

# TRACKS of LIFE





**This is a work of fiction.  
Any similarities to real  
people, places, or events  
are purely coincidental.**



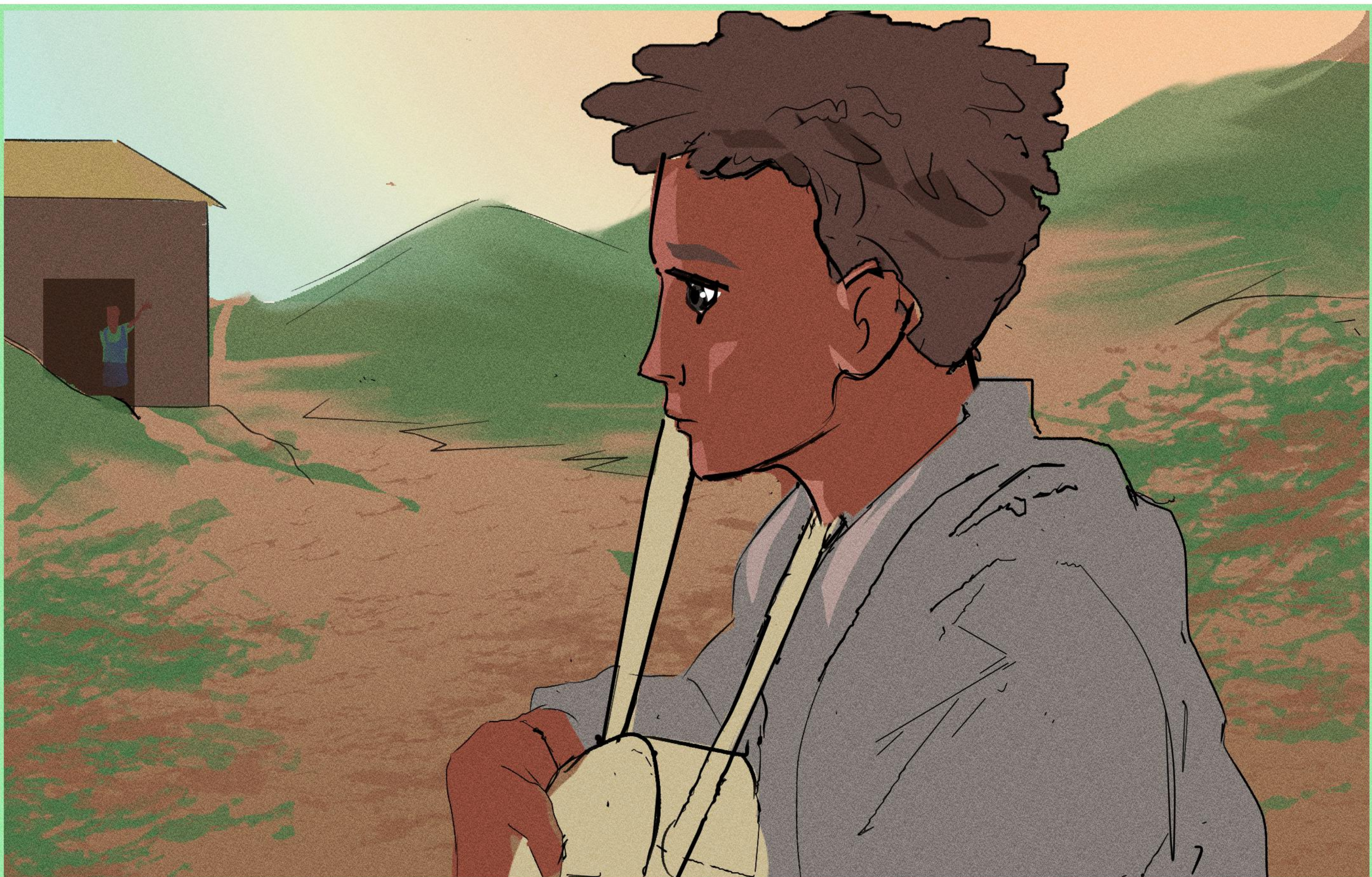
# EPILOGUE



OLD ADDIS...



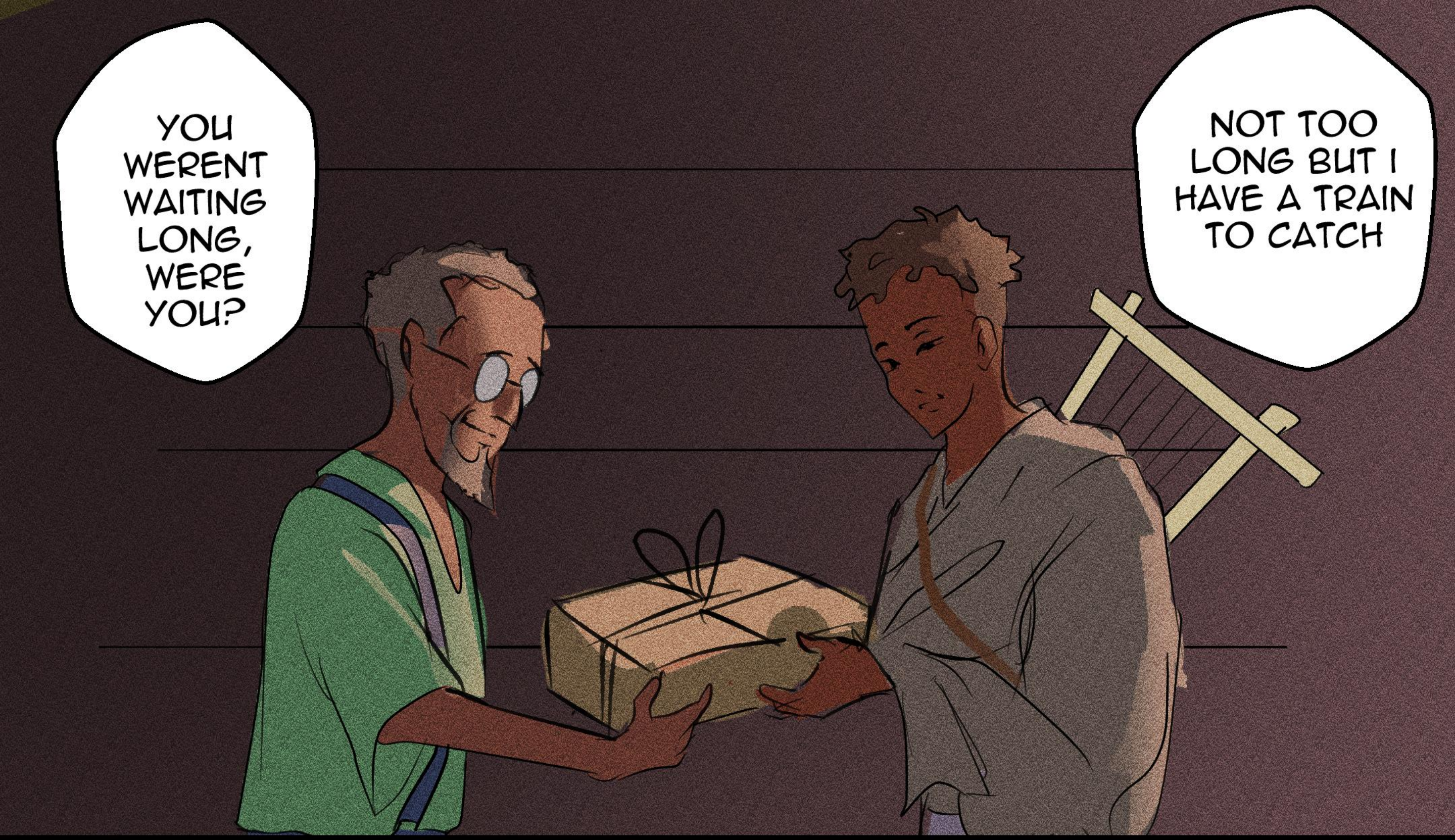




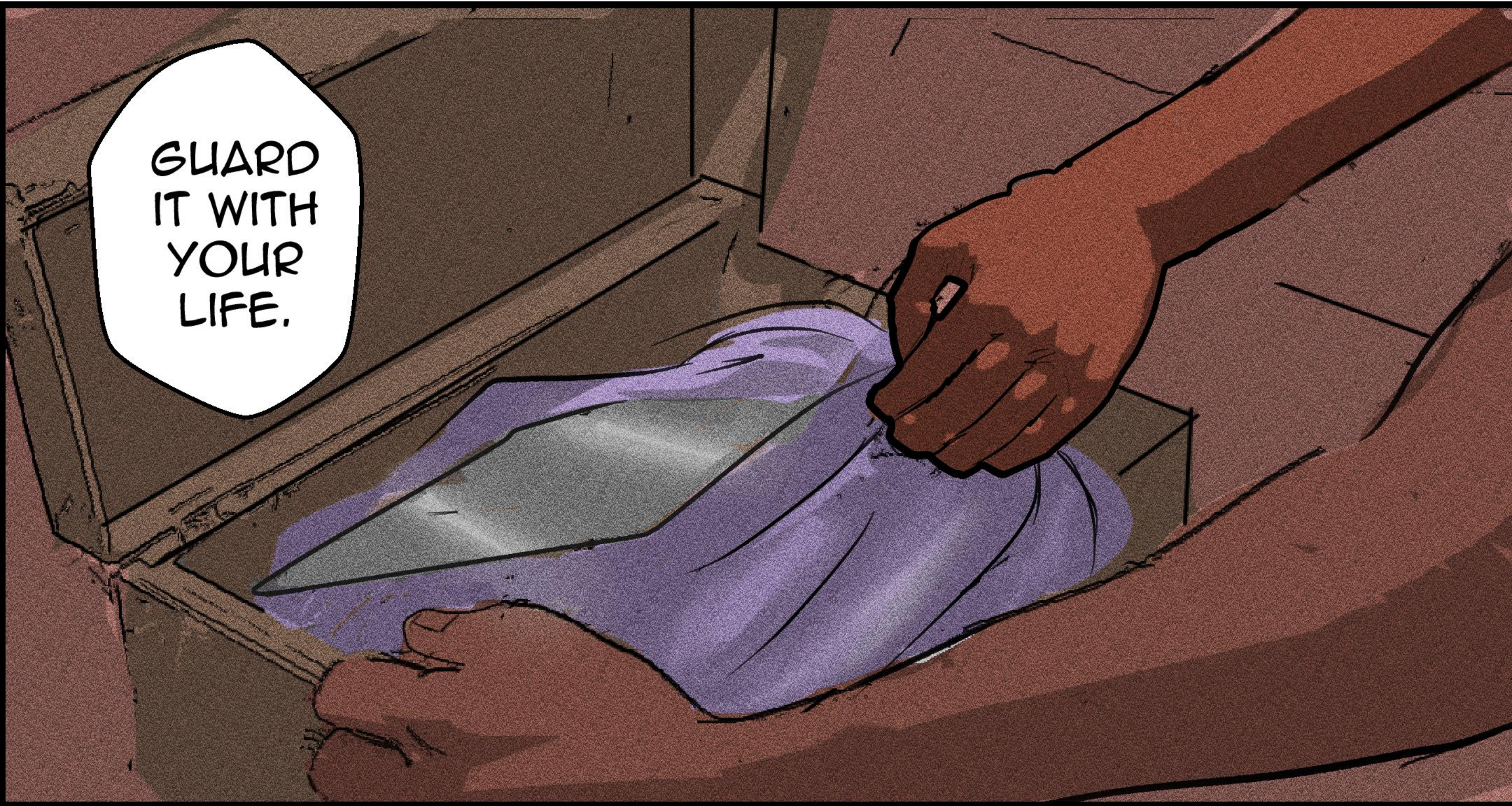


YOU  
WERENT  
WAITING  
LONG,  
WERE  
YOU?

NOT TOO  
LONG BUT I  
HAVE A TRAIN  
TO CATCH



GUARD  
IT WITH  
YOUR  
LIFE.



DON'T  
WORRY, I  
INTEND TO.





CHAPTER





A LETTER, A DAGGER, THE  
PAST HAS A WAY OF LEAPING  
TO LIFE.

brothers and sisters  
of great challenge and change, we stand united by a  
se: to defend our land, to preserve our heritage, and to  
worthy of our ancestors. The path we walk is not easy, but  
with the courage and sacrifice of those who came before us.  
essed the transformation of our nation, from the days when  
travelling from the coast to our capital took six long weeks by caravan, to  
the era when the Ethio-Djibouti Railway was forged across our lands. This  
railway, born from the vision of connecting our landlocked empire to the  
sea, has been more than just iron and wood; it has been a lifeline,  
commerce, a symbol of our independence, and a bridge to the  
world.

Through the railway, cities have grown, trade has  
spirit of Ethiopia has reached beyond its mountains and  
us that progress is possible even in the face of adversity.  
honor this achievement, we must also remember that  
our nation lies not in rails or engines, but in the hearts of its people.

Now, as the shadow of fascism looms over  
invading Italian forces, we prepare to  
breath. The enemy believes they can  
but they underestimate the resolve of our  
country. I will soon take up arms to  
this threat, to defend our land and our people.

Let us draw  
our history, and  
journey is like

every  
soil,  
for their  
confront  
that Ethiopia  
drawing inspiration from  
one will cherish. Our  
sometimes steep,

with, let us keep our eyes  
upon the **tracks of life.**

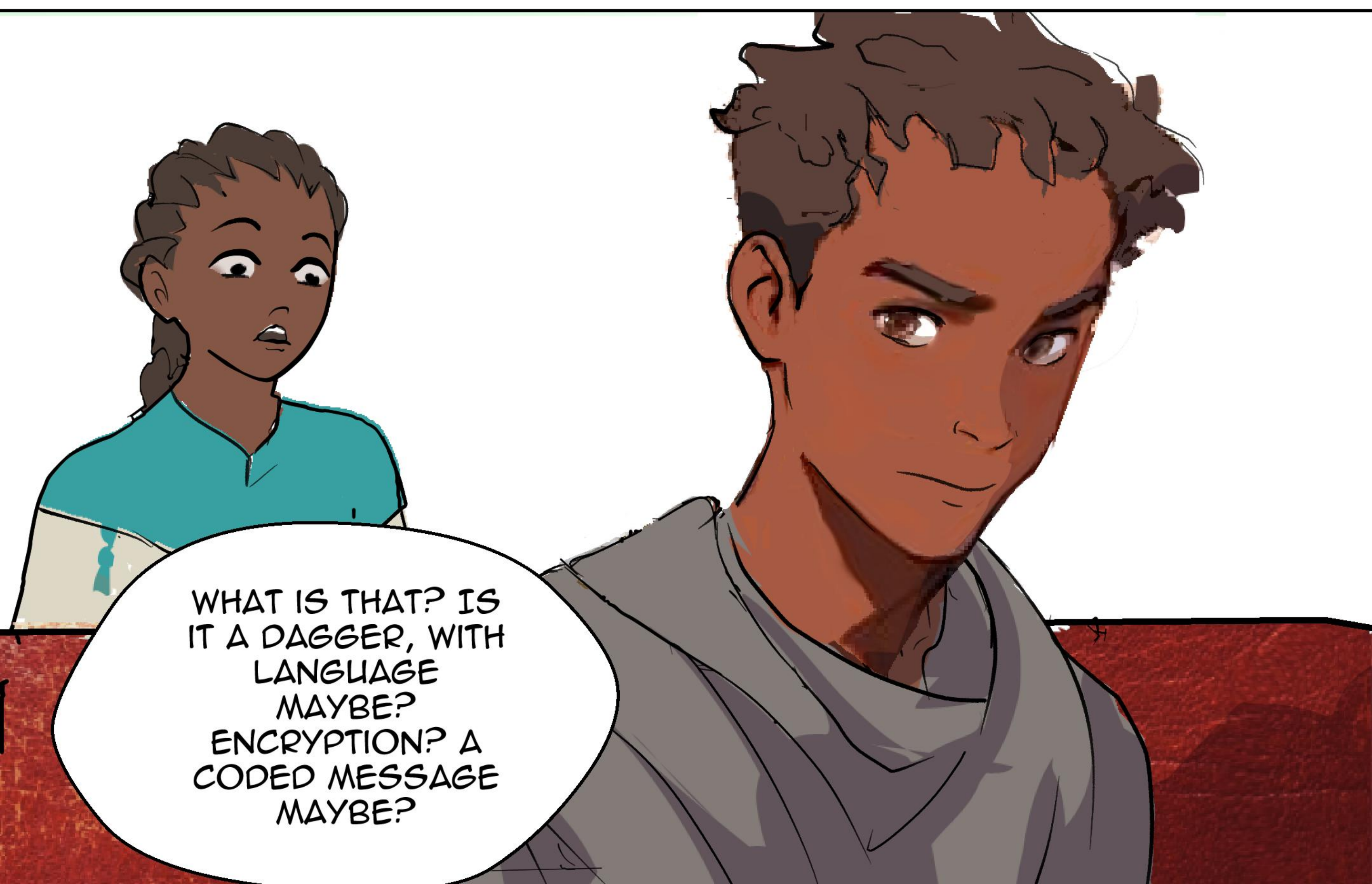
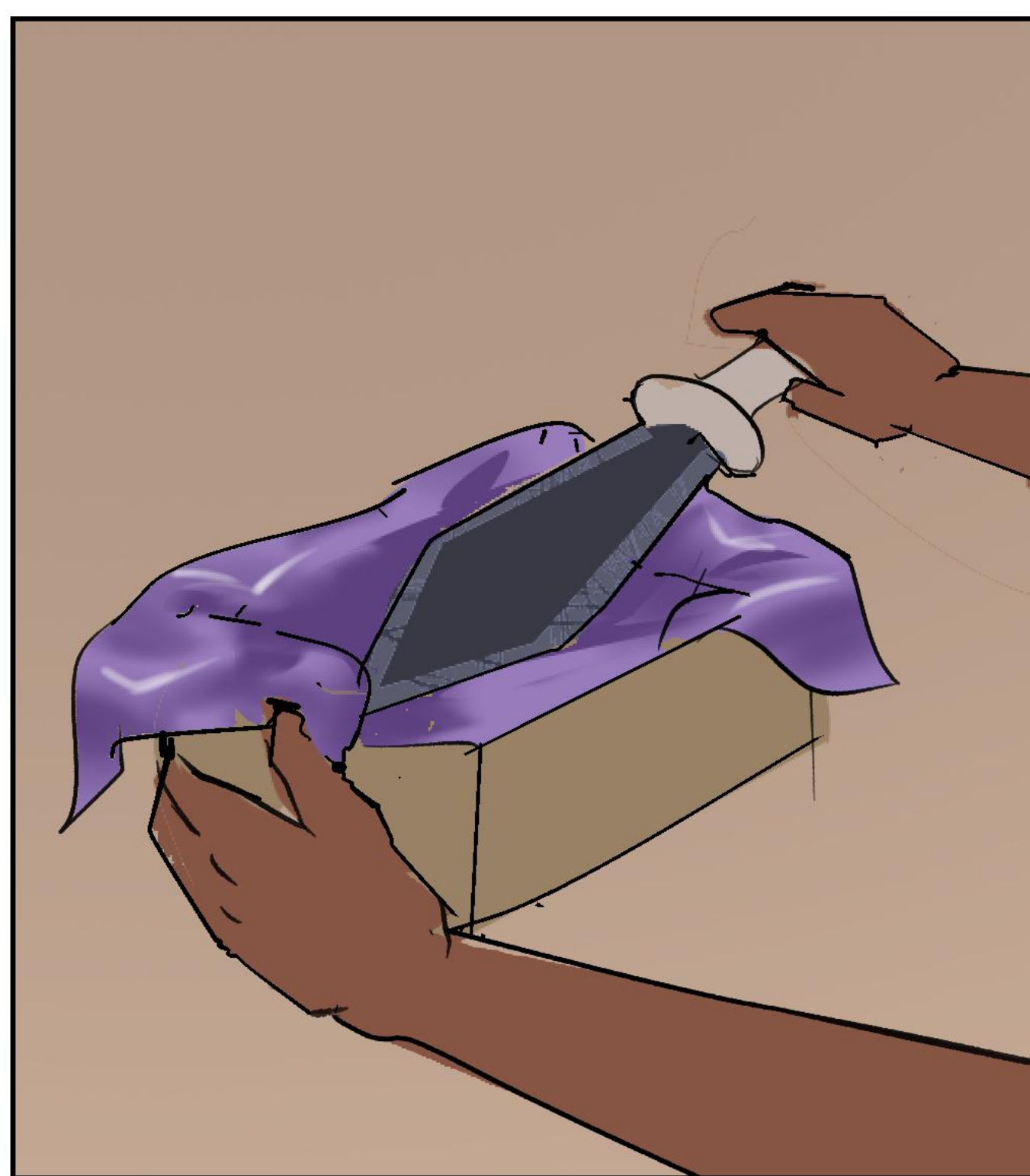
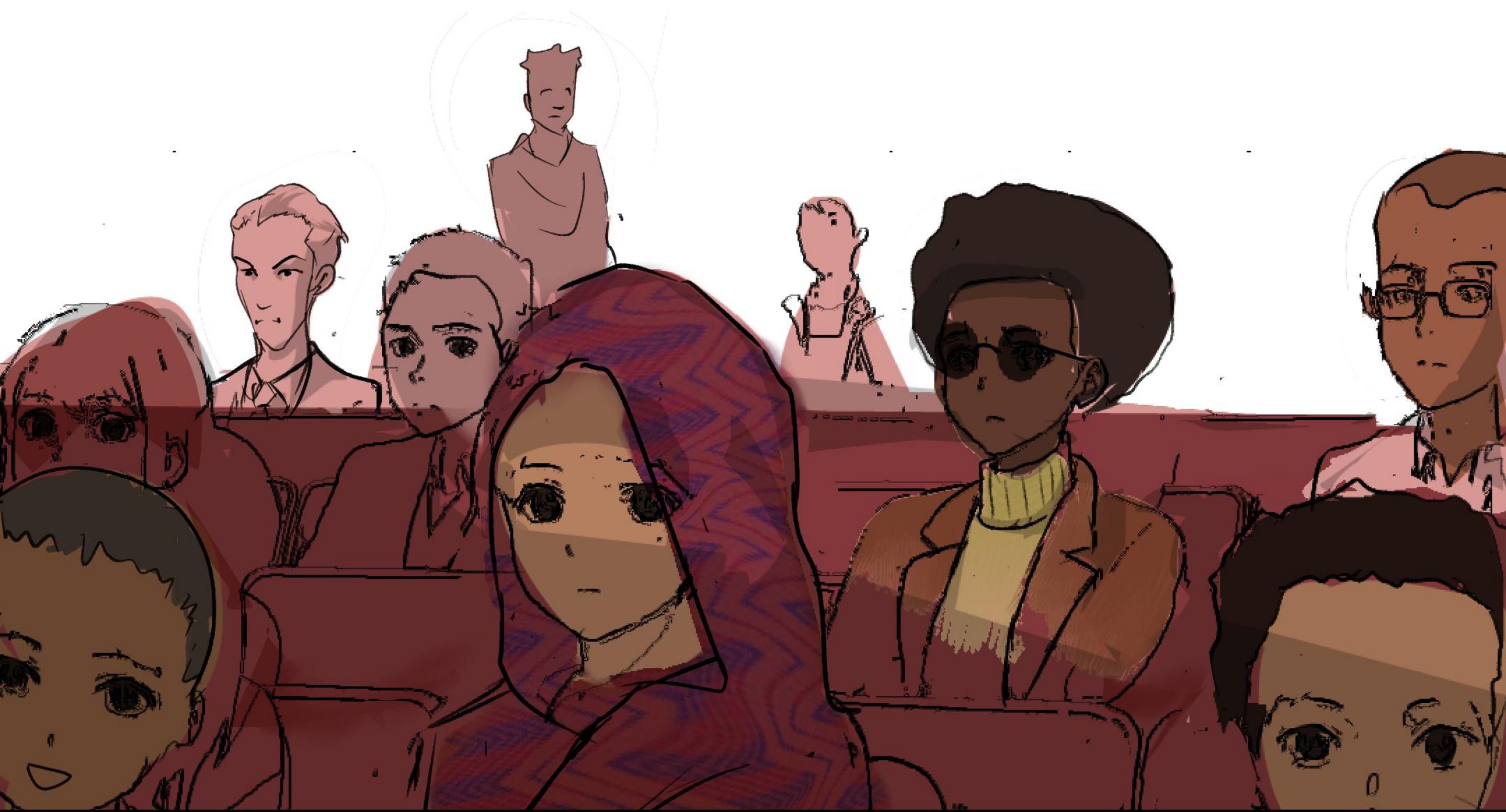


TRAIN STATION  
HUMMED LIKE A  
BEEHIVE, FULL OF  
VOICES BURSTING WITH  
PEOPLE

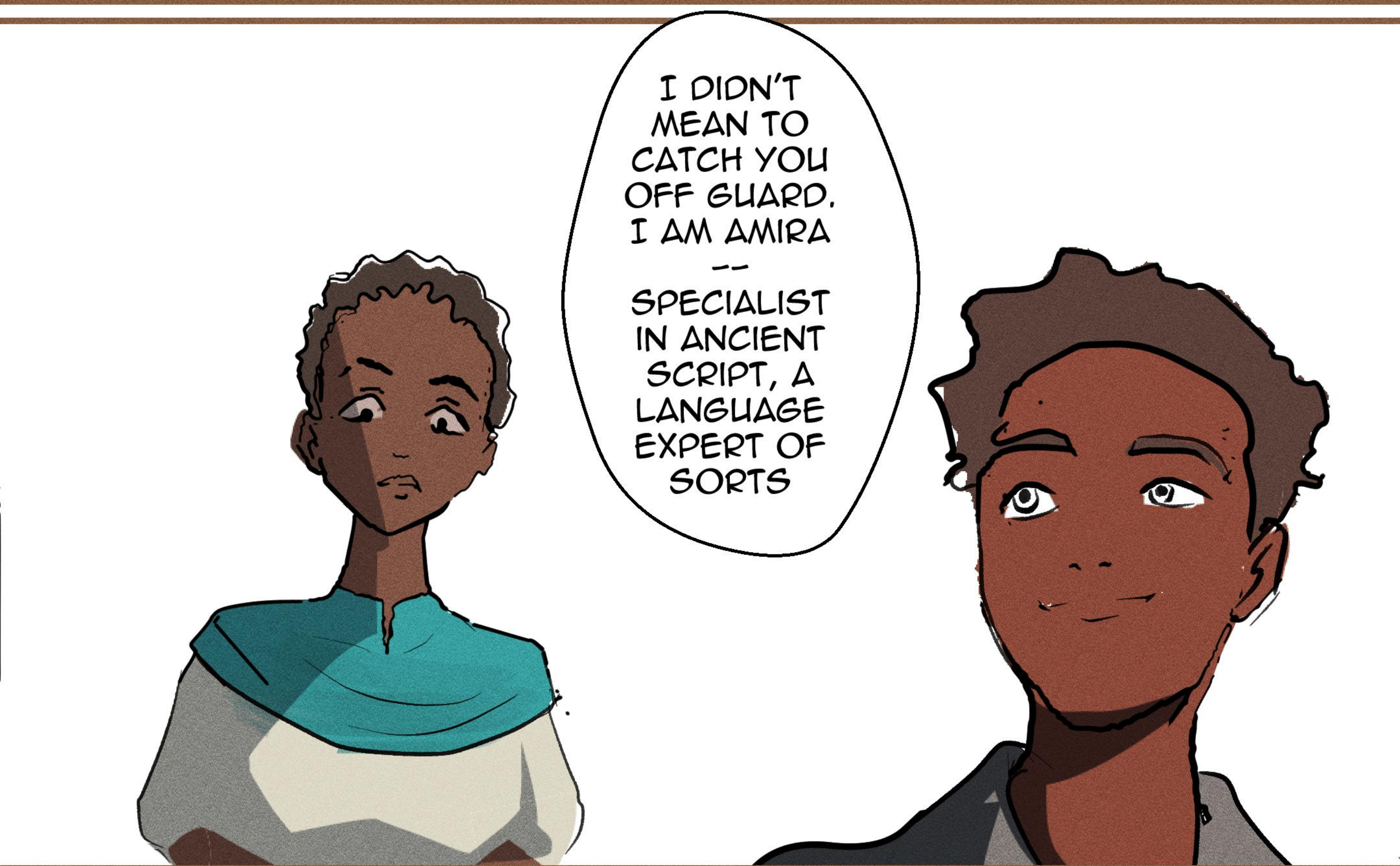


FEELS LIKE  
ADVENTURE  
IS ON THE HORIZON.

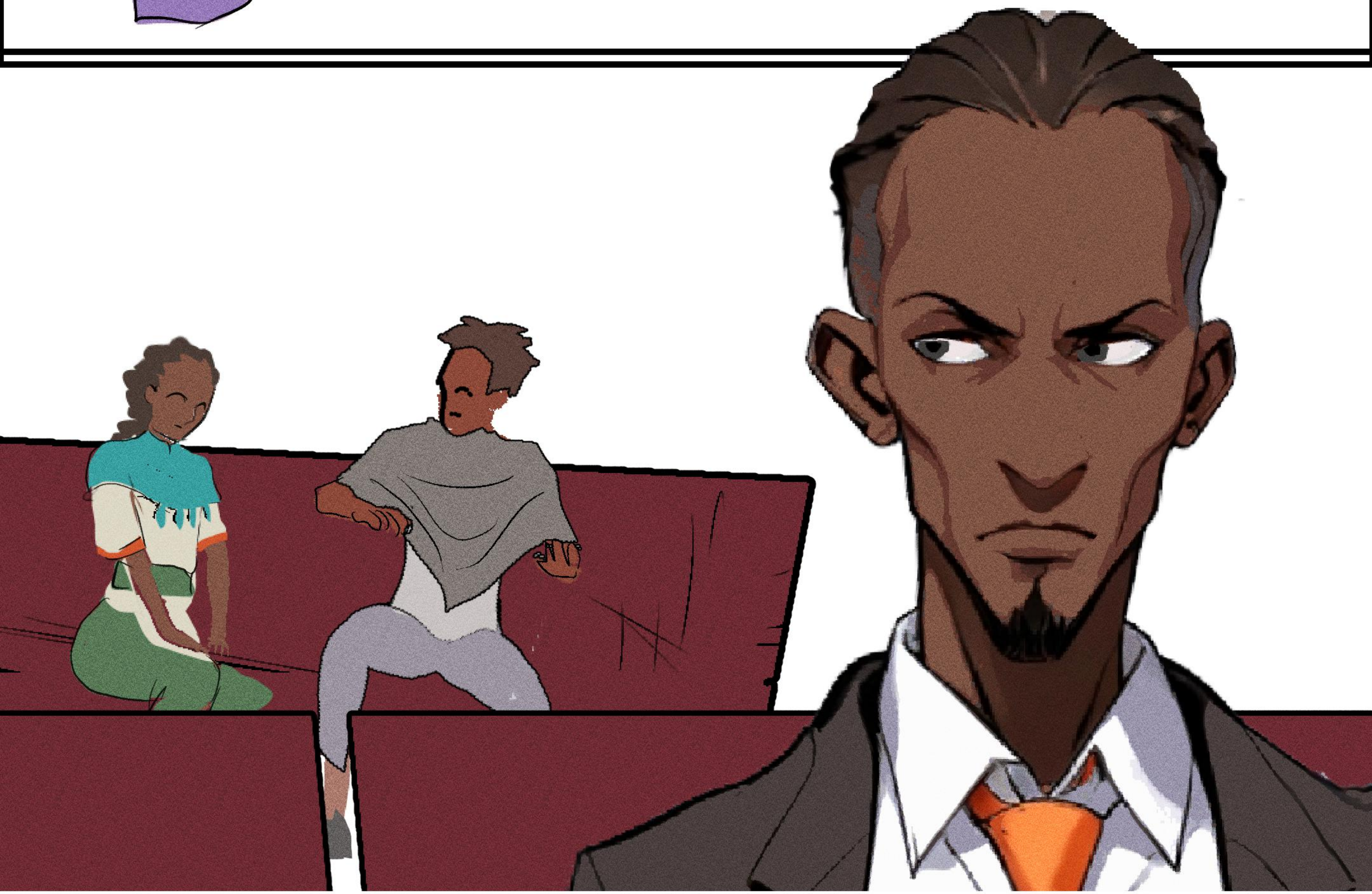
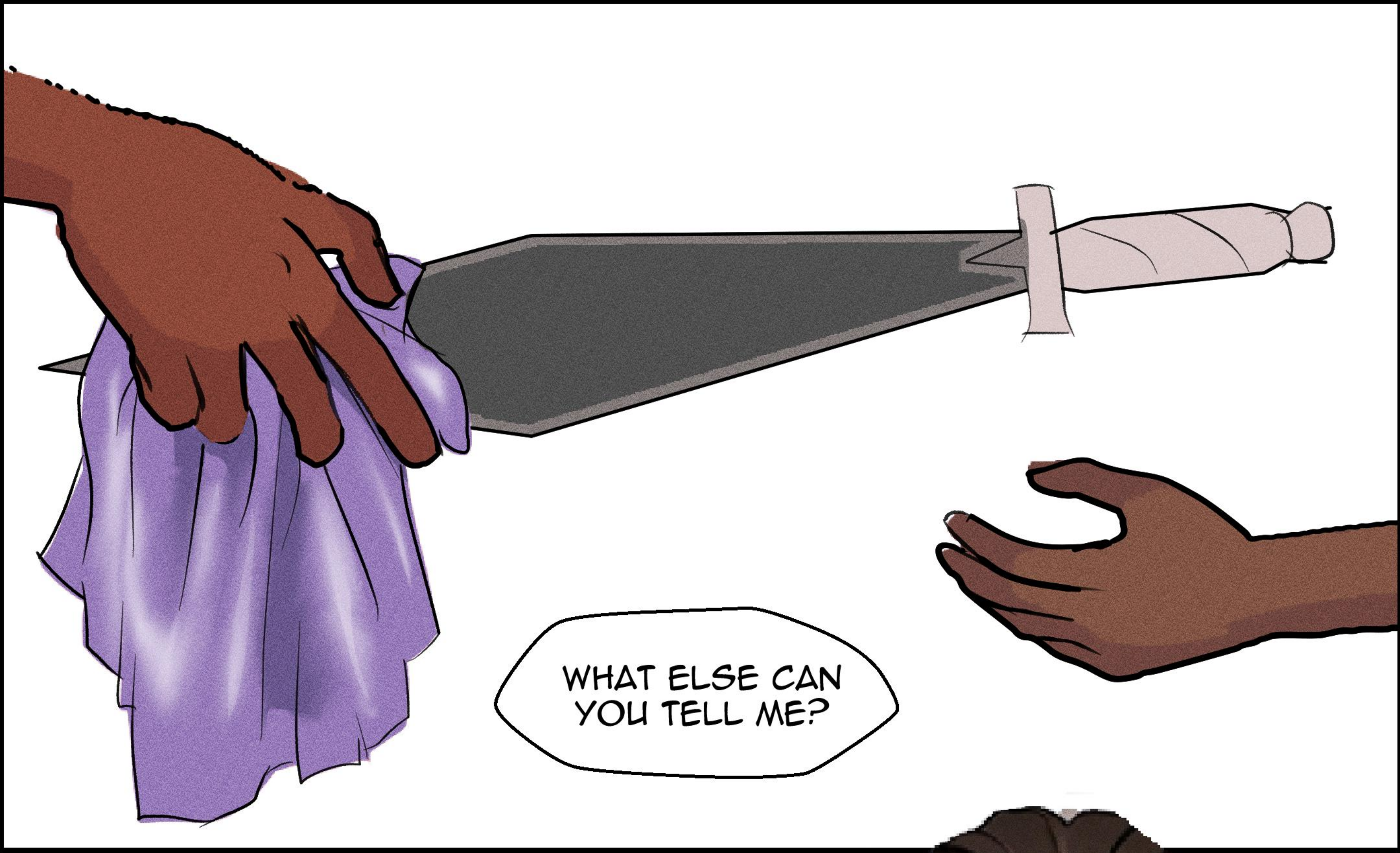
















READY FOR THE  
LONG JOURNEY  
AHEAD?



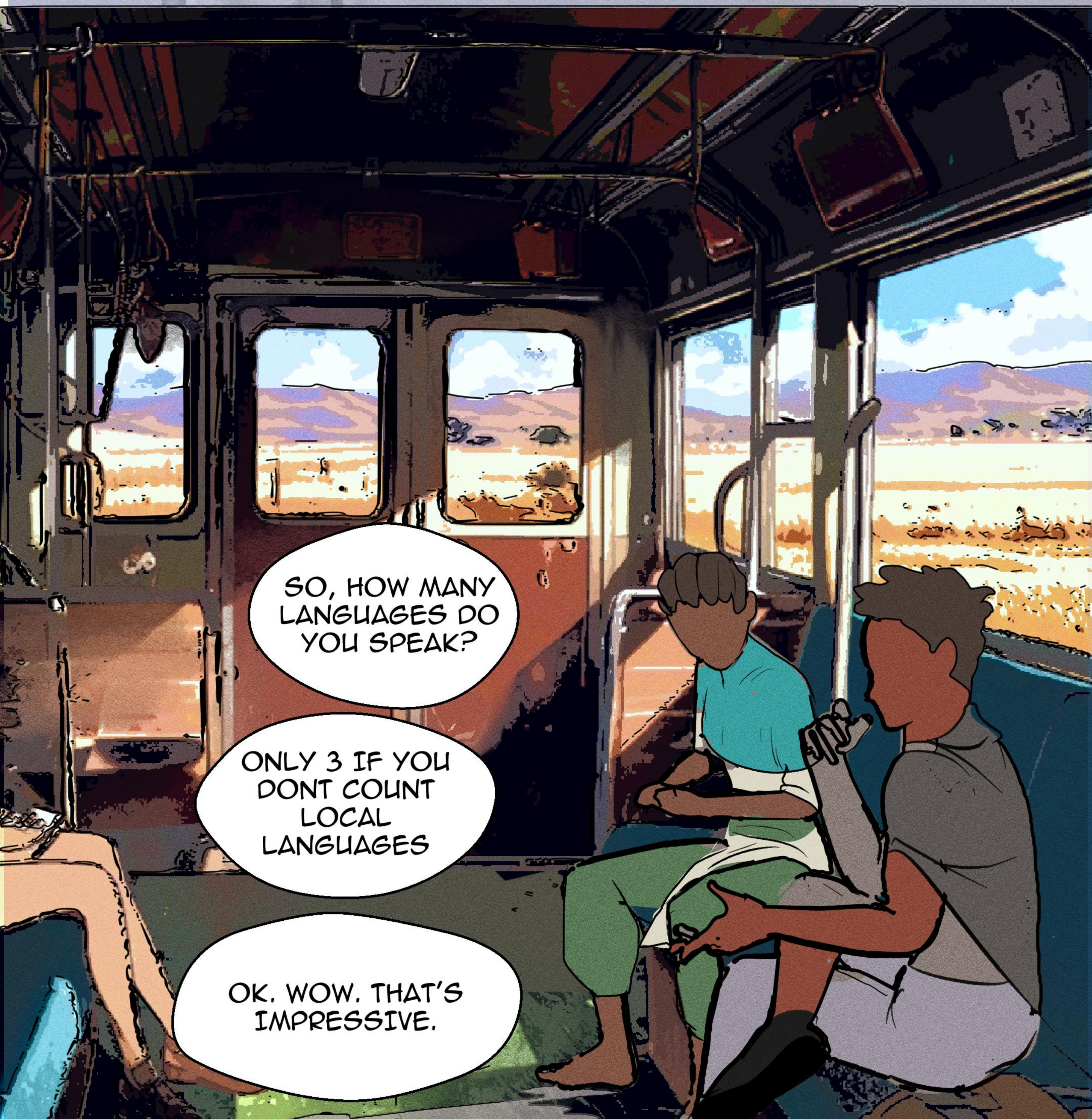
READY TO FIND  
OUT WHAT'S OUT  
THERE, WAITING!



ALL  
ABOARD!





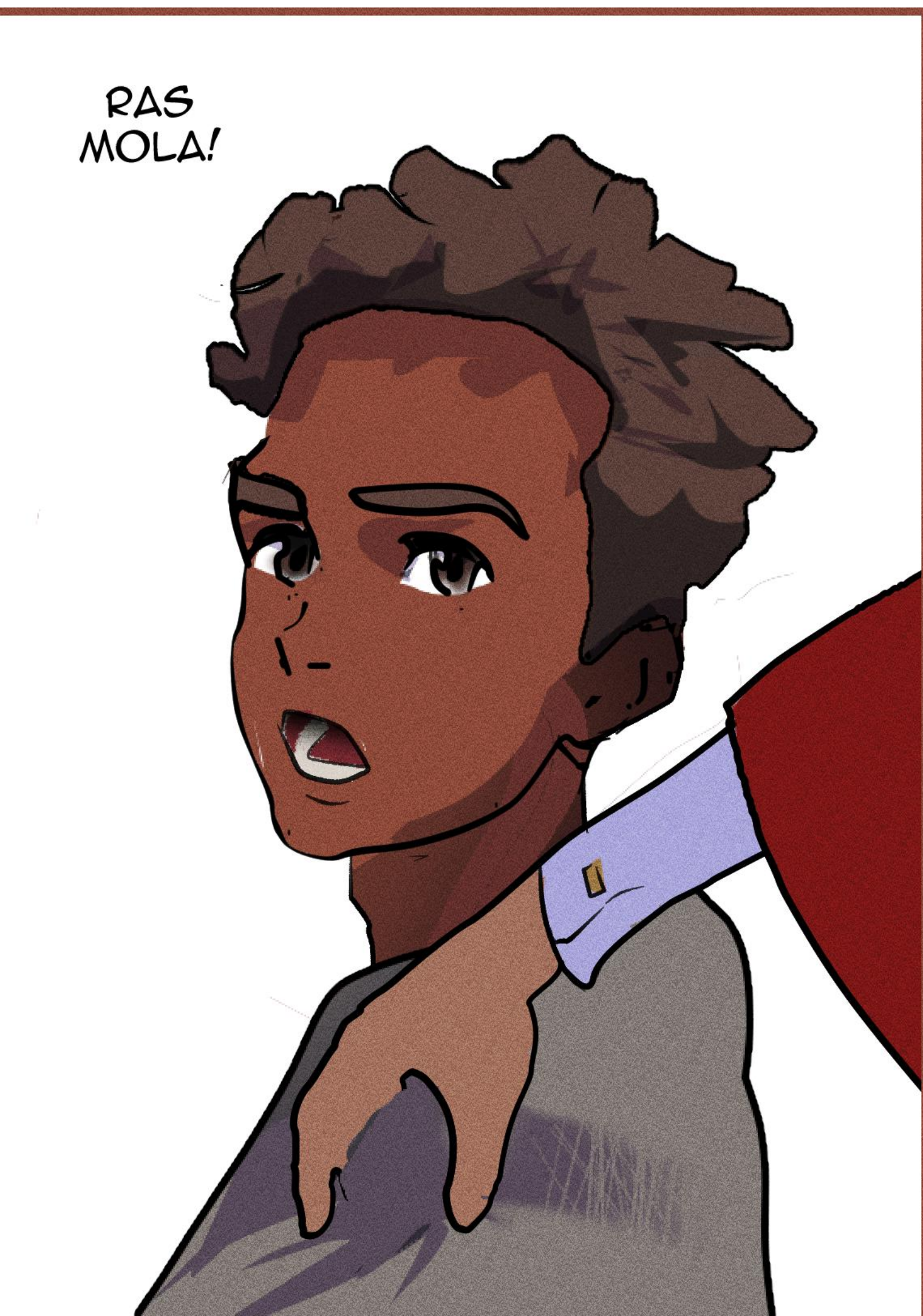


SO, HOW MANY  
LANGUAGES DO  
YOU SPEAK?

ONLY 3 IF YOU  
DONT COUNT  
LOCAL  
LANGUAGES

OK. WOW. THAT'S  
IMPRESSIVE.

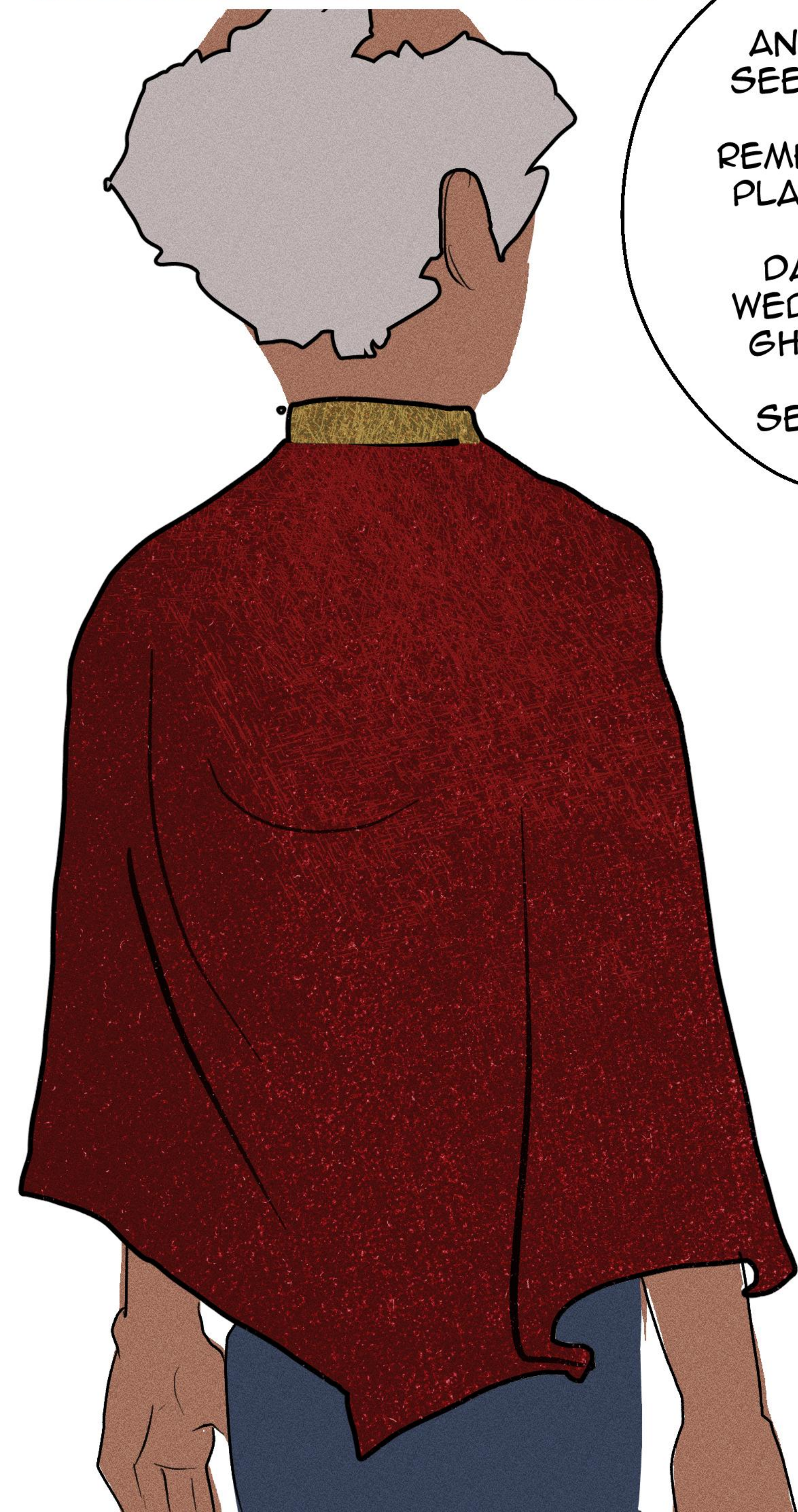




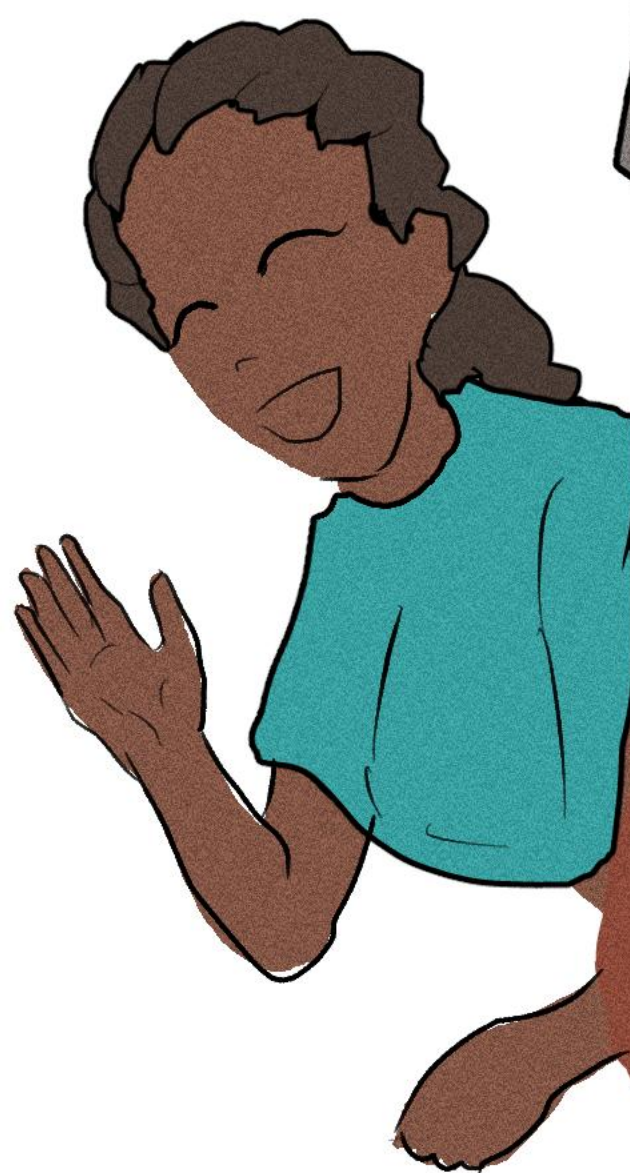




YOUR  
GRACE



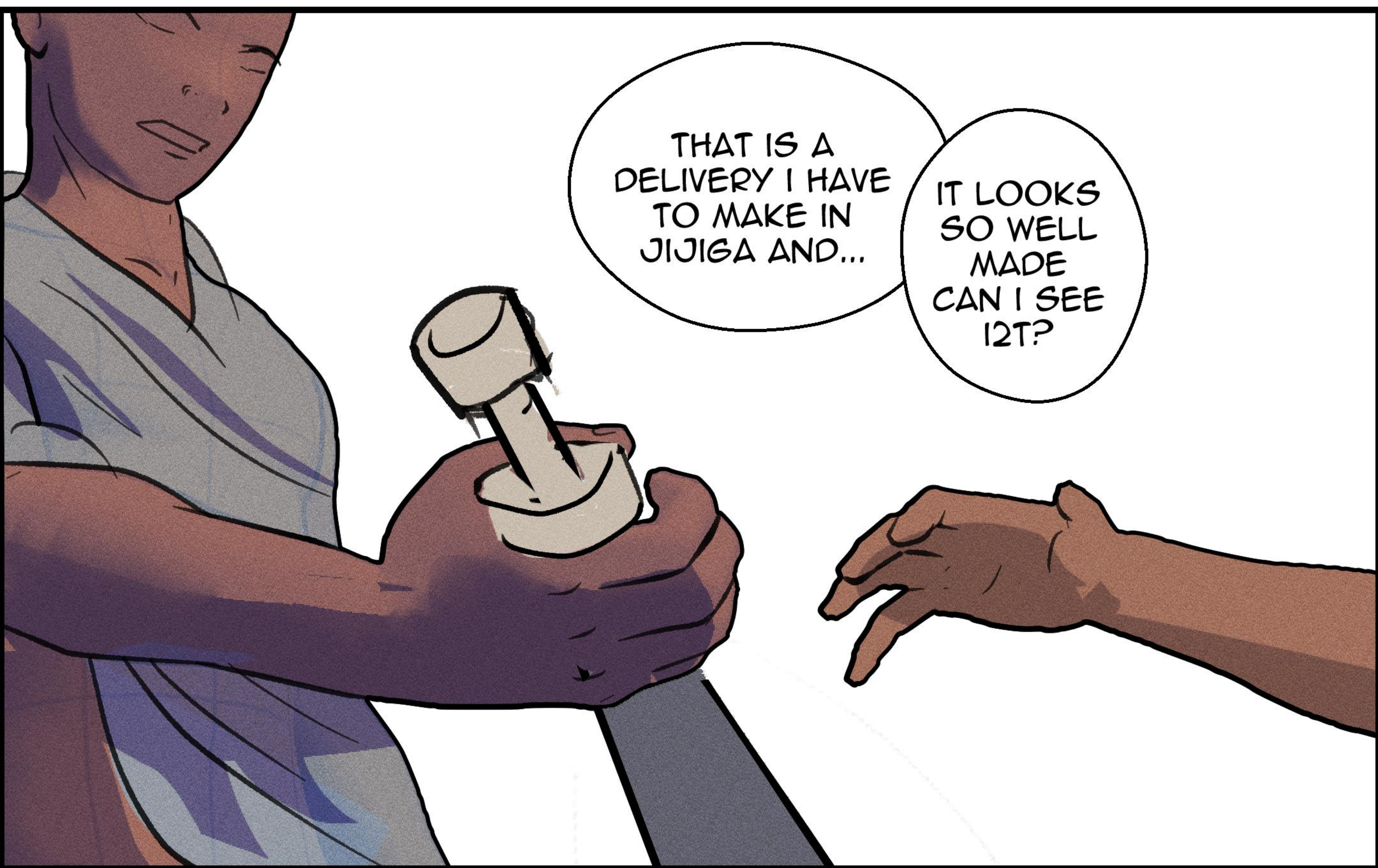
AN HONOR TO  
SEE YOU AGAIN.  
DO YOU  
REMEMBER ME? I  
PLAYED KRAR @  
YOUR  
DAUGHTER'S  
WEDDING IN THE  
GHION HOTEL,  
LAST  
SEPTEMBER!"



OH, HELLO!











HOW MUCH  
DO YOU  
WANT FOR IT?

OH LOL. I  
WOULD NEVER  
SELL THAT.  
NOT IN A  
THOUSAND  
YEARS

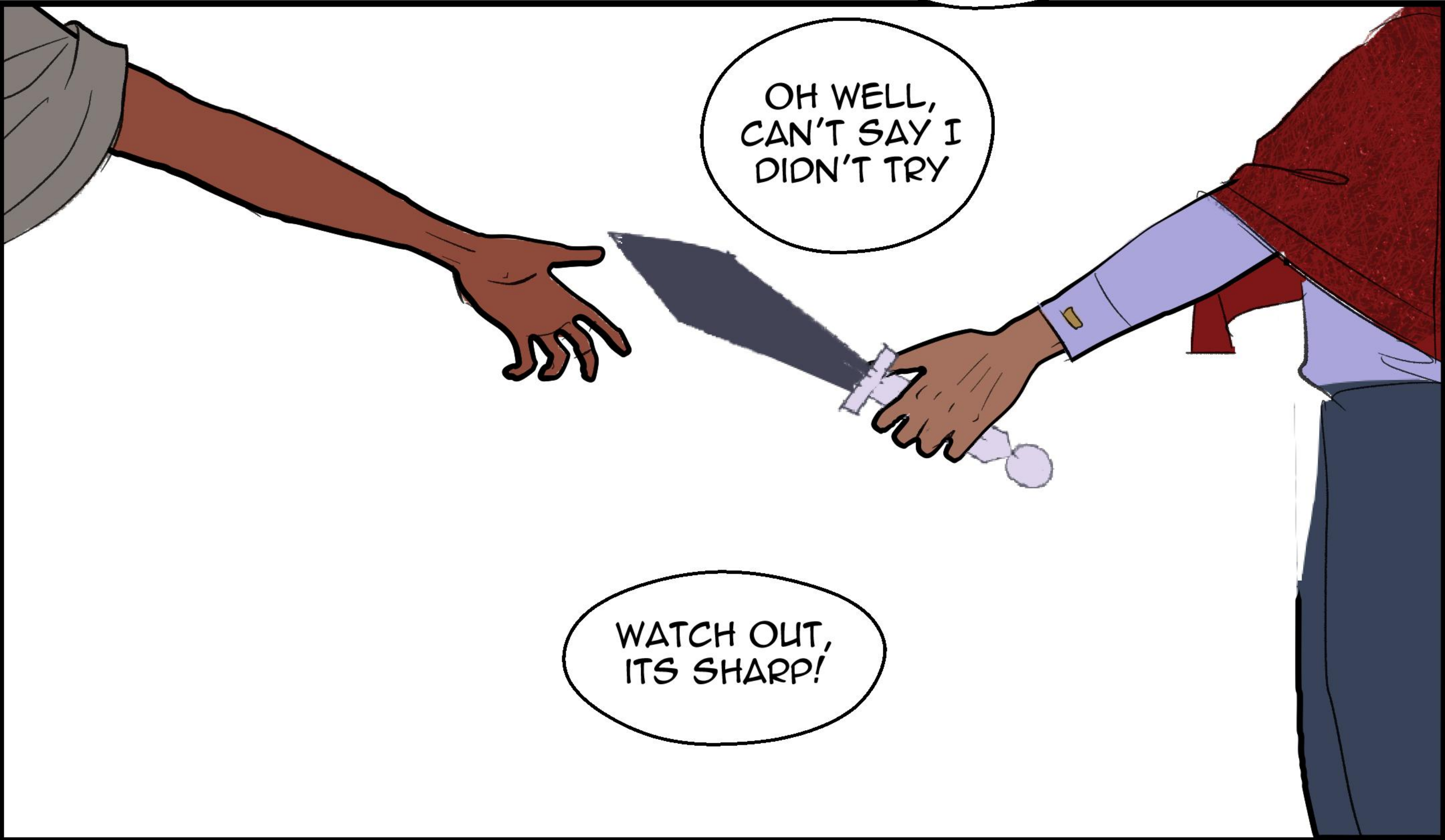


ARE YOU  
CERTAIN? I  
CAN OFFER U  
A LOT. FINAL  
ANSWER?

AS FINAL AS IT  
CAN GETD



I THINK  
HIS  
MIND IS  
SET



OH WELL,  
CAN'T SAY I  
DIDN'T TRY

WATCH OUT,  
ITS SHARP!



I'M HEADING  
OFF NOW, BUT IF  
YOU CHANGE  
YOUR MIND, I'LL  
BE IN DIRE DAWA  
FOR THE  
CELEBRATION OF  
THE NEW TRAINS,  
AS THE OLD  
ONES ARE BEING  
RETIRED.



HAVE TO GO  
NOW:  
THERE'S A  
CELEBRATION  
AT DIRE  
DAWA.

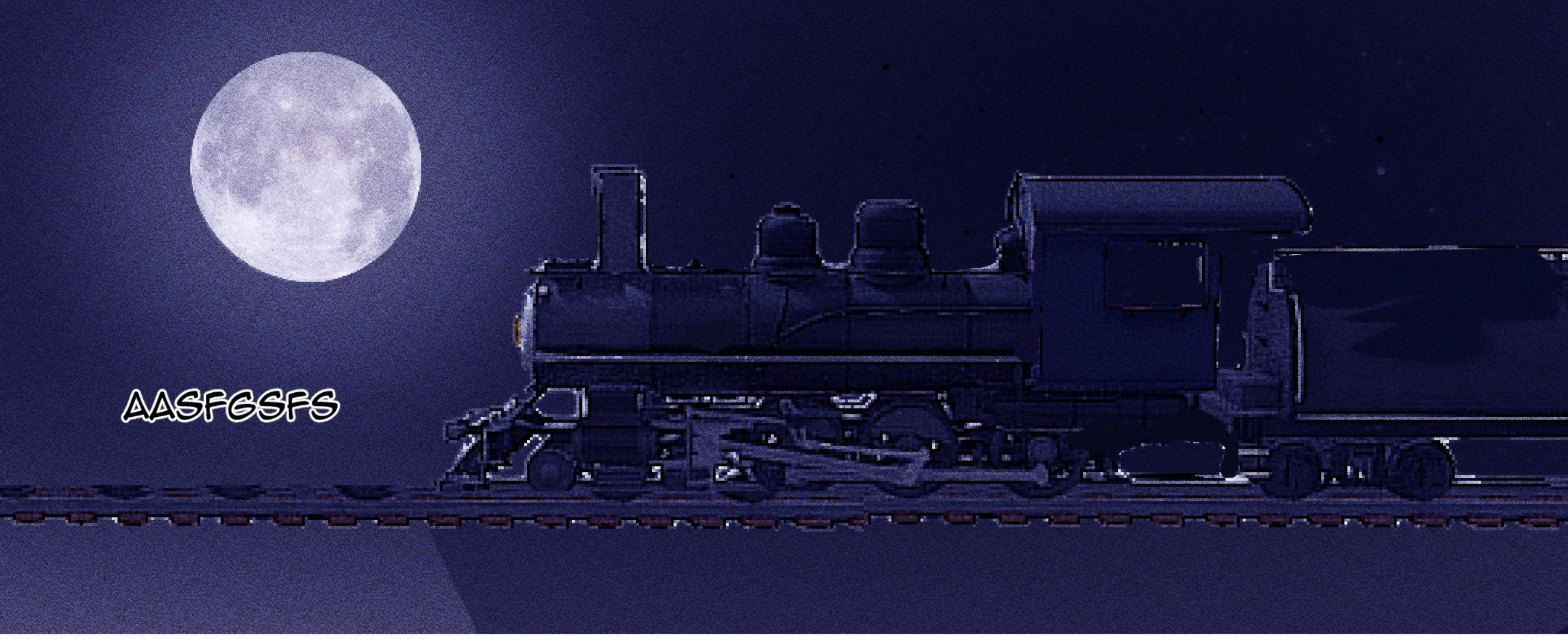


OH AND  
ALSO  
PLEASE  
FEEL FREE  
TO STAY @  
MY VIP  
QUARTERS!!

HOW KIND!  
THANK YOU SO  
MUCH!

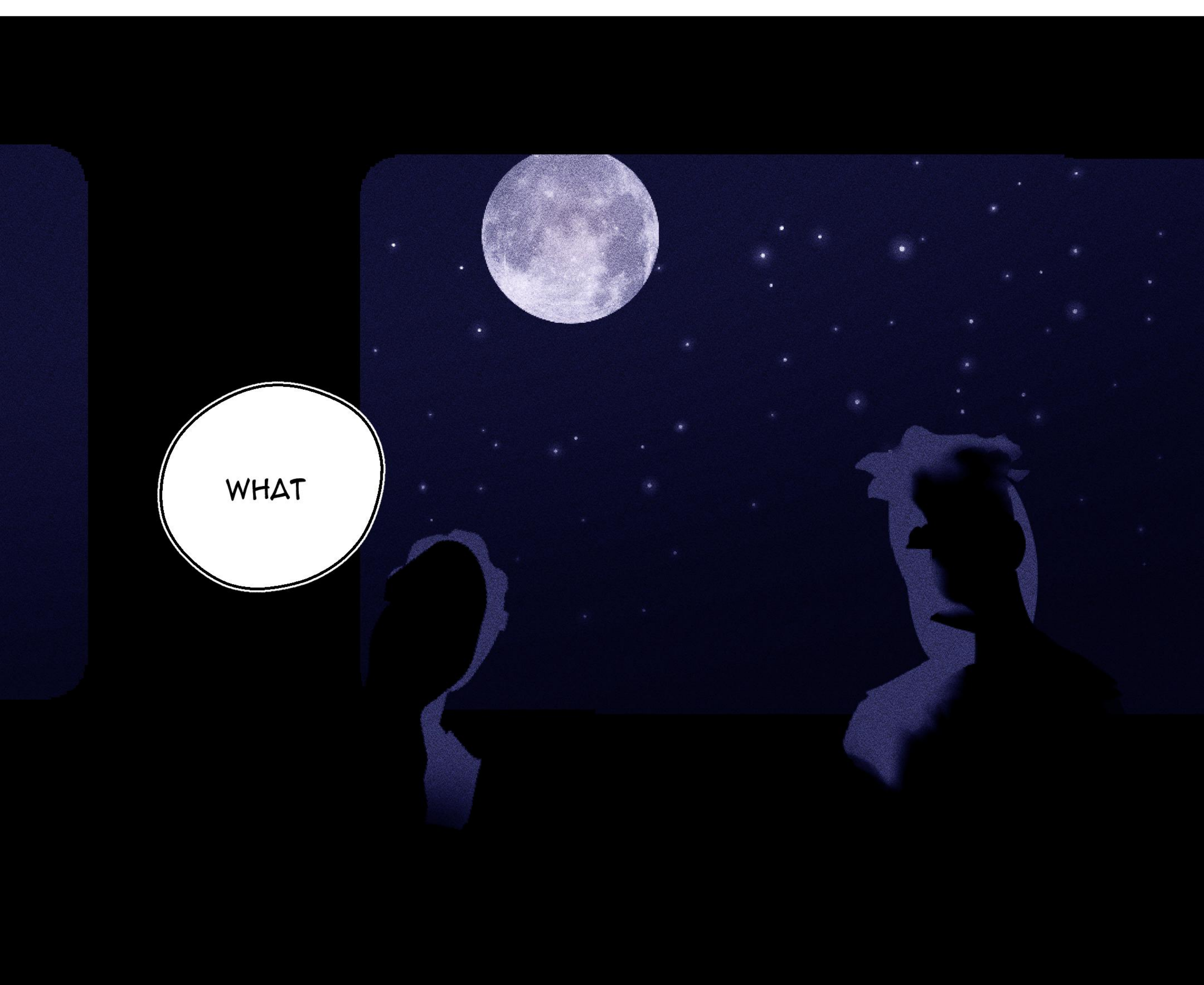






AASFGSFS

DO YOU HEAR  
THAT?



WHAT





WHAT THE...



IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
THE BATHROOM  
YOU'RE WAY OFF



£\*££  
\$#\$  
£^!!!



**BANG**

TAKE THAT!

HE'S GETTING  
AWAY UP THE  
LADDER!

OH NO  
YOU  
DONT!!













SPLASH!!!

OMG,  
THE  
DAGGER  
IS  
GONE!!  
HE  
TOOK IT!

O, HE DID NOT!  
I HID IT  
EARLIER!

I WAS  
GOING  
TO TELL  
YOU --

I WANTED TO HAVE  
A CLOSER LOOK AT  
IT AND STUDY IT.





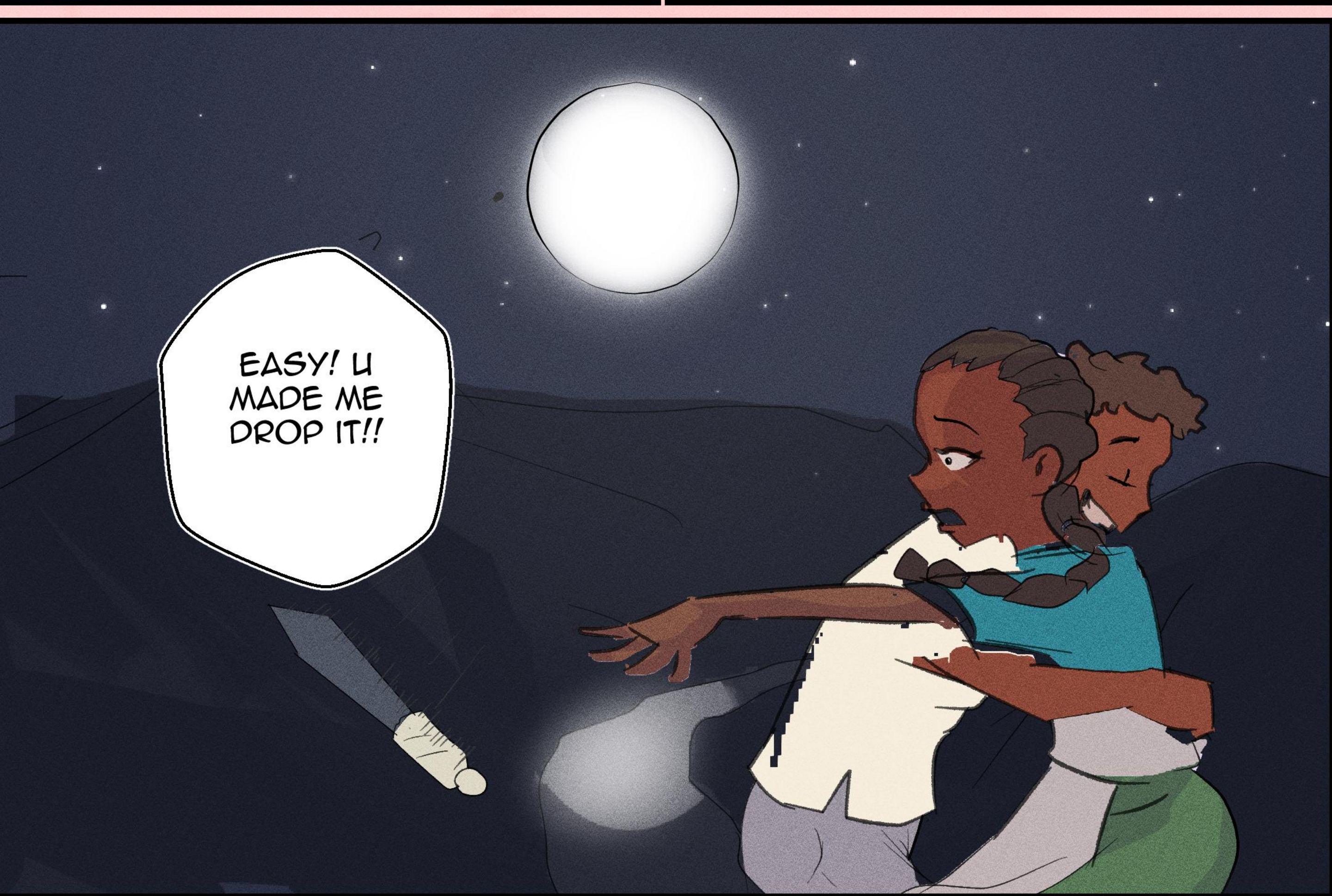
I WANTED TO  
STUDY IT  
MORE



AND....



...THE  
LETTER  
TOO



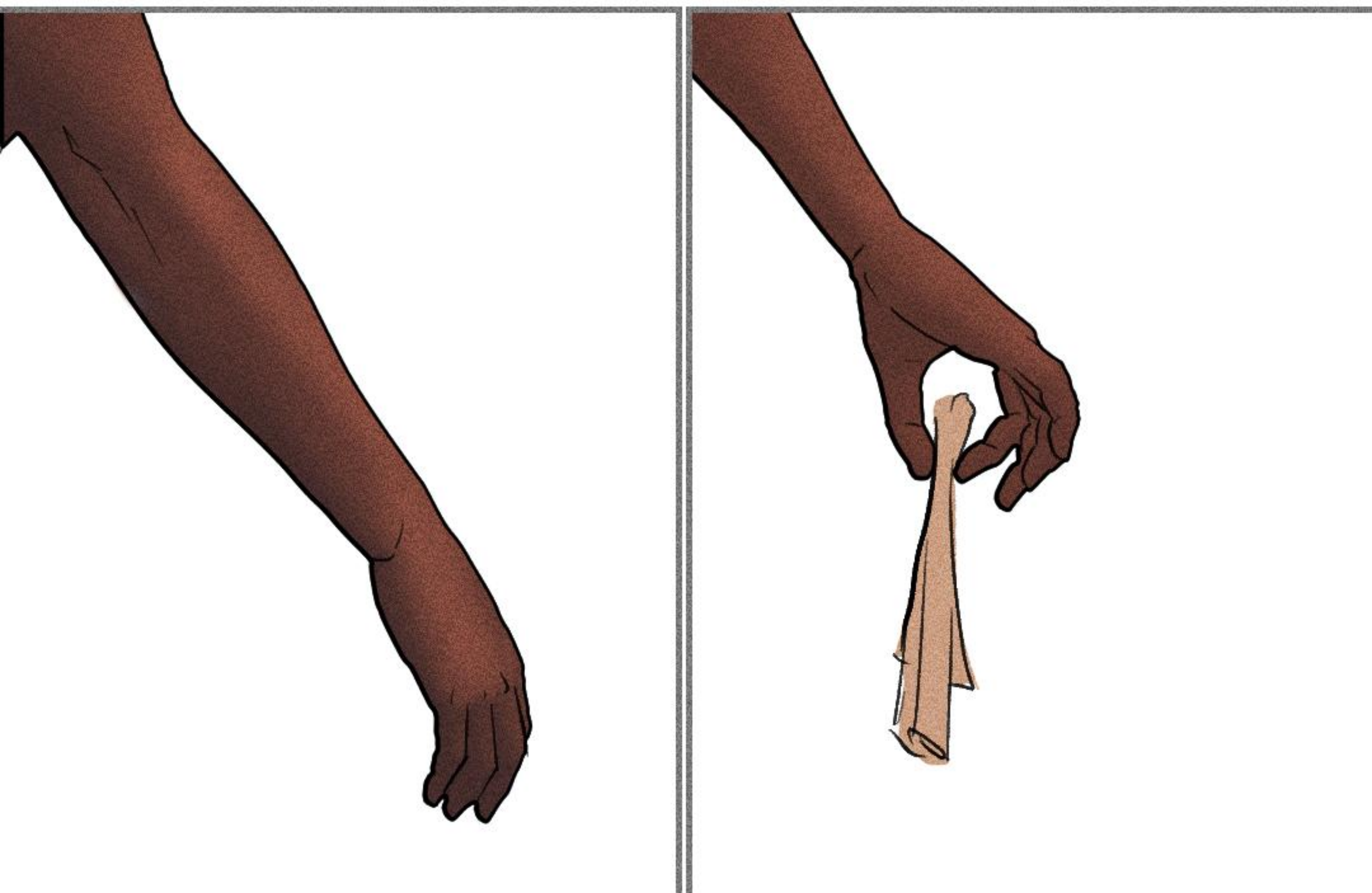
EASY! U  
MADE ME  
DROP IT!!



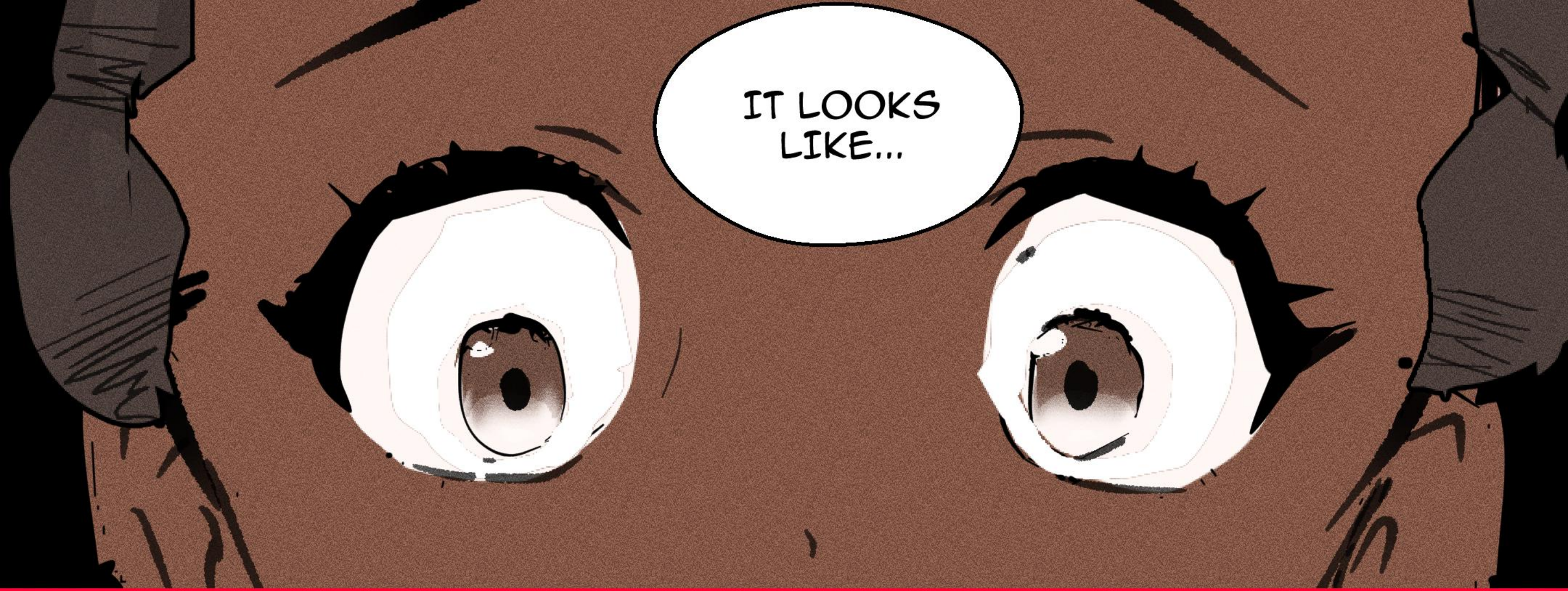
YOU BROKE  
IT!

YOU  
PUSHED  
ME!!

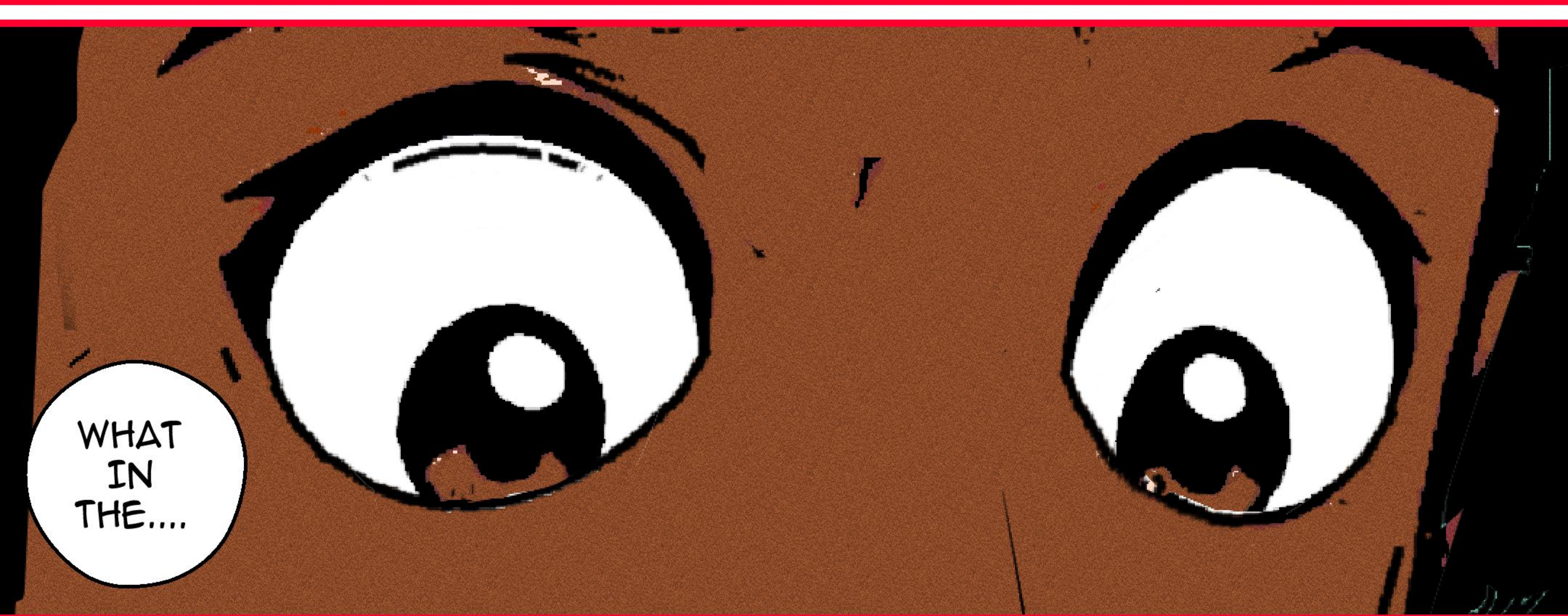
DO YOU SEE  
THAT??  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
INSIDE!... IS  
THAT...







IT LOOKS  
LIKE...



WHAT  
IN  
THE....



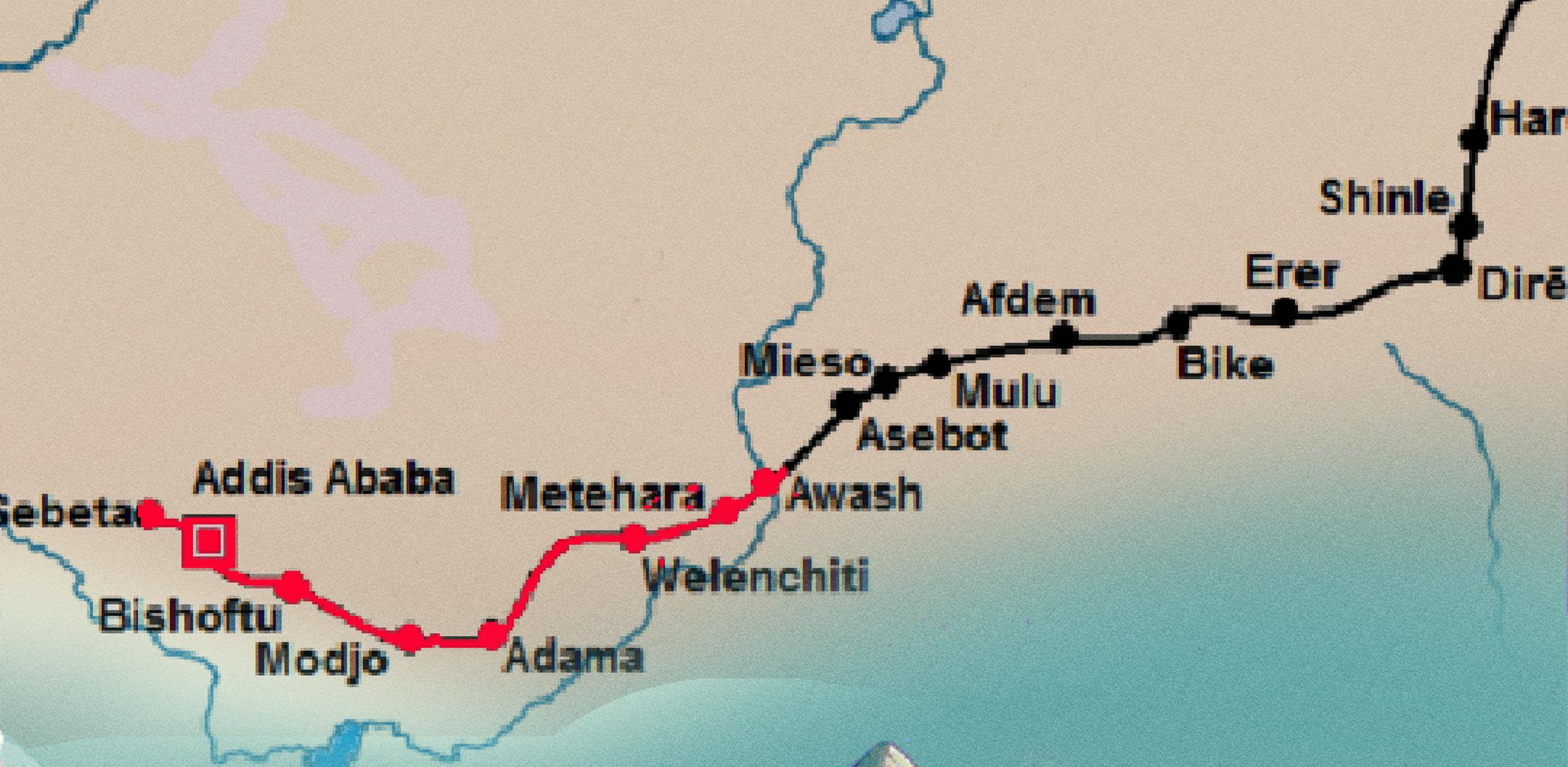
! LOOKS LIKE  
THE REAL  
JOURNEY IS  
JUST  
BEGINNING



# CHAPTER







AWASH





YUSUF'S MELODIES WERE SWEETER THAN RIPE  
SPRING CORN AND HE SANG WITH THE FREVOR  
OF DAWN BREAKING OUT OVER QUIET HILLS



AT THE END THERE WAS  
ENOUGH TO BUY SOME  
THINGS WE NEEDED



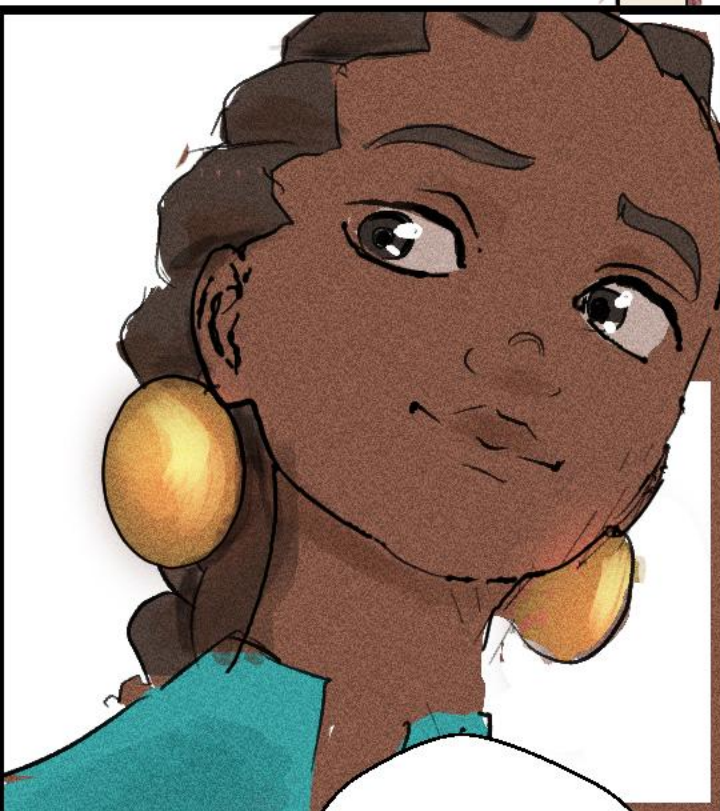
SO WE WENT  
TO THE  
MARKET



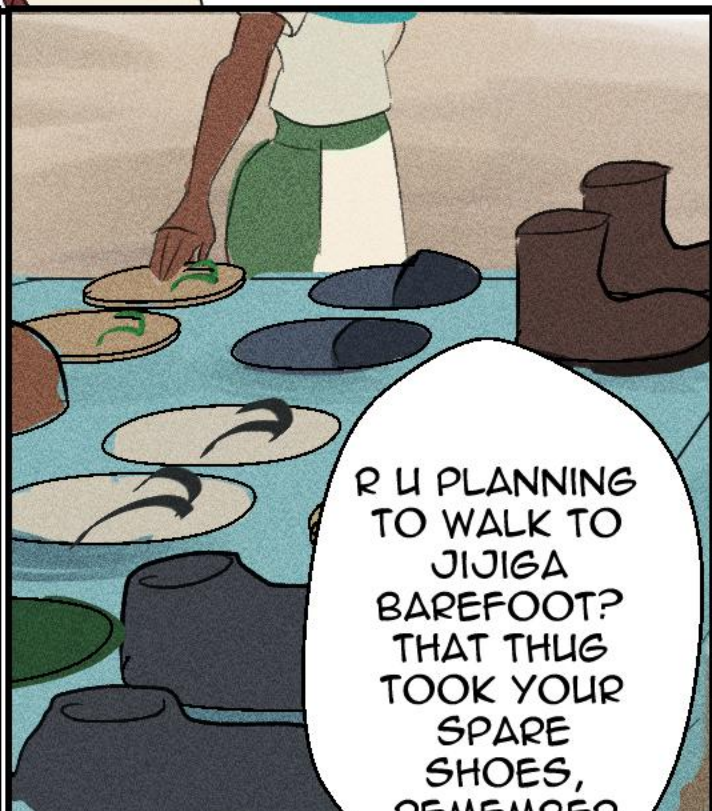
THE SUN  
HIT SO  
HARD  
EVEN THE  
SHADOWS  
WERE  
LOOKING  
FOR SHADE



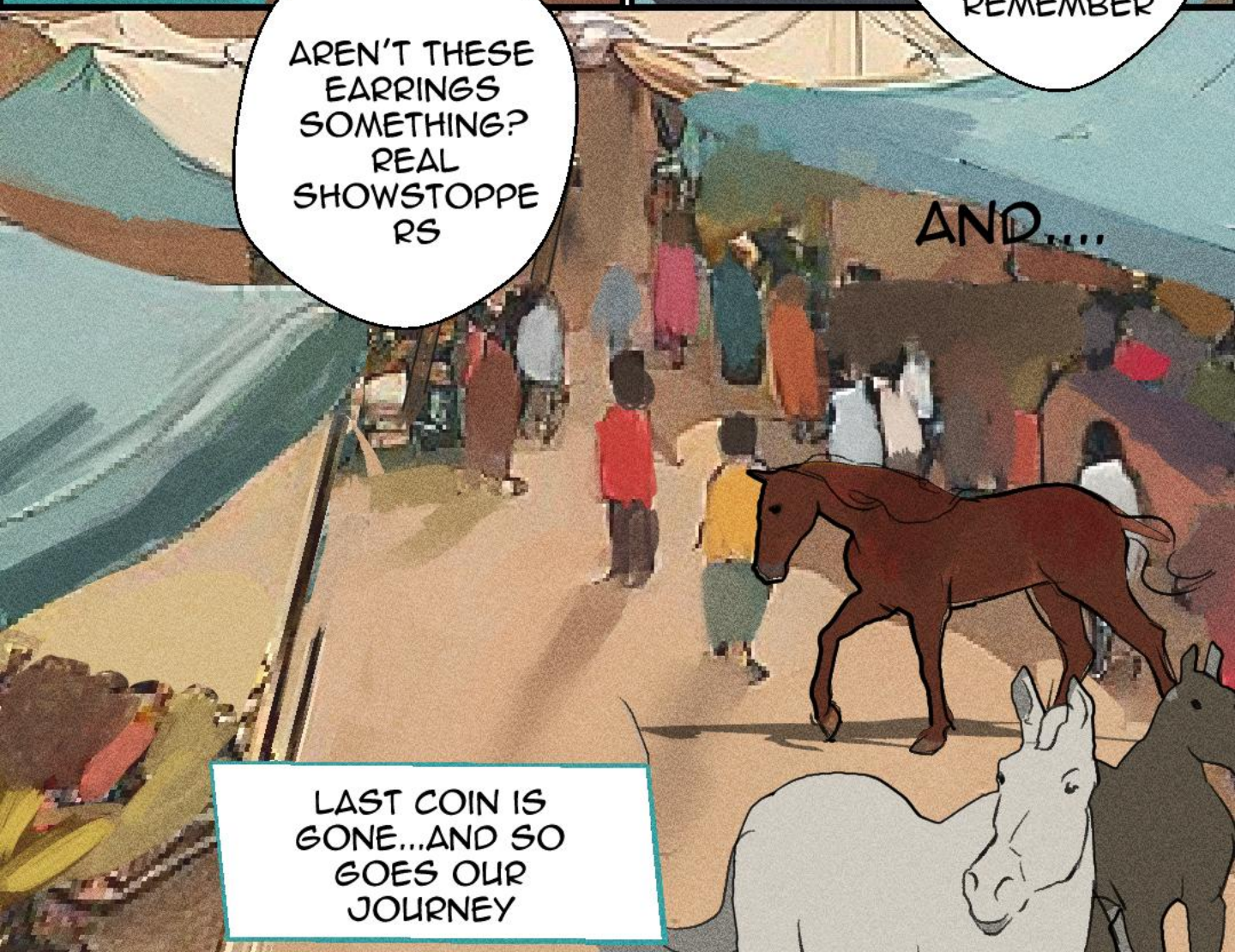
THIS REALLY  
HELPS WITH  
THE HEAT  
THANKS!



AREN'T THESE  
EARRINGS  
SOMETHING?  
REAL  
SHOWSTOPPE  
RS



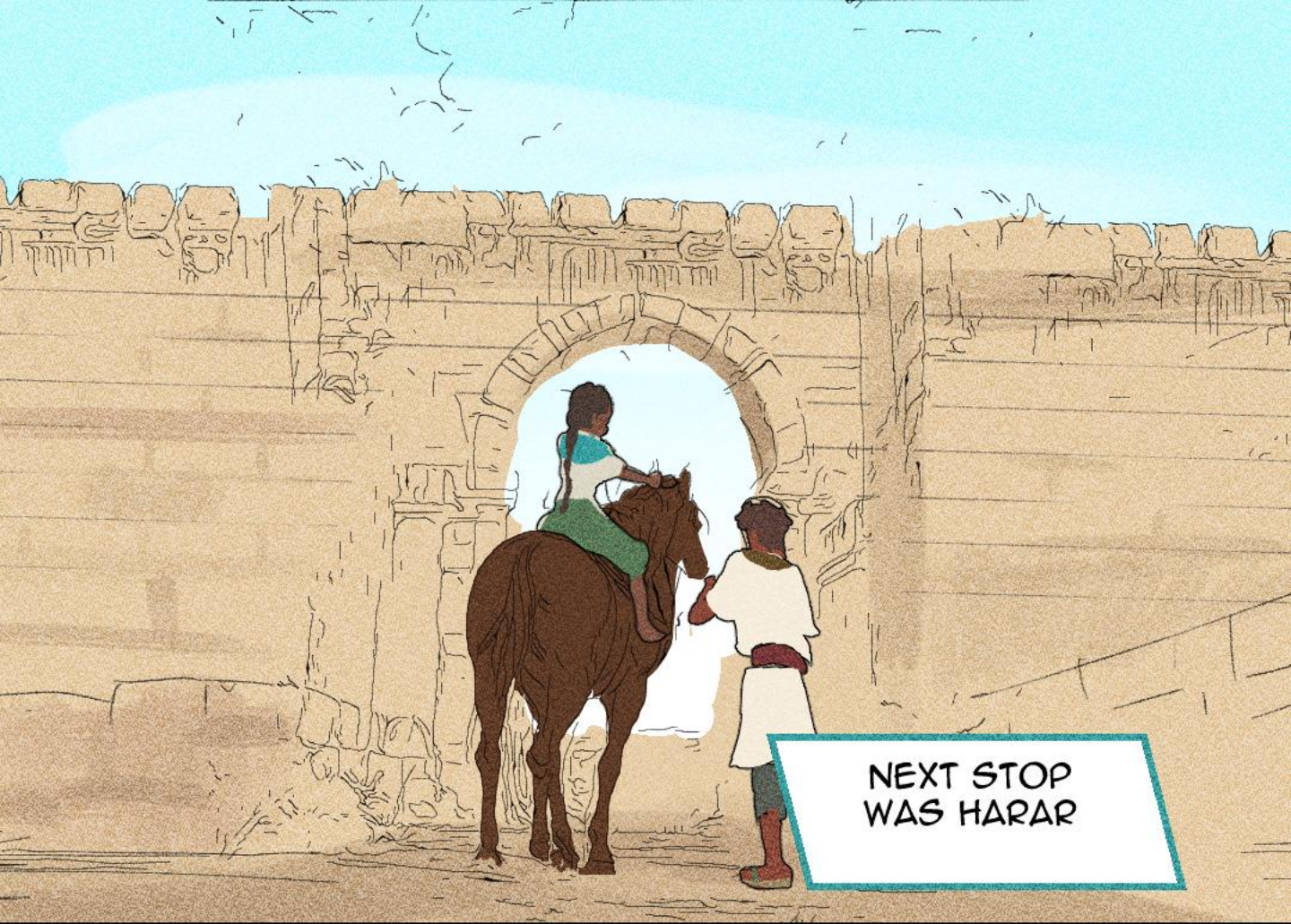
R U PLANNING  
TO WALK TO  
JIJIGA  
BAREFOOT?  
THAT THUG  
TOOK YOUR  
SPARE  
SHOES,  
REMEMBER



AND....

LAST COIN IS  
GONE...AND SO  
GOES OUR  
JOURNEY



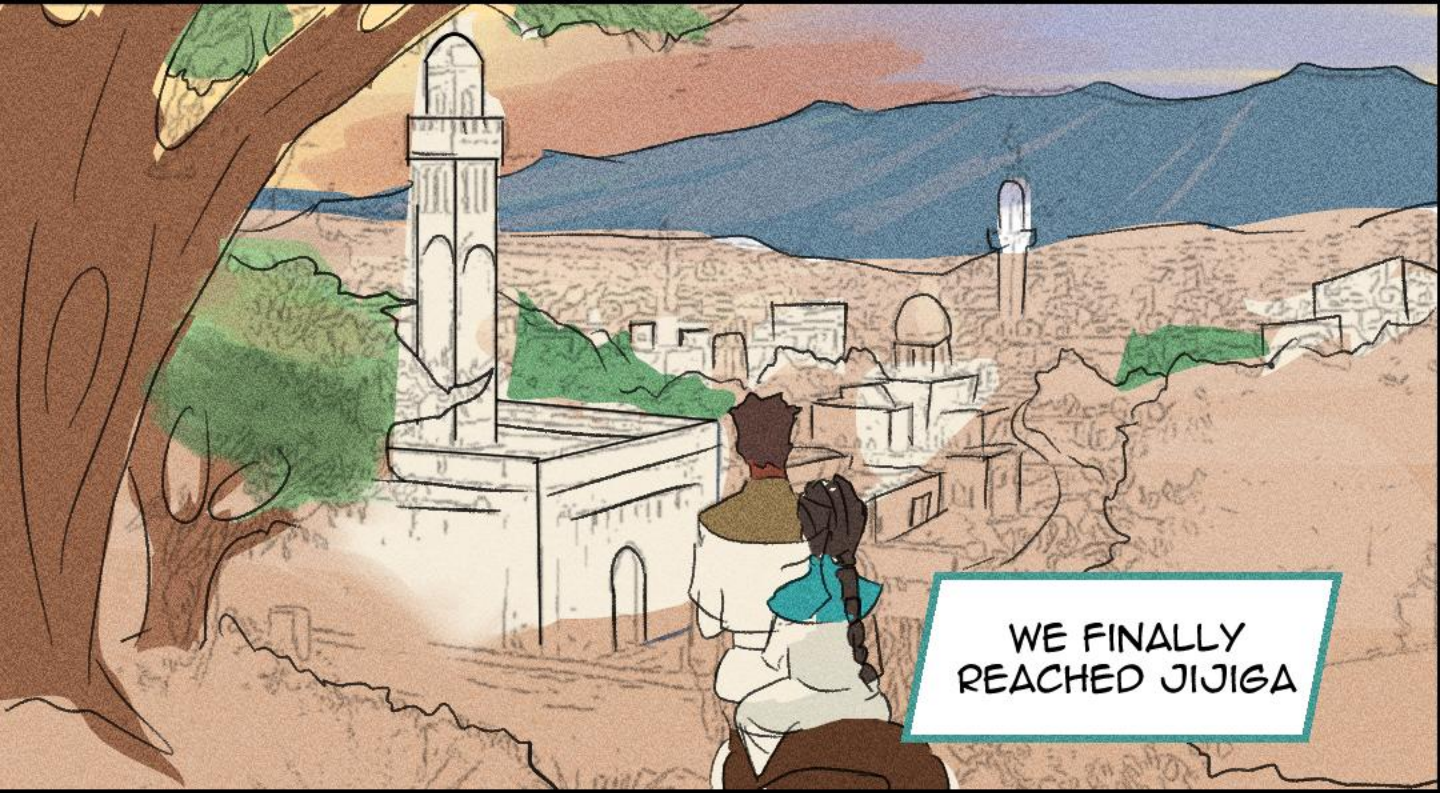


NEXT STOP  
WAS HARAR

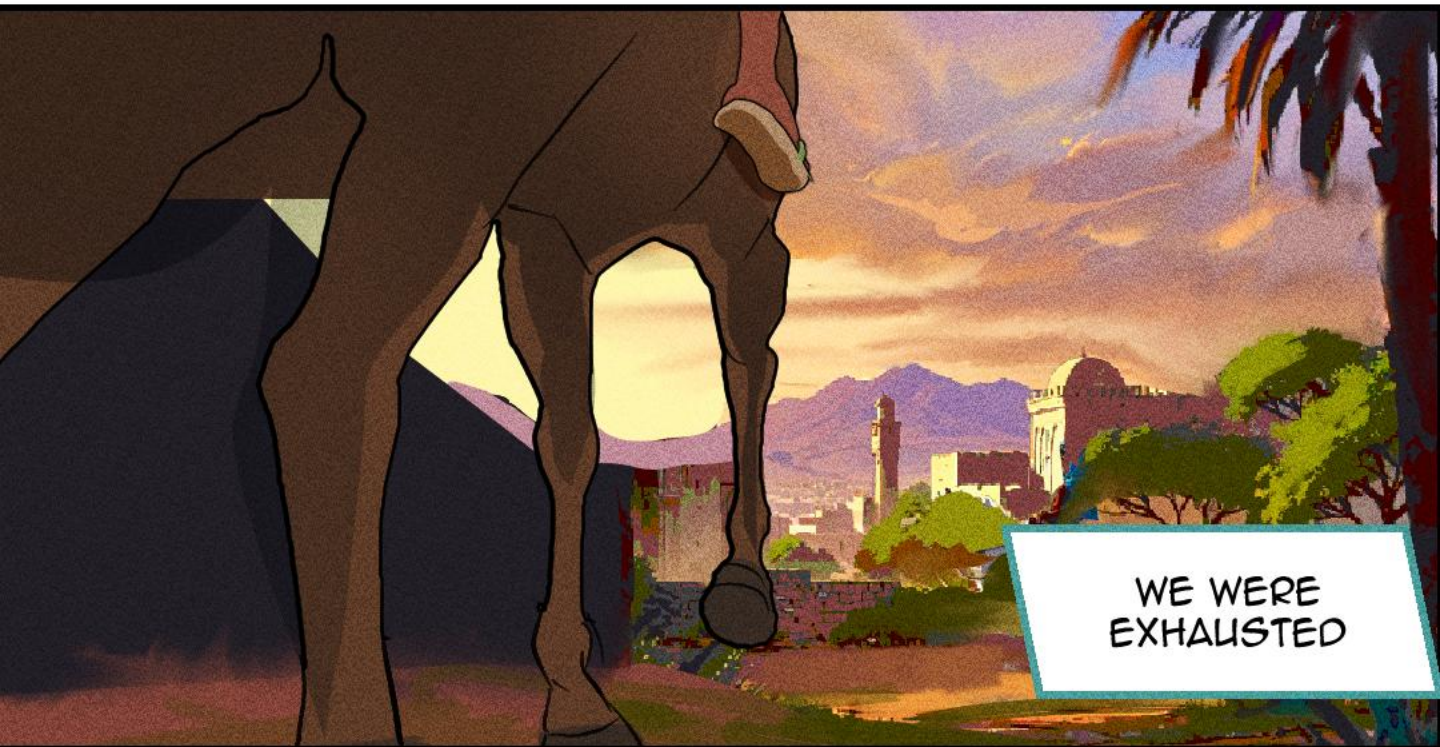
BUT WE  
COULDN'T  
STAY FOR A  
MINUTE. WE  
WERE ON A  
MISSION



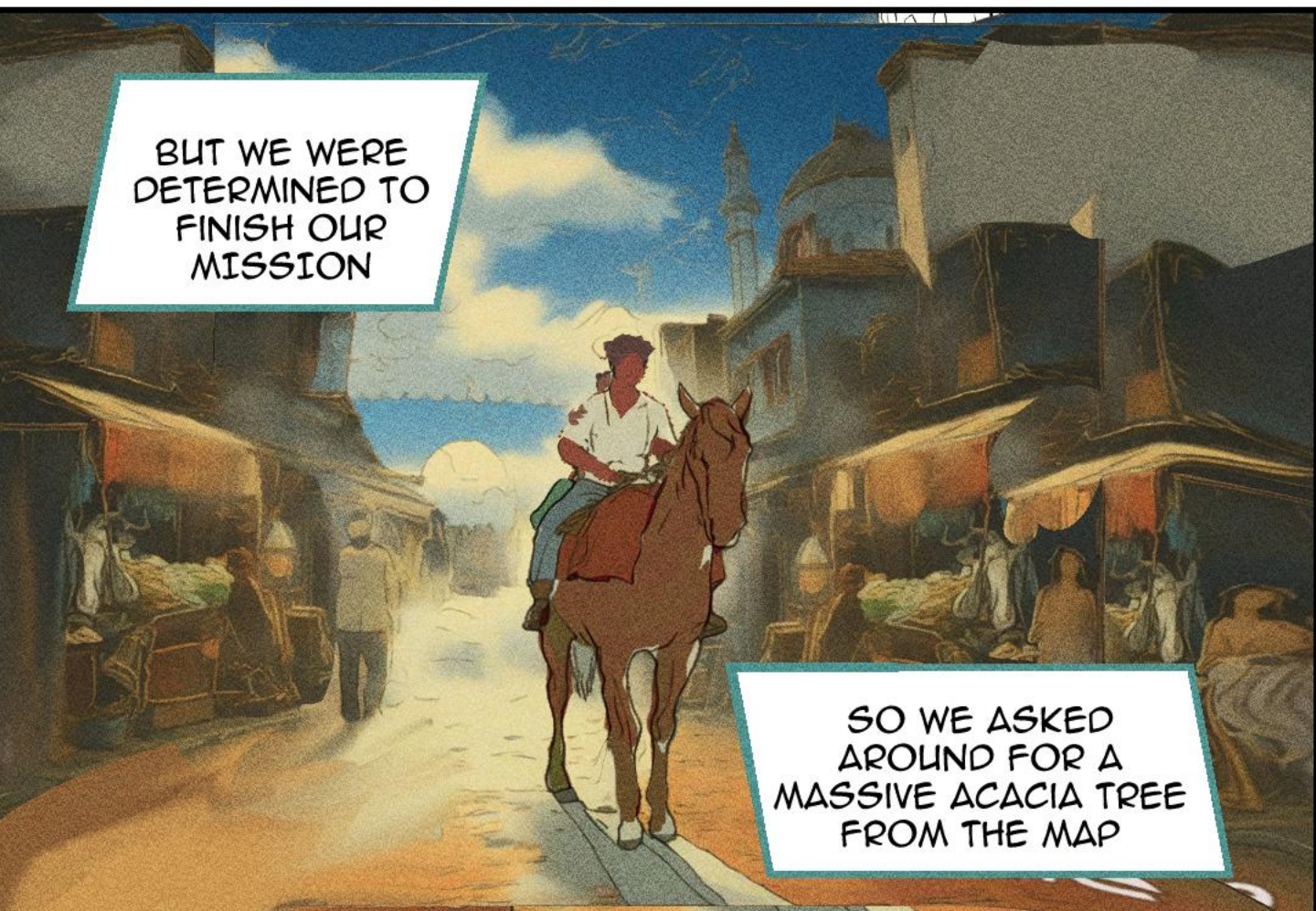




WE FINALLY  
REACHED JIJIGA



WE WERE  
EXHAUSTED



BUT WE WERE  
DETERMINED TO  
FINISH OUR  
MISSION

SO WE ASKED  
AROUND FOR A  
MASSIVE ACACIA TREE  
FROM THE MAP





LOOKS  
LIKE WE  
ARE  
HERE.

AND WE  
FOUND IT



HE KEPT  
DIGGING AND  
DIGGING



....FOUND  
SOMETHING!!

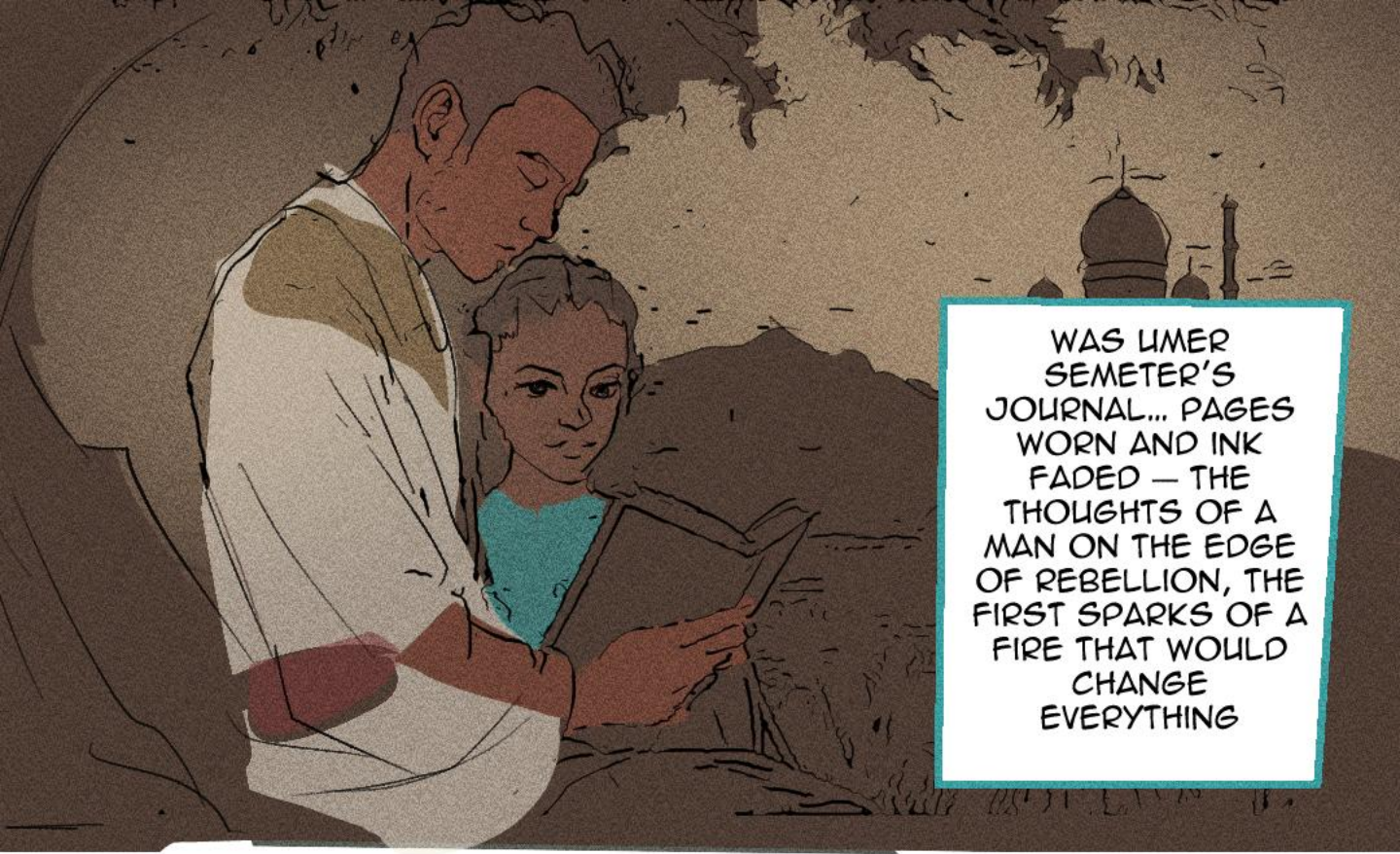


ITS...

BOOKS AND  
WRITINGS

I WAS HOPING IT  
WAS TREASURE TO  
BE FRANK.





WAS UMER  
SEMETER'S  
JOURNAL... PAGES  
WORN AND INK  
FADED — THE  
THOUGHTS OF A  
MAN ON THE EDGE  
OF REBELLION, THE  
FIRST SPARKS OF A  
FIRE THAT WOULD  
CHANGE  
EVERYTHING



THOSE  
WORDS  
PAVED OUR  
NEXT STEPS



WE WENT  
SHOPPING  
FOR  
SUPPLIES





THEY MIGHT  
LOOK LIKE  
HIS BUT THEY  
DONT  
COMPARE

I MEAN... THE  
HISTORY  
ALONE.

OF COURSE,  
THERE IS NO  
COMPARISON.  
UMAR PROBABLY  
USED THE BLADE  
DURING HIS  
LIBERATION  
CAMPAIGNS



AND UNITED  
THE PEOPLE!!



AND FREED  
THEM FROM  
THE IRON  
GRIP OF  
FASCISM

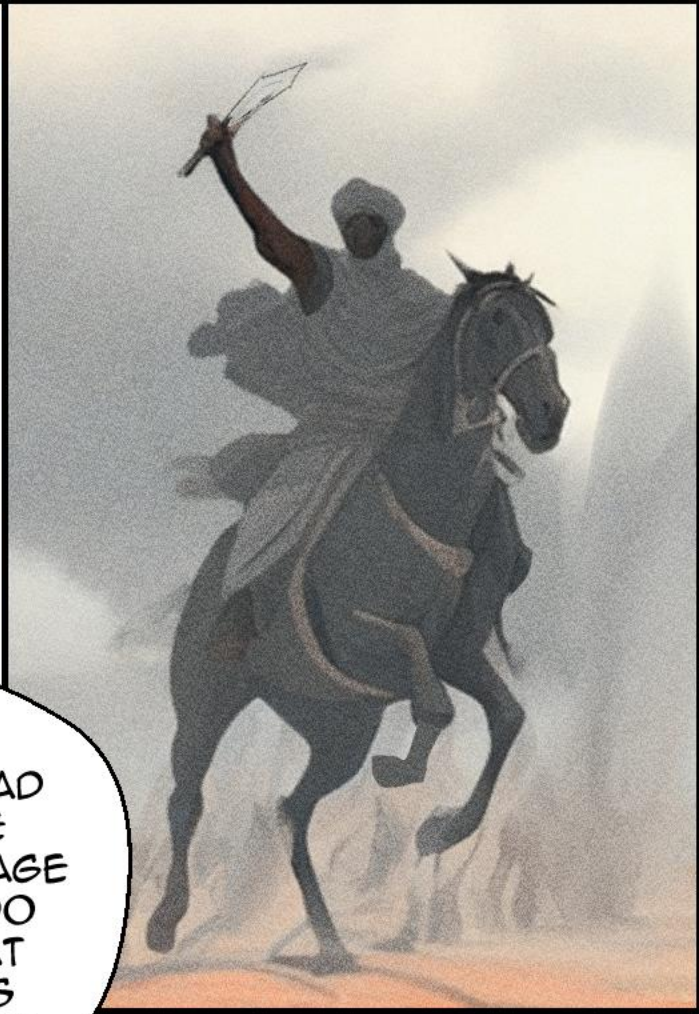


ARM





HE HAD  
THE  
COURAGE  
TO DO  
WHAT  
WAS  
RIGHT



EVEN AT  
THE  
WORST OF  
TIMES



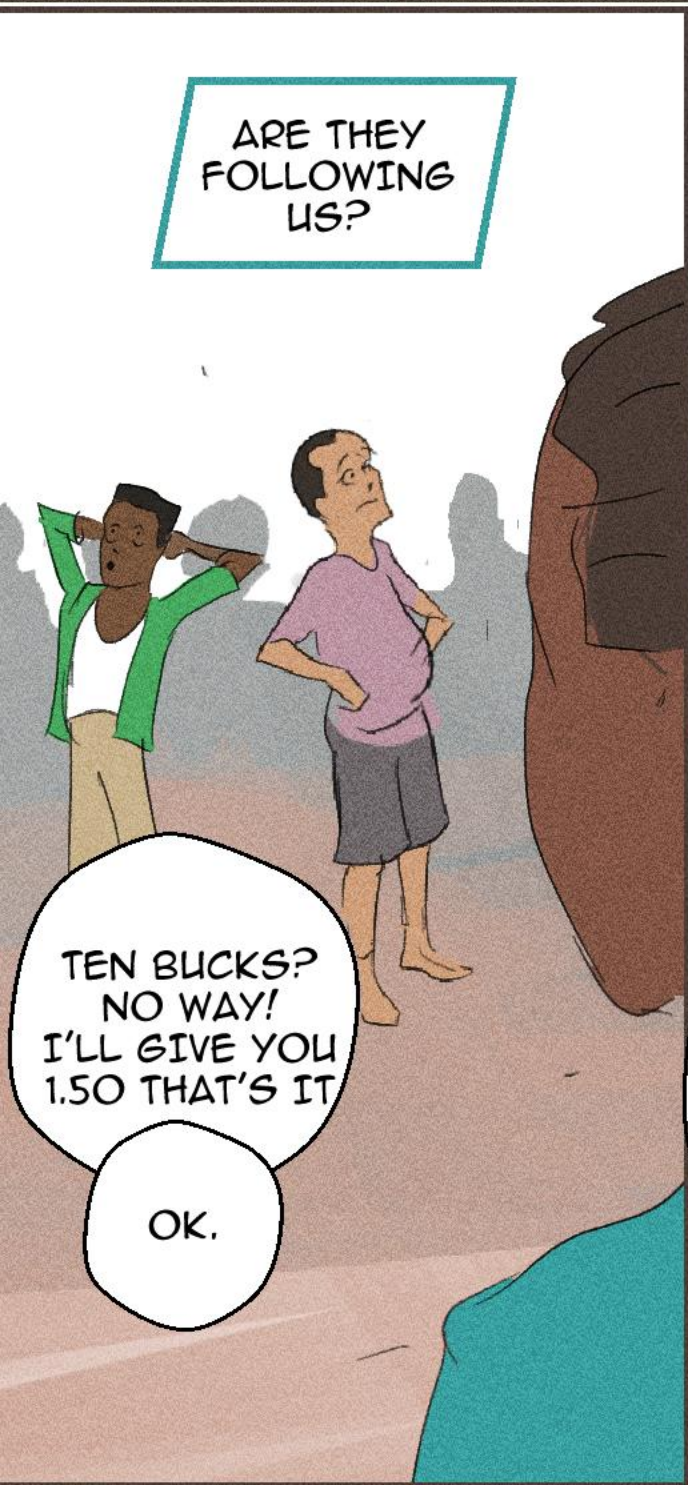




THOSE MEN...  
THEY'VE BEEN  
LURKING  
AROUND US  
FOR A WHILE  
NOW

SHOPKEEPER!  
HOW MUCH IS  
THIS BILAO?  
IM WARMING  
UP TO IT!

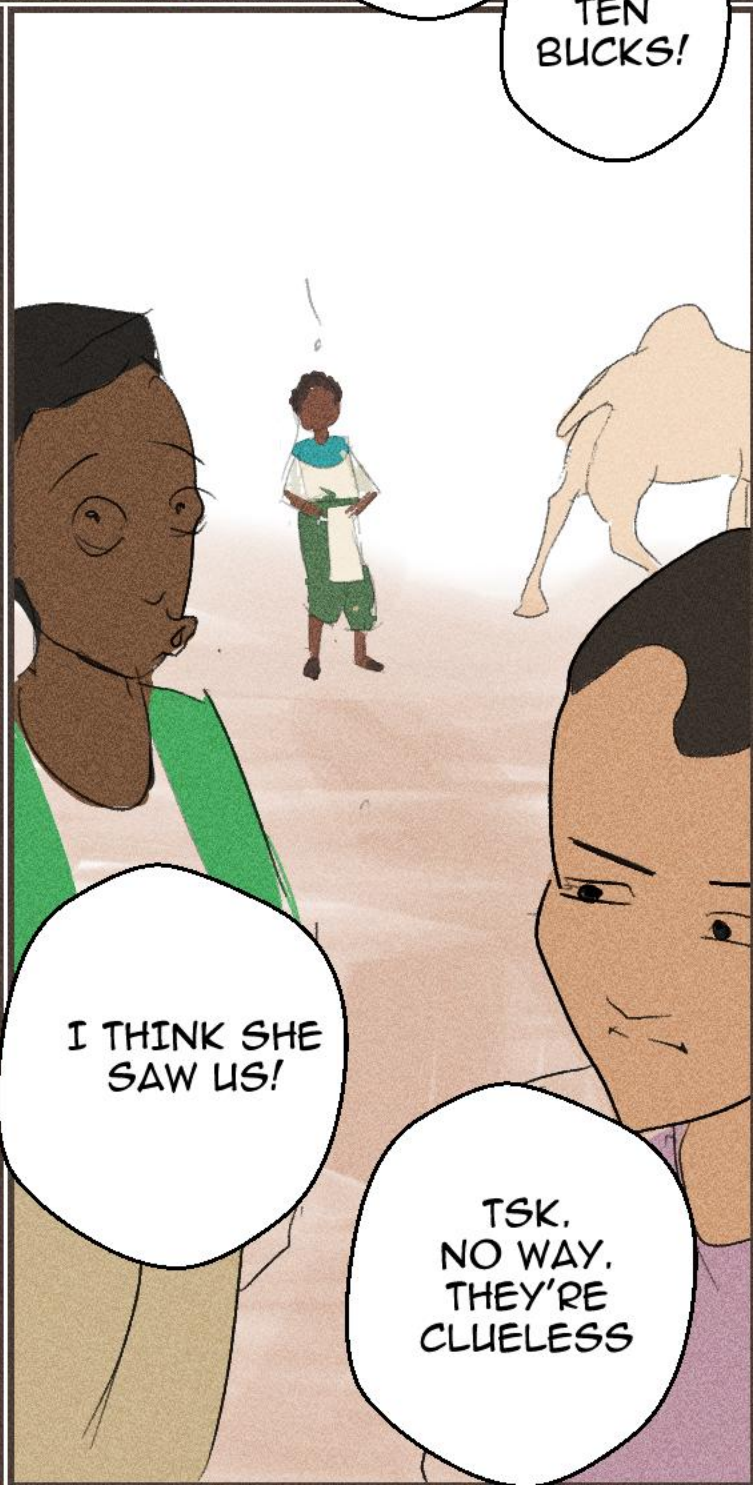
TEN  
BUCKS!



ARE THEY  
FOLLOWING  
US?

TEN BUCKS?  
NO WAY!  
I'LL GIVE YOU  
1.50 THAT'S IT

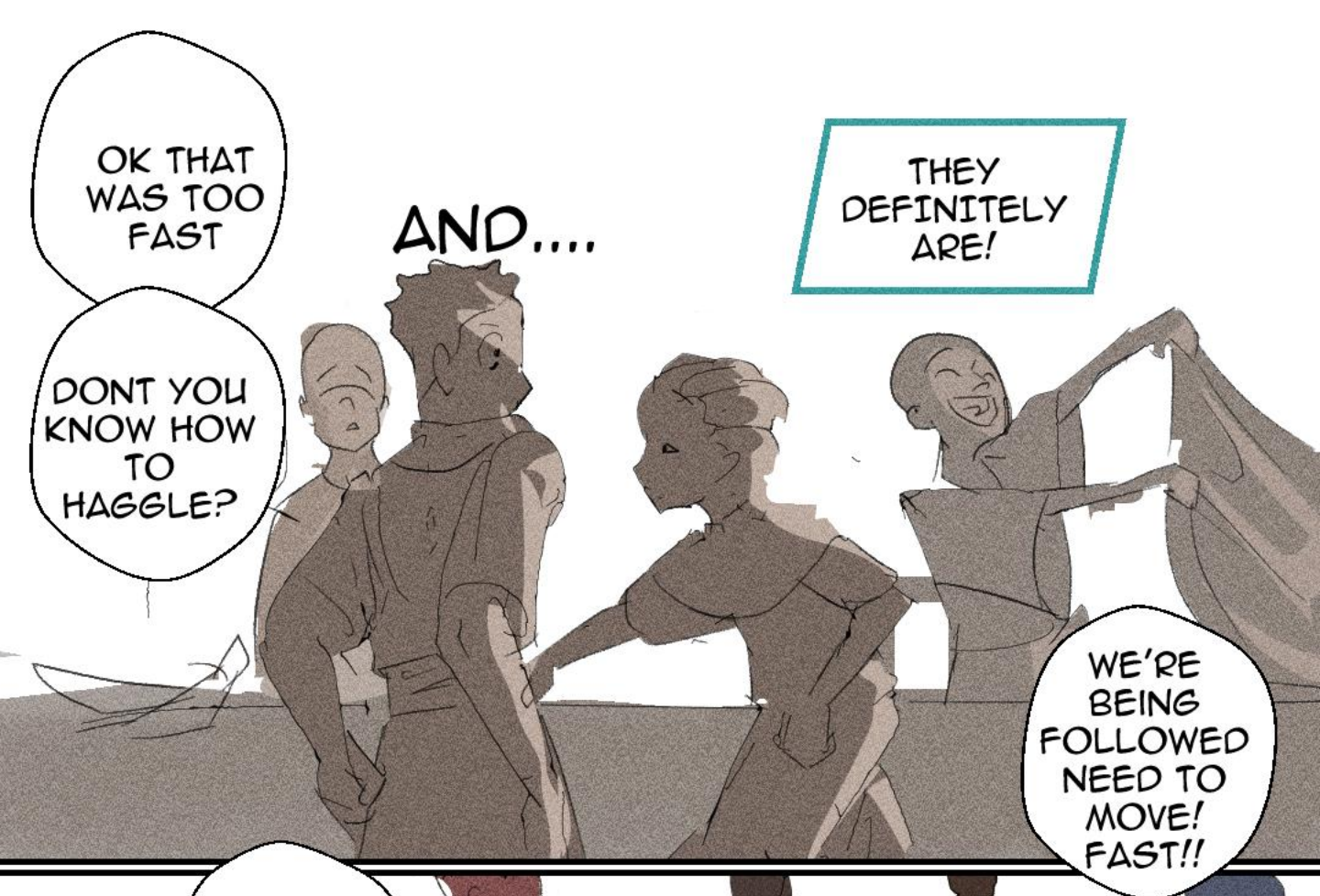
OK.



I THINK SHE  
SAW US!

TSK,  
NO WAY,  
THEY'RE  
CLUELESS







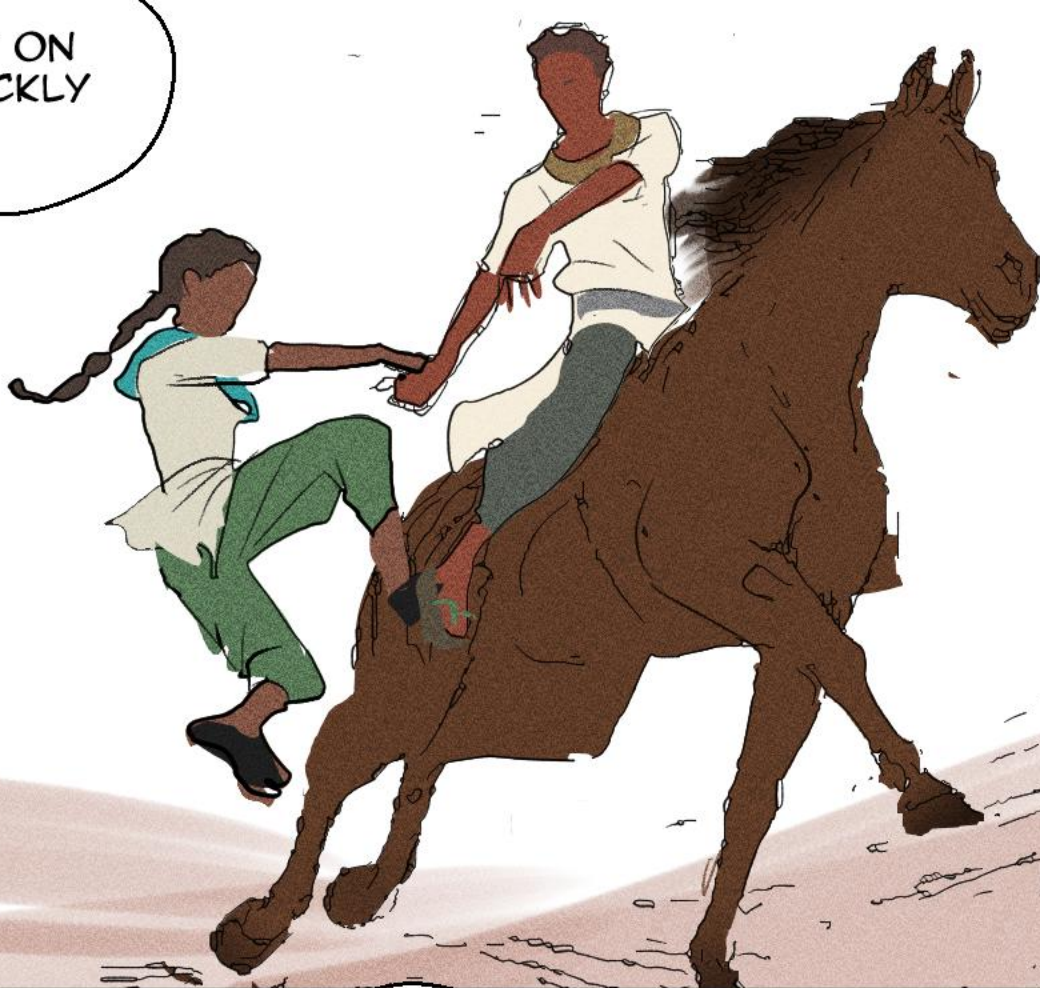
A cartoon illustration depicting a confrontation. At the top, a man in a green shirt and pants is riding a grey horse. He is looking back over his shoulder with a determined expression. A speech bubble from him says "STOP RIGHT NOW!!". Below him, a man with a large afro and a red shirt is lying on the ground, looking up at the horse. In the center, a bald man with a red face is shown in a dynamic pose, punching forward with a powerful fist. His face is contorted with effort, and there are motion lines around his hand. At the bottom, the man with the afro is shown from a different angle, looking up at the puncher with a surprised or pained expression. A speech bubble from him says "TAKE THAT!".

STOP  
RIGHT  
NOW!!

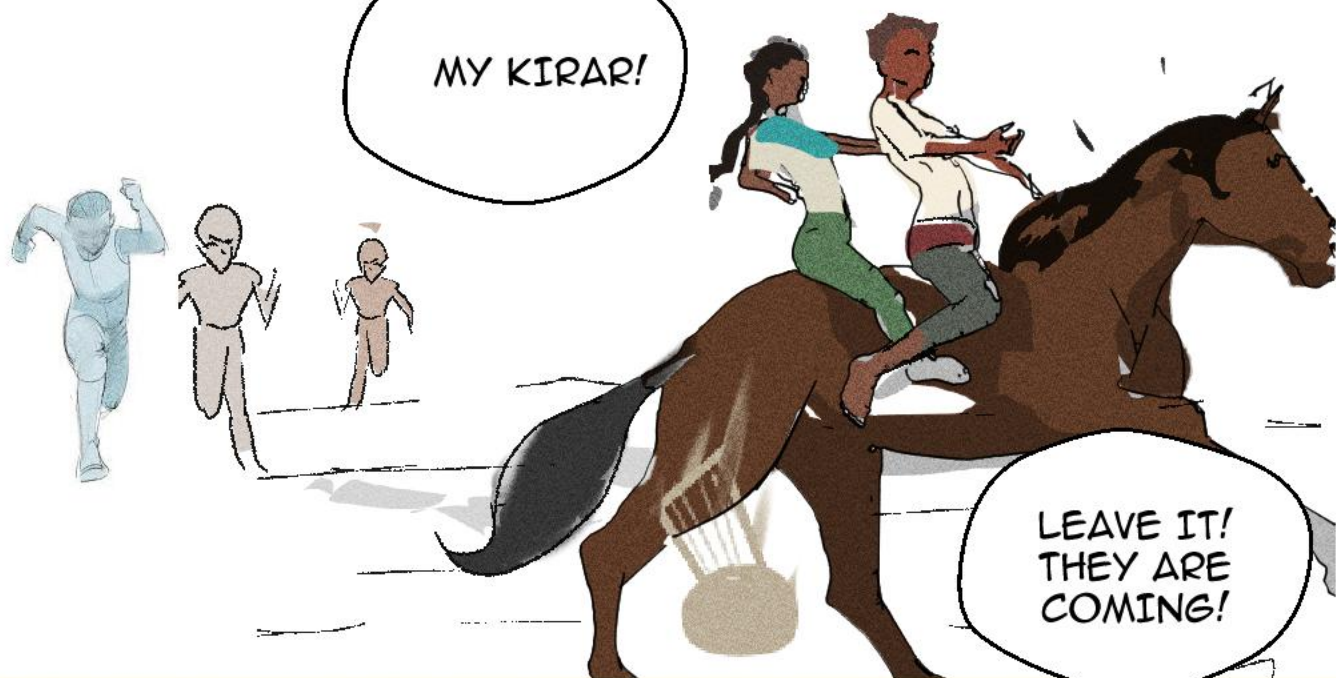
TAKE  
THAT!



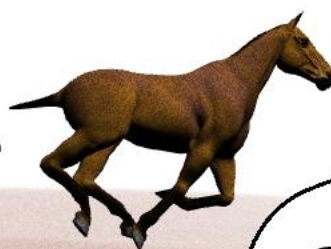
GET ON  
QUICKLY



MY KIRAR!



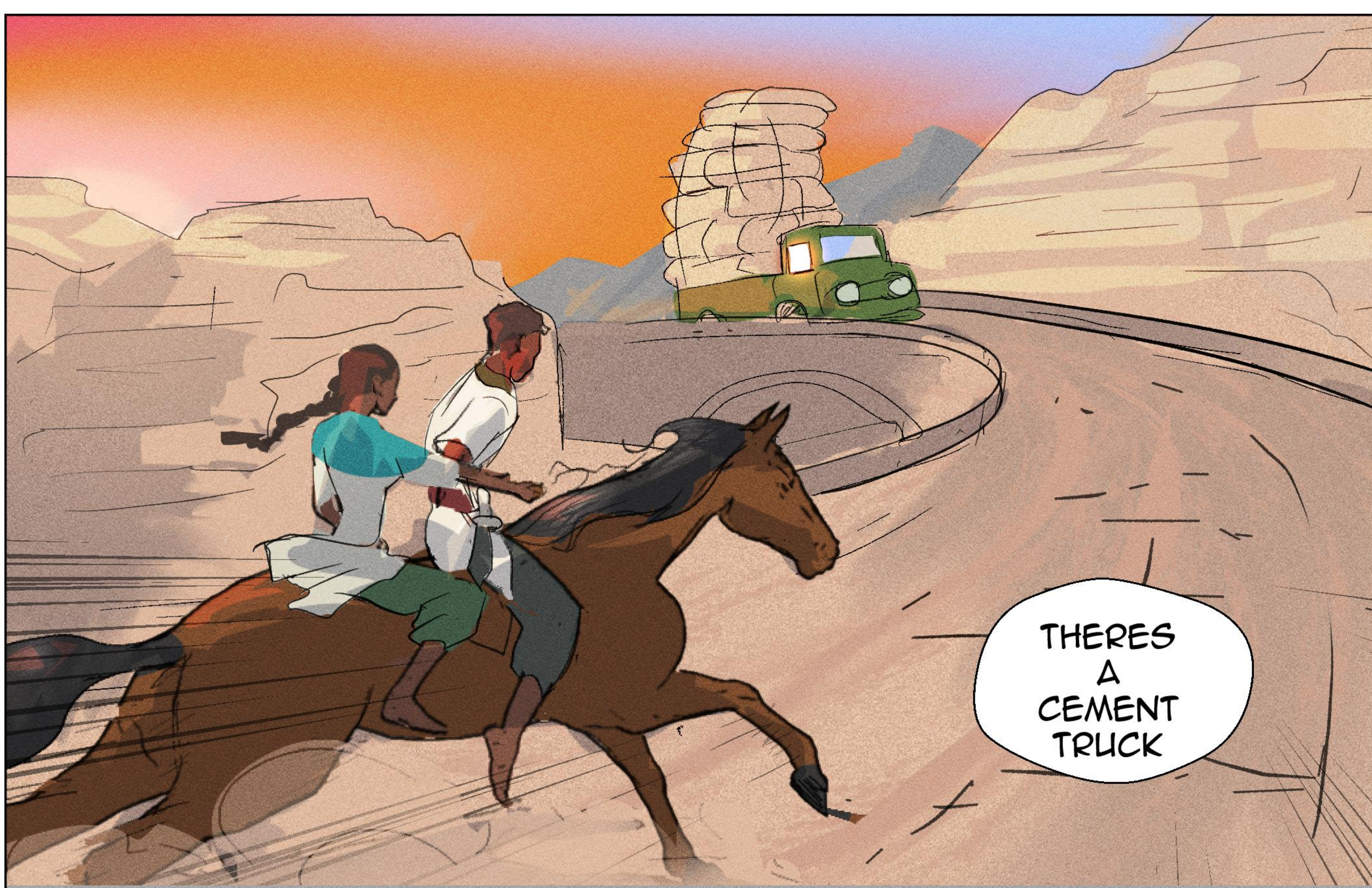
FASTER!



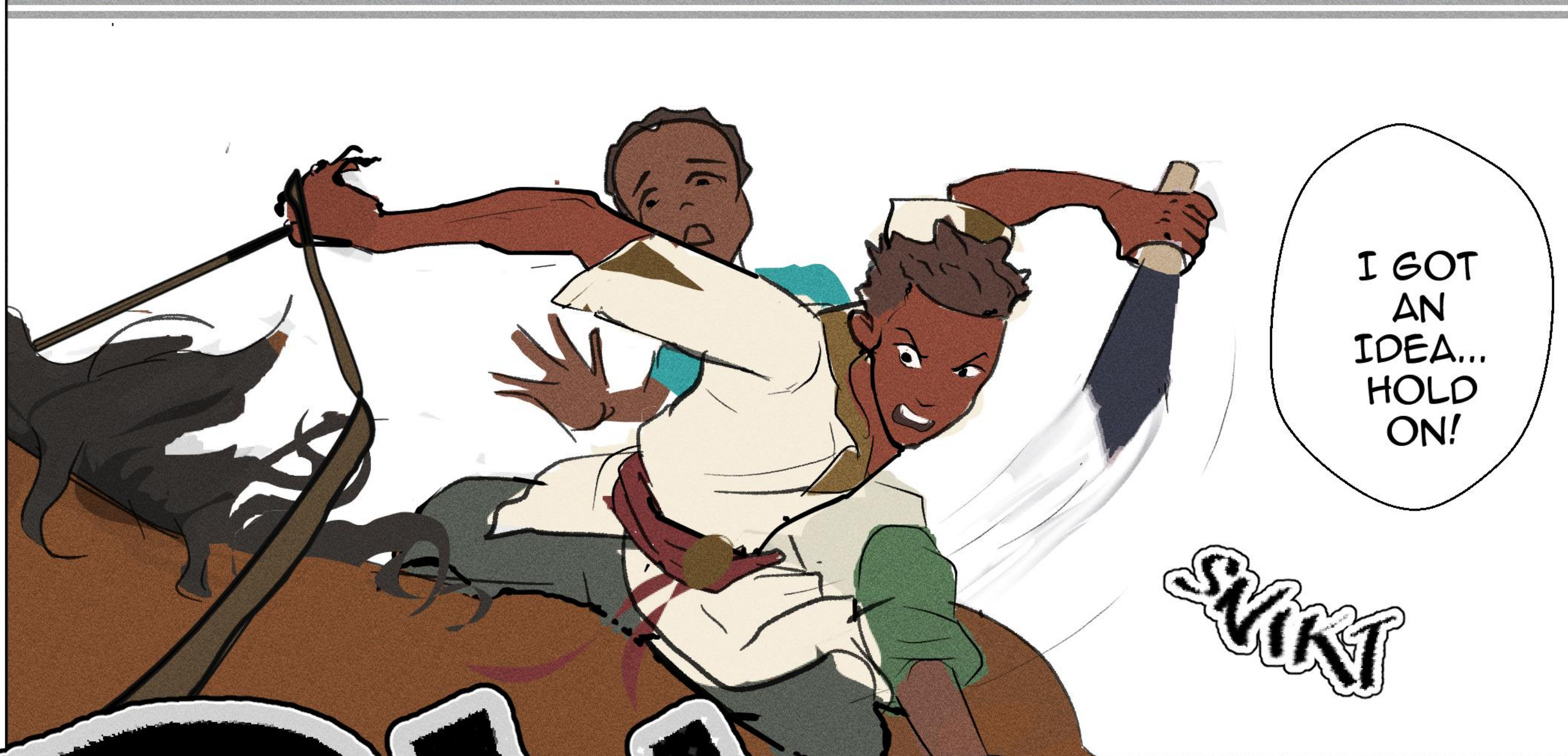
THEY ARE  
GAINING ON  
US!







THERES  
A  
CEMENT  
TRUCK



I GOT  
AN  
IDEA...  
HOLD  
ON!

SVIKT

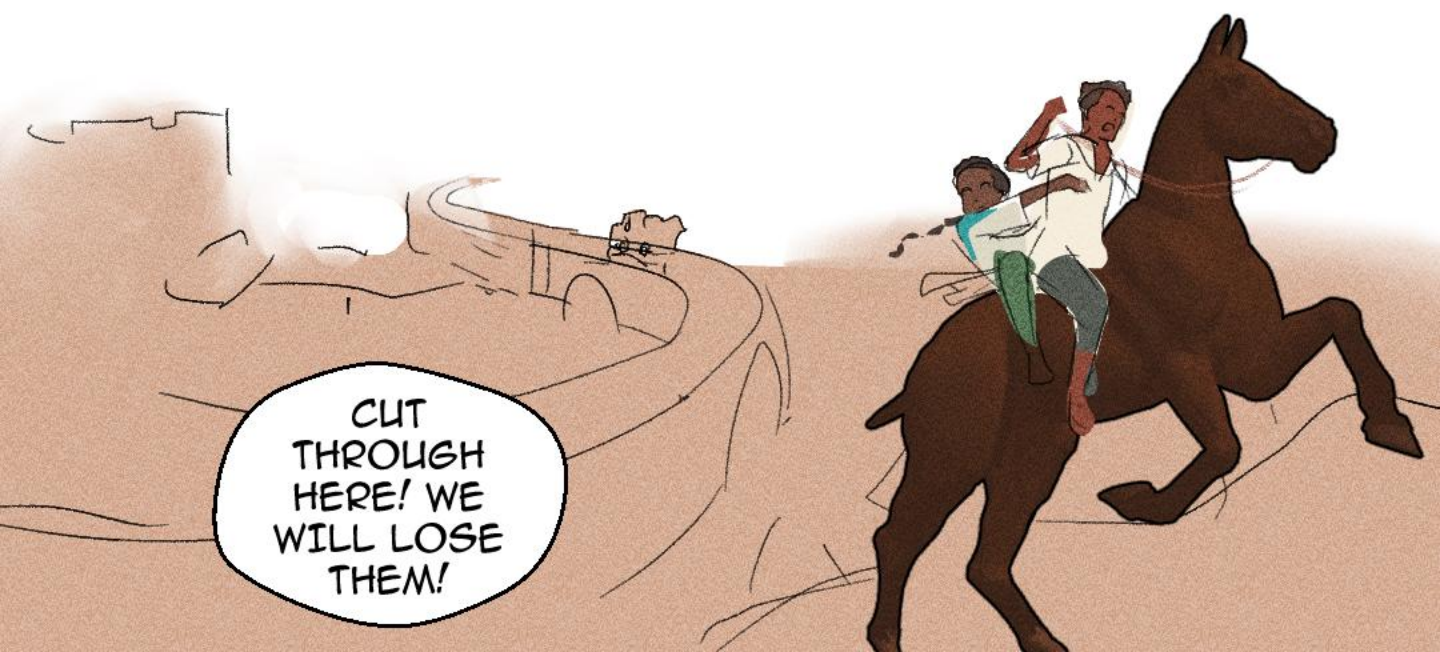
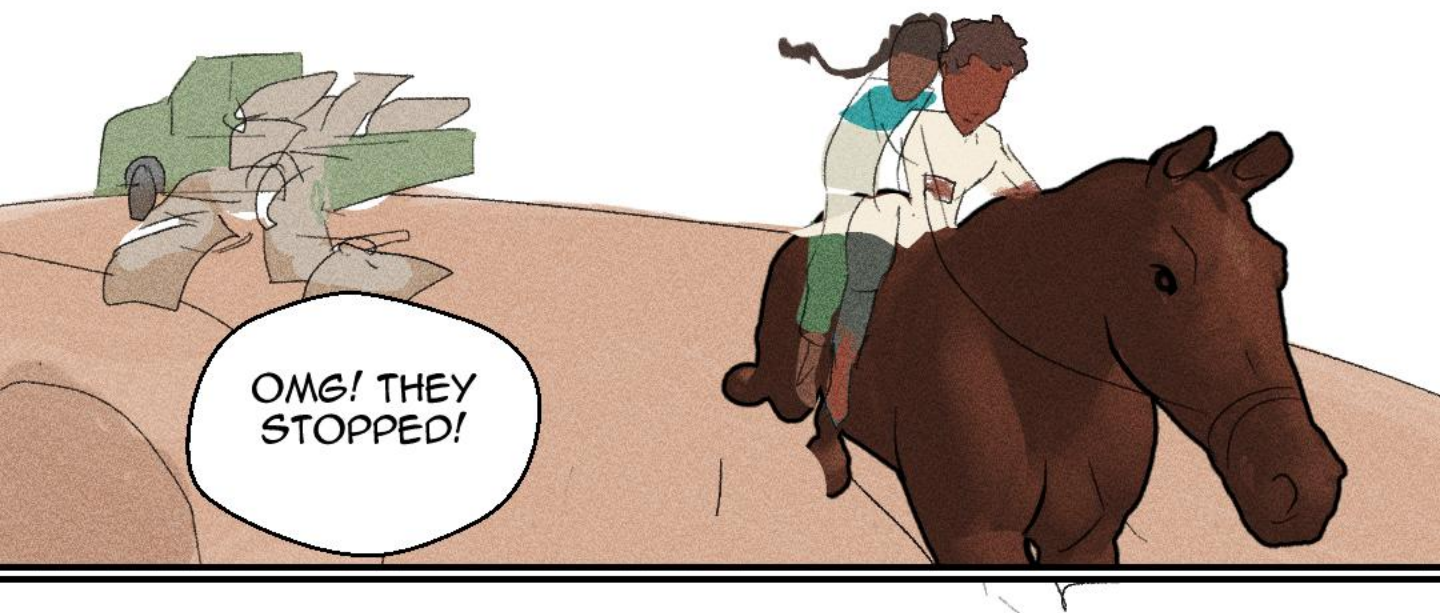
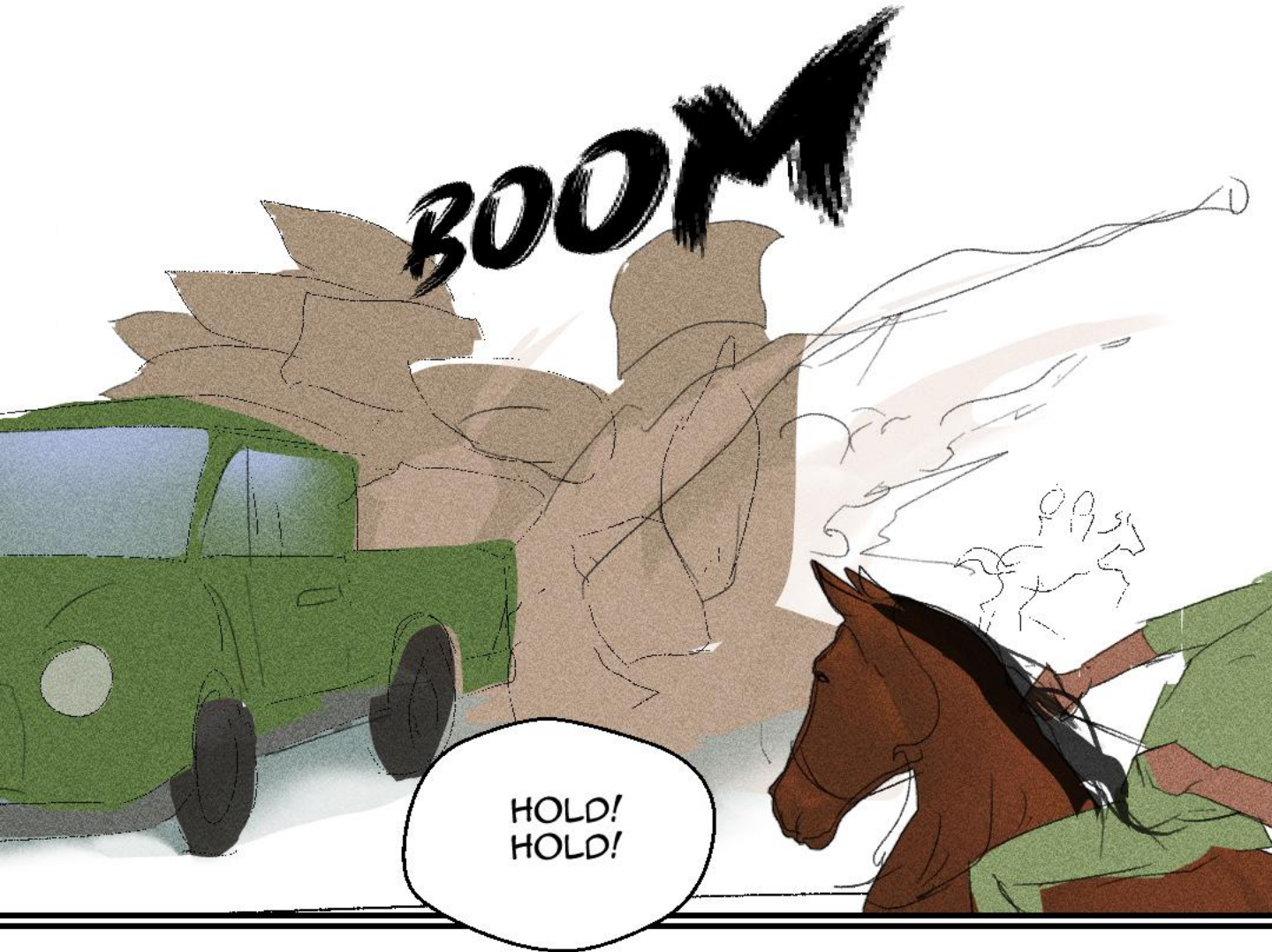
PLASH

AND....

SNAP!









# CHAPTER





WITH NOTHING BUT DUST AND  
DETERMINATION...  
66



...WE HEADED  
FOR DIRE DAWA



WE WENT STRAIGHT TO  
THE PALACE, LIKE BEGGARS  
AT A BANQUET









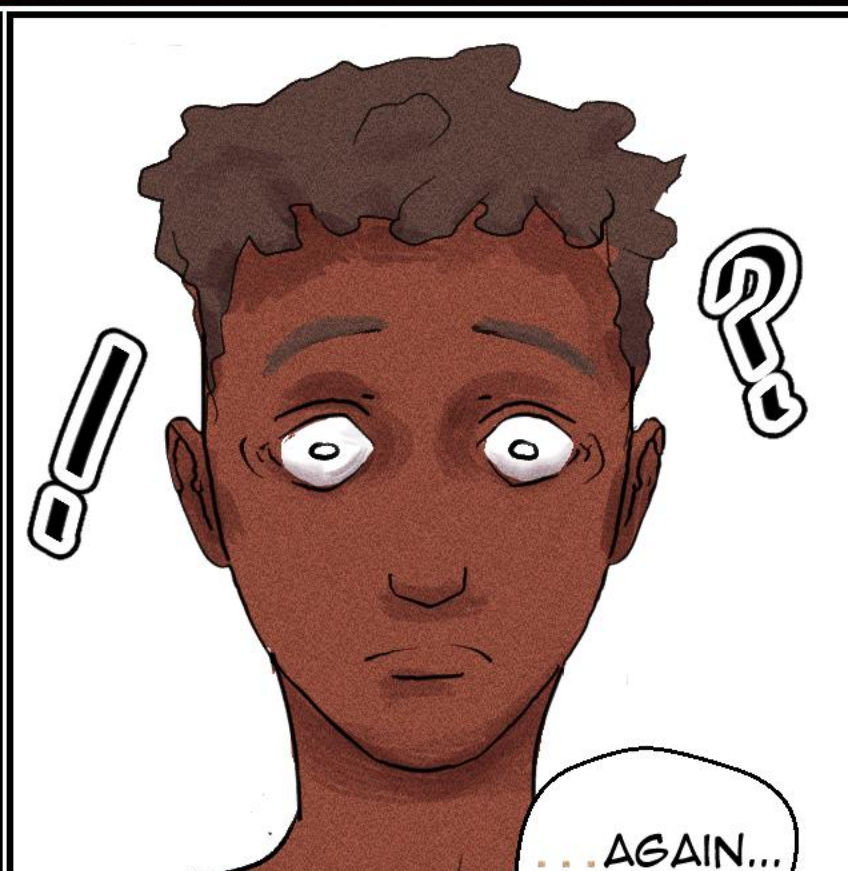


HEY RAS!

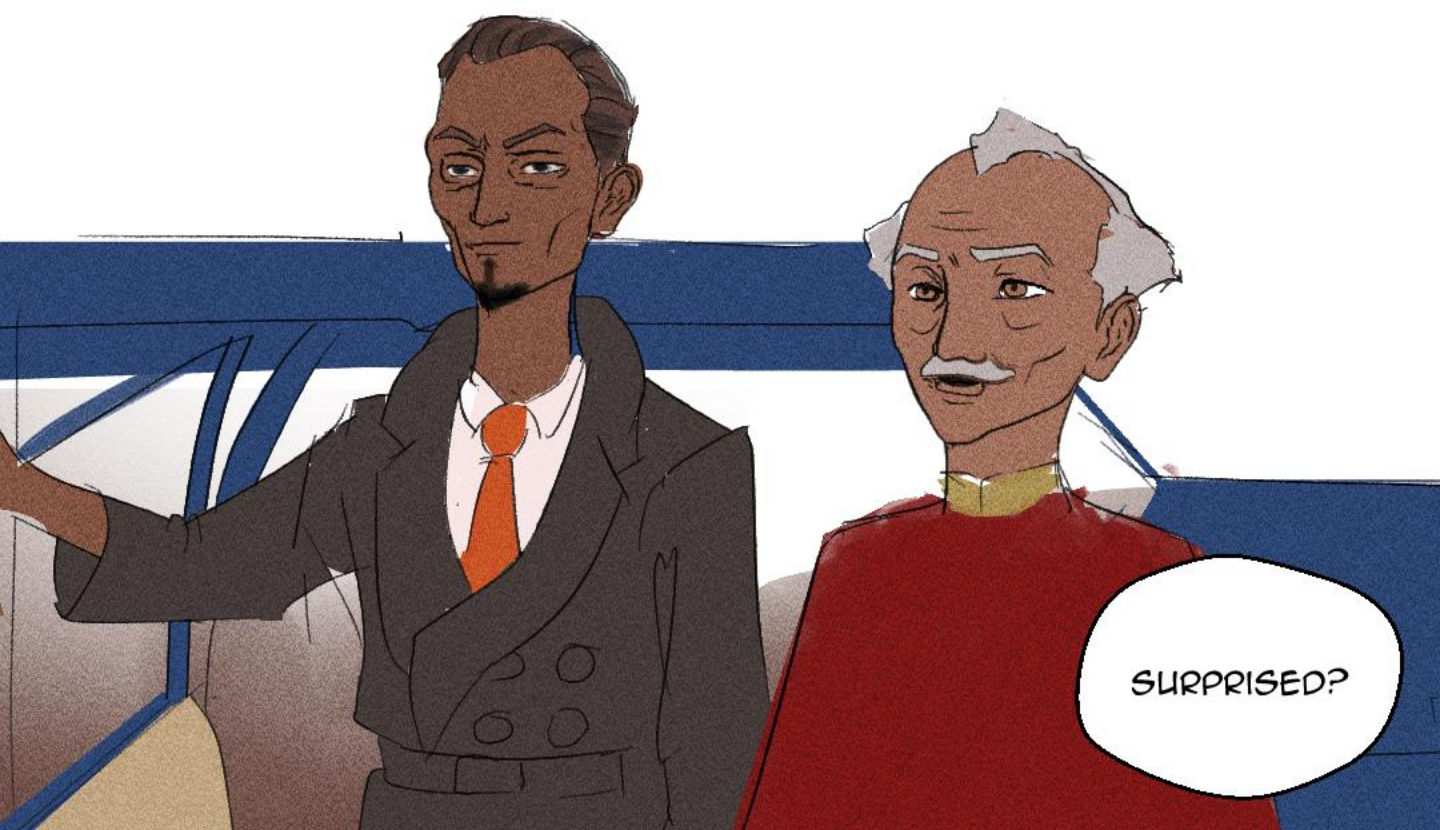
WELL LOOK  
WHO CAME TO  
HIS SENSES.



COME! MEET  
MY  
ASSOCIATE!

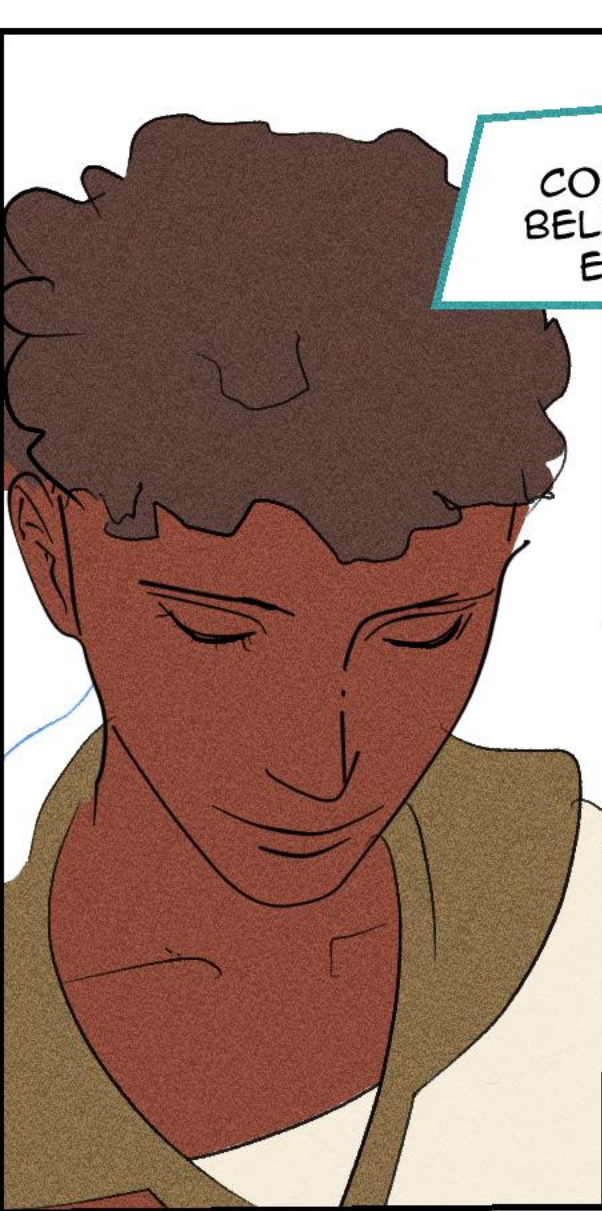


...AGAIN...

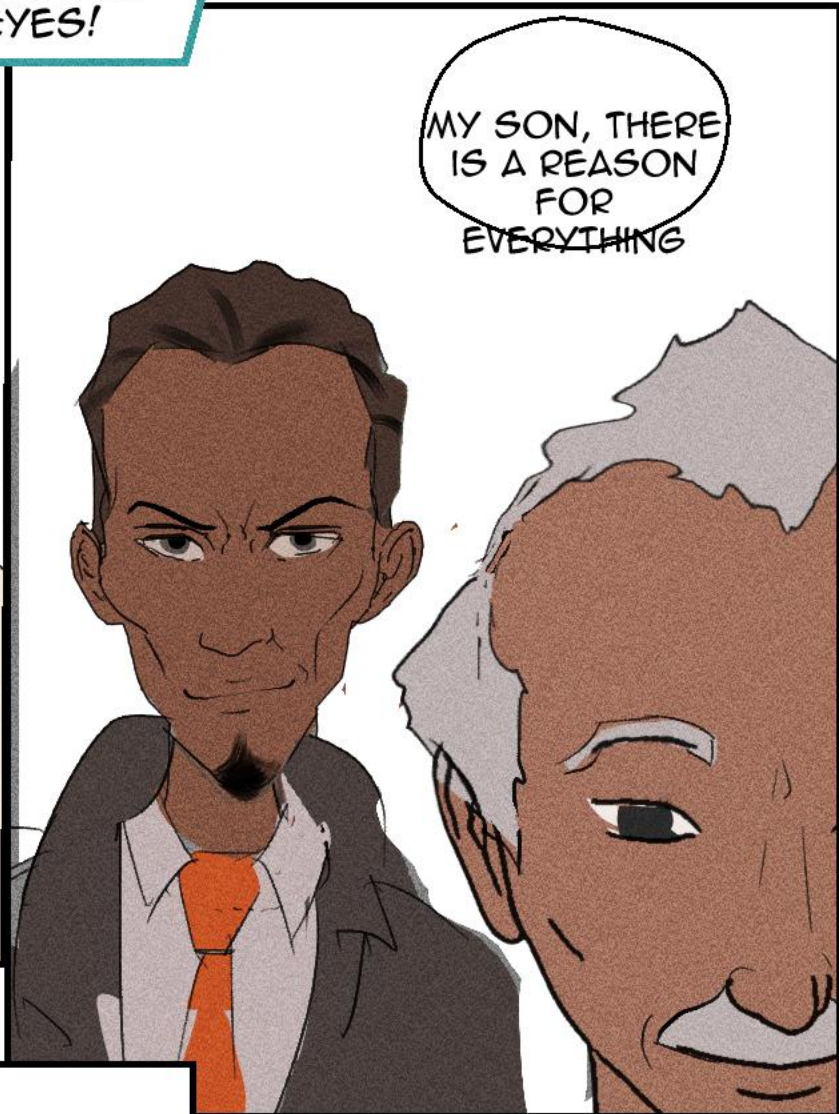


SURPRISED?





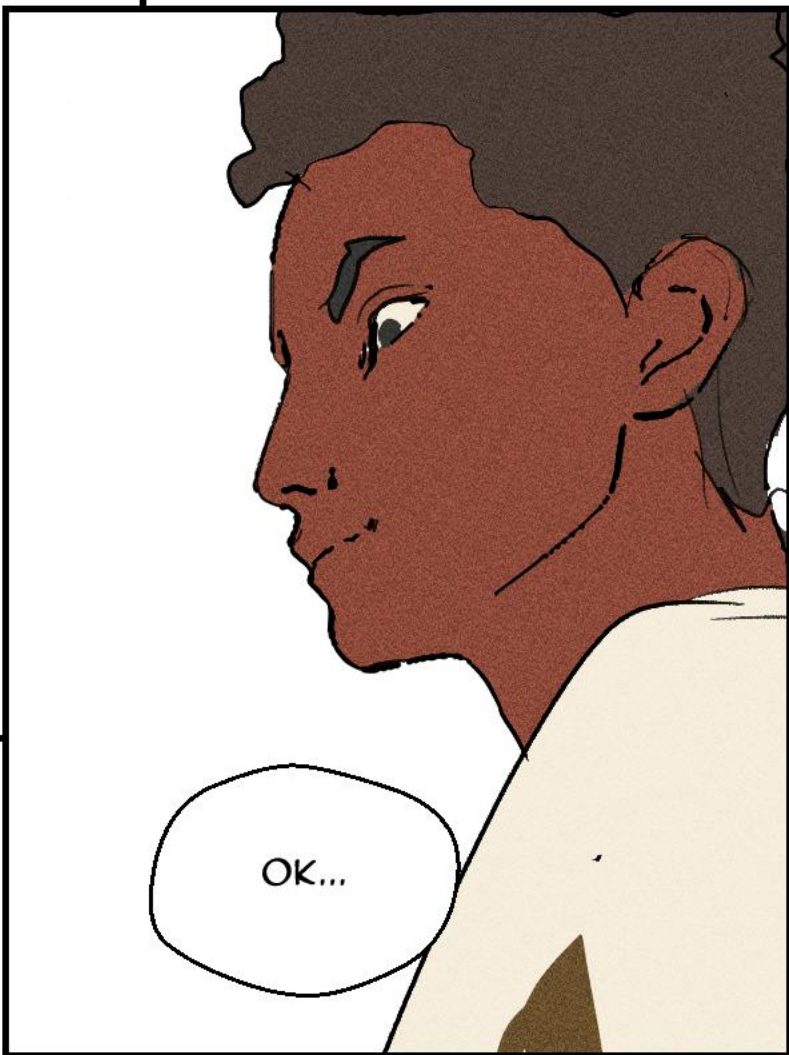
I...  
COULDN'T  
BELIEVE MY  
EYES!



MY SON, THERE  
IS A REASON  
FOR  
EVERYTHING

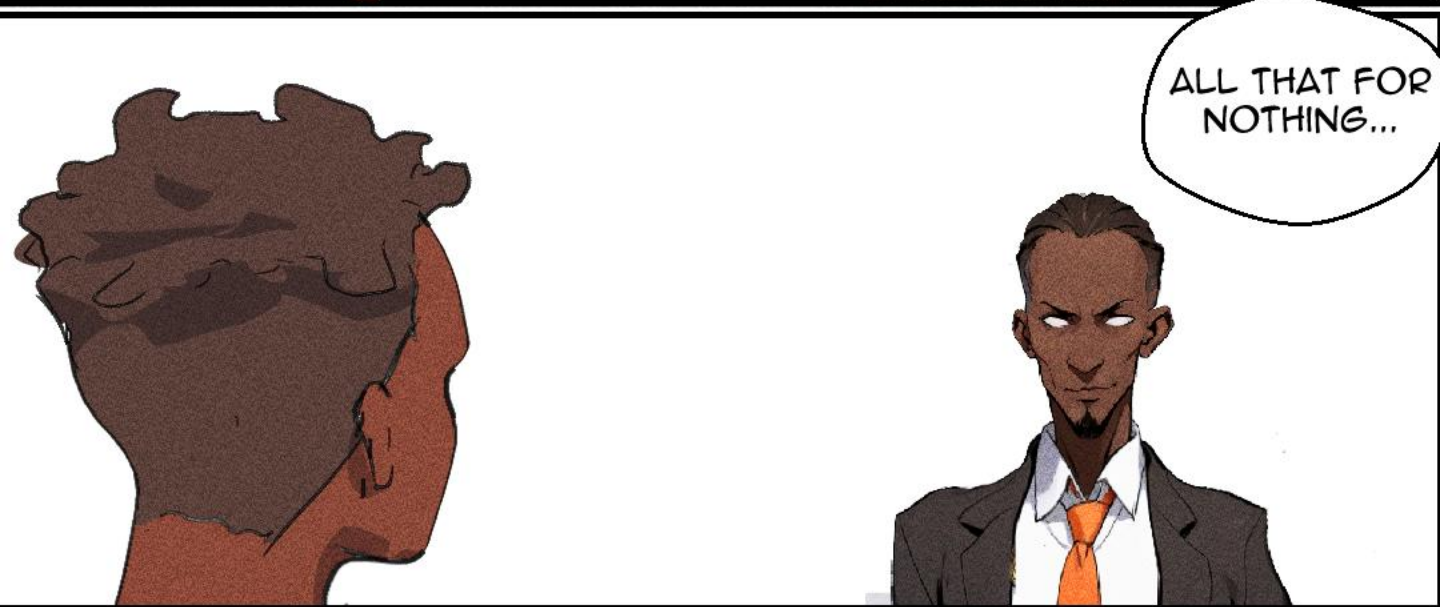
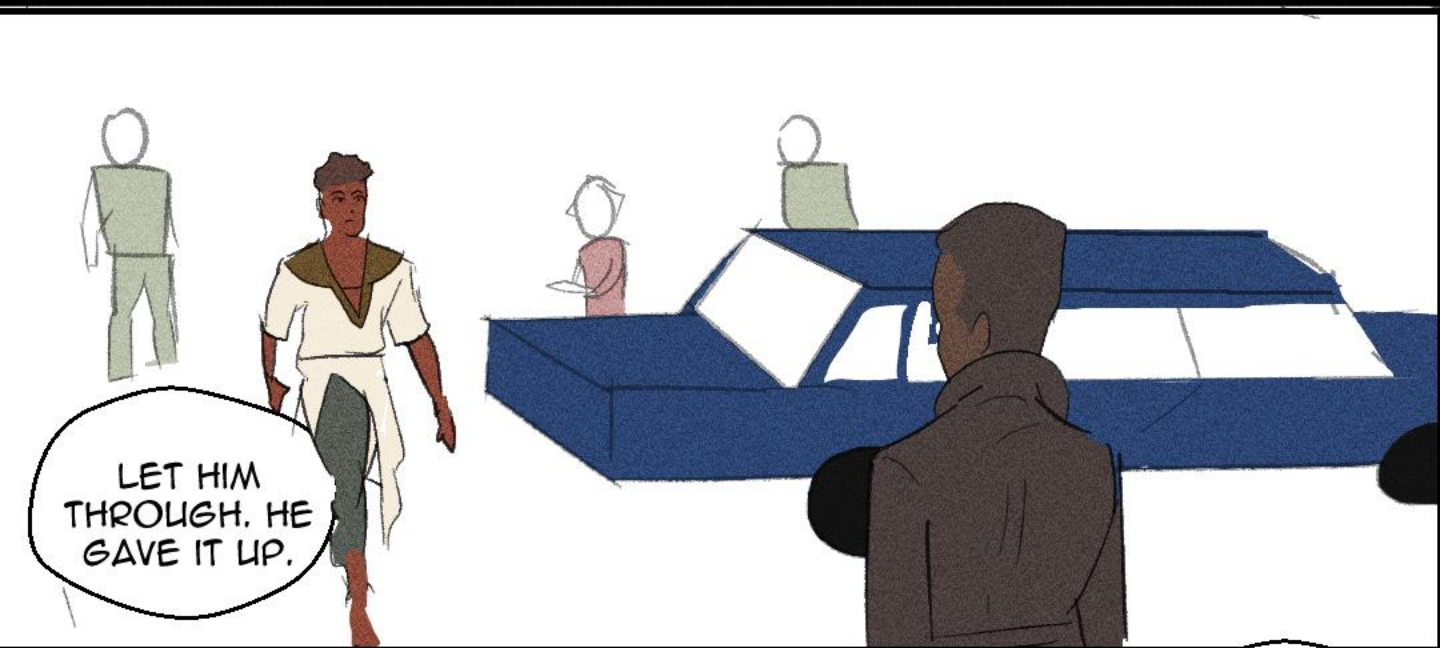
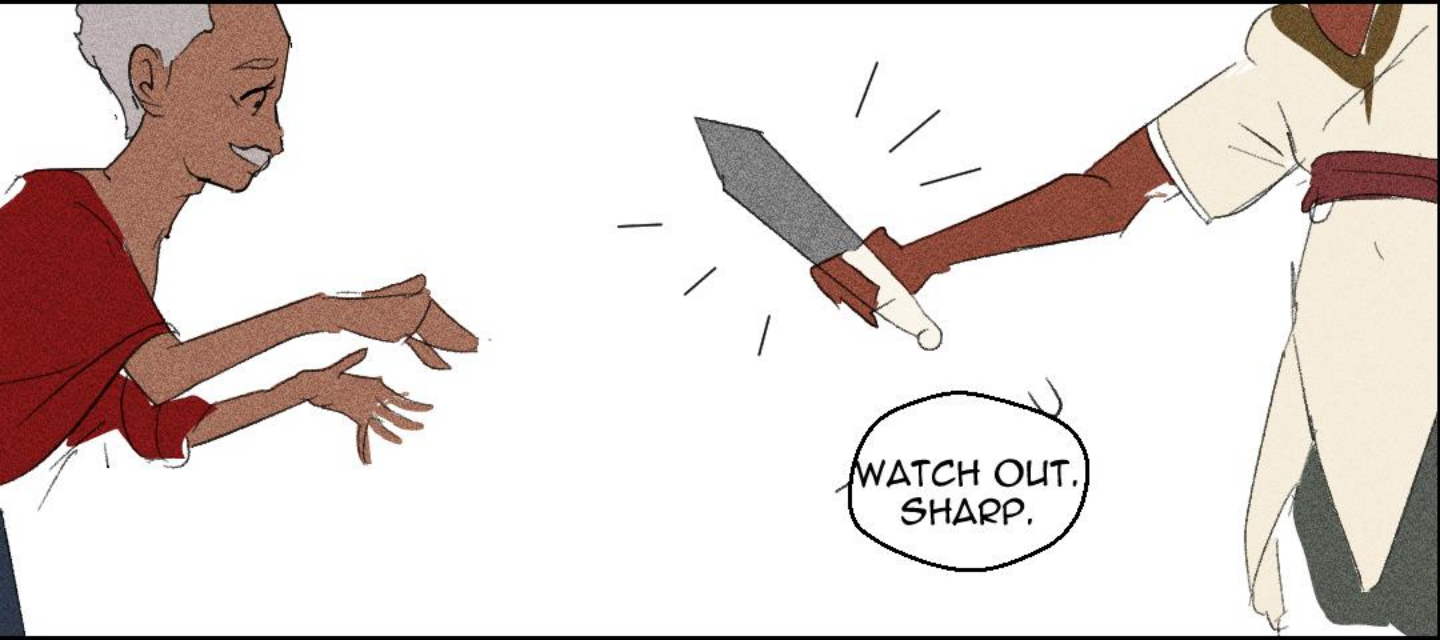


I DIDN'T  
REMEMBER  
YOU ON THE  
TRAIN



OK...





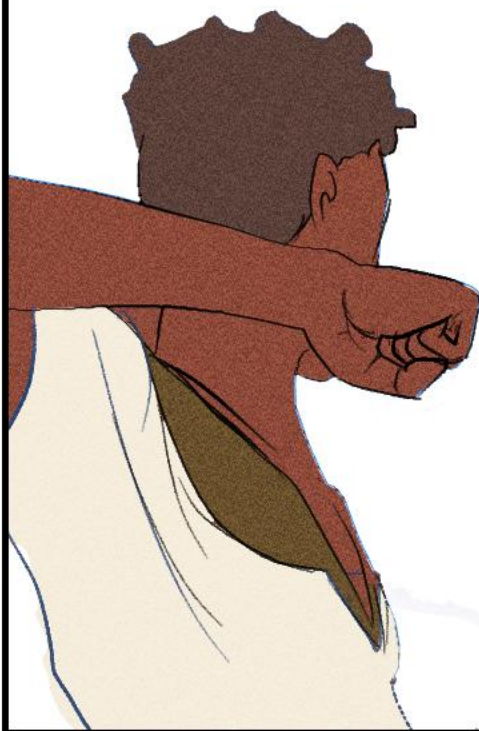


IT'S NOT  
THE REAL  
ONE!

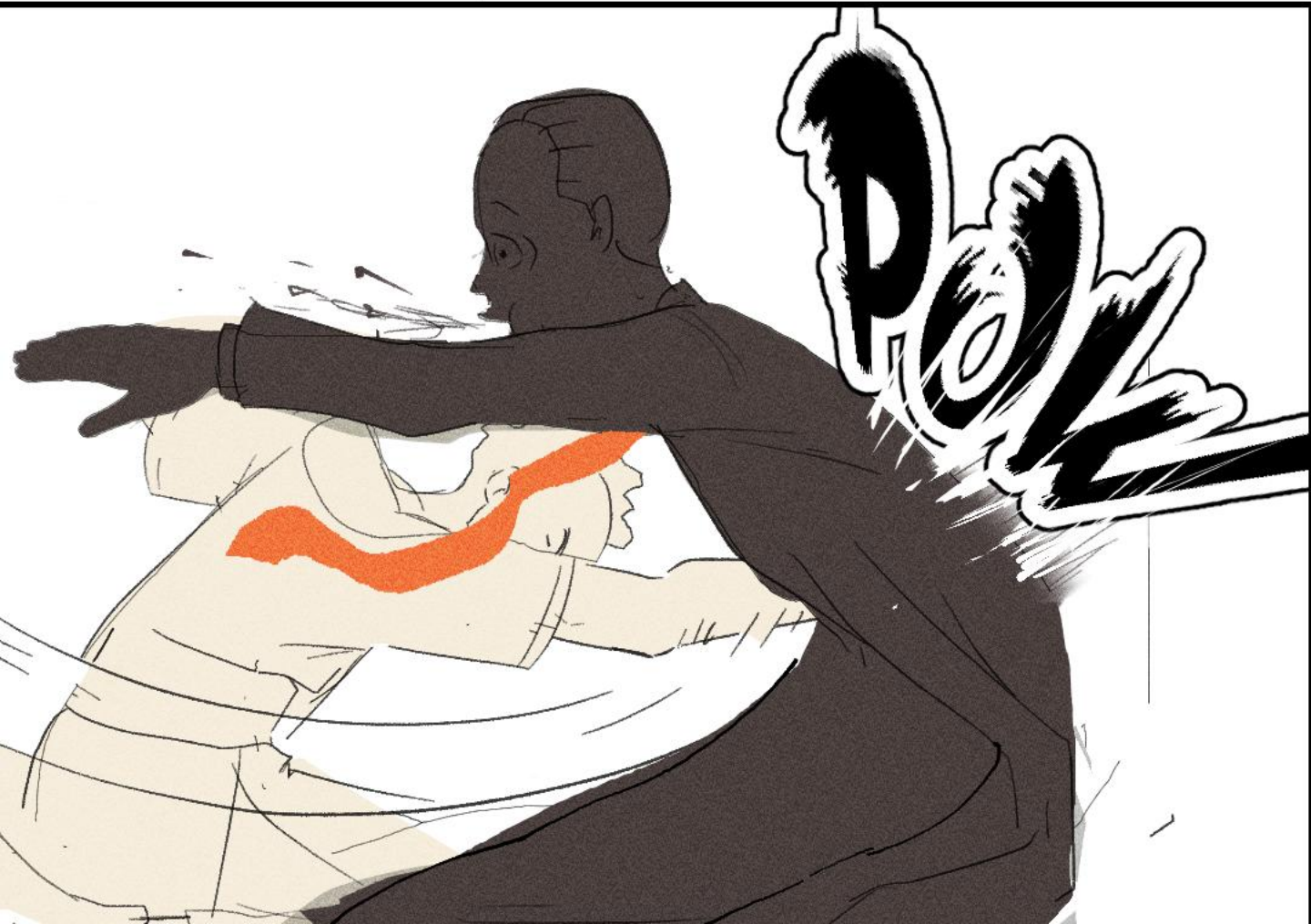


TADESSE!  
CEASE HIM

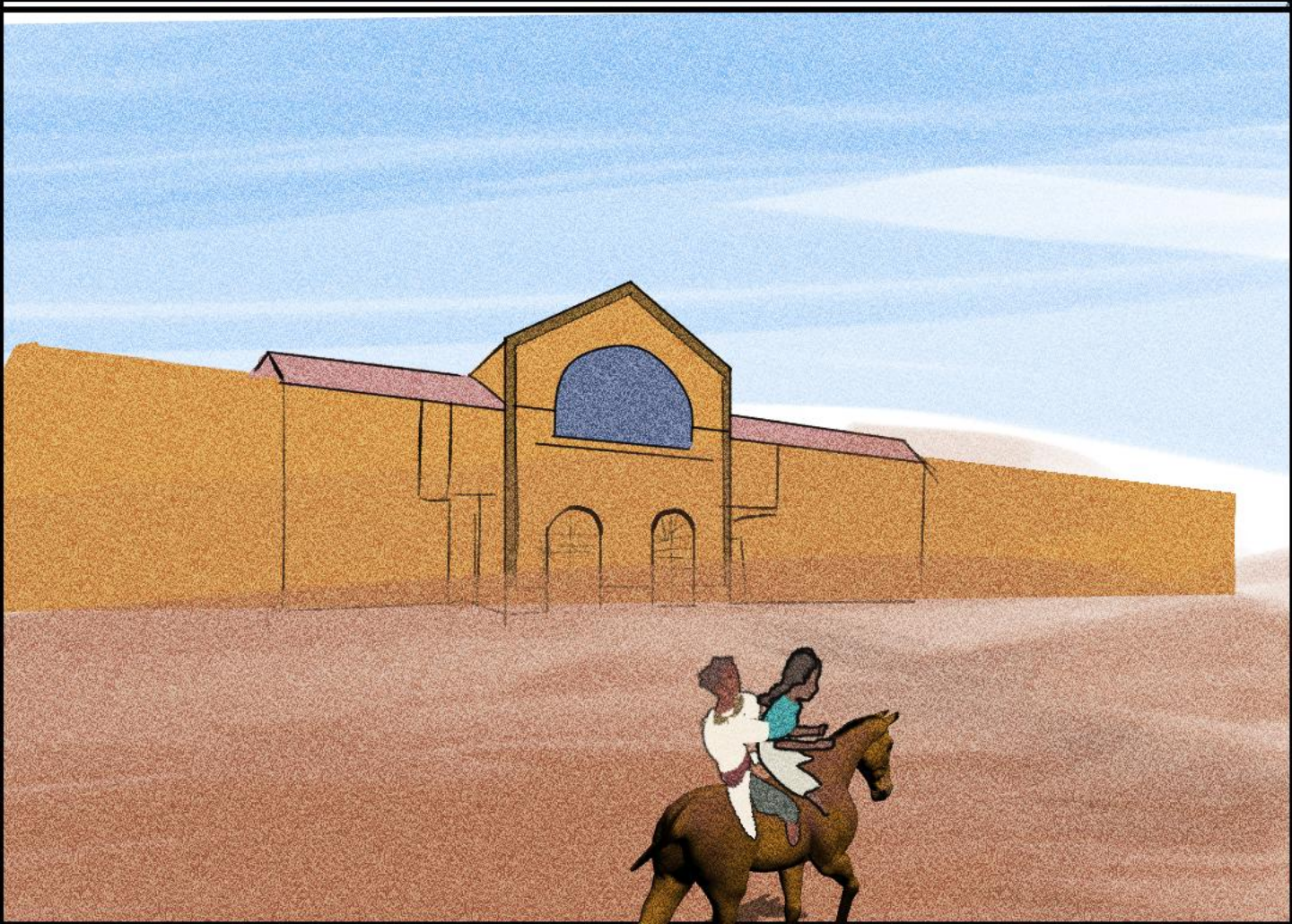
HUH?  
WHAT?



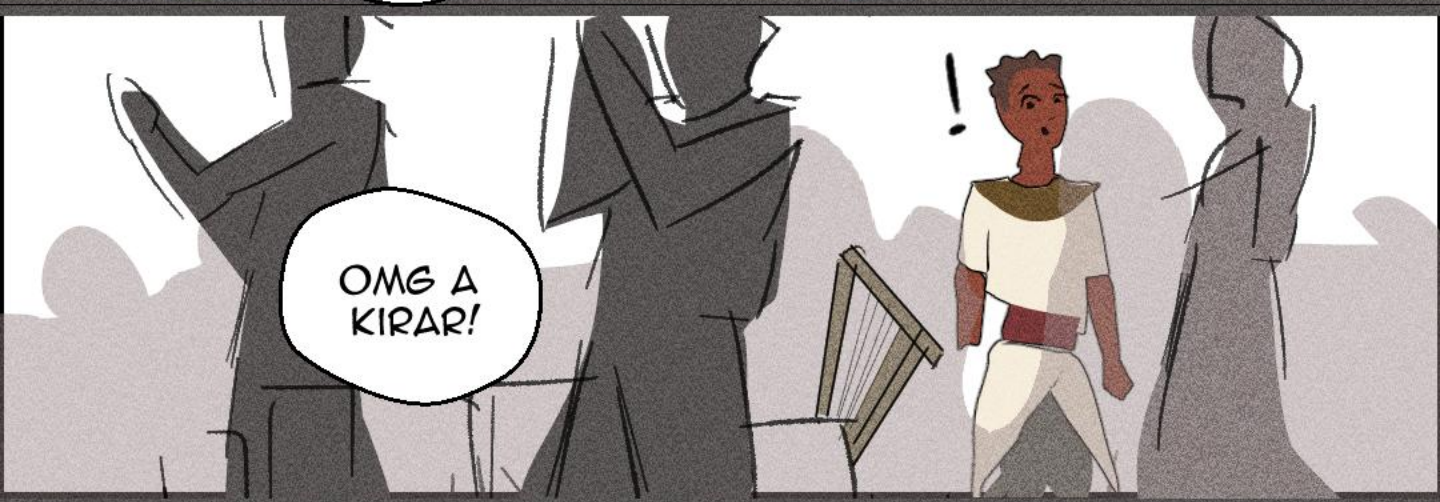
I OWE YOU  
THIS.













AND WHAT DO  
YOU CALL  
YOURSELVES



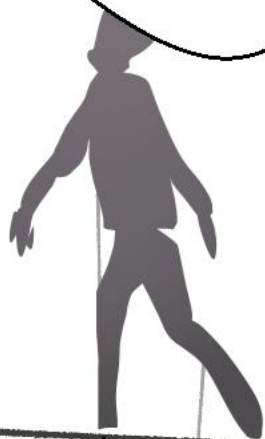
WELL...  
UMMMM....



LADIES AND  
GENTS! PUT  
YOUR HANDS  
TOGETHER  
FOR...  
THE  
TRACKS  
OF LIFE!



OK I;LL PLAY  
THE KIRAR.  
YOU READ  
THE PARTS  
OF THE  
JOURNAL  
THAT INSPIRE







THEY SAID  
WE WERE  
DIVIDED—  
BY TRIBE,  
BY  
TONGUE,  
BY  
BORDER...

AND SO SHE  
BEGAN ONE OF  
THE GREATEST  
SPEECHES WHILE I  
PLAYED

BUT UMAR  
SAMATAR  
WROTE: WE ARE  
ONE PEOPLE,  
WALKING  
DIFFERENT  
PATHS ON THE  
SAME LAND."



IT EVEN INSPIRED  
RAS MOLA TO  
LEAVE EARLY!



HE BELIEVED  
UNITY ISN'T  
GIVEN—IT'S  
MADE,  
CHOSEN,  
LIVED....



..."NOT JUST IN WAR OR  
SPEECHES, BUT IN HOW  
WE WALK BESIDE EACH  
OTHER. THAT'S WHY HE  
CALLED IT 'THE TRACKS  
OF LIFE.' ONE  
JOURNEY. ONE FUTURE."