





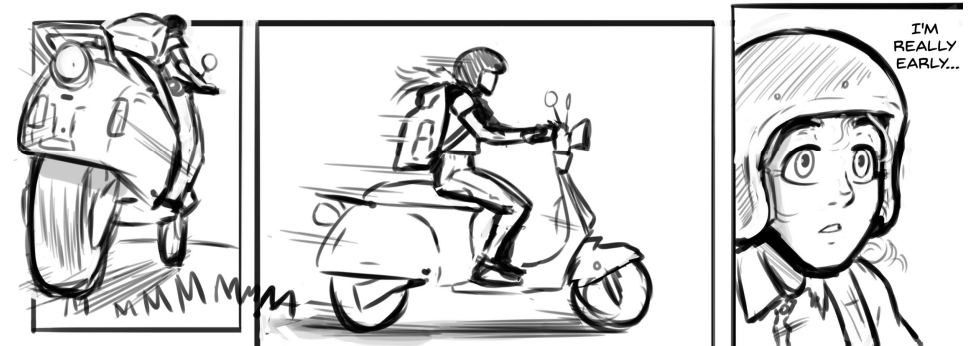
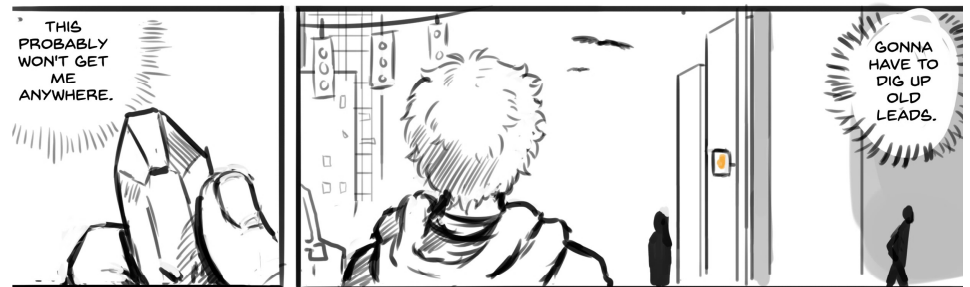
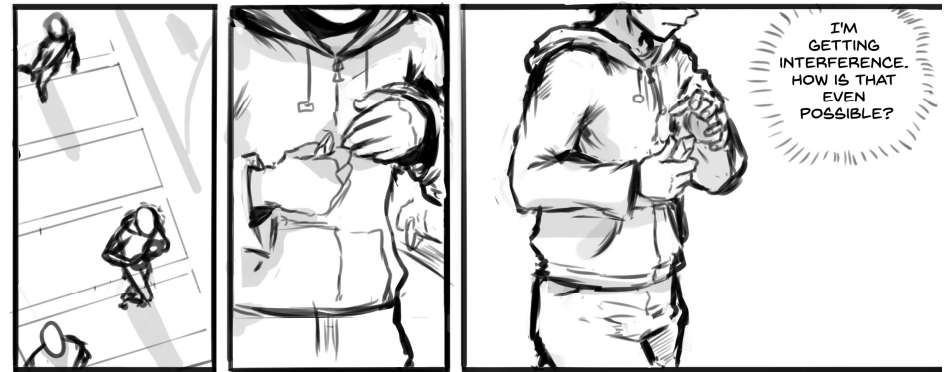
# CHAPTER ONE:

## DOWN TO EARTH

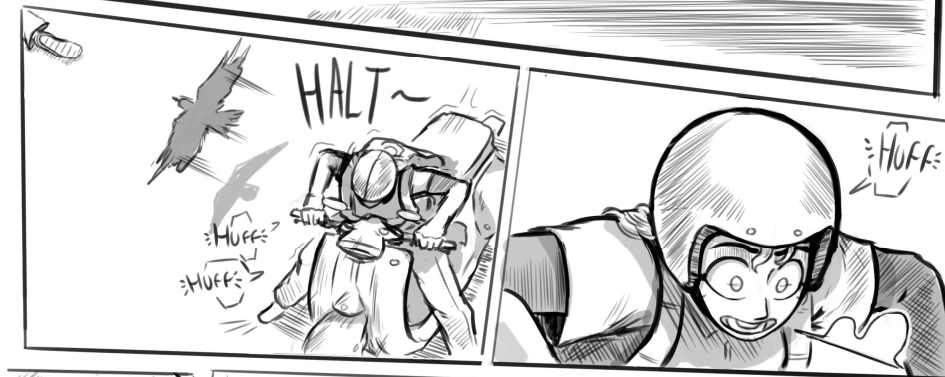
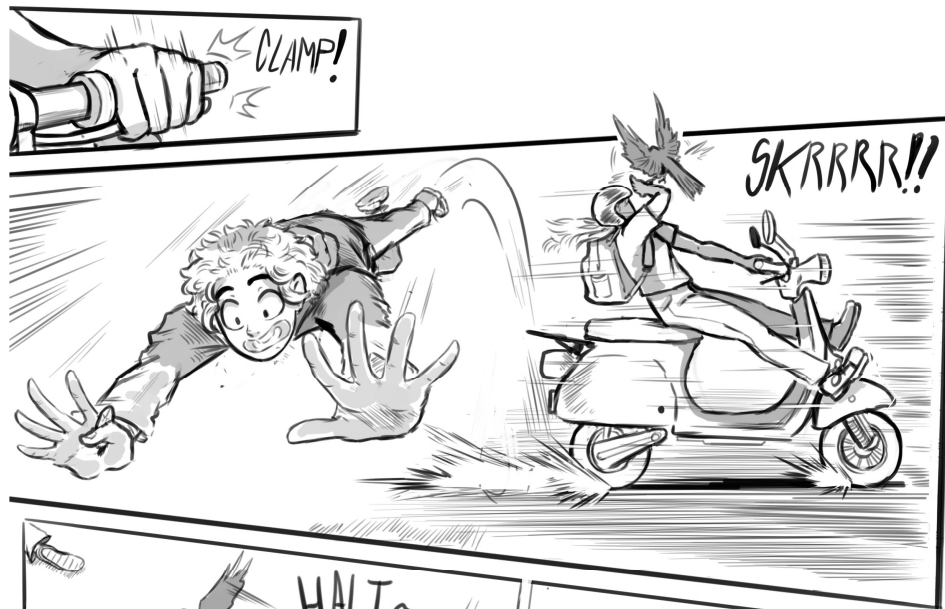
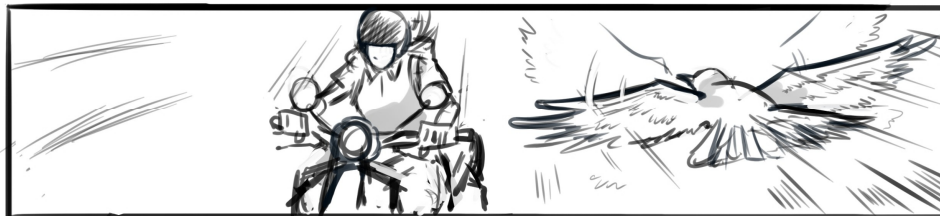
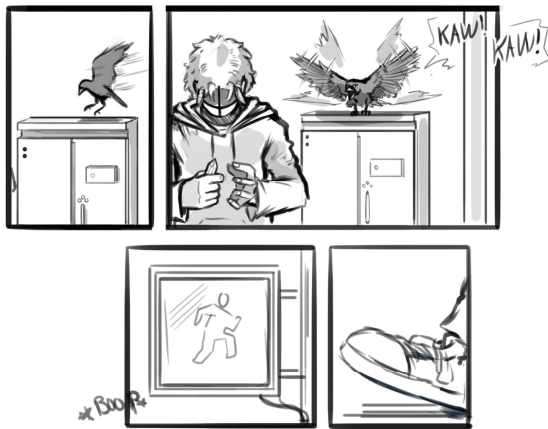
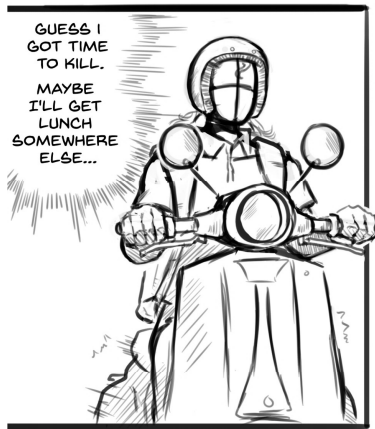
LET'S  
SEE WHAT  
THEY CAN  
SHOW US.



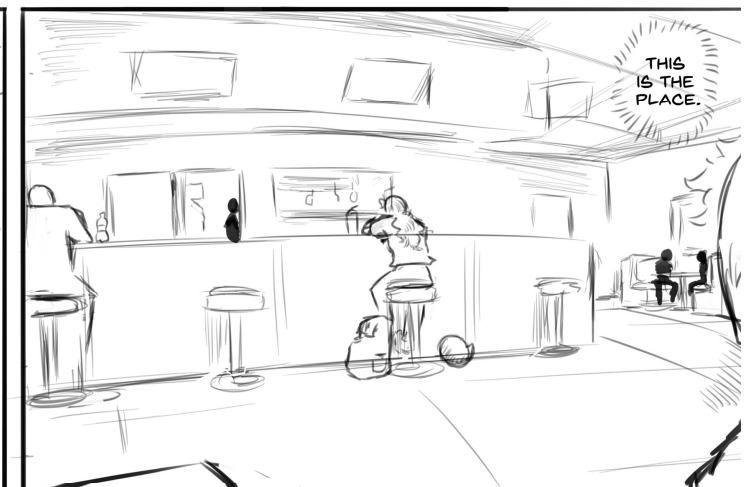
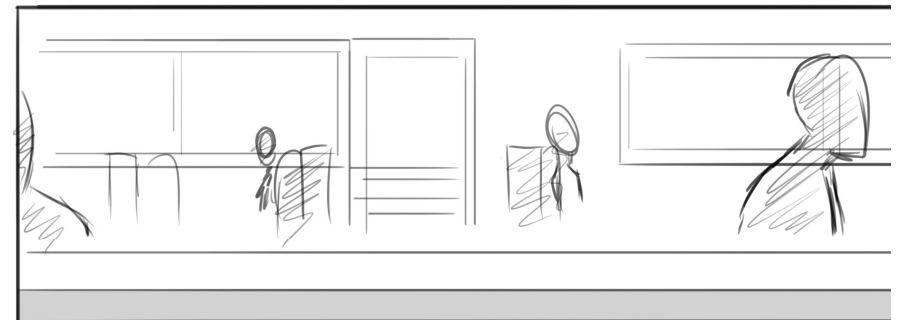
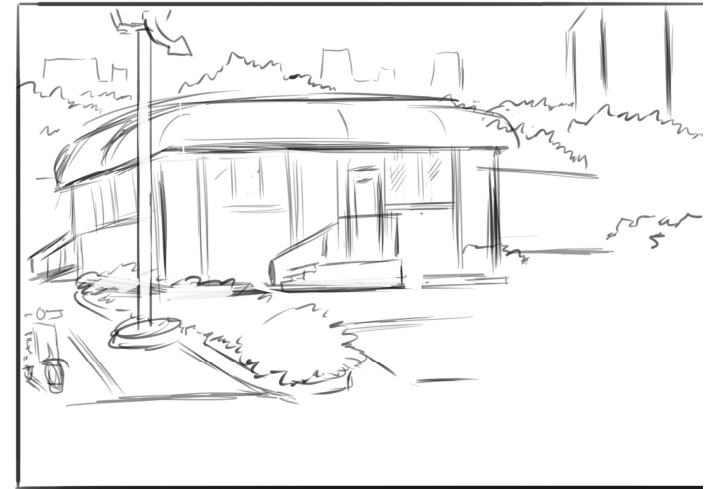
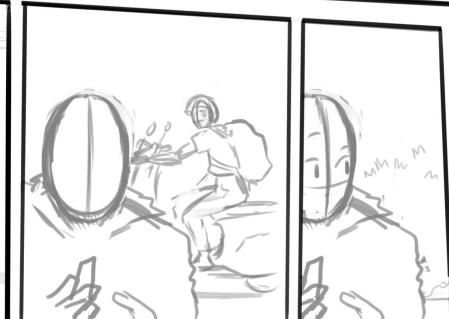
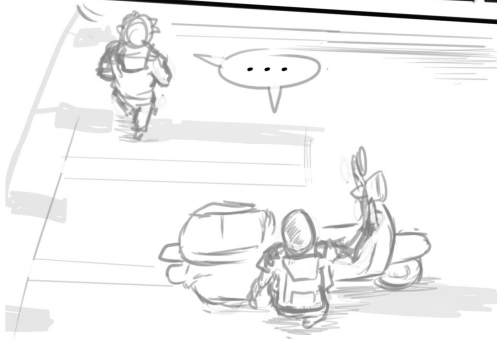
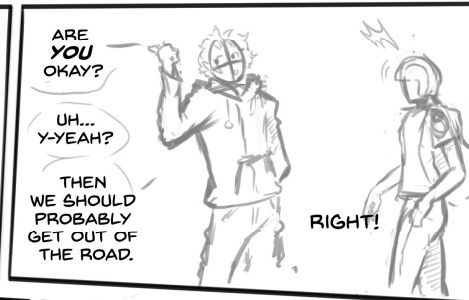
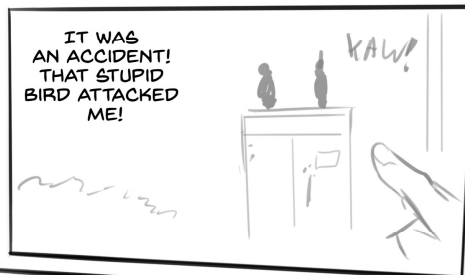
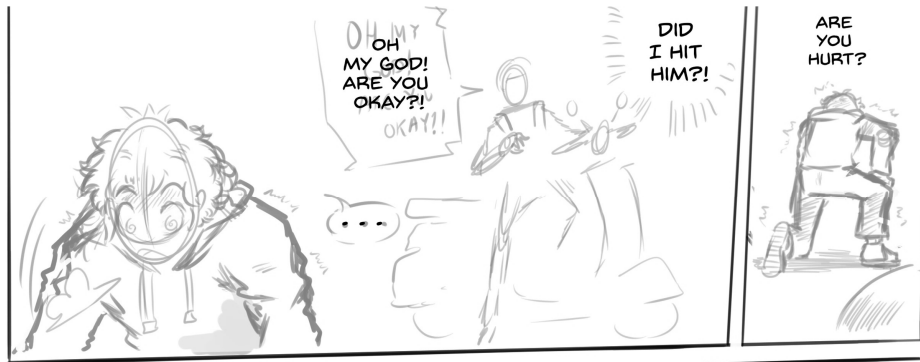




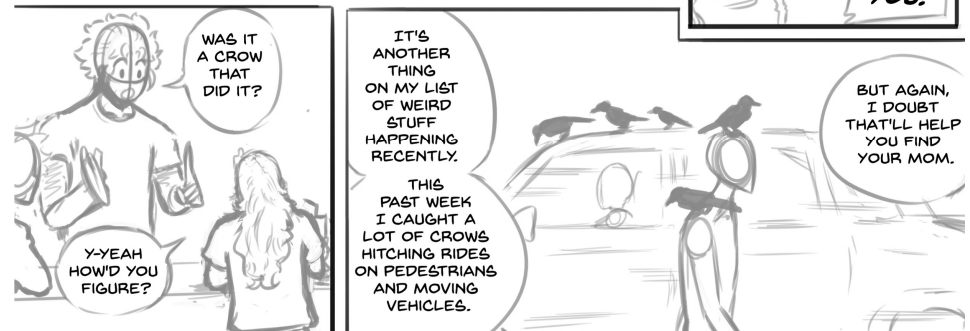
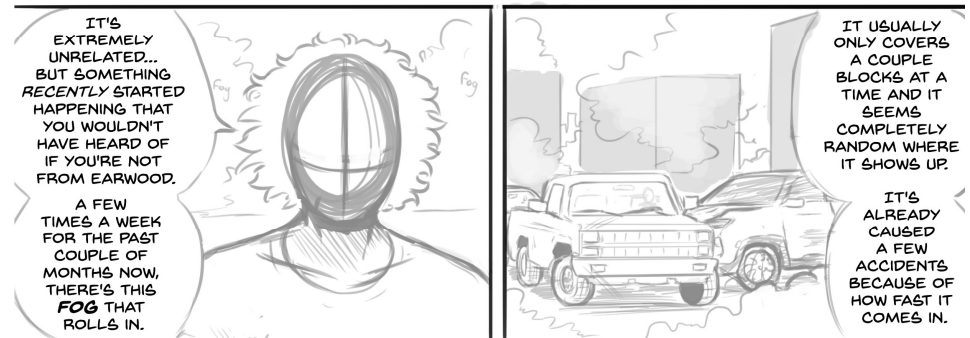
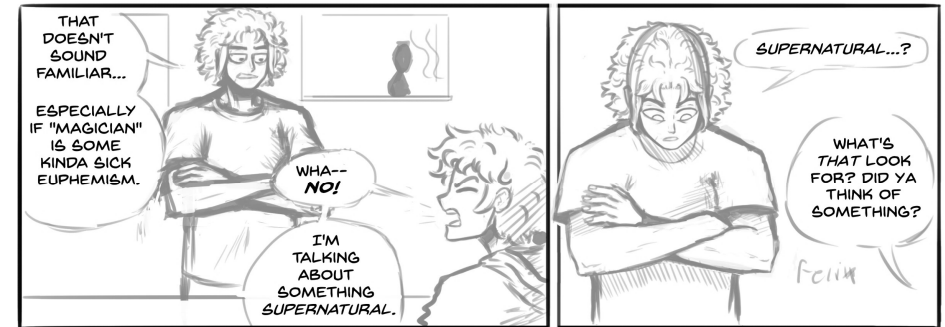
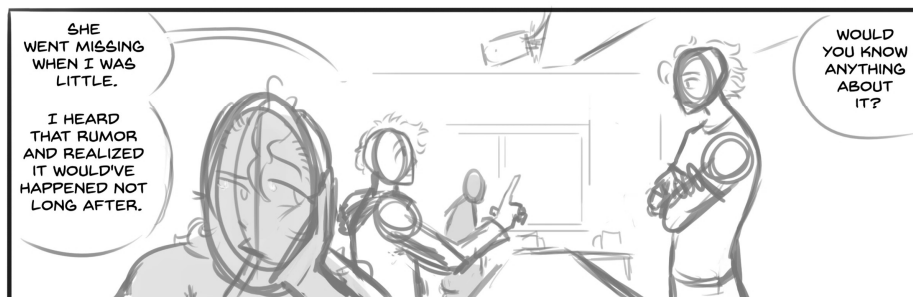
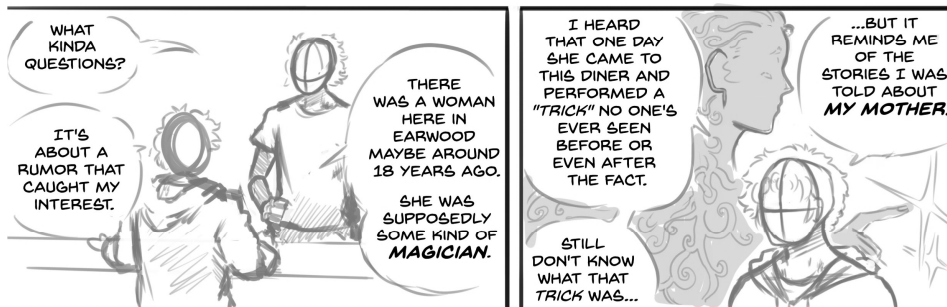














YOU SAID IT HAPPENED A WHILE AGO SO MAYBE MY MOM KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I THINK SHE WOULD'VE JUST BEEN TAKING OVER THE DINER AROUND THEN.

*Mickey walking away*

I'LL GO ASK HER IF SHE REMEMBERS ANY COOL MAGIC TRICKS.

IT'LL PROBABLY HELP IF I KNOW THIS MAGICIAN'S NAME TOO.

WELL IF THE STORY IS TRUE, AND IT ACTUALLY WAS MY MOTHER....

HER NAME WOULD'VE BEEN EGETTA LANCER.

UNFORTUNATELY, HIS FATHER WAS ONLY IN TOWN FOR A SHORT WHILE. LEFT LONG BEFORE I EVEN KNEW I WAS PREGNANT.

WELL AT LEAST I KNOW I MIGHT HAVE A COUSIN IN TOWN.

BUT I GOTTA KEEP LOOKIN'

THIS SHOULD COVER THE SQUID.

"LANCER"...?

*Denise*

DID I HEAR THAT RIGHT?

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A "LANCER" WHO CAME BY HERE ALMOST TWO DECADES AGO?

I MET MICKEY'S FATHER BECAUSE HE WAS IN TOWN LOOKING FOR HIS MISSING SISTER.

DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME "EGETTA" OR ANY TALK ABOUT MAGIC TRICKS...

WAIT--!

JINGLE

CLICK

I DIDN'T EVEN CATCH HIS NAME.

...BUT I CERTAINLY REMEMBER THE NAME LANCER.

ESPECIALLY SINCE I LET MICKEY KEEP THE NAME INSTEAD OF LETTING 'EM GET PICKED ON FOR TAKING MY GOOFY ASS LAST NAME.

His first name is MICKEY.

SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER?

...AND THE GUY WHO WOULD ISN'T AROUND?

LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS A DEAD END.

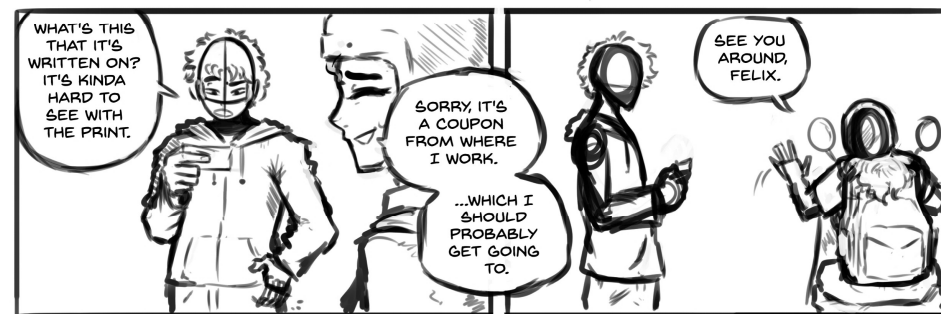
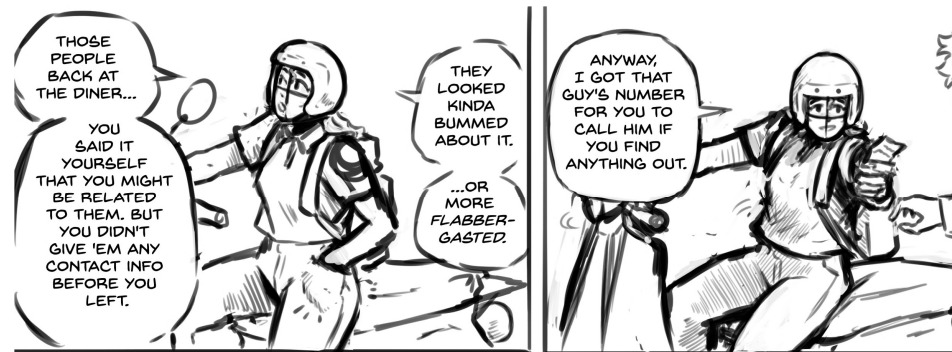
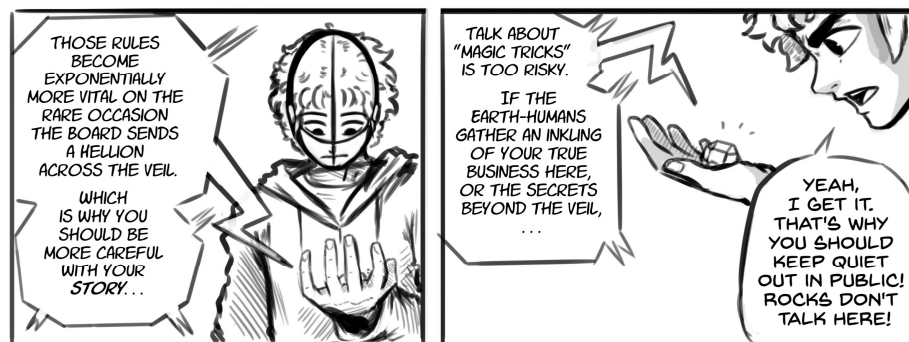
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ABOUT THE FATHER?

I DID ASK.

HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE.

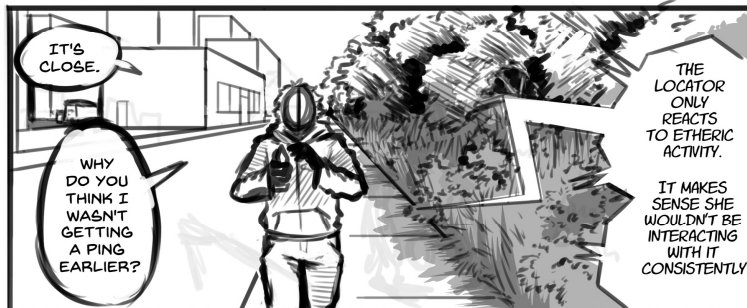
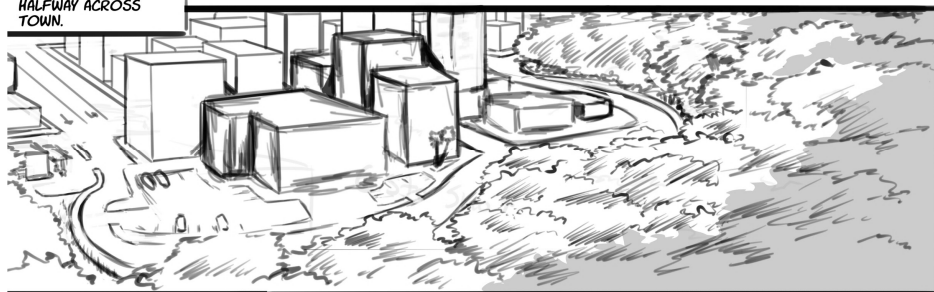
YOU KNOW WHAT IT COULD MEAN IF HE IS WHO WE THINK.







HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN.



IT'S CLOSE.

WHY DO YOU THINK I WASN'T GETTING A PING EARLIER?

THE LOCATOR ONLY REACTS TO ETHERIC ACTIVITY.

IT MAKES SENSE SHE WOULDN'T BE INTERACTING WITH IT CONSISTENTLY.



SO WHAT WOULD SHE NEED THE **ETHER** FOR NOW?

PERHAPS SHE IS USING IT FOR HER **WANDERING MAGICIAN ACT**.

FUNNY.

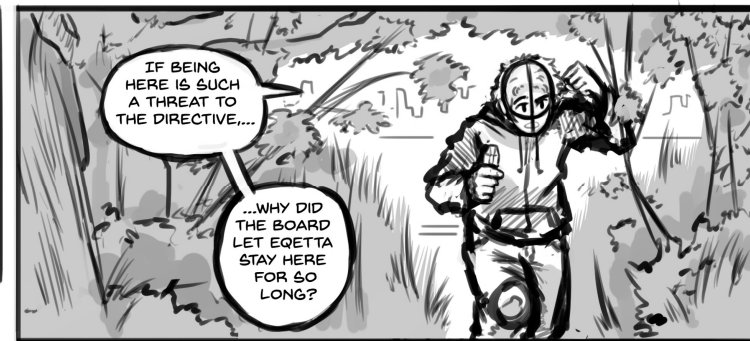
WHATEVER THE REASON, HER USE OF THE ETHER IS LIKELY WHAT IS CAUSING THE CONVERGENCE.

ESPECIALLY IF SHE'S BEEN USING IT ALL THIS TIME.



RIGHT.

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SOMEWHERE IN THERE.



IF BEING HERE IS SUCH A THREAT TO THE DIRECTIVE....

...WHY DID THE BOARD LET EQETTA STAY HERE FOR SO LONG?



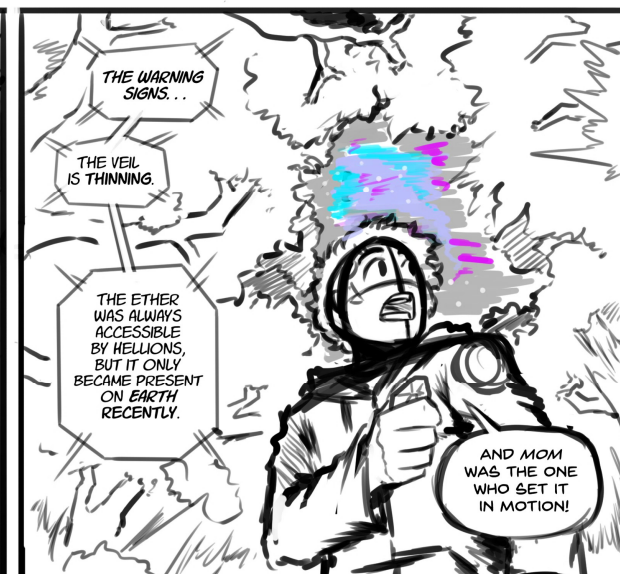
I ONLY KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

BUT I IMAGINE THEY BELIEVED SHE WASN'T A THREAT.



... OR THAT THE THREAT SHE POSED WASN'T WORTH THE RISK OF SENDING MORE HELLIONS ACROSS THE VEIL.

SO WHAT CHANGED?



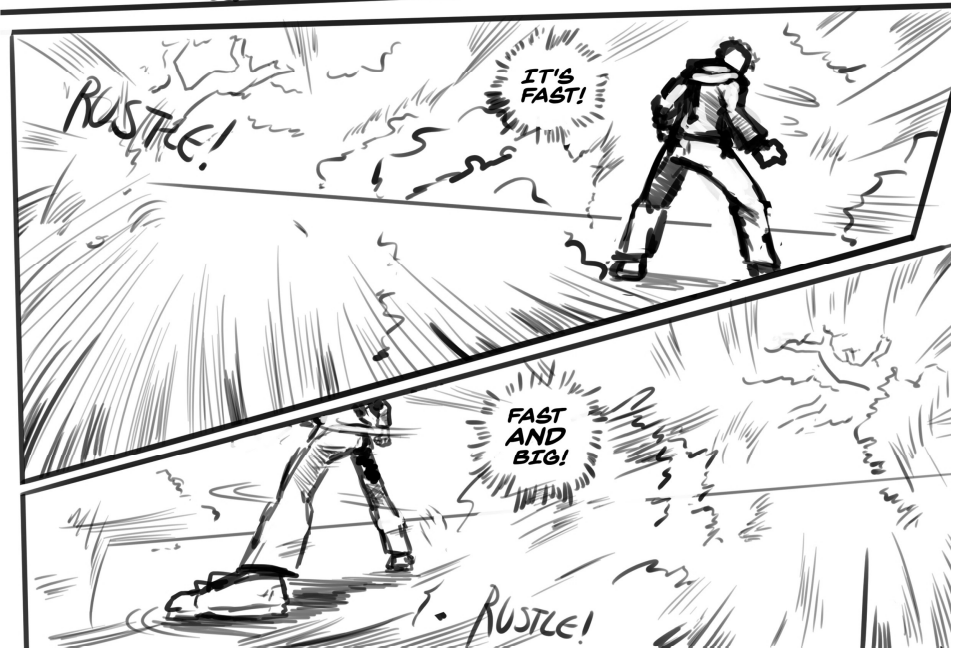
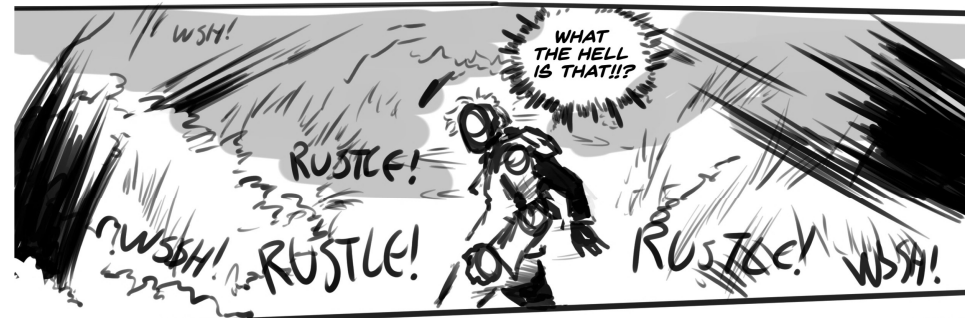
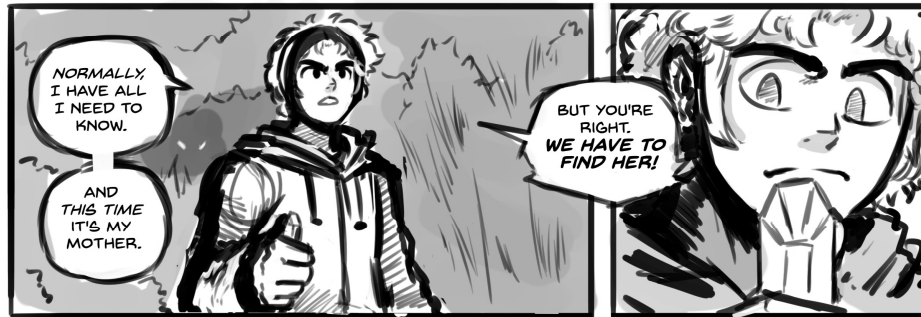
THE WARNING SIGNS...

THE VEIL IS THINNING.

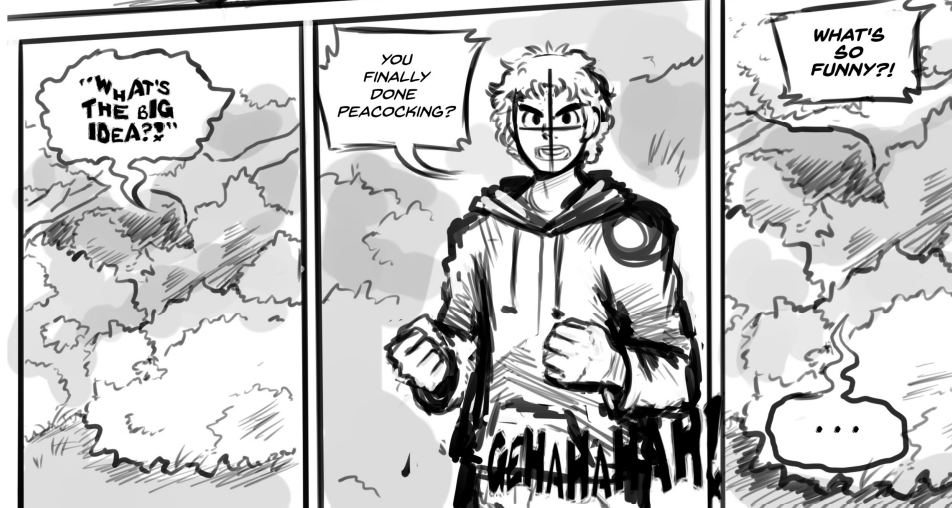
THE ETHER WAS ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE BY HELLIONS, BUT IT ONLY BECAME PRESENT ON EARTH RECENTLY.

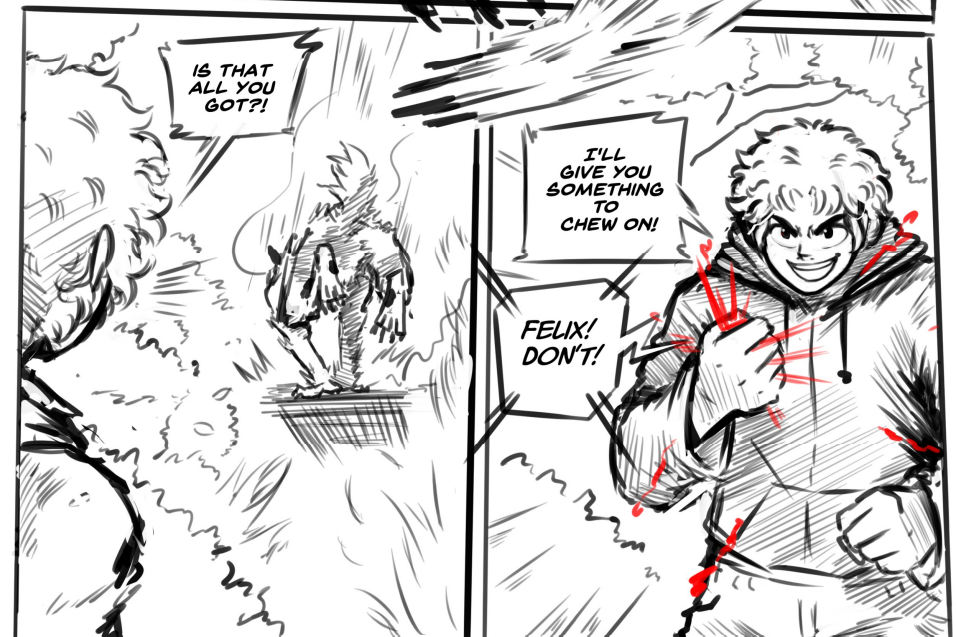
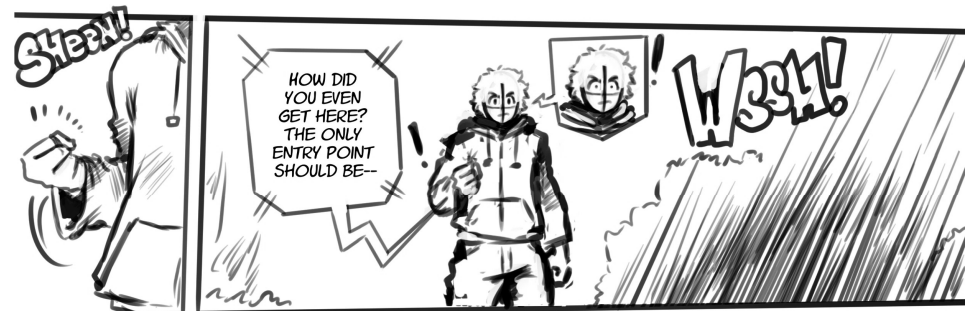
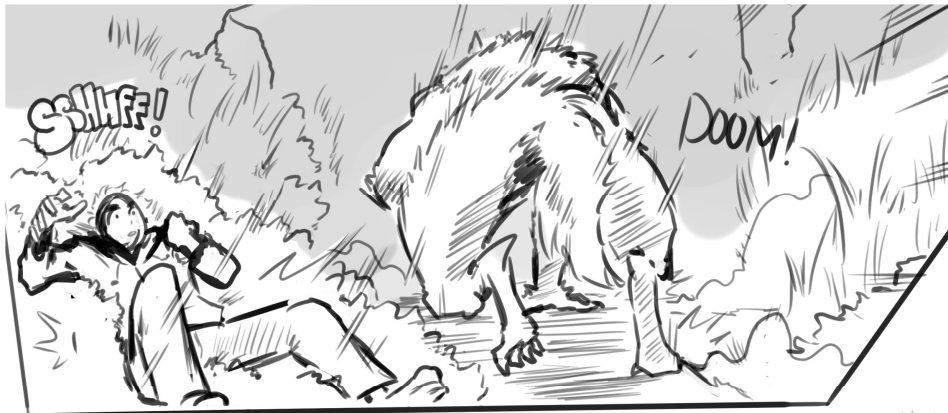
AND MOM WAS THE ONE WHO SET IT IN MOTION!



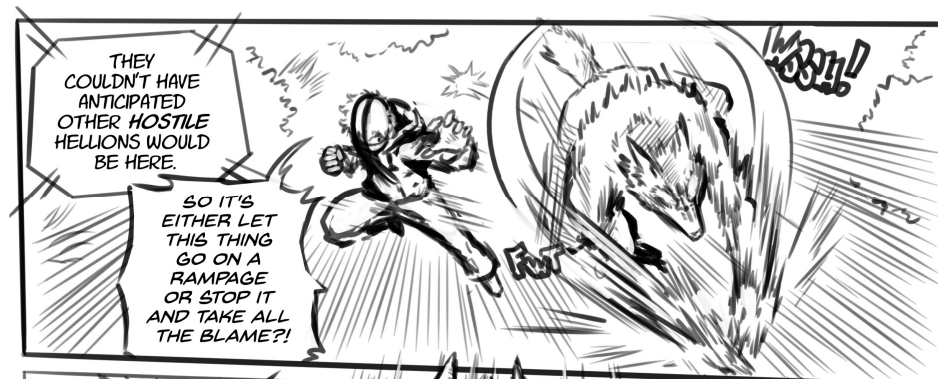
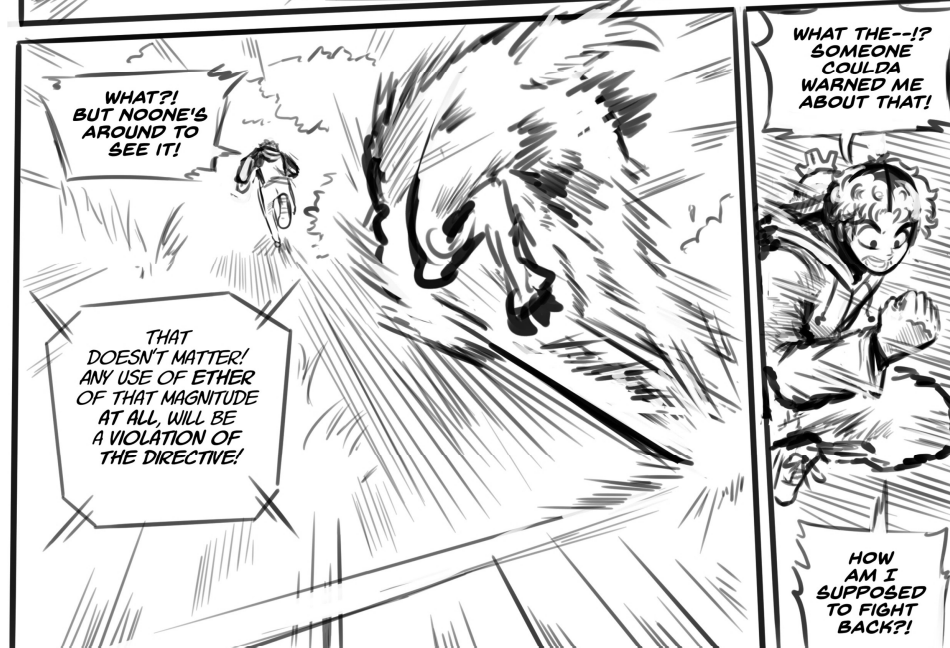
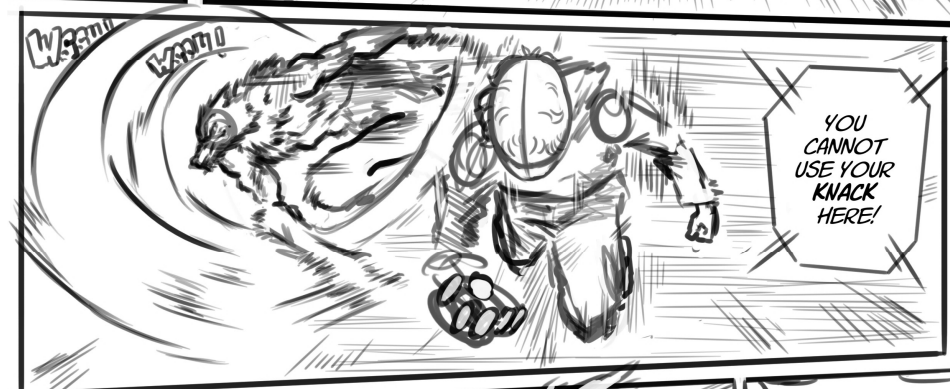
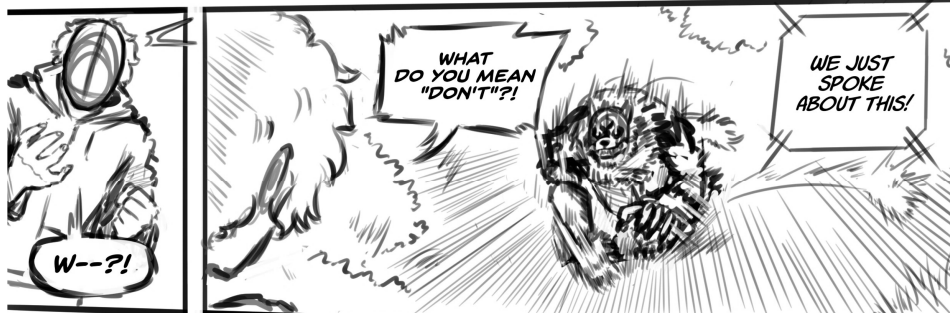


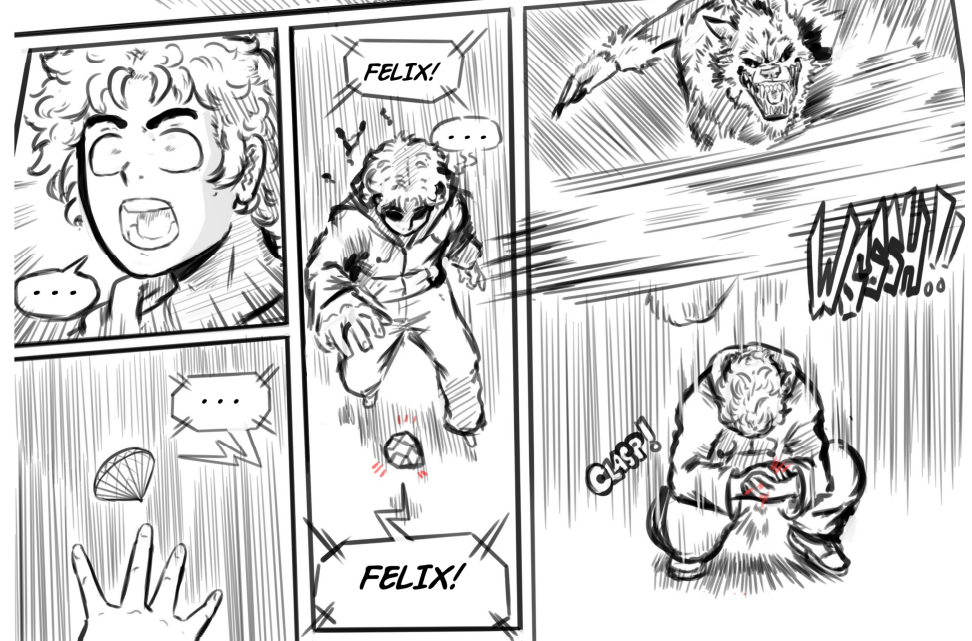
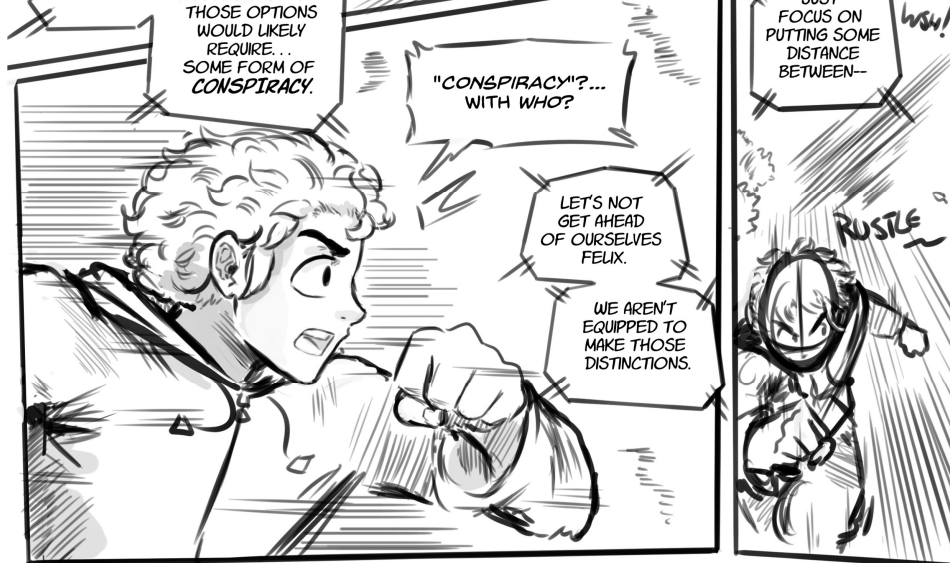




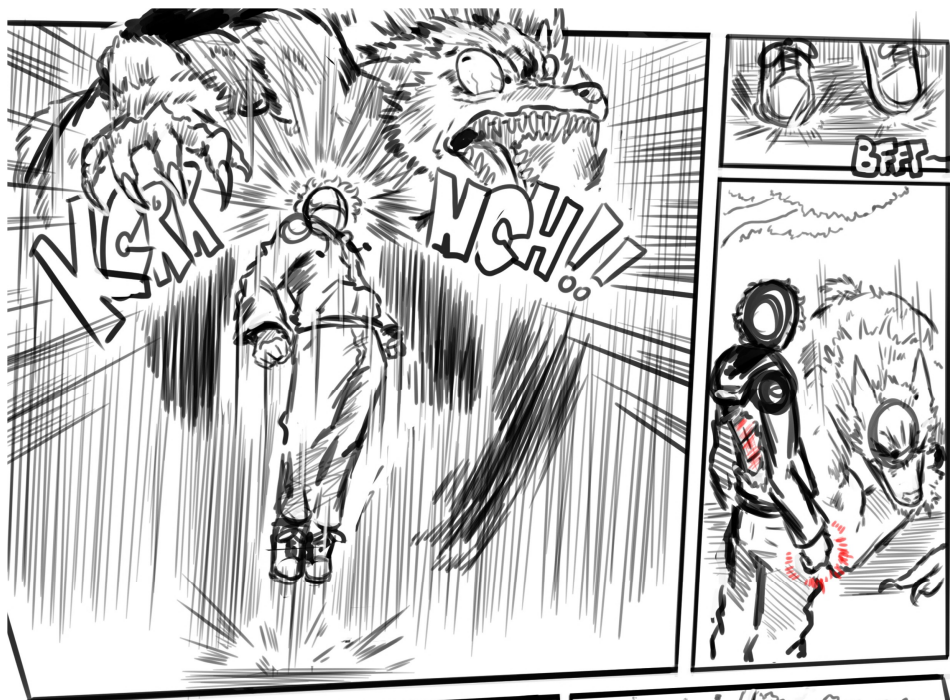










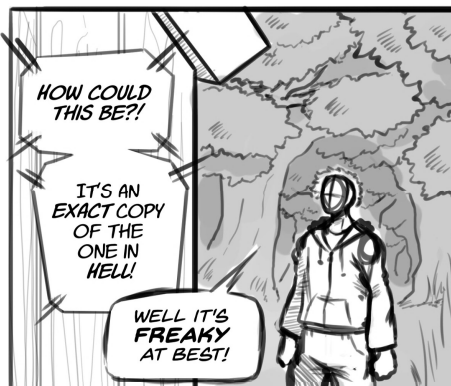
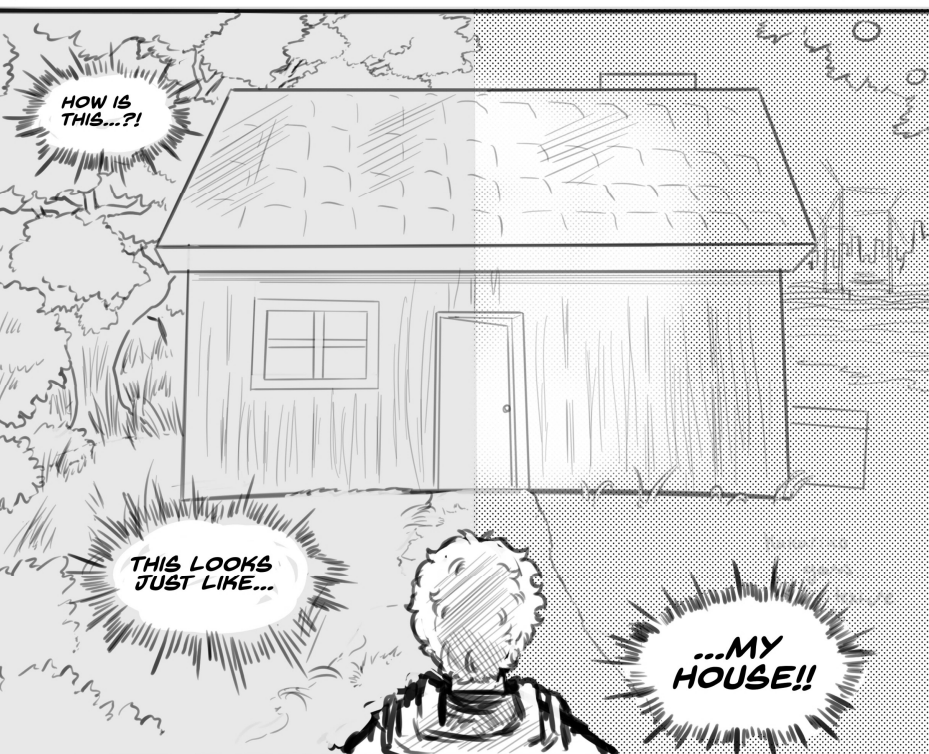
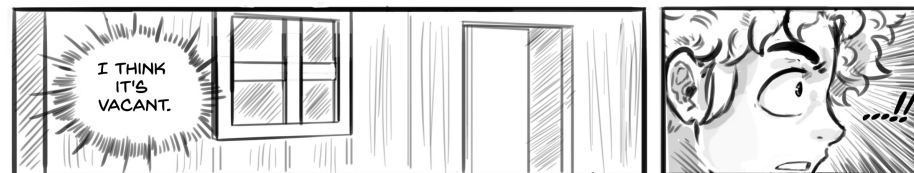


PERFECT!  
IT'LL ONLY  
BE STUNNED  
FOR A SHORT  
WHILE.

NOW GO  
FIND SOME  
WAY TO  
RESTRAIN IT!



A SHACK!



WELL IT'S  
FREAKY  
AT BEST!

