
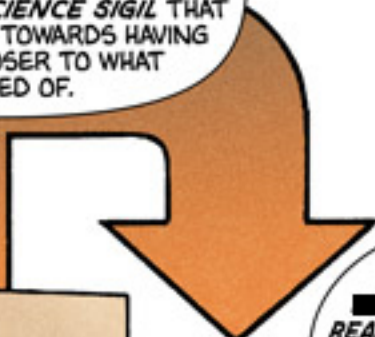


A man with short, dark hair, seen from behind, wearing a green t-shirt. He is standing on a tiled balcony or terrace, looking out over a tropical city at sunset. The city is densely packed with buildings and palm trees, situated along a coastline. The sky is a mix of orange and green, with a dark, stormy sea in the distance. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper middle of the frame.


NOTHING
IS TOO GOOD
TO LAST.




THE PREVIOUS PAGE IS ALSO THE LAST PAGE OF *CHANGE*, THE COMIC I WROTE IN 2012 THAT MASSIVELY...UM, CHANGED MY LIFE. I SOMEHOW, ONLY PART-CONSCIOUSLY, CREATED A *MAGIC/SCIENCE SIGIL* THAT HELPED PROPEL ME TOWARDS HAVING A LIFE MUCH CLOSER TO WHAT I DREAMED OF.




BEFORE YOU SAY THAT *MAGIC* IS **██████████** AND *SCIENCE* IS **REAL**, CONSIDER THIS: *SCIENCE* AND *MAGIC* ARE *TWO NAMES FOR THE SAME THING*, SEPARATED ONLY BY THAT WHICH IS VISIBLE AND WHICH IS NOT.




EVERYTHING IS *MAGIC*. EVERYTHING IS *SCIENCE*. THE *DIVISIONS* ARE *FALSE*.



ANYWAY, IN LATE 2012 I WAS IN A ROUGH SPOT, GETTING DIVORCED, HAVING NO MONEY, BEING BADLY SICK, FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE, AND THAT'S WHEN I STARTED TO REALIZE...



... I LIVE MY LIFE THE BEST, AND I DO MY BEST WORK, WHEN I FOCUS ON BEING ME. WHEN I AM SINCERE UNTIL IT, IN SOME CASES, HURTS.



SO I WROTE *CHANGE*. AND I WROTE MYSELF OUT OF IT. AND NOW WE'RE HERE. WITH THE OTHER PART OF THE PUZZLE. BECAUSE THIS WHOLE THING--



--IT'S NOT FINISHED.



LANGDON, TAKE OUT THE LABRET, PLEASE. IT'S NOT IN MY CHIN.



THANK YOU.

NOW PLEASE ERASE THE BUILDING. THIS ISN'T MY PLACE.

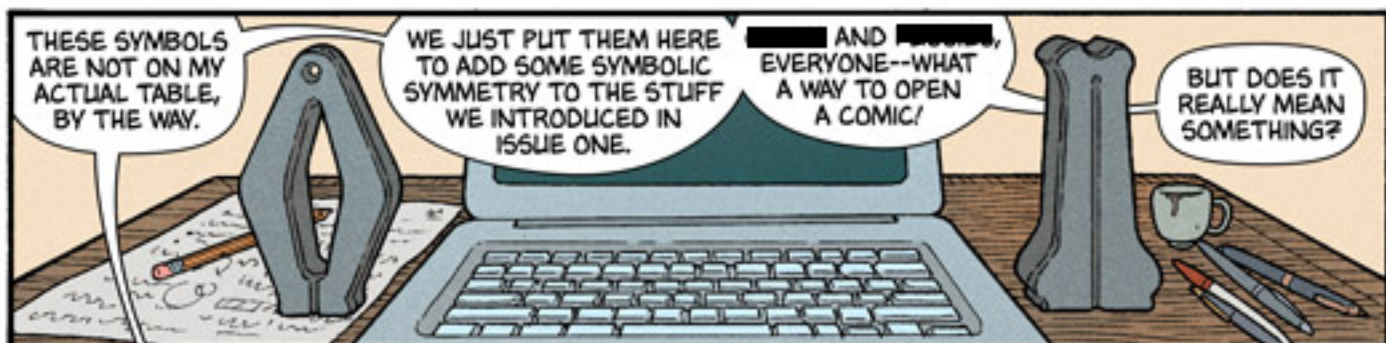
MY PLACE IS A PART OF A HOUSE IN HIGHLAND PARK. IT'S WONDERFUL BUT IT AINT A MASSIVE HOUSE IN MALIBU.



I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I'D EVER WANT A HOUSE IN MALIBU. I MOSTLY WANT THE VIEW.

I WANT A HOUSE ON A CLIFF. ON A REALLY HIGH CLIFF. SO I COULD SEE THE OCEAN AND FEEL THE DIRT UNDERNEATH MY FEET.

AND AT NIGHT THE WIND WOULD RAGE. AND SOMETIMES A STORM.



THESE SYMBOLS ARE NOT ON MY ACTUAL TABLE, BY THE WAY.

WE JUST PUT THEM HERE TO ADD SOME SYMBOLIC SYMMETRY TO THE STUFF WE INTRODUCED IN ISSUE ONE.

AND EVERYONE--WHAT A WAY TO OPEN A COMIC!

BUT DOES IT REALLY MEAN SOMETHING?



OH, AND LANGDON...

MY HAIR'S NOT THIS LENGTH RIGHT NOW...



OKAY. THE HAIR.