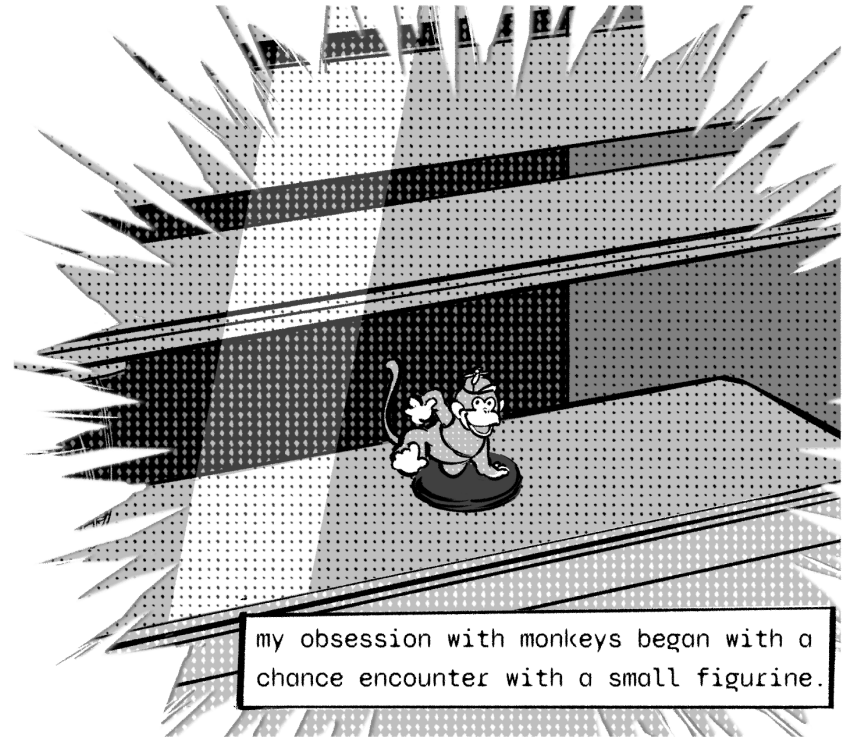
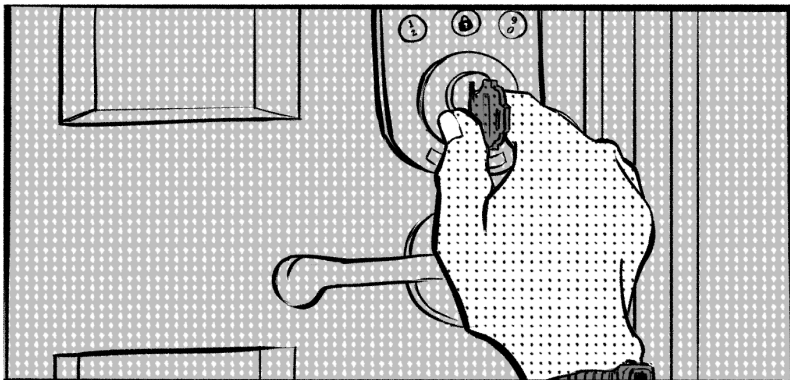
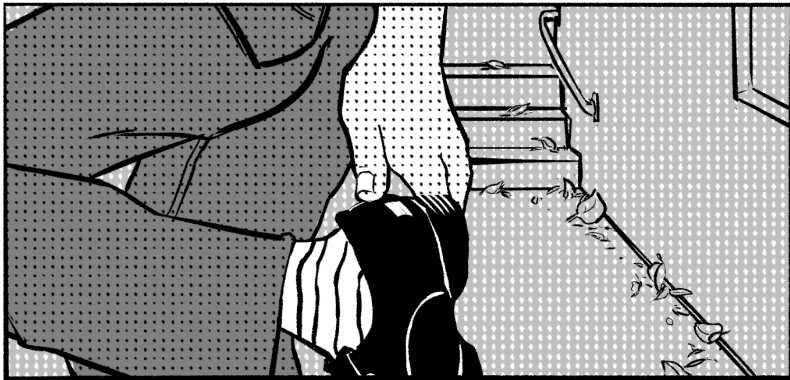




ALEXA ADAMS

part 1







he was there day in, day out.



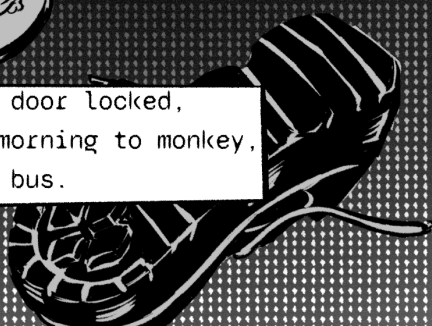
sometimes he shifted slightly,
moving closer to or further
from the unit's window.



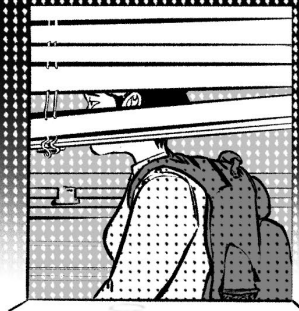
it became part of
my daily routine.



shoes on, door locked,
say good morning to monkey,
catch the bus.



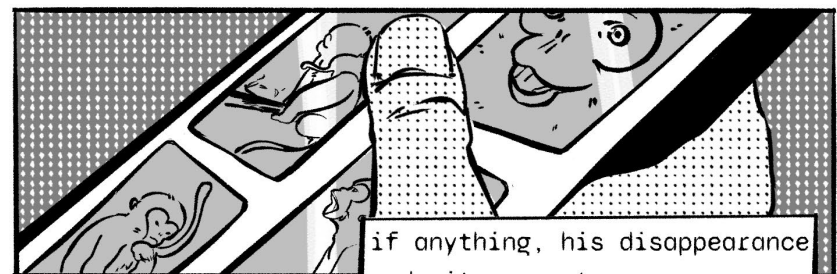
our paths eventually diverged. the monkey was removed
from his spot on the windowsill, and life continued on.



i think those tenants moved out.

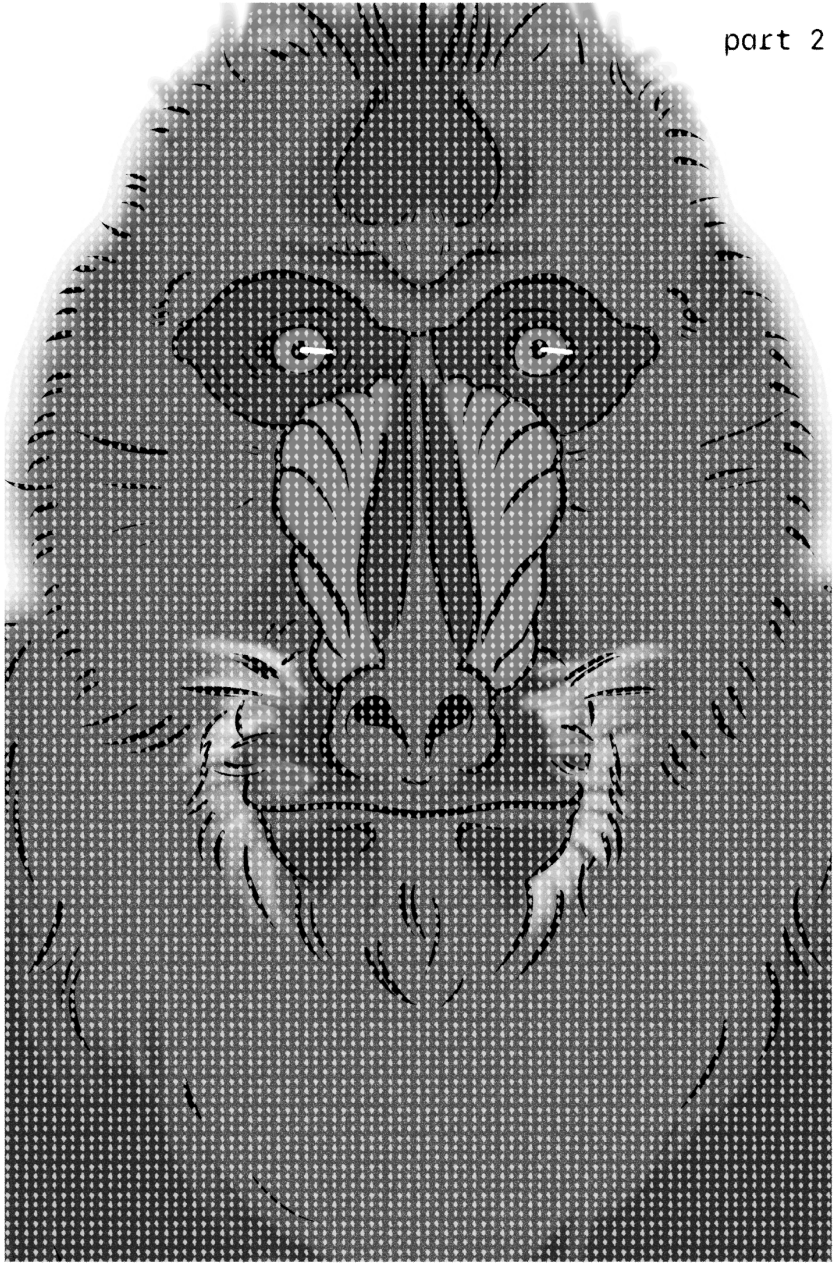


but the interest remained.

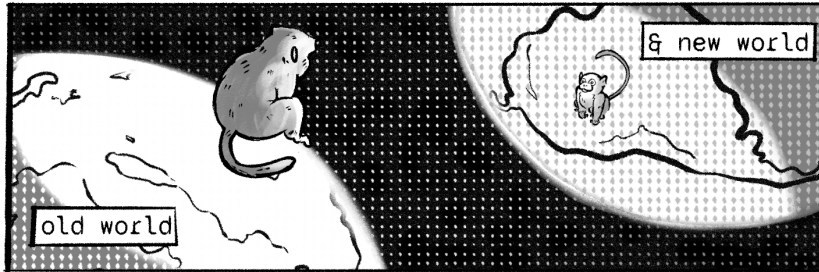


if anything, his disappearance
made it grow stronger.

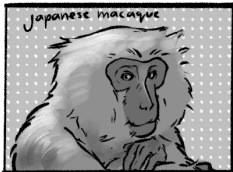




the infraorder of monkeys is split into 2 groups:



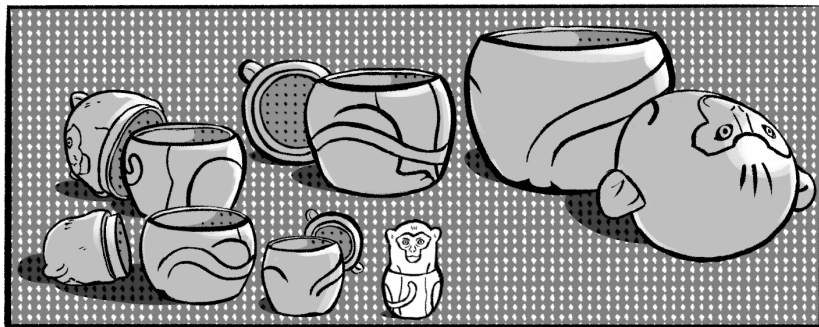
old world monkeys are all the species with
“anatomical oddities”, and no prehensile tails.



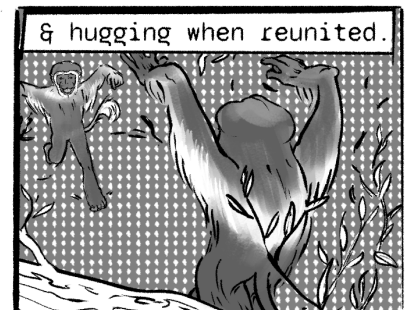
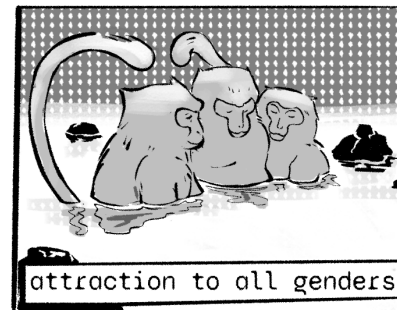
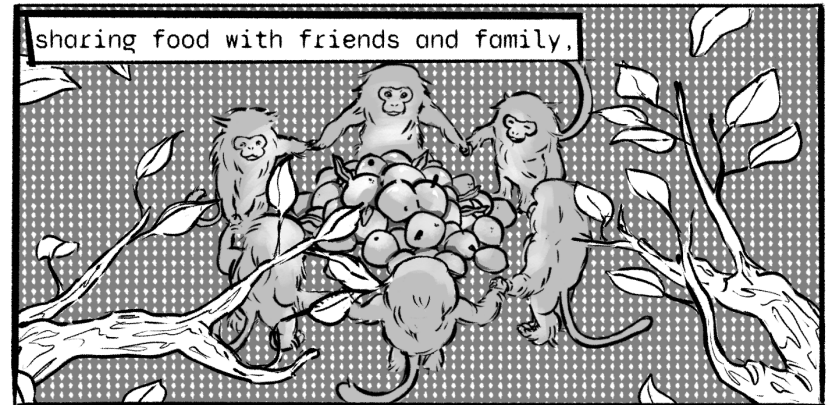
the classic monkeys, if you will.



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.

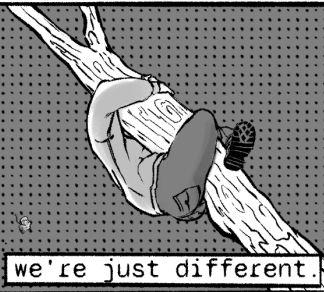
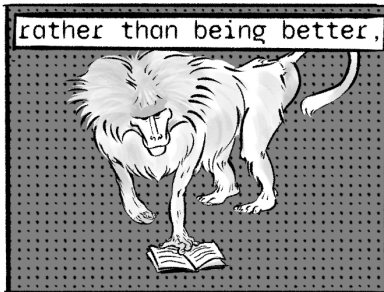
what is it that keeps
us from being equals?



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

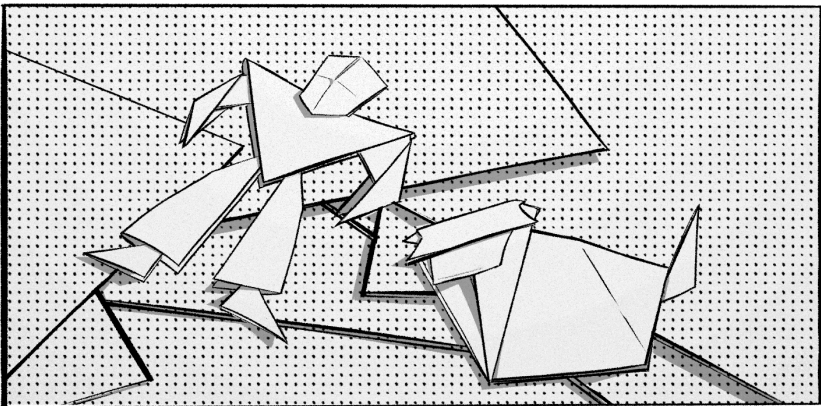


rather than being better,

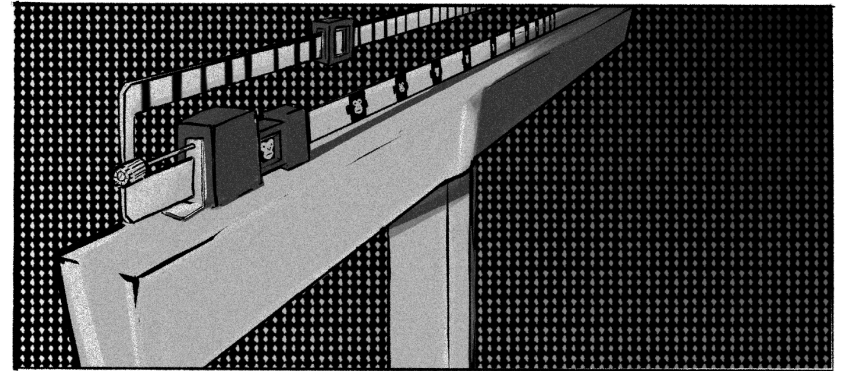


we're just different.

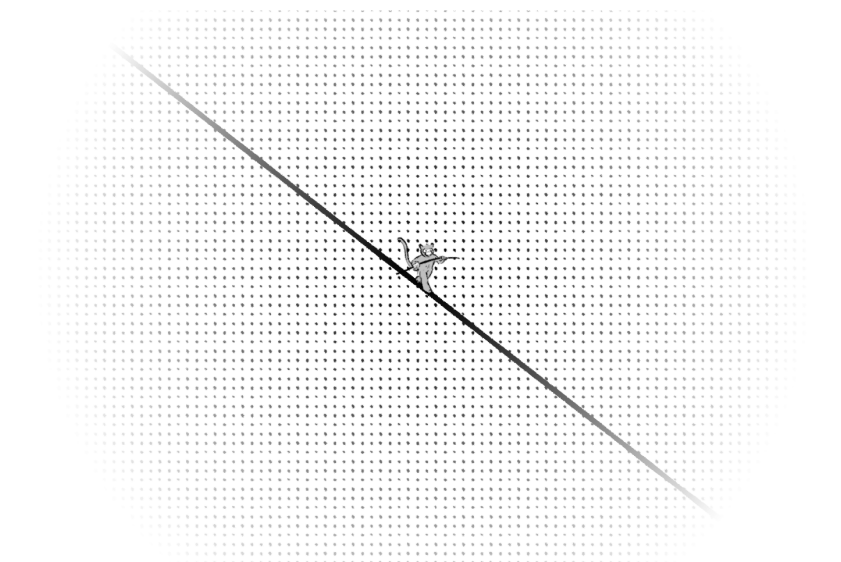
monkeys aren't the unevolved, nor the subhuman,
but a distant sibling from the same ancestor.

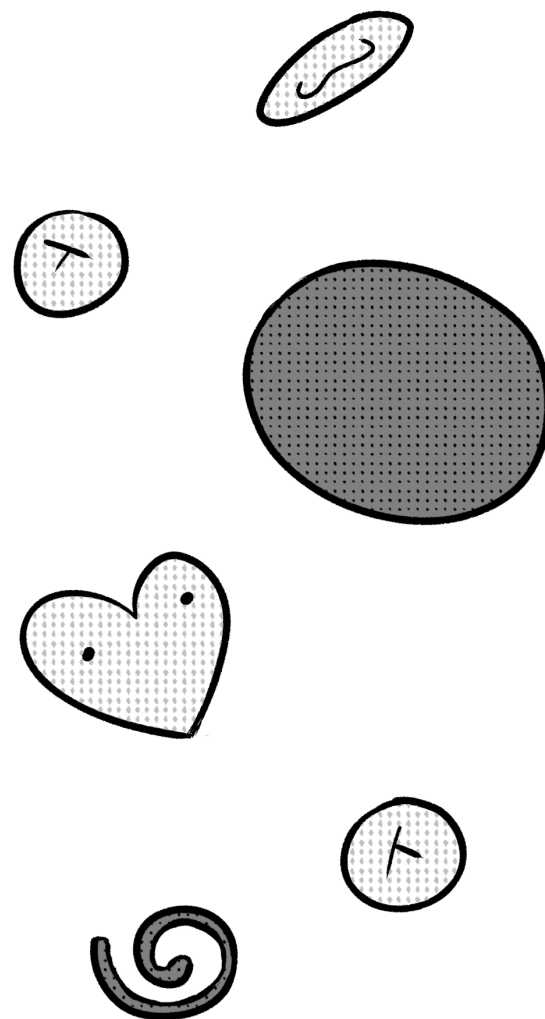


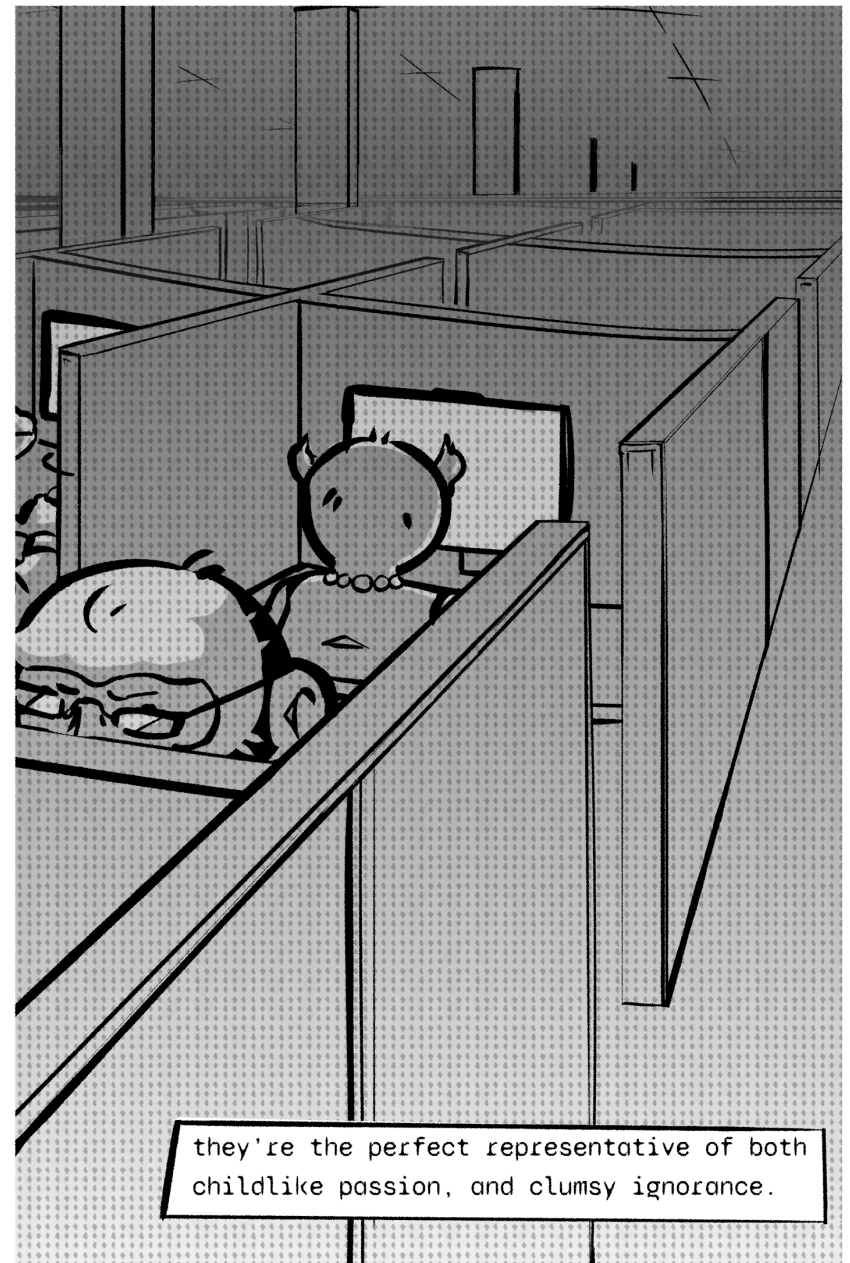
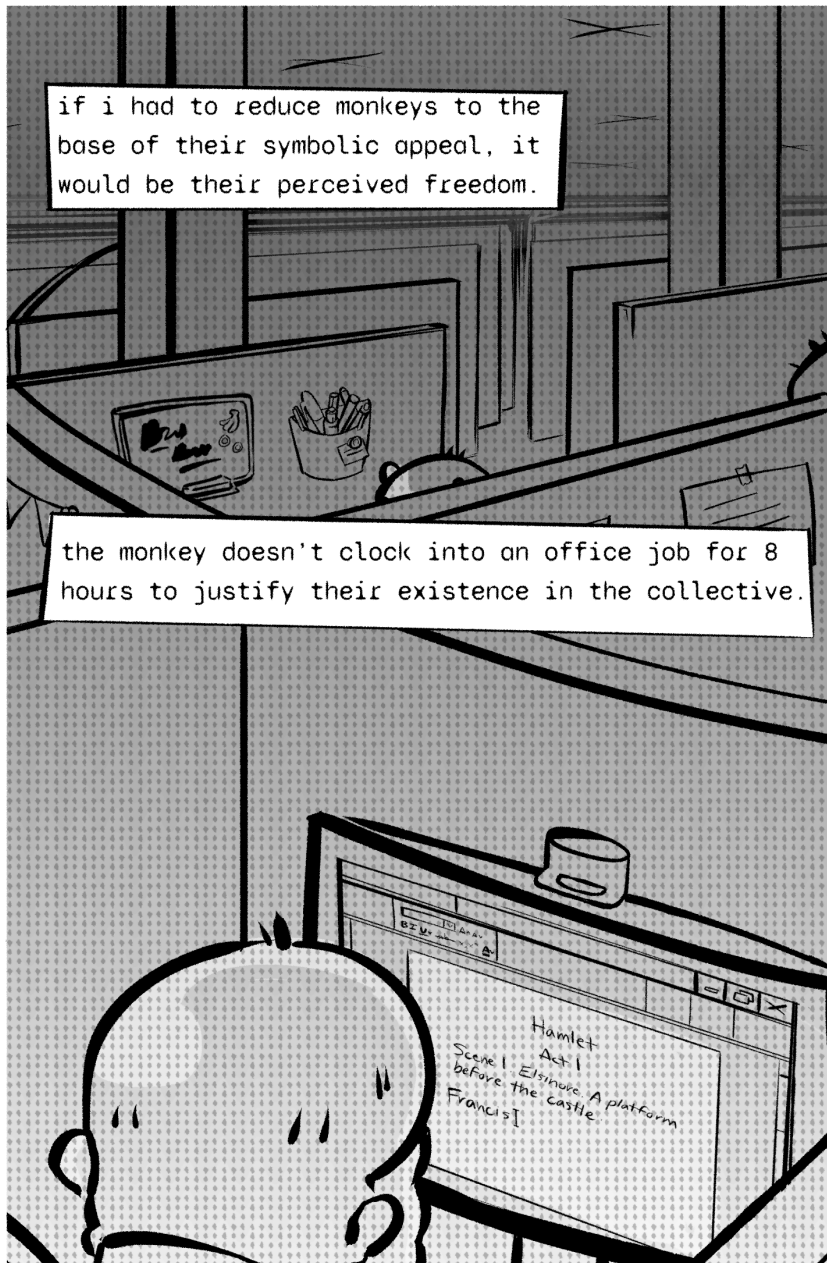
still, the monkey acts as a tool with which
humans attempt to gauge their own humanity.



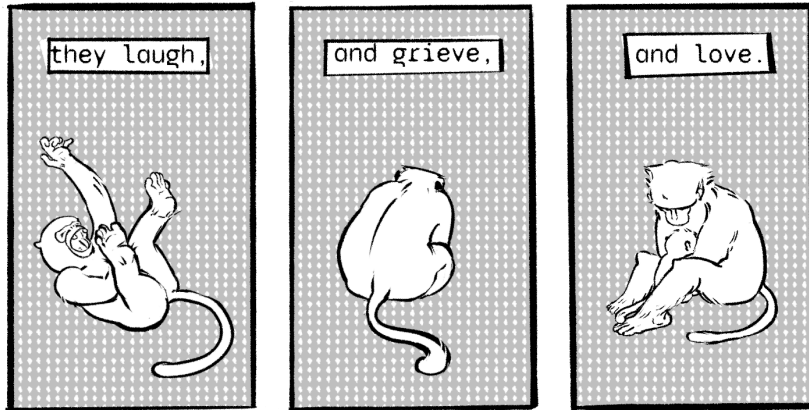
it is that fine line that the monkey walks between
human and animal that continues to intrigue me.



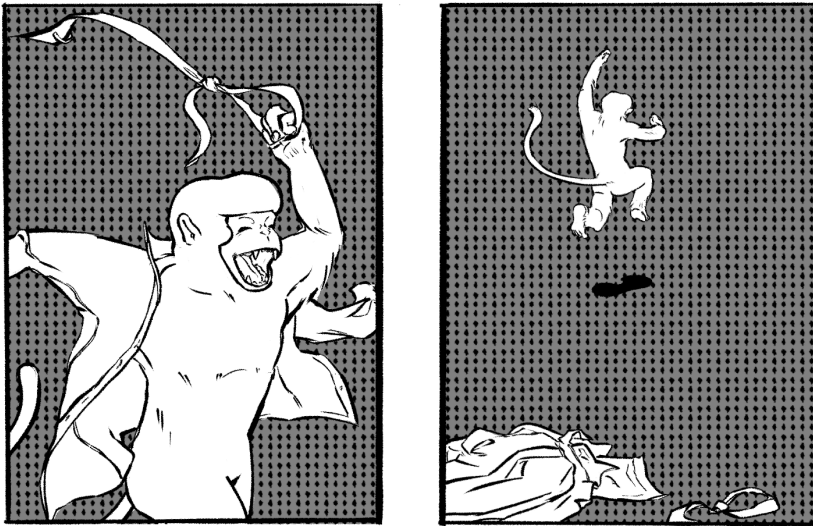




but this perception is ultimately flawed and born from that sense of cultural superiority. the monkey struggles with all the same complexities present in human life;

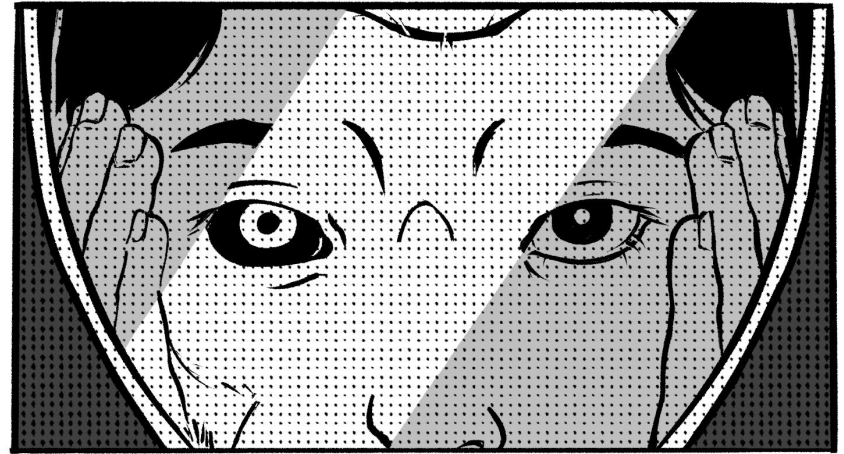


if anything, the only distinguishing freedom monkeys possess is that of expressing their emotions.

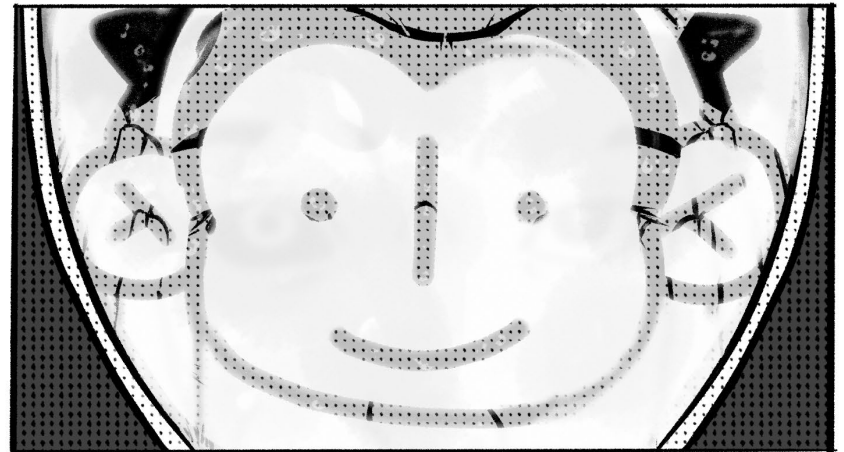


the same trait that diminishes them to "subhuman".

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



my love of monkeys acts as a means of reclamation.

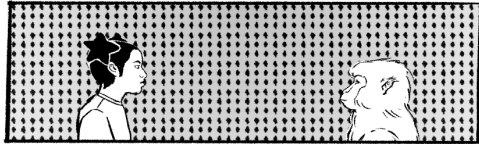


a way to reconcile with the parts of me that aren't human enough.

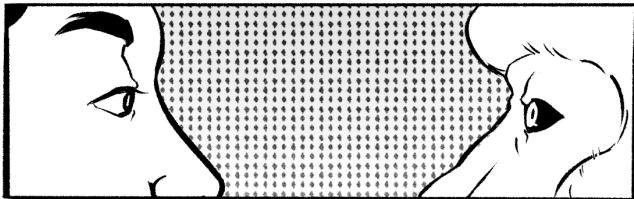
it isn't my wish to become a monkey.



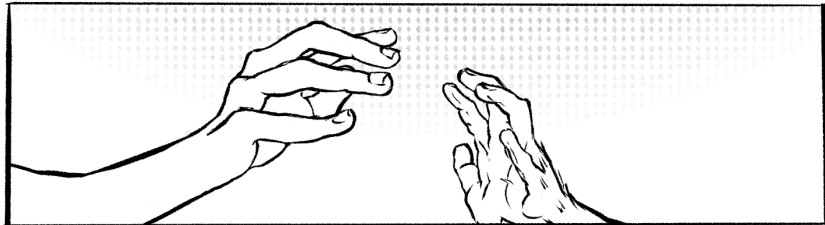
so i don't think it would work out.



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.

