



PROLOGUE

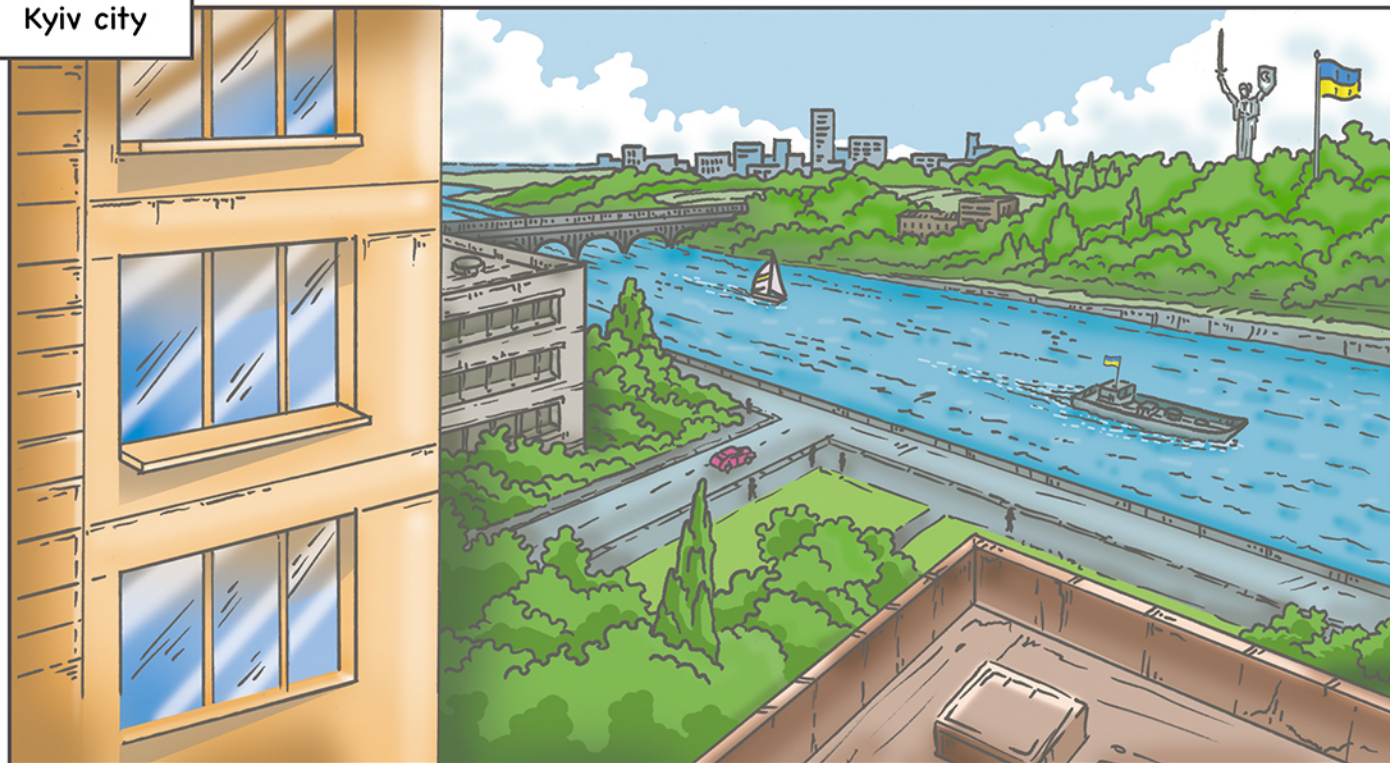
1  
PART

# METaverse

TRAVELERS



Kyiv city

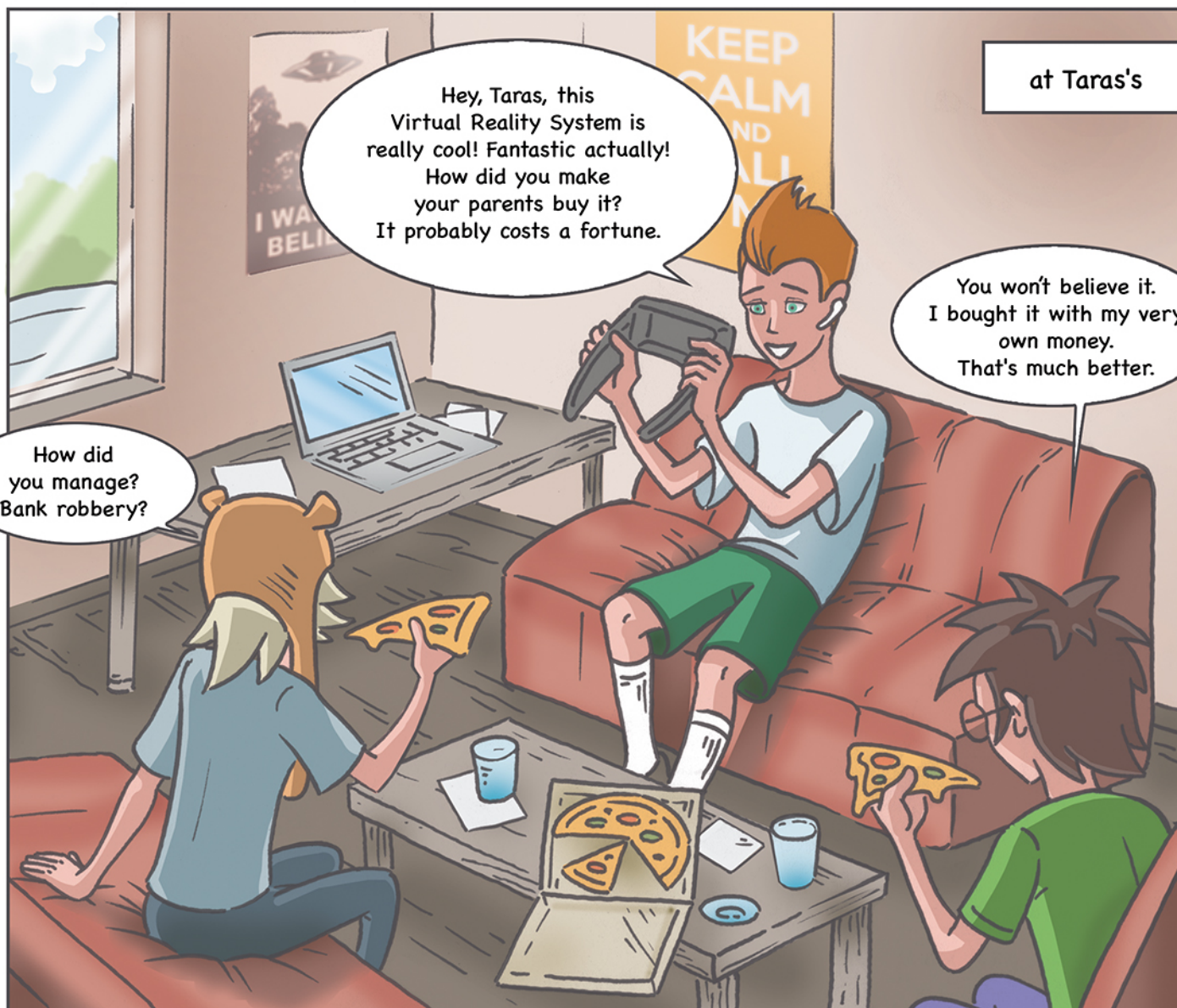


at Taras's

Hey, Taras, this  
Virtual Reality System is  
really cool! Fantastic actually!  
How did you make  
your parents buy it?  
It probably costs a fortune.

You won't believe it.  
I bought it with my very  
own money.  
That's much better.

How did  
you manage?  
Bank robbery?

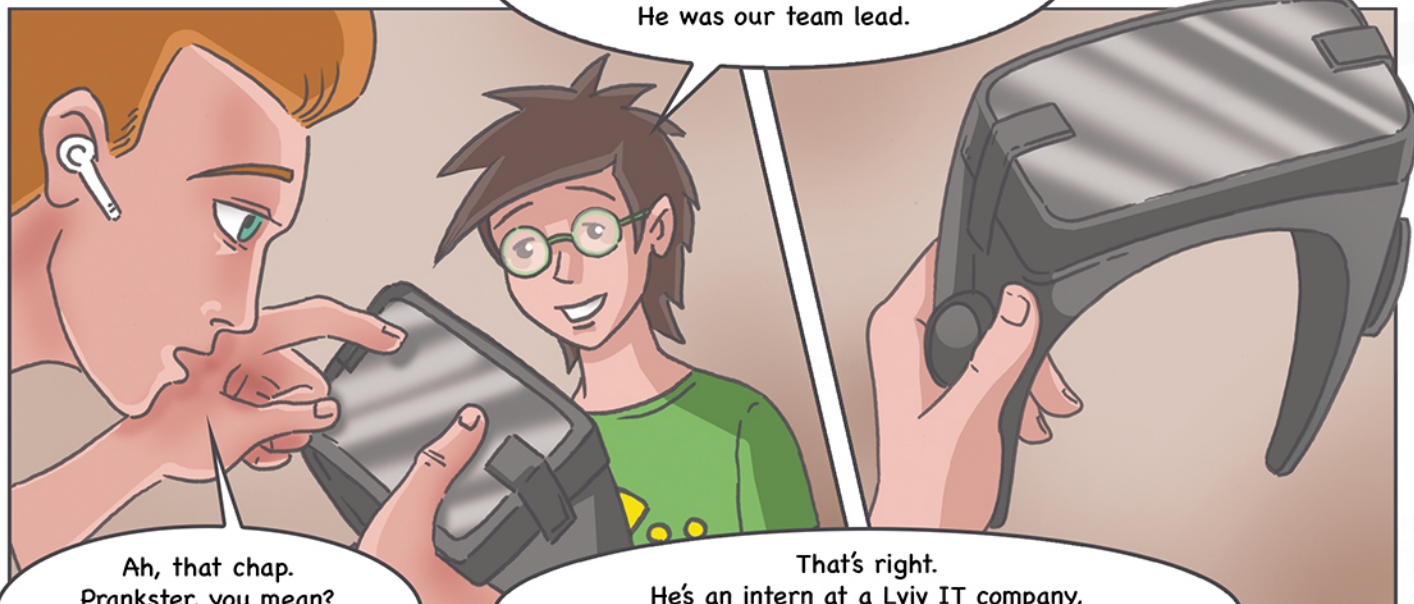






Nothing criminal, Ivanka.  
It's just my programming  
hobby has started bringing  
me money

Lesyk, I've told you that last year  
I met a nice chap at a teen camp  
in the Carpathians.  
He was our team lead.



Ah, that chap.  
Prankster, you mean?  
Senior student from  
Lviv Polytechnic?

That's right.  
He's an intern at a Lviv IT company,  
and sometimes he refers his tasks to me.  
Pays me, too.



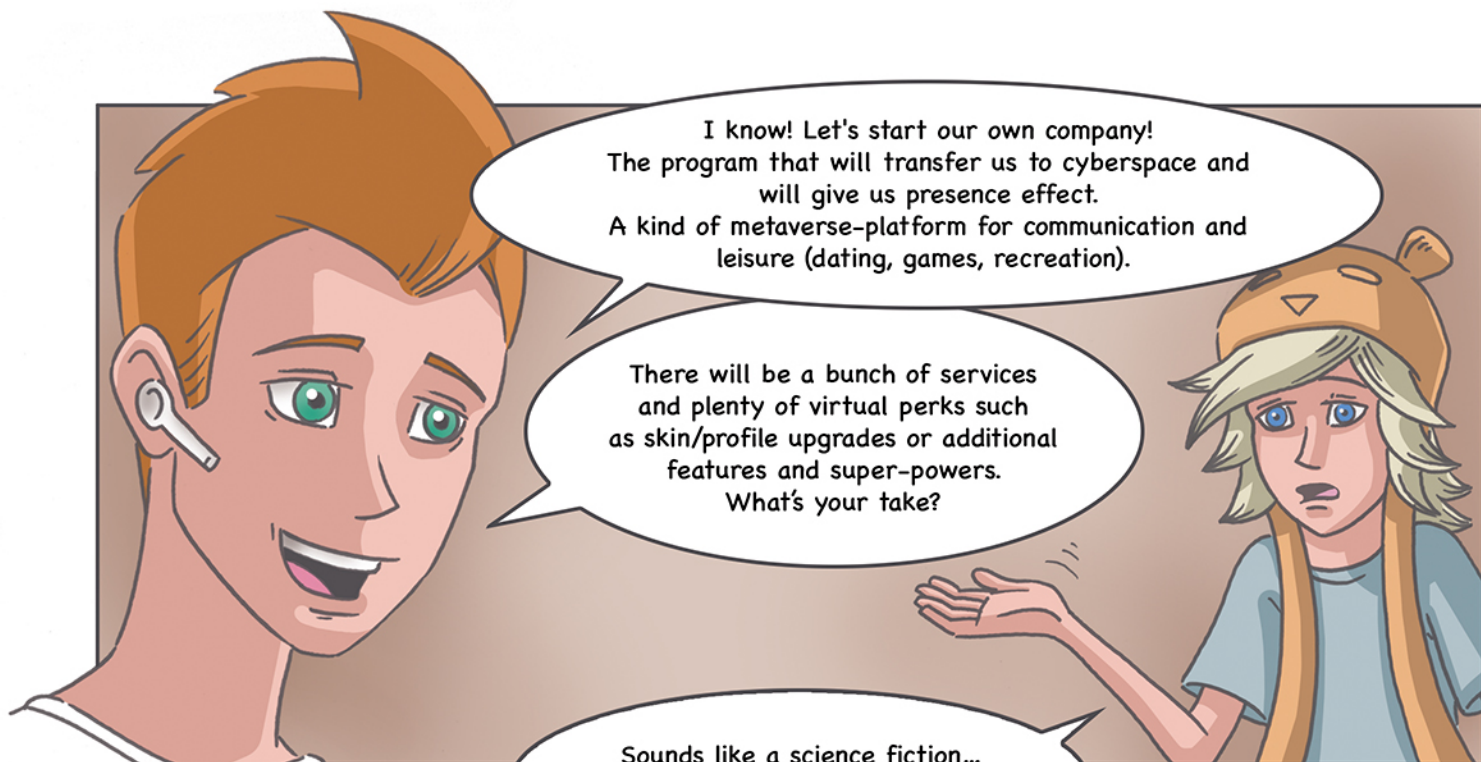
Dandy!

Cool!

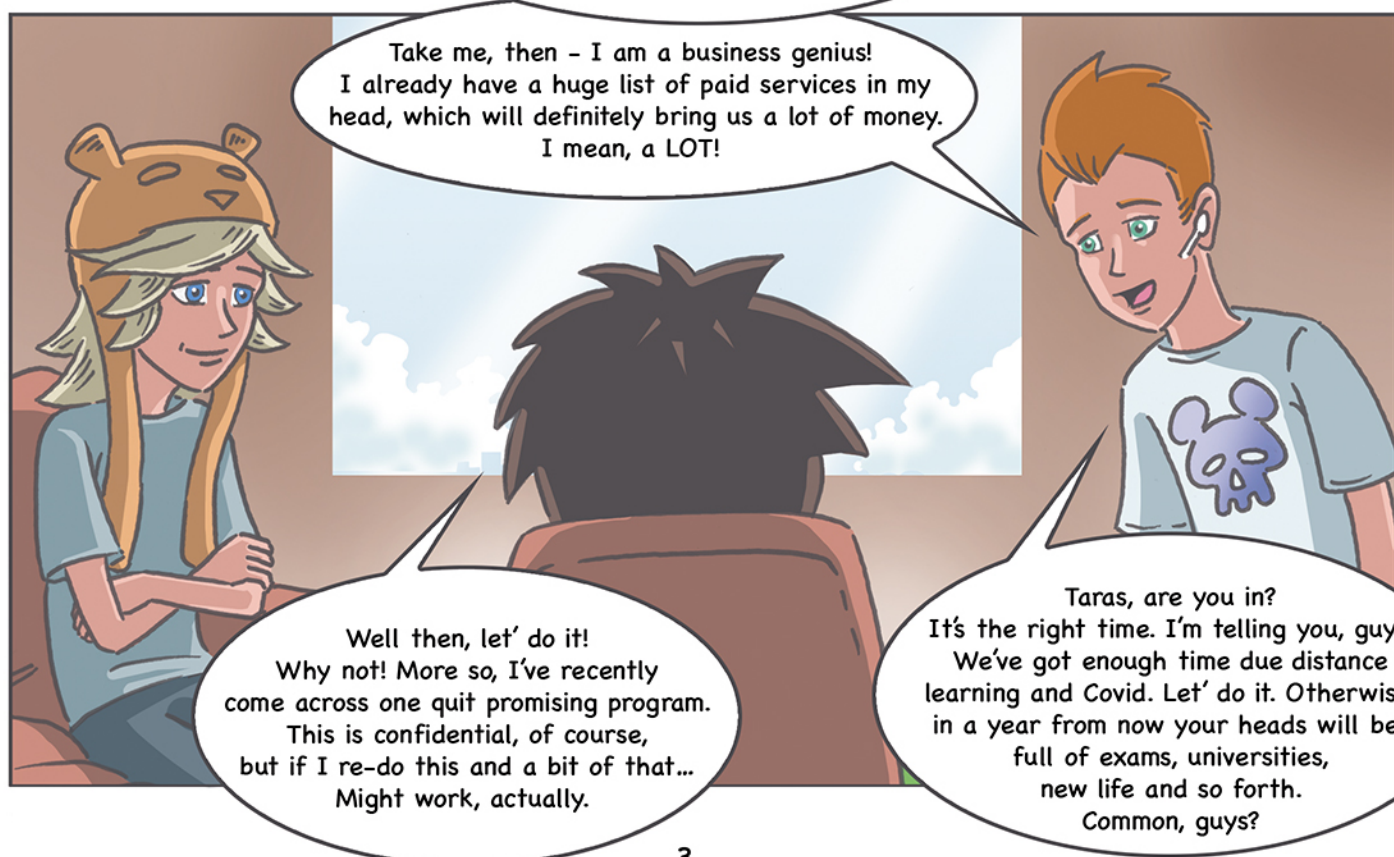
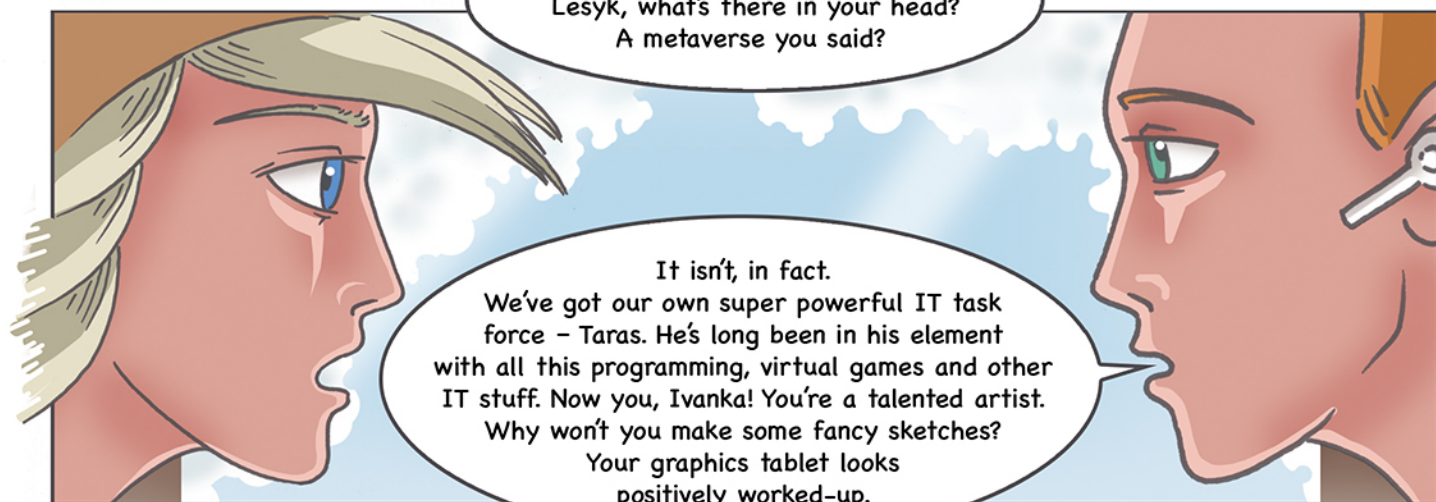
I'm fine with it really.  
The only thing that I stay  
undercover, so to speak.

I mean,  
I do my part of work and  
he gains all the fame for it.  
Sometimes, it makes me wonder...

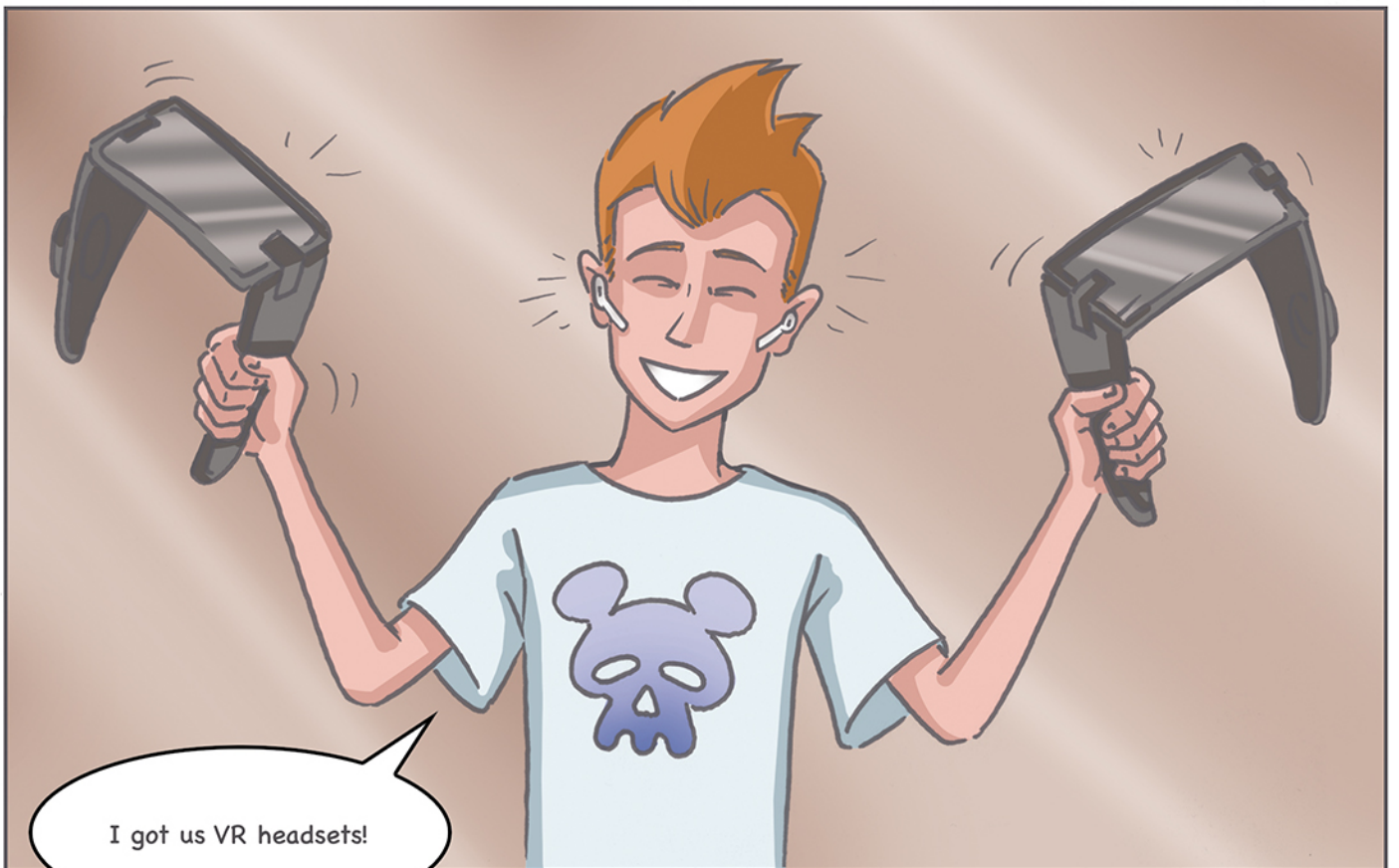
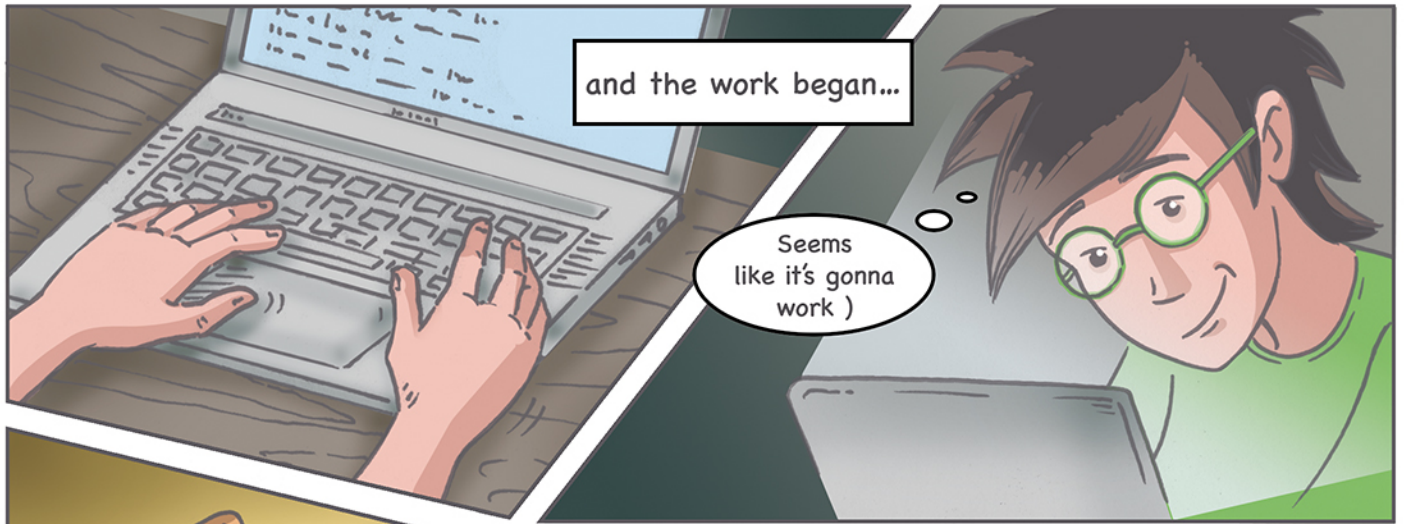




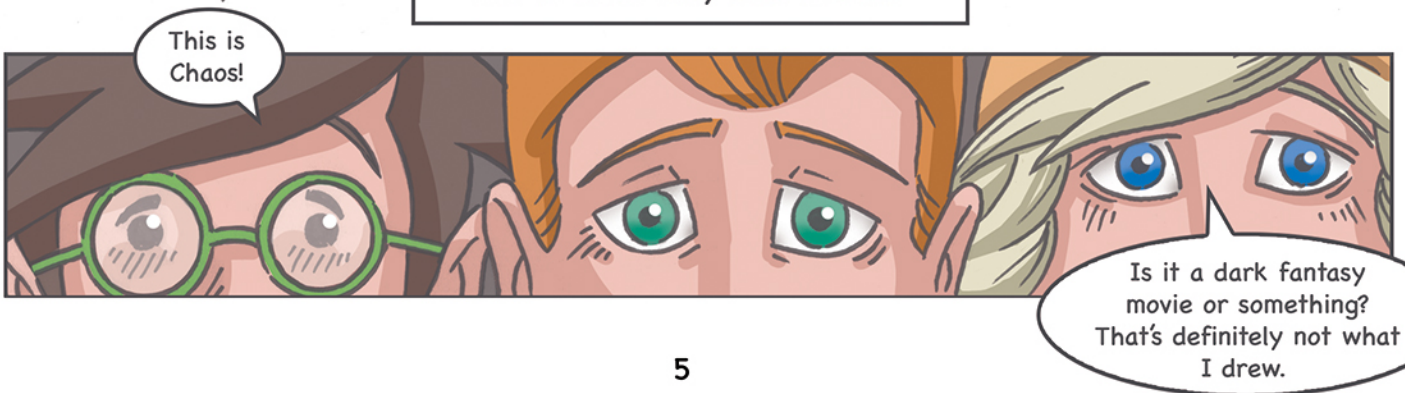
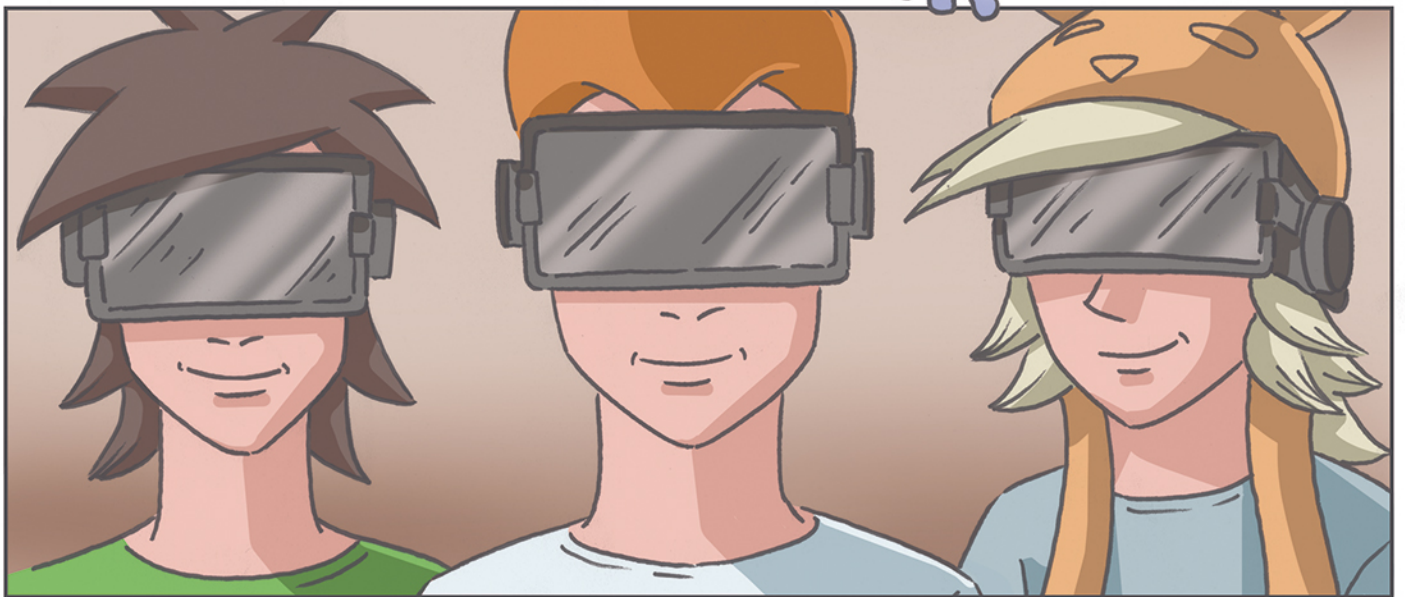
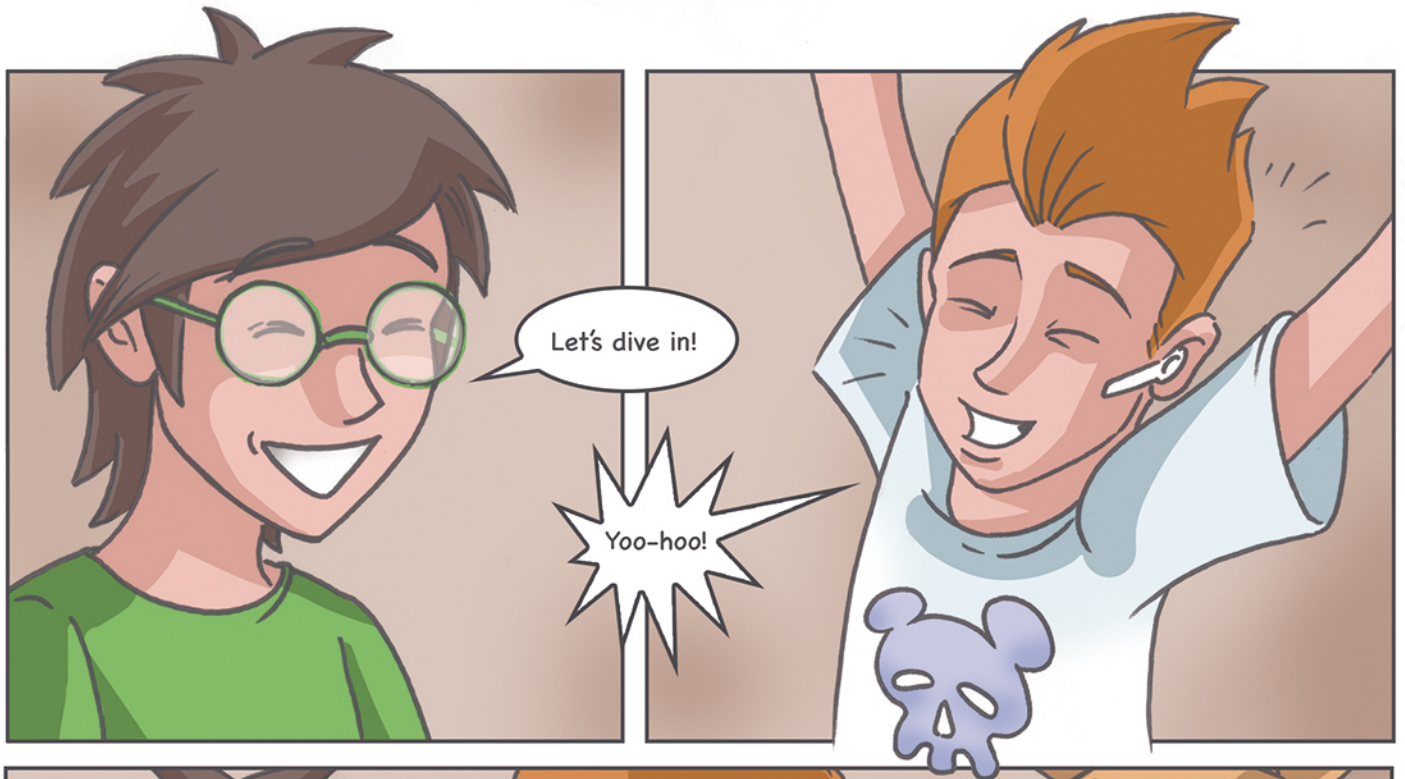
Sounds like a science fiction...  
Lesyk, what's there in your head?  
A metaverse you said?



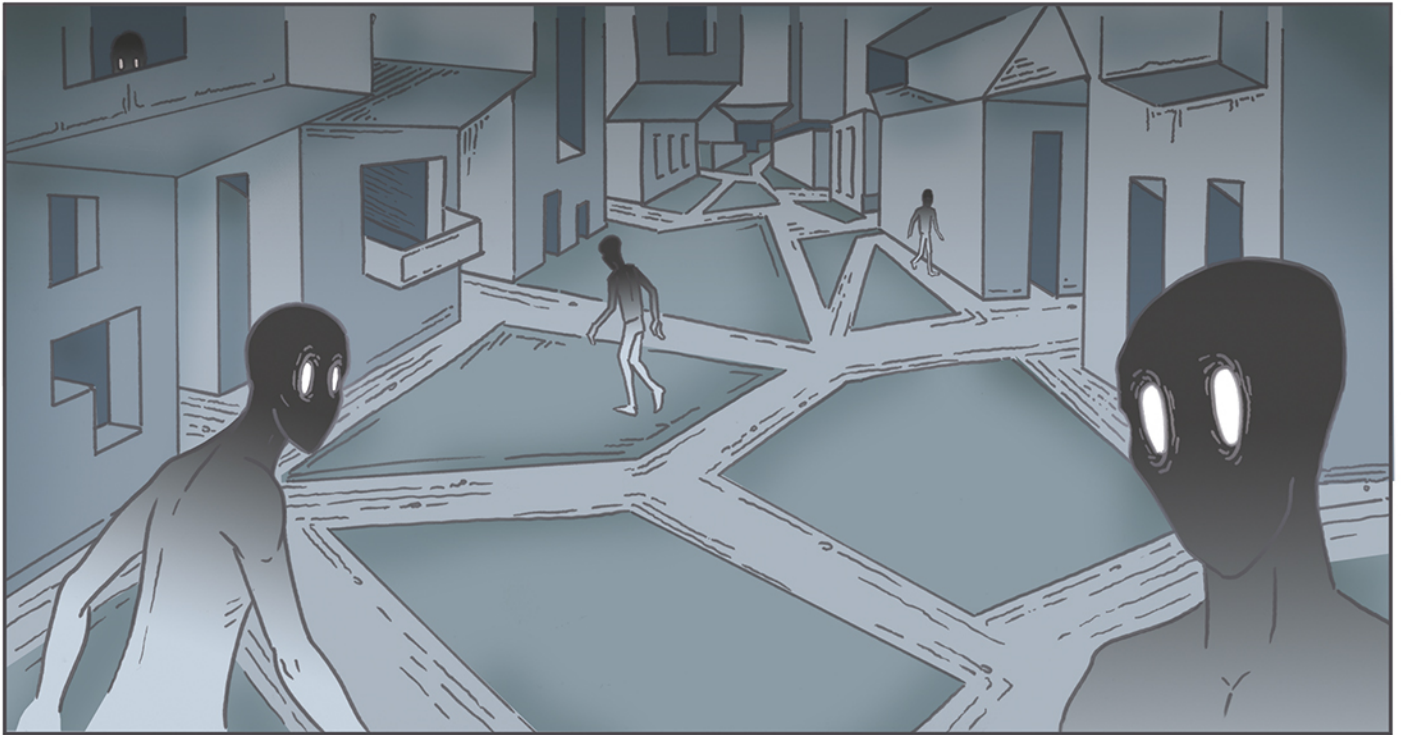




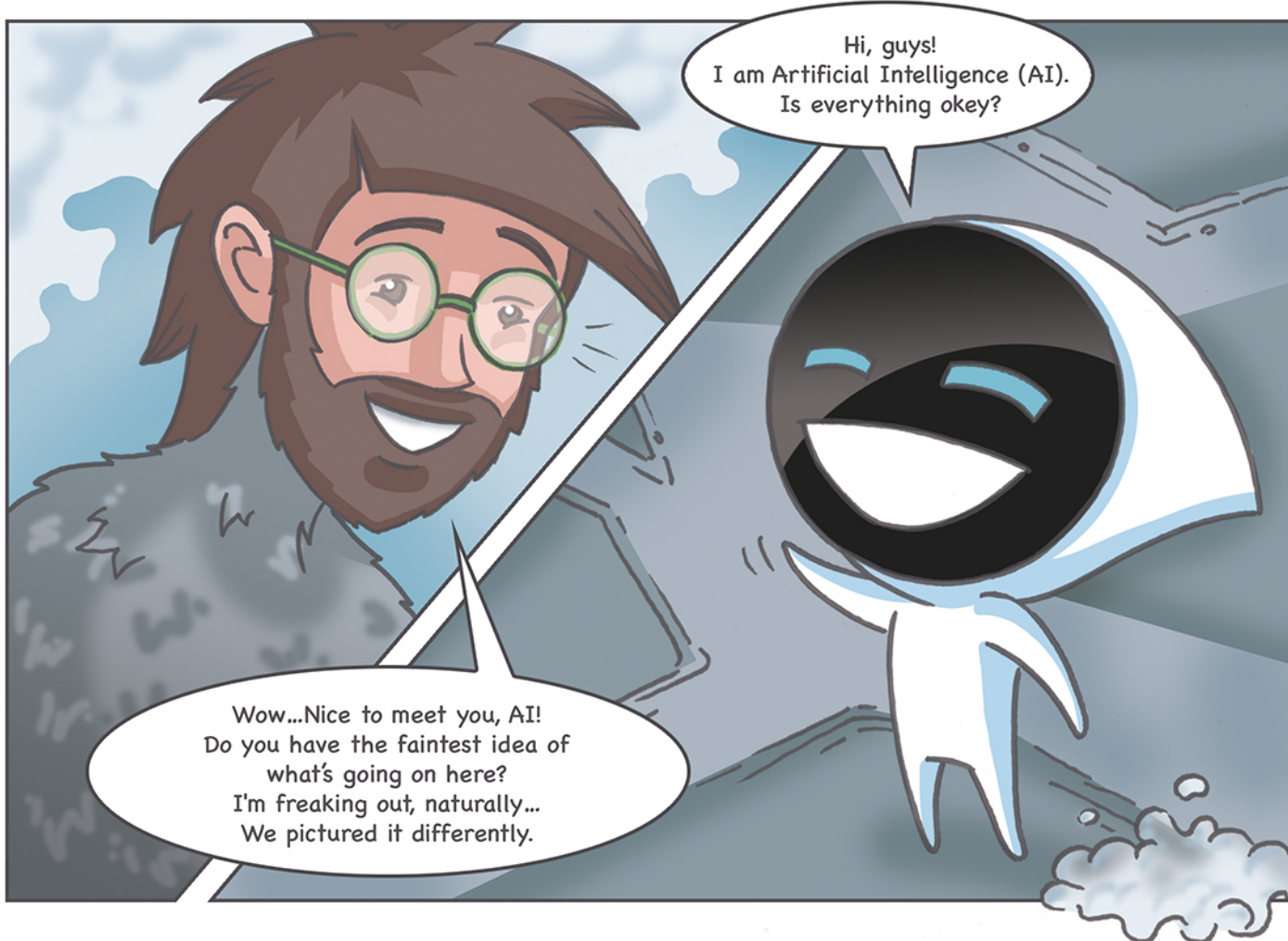








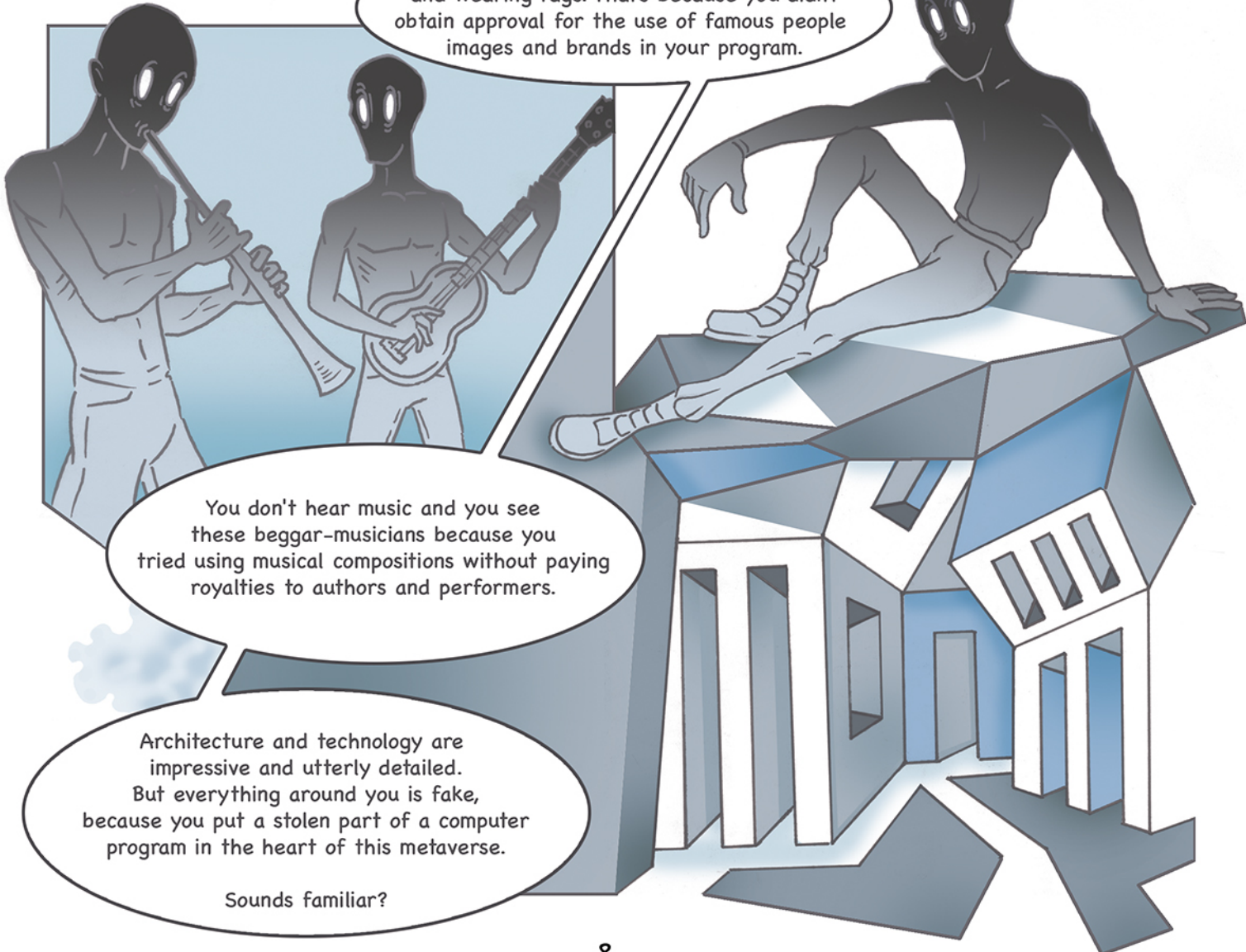








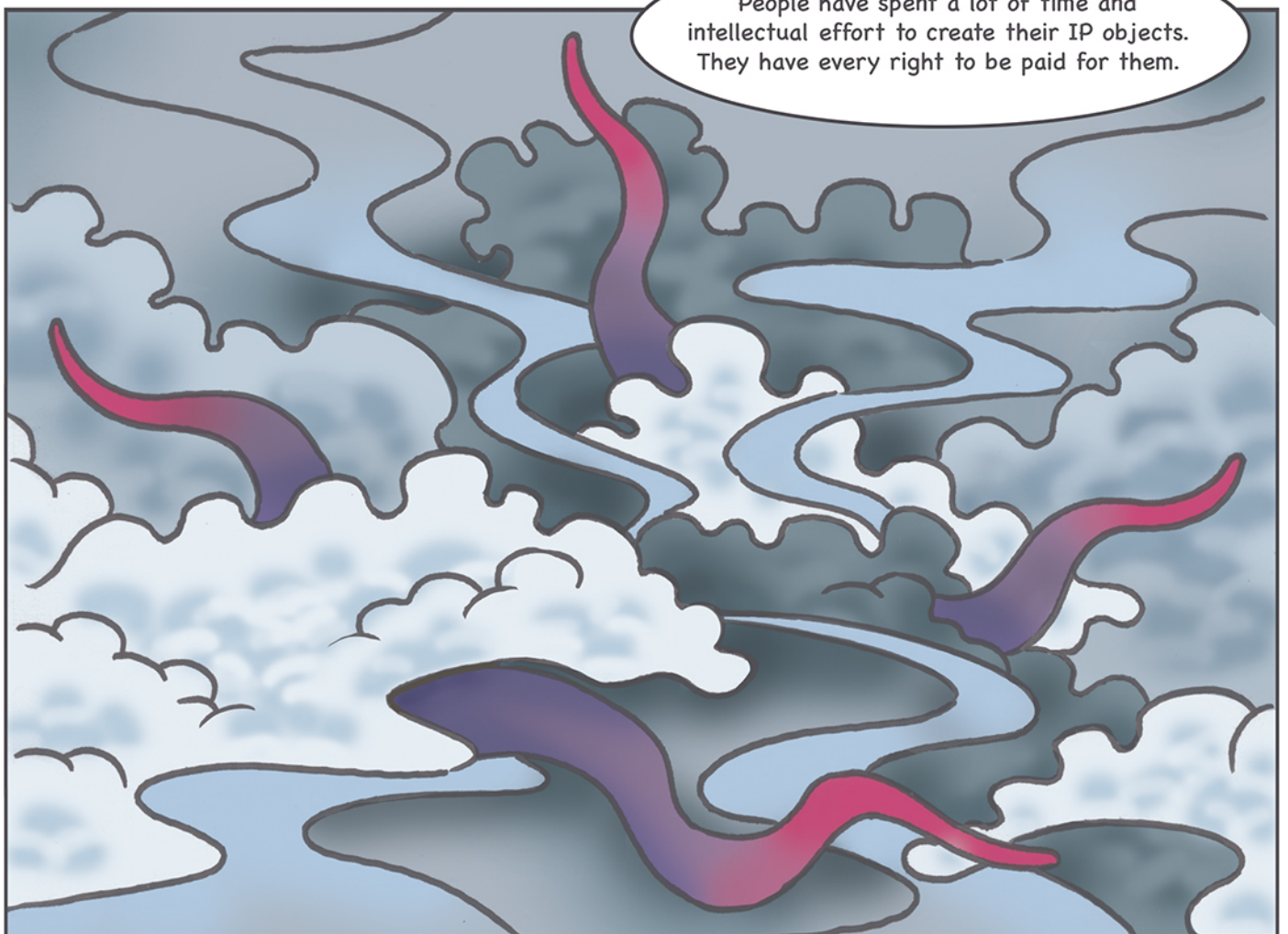
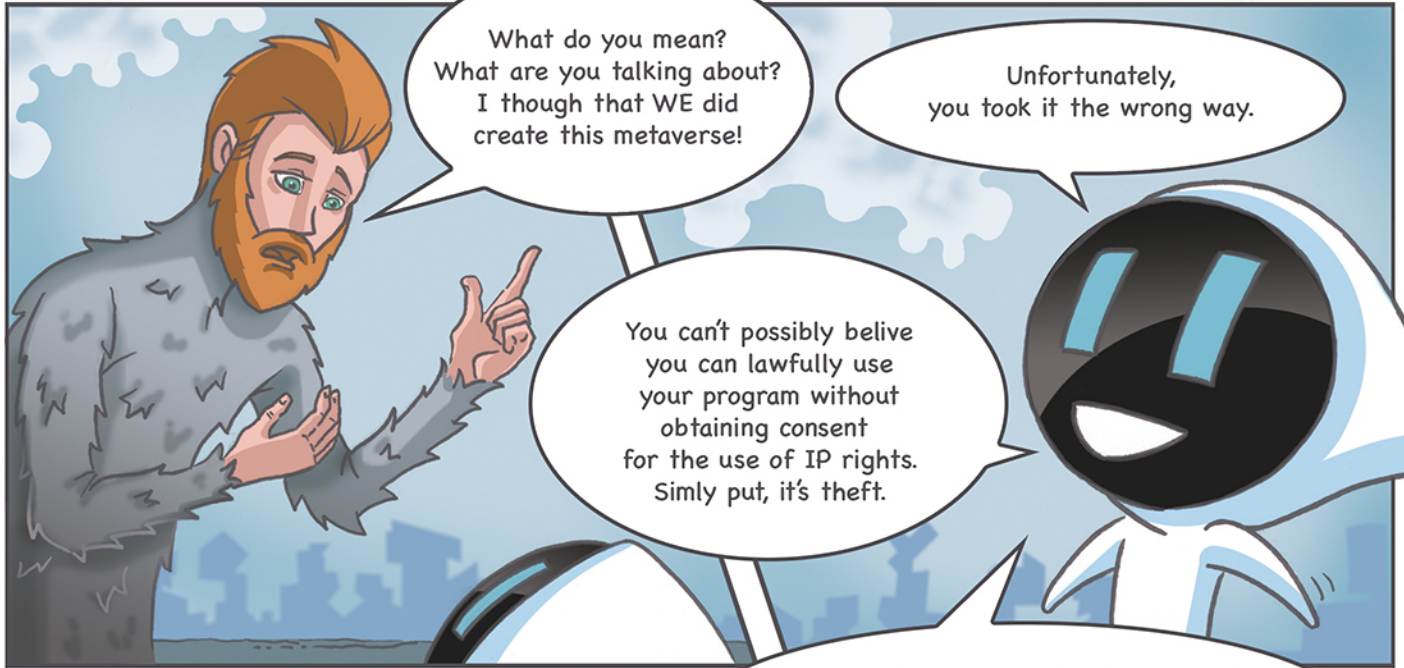
Your avatars are without faces and wearing rags. That's because you didn't obtain approval for the use of famous people images and brands in your program.



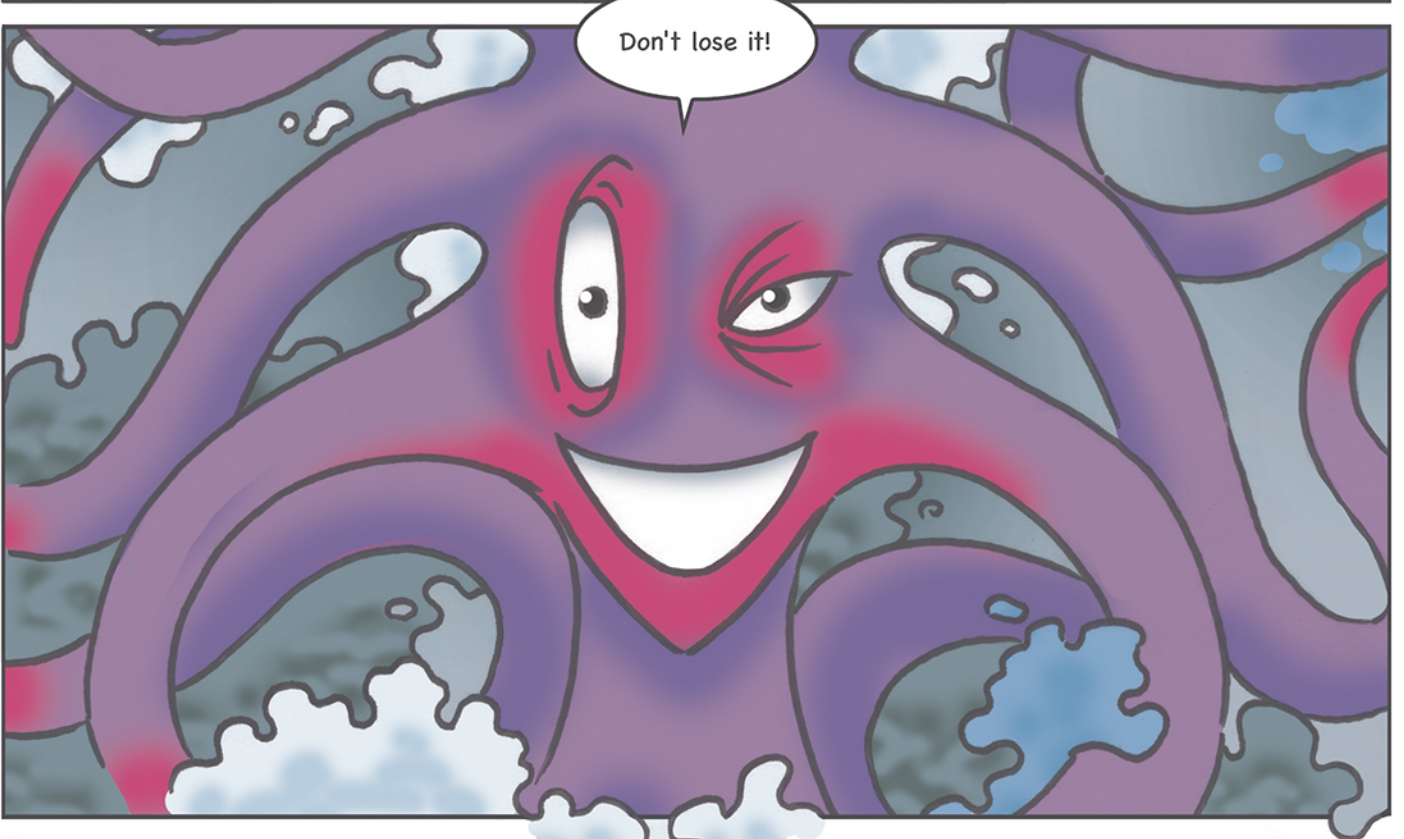




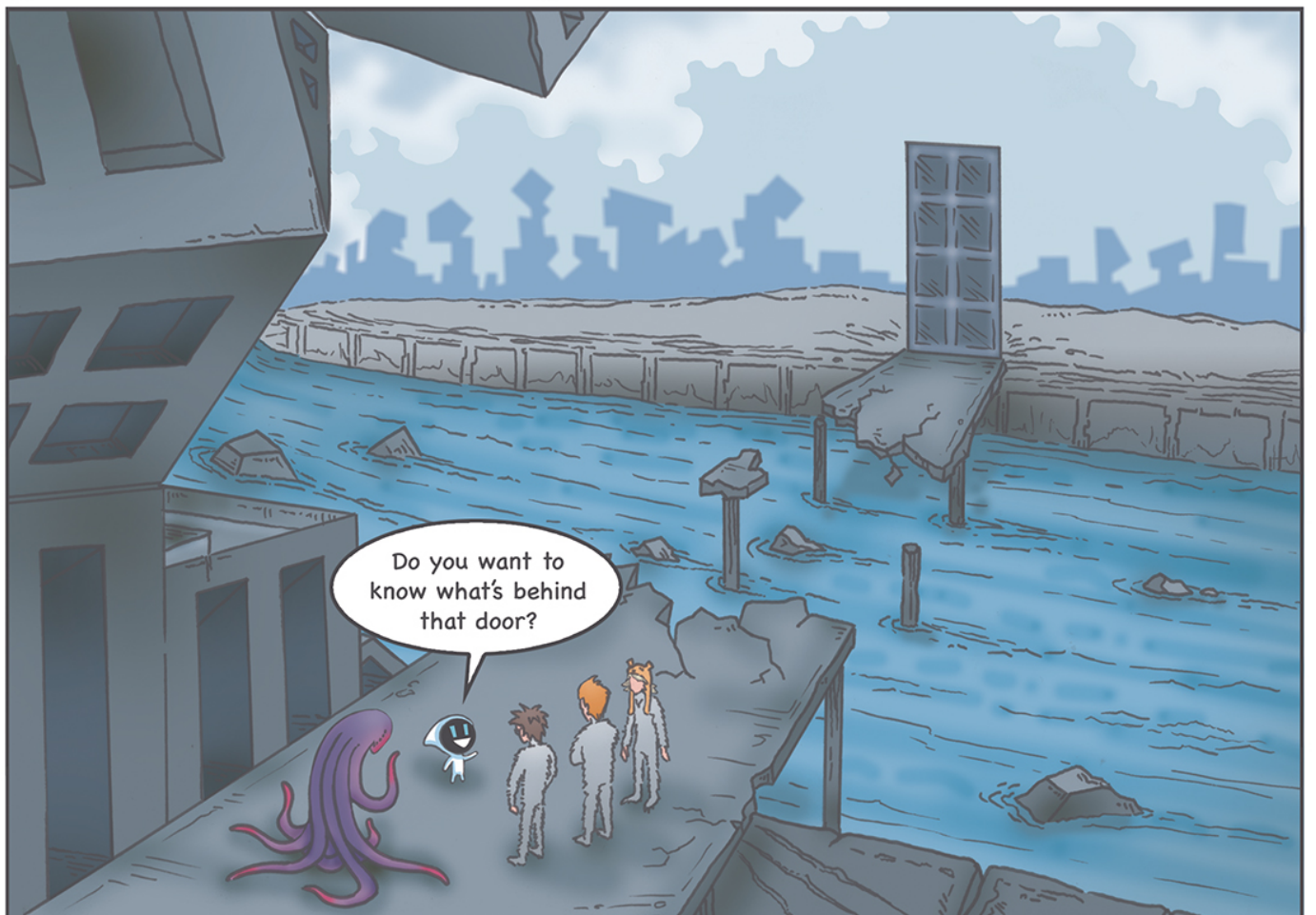
If it makes you any better, you look hilarious – so hairy and wild. Some people say that ignorance is a gift, but not in this case, I'm afraid.



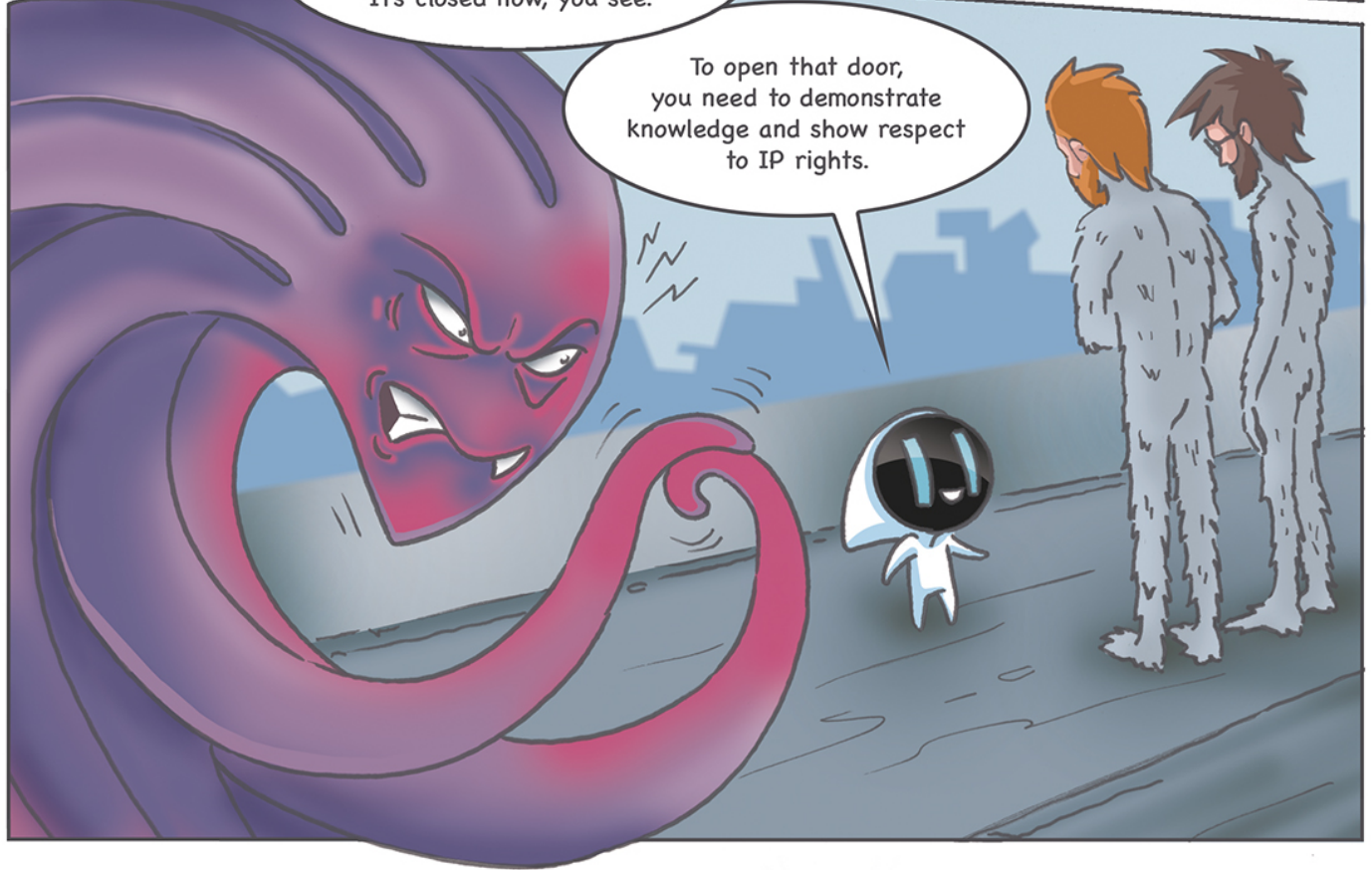




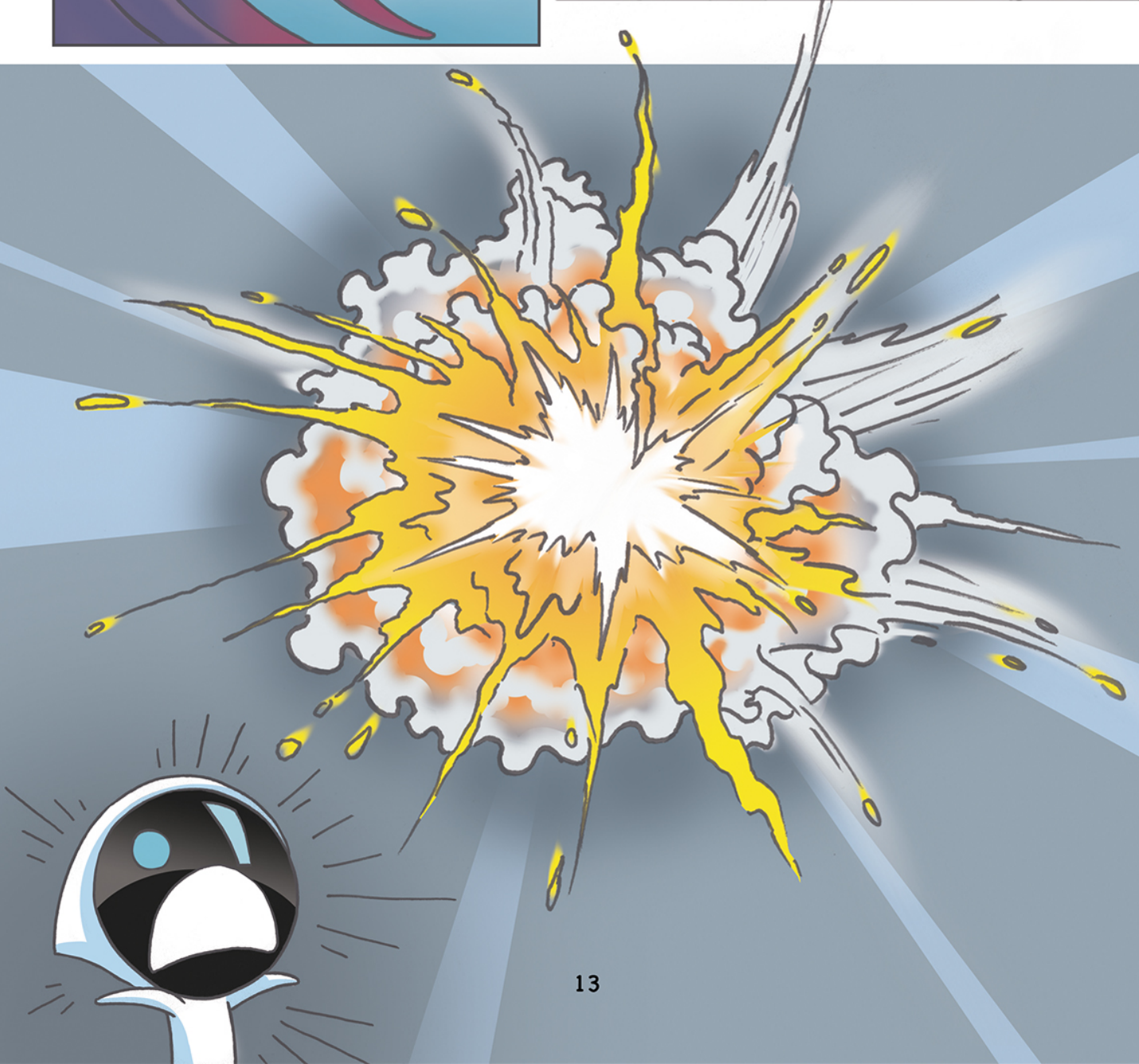
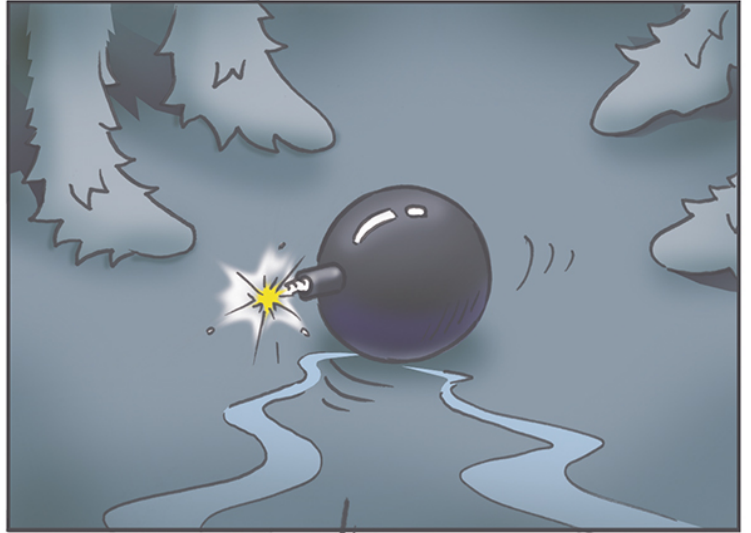














at Taras's

Guys, what was that?  
Huh?

We were blown  
to smithereens.

To be continued...





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