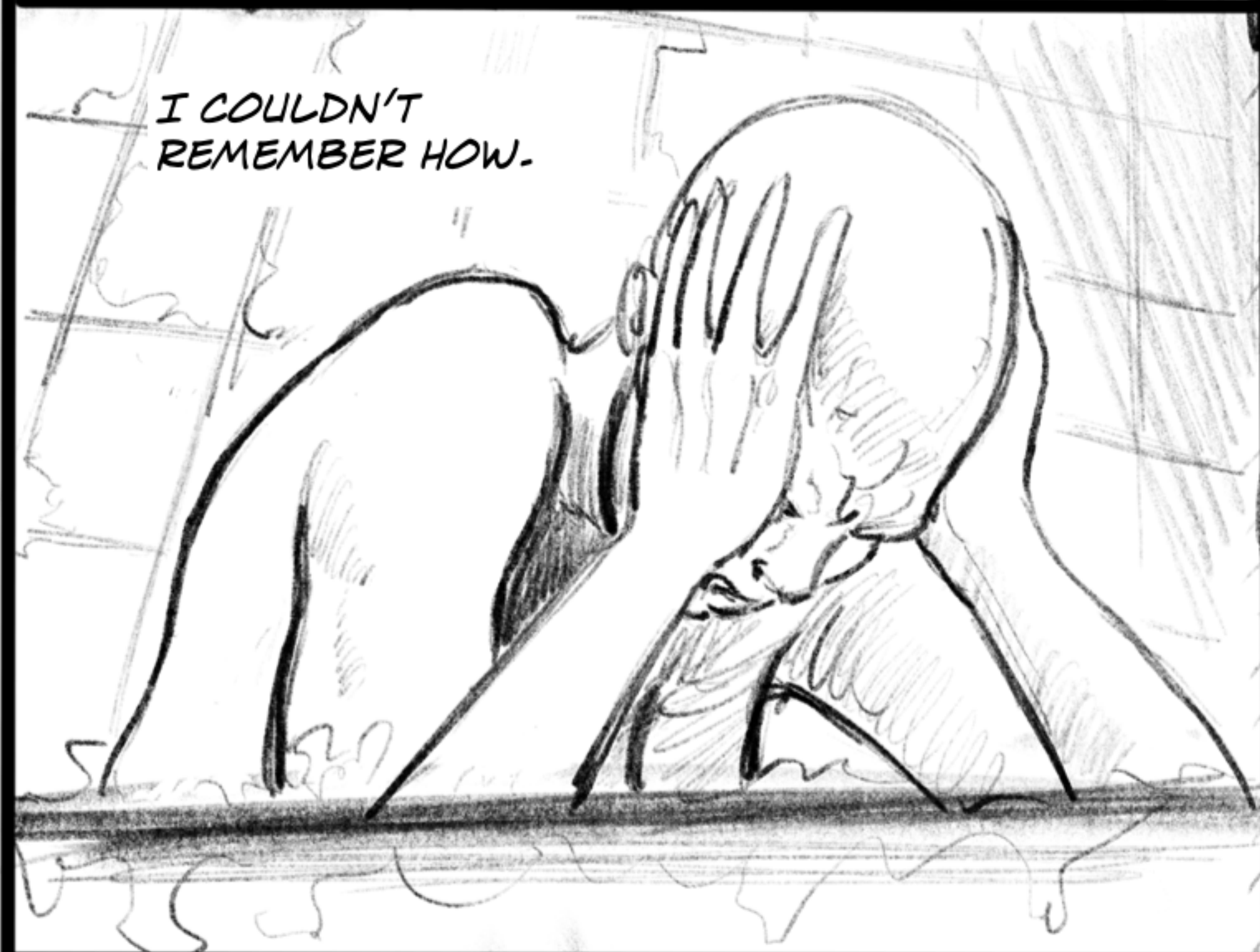
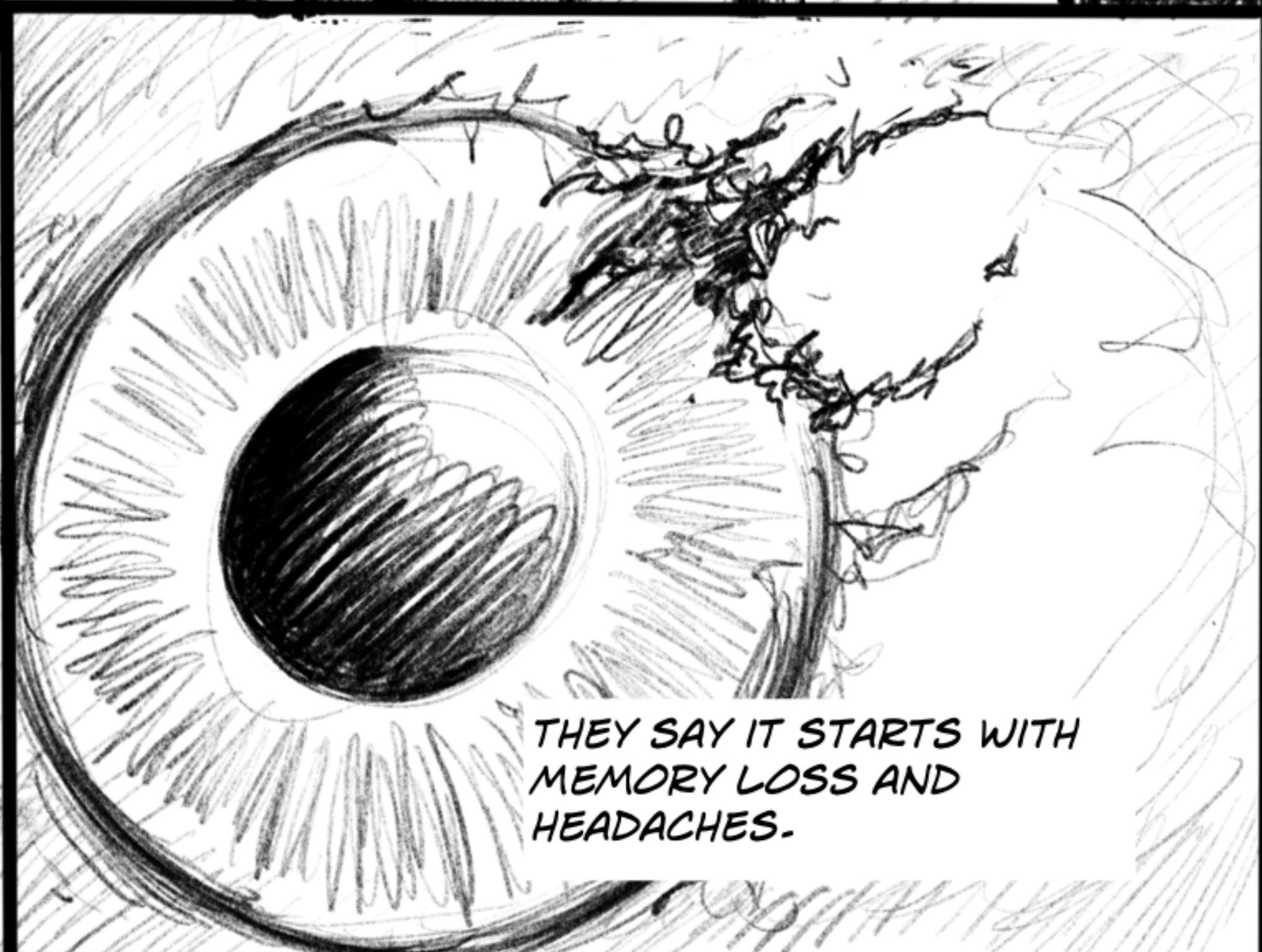


I MADE IT HOME WITH THE MODULE.



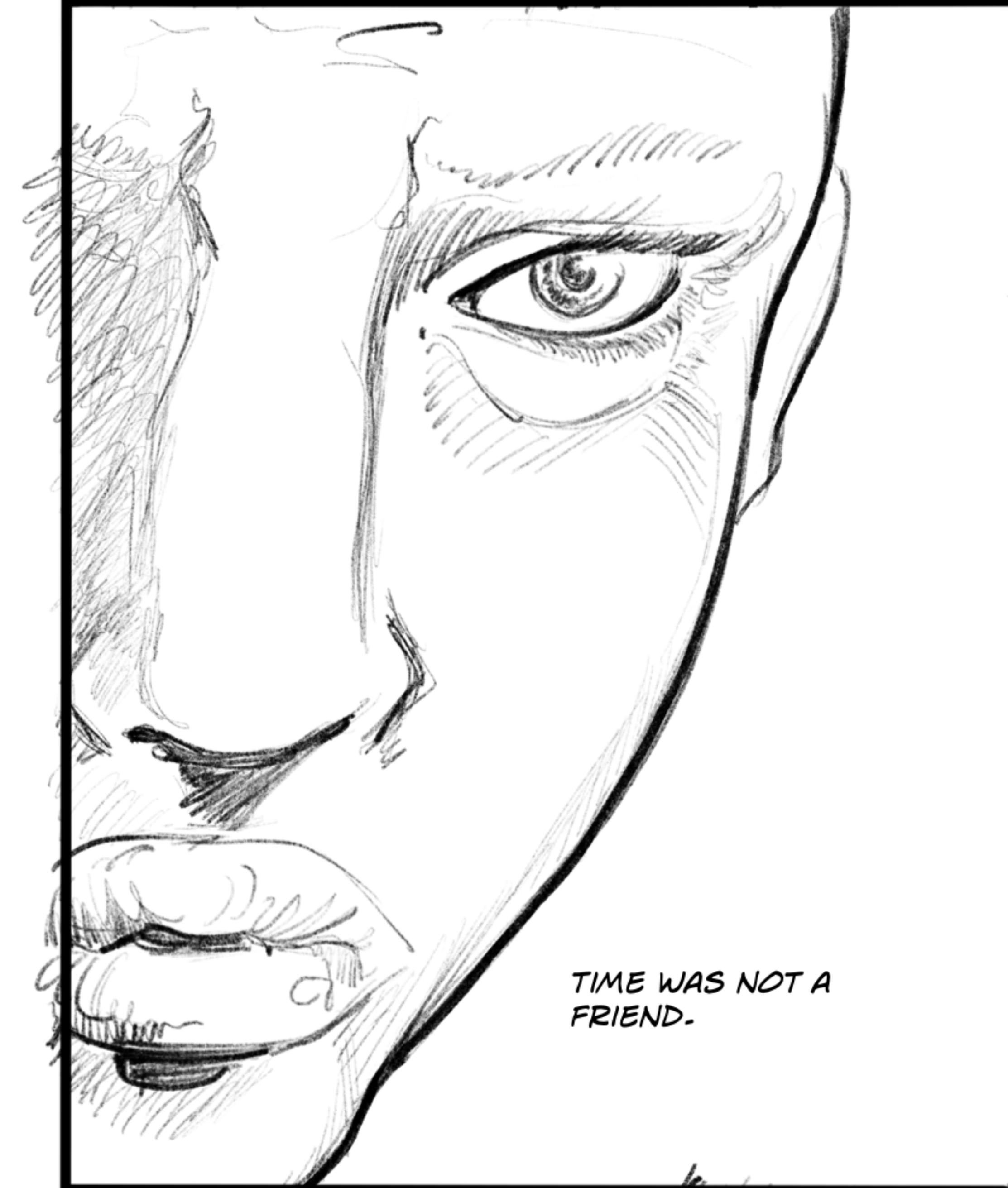
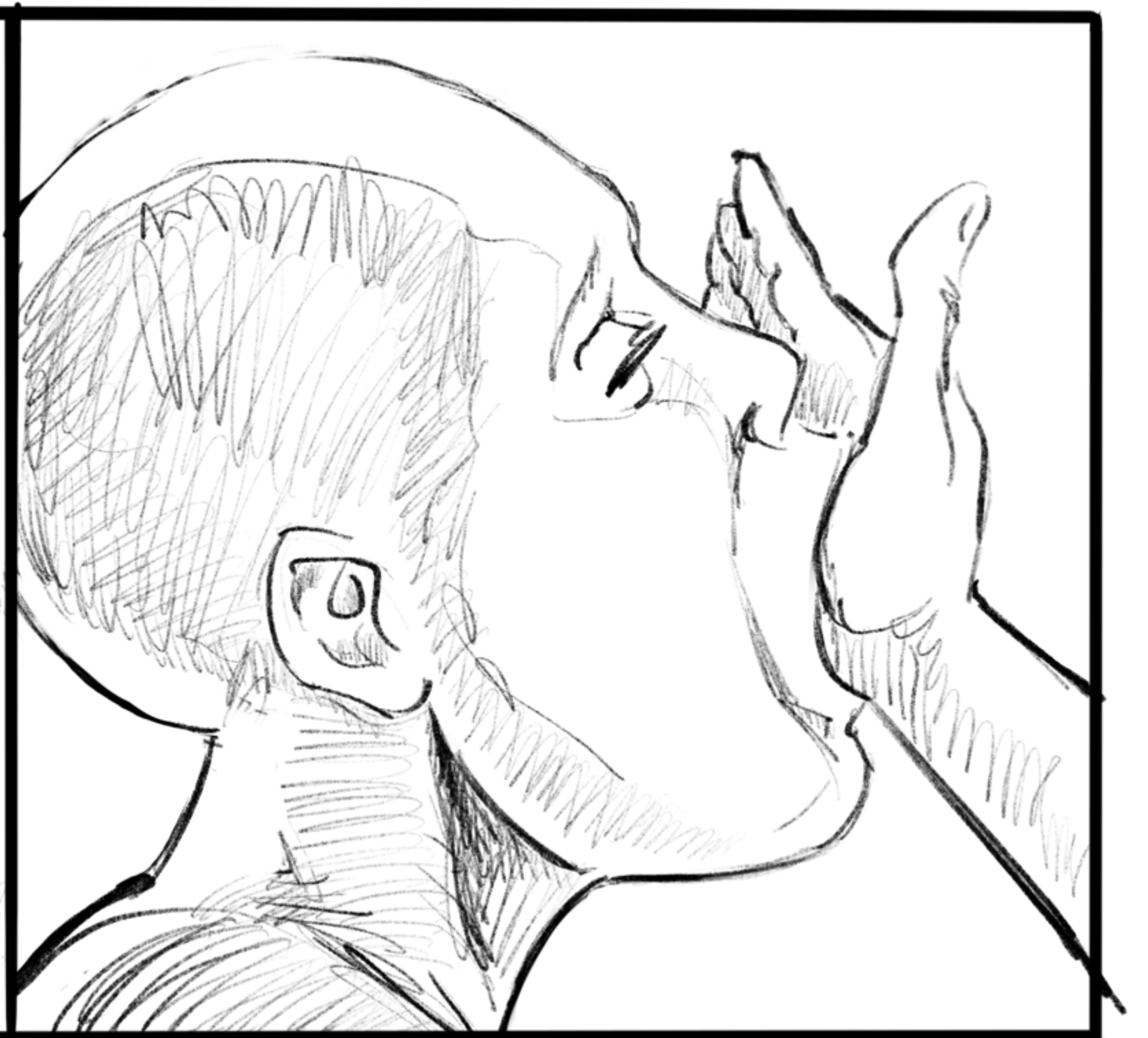
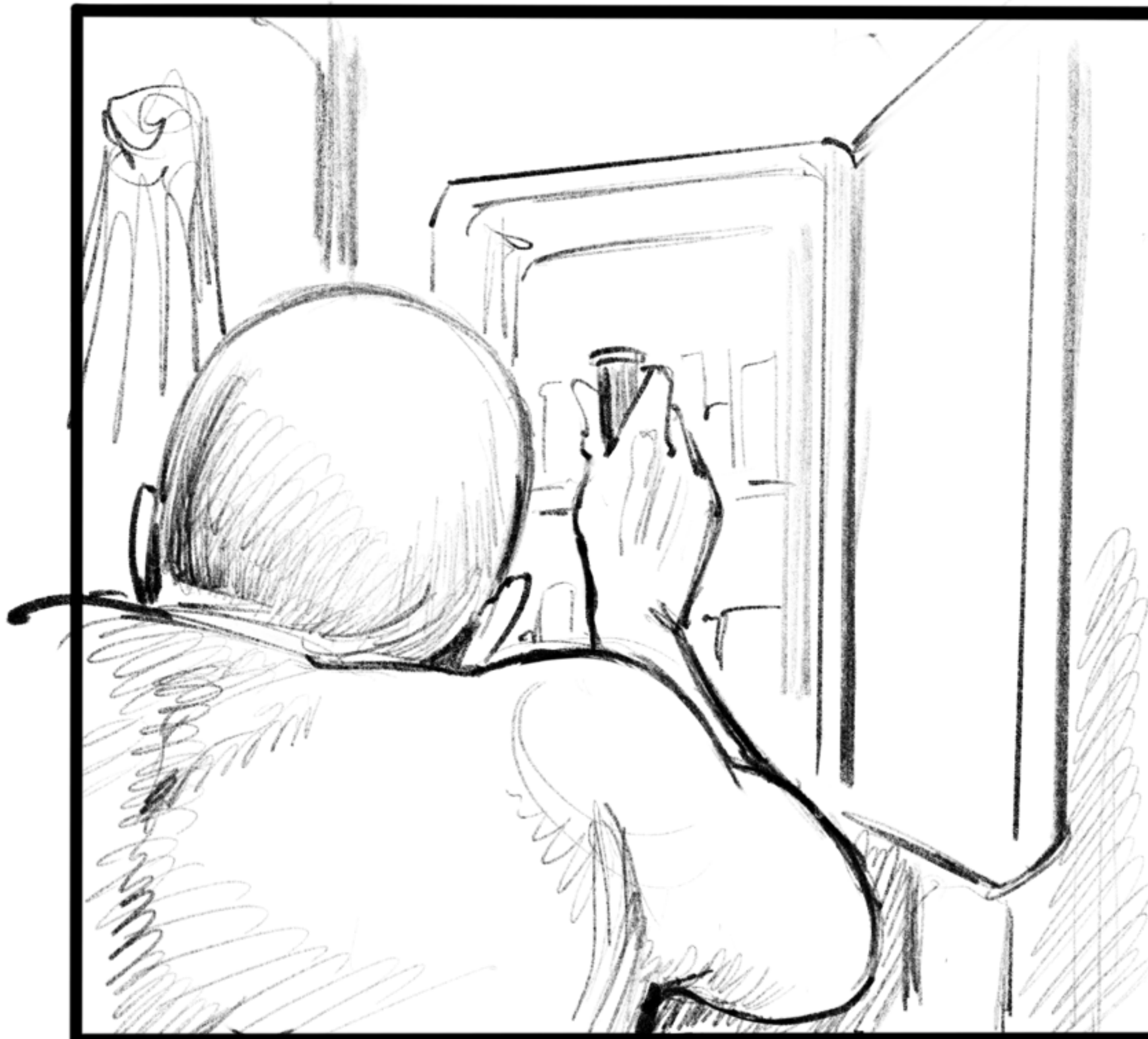
I COULDN'T REMEMBER HOW.



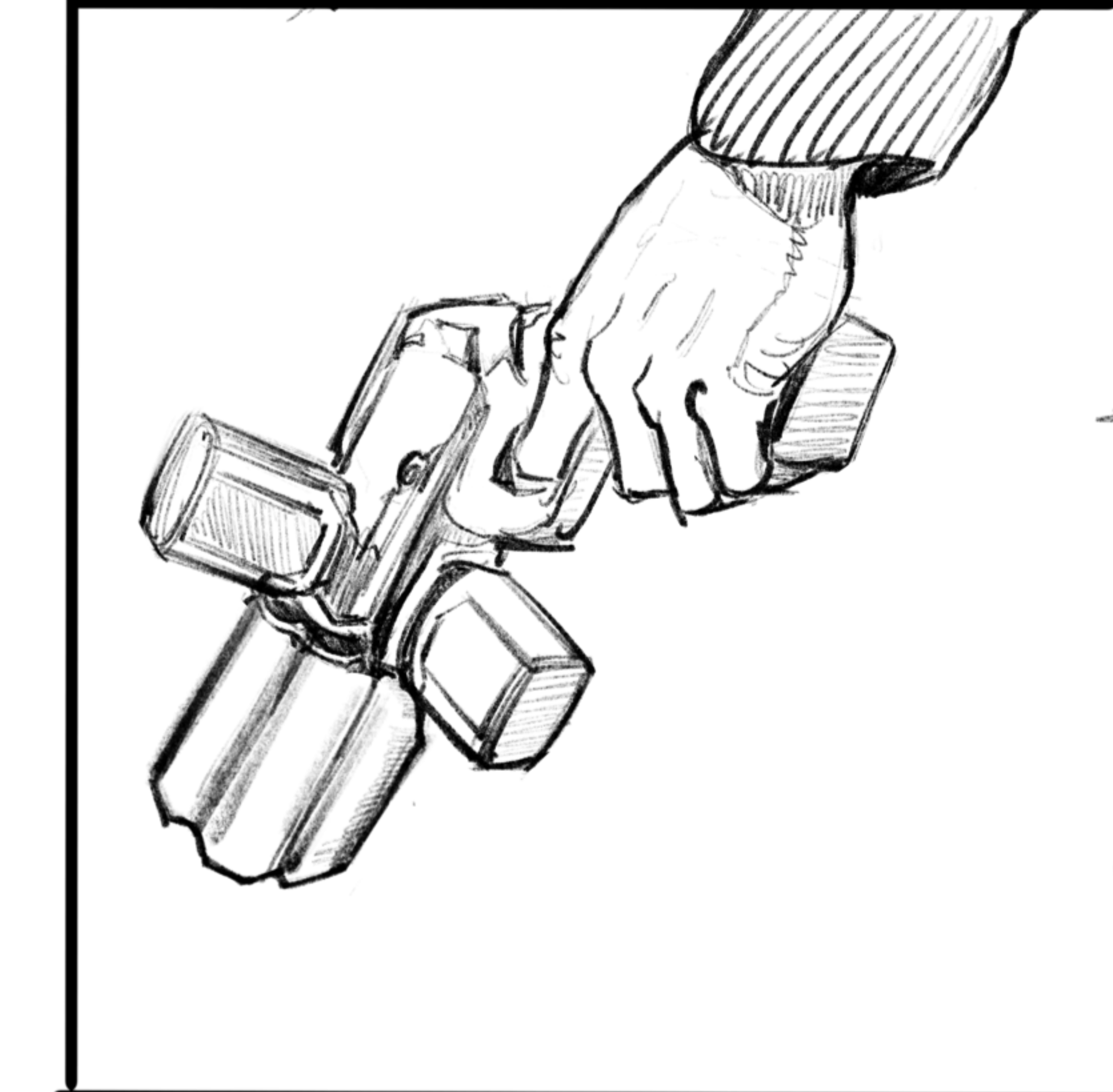
THEY SAY IT STARTS WITH MEMORY LOSS AND HEADACHES.

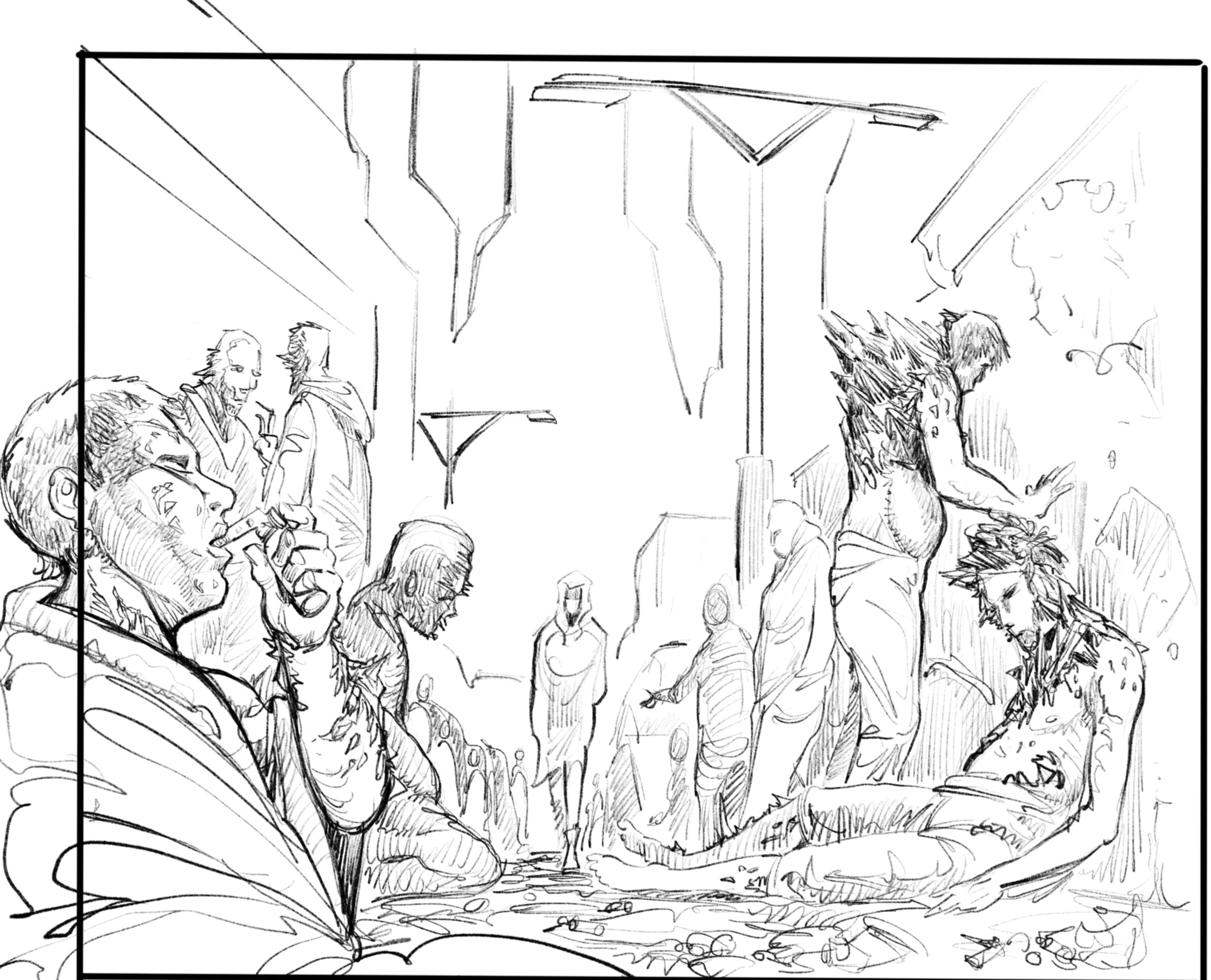


EXPOSURE TO THE MODULES BREAKS YOU DOWN AT THE CELLULAR LEVEL.



TIME WAS NOT A FRIEND.

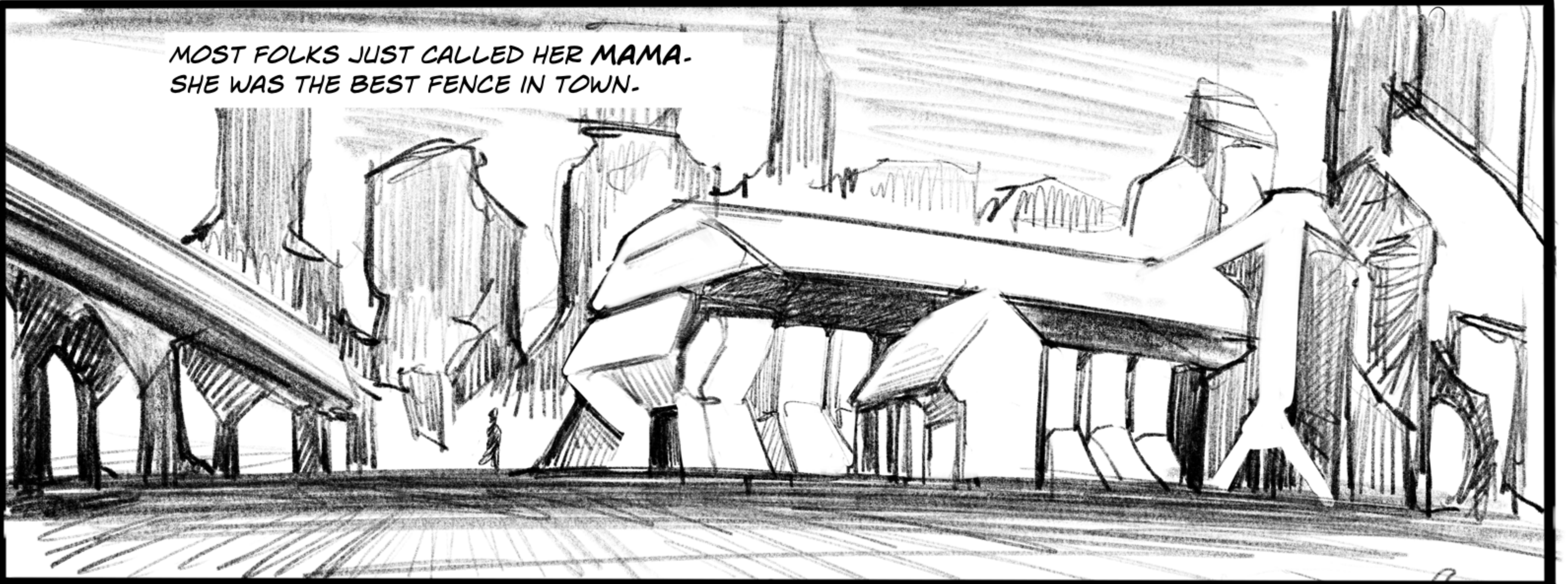




I HAD TO GET TO MAMA LE PHAM.



MOST FOLKS JUST CALLED HER MAMA.
SHE WAS THE BEST FENCE IN TOWN.



HER OPERATION WAS TIGHT.
COPS COULD NEVER SEEM
TO GET THE DROP ON HER.

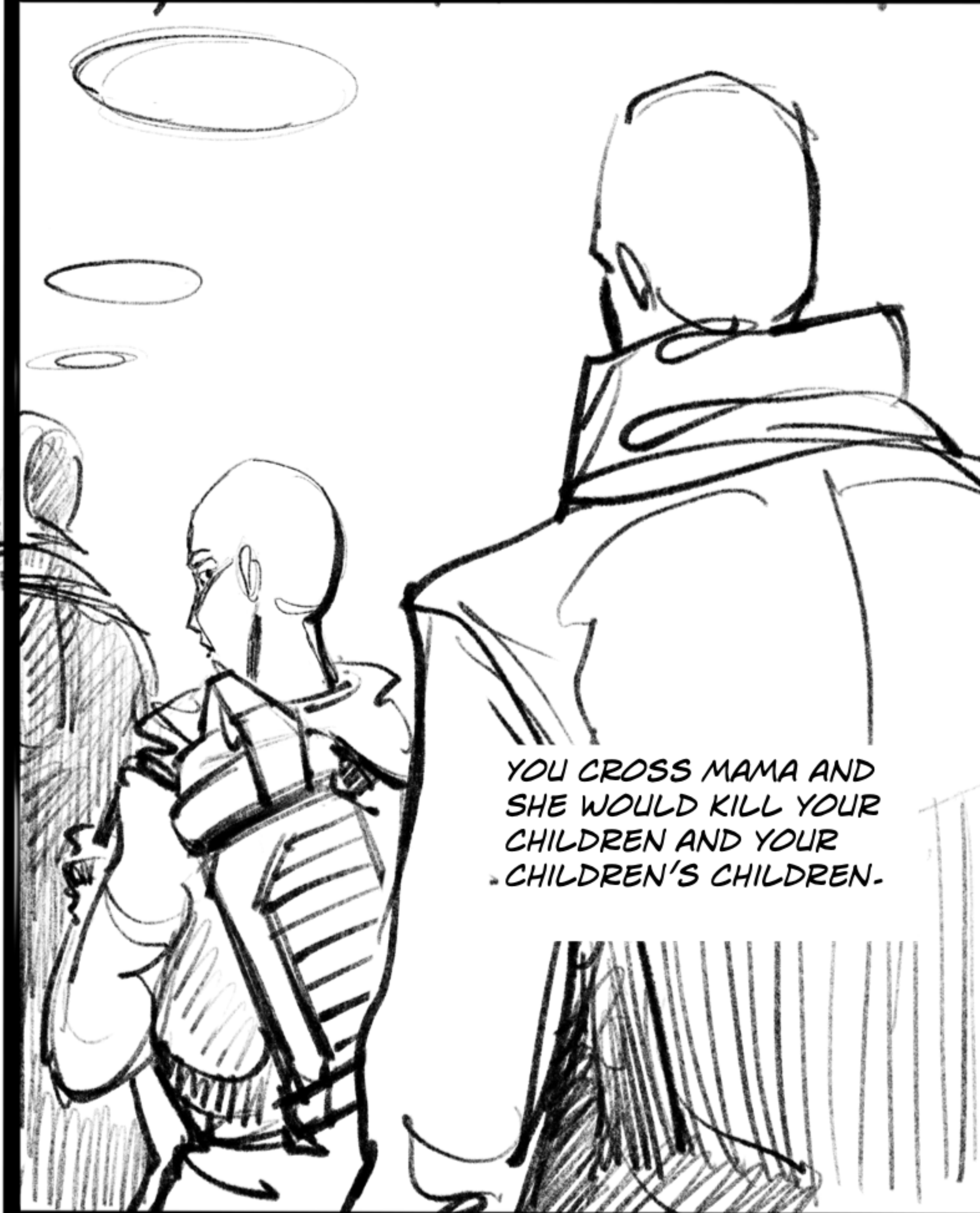


EVERYONE ELSE WAS
TOO AFRAID TO JACK
HER.

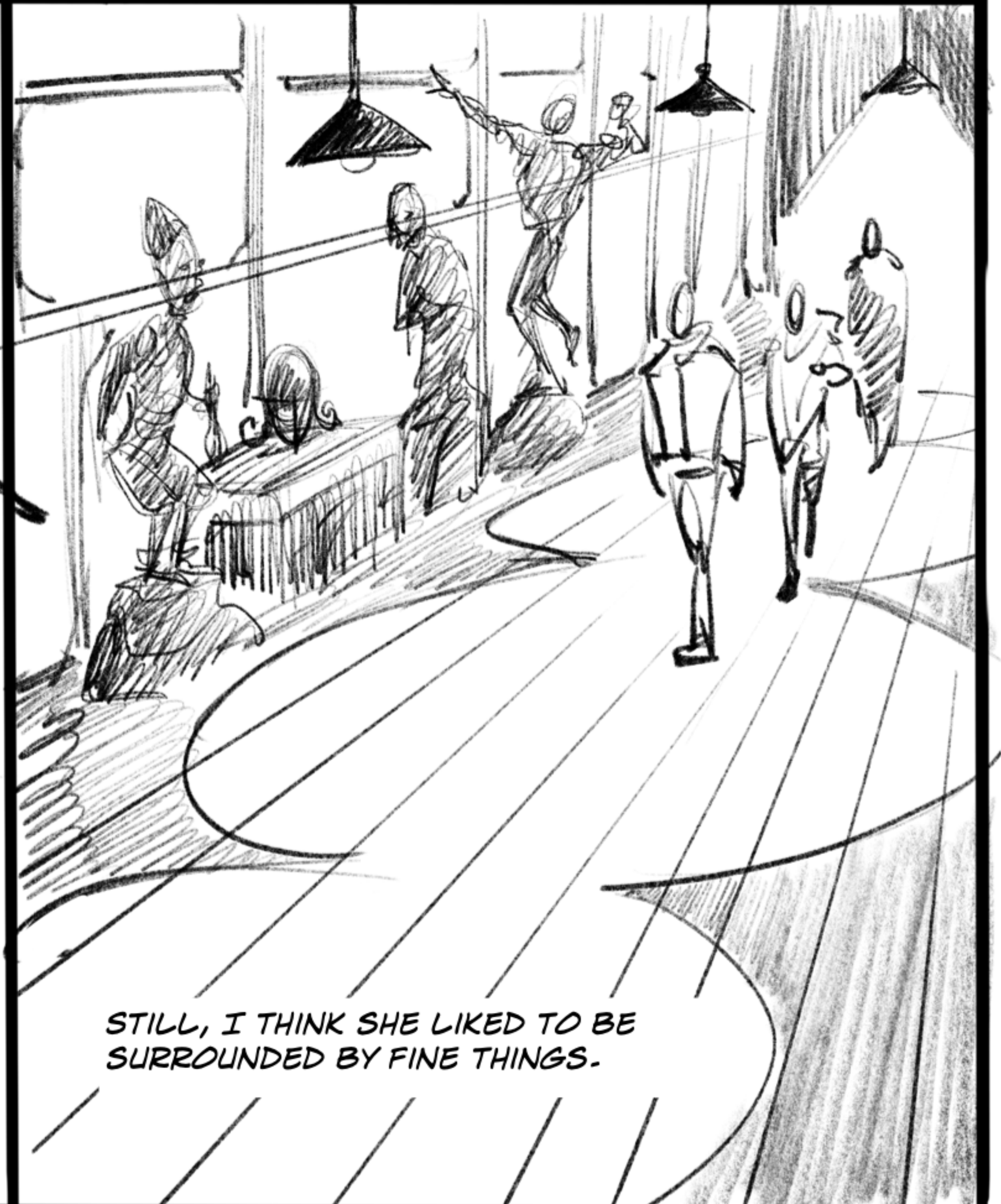
SHE RAN AN IMPORT
COMPANY. BUT HER REAL
STOCK AND TRADE WAS
TRAFFICKING MODULES.



YOU CROSS MAMA AND
SHE WOULD KILL YOUR
CHILDREN AND YOUR
CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.



STILL, I THINK SHE LIKED TO BE
SURROUNDED BY FINE THINGS.



AND SHE LIKED CATS.

SHEL... COME IN.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

SOMETHING SPECIAL.

I NEED A GOOD PRICE.
OTHERWISE I GO
SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU ALWAYS GET A
GOOD PRICE FROM
MAMA.



WSA 50. 4.0 RATING.
5-60 OSCILLATION
RATE.



I'LL HAVE IT
GRADED. ...WHERE'S
BRONSKI?



BRONSKI DIDN'T
MAKE IT.



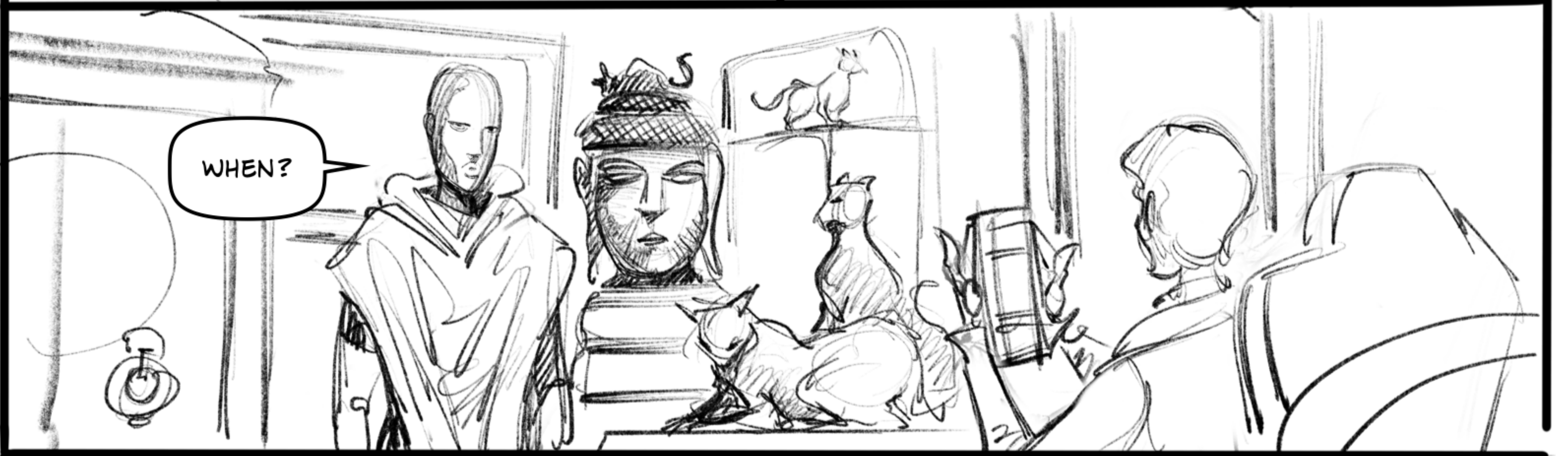
MY CONDOLENCES.
MORE FOR YOU THEN.



JUST GIVE ME THE
ESTIMATE.



I HAVE A
NEW ISRAELI BUYER
WHO MIGHT LIKE THIS.
DON'T HOLD ME TO IT,
BUT SHOULD NET
EIGHTEEN. GIVE OR
TAKE.



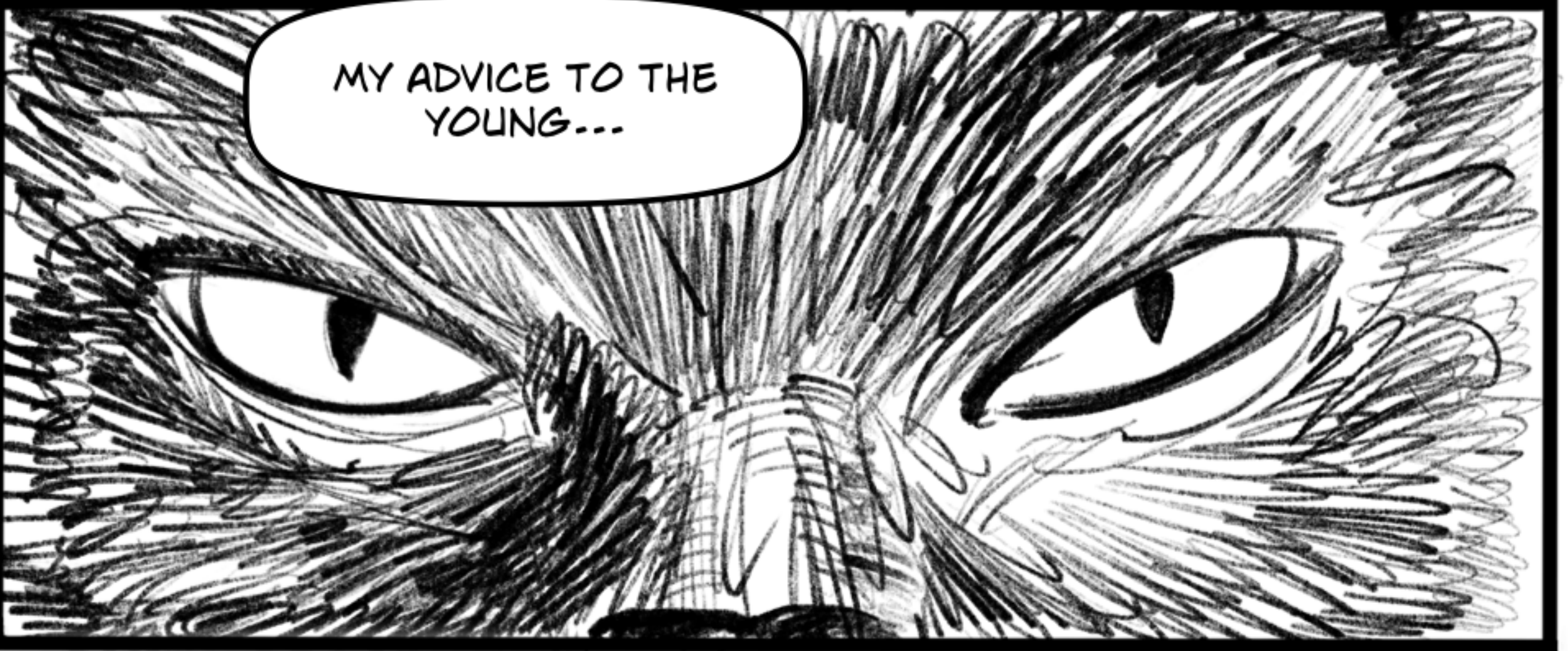
WHEN?



GIVE ME TWELVE HOURS.



YOU'RE WORTH A LOT OF MONEY NOW. BE CAREFUL, DARLING.



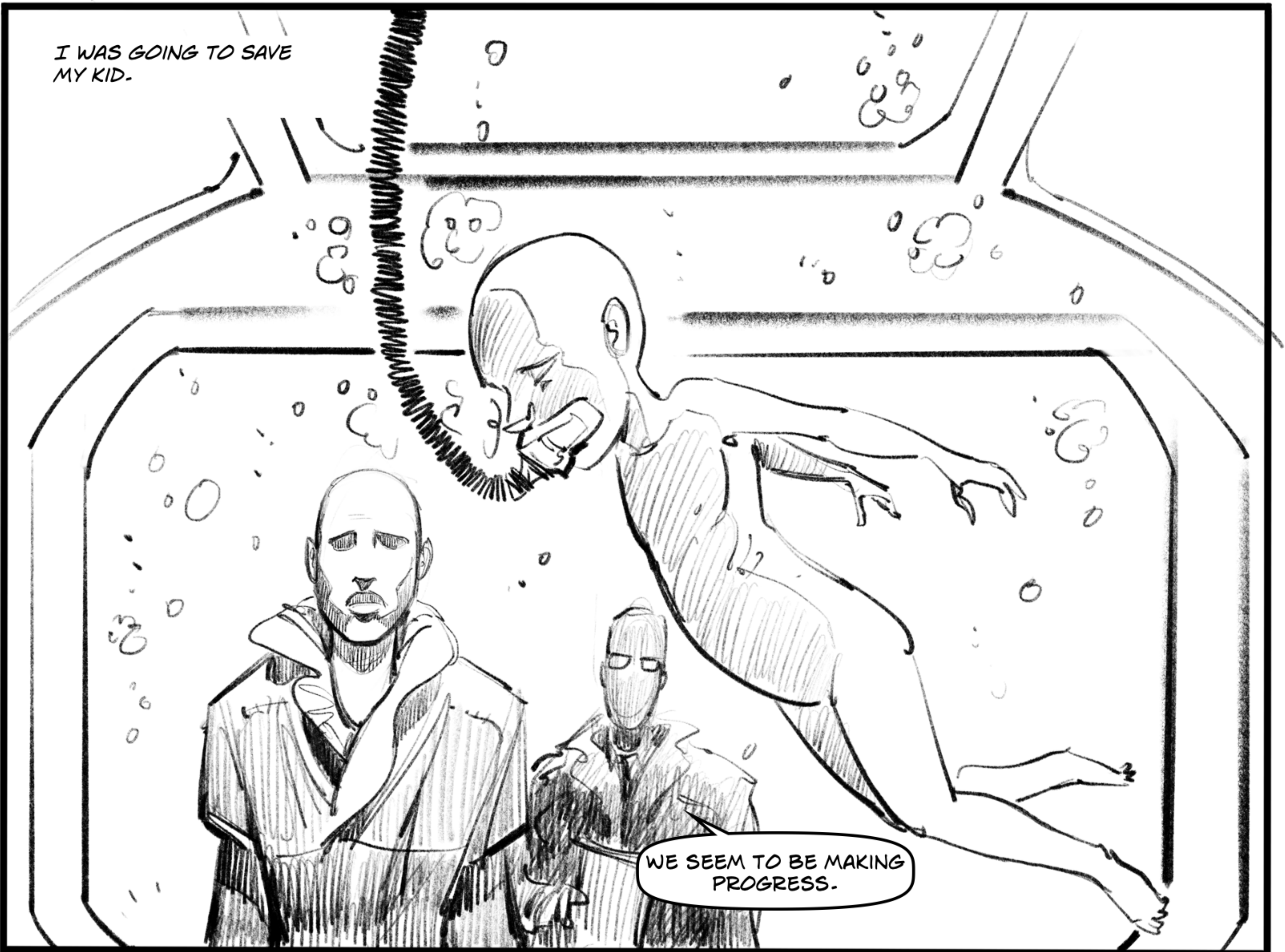
MY ADVICE TO THE YOUNG...



...MAKE THE MOST OF IT WHILE YOU GOT IT.

OF COURSE I WAS GOING TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT...

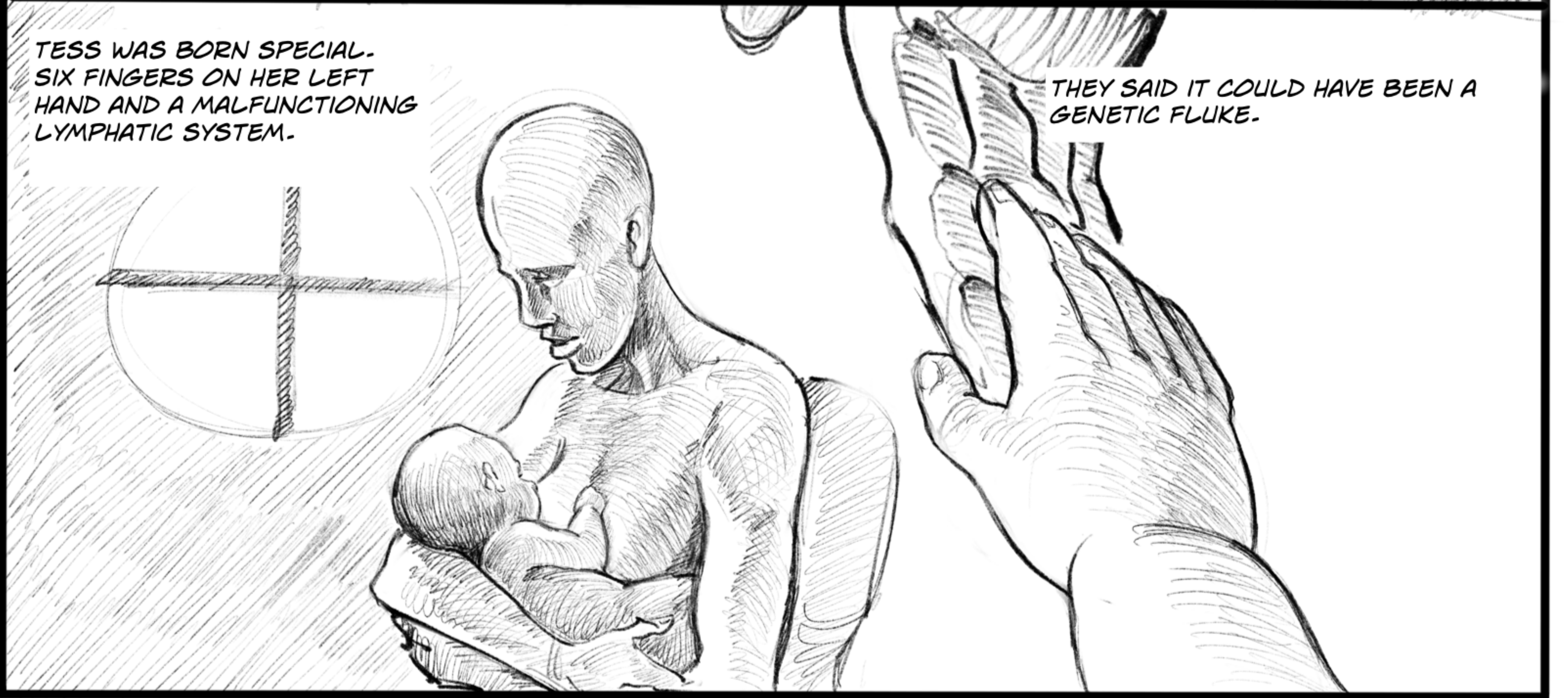
I WAS GOING TO SAVE MY KID.



WE SEEM TO BE MAKING PROGRESS.

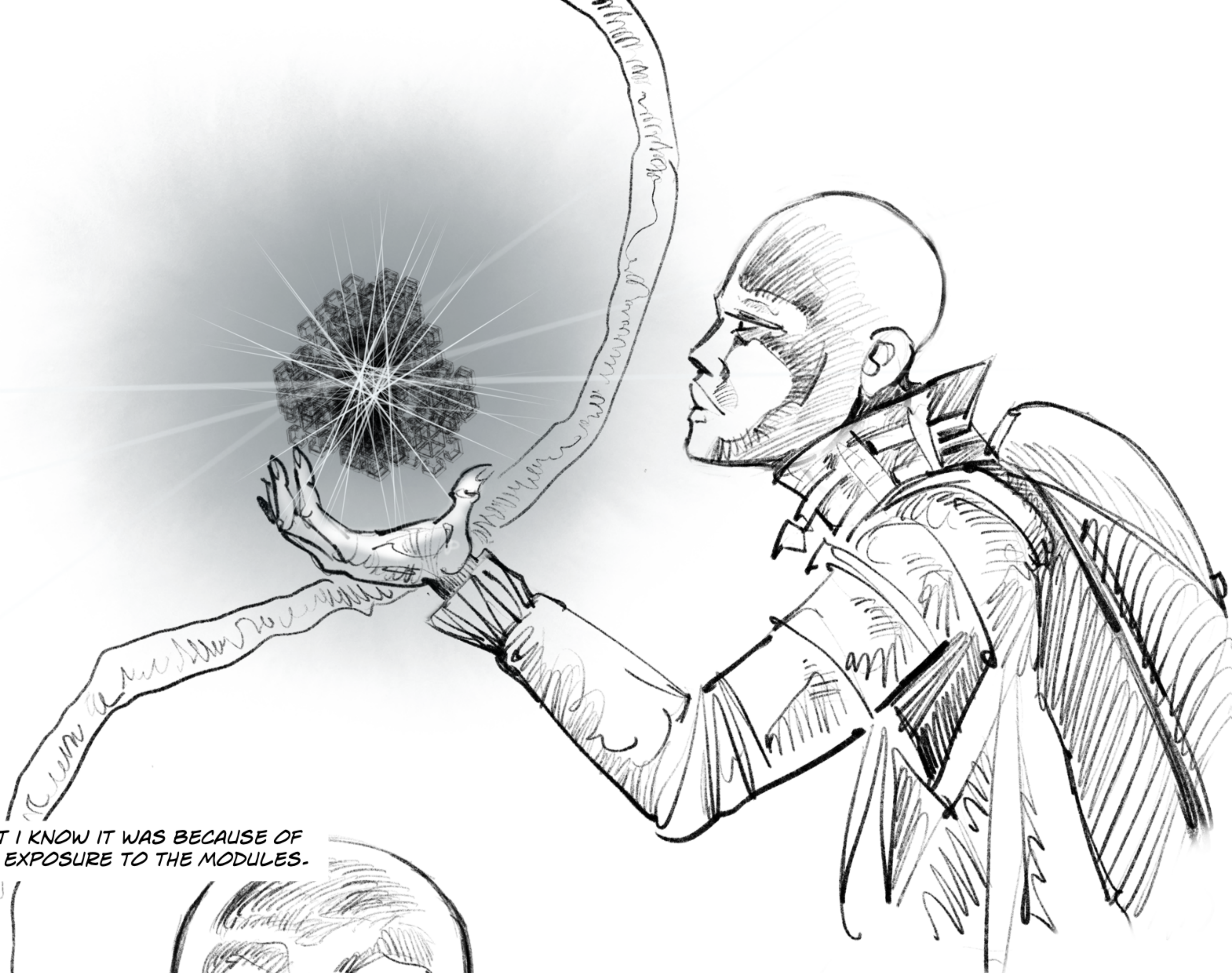


UNFORTUNATELY THE COST OF HER THERAPY WILL BE INCREASED THIS QUARTER.



TESS WAS BORN SPECIAL. SIX FINGERS ON HER LEFT HAND AND A MALFUNCTIONING LYMPHATIC SYSTEM.

THEY SAID IT COULD HAVE BEEN A GENETIC FLUKE.



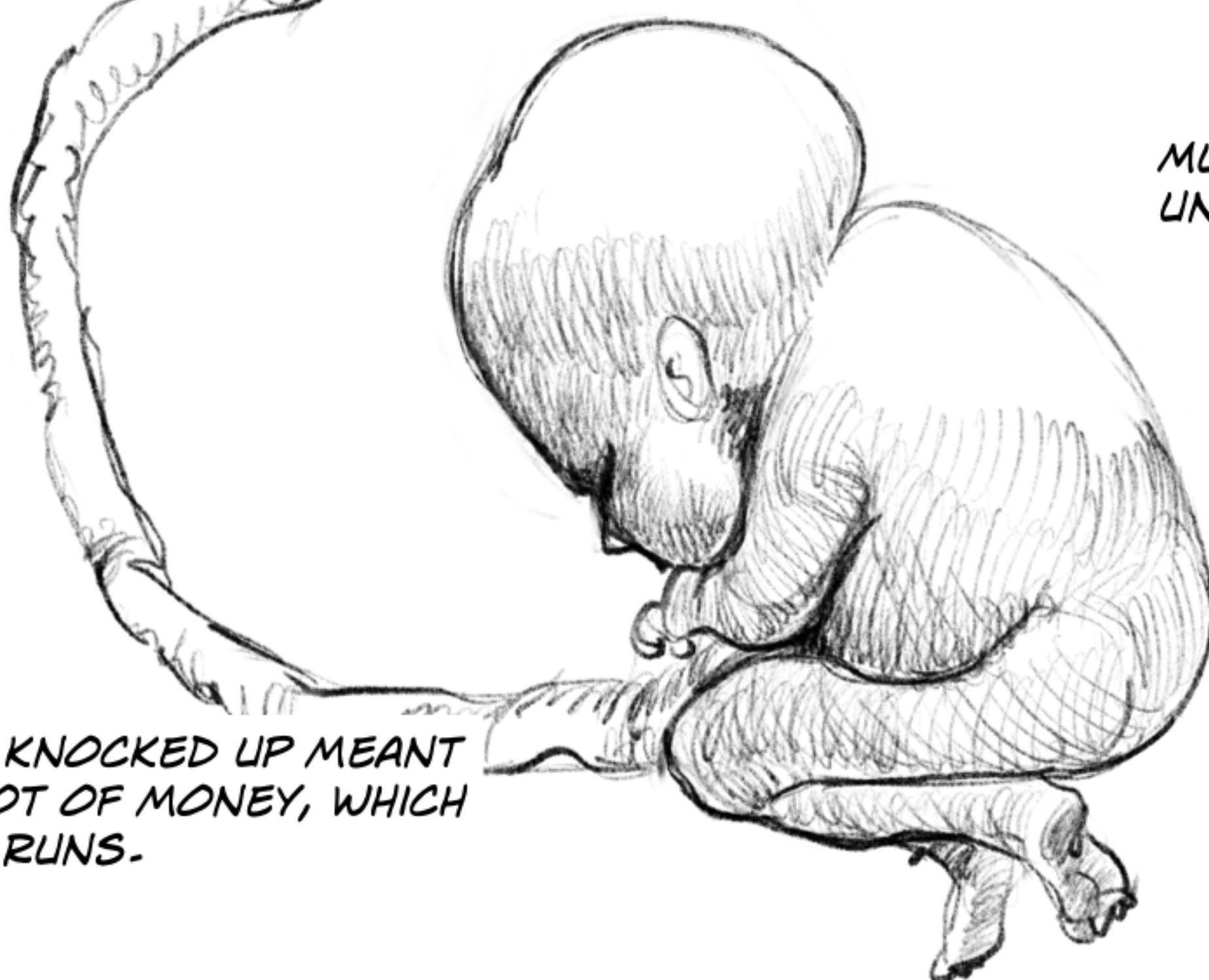
BUT I KNOW IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY EXPOSURE TO THE MODULES.



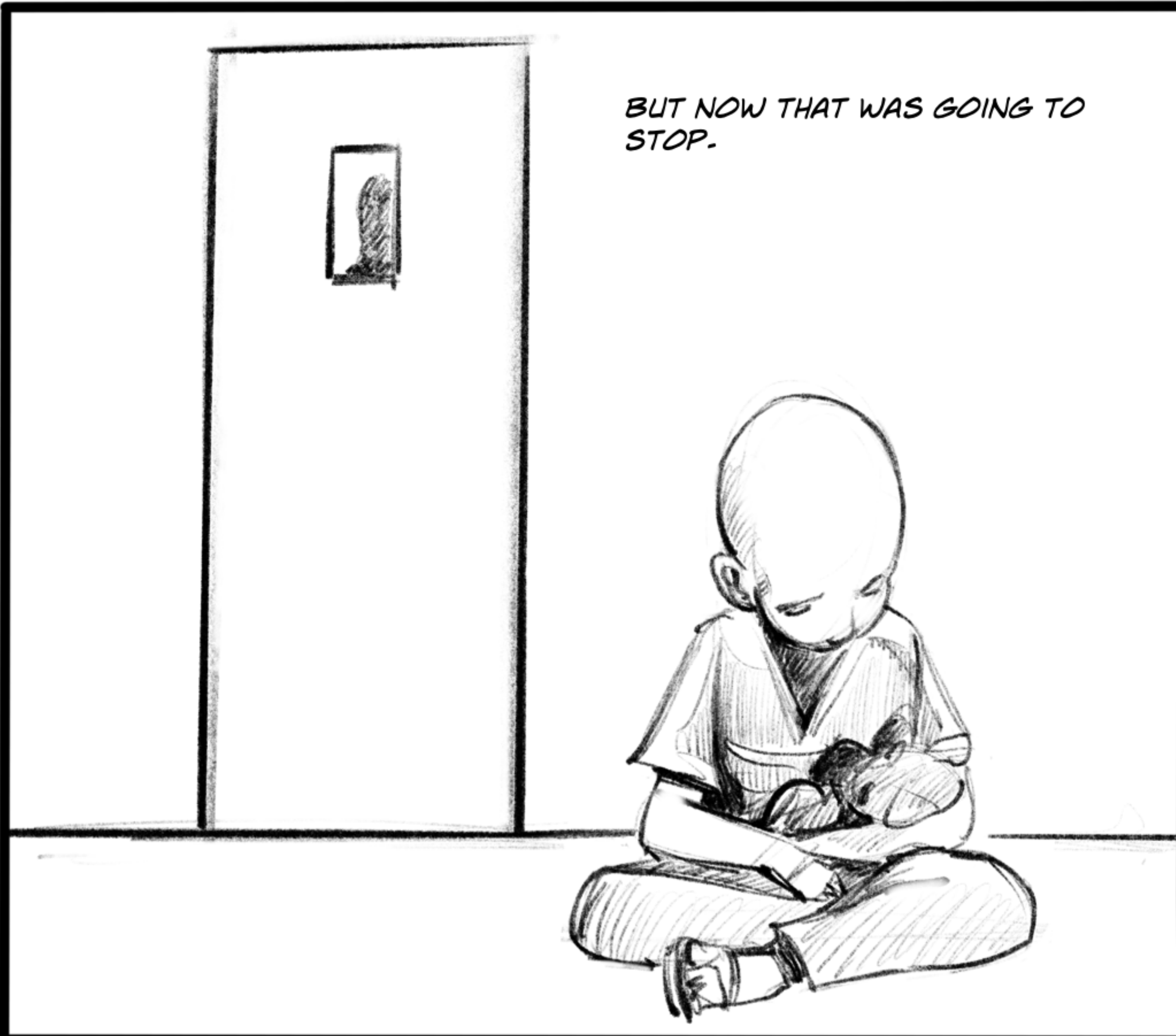
I WAS A WORST CASE SCENARIO...



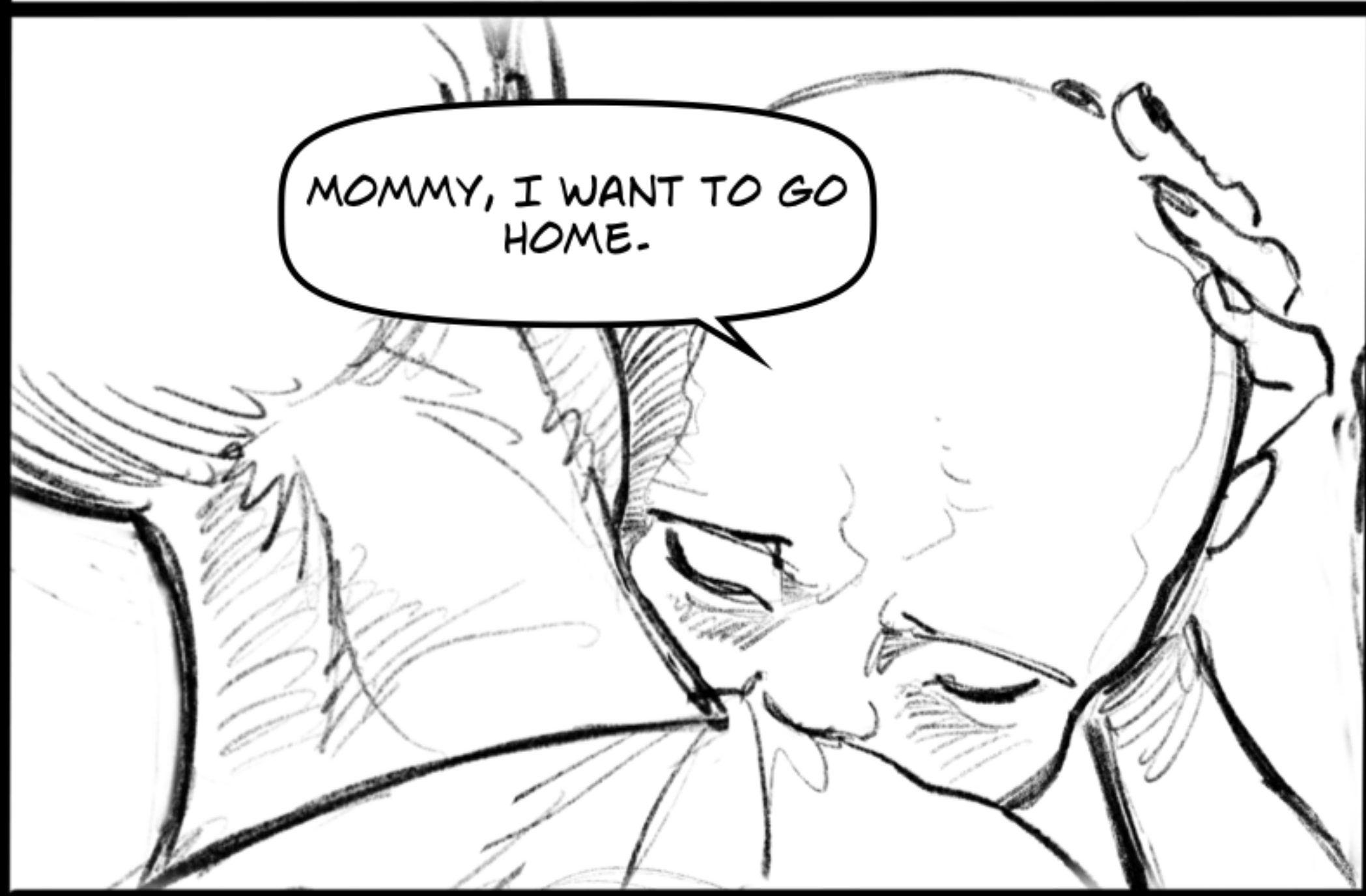
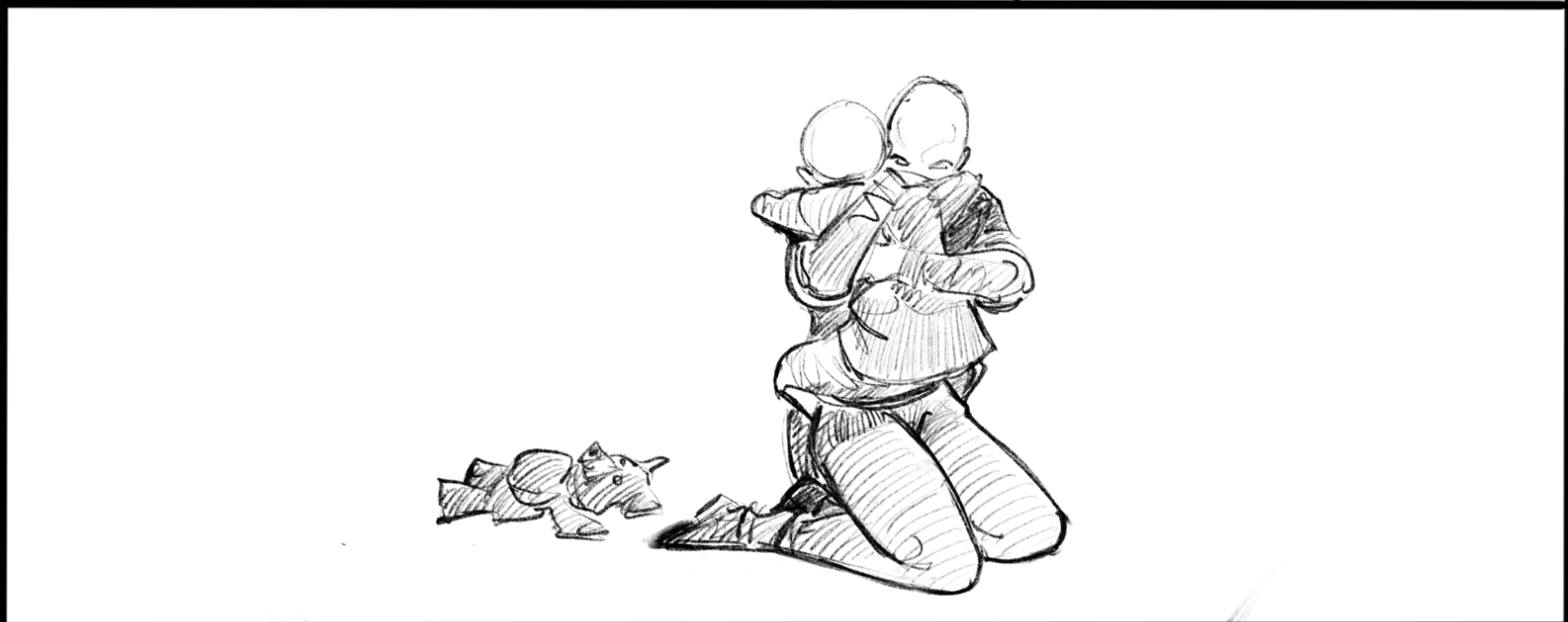
MULTIPLE CONVICTIONS MADE ME UNINSURABLE.



AND GETTING KNOCKED UP MEANT I NEEDED A LOT OF MONEY, WHICH MEANT MORE RUNS.



BUT NOW THAT WAS GOING TO STOP.



MOMMY, I WANT TO GO HOME.

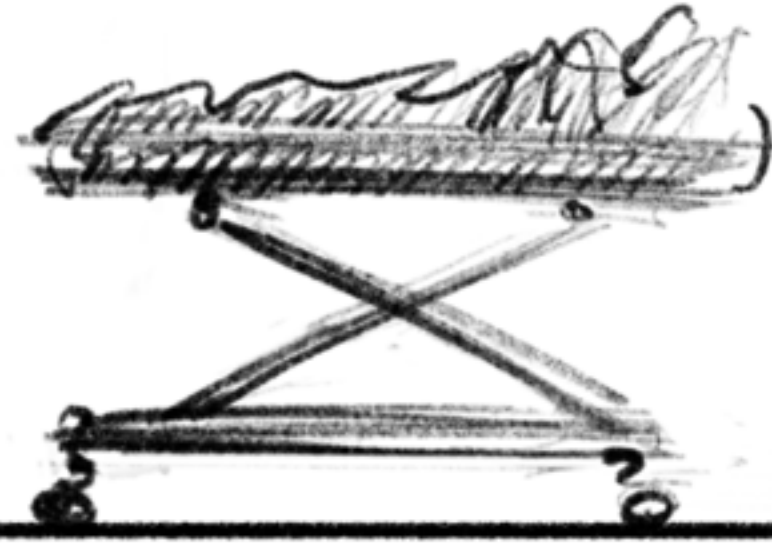


SOON. MOMMY HAS IT ALL WORKED OUT.



YOU'RE COMING BACK TO LIVE WITH ME. I WON'T NEED TO WORK ANYMORE. WE'LL BE TOGETHER. ALWAYS.

FIVE MILLION WOULD
PAY FOR A PERMANENT
PROCEDURE. AND I'D
LEAVE THE TRADE
FOREVER.



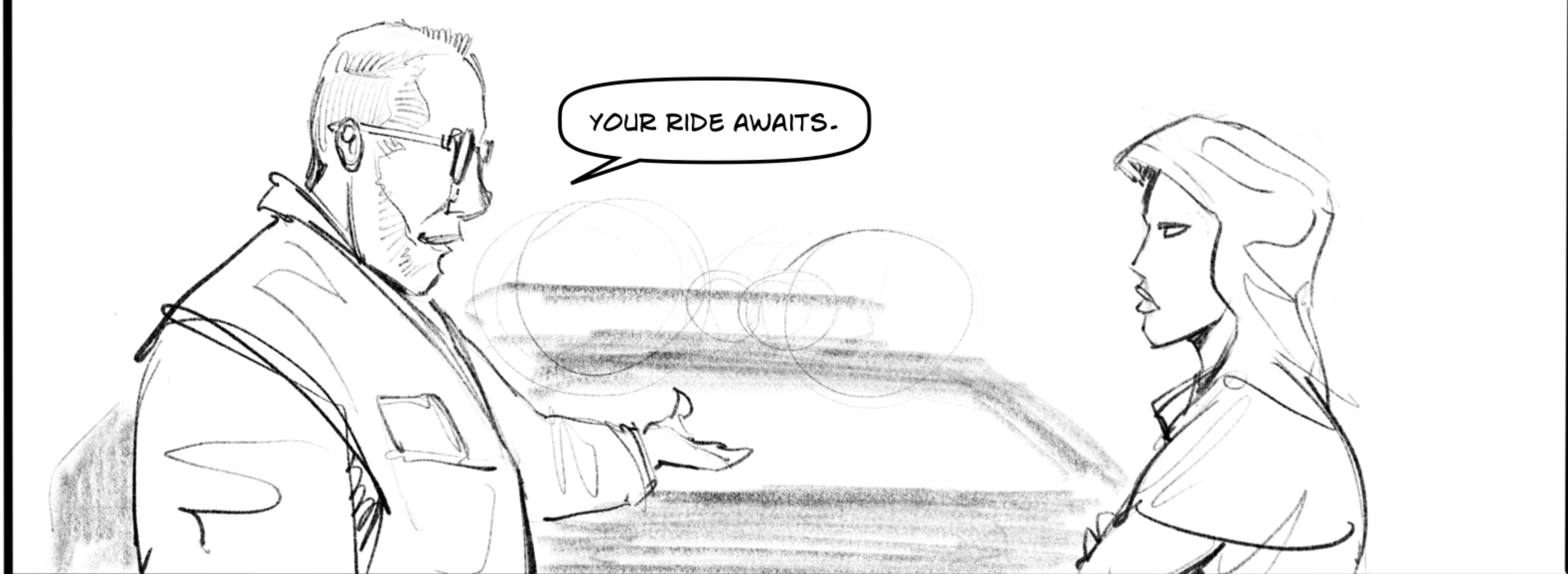
THE REMAINING
THIRTEEN WOULD
KEEP ME OUT OF
TROUBLE.

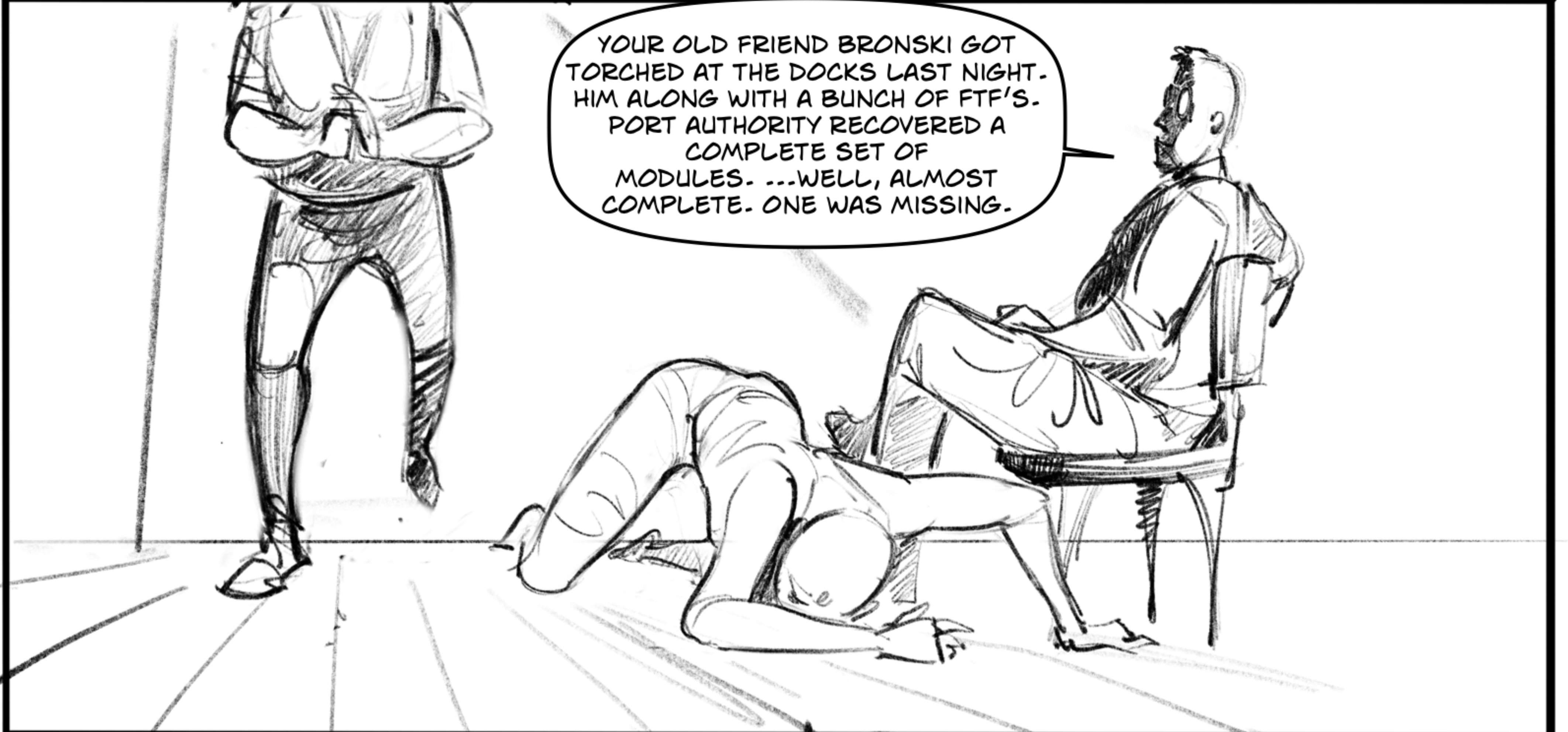


HELLO, SHEL.



YOUR RIDE AWAITS.





YOUR OLD FRIEND BRONSKI GOT TORCHED AT THE DOCKS LAST NIGHT. HIM ALONG WITH A BUNCH OF FTF'S. PORT AUTHORITY RECOVERED A COMPLETE SET OF MODULES. ...WELL, ALMOST COMPLETE. ONE WAS MISSING.



YOU KNOW BRONSKI FUCKED ME OVER. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN YEARS. WHY THE FUCK SHOULD I KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING?

WHY INDEED?



ASK ME, ALL YOU SMUGGLERS SHOULD BE STERILIZED.



WELL, MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR KID... THE PROCEDURE YOU WANT TO DO, WHICH WILL NEVER WORK BY THE WAY. SHE'S A MUTANT. NOTHING FIXES THAT.



YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON ME.

NO. BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU MAKE A MISTAKE. AT WHICH POINT I WILL OWN YOUR ASS.



THINK ABOUT IT. YOU GET ANOTHER CONVICTION AND THE STATE OWNS YOUR KID.

OR YOU CAN COME UP WITH THE MISSING MODULE AND I'LL GRANT YOU IMMUNITY. HELL, YOU START FINGERING SOME OF YOUR ASSOCIATES, I MIGHT JUST GET YOU A JOB.



YOU THINK YOUR SMUGGLER FRIENDS ARE LOYAL TO YOU?



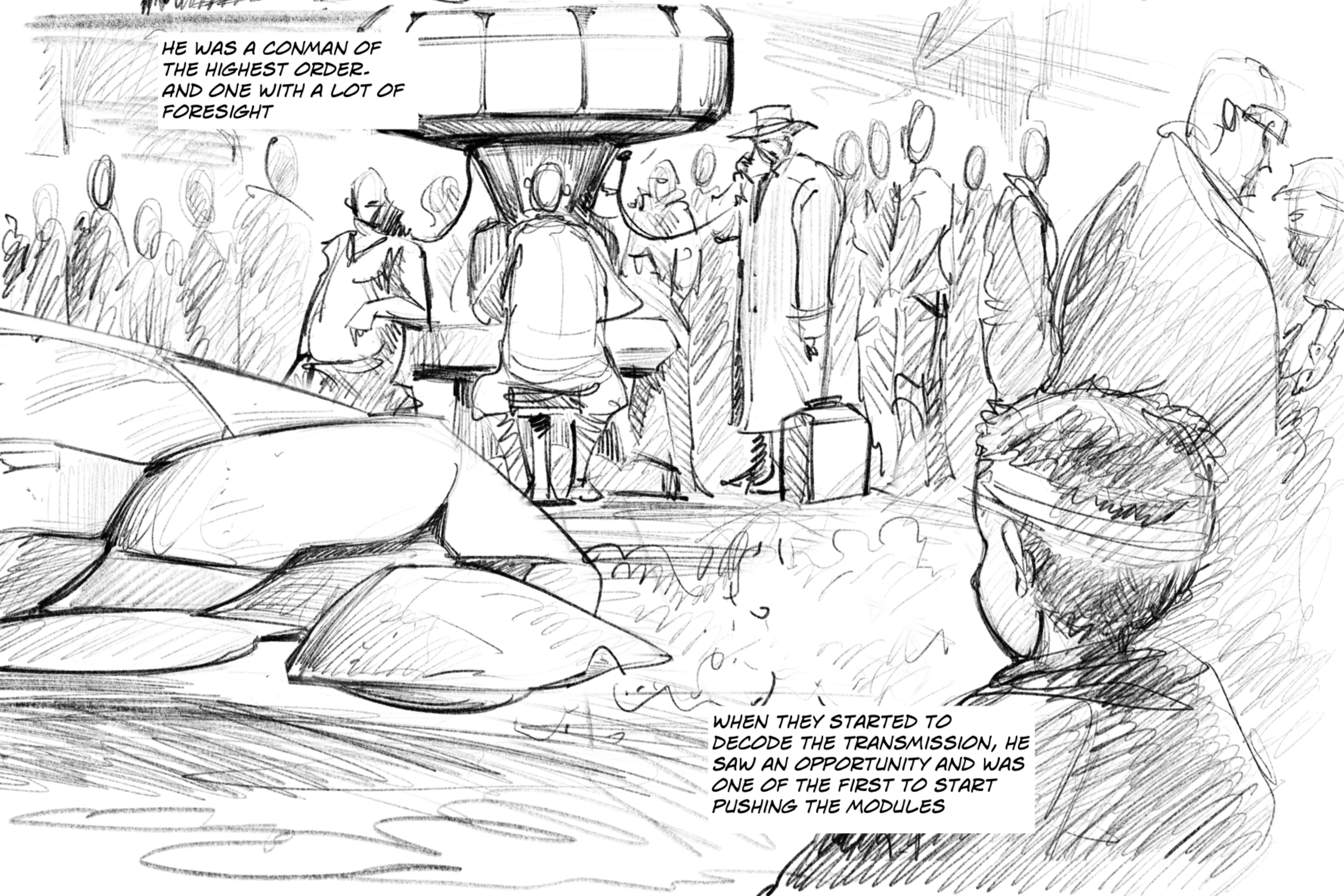


'LOYALTY'. WHAT DOES THAT WORD EVEN MEAN WHEN ALL OUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

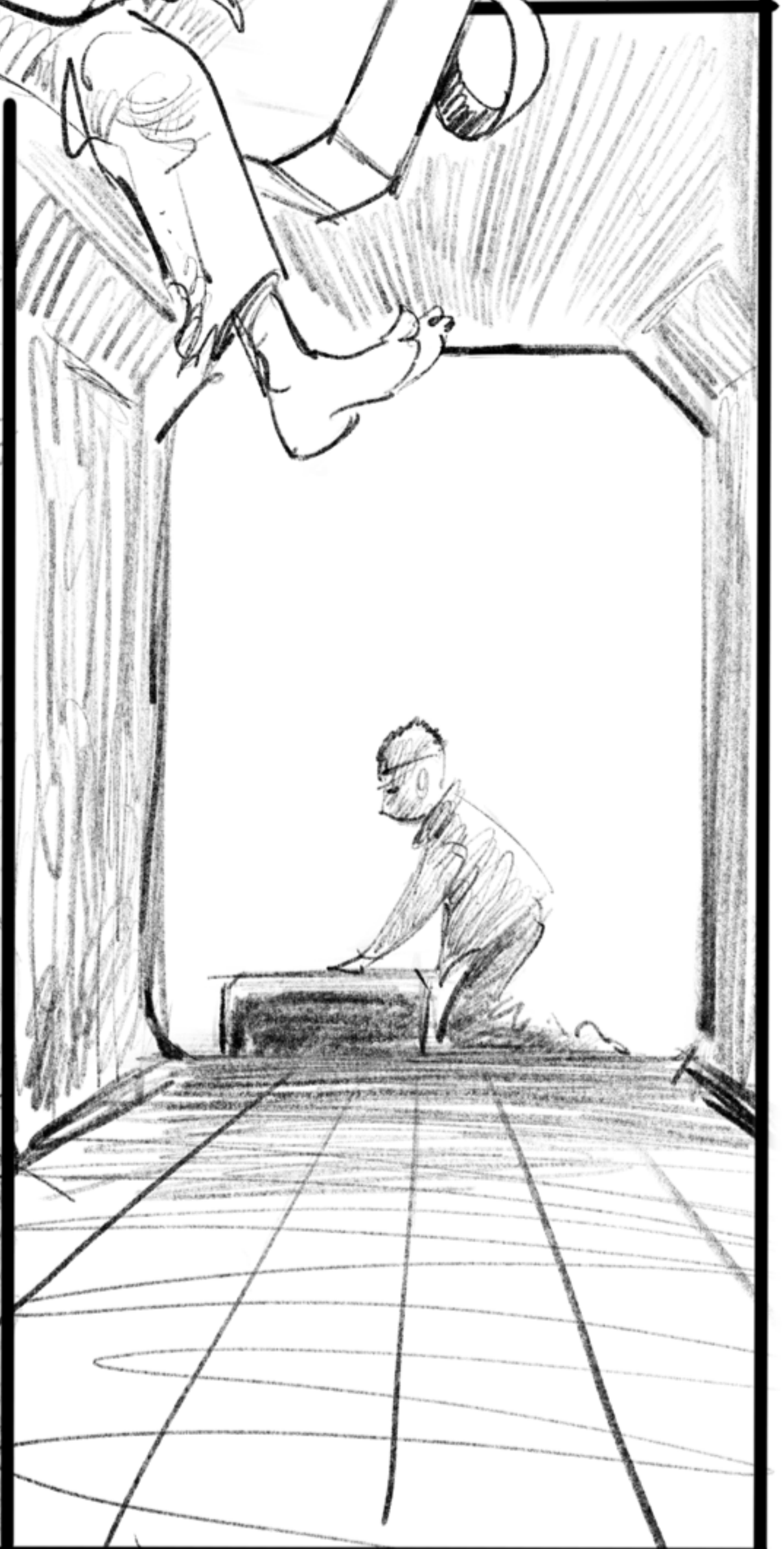
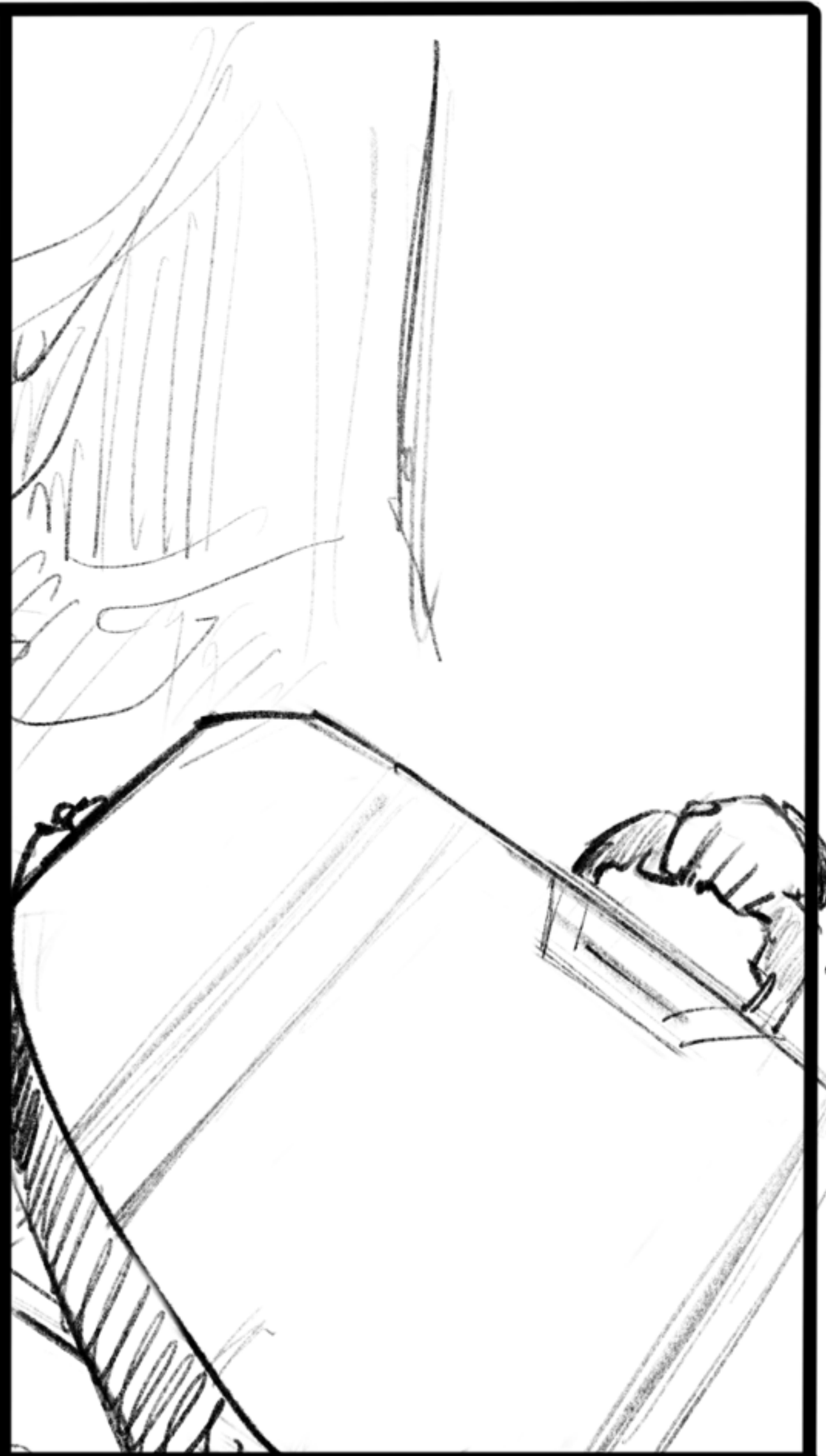
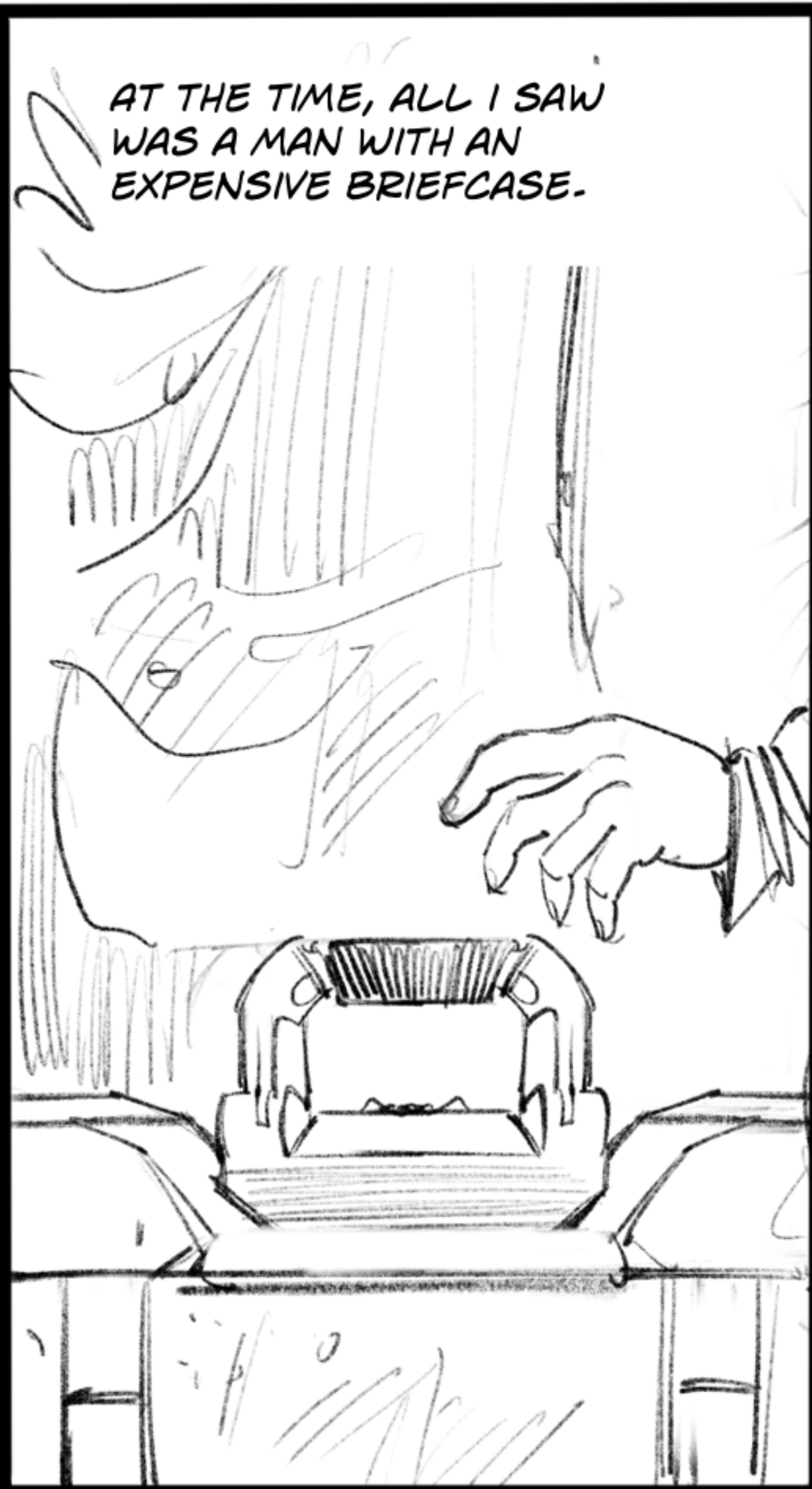
ALL I KNOW IS THAT BRONSKI WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO BELIEVED IN ME.

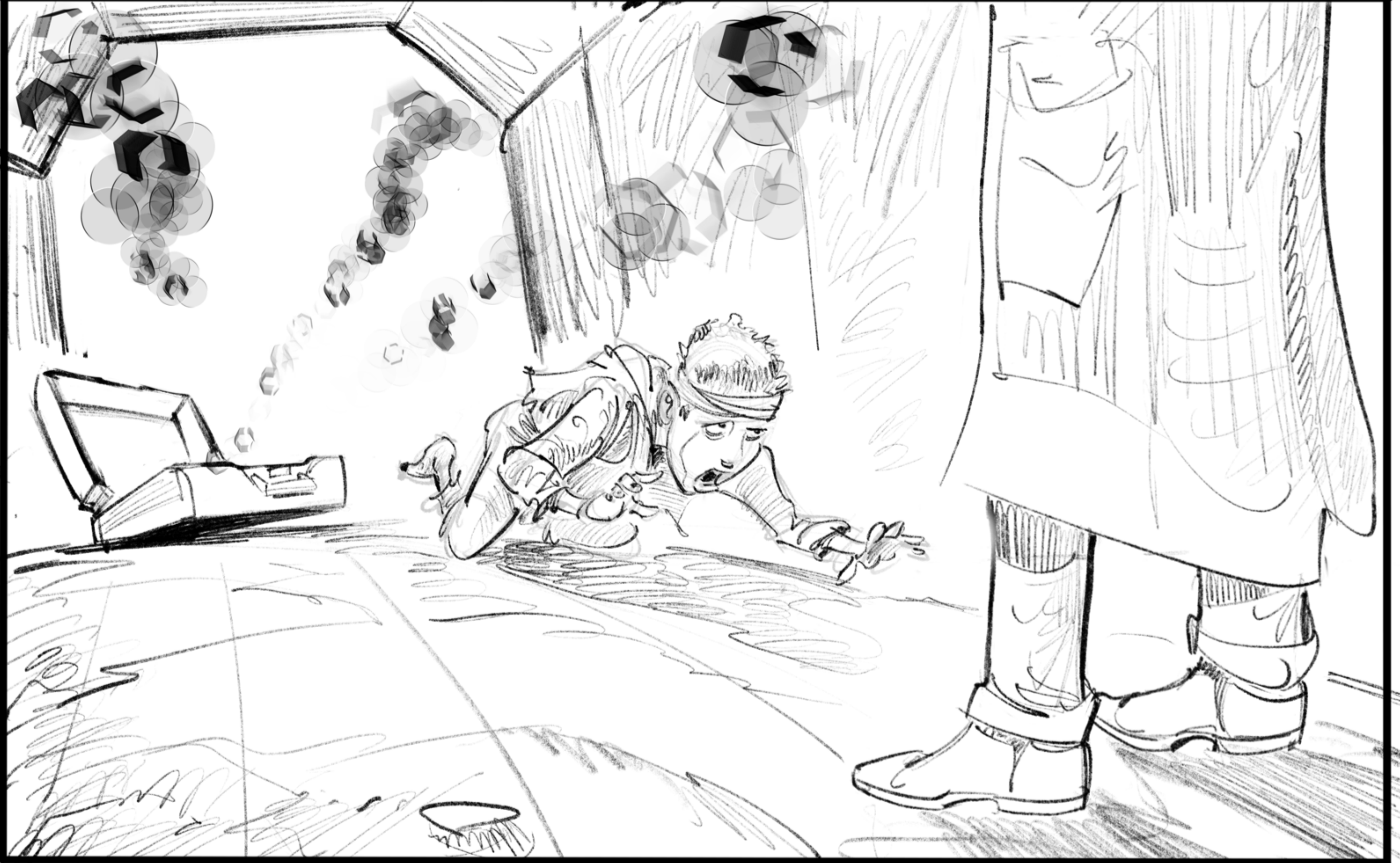
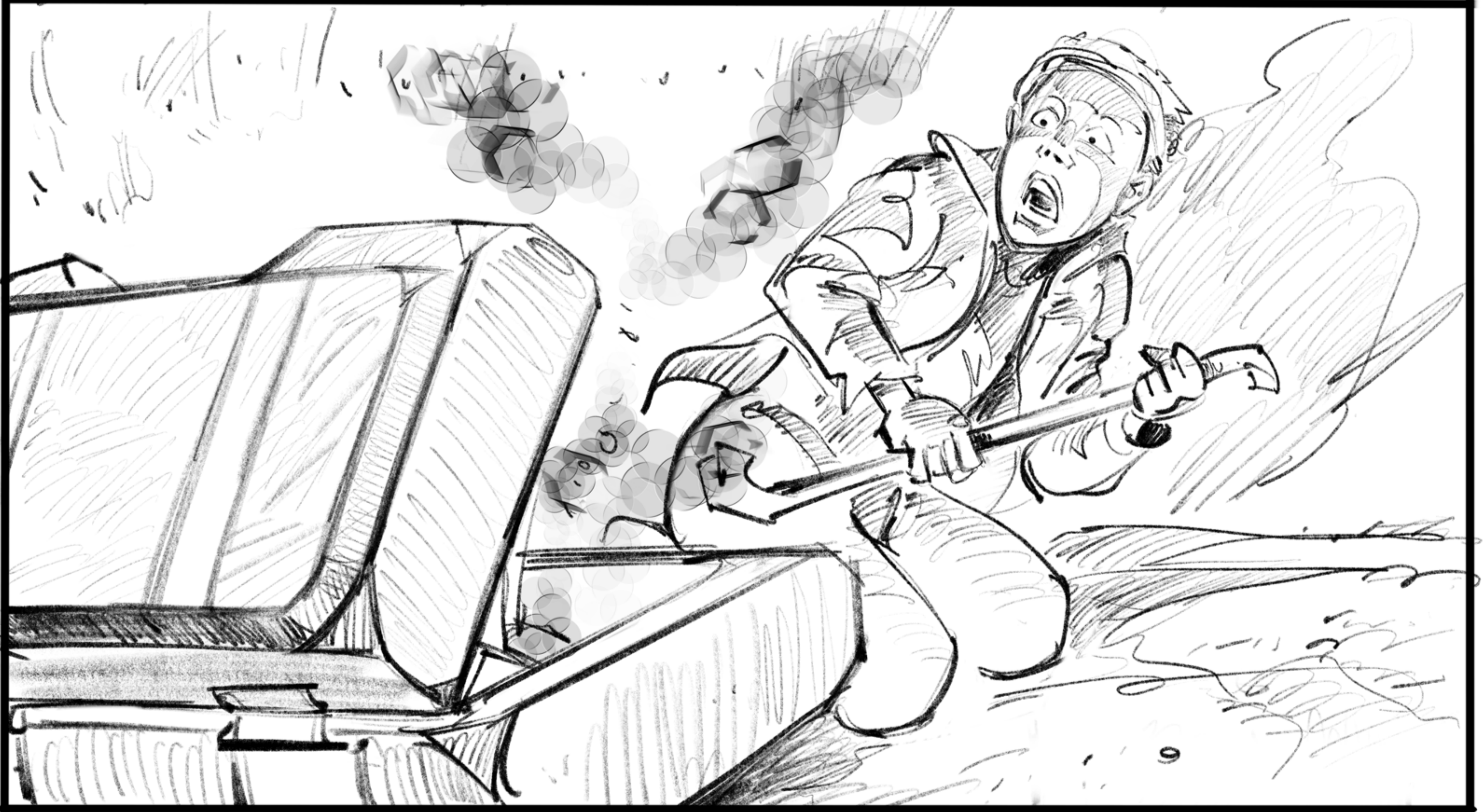
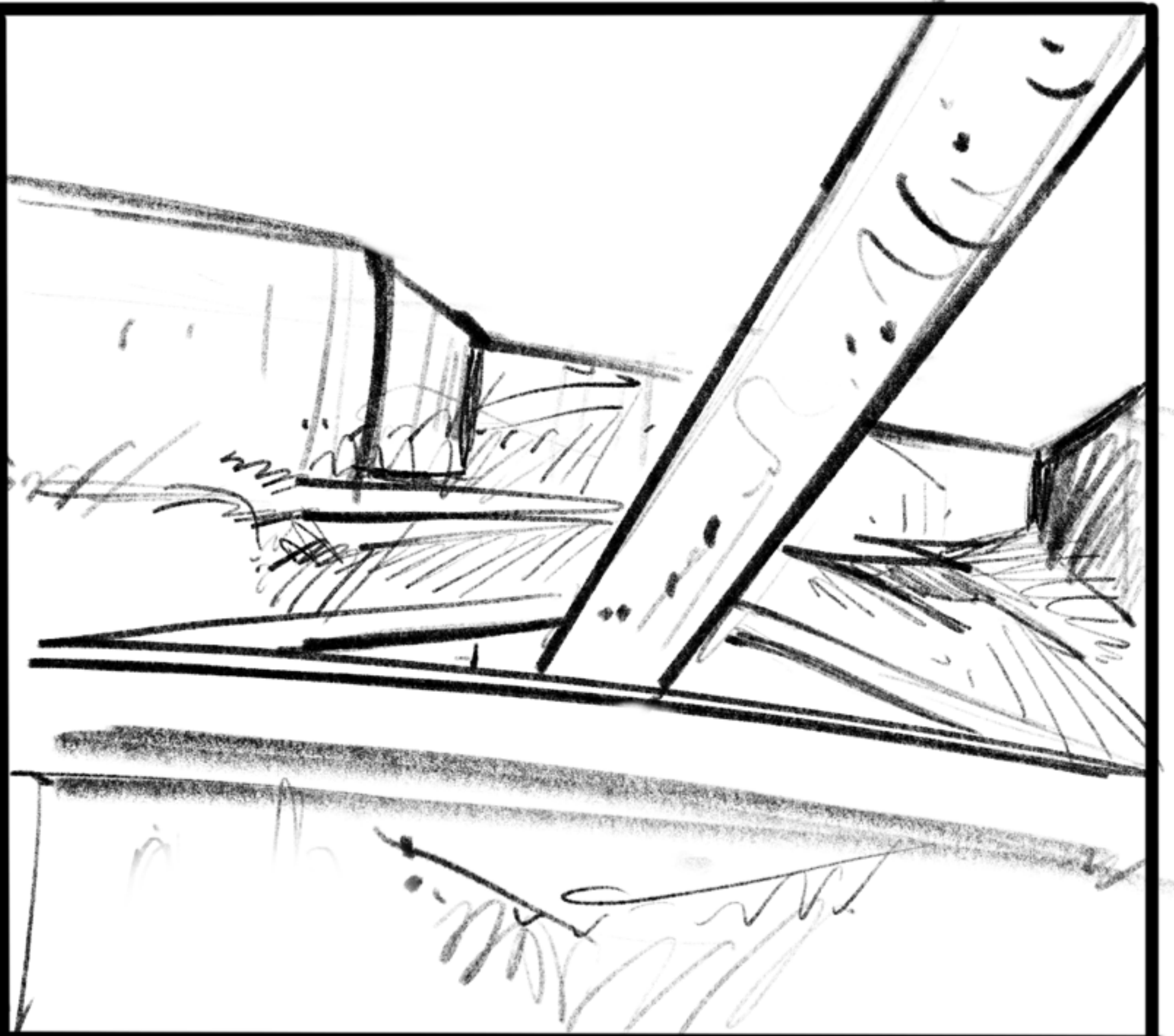
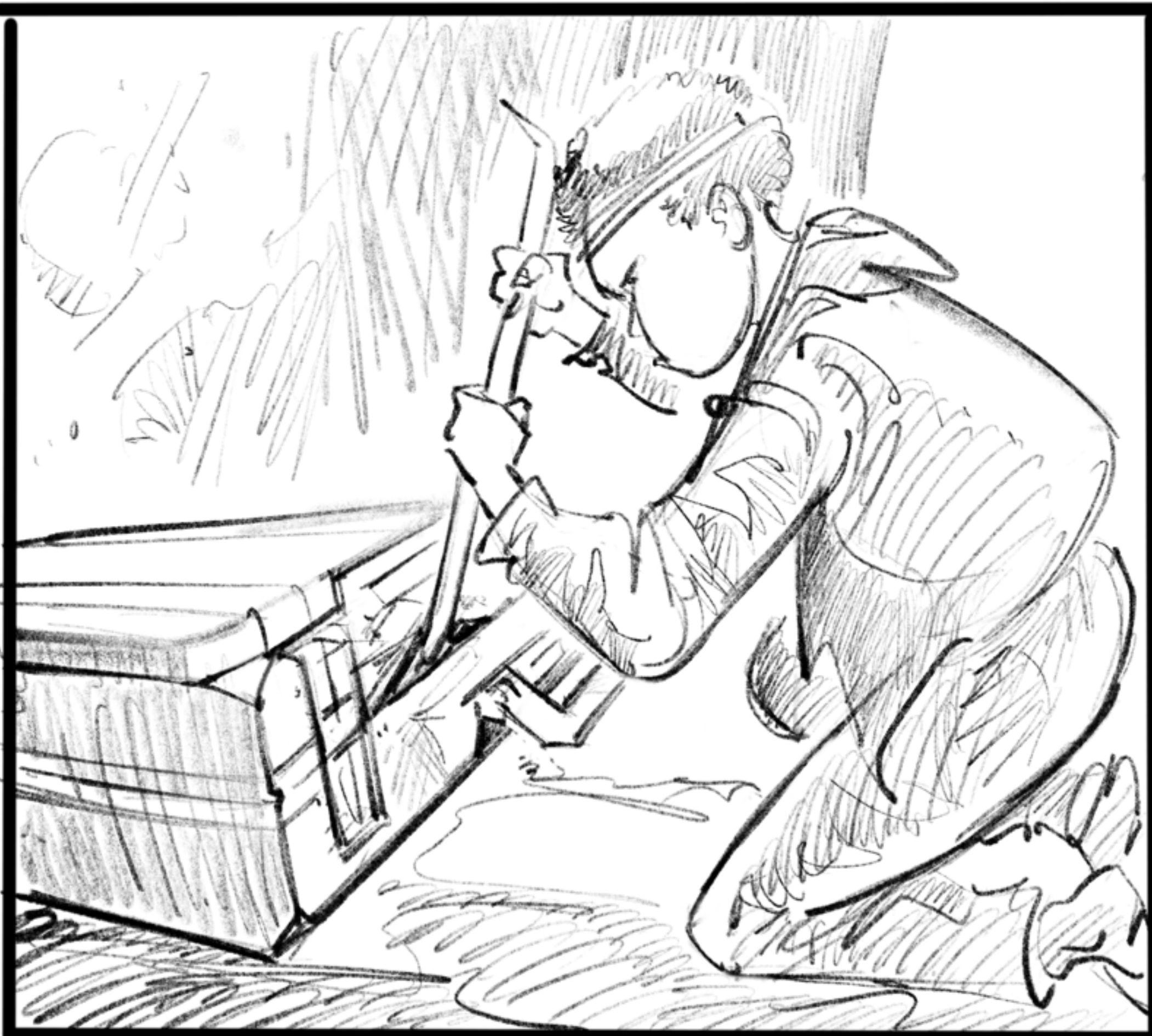
HE PULLED ME OUT OF THE GUTTER.

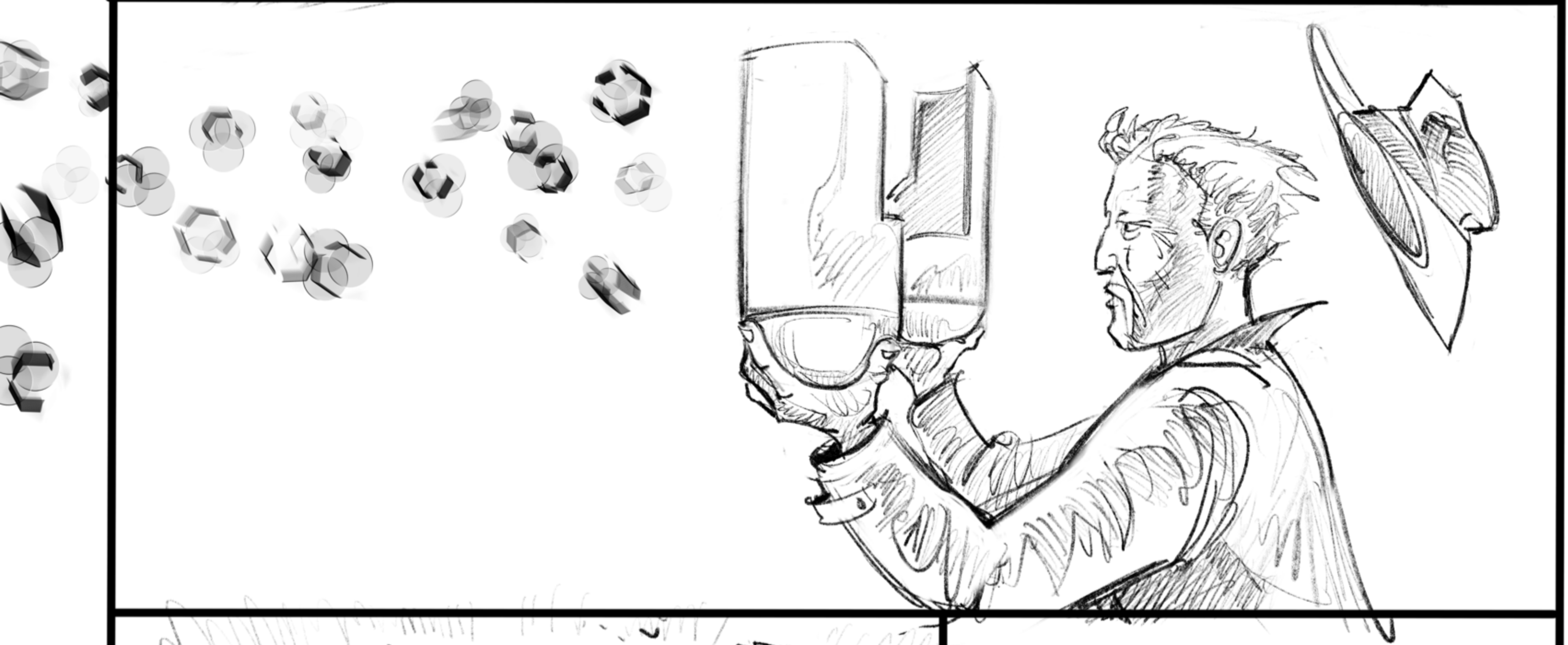
HE WAS A CONMAN OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. AND ONE WITH A LOT OF FORESIGHT



WHEN THEY STARTED TO DECODE THE TRANSMISSION, HE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY AND WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO START PUSHING THE MODULES



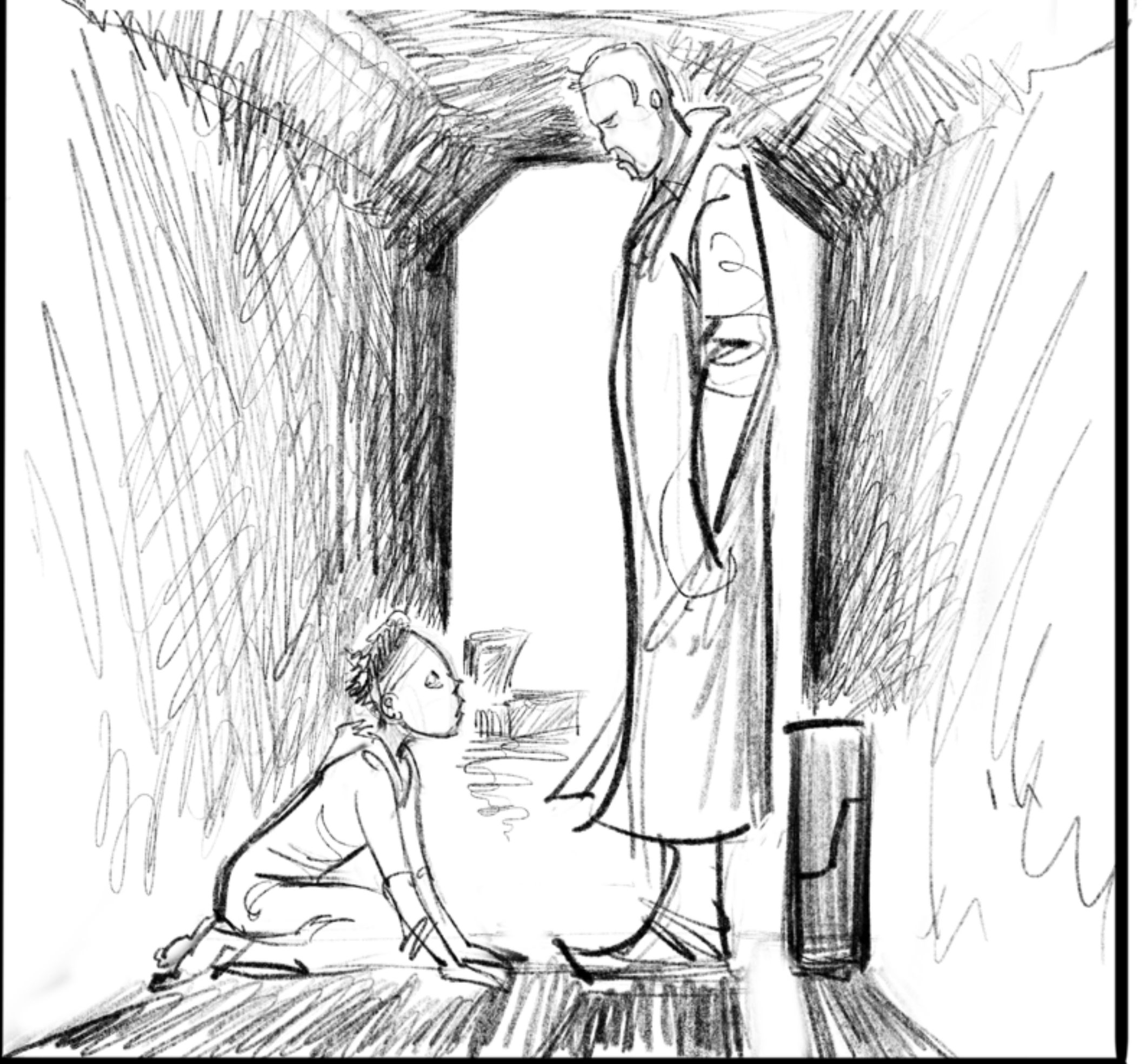




I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAW IN ME. PROBABLY, SOMEONE HE COULD SHAPE. MOLD. AND GENERALLY FUCK WITH WITHOUT COMPLAINT.



I THOUGHT I HAD STOLEN HIS BRIEFCASE, BUT IN REALITY, I HAD GIVEN AWAY MY FUTURE.



IN RETURN, BRONSKI TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MODULES. I DID COUNTLESS RUNS FOR HIM. PICK UPS AND DROP OFFS.

BY THE TIME I WAS FIFTEEN I HAD A GUN AIMED AT MY HEAD MORE TIMES THAN I HAD BIRTHDAYS.



BUT I GOT SOMETHING OUT OF IT TOO. PROBABLY THE THING THAT KEPT ME ALIVE THROUGH IT ALL: A PURPOSE.

I DEVELOPED A KIND OF SIXTH SENSE FOR THE MODULES. I COULD INTUIT THINGS ABOUT THEM, HOW THEY FUNCTIONED, HOW THEY INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER. WITHOUT KNOWING IT, I BECAME INDISPENSABLE .

AND WITHOUT TRYING BRONSKI
BECAME THE FAMILY THAT I NEVER
HAD...

IN THOSE DAYS, BRONSKI HAD RESPECT
FOR HIS PRODUCT. HE EXPLAINED THAT
EVEN THOUGH WE PROFITED FROM THEM,
THE MODULES WERE ENCODED WITH THE
DEEPEST MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE.

SURE SCIENTISTS BUILT THEM
HERE ON EARTH. BUT THE CODE
CAME FROM OUT THERE.

OUR WORLD WAS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS.
OUR OWN TECH WAS FAILING US AND SO WAS
OUR BASIC INSTINCT AS HOMO SAPIENS. BUT
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF
OUR LIMITED PERSPECTIVE OF REALITY COULD
CHANGE THAT.



MEANTIME, WE HAD TO MAKE A LIVING. WE NEVER SETTLED IN ONE PLACE. WE RAN FROM ONE GRIFT TO THE NEXT.



THE MARKET WAS BOOMING AND THE MODULES COULD BE USED FOR ALL KINDS OF THINGS: ENERGY, WATER PURIFICATION, WEAPONS...

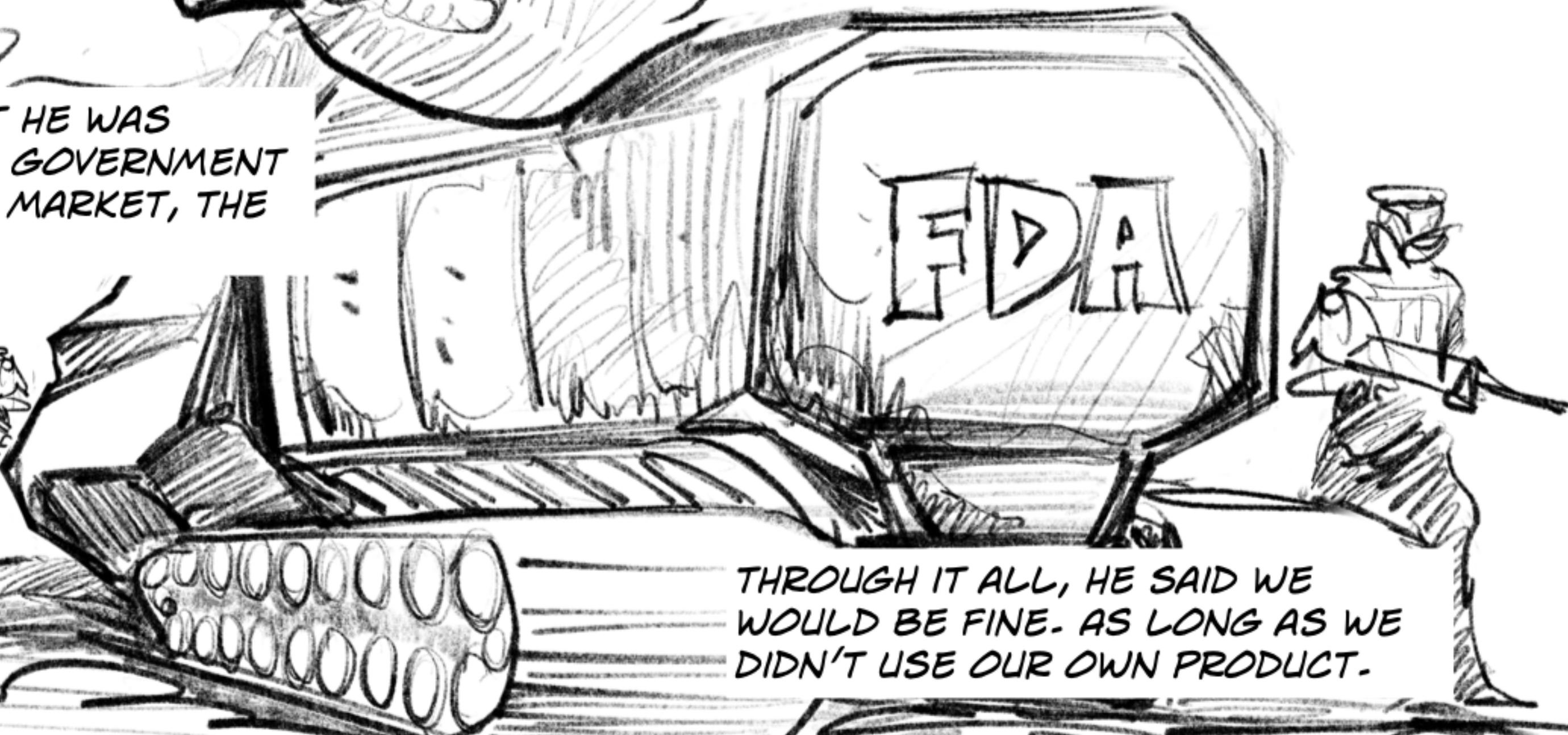
... DRUGS.

BRONSKI TAUGHT ME THAT THE TECH COULD SAVE PEOPLE OR IT COULD DESTROY THEM. JUST DEPENDED HOW THEY USED IT.

AS FOR THE AUTHORITIES, USE OF THE MODULES WAS STRICTLY REGULATED, SUPPOSEDLY FOR OUR OWN GOOD.

TRUTH WAS THAT WAS SO THE PEOPLE IN POWER COULD STAY THAT WAY. HE SAW THE BLACK MARKET AS THE COUNTERBALANCE, THE WAY THAT REGULAR PEOPLE COULD TAKE BACK CONTROL.

AND TO SOME EXTENT HE WAS RIGHT. THE MORE THE GOVERNMENT FOUGHT THE KILL THE MARKET, THE MORE IT GREW.



THROUGH IT ALL, HE SAID WE WOULD BE FINE. AS LONG AS WE DIDN'T USE OUR OWN PRODUCT.

...TOO BAD HE DIDN'T TAKE HIS OWN ADVICE.



BRONSKI BECAME
A USER.

HE SAID IT GAVE HIM EXTRA SENSORY POWERS.
THAT HE COULD CHANNEL THE COSMOS.

TRUTH WAS IT MADE HIM
SELFISH AND SLOPPY.

WE STARTED WORKING WITH UNRELIABLE VENDORS.

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT.

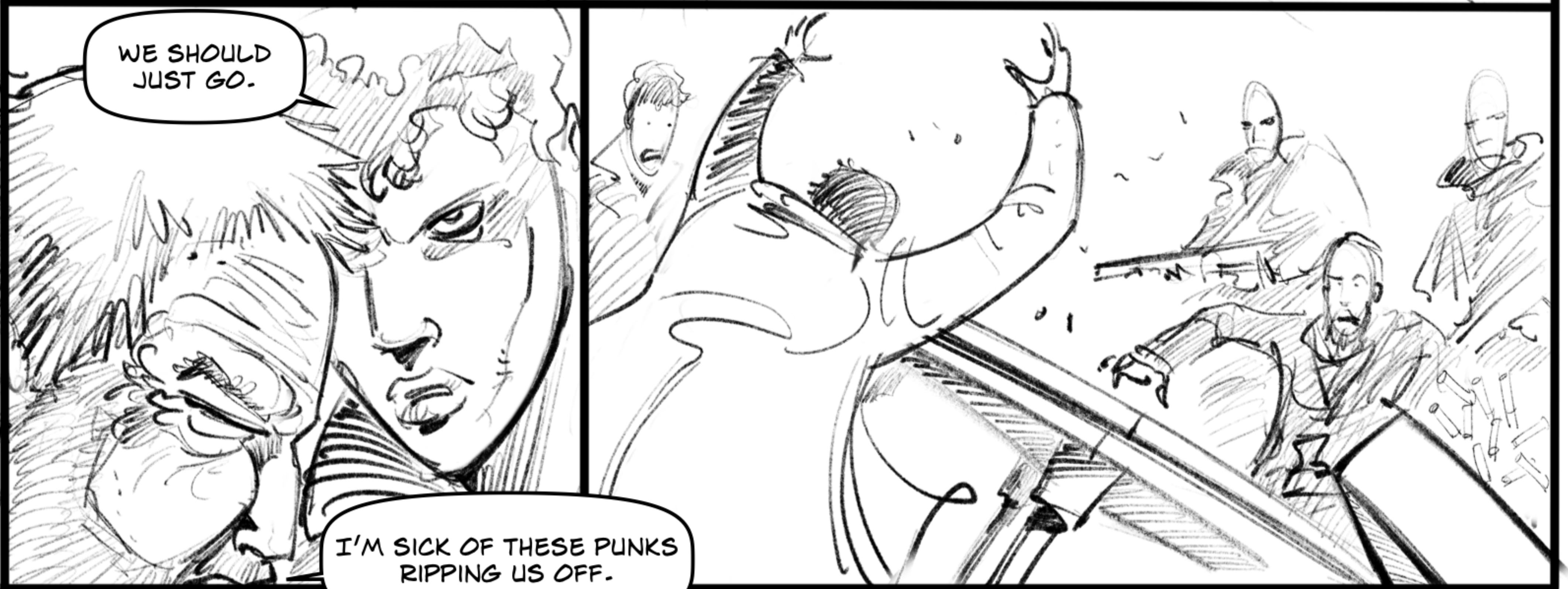
HUNDRED SIXTY TWO V-UNITS OF LB-29'S.

MIND IF I TRY A SAMPLE?

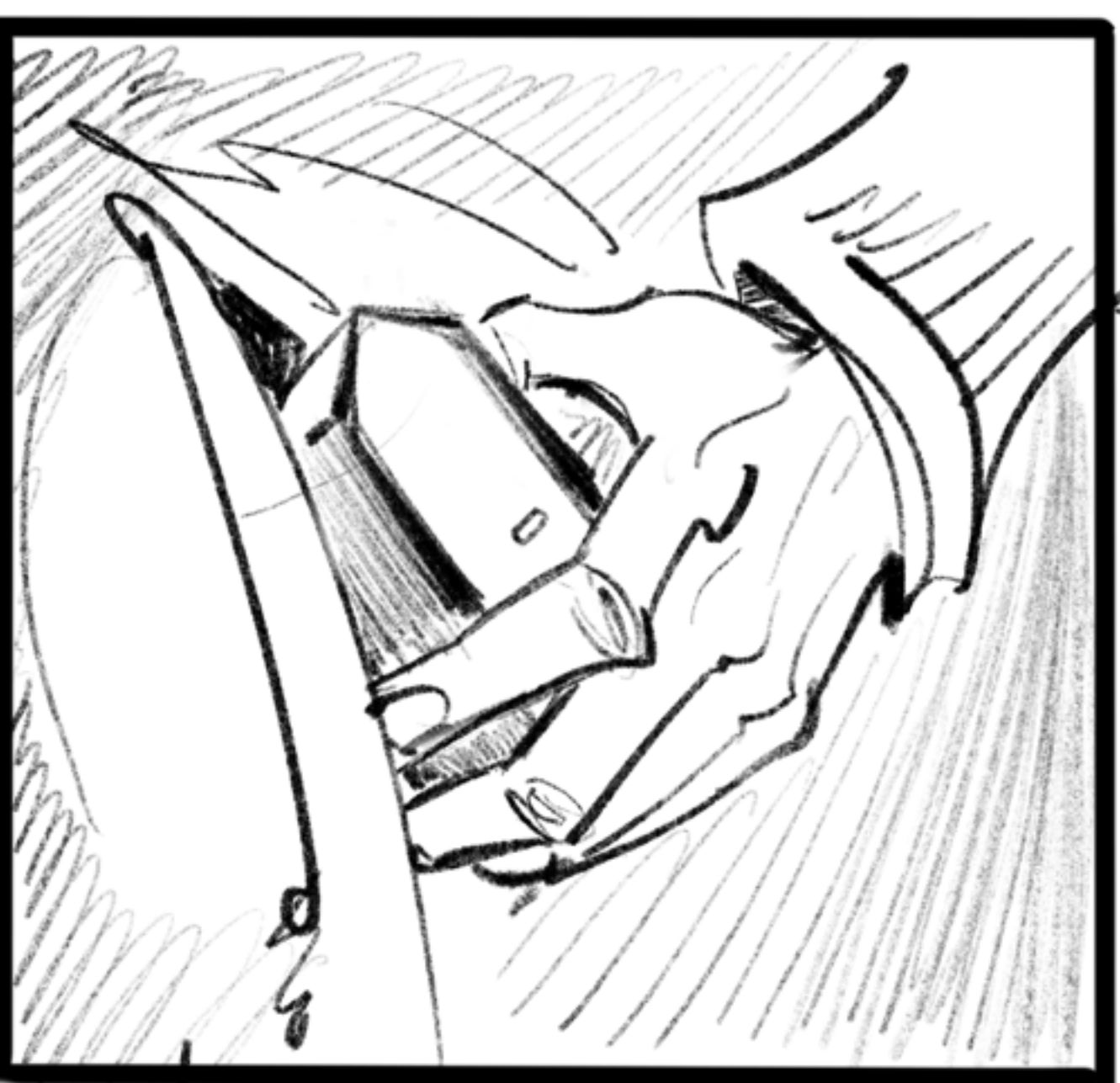
GO RIGHT AHEAD.

CLICK

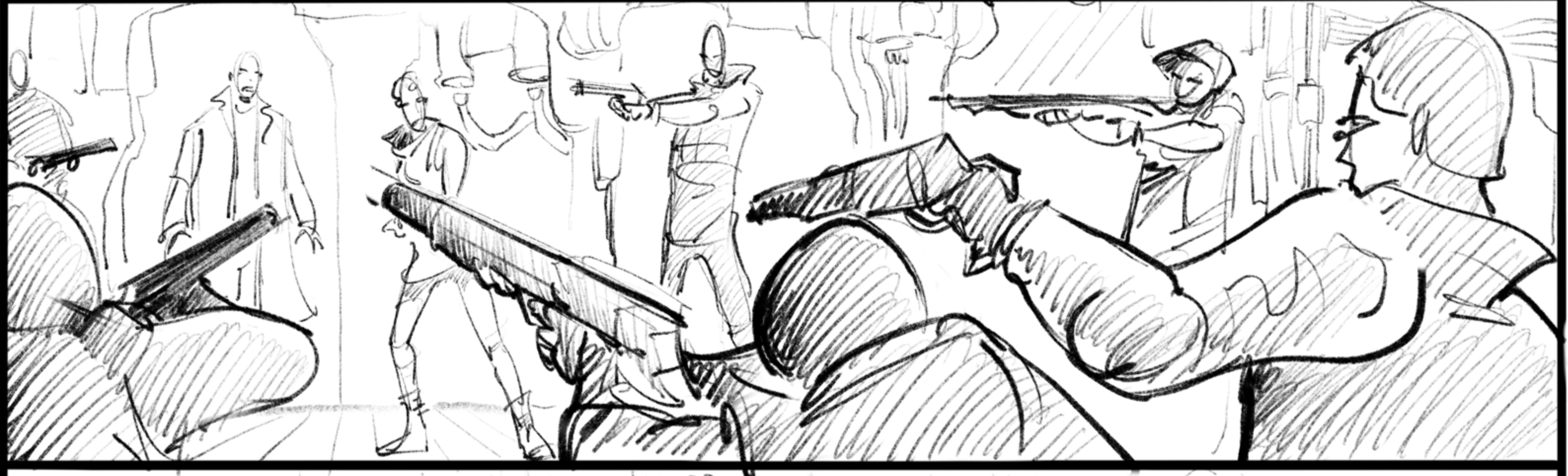
K-FSSSSS



I WAS GIVING YOU DEAL, OLD MAN. NOW I'M GIVING YOU A BULLET.



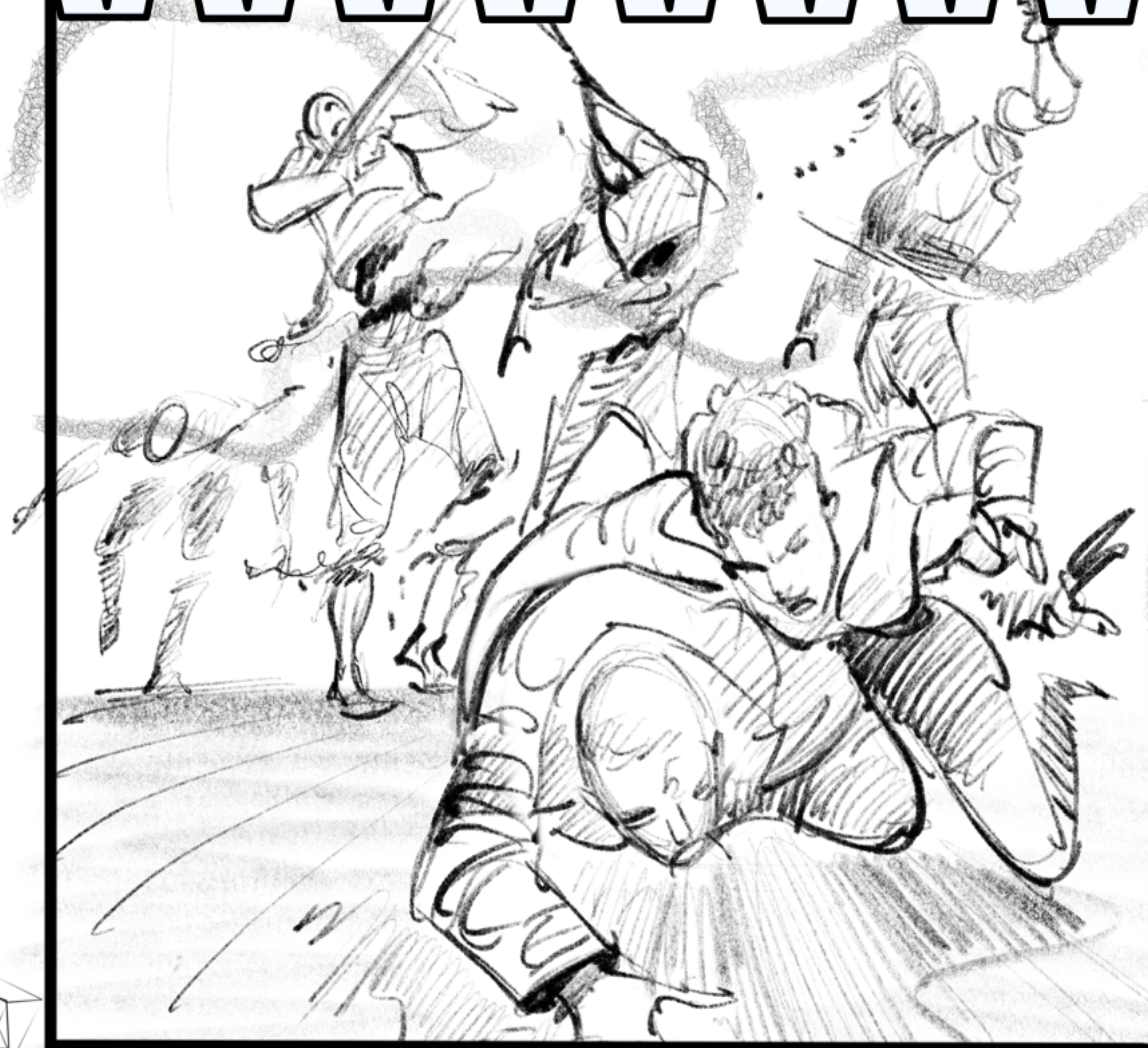
EXECUTE THESE MOTHERFUCKERS.

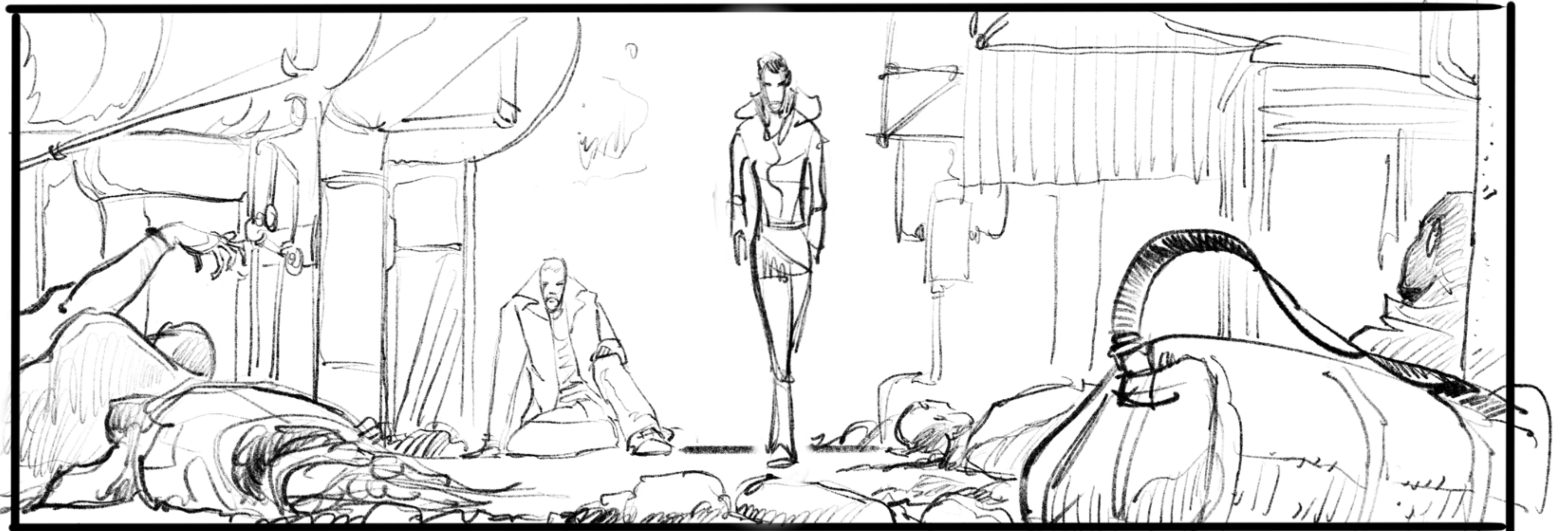


SSSSSSSHHHH!!!



WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

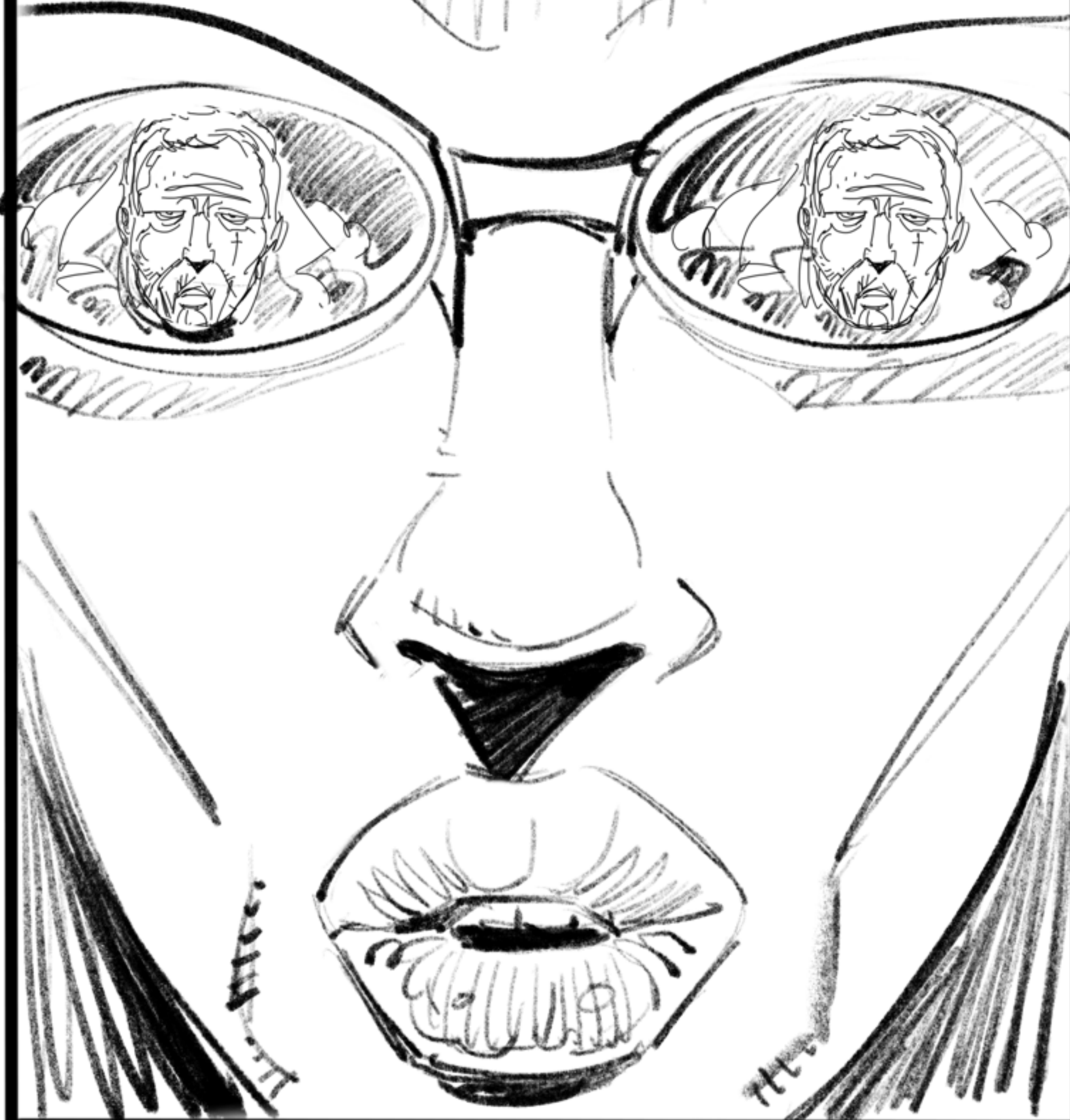




WHEN I WALKED OUT OF THAT ROOM. I DIDN'T LOOK BACK.

BUT AS MUCH AS I TRIED, I COULD NEVER FORGET BRONSKI. MORE SO ONCE HE WAS DEAD.

I HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON MY MIND. COPS LET ME GO, BUT MAMA WAS LATE CALLING.



SHEL, BEEN A LONG TIME.



WHATCHA WANT, BENNY?

GOT A GIG. SIMPLE COURIER JOB. EASY MONEY



THANKS BUT I'M TAKING A BREAK..

SO IT'S TRUE. YOU HIT PAYDIRT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



THE STREET KNOWS. I'D WATCH YOUR ASS.

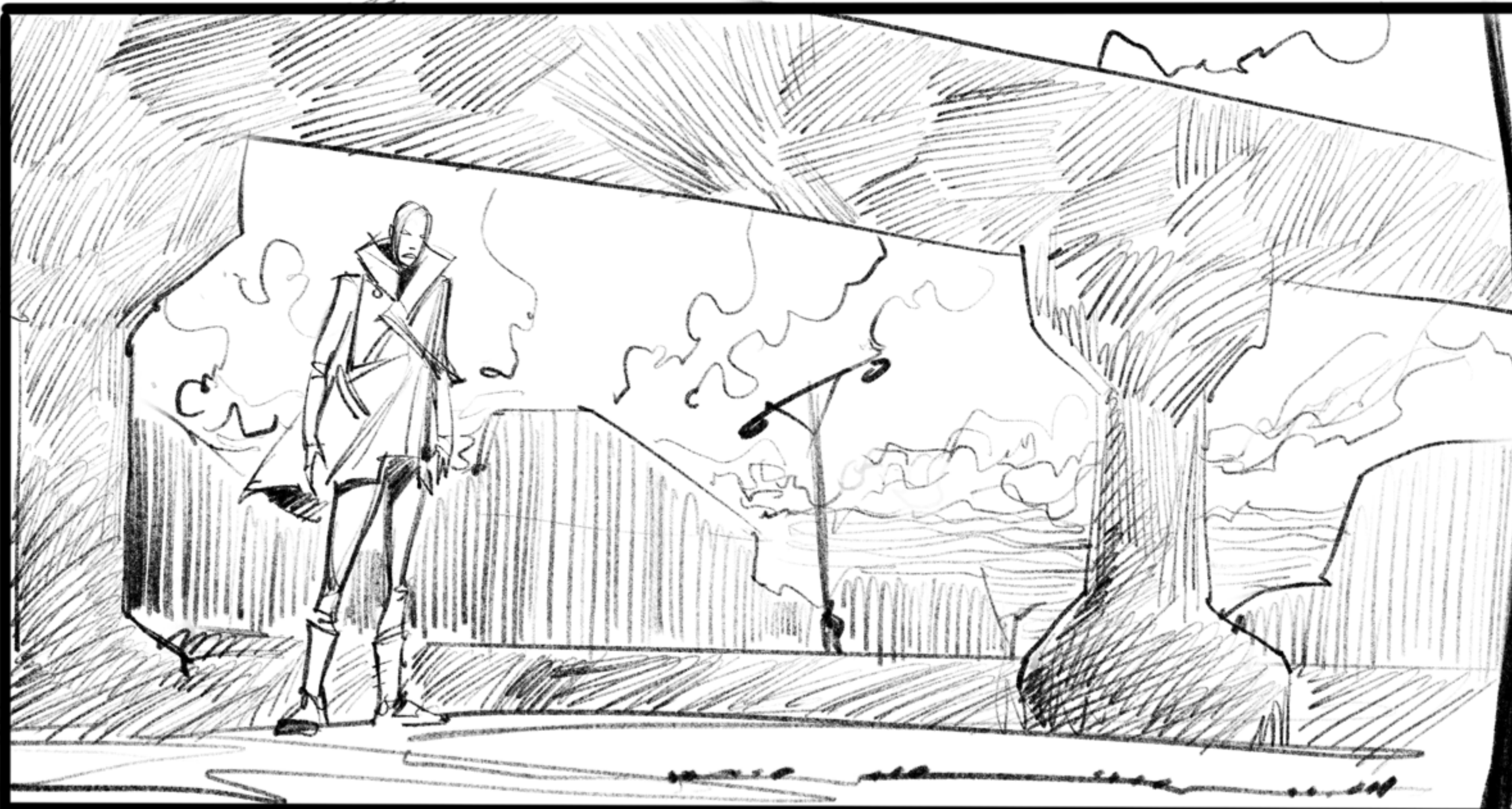


YOU'RE A SWEETHEART, BENNY.

ANYTIME, SHEL. ANYTIME.

PING

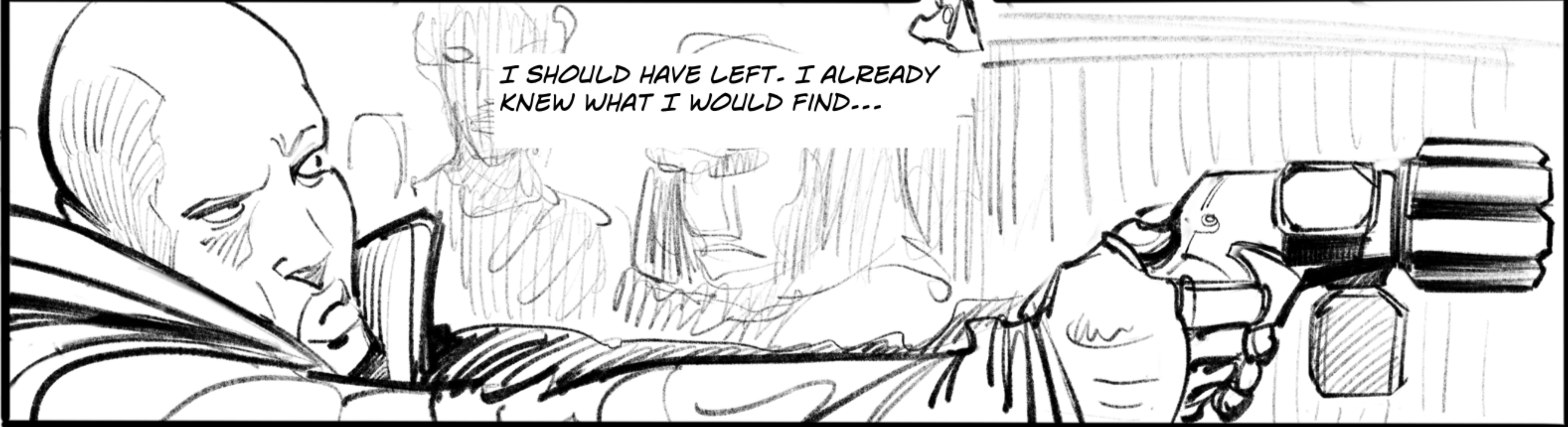
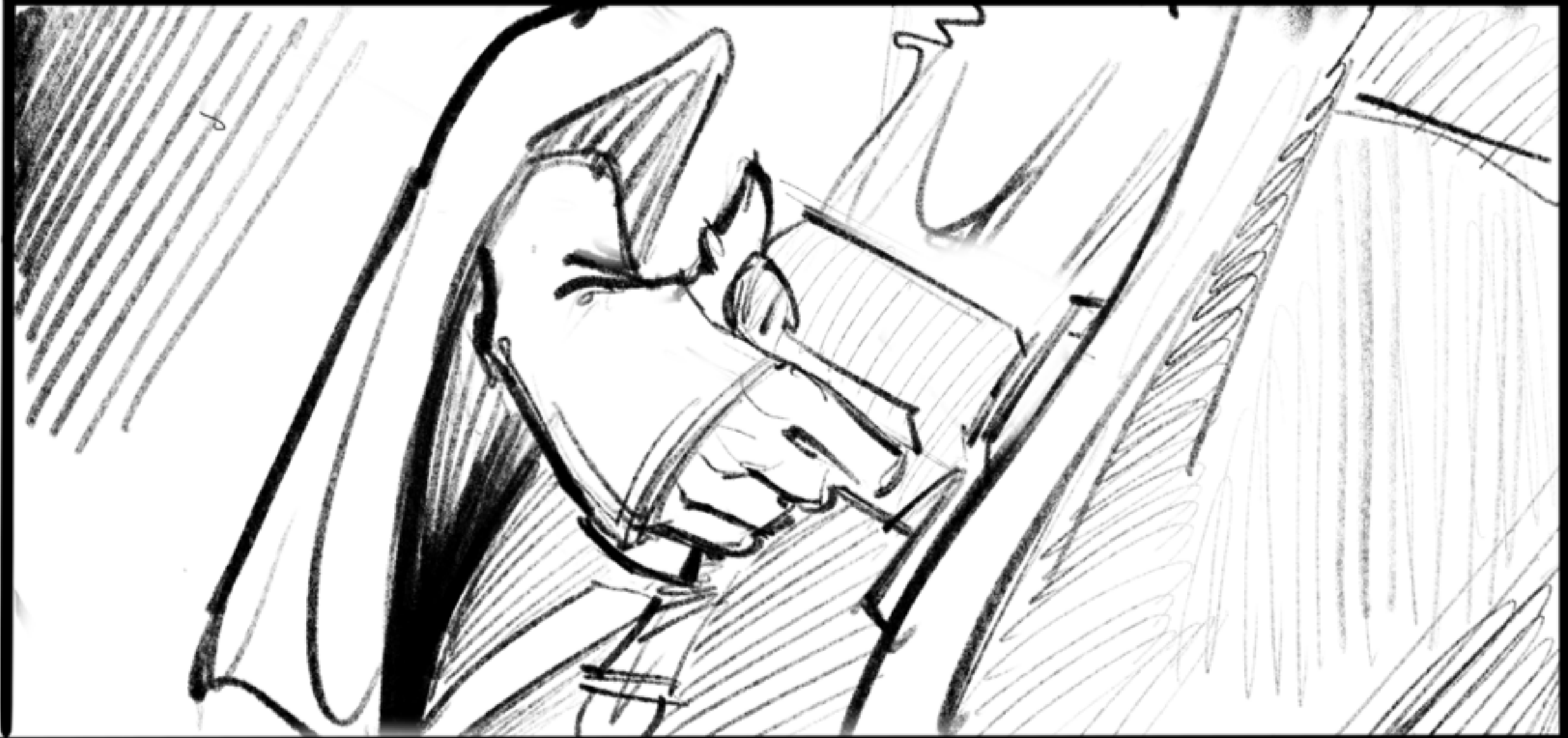
<IT'S READY>



THE MINUTE I GOT TO MAMA'S I COULD SENSE SOMETHING WAS WRONG.



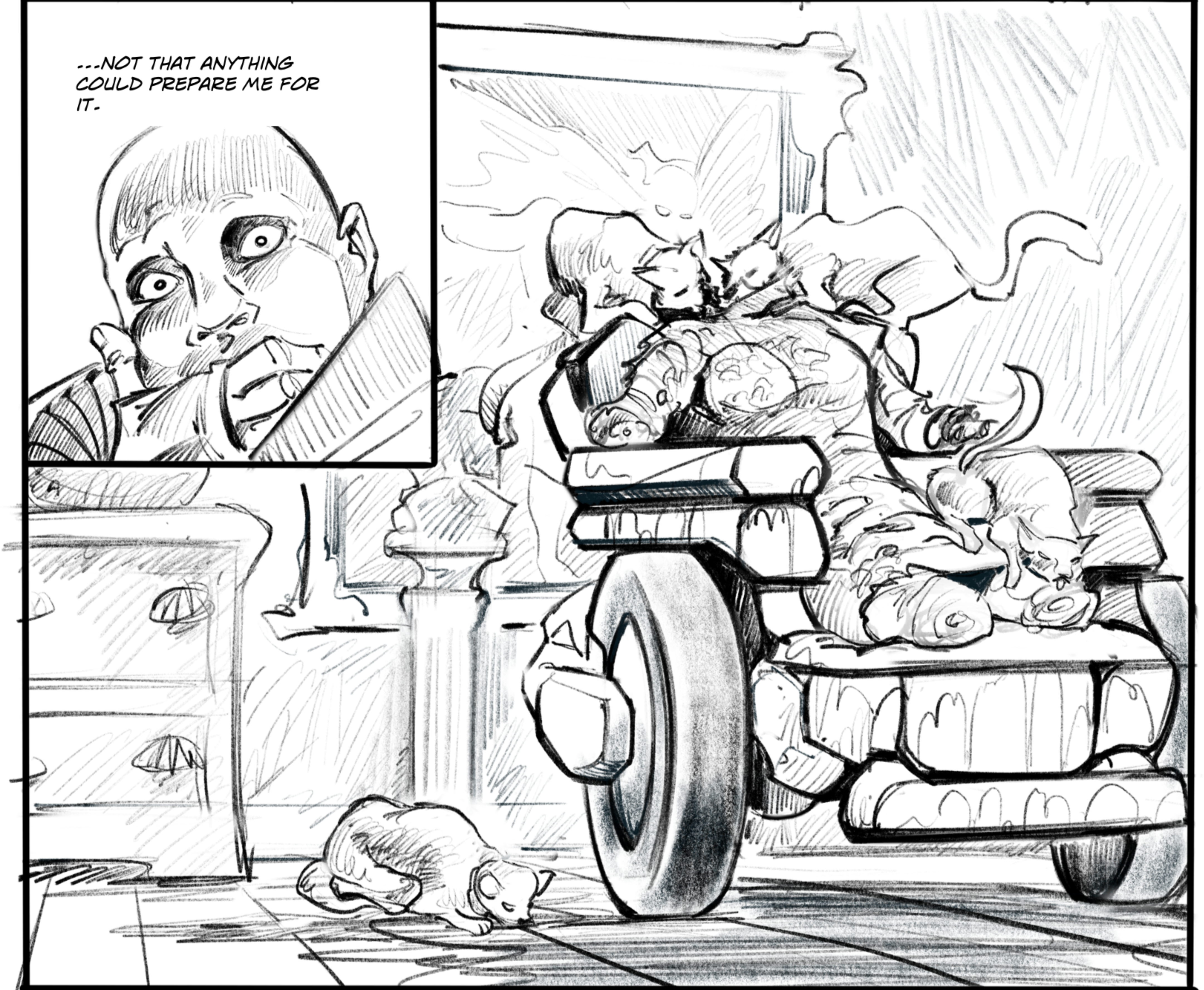
CREEEEK

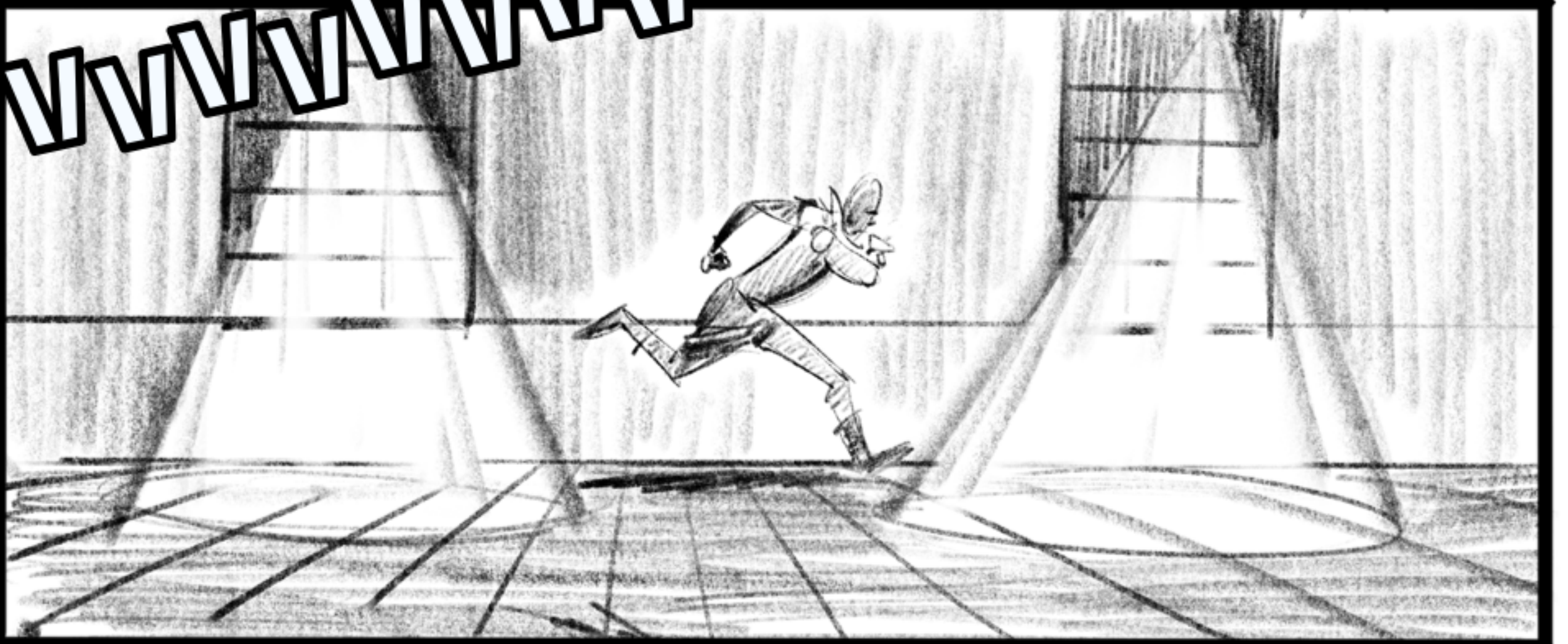


I SHOULD HAVE LEFT. I ALREADY KNEW WHAT I WOULD FIND...

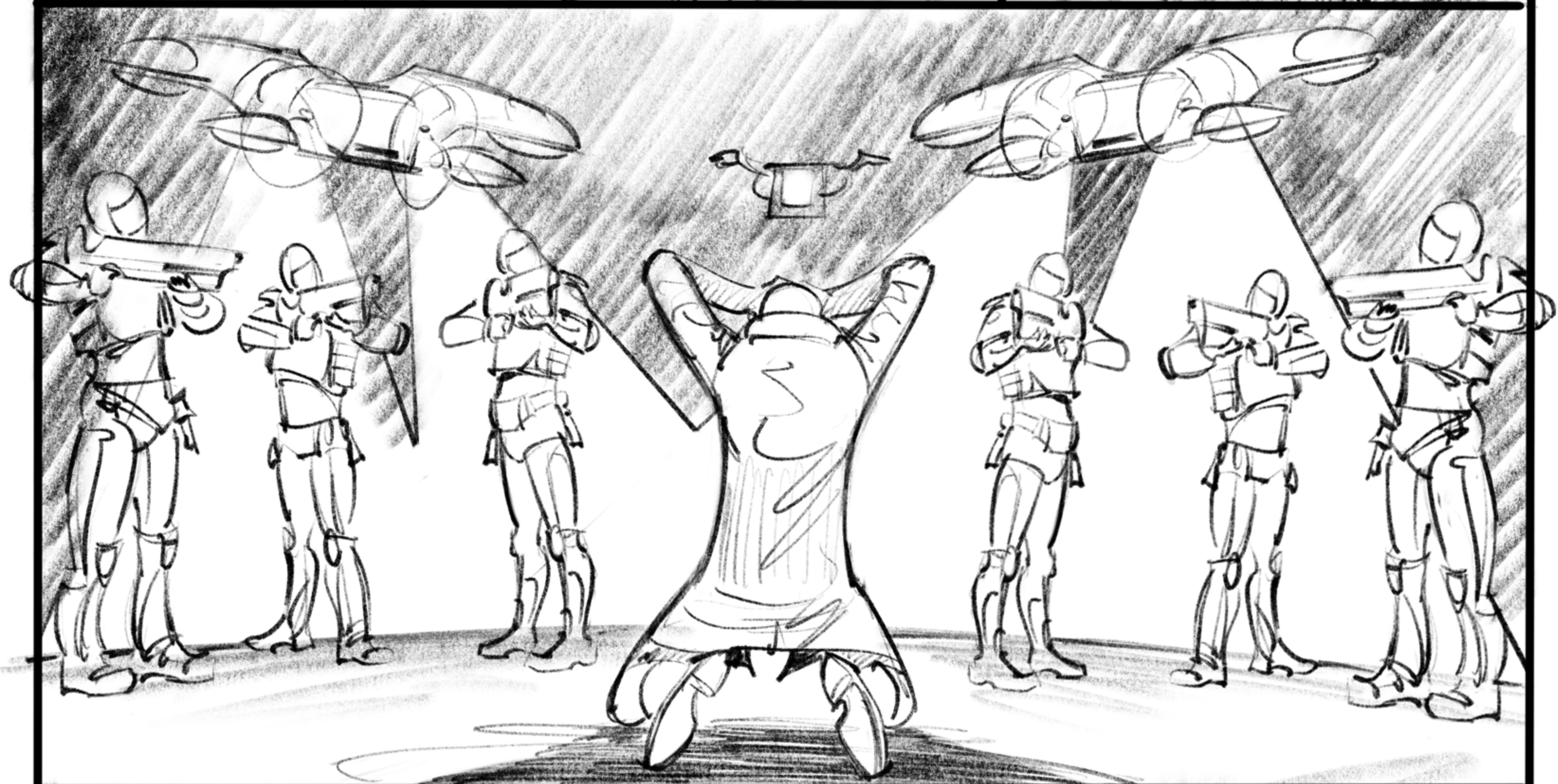
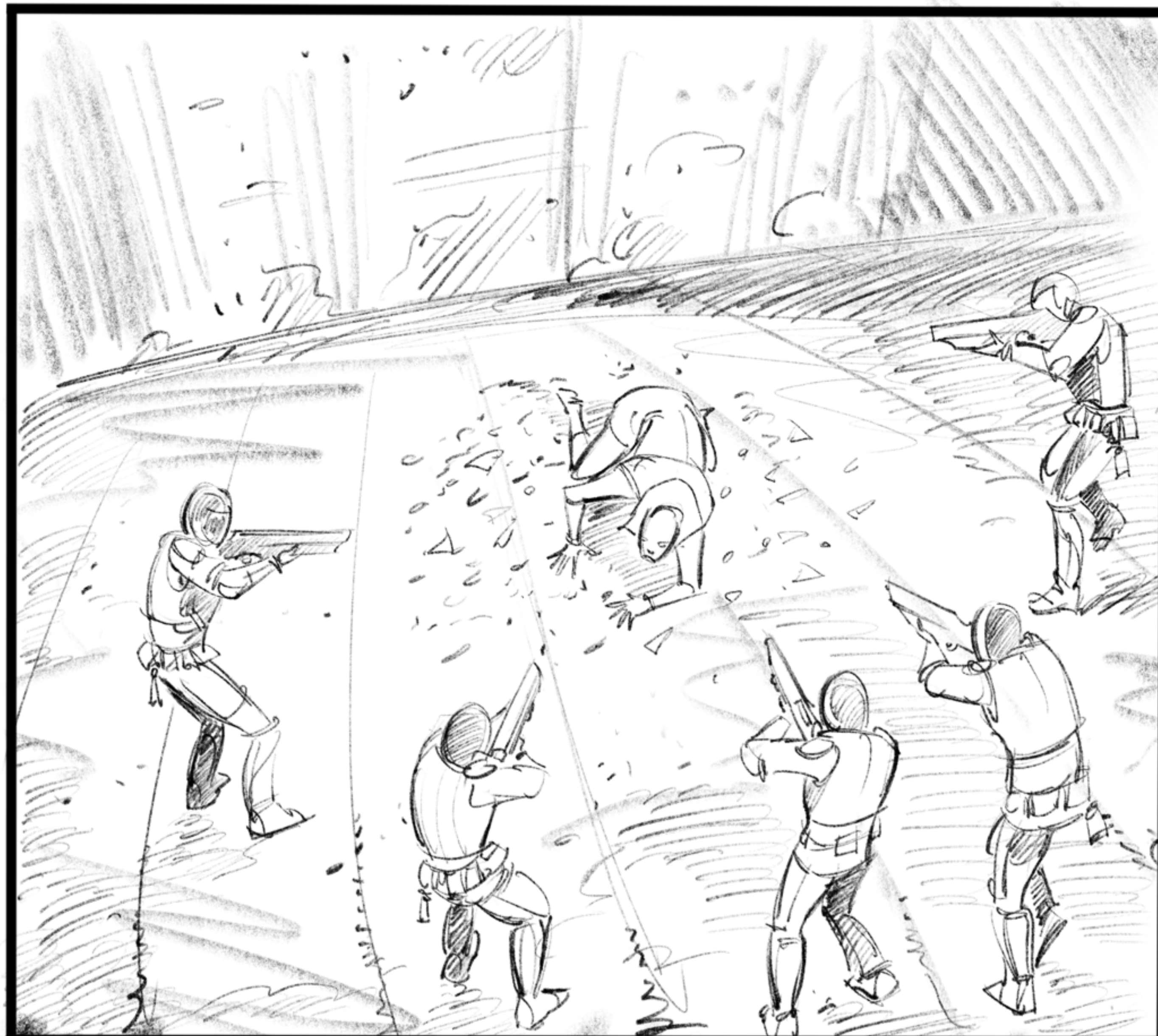


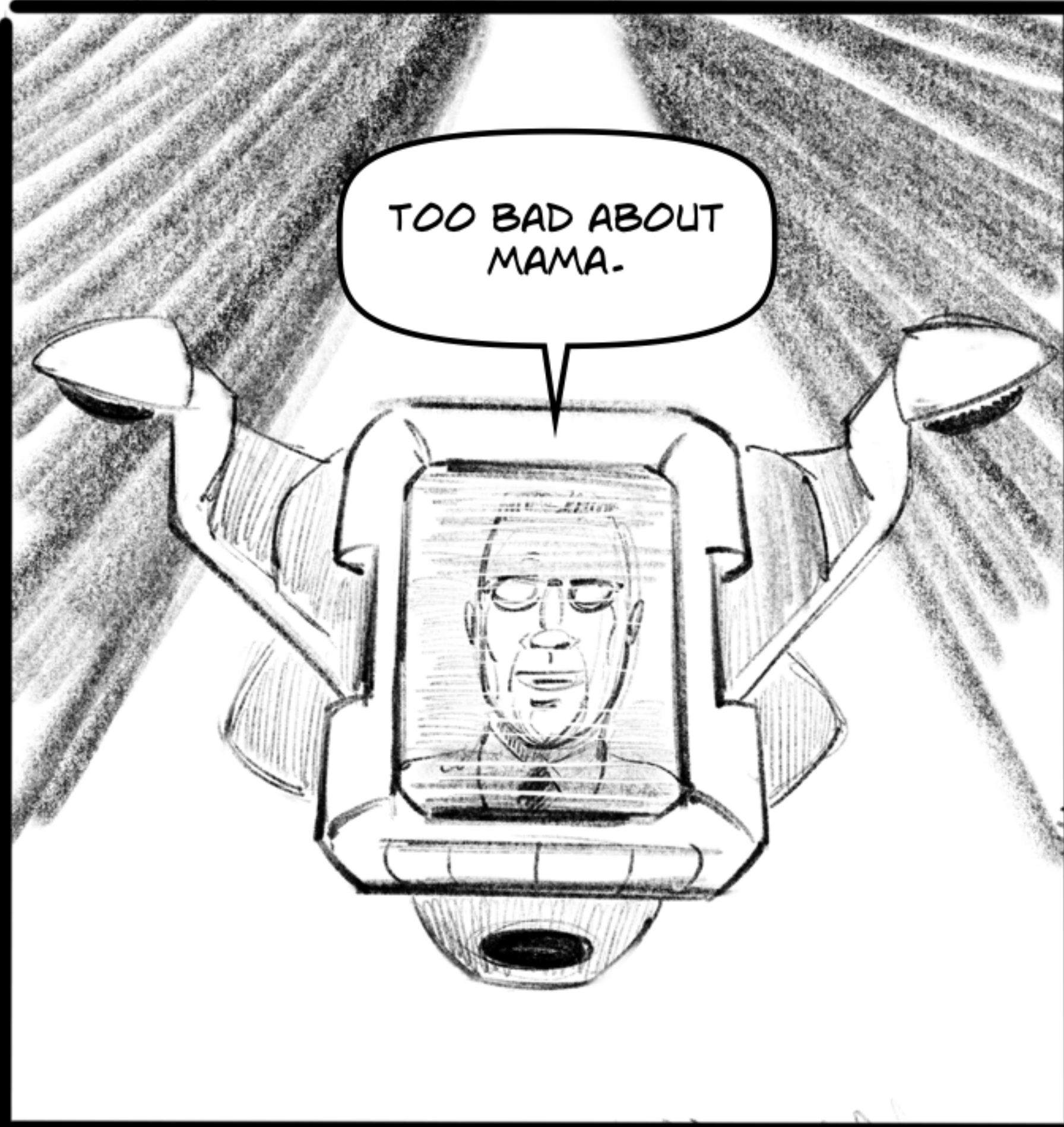
---NOT THAT ANYTHING
COULD PREPARE ME FOR
IT.











TOO BAD ABOUT MAMA.



I DIDN'T DO THIS.

DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'RE TWICE A CONVICTED FELON. CAUGHT AT THE SCENE OF A MASSACRE. JUDGE WILL WANT TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU.



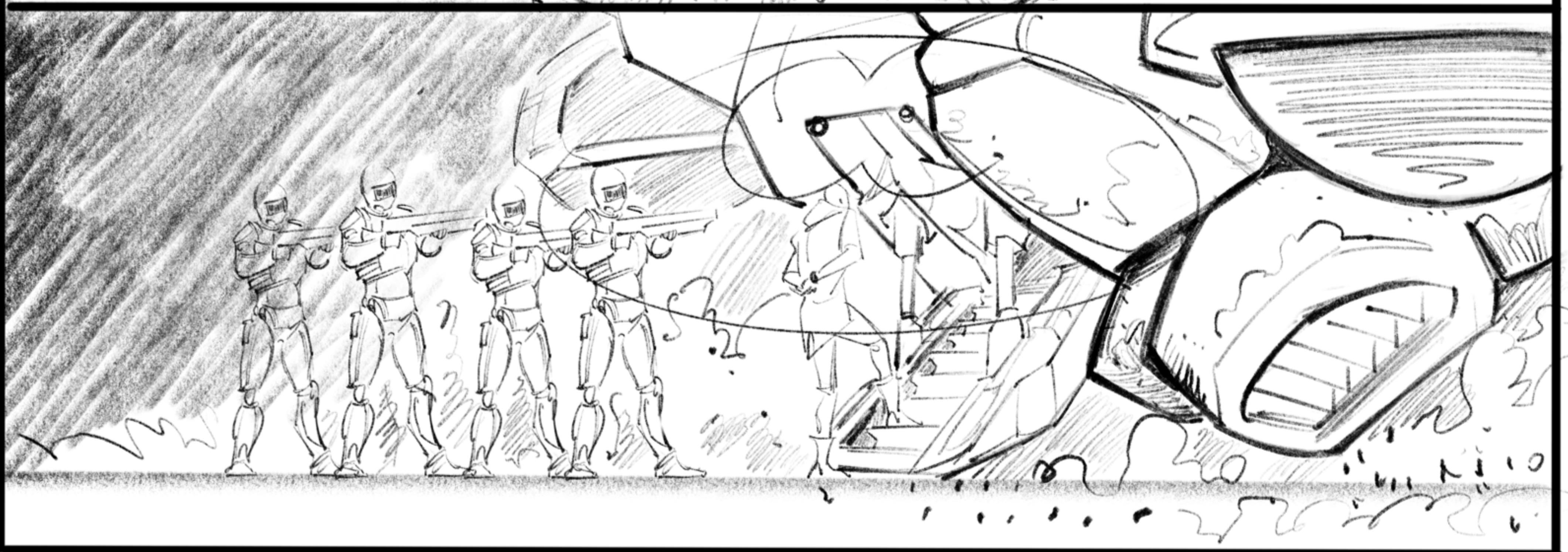
OH, BY THE WAY, YOUR KID SUFFERED AN ANEURYSM ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.

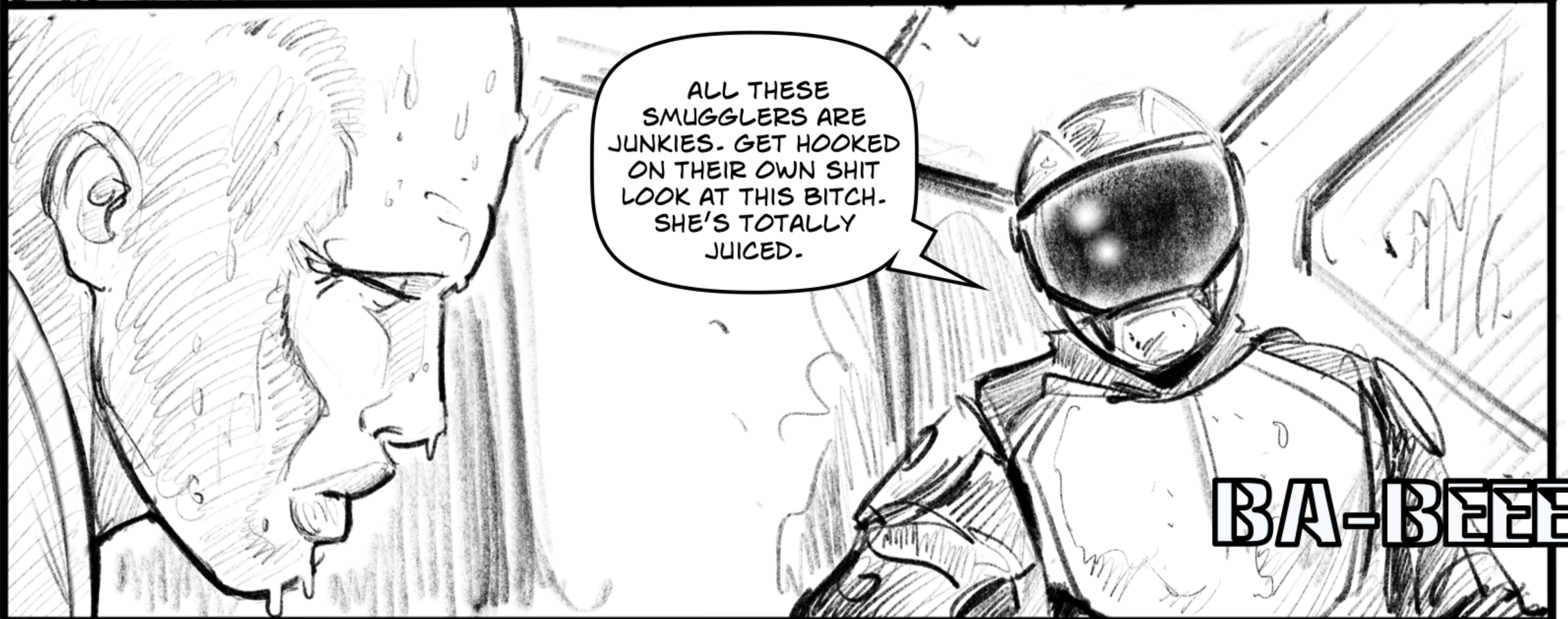
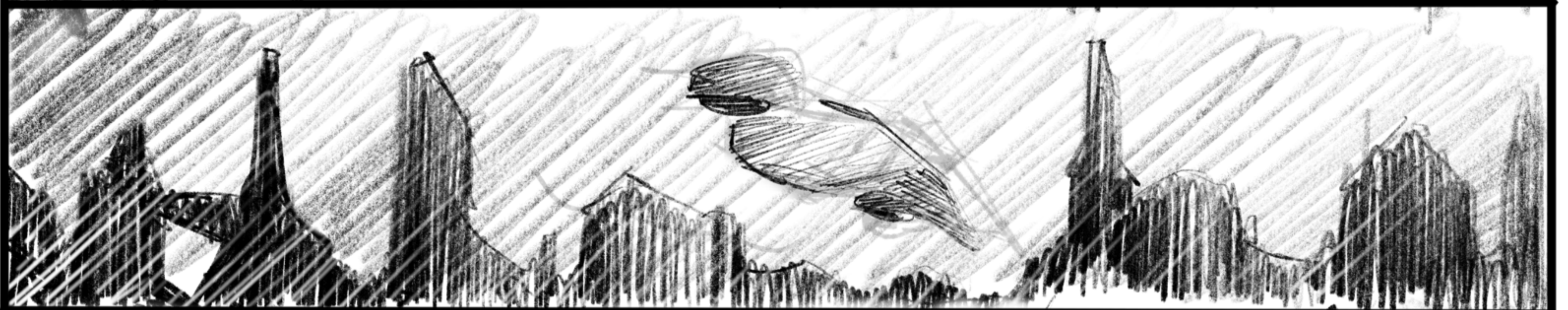
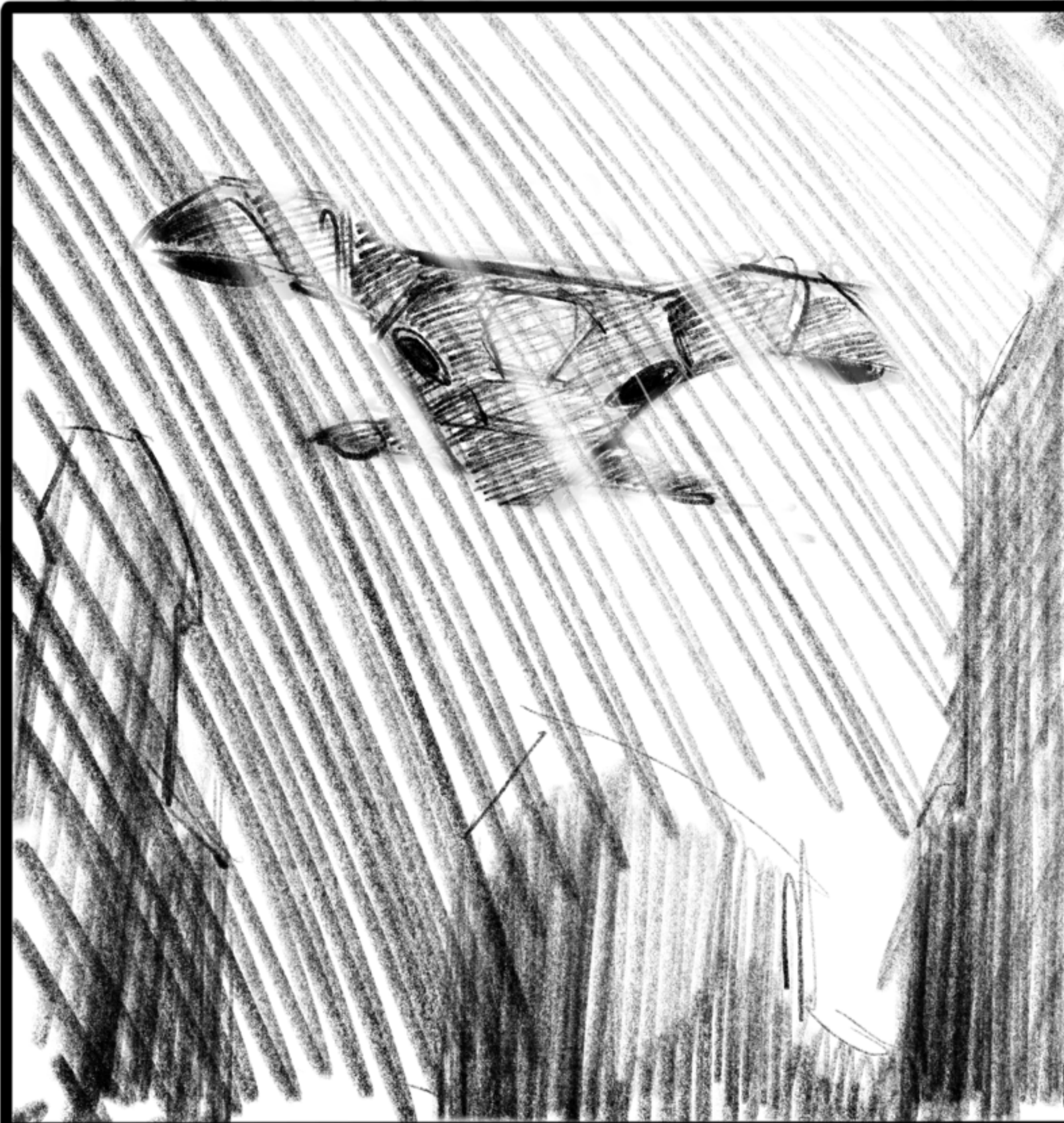


THEY'RE PREPPING HIM FOR SURGERY.



HOSPITAL TRIED CONTACTING YOU. BUT YOU OBVIOUSLY HAD OTHER THINGS TO ATTEND TO.







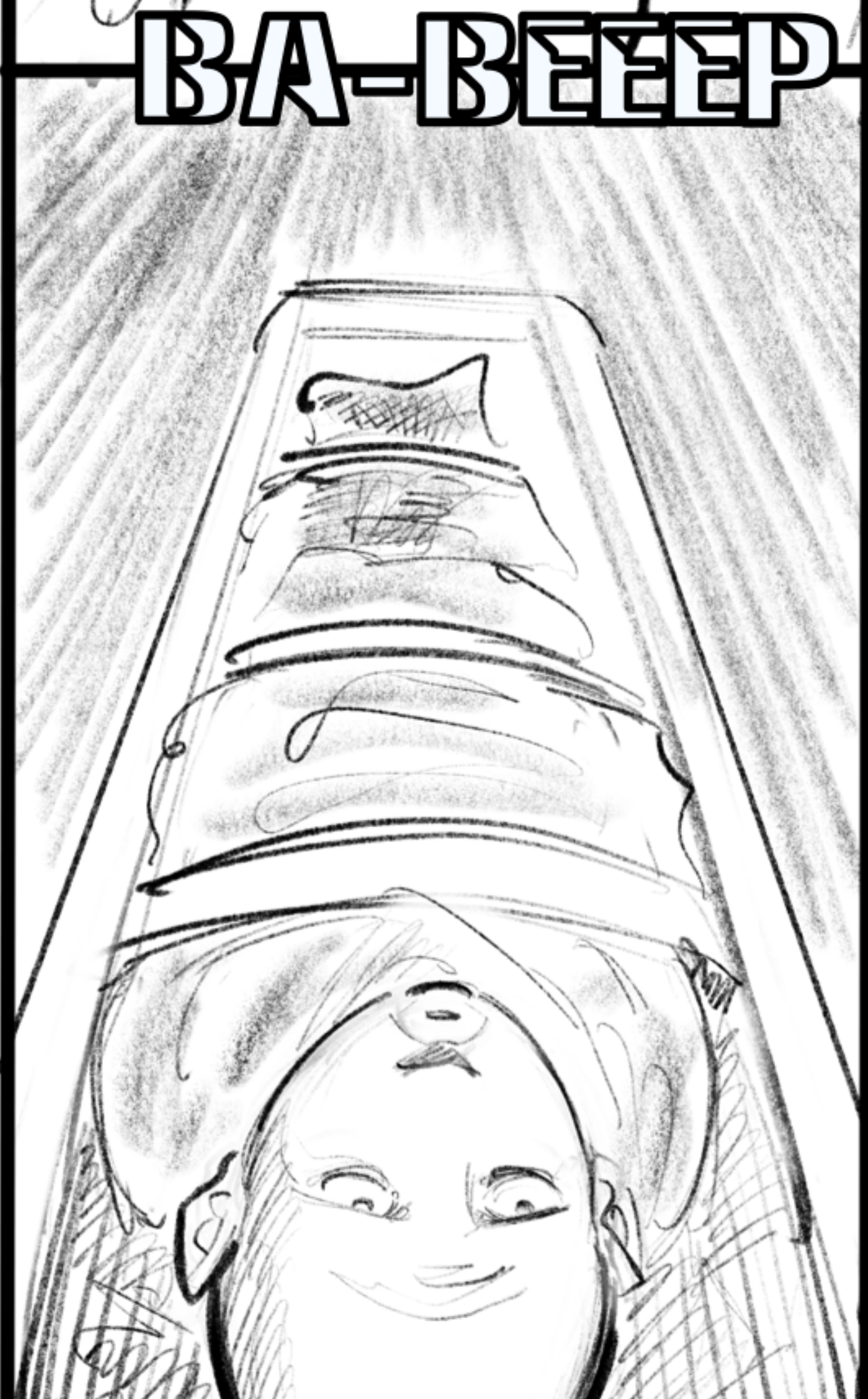
BA-BEEP



BA-BEEP



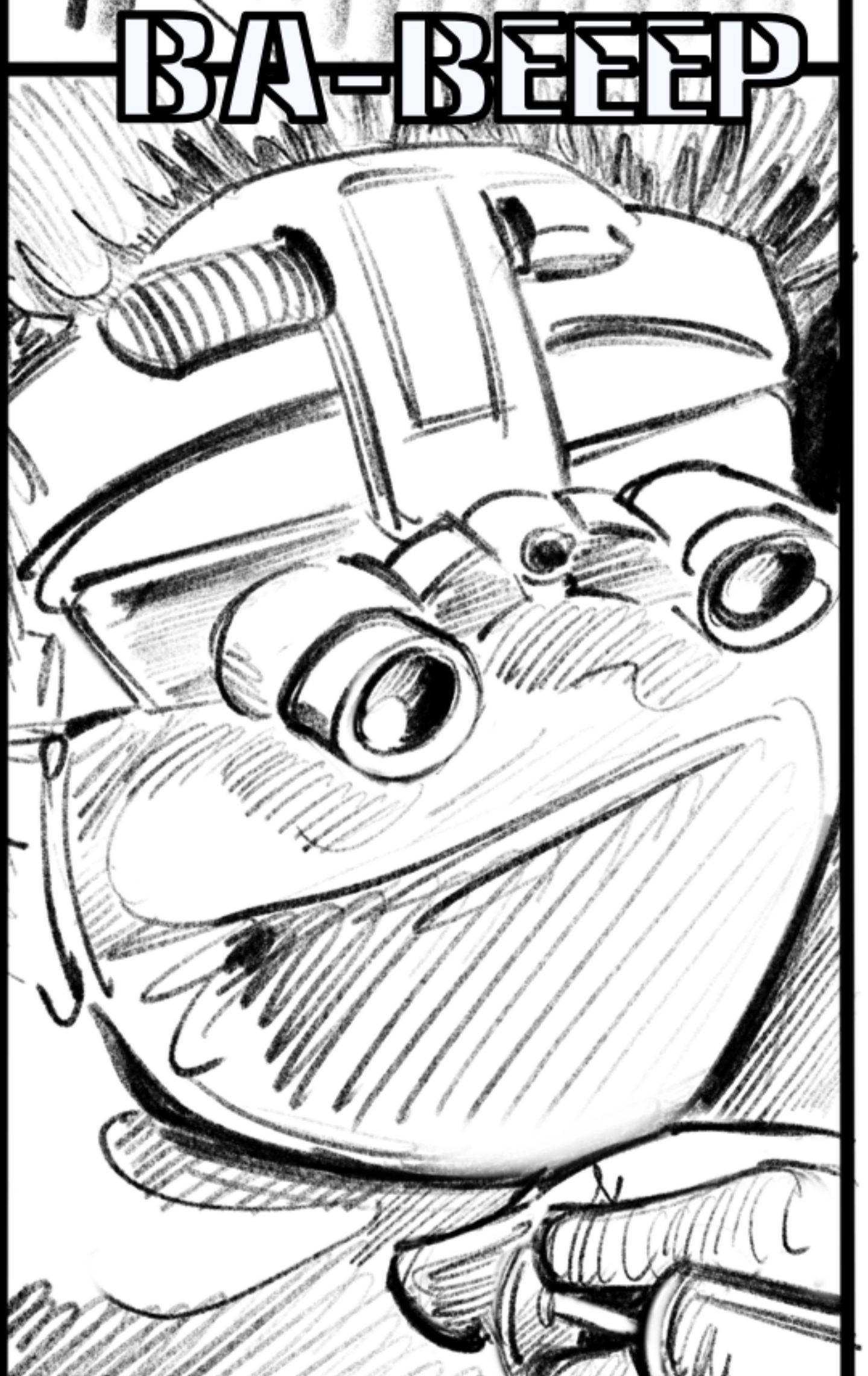
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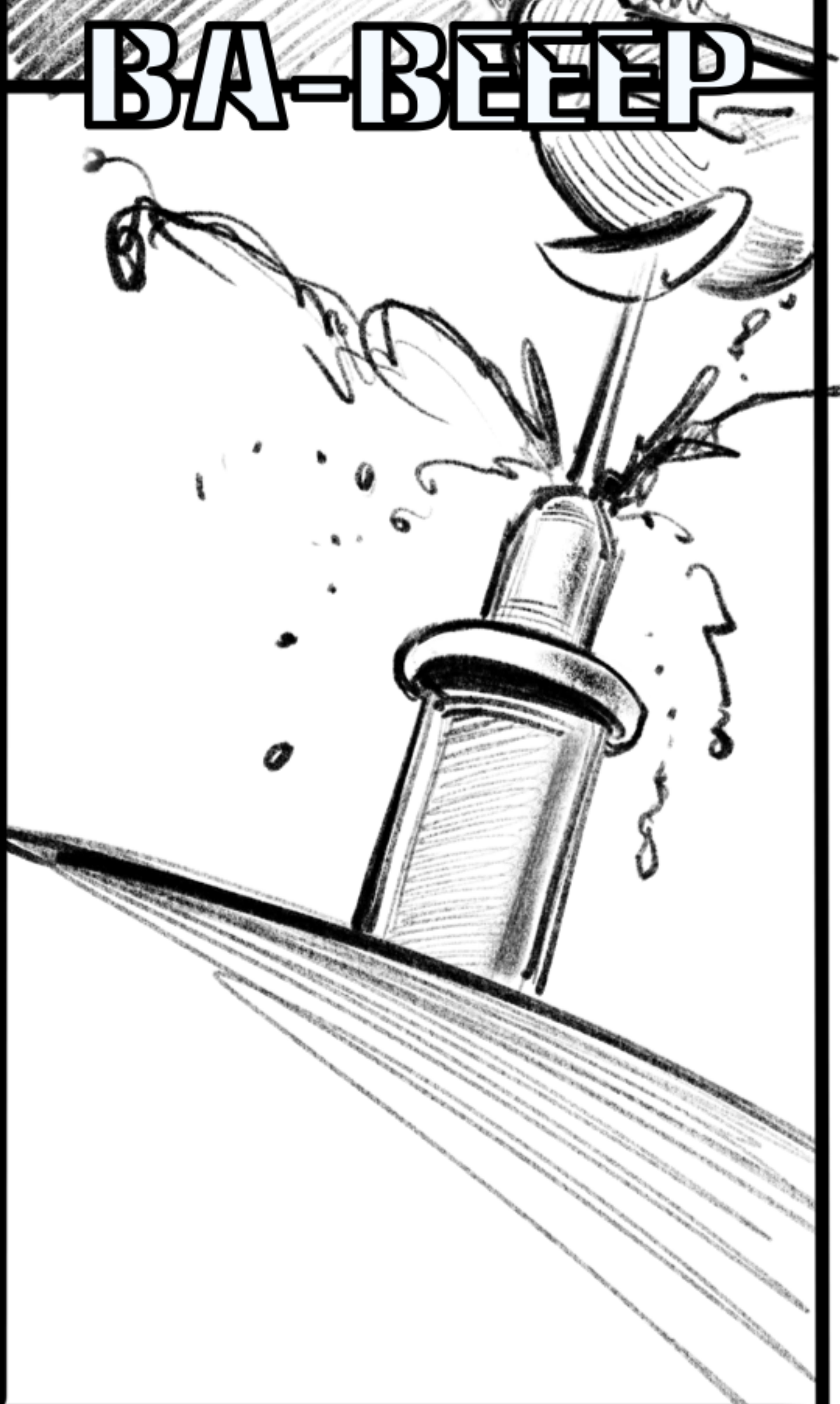
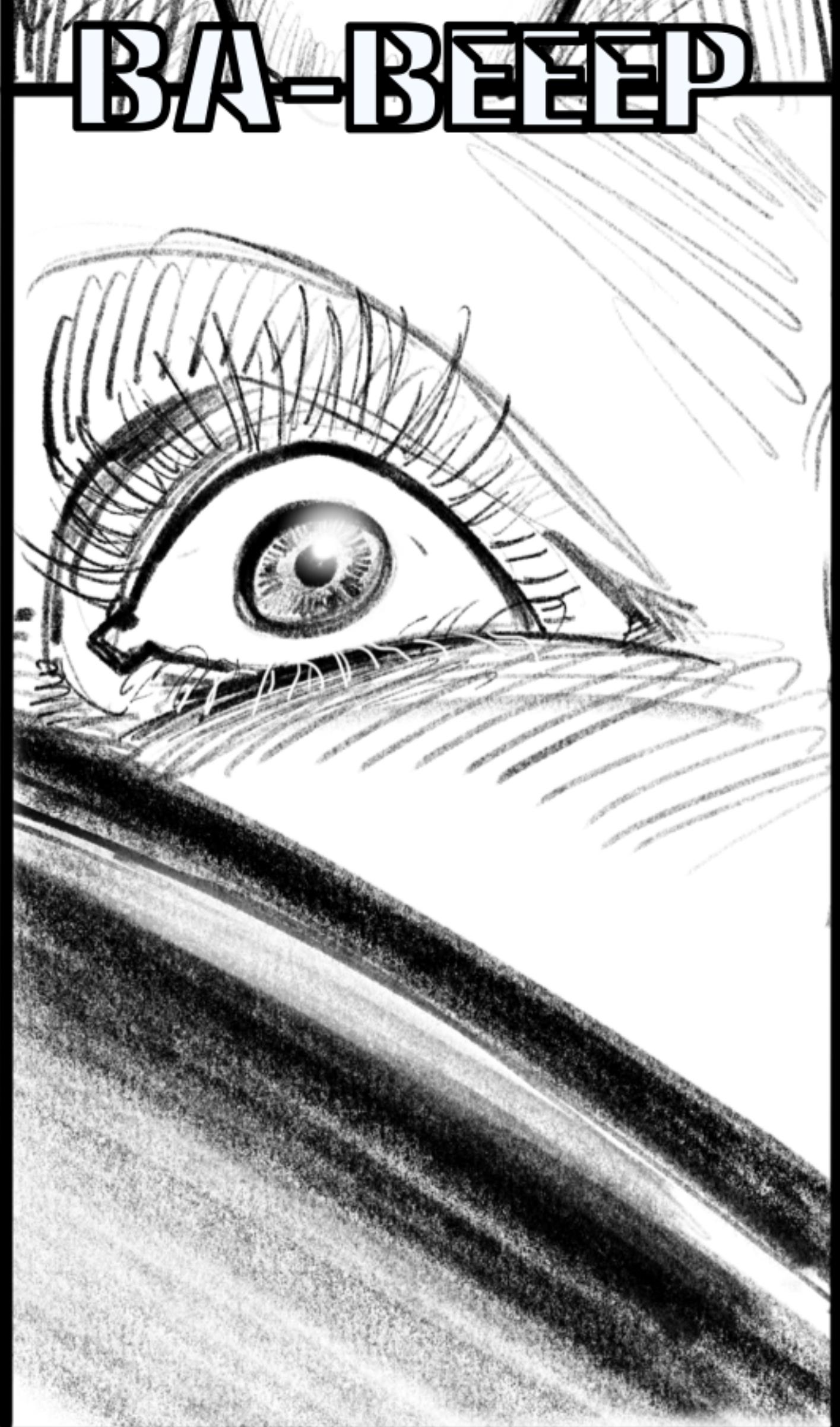
BA-BEEP



BA-BEEP

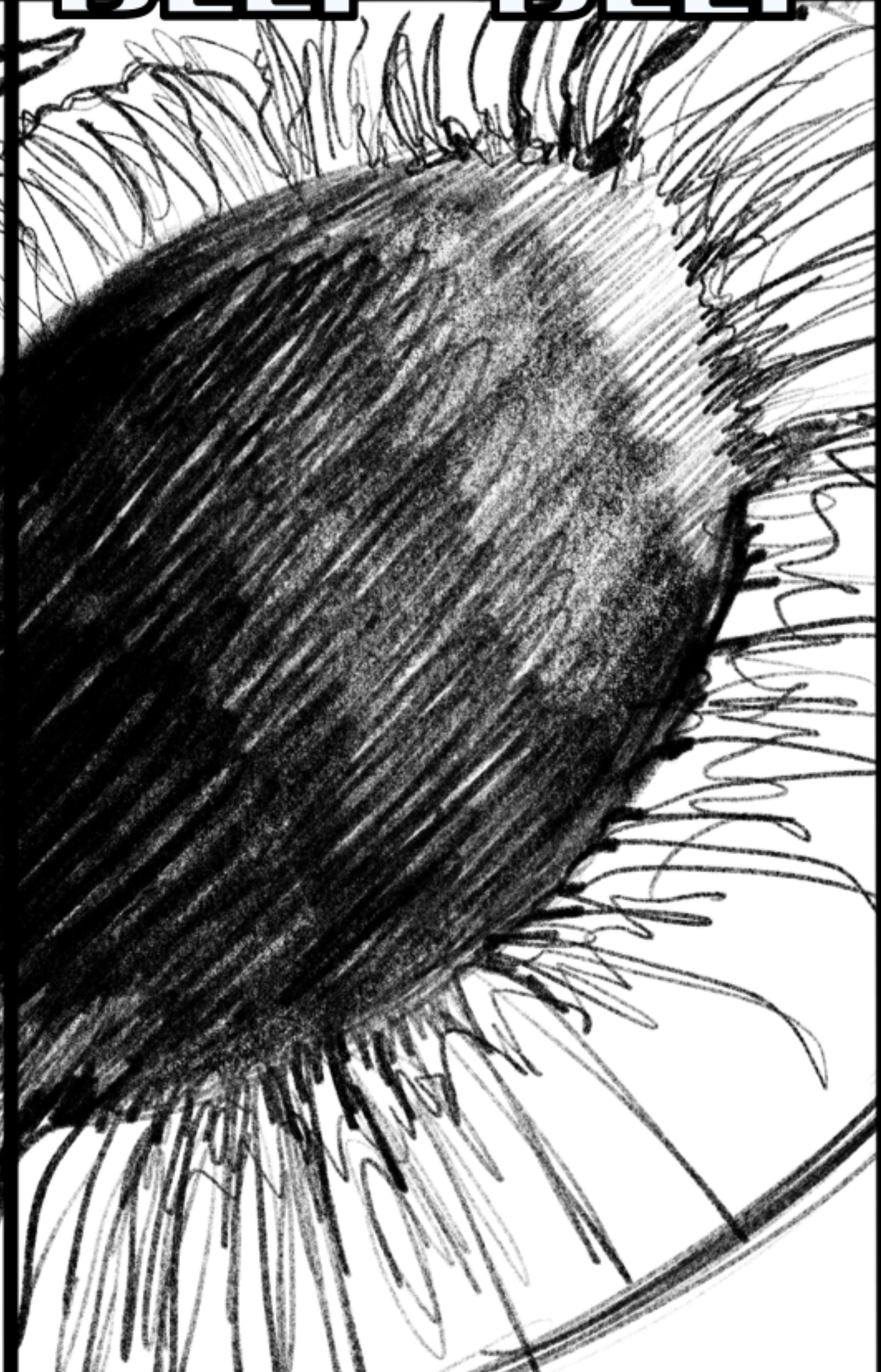
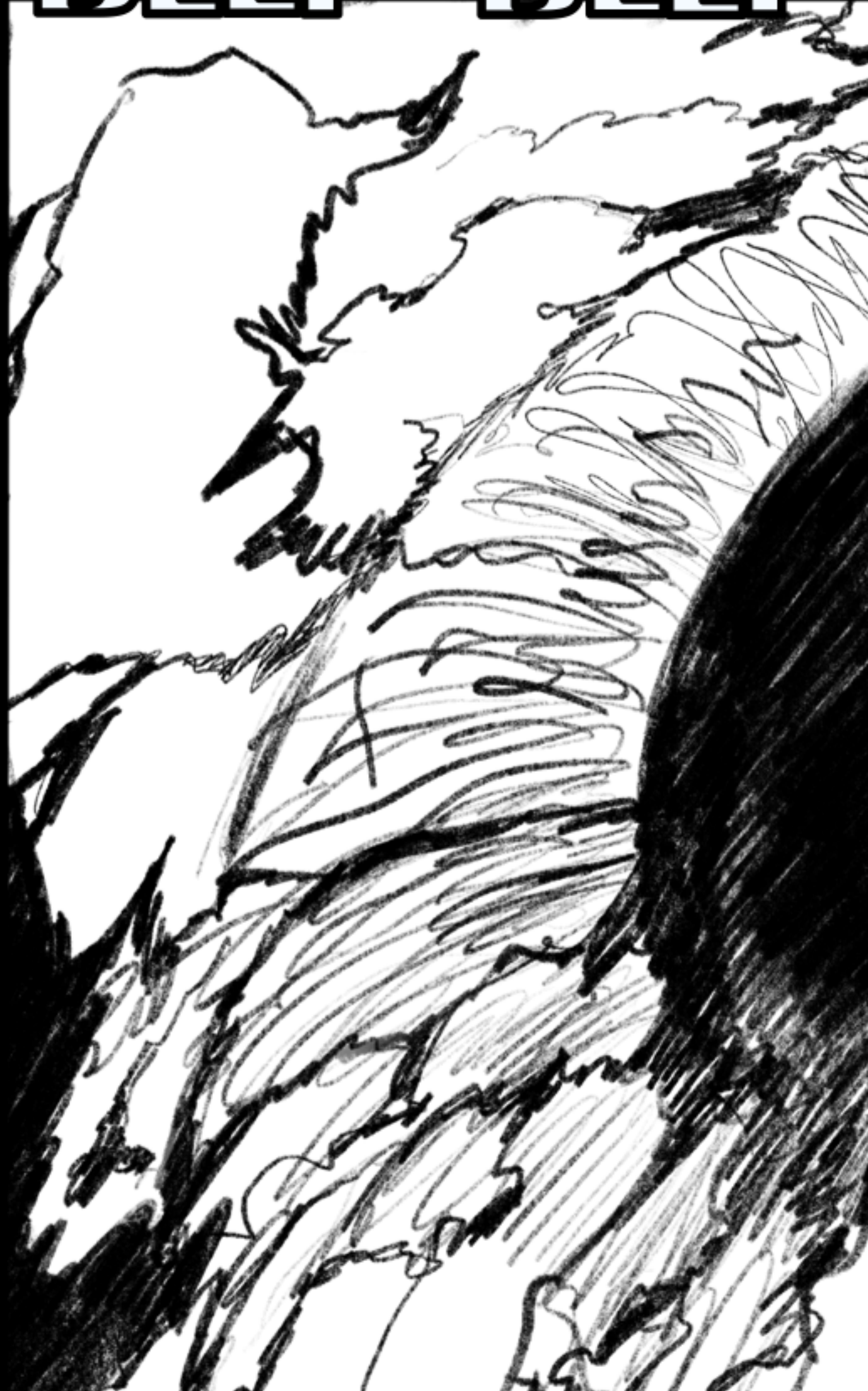


BA-BEEP



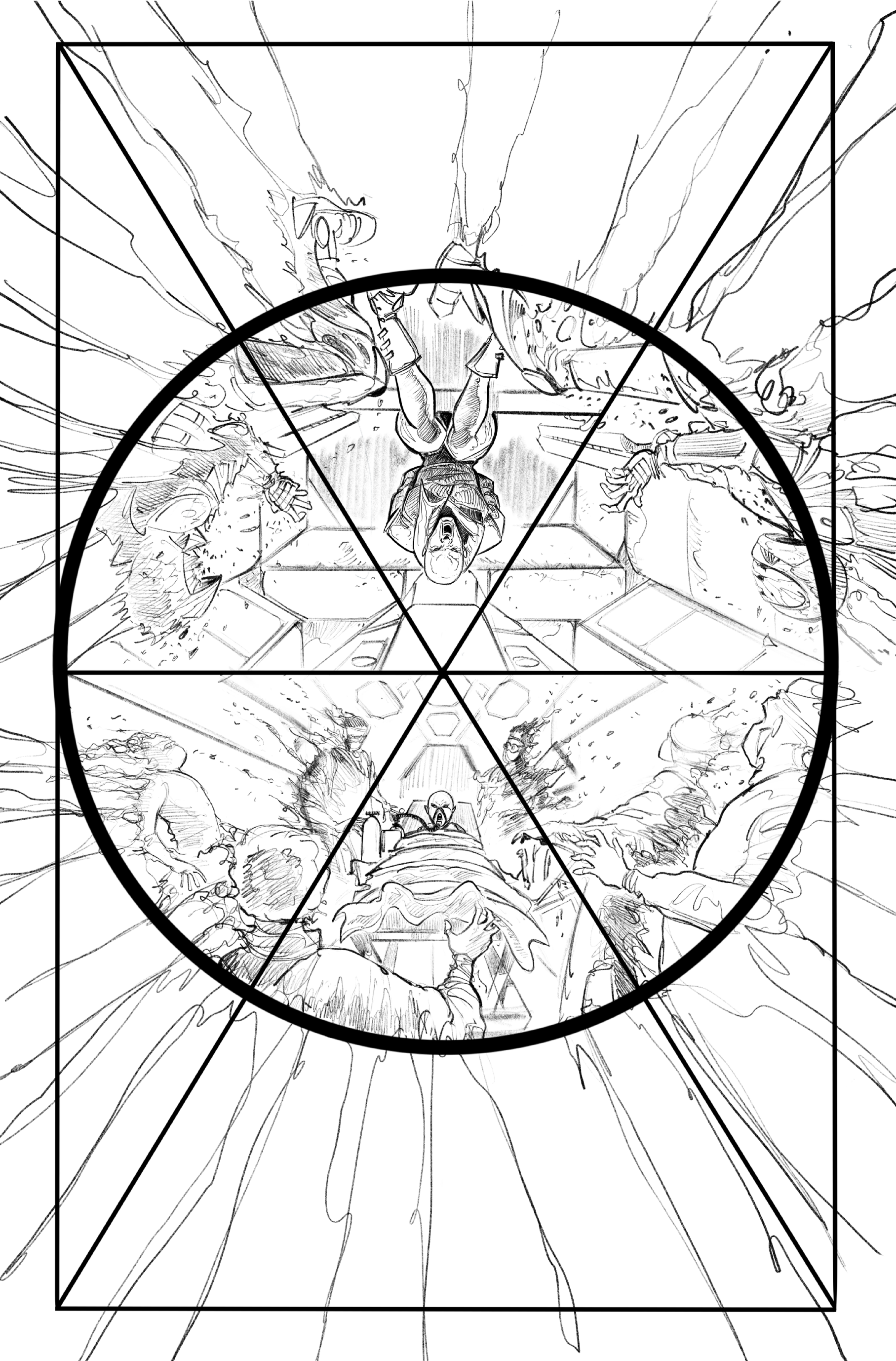


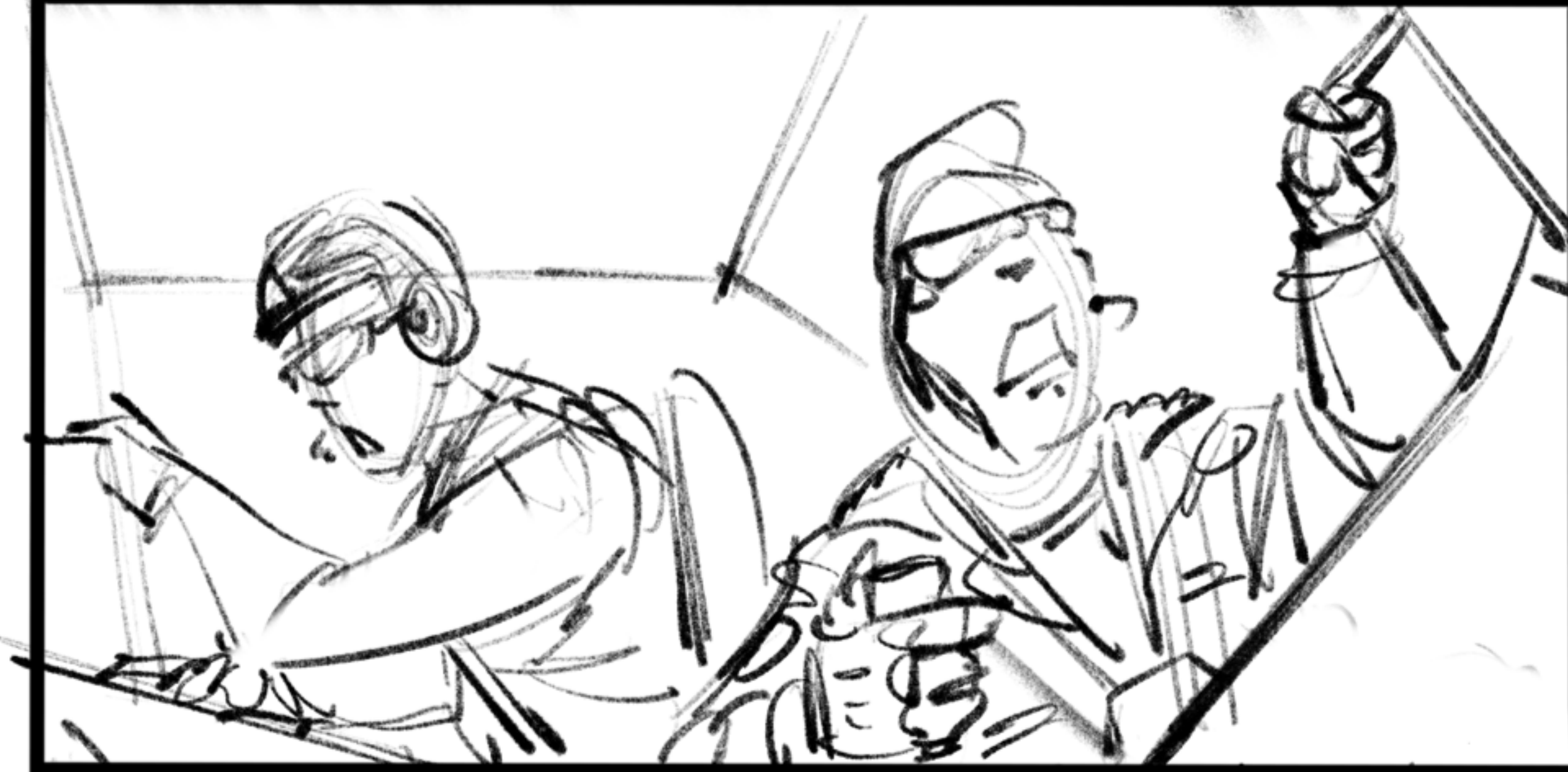
BA-BEEP BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP



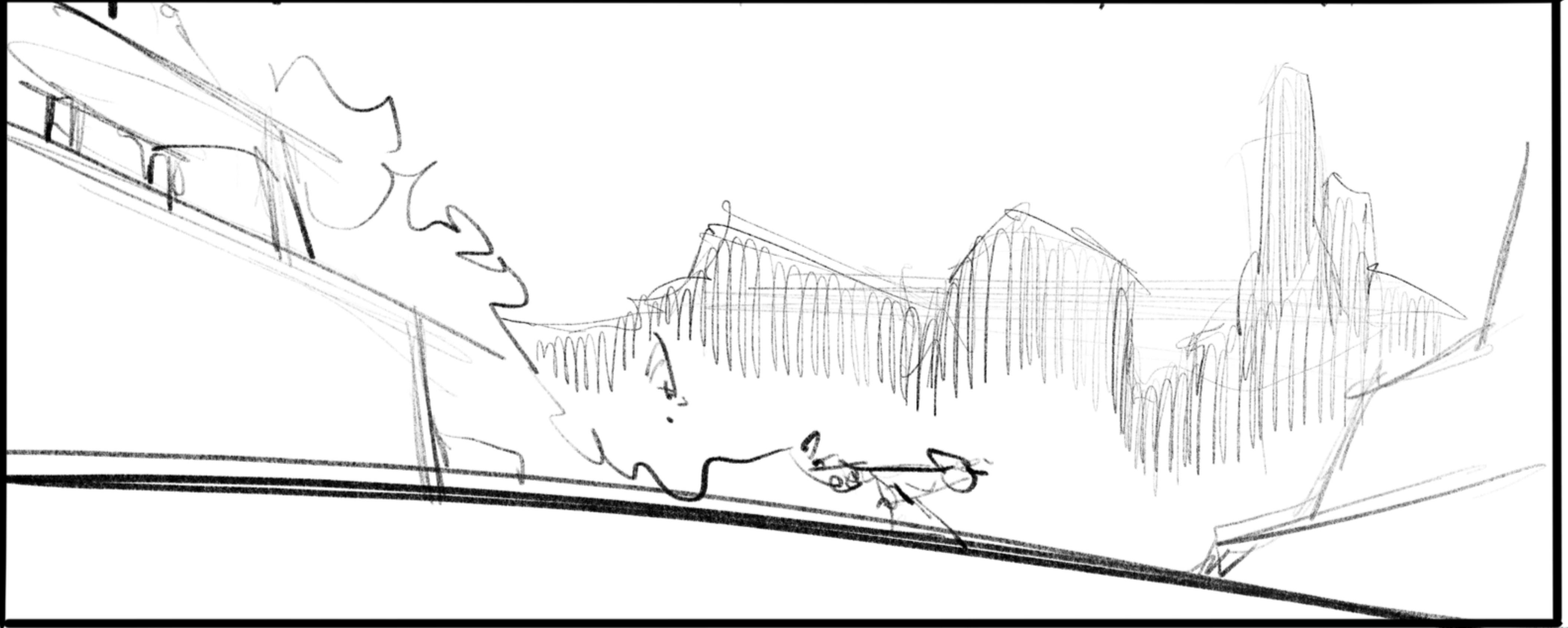
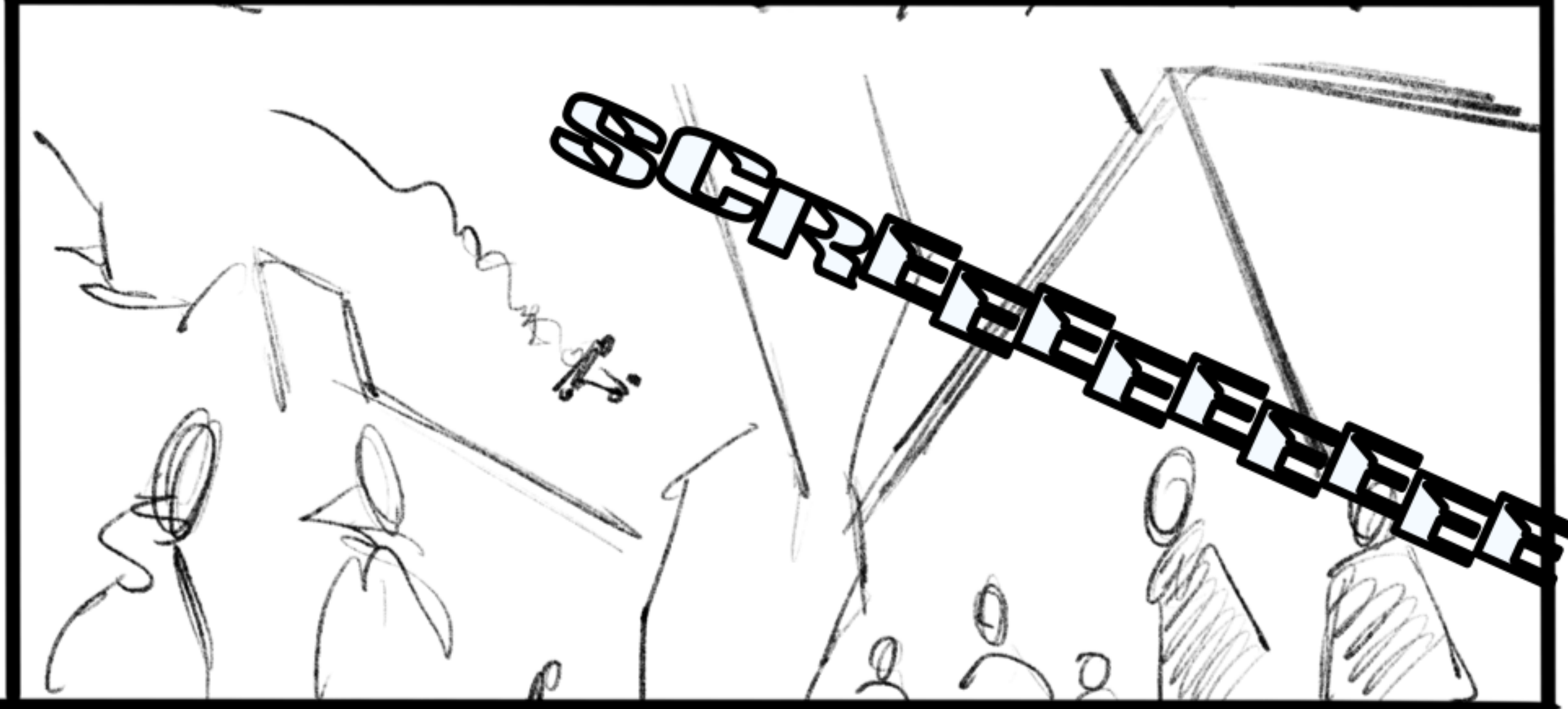
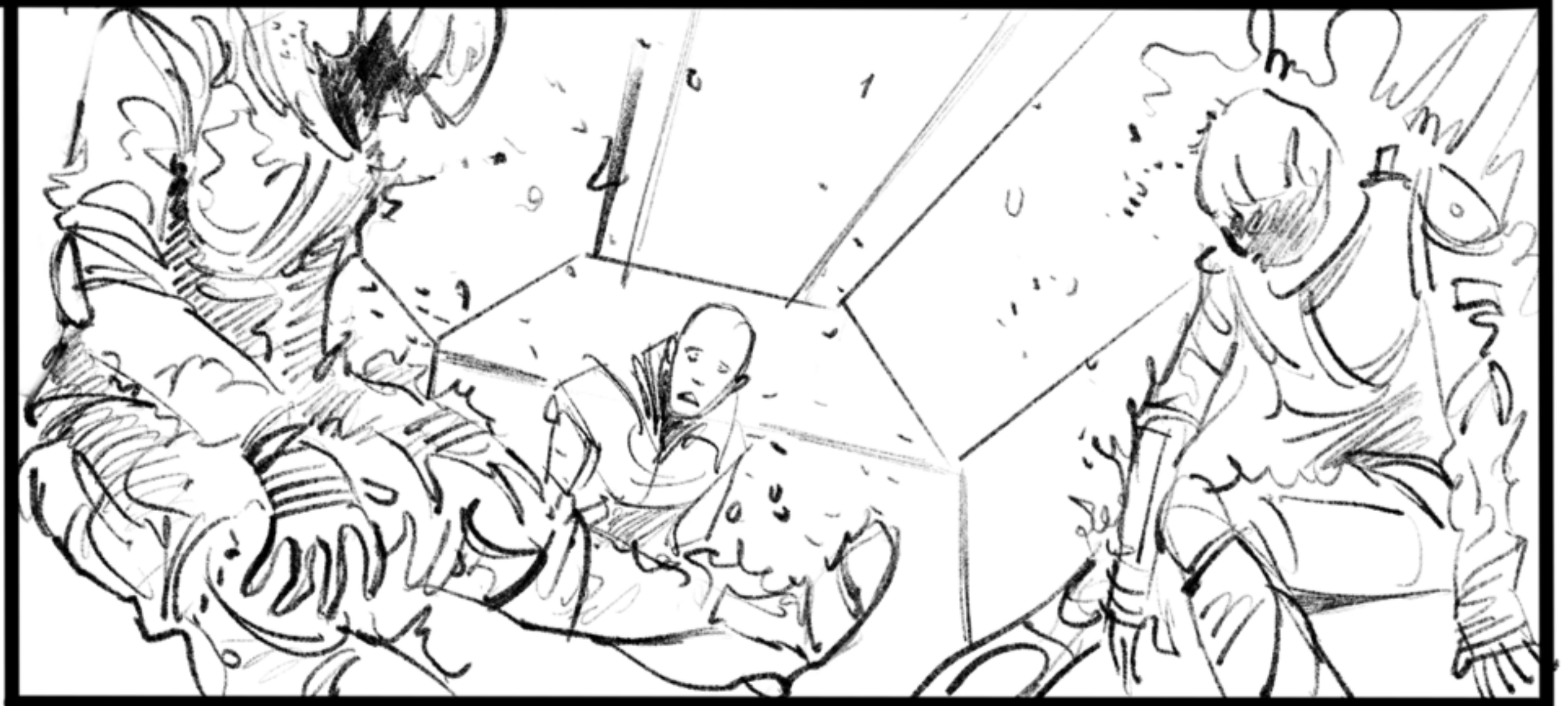
BE-BE-BE-B-B-B-EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

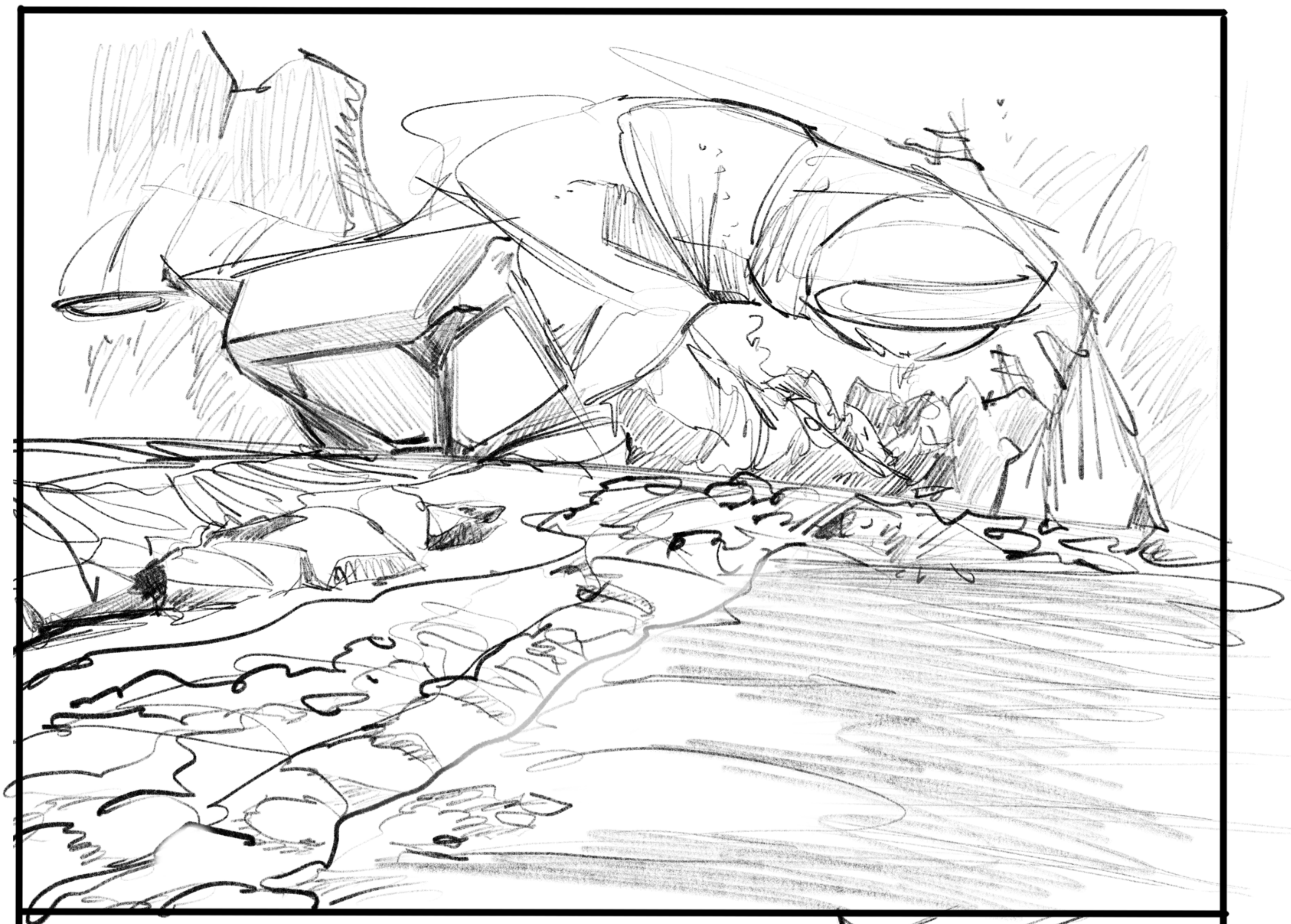






DEPRESSUR





BREEEECH

