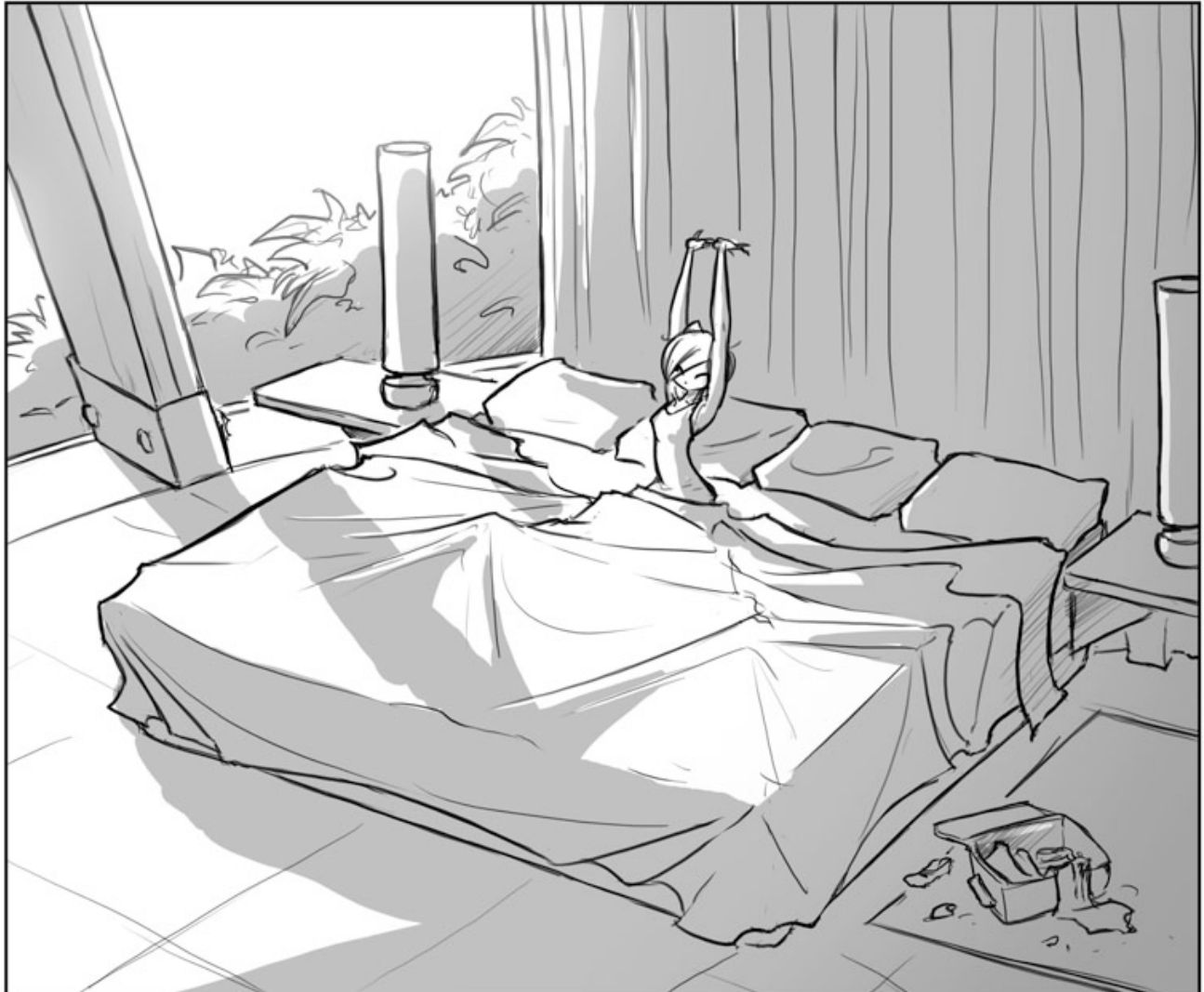
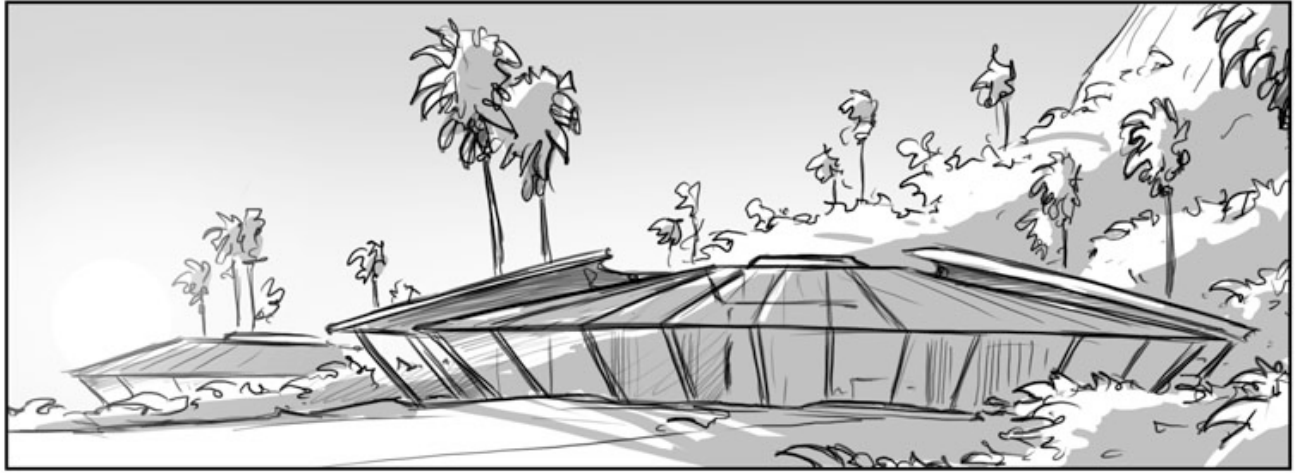
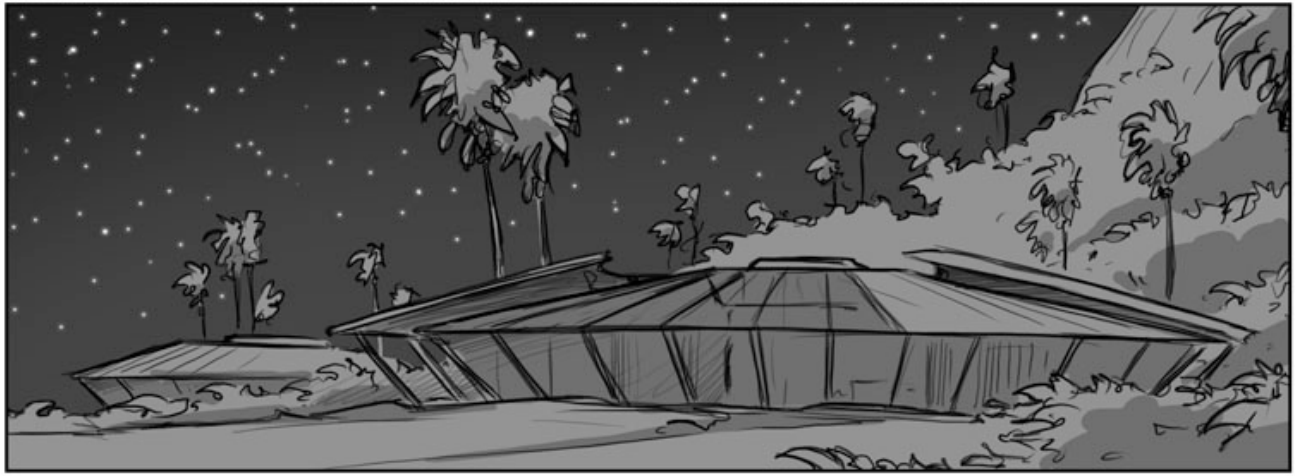
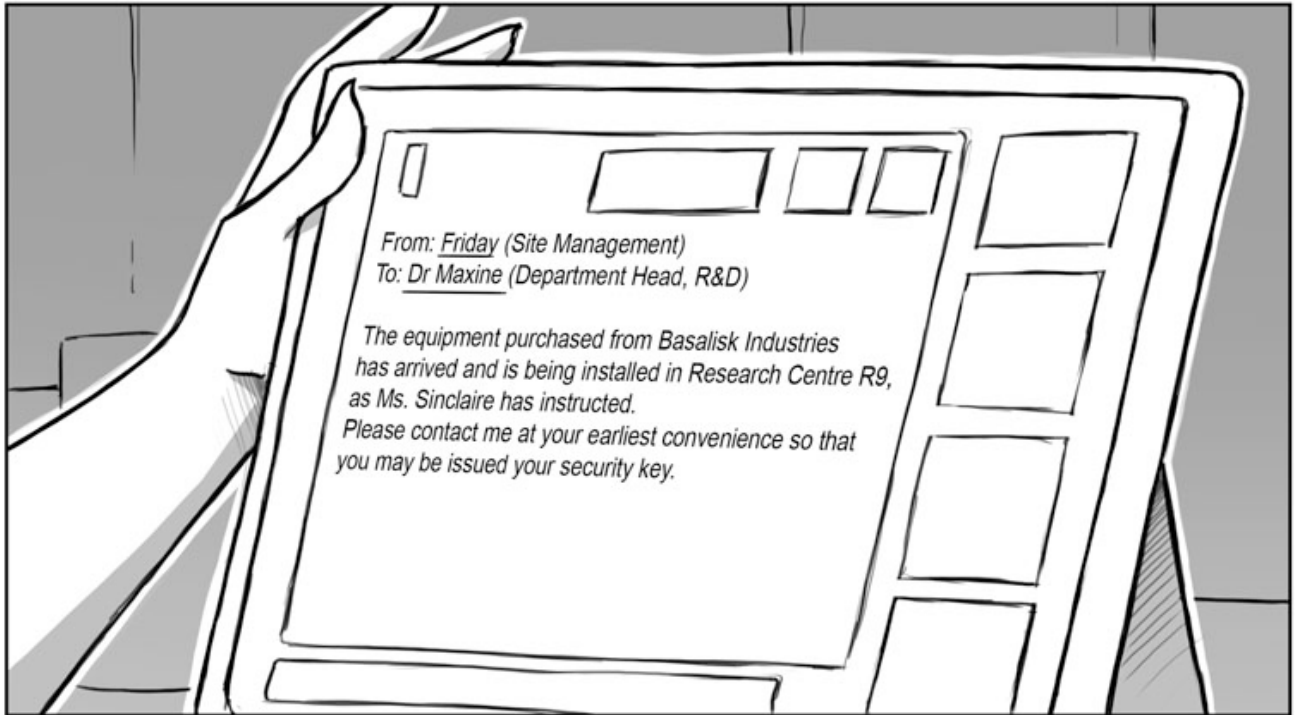
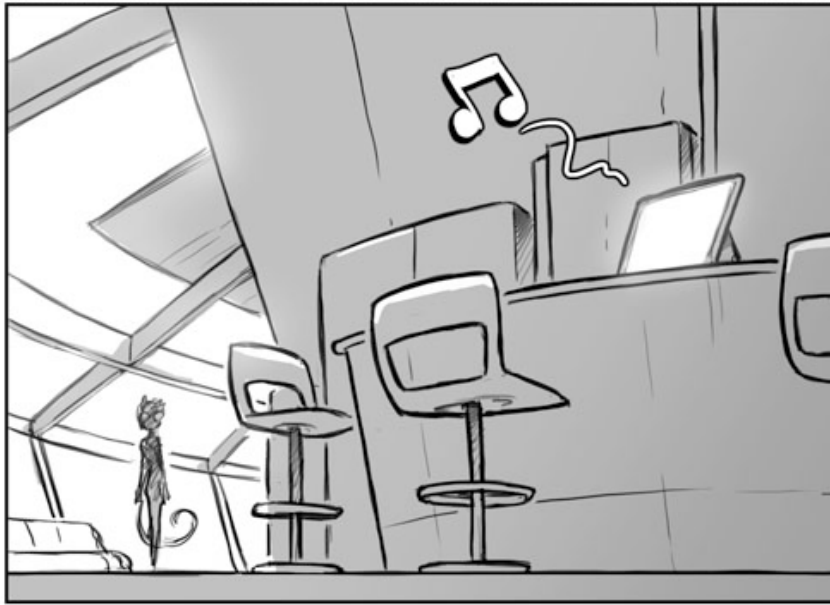


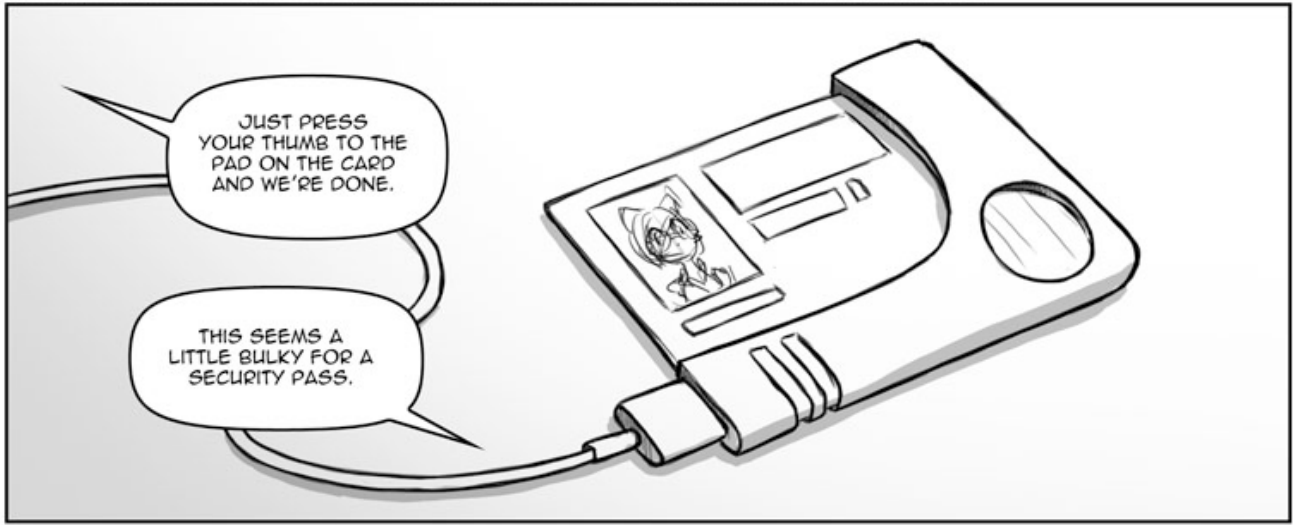
THE
APSARA
PORTFOLIO

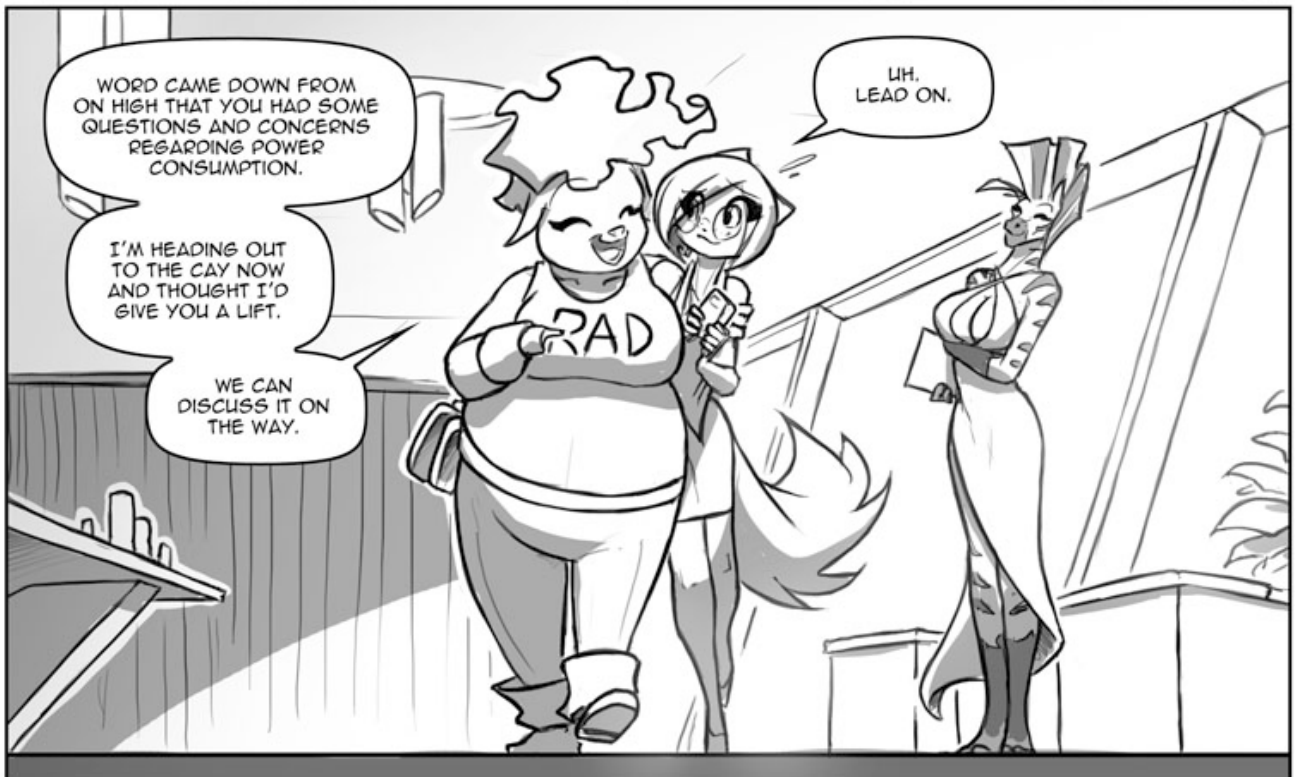
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LET ME GUESS: YOUR HEAD IS SPINNING AND YOU'RE FEELING TOTALLY OVERWHELMED?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



I WAS THE SAME WHEN CHLOE RECRUITED ME!

THE FREEDOM WAS TERRIFYING!

WHERE DO YOU START?!

SWEPT OFF MY FEET, OFF TO THIS CRAZY ISLAND AND GIVEN PRETTY MUCH TOTAL AUTHORITY TO PURSUE ANY AVENUE OF RESEARCH I FANCY.

I WAS RUNNING AROUND IN TOTAL PANIC FOR THE FIRST WEEK.



TRIAL BY FIRE SEEMS TO BE THE WAY THE BOSS GETS PEOPLE WORKING, THOUGH.

OF COURSE THERE'S A BAR.

THAT AND THE BIGGEST PERKS YOU'LL EVER, EVER GET IN THIS BUSINESS.

THE MORE I SEE OF THIS PLACE THE MORE IT SEEMS LIKE A RESORT THAN A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX.

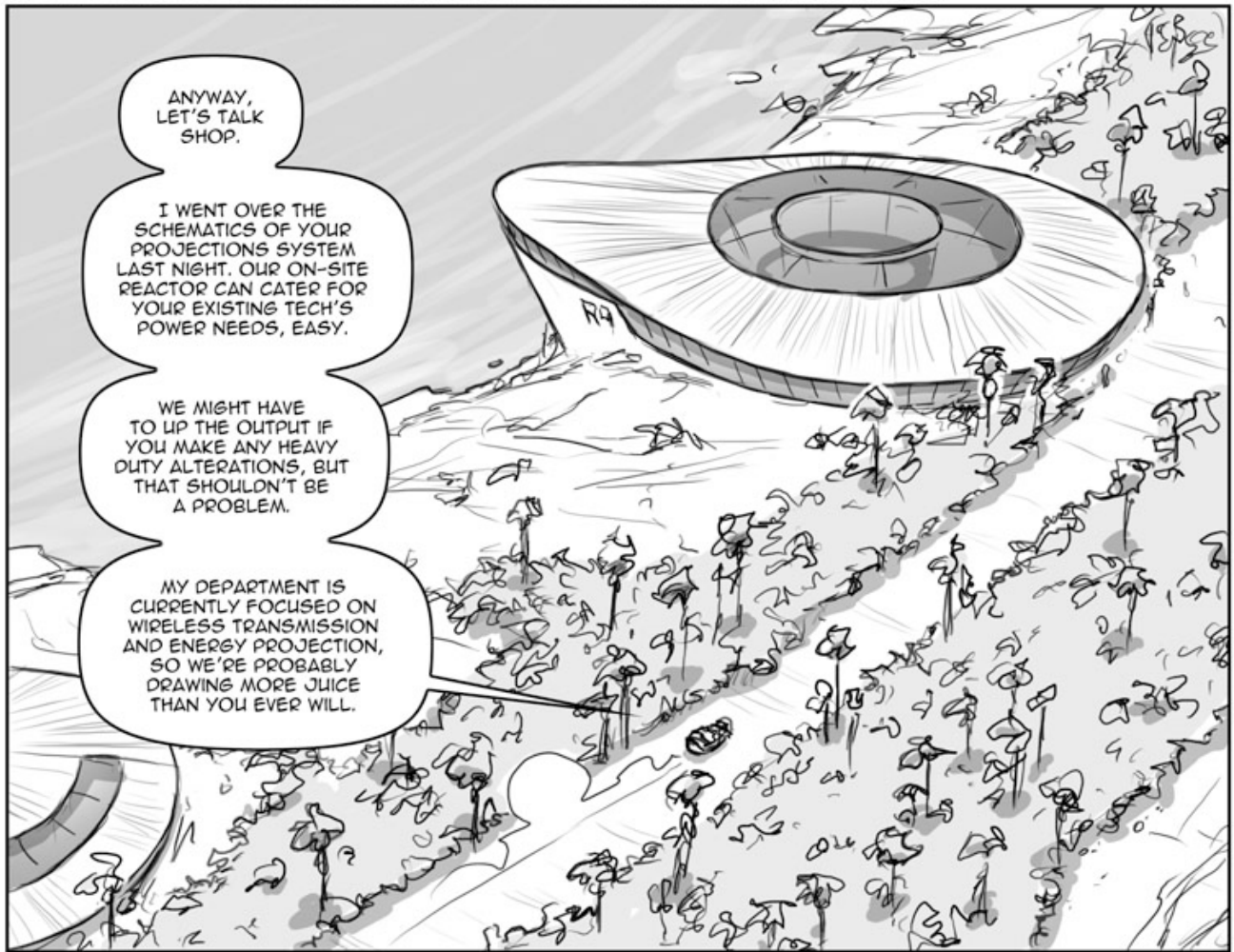
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE STAFF BAR, TONIGHT. YOU'LL SEE JUST HOW MUCH OF A PARTY THIS PLACE CAN BE.



AAAH! I HEAR DISAPPROVAL!

THE BOSS IS GONNA LOVE YOU!

SHE LOVES A CHALLENGE!

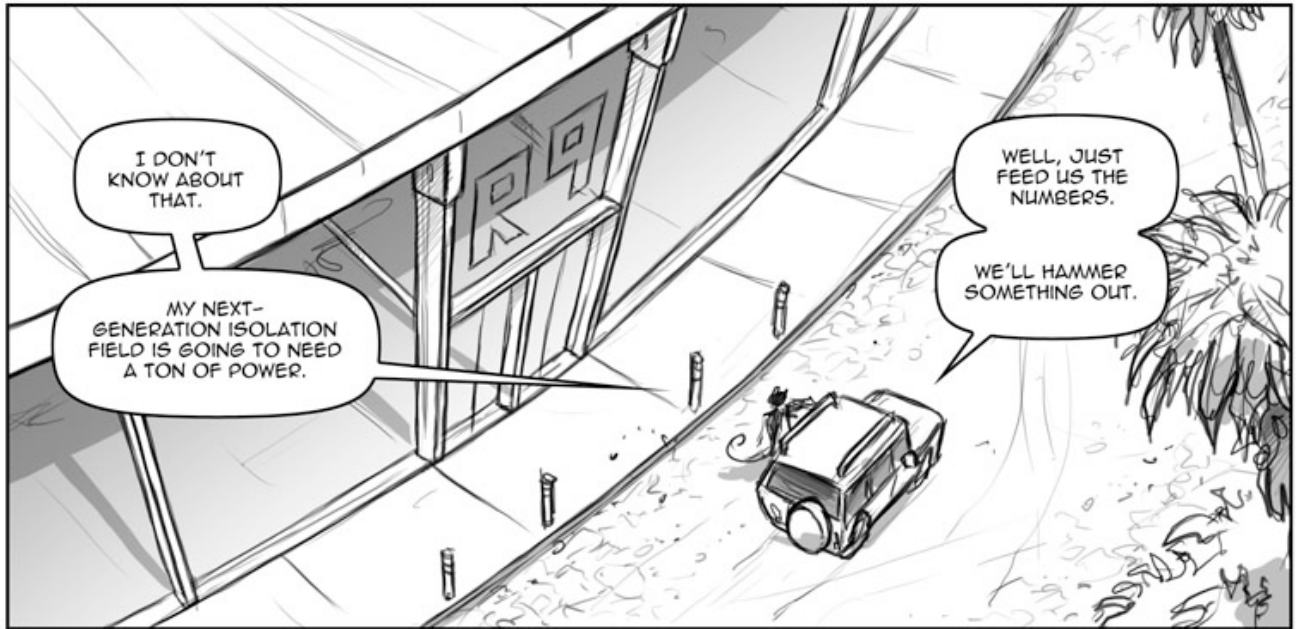


ANYWAY, LET'S TALK SHOP.

I WENT OVER THE SCHEMATICS OF YOUR PROJECTIONS SYSTEM LAST NIGHT. OUR ON-SITE REACTOR CAN CATER FOR YOUR EXISTING TECH'S POWER NEEDS, EASY.

WE MIGHT HAVE TO UP THE OUTPUT IF YOU MAKE ANY HEAVY DUTY ALTERATIONS, BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

MY DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON WIRELESS TRANSMISSION AND ENERGY PROJECTION, SO WE'RE PROBABLY DRAWING MORE JUICE THAN YOU EVER WILL.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

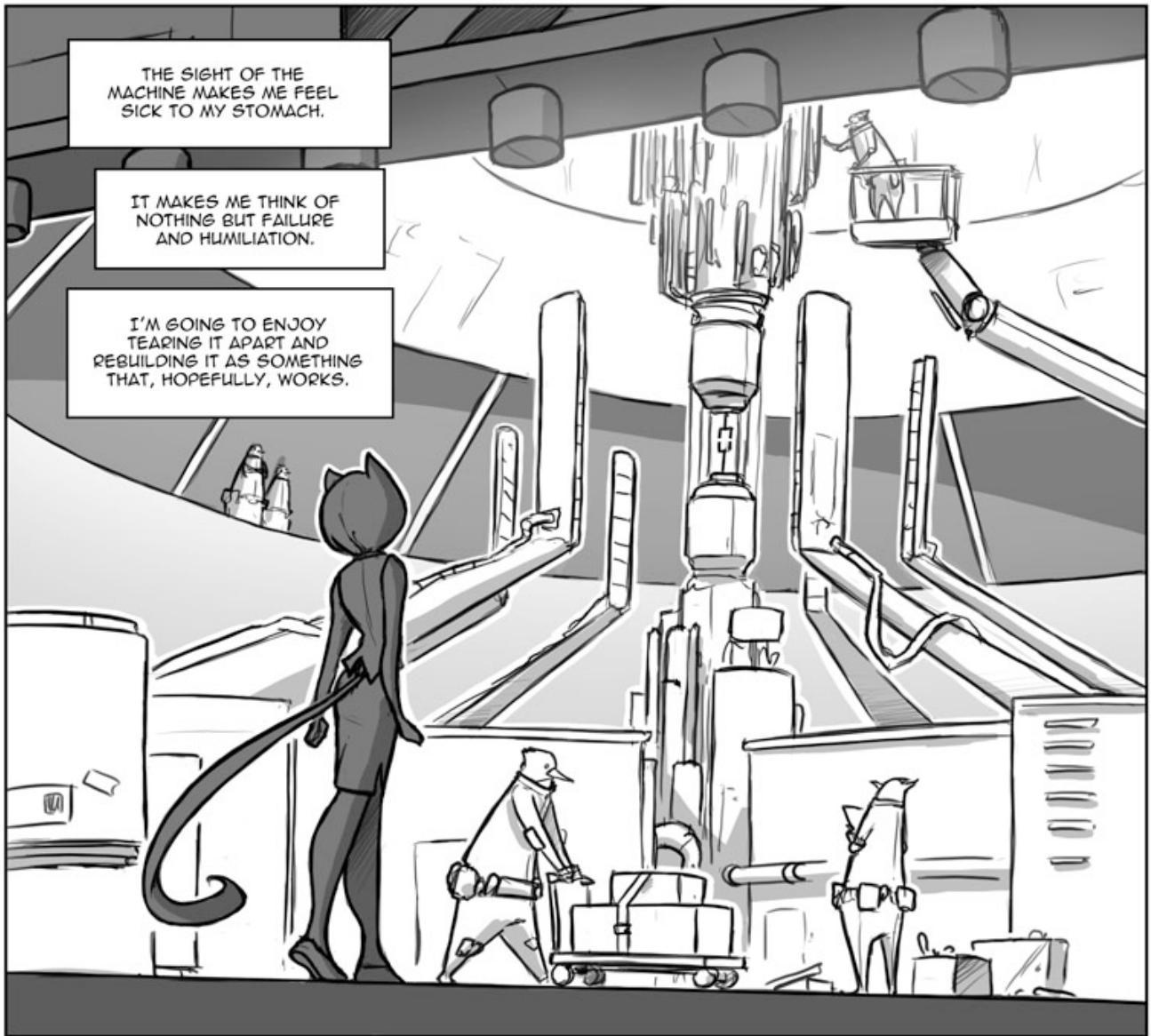
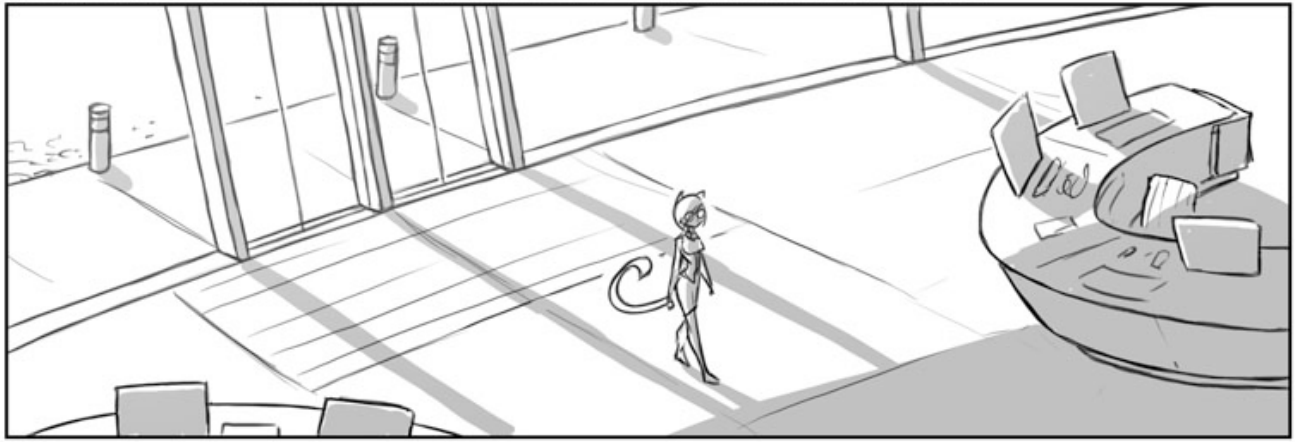
MY NEXT-GENERATION ISOLATION FIELD IS GOING TO NEED A TON OF POWER.

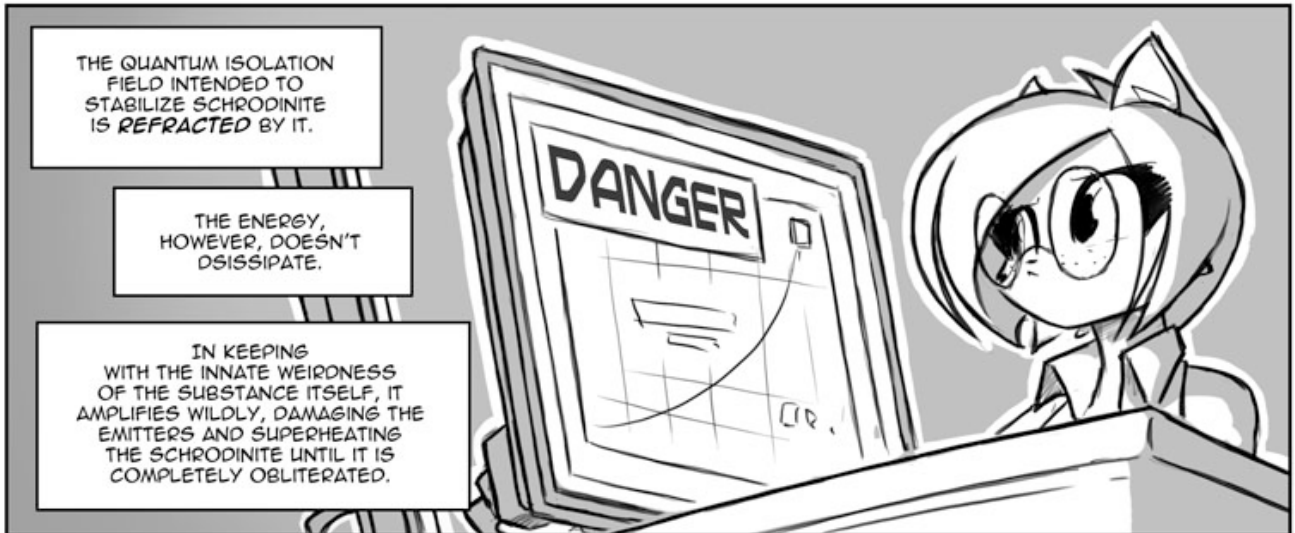
WELL, JUST FEED US THE NUMBERS.

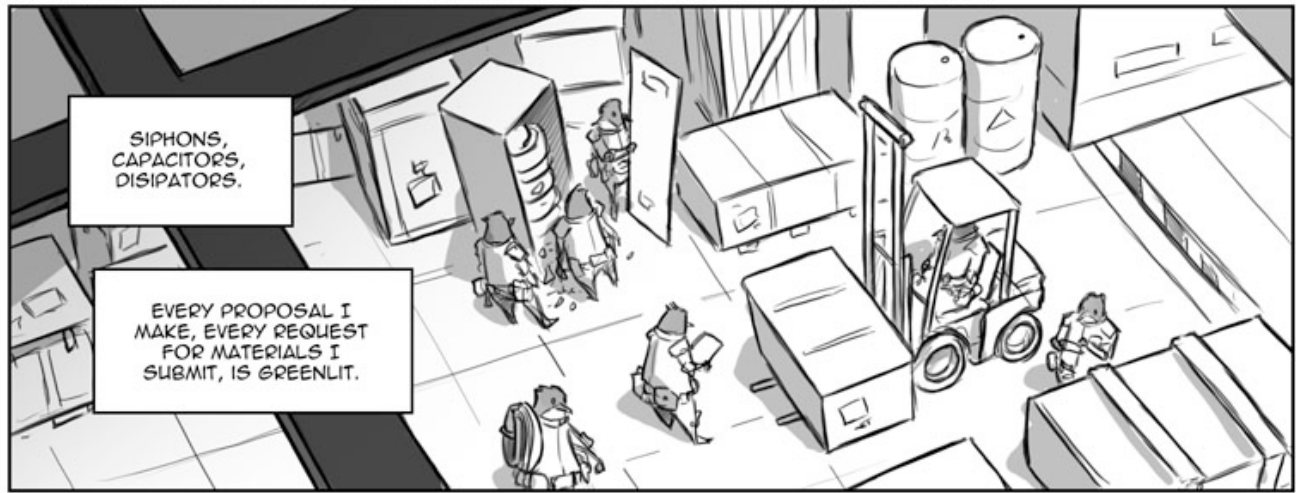
WE'LL HAMMER SOMETHING OUT.



HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH YOU, DOCTOR!

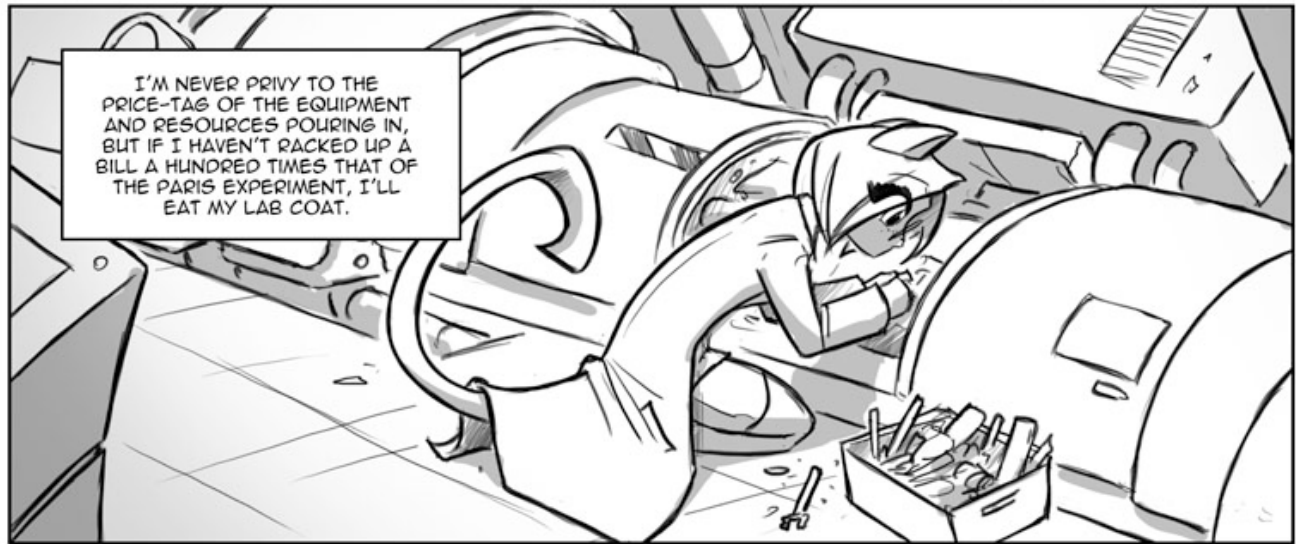




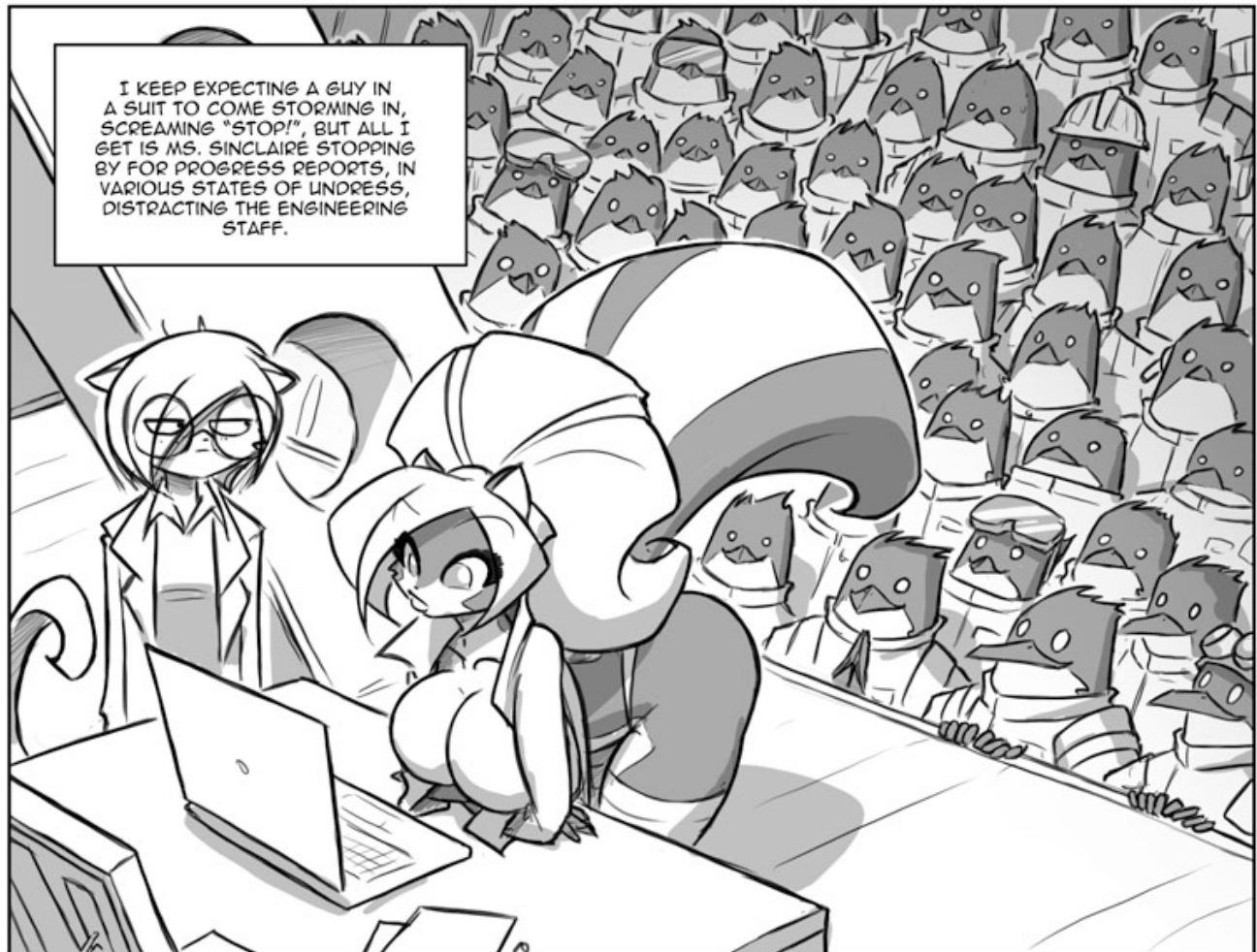


SIPHONS,
CAPACITORS,
DISIPATORS.

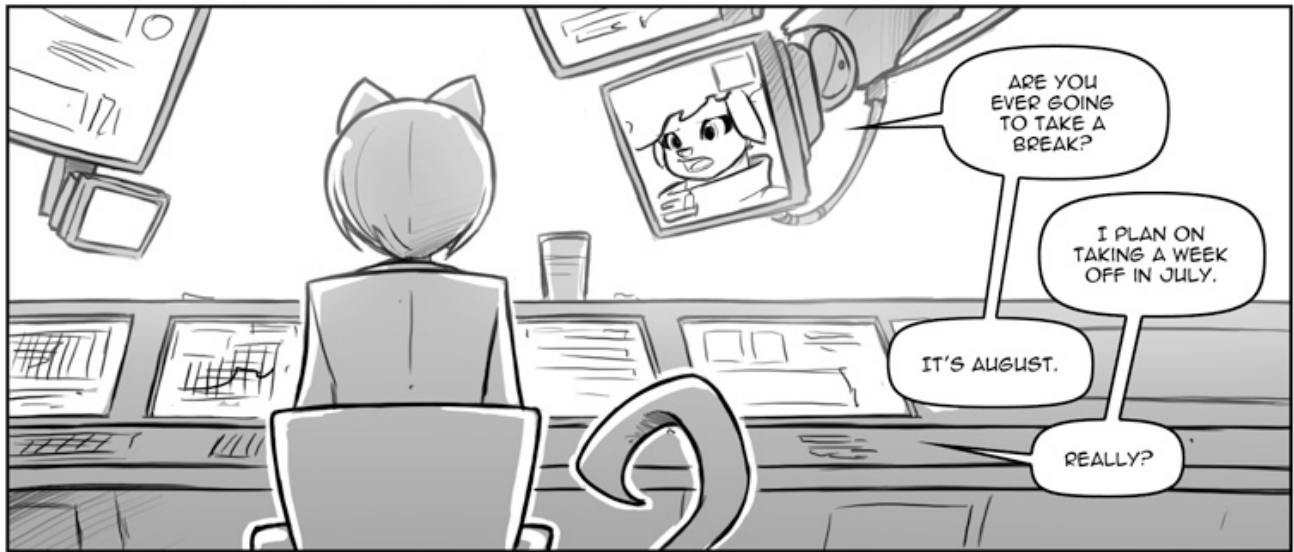
EVERY PROPOSAL I
MAKE, EVERY REQUEST
FOR MATERIALS I
SUBMIT, IS GREENLIT.

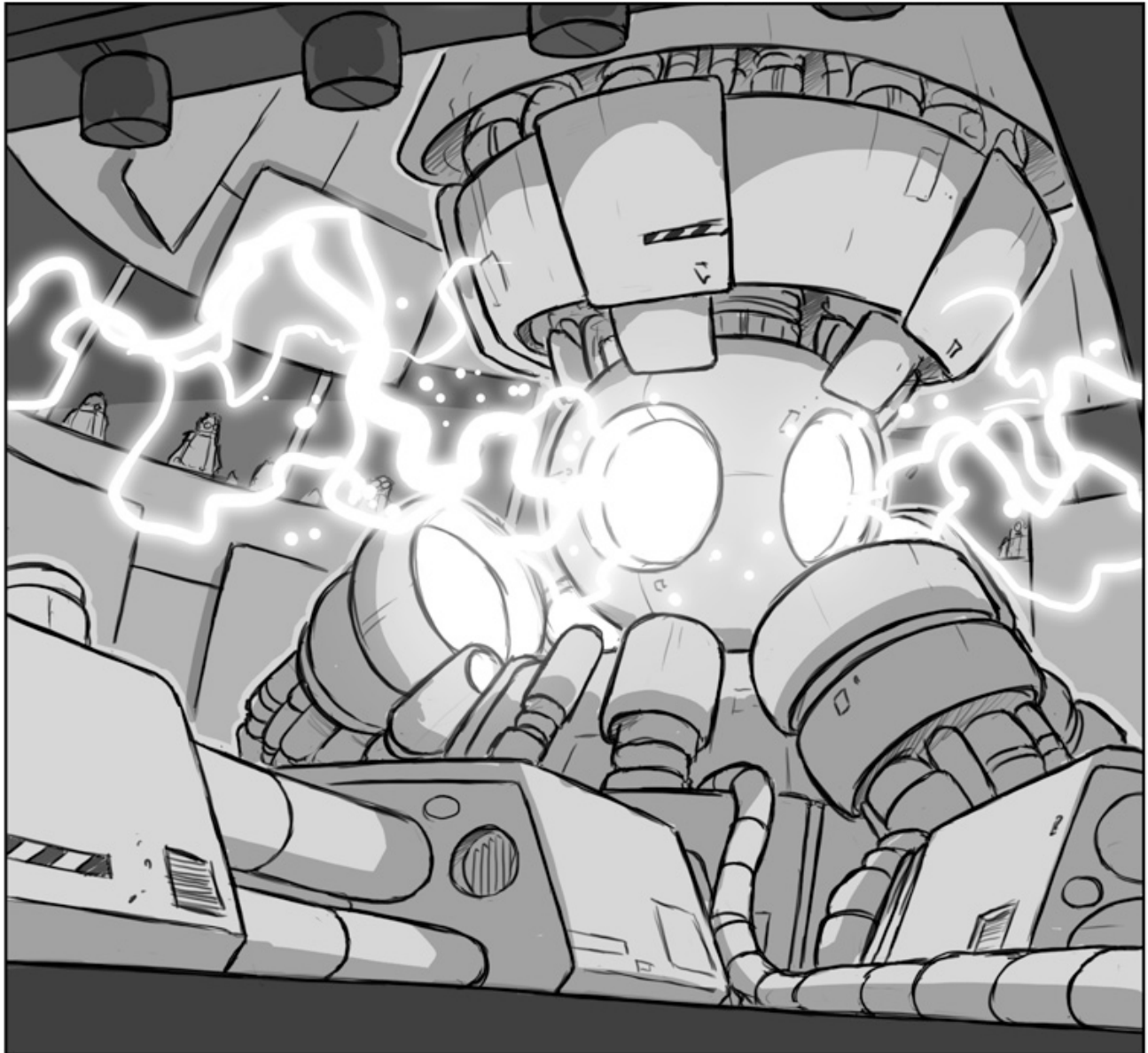
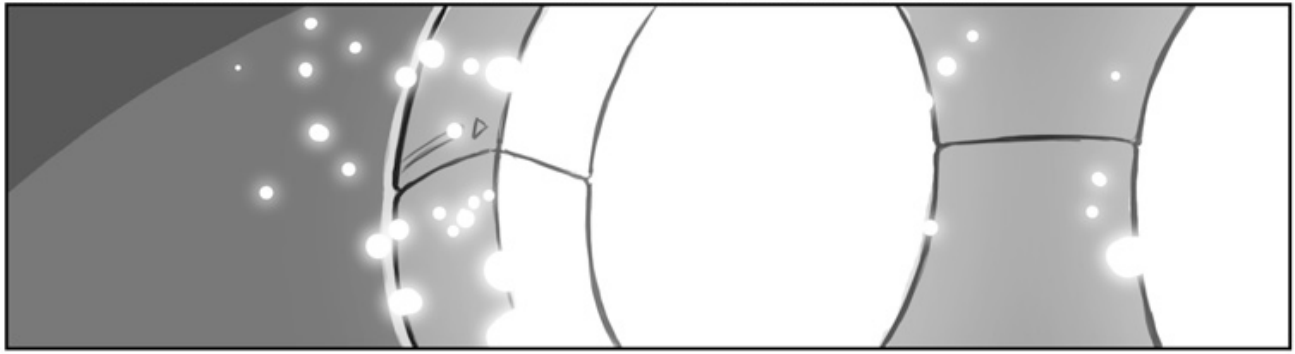


I'M NEVER PRIVY TO THE
PRICE-TAG OF THE EQUIPMENT
AND RESOURCES POURING IN,
BUT IF I HAVEN'T RACKED UP A
BILL A HUNDRED TIMES THAT OF
THE PARIS EXPERIMENT, I'LL
EAT MY LAB COAT.



I KEEP EXPECTING A GUY IN
A SUIT TO COME STORMING IN,
SCREAMING "STOP!", BUT ALL I
GET IS MS. SINCLAIRE STOPPING
BY FOR PROGRESS REPORTS, IN
VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS,
DISTRACTING THE ENGINEERING
STAFF.







I'VE BEEN DREADING THIS.

AS CONFIDANT AS I AM IN THE NEW SYSTEM, THE THOUGHT OF PUTTING SCHRODINITE INTO IT TERRIFIES ME.

IT'S SO RARE THAT IT FEELS LIKE A CRIME TO TAKE THE RISK.



IT'S LIKE USING A FABERGE IN AN EGG-AND-SPOON RACE.

THE MONEY THAT MY DIVISION HAS SPENT IS STILL PEANUTS COMPARED TO THE COST OF A SLIVER OF THE STUFF.

LIKE CHLOE CARES ABOUT COST.

HUH?

SHE'S NOT A VERY FRUGAL SUPERVILLAIN, IS SHE?

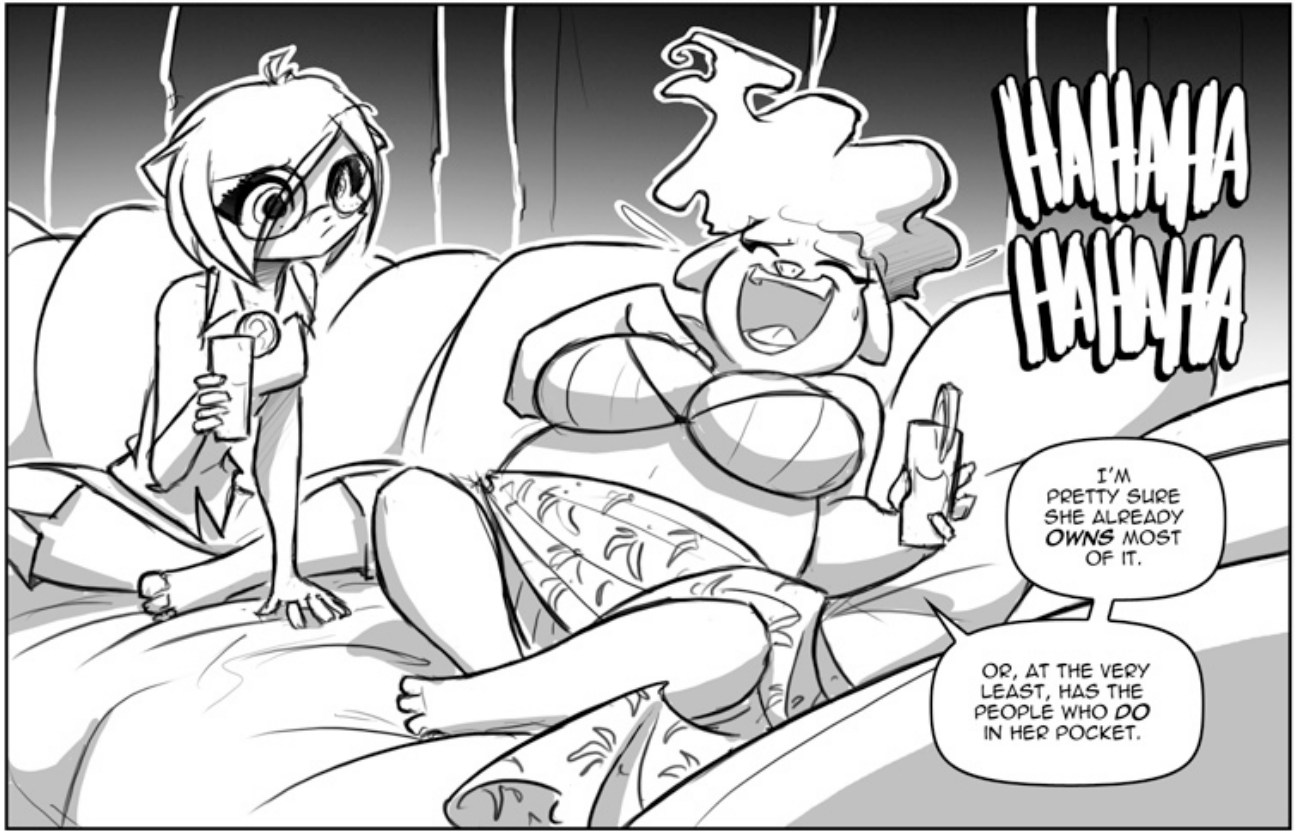


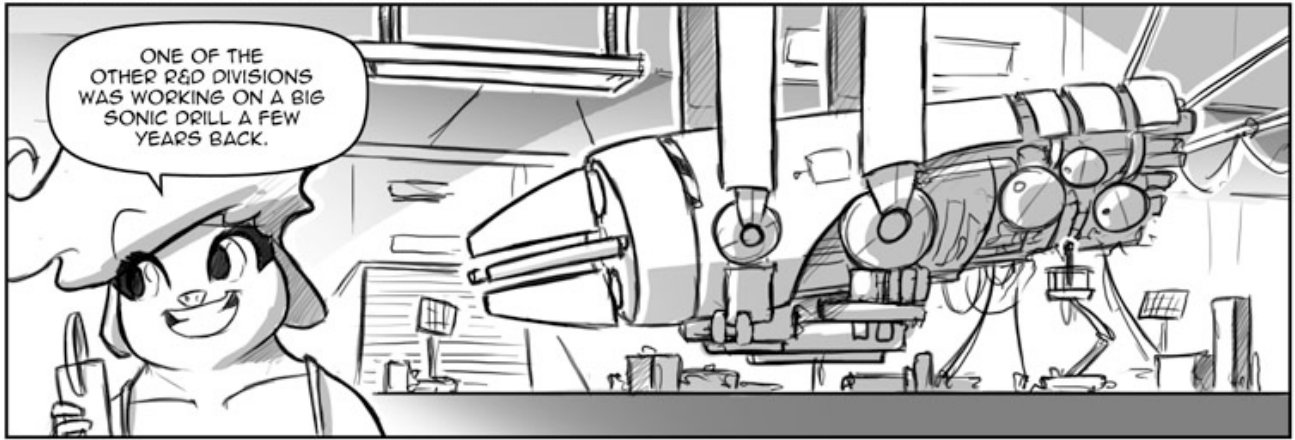
WELL, IF I WAS TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD, I'D JUST HIRE AN ARMY OR BUILD A GIANT LASER OR SOMETHING.

Y'KNOW. USE SOMETHING ALREADY TESTED AND PROVEN.

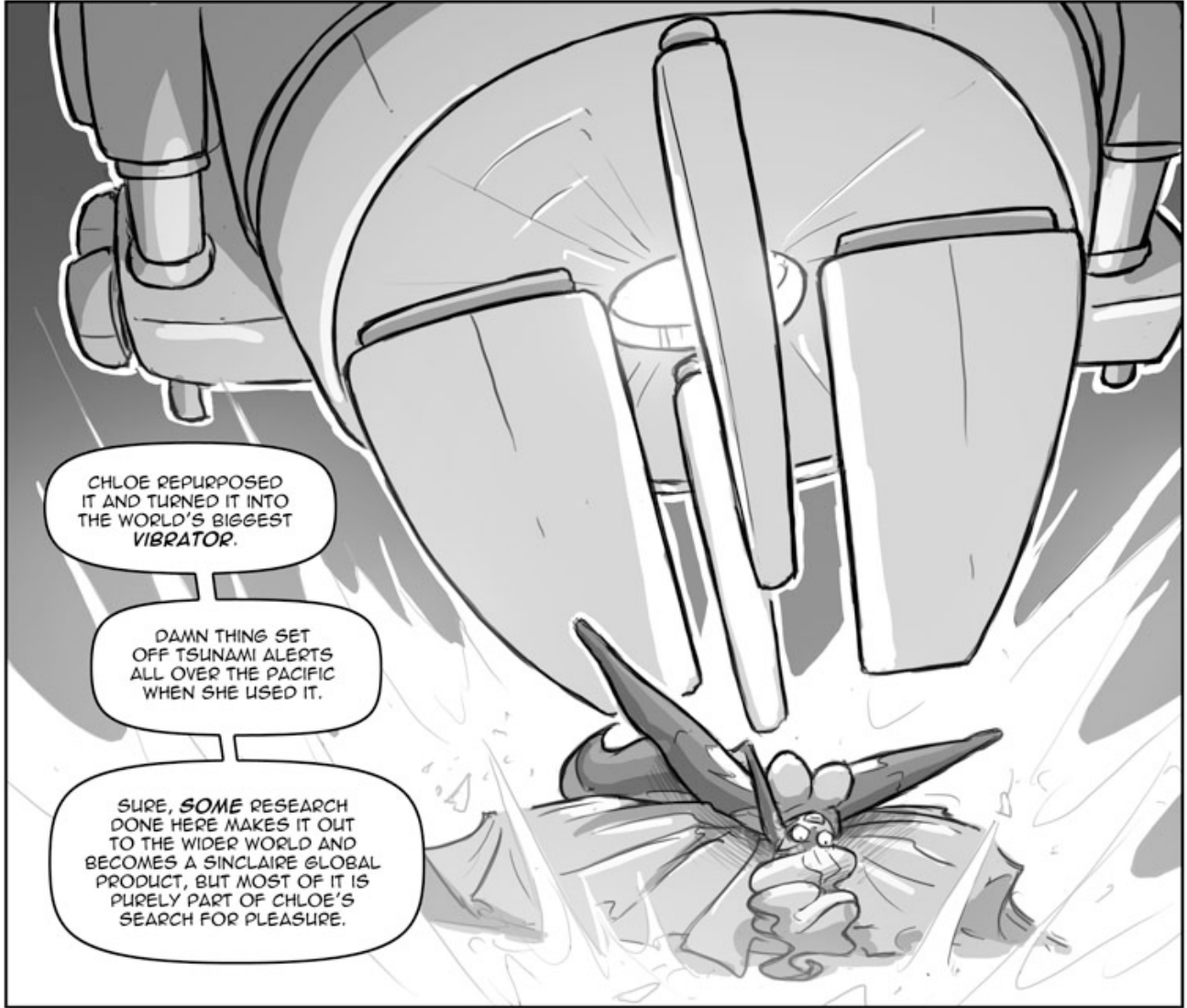
WAIT, WAIT.

YOU THINK THE BOSS IS OUT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD?





ONE OF THE OTHER R&D DIVISIONS WAS WORKING ON A BIG SONIC DRILL A FEW YEARS BACK.



CHLOE REPURPOSED IT AND TURNED IT INTO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST VIBRATOR.

DAMN THING SET OFF TSUNAMI ALERTS ALL OVER THE PACIFIC WHEN SHE USED IT.

SURE, *SOME* RESEARCH DONE HERE MAKES IT OUT TO THE WIDER WORLD AND BECOMES A SINCLAIRE GLOBAL PRODUCT, BUT MOST OF IT IS PURELY PART OF CHLOE'S SEARCH FOR PLEASURE.



"THE WRONG HANDS" INDEED.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY PERVERTED USES FOR MY RESEARCH, THOUGH.

OH, SHE'LL FIND ONE!

I THINK SHE'D FIND THAT KIND OF PEDESTRIAN, THOUGH.

EVEN IF IT JUST MEANS FASHIONING HERSELF A SCHRODINITE SEX-TOY.

THANKFULLY, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH OF THE STUFF ON THE PLANET FOR IT TO BE WASTED LIKE THAT.



I'D ALWAYS BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT ENTERING MS SINCLAIRE'S OFFICE.

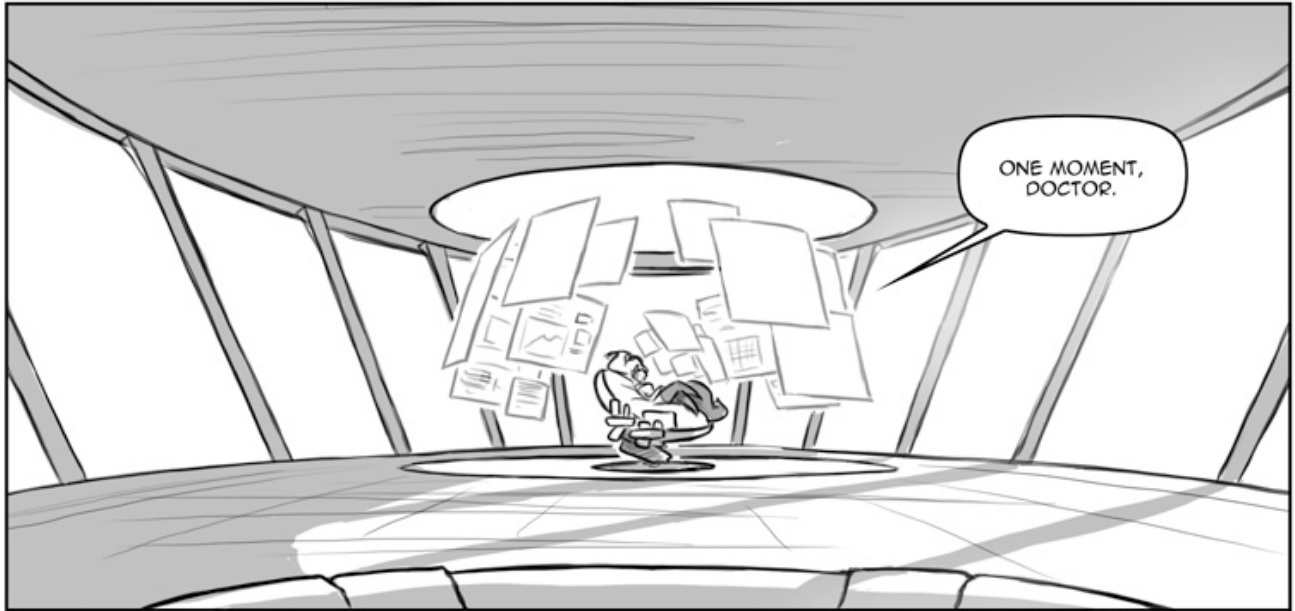
PREVIOUSLY, IT WAS JUST NERVES OVER DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTS, WITH A HINT OF FANTASY ABOUT POTENTIALLY BEING FED TO PIRANHAS.

PEEL'S REVELATION ABOUT OUR EMPLOYER'S, APPARENTLY **RELENTLESS**, CARNAL PURSUITS NOW HAS ME WORRIED I'M GOING TO STUMBLE INTO SOME KIND OF **SCIENCE-FUELLED ORGY**.

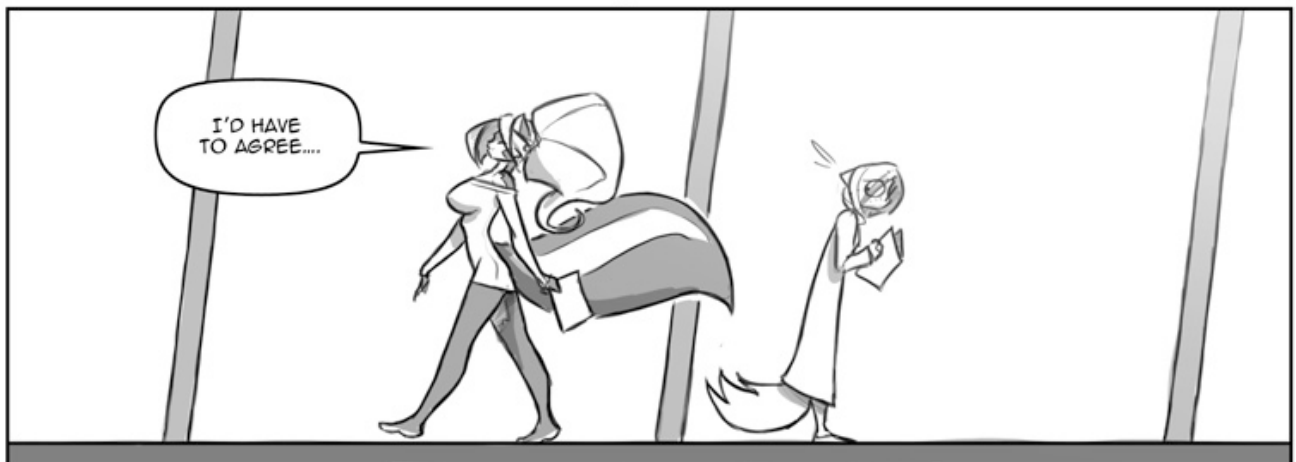
WHICH..... MIGHT ACTUALLY STILL INVOLVE PIRANHAS.

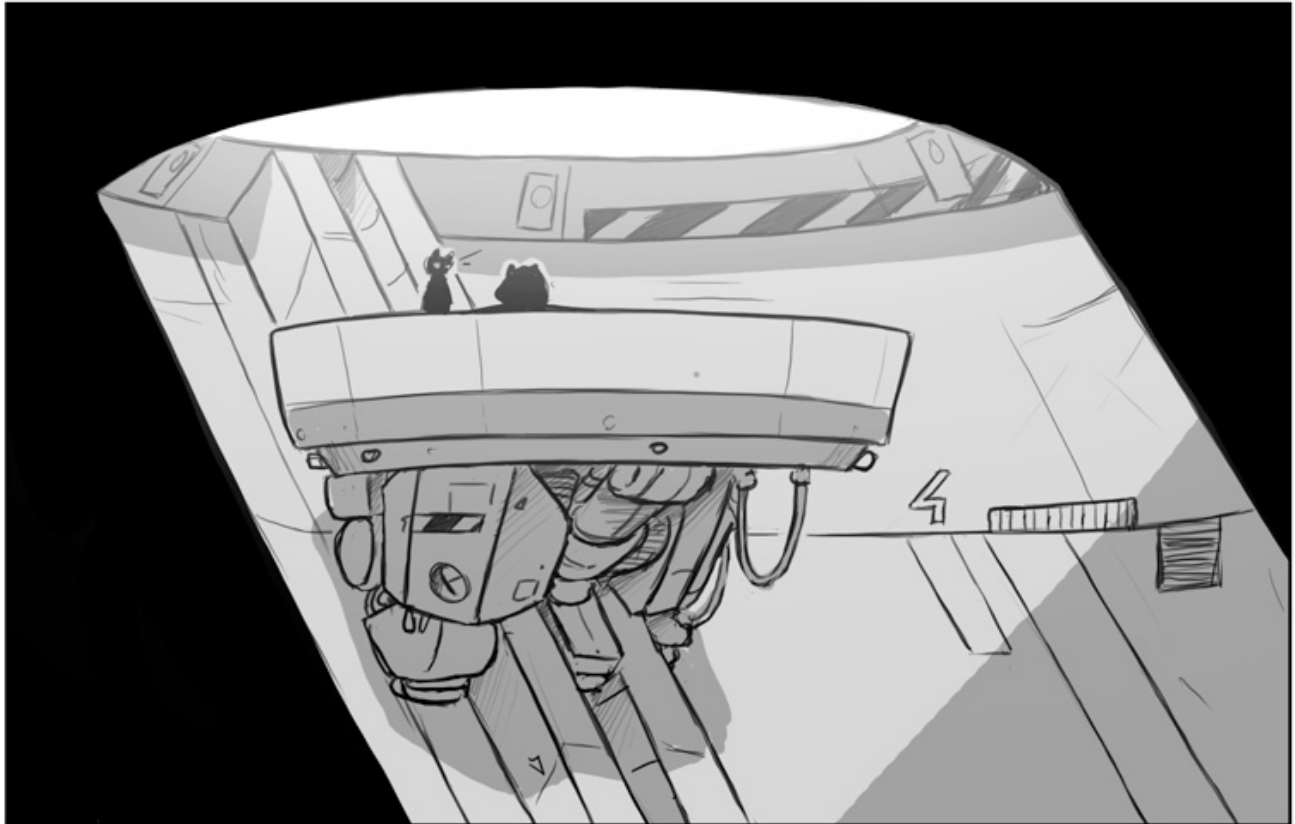
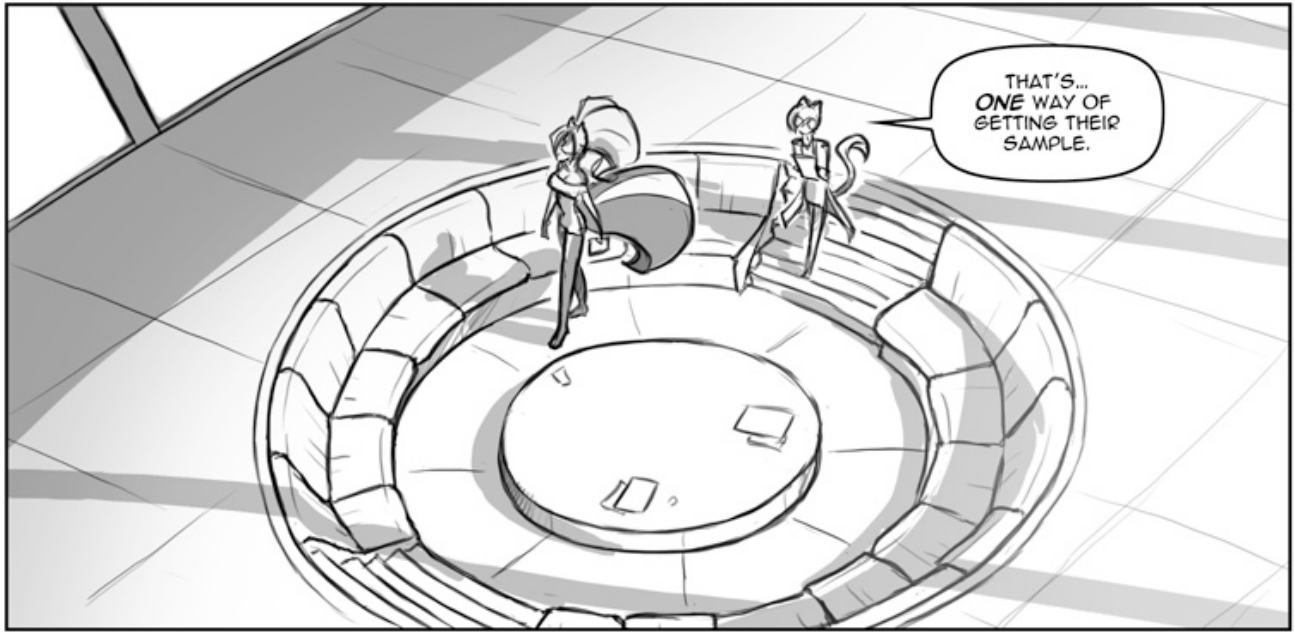
I REALLY NEED TO STOP THINKING.

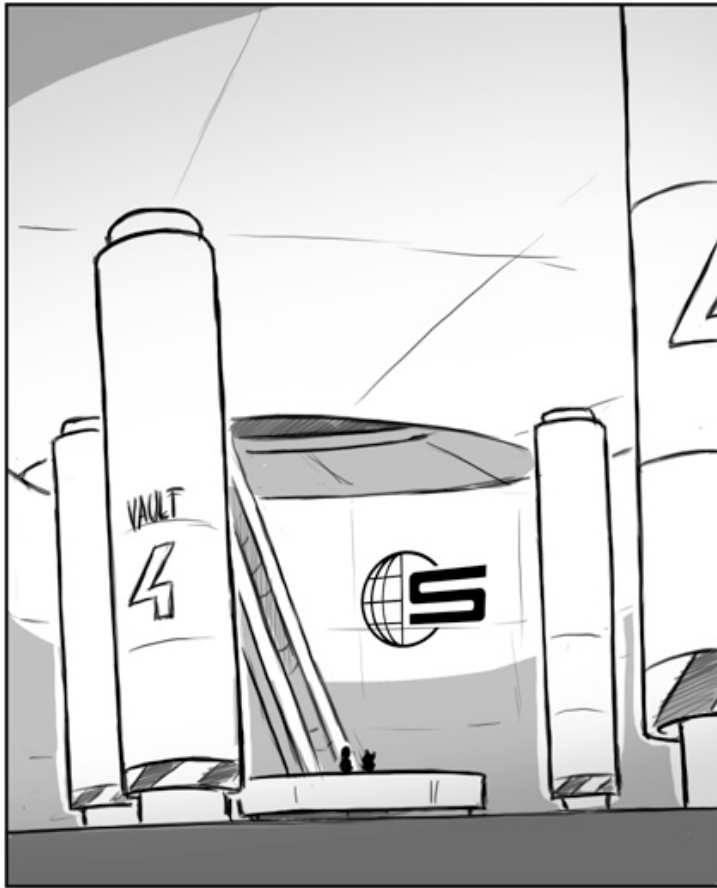












END OF PART 3