

CRAMERS NIGHTMARE: BACKSTORY





Hi, I'm Captain Perl from Dimension 9, a small game studio. Here I tell you about the backstory of my new game "Cramers Nightmare".

Hello gamers, comic-friends and developers!

Celebrating the success of "Cramers Nightmare", here is the announced bonus you were waiting for: the main turning points of the backstory about the protagonist Steve Cramer and the events which lead to it. Plus, something that happened after...

"Cramers Nightmare" is a First-Person Shooter/ Actionadventure which is a complicated way to say you can run around and shoot at things, but you can explore the world and talk to people, too. And you should.

The whole story was developed from 2019 to 2022 without the intention to make a game about it. In this storyline Cramer was head of the "Friends of minotaurs" for two years until... something happened. Therefore, the game is set at the end of 2021, and the comic at mid-2021.

The idea of the game conversion was born in 2022. The development process was about half a year, but technical problems with the engine installation delayed the finishing process. So it was finally released in 2024.

You can get the game for free at <https://dimension9.itch.io/cramers-nightmare>

More details (trailer, screenshots etc.) and a contact page are to be found under <https://www.dimension9.de/>



Layout, Story, Dialogue: Captain Perl

Any resemblance with existing persons, living or dead, or organizations of the above name or initials is purely coincidental. No animals were harmed in making of the game or the comic.

(c) Dimension 9, 2024





Two years have passed since the "Friends of Minotaurs e.V." group had begun, and there were not much progress. Some wanted to restrict the newcomers, others wanted to send them back, and some wanted to exploit them because of their superhuman strength and endurance. Of course, the last group worked subtle and not in the open discourse... Several hours before the traditional yearly meeting with the minotaurs the officials of the Digital Enforcement Division (DED) have met to discuss their goals and the path to achieve them.





General von Gnotz will arrive soon.

We all know very well what he wants.

I can't let it happen! The minotaurs are no weapons even if they can fight!



We just can not trust the minotaurs.

You're right.

At this time, the minotaurs have had some warnings by the local police because of robust unfriendly behaviour towards right-wing groups but nothing serious and no casualties.



True!

I'm not sure.

Dangerous beasts!



Please calm down, gentlemen!

They are strange.

Look, the general is coming!



**Internal
DED
Meeting**

Gestatten, von Gnotz! Good evening, gentlemen.

Cramer seems not to be amused.

Let's begin. How can the "Friends of minotaurs e.V." group support the integration of them into human society? And how can we give them the bliss of digitalization?

Integration?
Ha!









I admit, I had no idea how to integrate them at the yearly digital fair because they refuse modern technology. And I feared they could make trouble: after all they are not used to humans.



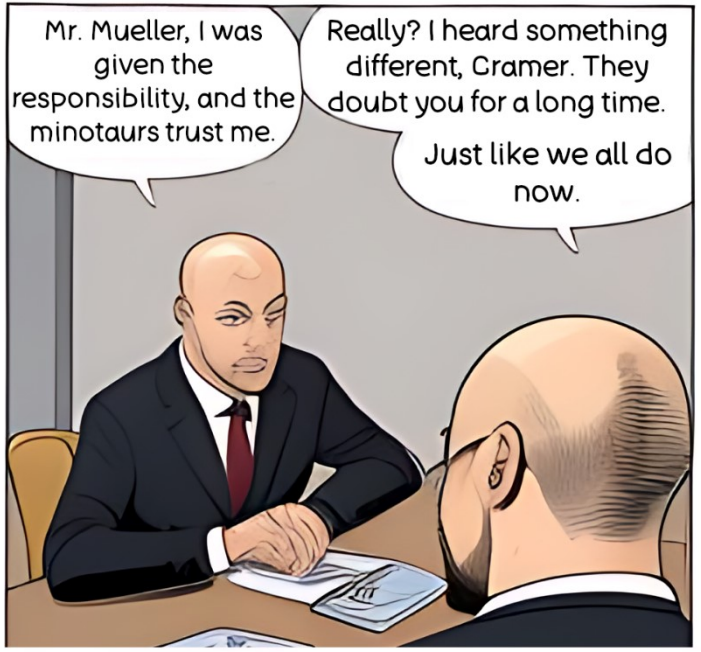
There you have it. Finally he admits his incompetence in this matter.

I did what I thought best for the association, for the visitors... all of us.



That's true.

Unfortunately, we all suffer now by your lack of vision, Steve. Not only von Gnotz needs results.



Mr. Mueller, I was given the responsibility, and the minotaurs trust me.

Really? I heard something different, Cramer. They doubt you for a long time.

Just like we all do now.



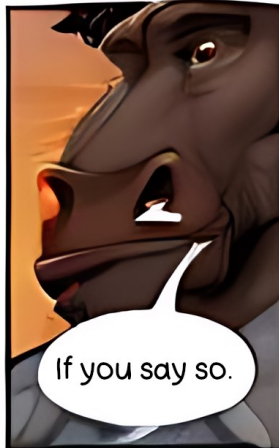
You should stay away from the upcoming meeting.

Still I'm the chairman, but I think I will be remain in the background. We'll see what happens.

An hour later...

Where are the minotaurs? Let them speak!

Their leader will be here soon. Please be patient.





Well, he may be talking in our language fluently, but I still have concerns. He's just too alien to me.

Because he's only wearing a loincloth?



Not the loincloth again!



Yes, occasionally we dress like you. After all, we are no beasts.

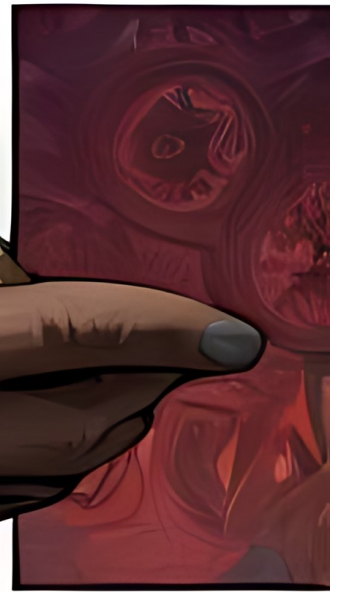
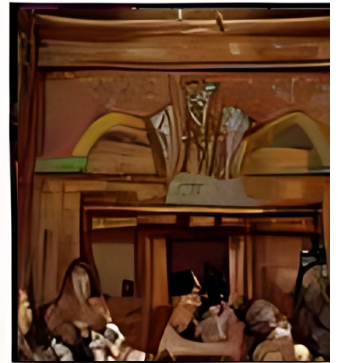
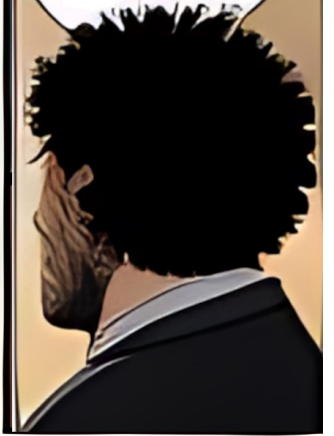
But I didn't meant to... uh, we have no dress code here.

Then why is always someone bringing up the topic? I am tired of having to justify us all the time. We have more important things to discuss.

But if clothing is your priority... wait.



I am impressed.
I didn't know that
you have such a...



He can dress as he wants... but he will never be one of us!



And when I see you, I am
proud of that. We are beings
of our own, not depending
on people like you.

I am not pleased with this.

Two years ago we came into your land, humble and peaceful.

And you made promises. A lot. Integration, cultural exchange, cooperation...

You even promised to...

...correct your misleading history books!

You all know, they speak of human domination, as the winner writes the history lessons... as always. In this, we are only a footnote, a legend. And what remains is the glorification of Theseus who slayed one of us. But this has not been the last minotaur. We are still there, and we decided to return from our secret island because we have thought that mankind has learned something about tolerance and peace. Did we make a mistake?

Well, uh...

Hey, you cannot expect us to welcome you with open arms when you have hidden for so long, and have proven that you are able to fight with ease. We simply are careful about who we let into our trusted society.



After all those years?
This is unacceptable!

Calm down,
friend.

They have
watched us long
enough! We'll
never be good
enough!

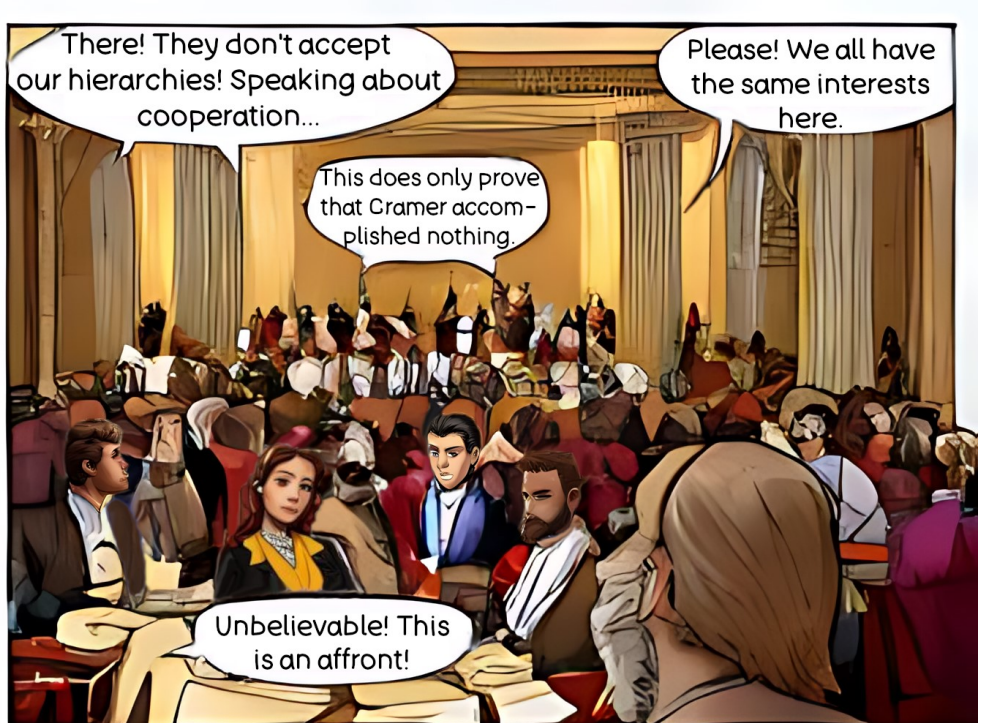


But I have to admit, he
is right. We demon-
strated our good will
and patience. We'd
like to see results now.
This is your
opportunity.

By the way, where is
Steve Cramer, your
chairman? I didn't
see him yet.



He has
no time... he has
been assigned to
other tasks.





Gorath, this is about the future of your species. If you don't comply...

As I said, we won't play your soldiers. Nowhere.

Half an hour later...



We have renounced violence, centuries ago. Maybe you should, too.



Let it be. They just want to exploit us, as humans always did.



Not so fast, boys. We have kept you secret to avoid a panic in our population. Either you prove your value to us by joining a special operation team, or you can go to the zoo.



That's enough! We followed your customs, we even wore your ridiculous clothing, but this...



...makes the barrel overflow. We are not animals, and if you treat us like that, you are making a serious mistake.



Is this a threat?



There are many more minotaurs at the main entrance! They paw the ground!



This escalated quickly.



You can tell the others: we are done here.

Oh my god, they are entering the building!

I have to reconsider our presence in the human's world.

Let's go, friends.



Von Gnotz has left the building.

Gorath is not amused.

What does that mean now?



Now, we are in dispute. So, we're leaving before tempers flare.

In my opinion, this situation is Gramers fault. If I were him, I would...

...run.



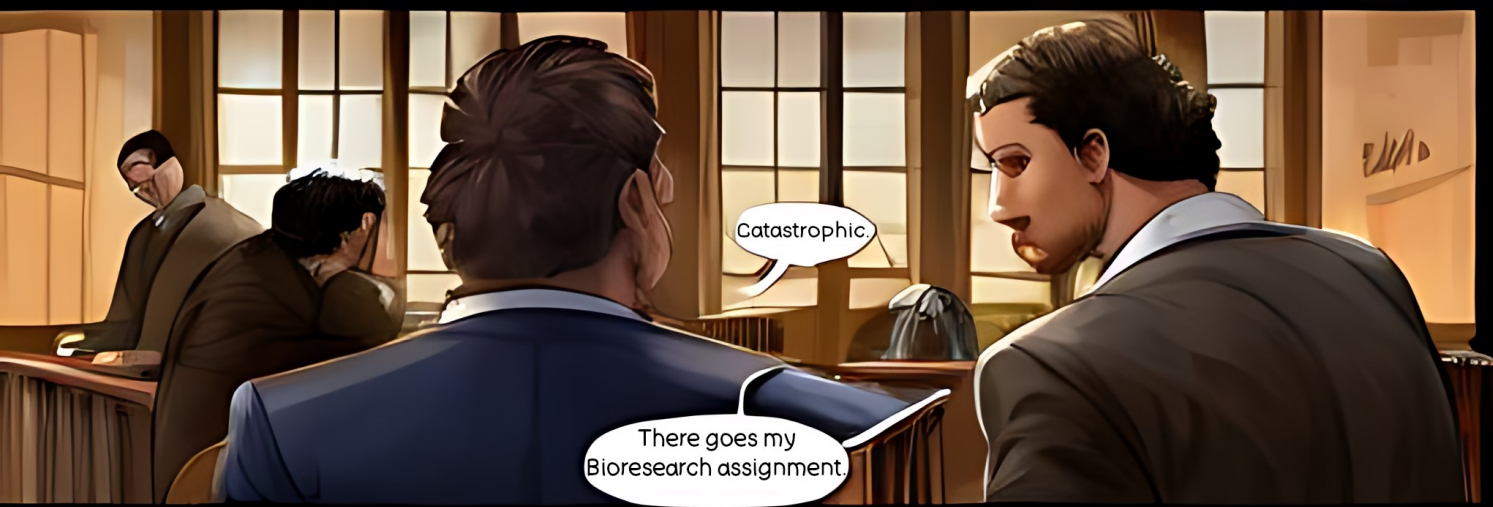
You can't go now, Speaker!

Please convince them to stay.



I see, the weapon research is going south

وہ؟ یہ کیا
کے ساتھ، میں



Catastrophic.

There goes my Bioresearch assignment.



Where is Cramer anyway?

We will find him. Until then, stay out of the way.

Someone will have to be held accountable.



Friends, we are leaving.

Oh, so soon?



It's time to go home.

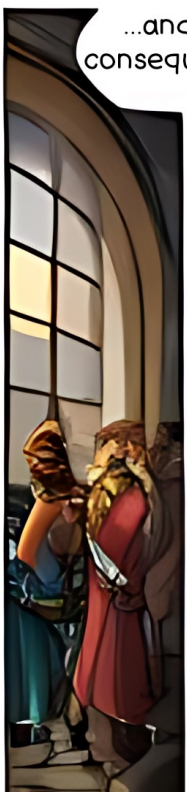


The humans will never...accept us.




It's a pity.

But there's their behaviour...

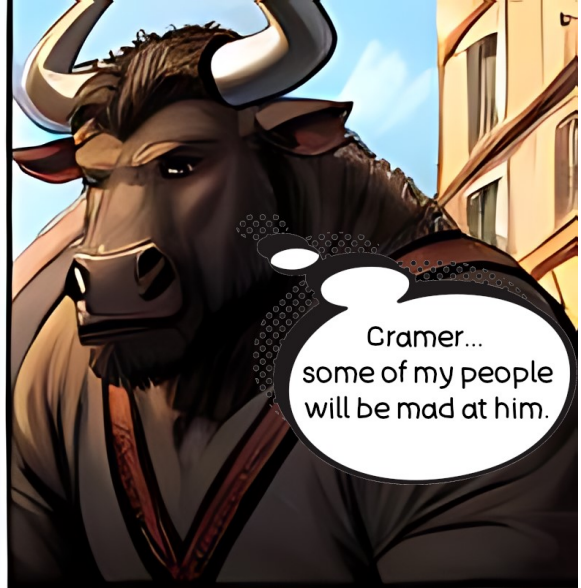


...and our consequences. Let's go.







I had hoped Cramer could have solved this. Was it wrong to trust him?




Cramer... some of my people will be mad at him.



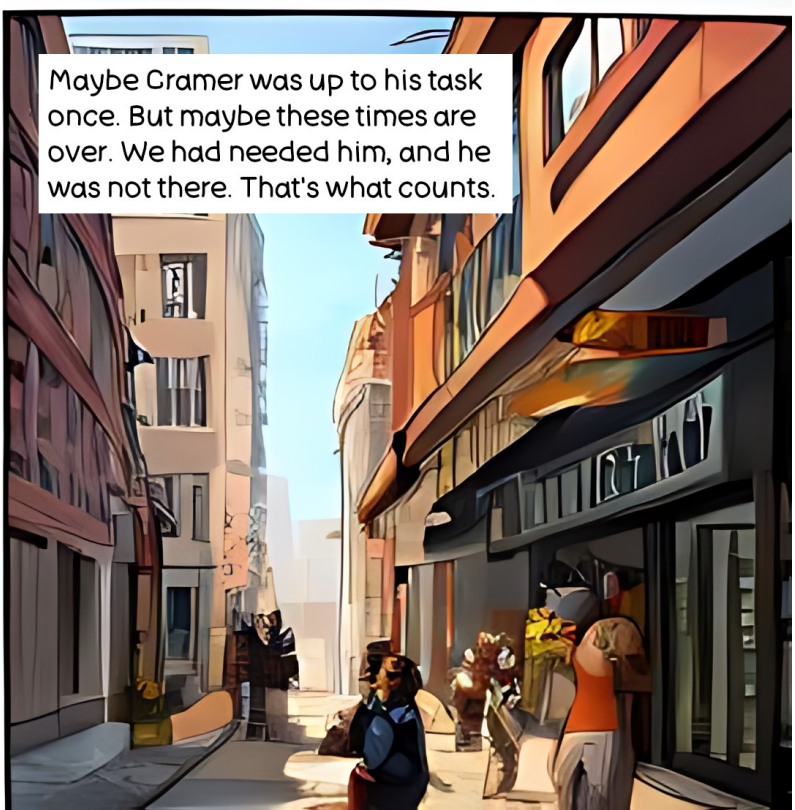
But out here, nobody knows us. It has been *his* job to bring them and us together.



Ultimately, he failed. Yes, due to the arrogance and hybris of his coworkers and the military. But still... he was the leader of the club.

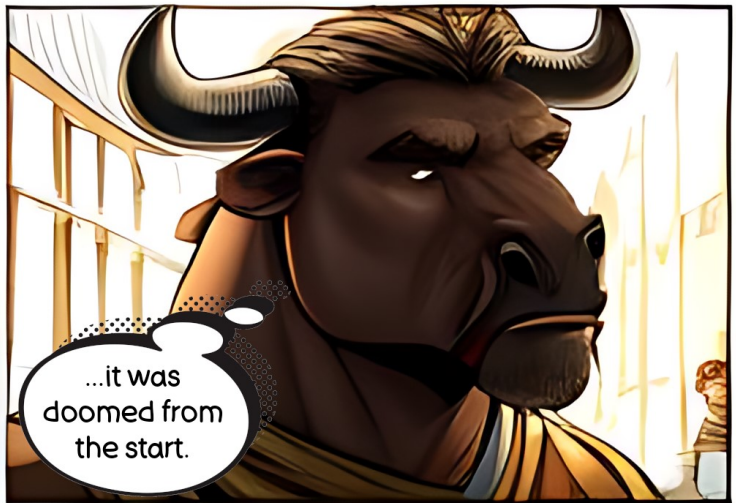
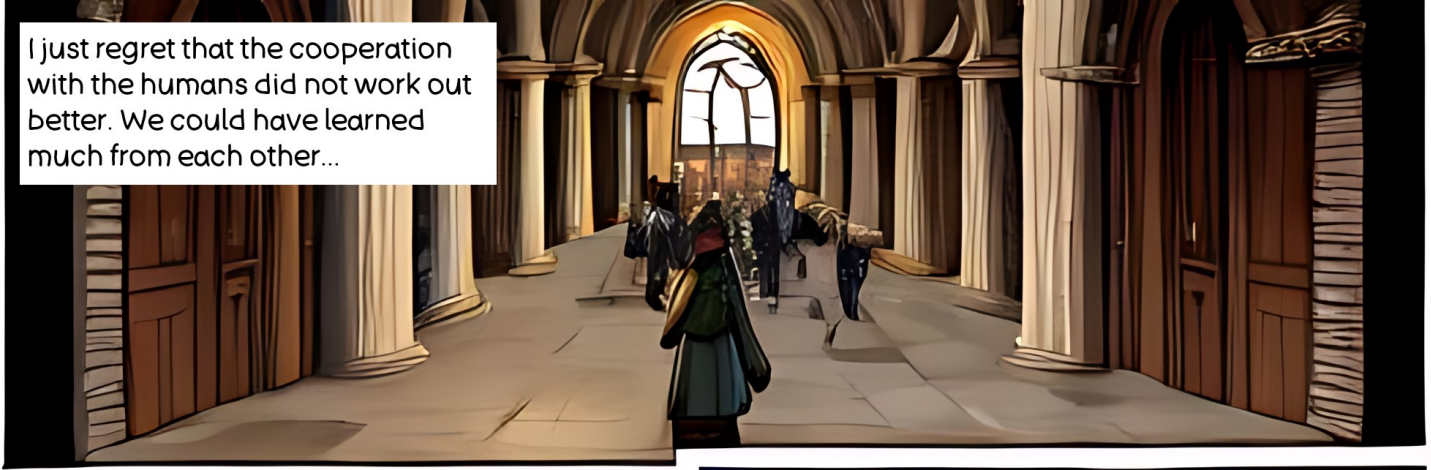


In our society, the leader is always responsible for the whole flock. It seems to be similar here.



Maybe Cramer was up to his task once. But maybe these times are over. We had needed him, and he was not there. That's what counts.

I just regret that the cooperation with the humans did not work out better. We could have learned much from each other...







I hear police sirens in the distance. Several cars, I guess. This is going to be ugly. I have told Gorath about human deceit, but the fool did not believe me.



Now we're going to rumble.



Terrorists!

Monsters!

Or maybe aliens?



Police is coming.



We won't let ourselves be thrown out.



Gorath wouldn't like that.

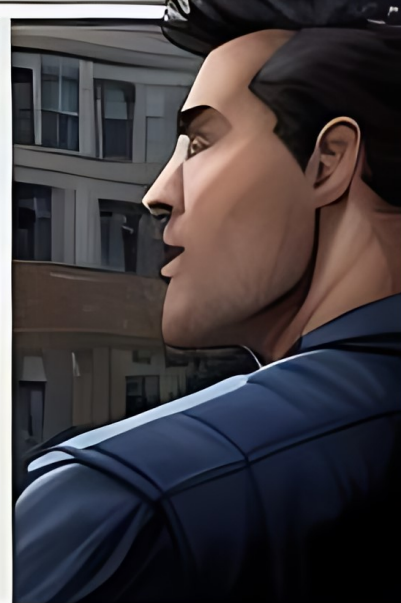


He's not here with us.



Have you seen these guys? Is it GamesCom again?

Cosplayers! Are getting better every year!



**This is the police.
Whoever you are:
stand down and deliver
your weapons at once!**

**If you do not comply, we make use
of firearms. This is our only
warning. Surrender now!**

Which
weapons?



We will never let ourselves be hunted again.

Who are the hunted now?



Get the people out of here. Then, I want a water cannon, a wide barrier, an ambulance and a megaphone. Get going!



The monsters are coming!



We are not monsters, you uneducated person.





Retreat!
All forces behind
the barrier!

My superiors
won't believe
this.



Let me
through.

Uh... yes.



Yes,
just go.



They seem
more sensible
than I thought.

I'm not
quite sure, Sir.



There are the soldiers. They shall have their fight.

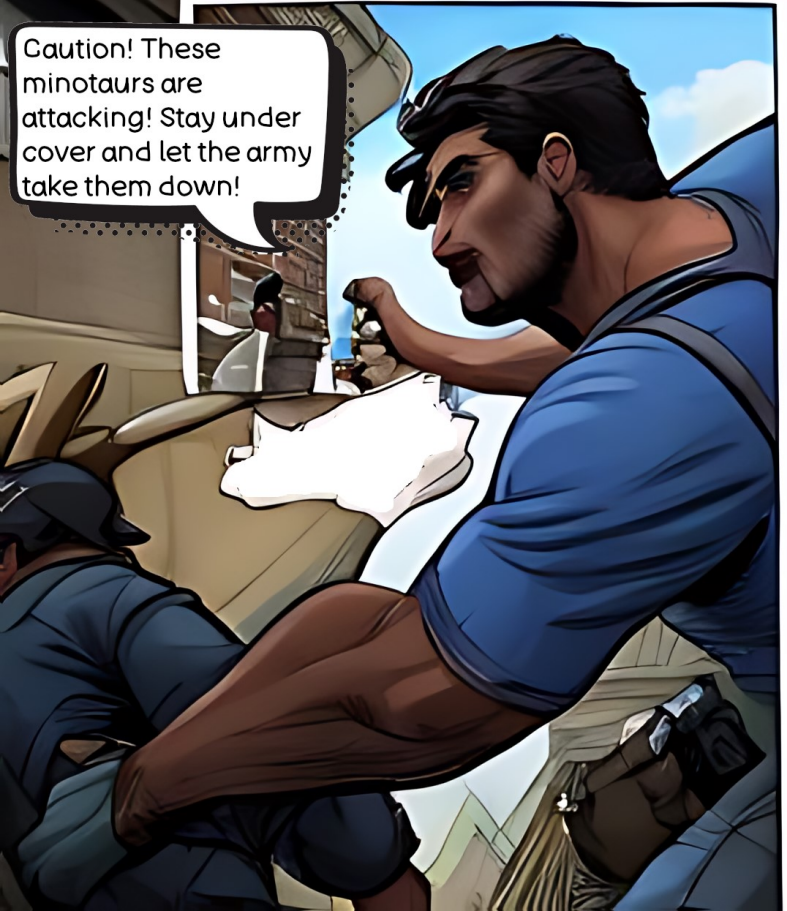


Sir, the army...
...will only make it worse.
The creatures are provoked.



Stop it, Venthrak.

No, Gorath. I followed you long enough. This is over.



Caution! These minotaurs are attacking! Stay under cover and let the army take them down!



Let's see who's going down here...

We now take over.
The police should
remove the civilians.

Then we proceed
according to the
book.

Nothing has
prepared us for
this, Sir.



This is a classic
escalation situation.
I just hope that all this...

...does not end in a
bloodbath. Or worse.



You are looking for
monsters? Come on
and I'll show you
some!



The minotaurs are divided for the first time in
centuries. I can't predict what will happen now.



I am only the
neutral speaker
of the flock.

Venthrak and
others have left
the flock. They act
on their own.





What are we looking for?

Minotaurs.

Seriously, guys?

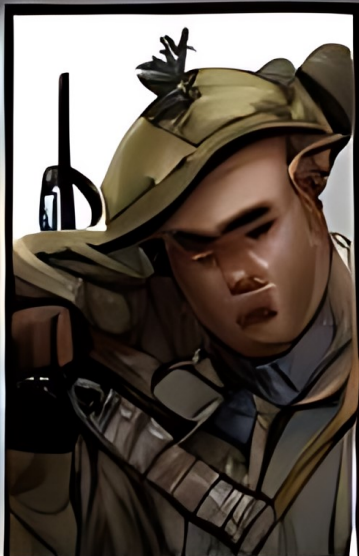
This can only be a drill. Last year we had the "Zombie Apocalypse" topic.



So... is this a drill, Sir?



No.



I wish I hadn't heard that.



This one has just turned one of our cars upside down.

I'm not eager to meet him.



They are coming! They are... huge!

Prepare to fire.



You should rethink this. Look at the cars behind me.



They were just a little demonstra-tion... for you.



Yes, Sir,
I'm at our armored
personnel carrier... they
made a convertible
out of it.



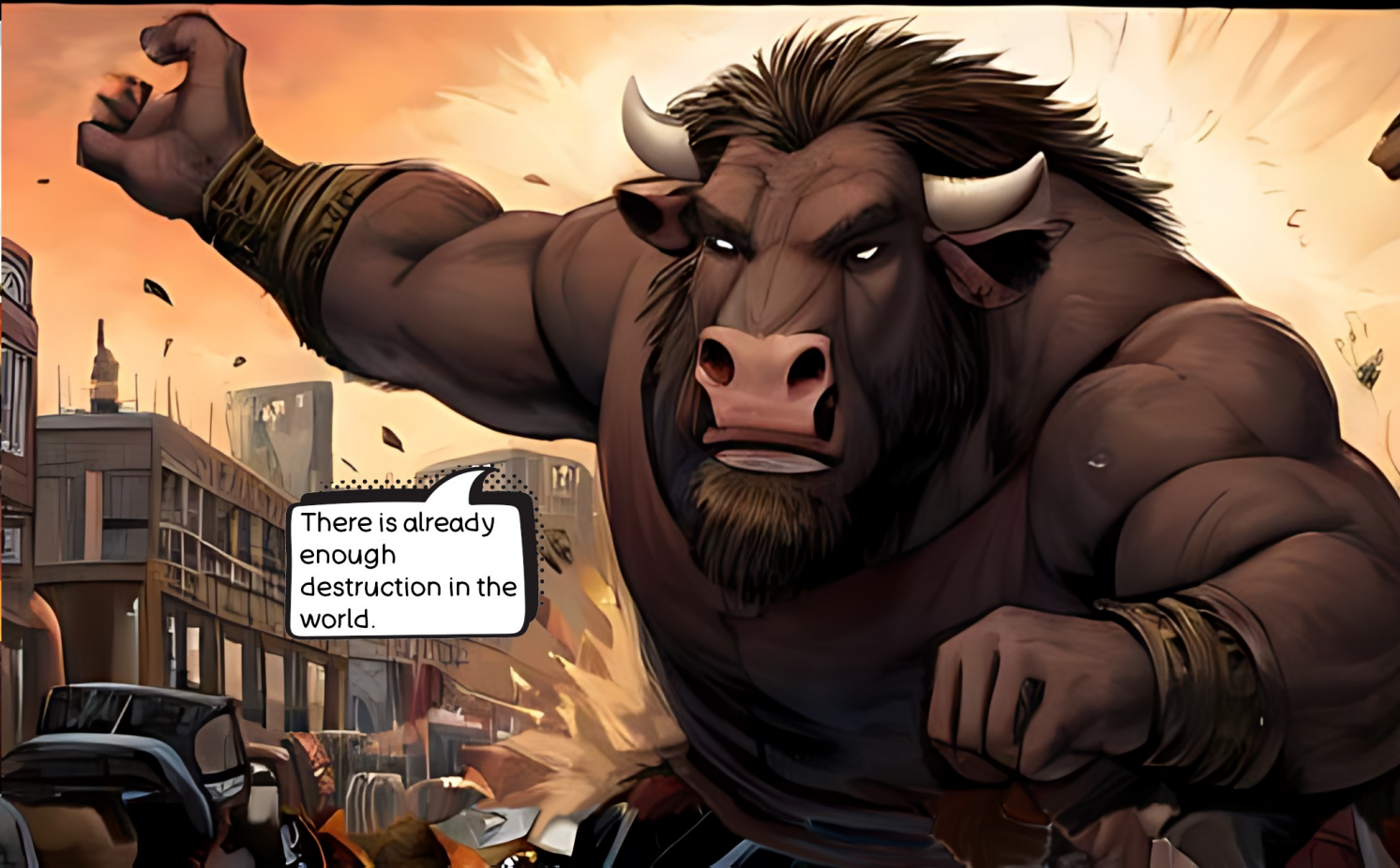
No, I'm
not drunk. They
just did it.



I have one
in my sights.



Stop it!
It is enough.



There is already
enough
destruction in the
world.



Awaiting your orders, Sir.

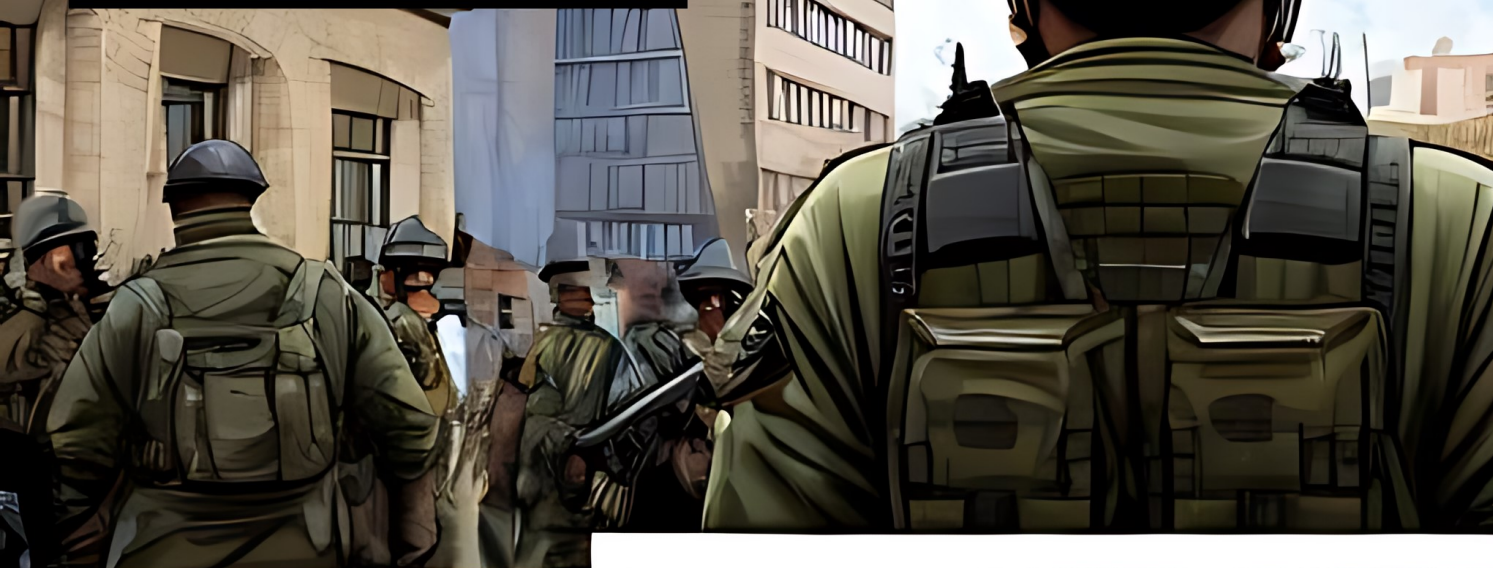


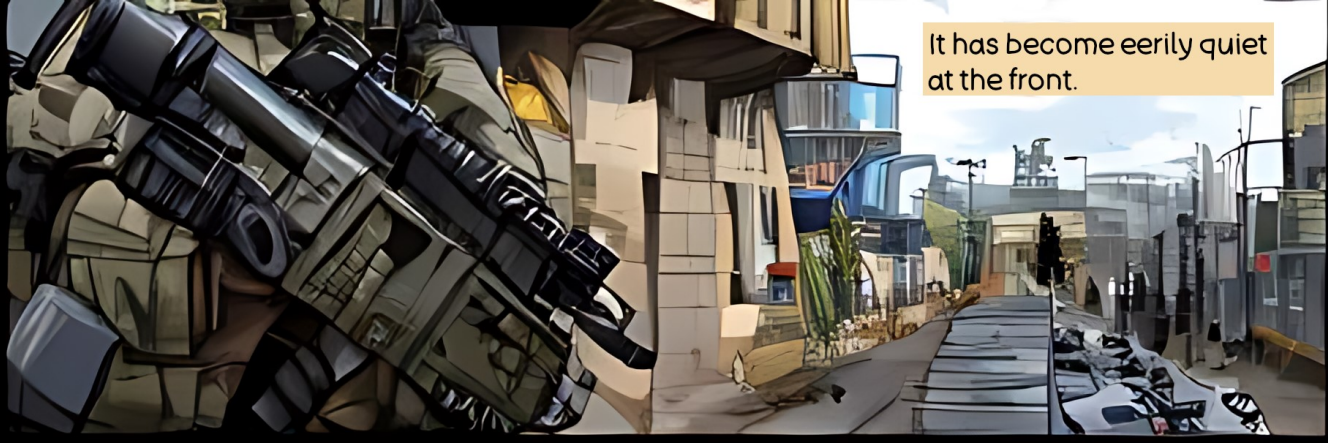
While you wait, I'll destroy some more of your military equipment.



Your style of warfare has nothing to do with honor.

Headquarter here.
New orders: Do not fire. Cease hostilities.
The Digital Enforcement Division has informed us that they are part of a failed diplomacy program. If possible, do not shoot. Instead, escort them to the river where they can set off with one of their boats. Let them leave. Headquarter out.





It has become eerily quiet at the front.



Okay, we're at the water now.

The minotaurs seem to be boarding their ship.



Oh man... look at our cars!

Forget them.

How are we supposed to get back to the barracks now? By train?



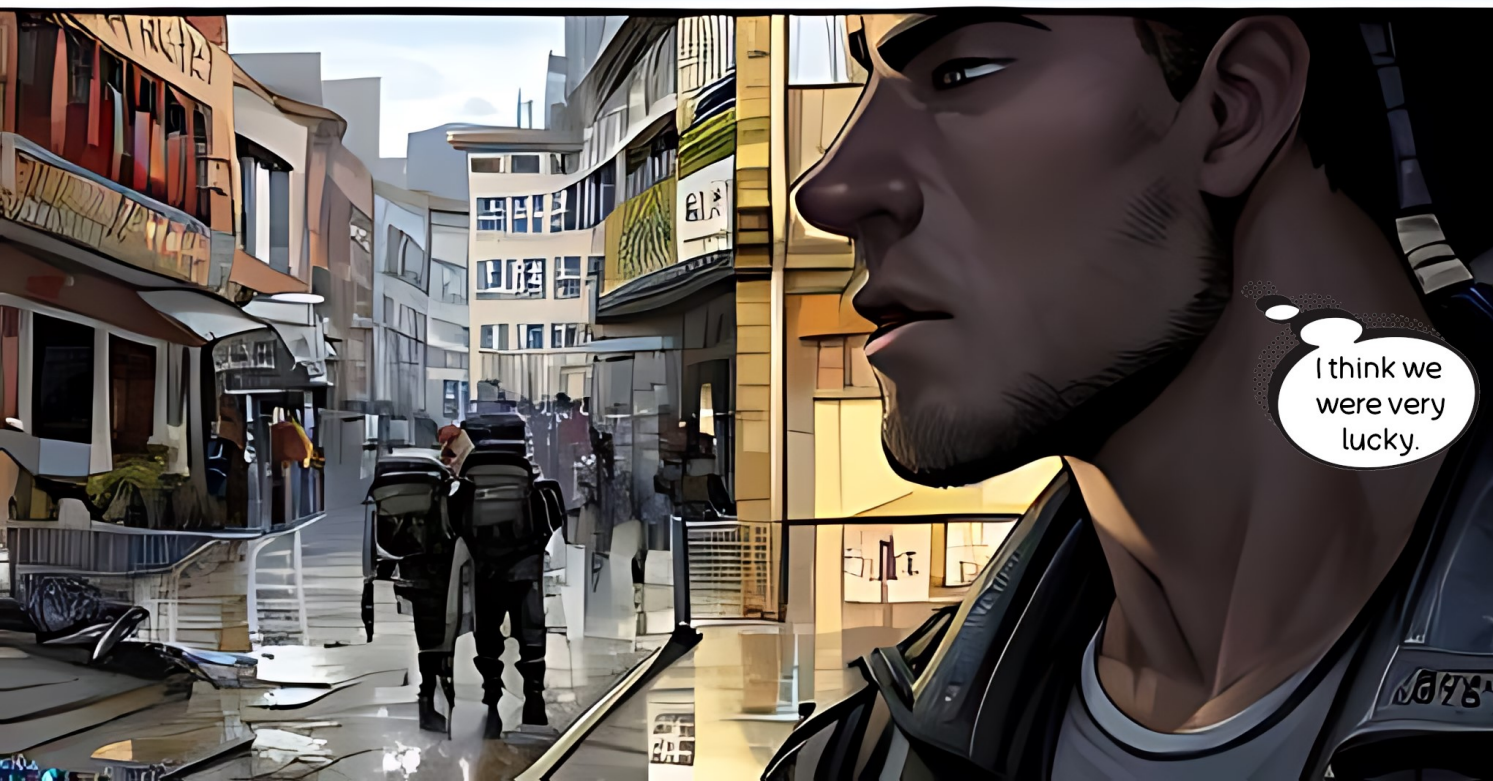
If this was just a diplomatic program gone wrong, then I don't want to know what it's like when they're angry.



As the lockdown is over, citizens return to their homes, wondering about the debris, hoping the problem ist resolved.



What the heck happened to these cars?



I think we were very lucky.



See? I told you, it was just a drill.

Yeah... with rampaging minotaurs and whatnot.

All I've seen was just ordinary vandalism, that's all.

Some days
later...



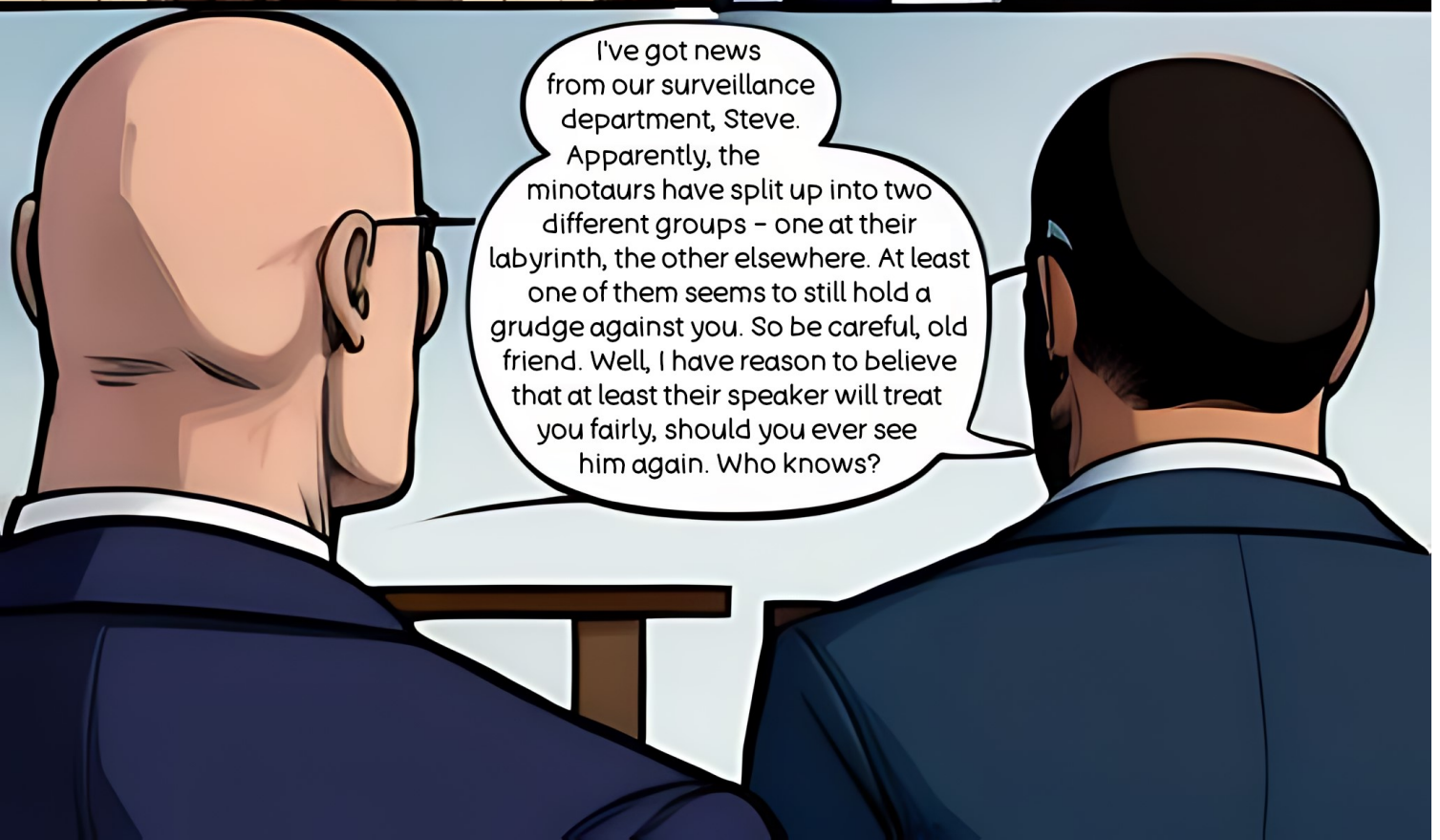
After all these
events, we have
come to a decision,
Mr. Cramer.



We were not
satisfied by your work
so we release you
from your duties.

You should
not meet the
minotaurs
again.

I understand.



I've got news
from our surveillance
department, Steve.
Apparently, the
minotaurs have split up into two
different groups - one at their
labyrinth, the other elsewhere. At least
one of them seems to still hold a
grudge against you. So be careful, old
friend. Well, I have reason to believe
that at least their speaker will treat
you fairly, should you ever see
him again. Who knows?

In my nightmares they followed me, hunted me, while I was helpless.



It always ended with my horrible death. Then I awaked, gasping. These nightmares returned for several months, but when nothing really happened in this time, they vanished, and I could continue my work at the Division without thinking of the creatures. I heard that someone else had become chairman, but I didn't bother. This chapter of my life had been closed. So I thought...

But at one night, months after the events in my hometown, they came after me, abducting me to their secret island where they had dwelled for such a long time. Once again I was among the minotaurs, and I knew, I was in serious danger now.

When I came to my senses again, there was one I knew: the speaker of the minotaurs.



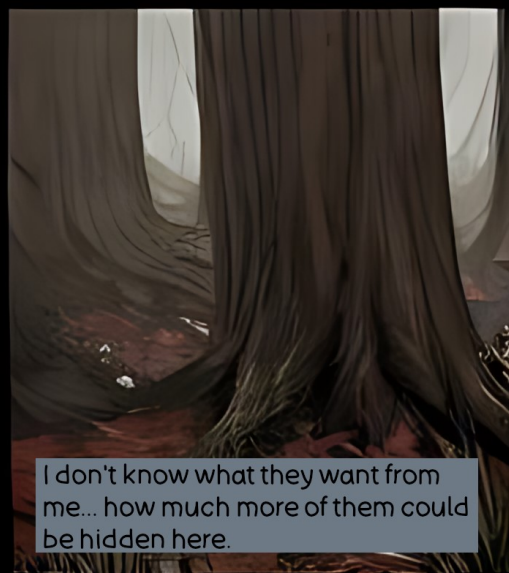
Finally awake, Cramer?



Uh... think so.



Well?



I don't know what they want from me... how much more of them could be hidden here.



I'm... sorry.
If that's what you want to hear.



No need for that. You are challenged by Venthrak.



Great. Me against a nine foot tall giant.



Our island, our rules. Custom dictates that the flock leader proves that he's right by killing the opponent. If you win, you get home alive.



I have no clue how to accomplish that.





If you don't come up with another idea, then you'll find him in the labyrinth.



I've seen Ventraks power. I'm as good as dead.



Just like in my nightmare.



And so I went off.



Good luck,
Cramer. You're
going to need it.



Do you want to know how the story continues? Now it's up to you - it will be continued in the 3D action adventure game "Cramers Nightmare".

Get it for free at
<https://dimension9.itch.io/cramers-nightmare>

