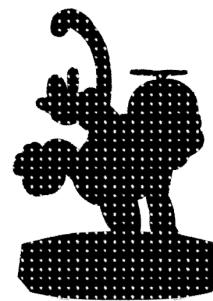
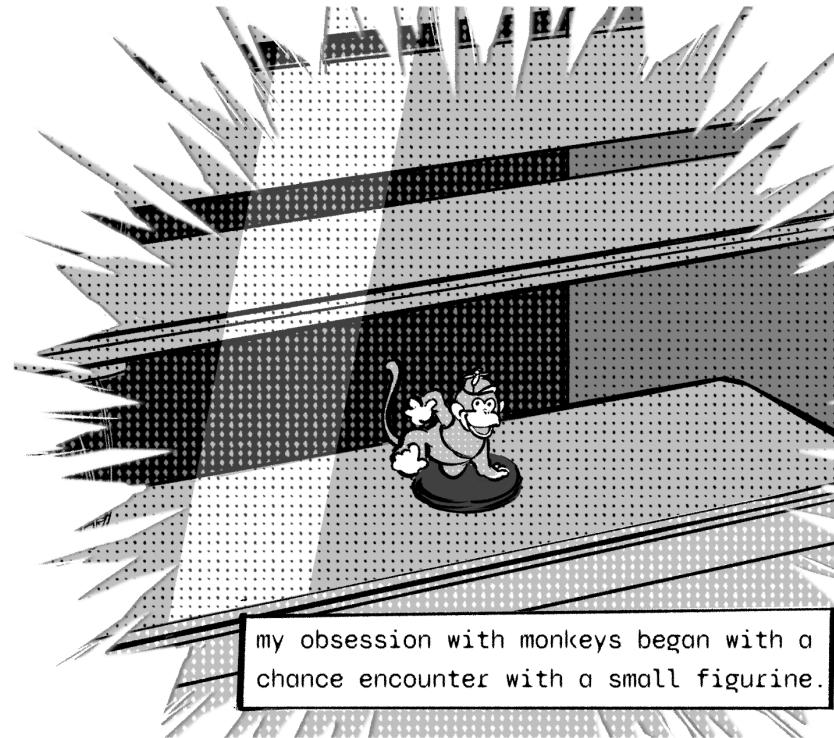
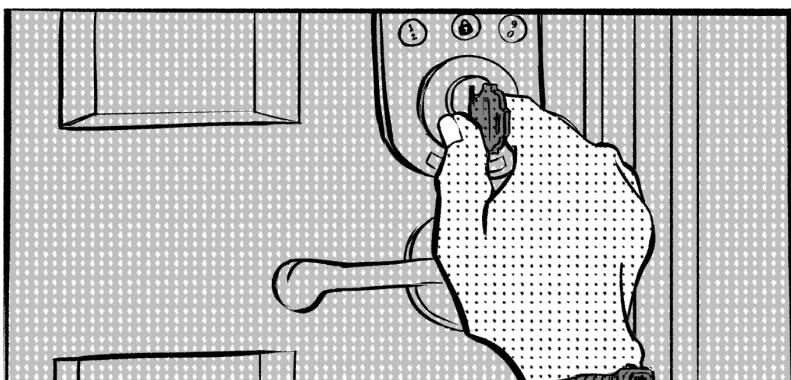
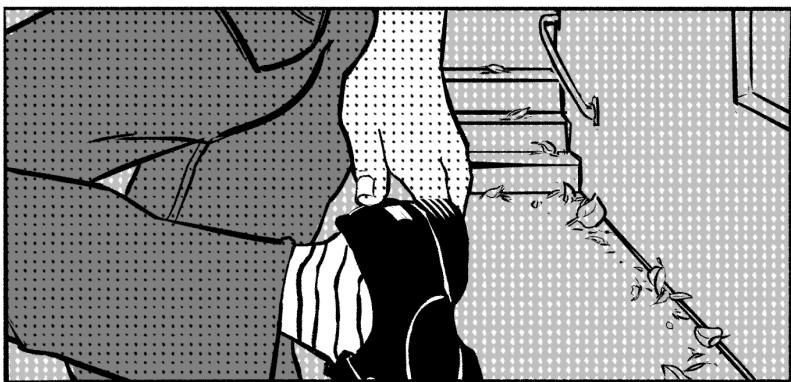




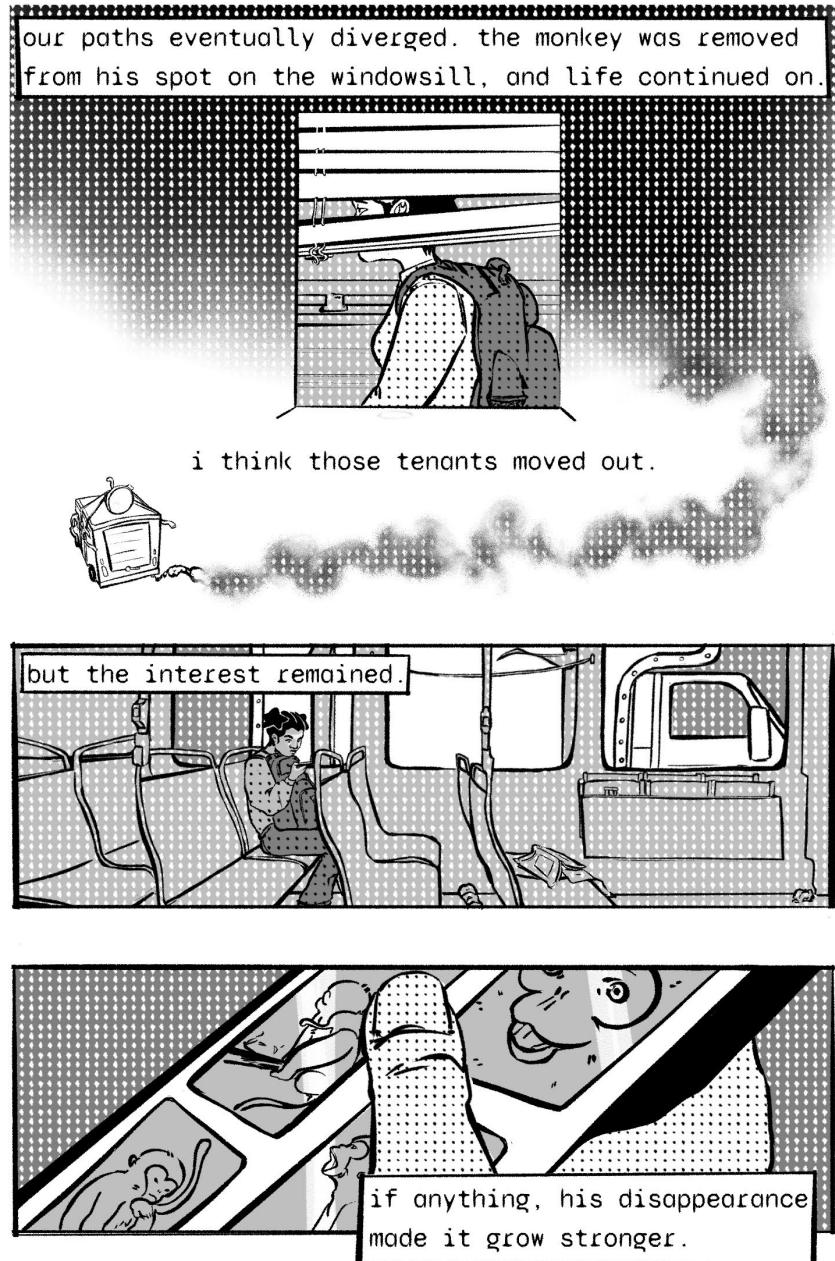
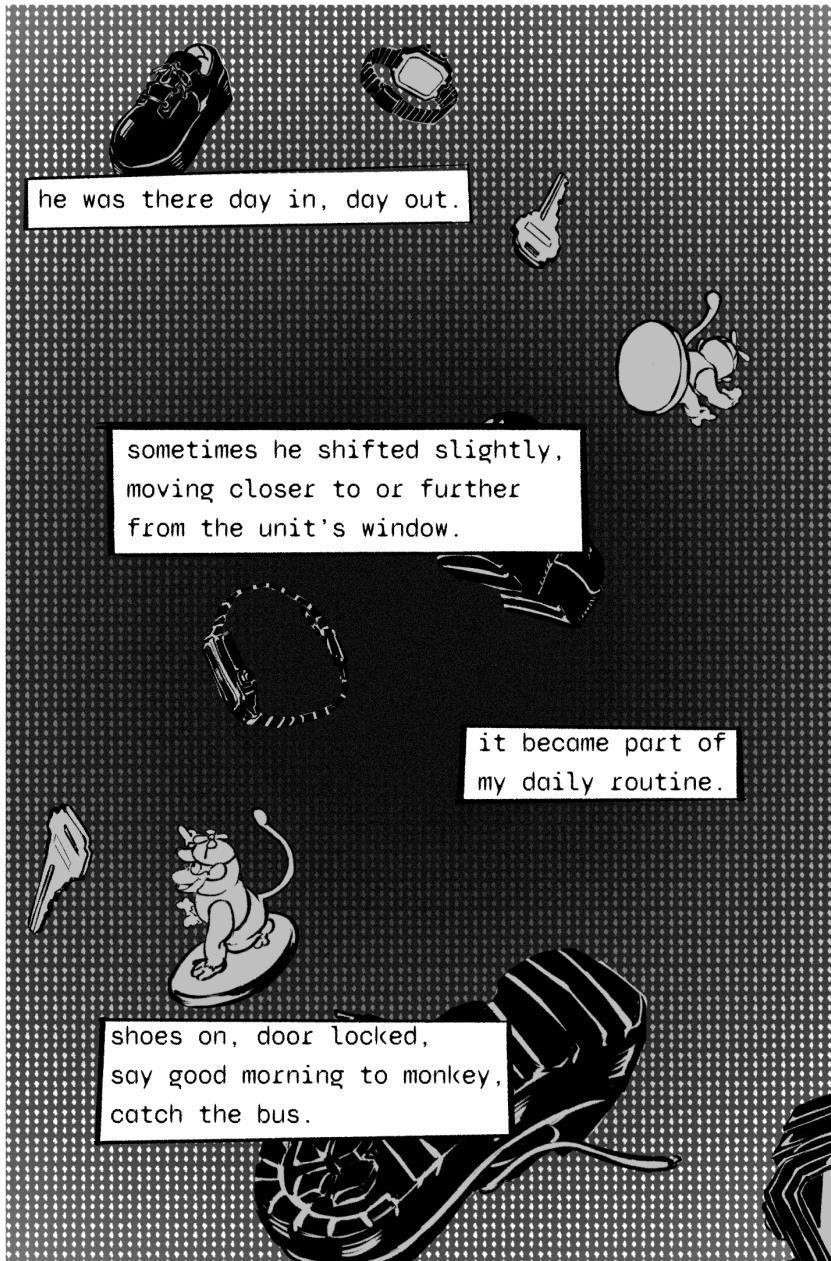
ALEXA DAMS

part 1

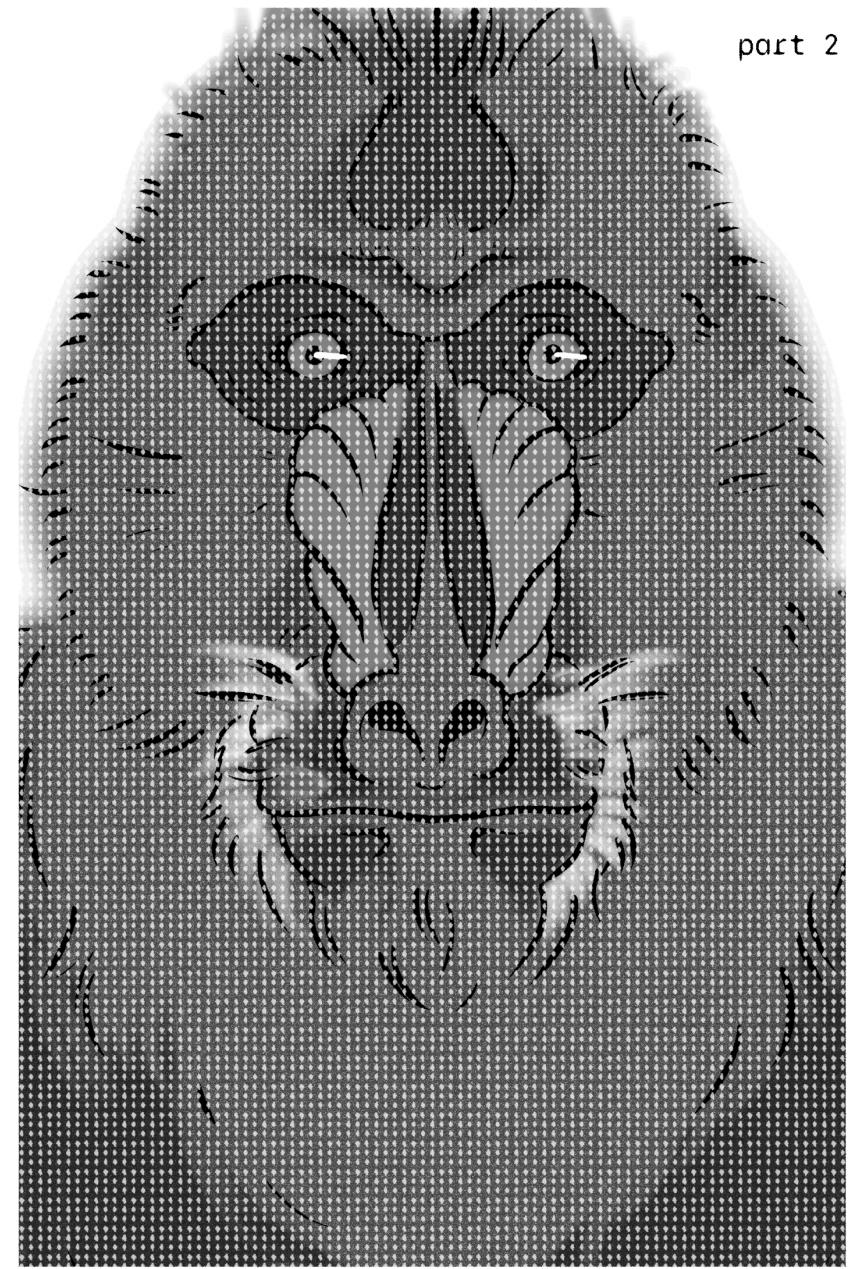




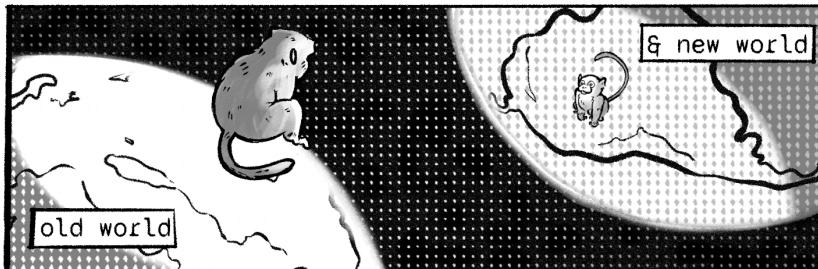
my obsession with monkeys began with a chance encounter with a small figurine.







the infraorder of monkeys is split into 2 groups:



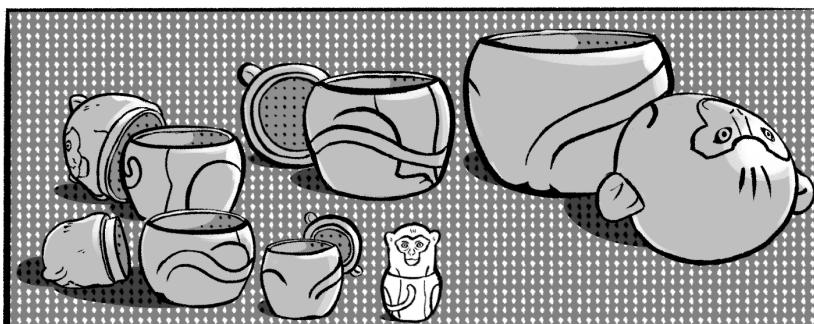
old world monkeys are all the species with "anatomical oddities", and no prehensile tails.



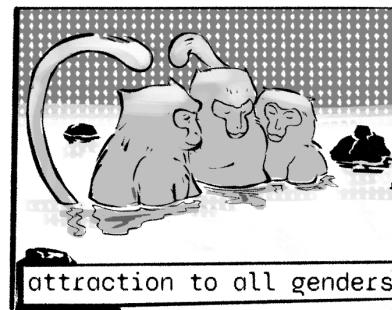
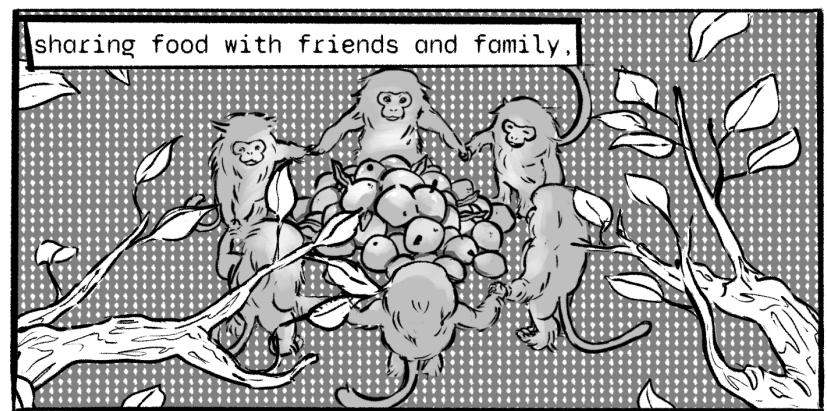
the classic monkeys, if you will.



in a way, their evolution is similar to that of old world cultures - diverse and nichely developed.



collectively, monkey species possess many behavioral traits that are similar to our own, including:



even though monkeys share so much with us,
there's still a barrier that humans impose.

the pane of glass at the zoo.



i used to think the monkey was an ideal pet because
it could choose to be your companion, but the term
"pet" itself implies an unbalanced relationship.

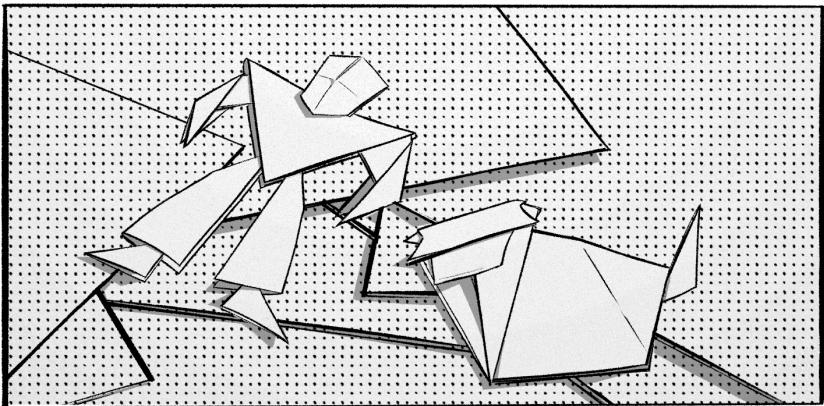
what is it that keeps
us from being equals?



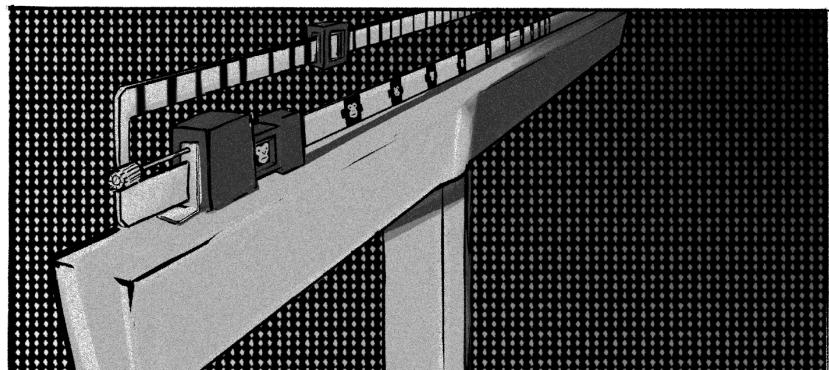
treating the monkey based on our standards of intelligence is ultimately a flawed idea.



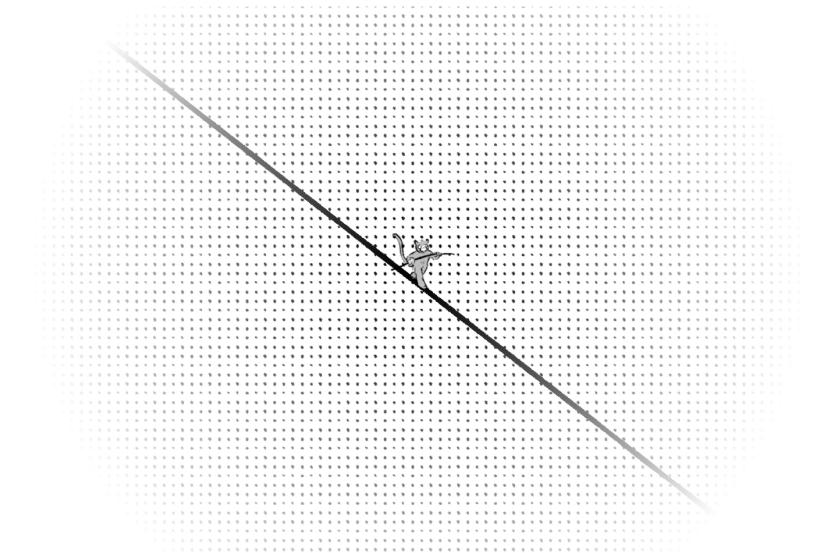
monkeys aren't the unevolved, nor the subhuman, but a distant sibling from the same ancestor.

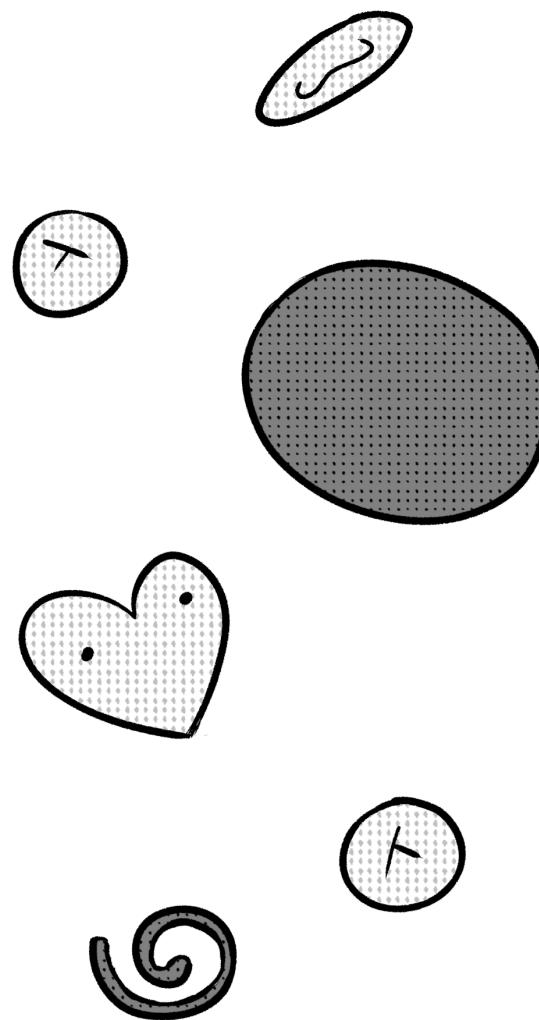


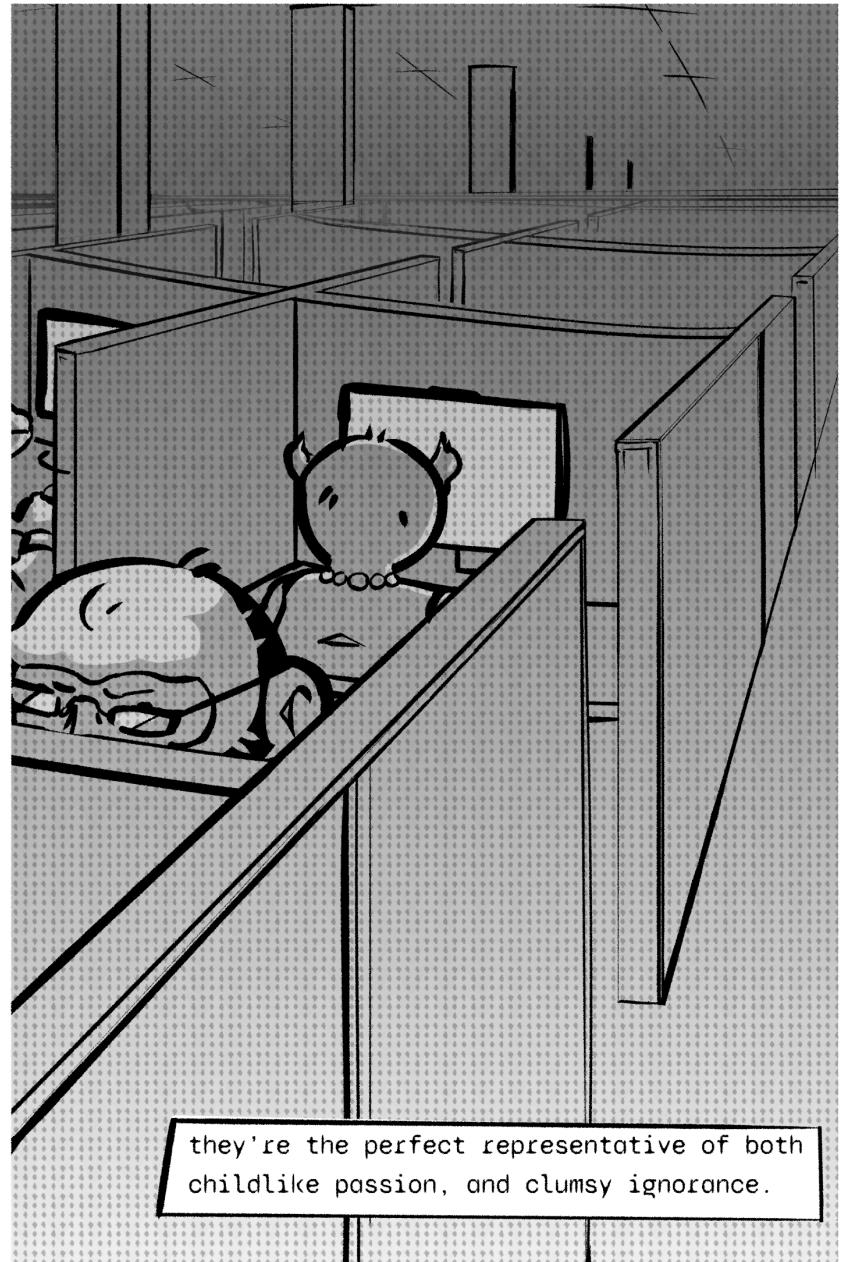
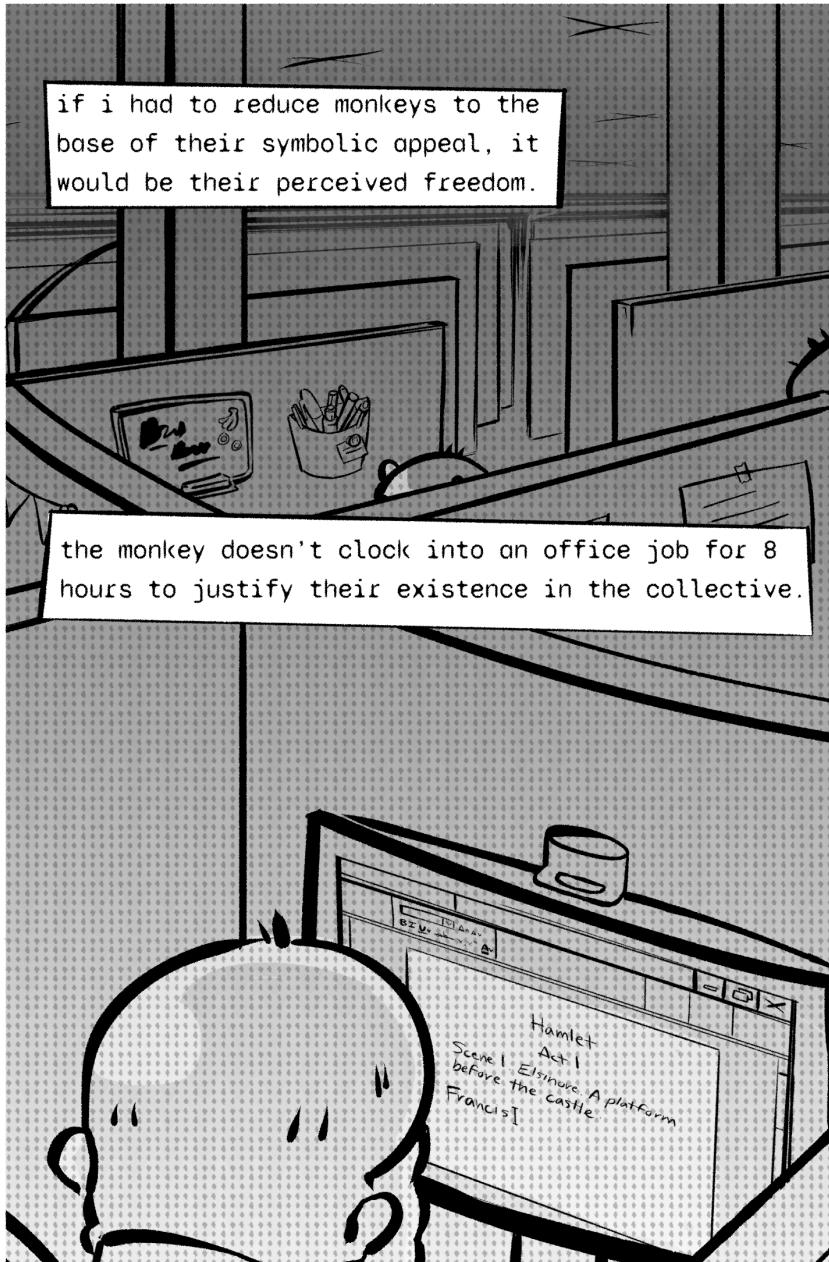
still, the monkey acts as a tool with which humans attempt to gauge their own humanity.



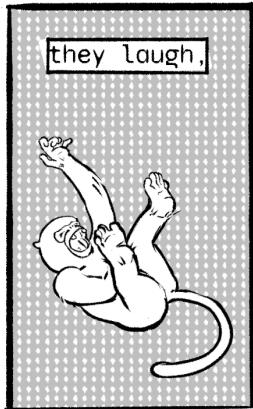
it is that fine line that the monkey walks between human and animal that continues to intrigue me.



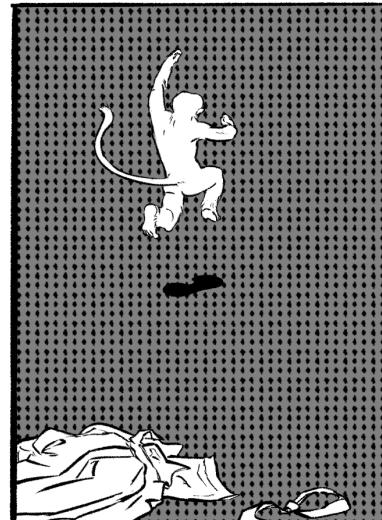




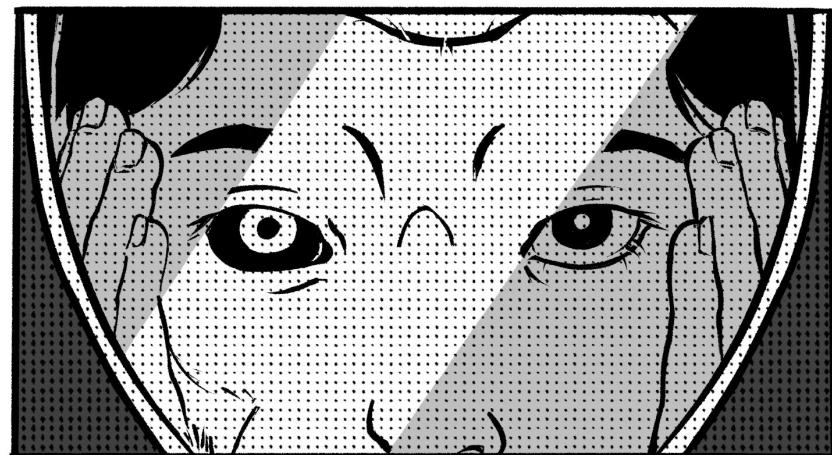
but this perception is ultimately flawed and born from that sense of cultural superiority. the monkey struggles with all the same complexities present in human life;



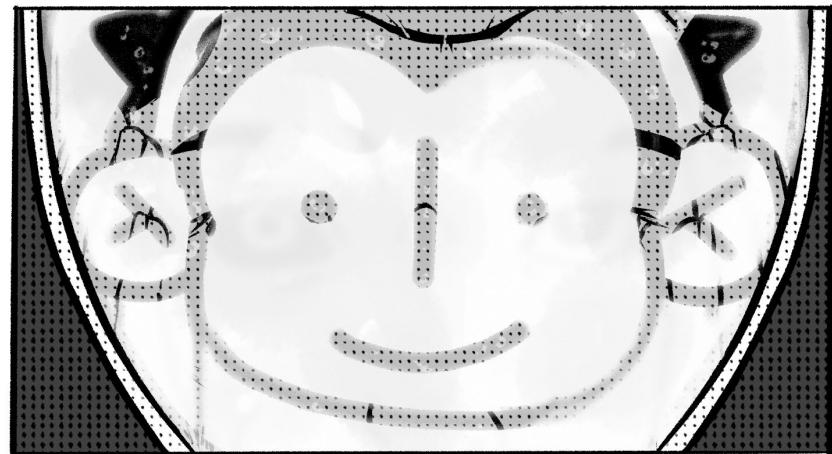
if anything, the only distinguishing freedom monkeys possess is that of expressing their emotions.



"simianisation", the derogatory comparison of humans to monkeys stems from this ethnocentrism.

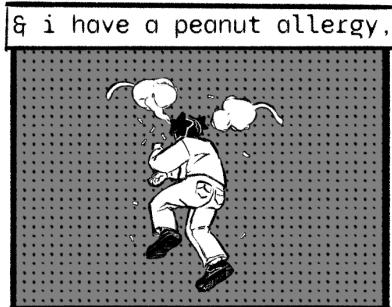


my love of monkeys acts as a means of reclamation.

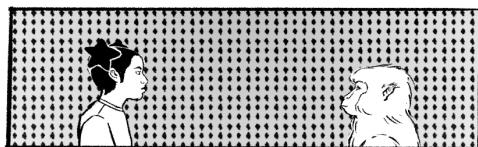


a way to reconcile with the parts of me that aren't human enough.

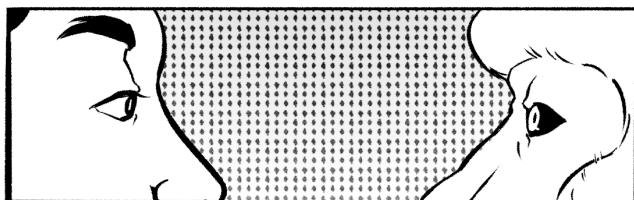
it isn't my wish to become a monkey.



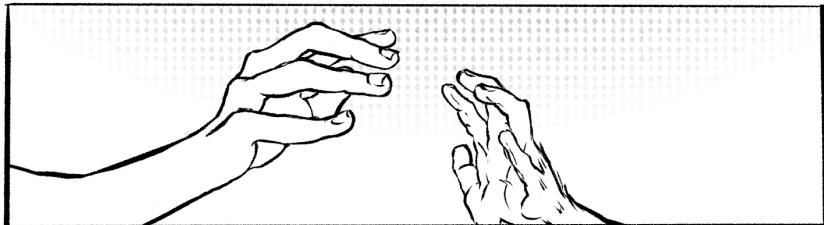
so i don't think it would work out.



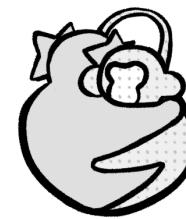
but i'd like to meet one someday.



to form an understanding of each other that can't be fully communicated by either species individually.



to love the symbol of the monkey while recognizing the individual that lays underneath.



to cross that boundary between human and animal and coexist as equals.

