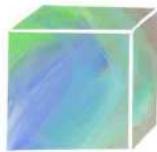


Soma

[Matthew Delatorre]

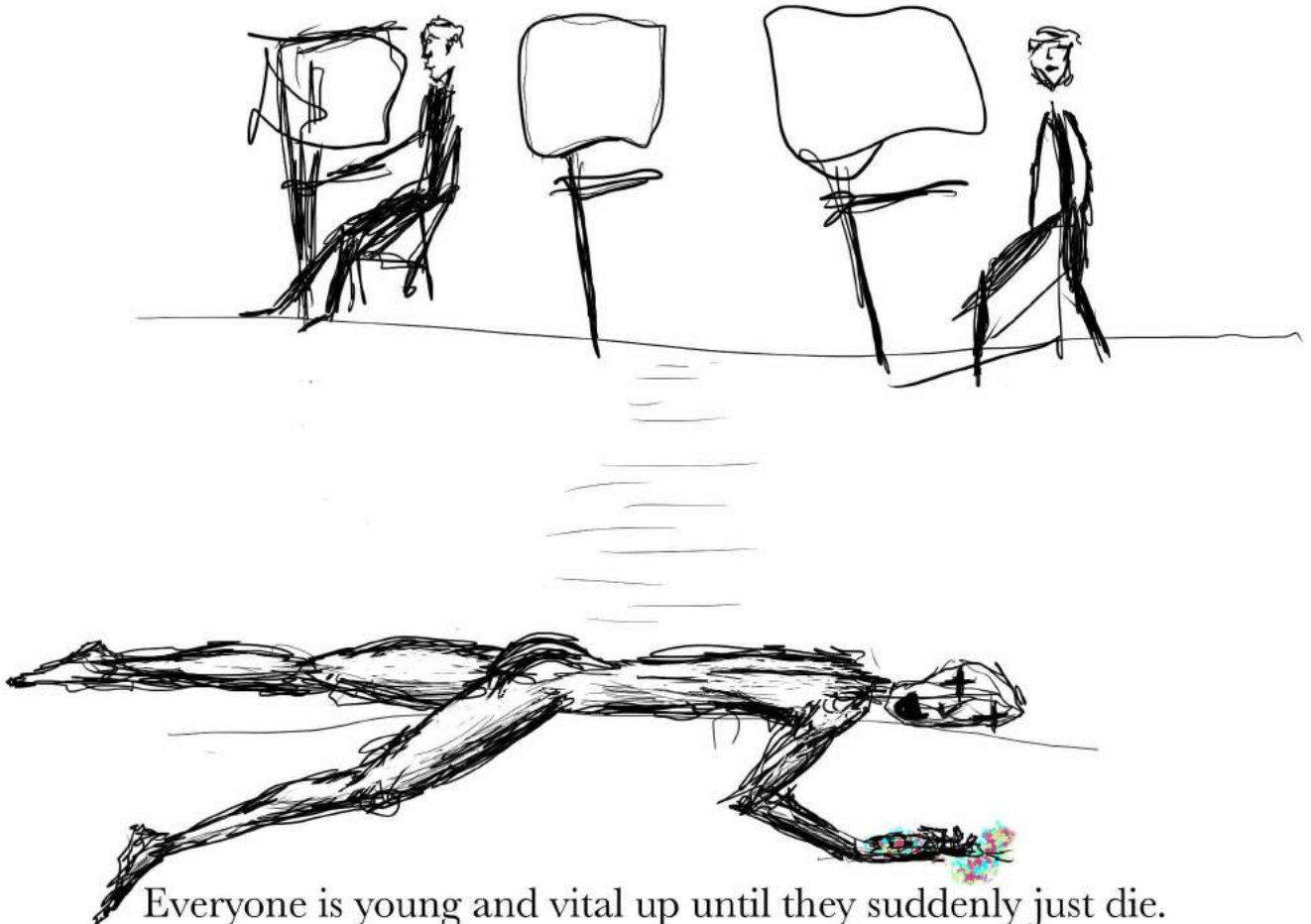


*Was and will make me ill
I take a gramme and only am*

A gramme of soma is what you take to make your troubles disappear. It relieves you of your pain and woes and makes everything feel great. There are no negative physical side effects, if you don't count that it takes years off your life. Actually this is a positive thing in this world society. No one has to get old.

It's soma time !

phew! I almost felt something there

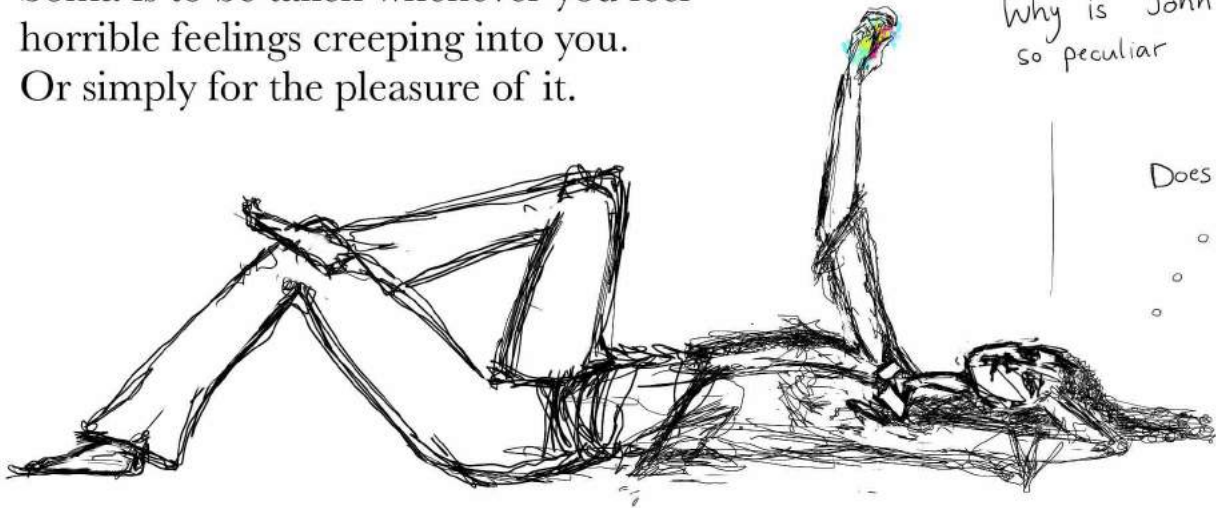


Everyone is young and vital up until they suddenly just die.

Soma is to be taken whenever you feel horrible feelings creeping into you. Or simply for the pleasure of it.

Why is John so peculiar

Does he hate me



Take Bernard for example. When humiliated and rejected by everyone at his own party and at the verge of plunging into despair, he took a gramme of soma and suddenly felt better. The feeling forgotten.

Lmfao!

Everyone hates me



Remember, one cubic centimetre cures ten gloomy sentiments!

Soma keeps things running smoothly in society. Whenever someone has miseries that might cause them to question their lives or their society (Ford forbid they undo their conditioning) they take soma to feel at ease. This way you can be happy with your designated role in the world society and be a contributing consuming citizen.

I am more than just ... me

/

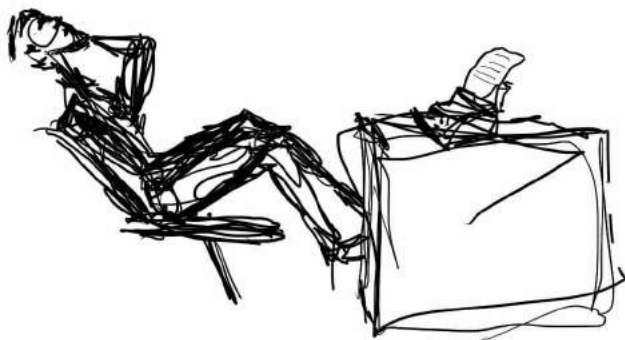
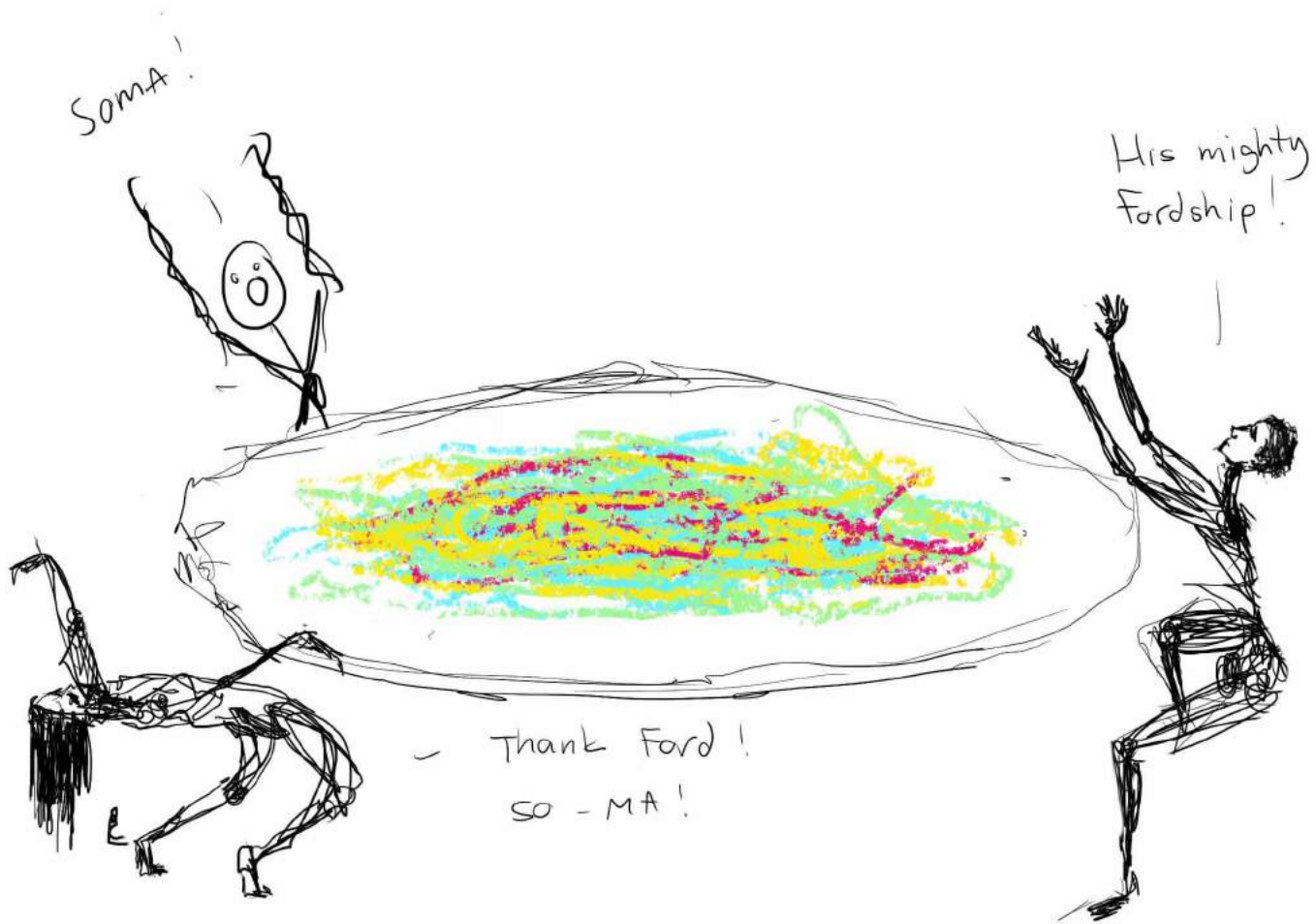


— Just take a gramme ... please



Yes, a gramme in time saves nine!

It seems people love their soma. No one wants to get rid of it.
After a long day of meaningful work or distractions, soma! In
between feelies, pneumatic girls and electromagnetic golf, soma!

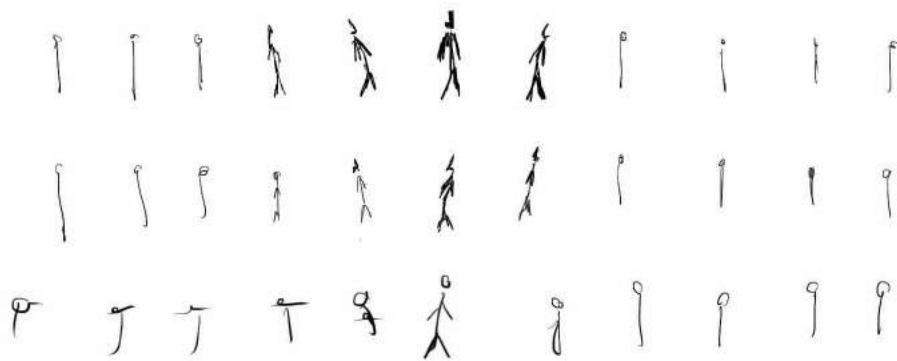


Only the 3 amigos have a problem
with it; Bernard, John, Helmholtz,
but they are different as even one of
the world controllers can appreciate.



It's hard to tell if this brave new world is utopian or dystopian. It is strange, everyone is happy and fulfilled it seems, though they don't really have a choice in the matter. I feel like soma is the key ingredient in making sure of this. It keeps the wheels of the world society turning smoothly and is an excellent buffer against mishaps here and there.

Is this really what I want
|

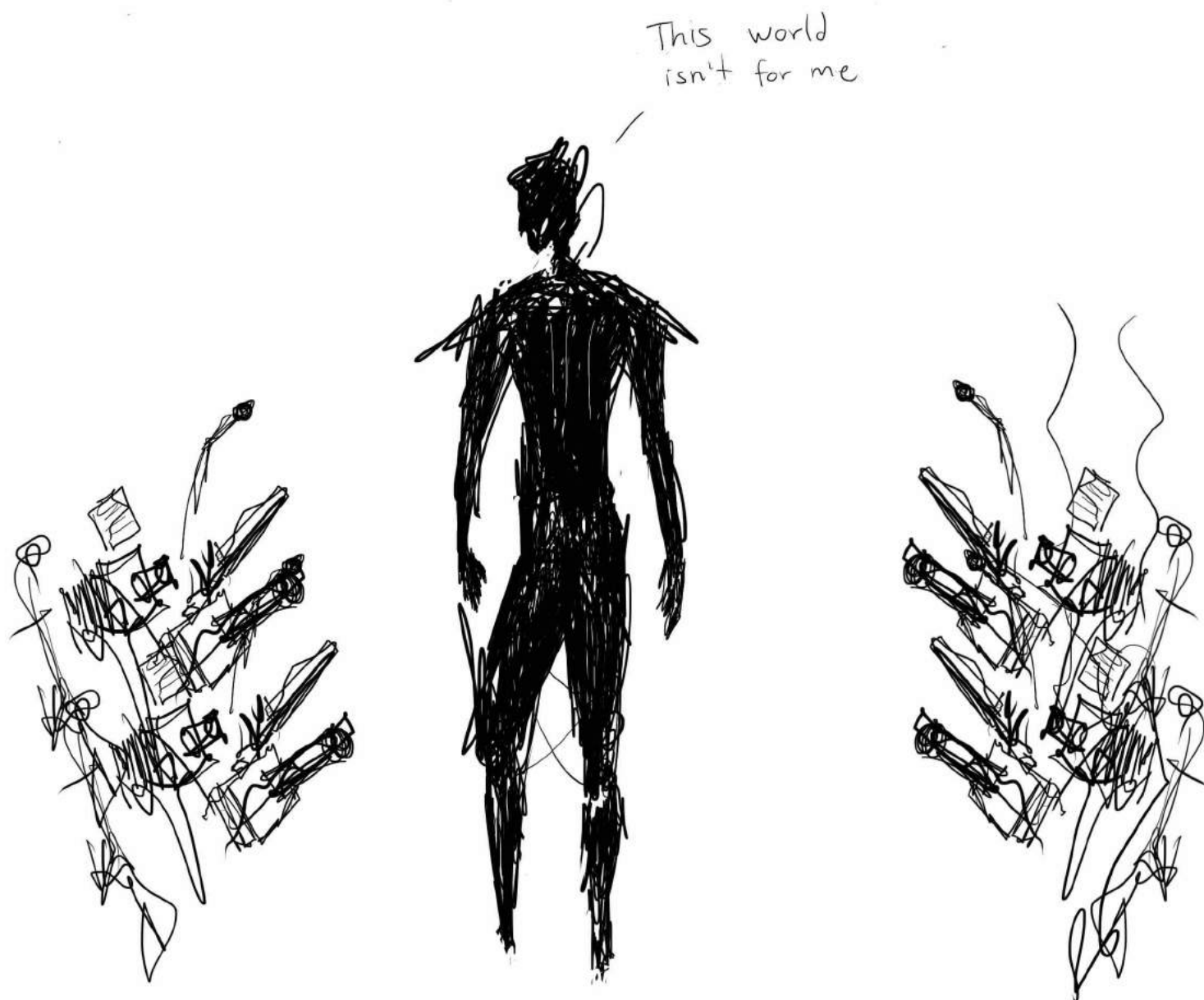


Dear Ford! This
is out of hand

Shutup and
be happy!



The world society is a utopia for insiders and a dystopia for outsiders, people who can't fit in. Bernard and Helmholtz were different, which made them into outsiders. When the individual feels, the community reels! So they got sent to islands, to be independent thinkers without threatening the stability of society. John is the most outsider, literally and metaphorically. He came from a savage reservation with ancient societal structures, not dissimilar from our own. He was not indoctrinated into the system and cannot accept it. He is horrified at Linda's permanent soma holiday and refuses to partake. He doesn't enjoy the ease and pleasures of civilization. In fact he claims the right to be unhappy. His story is an interesting reflection on rejecting the new world. And the choices we're left with when we cannot adapt...



You could say that soma already exists in our own society, in spirit, though not as chemically advanced as the real thing. Whatever makes you forget your troubles, whatever makes you feel better, is soma. Adderall, sex, music, can be soma. Why not indulge. What would we do without it.

Adderall...

I'ma finish this
paper on time



I'm a good student

Sex...

I can't feel you dark thoughts



Music...

I can't hear you
dark thoughts



...can be soma. What would we do without it.

Its staring
back ...



What would our friends; John, Bernard, Lenina, Helmholtz, do without soma. They would be forced to sit in their pain and contemplate it. They might come to interesting thoughts they wouldn't have without the saving grace of soma...

They might lead more beautiful lives with the pain and pleasure that make it so. John and Lenina might have found love against society's wishes. Helmholtz might find the meaningful work he was craving. Bernard would find what was missing in life and making him so miserable.

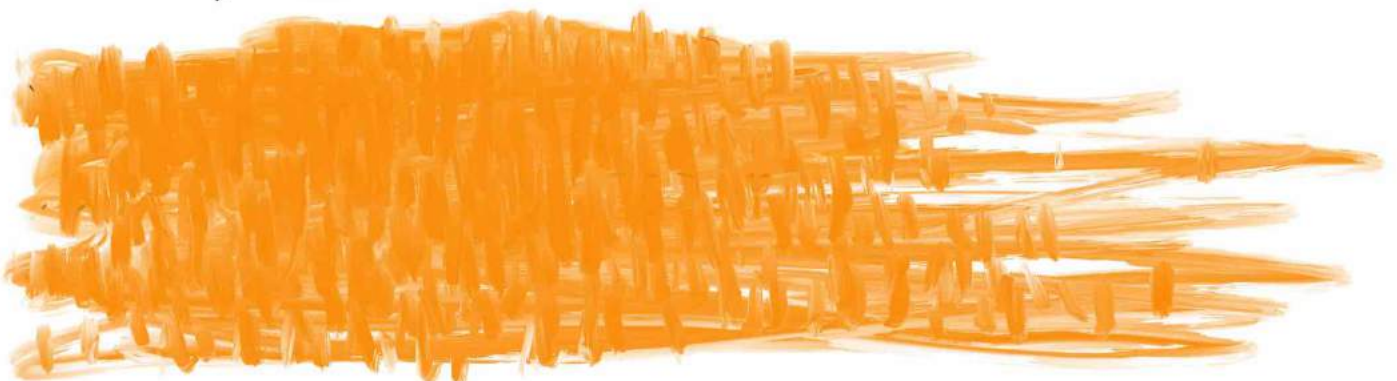
Why am I condemned to
love such an odd fellow



Freedom!



Helmholtz and John might have
led a revolution to bring about
freedom from the chains of
pleasure and conditioning.



Then again there might be a lot of misery that yields not such grand changes and turns out to be completely unnecessary. I don't think the state forces soma anymore than the people demand it. Soma is too alluring to not exist in society, in one form or another. Why suffer when there's no need to? As mustapha mond put it; there's simply no need for heroes.

These grandiose qualities that have emerged from suffering, as John idealizes from shakespeare, like resilience and heroism and nobility, aren't necessary anymore because the suffering from which they stem is no longer necessary in this advanced stable society. This all seems like a good deal. It's really hard to say no to interesting work and pleasure. Then again, maybe I've just been conditioned to think this. In order to come up with my own thoughts I would have to throw away my soma and think painfully hard about my place in the universe. But why do that when I have soma!

