


PORTAL 2:

LAB

RAT







REALITY IS A STORY THE MIND TELLS ITSELF.



AN ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE CONJURED INTO BEING BY THE CALCIUM ION EXCHANGE OF A MILLION SYNAPTIC FIRINGS.



A TRUTH SO STRANGE IT CAN ONLY BE LIED INTO EXISTENCE.

AND OUR MINDS CAN LIE. NEVER DOUBT IT...

HEAR THE TURRET FOR IT IS KNELL

TENACITY

THE BELL

SUMMONS TO HEAVEN OR TO HELL

19.2%

36%

AA



WHAT'S THIS? REAL, OR  
JUST MY LYING MIND AGAIN?

CAN SHE TRULY BE AWAKE  
AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

NO, JUST A FIGMENT.  
IF SHE WERE REAL,  
THE TURRETS WOULD  
SEE HER, TOO.

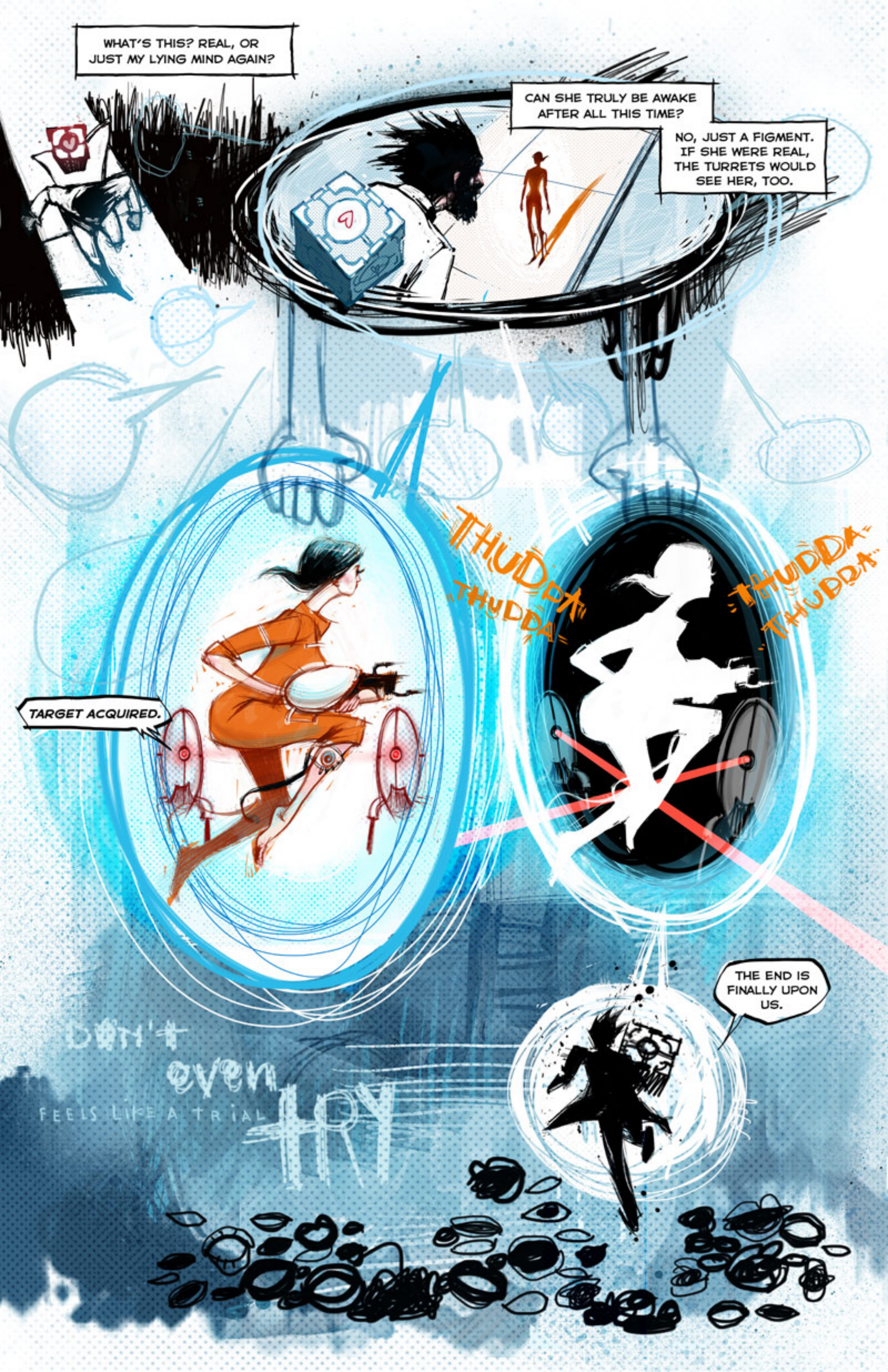
TARGET ACQUIRED.

"THUDDA"  
"THUDDA"  
"THUDDA"

"THUDDA"  
"THUDDA"

THE END IS  
FINALLY UPON  
US.

DON'T  
even  
FEELS LIKE A TRIAL







I HAVE TO. PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND.

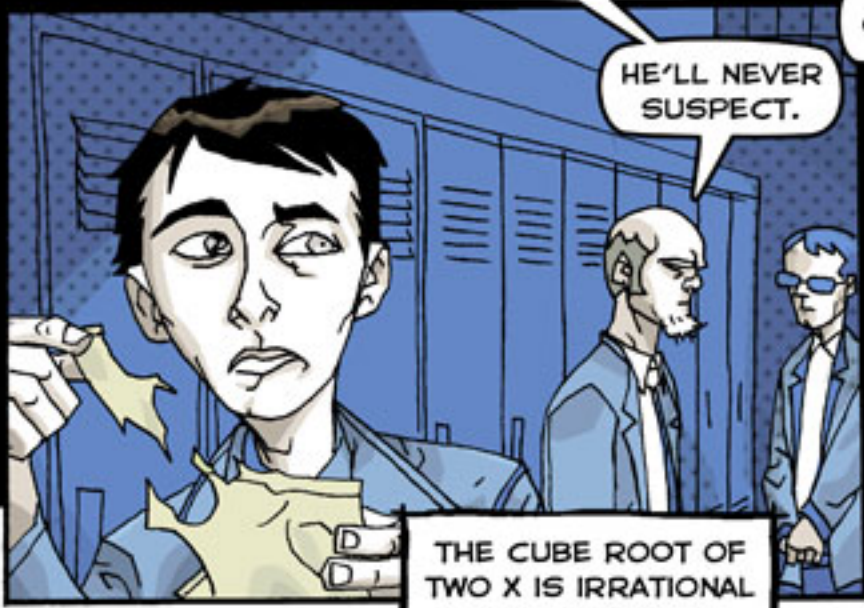




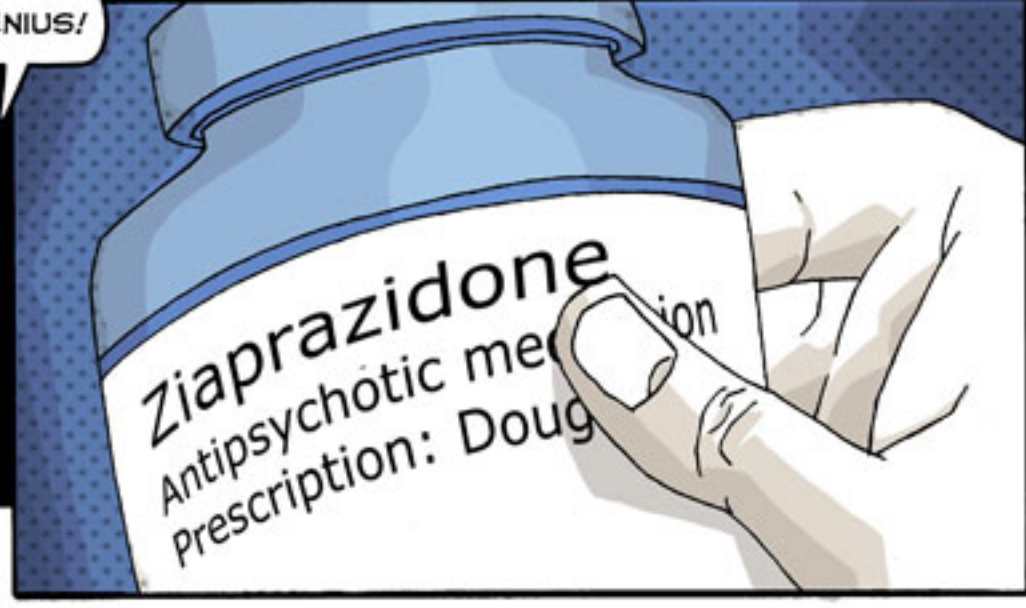
WE PUT CAMERAS IN THE CAMERAS.

HE'LL NEVER SUSPECT.

GENIUS!



THE CUBE ROOT OF TWO X IS IRRATIONAL IF X IS IRRATIONAL.



C'MON, YOU DON'T NEED THOSE ANYMORE. YOU'RE FINE.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG. I'VE BEEN SAVING THESE LAST TWO FOR THIS DAY.

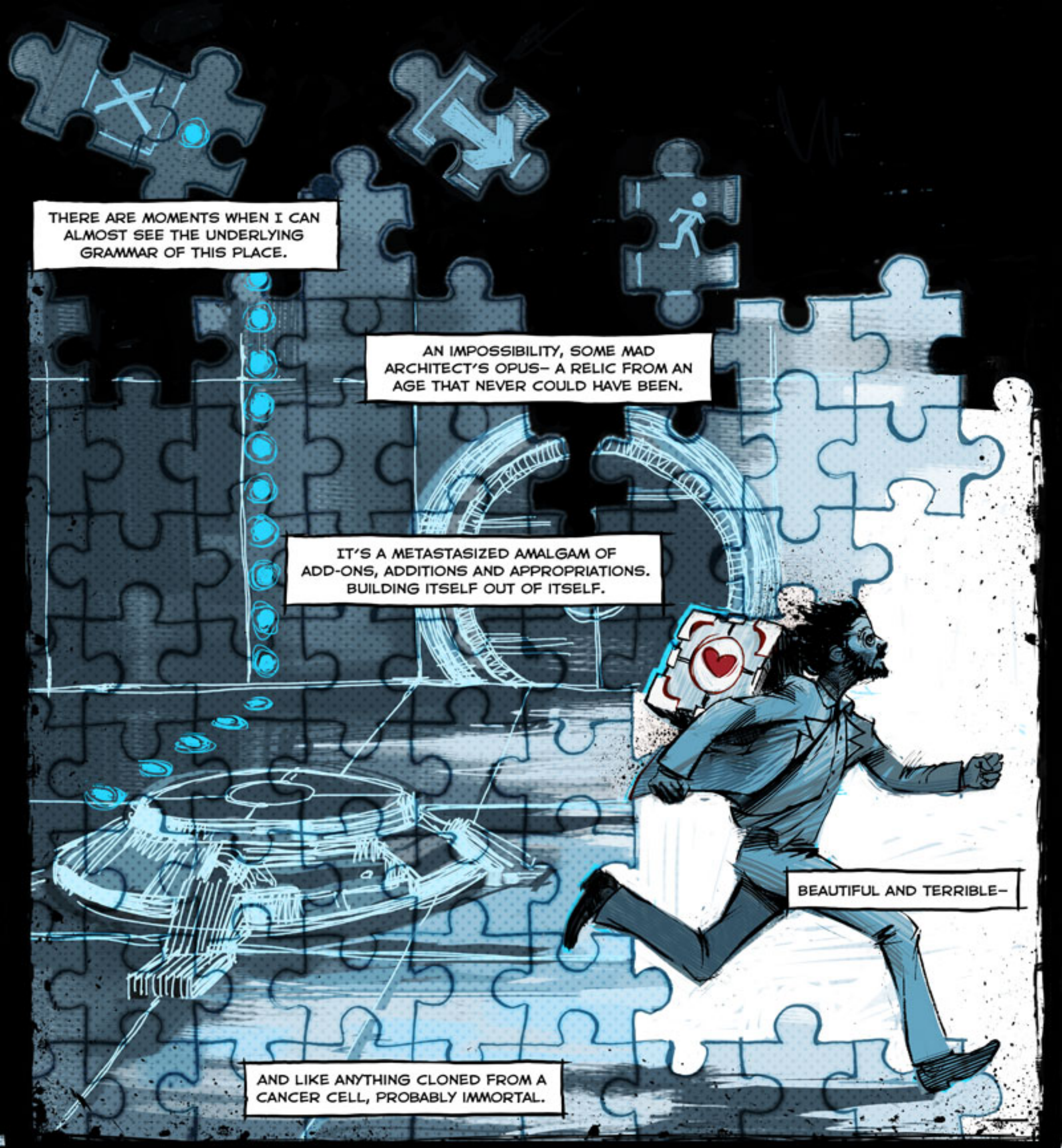


THIS WILL BE THE END OF US.

I'M GOING TO NEED A CLEAR HEAD FOR WHAT IS TO COME.








THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I CAN ALMOST SEE THE UNDERLYING GRAMMAR OF THIS PLACE.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY, SOME MAD ARCHITECT'S OPUS— A RELIC FROM AN AGE THAT NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN.

IT'S A METASTASIZED AMALGAM OF ADD-ONS, ADDITIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS. BUILDING ITSELF OUT OF ITSELF.

BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE—

AND LIKE ANYTHING CLONED FROM A CANCER CELL, PROBABLY IMMORTAL.



REQUIRED  
SAFETY GOGGLES & STEEL-TOE BOOTS  
APERTURE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR  
EYE OR TOE DAMAGE

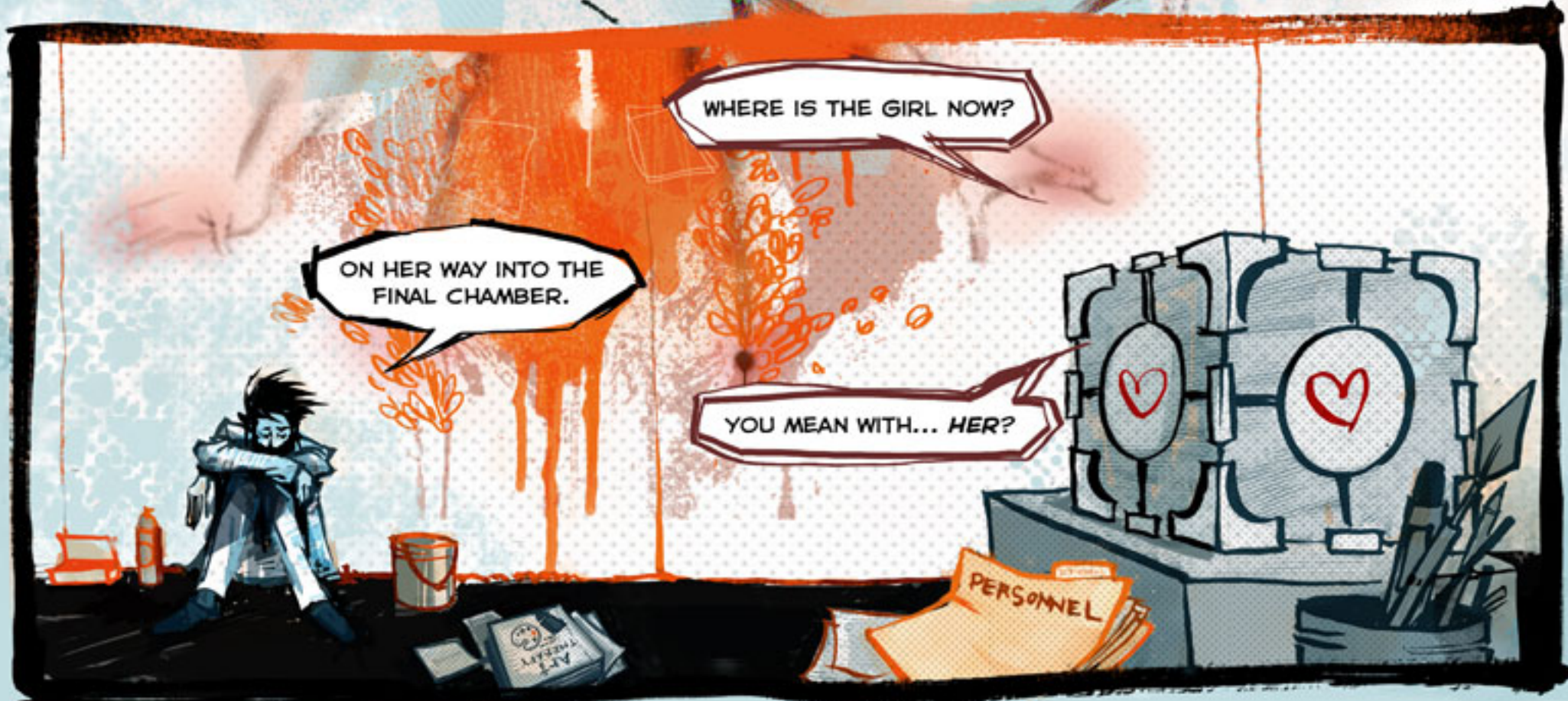
STAY TO THE RIGHT!  
TURRETS AHEAD ON  
YOUR LEFT.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.





ANOTHER MURAL  
TO MARK THE OCCASION.



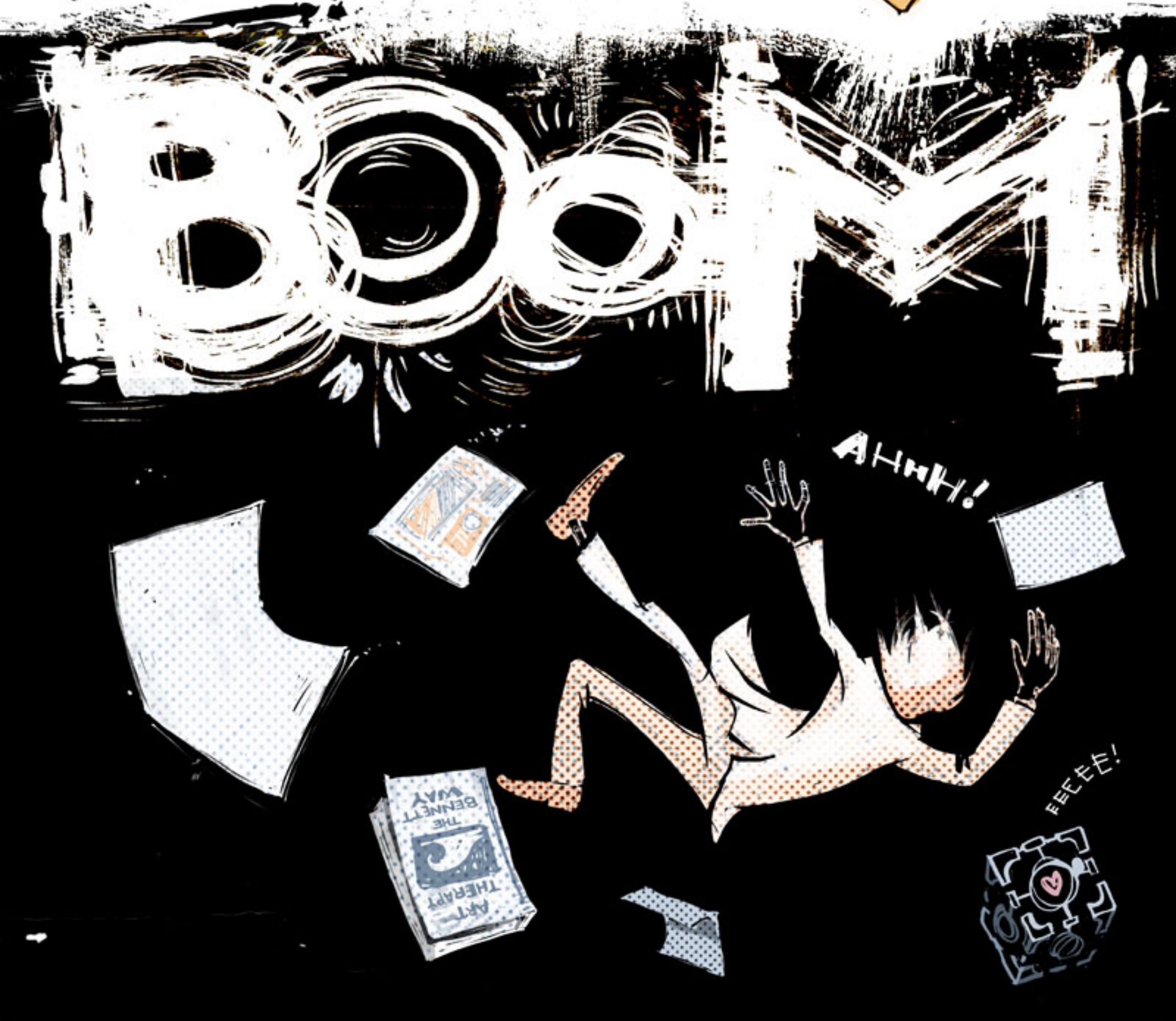
WHERE IS THE GIRL NOW?

ON HER WAY INTO THE  
FINAL CHAMBER.

YOU MEAN WITH... HER?

PERSONNEL









WHAT WAS THAT?



THE ROOM SHOOK ITSELF TO PIECES.

LIKE AN UNBALANCED CENTRIFUGE.



ARE YOU OKAY?

I HEARD AN EXPLOSION. WHAT COULD IT MEAN?



ONLY ONE THING IT  
CAN MEAN.




SHE DID IT.

IT'S OVER.

THE ULTIMATE  
SYSTEMS CRASH.

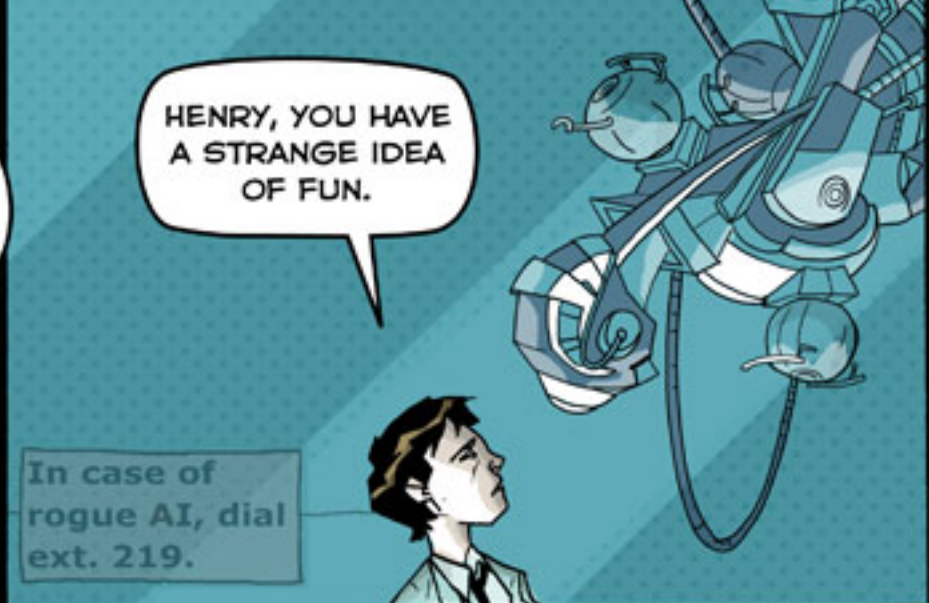






IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A MORNING. YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN.

WE HAD TO HIT THE KILL SWITCH AGAIN.



HENRY, YOU HAVE A STRANGE IDEA OF FUN.


In case of  
rogue AI, dial  
ext. 219.



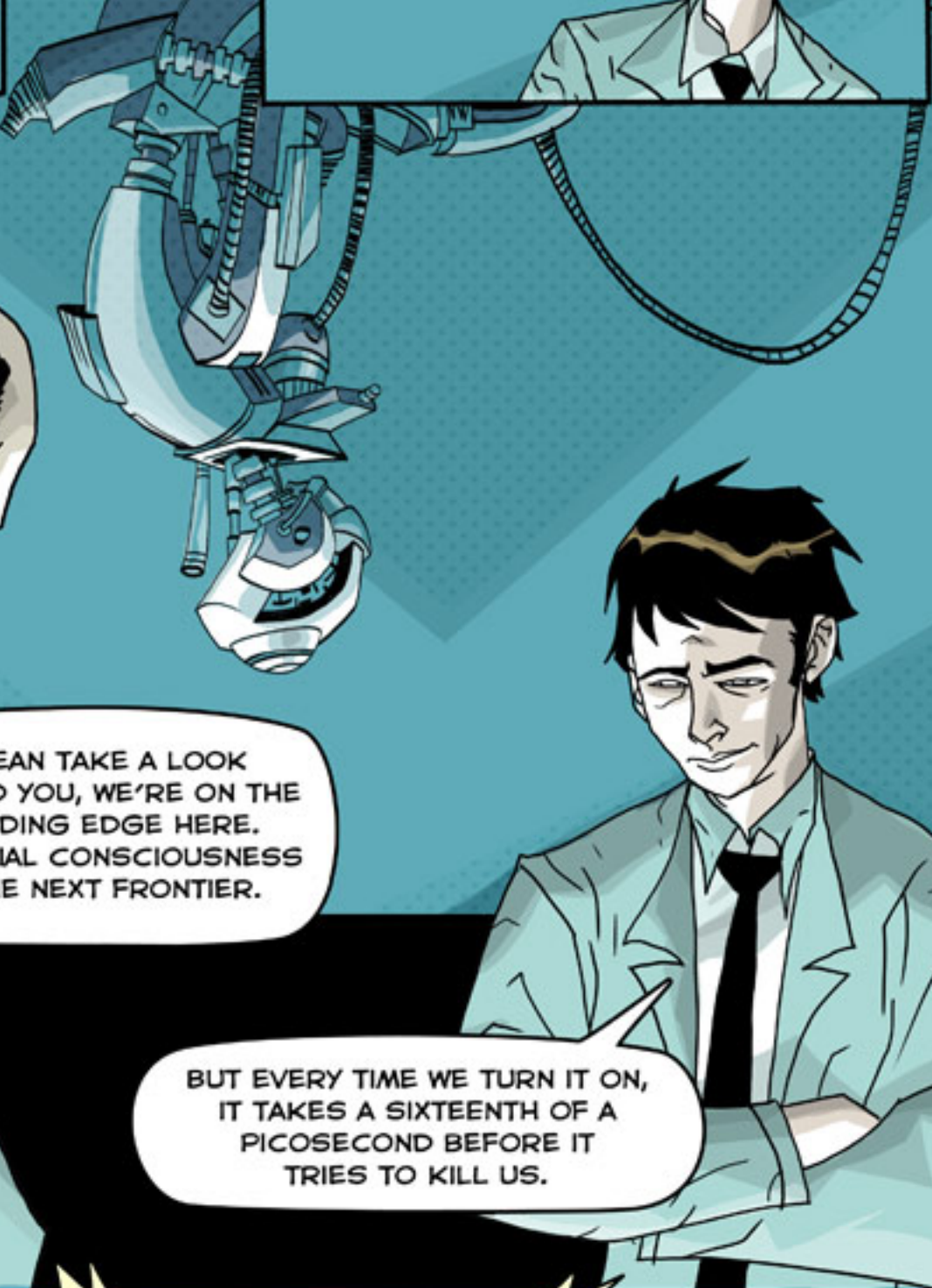
HEY, WE'RE LUCKY TO BE WORKING ON THIS.



YOU'VE GOT A STRANGE IDEA OF LUCK, TOO.




THINK ABOUT IT. EVERY GENERATION GETS SOME NEW FRONTIER TO TACKLE. EINSTEIN GOT RELATIVITY. THE NASA COWBOYS GOT THE MOON. ALL THE EASY STUFF IS TAKEN.



I MEAN TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, WE'RE ON THE BLEEDING EDGE HERE. ARTIFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE NEXT FRONTIER.

BUT EVERY TIME WE TURN IT ON, IT TAKES A SIXTEENTH OF A PICOSECOND BEFORE IT TRIES TO KILL US.




LAST TIME WAS A TENTH OF A PICOSECOND. SEE, WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS OUR GENERATION'S MOON SHOT.


**CAVE JOHNSON HERE: YOU LAB BOYS QUIT YOUR YAPPIN' AND GET BACK TO WORK.**

THIS HAS BEEN A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE.




I'D RATHER HAVE GONE TO THE MOON.





WHERE'S THE GIRL?  
SHE DIDN'T STAY TO  
CHECK OUT HER  
HANDIWORK?




SHE MUST HAVE GOTTEN  
OUT. PROBABLY ON THE  
SURFACE, SOAKING UP  
SOME SUN.

I'M SURE  
YOU'RE RIGHT.

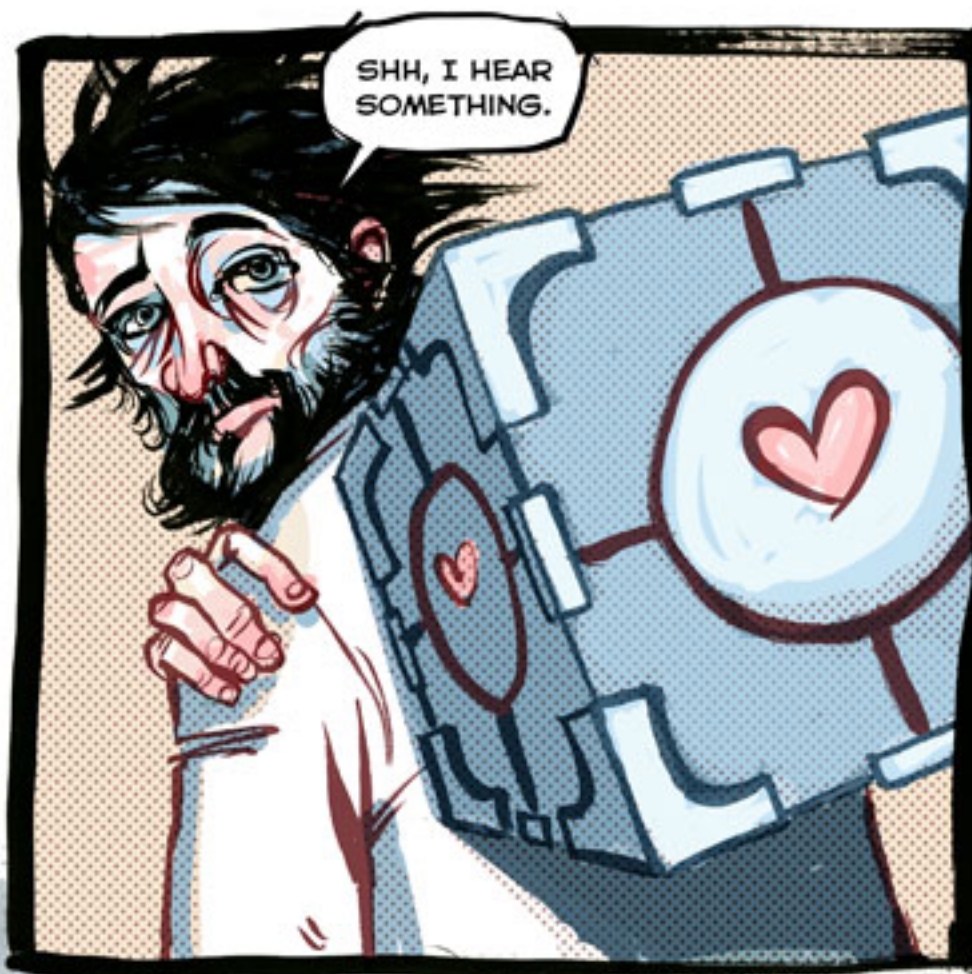
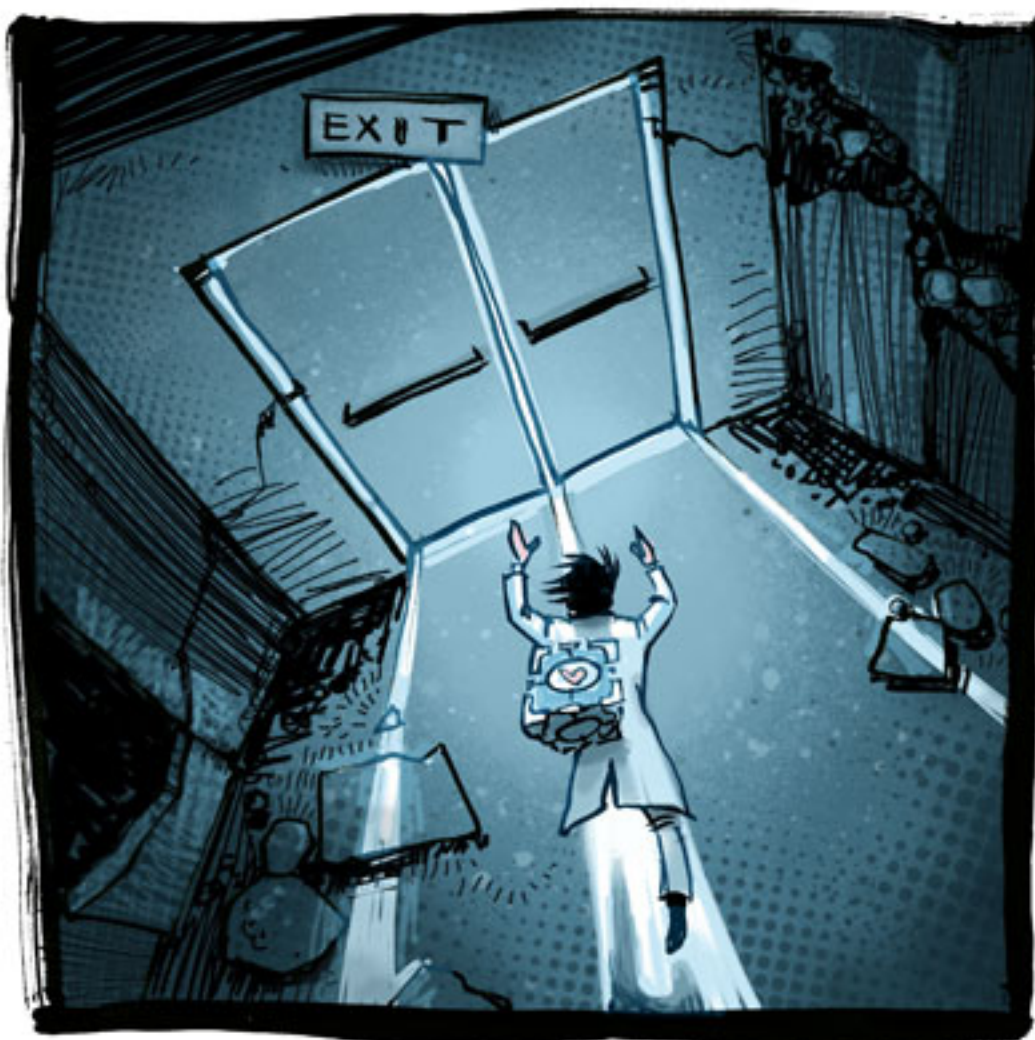
WHAT IS THIS  
"SUN" OF WHICH  
YOU SPEAK?

AND SHE HAS THE RIGHT  
IDEA. COME ON, WE'RE  
WASTING DAYLIGHT.



WATCH OUT FOR THE  
TURRETS. THE QUEEN  
MAY BE DEAD, BUT THIS  
HORNET'S NEST HAS  
BEEN KICKED.









NO!

IT'S DRAGGING HER BACK INSIDE.



HEY, DOUG, CAN I GET A HAND HERE?

UH, SURE.

JUST REACH INSIDE PAST ALL THOSE GEARS AND TURN ON THE POWER SUPPLY.



WAIT A SEC. SAFETY FIRST. ARE YOU RIGHT HANDED OR LEFT?



RIGHT.



BETTER USE YOUR LEFT THEN.

WHY?

JUST IN CASE.



WHAT IS THAT THING, ANYWAY?

JUST THE LATEST IN AI INHIBITION TECHNOLOGY.



YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A CONSCIENCE.

IF THAT'S ALL YOU USE TO CONTROL HER, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

WHY'S THAT?

YOU CAN ALWAYS IGNORE YOUR CONSCIENCE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK IN THERE.

I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WALKING IS TOO SLOW. RUN AWAY.

RUNNING IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING. RUNNING AND HIDING.

IT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

YOU'RE NOT A HERO. HEROES DIE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S MY FAULT SHE'S DOWN THERE. I'M NOT LEAVING HER.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAPPED FOREVER IF NOT FOR HER.

LISTEN, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.

SO BE IT. BUT I'M DONE RUNNING. I HAVE TO AT LEAST TRY TO SAVE HER.

THEN YOU REALLY ARE CRAZY.

TO BE CONTINUED...



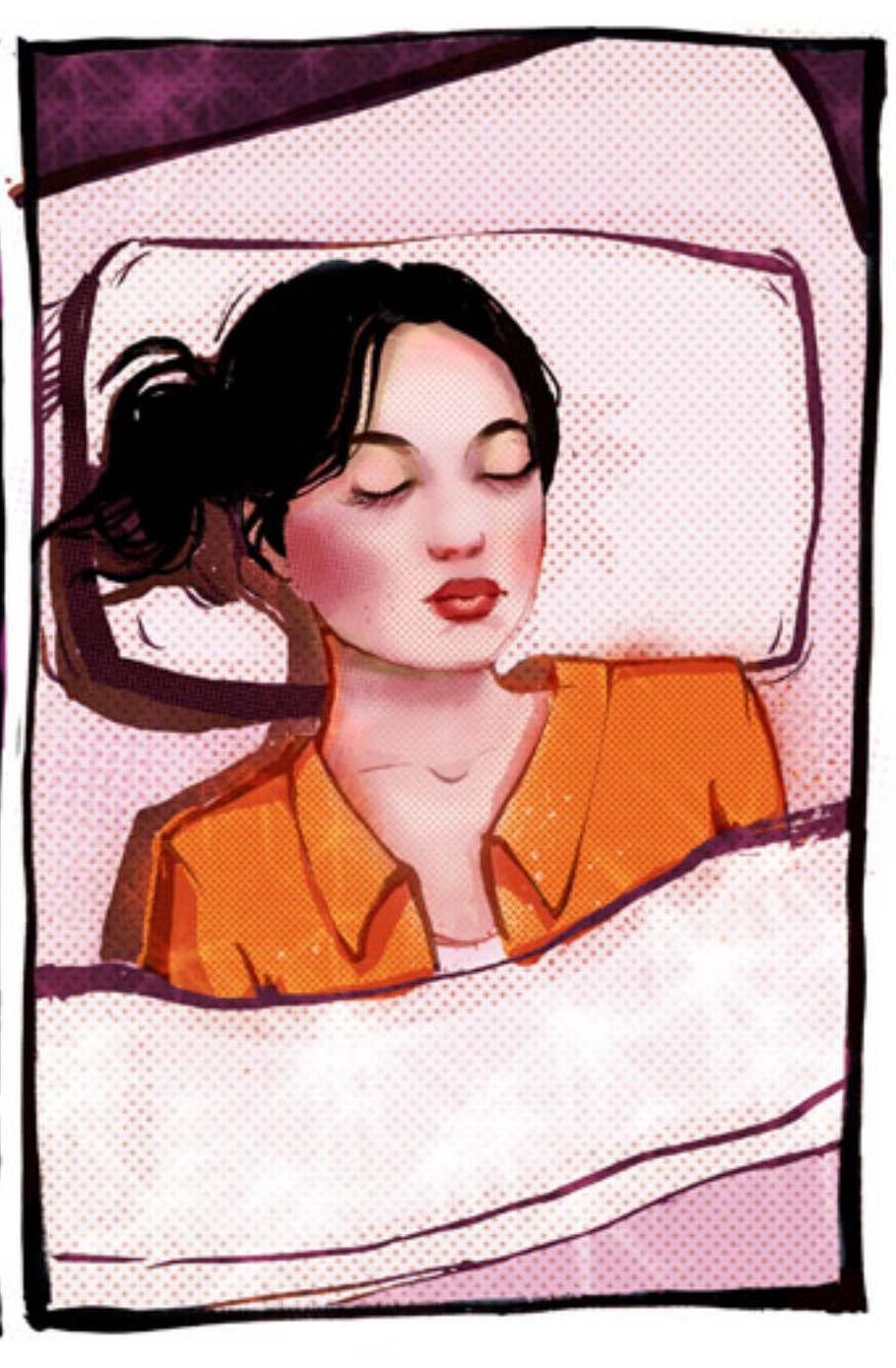
I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD. THOSE PILLS YOU TOOK...

I THINK THE MEDICINE IS STARTING TO WORK.

SOON YOU WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE.

I'LL ALWAYS NEED YOU.

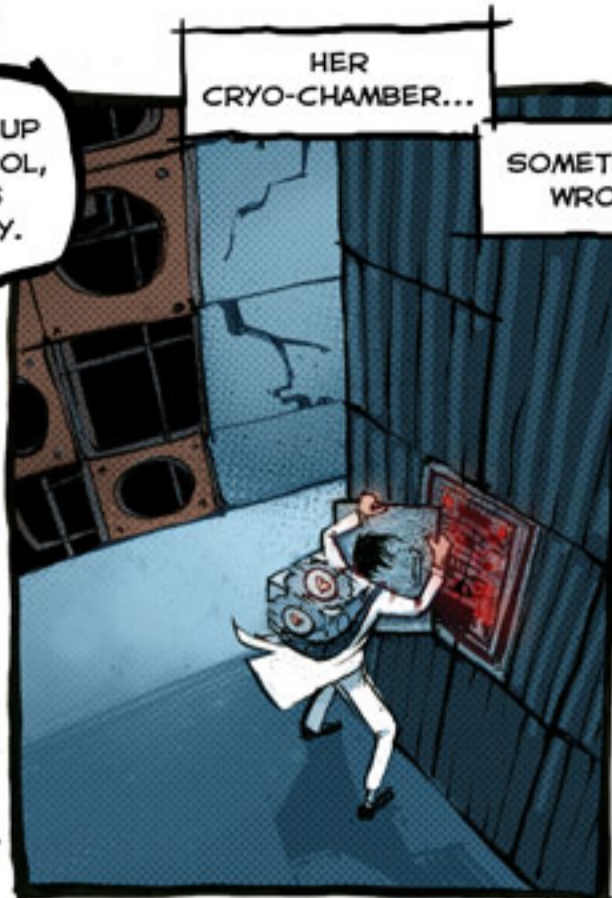
I DON'T THINK YOU WILL.







I NEED TO GET UP TO CRYO-CONTROL, BUT TURRETS BLOCK THE WAY.



HER CRYO-CHAMBER...

SOMETHING'S WRONG.



LIFE SUPPORT HAS BEEN COMPROMISED. THE EXPLOSION BLEW THE MAIN GRID. HER CHAMBER IS OFF-LINE.

ALL THE CRYO-CHAMBERS ARE OFF-LINE!





I'M ONLY GONNA GET ONE CHANCE.

I HAVE TO CROSS THE ROOM...

GET PAST THE TURRETS,

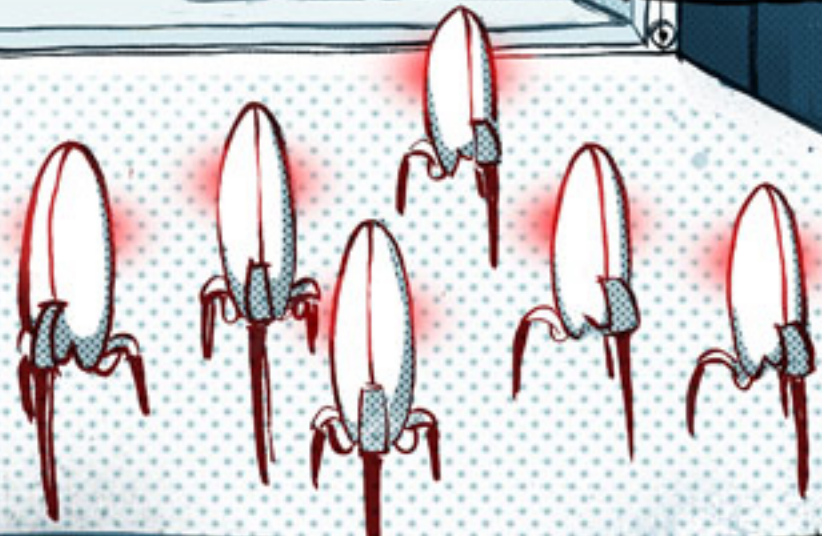
JUMP THE RAIL

...THEN DIVE LEFT OR RIGHT TO AVOID BEING SHOT.

OKAY, DO I DIVE LEFT OR RIGHT?

HELLO?

YOU STILL BACK THERE?



LEFT OR RIGHT? DON'T MAKE ME GUESS!

I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.



WELL, READY OR NOT...



AAHHH!!!





MUST.

STAY.

CONSCIOUS.





THE ENRICHMENT CENTER WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A NEW EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE OF FORCED VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.


IF ANY APERTURE SCIENCE EMPLOYEE WOULD LIKE TO OPT OUT OF THIS NEW VOLUNTARY TESTING PROGRAM, PLEASE REMEMBER, SCIENCE RHYMES WITH COMPLIANCE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DOESN'T RHYME WITH COMPLIANCE?

**NEUROTOXIN.**

DUE TO HIGH MORTALITY RATES, YOU MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW INITIATIVE.

THE ENRICHMENT CENTER ASSURES YOU THIS IS A STRICTLY SELFISH IMPULSE ON YOUR PART, AND WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE SCIENCE LIKE *[INSERT CO-WORKER'S NAME HERE]*?



AND NOW THERE'S JUST YOU. ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.


YOU'VE AVOIDED CAPTURE FOR WEEKS. WHAT MAKES YOU SO DIFFERENT?

AHH...DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION, PATHOLOGICAL PARANOIA; IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN YOUR FILE. HAVE YOU REFILLED YOUR PRESCRIPTION LATELY?




BITE ME.

SCHIZOPHRENIA IS A CULTURALLY BOUND PHENOMENON. ITS PATTERN OF EXPRESSION IS FILTERED THROUGH THE CULTURAL SUBSTRATE IN WHICH ITS SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.



IN TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, THIS MANIFESTS AS DELUSIONS OF SURVEILLANCE AND A BELIEF THAT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED AGAINST YOU, USUALLY WITH SOME VAGUE UNSEEN "OTHER" OUT TO GET YOU.


YOU'RE NOT VAGUE. YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN SPECIFIC.



IF YOU CONTINUE TO SELFISHLY EVADE ME, IT'S NOT GOING TO REFLECT WELL IN YOUR FILE.


OF COURSE!  
**THE FILES!**





I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND NOW BELIEVE A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER IS OUT TO GET YOU?

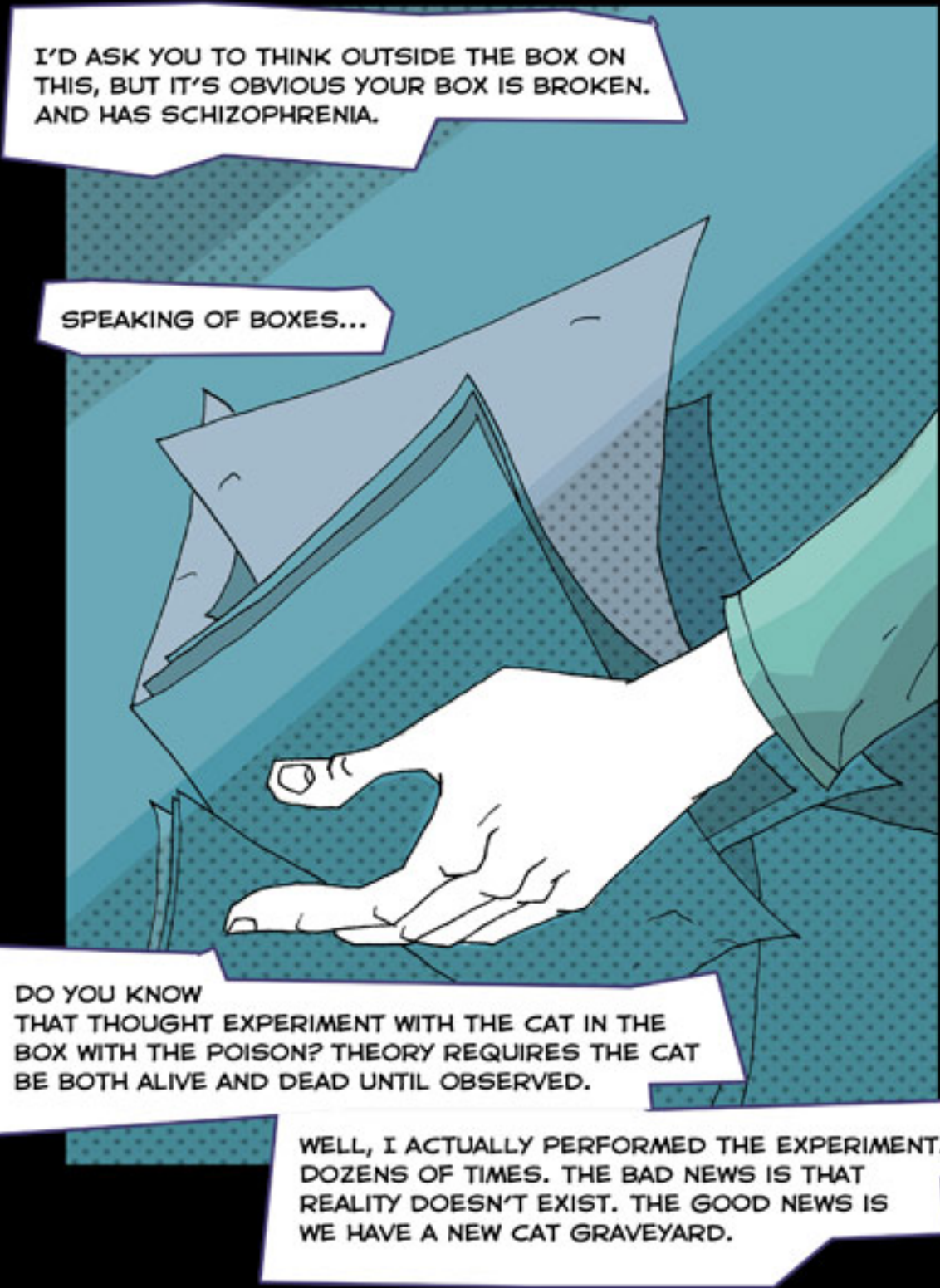
COME ON, HOW LIKELY IS THAT?



I MEAN REALLY, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.

WHAT IS MORE LIKELY, THAT YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER, OR THAT THIS IS ALL JUST THE PARANOID DELUSION OF AN UNSTABLE MIND?


WHY NOT COME OUT OF THERE, AND YOU'LL SEE. NONE OF THIS IS REAL.



I'D ASK YOU TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX ON THIS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR BOX IS BROKEN. AND HAS SCHIZOPHRENIA.

SPEAKING OF BOXES...

WHY ARE YOU IN THE FILE ROOM ANYWAY? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING?



YES! THIS IS THE ONE!

DO YOU KNOW THAT THOUGHT EXPERIMENT WITH THE CAT IN THE BOX WITH THE POISON? THEORY REQUIRES THE CAT BE BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD UNTIL OBSERVED.

WELL, I ACTUALLY PERFORMED THE EXPERIMENT. DOZENS OF TIMES. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT REALITY DOESN'T EXIST. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE HAVE A NEW CAT GRAVEYARD.



IN THE EVENT YOU DON'T SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS, DNA MAY BE HARVESTED FROM YOUR BODY—WITH YOUR CONSENT—AND USED TO CREATE CLONES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SCIENCE. FAILURE TO SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS SHALL BE VIEWED AS GRANTING CONSENT.

ALSO, CLONES DON'T HAVE SOULS. JUST SO YOU KNOW.

LIKE TWINS.

IT HAS TO BE HER.

1489	Charles	Cardoze
1490	Phil	Konig
1491	Christopher M.	Pham
1492	Arsenio	Navarro
1493	William D.	Kent
1494	Al	Anderson
1495	Emily	Naransky
1496	David C.	Self
1497	Doug	Hopper
1498	Chell	[Redacted]
1499	Marc	Meaux
1500	Brenda	Eogenschutz
1501	James	Murray


1496	David C.	S
1497	Doug	H
1498	Chell	[R
1499	Marc	M
1500	Brenda	B
1501	James	M

Chell	[R
-------	----

	A	
1	Chell	[Reda
2	S. J.	Nye
3	Lazarus	Grey
4	Leve	Rage
5	Robert C.	Knoll

Test Subject Order Modified

SAVING FILE 88%







SINCE THE INSTALLATION OF MY NEW MORALITY CORE, I'VE LOST ALL INTEREST IN KILLING. NOW I ONLY CRAVE SCIENCE.

I'M PLEASSED TO HEAR THAT.

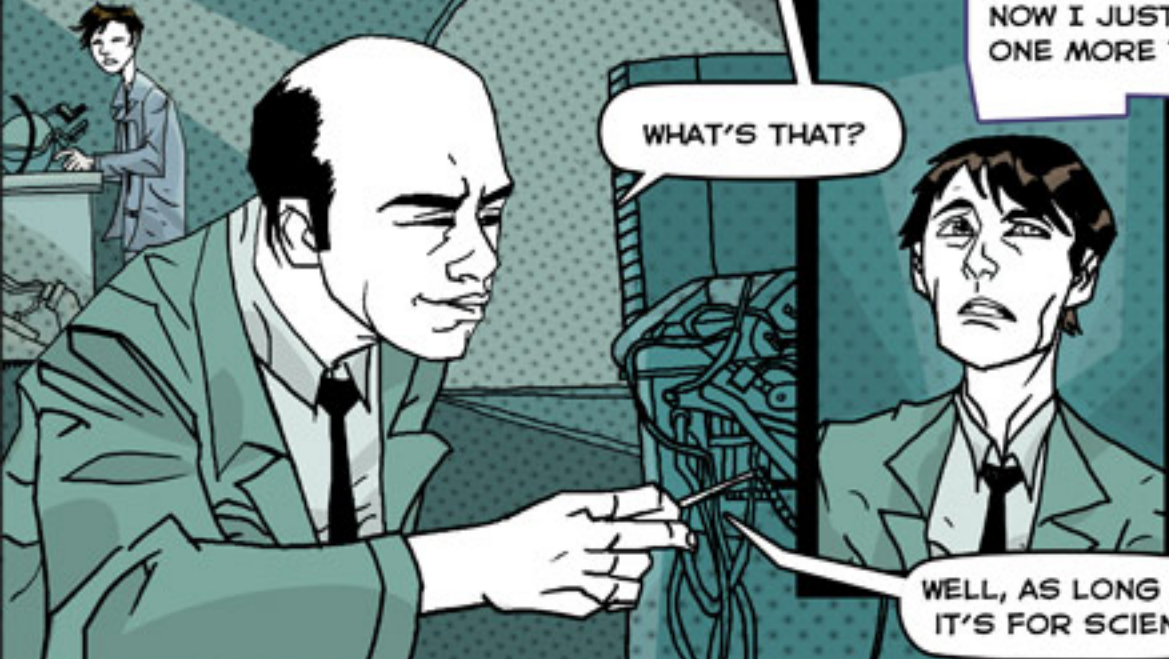
I FIND MYSELF DRAWN TO THE STUDY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT I'D LIKE TO PERFORM DURING "BRING YOUR CAT TO WORK DAY."

WONDERFUL!

I'LL HAVE THE BOX AND THE CATS. NOW I JUST NEED ONE MORE THING.

WHAT'S THAT?

...A LITTLE NEUROTOXIN.

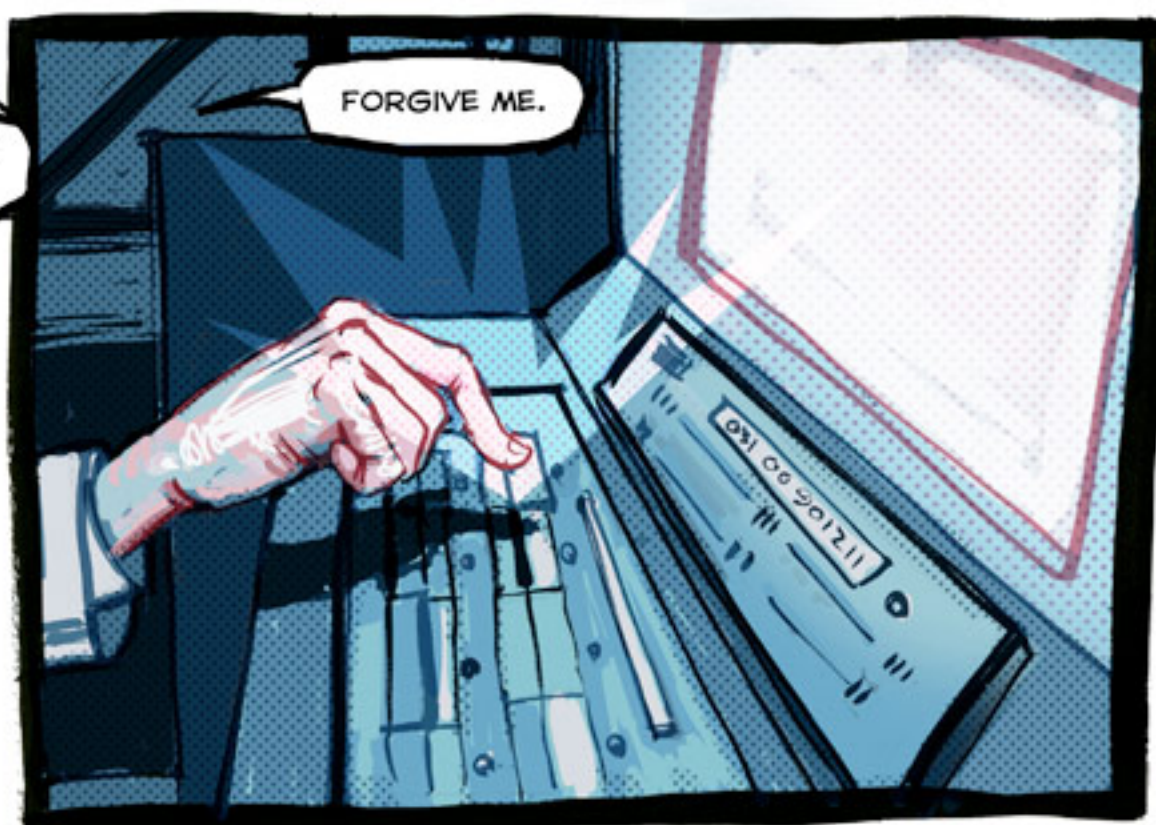
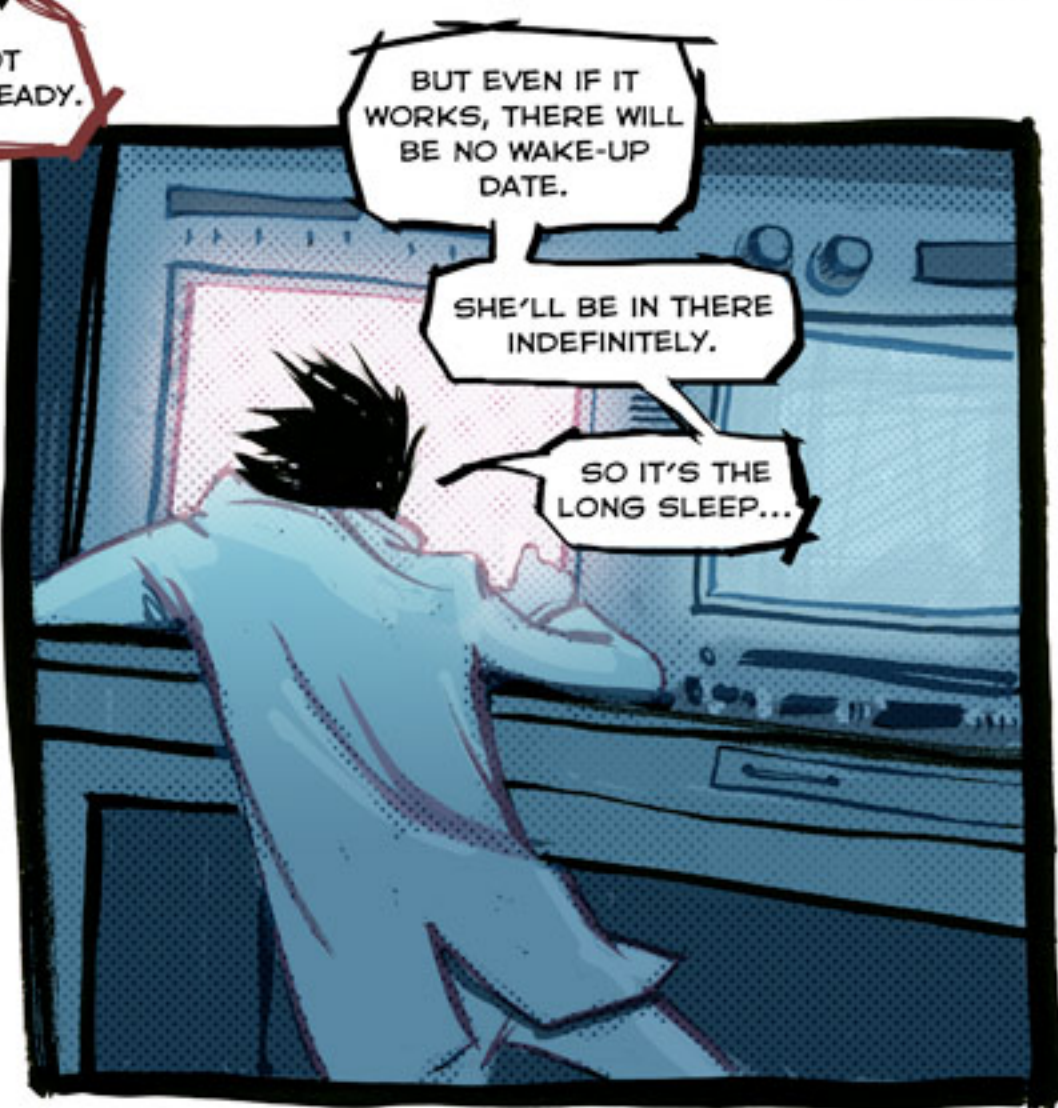


WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S FOR SCIENCE.











WOOSH

IT WORKED!

SLEEP WELL.

BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD,  
UNTIL SOMEONE OPENS  
THE BOX.

MAYBE IT'S TIME I  
SLEPT, TOO.

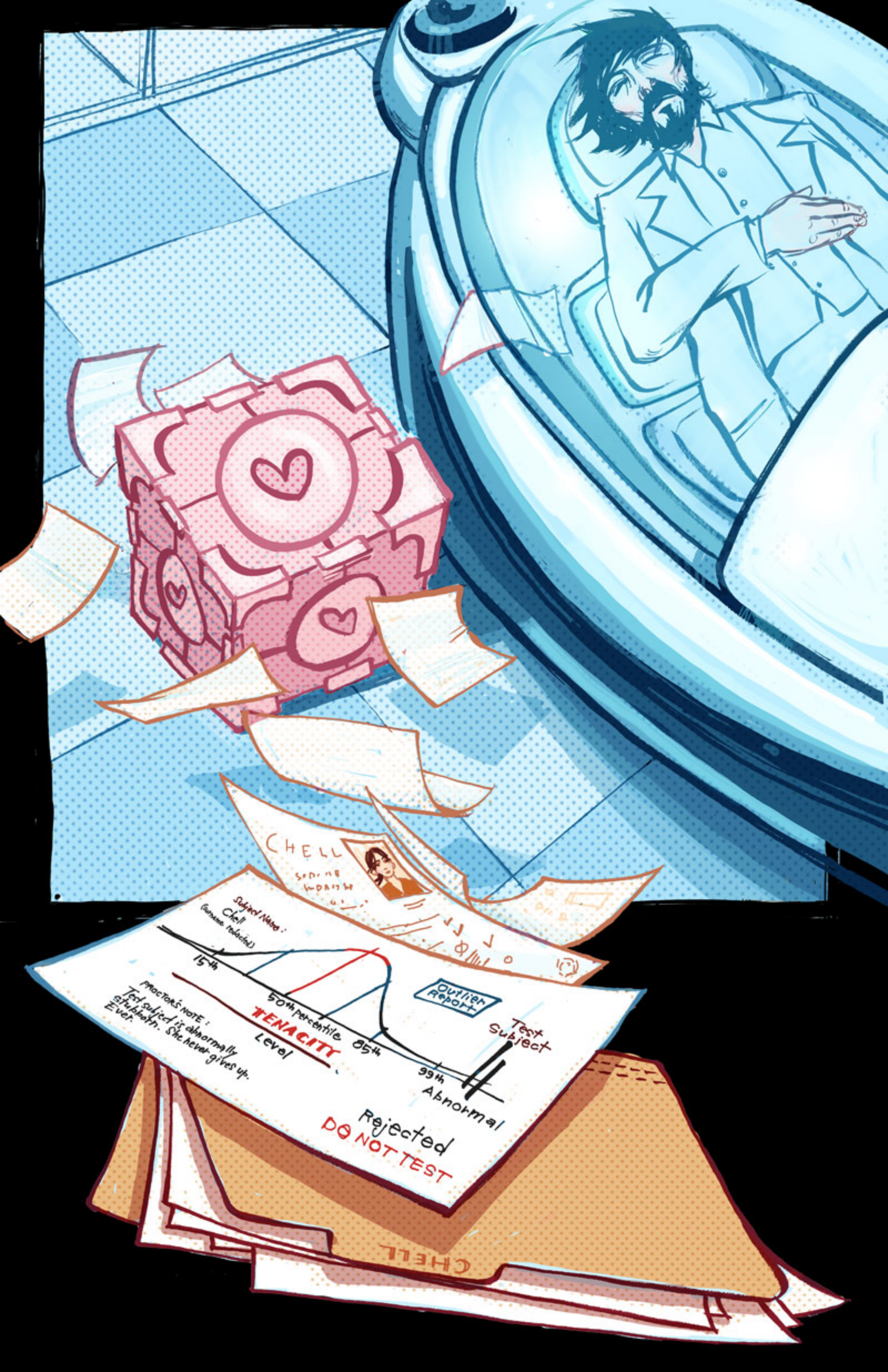
I'M SO  
TIRED NOW.

YOU'VE  
EARNED A  
REST.

YOU SEE, I TOLD  
YOU I WOULD  
ALWAYS NEED YOU.

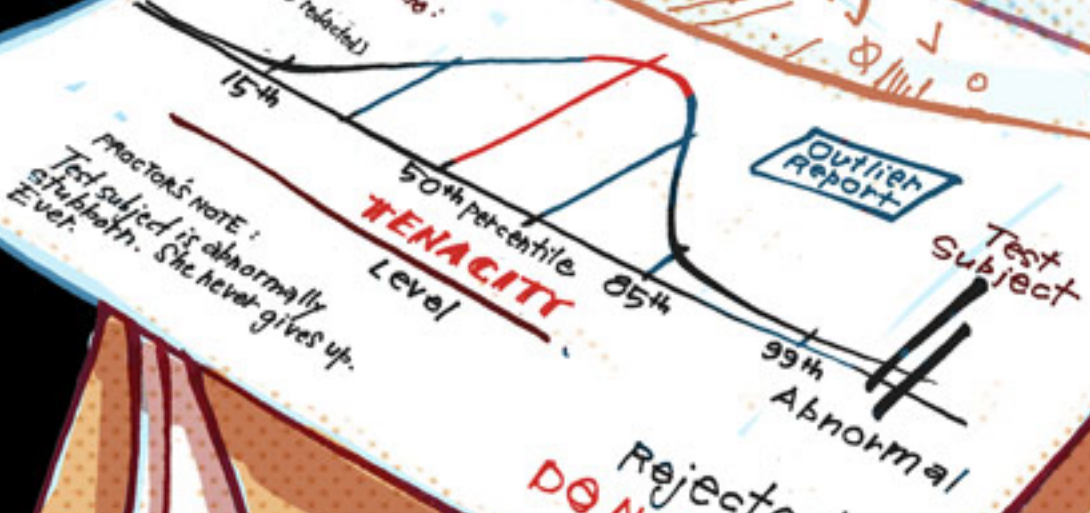






CHELL

Subject Name:  
Chell  
(name redacted)



Practor's note:  
Test subject is abnormally  
stubborn. She never gives up.  
Ever.

Rejected  
**DO NOT TEST**

CHELL