



THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
SUE



ONE OF THE STRANGEST MEMORIES I HAVE IS OF WHEN I WAS LITTLE.



I THINK I WAS EIGHT OR NINE AT THE TIME.



MY PARENTS DROPPED ME OFF AT A SCHOOLMATE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

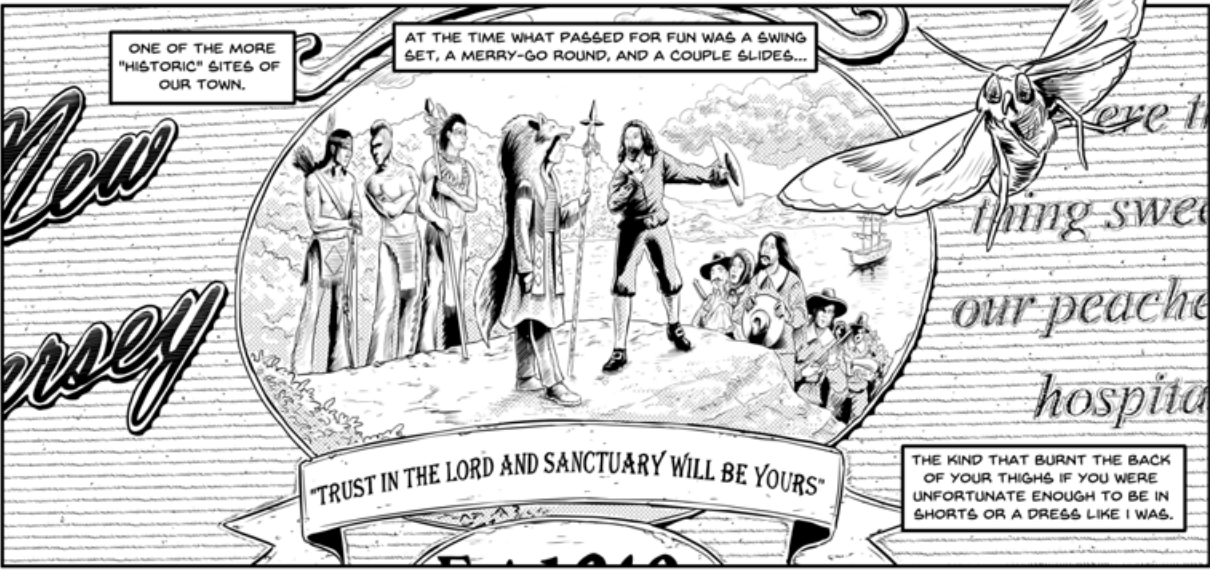


I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW THE GIRL VERY WELL, BUT MY MOM KNEW HER MOM FROM WORK AND WELL...

YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.



THE PARTY WAS AT A LOCAL PARK...



ONE OF THE MORE "HISTORIC" SITES OF OUR TOWN.

AT THE TIME WHAT PASSED FOR FUN WAS A SWING SET, A MERRY-GO ROUND, AND A COUPLE SLIDES...

New Jersey

"TRUST IN THE LORD AND SANCTUARY WILL BE YOURS"

THE KIND THAT BURNT THE BACK OF YOUR THIGHS IF YOU WERE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE IN SHORTS OR A DRESS LIKE I WAS.

I REMEMBER THE 'BIRTHDAY GIRL' GATHERING ALL OF HER BUDDIES, SOME OF WHOM WERE MINE, AT THIS DITCH OUT PAST THE SEA OF SHREDDED TIRES.

THE LAST THING I WANTED TO BE WAS A WALLFLOWER.

THE ADULTS WERE WATCHING THE YOUNGER KIDS AND TALKING AMONGST THEMSELVES AT THE TABLES.

WHEN I GOT THERE, I COULD TELL SOMETHING DEVIIOUS WAS GOING ON...

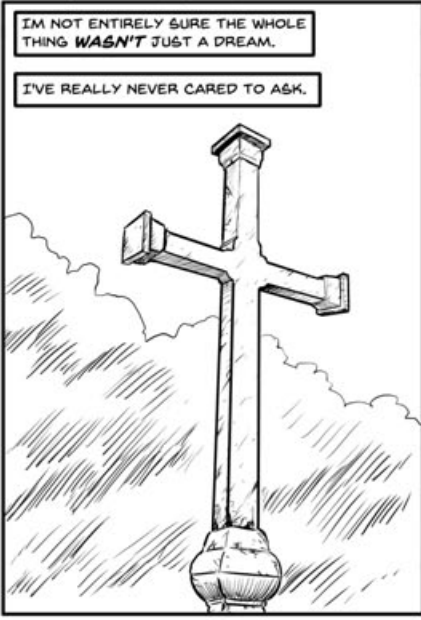
WELL AS DEVIIOUS AS WHAT ANY TEN TO TWELVE YEAR OLD COULD CONJURE UP.

THEY WERE DARING EACH OTHER TO CRAWL INTO THIS DRAINAGE PIPE THAT WENT UNDER THE STREET NEXT TO THE PLAYGROUND. BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO ASK, THE FINGER WAS DIRECTED AT ME.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THEN, I REMEMBER MOST OF WHAT HAPPENED UP UNTIL THAT POINT...

BUT WHATEVER HAPPENED BEYOND THAT IS SOMETHING ONLY MY DREAMS SEEM TO BE CAPABLE OF PIECING TOGETHER.





IM NOT ENTIRELY SURE THE WHOLE THING *WASN'T* JUST A DREAM.

I'VE REALLY NEVER CARED TO ASK.

I GUESS BECAUSE...

IF I JUST KEEP IT TO MYSELF...



IT JUST *STAYS* A NIGHTMARE.



AND NIGHTMARES...WELL...



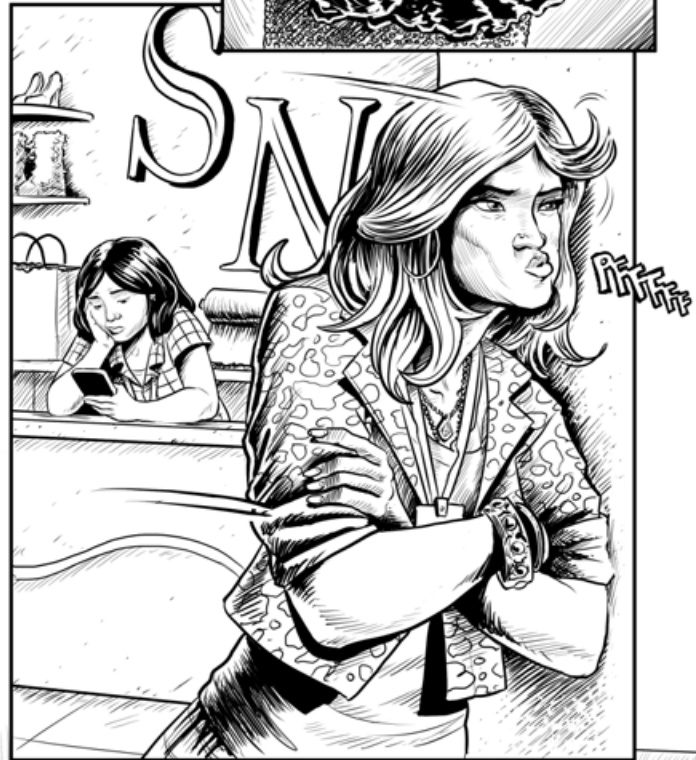
UNLIKE THE WORLD...

AT LEAST *THEY* CAN'T HURT YOU.



PFFT...



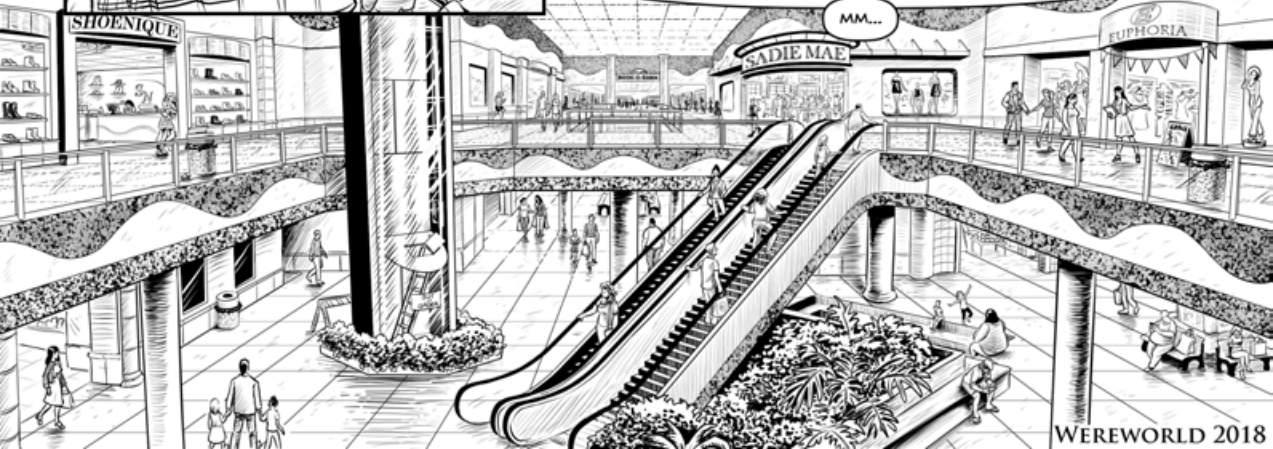


JUST HOW LONG DOES A "GRAND OPENING" LAST NOWADAYS? JUDGING BY THE STACEYS OVER THERE, THREE WHOLE WEEKS.

MM-HM...

IF BUSINESS STAYS LIKE THIS, WE MIGHT HAVE TO START SENDING APPLICATIONS TO *THEM*...IT'S EITHER THAT OR THE CHICKEN COOP IN THE FOOD COURT. HEARD WORD THEY WERE HIRIN' SINCE THEY DUMPED THEIR OLD MANAGER FOR TAKEN PICTURES OF GIRLS IN THE WOMEN'S STALLS...FUCK'N PERVERT.

MM...





AT LEAST I GET TO ENJOY PARTAKING IN **ESPECIALLY** EXCITING CONVERSATION WITH THE **OH SO ELOQUENT** SUSAN LAU...



NOT SURE I CARE FOR THE **SARCASM**...

WOULD YOU RATHER BE CLOSING WITH **JENNIFER**?
I CAN GIVE HER A CALL...



AND SEND THIS NIGHT INTO AN EVEN **DEEPER** PIT OF DESPPAIR?

HARD PASS.

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...

WHO KNEW THIS PLACE LOOKED UNDER BRIDGES FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS?

THAT WRETCHED HAG COULD DRIVE A CAREBEAR TO JUMP INTO A WOODCHIPPER.



NICE VISUAL.

HEY, IT'S THE TRUTH...

SHE HAS ABOUT AS MUCH CHARISMA AS A BLOATED DEAD EEL...

OJJU, I LIKE THIS! WONDER IF IT COMES IN BLACK...



I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A NEW FUNERAL SLASH "SORRY ABOUT YOUR DOG" OUTFIT...

MMM...

YOU GOT ANY OF THAT PAIN RELIEVER LEFT IN YOUR COACH?

GREMLINS STILL DIGGING AROUND IN YOUR HEAD?

YEAH...THINK IT'S TURNING INTO A MIGRANE.



WELL, MAYBE IF YOU PULLED YOUR NOSE OUT OF THAT **PHONE** FOR MORE THAN TEN MINUTES YOU MIGHT FEEL BETTER.

YOU KNOW, MAYBE TAP INTO THE **REAL** WORLD?

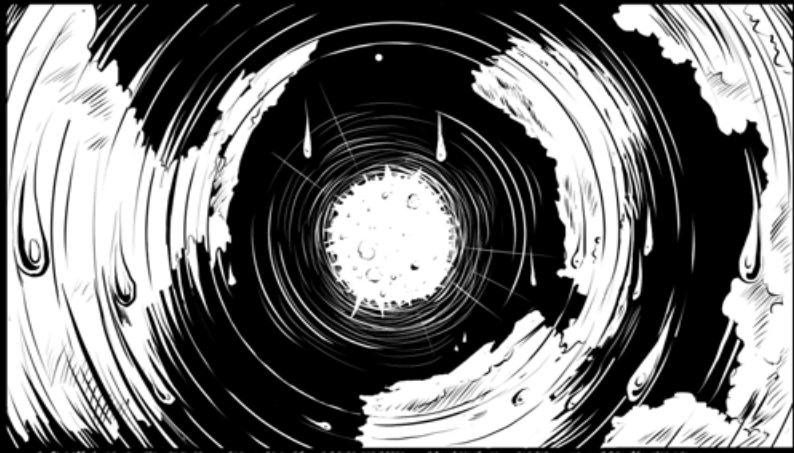


WHY WOULD I WANNA DO THAT? LAST TIME I CHECKED, THAT'S WHERE THE **REAL** MONSTERS LIVE.









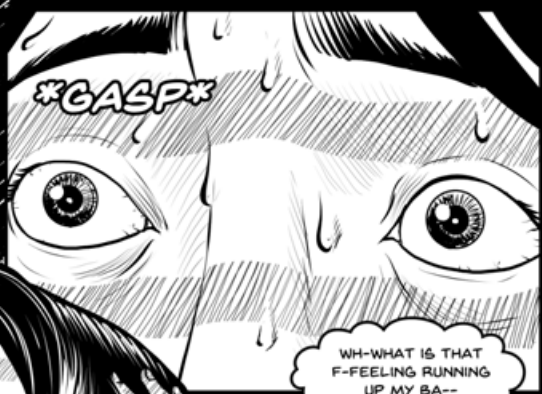
HUH?



THE MOON...
IT LOOKS SO...



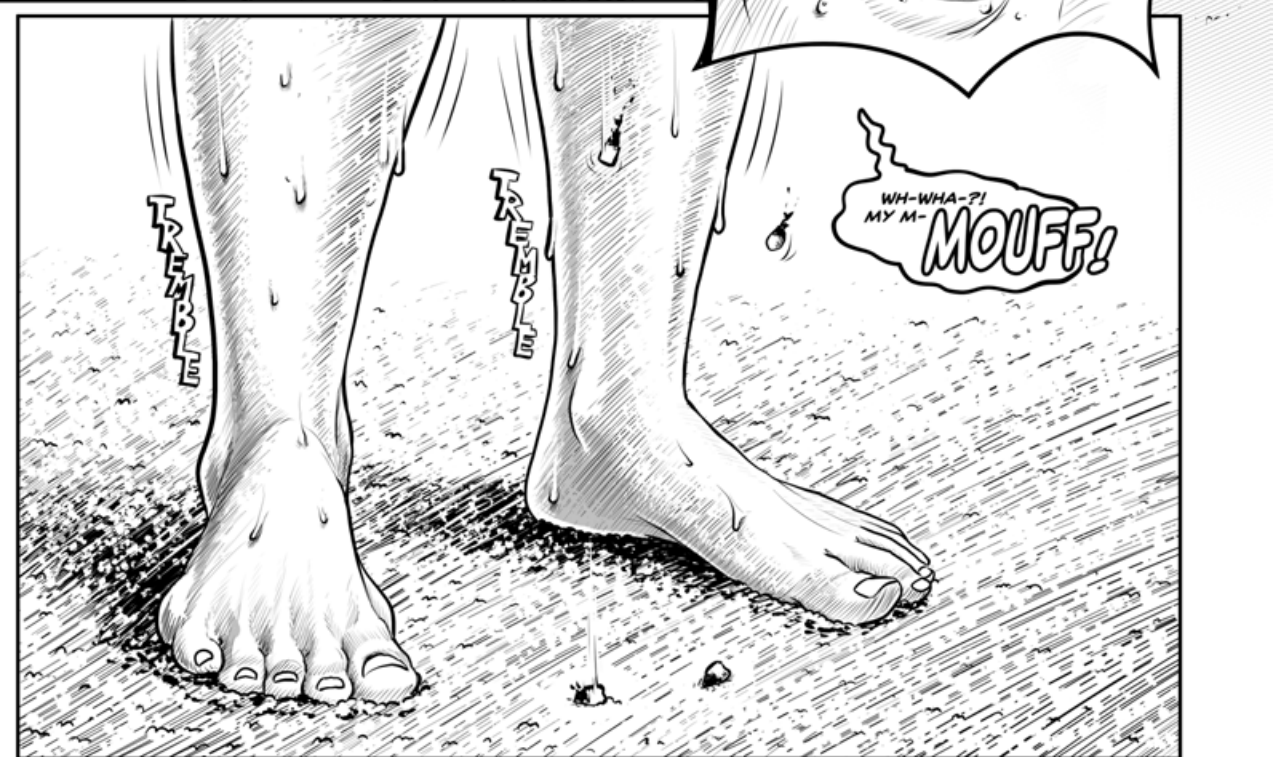
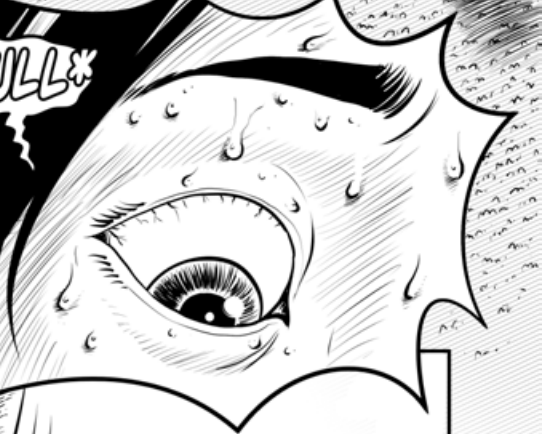
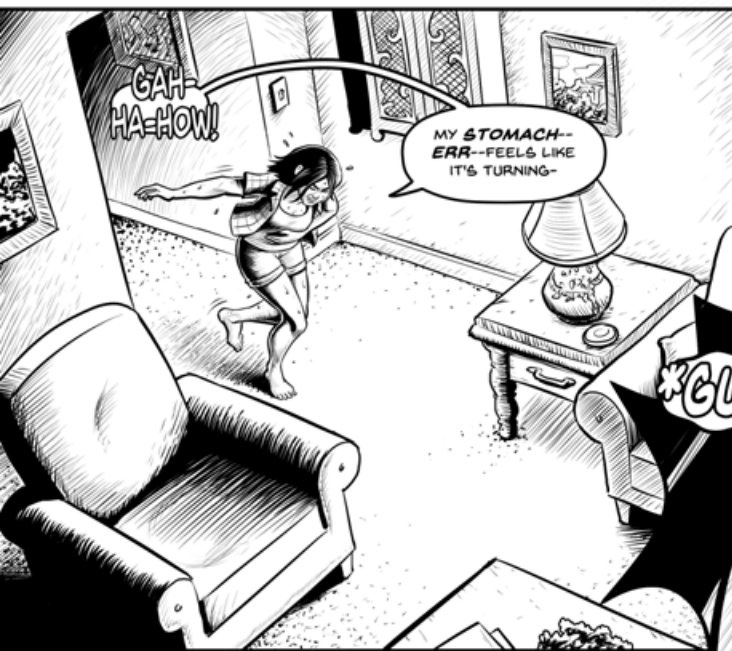
BRIGHT...



GASP

WH-WHAT IS THAT
F-FEELING RUNNING
UP MY BA--







GAH-HA,
AH-HA-AH!

MY TEETH!



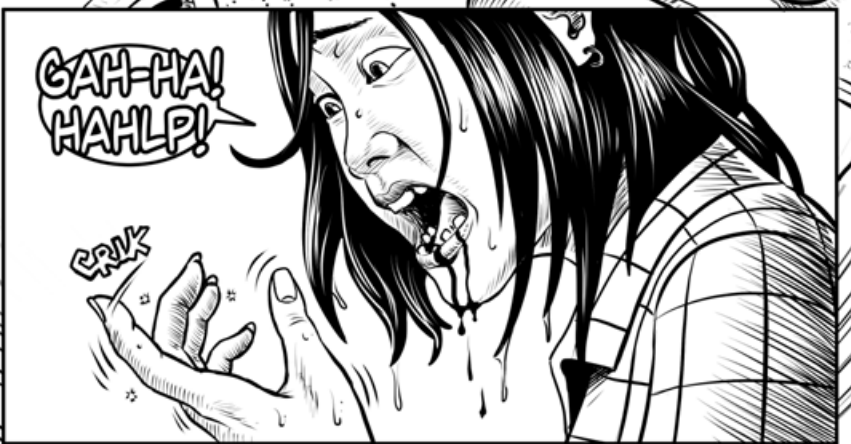
MMPH!
MM-MMM!

WHAT IS
GOING ON?!

MY WHOLE
BODY'S ON
FIRE!

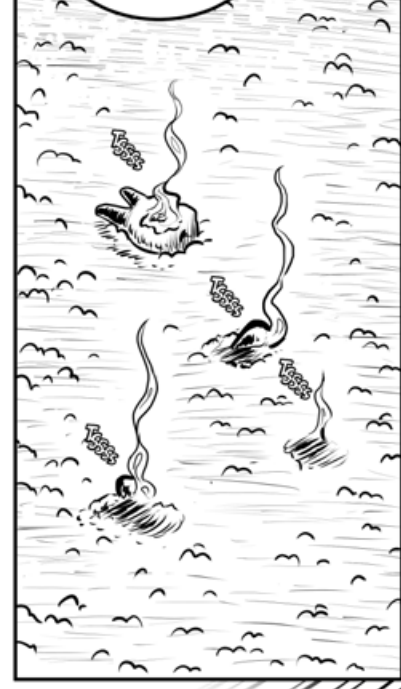


S-S-SUM-
BUH-EE!

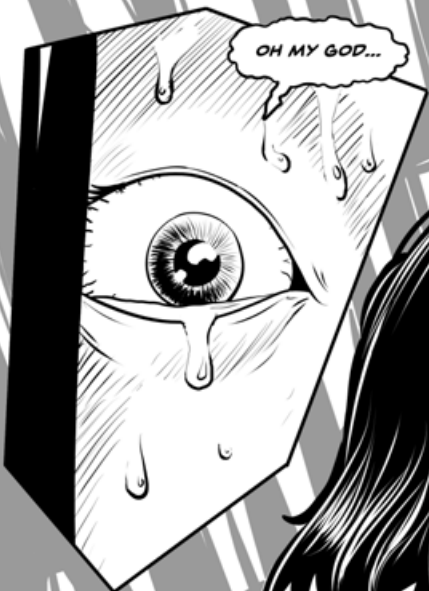
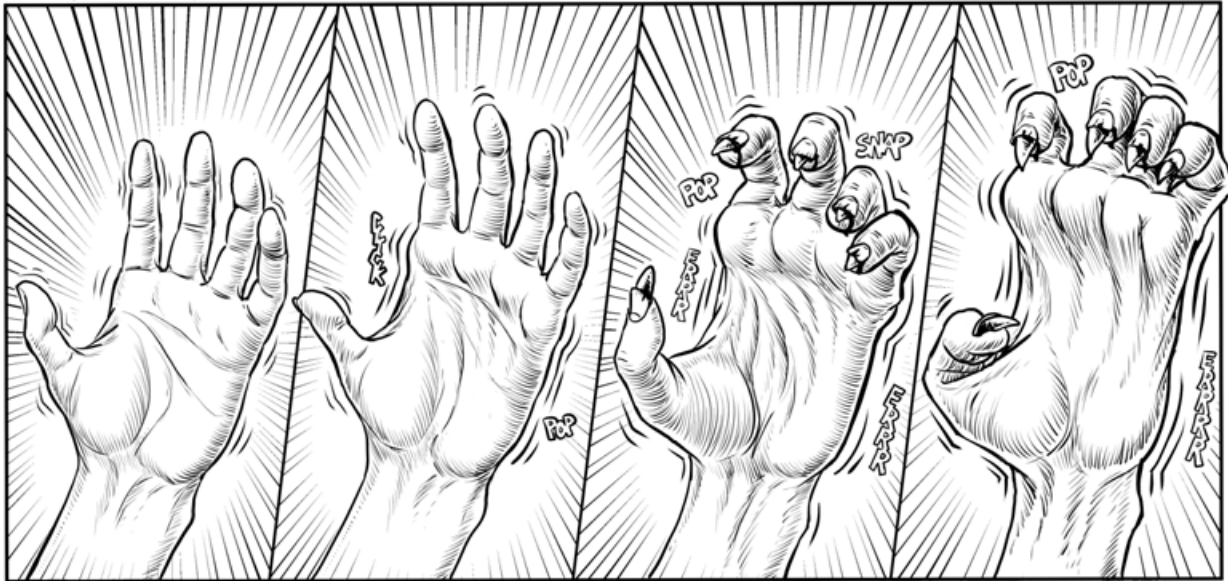


GAH-HA!
HAHLPI!

CRK

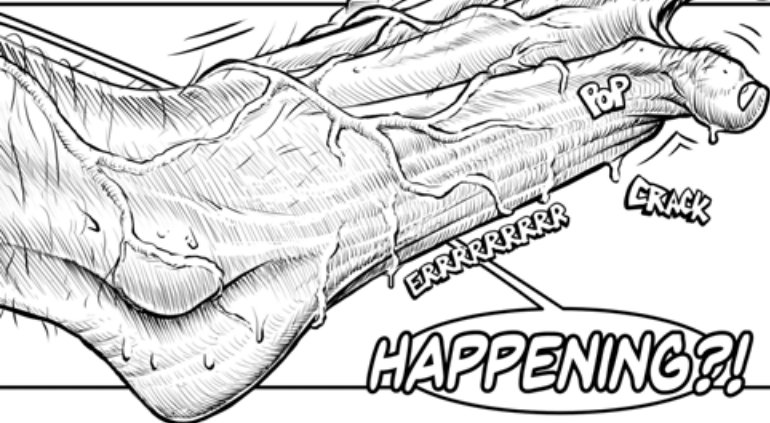
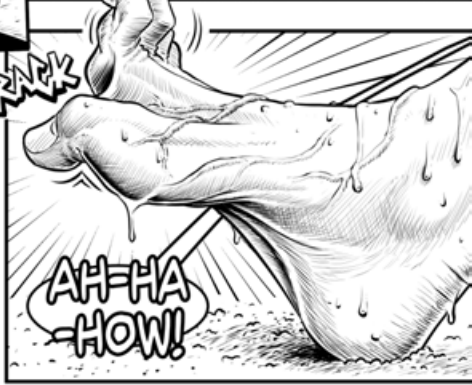
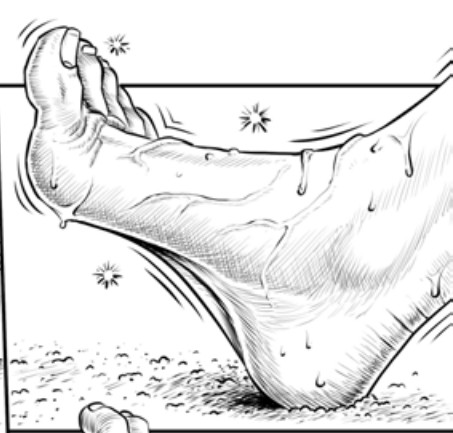


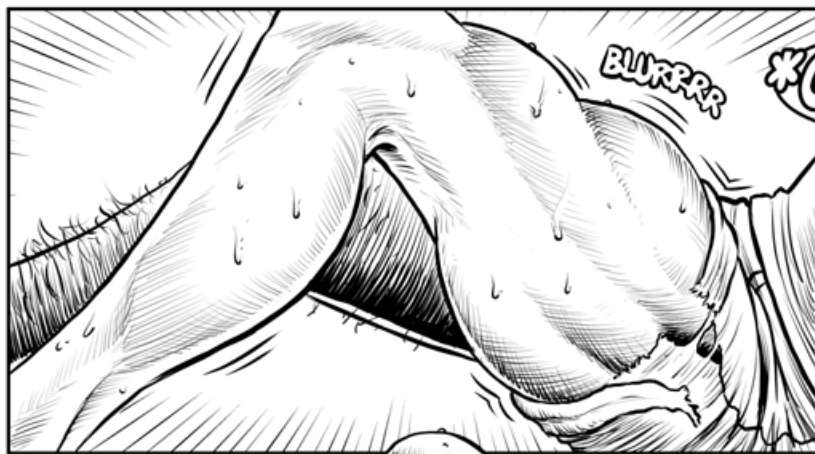
W-WHA?!



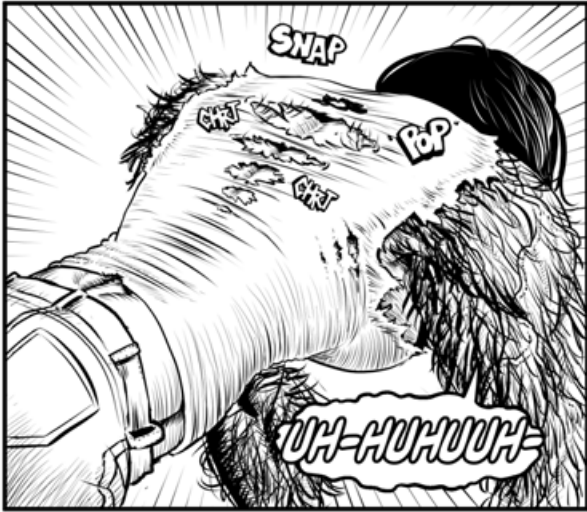


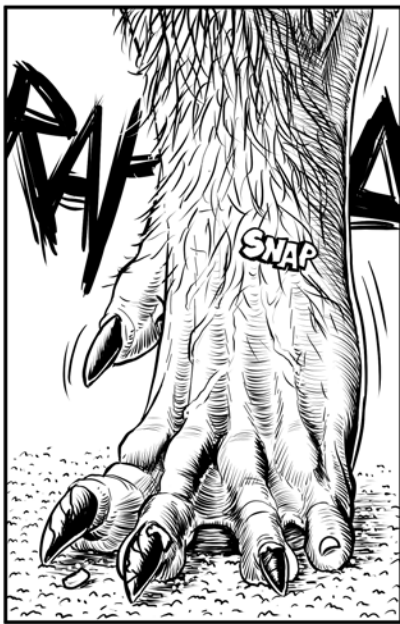
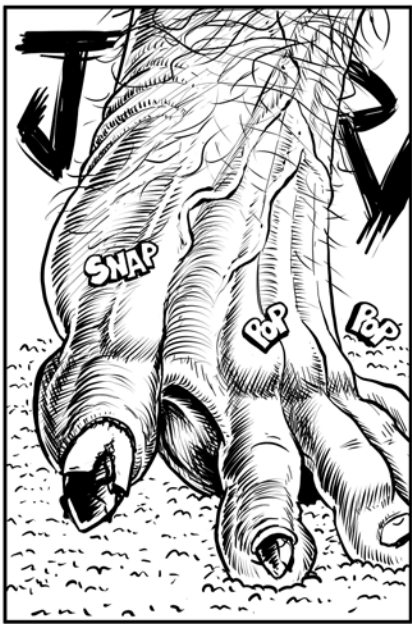
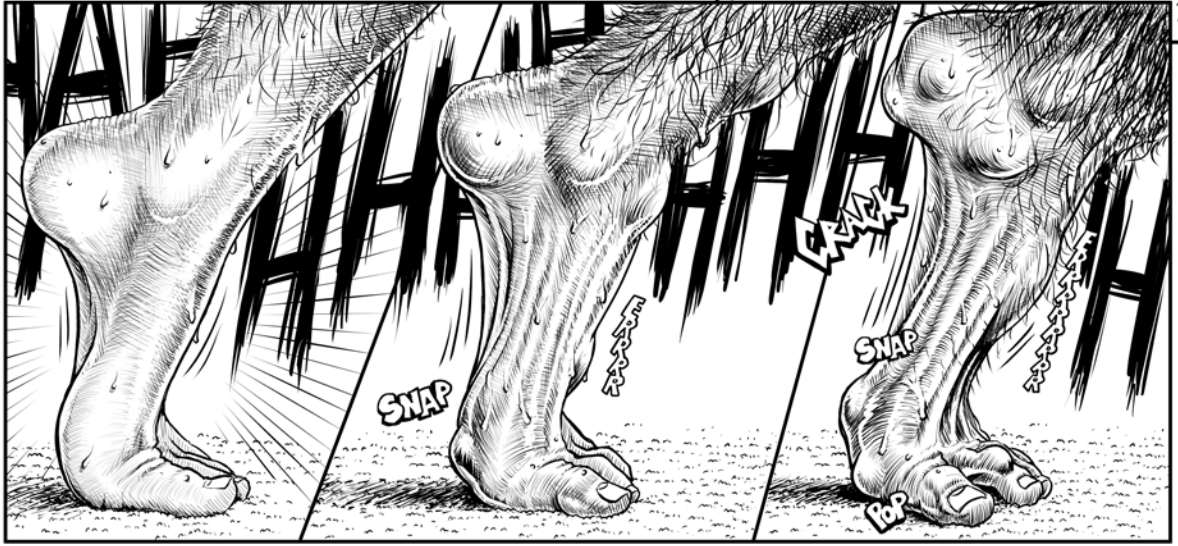


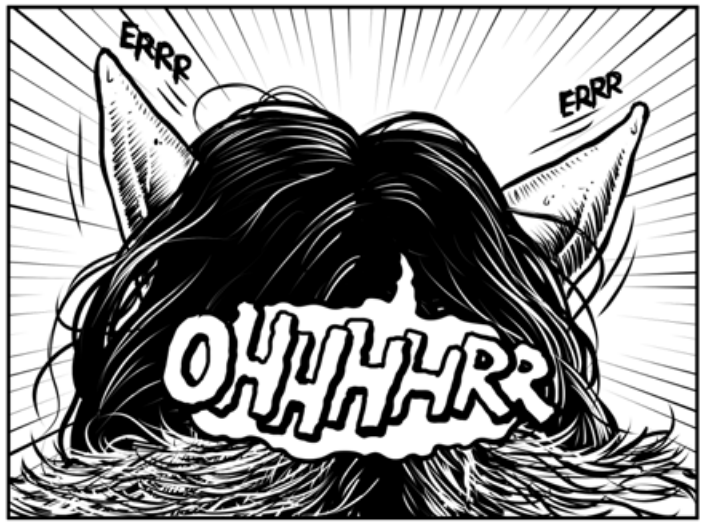


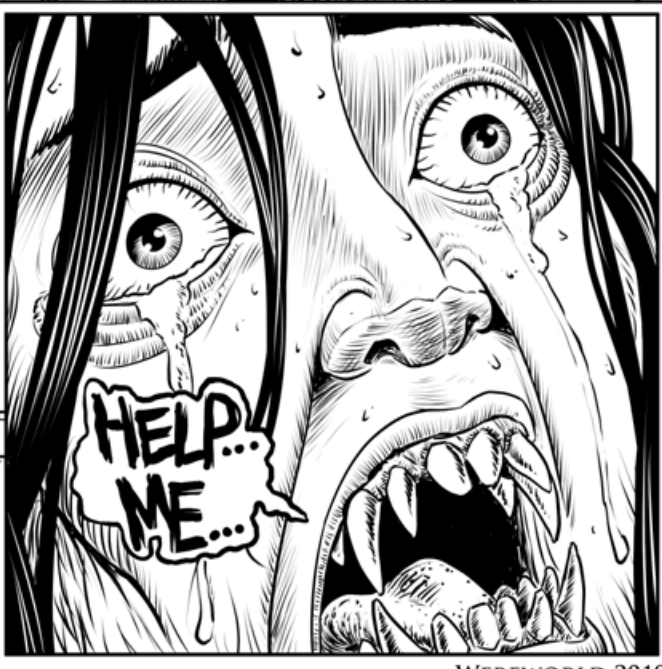














ARRRRRRRAAH!

THERE'S THIS STRANGE FEELING...



GUAAL

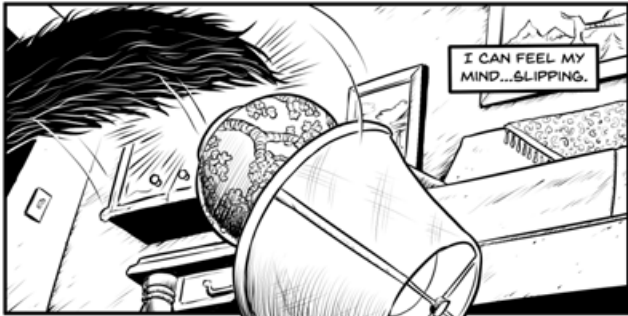
ALONGSIDE ALL THIS PAIN...



ARRUL!

A RAGE AND HATRED BOILS INSIDE ME...

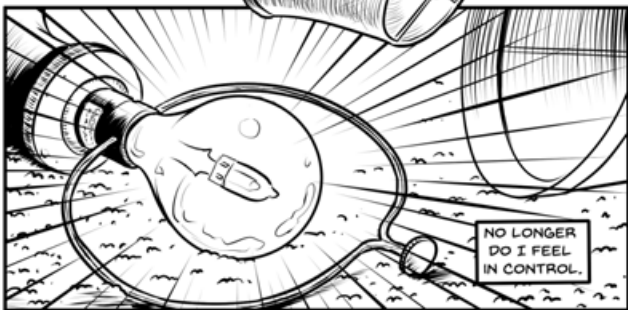
AAR-



I CAN FEEL MY MIND...&SLIPPING.



I CAN FEEL MY NEW LEGS &SHAKE, TRYING TO BALANCE OUT...



NO LONGER DO I FEEL IN CONTROL.

I KEEP HOPING I'LL JUST...WAKE FROM THIS NIGHTMARE.



AM I DYING?



WHILE SOMETHING ELSE IS BEING BORN?



THE LIGHT IS FADING...

BUT YET MY VISION'S NEVER FELT STRONGER...



IT SEEMS I'VE LOST ALL OF WHO I ONCE WAS...



FOR REASONS I C-CANT EXPLAIN.

THUMP



WAIT, WHAT WAS I...



GRAAAH

I...CANT... REMEM...



AWOOOOOOOO