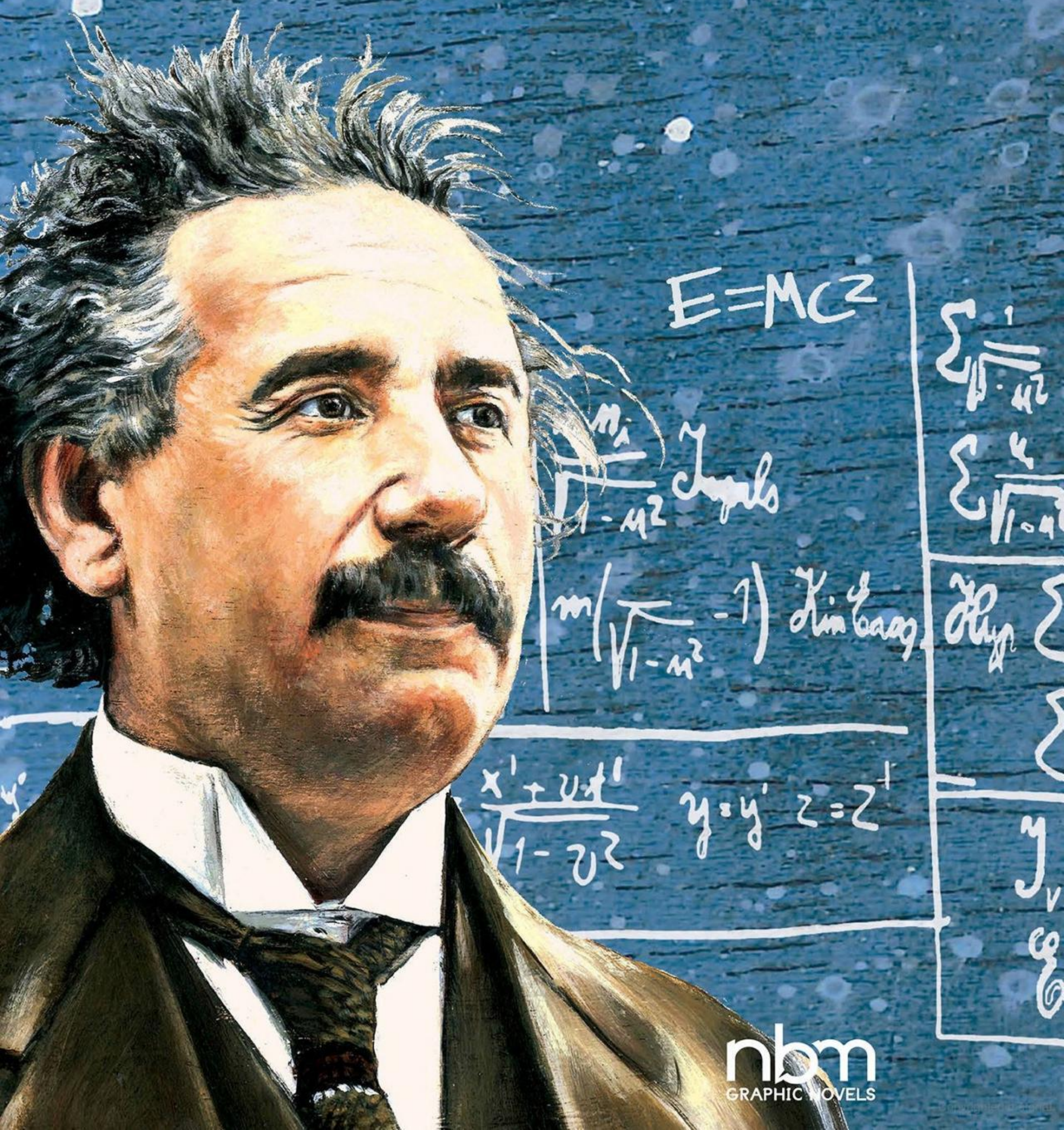


A. Einstein

THE POETRY OF REAL

MANUEL GARCÍA IGLESIAS & MARWAN KAHIL



A. G. Einstein

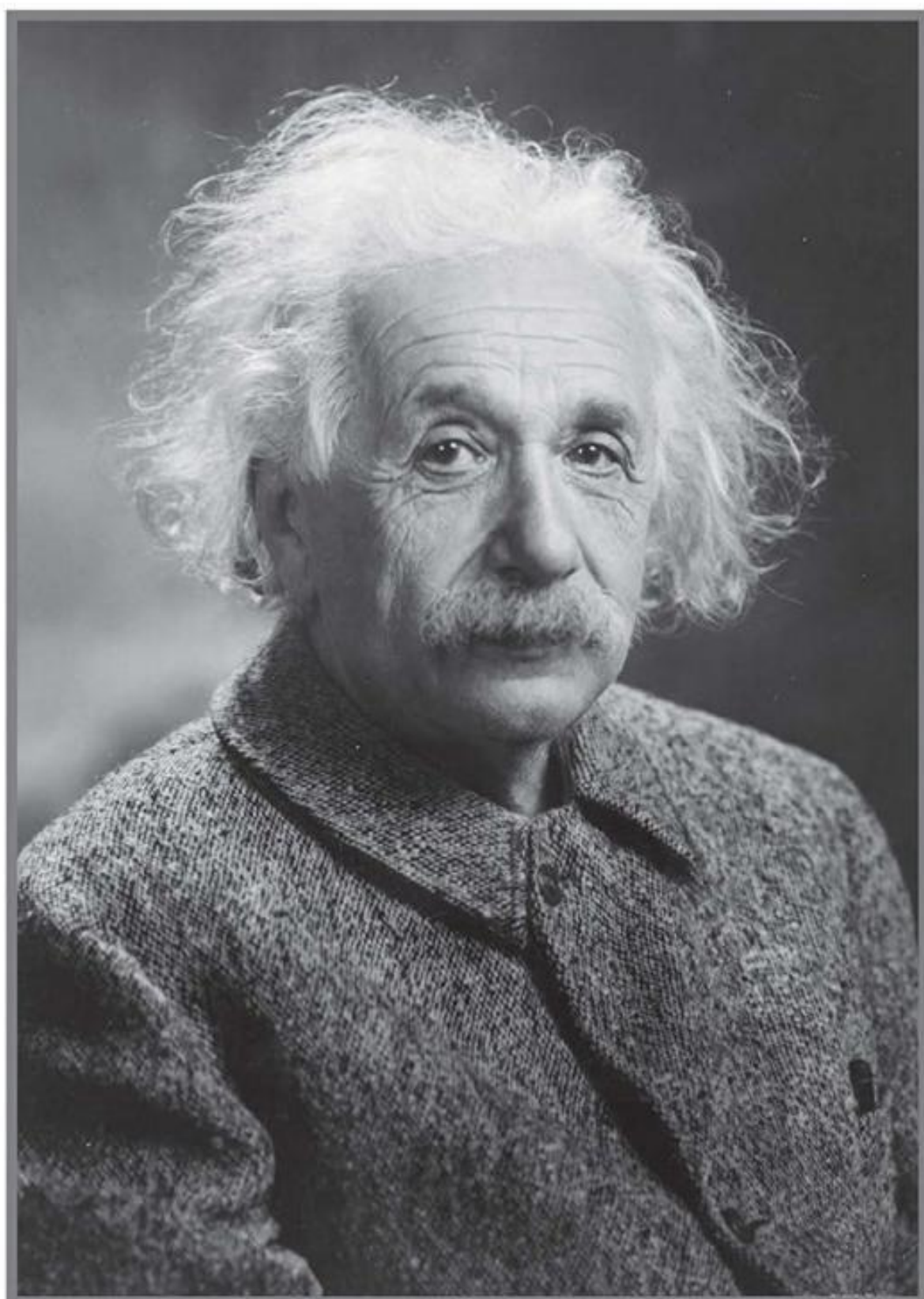
THE POETRY OF REAL

ART • MANUEL GARCÍA IGLESIAS WRITER • MARWAN KAHIL



"IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER IT IS BY STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS." ISAAC NEWTON

nbn GRAPHIC
NOVELS
Nantier • Beall • Minoustchine
N E W Y O R K



ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955)
PHOTO : ORREN JACK TURNER, 1947 - LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Marwan Kahil would like to thank Manuel for his talent and patience, Jean-Paul for his confidence and his keen eye, Aloysia for her presence and for her re-readings, his mother Laure for everything she's brought him, Diana for her support, Angela for her passion for history.

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Certain illustrations were inspired by news images taken barring involuntary error, from the public domain. The example of the elevator on pages 66 and 67 is in part inspired by an illustration by L. Hindryckx that appeared in the magazine Science & Vie N°273 dedicated to Einstein and his theories of relativity.

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GRAPHIC NOVELS
Comics Biographies

Ulm, German Empire, 1884.

ALBERT...
ALBERT!

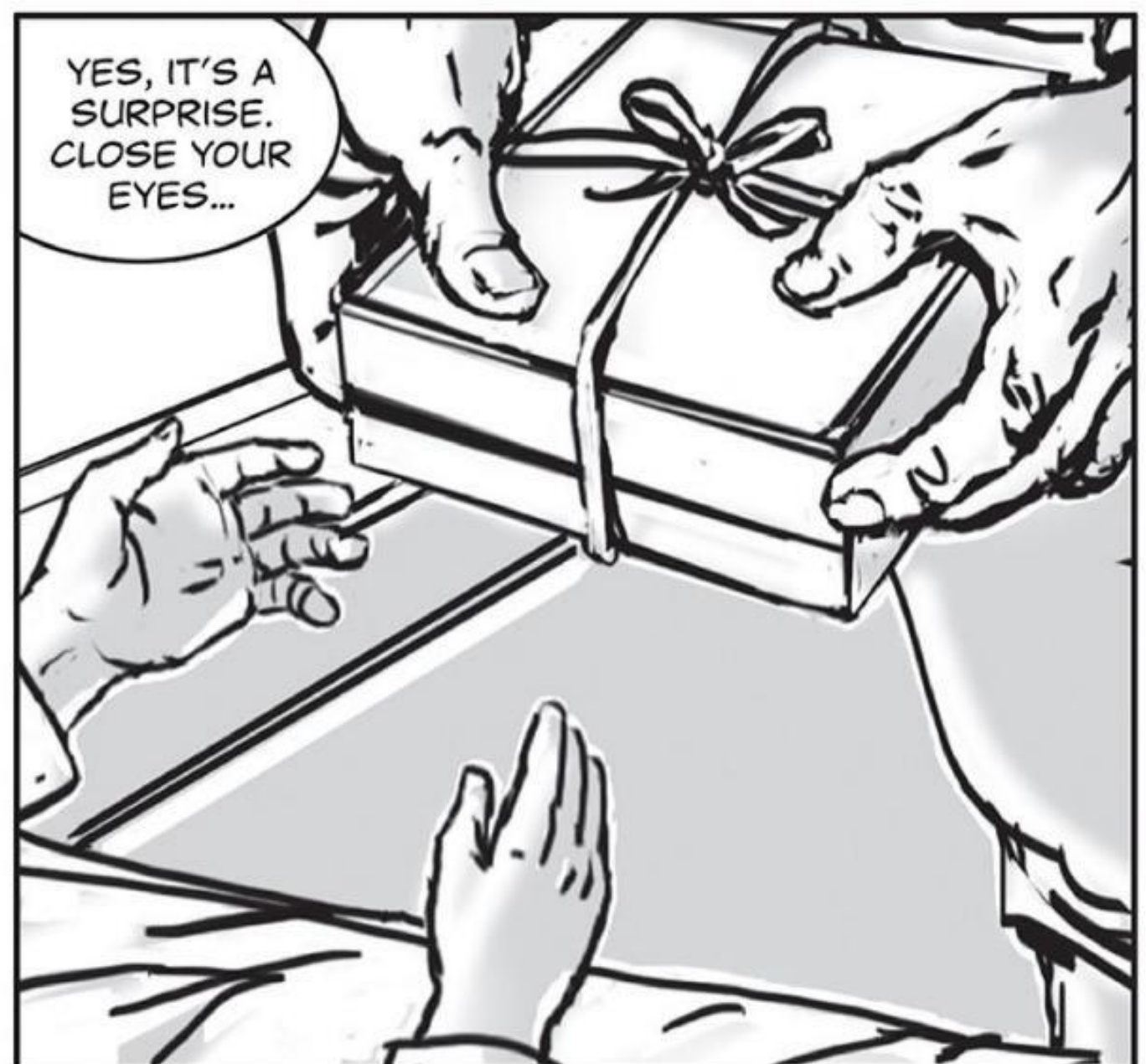
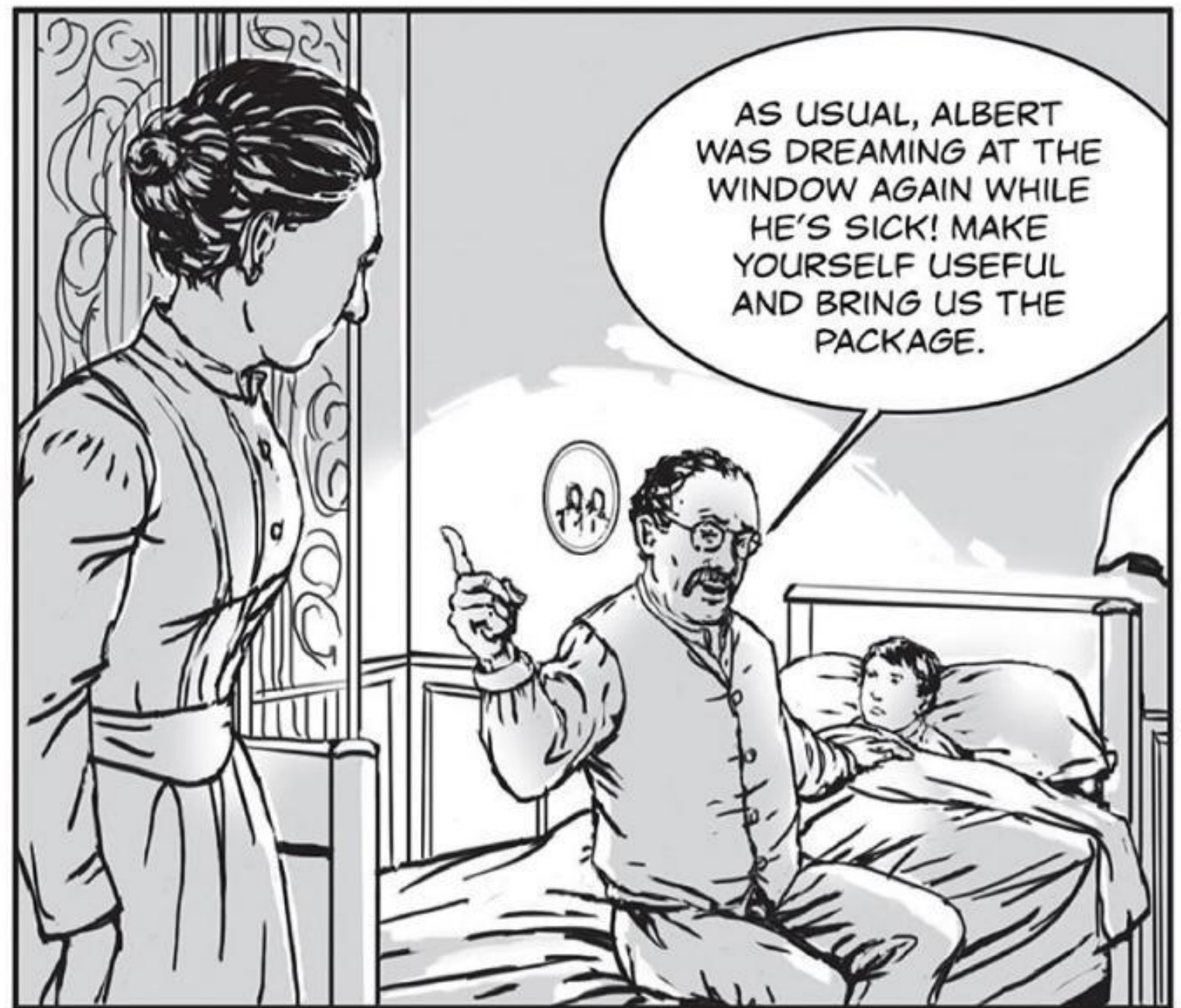
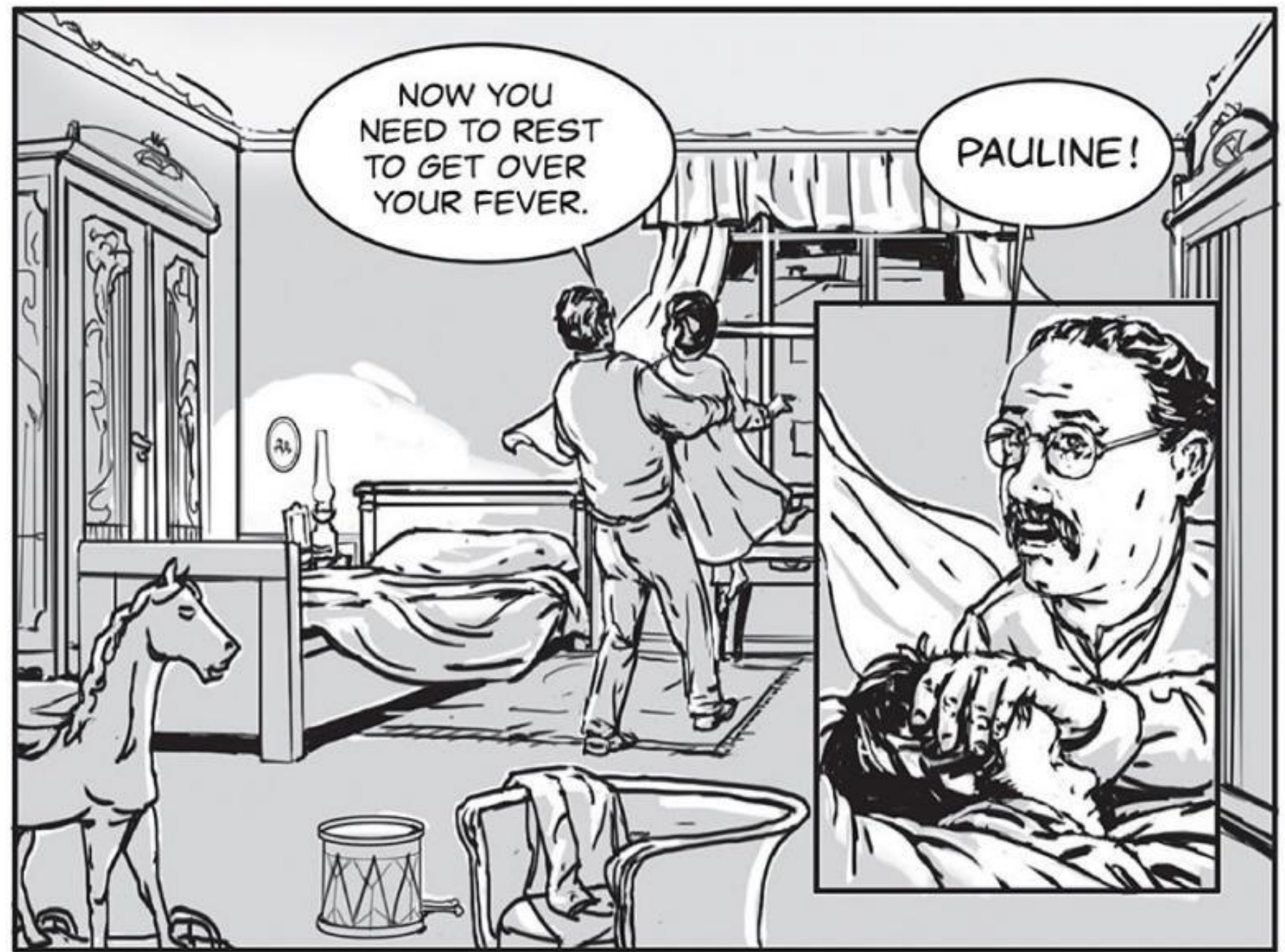
Hoch Ripple

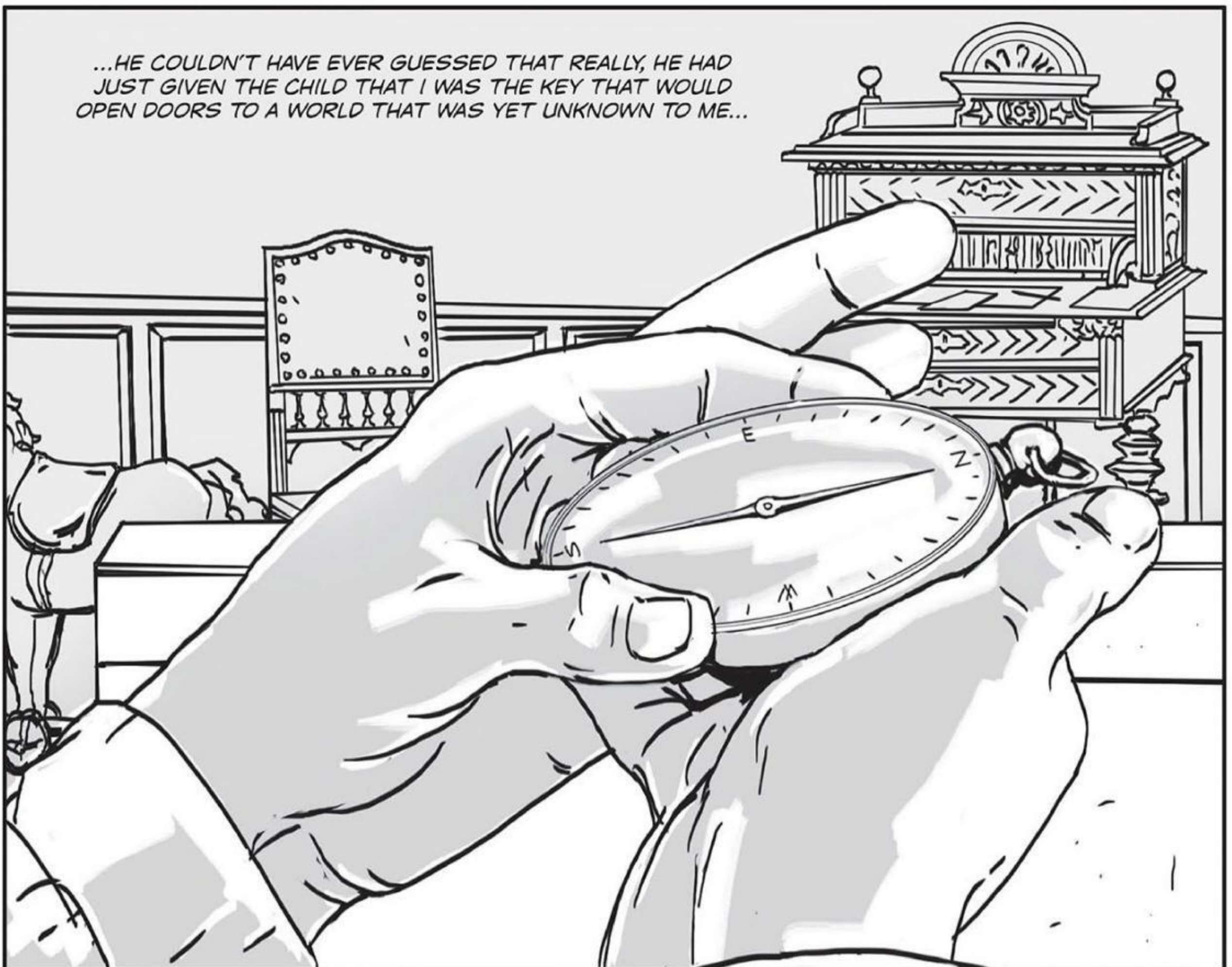


ALBERT!

WHERE
ARE YOU
HIDING?







Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton - United States
Autumn 1953.

...A WORLD FULL
OF MYSTERIES, MY
DEAR MARK, AND
THAT NEVER CEASED
TO SPARK MY
IMAGINATION.

I CAN BETTER
UNDERSTAND NOW,
YOUR PREDISPOSITION
FOR ELECTRO-
MAGNETISM,
PROFESSOR.



PROFESSOR!
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO COMMENT ON
SENATOR MCCARTHY'S
DECLARATIONS?

WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF THE
EXECUTION
OF THE
ROSENBERGS*?

PLEASE, THE
PROFESSOR NO
LONGER WISHES
TO SPEAK TO
JOURNALISTS.



NEVERTHELESS,
IT SEEMS THAT THE
FBI SUSPECTS YOU OF
BEING A COMMUNIST
SYMPATHIZER...

THAT'S
ENOUGH!

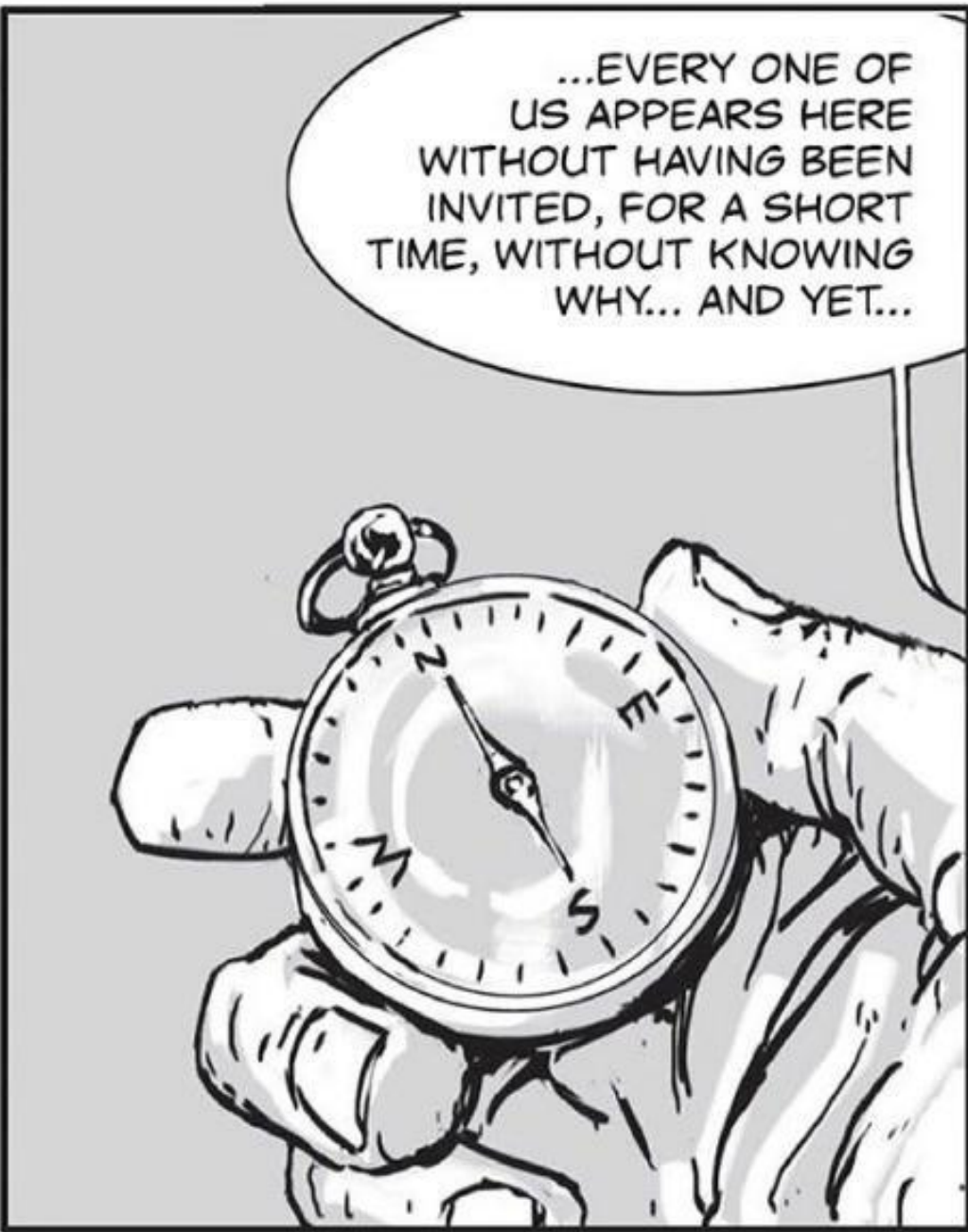
I...



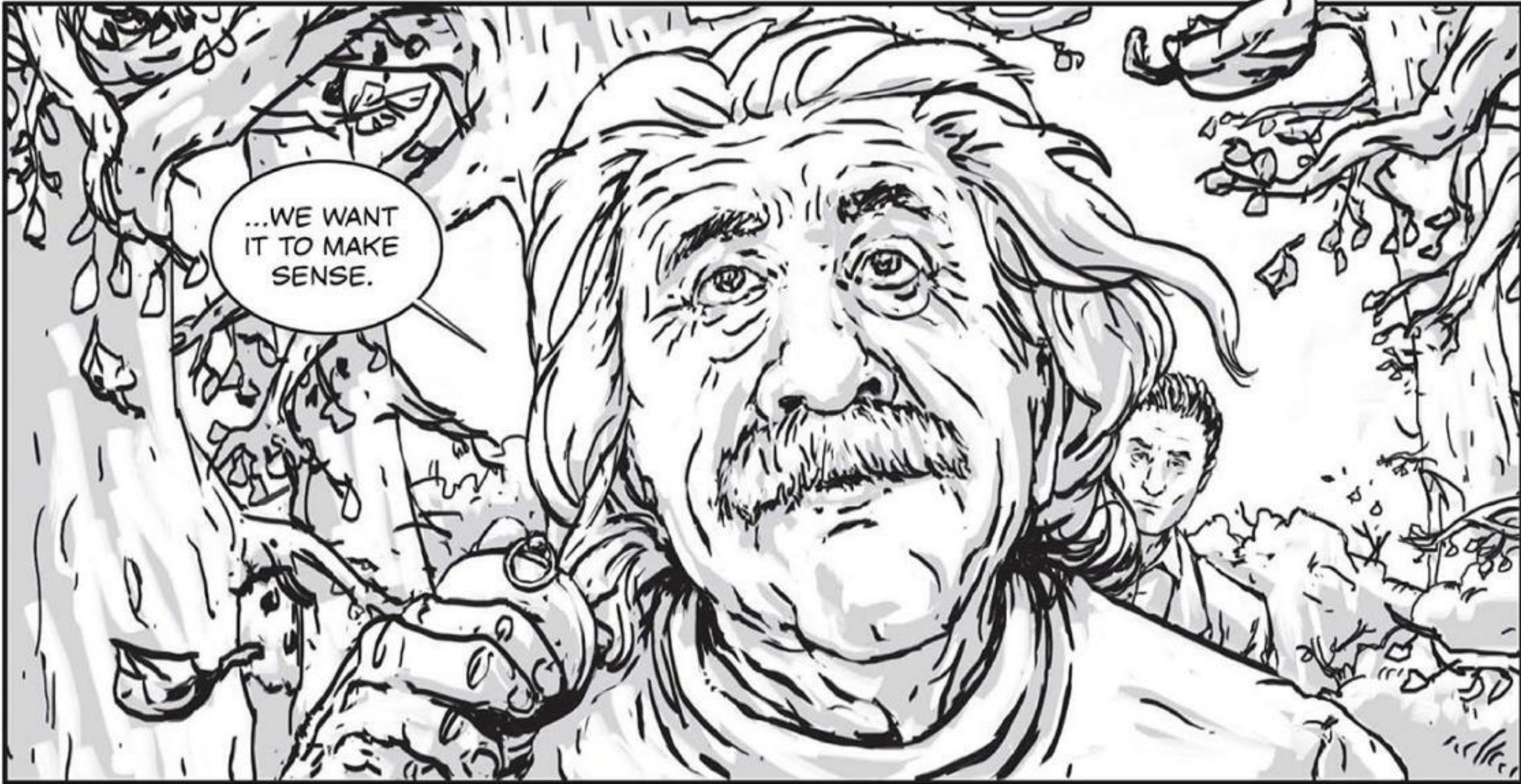
*A MARRIED COUPLE OF COMMUNIST SPIES ACCUSED OF HAVING DELIVERED NUCLEAR SECRETS TO THE RUSSIANS.



...OUR PLACE ON THIS EARTH OFTEN SEEMS VERY STRANGE TO ME, MARK...



...EVERY ONE OF US APPEARS HERE WITHOUT HAVING BEEN INVITED, FOR A SHORT TIME, WITHOUT KNOWING WHY... AND YET...



...WE WANT IT TO MAKE SENSE.



UH...

PARDON ME, MARK. I FEEL SO TIRED ALL OF A SUDDEN. IT MUST BE MY BLOOD PRESSURE.

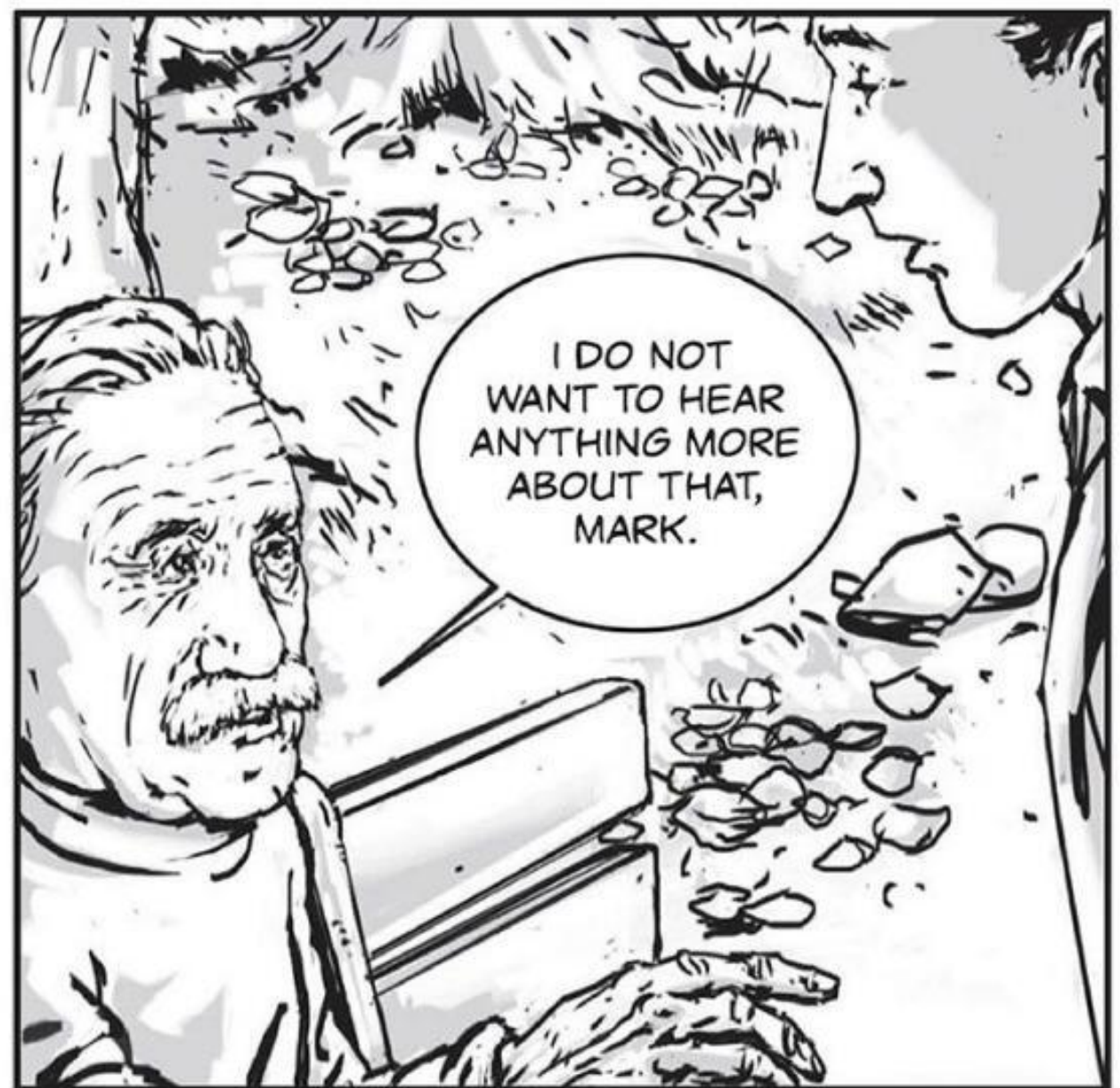


LOOK... IT'S EINSTEIN!

WHY SEARCH ALL OUT FOR MEANING, IT'S ENOUGH TO MARVEL AT THE SECRETS OF THE WORLD...



PROFESSOR! YOU NEED TO REST, YOUR DOCTOR THINKS HE SHOULD OPERATE ON YOU...



I DO NOT WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THAT, MARK.



BUT HE SAID THAT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE VERY GOOD AND THAT YOU COULD BE BACK TO NORMAL SOON.

NO, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO PROLONG THINGS INDEFINITELY. I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO HERE... I WISH TO LEAVE WHEN I WANT TO...

...AND I WILL DO IT WITH STYLE.

Munich, 1894.

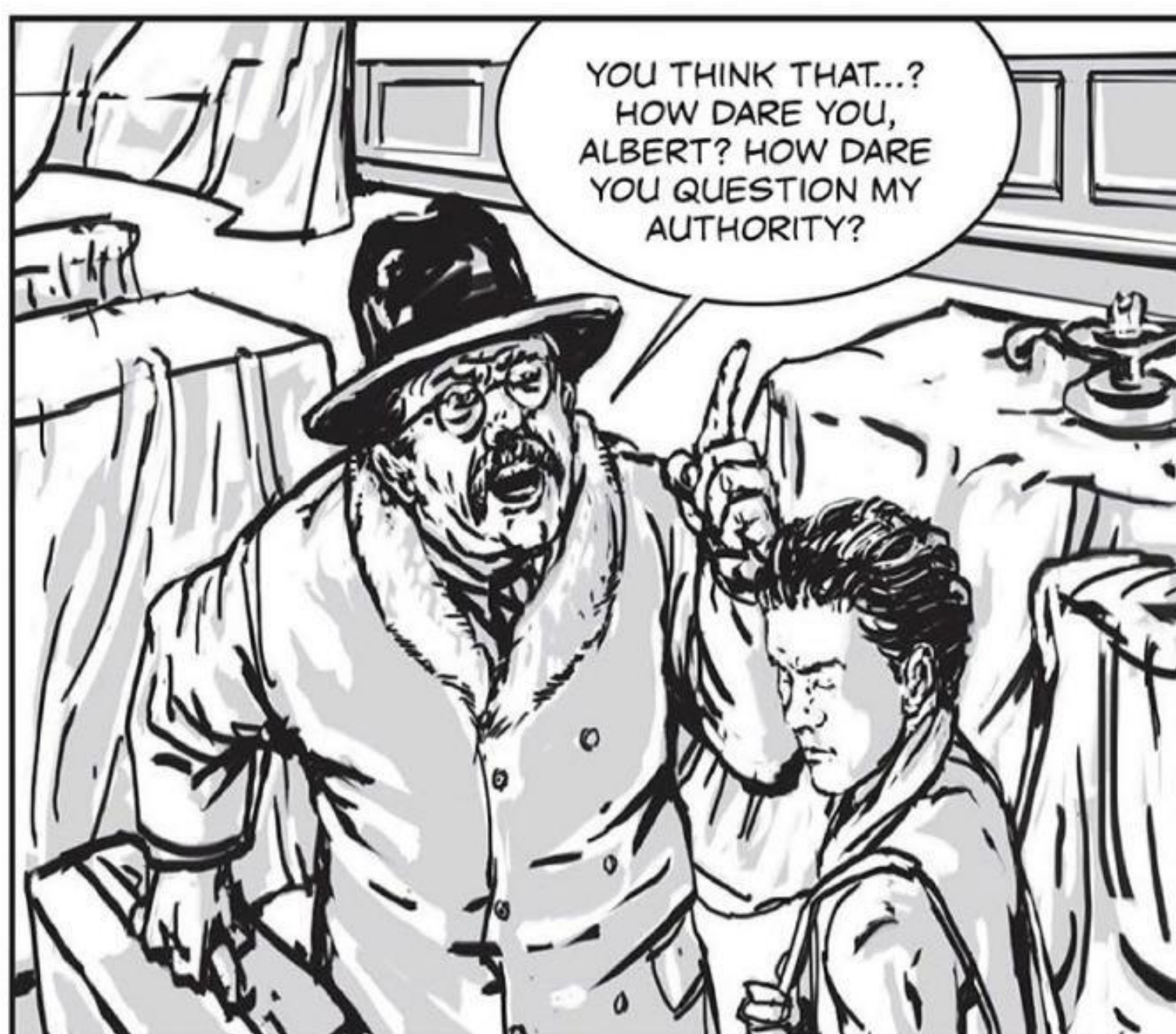
You see, Mark, I never liked others to decide for me...

FATHER,
I'M COMING
WITH YOU!

OUT OF THE
QUESTION! YOU
STAY HERE,
ALBERT. IT'S
FOR YOUR
OWN GOOD!



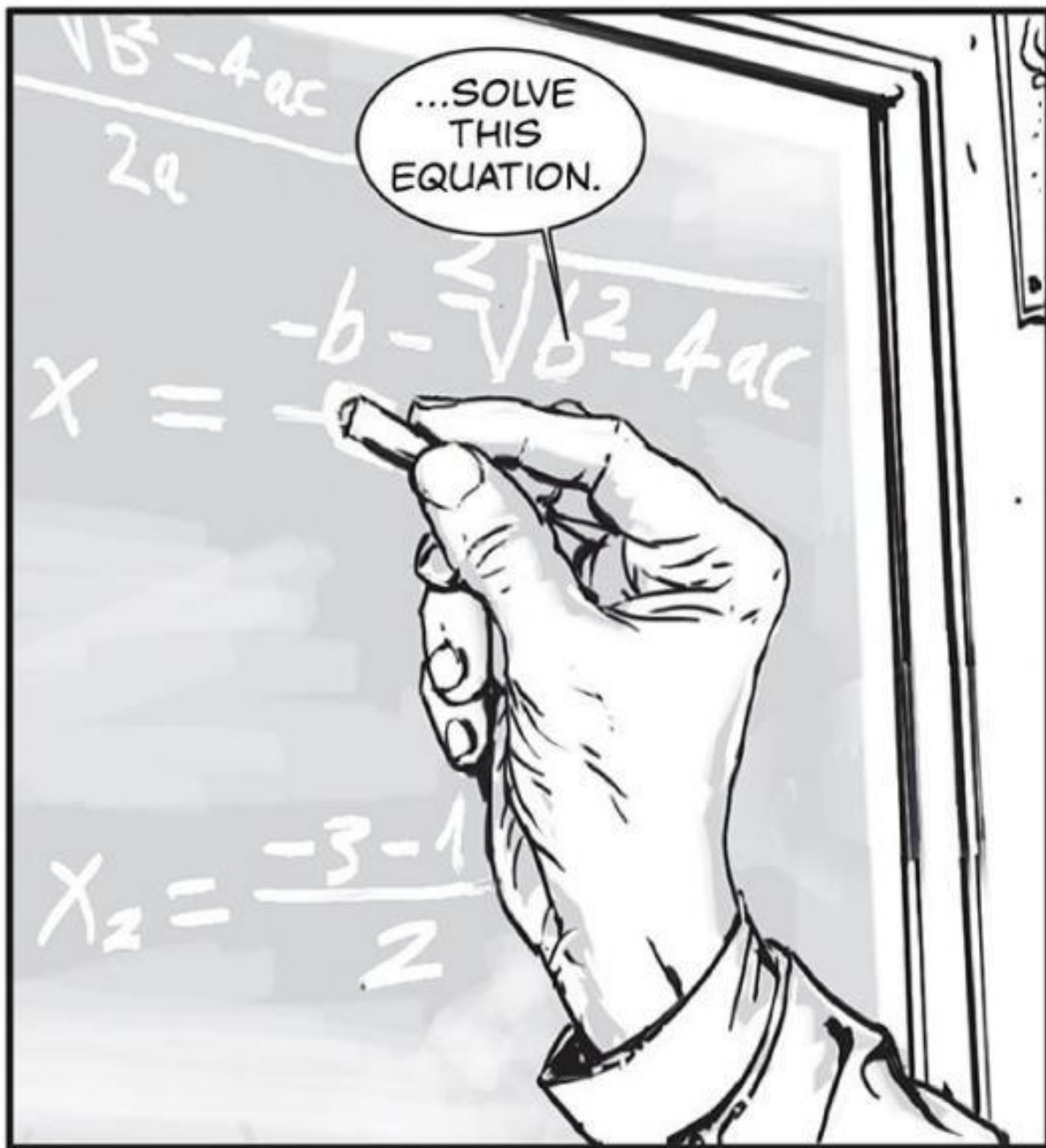
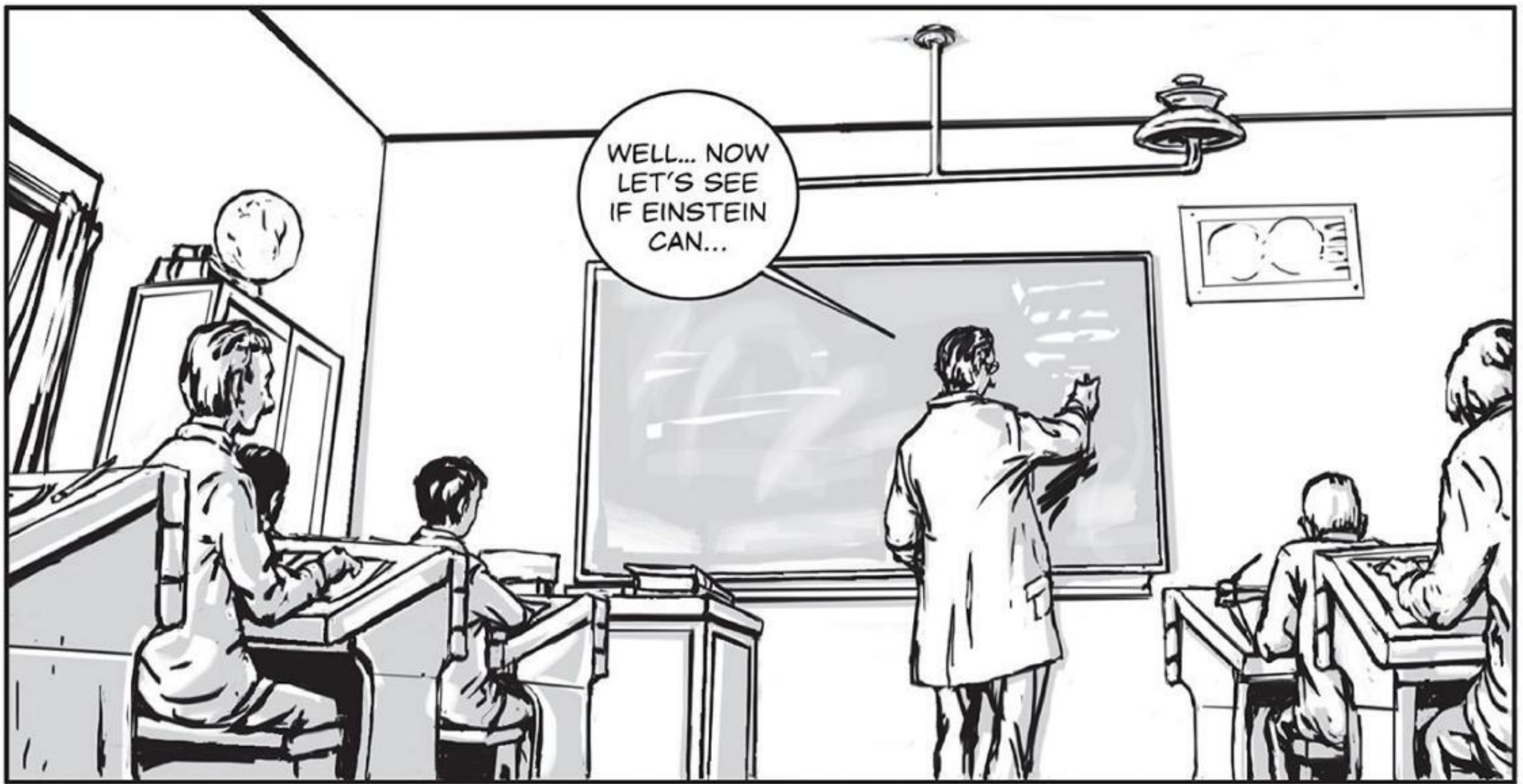
BUT I THINK IT WOULD
BE BETTER IF I COULD
ACCOMPANY YOU TO
ITALY! EVERYTHING IS
TOO RIGID HERE.



YOU THINK THAT...?
HOW DARE YOU,
ALBERT? HOW DARE
YOU QUESTION MY
AUTHORITY?



YOU WILL STAY
IN MUNICH TO FINISH
PREP SCHOOL,
UNDERSTOOD?





"SPACE AND TIME ARE THE STRUCTURE WITHIN WHICH THE SPIRIT IS CONSTRAINED TO CONSTRUCT ITS OWN EXPERIENCE OF REALITY."

EINSTEIN, READING KANT* IN MATH CLASS WILL NOT HELP YOU SOLVE YOUR EXERCISES.

YOU WILL HAVE THREE HOURS OF DETENTION THIS FRIDAY!

BUT...



THE FOLLOWING FRIDAY, I PREFERRED TO LEAVE... FOR ITALY! I COULD READ KANT AS MUCH AS I WANTED WHILE TAKING IN THE ALPS, AND I NEVER GAVE UP THINKING THAT IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT CURIOSITY COULD SURVIVE THE GERMAN EDUCATION SYSTEM!

* GERMAN PHILOSOPHER FROM THE 18TH CENTURY, FOUNDER OF CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY



NOW I UNDERSTAND BETTER WHY YOU ASK THAT WE THINK FOR OURSELVES.

WAS YOUR FATHER FURIOUS WHEN YOU ARRIVED IN ITALY?

NOT REALLY...

HE OBJECTED TO MY DECISIONS, BUT I REMAINED CONVINCED THAT I HAD TO EXPERIENCE LIFE FOR MYSELF.



THAT INDEPENDENCE COST YOU DEARLY AT TIMES...



I NEVER HAD TIME TO WASTE PLEASING THE POWERFUL.



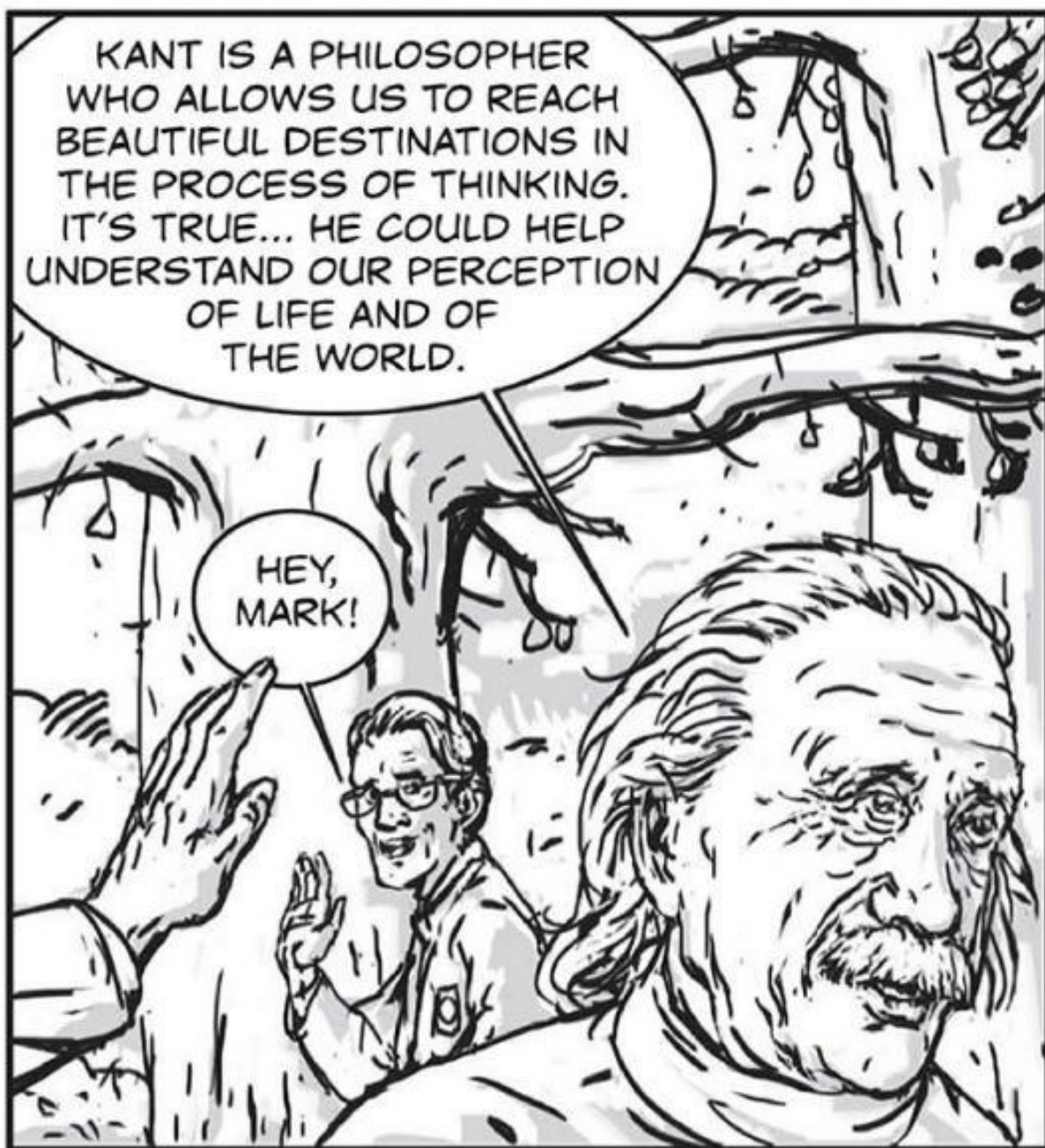
I'M FEELING BETTER ALREADY. WHAT IF WE TOOK A WALK TOWARDS PRINCETON? THE INSTITUTE'S CAMPUS IS PERFECT, BUT THERE WILL BE MORE PEOPLE THERE.



SO IT WAS KANT AND HIS THINKING THAT BROUGHT YOU TO YOUR DISCOVERIES?

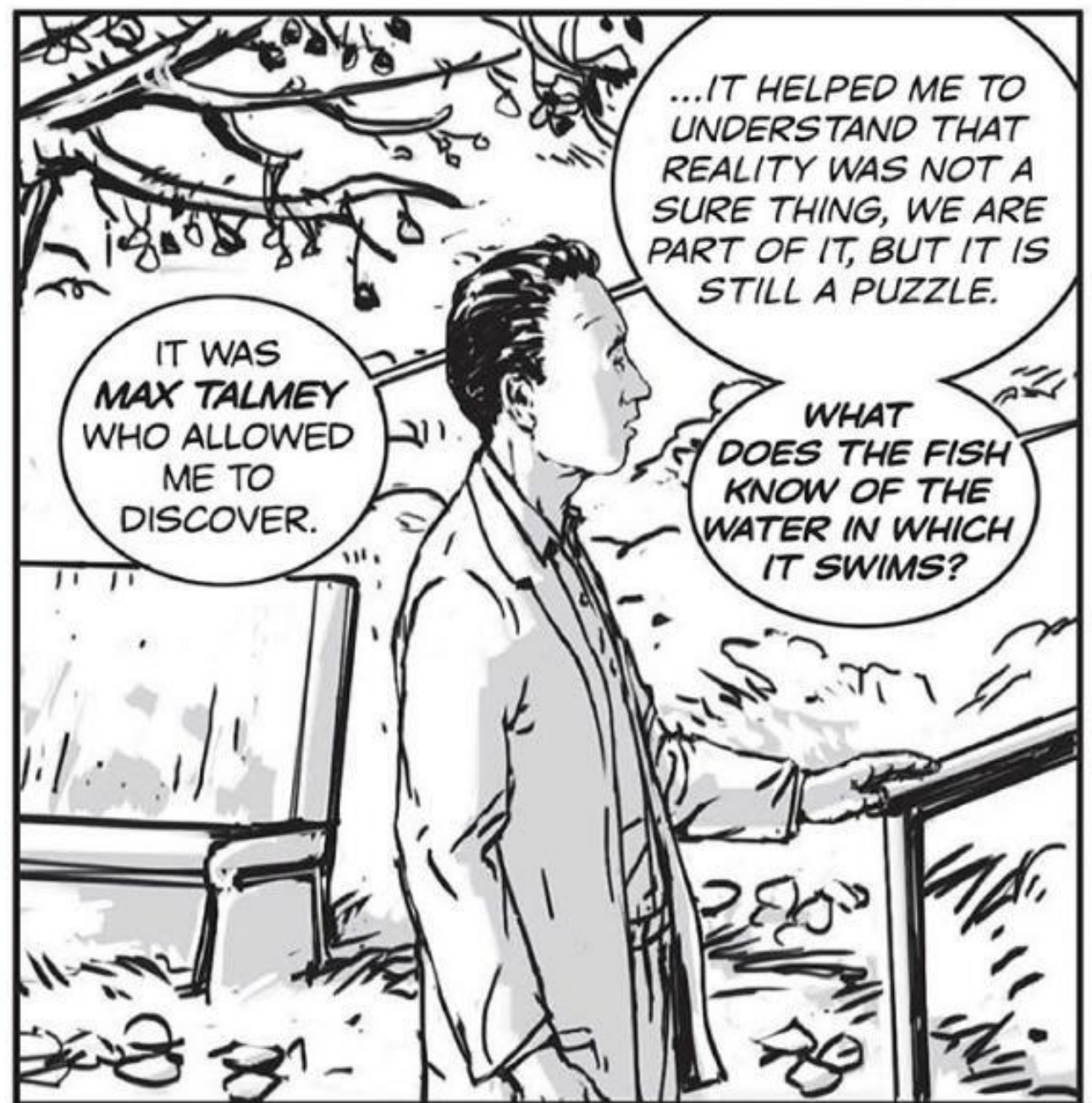
IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, MARK. I WAS ONLY 15 YEARS OLD!

LOOK, IT'S EINSTEIN!



KANT IS A PHILOSOPHER WHO ALLOWS US TO REACH BEAUTIFUL DESTINATIONS IN THE PROCESS OF THINKING. IT'S TRUE... HE COULD HELP UNDERSTAND OUR PERCEPTION OF LIFE AND OF THE WORLD.

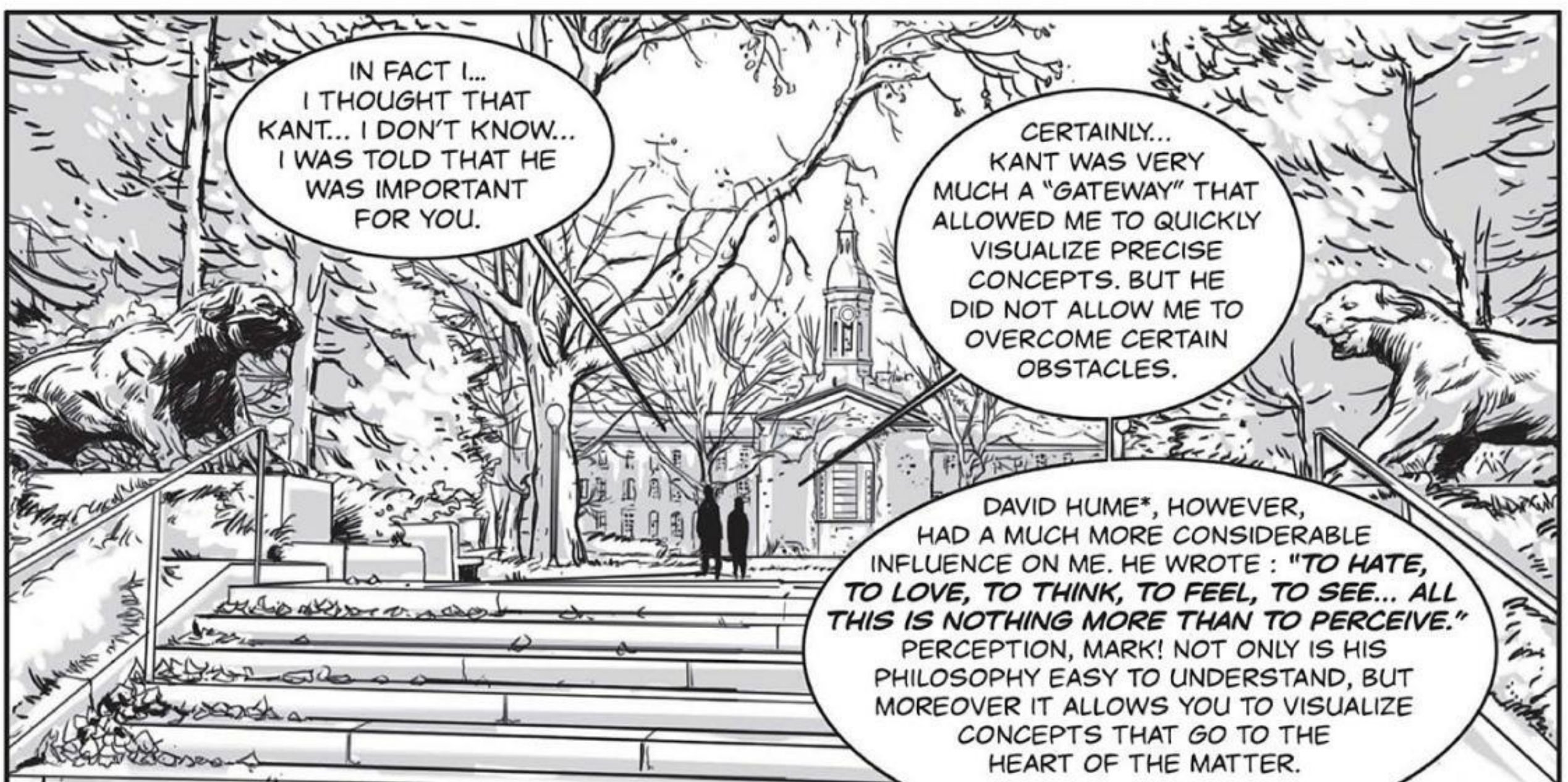
HEY, MARK!



...IT HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT REALITY WAS NOT A SURE THING, WE ARE PART OF IT, BUT IT IS STILL A PUZZLE.

IT WAS MAX TALMEY WHO ALLOWED ME TO DISCOVER.

WHAT DOES THE FISH KNOW OF THE WATER IN WHICH IT SWIMS?

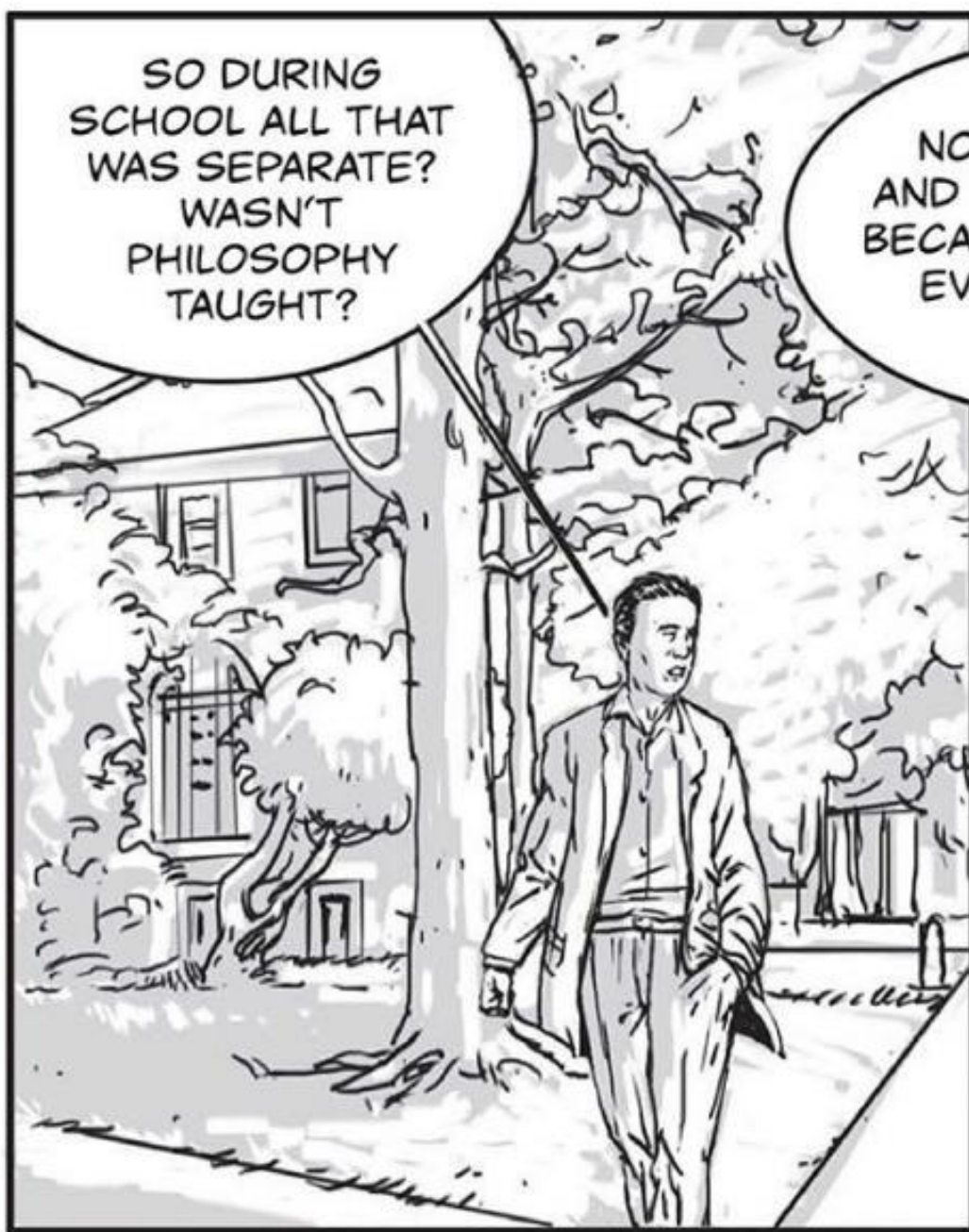


IN FACT I... I THOUGHT THAT KANT... I DON'T KNOW... I WAS TOLD THAT HE WAS IMPORTANT FOR YOU.

CERTAINLY... KANT WAS VERY MUCH A "GATEWAY" THAT ALLOWED ME TO QUICKLY VISUALIZE PRECISE CONCEPTS. BUT HE DID NOT ALLOW ME TO OVERCOME CERTAIN OBSTACLES.

DAVID HUME*, HOWEVER, HAD A MUCH MORE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON ME. HE WROTE: "TO HATE, TO LOVE, TO THINK, TO FEEL, TO SEE... ALL THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN TO PERCEIVE." PERCEPTION, MARK! NOT ONLY IS HIS PHILOSOPHY EASY TO UNDERSTAND, BUT MOREOVER IT ALLOWS YOU TO VISUALIZE CONCEPTS THAT GO TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER.

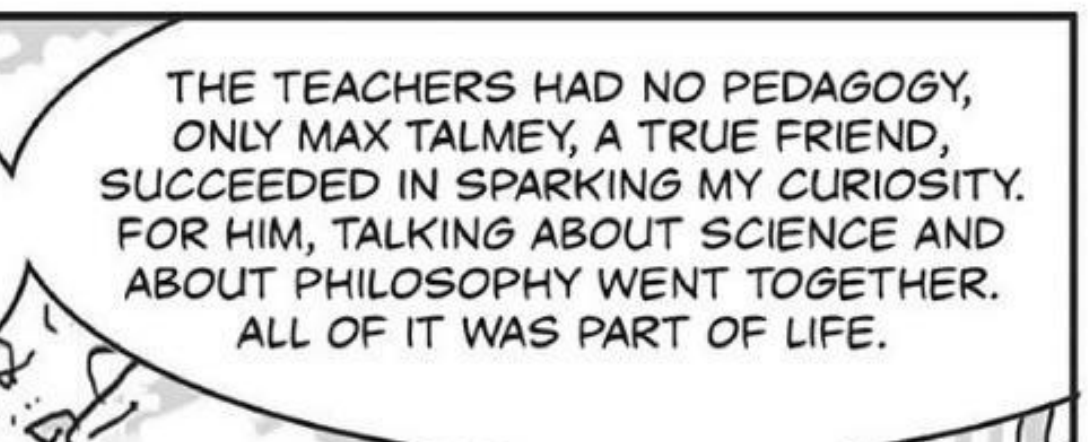
* SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHER FROM THE 18TH CENTURY, FOUNDER OF MODERN EMPIRICISM.



SO DURING SCHOOL ALL THAT WAS SEPARATE? WASN'T PHILOSOPHY TAUGHT?



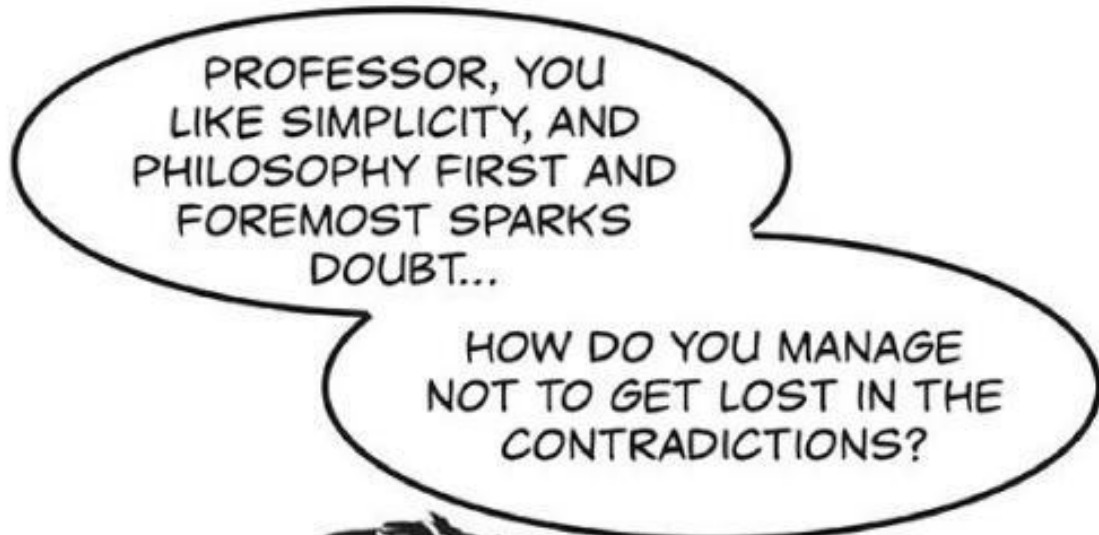
NO... IT WASN'T AND IT WAS AWFUL, BECAUSE IN REALITY EVERYTHING IS LINKED.



THE TEACHERS HAD NO PEDAGOGY, ONLY MAX TALMEY, A TRUE FRIEND, SUCCEEDED IN SPARKING MY CURIOSITY. FOR HIM, TALKING ABOUT SCIENCE AND ABOUT PHILOSOPHY WENT TOGETHER. ALL OF IT WAS PART OF LIFE.



NATURE HAS AN OBJECTIVE, IT IS NEITHER GLORY NOR PRECISION, IT IS LIFE ITSELF. AND THIS LIFE IS WITHIN US.



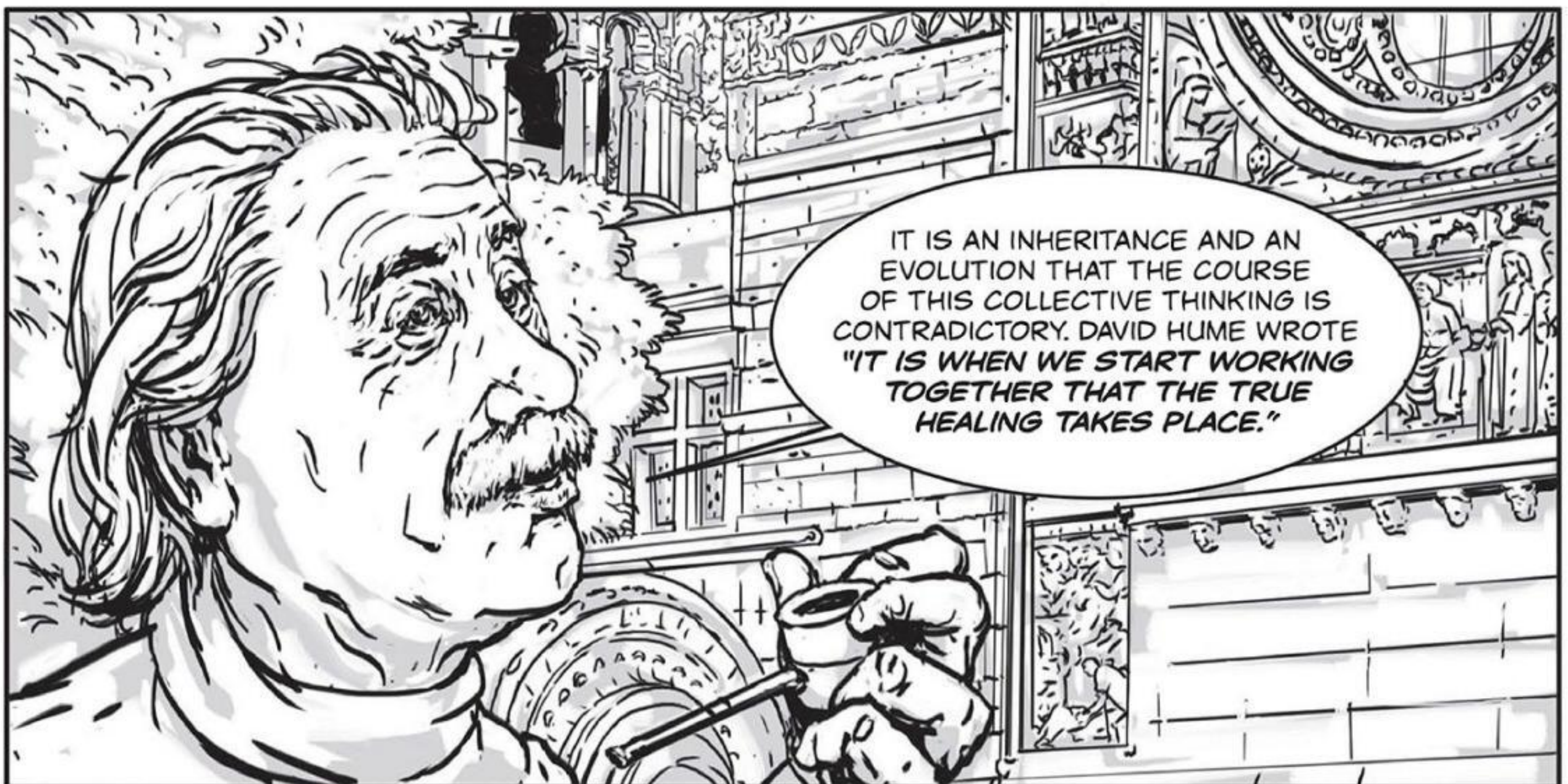
PROFESSOR, YOU LIKE SIMPLICITY, AND PHILOSOPHY FIRST AND FOREMOST SPARKS DOUBT...

HOW DO YOU MANAGE NOT TO GET LOST IN THE CONTRADICTIONS?

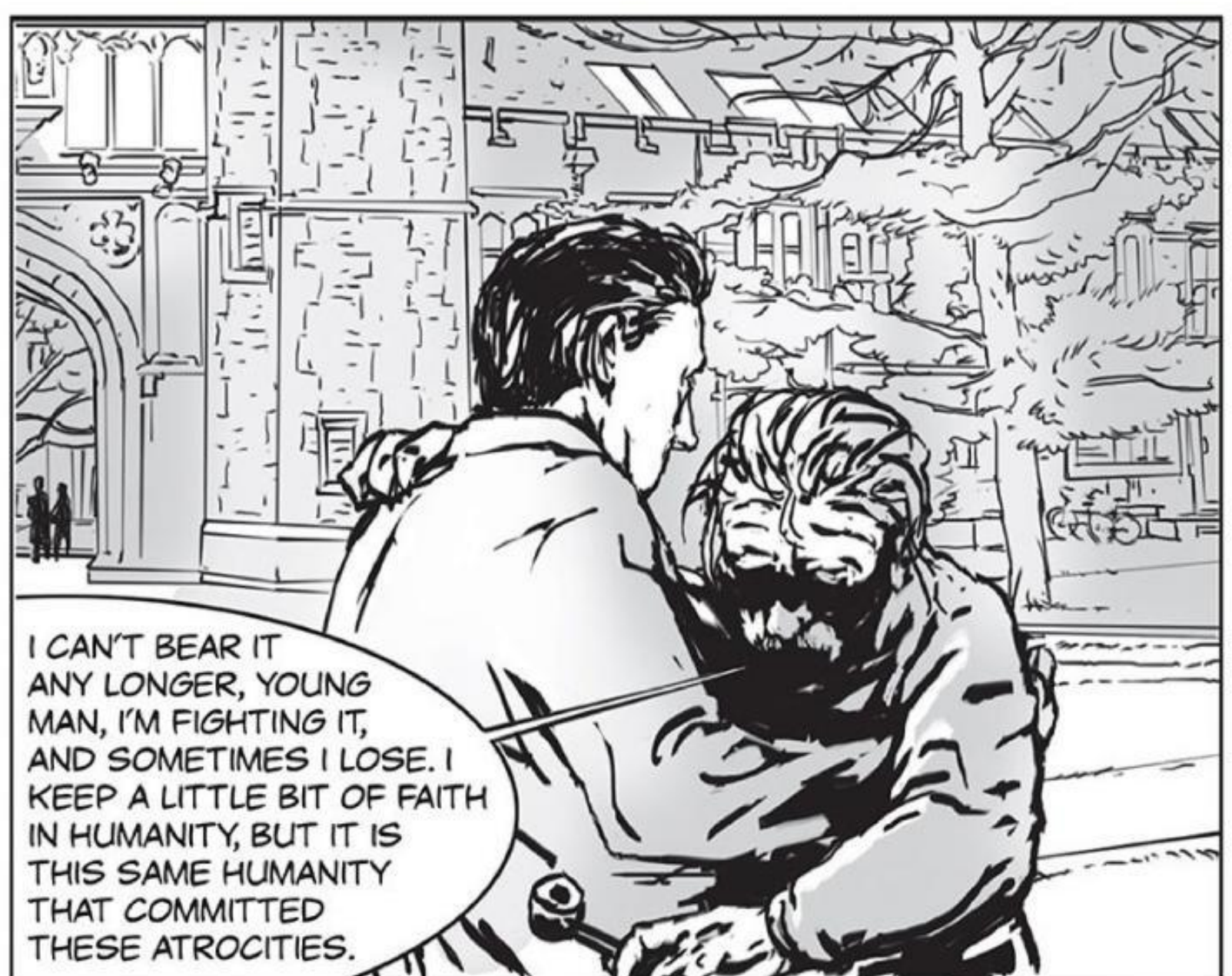
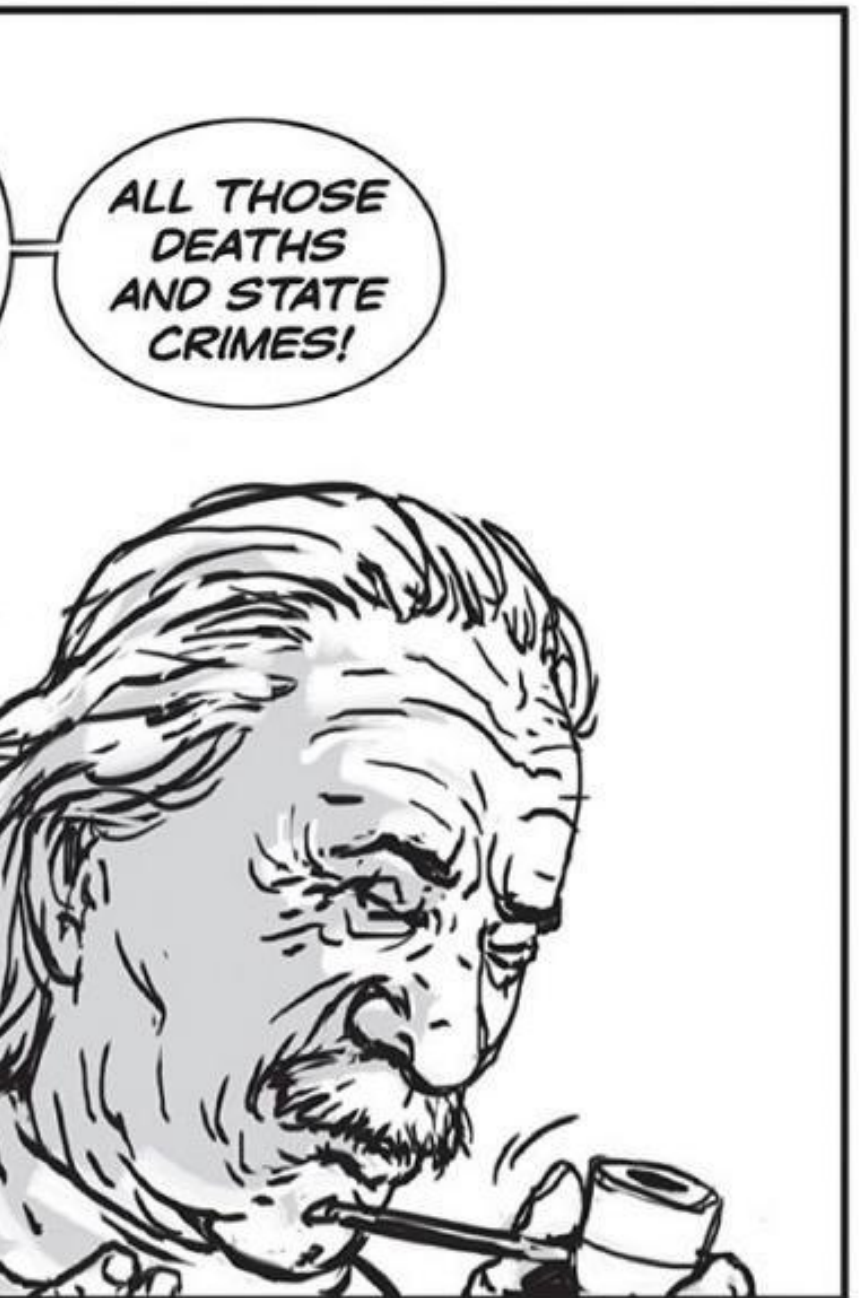
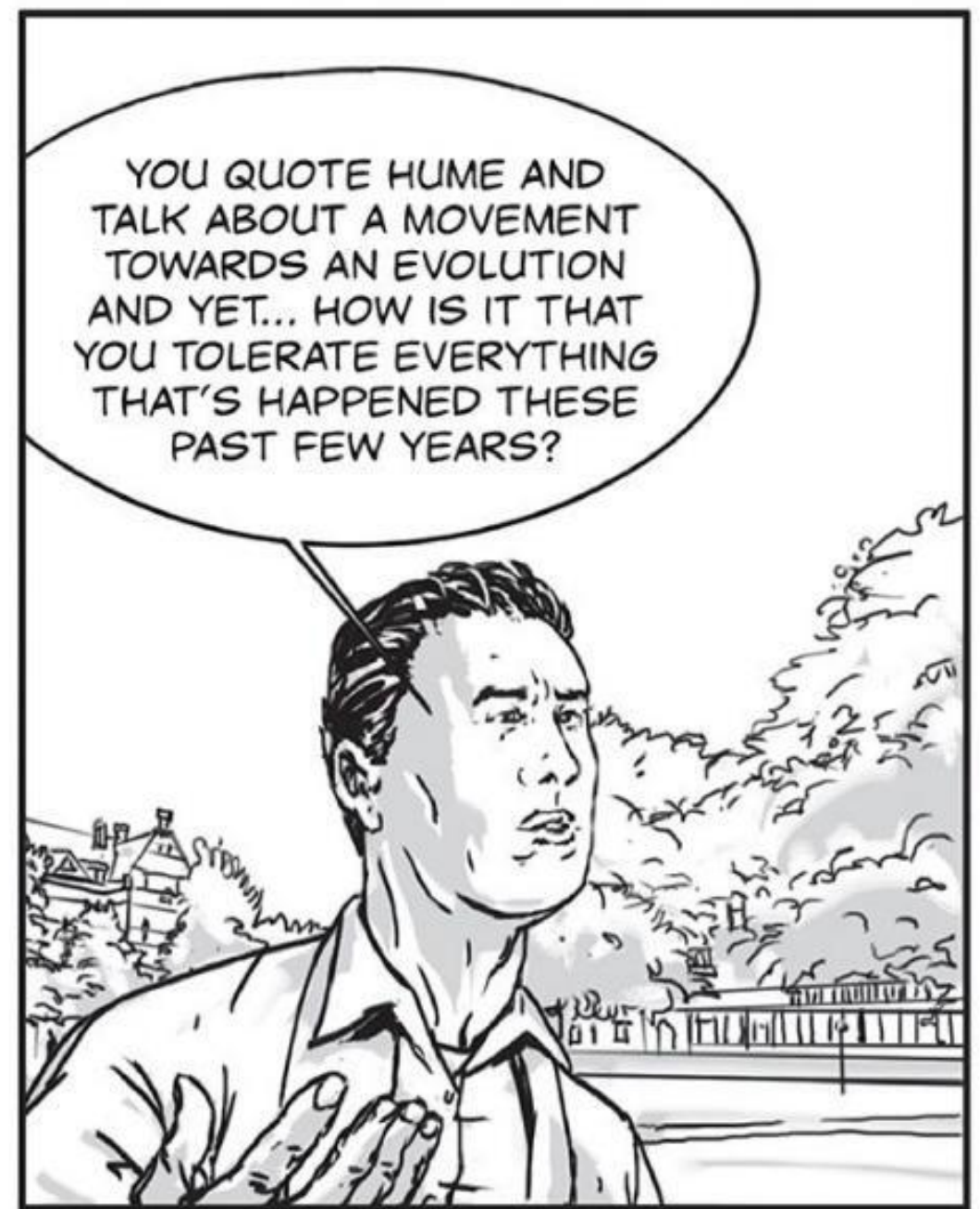


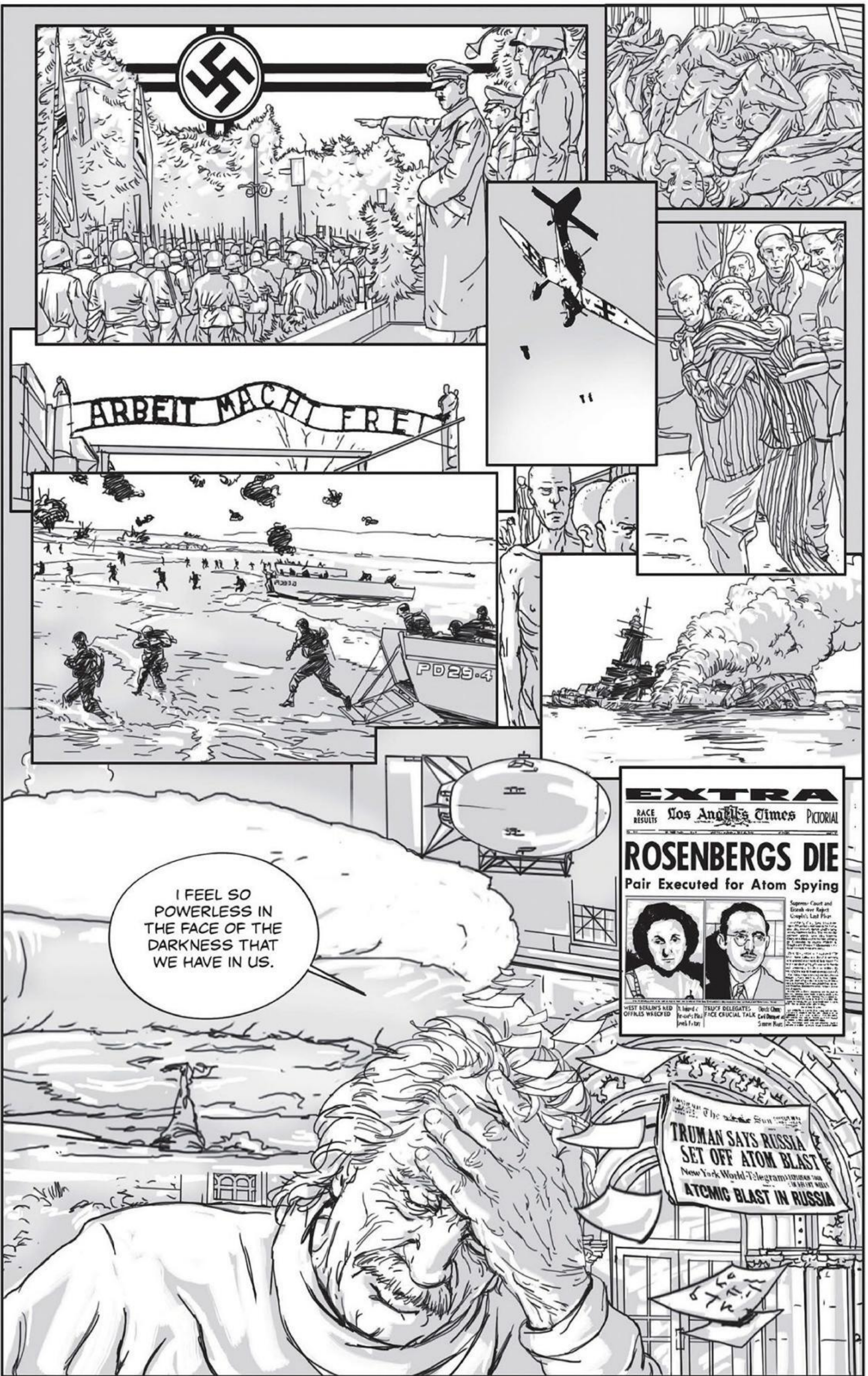
THE CONTRADICTIONS MAKE UP PART OF LIFE, MARK, AND ONE ANSWER COMING FROM SCIENCE ONLY BRINGS UP NEW QUESTIONS...

THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE IS TO BUILD A FERTILE DIALOGUE AMONGST MEN ACROSS CENTURIES.



IT IS AN INHERITANCE AND AN EVOLUTION THAT THE COURSE OF THIS COLLECTIVE THINKING IS CONTRADICTIONARY. DAVID HUME WROTE "IT IS WHEN WE START WORKING TOGETHER THAT THE TRUE HEALING TAKES PLACE."





I FEEL SO POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF THE DARKNESS THAT WE HAVE IN US.

EXTRA
RACE RESULTS Los Angeles Times PICTORIAL

ROSENBERGS DIE
Pair Executed for Atom Spying

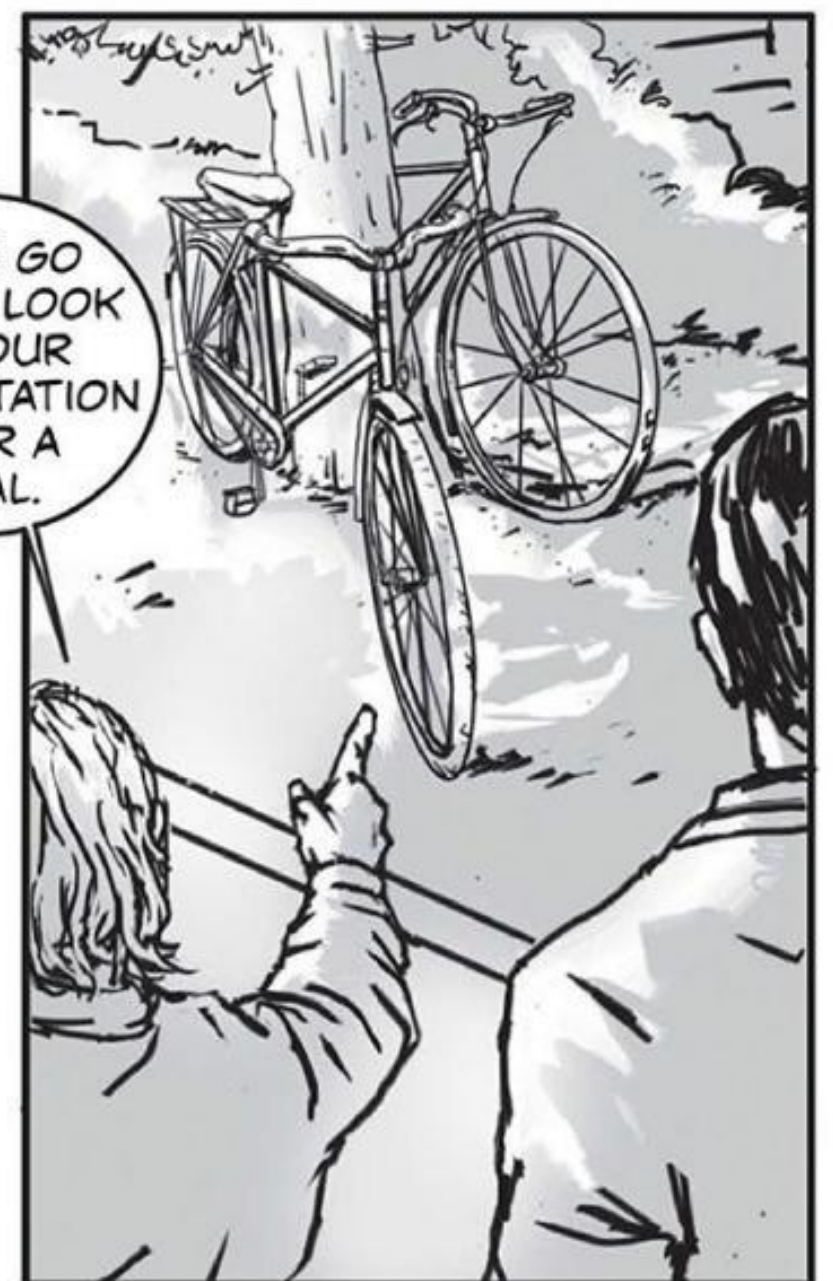
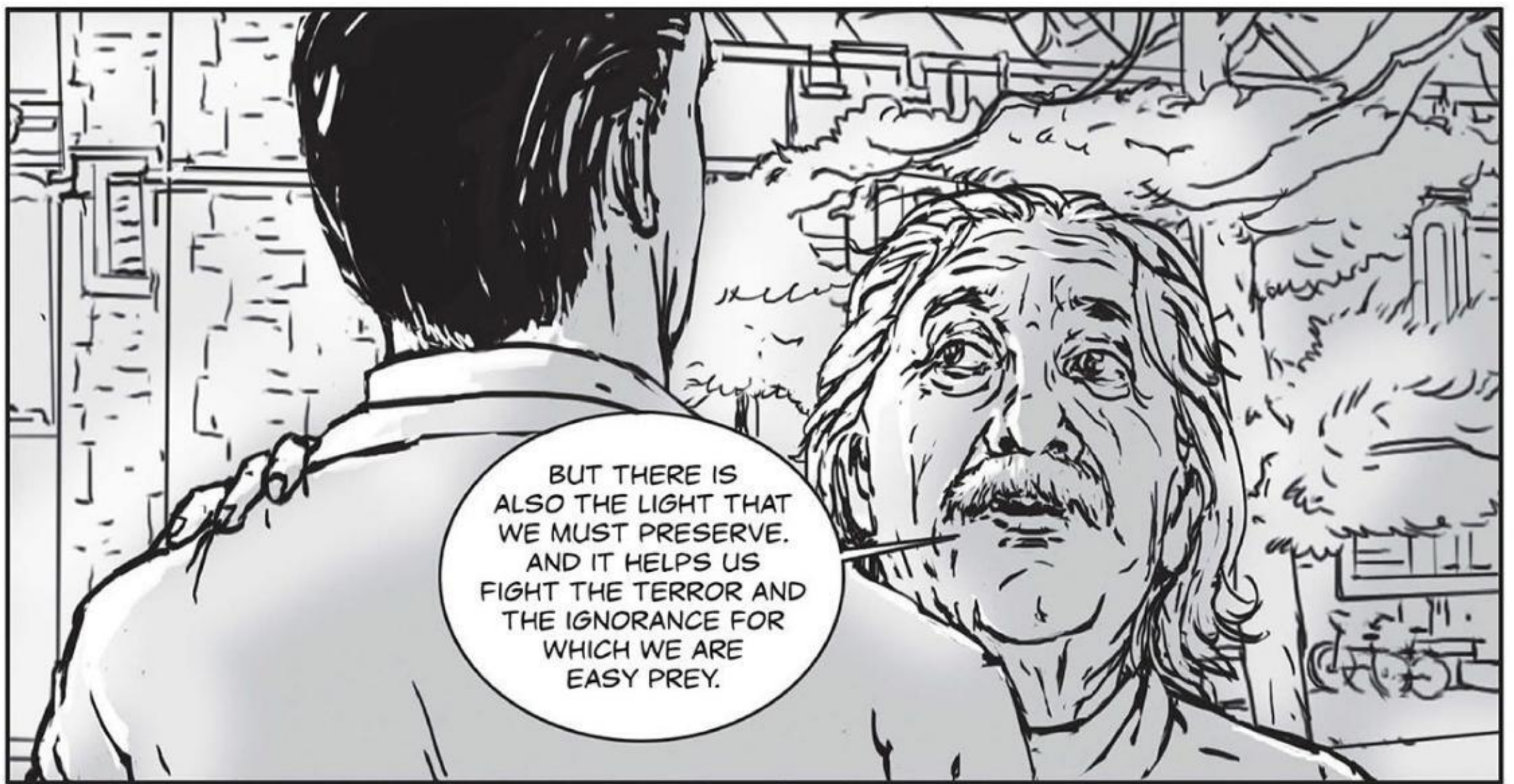
Supreme Court and
Executives Reject
Couple's Last Plea

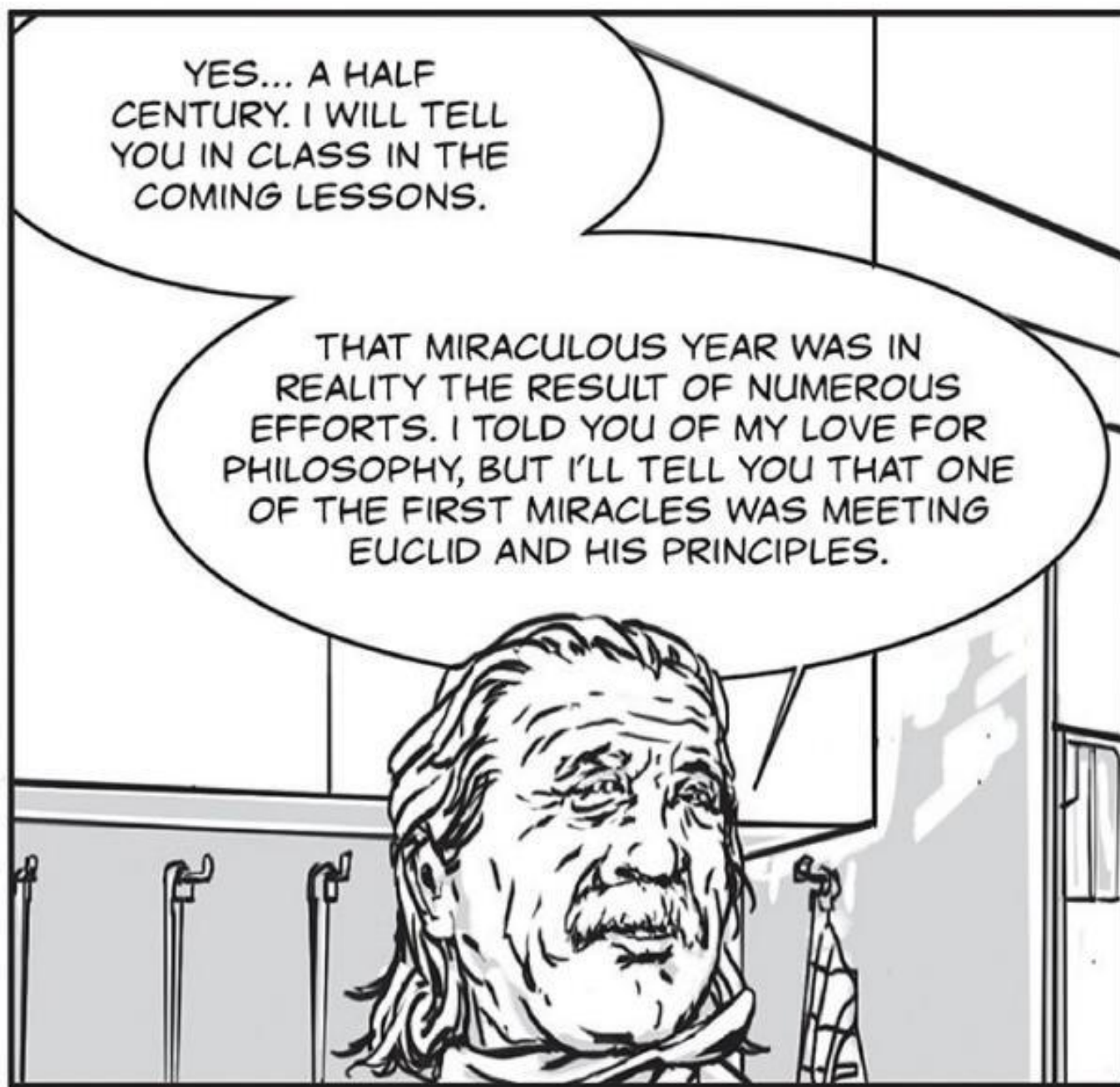
WEST BERLIN'S RED
OFFICES WRECKED

TRUMAN'S DELEGATES
FACE CRUCIAL TALK

Senators
Call for
Stricter
Security

**TRUMAN SAYS RUSSIA
SET OFF ATOM BLAST**
New York World-Telegram
ATOMIC BLAST IN RUSSIA





YES... A HALF CENTURY. I WILL TELL YOU IN CLASS IN THE COMING LESSONS.

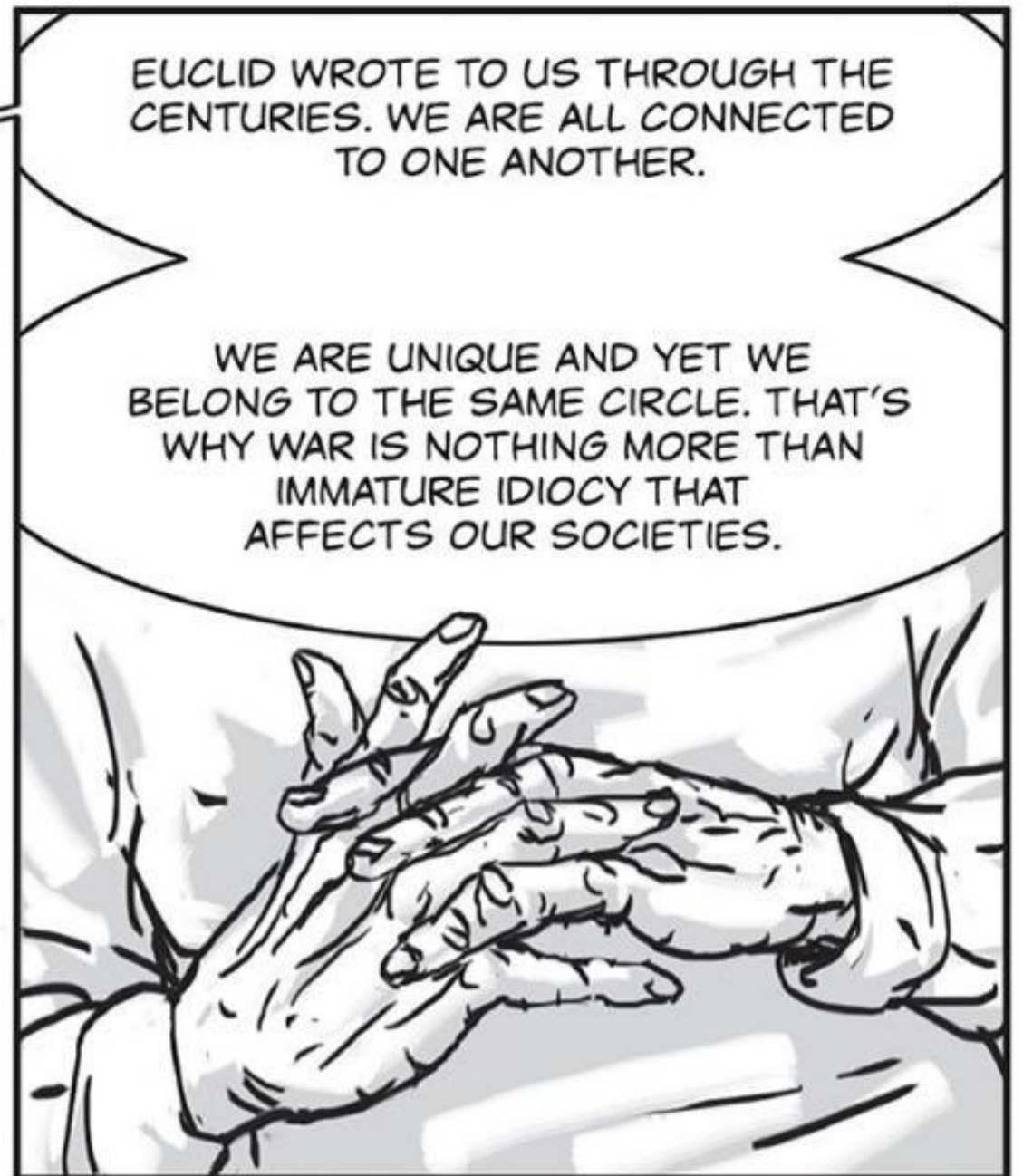
THAT MIRACULOUS YEAR WAS IN REALITY THE RESULT OF NUMEROUS EFFORTS. I TOLD YOU OF MY LOVE FOR PHILOSOPHY, BUT I'LL TELL YOU THAT ONE OF THE FIRST MIRACLES WAS MEETING EUCLID AND HIS PRINCIPLES.



IT'S FUNNY THE WAY YOU SAY THINGS, PROFESSOR. "MEETING EUCLID," HE DIED CENTURIES AGO.

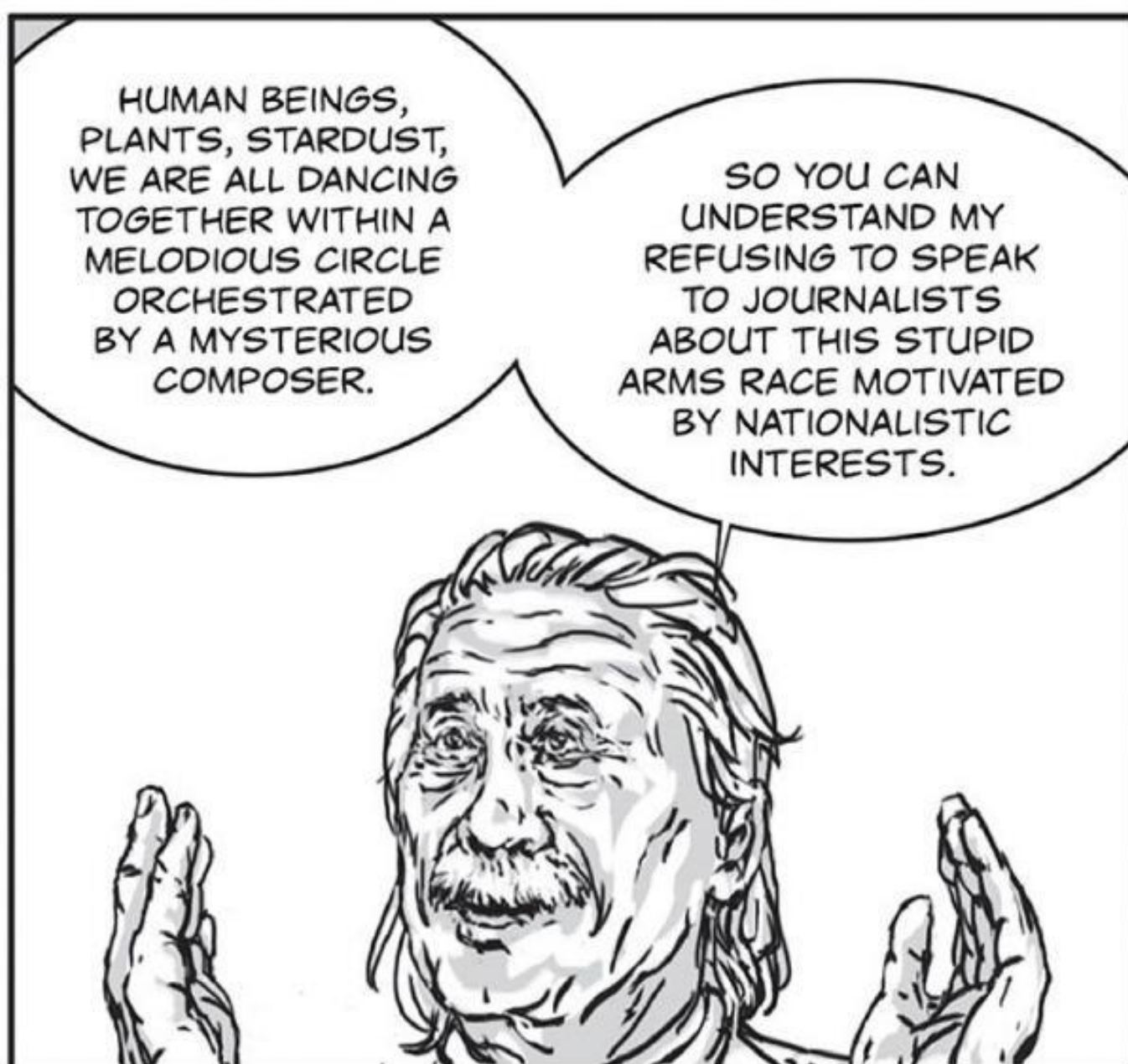


I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING EVEN STRANGER, I MET EUCLID IN A BOOK, AND I CAN PRESENTLY TELL YOU THAT HE IS A CLOSE FRIEND. THE TRUE MIRACLE WAS RECEIVING HIS GEOMETRY BOOK WHEN I WAS 11.



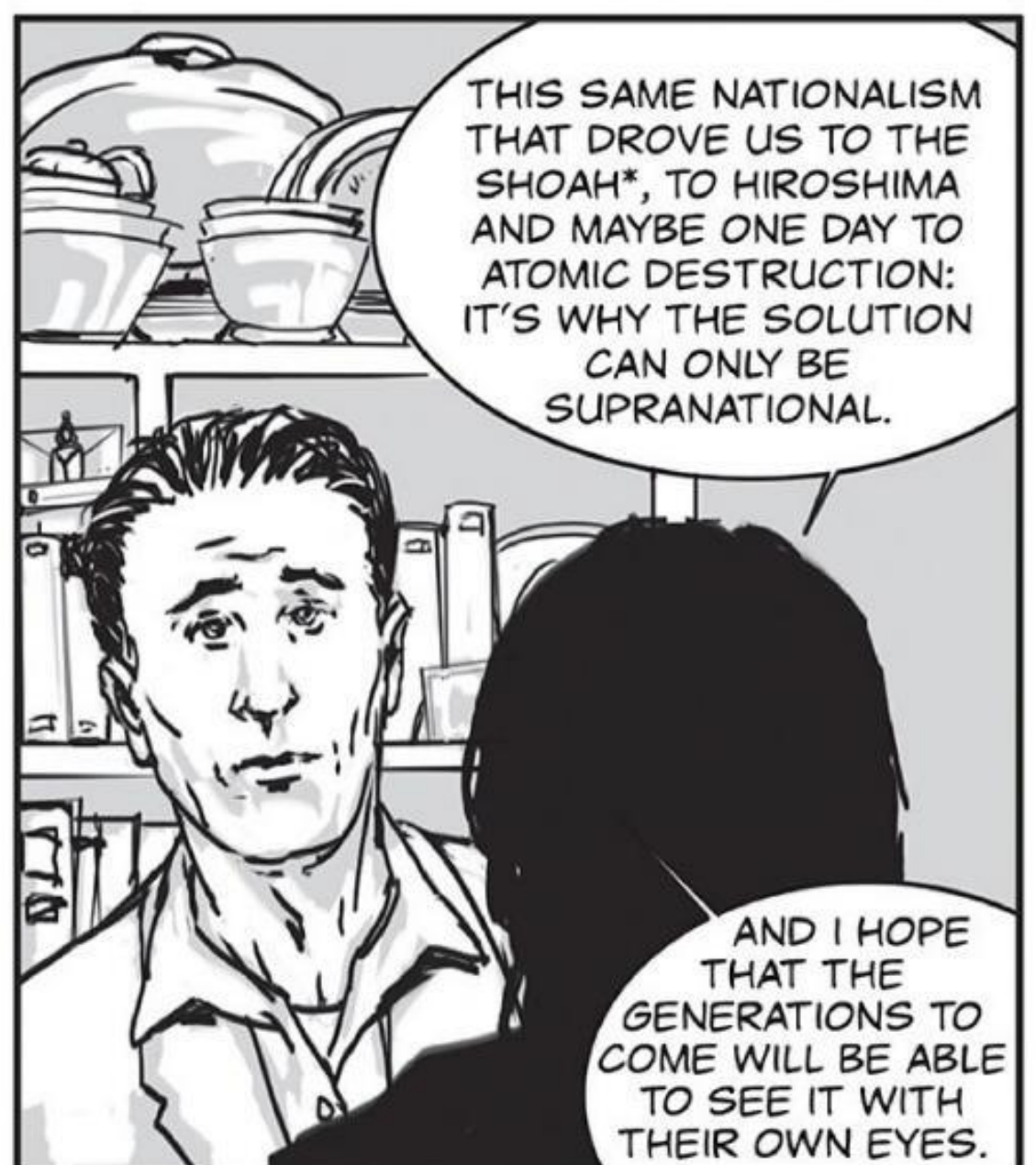
EUCLID WROTE TO US THROUGH THE CENTURIES. WE ARE ALL CONNECTED TO ONE ANOTHER.

WE ARE UNIQUE AND YET WE BELONG TO THE SAME CIRCLE. THAT'S WHY WAR IS NOTHING MORE THAN IMMATURE IDIOTRY THAT AFFECTS OUR SOCIETIES.



HUMAN BEINGS, PLANTS, STARDUST, WE ARE ALL DANCING TOGETHER WITHIN A MELODIOUS CIRCLE ORCHESTRATED BY A MYSTERIOUS COMPOSER.

SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND MY REFUSING TO SPEAK TO JOURNALISTS ABOUT THIS STUPID ARMS RACE MOTIVATED BY NATIONALISTIC INTERESTS.



THIS SAME NATIONALISM THAT DROVE US TO THE SHOAH*, TO HIROSHIMA AND MAYBE ONE DAY TO ATOMIC DESTRUCTION: IT'S WHY THE SOLUTION CAN ONLY BE SUPRANATIONAL.

AND I HOPE THAT THE GENERATIONS TO COME WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT WITH THEIR OWN EYES.

*CAMPAIGN TO EXTERMINATE JEWS DURING THE 2ND WORLD WAR BY THE NAZIS AND THEIR ALLIES