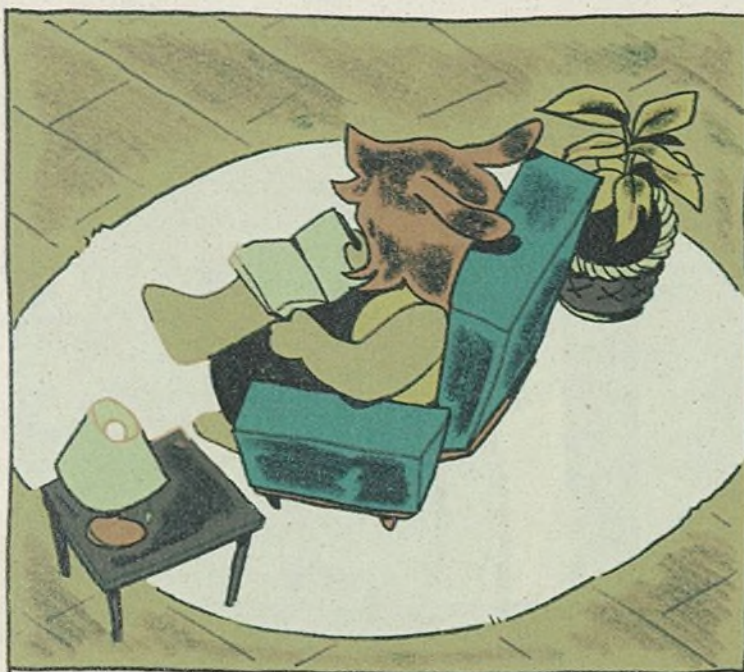


HOUSE

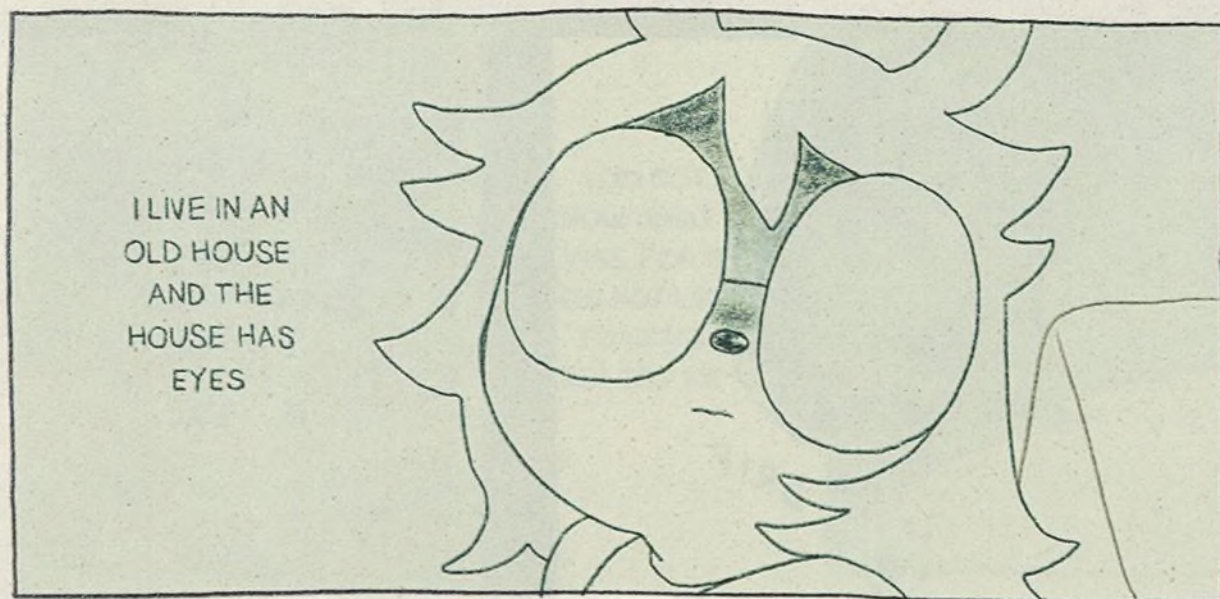


mrotisky

FUSCOT



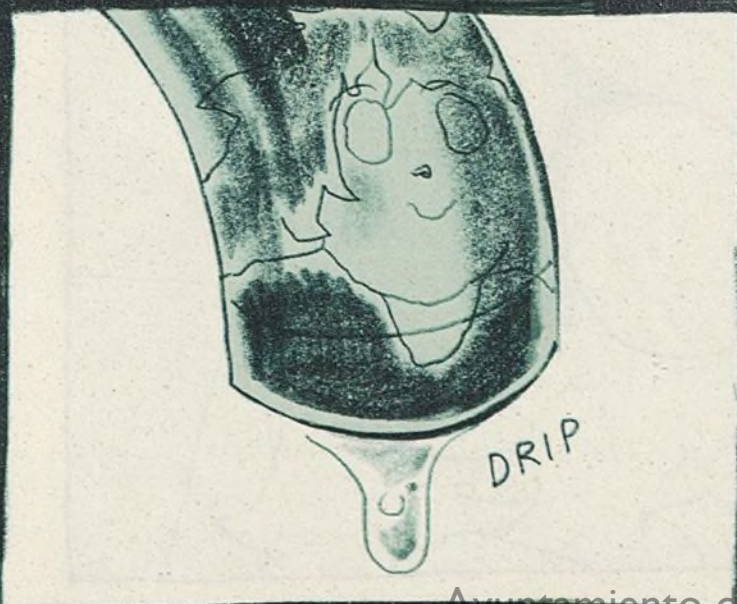
A SHORT STORY
BY MROTISKY



THE HOUSE
HAS NOT
ALWAYS
HAD EYES,
I DO NOT
THINK



I DO REMEMBER
WALKING
THROUGH IT AS
EASILY AS ONE
WALKS ON A
MOSS-COVERED
PATH, THE
STONES ALL LAID
OUT NEATLY IN
FRONT OF ME



THEN, THE HOUSE
DID NOT HOLD
DARK CORNERS
OR SMALL
CABINETS WHERE
A PAIR OF EYES
COULD HIDE

SOMETHING
SMALL AND
STARING
EMERGED ONE
DAY OUT
OF THE
CORNER OF
MY EYE



I DID NOT
KNOW WHAT IT
WAS, FOR IT
DID NOT LIKE
TO STAND
BEFORE ME




NOT MUCH LATER, A SECOND SIMILAR BEING
FORMED IN MY PERIPHERAL VIEW



THE CERTAINTY OF THEIR
PRESENCE KEPT ME
VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES

EVEN WHILE ASLEEP





THE HOUSE SEEMED TO
NATURALLY ACCOMMODATE
THEIR PRESENCE, AS IF THEY
HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE

SUDDENLY, I STUMBLED UPON
DARK CORNERS AND SMALL
CABINETS WHERE THERE HAD
BEEN NONE

IT SEEMED AS IF THE
CREATURES WERE MOST
COMFORTABLE DWELLING IN
THOSE PLACES

THEY THRIVED, TOO,
SOMEHOW SEEMING TO
OCCUPY AN INCREASINGLY
LARGE SPACE IN THE HOUSE






I WAS NOT
SURE OF THEIR
INTENT

BUT THEIR
EXISTENCE
ALONE

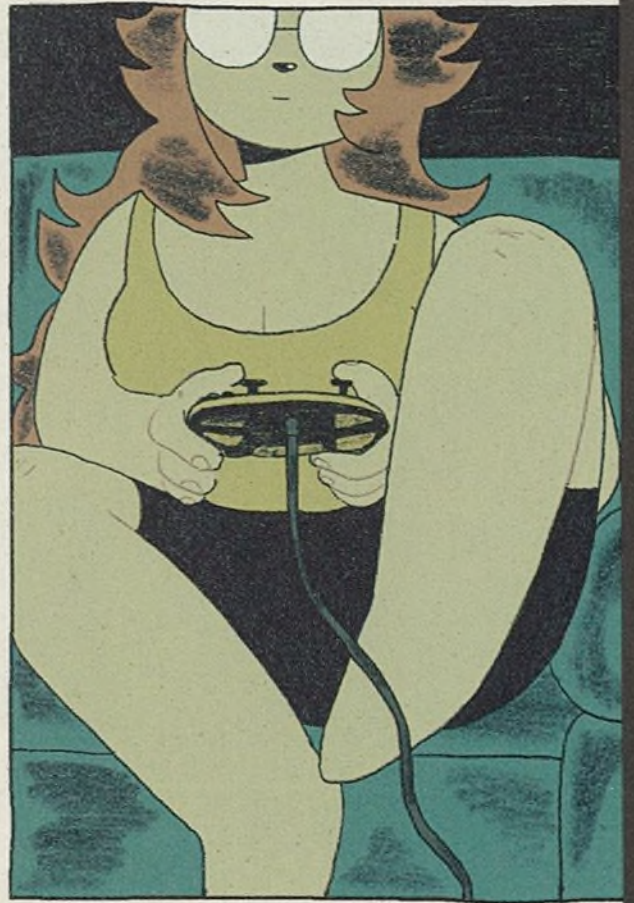
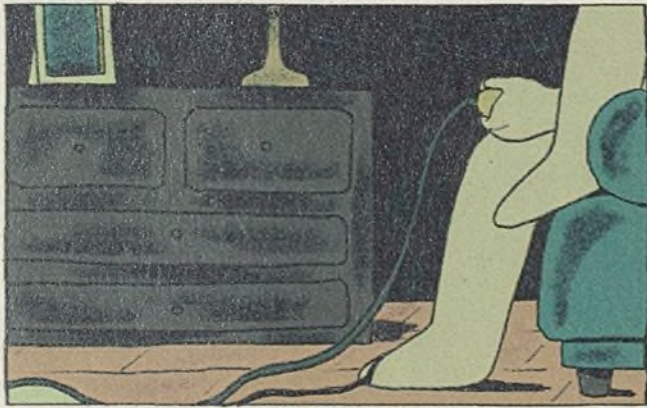
UNNERVED ME
DEEPLY



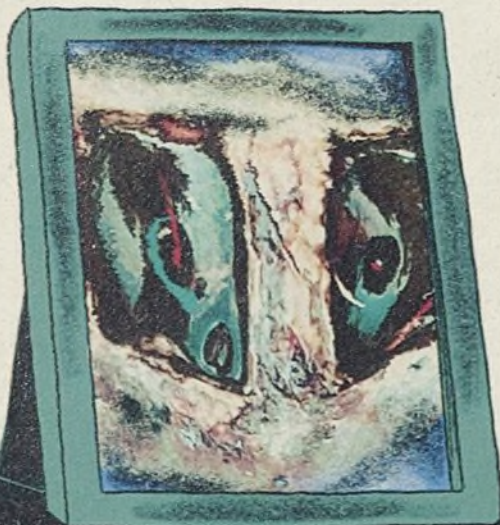
INCH
BY INCH,
THEY
APPROACHED
ME AND
SHOWED
THEMSELVES
WITH
GREATER
DARING

THEY CAME
TO ME,
AWAKE AND
IN DREAMS,
IN ALL
KINDS OF
SHAPES

ALL OF
THEM WITH
A PIERCING,
BIRD-LIKE
GAZE THAT
SHOOK ME
TO MY
CORE



ONCE OR TWICE I CAUGHT A
GLIMPSE OF A HUNGRY,
QUESTIONING EYE THAT HELD
ME AS IF IN A CHOKEHOLD

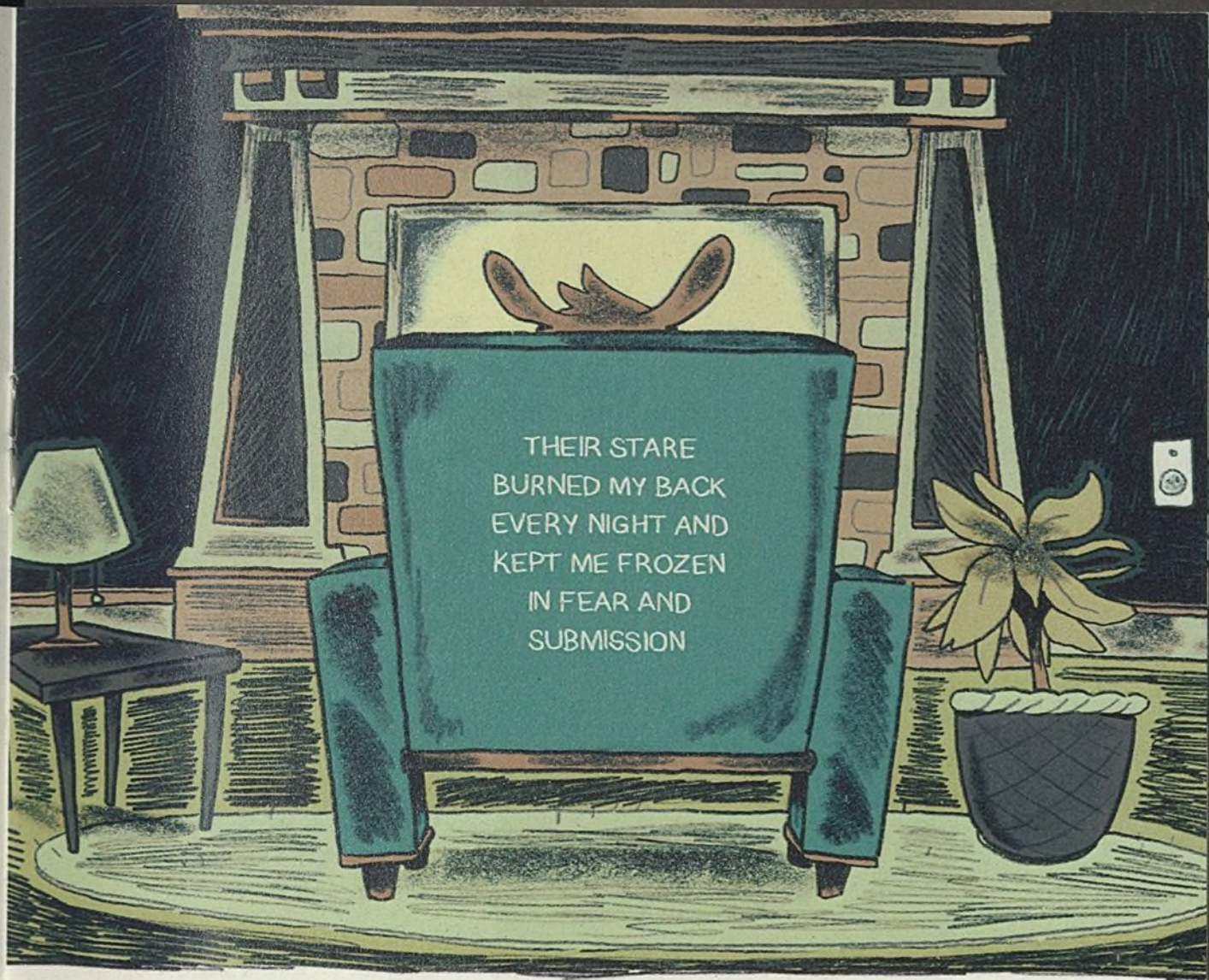




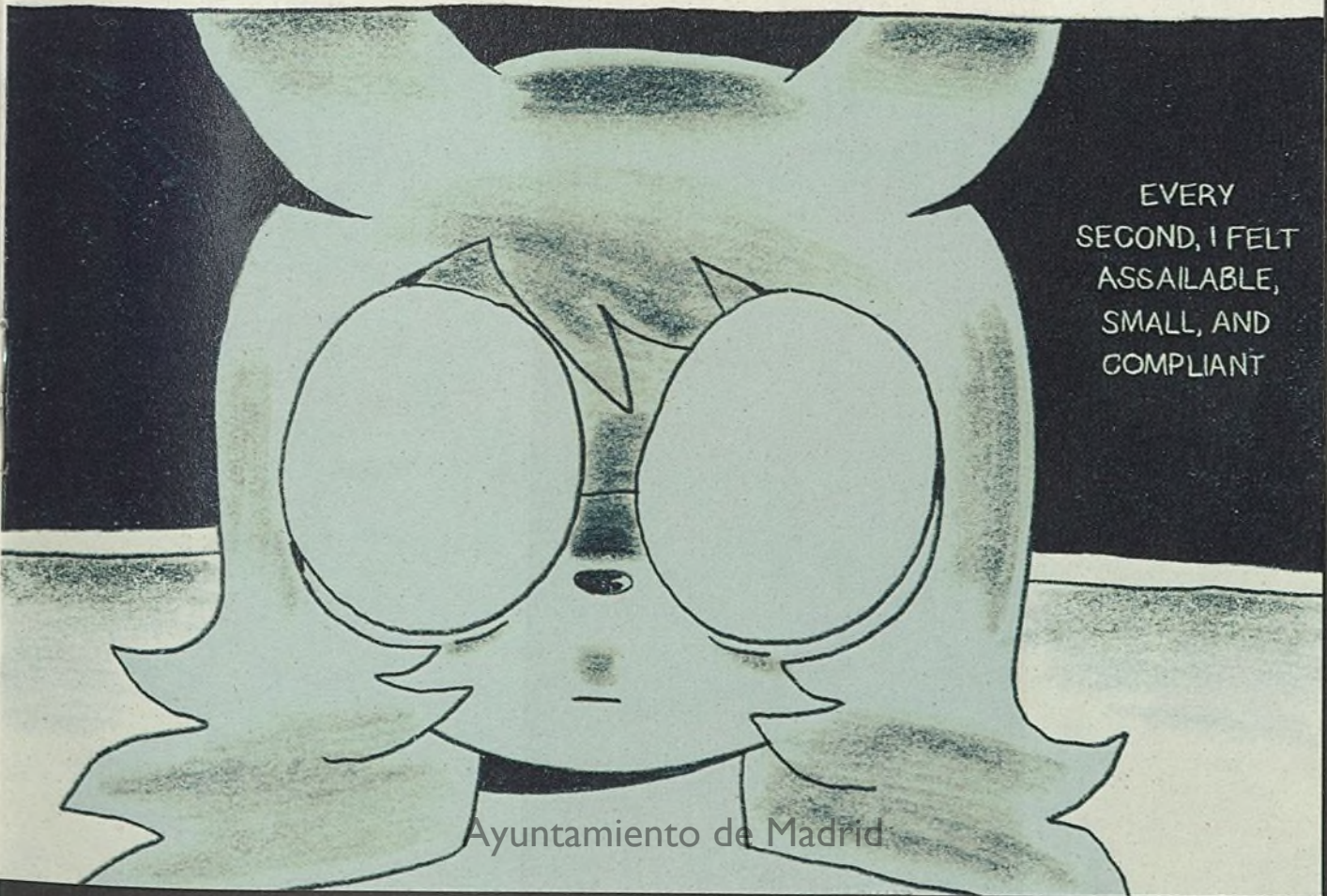
SOON THEY TOO BECAME
INHABITANTS OF THE HOUSE



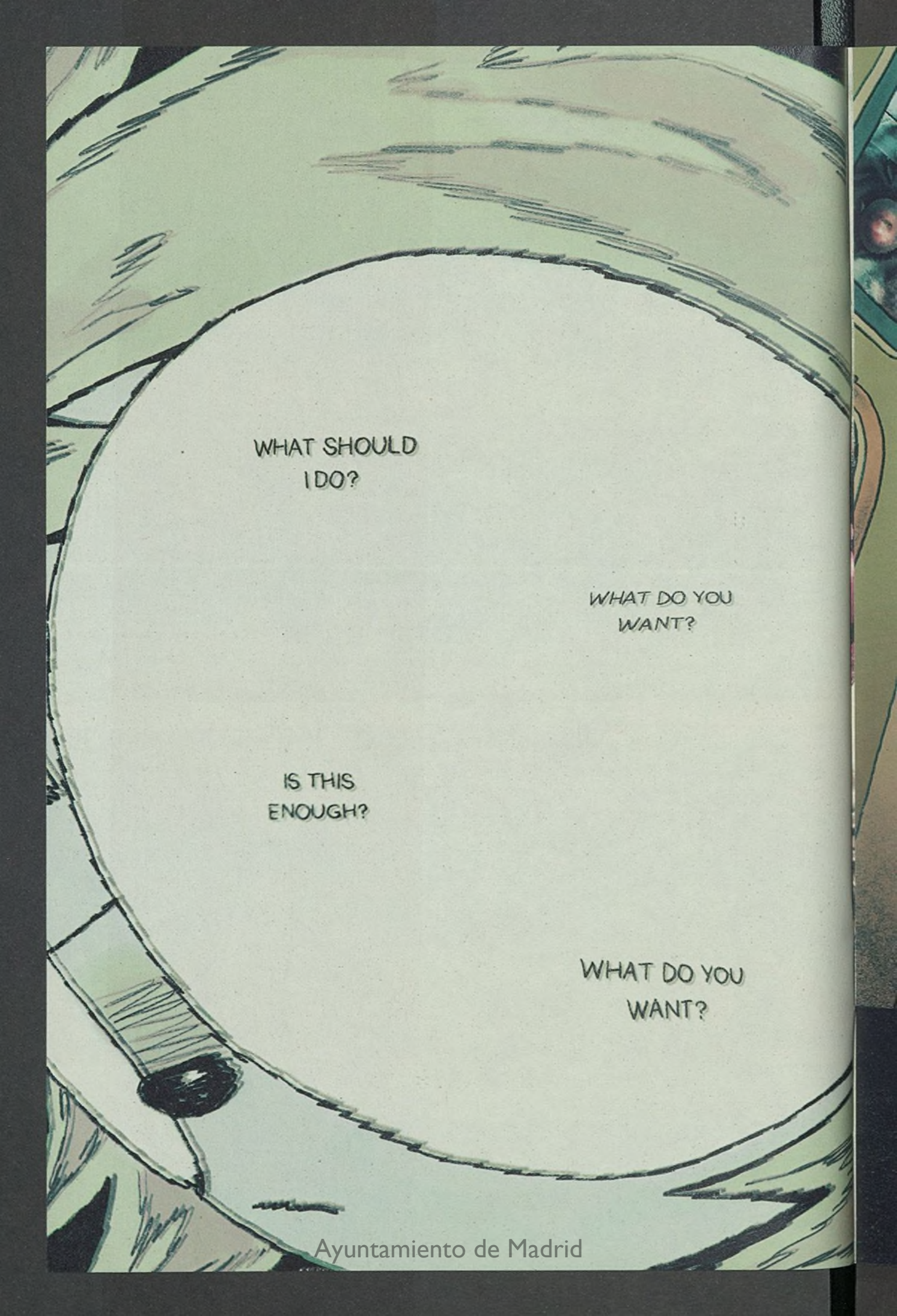
AND EVEN I
REGARDED
THEM AS SUCH



THEIR STARE
BURNED MY BACK
EVERY NIGHT AND
KEPT ME FROZEN
IN FEAR AND
SUBMISSION



EVERY
SECOND, I FELT
ASSAILABLE,
SMALL, AND
COMPLIANT



WHAT SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

IS THIS
ENOUGH?


WHAT DO YOU
WANT?



I AM FRANTIC, OUT OF MY MIND

EYES GAZE AT ME MERCILESSLY FROM EVERY FLOOR PANEL AND DOOR FRAME

Ayuntamiento de Madrid



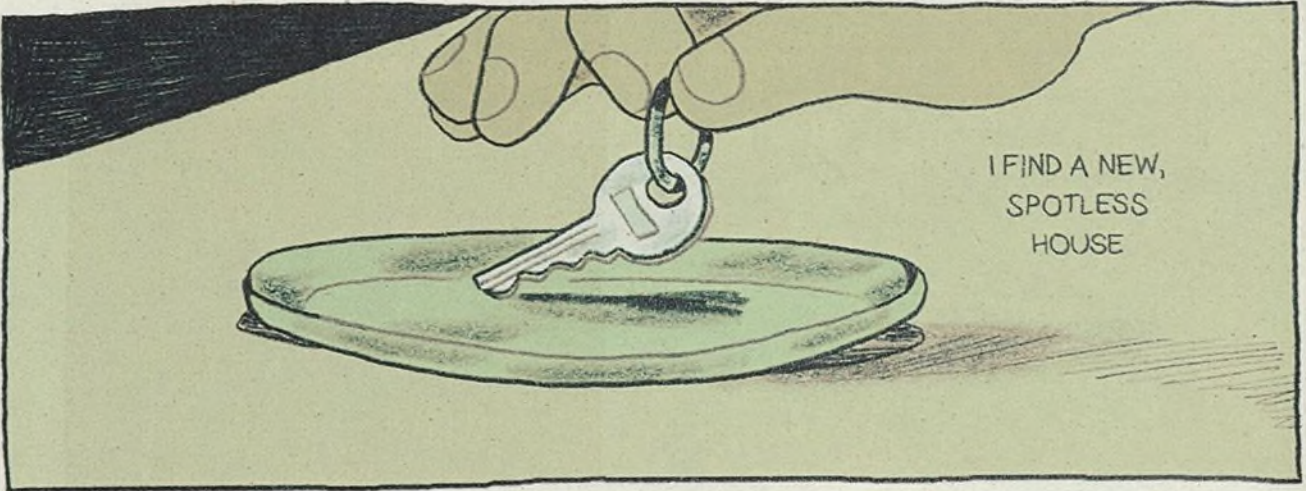
THEY PASS
JUDGEMENT
AND DO NOT
FORGIVE

NOR FORGET

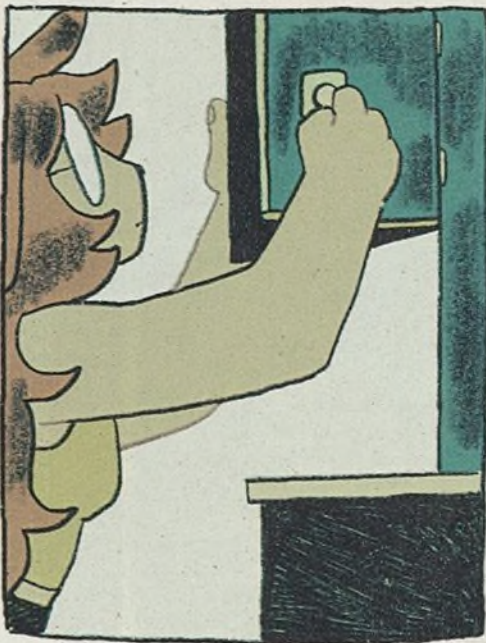


ONE DAY, I WALK OUT THE FRONT DOOR
AND NEVER GO BACK

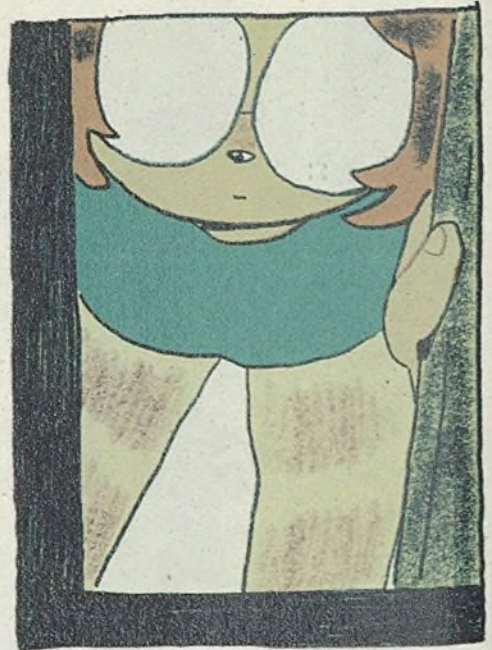




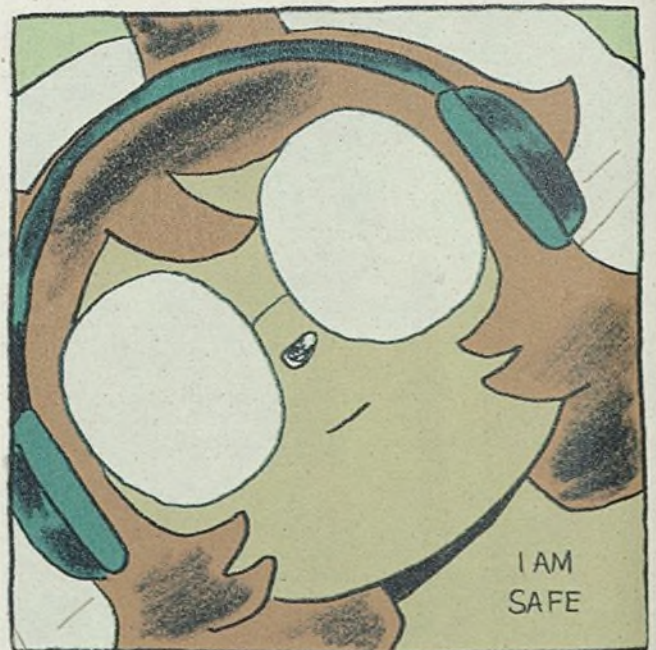
I FIND A NEW,
SPOTLESS
HOUSE



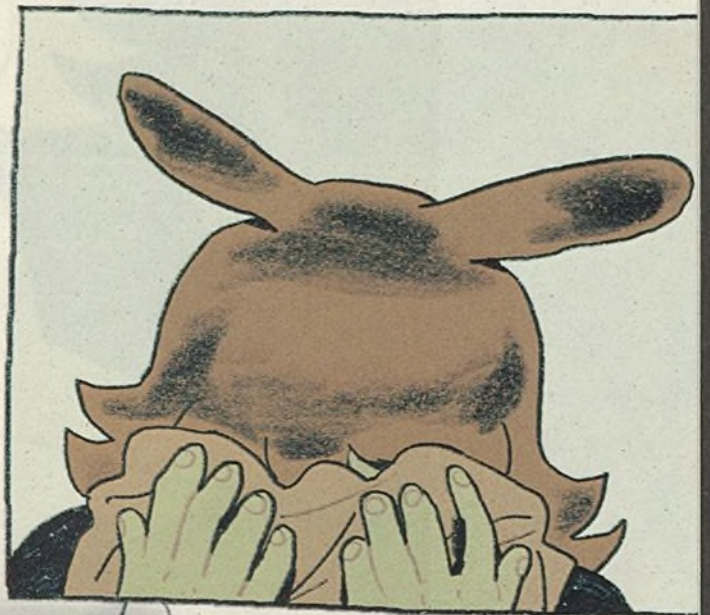
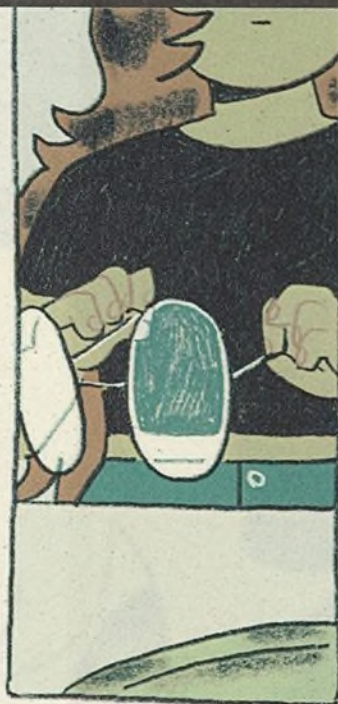
I CHECK EVERY
DARK CORNER
AND SMALL
CABINET FOR A
GLISTENING
PAIR OF EYES



THERE ARE
NONE



I AM
SAFE





I LIVE IN A NEW
HOUSE AND I
HAVE PIERCING,
BIRD-LIKE EYES

THIS ZINE WAS PRINTED
IN BARCELONA, OCTOBER 2023.
THANK YOU FOR READING.

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

AYUNTAMIENTO DE MADRID



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1401282504



MROTISKY

2023