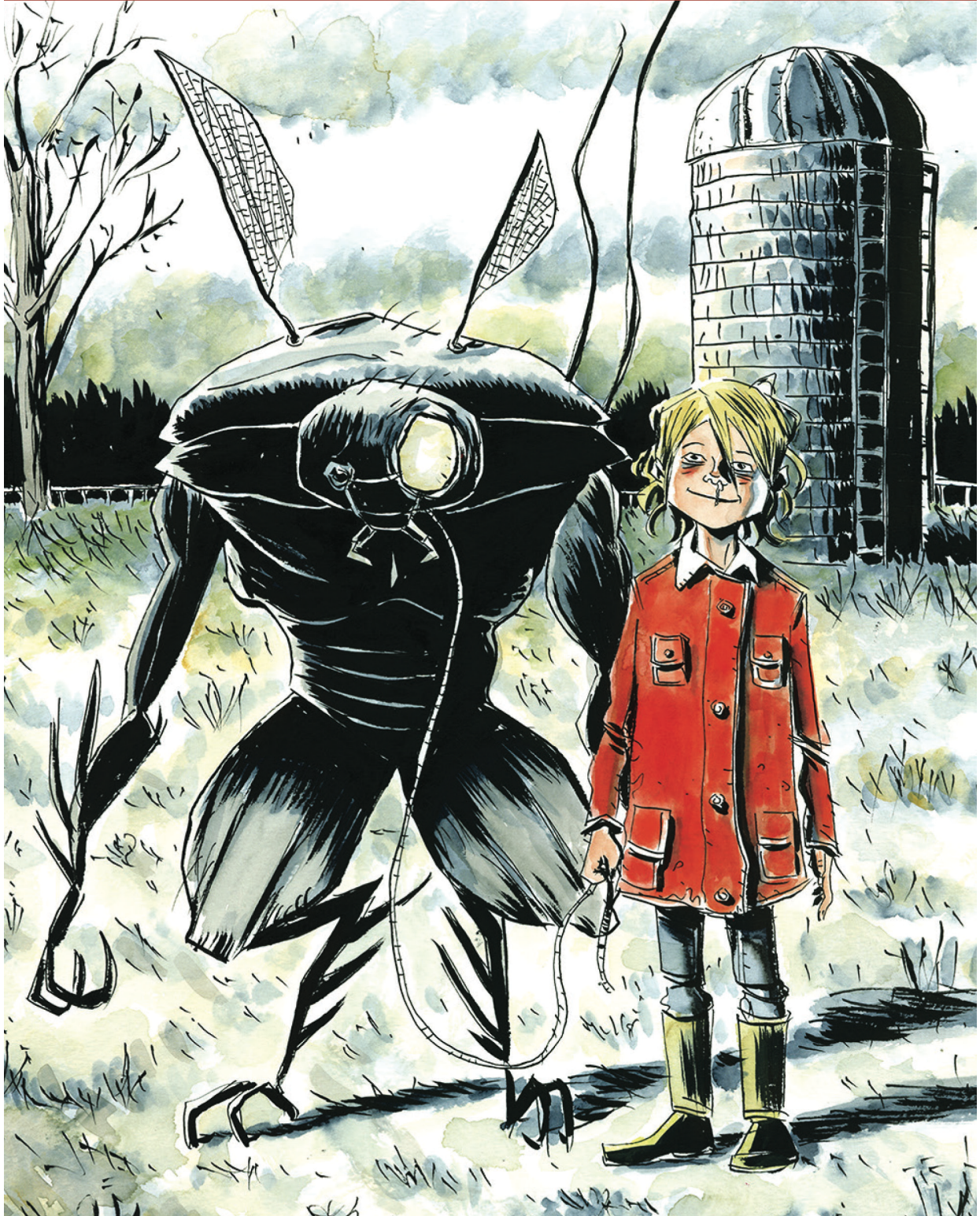


JEFF LEMIRE

FISHFLIES

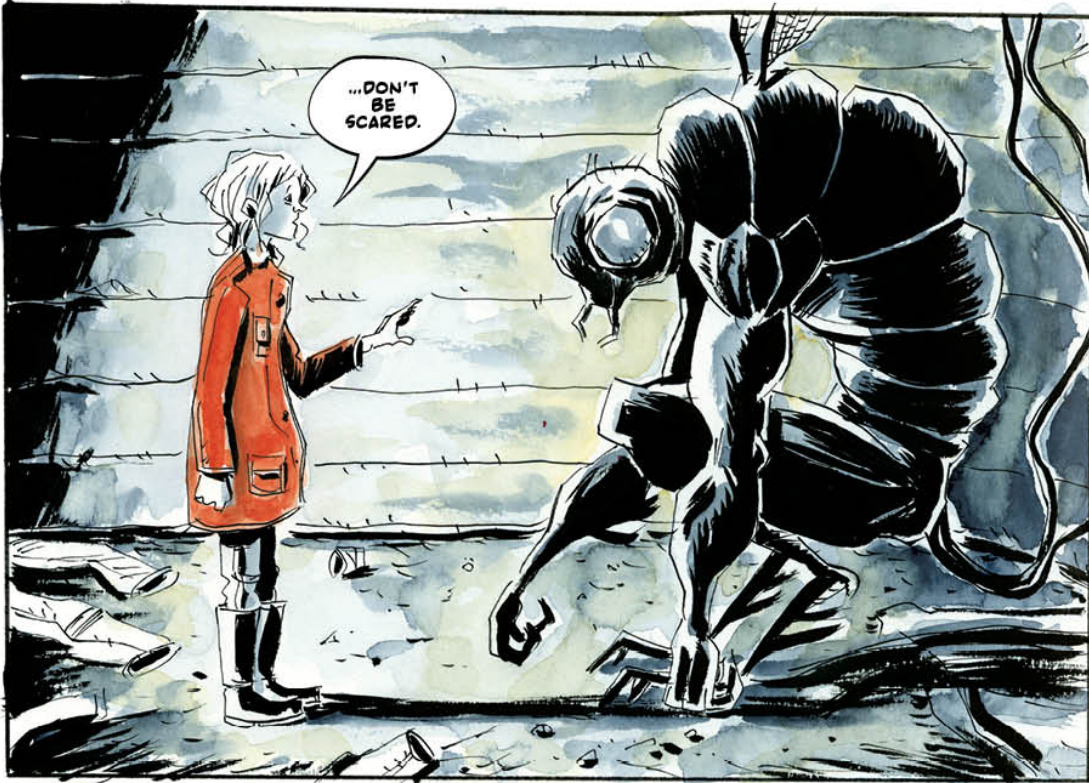
CHAPTER TWO























OFFICER LARAQUE?



MRS. DUPUIS?

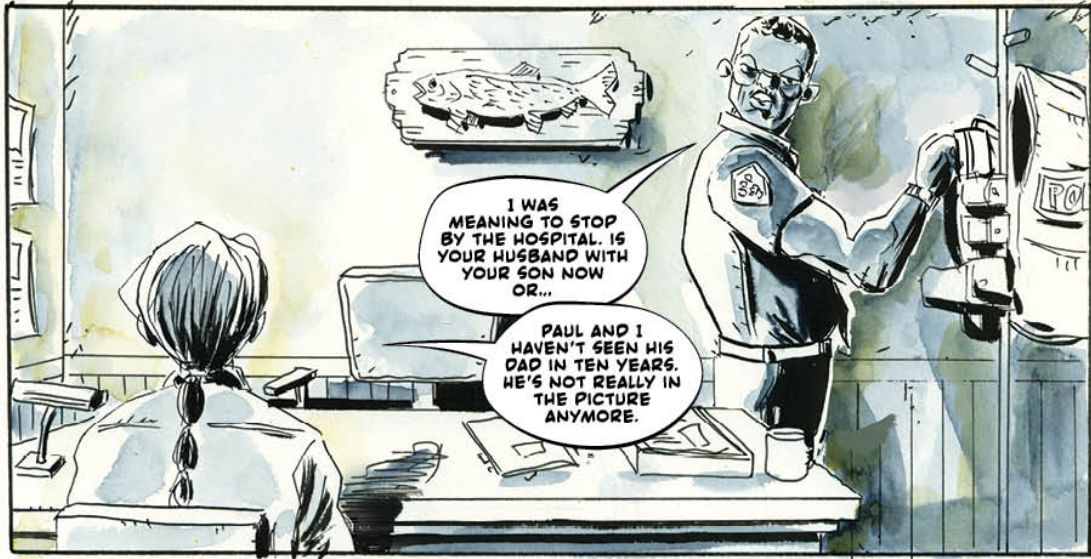
IS THAT HIM? IS THAT THE MAN WHO SHOT PAUL?



LOOK MRS. DUPUIS. YOU SHOULD REALLY BE AT THE HOSPITAL WITH YOUR BOY. I PROMISE YOU WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN AND WE'LL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS WE CATCH HIM.



I KNOW BUT-- I NEEDED TO TALK TO YOU, OFFICER LARAQUE. I--I SAW SOMETHING AND I THINK IT MAY BE IMPORTANT.







"BUT THEN THEY
STARTED COMING..."



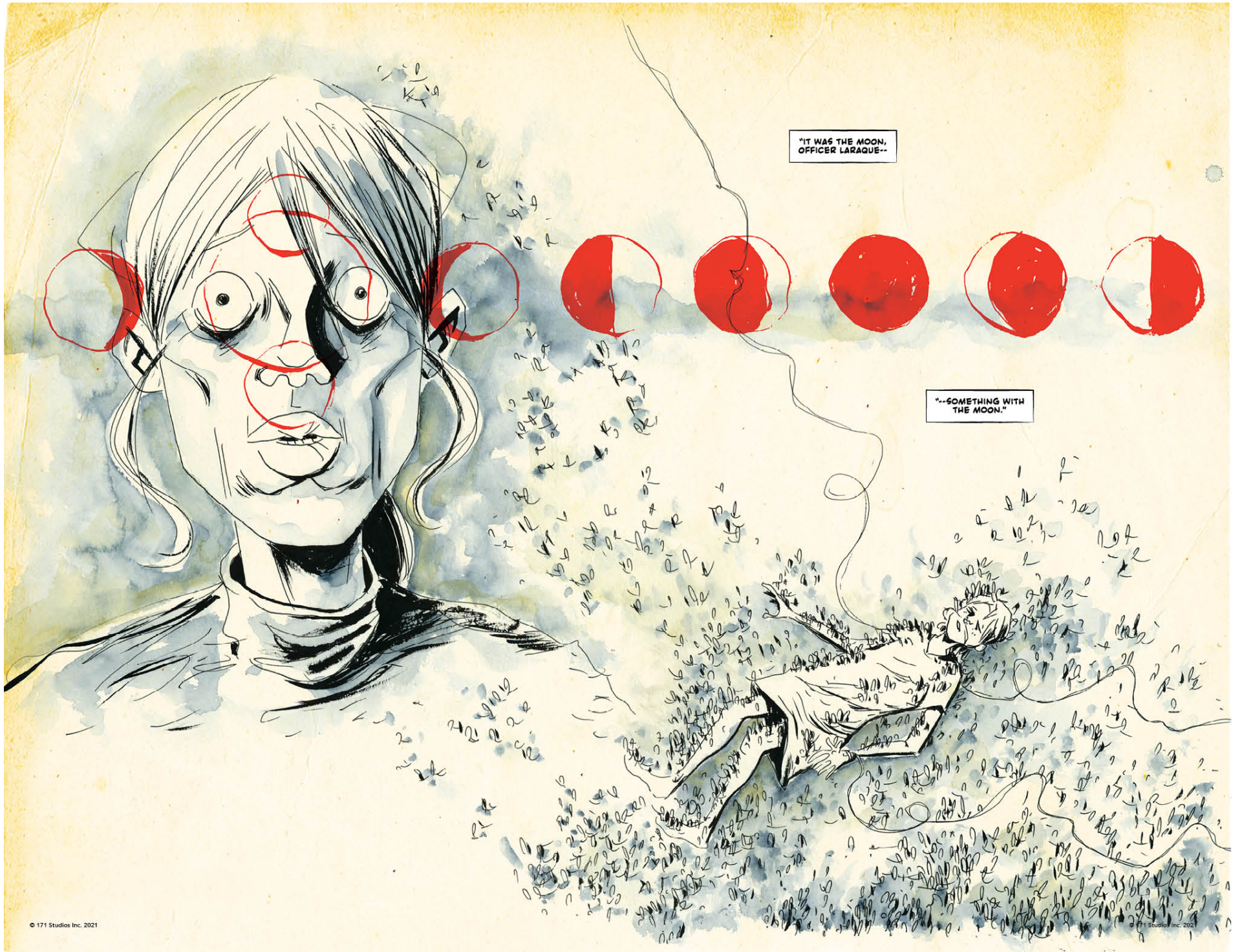
"THEY WERE
EVERYWHERE!"



"THEN..."



"...I SAW
IT!"



"IT WAS THE MOON,
OFFICER LARAQUE--"

--SOMETHING WITH
THE MOON."



"I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS. I KNOW YOU THINK I'M, JUST SOME CRAZY WOMAN..."



BUT I AM TELLING YOU, I SAW THIS--I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT--I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT--BUT I SAW THIS. I JUST KNOW IT.



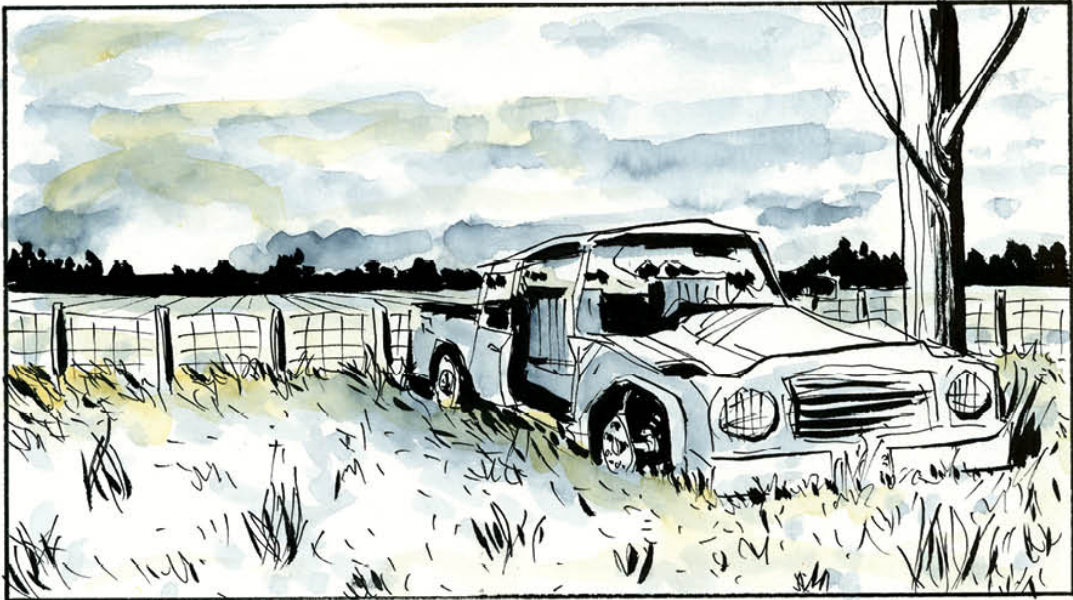
PLEASE FIND THIS MAN, OFFICER LARAQUE.

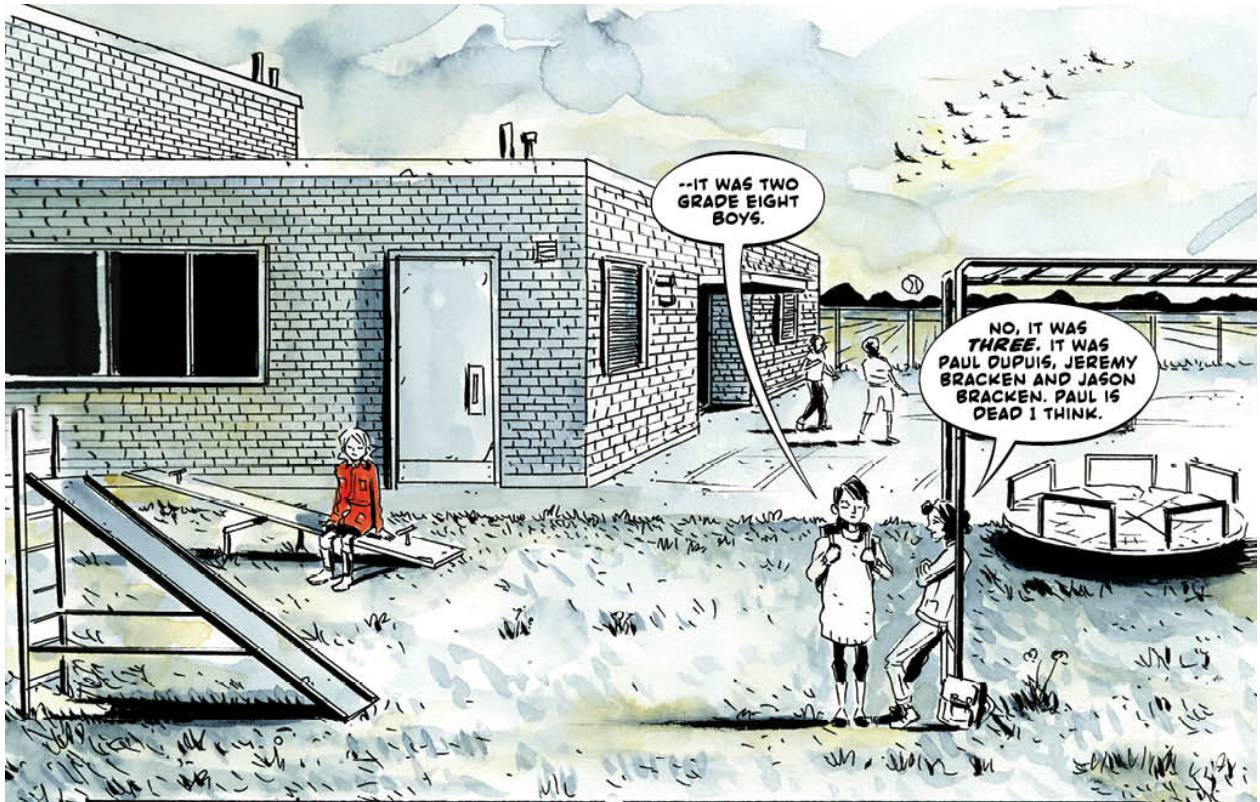
IT'S THE BUGS...I THINK YOU NEED TO FOLLOW THE BUGS.



CRUNCH!







--IT WAS TWO GRADE EIGHT BOYS.

NO, IT WAS THREE. IT WAS PAUL DUPUIS, JEREMY BRACKEN AND JASON BRACKEN. PAUL IS DEAD I THINK.



THEY MIGHT CANCEL SCHOOL AGAIN IF THE OTHER TWO DIE.



NUH UH. THE OTHER TWO DIDN'T GET HURT. THEY JUST SAW IT ALL AND I HEARD PAUL IS STILL ALIVE

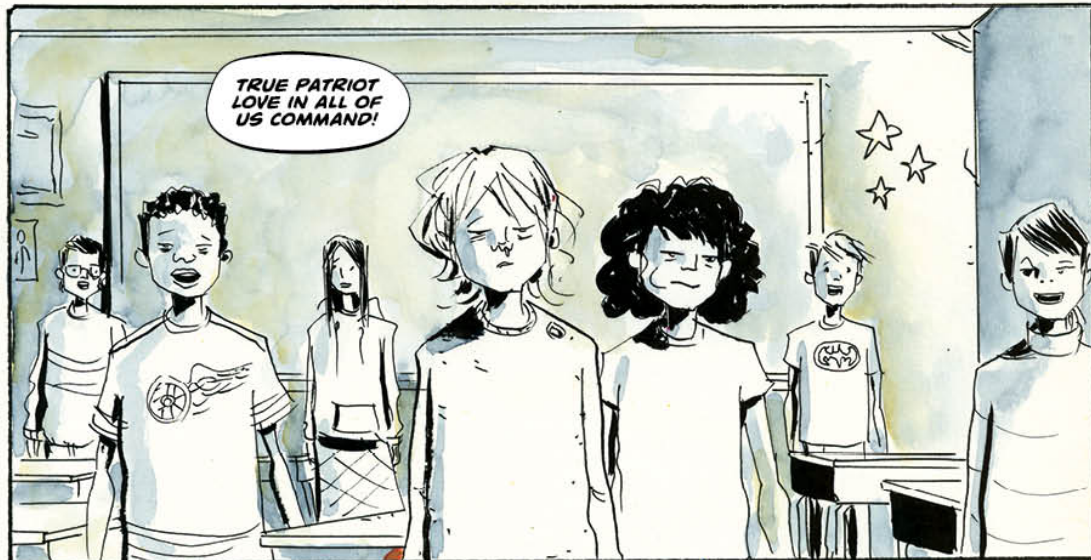
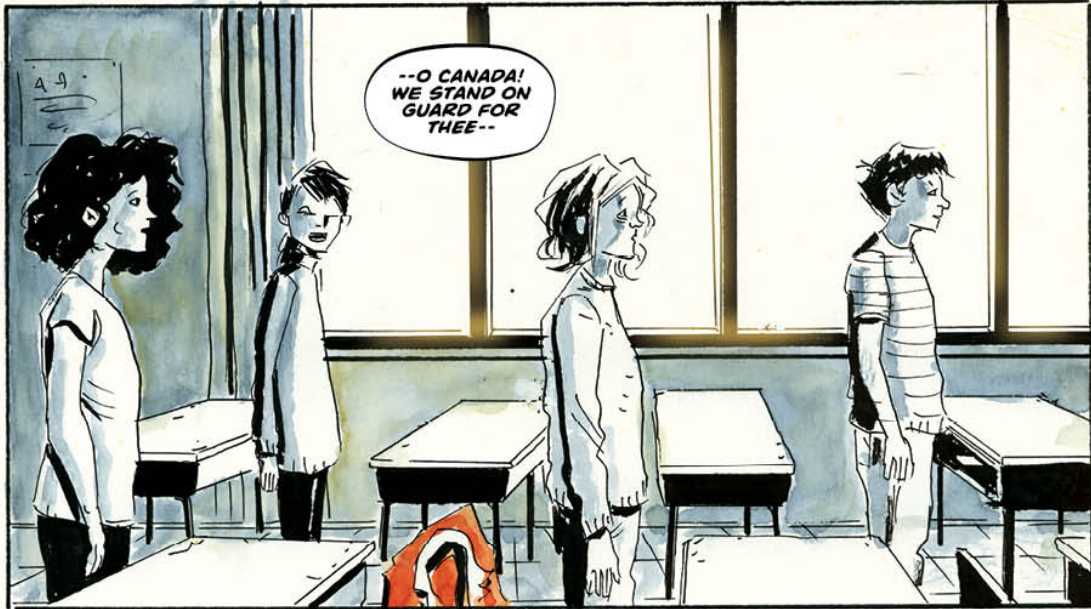


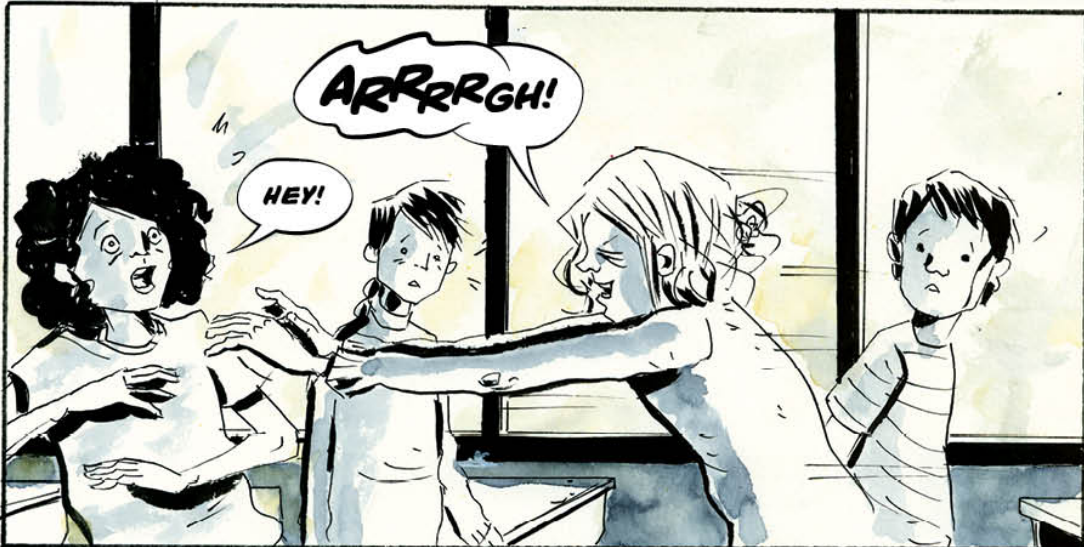
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, SNOTRAG?



!SNIFF!
NOTHING.



















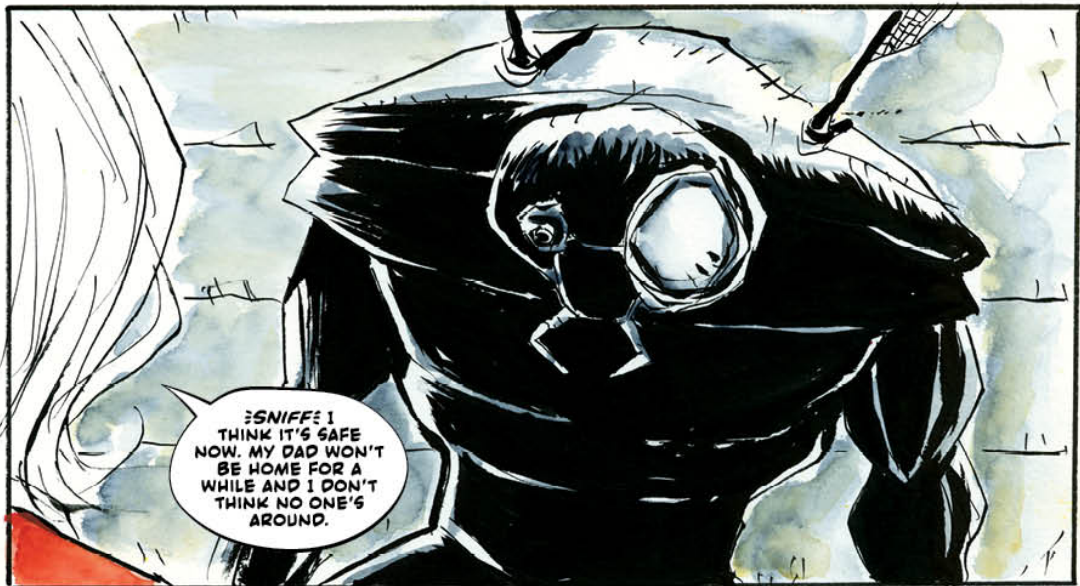


NAH.
YOU'RE
AWAKE.



SO, HOW
WAS YOUR
DAY?

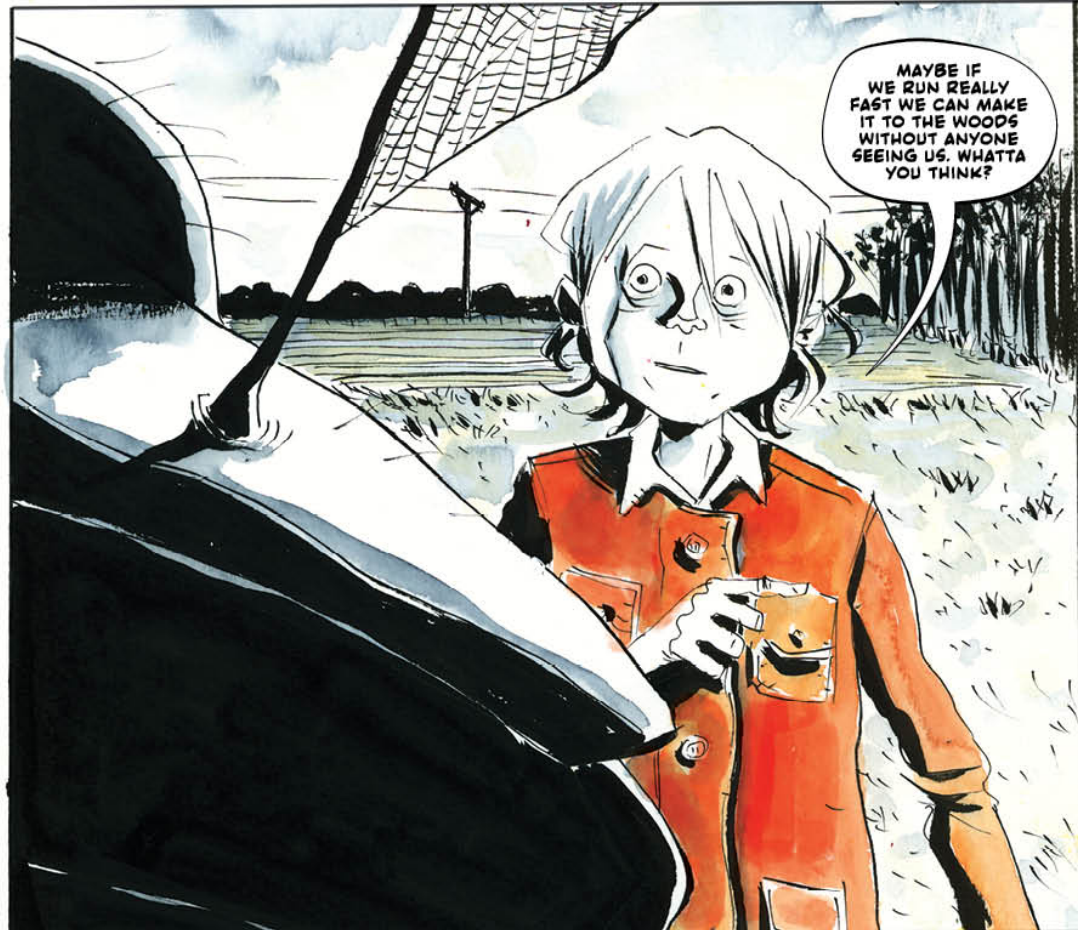
YOU WANNA
GO OUTSIDE?
STRETCH YOUR
LEGS?



SNIFF! I
THINK IT'S SAFE
NOW. MY DAD WON'T
BE HOME FOR A
WHILE AND I DON'T
THINK NO ONE'S
AROUND.



...IT'S OKAY.
SEE?



MAYBE IF
WE RUN REALLY
FAST WE CAN MAKE
IT TO THE WOODS
WITHOUT ANYONE
SEEING US. WHATTA
YOU THINK?









GUESS I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU DID. NO ONE EVER REALLY WANTS TO PLAY WITH ME 'CAUSE OF MY RUNNY NOSE ALL THE TIME AND STUFF.

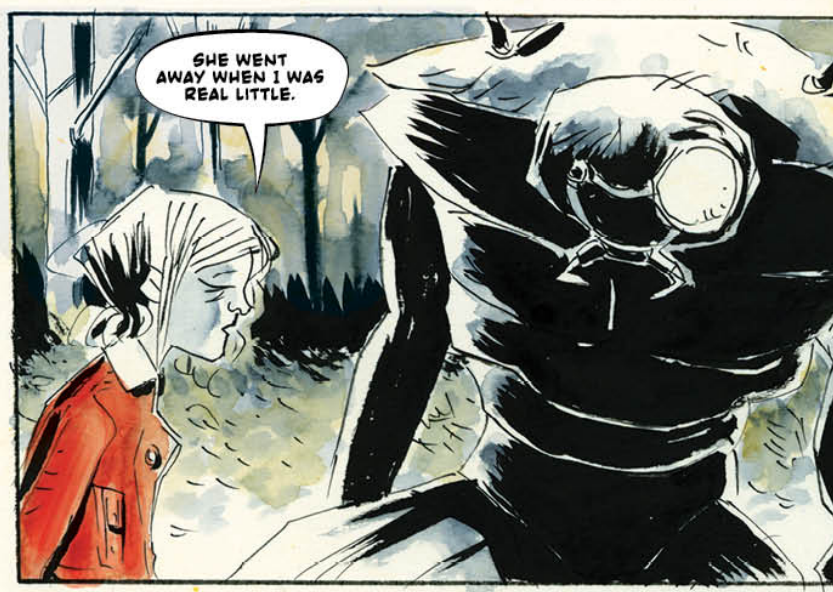


BOY, YOU CAN REALLY JUMP GOOD THOUGH, HUH? THAT WAS CRAZY!

CHT!



WISH I COULD JUMP LIKE THAT. DON'T KNOW WHERE I'D GO. JUST FAR AWAY I GUESS. LIKE MY MOM DID.



SHE WENT AWAY WHEN I WAS REAL LITTLE.

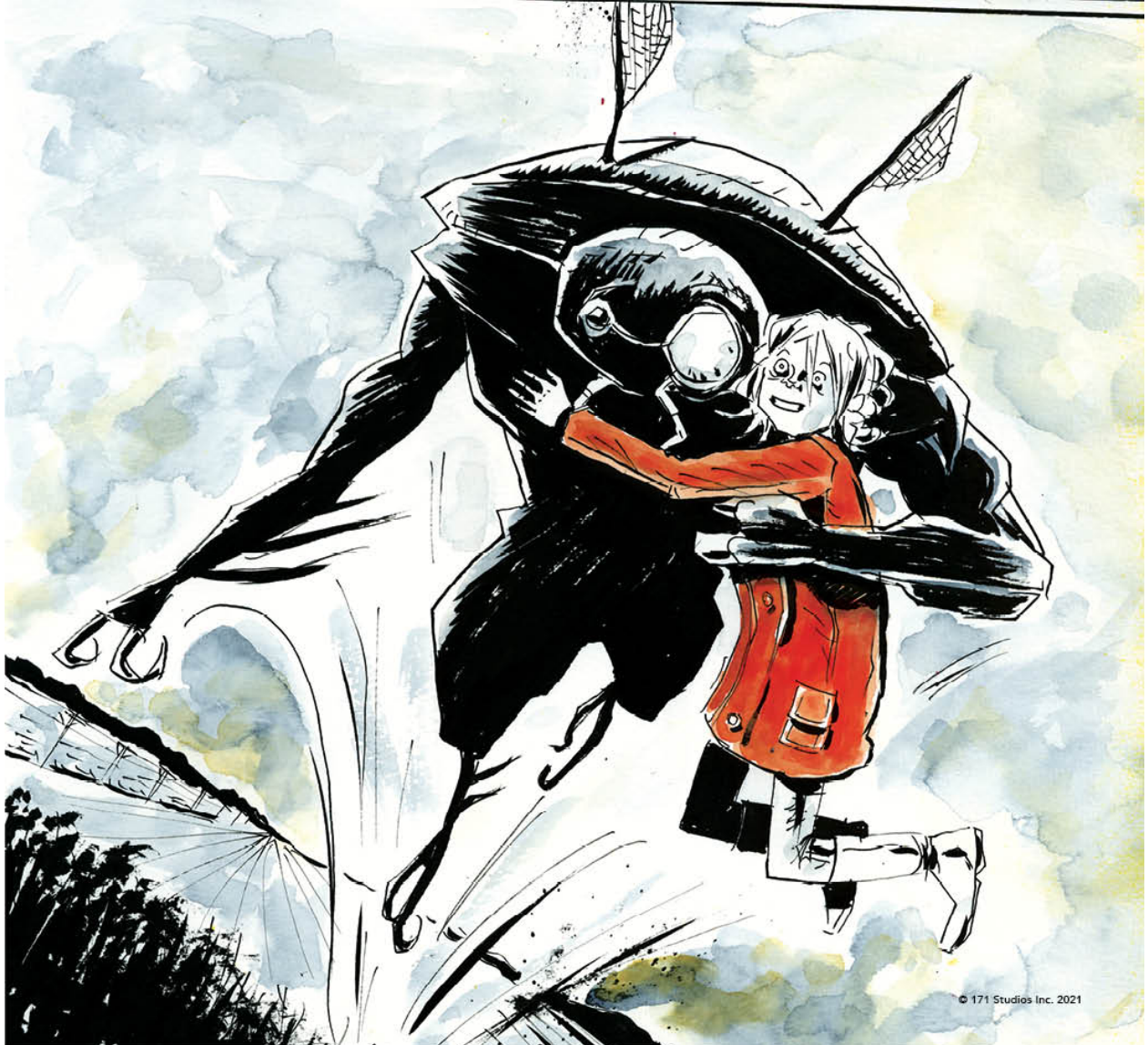


PROBABLY CAUSE I'M GROSS AND STUFF.

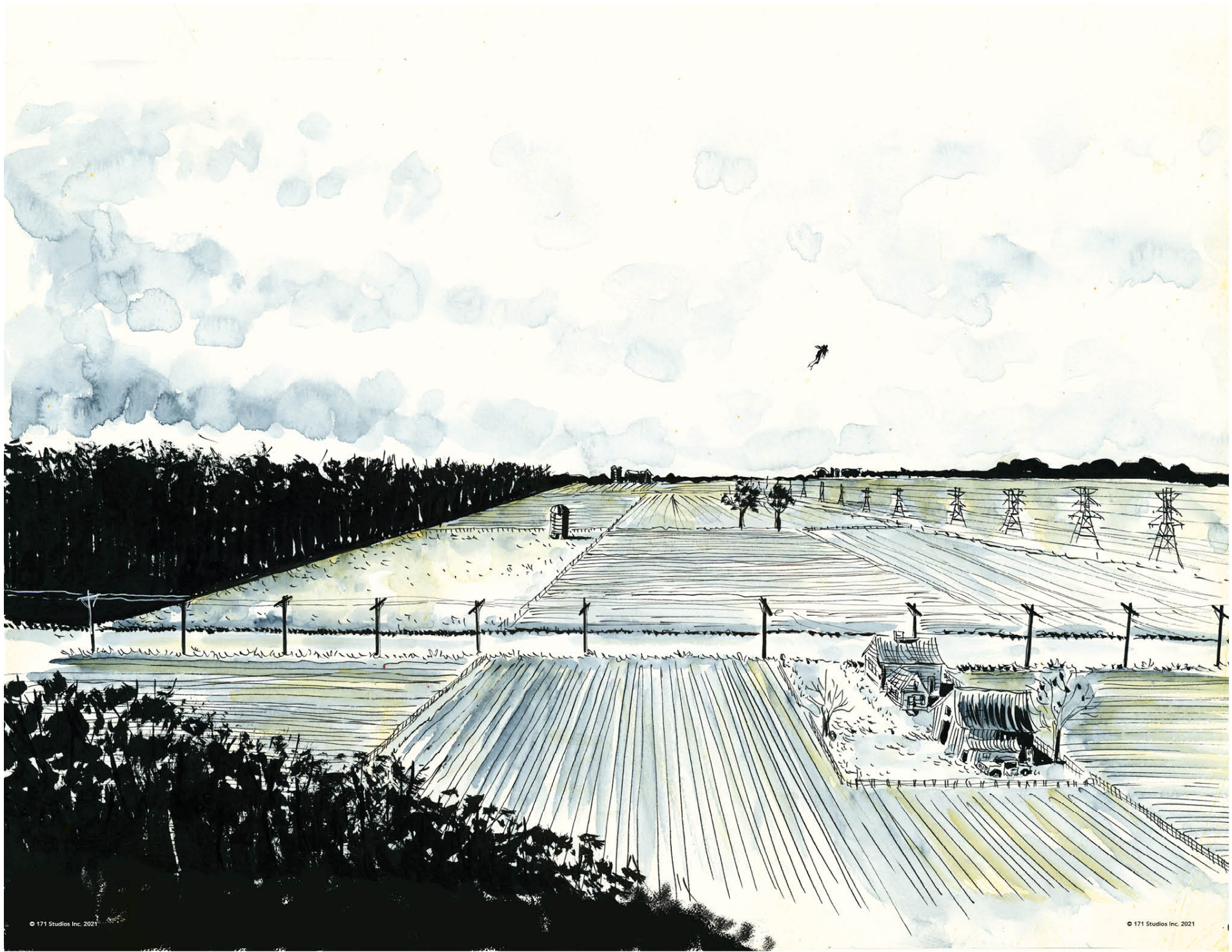
SNIFF!









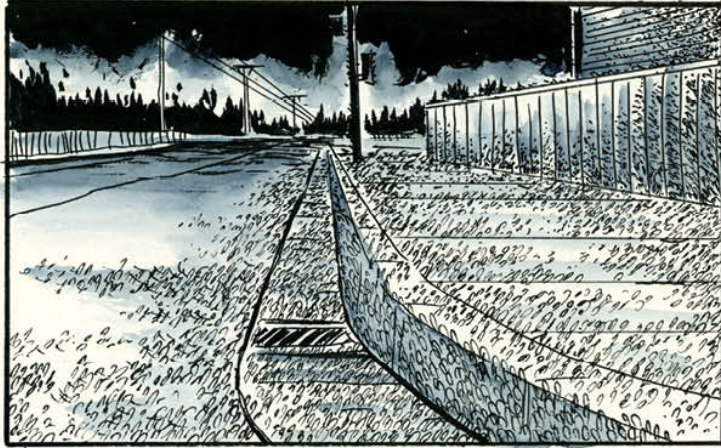


LIKE SCENES FROM A BIBLICAL PLAGUE, LAKESIDE COMMUNITIES IN SOME PARTS OF CANADA ARE BEING SWARMED BY INSECTS.



FISHFLIES HAVE RETURNED TO WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY AND ARE TAKING OVER THE OUTSIDE OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE REGION...

THEY MIGHT NOT BE THE LOCUSTS OF THE BOOK OF EXODUS, BUT THE FISH FLIES BLANKETING ONE CITY HAD BASEBALL PLAYERS FLEEING. YOUNG ATHLETES IN WINDSOR, ONT., WERE MID-PLAY MONDAY NIGHT WHEN THE GAME WAS CALLED OFF. THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE DIAMOND ATTRACTED A SWARM OF FISH FLIES, ALSO CALLED MAY FLIES, INTERFERING WITH PLAY.



THE INSECTS ARE AN ANNUAL OCCURRENCE IN COMMUNITIES NEAR THE WATER, CARPETING STREETS AND COVERING BEACHES FROM WINNIPEG TO ONTARIO. THE POPULAR PEELEE ISLAND FERRY IN ONTARIO WAS DOCKED OVER THE WEEKEND AFTER AN INFESTATION.

THEIR EMERGENCE, WHICH HAPPENS EN MASSE ONCE WATER TEMPERATURE HITS 19 OR 20 DEGREES CELSIUS, CAME LATE THIS YEAR IN SOME COMMUNITIES AFTER HISTORIC HIGH-WATER LEVELS. BUT WHILE THEY ARE A NUISANCE TO SOME HUMANS, THE FISH FLIES AREN'T AROUND FOR LONG AND ARE ACTUALLY A POSITIVE SIGN FOR THE HEALTH OF THE WATER, EXPERTS SAY.



STILL, THE ANNUAL SWARM IS AN IRRITANT TO MANY IN LAKESIDE COMMUNITIES. OFFICIALS IN THE TOWN OF LAKESHORE, ONT., WERE FORCED TO REMIND RESIDENTS NOT TO DISCONNECT STREET LIGHTS TO THWART THE BUGS. "THIS ACT COULD BE FATAL AND CAUSE VISIBILITY ISSUES FOR PEDESTRIANS AND MOTORISTS," THEY SAID IN A TWEET.

DROUILLARD SAYS THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT BITES FROM THE FISH FLIES EITHER. "BECAUSE THEY EMERGE AND LIVE ONLY TWO DAYS, THEY DON'T EAT AT ALL. THEY HAVE NO MOUTH PARTS, SO THEY CAN'T BITE," HE SAID. THEY SIMPLY END UP BEING LUNCH FOR OTHER SPECIES.

