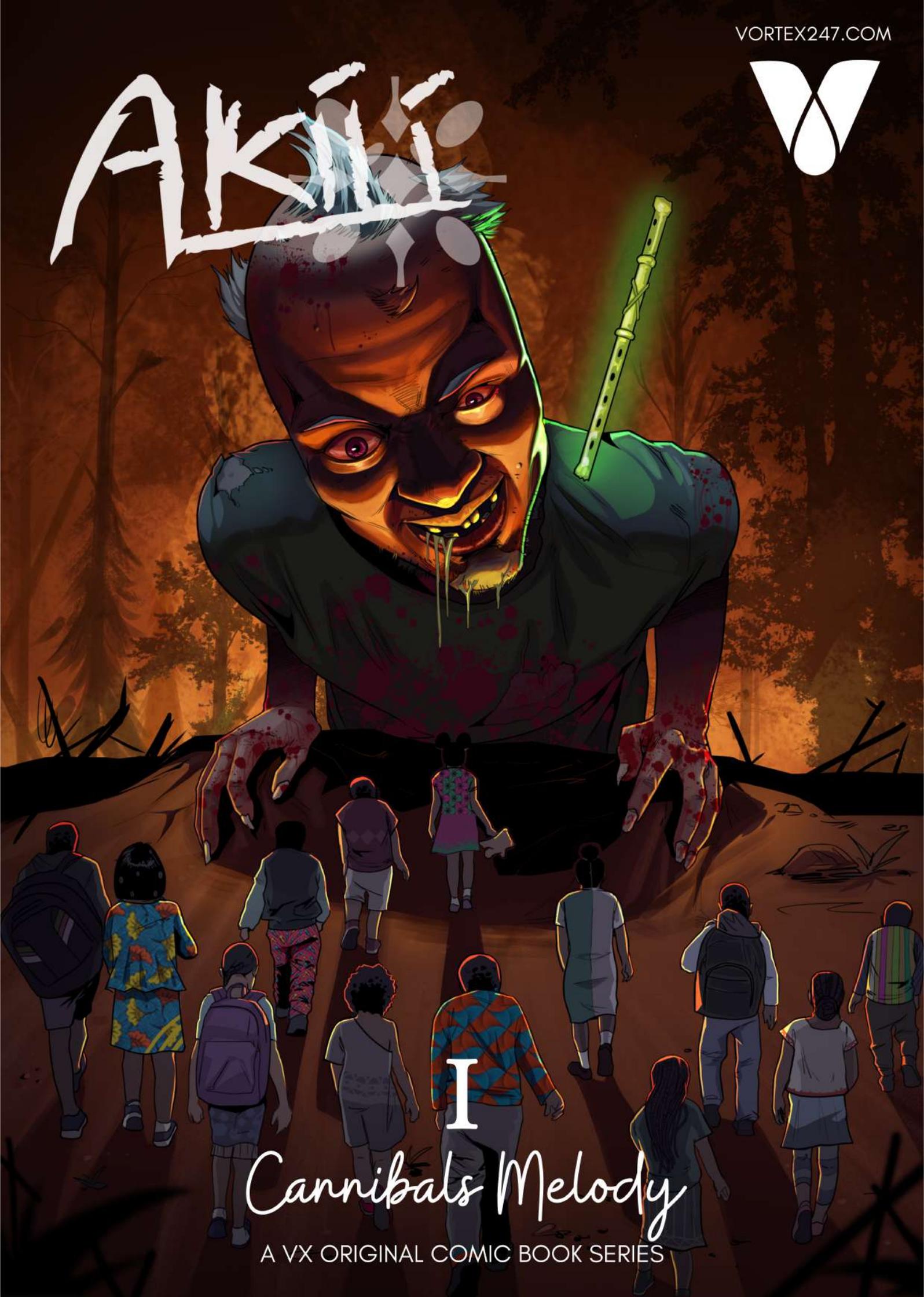




AKI!



I

Cannibals Melody

A VX ORIGINAL COMIC BOOK SERIES



AKILI: Book of Chains Graphic Novel © 2024 of Vortex Comics. A subsidiary of Vortex Corp. a member of the NATURES OWN WONDER DESIGN Ltd. ™ & ® under the Nigerian corporate affairs commission RC: 1266904 with offices located at: Plot 12A, Rahman Adeboyejo street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos & 2 Stoddard Place, Brooklyn, New York 11225. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. None of the content within this comic book should be reprinted without signed permission of VORTEX CORP.

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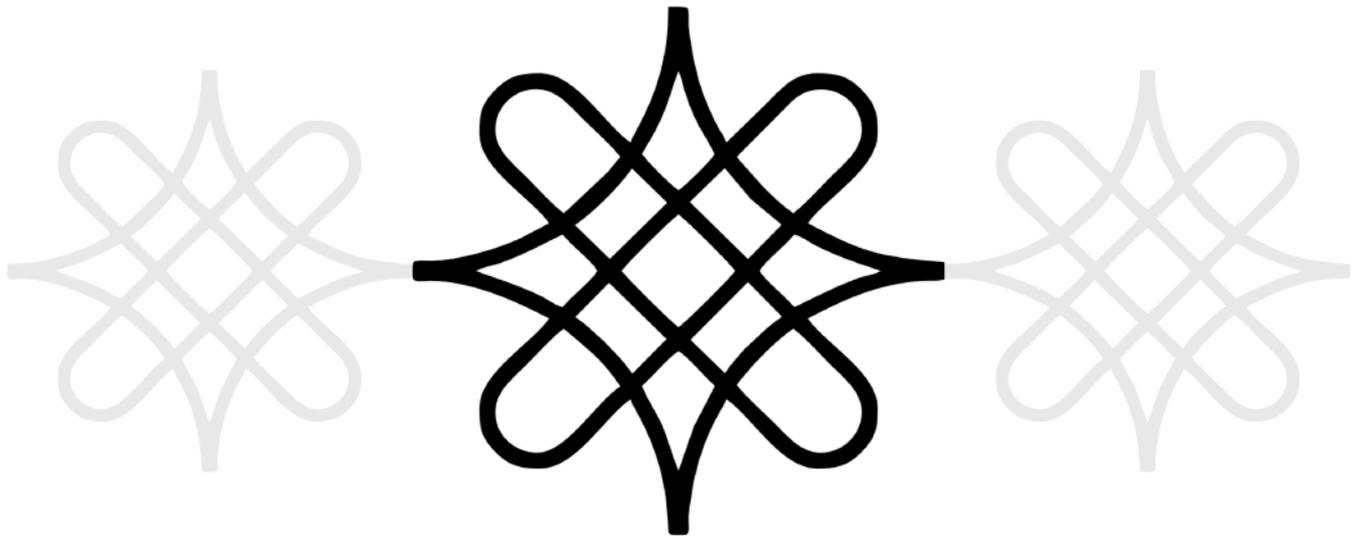
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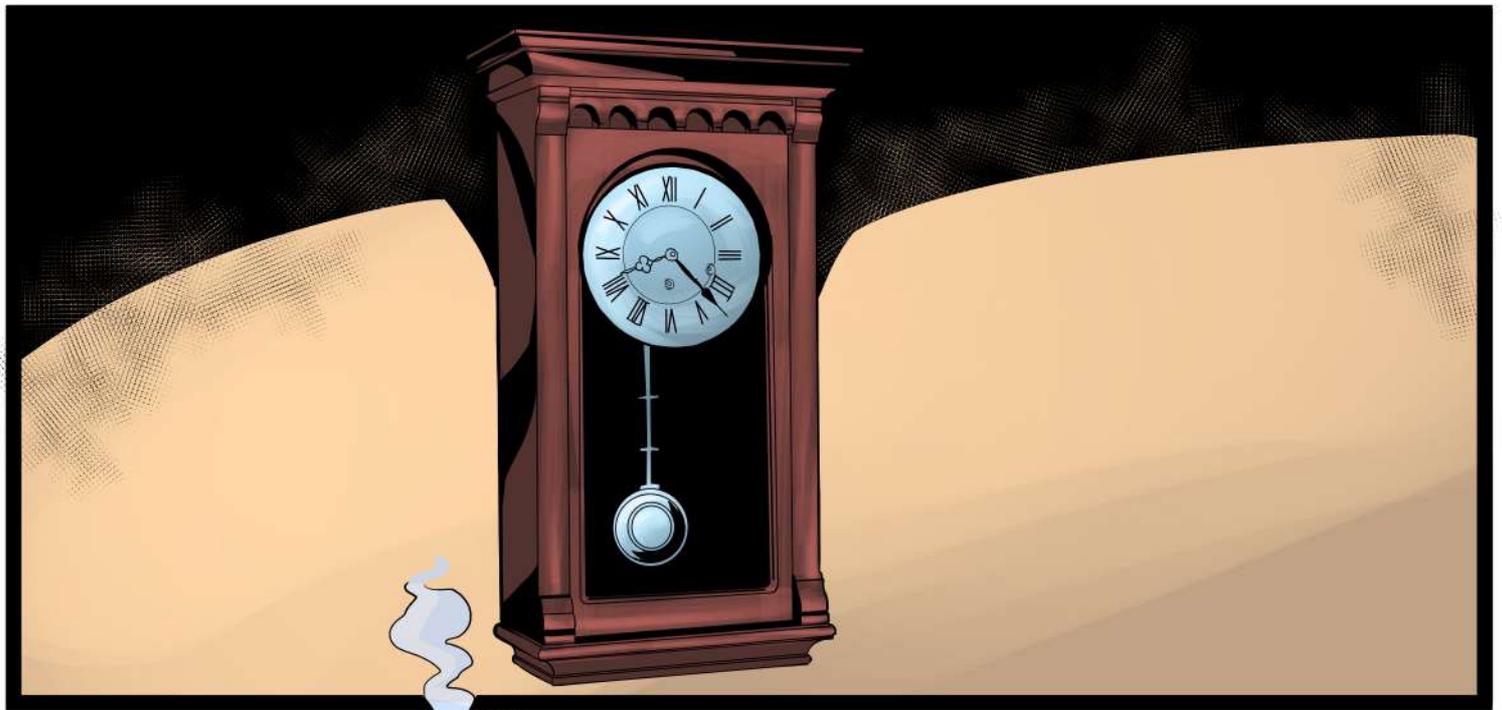
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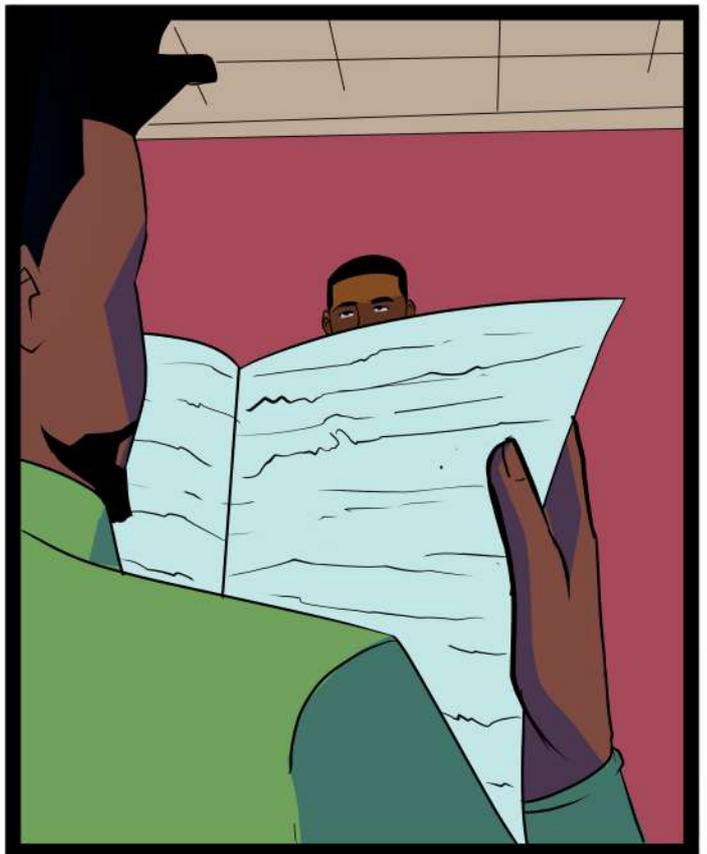
AKILI, a man with a troubled past, was arrested six years ago for identity fraud and assault but has since transformed his life, working as a private investigator for the Nigerian Police Force. Though highly skilled, he remains a solitary figure, with few friends and an inseparable bond with his loyal dog, who seems to understand him in ways that defy explanation. Akili is also the bearer of a mysterious Arewa necklace, an ancient totem gifted by his mother when he was a child. This necklace is tied to the 4 Books of the Spirit—**The Book of Chains, The Book of Dreams, The Book of Time, and The Book of Death**—each holding immense power and mystery.

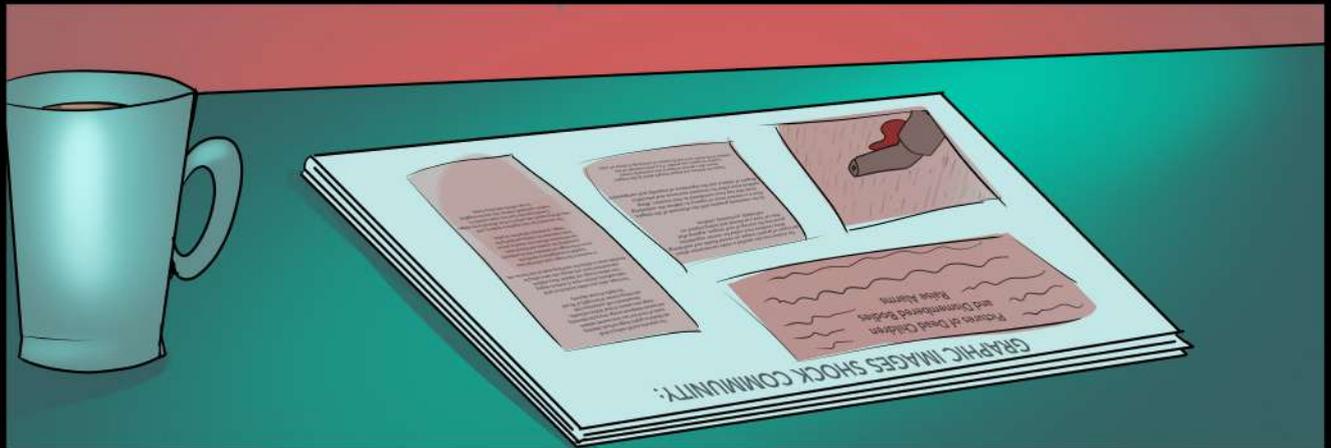
Akili's origins are shrouded in secrecy. Abandoned in the forest as a child, he was found with the necklace and cryptic photographs of his mother, each with strange messages behind them. Raised in an orphanage, his family background remains unknown, but the power of the Arewa necklace suggests that his past, and his destiny, are far from ordinary.





ETIM ESSIEN, STRONG
HEADED REPORTER/
JOURNALIST WITH A
PENCHANT FOR
UN-NATURAL STORIES







HERE WITH ONE OF YOUR CRAZY STORIES AGAIN, ARENT YOU?

CRAZY IS OUR NORMAL



MY NORMAL NOT YOURS. IM NOT INTERESTED

YOU CANT BE SERIOUS



LETS JUST SAY IVE HAD ENOUGH OF CRAZY

BUT I CAUGHT YOU READING MY ARTICLE ON THE TALKING CAT

YEAH, HES AN OLD FRIEND



BUT THESE MARKINGS NEXT TO THE VICTIMS, ITS FAMILIAR.



OH, SO YOU ARE INTERESTED



I DIDNT SAY I WAS



OKAY, WELL START TOMORROW

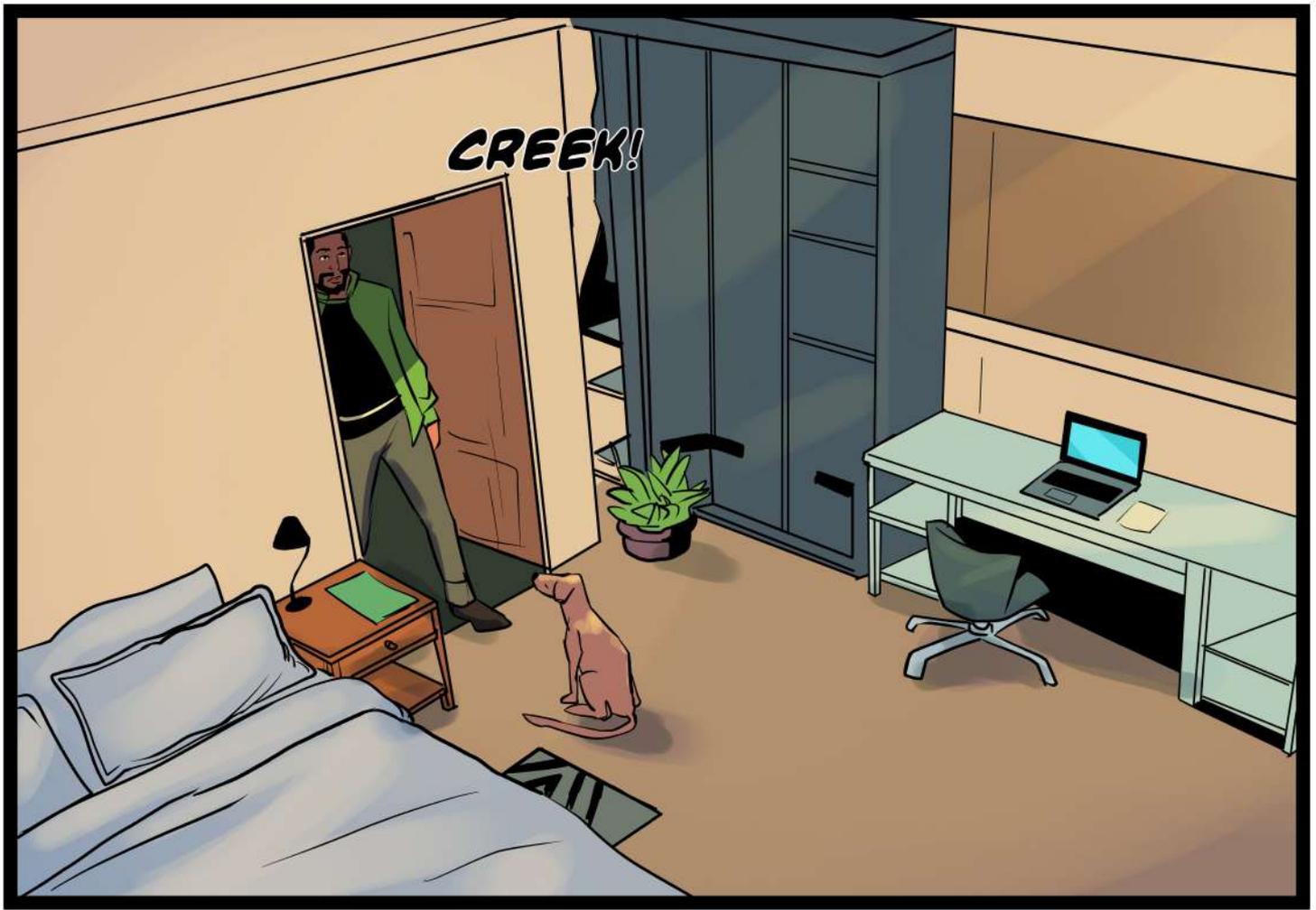


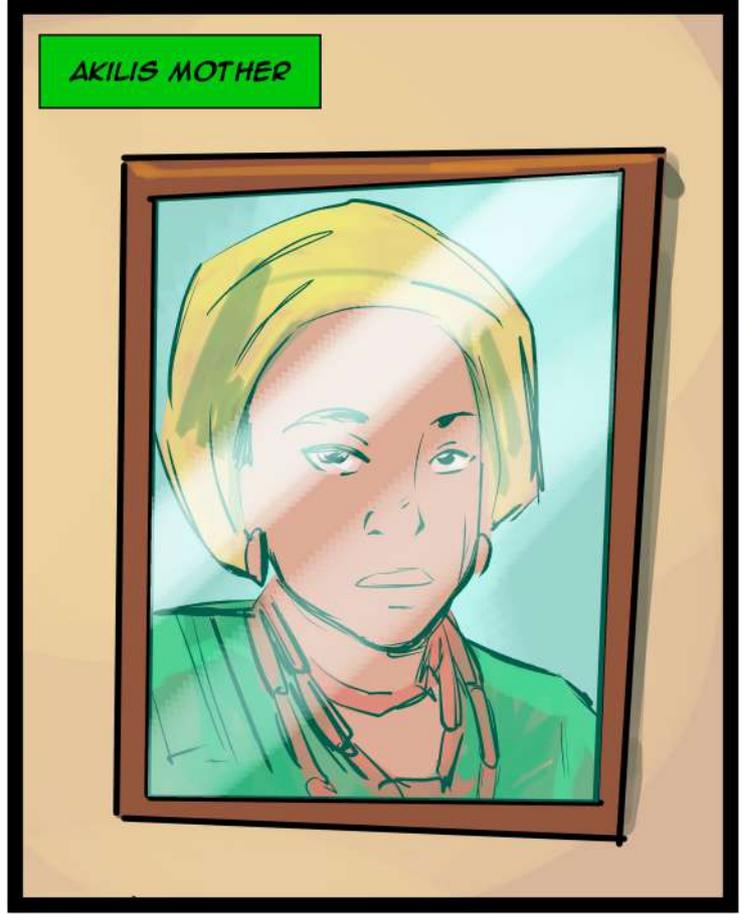
HE DIDNT EVEN FINISH THE COFFEE



SLURP!



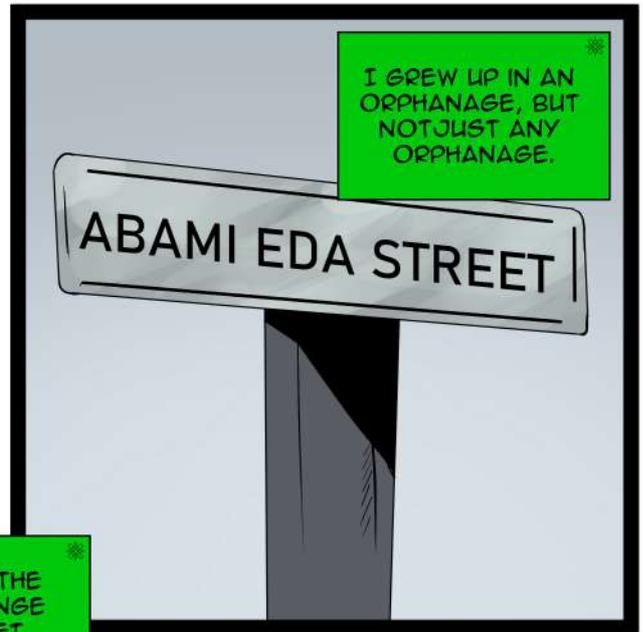




15 YEARS AGO, ORPHANAGE



THE ONE ON ABAMI EDA STREET, THE ONE YOU PROBABLY HEARD STRANGE STORIES ABOUT, EVEN THE STREET NAME IS SCARY



I GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE, BUT NOT JUST ANY ORPHANAGE.



IT WAS AN ORPHANAGE FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN THAT OPERATED ON A LOW KEY



AND LIKE ME, MOST OF THESE CHILDREN WERE DIFFERENT OUTSIDE THESE WALLS, BUT WERE NORMAL WITHIN, EVERY ONE HAD SOMETHING

IN THIS WORLDS
POPULATION, THERES
THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE,
THE FOURTY PERCENT
WHO DO THINGS,



ANOTHER FOURTY
PERCENT WHO THINGS
ARE DONE TO,



AND IM ONE OF
THE TWENTY PERCENT
WHO OBSERVE, AND
THEN FIXES THINGS



HEY YOU!!!
LEAVE HIM ALONE,
YOUR REIGN OF
TERROR ENDS
HERE





WELL WELL, LOOK WHO IT IS, THE BRAVE AKILI



YOU STILL SEE SPIRITS? YOU FREAK?



WERE ALL FREAKS HERE, AND I SEE THE TWO SPIRITS BOTHERING YOU



GLINT!

WELL, MY SOMETHING WAS SEEING BEYOND THE PHYSICAL, SPIRIT EYES THEY CALLED IT

YOU CAN SEE THEM TOO? HOW?



I CAN EVEN TALK TO THEM



THE NECKLACE PROTECTED ME FROM THE SPIRITS I COULD SEE. ONCE YOU SEE THEM, THEY'LL DISTURB THE SHIT OUT OF YOU



THE NECKLACE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY THE MATRON OF THE ORPHANAGE



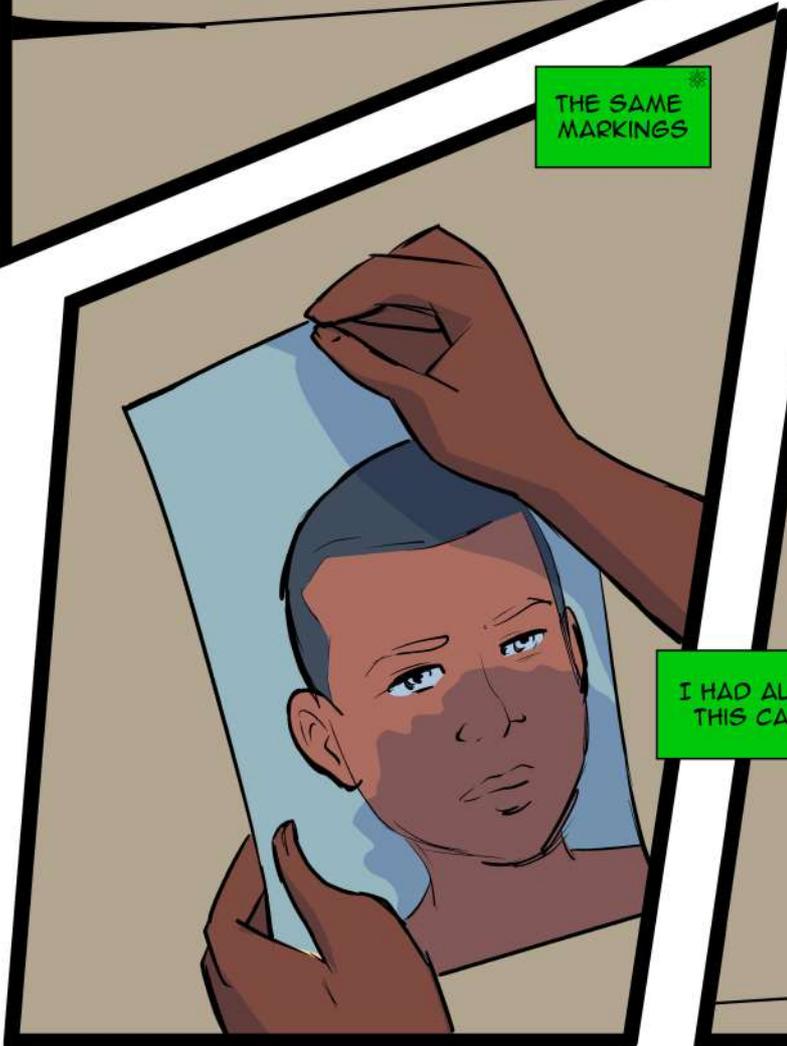
SHE KNEW MY MOTHER. MY MOTHER WAS A MEMBER OF THE OGBONI CULT, A CULT THAT HAS MEDDLED WITH POLITICS AND RELIGION OF OUR COUNTRY FOR DECADES, THEY OPERATE IN THE SHADOWS.

ALL I HAVE OF HER IS THE
NECKLACE AND THIS PHOTO





THE SAME MARKINGS



I HAD ALREADY BEEN ON THIS CASE FOR A WHILE

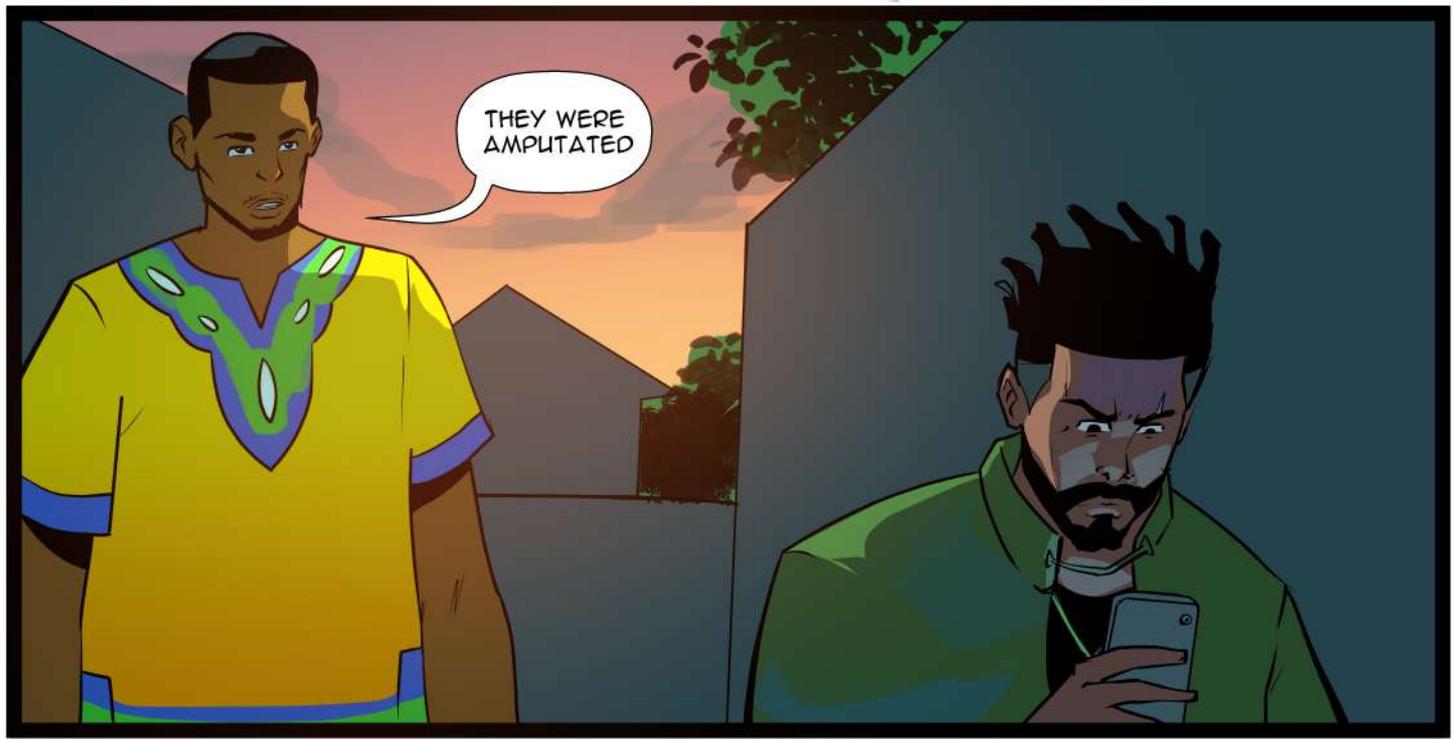
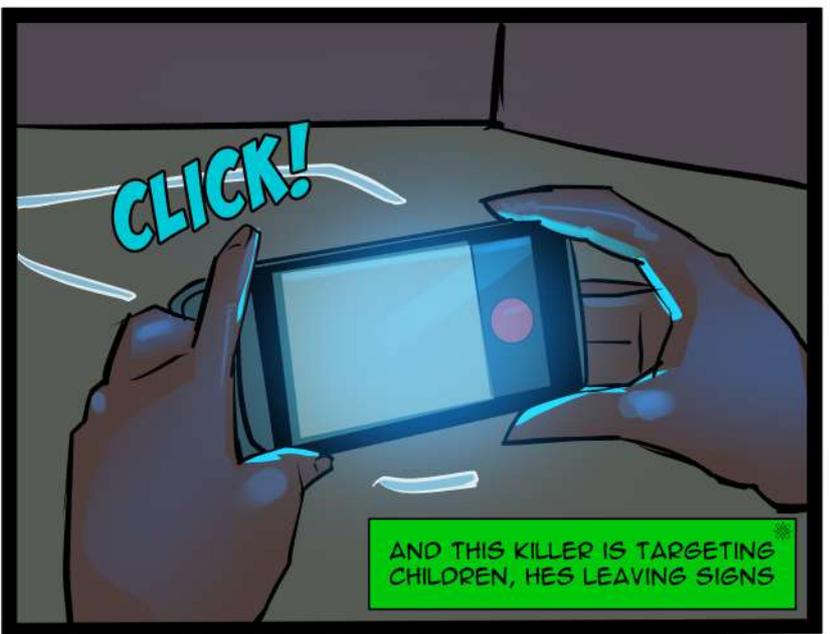






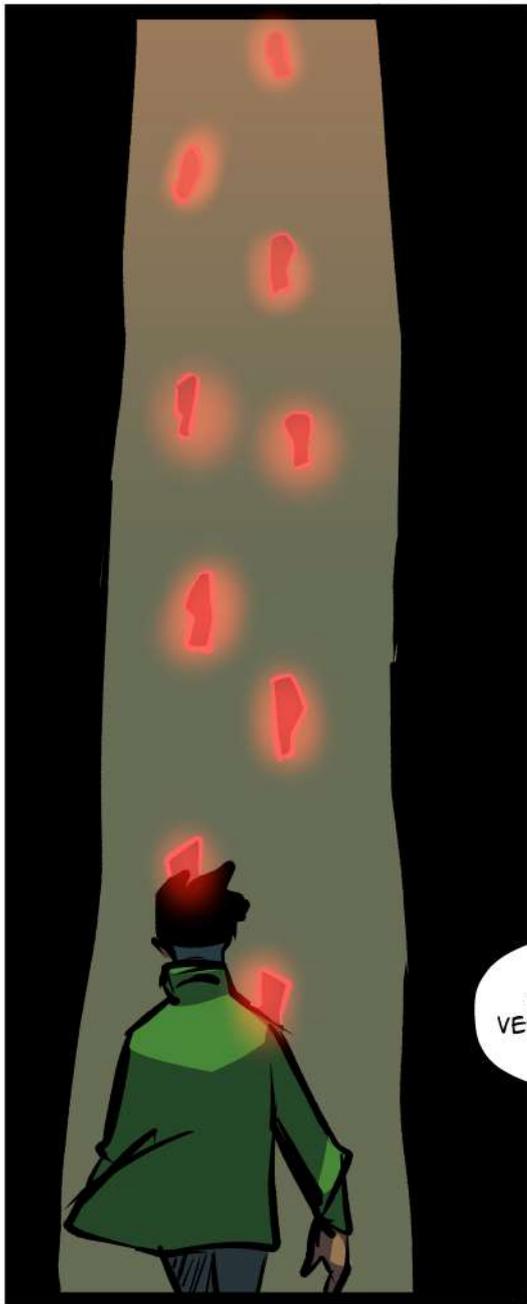








THE FOOTPRINTS STOP HERE



SO HE JUST DISAPPEARED?



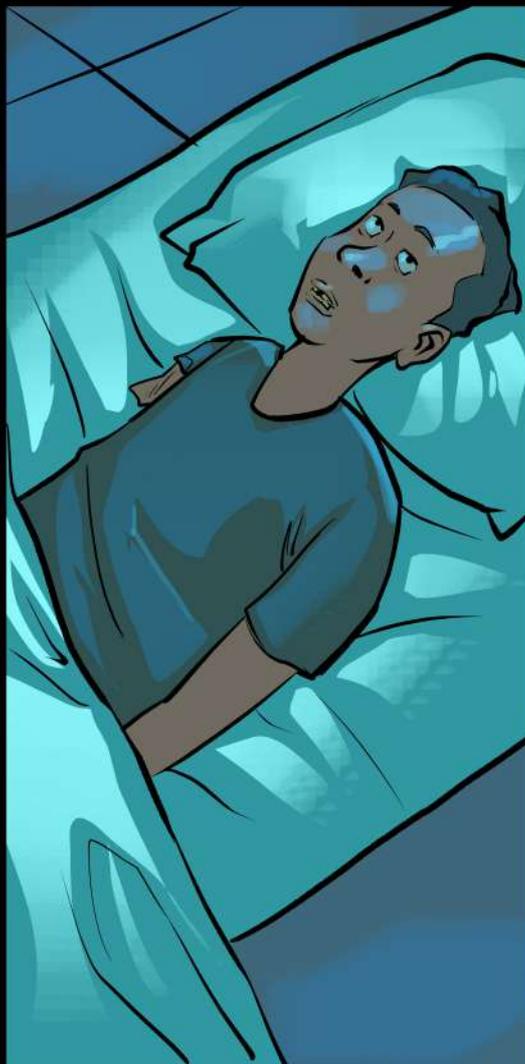
CAN I SEE THE BODIES?

WELL YES, BUT THEYRE VERY DISTURBING IMAGES



VERY DISTURBING IS MY THING

MORTUARY

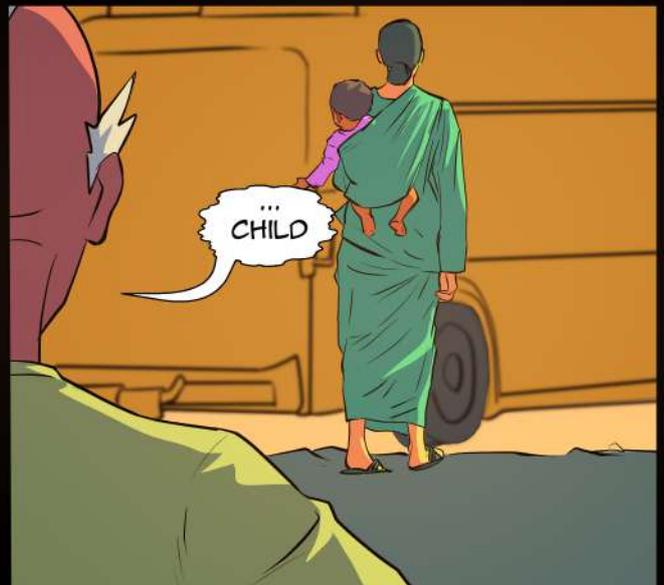


ARE THERE ANY WITNESSES



THERE IS A BOY, BUT HIS STORY IS CONFUSING

THE BRIDGE





WETIN
YOU DEY
LOOK?



YOU DON
BUY NEW
SHOE?



WETIN
DO YOUR
OLD SHOE

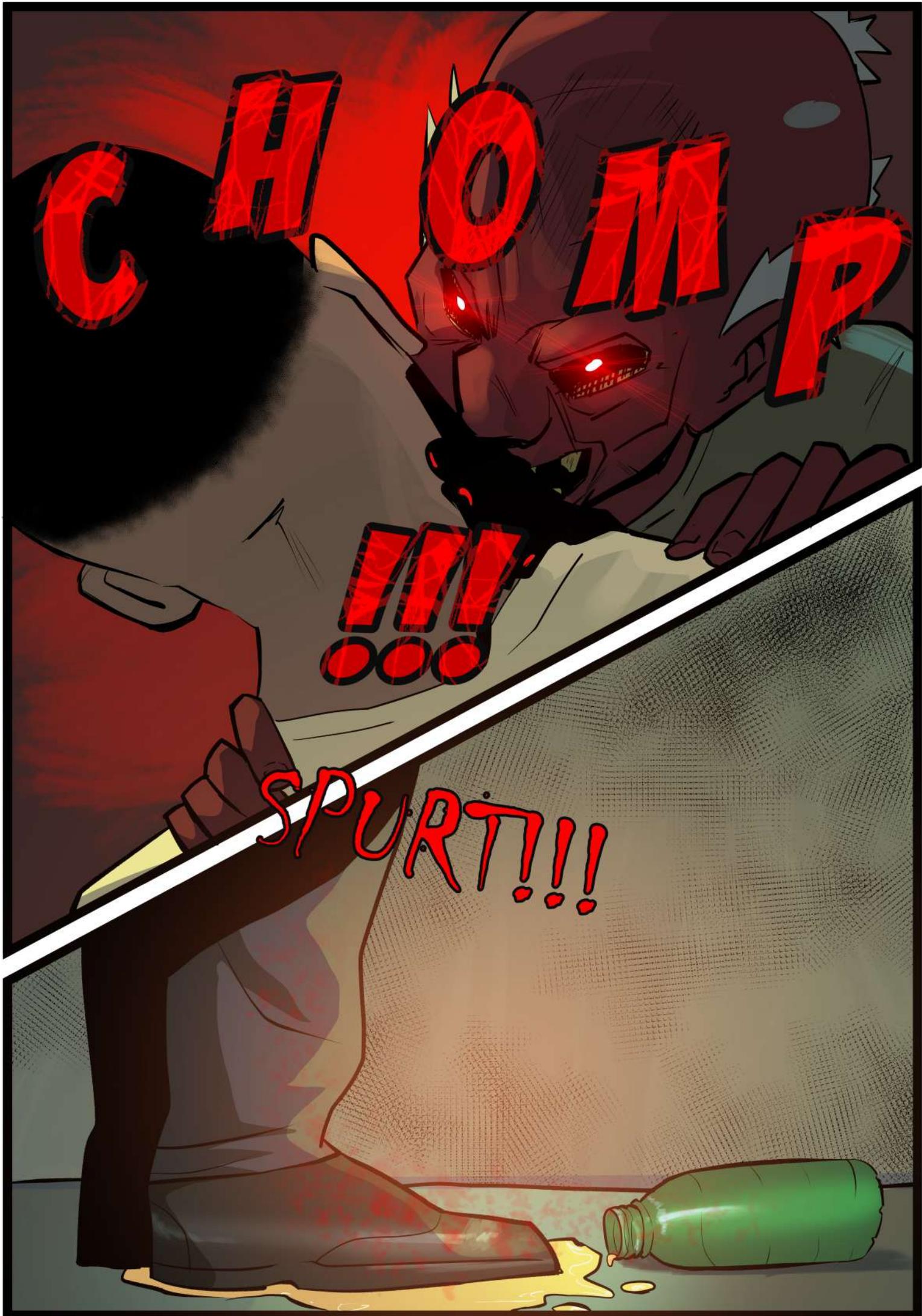


!!!

NO VEX
OOO, MAD
MAN

NIGHT TIME, MAIN ROAD





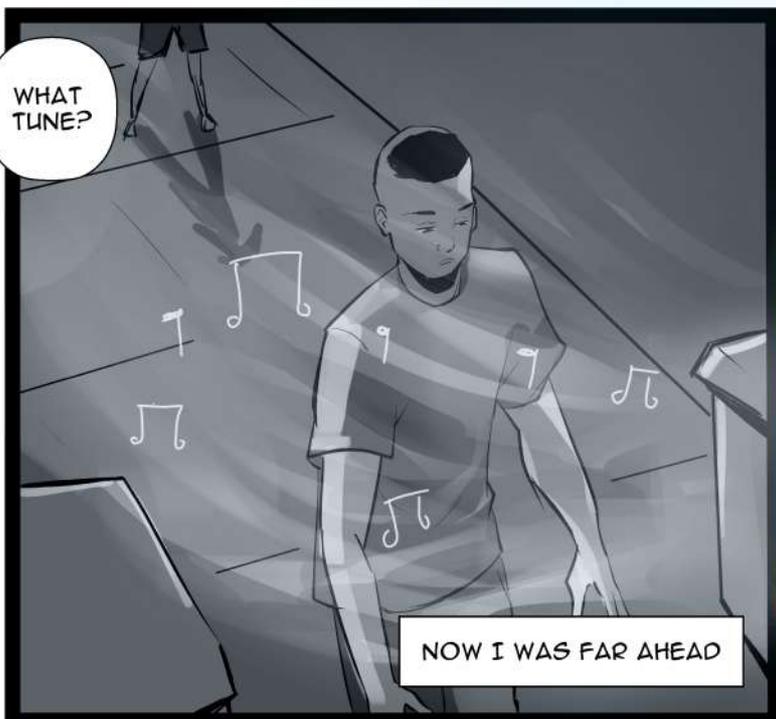
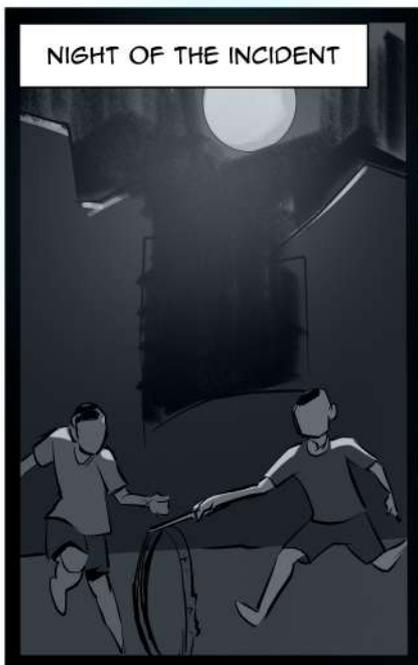
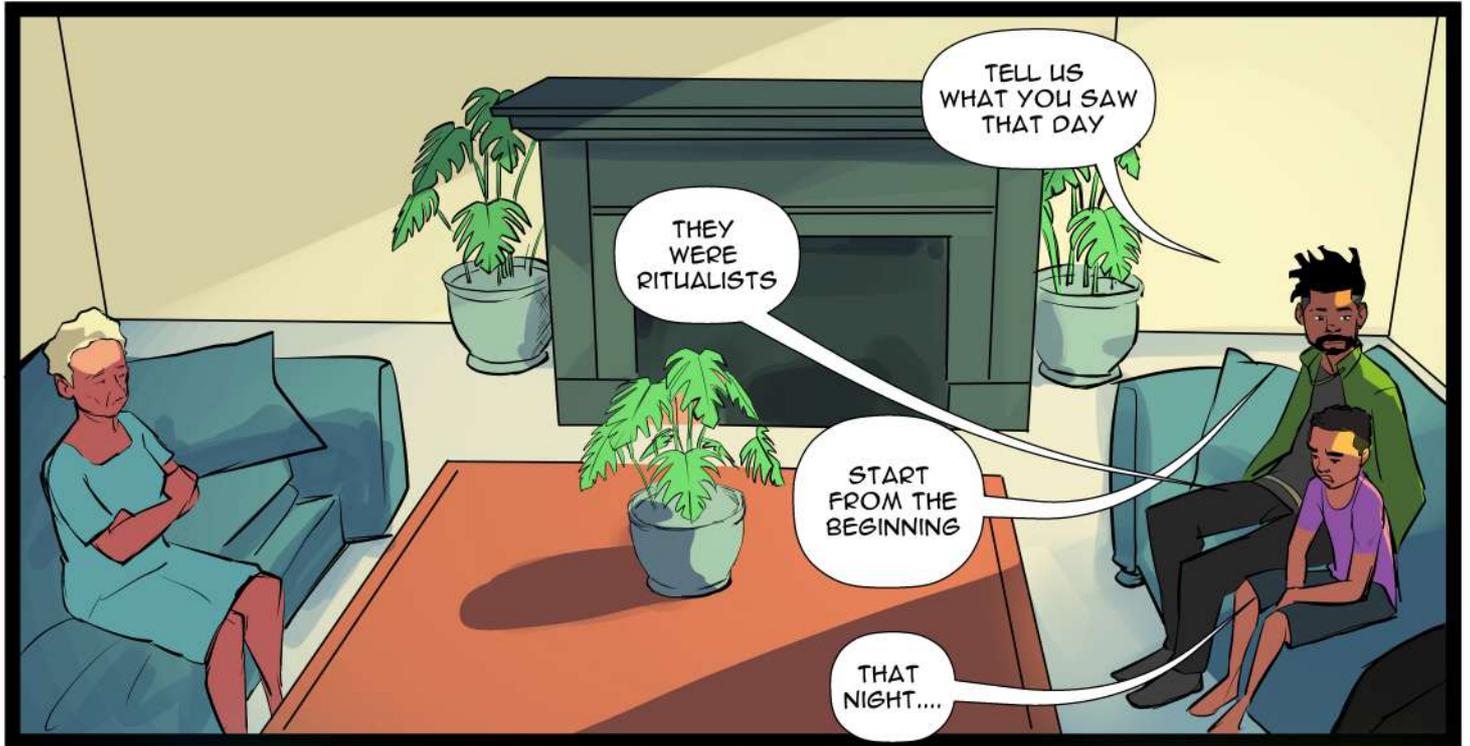
C H O M P

!!!

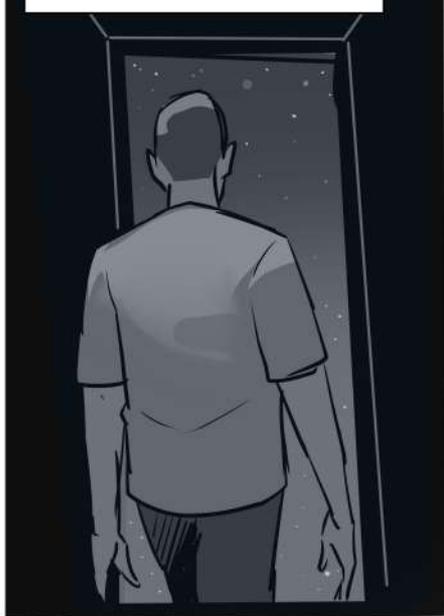
SPURTT!!!







THE SOUND GOT ME TOO,
I ENTERED THE ALLEY



THE MELODY, IT MADE ME DIZZY, I SAW
THREE OF THEM, KILLING JOHN





THEY DIDNT COME OUT OF THE ALLEY



I RAN HOME.



CAN YOU RECOGNISE HIM?



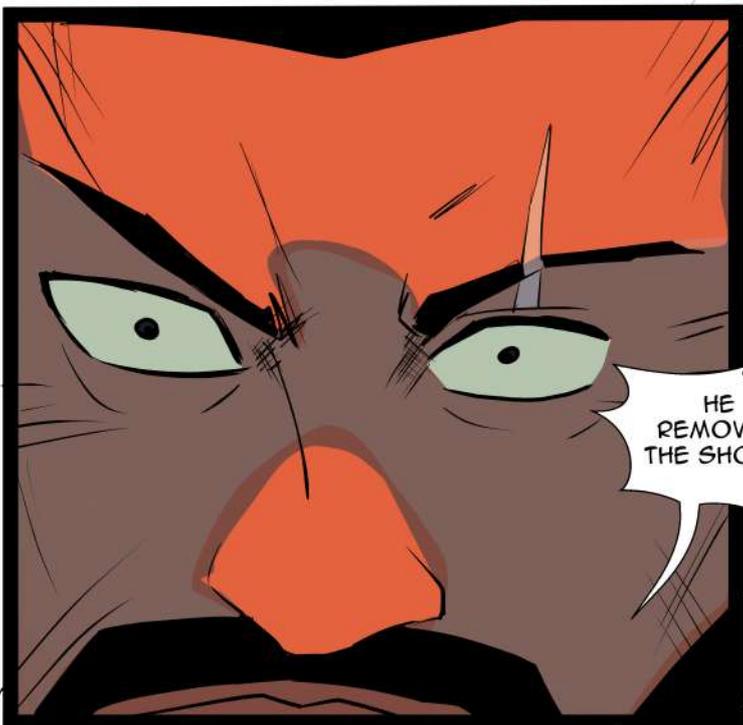
YES, BUT THEY ALL LOOKED ALIKE, THEY LOOKED EXACTLY THE SAME



DESCRIBE
WHAT YOU
SAW







HE
REMOVED
THE SHOES.



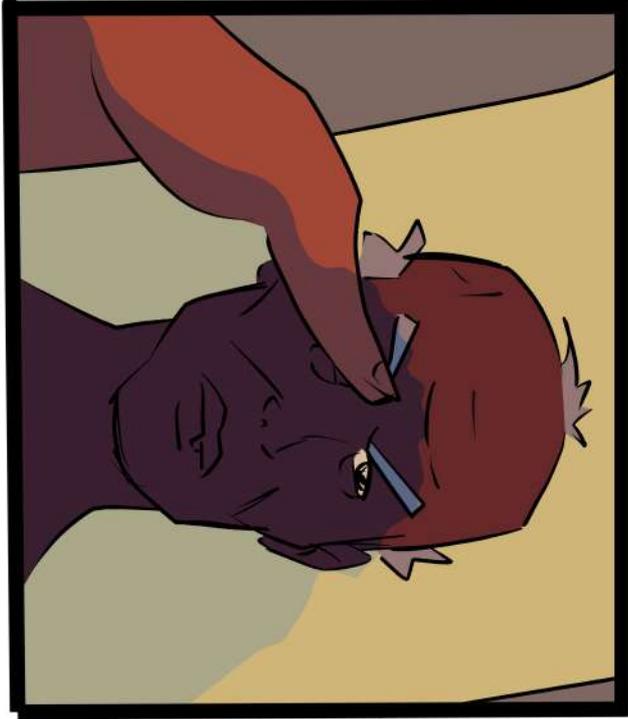




WHAT IS YOUR PLAN NOW?



I BELIEVE WHOEVER KILLED THAT BOY ALSO KILLED THE BUS DRIVER. THE DRIVER MOSTLY HUNG OUT UNDER THE BRIDGE,



THE BOY WAS DIZZY. ITS ONE SHOE FOOTPRINT AT THE CRIME SCENE, IT COULDNT HAVE BEEN THREE. HE SHOULD BE HERE SOMEWHERE

LETS SPLIT UP





COFFEE SHOP

UNDER THE BRIDGE ?

I SAW HIM.

ITS ONE MAN, THE BOY SAID HE WAS DIZZY, PROBABLY THE HYPNOTIC EFFECTS OF THE MELODY MADE HIM SEE DOUBLE, TRIPLE.

WHERE DID YOU SEE HIM

HE WAS UNDER THE BRIDGE, HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, HE WASNT WEARING SHOES. I FOUND HIS SHOES AT A DUSTBIN NEAR THE FOOTPRINTS, THEY HAD BLOOD STAINS

SO HE REMOVED HIS SHOES

YES, AND CLIMBED THE FENCE.

WE NEED TO GET HIS ATTENTION

BE CAREFUL

YEAH, HE EATS PEOPLE

IM GOING TO TAIL HIM, I WANT TO SEE HOW HE DOES IT

YOU'RE BACKING OUT NOW?

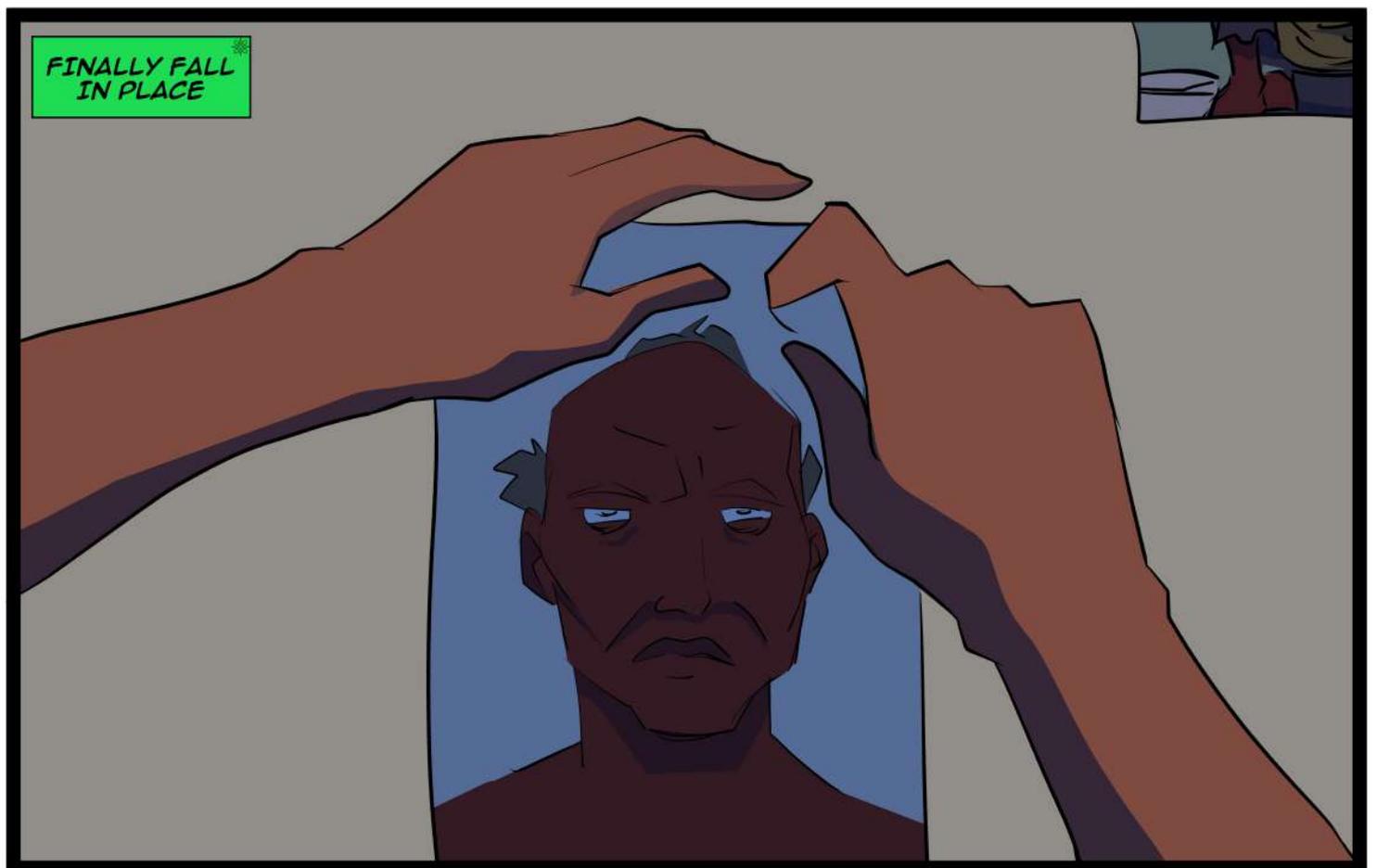
BUT YOU BROUGHT STORY TO ME

AND I WANT TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO WRITE MORE STORIES

PUSSY

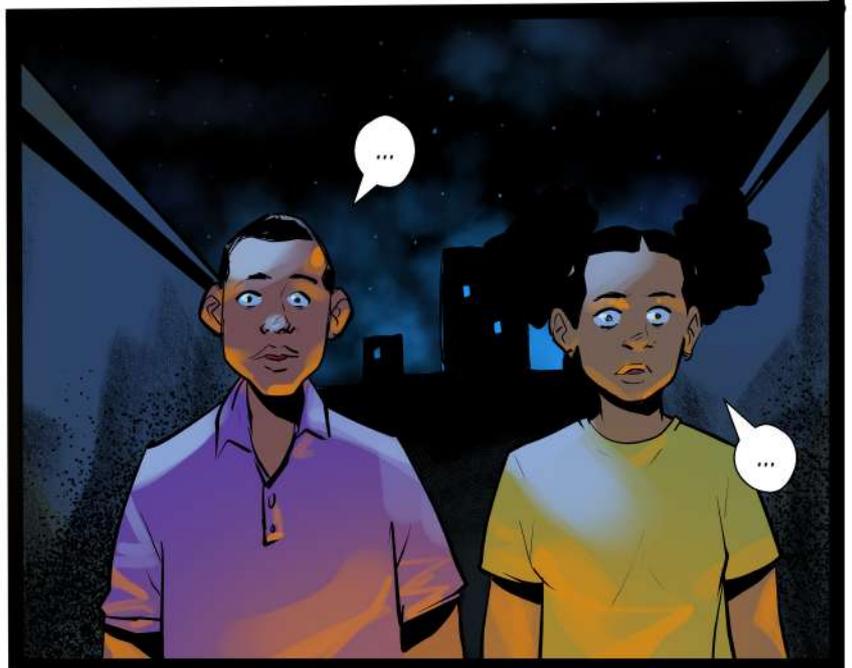
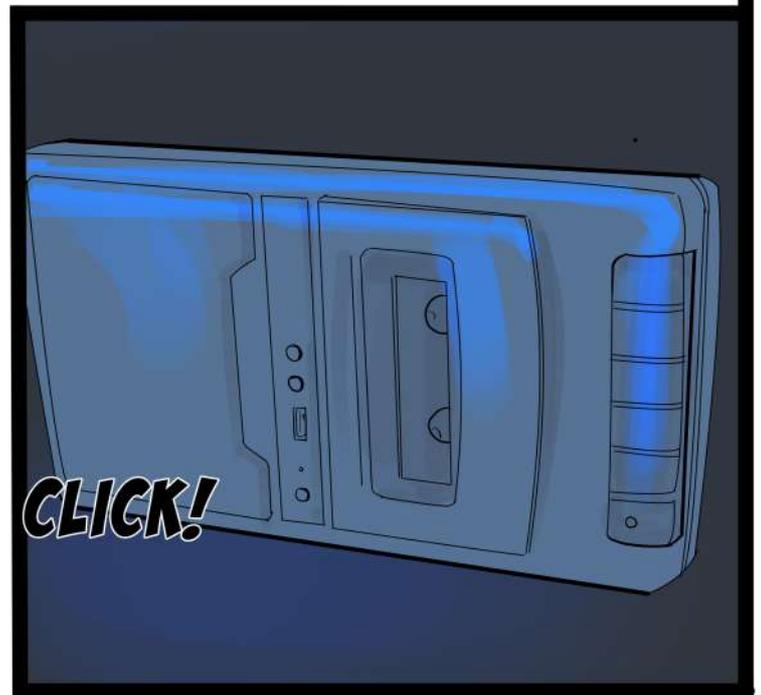
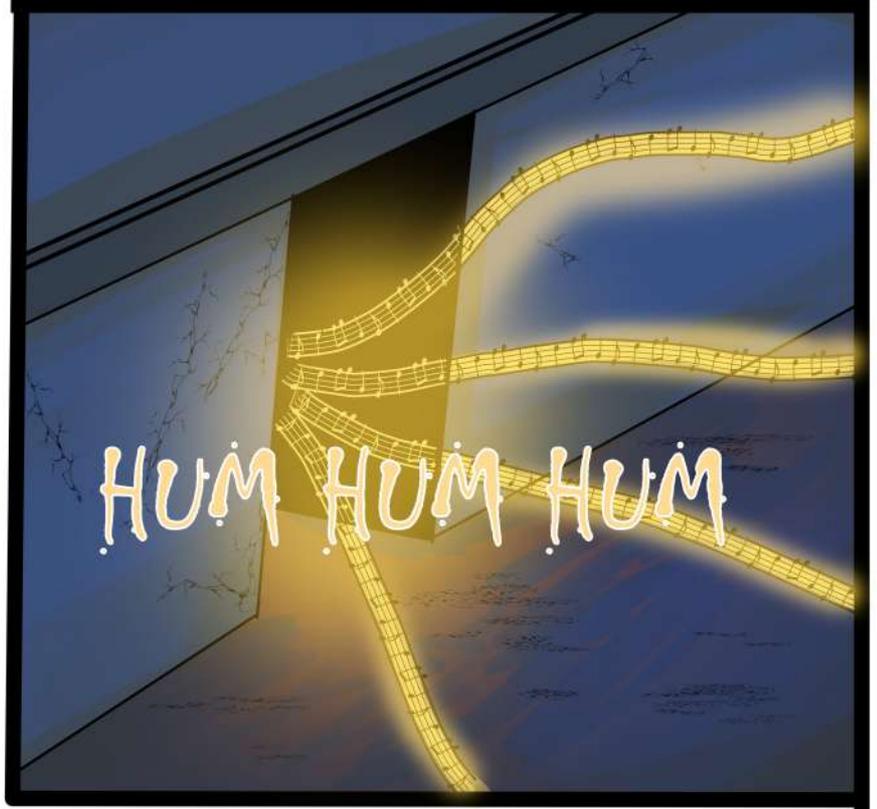


ALL THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

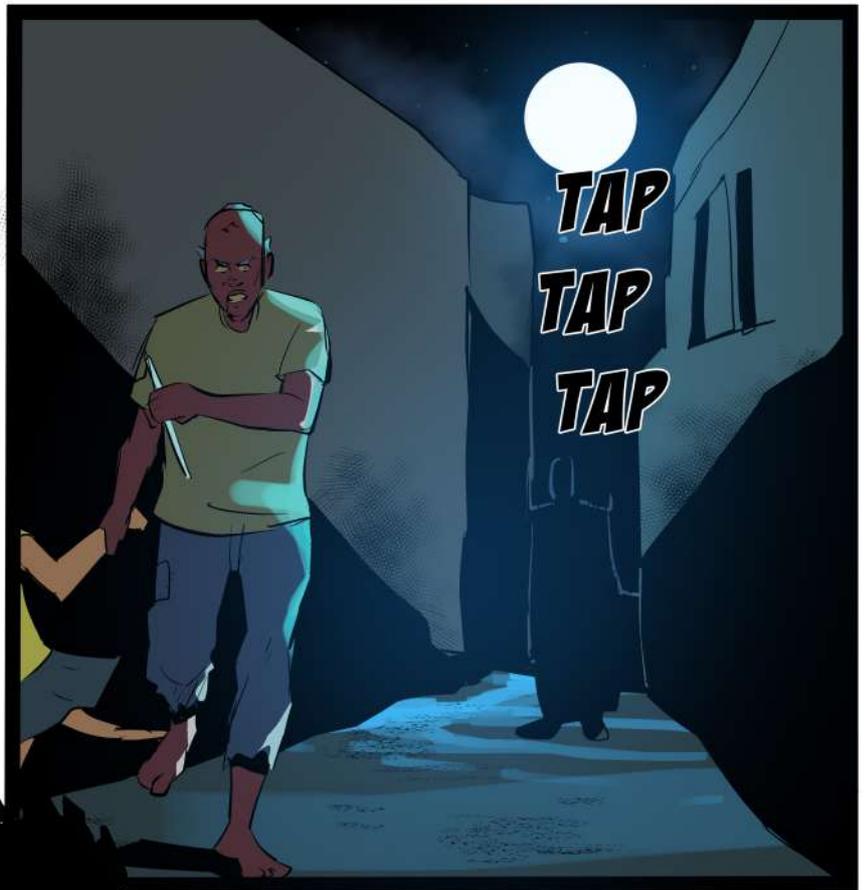


FINALLY FALL IN PLACE













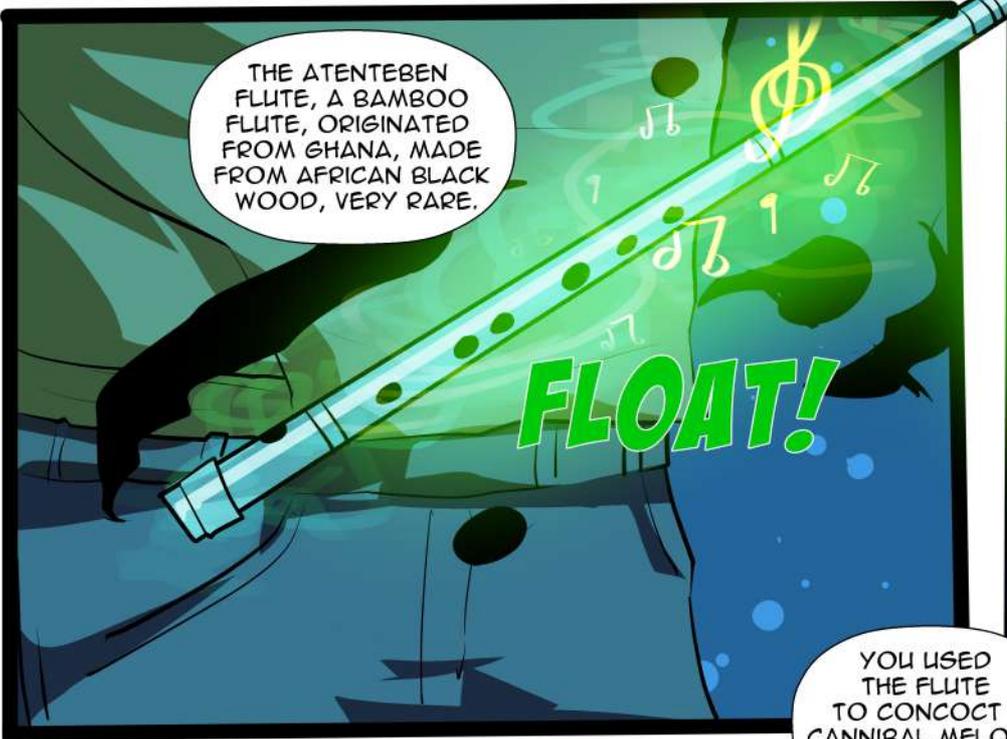


CLIFFORD



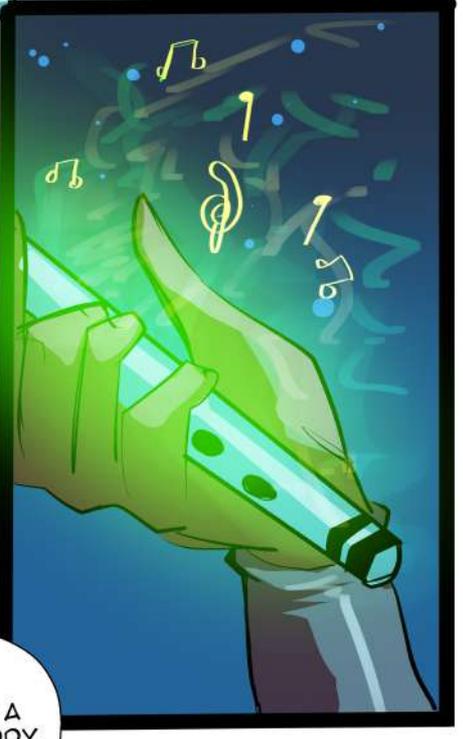
!!!

OH, I KNOW YOUR NAME, I KNOW A WHOLE LOT MORE.



THE ATENTEBEN FLUTE, A BAMBOO FLUTE, ORIGINATED FROM GHANA, MADE FROM AFRICAN BLACK WOOD, VERY RARE.

FLOAT!



YOU USED THE FLUTE TO CONCOCT A CANNIBAL MELODY, TO HYPNOTIZE CHILDREN.





..AND THEN
EAT THOSE
CHILDREN.



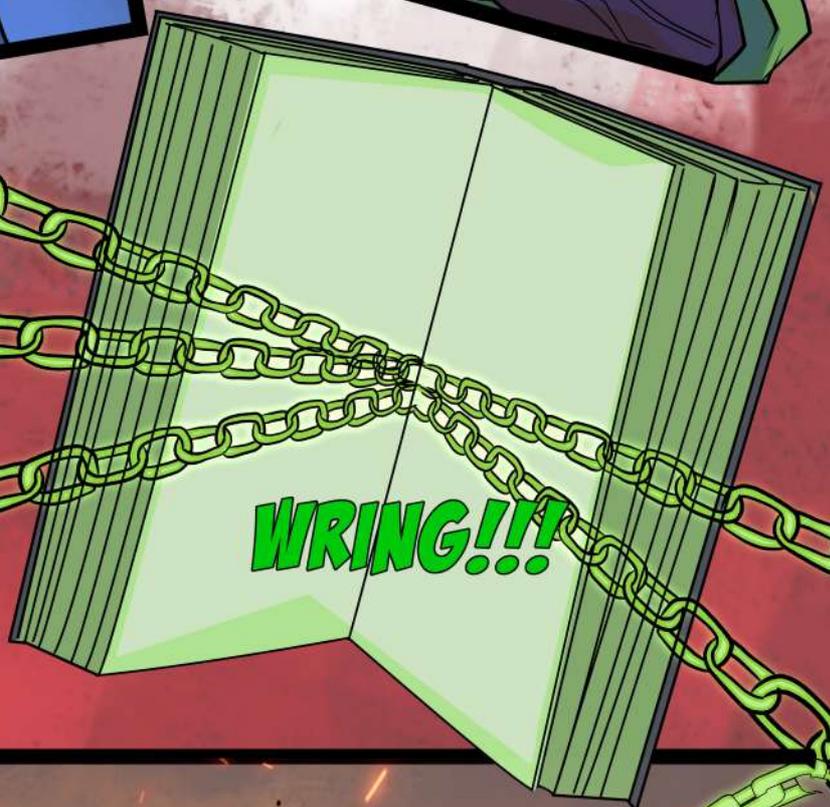
MY ONLY
QUESTION IS,
WHY?

FWIP



GRRRRRR!!!

HIDING YOUR
SHOES IN THE
DUSTBIN, THEN
LEAVING YOUR
HAND PRINTS ON
THE FENCE,

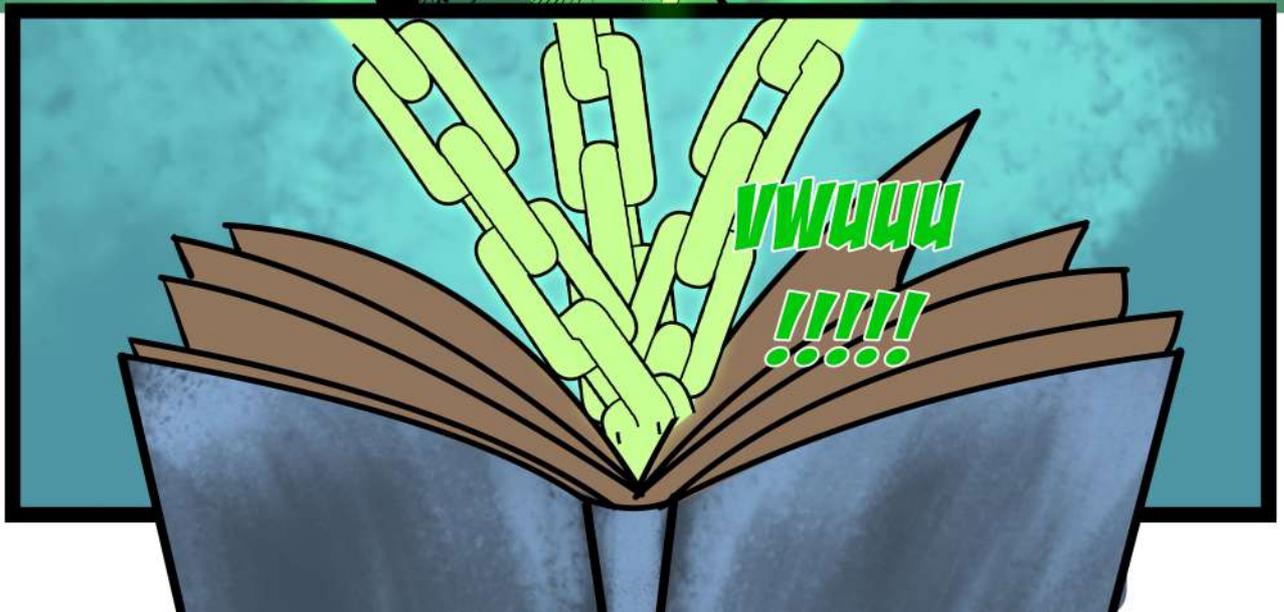
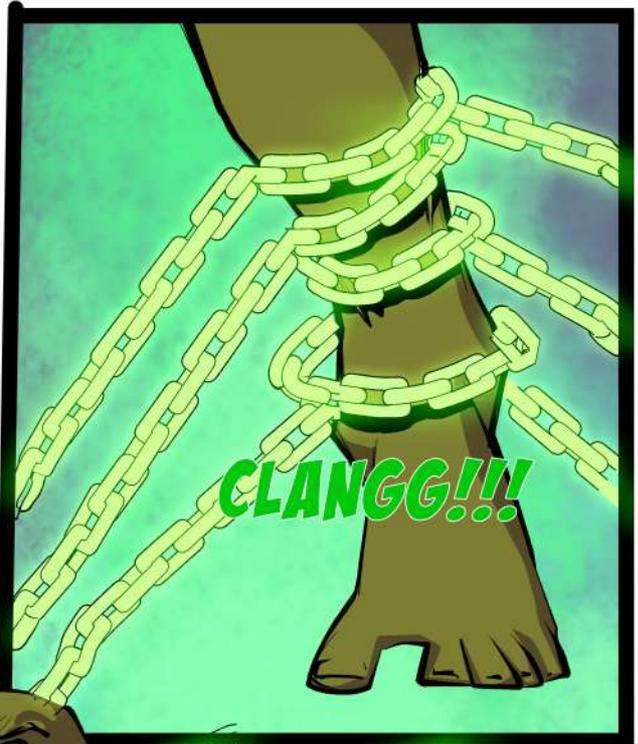


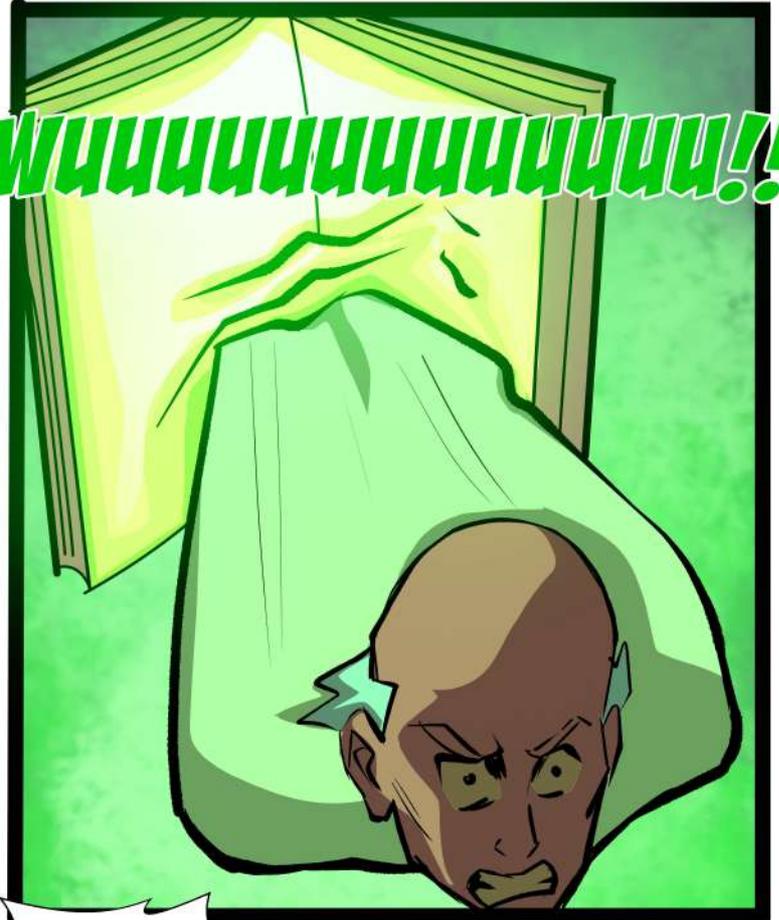
WRING!!!



FWIP!

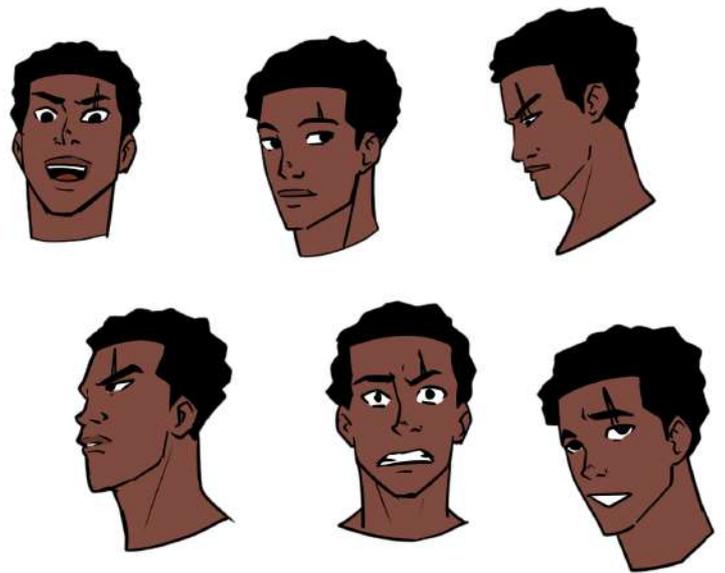
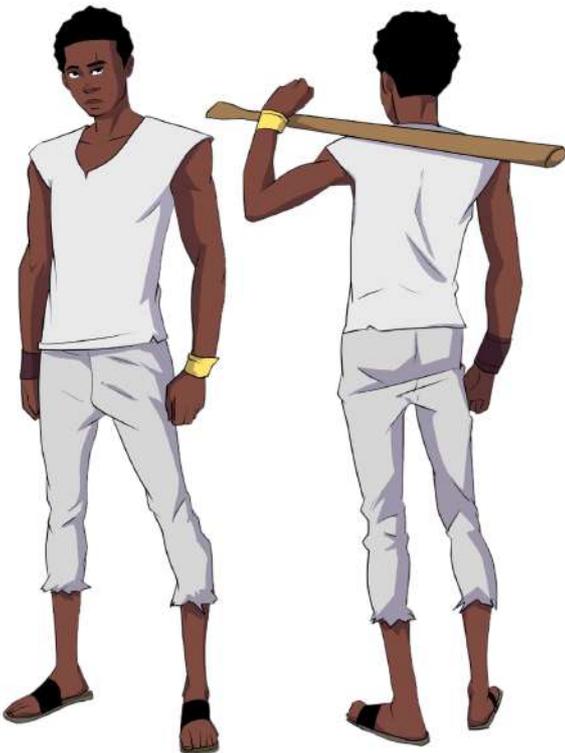
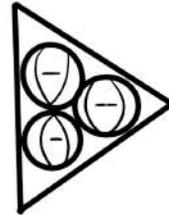
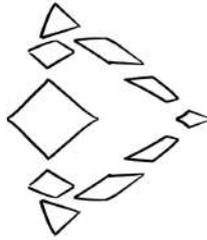
AND THAT
MAN YOU
KILLED, HE
HAD A
FAMILY.





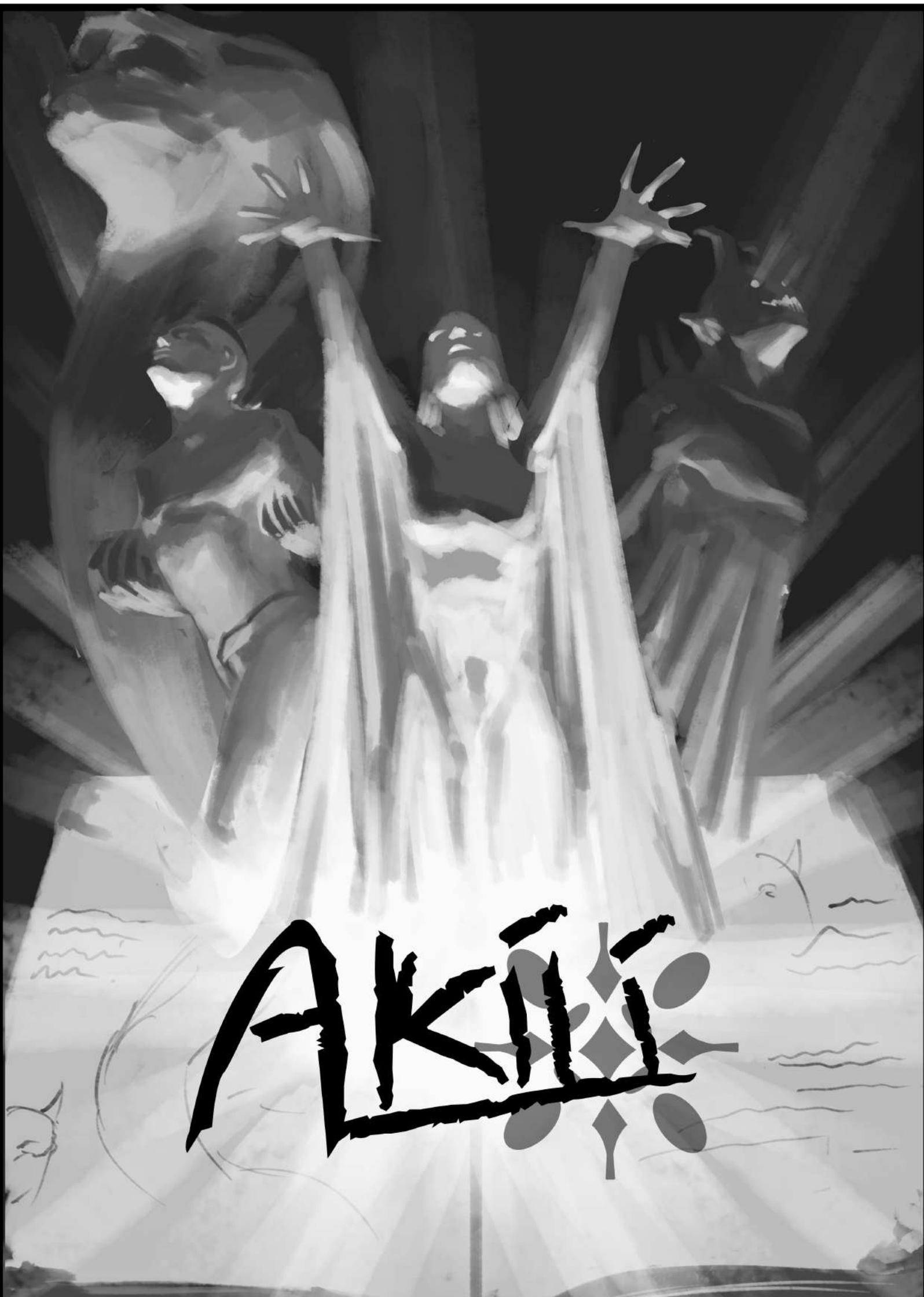


MUST
FEED,
AKILI!





ETIM



AKI



AKIRA