



The sky has been acting strange recently.

Actually...everything has been acting strange.

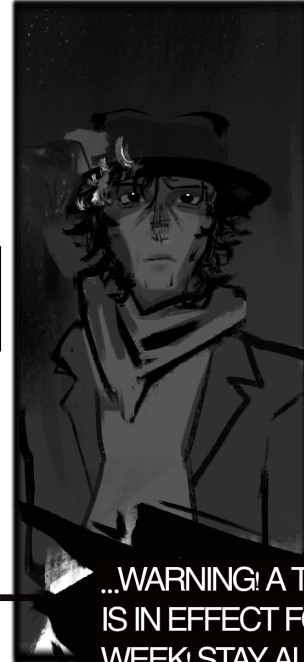


The wind.

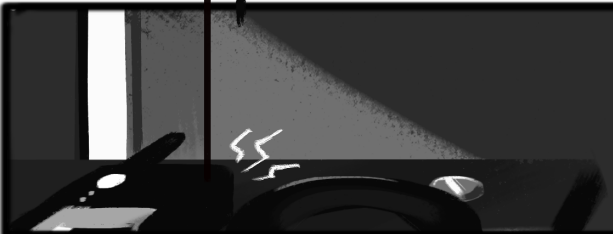
The farm animals.

The birds.

Even Cali, my unperturbed cat.



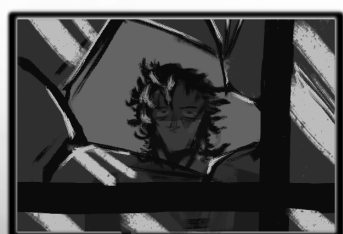
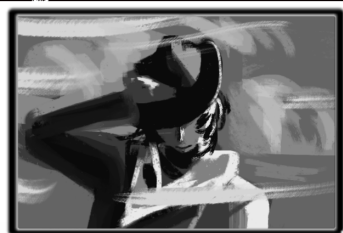
...WARNING! A TORNADO WATCH IS IN EFFECT FOR THE NEXT WEEK! STAY ALERT...



...It's probably nothing. Talking to the animals everyday must be getting to me. I should just ignore it..



...Except it's become more difficult to ignore.



Almost like I'm being purposely messed with.



But I have been on edge lately, It is probably nothing.



caw!
Tap Tap Tap
caw!

Just ignore it. It is nothing.

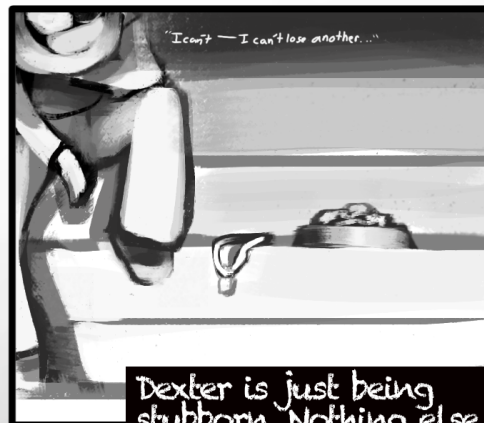
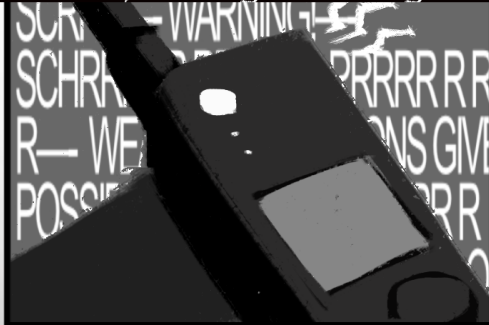


Cali must have pissed off those crows. Nothing else.

The roof creaks because it is just windy. Nothing else.

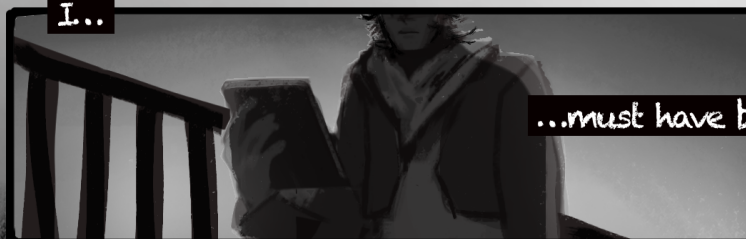


The radio just gets glitchy in the middle of the night. Nothing else.



"I can't — I can't lose another..."
Dexter is just being stubborn. Nothing else.

I...



...must have bumped into them.

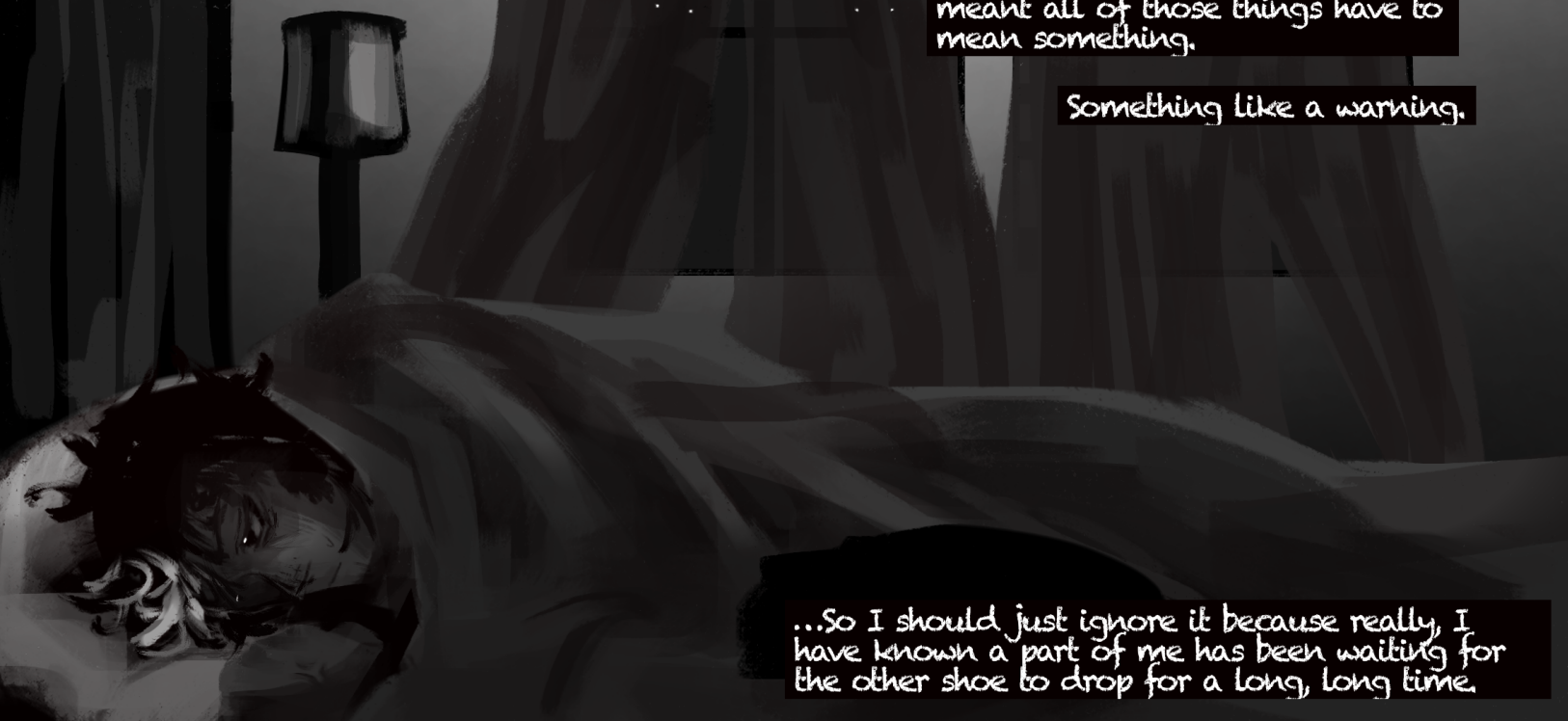


Nothing else.

And at night it's just me and my nerves. Nothing else. There is no gaze on my back—

— because if that were true, that meant all of those things have to mean something.

Something like a warning.



...So I should just ignore it because really, I have known a part of me has been waiting for the other shoe to drop for a long, long time.

That morning...



It was a dead man walking, coming straight towards us.

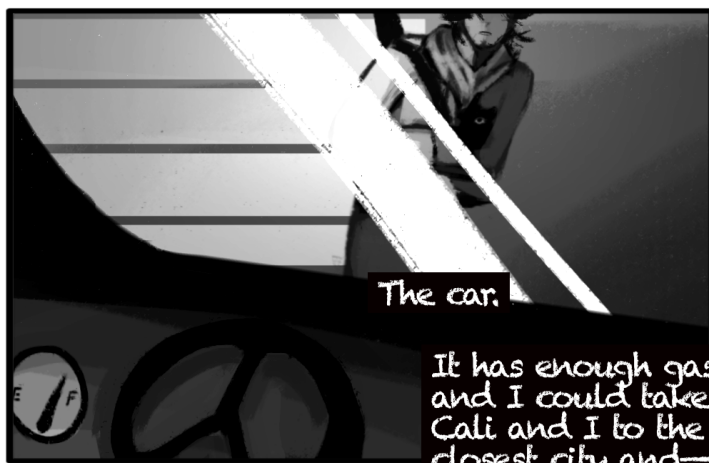




We have to get to the barn—



...Wait.



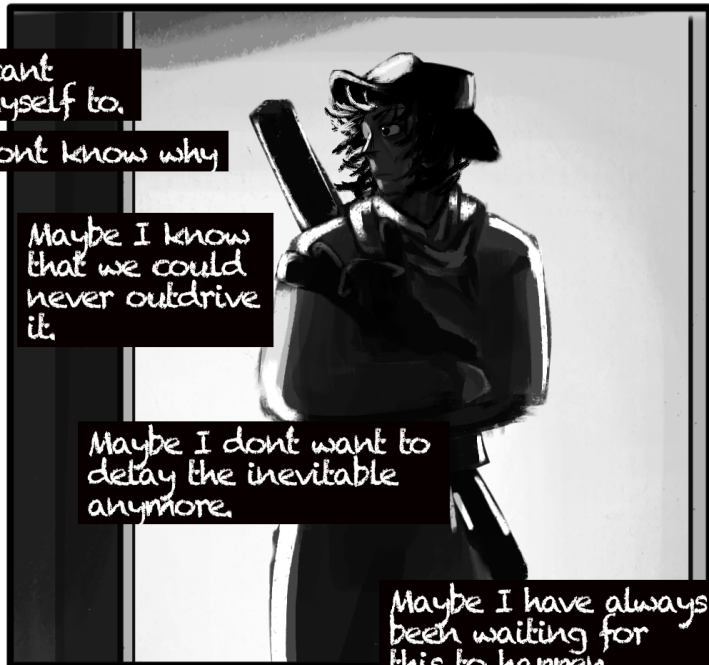
The car.

It has enough gas and I could take Cali and I to the closest city and—

And—



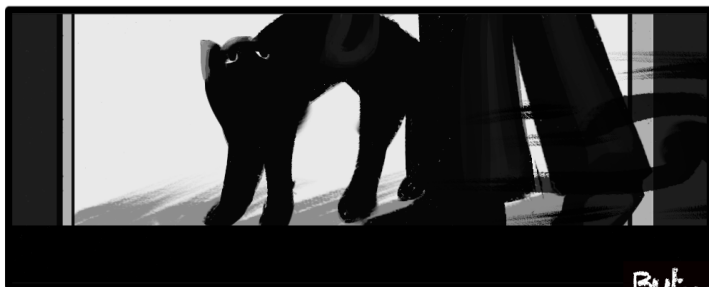
And I can't bring myself to.
I don't know why.



Maybe I know that we could never outdrive it.

Maybe I don't want to delay the inevitable anymore.

Maybe I have always been waiting for this to happen.



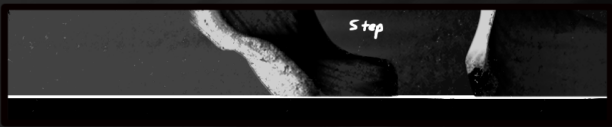
But...

I am sorry I could not save you, Cali.

I am sorry I could not save you, Dexter.

And I am sorry I could not save myself—

"You shouldn't be here."



"Wha— who are you? Wait. Stay back—"

"Stay back!—"

"Stay—"



"— back..."

THUNK



The doctors explained everything.



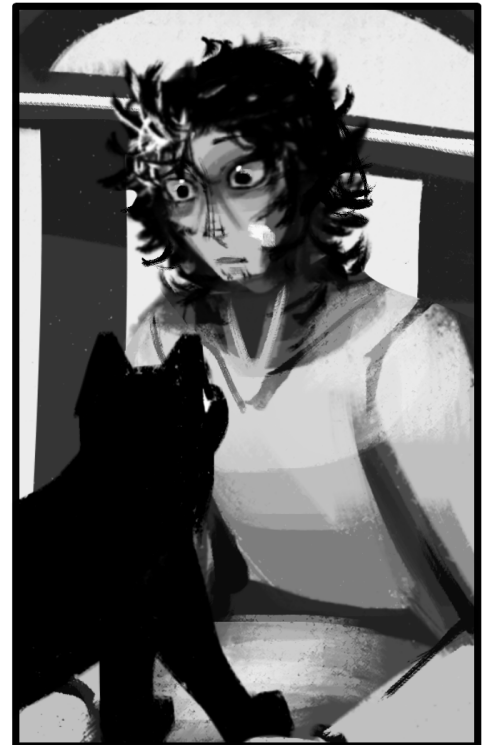
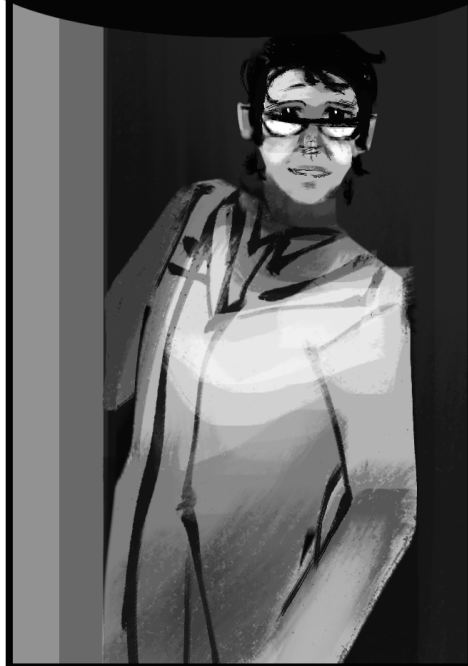
Emergency services had found me unconscious and brought me here before the tornado hit.

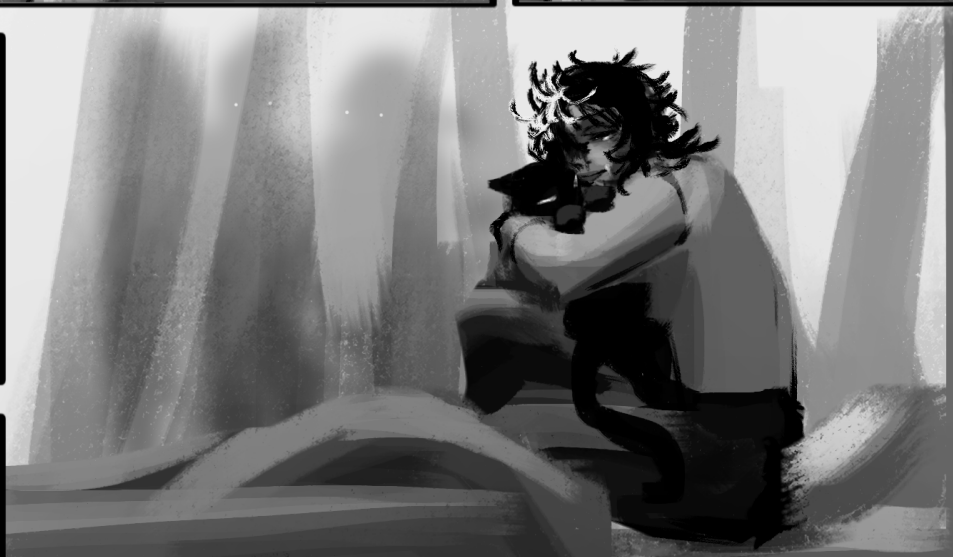
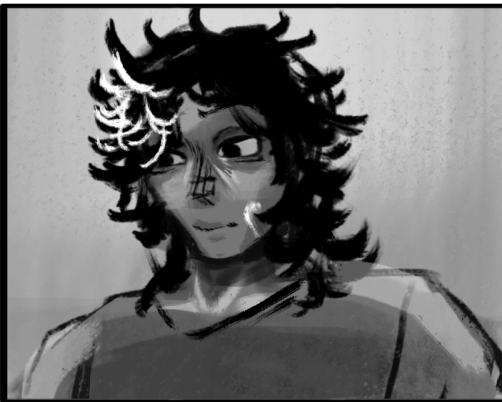
I was confused. Why and how did anyone even come looking? Strangely, they answer that I called 911.

...But I didn't call anyone and I'm sure no one else called...

Unless...

"Alright, we'll leave you to it, Mr. Cyrus. If you need anything, press that button right there and we'll be here in a flash."

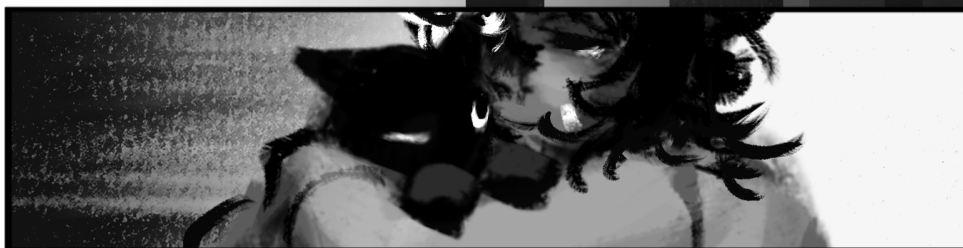
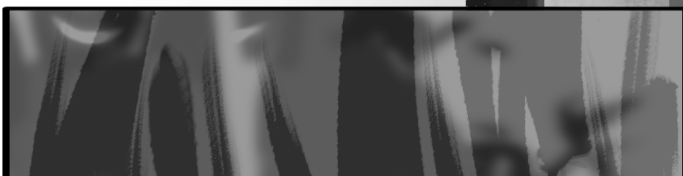




"Cali—Cali, I'm sorry— I'm so sorry I put you in so much danger—"

"You were probably so scared and I was just going to leave you like that all alone."

"I won't do it again, I.. I promise, I'll live so you'll get the life you deserve."



And one day, I'll live for myself.