



CAVE

PICTURES PUBLISHING

**A BRAND-NEW
INDIE PUBLISHER!**

Look inside for our story,
a complimentary comic by
JASON BRUBAKER,
and sneak peeks at
upcoming releases from
JIM KRUEGER,
MEREDITH FINCH,
BILLY TUCCI,
JESSE HAMM,
and more!

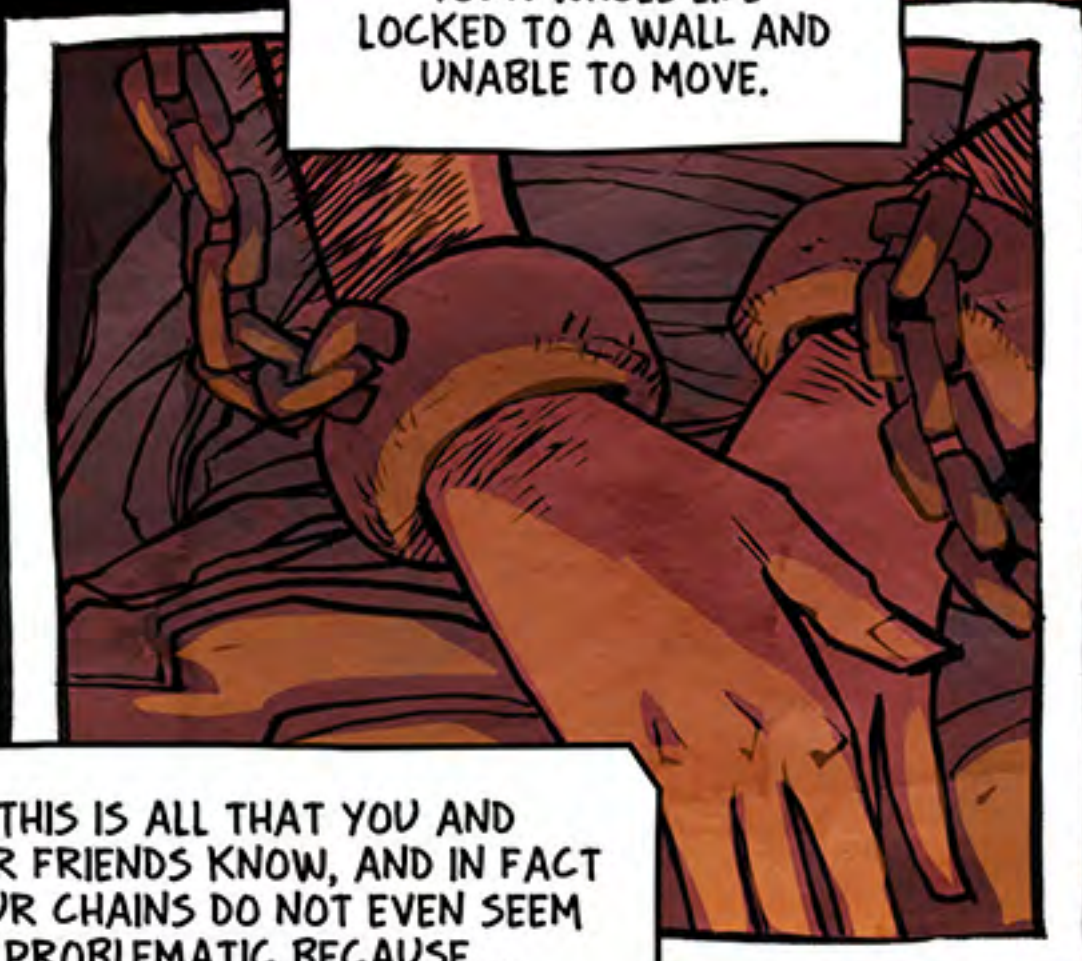
PLATO'S CAVE

Adapted and Illustrated
by Jason Brubaker


IMAGINE THAT FROM
BIRTH YOU LIVED DEEP WITHIN
AN UNDERGROUND CAVE.

YOUR WHOLE LIFE
LOCKED TO A WALL AND
UNABLE TO MOVE.

THIS IS ALL THAT YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS KNOW, AND IN FACT
YOUR CHAINS DO NOT EVEN SEEM
PROBLEMATIC BECAUSE...



...THIS IS NORMAL.



AND JUST AS NORMAL AS THE
CHAINS ARE THE SHADOWS.

DANCING, PLAYING, TALKING
AND FLICKERING ACROSS THE ONLY
SURFACE YOU'VE EVER BEEN ALLOWED
TO SET YOUR EYES UPON.

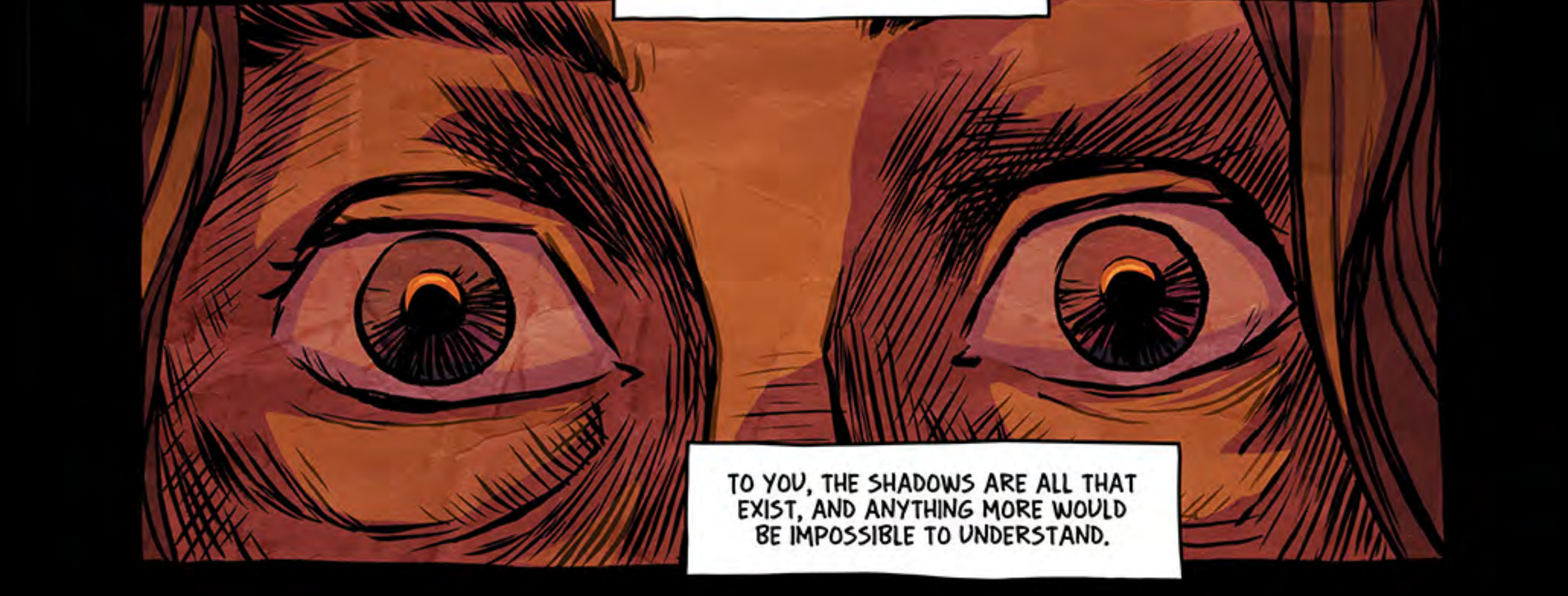
BUT THESE ARE NOT
JUST SHADOWS TO YOU
AND YOUR FRIENDS.

NO, THEY ARE YOUR
REALITY. REAL LIVING THINGS,
CREATURES AND BEINGS.



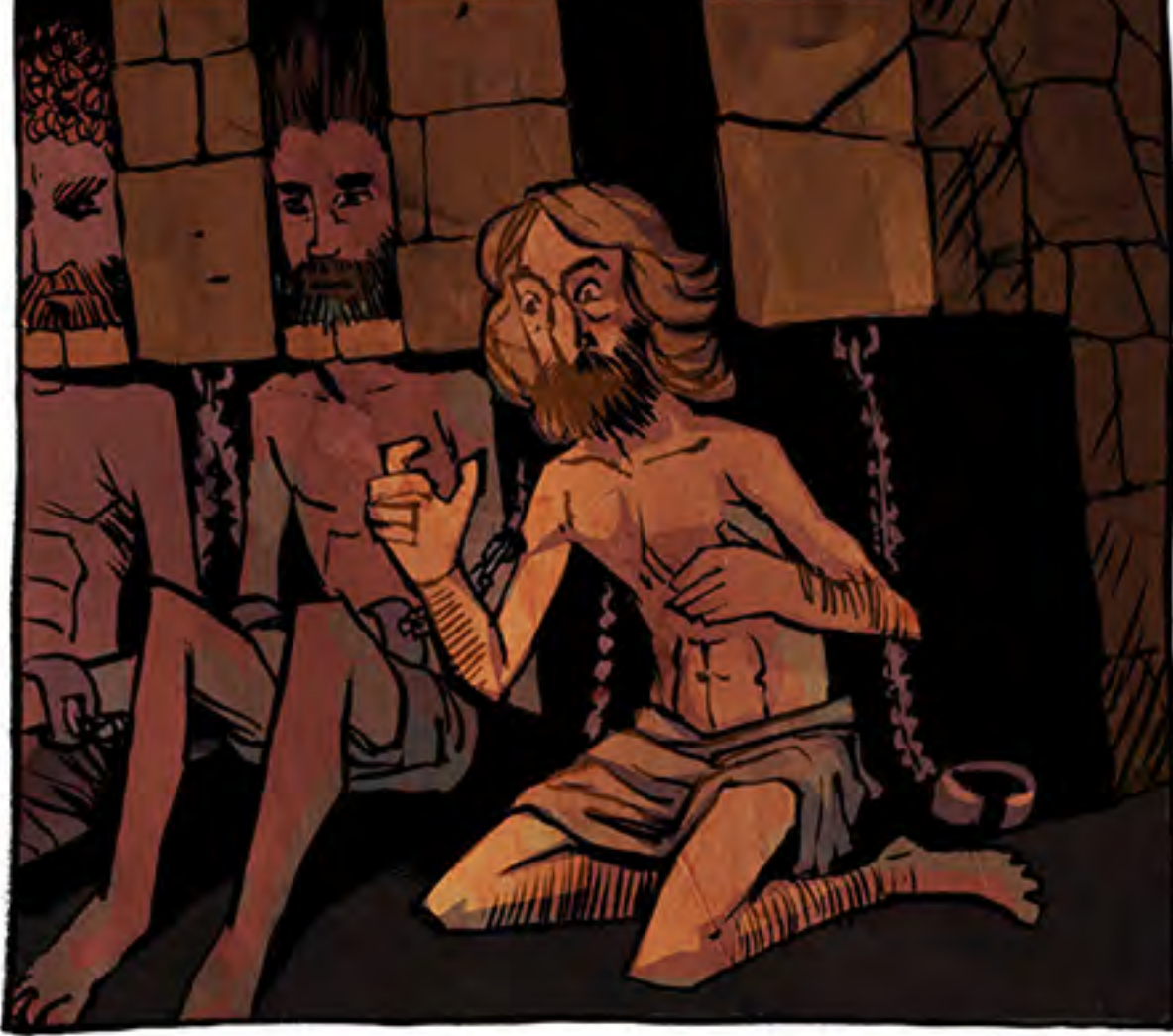
CLIP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

HAVING ONLY WITNESSED
SHADOWS SINCE BIRTH, THE
PROJECTIONS APPEAR TO BE ALIVE
AND ANY SOUNDS, NO DOUBT,
ARE COMING FROM THE
SHADOWS AS WELL.



TO YOU, THE SHADOWS ARE ALL THAT
EXIST, AND ANYTHING MORE WOULD
BE IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND.

NOW, WHAT IF SOMEONE RELEASED YOU FROM YOUR CHAINS?



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU ARE ABLE TO LOOK AWAY FROM THE SHADOWS -- TO NOTICE NEW MOVEMENTS IN YOUR PERIPHERY.



THE PREVIOUSLY HIDDEN, FLICKERING LIGHT ATTRACTS YOU LIKE A MOTH. YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE OF FIRE IS PAINFUL AND DISORIENTING..



SQUINTING IN TERROR, YOU CAN BARELY MAKE OUT THE SILHOUETTES OF BACKLIT FORMS AS THEY MOVE IN FRONT OF THE FIRE, CASTING THEIR SHADOWS ONTO YOUR WALL.





WHAT IS IT?

I-I-I DON'T KNOW.



DO I DARE GO BACK...

...AND SIT WITH MY COMPANIONS IN THE COMFORT OF MY CHAINS TO LET MY EYES AND MIND RELAX?



NO!

YOU TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND TURN BACK TO THE FIRE.



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

I DO NOT KNOW. IT IS BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING.



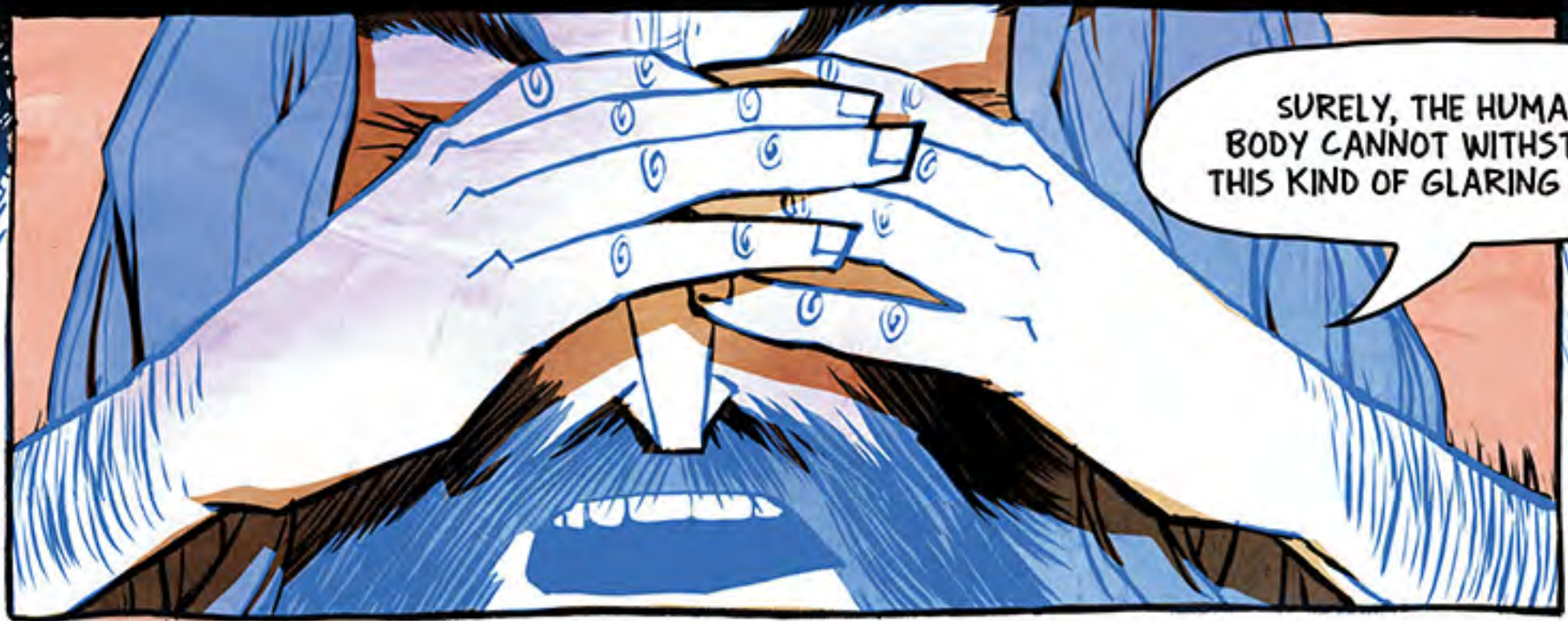
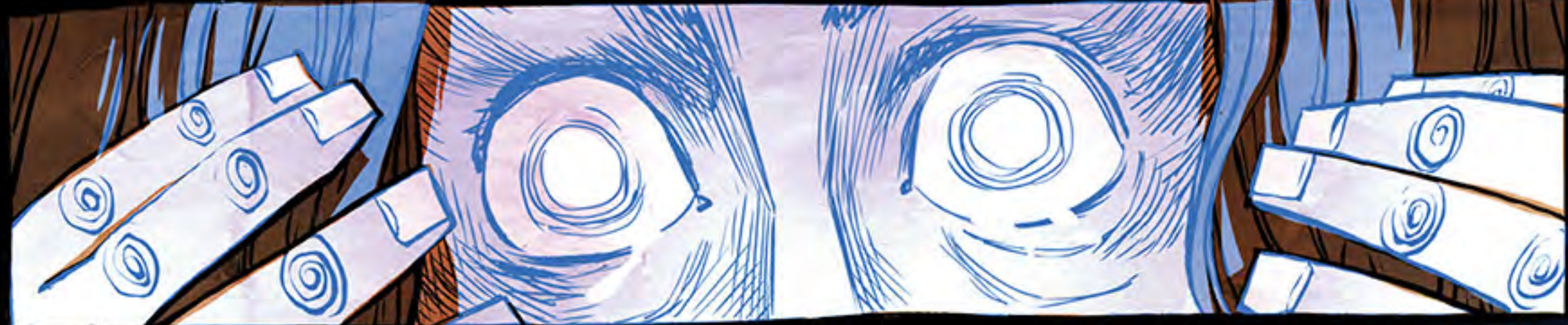
THESE OBJECTS ARE FAR CLOSER TO REAL BEINGS THAN THE DIM REPRESENTATIONS PROJECTED ONTO THE WALL THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN ALL YOUR LIFE.



BEFORE YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR SEAT, YOU ARE FORCED OUT OF THE CAVE INTO DAYLIGHT.



THE BLINDING PAIN FROM THE RAYS OF THE SUN TORTURE YOUR EYES TO THE POINT OF TEARS.



SURELY, THE HUMAN BODY CANNOT WITHSTAND THIS KIND OF GLARING HEAT.



WITH BLINDED AND WATERING EYES, YOU ARE PULLED THROUGH THE SCORCHING HEAT INTO A COOL SHADOW.

ALTHOUGH REALITY HAS BEEN UNHIDDEN, YOU ARE STILL UNABLE TO SEE.

IN TIME, YOUR EYES BEGIN TO ADJUST AND RELAX.

AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU SEE A FAMILIAR SIGHT.

A FLOWER.

BUT THESE SHADOWS ARE MUCH DARKER AND DO NOT SHIMMER LIKE THE SHADOWS OF THE CAVE.

ARE THESE SHADOWS SOMEHOW MORE REAL?

HARDLY.

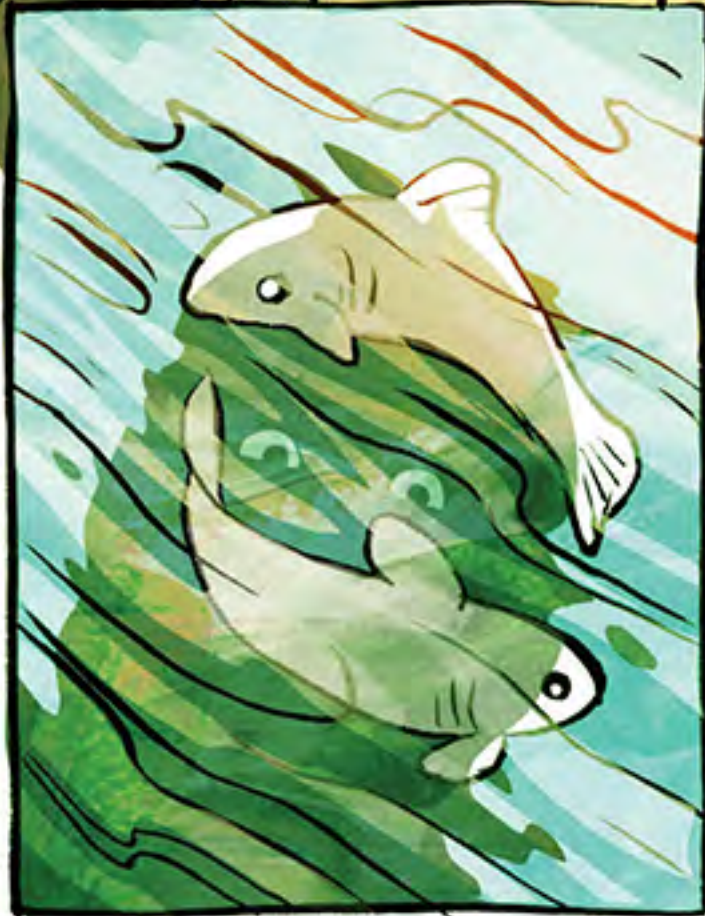
FOLLOW MY VOICE AND I WILL HELP YOU SLOWLY UNDERSTAND AND SEE CLEARLY.

AHHH!

RELAX, IT IS ONLY ME.



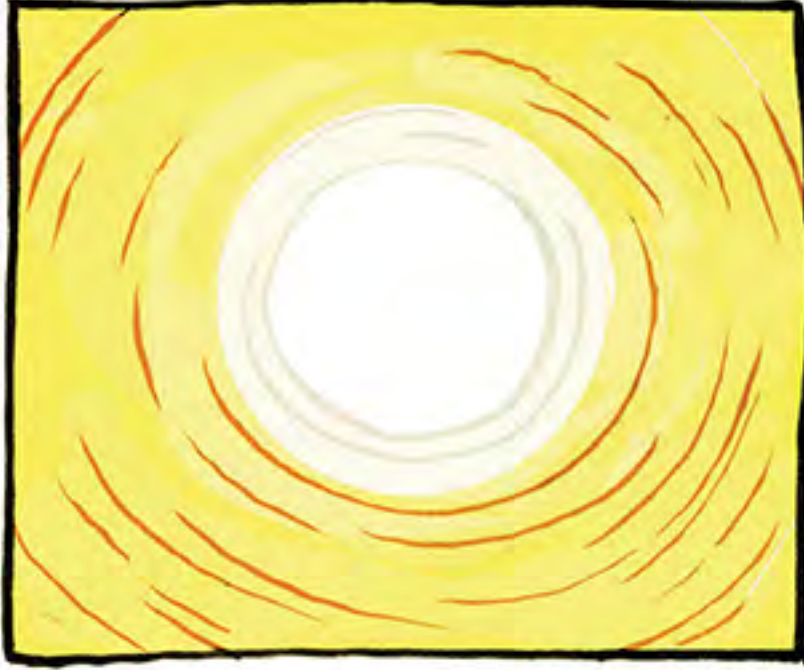
YOU ARE LED TO A LAKE WITH DISTORTED RIPPLES THAT COMFORT YOUR MIND LIKE THE FLICKERING CAVE ONCE DID.



BUT THESE ARE MUCH MORE THAN SHADOWS -- THEY HAVE DETAIL WITHIN THEM AND ARE CLEARER THAN ANYTHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE.

IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE YOU ARE FACE TO FACE WITH THE THINGS THEMSELVES. THINGS YOU ONLY KNEW BEFORE AS DARK, SHIMMERING SHAPES.





THAT NIGHT, YOU STARE INTO THE SKY AND FIND COMFORT IN THE STARS AND WONDER AT THINGS BEYOND YOUR CURRENT PERCEPTION.

THE NEXT DAY, THE SUN IS A WELCOME RETURNING GIFT OF RENEWED SIGHT AS YOU TAKE IN ALL THAT IT ILLUMINATES.



...BUT NOT TODAY, FOR YOUR MIND CANNOT HELP BUT DRIFT BACK TO ITS FIRST DWELLING AND HOW SORRY YOU FEEL FOR YOUR FRIENDS STILL IN CHAINS AND HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO BE TRANSFORMED.





HEY, I MUST SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

YOU WOULDN'T IMAGINE WHAT I'VE LEARNED OUTSIDE OF THIS CAVE.



QUIET, I'M THREE SHADOWS AWAY FROM FIRST PLACE! I MUST REMAIN FOCUSED.

I HAVE SEEN A FAR GREATER NUMBER OF SHADOWS THAN ANYONE HERE.

YOU WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO TAKE MY THRONE.



ALTHOUGH THAT IS A MARVELOUS ACHIEVEMENT, WHO CAN COMPETE WITH ISSAC'S UNCANNY ABILITY TO GUESS THE NEXT SHAPE TO APPEAR?

GIVE IT TIME. ONE DAY, MY SON, YOU MIGHT ACHIEVE MY SUCCESS IF YOU CONTINUE TO PRACTICE AND ABANDON ALL EFFORTS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE.



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU HAVE ACHIEVED ANY HONORS IN SIGHT OR MIND. HAVE YOU BEEN ASLEEP THESE LAST DAYS?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE!
I'VE BEEN ABOVE GROUND AND HAVE SEEN THINGS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE. THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR HONORS AND ACCOLADES MERE TRIFLES IN COMPARISON.

YOU ATTEMPT TO UNLOCK SOME OF THEIR SHACKLES, BUT THEIR KICKS AND SCREAMS DROWN OUT YOUR PLEA FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND YOU ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEM IN FEAR OF YOUR LIFE.

PERHAPS ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THEM SEE MORE THAN THEY SEE.

BUT AS FOR YOU...



...YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW WORLD TO EXPLORE.



"Welcome out of the cave, my friend. It's a bit colder out here, but the stars are just **BEAUTIFUL.**"

—Plato



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