

...a still drift
for us tonight, Burrus...
...it's unsettling...

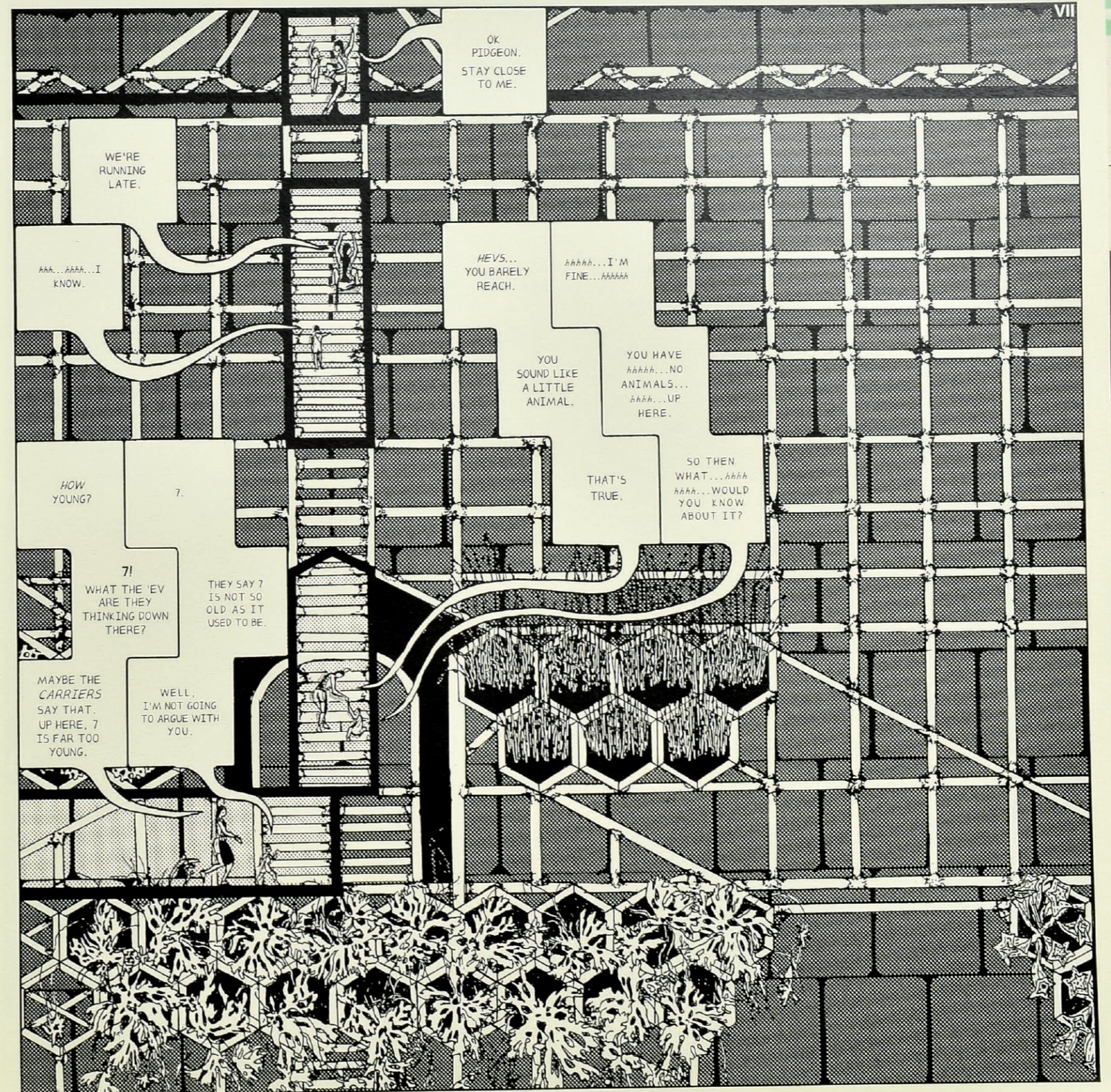
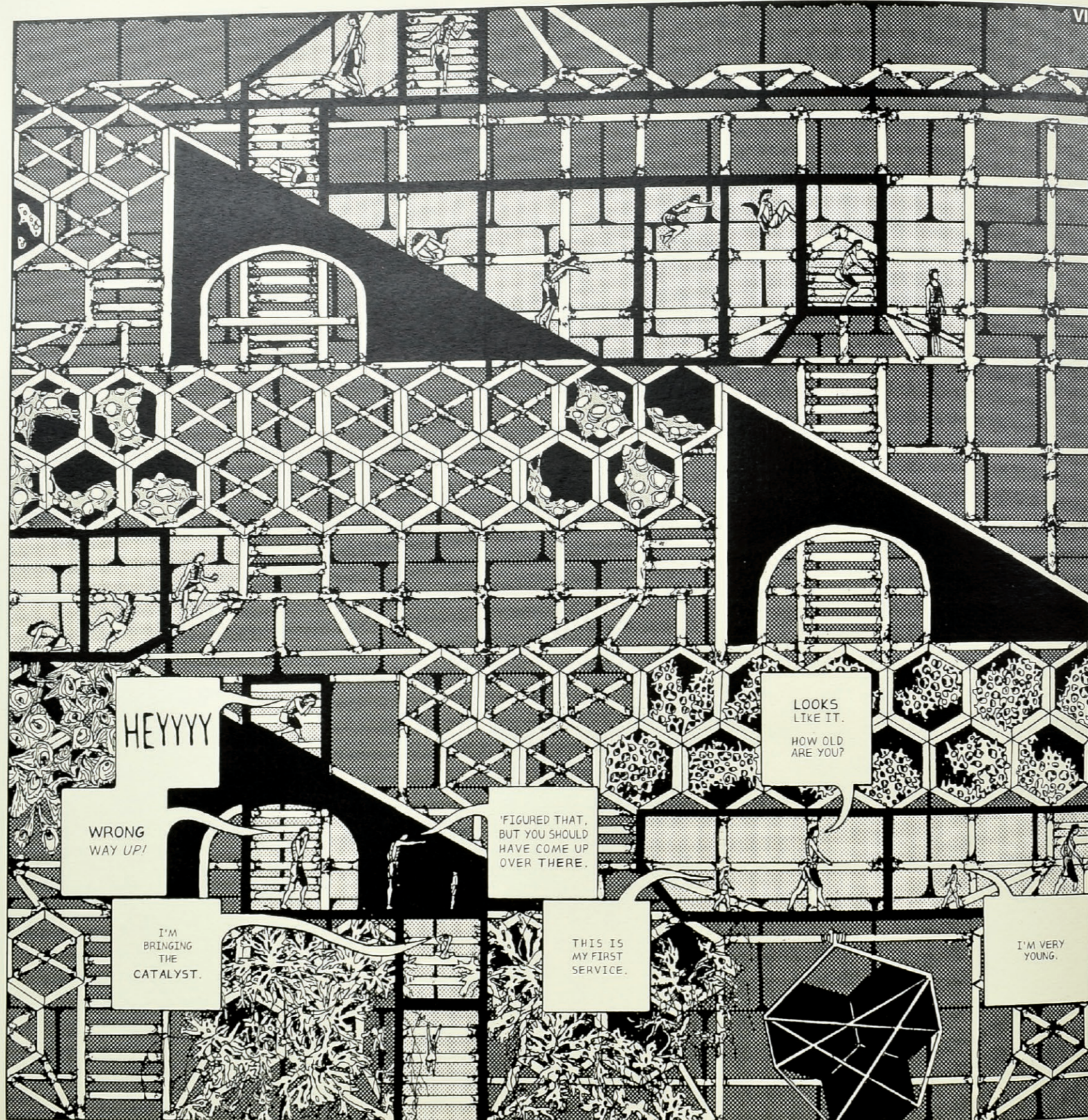
...probably a good thing Labi,
we need to get moving...

...and hey, Labi,
you didn't see anything
strange float by earlier
did you? Pretty soon after
nightfall maybe?...

...nightfall? No.
I just got up a little
while ago...

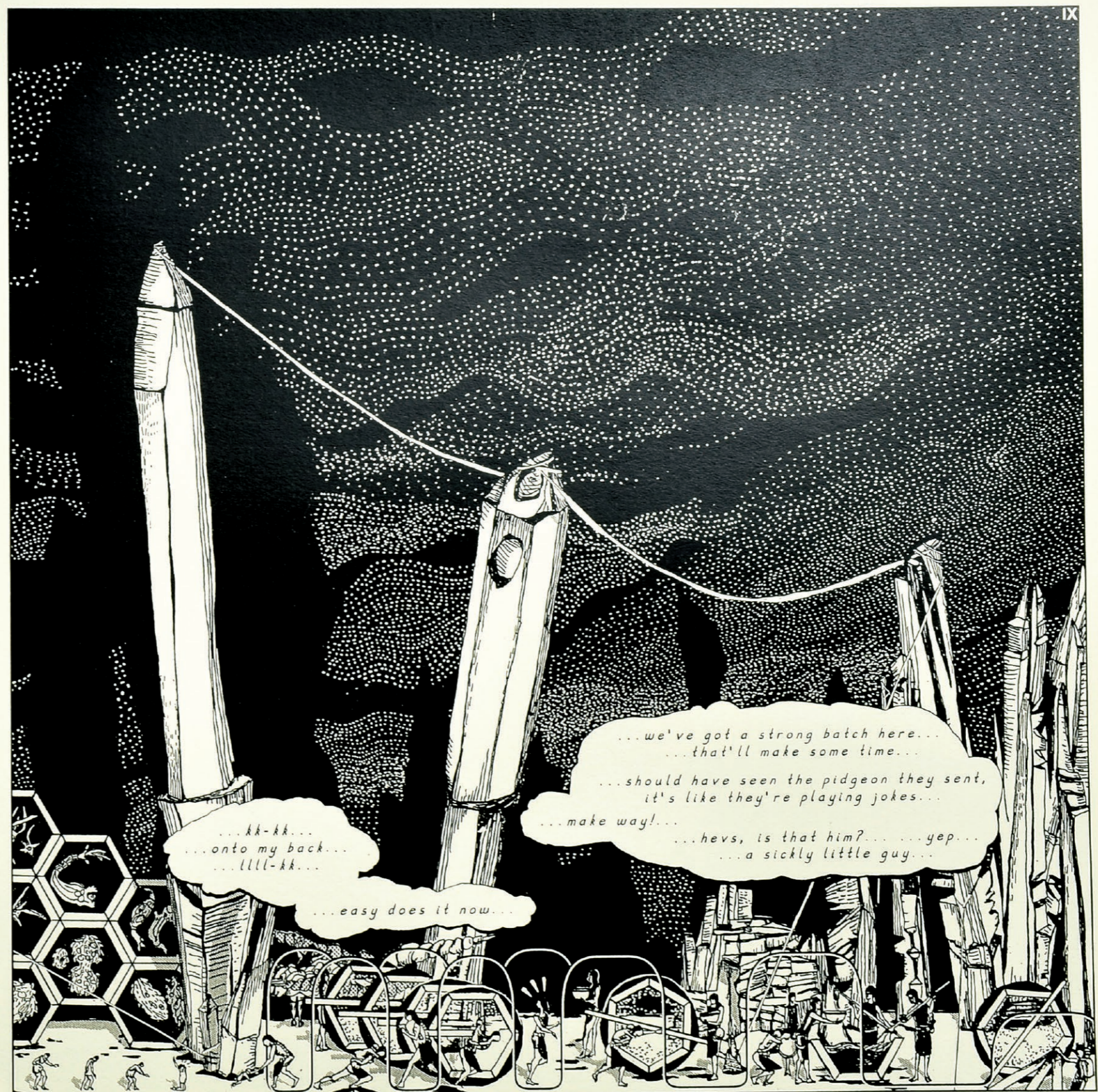
...OK... I
think I'm just sort of
anxious...

...yeah...

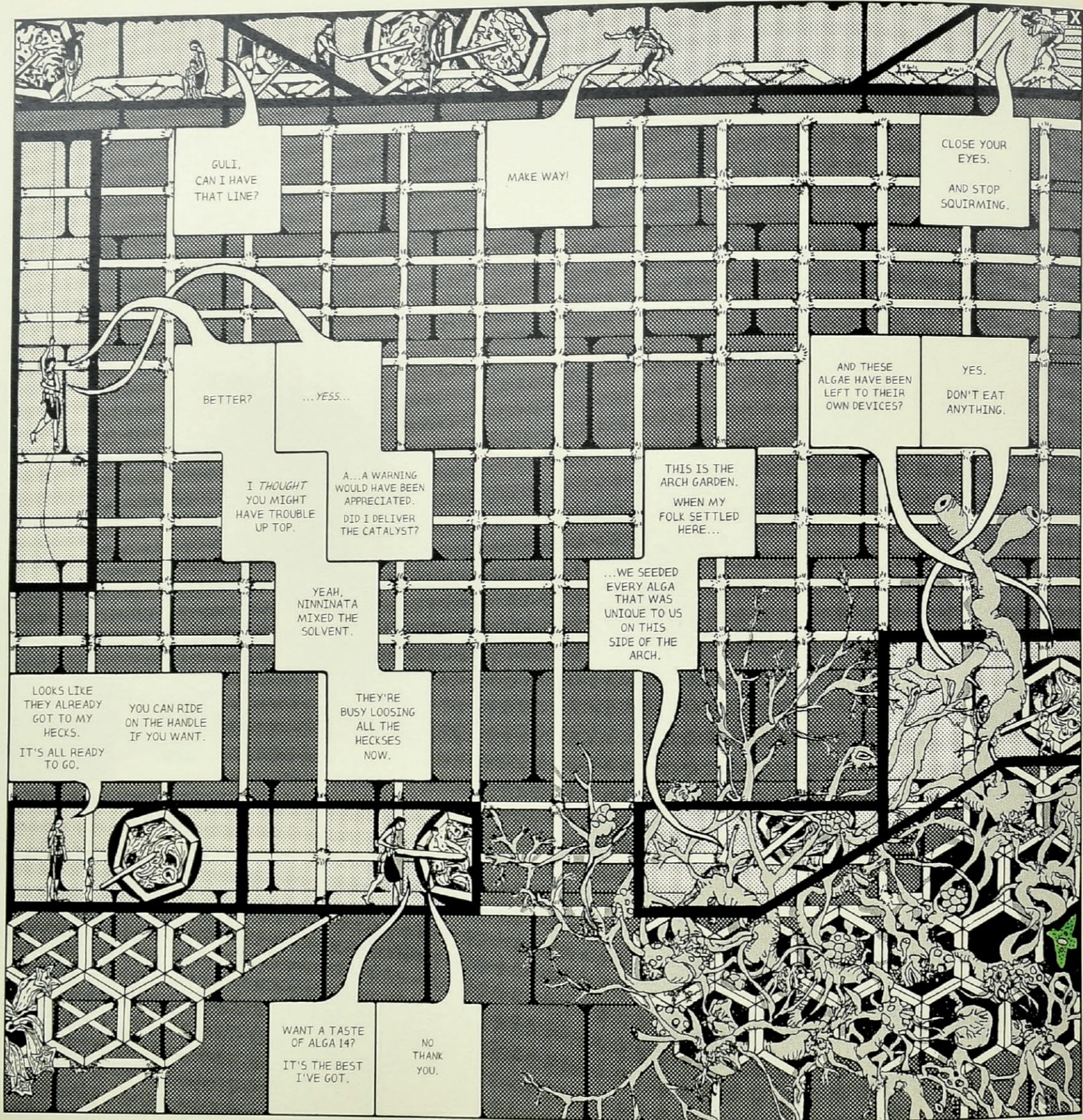




...Ninnata Sigzu...
 ...nnnnnn?
 ...what's wrong with him?
 ...he's never been up top before...
 ...AAahn, eommmM?.....please don't talk like that...
 ...they entrusted our catalyst
 to a child?.....reckless...
 ...whhhhhaat ttiis happppps?.....where is it now?...
 ...fgagagaga.....he's regressing.....he's too young to regress...
 ...probably in his pocket...alright, there.....let's go...
 ...come on pidgeon.....you should see this...
 ...little one seems off...
 ...mind your work...



...kk-kk...
 ...onto my back...
 ...llll-kk...
 ...easy does it now...
 ...we've got a strong batch here...
 ...that'll make some time...
 ...should have seen the pidgeon they sent,
 it's like they're playing jokes...
 ...make way!...
 ...hevs, is that him?.....yep...
 ...a sickly little guy...



GULI,
CAN I HAVE
THAT LINE?

MAKE WAY!

CLOSE YOUR
EYES,
AND STOP
SQUIRMING.

BETTER?

...YESS...

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
HAVE TROUBLE
UP TOP.

A... A WARNING
WOULD HAVE BEEN
APPRECIATED.
DID I DELIVER
THE CATALYST?

THIS IS THE
ARCH GARDEN.
WHEN MY
FOLK SETTLED
HERE...

AND THESE
ALGAE HAVE BEEN
LEFT TO THEIR
OWN DEVICES?

YES.
DON'T EAT
ANYTHING.

YEAH,
NIMINATA
MIXED THE
SOLVENT.

... WE SEEDED
EVERY ALGA
THAT WAS
UNIQUE TO US
ON THIS
SIDE OF THE
ARCH.

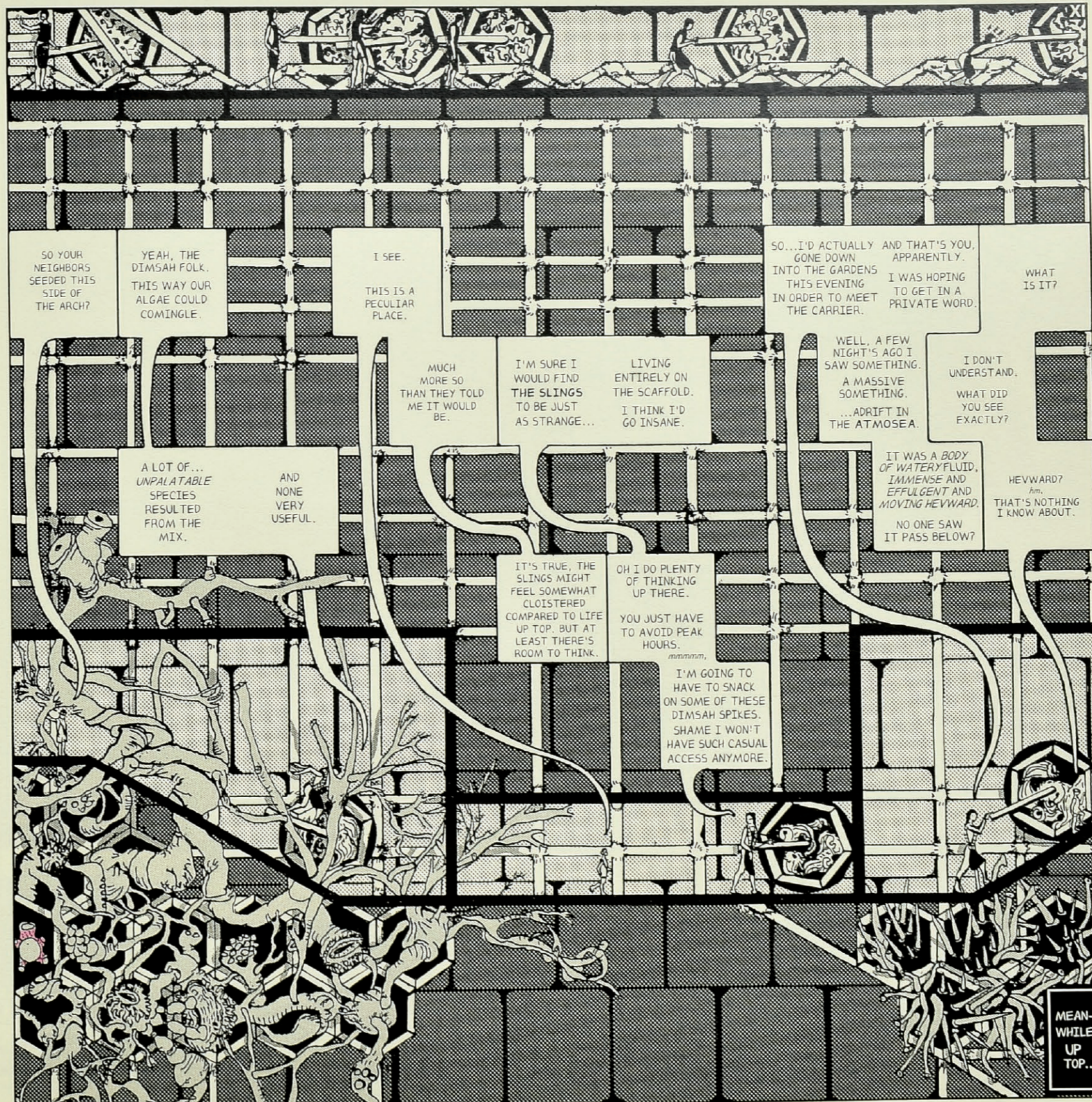
LOOKS LIKE
THEY ALREADY
GOT TO MY
HECKS.
IT'S ALL READY
TO GO.

YOU CAN RIDE
ON THE HANDLE
IF YOU WANT.

THEY'RE
BUSY LOOSING
ALL THE
HECKSES
NOW.

WANT A TASTE
OF ALGA 14?
IT'S THE BEST
I'VE GOT.

NO THANK
YOU.



SO YOUR
NEIGHBORS
SEEDED THIS
SIDE OF
THE ARCH?

YEAH, THE
DIMSAB FOLK.
THIS WAY OUR
ALGAE COULD
COMINGLE.

I SEE.
THIS IS A
PECULIAR
PLACE.

SO... I'D ACTUALLY
GONE DOWN
INTO THE GARDENS
THIS EVENING
IN ORDER TO MEET
THE CARRIER.

AND THAT'S YOU,
APPARENTLY.
I WAS HOPING
TO GET IN A
PRIVATE WORD.

WHAT
IS IT?

MUCH
MORE SO
THAN THEY TOLD
ME IT WOULD
BE.

I'M SURE I
WOULD FIND
THE SLINGS
TO BE JUST
AS STRANGE...

LIVING
ENTIRELY ON
THE SCAFFOLD.
I THINK I'D
GO INSANE.

WELL, A FEW
NIGHT'S AGO I
SAW SOMETHING.
A MASSIVE
SOMETHING.
...ADRIFT IN
THE ATMOSHA.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DID
YOU SEE
EXACTLY?

A LOT OF...
UNPALATABLE
SPECIES
RESULTED FROM THE
MIX.

AND NONE
VERY
USEFUL.

IT WAS A BODY
OF WATERY FLUID,
IMMENSE AND
EFFULGENT AND
MOVING HEYWARD.

HEYWARD?
Am.
THAT'S NOTHING
I KNOW ABOUT.

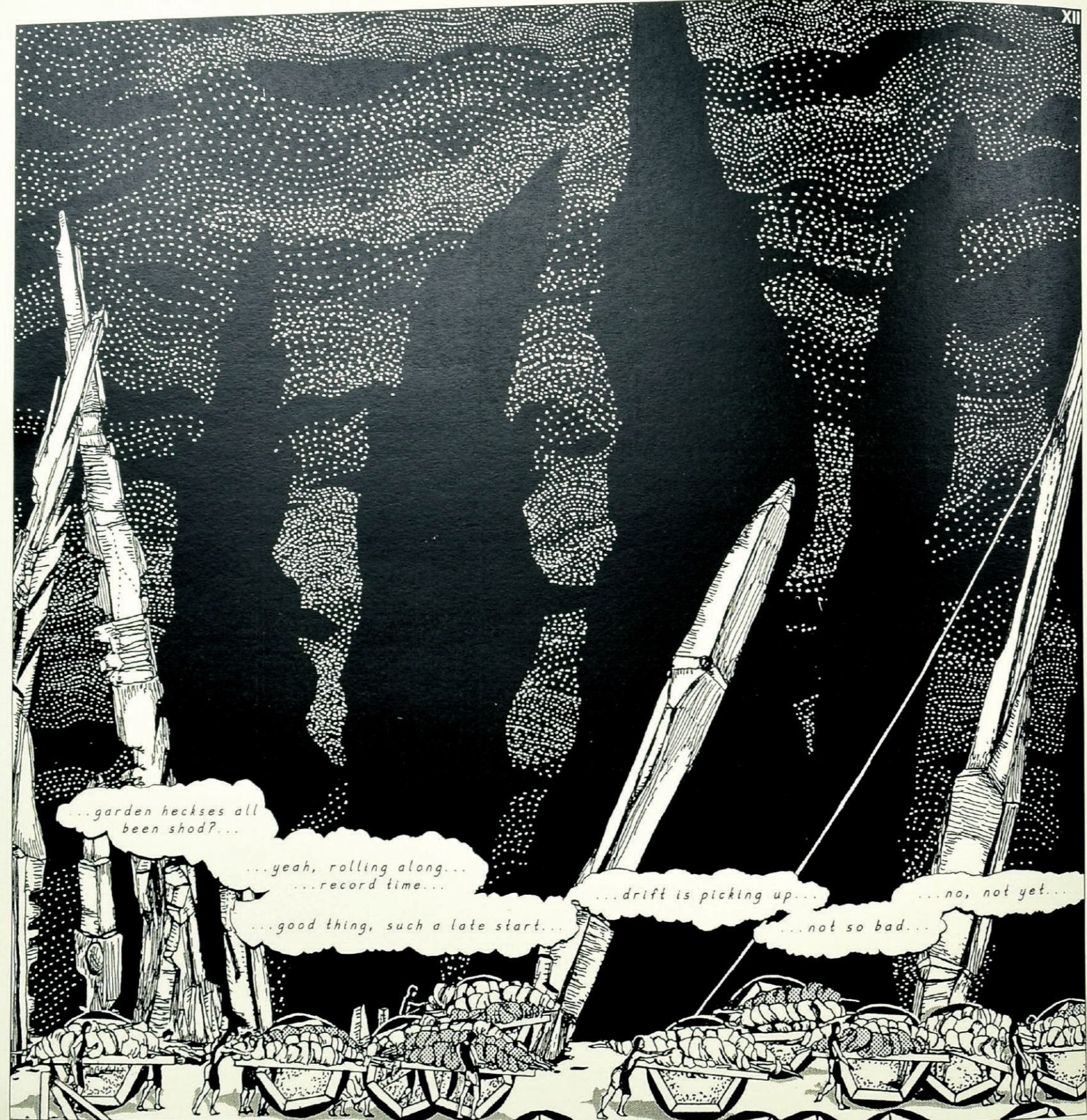
IT'S TRUE, THE
SLINGS MIGHT
FEEL SOMEWHAT
CLOISTERED
COMPARED TO LIFE
UP TOP, BUT AT
LEAST THERE'S
ROOM TO THINK.

OH I DO PLENTY
OF THINKING
UP THERE.
YOU JUST HAVE
TO AVOID PEAK
HOURS.

I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO SNACK
ON SOME OF THESE
DIMSAB SPIKES.
SHAME I WON'T
HAVE SUCH CASUAL
ACCESS ANYMORE.

NO ONE SAW
IT PASS BELOW?

MEAN-
WHILE,
UP
TOP...



... garden heckses all been shod?...

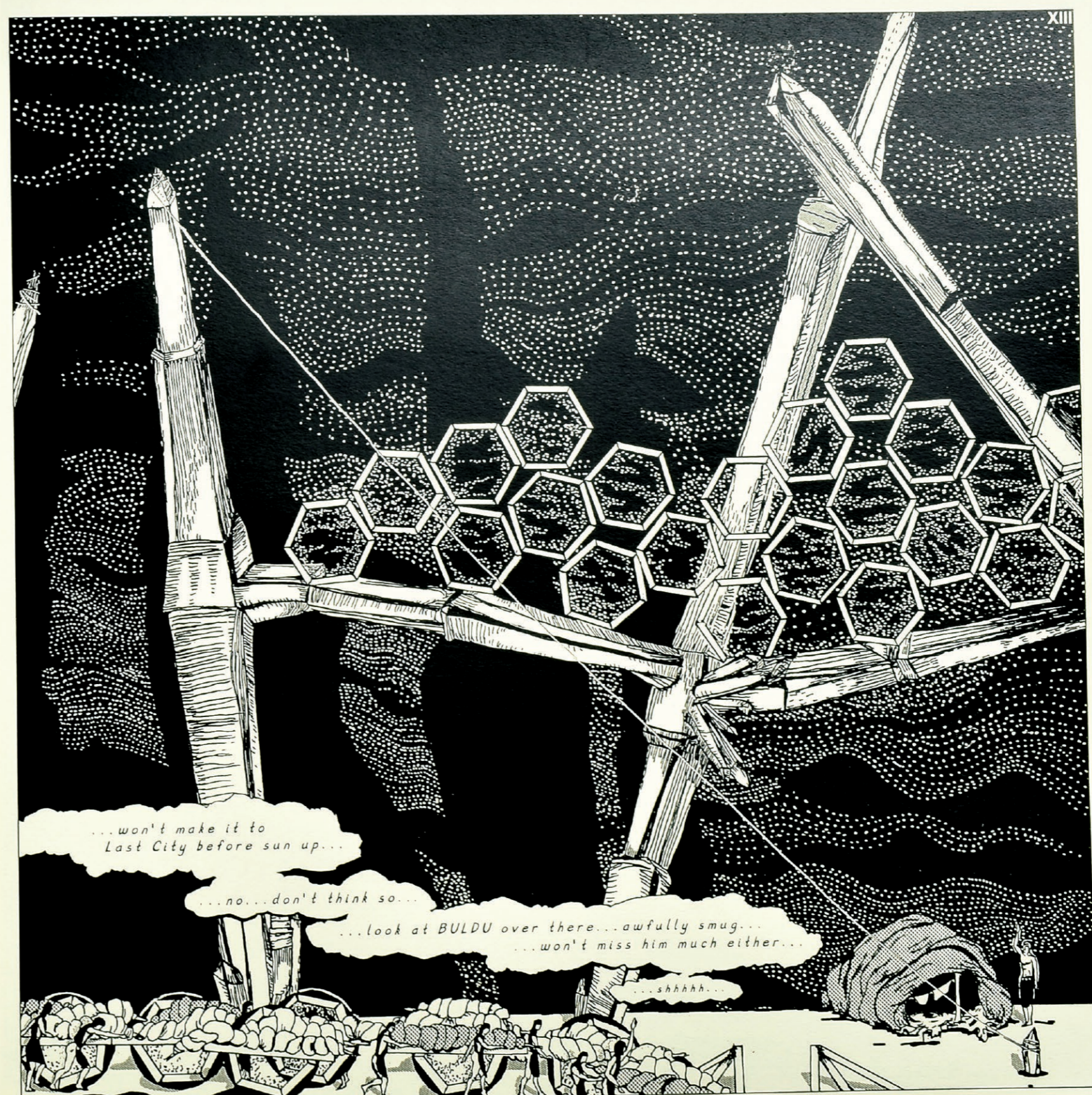
...yeah, rolling along...
...record time...

...drift is picking up...

...no, not yet...

...good thing, such a late start...

...not so bad...

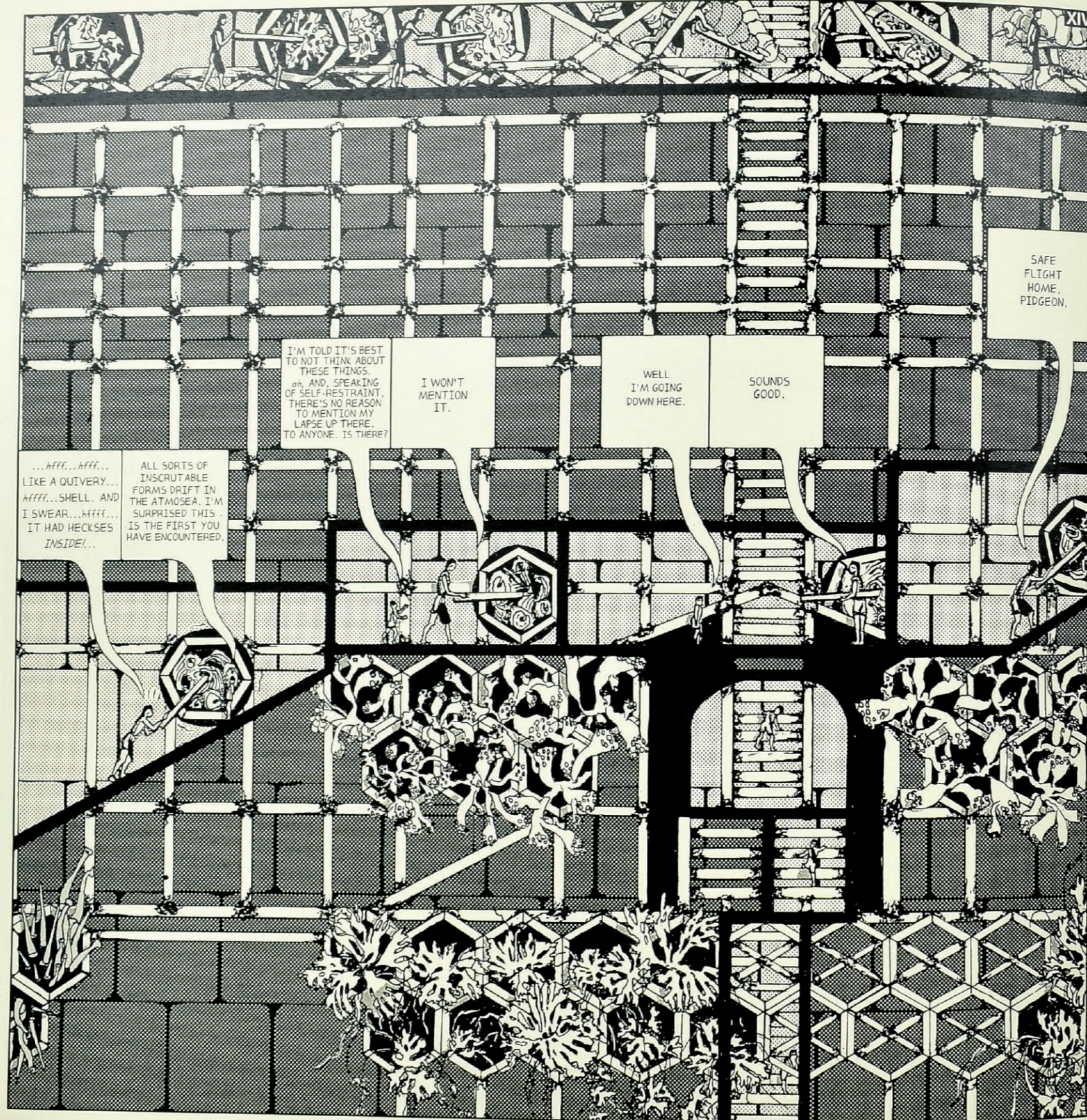


...won't make it to Last City before sun up...

...no... don't think so...

...look at BULDU over there... awfully smug...
...won't miss him much either...

...shhhhh...



... hfff... hfff...
LIKE A QUIVERY...
hfff... SHEL. AND
I SWEAR... hfff...
IT HAD HECKSES
INSIDE!

ALL SORTS OF
INSCRUTABLE
FORMS DRIFT IN
THE ATMOS. I'M
SURPRISED THIS
IS THE FIRST YOU
HAVE ENCOUNTERED.

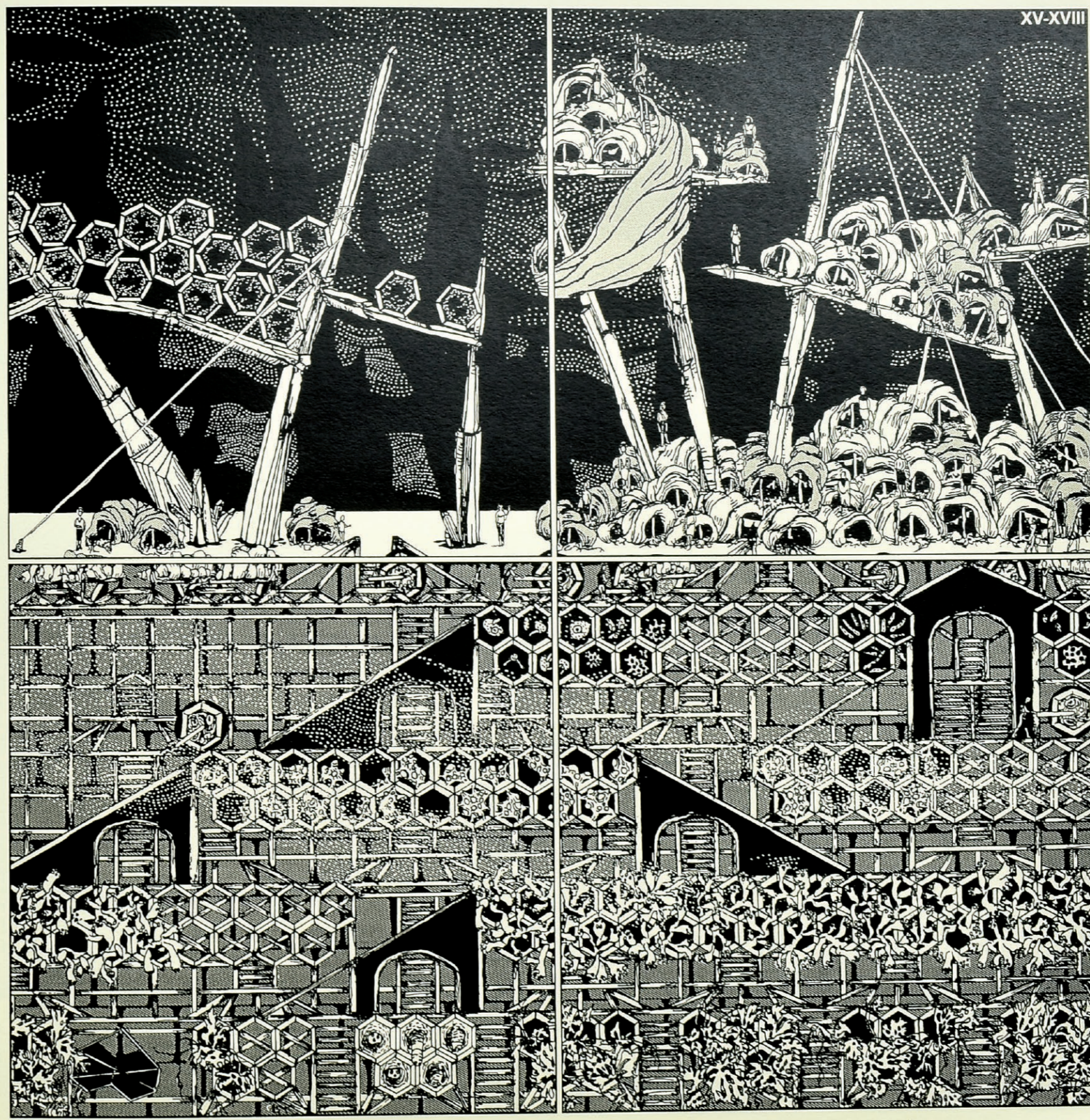
I'M TOLD IT'S BEST
TO NOT THINK ABOUT
THESE THINGS.
AND, SPEAKING
OF SELF-RES TRAINT,
THERE'S NO REASON
TO MENTION MY
LAPSE UP THERE,
TO ANYONE. IS THERE?

I WON'T
MENTION
IT.

WELL
I'M GOING
DOWN HERE.

SOUNDS
GOOD.

SAFE
FLIGHT
HOME,
PIDGEON.





...you guys're way off pace...

...well so like, what... you guys are thinking to just roll on through the light huh?...

...oh, buh-huh, huh?...ffff...you know what? you guys have always been so, ssss...snide...and...just...inconsiderate...I mean, here we are lightproofing all your cloth for you and all because what? ...you couldn't trouble yourselves to get up at a decent hour? ...not even for your own migration?...

...now that's true...

...mmm, buh-huh...

...it was the pidgoen's fault...

...oh come on... I've never known a carrier to be late...nnnn and you know, I don't even care... as far as I'm concerned this is what's called a good riddance!...

...yeah! I'm totally with you Sawmag!...

...thanks Gud!...

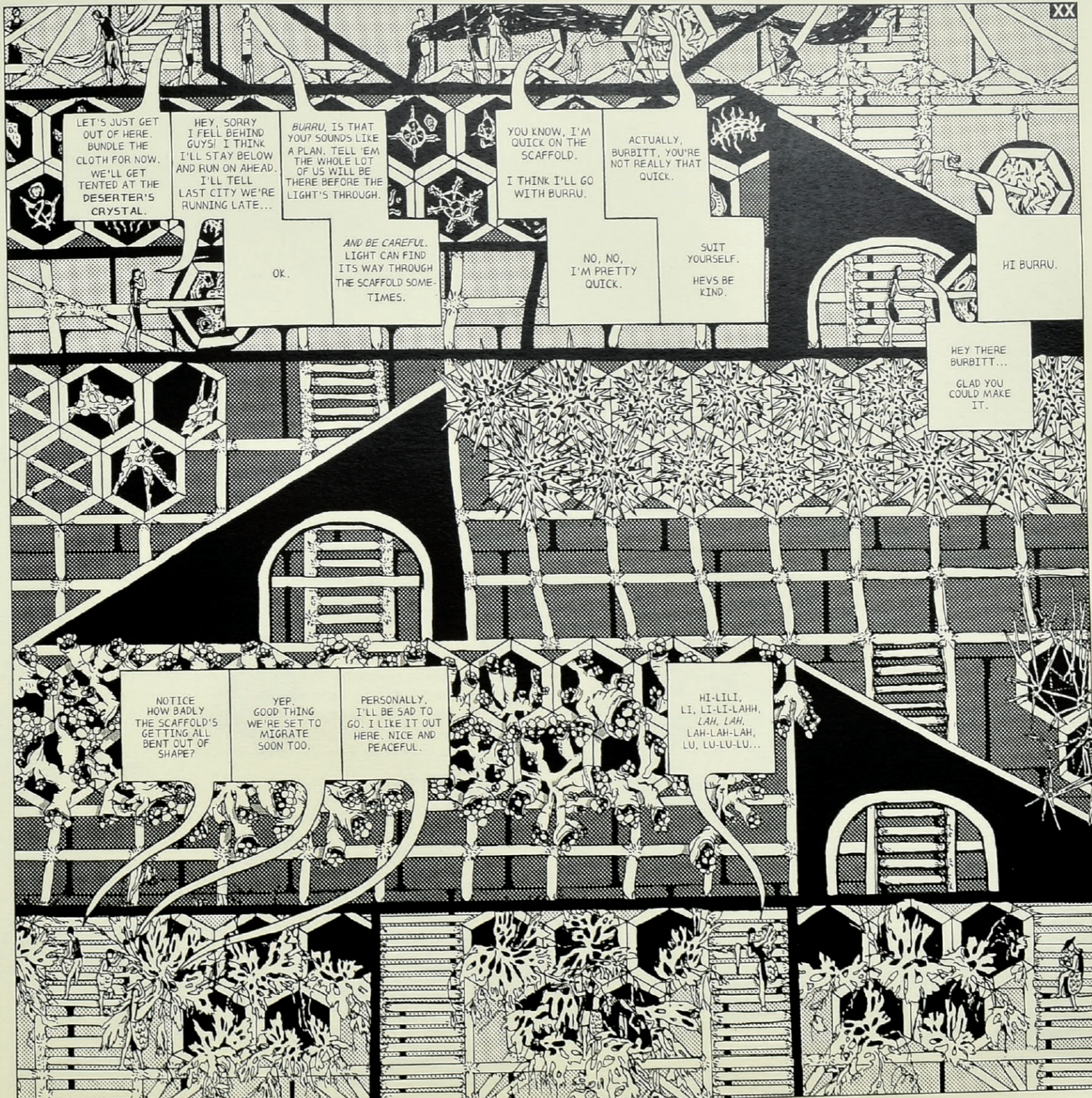
...sounds like Sawmag's getting some closure...

...mmm that's good...

...well frankly Sawmag, we're glad to be getting out of this backwater allotment...and we'll be sure to send word on the drift once we're all settled in at THE CONTINUUM...

...hah, haha...

...now you take care...



LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE. BUNDLE THE CLOTH FOR NOW. WE'LL GET TENTED AT THE DESERTER'S CRYSTAL.

HEY, SORRY I FELL BEHIND GUYS! I THINK I'LL STAY BELOW AND RUN ON AHEAD. I'LL TELL LAST CITY WE'RE RUNNING LATE...

BURRU, IS THAT YOU? SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN. TELL 'EM THE WHOLE LOT OF US WILL BE THERE BEFORE THE LIGHT'S THROUGH.

YOU KNOW, I'M QUICK ON THE SCAFFOLD. I THINK I'LL GO WITH BURRU.

ACTUALLY, BURBITT, YOU'RE NOT REALLY THAT QUICK.

AND BE CAREFUL. LIGHT CAN FIND ITS WAY THROUGH THE SCAFFOLD SOME TIMES.

OK.

NO, NO, I'M PRETTY QUICK.

SUIT YOURSELF. HEVS BE KIND.

HI BURRU.

HEY THERE BURBITT... GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.

NOTICE HOW BADLY THE SCAFFOLD'S GETTING ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE?

YEP. GOOD THING WE'RE SET TO MIGRATE SOON TOO.

PERSONALLY, I'LL BE SAD TO GO. I LIKE IT OUT HERE. NICE AND PEACEFUL.

HI-LILI, LI, LI-LI-LAHH, LAH, LAH, LAH-LAH-LAH, LU, LU-LU-LU...



HHHK!...hello
guys... a little spacey today...
may the heavens, of course, take pity...
...on your lateness...now
listen up...

...but we're...

ff-ff-ff-ff-ff...
...OK... I know I know... you are late...
...I know... because we're all late... that's
what I'm trying to tell you...

...see, we make the wall climb, right, so
that we can climb up with it... but now... it's like
our vehicle is stricken, OK?... a shudder moves
through it... I mean, heavens make room, I can
feel it, you know what I'm saying?...
I think something really big is
coming our way and...

...thanks, well we're
definitely gonna think
about what you've said
on the way to...

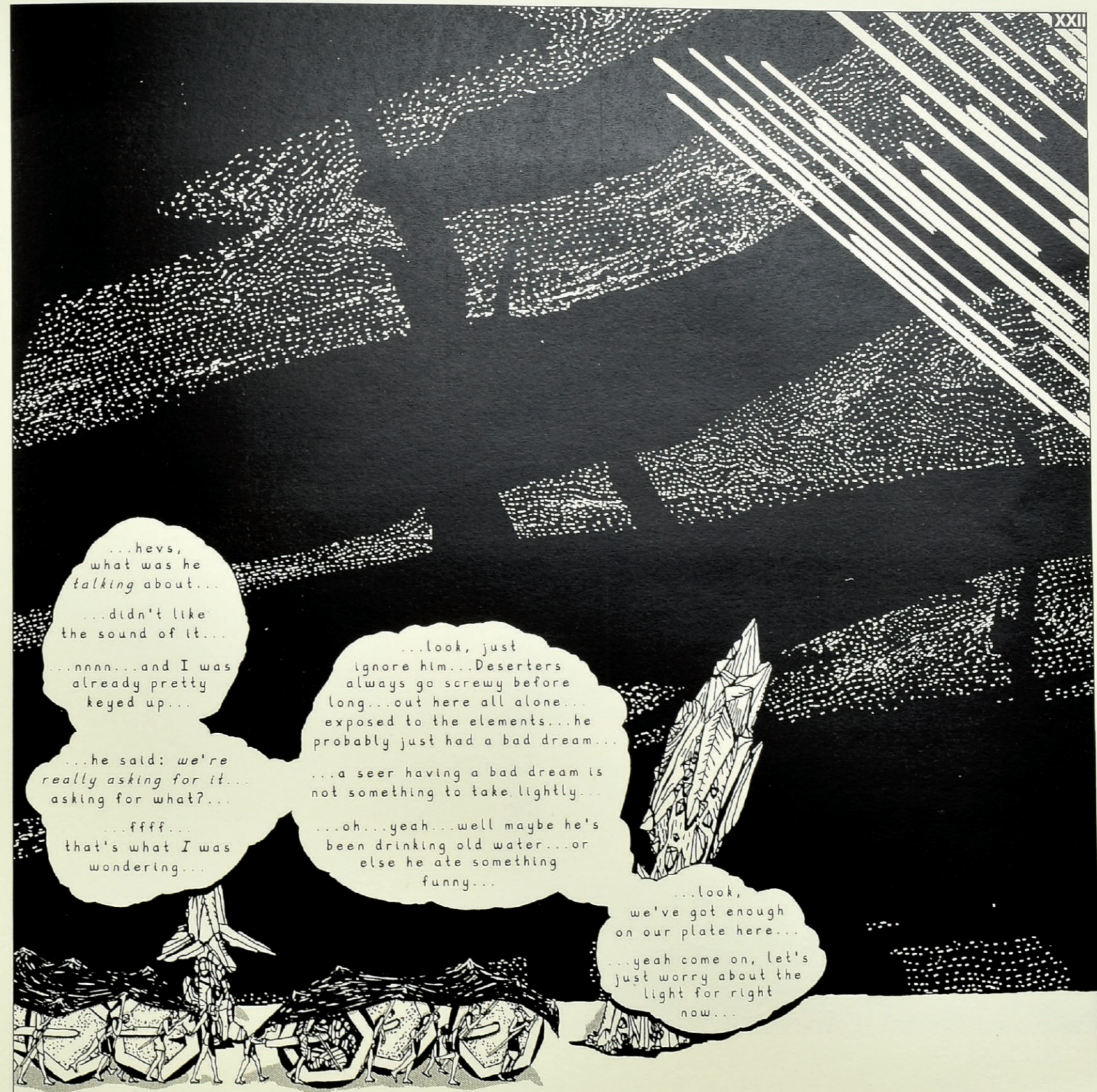
...yeah, you have to get going, OK,
that reminds me... now I've been running
through the numbers up here and well basically,
we ALL should have been there by now!... what I
mean is that, in a sense, we're behind schedule
on the whole project, OK, that's all I mean, and
you know, by taking this long we're really kind
of asking for it... that's all...

...I'm going back inside now, you guys
better get under those tents... and take
that creeper with you alright,
I don't want it...

...Hey up there...
...Hey Deserter, hi... we're really
running late, otherwise we'd pay
you more of a visit...

...anyhow, we're installing this
creeper here and it should grow to
reach you in a few nights... you'll find
its leaves to be especially salubrious...
and you can squish the stem into
a fuel paste...

...so... may the heavens be
kind to you then... and again,
very sorry to gift and run it's just
that the light's not far off,
as I'm sure you know...



...hevs,
what was he
talking about...

...didn't like
the sound of it...

...nnnn... and I was
already pretty
keyed up...

...he said: we're
really asking for it...
asking for what?...

...ffff...
that's what I was
wondering...

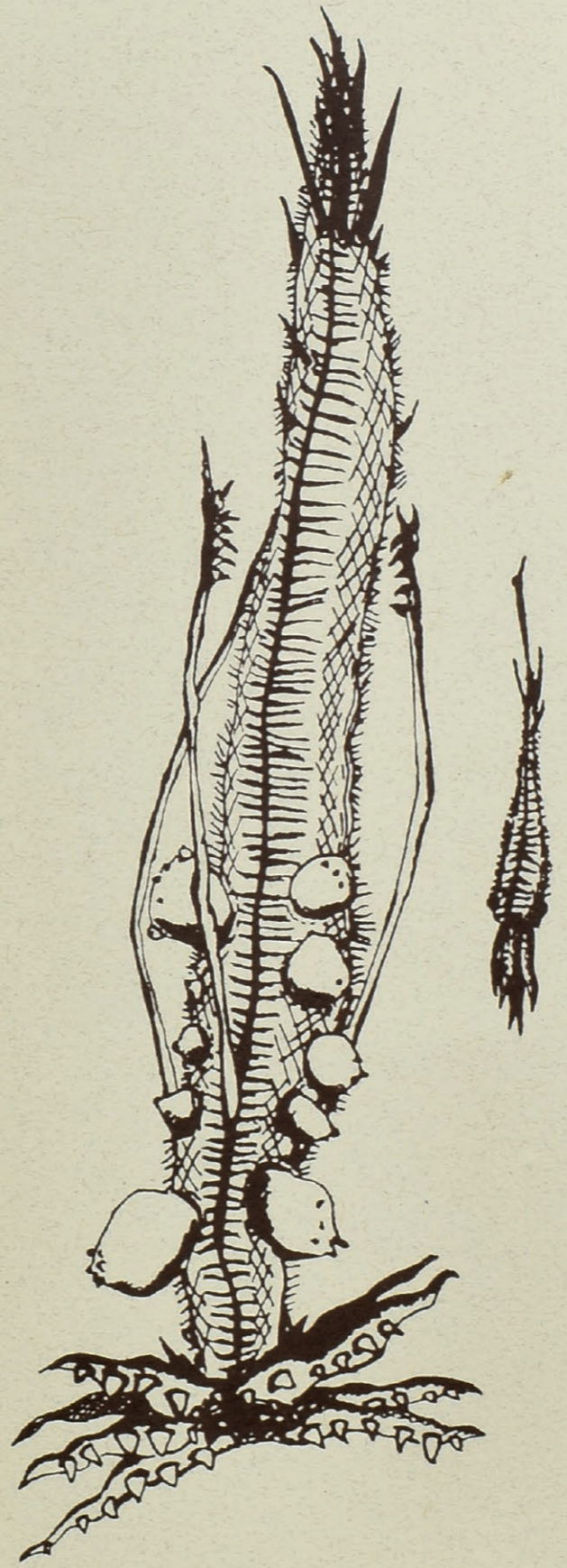
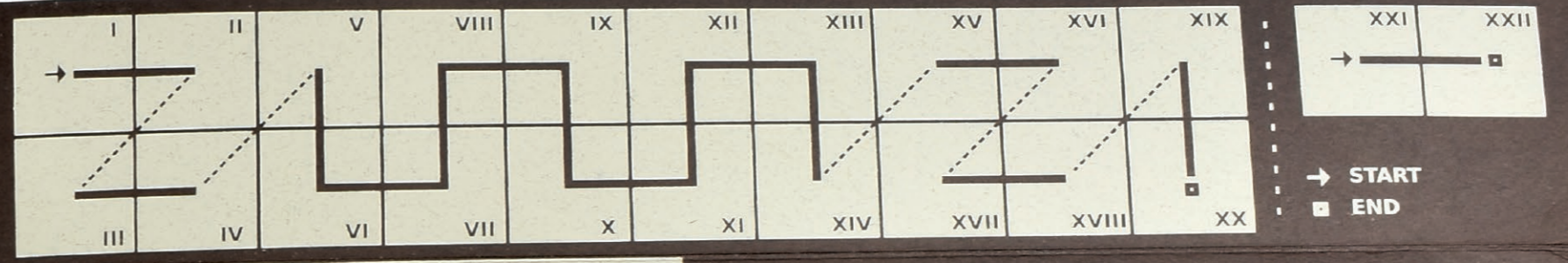
...look, just
ignore him... Deserters
always go screwy before
long... out here all alone...
exposed to the elements... he
probably just had a bad dream...

...a seer having a bad dream is
not something to take lightly...

...oh... yeah... well maybe he's
been drinking old water... or
else he ate something
funny...

...look,
we've got enough
on our plate here...

...yeah come on, let's
just worry about the
light for right
now...



H
H H
↑ Flip Up FOR READING
SEQUENCE MAP

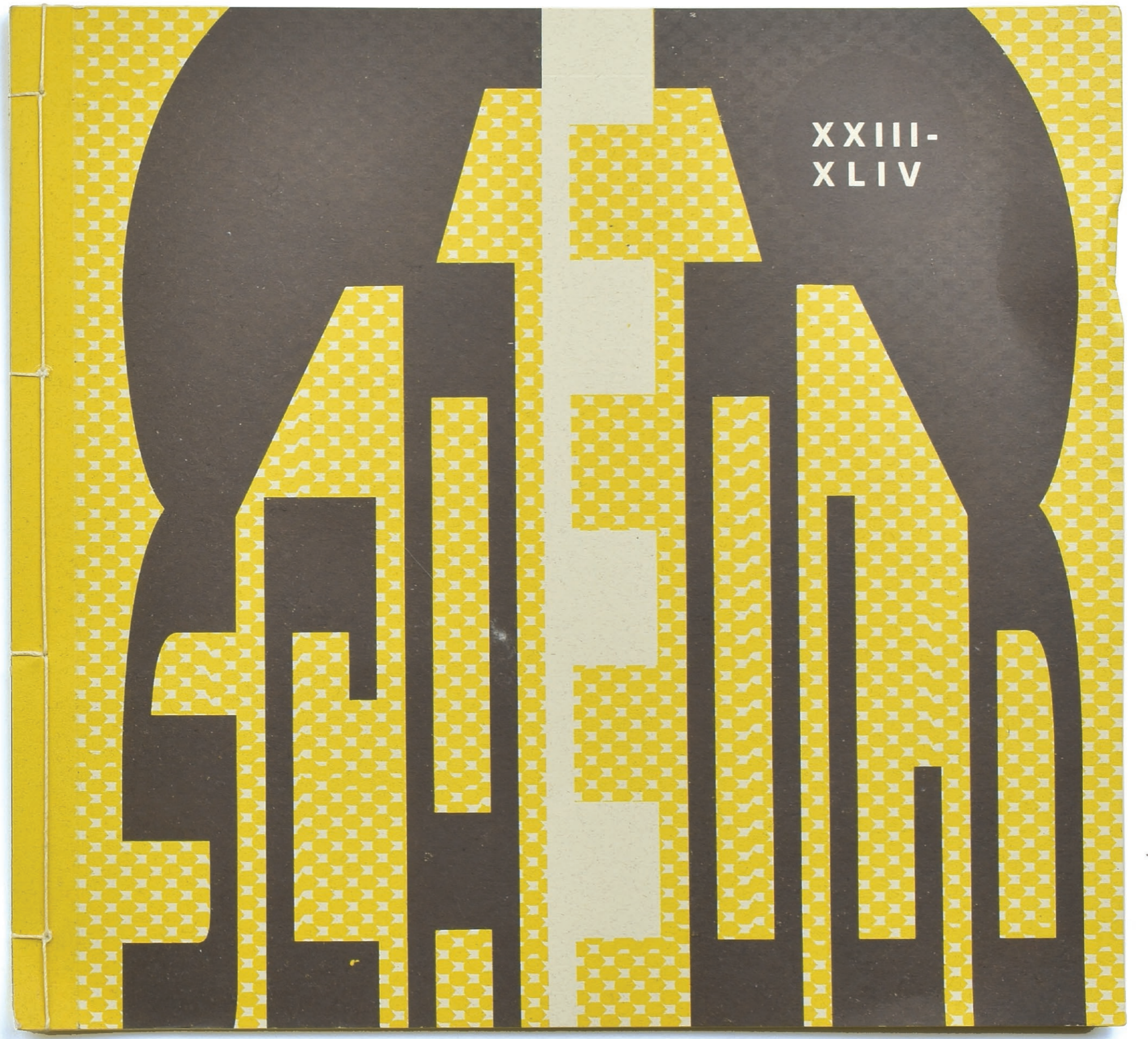
H H H H H
H H H H H
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SCAFFOLD I-XXII 4th ed.

78/130

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H H H H H H H H

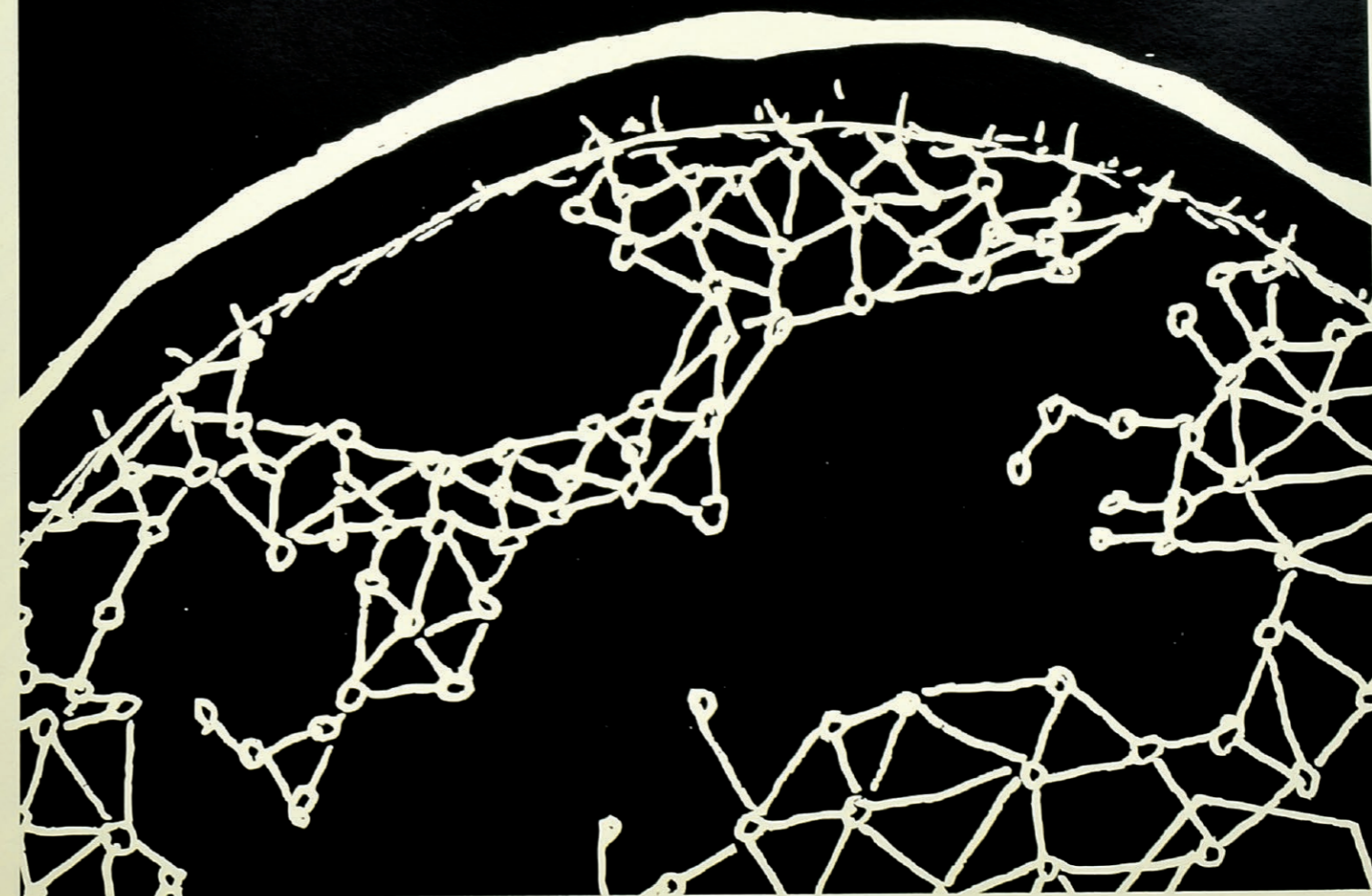


XXIII-
XLIV



SCAFFOLD

V A GRAHAM
J A EISENHOWER 1953-1961





...what is that... ...rattling sound...





HOW MANY DID YOU GET BURRU?

11 OR 50.

WELL, YOU KNOW I COULDN'T REALLY FIND A MOMENT ALONE. NINNINATA WAS BEING A REAL SLAVE DRIVER...

LET ME SEE. I THINK I GRABBED ABOUT HALF A DOZEN OR SO.

IS THAT LIKE 6 OR 7?

WOW. NICE JOB. LAST I HEARD, DIMSAH SPIKES WERE AT 20 ZA A PIECE IN THE LOWER MARKETS.

YEAH. SOMETHING AROUND THERE. WHAT DID YOU MANAGE?

AND WE WERE RUNNING SO FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE.

YEAH. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YEAH. 4 OR 5 OR SOMETHING.

HEVS DURBIT. THAT'S NOT REALLY WORTH THE TRANSGRESSION.



LET'S PUT ON OUR SUNHATS.

HEY. DO YOU HEAR THAT?

HOW COULD I NOT?

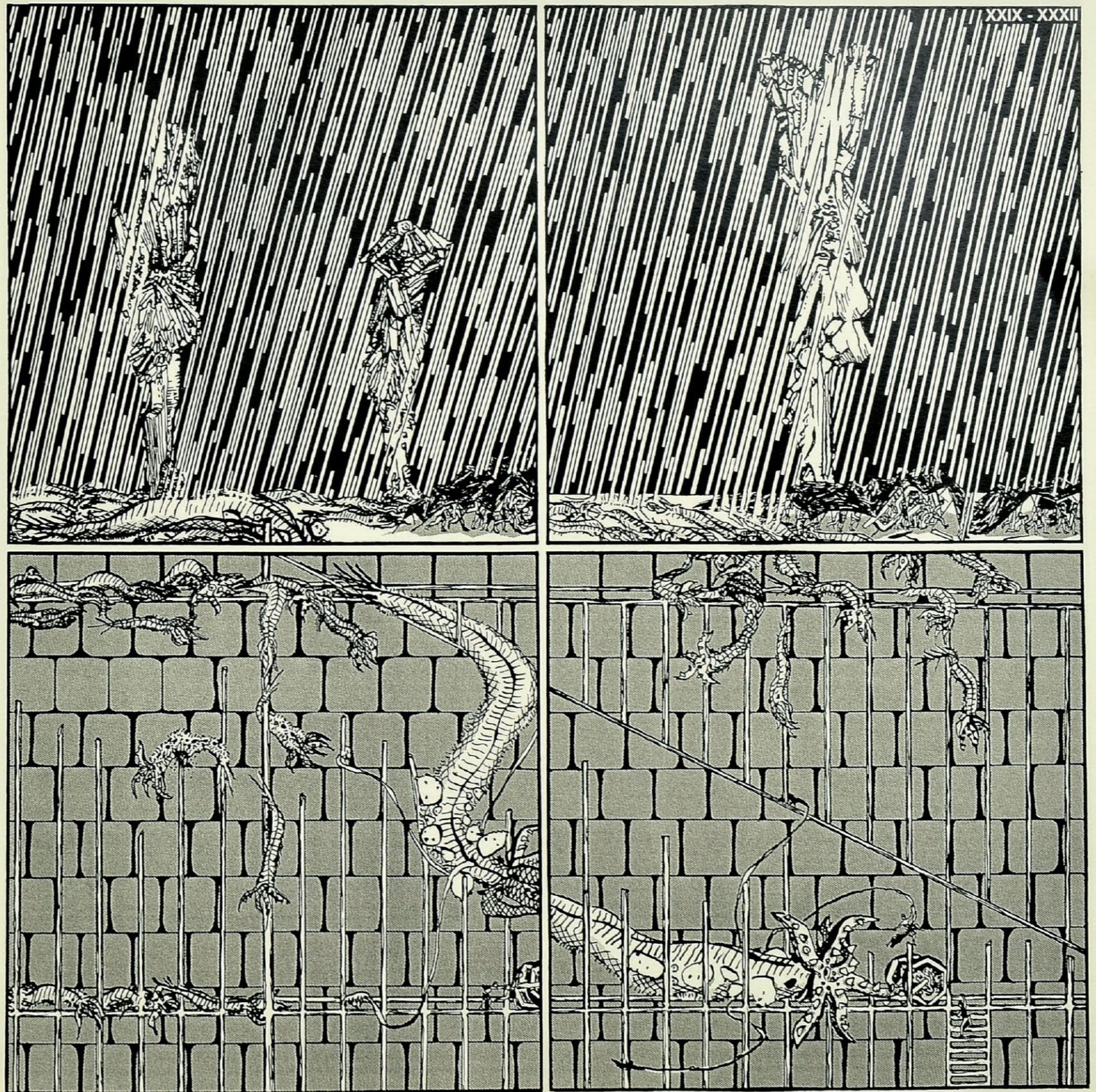
THEN WHAT?

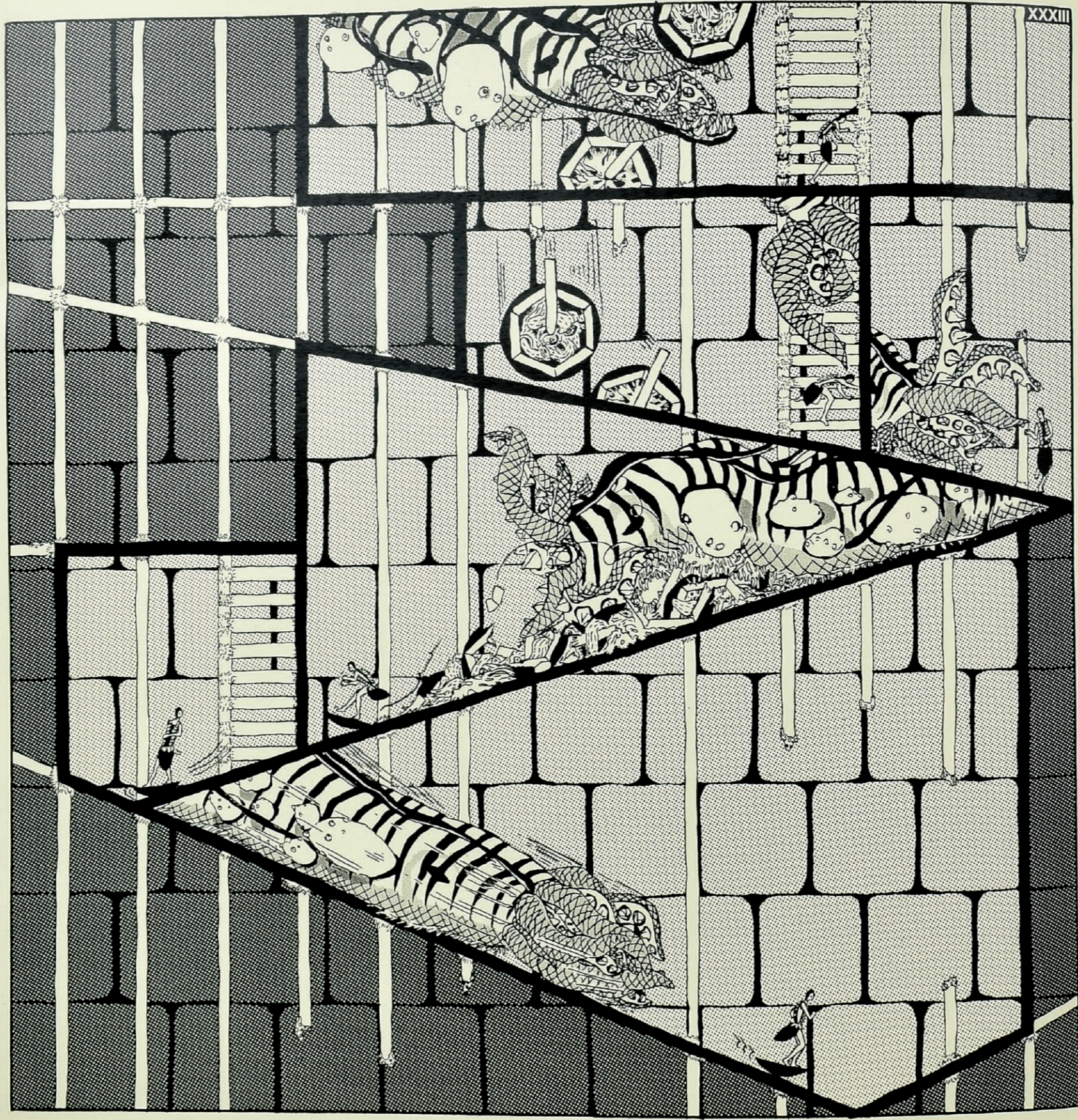
WATCH IT. THE SCAFFOLD LOOKS WEAK OVER HERE.

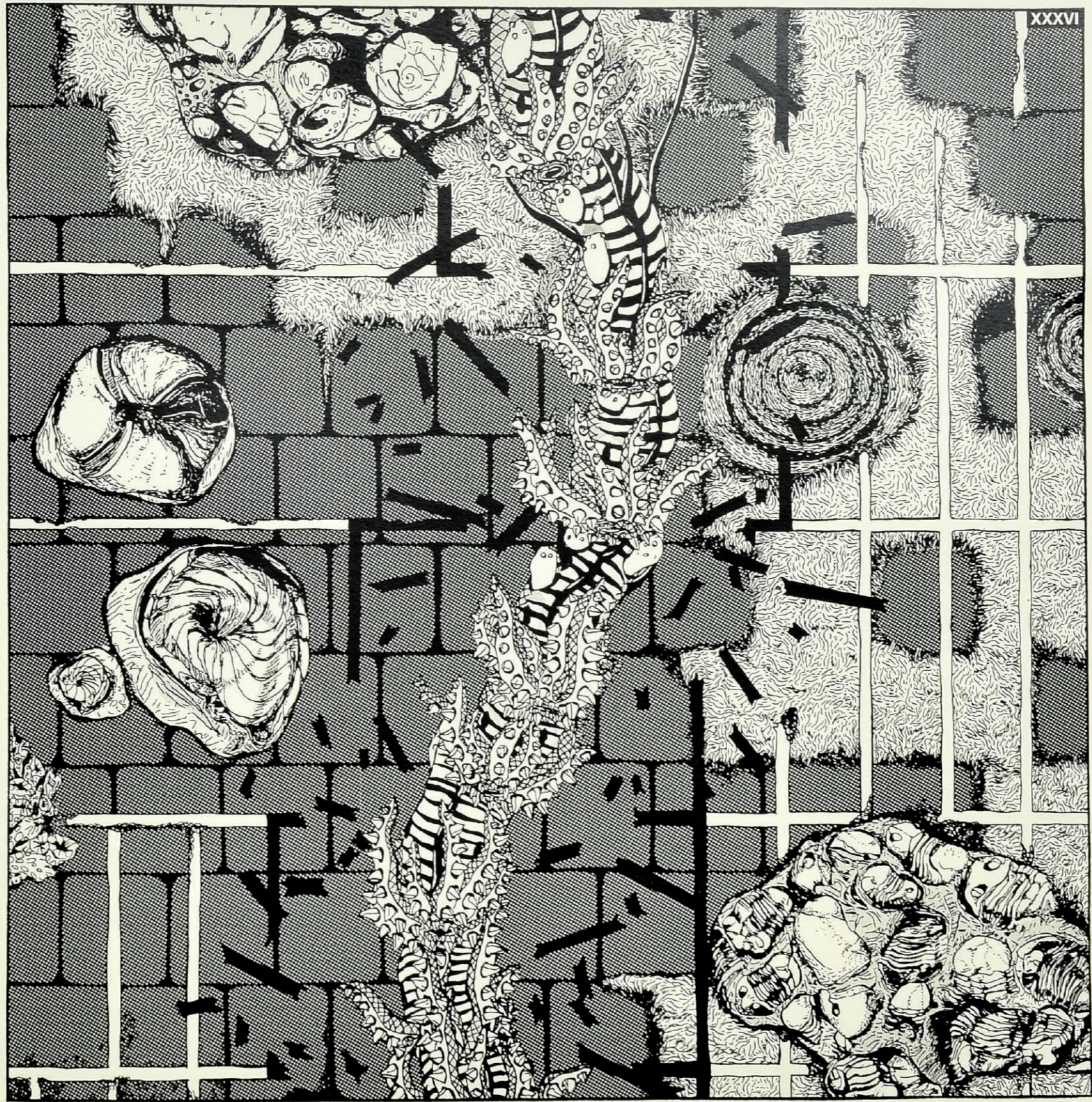
IT'S UP TOP. THE MIGRATION?

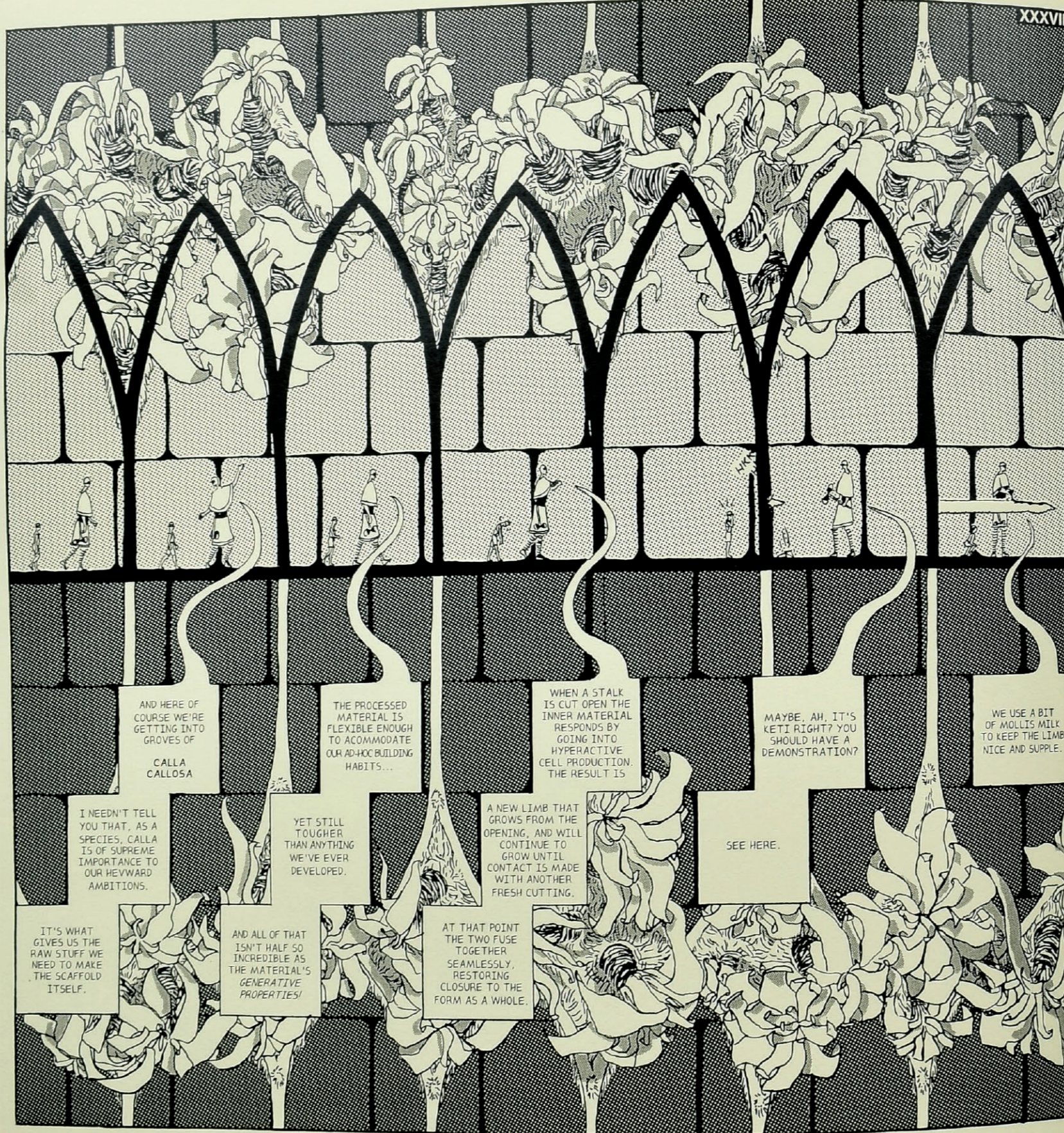
COULDN'T BE. WE MUST BE WAY AHEAD OF THEM BY NOW.

hhhh!









AND HERE OF COURSE WE'RE GETTING INTO GROVES OF CALLA CALLOSA

THE PROCESSED MATERIAL IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE OUR AD-HOC BUILDING HABITS...

WHEN A STALK IS CUT OPEN THE INNER MATERIAL RESPONDS BY GOING INTO HYPERACTIVE CELL PRODUCTION THE RESULT IS

MAYBE, AH, IT'S KETI RIGHT? YOU SHOULD HAVE A DEMONSTRATION?

WE USE A BIT OF MOLLUS MILK TO KEEP THE LIMB NICE AND SUPPLE.

I NEEDN'T TELL YOU THAT, AS A SPECIES, CALLA IS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE TO OUR HEAVARD AMBITIONS.

YET STILL TOUGHER THAN ANYTHING WE'VE EVER DEVELOPED.

A NEW LIMB THAT GROWS FROM THE OPENING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW UNTIL CONTACT IS MADE WITH ANOTHER FRESH CUTTING.

SEE HERE.

IT'S WHAT GIVES US THE RAW STUFF WE NEED TO MAKE THE SCAFFOLD ITSELF.

AND ALL OF THAT ISN'T HALF SO INCREDIBLE AS THE MATERIAL'S GENERATIVE PROPERTIES!

AT THAT POINT THE TWO FUSE TOGETHER SEAMLESSLY, RESTORING CLOSURE TO THE FORM AS A WHOLE.



WELL, I DO.

THERE, YOU SEE?

THAT WAS... FASCINATING.

YES, I KNOW BUT STILL YOUR VOICE KEEPS TO THAT HIGH, SNOTTY REGISTER SO COMMON TO YOU CARRIER FOLK.

YOU KNOW, I THINK IT'S STRANGE. ONCE IN A BLUE DRIFT WE'LL GET SOMEONE WHO'S

NO, I DO NOT.

MY VOICE IS HIGH-PITCHED BECAUSE I'M VERY YOUNG. I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND SNOTTY.

YES, IMMATURETY, SURE KETI, THAT WOULD DO IT TOO.

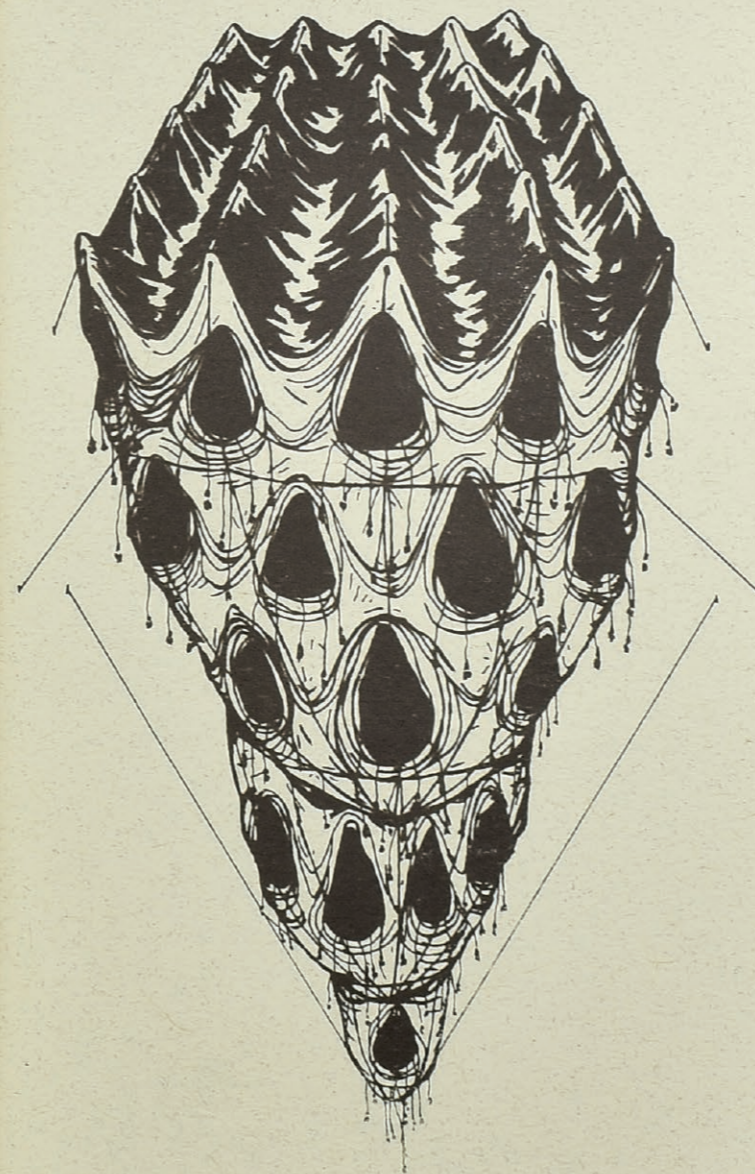
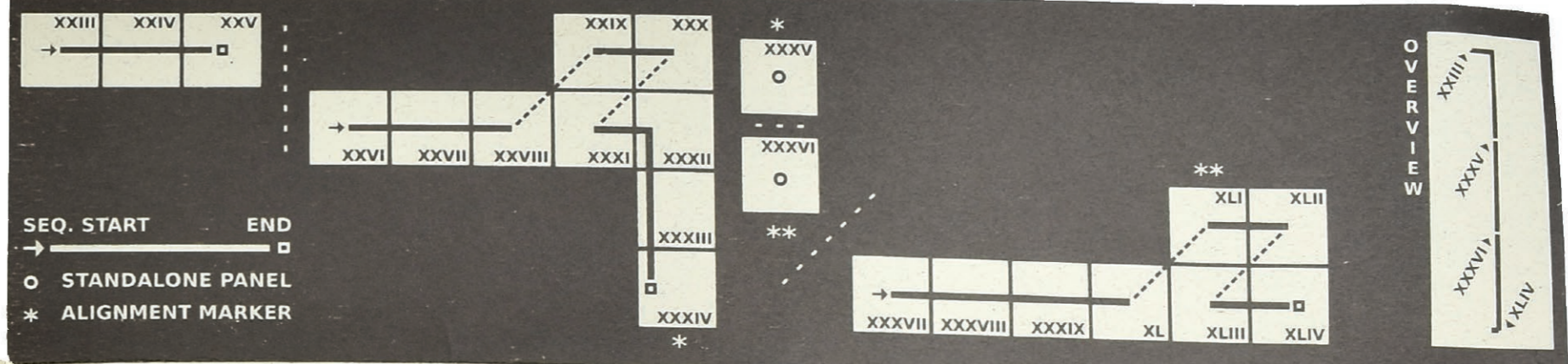
KEEP INTEREST IN MY LITTLE DEMONSTRATION, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO STAY ON FOR A WHILE, SEE WHAT FORESTING'S ALL ABOUT?

BEEN SENT DOWN FROM THE SURFACE TO TAKE UP LIFE AS A FORESTER, BUT WE'VE NEVER NOT ONCE, HAD A TRANSFER THE

NO, I NEED TO BE GOING SOON.

OTHER WAY, UP FROM WHERE YOU LIVE IN THE SLINGS. KETI... EVER WONDER WHY THAT IS?





↑ Flip Up FOR READING SEQUENCE MAP



SCAFFOLD XXIII - XLIV 2nd ed.

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