

From the streets of The Cursed Apple:

The Oracle's Secret

Volume One

An Unofficial Deadlock Fanzine: For Fans by Fans

Creative works inspired by the game Deadlock.

At the time of publishing, there are six brand new heroes that have joined The Cursed Apple.

The Cursed Apple's cityscape has been refreshed and the ritual happens at night.

Players have been given a hideout to invite their friends and move around in...

... and many more updates.

Published by:

The Oracle's Secret Fanzine Team

- *First Edition* -

Artist and Attributions in the Appendix

Please support human artists!

...the streets are always talking...

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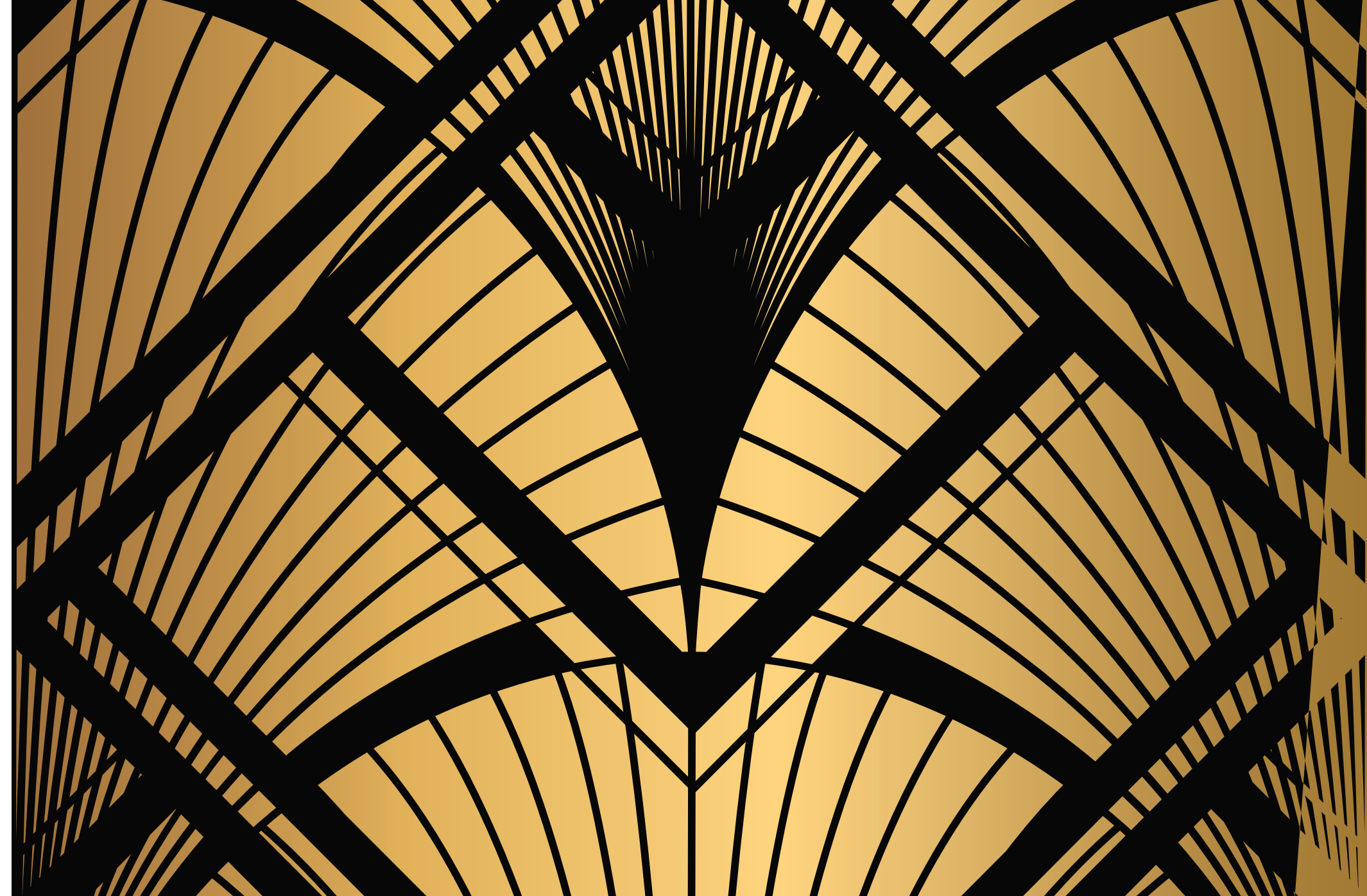
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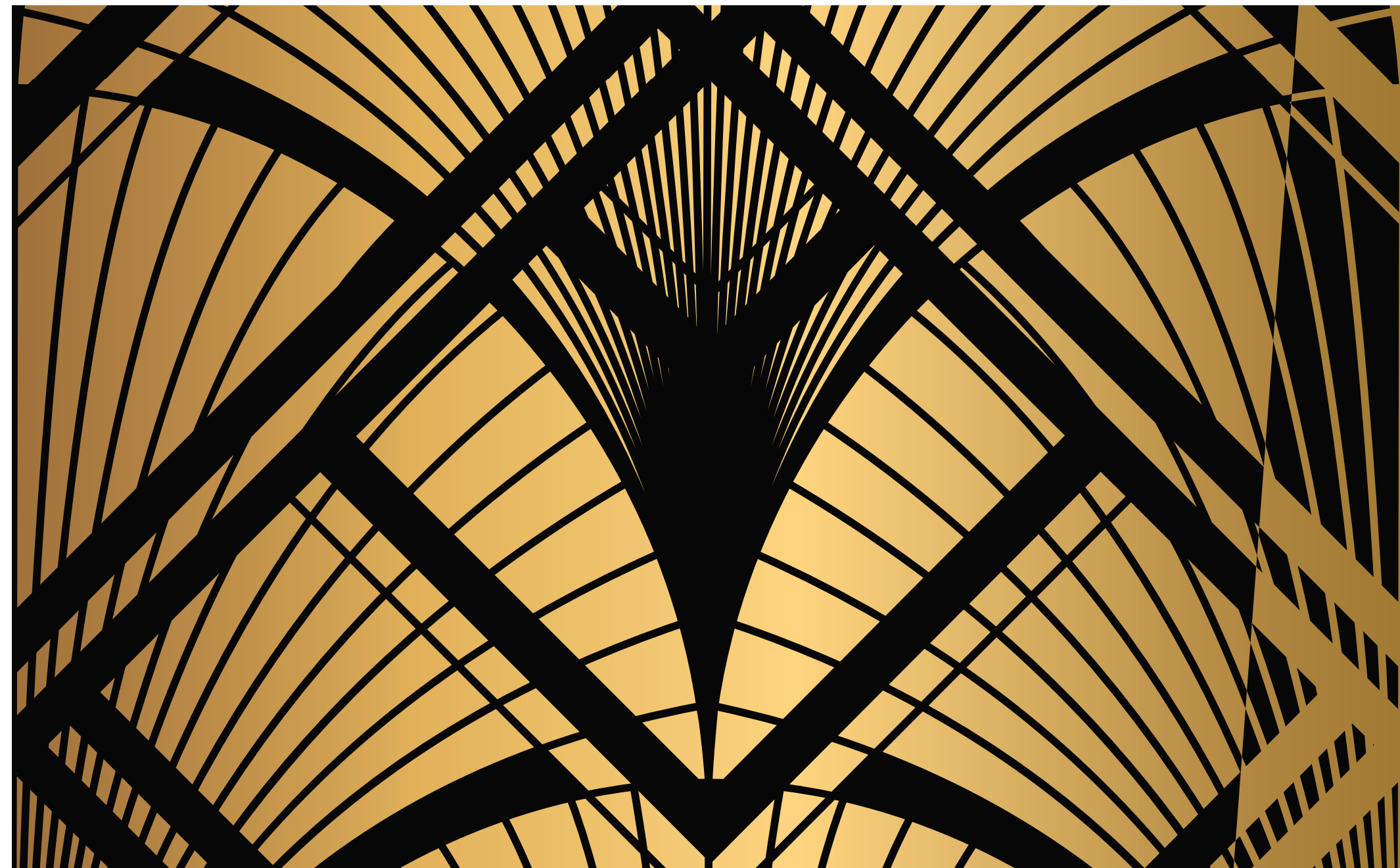
We just really like Deadlock.



The Oracle's Secret

Volume One

What's The Plan?



THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

RICHIE4281

twitter: @chesnaughtfan
bluesky: @chesnaughtfan.bsky.social



MO + KRILL





DEADLOCK

THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

GAMMATON32

BlueSky: @ofthedaleks



VISCOUS



WATCH ME!





MAGGIE X HOLLIDAY



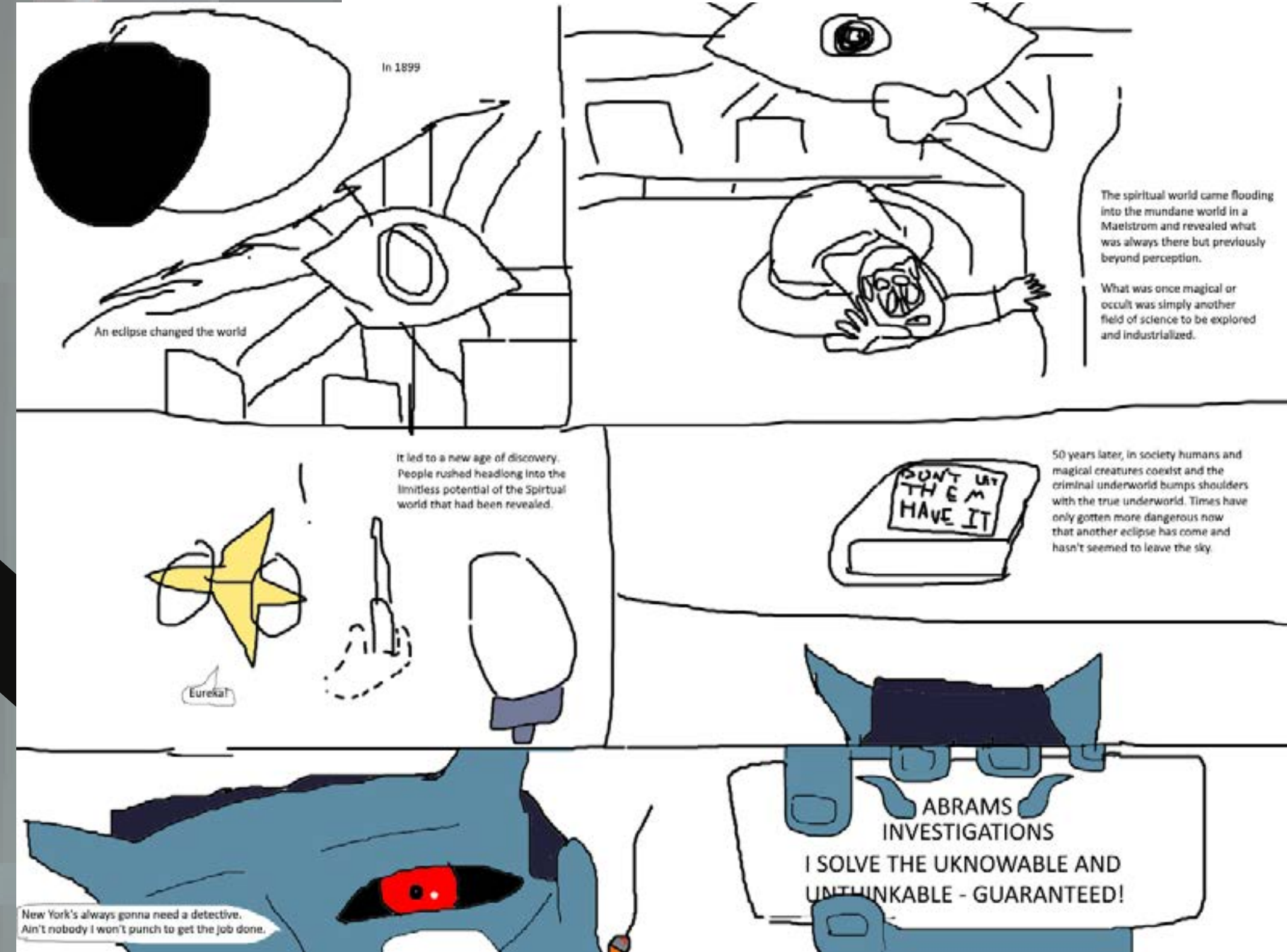
LORD FORGIVE ME BUT IT'S

TIME TO GO BACK TO THE OLD ME



ABRAMS INVESTIGATIONS

THE UNOFFICAL DEADLOCK GRAPHIC NOVEL
BY ZIZ4030



Meanwhile, on a lonely rooftop



¡Sé que estás ahí, hermanal!
I know you are out there, sister!

¡Ay bendito!
¿Y si la Espera
la ha capturado?
Oh no! Did Wrath take her?

Que ese bichote no
le ponga un dedo encima a
mi hermana o la convertirá
en un espectro de verdad.
Sofia trabajaba para ella, sabía que
debería haber hecho algo antes.
If that gangster lays a finger on
my sister's head, I'll make her
a wraith for real. I swore only
self-defense, I think she'd shoot
first. I know it was her, Sofia
worked for her. I should have
done something.



Thank god for vices.
The great part about being a degenerate
gambler is that you get really good at
setting up your own action.
Broke? Yeah. Bored? Never.

Looks like I'm
gonna wipe the
floor with you
Krill.

Oh no you won't, I run these tables and you know it
detective, stay in your lane.



Krill, I am gonna take every
cent you got. Run your
mouth and a few teeth too.

It's the same handwriting from that note when I first got that book.
Written in blood. Pitch black blood.

If someone's here
and they're not
invited, they
should run, not me.

Where's your poker face,
now detective? Ha!

We need to run.
Now.

You're right,
Maurice, let's
strike while we
have the element
of surprise!



The more of 'em
the better!

The Tunnel Rats
win again!

Come on, you killed all of
them? I need answers.
You don't get it. My baby,
they took her. My Ford
Super
Deluxe



The... The... Tome...
For... The... Summoning.

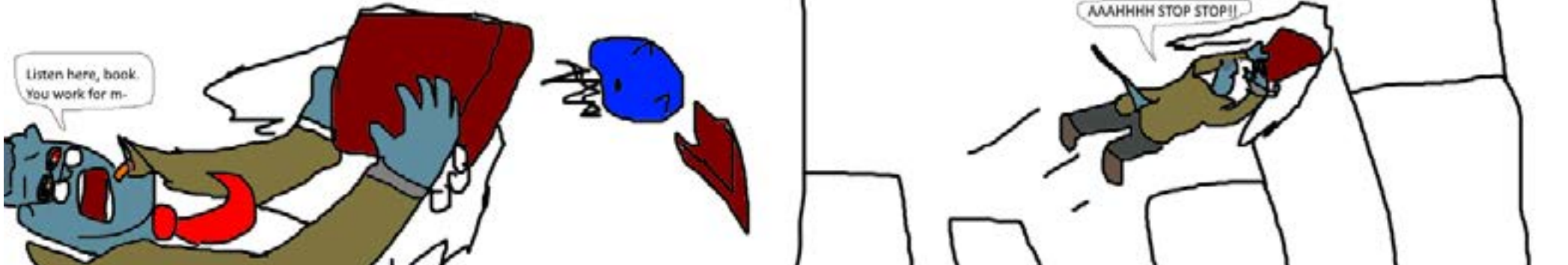
I need answers! Now!
Summon what? Where?
You blew up my car, I'm
stuck with a book that
can fly.

I'd rather die than
tell! My life for the
cause!

I don't do the easy
way out bub. I'm
getting those
answers.

Never! Come to me!

Oh, I'll be
ready when
this thing
tries to
fly away.



Listen here, book.
You work for m-

AAAAHHH STOP STOP!!



Encontré mi propósito
de nuevo. Salvaré a
mi hermana.
I'll find my purpose
again. I'll save my sister.

AAAAHHH I'M SORRRYYYY!!!

This is the third time
this week I'm gonna
show you who's boss
right now!

I better land in the river this time, my
insurance agent is gonna kill me. My car
gets firebombed then I flattened a truck.

I'd just rob you two
for it anyways. That
book is mine, and this
is my city. I'm going to
have him find my Sofia then kill
them both. She snitched.
I know it.

You think I'm crazy, Maurice?
I'll show you, he'll sell it to
us. We could kill all of our
rivals with it.

One taxi ride back to Spanish Harlem later

What's up? Last night there was a round two right after I took you down. That's right, stay down.

Home sweet home. Ever since my landlord made me move in with her I just sleep at my desk.

Monday morning, gotta be hot on the trail.

RING RING RING RING RING

Who calls at two thirty on a Monday morning? If this is Reggie, hang up now! I can't do cheating cases, because I don't have insurance for levelling hotels with this time issue I told you about!

Professor, you're gonna love this, I'm already on this case! Ha, let's just say a significant other of hers is gonna pay me double if I can get her back safe by the end of tomorrow.

Sofia never mentioned having anyone in her life like that. Huh.

I mean she came in one day with... Bruises around her neck. She works extremely long hours, seems tired a lot. I worry for her, detective.

He does NOT know what kind of bruises those are. Ugh I wanted to bang Rafaela, this is just my luck.

That, wow give me a sec to write that down.

Of course, detective, thank you! I'll give you a more detailed explanation p.e.e.

Doof, would hate to be that insecure about my marriage. I've got a great reason to be calling Sofia, one of my students, is missing. Her sister came through to tell me. She says some mobster sent a goon to beat her up. Can you solve it?

Here's some of the big boy medicine! Always keep some spectradice on me for dodging big monsters.

Maha! You couldn't hit me if you tried!

And you dropped your camera!

You can't stop me. Nothing stops me!

Abrams, thank you so much for listening patiently. Sofia seemed to really be under a lot of stress and acting erratically immediately before her disappearance. I think whoever you are currently working for to find her is this employer of hers, maybe this person tried forcing a relationship onto her and snapped when she refused? That's really all I have. Well one time, she did pass in what seemed to be a ledger along with her framework. It seemed insane, the company she works for seems to deal in gambling human souls for cash.

7AM, Four and a half hours later

ABRAMS IN I SOLVE THE UNKNOWN

Now I feel like I hit the Harlem River from a couple hundred feet up last night. This book is gonna get me killed, but this worker's comp fraud case is gonna kill me from boredom though! It's seven o' clock, I still got time to track him down. The client needs a solid photo by today for court!

It's the stupidest thing ever. This Municipal Coven guy who traps magical creatures said he got bit by a freaking Spirit Spider on the leg. So he should have to be off work a few months, right? Nope, was a bullshit ruse to follow the Knicks around the country and get his money's worth for the season tickets. If I had my CAR I coulda just done this the day I got this case.

Wanted to see the Knicks play the Celtics, can't blame him. Screw the Celtics.

New York Knicks 1949 Game Schedule

Leprechaun Insurance

Worker's Compensation Claim for Travis Luciano "Bit by feral Spirit Spiders"

Tonight's game is a home game.

Oh yeah, that's him. Travis the Trapper. He's gonna be courtside for fraud.

Yes. Good. Each ritual of victory we attend my power grows. Tonight the second Maelstrom swirls. I shall return to my true form as Ogdoad.

Nah. Their insurance company did.

Ah crap the Municipal Coven hired a frickin' private dick?

Come on buddy, it's been a long bus ride get some air! Who knew some weird thing that escaped from a canopic jar could love the Knicks so much! Faking an injury to go to Boston was a great plan!

Gotcha punk!

VOTE FAIRE

Think you can get through this? Silktrap!

I'm gonna be done smoking you before I'm done smoking this cigarette pal.

Yeah you probably would knock me out. Ooh boy I hate to whip these things out. Took 'em off the jobsite to fake the bite. Spirits? No problem. Spiders? Eh, not my favorite but manageable. Spirit Spiders? Worst part of my job.

Aaand no more evidence against me!

10AM, Two hours later

ABRAMS INVESTIGATIONS I SOLVE THE UNKNOWN

Dumbass left the camera behind, now that I've got it developed my client has exactly what they need.

That kid was wasting my time! Next up on my docket for today is a missing persons case. I've been working on this one for the last two days and time is critical. I think I've tracked the poor kid down to the apartment.

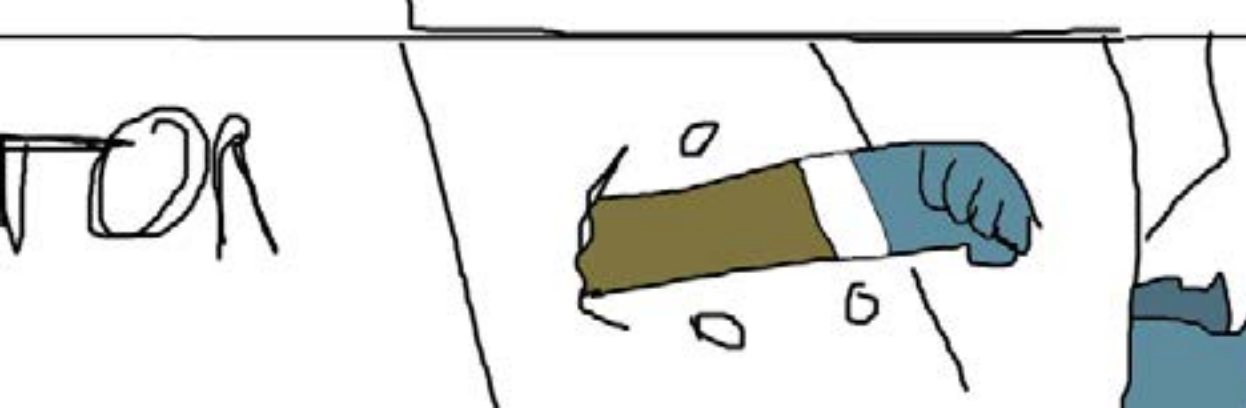
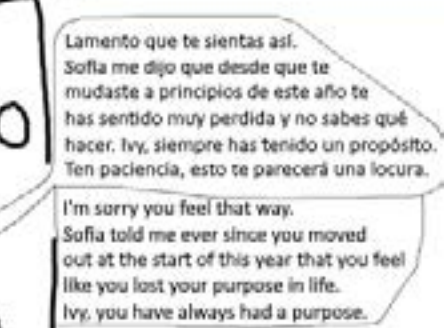
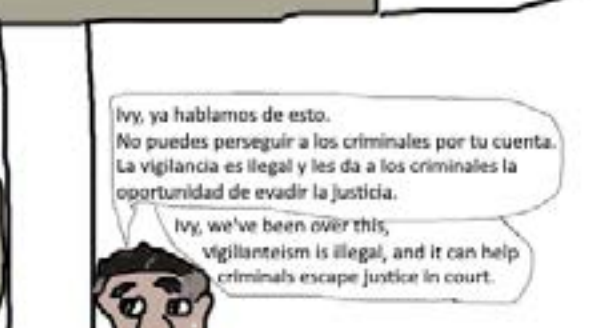
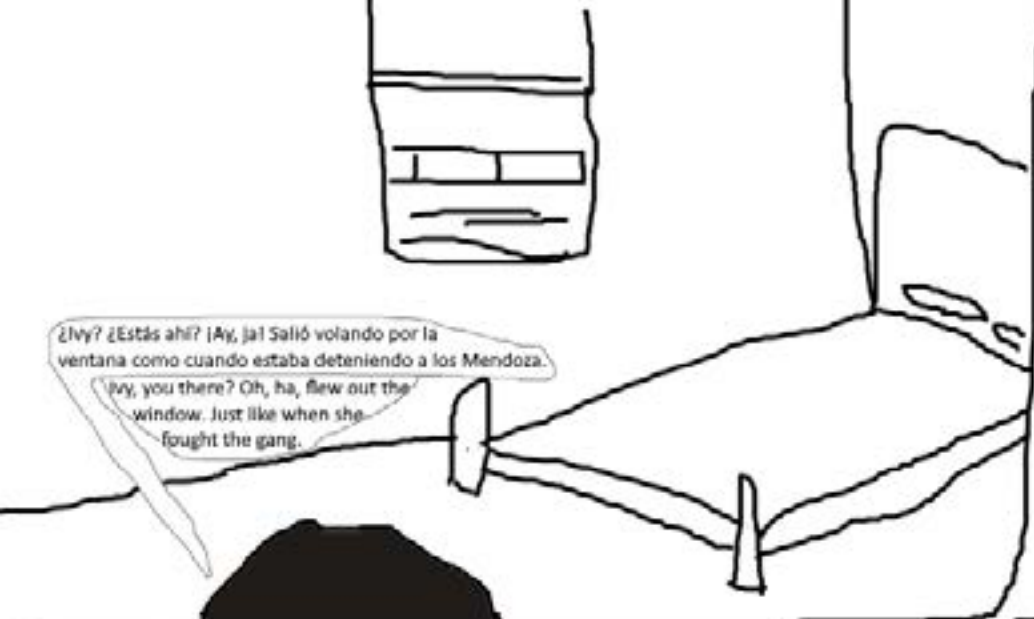
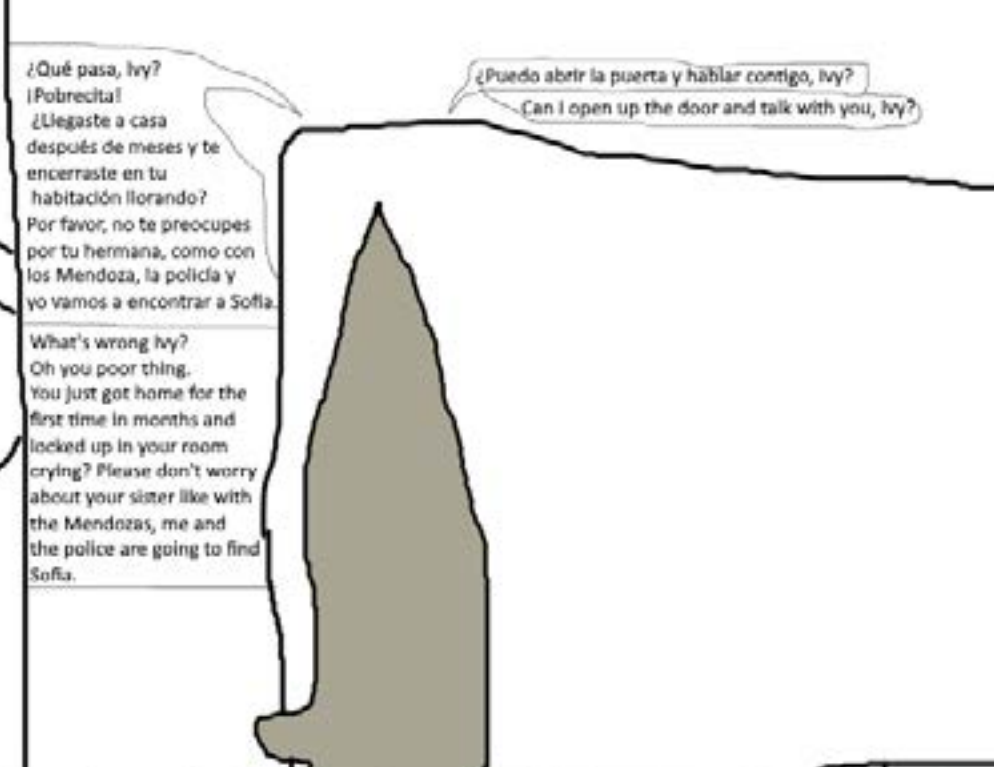
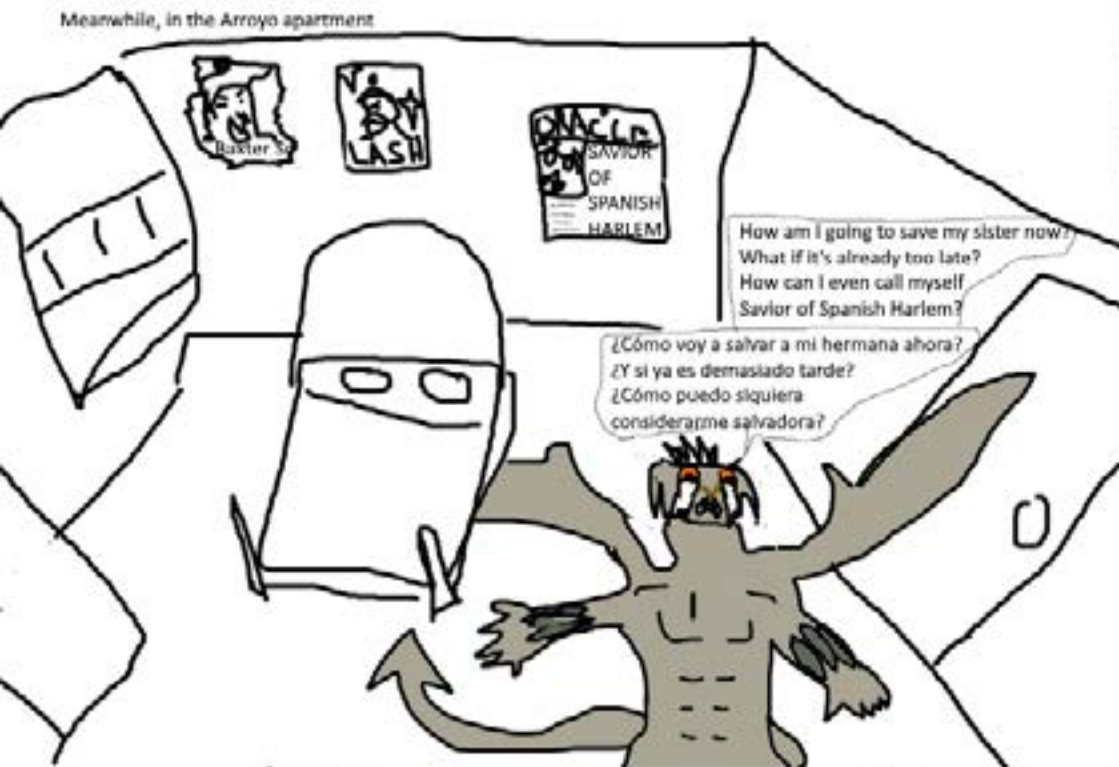
Carlos Arroyo, a community organizer in Spanish Harlem, is rumored to be announcing his candidacy for mayor in the coming weeks against Beatrix Fairfax. The Mendoza Syndicate may have been driven out of Spanish Harlem, but is their criminal empire truly gone? Are they behind the rise in human sacrifices in the Cursed Apple? We talked to local law enforcement to get their take.

is Trinity Church an undead time-bomb waiting to explode? We talked with premier necromancer Frederick Toten to get his take.

The New York Oracle, bringing the future to the present for over 20 years.

Sounds like the force really started hiring drunks after they fired me for being one. The Mendozas are behind every single kidnapping in the city these days to get sacrifices for cults. This one's different.

Custody battle gone wrong. Divorced couple. Husband nabbed his son on a weekend visit. It's time sensitive, and being in the hospital threw me off, but on Friday I was able to track that jackass down to an abandoned apartment building. No time left. I'm going in before something goes wrong.



THE STRIKER
DT FS

BANG

Meanwhile, up the block in Spanish Harlem

Stay out of Spanish Harlem, Wraith!

Looks like I finally found out who was leaving me those notes. One of the cultists turned on the rest. Don't worry, I won't let this book get into the wrong hands.

Answers about this book ain't coming easy. I'm going straight to them and ending this once I find out where they are.

That banging again. I've got to find that kid.

BANG BANG

You're strutting around the barrio thinking you own it.

Just 'cause Mendoza was run off doesn't mean you get to muscle in.

Now that is needlessly hostile.

I'm not.

Let's see what this book can do.

I knew it! You kidnapped my sister! I want answers NOW!

Ha! Okay. Let's have fun, Ivy.

Just visiting a friend.

This book's finally good for something!

The book ate the demon and turned it into a page. That's probably why people want me dead for it.

Sofia's professor told me she would come to class with bruise marks around her neck. I thought you only did that to punish your goons, you monster. What if I did that to you? Is she still even alive? She better be.

Honestly? Beats me. You know, I bet you would say something like 'what if I did that to you.' Someone owes me five bucks now.

And well, to be honest, I paid for her schooling and employ here. I get to do what I want with Sofia.
Five bucks says you won't lean in and hear what I know about who took her.

Who took my sister then?

Haha! You lost the bet!

I'm here to help. Let's get you home.

2PM. Three hours later

Your son was very brave today, he did great at the police station.
Just like my ads say, I always solve the case. Glad to hear Mikely is safe and having some ice cream with you right now, Ms. Lash.

ADRAMS INVEST I SOLVE THE UNKNOWN

Huh, that name sounds familiar, you wouldn't happen to have any relatives who live down here... Oh, that's... Yeah I can see why your family doesn't talk about Jacob anymore. Haha, that's just me, always asking too many questions. Tell Mikely I said hi.

Why do you want to save her anyways? She resents you. And she's a snitch.

We had a lot of talks in bed. She always felt like she had an autistic dog who wanted to be her and dress like her, and she hated it!

She took my ledgers and tried selling them to Mendoza. That's who took her.

This is so much fun. You actually thought you were in control. Nobody builds an empire without sacrifice. So I'm going to walk right up and steal yours!

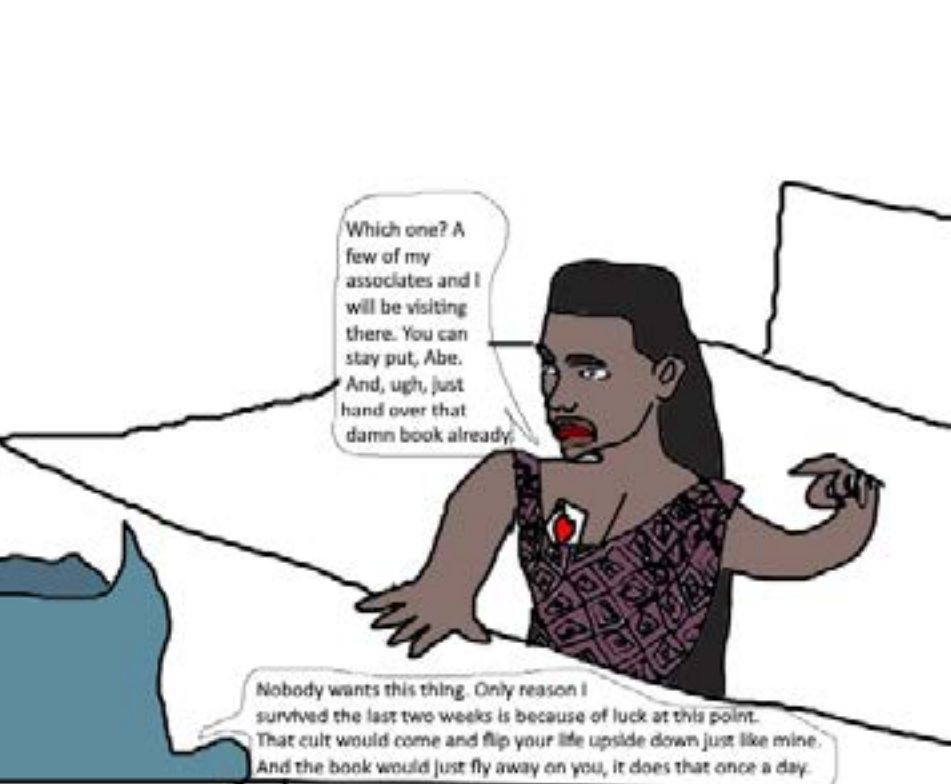
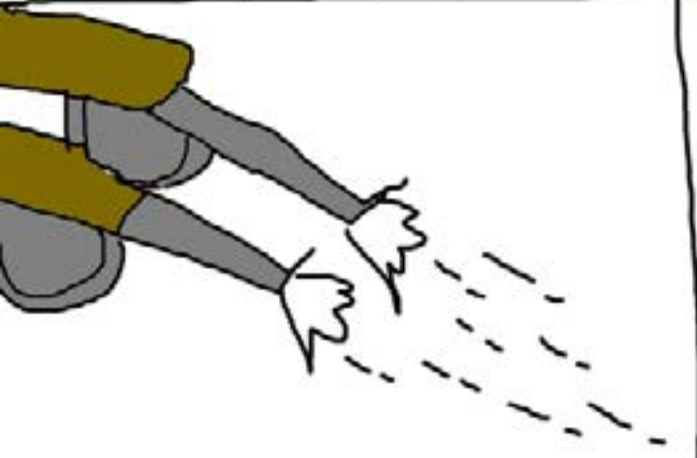
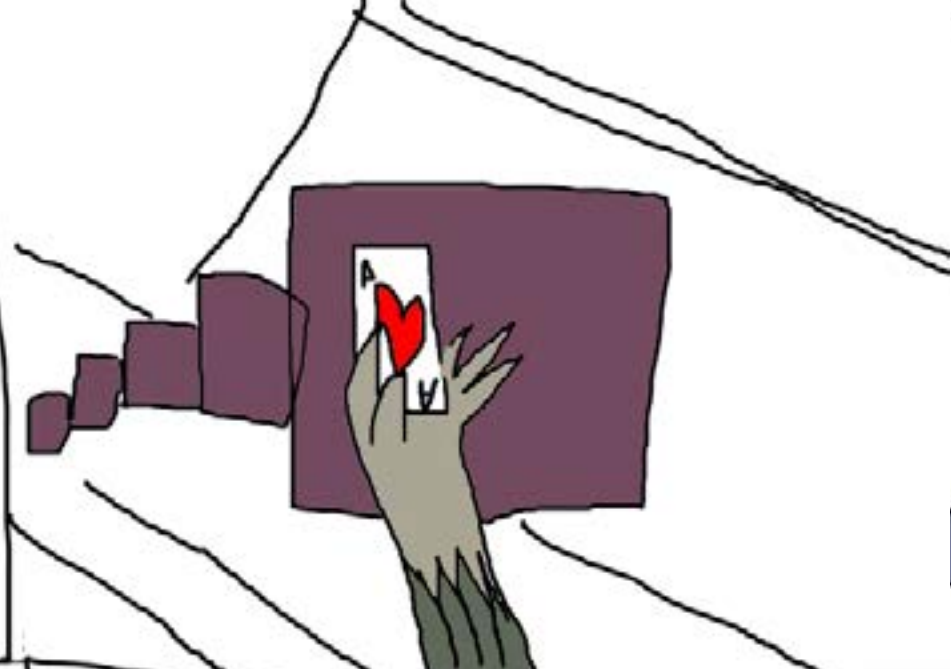
I dreamed about our first kiss since I was a kid, Ivy. You taste so much better than her.

You... you tortured Sofia to tell you that. She said what that doctor said was between me and her.

¿Mendoza? Si todavía están por aquí... Yo... no salvé a nadie, solo empecaré las cosas...
Mendoza? If they're still around then... I didn't save anyone, I... I only made things worse for everyone.

Now to find Sofia. If Wraith is right and the Mendozas took her, I might want to check at the meat processing plant they use as a front.
Helped her hide a body there and frame it on them once.

Time to get ready.
I always keep a handle of the strong shit on me for the deadly cases. Calms me.





You got way too greedy, we gotta follow that book!

Good news, detective! I just went to the police with the information you gave me!

¡Maldito culo de perra! [bitch ass!]

What the?!



What kind of madness is this?! Unhand that woman at once, Abrams!

Gladly!

THUD



What in the world happened here, detective?!

The book I was telling you about. And "unhand", that's really funny because she CUT MY HAND OFF!!

Meanwhile on a lonely rooftop



Absolutely fascinating. That tome must have hundreds if not thousands of powerful spirits inside to reach such speeds when called by a blood ritual!

Well, my sincerest apologies, I was caught off guard. Wherever the book is going may have clues to Sofia's disappearance.



Buddy, please...

Do NOT tell me how to do my job right now.

Phew, grew back faster than last time.

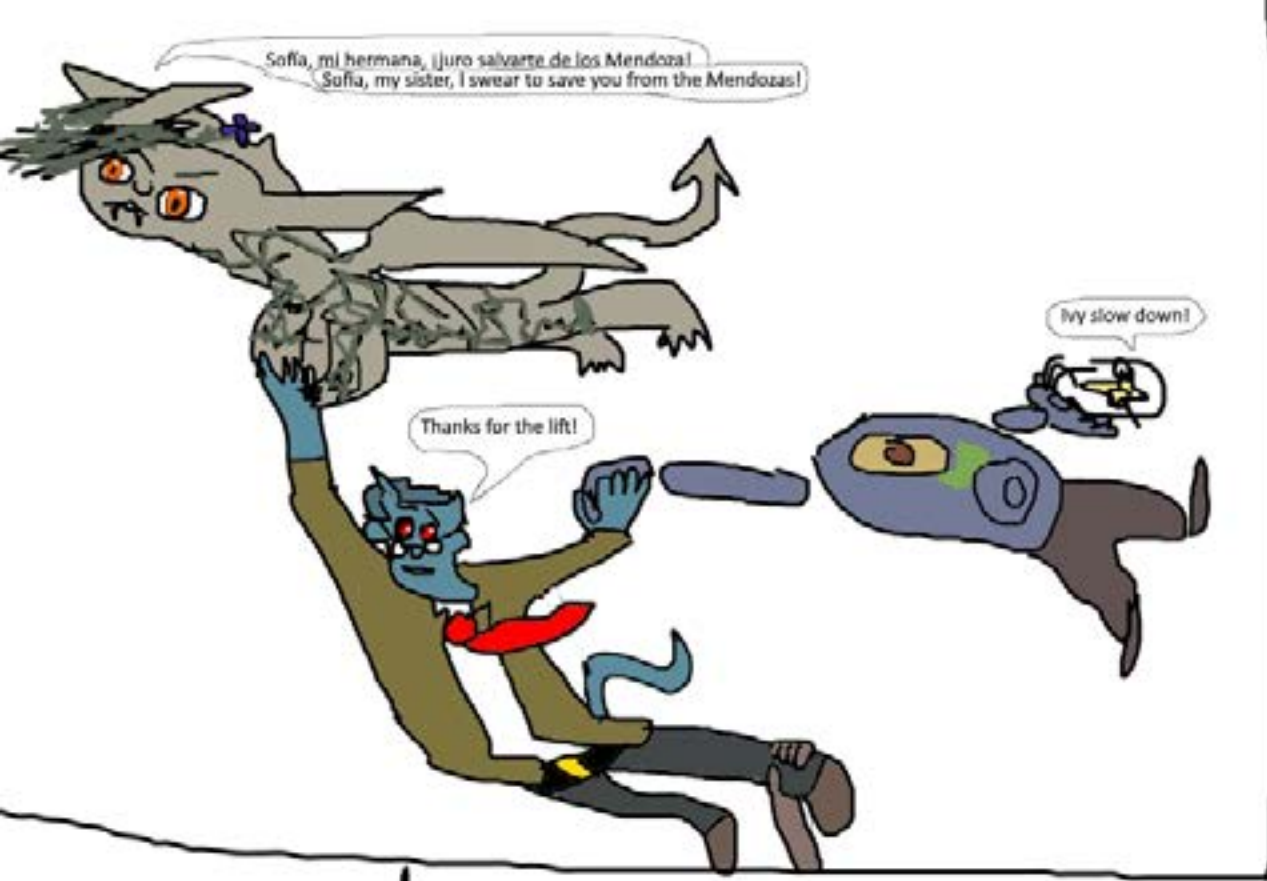


Papá tenía razón. Después de todo, nunca estuve perdido, salvo en mi propia cabeza. Cuando escucho a mi corazón, el camino está despejado.

Papa was right. I was never lost after all, except in my own head. When I listen to my heart, the way is clear.



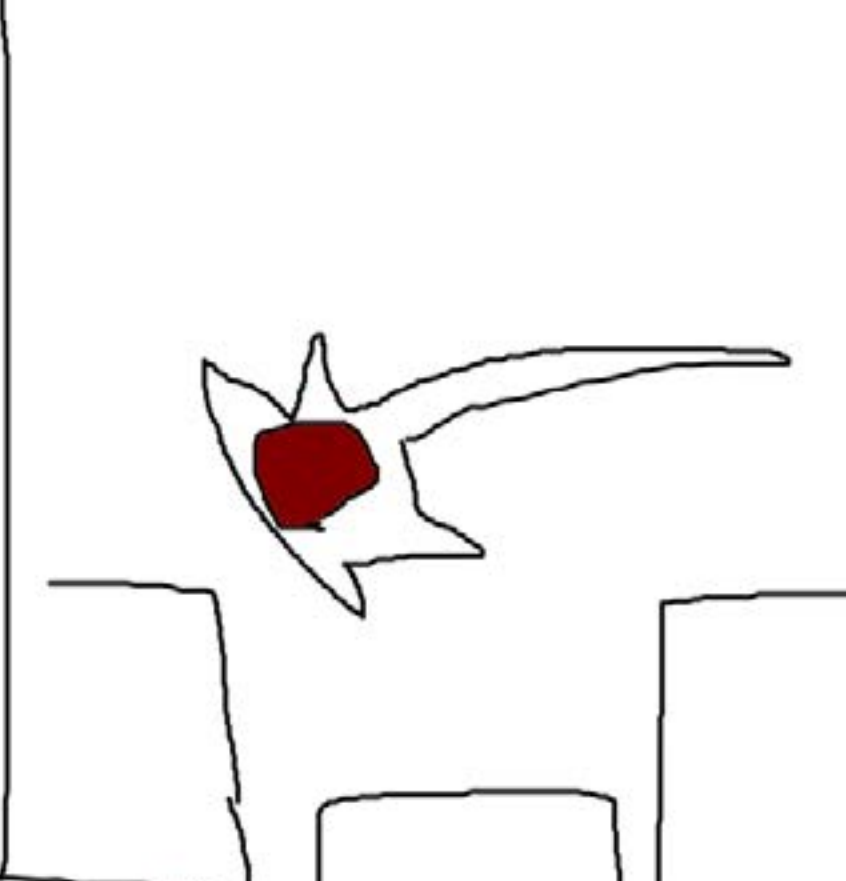
Desarraigaré el mal dondequiera que lo encuentre. I will root evil out wherever I find it.



Sofía, mi hermana, ¡juro salvarla de los Mendozas! Sofia, my sister, I swear I save you from the Mendozas!

Thanks for the lift!

Ivy slow down!



Come on they'll shoot us right out of the air!

Meanwhile, at the Mendoza slaughterhouse



Meanwhile in the Dynamobile

...That's what I call it Abrams. I've had it since, well 1909. Before I even met my Marla.



I will admit, I feel a little insecure as of late with it being our 30th anniversary coming up. She's 65. I'm over 100, but after what happened to me in Central Park back in '99, I'm immortal. She's not. She never even got to see who I used to be. If only I could spend even one day with her that way. It's been eating me up inside. There's got to be a way.



SCREECH

Get out of the car. Now.



Ivy just had to mimic me my whole life and papa had to feed so hard into it. I couldn't take it. You know what completely got her off your trail? Telling her to get a normal job over and over.

En cuanto a mi querido Rafi, eh, el Espectro. Esa banda que desmantelé desde dentro. No bromeaba cuando dije que iba a pasar tres años de incógnito para robar a nuestro mayor rival.

As for Rafi, oh, Wraith. Our biggest rival got dismantled from the inside. Never wanted to handle the money herself. Too dirty for her.



Oh bueno, ese libro finalmente llegó! Oh good, that book finally arrived!

This is all a terrible idea. Except for the part where I fake my death and get away from this city. Why do you want to bind the demon these cultists call "Terrorblade" to your own soul?



Calling him Terrorblade?! Ha, no terror. He showed me what I could truly be: The most feared gangster in USA!

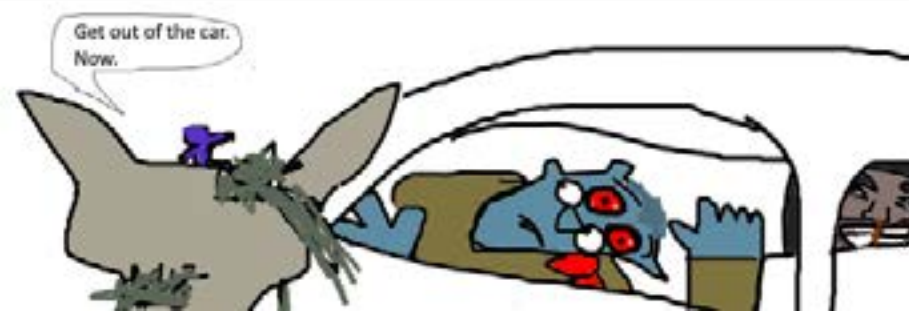
Incluso los cultistas creen que es una locura. Pero la cosa es que está garantizado que funciona. Encontré este collar en una casa de empeños. Me dio un vuelco en el corazón la primera vez que me lo puse.

Even the cultists think it's insane. But the thing is, it's guaranteed to work. I found this necklace at a pawn shop. It pricked me next to my heart when I first put it on.

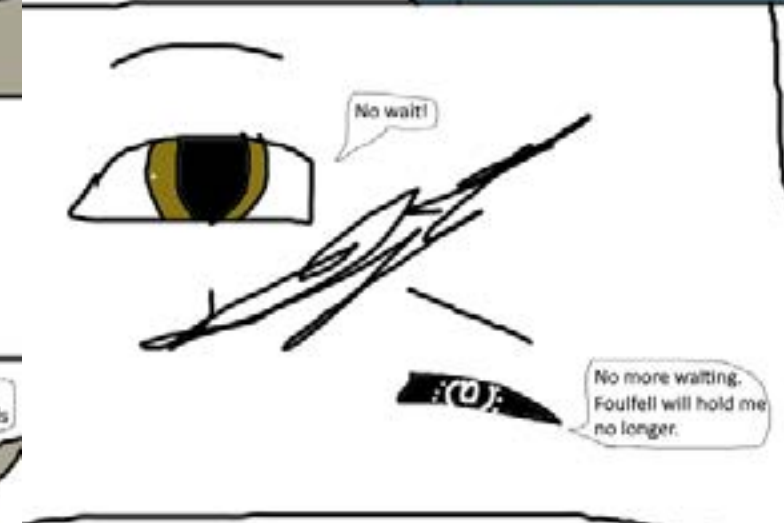
En mi cabeza escuché: "Déjame entrar". In my head, a voice asked me to let it in.



Mendoza. Good. There is a fragment of me sealed in that book. You must release it, put it back in the shard. Then I can be free. I'll even kill Ivy.



One flight down the stairs





Does he even know about parrying?
This illusion can't fight like the real me!



Ya know Sofia, you sound a little ungrateful for a person who just got rescued from being sacrificed by an evil cult. Ragging on your kid sister can wait until you get home.
That is none of your business.



Well, I think you'll need to be in for questioning at the least. Sofia I have no other way of saying this but the ledger I gave as evidence had your name all over it and not the gangster's...
As your professor I will gladly testify in your defense. You were clearly coerced into illegal gambling where people bet their souls!



You gave those to the police?



Well, this would have been a great time to have that book in my hands



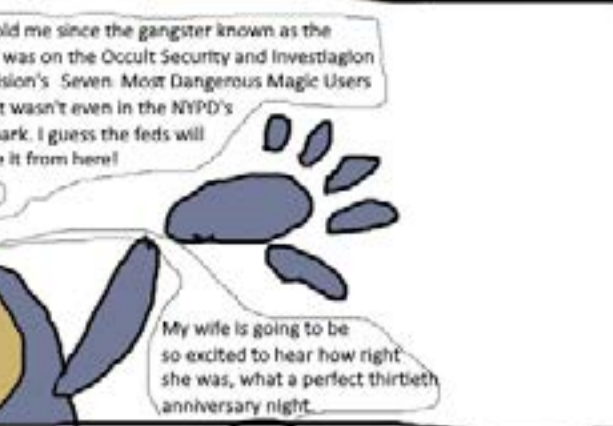
I'm doin' it!



Oh no! No more hiding, it's time I helped out my friends!



That sounds like it involves going to a nice apartment with food. Might as well enjoy the break while it lasts. Tomorrow, I got a case to work.



They told me since the gangster known as the Wraith was on the Occult Security and Investigation Commission's Seven Most Dangerous Magic Users list, it wasn't even in the NYPD's ballpark. I guess the feds will take it from here!
My wife is going to be so excited to hear how right she was, what a perfect thirtieth anniversary night.



We can't just take Sofia to the feds! Papi and Manny need to at least see her! Ayyyay Sofia, what did you even see in that bitch?



So the book and cult are gone. Well, guess those answers just ain't coming. That's life. Only case I couldn't crack.



What do you mean we haven't found Sofia among the survivors?

We didn't find her dead.

Well she wasn't among all the people we rescued. It's like a Schrodinger's human sacrifice. Already dead, or just waiting to happen?



¡Salvamos a Sofia, lo logramos, chicos! ¡Muchas gracias! Seguí mi corazón. Encontré mi propósito: proteger.

Thanks for helping me save Sofia! I followed my heart and found her because my purpose is to protect.

Ivy says you guys took out Mendoza after the demon took him over. That's great! Now they'll have to find a new leader!



9PM, a few hours later, at the Arroyo apartment in Spanish Harlem

Well Carlos coming from a former police sergeant, this city needs a man as tough on crime as you.

Detective, any chance you could say something like that at one of my campaign rallies coming up next week?



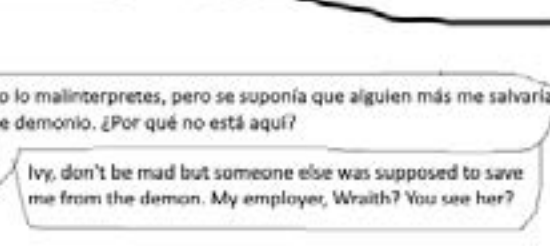
Manny, Sofia, los extrañé muchísimo. Estuve en un apartamento nuevo la semana pasada, ¡y estoy deseando enseñárselo y que conozcan a mi compañero de piso, Frank!

Manny, Sofia, I super duper missed the both of you. I got a new apartment last week, I can't wait to show you and have you meet my roommate Frank!

Oooh looks like my Marla brought cake!

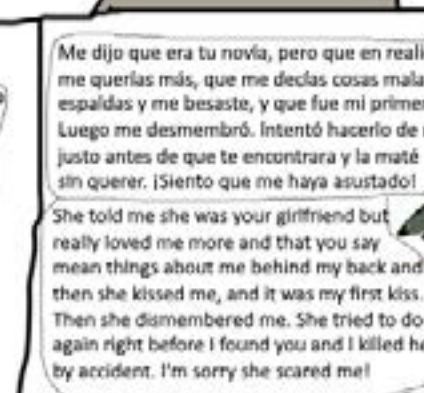


Hola mis amigos, me gustaría que conocieran a alguien muy especial!
Hello my friends, I'd like you to meet someone very special!



Ivy, no lo malinterpretes, pero se suponía que alguien más me salvaría de ese demonio. ¿Por qué no está aquí?

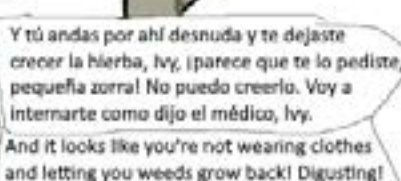
Ivy, don't be mad but someone else was supposed to save me from the demon. My employer, Wraith? You see her?



Me dijo que era tu novia, pero que en realidad me querías más, que me decías cosas malas a mis espaldas y me besaste, y que fue mi primer beso. Luego me desmembró. Intentó hacerlo de nuevo justo antes de que te encontrara y la maté sin querer. ¡Siento que me haya asustado!



The diner owner let me take today off and I'll work 6 days next week and I'm doing paper delivery next Sunday for the Oracle!



Y tú andas por ahí desnuda y te dejaste crecer la hierba, Ivy, ¡parece que te lo pediste, pequeña zorra! No puedo creerlo. Voy a internarte como dijo el médico, Ivy. And it looks like you're not wearing clothes and letting you weeds grow back! Digustine!



It's a no-bake cake, I followed a special recipe. If you think about it, the cake is a pie!



KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
OSIC OPEN UP NOW!

Carlos, I think I should come over for mofongo night more often, that was something else!

Ya know after two weeks of nothing but cigarettes and whiskey having some real food is nice.

I kinda miss the book, we coulda made a good team.



Good evening, Special Agent Hazel from the OSIC. You were supposed to be down at the police station to turn Sofia over to us. Two and a half hours ago.



Not directly. Because you were involved with a dangerous psychic, we are going to use a classified but less invasive process to probe your mind. To put it simply, you'll be administered questions while asleep.
Q-Questioning?

We will then piece together the data from your dreams.



...to be continued

For more Content and comics by ziz4030, join the official Deadlock discord!

My Lady

My Love

A DEADLOCK INSPIRED POEM
BY GAYBRAMS

Cashmere on your pearly skin.

I, a withered and wrinkly fruit

You, pristine and plump with a rusted bruise.

This palette speckles a mix of yellow and blue, Alla Prima

Bedbound: The brush is heavy, my vision fades, my breath slows and stills

Vivacious Paris Green flows free, locked prisoner by fate.

Eternally yours, beyond worlds and words.

This, your lost key, your Memento mori, smoking gun

death takes me; Death becomes yours

Together in beautiful poison

Please,

stay

with me

I promise.

THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

KOUSOMMI KOI

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THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

PINKO STINKO

BlueSky

@rustyknite



THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

BEANGXCHA

Instagram

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↶ **Rotate Me!**



THE ORACLE'S SECRET PRESENTS...

DENISPRIX

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