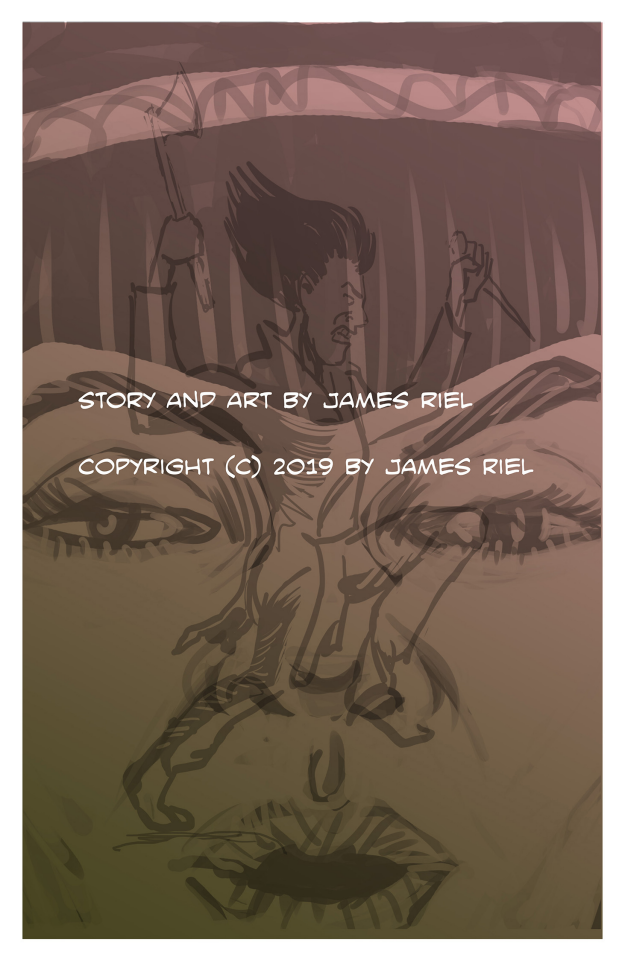


# DREAM SHADOW

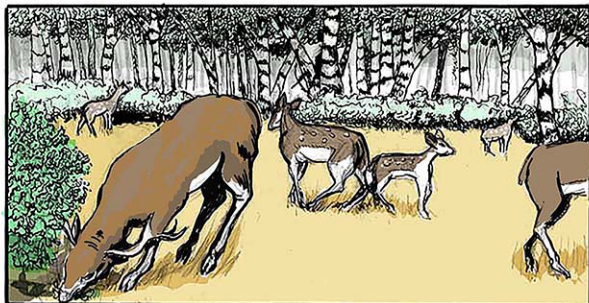


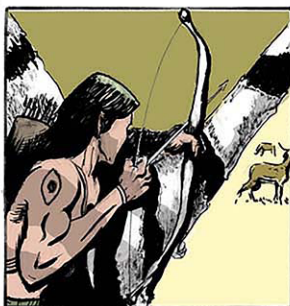
BY  
JAMES  
RIEL



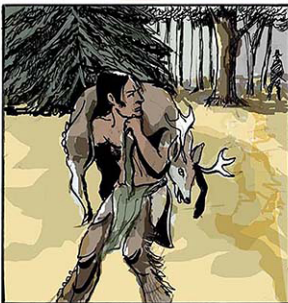
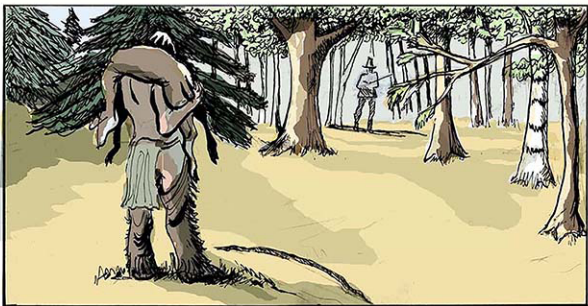
STORY AND ART BY JAMES RIEL

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OUCH!  
MY BACK IS  
KILLING ME



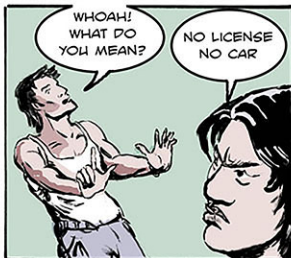
WE'LL ADD THIS  
BAIL MONEY  
TO THE LIST

HOW YOU'LL  
PAY IT BACK WITH  
NO CAR TO GET  
TO WORK



WHOA!  
WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

NO LICENSE  
NO CAR



SO STUPID,  
HOW AM I  
SUPPOSED TO  
WORK OR PICK  
UP MY KID?



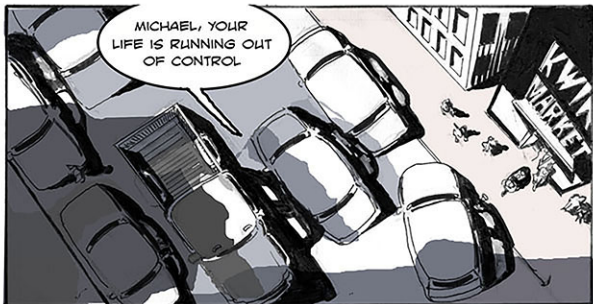
YOU DO KNOW WHO  
THIS BEHAVIOR REMINDS  
ME OF, DON'T YOU?



HOW COULD YOU  
POSSIBLY COMPARE  
ME TO THAT LOSER?













AS LONG AS TAKONET HAD KNOWN CRAZYHAIR, THE OLD SHAMAN LOOKED LIKE NOT MUCH MORE THAN A BABY'S FART WOULD SEND HIM REELING INTO THE NEXT WORLD.



TAKONET FOUND HIM BY THE LAKE SUNNING HIMSELF AND SINGING UP A STORM.

ARE YOU A BEAR LOOKING FOR A SNACK OR AN ENGLISHMAN LOOKING FOR A SCALP?



TAKONET, SON OF LITTLE DOVE AND SACHMON, LOOKING FOR COUNSEL..



MY DREAMS TROUBLE ME, OLD ONE.



GO AWAY! I'M OUT OF THAT BUSINESS...CAN'T FIGURE OUT MY OWN DREAMS



PLEASE! THEY TORTURE ME, I DON'T UNDERSTAND - A TURTLE DRAGS ME UNDER WATER AND -



A TURTLE YOU SAY? HAS TURTLE WOMAN RETURNED? I DREAMT HER AS A BOY - SHE WARNED US OF THE POX.

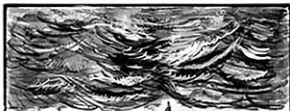


BUT WE STUPIDLY LET THE POX CARRIERS INTO OUR VILLAGES AND LOST WHOLE FAMILIES

THEN HEAR HERNOW IN MY DREAMS



I'VE HAD THE SAME DREAM  
SINCE WE ENCAMPED FOR  
THE SUMMER. I'M FLOATING...



AN ENORMOUS  
SNAPPER DRAGS ME  
DEEP



I'M NOT ALONE.  
SO MANY OF US...



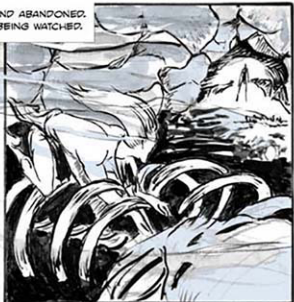
DEEPER STILL - TO A LAIR



WE SKIM ACROSS THE  
SCATTERED BONES OF GIANTS



ENTANGLED AND ABANDONED.  
I NOTICE I'M BEING WATCHED.









GOOD NEWS ROGER. THE BIA IS CLOSE TO SIGNING OFF ON THE WENAPIAK'S RECOGNITION.



REALLY, DELANEY? SERIOUSLY?

GOD THIS HAVE TAKEN FOREVER



THEY JUST NEED THOSE AFFIDAVITS FROM YOU. ALMOST DONE?

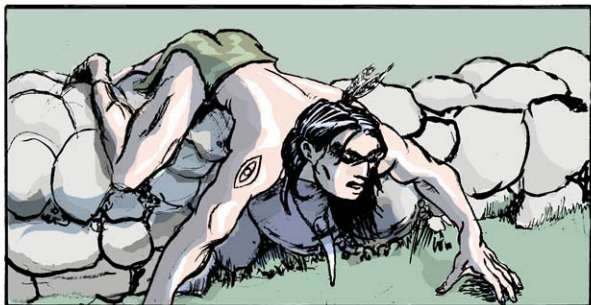
NO PROBLEM, DELANEY, I CAN GET THIS DONE.



AFTER THIS, YOU NEED TO GET PREPARED FOR THE STATE HEARINGS. YOU WON'T NEED ME FOR THAT.

THE CHAIRMAN AND I HAVE A BAD HISTORY THAT WILL HURT YOUR CAUSE.





MY DREAM ALIGERS  
GREAT SUCCESS  
TODAY



THE RABBIT KNEW ME  
FROM PAST ENCOUNTERS



I FAKED GIVING UP

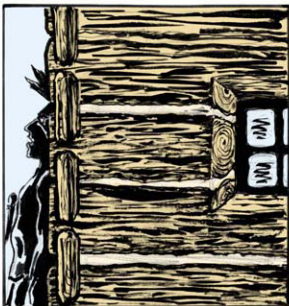


PATIENTLY DRIFTING  
ON THERMALS



TAKONET WATCH  
FOR ANY DOGS!







LIGH!



DOES THE HEATHEN  
BREATHE, JONNY?

I THINK  
SO...



ISN'T HE FERCE  
LOOKING, JUDITH?



QUICK!  
WAKE OUR PARENTS,  
I'LL SOUND THE  
ALARM.



JUDITH

PLEASE, GOD  
NOOO

















SINCE THE DREAM,  
I CAN'T SHAKE THIS  
FEELING OF BEING  
STALKED.

LIKE I'M  
NOT THE ONLY ONE  
IN MY LIFE.

YOU'RE NOT.  
THERE'S YOUR MOTHER.  
AND A SON? FROM WHAT  
VANESSA TOLD ME.

NOT WHAT I MEAN,  
ROGER. IT'S...




HMMM  
GOTTA TAKE  
THIS CALL, MIKE.  
SORRY.




BUT  
WE SHOULD  
KEEP TALKING.  
CALL ME, I WANT TO  
HEAR MORE ABOUT  
YOUR DREAM  
STALKER.







YOU DO TOO MUCH BY YOURSELF. IF YOU ACCEPTED THE HELP OF OTHERS, YOUR LIFE WOULD BECOME MUCH EASIER.



IS THIS AN OFFICIAL OFFER FROM THE POKNASETTS TO JOIN TRIBES OR JUST AN OFFER TO HELP AN OLD MAN OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART?



IT'S THE FINAL OFFER FROM THE POKNASETT COUNCIL TO SHARE THE BURDEN.


AFTER SO MANY REBUKES...



I SEE, SO YOU GUYS GET PRIME CASINO LAND, AND WE GET SEATS AT THE KID'S TABLE.



DON'T TEST MY POWERS OF PERSUASION, OLD MAN.



YOU KNOW,  
I THINK THAT'S EXACTLY  
WHAT I PLAN TO DO.



THE COUNCIL  
WARNED IT MIGHT  
COME TO THIS.



SO BE IT.



HEY  
MISTER UGLY!















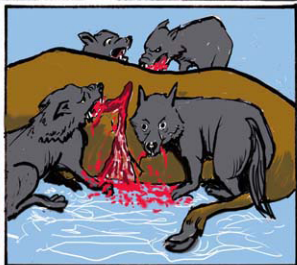
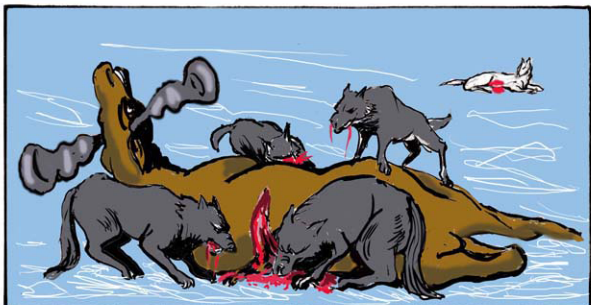


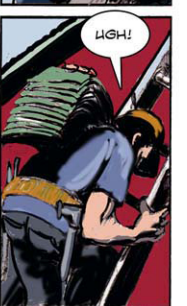
































SERIOUSLY?  
THAT'S ALL  
YOU GOT?

WHERE'S  
THE TOUGH  
GUY I'VE BEEN  
HEARING ALL  
ABOUT?



NO MORE  
RESPECT  
FOR THE  
ELDERLY.



WHA...



CRUNCH

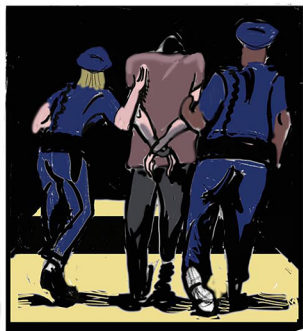
HOW  
THIS  
...



FOR  
PAYING  
ATTENTION  
TO...



SMALL  
STUFF





THIS IS NO  
GAME TO ME  
YOU 2-HEADED  
FREAK.



SUCH A  
WASTE OF  
ENERGY



I  
CONTROL  
THIS  
DREAM

EVEN  
THOUGH  
YOU'RE THE  
DREAMER



WE  
COULD CRUSH  
YOU RIGHT NOW  
AND YOU'D DIE  
IN BOTH YOUR  
WORLDS.



CONVINCE  
US YOU'RE  
WORTH  
SAVING.



ER...IF  
I DIE, SO  
WILL YOU, NO  
DREAMER, NO  
DREAM!



IS  
THIS  
TRUE?

MAYBE  
BUT...

DO  
WE  
CARE?

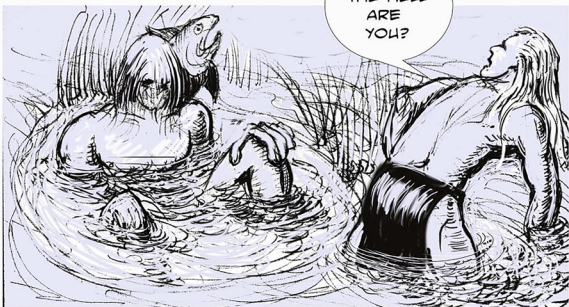


WHERE  
DID THE  
PUNY THING  
GO?

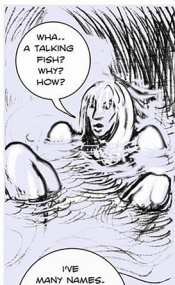




WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE  
YOU?







THIS IS THE LAND OF DEATH AND DREAMS. ITS RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN AROUND EONS AND ARE YET TO BE.



GLOOSCAP! THE FIRST MAN YET YOU'RE PARTLY ANIMAL..

AND WHY WOULDN'T I BE PART ANIMAL?

IF YOU KNOW THIS MUCH, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME HOW I ENDED UP HERE.



I SEE GLIMMERS OF STRANGE LIVES AND ODD EVENTS...

A DREAM SPIRIT WITH AN IDENTITY CRISIS. HOW INTERESTING! AND I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT ALL.



I HEAR PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE OLD LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE CORRUPTED IT.



WHO ARE THEY?

WELL - NAMES DON'T MATTER HERE - ONLY YOUR WAKER OR, IN YOUR CASE, WAKERS.



YOU'RE MUDDLED BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN OCCUPIED BY TWO WAKERS FROM DIFFERENT WAKE TIMES.

THE WAKERS ARE STRUGGLING IN THEIR LIVES TO FIND WAYS THROUGH AN IMPENDING CHAOS



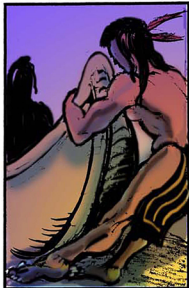
AND YOU AREN'T HELPING THEM.

HEY! WHAT THE..



ENOUGH WITH THE SMALL TALK. TIME FOR MORE PLAY







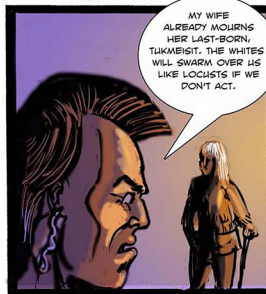
I'M  
RAISING A WAR  
PARTY TO PUSH  
OUT THE WHITE  
SETTLERS.

IT HAS  
ALREADY BEGUN  
WITH METACOMET\*  
AND THE  
WAMPANOAGS.

WE  
NEED TO  
JOIN THEM IN  
THE SOUTH  
LANDS IN TWO  
DAYS.

METACOMET  
NEEDS YOU  
TO FIGHT FOR  
YOUR LIFE!

THAT'S  
BLINK! IF YOU  
WANT TO FIGHT  
SO BADLY, SEND  
YOUR OWN  
SONS!



MY WIFE  
ALREADY MOURNS  
HER LAST-BORN,  
TUKMEISIT. THE WHITES  
WILL SWARM OVER US  
LIKE LOCUSTS IF WE  
DON'T ACT.



YOUR LOSS  
DIMINISHES OUR  
WORLD. EVEN SO,  
MUST WE MAKE IT  
WORSE BY  
LOSING MORE OF  
OUR YOUNG?

\* METACOMET (AKA KING PHILIP) STARTED A WAR AGAINST ENGLISH SETTLERS IN 1675, NEW ENGLAND.

WHAT'S TO STOP THE WAMPANOAGS FROM DEMANDING TRIBUTE FROM US AS THE THE PEQUOTS DO NOW?

BUT SITTING ON OUR HEELS WHILE OUR FIERCER BROTHERS DO BATTLE MIGHT MAKE DEMANDS FOR TRIBUTE WORSE.

TWO YOUNGSTERS DEAD, 3 WOUNDED IN THE RECENT SO-CALLED *FINAL BATTLE*. LET THE OLDER BRAVES FIGHT AND DIE FOR THEIR BOOBY.

BUT IS IT NOT THE WAY OF THINGS, SISTER?

AS A YOUNG BRAVE I FOUGHT THE PEQUOTS AND THE MOHAWKS, NEVER SURE I'D RETURN TO MY BABIES - BUT I WAS...

FIERCER! ABLE TO ENDURE MORE THAN MY OLDER SELF CAN HOPE FOR.

THE HEARTS AND ARMS OF THE YOUNG ARE BEST-SUITED TO BATTLE.

SHUSH, TAKONET. YOU'RE STILL INJURED FROM THE LAST SKIRMISH

MY SHOULDER'S FINE, BUT MY DREAMS ARE TROUBLED. THEY MAKE ME FEEL THAT WE ARE BEING LOST

I'M READY TO FIGHT



TAKONET, DREAMS ARE LIKE THE FALSE SPRING - FULL OF PROMISE THAT CAN TURN CRUEL IN AN INSTANT.

I KNOW THAT GRANDMOTHER. I THOUGHT MY DREAMS ALIGNED GREAT THINGS FOR ME

BUT INSTEAD I SEE STRANGE LANDS, PERVERSE CREATURES, A FIGURE WHO SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE ME BUT IS NOT ME.

I USED TO TAKE SOLACE IN MY DREAMS. NOW I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP.

IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF I'M ASLEEP OR NOT. THE DREAMS INVADE MY WAKING HOURS WITH PHASTAMS, STRANGE VISIONS.

IT'S AS IF MY LIFE IS NOT MY OWN. EVENTS WORK AGAINST ME - STYMY ME AT EVERY TURN



I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BELIEVE YOU, BUT YOU WEAR THE TATOO OF A SEER SO I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING TO THIS.

SO THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS. I'VE ALWAYS HAD IT BUT NEVER KNEW.



YOUR MOTHER ASKED THAT WE NEVER TELL YOU WHAT IT MEANT, TAKONET. SHE DIDN'T WANT A SEER'S LIFE FOR YOU LIKE YOUR FATHER HAD.

SUCH A LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN GOOD FOR MUCH MORE THAN NIGHTMARES AND INDIGESTION.

THE POX TOOK BOTH YOUR PARENTS AND YOUR FATHER NEVER SAW IT COMING.

SO MUCH FOR A FORTUNE TELLER'S VISION!

IGNORING SUCH DREAMS IS PERILOUS FOR US.

I WOULD HEAR MORE ABOUT THEM, BUT MY TASK PASSES ME ON TO THE NEXT VILLAGE.

SO NOW YOU TAKE ON THE ROLE OF A HOLYMAN, INTERPRETING DREAMS TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS?

WATOONAS YOU DISAPPOINT. DID YOU NOT PRAY TO THEIR CHRISTIAN GOD?

YES I LIVED IN THEIR PRAYING VILLAGE FOR A TIME, BUT ONLY TO STUDY THEIR WAYS - AND THEIR WEAKNESSES.

WE MUST RESIST THE WHITES BEFORE THEY INFEST OUR LANDS. AND OUR VERY LIVES.

WE WILL SEND A RUNNER WITH OUR DECISION IN A FEW DAYS

I HEAD WEST TO ENLIST MORE TRIBES IN OUR FIGHT. I NEED TO KNOW NOW HOW PERSUASIVE I MUST BE.

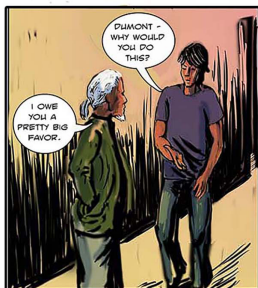
TAKONET! DO YOU BELIEVE THE WAY THEY'RE ARGUING ABOUT WHETHER TO JOIN THE WAR? IT'S WORRYING.

I WILL FIGHT NO MATTER WHAT THE ELDER'S DECIDE. MY DREAMS ARE IN CHARGE NOW OF MY LIFE.

VERY WELL STAY TONIGHT AND WE'LL ANSWER IN THE MORNING











LOOK I APPRECIATE THE BAIL, BUT I JUST DON'T BUY THE MYSTIC VISION QUEST CRAP.

YOU'RE ON A BAD PATH, MIKE...

I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS ON THE SAME PATH.



BESIDES HAVING A GREAT MOTHER LOOKING OUT FOR YOU, SOMETHING ELSE IS GOING ON.



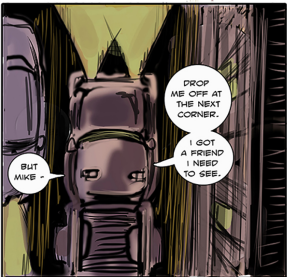
THOSE AMAZING DREAMS...

A VISION QUEST COULD HELP YOU FIGURE THEM OUT.



YOU AND MY MOM SCREWED UP YOUR OWN LIVES AND NOW YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT ALL THIS WISDOM TO PASS ON TO ME.

WELL NO THANK YOU.



DROP ME OFF AT THE NEXT CORNER.

I GOT A FRIEND I NEED TO SEE.

BUT MIKE -



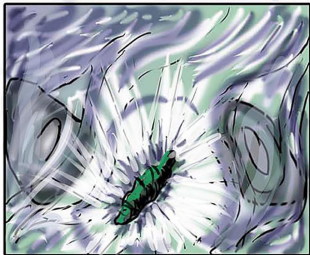
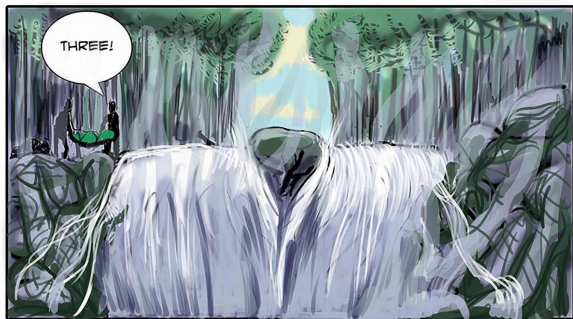














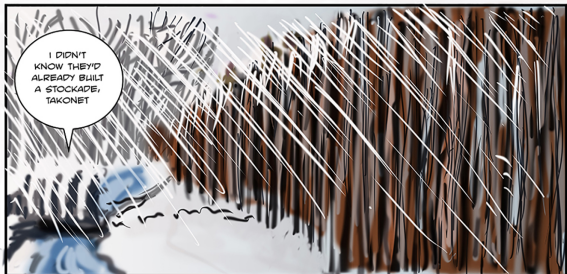
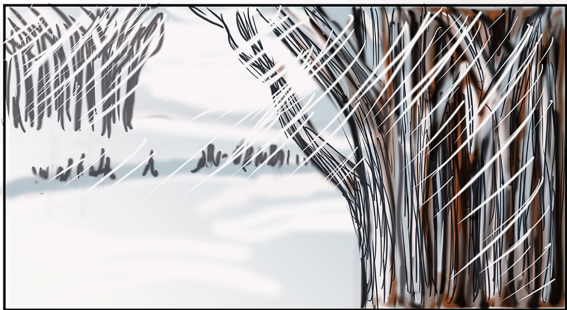
TAKONET?

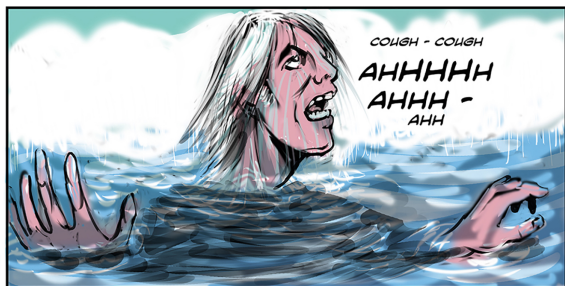
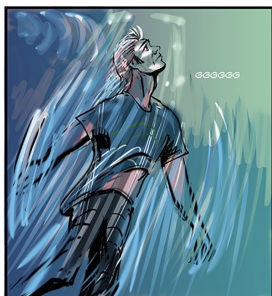
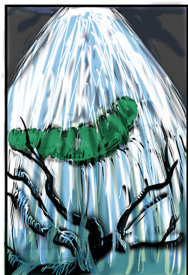
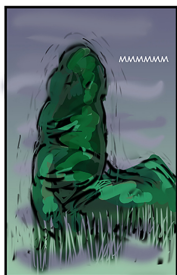


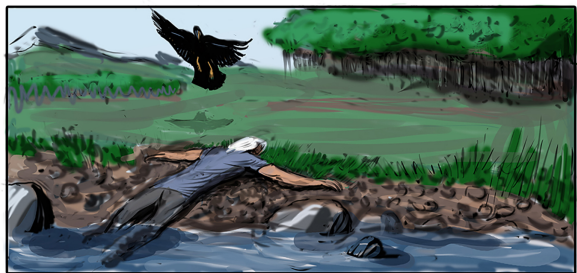
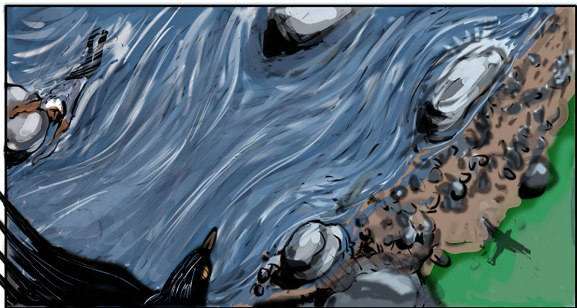
WHAT'S  
ALL THIS  
ABOUT?



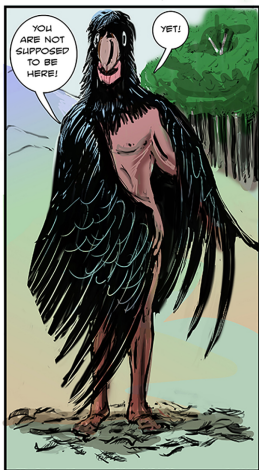




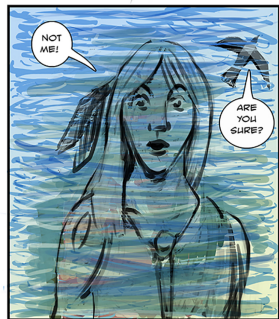








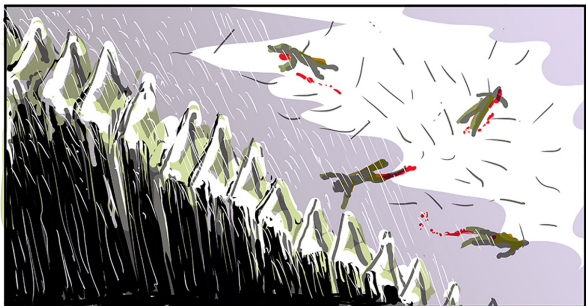














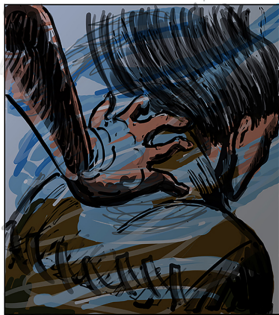
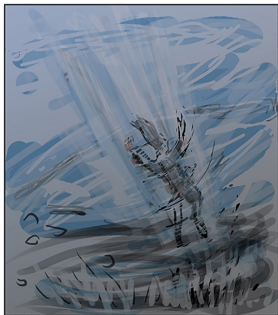
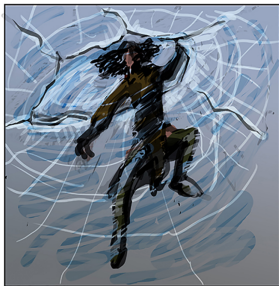
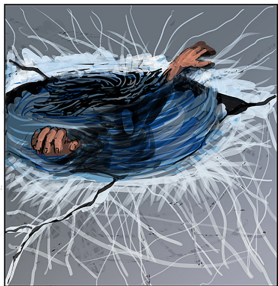










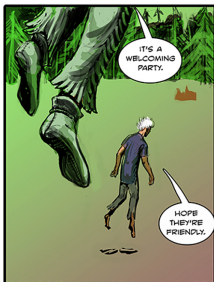






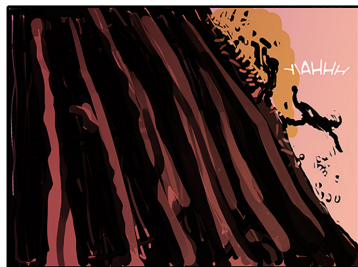


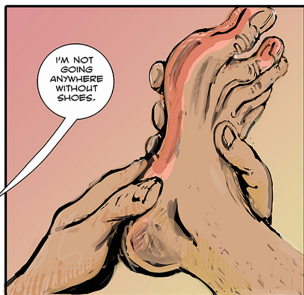


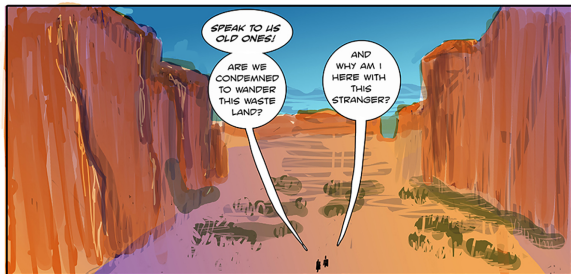


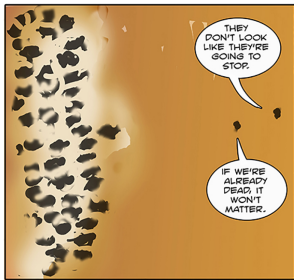
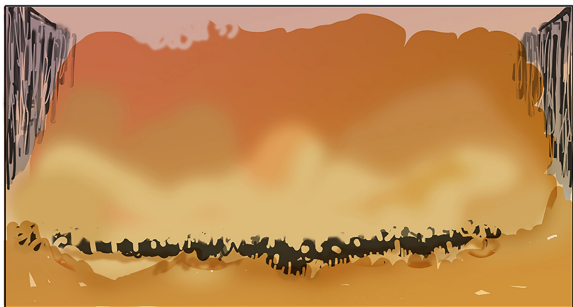






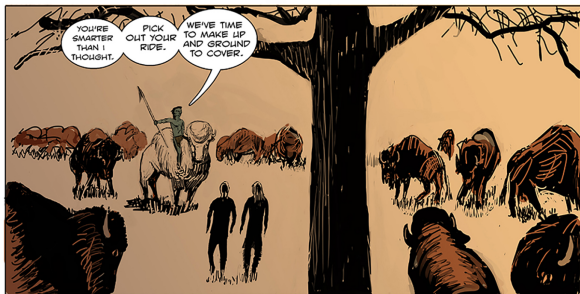






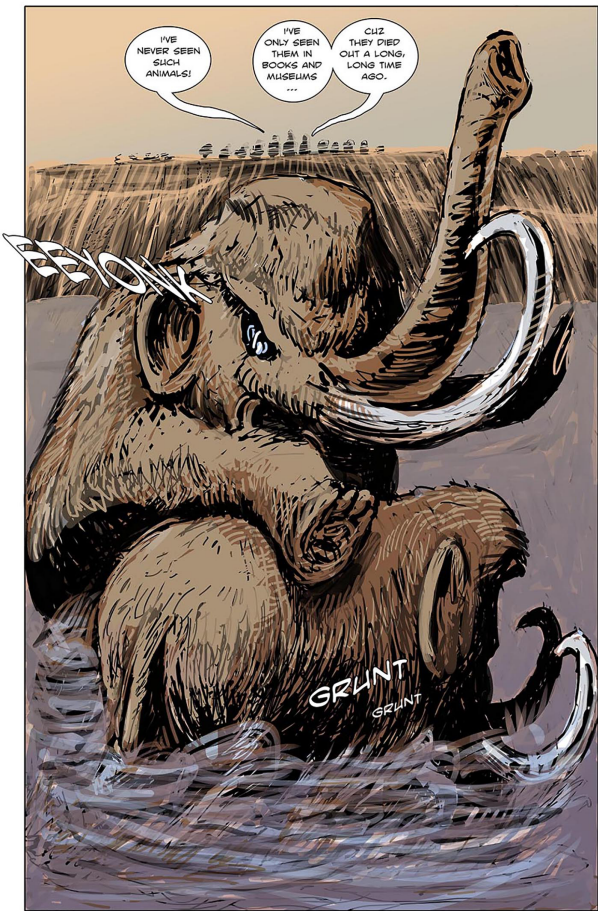


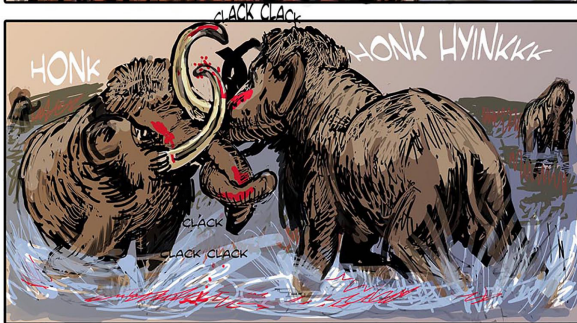




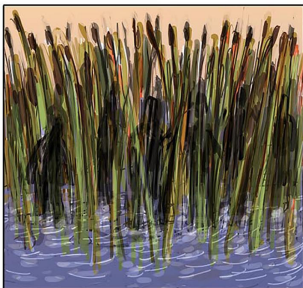
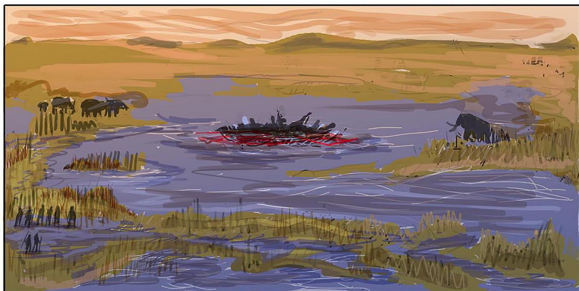
















DO YOU BELIEVE THESE GUYS?

THEY'RE SO BUSY THEY HAVENT EVEN NOTICED US.

YOU KNOW LITTLE OF THE PAIN OF AN EMPTY BELLY.



PAPA LOOK! MEN ON BUFFS!

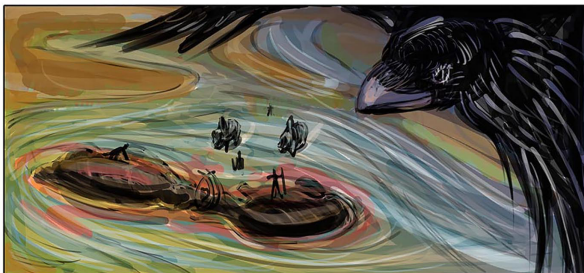


THEY MUST HAVE GREAT MAGIC TO HANDLE THE BUFFS.



YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING WE LEAVE.

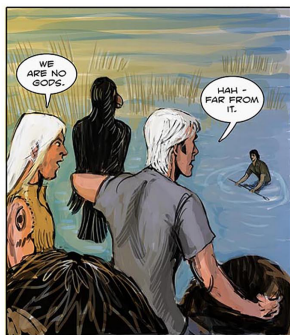
WE DON'T WANT YOUR KILL.



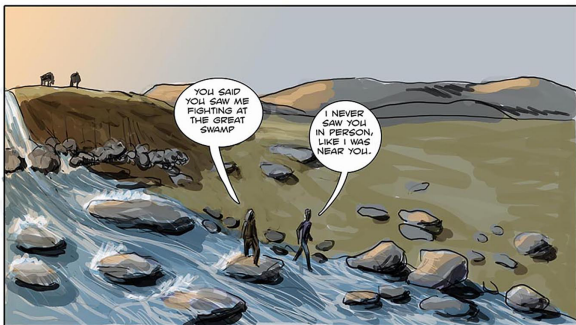












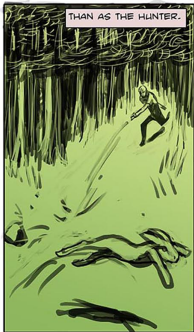
I SPENT SEVERAL  
COLD NIGHTS.



AND HAD MORE SUCCESS  
AS THE HUNTED...



THAN AS THE HUNTER.



I LIVED ON BERRIES.



AND WHATEVER PLANTS  
DIDN'T MAKE ME PUKE.



PRETTY SOON EVEN THE  
BERRIES MADE ME SICK.

I TRULY BELIEVED I WOULD DIE.



I DRIFTED BETWEEN WAKING AND SLEEPING



AN OLD MAN WITH WILD HAIR WOKE ME



HE GUIDED ME THROUGH THE WOODS...



... AND LED ME TO A SPRING COMING FROM ROCKS.



I SIPPED AND THE WATER CHARGED ME WITH ENERGY LIKE A JOLT OF ELECTRICITY.



IN THE VERNAL POOL I WATCHED YOU FIGHT AND ESCAPE ONTO ICE

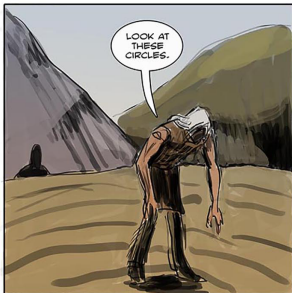


AND SINK LIKE A STONE.

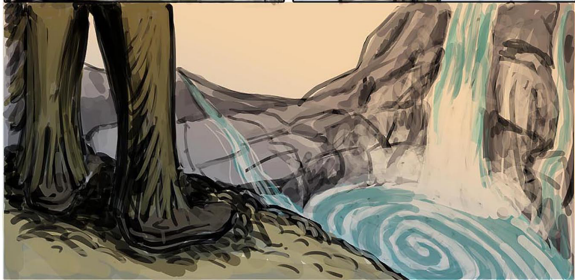


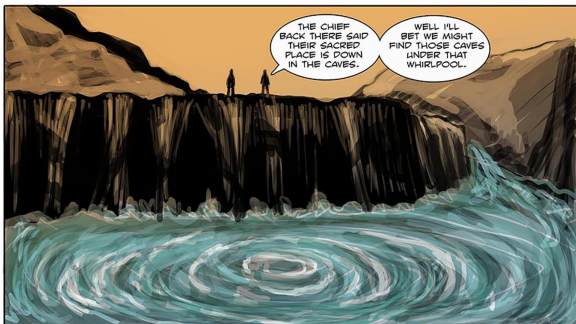
THE OLD MAN MUST'VE PUSHED ME IN BECAUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN I WAS SWIMMING FOR YOU.











THE CHIEF  
BACK THERE SAID  
THEIR SACRED  
PLACE IS DOWN  
IN THE CAVES.

WELL I'LL  
BET WE MIGHT  
FIND THOSE CAVES  
UNDER THAT  
WHIRLPOOL.



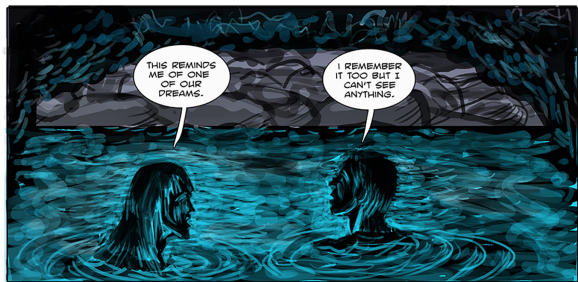
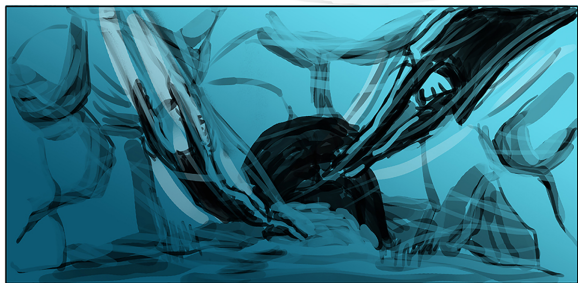
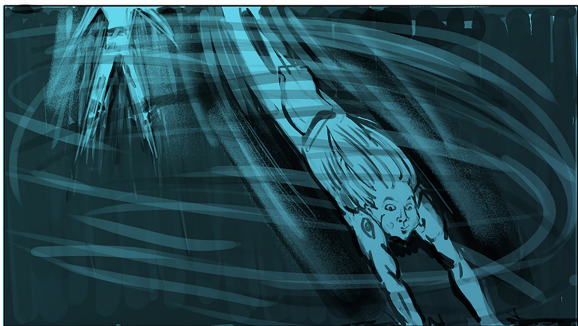
BUT HOW  
CAN WE GET  
TO THEM?



IF WE  
COULD FLY  
WHEN IT WAS  
CALLED  
FOR...



MAYBE WE  
CAN BREATHE  
UNDER  
THE  
WATER TOO.



THIS REMINDS  
ME OF ONE  
OF OUR  
DREAMS.

I REMEMBER  
IT TOO BUT I  
CAN'T SEE  
ANYTHING.



