



LUK'AE TSE' TAAS COMICS & SHARED UNIVERSE

COSMIC  
LATTE

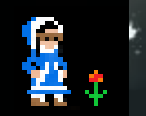
# WINTERMOOT

SLACK TIDES | SIDE ONE | NUNATAK AND MAGNETOTAIL



NATHAN SHAFER

SHARED  
UNIVERSE





ART BY NATHAN SHAFER

STORY BY NATHAN SHAFER, BENJAMIN SCHLEIFMAN, LESLIE KIMIKO WARD AND RICHARD PERRY



**NUNATAK:**

OTHER NAMES: REBECCA GRAHAM, BECKY  
POWER ORIGINS: CRYOVERSE

A TLINGIT/YUPIK WOMAN WITH CRYOVERSE POWERS, FUTURE MOTHER OF TUYANAUT. BECKY AND HER CHILDHOOD PAL, HANA, DISCOVERED THEY HAD POWERS WHEN THEIR TEACHER, MS. VIDALIA SHOWED THEM HOW TO TRAVEL USING ROWANBERRIES NEAR THEIR HOUSE. THEY FORMED THE SLACK TIDE DUO AND HAVE BEEN BATTLING SUPERNATURAL FORCES IN ALASKA FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS, MOSTLY WHILE THEY WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.



**MAGNETOTAL:**

OTHER NAMES: HANA WATANABE  
POWER ORIGINS: PLASMAVERSE

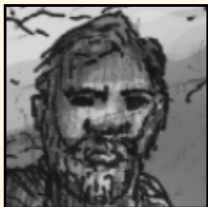
A JAPANESE-AMERICAN WOMAN WITH PLASMAVERSE POWERS, FUTURE MOTHER OF STEVEPUNK. HANA AND HER CHILDHOOD PAL, BECKY DISCOVERED THEY HAD POWERS WHEN THEIR TEACHER, MS. VIDALIA SHOWED THEM HOW TO TRAVEL USING ROWANBERRIES NEAR THEIR HOUSE. THEY FORMED THE SLACK TIDE DUO AND HAVE BEEN BATTLING SUPERNATURAL FORCES IN ALASKA FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS, MOSTLY WHILE THEY WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.



**THE SUBNIVEAN MISTRESS:**

OTHER NAMES: OLIVE MAGNÚSDÓTTIR, JOANNE VIDALIA (MS. VIDALIA), TUNNEL BERRY, SNOW-WIGHT, THE SUBNIVEAN WITCH, OUR LADY UNDERSNOW, SNOW ANGEL, WITTE WIEVEN  
POWER ORIGINS: SUBNIVEVERSE, CRYOVERSE, BERRYVERSE, ANTHROPOVERSE

A NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN WOMAN WITH POWERS CONNECTED TO THE SUBNIVEAN (LIFE UNDERNEATH THE SNOW). THE FULL EXTENT OF HER POWERS IS UNCERTAIN, BUT SHE CAN MANIPULATE OBJECTS (INCLUDING LIFE) WHEN UNDERNEATH SNOW/ICE. SHE BUILT THE FIRST SLACK TIDE HIDEOUT FOR MAGNETOTAL AND NUNATAK.



**SOURDOUGH:**

OTHER NAMES: GROVER THORNTON, ANCHOR MAN, ANCHORMAN THE SOURDOUGH  
POWER ORIGINS: MACROVERSE, MICROVERSE, ENTROPOVERSE

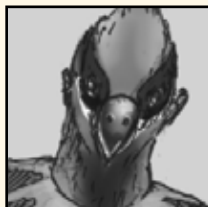
A CIVIL WAR VETERAN AND ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL FFF8E7 AT THE 'SOCIALISTS AND PIONEERS' HALL FROM 1917. GRANTED POWERS DURING A REPOCALYPSE EVENT THAT DILATED TIME. HIS POWERS HAVE BEEN RETURNING TO THE EARTH AS HE IS OUT OF BALANCE, THEY USED TO INCLUDE GRAVITATIONAL MANIPULATION, HAND-MADE HYDROSTATIC EQUILIBRIUM, AND EXTREMOPHILISM.



**AQPIK:**

OTHER NAMES: CLOUDBERRY, CLOUDBERRY WOMAN  
POWER ORIGINS: BERRYVERSE, CHLOROVERSE

AN IÑUPIAQ WOMAN FROM KAUWAREK, WITH POWERS FROM THE BERRYVERSE. DAUGHTER OF IVIAGLUK AND MOTHER OF MARKS APPLE. SHE HAS TRAVELED THROUGH CYBERINGIA, THE YOUNGER DRYAS AND MOST OF THE LOCAL GROUP. HER POWERS FOCUS MAINLY ON THE MANIFESTATION OF BERRIES IN VARIOUS REALITIES, THIS INCLUDES BEING ABLE TO MANIPULATE REALITY THROUGH THE REALITY OF BERRIES (BERRYVERSE).



**TSILUUTS' T'AENI:**

OTHER NAMES: CARY SHIMENTIEFF, THE WONDROUS WAXWING, WAXWING  
POWER ORIGINS: OVAVERSE, THERIANTHROVERSE

AN AHTNA SHAPESHIFTER FROM THE MOJIVERSE, WITH POWERS CONNECTED TO BOTH THE OVAVERSE AND THE THERIANTHROVERSE (SOMETIMES CALLED THE ZOANTHROPOVERSE). HIS PREFERRED FORM IS THAT OF A HALF-HUMAN / HALF-BOHEMIAN WAXWING. HIS SHAPESHIFTING IS NOTABLE FOR HIS ABILITY TO PORTAL JUMP DURING SHIFTS.

# WINTERMOOT



WINTERMOOT IS A CYBERPUNK/SUPERHERO UNIVERSE CREATED BY ALASKAN NEW MEDIA ARTIST NATHAN SHAFER. WINTERMOOT WAS CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS (FISH HEAD SOUP) COMIC BOOK COLLECTIVE AND SHARED UNIVERSE. IT EMPLOYS SOCIAL PRACTICE AND AUGMENTED REALITY, AS WELL AS CREATING CULTURALLY ACCURATE AND APPROPRIATE CONTENT IN COLLABORATION WITH SEVERAL ALASKAN COMMUNITIES. SOCIAL PRACTICE LITERATURE (READ COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS HERE) POSITIONS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PRACTICES, RELATIONSHIPS AND CULTURAL CONTENT BEFORE THE VISION OF THE ARTIST, MAKING PROJECTS THAT ARE NOT THE SOLE CREATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL ARTIST. OTHER TITLES PRODUCED BY ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS COMICS ARE IN A SHARED UNIVERSE WITH WINTERMOOT. THIS INCLUDES CHICKALOONIES, WILDMEN OF DENALI AND DUSTY FUNK.

THE WINTERMOOT 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 MACHERAS, RICHARD PERRY, DAVID KARABELNIKOFF, CALEB BOURGEOIS, ANGELA YATLUN GONZALEZ, LESLIE KIMKO WARD.

SERIES EDITORS: MARTIN SCHULTZ, JOELLE HOWALD, JOSHUA MEDSKER

"SLACK TIDES, NUNATAK, MAGNETOTAL, TUYANAUT, STEVEPUNK" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER, LESLIE KIMIKO WARD, RICHARD PERRY AND BENJAMIN SCHLEIFMAN.

"AQPIK" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND HOLLY NORDLUM.

"THE SUBNIVEAN MISTRESS" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND JOELLE HOWALD.

"TSILUUTS' T'AENI" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER, DIMI MACHERAS AND CASEY SILVER.

"GODWIT CONTINUUM" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND DAVID KARABELNIKOFF.

"CYBERGOD OF DISRUPTION" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND JARED CHANDLER.

"ARCTIC CITY" CREATED BY FREI OTTO.

"SEWARD'S SUCCESS" CREATED BY TANDY INDUSTRIES.

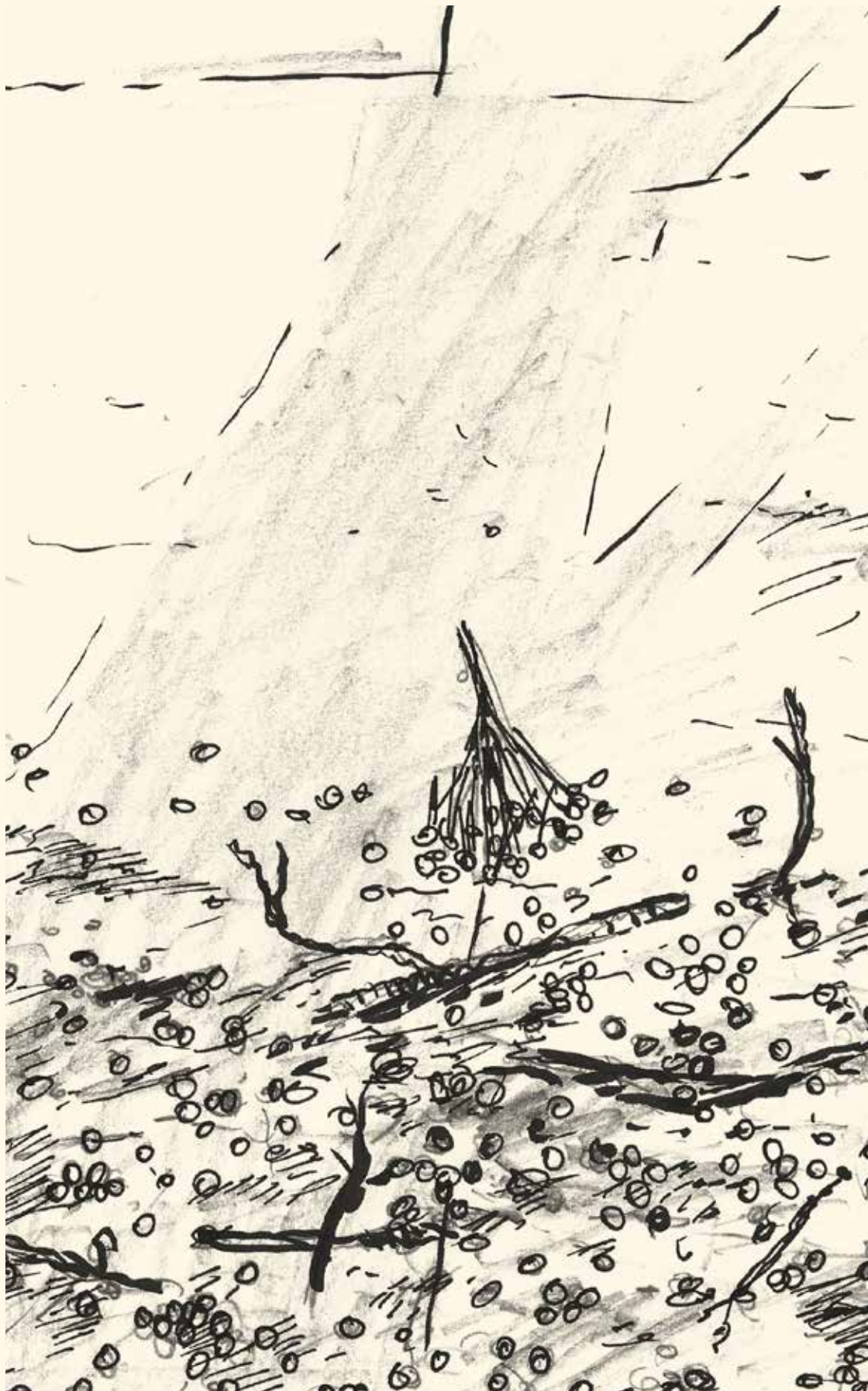
"DENALI CITY AND DIRIGIBLES FOR DENALI" CREATED BY MIKE GRAVEL AND PAT POURCHOT.

"CYBERINGIA" IS DERIVED FROM TIMOTHY LEARY'S "CYBERIA"

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







## GENTLEMEN PLASMONAUTS AND GLACIAL LAWYERS

GENTLEMEN PLASMONAUTS OF THE BOREALIS DOCK: GREEN BOREALIS, RED BOREALIS, BLUE BOREALIS AND SOLAR PLAGE

SURE, THEY BUILT THE BOREALIS DOCK. IT WAS COOL, BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, PLASMONAUTS ARE A REALLY HARD GROUP TO DESCRIBE. THEY AREN'T REALLY AROUND MUCH ANYMORE, NOW I MEAN THE HUMANS WITH NORTHERN LIGHTS POWERS - NOT THE LITTLE PLASMOIDS/PLASMIUT THAT LIVE UP THERE. OR I GUESS I SHOULD SAY THEY ARE RARE, AND IF SOMEONE WITH THOSE POWERS COMES ALONG, THEY USUALLY DON'T STICK AROUND, SINCE THEY CAN TECHNICALLY TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER THING ALL TOGETHER, THEY USUALLY JUST DIE, OR SOMETHING.

TO BE HONEST, I HAVE NEVER REALLY SEEN A PLASMONAUT WHO COULD CONTROL THEIR POWERS. IT IS CHAOTIC AND KIND OF TERRIFYING EVEN WHEN THEY DO LITTLE THINGS, LIKE ALL THE LIGHTS AND ELECTRICITY AROUND THEM GOES OUT, IT FEELS LIKE A WAVE OF GHOSTS OR WHATEVER IS CRASHING ALL AROUND YOU. LIKE YOU CAN HEAR AND TASTE THE AFTERLIFE IN THE AMBIENT ENVIRONMENT WHEN THEY ARE DOING THEIR THING. AS IF ALL THE AIR IN THE ROOM SUDDENLY CATCHES FIRE.

BUT FOR LIKE MAYBE JUST A FEW YEARS, THERE WERE THESE FOUR DUDES WHO WORE SUITS, LIKE DRESS SUITS, BUT FOR THEIR DAILY, NORMAL CLOTHES, BUT HAD THEIR 'COSTUMES' ON UNDERNEATH, THEY WERE DIFFERENT, THEY JUST WERE. NOT BETTER, JUST DIFFERENT, LIKE THE CHAOS OF IT DIDN'T BOTHER THEM OR MAKE THEM CRAZY. THIS WAS ALL THE TIME TOO, THEY LOOKED LIKE REGULAR BUSINESS GUYS IN ANCHORAGE, JUST YOU COULD TELL THEY WERE WEARING THAT WEIRD RUBBER/ELECTRIC COSTUME UNDER THEIR CLOTHES. THEY ALL EVEN HAD THE SAME COSTUME UNDERNEATH, AND THE SAME NAME, KIND OF, LIKE A UNIFORM OR SOMETHING. THEY WERE ALL BOREALISES TOO: GREEN BOREALIS, RED BOREALIS AND BLUE BOREALIS. AND THEN THERE WAS SOLAR PLAGE, DON'T GET ME STARTED ON HIM. HE WAS A CHARMER AND WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THAT GROUP WHO COULD WEAR A SUIT.

ANYWAYS, THOSE WERE THE ORIGINAL FACULTY FOR THE SCHOOL AT THE BOREALIS DOCK. CALLED THEMSELVES 'GENTLEMEN PLASMONAUTS'. THEY WERE ABOUT THE MOST NORMAL PLASMONAUTS I HAVE EVER SEEN, AND THEY SEEMED LIKE ALIENS PRETENDING TO BE HUMANS. IT TOOK MAGNETOTAL YEARS TO FIGURE SOME OF IT OUT ON HER OWN, REALLY, I MEAN SHE DIDN'T WANT TO DRESS IN A SHIRT AND TIE LIKE THOSE PROFESSORS. HAVING NUNATAK IS WHAT HELPED HER. SHE KEPT HER BALANCED AND FROM GOING FTL, WHICH THEY CAN DO BTW.

-- HALLBERA MAGNÚSDÓTTIR, AKA THE WINTERKILL MANAGER

DRUMLIN, ESKER, BERGSCHRUND AND JÖKULHLAUP: GLACIAL LAW

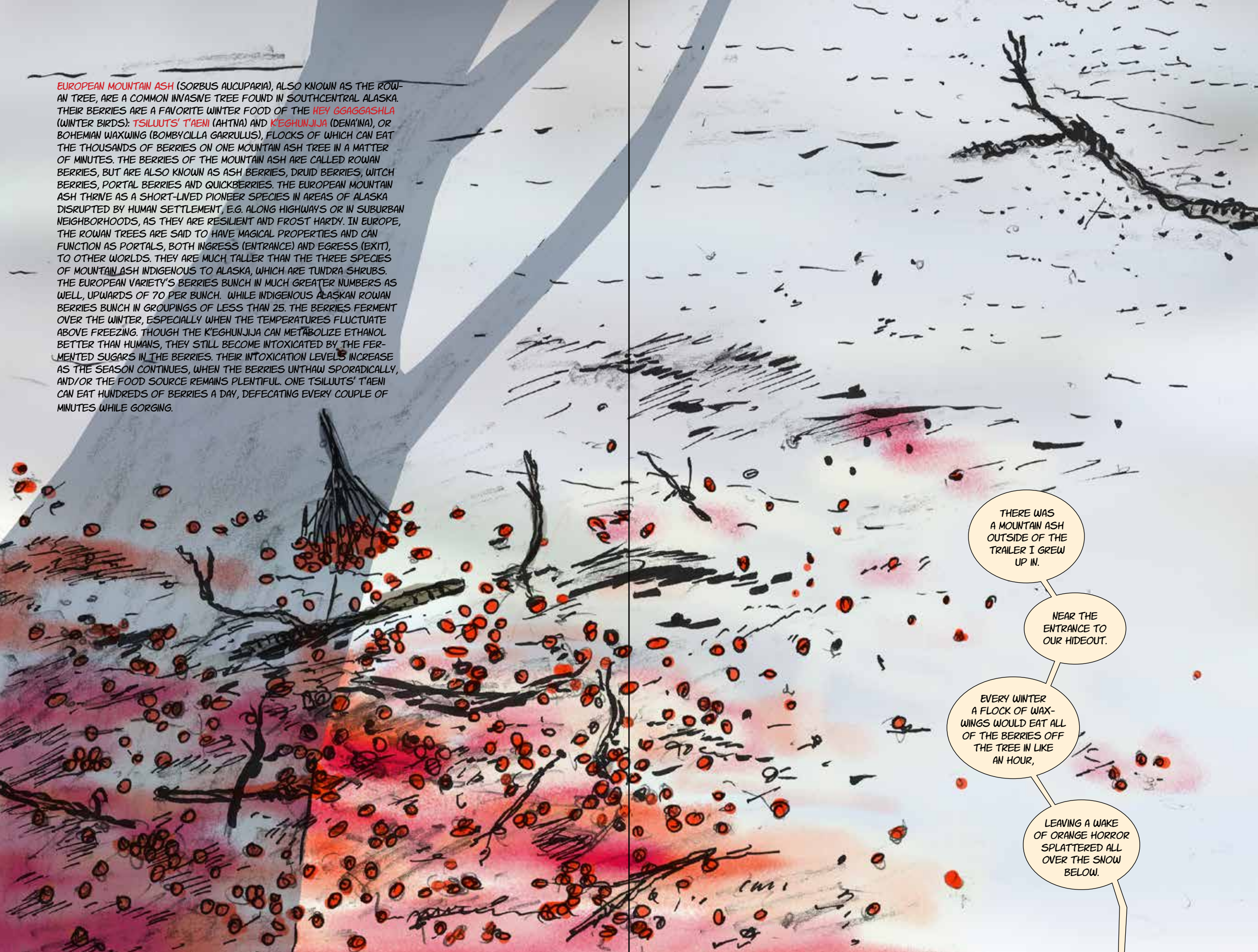
HARDWATER'S SCHOOL WAS FUNDED BY LAWYERS. THEY WERE ACTUALLY ALL LAWYERS WITH GLACIER POWERS THEMSELVES. THEY WOULD DO A LOT OF PRO BONO WORK IN THE COMMUNITY, IN AND AROUND ALASKA. THEY WERE A PART OF THAT ORIGINAL SOCIALISTS AND PIONEERS HALL, THAT KIND OF DO-GOODER MENTALITY, THEY WOULD SUE CORPORATIONS THAT WERE HURTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND STUFF. THEY DIDN'T WEAR THE COSTUMES THOUGH, NOT SINCE BEFORE 1960, OR SO. THAT WAS AN OLD-TIMEY THING, NOT SO POPULAR ANYMORE, SINCE THE PEOPLE WITH POWERS DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN AS MAGIC CLOWN SOLDIERS NO MORE. ANONYMITY OVER CELEBRITY. DO-GOODER SECRET SOCIETIES AND SUCH. NO, IT IS MORE LIKE FANTASY CREATURES THAT ARE BEING PROTECTED BY BEING KEPT SECRET. THAT IS THEM.

AND THE WHITE CRYNAUT STUFF WAS WAY MORE OF A HOLISTIC EARTH MAGIC THING, THEY LOOKED LIKE FARMERS, OR HIPPIES. SOME OF THEM HAD LONG HAIR AND BEARDS BEFORE THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE. THEY WERE MAYBE CONSIDERED SOMETHING LIKE NATURALISTS OR TRANSCENDENTALISTS, UNITARIANS OR SOMETHING. THEY EVEN WORE LIKE LONG WHITE ROBES AND STUFF. REMEMBER THIS IS THE WHITE FOLKS DOING THE GLACIER POWERS TOO, NOT ANYBODY ELSE. WELL-INTENTIONED OR NOT, THEY ARE STILL COLONIZERS. AND THEY HAD KIND OF INVENTED A WHOLE MAKE-SHIFT CULTURE OF IT THEMSELVES, ONLY SO MUCH OF IT WAS BROUGHT OVER FROM EUROPE, MAYBE SOME VESTIGIAL RUSSIAN STUFF, BUT THEY DEFINITELY DIDN'T ASK ANY OF US, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I NEVER SAW NATIVE FOLKS WITH THE CRYO-POWERS ACTING LIKE THAT. WELL, MAYBE LIKE ONCE OR TWICE, BUT IT WAS NOT NORMAL. SOME OF THEM CRYNAUTS WOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE CRYO-MEDITATION SO DEEP THAT THEY WOULD START MAKING THE BERGY SELTZER TALK. LITERALLY THEY WERE SPEAKING THE GLACIER'S LANGUAGE, REAL SLOW AND NOT BREATHING, JUST LETTING THE WIND PASS OVER THEM. COLLECTING DUST, AS THEY SAY, JUST LIKE A GLACIER TOO.

AND THAT LAW FIRM: DRUMLIN, ESKER, BERGSCHRUND AND JÖKULHLAUP - THEY ARE STILL PRACTICING, OR THEIR KIDS ARE, I THINK. AND THERE IS STILL AN ORGANIZATION OR A TRUST THAT PUTS MONEY INTO THE WINTERMOOT THAT HARDWATER RUNS. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THERE ARE KIDS OUT THERE GOING TO SCHOOL WITH HIM ANYMORE. HE TURNED INTO A BIT OF A LONER AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH SOURDOUGH. BUT THOSE LAWYERS, THEY CALLED THEMSELVES 'GENTLEMEN CRYNAUTS', AND THAT WAS ALL BEFORE THE PUNK THING. THE CRYPUNKS ARE WAY DIFFERENT. STILL AS CALM AND METHICAL, AND DO-GOODERY, JUST YOU KNOW -- WITH PIERCINGS AND TATTOOS AND DYED-HAIR AND STUFF.

-- CARY SHIMENTIEFF, AKA. TSILUUTS' T'AENI, THE WONDROUS WAXWING





EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN ASH (*SORBUS AUCUPARIA*), ALSO KNOWN AS THE ROWAN TREE, ARE A COMMON INVASIVE TREE FOUND IN SOUTH-CENTRAL ALASKA. THEIR BERRIES ARE A FAVORITE WINTER FOOD OF THE HEY GGAGGASHLA (WINTER BIRDS): TSILUUTS' T'AENI (AHTNA) AND K'EGHUNJJA (DENA'INA), OR BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*BOMBYCILLA GARRULUS*), FLOCKS OF WHICH CAN EAT THE THOUSANDS OF BERRIES ON ONE MOUNTAIN ASH TREE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. THE BERRIES OF THE MOUNTAIN ASH ARE CALLED ROWAN BERRIES, BUT ARE ALSO KNOWN AS ASH BERRIES, DRUID BERRIES, WITCH BERRIES, PORTAL BERRIES AND QUICKBERRIES. THE EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN ASH THRIVE AS A SHORT-LIVED PIONEER SPECIES IN AREAS OF ALASKA DISRUPTED BY HUMAN SETTLEMENT, E.G. ALONG HIGHWAYS OR IN SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOODS, AS THEY ARE RESILIENT AND FROST HARDY. IN EUROPE, THE ROWAN TREES ARE SAID TO HAVE MAGICAL PROPERTIES AND CAN FUNCTION AS PORTALS, BOTH INGRESS (ENTRANCE) AND EGRESS (EXIT), TO OTHER WORLDS. THEY ARE MUCH TALLER THAN THE THREE SPECIES OF MOUNTAIN ASH INDIGENOUS TO ALASKA, WHICH ARE TUNDRA SHRUBS. THE EUROPEAN VARIETY'S BERRIES BUNCH IN MUCH GREATER NUMBERS AS WELL, UPWARDS OF 70 PER BUNCH. WHILE INDIGENOUS ALASKAN ROWAN BERRIES BUNCH IN GROUPINGS OF LESS THAN 25. THE BERRIES FERMENT OVER THE WINTER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE TEMPERATURES FLUCTUATE ABOVE FREEZING. THOUGH THE K'EGHUNJJA CAN METABOLIZE ETHANOL BETTER THAN HUMANS, THEY STILL BECOME INTOXICATED BY THE FERMENTED SUGARS IN THE BERRIES. THEIR INTOXICATION LEVELS INCREASE AS THE SEASON CONTINUES, WHEN THE BERRIES UNTHAW SPORADICALLY, AND/OR THE FOOD SOURCE REMAINS PLENTIFUL. ONE TSILUUTS' T'AENI CAN EAT HUNDREDS OF BERRIES A DAY, DEFECATING EVERY COUPLE OF MINUTES WHILE GORGING.

THERE WAS A MOUNTAIN ASH OUTSIDE OF THE TRAILER I GREW UP IN.

NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO OUR HIDEOUT.

EVERY WINTER A FLOCK OF WAXWINGS WOULD EAT ALL OF THE BERRIES OFF THE TREE IN LIKE AN HOUR,

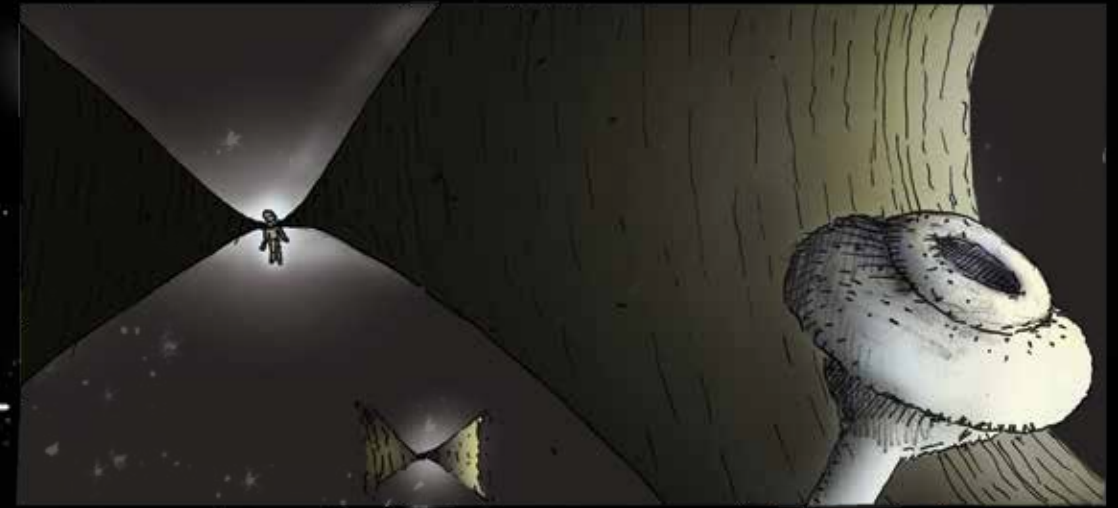
LEAVING A WAKE OF ORANGE HORROR SPLATTERED ALL OVER THE SNOW BELOW.



SLACK TIDES [SIDE 1]  
ATAUCIQ, WHAT IS INDIVISIBLE:

"THAT WAS THE YEAR WE LISTENED TO TOTAL STRANGERS  
AND THEN ENDED UP SAVING THE WORLD."

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT GO THROUGH YOUR MIND AS THE CONSCIOUSNESS FADES.



WHEN WE FIRST MET, WE WERE IN THE FIRST GRADE.



MAYBE AQPIK WAS ABLE TO RESET THE GODWIT CONTINUUM IN TIME.

YEAH...  
MAYBE.

BUT WE DIDN'T REALIZE WE HAD POWERS UNTIL JUNIOR HIGH.



[MS. VIDALIA'S CLASS]  
[CHANSHTNU ELEMENTARY]  
[ONE GENERATION AGO]



THAT WAS AFTER WE STOPPED BEING FRIENDS.



AND HAD MS. VIDALIA AGAIN FOR 7TH GRADE.



SHE IS THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO CHECK AND SEE IF WE HAD POWERS.

[TIK'UTEH JUNIOR HIGH]

THIS IS A RED JUPITER BERRY FROM THE QUANTUM BERRYVERSE.

IT IS ALSO CALLED AN ARCTIC TOMATO.

BUT IT IS A KIND OF CURRANT.



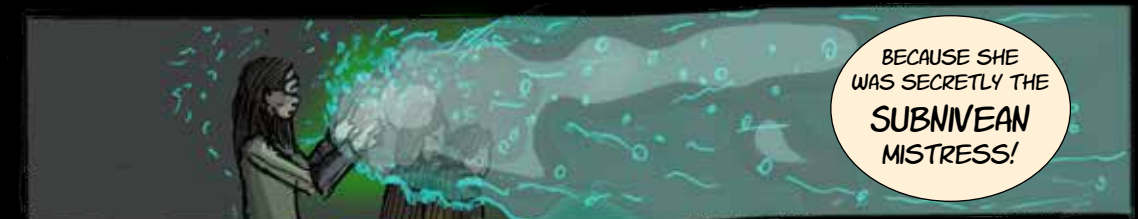
[CONTROL TRANSPARENT CHRONOZONE DELETE BERRYVERSE]



I HAD GLACIER POWERS.

I HAD NORTHERN LIGHTS ...

THEN ONE DAY SHE OPENED AN ECTOPLASMIC SNOW VOID TO OUR FIRST WINTERMOOT.



BECAUSE SHE WAS SECRETLY THE SUBNIVEAN MISTRESS!



[APPROACHING SOME THERMOPAUSE]

DO YOU REMEMBER THE CASE OF THE WOODSMAN HORDE?

WHO COULD FORGET?

I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT HANDSOME HUNTER. WONDER HOW HE IS DOING?

HA HA HA. YOU COULD HAVE GONE TO PROM WITH HIM, BUT INSTEAD...

HE PUT THAT POOR UNDEAD BOY'S BREATH INTO A JEEP.

THAT WAS THE CASE WHEN MS. VIDALIA SHOWED US HOW TO USE THE HELPER MASK.

SO YOU WOULDN'T GO INSANE WHEN YOU USED YOUR POWERS...

AND IT KEEPS THE GHOSTS FROM GETTING IN.

BUT THAT ONLY REALLY MATTERS ON THE SURFACE.

WE KNOW.

THEY ARE HERE.





REMEMBER HOW THERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE NO SOUND IN SPACE?

FHZZ, ZZZZZZ, FHZZ.

MAYBE.

SOME SAY ALL THE THOUGHTS THAT CROSS YOUR MIND WHEN YOU BLACK OUT ONLY LAST A COUPLE OF SECONDS.



[THE CASE OF THE WOODSMAN HORDE]



[HANDSOME HUNTER]



[HELPER MASKS]



SILAM NUVIVAK!!

IT CAN FEEL LIKE YEARS. GENERATIONS.

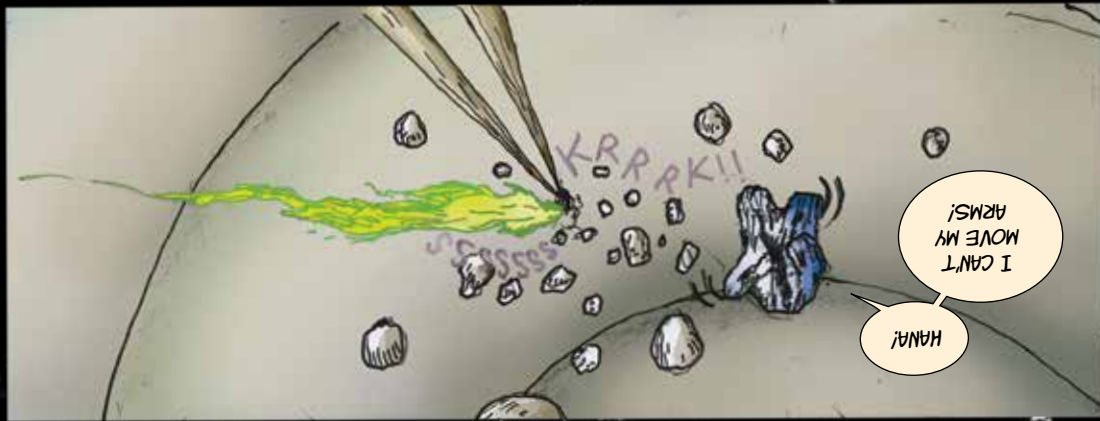
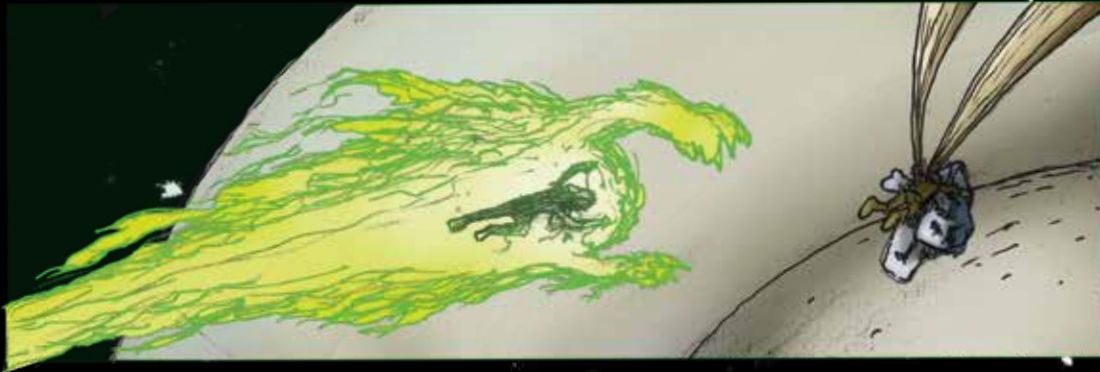


HANA! HELP!

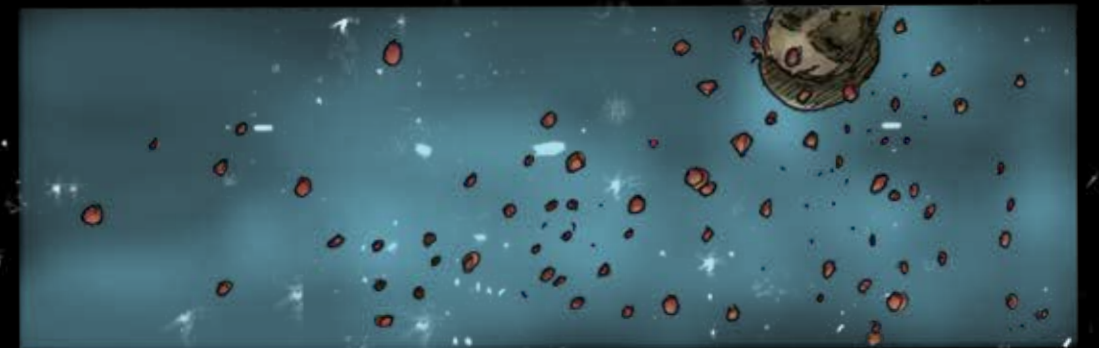




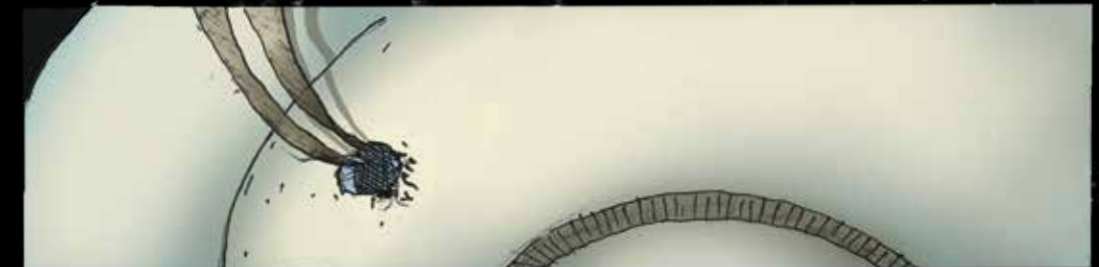
SPACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE SILENT.



I AM FALLING...  
UH, HHHH,  
ASLEEP...

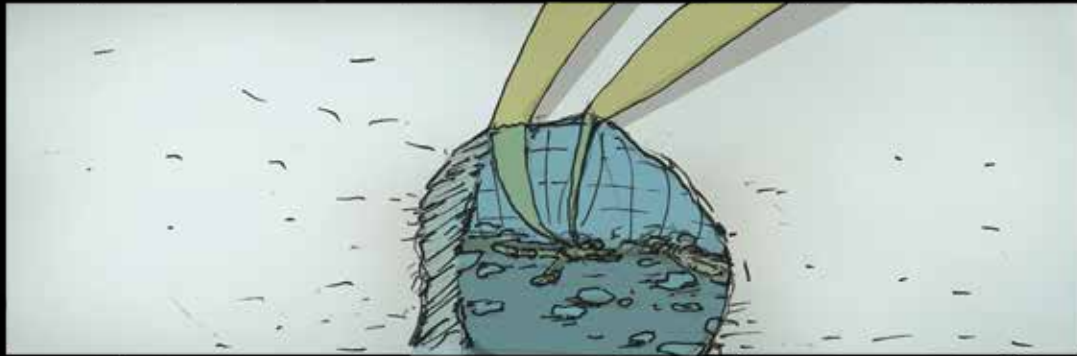


SOMETIMES WE FORGET THOUGH.



AND MAKE THE SOUNDS IN OUR HEADS.

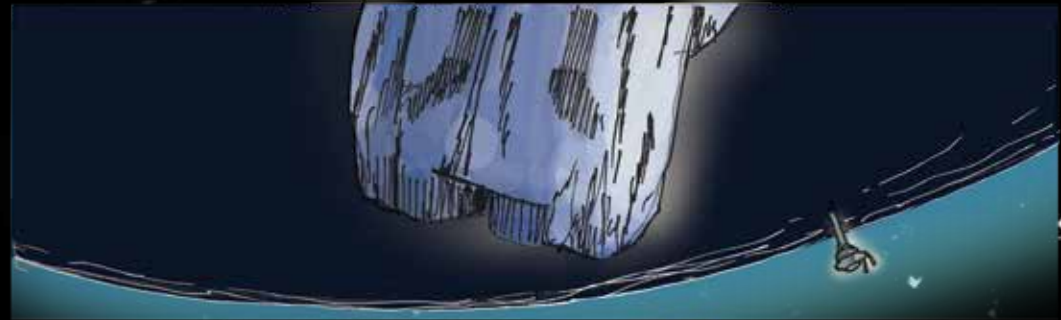




PPPPPP. FFF. SSSSS. FFF.



PLUP, PLUP, PLUP. HHHHSSSSSS.



WUHV, WUHV, CLINK. SSSSSSS.



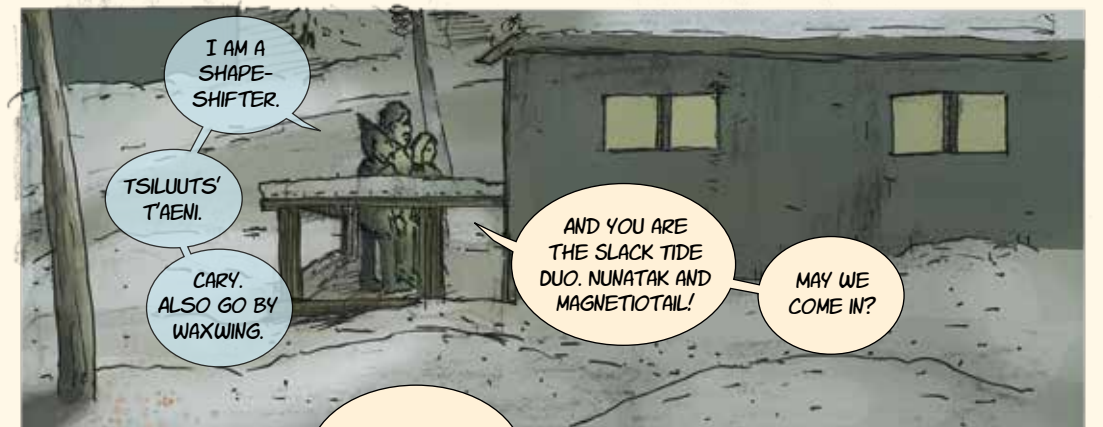
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT GO THROUGH YOUR MIND AS THE CONSCIOUSNESS FADES. SOME PEOPLE SAY IT ONLY LASTS FOR A COUPLE SECONDS, BUT IT CAN FEEL LIKE GENERATIONS.

[FIVE YEARS EARLIER]  
[A TRAILER PARK IN MULDOON]  
[INGRESS TO SLACK TIDE HIDEOUT]  
[CYBERDOUGH SUPERSYMMETRY]



SO, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU ARE SAYING YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE? AND ...

THIS DUDE HAS THE FACE OF A BIRD, BECAUSE HE IS WHAT AGAIN?



I AM A SHAPE-SHIFTER.

TSILUUTS' T'AENI.

CARY. ALSO GO BY WAXWING.

AND YOU ARE THE SLACK TIDE DUO. NUNATAK AND MAGNETIOTAIL!

MAY WE COME IN?

WE CAME HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP AGAINST...

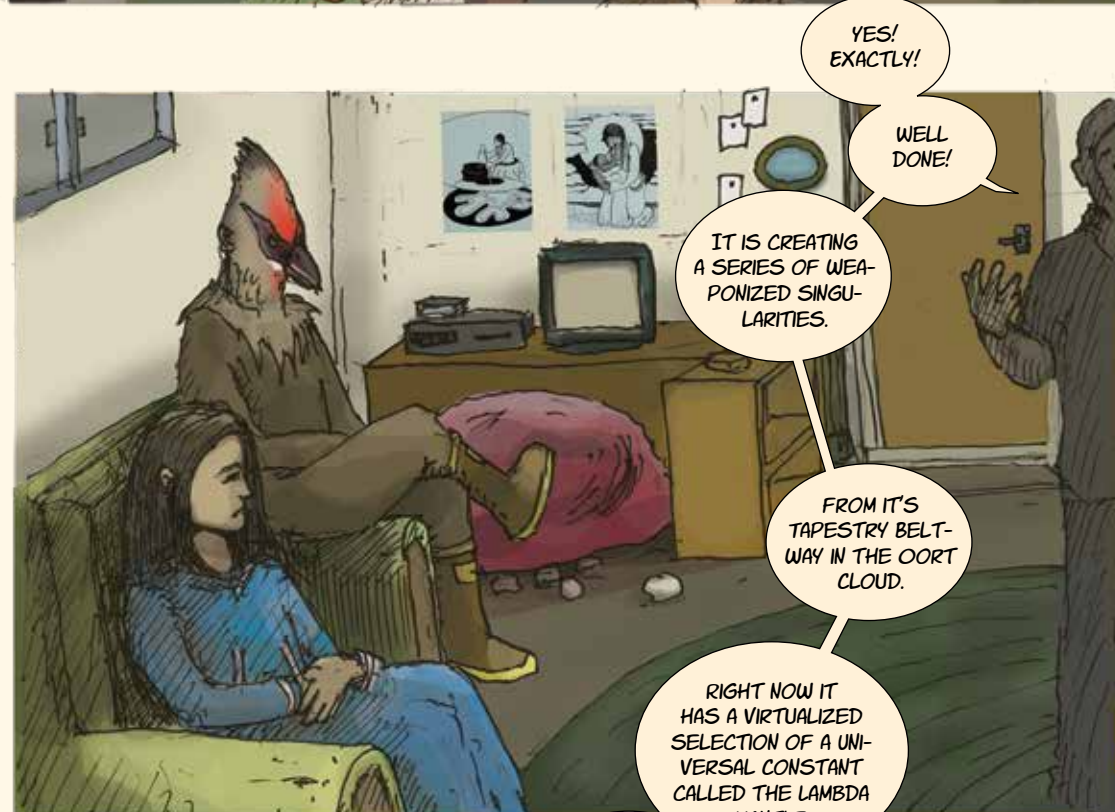






LET US GUESS.

SOME CHAOTIC ENTITY IS DISRUPTING THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS.



YES! EXACTLY!

WELL DONE!

IT IS CREATING A SERIES OF WEAPONIZED SINGULARITIES.

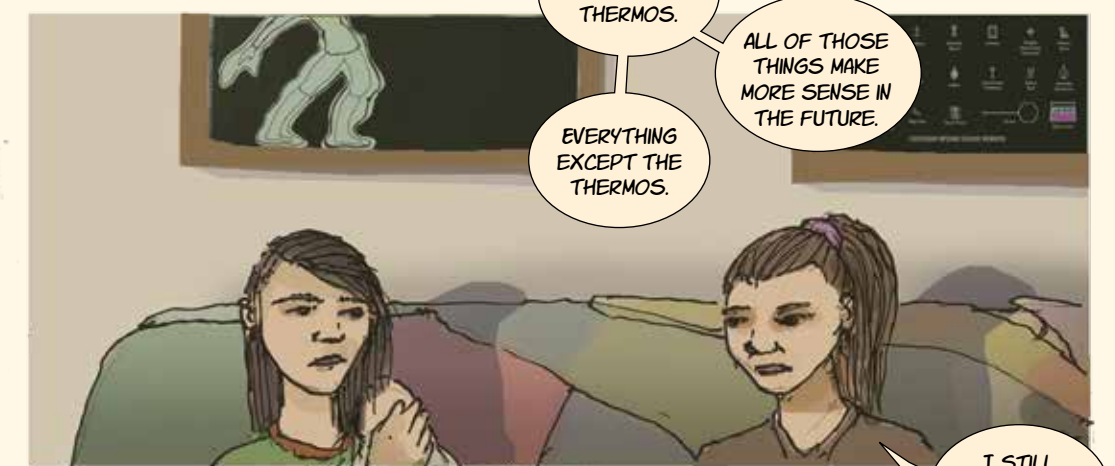
FROM IT'S TAPESTRY BELT-WAY IN THE OORT CLOUD.

RIGHT NOW IT HAS A VIRTUALIZED SELECTION OF A UNIVERSAL CONSTANT CALLED THE LAMBDA MANTLE.

IT KEEPS IT IN A THERMOS.

ALL OF THOSE THINGS MAKE MORE SENSE IN THE FUTURE.

EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE THERMOS.



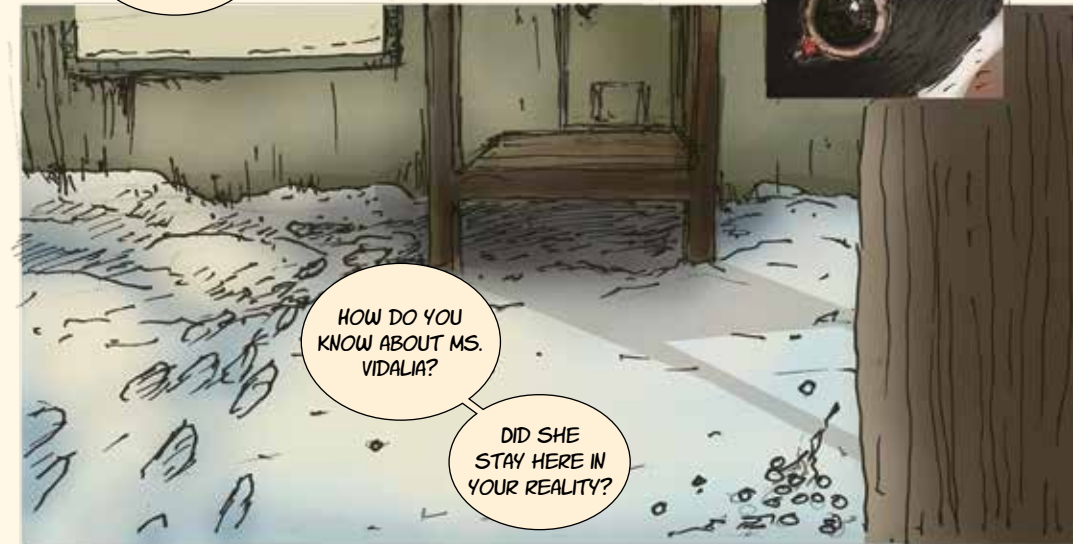
I STILL FIND THAT ONE CONFUSING.



DUDE. GROVER. YOU ARE SUCH A DINK.

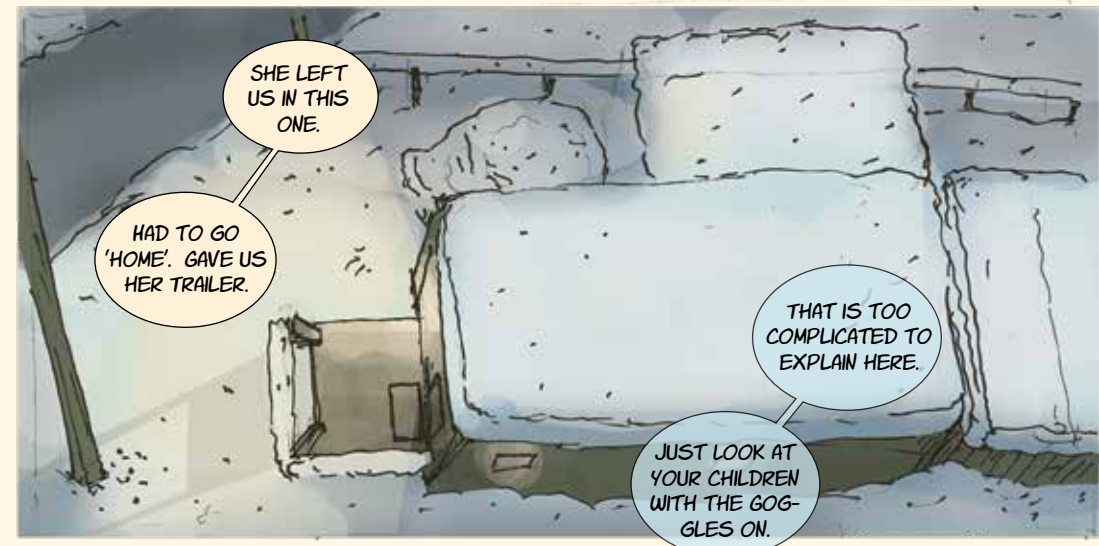


CARRYING ON. DO YOU STILL HAVE THOSE GOGGLES THE SUBNEVEAN MISTRESS WORE?



HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MS. VIDALIA?

DID SHE STAY HERE IN YOUR REALITY?



SHE LEFT US IN THIS ONE.

HAD TO GO 'HOME'. GAVE US HER TRAILER.

THAT IS TOO COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN HERE.

JUST LOOK AT YOUR CHILDREN WITH THE GOGGLES ON.



FINE. LET ME GO AND FIND THEM.