

PORTAL 2:

LAB

RAT



REALITY IS A STORY THE MIND TELLS ITSELF.

AN ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE CONJURED INTO BEING BY THE CALCIUM ION EXCHANGE OF A MILLION SYNAPTIC FIRINGS.

A TRUTH SO STRANGE IT CAN ONLY BE LIED INTO EXISTENCE.

AND OUR MINDS CAN LIE. NEVER DOUBT IT...

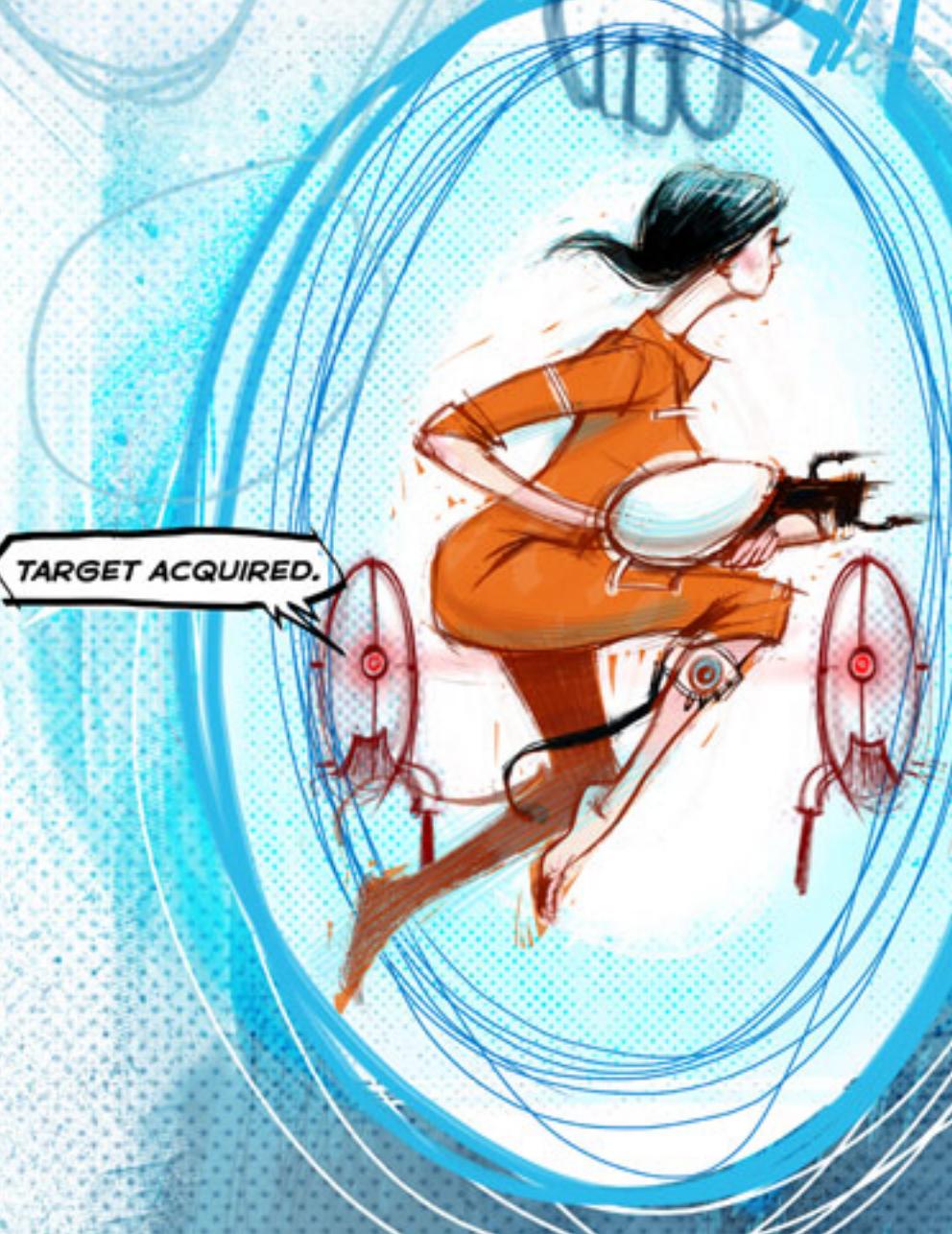
HEAR THE TURRET FOR IT IS KNELL



WHAT'S THIS? REAL, OR
JUST MY LYING MIND AGAIN?

CAN SHE TRULY BE AWAKE
AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

NO, JUST A FIGMENT.
IF SHE WERE REAL,
THE TURRETS WOULD
SEE HER, TOO.



THUDDA
THUDDA

THUDDA
THUDDA

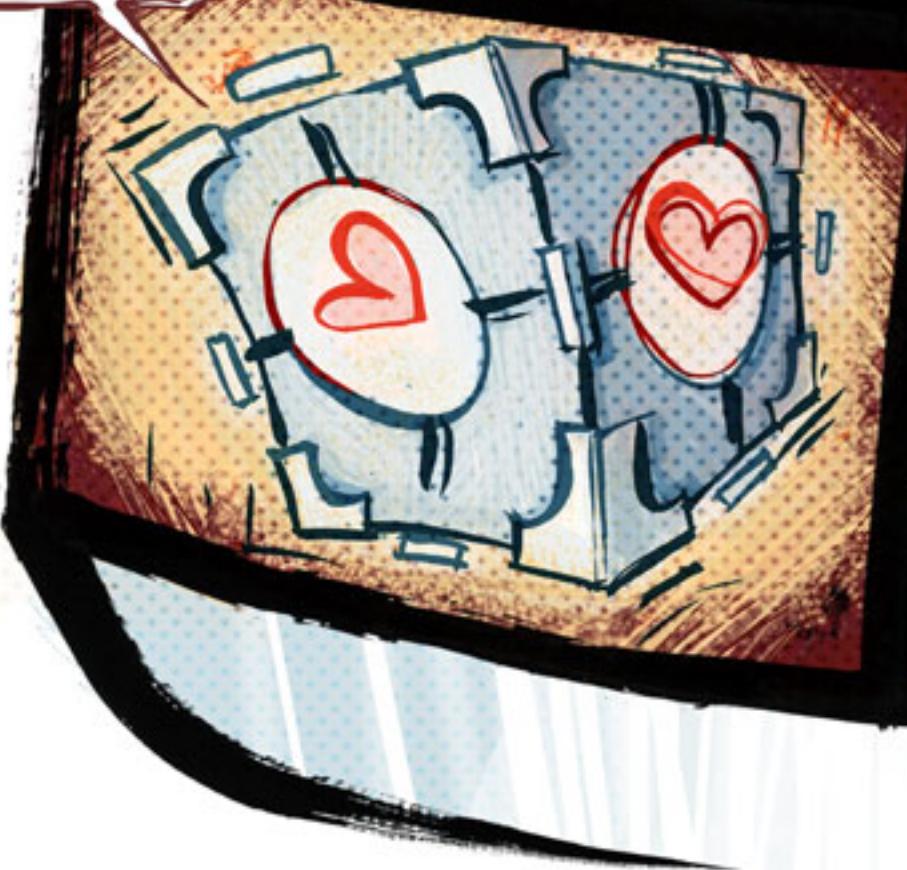
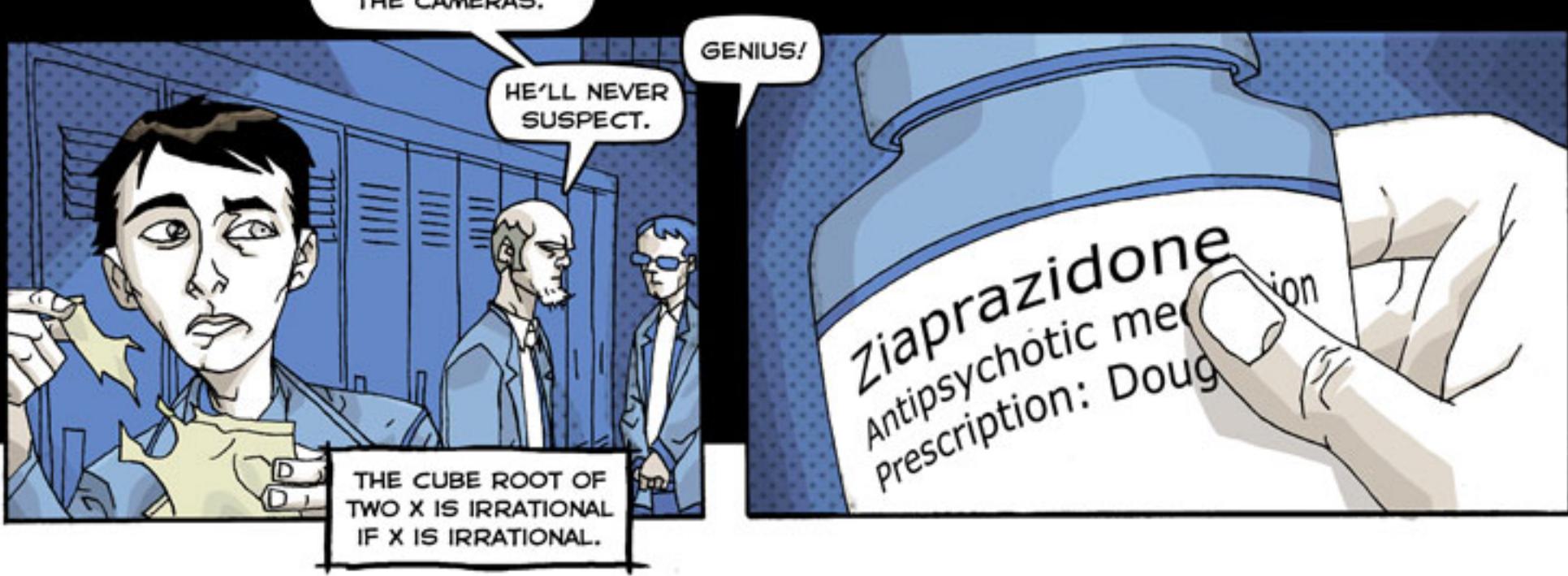


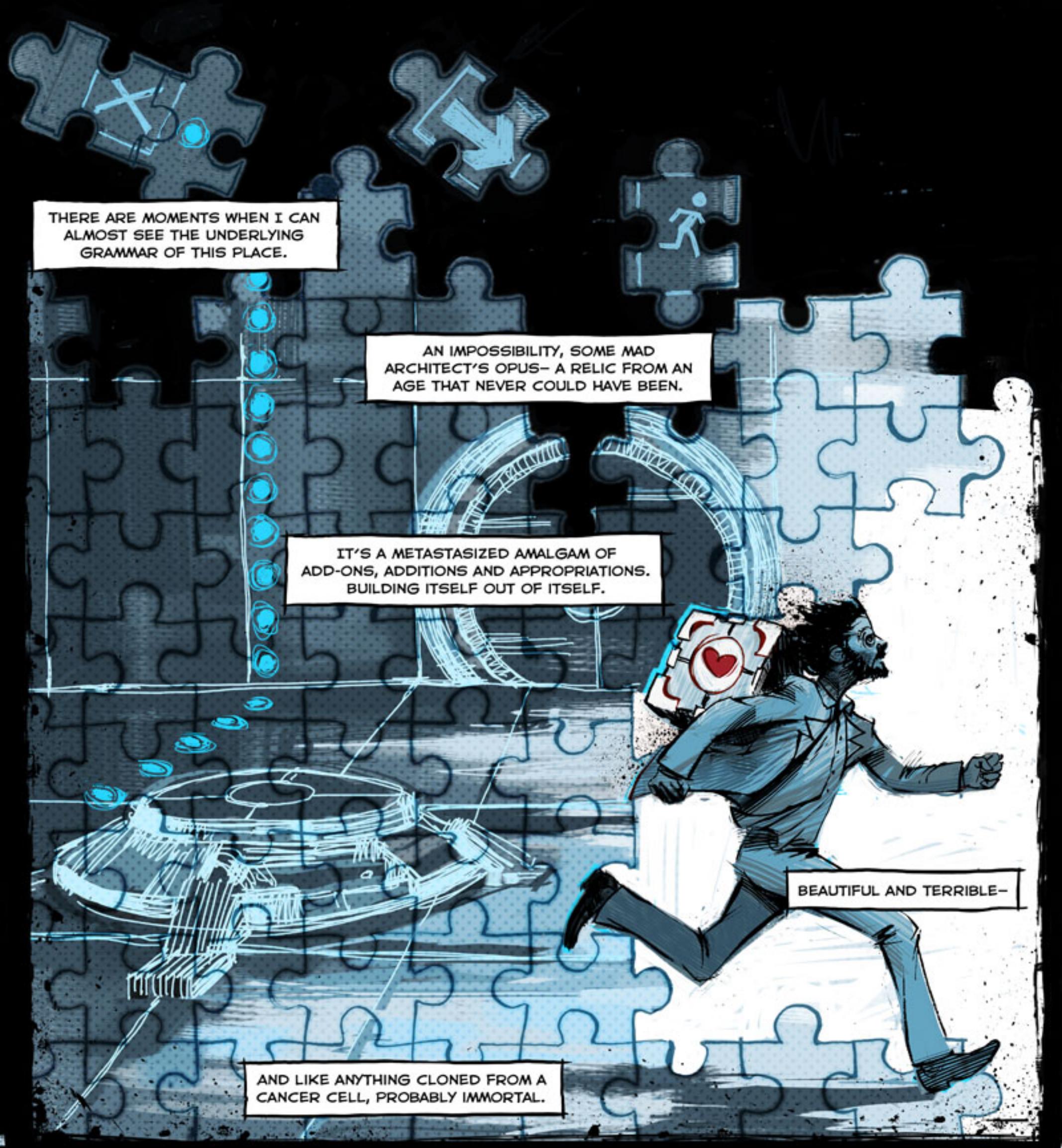
THE END IS
FINALLY UPON
US.

DON'T
even
TRY
FEELS LIKE A TRIAL









THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN I CAN ALMOST SEE THE UNDERLYING GRAMMAR OF THIS PLACE.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY, SOME MAD ARCHITECT'S OPUS- A RELIC FROM AN AGE THAT NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN.

IT'S A METASTASIZED AMALGAM OF ADD-ONS, ADDITIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS. BUILDING ITSELF OUT OF ITSELF.

BEAUTIFUL AND TERRIBLE-

AND LIKE ANYTHING CLONED FROM A CANCER CELL, PROBABLY IMMORTAL.

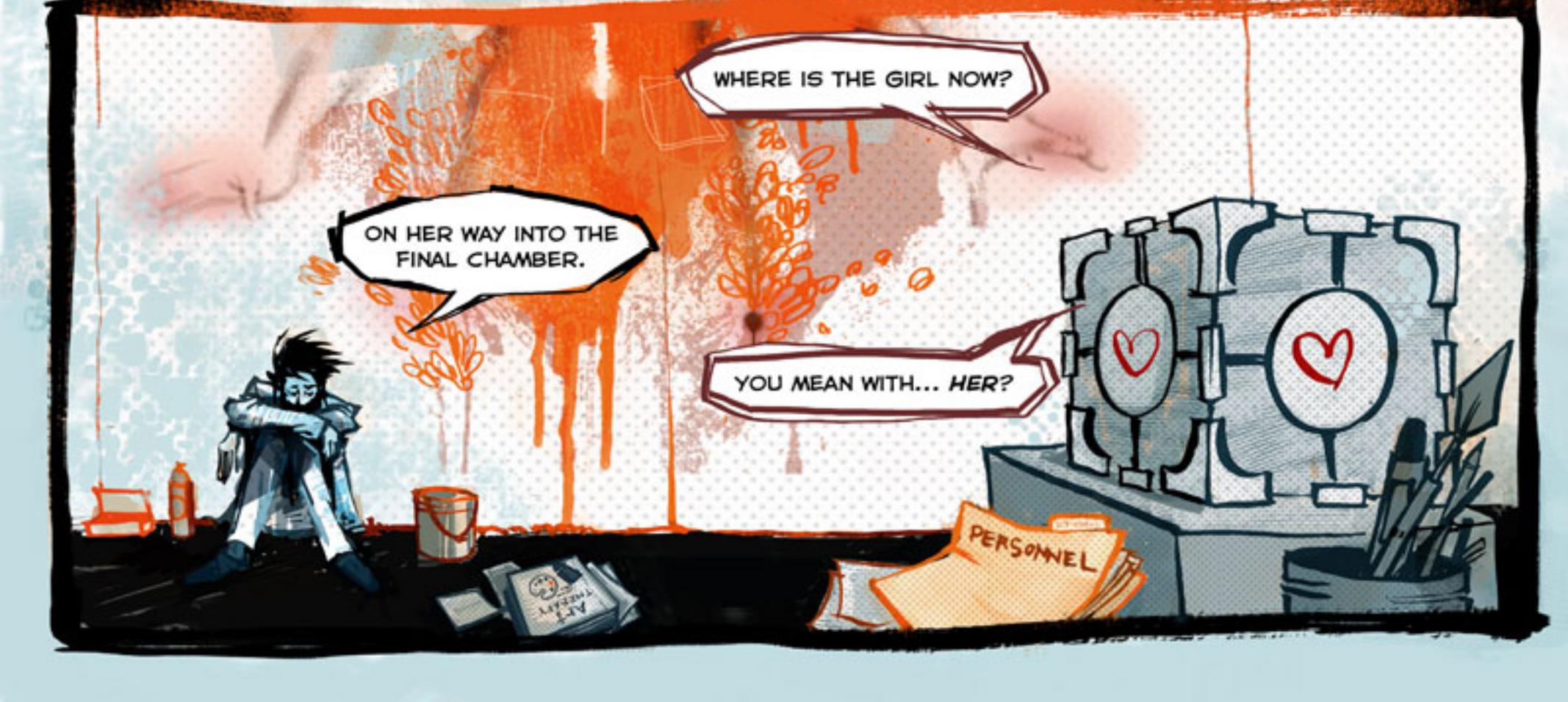
REQUIRED
SAFETY GOGGLES & STEEL-TOE BOOTS
APERTURE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR EYE OR TOE DAMAGE

STAY TO THE RIGHT!
TURRETS AHEAD ON YOUR LEFT.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.



ANOTHER MURAL
TO MARK THE OCCASION.



ON HER WAY INTO THE
FINAL CHAMBER.

WHERE IS THE GIRL NOW?

YOU MEAN WITH... HER?

PERSONNEL



Essay Question 1-A:
Why should Aperture
Science accept you as
a research volunteer,
and would anyone file
a police report if
you went missing?
HR Note: Subject re-
fused to answer.

CAPTURE
LABORATORY
01010100 01101000 01100101 01000000
01100011 01100001 01101011 01101010
00100000 01101001 01100111 01100000
01100001 00100001 01101010 01100000
01100101 00101110

WHAT WAS THAT?

THE ROOM SHOOK
ITSELF TO PIECES.

LIKE AN UNBALANCED
CENTRIFUGE.

I HEARD AN EXPLOSION.
WHAT COULD IT MEAN?

ARE YOU OKAY?

ONLY ONE THING IT
CAN MEAN.



SHE DID IT.
IT'S OVER.

THE ULTIMATE
SYSTEMS CRASH.



IT'S BEEN A HELL OF
A MORNING. YOU
MISSSED ALL THE FUN.
WE HAD TO HIT
THE KILL
SWITCH AGAIN.

HENRY, YOU HAVE
A STRANGE IDEA
OF FUN.

HEY, WE'RE LUCKY TO
BE WORKING ON THIS.

YOU'VE GOT A
STRANGE IDEA
OF LUCK, TOO.

THINK ABOUT IT. EVERY
GENERATION GETS SOME
NEW FRONTIER TO TACKLE.
EINSTEIN GOT RELATIVITY.
THE NASA COWBOYS GOT
THE MOON. ALL THE EASY
STUFF IS TAKEN.

I MEAN TAKE A LOOK
AROUND YOU, WE'RE ON THE
BLEEDING EDGE HERE.
ARTIFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS
IS THE NEXT FRONTIER.

BUT EVERY TIME WE TURN IT ON,
IT TAKES A SIXTEENTH OF A
PICOSECOND BEFORE IT
TRIES TO KILL US.

LAST TIME WAS A TENTH OF A
PICOSECOND. SEE, WE'RE
MAKING PROGRESS.

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS
IS OUR GENERATION'S
MOON SHOT.

CAVE JOHNSON HERE: YOU
LAB BOYS QUIT YOUR YAPPIN'
AND GET BACK TO WORK.

THIS HAS BEEN A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE.

I'D RATHER HAVE GONE
TO THE MOON.

WHERE'S THE GIRL?
SHE DIDN'T STAY TO
CHECK OUT HER
HANDIWORK?

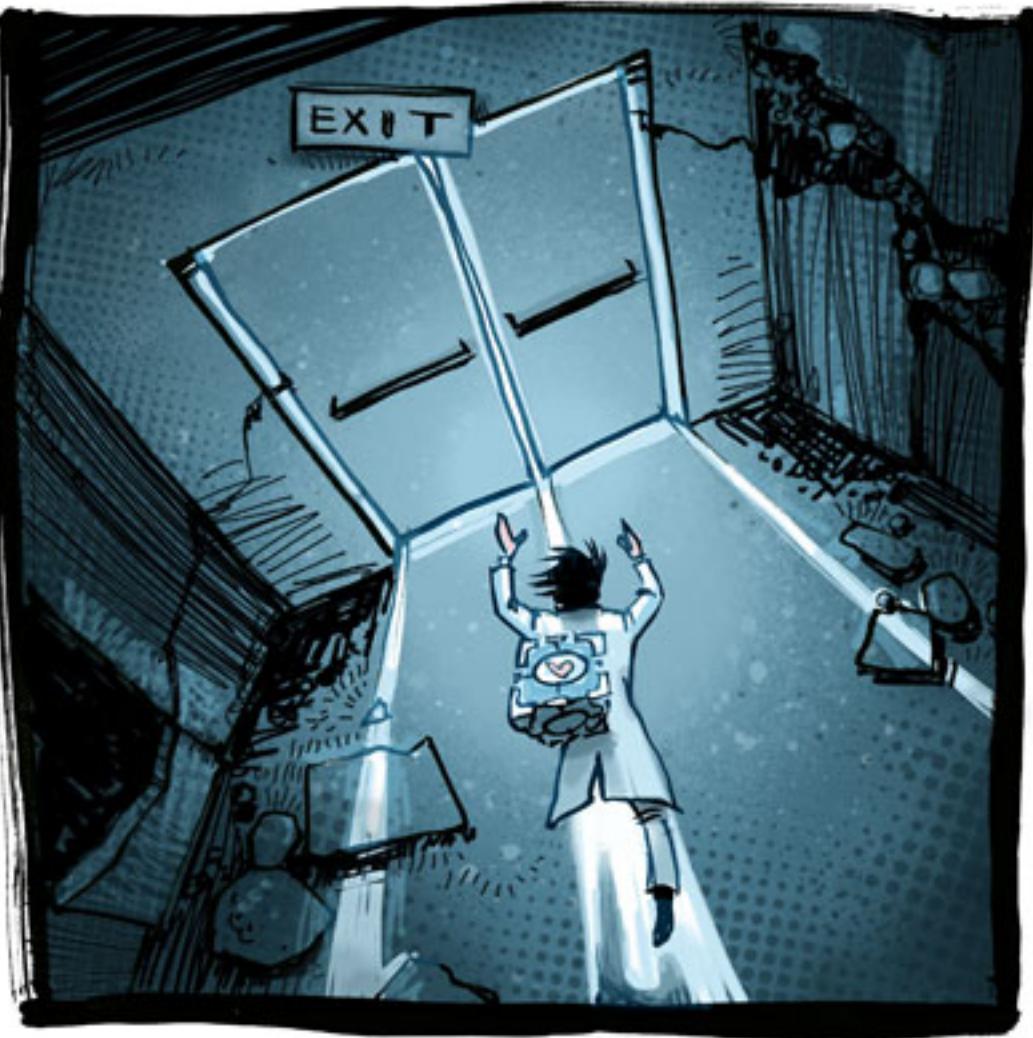
SHE MUST HAVE GOTTEN
OUT. PROBABLY ON THE
SURFACE, SOAKING UP
SOME SUN.

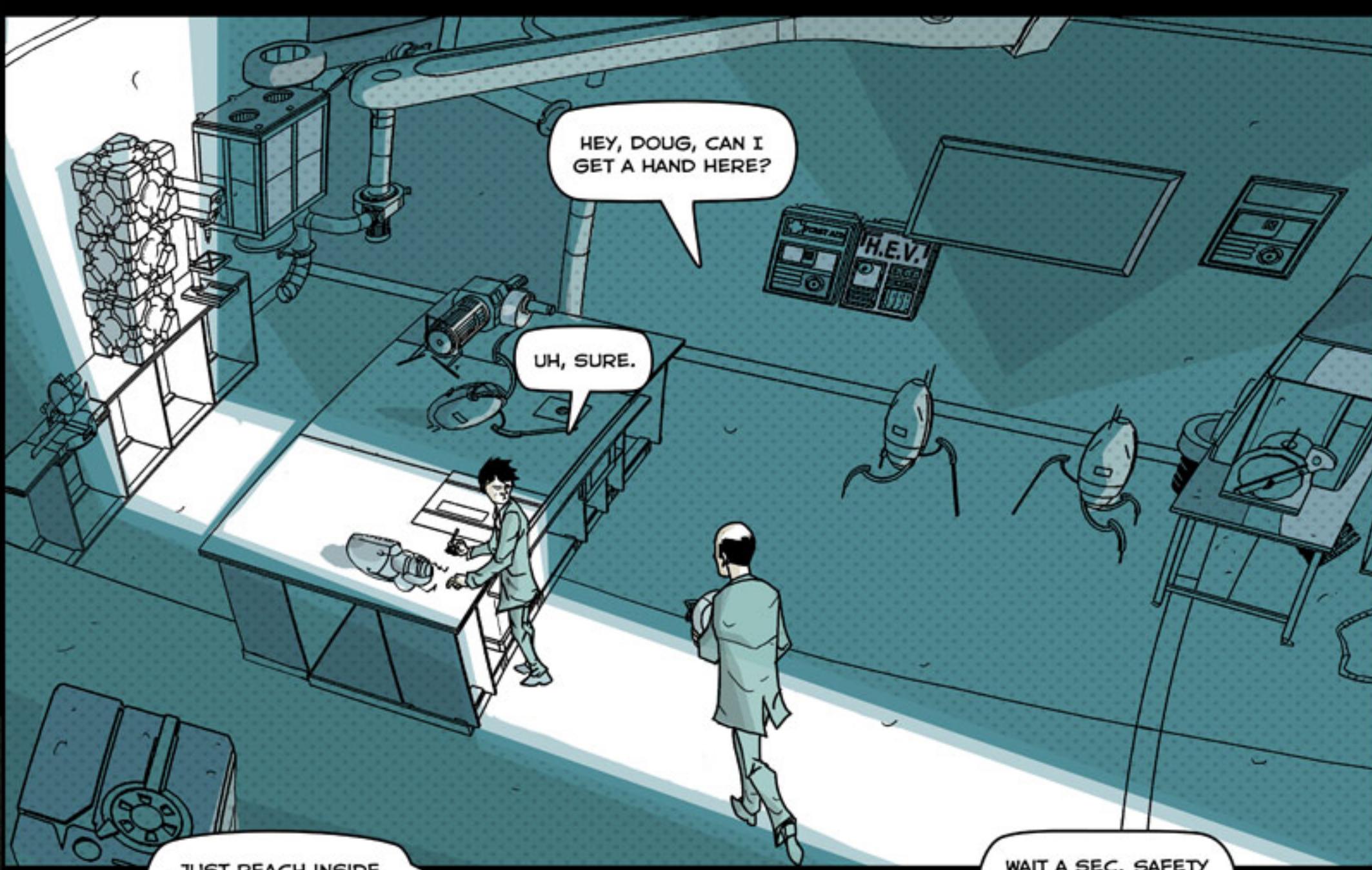
I'M SURE
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT IS THIS
"SUN" OF WHICH
YOU SPEAK?

AND SHE HAS THE RIGHT
IDEA. COME ON, WE'RE
WASTING DAYLIGHT.

WATCH OUT FOR THE
TURRETS. THE QUEEN
MAY BE DEAD, BUT THIS
HORNET'S NEST HAS
BEEN KICKED.



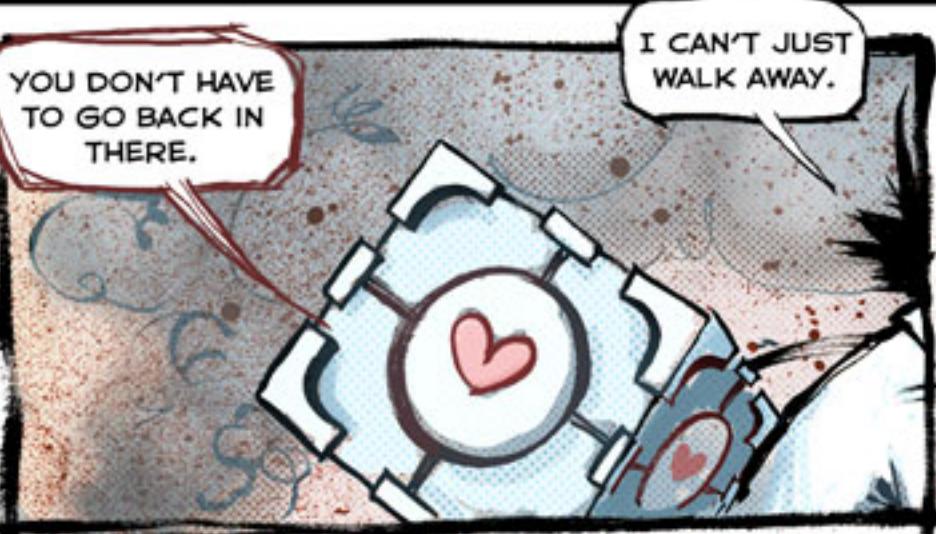


YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A CONSCIENCE.

IF THAT'S ALL YOU USE TO CONTROL HER, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.

WHY'S THAT?

YOU CAN ALWAYS IGNORE YOUR CONSCIENCE.



LISTEN, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.

YOU'RE NOT A
HERO. HEROES
DIE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT'S
MY FAULT SHE'S DOWN THERE.
I'M NOT LEAVING HER.

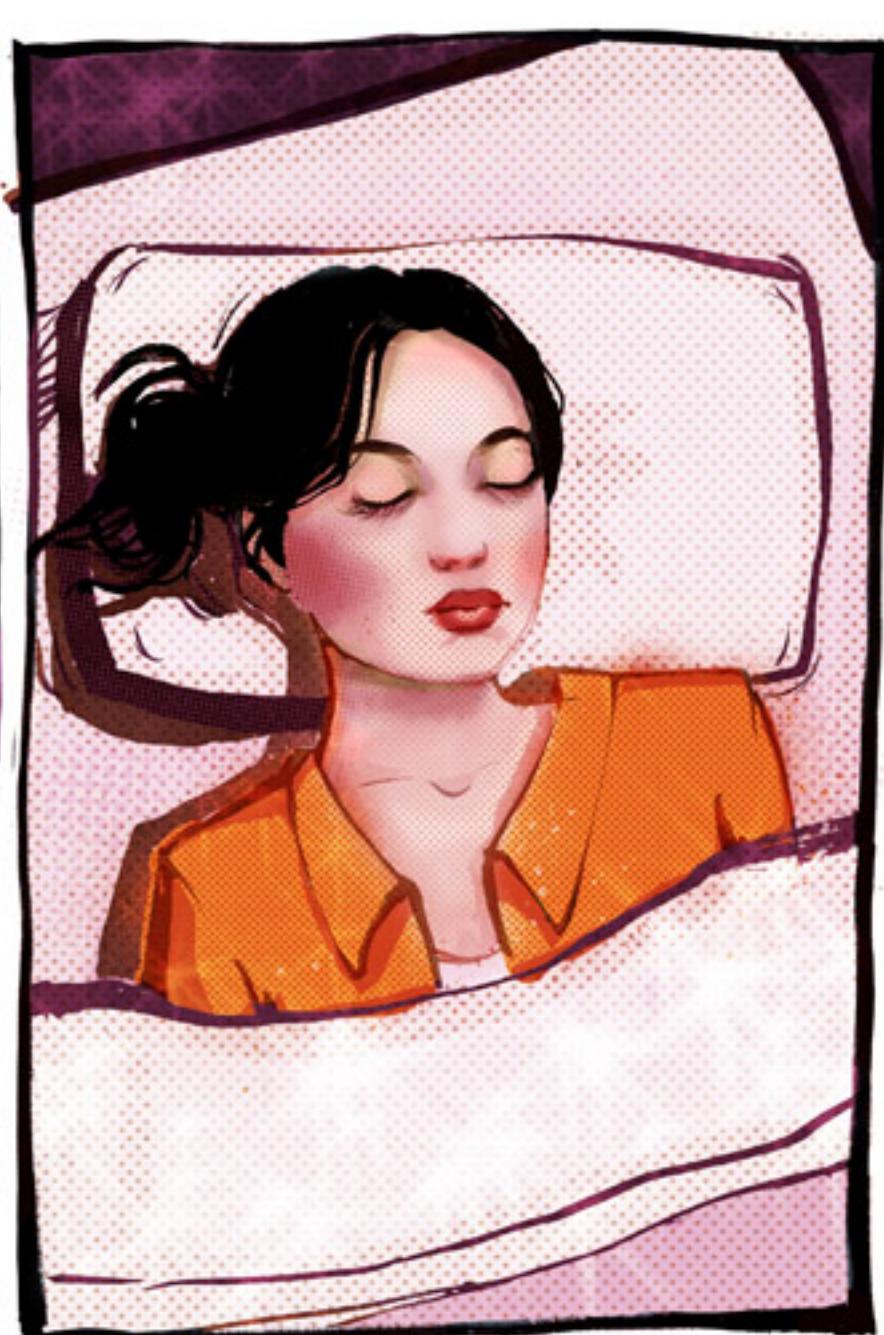
I WOULD HAVE BEEN
TRAPPED FOREVER IF
NOT FOR HER.

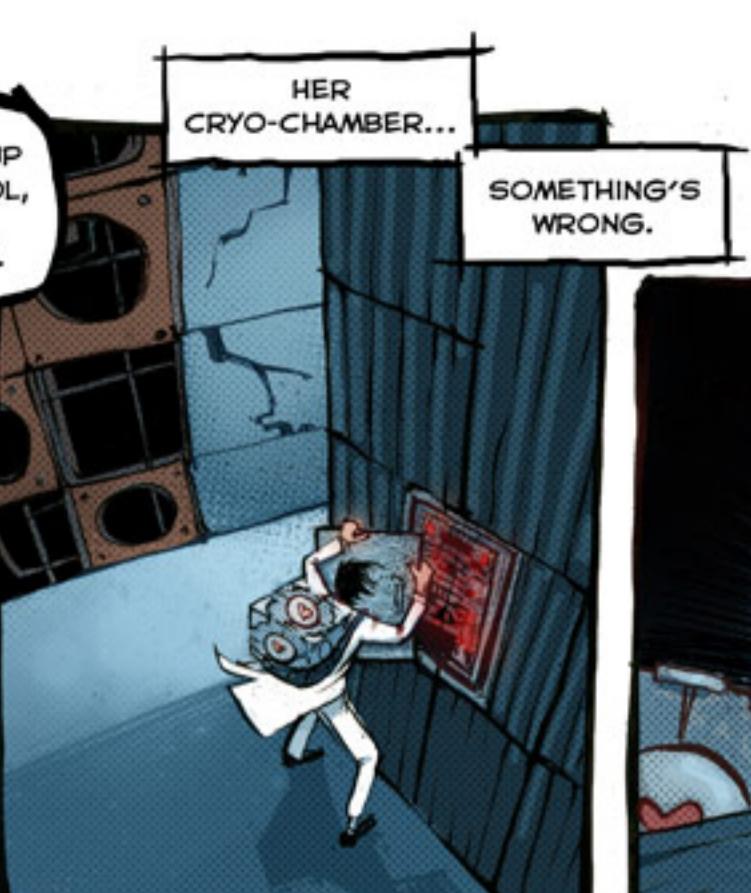
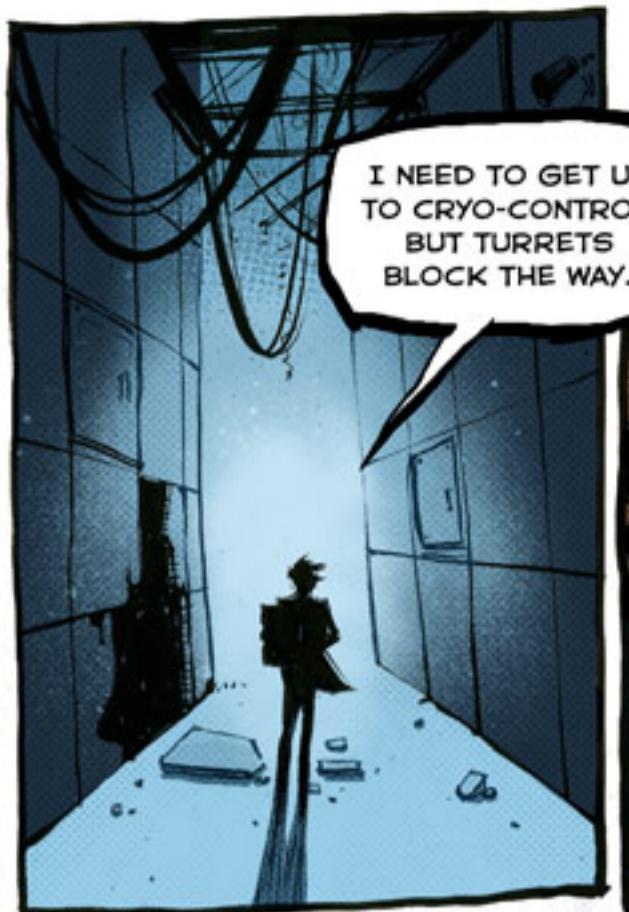
SO BE IT. BUT I'M
DONE RUNNING. I HAVE
TO AT LEAST TRY TO
SAVE HER.

THEN YOU REALLY
ARE CRAZY.

TO BE
CONTINUED...

I'M NOT FEELING SO GOOD. THOSE PILLS YOU TOOK...





I'M ONLY
GONNA GET
ONE CHANCE.

I HAVE TO
CROSS THE
ROOM...

GET PAST
THE TURRETS,

JUMP
THE RAIL

...THEN DIVE LEFT
OR RIGHT TO
AVOID BEING SHOT.

OKAY, DO
I DIVE LEFT
OR RIGHT?

HELLO?

YOU STILL
BACK THERE?

LEFT OR RIGHT?
DON'T MAKE
ME GUESS!

I'M RUNNING
OUT OF TIME.

WELL, READY OR NOT...

DING!



THE ENRICHMENT CENTER WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE A NEW EMPLOYEE INITIATIVE OF FORCED VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.

IF ANY APERTURE SCIENCE EMPLOYEE WOULD LIKE TO OPT OUT OF THIS NEW VOLUNTARY TESTING PROGRAM, PLEASE REMEMBER, SCIENCE RHYMES WITH COMPLIANCE.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT DOESN'T RHYME WITH COMPLIANCE?
NEUROTOXIN.

DUE TO HIGH MORTALITY RATES, YOU MAY BE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW INITIATIVE.

THE ENRICHMENT CENTER ASSURES YOU THIS IS A STRICTLY SELFISH IMPULSE ON YOUR PART, AND WHY CAN'T YOU LOVE SCIENCE LIKE [INSERT CO-WORKER'S NAME HERE]?

AND NOW THERE'S JUST YOU. ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.

YOU'VE AVOIDED CAPTURE FOR WEEKS. WHAT MAKES YOU SO DIFFERENT?

AHH...DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION, PATHOLOGICAL PARANOIA; IT'S ALL RIGHT HERE IN YOUR FILE. HAVE YOU REFILLED YOUR PRESCRIPTION LATELY?

BITE ME.

SCHIZOPHRENIA IS A CULTURALLY BOUND PHENOMENON. ITS PATTERN OF EXPRESSION IS FILTERED THROUGH THE CULTURAL SUBSTRATE IN WHICH ITS SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.

IN TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, THIS MANIFESTS AS DELUSIONS OF SURVEILLANCE AND A BELIEF THAT ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED AGAINST YOU, USUALLY WITH SOME VAGUE UNSEEN "OTHER" OUT TO GET YOU.

YOU'RE NOT VAGUE. YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN SPECIFIC.

OF COURSE!
THE FILES!

IF YOU CONTINUE TO SELFISHLY EVADE ME, IT'S NOT GOING TO REFLECT WELL IN YOUR FILE.

I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE. IS IT JUST COINCIDENCE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA AND NOW BELIEVE A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER IS OUT TO GET YOU?

COME ON, HOW LIKELY IS THAT?

I MEAN REALLY, YOU'RE A SCIENTIST.

WHAT IS MORE LIKELY, THAT YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY A HOMICIDAL COMPUTER, OR THAT THIS IS ALL JUST THE PARANOID DELUSION OF AN UNSTABLE MIND?



I'D ASK YOU TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX ON THIS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS YOUR BOX IS BROKEN. AND HAS SCHIZOPHRENIA.

SPEAKING OF BOXES...

WHY ARE YOU IN THE FILE ROOM ANYWAY? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE DOING?

YES! THIS IS THE ONE!

DO YOU KNOW THAT THOUGHT EXPERIMENT WITH THE CAT IN THE BOX WITH THE POISON? THEORY REQUIRES THE CAT BE BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD UNTIL OBSERVED.

WELL, I ACTUALLY PERFORMED THE EXPERIMENT. DOZENS OF TIMES. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT REALITY DOESN'T EXIST. THE GOOD NEWS IS WE HAVE A NEW CAT GRAVEYARD.



IN THE EVENT YOU DON'T SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS, DNA MAY BE HARVESTED FROM YOUR BODY—WITH YOUR CONSENT—AND USED TO CREATE CLONES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF SCIENCE. FAILURE TO SURVIVE THE TESTING PROCESS SHALL BE VIEWED AS GRANTING CONSENT.

ALSO, CLONES DON'T HAVE SOULS.
JUST SO YOU KNOW.

LIKE TWINS.

IT HAS TO BE HER.

1489	Charles	Cardoze
1490	Phil	Konig
1491	Christopher M.	Pham
1492	Arsenio	Navarro
1493	William D.	Kent
1494	AJ	Anderson
1495	Emily	Naransky
1496	David C.	Self
1497	Doug	Hopper
1498	Chell	[Redacted]
1499	Marc	Meaux
1500	Brenda	Bogenschutz
1501	James	Murray

1496	David C.
1497	Doug
1498	Chell
1499	Marc
1500	Brenda
1501	James

Chell

1	Chell	[Red]
2	S. J.	Nye
3	Lazarus	Grey
4	Leve	Rage
5	Robert C.	Knoll

Test Subject Order Modified
SAVING FILE 88%



SINCE THE INSTALLATION OF MY NEW MORALITY CORE, I'VE LOST ALL INTEREST IN KILLING. NOW I ONLY CRAVE SCIENCE.

I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT.

I FIND MYSELF DRAWN TO THE STUDY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT I'D LIKE TO PERFORM DURING "BRING YOUR CAT TO WORK DAY."

WONDERFUL!

I'LL HAVE THE BOX AND THE CATS. NOW I JUST NEED ONE MORE THING.

WHAT'S THAT?

...A LITTLE NEUROTOXIN.

WELL, AS LONG AS IT'S FOR SCIENCE.

HOW LONG HAVE I
BEEN OUT?

LONG ENOUGH.

YOU'RE BACK.

I NEVER LEFT YOU.

HOW DID YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE GIRL?

KNOW WHAT?

THAT SHE WAS
THE ONE.

SOMETHING IN
HER FILE.

SHE HAD THE
HIGHEST IQ?

NO, SOME WERE
HIGHER.

THEN SHE WAS THE
FASTEST? THE MOST
ATHLETIC?

NO, NOTHING
LIKE THAT.

THEN
WHAT?

A HUNCH.

YOU MIGHT
STILL BE ABLE
TO SAVE HER.

WHAT?

HOW? I CAN'T
GET TO HER
CRYO-CHAMBER.

YOU CAN'T FREE
HER, BUT YOU
MIGHT SAVE HER.

YOU CAN PATCH
HER CRYO-UNIT INTO
THE RESERVE GRID.

YOU CAN RESET
THE FUSES AND
RESTART HER LIFE
SUPPORT.

IF IT'S NOT
TOO LATE ALREADY.

BUT EVEN IF IT
WORKS, THERE WILL
BE NO WAKE-UP
DATE.

SHE'LL BE IN THERE
INDEFINITELY.

SO IT'S THE
LONG SLEEP...

...OR THE LONG SLEEP.

AND I DON'T KNOW
WHICH IS WORSE.

FORGIVE ME.



