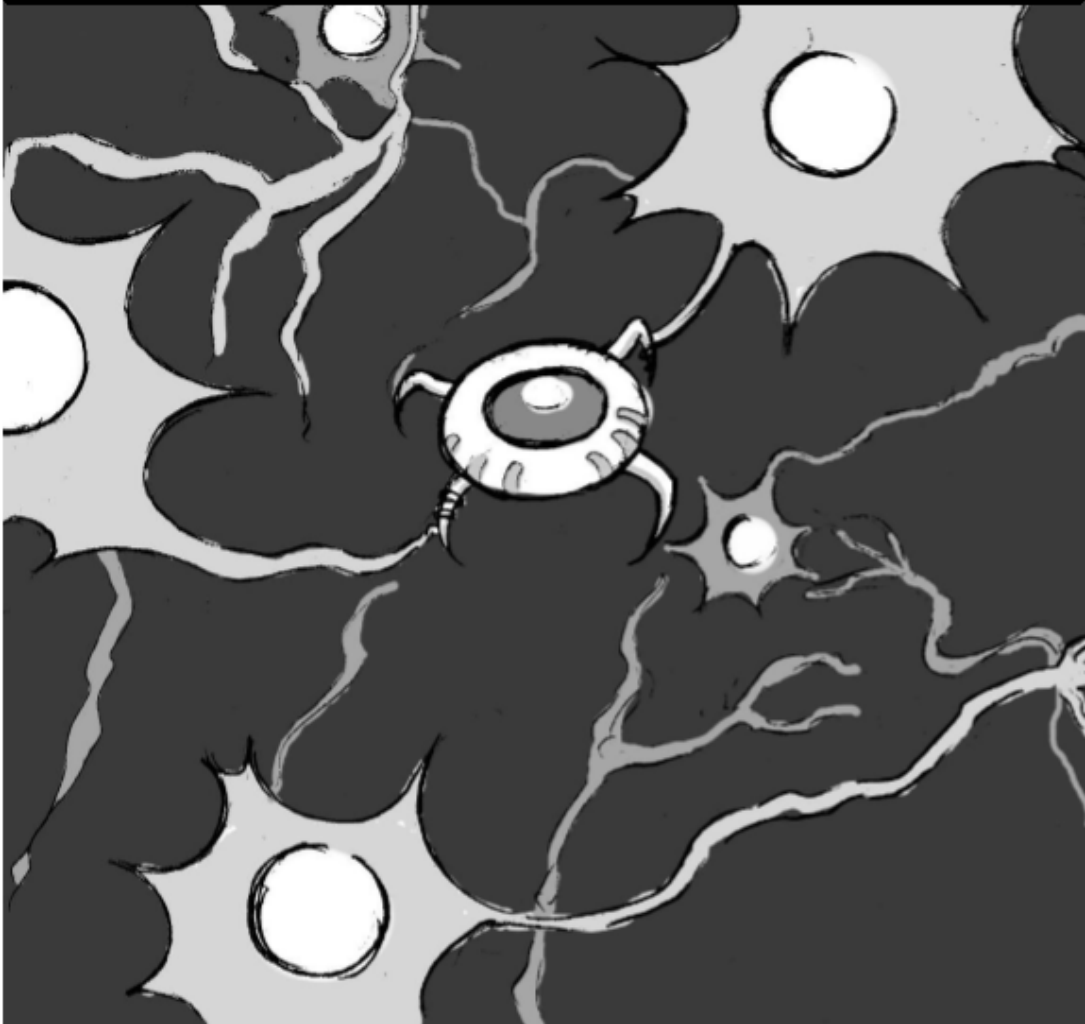


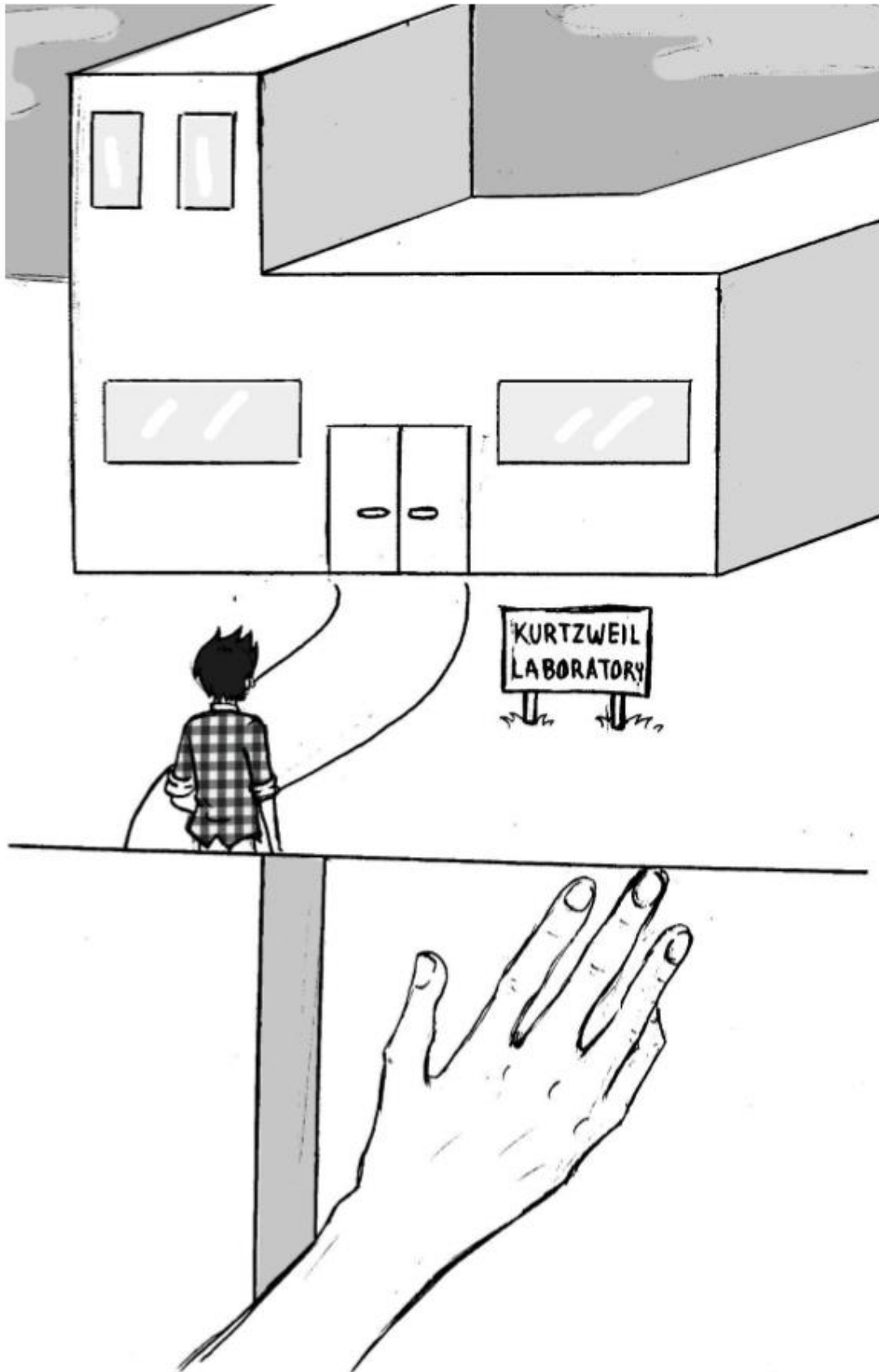


# THE LIFE WITHOUT

═══ BECOMING THE CREATOR ═══

RENEE L CHEN



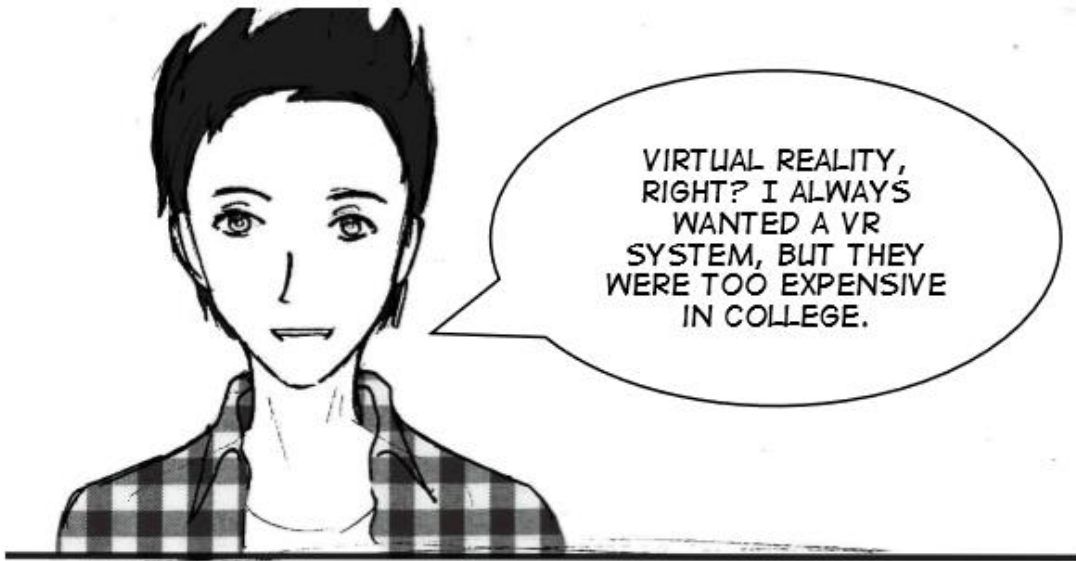




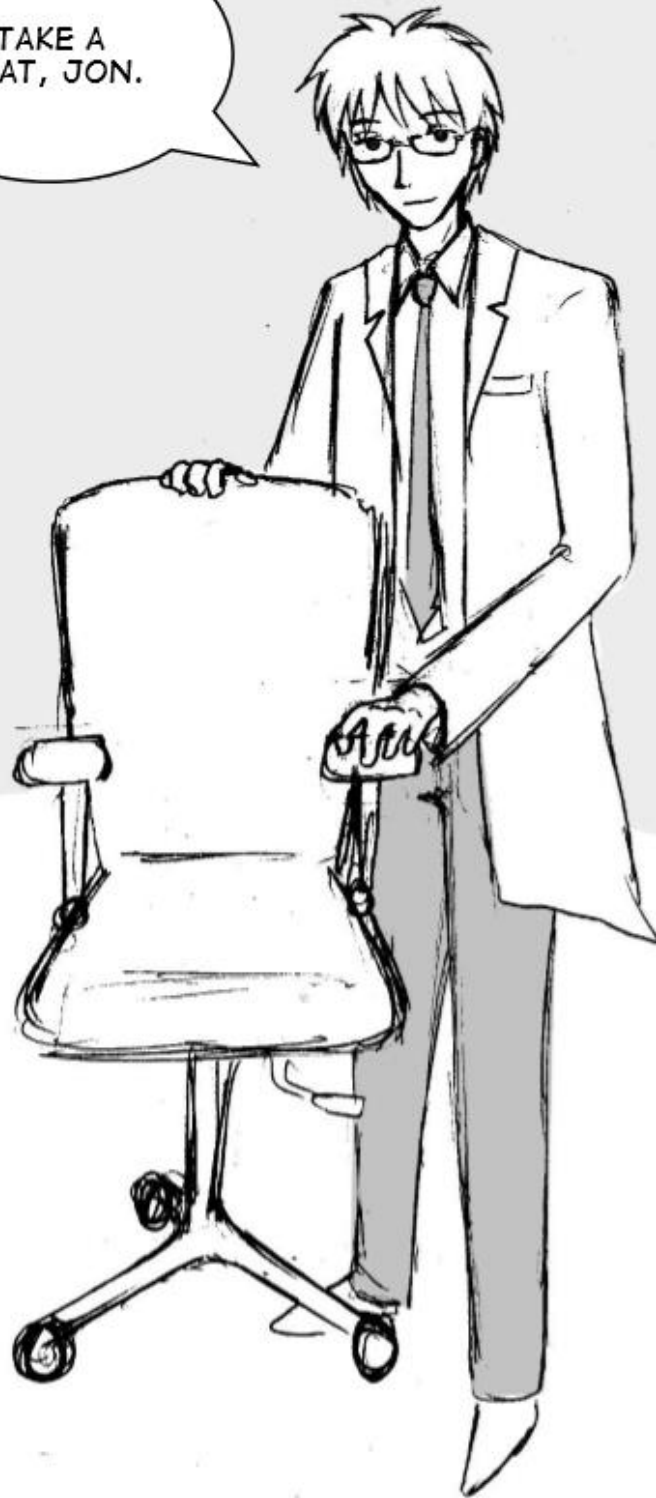
AH,  
JONATHAN!  
YOU MADE  
IT!



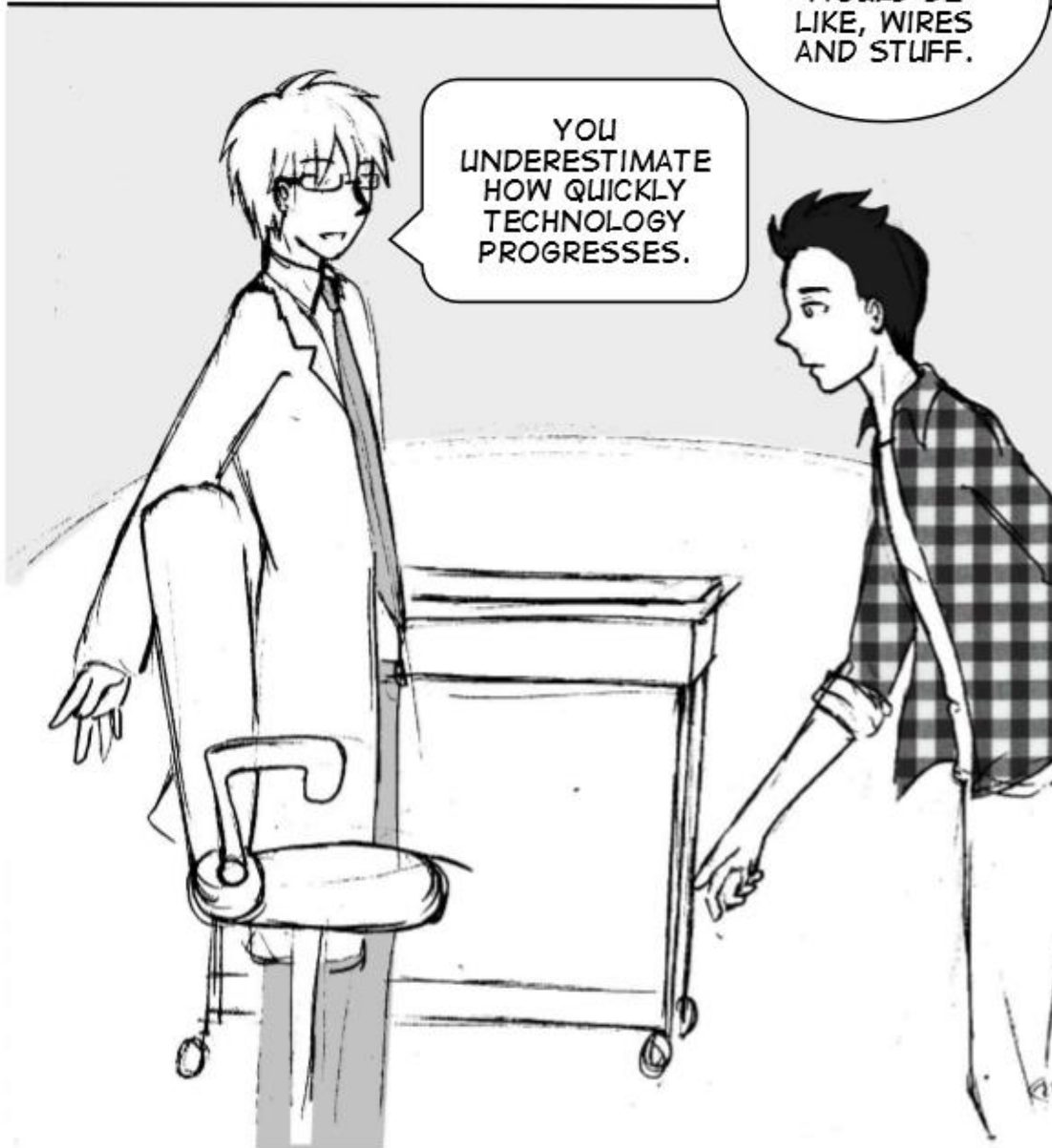




TAKE A  
SEAT, JON.









WE DID AWAY WITH  
BODY SUITS AND  
TRACKERS 7 YEARS  
AGO.



JON... WHAT DO YOU THINK  
VIRTUAL REALITY IS?



HUH?



UHM... ISN'T IT  
LIKE, A FAKE  
WORLD?  
SOMETHING  
GENERATED BY A  
COMPUTER?

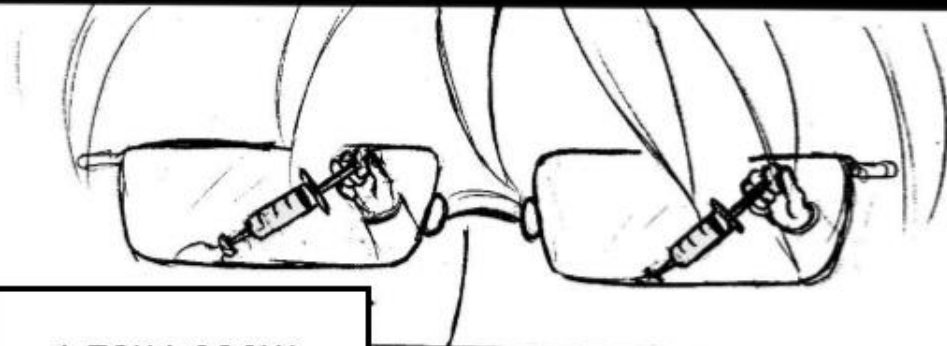


UNTIL RECENTLY,  
YES. CG  
SIMULATIONS  
HAVE HAD A  
NOTABLE IMPACT  
ON THE HEALTH  
AND  
ENTERTAINMENT  
INDUSTRIES.

BUT WHAT USE  
ARE THOSE  
REALLY?

THEY'VE MERELY MADE REPETITIVE TASKS  
EASIER TO CARRY OUT. THE SAME GAME.  
THE SAME SKILL. THE SAME LIFE.

NO REAL HUMAN INGENUITY.



A TRUE SOCIAL  
REVOLUTION WILL  
ONLY BE  
POSSIBLE...



WHEN WE MERGE  
MAN AND  
MACHINE...



JON! WE CAN DO THIS NOW!  
WE CAN ALTER YOUR PERCEPTION OF REALITY FROM WITHIN!

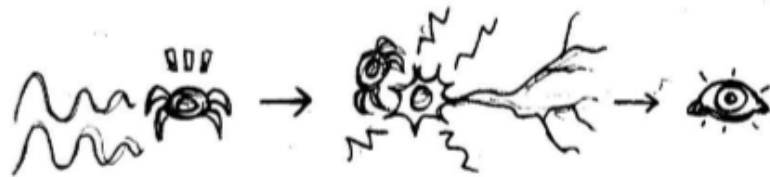
DAMN.  
THAT SOUNDS KINDA COOL... BUT ARE YOU OKAY, RICHARD?  
WHAT'S WITH THE NEEDLE?

IN THIS SHOT IS THE  
REASON WE DON'T NEED  
WIRES OR DISPLAYS  
ANYMORE.

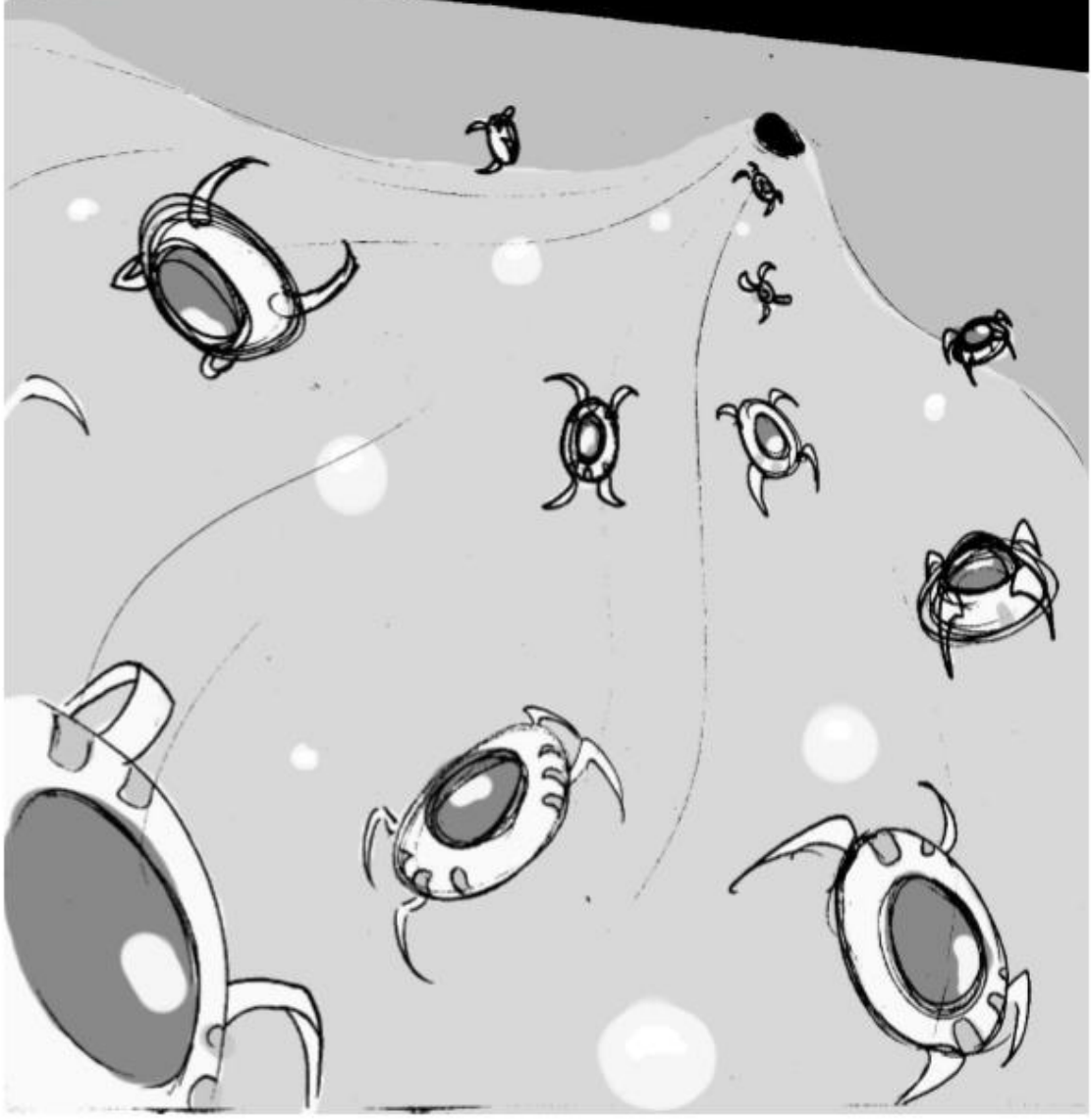
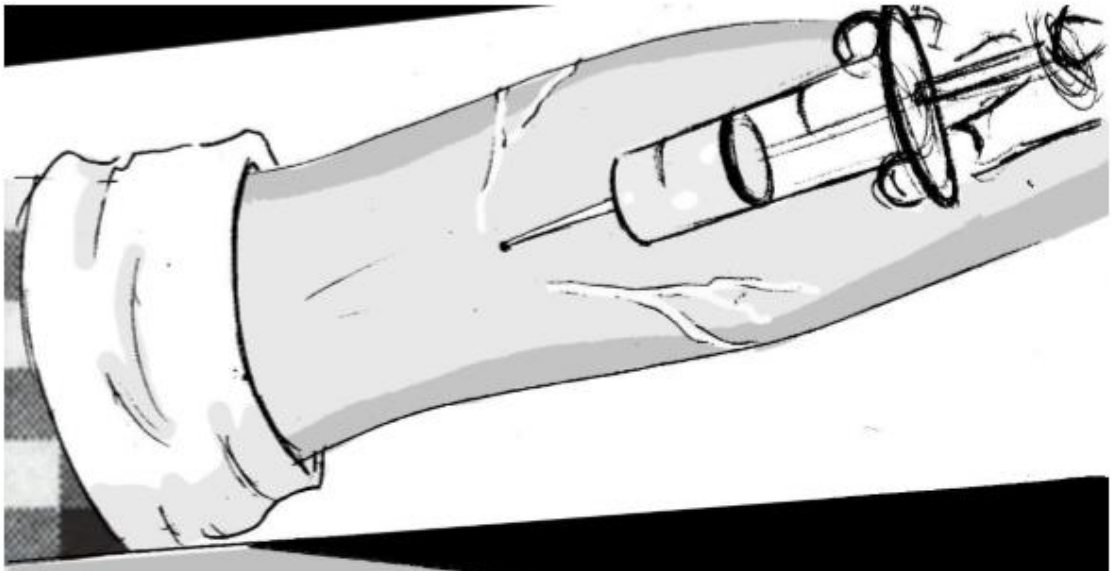


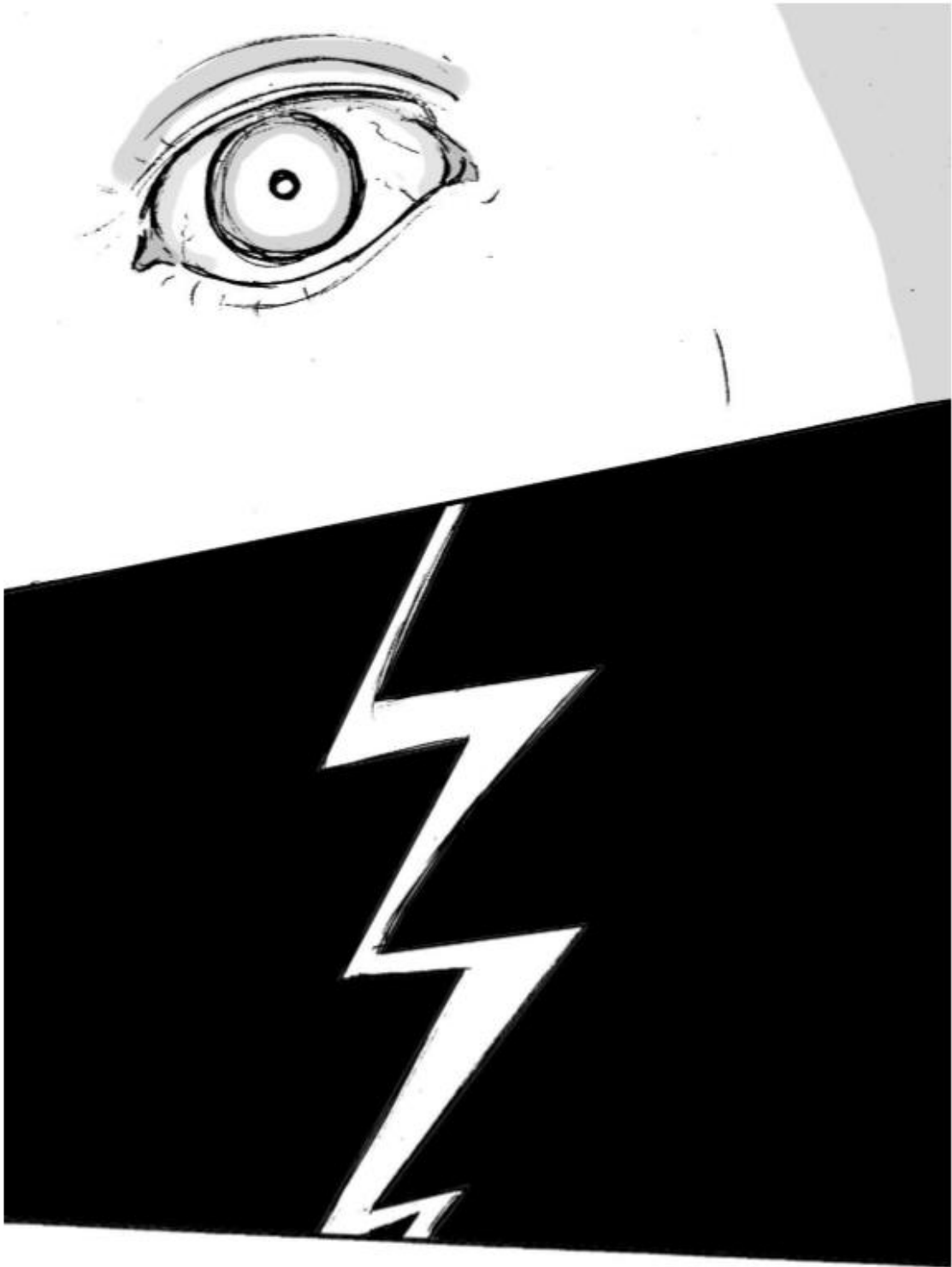
MILLIONS OF NANOBOTS.  
THEY'LL BE INCORPORATED INTO YOUR BODY VIA  
THE BLOODSTREAM.

LIKE TINY COMPUTERS, THEY'LL RESPOND TO  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR INPUT AND  
STIMULATE SPECIFIC NERVES TO CREATE A  
SENSORY RESPONSE.









*S'NAP!*





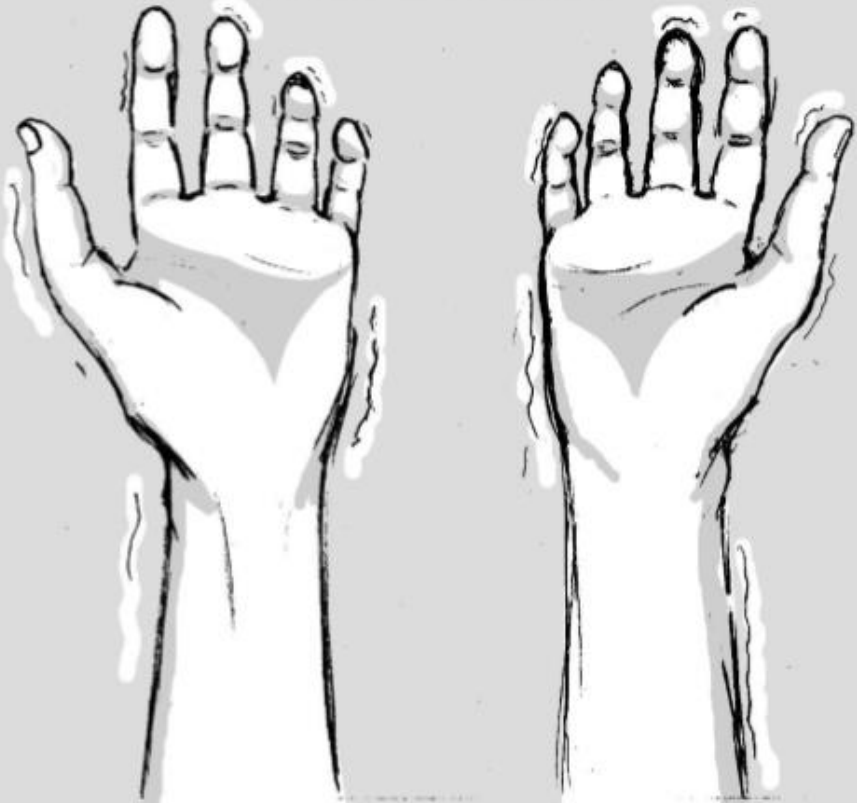
**GASP!**



WHAT... DID YOU DO TO ME, RICH?

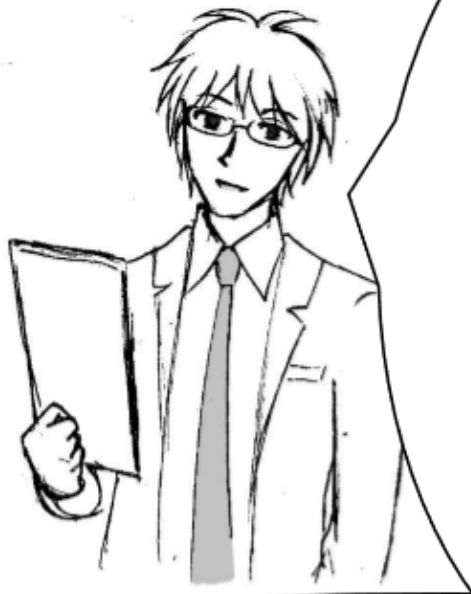


YOU'RE A SUPERIOR HUMAN NOW. THE WORLD IS ANYTHING YOU WANT IT TO BE.





WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



THE NANOBOTS, JON. THEY'LL MIMIC ELECTRICAL AND CHEMICAL SIGNALS IN YOUR BODY IN RESPONSE TO YOUR WILL. SIGHT, TASTE, SMELL, TOUCH, AND SOUND. IT'S UP TO YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE. YOUR REAL HUMAN MIND, ZERO DELAY, AND THE PRECISION OF MODERN MACHINES.

THIS IS THE FUTURE OF VIRTUAL REALITY IN REALITY. THIS IS THE SINGULARITY.

LOOK AT ME, JON.



YOU'RE PROBABLY ANGRY AT ME RIGHT NOW.

WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE?



ooo



FUFUFU! IS THAT  
SO? HOW CUTE.



DO YOU SEE  
THIS TOO?

NO. I SEE WHAT  
I WANT TO SEE.  
WE EACH HAVE  
OUR OWN  
PERCEPTION OF  
THE WORLD.

WHY?

BECAUSE WE'RE  
INDIVIDUALS.





ST-  
STACY...

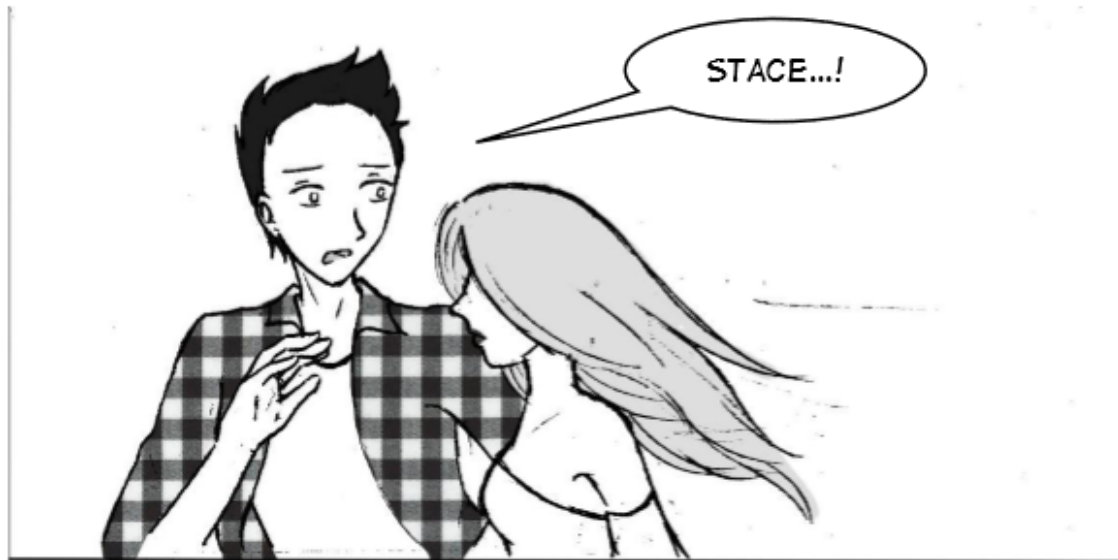
*JON...*



I HAVE A DREAM.

THIS  
TECHNOLOGY  
WILL CONTINUE  
TO DEVELOP AT  
AN EXPONENTIAL  
RATE.  
WE'LL BE ABLE  
TO LOAD ALL  
HUMAN  
MEMORIES  
ONTO A DIGITAL  
PLANE, AND AT  
LAST  
TRANSCEND OUR  
PHYSICAL  
BODIES.





JON, I AM NOT YOUR STACY. AND AT THIS TIME, I CAN NEVER **BE** YOUR STACY. HOWEVER, IN THE FUTURE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GENERATE AND INTERACT WITH YOUR MEMORIES OF HER, COMBINED WITH THE INFORMATION FROM ONLINE DATABASES.

SOME PEOPLE WILL ALLOW THEMSELVES TO LIVE IN THIS "FAKE" ISOLATION. IT'LL BE LIKE THE DYSTOPIAN FUTURE OF THAT WALL-E MOVIE.



BUT! IT ALSO HAS THE CAPACITY TO BRING ALL OF MANKIND TOGETHER.

OUR COGNITIVE VIRTUOSITY IS THE RESULT OF SOCIAL COOPERATION. BY INCREASING THIS SCALE OF COOPERATION, WE WILL APPROACH THE APEX OF SUM HUMAN INTELLIGENCE.

WITHOUT THE CLOUD OF GENDER, RACE, OR CLASS BIASES, WE BECOME EQUAL AS HUMAN BEINGS...

JON, DOESN'T A WORLD WITH 7+ BILLION PEOPLE WORKING IN PEACE SOUND BEAUTIFUL?



EVEN IF THAT WORLD ISN'T PHYSICAL?



YEAH. I GUESS SO...





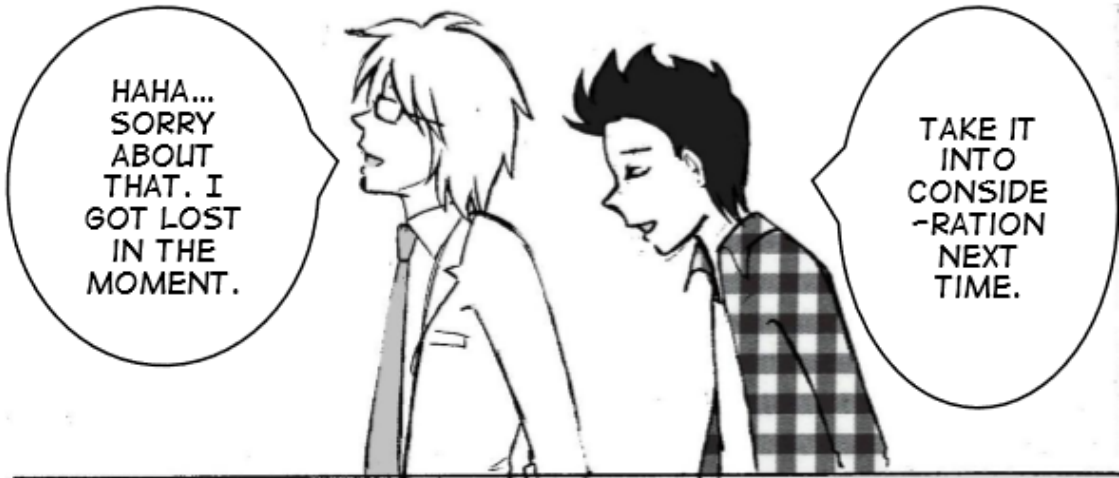
THANK YOU  
FOR  
PARTICIPAT  
-ING IN MY  
STUDY,  
JON...

...AND FOR  
BEING MY  
FRIEND.



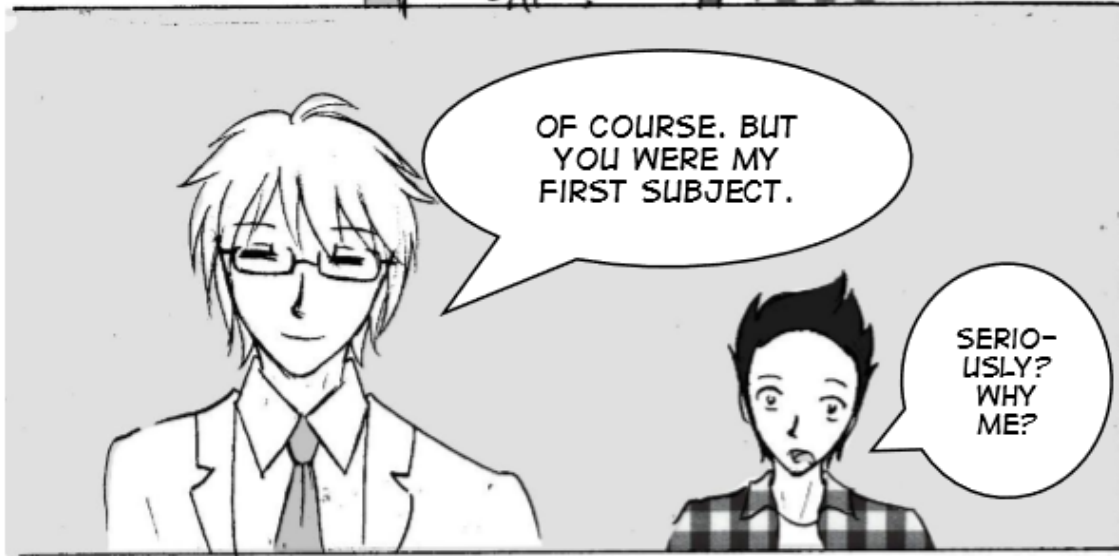
YEAH. IT'S NO  
PROBLEM.

EXCEPT FOR THE  
WHOLE STABBING ME  
WITH A NEEDLE  
THING.  
WHATEVER.



HAHA...  
SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT. I  
GOT LOST  
IN THE  
MOMENT.

TAKE IT  
INTO  
CONSIDERATION  
NEXT  
TIME.



OF COURSE. BUT  
YOU WERE MY  
FIRST SUBJECT.

SERIOUSLY?  
WHY  
ME?



BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A GOOD  
PERSON, JON.  
YOU CHOSE ME  
OVER STACY. I  
KNOW YOU  
WON'T USE THE  
VR NANOBOTS  
FOR SELFISH  
REASONS.



MAYBE  
YOU  
THINK  
TOO  
HIGHLY  
OF ME.



MAYBE!  
WE'LL FIND OUT  
IN DUE TIME.  
HAVE A SAFE  
TRIP HOME!



YEP. BYE!



~Bzzt~

MUCH BETTER!



THE END