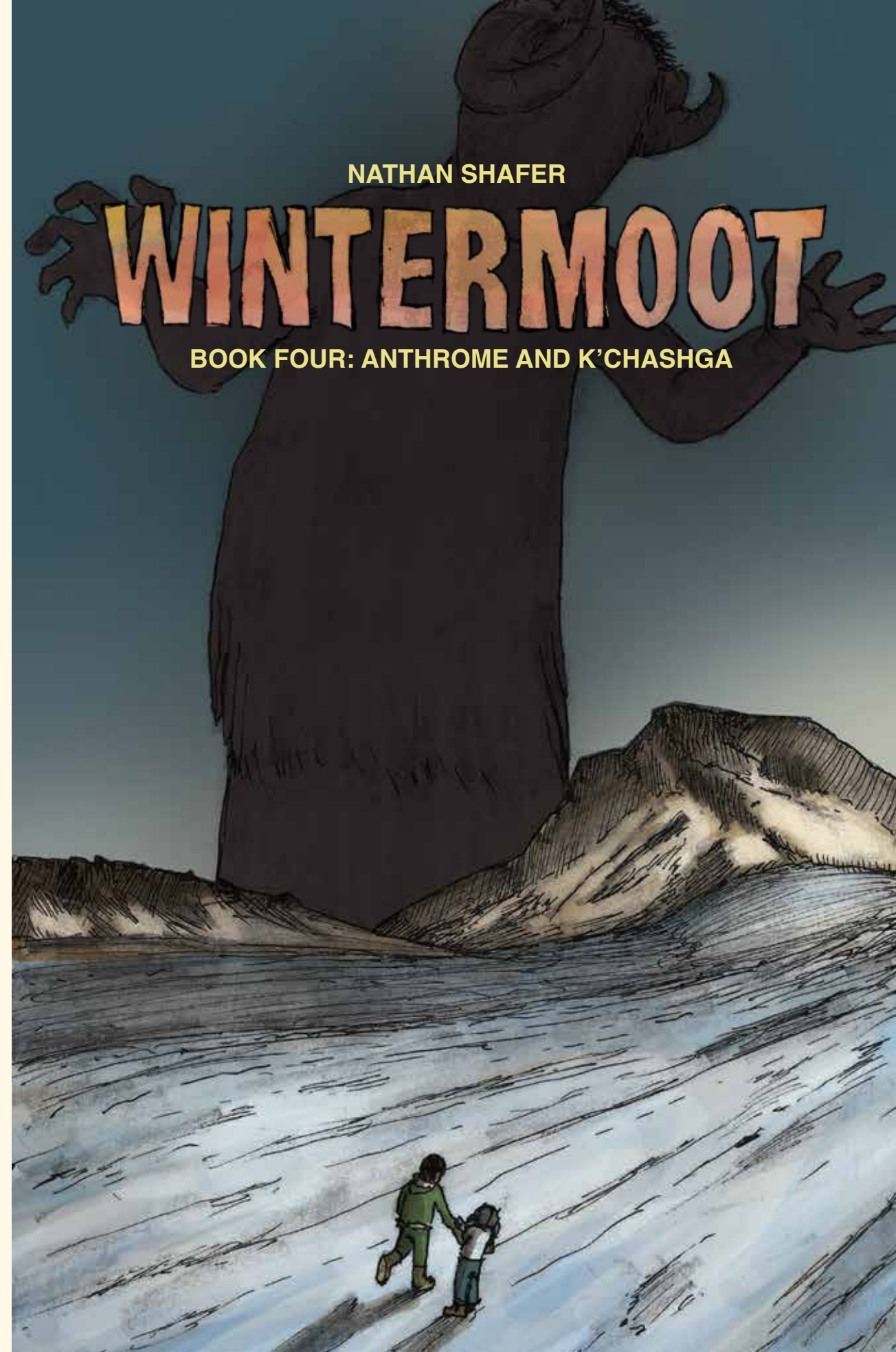


Fifth Column Evil Mountain Song: Ablation Simulation Above the Glacierface



WINTERMOOT BOOK FOUR:

ANTHROME AND K'CHASHGA

ART BY NATHAN SHAFER

STORY BY NATHAN SHAFER AND CALEB BOURGEOIS

ADDITIONAL COLLABORATION WITH

MELISSA SHAGINOFF, DIMI MACHERAS, CASEY SILVER AND RICHARD PERRY



ANTHROME:

OTHER NAMES: CHRISTOPHER GUTHRIE
POWER ORIGINS: ANTHROPOVERSE

AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRANS MAN BORN IN ANCHORAGE. GIFTED POWERS TO CONTROL ANYTHING HUMAN OR HUMAN MADE BY THE ORIGINAL KNIK QUARTERMASTER OF FFF8E7. HE WANTS TO MARRY ARÊTE.



ARÊTE:

OTHER NAMES: MELISSA CH'VALTEH SULLIVAN
POWER ORIGINS: CRYOVERSE

A DENA'INA/AHTNA WOMAN BORN IN DENALI CITY. STUDIED ANTHROPOLOGY AND HAD HER INNATE ICE POWERS ENHANCED BY ŁI DNAY (GLACIER PEOPLE). SHE IS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND IN LOVE WITH ANTHROME.



K'CHASHGA:

OTHER NAMES: UNKNOWN
POWER ORIGINS: MUCOVERSE, MOJIVERSE

A STRANGE GIRL WHO APPEARED IN THE FFF8E7 REALITY SEVERAL DAYS AGO. SHE SPEAKS A FEW BROKEN WORDS IN DENA'INA AND AHTNA. SHE HAS POWERS CONNECTED TO BIOLOGICAL SLIMES AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL.



SKYVORY:

OTHER NAMES: FETUILELAGI SIOSIFA
POWER ORIGINS: PRISMAVERSE

AN AMERICAN SAMOAN WOMAN WHO HAS POWERS CONNECTED TO THE HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND OBSERVATION OF THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE. SHE CAN BEND SPECTRAL ENERGY AND CONTROL LIGHT. HER TWIN IS BIG BANG BEIGE.



BIG BANG BEIGE:

OTHER NAMES: TAUSA'AFIA SIOSIFA
POWER ORIGINS: PRISMAVERSE

AN AMERICAN SAMOAN WOMAN WHO HAS POWERS CONNECTED TO THE HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND OBSERVATION OF THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE. SHE CAN BEND SPECTRAL ENERGY AND CONTROL LIGHT. HER TWIN IS SKYVORY.



SHANNON ENTROPY:

OTHER NAMES: SHAVILA SHANNON GUTHRIE
POWER ORIGINS: NEGENTROVERSE

THE BIOLOGICAL DAUGHTER OF ARÊTE AND ANTHROME, WHO DRAWS POWERS FROM THE NEGENTROVERSE, AN OBSERVED FUNCTION OF LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE. SHE CAN BRING BIOLOGICAL ORDER TO ANY THING, NETWORK OR SYSTEM.

ŁUK'AE TSE' TSASS IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT SUPPORTED BY THE BUNNELL STREET ARTS CENTER IN HOMER, ALASKA

IT IS ALSO FUNDED IN PART BY CREATIVE CAPITAL AND THE CIRI FOUNDATION.

CULTURAL CONSULTANTS ON THE SERIES: MELISSA SHAGINOFF, DIMI MACHERAS, RICHARD PERRY, DAVID KARABELNIKOFF, GEORGE DIMENTIEFF HOLLY, CALEB BOURGEOIS, ANGELA YATLIN GONZALEZ, LESLIE KIMIKO WARD.

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"ANTHROME" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER AND CALEB BOURGEOIS.

"K'CHASHGA" CREATED BY NATHAN SHAFER, DIMI MACHERAS AND CASEY SILVER.

"MR. YELLY AND SASQUATH E. MOJI" CREATED BY DIMI MACHERAS AND CASEY SILVER.

MANY THANKS TO: CREATIVE CAPITAL, BUNNELL STREET ARTS CENTER, CIRI FOUNDATION, ALASKA HUMANITIES FORUM, WRITER'S BLOCK BOOKSTORE, ALASKAN ROBOTICS, OUT NORTH CONTEMPORARY ART HOUSE, AND THE ALASKA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS.

ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS

COMICS & SHARED UNIVERSE



ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS

ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS, IS THE AHTNA PHRASE FOR FISH HEAD SOUP.

ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS SUSTAINS US.

IT REPRESENTS OUR DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF ALASKA AS WELL AS OUR HUMBLE COLLABORATIVE GOALS AS A COLLECTIVE.

ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS IS CREATED WITH ALL THE SEEMINGLY "LEFTOVER" PARTS OF THE SALMON. BUT WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER MAKES THE MOST DELICIOUS SOUP THAT FULLY HONORS THE SALMON.

AS A COLLECTIVE, WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S ALL OUR PARTS IN EXPERIENCES, CULTURES, AND INDIVIDUAL TALENTS THAT CREATE THE BEST WORK AND FULLY EMBRACE INDIGENOUS WAYS OF BEING.

TOGETHER WE ARE ŁUK'AE TSE' TAAS COMICS, ALL THE PARTS THAT MAKE A DELICIOUS SOUP AND HONORS THE INDIGENOUS CULTURES WE REPRESENT.

--MELISSA SHAGINOFF
[2021]



GGUUX, PRONOUNCED 'GOO', IS THE AHTNA WORD FOR 'MONSTER'. IT ALSO MEANS INSECT, BUG OR WORM.



DOG VOMIT:

DOG VOMIT SLIME MOLD (*FULIGO SEPTICA*) IS THE MOST COMMON SPECIES OF PROTOSTELOID AMOEBIA IN THE WORLD. IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS 'SCRAMBLED EGG' OR 'FLOWERS OF TAN' BECAUSE OF ITS YELLOW-BEIGE COLORATION. IT IS COMMONLY FOUND IN GARDENS, RAIN GUTTERS, BARK MULCH AND TREE STUMPS IN URBAN AREAS. SLIME MOLDS HAVE OVER 700 GENERA, ARE SINGLE-CELLED AMOEBIA FOR MOST OF THEIR LIFE CYCLE, AND WILL CONGREGATE TOGETHER IN A PLASMODIUM WHEN NUTRIENTS IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT DWINDLE, IN SOMETHING CALLED A 'SWARMING MOTILITY'. PLASMODIA WILL PRODUCE FRUITING BODIES SIMILAR TO MUSHROOMS, THAT WILL LAUNCH REPRODUCTIVE SPORES. *FULIGO SEPTICA* FIGURES INTO ICELANDIC LORE, WHERE IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE EXPERTORANT OF TROLL CATS AND MILK RABBITS, WHICH WERE SAID TO BE THE FAMILIARS OF WITCHES, USED TO STEAL MILK FROM NEIGHBORING FARMS.

WINTERMOOT



OUR CRYOVERSE APART
(PART TWO)



WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
I HAD TO DRESS OUT FOR
P.E. IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

IT WAS FINE, BUT IT DIDN'T
STOP THE OTHER KIDS FROM
CALLING ME 'CORRINA THE BOY'.

HONESTLY, PRETTY NORMAL
THING FOR A TRANS KID:
DOING EVERYTHING ALONE.

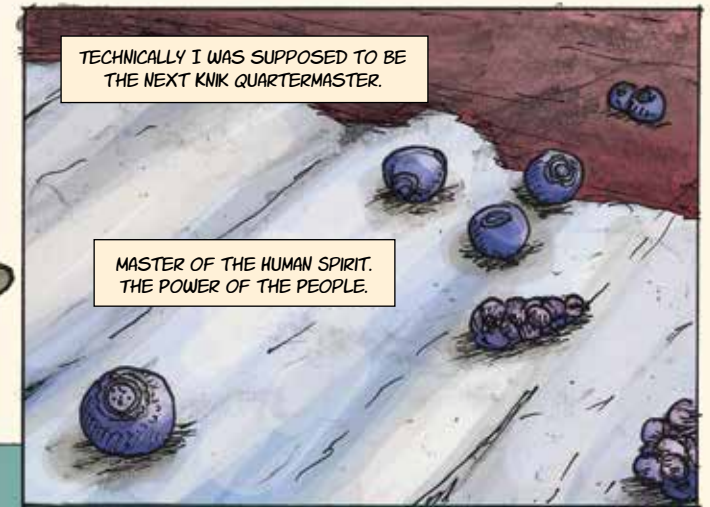
IT WAS AS BIG OF A SCENE WHEN I DECIDED
TO GO BY ANTHROME, AS IT WAS WHEN I
DECIDED TO GO BY CHRISTOPHER.

AND THAT WAS TWO YEARS
AFTER I HAD TRANSITIONED.



TECHNICALLY I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
THE NEXT KNIG QUARTERMASTER.

MASTER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.
THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE.



DON'T
TOUCH THOSE
BERRIES!

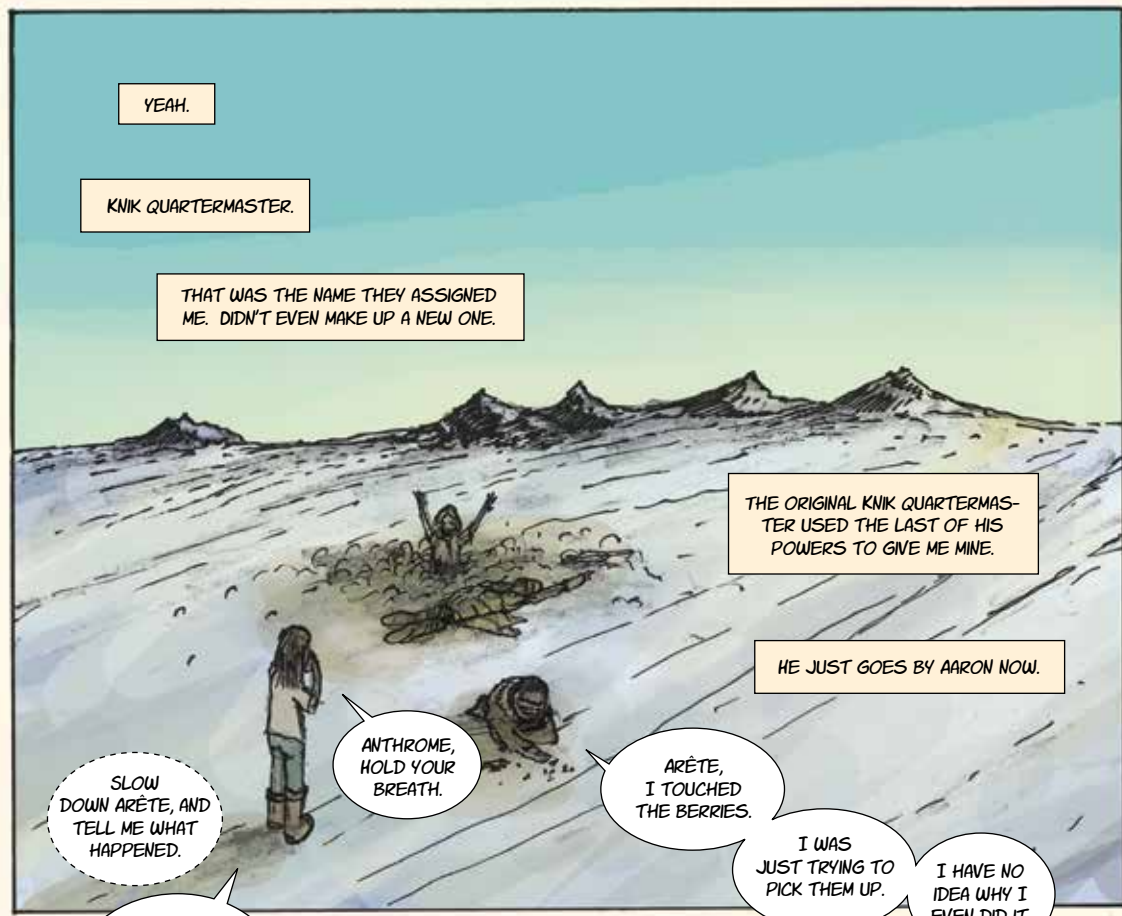
THE PREVIOUS GUY WAS AN INVENTOR,
MUNITIONS EXPERT, AND AN ENGINEER.



I GOT A DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY.



SO ...



YEAH.

KNIK QUARTERMASTER.

THAT WAS THE NAME THEY ASSIGNED ME. DIDN'T EVEN MAKE UP A NEW ONE.

THE ORIGINAL KNIK QUARTERMASTER USED THE LAST OF HIS POWERS TO GIVE ME MINE.

HE JUST GOES BY AARON NOW.

ANTHROME, HOLD YOUR BREATH.

ARÊTE, I TOUCHED THE BERRIES.

SLOW DOWN ARÊTE, AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

I WAS JUST TRYING TO PICK THEM UP.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY I EVEN DID IT.

Q'AHT'GHAL'AY HE JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, AND THE GIRL WAS RIGHT BEHIND HIM.

SHE KILLED BLOOD SNOW.

IS SHE STILL THERE, OR DID SHE DISAPPEAR AGAIN?

SHE DRANK ALL OF HIS BLOOD -- REAL FAST, BUT...

DID I GIVE IT A TRY ANYWAYS? YEAH...

BUT I DON'T WANT TO INVENT WEAPONS.



SHE IS STILL HERE.



AND YOU!! DON'T EAT THE ICE WORMS!



GGUUX. GGUUX. GGUUX.



JUST KEEP HOLDING YOUR BREATH!!

THE NEXT BREATH YOU TAKE, YOU ARE GOING TO TELEPORT.

THE SIOSIFA TWINS ARE ARRIVING TO PICK UP THE GIRL.

ANTHROME MADE A BLOOD PORTAL INTO A CRYOVERSE APART.

WE AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP HIM HERE LONG.

ANTHROME IS WHO I AM.



ANTHROME IS STARTING TO PORT APART.



ANTHROME!!



HA HA. GGUUX, GGUUX. HA HA.



BUT MY POWERS. THAT WAS A PERFECT FIT FOR ME. COMPLETE MASTERY OF THE ANTHROVERSE. I CAN CONTROL ANYTHING HUMAN OR HUMAN-MADE.



BUT IT IS A SPECTRUM, WHENEVER I MANIPULATE ANYTHING, I HAVE TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE, OR EQUILIBRIUM, IN THE ANTHROSPHERE, OR MY POWERS DEplete.



ANTHROME'S GONE!!

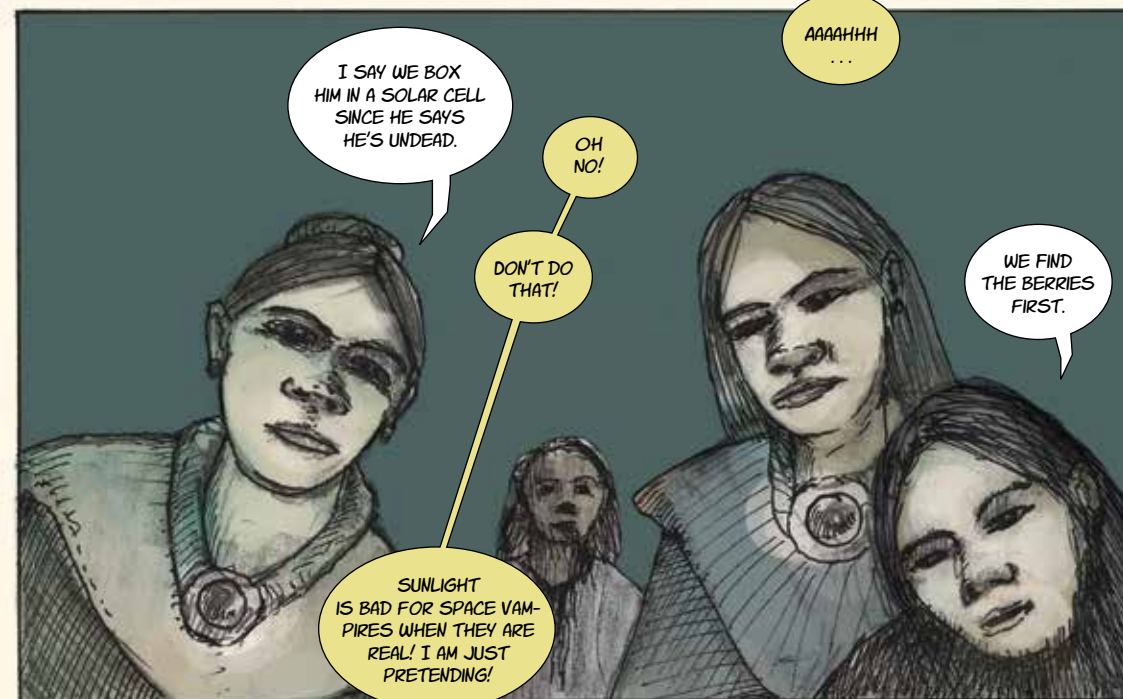
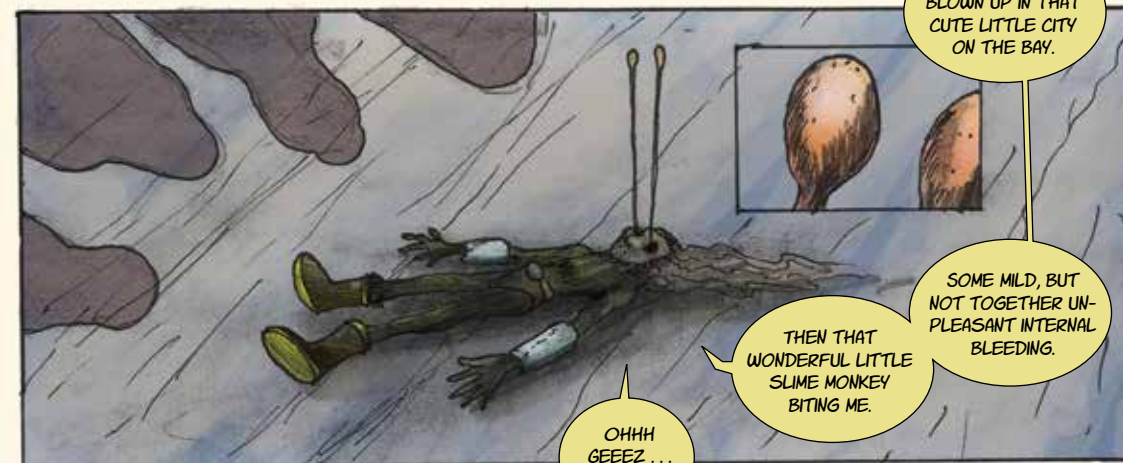
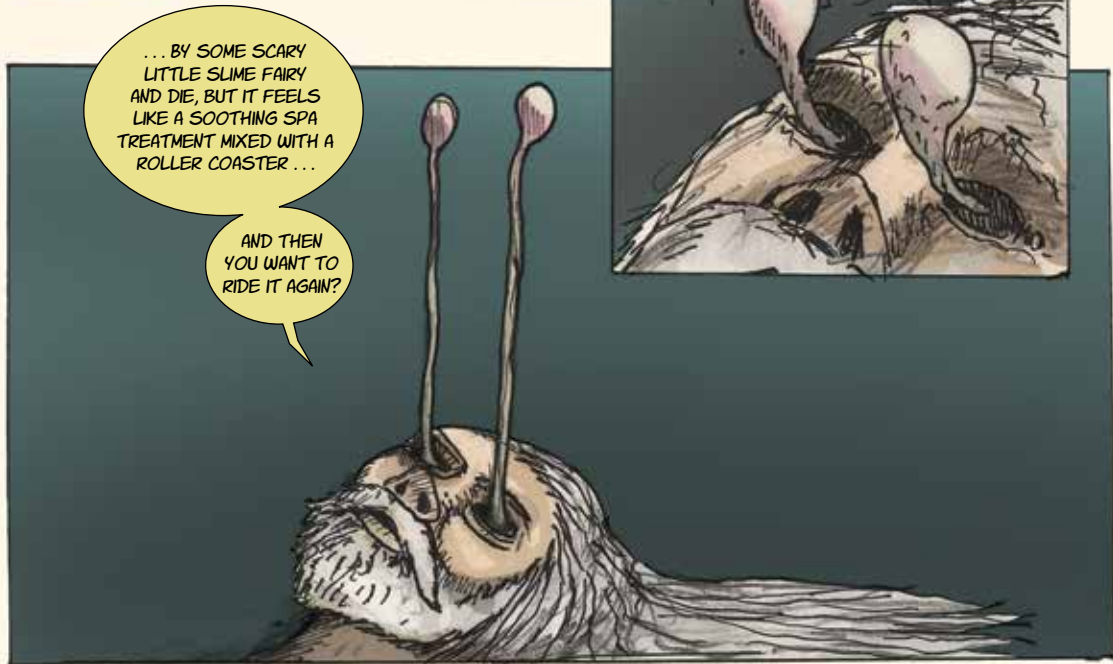
I DON'T THINK I WILL EVER BE ABLE TO REALLY GRASP THE FULL REALITY OF THE ANTHROVERSE. I CAN SEE WHY SO MANY OF THE OTHERS SPECIALIZE.

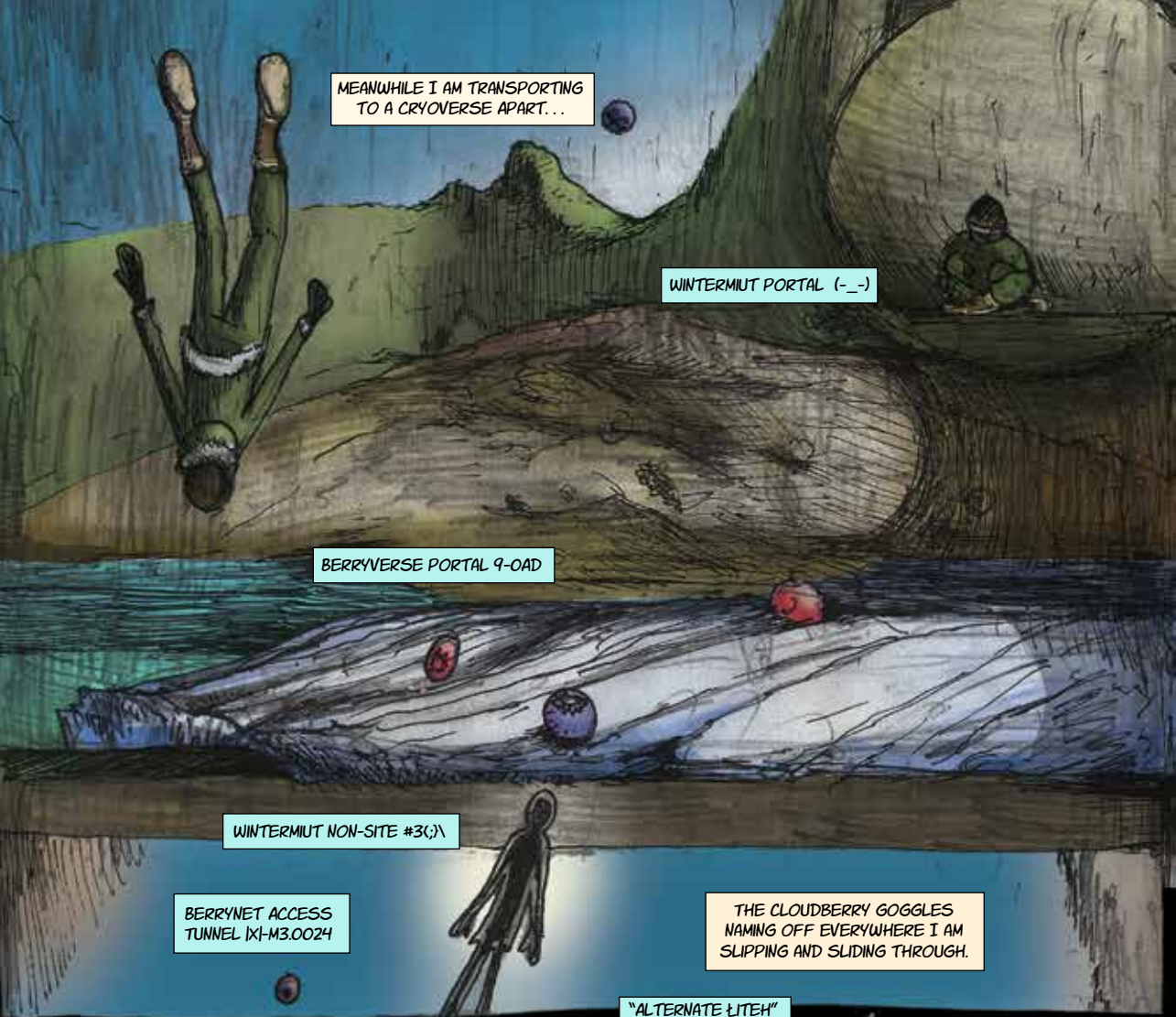


HEE
HEE HEE
HEE HEE

THAT WAS AWESOME!
HA HA HA!
WEEEE!

IS THE DEAD DUDE TALKING?





MEANWHILE I AM TRANSPORTING TO A CRYOVERSE APART...

WINTERMUT PORTAL (-_-)

BERRYVERSE PORTAL 9-OAD

WINTERMUT NON-SITE #3(:)\

BERRYNET ACCESS TUNNEL IX-M3.0024

THE CLODBERRY GOGGLES NAMING OFF EVERYWHERE I AM SLIPPING AND SLIDING THROUGH.

"ALTERNATE LITEH" #FFF8E6 | TRANSIT

JUST MY LUCK THIS RUN ENDS IN ONE OF THOSE REALITIES WHERE THE ICE WANTS TO EAT YOU.

CRYOV3R53 53CTION: 'KEGH'I NINVA'



LIVING GLACIAL ICE WITH THE FROZEN DEAD ON THE INSIDE.

BASICALLY THE SCARIEST THING IN THE ENTIRE MULTVERSE.

ARÈTE HAS TALKED ABOUT THESE MONSTERS BEFORE.



AS LONG AS IT IS HUMANS ON THE INSIDE -- POWERING THESE MONSTROCITIES I SHOULD BE OK.



I CAN USE MY POWERS TO KEEP THEM AT BAY, GET MY BEARINGS.



I WAS ACTUALLY GOING TO ASK ARÈTE TO MARRY ME, BEFORE I ENDED UP UNDERLAND.

ARÊTE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT A BABY.



NOT JUST A BABY, BUT US HAVING A BABY.

SHE WANTS ME TO USE MY POWERS TO DO IT.

I WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION ON ADOPTION FOR A REAL LONG TIME.



IT DIDN'T WORK VERY WELL.

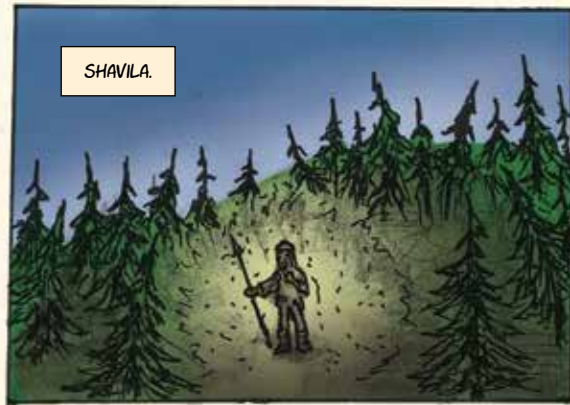


AND BOTH OF US HAD DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THAT.



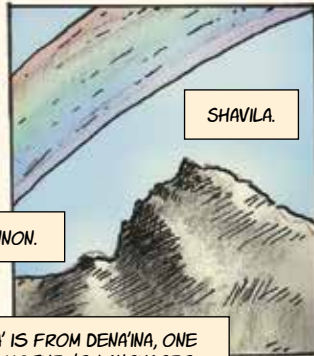


FOR ME IT IS BECAUSE THE TSIKOH SDE' AT ARCTIC CITY HAVE HER ON THEM.



SHAVILA.

THAT IS HER NAME.



SHAVILA.

SHAVILA SHANNON.

'SHAVILA' IS FROM DENA'INA, ONE OF HER MOTHER'S LANGUAGES.

IT TRANSLATES AS 'SUN SNARE'.

THE DENA'INA WORD FOR RAINBOW.

SHANNON IS HER MIDDLE NAME.



SHAVILA SHANNON.

Q'AHTGHAL'AY SAYS THAT SHAVILA SHANNON IS FROM THIS REALITY.

SHE IS OUR REAL BIOLOGICAL DAUGHTER, IN THIS REALITY...



BUT EVERYONE CALLS HER SHANNON ENTROPY.

SHANNON ENTROPY.

THAT IS WHAT SHE GOES BY ON THE TSIKOH SDE'.

Q'AHTGHAL'AY MADE THE TSIKOH SDE' WITH THE PREVIOUS KNIK QUARTERMASTER.

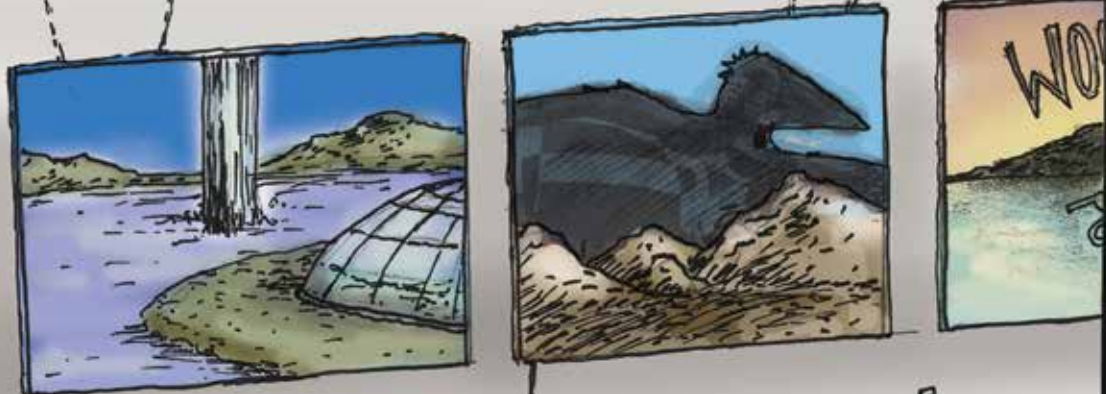
THEY CREATED A METHOD FOR WEAVING ELEMENTS FROM DIFFERENT REALITIES TOGETHER.

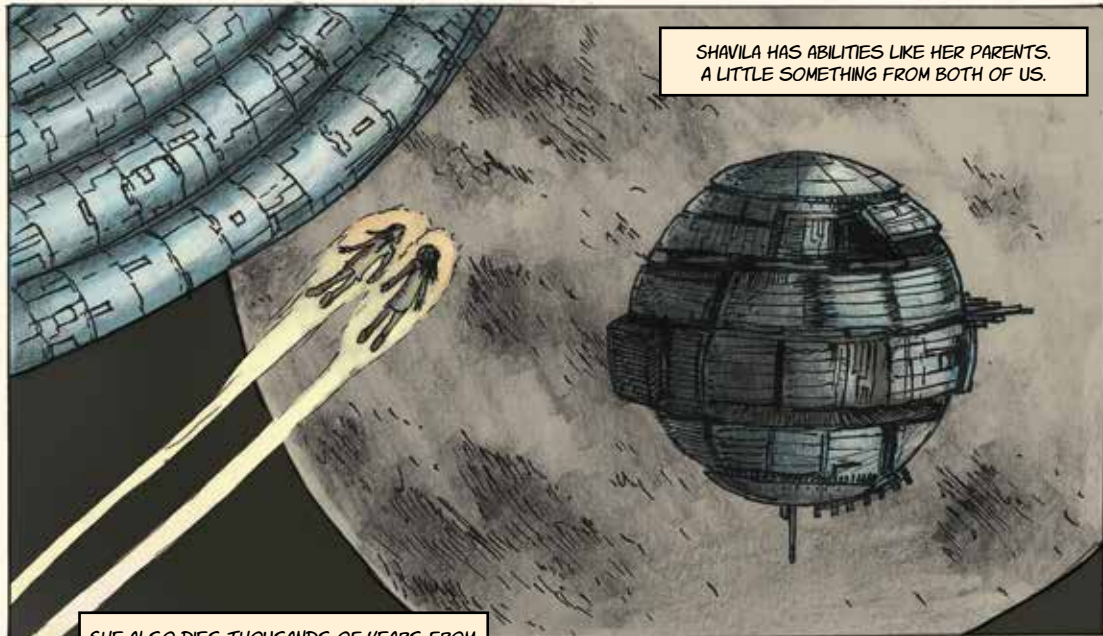


Q'AHTGHAL'AY.



SOME PEOPLE, LIKE Q'AHTGHAL'AY AND MYSELF CAN USE OUR POWERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TSIKOH SDE'.





SHAVILA HAS ABILITIES LIKE HER PARENTS. A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM BOTH OF US.

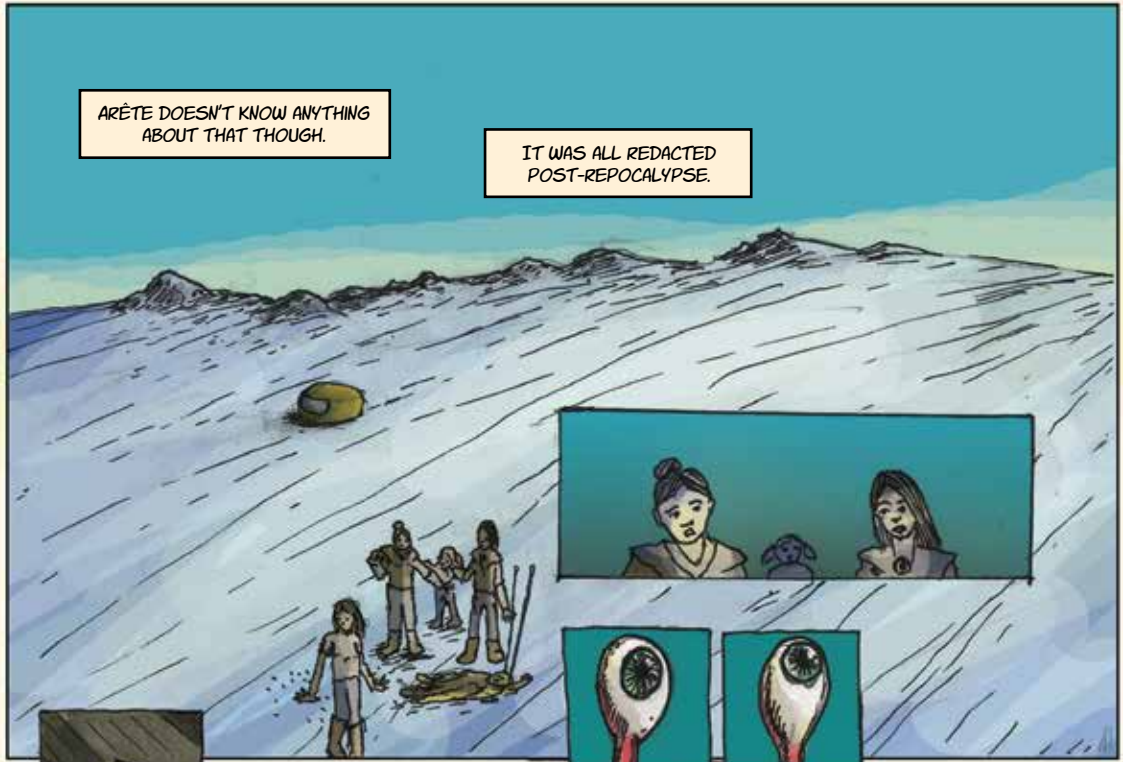
SHE ALSO DIES THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW ON AN ICY SUPEREARTH ON THE FROST LINE IN BARNARD'S STAR SYSTEM.



HER LAST WORDS ARE SPOKEN TO MARS APPLE IN AN UNDERWATER CITY ON THAT COLD PLANET.

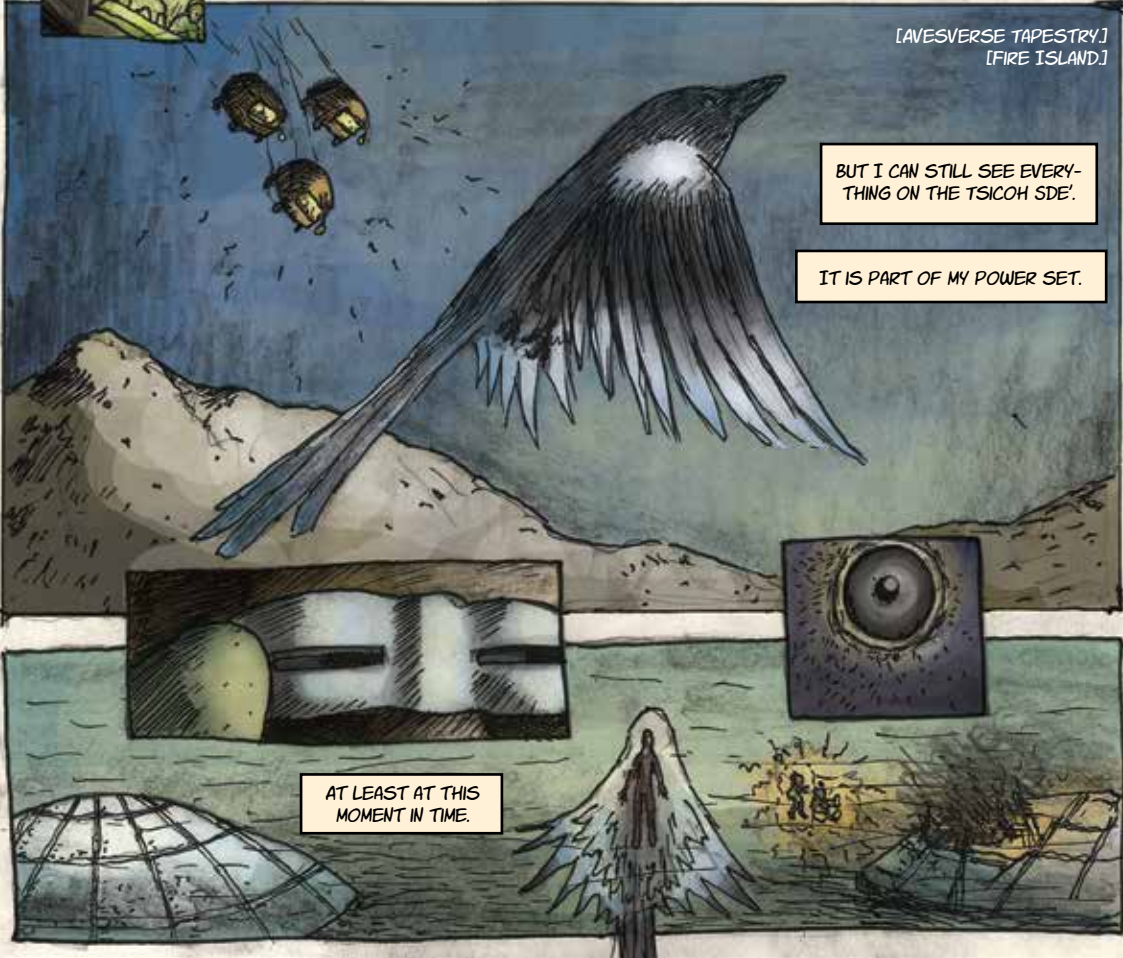
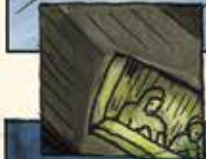
THEY GIVE HER A SUB-OCEAN GLACIAL BURIAL BEFORE SHE IS VIRTUALIZED IN THE CRYOVERSE.

THAT IS WHERE IT ALL ENDS.



ARÈTE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT THOUGH.

IT WAS ALL REDACTED POST-REPOCALYPSE.



[AVESVERSE TAPESTRY] [FIRE ISLAND.]

BUT I CAN STILL SEE EVERYTHING ON THE TSICOH SDE'.

IT IS PART OF MY POWER SET.

AT LEAST AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME.



A FEW DAYS AGO, SOME GLACIER TOLD ARÊTE ABOUT SHAVILA.

AND THEN WE HAD A FIGHT.

A WORD TO THE WISE: DON'T TRY AND TAKE THE HIGH ROAD WHEN THE ARGUMENT INVOLVES THE DESTINY OF AN UNBORN CHILD AND A MULTIDIMENSIONAL SUPERVILLAIN.



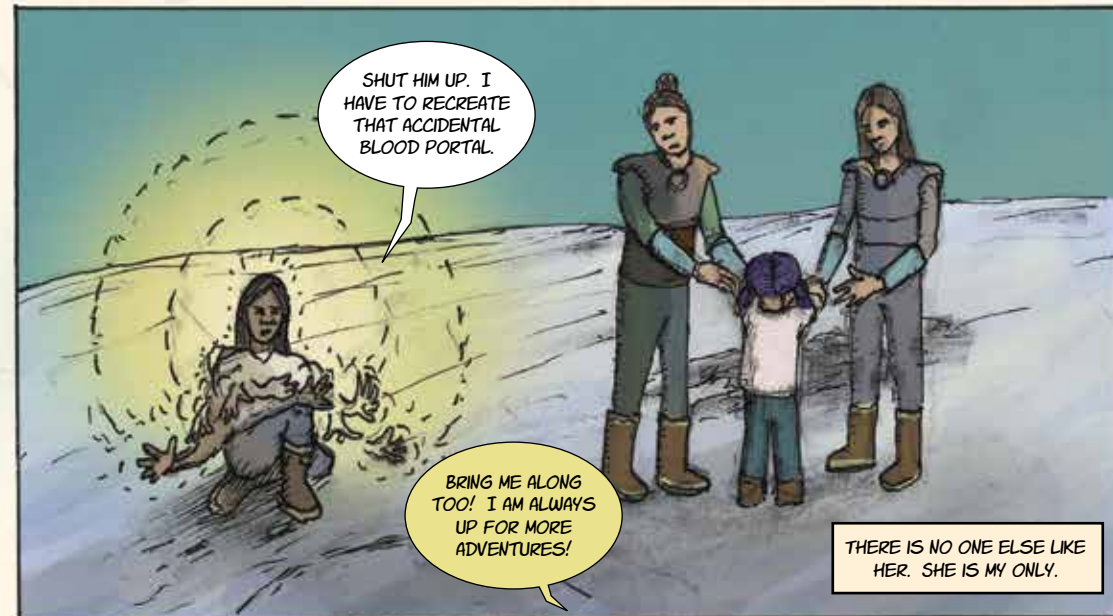
I HAVE BEEN IN LOVE -- IT SEEMS -- A MILLION TIMES.

I HAVE NEVER HAD THE FEELING ANYONE WAS REALLY THAT ATTRACTED TO ME. THAT WHO I AM WAS TOO CONFUSING.

UNTIL THAT DAY ARÊTE TRIED TO MAKE ME SMILE.



THAT DAY WAS DIFFERENT.



SHUT HIM UP. I HAVE TO RECREATE THAT ACCIDENTAL BLOOD PORTAL.

BRING ME ALONG TOO! I AM ALWAYS UP FOR MORE ADVENTURES!

THERE IS NO ONE ELSE LIKE HER. SHE IS MY ONLY.



DON'T EAT THOSE BERRIES!!



SHE CALLED ME THAT ONCE, 'HER ONLY', AND I LOVED IT.



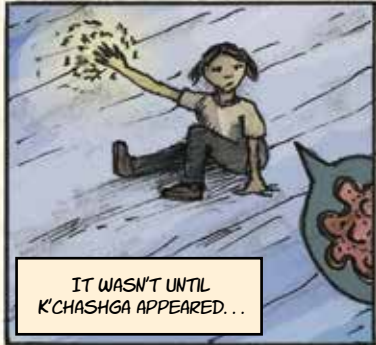
K'CHASHGA! NO!!

HER ONLY.

CRYOV3R53 53CTION: 'KEGH'I NINYA' -- SOMEWHERE IN THE ABSOLUTE MIDDLE OF ALL OF THIS, K'CHASHGA APPEARS ...



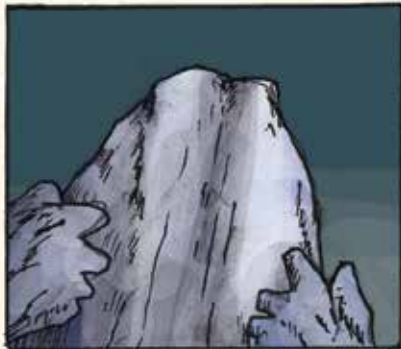
WHAT THE?



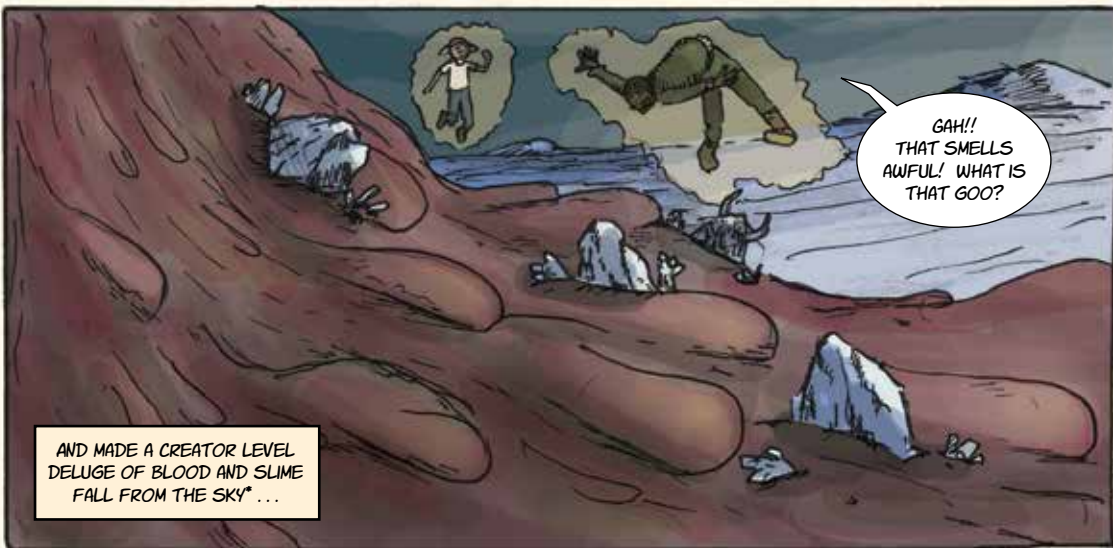
IT WASN'T UNTIL K'CHASHGA APPEARED...



K'CHASHGA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



WHOA!!



GAH!! THAT SMELLS AWFUL! WHAT IS THAT GOO?

AND MADE A CREATOR LEVEL DELUGE OF BLOOD AND SLIME FALL FROM THE SKY* ...

HOPEFULLY SHE DIDN'T EAT THEM ALL BEFORE SHE TELEPORTED.

STILL SOME LEFT ARÊTE!



WE NEED AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE BERRIES TO MAKE THE PORTAL. AND WE NEED TO HURRY.

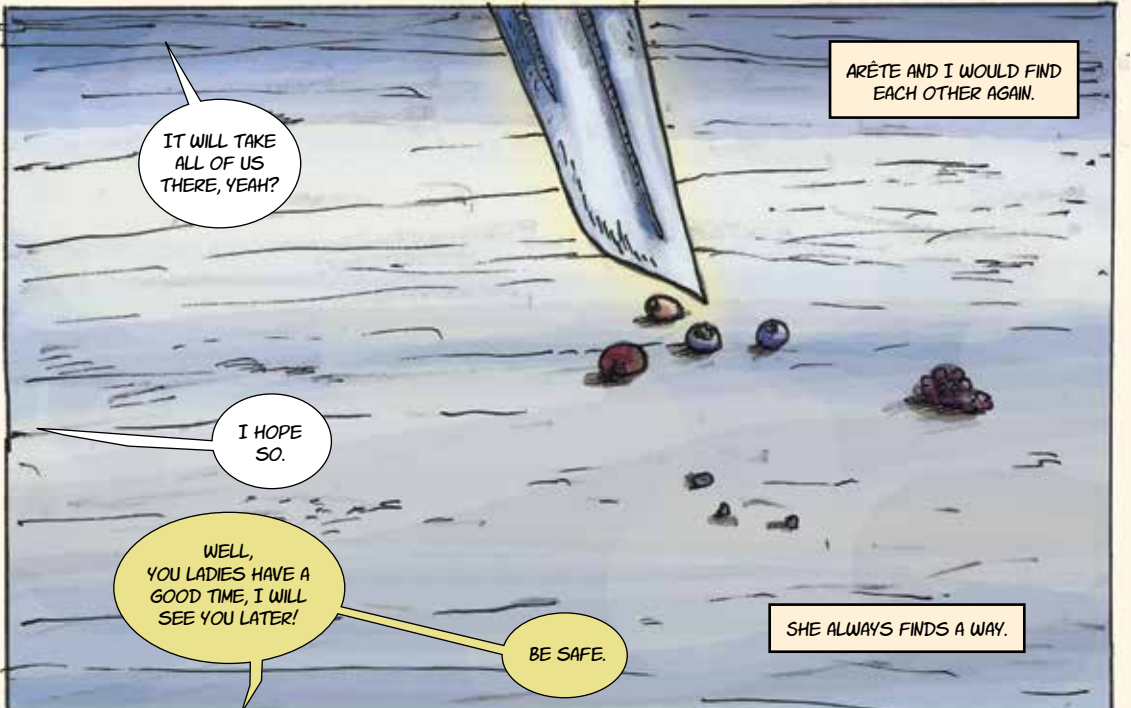
I CAN CREATE A GLACIER KNIFE OUT OF THE BACKGROUND RADIATION.

WE CAN USE IT TO CUT OUT A BLOOD PORTAL THAT WON'T MAKE US SICK.



THAT SOMEHOW...

ARÊTE'S GLACIER KNIFE.



IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US THERE, YEAH?

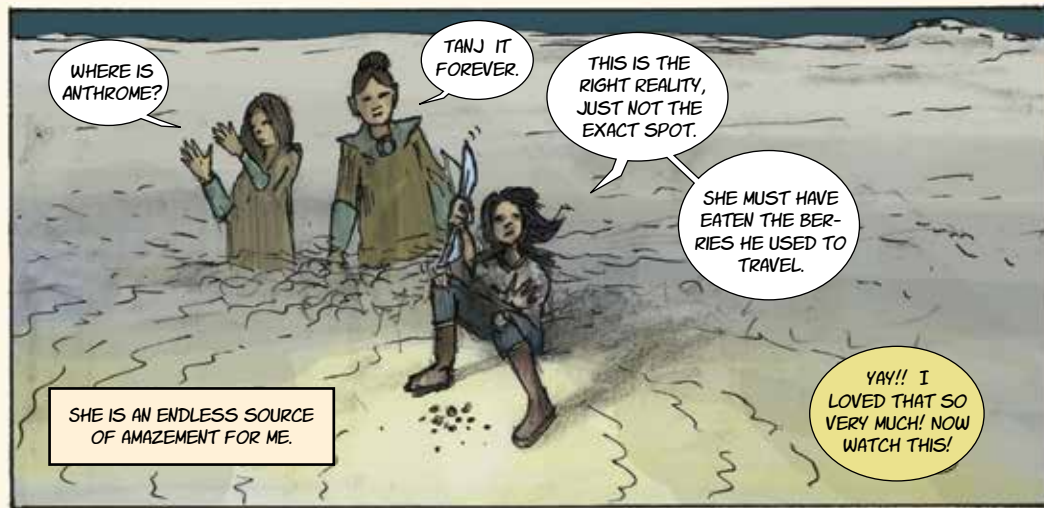
ARÊTE AND I WOULD FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I HOPE SO.

WELL, YOU LADIES HAVE A GOOD TIME, I WILL SEE YOU LATER!

BE SAFE.

SHE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY.



WHERE IS ANTHROME?

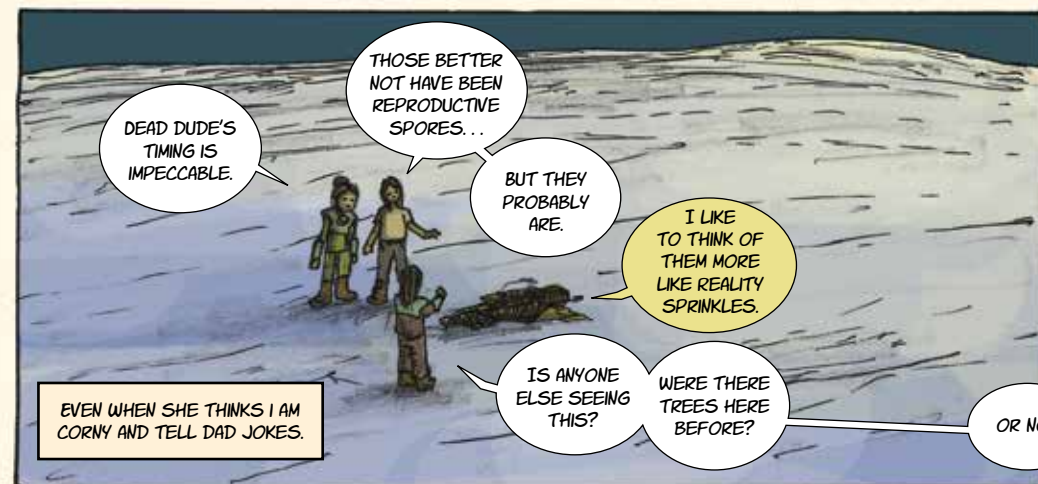
TANJ IT FOREVER.

THIS IS THE RIGHT REALITY, JUST NOT THE EXACT SPOT.

SHE MUST HAVE EATEN THE BERRIES HE USED TO TRAVEL.

YAY!! I LOVED THAT SO VERY MUCH! NOW WATCH THIS!

SHE IS AN ENDLESS SOURCE OF AMAZEMENT FOR ME.



DEAD DUDE'S TIMING IS IMPECCABLE.

THOSE BETTER NOT HAVE BEEN REPRODUCTIVE SPORES...

BUT THEY PROBABLY ARE.

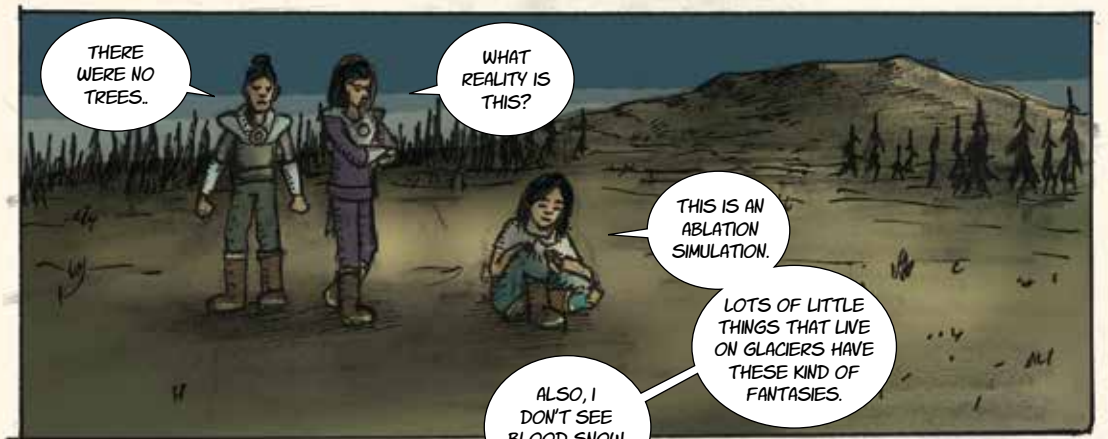
I LIKE TO THINK OF THEM MORE LIKE REALITY SPRINKLES.

IS ANYONE ELSE SEEING THIS?

WERE THERE TREES HERE BEFORE?

OR NO?

EVEN WHEN SHE THINKS I AM CORNY AND TELL DAD JOKES.



THERE WERE NO TREES.

WHAT REALITY IS THIS?

THIS IS AN ABLATION SIMULATION.

LOTS OF LITTLE THINGS THAT LIVE ON GLACIERS HAVE THESE KIND OF FANTASIES.

ALSO, I DON'T SEE BLOOD SNOW ANYMORE.



BUT I DO SEE SHADOW GIANTS. K'KEGH'I NINYA. LIKE FROM Q'AHGHTAL'AY'S EARTH.

LOOKS LIKE CYBERINGIAN SIMULATIONS TO ME. NEVER SEEN 'EM OUTSIDE OUR REALITY THOUGH.

WE TALK TO THEM IN THE SIMULATION.

THEY CAN SEE THINGS.

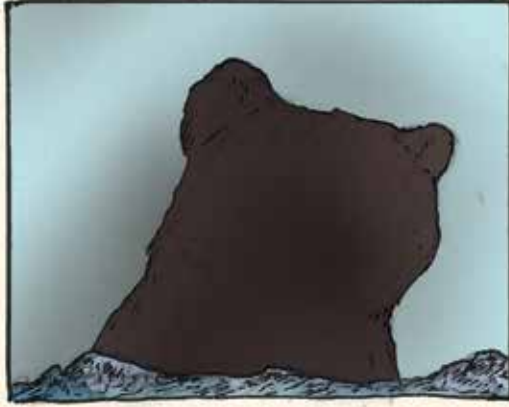
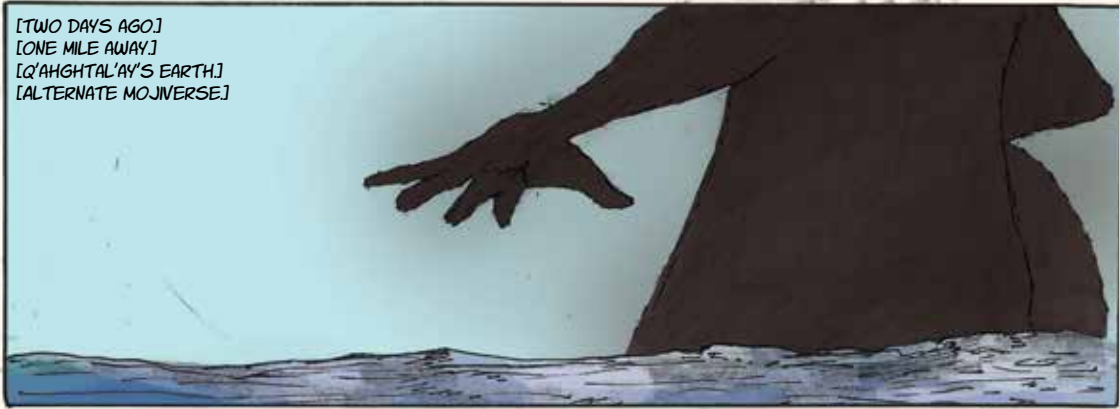
MAYBE THEY CAN SEE WHERE ANTHROME OR K'CHASHGA ARE?



LET'S GO SEE IF THEY CAN HELP.

HEY! HEY!! CAN YOU ALL STILL HEAR ME? WHERE IS THE LITTLE SLIME GIRL?

[TWO DAYS AGO]
[ONE MILE AWAY]
[Q'AHGHTAL'AY'S EARTH]
[ALTERNATE MOJIVERSE.]



[MOMENTS AGO]
[CRYOV3R53 53CTION: 'K'EGH' NINYA']



LOOKS LIKE A
STORM ON THE
HORIZON.



THAT
IS...

GGUUX.
GGUUX.



SOMETHING FEELS REAL WRONG SINCE THOSE SPORES EXPLODED.

I BETTER NOT BE PREGNANT WITH THAT EVIL DUDE'S AMOEBA BABIES.

YEAH OK -- IS IT TOO MUCH OUT HERE TO ANYBODY ELSE?

TANJ AT ALL.

CAN ANYONE SPARE AN ARCANUM OF CATSUP?

IT IS SO SWARMING WITH BACTERIA.

END OF 'OUR CRYOVERSE APART' PART TWO. THERE ARE THREE MORE PARTS TO "OUR CRYOVERSE APART" WHICH WILL BE ALONG AFTER A FEW OTHER STORIES.

IN THESE STORIES THERE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AN ENDING, CONCLUSION OR SUMMATION, JUST A CHANGE FROM SOMETHING INTO SOMETHING ELSE.

WINTERMOOT WILL BE CONTINUED IN BOOK FIVE: SLACK TIDES ... AND BOOK SIX: FRESH PLEISTOCENE ...

THIS VOLUME OF WINTERMOOT WILL END WITH BOOK TEN: MARS APPLE AND SHANNON ENTROPY.

"IS IT SUMMERLAND ESTATES OR COBWEB KINGDOMS?"

FROM THE SOURDOUGH DIGITAL RECORDINGS:

"SO, THERE WAS THIS MAGICAL WHITE DUDE, LORD KING SAINT CAPTAIN THADDEUS EDWIN CUMBERLAND SEDGELORD THE FIRST, OF THE SUMMERLAND ESTATES AND THE UNINCORPORATED COBWEB KINGDOMS. 'CUMBERLAND SEDGELORD' OR 'ST. SEDGELORD' FOR SHORT. PEOPLE SAID HE WAS A SCHIZOPHRENIC OR SOMETHING, SOME SORT OF INTERNET TROLL, WHITE NATIONALIST WARLOCK, SOMETHING WEIRD. NEVER MET HIM THOUGH, DON'T REALLY KNOW OR CARE TO. TRUTH IS, IT DOESN'T MATTER -- BUT HE IS THE ONE WHO SPOKE WITH THE DOGGERLAND REALTOR, THE AI. FROM THE EUROPEAN ZONE OF THE OORT CLOUD, THAT STARTED THE EVER-SPRAWLING SUBURBS. IT HAS A BUNCH OF NAMES ... I LIKE THE 'COBWEB KINGDOM'. SOUNDS MORE POST-APOCALYPTIC.

THE DOGGERLAND REALTOR THOUGH, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO WENT TO THAT OTHER DIMENSION DURING THE REPOCALYPSE STUFF -- NOW THEY POP UP EVERY FEW YEARS. LIKE SOME SORT OF SUBURBAN XANADU. [HUMS THEME SONG TO XANADU] DOMED THOUGH. LIKE A GATED COMMUNITY WITH SUPERPOWERS. AND WHITE PEOPLE ONLY. AND THEY HAVE ALL OF THAT WHITE SEDGELORD HIP HOP ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE SPRAWL. THAT IS THE SUMMERLAND ESTATES. COBWEB KINGDOMS IS THE CYBERINGIAN NICKNAME, BECAUSE THEY ARE SUPPOSEDLY A FAILED MULTIDIMENSIONAL COLONY -- 'JUST COLLECTING DIGITAL DUST', AS THE KIDS SAY. BUT ST. SEDGELORD, HE USED BOTH PLACENAMES IN HIS PROPER NAME, IN THAT PERMANENT SUMMER IN BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH -- THE EVERSPRAWLING SUBURBS. I DON'T THINK THEY HAD GIANT SPIDERS THERE THOUGH. AND THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME. EVERY ONE OF THEM, PEOPLE AND PLACE. NOT THE SPIDERS. I NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE GIANT SPIDER THING. GUARD DOGS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. HAHHAHA. YOU GOTTA STAY HYDRATED IN OUTER SPACE, IT IS PROBLEMATIC." [STARTS HUMMING XANADU AGAIN]

-- GROVER THORNTON, AKA ANCHORMAN, THE SOURDOUGH

FROM Q + A WITH Q'AHTGHAL'AY:

"I AM LIKE 90% CERTAIN THAT THOSE PLACES ARE COMPLETELY FABRICATED BY THE COUNTRY WOODS ESTABLISHMENT AS A P.R. STUNT TO DRUM UP FEAR. THERE ARE LOTS OF ISOLATIONIST CIVILIZATIONS OUT THERE, AND THERE ARE OTHER HUMAN SIMULATIONS BESIDES JUST HOMO SAPIENS. I KNOW ST. SEDGELORD LEAD A GROUP OF WHITE PEOPLE TO AN UNDERWATER DOME TO ESCAPE THE EVENTS OF REPOCALYPSE. THERE IS A SIMULATION HALF-COMMEMORATING/HALF-MOCKING THEM AT THE THEME PARK ON TOMORROW ISLAND.

SOME AHTNA KIDS FROM MY HOME DIMENSION WERE THE FIRST PEOPLE I EVER HEARD MENTION THAT PLACE BEFORE, AND THEY CALLED IT THE 'COBWEB KINGDOM'. IT JUST SOUNDED LIKE ONE OF THEIR STORIES. THEY WOULD TELL SOME BIG ONES. THEY CALLED HIM GGUUX GUL'SI -- 'THE CATERPILLAR', THEY SAY HE WAS A BOGEY MAN WHO WOULD TURN INTO A GIANT BUTTERFLY. HE WAS UNNATURAL BUT STILL VERY POWERFUL. ONE OF THE STORIES SAID HE COULD BREATHE ANYTHING, LIKE FIRE, OR WATER, OR EVEN DIRT, OR PLASMA.

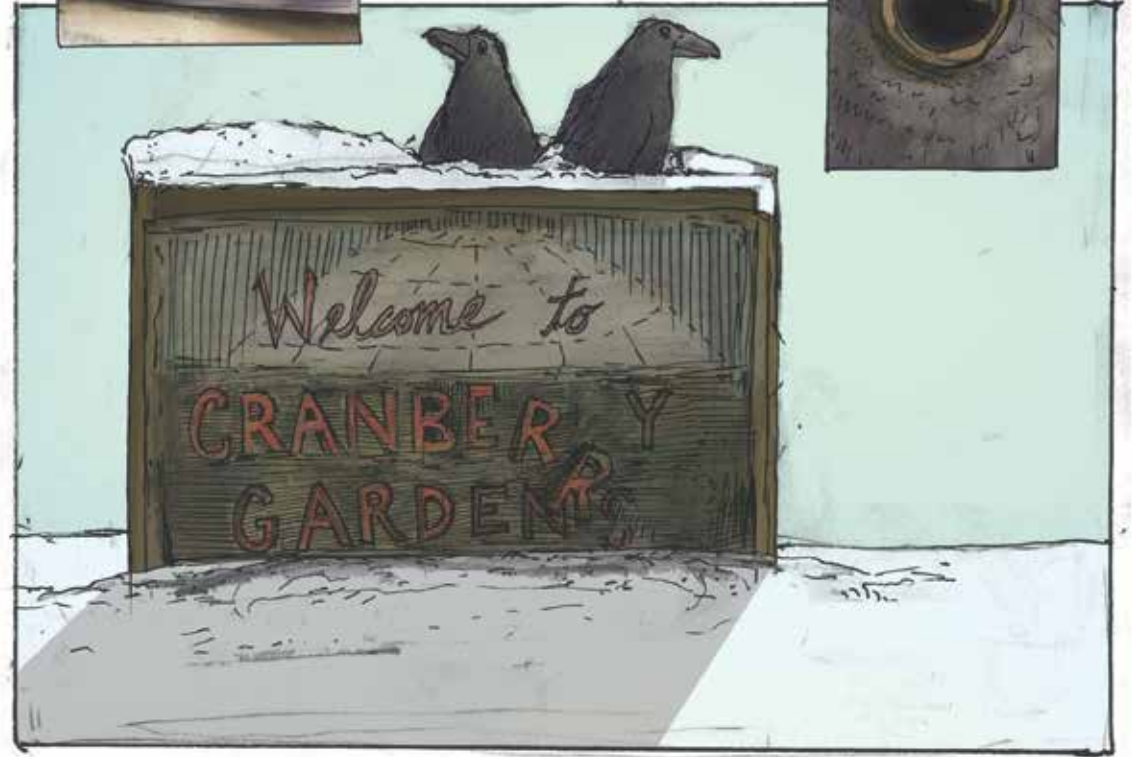
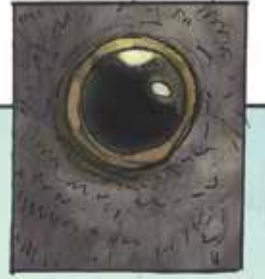
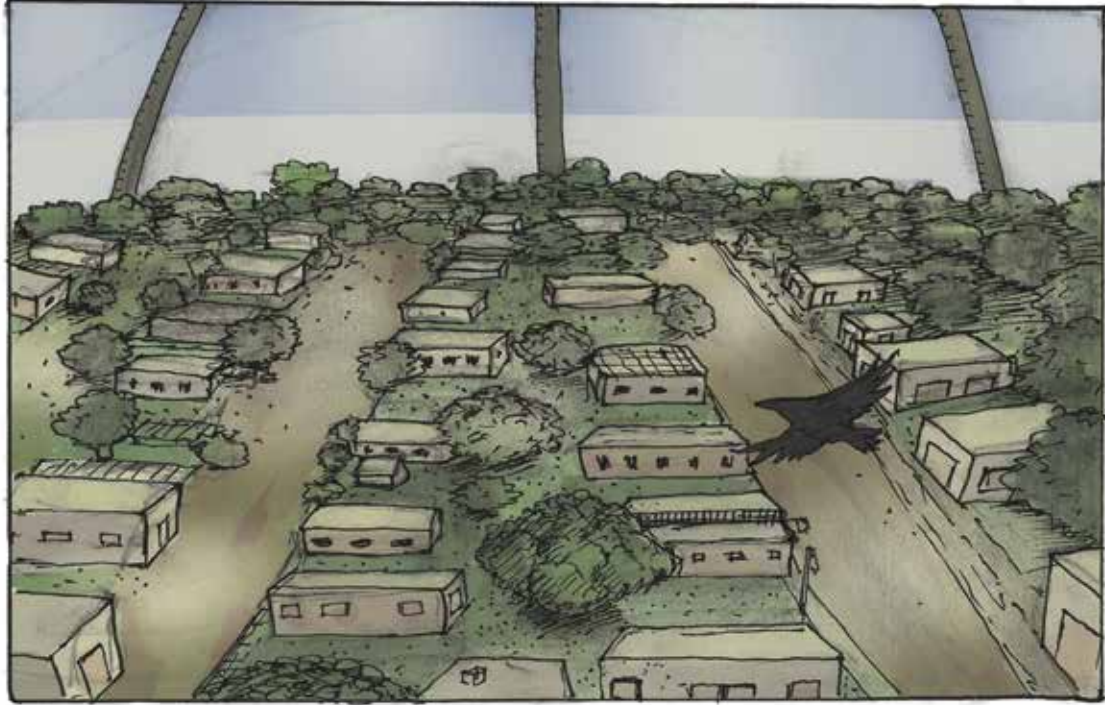
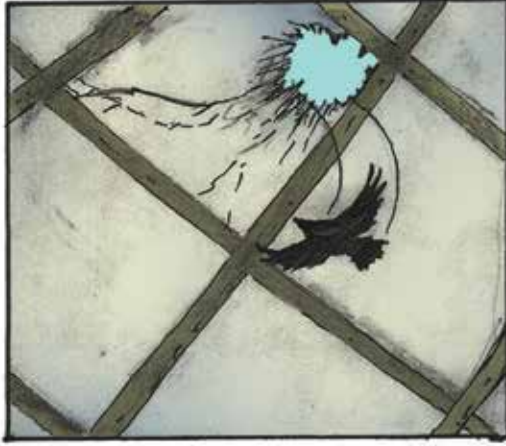
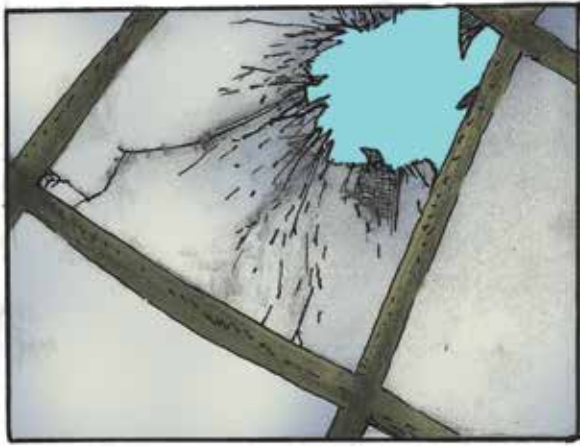
AS FAR AS THE NAME GOES, MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE IDEA OF 'SUMMERLAND' IS THAT IT IS AN OLD EUROPEAN NOTION OF THE AFTERLIFE. I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT IS PRETTY TRUE TO FORM IF YOU ARE ASKING ME, BUILDING A SIMULATION OF UTOPIA ON TOP OF ALASKA. IT WOULD CAUSE A LOT OF SUPERNATURAL GLITCHES IN OUR REALITY, WHICH I HAVEN'T SEEN. THAT IS WHY I SAY I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT IS ALL JUST SCARY STORIES, BUT I THINK THEY MAKE SOME PRETTY GOOD CAUTIONARY TALES ABOUT LIVING WITH THE LAND. I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT GROVER KILLED ST. SEDGELORD DURING LAMBDA MANTLE. IT IS ON THE TSIKOH SDE'. ON THE TSIKOH SDE' HE HAD INVISIBLE BUTTERFLY WINGS THAT STRETCHED FOR MILES AROUND HIM LIKE RETRACTABLE SOLAR SAILS, BUT NO ONE COULD SEE THEM WITHOUT THE SMART GOGGLES. THAT IS SUPPOSEDLY HOW HE TRAVELED AROUND IN OUTER SPACE, THOSE GIANT BUTTERLY WINGS NO ONE COULD SEE."

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

NOTE FROM ARÊTE:

FOR THE RECORD, IT IS 'SUMMERLAND ESTATES AND STABILIMENTA GARDENS'. MOSTLY IT IS JUST A BUNCH OF DOMED TRAILER PARKS, A COUPLE OF THEM HAD WHAT WE MIGHT CALL 'SUBURBS' IN THEM. MOST OF THEM INFESTED WITH THOSE CRANBERRY SPIDERS THAT MADE THE ACINIFORM K'GHUGHTNA. I SAW THEM MYSELF, BUT THAT IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME, WHEN I HAVE THE PROCESSING SPACE TO THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE I TURN IT INTO ANOTHER MEMORY THAT I REMEMBER ONLY IN MY DREAMS. RIGHT NOW, I AM CONTENT TO BE AT HOME WITH ANTHROME AND MY CHICKEN NUGGETS.

[CRANBERRY GARDENS.]
[SUMMERLAND ESTATES.]



ANTHROPOGENIC BIOMES (ANTHROMES)

1. ANTHROPOGENIC MARINE BIOME
2. ARTIFICIAL WETLANDS
3. ANTHROPOGENIC SHORELINE
4. ANTHROPOGENIC SUBTERRANEAN VOIDS
5. ANTHROPOGENIC SUBTERRANEAN FRESHWATERS
6. INTENSIVE LAND USE
7. DENSE SETTLEMENTS
8. MANAGED AQUATIC BIOMES
9. TECHNOECOSYSTEMS
10. RANGELANDS
11. CROPLANDS
12. FORESTED
13. INDOOR ECOSYSTEMS
14. VILLAGES
15. WILDLANDS



SUBMERGED ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURES (1)



INDUSTRIAL EXCAVATION (4)



SUBWAYS (4)



MARINE AQUAFARMS (1)



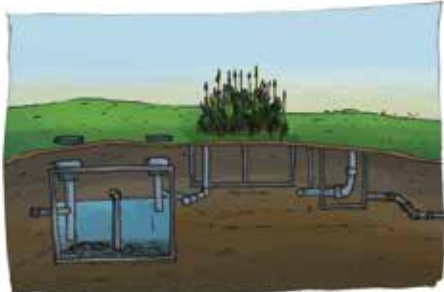
TERRESTRIAL AQUAFARMS (2)



ARTIFICIAL CAVE-LIKE ECOSYSTEMS (4)



ARTIFICIAL SHORELINE (3)



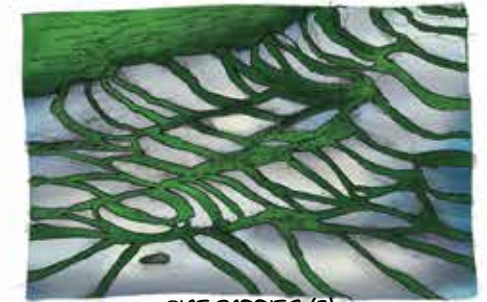
CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS (2)



CROPS (6)



RESERVOIRS (2)



RICE PADDIES (2)



PLANTATIONS (6)



POPULATED FORESTS (12)



FLOODED MINES (5)



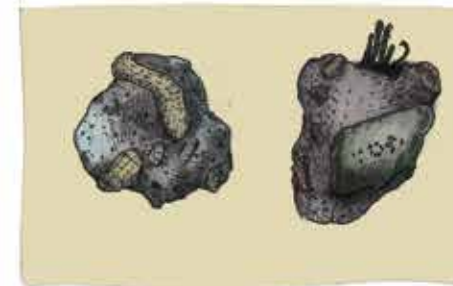
SUBTERRANEAN CANALS (5)



RESIDENTIAL RANGELANDS (10)



LANDFILLS (6)



PLASTIGLOMERATES (9)



WATER PIPES (5)



SERVER FARMS (6)



SEMI-NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS (6)



RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATED CROPLANDS (11)



RESIDENTIAL RAINFED MOSAIC (11)



PASTURES (6)



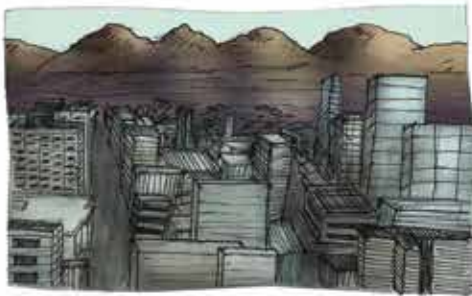
BENTHIC FARMING (8)



POPULATED IRRIGATED CROPLANDS (11)



FISH PONDS (8)



URBAN (7)



REMOTE FORESTS (12)



PASTORAL VILLAGES (14)



MATERIAL NEGENTROPY



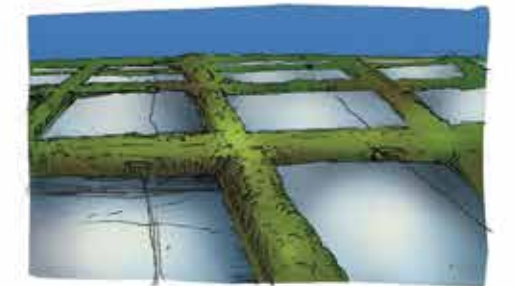
REMOTE RANGELANDS (10)



POPULATED RANGELANDS (10)



PEDICULUS HUMANUS (13)



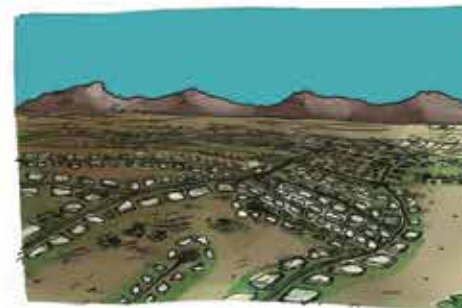
MARINE SHRIMP FARMS (8)



REMOTE CROPLANDS (11)



POPULATED RAINFED CROPLANDS (11)



URBAN SPRAWL (7)



FAVELAS (7)



GLOBAL NETWORK OF ROAD SYSTEMS (9)



ANTHROSOLS (9)



CROPPED AND PASTORAL VILLAGES (14)



RAINFED VILLAGES (14)



PARTICLE ACCELERATORS (6)



SUBMARINE FIBEROPTIC CABLES (9)



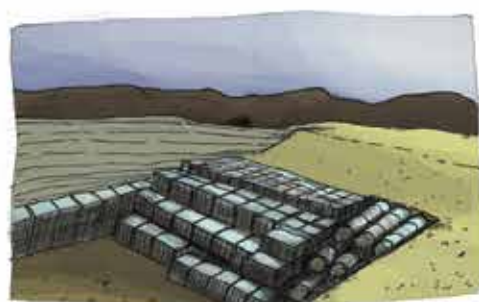
IRRIGATED VILLAGES (14)



MOBILIAS AND TELESHERES (9)



RICE VILLAGES (14)



NUCLEAR WASTE BURIAL SITES (6)



COMMERCIAL INDOOR (13)



OIL PIPELINES (6)



TECHNOSOLS (9)



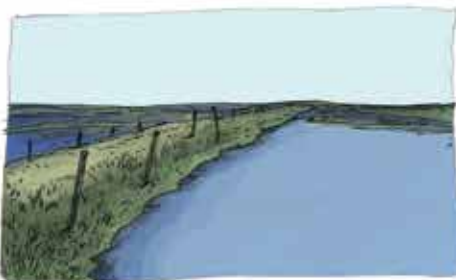
SPARSE TREE WILDLANDS (15)



RESIDENTIAL INDOOR (13)



BARREN WILDLANDS (15)



LEVEES (6)



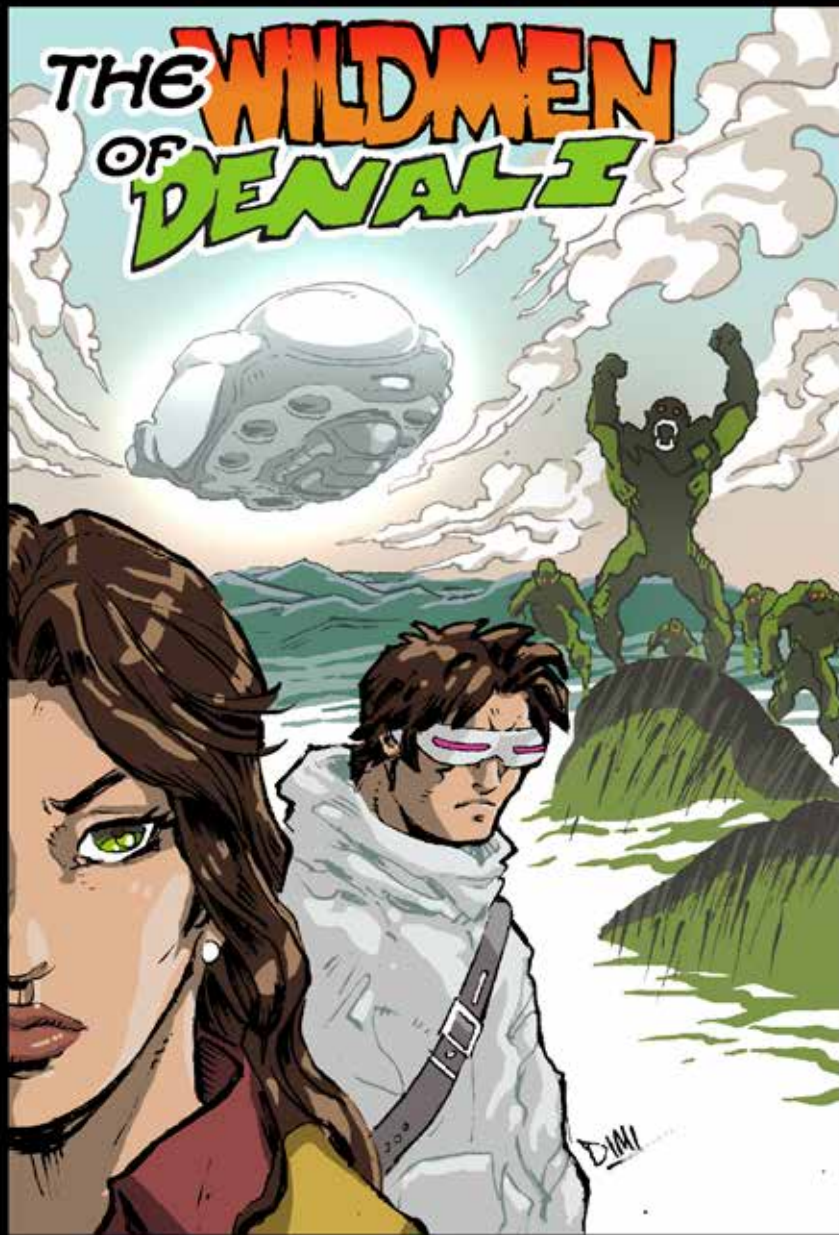
RAINFED MOSAIC VILLAGES (14)



WILD FORESTS (15)



DOMED CITIES (9)



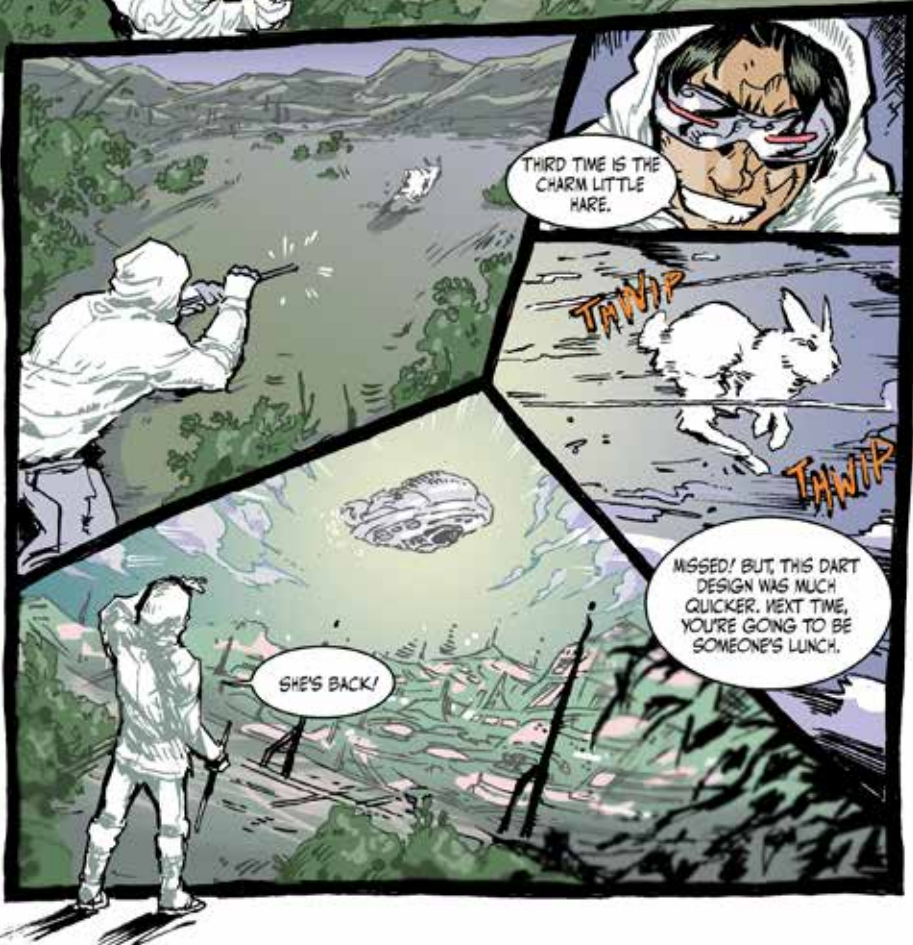
written by
RICHARD PERRY

illustrated by
DIMI MACHERAS





WHO KNEW HUNTING FOR HARES WOULD TAKE SO LONG.



THIRD TIME IS THE CHARM LITTLE HARE.

THWIP
THWIP

MISSED! BUT, THIS DART DESIGN WAS MUCH QUICKER. NEXT TIME, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SOMEONE'S LUNCH.

SHE'S BACK!



LISTEN TO ME CHILD. WHAT I HAVE TO SAY IS IMPORTANT.

PERHAPS IT WILL MAKE BETTER SENSE BY THE TIME YOU ARE HERE-OR ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I CALLED ON YOU.

HEROES WEAR A MASK AND OUR PEOPLE HAVE MASKS THAT SPAN BEYOND THE LAST 10,000 YEARS. FOR US, STORY IS A LIVING BREATHING MANIFESTATION OF OUR LIFEWAYS, WHAT WE VALUE. STORIES TELL US OF OUR ANCESTORS AND WHERE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN. ALL OF THESE THINGS SHAPE THE PATH BEFORE US.

OUR STORIES, OUR ANCESTORS, OUR COMMUNITIES ARE LIKE AN ASPECT OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A HERO.



FINALLY, I'VE MADE IT HOME.