



EL DORADO

MYTHS & LEGENDS

CHAPTER ONE

DAWN OF TIME

EL DORADO

MYTHS & LEGENDS

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El Dorado Myths & Legends.

Myths and legends of the Muisca and other native cultures of Colombia.

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Preamble

My immeasurable love for Colombia.

That is the first reason that immediately comes to my mind when someone asks why I did all *this*. There are a couple more reasons that are in no way less intense, like my love for comics (any kind of 'sequential art', graphic novels, manga, newspaper strips, webcomics, caricatures...) or that indescribable mix of happiness and calm that takes over while I am drawing.

This foreword has been planned for decades. The first sketches of most of these stories were made years ago, back when I was in high school, in parallel with my first drawing classes. Notebooks, documents, history books, napkins, bank receipts... any piece of paper you can imagine became a suitable canvas for the first doodles of what you start reading today. After a couple of enthusiastic attempts to put this on clean sheets of paper, life happened, and for years, the desire to draw these stories was only an intermittent illusion.

I was a kid. I had other dreams. I had many other things to do. Most of them, I did.

Advertising became my lover not too later after. She taught me how to tell stories, how to process information in a creative way, and how to seek, endlessly, to surprise the other, the one reading what I had written. My education in graphic design gave me the basic concepts to build this project functionally and aesthetically, and my specialization in advertising reinforced my storytelling capabilities. Combined with my imagination and years of research, these disciplines built an escape door for me, and finally, I walked through it, into the quest of portraying these stories. Stories that had been confined in my mind for too long.

After college, I was very lucky to be able to travel around the world. Every trip inspired me. Places, sounds, landscapes, food, experiences, people, adventures, cultures... everything I saw motivated me even more to take paper and pen once and for all, and to begin *this journey*. With the fortune of having seen, tasted, heard, felt, and walked through so many places; and with the blessing of lots of enriching cultural experiences at my back, it was impossible for me to continue postponing this adventure. I had too many things to share.

After digressing a little in the previous paragraphs, let me briefly describe what the objectives of this story are:

First, *to compile* everything I could find about the myths and legends of the Muisca culture and other indigenous cultures of Colombia, helping to preserve them from extinction.

Second, *to share* all these stories, their perspective, their unique attributes, their beauty, intensity and creativity.

Third, *to fill the gaps and connect* the stories. The Muisca - and other Colombian native cultures - did not develop writing (even though they created and utilized diverse signs and visual systems), so there is no written legacy of their mythical stories; and those stories that survived and that we have knowledge of today are not connected one to another. Most of the stories, myths and legends that I have collected over the years come from books and historical texts, written and extracted from three main sources: oral tradition; letters and documents written by the Spanish conquerors that have outlasted the centuries; and books written by experts, sociologists, anthropologists, and other researchers.

After every drawn chapter, I have included appendixes with a specific bibliography, crediting the source material I have read, used as a reference and taken as an inspiration. There, I also explain the differences (if there are any) between the original story and *my story*, stating where the first one ends, and where my own begins.

By saying 'fill and connect' I refer to four explicit points:

Lack of continuity: Unlike the great works of mythological literature - Northern Europe, Greece, India - most of the Colombian indigenous tales are not structured as a part of a bigger story. They can rather be seen as an extensive group of spectacular and fascinating short tales, but they are disconnected from each other. Although they are not linked, it's not rare to regularly find intersections: some events, situations, and characters remain common, depending on the story. Imagine a colorful tangle of beautiful threads. My job was to make a tapestry out of it.

Plots and characters overlay: At those intersections mentioned before, some of the characters, the plots of different stories, and their symbolic meaning tend to overlap with each other. There are cases where the same character is given different meanings, personalities, powers, or capabilities; other cases where different characters are credited with having performed the same actions, or cases where similar stories have appeared in different places and cultures with minuscule changes. There are also cases where there are different stories, some more fascinating or complex than the others, to explain the same situation or one concrete event, like several versions of the same story or multiple distinctive explanations for the same event or natural phenomenon.

Enhance drama: All the myths and legends of the pre-Hispanic cultures are stories that were transmitted from family to family and from generation to generation through the centuries. Just by the mere fact of their conservation, they have an incredible aesthetic and artistic value. Each story has in itself a pure and powerful demonstration of beauty and creativity, mixed with an unparalleled sense of humanity and a huge anthropological significance. However, the vast majority of these stories are pragmatic and they fulfill a function almost magical: they were created to explain the world and the universe that the first inhabitants of the Americas sought, imagined and struggled to comprehend. These stories are their understanding of the world that surrounded them. It has been of vital importance for me to keep this vision as clear as possible, but after having contact with many diverse ways of storytelling - books, novels, comics, movies, TV series, animation...- I wanted to give a cinematic dye to it to make the stories more attractive to young generations. I tried, essentially, to draw by combining drama and modern spectacularity, while retaining the most wonderful aspect of these stories: their simplicity.

Give closure: The last three paragraphs could not lead to a different place. By not being structured as a great whole or as one great story; by not having a unique route map for plot and characters without letting them overlap each other; and finally, by not being conceived with the drama and cinematic intensity of the narrative of our days, these stories lack an established ending. Here the circle is closed. This was also one of my goals: to give it *a proper end*.

An end that will be discovered only a few pages away.

That said, I hope it's completely clear now that *this*, whatever *it is*, is a narrative reinterpretation under my own creative perspective, that I hope can also be taken as a visual compilation of the native Colombian mythology. It is dedicated to my land, to my people, to each and every one of those who gave their lives to preserve our indigenous heritage; and dedicated also to you, who are about to start the journey of reading it.

Thank you very much for traveling back in time with me, and welcome to a fascinating universe full of action, magic, and wonderful stories.

Welcome to 'El Dorado'.

CHAPTER ONE

Dawn of time



Moonrise



Striving into the gloom



Made of darkness



Black birds



Aurora



Yard of Gods



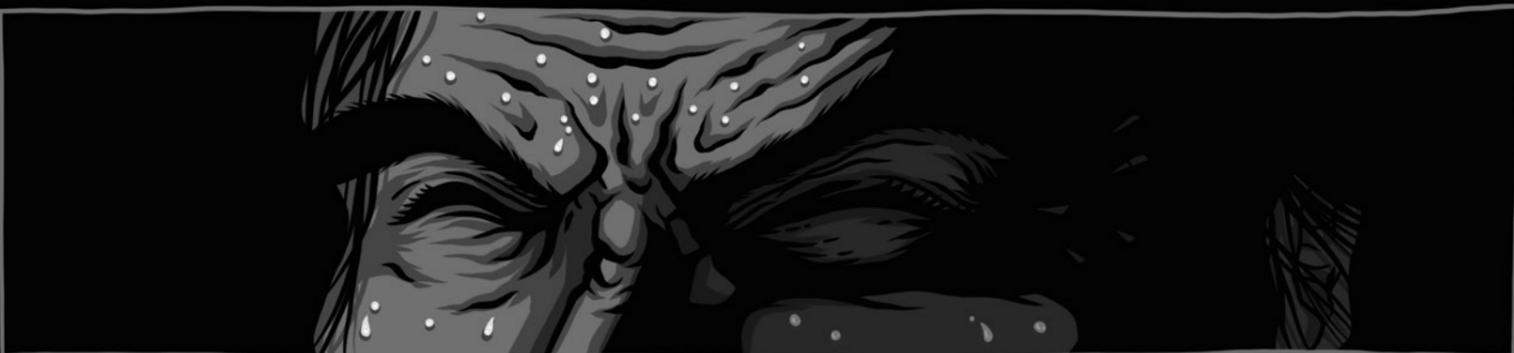
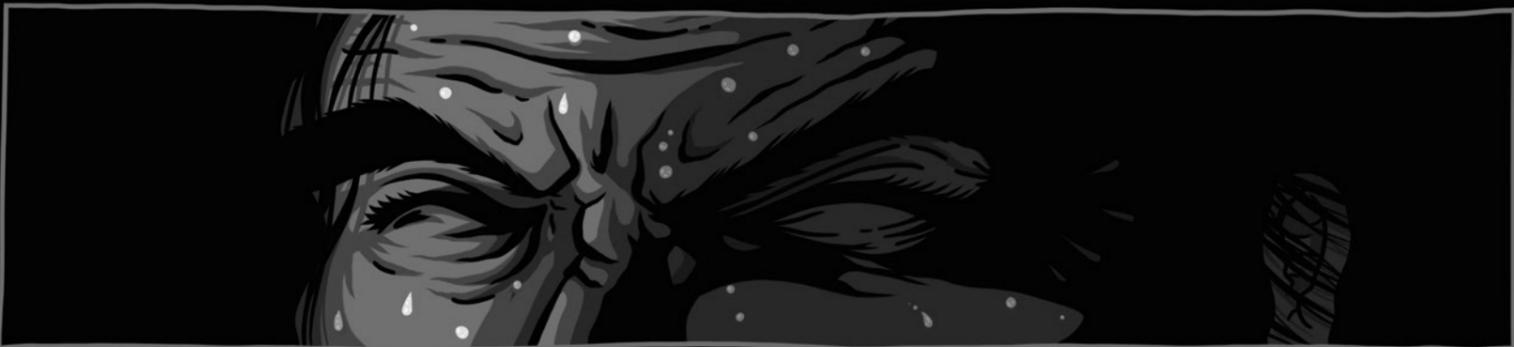
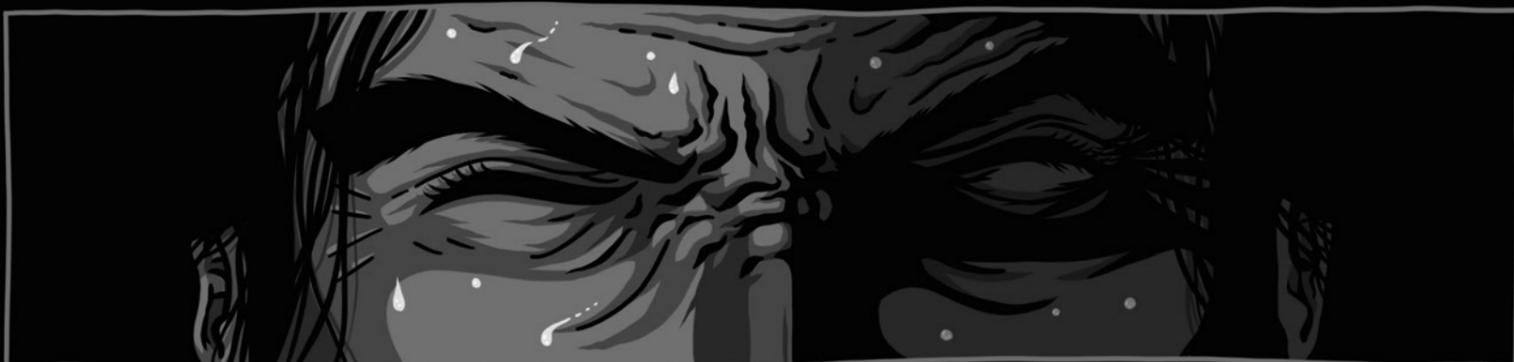
First it was the sea...



MOONRISE

Chapter One : Issue One

Dec. 27, 2020







SOG!
IT'S ME! IT'S ME!
CALM DOWN!
EASY!



SUÉ!



YES,
IT'S ME, IT'S ME...
THE CREATURE SENT
ME TO FIND YOU.

HOW ARE YOU?
FEELING BETTER?



YEAH...
HE FIXED ME
WELL.



HOW LONG
HAVE I BEEN IN
THIS CAVE?



LONG ENOUGH.

HE SAID
HE WAS LOOKING
FOR THE MASTER...
HE ALSO SAID THAT THE
DEMONS ARE
BACK AND...



...THAT THEY
ARE COMING
FOR ME.



I STOPPED FEELING
ISA'S PRESENCE...
I GUESS WE LOST HER.

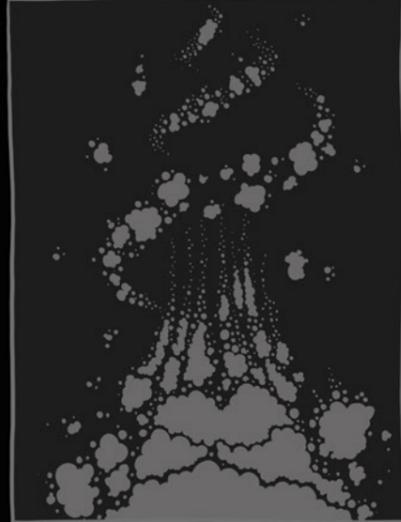
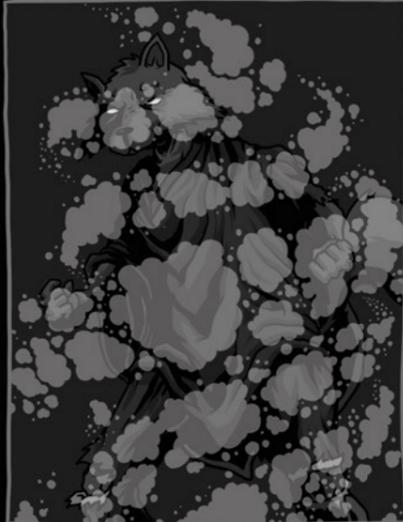
NOT SURE ABOUT
CHÍA THOUGH, I FEEL
HER PRESENCE, BUT SHE...
CHANGED.

ANY NEWS ABOUT
SUÉ AND SOG?

WE HAVE LOST
TWO OF US ALREADY,
BUT IF YOU ARE STILL
HERE IT MEANS THERE
IS STILL HOPE.



OF COURSE
THERE IS.



FOLLOW ME,
I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.
HURRY UP! DANGER NEVER
SLEEPS, AND IT IS STILL
OUT THERE...



ALRIGHT, LET'S GO, BUT LET ME CATCH
MY BREATH. I HAVE BEEN WANDERING
THESE ROCKS FOR A WHILE... I CAN'T
BELIEVE I MADE IT OUT.

I LOST TRACK OF THE
BATTLE AFTER FALLING
DOWN FROM THAT CLIFF...
WHAT HAPPENED?



EVERYTHING WAS
ALMOST LOST...

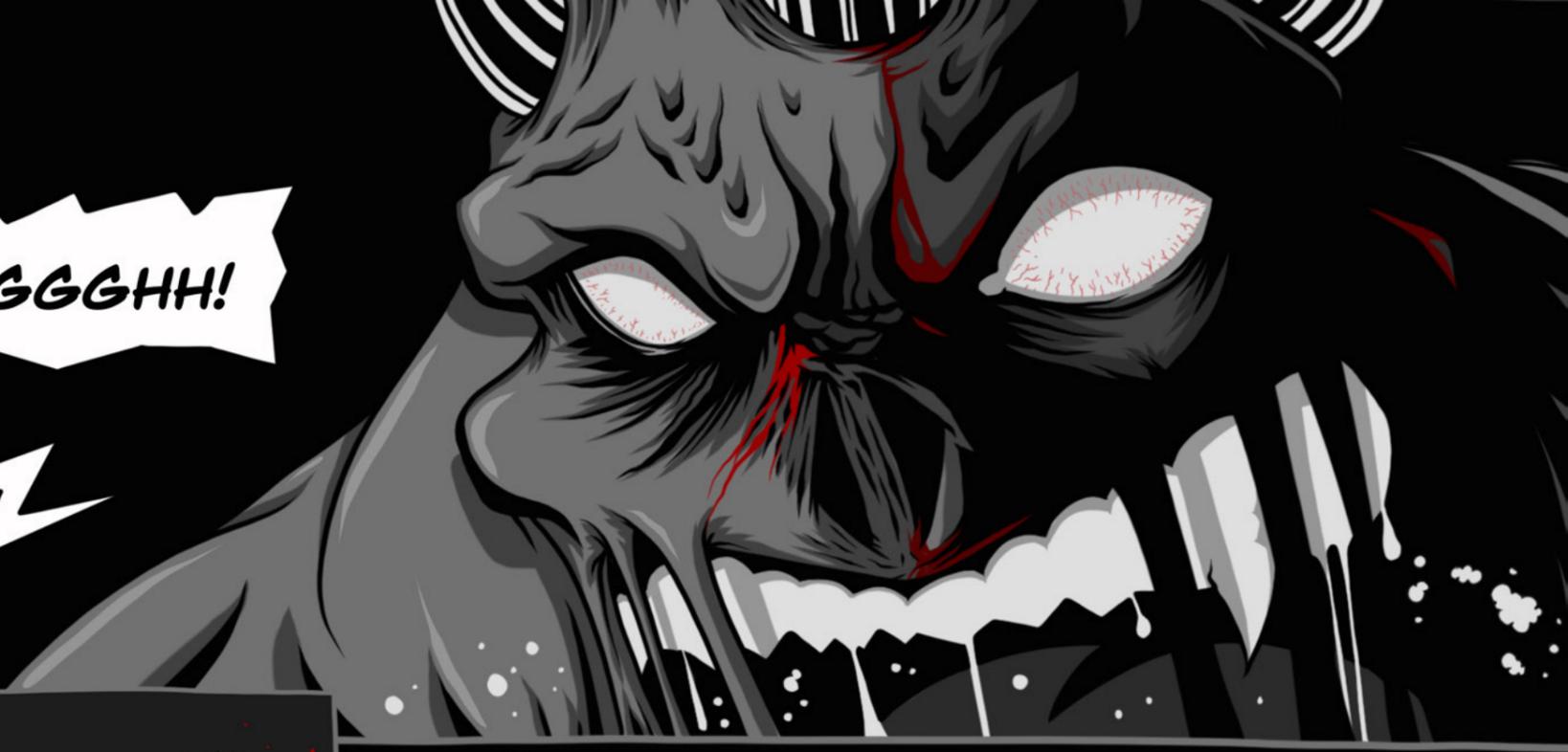




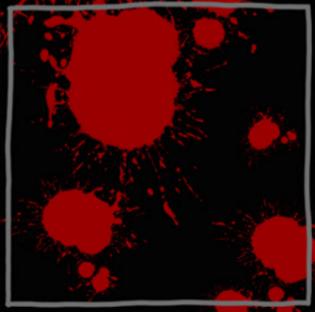
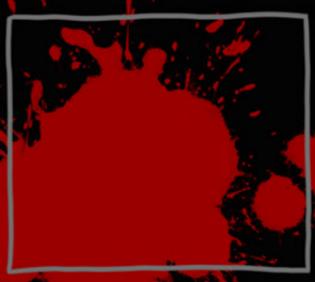
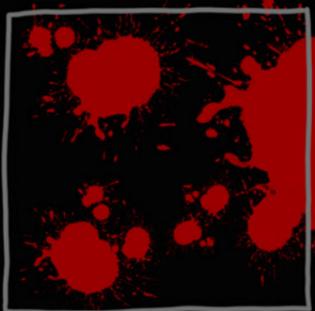




AAAARGGGHH!



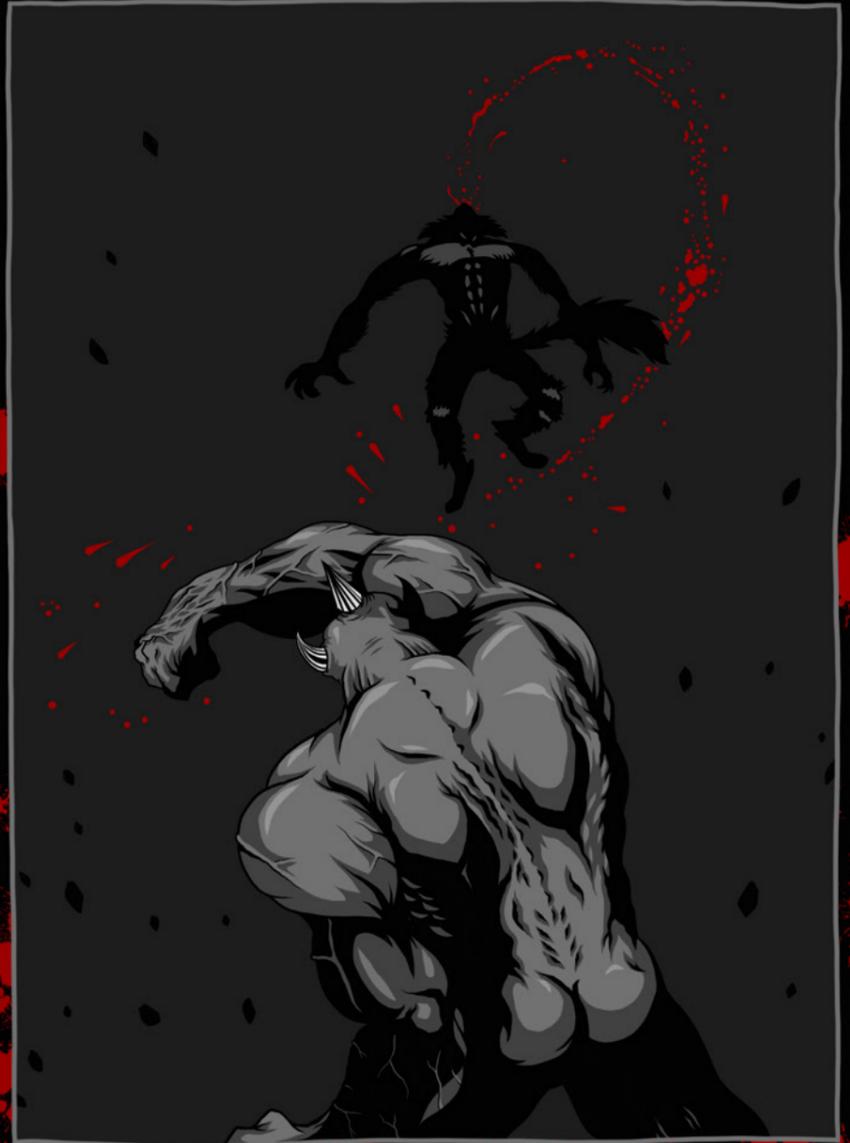
I HATE YOU!





ARRGHHH!
I CURSE YOU!
YOU AND YOUR MAGIC!
I WILL KILL YOU!

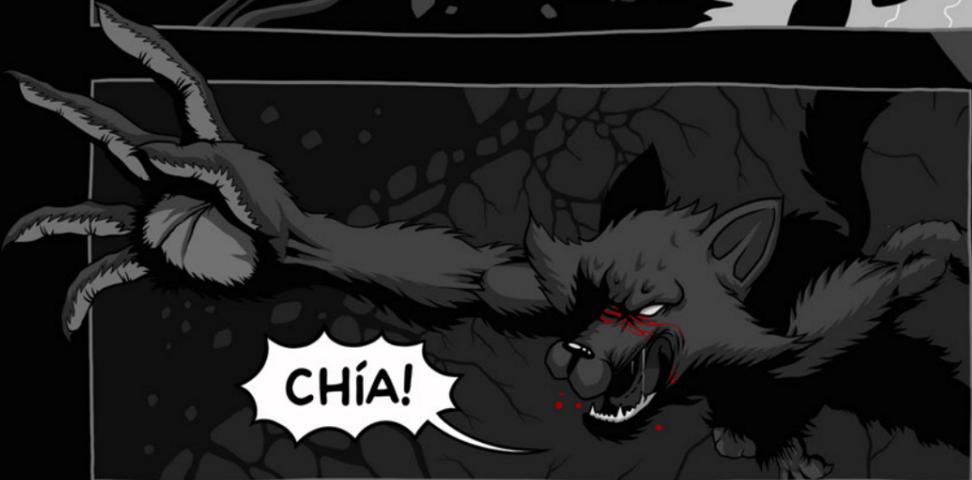
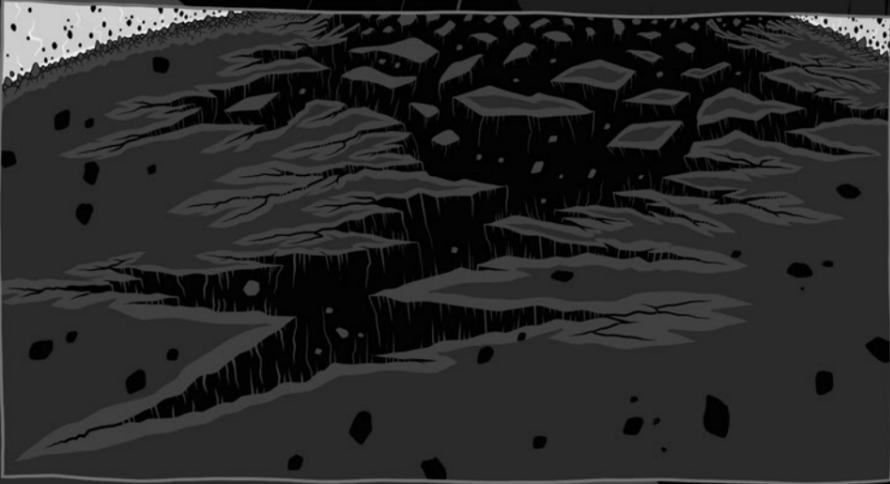
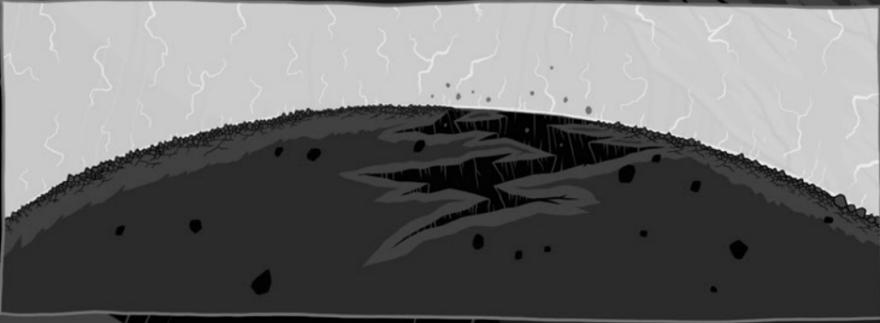




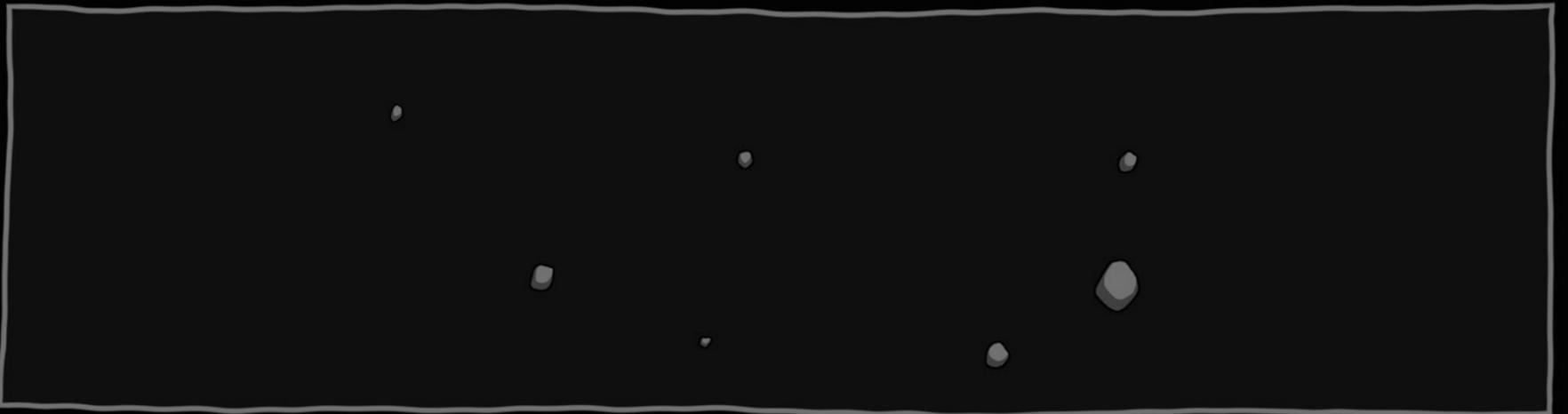


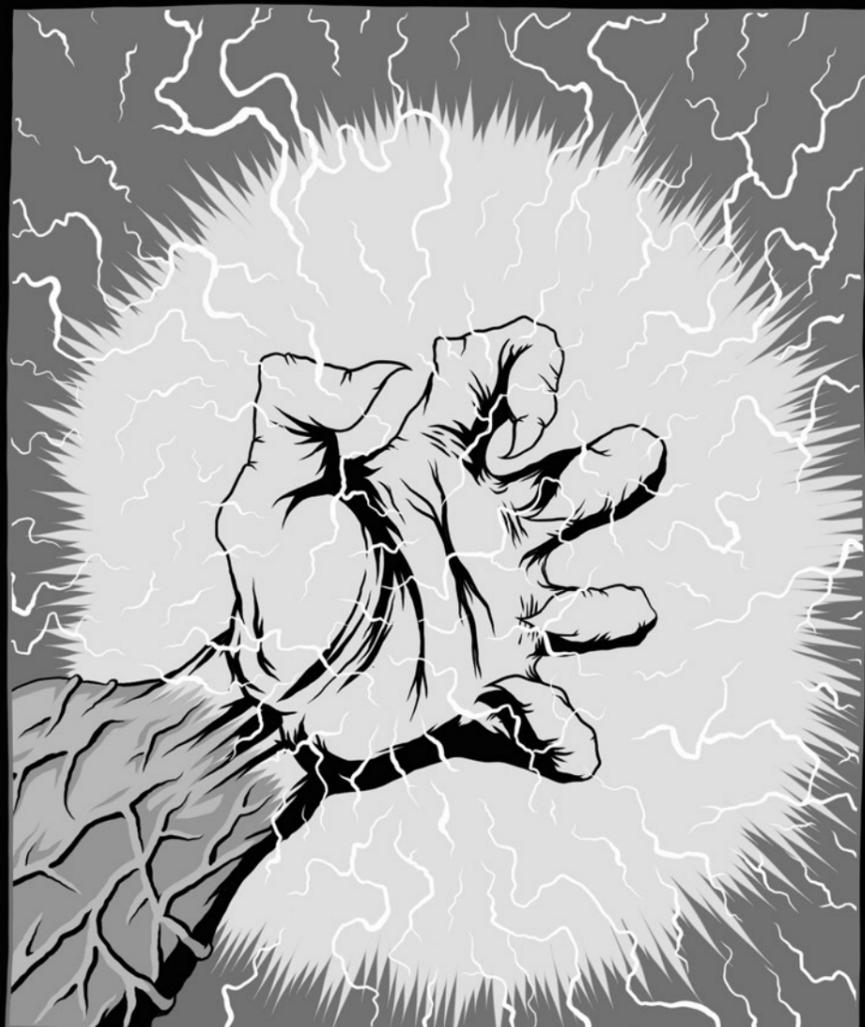
DIE!!!



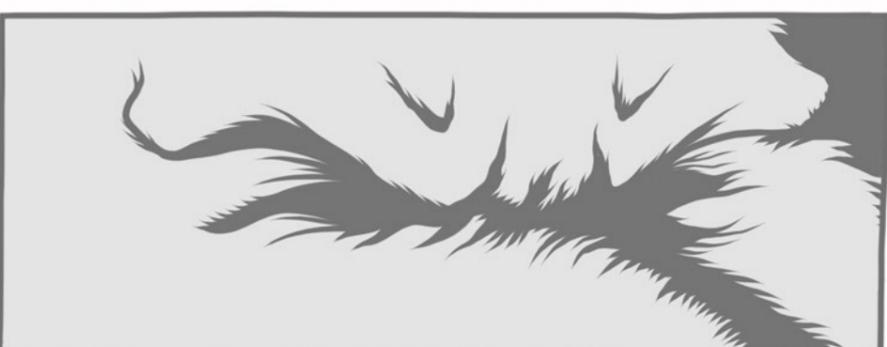
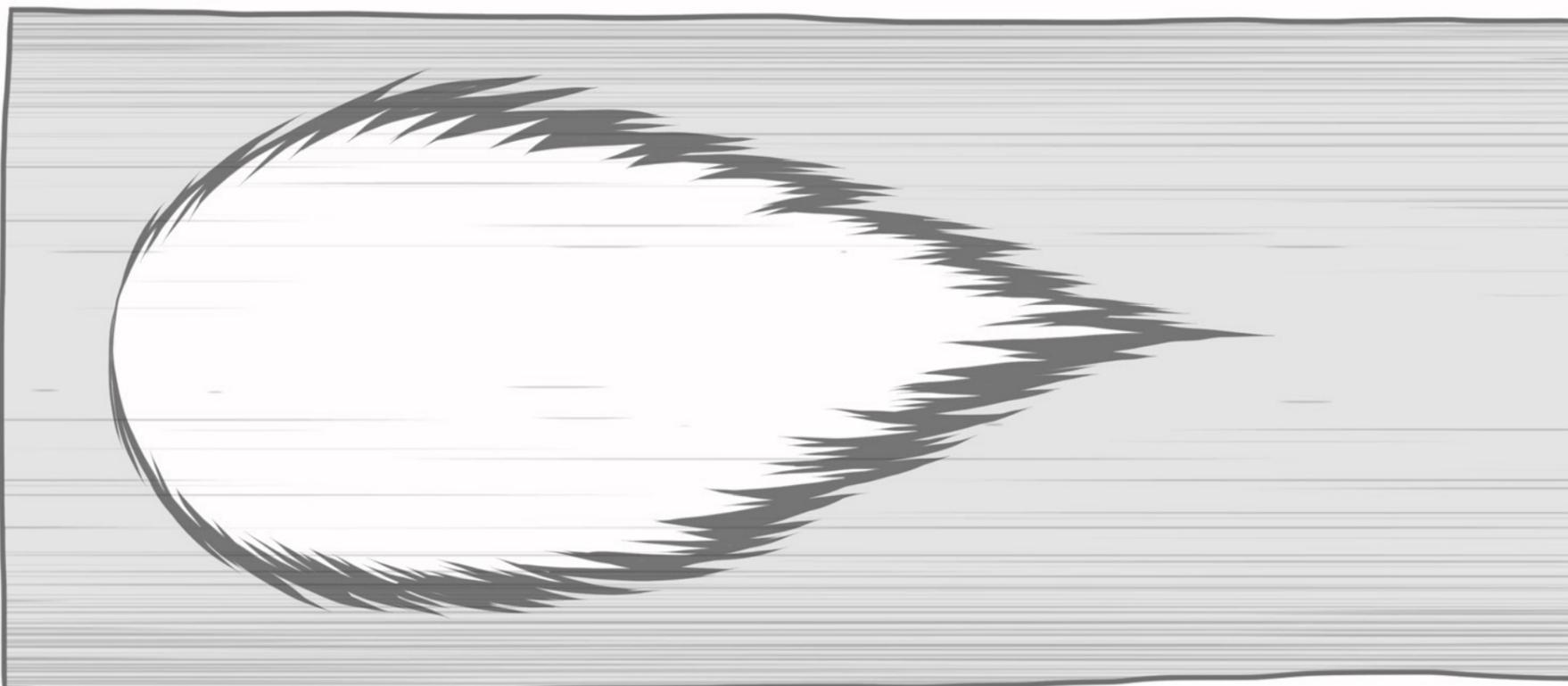


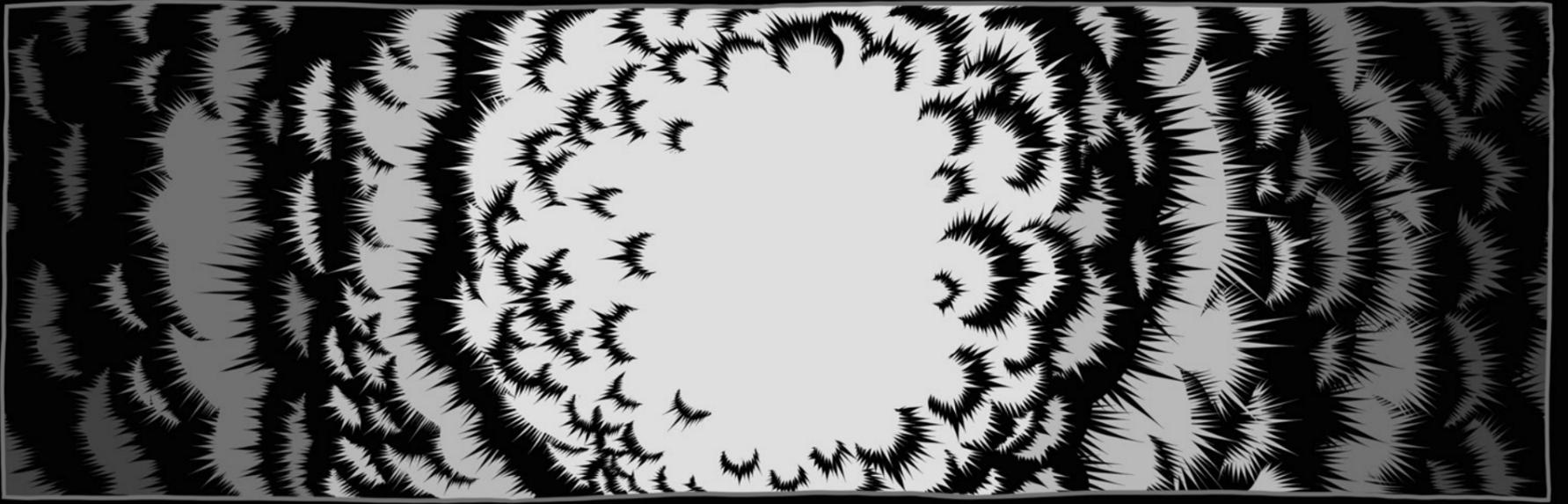






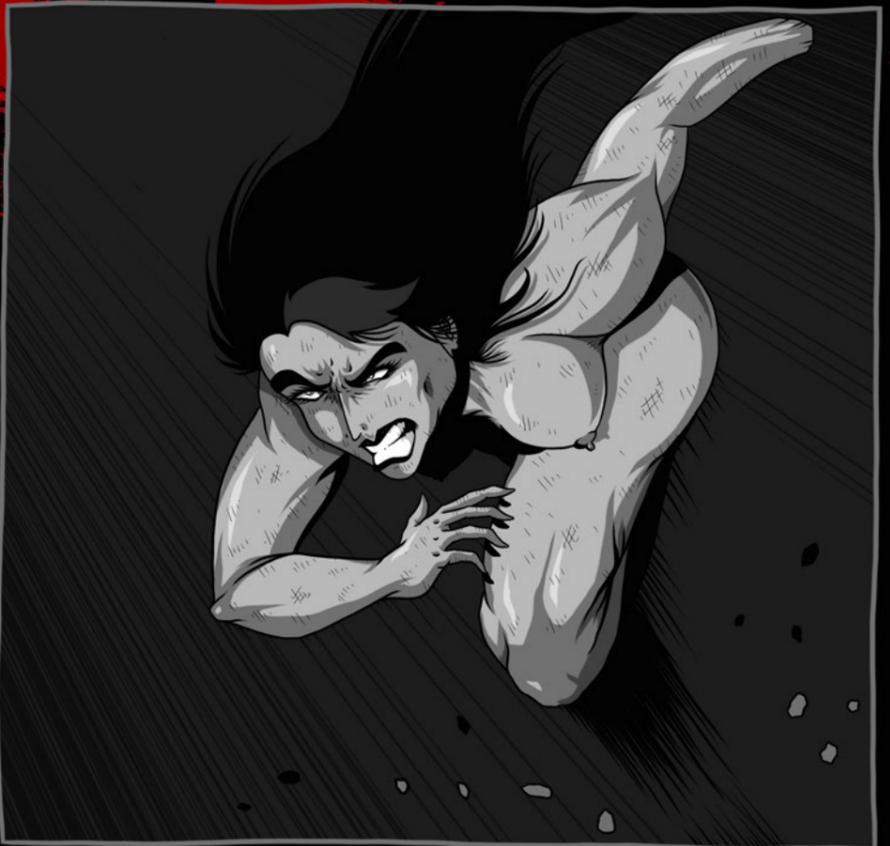


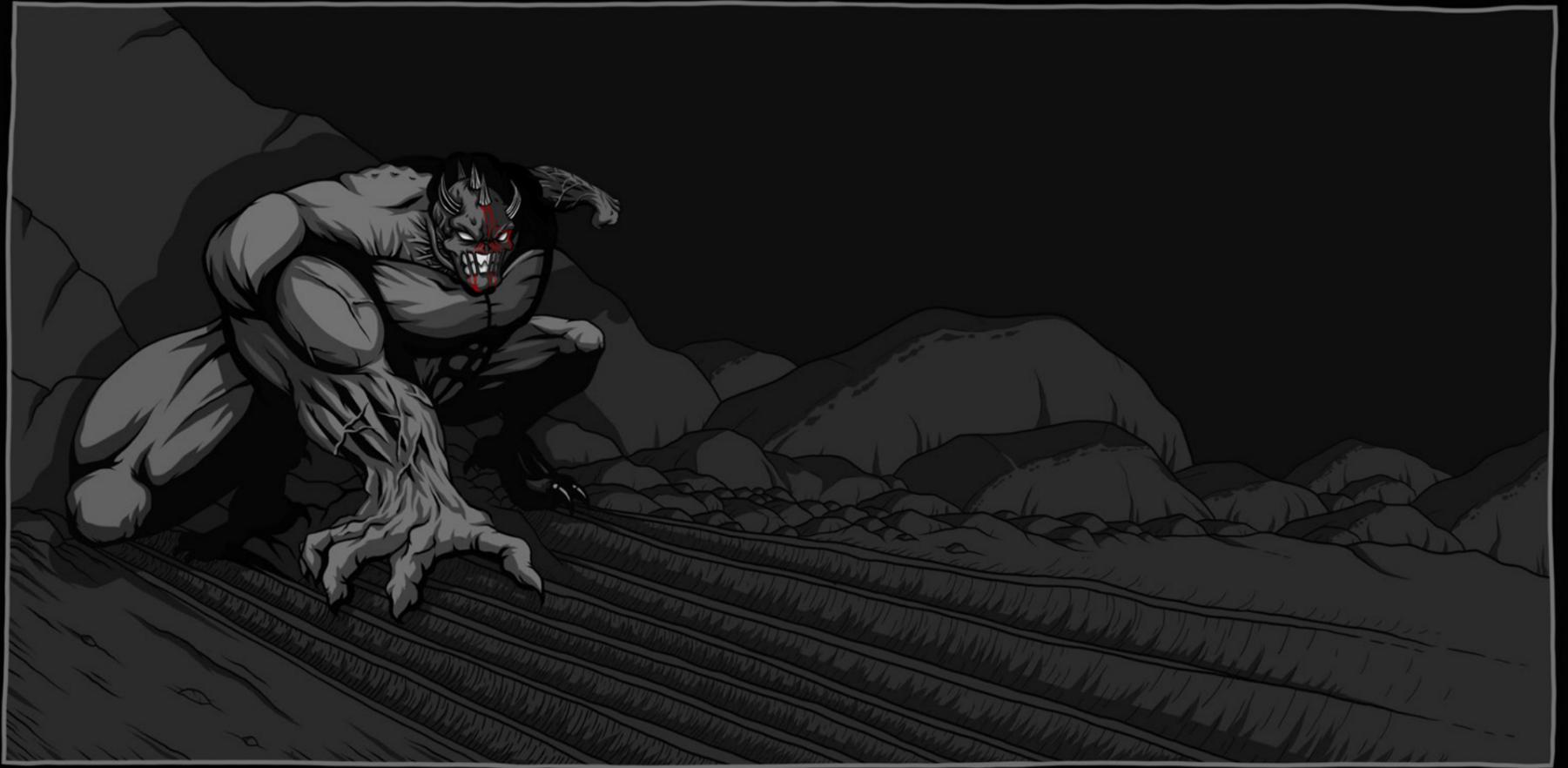




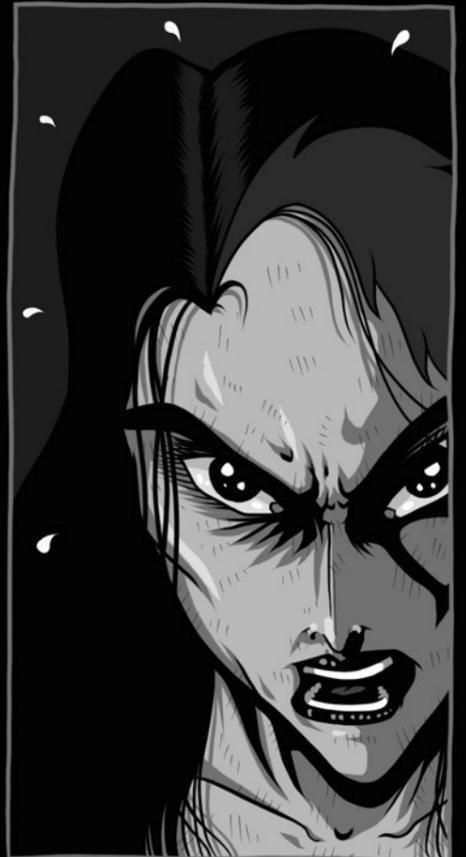


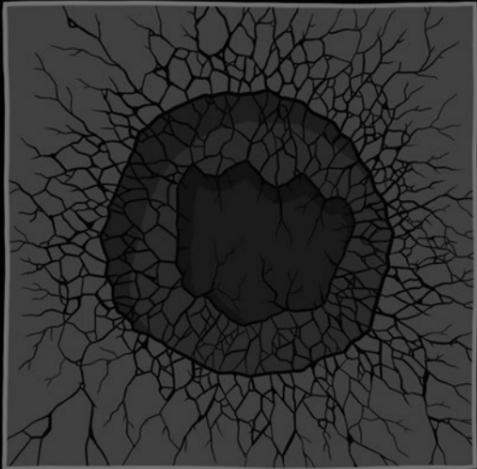








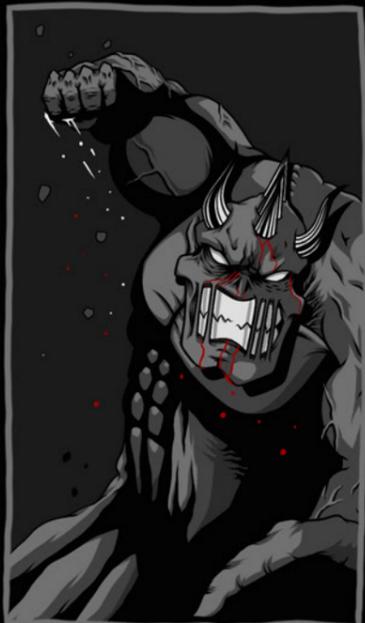
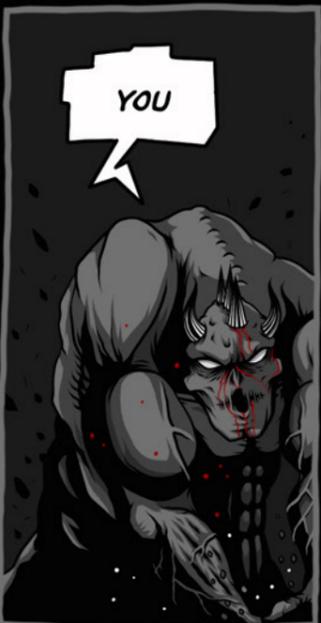
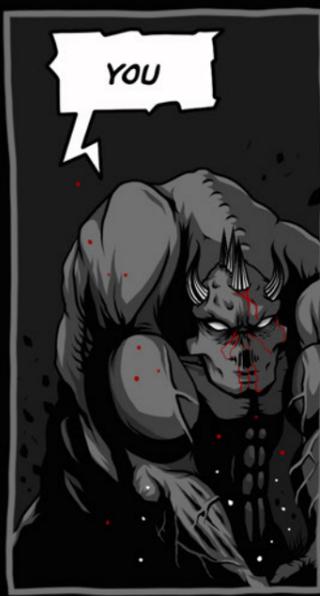
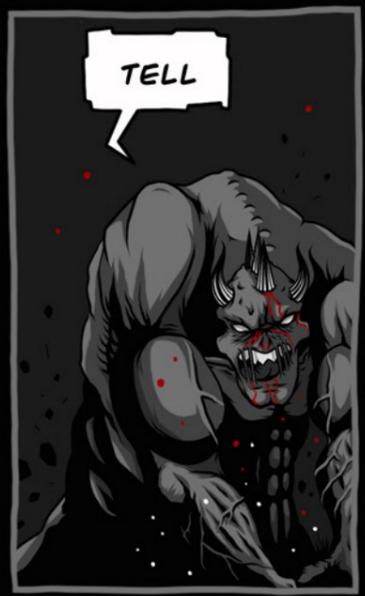
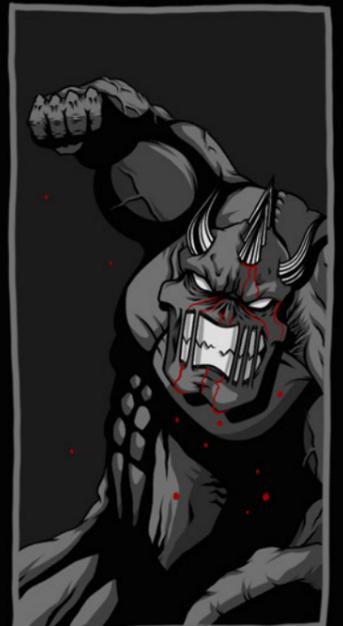
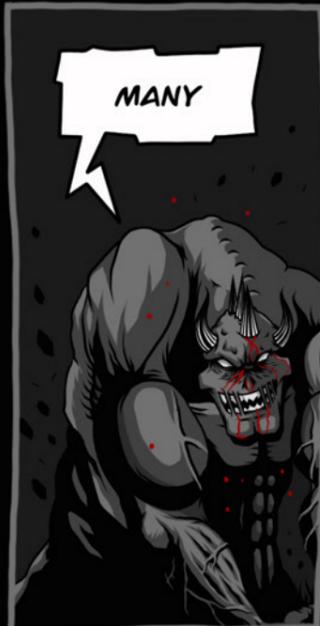
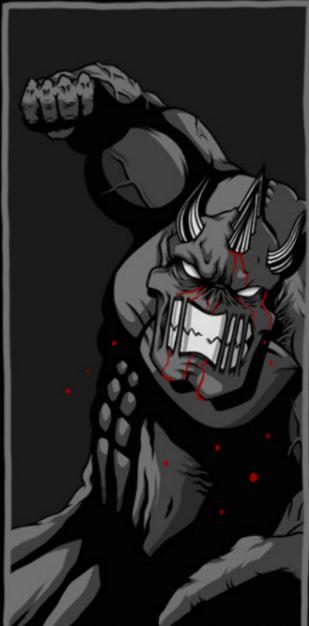
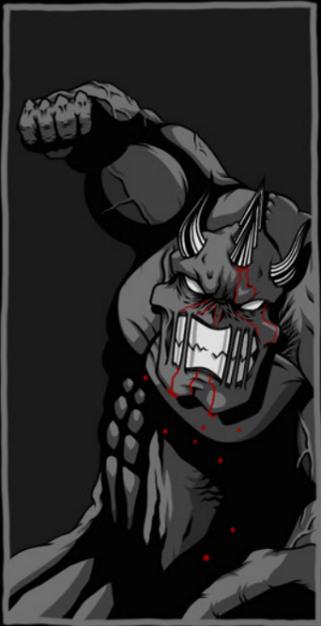














...EVER
DEFEAT ME!

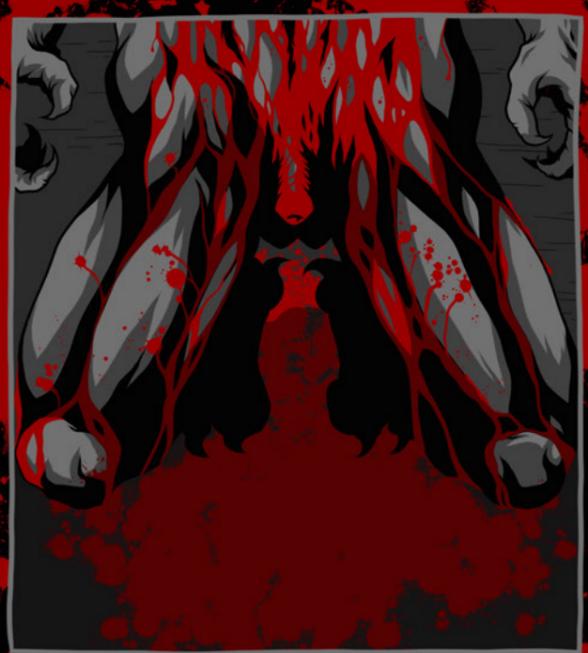
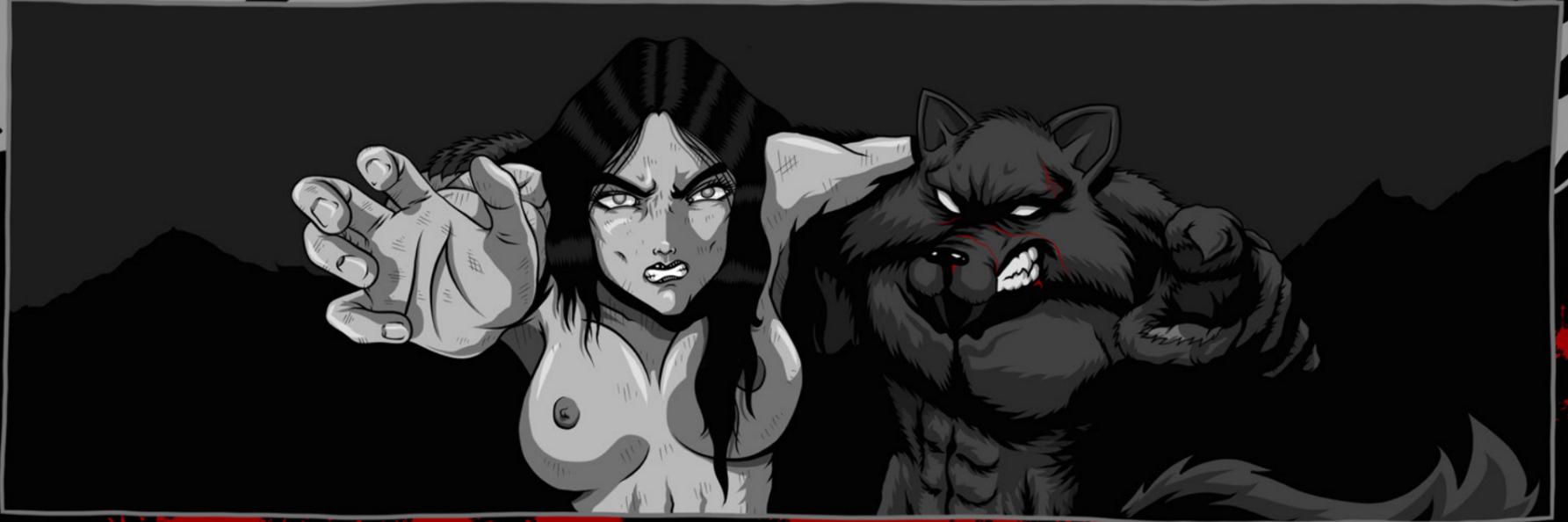


DEFEAT YOU?
I KNOW I COULDN'T
DEFEAT YOU...



... THAT WAS NOT MY
INTENTION FOR A
SINGLE MOMENT.

W-WHAT...?







CHÍA IS ALIVE,
MY MISSION IS
COMPLETED.

I CAN GO NOW...

YOU HAVE TO BE
SURE SUÉ IS
ALSO SAFE.



ISA, I JUST NEED
A MOMENT, YOU CAN
MAKE IT!



PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE,
I LOVE YOU, SISTER...
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE
ME ALONE!

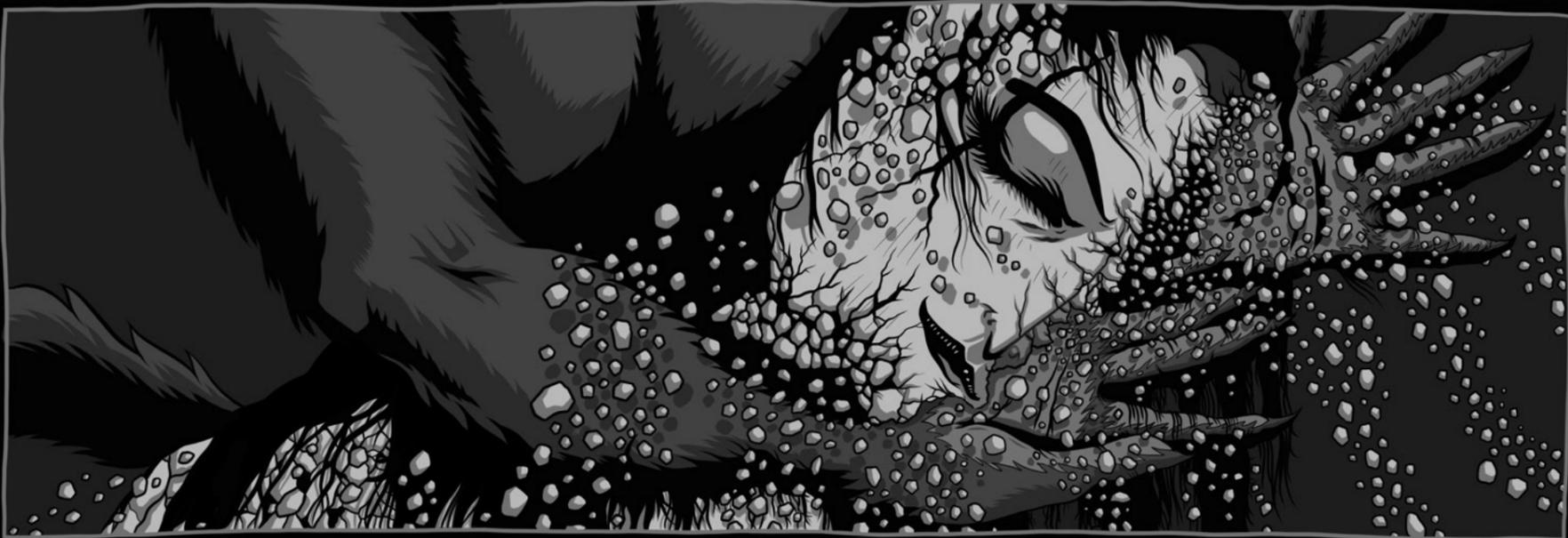


YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE.
THE TIME HAS COME
FOR YOU TO BECOME
A GREATER BEING.

I CAN UNDERSTAND IT NOW.

MY TIME IS OVER;
YOURS IS JUST STARTING.
LOOK TO THE SKY...
IT IS HERE!
IT HAS ARRIVED!

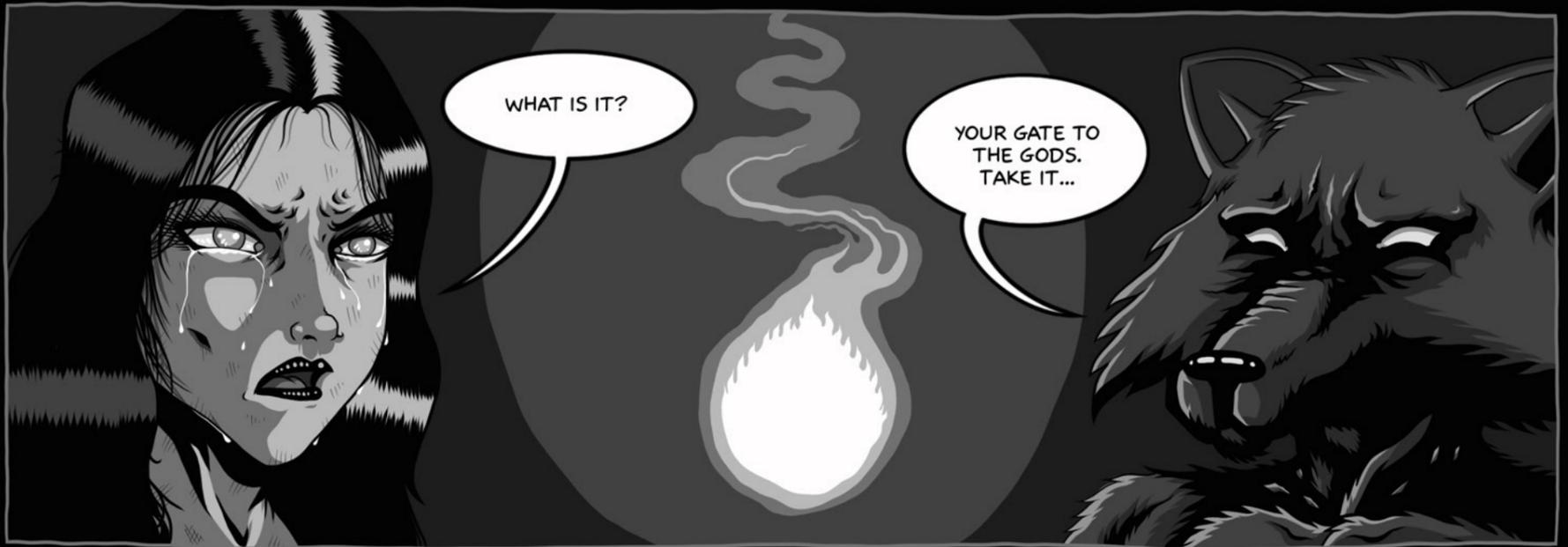
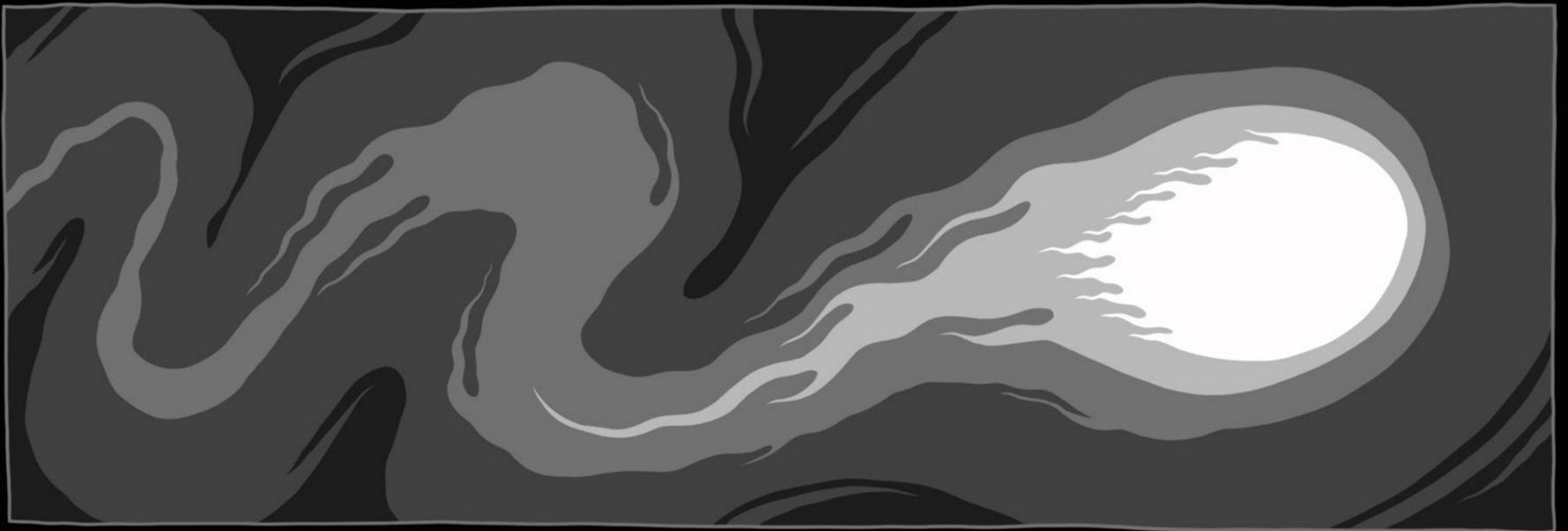


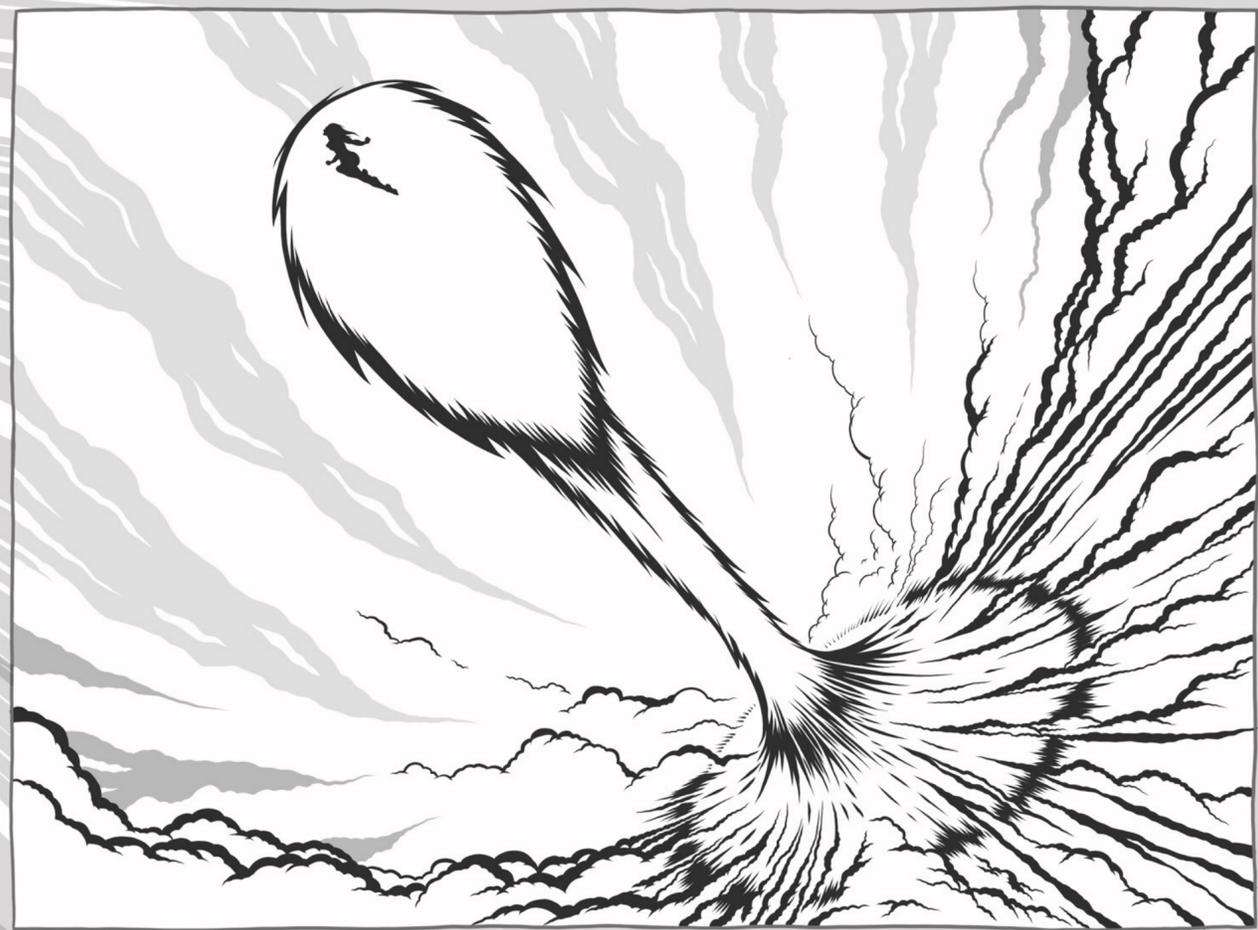
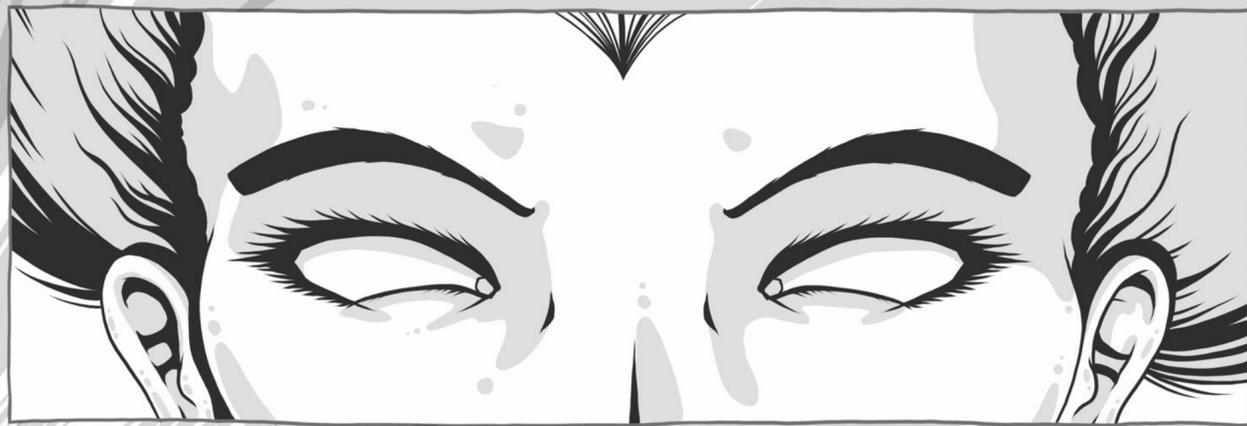


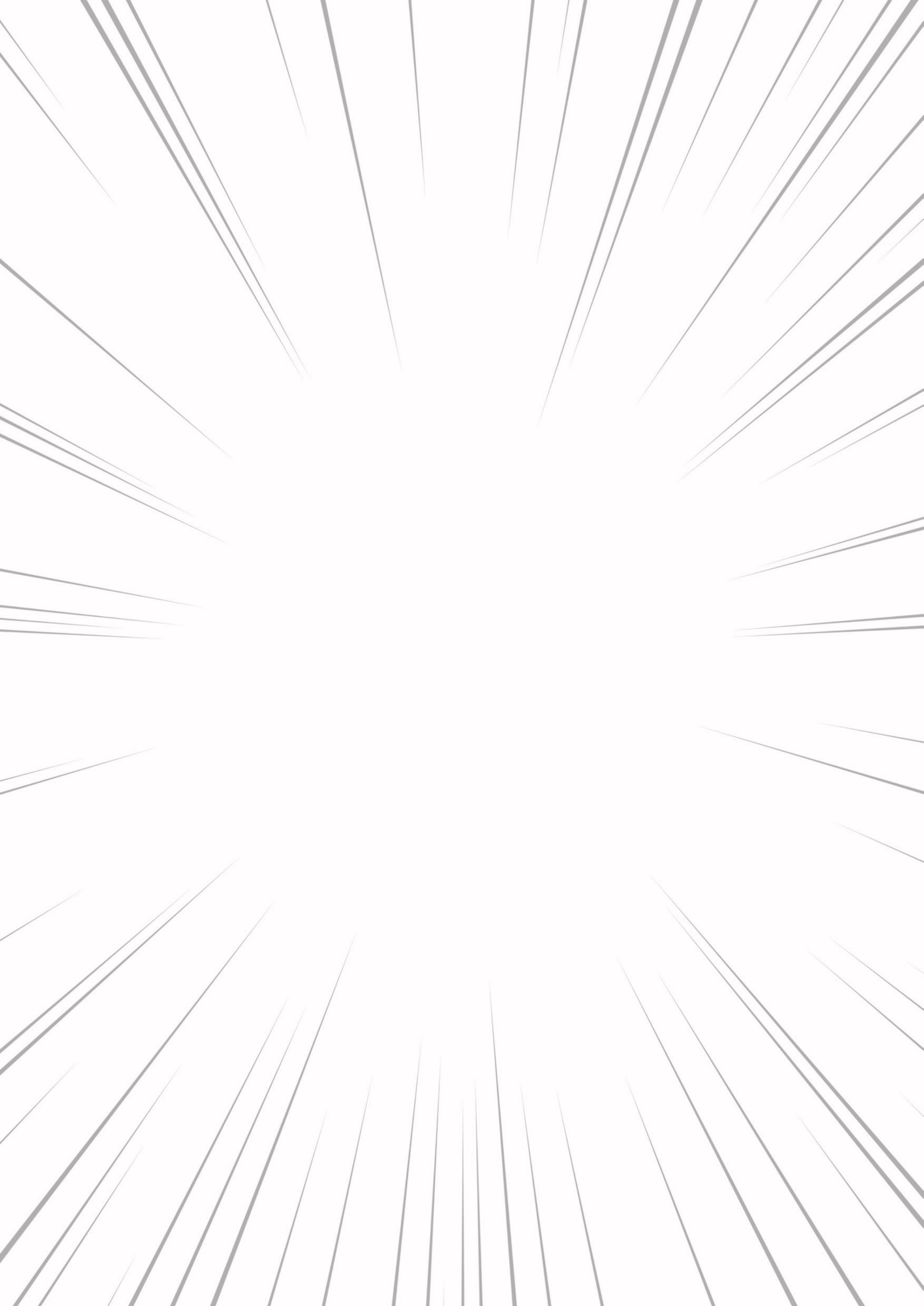


COME ON, GET UP, KID.
DON'T CRY...

PROTECTING YOU AND
KEEPING YOU ALIVE WAS HER REASON
TO BE HERE. I KNOW IT IS HARD, BUT
WE MUST GO ON. YOU MUST GO ON. THERE IS
SOMETHING BIGGER WAITING FOR YOU...
YOUR ROLE IN THIS WORLD IS IMPORTANT,
TOO IMPORTANT.









...SINCE THEN,
SHE SHINES IN THE BLACK SKY,
AND THERE IS DARKNESS
NO MORE.



**SHE IS
ALIVE!**



YES, AND OUT OF THEIR
REACH. SHE IS NOW PART OF
THE YARD OF GODS.



AFTER HER ASCENSION,
THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR
SUÉ. WE MUST FIND HIM FIRST,
AND GUARANTEE HE CAN ALSO
FIND HIS WAY TO THE YARD OF
GODS. THIS BATTLE IS NOT
FINISHED YET...



...IT IS JUST STARTING.
THERE ARE MORE DEMONS OUT
THERE, SEARCHING FOR US,
AND YOU SAID IT, THEY WILL NOT
STOP UNTIL THEY SEE
US ALL DEAD.

SUÉ IS OUR PRIORITY NOW.
HE DOES NOT KNOW IT YET,
BUT HE CARRIES WITH HIM MOTHER
EARTH'S ONLY HOPE TO BEGIN
AND CONCLUDE HER MOST
IMPORTANT PROJECT:
LIFE.