

UNCANNY

MONIKA TUCHOWSKA

UNCANNY

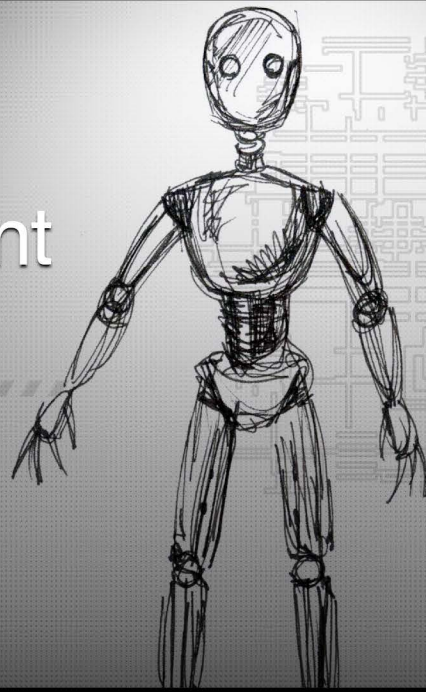
story & art by Monika Tuchowska

Photoshop Brushes: www.obsidiandawn.com

NY stock image: www.Fairiegoodmother.deviantArt.com

Introducing...

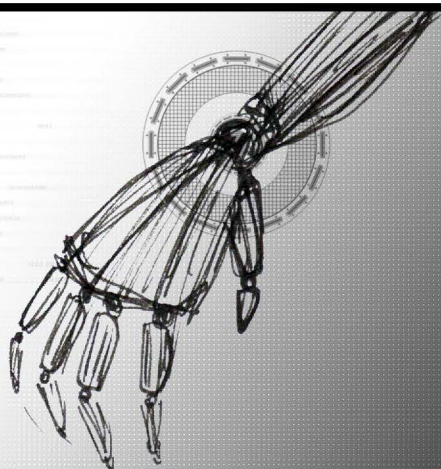
The latest advancement
in android technology:



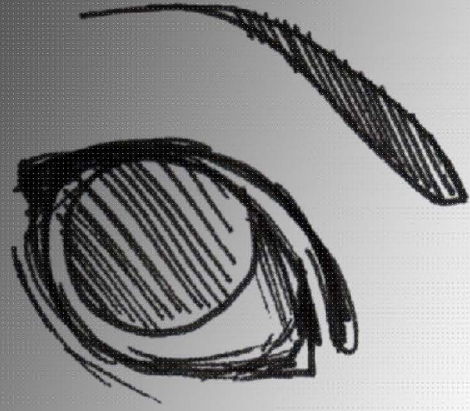
Five new facial expressions



Increased flexibility



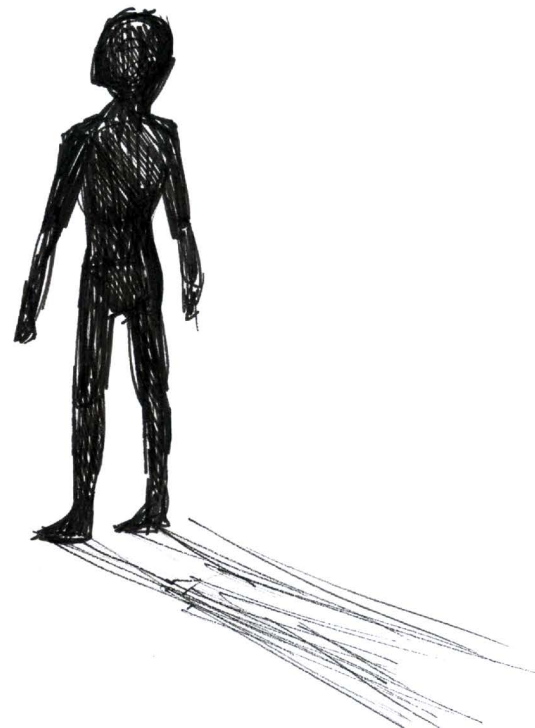
And more
realistic than
ever before.



the fully customizable

[AN-3]

UPGRADE TODAY





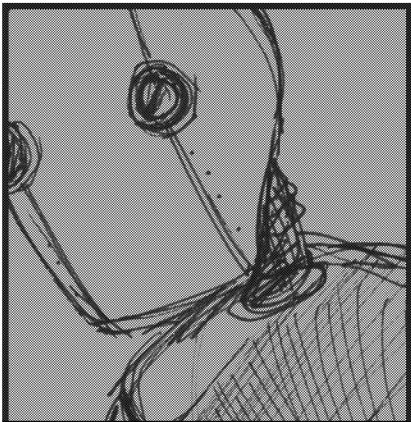
...
I HATE
THEM.

NEW YORK, 2043

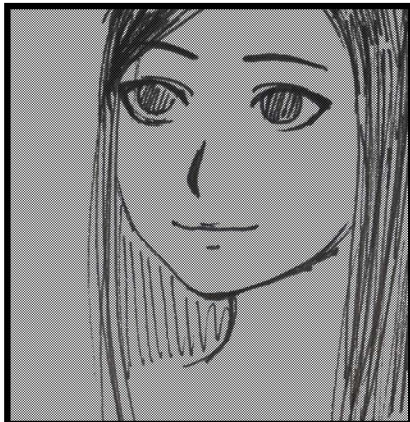




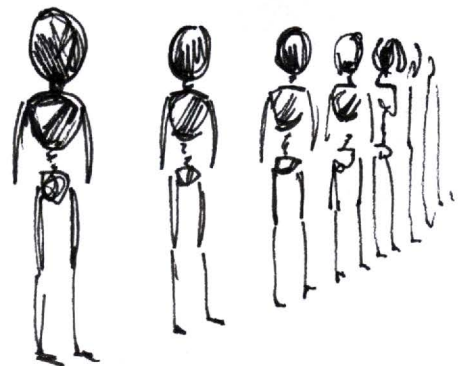
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE AND I HATE THEM.



THEY CALL THEM ROBOTS.



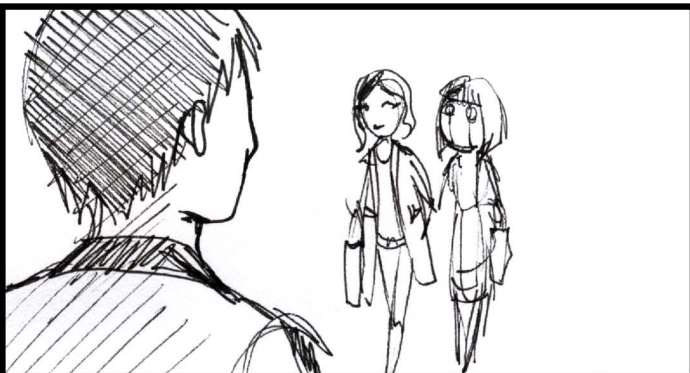
THEY CALL THEM ANDROIDS.



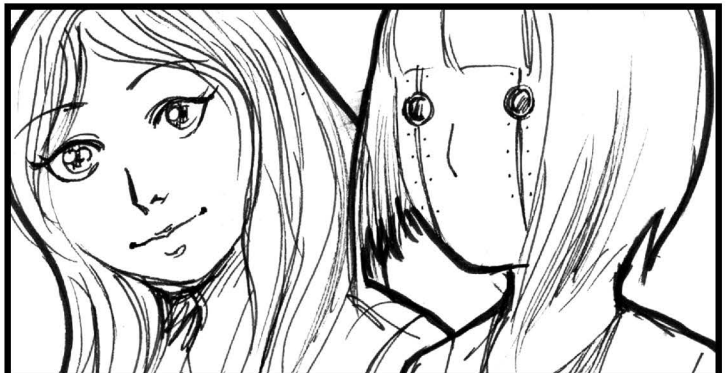
I CALL THEM *FAKERS*.



...MECHANICAL SLAVES MEANT TO DO OUR BIDDING.

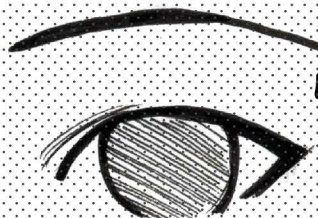
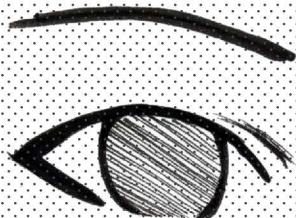


...I DON'T GET IT.



THEY'RE DESIGNED TO BE OUR FRIENDS.

BUT HOW CAN ANYONE SEE THOSE DEAD EYES,



BLANK FACE,

AND RIGID BODY

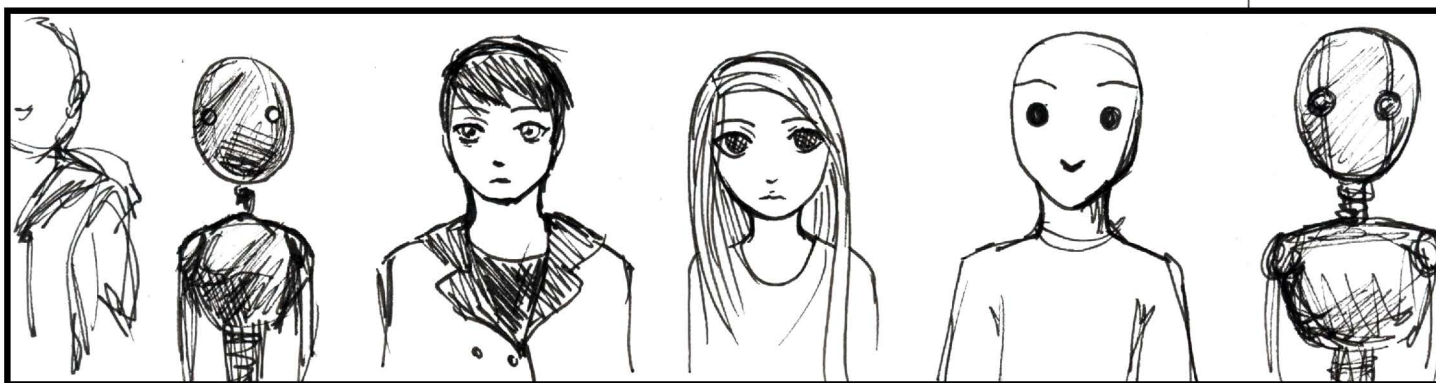
AND BE FOOLED?



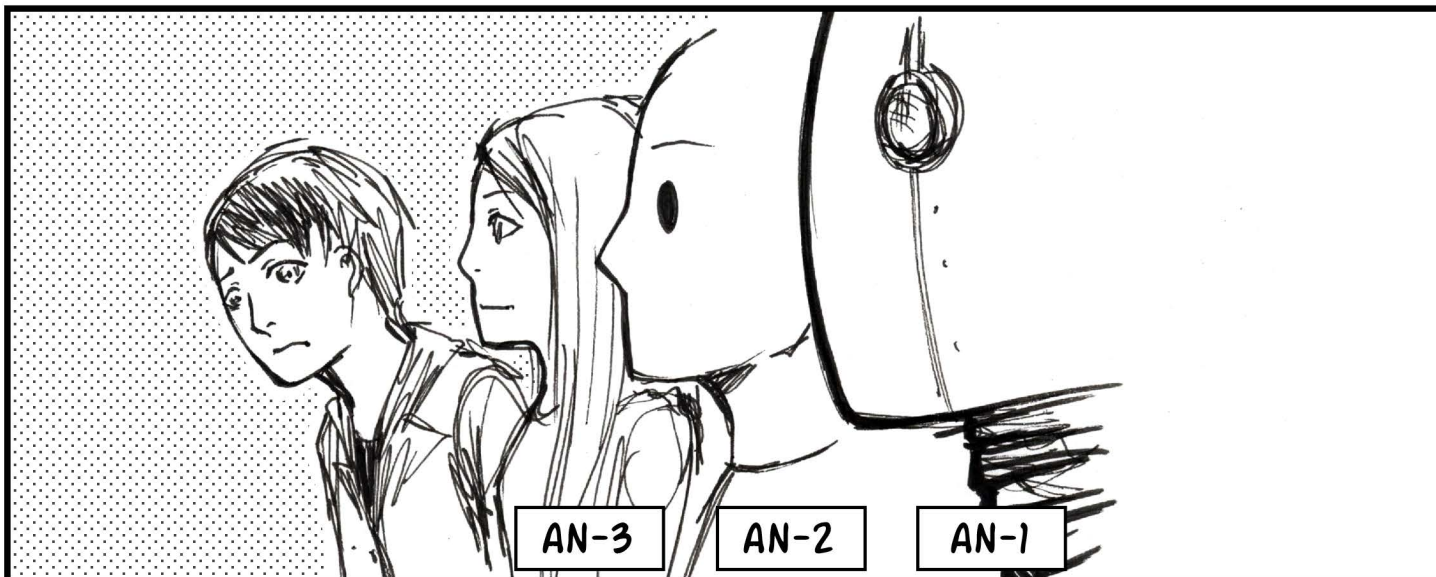
HOW CAN ANYONE HEAR THAT COLD VOICE AND STAND IT?



YEARS GO BY AND THE ROBOTS LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE US.



BUT THE MORE THEY RESEMBLE US,



THE MORE THEY SCARE ME.

APPARENTLY
THIS FEAR,
THIS UNEASI-
NESS I HAVE
HAS A NAME:
THE *UNCANNY*
VALLEY.

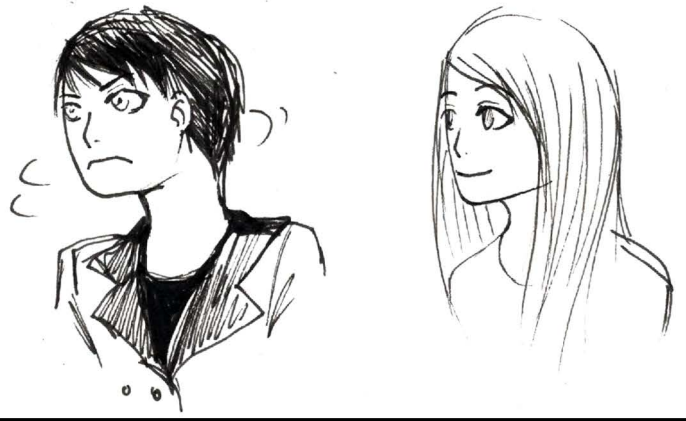
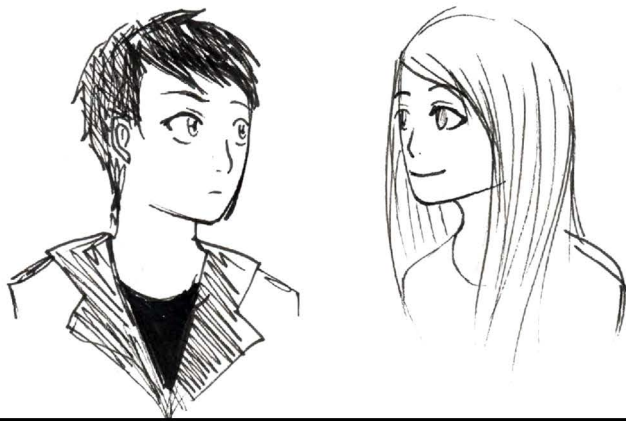
IT HAPPENS WHEN
DROIDS ARE NOT
QUITE HUMAN
ENOUGH.
THEY COME
CLOSE, BUT
SOMETHING IS
ALWAYS OFF
ABOUT THEM.

THAT SOMETHING
GIVES US THE
CREEPS.
AND IT PREVENTS
THEM FROM
PASSING FOR
A HUMAN.

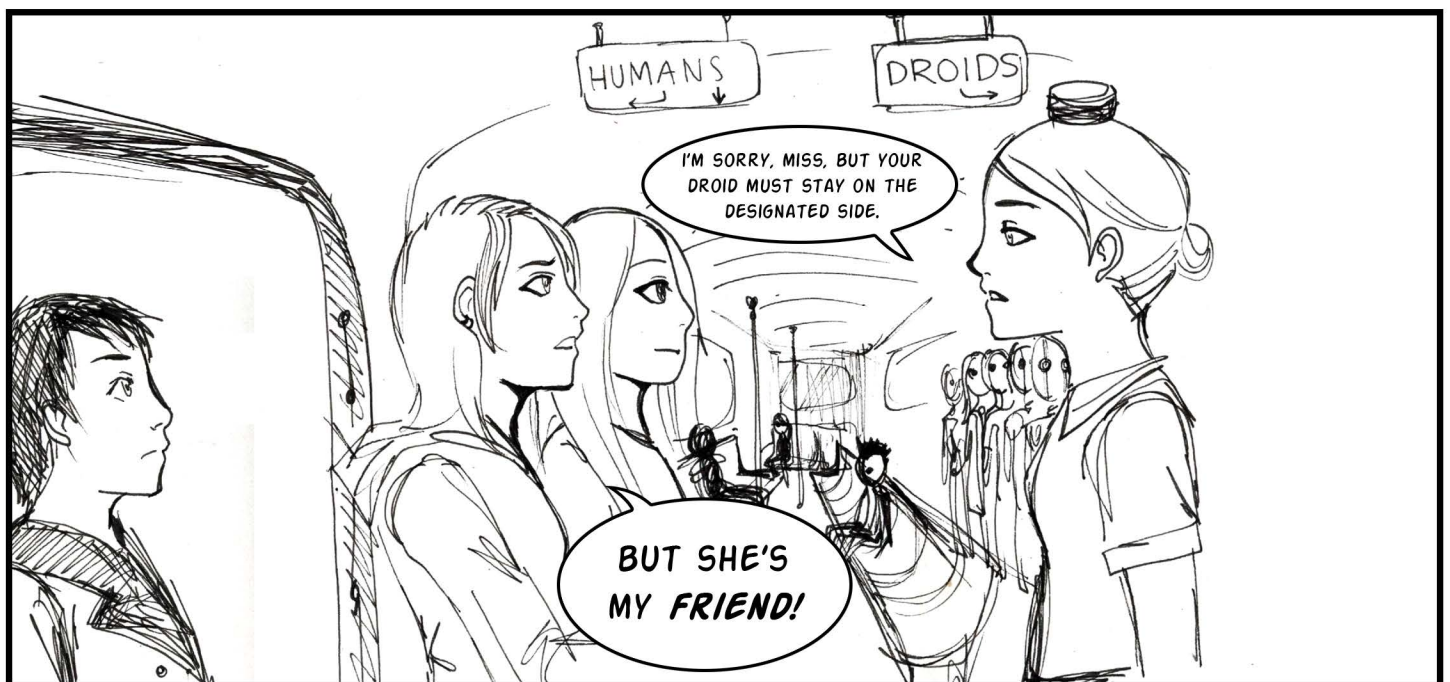
THAT'S RIGHT.



HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU, SIR?

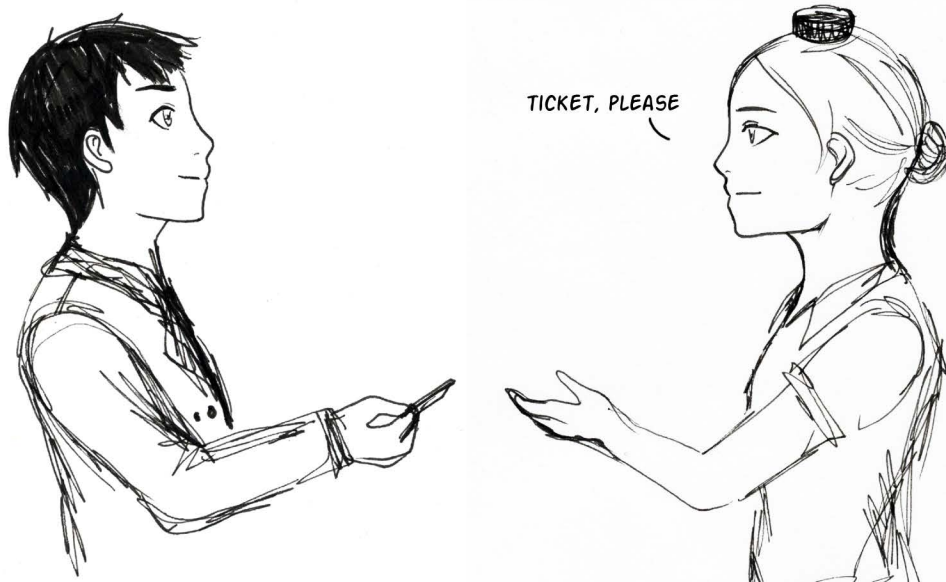
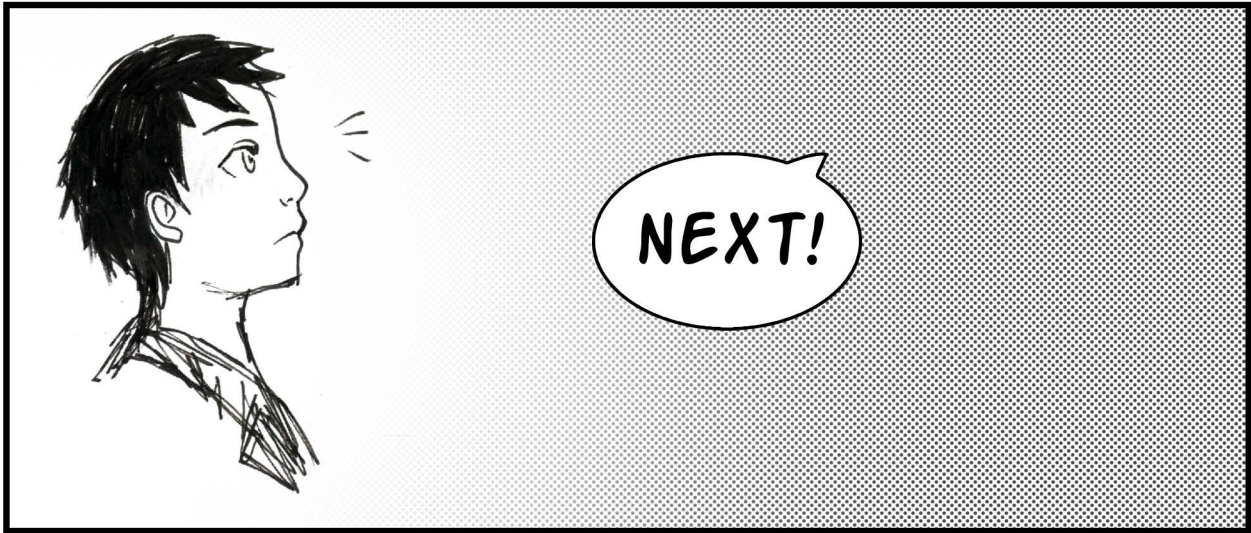
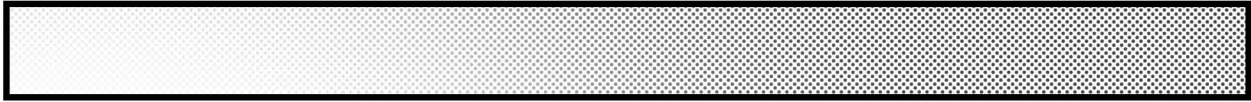


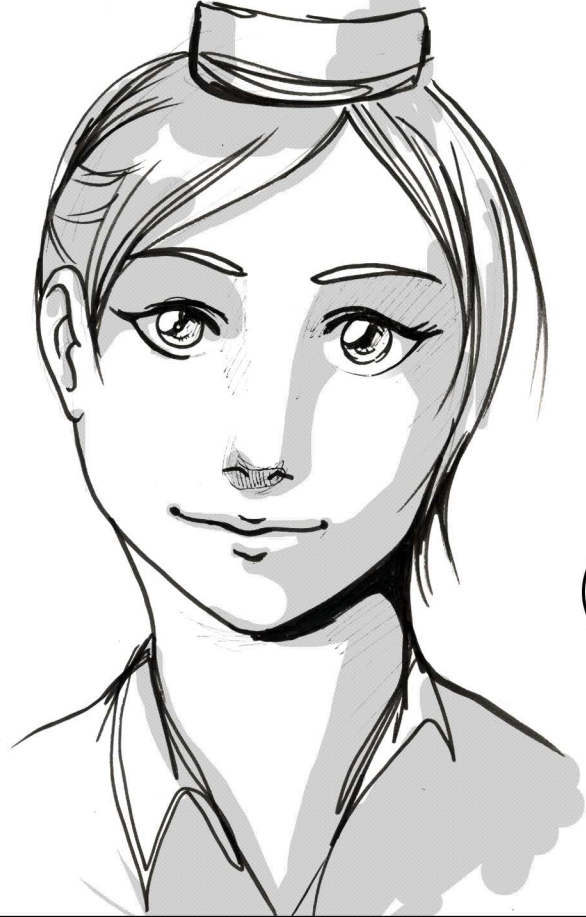
YOU AREN'T FOOLING ME.





IS THIS
WHAT
WE'VE
COME
TO?






WELCOME
ABOARD,
SIR.



WE DID IT!!



A man with glasses and a lab coat is speaking at a podium with a microphone. He has a confident, smiling expression.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'VE JUST WITNESSED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA. WE'VE CROSSED THE UNCANNY VALLEY FOR THE FIRST TIME!

OUR AN-4 PROTOTYPE WAS MISTAKEN FOR A HUMAN NOT JUST BY A DROID, BUT BY ANOTHER PERSON, AS WELL! FROM HERE ON OUT, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.

AND IT SEEMS WE HAVE OUR FIRST QUESTION. YES, YOU IN THE BACK.

A woman with long hair, wearing a lab coat, looks concerned and slightly skeptical.

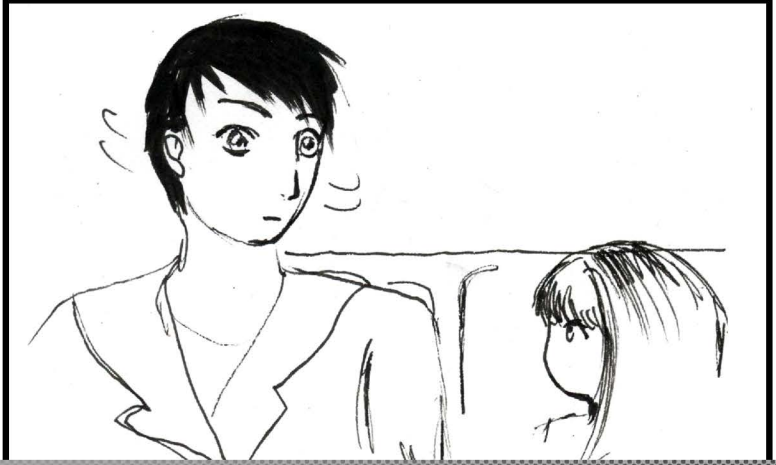
THE ONLY REASON IT WORKED THIS TIME IS BECAUSE OUR DROID THINKS HE'S HUMAN. AND, WELL, IF IT LOOKS LIKE A DUCK AND QUACKS LIKE A DUCK, THEN IT'S A DUCK, NO?

YOUR POINT, DOCTOR?

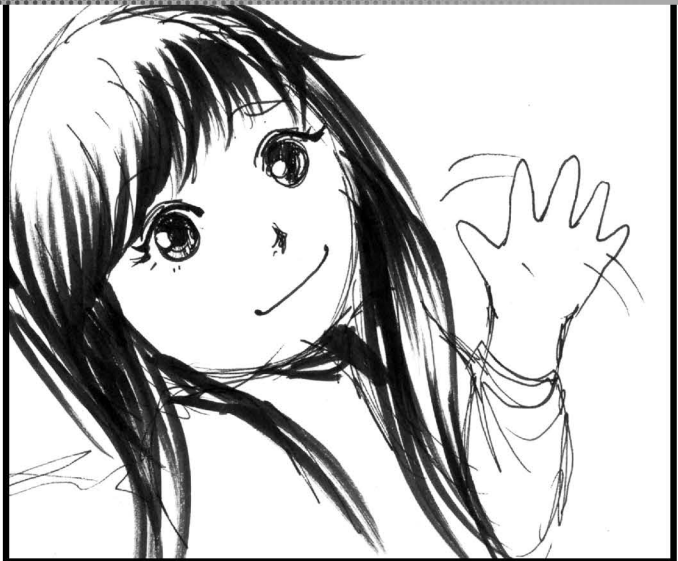
AFTER EACH TEST RUN, WE RESET AND REPROGRAM THE PROTOTYPE FOR THE NEXT ROUND. BUT IF WE DO THAT THIS TIME, AREN'T WE *KILLING HIM*?

NOW THAT HE'S ESSENTIALLY ONE OF US, ISN'T HE ENTITLED TO THE SAME RIGHTS WE HAVE? DON'T WE NEED HIS INFORMED CONSENT?

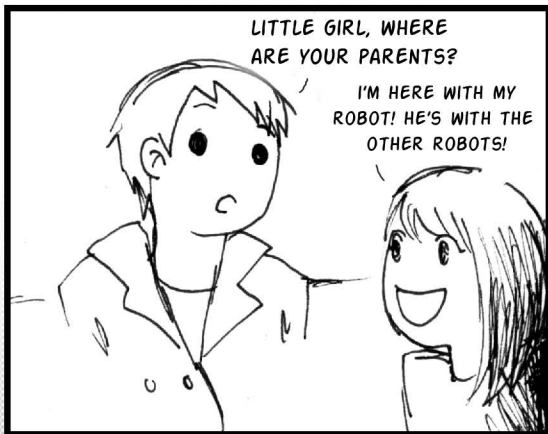
ABSOLUTELY NOT.



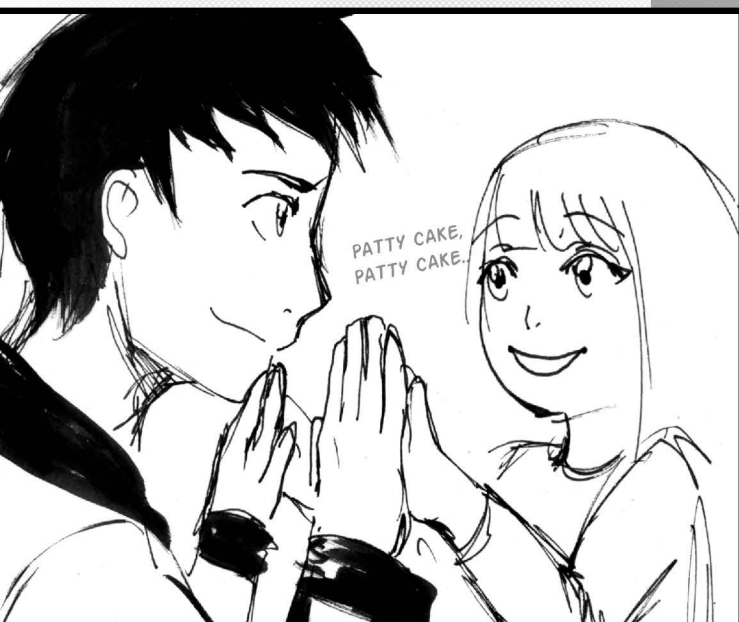
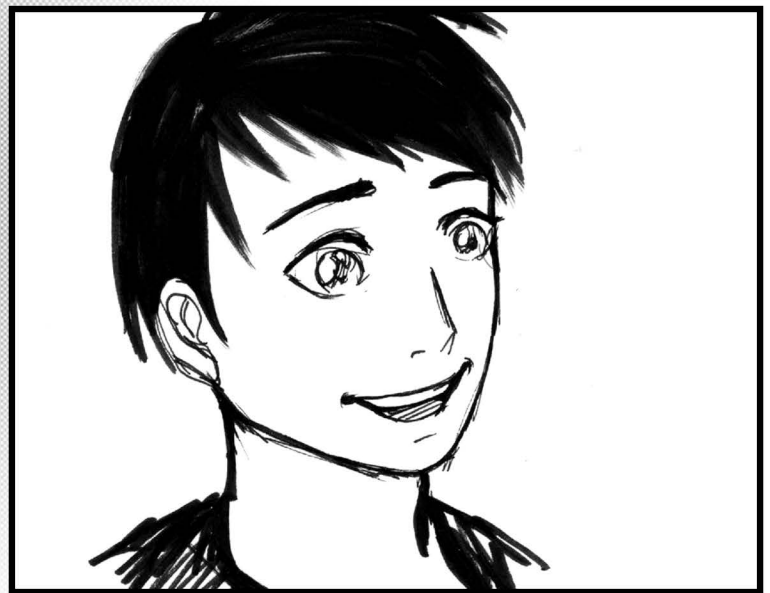
**WHY?
BECAUSE IT'S NOT A "HE". IT'S A MACHINE.**



ITS "PERSONALITY"? ITS "MEMORIES"? ITS "EMOTIONS"?
THOSE AREN'T REAL. WE CREATED THAT.



IT HAS NO RIGHTS. IT HAS NO SAY.



THAT THING IS NO MORE HUMAN THAN THE CHAIR YOU ARE SITTING ON OR THE PHONE IN YOUR POCKET.

AND IT WILL NEVER BE ONE OF US.