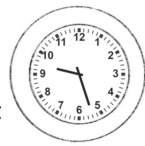




WE STILL HAVE A PROBLEM.

THERE'S ONE OF THEM, POSING AS A HUMAN.

TICK TOCK

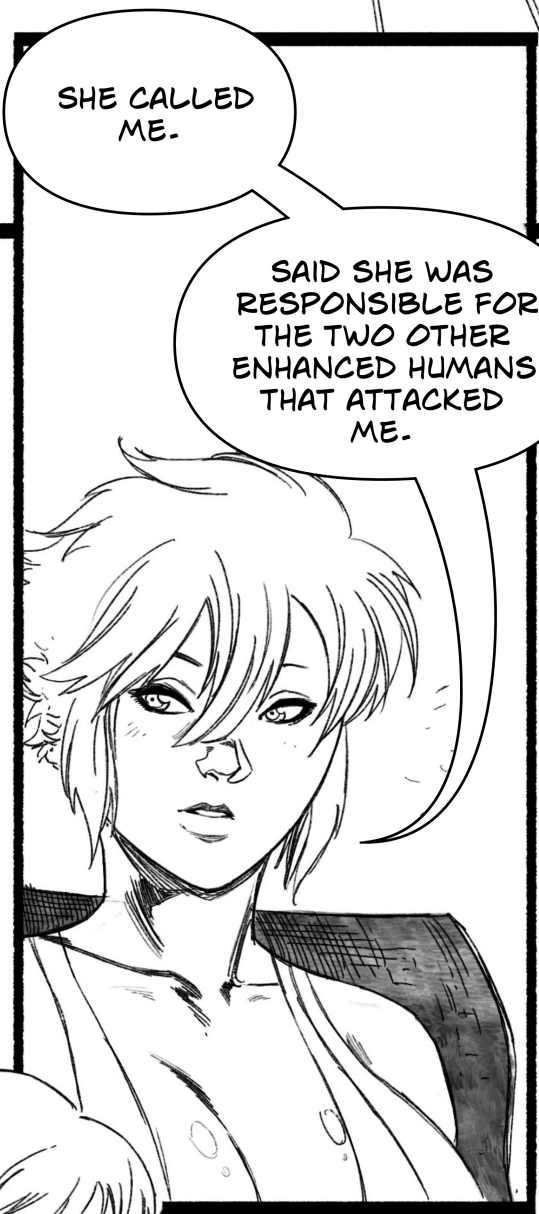


TICK

tick



HUH
ARE YOU SURE?



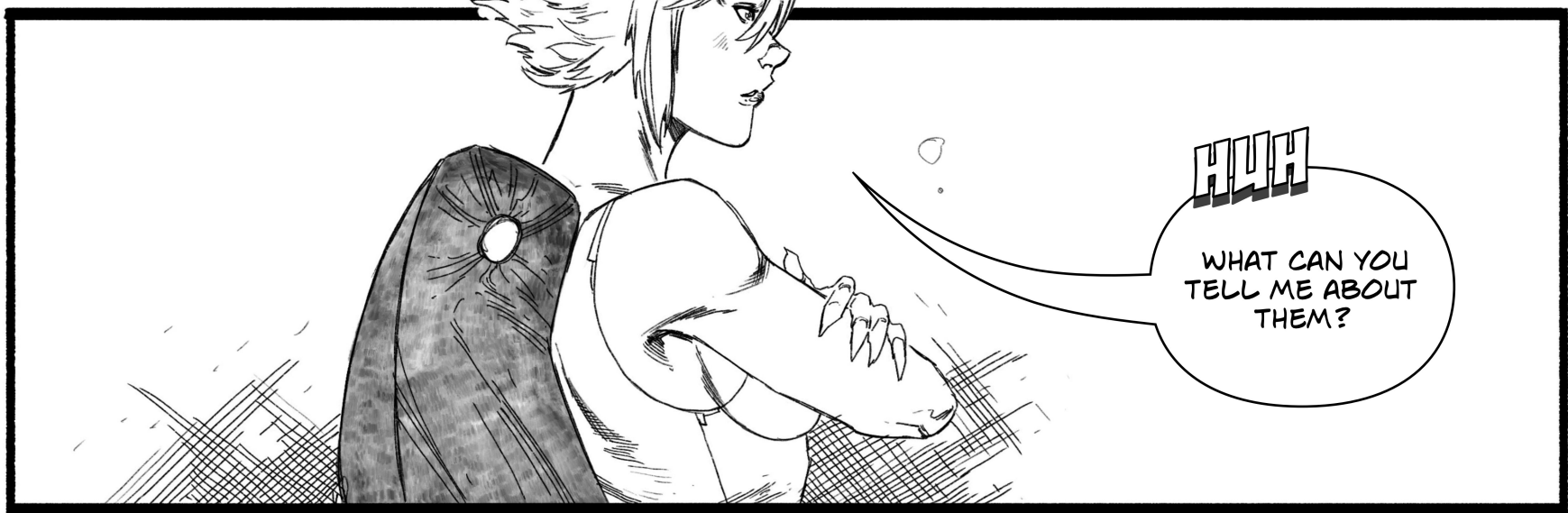
SHE CALLED ME.

SAID SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TWO OTHER ENHANCED HUMANS THAT ATTACKED ME.



AH YES.

HELGA AND ELISE.

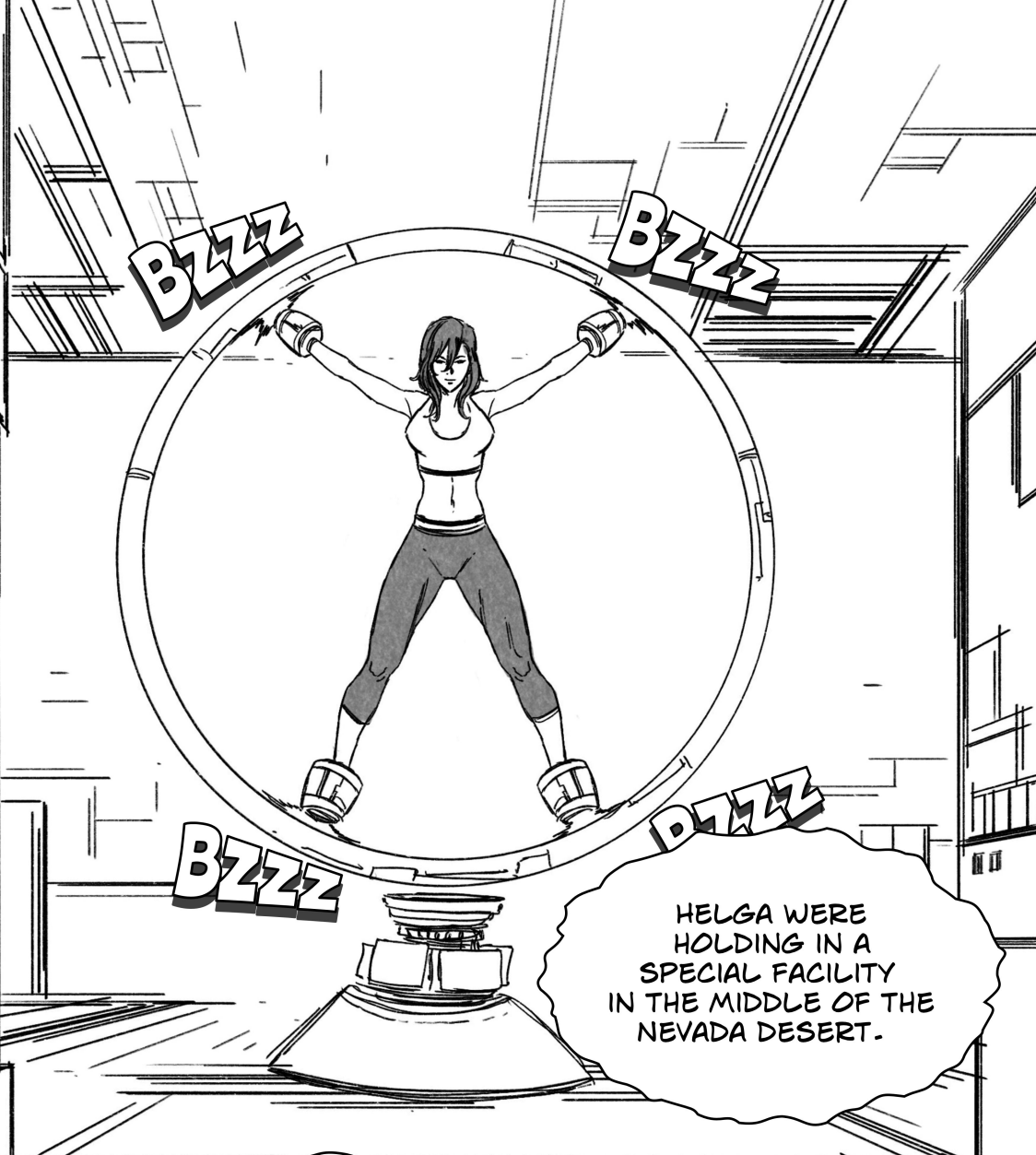


HUH
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?

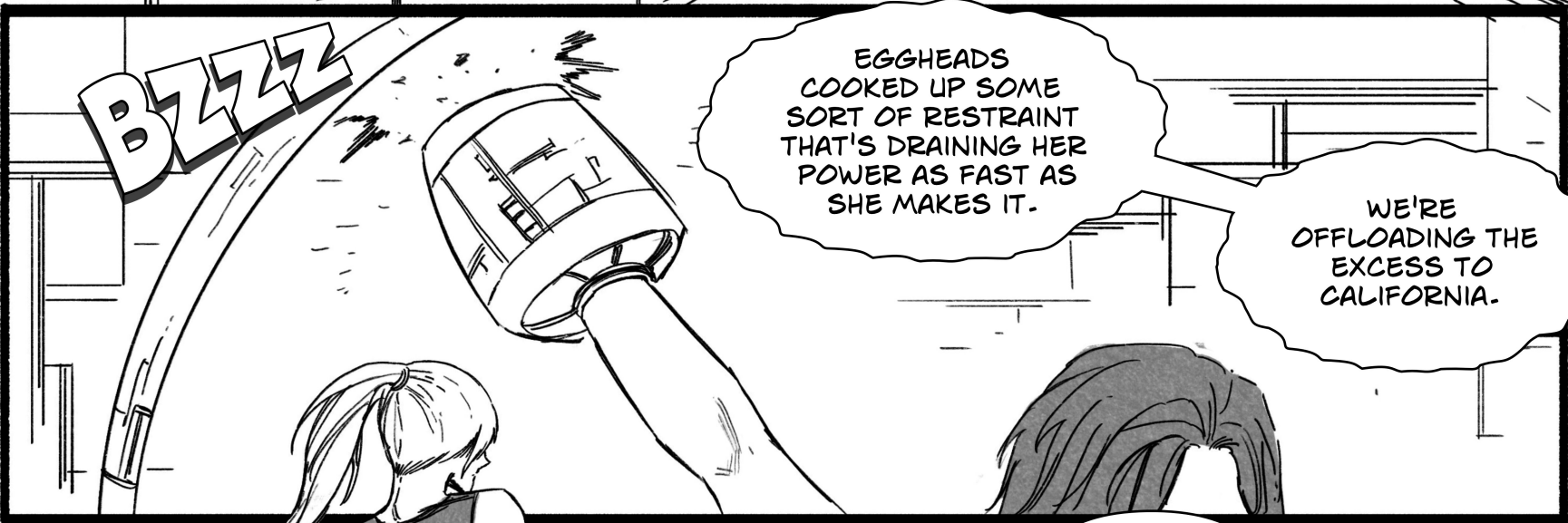
NOT MUCH, TO BE HONEST.

ALL WE KNOW IS THEY BOTH WORKED AT SIMMONS AEROSPACE PRIOR TO GETTING THEIR ENHANCEMENTS.

THEY'RE STAYING TIGHT LIPPED.



HELGA WERE HOLDING IN A SPECIAL FACILITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NEVADA DESERT.



EGGHEADS COOKED UP SOME SORT OF RESTRAINT THAT'S DRAINING HER POWER AS FAST AS SHE MAKES IT.

WE'RE OFFLOADING THE EXCESS TO CALIFORNIA.



ELISE IS WEARING SPECIALLY ENGINEERED BOOTS.

THEY HAVE A COMBINED MASS OF 40 TONS.

SHE CAN BARELY FLOAT AN INCH ABOVE GROUND WITH THEM ON.



THESE RESTRAINTS FOR THIS...

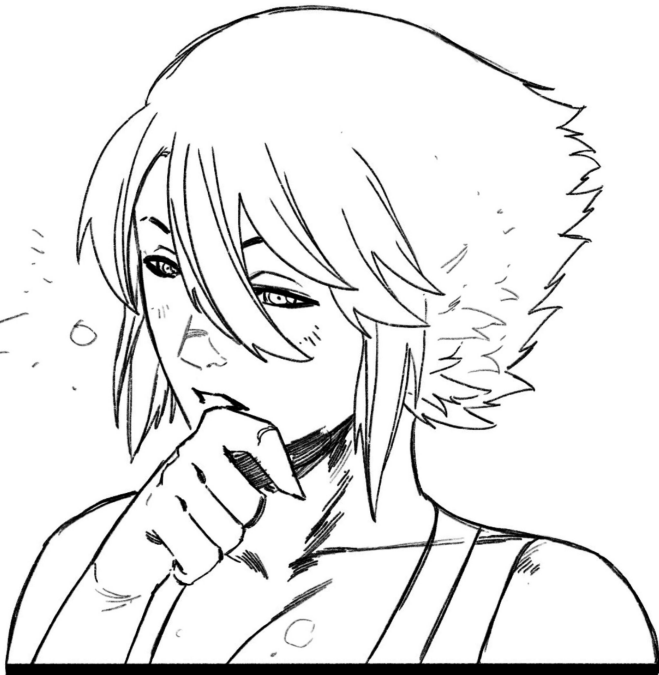
HELGA, HOW DID YOU MAKE THEM?

I WISH TO SAY WE HAVE.

THEY WERE PROVIDED BY SIMMONS AEROSPACE.

HMMMM

I THINK
OUR DOUBLE-AGENT
IS WORKING AT
SIMMONS.

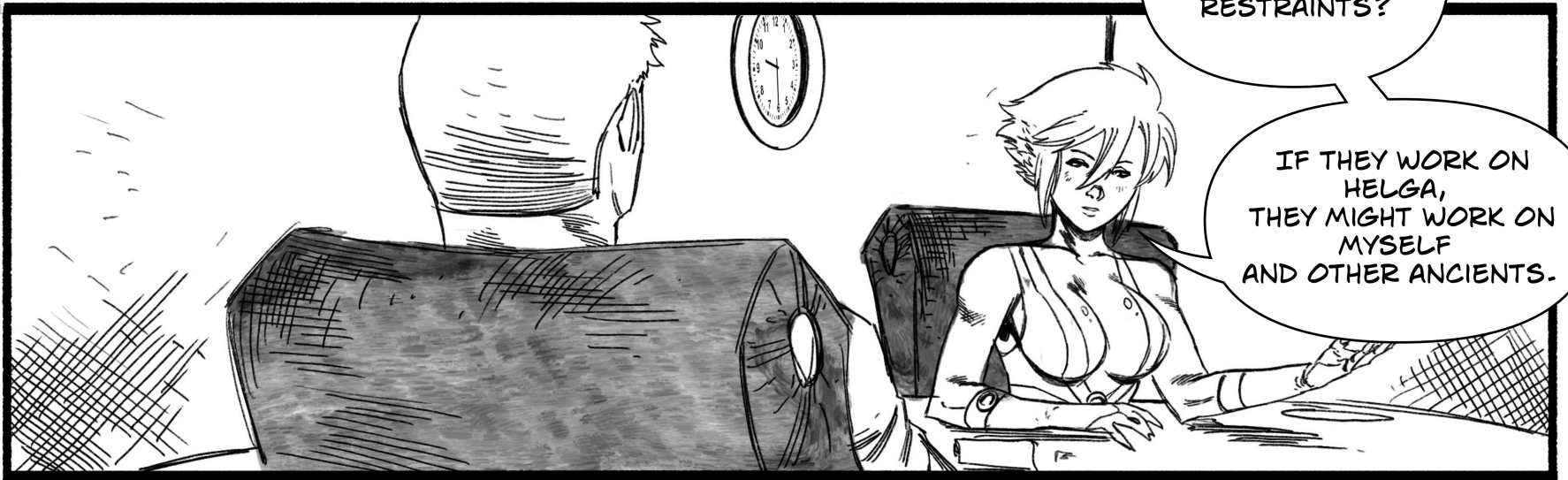


IT ONLY
MAKES SENSE
SHE'S FIELD
TESTING WHAT
SHE CAN MAKE
FROM THE CRASH
ON HUMANS.



CAN WE GET
MORE OF THESE
RESTRAINTS?

IF THEY WORK ON
HELGA,
THEY MIGHT WORK ON
MYSELF
AND OTHER ANCIENTS.

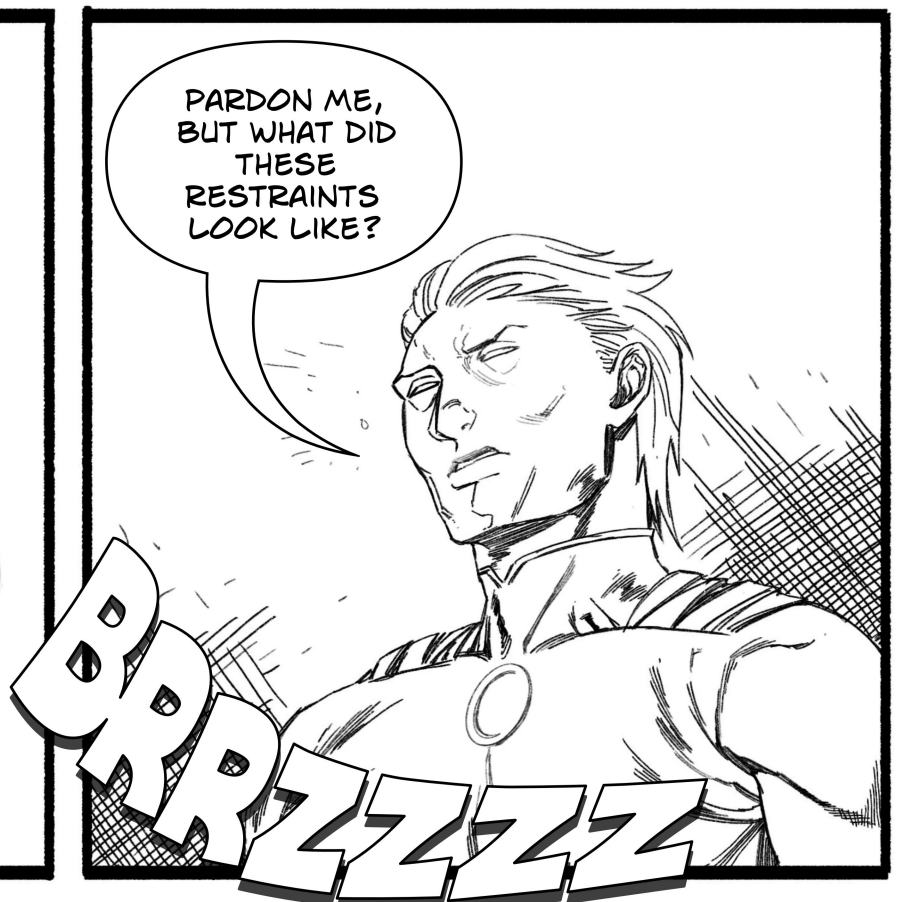


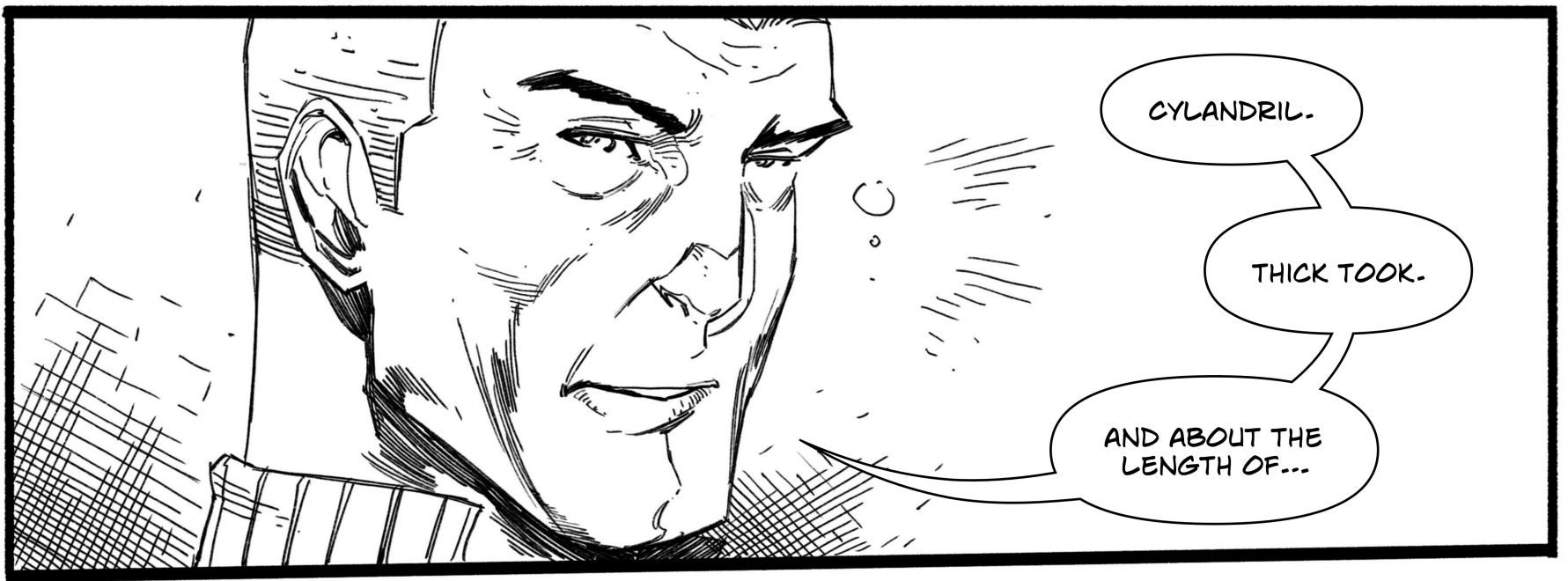
SIGH

SIMMONS
MADE IT VERY
CLEAR THE
RESTRAINTS WERE
PROTOTYPES AND
THEY DIDN'T HAVE
THE MATERIALS TO
MAKE MORE.



PARDON ME,
BUT WHAT DID
THESE
RESTRAINTS
LOOK LIKE?

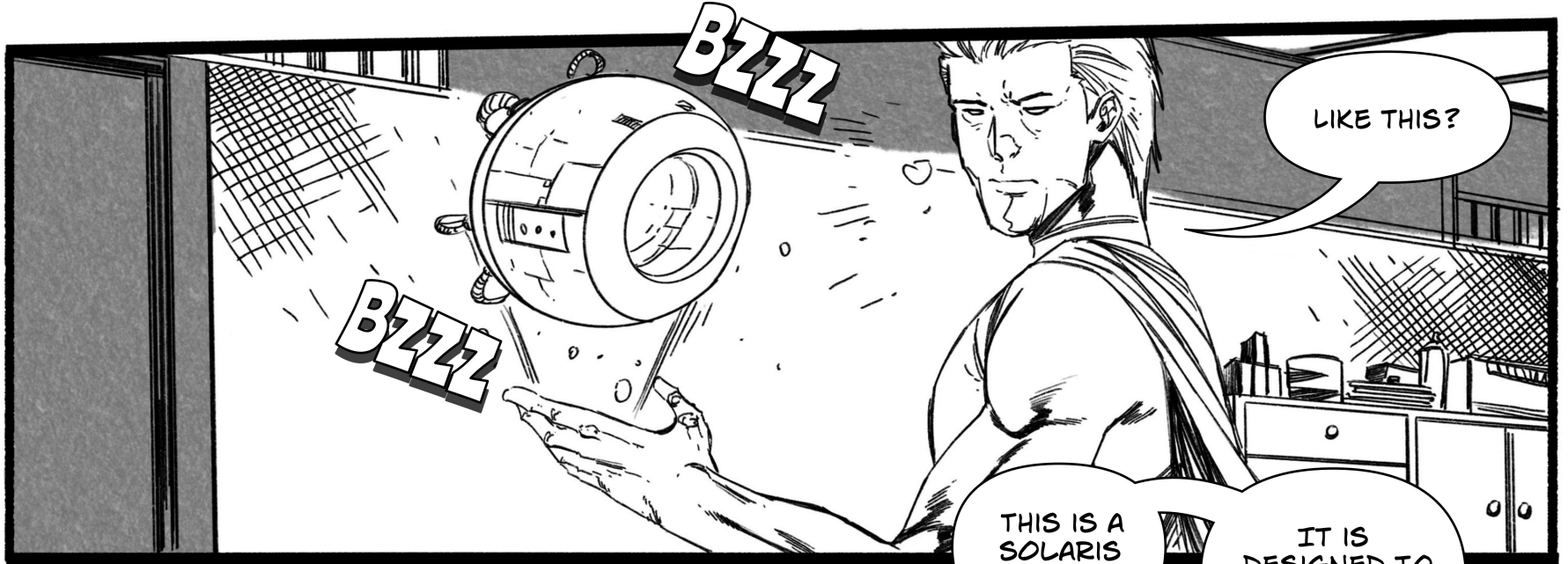




CYLANDRIL.

THICK TOOK.

AND ABOUT THE LENGTH OF...



LIKE THIS?

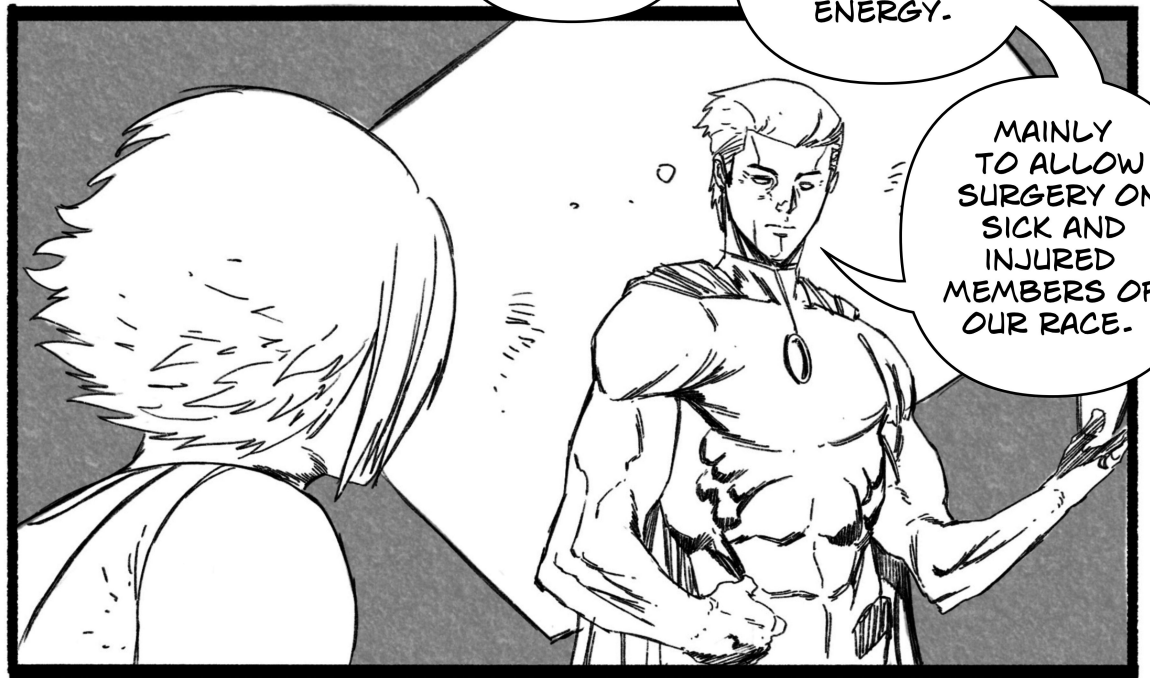
THIS IS A SOLARIS CUFF.

IT IS DESIGNED TO SYPHON OFF ENERGY.

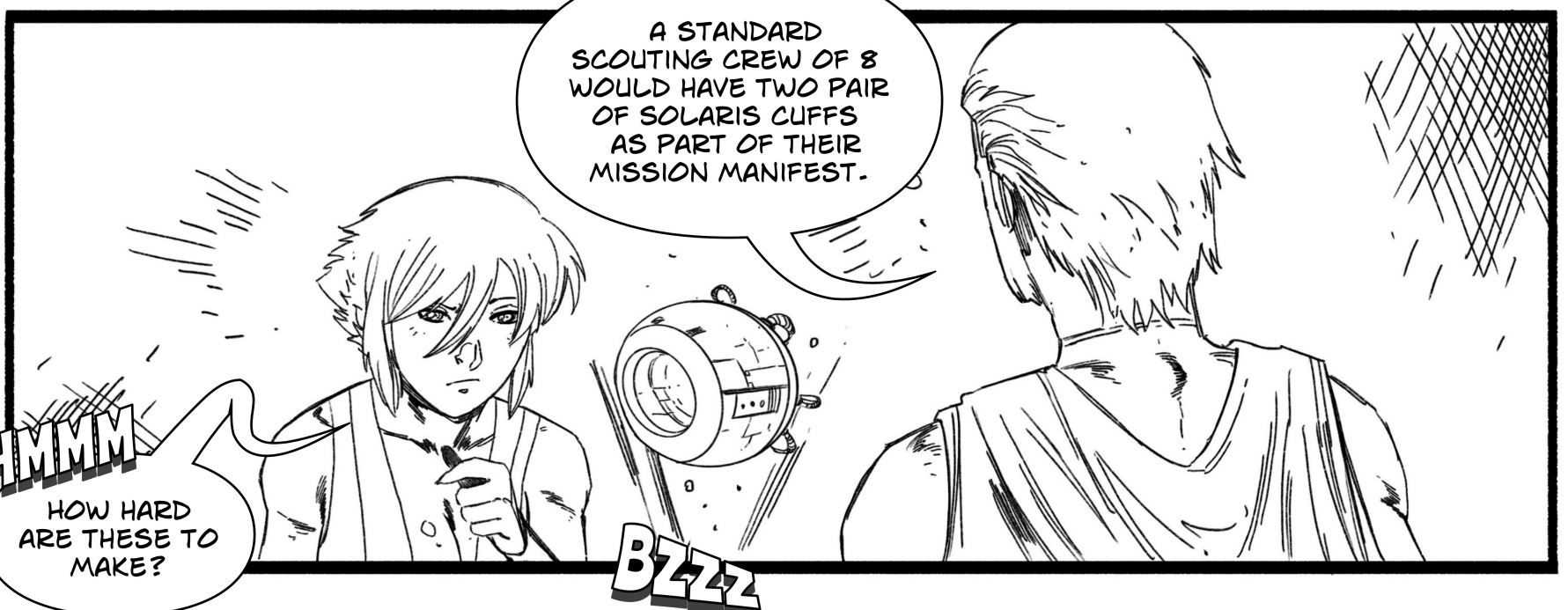


ACTUALLY...

YES.



MAINLY TO ALLOW SURGERY ON SICK AND INJURED MEMBERS OF OUR RACE.

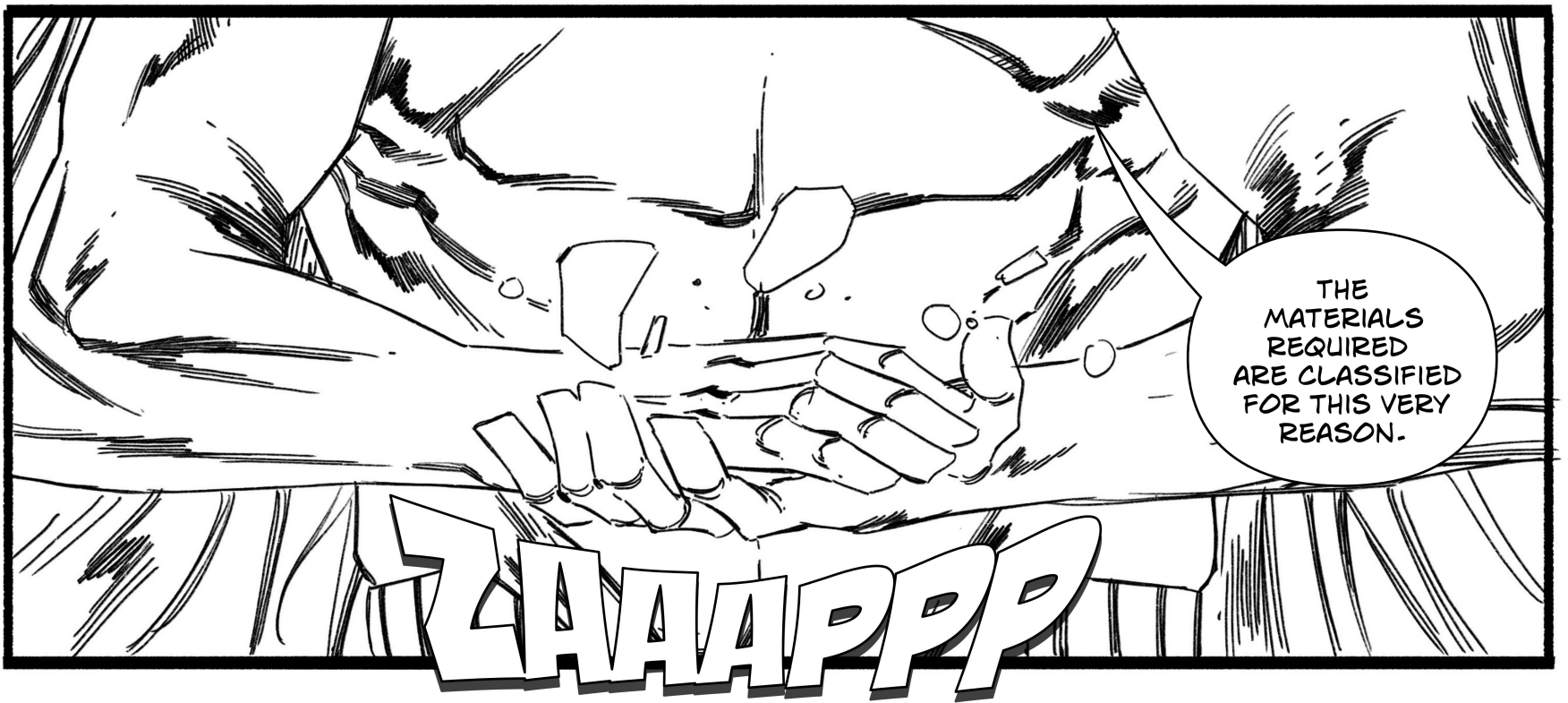


A STANDARD SCOUTING CREW OF 8 WOULD HAVE TWO PAIR OF SOLARIS CUFFS AS PART OF THEIR MISSION MANIFEST.

HMMM

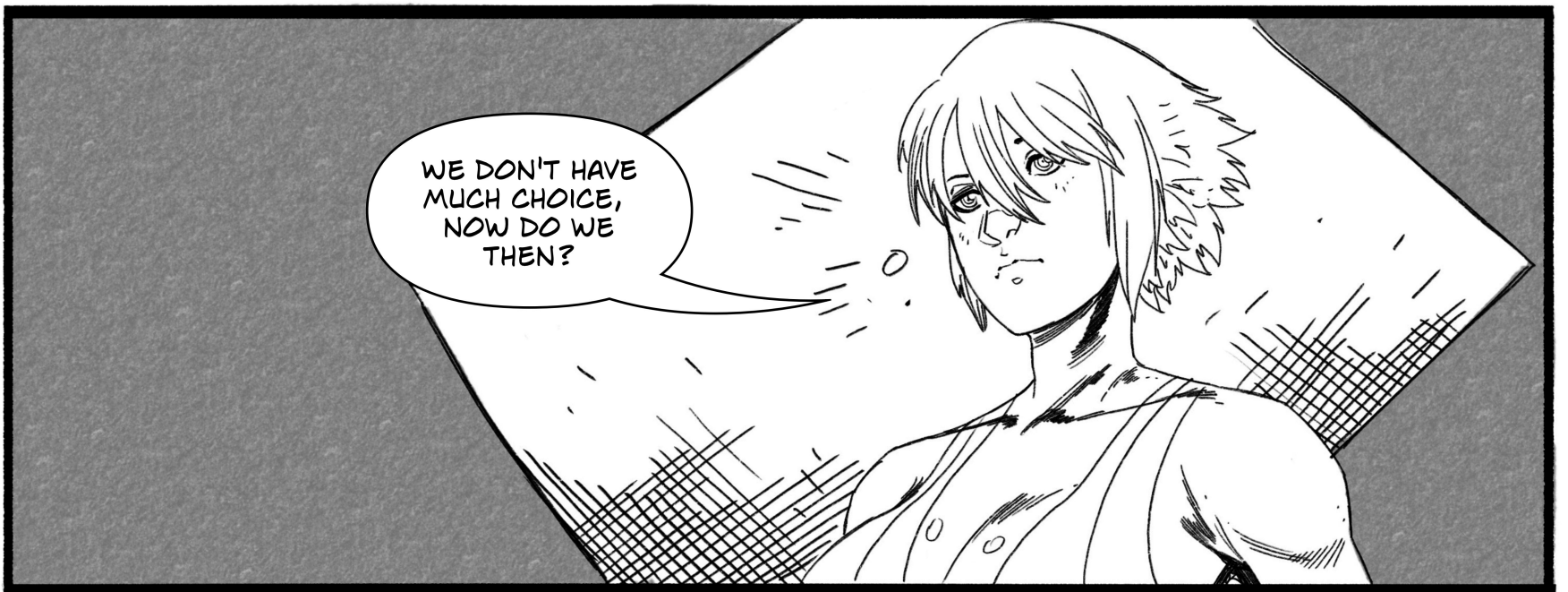
HOW HARD ARE THESE TO MAKE?

BZZZ

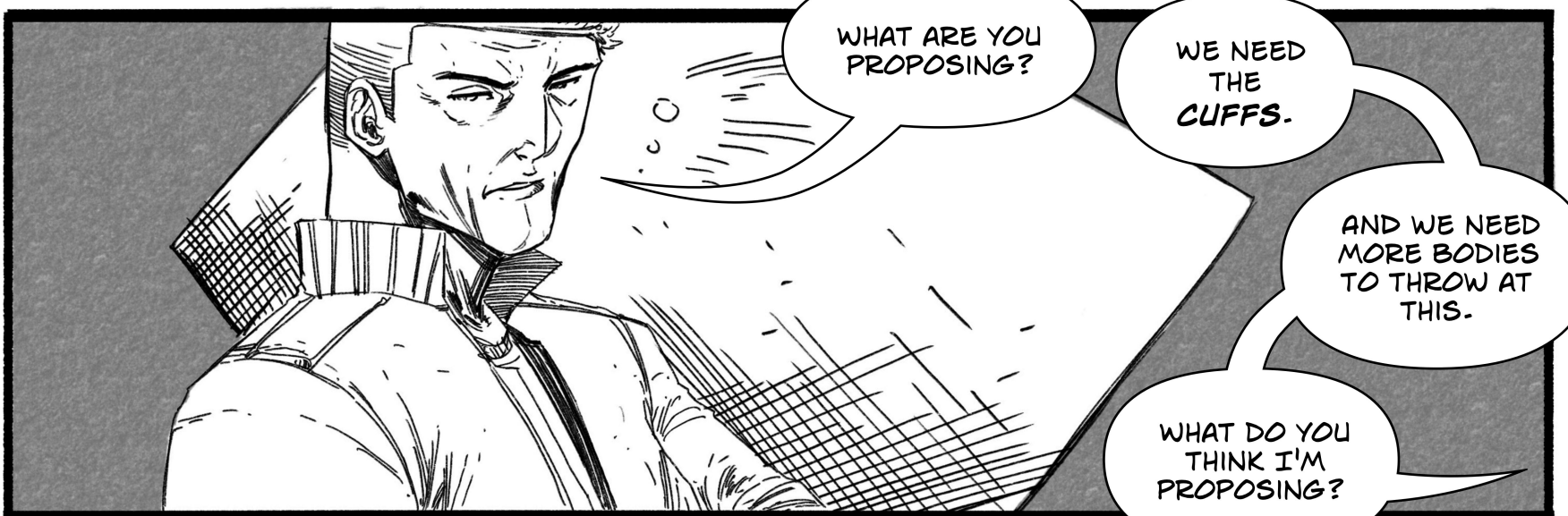


THE MATERIALS REQUIRED ARE CLASSIFIED FOR THIS VERY REASON.

ZAAAPPP



WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, NOW DO WE THEN?

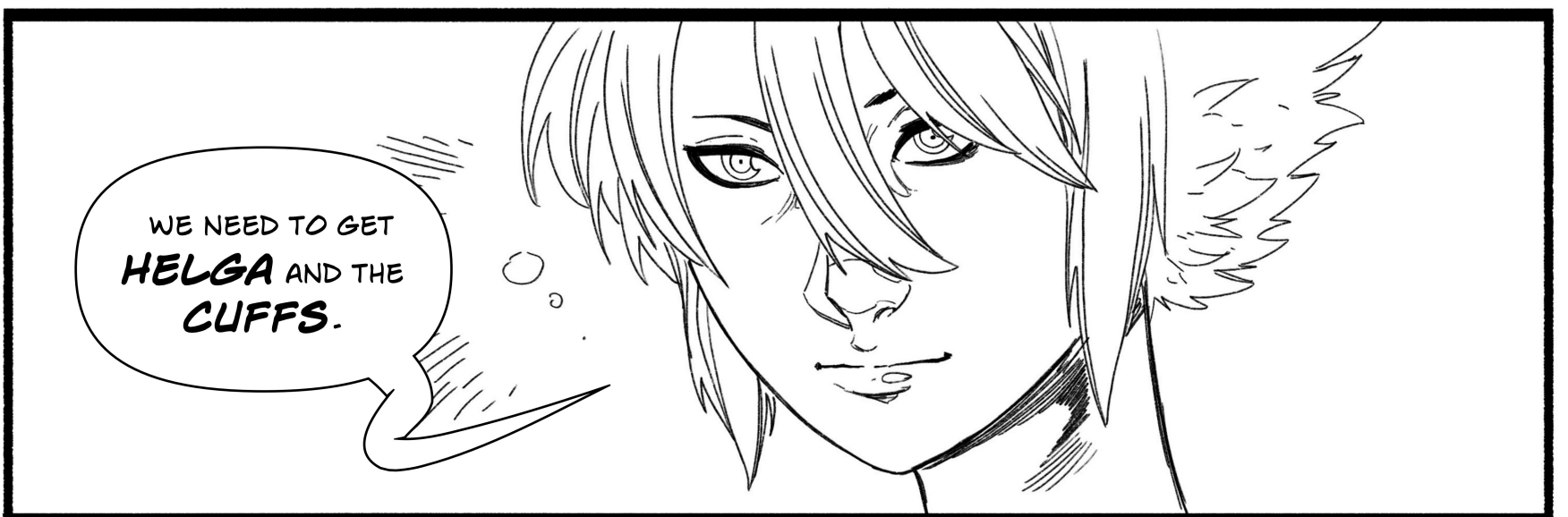


WHAT ARE YOU PROPOSING?

WE NEED THE CUFFS.

AND WE NEED MORE BODIES TO THROW AT THIS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M PROPOSING?



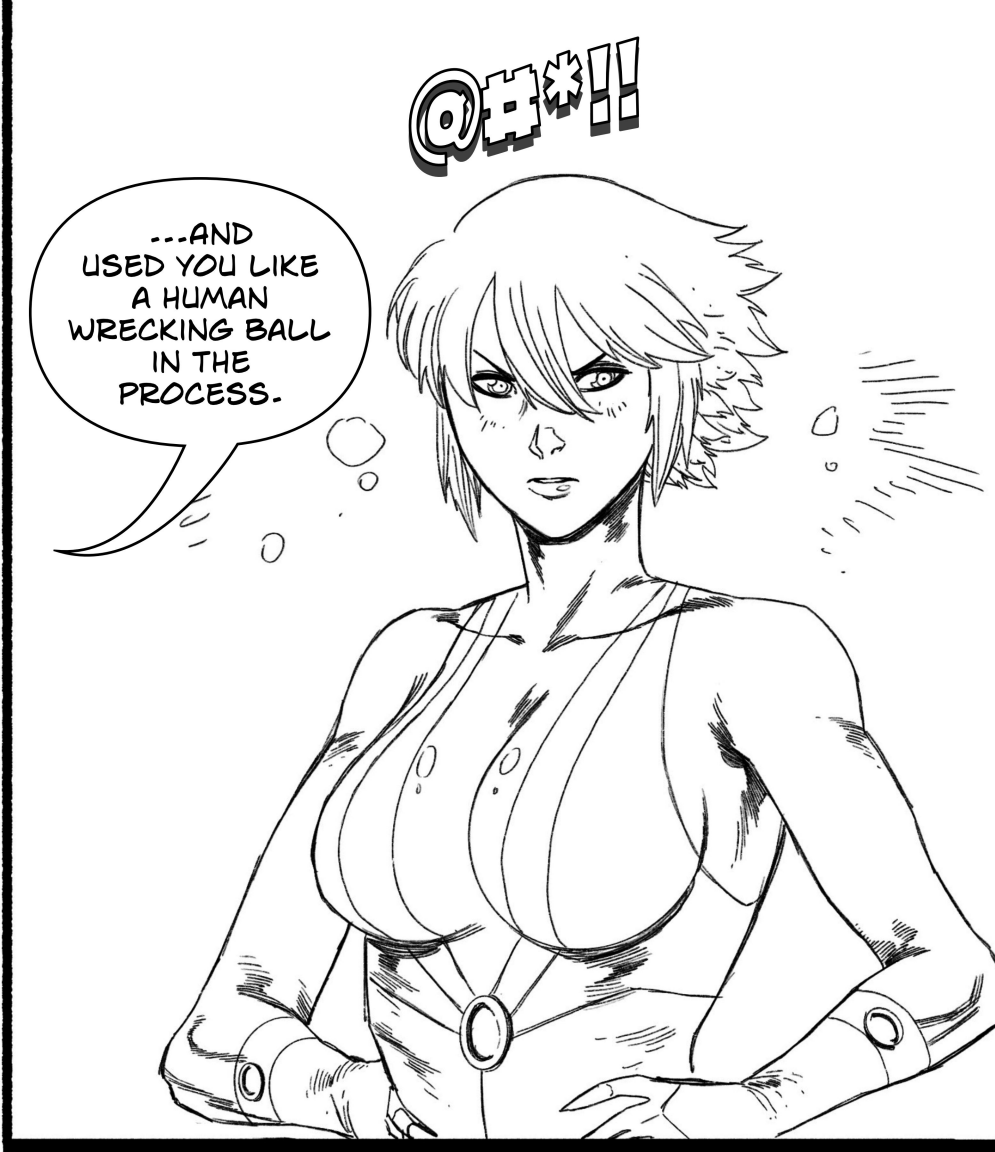
WE NEED TO GET **HELGA** AND THE **CUFFS**.



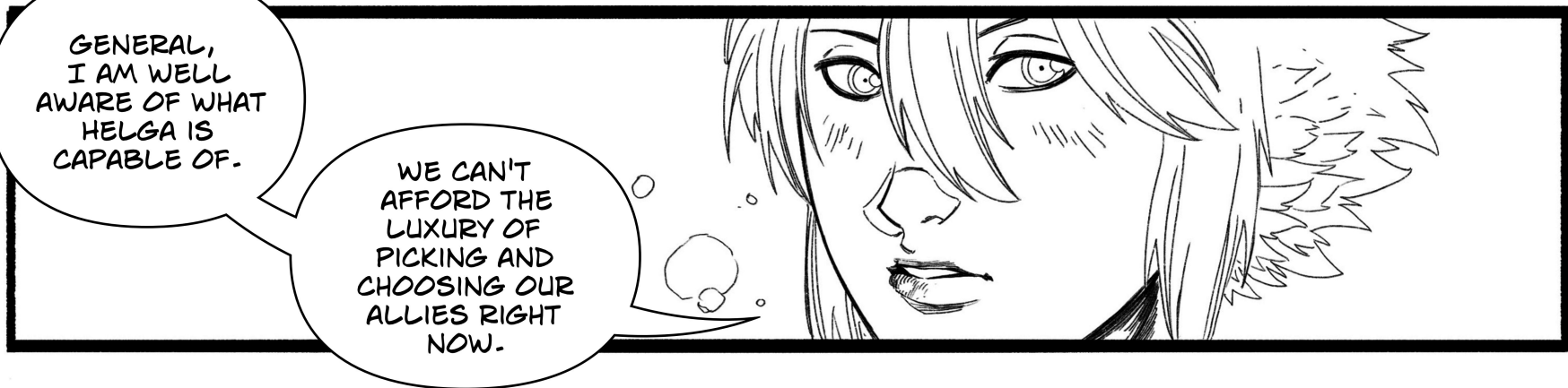
FORGET IT.

HELGA'S A TERRORIST.

SHE TORE HALF OF DOWNTOWN UP...

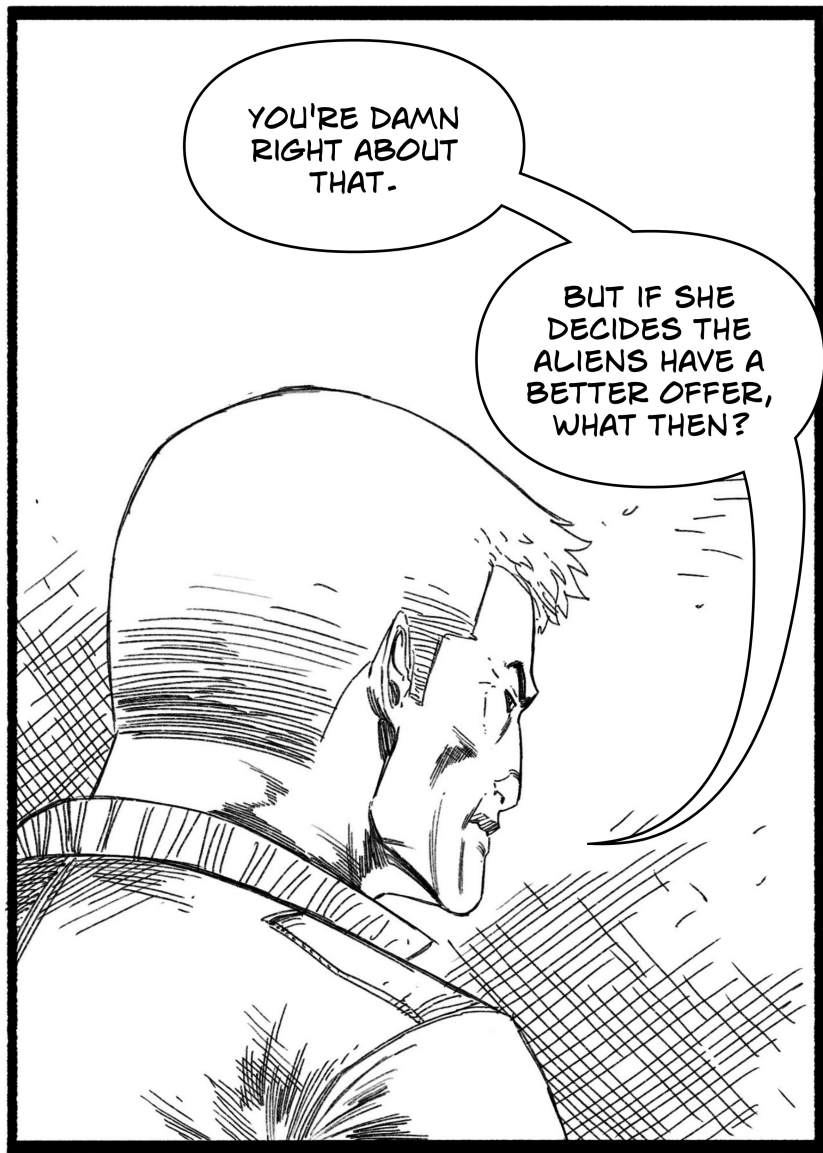


...AND USED YOU LIKE A HUMAN WRECKING BALL IN THE PROCESS.



GENERAL, I AM WELL AWARE OF WHAT HELGA IS CAPABLE OF.

WE CAN'T AFFORD THE LUXURY OF PICKING AND CHOOSING OUR ALLIES RIGHT NOW.

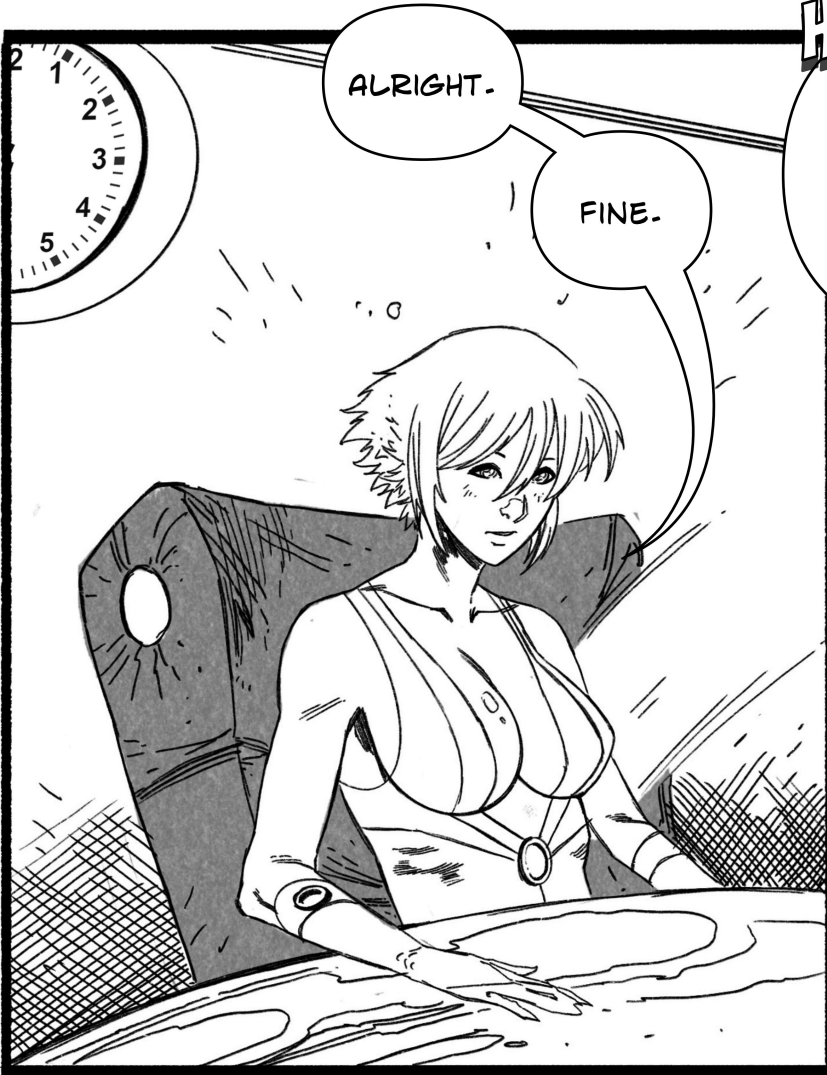


YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

BUT IF SHE DECIDES THE ALIENS HAVE A BETTER OFFER, WHAT THEN?



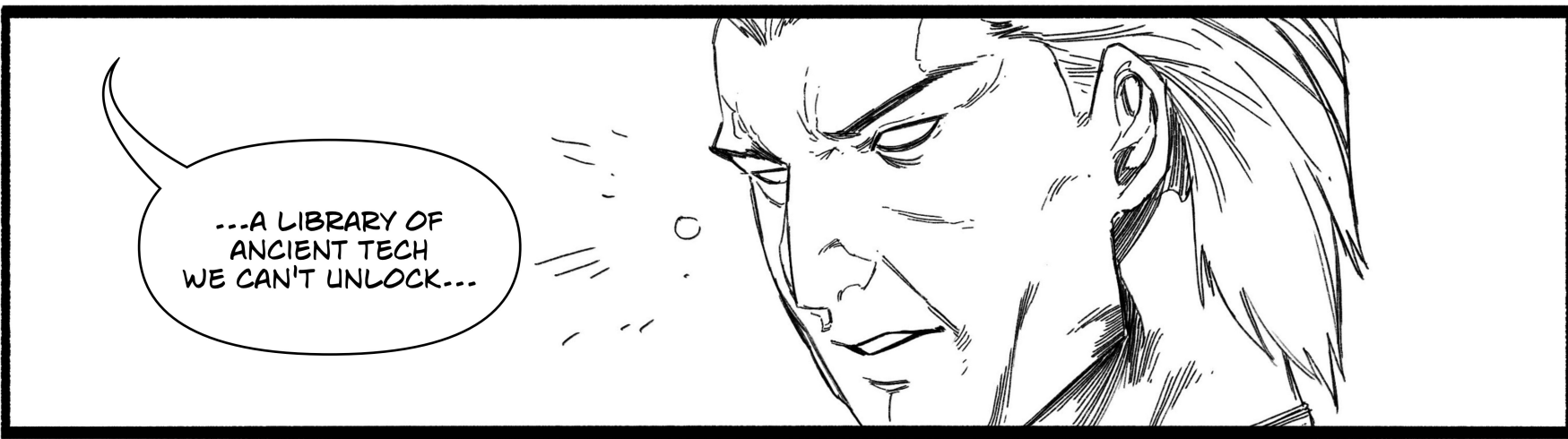
YOU WERE BARELY ABLE TO STOP HER LAST TIME!



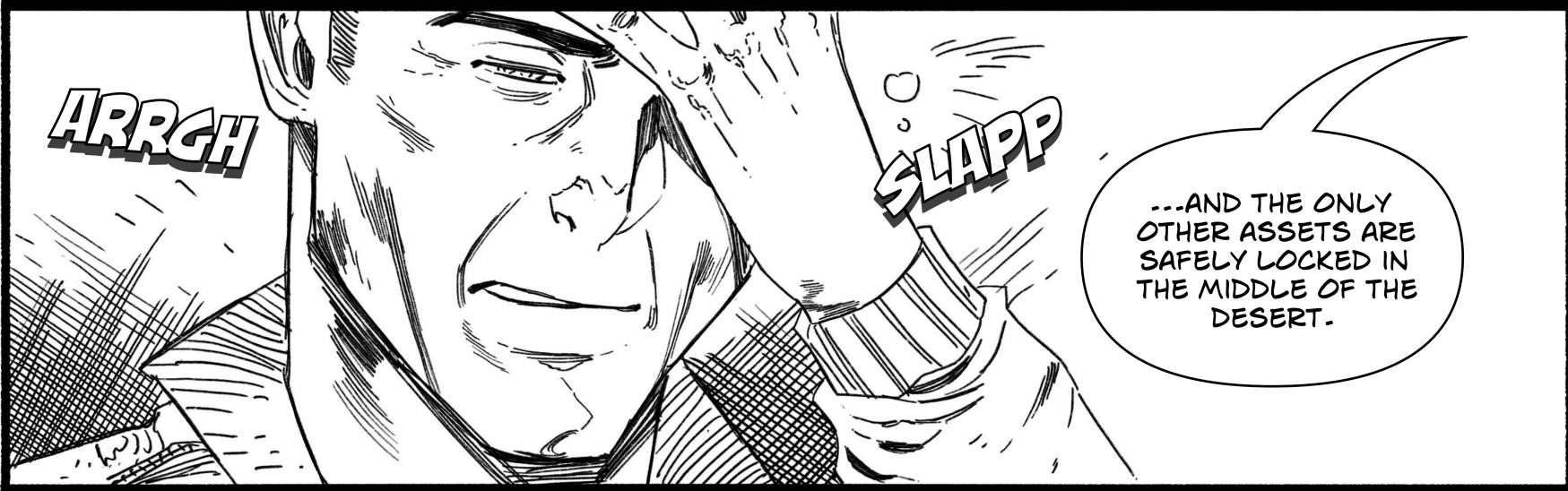
ALRIGHT.

FINE.

HMMMM
WE HAVE AN INCOMING INVADING ARMY, AND ONLY ONE SUPERPOWERED PERSON HERE...



...A LIBRARY OF ANCIENT TECH WE CAN'T UNLOCK...



...AND THE ONLY OTHER ASSETS ARE SAFELY LOCKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT.



I'LL MAKE THE CALL...



!!!

BUT THE CUFFS STAY ON, GOT IT?

