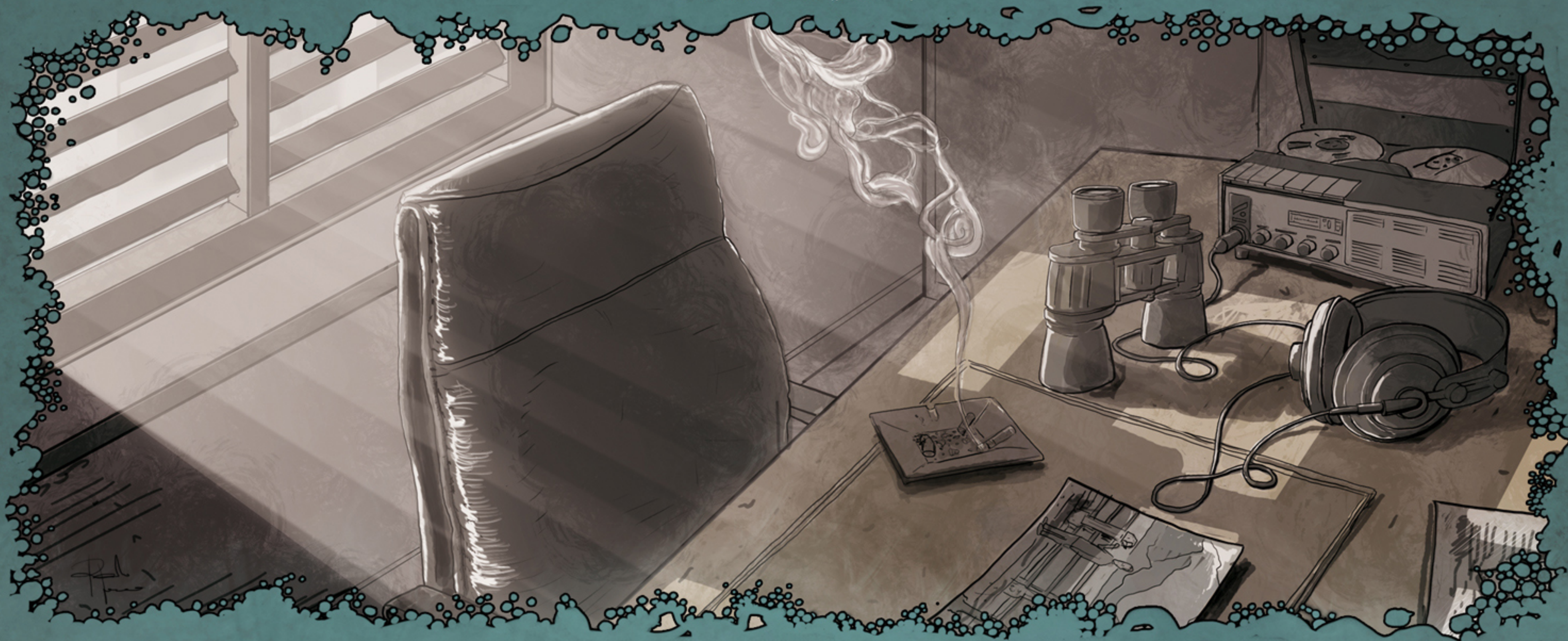




# THE WAKEFIELD VARIATION



ONE LOOK BEHIND

## The Wakefield Variation One Look Behind

writer

**Gianluca Olmastroni**

based on a story by  
**Alessandro De Nicola**  
**Gianluca Olmastroni**  
**Jonathan Robbins**

artist

**Riccardo Iacono**

layout design and graphics  
**Prichardesign**

editors

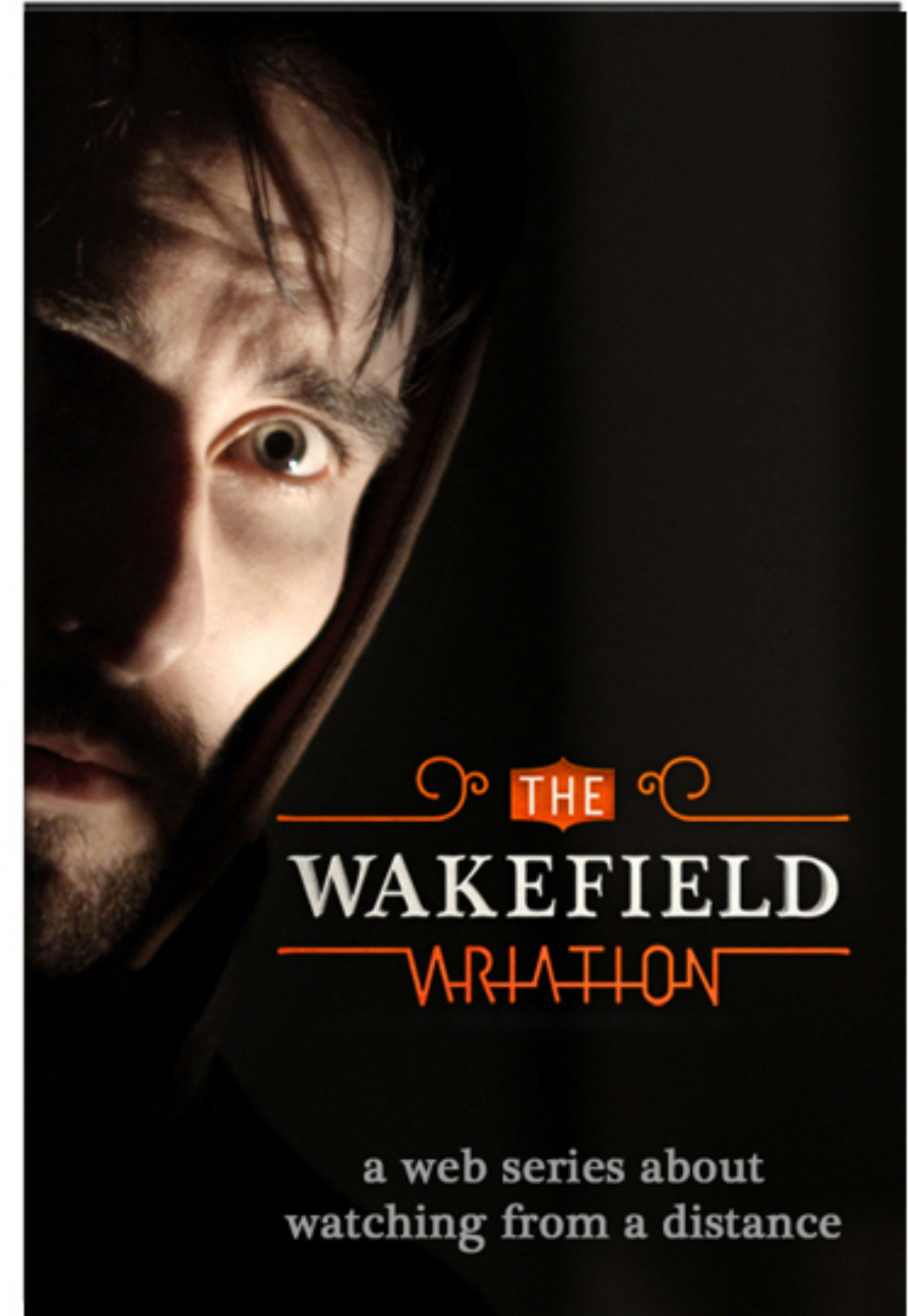
**Claudio Fallani**  
**Adrian Hughes**

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## THE WAKEFIELD VARIATION

The Wakefield Variation is a webseries created and produced by **Effetto Spanso**, video production studio founded in 2009 in Pisa, Italy. The story is loosely based on “Wakefield”, a short story by **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, now set in the present time. The story follows the apparently simple plot of Hawthorne’s Wakefield: some day a young man decides to leave the girlfriend he lived with, and vanishes. Our man has been hiding in a small apartment for years: he didn’t leave any traces behind, and keeps spying on his former girlfriend using bugs and hidden cameras, in a sort of twisted social experiment. Time goes by, in a flow of memories, thoughts, and loneliness. When the girl – who has long moved on – is about to make a step which would put her out of range for good, Wakefield starts thinking about getting back into her life. The series, an independent production shot in Italy with an international cast, can be watched on many digital platforms, starting from the official site [www.thewakefieldvariation.com](http://www.thewakefieldvariation.com), source of the most updated information.

*One look behind* is a prequel, telling a story from the main character’s teenage years, exposing details still hidden in the series.





### Effetto Espanso

It's the studio behind the project. Founded in Pisa by **Gianluca Olmastroni** (1981) and **Alessandro De Nicola** (1983), it deals with film and video, their convergence and generally about motion picture storytelling. It was started by two former film studies students of **Pisa University**: its goals are the merging of academic background and field work, while it looks forward to technological, stylistic and creative trends. Halfway between being a service company and a production studio, it originally focused on documentary before moving to fiction: before **The Wakefield Variation** it has produced tourist (**Treasures of Genoa**) and creative (**The Sound of Revolution**) documentaries. More info on [www.effettoespanso.it](http://www.effettoespanso.it)



### Riccardo Iacono

Graduated at Florence **Scuola Internazionale di Comics**, he works with many music and film production as sketch artist, cover artist and storyboarder. He's been using the **Prichardesign** brand to work on advertising campaigns, music videos and 2D motion graphics. He co-founded **Electric Sheep Comics** in 2012, virtual graphic novel and comic book studio. The artists part of the group won the Cometa prize at **Levantecom 2013** and run the **ESC Collection** for **Gordiano Lupi's Il Foglio Letterario**. He's co-author of **Blood Washing**, graphic novel coming summer 2013. More info on [www.facebook.com/ElectricSheepComics](http://www.facebook.com/ElectricSheepComics)

GOOD OLD LAKESIDE HOLIDAYS!

STORY:  
EFFETTO ESPANSO

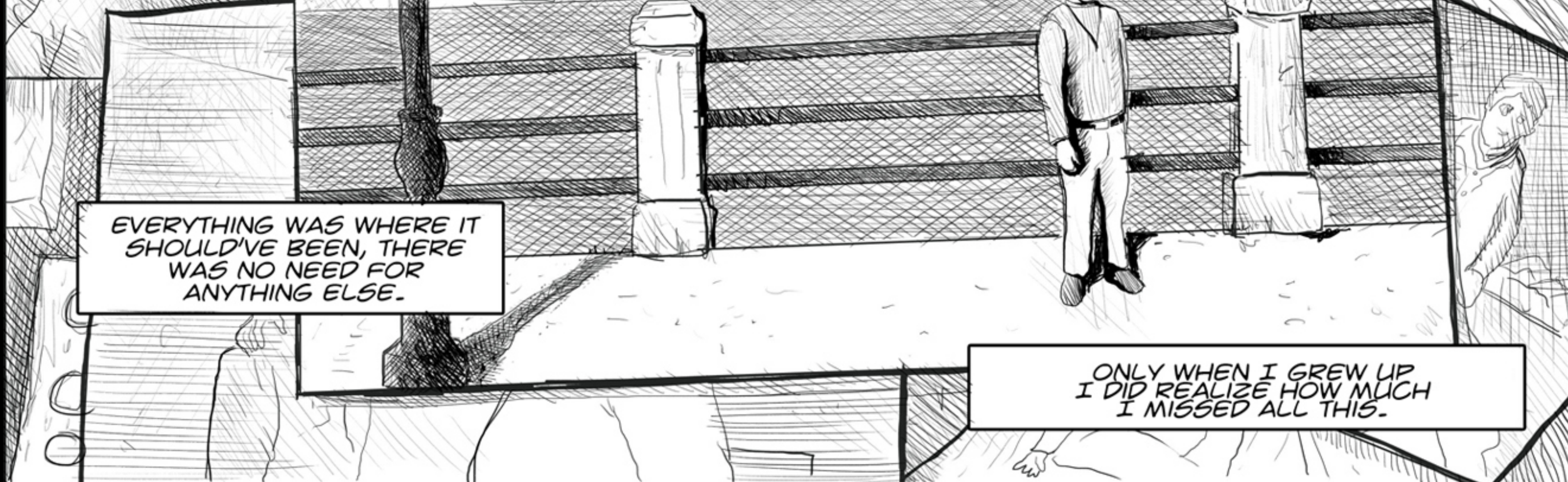
ARTIST:  
RICCARDO IACONO

# ONE LOOK BEHIND

OPEN SPACES, NATURE...  
ONE GLANCE SEEMED TO  
TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU  
NEEDED TO KNOW.

EVERYTHING WAS WHERE IT  
SHOULD'VE BEEN, THERE  
WAS NO NEED FOR  
ANYTHING ELSE.

ONLY WHEN I GREW UP  
I DID REALIZE HOW MUCH  
I MISSED ALL THIS.

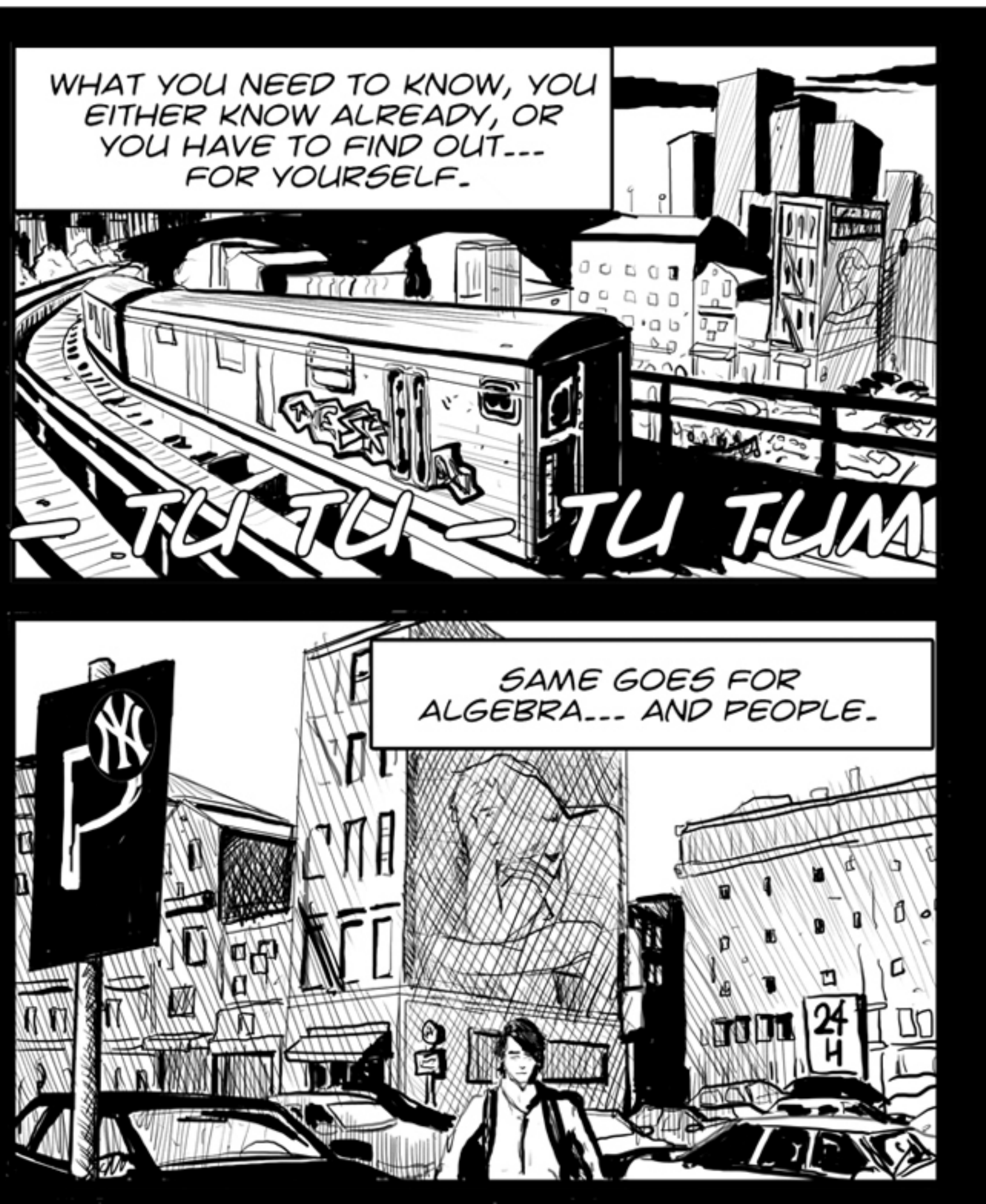




TOO MANY PEOPLE, TOO MANY STREETS. TOO LITTLE INFORMATION.

TU TU - TU TUM

IT MAY SOUND WEIRD, BUT THE STUFF WE DO GET IS **WRONG** OR MISLEADING. SCHOOL DOESN'T TEACH YOU ANYTHING USEFUL EITHER.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, YOU EITHER KNOW ALREADY, OR YOU HAVE TO FIND OUT... FOR YOURSELF.

TU TU - TU TUM

SAME GOES FOR ALGEBRA... AND PEOPLE.

IT'S NOT EASY TO UNDERSTAND THEM.



YOU HAVE TO WEAR A MASK, WHICH MAKES IT REAL HARD TO CONCENTRATE.

AT A DISTANCE, IT'S EASIER: OBSERVATION GIVES MUCH MORE INFORMATION.



TU TU - TU TUM TU TU - TU TUM

**TU-TUM-TU-TUMMMMM**



EVEN IF YOU COULD USE A CLUE, ONCE IN A WHILE.



LIKE HOW MANY THINGS YOU CAN GET FROM THE WAY SOMEONE WALKS...

... OR WHICH TRAIN CAR THEY CHOOSE.

THE REALLY CROWDED ONE IN THE MIDDLE, OR MAYBE ONE AT THE END THAT NEEDS A BIT MORE OF A WALK.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT CHOICE.

SMART PEOPLE GO TO THE ENDS...

... THINKING THEY'LL ACTUALLY FIND A SEAT.

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME IDEA...



ONE OF THOSE DAILY DISAPPOINTMENTS.

TU TU - TU TUM - TU

HE'LL LIVE WITH THAT.

IT SHOULDN'T AFFECT HIS MOOD.

THOUGH HE'S CERTAINLY THE SENSIBLE TYPE.

ANYWAY, PEOPLE ARE COOL  
MOST OF THE TIME.

The Sou  
Revolu  
m



TU TU - TU TUM - TU



TU TU - TU TUM

YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW  
THE REASON WHY.







IF THIS WAS A MOVIE, THEY  
WOULD BE DONE TALKING.



THEN SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN...



BUT NOTHING HAS.  
AT LEAST, NOT YET.

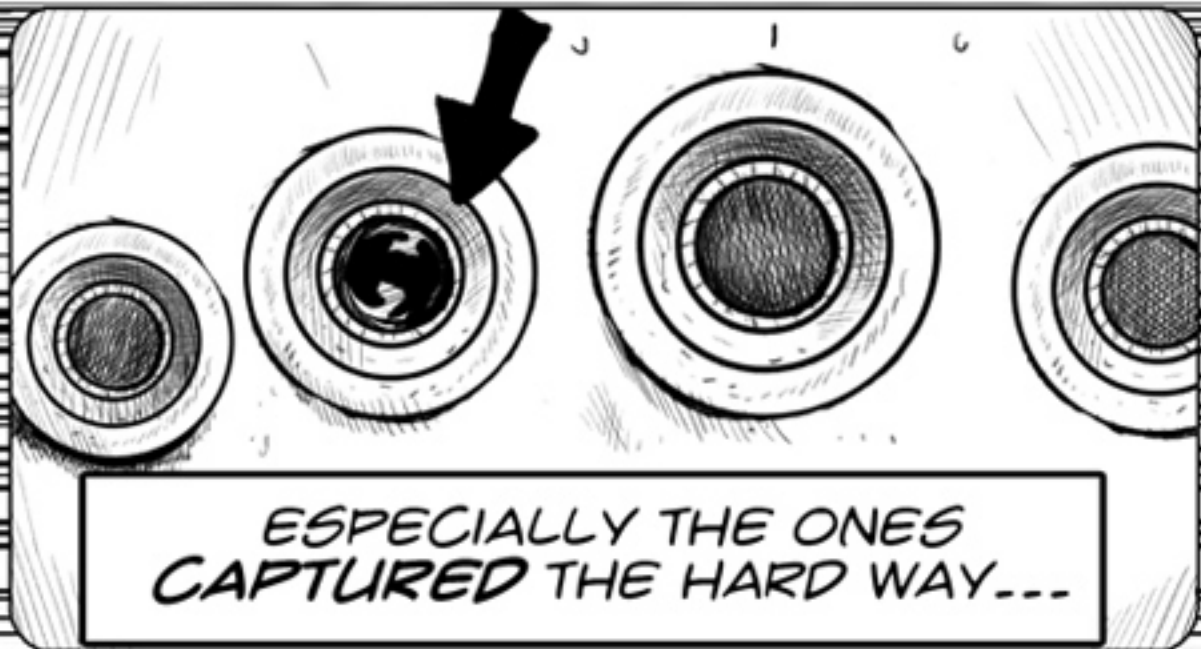




DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO MUCH IMAGINATION?



ME, I RELY ON THE FACTS.



ESPECIALLY THE ONES CAPTURED THE HARD WAY...

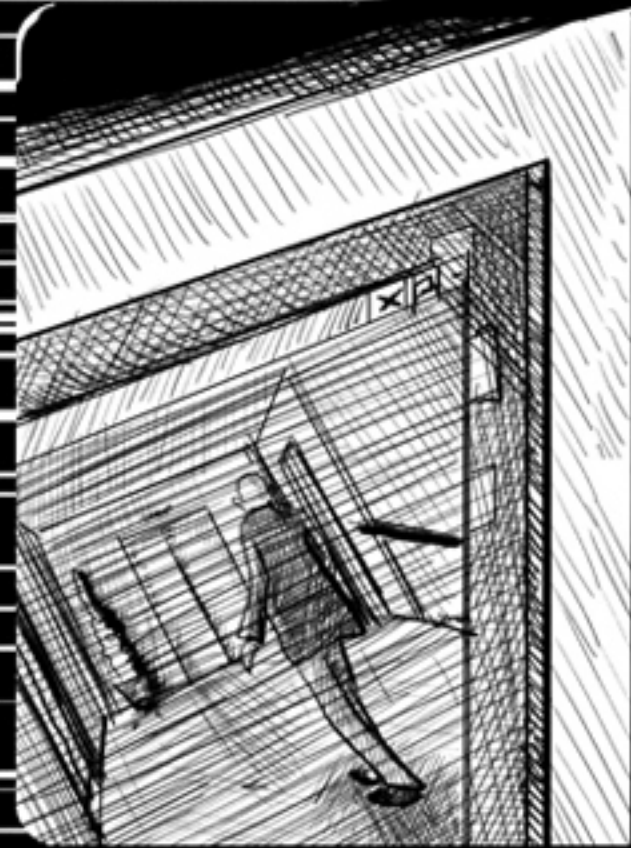
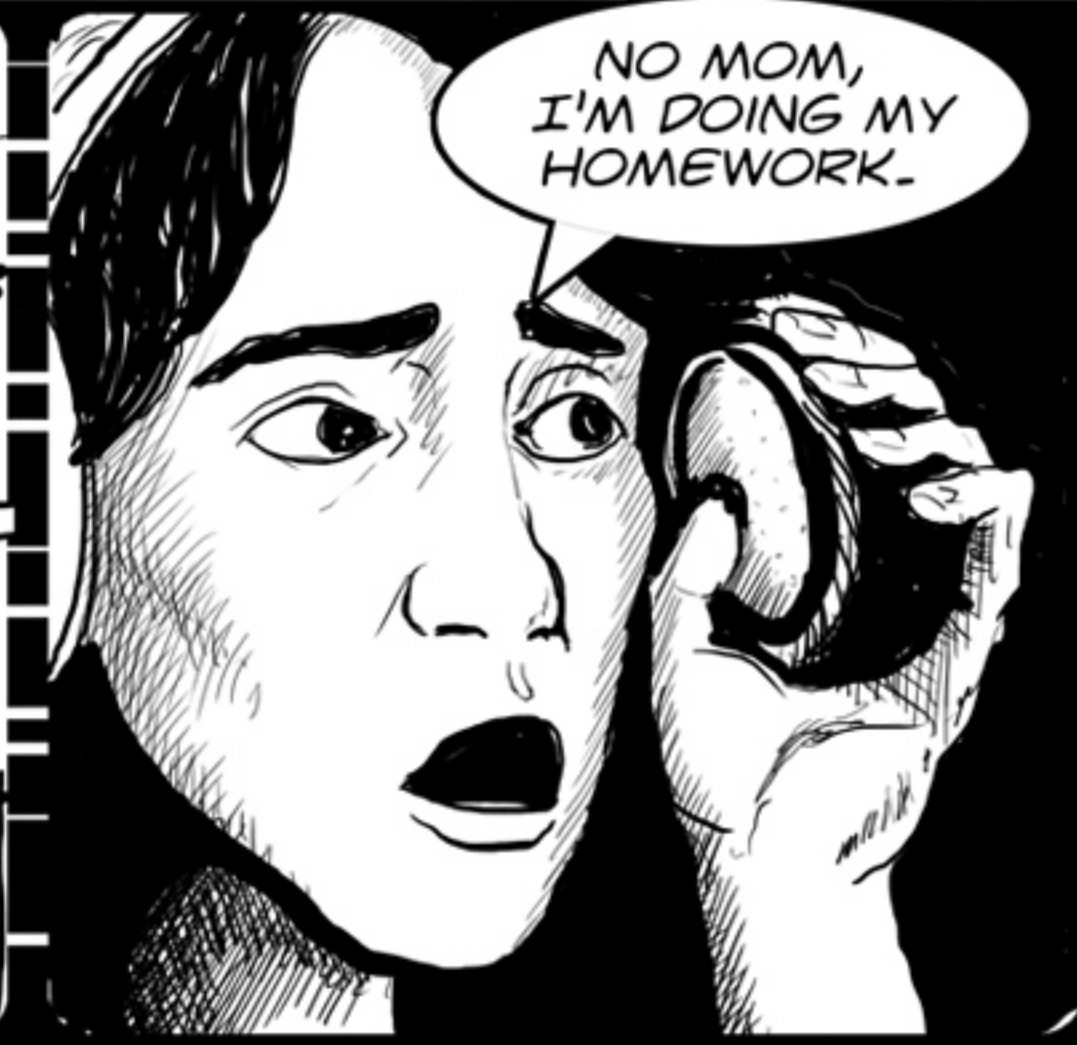
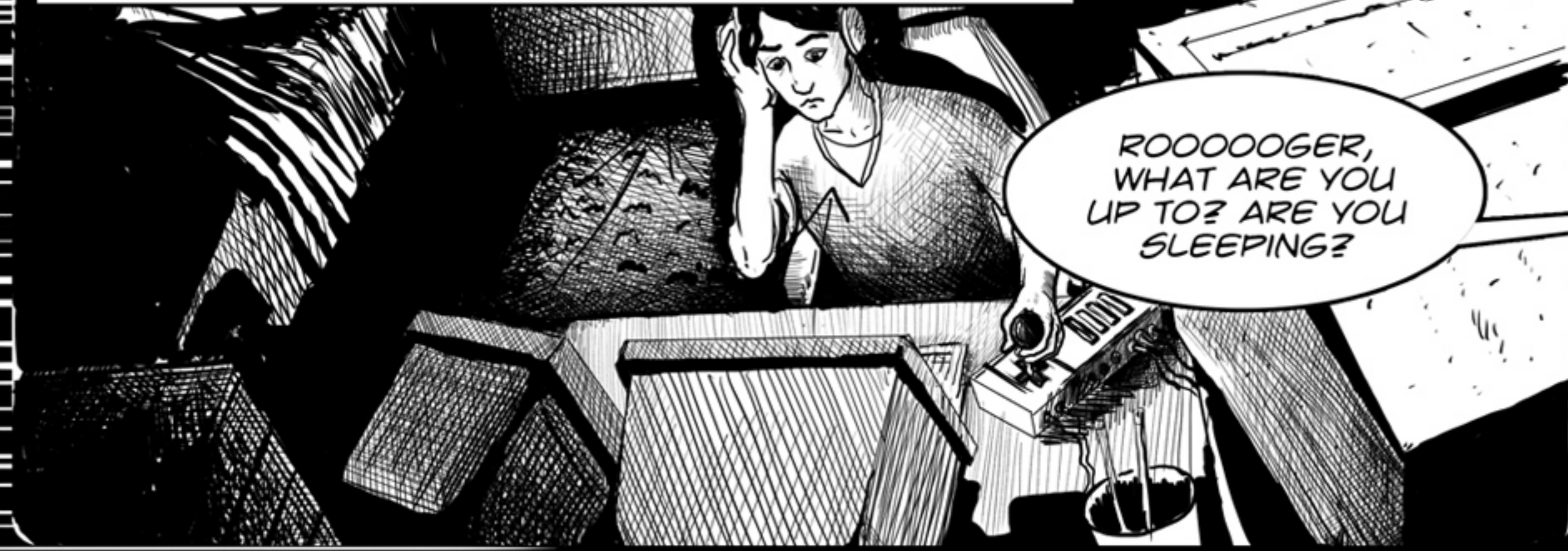


...WITH GENIUS!

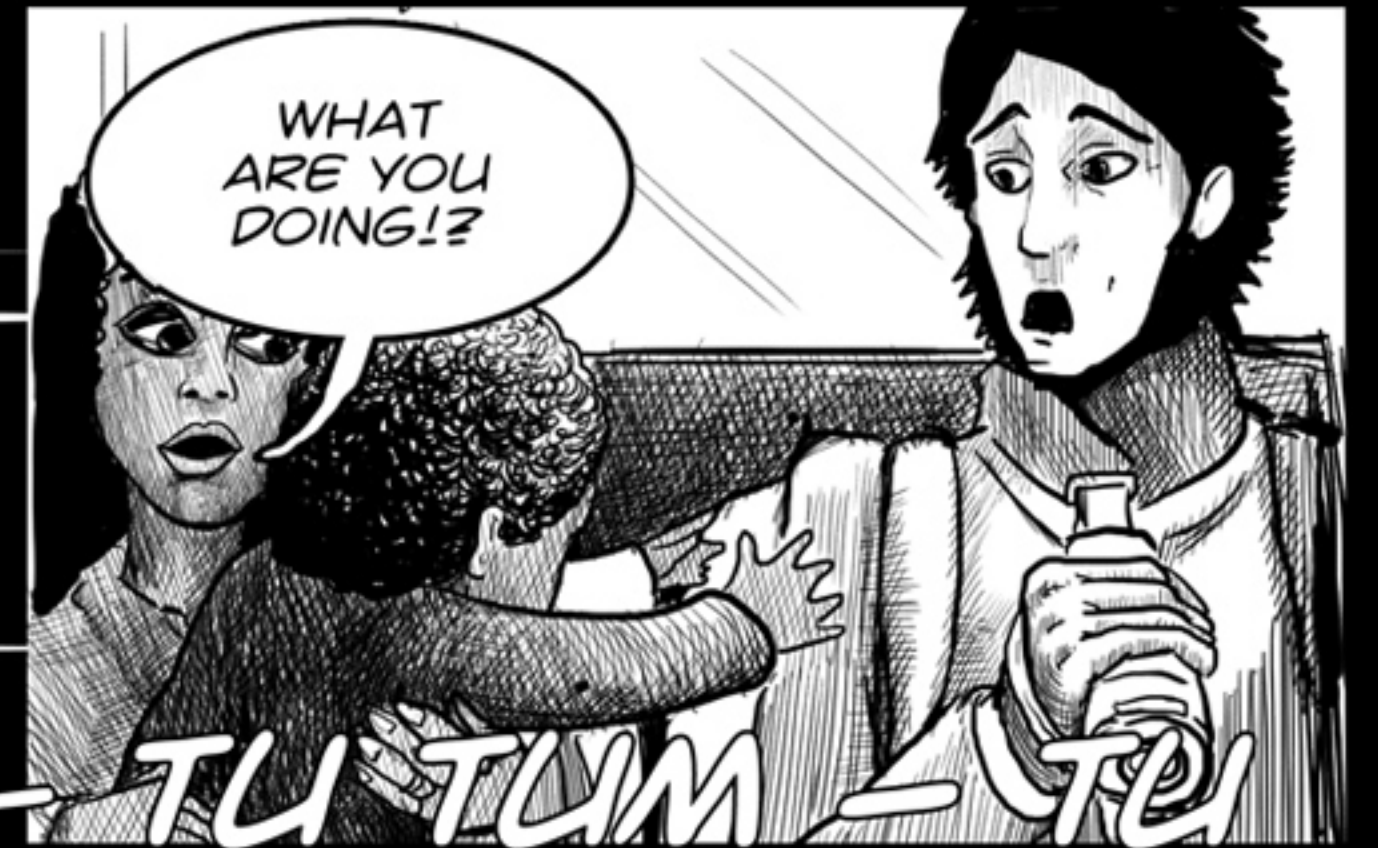
SURE IT'S UNPLEASANT BEING WATCHED.

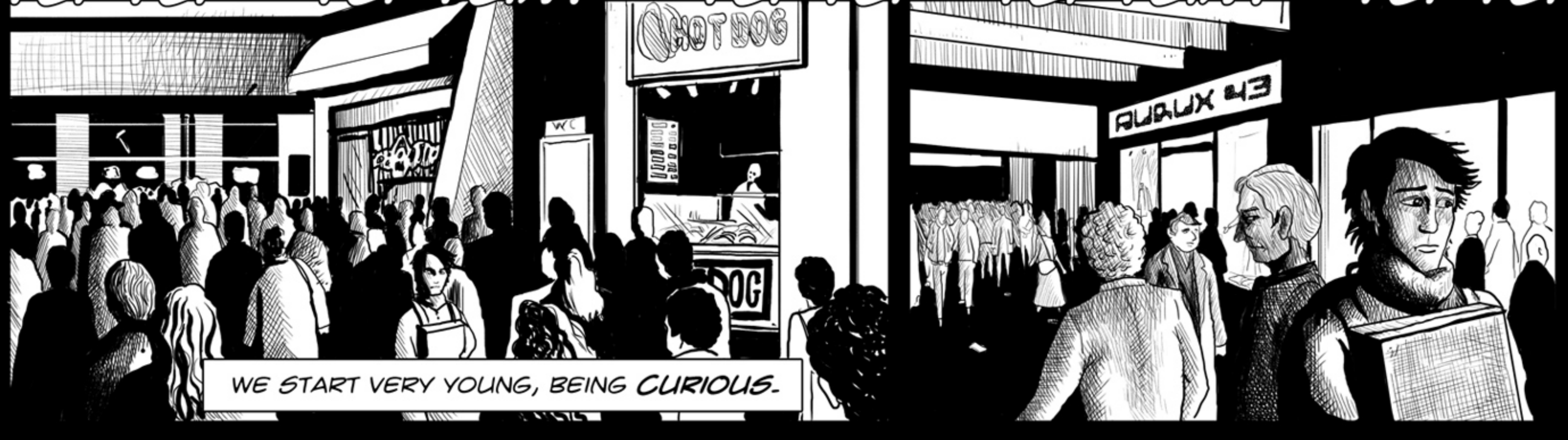
ROOOOGER,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
UP TO? ARE YOU  
SLEEPING?

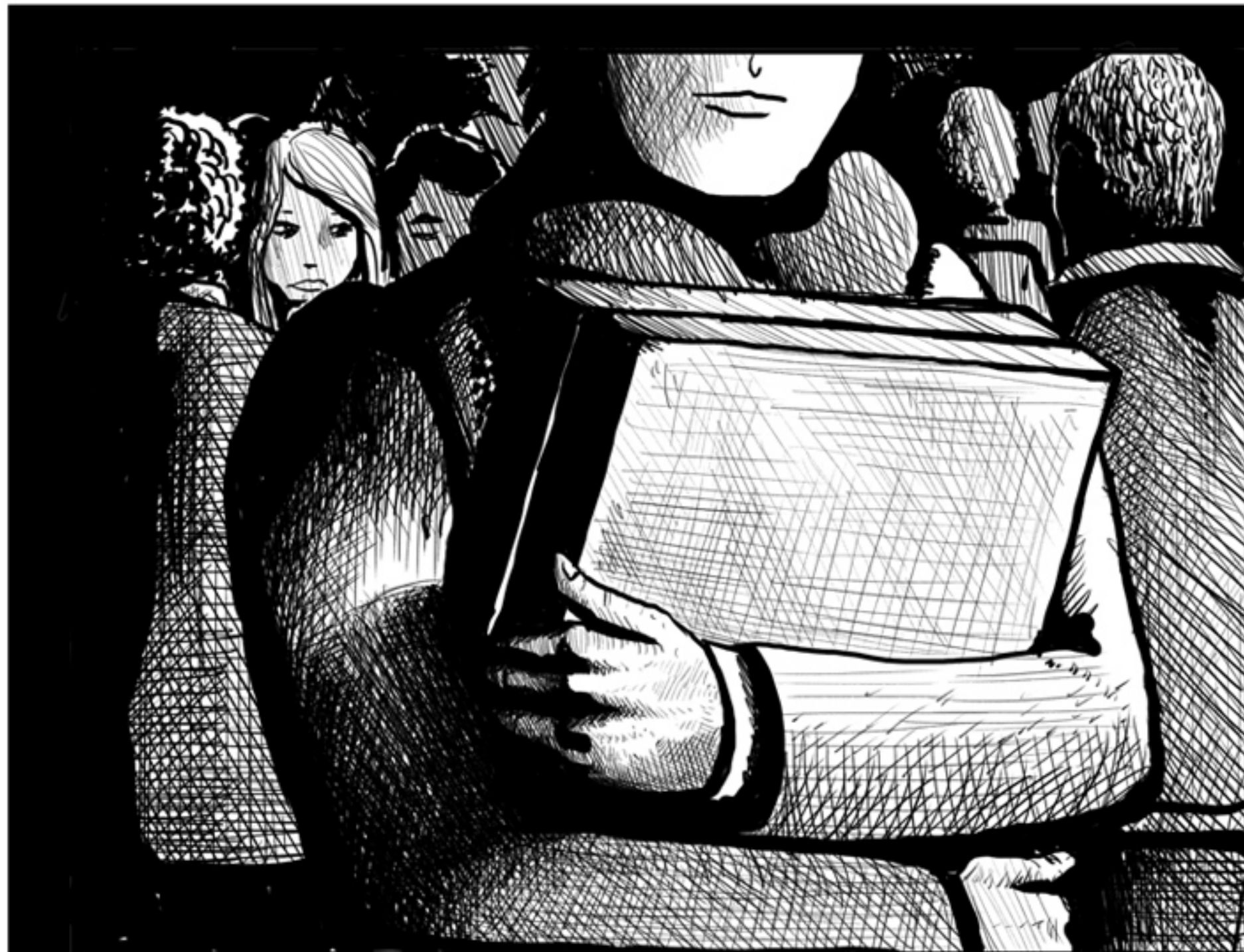
NO MOM,  
I'M DOING MY  
HOMEWORK.



I HATE MY NAME.

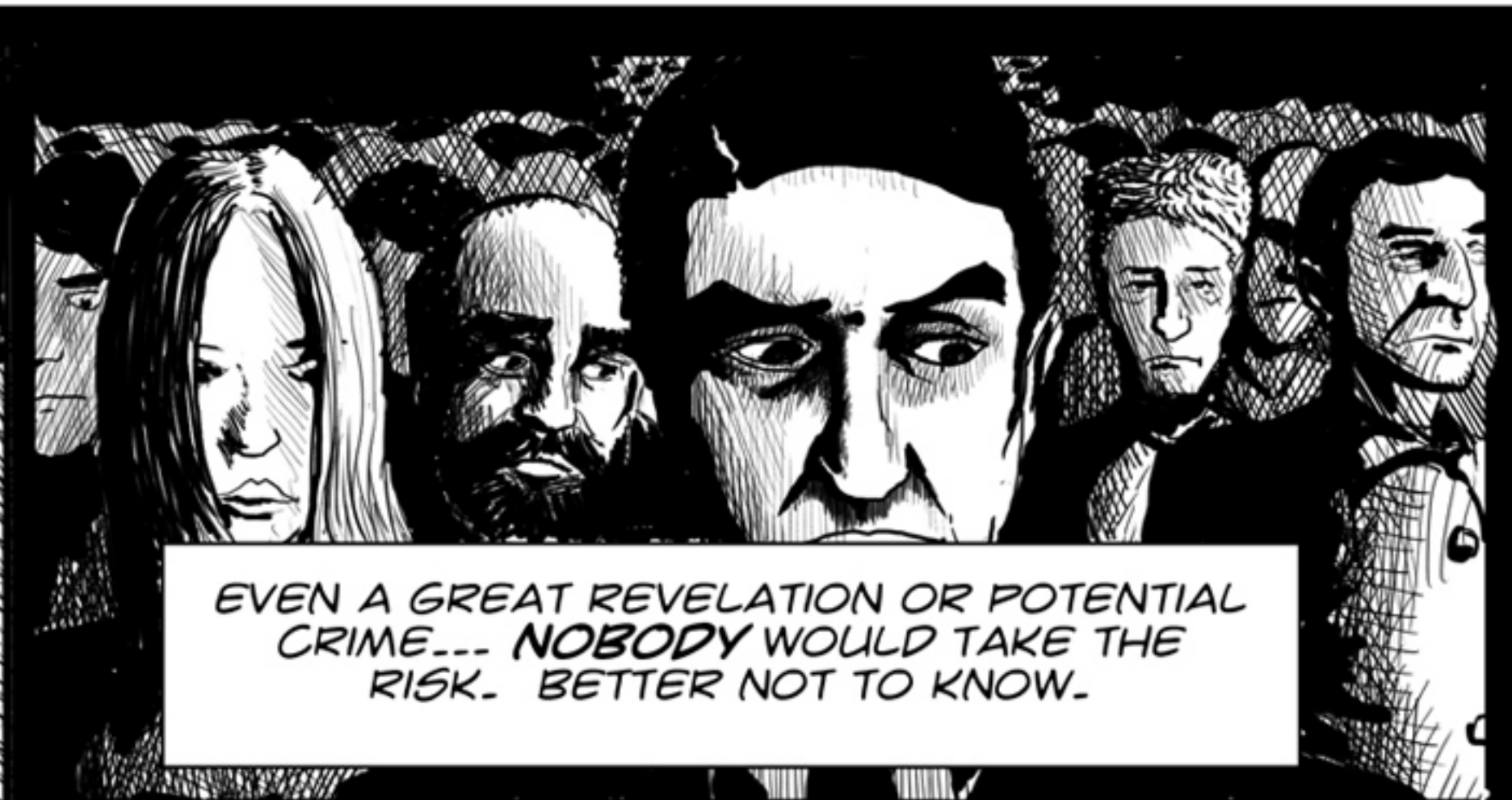






IF ALL THESE  
PEOPLE ACTUALLY KNEW WHAT I'VE GOT  
HERE... WELL, MAYBE A LOT OF THEM  
WOULDN'T CARE.

WAY TOO MUCH INDIFFERENCE AROUND.



EVEN A GREAT REVELATION OR POTENTIAL  
CRIME... **NOBODY** WOULD TAKE THE  
RISK. BETTER NOT TO KNOW.

**EVERYONE** MINDS THEIR OWN BUSINESS...  
WHILE I MIND THEIRS! WHO KNOWS WHO'S  
BETTER... AND WHAT I RISK.



RIGHT, RISKS...  
BUT WHAT ARE WE  
TALKING ABOUT HERE?



WAY TOO PARANOID.



**KOWALSKY**



IS IT SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE?



JUSTICE...

... IT'S GOTTA BE THE BEST WAY.



COMING HERE WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE. WHAT ELSE SHOULD I HAVE DONE, OTHER THAN RELY ON LAW ENFORCEMENT?



YOU CAN FEEL SOMETHING LIKE SACREDNESS, HERE IN THIS TEMPLE OF DISCIPLINE.



LET'S BE SERIOUS...



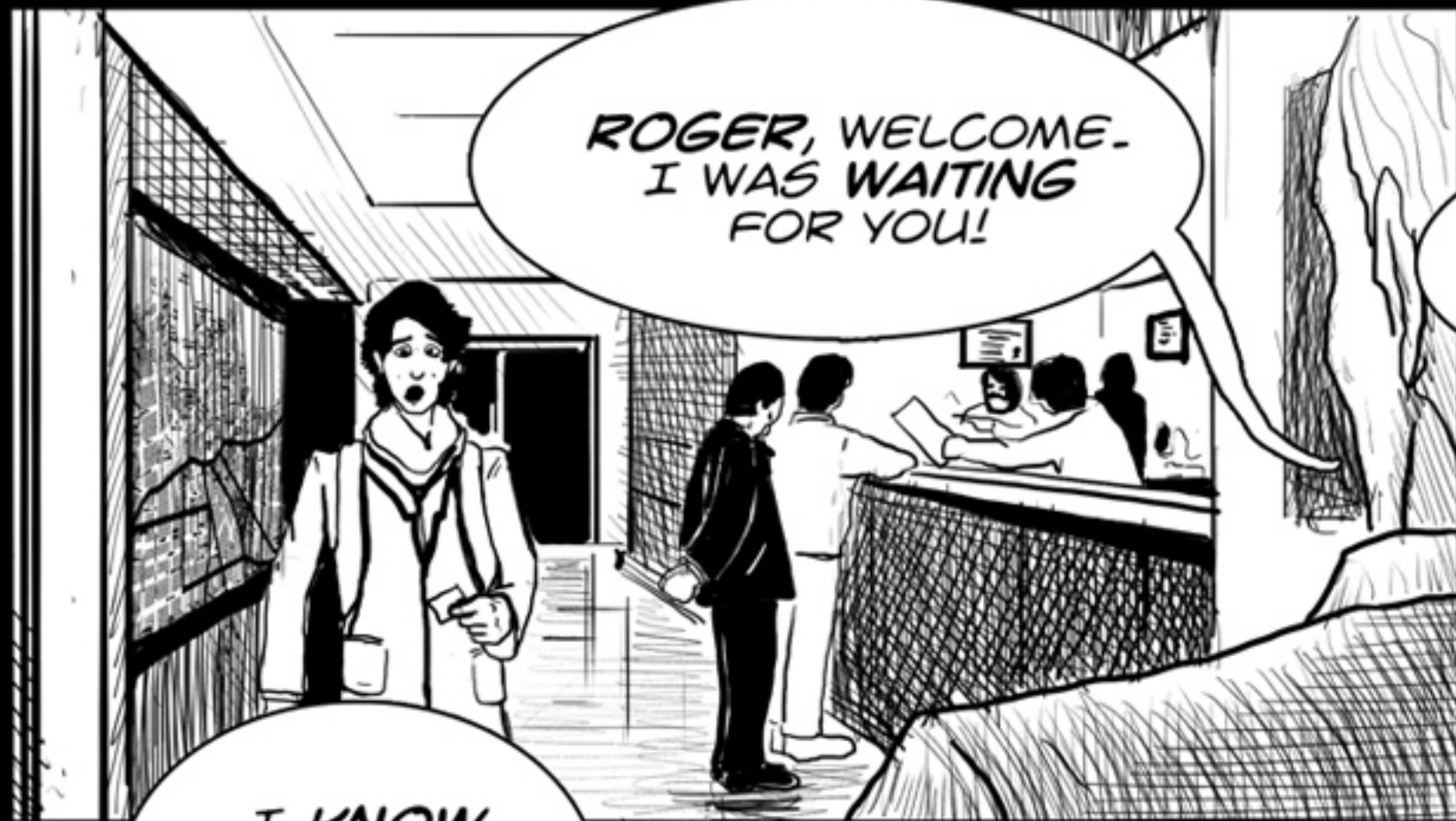
ENOUGH WITH THE NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES.



Bruce Spe  
Police Captain  
6483, Preston S

ARE YOU  
LOOKING FOR  
ME?

I JUST NEED TO TALK  
TO THE RIGHT PERSON.



ROGER, WELCOME.  
I WAS WAITING  
FOR YOU!



I KNOW  
YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING  
FOR ME.



IMPENETRABLE!



I ALSO  
KNOW THAT YOU HAVE  
HEARD AND SEEN  
SOMETHING.

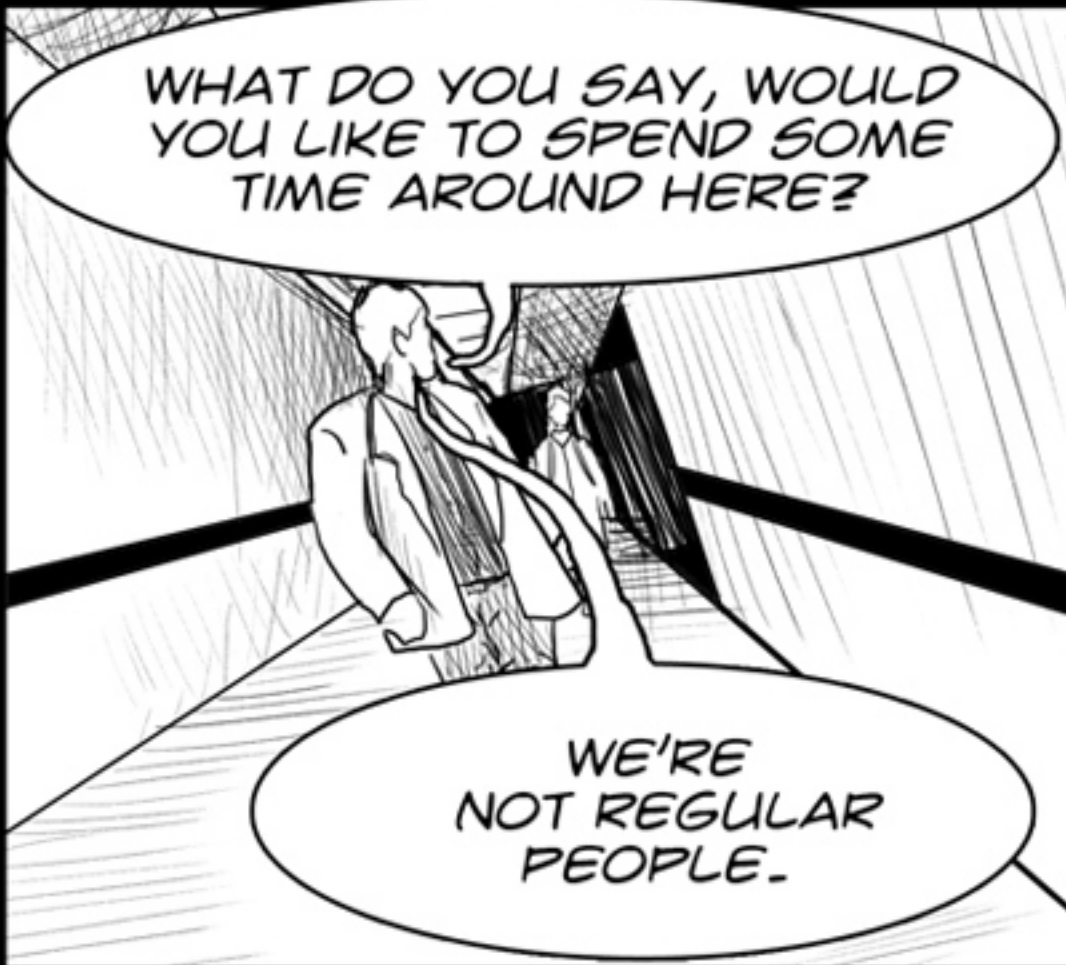
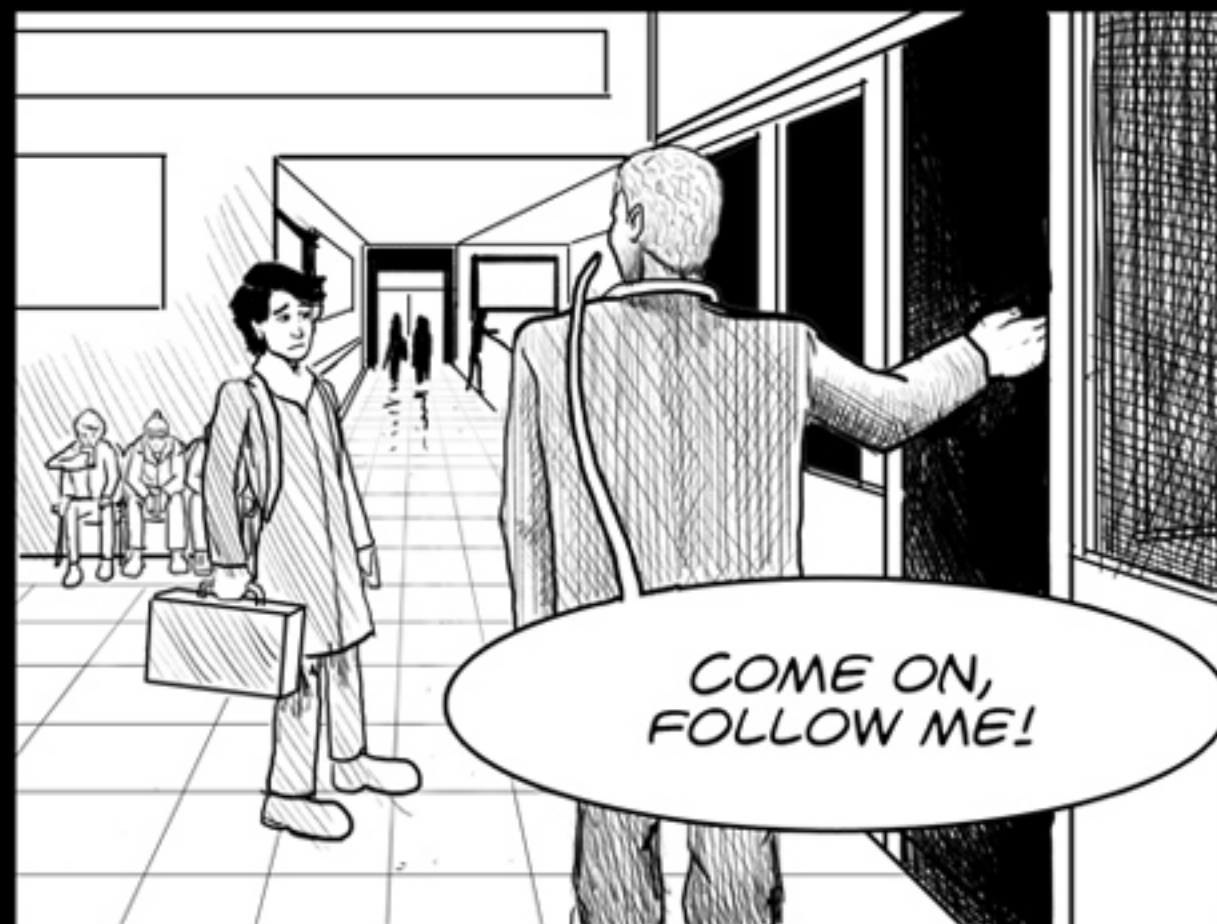
NOT NOW.

YOU KNOW, YOUR  
FATHER TOLD ME  
ONCE THAT YOU WERE  
INTO SOME KIND OF  
TECHNOLOGY.



SOMEDAY  
WE COULD USE  
SOMEONE LIKE YOU  
AROUND HERE.

COULD  
YOU?





OF COURSE,  
THE EQUIPMENT  
IS MUCH MORE  
ADVANCED  
HERE...

... YOU WOULDN'T  
NEED YOURS ANYMORE.  
YOU CAN LEAVE THAT  
HERE... AND USE THE  
GROWN-UP TOYS FROM  
NOW ON.

CAN I?

IT'S UP  
TO YOU.

IT'S NOT UP TO ME. AND NO, YOU'RE NOT REGULAR PEOPLE.

TO BE CONTINUED ON-LINE AT...

## IS WAKEFIELD A PRISONER IN AMSTERDAM?

### New lead in hunt for missing IT consultant

May 9, 2005

A retired private detective is convinced he spotted him in the Dutch city two weeks ago, providing a vital new lead.

The 28-year-old has not been seen since he vanished from his girlfriend's house last year.

The reported sighting has left Roger Wakefield's anguished family and friends desperately hoping this is the breakthrough they need — but worried about what it could mean.

His girlfriend Eleanor Cooper, 24: "Roger didn't tell me much about his work, but as far as I know didn't even know anyone from Holland, he never expressed any interest in going there.

"If Roger is in Amsterdam, he's there because he's been taken against his will. He was never interested in drugs — he was anti-drugs — so that's not why he would be there.

"He would not go there of his own choice. He must have been taken there and now not be able to get back."

Roger's dad Peter, 60, a retired policeman, added: "He has never been to Amsterdam and I can't understand how, if it was him, he was being allowed to wander the streets."



Jun. 1st 2008

### BODY IN WOODS BELIEVED TO BE MISSING MAN FROM 5-YEAR OLD COLD CASE

CLARKSBURG, Md. — Police found remains Tuesday morning that they believe are those of a missing 31-year-old man who disappeared in 2003.

Roger Wakefield, IT consultant, was last seen by his girlfriend on the Papyrus Lakeshore.

Investigators discovered the remains of a caucasian man about 9 a.m. in a wooded area of Montgomery County, Md., after a search that covered 30,000 acres. Montgomery County Police Chief J. William Reyes said officers believe the body is that of Roger Wakefield. The body was found about 50 yards off Maryland Route 121 by a police canine unit.

Authorities began searching for the man after an anonymous information. To complete identification, dna test results are due next week, but body measurements corresponds and former girlfriend Eleanor Cooper was reported being positive about clothes. The autopsy revealed multiple chest wounds as cause of death. Reyes said police believe Roger Wakefield's body has been at the site off Route 121 since last month. "This is not the ending we were hoping for," said Capt. Bruce Spender, a police spokesman. "Everyone involved in this held on to a shred of hope that we would find Wakefield alive."

LYNN, Ma. — Eleanor Cooper, girlfriend of missing man Roger Wakefield, reads a statement at the press conference.

The girlfriend of a young man who has been missing since leaving the Papyrus Lakeshore in January 2003 has made a tearful appeal for information about him. His girlfriend, Eleanor Cooper, 25, told a press conference: "I just want to say how worried we are about Roger. Someone out there must know where he is, as we still believe he's alive."

"This is a terrible time for all of us and we are hoping for his safe return."

Chief Inspector Bruce Spender, of Greater Boston police, said: "For Wakefield not to return home after a night out and not make any contact with friends or family is not only unusual for him, but is something that he has never done before.

"Roger Wakefield doesn't appear to have any reason in his personal life that would indicate that he might want to leave the area."

"Roger's family are extremely worried about him and we are offering them our full support." Papyrus Lake, where police have focused their search, didn't give out any body or sign of it. Spender urged anyone with information to come forward and made a direct appeal to Wakefield. He said: "It is very important that anyone who knows of Roger's whereabouts or of any reason for him to stay away, contacts us."

UE 40 - 60

WED 40 - 60

Jan, 15th 2003

## YOUNG MAN DISAPPEARS

Roger Wakefield, 26, was last seen on January 12th

LYNN, Ma. — Police are searching for a 26-year-old man who allegedly vanished after leaving the lakeshore of Papyrus Lake, this Saturday.

The 26-year-old man, Roger Wakefield, was reportedly last seen by his girlfriend Eleanor, shortly before 10 am, as they met for a walk. The girl said they were having relationship problems. A press release issued by the police describes him as "white, of medium build, with short brown hair and a stubble" and says that "he was last seen wearing a dark leather jacket, light blue shirt, maroon trousers and green wellington boots."


The Herald quotes an officer as saying, "Roger's family are clearly very worried about him and are desperate for any information relating to his whereabouts. We would urge anyone who may have seen him to contact the police. Roger, if you see or hear this appeal, we would ask that you make contact with us or the police as soon as possible." According to the report, anyone with information should call the Greater Boston Police at 555 856 7652.



## GIRLFRIEND APPEALS FOR MISSING MAN LAST SEEN THREE YEARS AGO

Roger Wakefield, now 29 years old, disappeared after a walk on the Papyrus

---THE WAKEFIELD VARIATION, THE WEB-SERIES!  
[WWW.THEWAKEFIELDVARIATION.COM](http://WWW.THEWAKEFIELDVARIATION.COM)



Even Wakefield, the cryptic and restless lead character of the web-series *The Wakefield Variation*, has been a teenage boy.

Who was he before his self-inflicted exile?

Where does his voyeuristic attitude come from?

A casual wiretap is about to drag the young Wakefield in something a lot bigger than him, and here a few details from his past may shed some light on the darkest corners of his future life. Learn more in this original story written by the web-series authors and drawn by Riccardo Iacono from Electric Sheep Comics (*Blood Washing*, *Lunaris*, *Polvere*).

From the internet to the graphic novel, *One Look Behind* is the first trans-media experiment by Effetto Espanso.