



MOONGIRLS

CHAPTER 1

NIGHT SHIFT



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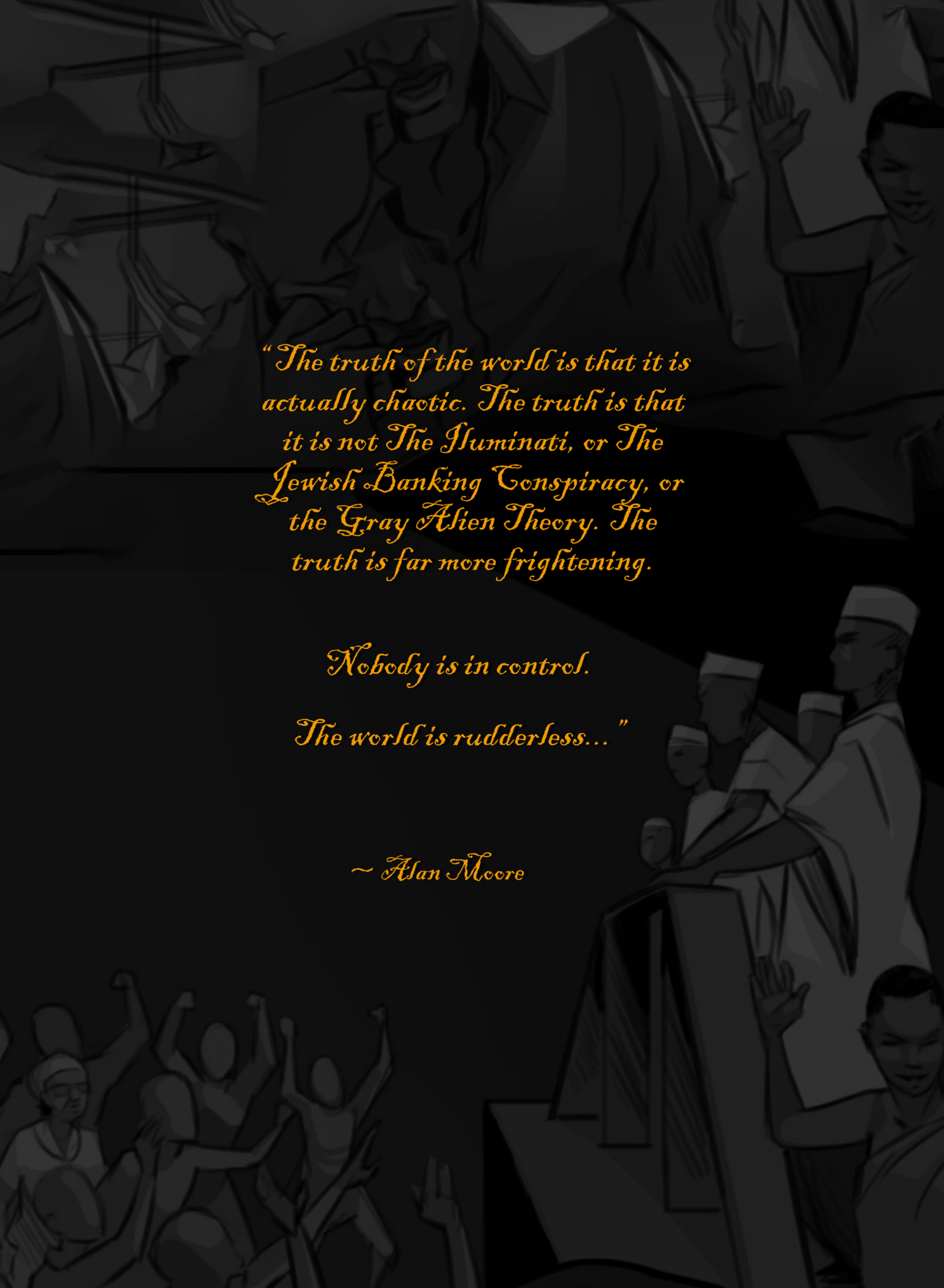
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"The truth of the world is that it is actually chaotic. The truth is that it is not The Illuminati, or The Jewish Banking Conspiracy, or the Gray Alien Theory. The truth is far more frightening.

Nobody is in control.

The world is rudderless..."

~ Alan Moore



SUPERSHERO NAME: SEKHMET

ORDINARY NAME: FATIMA

SPIRIT: SEKHMET (DOMINANT), MUT (RECESSIVE) –
IMPORTANT TO NOTE: MUT AND SEKHMET ARE THE SAME GODDESS IN SOME OF THE TELLING. HOWEVER, SEKHMET IS THE MORE AGGRESSIVE ASPECT OF MUT. THUS, THERE IS HEAVY FRICTION YET AN UNBREAKABLE BOND BETWEEN SEKHMET AND NUN. CHAOS.

PROFESSION: SEX WORKER

CHARACTER: PASSIONATE, GENEROUS, HUMOROUS, CREATIVE. SHE CARRIES A LOT OF RAGE. DOES THE RIGHT THING BUT NOT ALWAYS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, OFTEN ACTING PRIMARILY OUT OF SELF-INTEREST OR IN WAYS THAT DEFY CONVENTIONAL ETHICAL CODES. HAS A STRONG BELIEF IN THE WICKEDNESS OF HUMAN BEINGS. IS OFTEN DISILLUSIONED TO THE GOODNESS OF HUMANITY.

COLOURS: RED, GOLD, ORANGE

" THE YEAR IS 2020 AND SCIENCE HAS MADE MASSIVE STRIDES IN TECHNOLOGY AND DATA DISSEMINATION. EVERYTHING SERVES WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS SOCIAL MEDIA, OUR LARGEST SIMULTANEOUS SAPIEN CONVERSATION YET. THIS IS THE AGE OF ACCESSIBLE KNOWLEDGE AND A RAMPANT KIND OF FOOLISHNESS. IT IS ALSO THE AGE OF A BLOODCURDLING KIND OF OPPRESSION, THE KIND THAT HELD POWER IN ILLUSION SO THERE WERE NO RULES. WE MAKE UP THINGS AS WE GO ALONG. A VICIOUS FREE-FOR-ALL "



" SOME PRAY FOR A HEAVEN THAT MUST EXIST SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THIS HELLHOLE. OTHERS CLIMB ABOARD TROTROS EACH MORNING WISHING THAT THEIR NEXT STOP WOULD BE THEIR BIG BREAK. BUT MOST TRUDGE THROUGH THE DAY, GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS AND LIVING A LIFE THAT HAPPENS TO THEM... "

" SEX STILL SELLS AND SOCIETY STILL TRIES TO SHAME IT. NOBODY REALLY CARES ANYMORE THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT EXISTING IN AN OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM THAT MADE SEX SWEETER. WE KNOW... WE KNOW THAT WE ARE FUCKED, WE ARE ALL. TRULY. FUCKED. [PUN INTENDED] SO EVERYTHING'S DONE AS THOUGH IT WAS FOR THE LAST "

'LAST' = 'THE END OF EXISTENCE'

" LIBERATING RIGHT? ...SO SEX, THE OLDEST FORM OF TRADE, STILL PAYS."

OUR FOREMOTHERS DIED SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO FOR THIS HELLHOLE -FOR-MOST, HEAVEN-FOR-THE-ONE-PERCENT, AND SOMEONE HAS ERASED THEIR NAMES FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS. MAKES ME WONDER, WHAT IS THE POINT THEN? BEING A MOONGIRL TILL I DIED AND NOBODY EVER KNOWING WHAT I DID FOR THEM? FUCK THAT.



GOING OUT FOR A SMOKE.



"AS IF YOU'RE NOT THE ONE STEALING MY BUSINESS..."

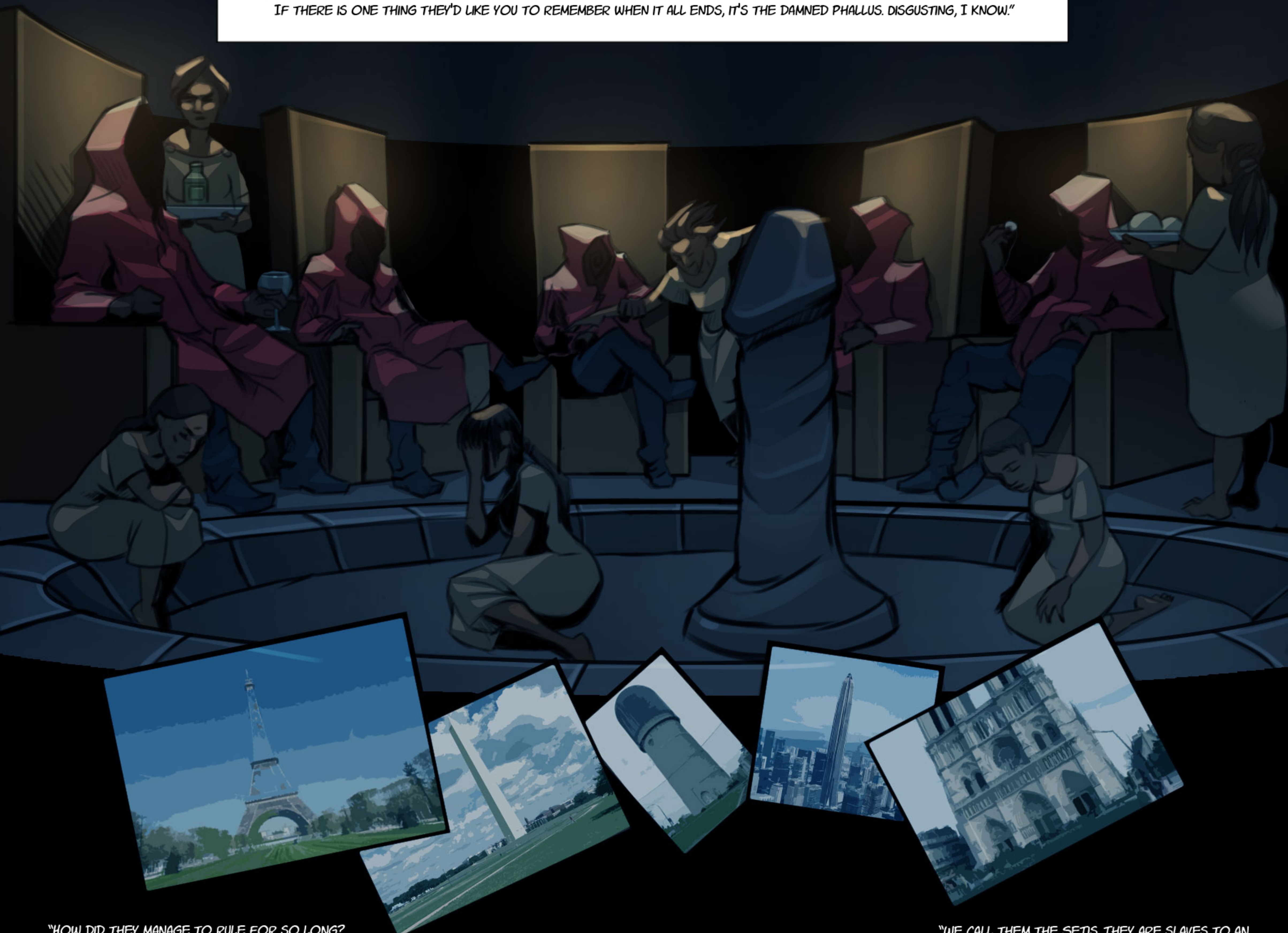
HAAAAHA



WHY FATI? BUSINESS MAKE SLOW ANAA?




"IT IS A WORLD ORDER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SETI. THEY WHO OWN MOST OF THE WORLD'S WEALTH AND POWER AND DECIDE THE WORLD'S RHYTHM, COMMERCE, ART, POLITICS, RELIGION, ETC. THE SETI HAVE RULED WITH AN IRON HAND FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS, IF YOU'RE COUNTING WITH THE SENTIAN CALENDAR. WITHIN THAT TIME, THEY'VE MANAGED TO PAINT THE WORLD WITH THEIR PHALLUSES. IF THERE IS ONE THING THEY'D LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER WHEN IT ALL ENDS, IT'S THE DAMNED PHALLUS. DISGUSTING, I KNOW."



"HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO RULE FOR SO LONG? AND WITH THAT LEVEL OF SUSTENANCE? THEY CREATED DISCIPLES TO POWER AND WEALTH, THAT'S HOW. WORSHIPPERS UNDER THE GRID'S HYPNOSIS, WHO COULD KILL GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES FOR A GOLD TRINKET."

"WE CALL THEM THE SETIS. THEY ARE SLAVES TO AN ARTIFICIAL REALITY THE COUNCIL OF THE SETI CREATED SUCH THAT THEY CAN MAINTAIN THEIR LABOUR FORCE IN THE PLANTATION GRID."



"BUT THERE ARE SOME SETI WHO DID NOT NEED TO HEAR THE BUZZ TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THIS ORDER OF EXISTENCE. BECAUSE THEY PROFITED IMMENSELY. THEY WHO OWNED ALL OF AFRICA'S DIAMOND, GOLD AND BAUXITE MINES. THEY WHO CRAFTED THE NARRATIVE OF THE ARTIFICIAL GRID. DECIDED WHICH PART OF THE WEB WAS WOVEN WHERE."



"BUT, LET ME CORRECT A MISTAKE IN THIS ILLUSTRATION. THE SETIS DO NOT DRESS IN BLOODRED HOODED CLOAKS. THAT WAS JUST FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT, HA! THEY WEAR SUITS AND SKIRTS, JEANS AND T-SHIRTS, SOMETIMES HAVE TATTOOS, SOMETIMES A WEDDING BAND. THEY ARE PRESIDENTS, MINISTERS, THE WEALTHY ELITE, SCIENTISTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS. THEY ARE FATHERS, BROTHERS, BOY-FRIENDS, HUSBANDS. AND THEY ARE MOTHERS, SISTERS, GIRLFRIENDS, PARTNERS, LOVERS."

AND THAT'S WHERE OUR STORY BEGINS."




"SOME SETIS DO NOT KNOW THAT THEY HAVE FALLEN TO THE HYPNOTISM OF THE GRID'S HUM. THAT IS THE FIRST FUNCTION OF THE GRID. TO HYPNOTIZE. A VAST WEB HUNG ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE ENTIRE GLOBE. YOU HEAR ENOUGH OF THE BUZZ, FEEL ENOUGH OF THE VIBRATIONS, AND YOU WILL FALL UNDER."



"TO FIGHT IT YOU HAVE TO BE AWARE OF IT. EVEN THEN. I LIKE TO BLOCK IT OUT WITH SEX. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT GOOD SEX THAT MUTES EVERYTHING ELSE, HA!"



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a pink two-piece outfit and high heels, is sitting on the side of a red car at night. She is holding a lit cigarette in her right hand. The background shows a city street with buildings and a trash can. The scene is lit with a cool, blue-toned light.

"MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID IF SHE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO SEND ME ABROAD, I WOULD'VE GOTTEN SOME SUCCESS IN BEING A BIG SUPERSTAR, LIKE AN ACTRESS OR A MUSICIAN OR SOMETHING. I DAYDREAM SOMETIMES... ME RAPPING ON A BIG STAGE WITH MANY LIGHTS OR DANCING LIKE BEYONCE AND ALL MY FANS SCREAMING MY NAME."

A close-up of a woman's face, looking upwards with a thoughtful or perhaps slightly sad expression. Her eyes are wide, and her mouth is slightly open. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her features against a dark background.

"BUT I COULDN'T RAP TO SAVE MY LIFE. AND MY LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE, WELL, VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE GLAMOUR OF A SUPERSTAR. BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER PATH TO CONSIDER. NO OTHER WAY TO BE. I WAS AN AFRICAN LESBIAN LIVING IN THE ORDER OF THE SETI. AND I FUCKED MEN FOR A LIVING."

"I HAD TO SURVIVE."



SSSSSS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME?

WAITING FOR A TAXI.

I SEE. SO NOW TAXIS ARE BLUE EH?

I THOUGHT IT WAS UBER

KWASIASEM HAHAHA!!!



DO YOU KNOW THAT PROSTITUTION IS ILLEGAL IN THIS COUNTRY?

I'M COMING FROM A PARTY. PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOUR MOTHER HAS SENT YOU TO ACCRA TO COME AND WORK HARD AND YOU'RE HERE OPENING YOUR LEGS FOR EVERYBODY

OH YOU FIT DASH AM DICK FOR FREE.

HOW MUCH?

ME I WAN TAKE SHOW AM...ABI DAT BE WHAT SHE DEY LIKE?

OH, NO BE DAT SEFF. I WAN KNOW HOW MUCH SHE GET FOR EIN SALES TONIGHT

WHY YOUR VOICE LOUD SO? YOU WAN ANNOUNCE TO PARLIAMENT SAY WE DEY COME FUCK THIS ASHAWO? I WARN YOU DAT



SORRY, SORRY OO



UUMPH!

CRRRR!

WHUDD

UUMPH!!!

AARRGGHH!!!

URGGGHHHH!!

CRUDDDD!!!



AAAAARRRRGGGGHHHH,
STOP! PLEASE STOP!

BOOOOOWWWW!!!





DO YOU STILL WANT THE BAG?

"EH? DO YOU?"

ARGGGHHHHH!!!! NOOOOOO!!!



NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!



YES

DO YOU NEED A RIDE?





FATIMA RIGHT?

YES



LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET HOME

THANK YOU



IS THAT BLOOD? BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN?

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?

NAAH, JUST WORRYING ABOUT YOUR VAG THAT'S PROBABLY COVERED IN COBWEBS BY NOW.

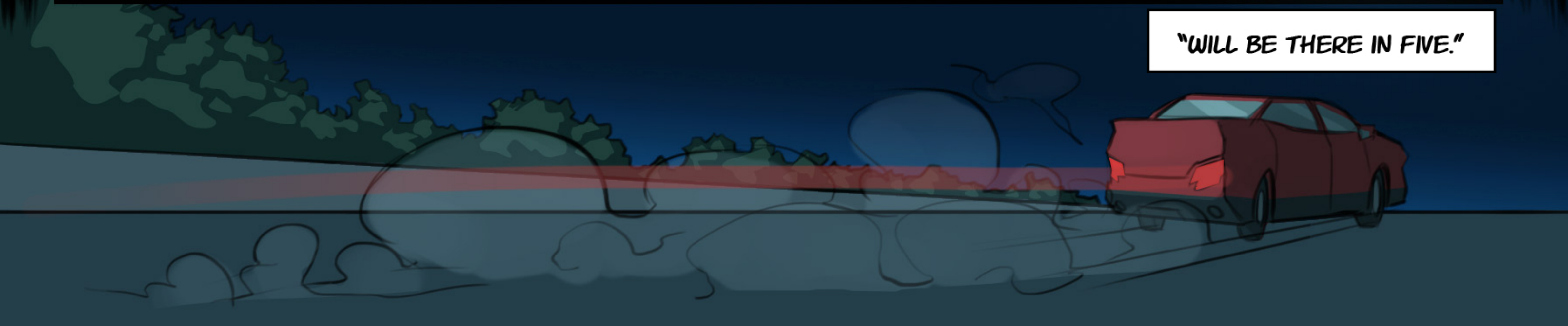


NOT EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND SEX SEKHMET. WHAT A WASTE OF PRECIOUS TIME.



YOU SHOULD HEAD TO THE SHRINE NOW. IT'S A CODE RED.

"WILL BE THERE IN FIVE."



"IT STARTED WITH THE FIVE FAMILIES. THE ORACLE TOLD IT THIS WAY:"



"THE SETI'S ROSE IN THE AGE OF THE RAM
LOCKED HORNS WERE THE SIGN
FIVE FAMILIES, FIVE FINGERS OF CHAOS TO USHER IN DESTRUCTION
THE THINKERS, ASTROLOGISTS, DREAMERS, QUEENS, AND KINGS MISSED THE SIGNS
AND SO, WE WERE AMBUSHED
LIKE NIGHT DOES WITHOUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS
WE ONLY BEGAN TO SEE WHEN THE KILLINGS STARTED
THE SLAUGHTER OF OUR PRIESTESSES
MARKED HARBINGERS OF AN OMINOUS END TO HALCYON DAYS
THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT AFRAID TO SPILL BLOOD
AND THEY SPILLED BLOOD IN THE HOMESTEAD ON THE FARMS
IN THE LEARNING ROOMS AND IN THE SHRINES
DECLARING AS THEY CUT OFF HEADS AND BREASTS
RAPED AND MUTILATED...WITH IMPUNITY
AND THE FOLLY OF GREED ALL IN THE NAME OF PEACE...THAT THEY DID THIS FOR A PRINCE OF PEACE..
IN ALL THE EONS OF THE ORACLE'S EXISTENCE
SHE HAD NEVER SEEN PEACE THAT LOOKED LIKE THIS"

"THEY STOLE FROM OUR SHRINES AND DESTROYED
THEY SET TO FLAME ALL OUR BOOKS
THE SCIENCE, LITERATURE, HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, ART
ANGRY RED FLAMES ATE THEM UP
THE BLUE WAVES WATCHED IN DISBELIEF
THEN THEY MOVED TO THE PALACES
SLAYED THE MATRIARCHS
CUT THEM INTO PIECES AND DISPLAYED THEIR BLOODIED BODY PARTS EVERYWHERE
AS A WARNING TO ALL THAT THE OLD LIFE WAS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE IN THIS NEW ERA
GODDESSES' BREASTS WERE CUT OFF AND THEY WERE GIVEN PENISES ..."

"BECAUSE THEY LOVED TO SPILL BLOOD
THEY HAD NO REVERENCE FOR IT.
ANY HUMAN BEING WHO BLED ONCE A MONTH WITH THE MOON
BECAME A SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN
THEY WERE 'FILTHY', 'IMPURE'
THEY COULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO HOLD THE CALABASH. THE DIVINE PRIESTS BEGAN TO WEAR
THE SKIRTS BECAUSE WOMEN COULD NO LONGER BE THE MOUTHPIECE OF THE DIVINE
THEY HAD TO BE GIVEN MASTERS
AND SERVE
AND SERVITUDE IN THIS ERA WASN'T A QUEST TO LEARN HOW TO LISTEN TO NATURE
OR TO LOOK UPON THE SOUL OF HARMONY
SERVITUDE WAS FOR CHEAP LABOUR
COST EFFECTIVE IN THE NEW MARKET FOR WEALTH AND POWER"

"AND THAT'S WHEN WE LOST THE MOONGIRLS
SOME SAY THE CLIMATE BECAME TOO TOXIC FOR THEM
THEY COULD NO LONGER BREATHE
WE CREATED SO MUCH GARBAGE
WE CHOKED ALL EXITS AND ENTRANCES
THE ORACLE WARNED BUT THE COUNCIL OF THE SETI DID NOT HEED THEM
THEY USED THE NEW RELIGION TO TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THE WARNINGS WERE MADE FROM THE
DEVIL'S SPAWN HERE ON EARTH
SO NO ONE LISTENED
OTHERS SAY THE MOONGIRLS CANNOT BE LOST
THAT THEY STILL LIVE AMONGST US
STILL COMMUNICATING AND THOSE WHO CAN HEAR ARE THE ONES WHO KNOW
... A REVOLUTION IS COMING
SO ALL IS NOT LOST "

"THE AGE OF THE WATER BEARERS DRAWS CLOSE
THE MOTHER OF THE SEVEN SEAS SHALL RISE AGAIN
SHE BRINGS WITH HER THE HURRICANE
TO FLUSH OUT CHAOS
SHE BRINGS WITH HER THE TIDES
TO RESTORE BALANCE
SHE BRINGS WITH HER THE HEART OF THE OCEAN
TO CROWN LOVE
HARMONY SHALL ONCE AGAIN REIGN "

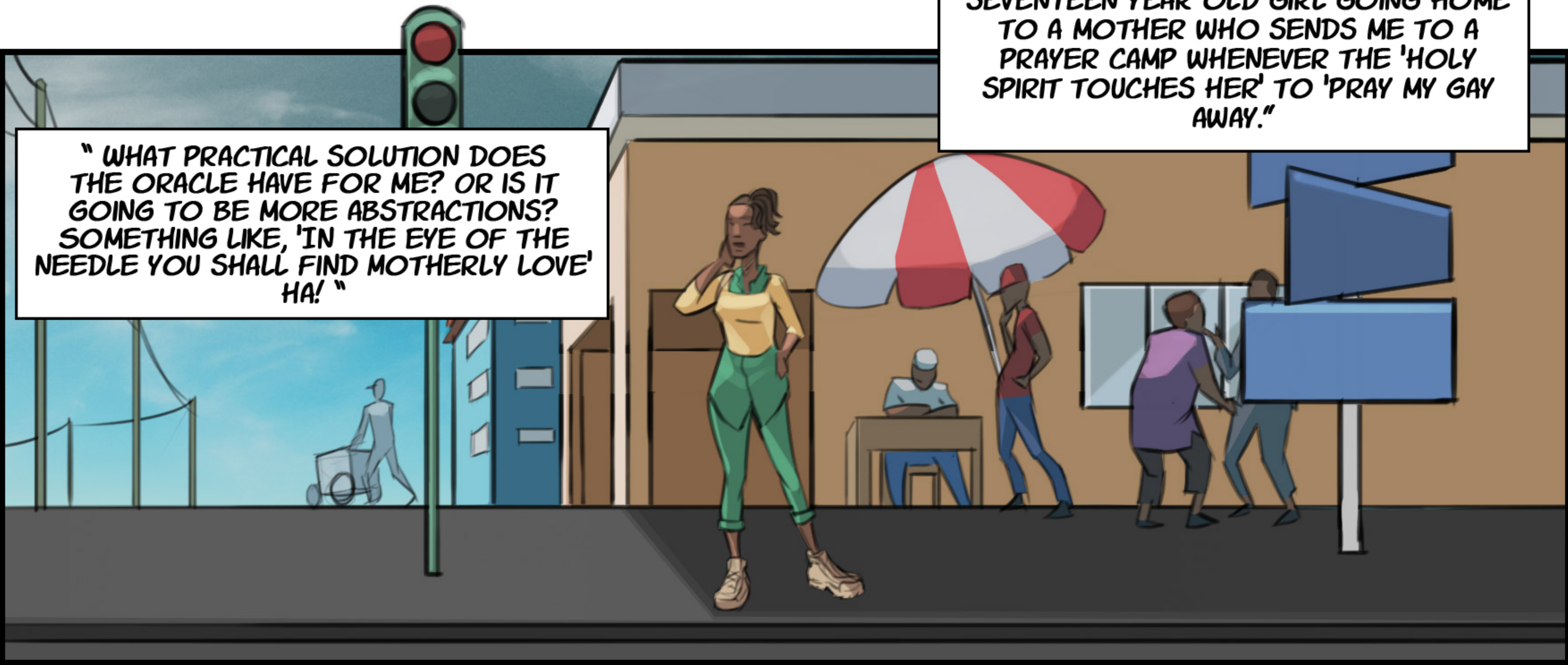
"BUT DO NOT FORGET. HARMONY HAS TWO FACES. ITS SECOND FACE IS CHAOS. FOR HOW CAN YOU
KNOW HARMONY IF YOU DO NOT KNOW CHAOS? WITH HARMONY COMES CHAOS. AND MA'AT IS THE
DIVINITY THAT LIES BETWEEN THEM."

"DON'T ASK ME WHY THE ORACLE'S GOT TO BE SO DAMN ABSTRACT ALL THE TIME."



" PLUS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL THIS HAS GOT TO DO WITH THE REAL WORLD. I'M A SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL GOING HOME TO A MOTHER WHO SENDS ME TO A PRAYER CAMP WHENEVER THE 'HOLY SPIRIT TOUCHES HER' TO 'PRAY MY GAY AWAY.' "

" WHAT PRACTICAL SOLUTION DOES THE ORACLE HAVE FOR ME? OR IS IT GOING TO BE MORE ABSTRACTIONS? SOMETHING LIKE, 'IN THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE YOU SHALL FIND MOTHERLY LOVE' HA! "



" DEDE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS PATIENT ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO THE ORACLE. SO I JUST GO TO HER INSTEAD FOR EXPLANATIONS. BUT RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO GO TO MY MOTHER WITH EXPLANATIONS. I GOT KICKED OUT AGAIN FROM SCHOOL FOR 'SUPI BEHAVIOUR.' IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT. "



GLOSSARY

Ghana: An Overview

Ghana, officially the Republic of Ghana, lies north of the Atlantic Ocean, in the sub-region of West Africa.

LAND MASS: 238,535 km² (92,099 sq mi)

AGE: 63 years as an independent country.

COUNTRIES BORDERING GHANA: Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Togo to the West, North, and South respectively

Origin of name: Named after the ancient kingdom of Ghana, which covered the Sudan-Mali area.

Ethnic groups: The major ethnic groups in Ghana include the Akan, Ewe, Mole-Dagbani, Guan, and Ga-Adangbe. Each group has further subdivisions that which share common cultural heritage, history, language, and origin.

COLONIAL HISTORY: After being colonized for over 400 years by the British, Danes, Portuguese, Germans and Dutch, Gold Coast was renamed to Ghana upon their independence to commemorate the descendants of that extant populace that migrated from the ancient kingdom of Ghana. 6th March, 1957 marks Ghana's independence from colonial rule.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English

CAPITAL CITY: Accra

SEASONS: The wet season and the dry season (harmattan)

ESTIMATED POPULATION: 29.4 million

GOVERNANCE: Democracy

CURRENT PRESIDENT: Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

MINERALS: Gold, bauxite, manganese, ore, diamonds and oil (which was discovered in 2007). Timber and marine resources are also produced and exported in Ghana even though they are facing a decline.

MAJOR RELIGIONS: Christianity, Islam, Traditional African Spirituality

MOONGIRL PATRIARCHY LEVEL REPORT: High

MOONGIRL LGBTQIA+ STATUS REPORT: In 2007, a survey by the Ghana Statistical Service indicated that there were changing trends of attitudes towards LGBT people where people were either strongly disgusted by the idea of homosexuality or were actively fighting for LGBT rights. This trend differs from previous years where people expressed ambivalence towards the issue. That being said, Ghana's official policy can be considered homophobic since The Consolidation of Criminal Code, 1960 (Act 29), Chapter 6 section 102 through 105 holds impediments against homosexuality. However, the criminal code only criminalises male-to-male sexual activities but not female-to-female. Currently, there are no concrete statistics of people who belong to the LGBT community. Even organisations that exist to fight for LGBT rights in Ghana are not formally registered as such for issues of security and to avoid attack. In 2006, the Ghana government banned an LGBT rights conference that was supposed to take place in Ghana. LGBTQIA+ Ghanaians are subject to kidnappings, violence, and harassment.

SEX WORK IN GHANA: Amid talks, discussions and campaigns, sex work remains criminalised in Ghana. Ghanaians often refer to them in grossly offensive and disrespectful barrage of names, ranging from 'ashawo' to 'toutou' (derived from 'two shillings, two pence'; a price range denoting a sex worker who does not charge much - an obvious remnant from the colonial era). Media houses and outlets in the country are often no better, they wilfully insist on using the archaic and wildly disrespectful term 'prostitute' in all their reportage about sex work and sex workers. The Criminal Code Ghana bans any person from persistently soliciting or importuning clients for prostitution. This often means that any violence perpetuated on sex workers are not treated as a violation of their rights.

Violence is often perpetrated by their patrons. This group, more often than not male, comprehend the lack of protection of the rights of sex workers and assert their will in violent and harmful ways. The violence could range from sexual assault, rape, physical assault, murder, torture etc. As at 2016, UNAIDS estimated that there were about 52,000 female commercial sex workers in Ghana. Often without access to proper channel and business models designed for their specific field of work, most sex workers in Ghana find themselves earning very poor wages from the venture. The law enforcement agencies within the country such as the police are also known for exploiting the conditions of these workers and use the criminal nature of their profession to perpetuate unspeakable violence against them. In a 2007 survey of 251 law enforcement agents, 15% admitted they had demanded sex in exchange for not prosecuting arrested/detained sex workers.

PATRIARCHY: A system of male authority which legitimises the oppression of women through political, social, economic, legal, cultural, religious and military institutions. Patriarchy varies in time and space, meaning that it changes over time, and varies according to class, race, ethnic, religious and global imperial relationships and structures.

THE ARAB INVASION: Before the European invasion of Africa was the Arab invasion of Africa. The first contact Africa had with Arabian culture was as a result of the first Hijrah (migration). Early Muslim converts were being faced with persecution from the inhabitants of Mecca. On the advice of Prophet Muhammad, 23 of the converts migrated to Abyssinia (present day Eritrea/ Ethiopia) to seek asylum from King Amah(An-Najashi) who was a just man, intolerant of prejudice. In the same year, 101 other converts followed in the stead of the 23, many of whom stayed in Abyssinia and neighbouring settlements. This begun the first wave of Muslim conversions in Africa. The occupation of Africa by Islam was slow and gradual yet very thorough, so much so that elements of Islam, Arabian culture and that of the Berbers with whom the Arabs had premier with contact are deeply intertwined with various indigenous cultural elements. Arabian occupancy of Africa was also due to conquests. These conquests were part of a series of holy wars started by Prophet Muhammad in the Arabian Peninsula but which were expanded by his successors. Between 616 to 629 AD, Muslim troops had taken over the current areas of Egypt and Libya under the leadership of Caliph Umar ibn al-Khattab. By the 10th century, Islam had gained momentum into West Africa, this time through trade. The work of Arab traders and preachers (who were often times the same) was majorly propagated by the fall of Kush in Southern Sudan. This led to the opening up of multiple migration and trade routes into Southern Yoruba-land and other parts of West Africa. The Arab traders engaged in the slave trade and by the 10th century there was a vibrant Arab Slave Trade comparable to that of Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

THE EUROPEAN INVASION: Between the 1870s and 1900, Africa faced European imperialist aggression, diplomatic pressures, military invasions, and eventual conquest and colonization. At the same time, African societies put up various forms of resistance against the attempt to colonize their countries and impose foreign domination. By the early twentieth century, however, much of Africa, except Ethiopia and Liberia, had been colonized by European powers. The European imperialist push into Africa was motivated by three main factors: economic, political, and social. It developed in the nineteenth century following the collapse of the profitability of the slave trade, its abolition and suppression, as well as the expansion of the European capitalist Industrial Revolution. The imperatives of capitalist industrialization—including the demand for assured sources of raw materials, the search for guaranteed markets and profitable investment outlets—spurred the European scramble and the partition and eventual conquest of Africa. Thus the primary motivation for European intrusion was economic.

CHARTER OF FEMINIST PRINCIPLES FOR AFRICAN FEMINISTS: “As we assert our space as African feminists, we also draw inspiration from our feminist ancestors who blazed the trail and made it possible to affirm the rights of African women. As we invoke the memory of those women whose names are hardly ever recorded in any history books, we insist that it is a profound insult to claim that feminism was imported into Africa from the West. We reclaim and assert the long and rich tradition of African women’s resistance to patriarchy in Africa. We henceforth claim the right to theorize for ourselves, write for ourselves, strategize for ourselves and speak for ourselves as African feminists.”

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- 52,000 Ghanaian females are commercial sex workers - Report by Ghanaweb
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