



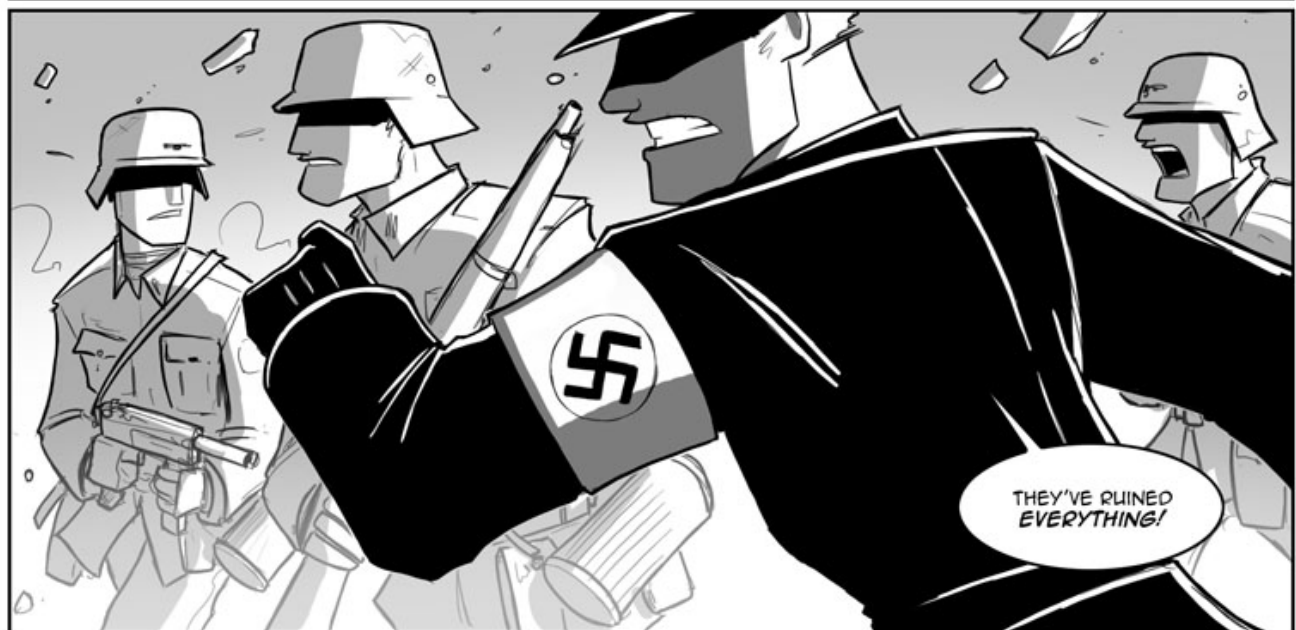
1 of 1

little victory



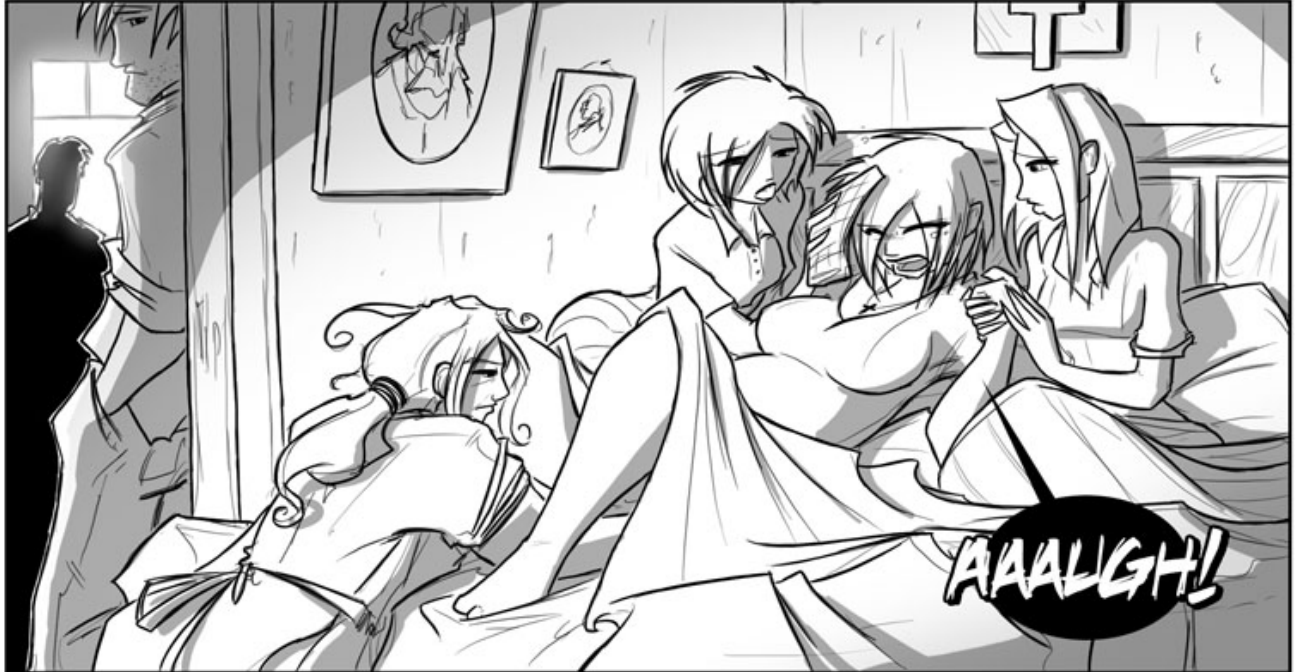
**CHILDREN
—OF—
ARRAS**

PHILLIP M JACKSON





PORTUGAL, NEARLY 9 MONTHS LATER.





VIENNA, AUSTRIA

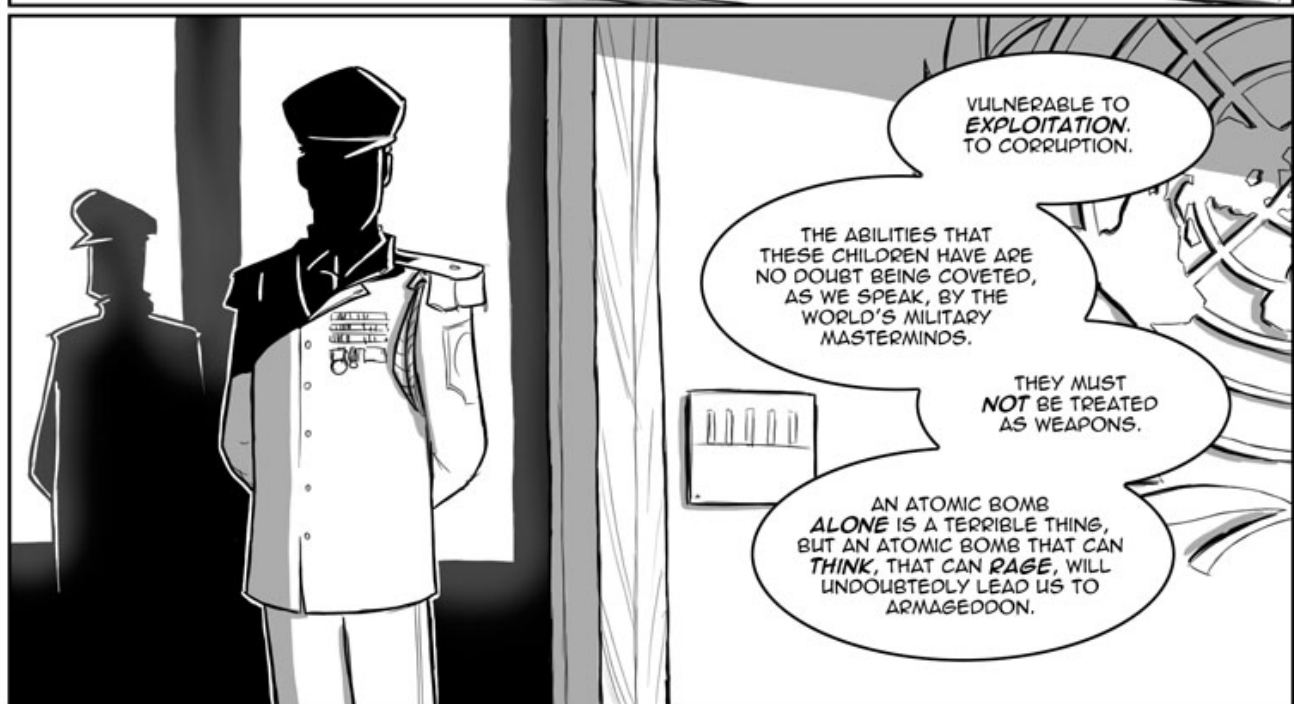
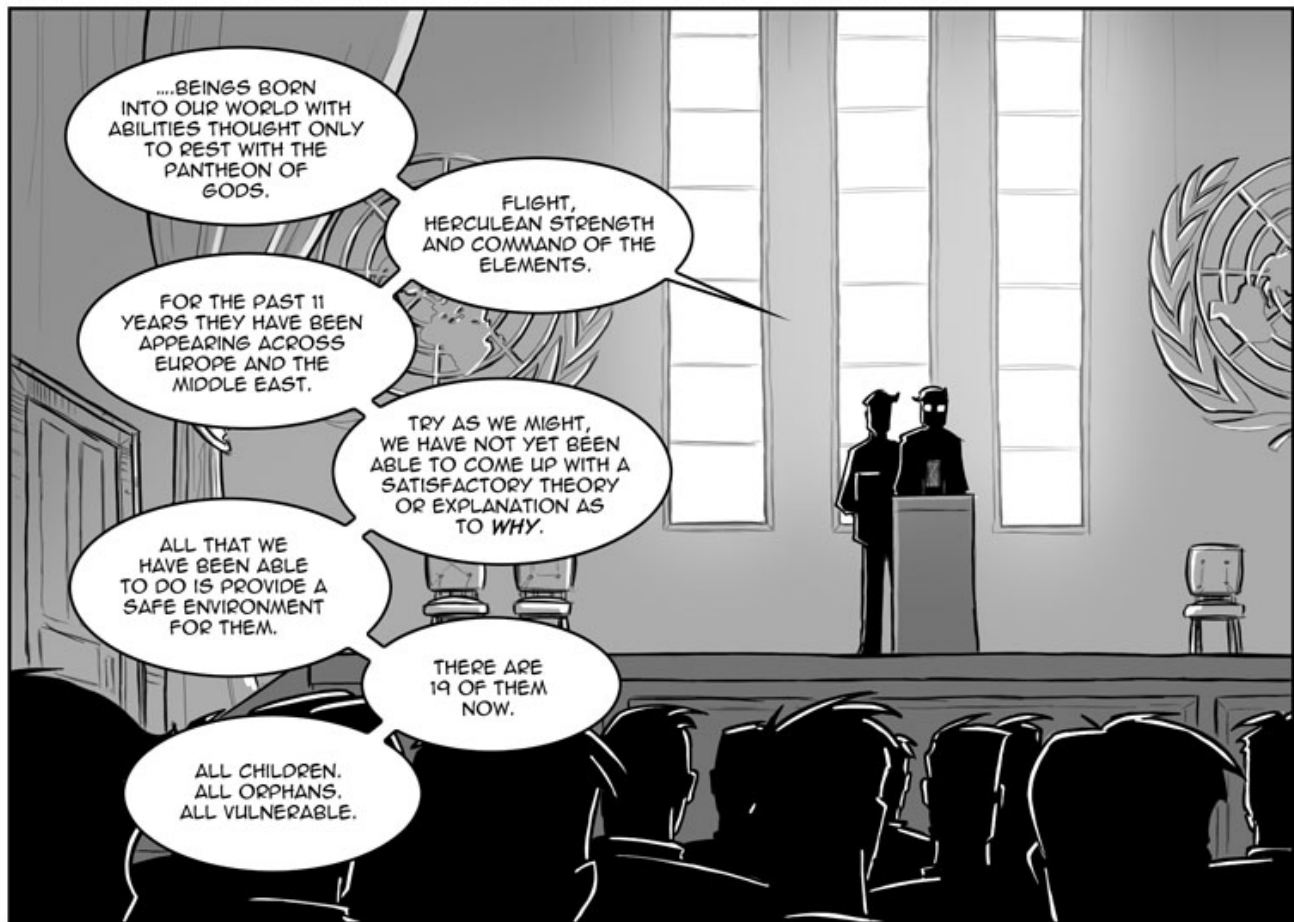














THEN...
WE **DESTROY**
THEM?



PLEASE READ
OUR RESEARCH
MORE CLOSELY,
SIR.

AN ATTEMPT TO
DO THAT WOULD
SURELY FAIL, AND
ONLY INSTIL IN THEM
A **HATRED** OF WE
MORTALS.

THEN WHAT
COURSE OF ACTION
DO YOU ADVISE,
DOCTOR?



ONE IN WHICH
WE CONTINUE TO
TEACH AND TRAIN
THEM.

WE SHELTER THEM
FROM THE ABSURD
POLITICAL WRANGLINGS
OF THE WORLD.

WE IMPRESS
UPON THEM THE GREAT
VALUE OF LIFE, HUMANITY
AND THE KEY NOTIONS OF
RIGHT AND WRONG.

AND THEN?



THEIR GIFTS
COULD BE OF
GREAT BENEFIT
TO MANKIND.

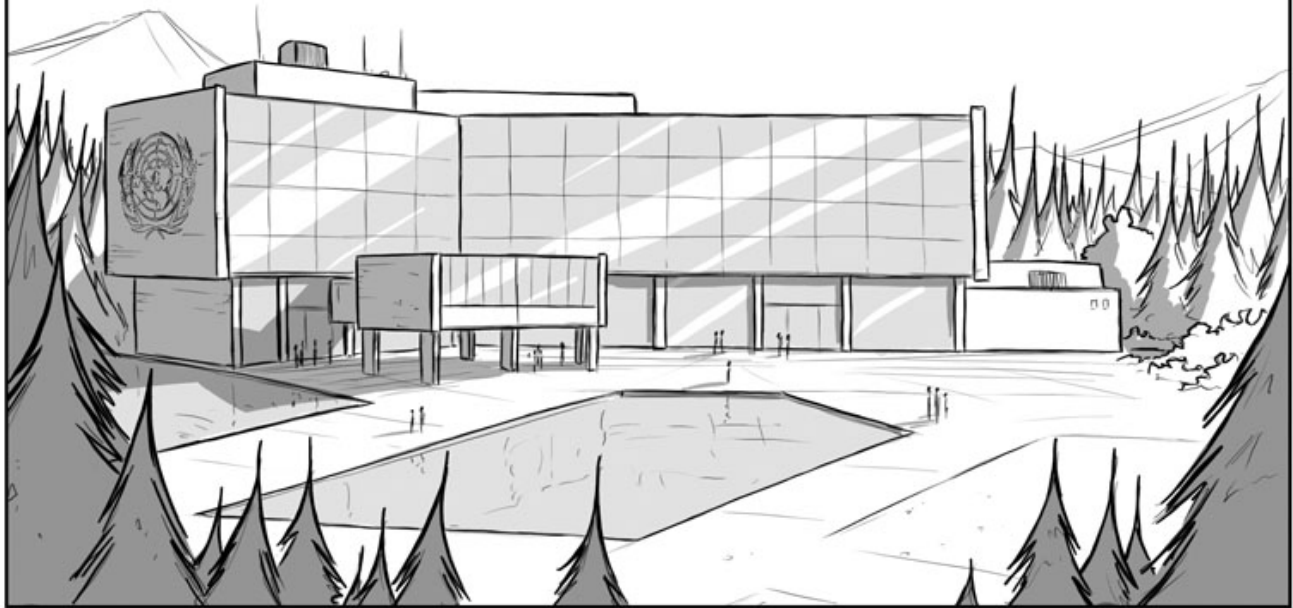
IT IS OUR PROPOSAL
THAT, WHEN READY, THEY
BE DEPLOYED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS, EVENLY
AND FAIRLY ACROSS THE
GLOBE, TO ASSIST WHEN
DIFFICULTIES ARISE.

TO BETTER
PEOPLE'S LIVES.

TO **PROTECT**,
TO **DEFEND**,
AND TO STAVE
OFF **DISASTER**.

IN 1955, THE
GENEVA SANCTIONED INDEPENDENT
PROGRAMME BEGAN AND THE
PANTHEON TREATY
WAS DRAWN UP.

NATIONS THAT SIGNED WOULD
BE GRANTED PROTECTION BY THE
CHILDREN TRAINED AT THE NEWLY
FOUNDED SEIGEL SCHUSTER INSTITUTE,
AND AGREE TO SEND INFANTS BORN
"PANTHEON" WITHIN THEIR BOARDERS
TO GENEVA FOR GSI EDUCATION.



AS ALL OF THE CHILDREN THUS FAR
HAD BEEN BORN OUTSIDE THEIR
SPHERES OF CONTROL, THE UNITED STATES
AND SOVIET UNION WERE THE FIRST TO
TAKE UP THE PEN.

MOST OTHER COUNTRIES
FOLLOWED SUIT, ALL WANTING TO
APPEAR ON AN EVEN FIELD WITH
THE SUPERPOWERS.





THE GREAT SURPRISE
WAS THAT BRITAIN AND A
NUMBER OF COMMONWEALTH
NATIONS DECLINED.



SINCE THE LATE
19TH CENTURY, BRITAIN HAS
HAD IN PLACE APPARATUS AND
INSTITUTE DESIGNED TO DEAL
WITH AND HARNESS SUCH
UNSTABLE ELEMENTS
AS THE PANTHEON.

BECAUSE OF OUR
EXISTING EXPERTISE, WE FEEL
THAT IT WOULD BE.... **UNFAIR** TO
REQUEST ANY FORM OF GSI
ASSISTANCE AND DEPRIVE
NATIONS MORE IN NEED
OF THEIR ATTENTION.

PRIME MINISTER EDEN



A YEAR LATER, BRITAIN, FRANCE
AND ISRAEL CONSPIRED TO REGAIN
CONTROL OF THE SUEZ CANAL.



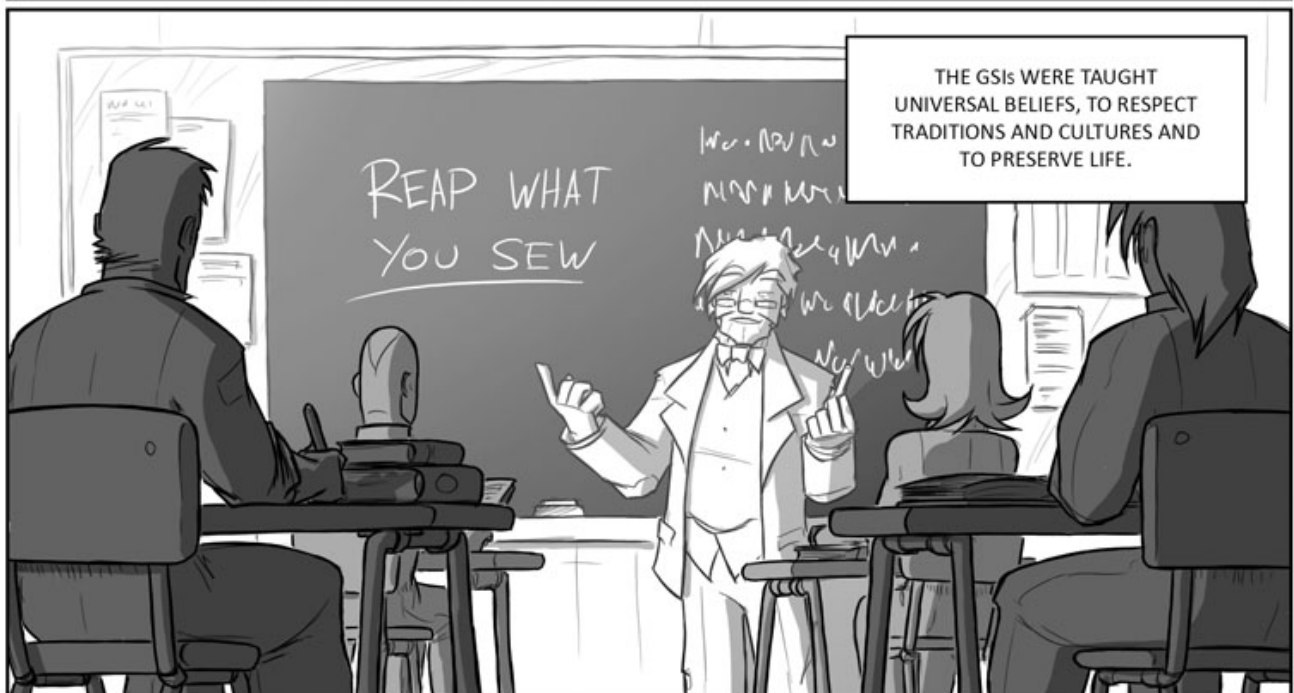
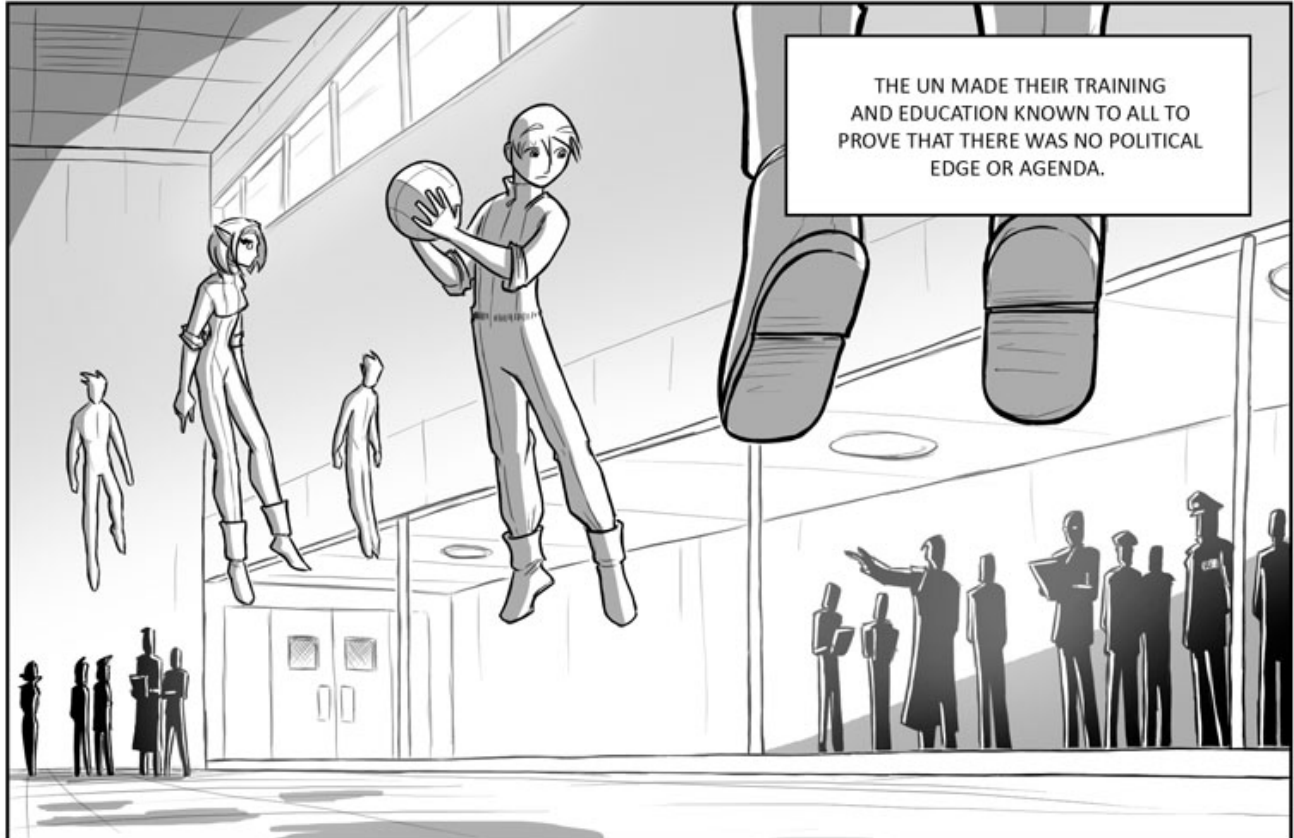
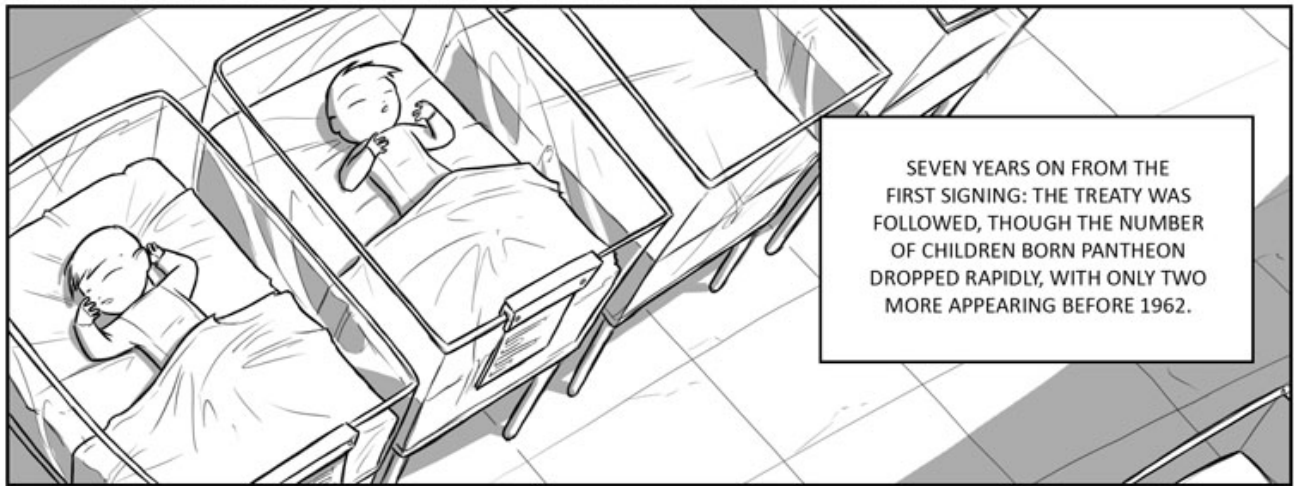
WORLD PRESSURE OVER THE
INCIDENT LEAD TO THE PLAN'S FAILURE,
AND GREAT EMBARRASSMENT FOR ALL
PARTIES INVOLVED.



WITH THE EMPIRE NOW SEEN TO BE WEAK AND
UNSUSTAINABLE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
FEARED FOR THE CONTINUED SECURITY OF
THEIR TERRITORIES, AND GAVE ADDITIONAL
POWERS TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE'S
OFFICE OF DANGEROUS ANOMALIES.

IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE REPRISALS,
THE ODA DIRECTOR GENERAL DEEMED GREAT
BRITAIN A GSI NO-FLY ZONE AND A REGION TO
BE PATROLLED BY THEIR OWN, HOME-GROWN
PANTHEON-CLASS FORCES.



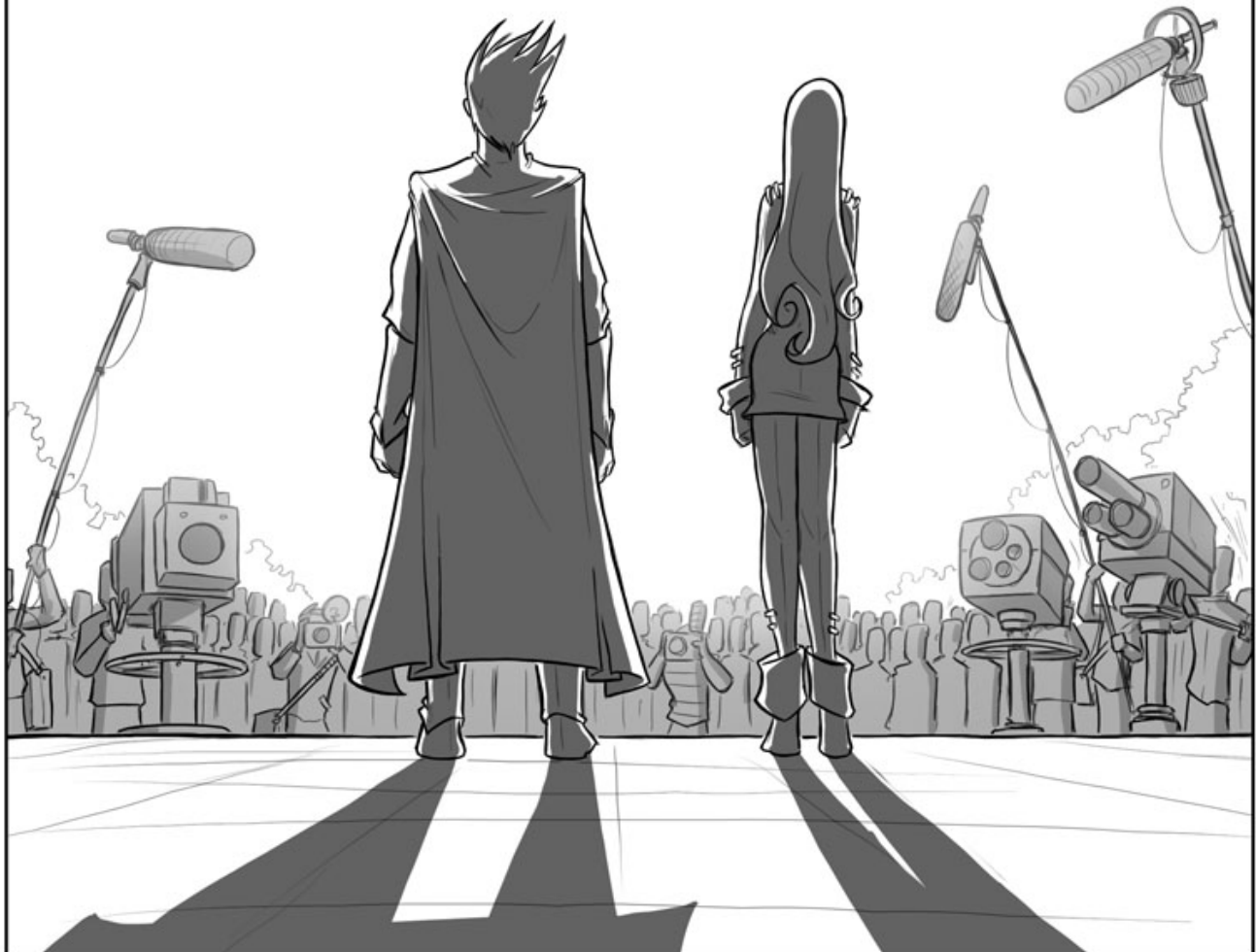


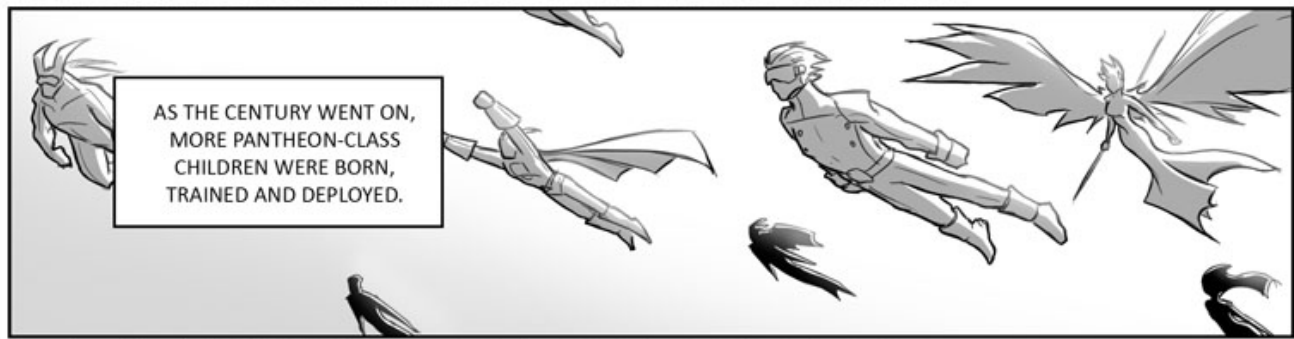
DOCTORS SIEGEL AND SCHUSTER HAD INTENDED TO KEEP THE CHILDREN IN TRAINING UNTIL THEY WERE 20 YEARS OF AGE, BUT AS THE WORLD AGAIN SLID TERRIFYINGLY CLOSE TO WAR, THEY CHOSE TO ACCELERATE THE PROGRAMME.



IN THE MIDST OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, THE ORIGINAL TWO CHILDREN FOUND IN 1944 WERE PRESENTED TO THE WORLD AS **OMEN AND TITANIA.**

THEY WERE THE FIRST GSIs TO BE SENT OUT TO PROTECT MANKIND FROM THE DANGERS OF THIS ATOMIC AGE.





AS THE CENTURY WENT ON,
MORE PANTHEON-CLASS
CHILDREN WERE BORN,
TRAINED AND DEPLOYED.

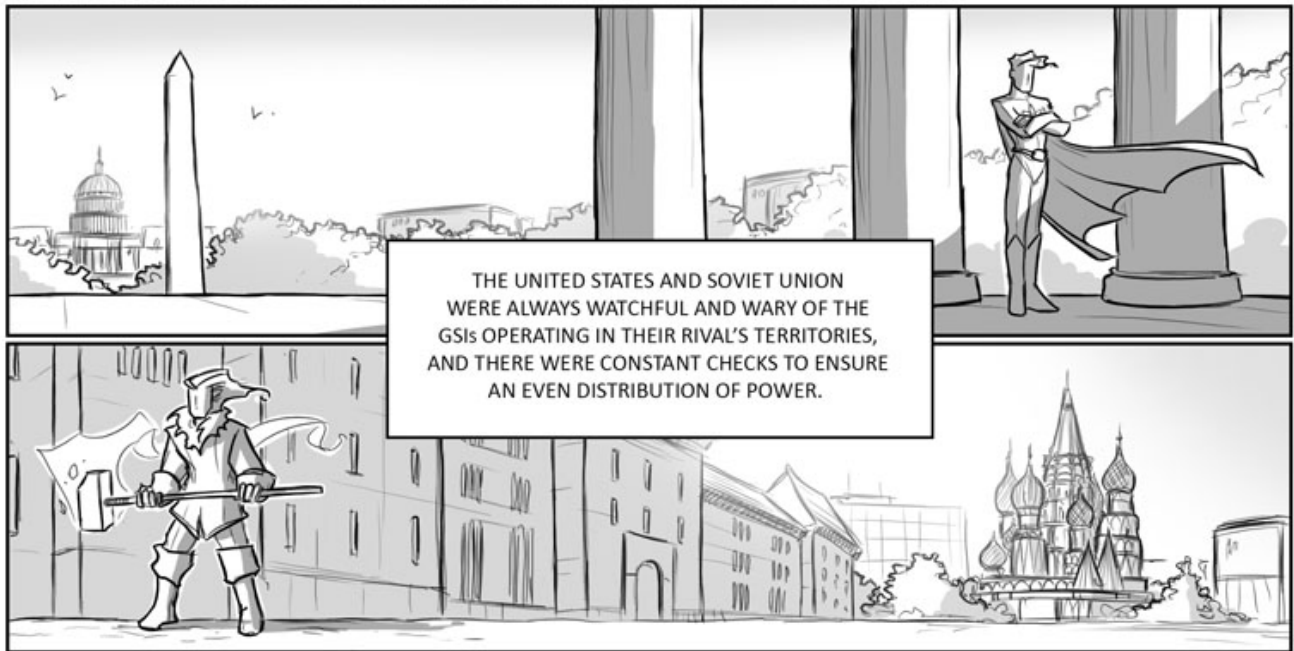


THE WORLD WAS
DIVIDED INTO SECTORS TO
ENSURE FAIR GSI COVERAGE
OF ALL TREATY NATIONS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIVE-TIER
SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT BY WHICH
ALL SUPER-HUMAN ABILITIES WOULD BE
GAUGED, BE THEY **BORN** PANTHEON.....



....OR OTHERWISE.



SAVIOURS.

HEROES.

