

COMMITMENT.
GRAPHIC NOVEL PROPOSAL.

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CHRIS MATTS
CHRIS GEARY.

COMMITMENT

A NOVEL
ABOUT
MANAGING
PROJECT
RISK



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CHRIS MATTS
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CC
2/11



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CHRIS GEARY.

THAT'S FANTASTIC NEWS FOR YOU.

HMMMM... YES, GREAT.

SO DID YOU GET IT IN SHARES OR CASH?

YES, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY.



YES, YOUR SUIT IS STILL IN MY WARDROBE.

I'VE HAD IT DRY CLEANED FOR YOU.

SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN'T MAKE SATURDAY NIGHT?

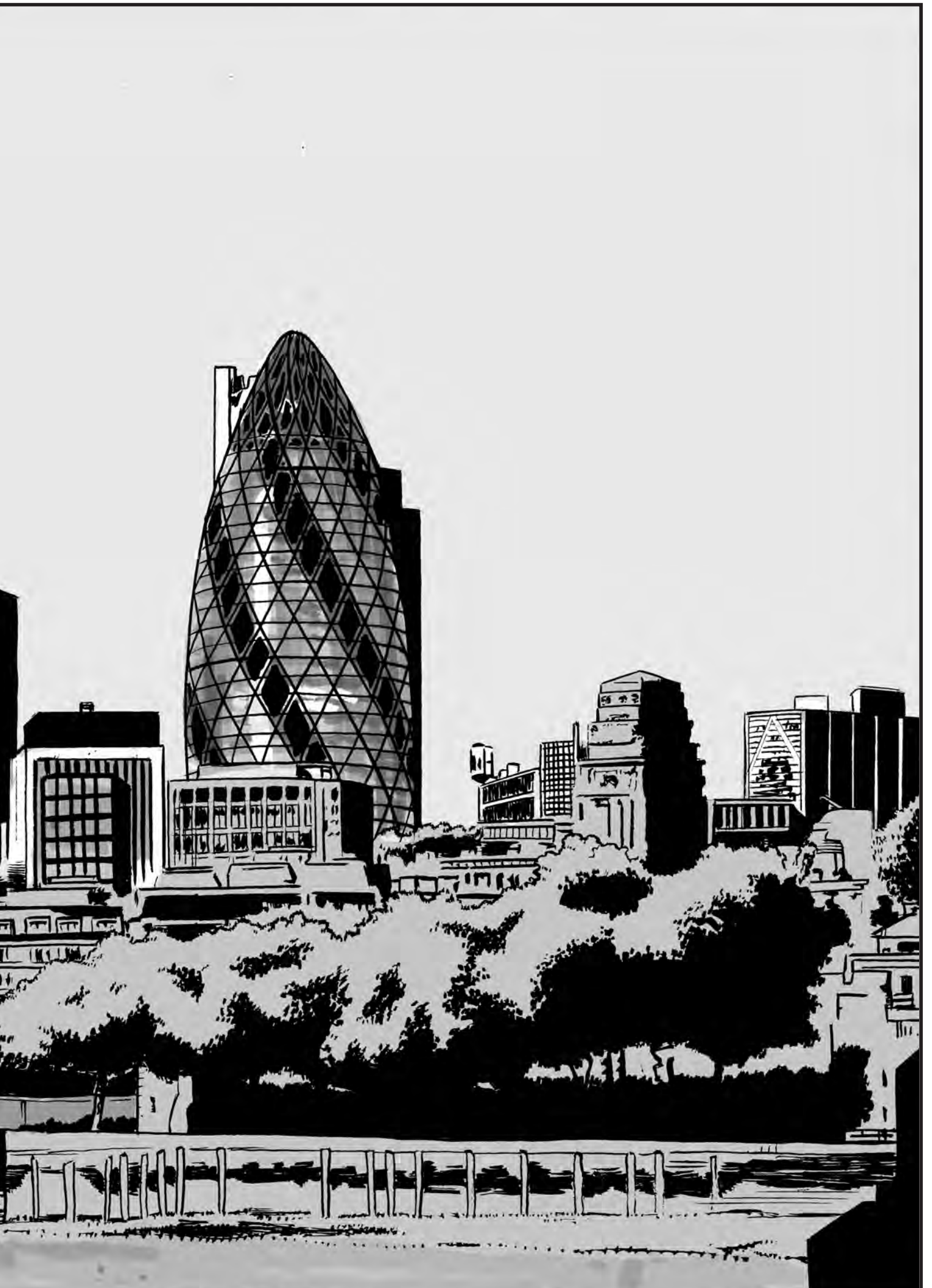
THAT'S OKAY.

SUNDAY NIGHT? YEAH, SUNDAY NIGHT IS GREAT.

RIGHT, NEED TO GO. SOME OF US ACTUALLY HAVE WORK TO GO TO.

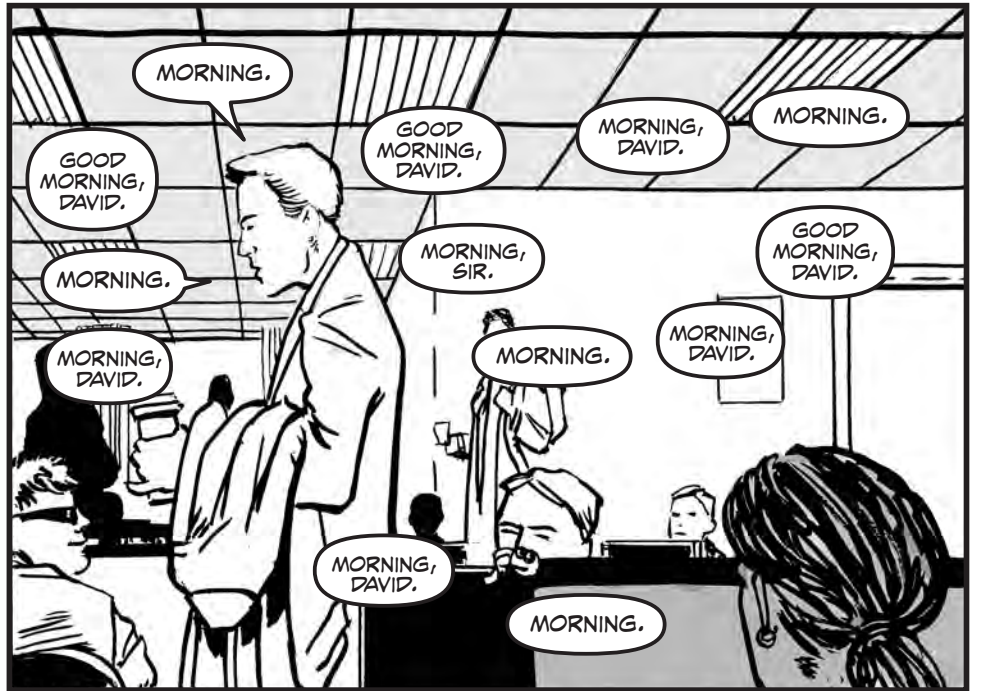


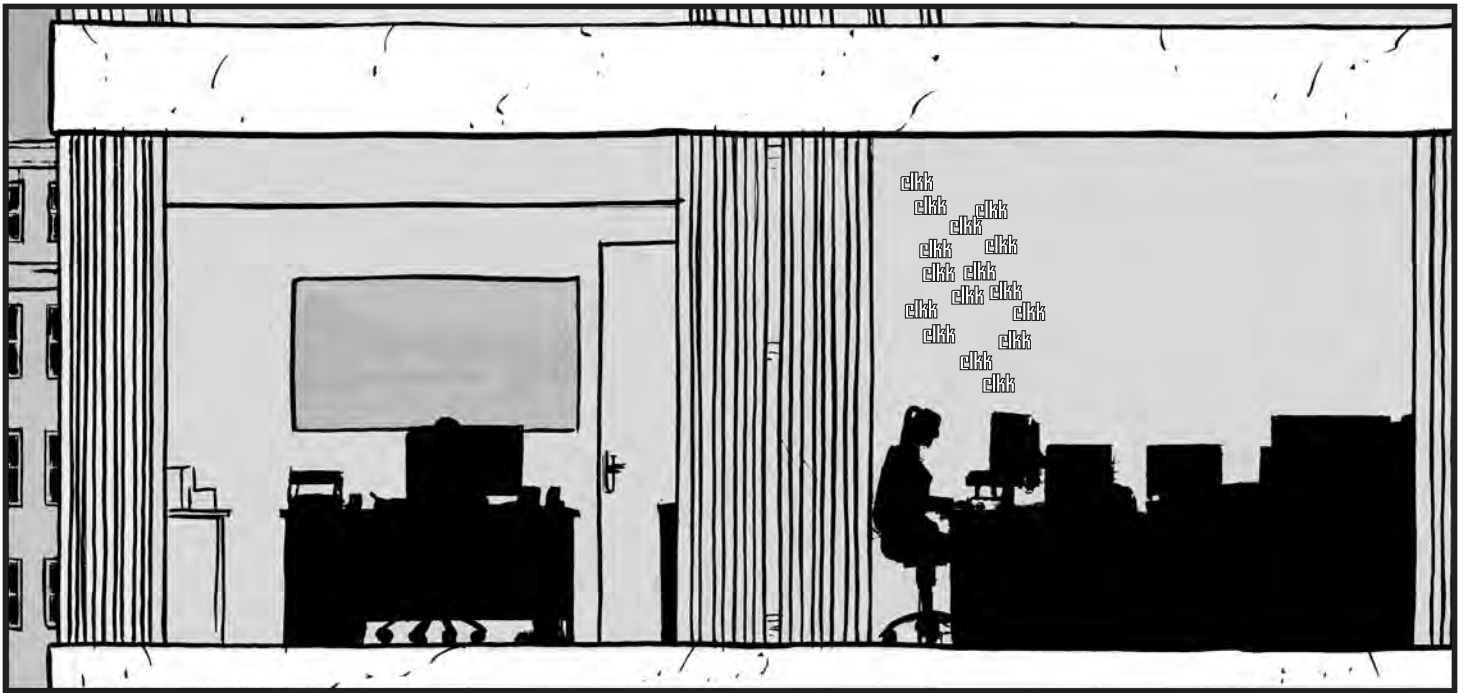












elk
elk elk
elk elk
elk elk elk
elk elk
elk elk
elk
elk



kkk
elk
elk
elk elk
elk elk

ROSE,
CAN YOU COME
IN HERE
PLEASE?



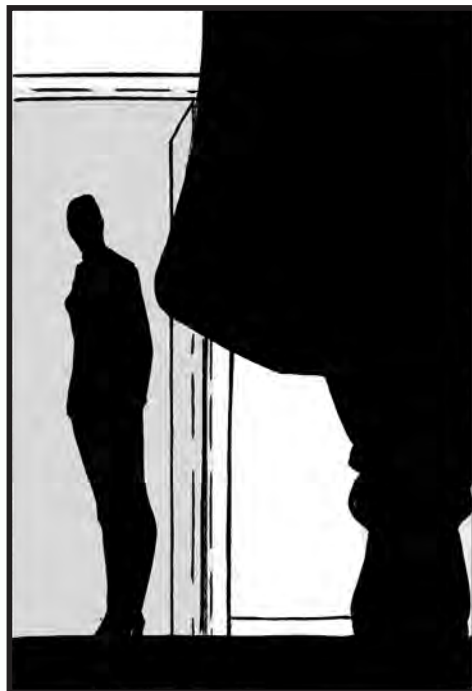
YOU
OFF
HOME?

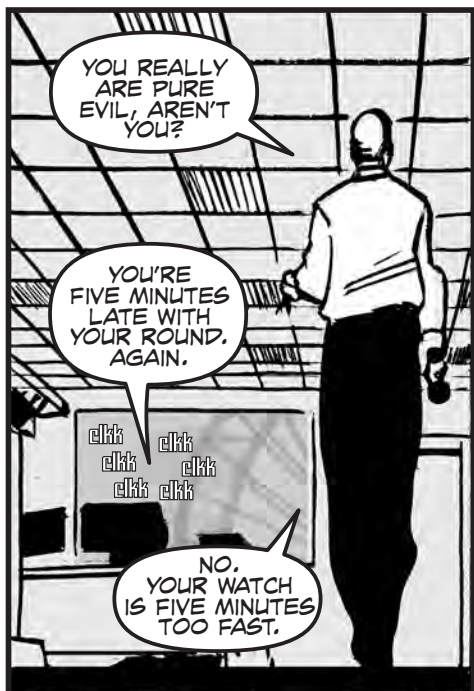
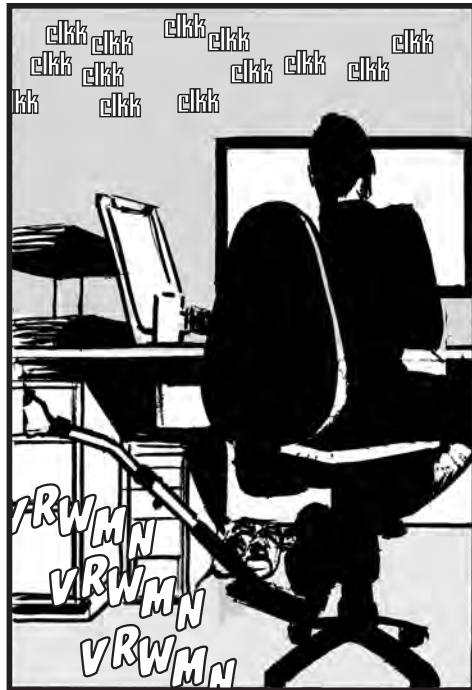
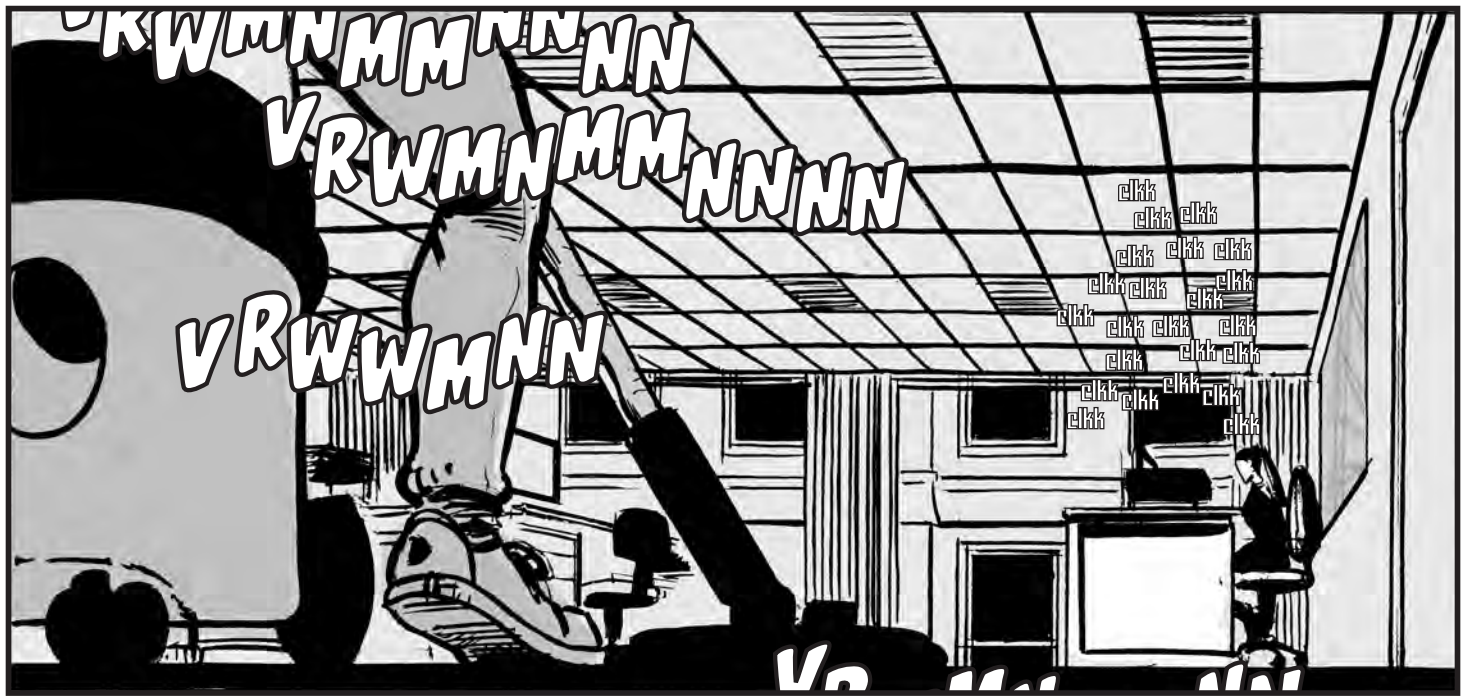
I
KNOW I FIRST
SAID WEDNESDAY,
BUT I NOW NEED
IT BY MONDAY
NOON.

I
HAVE A
MEETING WITH
THE NEW BOARD
AT TWO.

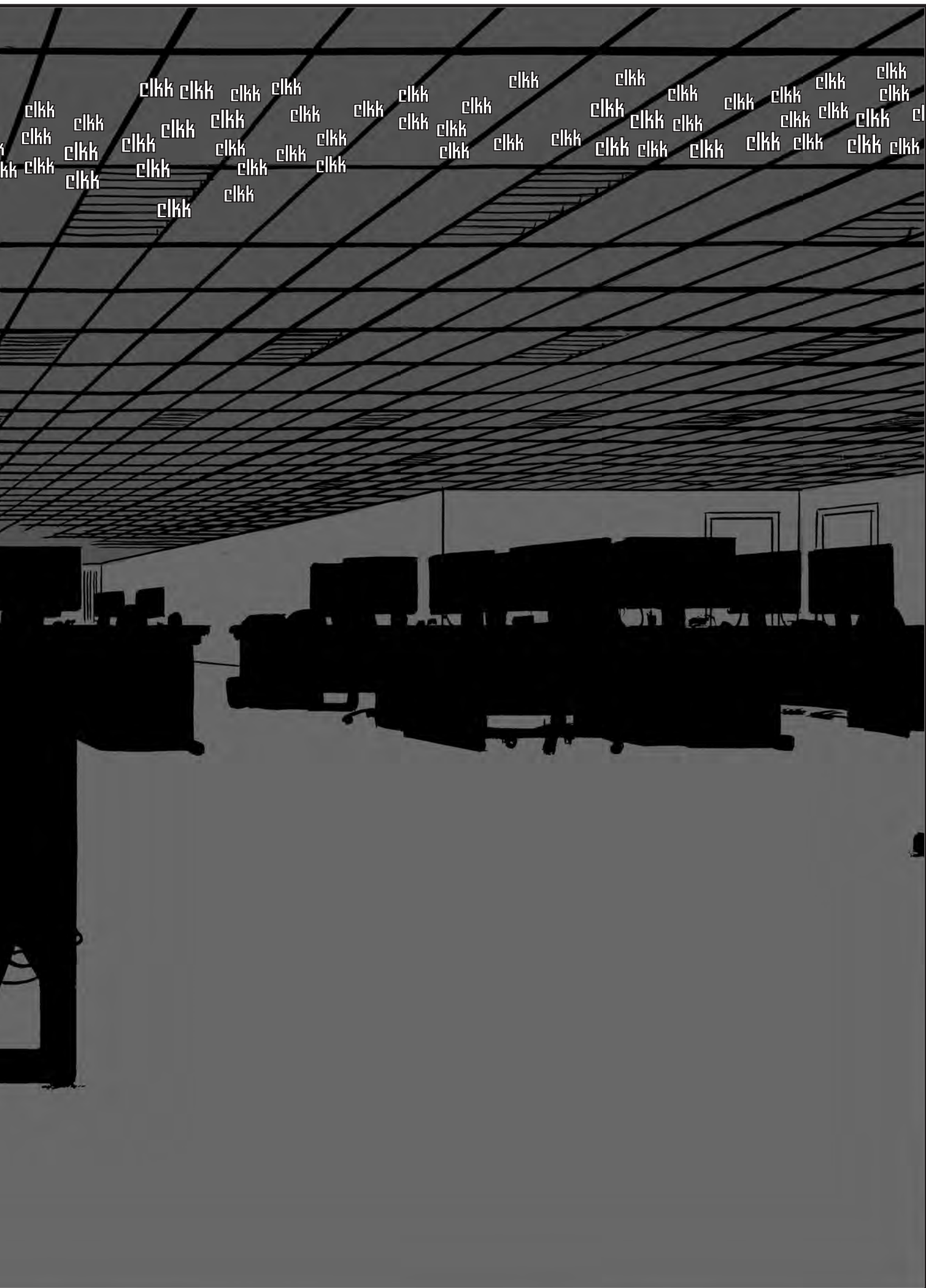


HAVE
A GOOD
WEEKEND.



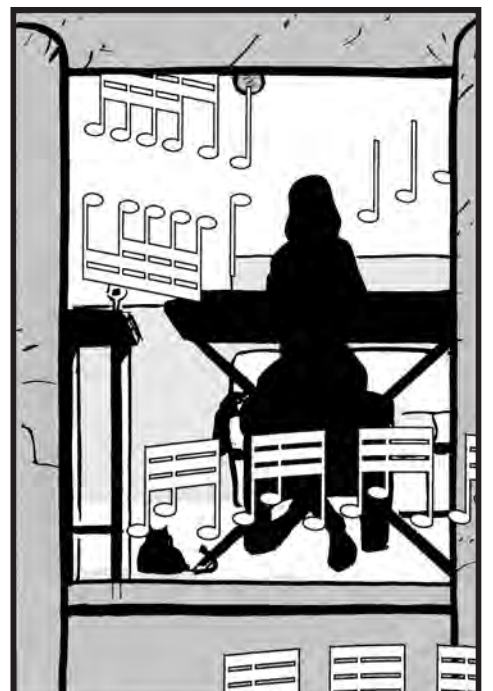
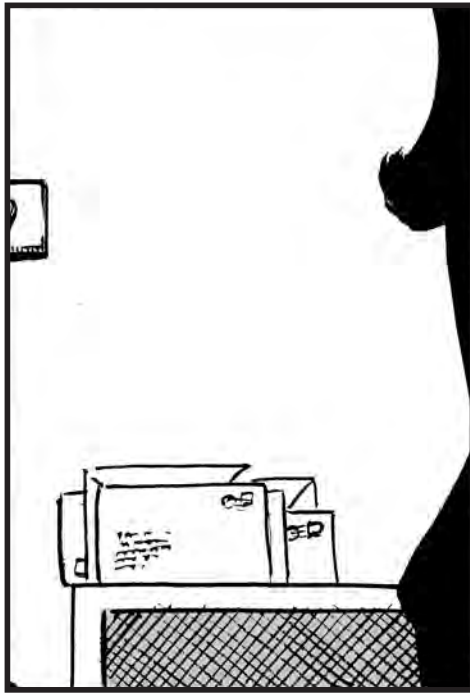


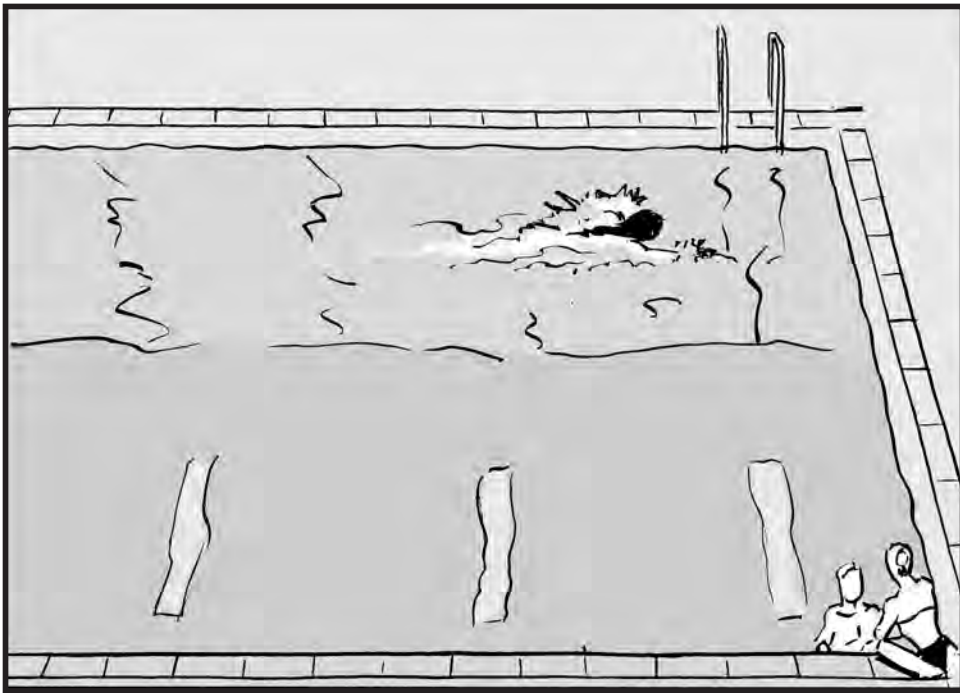














WELL THAT'S NOT A NICE THING TO SAY --

-- AND I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU A PRESENT.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT. YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO ARRIVE LATER.

YEAH, WELL, I LIKE TO KEEP MY OPTIONS OPEN, AND I MANAGED TO GET AN EARLIER FLIGHT.

YOU SHOULD'VE SAID. BEEN WAITING LONG?

ABOUT TEN MINUTES. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



YOU GOT ANY FOOD IN? HAVEN'T EATEN SINCE I LEFT.

TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER, I'VE JUST DONE A SHOP.

OOOHH, GOODIES. LET'S HAVE A LOOK.



WHY DON'T WE GO OUT? MY TREAT.



SO WHERE IS IT?

WHERE'S WHAT?

MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

YOU MEAN THE MEAL YOU JUST ATE?



WHAT? THAT'S NOT FAIR. IF I'D'VE KNOWN I WOULD'VE GOT THE STEAK.

AH WELL, BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME.

SO COME ON THEN WHAT DID YOU DO FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?

NOTHING. DAVID NEEDED SOMETHING DOING FOR TOMORROW

YOU WORKED?! YOU WORKED LATE ON YOUR BIRTHDAY?!

YOUR TELLING ME YOU WORKED LATE ON YOUR THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY?!



IT WAS EITHER THAT OR GO IN AT FIVE TOMORROW.

THAT MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY FORGIVABLE. WHAT DID YOU DO LAST NIGHT?

STAYED IN.



ALONE? SO THE ONLY THING YOU DID ON YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS WORK WITH DAVID?

DAVID WASN'T THERE. HE WENT HOME EARLY.



CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT THIS BEFORE.

IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS AT THIRTY, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA BE LIKE AT SIXTY?

YEAH, WELL...

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS.

YOU KEEP FOLLOWING DAVID AROUND LIKE SOME LOST PUPPY; SOMEONE'S GOING TO PUT YOU DOWN.

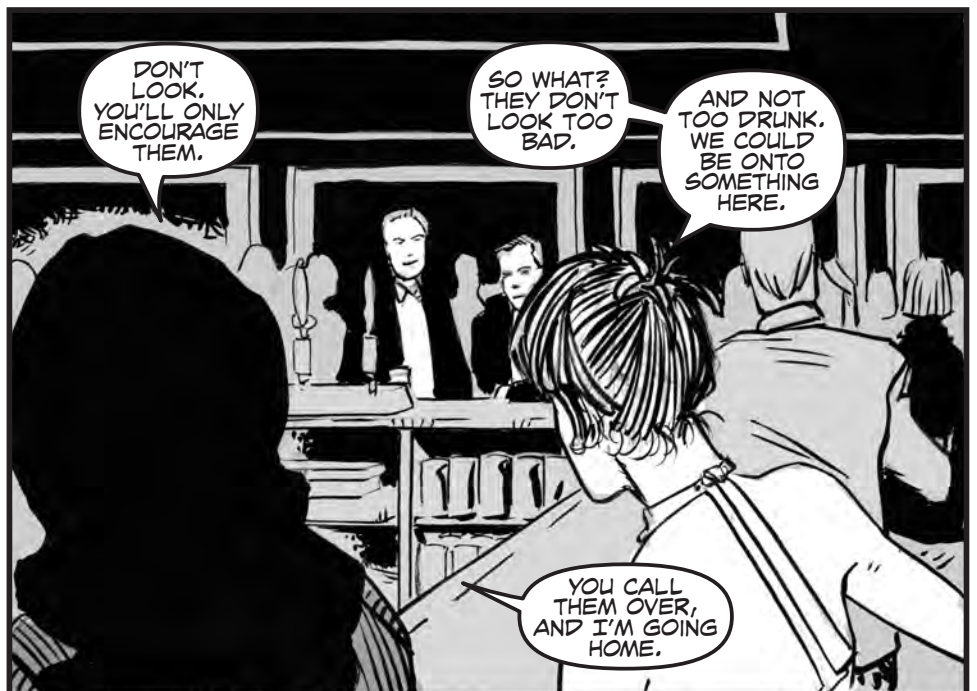


OH THANKS. I'M NOT TH --

'SCUSE ME, LADIES. THESE ARE FROM THE TWO GENTLEMEN OVER THERE.

WHAT? I DON --

SHUDDUP. ARE THEY CUTE?



DON'T LOOK. YOU'LL ONLY ENCOURAGE THEM.

SO WHAT? THEY DON'T LOOK TOO BAD.

AND NOT TOO DRUNK. WE COULD BE ONTO SOMETHING HERE.

YOU CALL THEM OVER, AND I'M GOING HOME.







SORRY ABOUT THAT. JUST WASN'T IN THE MOOD.

S'ALRIGHT. YOUR BIRTHDAY, CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT.

THANKS.

'COURSE THAT DOES MEAN THAT WE'RE GOING TO DO WHATEVER I WANT TO ON MY BIRTHDAY.



I SUPPOSE I ASKED FOR THAT.

JUST TRY NOT TO MAKE IT TOO PAINFUL.



WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING BEFORE THEY CAME OVER.

HANG ON. IT'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE.



A TATTY BIT OF PAPER?

IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

IT'S A BUSINESS CARD.

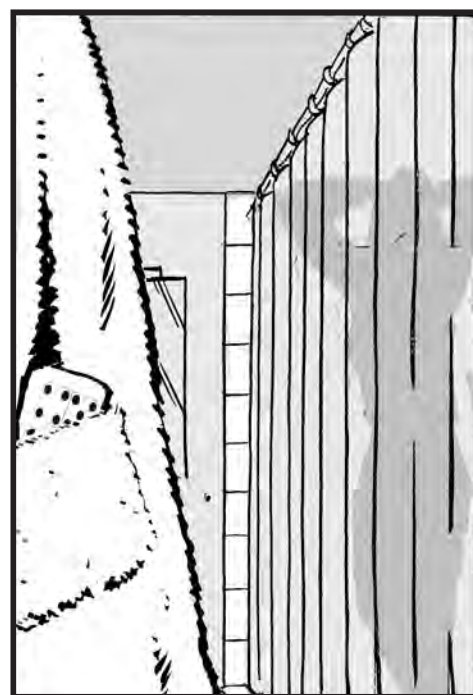


DOES IT COME WITH SOME MAGIC BEANS?



I'M SERIOUS, ROSE. CALL THOSE PEOPLE.

YOU WON'T REGRET IT.



Dear Susan,

Just got back from the West End with Lil. She wanted to do something for my 30th birthday.

How could I refuse spending some time with my sister? We even encountered two guys who were hitting on us and I'm sure Lil would have had us waste the whole evening with them.

You could tell they were not interested in anything other than a one night stand. Luckily they got my hints after a few minutes.

Lil gave me grief about David again. What she forgets, is that David was the ONLY person who would hire me after Nimrod bombed. David may get me to do a lot but he has been a good and loyal friend. Not only did he give me a job after Nimrod, he has given me every job since. Not everyone can join a dot com, some of us actually have to have a bit of stability in their lives.

Lil went on about that "Ski Trip" story again. It's like she hasn't told me about it a hundred times already. You know what, I'll just write it down now so that I can remember the details and interrupt her with them next time. That way, she might give me a break.

So Susan, I present Lilly Randall's Most Marvellous Ski Trip.

Lilly had booked a ski trip with friends for a weekend, but later realized she had to be in the London office early in the morning the next Monday for a business presentation. Her flight was scheduled to return to Stanstead Airport at 11pm, which was pretty late at night. She checked the time of the last train to London from Stanstead to find out it was at 11.30pm.

That was okay as long as her flight landed on time, got through customs quickly and there was no delay with her luggage. Then she would make it to the train for London in time.

Given the flight was from an airport near to a ski resort, it was possible the flight might be delayed... by snow or all manner of things.

She didn't want to cancel the ski trip and miss out of the fun and she had to be in the office on Monday, so she decided to look for options. Something she picked up in a "Real Options" course.

She started looking at hotels near Stanstead. Found a couple but she would have to pay for the hotel unless she was able to cancel by 6pm. No good as this meant she was committed to a night in the hotel. Instead, she made a list of hotels at the airport so she could ring them to see if they had anything free when she needed them.

She considered taxis. Black cabs are expensive and if the flight landed late she would be fighting with the rest of the flight for those available. If her bag was off first, that was fine, but if it wasn't, she was at the back of the queue.

She considered a minicab from her local firm which would be cheaper and more reliable as she used them ALL the while. She makes a big deal out of building a relationship with them. The problem is that the journey is an hour and she would not know if she needed it until after they had to set off. She wrote down a list of mini-cabs close to the airport so that she could call them as soon as she knew she had missed the train. She checked which ones were likely to have cars available on a Sunday night.

She had her options to get home from the airport.

Get the train.

Mini-cab close to the airport.

Black Cab.

Hotel at the airport.

She called the mini-cab companies to find out which ones might have a cab on a Sunday night.

She called the hotels at the airport to see which ones had free rooms.

For some reason, she stopped and asked herself "What is my goal?" All the while she had been focused on getting home on Sunday night. She asked herself "Why?" (Susan, I sometimes think "Why" from Annie Lennox's Diva album should be the theme tune to Lil's Ski Trip Story). Why do I want to get home on Sunday night.

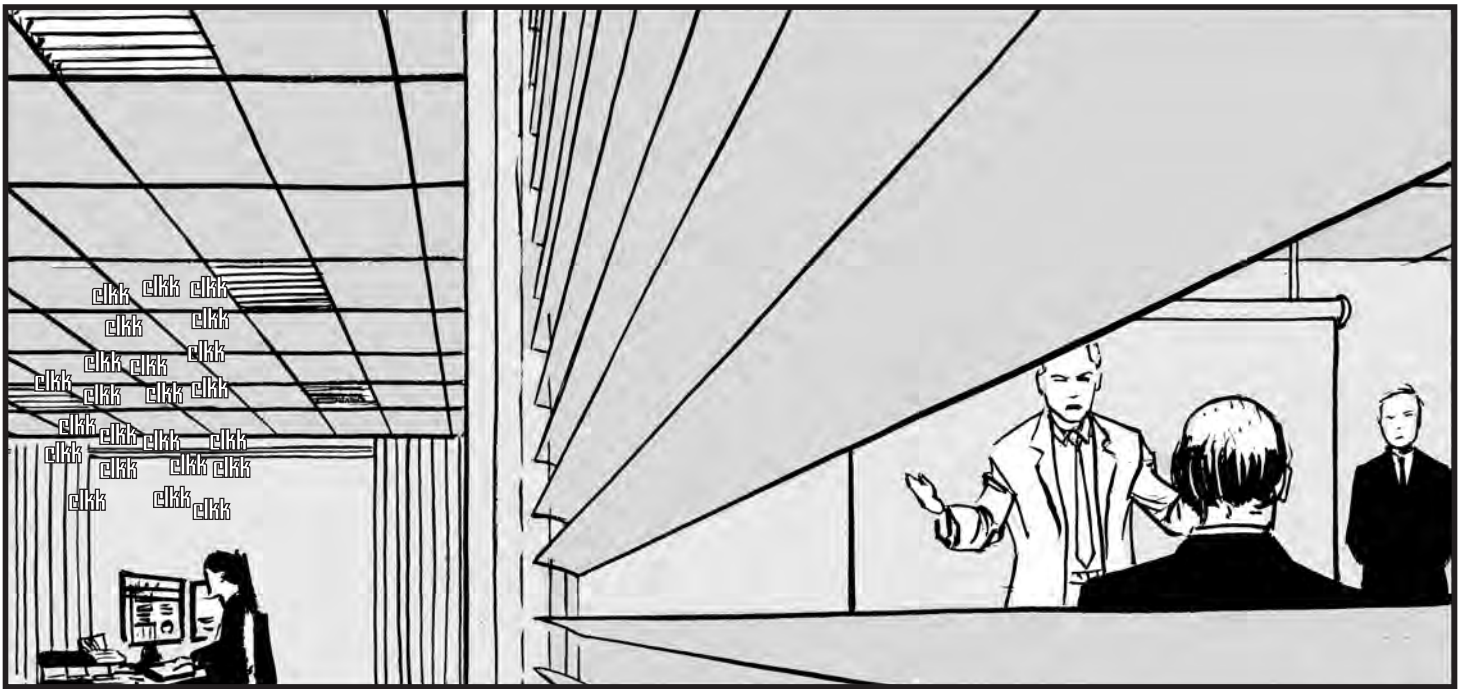
I love the theatrical way she delivers the next bit. "AND I REALISED THAT GETTING HOME WAS NOT MY GOAL!" Hushed tones "My goal was to be at work on Monday morning before 9am. And I need to be showered, nice smelling and as fresh as a carnation." She realised that she did not care where she stayed the night as long as she could get to work on time. So she left a freshly pressed suit and blouse and clean shoes in the coat cupboard in her office. That was all she really needed to ensure she could stay anywhere on Sunday night.

In the end a friend on the trip had a change of plans and offered to give her a lift home.

As they drove home at 1am she realised her friend would have an additional hour driving in order to give a lift home. She ended up crashing in her friend's spare room. She showered at her friend's place, travelled into work with them and got dressed into her work clothes in the toilet at the office.

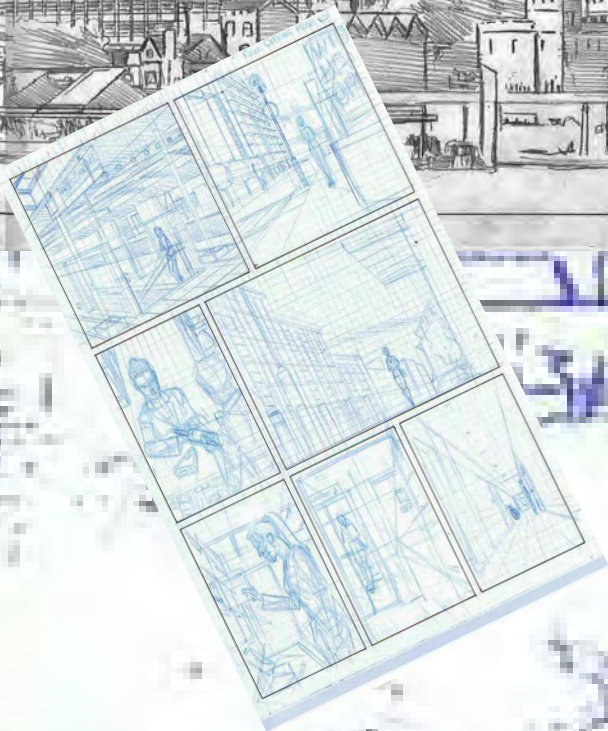
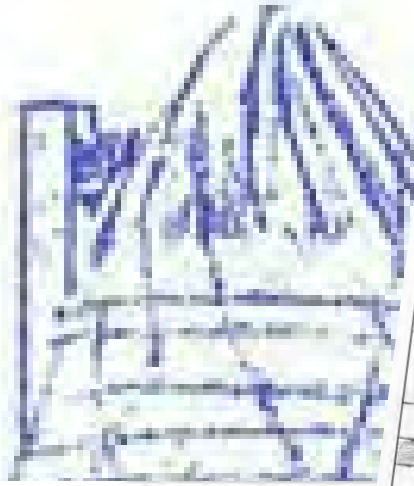
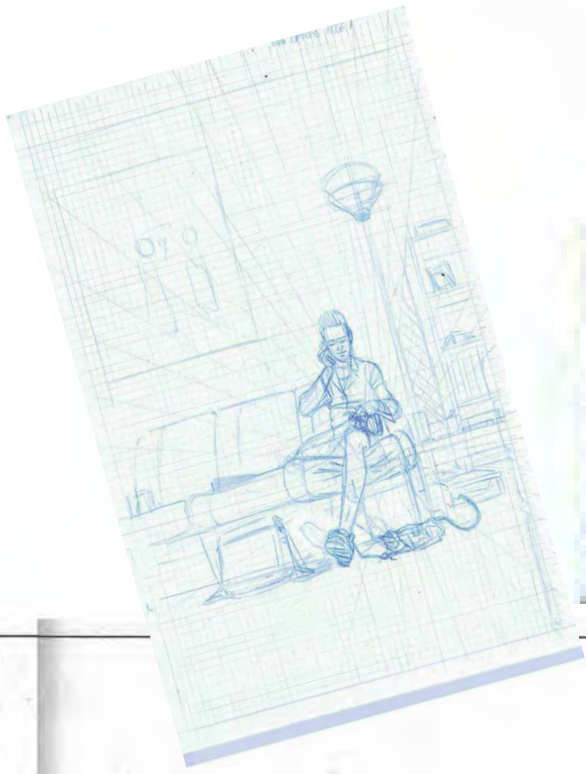
And she has never shut up about the story since. And that is why she now keeps a clean suit in my apartment. Just in case.

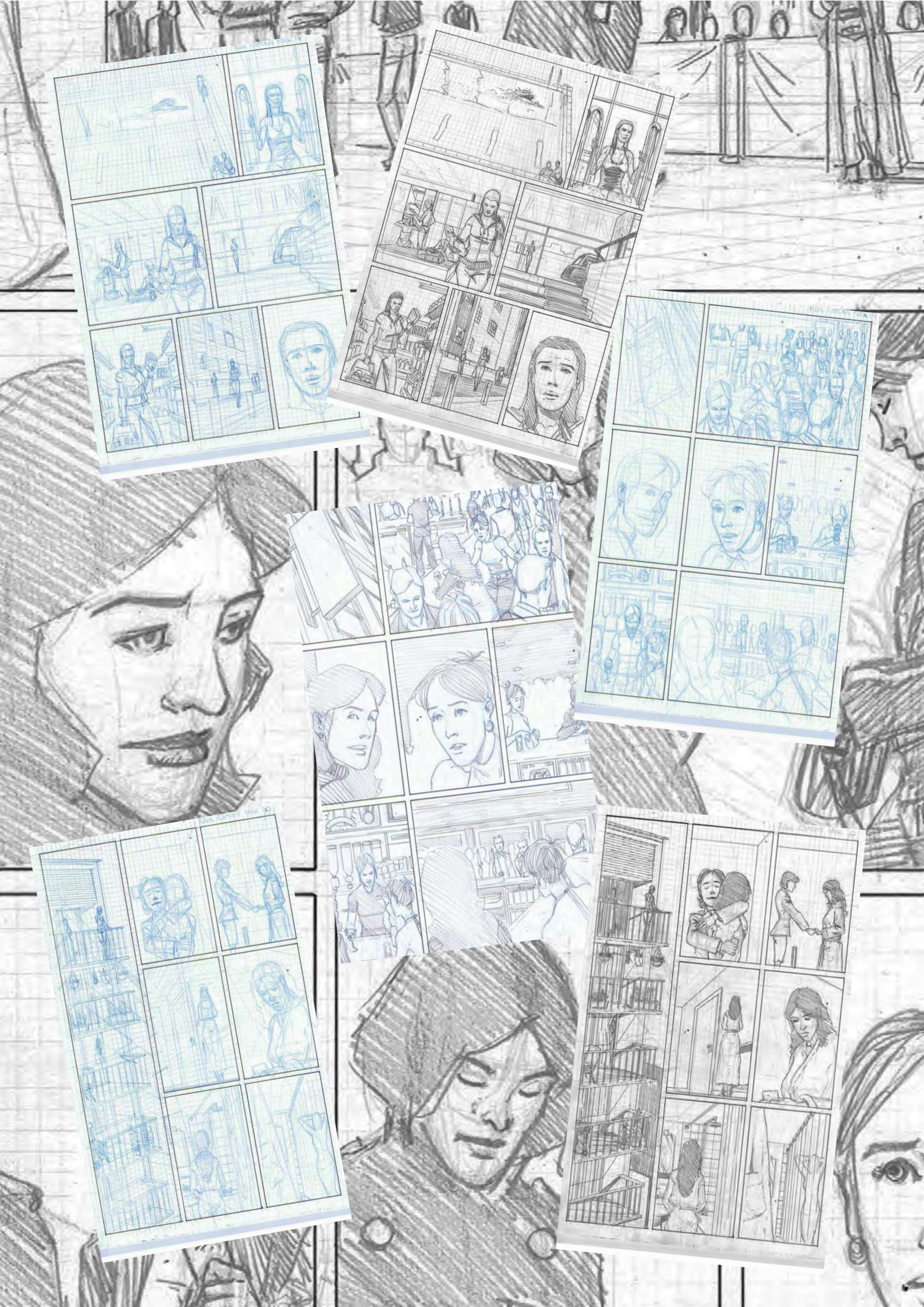
Night Susan.





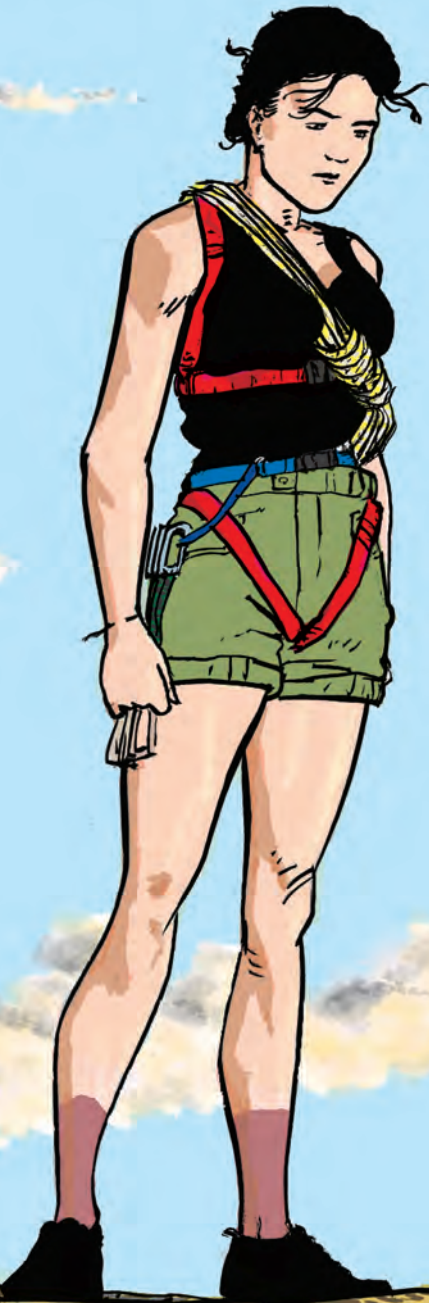






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