

FOUR SCENES

A COMIC BY BISHAKH SOM



Da'ara City, 18.45

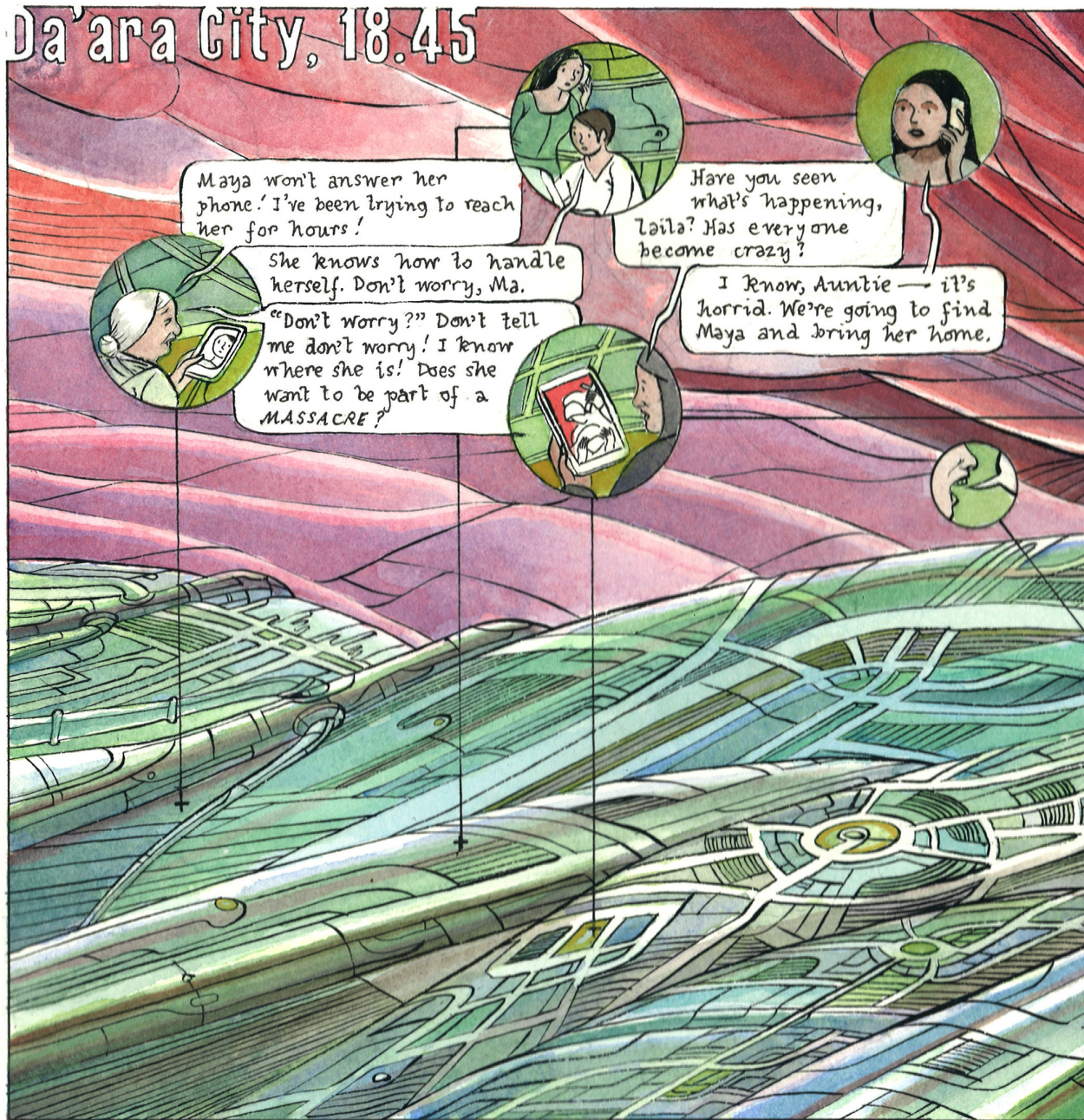
Maya won't answer her phone. I've been trying to reach her for hours!

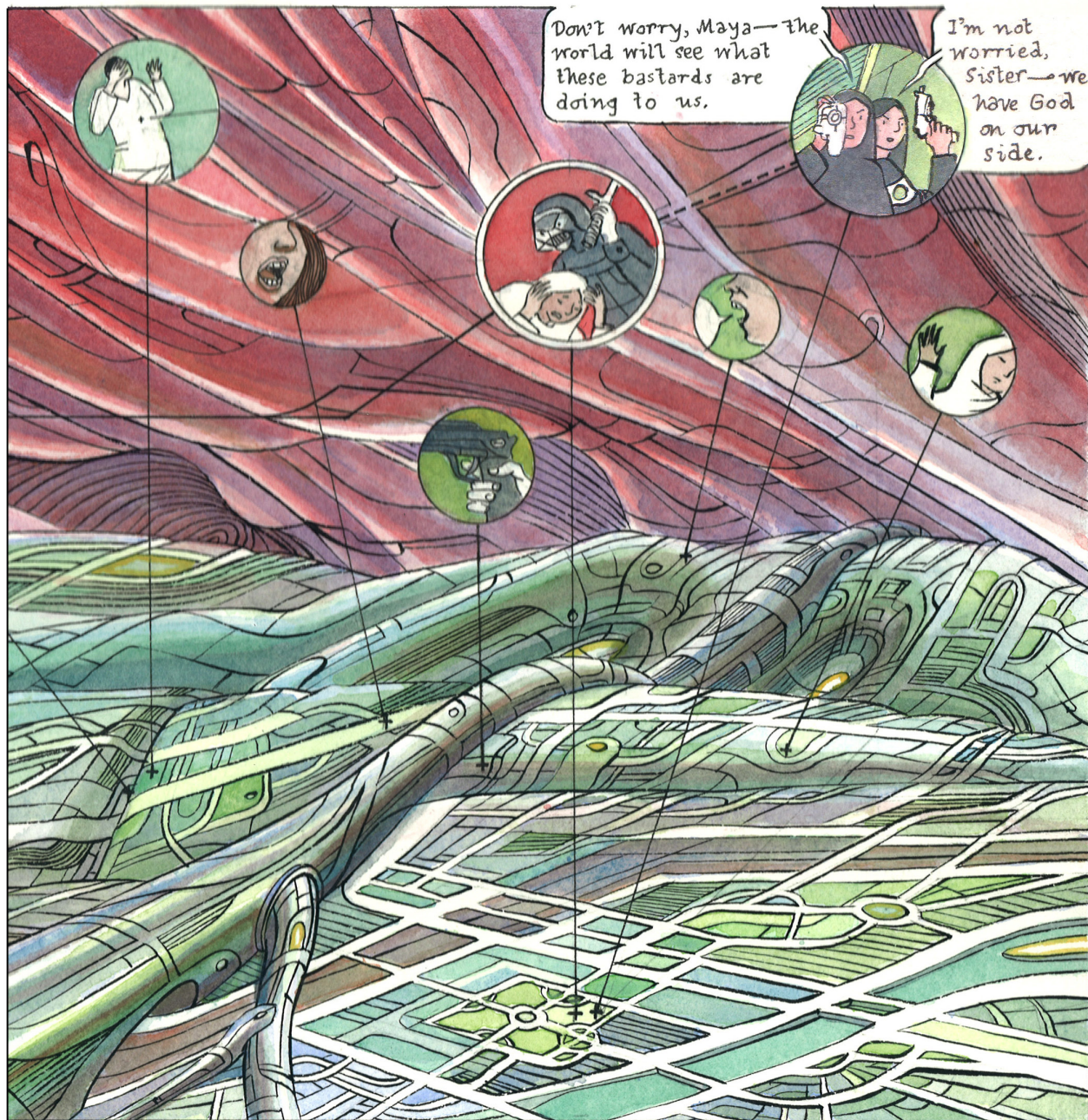
She knows how to handle herself. Don't worry, Ma.

"Don't worry?" Don't tell me don't worry! I know where she is! Does she want to be part of a MASSACRE?

Have you seen what's happening, Laila? Has everyone become crazy?

I know, Auntie — it's horrid. We're going to find Maya and bring her home.





Don't worry, Maya—the world will see what these bastards are doing to us.

I'm not worried, Sister—we have God on our side.

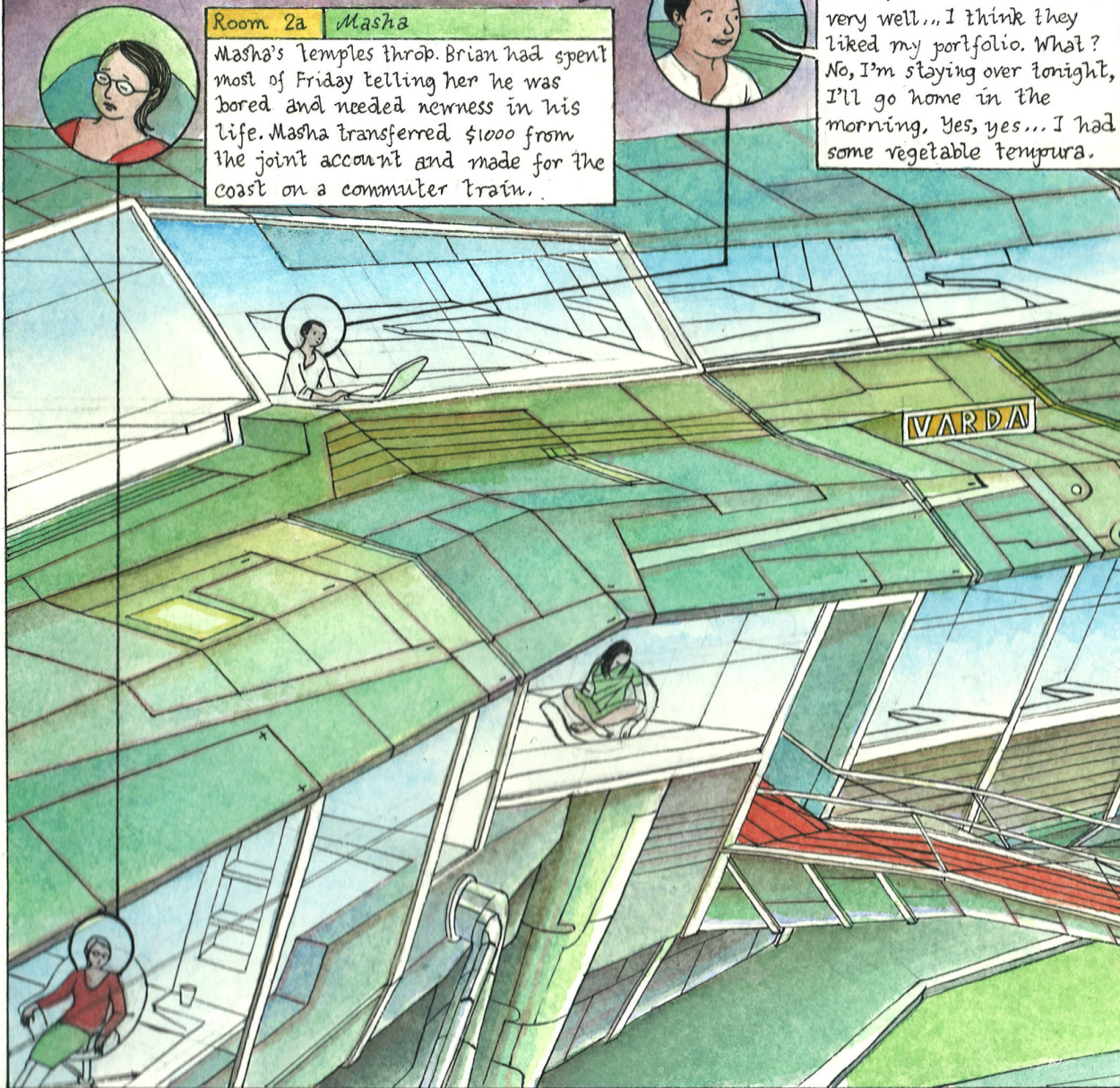
Hotel Varda, Monday

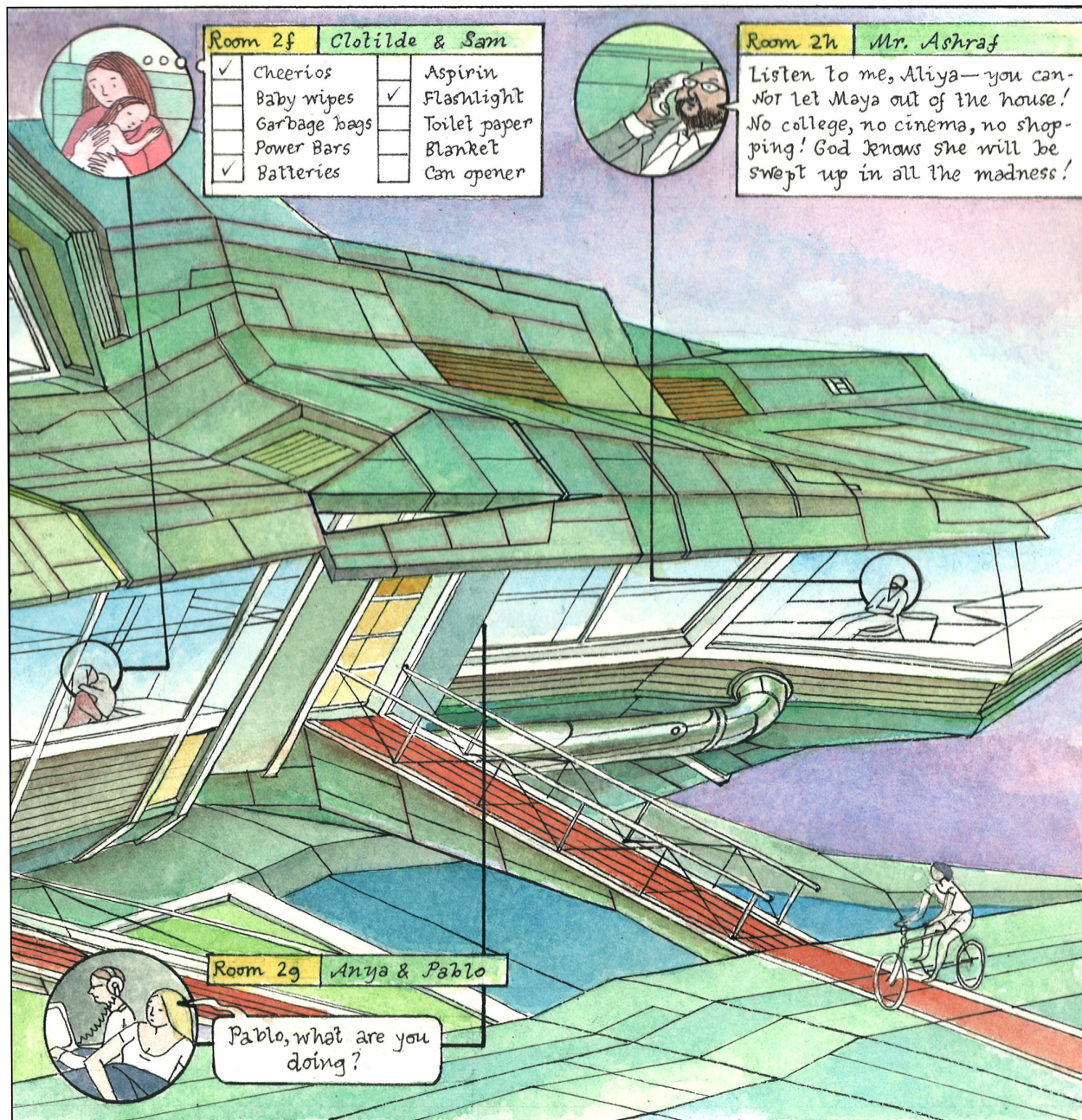
Room 2a Masha

Masha's temples throb. Brian had spent most of Friday telling her he was bored and needed newness in his life. Masha transferred \$1000 from the joint account and made for the coast on a commuter train.

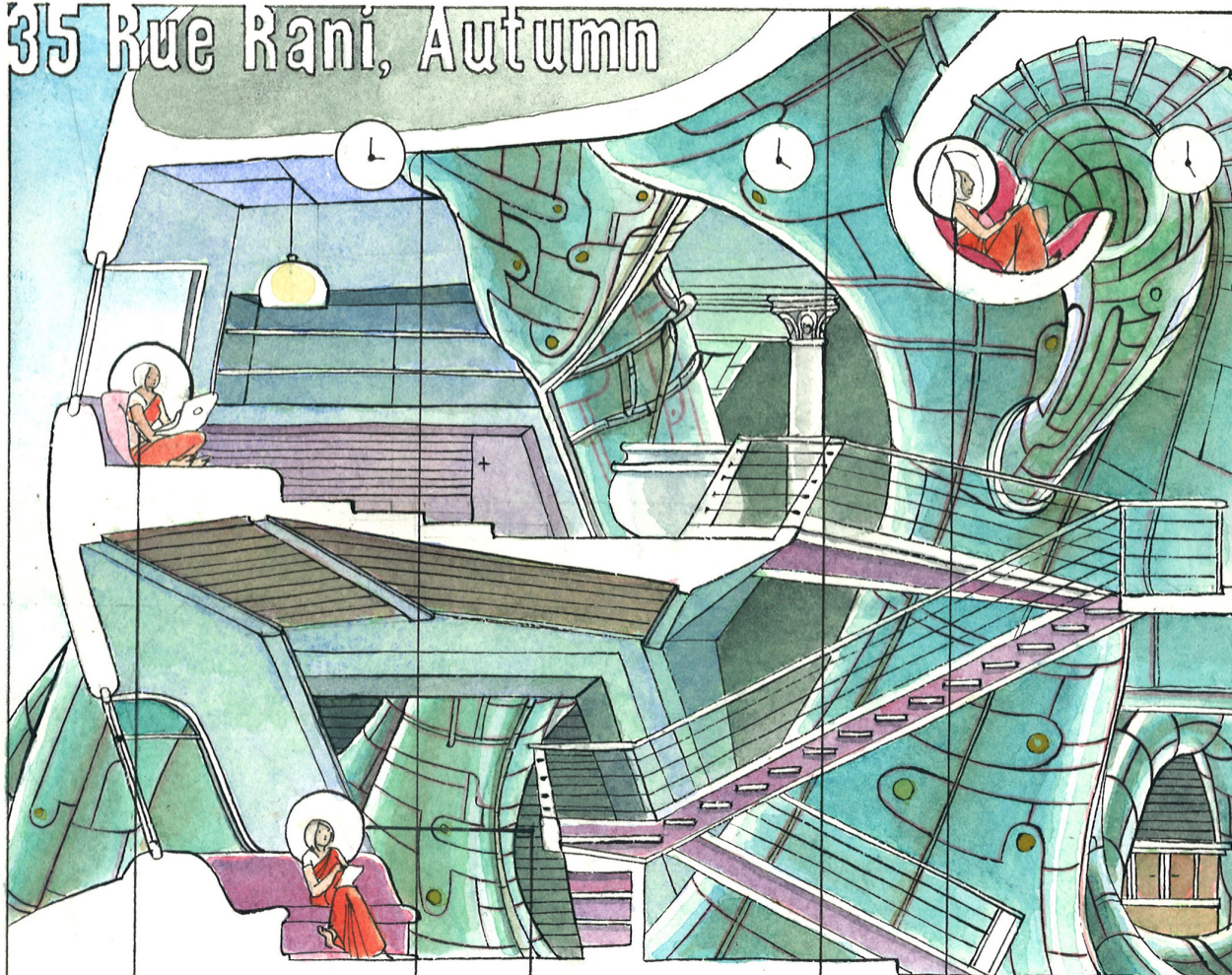
Room 3b Vikram

No Ma, the interview went very well... I think they liked my portfolio. What? No, I'm staying over tonight, I'll go home in the morning. Yes, yes... I had some vegetable tempura.





35 Rue Rani, Autumn



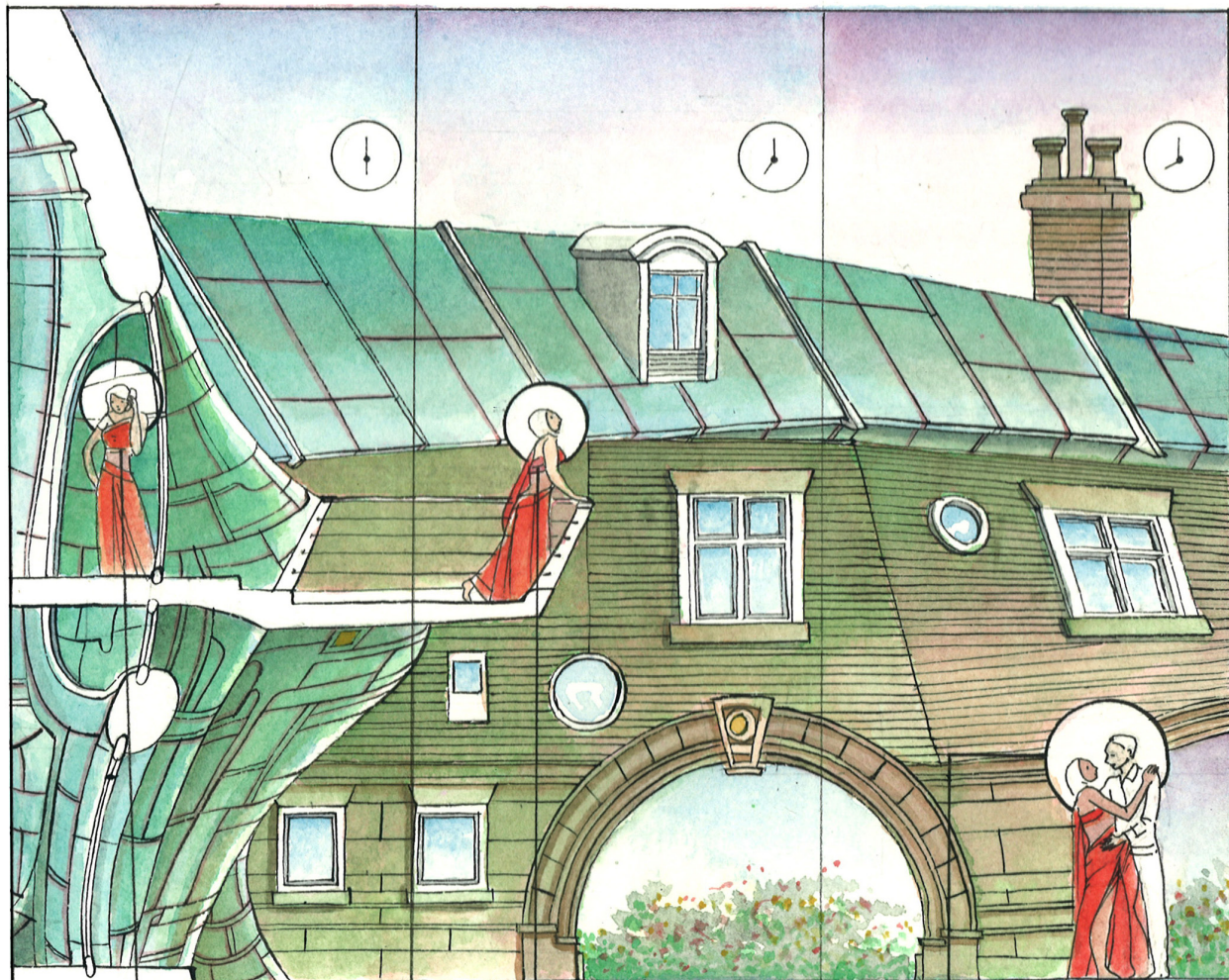
Students continue to hold peaceful protests throughout the city. Local police have so far shown restraint but have threatened retaliation



- Rice, ½ cup.
- Milk, 3 cups.
- Cardamom pods.
- Almonds, 2 tbsp.
- Saffron threads.
- Pistachio nuts
- Sugar



Well, if they don't like your portfolio, Vikram my poppet, then they don't deserve you. Come home quickly once your interview is over.



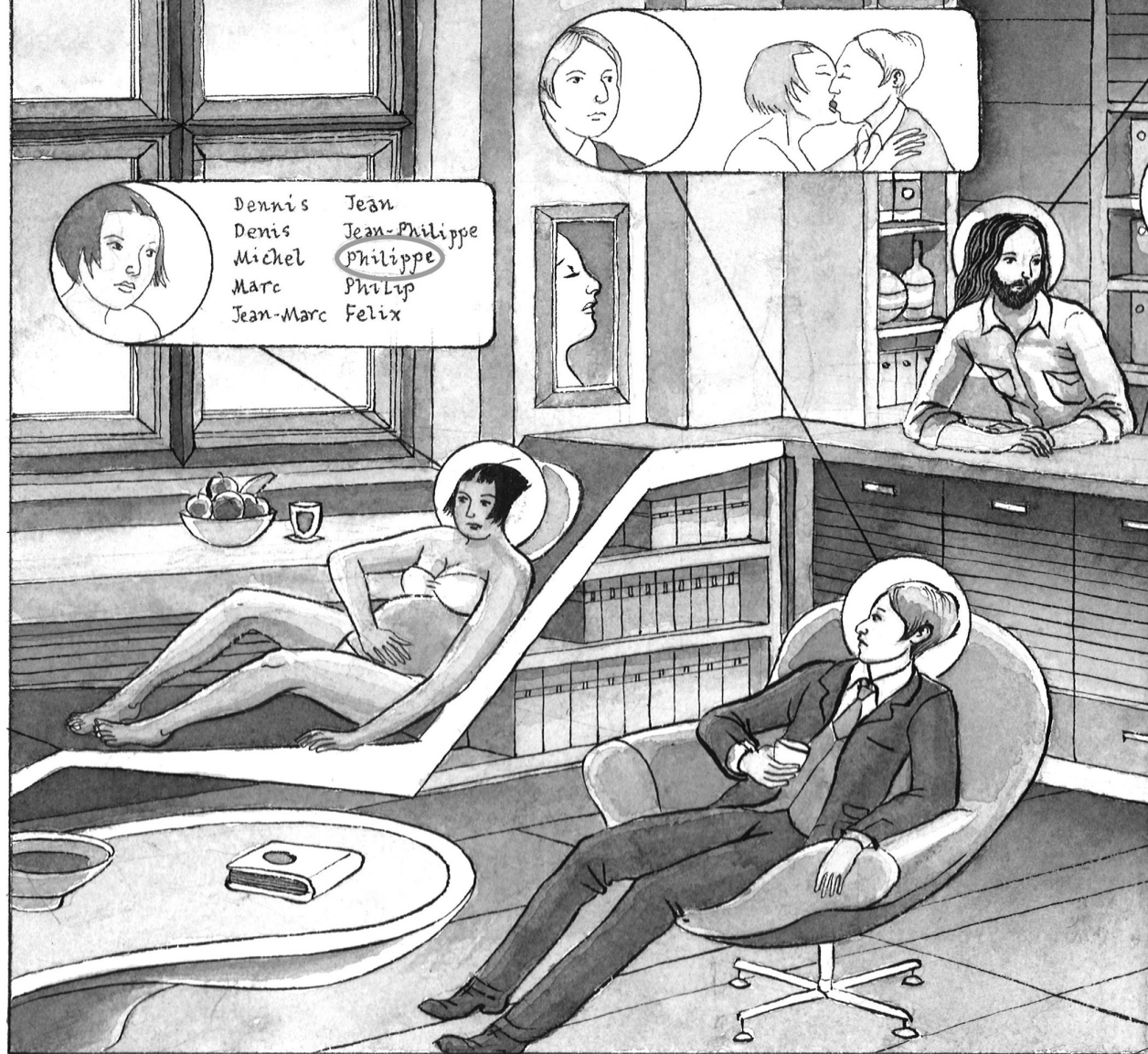
No, please send
over the blond
one — Philippe,
is it? Yes, with
the nice dimples,
And tell him to
bring a bottle of Bordeaux.



I made some
Kheer, Philippe—
would you like
some?
What is that,
Madame?

Naré, silly! It's rice pudding!

Sheila's Front Room, 1968





A: You are the stars and bars, you're a hieroglyph.
B: No, I'm a diaphanous sheet, a ghost-child.
A: What you are is a lie.

It is the ~~right~~ duty of every student to refuse to participate in the same state-sponsored social enterprise that—