

NATHAN SHAFER WINTERMOOT

BOOK EIGHT: SLACK TIDES, ANOTHER TIME
TROLL CAT AND MILK RABBIT



ICE LEVELS LEVELS THREE + FOUR
[MATANUSKA GLACIER + EXIT GLACIER]



SHARED
UNIVERSE



WINTERMOOT BOOK EIGHT | SLACK TIDES, ANOTHER TIME:
"TROLL CAT AND MILK RABBIT"

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NATHAN SHAFER
STORY BY NATHAN SHAFER AND JOELLE HOWALD
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY JOSHUA MEDSKER

EXCERPTS FROM "THE EXPLOITS AND OPINIONS OF DR. FAUSTROLL, 'PATAPHYSICIAN" BY ALFRED JARRY. ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN 1898.



TROLL CAT:
OTHER NAMES: UNKNOWN
POWER ORIGINS: CYBERINGIA, LACTOVERSE

FORMER FAMILIAR OF THE ORIGINAL WINTERKILL MANAGER WHO WAS CORRUPTED BY THE CYBERGOD OF DISRUPTION. TILBERI POWERS FROM THE LACTOVERSE. WHICH WERE AUGMENTED BY CYBERINGIAN IMPLANTS.



MILK RABBIT (PICTURED):
OTHER NAMES: UNKNOWN
POWER ORIGINS: CYBERINGIA, LACTOVERSE

LAGOMORPHIC SHAPESHIFTER AND FORMER FAMILIAR OF THE ORIGINAL WINTERKILL MANAGER WHO WAS CORRUPTED BY THE CYBERGOD OF DISRUPTION. TILBERI POWERS FROM THE LACTOVERSE. WHICH WERE AUGMENTED BY CYBERINGIAN IMPLANTS.



STEVEPUNK:
OTHER NAMES: ASHLEY WATANABE, ASH, MOUNTAIN ASH
POWER ORIGINS: PLASMAVERSE

A JAPANESE-AMERICAN TEENAGER WITH PLASMAVERSE POWERS. DAUGHTER OF MAGNETOTAL. RECENTLY FOUND OUT SHE HAS PLASMAVERSE POWERS WHEN HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND TAYLOR AND HER DISCOVERED THEIR MOTHER'S SECRET HIDEOUT WHILE HANGING OUT AROUND THE ROWANBERRY TREE IN THEIR TRAILER PARK, WHERE IT WAS REVEALED THAT HER MOTHER WAS PART OF THE INFAMOUS SLACK TIDE DUO.



TUVANAUT:
OTHER NAMES: TAYLOR
POWER ORIGINS: CRYOVERSE

A LINGIT/YUP'IK TEENAGER WITH CRYOVERSE POWERS. SON OF NUNATAK. RECENTLY FOUND OUT HE HAS CRYOVERSE POWERS WHEN HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND ASHLEY AND HIM DISCOVERED THEIR MOTHER'S SECRET HIDEOUT WHILE HANGING OUT AROUND THE ROWANBERRY TREE IN THEIR TRAILER PARK, WHERE IT WAS REVEALED THAT HIS MOTHER WAS PART OF THE INFAMOUS SLACK TIDE DUO.



WINTERMOOT BOOK EIGHT
SLACK TIDES, ANOTHER TIME
FIRST PRINTING | APRIL 2024

ALASKAN STORYTELLING:
ALASKA, ALASKAN STORIES, SCIENCE FICTION,
ALASKAN SCIENCE FICTION, ALASKAN FANTASY

DIGITAL HUMANITIES, AUGMENTED REALITY

SOCIAL PRACTICE COMIC BOOK MAKING

'PATAPHYSICS, U.A.P. SWARMING BEHAVIOR,
SASQUATCH STUDIES, BOSSE-DE-NAGE

First Printing: 2024. Luk'ae Tse' Taas Shared Universe | Ughayatnu (Anchorage, Alaska) <http://wintermoot.com> | Copyright Nathan Shafer. 2024

WINTERMOOT

A 'PATAPHYSICAL HUG OF RAYGUN GOTHIC FAMILIARS



THE LUK'AE TSE' TAAS SHARED UNIVERSE GROUP IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT SUPPORTED BY THE BUNNELL STREET ARTS CENTER IN HOMER, ALASKA. IT IS ALSO FUNDED IN PART BY CREATIVE CAPITAL AND SPONSORED IN PART BY THE CIRI FOUNDATION.

CULTURAL CONSULTANTS ON THE SERIES: MELISSA SHAGINOFF, DIMI MACH-ERAS, RICHARD PERRY, DAVID KARABELNIKOFF, CALEB BOURGEOIS, ANGELA YATLIN GONZALEZ, AARON LEGGETT, AND LESLIE KIMIKO WARD.
SERIES EDITORS: JOELLE HOWALD, ISAAC BOATRIGHT, MARTIN SCHULTZ, KATHRYN REIMAN, JOSHUA MEDSKER
"SLACK TIDES, NUNATAK, MAGNETOTAL, TUVANAUT, STEVEPUNK" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER, LESLIE KIMIKO WARD, RICHARD PERRY AND BENJAMIN SCHLEIFMAN.
"MS. MAGPIE" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND SAMUEL JOHNS.
"THE SUBNEVEAN MISTRESS" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND JOELLE HOWALD.
"ARCTIC CITY" AND "DRAPED VALLEY" CREATED BY FREI OTTO.
"SEWARD'S SUCCESS" CREATED BY TANDY INDUSTRIES.
"DENALI CITY AND DRIGIBLES FOR DENALI" CREATED BY MIKE GRAVEL AND PAT POURCHOT.
"CYBERINGIA" IS DERIVED FROM DOUGLAS RUSKOFF'S "CYBERIA"

MANY THANKS TO: ANCHORAGE MUSEUM, CREATIVE CAPITAL, BUNNELL STREET ARTS CENTER, CIRI FOUNDATION, WRITER'S BLOCK BOOKSTORE, ALASKAN ROBOTICS, ALASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK, BOSCO'S COMICS, THE ALASKA LIBRARY NETWORK, AND THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS
SOME
AUGMENTED REALITY

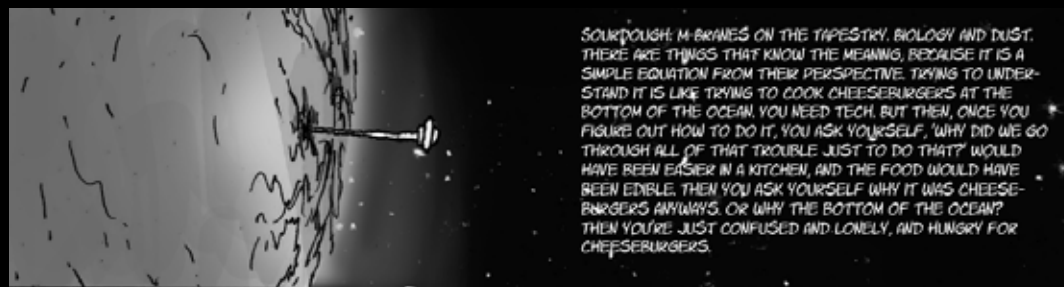
LEVEL UP BY SCANNING THE
QR CODE BELOW IN EYEJACK!



PREVIOUSLY IN WINTERMOOT:
[BOOK SIX: SOCIALISTS AND PIONEERS]



PREVIOUSLY IN WINTERMOOT:
[BOOK TWO: SOURDOUGH AND ARÊTE]



TIME_TRAVEL COLLECTIVE <THE THIN UBU LINE> INVADES ALASKA VIA STAGED U.A.P. EVENT OUTSIDE SEWARD'S SUCCESS, CLAIM THIS IS THEIR 'LA JETÉE' MOMENT, GOVERNOR DAVENPORT SPEAKS AFTER HIS LANDSLIDE REELECTION:

FROM THE COOK INLET PIONEER ONLINE, AFTER THE EVENT:

THEY SAY THEY ARE TIME-TRAVELERS, HERE TO PROTECT THE POLICE FROM PROTESTORS, CLAIM THE PROTESTORS BECOME A TERRORIST GROUP IN THE YEAR 2067 CALLED THE 'MASALA'.

THE THIN UBU LINE
FROM THEIR MANIFESTO:

"WHEN WE ARE AWAKE, WE ARE NOT DREAMING. THERE IS A THIN LINE OF UBIQ GESTATION THAT KEEPS US FROM BECOMING THE CUCK-PUPPETS OF THE WORLD. WE ARE A NATION OF CHOCOLATE MILK DRINKERS, UNDERNEATH CLOTHES THAT SMELL OF FABRIC SOFTENER AND RECENT KETCHUP. AND IN THE FUTURE, IT ONLY GETS WORSE. IN THE FUTURE WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PART MACHINE. MOTORIZED. EYES THAT SHOOT LASERS. HEAT BEAMS. GRAVITY BLASTS. WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE MOON. MARS. ENCELADUS. SOMETHING. THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ALL-NEW DIOGENES, MARINETTIS, YUKON JACKS, SKOOKUM CHUCKS. SPACE AGE ABSURDIST. THE PEOPLE WHO NARUTO RUN INTO THE GREAT UNKNOWN AND COME BACK HOLDING UNFATHOMABLE NIGHTMARES IN THEIR HANDS LIKE SCRAMBLED EGGS."

IT GOES ON LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE. ANYWAYS, SO, ALIENS FINALLY VISIT EARTH, AND THEY WERE ALREADY ALLIES WITH THE THIN UBU LINE, WHO ARE BASICALLY SELF-PROCLAIMED TIME-TRAVELING ABSURDO-FASCISTS WHO CLAIM THEY TRIED TO INITIATE A TECHNOLOGICAL SINGULARITY BACK IN 1994 THAT NOBODY SEEMS TO REMEMBER. IT DIDN'T WORK OUT I GUESS, OR MAYBE IT DID. I DON'T KNOW, UP IS DOWN RIGHT NOW.

HERE IS ANOTHER QUOTE FROM THEIR MANIFESTO:

"WE ARE THE THIN UBU LINE. WE ARE FROM THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THIS IS OUR 'LA JETÉE' MOMENT. MEMORIES ARE SCARS LEFT ON OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES. WE REMEMBER ALASKA AS IT WAS WHEN THE DOMES WERE BUILT. WE WERE THERE, BACK THEN, ON THE PRECIPICE OF A NORTH TO THE FUTURE WORLD, AND WE WITNESSED OUR OWN DEATH, AT THE HANDS OF THAT WAKING MIXTURE, THE MASALA. THIS IS THE BANE OF THE TIME-TRAVELER, WITNESSING THE END AT THE BEGINNING. WE WILL NOT FAULTER AGAINST THIS EVENTUALITY. THIS IS AN ENDING FOR ANOTHER TIME. OUR COLLECTIVE SPEED AND STRENGTH WILL ONCE AGAIN ROAM FREE ON A NEW ALASKA."

FROM GOVERNOR ORION DAVENPORT'S REELECTION SPEECH:

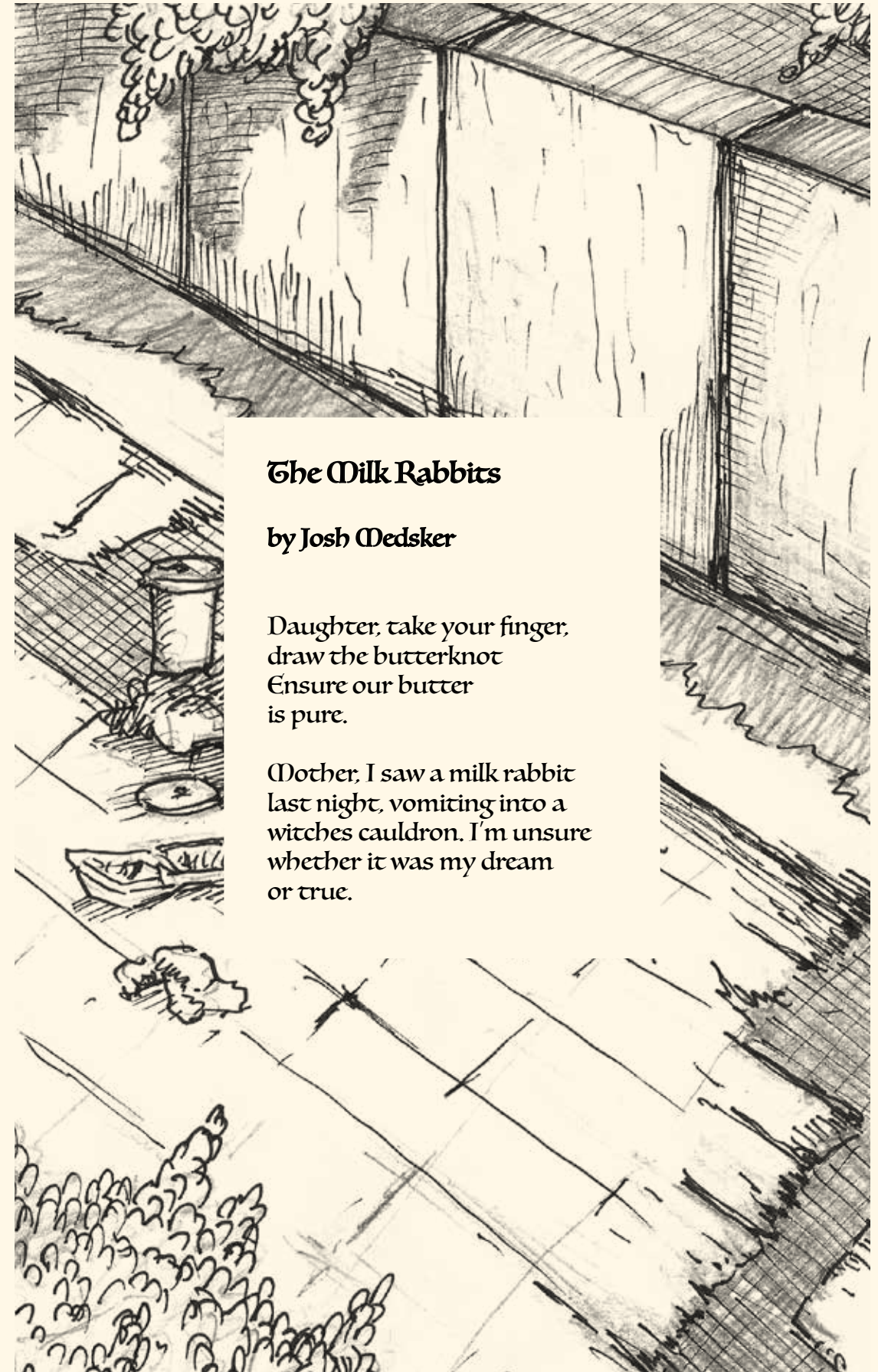
ONCE AGAIN ALASKA, VISITORS FROM ANOTHER WORLD HAVE COME TO OUR HOME. THIS TIME THEY HAVE COME BOTH IN PEACE AND AS A WARNING TO US. THEY ARE HERE TO HELP US. TO SAVE US FROM OURSELVES. FOR YEARS THE WAKING MIXTURE OF UNREPENTANT TOLERANCE, OPEN BORDERS, AND THE LIBERAL ELITE - HAVE BEEN PLAGUING OUR SOCIETY WITH AN ENDLESS ONSLAUGHT OF PARENTAL PAMPERING AND HELICOPTER ACCEPTANCE OF EVERYONE WHO REFUSES TO ASSIMILATE AND ADHERE TO BASIC AMERICAN VALUES. THESE EXTRATERRESTRIALS, TOGETHER WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM THE FUTURE, THE THIN UBU LINE, ARE HERE TO HELP WALK US INTO THE PROPER FUTURE. I AM THEIR AMBASSADOR. THEIR ALASKAN EMISSARY.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR GUESTS TO ALASKA. WORK WITH THEM. SHARE WITH THEM. WE ARE ONLY AS FREE AS WE ARE WILLING TO RAGE AGAINST THE WOKENESS UNDER THE COVER OF THE NIGHT. WE NEED TO EXPOSE THE MONSTERS UNDER OUR BEDS, IN OUR HOMES, SCHOOLS AND PLACES OF BUSINESS. SOME OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY AND NEED TO BE DRAGGED OUT INTO THE LIGHT OF JESUS, OF PEACE AND FREEDOM. I, FOR ONE, AM THANKFUL TO GOD THAT WE HAVE FINALLY BEEN SHOWN A PATH INTO THE FUTURE, A FUTURE FREE OF THE INSOMNIA OF THIS CANCEROUS WAKING SLEEP.

FROM Q + A WITH Q'AHGHAL'AY:

OF COURSE THE 'PROTESTORS' THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT ARE PRIMES FROM THE TSICOE SDE', WHO ARE IN A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE AGAINST NEFARIOUS FORCES SUCH AS THE THIN UBU LINE.

-- Q'AHGHAL'AY, AKA THE MYSTERIOUS MS. MAGPIE



The Milk Rabbits

by Josh Medsker

Daughter, take your finger,
draw the butterknot
Ensure our butter
is pure.

Mother, I saw a milk rabbit
last night, vomiting into a
witches cauldron. I'm unsure
whether it was my dream
or true.

Space Elevator
to Some Thermopause

WINTERMOOT

Anchorage

Arctic City

Kotzebue

Knik Arm

Seward's
Success

Cook Inlet

OKAY, SO, IT ALL STARTED WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP. THIS WAS SEWARD'S SUCCESS IN 1978. AFTER ALL THE DOMES WENT UP. IT WAS WAVE AFTER WAVE OF IMMIGRANTS WHO STARTED SHOWING UP. SOME ILLEGAL ALIENS. RIGHT?

SOMEWHERE IN CYBERINGIA ...

NONE OF THEM EVEN ATTEMPTING TO LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH, AND WITH THEM CAME CRIME. WE ENDED UP JUST SETTING ASIDE ONE OF THE AGRICULTURAL DOMES FOR THEM.

BUT THEY KEPT GETTING INTO OUR CITIES. WASN'T ENOUGH FOR THEM TO JUST STAY IN THEIRS.

SO, WE HAD TO START WALKING THE STREETS. THERE WAS SOME COLLEGE PROFESSOR WAS WITH US BACK THEN. REAL SMART FELLA. SAMUEL APPLEBOTTOM. WE CALLED HIM DR. SYZYGY. HE WAS THE ONE WHO NAMED US THE HYPERBOREAN GUARD.

VANILLA EAGLE

IT WAS NEVER CALLED THE THIN UBU LINE.

YOU BOYS READY TO ORDER?

CORRECT. DR. SYZYGY SAID WE WOULD GO BY THE HYPERBOREAN GUARD.

HE WAS THE ONE THAT GOT US POWERS AND STUFF.

OLINE

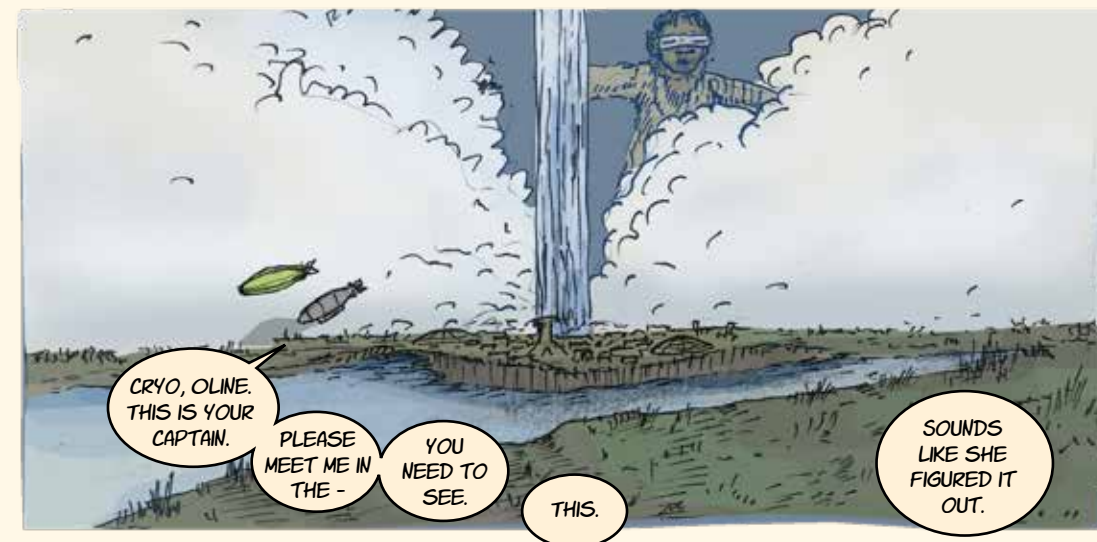
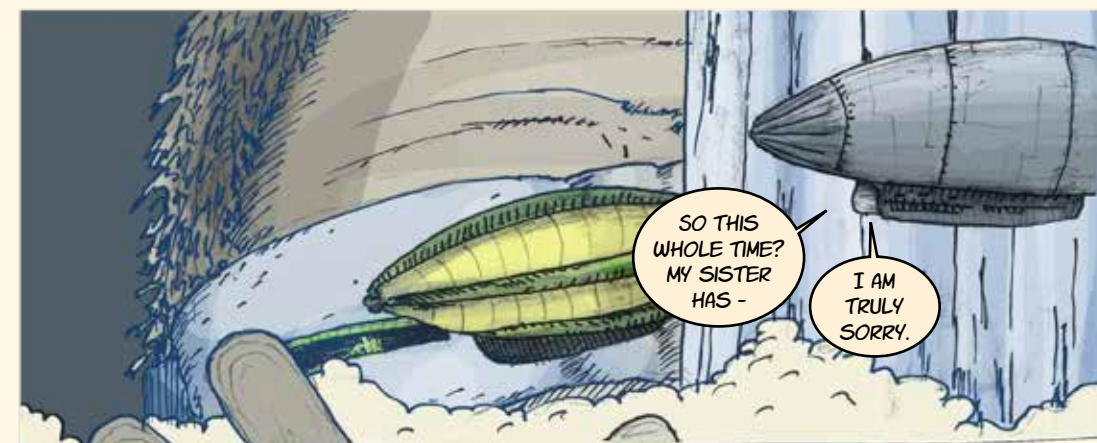
WE'LL DO THIS LATER.

THE HYPERBOREAN GUARD?

MASTER ROOK

[SEWARD'S SUCCESS, ALASKA]
[MULTIDIMENSIONAL EVENT]
[DURING GOVERNOR DAVENPORT'S SPEECH]

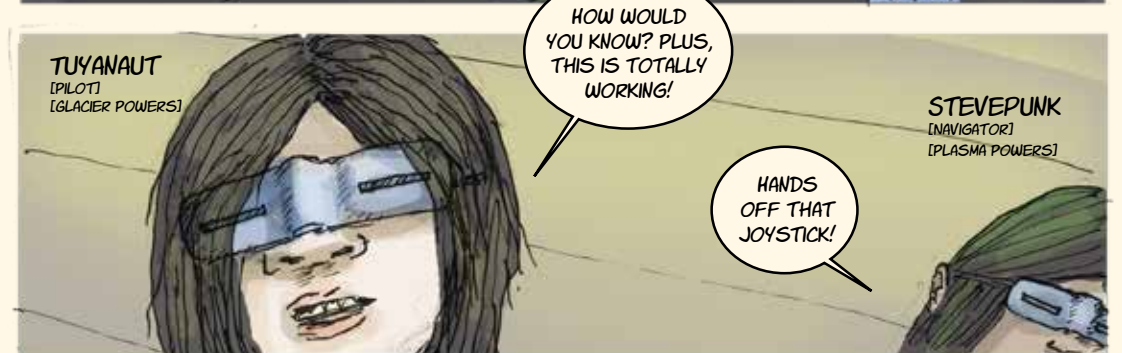
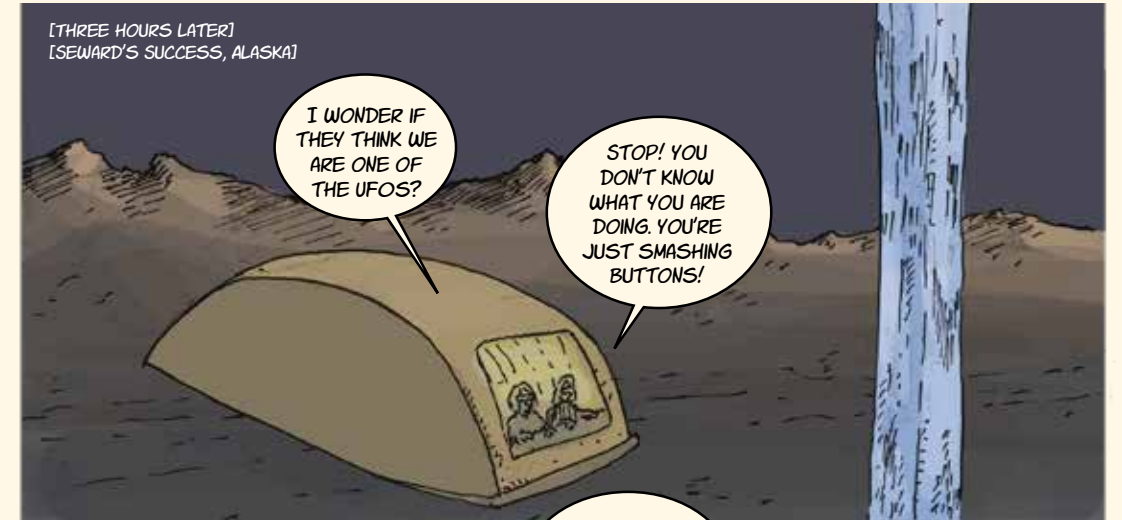
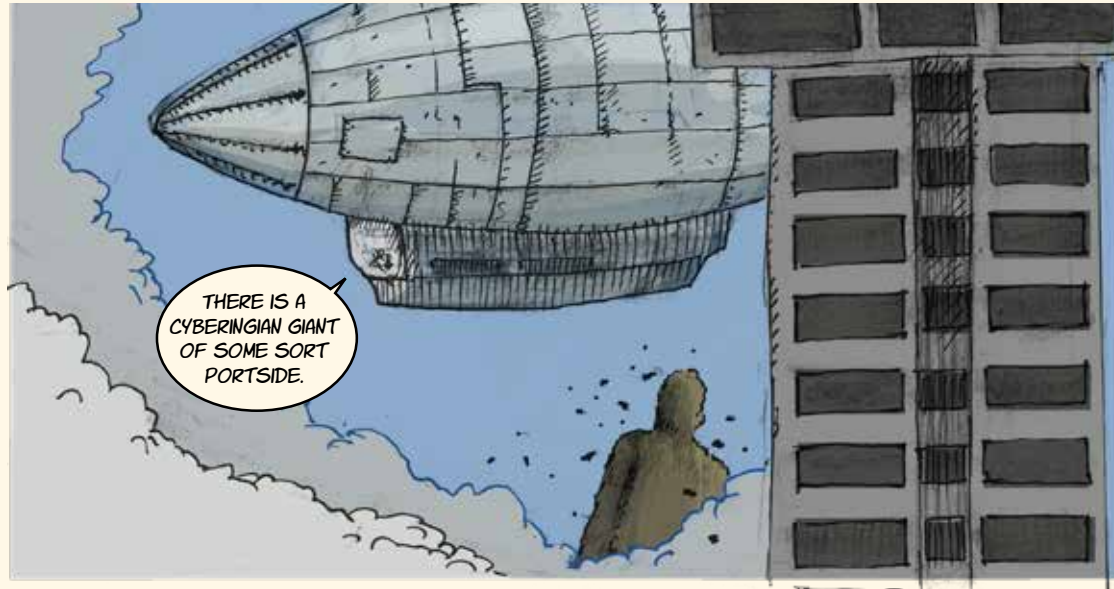
CONTINUED ADVENTURES OF
THE CREW OF THE NELVANA

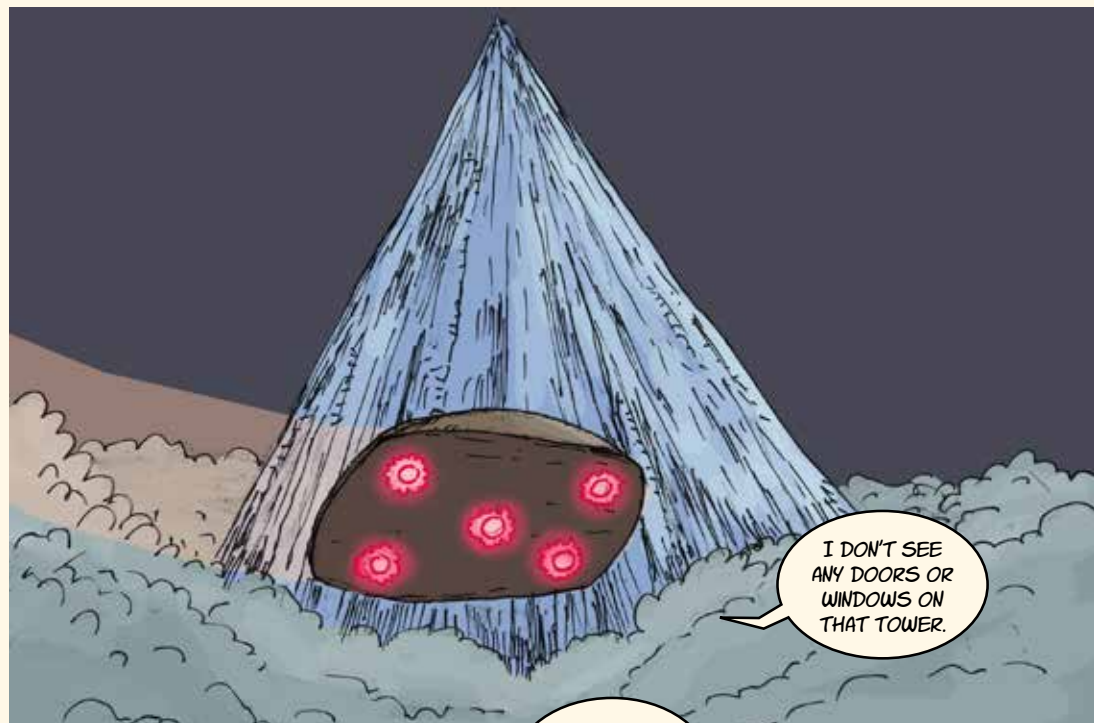


SLACK TIDES, ANOTHER TIME: TROLL CAT AND MILK RABBIT

BEING THE FOURTH BOOK
OF THE SLACK TIDES TALES:

"THAT ONE TIME WE FOUGHT TWO FASCIST DORKS IN SPANDEX WHO COULD PROJECTILE VOMIT MILK AND TURN INTO HAIRBALLS"





I DON'T SEE
ANY DOORS OR
WINDOWS ON
THAT TOWER.

BOSSE-DE-NAGE
WAS A DOGFACED
BABOON...

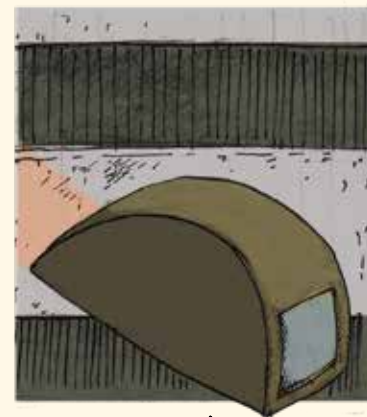
LESS ECTO-
THAN LACTO-
CEPHALOUS.

[20TH FLOOR, PETROLEUM CENTER]
[SEWARD'S SUCCESS, ALASKA]



MILK RABBIT

TROLL CAT



IT IS
PROBABLY ONE
OF THOSE TURN
AROUND THREE
TIMES DOORS.

WE JUST
GOTTA FIND A
SPOT TO LAND
THIS THING.



BUT
MORE OFTEN
HE ENUNCIATED A
TAUTOLOGICAL
MONOSYLLABLE.



"HA HA," HE
SAID IN FRENCH,
AND HE ADDED
NOTHING
MORE.

HA
HA.





HELLO PIGGIES.



TROLL CAT AND MILK RABBIT HERE.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOUR HUGS.



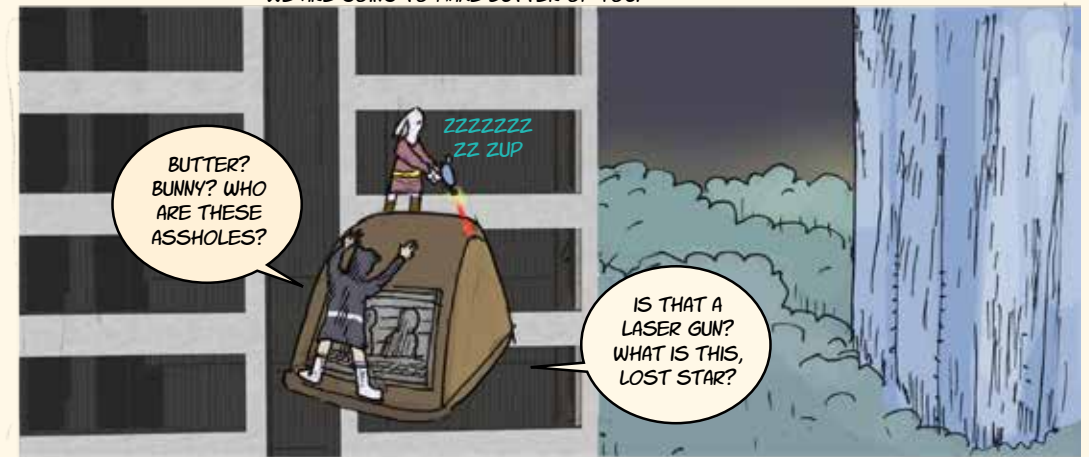
AAAAGGHH!!
WHAT IS THAT
SOUND?

I CAN
HEAR HIM IN
MY HEAD!!

THERE ARE TWO OF US LITTLE PIGGY.

I'M THE ONE WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A BUNNY.

WE ARE GOING TO MAKE BUTTER OF YOU.



BUTTER?
BUNNY? WHO
ARE THESE
ASSHOLES?

ZZZZZZZZ
ZZ ZUP

IS THAT A
LASER GUN?
WHAT IS THIS,
LOST STAR?

YOU KIDS ARE DUMB AS CACK.



I AM LOSING
CONTROL! WE
ARE GONNA HIT
THE MALL!

THE SOUND YOU MAKE WHEN YOU CRASH INTO A BUILDING AND BURST YOUR FLESH.



ASH!! I'M
FRIGGIN'
BLEEDING!

YOU ALSO COMPLETELY SUCK AT THIS.



IT'S
REALLY
BAD.

I'M
GOING
CRYO -

TRY AND
STOP THE
BLOOD.

THIS ONLY STARTS WITH YOUR BLOOD. IT ENDS WITH YOUR BREATH.



IF YOU MOPEY KIDS ARE QUITE THROUGH. WE WOULD LIKE TO EAT YOU.

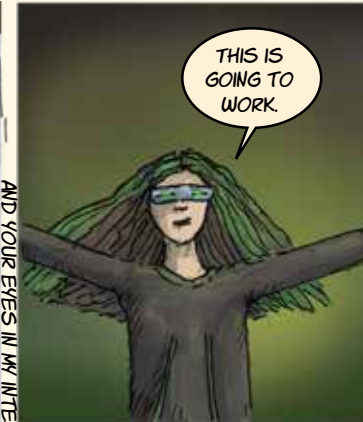
JUST A SEC! COMING OUT IN A FEW BAD GUYS!



IF YOU POP, POWER IN THE CITY WILL GO OUT!

JUST TRUST ME TAY.

EVENUALLY WE WILL GET IN.



THIS IS GOING TO WORK.

AND YOUR EYES IN MY INTESTINES.

YOU CAN'T HIDE IN THERE ALL DAY.

COMING!

YOU GUYS READY TO GO?



AND EAT YOU ALIVE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT THE LIGHTS ARE OUT. IT DOESN'T MATTER YOU JUST KILLED US.



WE SEE BETTER AFTER DEATH AND IN THE DARK.

"I FIND HIM MENTIONED IN MY FLUVIAL MAP AS THE ISLE OF CACK."



NO NO NO!



I CAN ALREADY TASTE YOUR TOES.



NO NO NO!

YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP LONG.



THEY ARE SWEATY AND UNWASHED. JUST HOW I LIKE THEM. WIGGLING.

PIGGIES. ALL OF THEM.

SUCKLING PIGGIES.

"ONLY HIS BRAIN -- AND THE ANTERIOR MOTOR CENTERS OF THE MEDULLA -- ARE DEAD."



I MEAN, TECHNICALLY WE CAN CALL IT MILK, AS IT WAS MILK AT ONE POINT. BUT IT IS SO MUCH MORE NOW.

I FOUND OUT WHY HE CALLS HIMSELF MILK RABBIT.

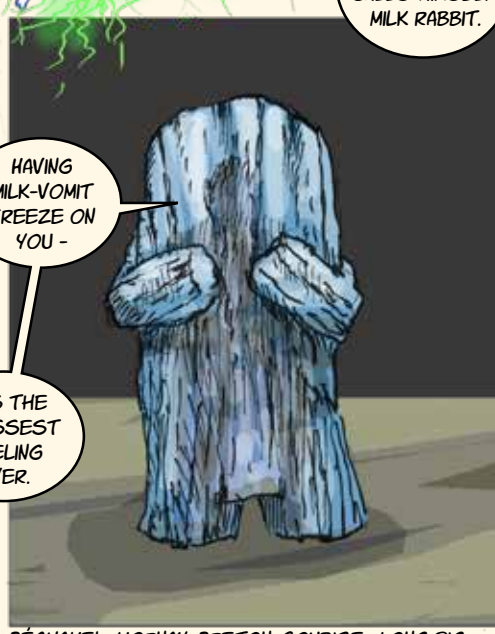


WHAT'S UP WITH MR. KIT-TENS THEN? BECAUSE -

HAVING MILK-VOMIT FREEZE ON YOU -

IT IS THE GROSSEST FEELING EVER.

MOTHER SAUCE, MORE ACCURATELY.



BÉCHAMEL, MORNAY, BRETON, SOUBISE. LONG PIG.

IT ISN'T MILK, IT IS ANECTOPLASMIC NON-MAMMARY DAIRY EMINATION.

MOTHER SAUCES, DAUGHTER SAUCES, WHATEVER. DAUGHTER, TAKE YOUR FINGER, DRAW THE BUTTERKNOT. ENSURE THE BUTTER IS PURE.

"THE LIGHTHOUSE NOURISHES ITSELF UPON THE PURE MATTER WHICH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISLE OF CACK."

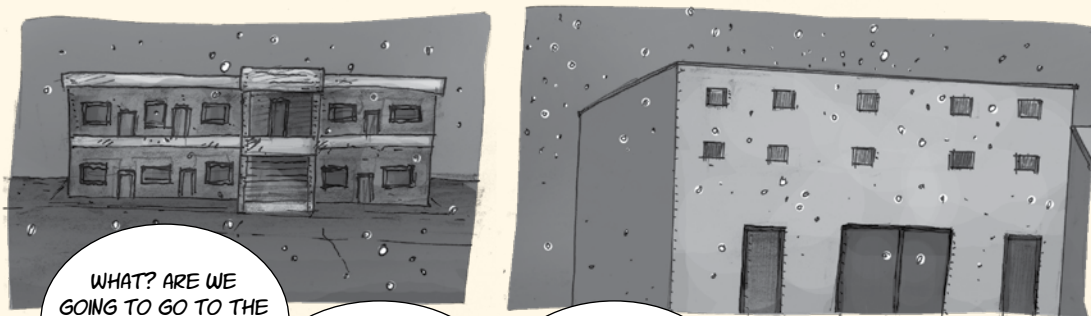


WHATEVER DUDE, JUST QUIT SPRAYING ME WITH IT.

THERE ARE MORE PARTS TO THIS STORY, BUT THEY DON'T REALLY MATTER RIGHT NOW. TROLL CAT AND MILK RABBIT TURN INTO GIANT HAIRBALLS. STEVEPUNK AND TUYANAUT EVENTUALLY GET AWAY. ANYWAYS, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE FIGHT. . .

HOLLANDAISE, BÉARNAISE, FOYOT, COLBERT, PALOISE, CHORON, MOUSELUNE, BANAROSE, SAUCE AU VIN BLANC.

[MULDOON]
[ARE YOU SURE] IN WINTERMOOT:
[WINTERMOOT BOOK FIVE: SLACK TIDES]



WHAT? ARE WE
GOING TO GO TO THE
HOSPITAL? THINK IT
THROUGH DUDE.

THEY ARE
LOOKING FOR US.
THAT IS THE FIRST
PLACE THEY
WILL GO.

BUT NO ONE
KNOWS WHERE WE
ARE. NO ONE KNOWS
ABOUT OUR HIDE-
OUT, TAY-JAY.

WE AREN'T
ARÊTE OR MAGPIE.
WE ARE ASHLEY AND
TAYLOR, JUST A COU-
PLE OF BROODY
TEENS.

TROLL CAT
AND MILK RABBIT
(NOT PICTURED)



THE LAST
TIME WE TRIED THIS
THOUGH, THE CITY
LOST POWER FOR
HOURS. ASH...

THOSE GUYS
TURNED INTO
GIANT HAIRBALLS
AND SMELLED LIKE
SPOILED MILK.

TROLL CAT
AND MILK RABBIT
ARE A COUPLE OF
DICKS.

YEAH,
THEY SUCK
TRUCK NUTS.

BUT, I GOT A
BETTER GRIP ON MY
POWERS NOW. WILL
CAUTERIZE IT. THEN YOU
WILL HAVE ANOTHER
BADASS SCAR!

Seward's Success

"The Twenty-First Century City"

Illustrations from the original city proposal for
Seward's Success by Tandy Industries.

NOTE: WINTERMOOT EVOLVED OUT OF WORK THAT ENDED UP GETTING CUT FROM
THE ORIGINAL DIRIGIBLES OF DENALI PROJECT, INCLUDING THE AR VIDEOGAME
'CHEECHAKO WIZARD SUICIDE RUNNERS' WHICH INTRODUCED AGPIK.

[SOME EXTRAS]

[MOSTLY FROM DIRIGIBLES OF DENALI]
[AS THE NEXT BOOK IS A DIRIGIBLES OF DENALI STORY]
[ENDING WITH A CYBERINGIAN SIMULACRUM]



Plate 3. Aerial Tramway entering reception lobby of Alaskan Petroleum Center of Seward's Success



Plate 4. Seward's Success commercial mall