

# THE PARK

## 公園

A young boy finds himself lost in a public park, which is actually a labyrinth of tall hedgerows with no apparent exit. He knows he must get out, but the other denizens of the park will not give him accurate information. At the head of a bridge he finds a masked soldier; exit is prohibited, the soldier says, in advance of tomorrow's battle. The boy should go rest in the communal living quarters not far off. The only resident of those quarters is a young girl, who confides in the boy that she has placed bombs in every corner of the maze. The next morning, she is gone, and he is wakened by an explosion. He hears screams, witness panicked crowds. Stripped naked, he tries his best to crawl to safety.

This manga is literally and precisely the nightmare many of us have had about being lost in a crowded maze while wearing no pants. It is a black-and-white tale of subconscious horror. Disorientation is intensified a hundred times by vulnerability, and helplessness in the face of a dangerous unknown. Done with a Chinese calligraphy brush and ink, it is a piece worth keeping as art.

### Tseng Yao-Ching 曾耀慶

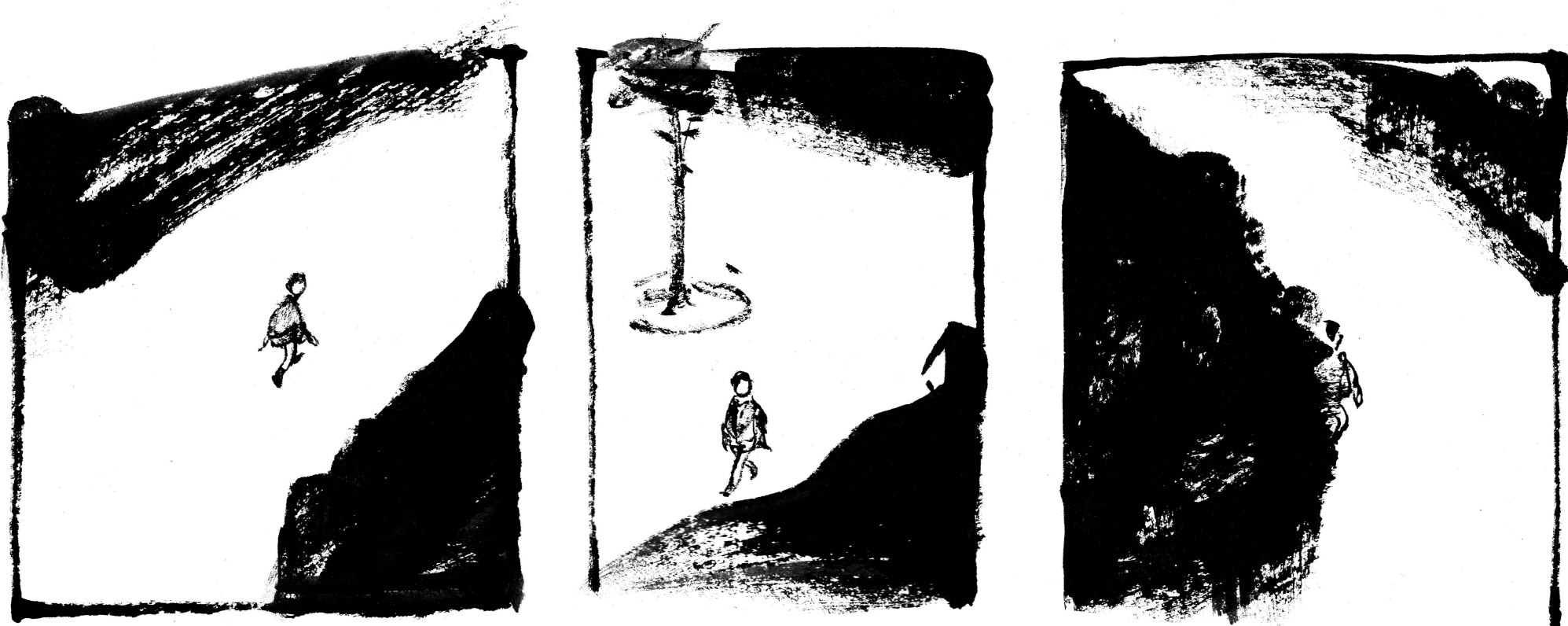
Tseng Yao-Ching is a young illustrator and manga artist who creates images using a multitude of different tools, such as Chinese calligraphy ink, poster paint, and cotton paper. Tseng faithfully records dreams, and often makes them the subject of illustrations. Tseng was nominated for the 2013 Golden Comic Award for Best New Artist, and was invited to represent Taiwan at the 2018 Angoulême International Comics Festival.



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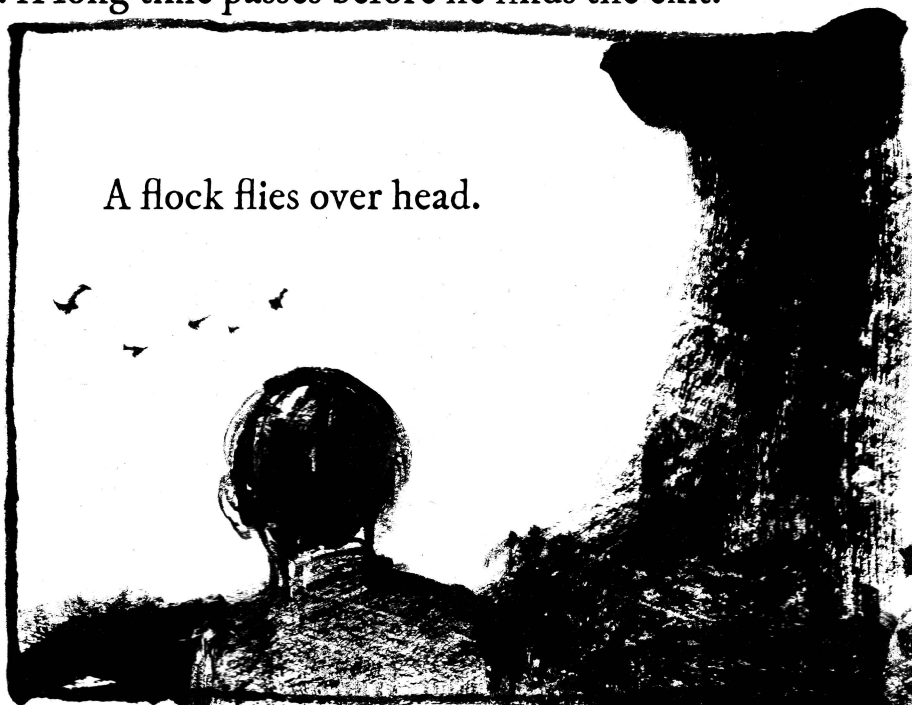
**Pages:** 150



The boy runs into the park, getting lost in a labyrinth. A long time passes before he finds the exit.

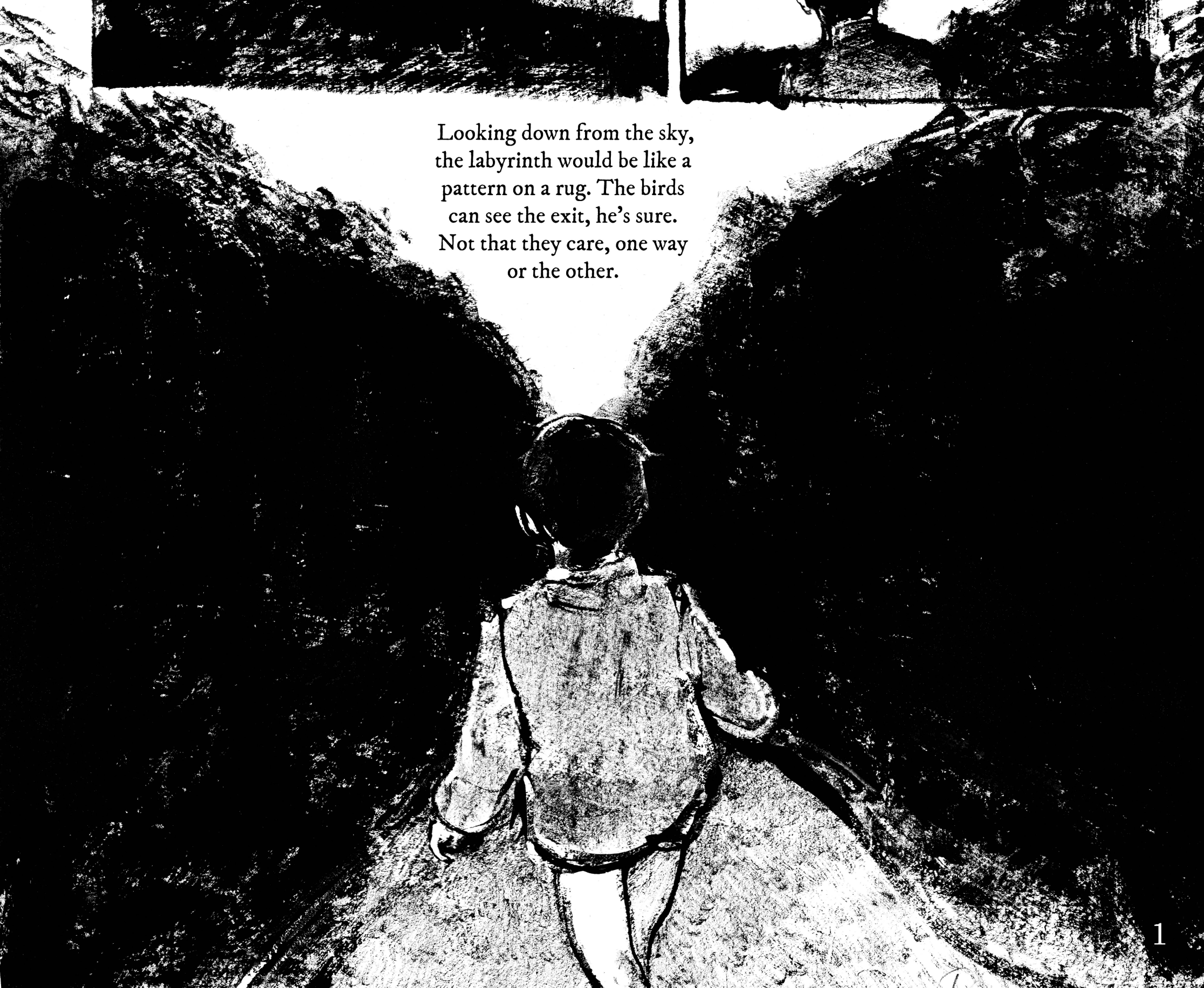


He's jealous  
of the birds.

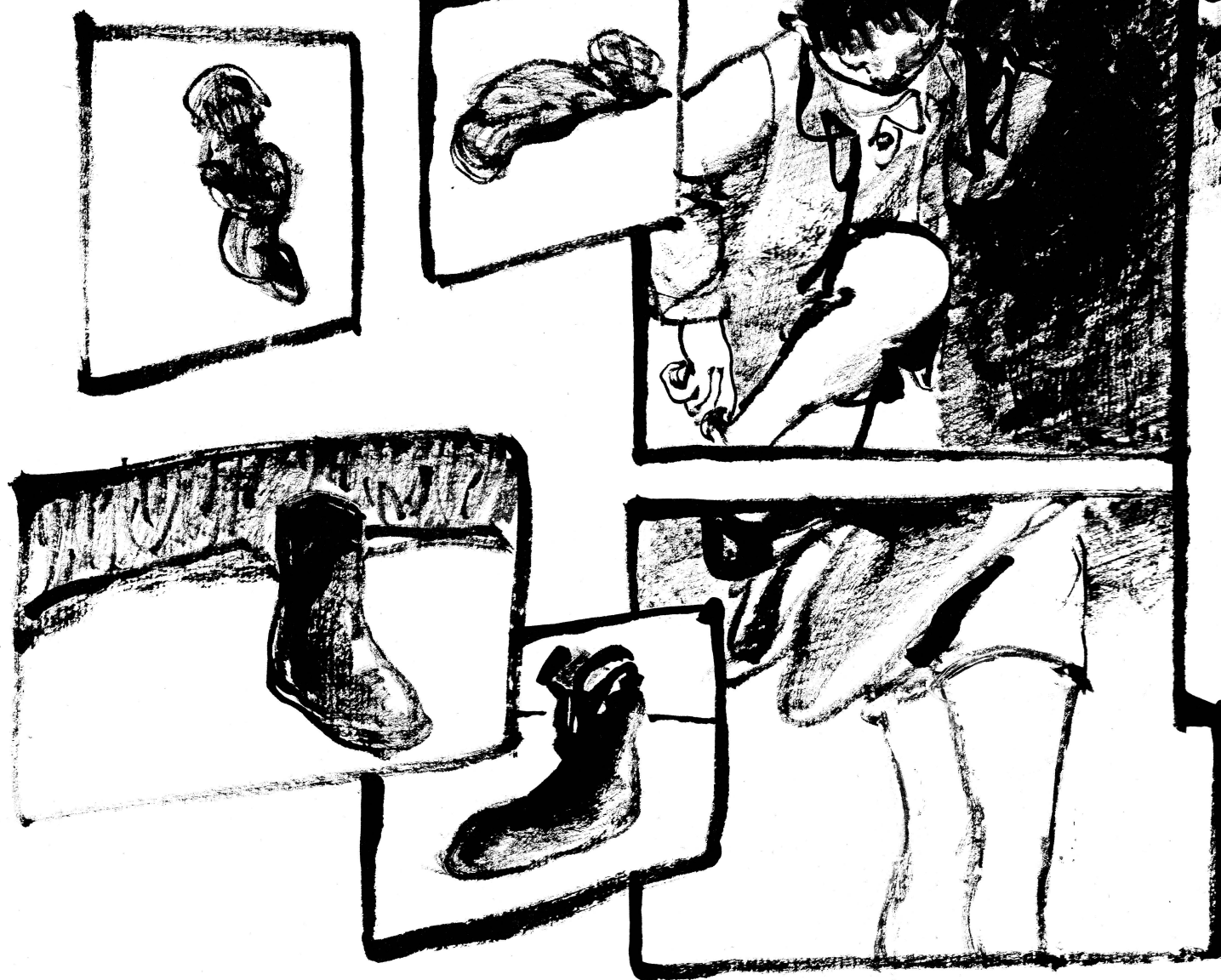


A flock flies over head.

Looking down from the sky,  
the labyrinth would be like a  
pattern on a rug. The birds  
can see the exit, he's sure.  
Not that they care, one way  
or the other.



Some parts of the labyrinth don't look like the other parts. But never enough to find his way. When he has walked long enough to feel nervous, the boy decides to take things off to mark his path.



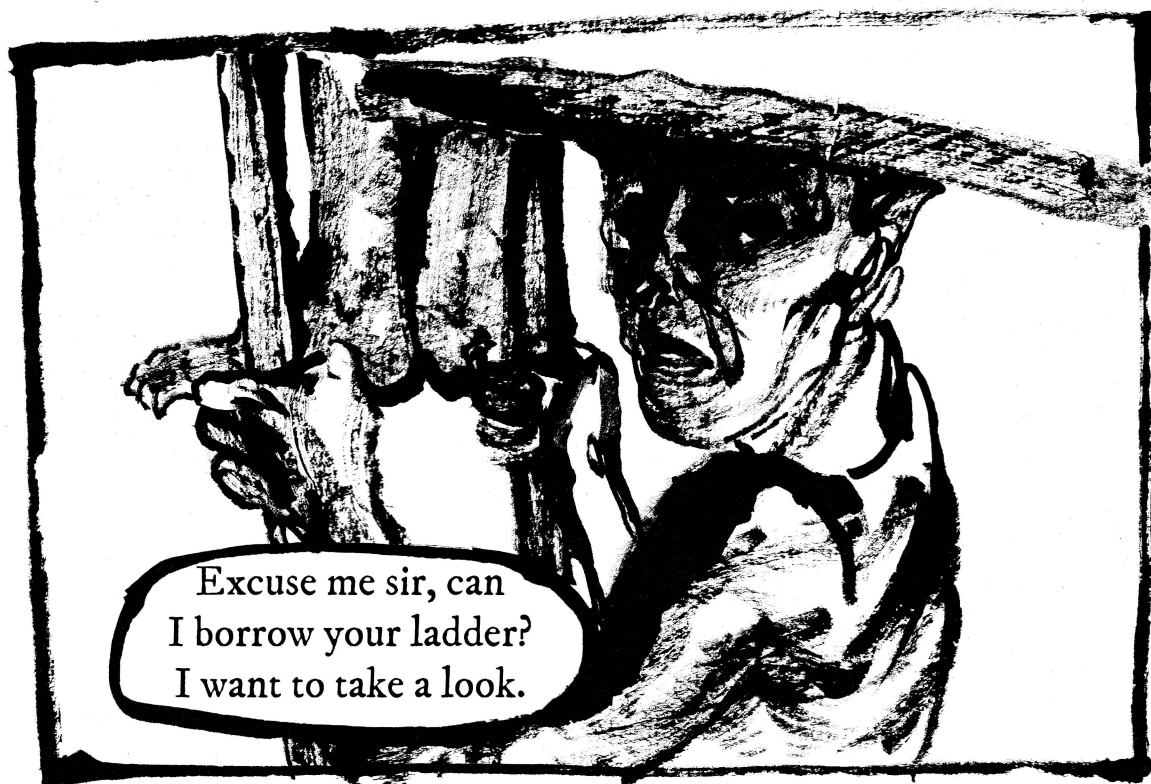
Finally, he takes off his jacket. It's brand new. His parents just bought it for him.

It's the last piece of clothing he takes off and the boy soon regrets his decision. He wants to go back to get his jacket, but he's already walked too far. He doesn't find anything that he was wearing.

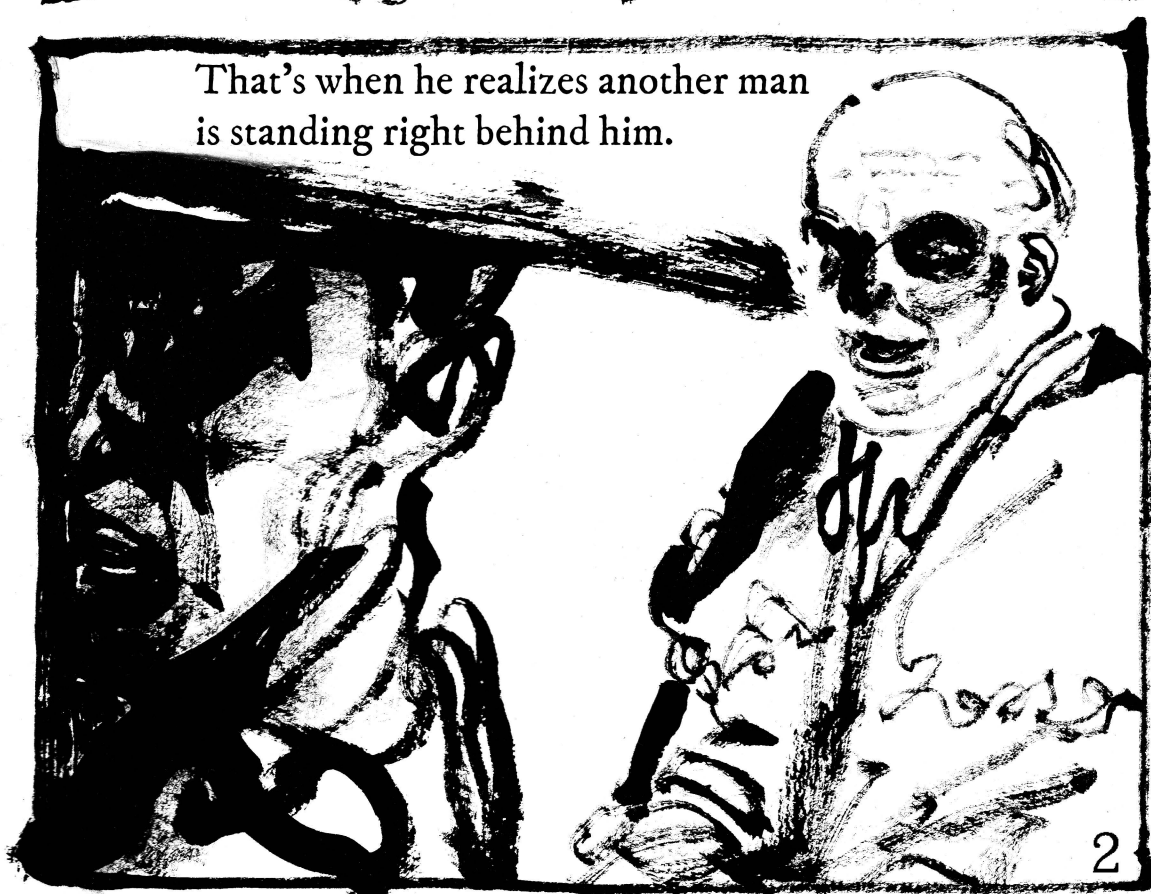
Down one path, the boy spots a ladder. A man is on the ladder, trimming the hedges.

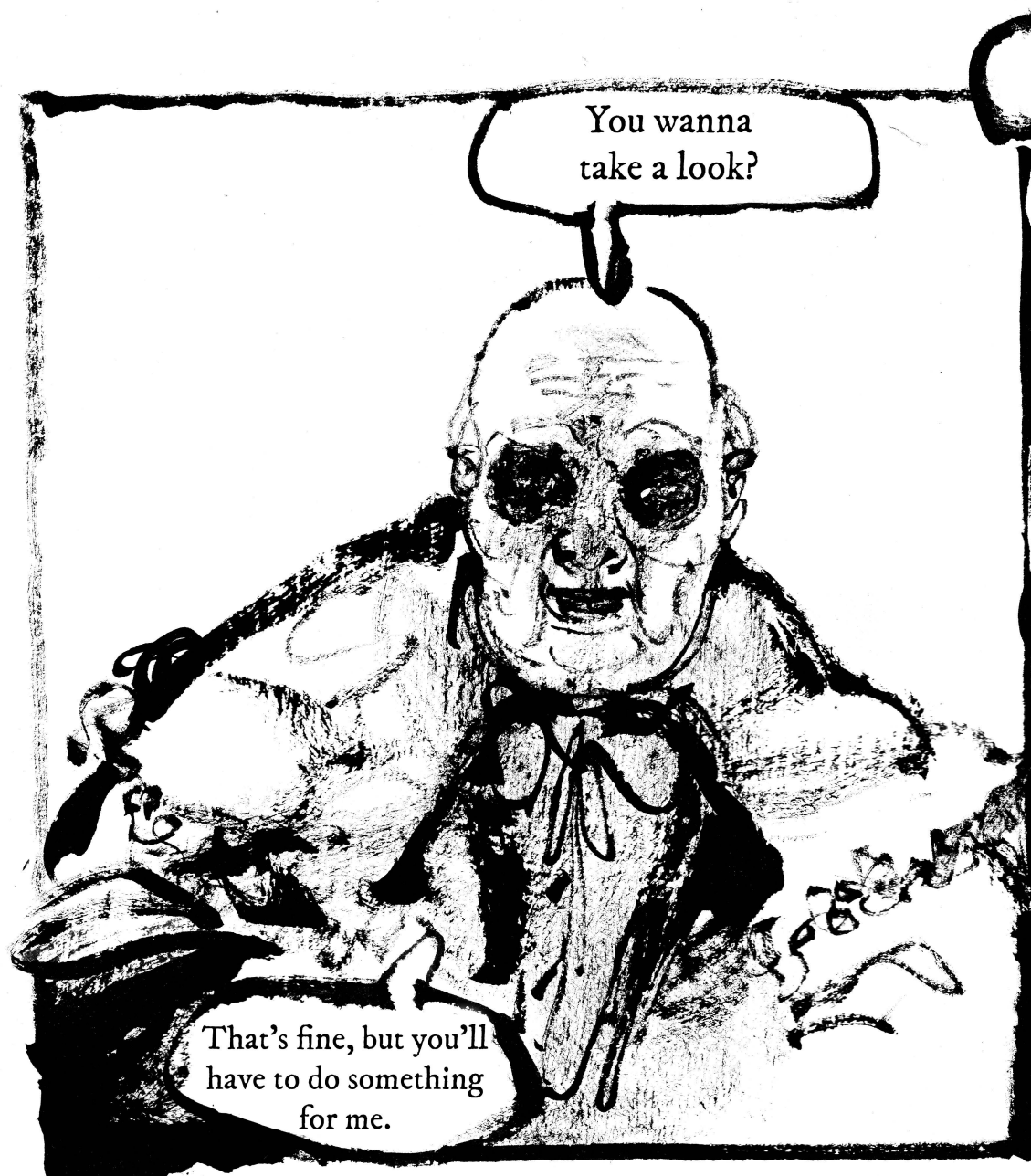


Excuse me sir, can I borrow your ladder? I want to take a look.



That's when he realizes another man is standing right behind him.





You wanna  
take a look?

That's fine, but you'll  
have to do something  
for me.

Unbutton.

This one?

Right,  
exactly.



Unbutton your  
shirt, and I'll let  
you climb the  
ladder.



The boy  
suddenly felt  
uncomfortable.  
It wouldn't have  
mattered before,  
but now the boy  
felt shy. It was like  
the man was asking  
him to reveal a  
private part of  
himself.

To climb the ladder, the boy  
unbuttoned his shirt.



Come on , come  
on. A deal's a  
deal, climb on up.

