CHAPTER 1

2 YEARS

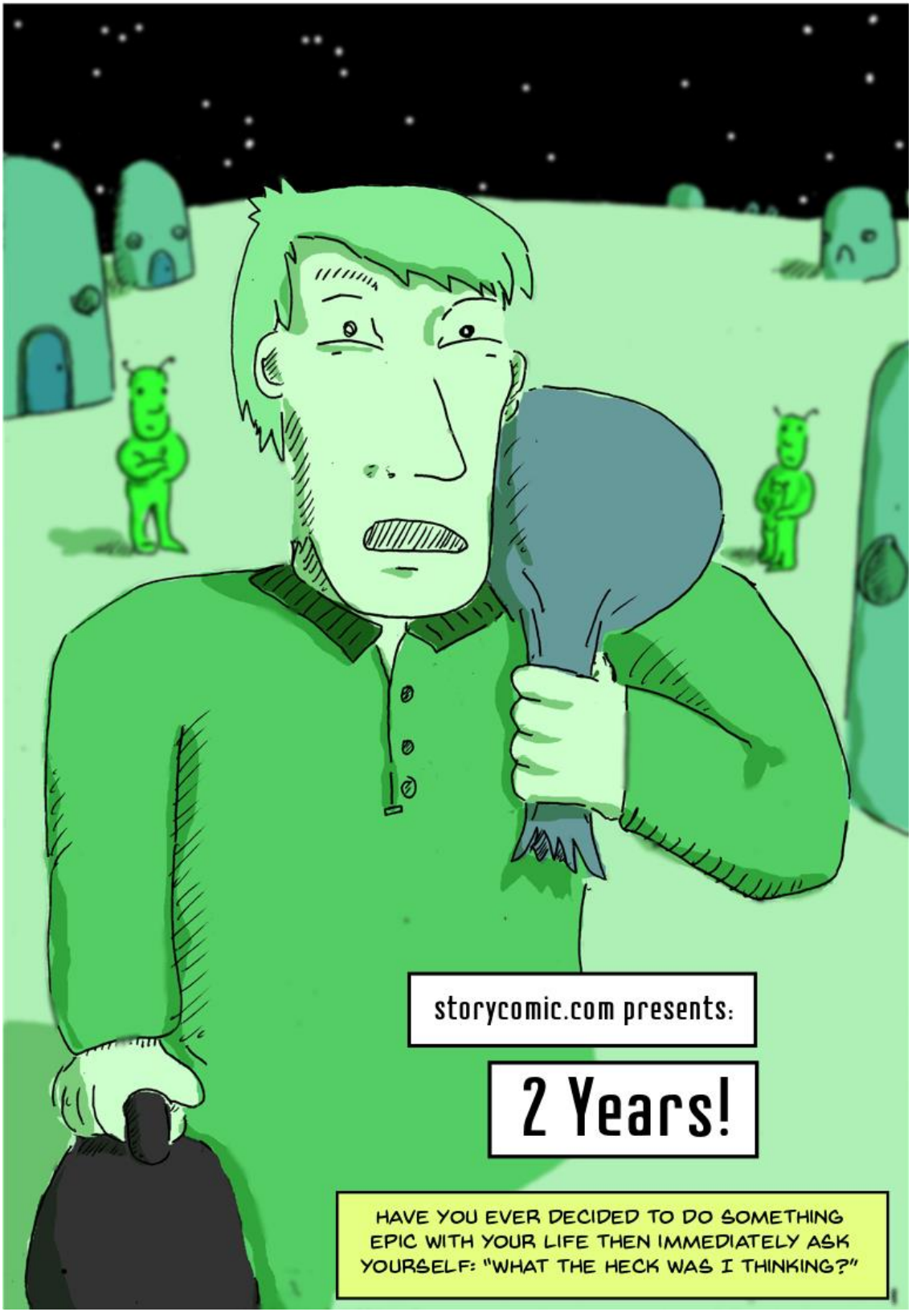
"WHAT THE HECK DID I SIGN UP FOR?"

JOHN AND A HANDFUL OF OTHER TRUCE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN TELAFI, THE POOREST TERRITORY ON MARS.

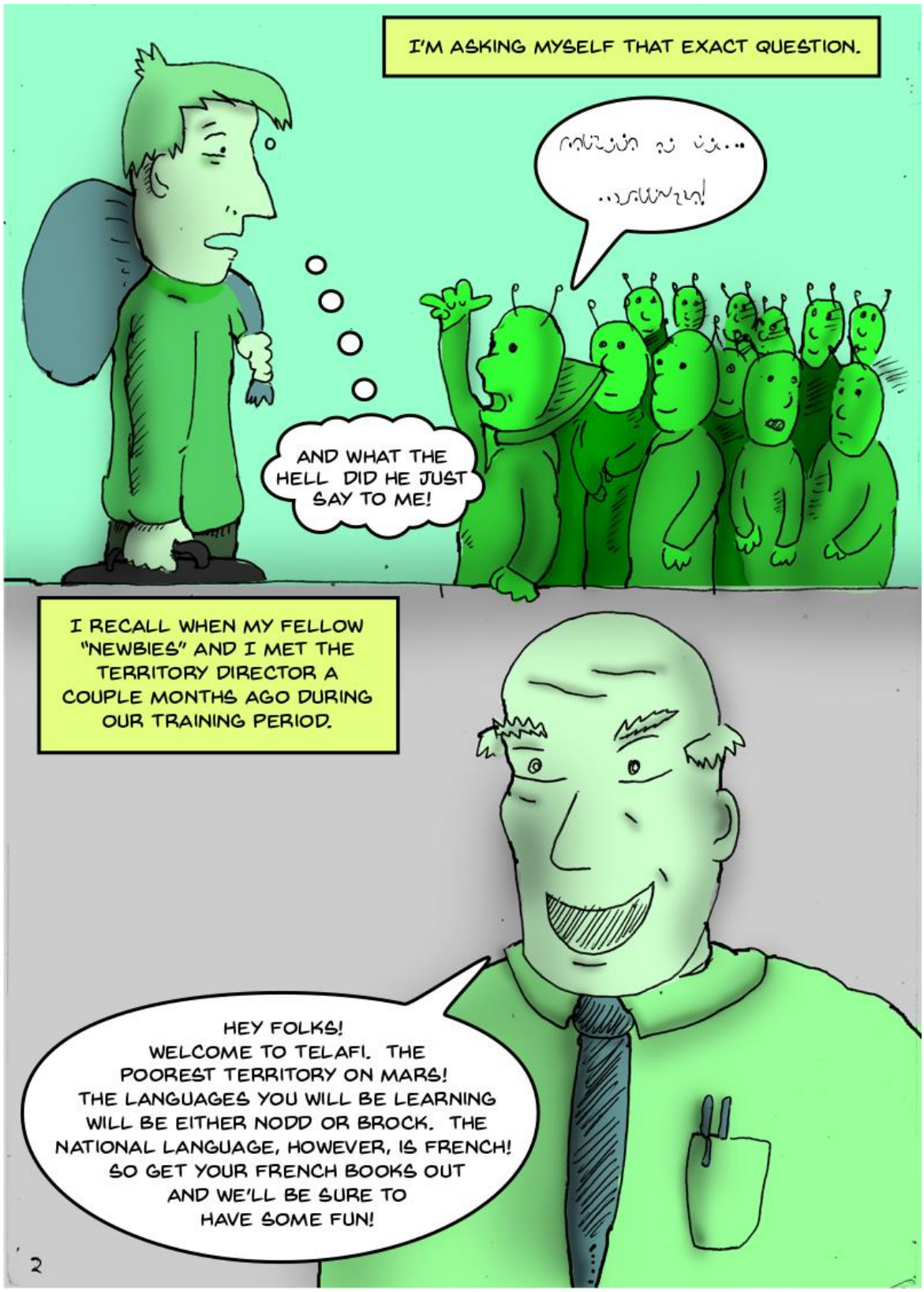
BEFORE THEY ARE DROPPED OFF TO BE COMPLETELY ALONE IN THEIR PRE-ASSIGNED ALIEN VILLAGE, THEY AT LEAST GET TO LEARN HOW TO SAY "HELLO", "GOODBYE", "I'M HUNGRY", "DIARRHEA", AND "I NEED AT DOCTOR."

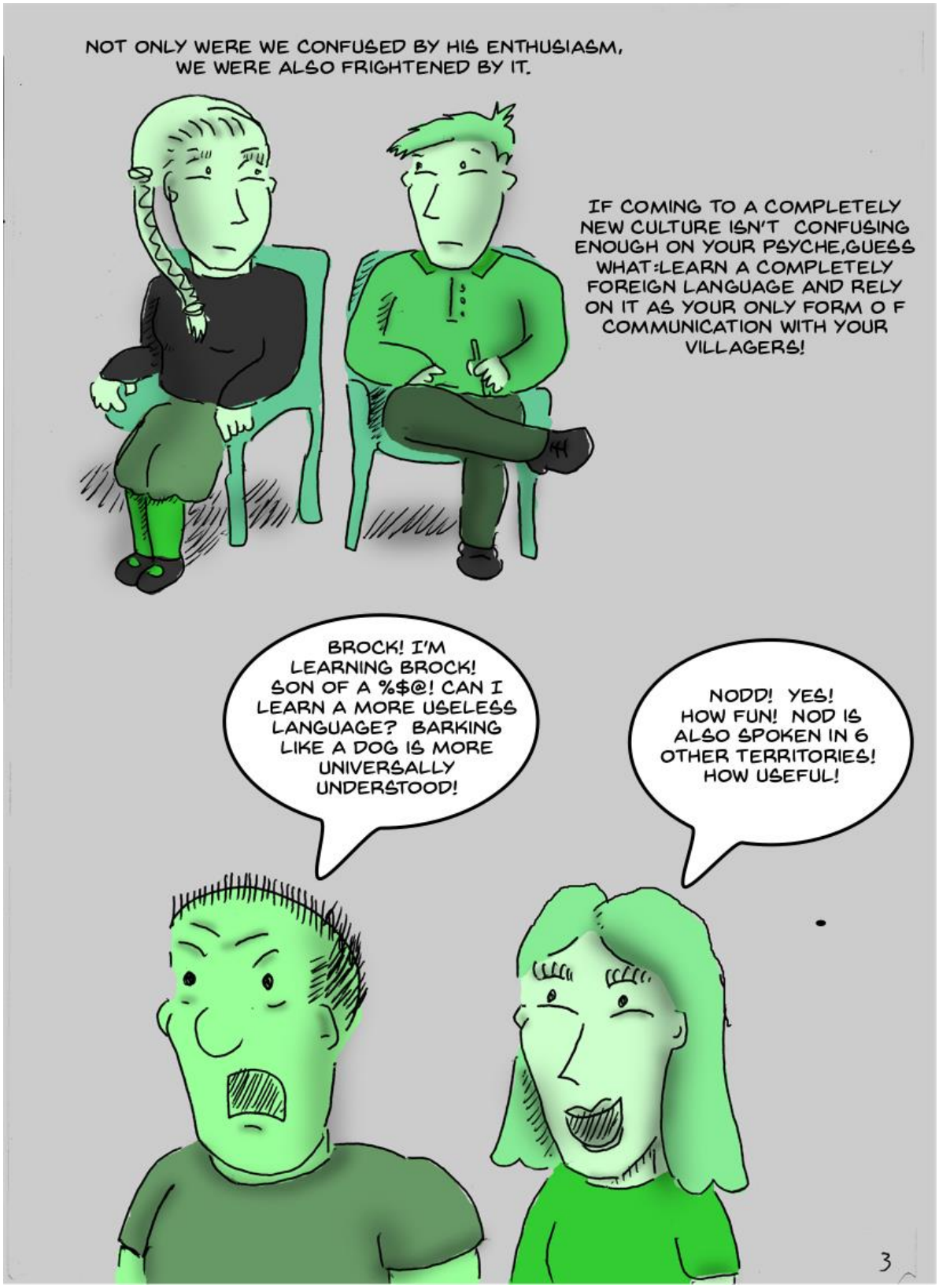
THERE ARE JUST AS MANY REASONS AS THERE ARE VOLUNTEERS ON WHY PEOPLE MAKE THE DECISION TO GIVE UP THEIR LIVES TO LIVE AND WORK IN A FOREIGN WORLD FOR TWO YEARS; BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME BASIC ARCHETYPAL PERSONALITIES THAT ARE ATTRACTED TO THIS LINE OF WORK...

- THE MARTYR
- THE PHILOSOPHER
- THE WORKER
- THE REVELER
- THE QUESTIONER


storycomic.com presents:
2 Years!
HAVE YOU EVER DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING EPIC WITH YOUR LIFE THEN IMMEDIATELY ASK YOURSELF: "WHAT THE HECK WAS I THINKING?"

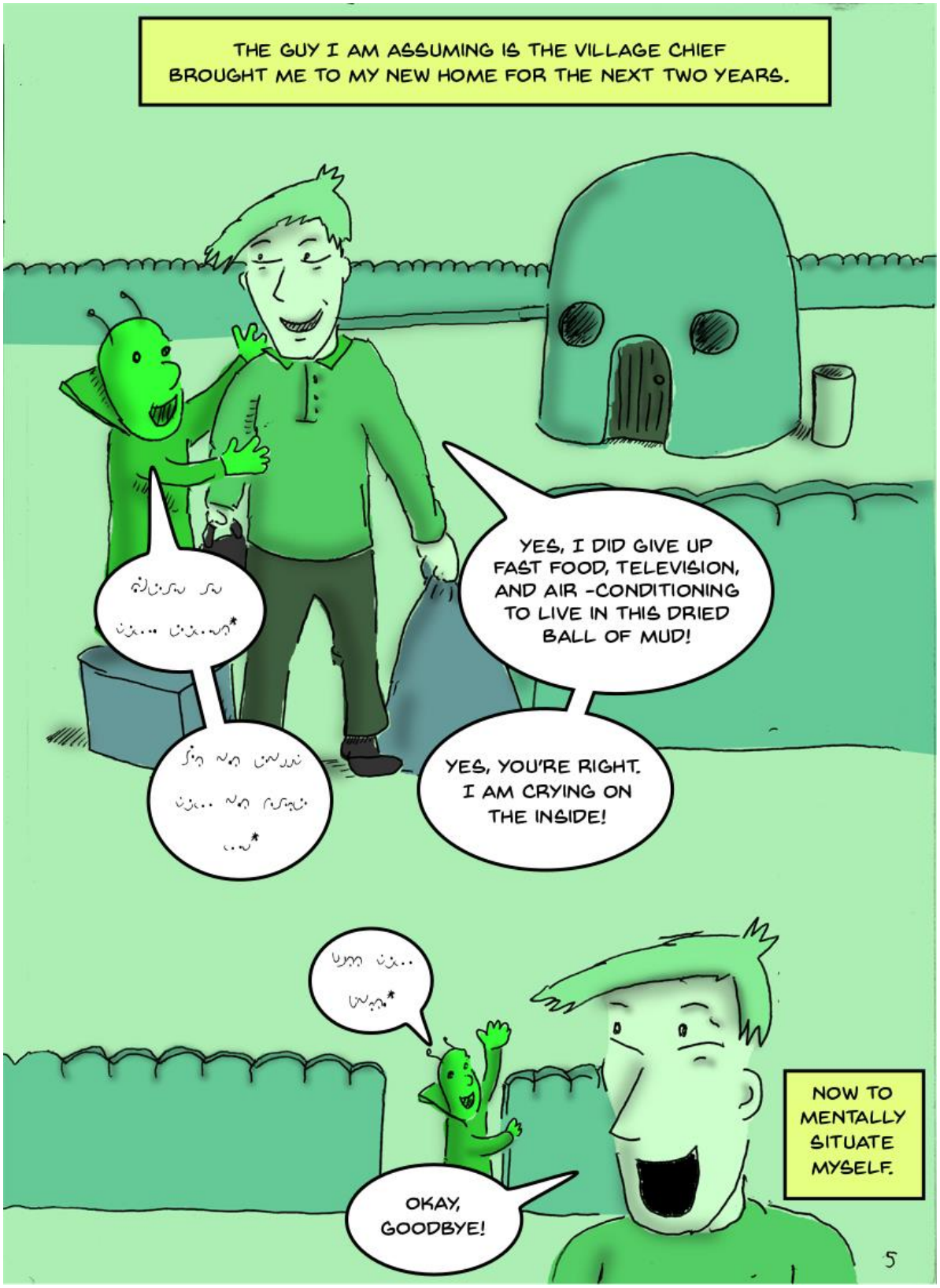
2 YEARS


I'M ASKING MYSELF THAT EXACT QUESTION.
AND WHAT THE HELL DID HE JUST SAY TO ME!
I RECALL WHEN MY FELLOW "NEWBIES" AND I MET THE TERRITORY DIRECTOR A COUPLE MONTHS AGO DURING OUR TRAINING PERIOD.
HEY FOLKS! WELCOME TO TELAFI. THE POOREST TERRITORY ON MARS! THE LANGUAGES YOU WILL BE LEARNING WILL BE EITHER NODD OR BROCK. THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, HOWEVER, IS FRENCH! SO GET YOUR FRENCH BOOKS OUT AND WE'LL BE SURE TO HAVE SOME FUN!
2

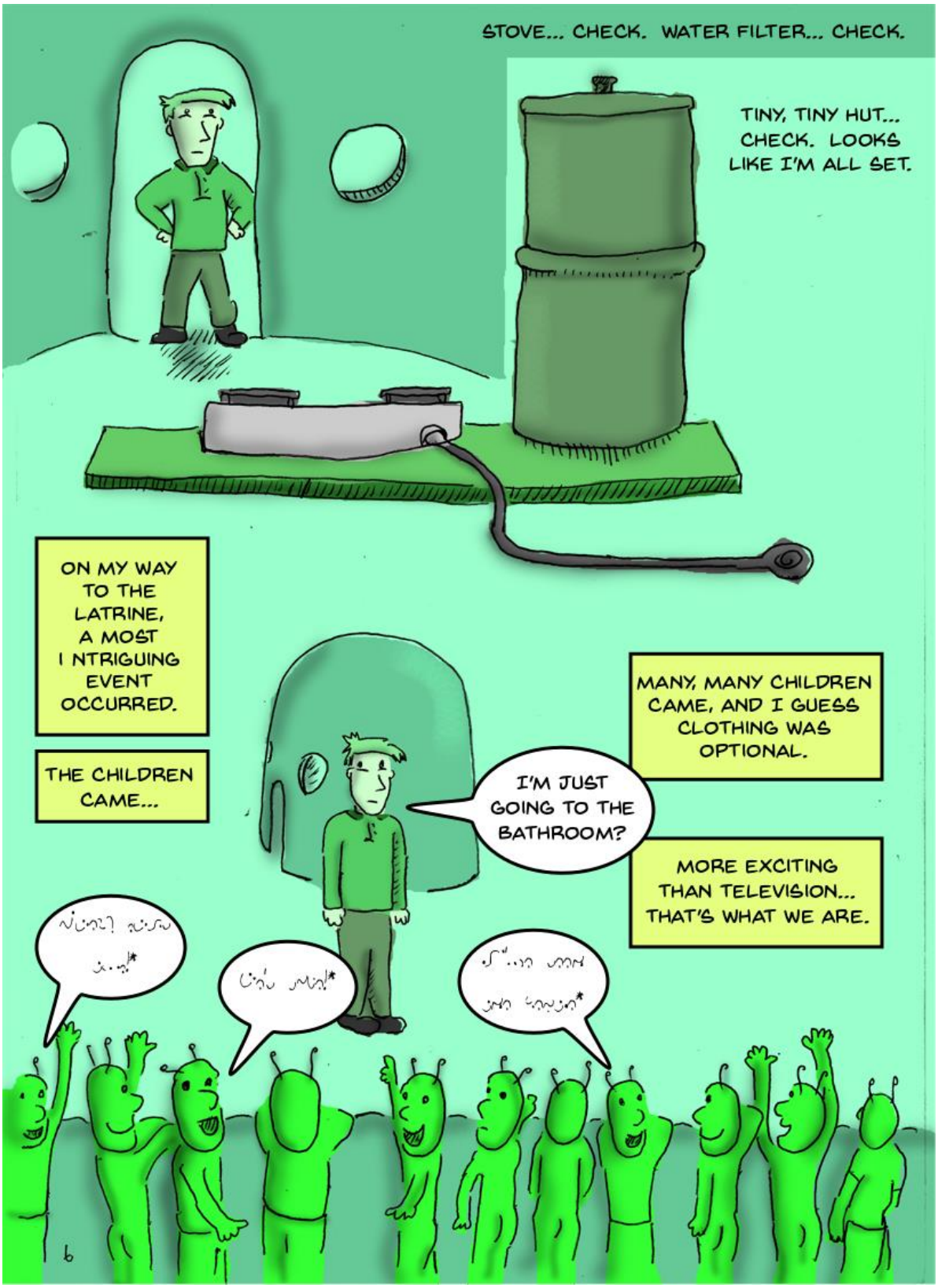

NOT ONLY WERE WE CONFUSED BY HIS ENTHUSIASM, WE WERE ALSO FRIGHTENED BY IT.
IF COMING TO A COMPLETELY NEW CULTURE ISN'T CONFUSING ENOUGH ON YOUR PSYCHE,GUESS WHAT:LEARN A COMPLETELY FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND RELY ON IT AS YOUR ONLY FORM O F COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR VILLAGERS!
BROCK! I'M LEARNING BROCK! SON OF A %$@! CAN I LEARN A MORE USELESS LANGUAGE? BARKING LIKE A DOG IS MORE UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD!
NODD! YES! HOW FUN! NOD IS ALSO SPOKEN IN 6 OTHER TERRITORIES! HOW USEFUL!
3

2 YEARS

OH I KNOW THAT!
WAIT! HOLD ON! YOU'LL NEED TO SAY THAT IN ENGLISH!
I DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH.
YOU'RE FREAKIN' LYING!
SOME PEOPLE HAVE A NATURAL KNACK FOR LANGUAGES. OTHERS STRUGGLE. MY OUTLOOK ON THE INTENSIVE LANGUAGE CLASSES IS THAT I WILL EVENTUALLY LEARN BROCK ANYWAY, SO I MIGHT AS WELL NOT WORK MYSELF UP OVER IT.
NOW I WISH I WORKED MYSELF UP OVER IT.
QUICK, SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES IN MY HEAD.
I NEED TO PEE*
OKAY
HOUSE.
I ONLY UNDERSTOOD 'OKAY' AND 'HOUSE'.
*TRANSLATED FROM BROCK.


THE GUY I AM ASSUMING IS THE VILLAGE CHIEF BROUGHT ME TO MY NEW HOME FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
YES, I DID GIVE UP FAST FOOD, TELEVISION, AND AIR -CONDITIONING TO LIVE IN THIS DRIED BALL OF MUD!
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. I AM CRYING ON THE INSIDE!
NOW TO MENTALLY SITUATE MYSELF.
OKAY, GOODBYE!
5

2 YEARS


STOVE... CHECK. WATER FILTER... CHECK.
TINY, TINY HUT... CHECK. LOOKS LIKE I'M ALL SET.
ON MY WAY TO THE LATRINE, A MOST I NTRIGUING EVENT OCCURRED.
THE CHILDREN CAME...
I'M JUST GOING TO THE BATHROOM?
MANY, MANY CHILDREN CAME, AND I GUESS CLOTHING WAS OPTIONAL.
MORE EXCITING THAN TELEVISION... THAT'S WHAT WE ARE.

2 YEARS! 2 DAMN YEARS! G*D $HIT DAMN $HIT
tinkle tinkle
AFTER LETTING LOOSE A FLOOD OF URINE AND CURSES, I FELT MUCH BETTER.
THEN MY CLOSEST TRUCE CORPS NEIGHBOR CAME BY FOR A VISIT.
NOTE THE BANDANA. STANDARD VOLUNTEER WEAR.
HEY, JOHN. HOW'S IT GOING?
HEY, ALEXIS!
NOTE HOW THE LOCALS LOVE HER.
ALEXIS IS A VOLUNTEER WHO HAS BEEN POSTED IN TELAFI FOR A YEAR ALREADY. SINCE SHE IS THE ONLY OTHER AMERICAN WITHIN MILES OF ME AND IS FLUENT IN BROCK, IT IS NO UNDERSTATEMENT TO SAY THAT I CONSIDER HER A GODDESS!
NOTE HOW SHE HAS ADOPTED THE CULTURAL GARB
I WOULD DEFIANTLY PLACE HER IN "THE REVELER" CATEGORY.
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IN ORDER TO CONTINUE, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THERE ARE BASICALLY FIVE MAJOR STEREOTYPES THAT JOIN THE TRUCE CORPS. I WAS BLESSED TO HAVE ALL OF THEM COME TO TELAFI WITH ME.

Faith

The Martyr

THE MARTYR JOINS TO SAVE THE WORLD, OR SIMPLY INTENDS ON MAKING THE WORLD OR HER VILLAGE A BETTER PLACE IN HER UTOPIAN EYES.

The Philosopher

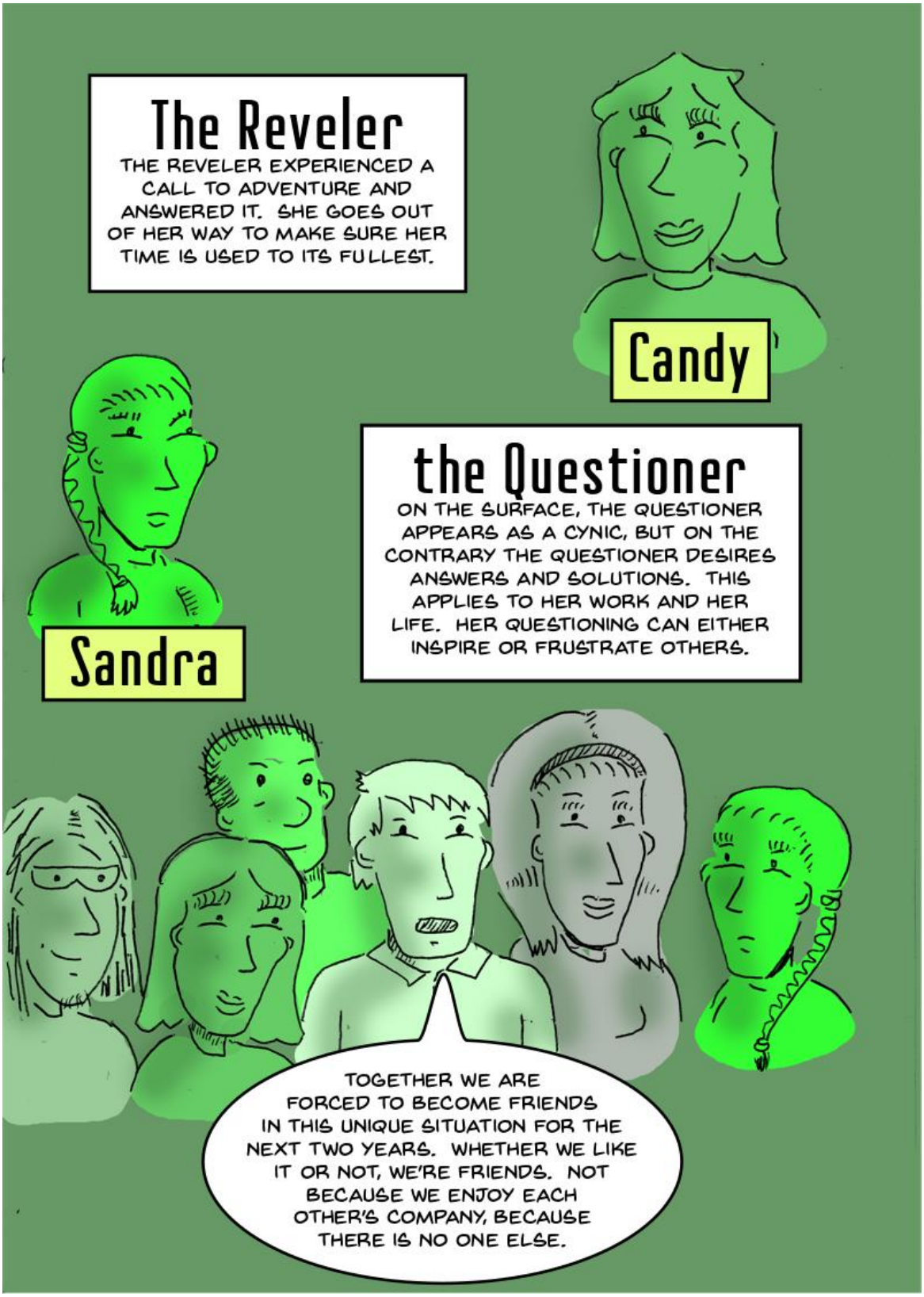
THE PHILOSOPHER LOOKS THROUGH, AROUND, AND ABOVE EVERYTHING. THE TRUCE CORPS IS JUST ANOTHER MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY HE IS EAGER TO EXPERIENCE.

Theo

Gus

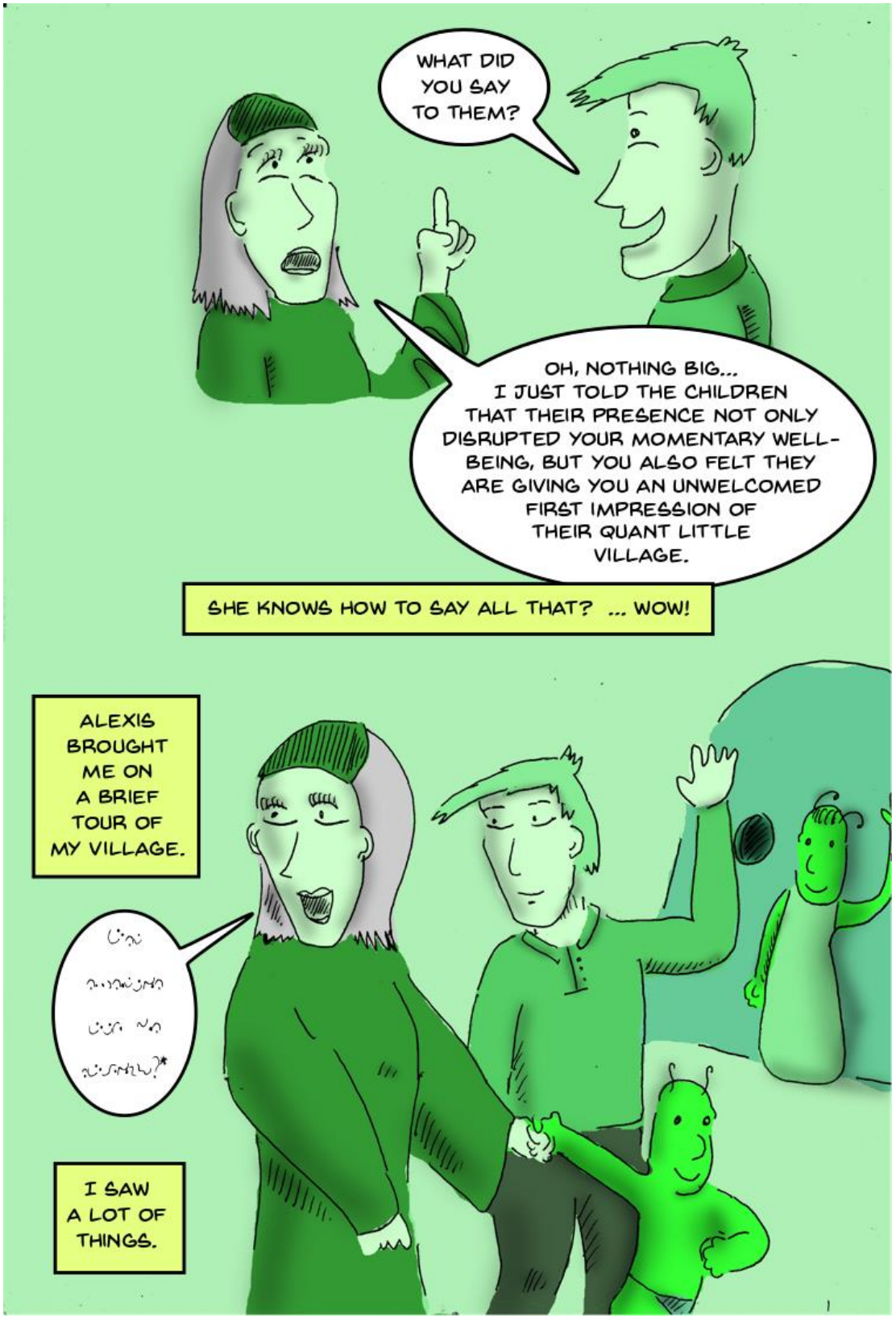
The Worker

THE WORKER SEES THIS AS JUST ANOTHER JOB AND TREATS IT AS SUCH. THE WORKER DESIRES THIS STRUCTURE AND EMBRACES IT.

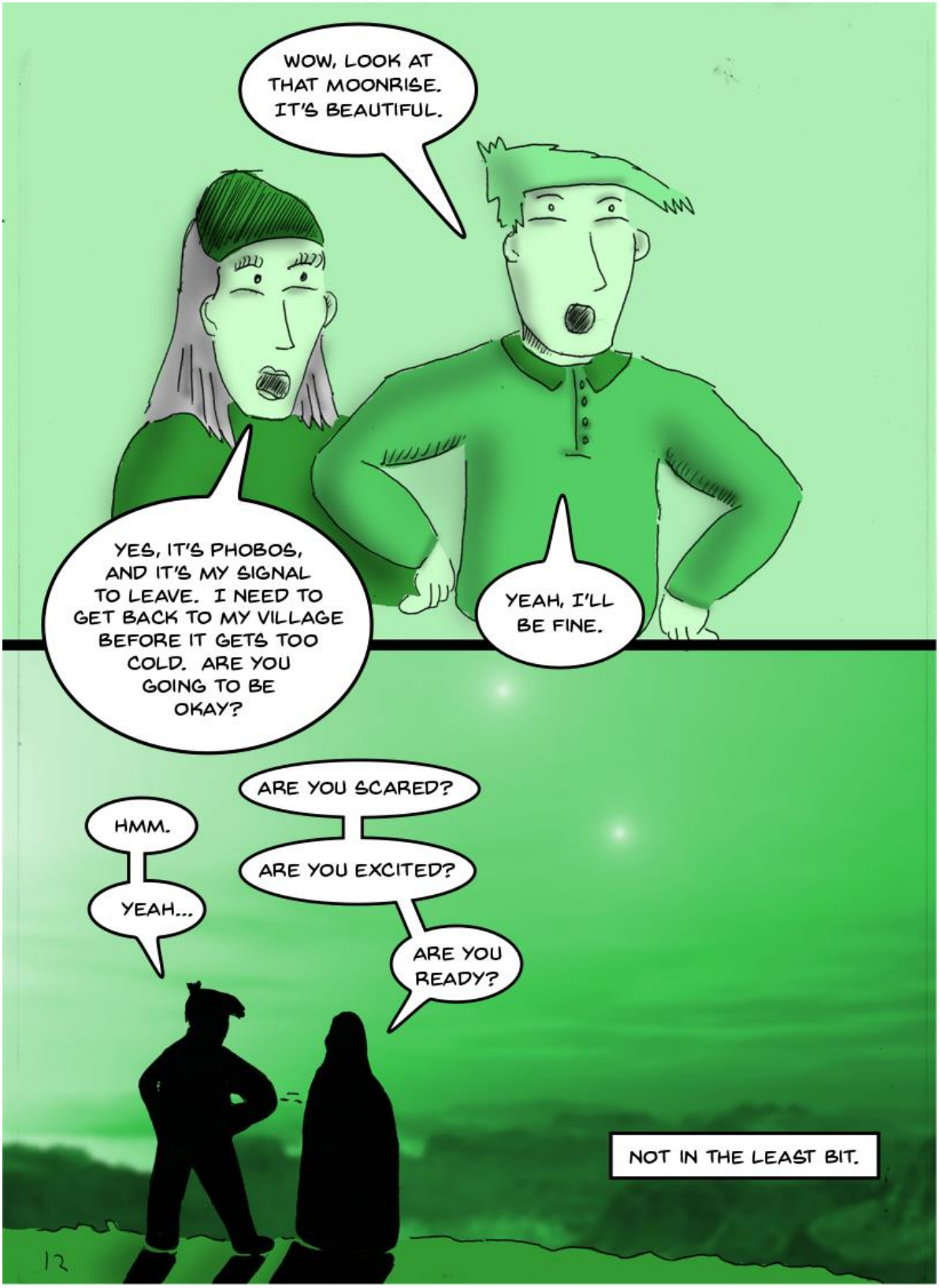

The Reveler
THE REVELER EXPERIENCED A CALL TO ADVENTURE AND ANSWERED IT. SHE GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO MAKE SURE HER TIME IS USED TO ITS FULLEST.
Candy
the Questioner
ON THE SURFACE, THE QUESTIONER APPEARS AS A CYNIC, BUT ON THE CONTRARY THE QUESTIONER DESIRES ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS. THIS APPLIES TO HER WORK AND HER LIFE. HER QUESTIONING CAN EITHER INSPIRE OR FRUSTRATE OTHERS.
Sandra
TOGETHER WE ARE FORCED TO BECOME FRIENDS IN THIS UNIQUE SITUATION FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, WE'RE FRIENDS. NOT BECAUSE WE ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, BECAUSE THERE IS NO ONE ELSE.

2 YEARS

HERE YOU GO, ALEXIS. A NICE CUP OF FILTERED WATER.
SO, HOW IS THE PLACE?
NOT BAD, EXCEPT KIDS SEEM TO ENJOY STARING AT ME.
OH, I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT FOR YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha
10


WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM?
OH, NOTHING BIG... I JUST TOLD THE CHILDREN THAT THEIR PRESENCE NOT ONLY DISRUPTED YOUR MOMENTARY WELL-BEING, BUT YOU ALSO FELT THEY ARE GIVING YOU AN UNWELCOMED FIRST IMPRESSION OF THEIR QUANT LITTLE VILLAGE.
SHE KNOWS HOW TO SAY ALL THAT? ... WOW!
ALEXIS BROUGHT ME ON A BRIEF TOUR OF MY VILLAGE.
I SAW A LOT OF THINGS.

2 YEARS


WOW, LOOK AT THAT MOONRISE. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
YES, IT'S PHOBOS, AND IT'S MY SIGNAL TO LEAVE. I NEED TO GET BACK TO MY VILLAGE BEFORE IT GETS TOO COLD. ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?
YEAH, I'LL BE FINE.
ARE YOU SCARED?
HMM.
ARE YOU EXCITED?
YEAH...
ARE YOU READY?
NOT IN THE LEAST BIT.