THE SHOGUNATE

SECOND EDITION APRIL 2013

THE DARK ISSUE

IN THIS ISSUE

THE STRIPS PRESENTS:
DARK RESSURECTION

ONEREPUBLIC GOES NATIVE !

THE GREEN ROOM:
BEING OUR OWN HEROES

AND MORE

DESIGN PRINT MULTIMEDIA

THE EVERY-ONE

THE SHOGUNATE MAGAZINE

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The Shogunate Magazine.
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THE EVERYTHING

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Shogunate magazine is back ladies and gentlemen. It took a while and we sincerely apologize for our absence. We appreciate all the love, support, follows and ultimatums we've received prior to this edition from our readers. Especially the ultimatums because they kept us on our toes and because of that, The Shogunate magazine is Bigger, Better and more exciting.

This issue is themed 'the dark issue' not just as a nod to the great contributions we received from photographers all over the world that appear in 'The dark room' but also as an ode to our love for all things dark, grungy and mysterious, design-wise. Making this issue was a lot of fun and I cannot wait for you to see what's in store for you. A new addition to the regular rooms is the long awaited 'Green room' which deals with all things environmental and what we can do to save the earth and be part of the solution not the problem. Also debuting in this issue is the 1st part of the silent graphic novel 'Dark Resurrection' created and illustrated by hand by our very own Ernest Ibe. A truly magnificent sight to behold I must say. We appreciate his contribution and we know you will too.

In a bid to produce more than just reading and viewing material, we worked tirelessly and incessantly and it paid off. Ladies and gentlemen, we present to you not just a magazine but an experience. One we hope you'll enjoy.

You're Welcome!

Albert Jerome Enema.

about the cover

Hiding not only identity, the Samurai mask also hid any terror that might be found in the Samurai's face, giving him the appearance of undauted courage'.this simply inspired this editions cover. Against all odds and disappointment we bravely put foward the second edition. Enjoy.

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"Art washes away
from the soul
the dust
of everyday life."

— Pablo Picasso

white room

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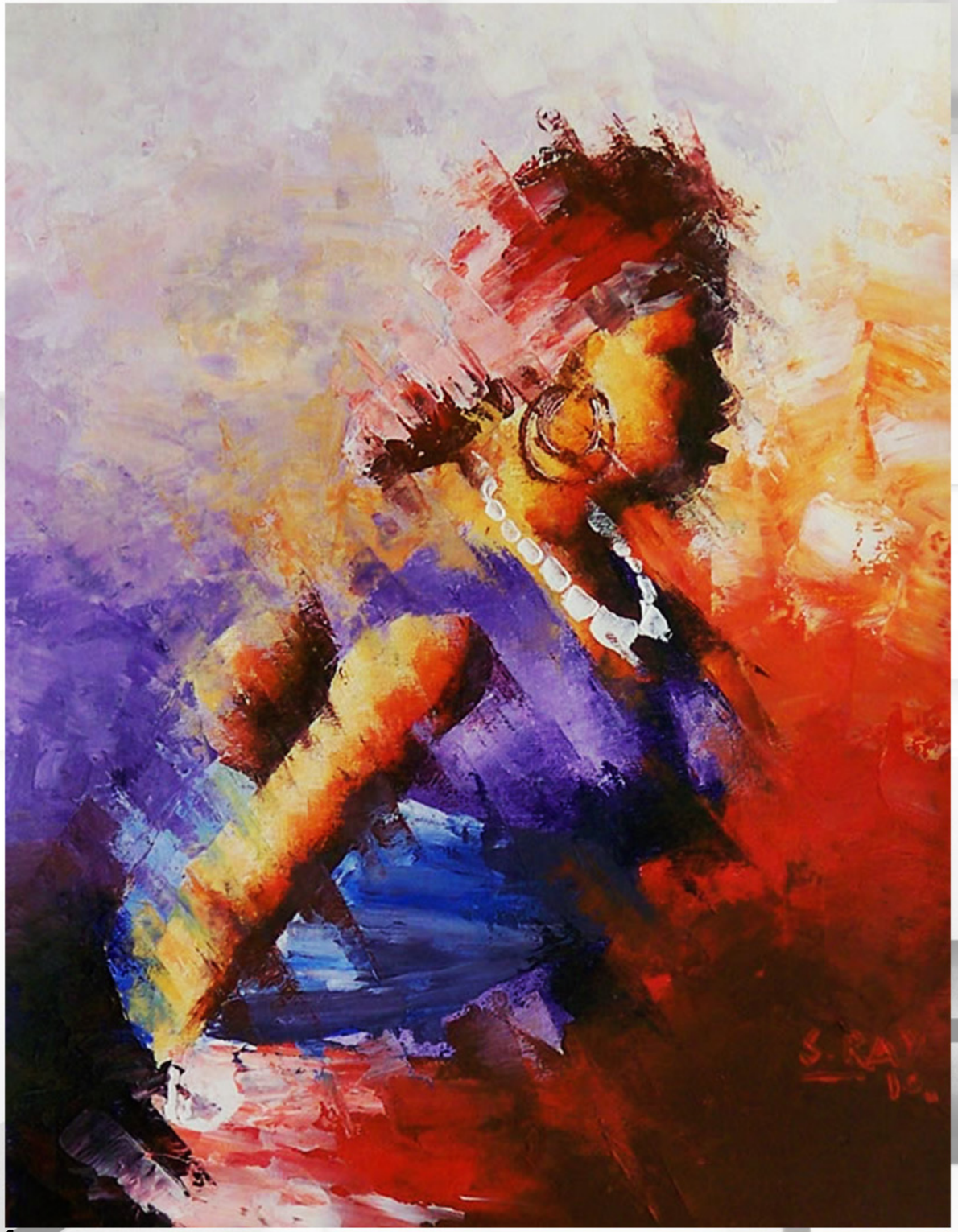

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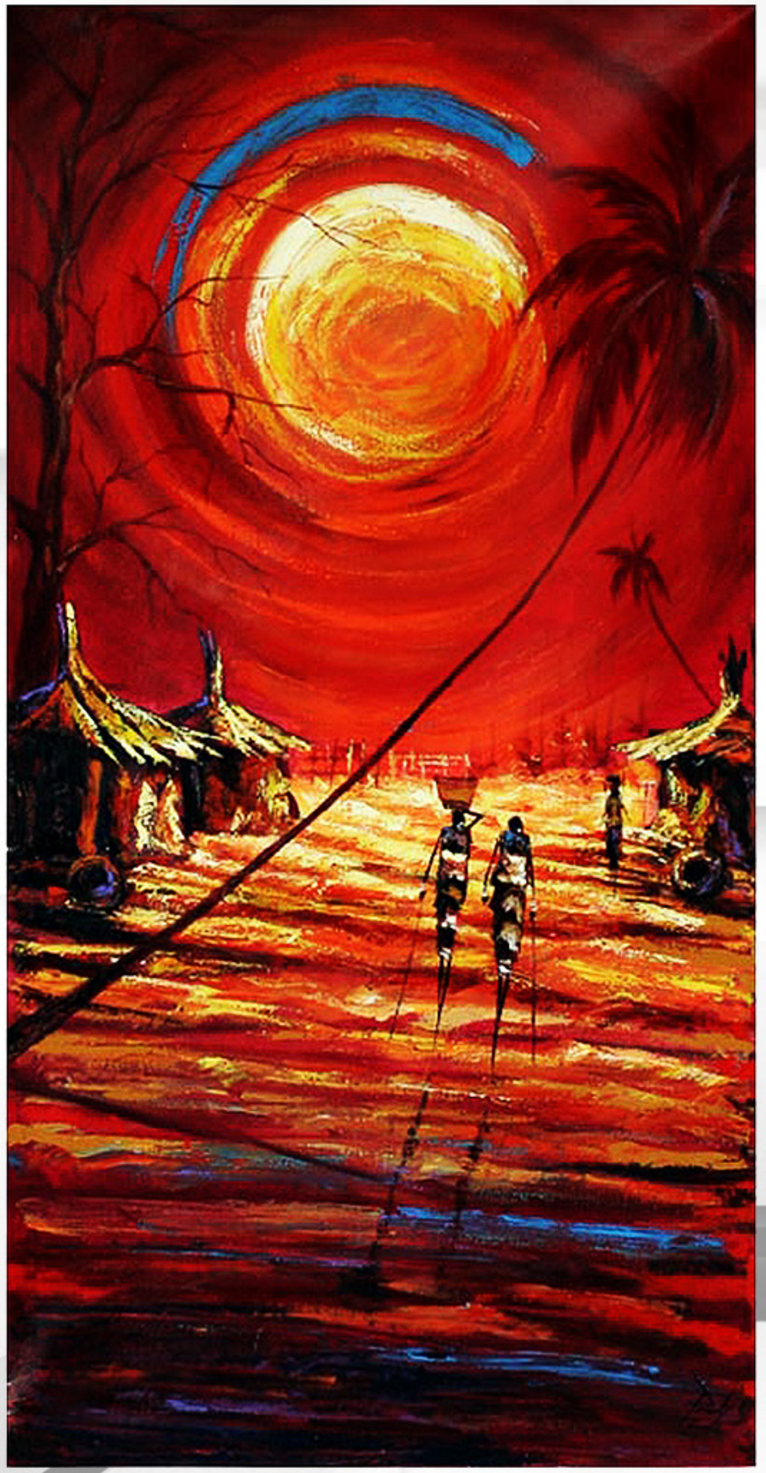

I.B

I.B

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Harold López Munoz
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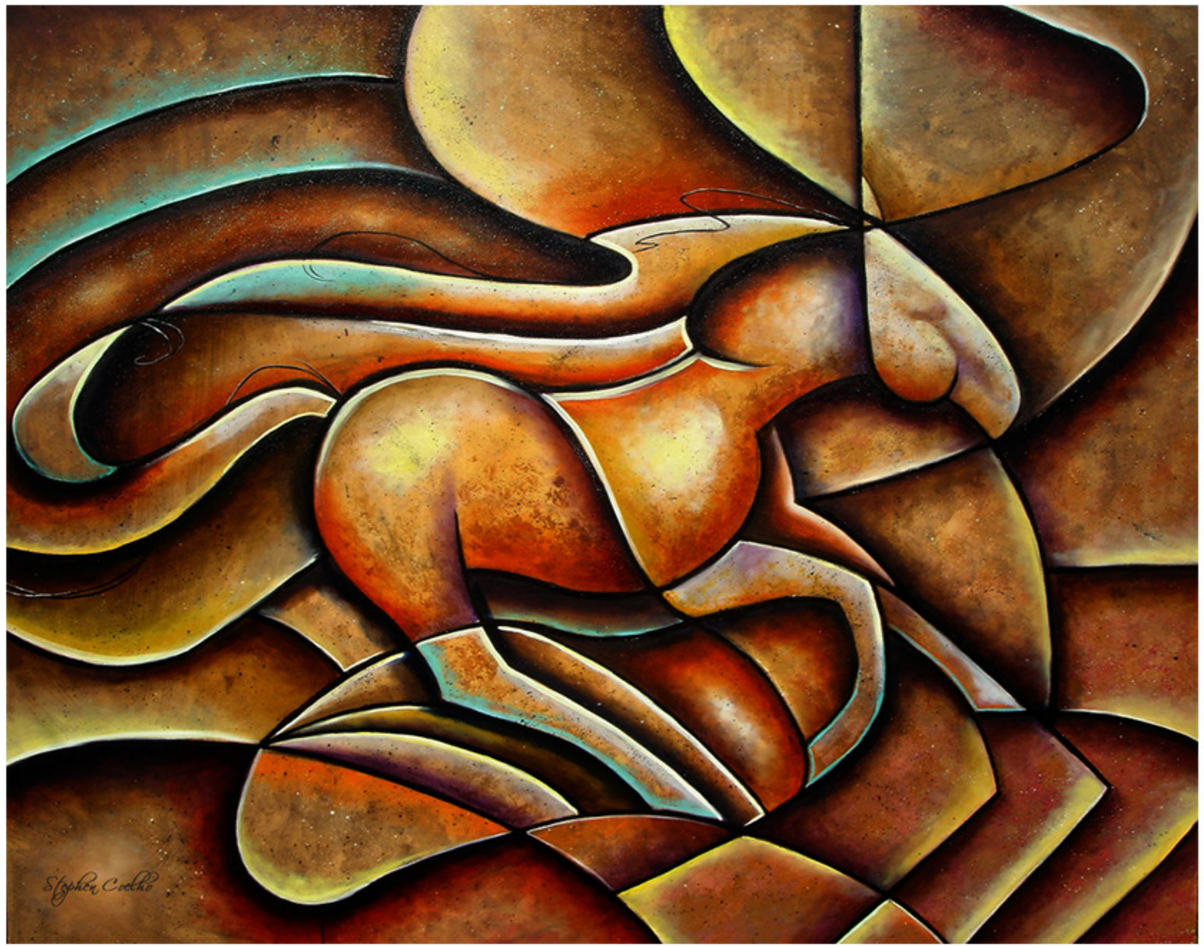

Stephen Coelho
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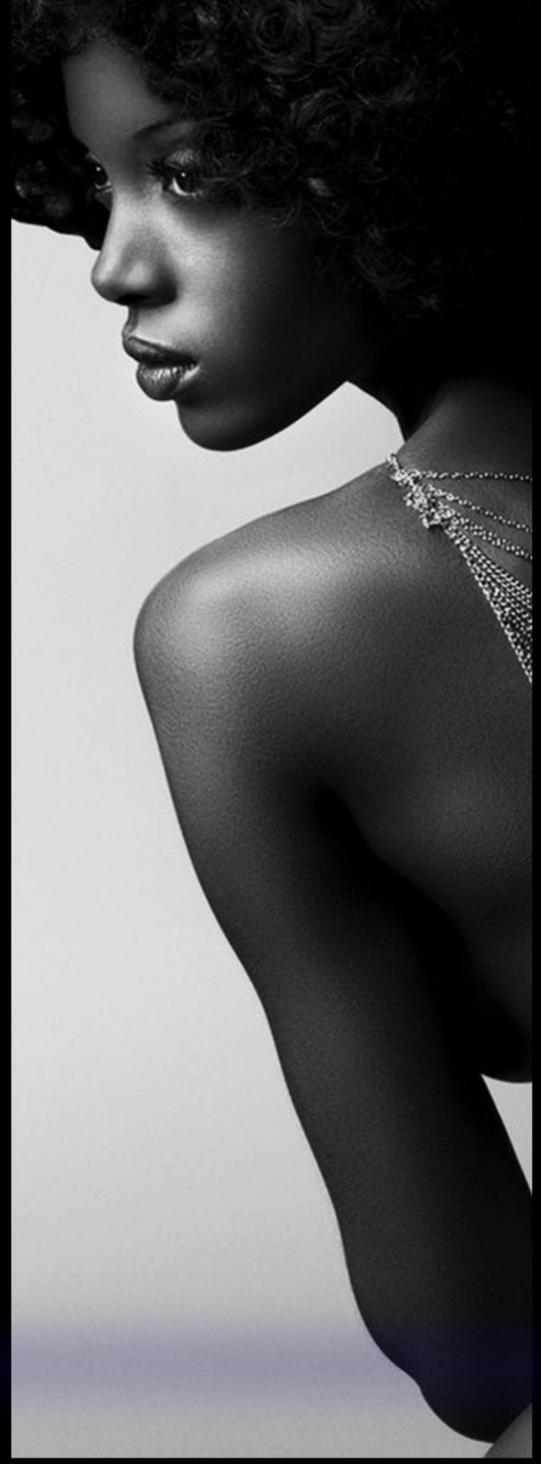
CHRIS
ROLLERS

the dark room



Photographs however they are taken each tell a different story. A moment frozen in time that will exist forever. Or at least for as long as you choose to keep them for. If a picture is worth a thousand words, let us show you a million's worth.

Sam Spade

Artist, Photographer.

United States

1. 30 Caliber.

2. Union Station

3. Meerschaum Pipe Color 3

4. The Seed Drill

5. Ratrod

6. Longhorn

7. Aeromotor

8. The Path Medicine Park

there are no first aid kits for patching up
a broken planet

but if we all did our part now, we needn't wish
for one in the future.

be part of the solution

Lydia Charlton

In the name of great photography, we were able to get a hold of amateur photographer Lydia Charlton who so dilligently told us all about herself, her photographs and what she thinks of true art and inspiration.

To me, Lydia's photos carry with them a sense of loneliness and tranqulity that simply pulls you in and never lets go. She said she doesn't think she's a great artist and she does what she does to impress herself and not others but I think she has failed miserably to not impress us.

you can find more of lydia's photos at http://nwne.deviantart.com/

The Big Crystal Apple. (Its actually tiny).

- What's your Name?

Lydia Charlton

- What firm or or outfit do you work with?

Currently? Alas, I'm part time in the service industry! Woe is me!

- Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Inspiration can be taken from anywhere. From watching a blockbuster film, to seeing patterns in the mud on a wet day. A lot of mine comes from the surreal conversations I have with my close friends, books I've read, and the world that I've seen so far.

- Your tools of the trade.

I use a Sony Alpha 200 (when I can make it behave) for my official shoots, and a Panasonic Lumix point-and-snap for more candid moments. My Photoshop is only CS3 so I'm technically like a night at the Opera – yes you have to use your imagination, but then just sit back and try to appreciate the idea behind it…

- Tell us a funny but true story relating to your work

One of my most eager models turned into a nut-bag… No s***.

- Do you encourage intoxication and design?

Intoxication and design eh? Well I say "Flimaflam bip boop bippety-bat-blat… qkwibble…"

- Intoxicant of choice then?

Went through a period of about a year and a half where I tried most of them while dating a heroin addict. None of them really "took" to me, so now I'm happy with my legal cigarettes thank you very much.

- What's your daily pc usage time

Averaging out about three hours a day in winter to eight hours in summer… I don't tan I just BURN..

- All artists have difficult clients, which would you

most rather do without?

I hate the same clients everyone does. The ones who: show up late/ don't show up/don't pay up / don't smile, etc.

- Favourite genre of music and bands

Favourite genre or band? No no, no, you're not getting me with that one, I'm not getting labeled for my music tastes… although I do love The Birthday Massacre… and I find Anathema so relaxing… but I'm into anything from Verdi's Don Carlos, to Chap-Hop, From 80s Rock to Experimental Jazz… etc. ad infinitum…

- Wish list?

1: Wish I was good at browbeating that Sony into submission when I wanted to…
2: I wish I was… actually I don't really wish I was anyone else.
3.
I wish I worked abroad. Nothing else. Anywhere but in this country… with its weather…

- Tools that call you master?

Think I answered this one with the above question about what I use… really… oh and I can also master the Super Nintendo… Donkey Kong…?

- Favourite type or style of art

No favourite type or style of art either as I believe admiration cannot be limited to just a single focus. At the moment I'm appreciating the photography of "diado", and the paintings of "Enamorte" on deviantart.com, And also the cubism in a cartoon of Calvin and Hobbes.

- Who's your favourite visual artist?

“Inspiration can be taken from anywhere. From watching a blockbuster film, to seeing patterns in the mud on a wet day. A lot of mine comes from the surreal conversations I have with my close friends, books I’ve read, and the world that I’ve seen so far”

I always loved Van Gogh's use of colour. Even now I can put "Vincent –starry starry night" onto my head-phone and just dive into that picture, swimming around in the paint that turns to aether in my mind…

- Where I lay my head

I live in a tower. But I'm on the second floor so if there's a fire I only break my legs in the dive to safety.

- Favourite game console

Not much of a gamer apart from my mobile phone. But a do believe that an Xbox Kinect has the potential to be the life and soul of the party. However much I despise that concept.

- What do you do in your spare time?

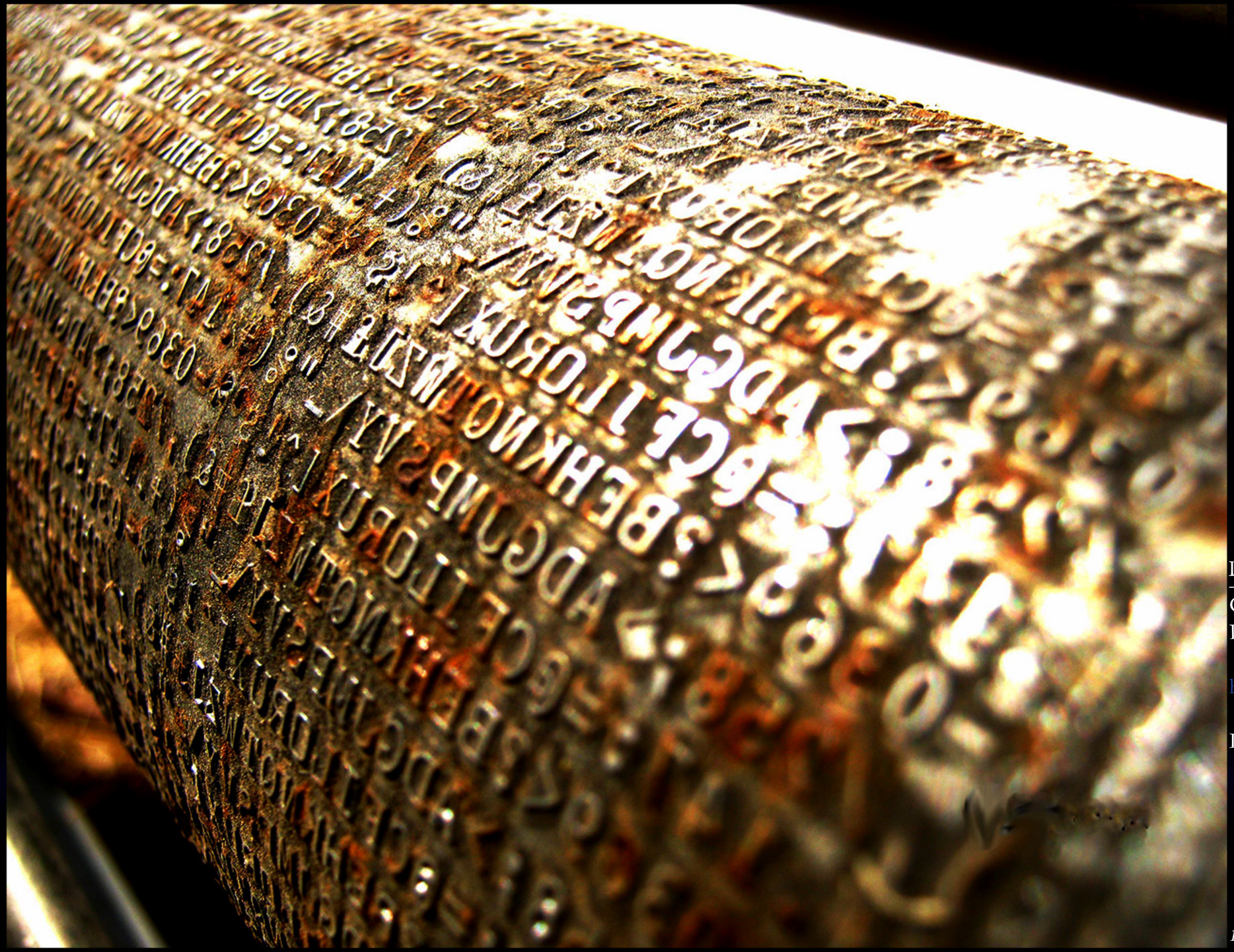
In my spare time I like writing, skydiving, abseiling, canoeing, archery, mildly agitating my colleagues, cooking, and watching Good News.

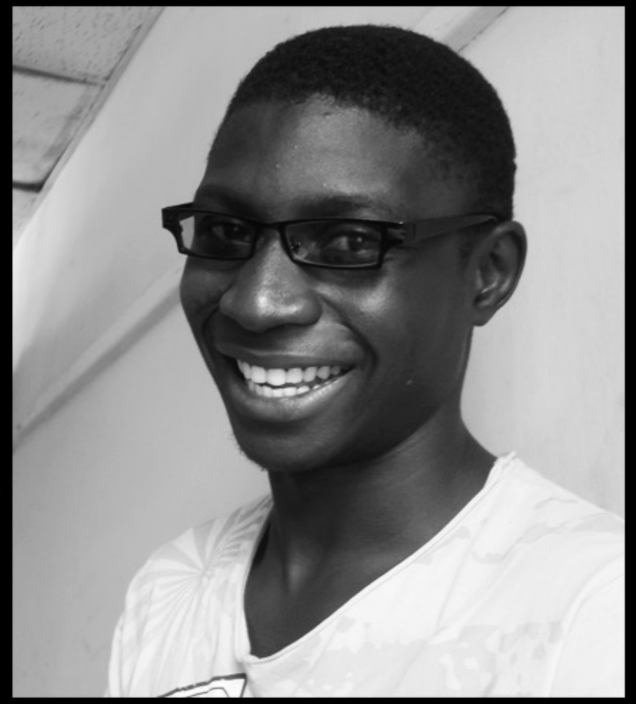
- What does traditional media mean to u?

Traditional media for me would be anything with that comes with a screeching old lush "art expert" claiming we must respect tradition. Roll with it man.

Lydia Charlton

Artist, Photographer.





Damilola 'Nusic' Alabi

Graphic Designer, Rapper, Producer,
Poet, Entepreneur

http://be.net/fusion87creatives

Lagos, Nigeria

1. The Matrix Has You

2. Food Is Here

3. Type In Black & White

4. The Bottles

5. Office Space

6. Les Gestner

7. Rust is A Vice

8. the Bike Of Dreams

9. Laboratory Test Collection Booth

Jonathan Thomas

Artist, Photographer

Wales, UK.

1. *Industrial*

2. *The arc*

3. *The Post process challenge 07*

4. *It's A Country Thing*

5. *Vaticanus Maximus*

6. *Life Is A Rollercoaster*

7. The Visceral

8. The Chamber Of Renaissance

9. The post Process Challenge 08

10. In Thy Splendor, I Rejoice

11. Headless

“Blank canvas
our happy place...”

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1. I Lost My Mind, I Lost My Body

Albert Jerome Enema

Graphic Designer, Photographer, Filmmaker

http://www.behance.net/prometheusmultime-dia

Larnaca, Cyprus

2. Cos Iron Bars Can't Hold My Soul

3. The Police Station

4. Can't Keep The Clutter In

5. 303's Mailbox

6. The Napa Stairway

7. Let There Be Less Light

8. Torn Nets

9. In My Remains

FELA KUTI

FELA
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FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
ON THE SHRINE SHOW | 9PM EST
RADIO.GIDILOUNGE.COM

GRD Designlab
Graphic Research Department

Gary Tubbs

Musician, Artist, Photographer

United States.

Check out music and info for the progressive rock band 'Tetrafusion' that I'm a part of at http://tetrafusion.bandcamp.com/

1. Light From Within

2. The Monarch

3. Reverence

4. Requiem

5. Time

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the
RED ROOM
for the love of poetry

"A BITCH"

Once pure and full of life,
Once the pride of its inhabitants,
Once solace for infants with futures to sail into,
Once a song on the lips of the brave, rich and opulent,
Once a virgin, pure and full of innocence
Once written and talked about with pride and valor.
What can we say of an abode we once loved and cherished?
Once craved...

Who made it a "BITCH"?
A name it's now FAMOUS for,
A defilement now to the potter.
Why leave a scare on something of so much essence,
Something that never fails in all his ways,
In times and season,
Come rain or sunshine...How long do we beat the hand that feeds us?

In our own words we should stop been "BITCHY"
And be the change,
We undeniably crave for
A changed for MOTHER land.

TALES...

HELTER SKELTER !!!

The run of Helter-skelter, I stutter
Where then is our solace and shelter
The cry of the future all lost together
Cutting short hopes of struggling mother

Disunity and discord display its wing
Even among finely nurtured still wanting
Smart minds are captured and slaving
Giving away to their frivolous raveling

Brace up your courage OH Land!
For as one we're rising in demand
Breaking barriers of self with purity of Hand
With One shot in Love, eradicate tyrannical band.

TALES...

[Inspired by Roads Untravelled, from Living Things]

> > As the world blacks out, and sounds are muted,I feel the rebirth of solace
> > from insanity.Tiptoeing on this path, and disturbing not the fallen,I gave
> > my heart as alms to the needy.Humanity, in this brief moment,just before the
> > nightmare becomes my everything,I stand in the way of sandstorms, and test
> > my shivering resolve again and again.I find the nothingness, and have no
> > despair, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.Now knowing loneliness from
> > solitude,As silence and screaming fade away.Peeking behind the curtains of
> > time,I'll leave the words here till you claim them.My resonating heart
> > stutters, then stops,But its only flesh singing regret.I have one beginning,
> > and a thousand endings,and pain is merely the test of time. Standing firm,
> > overlooking the afterlife of dreams,And all that remains is the choice to
> > burn away.No scorch marks, no fiery embers,I'll brand myself with the
> > memories of this journey.My breath runs out, but I need not air,and maybe
> > now there's a different meaning to this.Silver and gold, worth less than
> > dirty tears,I'll sing the sorrow,and know true gain,when despair emerges
> > from my clouded eyes.Lingering, a blemish on the masterpiece of lies,Who
> > will erase the lines of my existence?A thousand words mean nothing, and a
> > thousand years may pass,Frozen under a timeless sun whispers can't
> > reach.Don't fall into this pit of perdition, I pray you,As I see the cracked
> > reflection of the roads untravelled.So I'll wait at the threshold, the
> > summit of a thought undecided,And greet the prescient horizon that awaits
> > me.The end of the trail, where there's no moving light,I'll close my eyes
> > and go to sleep.
> >

Mubarak Abdu Aguye.

Untitled.

Caught in the whirlwind of confusion, confused by nothing but despair, hate and betrayal but yet I still feel hope for my soul. I still feel there's some sort of salvation! Oh what time has done, the small cracks in the portal which I call my heart, the movement of poison oh such deadly poison that could kill an entire herd of bulls makes its way in and out of my heart and I keep wondering "I'm not dead" Torture defines me now, torture seems to be the only one who understands me, pain is just a pest, an annoying pest that bothers my life every day.

Despite all that, somewhere....somewhere in that black hole of mine I feel love, happiness and all the joy this world has to offer. I feel protected, I feel wanted by guardians stronger than gladiators, mightier than the gods of Olympus, darker, meaner and much more cruel than Titans, the happiness these guardians give me is more than enough...I'm stronger with them, I'm happier with them, I'm better with them. Robin Hood may have succeeded in breaking into the Queen's chamber and stealing the crown jewels but that will be the first and last time cause this Queen is ready, a Queen like no other. Andromeda herself bows at the mention of her name. A Queen... like me.

Fatima Abdullahi Musa

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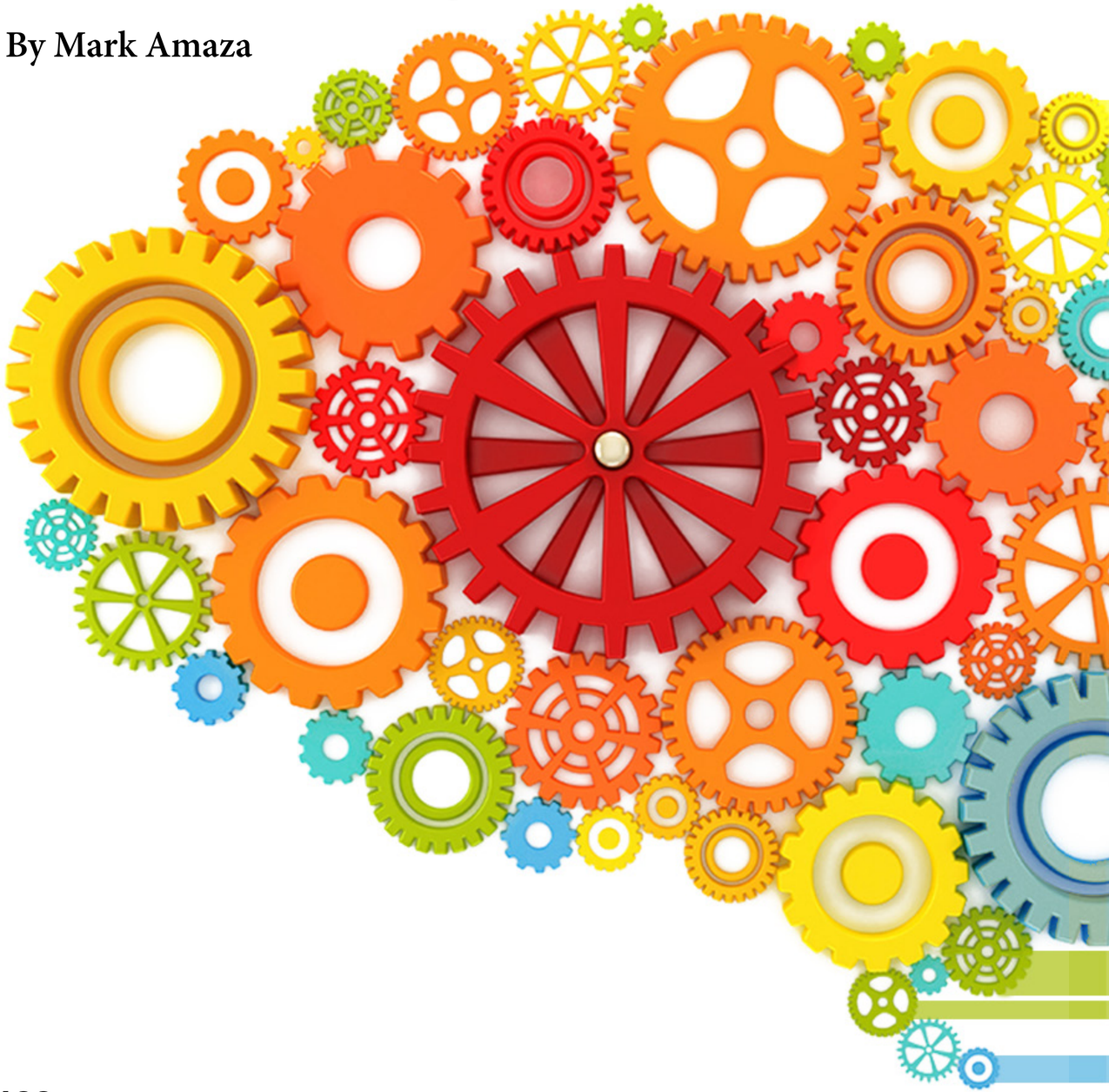
how to be CREATIVE

By Mark Amaza

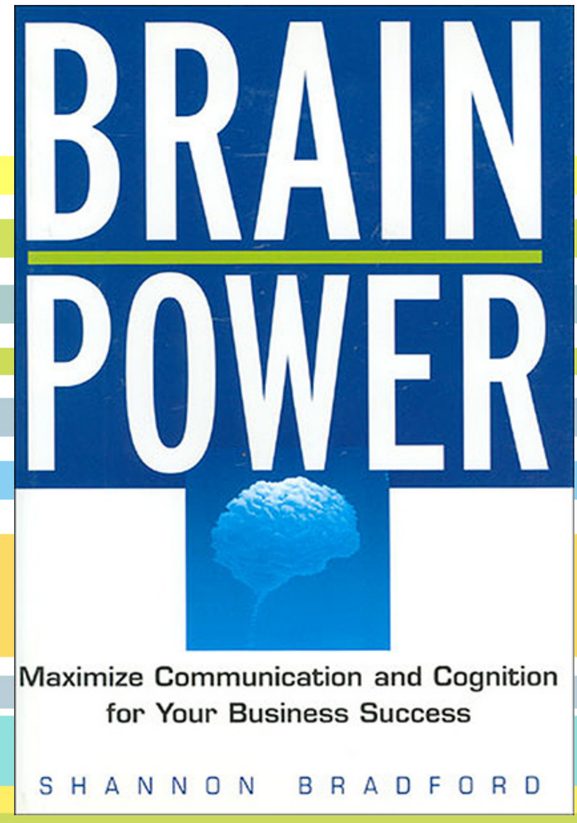


I still find it weird and honouring that an article in a design magazine is written by someone like me who is not in the creative arts. Scientists have long stated that creativity, and art, are the products of the right side of the brain. Logical thinking and strategy, which is what I mainly deal in, come out of the left side of the brain. For a long time, this definition limited me to believing I was a non-creative, especially since I did boring consulting work and was constantly surrounded by friends who did the exciting creative work in design and music and film. For a while, I tried to belong, tried my hands at music and a little design. Both times, I failed woefully. But does that mean I am not or cannot be creative?

Creativity is a gift that all humans are born with; it is embedded in our DNA. However, the extent to which one expresses his or her creativity is a product of several factors such as environment, education and experimentation. A child who grows up in a very stereotyped, tightly controlled environment will find it harder to be creative than one who grew up in a home where you are given the free will to express yourself. Creativity is not only when one engages in fields such as music, film and design. It is also in the little things such as fashion sense, or how one arranges her bedroom or even the childish scrawls and doodles we do at the back of our school notebooks. Creativity is as present in business and product development as it is in art and dance.

Furthermore, being creative is both a conscious and subconscious act. It is conscious because one has to keep an open mind to the fact that there is a better way of doing something or something more visually appealing or mentally stimulating. A mind that says 'this can never be done' or 'it is impossible' cannot be a creative mind, unless that thinking is changed. It is the conscious mind that is open to infinite possibilities; that the boundaries of knowledge and imagination can be stretched. It is also the conscious mind that absorbs information about the subject matter in which one is working in, and also the environment in which one is. Remember, the product of creativity has to be relevant to both existing knowledge and environment. That said, what might be creativity in Nigeria might not be in Japan, considering there are two different environments.

Creativity is also subconscious because a lot of times, the epiphanies that are produced when ideas are created come without the conscious prompting of the mind to create them. I will not bore you with the science of how the subconscious mind works; how it is not constrained by time and pressure like the conscious mind, or how an enquiry of the mind is done in perpetuity by the unconscious mind until an answer or solution is sought. But mankind severely underestimates how powerful the subconscious mind is. I will recommend a book such as Brain Power by Shannon Bradford which is an insightful work into the power of the subconscious mind and how to make it work for you.



Now, the big question, the main crux of this piece is: how can you be creative? To an extent, each individual has to find his or her own special formula that works. But there are general basic rules to developing one's creativity. Here are a few:

- Immerse yourself thoroughly in your field. You cannot be creative in your field without an in-depth knowledge of what already is there
- Widen your span of knowledge. The more knowledge you have about random things, the more likely you are able to bring them to a point of convergence to make them work. This is referred to as cross-pollination. •
Be curious. Ask questions. Enquire. Learn. Keep your eyes wide open
- Sharpen your analytical skills. You should learn to

be able to expertly judge works done in your field.

- Test your ideas. You do not have to wait for your ideas to be picture-perfect before you implement them. Start wherever you are. Do it, learn, improve and do it again and again.

"remember that creativity does not necessarily mean inventing the next big thing. It could simply be a slight product improvement, or better business process"

- Never stop learning. Whether you learn best by reading or tutorials or peer group sessions, always be learning
- Adopt the right mantra to creativity. For me, it is the mantra that says: there is no best. There is only better.

In closing, remember that creativity does not necessarily mean inventing the next big thing. It could simply be a slight product improvement, or better business process or a tweak to a song that makes it sound better. As long as it is something new or improved from an earlier version, it is creativity.

Be creative. Make your world come alive in colours.

Mark Amaza runs MINDcapital, a strategy, branding and innovation consulting firm. He studies Environmental Management at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Nigeria.

In his spare time, where he writes about politics, entrepreneurship, education, self-development and other random ideas on his blog; www.markamaza.com. He also contributes articles and opinion pieces to a number of sites, including The Scoop, Nigerians Talk, Love Nigeria and The Herald. He has also been published in YNaija, YADA Magazine, Nigeria Dialogue and Omojuwa.com.

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the green room.

powered by: bE pArt Of tHe SoLuTion

BEING OUR OWN HEROES

By Medina Saliu

We always hear elders, parents, celebrities, activists, politicians and even folk whom are not supposed to be talking at all talk about global warming. I realize it's a concept we all have an idea about or from merely listening can come to the conclusion that the earth is getting hotter which obviously isn't good, then we skip to the part where whoever's talking about it chants "SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT" then we tune our TV sets to the food network or MTV shortly after. But really, what is global warming? And what can we do to manage an already deteriorating situation that's important to us all?

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Global warming refers to the increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere, this results directly in the exponential increase of the earth's average temperature. The atmosphere has a natural supply of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other gases, these gases capture heat and create a warming effect on the surface of the earth. This warming effect is similar to that of a green house, so it became known as the greenhouse effect over time.

Without the green house effect, the world would be a barren wasteland unable to support anything living. The increase in global warming can cause a dramatic shift in our climate that can have irrevocably devastating consequences, not just for the environment but for our way of life and worse, our survival as a whole.

THINGS THAT KILL LIVING THINGS

Some human activities add carbon dioxide much faster to the earth than the earth's natural capacity can remove; studies have shown that even small changes in CO_2 levels lead to significant changes in average global temperatures. Climate warming can lead to more intense storms, rising sea levels, tsunamis and more pronounced droughts that would lead to vegetation taking a nosedive or in other words; living in a world without trees and greenery. Living in a world devoid of color where the most beautiful, natural things of the earth will just wither away and die, the displacement of people and loss of our great forests to mention but a few.

Global warming would increase the spread of diseases as well; the rate at which malaria, dengue fever and yellow fever is spread will be increased, killing mostly the younger generation. Most of our animals would go extinct; there would be no more Bengal tigers, penguins, walruses, platypuses, koala bears and polar bears. Hurricanes and other natural disasters would be deadlier, their effects on lives and property would double leading to financial disaster in said affected areas. The taste and quality of wine would depreciate as there would be no suitable climatic condition for grapes to be grown in. Droughts and famine would occur in some countries regularly. It would be the Dark Ages all over again only this time far worse than any of us could ever imagine.

TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

There may be no actual way to fully reverse this problem but there are ways we can live that could help manage the situation. You do not need to go out and buy a green car for thousands of dollars or shoot an awareness documentary about it to show your support but there are simple ways in which we as individuals can do that helps prevent this dark time threatening to take hold of our beautiful earth and I'm here to enlighten or re-enlighten you as the case may be. Electrical lighting accounts for about 21% of commercial energy consumption, the lights in an average household produce over one ton of carbon dioxide each year causing more damage to the atmosphere than we realize. In respect to this, lights should be turned off when not in use, natural light or sunlight should be used to light rooms, energy saving bulbs should be used always and incandescent bulbs should be replaced with compact fluorescents. Carbon dioxide production should be reduced by driving less often, recycling more,avoiding products with a lot of packaging and by

keeping your tires properly inflated.

A stronger problem for 3rd world countries for example Nigeria, whose inhabitants and industries resort to the use of power generating plants to generate electricity for daily use. Whatever the size, small, large or intermediate, the effects these machines have on the atmosphere are colossal because of the emissions given off by them. Some may see this as a not so serious problem but I can assure them that they are sourly mistaken. Other ways to preserve our earth includes planting trees seeing as a single tree can absorb one ton of CO_2 over a lifetime and by taking shorter showers as hot water also requires energy to be heated and maintained. It is also advised to unplug DVD players, computers, toasters, cell phones and other chargers when not in use. Also avoid the use of air fresheners that have to be plugged in and always always unplug or turn off devices with a power strip.

WITH GREAT POWER COMES…

A great responsibility has been placed upon the shoulders of every man, woman and child in the world today. We may not have asked for it but have all been charged to protect the earth from plunging into chaos.

Chaos that we are wholly (or partially) responsible for, one that we and our fathers before us created because of our nonchalance, carelessness or even misinformation or ignorance. These are mistakes that should be avoided at all costs. These are miniature tasks we can carry out with very great results to our own advantage. If the penguins, polar bears and our unborn children could plant trees, turn off electrical appliances and shower less to preserve the earth for them to live in I am sure they would. Don't wait till tomorrow to do what is right. The future started yesterday and we're already late. Stand with us and save the environment, save our earth even if not for ourselves but for our children. If you're not part of the problem, you're part of the solution.

follow Medina Saliu on twitter
@medi_vaz

TIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE (at no cost to you).

1. Trash Talk.

For every trash can of waste you put outside for the trash collector, about 70 trash cans of waste are used in order to create that trash. To reduce the amount of waste you produce, buy products in returnable and recyclable containers and recycle as much as you can. The energy saved from recycling a single aluminium can will operate a television for three hours! If your community doesn't provide containers for recycling, designate a bin in your garage for recyclables to make it easy for you and your family to recycle things like the newspaper and aluminium cans.

2. Plastic degradable? BAD!

Did you know that it takes 26 bottles of water to produce the plastic container for a one-litre bottle of water, and that doing so pollutes 25 litres of groundwater? Don't leave a trail of plastic water bottles in your wake! Stop buying bottled water. Use reusable water bottles instead made from materials like stainless steel or aluminium that are not likely to degrade over time.

3. Give Up the Clothes Dryer.

The second biggest household energy user, after the refrigerator, is the clothes dryer. Over drying your clothes can end up costing you money as well. When using the dryer, clear the lint filter after each load and dry only full loads of clothes. Dry heavy fabrics separately from lighter ones, and don't add wet clothing in the middle of the drying cycle. And remember that hanging clothing outside in the sun and air to dry is the most energy-efficient method -- or use a folding indoor rack all year long.

4. Lower the Temp in Your Fridge

As one of the biggest appliances in your kitchen, the refrigerator is also one of the most power hungry, accounting for 10 to 15 percent of the average home energy bill each month. Get your fridge running in tip-top shape. First, set the refrigerator thermostat to maintain a temperature between 38 and 42 degrees (F). This temperature will protect your food from spoiling while saving electricity. Twice a year, clean the condenser coil at the back of your fridge. Condenser coils tend to get dusty, making them less efficient.

5. Stop Wasting Gas

Increase your gas mileage by checking your tire pressure. More than a quarter of all cars and nearly one-third of all SUVs, vans and pickups have underinflated tires, according to a survey by the Department of Transportation. If every American kept his or her tires properly inflated, we could save 2.8 billion gallons (10.6 billion litres) of gasoline a year -- and help curb global warming pollution -- so inflate the tires on your car or truck and continue to do so once a month or as necessary.

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F4
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F6
room

good. kid. maad. city
A short film by: Kendrick Lamar

Music will mean different things to different people but we can all agree that music is art, that being said not all musicians are artists. But from time to time someone brings out an album with music so good it evokes visuals.

This can be said for Kendrick Lamar's debut album 'Good kid Maad city'. Kendrick's lyrical abilities were more than obvious from his mixtapes; Section 80 and Overly Dedicated as well as his verse on The Game's 'The city' from R.E.D showed a hunger and delivery that invoked shivers but GKMC is another ball game entirely. Predictions were made that the Aftermath/Interscope records deal would put certain constrains on Kendrick's style and laid back lyrics but I beg to differ… the singles aren't typical or generic singles which dominate our airwaves but possess enough of the distinctive style and enough buzz to catch your attention. Kendrick paints a vivid picture of life in Compton with a detail unmatched in present day. From squabbles with parents to a doomed relationship with a girl named Sheran and even a hangout gone wrong (peer pressure).

It's hard not to relate with the topics voiced and production was handled by some of the best producers in the business, the likes of Pharrell Williams, Hit boy, T-minus, Sounwave and Just blaze. Of course it doesn't hurt to be guided and mentored by Dr Dre but truth be told Kendrick holds his own and even brings a hunger greater than that seen by Memphis bleek in his own coming of age. GKMC embodies the art that once was so obvious in hip-hop: every track deep and intensely layered. I believe GKMC has something for all music lovers. And with current album sales of 837,000 copies as of at April 10, 2013, It looks like a lot of us agree.

we recommend

Backstreet Freestyle, Poetic Justice Featuring Drake, The recipe featuring Dr Dre , Now or Never Featuring Mary J Blige (From the deluxe versions), Swimming Pools (drank), good Kid, mAAD city featuring MC Eiht. And before I give you the entire track list, i'm gonna stop here.

(good kid, mAAD city deluxe edition cover)

.THE GAME
.Jesus Piece

First things first, I was never a fan of The Game; I felt his records lacked a certain backbone and he felt the need to constantly name drop to be relevant (not that it's not working right?). When he left aftermath I felt his career would steadily decline until it was a mere blip at the corner of the radar but I still gave each album a listen (to prove myself right of course). Much to my dismay this wasn't to be the case as over time he developed a reputation by association like a modern day DJ Clue (without the obnoxious repetitive screaming). Everything I enjoyed about the R.E.D was done by people other than The Game; from Kendrick's verse in the city, to the skits by the legend Dr Dre and crisp features from Tyler the creator, Beanie Siegel etc. The Jesus piece album has a certain appeal; one it's a concept album…something lacking in hip-hop nowadays. From the blasphemous cover art to blasphemous comedic lyrics and hooks.

Second, the game manages to get A-list performances from the featured producers and artists. They all seemingly carry on the theme so effortlessly. From Rick Ross and 2chainz in 'Ali Bomaye', Pusha T in 'Name me king' and Kanye West in Jesus piece just to name very very few. (Game's obviously a very big Kanye fan and such is evident on the album). And once again he records with Dr Dre on the 'dead people' a song worth its somber title. I feel The Game's choice of singles don't do the album justice though. Holy water, the initial single, was too much on the ears and had a much too X-rated video to have made any impact. Rather than the misguided, over featured, touch and go "celebration" track. I believe the theme song; Jesus Piece song would have been a better offering. Jesus piece debuted in the US at Number 2 with first week sales of 86,000 copies. by April 2013, it had sold 213,000 copies. That's erm.. not so bad i guess.

Ultimately I stand by my initial assessment of The Game; the reputation by association just doesn't cut it. And with a possible deal with the Cash Money things don't look so bright. But that being said it's a decent offering; The Game fans will love it and others will enjoy the vast array of producers and artists on display, a display so bright it will make you want to wear shades.

we recommend

(It seems we have a penchant for reviewing Game albums. *see The Shogunate's maiden edition.)
'Ali Bomaye' Featuring 2Chainz & Rick Ross, 'All That (Lady)' Featuring Lil Wayne, Big Sean, Fabolous & Jeremih, 'Hallelujah' Featuring Jamie Foxx and Freedom Featuring Elijah Blake.

(Jesus piece standard edition album cover)

. LECRAE
. Gravity

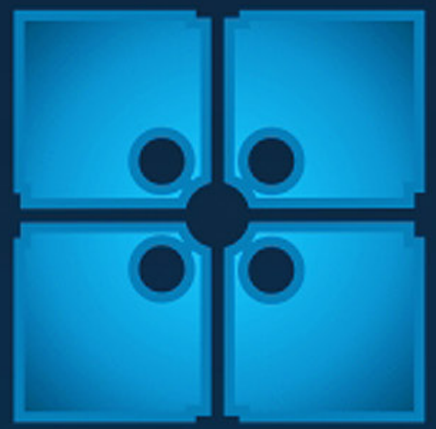
Lecrae, one of the most popular Christian hip-hop artists released his sixth studio album, 'Gravity' to much anticipation and critical acclaim on on September 4th 2012.

This project is a masterful collection of 15 tracks (18 if you grab the deluxe version at iTunes) of hard-hitting, life-giving music. Gravity marks Lecrae's first full album since the chart-topping, career-elevating Rehab series. Of the album's theme, Lecrae said that the aptly titled Gravity is intended "to bring people back down to Earth." Combatting most people's preoccupation with escaping the realities of life, Lecrae highlights that our circumstances are no cause for despair or delusion; they can fuel us toward the hope of a life transformed by Jesus Christ. "Lord Have Mercy" featuring Tedashii; is easily one of the album's best tracks. Tedashii's guest spot turns out to be the best on Gravity and you will find yourself wanting to bump this track over and over again. "Lord Have Mercy", "I Know", "Power Trip" and 'Confessions' are the most noteworthy tracks on the album. One remarkable strength of Gravity is the inclusion of such a variety of guest features. The likes of Reach Records label-mates Trip Lee, PRo and Sho Baraka, along with popular (but still underexposed) vocalists like Rudy Currence, Lecrae presents a little something for everyone but still remaining as universally appealing as the music could be, the message is as ever unchanging – as it should be.

To be certain, Gravity is next-level, not just because of the quality of music. It's difficult to slap a 'gospel music' label on it without second-guessing whether it belongs in the "hip-hop" bin or not. Lecrae's Gravity is just as obviously the music of a Christian as it is an album for the hip-hop community. Originally set up to drop head to head with T.I's 'Trouble man' (which was later pushed to december) Gravity grabbed the No. 3 on the Billboard 200, with 72,000 units sold and as of November 2012, the album had sold 150,000 copies in the U.S alone and earned Lecrae a grammy for Best gospel album, a first for a Christian Hip hop artist. And of that tension, Lecrae should be proud.

we recommend

Brimming with excitement, we recommend 'Graviity' featuring J.R, 'Power Trip' Featuring PRo, Sho Baraka & Andy Mineo, 'Lord have Mercy' Featuring Tedashii, 'Confessions' and 'Higher' Featuring Tenth Avenue North (From the itunes deluxe edition) **BONUS: '**Fuego' featuring KB & Suzy Rock



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from left to right: Brent Kutzle, Zaach Filkins, Ryan Tedder, Tim Myers, Eddie Fisher

ONEREPUBLIC

NATIVE

By Damilola Alabi

OneRepublic. Yes, the really cool dudes that sang 'Apologize' 'Good Life' and 'Secrets'. Yes, the same guys whose frontman/singer/song writing genius and producer Ryan Tedder writes and produces songs for the biggest artists you know. Onrepublic was formed by Tedder and Zach Filkins in 2002 and after signing to Timbaland's Mosley group in 2006, released their debut album 'Dreaming out loud' in 2007 and a follow-up success in 'Waking up' in 2009. 4 years and a Grammy award nomination later, they release their highly anticipated third album 'Native'.

The album begins with 'Counting stars' which has that Texan gig styled tempo, with guitars reminiscent of a go-lucky cowboy who's had one too many Marlboros and that old lucky no.7 brand (chuckles). Anyways we love Onerepublic but that song doesn't really come off as a good album opener in my personal opinion. The album really comes alive on 'if I lose ,myself' which has that kind of 'so addicted to you I would slit my wrists for you' kinda euphoric song and a very melodic chorus with grooves that relives Coldplay's viva la vida all over again. The song writing was very much on point though with Ryan Tedder singing *'you can see your life out of the window tonight'*, it was almost like they wanted us to know they were starting this thing by airlifting us with this song and the previous was just taxing.

(The artwork for the album is based on the idea of how different the band is from each other and is represented by a different animal)

'If we only die once, I wanna die with/ if we only live once, I wanna live with you'

beginning with a revelation about only living once, 'Something I Need' ends with the aforementioned line, finally stating the answer to the question of with whom exactly he wants to live---and, by extension, die with. It's absolutely predictable of Ryan tedders song writing style, but that's beside the point. In the era of #YOLO, where the wisdom of carpe diem has been perverted and diluted to justify all sorts of short-sighted behaviour and (we blame drake and his cronies) keeping in mind that pop music is designed to place the listener as the narrator of the lyrics---a pop artist declaring his life's dedication to a cause beyond hedonism or self-aggrandizement is both surprising and surprisingly refreshing. Lyrically, most of the songs on Native follows suit, such an example is a dedication on one of the songs to someone, most likely the wife of vocalist and songwriter Ryan Tedder. Yet despite the cliché, there's a certain degree of sincerity that is otherwise conspicuously absent from today's pop circle. Consider the gospel undertones of the album's lead single 'Feel Again' and 'Preacher' deviating from the formula, the latter is a genuine contemplation on Tedder's faith and family. Even though the song never strays from being pop, it also never feels manufactured or processed and the lyrics are beautiful and very intimate. Even though the rest of the songs lyrical themes are far more conventional, they retain that aura of authenticity I've been going on and on about.

Consequently, Native is a release that should have people excited for the future of pop once again. In terms of sound, it is relatively unassuming and meek yet equally heartfelt and intelligent. From From the heartfelt,

violin-driven ballad Au Revoir to the glut of mid-tempo tracks, including second single 'If I Lose Myself', to the edgy 'Light It Up' (which isn't pop at all), there is undeniable variety here, even if it's all evenly dressed up and slicked over with a healthy dose of polish. Not everything succeeds on the album though, some of the understated mid-tempo tracks get drowned out by the synthesizers and other elements of production. The song 'Light It Up' doesn't shine until the extended outro and it rarely stumbles upon brilliance, beyond the opener.

Bass guitar and cellist Brent Kutzle came up with the idea of calling the album Native. It means indigenous to every country and how different they are as individuals.

Yet it's different and sufficiently high-quality enough to indicate that actual song writing effort was put into the album and Native thus never feels formulaic. This is what pop music needs right now. No, this is what ALL music needs right now. Luckily, the worst-kept secret in the industry is how influential Tedder is in the mainstream pop song writing process as well as his various collaborations and production with hip-hop artists the likes of B.o.B, Gym class heroes etc. The mastery and effort put into Native is very evident and we're thankful for it. It's a quiet, unassuming rebellion, one that may fizzle out soon but will still be a major player in a growing revolution for musical accountability in pop music and other genres.

Native was released in the U.S on March 25th to very positive critical reviews and peaked at number 4 on the billboard charts with 60,000 units sold in the first week which is their best sales frame since 2007 when their debut album "Dreaming Out Loud" moved 75,000 in its first week peaking at No.14 and in 2009 "Waking Up," debuted and peaked at No. 21 with a 39,000 units.

Who saw that coming from One-Republic? We love them anyways.

in much less words... by Albert Enema

Lil Wayne - I.A.N.A.H.B 2

1

Weezy's 'I am not a human being II' is having first-hand experience of what hip-hop would sound like if it died. The album is soaked in bodily fluids, dumb beats, stupid, unnecessary and extremely offensive lines. Listening to it made me want to throw up which I promptly did. Remind me to drink the vodka out of the bleach bottle if I listen to another Weezy record. Weezy for President Y'all!

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis - The Heist

2

The biggest surprise of 2013 and a worthy addition to hip-hop. Independently released and totally killing it, The Heist packs something for everyone from drop dead serious, to comedic to downright controversial all wound up in a craftily produced and delivered record that will force you to actually LISTEN to it. You can feel the strength and energy behind every song and we've missed that.

B.o.B – Strange clouds

3

Strange clouds is exactly what you should get from an MC's sophomore album. B.o.B may be going unapologetically 'Pop' from here on but the only reason we give it a free pass is because he does it so effortlessly. The songs are catchy, great & they make you smile. And just when we thought the old B.o.B was all but gone, he plays us a familiar melody. Damn u Bobby Ray!

A$AP Rocky – Long live A$AP

4

Long Live ASAP was a good album. Not exactly the generic beats and features I expected and that was really refreshing. I believe he held his own (as well as he could) with all the other rappers he featured until he made the mistake of featuring Florence Welch who sang him off his own album and dropped the mic thereafter on the final track. Ladies and gentlemen, the lesson here is….

Fallout Boy – Save Rock & Roll

5

We have lost very wonderful rock bands to pop. Maroon 5, Onerepublic and now Fallout boy decides to save rock & roll with a pop album (I mean, who does that). A total misfire on the saving part but I'm not complaining about the record, even if I was, they and Elton john did save the day on the last song but rock & Roll is still tied up in a basement somewhere. Who's gonna save her?

Dido – The Girl Who Got Away

6

Dido the incredibly talented Queen of bland is back! Not a moment too soon as her hiatus from music had left somewhat of a void in my life & her fans lives. And now that she's back, we're gonna play those slow uplifting songs and that new techno thing she's trying out because we love her music so much and we can't be bothered what form it comes in. My life is now complete once again.

SIDE A

TITLE/SUBJECT: THE SERIES OF 8
a collection of not so well thought of songs

NOISE REDUCTION ON OFF

1. OGA - MODENINE 2011. Red Eye Entertainment. ++

The word OGA for those who don't know what it means is a pseudonym in Nigerian Pidgin English that denotes "Boss of all bosses or a very important personality" etc. Hence, Modenine, Africa's number 1 lyricist saying "you can be the boss but Mode is your Oga on his 2011 single of the same name means he's definitely not joking. The track "Oga", finds mode9 unsuccessfully trying to wiggle back into the semi-commercial style of nigerian rap which fuses a little bit of ethnicity on the chorus as well as the use of pidgin English like I mentioned earlier. It may be an epic fail to mode9 loyalists, it definitely won't make the greatest hits list either but it's a very entertaining song with quirky beats and a looped voice repeatedly saying Oga. Loving it or hating it is totally up to you, but as mode9 says on the track "lyrically I too much, I no get Oga", and my dear friends, I couldn't agree more

2. EASY – COMMODORES. COMMODORES. 1977 ++++

The original lineup of the award winning funk-soul band "The commodores" included Lionel Richie, Thomas McClay, Milan Williams, William King, Ronald La Pread and Walter Orange. Why did I go through all the trouble of letting you know this? I have not the faintest idea (fyi, the new commodores shall ever be spoken of.ever)! Anyway, the old commodores made a song called "Easy" from their eponymous titled album. Lionel Richie, the genius that he is, wrote a song about a man who obviously isn't taking a recent breakup hard at all, Stating that he's taking it 'easy like Sunday morning'. A cool, free-flowing, genre crossover song with a catchy chorus, infectious harmony and a great guitar solo, easy was an instant hit debuting at number 1 on the billboard charts, paving the way for other commodores hits and Richie's solo career. With covers from various artists of different genres, easy's effect continues to be felt to this day, all because the commodores wrote and sang a song and made it sound so…well, easy.

.

3. SHE SAID – PLAN B. THE DEFAMATION OF STRICKLAND BANKS. 2010. +++

Its no secret that Plan B's 2010 album "the defamation of Strickland banks" was one of my favourite records of that year. I could never shut up about it. That said, "She said is the ……single from the album which tells the story of a pop singer who gets framed for rape and gets sent to jail and also follows his exploits while in prison. She said was that part of the story where he meets an obsessed fan girl, who eventually accuses him of rape and after his court session he's found guilty and is remanded to a correctional facility. She said is closely followed by "Welcome to hell" on the album which tells the story about how he gets to prison and all but I promised I wasn't going to write about that. The track is very well crafted, it keeps in step with the soulful sound of the entire album with Plan B singing the entire time and also seamlessly breaking into rap and then back to singing again. One of the highlights of the album no doubt.2 thumbs and a toe up for Mr drew.

6. SEND ME ON MY WAY – RUSTED ROOT RUSTED ROOT 1994+++1/2

This is how the story goes. American rock fusion band Rusted root made a song called "send me on my way" in 1994. Over the years, I came to hear said song in scores of movies and tv shows further piquing my interest. After what seemed like an eternity I finally found said song and played it repeatedly until I couldn't get enough. Send me on my way's soft, melodic, feel good and ethnic sound makes you sway and sing along to the chorus and guitar strums. I acquired the containing album "When I woke" to be sated but that didn't work out so well. Rusted root's success as a band was built solidly on the success of send me on my way and we are not complaining at all. So to end my tale, armed with all the happy feelings I got from this song, I slew the dragon, kissed the princess, left the frog by the pond and rode off into the sunset. The End.

SIDE A

TITLE/SUBJECT: that'll make your ears go POP !!!

NOISE REDUCTION ON OFF

4. LAGIMO – ROOFTOP MC'S. SHOCK THERAPY:THE 2ND 1ST IMPRESSION. +++

Nigeria's gospel rap duo Rooftop Mc's 1st single off their Shock therapy album was probably the most played Nigerian song of that year. Produced by the great Cobhams Asuquo, the duo rap about how materialism, fame and the vanity of it all because all of it belongs to God and that he (God) should smack them on the head if they ever forget that or stray. (Fyi, hit me on the head is the literal translation of "lagimo"). Over synthetically made alternative rock instruments, Cobhams sings a very catchy hook which you will mumble along to until you finally figure it out and then scream along. A very refreshing take on Nigerian gospel and rap as a whole and undoubtedly one of my favourite nigerian songs ever. Not just because it sounds really good, but also for the morality of it all and knowing that if you pay attention you could learn a thing or two.

5. OH NO – MOS DEF, PHAROAHE MONCH & NATE DOGG LYRICISTS LOUNGE 2. 2000 ++++

"The funk might fracture your nose" sings the late undeniable king of collaboration Nate Dogg on the hook of "Oh No", a single off Rawkus record's 4th compilation album "lyricists lounge 2". The song also features the lyricists for the ages; Mos Def and Pharoahe monch. Released in 2000, oh no is waaay up there with other great rap collaborations not just because it debuted at number 1 on the hot rap singles chart, not just because Nate dogg was as brilliant as always and definitely not just because Monche and mos def literally burnt up the track with their complex and effortless lyricism, it's because…..okay, it IS because of all those forementioned things but I've always thought Oh No to be a near perfect rap song that will never cease to please but that's just me. Monch said on the track said that very contagious raps should be trapped in cages. Aren't we all glad he didn't mean that literally?

7. SINNERMAN – NINA SIMONE. 1965 PASTEL BLUES +++1/2

Nina simone's one of the only artists ever who could take a traditional Christian worship song and turn it into a 10 minute track that would eventually earn somewhat of a cult following and gets covered by scores of artists decades later. Sinner man, a song Nina Simone grew up listening to was a worship song used to help people confess their sins. Weird huh? Off her 1965 pastel blues album, sinnerman remains one of her most well-known songs and somewhat of a signature tune of hers. In addition to covers by artists and sampling, the song has been used in scores of movies and TV shows such as The Thomas crown affair, Miami Vice, Person of interest, scrubs and entourage.

8. A LITTLE BIT BETTER – DANIEL MERRIWEATHER ARTHUR OST. 2011 +++1/2

Arthur the movie was…an okay movie I suppose. But for me the most memorable part of it was the end. Nope, not the end where Arthur gets the girl, the real end when the end credits started to roll, an upbeat track started playing in the background then as clear as day, Daniel Merriweather's voice eases into it and nicely guides us on a 3 minute heart – lifting, feel good love song adventure which seems and sounds very pop and soulful with Merriweather's signature sound. Full of hope we incessantly sing along and hopelessly believe when he says "it'll be like before, but a little bit better".

[STM]

SNOWFLAKE THA MAGNIFICIENT

@magnificentMR

Tobi Ajiboye.

SHOGUNATE

MOVIES

A PROMETHEUS MULTIMEDIA RELEASE, A FUSION 87 PRODUCTION A FILM BY ALBERT ENEMA "SHOGUNATE MOVIES"

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER IMOKHUEDE GBADAMOSI PRODUCED BY ADEDAMOLA "DOUBLE A" ADEGOKE WRITTEN BY ALBERT ENEMA

DIRECTED BY ALBERT ENEMA

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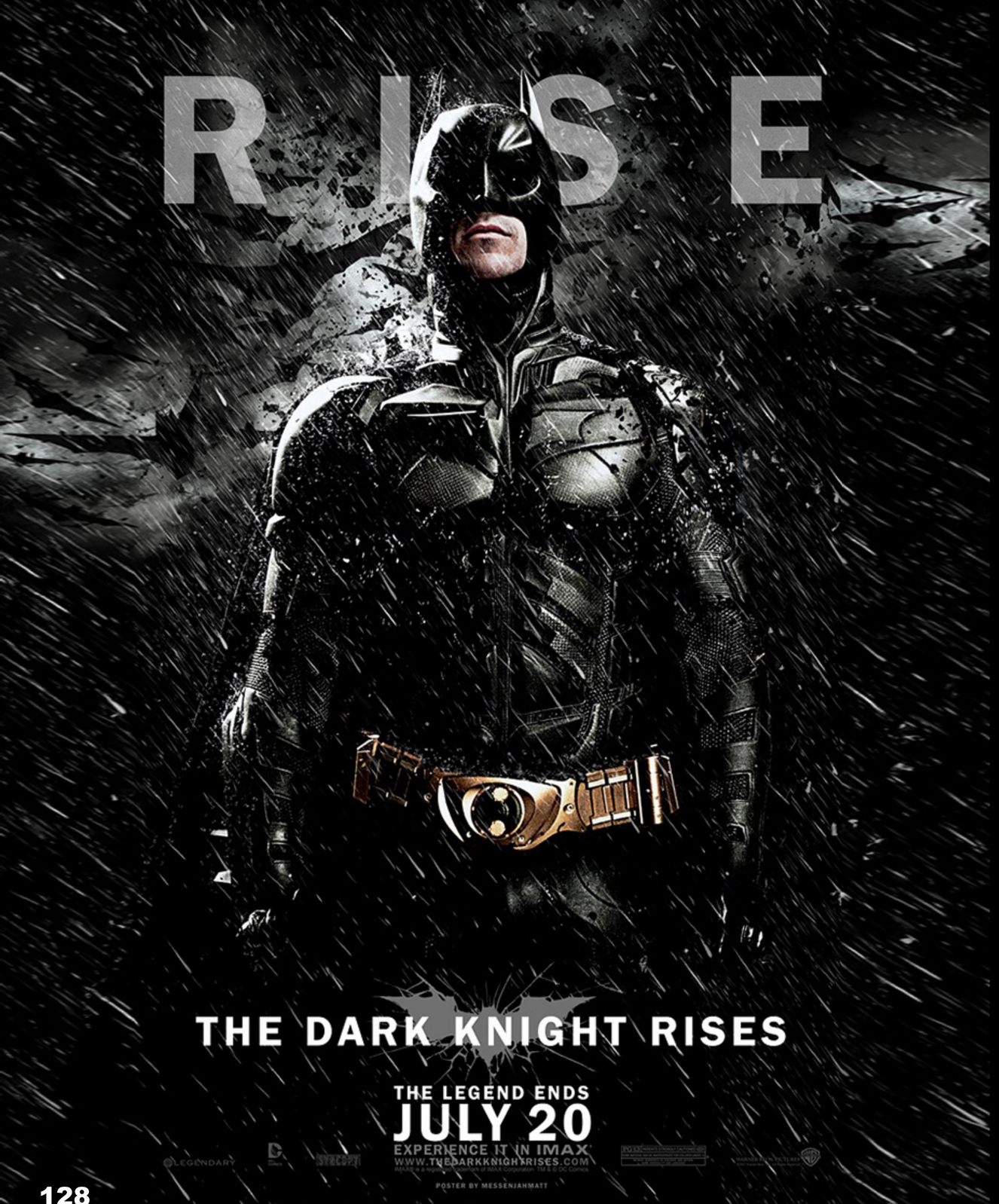


THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

Cast: Christian bale, Michael Cane, Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway
Director: Christopher Nolan

I still couldn't decide if I should write a spoiler filled review or just highlights but I suppose we'll find out. 2008's the dark knight is undoubtedly one of my favourite movies of all time (as well as Inception…sense a pattern here?) So by default, the hype build up and anticipation that the dark knight rises brought with it was unmistakably well placed with myself as well as many others. We had to wait 4 years to find out what became of our favourite caped crusader and we were, or are all smiles after we did. An amazing blend of action, stunning visuals, a great story and plotline with masterful acting from the entire cast, the dark knight rises is the final instalment of director Christopher Nolan's Batman series. The script was written by Jonathan and Christopher Nolan and after drawing inspiration from various comic books. All the previous cast members who didn't die returned as well as some very welcome additions.

So let the recap and introductions begin. 8 years after Harvey dent's death, a retired Bruce Wayne walking with the aid of a cane is now a recluse in Wayne manor. Commissioner Gordon is still burning up with guilt inside over what transpired with Dent all those years ago. Alfred is his usual great self. Lucius Fox apparently kept making toys even though batman was no more. A cop, Officer Blake by some funny way, knows that Bruce Wayne is batman & tried to get him to come out of retirement but failed. And then let's not forget Catwoman who was her charming, conniving, thieving self and then comes our new resident baddie Bane, The masked dude with the really cool voice who's hell-bent on destroying gotham city. Summarising this entire movie is a drag so I'm going to skip to the part where a series of events forced batman out of retirement with a new suit, new toys and a wonderful new hovercraft called 'The bat' and led him to think he would emerge victorious in an inevitable confrontation with bane. The result? He got his ass (excuse my language) kicked really good, got his back broken really good and finally got his broken self tossed into a prison hole really good (No really, the prison WAS a hole) Gosh that was really mean wasn't it? However, with the city under siege and a very clueless police force being wiped out, our dark knight must rise…(I couldn't resist) must rise from the pit he was thrown in and come save everyone's sorry hide from total annihilation by the ancient and noble act of self-sacrifice. And save their sorry hides he did. Oh and we found at the end that Officer Blake turns out to be Robin. I have no idea what purpose that serves whatsoever but let's wait and see.

A perfect end to such a great trilogy, Rises ties up all loose ends and we need not wonder if batman will be coming back because we already know (and we're not telling). Some aspects of the story don't check out sometimes and in a way the movie had really cheesy parts, predictable parts in it but we're going to forgive all that for the sake of a great movie, great story and our obvious bias (Shh don't tell anyone). The first 5 minutes of the film had that James Bond open-with-a-bang feeling that introduced us to the new awesome villain in Bane. I mean, how many times do you get to see a plane literally crash another plane huh? Pure perfection flowed from the entire cast as they gave their best. Tom hardy's portrayal of bane was most noteworthy seeing as he had just his eyes, voice and body to work with to convey the menace of his character. Anne Hathaway's Catwoman performance was layered and really refreshing plus she brought the sarcasm. Unlike batman begins, the dark knight and dark knight rises had a knack for eclipsing the Batman story itself but Christian Bale was as great as ever and he's still our favourite batman. Plus the new suit was great. And the score by Hans Zimmer was spot on, just like on the other two films when he collaborated with James Newton Howard. No surprises there, Zimmer's a genius.

'Rises' grossed $1.08 billion Worldwide in its cinematic run making it the 7th highest-grossing film of all time and the second highest-grossing film of 2012 behind The Avengers. Warner bros must be very pleased with themselves but I don't think such figures came as a shock to anyone. Despite how much we're going to miss Nolan's batman, we're glad we parted ways on such a great note. Undoubtedly my second favourite movie of the year. The first? I will never tell

Moments: Every single part that Bane had something to say is memorable. So is every part with 'the bat' in it.

JACK REACHER.

Cast: Tom Cruise, Rosamund Pike, Robert Duvall
Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Tom cruise teams up with Director Christopher McQuarrie to bring to the big screen the popular titular character from novelist Lee Child's successful Jack Reacher series. The movie alongside Cruise stars Rosamund Pike Richard Jenkins, Werner Herzog, David Oyelowo and Robert Duvall. It was released on December 26, 2012.

After 5 civilians are murdered at a park from shots fired from a long range weapon, Army sniper James Barr is remanded into police custody and awaits trial for what seemed like an open and shut case. After James Barr asks for him personally in a note, Super investigator, drifter and former U.S. Army Military Police, Jack Reacher resurfaces from wherever he was to offer his input in the new case against Barr. Teaming up with Counsellor Helen Rodin who's trying to keep Barr off death row, they uncover new evidence that proves Barr's innocence of the murders. A series of events leads Reacher to be framed for the murder of a young girl which puts him in a race against a corrupt cop, a Ukrainian construction business owner/mob boss known only as the Zec who had only 3 fingers (or was it 2..), the Zec's entire mob squad, the Zec's highly trained sniper and tactics right hand man and of course the cops who are actually looking for Reacher (whom we only remembered were on the case when we heard their sirens at the end of the movie).

After Helen is kidnapped and Jack assures us he actually isn't a hero and wouldn't broker a deal for her release, he changes his mind and sets the stage for a Van damme/Chuck Norris styled 'let's – fight – like – men 90's confrontation' with the Zec's right hand man. Following a lead and needing assistance, He enlists the help of former U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Cash who owned a sniper gallery where Barr frequented and apparently so did Reacher but they left that detail out till much much later. Then armed with a knife that was the only weapon Cash let him have and Cash himself (doubling as Reacher's trusty sidekick), they storm the cut-off-from-civilization construction site that we love so much for action movies, where after getting rid of the unimportant baddies, he and the Zec's right hand man face off in the let's throw down our guns and fight like men 90's style confrontation I mentioned they set the stage for earlier. And what's a super generic fight scene without a heavy downpour to go with it? Cool huh? (Or am I confusing that with the super generic downpour in dance flicks? Anyway) So he kills off the Zec's right hand man, then he kills of Detective Emerson who was the dirty cop afterall and then proceeds to finish off the Zec as well when he realized he was going to walk despite all the evidence against him (all deaths occurred in that order FYI).

I may not have mentioned this earlier but Reacher and Helen had horrible chemistry during the entire movie. They had this ''we're flirting but we're not really flirting and the audience will get a kick out of how we played it" act. We didn't but the filmmakers must have thought it was cute and kept bringing it up. And with that Jack Reacher and the retired Sgt Cash ride off into the night together. In closing, the unconscious Barr thought he actually committed the murders and was living in fear for when Reacher would come around and mete out the punishment he was promised if he ever screwed up again. Then he began to cry like a little girl.

As mildly entertaining as Jack Reacher was, it comes off as a stale and cheesy movie with too many unnecessary shots, terrible character development and wooden dialogue, over flogged movie clichés and severe plot holes. 1st it gets mildly exciting then becomes unbearable then becomes mildly bearable again until you creep to the very end and run out of the theatre hoping that Tom Cruise's sound track record had not been irreparably destroyed again (Yes I'm referring to Knight & Day). Oddly enough, the acting from (almost) everyone came off as painfully average but passable, it's like they were being great actors by acting so badly. The studio may not be saddling the sequel horse anytime soon even with the movie bringing in $216,568,266 on its humble $60 million budget. We don't know why but we're really glad.

At this point I should make a pun about bad novel to movie adaptations but who am I to judge a movie avid cruise fans MAY love? A total let-down of a film but we'll survive and pray unceasingly that they don't make a sequel.

Moments: The shot where Reacher easily steps out of the slowed car and blends into the civilians at the bus stop was hilarious. And clever. Perhaps the ONLY clever scene in the movie. I'm just saying.

The Avengers.

Cast: Robert downey Jnr, Scarlett Johanssen, Mark Ruffalo, Samule L Jackson,
Director: Joss Whedon

It's not accidental that this movie carries the action movie of the year sticker. Despite the fact that we had 5 marvel movies prior to the avengers initiative to prepare, nothing could've prepared us for what we eventually saw. To sum up what we know into few words, the avengers is a story about an unlikely band of familiar superheroes coming together to save the world from Thor's Asgardian half-brother's grand schemes of subjugating the world. Remember Loki? Of course you do. These heroes; Iron Man, Captain America, Hawkeye, Black Widow, Thor and The Hulk or The Avengers as they call themselves all come under the umbrella of Nick Fury and S.H.I.E.L.D played by the magnificent Samuel L Jackson. Remember when I said they banded together to save the world? Yeah, they succeeded. Enough said.

Reiterating, Avengers is undoubtedly the action movie funfest of the year (Yes, ranking over expendables 2 and others). It was just a perfect blend of everything we didn't know we needed to see or have from a superhero team up. I can never mention enough how it was some kind of action movie orchestra. Everyone got equal screen time (okay almost equal screen time), the script though generic in some ways was near flawless, thumbs up to Zak Penn and Joss Whedon for that and of course the portrayals from the entire main cast was remarkable and near flawless as well. Mark Ruffalo playing hulk may have had some big shoes to fill replacing Edward Norton but he did really great.

So now let's skip to the accolades. On a budget of $220 million, the avengers earned a whopping $392.5 million worldwide in its opening weekend making it the biggest opening weekend and the fastest film to gross $1 billion dollars. It's theatre run earned it $1.51 billion earning it the third spot on the list of highest grossing films of all time behind titanic and followed closely by Deathly hallows 2 and Transformers 3. It's also the highest grossing superhero movie of all time. The commercial success of the film as well as its delivery has undoubtedly raised the bar rather high for marvel and other superhero movies (Man of steel, let's see you top that).

Marvel phase 2, as it's popularly called now has been officially kicked off with Iron man 3 set for a summer 2013 release. Sequels to Thor, Captain America are also in production that will inevitably culminate to an Avengers sequel with Whedon at its helm once again. Its release date has been set for 2015. So until then, DC comics, eat your heart out.

Moments: There's the "Avengers assemble" moment where there's the 360 degree view of all 6 of them.
(If we don't mention that, we're going to jail for sure).

esses strong psychic abilities. A series of unfortunate events leads them to a district controlled by a not so nice (to put it mildly) drug king… er…queen pin named 'Mama' played by Lena Headey who's narcotic business is threated by the presence of Dredd and Anderson who have taken an associate of hers prisoner. To diffuse the situation, she calls on all members of her gang living within the complex to hunt both judges down and kill them. So Dredd and Anderson proceed to battle the forces of evil wielding semi-automatics and shotguns the raid: redemption style but without all the super cool kung fu moves.

The movie has all the trappings of a great blockbuster movie, a nice paced score by Paul Leonard Morgan, great visual effects and an okay story to go with it. The costumes and props were just really nice and totally believable. You'll get that it's not going to be let's-hold-hands-and-sing movie wen a van hits a pedestrian and blood splatters on the windshield in the opening chase sequence and the unexpectedness of it all kept the movie exciting seeing as a lot of action movie clichés were thankfully absent. Karl urban, Olivia Thirlby and Lena Headey's portrayals were really great. Urban brought a layered but insanely strong and stoic personality to the character which we appreciate. And seeing that Dredd's face (just like in the comics) was never shown, that was some feat he pulled off.

Dredd didn't do as well in its cinematic run as one would've expected from such an effort because it didn't break even on its $45 million budget, taking in $1.7 million in its opening weekend and a measly $36.4 million in its entire run. Never fear though, In sequels we trust, even though they let us down sometimes but this is one sequel I'll stand in line to see and most probably (not) buy on DVD as well.

Moments: There was a part where Judge Anderson entered the mind of the suspect they were dragging along with them and extracted information they needed in a very unorthodox fashion. It was….really really nice.

DREDD

Cast: Karl Urban, Lena Heady, Olivia Thirlby
Director: Pete Travis

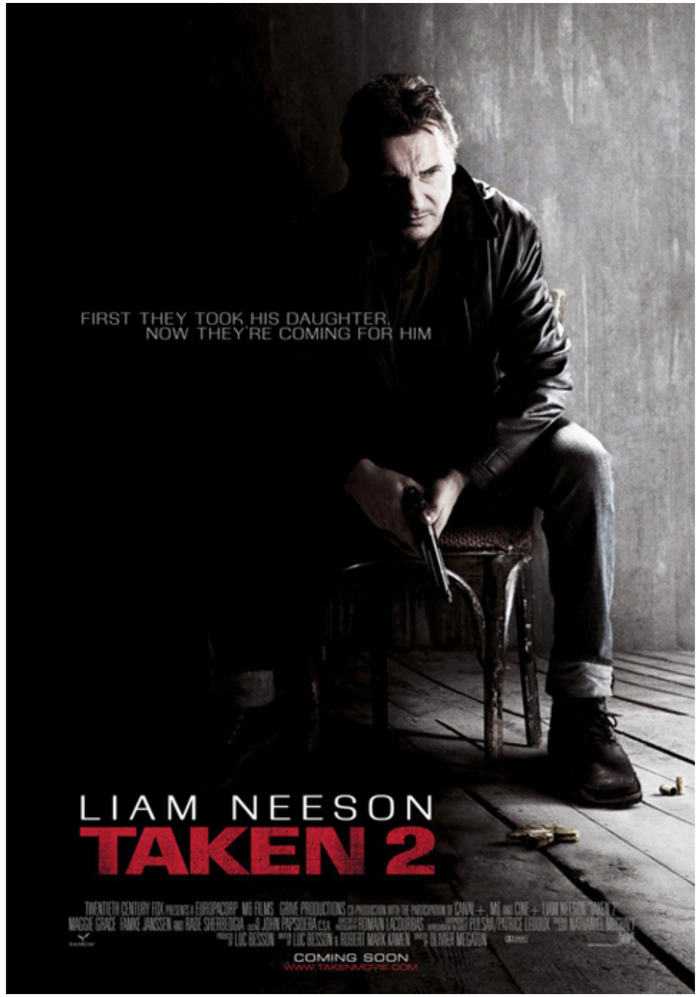
Dredd is an action science fiction movie based on the British comic strip 'AD 2000' created by John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerra. Thankfully it's not a remake of that awful 1995 Sylvester Stallone adaption 'Judge Dredd'. Anyways Dredd is a story set in a post-apocalyptic future which crime runs amok in the numerous surviving walled cities. The hall of justice as said, is the only thing fighting for order in the chaos in these cities. The hall of justice employs the service of judges who serve as judge, jury and executioner in the decadent walled city of Mega City 1. One of such judges is the hotshot Judge Dredd played by Karl Urban, who gets gets assigned to 'babysit' a new rookie 'Judge Anderson' who poss-

TAKEN 2.

Cast: Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen, Rade Šerbedžija.
Director: Olivier Megaton

I Took time out of my busy schedule to review the worst movie of last year. I wrote a whole page on it, then I cut it down to something waay simpler and easier to understand. Not taking into consideration that my anger towards the film was absolutely visible and all over the place on that article but for the mere fact that giving it an entire page would be giving it too much credit.

After the events of the first movie, Liam Neeson's character Bryan Mills, his daughter and his wife are re-adjusting to the aftermath of it all and trying to get Maggie Grace's Kim character to learn how to drive which isn't going very well. Let me point out that Maggie grace is actually 29 and is playing a teenager in both movies and as much as I want to talk about how much of a misfire that is let's move on. Lenore (Famke Janssen) is going through a very convenient divorce when the movie opens and Kim has a new boyfriend who for all we know had the same effectiveness and usefulness as a drab wallpaper in an abandoned apartment building. The father of the guy that Bryan electrocuted has sworn to avenge his son and the others and does so by setting out to abduct Bryan and his entire family as they are conveniently in Istanbul. Bryan and Lenore are cornered but not before Bryan calls his daughter amidst those trigger happy gunmen (who waited for him by the way) to conveniently inform her that they were going to be taken. In fact, allow me to quote that. *Brian dials phone (in full view of the trigger happy gunmen with assault rifles) Kim, listen to me very carefully (in Liam Neeson's great voice), your mother and I are about to be taken. See? Not generic at all right? So after they were taken, there was this amazing thing he did with a very tiny phone and getting his daughter to throw grenades and conveniently find where they were



were. I think the filmmakers forgot that they actually took Bryan all across a river or sea or something but let's move on. To cut the long story short, Kim saves her dad, her dad saves her from being shot in the head, Kim and her dad had a really boring car – shoot em up chase, then….yep, you guessed it. Kim's dad kills everyone (no really, EVERYONE) who was affiliated with the bad guys and to save Kim's mom. The movie ends with Kim passing her driving test and asking her dad to not shoot her 'wallpaper character' of a boyfriend as they shared smoothies in a diner. The end.

Oh and the movie did rather well in the box office, taking in $374, 187, 209. It may not have been so obvious but Taken 2 was actually a really bad movie. Incredibly bad even. You won't believe that amount of cheesiness and stupidity could be squeezed into a single 1 and a half hour movie. You have failed us Mr Neeson, this is your fault.

Moments: .....Wait for it.....wait for it.....

THE POSSESSION.

The possession is a 2012 horror movie directed by Ole Bornedal.

It all starts and ends with this box that Clyde Brenek (Jeffery Dean Morgan) gets for his daughter from a yard sale which turned out to be more ominous and ultimately dangerous to him and his entire crazy family's life and safety so he seeks out help from a young, hip Jewish rabbi to get rid of the evil entity that resides within the box. For what it's worth, the plot is not that sketchy at all though but that's pretty much the gist of it. The film also stars Kyra Sedgwick, Natasha Calis and Madison Davenport as Clyde's Wife and two daughters.

To me the movie was actually a good fit and a refreshing take on the whole demonic possession genre. It was slow and steadily paced and the jolts and scare moments were sacrificed for a broader character development for Dean Morgan's character as well as his daughter's (which failed by the way). Either way, I liked how engaging the film was the entire ride. Not a movie you would likely want to see again but that's forming a pattern with movies these days so I can't or won't complain.

On a budget of $14 million dollars, it raked in an impressive $78.5 million worldwide. Of all the thrillers I saw in 2012, this was the most engaging and I'm glad I did.

Moments: There was this really cool part where u saw the 'spirit' on the images generated by an MRI machine. It just had 2 spoil it all by doing the trademark horror shout

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

The woman in black is a 2012 horror film written by Jane Goldman and directed by James Watkins, It stars Daniel Radcliffe, Ciaran Hinds and Janet McTeer.

It tells the story of a struggling father who…wait a minute… The first story it tells is of 3 children who jump to their deaths after they see something. Now, it tells the story of a struggling father who in a bid to keep his job and sustain his son after his wife's untimely demise is sent to an isolated manor by his employer to sort out the paperwork to have the house sold. Unbeknownst to him, the house is haunted by a woman (in black) who's still mighty pissed about her child being taken away from hereven in death. I'd continue this sordid but rather intriguing tale but that would just be redundant.

Everyone loves a good ghost story. Especially one that comes from such a great book as Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black'. Director, James Watkins' adaptation may not be one for keeps or a classic but it does deliver good on its source material and leaves more than a few chills and scares in its wake and serves as a good coming out of the harry potter shadow for Radcliffe.

The woman in black earned $127.7 million worldwide and turned out to be the highest selling British horror film in recent years.

AMERICAN REUNION

Let's face it, the teenage comedy American Pie presents: The book of love which was the 7th instalment of the series was a HORRIBLE MOVIE. I remember wishing for a perfect universe where a new movie would reunite the entire original cast for one more raunchy, hilarious ride. Wishes apparently grow on trees because my disappointment turned into anticipation when I heard American Reunion had gone into production and then the nail biting began. Written and directed by Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg, It's the 8th instalment of the American pie franchise and the 4th in the original series serving as a sequel to 2003's American wedding.

Set 13 years after their high school, the plot follows Jim and his unlikely group of friends as they return to East great falls for their high school reunion. Every one of them is all grown up and dealing with their personal issues but all decided to meet up anyway and have some fun which from experience, usually doesn't go very well.

A truly hilarious take on friendship, love and relationships, American reunion's strength lay in its familiarity with loyal audiences but still open enough for first timers to enjoy as well. The cast were nostalgically brilliant. Rated R, the film had way more nudity than any in the original series. Eugene levy who is the only cast member to appear in all 8 films was his very warm awkward self, much to our delight.

Reunion opened at Number 2 at the box office and took in an impressive $21.5 million in its opening weekend and $234.7 million worldwide on its $50 million budget. Quoting the village voice's review "what's next? American Midlife Crisis? American Retirement? American Funeral? We're game. Let's go!

IDENTITY THIEF

Identity Thief is a 2013 comedy film written by Craig Mazin directed by Seth Gordon. It stars Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy, T.I, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet and was released on February 8th 2013.

Sandy Patterson (Jason Bateman) is a regular guy who gets his identity stolen and taken for all he has by Diana (Melissa McCarthy). He decides to track Diana down after he gets arrested by the police for crimes she's committed with his identity as Sandy Patterson and also in a bid to save his job. She doesn't turn out to be the pushover he was expecting and they both get tangled in a series of very unfortunate events that threaten their lives, resolve and code of conduct.

The film's plot although well-meaning was so horrendously written and badly executed that it took the snake bite scene to shock me back into barely enduring the movie to its highly predictable end. The acting was great on the other hand, it was too bad they were stuck in a bad (but well meaning) movie. Identity thief opened at number 1 at the box office with $34.5 million in its first weekend and has grossed $157,032,335 ever since.

Moments: The snake bite to the neck scene was just priceless.

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THE TECH PAGES

A WHOLE NEW DOOR

Windows® 8™

By John "Jeneiro" Oniefu Paul

Starting up a computer running on the Windows 8 operating system is every geek's dream and every gadget lover's as well. Not entirely because it was written in the "tech prophecy book" but for the idea and sheer hope that we all craved something a tad different from Microsoft's previous operating systems namely Windows 7 and the unbelievably unstable Windows Vista. If these weren't reason enough to wait patiently and even install developer versions of windows 8, the pure, unadulterated love of everything new and fresh with the seemingly endless possibilities it carries with it should have done or should do the trick.

Windows 8 from the perspective of someone who ideally cannot be classified as a 'geek' and will also not fall into the classification of the vast majority of those who just want the latest gadgets or computer upgrades is difficult to write on because I am basically all of the above but a pinch from both worlds will be fair enough. The first glance at Microsoft's Windows 8 user interface got me thinking of a toddler who is given a pack of crayons and assigned the job of making things come alive with colour. I'm going to skip over the perks and speed of installing the OS onto a capable pc for the benefit of non-techies and go straight to worshipping the start page that greets you when your computer quickly boots. The Windows 8 graphical user interface (GUI)) when compared with previous versions of the windows operating system looks very unofficial and happy as a friend of mine refers to it. In addition to its unofficial nature and being very easy on the eyes, it still strikes that balance between a great OS that means business and a fun one as well. Basically it depends on who's actually looking at the interface but whether you choose to see windows 8 from a business or pleasure standpoint, its looks have NOTHING to do with its functionality which happens to be off the charts. Taking a critical look at the GUI, it would not be too difficult to see what the designers had in mind with its layout which is to 'touch the heart of the customers' but the keyword in that phrase is TOUCH. The aim? Primarily to match the technological evolution of touch screens or touch surfaces that are fast replacing track pads, keyboards and mice. That's all. The truth is that every new technological break in the hardware sector requires a befitting user friendly software to go with it, hence The MS Surface and the windows phone carrying the brilliant Windows 8 OS is Microsoft's response to the world of tablet devices and smartphones that it seems to be lagging behind in. The MS surface is the only tablet device that comes with its own detachable keyboard and befitting stand that gives it a look that mimics a small but very pretty, efficient laptop while the windows phone from various manufacturers ; Nokia, HTC etc is a great step forward from the drab interfaces its predecessors sported in the past. Did I mention the MS surface is an awesome gadget? No? Okay moving on.

. The Microsoft surface
. Windows 8 phone from HTC

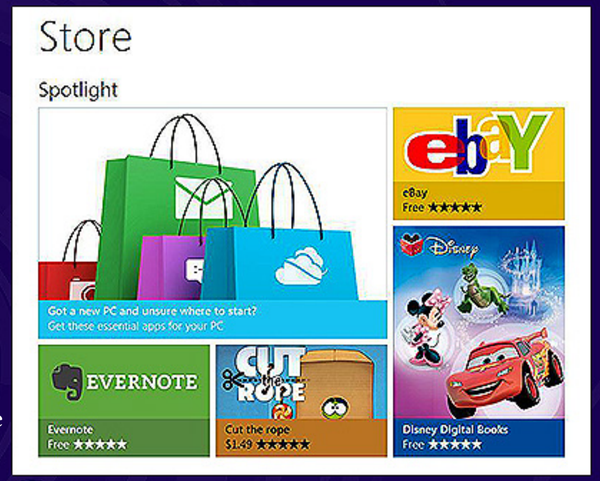
We won't be wrong to say the short period between the releases of windows 8 and 7 was as a result of an irrevocable technological advancement and there was no sense in stalling to give the consumers the "I can't wait anymore feeling". Without going into so much detail, the primary features of the Windows 8 include the new USB 3.0 with its third party drivers, a touch-centric tile based user interface, a link to various default applications or others that could be downloaded from the windows store as well as a link to the desktop are beautifully spread out when the start button is clicked, repeating the same action result releases the start menu to the desktop that you should probably know and love by now. The tiled start page looks incredibly cooler than what was offered on previous windows OS's. The Snap multi-tasking which allows you to run two programs simultaneously without giving either of them priority over the other is another really great idea built into it, I can't leave out the new Internet Explorer 10 that nobody is still going to use, a new security feature which allows you not to only have the option of a password for a user or users but it also allows you to have a pin for that user with your choice of a combinational numerical input. An increased support for multiple monitors is another cool feature as well as the windows reset option on your PC page which allows users to reinstall their version of Windows 8 without going to look for a DVD or make you worry about serial code as the installation files are already save on the computer's physical hard disk. The OS is stable so far and its updates come with cool stuff you actually didn't think you needed but you were dying from lack of it. All that said, the only complaint I think I ever got was from a friend who was vehemently complaining about how unfair 8 is to users who do not have internet or seldom get access to it. It's my immense pleasure and displeasure to tell you that the windows 8 OS's full capabilities and beauty is complete when it is connected to the internet, not that you cannot use your computer and grin from ear

to ear as u explore your new toy, it's just that your computer may not smile back as much as you'd expect it to. FYI, it does not come with the magnificent Office 2013 but you should totally buy that as it completes the windows experience. Using the Office 2010 or lower versions on Windows 8 is like buying a new car and taking the seat covers from the old car and fixing it into the new one. YUK! These features briefly highlighted don't even scratch the surface of the beauty and functionality of Windows 8.

One thing is certain though, The Windows 8 is not a let-down in any way possible as it is an improvement on previous versions but as it is said judgment is best passed when the judge gets a first-hand experience of he presides over. So please, study to be a judge today and give kudos to Microsoft and the brains behind the Windows 8 OS, they did rather well and I'd rather leave the judging to them…or to us because well, we DO know what we're talking about.

PS: You remember how I said I there would be a brief review of its features? I lied.

. The windows store
. Microsoft Office 2013
. The Windows 8 Search panel
. The Multimedia 8 Application



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YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH IF YOU BUY THESE

ACER ASPIRE V3-551-8458

Unless you have a lot of cash to spend on a really great laptop that than can fly, okay not really fly but a very efficient, strong and pretty laptop all in one, you always think of striking that balance between performance, beauty, space, spice and everything nice against your budget. It's not common to find these kinda laptops and whenever you do it's quite a relief. Acer had exactly this in mind when it created the Aspire v3-551 which is a combination of all those aforementioned things (that makes your laptop fly) and slapped a $499 price tag on it (if you didn't know, $499 for the features I'm about to talk about is pretty good). Its sleek 15 inch and lightweight design incorporates an AMD quad core APU processor and 6GB of RAM into the mix with a 750GB hard disk. A 1366 * 768 HD display, 512 AMD radeon HD graphics (No, you cannot play Call of Duty: Black Ops on it), a 0.3 megapixel webcam and a comfortable keyboard. On a measly budget, that's like the Voltron of laptops if you ask me (there's been a lot of robot references in this article huh). Still not impressed by the house…err laptop that Acer built? Hold up, I think I have directions to the nearest apple store.

Price: From $499.99

MONSTER BEATS BY DRE

Still the highest and fastest selling headphone brand ever and in completely unrelated news, 'the most stolen item in the US last year' according to studies. Dr Dre's Beats headphones from MONSTER continues to outsell and outshine the competition with its eye-catching design, excellent midrange and treble response, extra padding for extra comfort for the wearer, excellent detail and of course it's signature great sound. It's a little heftier than the other models (a little means it weighs like a ton) but it gets the job done nicely. First timers and Beats loyalists will be rather thrilled with the new improvements. And if you're still sitting on the fence and don't know why you should spend good money to buy a pair of cool headphones, just think of it as a very expensive large plastic neck appendage that plays music, makes you want to take photos from your side view alone and will eventually make your friends so envious of you that you may end up in a lake somewhere… without your expensive neck appendage of course. That, they will keep.

Price: From $380.00

iPHONE 5

Everyone saw the teaser commercial for the iPhone 5 that had futuristic Star wars-like features like a Hologram display, a pull-out virtual keyboard and an ultra ultra-thin design (that was 2 ultras). You could imagine our disappointment when Apple unveiled the iPhone 5 to be a measly upgrade of the 4S with its 4 inch retina display (this just means it's got a larger display), 8mp iSight camera (a better camera), better graphics and CPU performance, excellent battery life, a way better upgrade of Siri and and ultra-thin design (That's 1 ultra). So in other words for those we've bored thus far, they made the new iPhone 18% thinner, 20% lighter and gave it sleeker headphones. The End. Nice try Apple, you know we can't hate on the iPhone even if we tried and now that you are teasing us with the iPhone 6, we're NOT biting.

Price – 32 Gb model From $299.

MICROSOFT SURFACE

It took a while but it's finally here. Microsoft's answer to tablet devices and new age mobile touch computing (*whispers 'the iPad'). Microsoft painstakingly and ingeniously designed the surface to be something different from its competition (*whispers 'the iPad') with its Intel Core i5 and Intel HD Graphics, 4GB of RAM, and the highly overrated USB 3.0. The complete uniqueness of the surface comes from its iconic kickstand and accessory spine where the Type and Touch covers magnetically click in and it masquerades as a very pretty, little laptop. Think of it as your very own little autobot that can't shoot, fly or talk. Its display is an upgrade of some other tablet devices out there but doesn't come close to others (*whispers 'the iPad'), excellent touch screen integration with the windows 8 OS, it's not much of a gaming platform but it possesses respectable battery life. And here you guys were thinking that the surface wouldn't be as fun or as cool as (*whispers 'the iPad).

Price – 128Gb Model from $900

BLACKBERRY Z10

Learning that RIM was struggling to stay afloat in the smartphone market wasn't very comforting at all. They were stuck in the 20% zone with everyone else while giants Apple and Android made off with 40% each. Sad sad story for RIM folks but never fear, they had a plan to come back with a revolutionary design that will put them back at the top or at least put them in the smartphone race once again. Enter the Blackberry Z10! It has 4G network capacity, 16Gb internal memory, an 8mp Camera, a new improved touch screen, watered down android look-alike icons, horrible battery life, some factory defects you cannot ignore and all the beautiful things we know and love about blackberrys. Sadly, all these really great features are a tad too late to catch up with what or whoever's eating the market right now. Think of it as upgrading to a super advanced nail file to fight Optimus Prime from the toothpick you were using before. Victory doesn't seem imminent as their falling shares indicate but never fear, there'll always be the next Blackberry failure to count on.

Price - from $199.99

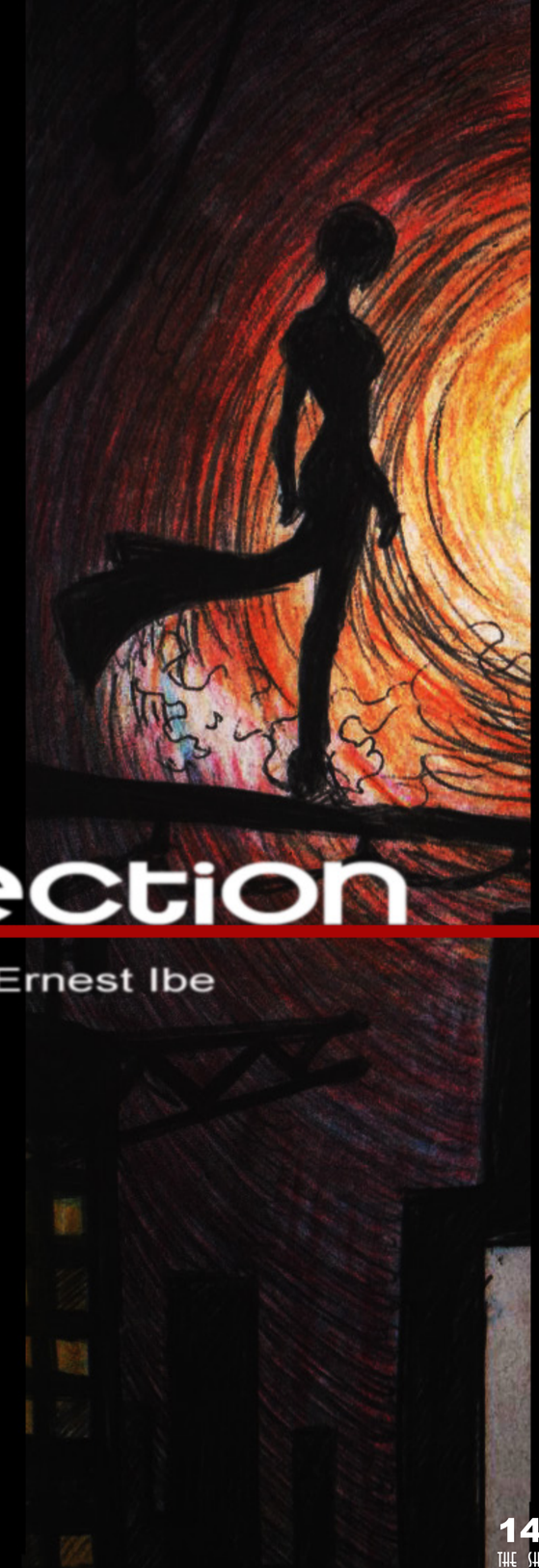
THE SHOGUNATE presents

THE STRIPS

Dark ressurection

A silent graphic novel by Ernest Ibe

PART I



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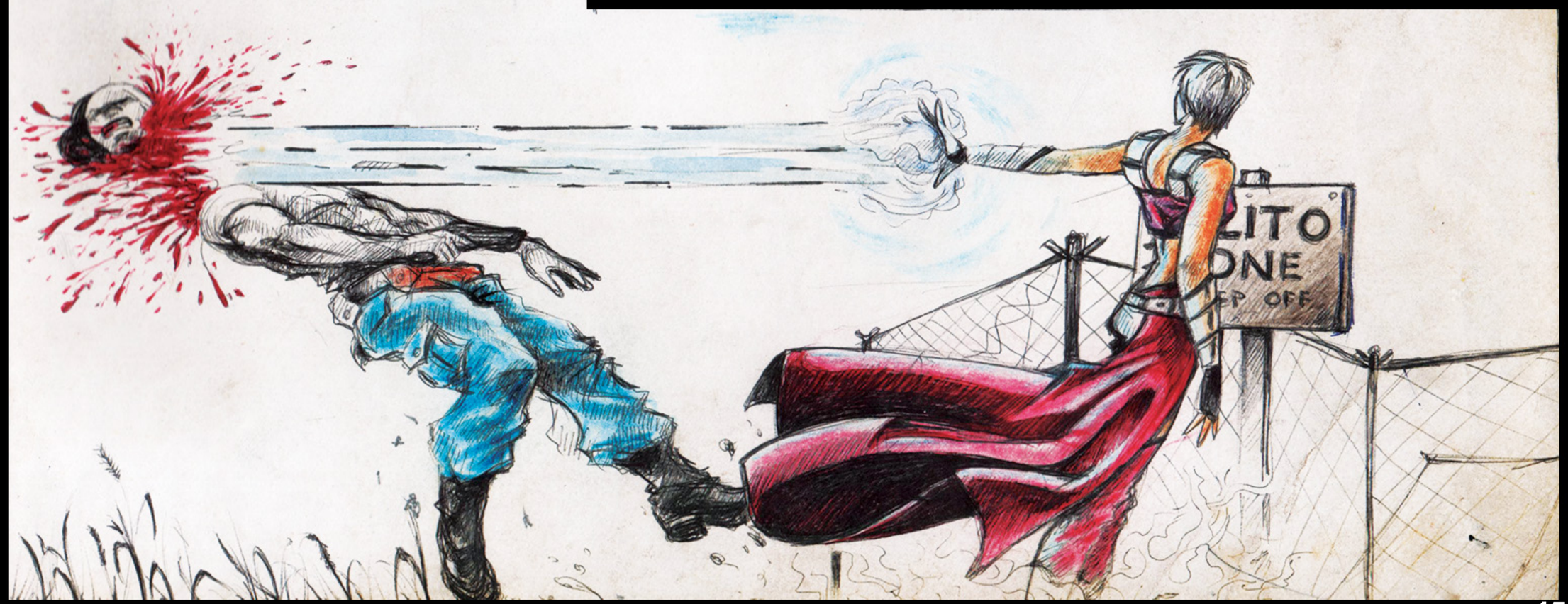
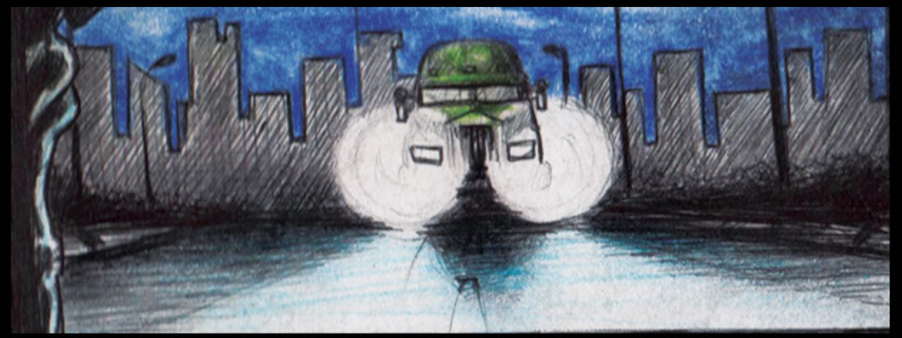
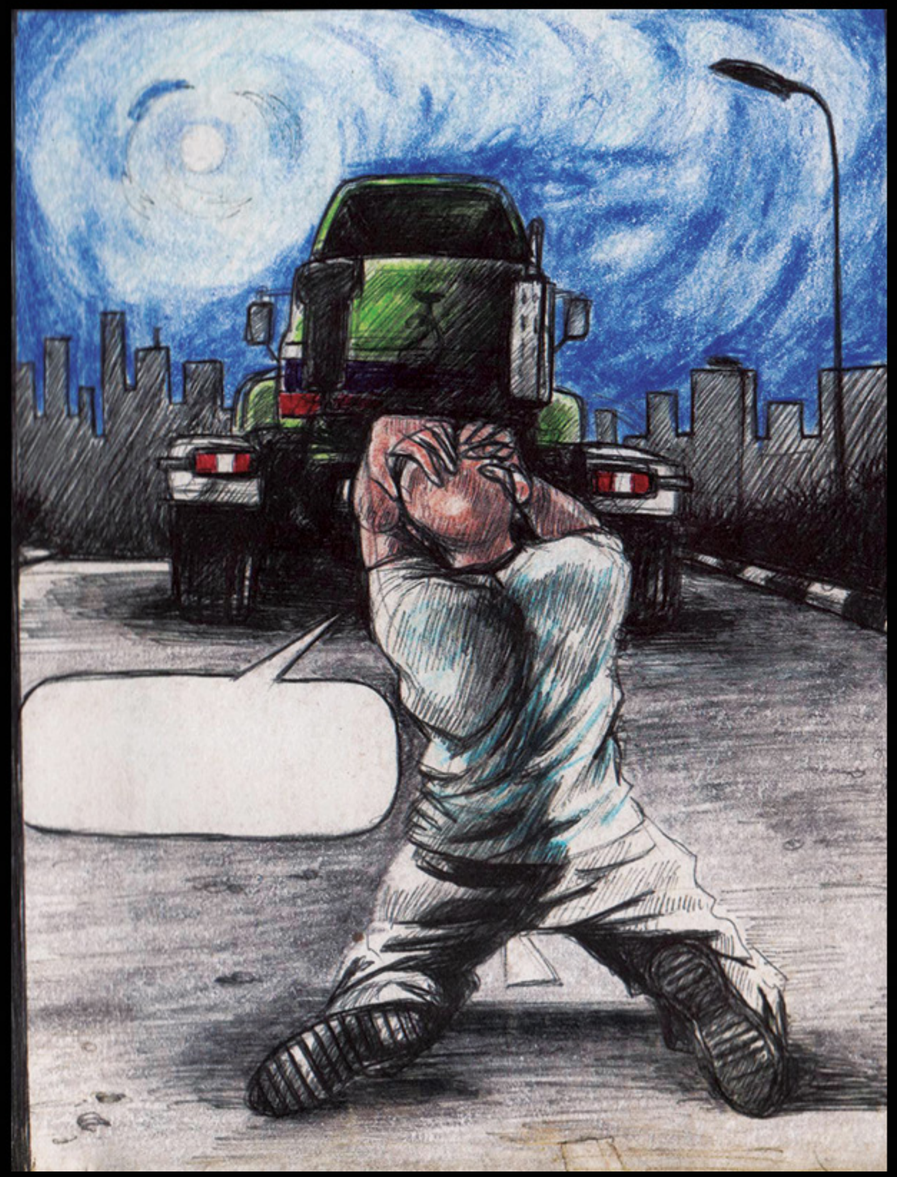
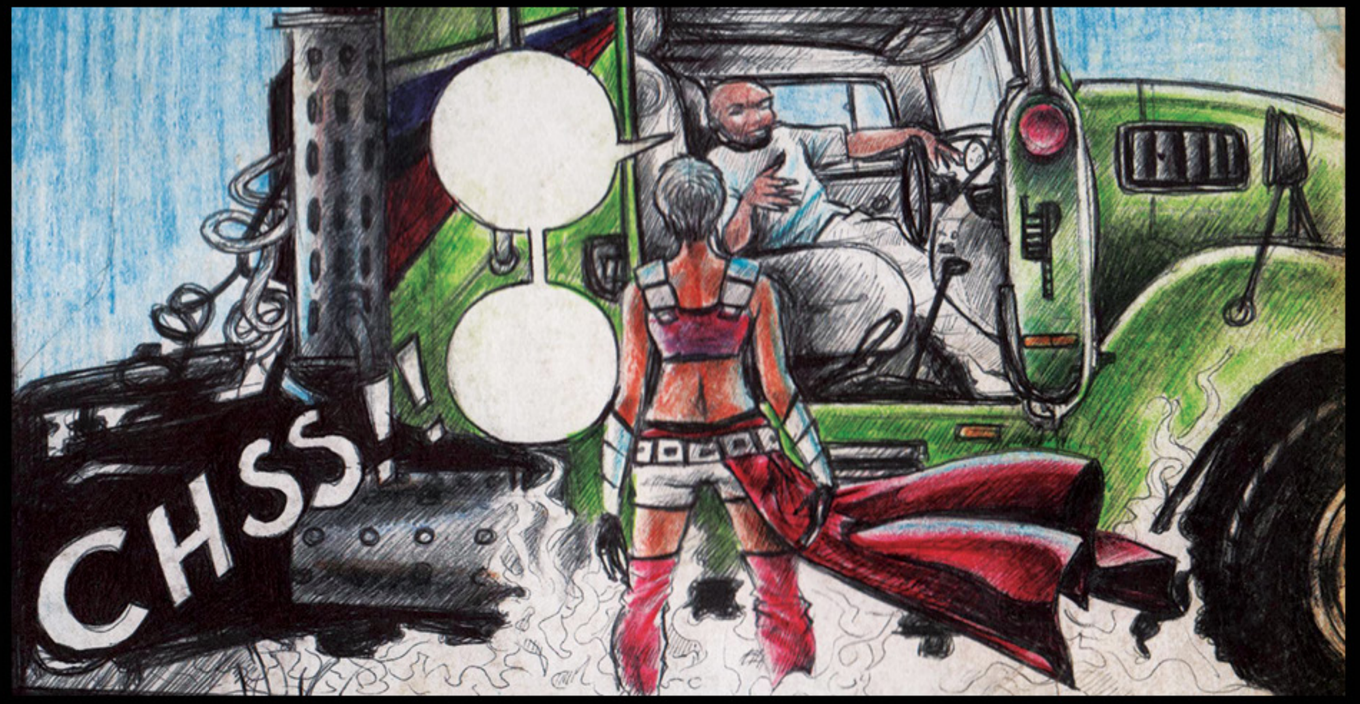
..... and so it begins





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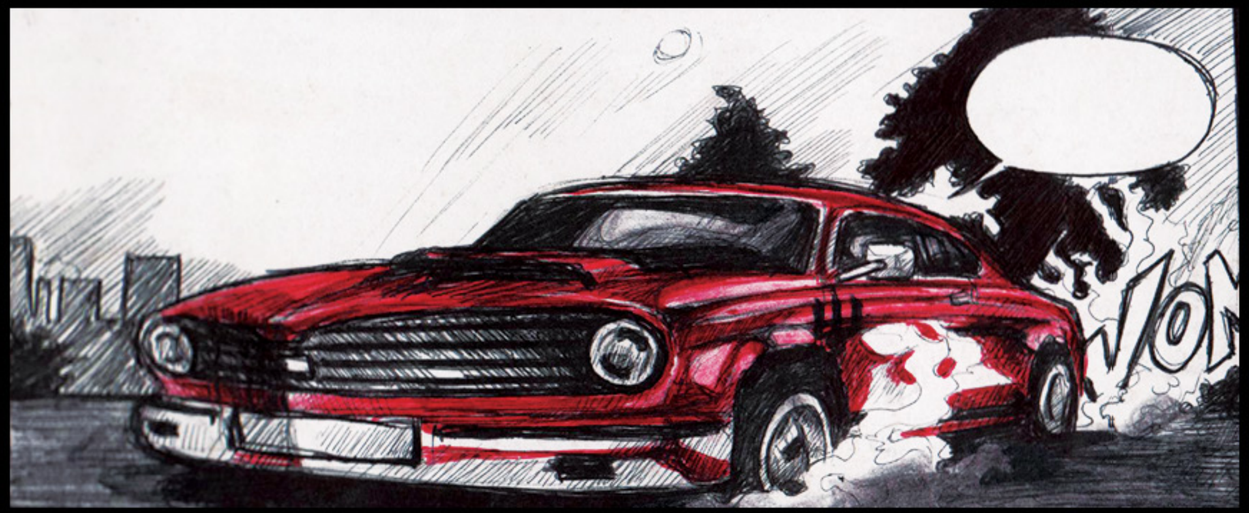
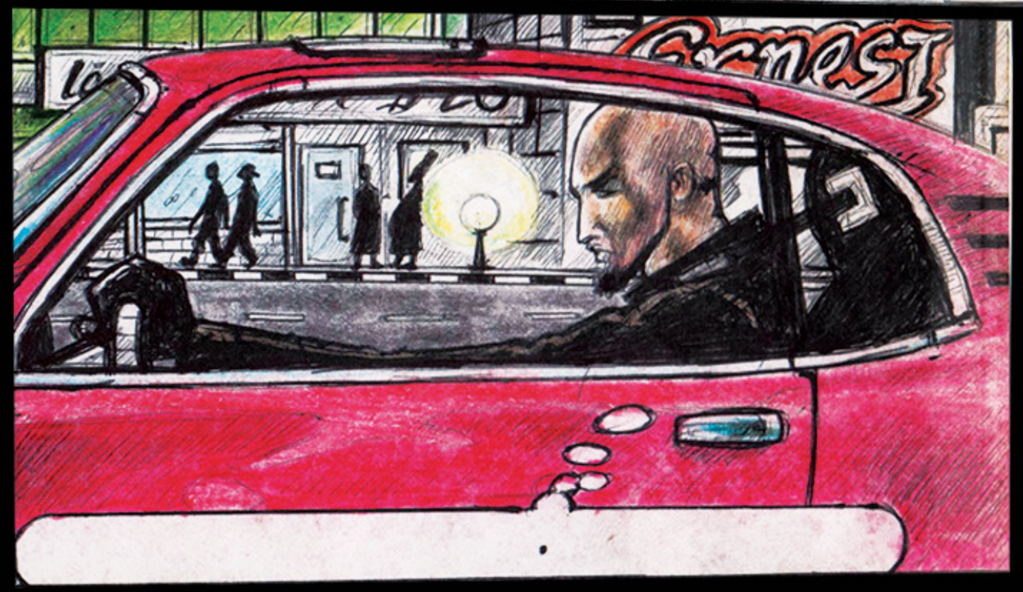
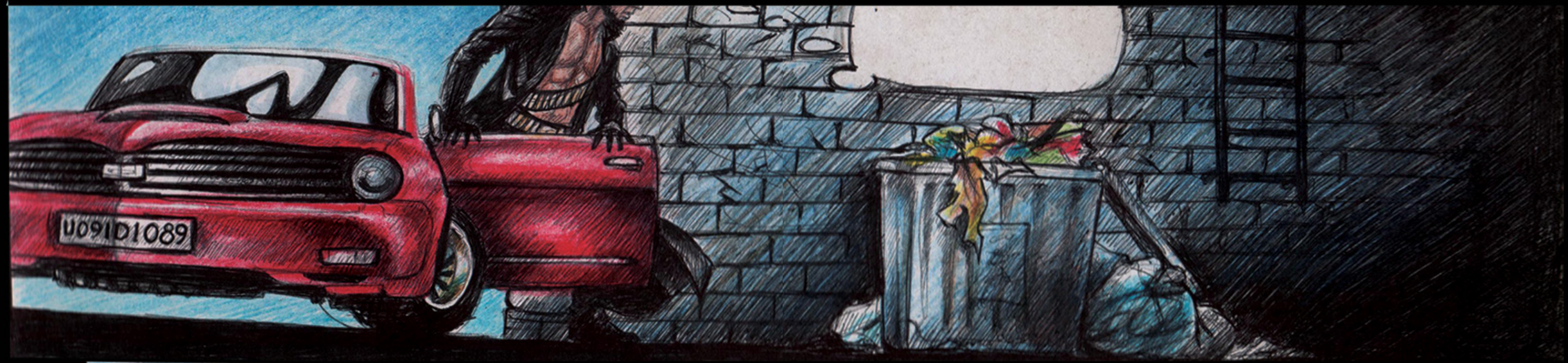
SHOW PLAZA

Meanwhile...



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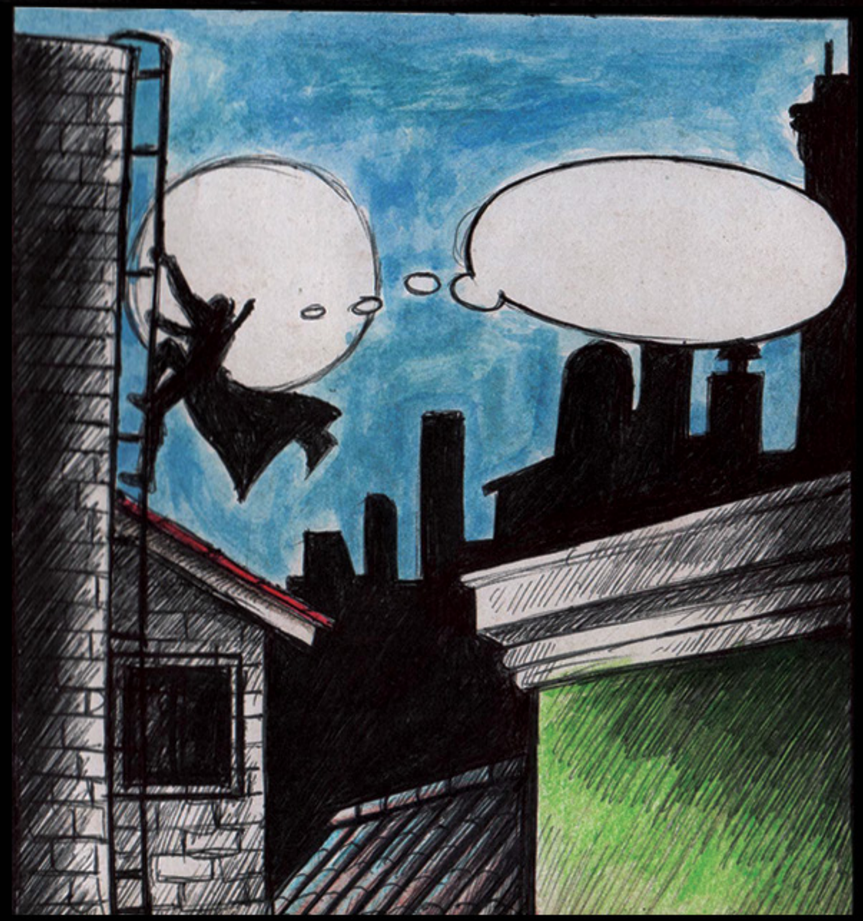
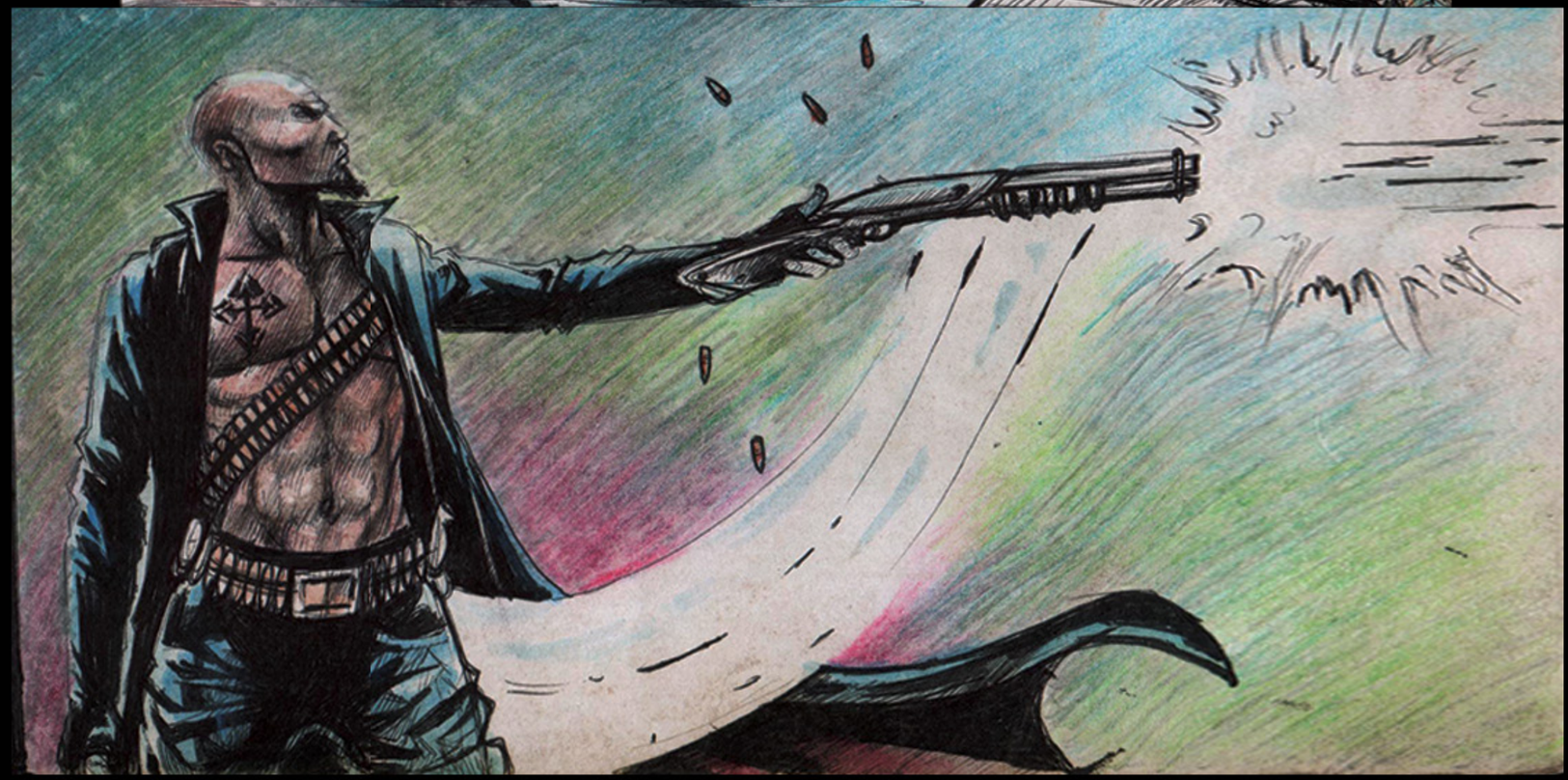
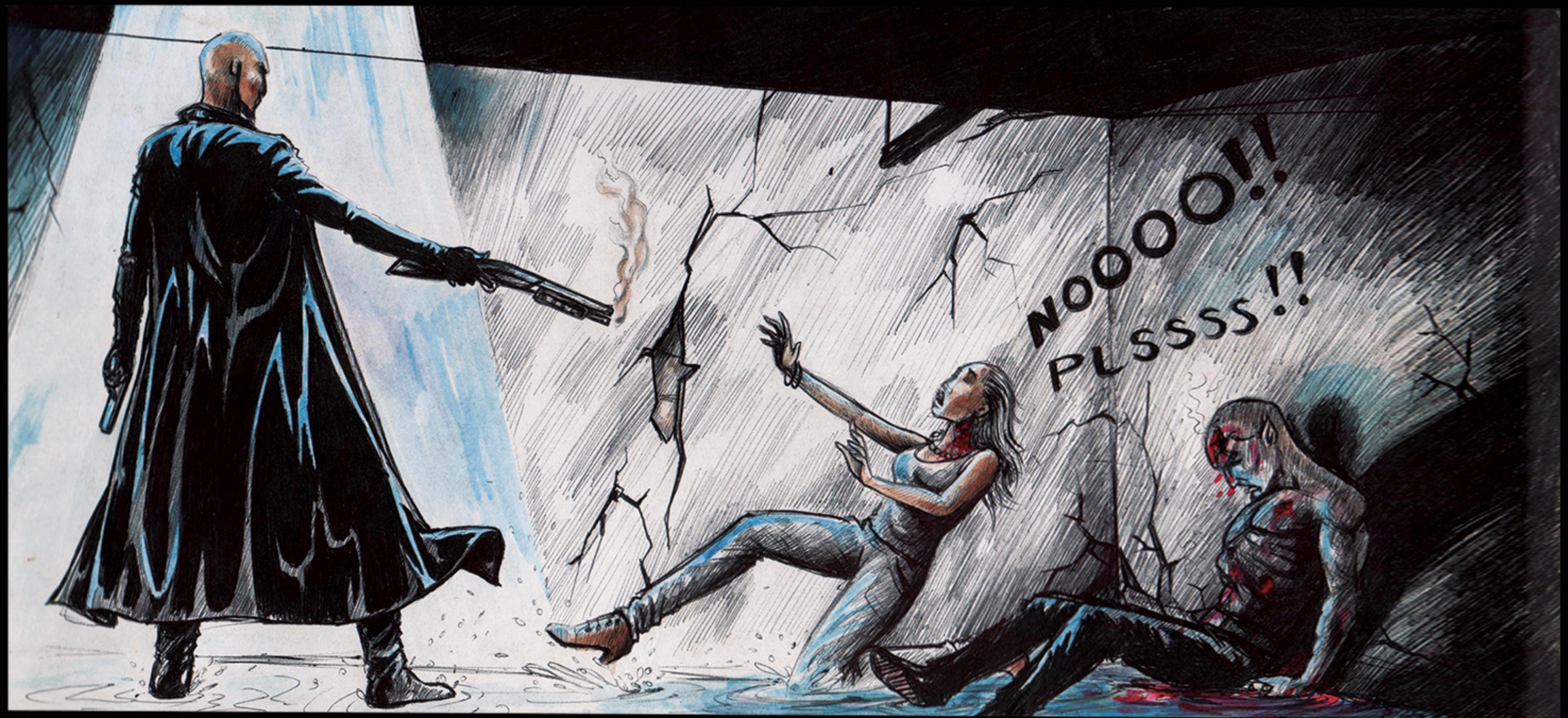
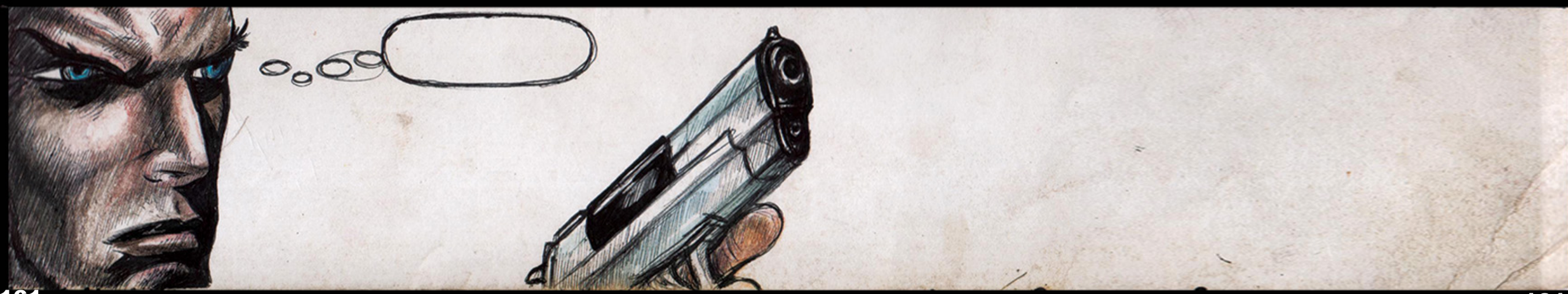
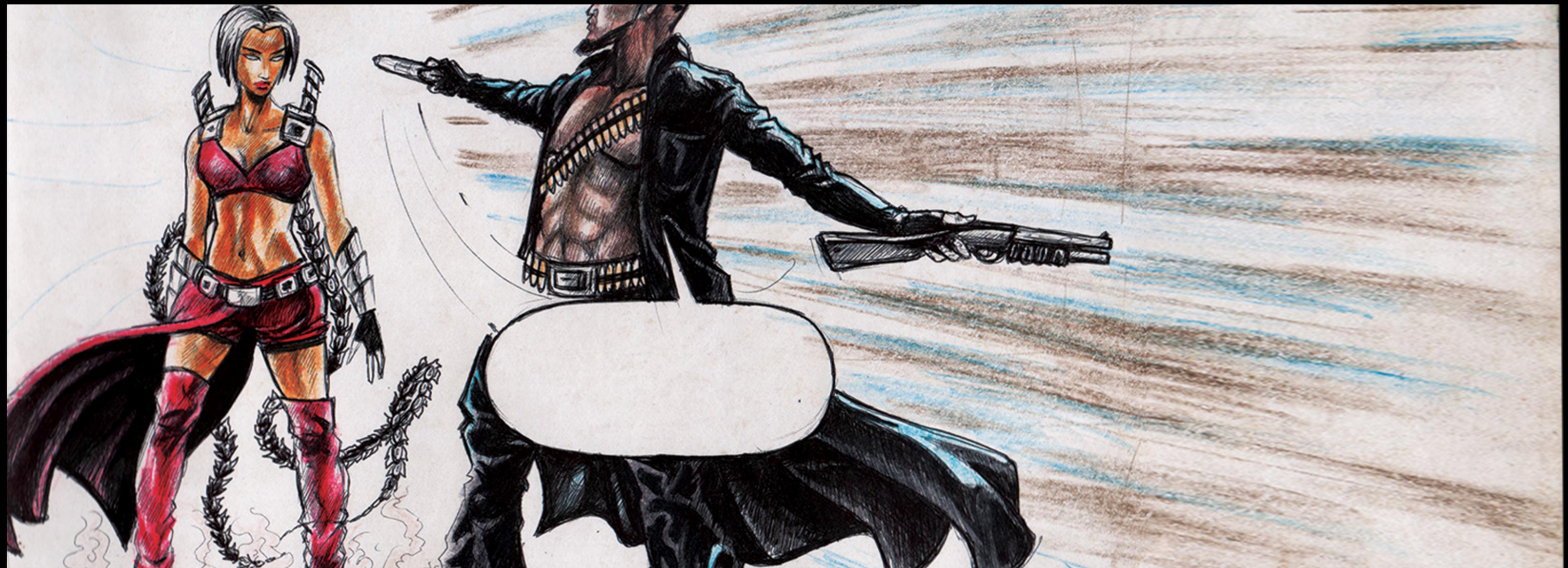








161
THE SHOGUNATE



ZUUUUPPP!!!

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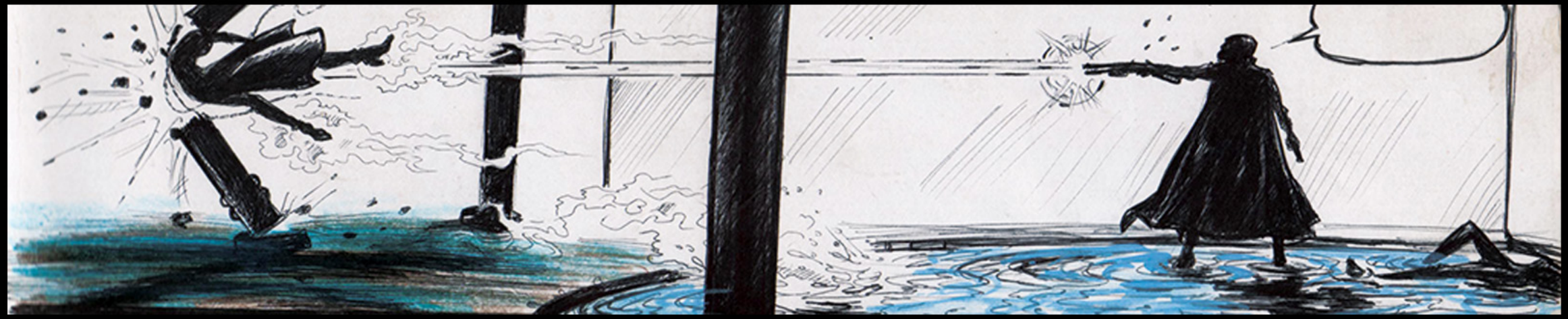
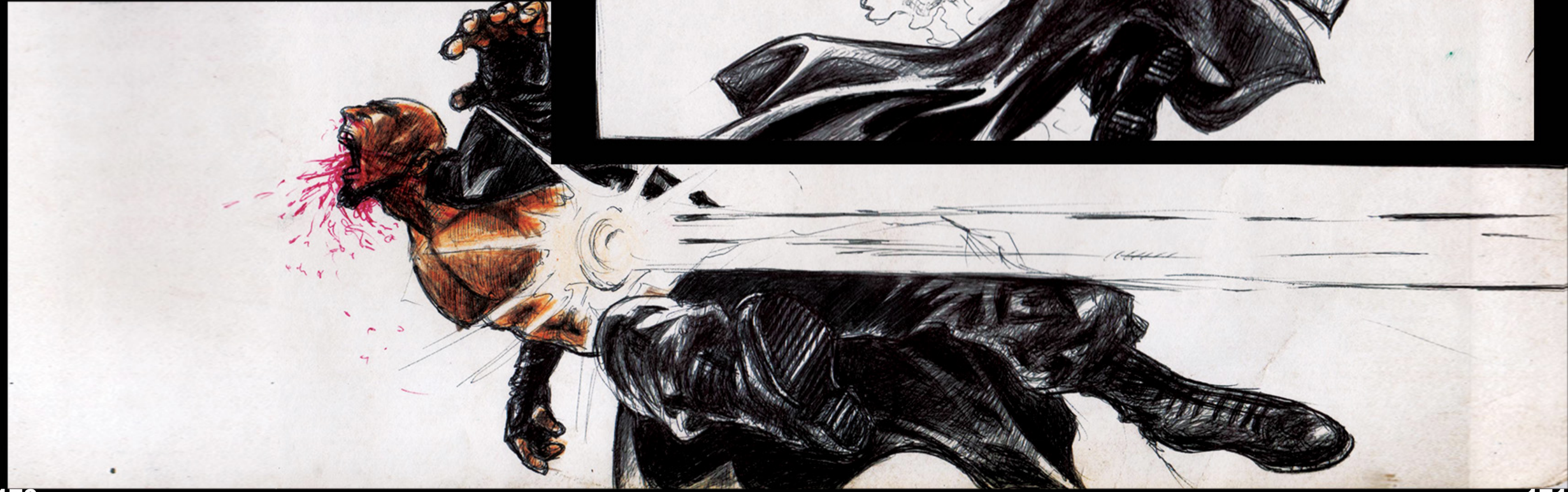


hahaha!!

Jesus!



Club
Ernest

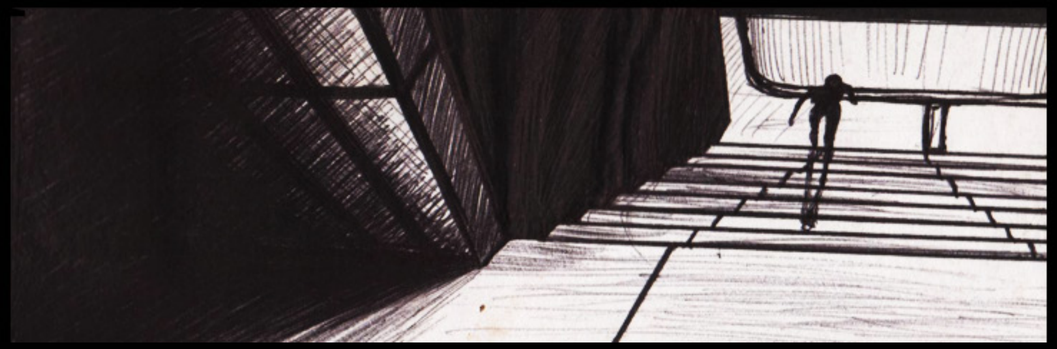
SECURITY
SECURITY

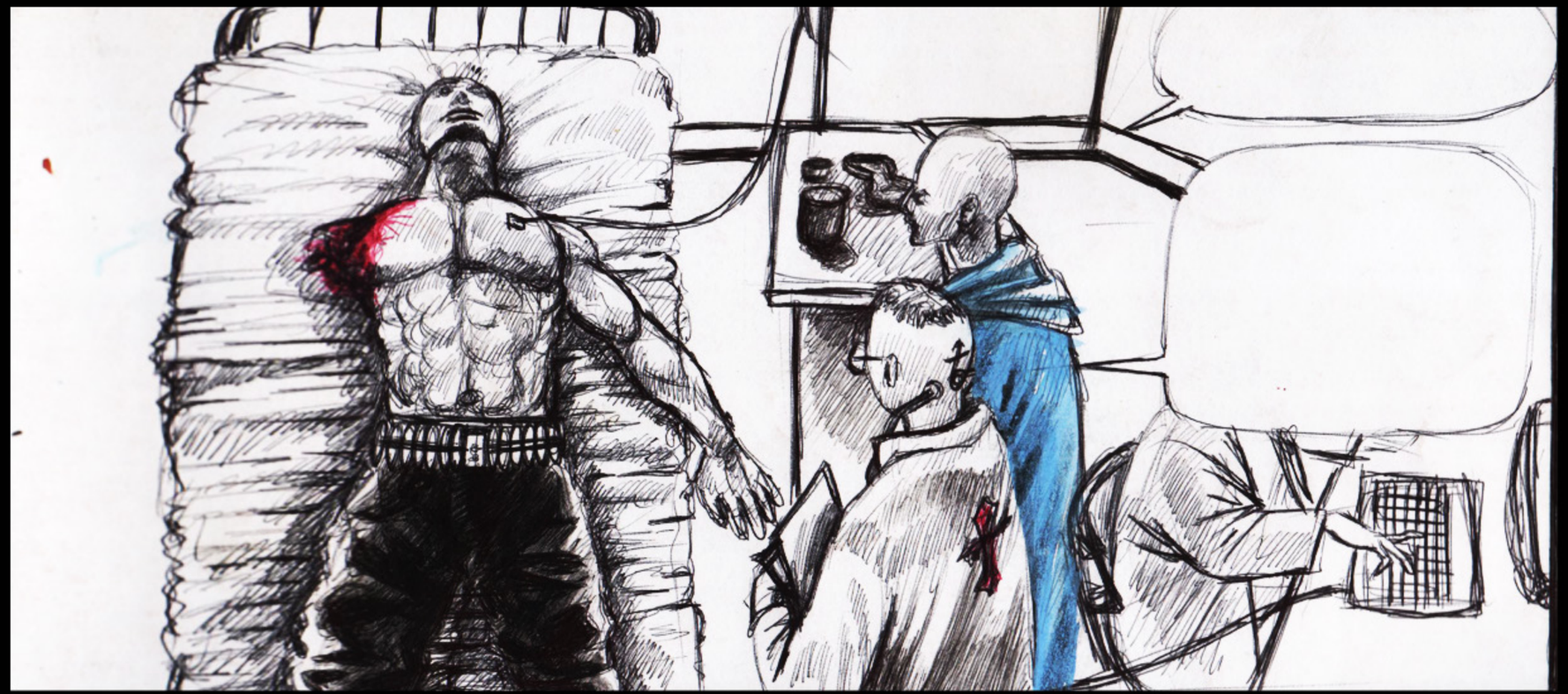
TURN THE LIGHTS OFF

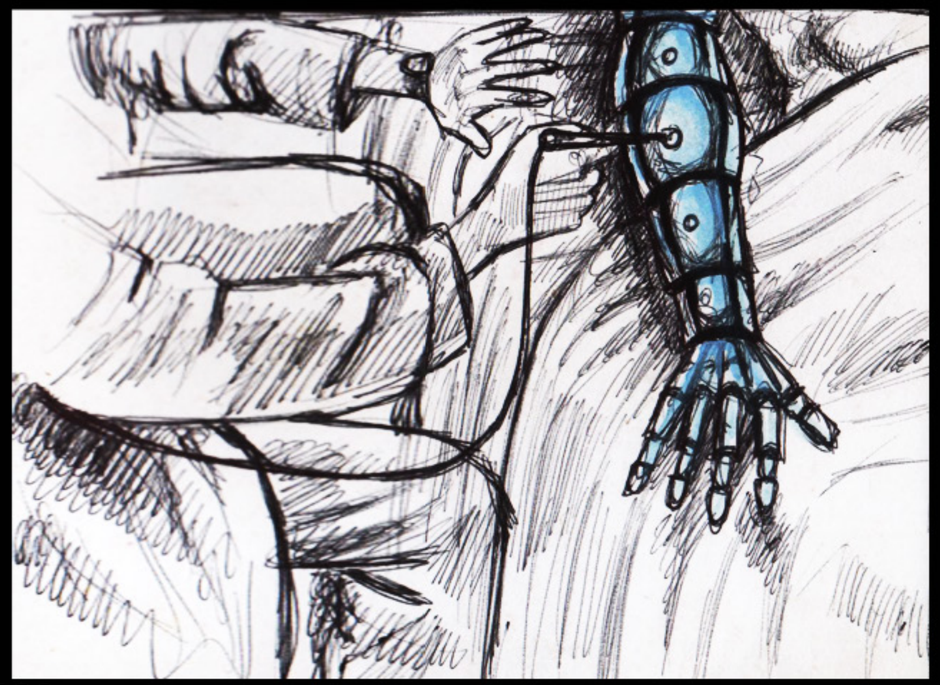
ELECTRICITY USAGE IS THE NUMBER 1 CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING. TURN OFF THE LIGHTS THAT DO NOT NEED TO BE ON TO REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

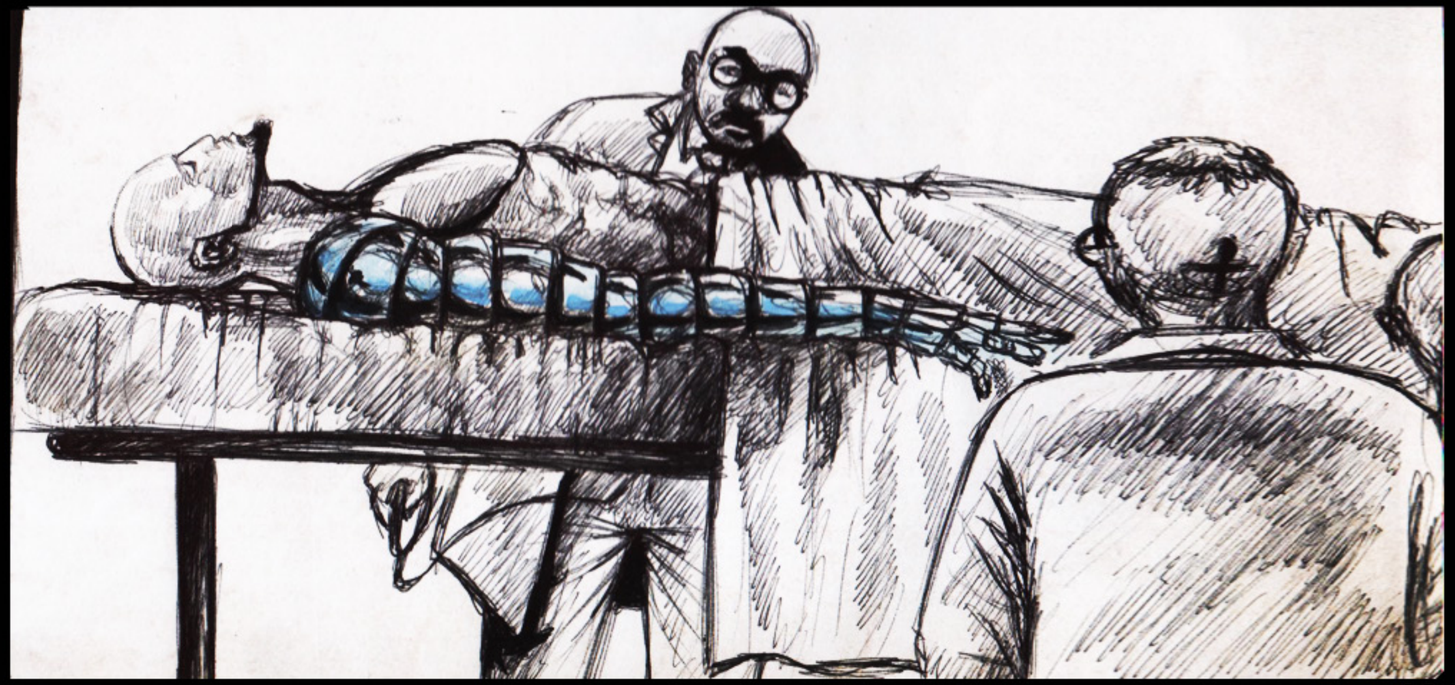
Koen Bakker
http://stargalaxyblack.deviantart.com

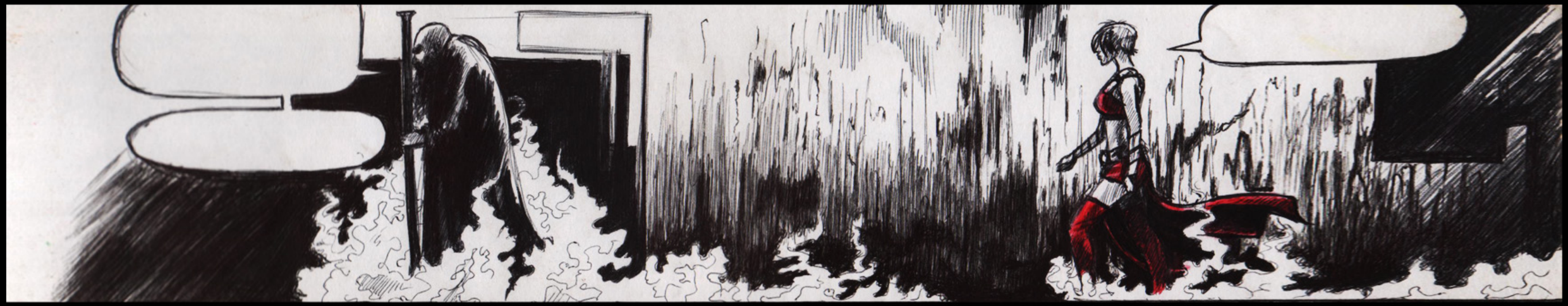
EXIT

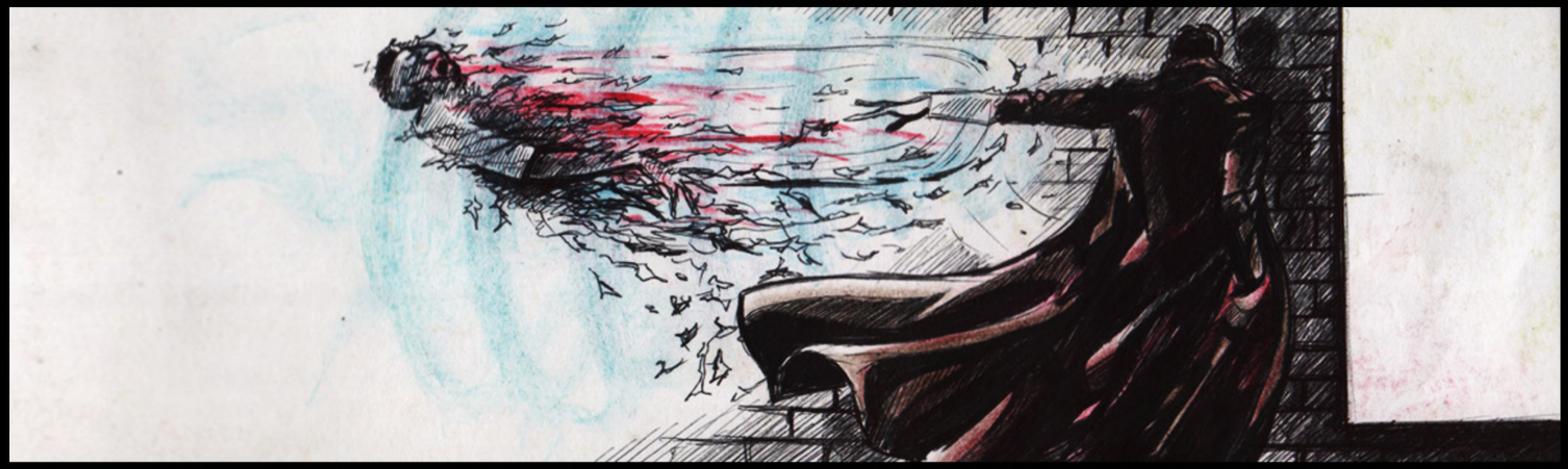


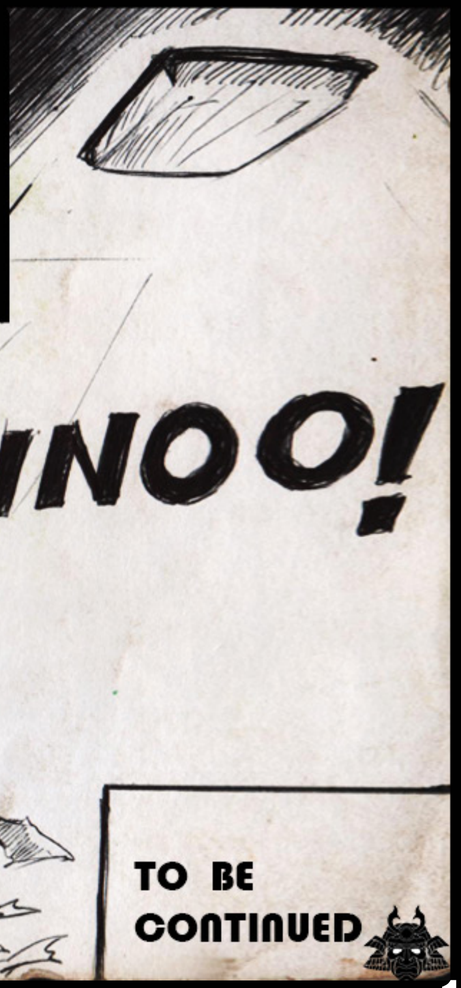








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