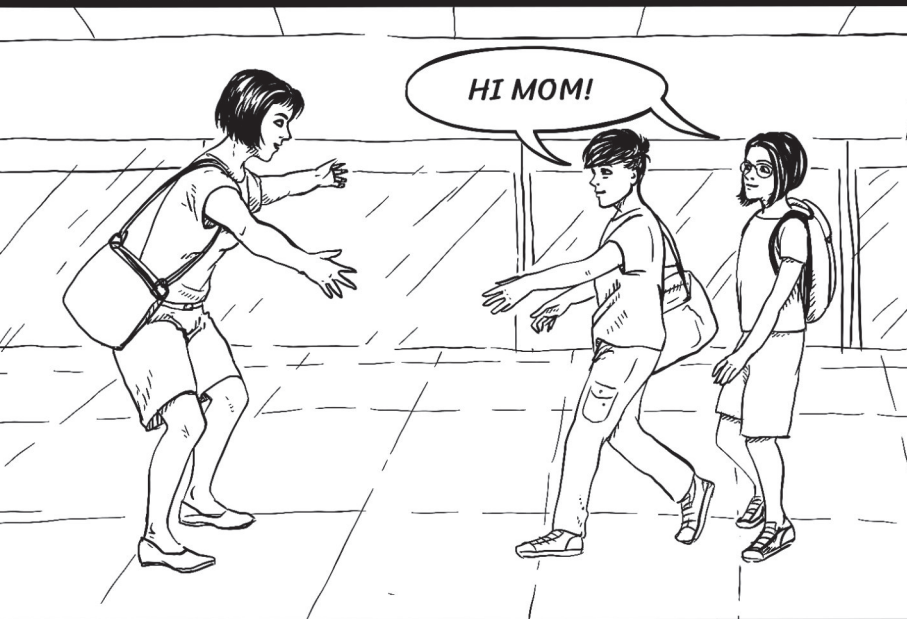




WHEN THE EARTH MELTS

THE STORY OF A VOLCANO

illustrations: Karolina Kučerová
text: Lucie Lukačovičová
concept: Matěj Machek and Petr Brož



HI MOM!



LET'S CALL DAD AND TELL HIM YOU'VE GOT HERE. S



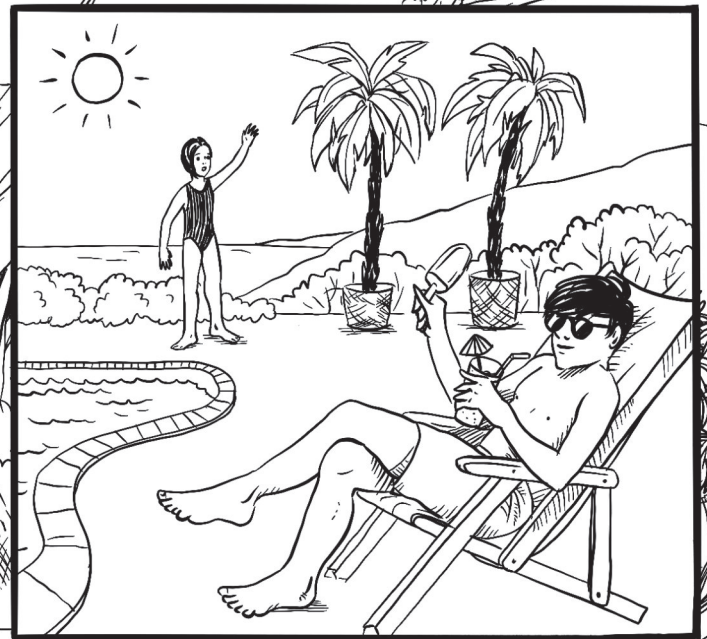
HOW WAS YOUR TRIP?

REALLY...

...BOOORING

I HAVE TO GO TO THE OBSERVATORY, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO TODAY?

THE POOL!



OK BYE, I HAVE TO GET GOING.

WE'RE GOING TO TOWN.

THE CANARY ISLANDS ARE SUPER, BUT IT WOULD BE HANDY TO HAVE SOMEONE WITH US WHO CAN SPEAK SPANISH.

LIKE MUM. IF ONLY SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO WORK ALL THE TIME.

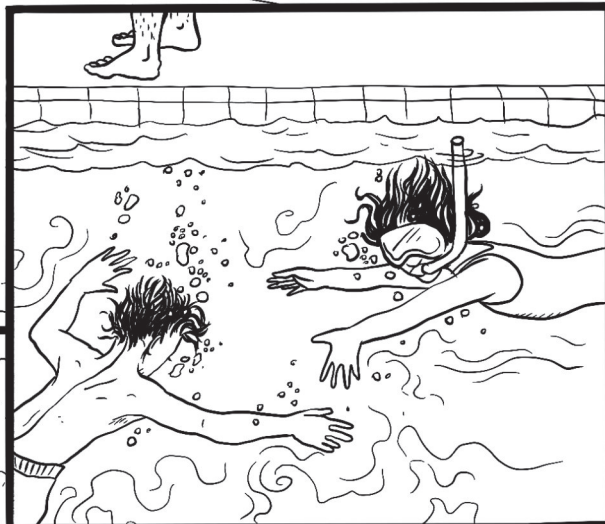
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES!

ARE WE UP FOR SNORKELLING?

BUT AN ICE CREAM FIRST!

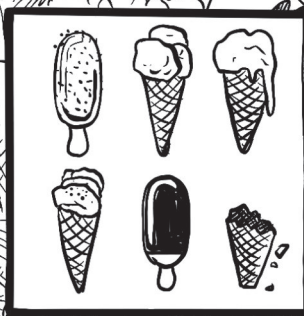
I WONDER WHAT
THEY'RE DOING AT
THE OBSERVATORY?

THEY'RE WATCHING SPACE,
AREN'T THEY? WELL, AT NIGHT AT
LEAST. DURING THE DAY THEY'LL BE
FIXING THE INSTRUMENTS AND
DRINKING COFFEE.



WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY, ANYWAY?

STOP WORRYING, DAD
WON'T ARRIVE UNTIL A WEEK
FROM NOW.



AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO

WE'LL EXPLORE THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COME BACK
FOR LUNCH

LUNCH YOU SAY?
RATHER ANOTHER
ICE CREAM.

DON'T FORGET TO
PUT ON SUNSCREEN!





LOOK! THERE'S MOM'S
OBSERVATORY! IF WE CLIMB
THIS HILL WE'LL GET A BETTER
VIEW.

SLOW DOWN...



DID YOU FEEL THAT?
IT WAS LIKE EVERYTHING
JUST SHOOK.

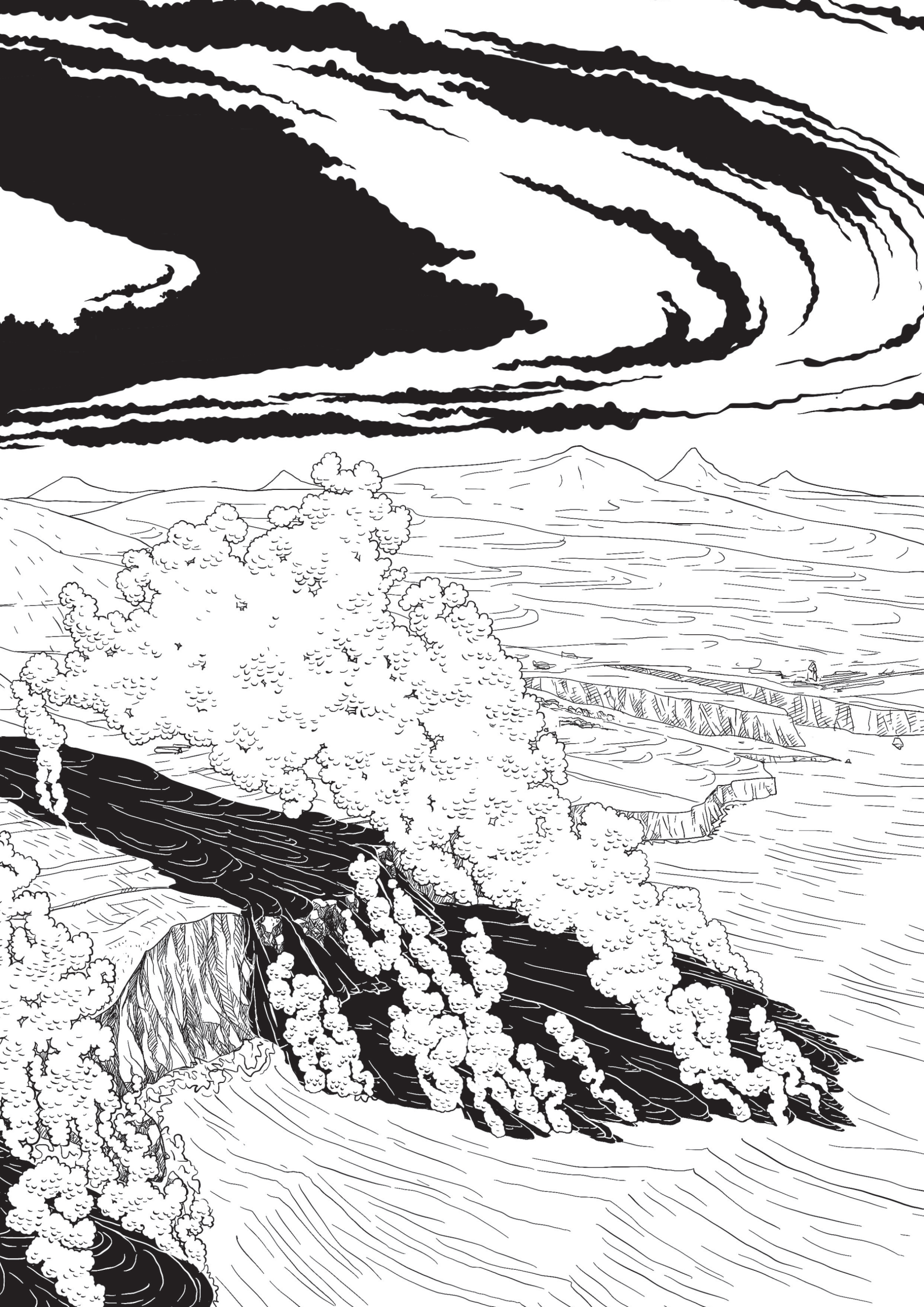
WHAT WAS THAT?











NOW WHAT? THEY
LEFT US HERE! THE LAVA
WILL BE HERE ANY
MINUTE!

BUT WHERE TO?!

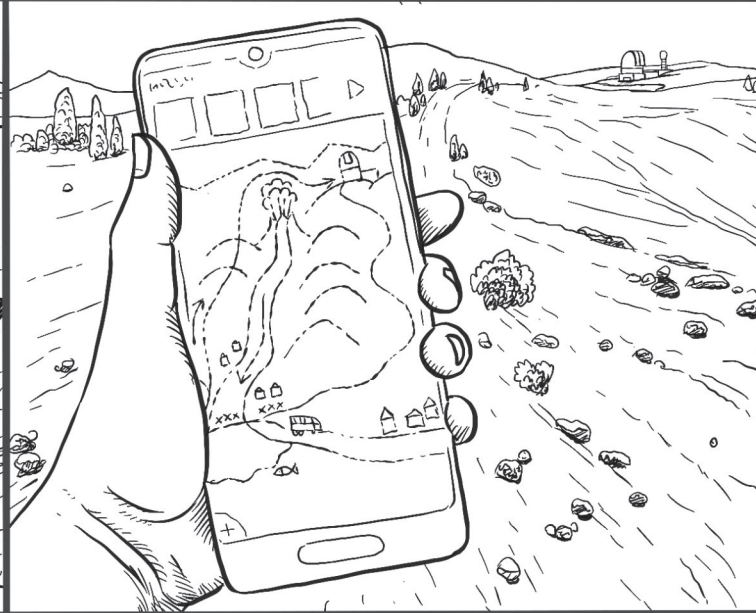
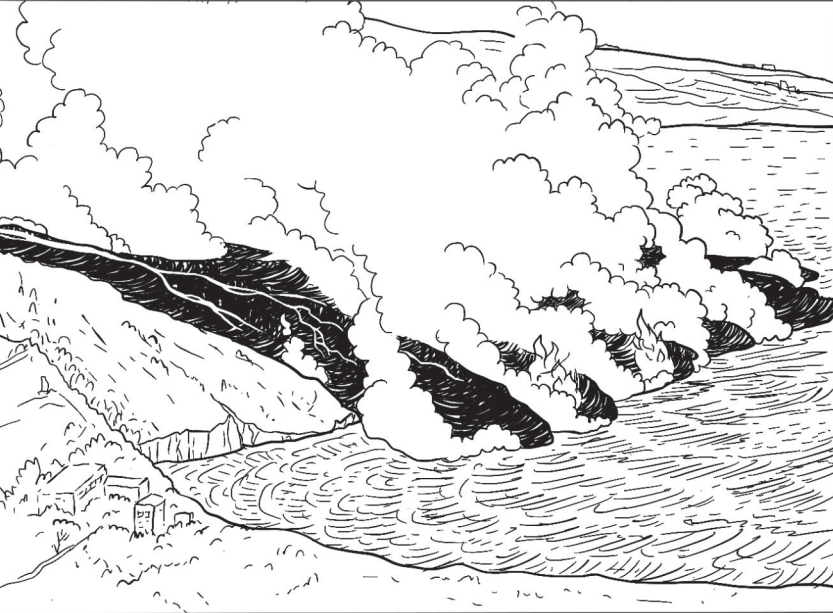
WE HAVE TO RUN!

MUM...!
MUM'S OBSERVATORY IS
ON A HILL, WE WILL BE
SAFE THERE!



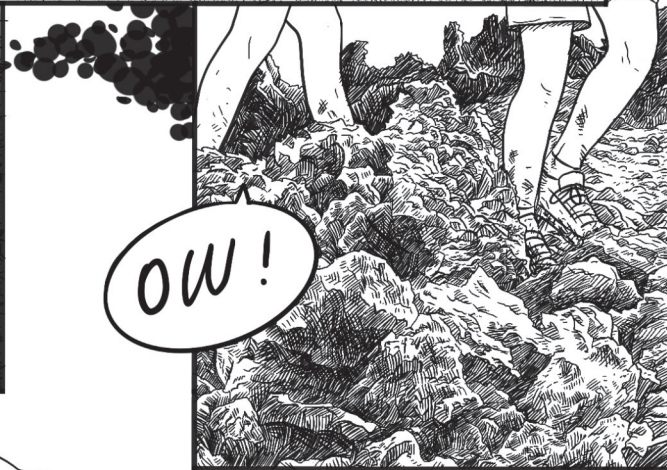
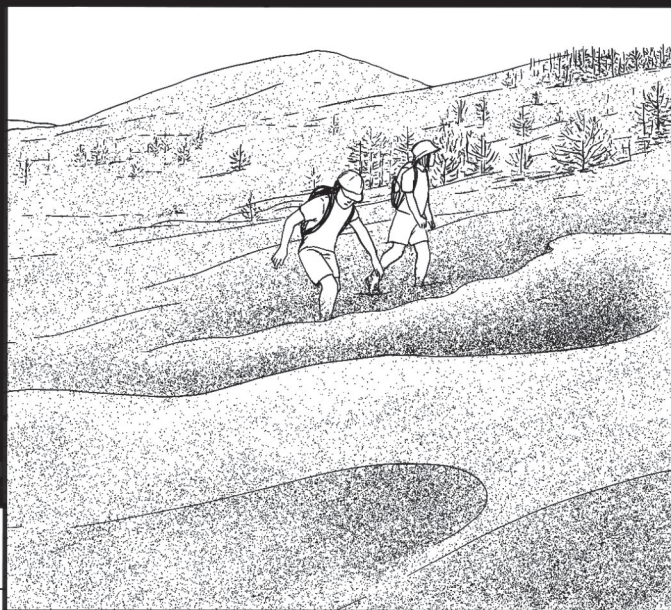
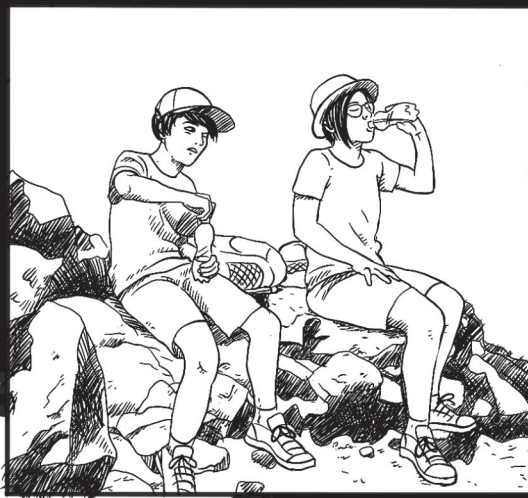
WE SAW IT FROM
ACROSS THE VALLEY, REMEMBER?
IT CAN'T BE THAT FAR.





LOOK! HEY!
WE'RE OVER HERE!
HELP US!

IT'S USELESS,
THEY'RE FLYING OFF.
LET'S CONTINUE.



I REALLY CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER...

LET'S TRY TO DESCEND INTO THE SHADE AND REST.



I FEEL STRANGE...
SIS...? CAN YOU
HEAR ME?



THAT SAME MORNING

DON'T FORGET TO
PUT ON SUNSCREEN!

AND WEAR A HAT!

OK, I'LL GO BACK FOR
MY HAT, AND I'LL BRING YOUR
BASEBALL CAP FOR YOU
TOO, BRO.

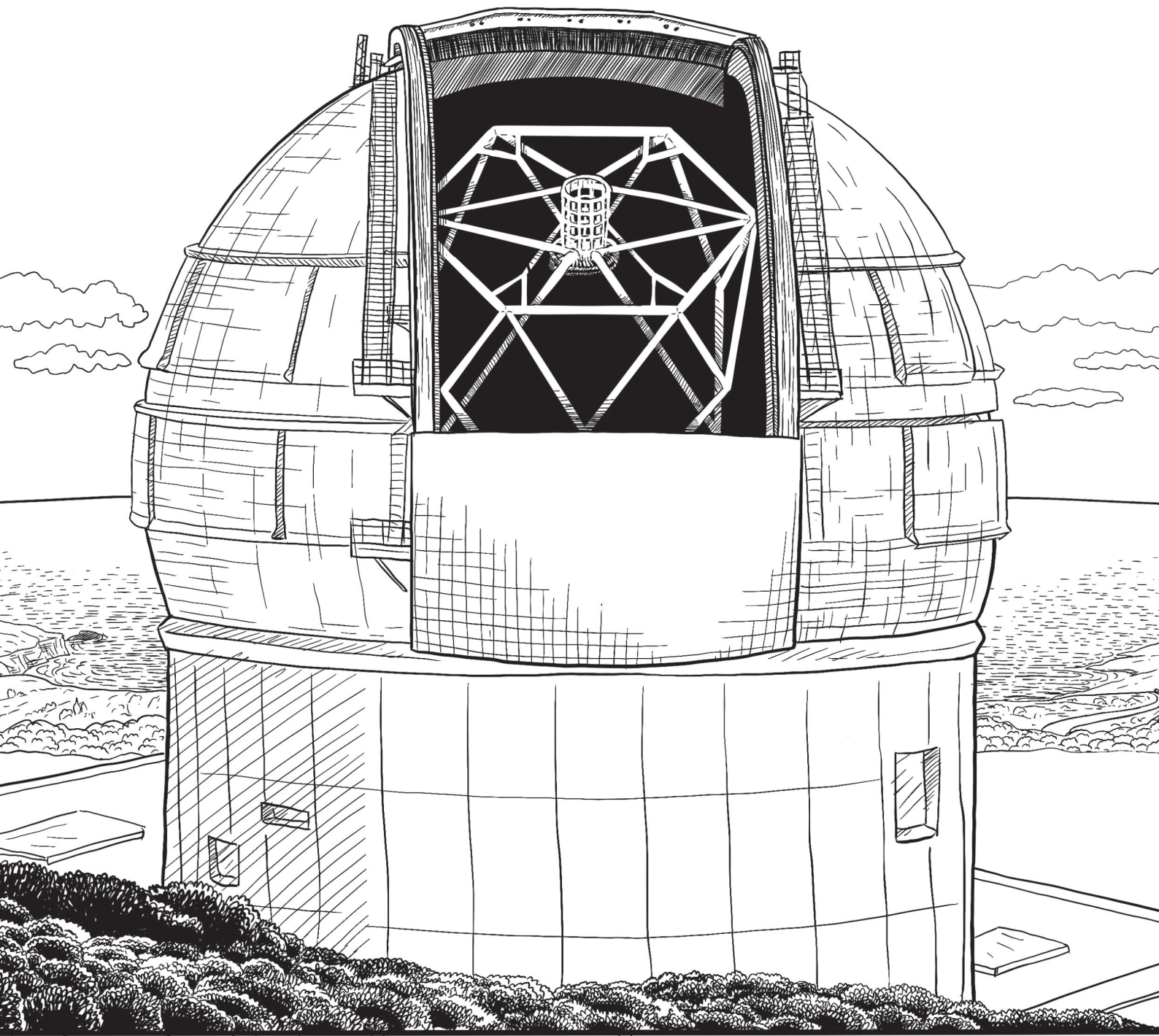
AND DON'T SLIP OFF THE ROCKS!

¡HOLA! ¿CÓMO TE VA?

HOW ARE THE KIDS
HANDLING IT HERE? AND WHEN IS
YOUR HUSBAND ARRIVING?

¡BIEN!

SOON NOW. IT WAS ALL SO FAST THAT
HE COULDN'T DEPART WITH US. LATER WE WILL FINALLY
ENJOY SOME LEISURE TIME! BUT IN THE MEANTIME, THE
KIDS MUST SPEND TIME ON THEIR OWN,
BUT THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH.






THE VOLCANO!
THE KIDS ARE DOWN IN THE HOTEL!

THEY SAY THAT THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED IT, SO
THEY ARE SAFE. BUT THE NEWS SAYS THAT THE ROAD NEARBY WAS
DAMAGED BY THE TREMORS, AND THE ROADS ARE IMPASSABLE.

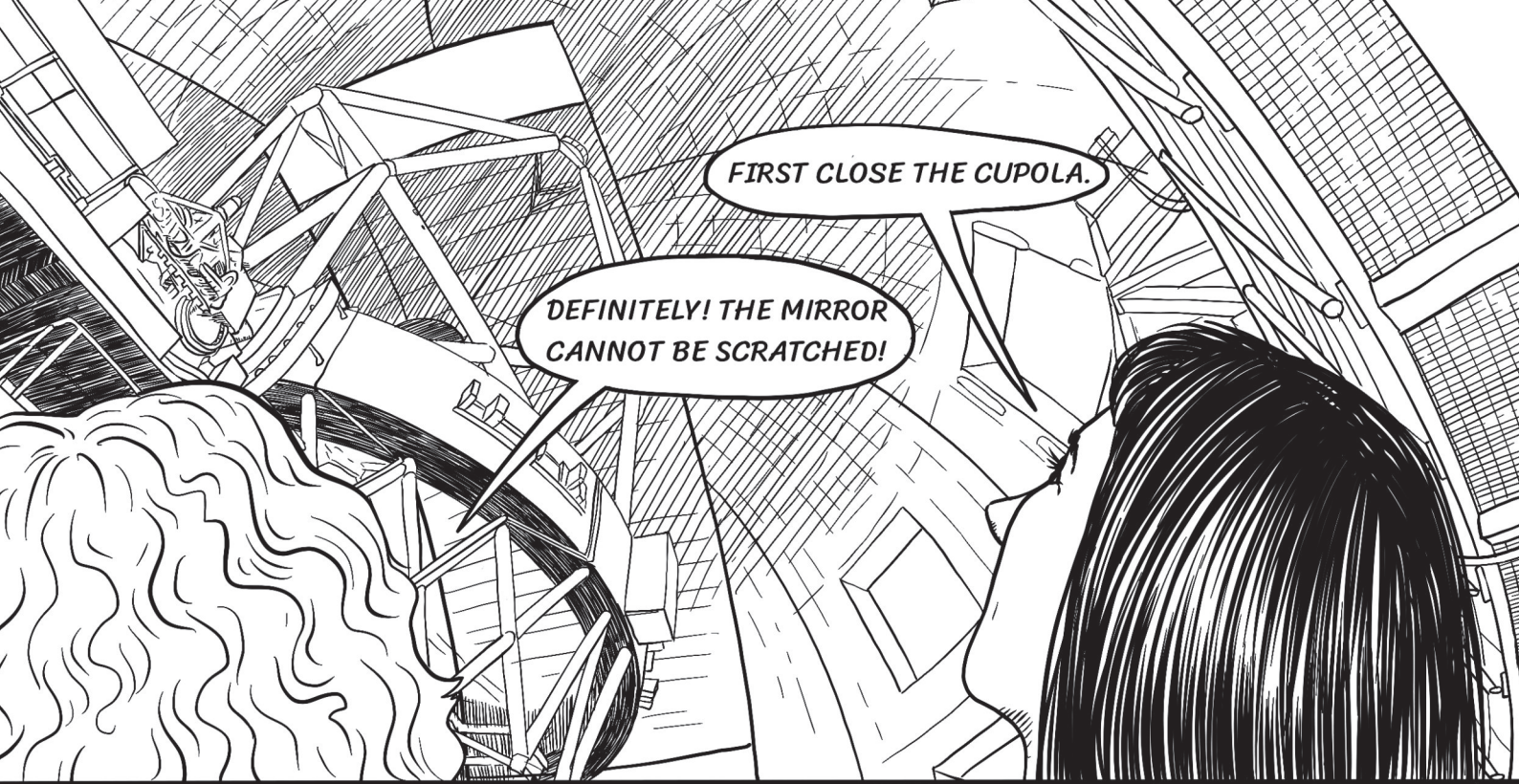
AT LEAST I'LL CALL THEM...

MY NETWORK ISN'T
WORKING, THE LINES ARE OVERLOADED
WITH ALL THE CALL ATTEMPTS. WE
SHOULD WAIT HERE.

THEY'LL SURELY CALL
US FROM THE EVACUATION CENTRE
AS SOON AS THEY CAN.



OK... IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S
SECURE THE EQUIPMENT. IF THE VOLCANIC
ASH GETS IN HERE, WE CAN THROW HALF
OF IT AWAY, INCLUDING
THE COMPUTERS.

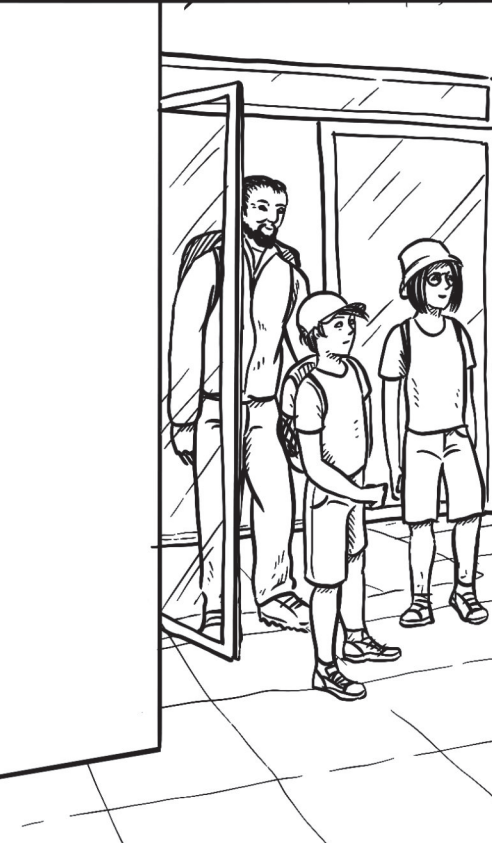


FIRST CLOSE THE CUPOLA.

DEFINITELY! THE MIRROR
CANNOT BE SCRATCHED!



I'LL TRY TO CALL THEM AGAIN...



LOOK WHO'S HERE!

I AM SO GLAD
TO SEE YOU, I WAS
SO SCARED!

MY BABIES,
HOW DID YOU GET
HERE?



HEY, WAKE UP!
KIDS, COME ON...

WHAT... WHO... ARE YOU?

ONDŘEJ ŠPIČKA, VOLCANOLOGIST.
I SEE THAT YOU ARE ALSO CZECHS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M WORKING. WE DON'T HAVE MANY VOLCANOES TO
EXAMINE BACK HOME. AND YOU CAN COUNT YOUR LUCKY STARS.
THAT PIT WAS FULL OF VOLCANIC GASES THAT ARE SOMETIMES
EMITTED FROM THE EARTH DURING ERUPTIONS. WHEN YOU
INHALE THEM,, YOU CAN LOSE CONCIOUSNESS
AND IN A FEW MINUTES, YOU'D BE GONERS.

WE... ALMOST DIED?!

IT WAS A REALLY
CLOSE CALL, DON'T EVEN
TALK ABOUT IT!

BUT HOW DID YOU
GET HERE? YOU KNOW HOW
TO WALK ON LAVA?

THE HELICOPTER DROPPED
ME OFF. I WILL TRY TO CONTACT
IT TO PICK US UP.



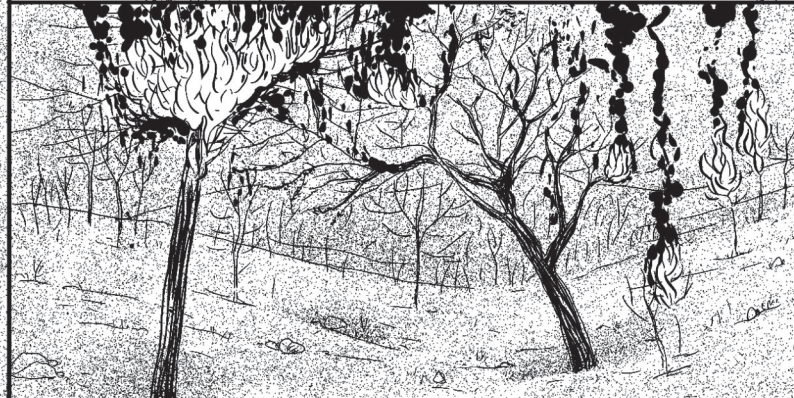
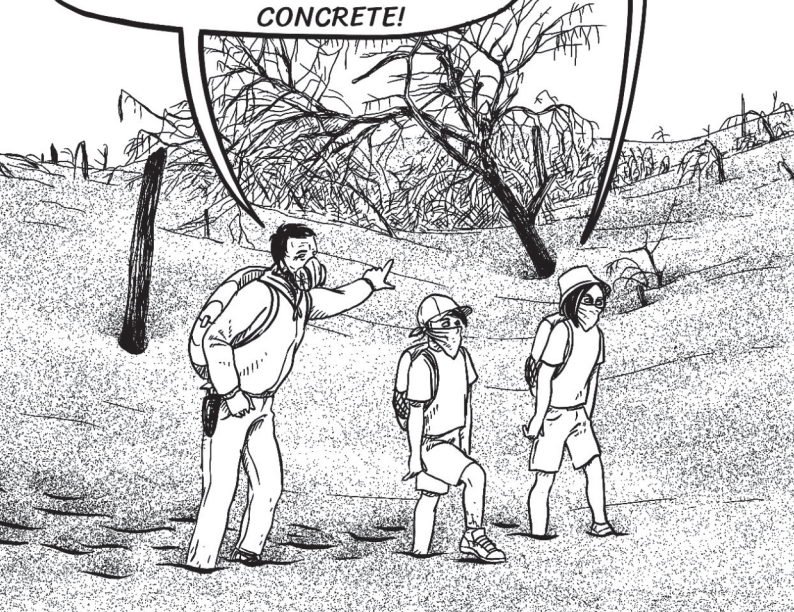
VOLCANIC ASH? HOW'S THAT MADE?

WHEN A VOLCANO ERUPTS, MAGMA IS TORN INTO SMALL PIECES, AS TINY AS DUST AND THE ASH YOU CAN FIND IN YOUR STOVES AND FIREPLACES - AND IT THROWS THEM INTO THE AIR. THEY ARE SO LIGHT THAT THEY FLOAT AND CREATE A CLOUD. WHICH REMINDS ME: HERE ARE SCARVES TO PUT OVER YOUR NOSES AND MOUTHS, THERE IS A LOT OF ASH EVERYWHERE AROUND US, MAKING US COUGH. AND YOU REALLY DON'T WANT IT TO STICK TO YOU WHEN MIXED WITH WATER.

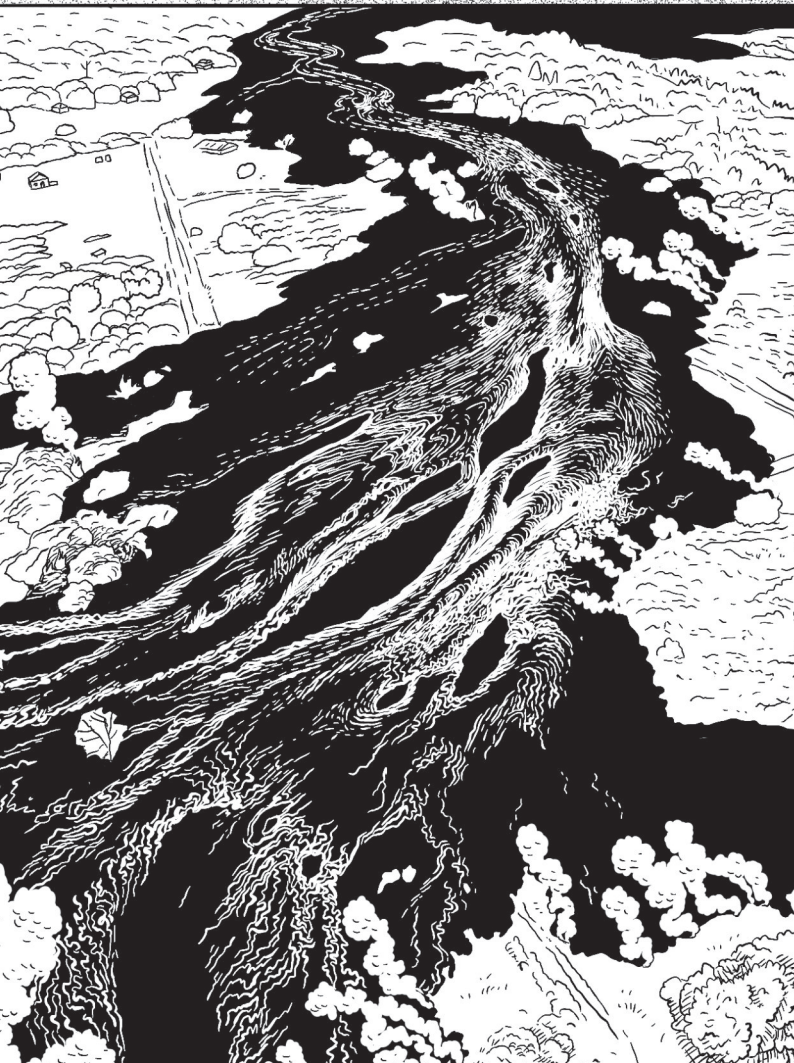


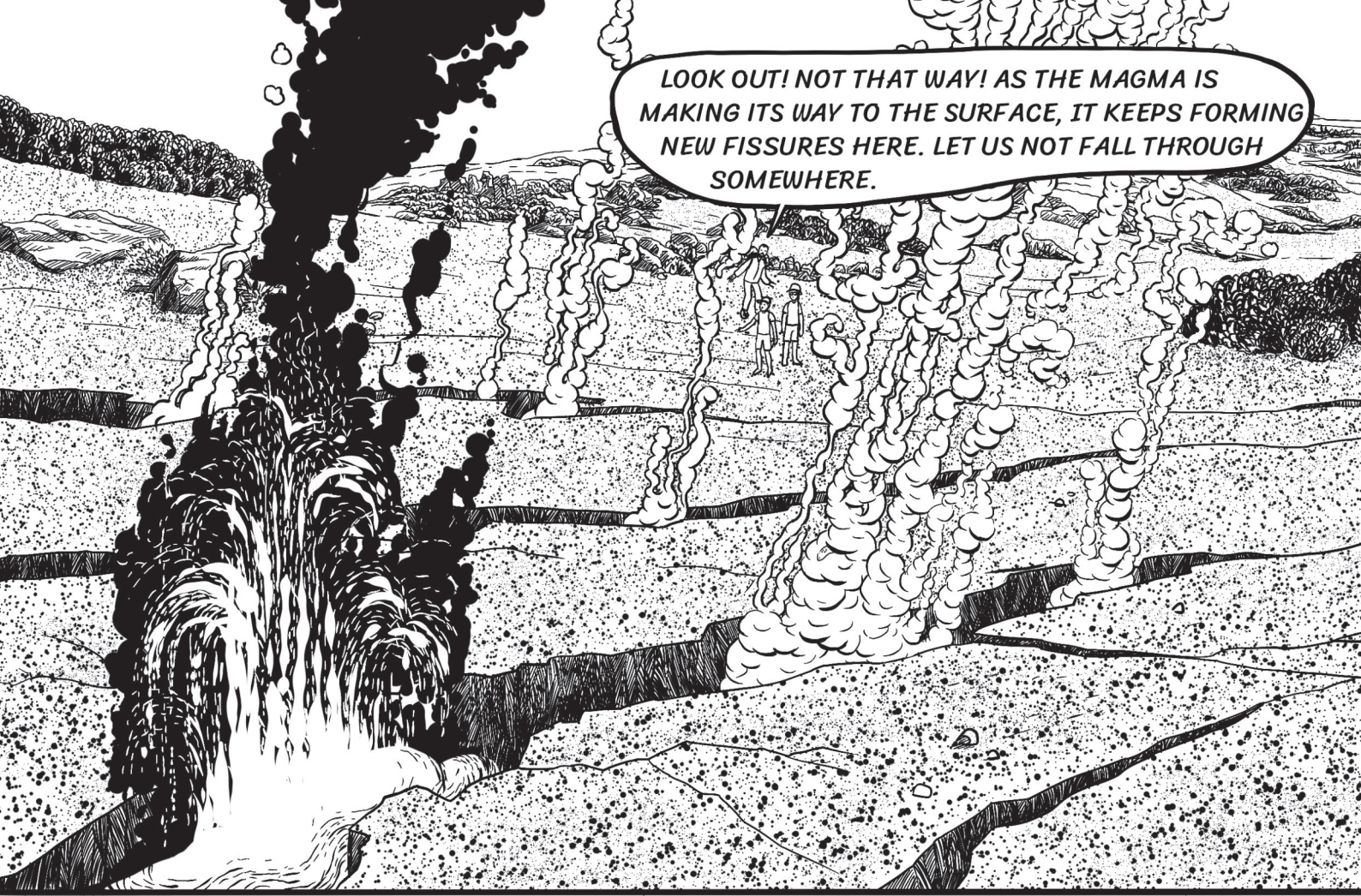
WHY?

FIRST, IT FORMS A SORT OF MUD. BUT THEN IT HARDENS LIKE CONCRETE!

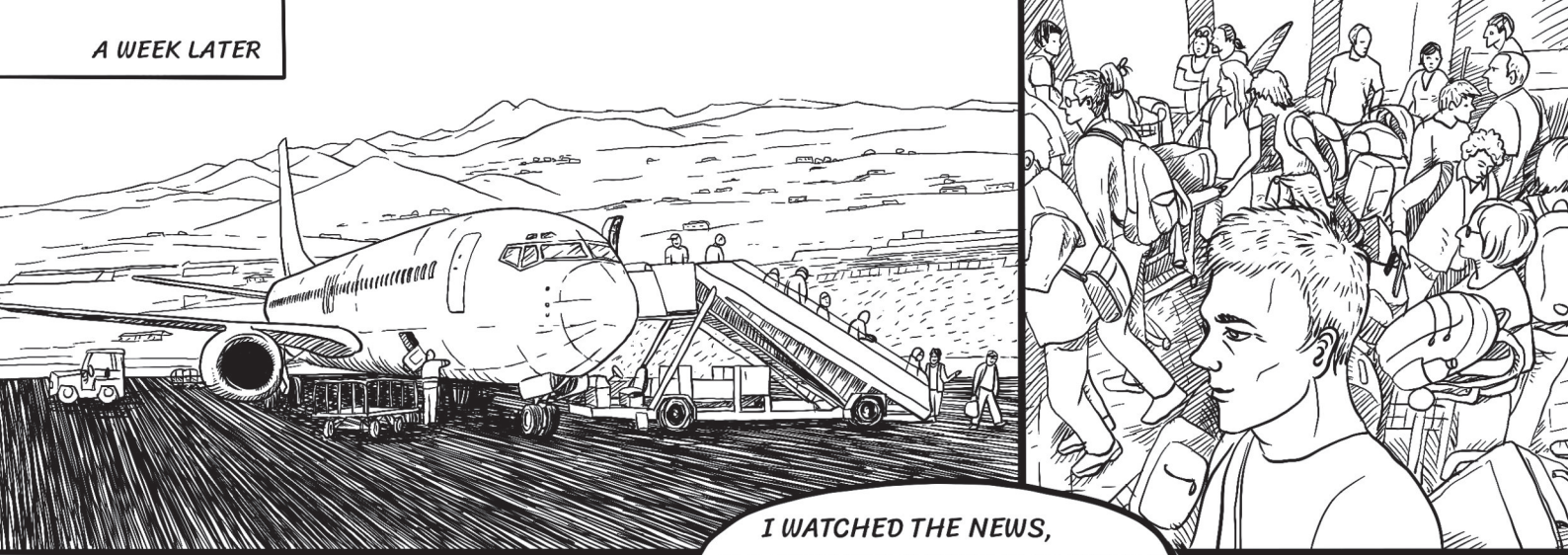


WE CAN GO THROUGH HERE. BUT WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL.



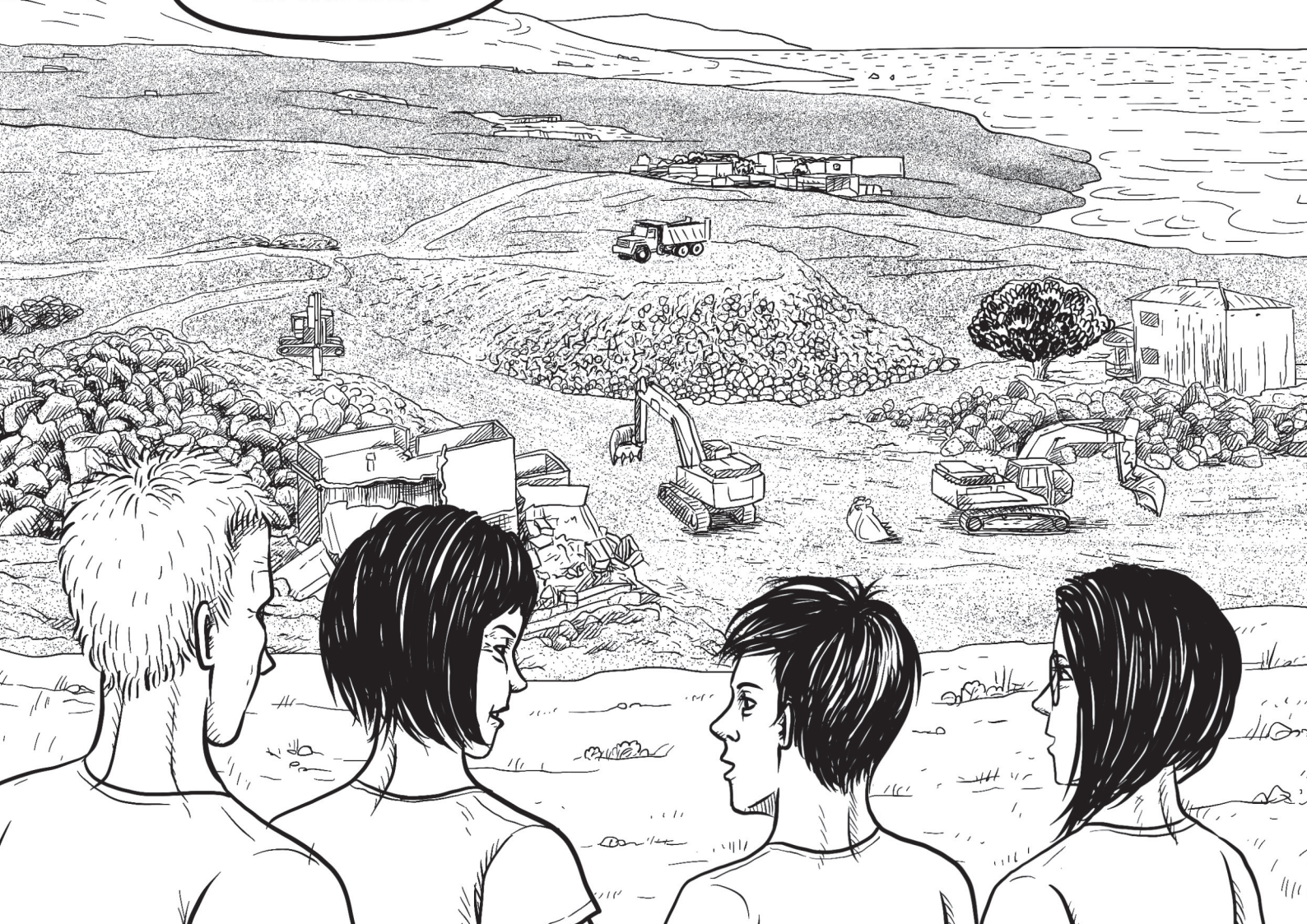


A WEEK LATER



I WATCHED THE NEWS,
THE SITUATION HERE WAS REALLY
CRAZY. NEXT VACATION WILL BE
NO FURTHER THAN THE CZECH
HIGHLANDS, OK?

WE ALL MADE IT,
IN THE END !



'When the Earth Melts, The Story of a Volcano

Illustrations: Karolina Kučerová

Text: Lucie Lukačovičová

Concept: Matěj Machek and Petr Brož

These comics are the collective work of all five authors.

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