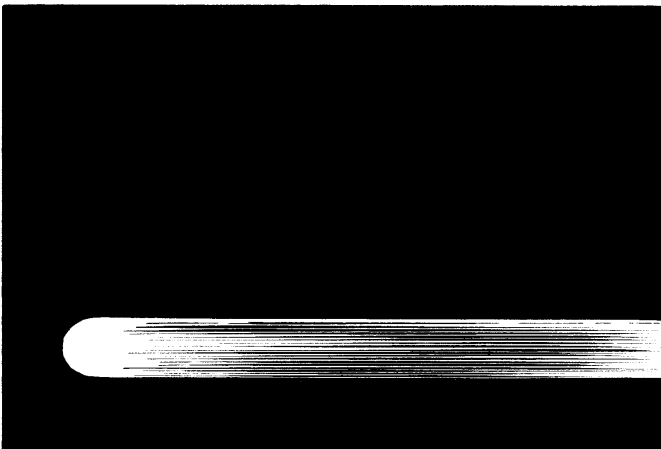
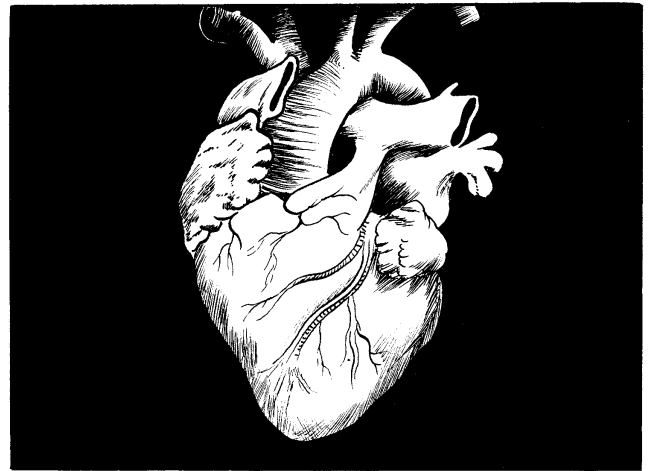
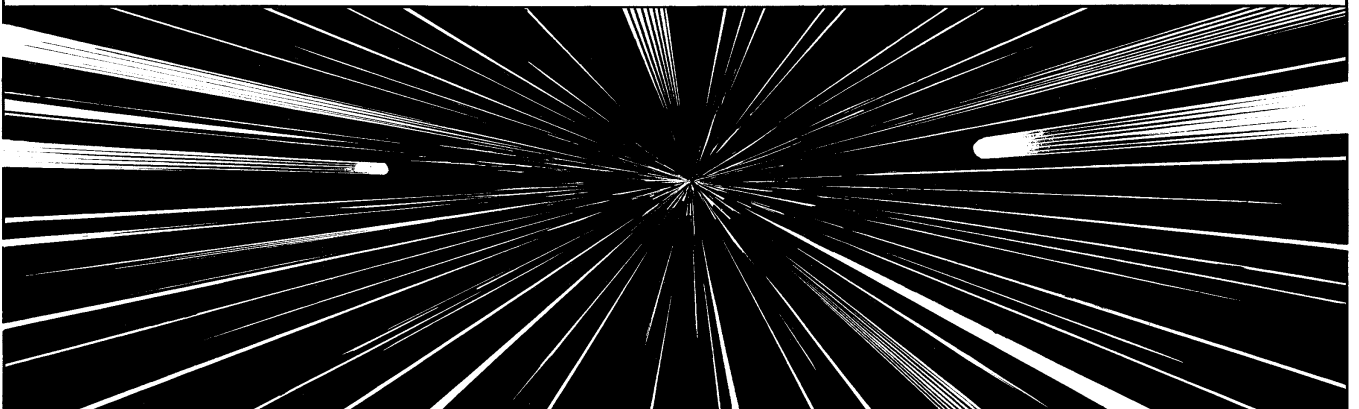
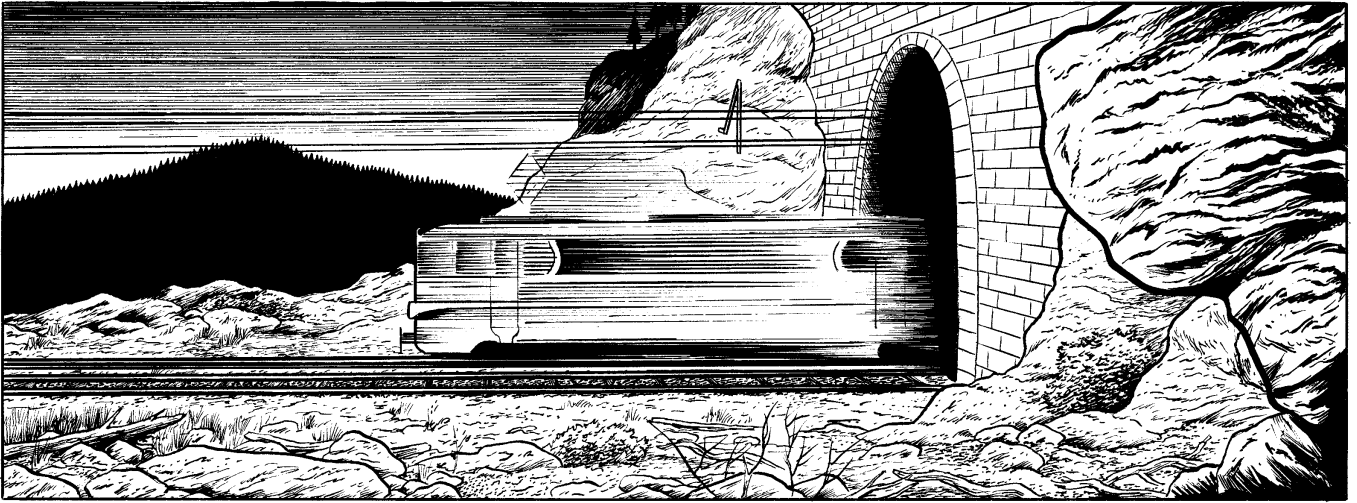


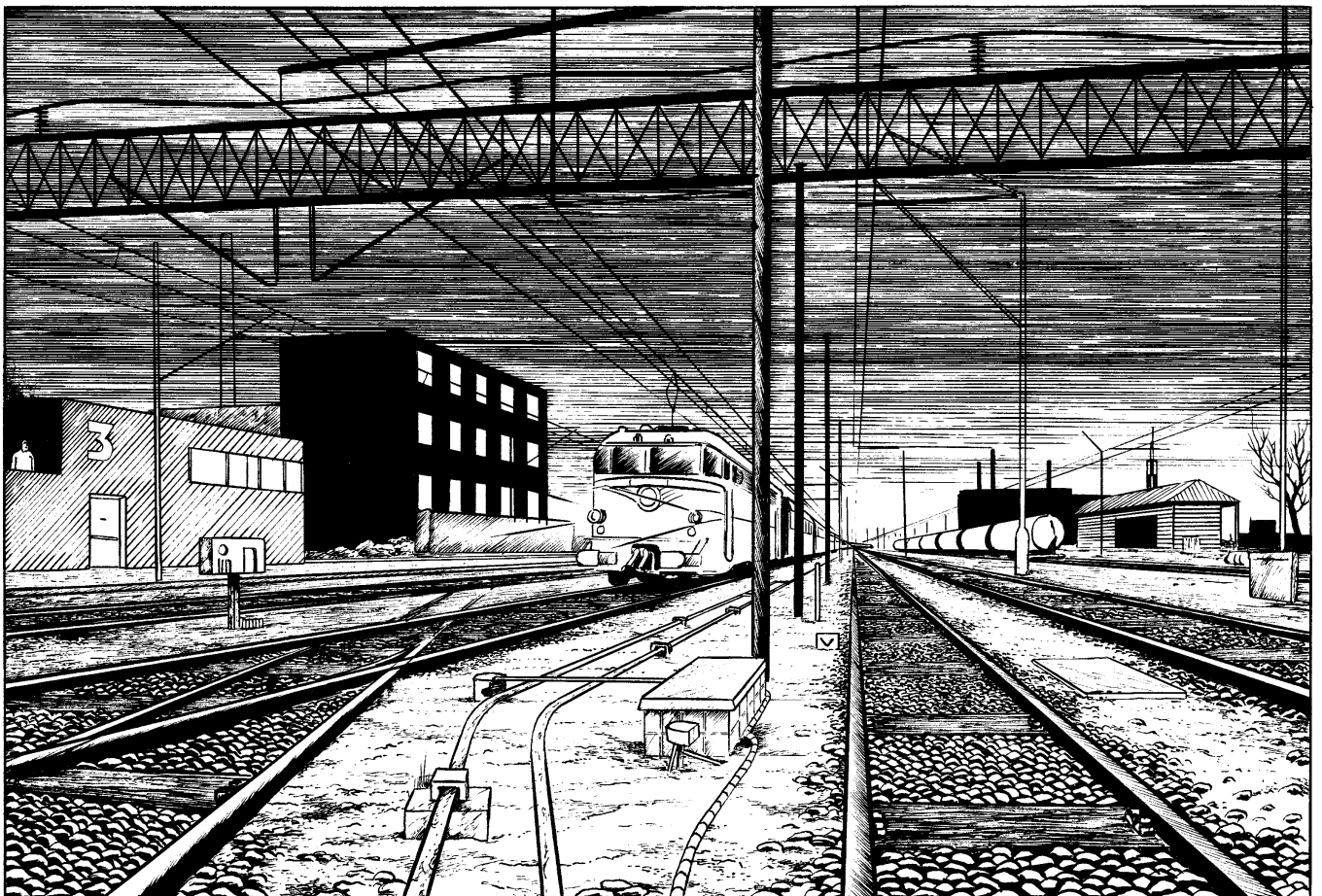
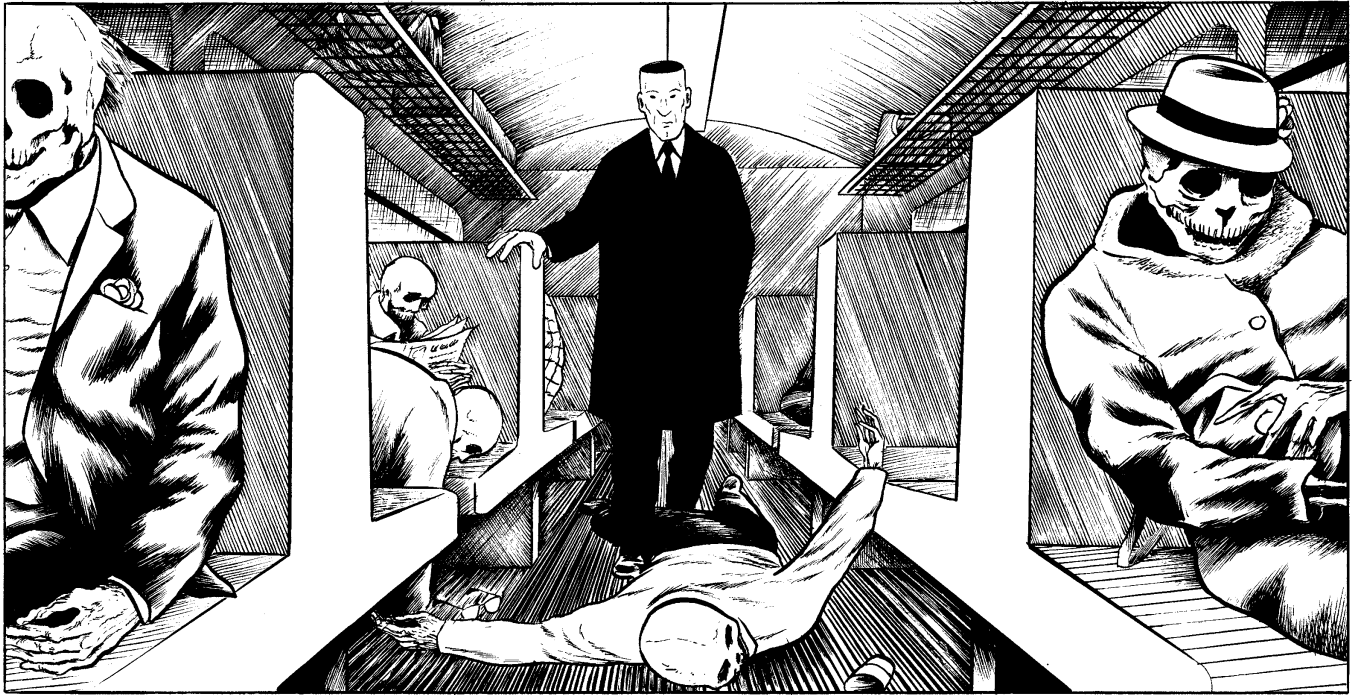
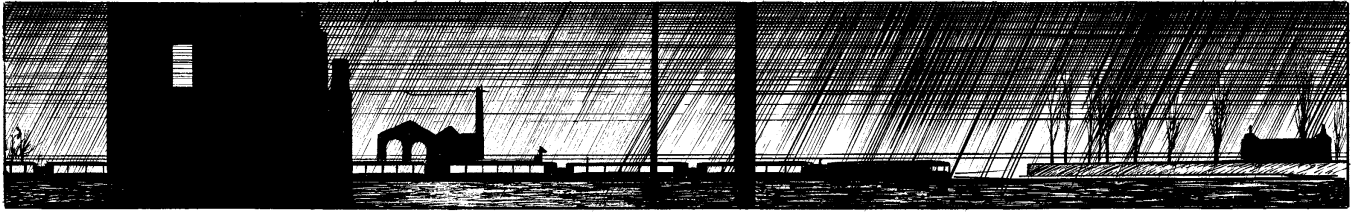
THE DISASTER RESULTED IN OUR UTTER LACK OF
MOMENTUM WHERE SPECIALIZED GROUPS TASKED WITH
THE MACHINE WERE CONCERNED.

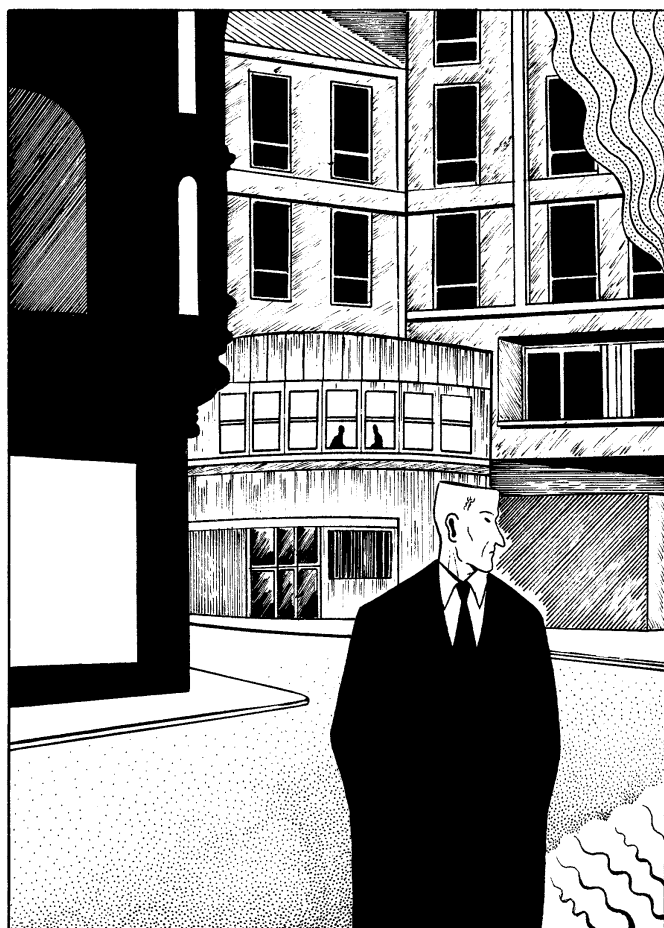
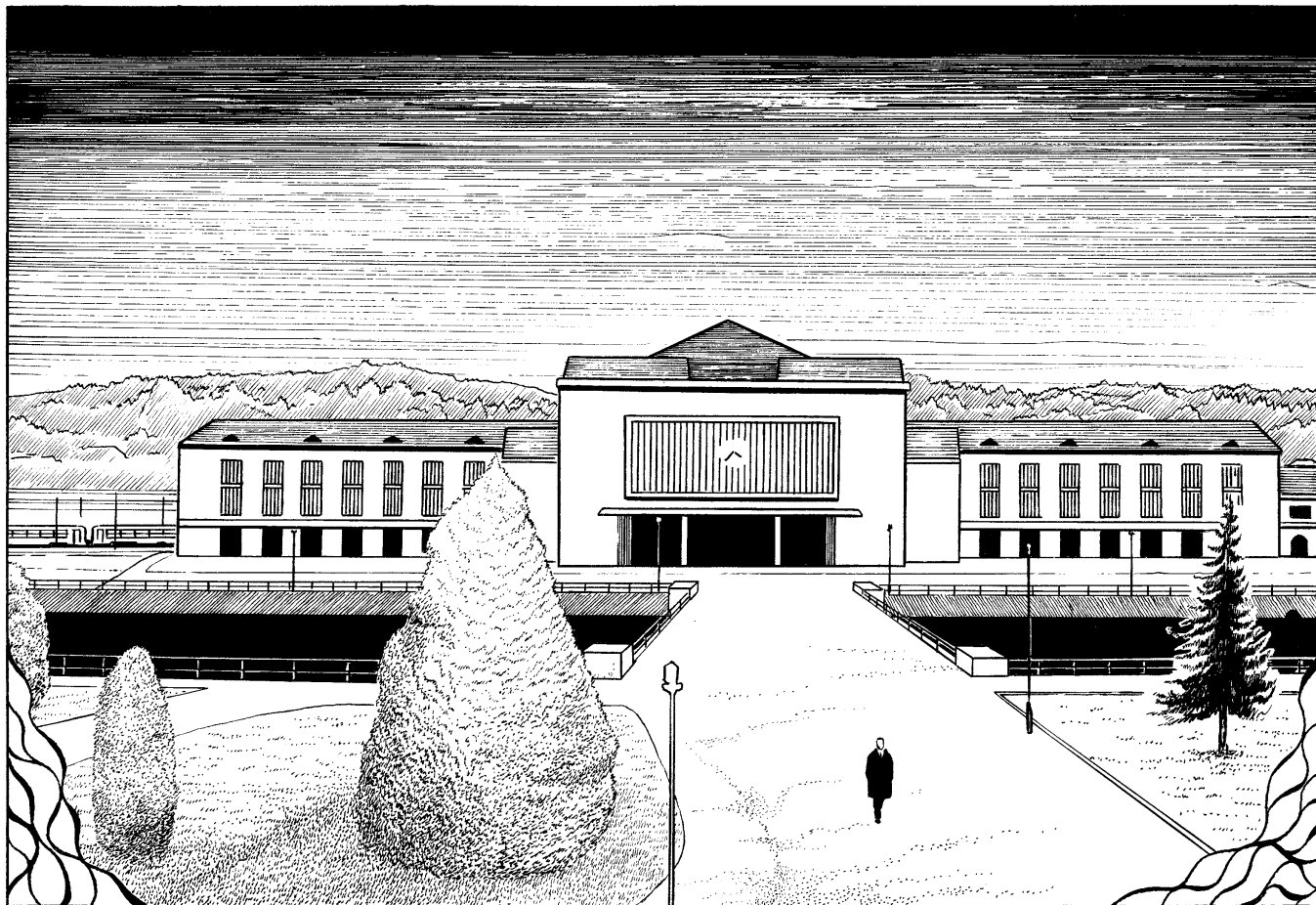


WE WERE LIKE THOSE TRAVELERS IN SLEEPING CARS WHO ONLY AWAKEN MOMENTS BEFORE IMPACT.





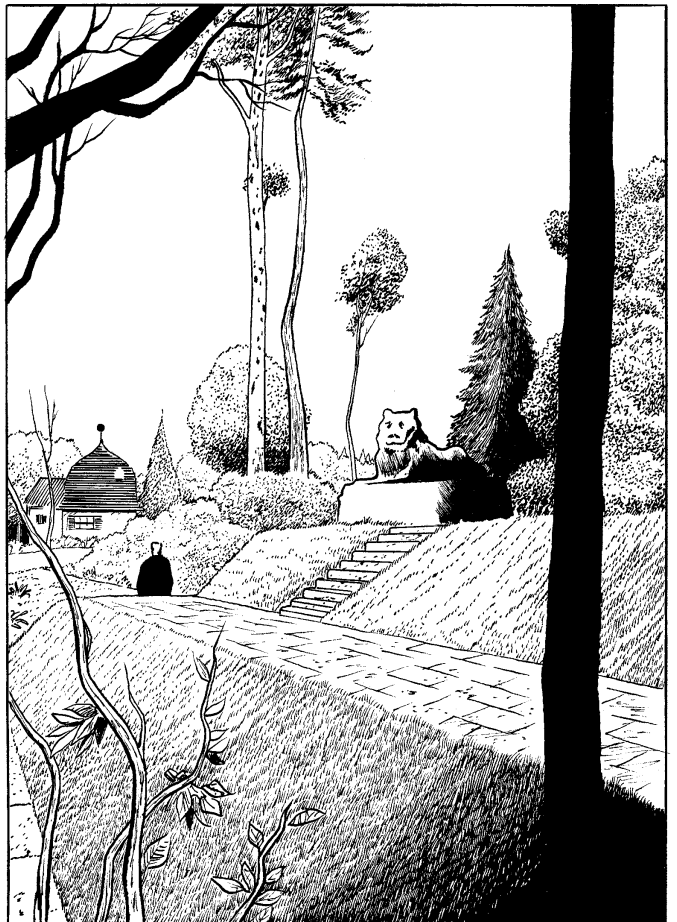


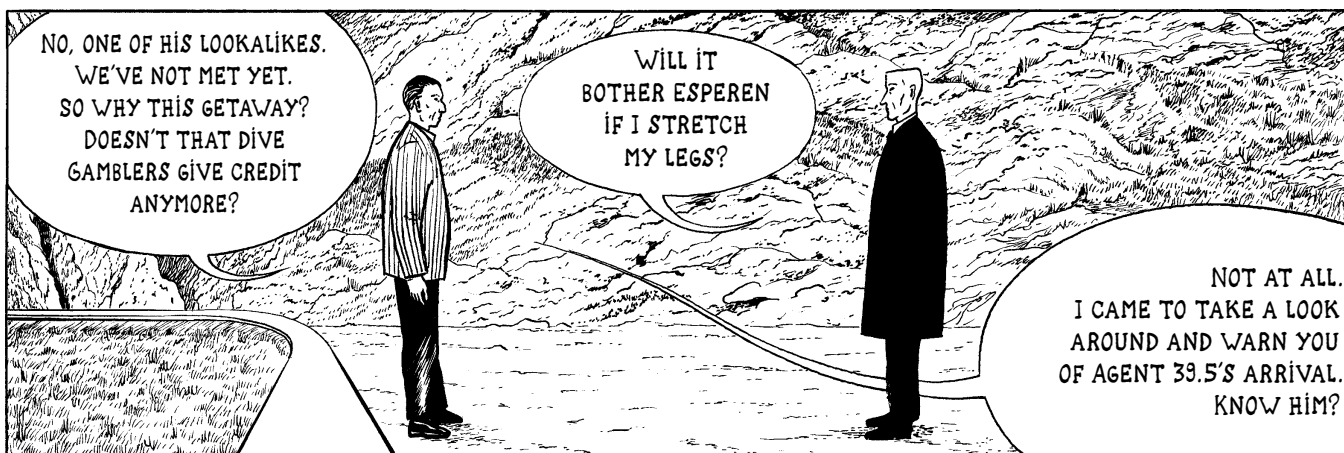
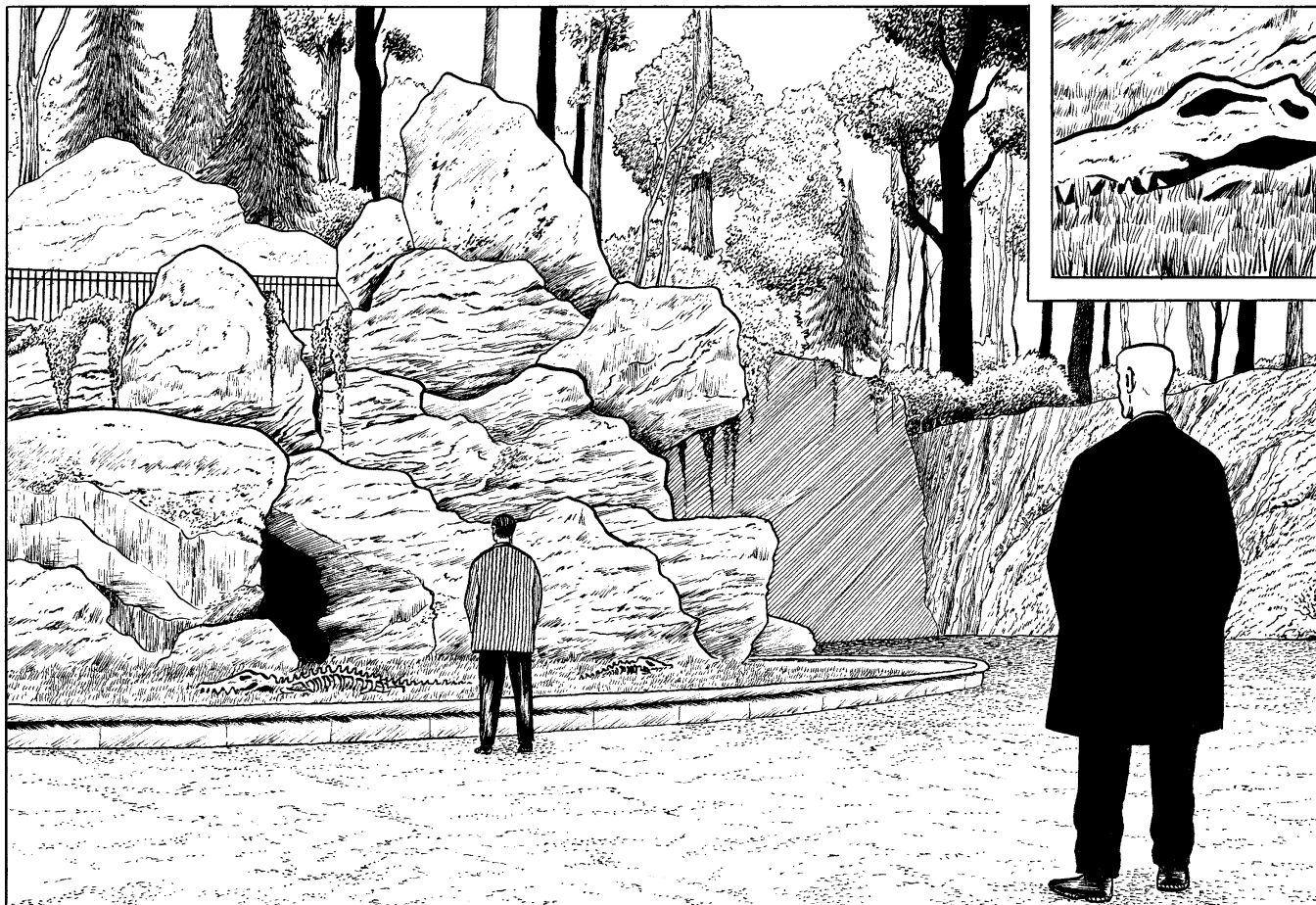




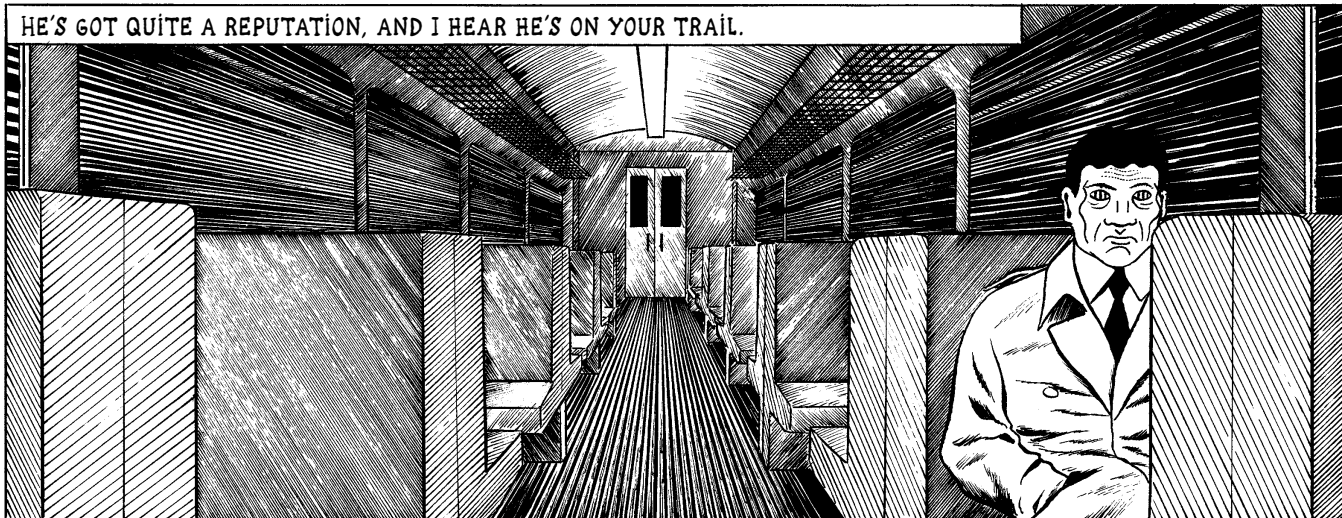
THERE... WHEW!
NUMBER 4 IS IN POSITION.
PFFF... OVER







HE'S GOT QUITE A REPUTATION, AND I HEAR HE'S ON YOUR TRAIL.

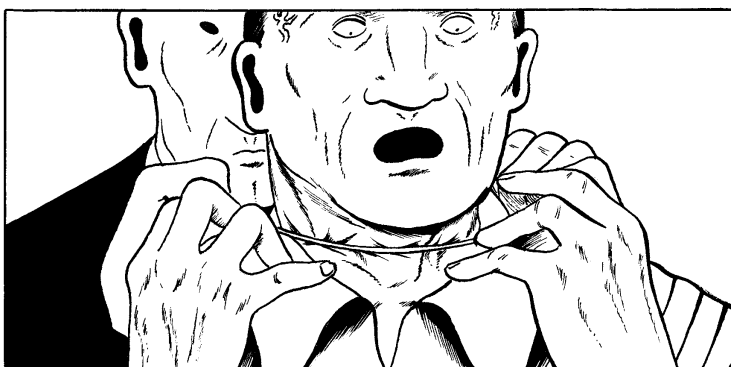
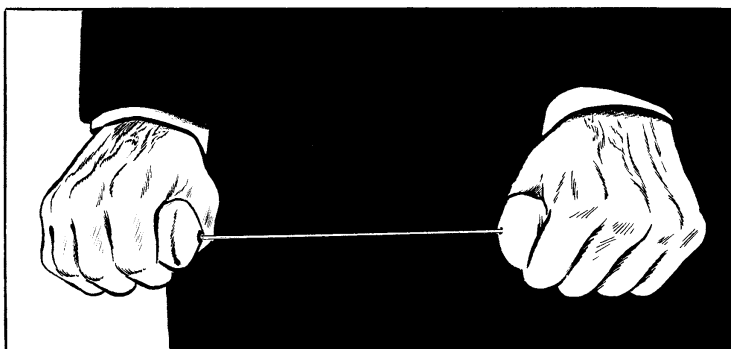
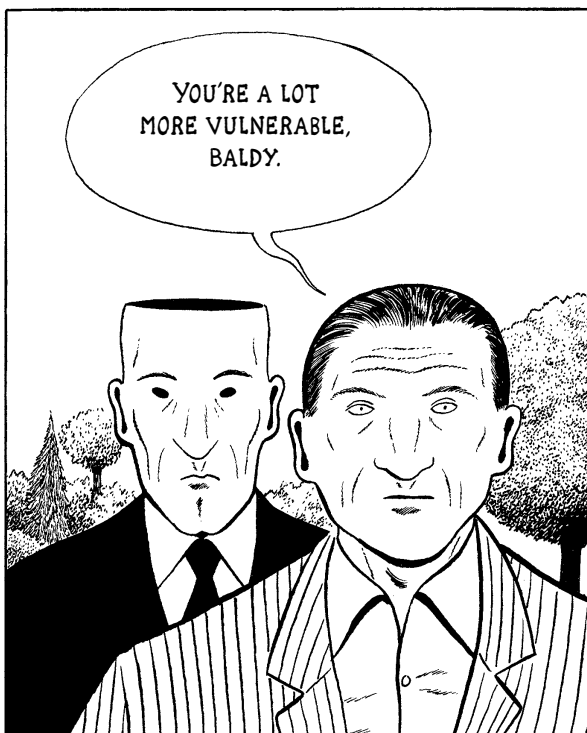


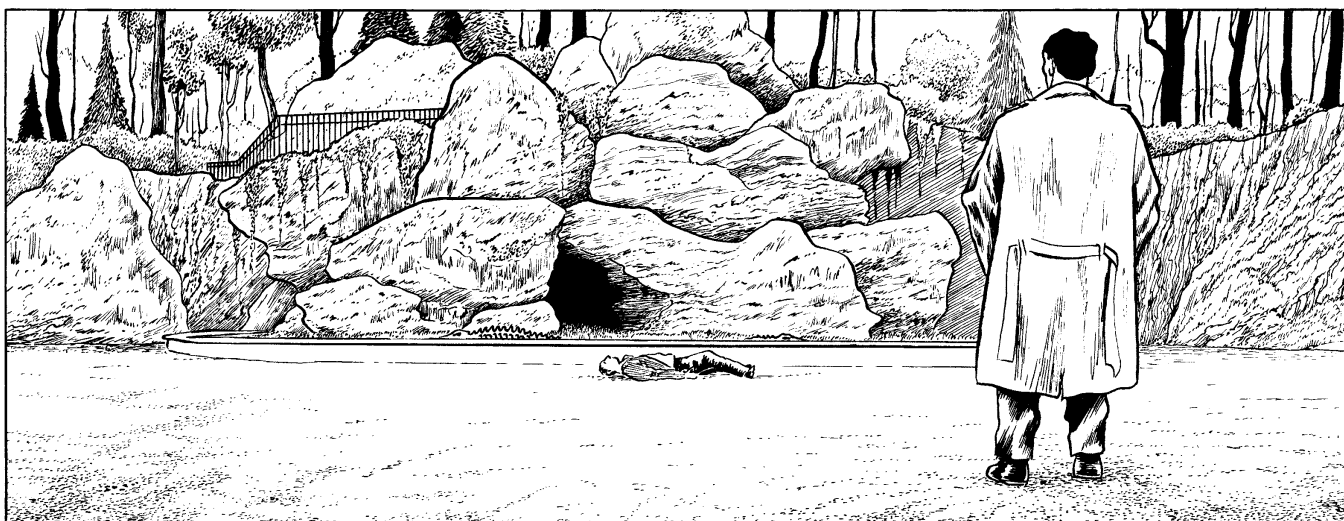
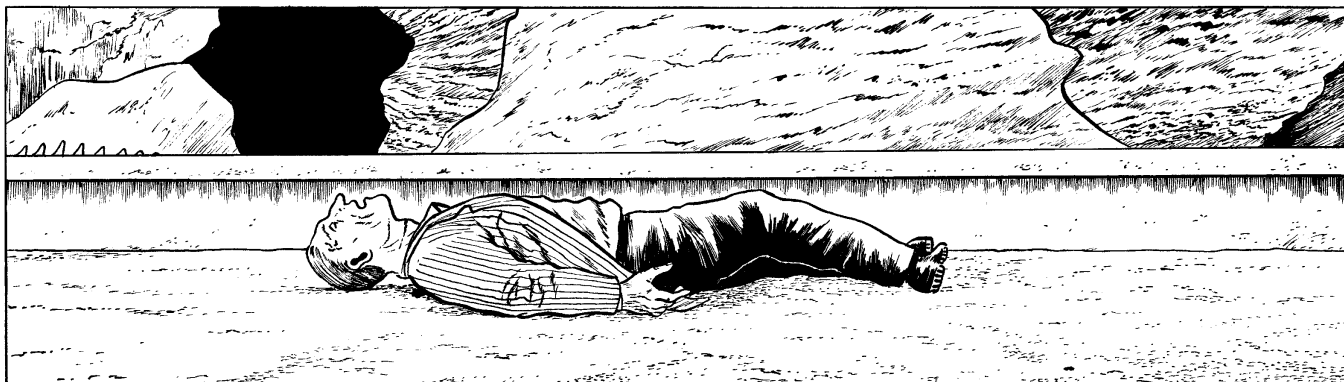
SO WHAT?
IF HE'S AFTER THE MAN
BEHIND ALL THIS, HE
SHOULD TALK TO ESPEREN,
NOT ME.

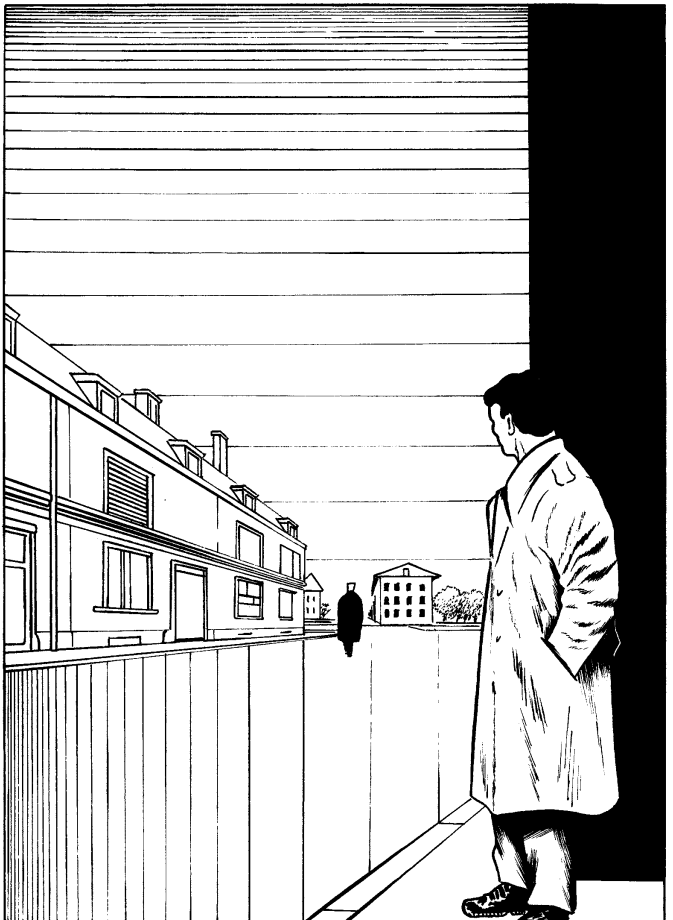
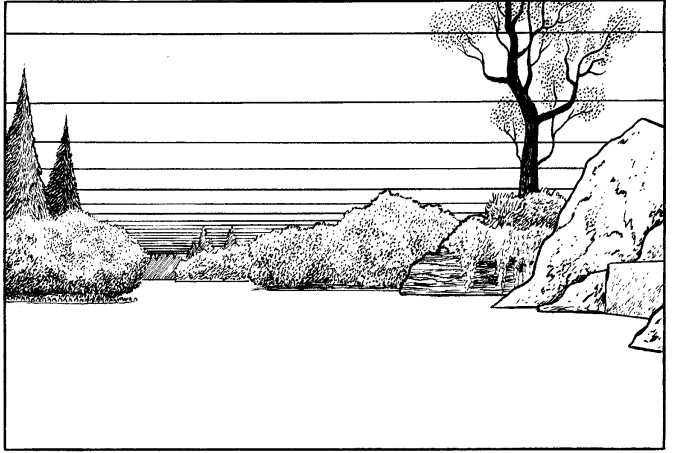
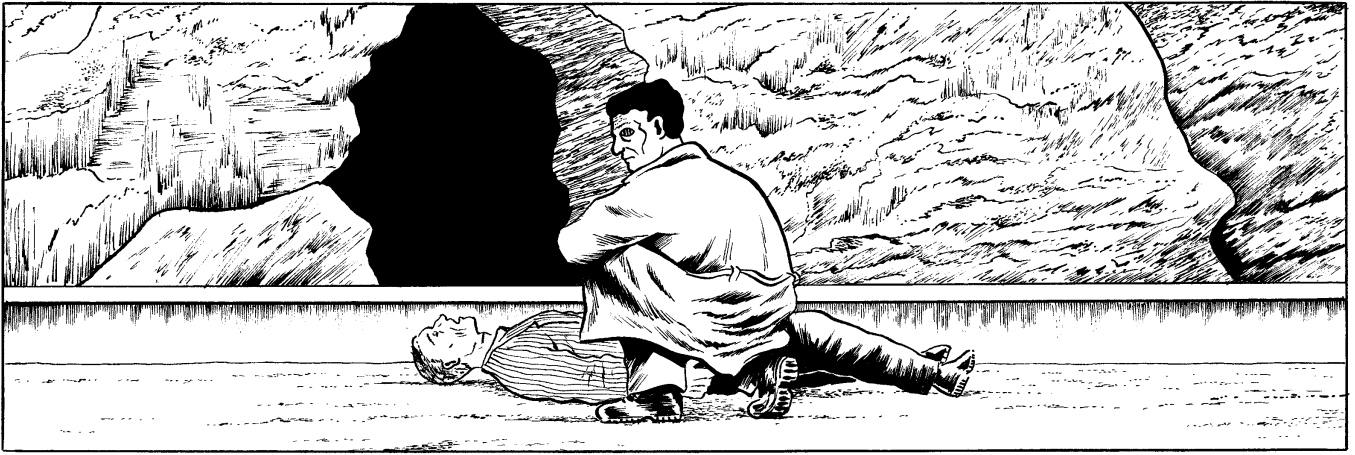
YOU AND ESPEREN ARE CO-OWNERS
OF THESE LANDS, IN A WAY.
YOU SHOULD FEEL MORE CONCERN.
ESPEREN'S UNTOUCHABLE.
HE'S PUT UP A BARRIER
AROUND HIMSELF,
BETWEEN HIM AND ANYONE
WHO COULD BOTHER HIM.
I'M PART OF THAT.



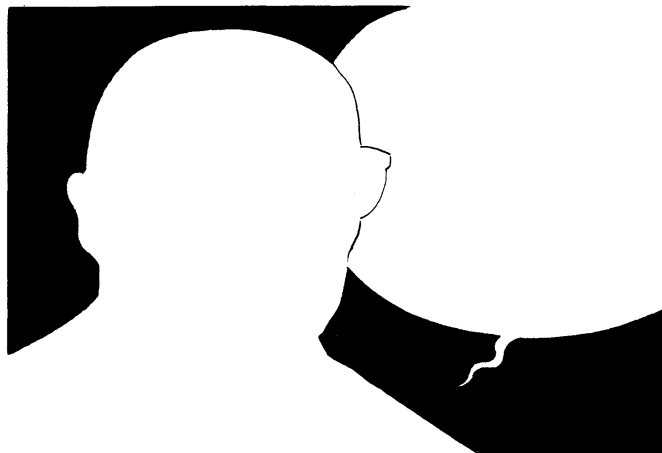
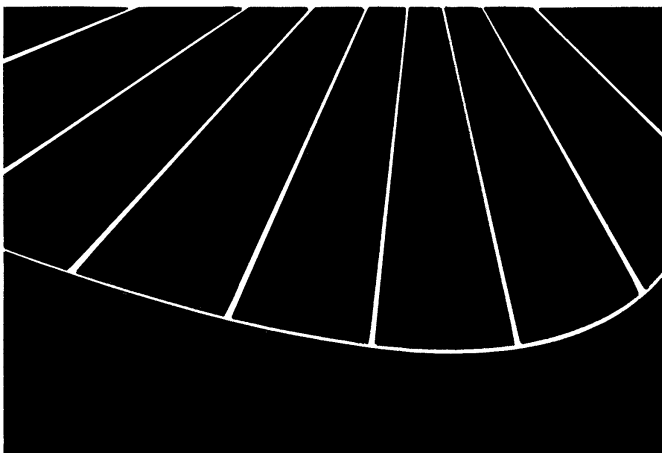
YOU'RE A LOT
MORE VULNERABLE,
BALDY.







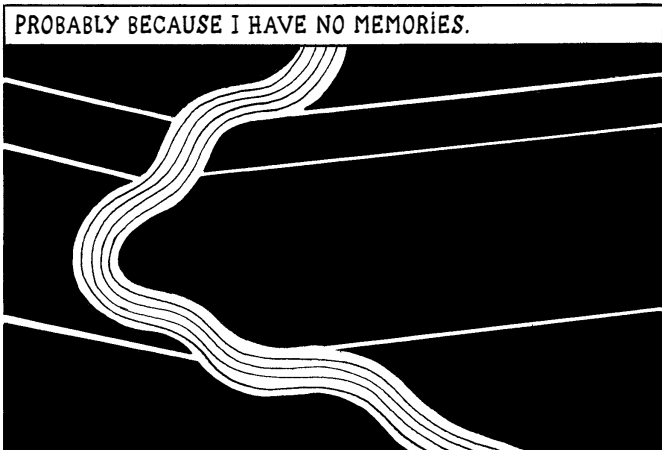
39.5 BEHIND ME. FOLLOW ME, LIKE A GOOD DOG. YOU MIGHT BE USEFUL IN SNIFFING OUT ESPEREN'S LAIR.



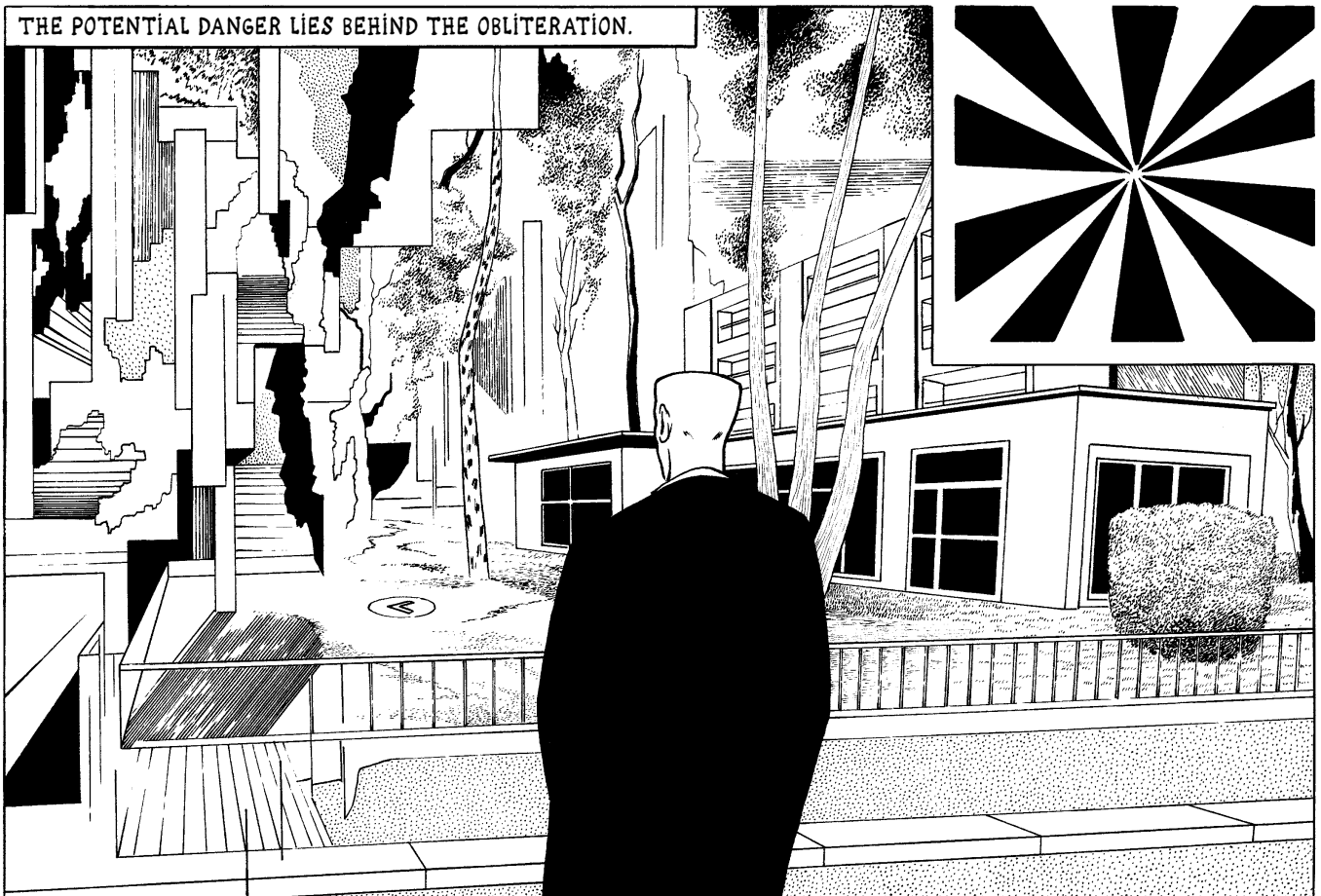
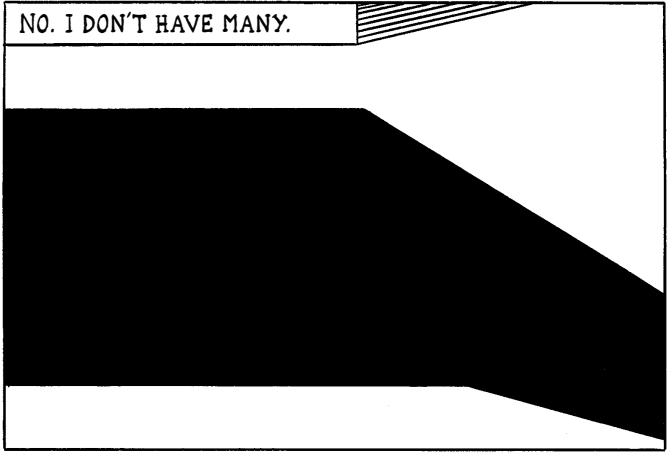
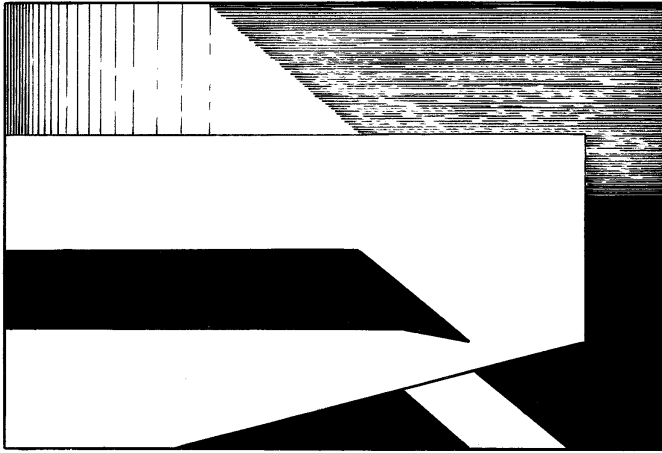
BALDY,
HOW IS IT THIS
SETTING REFLECTS
MY MEMORIES,
NOT YOURS?

SPAUTZ ?

PROBABLY BECAUSE I HAVE NO MEMORIES.



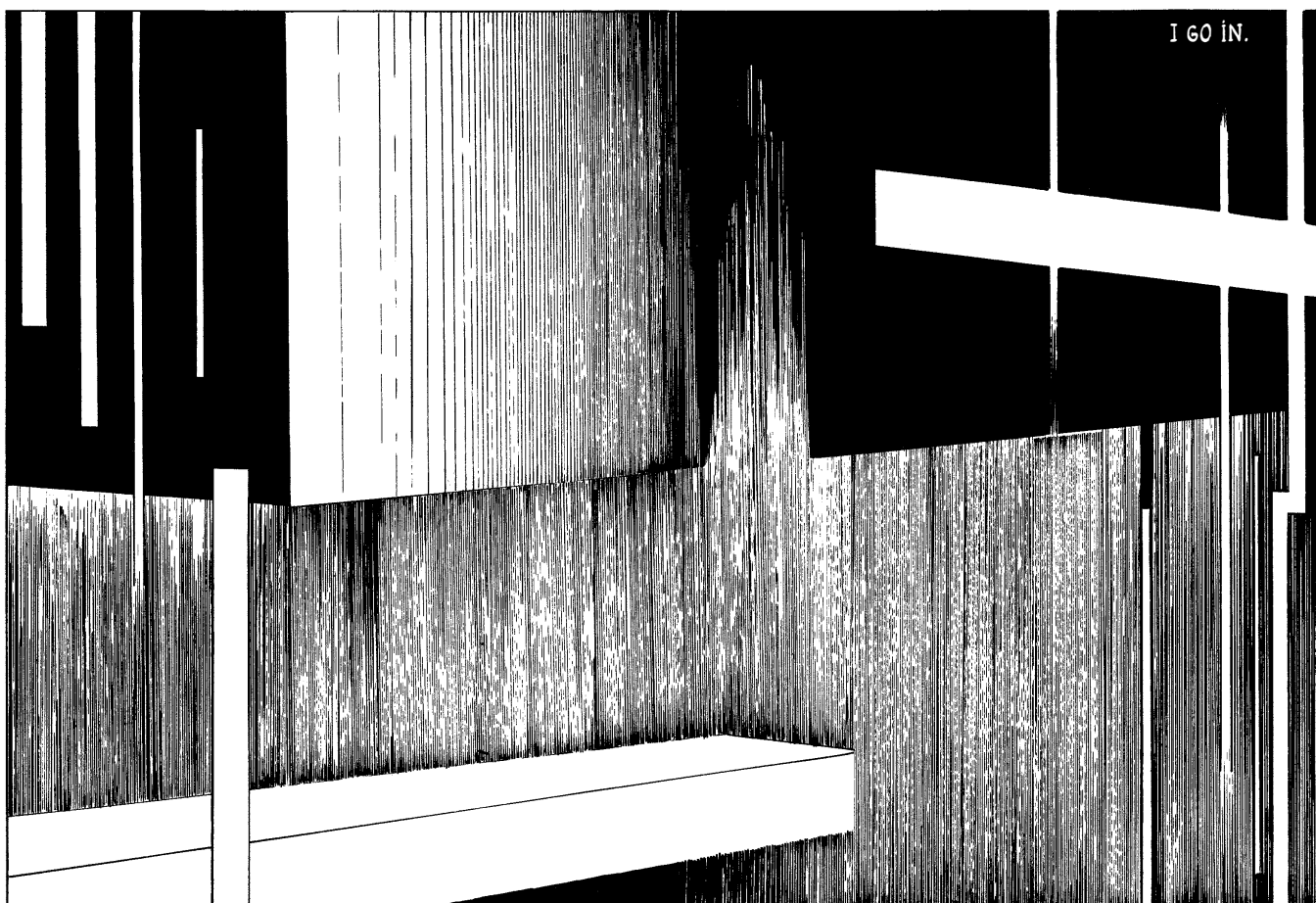
ARE YOU KIDDING?

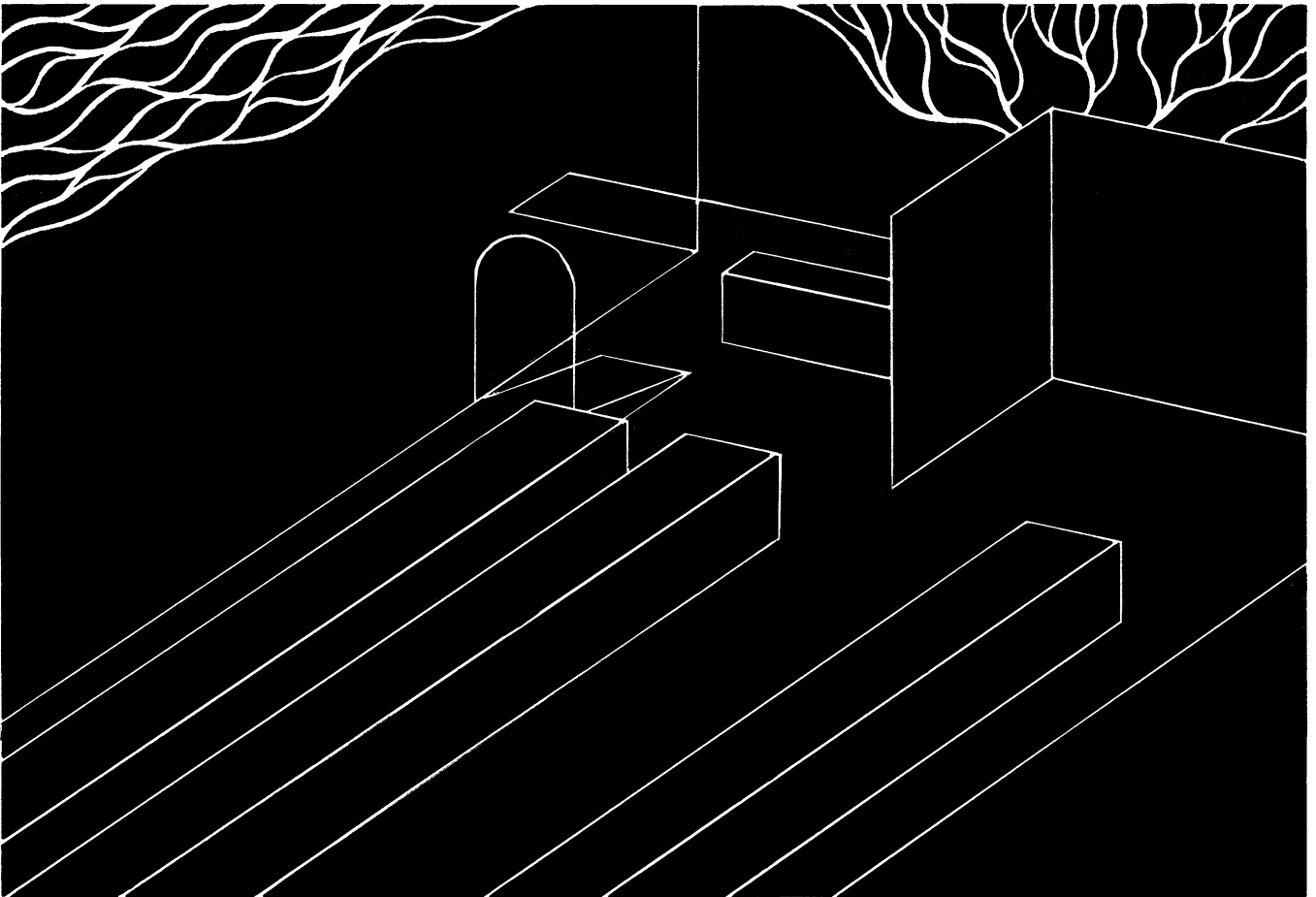


THAT'S WHAT THEY TAUGHT US. WE KNOW HOW TO GET AROUND THE SCRAMBLING.



I GO IN.







THIS PARTITION IS WARPED IN THE MIDDLE.

BEHIND IT... THE PRESSURE OF AN OCEAN.

