

BALZAK ORIGINS

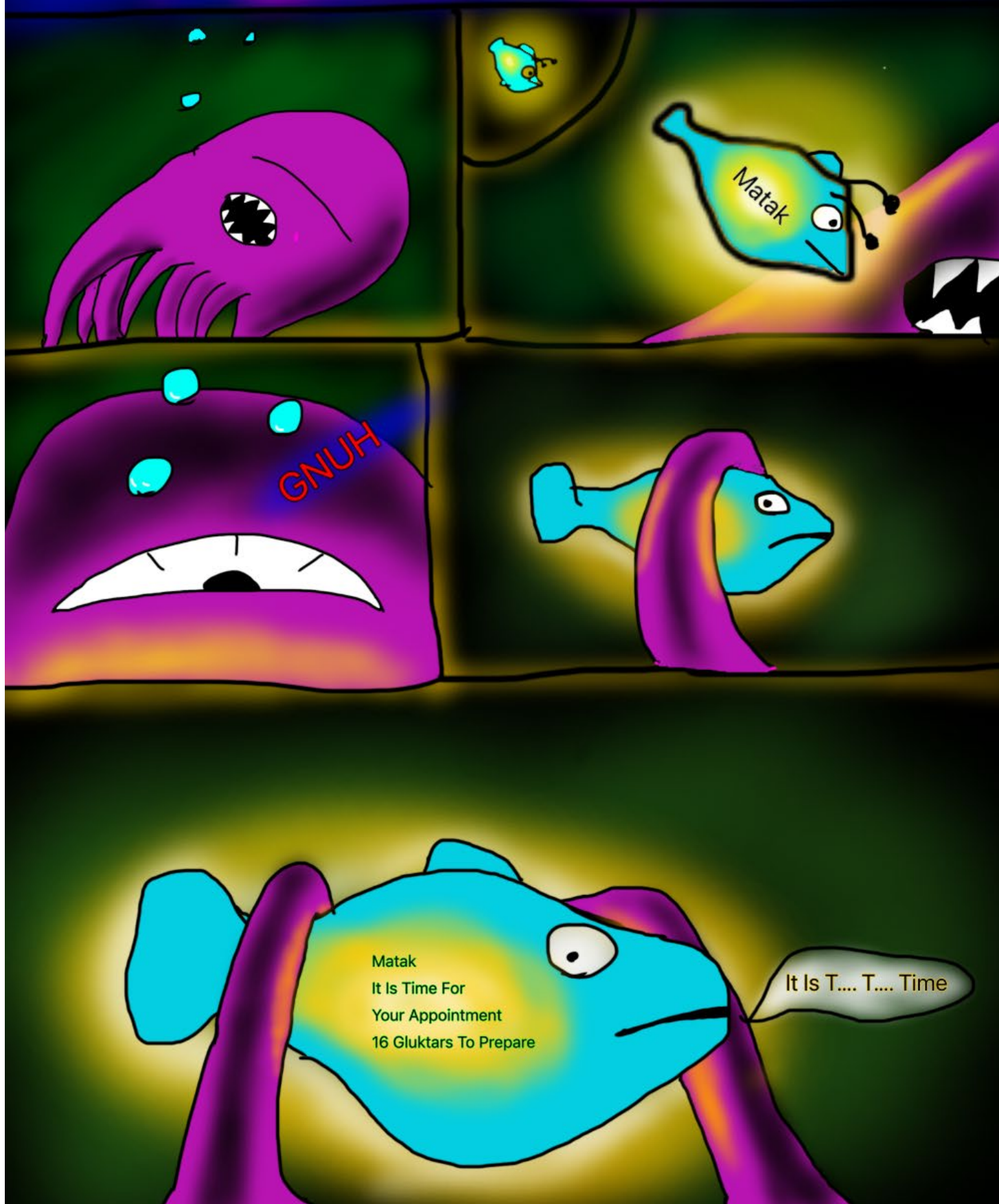
MATATAK

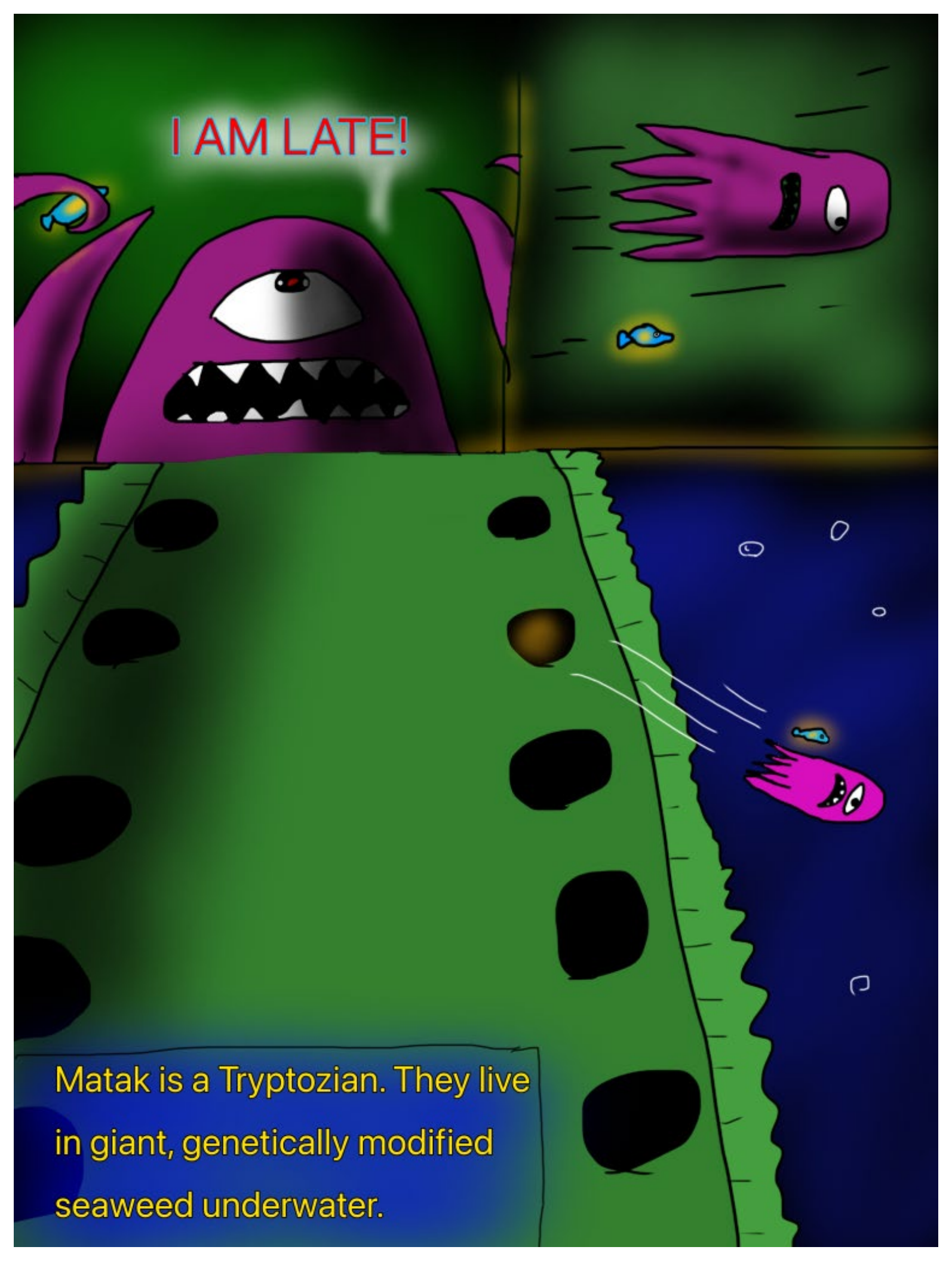
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BALZAK ORIGINS

MATAK

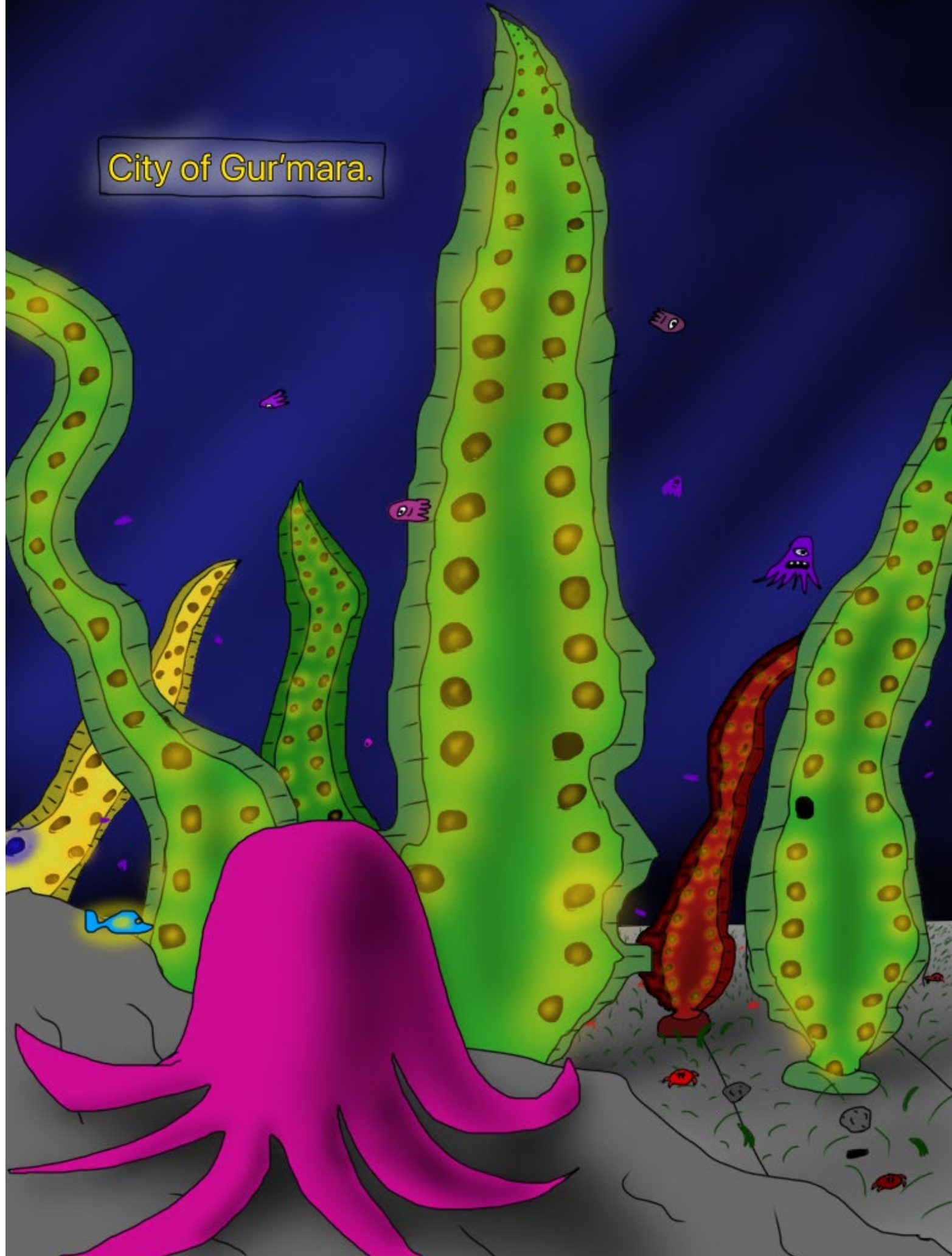




I AM LATE!

Matak is a Tryptozian. They live in giant, genetically modified seaweed underwater.

City of Gur'mara.





Ah! The new intern!
WELCOME!!

Systems
Ready

Most Tryptozian technology
Is genetically modified animals
Or plants, though they do have
A few metal tools as well.

I am Ranooj Ga'Shooj!



This is Iliok Na'Galat!
She is another intern!



And this is Na Goot!
An assistant!

Nice to
meet you!



iiHyllu!!



I am Matak Rho'Shivej!
It's an honor!!



We're conducting experiments
Of the BRAIN!



The... Brain...?

For your first task on this project,
Matak, can you two go pick up
some devices for me?



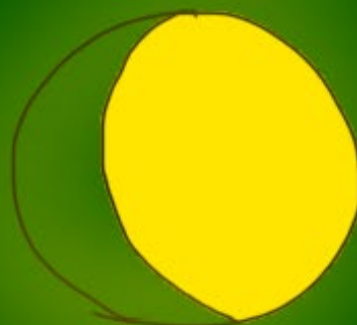
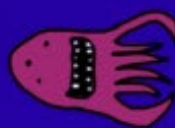
??Can I come??
iWant to HELP!



Sure, come along!
More tentacles, more turnapin!

Na Goot is a TRYPTOZOID.
They're a subspecies of Tryptozians who are
significantly less intelligent. But still sentient.

For this reason, Tryptozian children like Matak
are taught that they are superior, but they still
must be kind to their inferior cousins.



So, what's the project
We're working on?

Oh, I dunno! Haha.
So far he's had us
Helping him make
systems to link
To the brain. But
He won't say
what for!

Professor always keeps
SECRET when he's **EXCITED**!

I wonder what it could be!

Anyway, what made you
apply to work with the
Professor?

Oh, I've always followed
his work! Anything with
Ranooj Ga'Shooj on it, I
Had to read!

By Gurgus!
Me too!!

You too?!

**Oh, yes!
I would spend hours
Devouring that magazine—**

**"Biodiscoveries"?!
Yes!!!**

**¡There is the FactoryFarm!
¡We are there!**

**Your mindlinkers
Are ready.**

Can we see
them please?

Of course.

It took about three
weeks to grow 'em.
Complicated. Never
made Anything
like 'em.

Oh hey, you brought
A Three-Eyes with you!
Heh, I love these guys!

Please don't call him that.
He's a Tryptozoid and he's
Our coworker!

Hey, I didn't mean nothin'!
Like I said I love Three-Eyes!

Three-Eyes at least know
their place, unlike Crabbies.

My problem is kids like you
pretending the inferior
Ain't inferior.

Please stop.

Crabarks. What's your
problem?

Do you want our business or not?!

You know what, maybe I don't!



**I'm sick of pretending they're
Not inferior! I know they are
And you know they are!**

**Of course they're inferior!
But You can understand that
And still treat them with
RESPECT!**



**Oh yeah?
Maybe YOU'RE the one
treating them with disrespect,
Ever think of that?!**



**You treat this "coworker"
Like a baby! Like he's
Too fragile to know he's beneath you!**

Well, *I* won't baby him!

Hey, Three-Eyes!

¿Gnuh?



You don't have to
sit here and listen to this,
Na Goot!

Come on, let's go for a
swim over by those
rocks.



There you go,
Babying him again!

Come here, Three-Eye!
Cross your eyes for me!
It's always hilarious when
Your kind do that, heh!



That's it! We're leaving!!



Ilik, if we leave without
The Mindlinkers, it could
Take weeks, or even months,
To grow new ones at another
Place!

We can't let this guy cause
A major setback!!



I don't care!!
No breakthrough
Is worth THIS!!



Goot...?

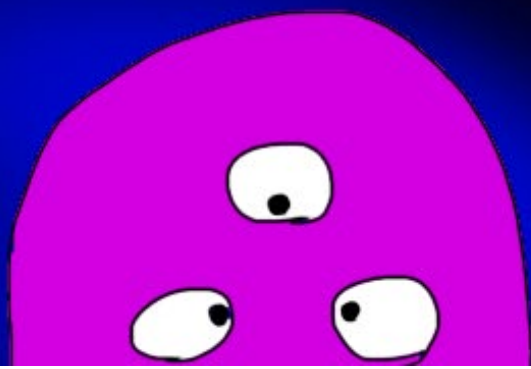
What are
you doing?



Ha! Ha!
Love those crossed eyes!

See? Three-eyes
Know their place!
That's what I like
About 'em!

Here, take the
Mindlinkers. Maybe
You kids learned your
Lesson.



Soon...

You didn't have
to do that, Goot.

¡Needed
the Mindlinkers!

No, Nothing matters
As much as you.

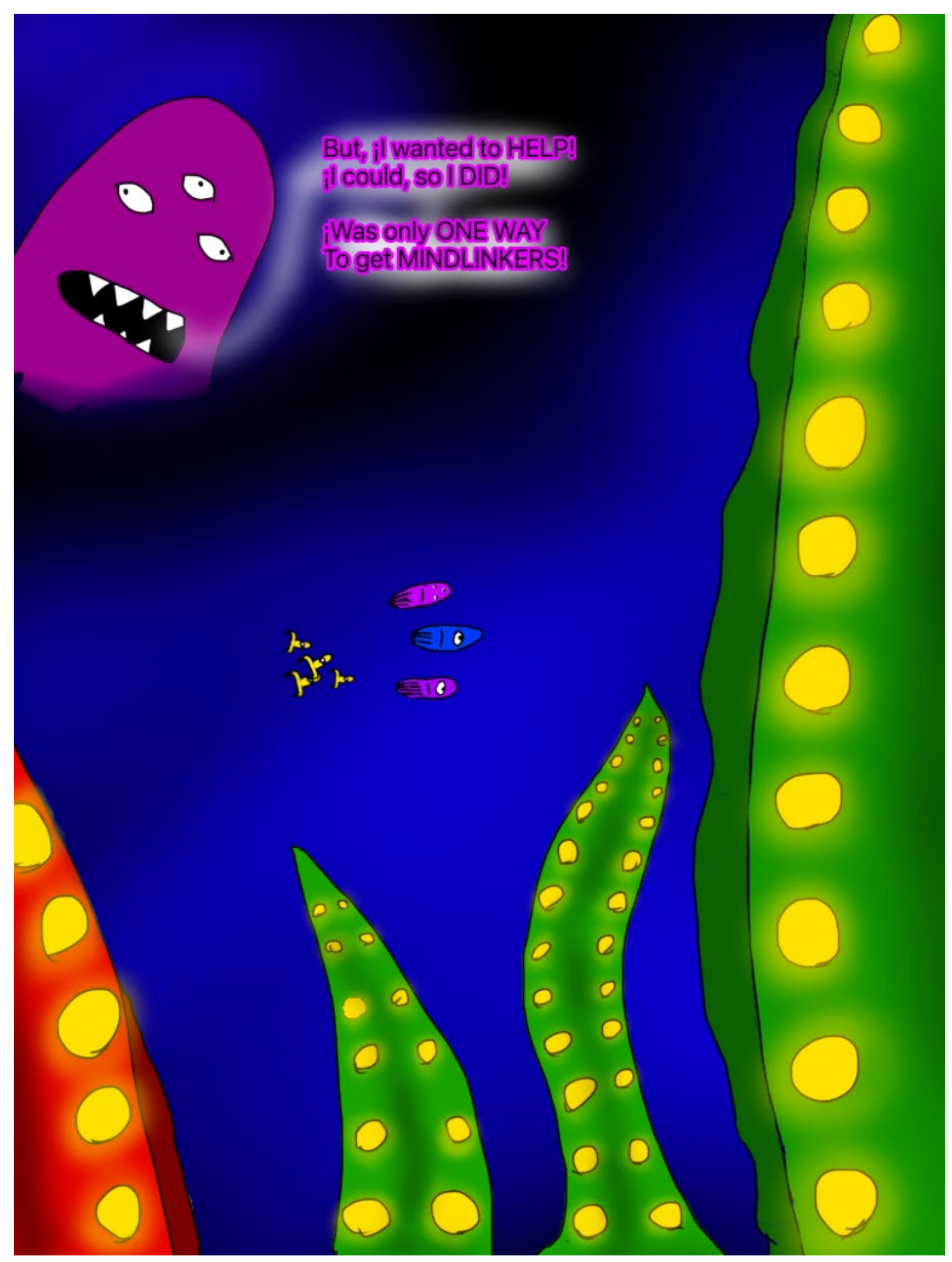
That's right, you
Inferior fool! You're one
of us!

I don't ever want you
To "know your place".
I don't want you to feel
You have to humiliate
Yourself to guys like that!

Yeah. If anyone's truly inferior,
It's that guy back there!

¡I know!
Thank you.
¡You STOOD UP for me!
¡You guys GOOD FRIENDS!





But, i wanted to HELP!
i could, so I DID!

i Was only ONE WAY
To get MINDLINKERS!

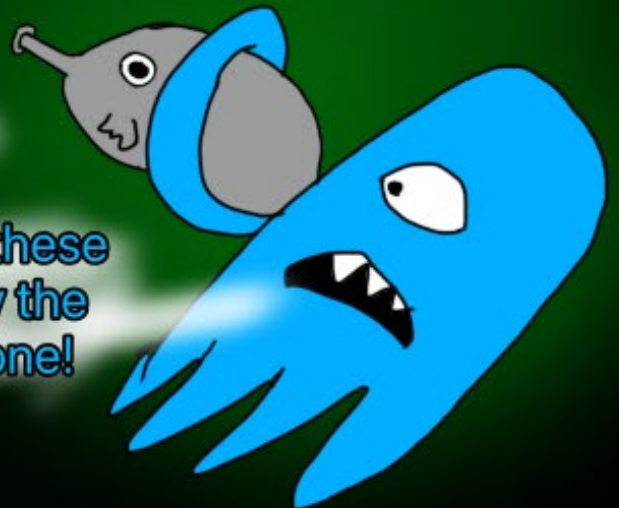
Ah, the Mindlinkers!
Well done, you three!
Now let's get to work!



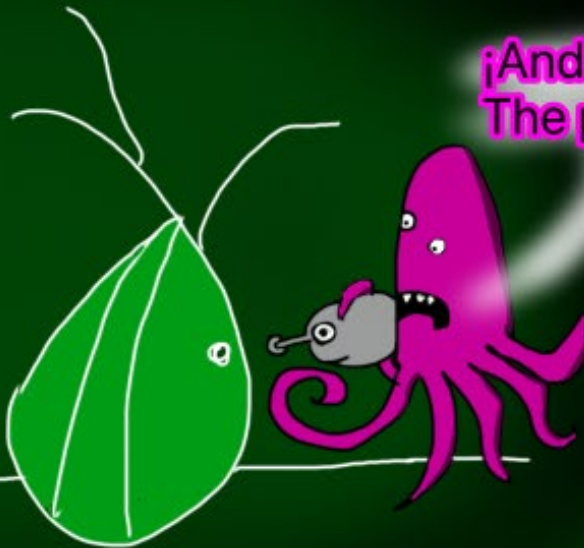
Get these into a
Fizruiol bath, please!

Right away!

Matak, we use these
Puffers to apply the
Fizruiol! Grab one!



¡And you FILL
The puffers ON THIS!!



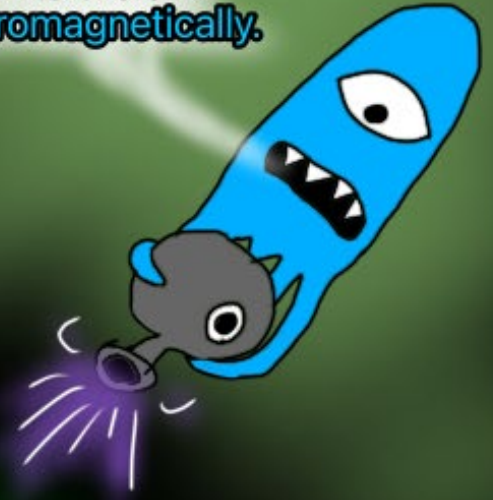
And then
We apply
It!



Fizruiol...
Wasn't that used
To dilate Tryptozian
Skin?



Yes, to dilate the
Pores in the skin.
It's often used to
Help creatures
Attach to the skin
Electromagnetically.



Yes! All true!!
Very good!

I think it's time
To tell you
What we're
Doing here!



You see, the
Mindlinkers are
not some simple
prosthetic.

You've probably seen
Simpler Mindlinkers
Used to connect those
with paralyzed tentacles
to replacement tentacles.



We are going far BEYOND that.

B...beyond it?



Of course!



**These Mindlinkers
Will not be simple
Aids
To help
Other
Devices
Connect to
You!**

**No, these
Will become
PART of you!**

**And they're not
For Tryptozians.**

**They are for
TRYPTOZIDS!!**

Part...?

! TRYPTOZIDS!?



Of course!

**Think of it:
generation
upon generation
of Tryptozoids,
living as our
subordinates!**



**They are subject to bigotry.
They are taken advantage
of and mistreated by
Tryptozians in countless
ways. You know this all
too well, Na Goot!**



**Every Tryptozian child
is taught our own
superiority, and we've
grown comfortable
patting ourselves on
the back just for being
more intelligent- which
is nothing more than an
accident of our birth! -
without ever stopping to ask
whether it has to be that way.**



**What if there was a way
to change all that?**

**What if there was a way
for Tryptozoids to become...
our EQUALS in intelligence?**

I have found a way!

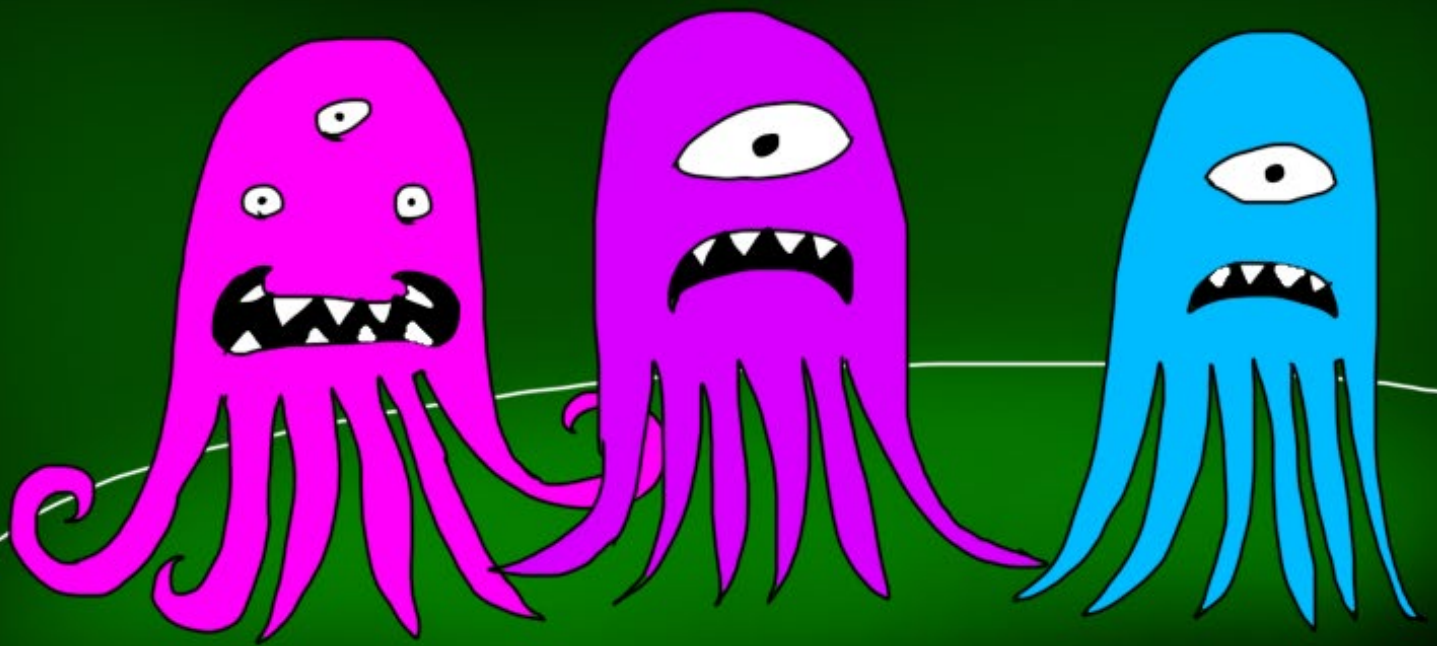
**The Mindlinkers
you picked up,
grown to my
specifications,
can become a
true part of their
minds!**

**A fourth
hemisphere
of their brain!**

**It will improve
cognition, memory,
speech...**

**If this works,
it could change
our society forever!**





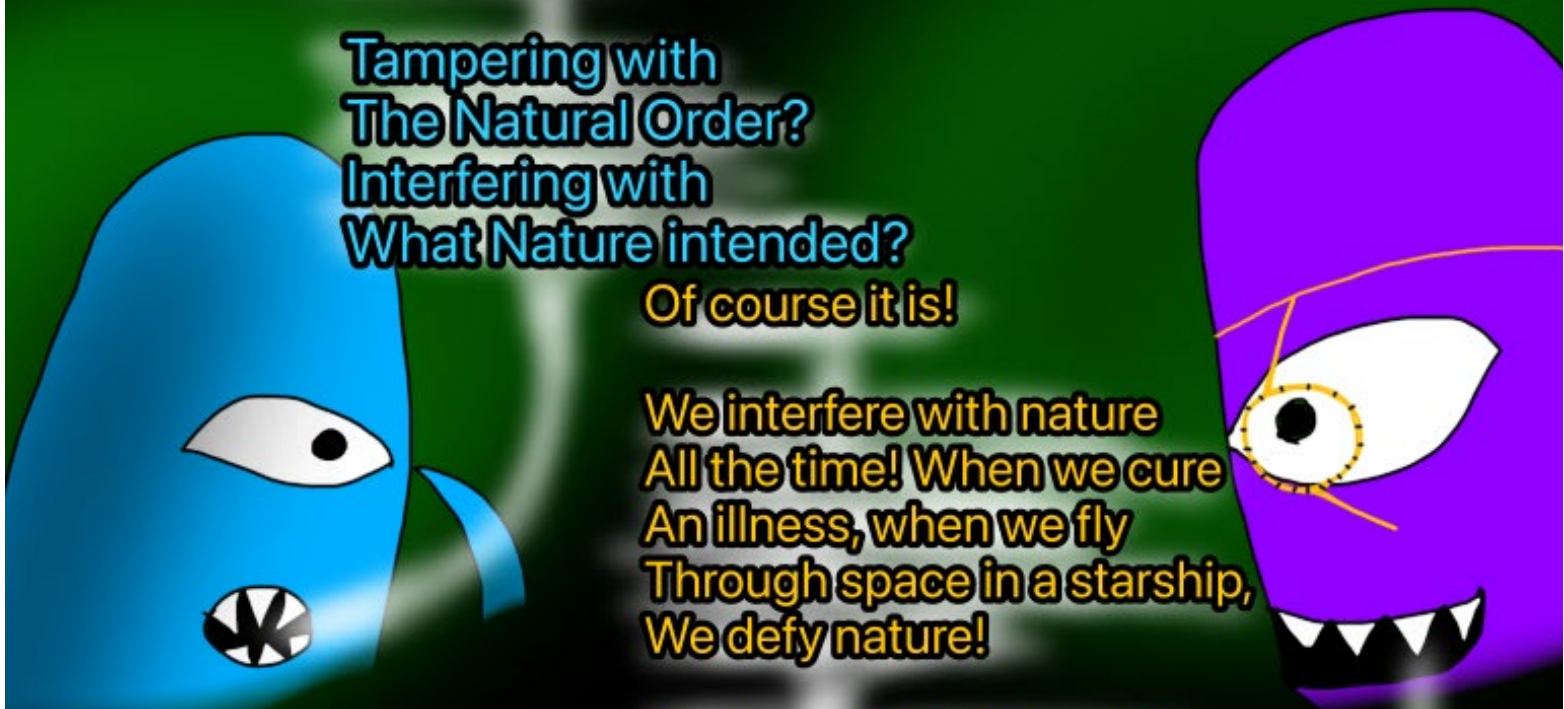
But, Professor!
Isn't that...

Tampering with
The Natural Order?
Interfering with
What Nature intended?

Of course it is!

We interfere with nature
All the time! When we cure
An illness, when we fly
Through space in a starship,
We defy nature!

Having a civilization at all
Is "tampering with the natural
Order"!





Is there any
Risk of harm
To the patient?

Well, any new
Mindlinker device
Carries some degree
Of risk.

That is why we must
Properly test it, with
Volunteers who
Understand the
Risks.

¿When would
They be ready
To test?

If the calibration
Goes well, and if
We can find a
Tryptozoid volunteer,
We could be ready
To test it TOMORROW!

Na Goot, I was hoping
You'd want to volunteer!
But It is completely your choice.

¡¡I will DO IT!!



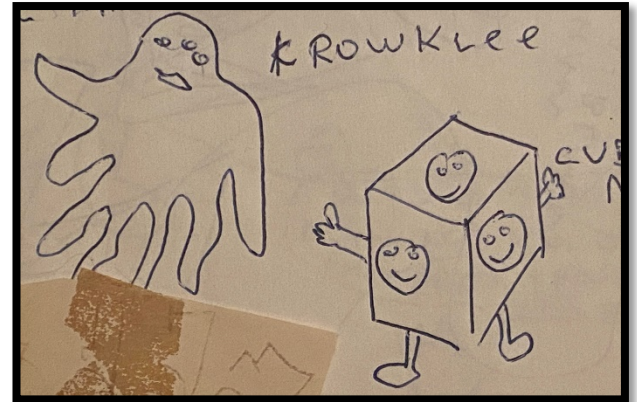
¡To Be Continued!

The Tryptozians & Tryptozoids

In a way, the Tryptozoids were actually created before their Tryptozian cousins. In another way, they're newly created for this comic, while Tryptozians have been around for years and years. Let me explain!

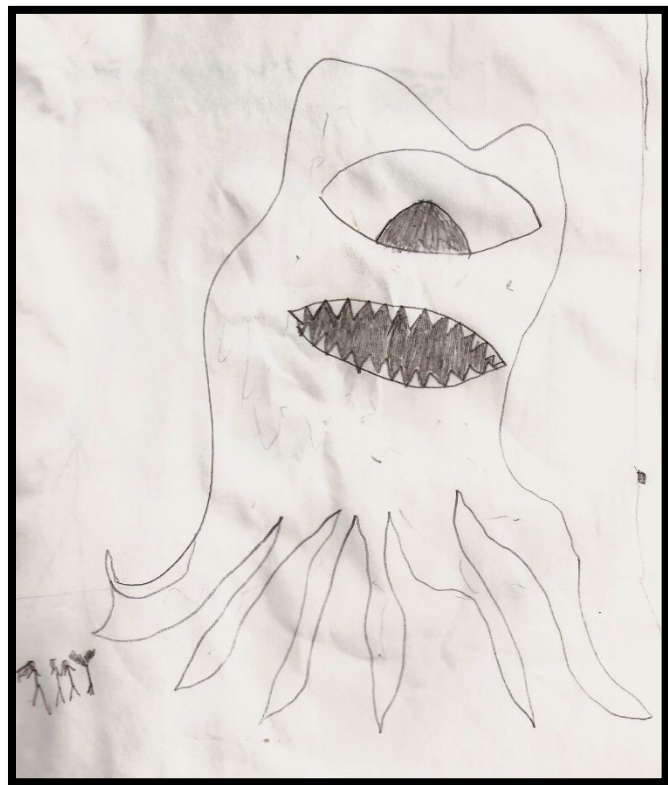
My dad used to make comics for me when I was little. All sorts of random little comic strips, and some of them included these alien creatures he'd created.

It was just his version of a stereotypical alien monstrosity; he drew them as a joke, without any intention of giving them lore or even a name for their species. (Side Note: my dad also created the Perfect One comic series!)



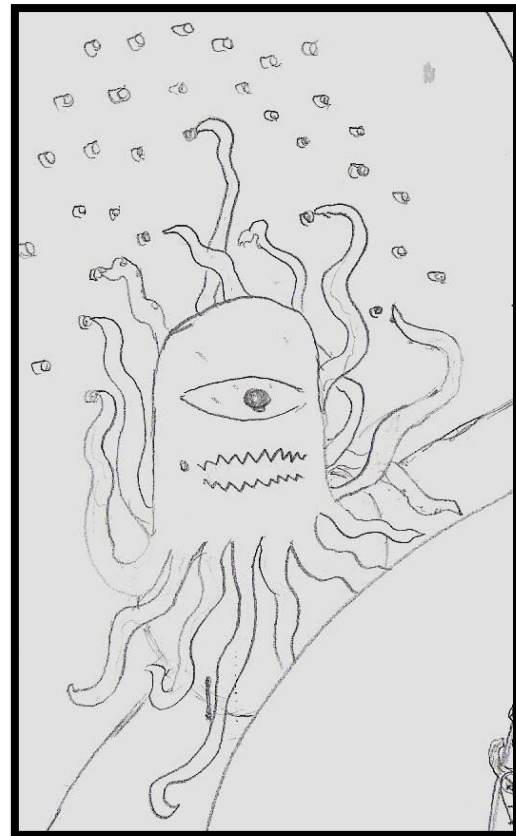
Krowklee, one of my dad's three-eyed, tentacled aliens!

When I started making my own series of Paper Computer Games many years later, I needed an evil boss for my characters to face in my PCG, *The Alien Abduction*. I didn't want it to be the same species as the rest of the aliens on the ship that had abducted you, because I wanted to hint at an alliance of many species plotting evil. So, I thought back to those little three-eyed aliens my dad had created! But I decided to make my own version. I made it gigantic and gave it one eye instead of three, to make him scarier as a boss, but the basic idea was still the same! The result was Rho'Shivej.



It was only when I was creating *Balzak Globotron*, my giant PCG, that the lore of this species was fleshed out. They were called the Tryptozians, and they're not all giants like Rho'Shivej. I created a new character – Matak Rho'Shivej – to be a member of the crew on the starship from that game.

I liked that idea because he has lots of tentacles that would let him press lots of buttons, quickly. I wanted him to be a good guy, but to keep a bit of the “terrifying monster” aspect of Rho'Shivej. So, that's why Matak is always yelling at everyone and calling them “inferior”. Over the course of the game, Matak would learn to question his assertion that all the other races – his friends – are inferior to him.



We do visit his homeworld – Shairek – in the game, where we learn that the Tryptozians are being courted by an evil Alliance. The Tryptozians agree, because of their belief that they're superior to other life, and therefore they want to enact their superiority – to conquer other worlds.

Since that game, their lore has continued to expand in various PCGs and stories. For example, we learn in a short story by SketchyPenguin that the Tryptozians committed genocide after they allied with the Alliance, against another species called the Crabarks who existed on Shairek along with them.

But *why* do they assume they're superior to other races?

The lore demanded another expansion, and so I had the idea for this story. Originally it was gonna be a mini-PCG, but over time it evolved into a comic. I wanted to explore what makes the Tryptozians feel they're so superior in the first place.

I wanted to give them a reason to think that. Maybe in their early history, they'd known a race that *was* inferior to them, and they base their expectations on that. It's become a part of their culture. I liked that idea, so I started thinking of what kind of a race might exist on their homeworld of Shairek. Maybe it's an evolutionary cousin of the Tryptozians...?

Then I thought back to my dad's original three-eyed aliens and it fit perfectly! They look like Tryptozians, but they have three eyes. If they were also "inferior", or demonstrably less intelligent, that would make perfect sense – the Tryptozians would associate having more eyes with being less intelligent!



Another variation of my dad's three-eyed aliens.

In other words, they would learn that these less intelligent creatures have three eyes – so when they meet other species like humans, who have two eyes (still more eyes than a Tryptozian!), Tryptozians might automatically assume they're also less intelligent.

Now, Tryptozians are a scientific people who are very advanced, so of course they could be aware humans are equally intelligent, scientifically. But bigotry isn't logical or scientific, and so many Tryptozians would continue to follow their prejudice, even though it isn't backed up by the evidence.

And so, the Tryptozoids were born! ...That is, unless you count my dad's original three-eyed aliens as Tryptozoids, in which case they've been around for a while. Those were never called Tryptozoids; their name is new. Additionally, my dad never depicted them as unintelligent in any way. They were just aliens flying around in starships. Nonetheless, they could still be Tryptozoids.

Either way, it's been a fun ride, fleshing out the lore of these aliens and seeing them develop from their simple beginnings to a fascinating aquatic species – now with two distinct subspecies! As I mentioned, we're seeing the lore around them

grow, with the addition of new characters like Greid the Tryptozian, from the PCG *Exploring Shogon* by Epic Games. Hopefully this comic will add to that lore, enrich it, and encourage others to explore this fascinating underwater world even deeper!

-Xaq

7/25/2022

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Chris, (despite his being the worst in every possible respect), for creating *Paper Computer Games* and the PCG Universe, in which this story takes place!

The Crabarks (who make a cameo appearance here) were created by SketchyPenguin in his short story, *Predators and Prey*, which was part of the Write a World a Day (WAWAD) event.

I based their appearance on Pinchzoid Crabicus, a giant mutated crab created by Chris for his PCG, *Relics of the Sea*. That's because SketchyPenguin described them as having the same appearance as Pinchzoid, though any relationship between them is unknown.

This comic is meant as a backstory to the game *Balzak Globotron*, by me. Therefore, many of the ideas in this comic were established there. Additionally, my short story *Matak's Assignment* is a direct prequel to this comic. I created the name Ranooj Ga'Shooj for that story, among others!

