

NINE LIVES MAN: TIME'S WHEEL

九命人一時之輪迴

Everywhere he looks, Guy Ninemann sees nine tally marks – and somehow finds himself caught up in a cycle of reincarnation. He witnesses the destruction of the city he lives in, is shot in the head and... awakens as another Guy Ninemann.

As a child, Guy Ninemann claimed to have nine lives. As an adult, he does. Out in the city one day, a homeless man shows him nine tally marks spray-painted on a wall, and the image lodges itself inside his mind. Before he can make any sense of what is going on, he is kidnapped, sees his city destroyed and is shot dead.

But the end of one life throws him into the middle of another. Ninemann awakes in a new body, in a new time, in a new place – but with all his old memories. Each new life brings its own mission to complete – and linking them all, the explosion that destroys the city.

Inspired by the classic 80s Taiwanese sci-fi graphic novel *Nine Lives Man*, this fast-paced and intricate story challenges our understanding of time. Beautifully drawn, this is a banquet of suspense, detective work and mind-bending sci-fi.

Chang Sheng 常勝

Chang Sheng worked in advertising for 15 years. He started his own studio when he was in his thirties, and since 2004 he has released work on a regular basis. Having read comics from a young age, Chang Sheng has always preferred science fiction stories best. He admits to having been deeply influenced by the work of Yukinobu Hoshino, and his training in drawing and oil painting while studying at the Fu-Hsin Trade and Arts School are likewise reflected in his exquisitely detailed and extremely realistic video game-like style. Chang Sheng has represented Taiwan at the Angoulême International Comics



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booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

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Festival three times and has won several prizes overseas. *Oldman* was a finalist in the 2013 International Manga Award in Japan, and *The Hidden Level* won the Grand Prize of 2017 Kyoto International Manga Awards (Taiwan Section).





WAIT! I'M NOT DEAD, I'VE GOT ANOTHER LIFE.

CAUGHT YOU! YOU'RE DEAD!

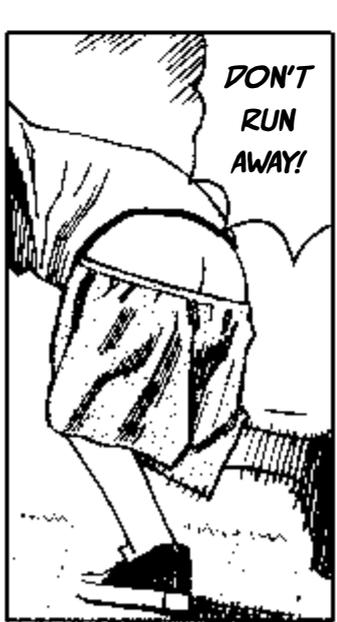


WAAAAA

YOU BASTARD!



WHAT? NO, YOU'RE DEAD, YOU USED UP ALL THREE LIVES. DON'T TALK SHIT.

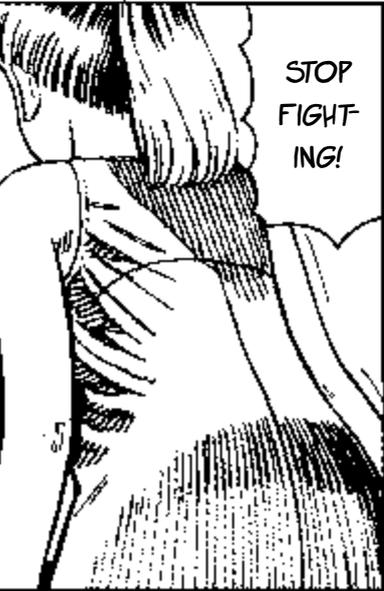


DON'T RUN AWAY!

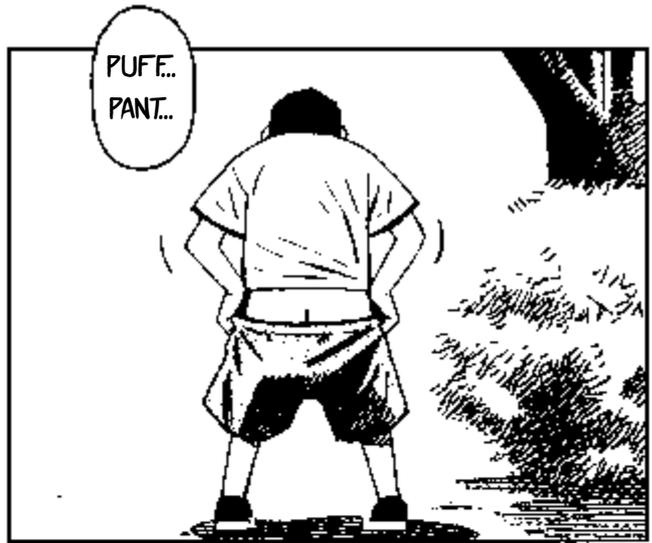


BUT I'VE STILL GOT

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU USE ALL YOUR LIVES UP!



STOP FIGHTING!



PUFF..
PANT..

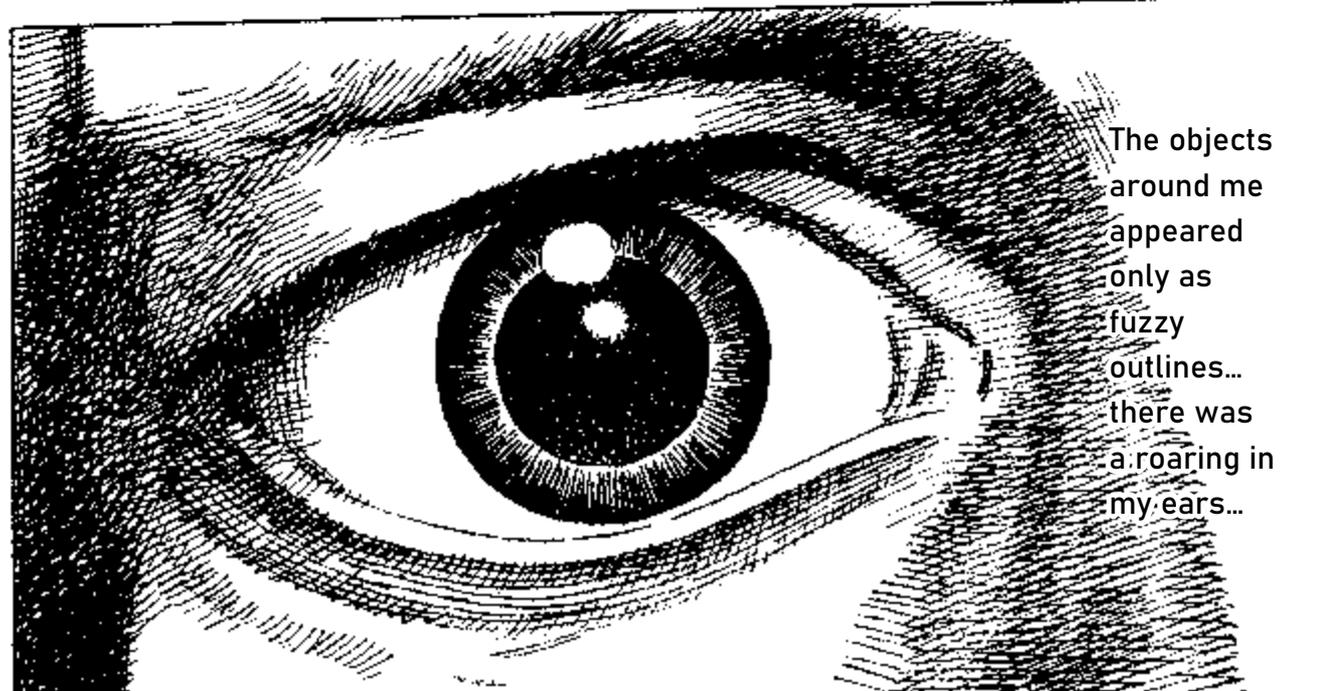
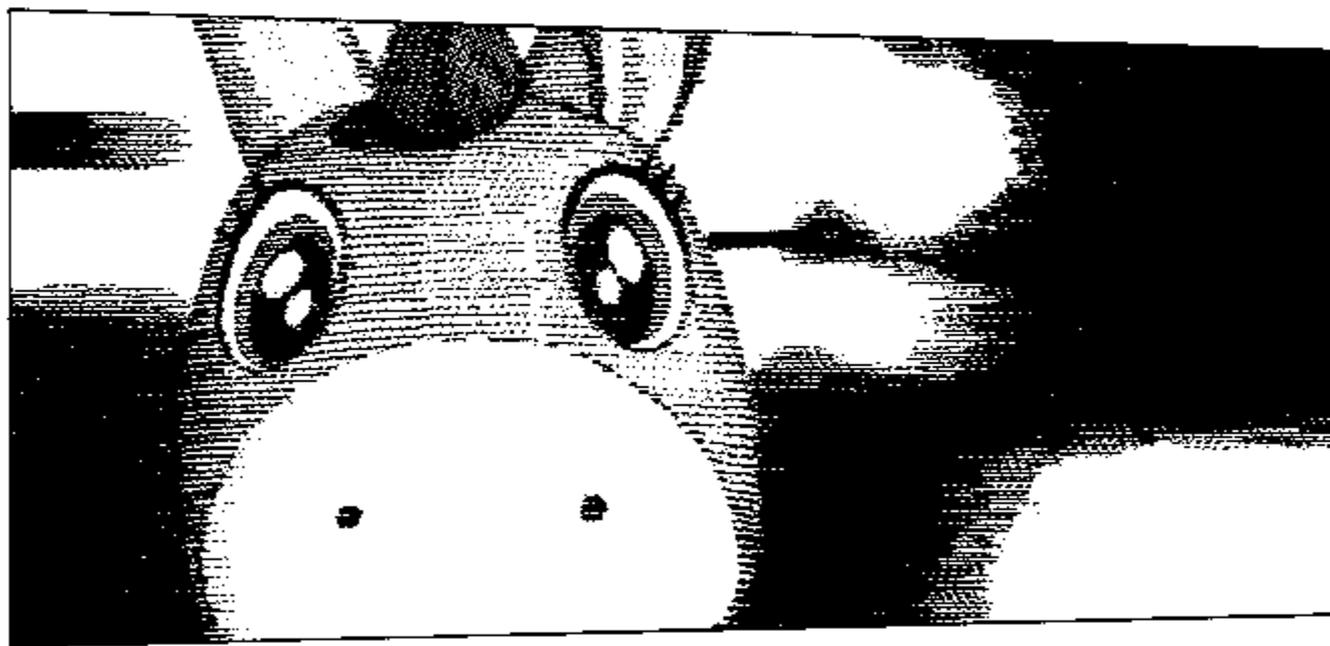
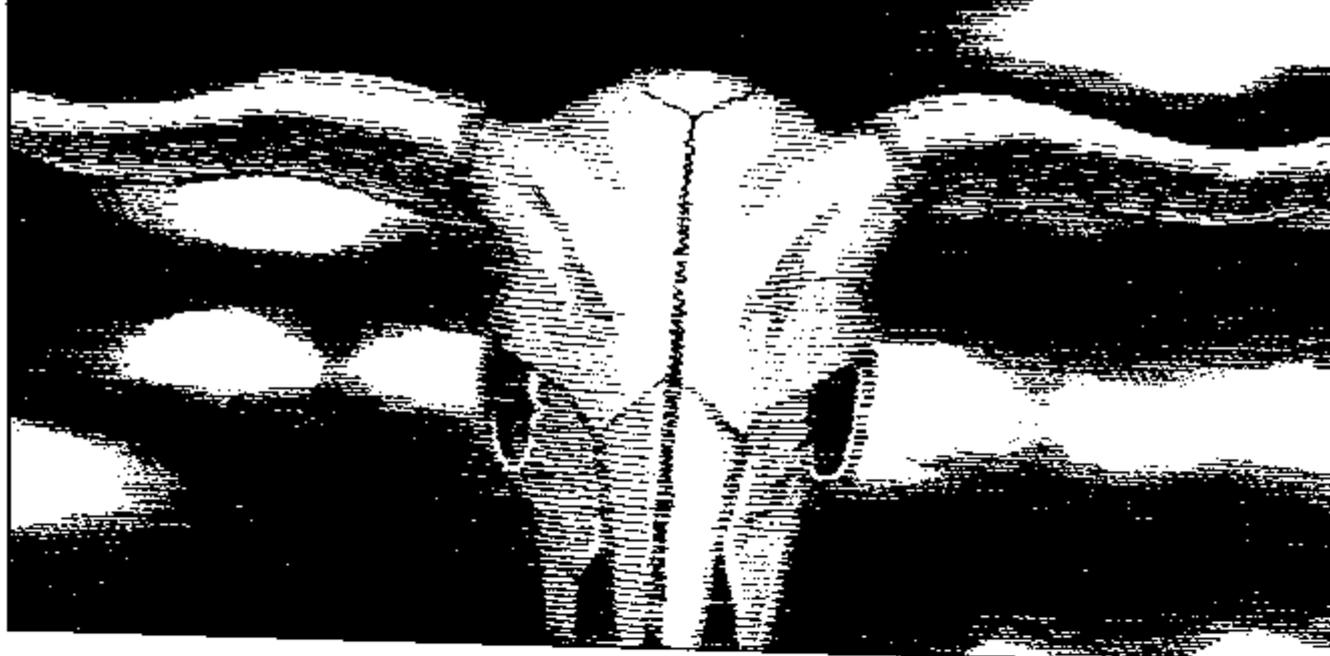
**AND
I HAVE
NINE
LIVES!**



**MY
NAME
IS GUY
NINE-
MANN!**

It seemed the perfect game,
arranged by the gods...





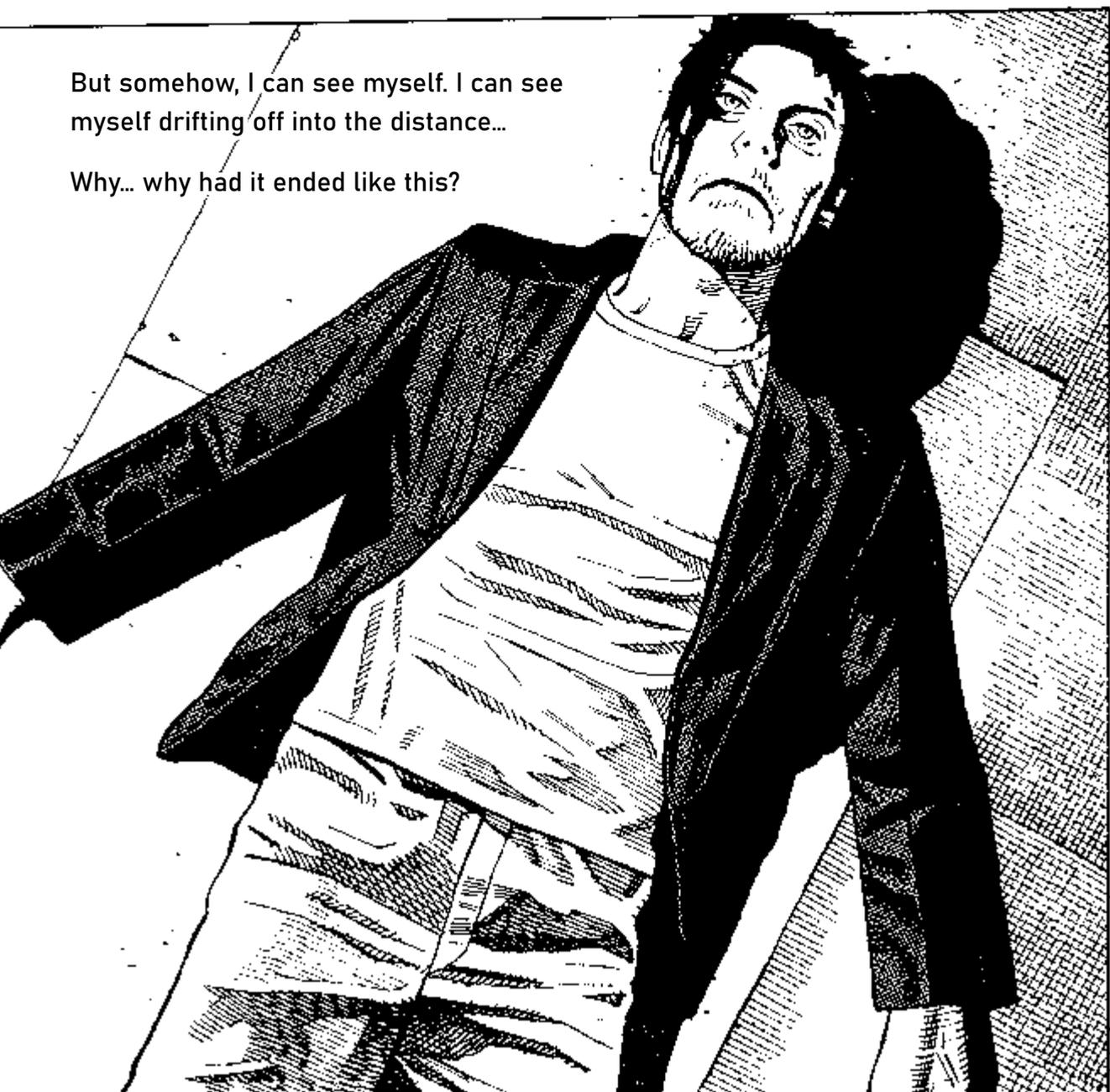
The objects
around me
appeared
only as
fuzzy
outlines...
there was
a roaring in
my ears...

I lost all sense of hot or cold...
in the end, all I could do was
wait for my brain to give up.

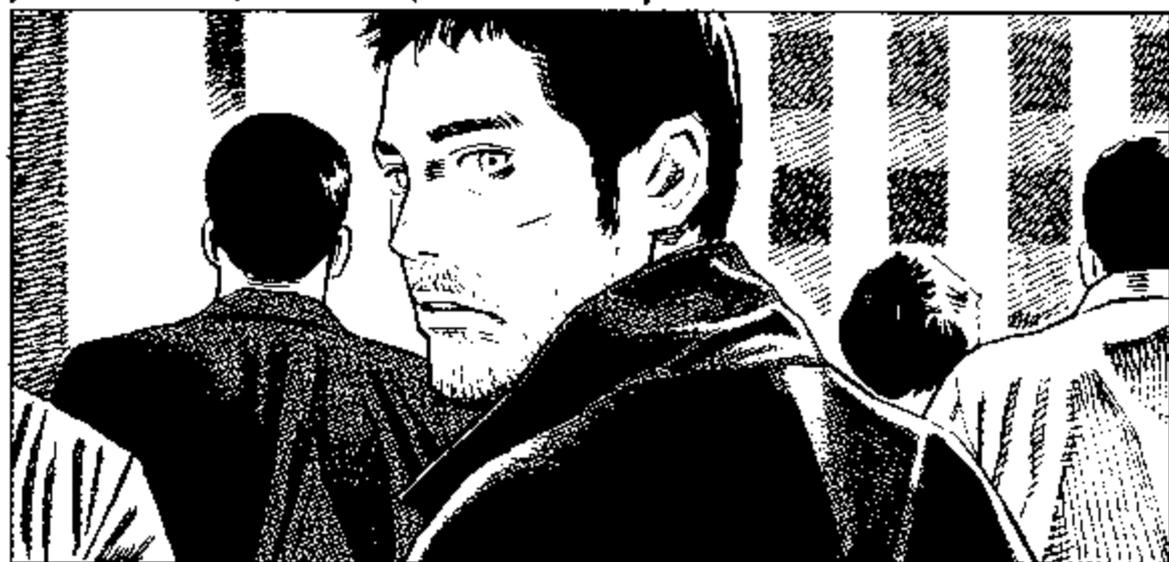
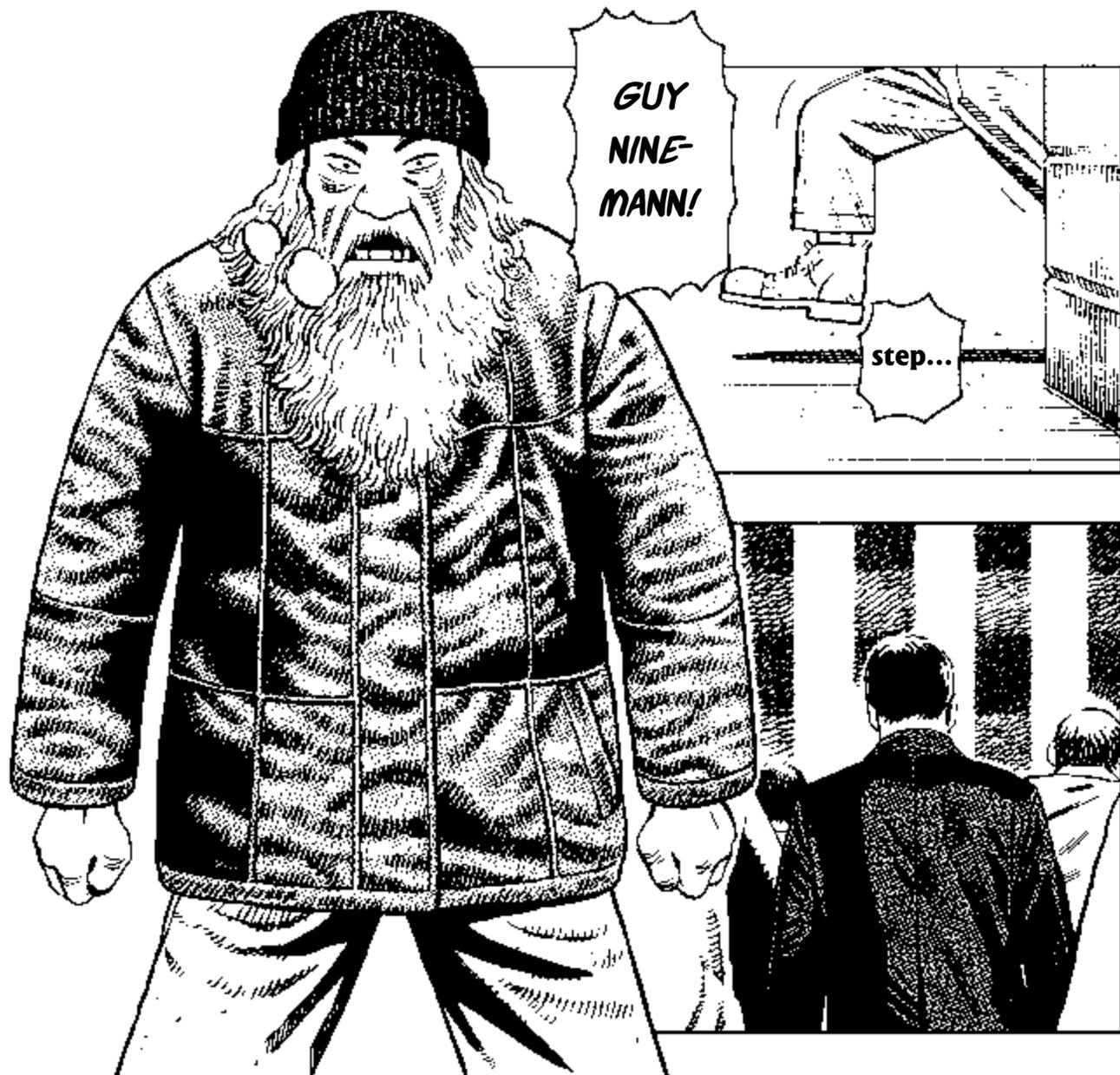


But somehow, I can see myself. I can see
myself drifting off into the distance...

Why... why had it ended like this?



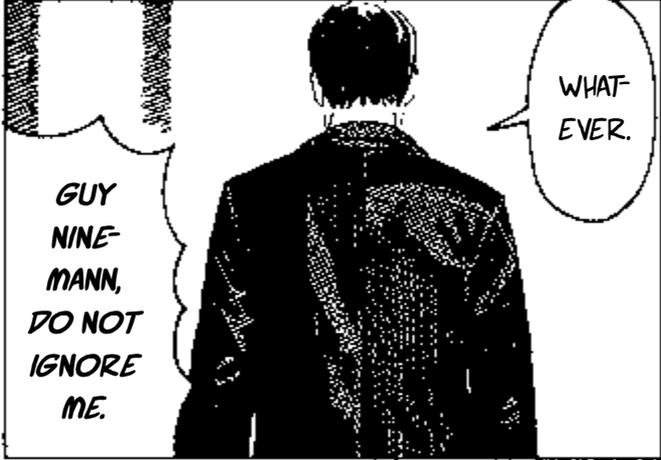




I KNOW YOUR NAME! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU! AND BEFORE THE NIGHT IS OVER, YOU WILL BE DEAD AND THIS CITY WILL LIE IN RUINS!



GUY NINE-MANN! YOUR END IS NIGH!



GUY NINE-MANN, DO NOT IGNORE ME.

WHAT EVER.

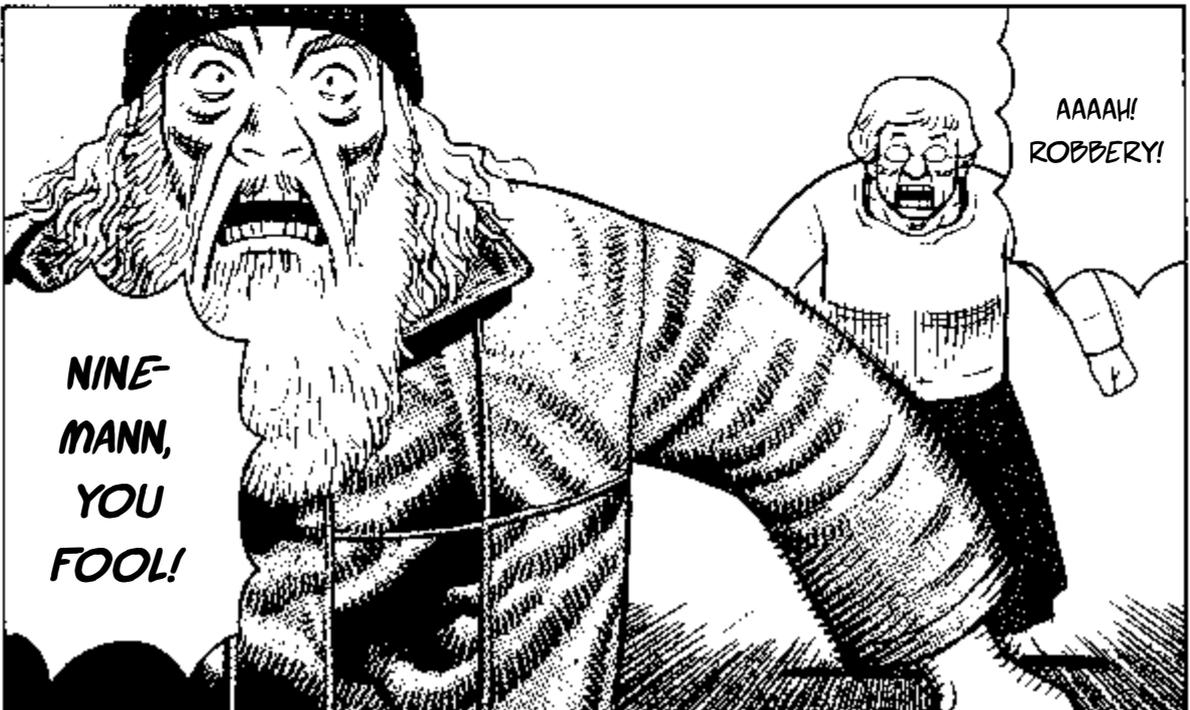
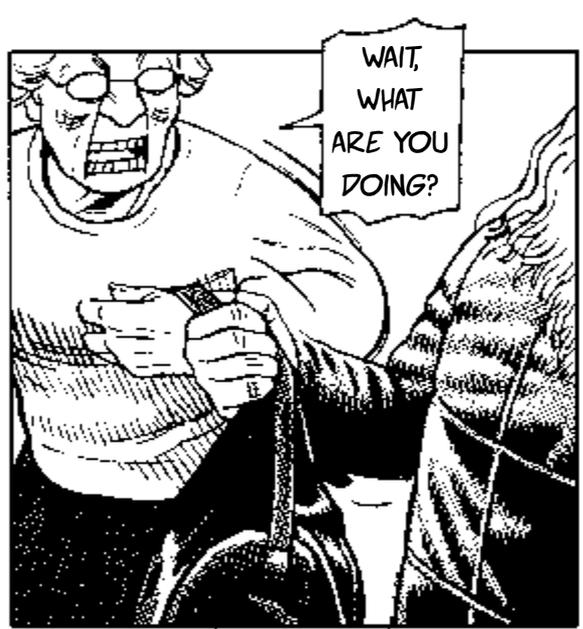
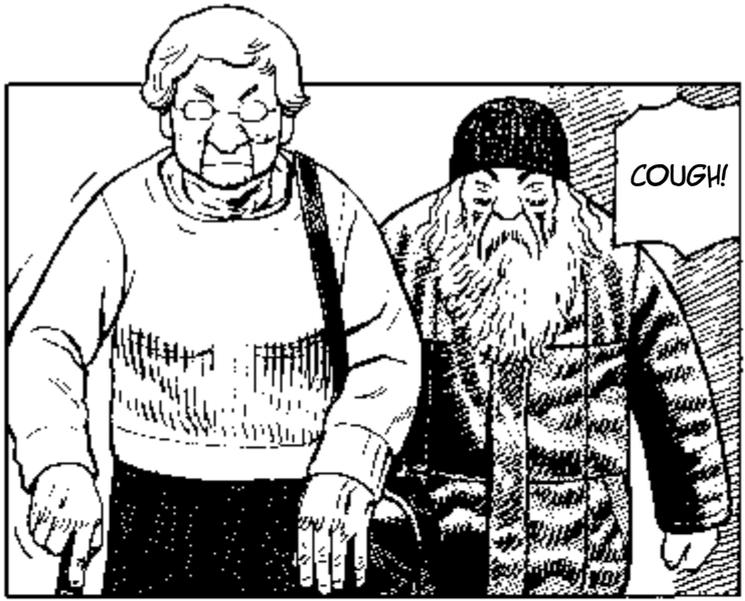


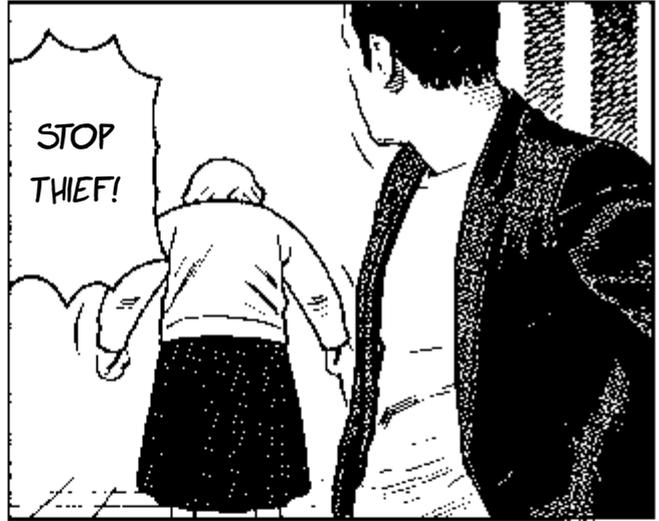
YEAH, AND HEAVEN TOO. STOP FOLLOWING ME, I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE.

HEY!



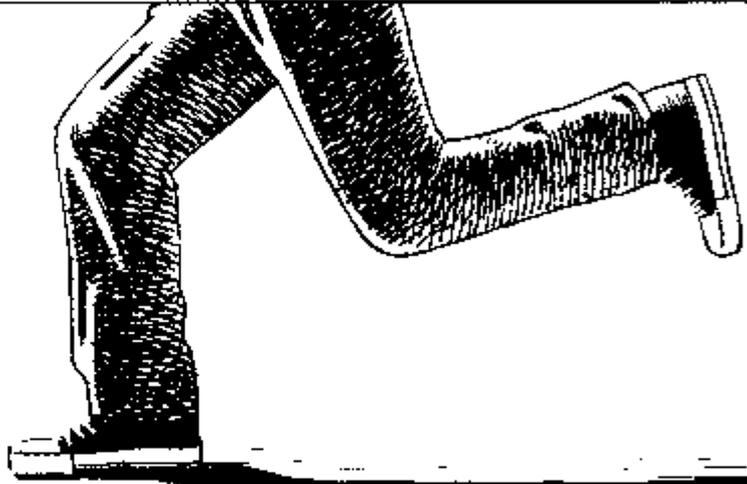
I... I HAVE SEEN HELL!

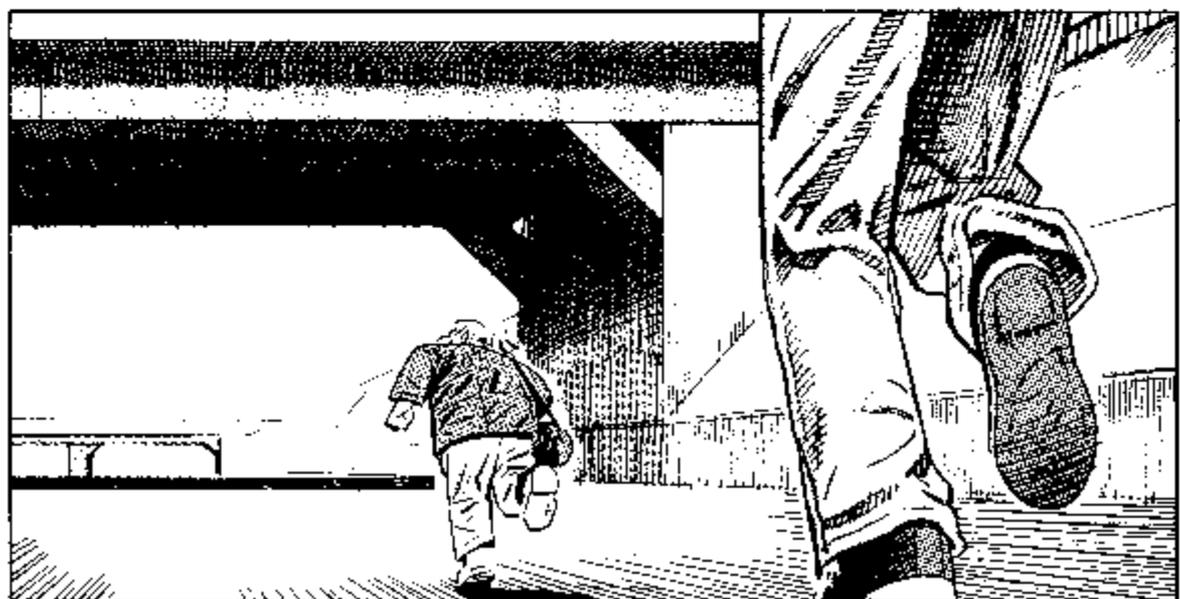
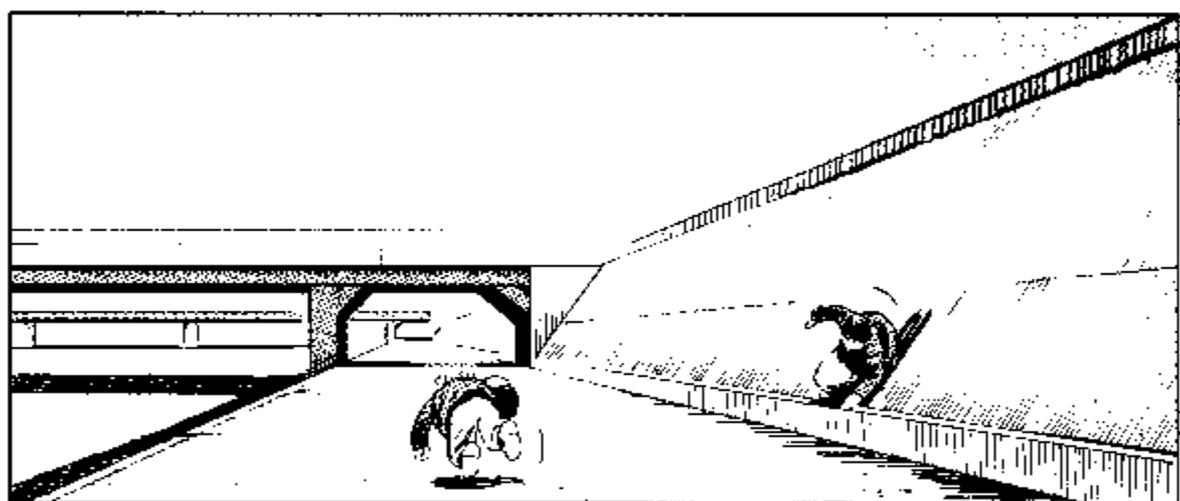






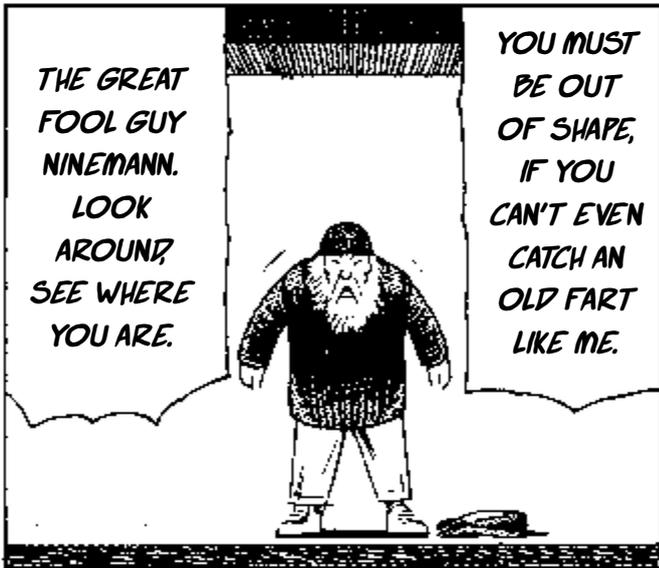
What on earth is he trying to do? It doesn't make any sense. And... how does some homeless guy I've never met know my name?







PUFF...
PANT...
COULD YOU
JUST HAVE
STOPPED?



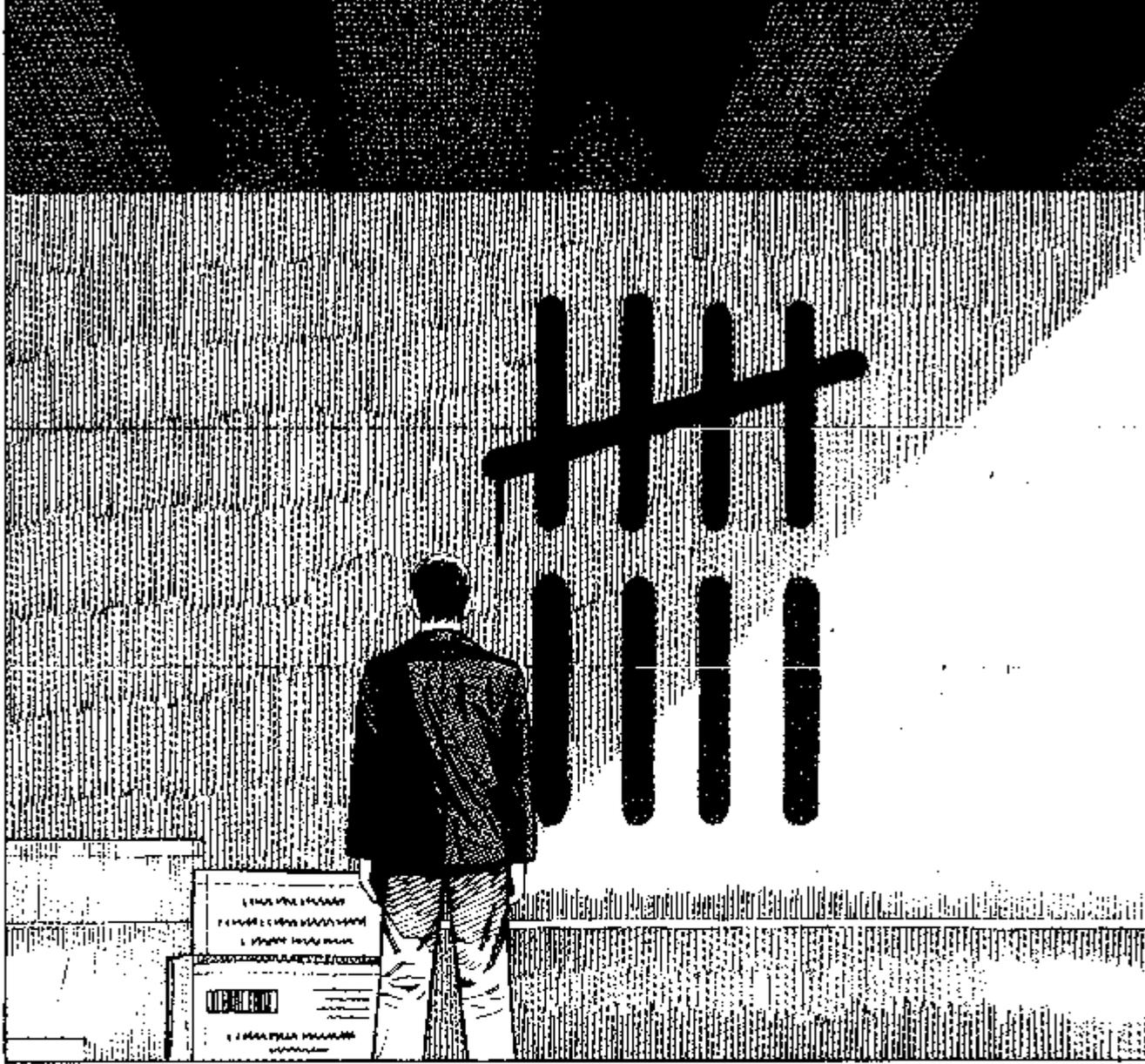
THE GREAT
FOOL GUY
NINEMANN.
LOOK
AROUND,
SEE WHERE
YOU ARE.

YOU MUST
BE OUT
OF SHAPE,
IF YOU
CAN'T EVEN
CATCH AN
OLD FART
LIKE ME.

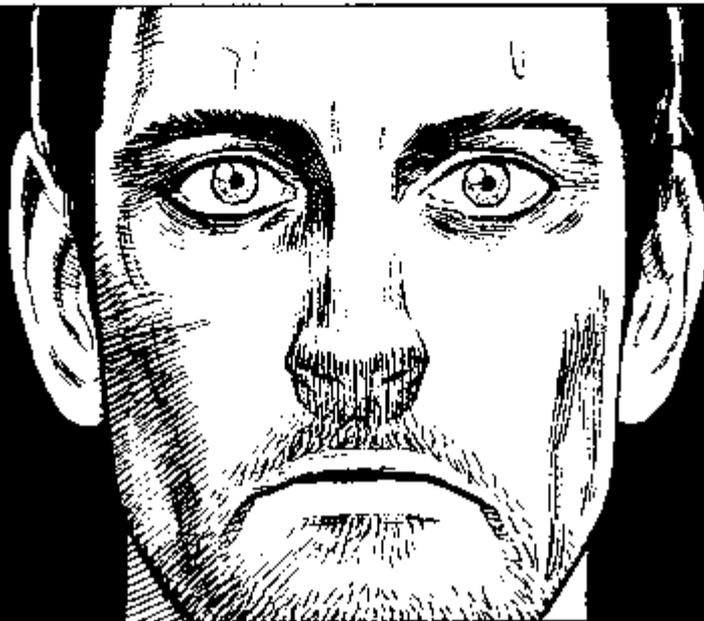


YOU MUST
BE OUT
OF SHAPE,
IF YOU
CAN'T EVEN
CATCH AN
OLD FART
LIKE ME.





Is it the
place? Or
is it the
nine red
tally marks
spray-
painted on
the wall?

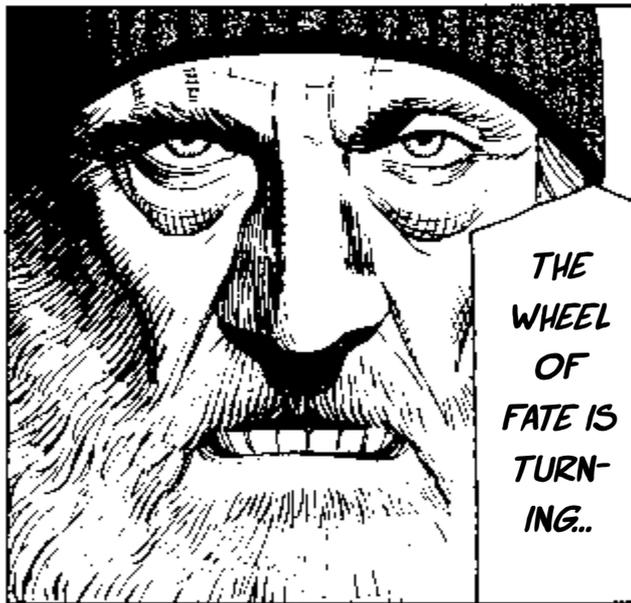


Where is
this? Why
do I feel
like I've
been here
before?

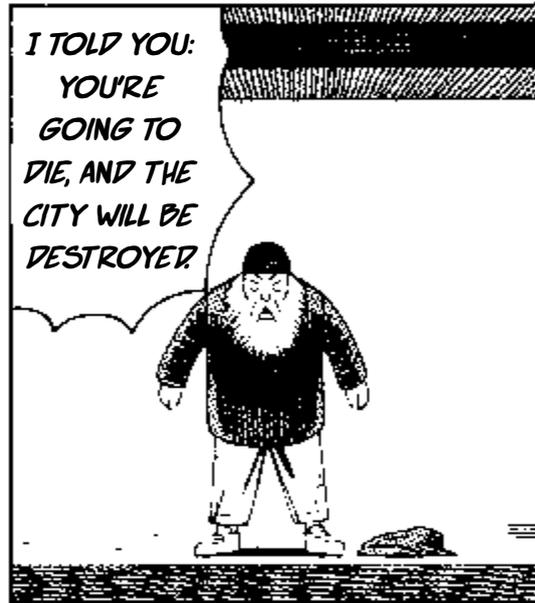




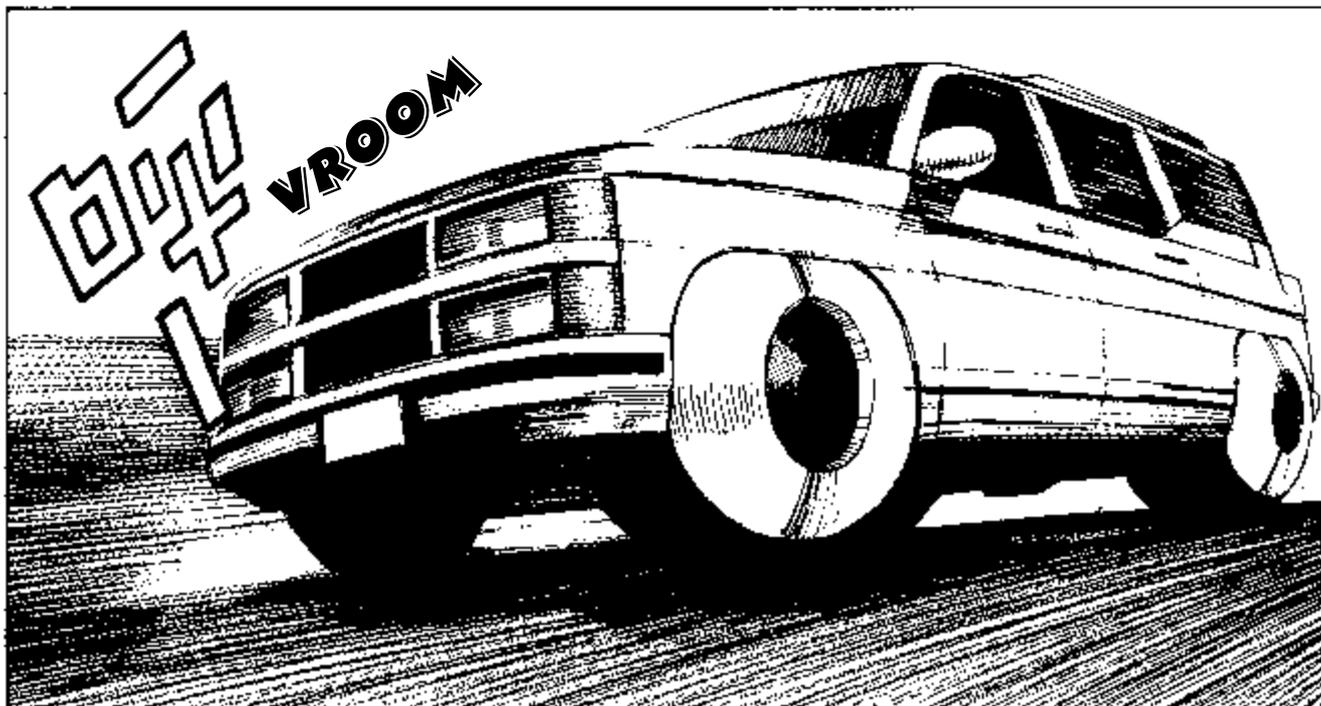
THOSE... WHAT
WERE ALL
THOSE IMAGES?
WHAT WERE
THEY? WHY DID
YOU BRING ME
HERE?



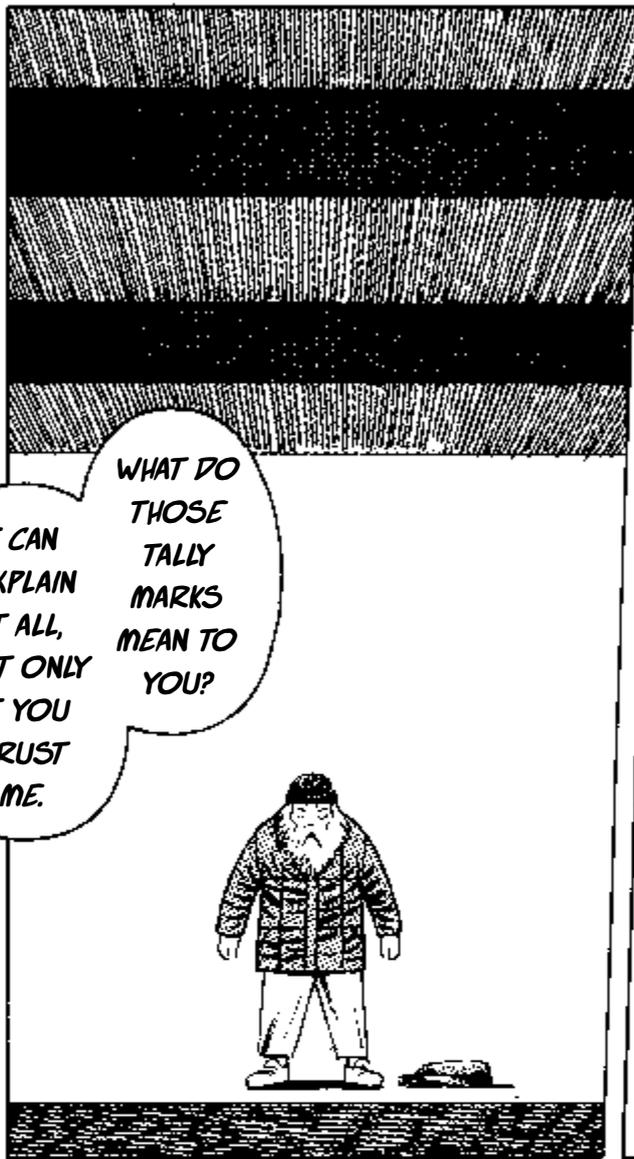
THE
WHEEL
OF
FATE IS
TURN-
ING...



I TOLD YOU:
YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE, AND THE
CITY WILL BE
DESTROYED.



VROOM



I CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL, BUT ONLY IF YOU TRUST ME.

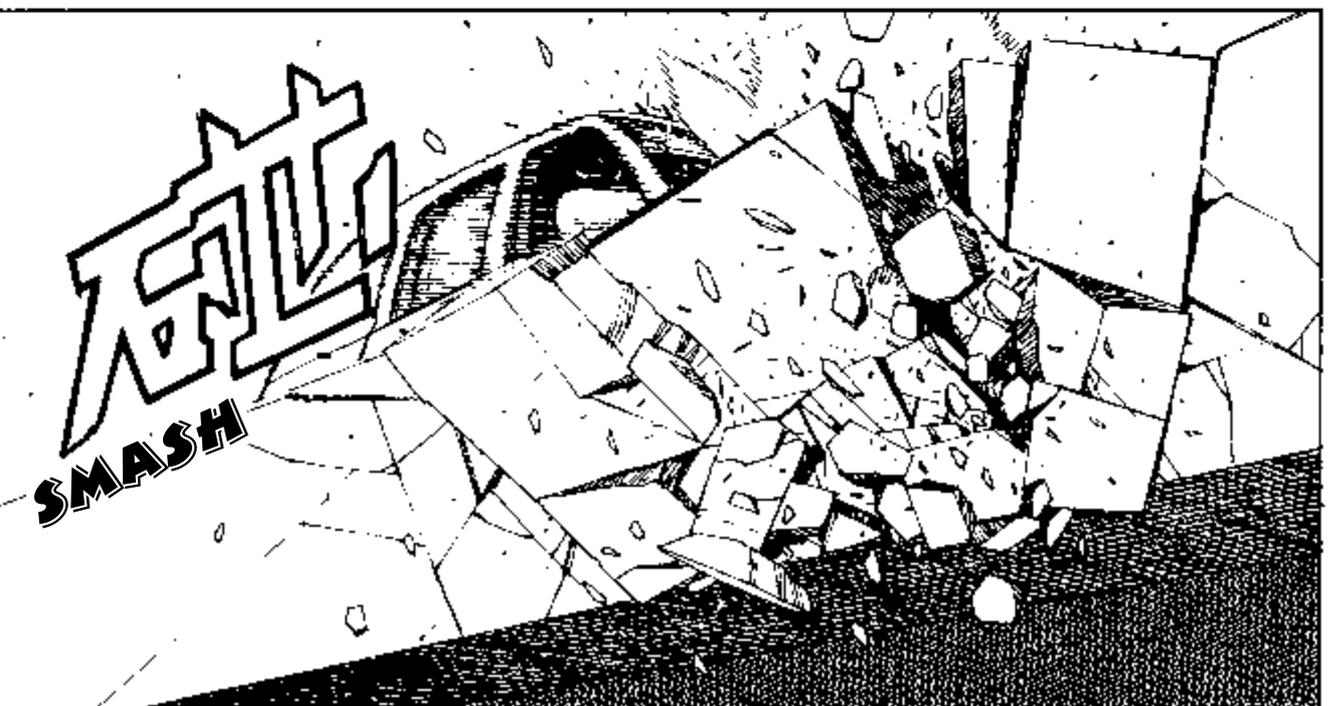
WHAT DO THOSE TALLY MARKS MEAN TO YOU?



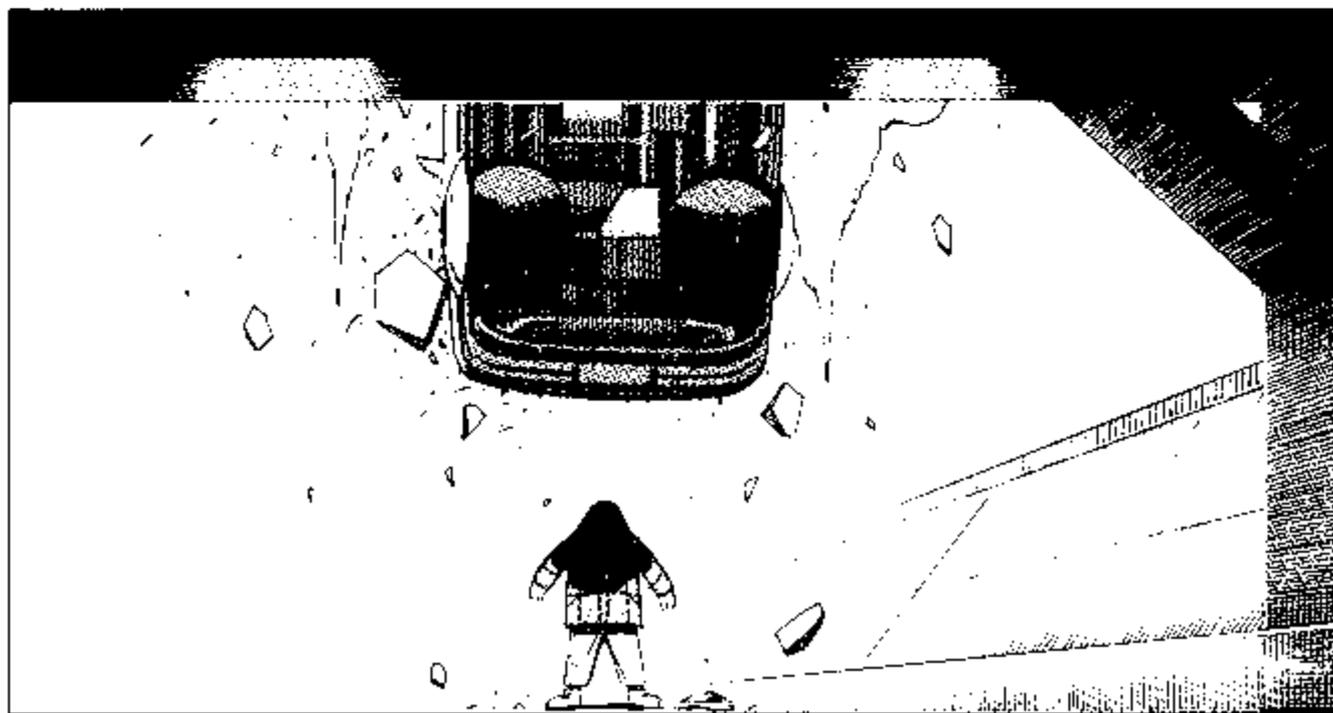
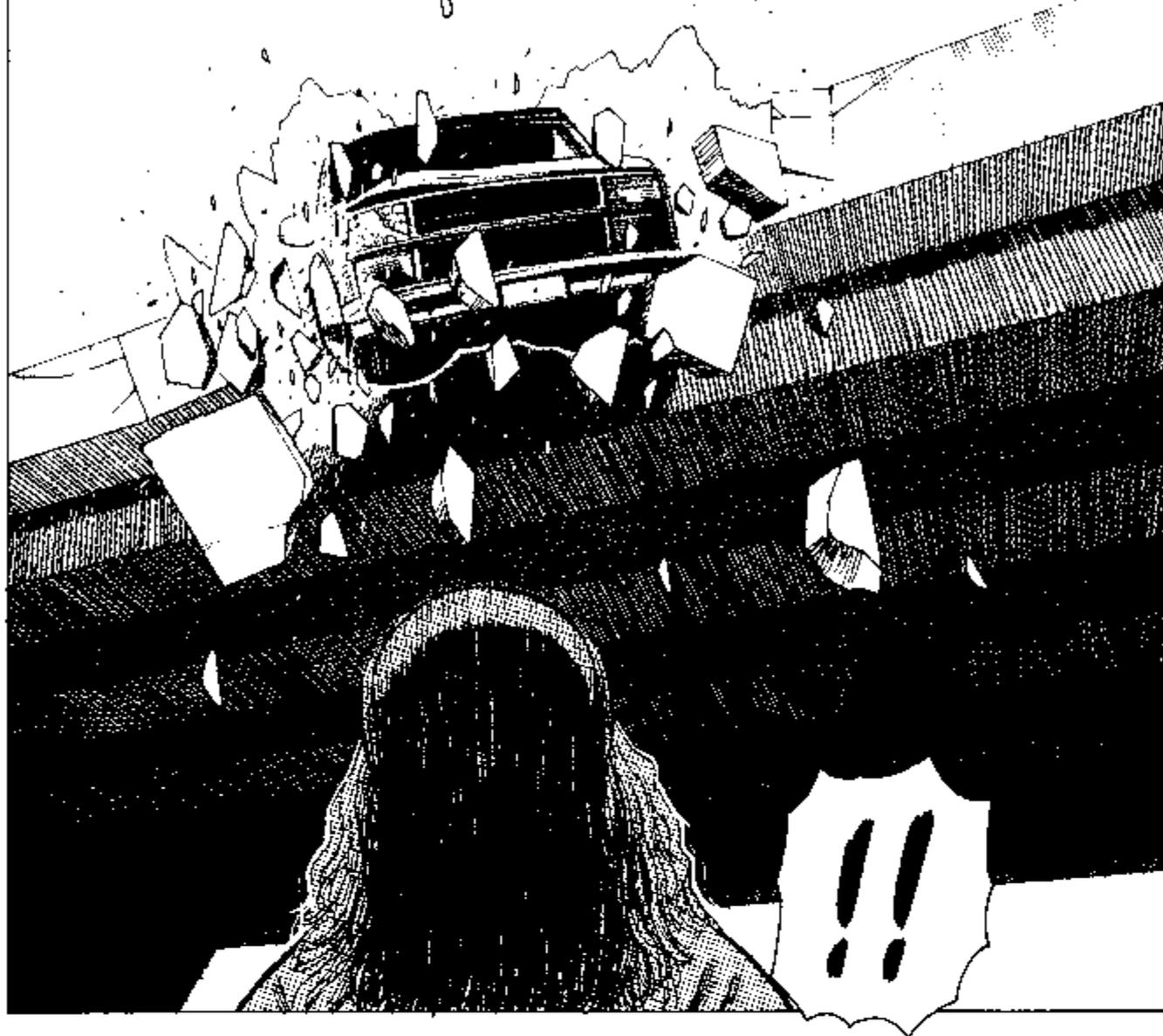
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

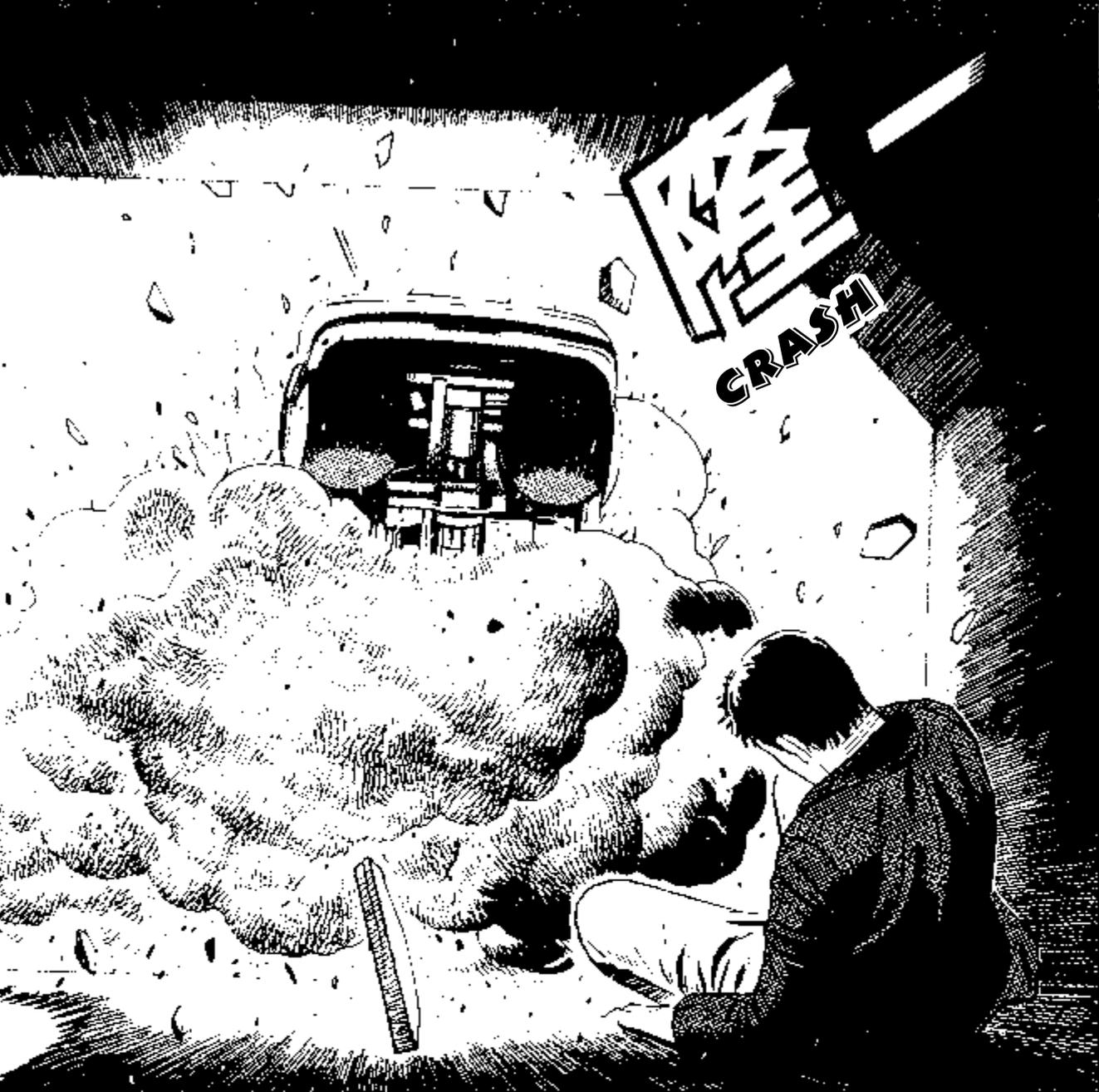


WE ALL HAVE THINGS WE MUST ACHIEVE IN LIFE.



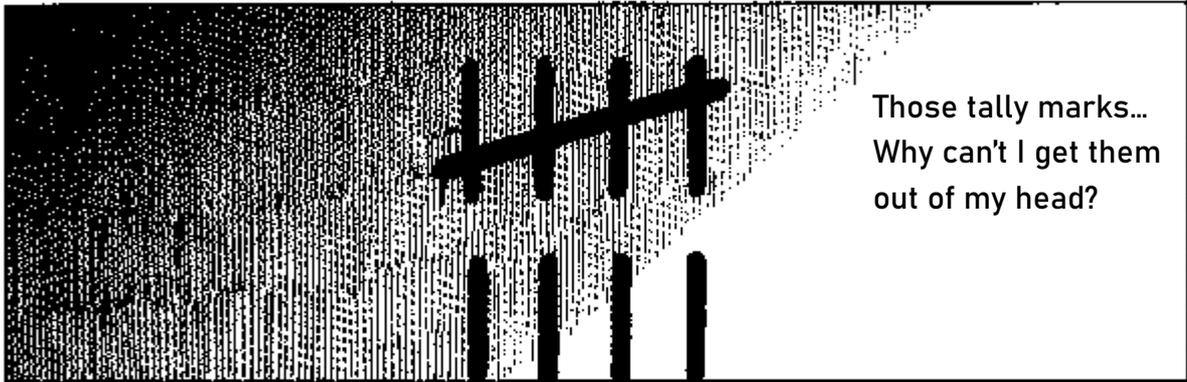
SMASH





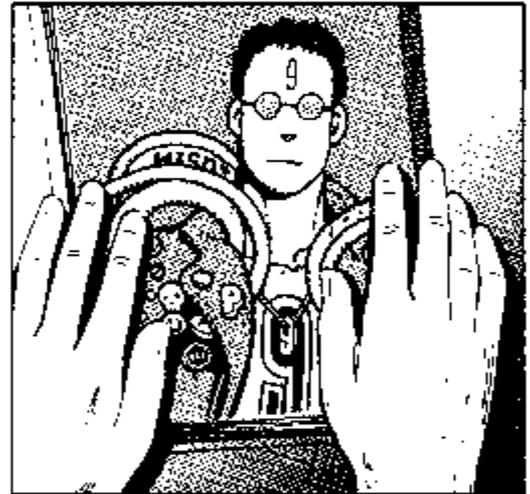
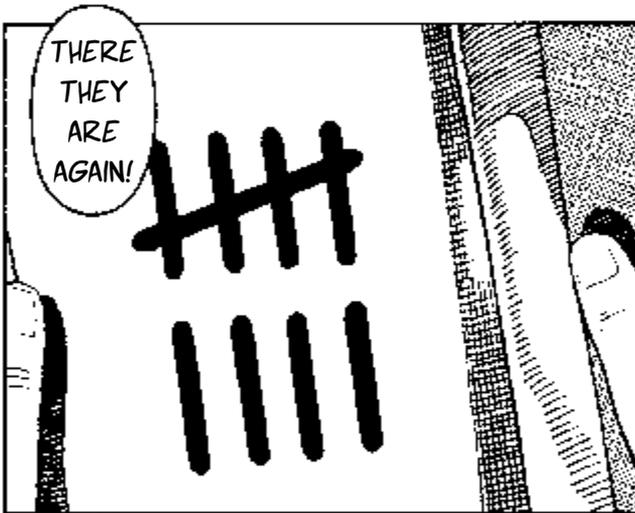
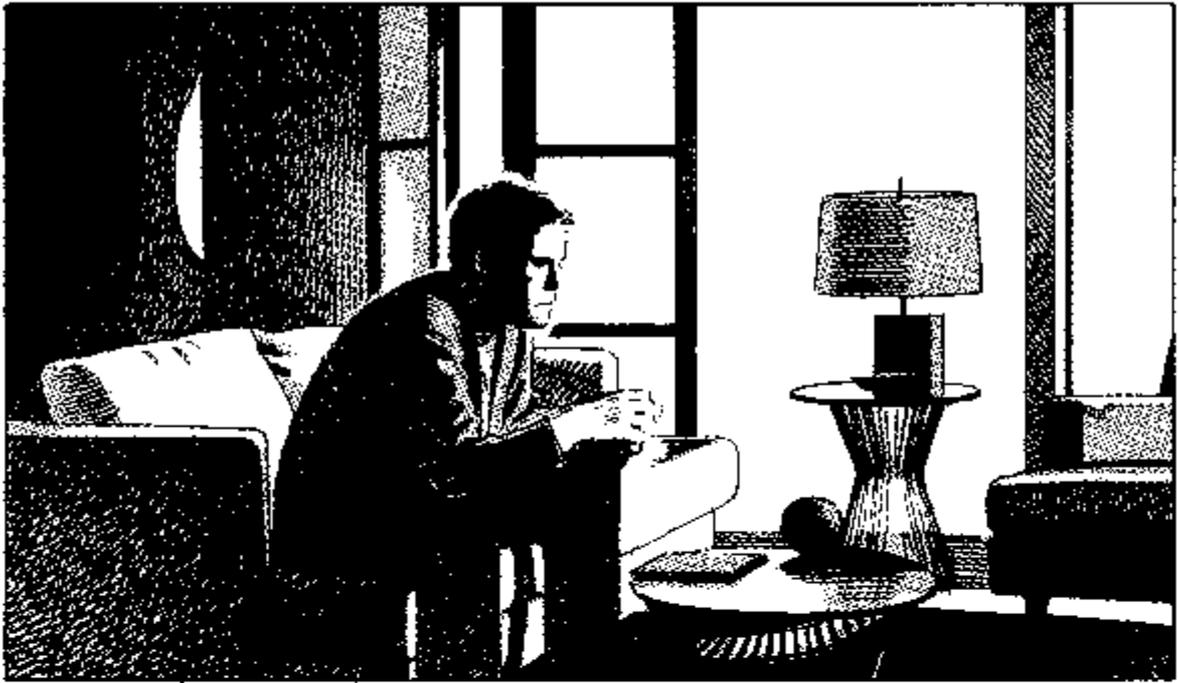


December
20th, 2054
19:35



Those tally marks...
Why can't I get them
out of my head?

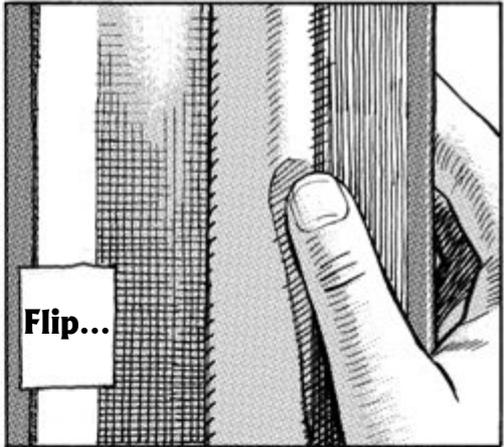




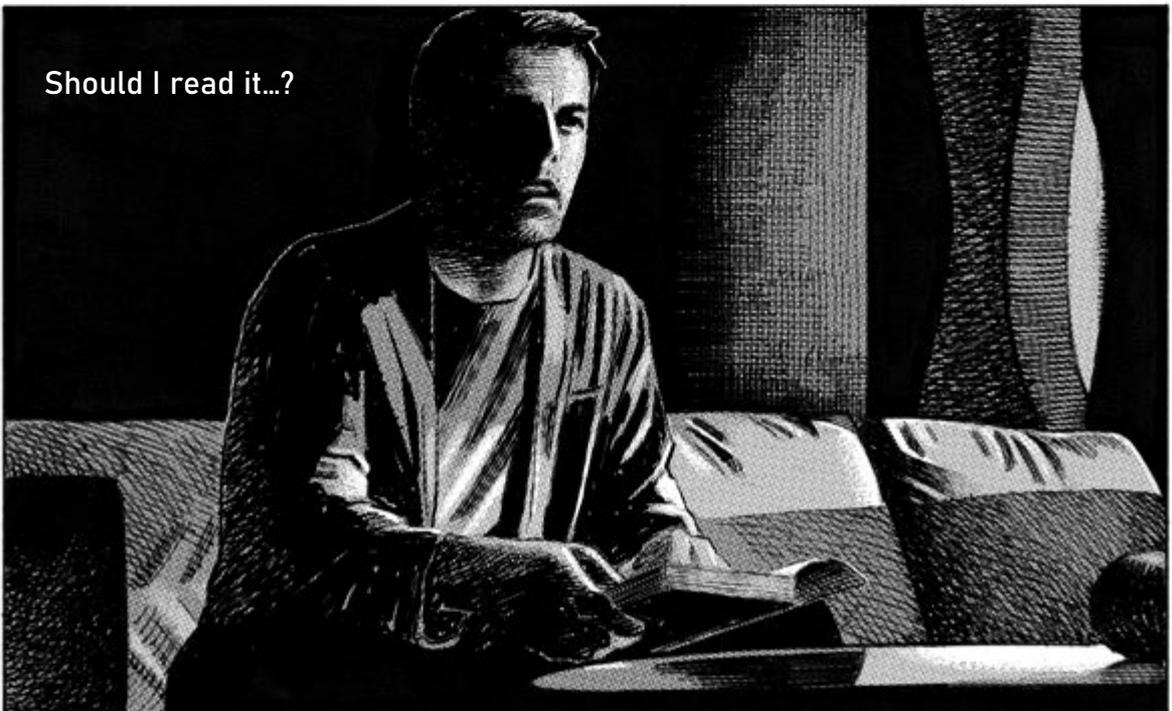
I can't even remember where I got this. Did that homeless man die because of me? And what was he so desperate to tell me?

Even when I pick up an old book...
... there they are, on the first page.

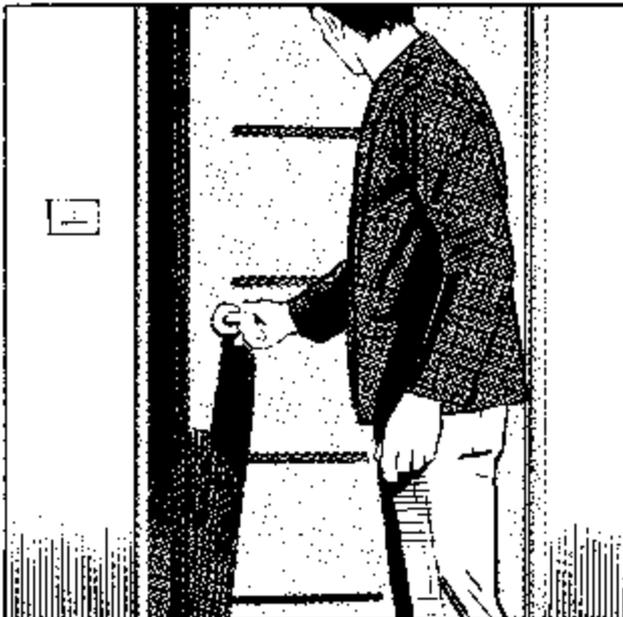
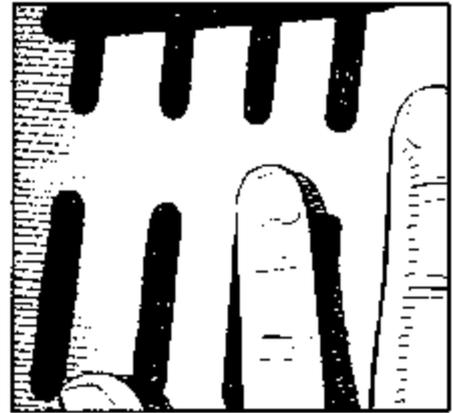
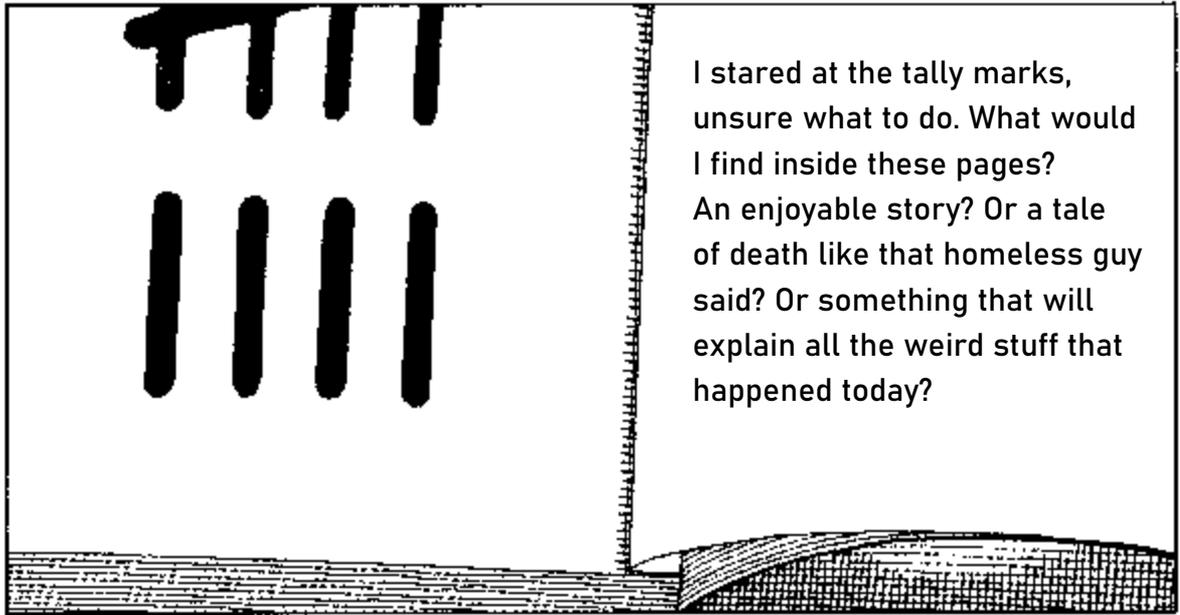
Publisher:
Fang Wan-nan,
Tong-Li Publishing ,
80 Section 2, Chengde Road,
Taipei.
First edition:
9th September, 2019

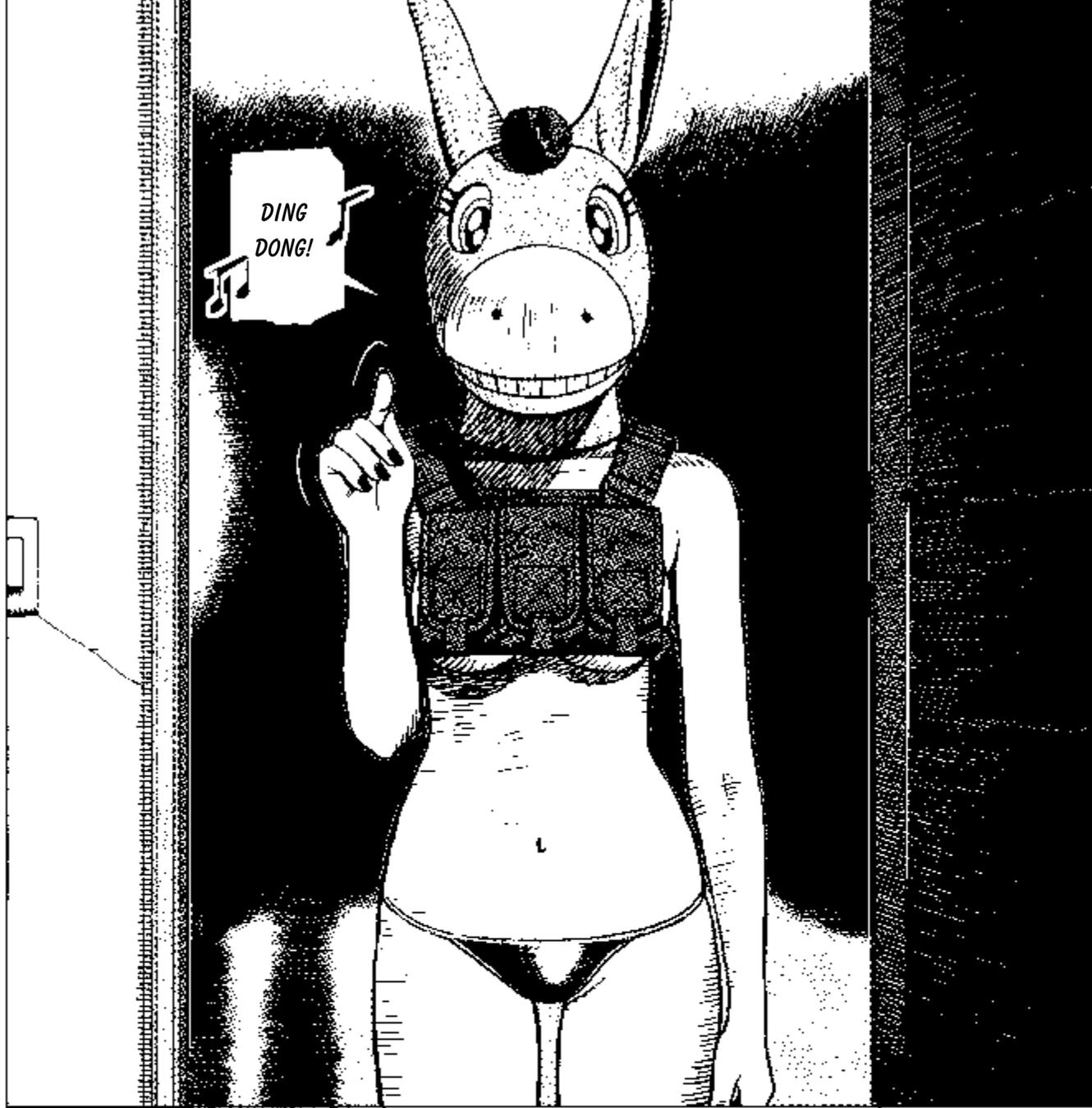


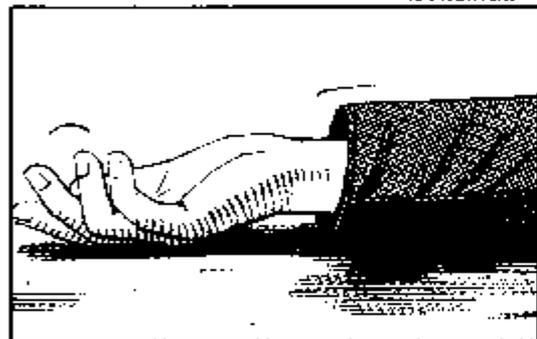
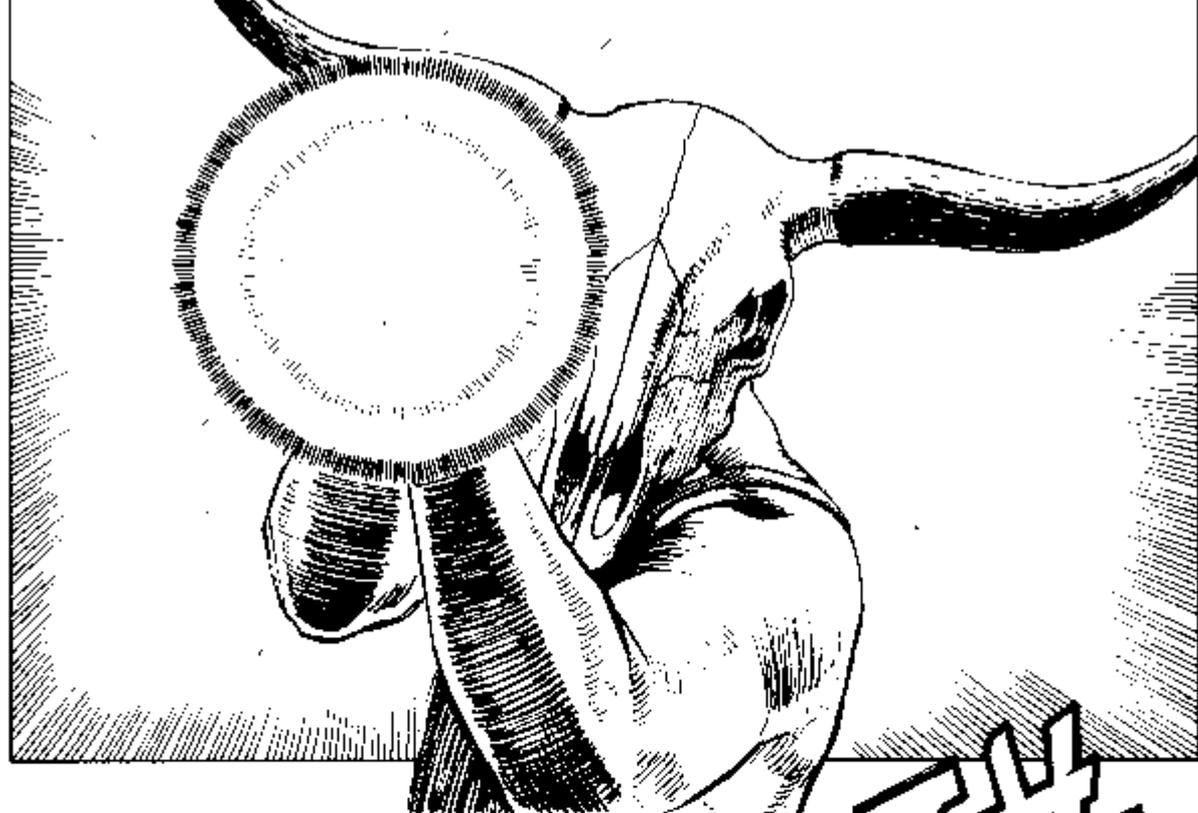
Published in 2019?
This book is the
same age as me.



Should I read it...?



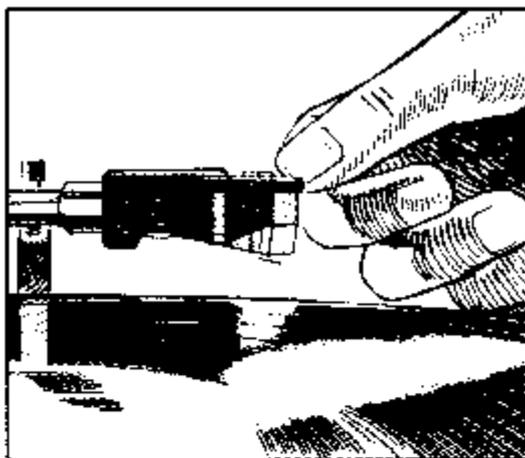


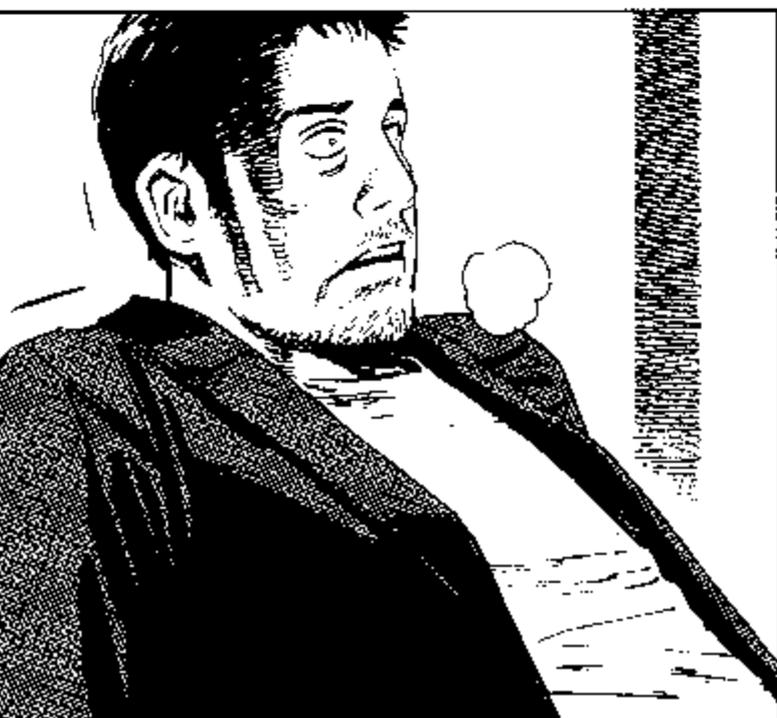
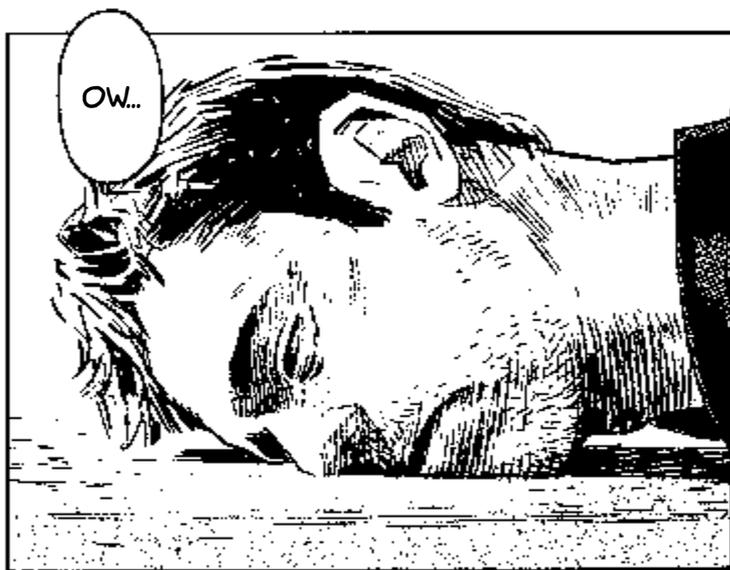
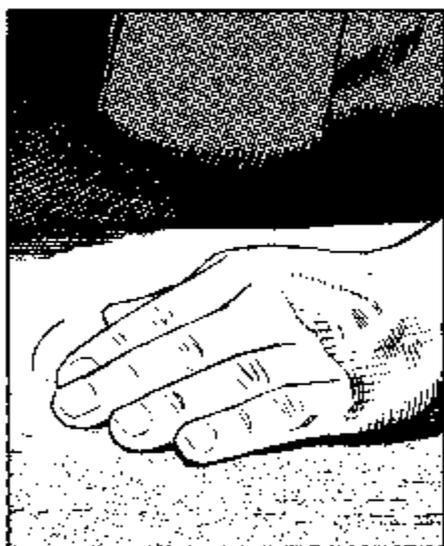
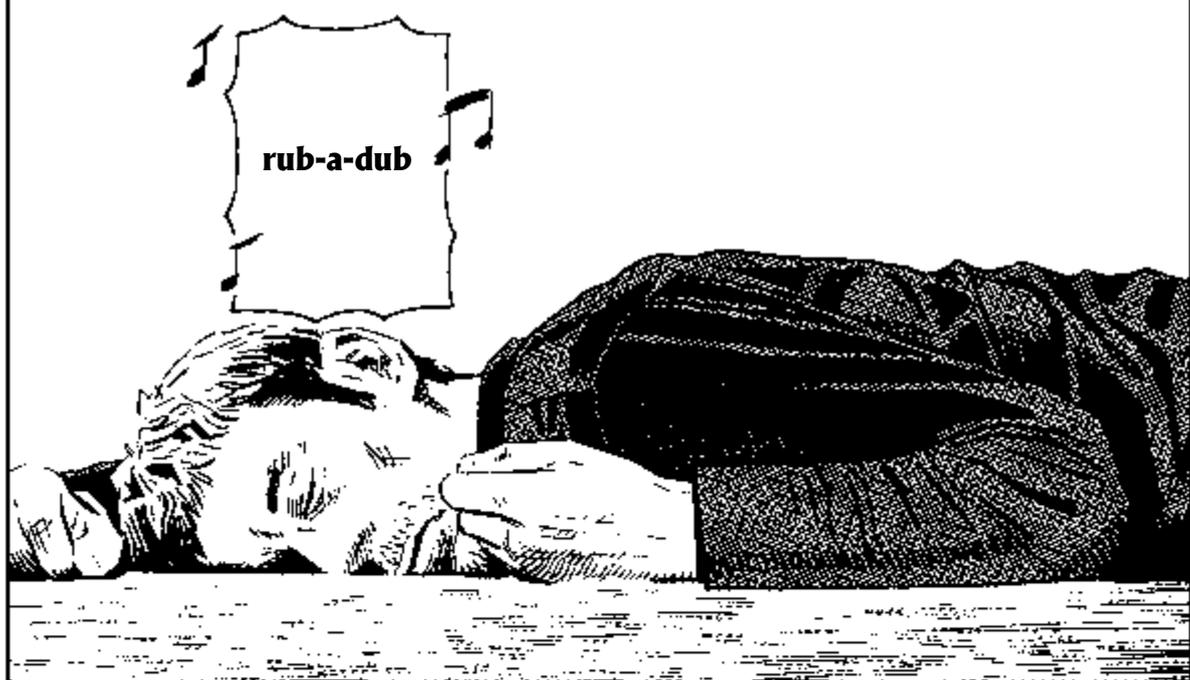


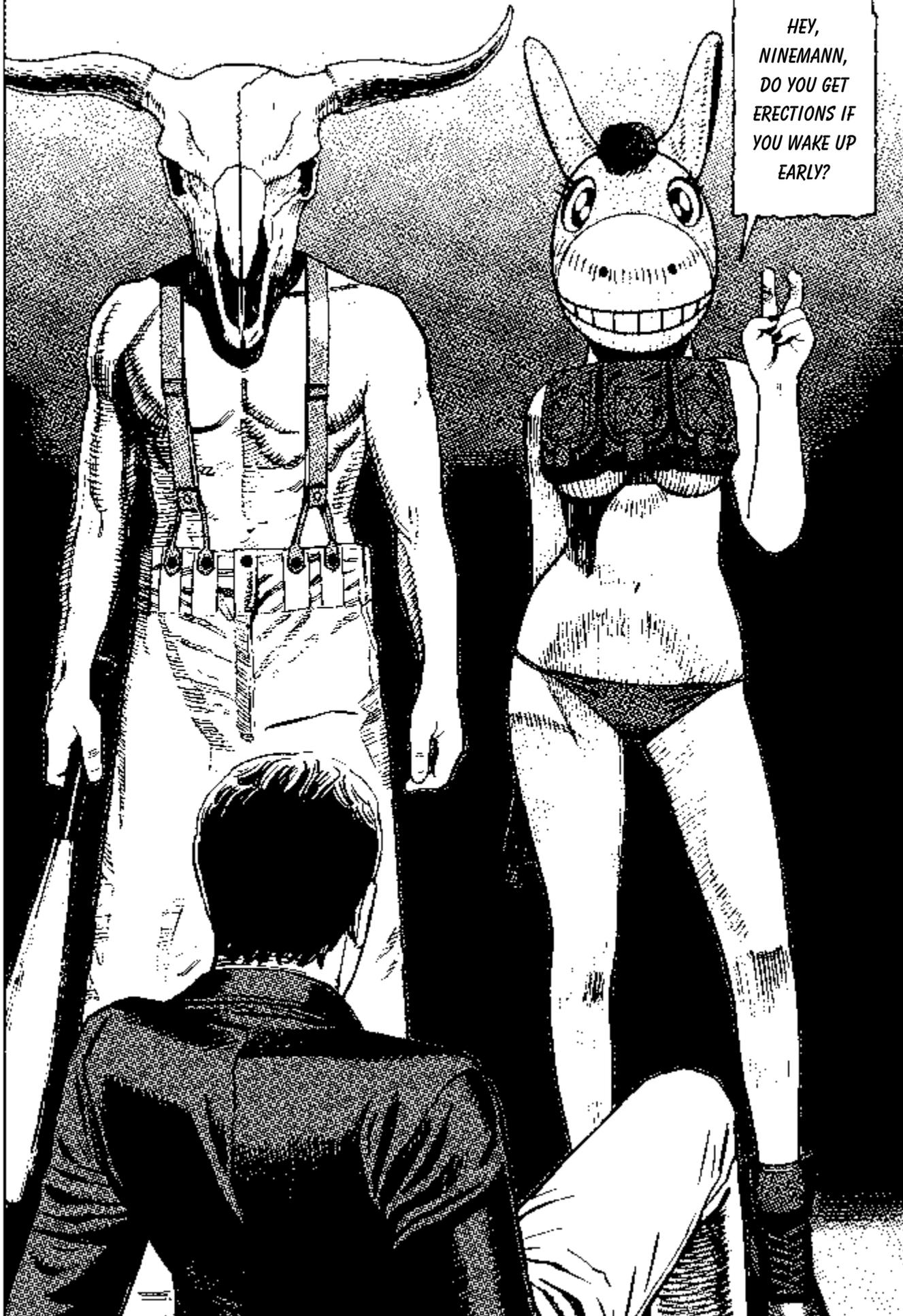
碰
THUMP



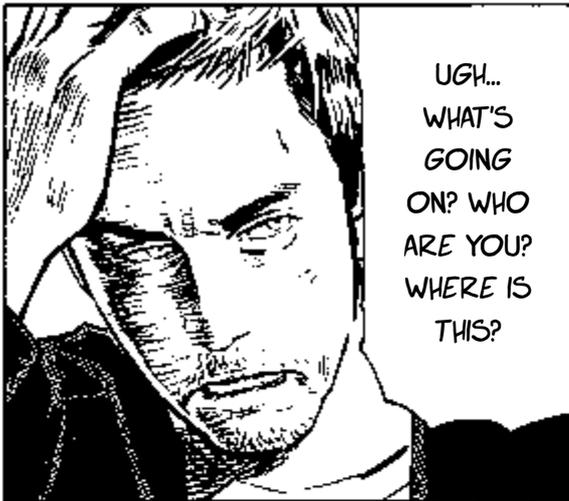
Drag



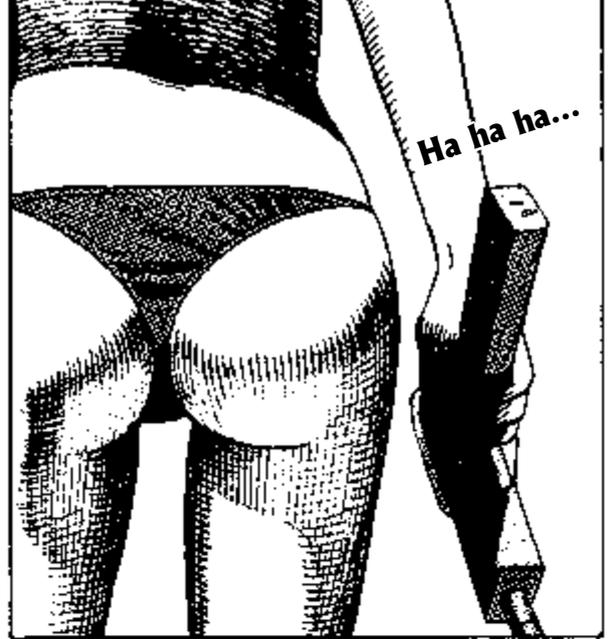




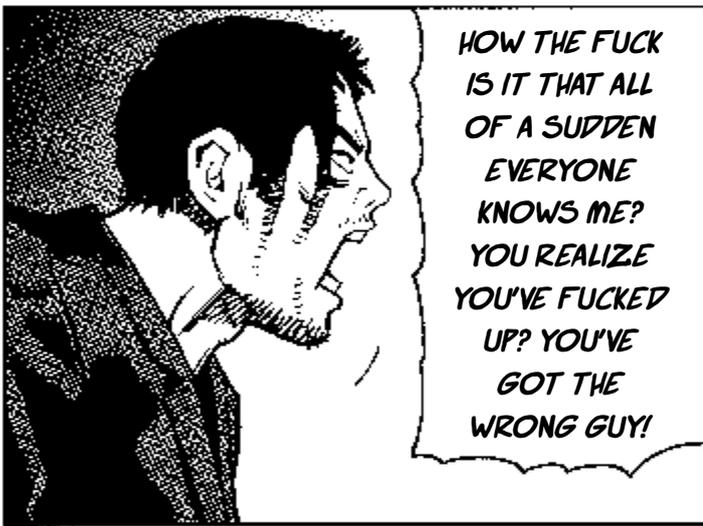
HEY,
NINEMANN,
DO YOU GET
ERECTIONS IF
YOU WAKE UP
EARLY?



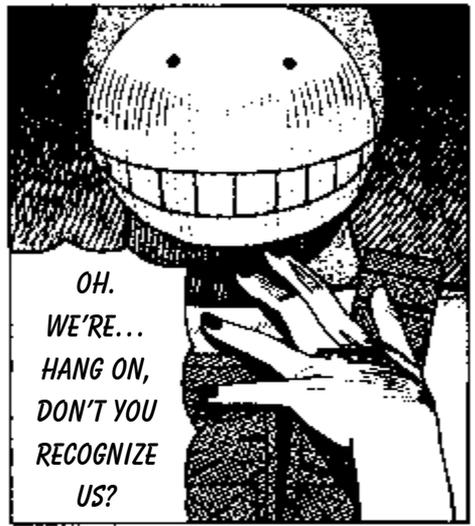
UGH...
WHAT'S
GOING
ON? WHO
ARE YOU?
WHERE IS
THIS?



Ha ha ha...



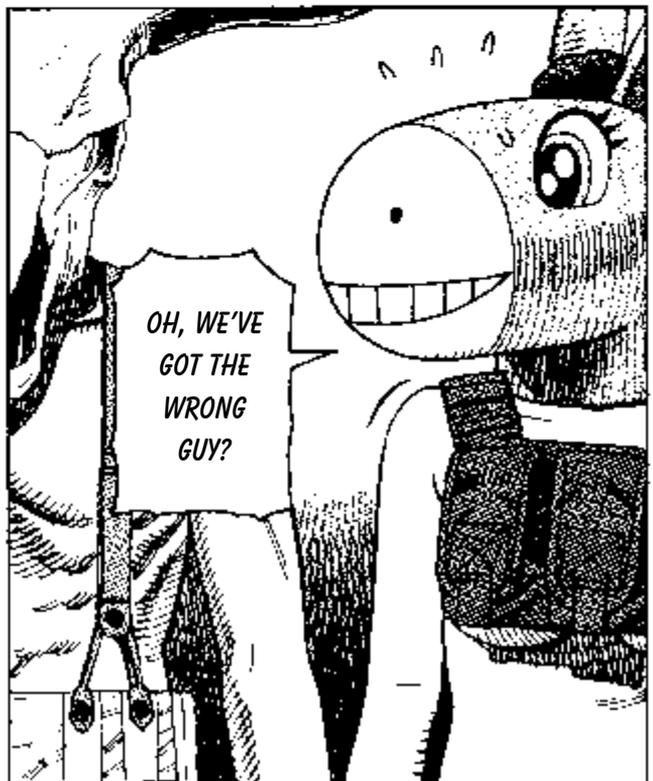
HOW THE FUCK
IS IT THAT ALL
OF A SUDDEN
EVERYONE
KNOWS ME?
YOU REALIZE
YOU'VE FUCKED
UP? YOU'VE
GOT THE
WRONG GUY!



OH.
WE'RE...
HANG ON,
DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE
US?



GUY
NINE-
MANN...



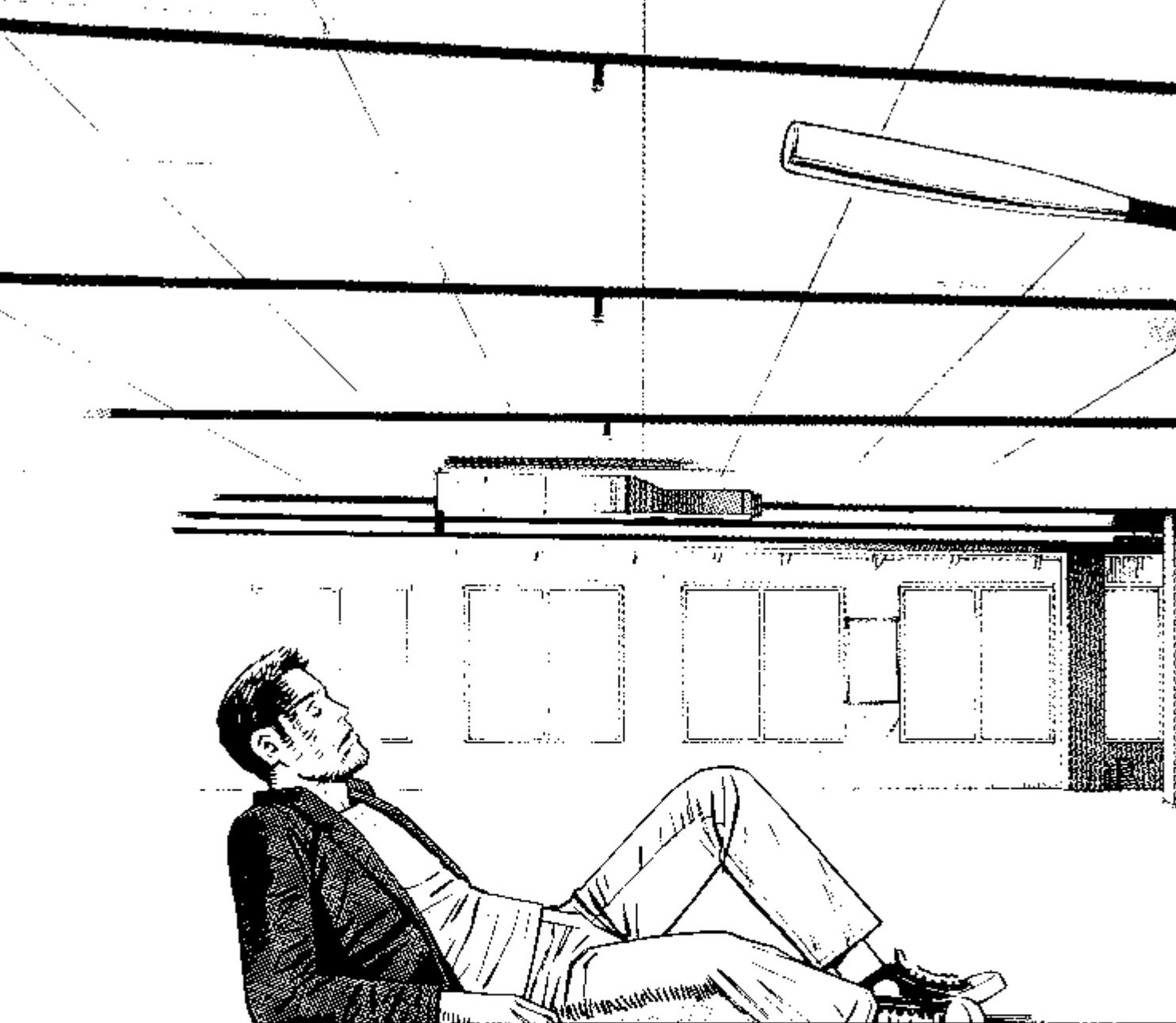
OH, WE'VE
GOT THE
WRONG
GUY?



TURN AND
LOOK AT THE
CITY. WE ARE
GOING TO TAKE
THE SOULS OF
EVERYONE IN IT.
ALL THIS WILL
TURN TO ASH.

TELL ME...
HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN
HELL?

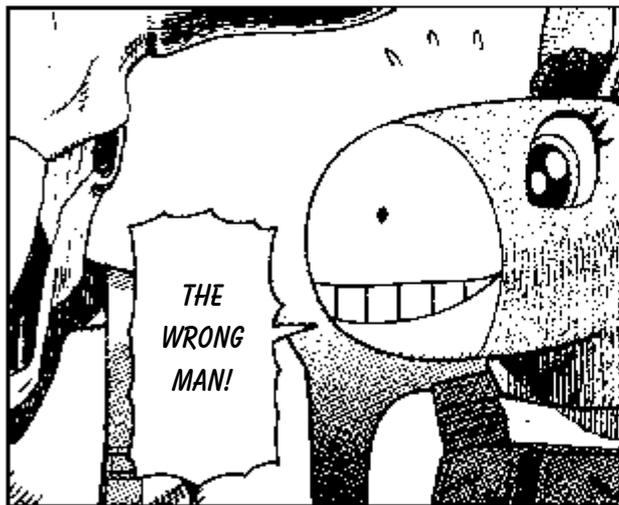




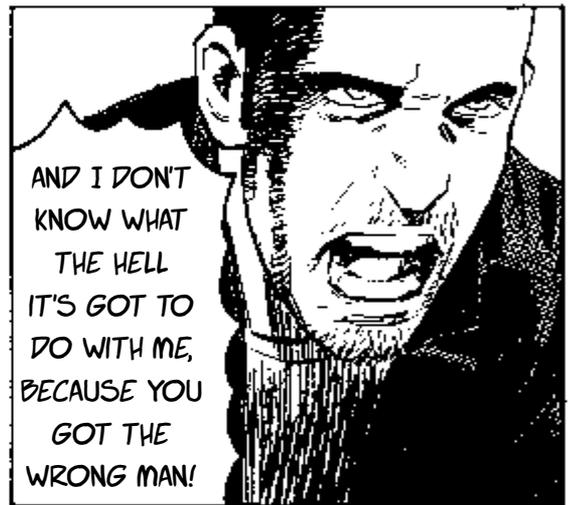
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



ARE YOU MAD?
YOU THINK YOU'RE
SENT BY THE DEVIL
TO KILL EVERYONE
OR SOMETHING?
AND HOW ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO THAT?



THE
WRONG
MAN!

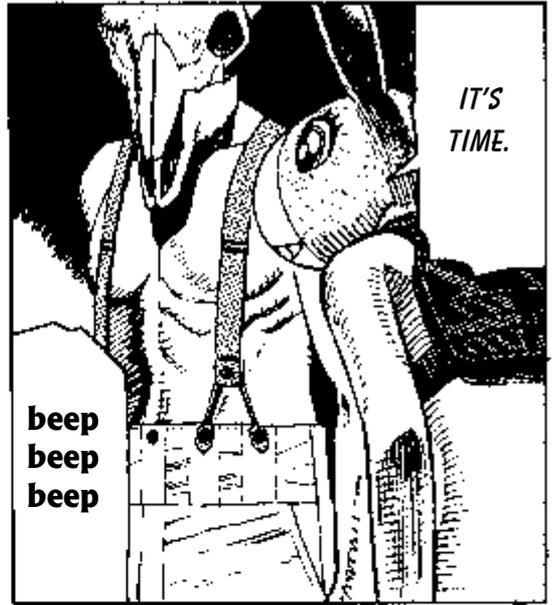
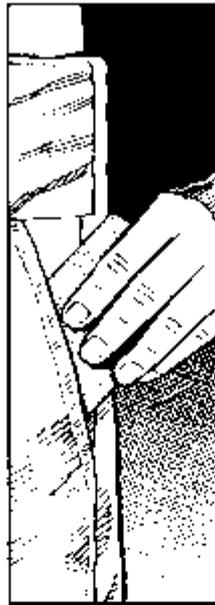


AND I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THE HELL
IT'S GOT TO
DO WITH ME,
BECAUSE YOU
GOT THE
WRONG MAN!



IT'S ESSENTIAL!
THE ONLY
QUESTION IS, DO
WE KILL YOU
NOW, OR DO WE
LET YOU ENJOY
THE SHOW FIRST?

ACTUALLY,
YOU'RE VERY
IMPORTANT
FOR OUR PLAN.
WELL, YOUR
DEATH IS.



IT'S
TIME.

beep
beep
beep

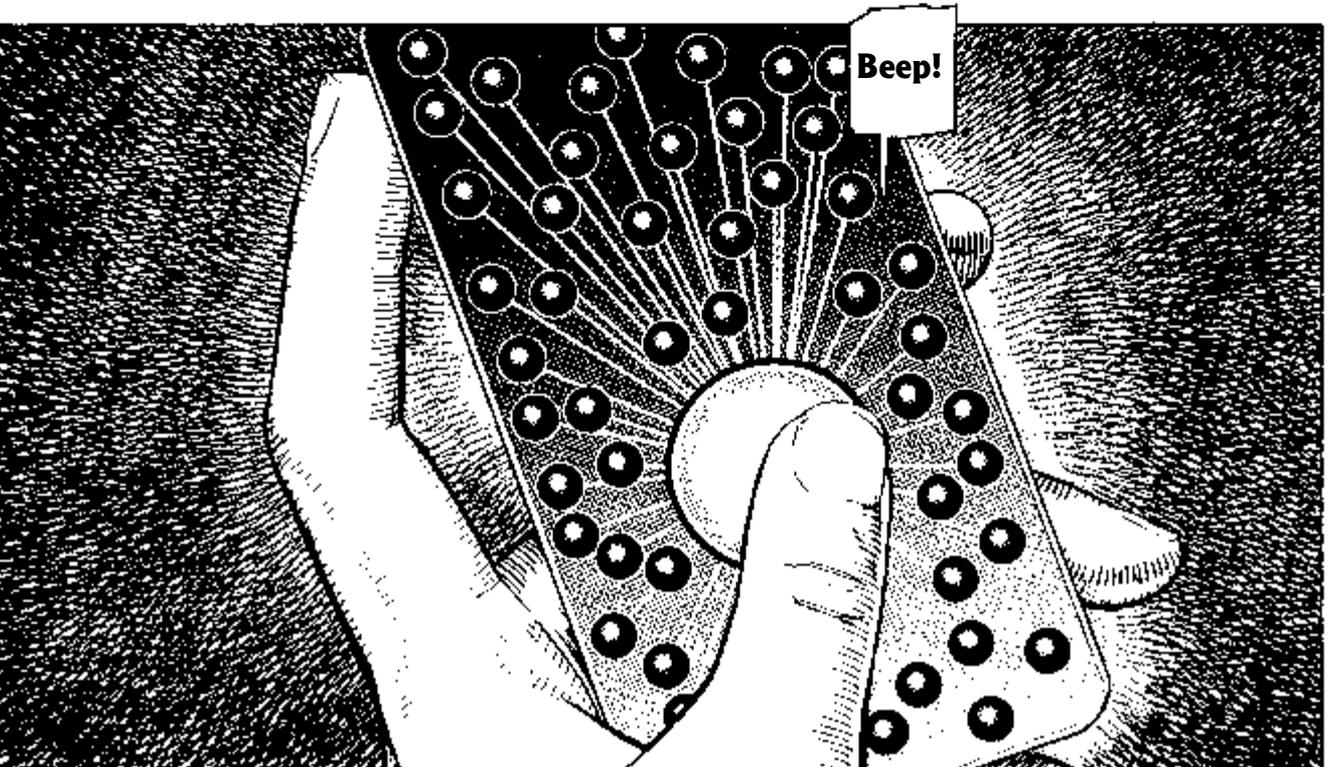


WHAT
ARE
YOU
GOING
TO DO?



12.21.2054
06:08

IT'S
TIME!

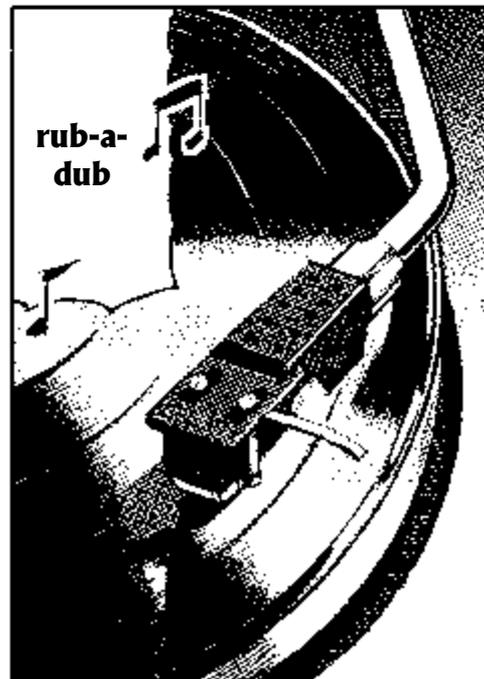
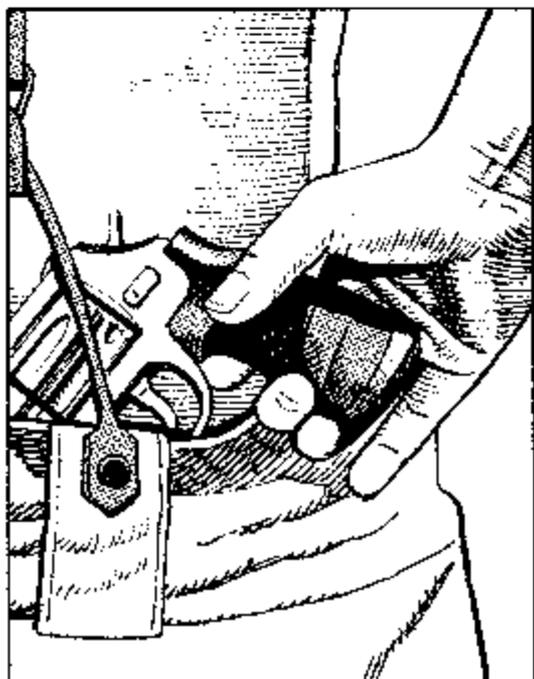
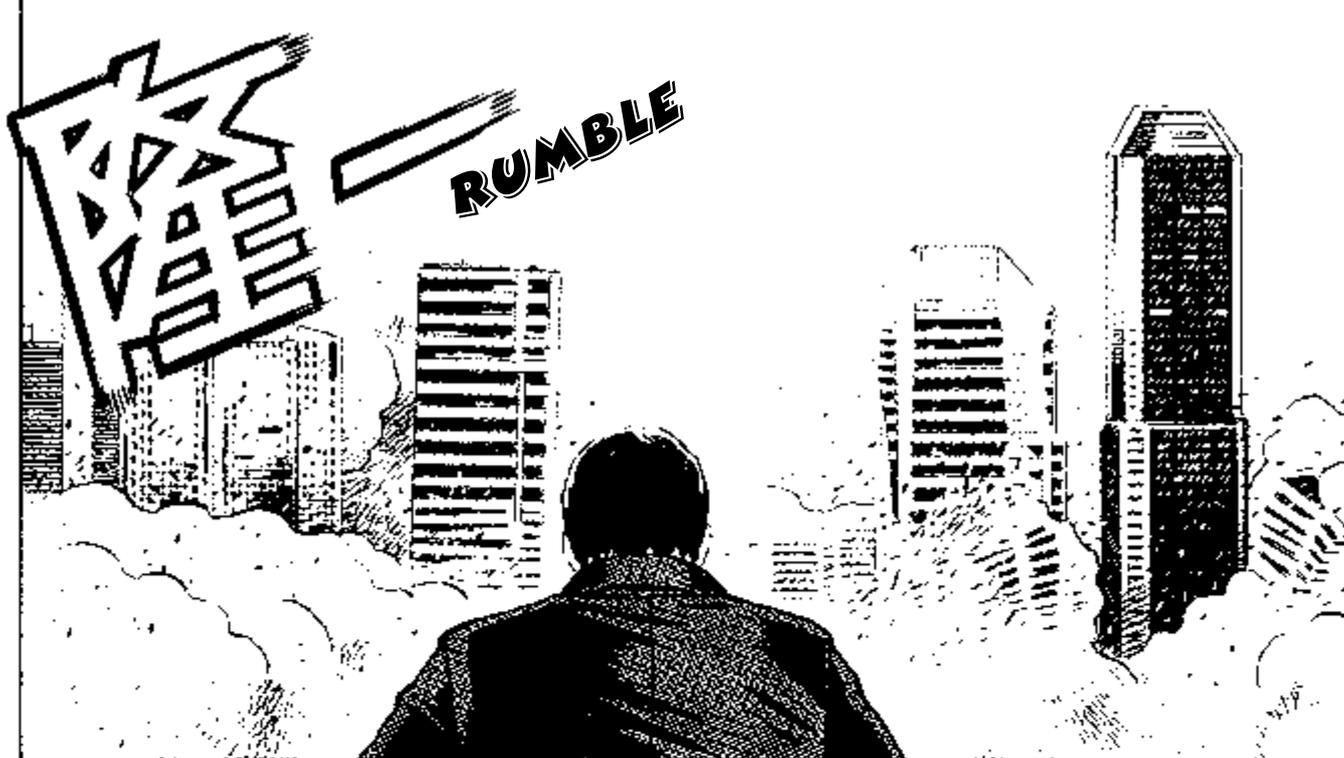


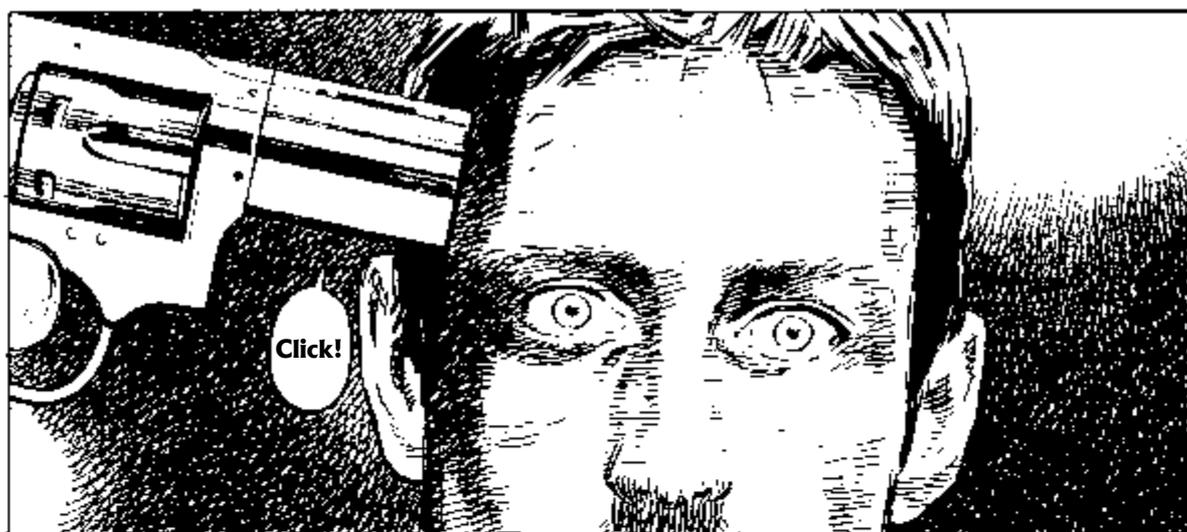
Beep!





RUMBLE



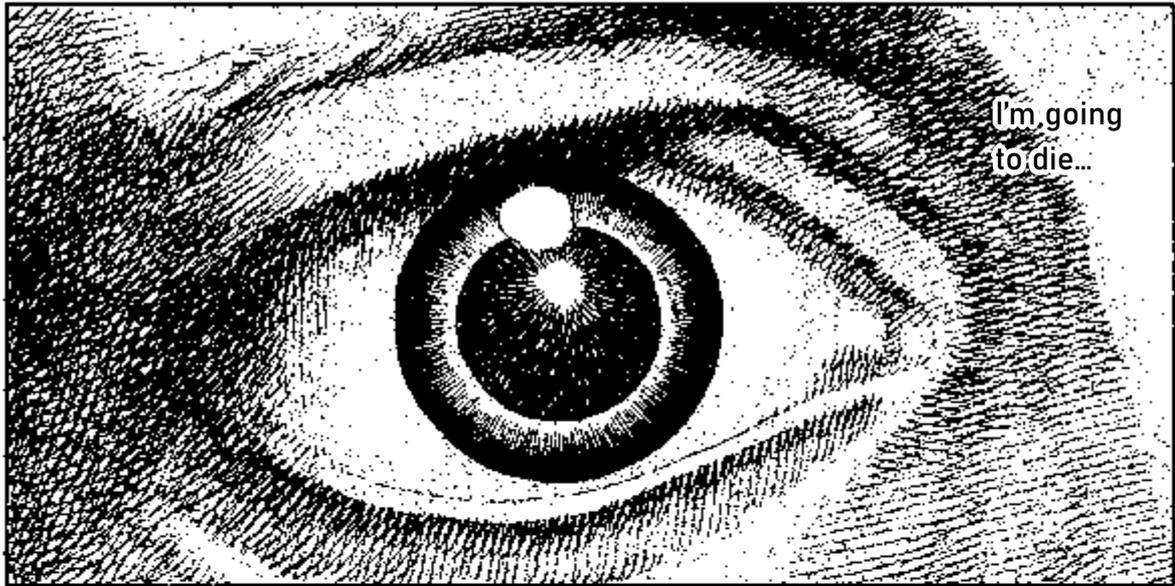


Click!

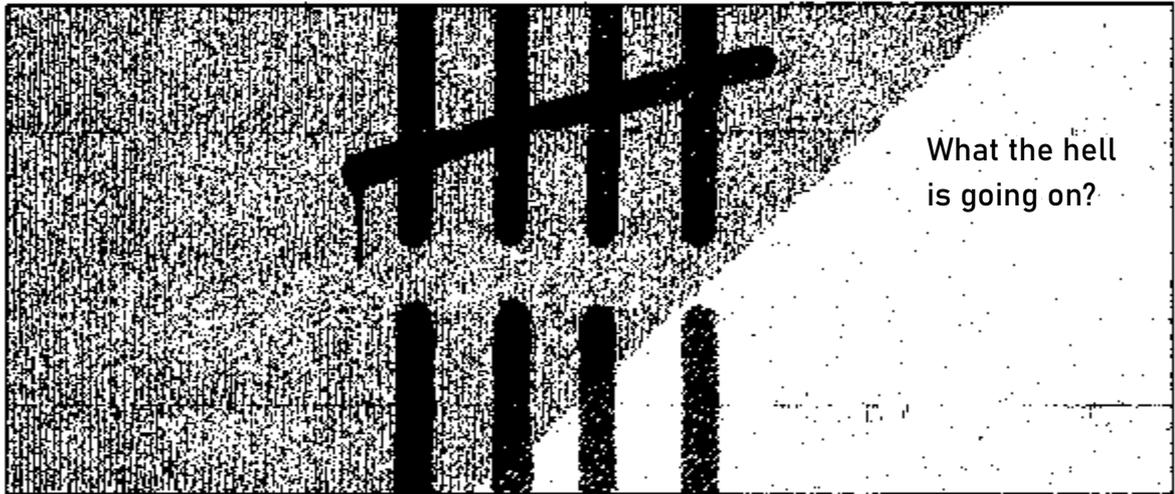


The buildings
fall. The
streets burn.
Everywhere,
souls fly.
Have you seen
hell?

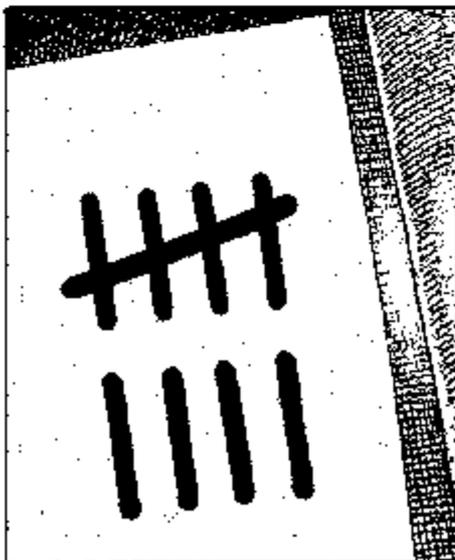
BANG!



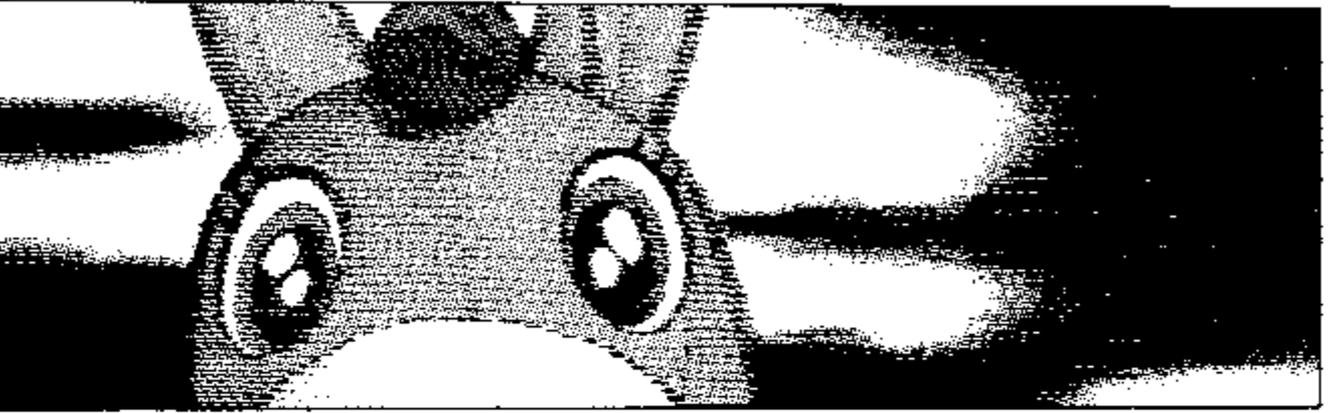
I'm going
to die...



What the hell
is going on?

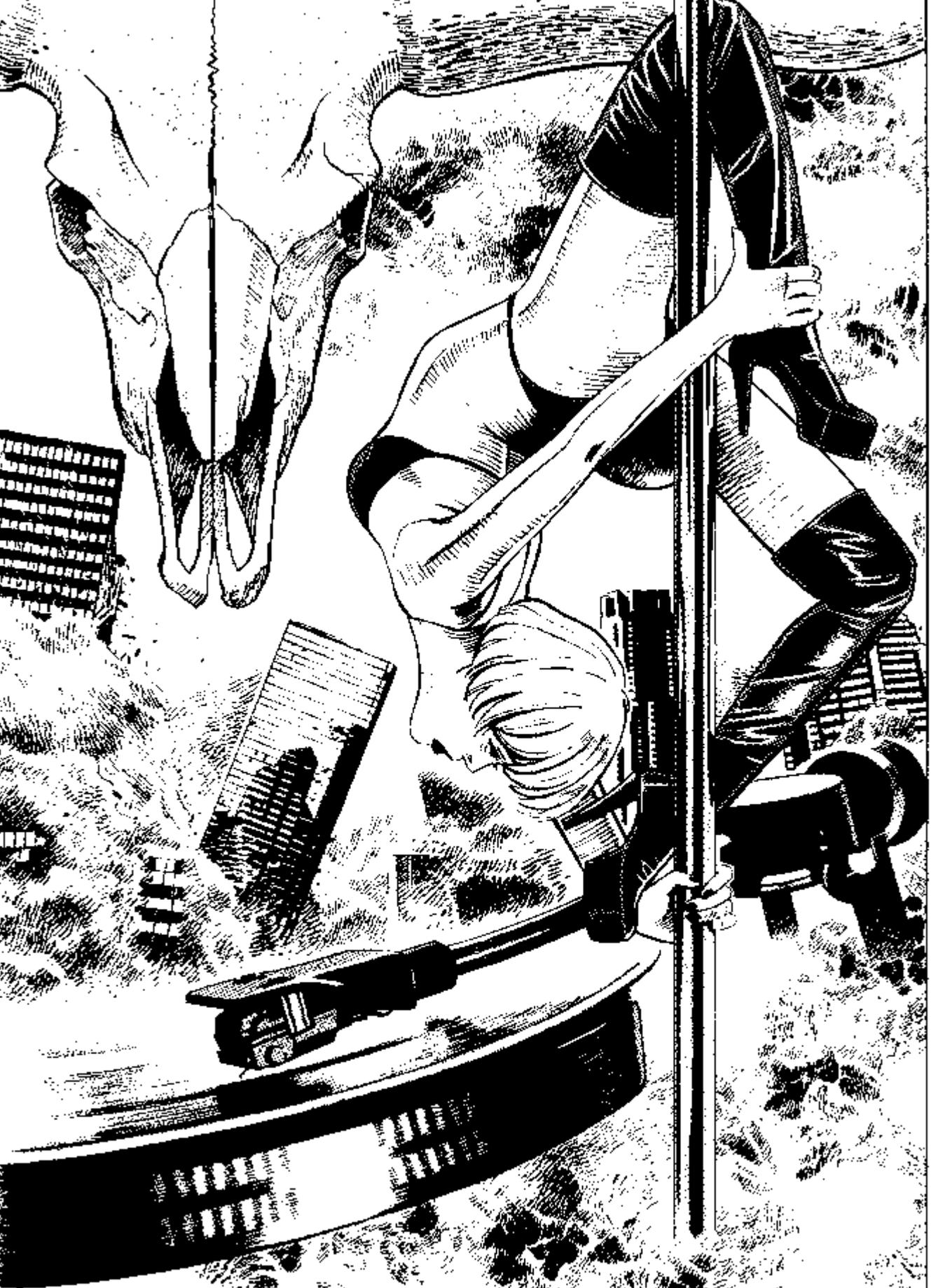


THE
WHEEL
OF
FATE IS
TURN-
ING...



The objects around me appeared
only as fuzzy outlines...
there was a roaring in my ears...
I lost all sense of hot or cold...





in the end, all I could do was
wait for my brain to give up.

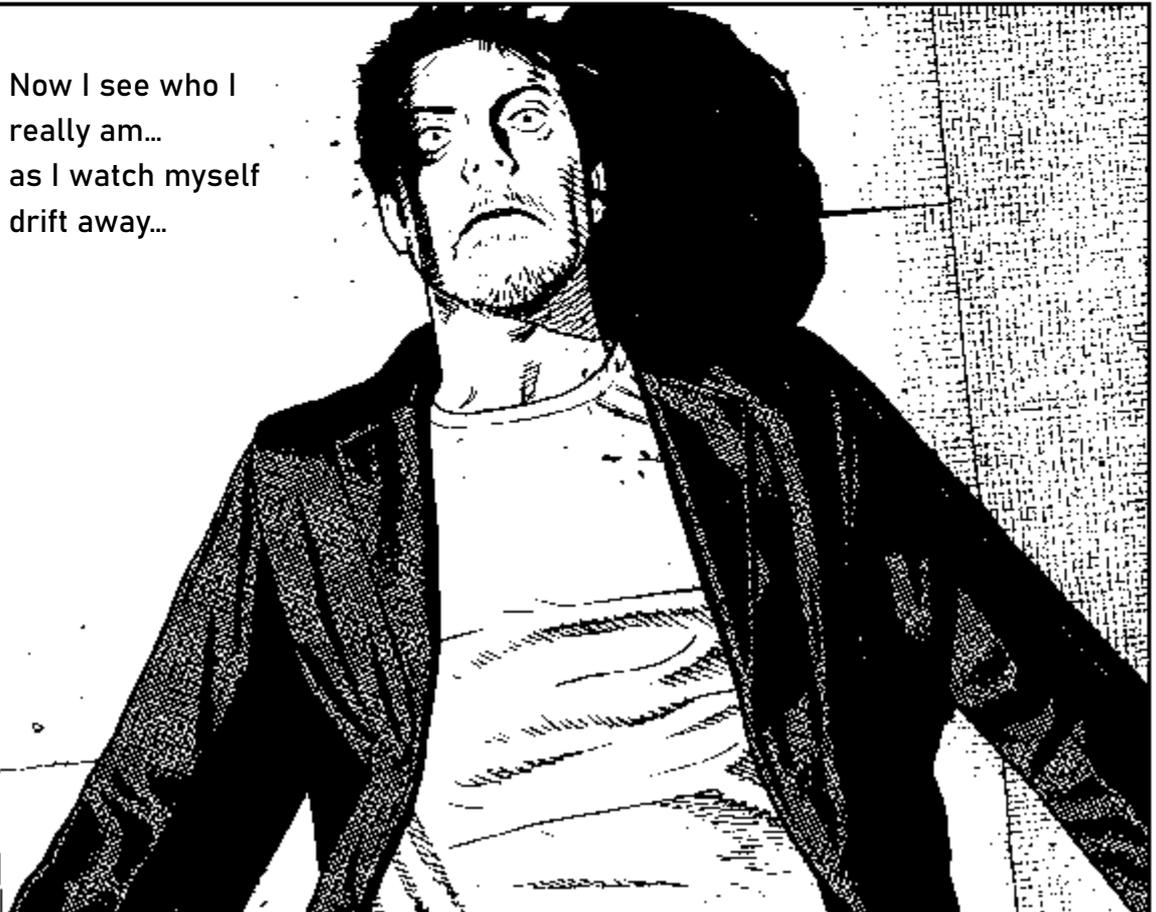


AND
I HAVE
NINE
LIVES!



MY
NAME
IS GUY
NINE
MANN!

Now I see who I
really am...
as I watch myself
drift away...



Did you see my soul?

It's true, I have nine lives.

