

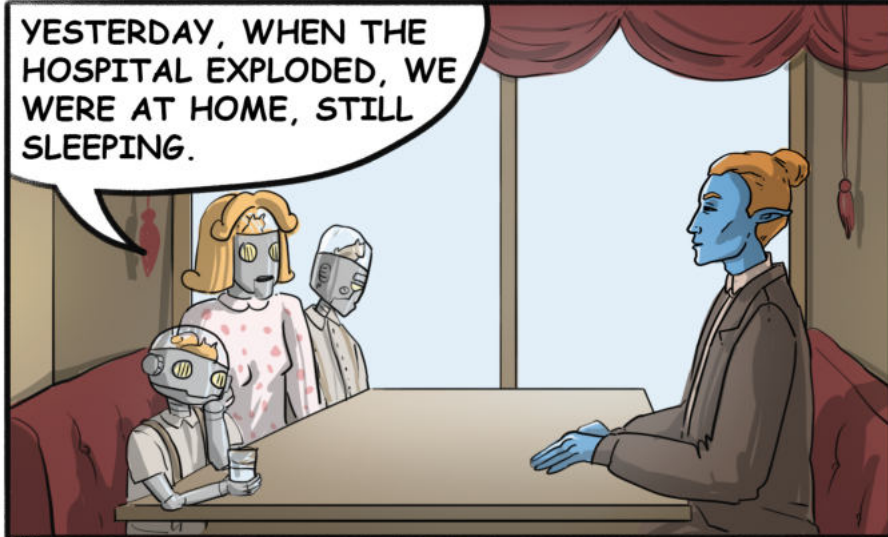
FAMAS

Austin

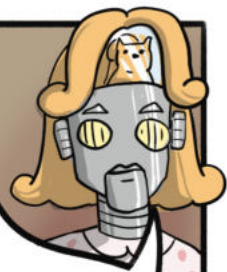


#5

YESTERDAY, WHEN THE HOSPITAL EXPLODED, WE WERE AT HOME, STILL SLEEPING.



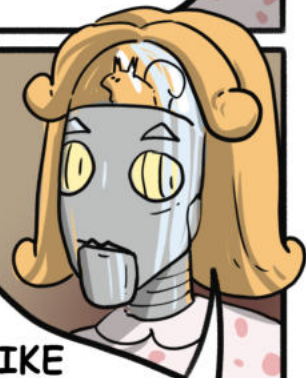
WHEN WE WOKE UP, WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, BUT GLASS FLEW OUT OF THE WINDOWS. THEN A MAN CAME RUNNING, SAID WHAT THE MATTER WAS, AND THAT THEY NEEDED HELP IN CLEARING THE RUBBLE. WE RAN THERE WITH HIM, THE GUYS WERE ORDERED TO STAY AT HOME



AND DID THEY STAY?



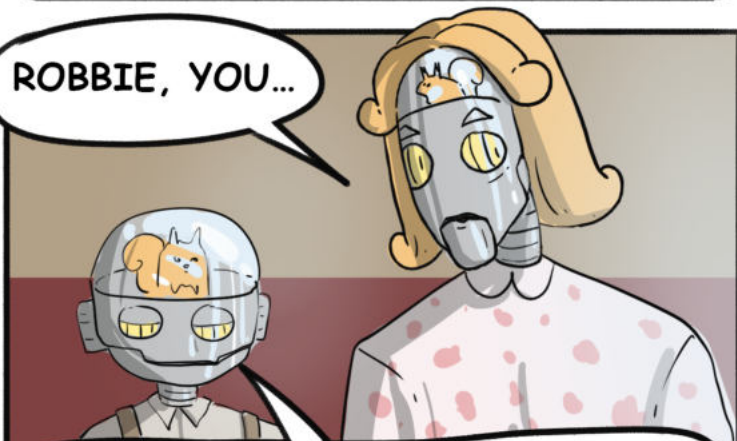
NO, THEY DIDN'T. SHORTLY AFTER WE LEFT, THEY ALSO GATHERED AT THE SITE OF THE EXPLOSION. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT MY CHILDREN ARE POLITE, BUT YOU YOURSELF ALREADY KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT SO. WE SAW ROBBIE YESTERDAY. YEAH, AND SO FAR AWAY. NEAR THE LEATHER FACTORY!



WELL, I WASN'T VERY OBEDIENT AS A KID EITHER. SOMETIMES THIS IS USEFUL. PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THAT MORNING. OR MAYBE EVEN EARLIER. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING OF VALUE.

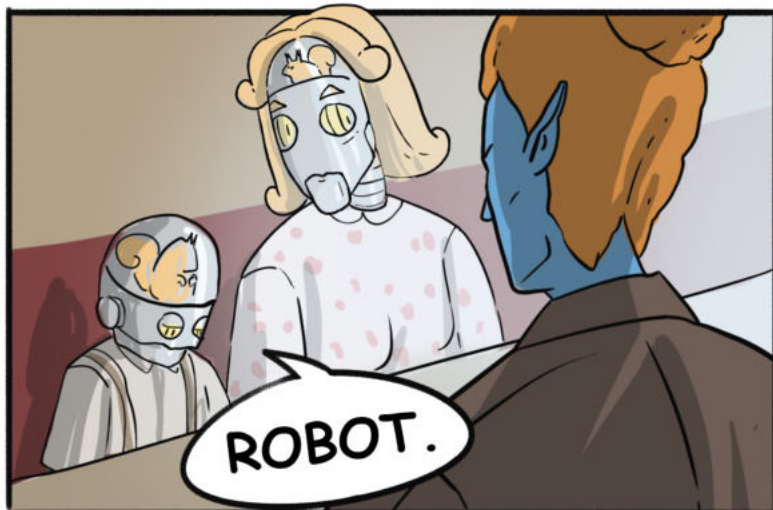


ROBBIE, YOU...

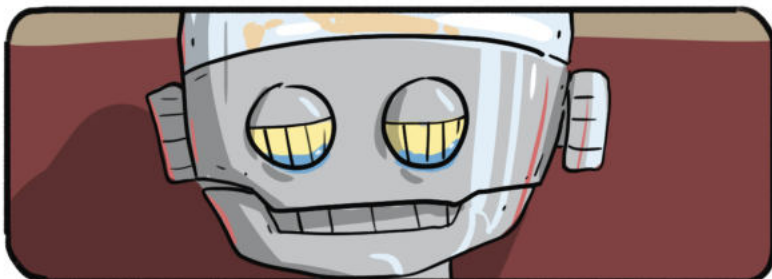


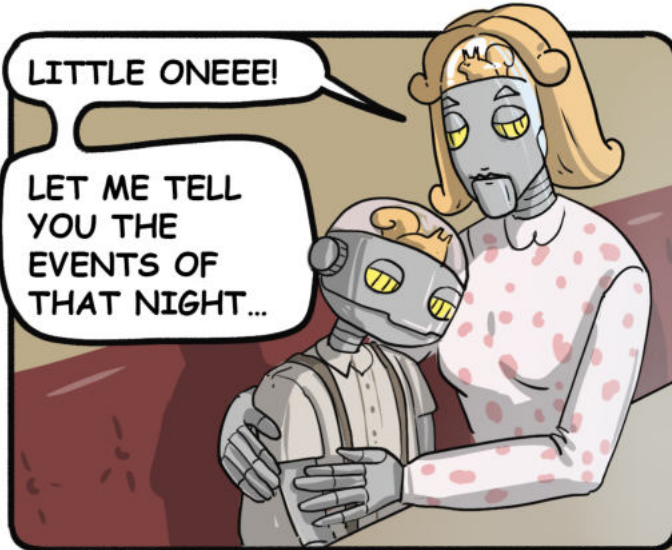
THERE WAS A ROBOT THAT I SAW... THERE WAS A ROBOT THAT I SAW!

ROBOT.



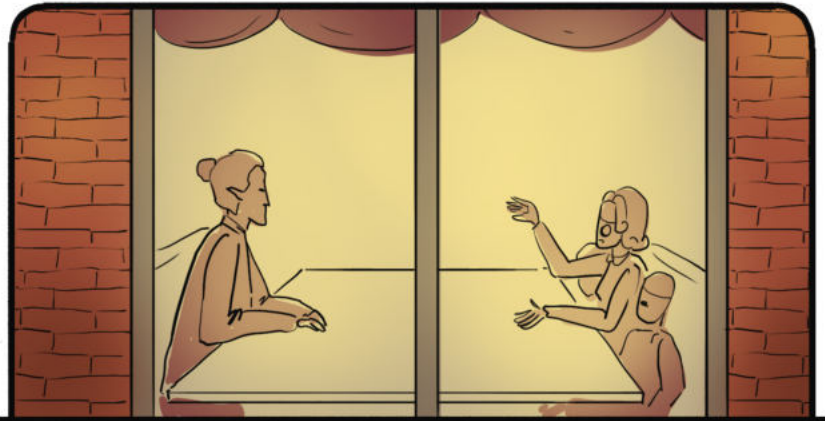
WILL YOU TELL ME?





LITTLE ONEEE!

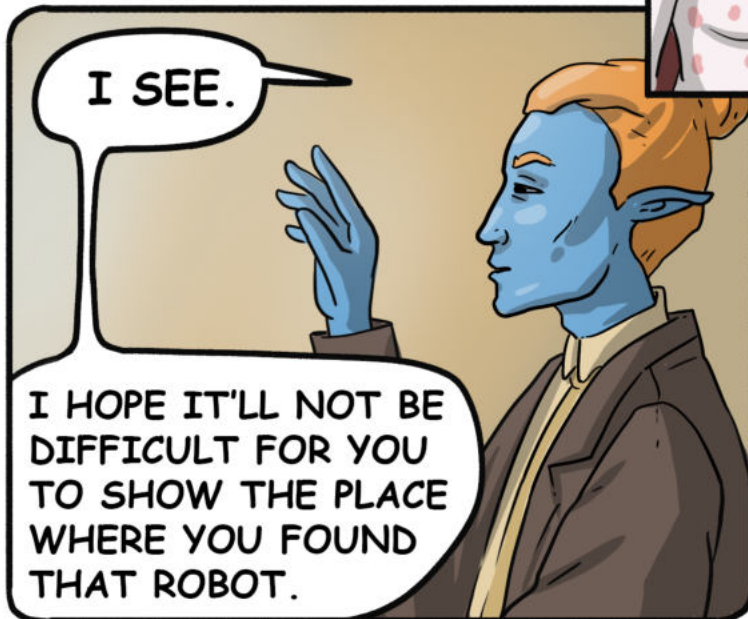
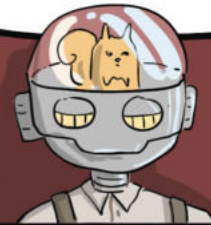
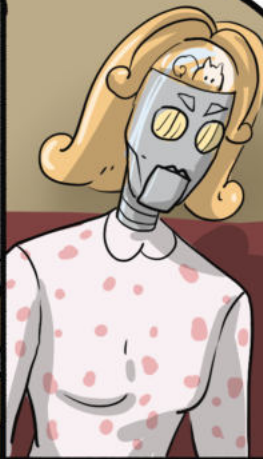
LET ME TELL
YOU THE
EVENTS OF
THAT NIGHT...



BECAUSE IT WAS ROBBIE WHO WAS WANDERING
THE STREETS. AND HANSO WANDERED THROUGH
THE RUBBLE, TRYING TO FIND SOME TREASURE.
AND A SCREW, ALREADY DAMAGED BEFORE,
FLEW OFF FROM THE BONE. IT WAS IN
THE EVENING. AT NIGHT THEY
DECIDED NOT TO GO. THEN IN
THE MORNING I WENT TO WORK.
MY HUSBAND ALSO WENT TO
WORK. FINALLY, WE CAME HERE
TO THE MECHANIC. THERE ARE
NO NEARBY HOSPITALS.



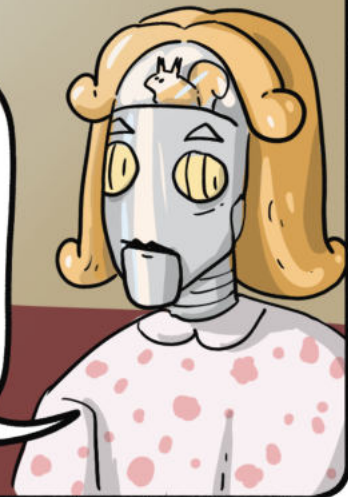
YOU HAVE HAD
AN INCREDIBLE
ADVENTURE.
WHY ARE YOU
HERE TODAY,
HELENA?



I SEE.

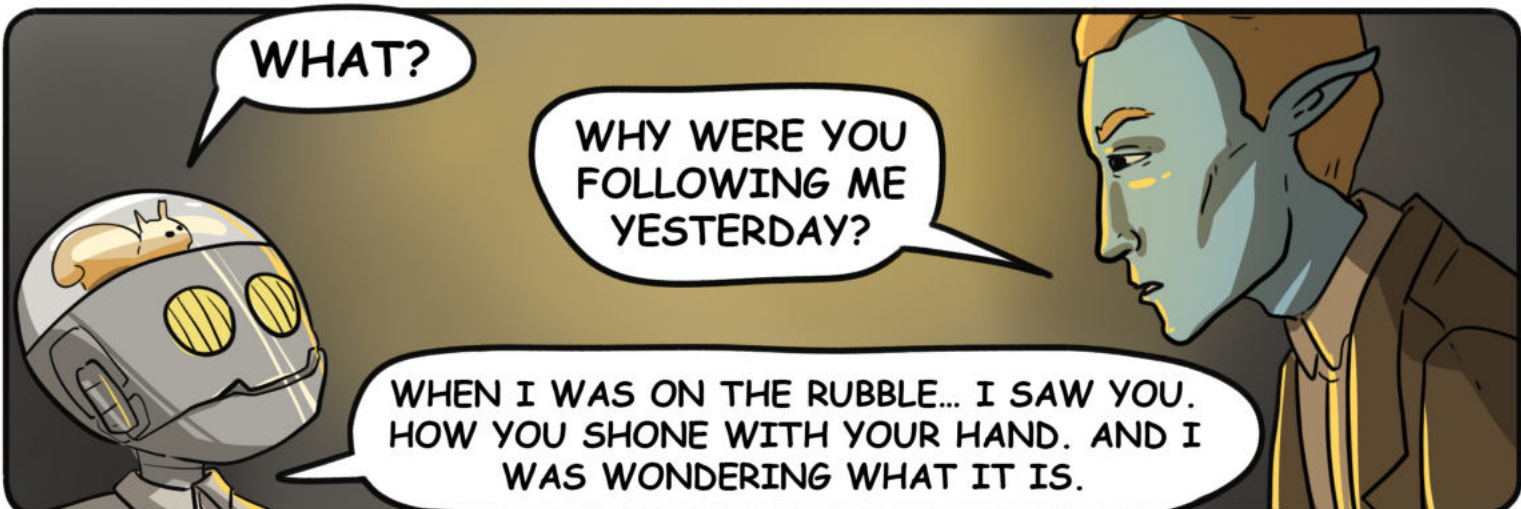
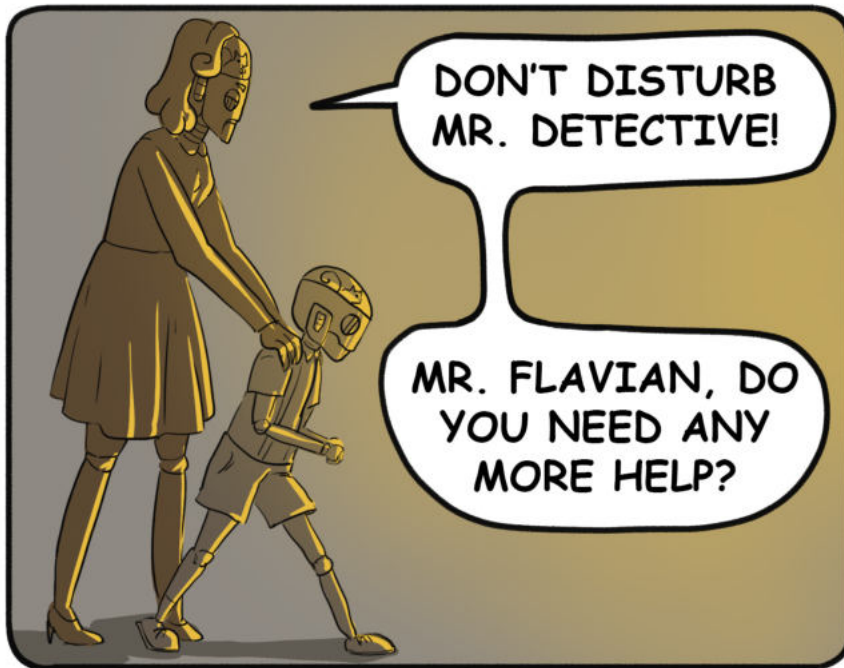
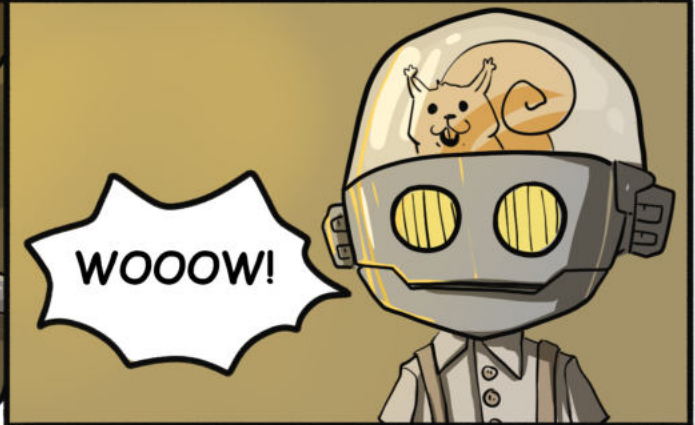
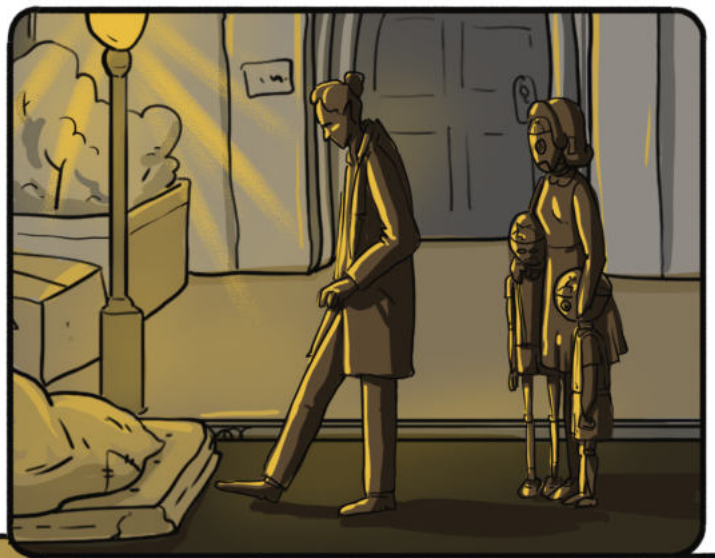
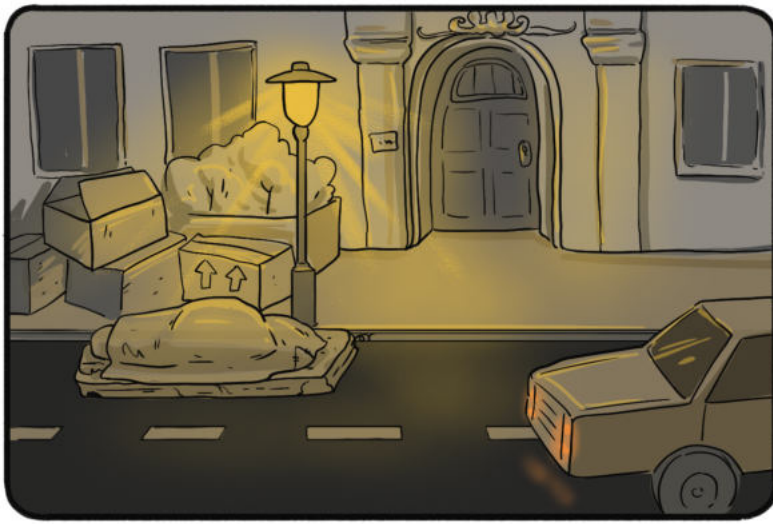
I HOPE IT'LL NOT BE
DIFFICULT FOR YOU
TO SHOW THE PLACE
WHERE YOU FOUND
THAT ROBOT.

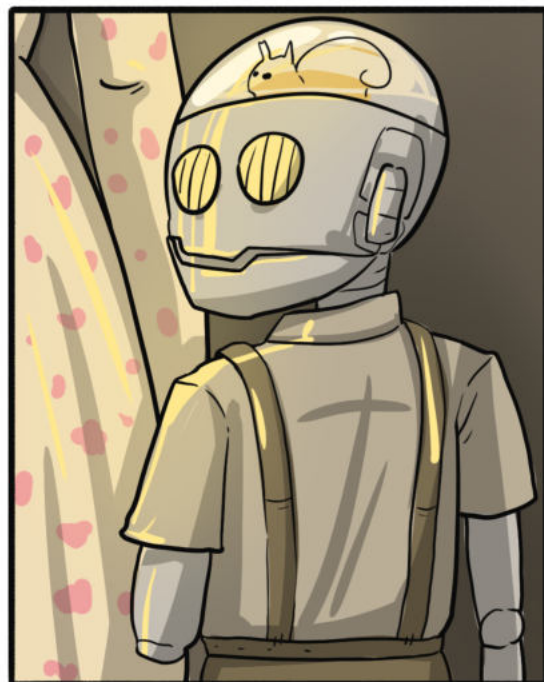
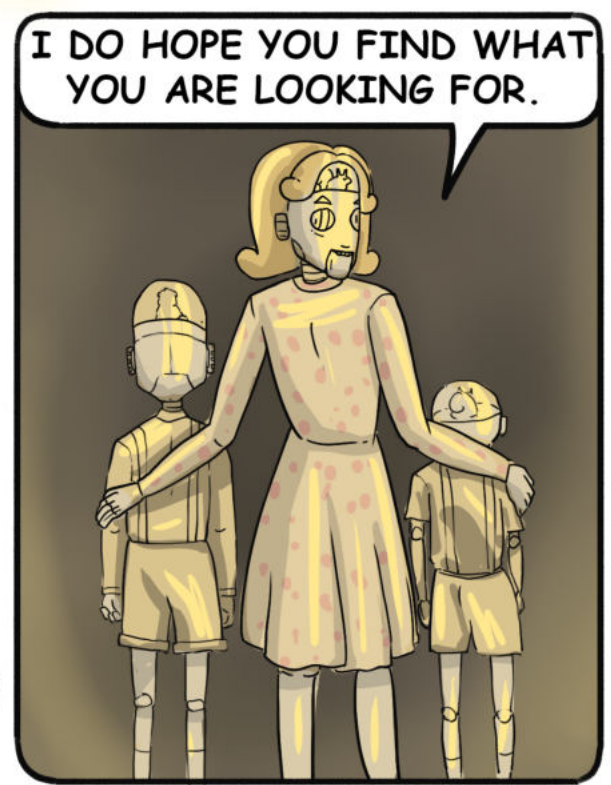
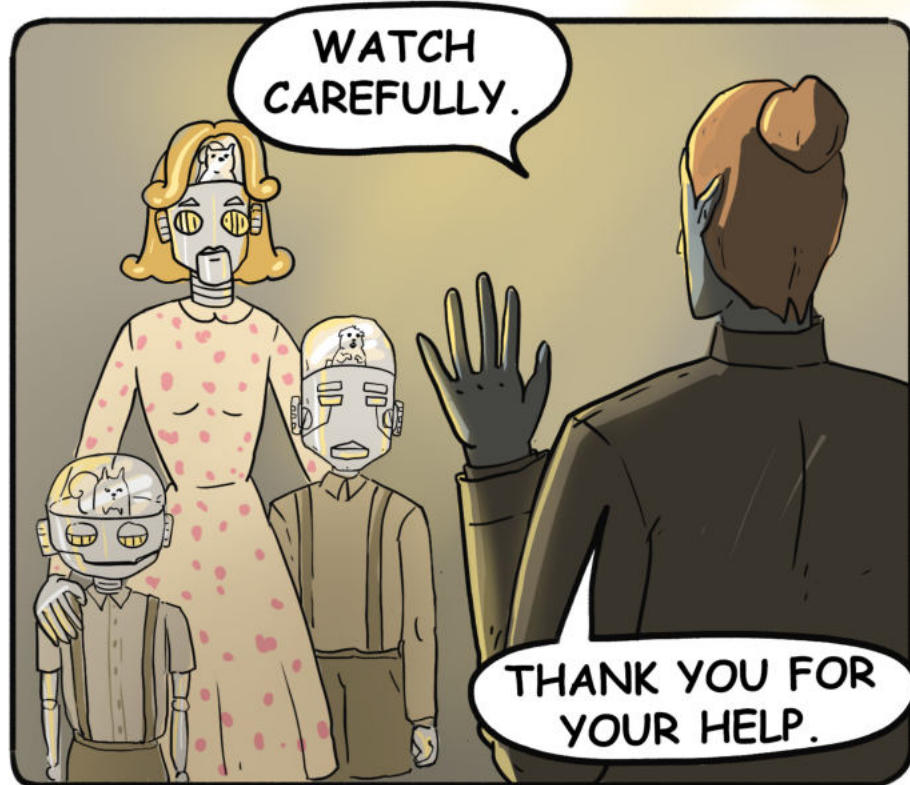
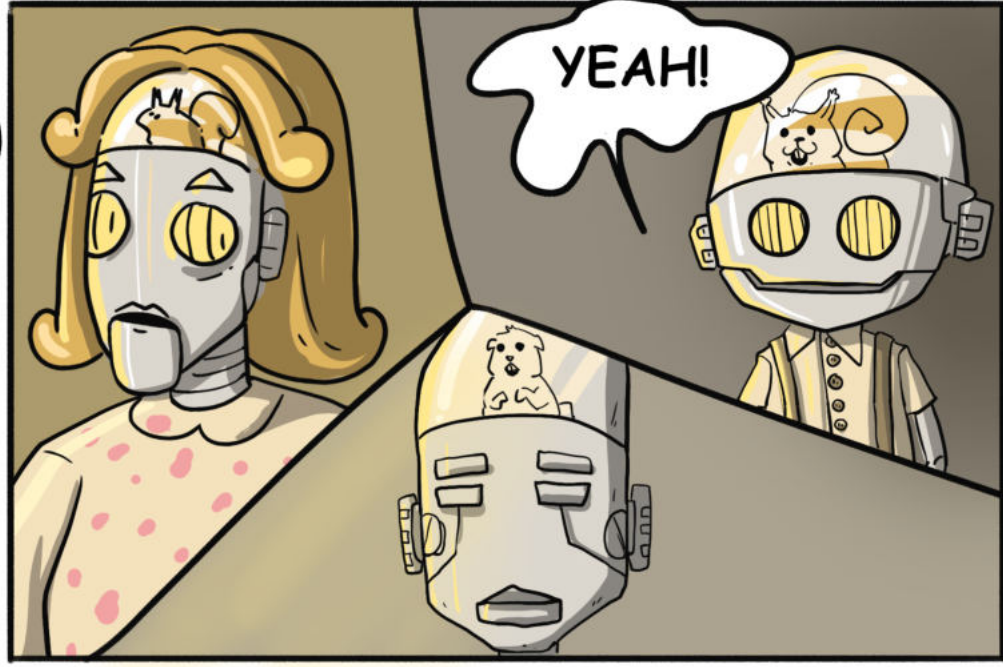
YES, IT'S NOT
HARD FOR ME. WE
ARE GOING BACK
HOME ANYWAY.
DON'T KNOW IF
THE TRAMS ARE
STILL RUNNING...

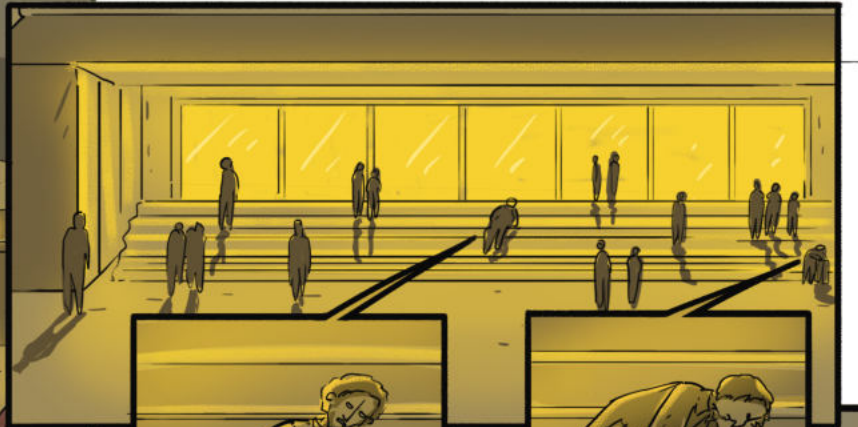


I'LL TAKE A TAXI.

BRING THE
BILL, PLEASE.









I'M WONDERING IF YOU'VE SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. BEFORE THE HOSPITAL EXPLODED. THERE WAS A RUSTY ROBOT ON THE NEXT STREET, HE WAS NOT FEELING WELL. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE YOU KNOW WHO HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL? OR FEELS BAD. ROBOTS, OGRES, OTHER CREATURES? FROM THE LOCALS.



LET ME GO!



IF YOU SAY SOMETHING USEFUL, I'LL GIVE YOU MORE. IF NOT, I'LL TAKE THAT MONEY ALONG WITH YOUR FINGERS. OR HAND. DOES THE RED-HAIRED BITCH EXPLAIN INTELLIGIBLY?



THEY SAY IT WAS ERNEK.

WHO?



THE ROBOT THAT WAS SICK. THAT THEY TOOK HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.



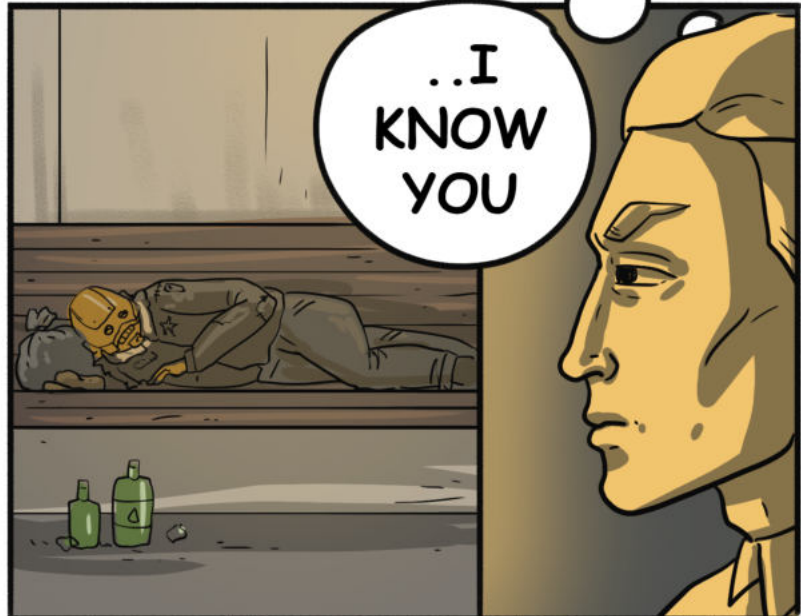
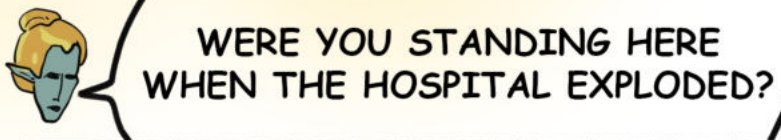
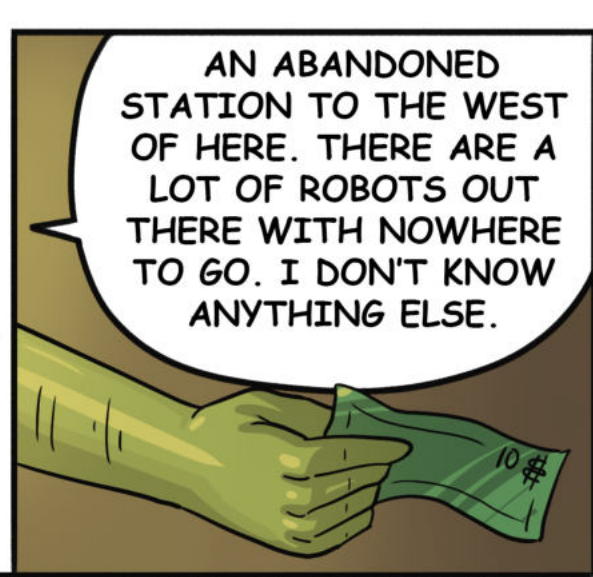
WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW?

THEY SAY HE WAS THE ONE WHO EXPLODED. HE HAD BEEN KICKED OUT BY OTHERS A FEW DAYS BEFORE, HE WAS HANGING AROUND HERE. AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE WAS OUTSIDE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.



I'VE BEEN ON THAT STREET BEFORE. AND WHERE CAN YOU FIND OTHERS? WHO KICKED ERNEK OUT?







AUSTIN, AFTER FORTY YEARS WORKING FOR THE POLICE, YOU ENDED UP LIVING ON THE STREET. HOW COULD IT HAPPEN?



MADE A WRONG MOVE... I'D OFFER YOU A DRINK, BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR THE TROLLS. ONLY A LITTLE MACHINE OIL POURED FROM TANKS.



TELL ME MORE.



JUST BELIEVE ME, THIS TROLL IS SOMETIMES EVEN FURTHER FROM THE POLICE THAN I AM.



AND WHAT ABOUT LENAR? YOU TAUGHT HIM A LOT...



WELL, WHAT ABOUT LENAR? MY WRONG MOVE WAS AGAINST SAMON. I WANTED TO EARN SOME MONEY WITH SOME SMUGGLERS. NEVERTHELESS, IT TURNED OUT THAT THEY BYPASSED HIM. AND HE DID NOT PUT ME IN PRISON JUST BECAUSE THEN, DURING THE WAR OF THE FIFTH-EIGHTH, I WAS CLEARLY ON HIS SIDE. HOWEVER, THEY FIRED ME FROM THE POLICE AND DID NOT TAKE ME ANYWHERE AT ALL. WELL, WHERE CAN THEY TAKE A ROBOT WITHOUT AN ARM? THE WIFE AND THE BABY WENT SOMEWHERE, THE HOUSE WAS TAKEN AWAY FOR DEBTS. YEAH, YOU COULD PUT IT LIKE THAT. LENAR WOULD NOT HAVE RISKED HIS POSITION FOR MY SAKE. YES, BEING IN HIS PLACE, NO ONE WOULD DO THIS. IT'S MY OWN FAULT, AS I COULDN'T SIT QUIETLY UNTIL RETIREMENT.

IT'S A PITY THAT IT HAPPENED THIS WAY.



COME ON, FLAVIAN. I REMEMBER YOU AS A GOOD KID. BUT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THAT I DON'T LIKE PITY.



I DO REMEMBER IT. THEREFORE, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS A ROBOT HERE AND THEY KICKED HIM OUT. ERNEK.



WELL, WAS. I HEARD THAT HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION.

YEAH. AND I THINK HE LED TO IT. BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW YET. NO ROBOT HAS ENOUGH ENERGY TO BLOW SUCH A LARGE BUILDING. WHY WAS HE KICKED OUT?



BECAUSE HE GOT SICK WITH SOME KIND OF INFECTION. AS HE WENT TO BED, SOMETHING IN HIM BEGAN TO CLICK. TWO DAYS. AND HE STARTED TO RUST IN A STRANGE WAY. AND IN GENERAL... HE BEHAVED OUTSIDE THE BOX. THE PEOPLE GOT EXCITED AND KICKED HIM OUT OF HERE. THERE ARE SO MANY OF US HERE... THERE ARE CHILDREN. THEY SAID THEY COULD COME BACK AS SOON AS THEY GOT BETTER. BUT THEN THEY WERE RIGHT...



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "BEHAVE OUT OF THE BOX"?



A LITTLE, YOU KNOW... NOT NORMAL. HE SEEMED TO SEE SOMETHING STRANGE, HE WAS TALKING TO HIMSELF. THAT IS, THERE ARE ENOUGH ECCENTRICS AND EVEN A LITTLE CRAZY HERE... BUT WITH ERNEK, EVERYTHING STARTED VERY QUICKLY. THAT TICKING, RUST ON IT, MUMBLING. IN SHORT, HE SCARED EVERYONE. THE GUYS MADE HIM TAKE HIS BELONGINGS AND KICKED HIM OUT.

WHAT DID HE MUTTER?



NOBODY LISTENED TO HIM CAREFULLY. INDEED, FLAVIAN, I DON'T KNOW. YOU MUST SEE THAT I AM TELLING THE TRUTH. YOU'RE A FREAK TOO.

I DON'T KNOW A SINGLE NORMAL PERSON IN THIS CITY. AND WHERE DID ERNEK GO BEFORE HE STARTED CLATTERING? DO YOU KNOW IF HE'S SEEN ANYONE STRANGE?



WELL, NO ONE IS WAITING FOR ANYONE HERE. HE USED TO BEG FROM LOCAL FACTORIES AND ROBOT SHOPS. THEY COULD GIVE HIM FUEL THERE.



I SEE. DID HE HAVE A PET?

YEAH. BUT NOT IN THE HEAD, BUT HIDDEN IN A CAPSULE IN THE CHEST. AND... (SUDDENLY) WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAD A BAD TIME TOO WHEN HE GOT SICK. IT WAS A MOUSE. IT SQUEALED VERY PITIFULLY. IT ALSO ANNOYED EVERYONE.





AND WHAT ABOUT YOURS?

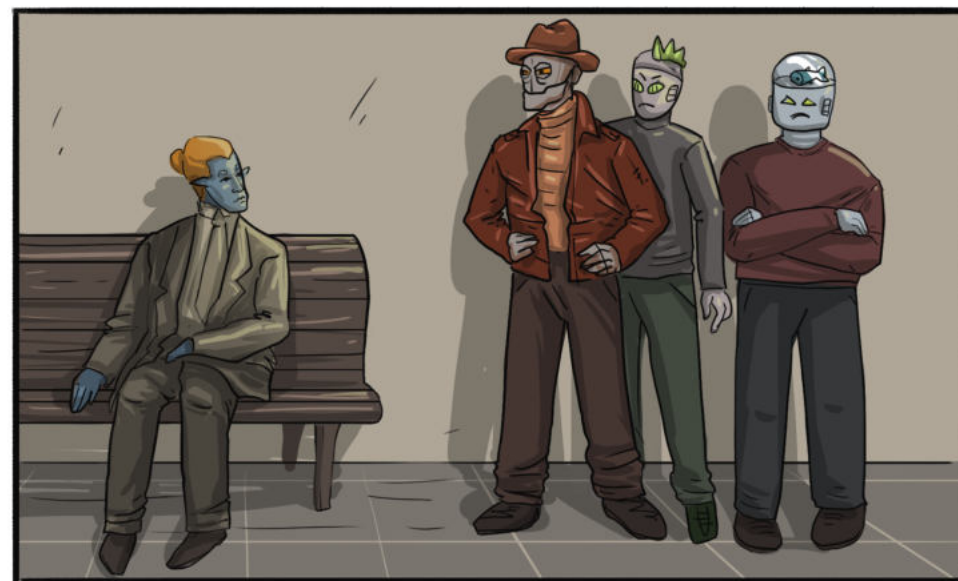
EVERYTHING IS FINE. IN PRINCIPLE, IT DOES NOT HAPPEN THAT WE VERY RARELY EAT ANYTHING, WE HAVE STRENGTH. YOU KNOW, AT THIS STATION, AN EX-COP IS SOMETIMES NEEDED ENOUGH TO GET SOME GAS AND OIL FOR IT.



WILL YOU LET ME CHECK YOU OUT? LOOKS LIKE I FOUND THE REMAINS OF ERNEK AND THEY WERE... WELL, THEY WERE COVERED IN A STRANGE COATING. I CAN SEE IF YOU HAVE ONE TOO.



THERE IS NOTHING FOR YOU TO CHECK HERE.

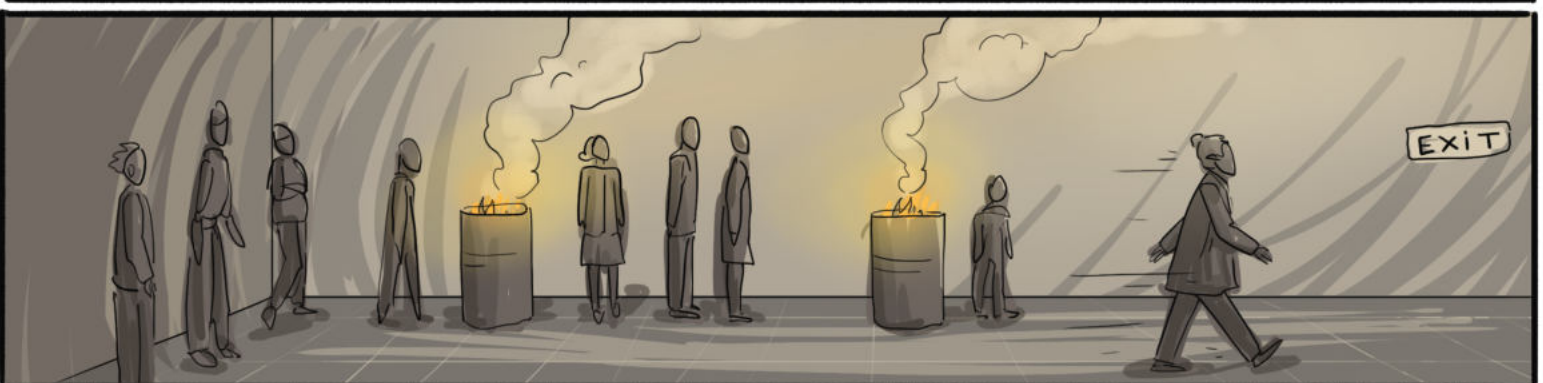


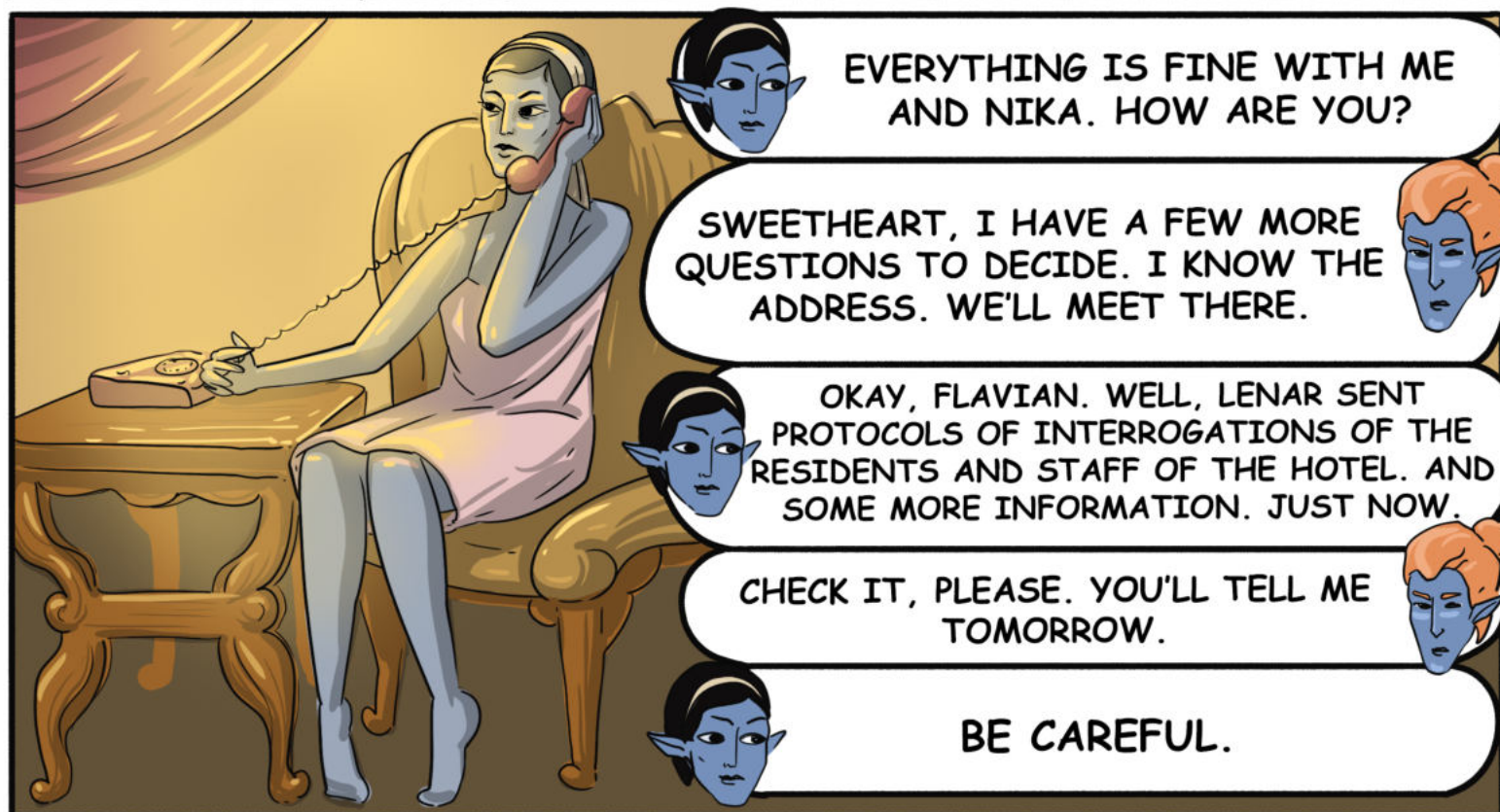
EVERYONE IS HEALTHY HERE. AND THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR AUDIENCES. GET OUT OF HERE.



HAROLD, CALM DOWN. I HAVE KNOWN THIS TROLL FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

DON'T WORRY, AUSTIN. I'M ON MY WAY.







WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I SENT MY SUBORDINATE WITH REPORTS TO THE HOTEL, AND HE CALLED ME TO SAY THAT YOU WERE NOT THERE.

I DIDN'T COME TO STAY AT THE HOTEL.

DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?

I DO NOT KNOW YET. YOU SHOULD SET SURVEILLANCE FOR AN ABANDONED RAILWAY STATION LOCATED TO THE WEST OF THE MAIN STATION. HOMELESS ROBOTS HANG OUT THERE. I'M ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A YOUNG MAN NAMED HAROLD. JUST WATCH THEM OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. JUST TAKE PEOPLE OUT WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

...
IS THIS THE STATION WHERE AUSTIN LIVES?

OH, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

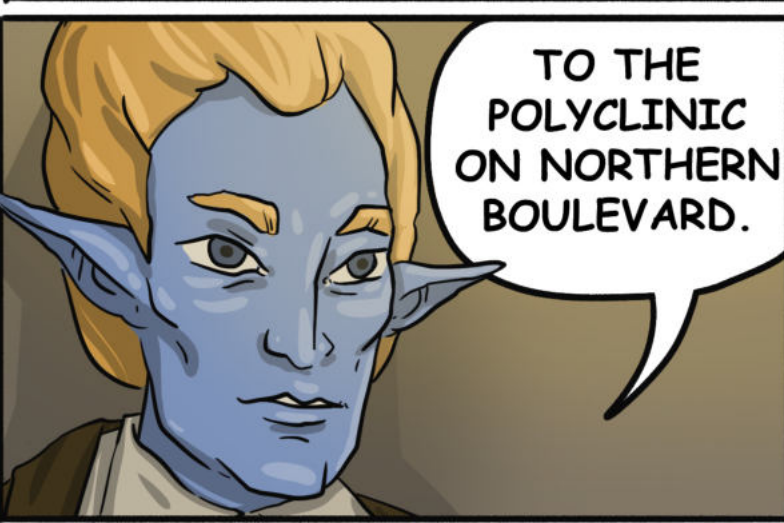
OF COURSE, I KNOW. DO YOU THINK THAT AT LEAST SOMEONE WHO HAD DEALINGS WITH THE POLICE OR THE AUTHORITIES IS FORGOTTEN? WE'LL BE WATCHING.

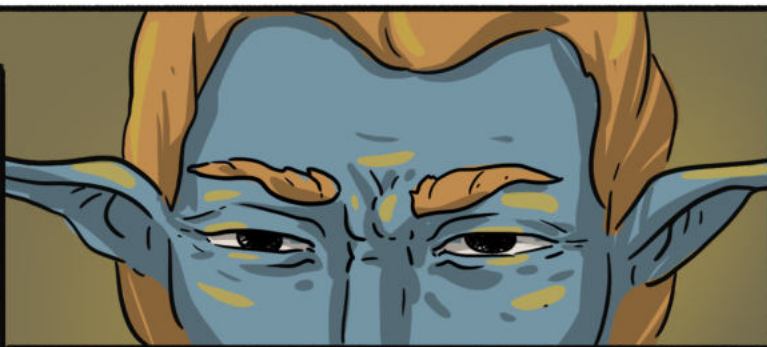
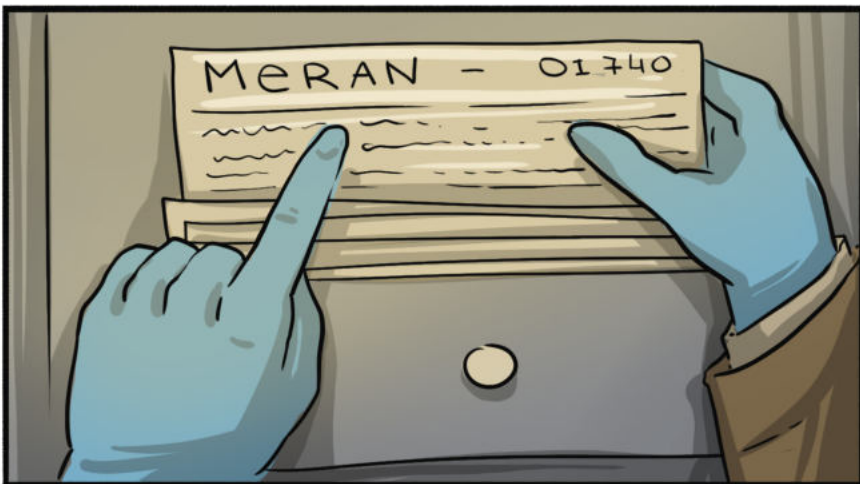
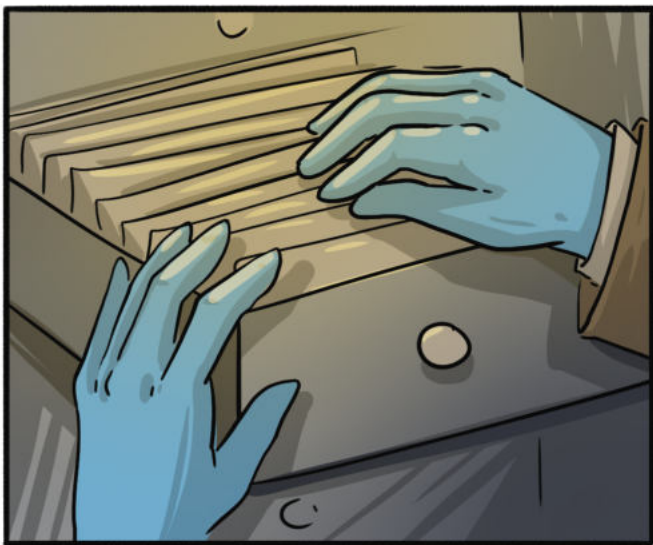
THANK YOU. DO YOU KNOW HOW MERAN FEELS?

HE IS STILL ALIVE.

THIS IS GOOD.









TO BE CONTINUED...

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