

TRINITY CITY

ISSUE #1



AN AFRO
FUTURIST
COMING
OF AGE
STORY SET
IN "NEW NEW
ORLEANS"
CIRCA 2078

LETTER TO THE READER FROM THE ARTISTS

Dear Change Maker, Game Changer, Power Holder, Destiny Deciders:

What you are about to read is not just a comic book. It is a call to action, devised with young people for young people.

Trinity City was created under a shared dream of a vibrant New Orleans community that celebrates culture, understands differences and values every living thing. It is not a story about redemption, the underdog or steeped in struggle to invoke pity. It is about race, class, gender, sexuality, age, disabilities, and the socioeconomic divides that are mirrored in our present, but it is also much more than that -

it is a story about a community's fight for survival,

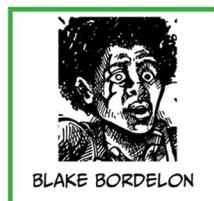
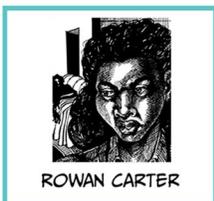
a story about bridging our divides through our common heritage and shared ancestors,

a story of strength, transformation and the everyday people who can and do change the world.

It is about dreaming a future that puts the power in the hands of young people who want to change the world. We hope what you read between these pages will encourage you to keep learning, keep growing, keep fighting back and keep celebrating the communities you come from.

Enjoy!

MAIN CHARACTERS:



TRINITY CITY ISSUE #1



**Characters and
World Created By:**

Blair Augillard, Keith Singleton, Morgan Prevost,
Steve Prince, Angélique Roché, Sharika Mahdi
Story and Script Written By: Angélique Roché

Illustrations By: Steve Prince
Graphic Layout: Emma Ledgerwood,
Carolina Guadalupe



"THAT'S ME, ROWAN CARTER."

"AND THIS IS AN X78 FIELD
DEPUTY SHERIFF UNIT..."

"IT WASN'T ALWAYS THIS WAY..."



"WHILE OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES BUILT UP, WE WERE SIMPLY FIGHTING FOR THE LAND WE BUILT ON. THEN, IT HAPPENED..."

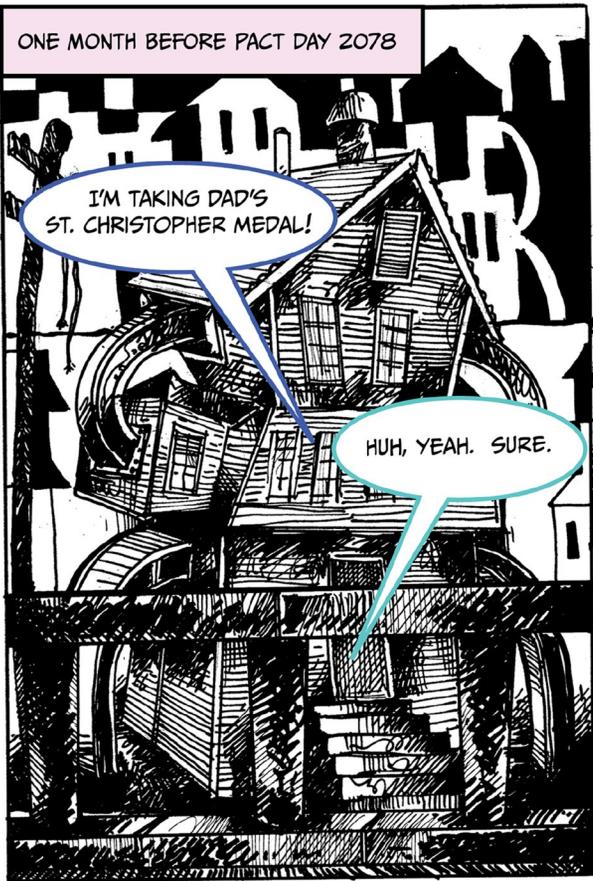
"... THE SEA WATERS ROSE, PUSHING WHAT WE ONCE KNEW AS LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BACK INTO THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, AND NEW ORLEANS... THE CITY BENEATH THE SEA BECAME A PART OF IT..."

"... BUT THE SOUL OF THIS CITY IS WATERPROOF."

"WE REBUILT OUR CITY"

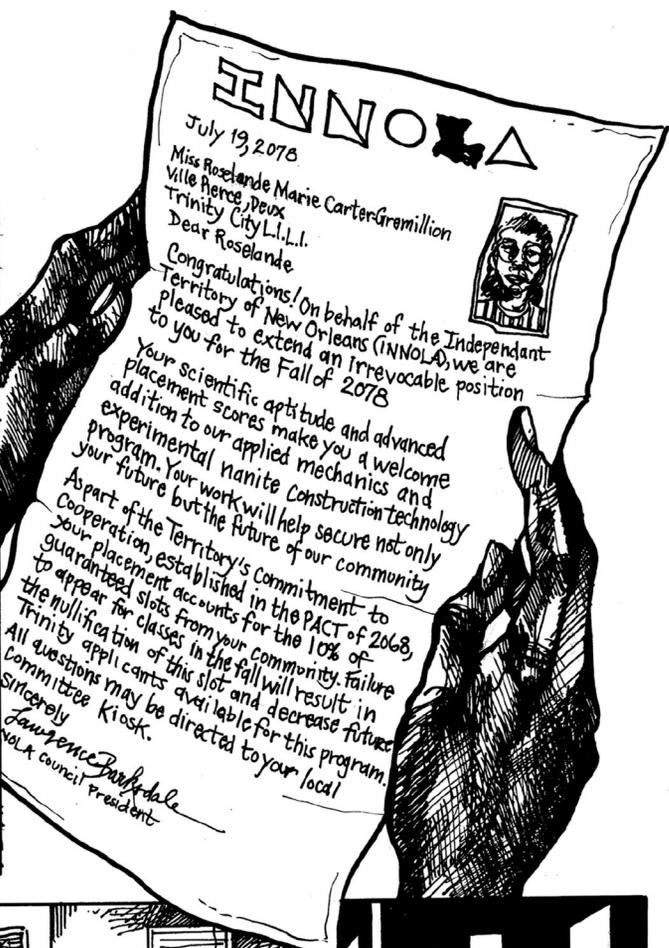
The Trinity 2068 JOINING DAY/PACT DAY

"THAT WAS UNTIL TRINITY CITY SIGNED THE PACT... AND EVERYTHING CHANGED."



I'M TAKING DAD'S ST. CHRISTOPHER MEDAL!

HUH, YEAH. SURE.



INNOVA

July 19, 2078

Miss Roselande Marie Carter Gramillon
Vile Piere, Deux
Trinity City L.L.L.I.

Dear Roselande



Congratulations! On behalf of the Independent Territory of New Orleans (INNOLA), we are pleased to extend an irrevocable position to you for the Fall of 2078

Your scientific aptitude and advanced placement scores make you a welcome addition to our applied mechanics and experimental nanite construction technology program. Your work will help secure not only your future but the future of our community.

As part of the Territory's commitment to cooperation, established in the PACT of 2068, your placement accounts for the 10% of guaranteed slots in your community. Failure to appear for classes in the fall will result in the nullification of this slot and decrease future Trinity applications available for this program. All questions may be directed to your local Committee Kiosk.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Parkdale
NOLA Council President



OK... LAST WEEK YOU ALMOST CUT MY HEAD OFF 'CAUSE IT WAS IN MY ROOM.



...UH?





IT'S JUST A COUPLE A WEEKS. WHO TURNS DOWN A UNIVERSITY?

LIKE YOU HAD A CHOICE?



I'M NEVER TOO BUSY FOR YOU, ROW.

UGH...YOU'LL BE ALL BUSY WITH UNIVERSITY

NEVER.

NEVER?



"THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW MY SISTER"

ENNORA

ONE WEEK LATER...

SO, YOU GOT NOTHING FROM ROSELANDE?

NO, BUT I'M SURE SHE IS JUST BUSY WITH CLASSES.

TO AT LEAST EMAIL? SHE PROMISED...

TWO WEEKS LATER...

... I KNOW, BABY, BUT SOMETIMES OUR OBLIGATIONS PULL US AWAY.

EVEN WHEN WE HAVE THE BEST INTENTIONS TO KEEP OUR PROMISES.

THREE WEEKS LATER...

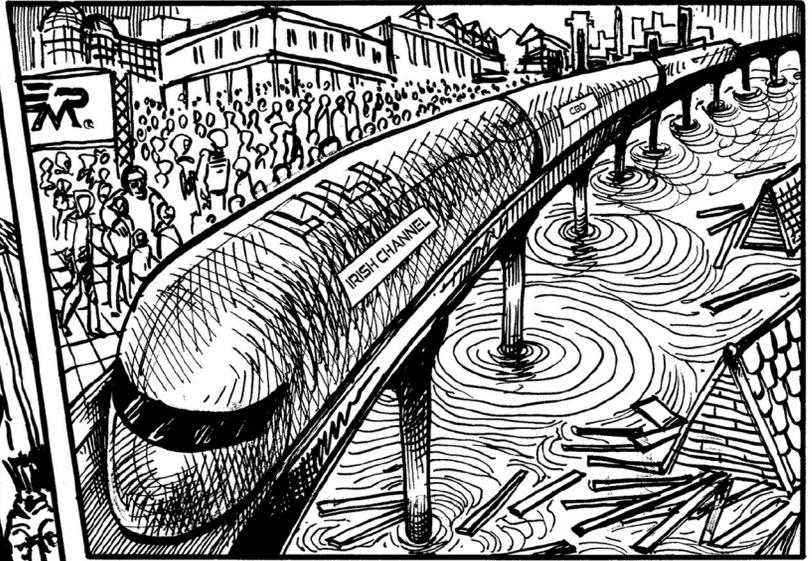


WHERE *COUGH* YOU GOIN'?

JUST DOWN TO THE CITY CENTER TO TALK TO BLAKE...

OK NOW, BE CAREFUL AND PICK ME UP SOME *COUGH COUGH* SWAMP MOSS FROM BORDELON'S?





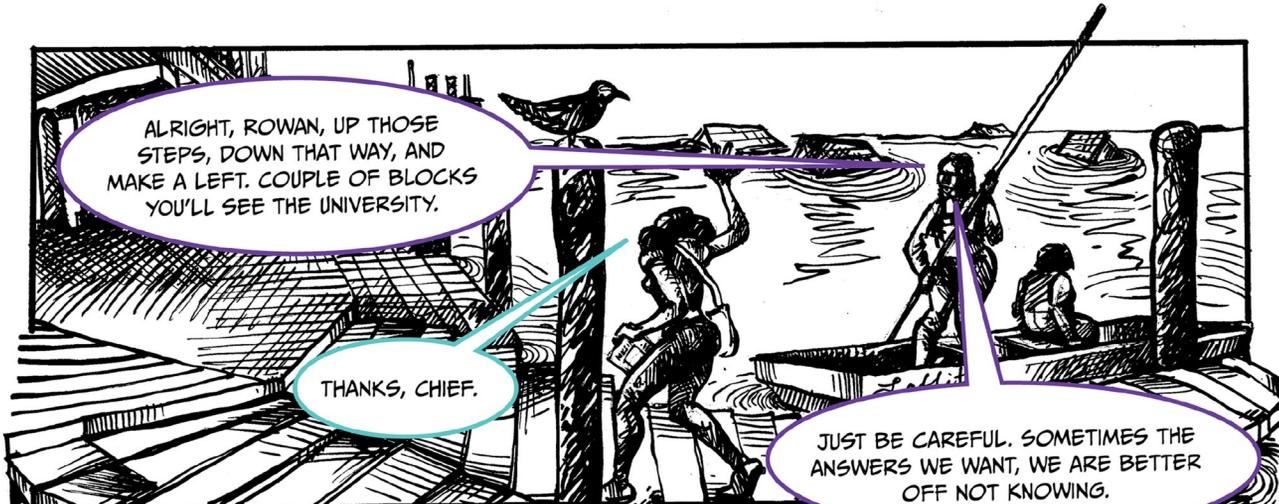


YOU JOSEPHINE CARTER'S
LITTLE GIRL?



WHATCHA DOIN' ALL THE
WAY DOWN HERE MS.
ROWAN?









FIGHTS

FOR MISSING

WOMEN

LIVES

WITH

DEPRESSION

Dancer

LOVES
Reese's
AND
TWIX

IRONMAN

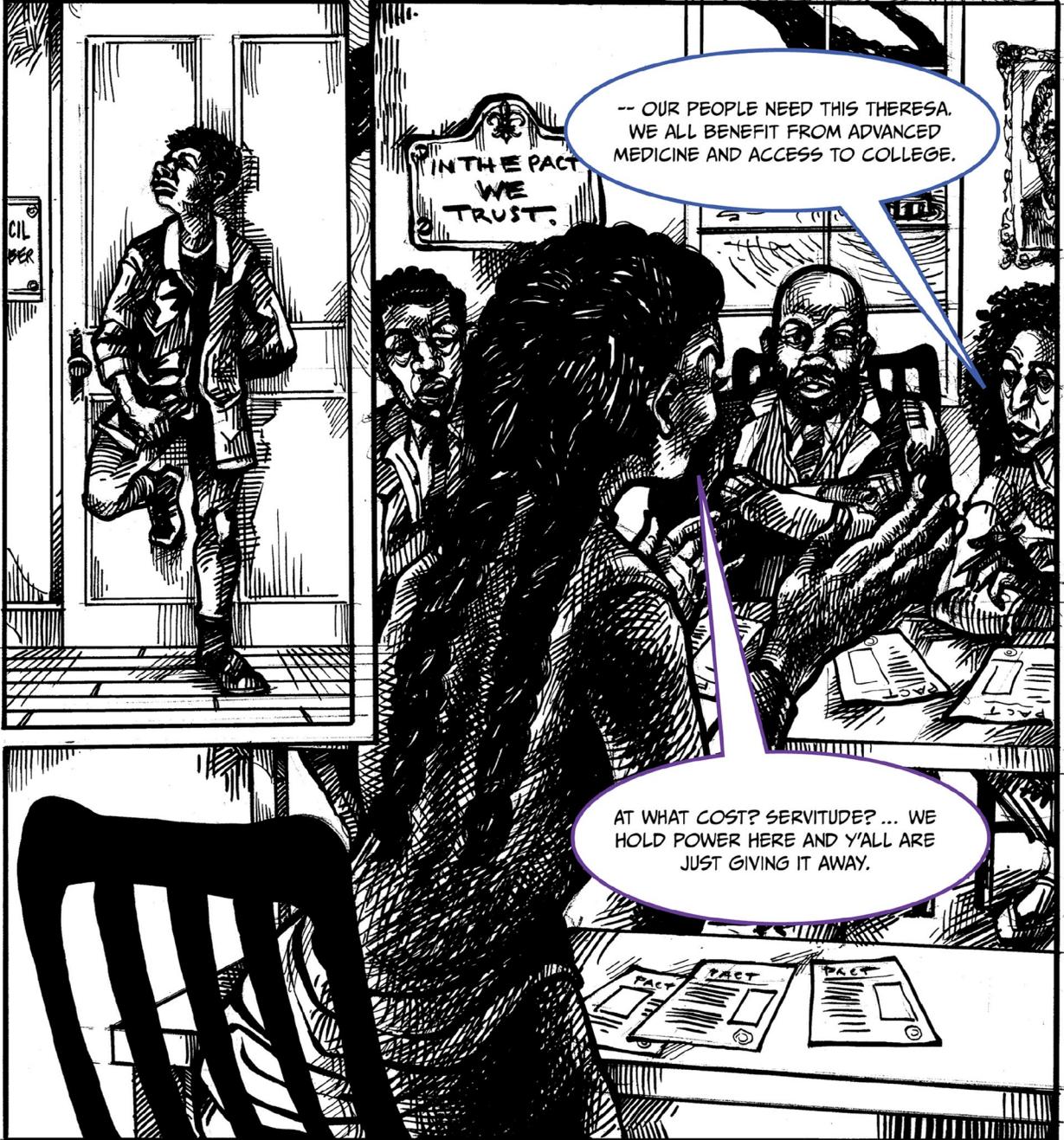
Character Sheet
Illustrated by:
Morgan Prevost

CHIEF, WE'VE HEARD WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY BUT OUR DECISION IS FINAL....

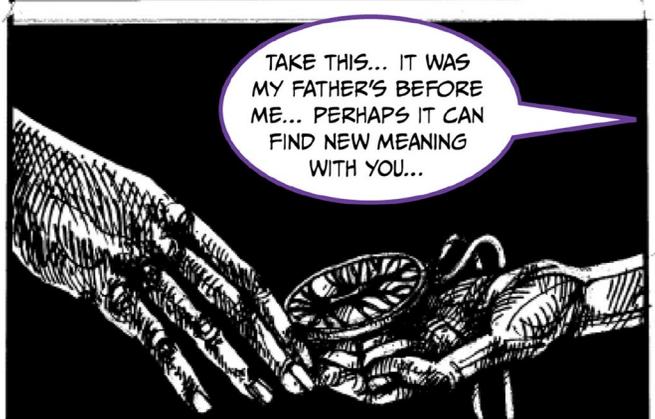
....Y'ALL ARE DAMN FOOLS.

-- OUR PEOPLE NEED THIS THERESA. WE ALL BENEFIT FROM ADVANCED MEDICINE AND ACCESS TO COLLEGE.

AT WHAT COST? SERVITUDE? ... WE HOLD POWER HERE AND Y'ALL ARE JUST GIVING IT AWAY.









LET HER GO, TERRANCE.
THIS LIL "EXPERIMENT" LASTED
AS LONG AS IT COULD.

ARE WE READY TO
THROW IT ALL AWAY FOR
CANNED GOODS AND
MEDICINE?

I'VE NEVER BEEN
MORE SURE OF
ANYTHING IN MY LIFE.

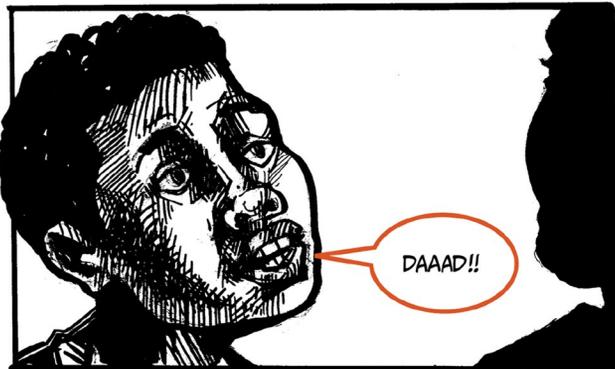


YOU READY TO GO,
MAR?

READY,
READY!



HOLD UP...



DAAAD!!



BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY



CAN WE GET
SNOWBALLS?

DEAL.

10 YEARS LATER: 2078





HOW DID —

NERVOUS, KID?
SURE YOU WANNA
DO THIS?

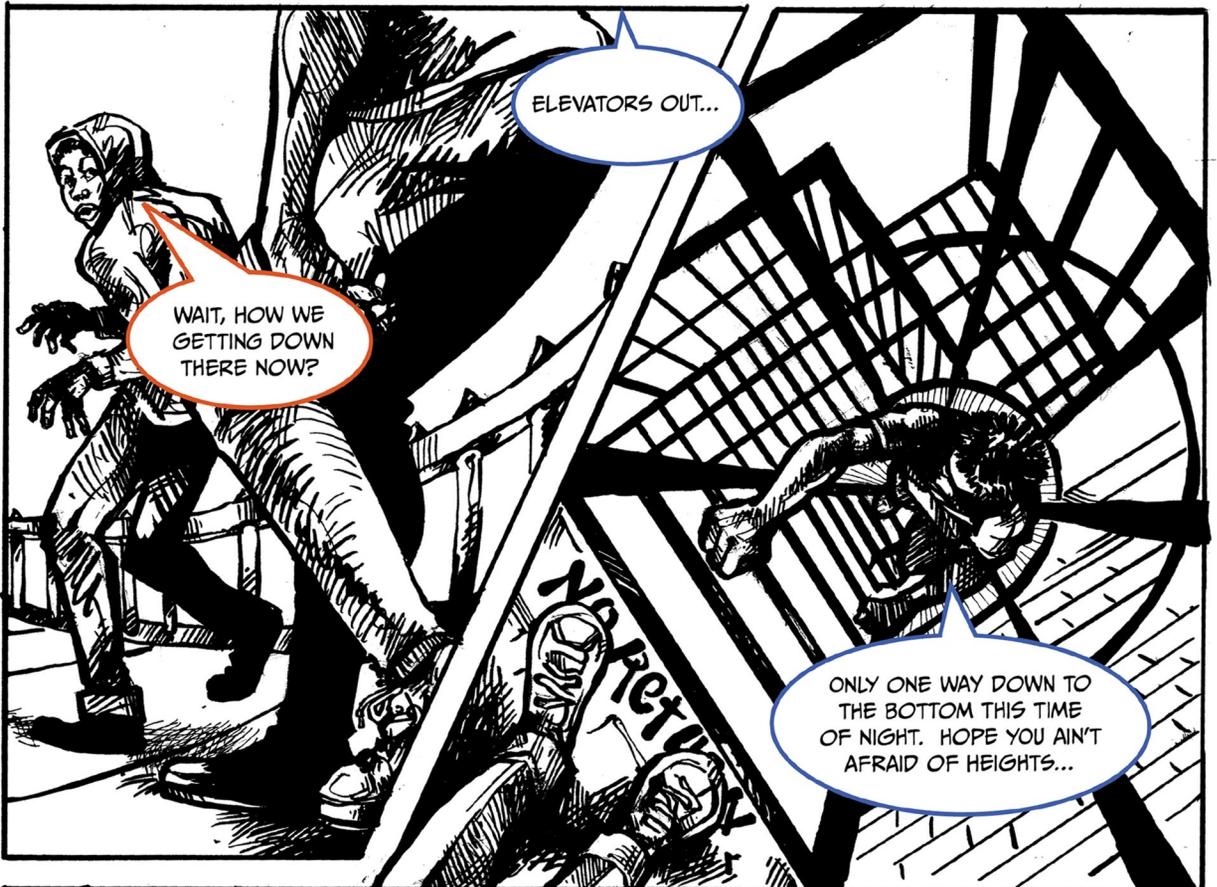
LOOKOUT!

WHATEVA, MAN...
NOT LIKE THEY
GONNA ARREST
A COUNCILMAN'S
SON...

... YOU GOT
YOUR MONEY.
JUST GET ME
THERE.



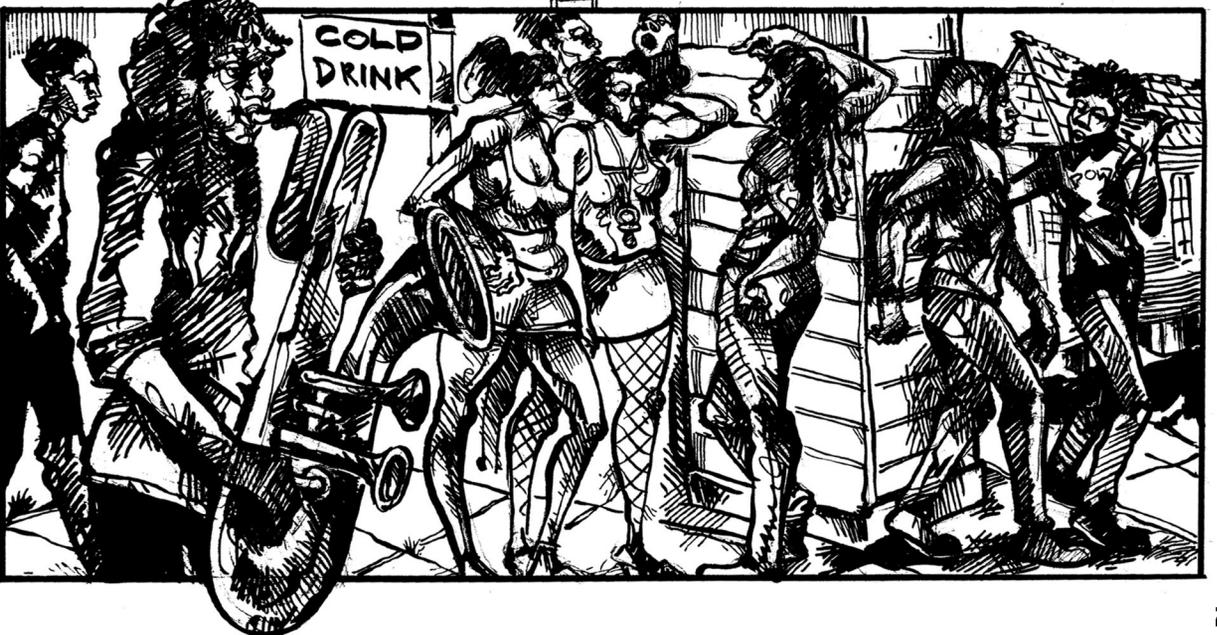
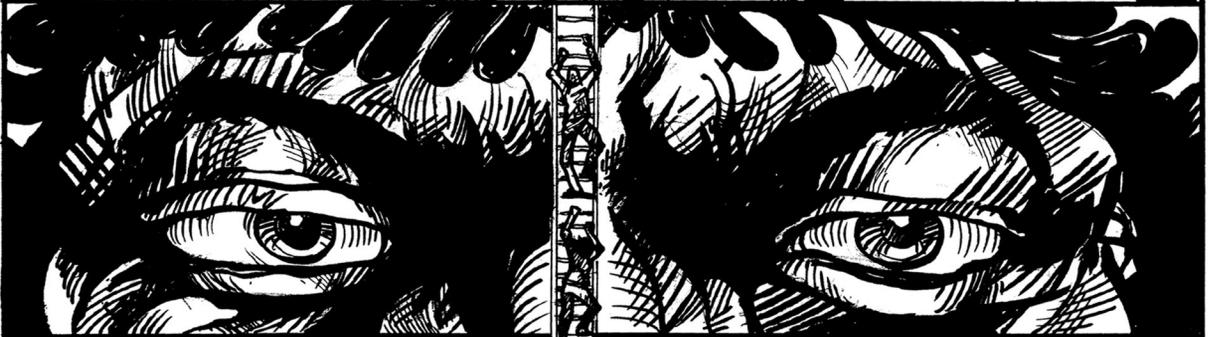
YOU GOT GUTS, KID,
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.



ELEVATORS OUT...

WAIT, HOW WE
GETTING DOWN
THERE NOW?

ONLY ONE WAY DOWN TO
THE BOTTOM THIS TIME
OF NIGHT. HOPE YOU AIN'T
AFRAID OF HEIGHTS...



"THE PACT IS
SLAVERY"? BUT
AREN'T WE FREE?

I THOUGHT THE PACT
GAVE US FREEDOM...

YOU'RE CLUELESS,
AIN'TCHA?

WHAT IS FREEDOM WITHOUT
CHOICE... THE PACT TOOK THAT
AWAY FROM ALL OF US... BUT
I GUESS YOUR RIGHTEOUS-
ASS DADDY WOULDN'T TELL
YOU ALL THAT.



YOU NEVER TOLD ME HOW YOU KNEW WHO MY FATHER WAS?

BOLD ENOUGH TO WALK AROUND WITH 'AN EXPENSIVE WATCH AND A POCKET FULL OF CREDITS JUST FOR SOMEONE TO TOUR HIM THROUGH THE SLUMS...HOW COULD ANYONE MAKE A MARK SO EASY, MARCUS...

I MEAN... EXPENSIVE CLOTHES, FRESH HAIRCUT, NICE SHOES, WORKING WATCH, NAIVE CLUELESS LOOK ON YOUR FACE WANDERING AROUND LOOKING FOR A WAY TO THE BOTTOM?

SO YOU SEE, I COULDN'T PASS UP A CHANCE TO SHOW ONE OF TRINITY'S 'GOLDEN SONS' JUST HOW THE REST OF US LIVE...

WHERE ARE WE?



ABOUT DAMN TIME...

SHO'TOOK Y'ALL
LONG ENOUGH...

THE SHOES ARE MINE!

BE CAREFUL NOW,
AMIRE, DON'T BREAK
MY WATCH...



DON'T WORRY ABOUT
ME, TJ, WATCH HOW
YOU PULLIN AT THAT
NECKLACE...



HENRI FONTENOT, CHARLIE T'JEAN, AND AMIRE LEWIS GET Y'ALL'S HAND OFF THAT BOY...

YOUNG MAN, ARE YOU OKAY?



MARCUS... KID... ARE YOU OK?

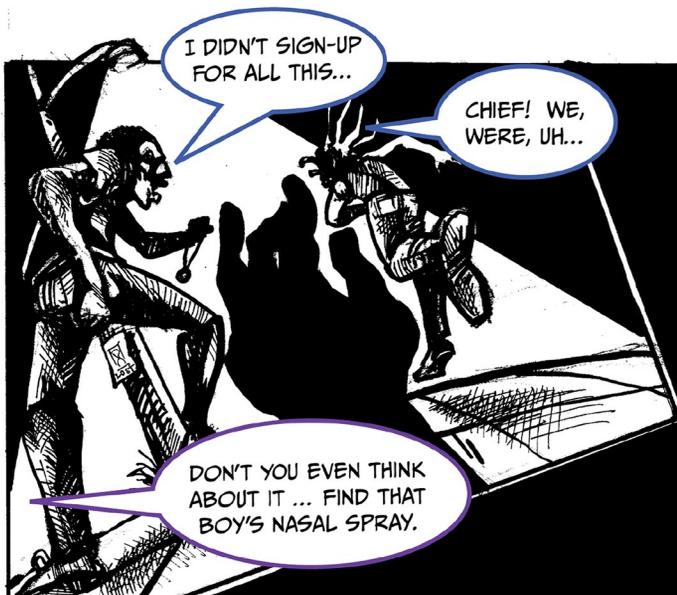


M... M. MY... NNNNASAL SP... SP... RAY...



MARCUS... MARCUS SENNETT?





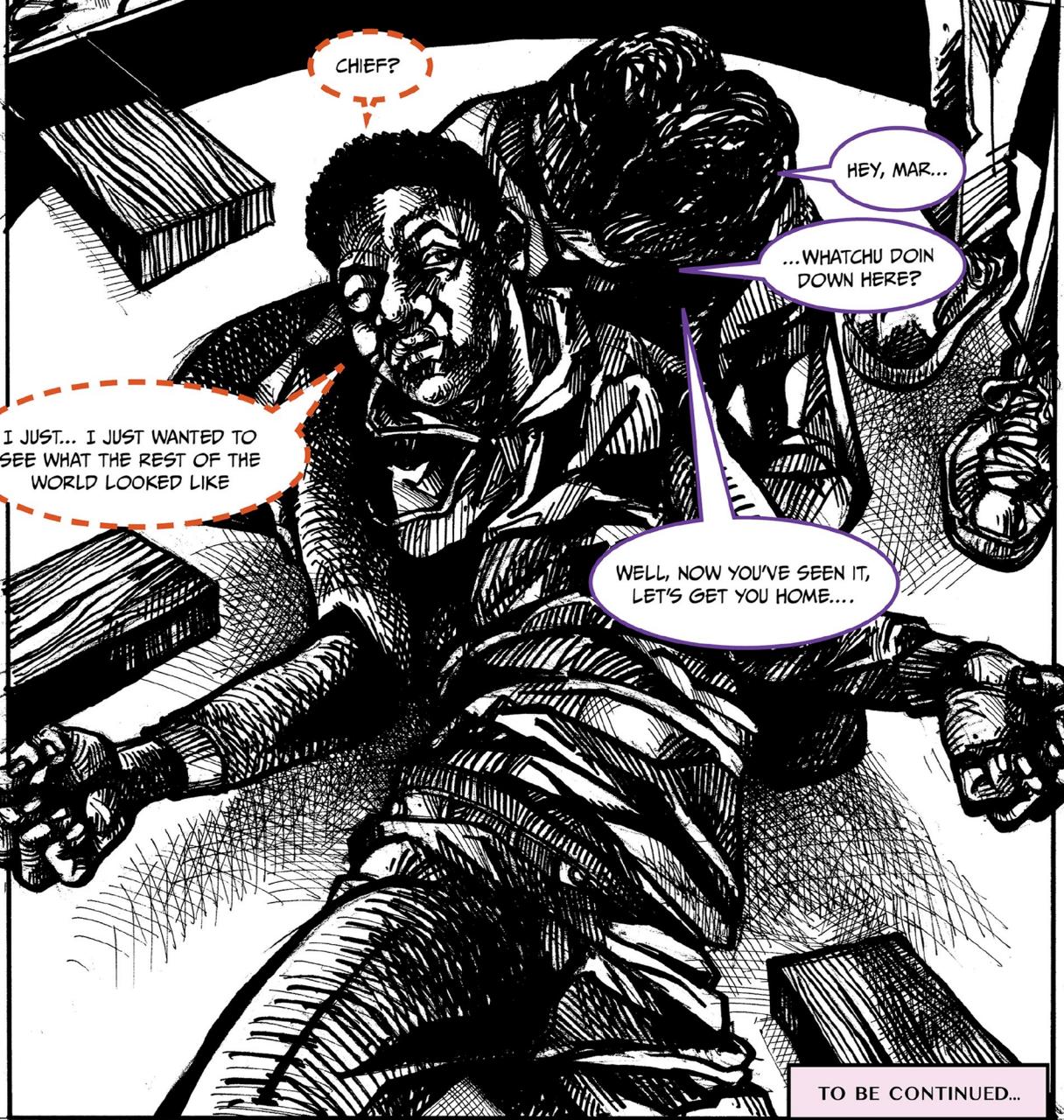
I DIDN'T SIGN-UP FOR ALL THIS...

CHIEF! WE, WERE, UH...

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT ... FIND THAT BOY'S NASAL SPRAY.



GOT IT!



CHIEF?

HEY, MAR...

... WHATCHU DOIN DOWN HERE?

I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD LOOKED LIKE

WELL, NOW YOU'VE SEEN IT, LET'S GET YOU HOME...

TO BE CONTINUED...



LIVES WITH
EPILEPSY

MARCUS!

LOVES CHOCOLATE
HERSHEY'S

FREEDOM AND DISABILITY JUSTICE

HATES TO BE CALLED AN "OUTCAST"

WANTS TO FIGHT FOR RIGHTS





AGHHH!



ANOTHER ONE?

I'M FINE, POPS...
REALLY...



PEOPLE WHO SCREAM IN
THEIR SLEEP AIN'T FINE...

BLAKE, YOU KNOW YOU
CAN TELL ME ANYTHING,
RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING TELL...
JUST SPOOKED IS ALL.

POPS, I'M GOING TO
TRY AND GET SOME
SLEEP...



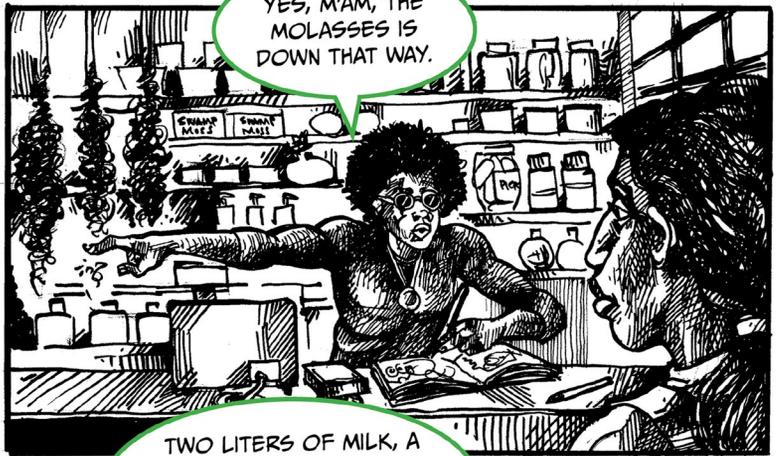
AIGHT. YOU KNOW
WHERE TO FIND ME.

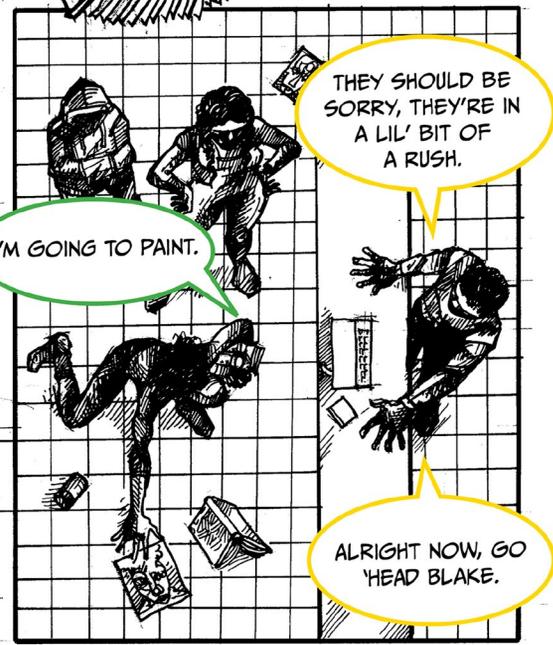
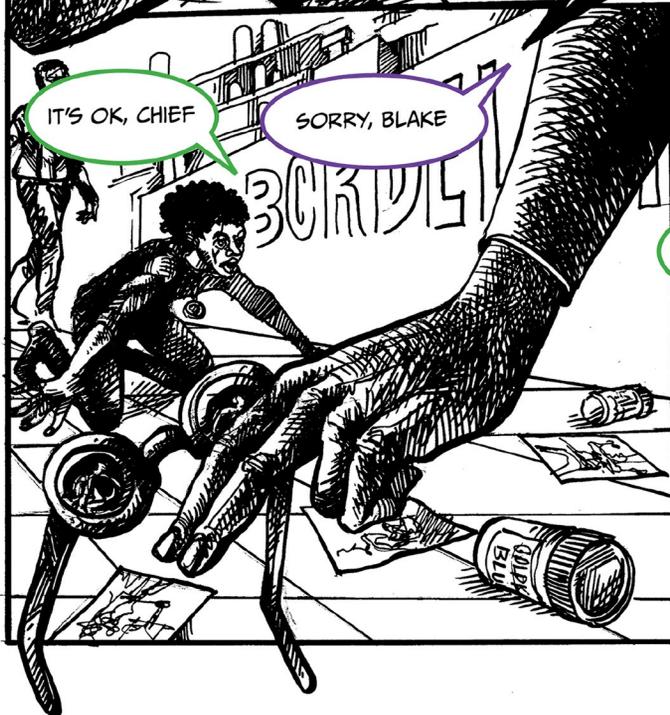
YOU STILL GONNA LET
ME PAINT THE STORE
TOMORROW?



YOU WORK. YOU GET TO PAINT.
THAT'S THE DEAL.

BET. NIGHT, POPS!







BYE PAPA, BYE, CHIEF.

AND BLAKE, BE CAREFUL. YOU SEE A DEPUTY, YOU COME RIGHT BACK HERE, YEAH?



THERESA MARIE OLIVIER, WATCHU DONE BROUGHT ON MY DOORSTEP...

AFTERNOON, MR. BORDELON...



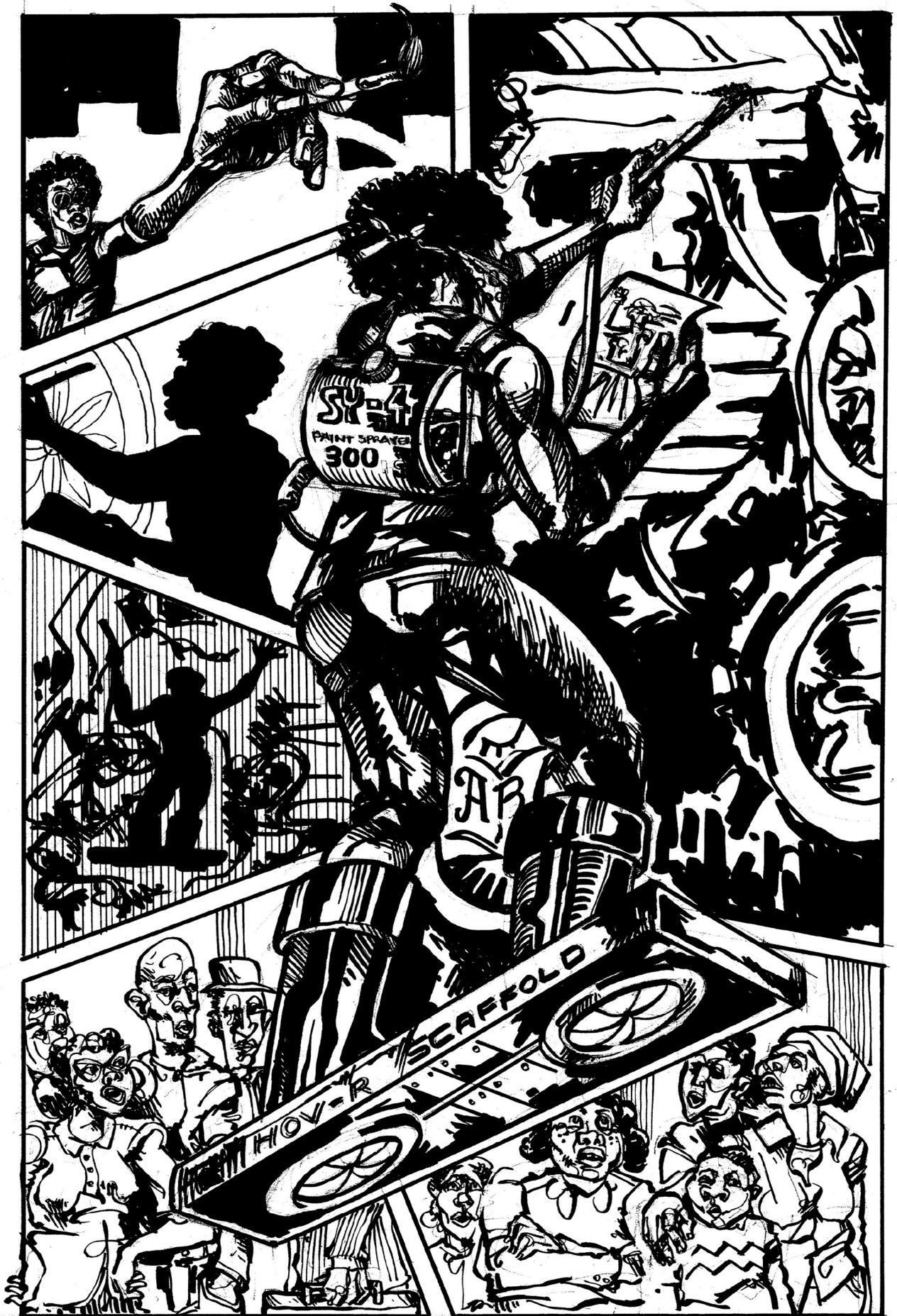
THIS IS A MATTER FOR A QUIETER PLACE, WITH LESS EYES AND EARS.



UNDERSTOOD.

ALRIGHT, FOLKS! WE'RE CLOSING FOR LUNCH. COME BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO. HAPPY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A DISCOUNT FOR THE INCONVENIENCE!

COME ON NOW, FOLLOW ME...





Meanwhile, Rowan...



I DIDN'T DO NOTHING!



AND YOU SAY YOU JUST FOUND HIM LIKE THIS?

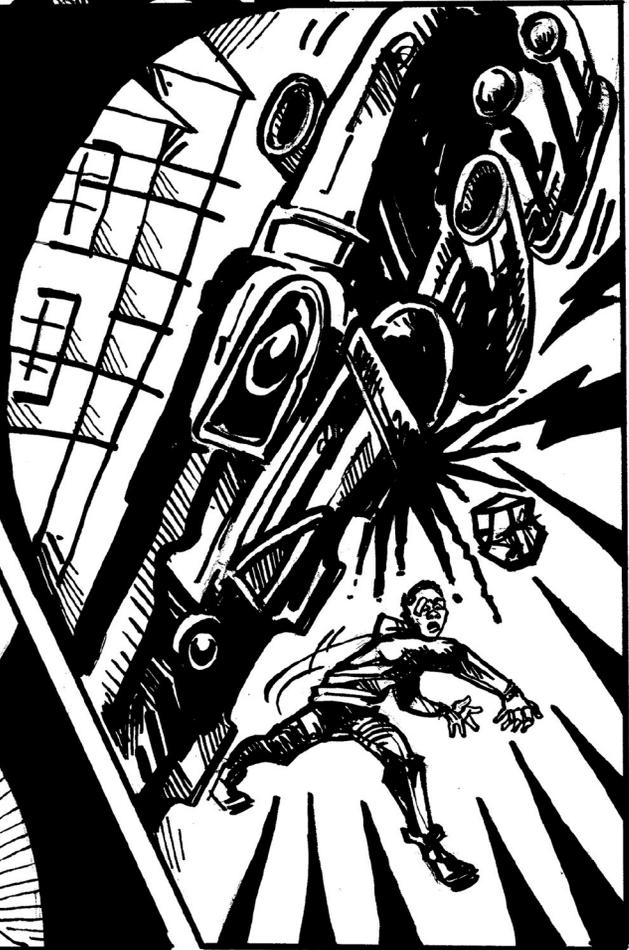




CITIZEN, BLAKE ALPHONSE BORDELON, YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED AND WILL NOT BE WARNED AGAIN.



BLAKE!

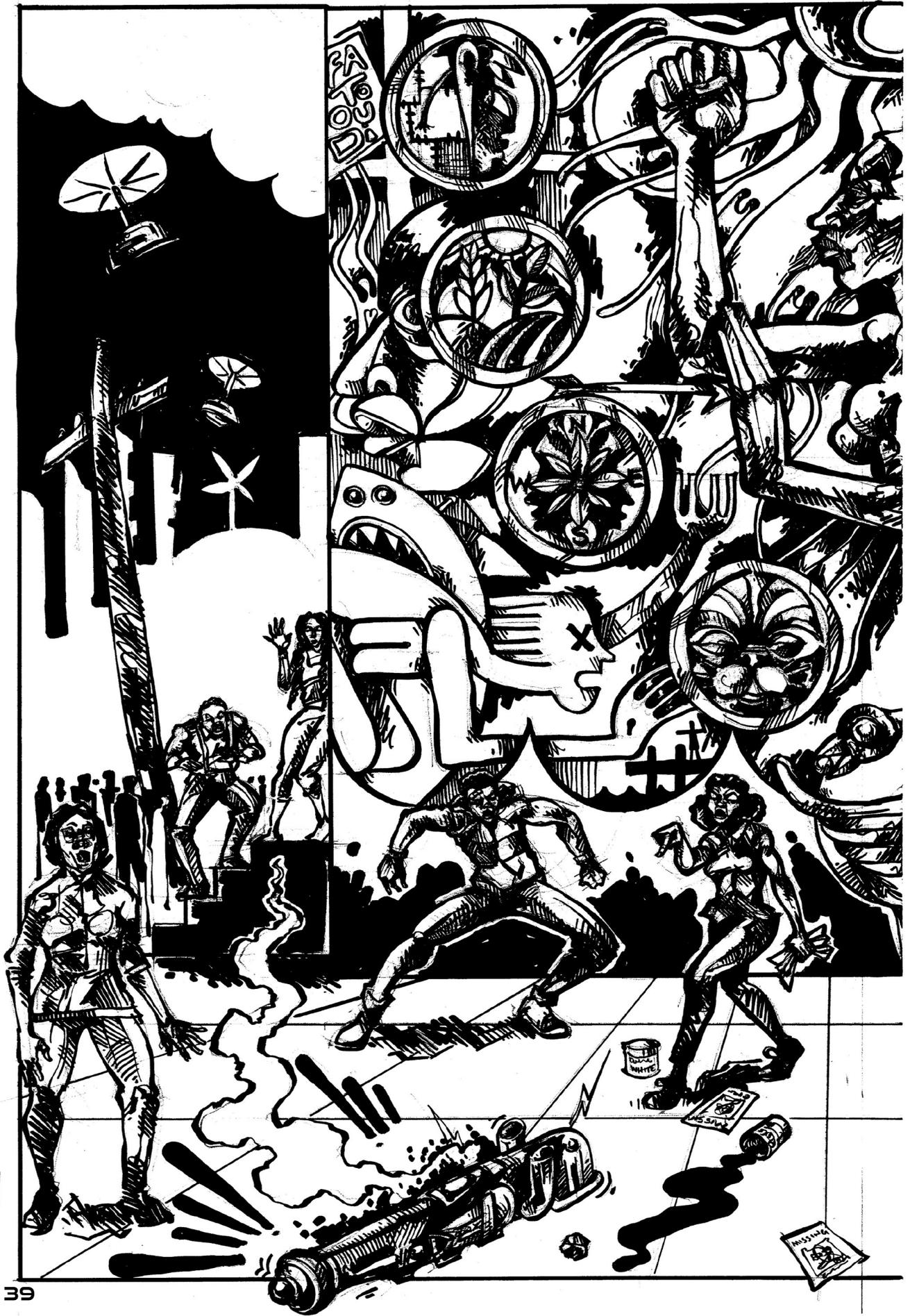




WHERE WERE YOU
BUCKET OF BOLTS WHEN
I NEEDED YOU?

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN
MY SISTER NEEDED YOU?

DON'T YOU HAVE REAL
CRIMES TO DEAL WITH?





TO BE CONTINUED... In Issue #2.

FIGHTS for CULTURE and FREEDOM: of EXPRESSION

WAKE...

RAINIER

LIVES WITH CLARKE CORVETZ and PTSD

LOWE LOWROPS while painting!

HAS VISIONS



Character Sheet Illustrated by: Blair Augillard

Welcome to

TRINITY CITY UNIVERSE



BLAKE'S GLASSES

The character of Blake Bordelon wears thick glasses because of severe corneal scarring over their right eye, which makes his eyes extremely sensitive to light, and the glasses help keep things dim. The scar causes Blake to see most things in light or shadow, which has influenced the style of his artwork.



HUNTER'S FIELD

The Chief lives in the Undercity in what remains of a cultural heritage site in today's real-life New Orleans, Hunter's Field. In April 1963, hundreds of local African American residents, led by 400 children, squatted on the site until the city agreed to make it a park for children to play in.



L.I.L.I PADS

The rich of New New Orleans live on eLevated Isolated Liveable Infrastructures that keep them safe from floods, crime, and disease. These high-tech floating neighborhoods are self-sufficient and can either be anchored to land or set free to follow the ocean currents wherever they may lead.



MARCUS' NASAL SPRAY

Marcus Sennet has sudden epileptic seizures that leave him unable to speak, move or think clearly. Thanks to his dad, a doctor, Marcus has a prescription for Diazepam nasal spray, a fast-acting medicine that can make the difference between life and death.



THE PACT

Signed in 2068, this law requires people in Trinity City and others who live outside one of the three L.I.L.I Pads to work in exchange for basic resources such as food, transportation, healthcare, education, and public safety. The work is often backbreaking and dangerous or enticing, like a university program.

GET CREATIVE

CALLING ALL LOUISIANA TEENS: ARTWORK AND POETRY CONTEST!

All you have to do is:

Read Trinity City #1

Choose one of three topics from the story to inspire you

Respond with a visual artwork or a poem of your own creation

PRIZES:

\$50 cash cards

Mentoring sessions with a professional artist or poet

Everyone who enters gets a very cool prize

Click here or scan the QR code below to learn more!



GO DEEPER

We at Trinity City love New Orleans, Louisiana and the Gulf South. It is a place where people have deep roots and lived in deep relationship to each other and the surrounding geography (both land and water) for generations. At the same time, it is a harsh place, where people of all backgrounds – but especially those who are Black and/or poor – experience many of the highest rates of incarceration, death, disease and poverty in the world.

So, we at Trinity City want to know: What has to change in order for people to grow up here living in a healthy relationship to the ever changing landscape? How can we care for ourselves and each other while also pushing against the systems that threaten our existence? What is the responsibility of people with resources to help those without resources during times of shared crises?

We need your help. Join us in the search for answers!

Click here or scan the QR code



For YOU...

***“All that You touch You Change.
All that You Change Changes You.
The only lasting truth is Change.”***

- Octavia E. Butler -

***“ I have a huge and savage conscience
that won't let me get away with things. ”***

- Octavia E. Butler -

TO BE CONTINUED...

DEDICATION



Yvonne Theresa Olivier Bechet was born African American in 1934 into a segregated New Orleans. She worked throughout her life to help create an empowered and vibrant New Orleans that celebrated culture, understood differences and valued every individual. And she was a cop. She was also the primary inspiration for the character of The Chief.

In 1961, while raising four children, Yvonne began her trailblazing career with a job at NASA where she was one of the first women to install advanced electronics on Apollo rockets. She would later graduate from the New Orleans Police Department as one of the first seven women to enter the Police Academy in 1968. For the next 22 years, Yvonne would make her voice known as she sought equality for African American youth, women, police officers and the Black community as a whole.

TRINITY CITY

YOU CAN BE PART OF TRINITY CITY COMICS!

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE EARLY READERS SURVEY

ENTER OUR CONTEST FOR LOUISIANA TEENS

BECOME AN ARTIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY



A PROJECT OF: **TRINITY CITY Arts**

POWERED BY:



FORD FOUNDATION



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

S O U
A R T S
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