





MY NEXT TRAUMATIZING TALE COMES POSITIVELY CRAWLING WITH INSECT INTRIGUE, AS A YOUNG MAN LEARNS IT MAY NOT BE IN HIS BEST INTEREST TO ANT-AGONIZE...

OUR FRIEND, THE ANT



YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE LITTLE BUGGERS...

SQUOOOSH



FORGET SMART CAMERAS AND ROBO-DRONES AND ALL THAT EXPENSIVE-TO-REPLACE CRAP YOU WANT INTEL? I COULD COUNT THE SKID MARKS IN THE TARGET'S TIGHTY-WHITEYS FROM THE ROACH-INFESTED SAFETY OF MY STUDIO APARTMENT WITH THIS BIOTECH. I'D SURE LIKE TO COUNT YOUR--

ENOUGH OF YOUR SALES PITCH, MR. GIBBONS. WE'RE DEFINITELY INTERESTED-- IN THE PRODUCT--BUT WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO WAIT ANY LONGER. ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE US A DEMONSTRATION, OR NOT?



OH, UH, YEAH, FOR SURE, JUST GIVE ME A FEW MORE DAYS TO... PREP MY, UM, TEAM.

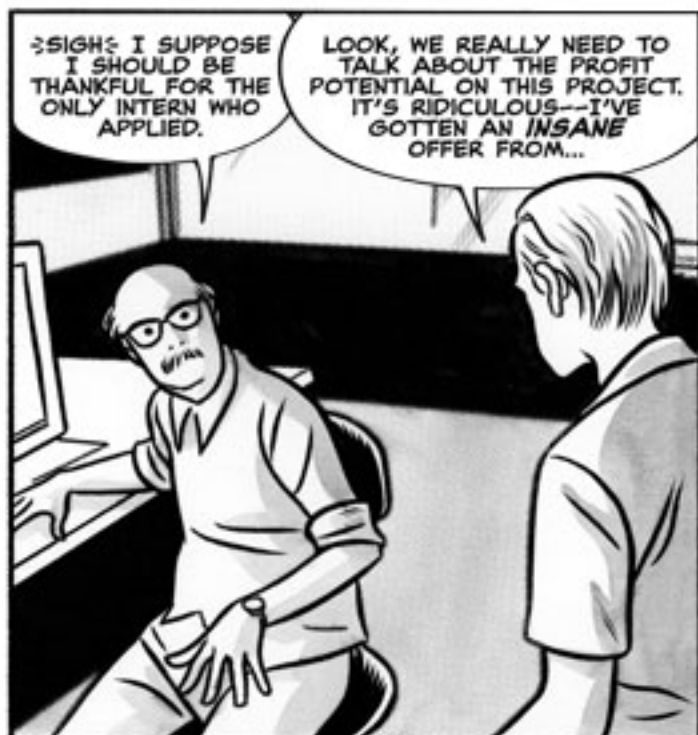


TOMAS, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



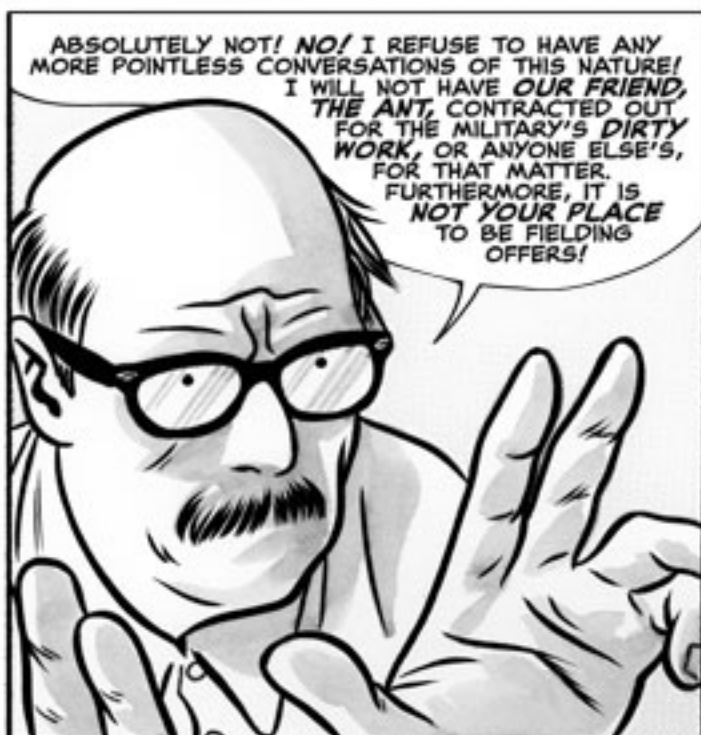
I CAN'T TRANSCRIBE AND CORRELATE ALL THIS LINGUISTICS DATA MYSELF. THE TECHNICAL WORKAROUND FOR THE ANT'S NATURAL PHEROMONE COMMUNICATION HAS PROVEN TIME CONSUMING ENOUGH!

RIGHT, YEAH. I KINDA HAD THIS MEETING TO GO TO.



↳SIGH I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR THE ONLY INTERN WHO APPLIED.

LOOK, WE REALLY NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE PROFIT POTENTIAL ON THIS PROJECT. IT'S RIDICULOUS--I'VE GOTTEN AN *INSANE* OFFER FROM...



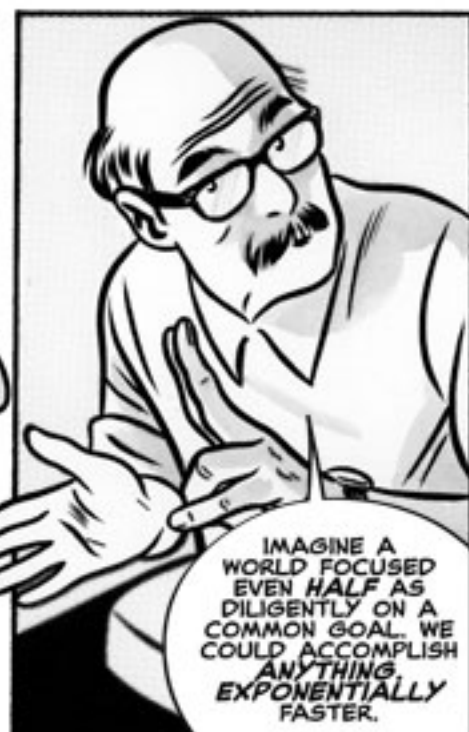
ABSOLUTELY NOT! NO! I REFUSE TO HAVE ANY MORE POINTLESS CONVERSATIONS OF THIS NATURE! I WILL NOT HAVE *OUR FRIEND, THE ANT*, CONTRACTED OUT FOR THE MILITARY'S DIRTY WORK, OR ANYONE ELSE'S, FOR THAT MATTER. FURTHERMORE, IT IS *NOT YOUR PLACE* TO BE FIELDING OFFERS!



OH, COME ON! WHY ARE YOU EVEN DOING THIS? WHAT GOOD DOES TALKING TO FREAKING ANTS DO ANYBODY?!

TOMAS, MY FAMILY DESERTED ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG, BY EXPIRATION OR EMOTIONAL ATTRITION, BUT ANTS WERE ALWAYS THERE FOR ME, GROWING UP IN THE GUTTER.

THE "HIVE MIND" IS A POPULAR MYTH! ANTS ARE INDIVIDUALS, JUST LIKE PEOPLE, BUT THEY DON'T GIVE UP. THERE'S SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR COOPERATION AND INDUSTRIOUSNESS.



IMAGINE A WORLD FOCUSED EVEN HALF AS DILIGENTLY ON A COMMON GOAL. WE COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING EXPONENTIALLY FASTER.



DON'T YOU THINK BEING RICH WOULD GET WHATEVER YOU WANT DONE FASTER?



DISCUSSION **CLOSED!** YOU'VE GOTTEN ME ALL MANNER OF UPSET. I'M GOING TO RETIRE TO MY MEDITATION CHAMBER UNTIL THIS BLINDING ANGER HAS SUBSIDED.

IF YOU'RE STILL ON BOARD THIS PROJECT, WITH ITS **CURRENT** FINANCIAL COMPENSATION, YOU CAN START SORTING THAT DATA.

FINE. YOU WON'T SEE REASON. I GET IT.

>HMF<



HELLO, MY LITTLE FORMICIDAEAN FRIENDS! JAMES2980-A, I SEE YOU'VE GOTTEN OVER THAT NASTY COLD. GOOD ON YOU!



I'LL HAVE TO GET RICH THEN...

OVER YOUR DEAD BODY.

WHAT DID YOU SAY, TOMAS? YOU KNOW I CAN'T HEAR YOU THROUGH THE INTERCOM UNLESS YOU SPEAK UP.



I SAID, UH, "I HAVE DA WET ITCH, BEND OVER YO...HEAD... SNOTTY."

IT'S ONE OF THOSE RAP SONGS YOU HATE SO MUCH.

DELIGHTFUL.

