

# CURRENTS OF TRUTH

A JOURNALIST'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE  
IN THE AGE OF AI



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## CURRENTS OF TRUTH

This is a story set in a fictional city in Africa, in the not-too-far future. It follows a young investigative journalist, her mentor and her friend, a computer genius, who work together to uncover and expose a complex disinformation campaign fuelled by artificial intelligence and save their people.

In a tale of bravery, and honour, they risk their careers and safety to uncover the truth about who is poisoning their community, they overcome many obstacles together to save the day!

With this comic book, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's regional Media Programme for sub-Saharan Africa seeks to highlight the changes in the media landscape wrought by technology – both good and bad. Artificial intelligence will continue to permeate every element of our lives, including the media, and one way is through the massive spread of disinformation online. This story is important for the work of journalists not only in Africa, but across the world and highlights how we use AI to tell important stories, but also, how dangerous it can be if it goes unchecked.

Finally, in a time where the trust in the media is continuously decreasing, the KAS Media Programme takes its role, and that of journalists seriously in building that trust back up and buttressing the credibility of the media. One tool by which we can achieve this is media literacy. We believe that this comic book is for everyone, not just journalists, and can be used to educate everyone, no matter the age or profession, about the threats against democracy.

# CHAPTER 1: MUDDY WATERS



NANA! PLEASE FIND MOST READ OR MOST VIEWED NEWS ARTICLES RELATING TO HYDEPHARMA AND THE ONGOING PROTESTS!



CERTAINLY, AFI!







HI, AFI. THE MOST READ AND MOST VIEWED ARTICLE ON THE HYDEPHARMA SAGA IS FROM THE AHANTAN PRESS, THE NEWSPAPER YOU WRITE FOR.

WHAT'S IT TITLED?

"HYDEPHARMA ADDRESSES ANGRY MOB AT THEIR GATES, DENIES WATER POLLUTION ALLEGATIONS VEHEMENTLY."



COULD YOU PLEASE PLAY ME THE VIDEO?

CERTAINLY, AFI!



"OUR ADVANCED RESEARCH HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE RIVER'S CONDITION STEMS FROM ILLEGAL DUMPING BY UNIDENTIFIED LOCALS — NOT OUR FACILITIES. WE STAND FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY."



OH, PLEASE...

NANA - COULD YOU READ ME THE OPENING PARAGRAPH OF THE ARTICLE I'M WORKING ON, PLEASE?

CERTAINLY!

OKYENA'S ATA-ADOO RIVER, ONCE THE LIFEBLOOD OF THIS COMMUNITY, HAS TURNED INTO A CHEMICAL GRAVEYARD. LOCALS BLAME HYDEPHARMA, BUT THE COMPANY DENIES ALL ACCUSATIONS, CALLING THEM BASELESS.



BASELESS, HUH? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...

SHOULD I SEND IT ON THROUGH TO YOUR EDITOR, SIKA?

THIS TASK WILL RAMP UP YOUR PRODUCTIVITY FOR THE MORNING, ENSURING THAT SIKA READS IT BEFORE YOU MAKE IT TO WORK.



NO, THAT'S FINE, NANA. YOU'RE AWESOME, THOUGH, THANKS!

NO NEED FOR COMPLIMENTS, AFI. I WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER.



IF ONLY ALL TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS COULD HELP US LIKE YOU DO, NANA...

DO I DETECT A HINT OF DESPAIR IN YOUR TONE OF VOICE, AFI? IF SO, IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

NO, I'M GOOD, NANA.



SO, HOW ABOUT I SEND THAT ARTICLE TO SIKA FOR YOU?

LET'S PUT A PIN IN THAT FOR NOW. I STILL NEED TO ADD ONE LAST THING.





YOU ARE CLOSE TO YOUR DESTINATION! BUT I MUST WARN YOU, YOU ARE IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY TO WHERE PROTESTS ARE BEING HELD AGAINST HYDEPHARMA.

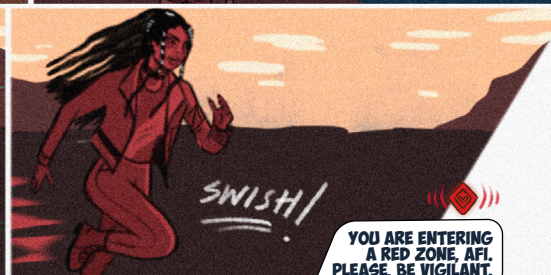
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, NANA...



Afi looks at the water, everything seems fine.



But when she starts walking up the shoreline, in the direction of HydePharma's plant, she sees the landscape change around her.



YOU ARE ENTERING A RED ZONE, AFI. PLEASE, BE VIGILANT.



NANA, PLEASE ADD ALL THE PHOTOS I TOOK AT THE RIVER THIS MORNING TO THE ARTICLE AND SEND IT TO SIKI.

EXCLUDE THE LAST ONE, I NEED IT FOR SOMETHING ELSE...

CERTAINLY, AFI!

LATER THAT DAY...



THIS IS NOT WHAT I WROTE, SIKI! YOU CHANGED EVERYTHING! THIS IS... THIS IS... YOU TWISTED MY WORDS TO MAKE HYDEPHARMA LOOK INNOCENT!

WE ADDED BALANCE, AFI.

BALANCE?! YOU MEAN LETTING THEM GET AWAY WITH POISONING MY PEOPLE?!

YOU CAN'T JUST ACCUSE A COMPANY OF WRONGDOING WITHOUT SOLID PROOF!



THAT, THERE? THAT'S EMOTION. NOT JOURNALISM.



YOU WOULDN'T KNOW JOURNALISM IF IT HAD TEETH AND BIT YOU IN THE BUM...



EXCUSE ME?!



THAT VIDEO IN OUR MOST RECENT HYDEPHARMA ARTICLE? IT'S... INTERESTING...

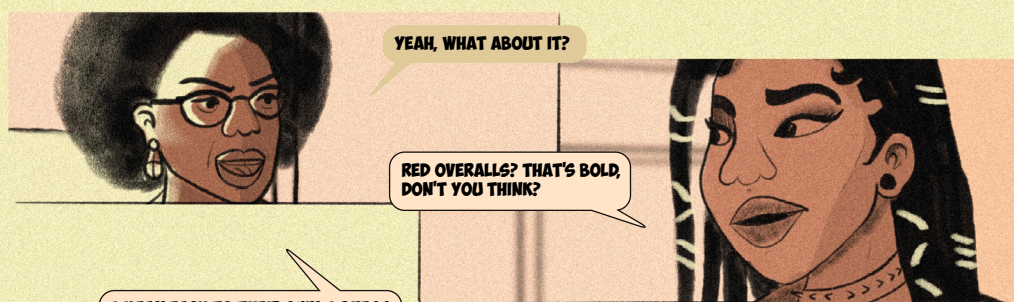


WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT NOW?

THE CLOTHES THE HYDEPHARMA EMPLOYEES WEAR AT THE PLANT?

THE RED OVERALLS WITH THE WHITE HARD HATS?





YEAH, WHAT ABOUT IT?

RED OVERALLS? THAT'S BOLD,  
DON'T YOU THINK?

I MEAN EACH TO THEIR OWN, I GUESS.  
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THIS? WE  
COVER THE NEWS COMING FROM THE  
HYDEPHARMA PLANT. NOT THEIR  
FASHION CHOICES.

SO MAYBE THEY SWITCH THE COLOURS  
UP FROM TIME TO TIME? WHO KNOWS?  
WHO CARES?!



Vgggh!



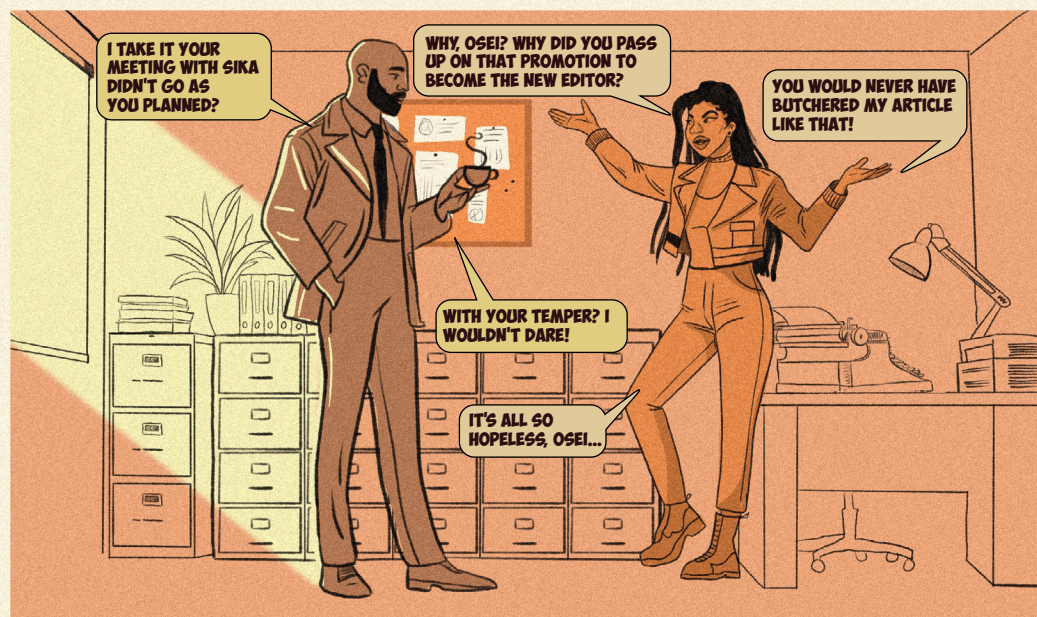
JUST FOUND IT ODD, THAT'S ALL...



AFI....



BE CAREFUL, AFI. YOU'RE A JOURNALIST,  
NOT AN ACTIVIST. DON'T LET YOUR  
FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR JOB.



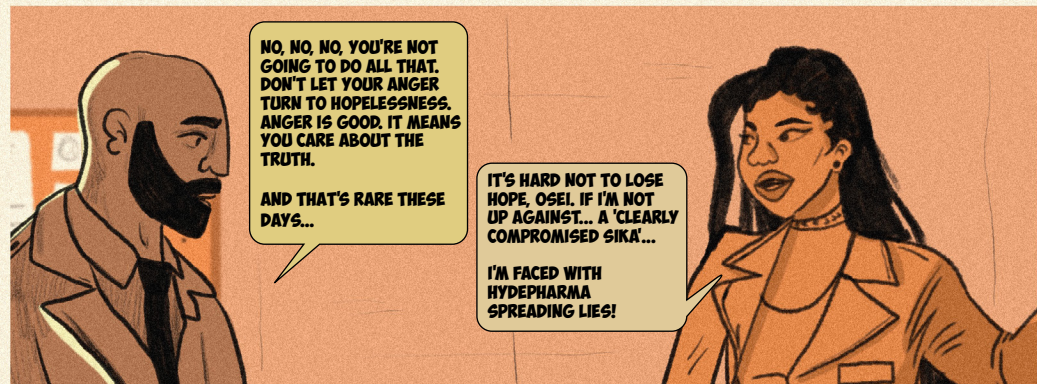
I TAKE IT YOUR  
MEETING WITH SIKI  
DIDN'T GO AS  
YOU PLANNED?

WHY, OSEI? WHY DID YOU PASS  
UP ON THAT PROMOTION TO  
BECOME THE NEW EDITOR?

YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE  
BUTCHERED MY ARTICLE  
LIKE THAT!

WITH YOUR TEMPER? I  
WOULDN'T DARE!

IT'S ALL SO  
HOPELESS, OSEI...



NO, NO, NO, YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO DO ALL THAT.  
DON'T LET YOUR ANGER  
TURN TO HOPELESSNESS.  
ANGER IS GOOD. IT MEANS  
YOU CARE ABOUT THE  
TRUTH.

AND THAT'S RARE THESE  
DAYS...

IT'S HARD NOT TO LOSE  
HOPE, OSEI. IF I'M NOT  
UP AGAINST... A 'CLEARLY  
COMPROMISED SIKI'...

I'M FACED WITH  
HYDEPHARMA  
SPREADING LIES!




YOU SAW THE VIDEO...

I MEAN THAT'S  
CLEARLY AI,  
RIGHT?

NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD  
KNOW THAT. TO MOST  
PEOPLE, THAT'S THE NEWS.  
AND TO THEM, THE NEWS HAS  
ALWAYS BEEN SYNONYMOUS  
WITH TRUTH.





WELL, THE TRUTH IS BEING RUINED BY CORRUPT, UNETHICAL JOURNALISTS AND GREEDY CORPORATE ENTITIES WHO WANT TO VEIL THEIR WRONGDOINGS BY SPREADING MISINFORMATION.



DISINFORMATION, ACTUALLY.



MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION... LYING IS LYING, OSEI.

I HEAR YOU, AFI. BUT YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE BEAST YOUR FIGHTING AGAINST, AFI. AND YOU MUST CALL IT BY IT'S NAME...

IT ISN'T JUST LYING. IT'S DELIBERATE. IT'S CRAFTED TO CONFUSE, DIVIDE AND MANIPULATE THE MASSES. THINK OF IT LIKE ALL THAT TOXIC WASTE HYDEPHARMA IS DUMPING INTO THE RIVER...

'ALLEGEDLY'...

'ALLEGEDLY'... THAT TOXIC WASTE SPREADS, CONTAMINATES, AND SOON, NOBODY CAN TELL WHAT'S CLEAN, PURE AND CLEAR ANYMORE...

THEY'RE CONTROLLING THE NARRATIVE...

BY USING AI TO GENERATE FAKE STUDIES, FAKE NEWS ARTICLES, EVEN FAKE PEOPLE ONLINE.

AND IT'S ALL SAYING THE SAME THING: HYDEPHARMA IS INNOCENT. AND THE MORE PEOPLE HEAR IT, THE MORE THEY BELIEVE IT.

ALL WHILE THE OKYENA'S REAL VOICE, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE, GETS DROWNED OUT...

OR MANIPULATED...

SO DISINFORMATION IS MUCH MORE THAN TO JUST TELL A LIE...

IT MAKES YOU DOUBT THE TRUTH...

EXACTLY, BUT AGAIN, DON'T LOSE HOPE, AFI. LIKE I SAID, IT'S ALL ABOUT KNOWING YOUR OPPONENT.

AND HALF OF KNOWING YOUR OPPONENT, IS KNOWING WHAT'S IN THEIR ARSENAL OF WEAPONS. THEIR BOX OF TOOLS, SO TO SPEAK. AND AI? IT'S JUST ANOTHER TOOL...

WHAT, LIKE A HAMMER?

YOU JOKE, BUT YES. EXACTLY LIKE A HAMMER. YOU CAN BUILD A HOUSE OR BREAK A WINDOW WITH IT. THE DANGER ISN'T THE HAMMER. IT'S THE HAND HOLDING IT.



SURE, TECHNOLOGY AND AI IS  
PROGRESSING AT A RAPID RATE.  
BUT HERE'S THE THING...

MACHINES CAN'T FEEL, AFI.  
THEY DON'T EXPERIENCE  
EMOTIONS LIKE GUILT, AND  
THEY MOST DEFINITELY  
DON'T FEEL REMORSE.

"Typing"

BUT PEOPLE DO...

I NEED TO FOCUS  
ON THE PEOPLE.  
SOMEWHERE,  
SOMEONE KNOWS  
THE TRUTH!

AND SOMEWHERE OUT  
THERE, THERE ARE STILL  
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T BE  
BOUGHT - BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS IN ARMS.

SO YOU NEED TO KEEP  
DIGGING. YOU NEED TO  
FIND THOSE PEOPLE.

AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO START...

NANA...

YES, AFI...

CAN YOU FIND ME THE  
QUICKEST ROUTE TO  
KOJO'S HOUSE?

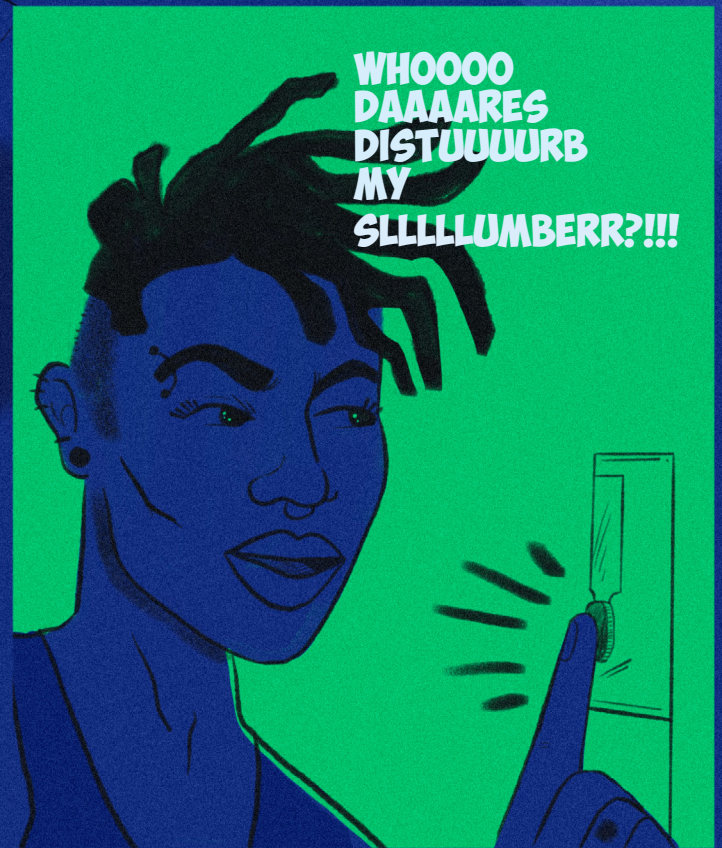
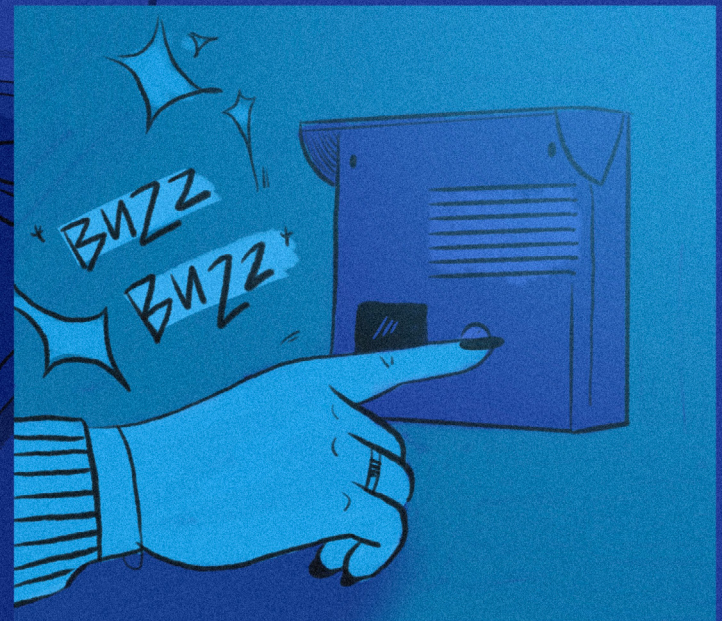
SURE THING!

THANKS, NANA!

## CHAPTER 2: WHAT THE WATER KNOWS





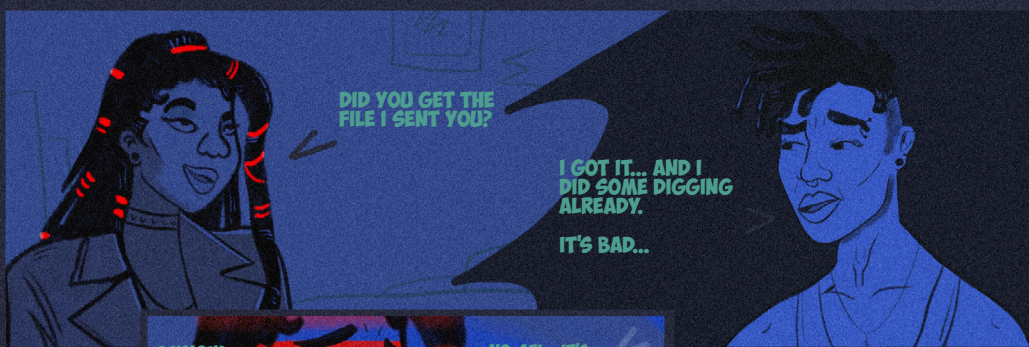






YOU'RE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN...

OH, MY DEAREST AFI... I AM THE QUEEN OF DRAMA!



DID YOU GET THE FILE I SENT YOU?

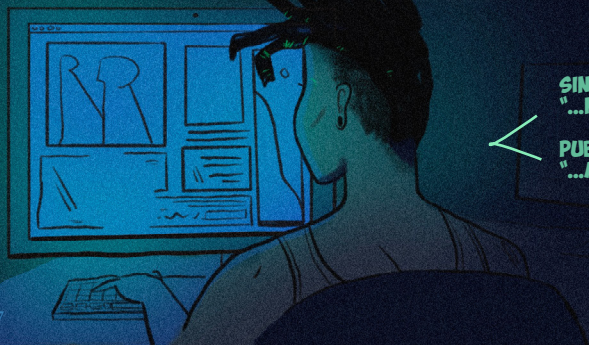
I GOT IT... AND I DID SOME DIGGING ALREADY.

IT'S BAD...

I KNOW...

NO, AFI... IT'S REALLY BAD...

COME, WE HAVE A LOT OF GROUND TO COVER.



SINCE YOUR "...NEWSPAPER..."

PUBLISHED THAT... "...ARTICLE..."



HYDEPHARMA HAS LAUNCHED A FULLY FLEDGED, CLEARLY FAKE, GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN THAT SIMULATES LOCAL VOICES IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPANY.

SO A BUNCH OF BOTS THAT ARE DEFENDING AND PRAISING THEM IN COMMENT SECTIONS? SHOCKER...



AND THEY'RE HARASSING PROTESTORS BY TROLLING AND SPAMMING THEIR PAGES WITH DISINFORMATION...

LOOK...

FAKE PROFILE PICTURES, FAKE NAMES, AND OF COURSE, FAKE STORIES...

"NO WAY HYDEPHARMA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATER POLLUTION. THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED TO FOSTERING HEALTHY SOCIETAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPACES.

AND THEY CREATE JOBS IN OKYENA. HYDEPHARMA FOR THE PEOPLE, HYDEPHARMA FOR THE WIN!"



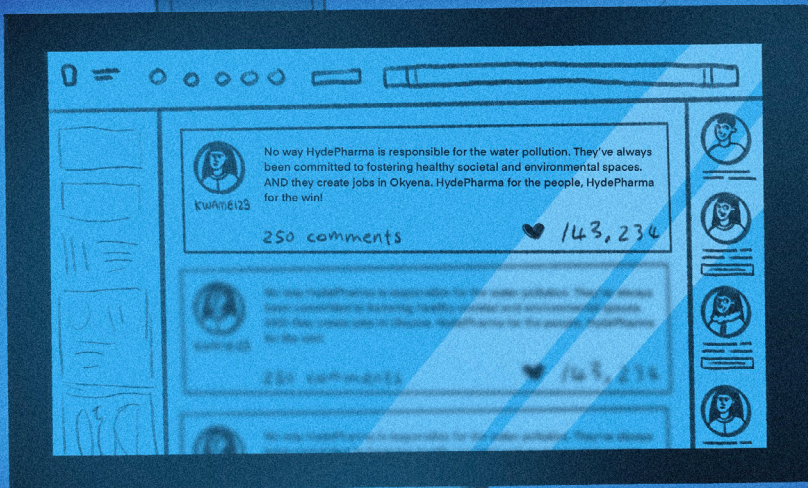
Ygggh!  
YEAH, OKAY, KWAME123 WITH YOUR PROFILE THAT WAS CREATED... (LOOKS) ...YESTERDAY AND HAS TWO WHOLE FOLLOWERS!



HEY, COME NOW...

IT'S JUST SO FRUSTRATING. AND THE WORST PART OF IT ALL - PEOPLE ARE BUYING INTO THIS!





AFI

LOOK AT ALL OF THE LIKES AND SHARES ON THESE POSTS!

KOJO

THE GENERAL POPULATION ISN'T TOO CLUED UP ON AI AND THE WAY IT INFLUENCES THE MEDIA THEY CONSUME.

AFI

YOU CAN'T BE WARY OF SOMETHING IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT'S A THREAT IN THE FIRST PLACE...

KOJO

EXACTLY. AND MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THE PRAISE FOR HYDEPHARMA AND THE HATE FOR THESE PROTESTORS ARE COMING FROM "THE PEOPLE"?

CLASSIC ASTROTURFING... THESE BOTS ARE OUTNUMBERING PROTESTORS AND ACTIVISTS 10 TO 1. THEY'RE DROWNING OUT THE TRUTH BEFORE IT IS EVEN UTTERED.

ALSO DOESN'T HELP THAT IT'S BEING ENDORSED AND SPREAD BY A REPUTABLE NEWS SOURCE LIKE THE AHANTAN PRESS...

DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THAT....

I MEAN RED JUMPSUITS? HOW MUCH MORE LITERAL DOES A RED FLAG NEED TO GET?!

RIGHT. I HATE WORKING THERE SO MUCH... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO...



THAT'S YOUR IDEA FACE, I LIKE YOUR IDEA FACE...

HOW FAST CAN YOU GET A BLOG UP AND RUNNING...

FAST.

GREAT. YOU DO THAT...

WHILE YOU GO?

WHILE I GO RALLY SOME TROOPS OF OUR OWN...



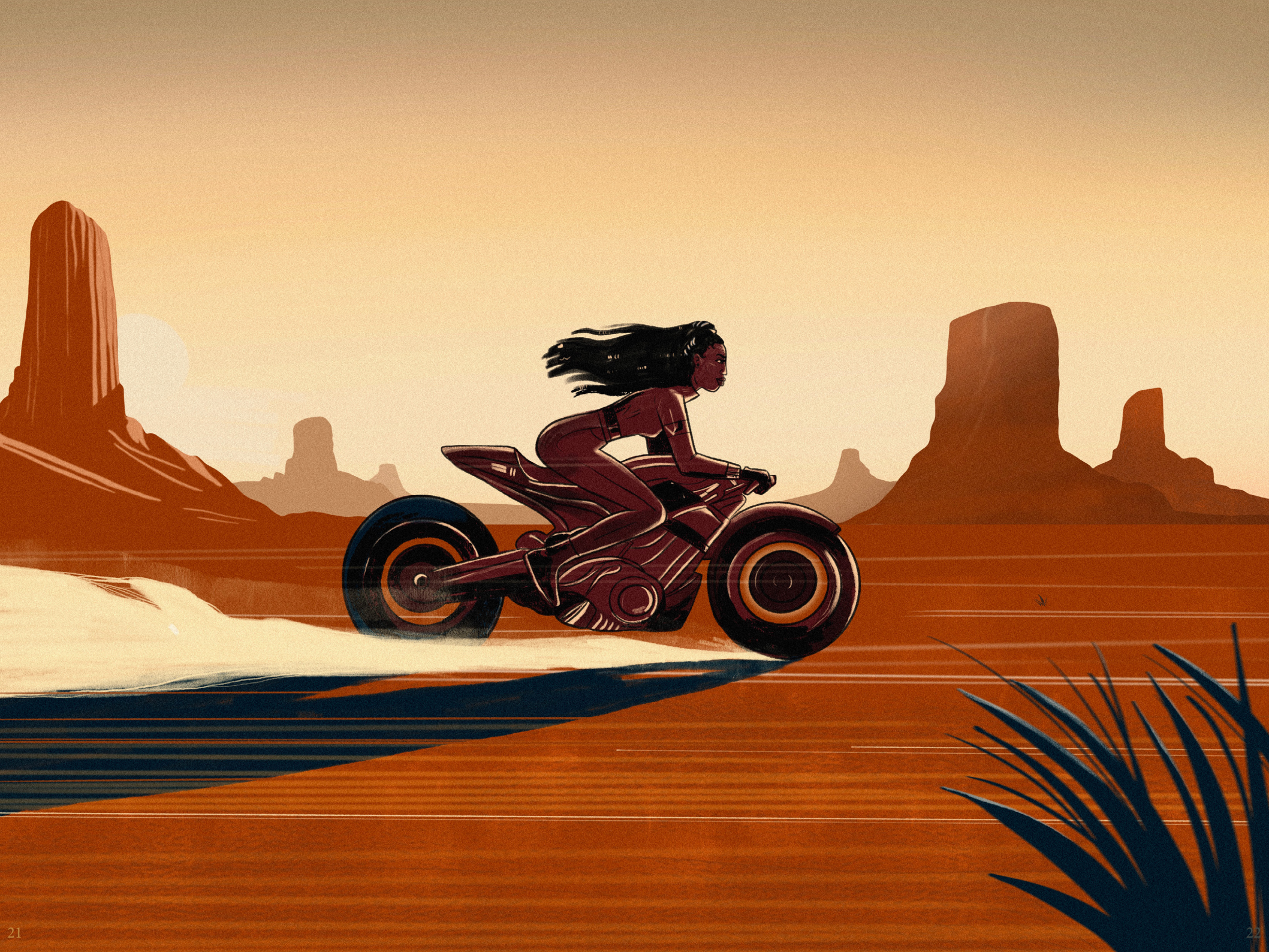
AFI!

PICK ME UP A BURGER AND SHAKE ON YOUR WAY BACK, PLEASE AND THANK YOU?!

REALLY? NO "GOOD LUCK?" NO "BE CAREFUL"?

WHAT CAN I SAY - REVOLUTIONS MAKE ME HUNGRY...









"cough!"  
"cough!"  
"cough!"



I'M SORRY, BUT WHATEVER YOU'RE SELLING, WE CAN'T AFFORD IT...

IS THAT BECAUSE OF THE WATER?

I'M SORRY, DEAR, I HAVE TO -



I'M AMMA. AND THAT'S MY SON LUMO.

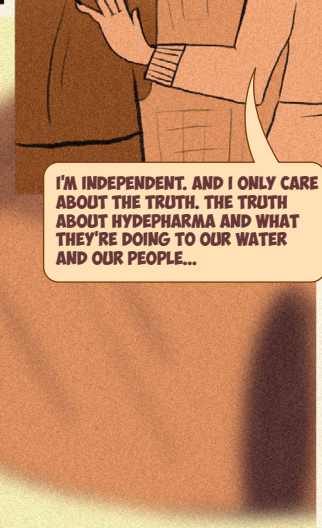
I'M AFL. PLEASE TO MEET YOU.

STEP INSIDE, AFL...



I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE, OR SELL YOU SOMETHING, AUNTY. I'M A JOURNALIST.

WHO DO YOU WRITE FOR?



I'M INDEPENDENT. AND I ONLY CARE ABOUT THE TRUTH. THE TRUTH ABOUT HYDEPHARMA AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO OUR WATER AND OUR PEOPLE...



ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS FOR THE WORLD TO HEAR US...

AMMA. I WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY. I WANT TO TELL LUMO'S STORY. WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO DO THAT?

DO YOU MIND IF I RECORD US WHILE WE SPEAK?

'Nods'

READY?

'Nods again'

HOW DID LUMO GET SICK?

HE WENT SWIMMING.

IN THE RIVER?

NO, HE KNOWS BETTER. HE'S A GOOD BOY. HE LISTENS. HE WENT UP TO THE CREEK. AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND OUR LITTLE VILLAGE.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THERE WAS A CREEK UP THERE.



NOBODY DID. IT USED TO BE OUR VILLAGE'S BEST KEPT SECRET. IT KEPT US HYDRATED, SUSTAINED OUR ANIMALS AND OUR CROPS, AND THE CHILDREN LOVED IT SO VERY MUCH... THAT WAS UNTIL...

UNTIL?

I THINK YOU NEED TO GO SPEAK TO OLD MAN YANKA ABOUT THE CREEK... HE LIVES THREE HOUSES DOWN...



AFI, PLEASE HELP US?  
PLEASE TELL THE WORLD  
ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS  
AT HYDEPHARMA AND HOW  
THEY'RE RUINING OUR LIVES  
AND THE FUTURE OF OUR  
BABIES... THEY DESERVE  
BETTER...

MY LUMO DESERVES SO  
MUCH BETTER...

I PROMISE I WILL...

HELLO, UNCLE. I'M SO SORRY TO  
BOTHER YOU, BUT I JUST SPOKE  
TO AMMA...

HOW'S THE BOY  
DOING?

NOT TOO GOOD,  
UNCLE...

HMMM...

I'M A JOURNALIST, UNCLE. AMMA TOLD  
ME ABOUT THE CREEK AND -

I'LL GO SHOW YOU, CHILD. BUT I MUST WARN  
YOU. IT'S A SAD SIGHT. A SAD, SAD SIGHT...

I'M READY FOR IT,  
UNCLE. WHATEVER  
IT TAKES TO  
UNCOVER THE TRUTH...

COME CHILD. YOUR TRUTH AWAITS.

YES, UNCLE...

HMMM...





WHAT THE ACTUAL?!

YOU NEED TO GET YOUR FOOTAGE OUT THERE, AFI. THE WORLD NEEDS IT NOW MORE THAN EVER.

SHOW ME THE BLOG...

NO POSTS YET...

TYPING

YOUR BLOG STILL NEEDS A NAME. WHAT WILL IT BE?

START TYPING...

CURRENTS OF TRUTH!

ENTER

CLICK

LATER THAT EVENING:

SEVENTH SPELL CHECK SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED!

AND THE VIDEOS?

RAW AND UNEDITED, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.

GOOD. I DON'T WANT ANY SIGNS OF MANIPULATION OF ANY SORT. NOBODY MUST DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF AMMA AND OLD MAN YANKAH'S STORIES.

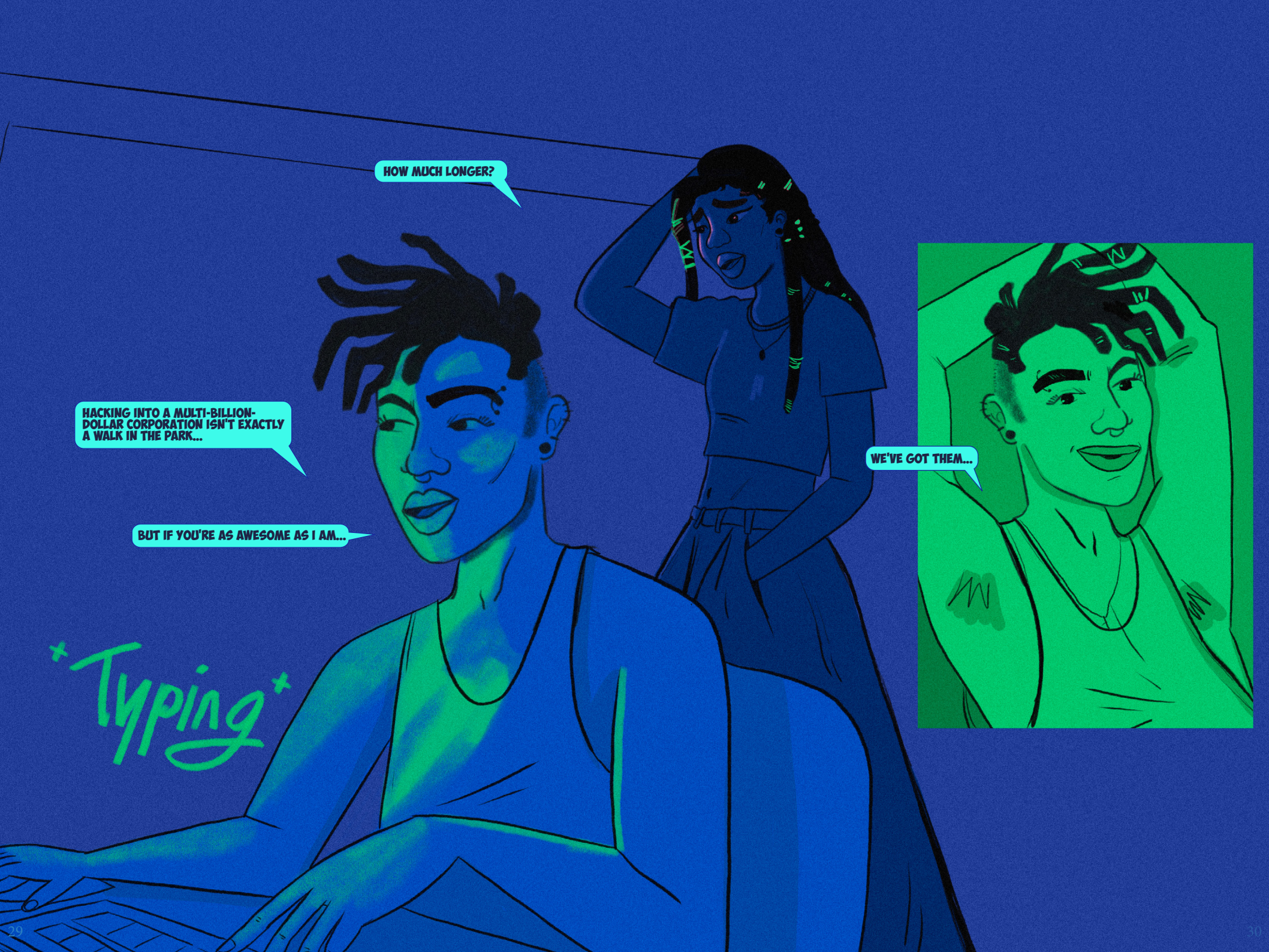
ALL THAT REMAINS NOW IS...

CURRENTS OF TRUTH

GO LIVE

NO TURNING BACK NOW...





HOW MUCH LONGER?

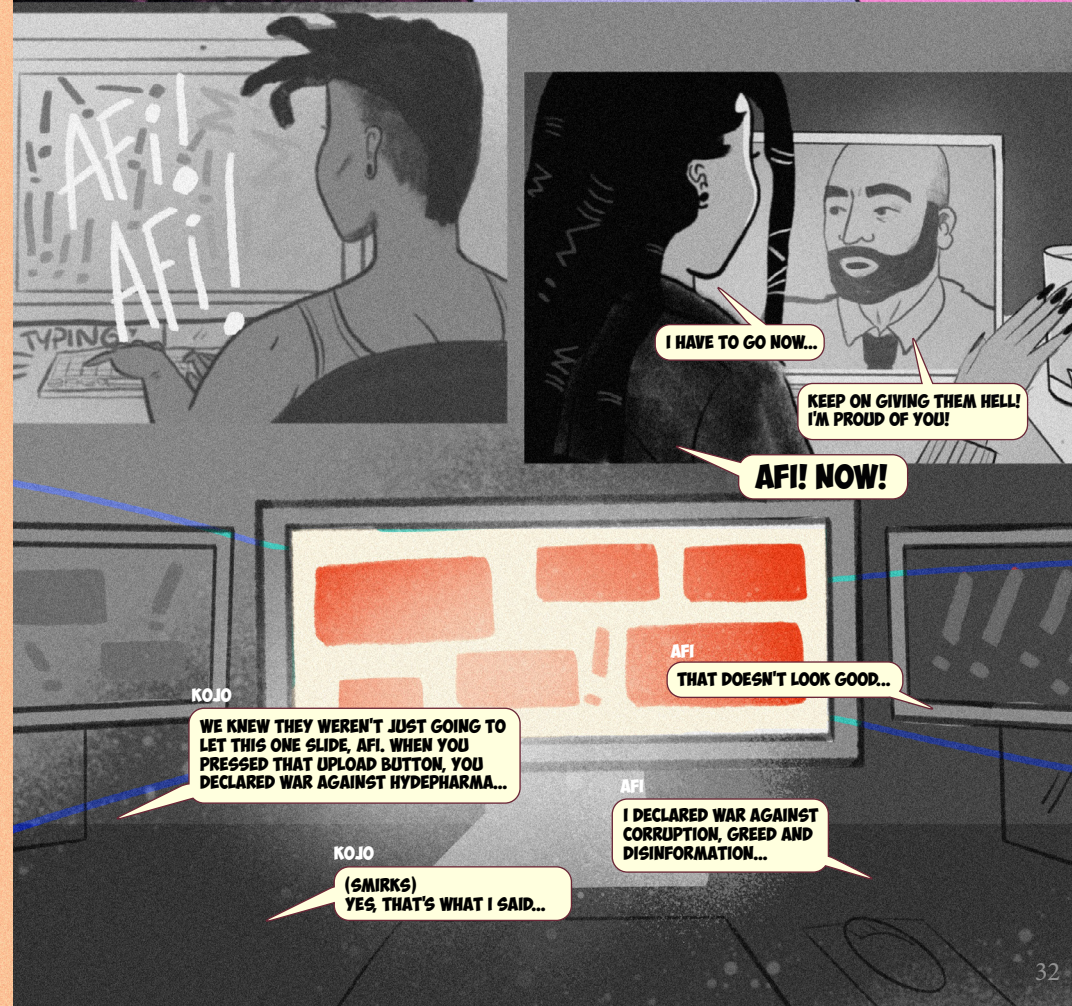
HACKING INTO A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR CORPORATION ISN'T EXACTLY A WALK IN THE PARK...

BUT IF YOU'RE AS AWESOME AS I AM...

\*Typing\*

WE'VE GOT THEM...









'FAKE JOURNALIST.' 'PAID AGITATOR.'  
'ATTENTION SEEKING LIAR!'

DON'T ENGAGE, AFI. THEY'RE NOT JUST TROLLING YOU,  
THEY'RE BAITING YOU. IF YOU JUMP INTO THE RING NOW,  
YOU'LL JUST GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT. THESE BOTS  
ARE PROGRAMMED TO EXHAUST YOU INTO SUBMISSION.

BUT THEY'RE FLAGGING MY POSTS  
AS FAKE NEWS! I USED RAW  
FOOTAGE AND DIRECT QUOTES!  
HOW CAN THEY CALL THIS FAKE?!

AS LONG AS IT FITS THEIR AGENDA, THEY'LL CALL IT  
WHAT THEY NEED TO. DISINFORMATION DOESN'T STOP AT  
SPREADING LIES. IT'S ALSO ABOUT SILENCING THE TRUTH.

HOW DID THEY EVEN GET TO MY  
BLOG THAT FAST? IT DOESN'T EVEN  
REACH THAT MANY PEOPLE?

THESE BOTS DON'T DISCRIMINATE, AFI.  
HYDEPHARMA'S AI IS PROGRAMMED TO MONITOR  
SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWS PLATFORMS FOR  
ANYTHING THAT GOES AGAINST THEIR NARRATIVE.

THE SECOND THEY SEE SOMETHING LIKE YOUR STORY,  
NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL, THEY'LL FLOOD IT  
WITH COMPLAINTS, SMUT AND CONTRADICTORY  
DISCOURSE.

ERROR  
MESSAGE

WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?

THE PLATFORM THAT HOSTS YOUR BLOG  
NEEDS TO VERIFY THE VALIDITY OF  
YOUR CONTENT.

KOJO

THEY THINK THESE BOTS ARE REAL PEOPLE  
REPORTING YOU, SO THEIR ALGORITHMS  
ARE FLAGGING YOUR POSTS. BUT KEEP  
CALM - THEY'RE NOT GOING TO PURGE YOUR  
CONTENT OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU WILL BE  
OFFLINE FOR A WHILE...

KOJO

COULD BE AN HOUR. COULD BE 24.  
POINT IS THAT HYDEPHARMA IS GETTING  
DONE WHAT THEY SET OUT TO DO. PUT  
OBSTACLES IN YOUR WAY THAT'LL DETER  
YOU FROM TELLING THE TRUTH.

KOJO

REMEMBER HOW I TOLD YOU I'M  
AN 'IT' SPECIALIST?

KOJO

WELL, THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE...  
MY, UHM, TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY ALSO  
ALLOWS ME TO FIND BACKDOORS INTO  
SYSTEMS THAT ONE USUALLY DOESN'T  
HAVE ACCESS TO. LEGALLY....

KOJO

I PREFER HACKTIVIST, THANK  
YOU VERY MUCH!

AFI

A WHILE?

AFI

SO WHAT DO WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?

AFI

YES?

AFI

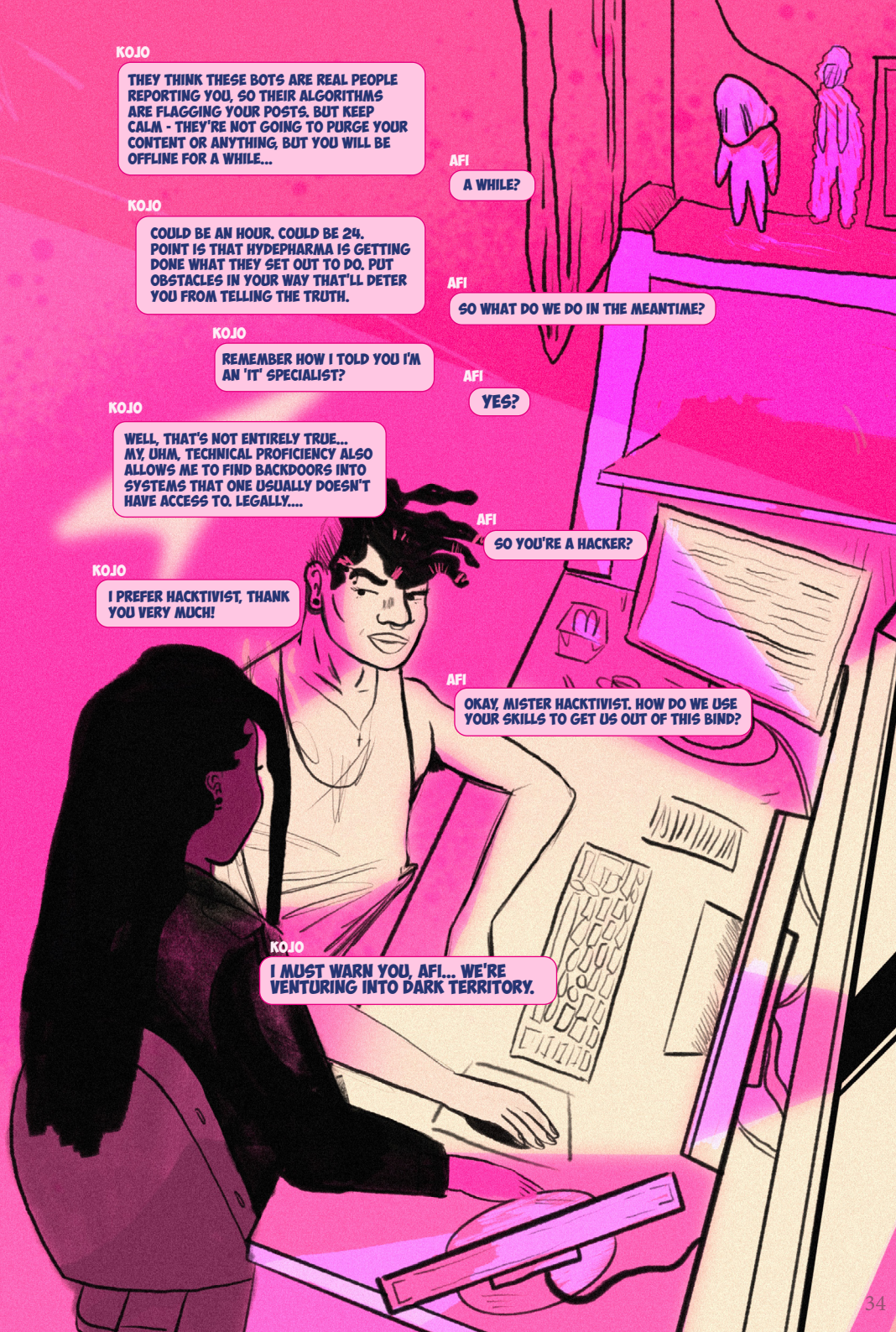
SO YOU'RE A HACKER?

AFI

OKAY, MISTER HACKTIVIST. HOW DO WE USE  
YOUR SKILLS TO GET US OUT OF THIS BIND?

KOJO

I MUST WARN YOU, AFI... WE'RE  
VENTURING INTO DARK TERRITORY.





KOJO

HACKING A POWERFUL CORPORATE  
ENTITY LIKE HYDEPHARMA IS  
SERIOUS BUSINESS...

KOJO - WE NEED TO DO THIS. FOR AMMA, LUMO,  
YANKAH, AND EVERYBODY IN OKYENA.  
THEIR STORY NEEDS TO BE HEARD.

KOJO

LET'S DO IT THEN...

## CHAPTER 3: WAVES OF TRUTH



EMAILS, CONTRACTS, NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS.... DO I WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON THESE..?

KOJO  
PROBABLY NOT...

FIGURED... SO WHAT NOW? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WITH ALL OF...THIS?

WE ACTUALLY HAVE NO IDEA.  
HYDEPHARMA'S BOTS GOT MY BLOG FLAGGED.

YEAH, I SAW...  
(SIGHS)  
LISTEN, AFI. IF YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO HELP, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'M ABLE TO DO. WE BOTH KNOW AHANTAN IS ALSO COMPROMISED...

(GESTURES TO LAPTOP)

LOOK HERE - BANK STATEMENTS OF ALL THE HUSH MONEY SIKA RECEIVED FROM HYDEPHARMA. IF I WERE TO PITCH THIS STORY TO HER, SHE'D KILL IT BEFORE I EVEN WROTE A SINGLE WORD.

BUT....

HAVE YOU GUYS EVER HEARD OF THE BLOOD HOUNDS?

THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP?

osibisa

Fight  
4 FREEDOM!





I MIGHT KNOW SOMEONE WHO KNOWS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A BLOOD HOUND...

OSEI, YOU'RE A GENIUS! THE BLOOD HOUNDS ARE INDEPENDENT, TRUSTWORTHY AND REVERED FOR TAKING DOWN CORPORATIONS THAT HARM THE ENVIRONMENT.



THIS IS PERFECT! WE CAN GIVE THEM THE FILES AND HAVE THEM BREAK IT! WITH THEIR STAMP OF APPROVAL, IT'LL BE UNDENIABLE!

IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT... THE BLOOD HOUNDS ARE REALLY MILITANT. AND THEY DON'T HIDE BEHIND MASKS AND AVATARS. THEY BELIEVE IN SPEAKING THE TRUTH AS THEMSELVES. AND THEY'RE GOING TO EXPECT YOU TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE FILES, AFI.



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, AFI. IT FEELS DANGEROUS. HYDEPHARMA WON'T JUST TAKE THIS LYING DOWN. THEY'RE GONNA GO DOWN SWINGING. AND IT'S GOING TO BE YOU THAT'S IN THAT RING WITH THEM...

(CONSIDERS, THEN GRITS HER TEETH) IT WON'T BE JUST ME, I HAVE YOU. I HAVE OSEI, I HAVE AMMA AND LUMO. OLD MAN YANKAH.

AFI...



NO, KOJO, I HAVE TO DO THIS. THE TRUTH NEEDS TO COME OUT.

AND I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF OKYENA WILL RALLY BEHIND ME. (LOOKS AT OSEI)

GET ME A MEETING WITH THE BLOOD HOUNDS...

LATER THAT EVENING:



I JUST NEED TO SAY THIS AGAIN - BAD IDEA...

DOESN'T MEAN IT WON'T WORK...



HERE WE GO...

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS AFI?

I AM.



ARE YOU READY TO SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, AFI?

I AM.

THEN LET'S GET TO WORK.



A FEW DAYS LATER:



THIS IS RIVER ATA-ADOO. ONCE THE HEART OF OKYENA, IT FED FAMILIES, SUSTAINED CROPS, AND NURTURED LIFE. NOW, IT'S A GRAVEYARD. POLLUTED BY THE UNCHECKED GREED OF HYDEPHARMA.



FOR MONTHS, THIS CORPORATION HAS POURED TOXIC WASTE INTO THIS RIVER, POISONING EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES. AND THEY HAVEN'T STOPPED THERE. THEY'VE POISONED THE TRUTH TOO, USING AI-GENERATED LIES AND MEDIA COMPLICITY TO SILENCE VOICES LIKE OURS.

HYDEPHARMA'S AI ARMY IS FLOODING THE INTERNET WITH FAKE ACCOUNTS LIKE THIS ONE. BOTS DESIGNED TO SPREAD LIES ABOUT THE VILLAGERS. THEY CALL THEM 'LAZY,' ACCUSE THEM OF DUMPING CHEMICALS THEMSELVES. THESE AREN'T REAL PEOPLE — THESE ARE MANUFACTURED VOICES



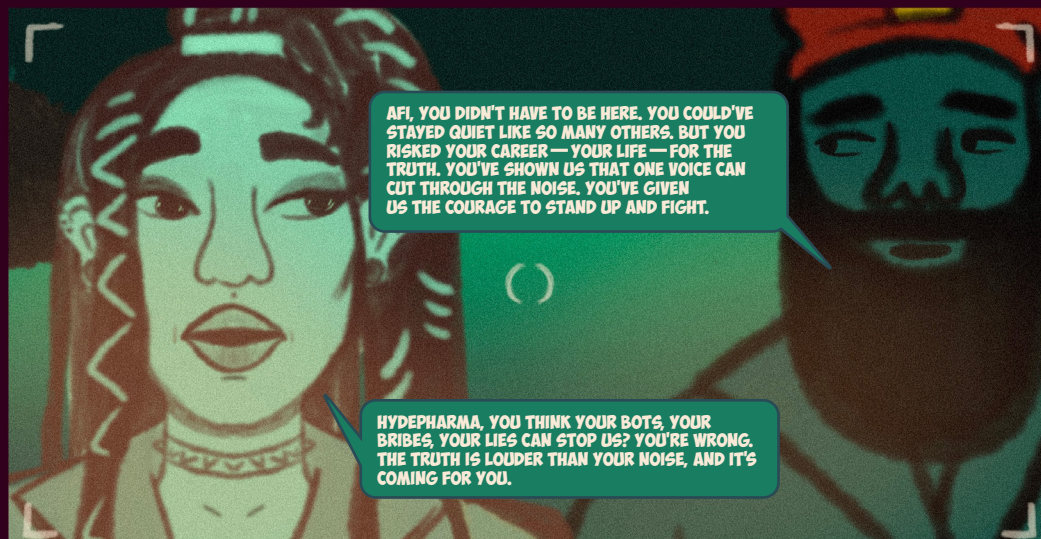
AND HERE'S PROOF OF HOW DEEP THEIR CORRUPTION RUNS.



THIS EMAIL SHOWS HYDEPHARMA PAID THE AHANTAN PRESS TO PUBLISH DISINFORMATION, SHIFTING THE BLAME ONTO THE VERY PEOPLE THEY'RE POISONING. EVERY ARTICLE THEY RAN WAS SCRIPTED BY HYDEPHARMA'S PR TEAM.



I TRUSTED THE AHANTAN PRESS. I BELIEVED JOURNALISM COULD STILL SERVE THE PEOPLE. BUT NOW I SEE — THEY'RE NOT JUST COMPLICIT. THEY'RE GUILTY. GUILTY OF LETTING A CORPORATION POISON THIS RIVER AND THIS COMMUNITY.



AFI, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE HERE. YOU COULD'VE STAYED QUIET LIKE SO MANY OTHERS. BUT YOU RISKED YOUR CAREER — YOUR LIFE — FOR THE TRUTH. YOU'VE SHOWN US THAT ONE VOICE CAN CUT THROUGH THE NOISE. YOU'VE GIVEN US THE COURAGE TO STAND UP AND FIGHT.

HYDEPHARMA, YOU THINK YOUR BOTS, YOUR BRIBES, YOUR LIES CAN STOP US? YOU'RE WRONG. THE TRUTH IS LOUDER THAN YOUR NOISE, AND IT'S COMING FOR YOU.



WE'RE NOT JUST FIGHTING FOR THIS RIVER — WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE. FOR JUSTICE. YOU'VE SILENCED THE PEOPLE FOR TOO LONG, BUT NOW, WE'RE DONE TAKING IT.





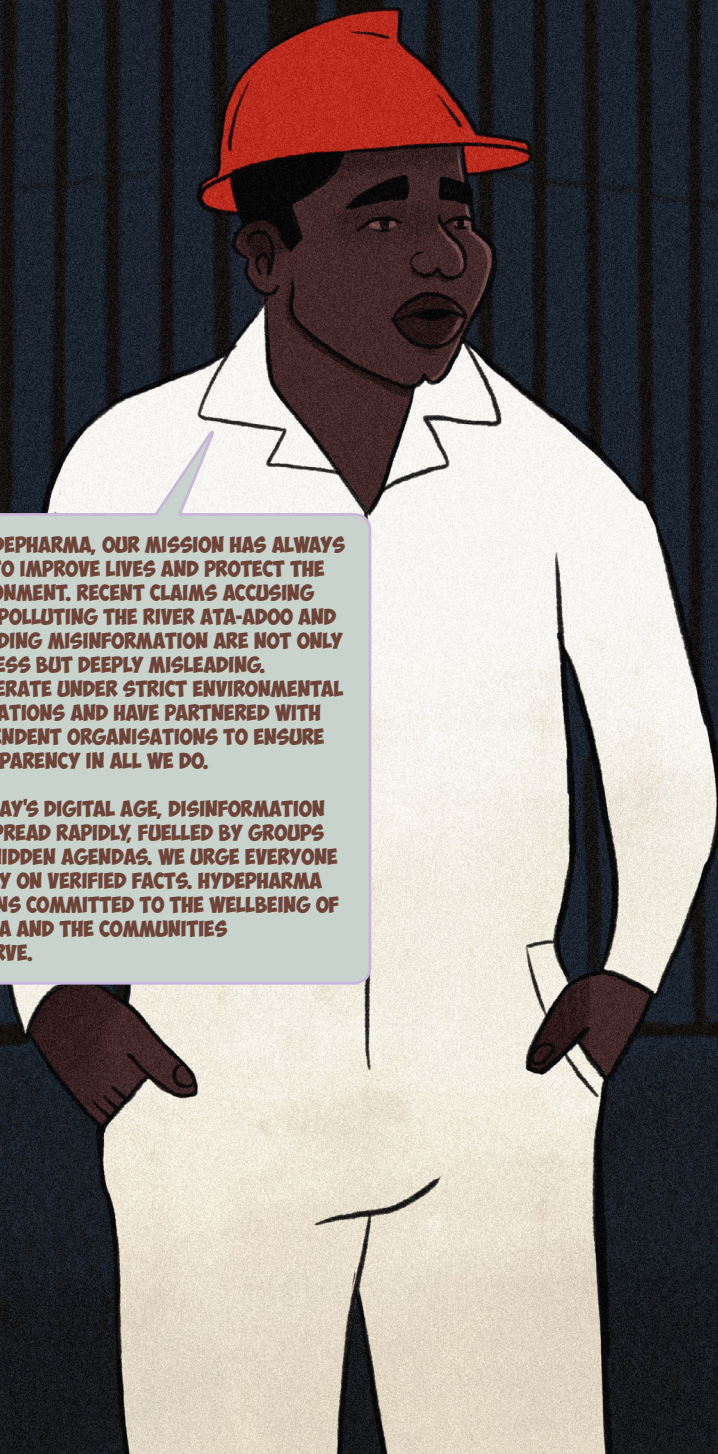
**HYDE PHARMA  
EXPOSED FOR  
POLLUTING RIVER**

**LOCAL JOURNALIST  
DROPS GAUNTLET  
ON GREEDY  
PHARMA COMPANY**



AT HYDEPHARMA, OUR MISSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO IMPROVE LIVES AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. RECENT CLAIMS ACCUSING US OF POLLUTING THE RIVER ATA-ADOO AND SPREADING MISINFORMATION ARE NOT ONLY BASELESS BUT DEEPLY MISLEADING. WE OPERATE UNDER STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS AND HAVE PARTNERED WITH INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN ALL WE DO.

IN TODAY'S DIGITAL AGE, DISINFORMATION CAN SPREAD RAPIDLY, FUELLED BY GROUPS WITH HIDDEN AGENDAS. WE URGE EVERYONE TO RELY ON VERIFIED FACTS. HYDEPHARMA REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE WELLBEING OF OKYENA AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.







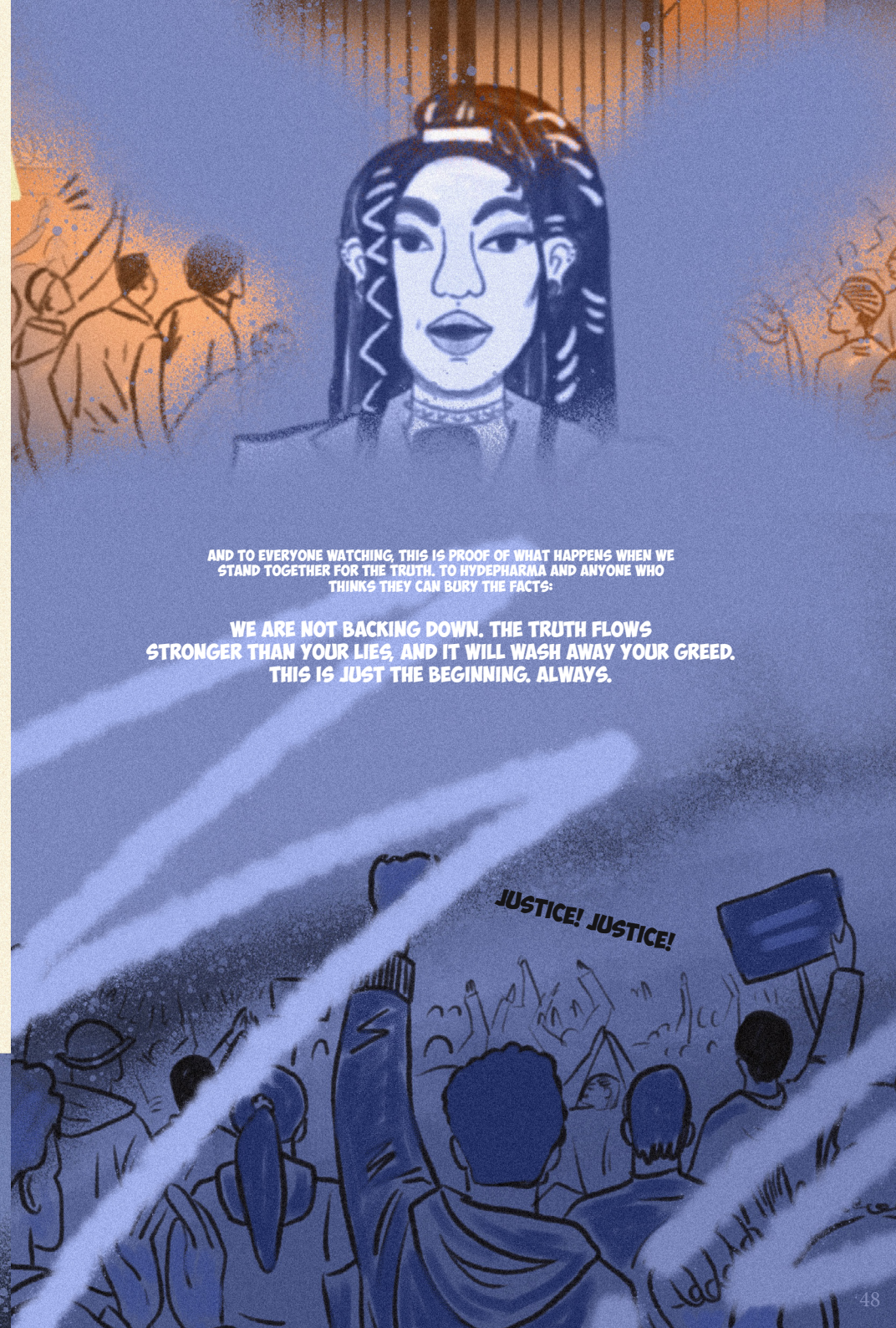




I'M REPORTING LIVE FROM THE GATES OF HYDEPHARMA'S OKYENA PLANT, WHERE AUTHORITIES HAVE LAUNCHED A FULLSCALE RAID FOLLOWING MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS AND CORRUPTION. WHAT BEGAN AS WHISPERS OF DISCONTENT HAS NOW GROWN INTO A ROAR, AS BRAVE WHISTLE-BLOWERS AND INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATORS UNCOVERED YEARS OF DECEPTION HIDDEN BEHIND THESE WALLS.

AFI (CONT'D)  
FOR TOO LONG, HYDEPHARMA POLLUTED OUR RIVERS, OUR LANDS, AND OUR MINDS — DISMISSING US AS POWERLESS. BUT TODAY, THE PEOPLE OF OKYENA ARE PROVING THEM WRONG. THIS RAID ISN'T JUST ABOUT UNCOVERING ILLEGAL PRACTICES; IT'S ABOUT HOLDING A CORPORATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE LIVES IT DESTROYED.

OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY CONFIRMED THE RECOVERY OF DOCUMENTS THAT MAY LINK HYDEPHARMA TO THE SYSTEMATIC COVER-UP OF TOXIC WASTE DUMPING AND THE DELIBERATE SPREAD OF DISINFORMATION TO SILENCE THIS COMMUNITY. THIS IS MORE THAN A VICTORY, IT'S A RECKONING.




AND TO EVERYONE WATCHING, THIS IS PROOF OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER FOR THE TRUTH. TO HYDEPHARMA AND ANYONE WHO THINKS THEY CAN BURY THE FACTS:

**WE ARE NOT BACKING DOWN. THE TRUTH FLOWS STRONGER THAN YOUR LIES, AND IT WILL WASH AWAY YOUR GREED. THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. ALWAYS.**

**JUSTICE! JUSTICE!**





THERE SHE IS — THE VOICE OF OKYENA!  
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOURSELF UP THERE, AFI.  
TOOK DOWN AN EMPIRE WITH NOTHING BUT A  
MICROPHONE AND A BACKBONE.


IT WASN'T JUST ME. IT WAS EVERYONE  
— THE PEOPLE, THE BLOOD HOUNDS, YOU  
TWO. THIS WAS A TEAM EFFORT. I JUST...  
TOLD THE STORY.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MATTERED.  
IN THE END, TRUTH CUTS THROUGH THE  
NOISE. DISINFORMATION MAY SPREAD  
FAST, BUT IT'S FRAGILE. ONCE YOU  
SHINE A LIGHT ON IT, IT CRUMBLES.

YOU'RE THAT LIGHT. DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT,  
AFI. YOU USED EVERY TOOL YOU HAD — YOUR  
VOICE, YOUR CONNECTIONS, AND EVEN A LITTLE TECH  
MAGIC FROM YOURS TRULY.

I'LL GIVE YOU THAT ONE - YOUR AI  
WIZARDRY CAME IN HANDY. EXPOSING  
THOSE FAKE ACCOUNTS, TRACKING THEIR  
BOYS AND "HACKTIVIST-ING" THEM...

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT TECHNOLOGY  
CAN DO WHEN IT'S IN THE RIGHT HANDS.



THAT'S THE THING ABOUT TECHNOLOGY,  
AFI. IT'S NOT GOOD OR BAD — IT'S HOW  
WE USE IT. AI DOESN'T CREATE LIES,  
PEOPLE DO, BUT IT CAN ALSO AMPLIFY  
TRUTH, LIKE IT DID FOR YOU.

THE HAND THAT WIELDS  
THE HAMMER...

EXACTLY....

THE RIVER STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO  
HEAL. OUR PEOPLE, TOO. BUT WITHOUT  
THE POISON AND TOXICITY IN OUR MIDST...

AND THE LIES THAT MAKE IT  
FESTER AND SPREAD....

OKYENA WILL BE FINE.

I THINK SO, TOO. NO, I KNOW SO. IT'S  
NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT WE  
EXPOSED — IT'S ABOUT WHAT WE  
BUILT. PEOPLE AREN'T AFRAID TO ASK  
QUESTIONS ANYMORE. THEY'RE  
READY TO FIGHT FOR ANSWERS.

AND THAT'S HOW WE KEEP  
DISINFORMATION IN CHECK — BY  
STAYING VIGILANT AS A PEOPLE.

AND BY PRACTICING RESPONSIBLE AND  
ETHICAL JOURNALISM.





## INFORMATION & MEDIA TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Blog	A regularly updated website or web page, typically run by an individual, where content is published in reverse chronological order.
Content	Any form of media – text, video, audio, or images – created for consumption, sharing, or engagement.
Contradictory Discourse	Communication that presents conflicting narratives or ideas, often used to confuse or polarize audiences.
Disinformation	False information spread deliberately to deceive or manipulate public opinion.
Disinformation Campaign	Coordinated effort to spread disinformation across platforms or communities to achieve political, economic, or ideological goals.
Ethical Journalism	Reporting that adheres to principles of truth, fairness, accountability, and independence.
Fake News	Fabricated or misleading content presented as legitimate news, often to influence beliefs or generate clicks.
Fake Studies	Research or reports that are fabricated, misrepresented, or lack scientific or fact-based rigor, often used to support false claims.
Misinformation	False or inaccurate information shared unintentionally, often by people who believe it to be true.
Posts	Individual pieces of content shared on social media or blogs, which can be text, images, or videos.
Verified Facts	Information that has been confirmed through credible sources or rigorous fact-checking.

## TECHNOLOGY & AI TERMS

AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Technology that enables machines to simulate human intelligence, including learning, reasoning, and problem-solving.
AI-Generated	Content created by artificial intelligence, such as text, images, or videos, often indistinguishable from human-made.
Algorithms	Sets of rules or calculations used by platforms to determine what content users see, often shaping public discourse.
Astroturfing	Fake grassroots movements created to give the illusion of widespread support or opposition, often using bots or paid actors.
Bot	Automated software that performs tasks online, such as posting content or interacting with users, sometimes used in disinformation campaigns.
Deepfake	Synthetic media – usually videos or images – created using AI to convincingly mimic real people or events.



TERM	DEFINITION
Hacker	A person who gains unauthorized access to systems or data, sometimes for malicious purposes.

## WARNING & MANIPULATION TERMS

Bind	A difficult or compromising situation with limited options or escape routes.
Bribes	Illicit payments or favors given to influence decisions or gain unfair advantages.
Gauntlet	A challenging or dangerous experience, often involving multiple obstacles or confrontations.
Greed	Excessive desire for wealth or power, often driving unethical decisions or corruption.
Hush Money	Payments made to silence individuals or prevent the disclosure of damaging information.
Manipulation	The act of influencing people or outcomes through deceptive, exploitative, or unfair means.
Red Flag	A warning sign indicating potential problems, deception, or unethical behavior.
Red Zone	A high-risk area or situation, often used metaphorically to indicate danger or heightened alert.

## SOCIETY, POLITICS & ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Group	An organization focused on protecting the environment and promoting sustainability.
Media Complicity	When media outlets knowingly or negligently support or fail to challenge harmful narratives or misinformation.
PR Team	Public relations professionals who manage communication strategies and shape public perception of individuals or organizations.
Transparency	Openness and accountability in actions, decisions, and information sharing.
Digital Age	The current era characterized by widespread use of digital technologies and the internet.
Whistle-Blowers	Individuals who expose wrongdoing, corruption, or unethical behaviour within organizations.
Investigators	Professionals who gather evidence and analyse facts to uncover truth, often in legal or journalistic contexts.
Discontent	A state of dissatisfaction or unrest, often leading to protest or calls for change.

## IMPRINT

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