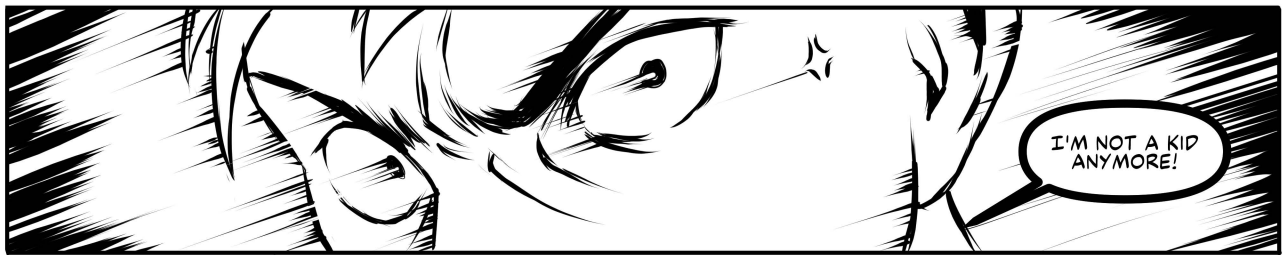
I'VE CHANGED, I REGRET THE PERSON I USED TO BE, AND SINCE THEN, I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO DOING GOOD.

THE YOUNG DELINQUENT YOU WERE, YOUR WORDS, HAD INTEGRITY, HONOR?

TERRORIZING PASSERSBY, ASSAULTING THEM?

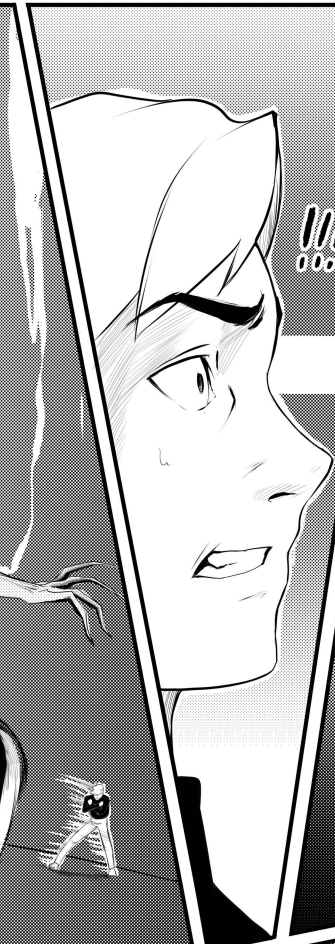
THAT BEAUTIFUL HALO YOU DRAW ABOVE YOUR HEAD...

WHAT A HYPOCRITE.





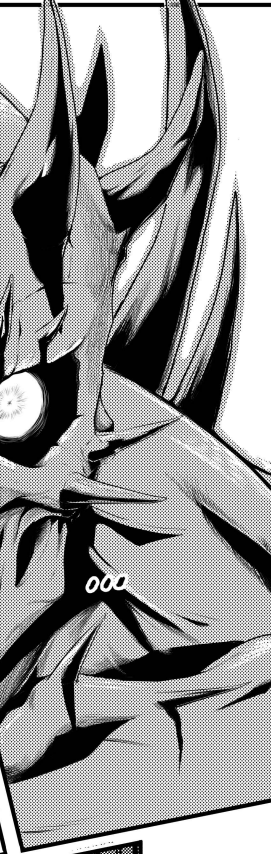
**RAAAGH!**



///  
ooo



///  
ooo



ooo



**Swoosh!**

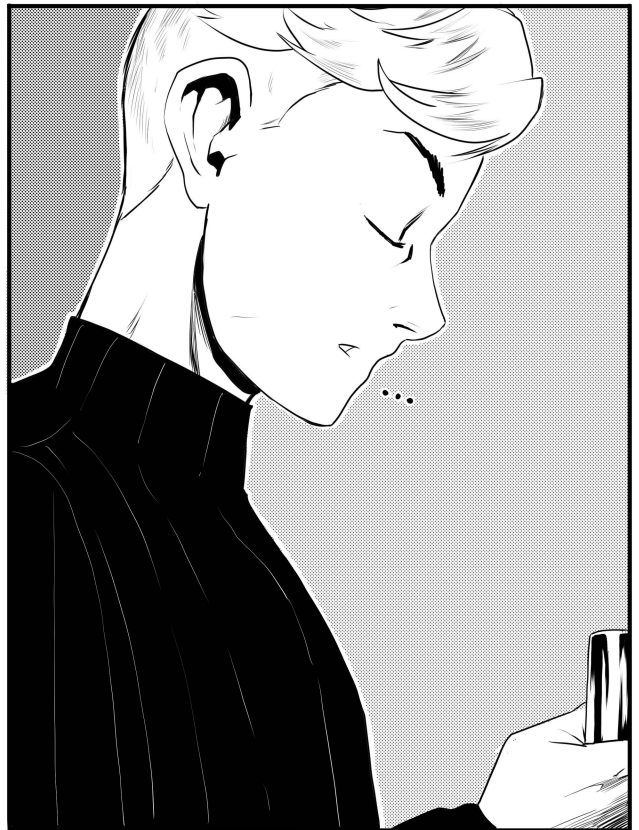
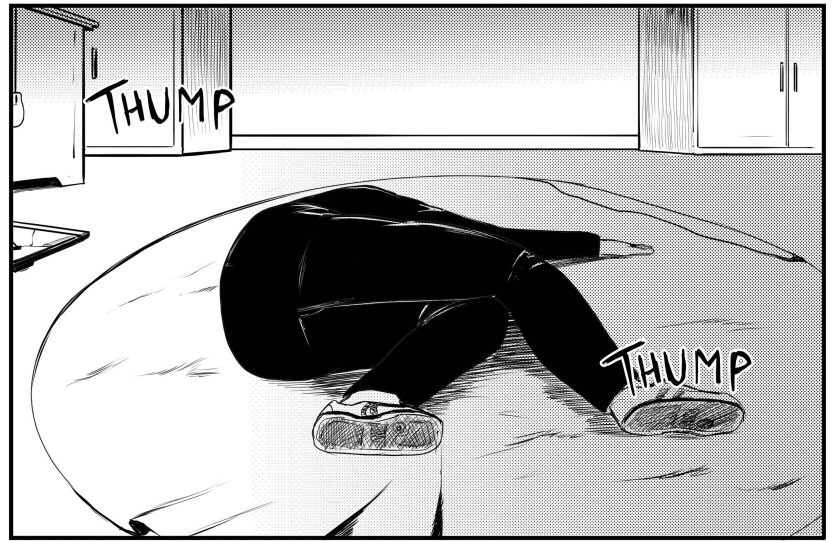
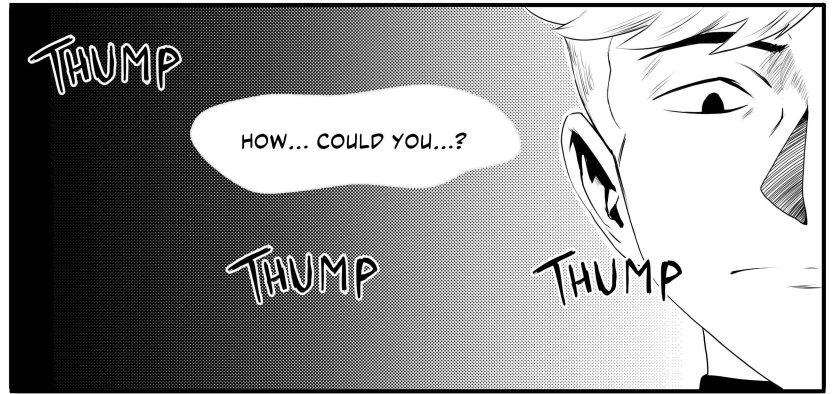


**RAAAGH!**



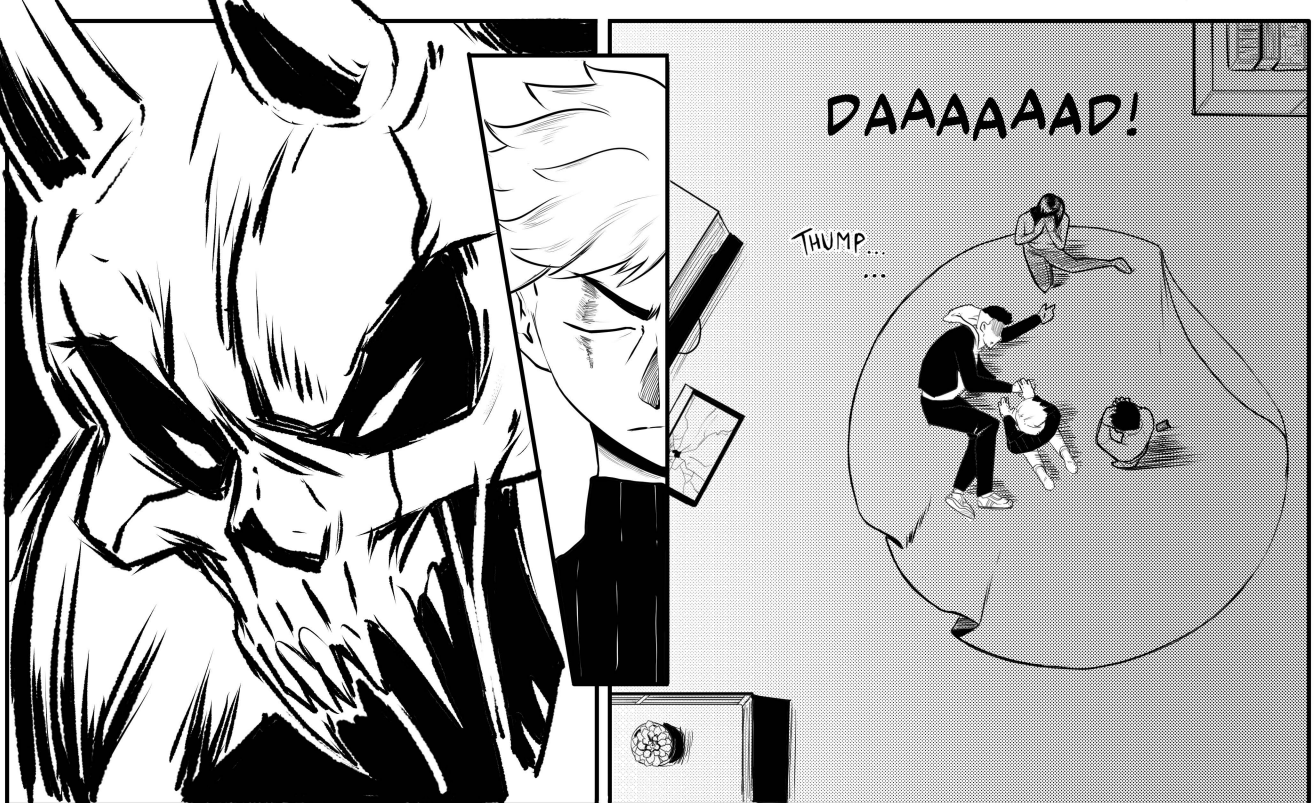
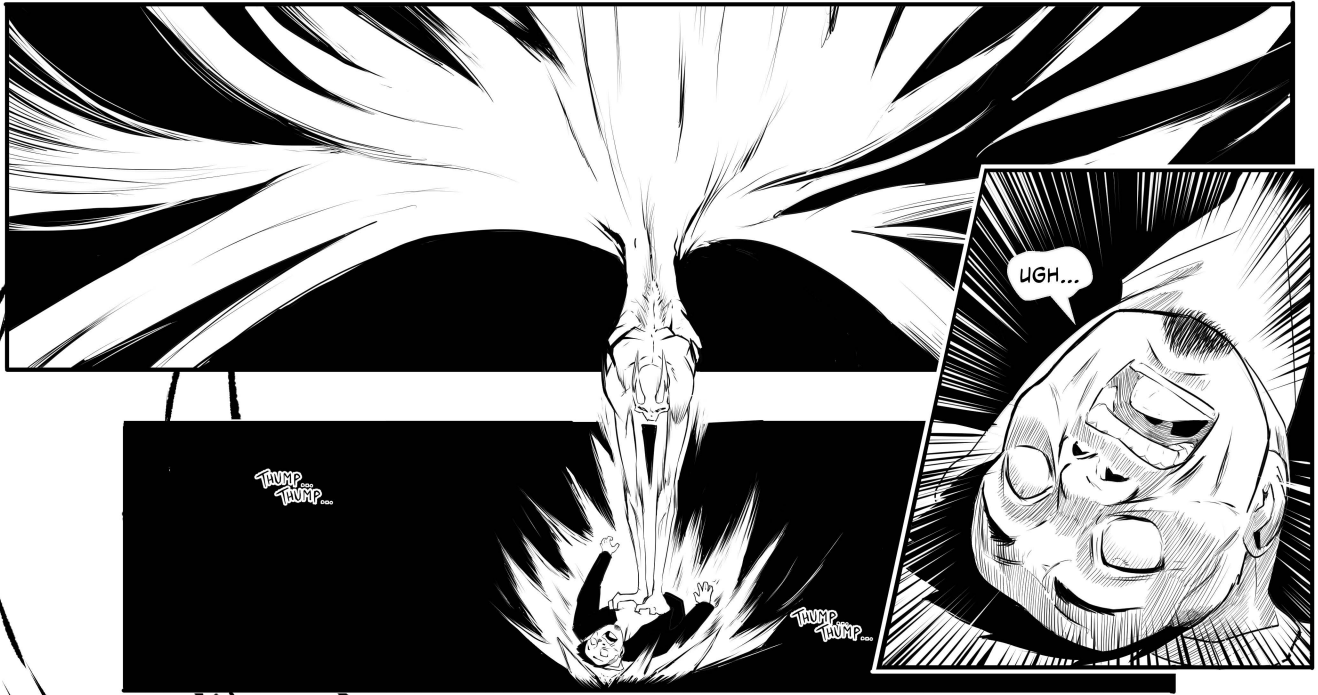
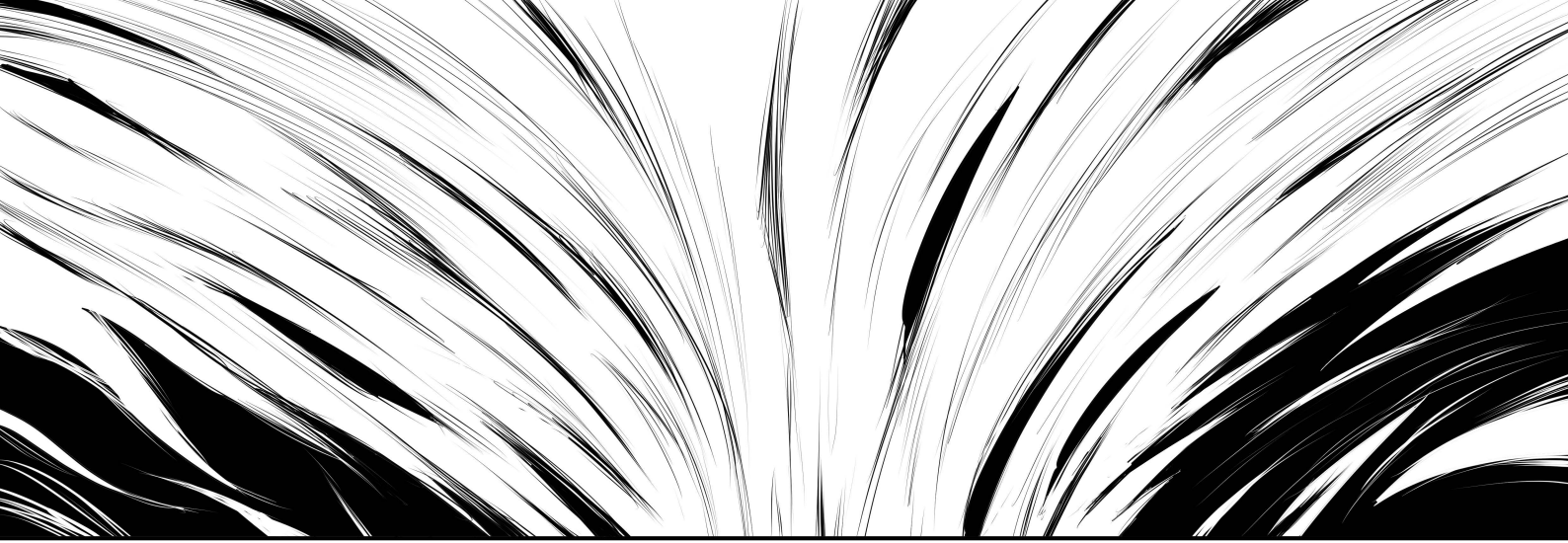




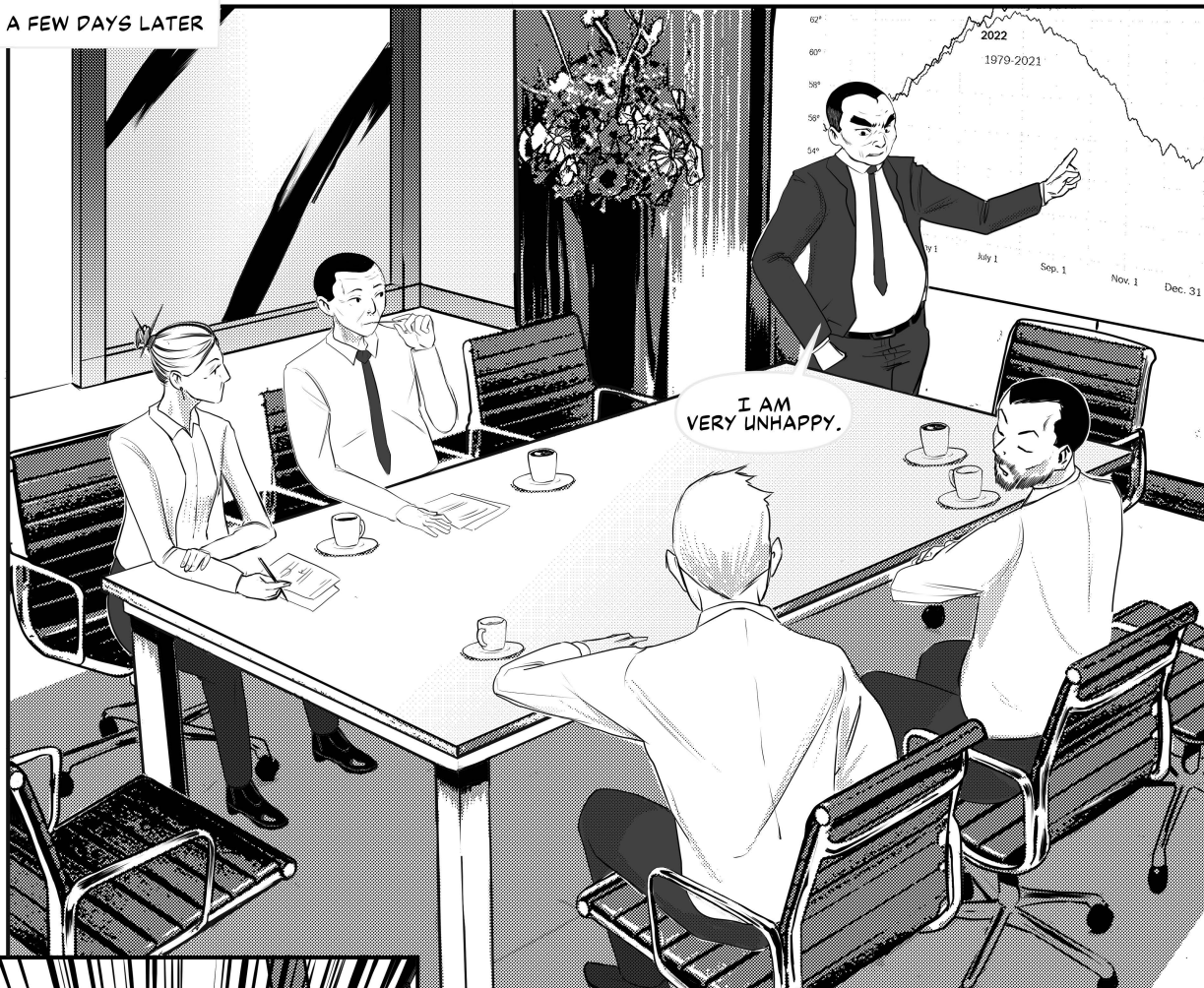








A FEW DAYS LATER



I AM VERY UNHAPPY.



LADIES, GENTLEMEN.

BAM!

TAP

TAP



MR. DARBINIAN, WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU... YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE MORE TIME FOR...

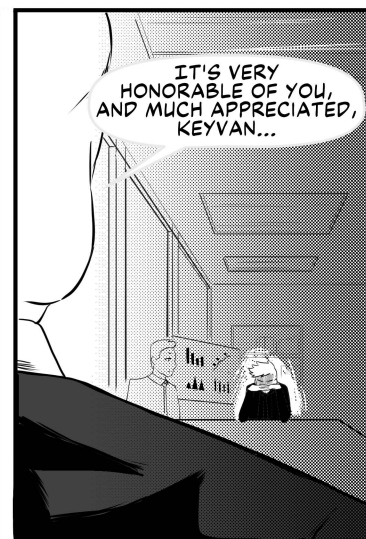


I'M GOOD.

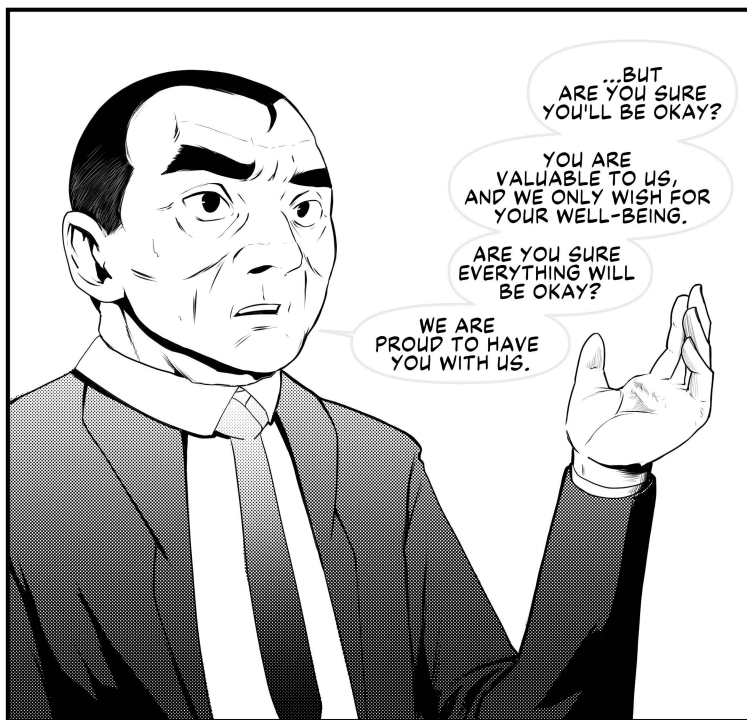
I NEED TO GET TO WORK. THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER WOULD HAVE WANTED.

HE WAS VERY PROUD TO SEE WHAT I BRING TO THIS COMPANY. I HAVE TO GO ON.

I OWE IT TO ALL OF YOU.



IT'S VERY HONORABLE OF YOU, AND MUCH APPRECIATED, KEYVAN...

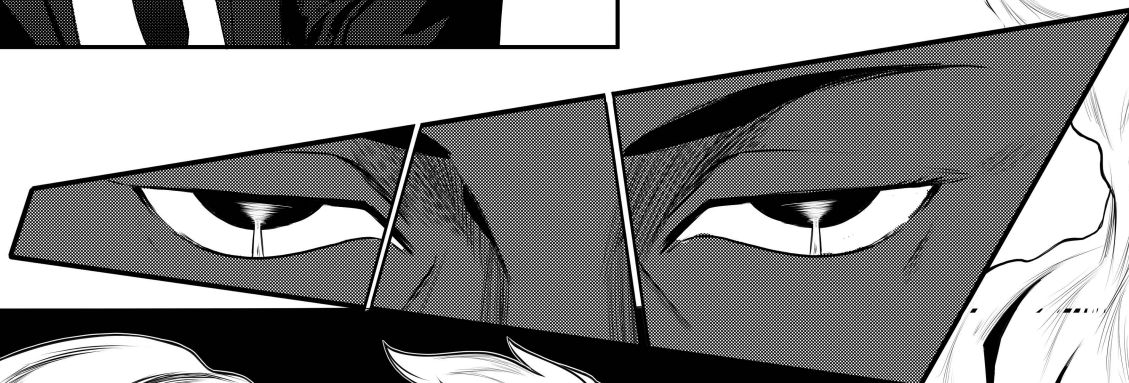


...BUT  
ARE YOU SURE  
YOU'LL BE OKAY?

YOU ARE  
VALUABLE TO US,  
AND WE ONLY WISH FOR  
YOUR WELL-BEING.

ARE YOU SURE  
EVERYTHING WILL  
BE OKAY?

WE ARE  
PROUD TO HAVE  
YOU WITH US.



BELIEVE ME...

... I HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

