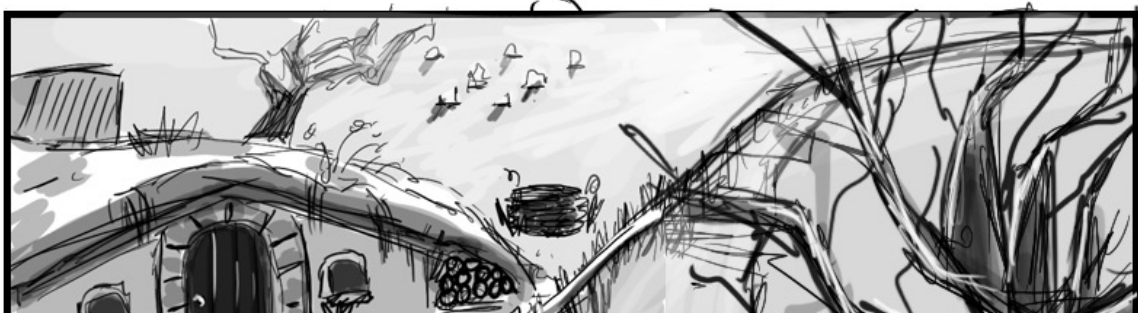




Hey. Glad you
could find the place.



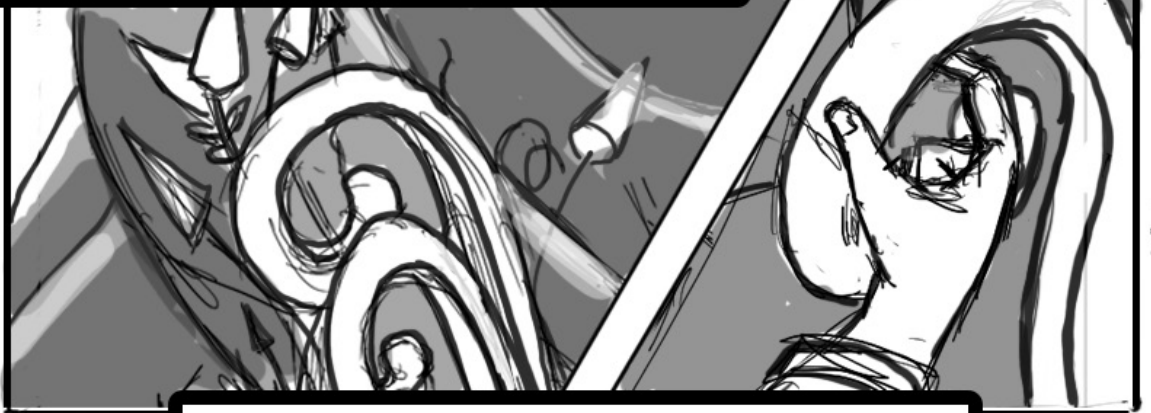
Look, I'm glad you're here,
but I want you to know
how **special** you are to
be invited to this place...



I keep it hidden from
ordinary people.



EVERYTHING HERE EXISTS
IN A DELICATE BALANCE.



IT'S EASILY DISRUPTED.



TOO MUCH DISRUPTION CAUSES CHAOS...



CHAOS CAUSES THE LIGHT
IN THIS WORLD TO FADE.



AND THEN WE CAN'T
CREATE ANYMORE...



DEATH.

THAT'S LIKE DEATH.

DEATH.

DEATH

DEATH.



ANYWAY - LET'S GO IN. IT'S QUAINT
ON THE OUTSIDE ISN'T IT?



IT'S BIGGER THAN IT
LOOKS, YOU'LL SEE...

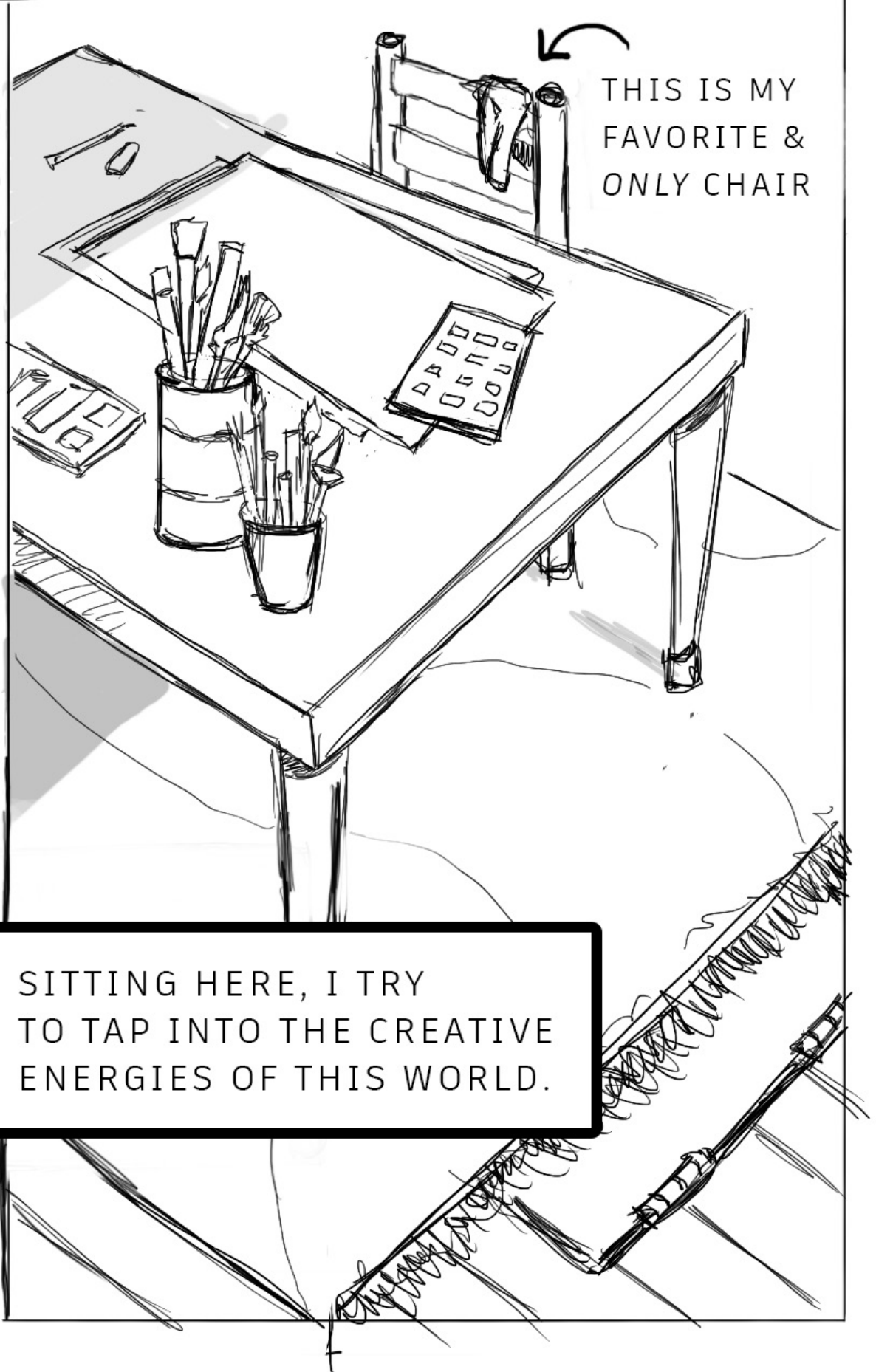


FIRST STOP:
MY WORKSHOP~

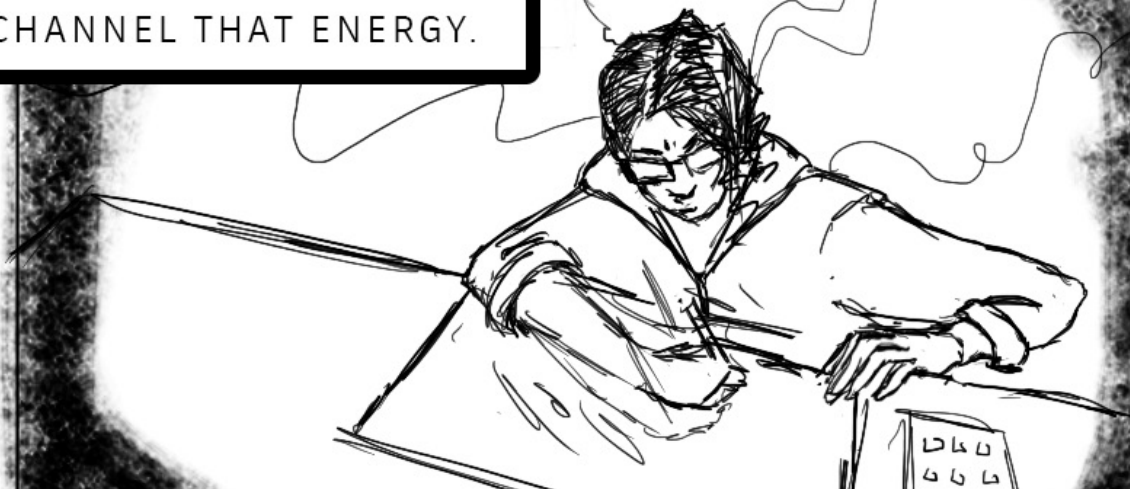
THIS IS THE TABLE OF INFINITE IDEAS...

THIS IS MY
FAVORITE &
ONLY CHAIR

SITTING HERE, I TRY
TO TAP INTO THE CREATIVE
ENERGIES OF THIS WORLD.



I PRACTICE A LOT, SO ITS
GOTTEN EASIER TO
CHANNEL THAT ENERGY.



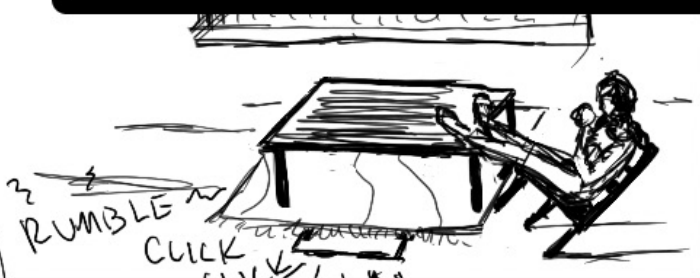
AND WHEN YOUR CONNECTION IS STRONG...



IT CAN BE EXHILLERATING.

BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE
I CAN MAKE OR MAINTAIN A
CONNECTION...

SO SOMETIMES I JUST SNACK HERE.



THAT SOUND? IGNORE IT, ITS NOTHING...

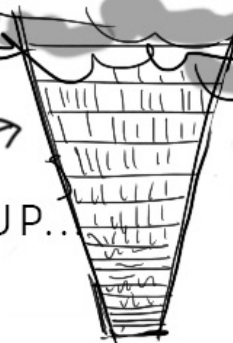
HEY, CHECK THIS OUT!



IT'S AN EVERGROW™ BOOKSHELF!

SEE, YOU CAN'T
ACTUALLY FILL IT UP..

EVER.



SO COOL....

I KEEP THINGS IVE LEARNED
OR WANT TO LEARN HERE.



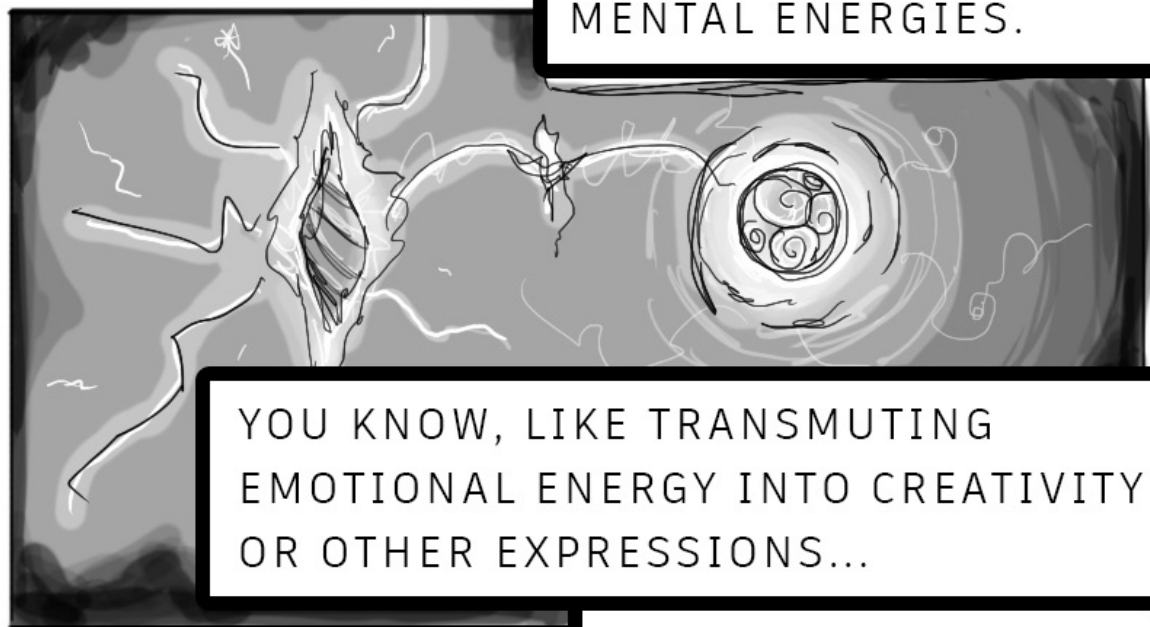
THE BOTTOM TOMES
ARE ALL SELF-HELP...



WHAT I
CAN'T
GROW
TOO?



FOR REAL, THESE BOOKS
HAVE SERIOUSLY COOL
PHILOSOPHIES ON
TRANSMUTATION OF
MENTAL ENERGIES.



YOU KNOW, LIKE TRANSMUTING
EMOTIONAL ENERGY INTO CREATIVITY
OR OTHER EXPRESSIONS...

UM, DID I LOSE YOU?

THAT KIND OF ALCHEMY
IS ONE OF THE SECRET
INGREDIENTS TO OUR,
ER, MY WORK HERE.



I DON'T USE THESE AS OFTEN AS I
SHOULD, SO THEY'RE A TAD DUSTY.

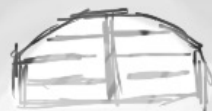


BUT LETS MOVE ON...



AMBIANCE IS IMPORTANT,
SO I CONTROL SOUND AND
LIGHT WITH ENCHANTMENTS.

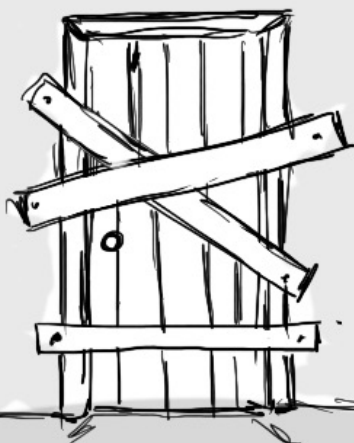
EVEN THE BLINDS ARE ENCHANTED
TO REPLICATE ANY LIGHT QUALITY.



YOU DO HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
THEY'RE SLIGHTLY MOOD
REACTIVE.

SORTA MESSED UP THE SPELL...
hehe...

BUT THIS WINDOW IS
SPECIAL, IT LOOKS OUT
ON TO THE COURTYARD.



I DON'T LIKE GOING OUT THERE SO
I WENT AHEAD AND BOARDED IT UP.

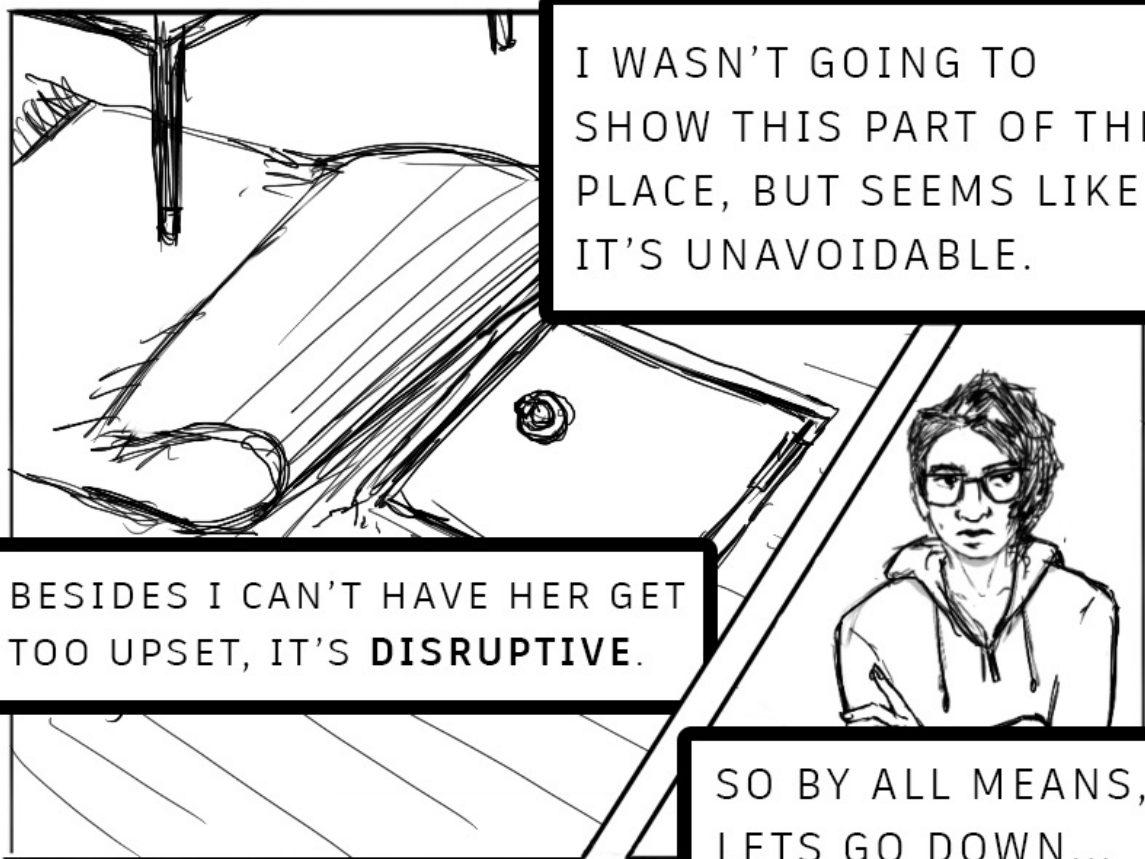
W H A P !



~Sigh~

ALRIGHT! JEEZ.

I'M SURE YOU NOTICED
THE LITTLE DOOR THERE...



I WASN'T GOING TO
SHOW THIS PART OF THE
PLACE, BUT SEEMS LIKE
IT'S UNAVOIDABLE.

BESIDES I CAN'T HAVE HER GET
TOO UPSET, IT'S **DISRUPTIVE**.

SO BY ALL MEANS,
LETS GO DOWN...



THE BASEMENT

WATCH YOUR STEP...

ALTHOUGH, WE DO HAVE A GRAVEYARD ON SITE IF YOU FALL....

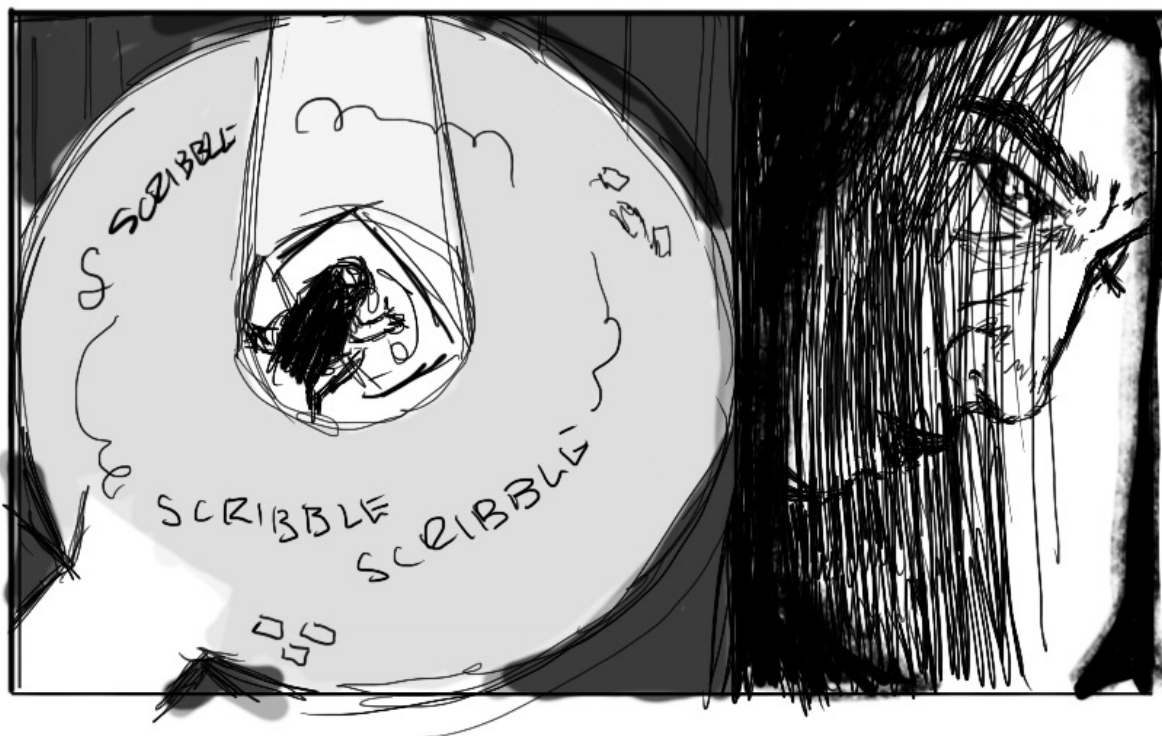
BEFORE WE GO ANY
FURTHER I NEED TO
CAUTION YOU...



PLEASE, BE SUPER
QUIET AND AVOID
SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.



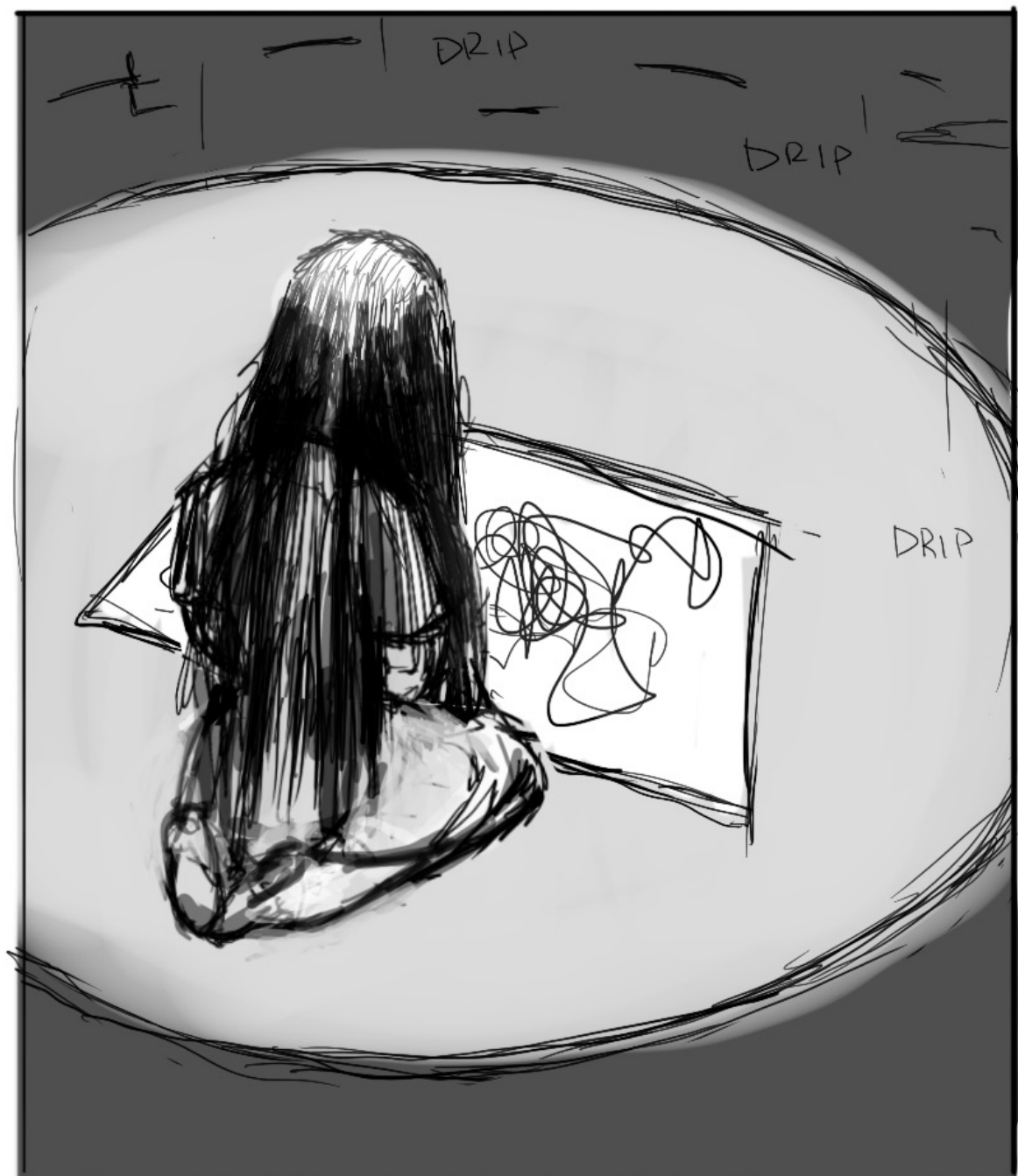
SORRY, I KNOW ITS COLD
SHE LIKES IT THAT WAY.





HEYYYYY, JESS...

WHATCHA WORKIN' ON?





I'VE GOT A TRUSTED
FRIEND WITH ME TODAY.
DO YOU WANT TO SAY
HELLO?



JESS?



YOU PROBABLY NOTICED
THE CUTS & BRUISES...



DON'T LOOK AT ME?! SHE
DOES IT TO HERSELF!

sick



juvenile

I TRIED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT IT
AND SHE SHUTDOWN... WOULDN'T
ACKNOWLEDGE ME FOR MONTHS!

I HONESTLY THINK SHE LIKES IT....

WHATEVER, WE SHOULD PROBABLY
LEAVE HER ALONE...

attention seeking

LET'S GO

YOU KNOW, I INVITE HER UPSTAIRS ALL THE TIME...



SHE RARELY ACCEPTS, AND
WHEN SHE DOES, ITS ONLY
AT NIGHT.



THE PROBLEM IS THAT SHE
ATTRACTS CHAOS QUICKLY AND
IT GETS DARK, REALLY DARK.

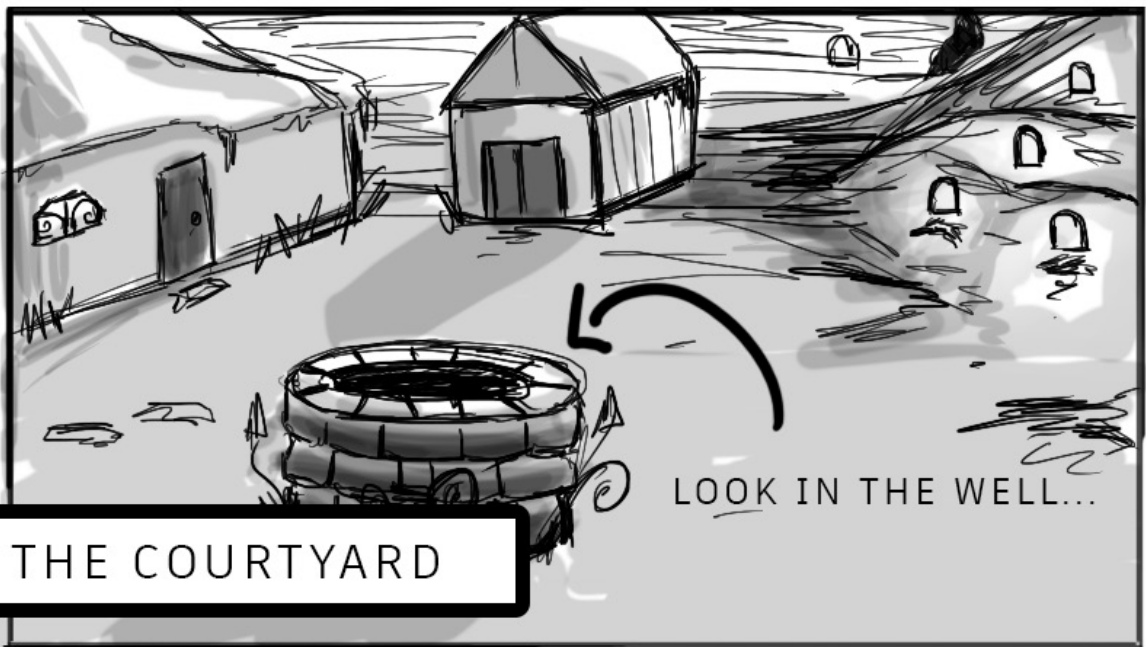


EVERYWHERE EXCEPT THE
COURTYARD, OF COURSE....



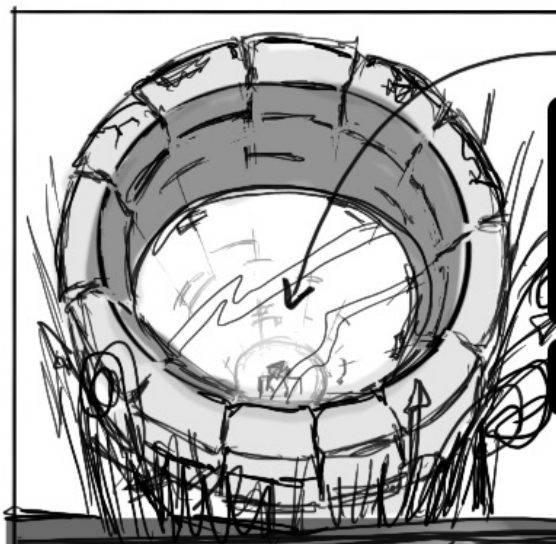
FOLLOW ME, GOTTA GO THE
LONG WAY...

OH, LET ME JUST GET RID OF THIS....



LOOK IN THE WELL...

THE COURTYARD



YEAH, THAT'S JESS DOWN
THERE - **MAGIC** WELL! IT
PROVIDS WATER & *LIGHT*.

SOMETIMES I JUST WATCH HER....

ANYWAY, OVER HERE...

THE GRAVEYARD OF BURIED MEMORIES



WE'RE HERE JUST AS NIGHT
IS FALLING, GREAT!

YOU CAN SEE HOW THE GRAVE
MARKERS GLOW...



AN ORB OF REMEMBERING

THE INTENSITY OF THE EXPERIENCE
DETERMINES THE ORB STRENGTH



ORBS ARE PERPETUALLY SELF-ILLUMINATING.



AN ARTIFACT LIKE THAT
IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL
SO WE KEEP THEM BURIED
FOR SAFETY REASONS, BUT...

YOU CAN ACTUALLY
TRANSMUTE ENERGY FROM
ORBS TOO! KEEP IN MIND -

IT'S A DELICATE PROCESS.
IF I SCREW UP, IT COULD
MEAN UNCONTROLLABLE
CHAOS, AND THAT'S, WELL...



GAME OVER, BUDDY.

NO, BIG DEAL...

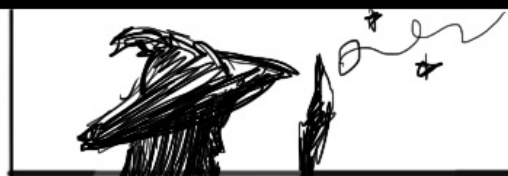




I'VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE
SURFACE THERE, BUT I DON'T
WANT TO TEMPT FATE.



WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I'LL FIND
A MAGIC TEXT OR MASTER
WIZARD WHO COULD SHOW
ME THE ROPES? MEANWHILE...



WE'LL JUST KEEP PRACTICING
CAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE DO,
RIGHT JESS?



YEAH, SHE SNEAKS UP ON YOU...

BASICALLY A CAT...



THE ONLY TIME SHE HAS EVER
SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO ME WAS
HERE IN THE COURTYARD.



SHE COMES UP HERE AND
STANDS MOTIONLESS
FOR HOURS, SO I ASKED...

ARE YOU OKAY?

are you?

are you?

are you?

and she replied...

aRe You?

are you?

are you?



SUPER WEIRD,
RIGHT??

MEH, I'M SURE SHE'S FINE.
SHE'S BEEN DOWN THERE
FOR YEARS, SO...

WOW, WHERE DID THE TIME GO?!!



HEY, LISTEN. THANKS
FOR BEING YOU.

AND, MAYBE WE'LL
SEE YOU AGAIN...

