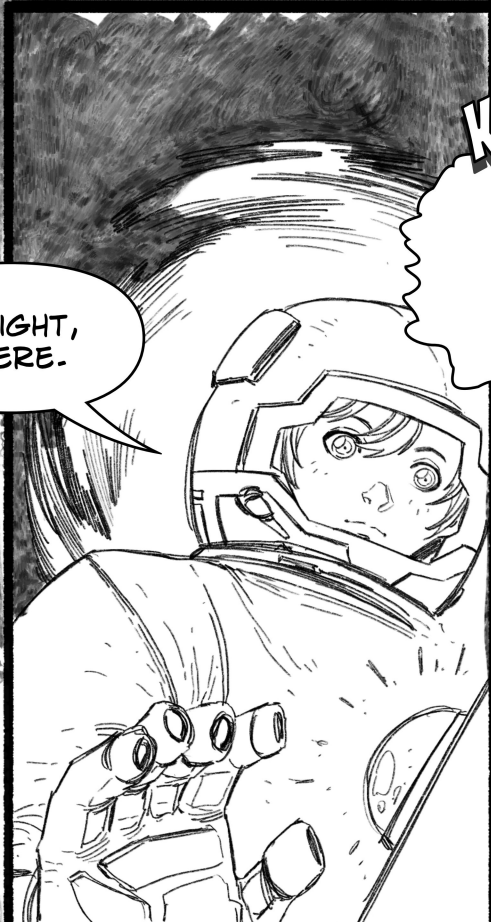
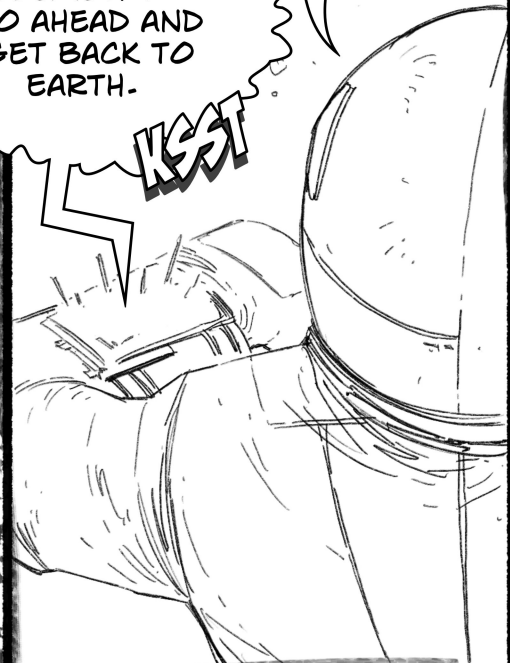


ALRIGHT,
THERE.



KST
WE ARE
GETTING
TELEMETRY.
GO AHEAD AND
GET BACK TO
EARTH.

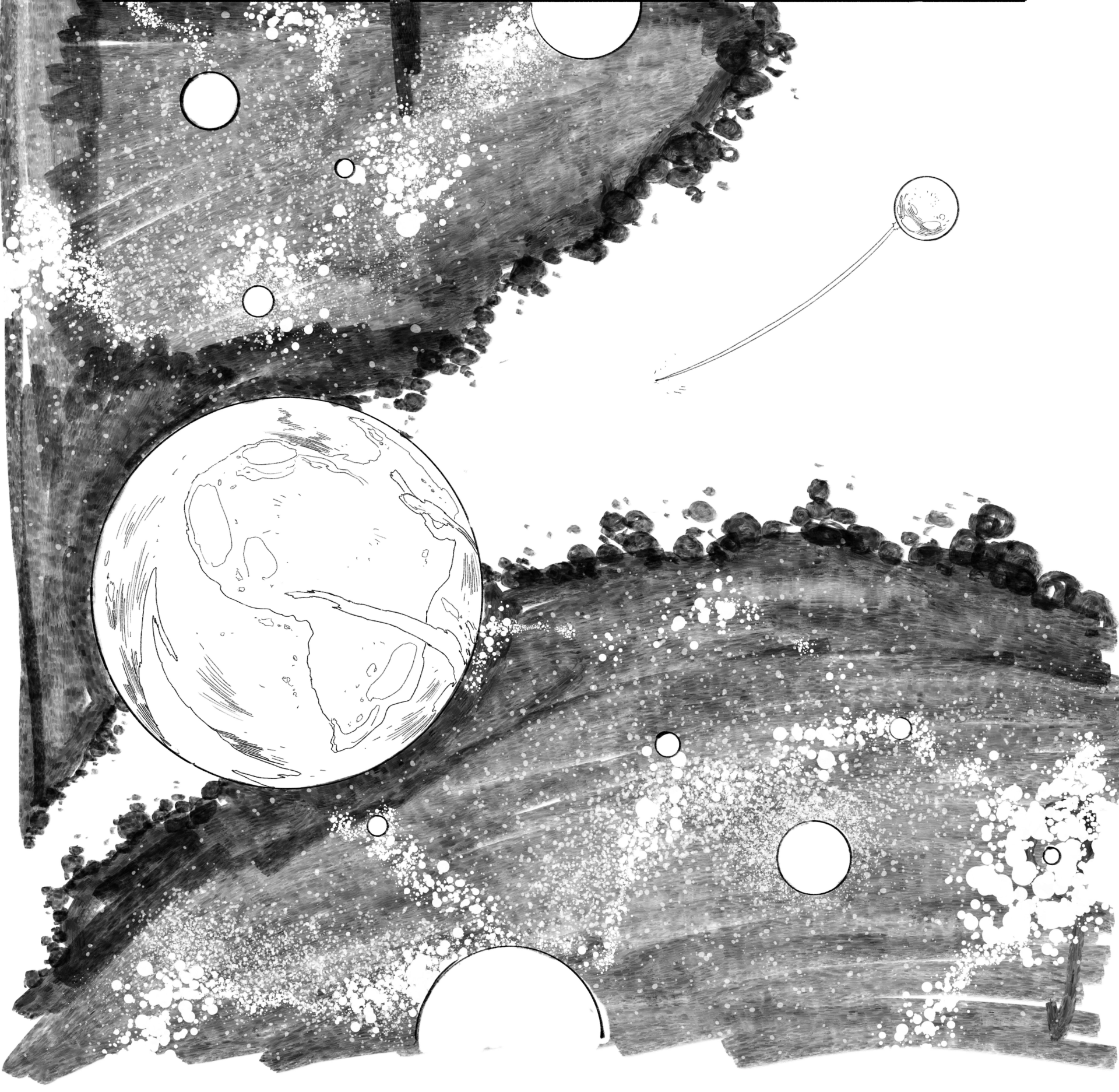


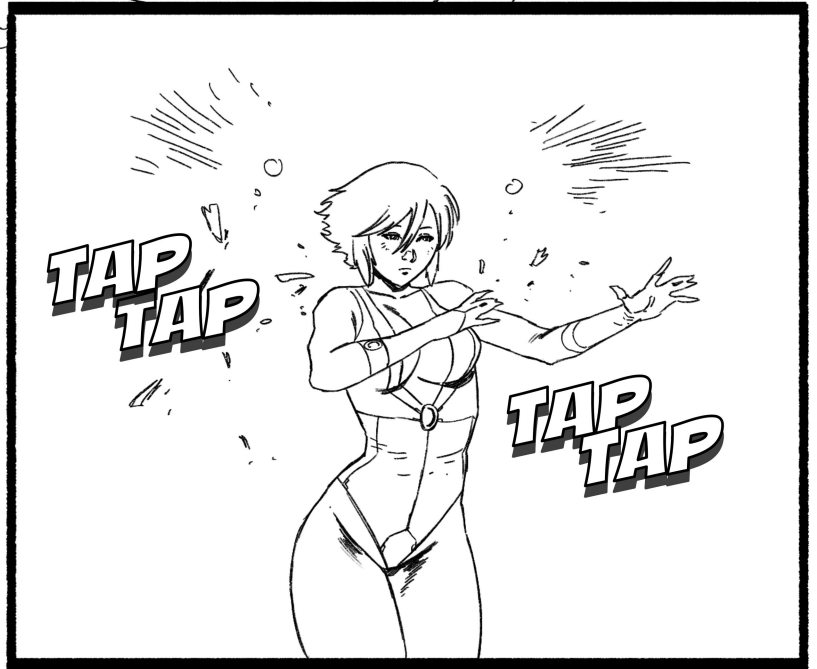
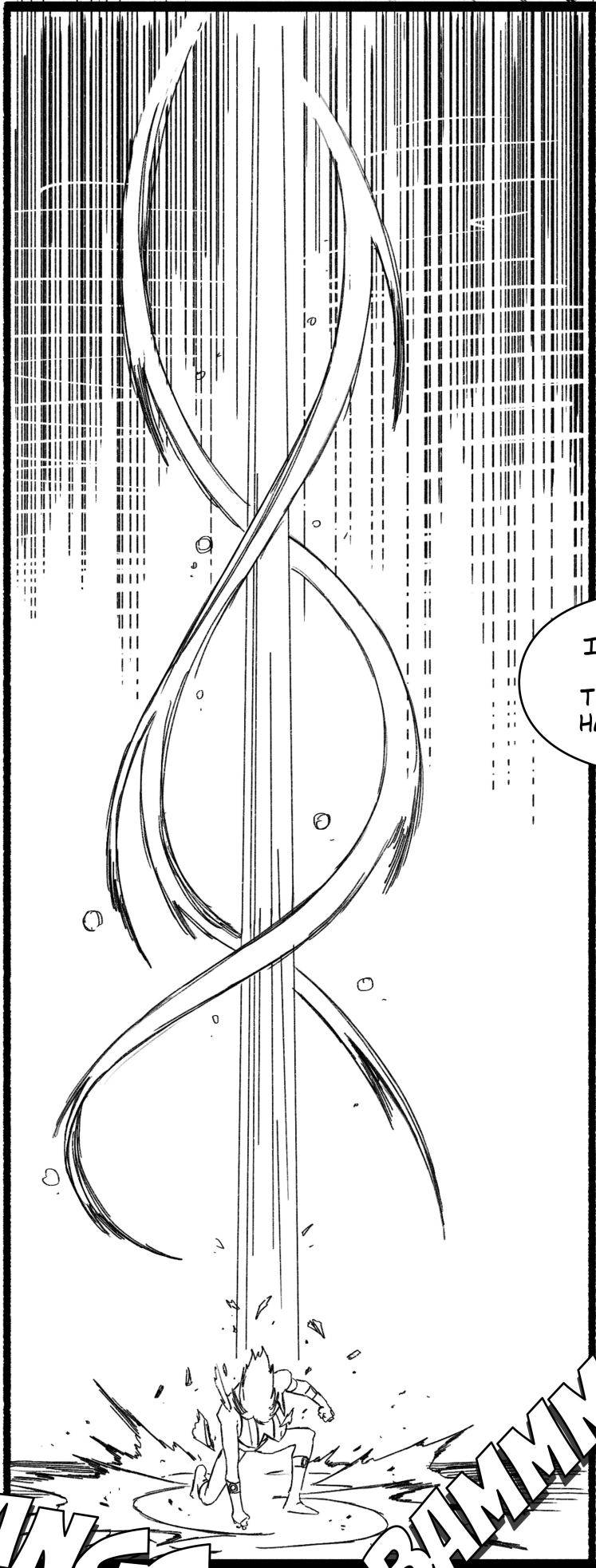
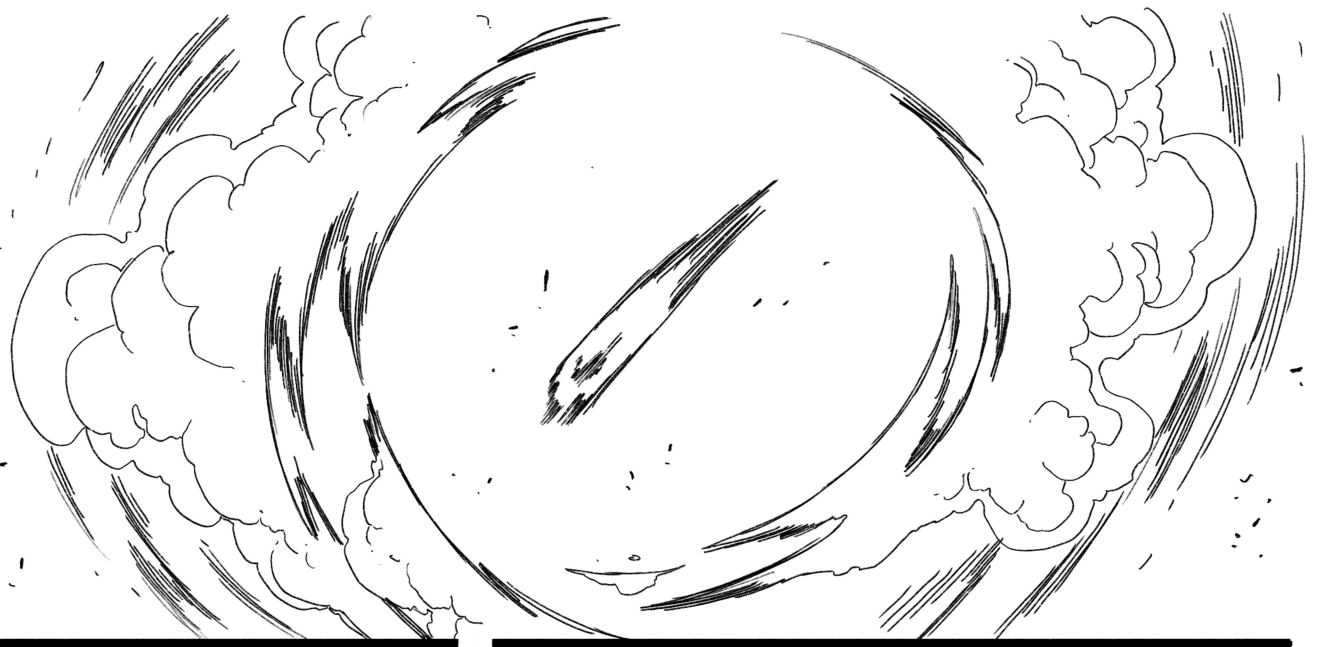
TURBULENCE
TO HOME BASE,
I AM SEEING
GREEN LIGHTS
ON THE PANEL.

KST

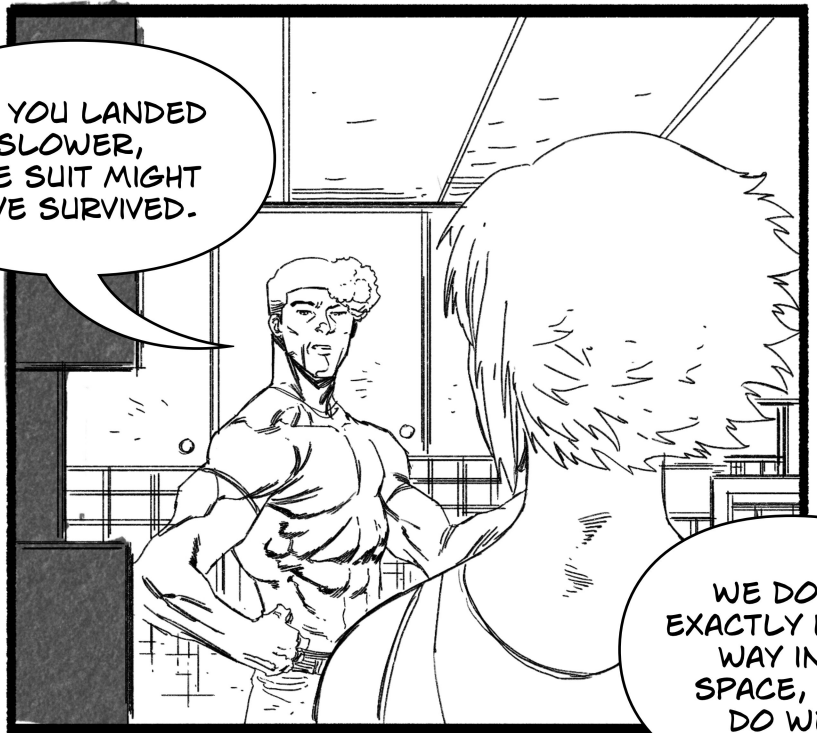


ALRIGHT,
HEADING
BACK NOW.





IF YOU LANDED SLOWER, THE SUIT MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED.

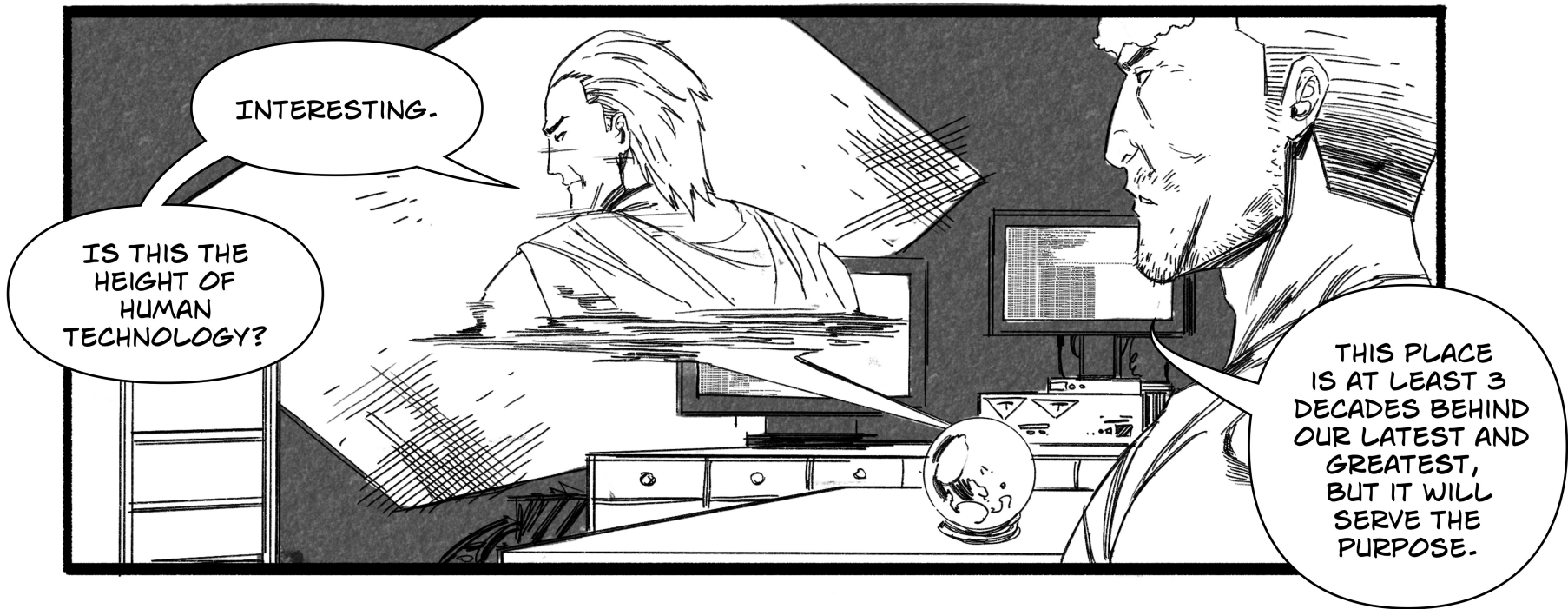
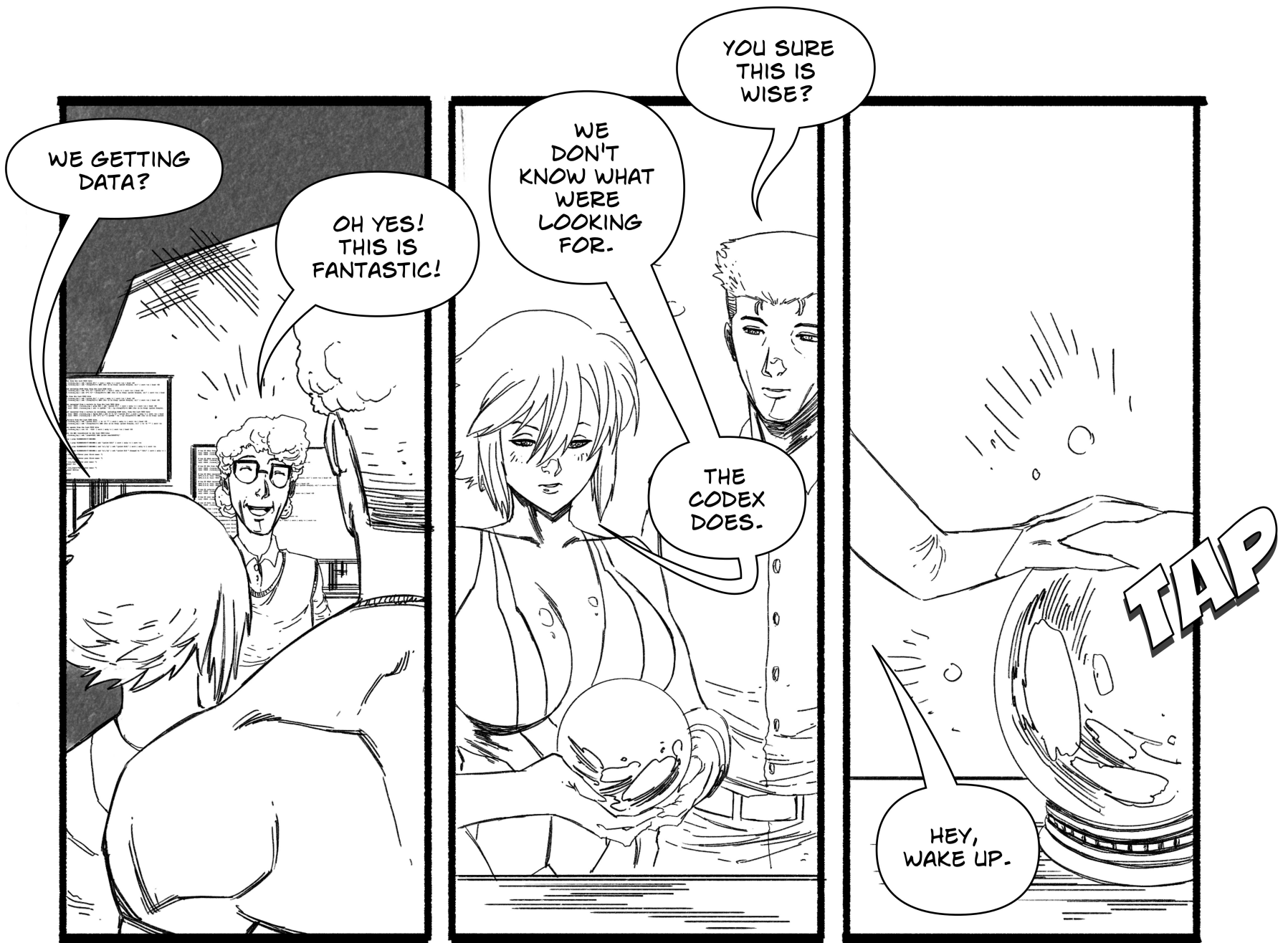


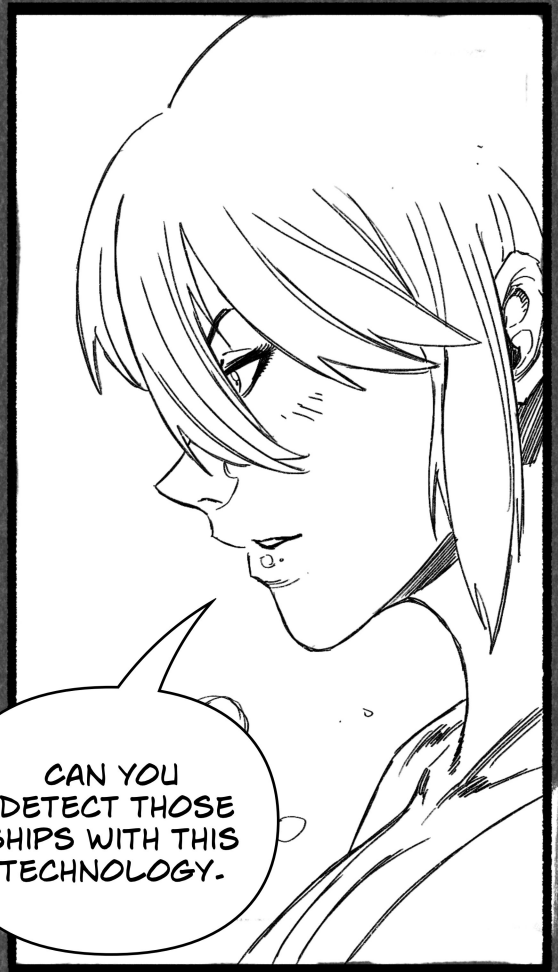
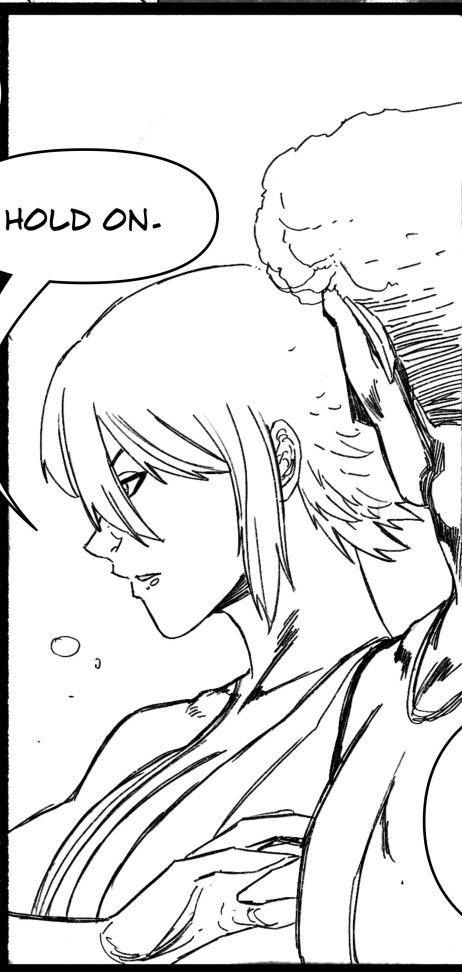
WE DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A WAY INTO SPACE, NOW DO WE?



YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT, BUT FOR THIS TO WORK, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.

BANGG **BAMMM**

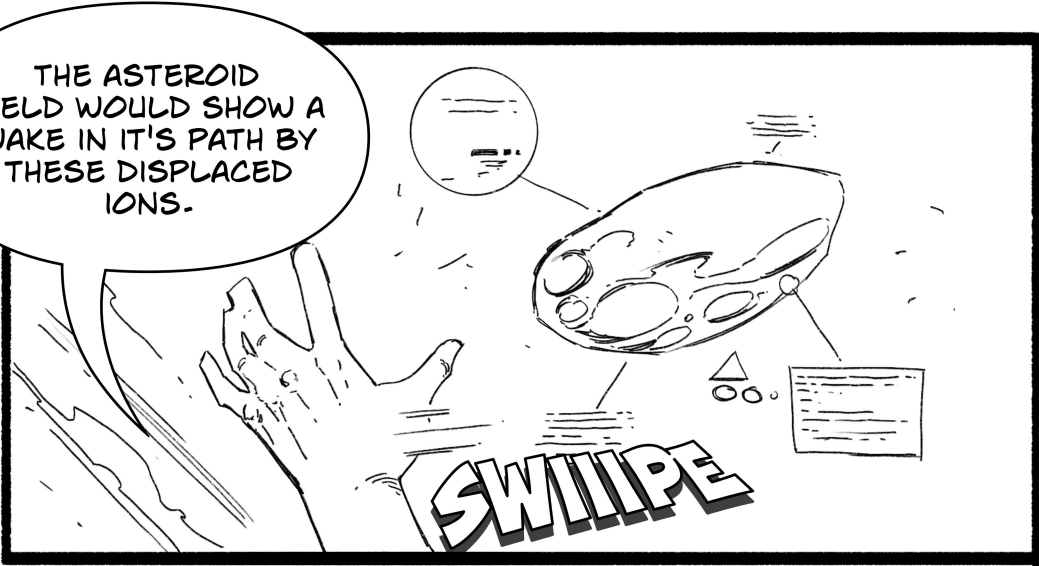




OUR SHIPS RUN ON AN ION DRIVE THAT DISPLACES POSITIVE CHARGED IONS IN IT'S WAKE.

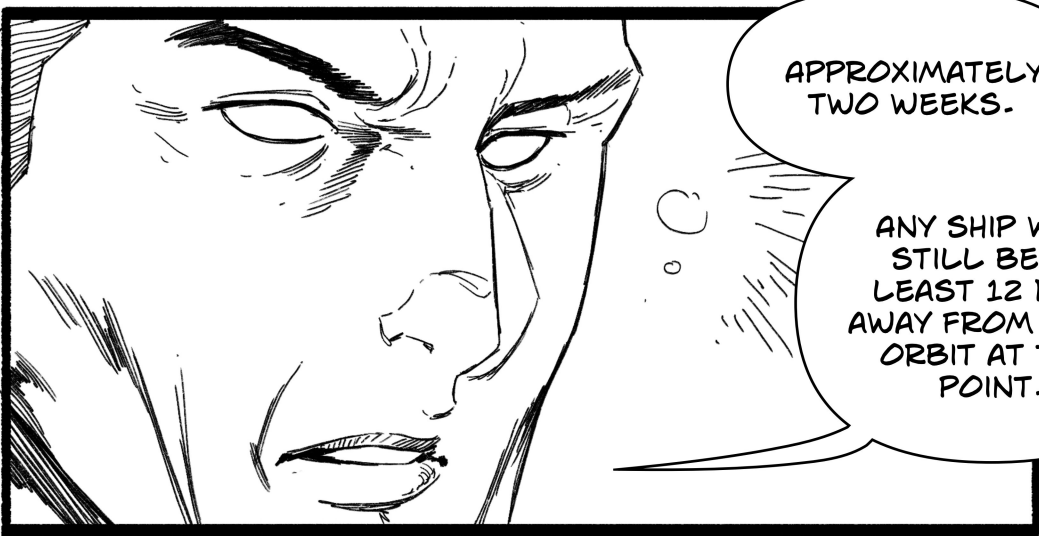


THE ASTEROID FIELD WOULD SHOW A WAKE IN IT'S PATH BY THESE DISPLACED IONS.



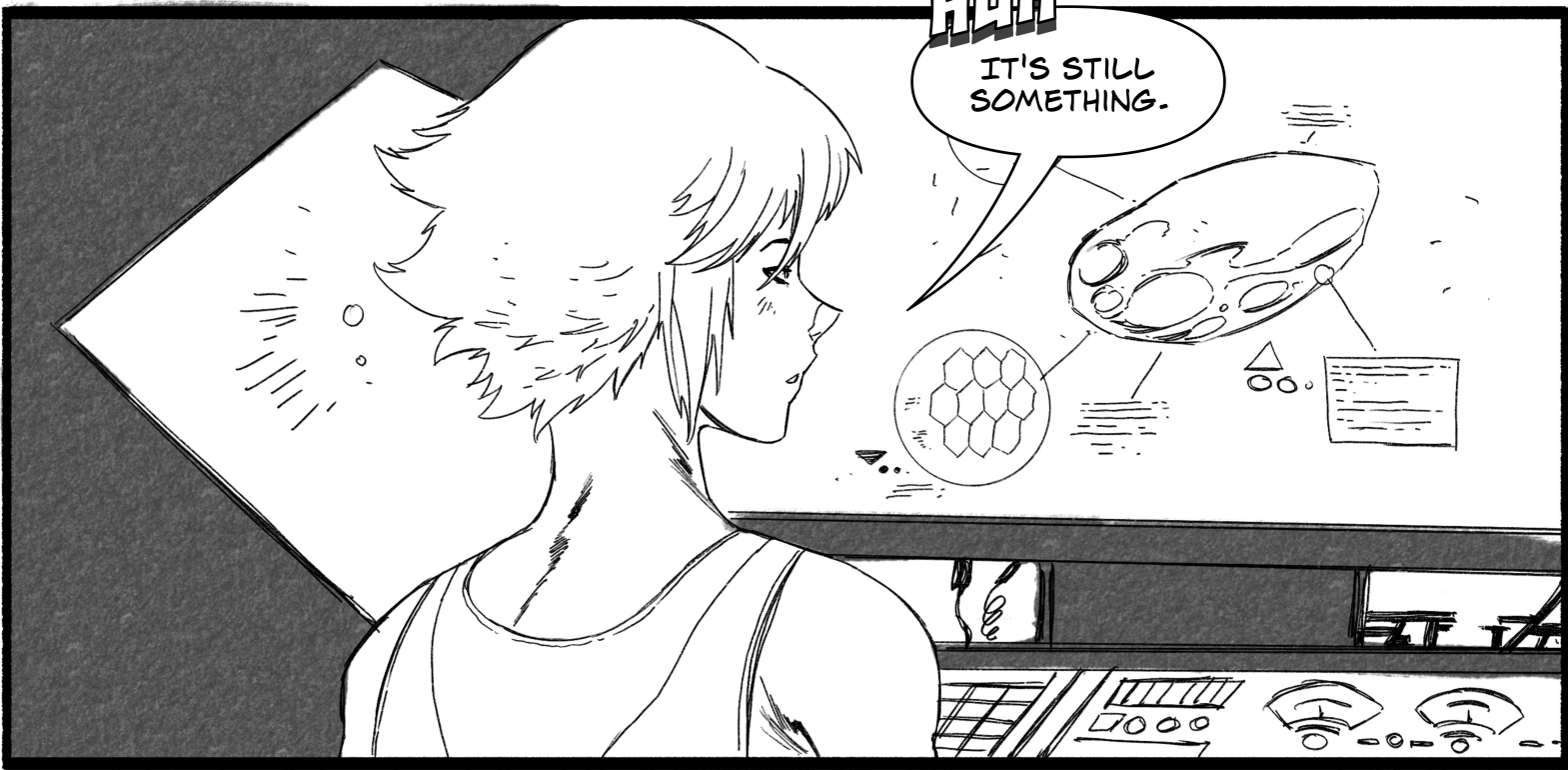
HMMMM

THAT'S FINE AND GOOD, BUT OUR INSTRUMENTS WILL DETECT THESE CHANGES LONG AFTER THEY HAPPENED.




APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

ANY SHIP WILL STILL BE AT LEAST 12 DAYS AWAY FROM EARTH ORBIT AT THAT POINT.



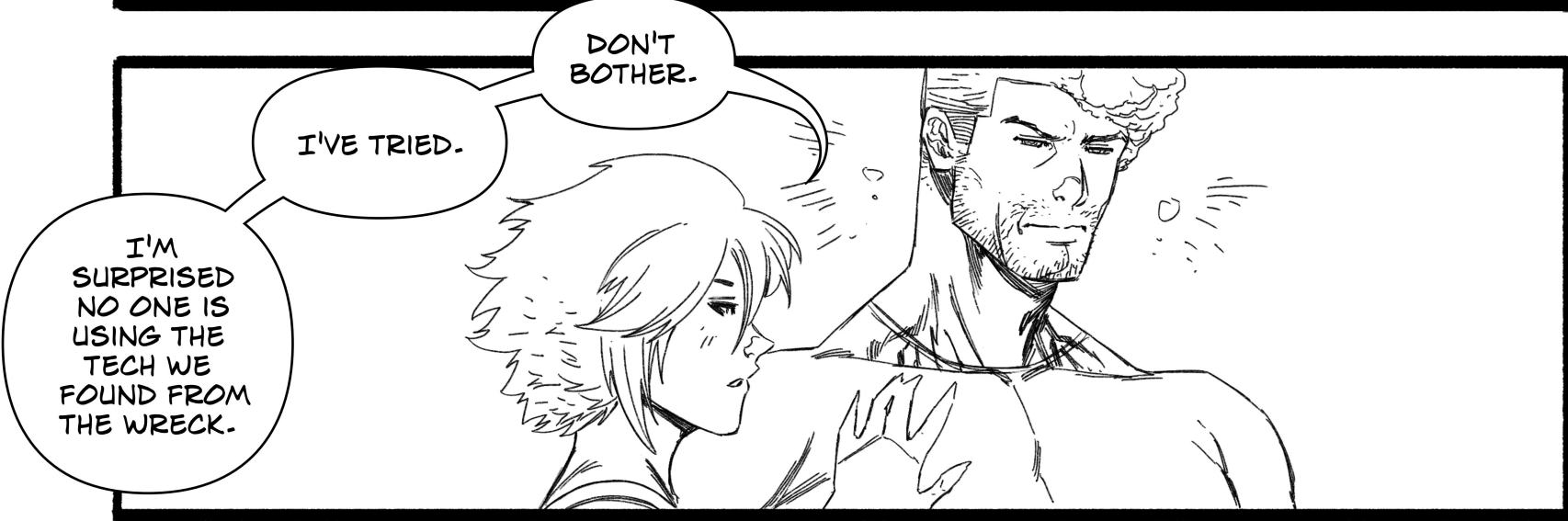
HWA
IT'S STILL SOMETHING.



SO, WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE BETTER DETECTION TECHNOLOGY?



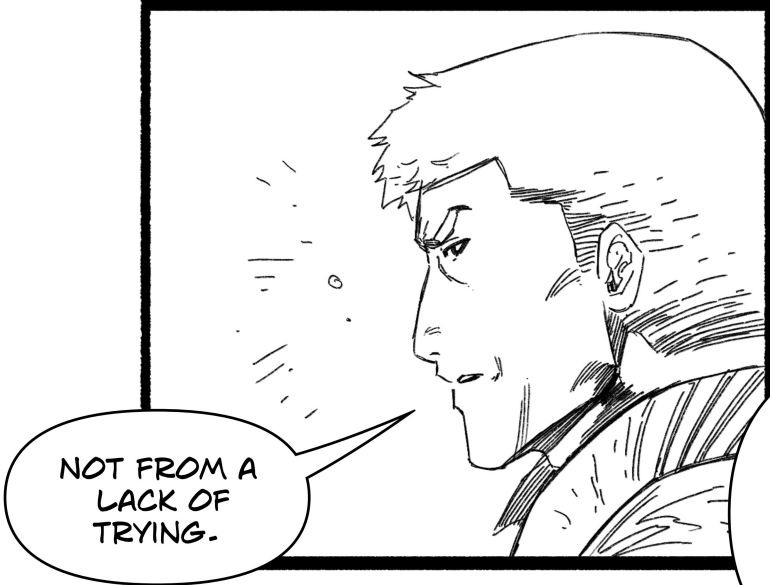
YOU DO NOT HAVE CLEARANCE FOR THAT INFORMATION.



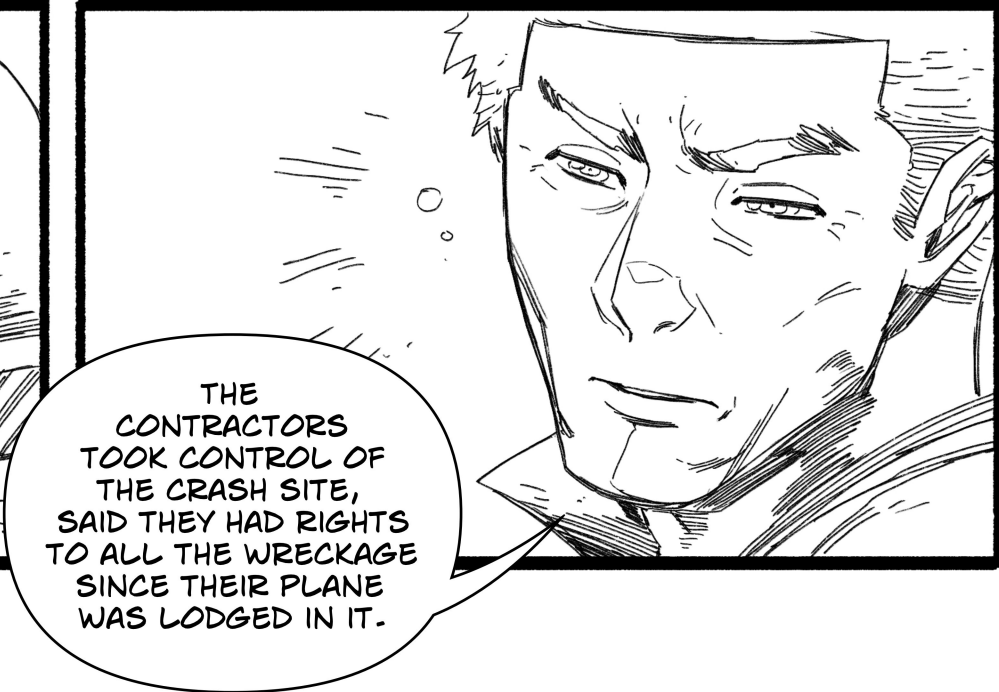
I'M SURPRISED NO ONE IS USING THE TECH WE FOUND FROM THE WRECK.

I'VE TRIED.

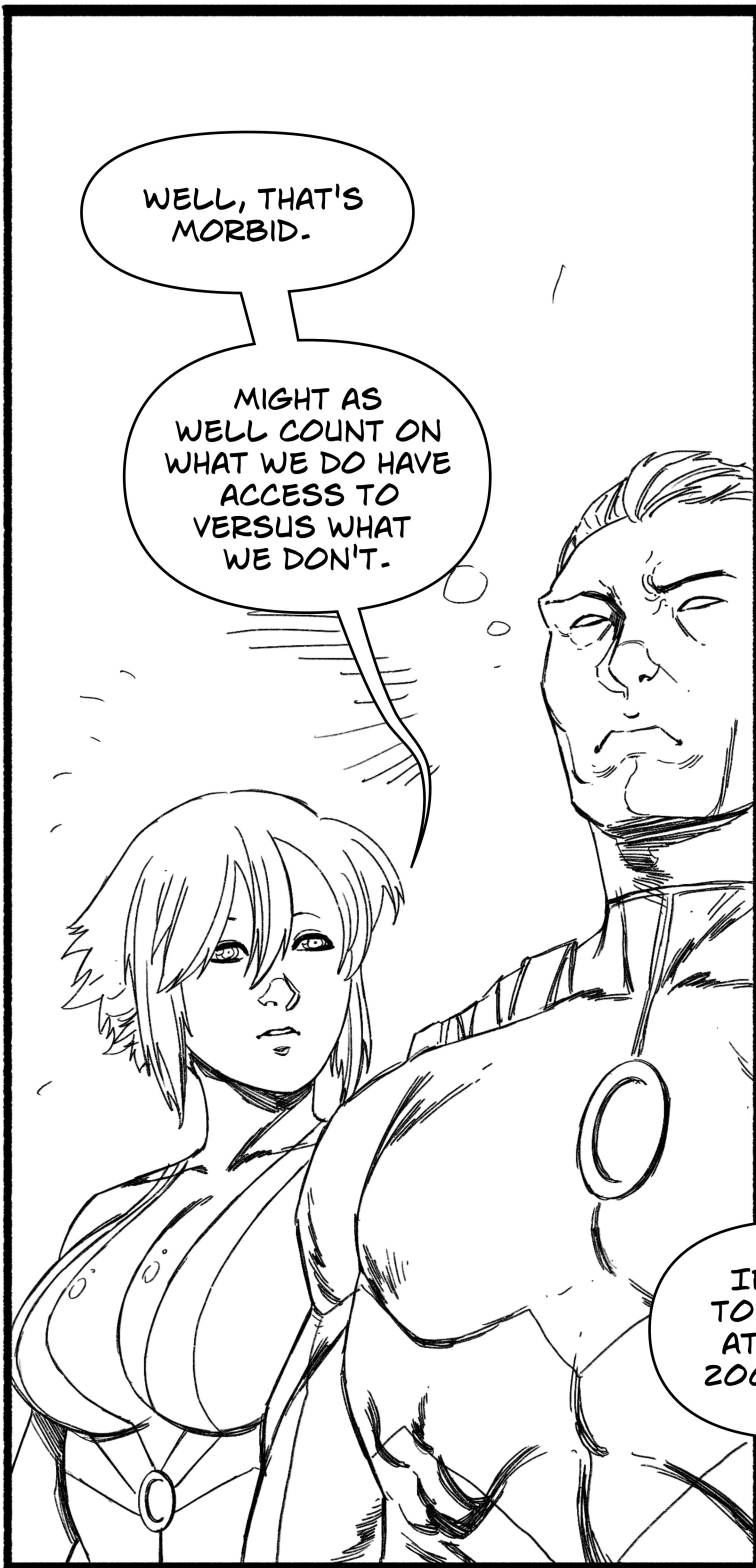
DON'T BOTHER.



NOT FROM A LACK OF TRYING.



THE CONTRACTORS TOOK CONTROL OF THE CRASH SITE, SAID THEY HAD RIGHTS TO ALL THE WRECKAGE SINCE THEIR PLANE WAS LODGED IN IT.

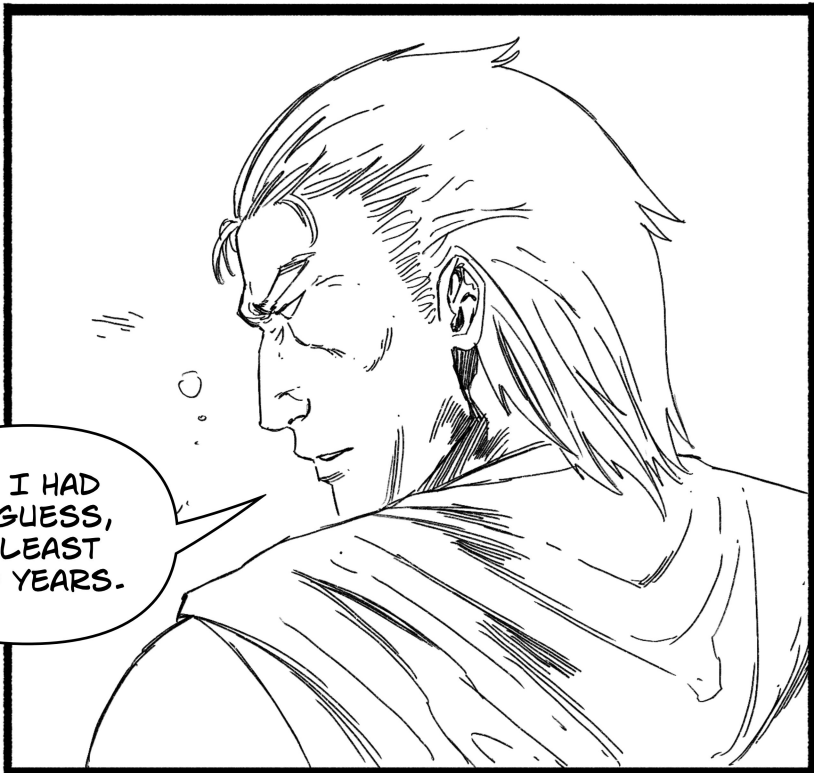


WELL, THAT'S MORBID.

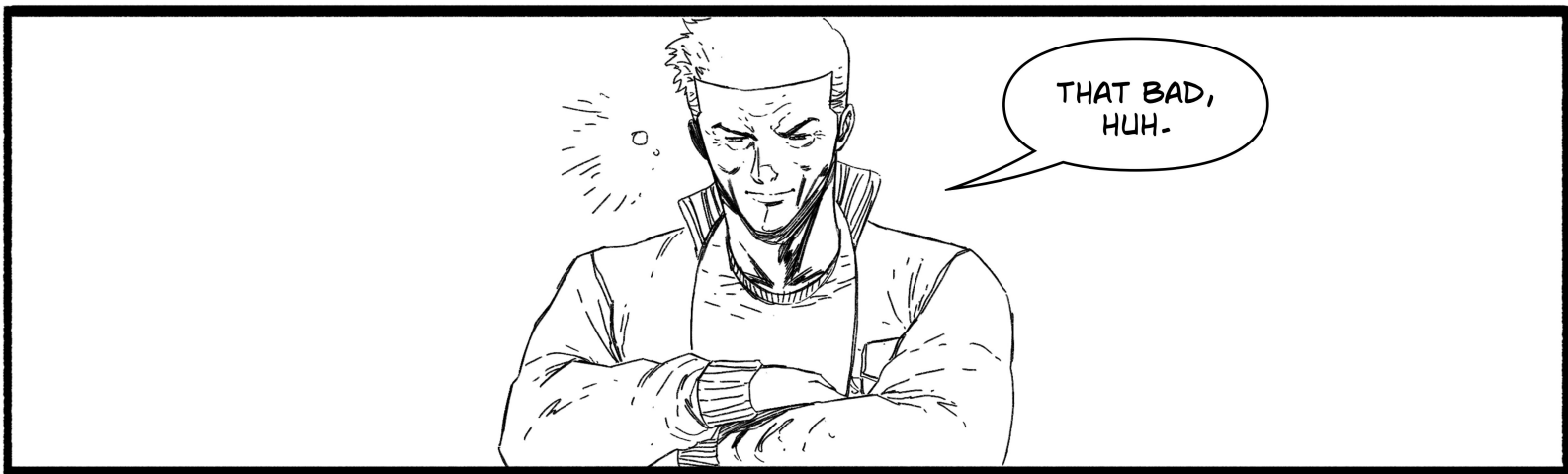
MIGHT AS WELL COUNT ON WHAT WE DO HAVE ACCESS TO VERSUS WHAT WE DON'T.



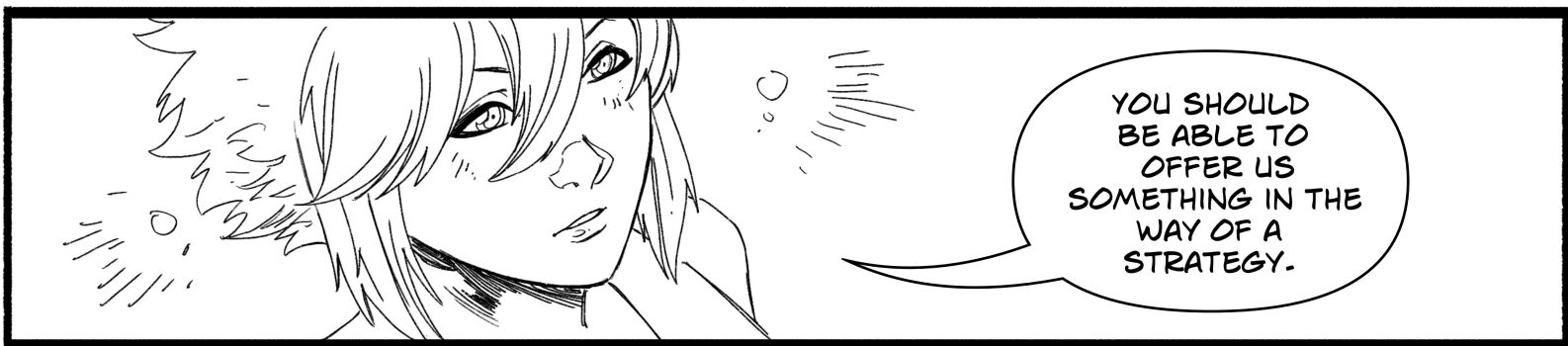
HOW FAR ARE WE FROM YOU, TECHNOLOGY WISE?



IF I HAD TO GUESS, AT LEAST 200 YEARS.

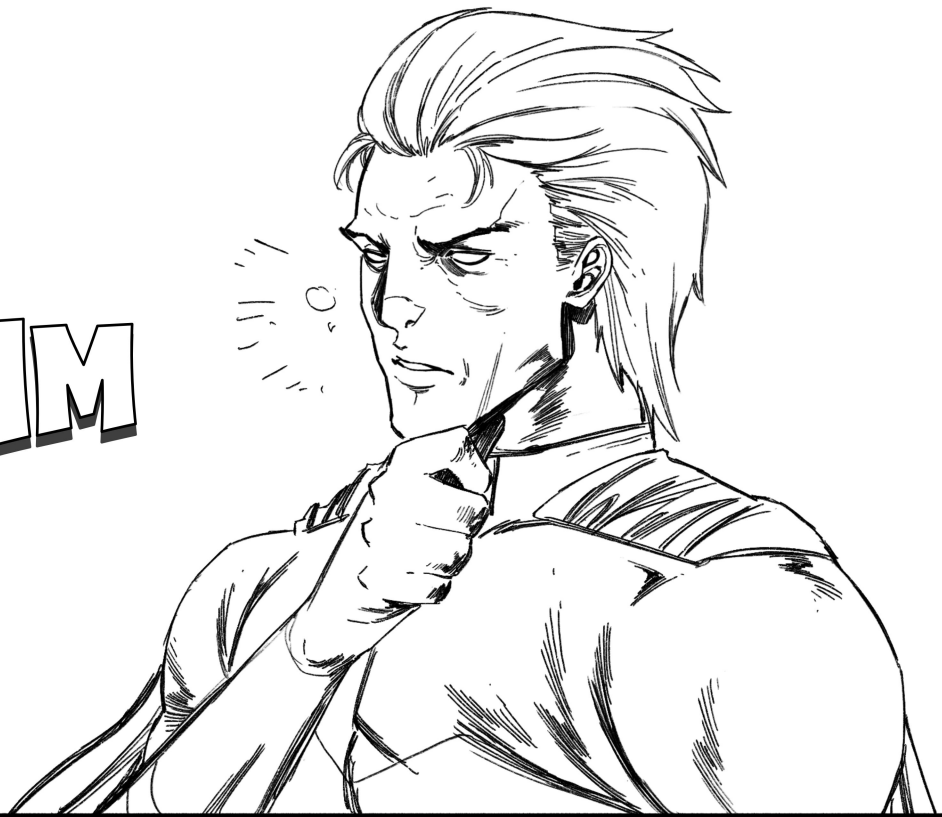


THAT BAD, HUH.



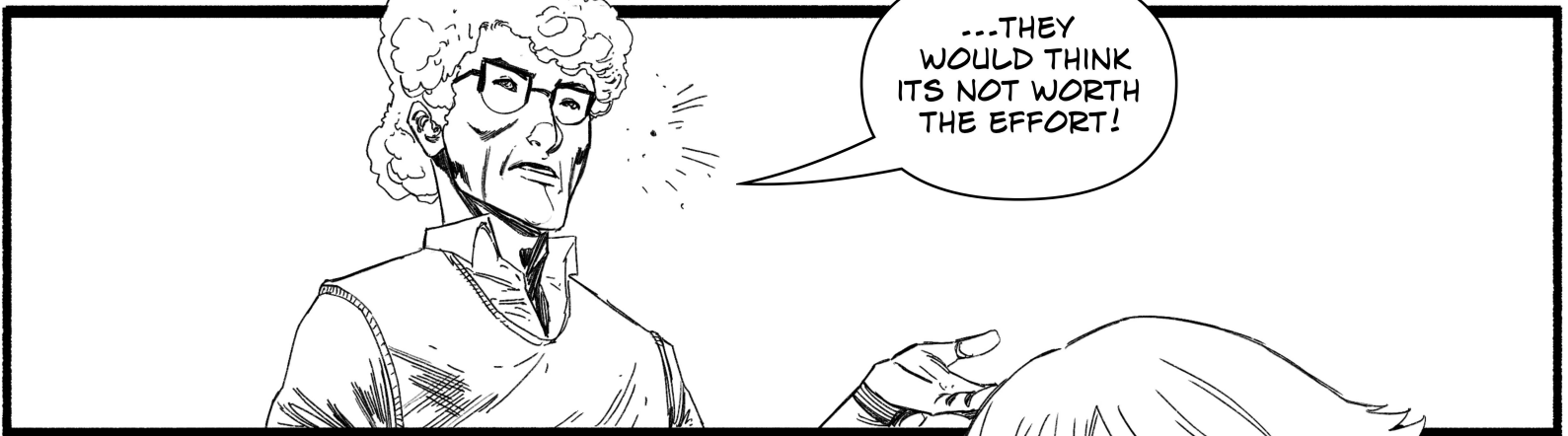
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER US SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF A STRATEGY.

HHMMMMM

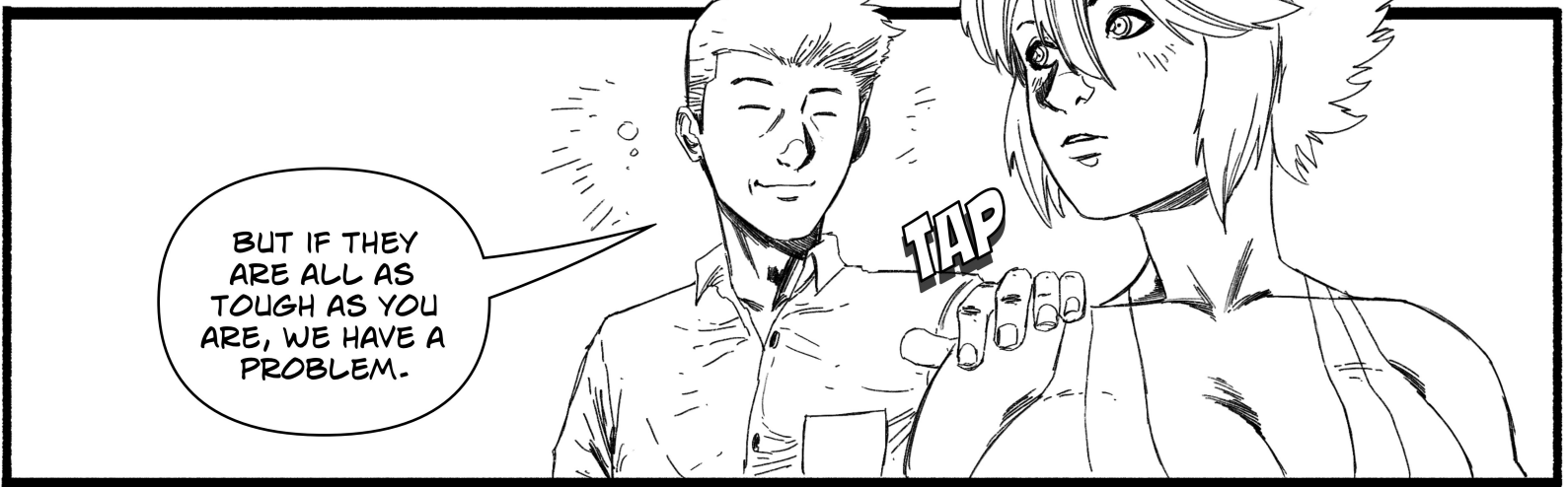


THE LACK OF
POPULATION
GROWTH.

IF AN
INVASION
PROVES TO HAVE
A HEAVY DEATH
TOLL....



...THEY
WOULD THINK
IT'S NOT WORTH
THE EFFORT!



BUT IF THEY
ARE ALL AS
TOUGH AS YOU
ARE, WE HAVE A
PROBLEM.

TAP