

Spanish
National Comic
Award 2019

El día 3 [The Third of July]

Author: Miguel Ángel Giner Bou and Laura Ballester

Artist: Cristina Durán

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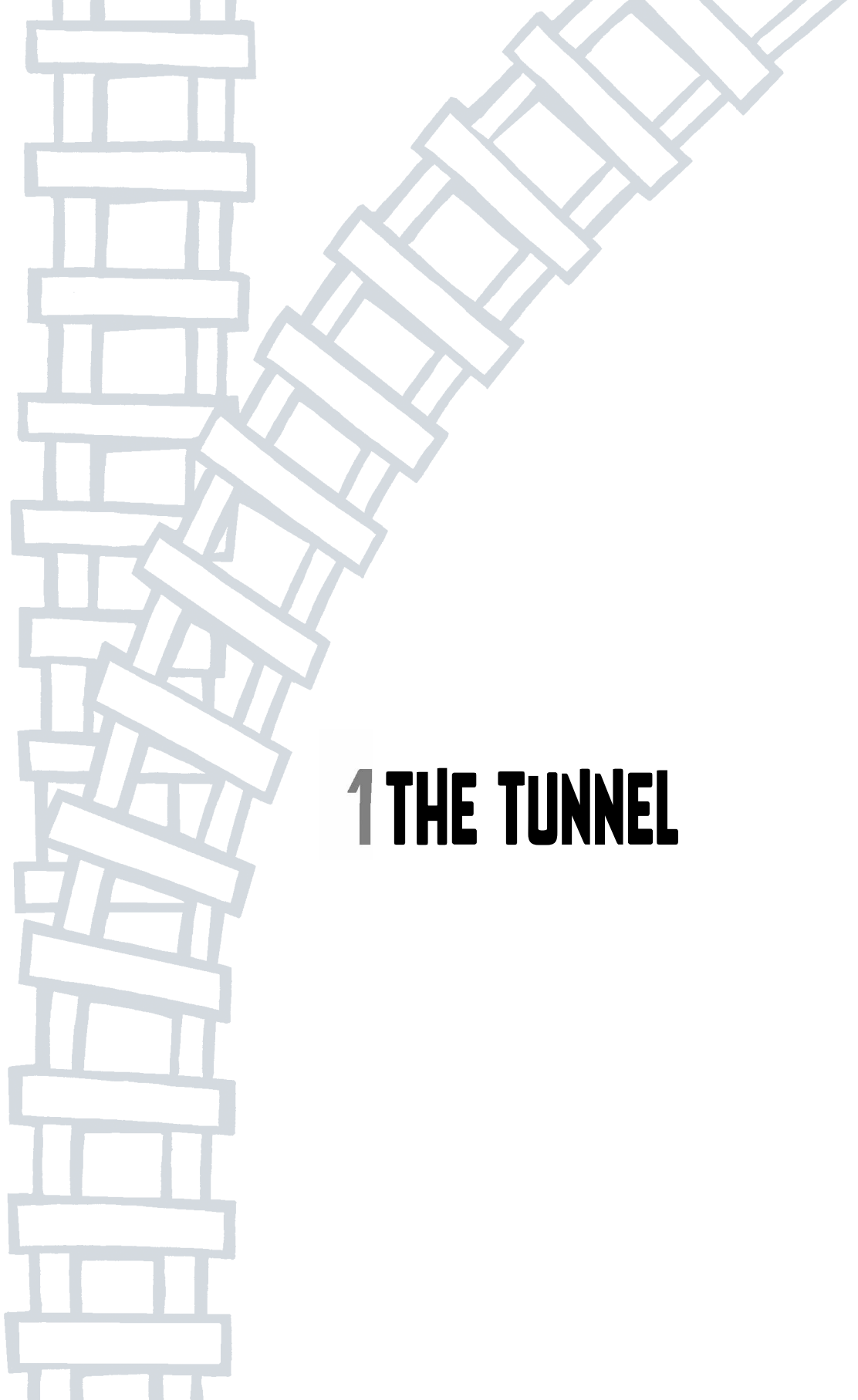
216 pages. 17 x 24 cm. 18 euros

World rights

Institutional mismanagement in the wake of tragedy

On July 3, 2006, five days before the pope's visit, Valencia's subway witnessed the worst metro accident in Spanish history: 43 dead, 47 wounded, and hundreds of families broken. On the surface, institutional representatives hurried to turn the page on the incident ahead of the pontiff's imminent arrival. The official version of the fatal accident prevailed, a government blackout obstructed the investigations, and a dense layer of oblivion was laid out over the tragedy.

El día 3 [The Third of July] is the story of a fight against silence, oblivion, and against officially sanctioned lies. A universal story, similar to those which occurred with the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl plane crash (2011), the Santiago de Compostela derailment (2013), or of the Spanair crash (2008): reflecting the mismanagement of a crisis by official institutions, the oblivion into which the victims' families faded, and those families' tireless fight to obtain answers and justice.

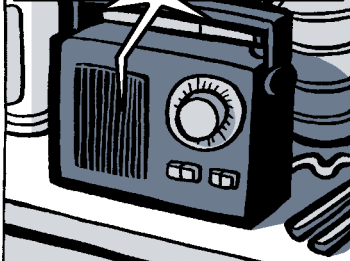


1 THE TUNNEL

I REMEMBER THAT JULY 3RD, 2006,
I CAME HOME EARLY FROM CAMPUS
TO MAKE LUNCH.

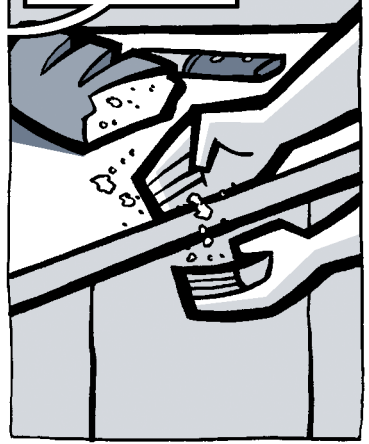


GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU! THERE ARE ONLY
6 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE SUPREME PONTIFF,
BENEDICT XVI, VISITS OUR CITY...



MY DAD CAME HOME FROM
WORK SHORTLY AFTER.

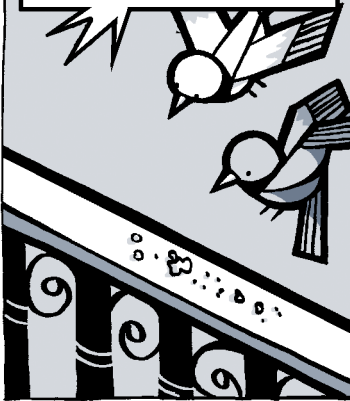
WHAT ARE YOU DOING,
DAD?



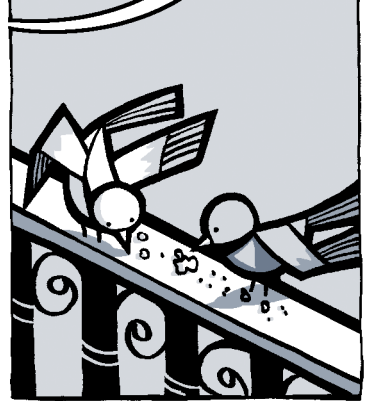
I'M FEEDING THE BIRDS.



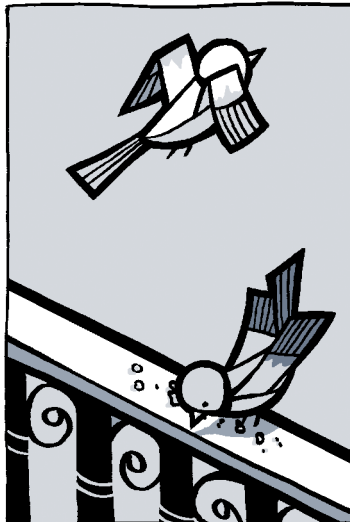
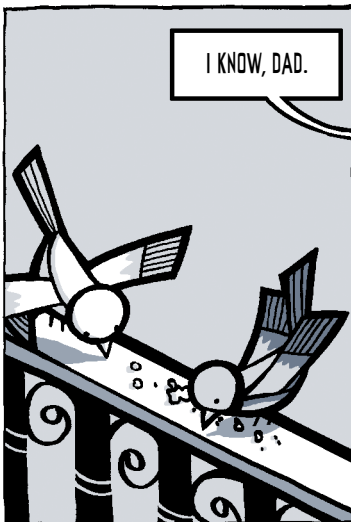
VALENCIA IS ALL DECKED OUT,
EVERYTHING IS READY TO GO FOR
THIS SATURDAY...

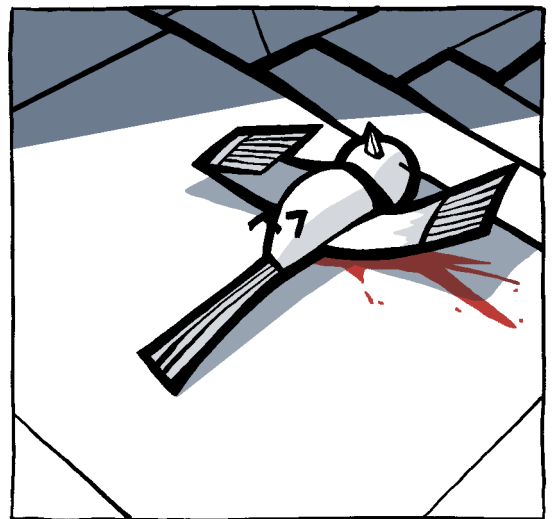
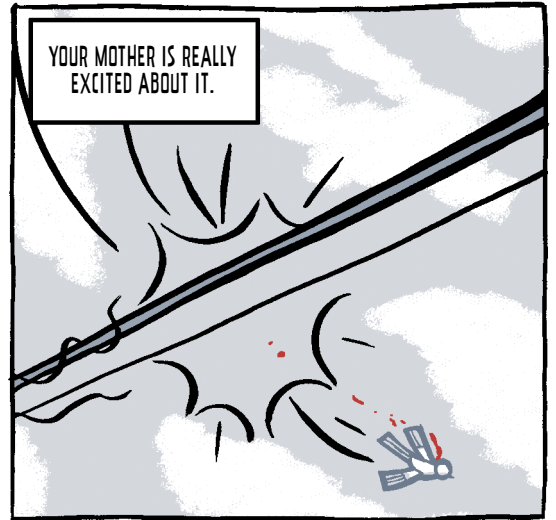
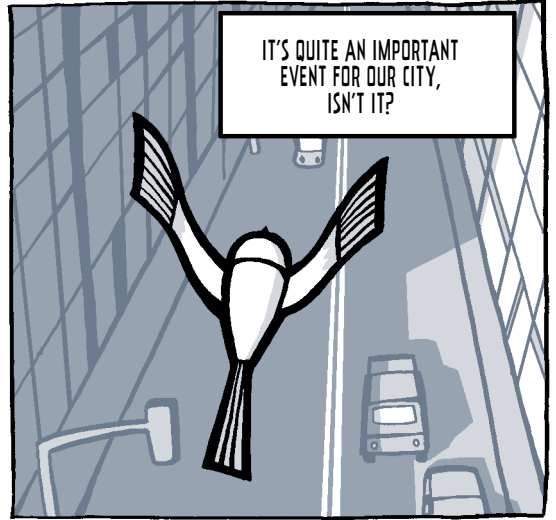


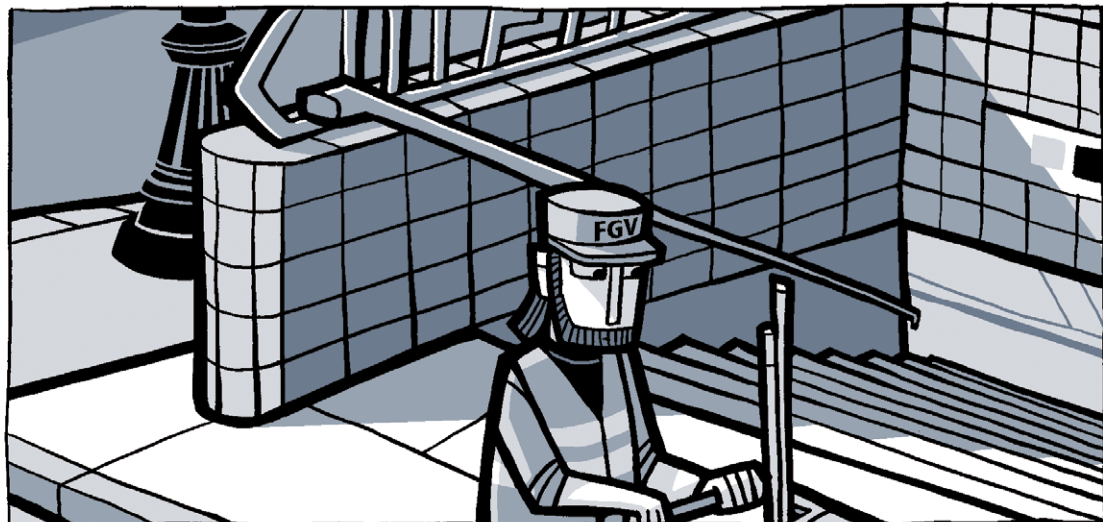
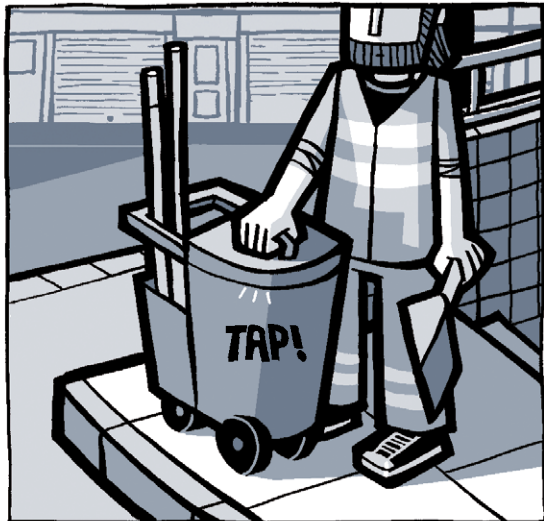
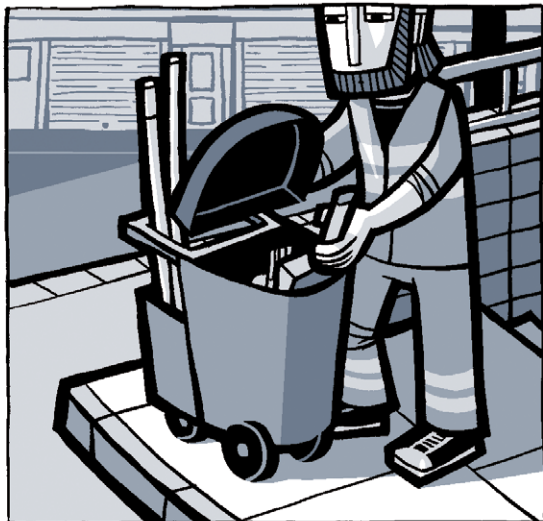
THERE ARE SO FEW DAYS
LEFT UNTIL THE POPE'S VISIT.

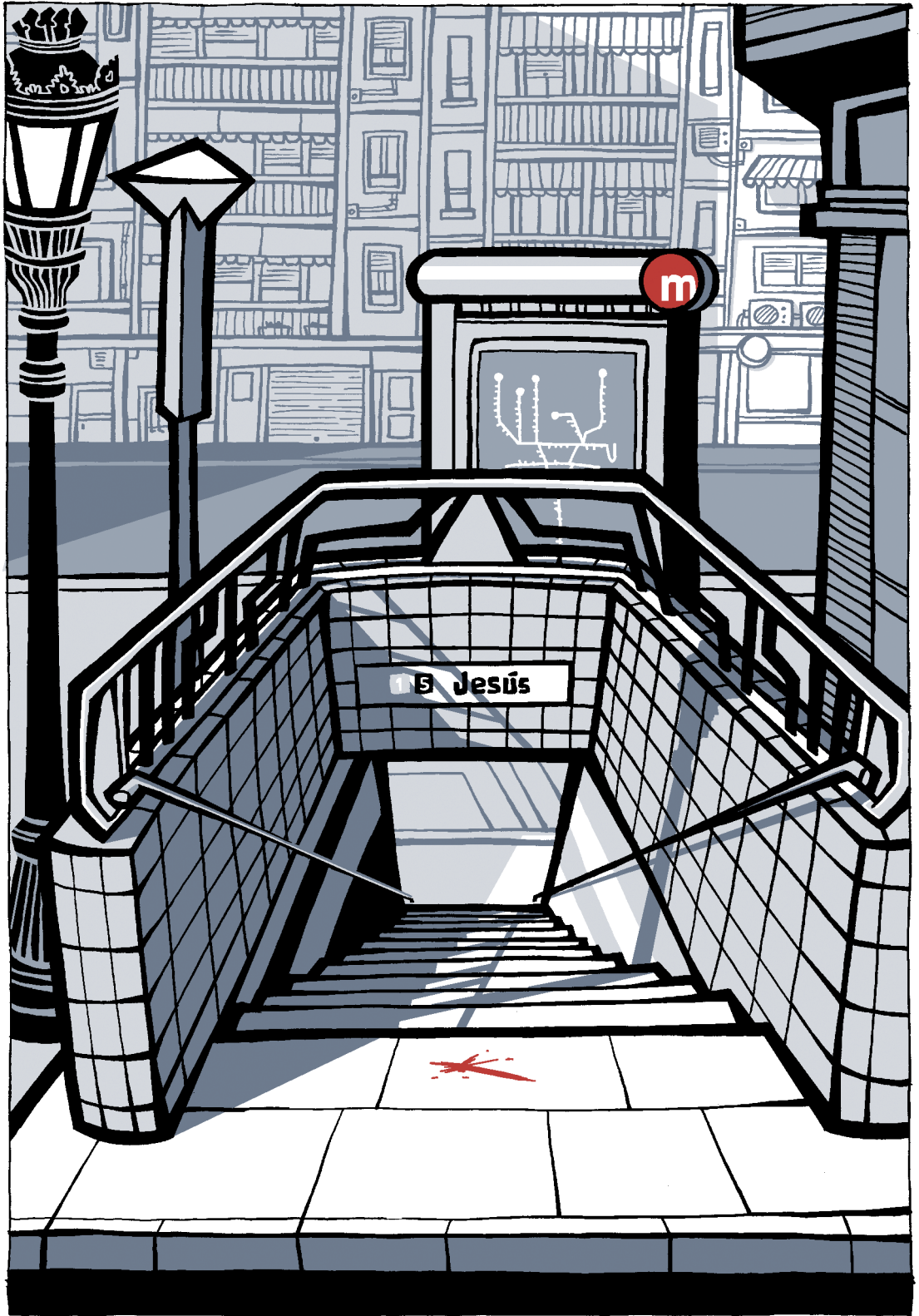


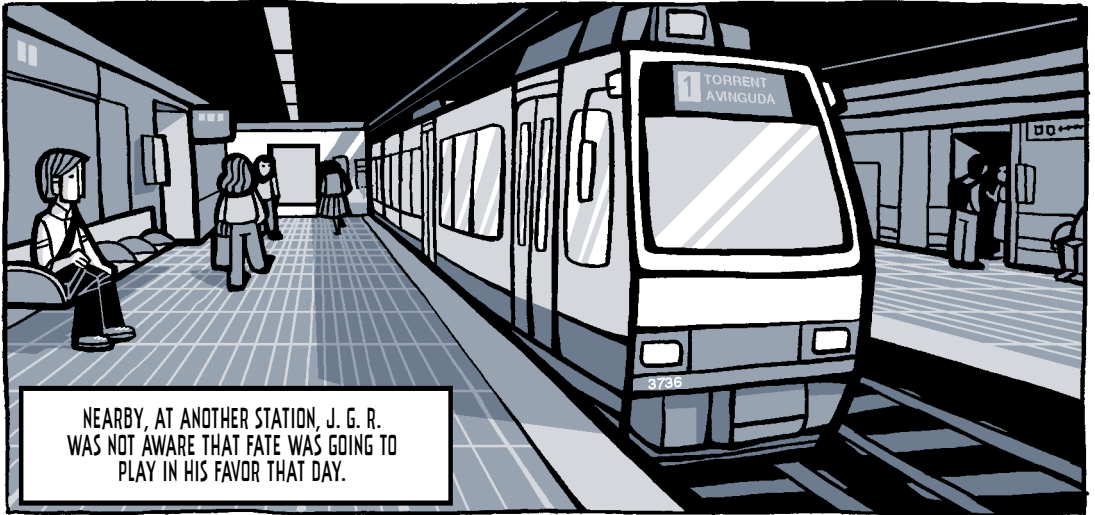
I KNOW, DAD.



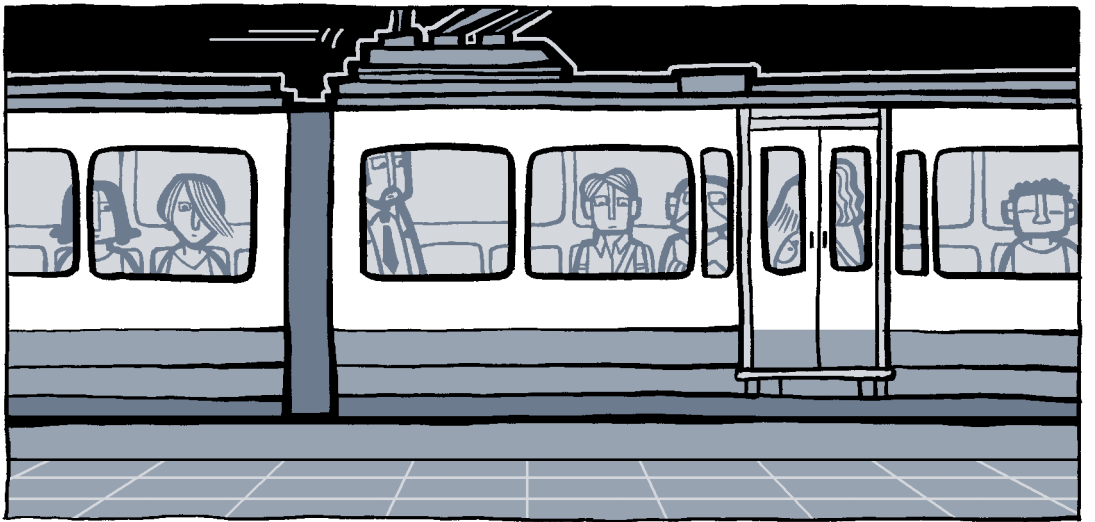


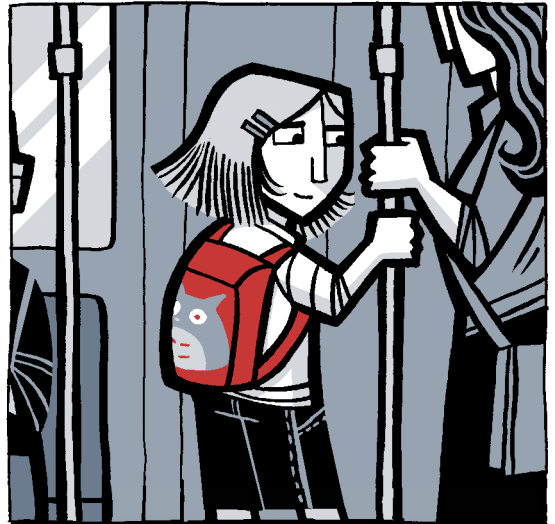
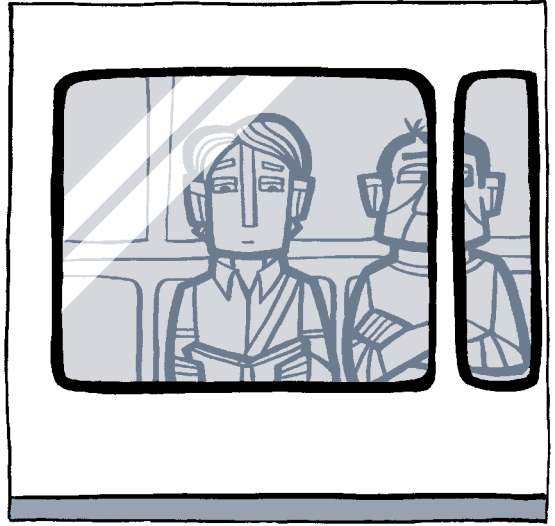




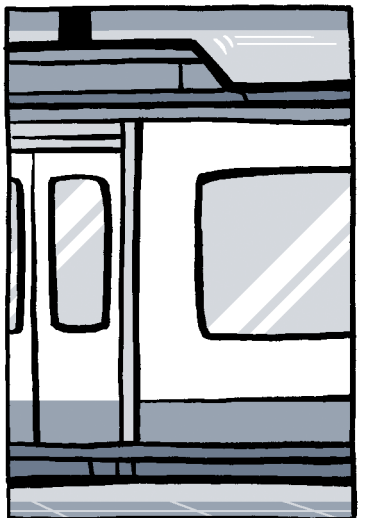
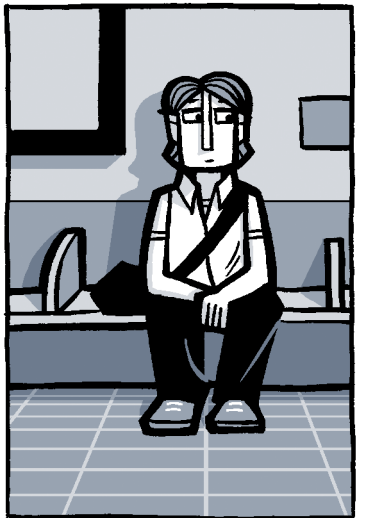
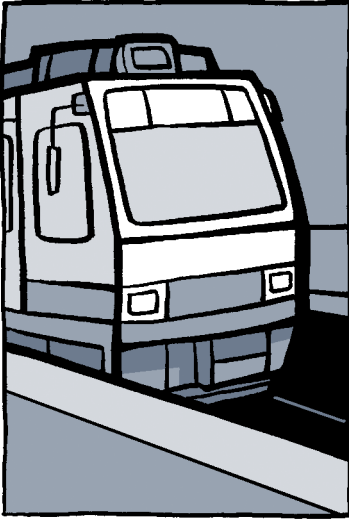


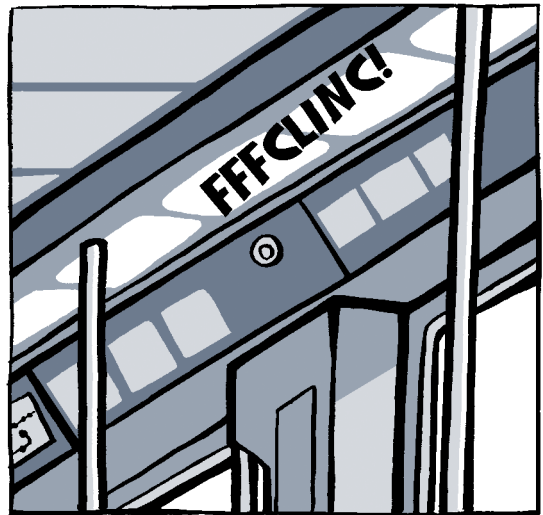
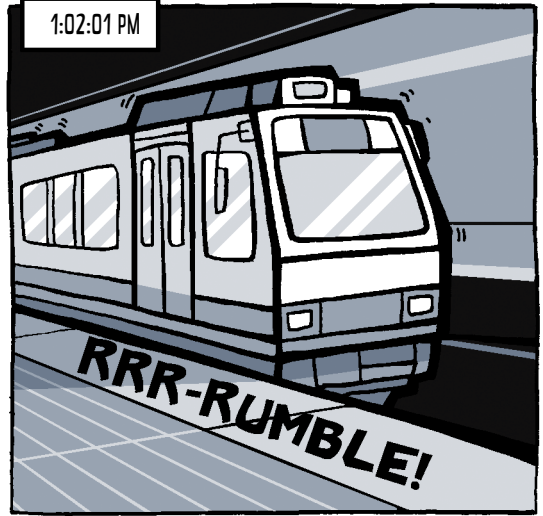
NEARBY, AT ANOTHER STATION, J. G. R. WAS NOT AWARE THAT FATE WAS GOING TO PLAY IN HIS FAVOR THAT DAY.

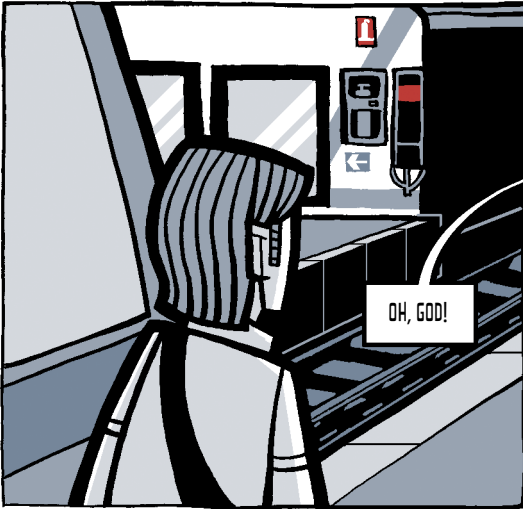
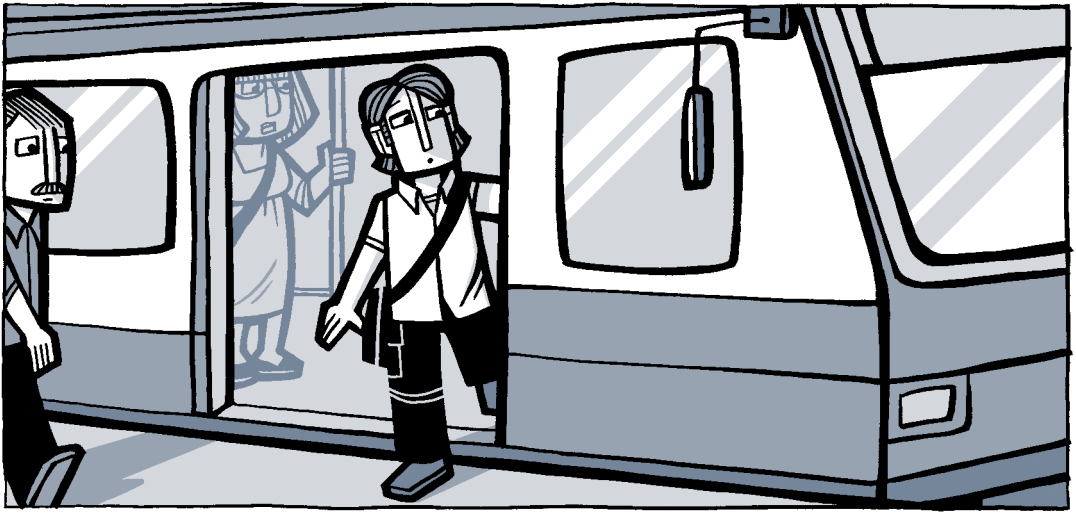


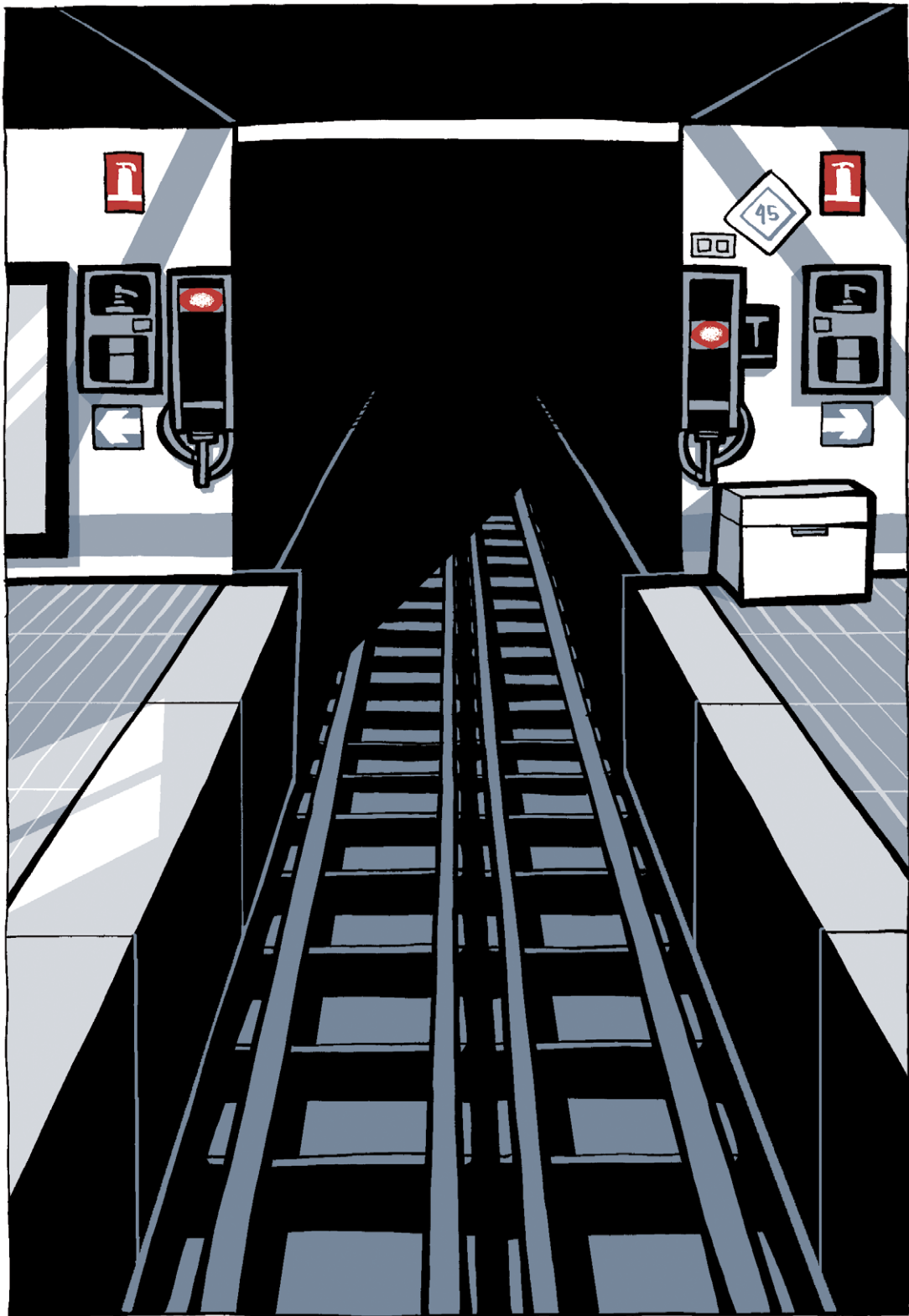


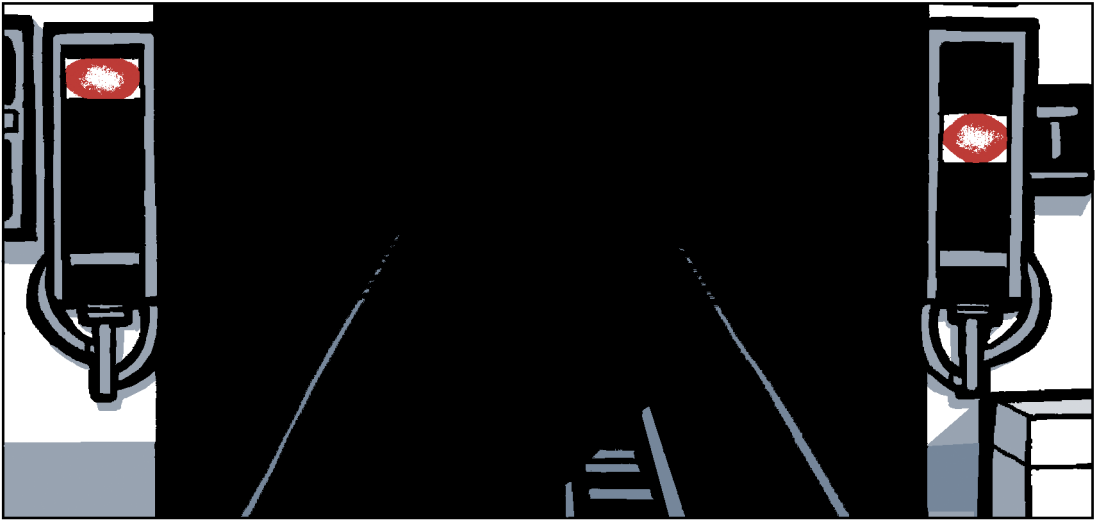
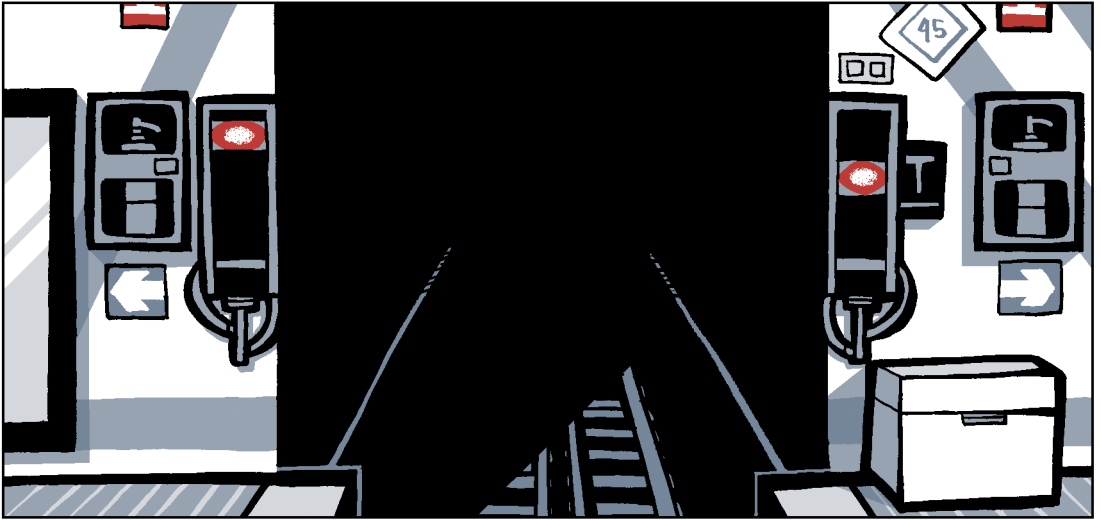












1:03:15 PM

VALENCIA EMERGENCY SERVICES,
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

HELLO? I'M CALLING FROM THE SUBWAY... BETWEEN THE PLAZA DE ESPAÑA AND JÉSUS STOPS... THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT... THE TRAIN CAME OFF THE TRACKS...

THERE AREN'T ANY INJURIES, BUT WE CAN'T GET THE DOORS OPEN...THE...THE CAR IN FRONT OF US HAS OVERTURNED.



VALENCIA EMERGENCY SERVICES, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

THE TRAIN... THE TRAIN HAS OVERTURNED... WE'RE IN THE DARK.

IT'S REALLY HOT IN HERE... AND PEOPLE ARE HURT AND SCREAMING.



OK, CALM DOWN... EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE ON THE WAY...



1:23:00 PM

VALENCIA EMERGENCY SERVICES,
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

HI, IT'S GARCÍA,
WE'RE DOWN BELOW.

FOR NOW WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION
ON THE NUMBER WOUNDED BECAUSE WE STILL
HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH THE CARS.
POWER TO THE OVERHEAD LINE HAS BEEN CUT.

1:30:00 PM

EXITUS, *WE HAVE *EXITUS*...

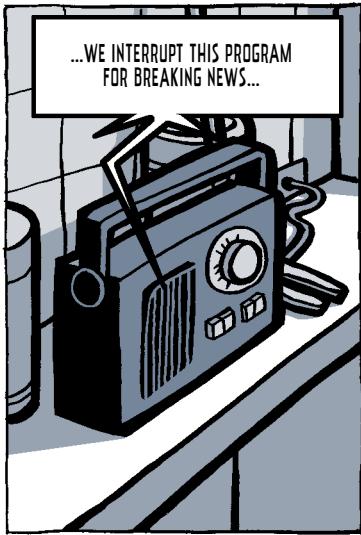
1:34:00 PM

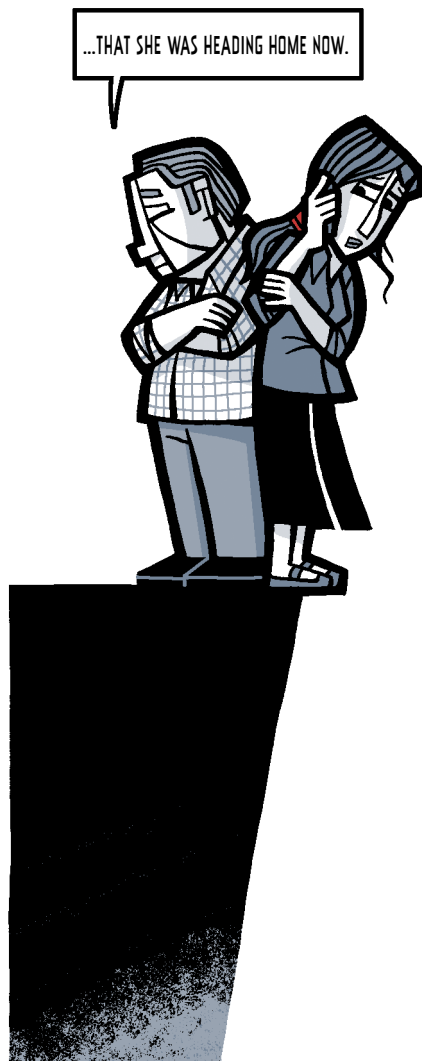
THERE ARE NUMEROUS *EXITUS*,
THE NUMBER IN THE DERAILED
CAR IS UNKNOWN.

1:41:00 PM

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF
WOUNDED NOR OF *EXITUS*, I REPEAT, IT IS
NOT POSSIBLE TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF
WOUNDED NOR OF CASUALTIES.

**EXITUS* MEANS "DEPARTURE" AND IS USED IN MEDICINE AS A SIMPLIFICATION
OF THE PROPER EXPRESSION *EXITUS LETALIS*, WHICH LITERALLY MEANS "MORTAL
DEPARTURE" OR "DEPARTURE CAUSING DEATH."

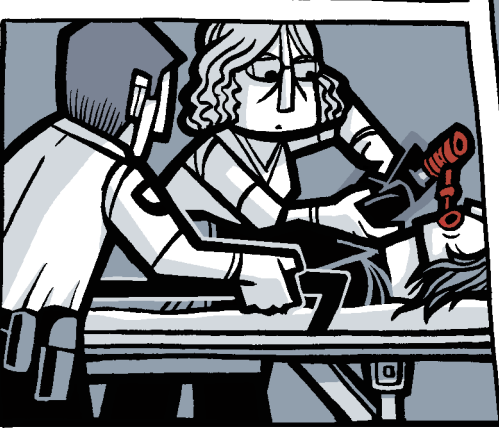




WHEN, WITH OUR HEARTS IN OUR MOUTHS, WE ARRIVED AT THE ESTACIÓN DE JESÚS, WE CAME ACROSS REAL CHAOS.





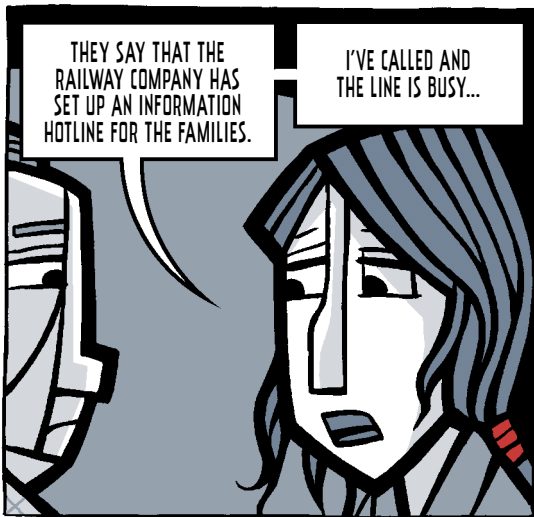


ONLY AN HOUR LATER, AFTER AN IMPRESSIVE JOB BY THE FIRST RESPONDERS, ALL OF THE PASSENGERS HAD BEEN EVACUATED AND THE WOUNDED TRANSFERRED TO THE HOSPITALS.



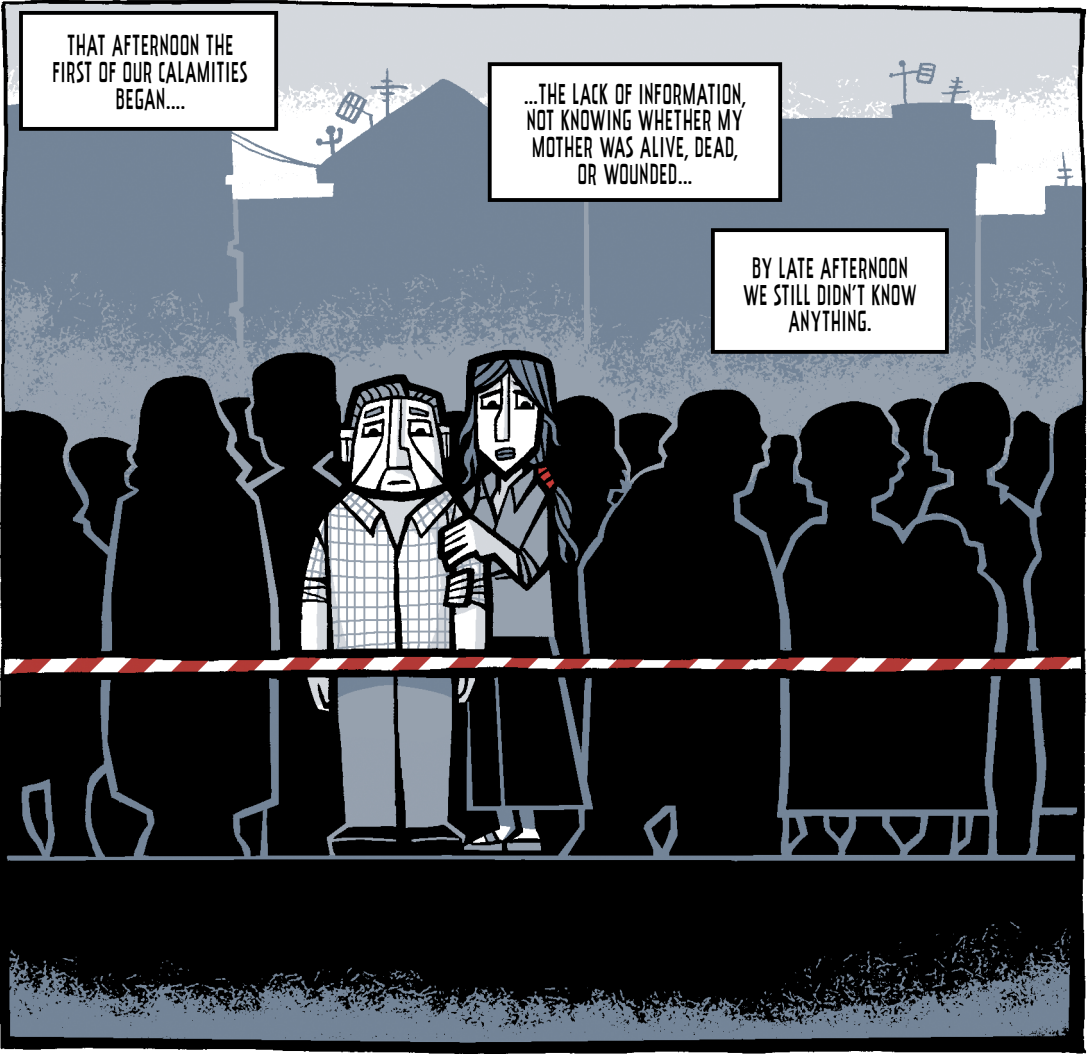
HAVE YOU FOUND OUT ANYTHING?

NO... THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TELL ME ANYTHING. THIS IS A NIGHTMARE...



THEY SAY THAT THE RAILWAY COMPANY HAS SET UP AN INFORMATION HOTLINE FOR THE FAMILIES.

I'VE CALLED AND THE LINE IS BUSY...



THAT AFTERNOON THE FIRST OF OUR CALAMITIES BEGAN....

...THE LACK OF INFORMATION, NOT KNOWING WHETHER MY MOTHER WAS ALIVE, DEAD, OR WOUNDED...

BY LATE AFTERNOON WE STILL DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN
HERE, AS LONG AS NOBODY
LOSES THEIR NERVE.

WE CAN'T LET THIS GET
OUT OF HAND...

IT'S CRUCIAL THAT WE DON'T COMMIT
THE SAME ERRORS THAT THEY DID
WITH THE MADRID TRAIN BOMBINGS
OR THE LOKOMOTIV YAROSLAVL CRASH
WITH THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE
BODIES AND COMPENSATIONS.

YES, SETTLE THE QUESTION OF
COMPENSATIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE....

KEEP AN EYE ON CANAL 9,* MAKE SURE THEY KEEP
FOCUSING ON THE POPE'S VISIT AT ALL TIMES.

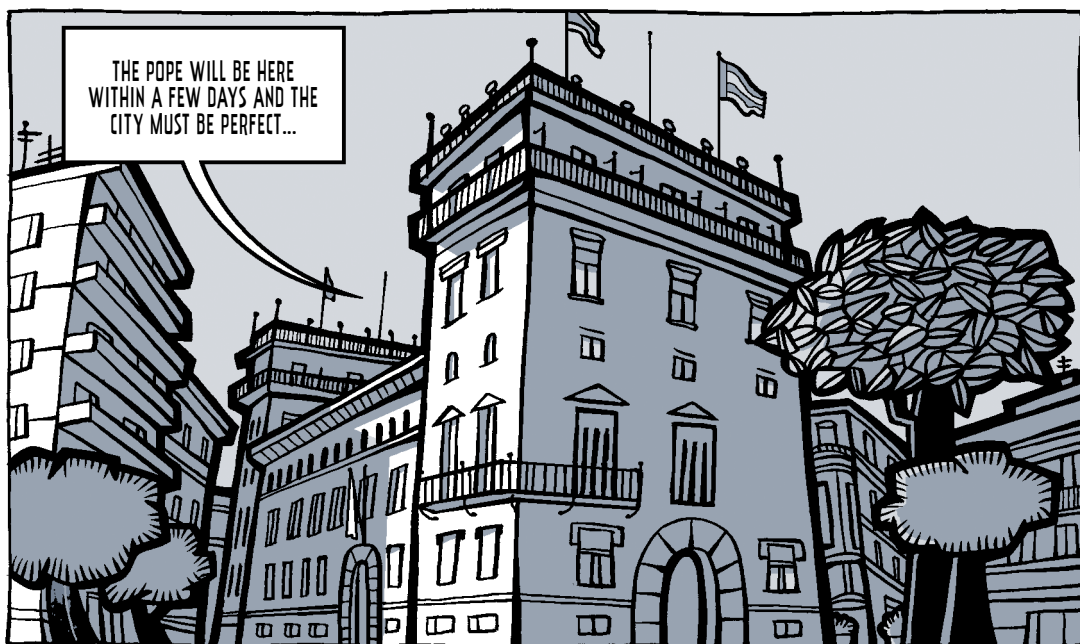
DO WE KNOW WHO
THE JUDGE WILL BE?

NOT YET.

GOOD, LET'S BE READY.

*CANAL 9: VALENCIAN PUBLIC TELEVISION AT THE TIME.

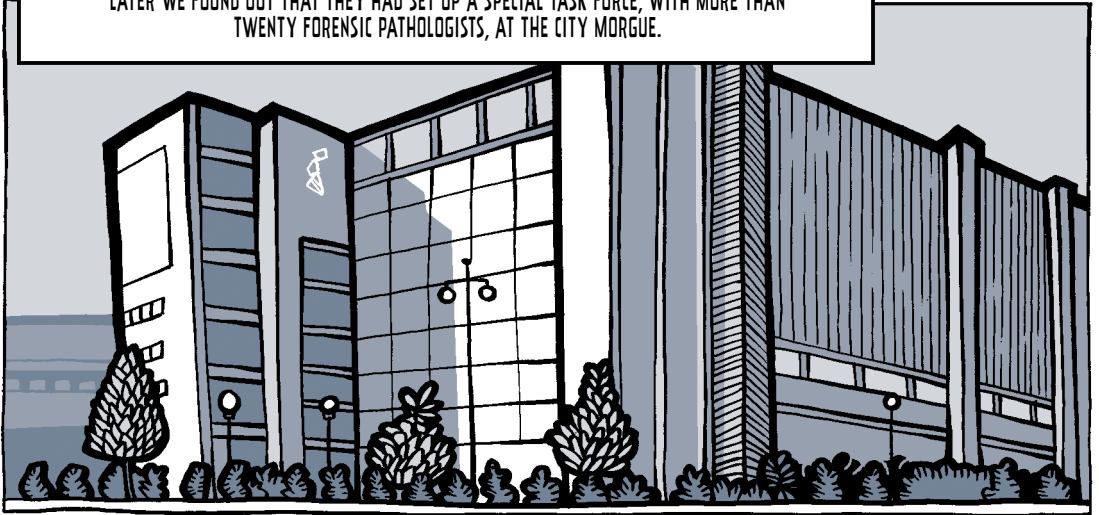
THE POPE WILL BE HERE
WITHIN A FEW DAYS AND THE
CITY MUST BE PERFECT...



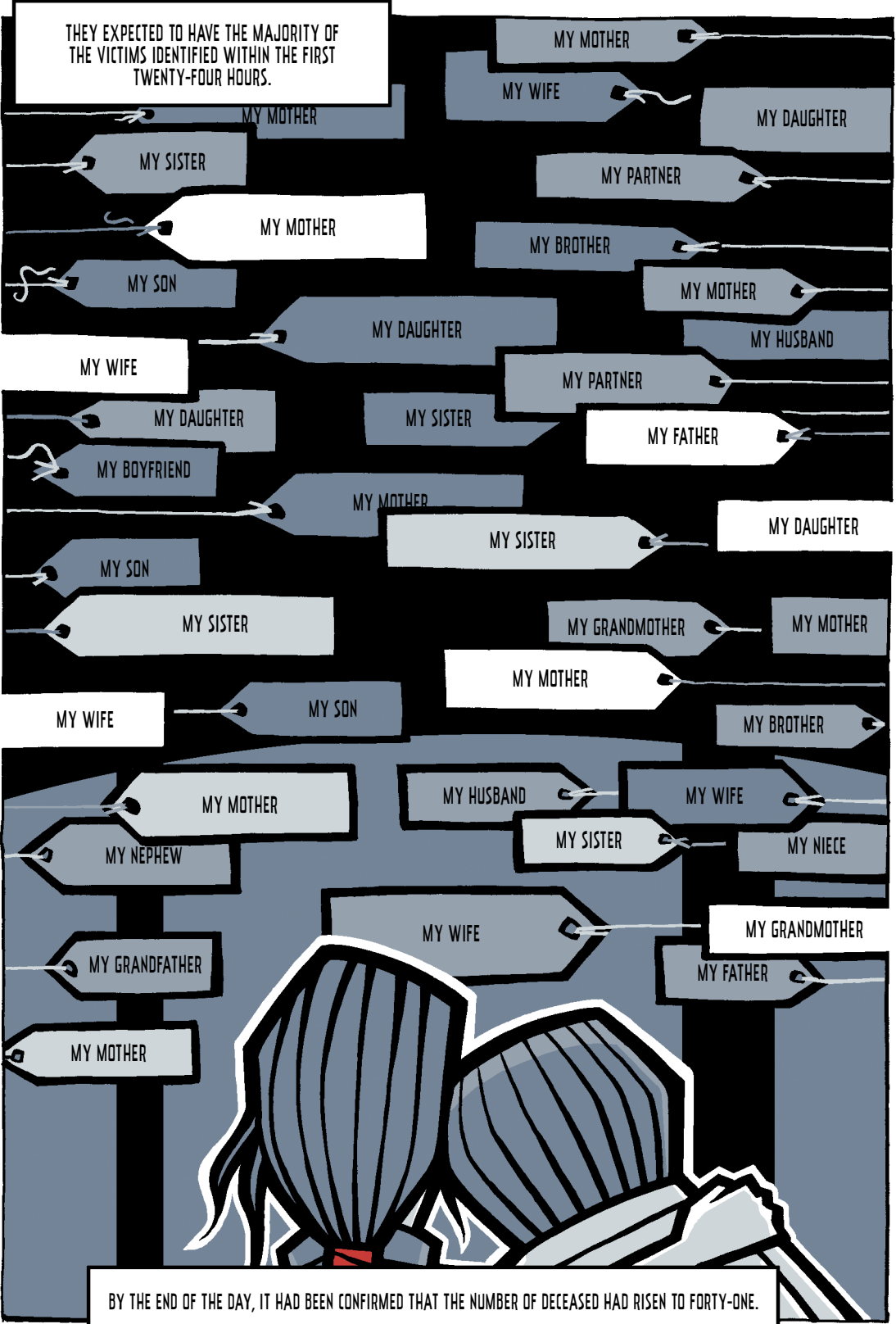
THIS IS A TIME FOR CELEBRATION,
NOT FOR SADNESS.

THIS BUILDING IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE VALENCIAN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

LATER WE FOUND OUT THAT THEY HAD SET UP A SPECIAL TASK FORCE, WITH MORE THAN TWENTY FORENSIC PATHOLOGISTS, AT THE CITY MORGUE.



THEY EXPECTED TO HAVE THE MAJORITY OF THE VICTIMS IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.



BY THE END OF THE DAY, IT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE NUMBER OF DECEASED HAD RISEN TO FORTY-ONE.