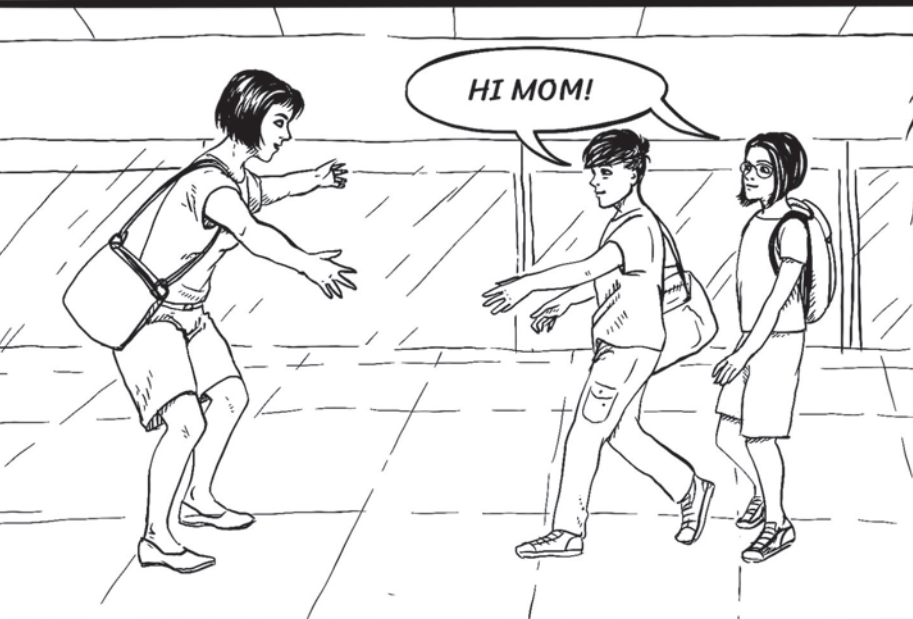


WHEN THE EARTH MELTS

THE STORY OF A VOLCANO

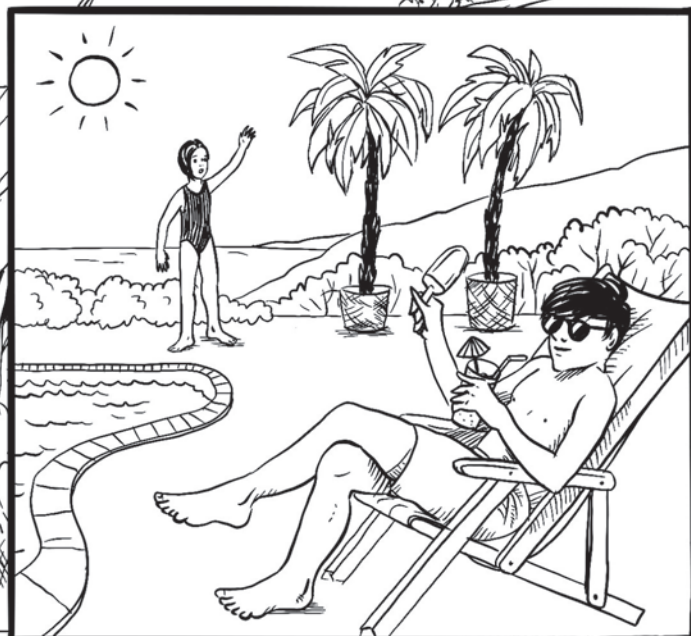


illustrations: Karolina Kučerová
text: Lucie Lukačovičová
concept: Matěj Machek and Petr Brož



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!

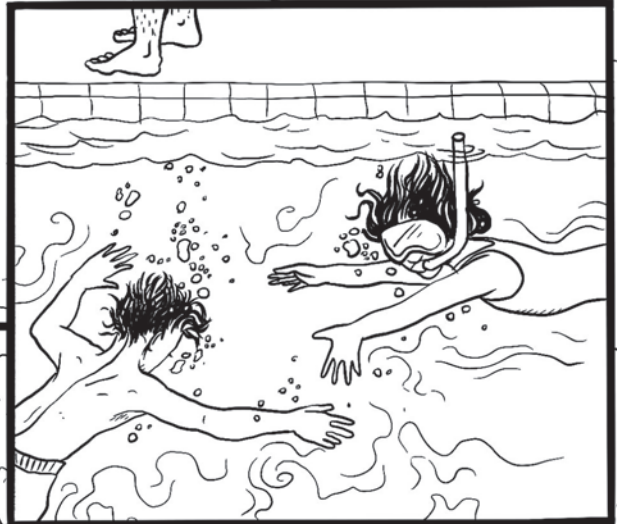
ARE WE UP FOR SNORKELLING?

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?



MAYBE WE ARE JUST IMAGINING THINGS...

LOOK! WE CAN SEE OUR HOTEL FROM HERE!

BOOOOMMM

WHAT THE...?

THAT CAN'T BE!

WE HAVE TO HURRY BACK





HAY QUE EVACUAR EL HOTEL...



WE NEED TO GET OUR THINGS FROM OUR ROOM...

¡APÚRENSE!



I CAN'T FIND MY PAPERS!

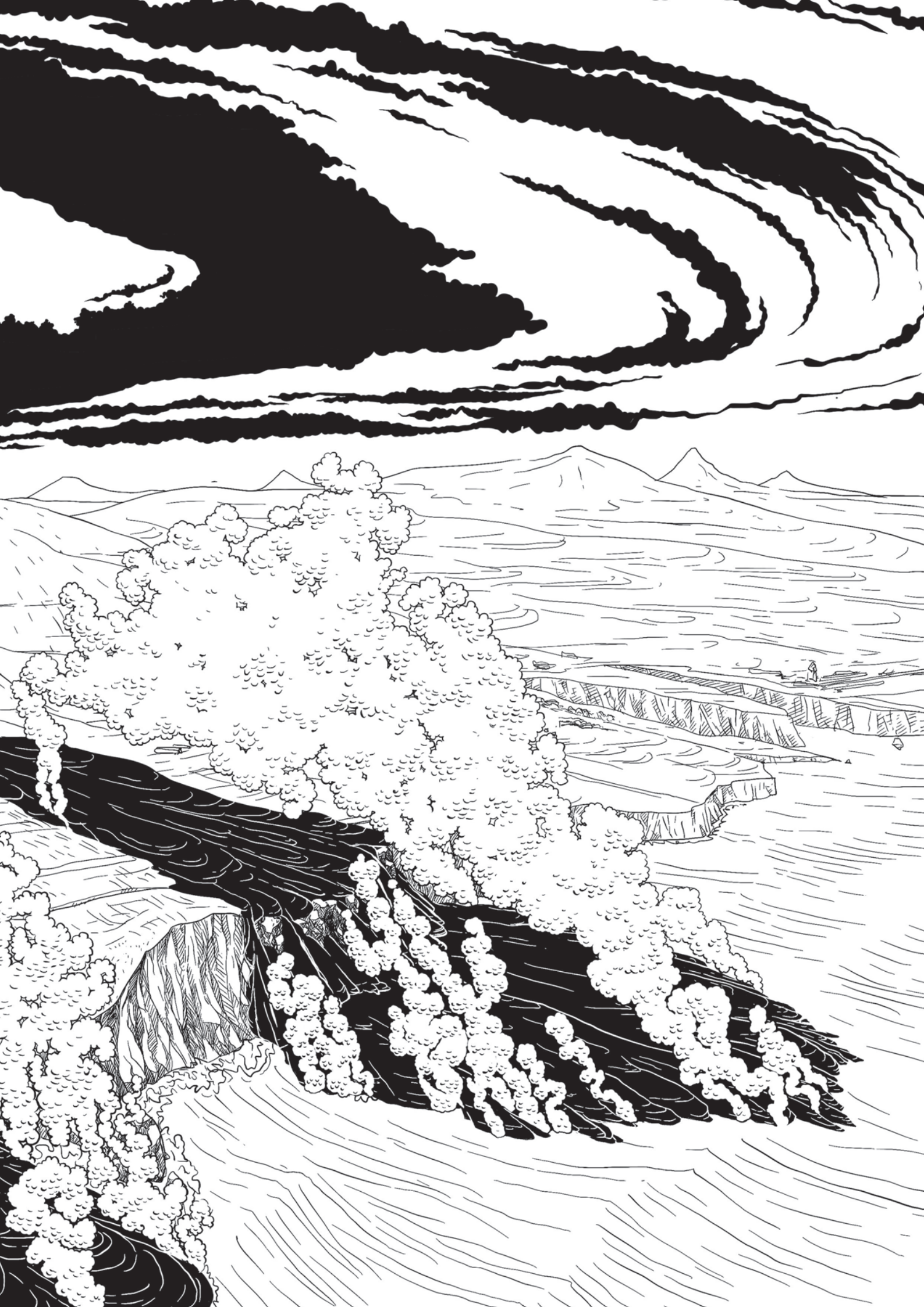


DO ALL PARENTS HAVE THEIR CHILDREN? ¡VÁMONOS!



WAIT!!!









I HAVE PICTURES OF IT.

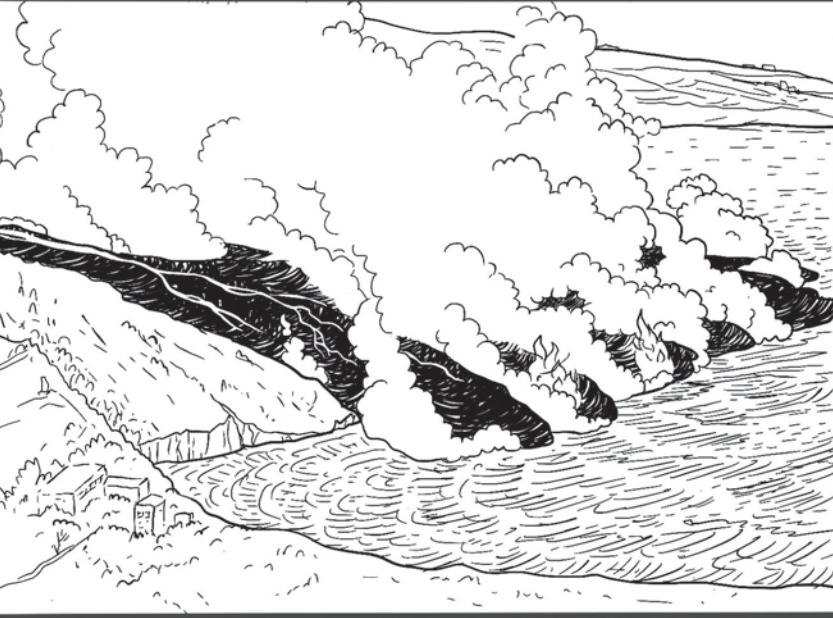
SUPER, I'LL JUST GRAB SOME WATER.

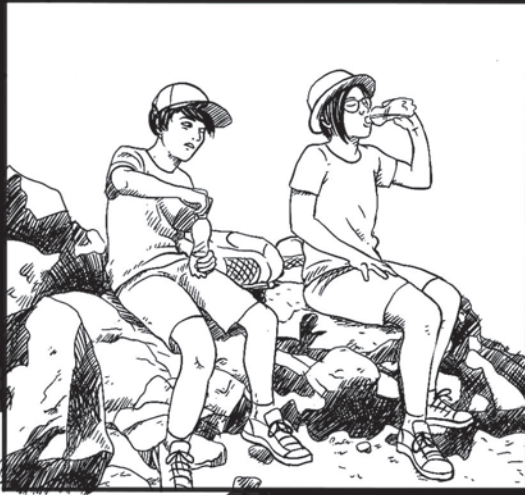


I TRIED CALLING MUM TO LET HER KNOW THAT WE ARE COMING, BUT THERE IS NO SIGNAL...

WE'LL TRY LATER, NOW LET'S HURRY UP AND GO!







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.

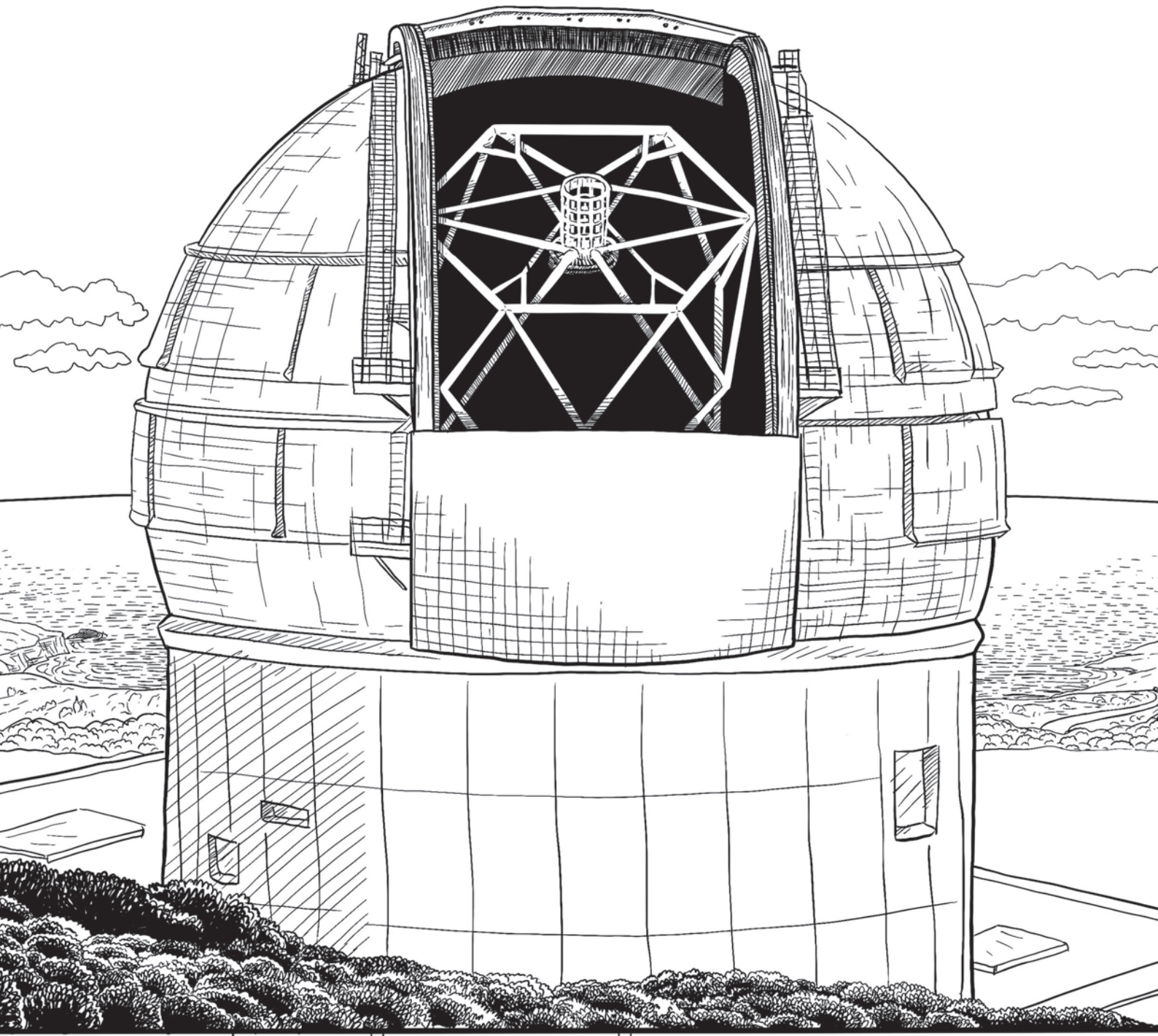
AND DON'T SLIP OFF THE ROCKS!


¡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...

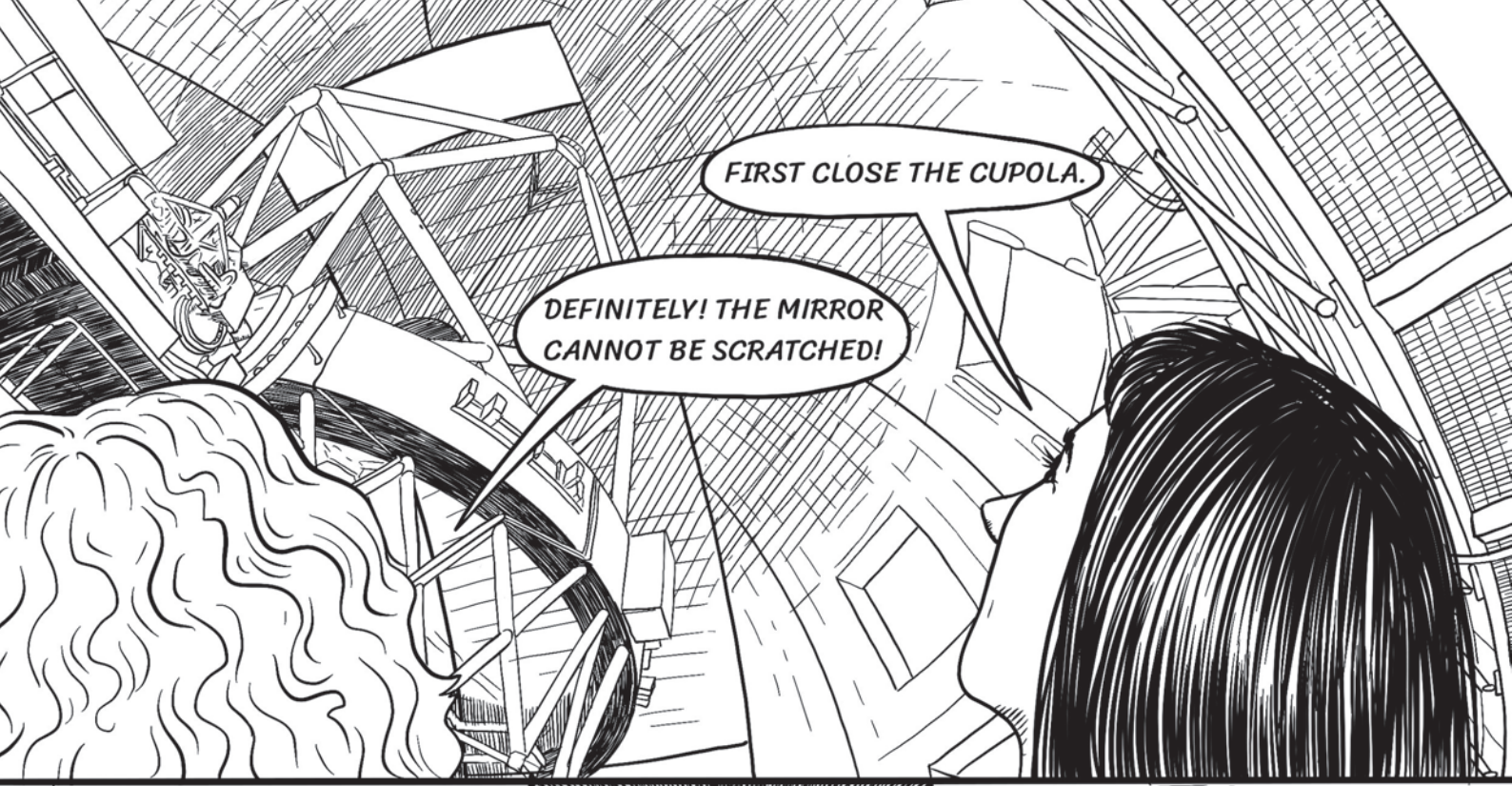
MY NETWORK ISN'T WORKING, THE LINES ARE OVERLOADED WITH ALL THE CALL ATTEMPTS. WE SHOULD WAIT HERE.

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...



NO SIGNAL!



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 CONCIOSNESS
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.



I'M SORRY, THEY NEED THE HELICOPTER FOR EVACUATIONS ELSEWHERE. IT IS TOO FAR AWAY NOW FOR IT TO RETURN FOR US.

WE WERE HEADING FOR THE OBSERVATORY, MOTHER OPERATES THE TELESCOPE THERE.

OK, I'LL TAKE YOU THERE. AND ALONG THE WAY YOU'LL TELL ME HOW YOU EVEN GOT HERE.



...AND THEN THE LAVA SIMPLY ENGLUFED OUR HOTEL.

YOU WERE LUCKY TO GET OUT IN TIME.

SIS, WHAT DO YOU KEEP LOOKING AT?

WHAT IS THAT CLOUD? IT'S JUST HOVERING ABOVE THE VOLCANO.

THAT'S THE CLOUD CREATED BY VOLCANIC ASH.

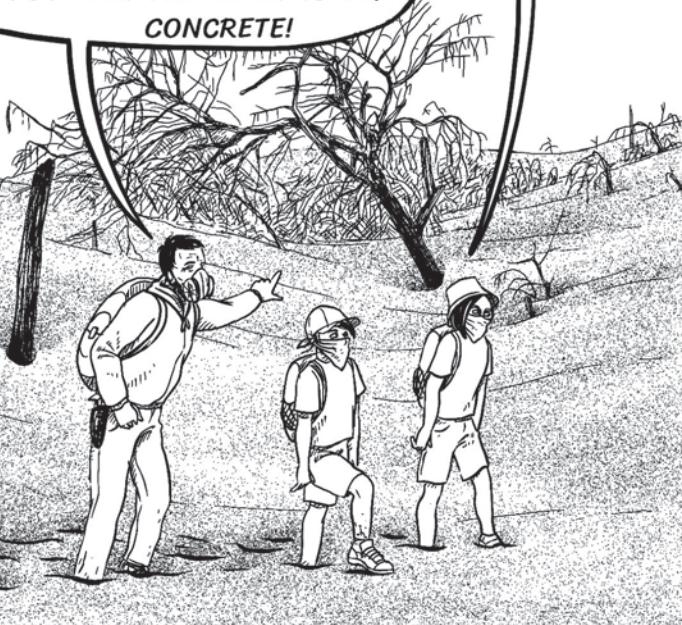
VOLCANIC ASH? HOW'S THAT MADE?

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.

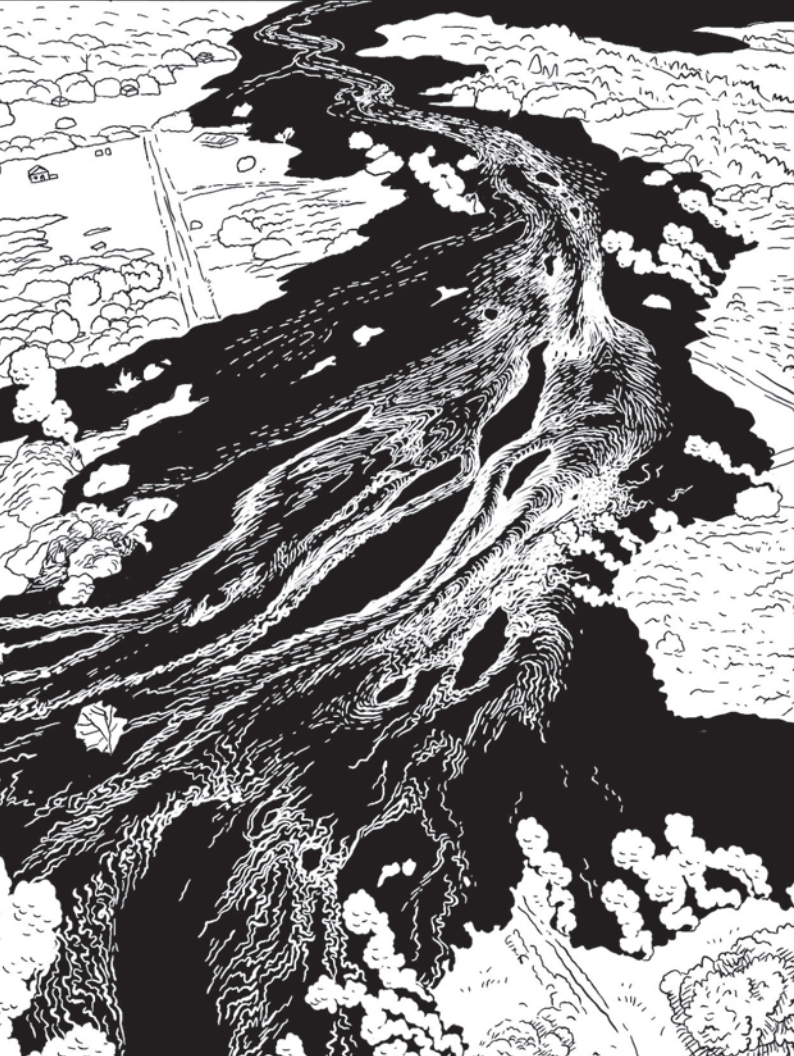


FIRST, IT FORMS A SORT OF MUD. BUT THEN IT HARDENS LIKE CONCRETE!

WHY?

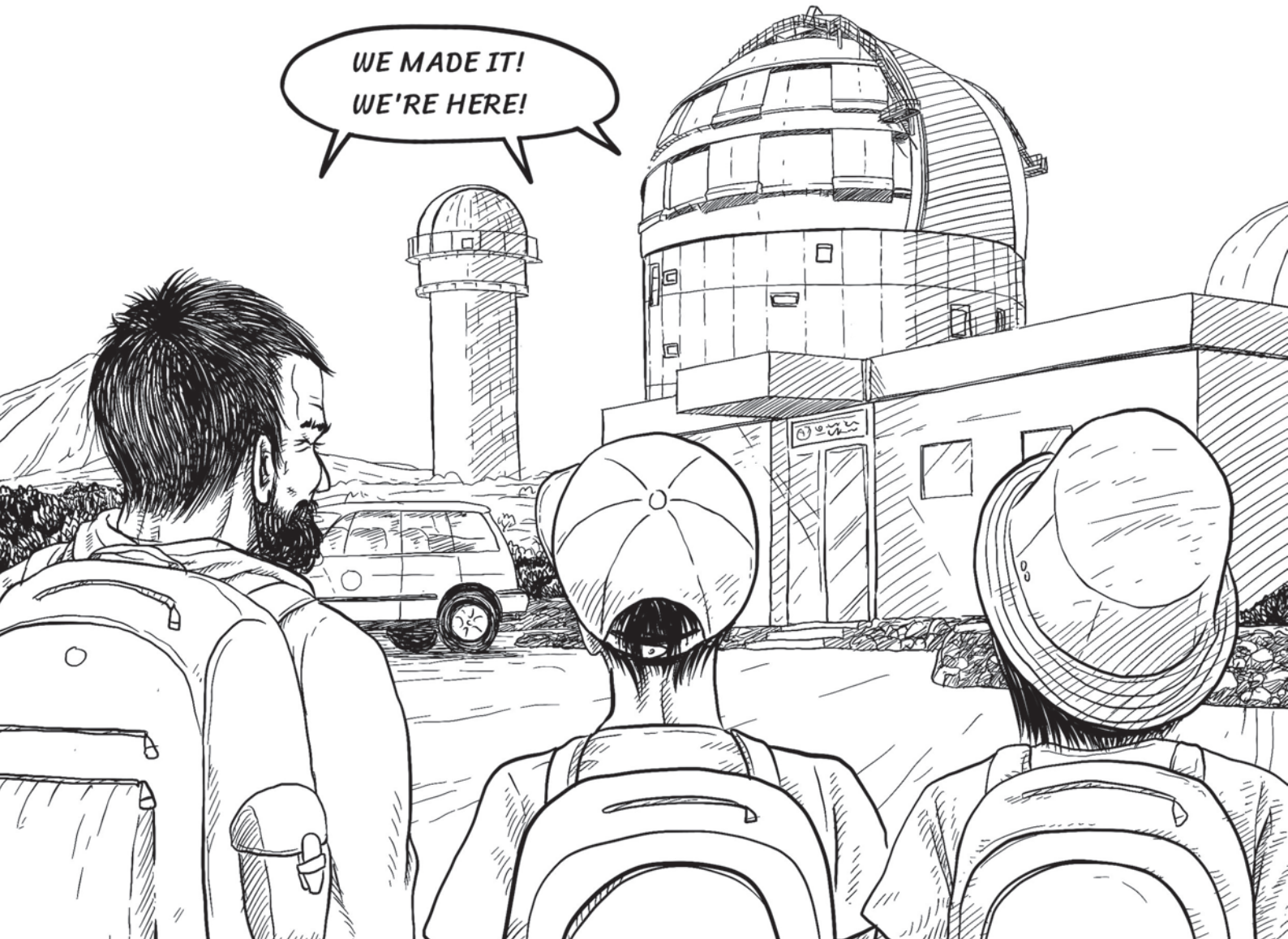


WE CAN GO THROUGH HERE. BUT WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL.



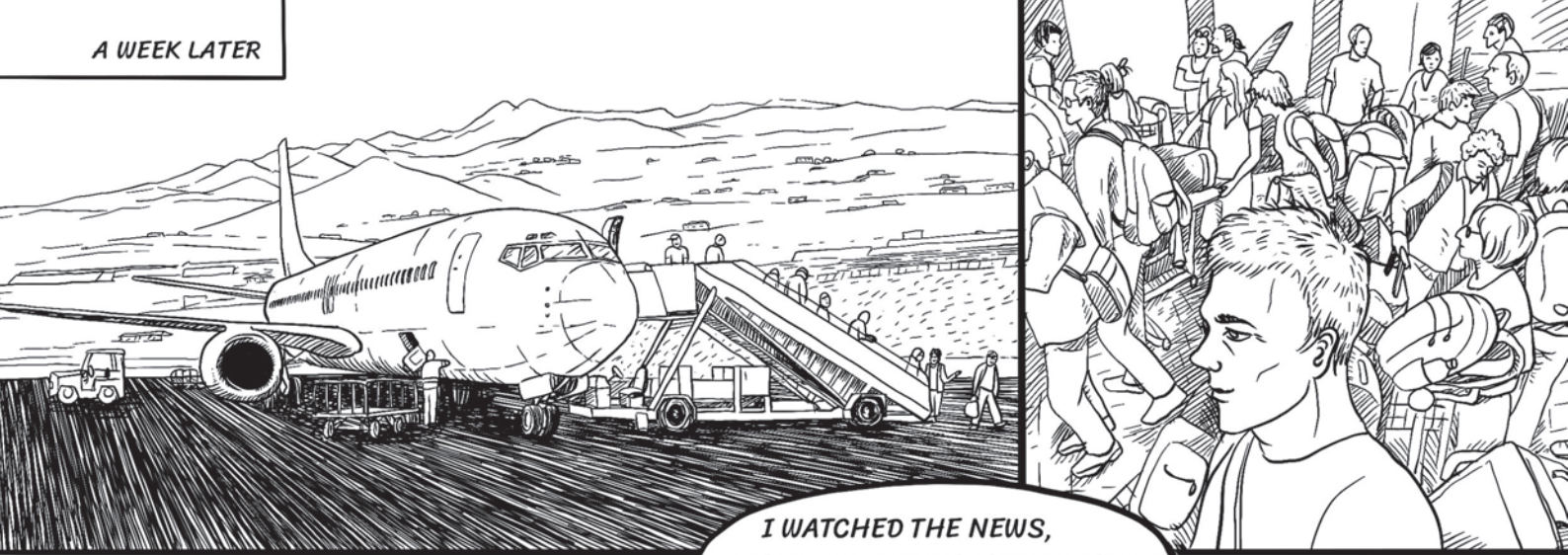


LOOK OUT! NOT THAT WAY! AS THE MAGMA IS MAKING ITS WAY TO THE SURFACE, IT KEEPS FORMING NEW FISSURES HERE. LET US NOT FALL THROUGH SOMEWHERE.



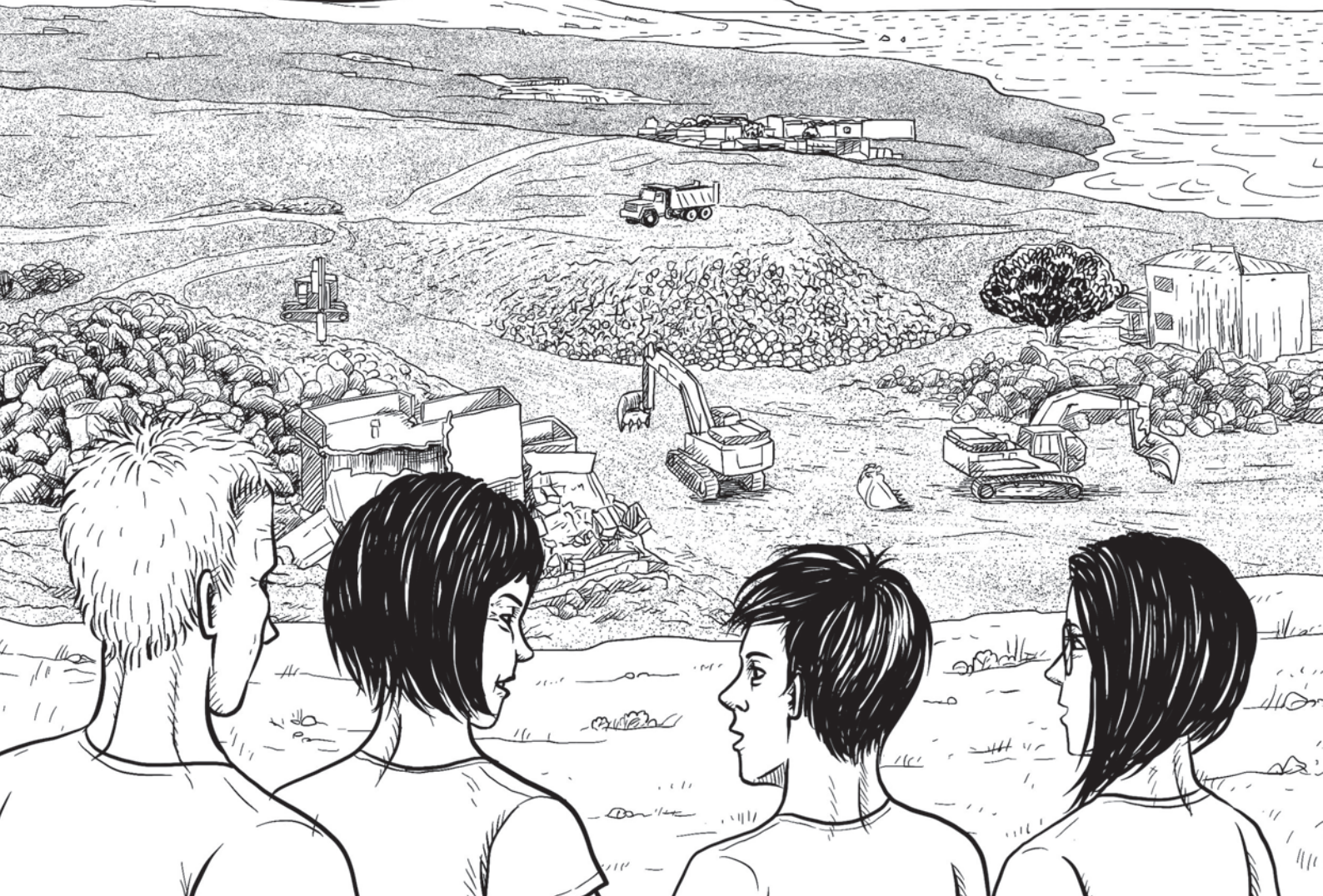
WE MADE IT!
WE'RE HERE!

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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