

VoxDreArt: sure! baby's sleeping so I have some time. I'll sketch a little in the browser and You can watch until she wakes up.

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: is it weird

VoxDreArt: what, sketching?

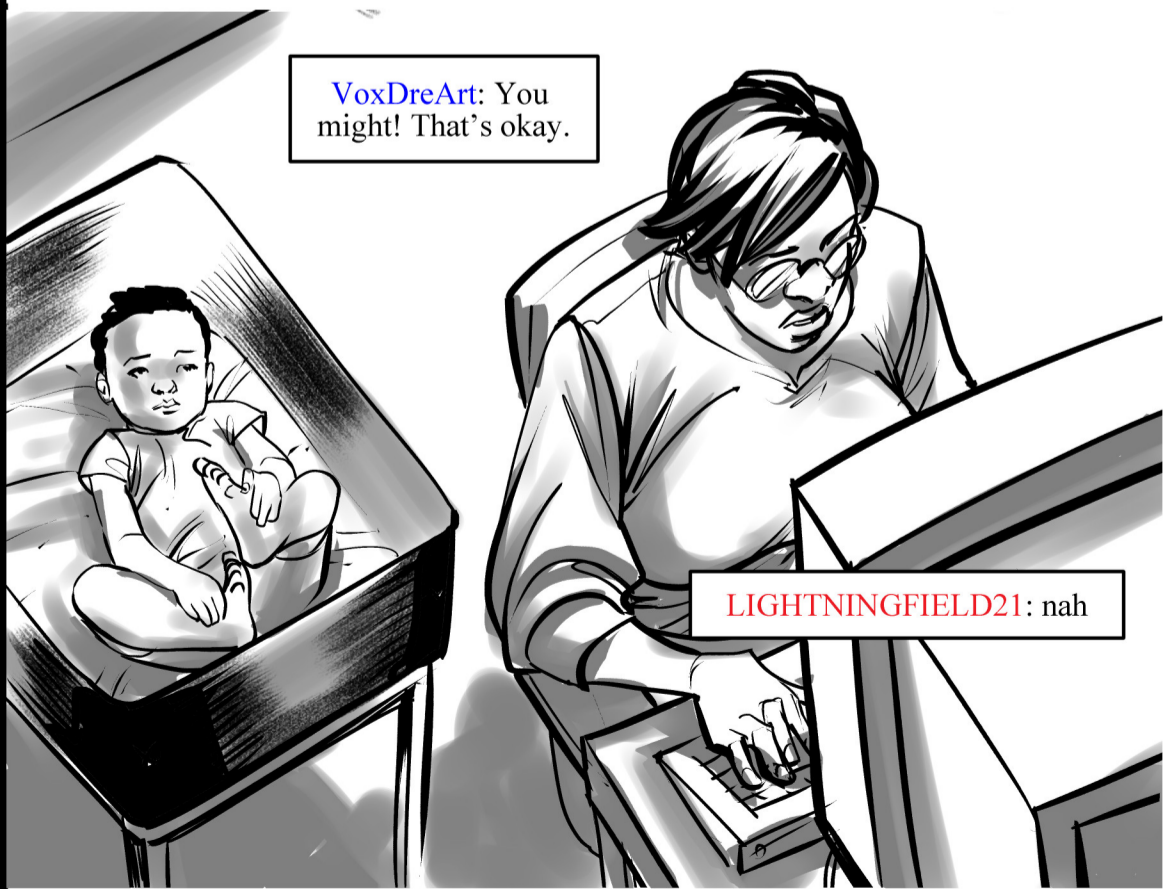
LIGHTNINGFIELD21: having a baby duh lmao



VoxDreArt: LOL i forget how young you are! No it's not weird! It's amazing.

VoxDreArt: I've wanted to be a mom forever.

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: I'm sorry but it gives me the ick! I bet she is really cute tho. People tell me i won't always feel that way about kids



VoxDreArt: You might! That's okay.

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: nah

**DING**

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: i don't plan to be around that long

VoxDreArt: girl WHAT are you talking like that for?

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: hold on. brb



LIGHTNINGFIELD21: and it's fine, this is what i have to offer the world

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: i don't talk to anyone but i'm funny

VoxDreArt: how are you funny if you don't talk to anyone?

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: one sec

VoxDreArt: ...hello? You okay? 13 minutes ago

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: I didn't like that girl's attitude, you know the one. So I made a second account to shit on all her stuff

THIS USER HAS BEEN BANNED FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS FOLLOWING AN INTERNAL REVIEW. we have determined that your comments made on 8/11 violate our community guidelines. User VOXP... reported you for the violence and th... conduct, im... VOXP...

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: sorry sorry had to log out and in on my other account, forgot i got banned haha

LIGHTNINGFIELD21: you're quiet. are you mad?

TAKKA TAK

"I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED"

WELL THAT WAS A LOT OF TYPING FOR A PRETTY SHORT ANSWER.



NOW



HEY... CAN YOU STOP DOING THAT?

I'M CARSICK AS SHIT.

AH! DESTINY SICKNESS.



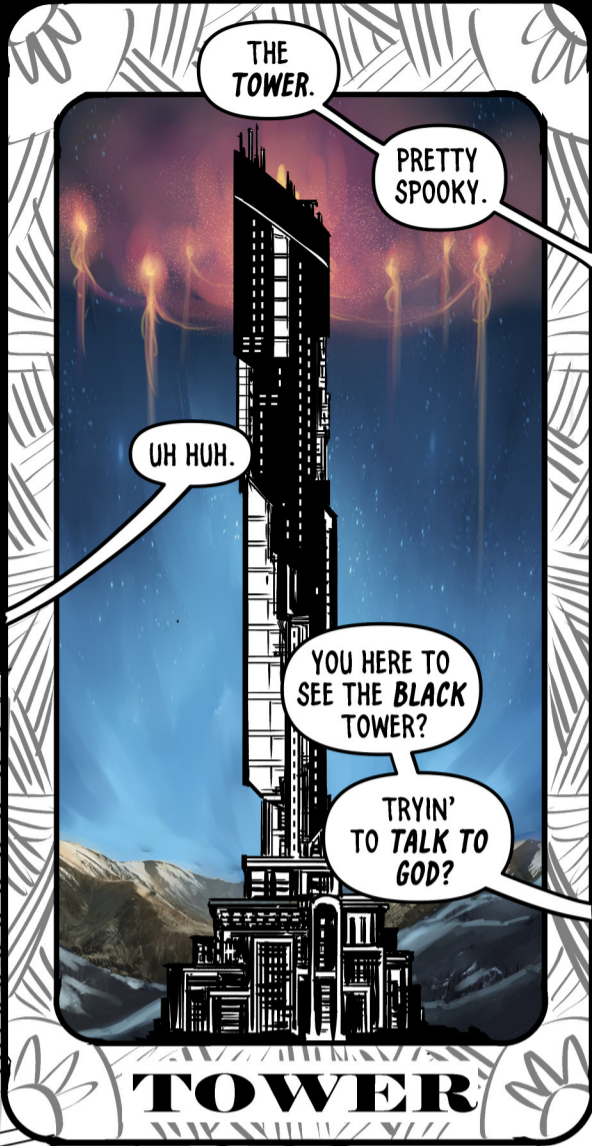
...SCUSE ME?

THIS YOUR FIRST TIME TO THE CITY? LOT OF PEOPLE GET SICK ON THEIR WAY HERE. WE CALL IT *DESTINY SICKNESS*, LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE GOD AND YOUR BODY KNOWS IT.



ORRR WE'VE BEEN ON A WHAT BARELY PASSES FOR A ROAD FOR THREE HOURS AND I DESPERATELY NEED TO PEE AND LIE DOWN.

WELL, LET'S SEE WHO'S RIGHT.



THE TOWER.

PRETTY SPOOKY.

UH HUH.

YOU HERE TO SEE THE BLACK TOWER?

TRYIN' TO TALK TO GOD?

# TOWER



PLEASE DON'T WAVE THINGS AT ME, I'M GONNA PUKE.

ALSO ISN'T THAT CARD SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT LIKE, BIG IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES? LIKE THEY MAY NOT BE GOOD, BUT...



...BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE CHANGES.

YEAH MAN, THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT *HIGHER LEARNING!*



YOU GOTTA LEAVE THE LAIR OF MOM AND DAD IF YOU'RE GONNA GET THE HUBRIS OF TALKING TO GOD! THAT'S REAL LIBERATION! BUT HE MIGHT NOT TAKE IT WELL. GUY DOESN'T LIKE TALKING. OR TOWERS. *FAMOUSLY* KNOCKS THEM DOWN.

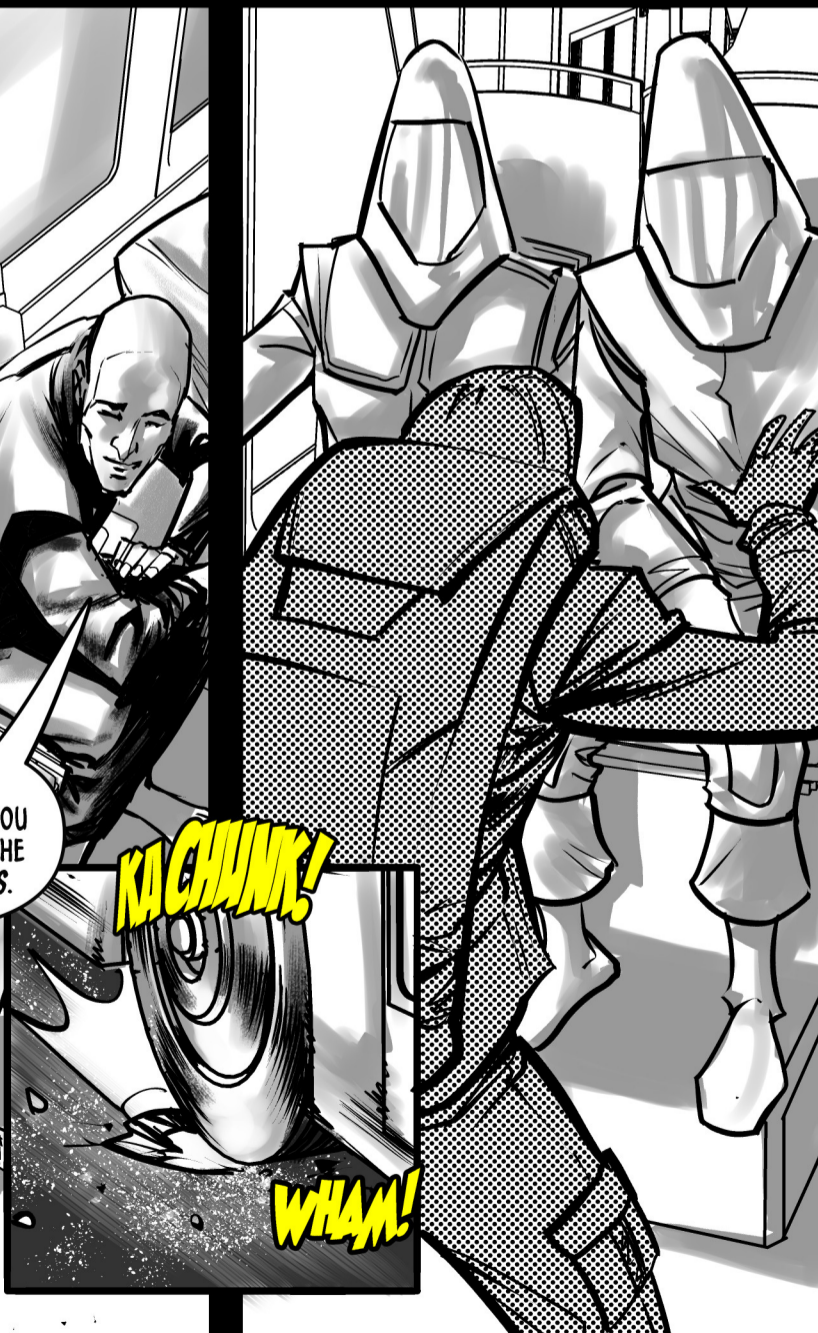
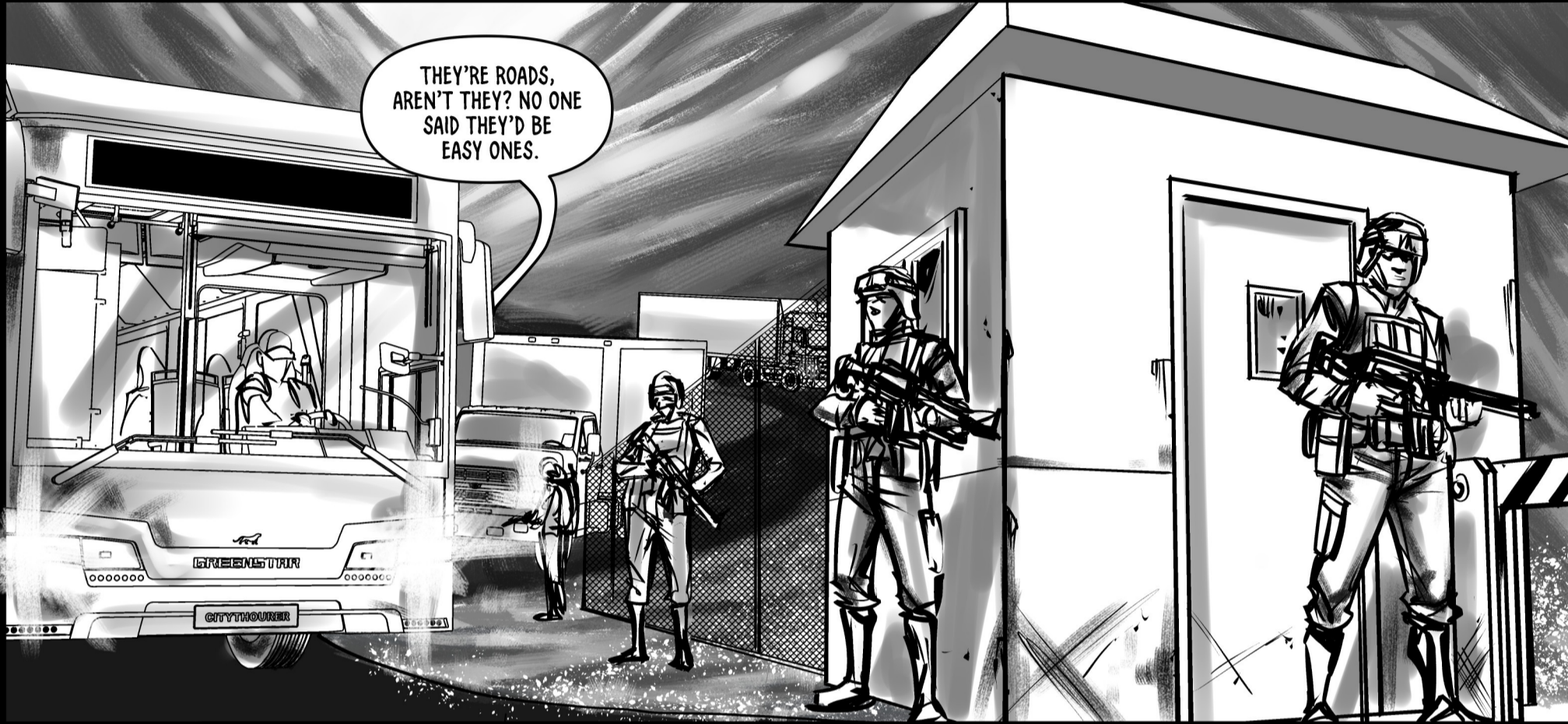
YOU WANNA HEAR A SECRET? MAKE YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR DESTINY SICKNESS?

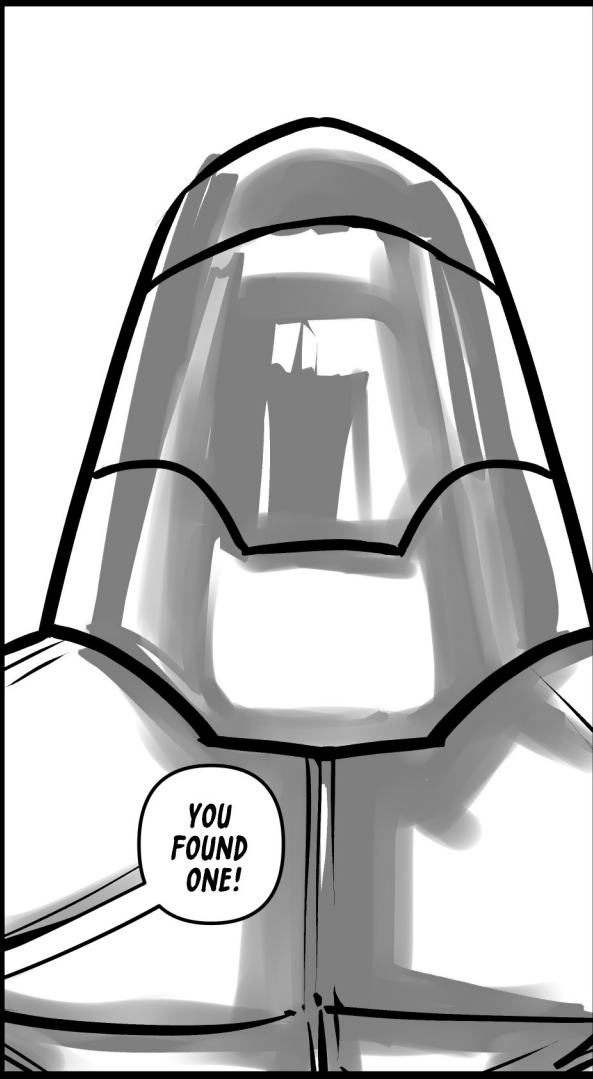


SOMETIMES I WONDER IF KNOCKING TOWERS DOWN IS JUST *HOW GOD TALKS.*

BUT WE TOOK IT BADLY CAUSE WE'RE *DUMB.*

COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

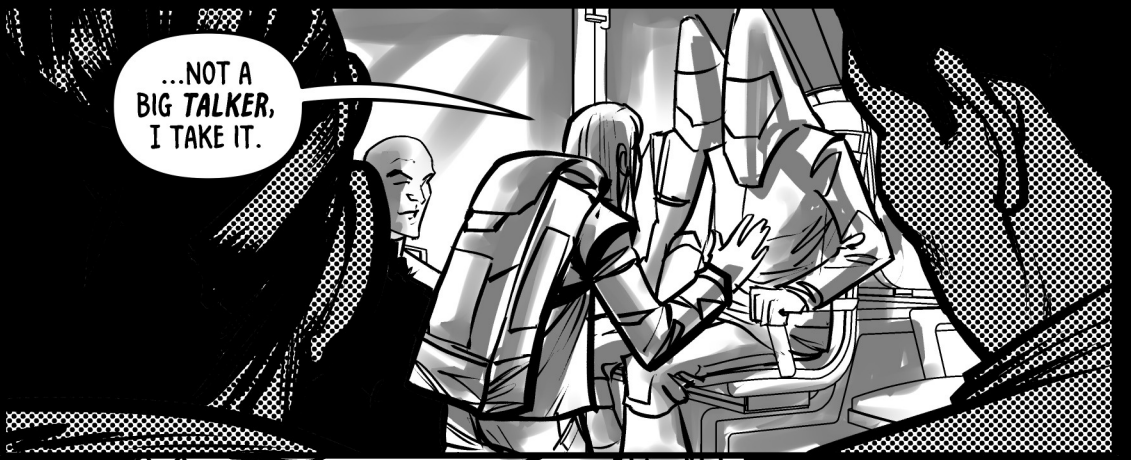




YOU FOUND ONE!



I--I--I--  
I'M SO SORRY, LET  
ME GET UP, THE ROAD  
HERE *SUCKS*, AND  
I FELL...



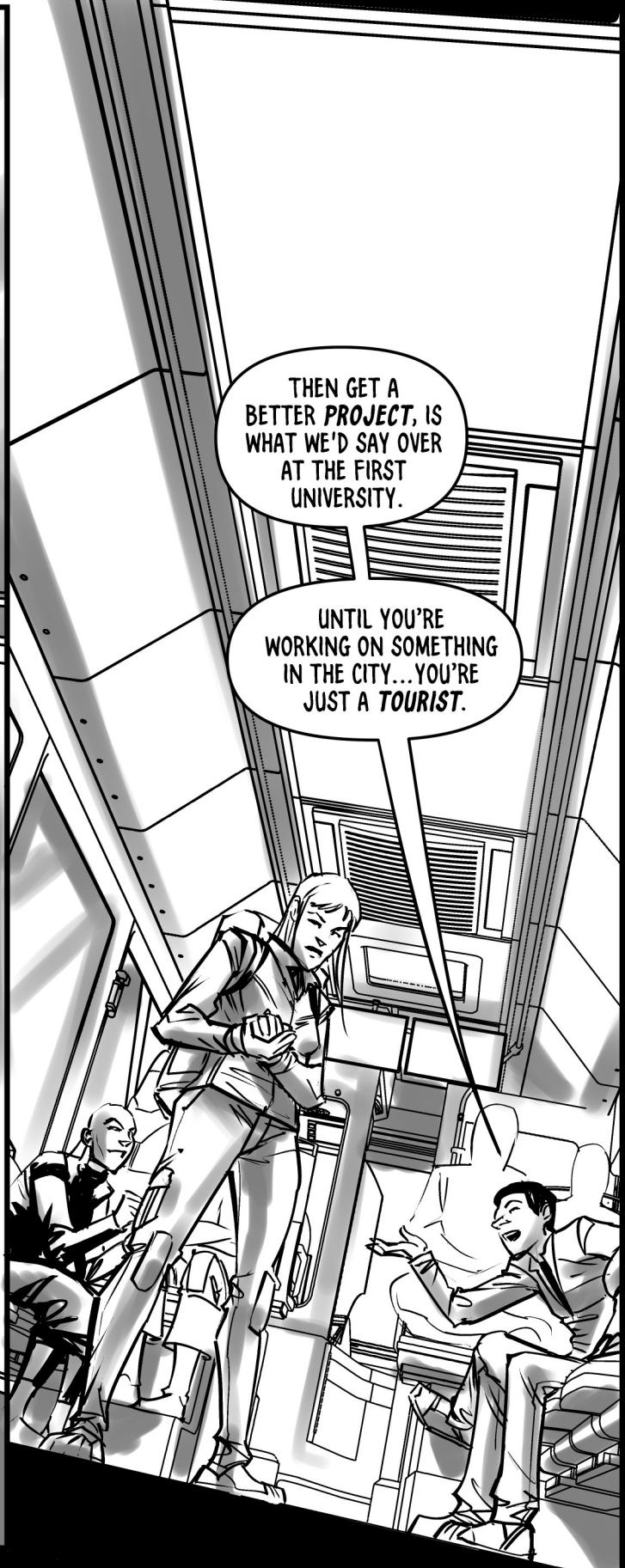
...NOT A  
BIG TALKER,  
I TAKE IT.



DON'T TAKE IT  
PERSONALLY, NOVITIATES  
ARE THE CITY'S OWN RELIGIOUS  
*FREAKS*. THEY TAKE THEIR VOWS IN  
THE WORLD OUTSIDE AND WON'T SHOW  
THEMSELVES OR *SPEAK* UNLESS  
THEY'RE UNDER THE  
PHENOMENON'S LIGHT.

YEAH, I  
WATCHED THE  
VIDEO...

OH, GREAT! THE  
TOURISM BOARD IS A *GREAT*  
WAY TO CHECK OUT THE CITY FOR  
FREE IF YOU DON'T HAVE FUNDING  
FOR YOUR PROJECT YET.



THEN GET A  
BETTER *PROJECT*, IS  
WHAT WE'D SAY OVER  
AT THE FIRST  
UNIVERSITY.

UNTIL YOU'RE  
WORKING ON SOMETHING  
IN THE CITY... YOU'RE  
JUST A *TOURIST*.



IF IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SEE THE CITY, HOW COME YOU SAY IT LIKE IT TASTES LIKE *SHIT*?

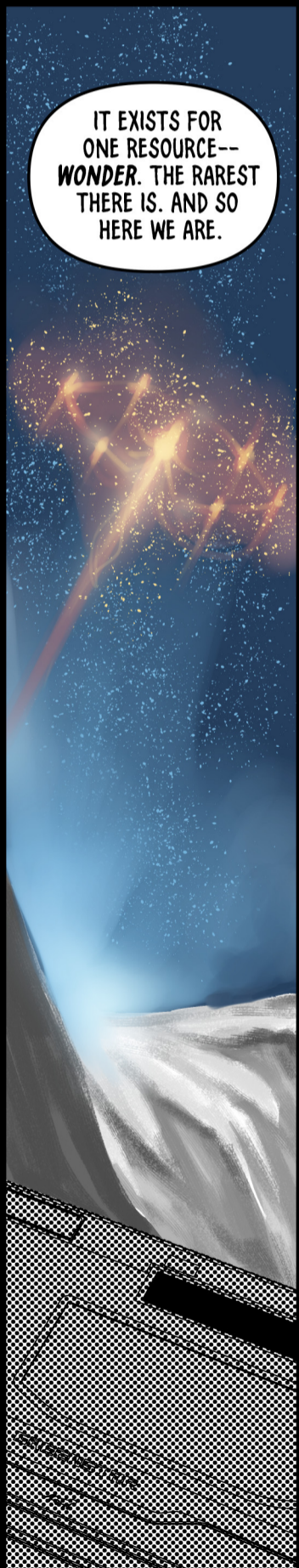
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO YOU...

AMELIA.

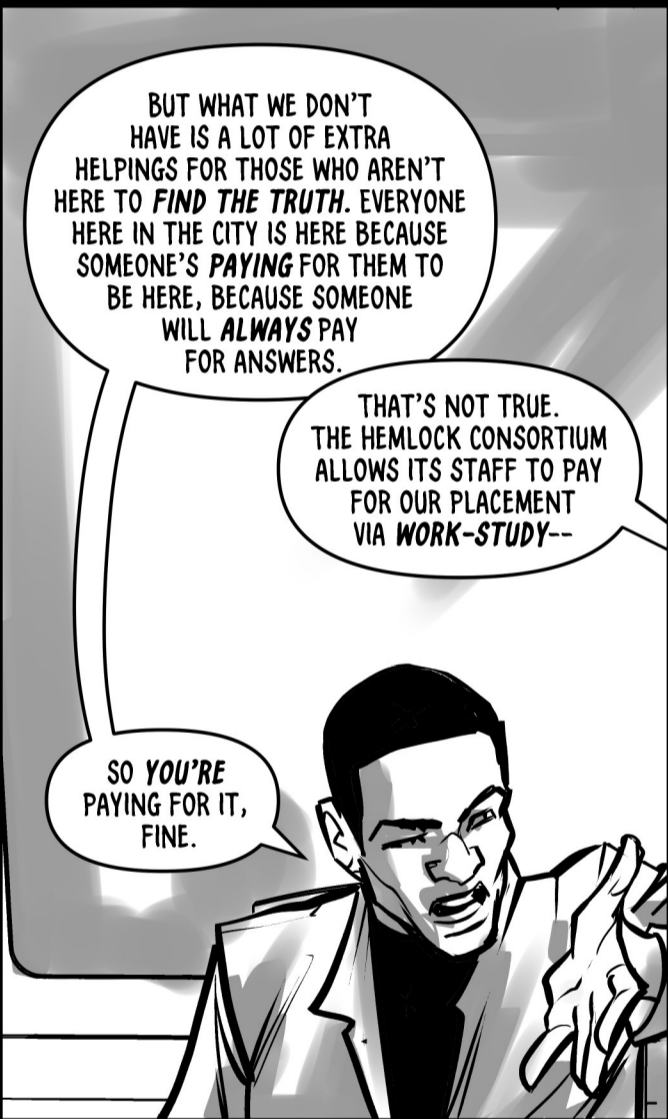


CALLING THIS PLACE THE CITY IS A MISNOMER. CITIES SUPPORT FAMILIES, ART, CULTURE, AND MORE. THEY EXIST WHERE THEY DO BECAUSE OF *FRUITFUL RESOURCES*, CLEAN ABUNDANT WATER, RIVERS THAT FLOOD THE LAND WITH FERTILE SILT!

THIS PLACE IS A *ROCK*. THERE'S *NOTHING* HERE.



IT EXISTS FOR ONE RESOURCE-- *WONDER*. THE RAREST THERE IS. AND SO HERE WE ARE.



BUT WHAT WE DON'T HAVE IS A LOT OF EXTRA HELPINGS FOR THOSE WHO AREN'T HERE TO *FIND THE TRUTH*. EVERYONE HERE IN THE CITY IS HERE BECAUSE SOMEONE'S *PAYING* FOR THEM TO BE HERE, BECAUSE SOMEONE WILL *ALWAYS* PAY FOR ANSWERS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE HEMLOCK CONSORTIUM ALLOWS ITS STAFF TO PAY FOR OUR PLACEMENT VIA *WORK-STUDY*--

SO YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT, FINE.



...WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY IS... BEFORE WE GET THERE, THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE TO SAY OTHER THAN *TOURIST* IF YOU PLAN TO STAY ANY LONGER THAN A DAY OR TWO.

I TRUST THAT YOU'RE REALLY JUST HERE TO SEE THE *PHENOMENON* BUT SOMETIMES TOURISTS SHOW UP WITH ALL SORTS OF FREAKY MISSIONS IN THEIR HEADS, SO...



I WOULDN'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU WERE ONE OF *THOSE*.

WE'RE HERE!



SO TAKE A  
LOOK AROUND, BUT  
DON'T LINGER.



YOU'RE GOING TO  
WANT TO DECIDE WHO  
YOUR ALLIES ARE GOING  
TO BE IN HERE...  
AND FAST.