

A watercolor illustration of a person with pink hair, seen from the side, looking out over a landscape. The person is wearing a brown tunic and has their right arm extended, pointing towards the distance. The landscape features rolling hills in shades of yellow and green, a river or stream in the foreground, and a waterfall on the right. The style is soft and painterly.

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY CHRISTINE DOMÍNGUEZ  
**ONLY FISH CAN TELL**

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Whoever stops to cry, who laments against the hostile stone of discouragement, who sets himself to something other than combat, will not be a winner, he will be a slow loser.

Miguel Hernández

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Supernatural drama.  
90 to 120 pages | 170x240mm |  
Color | Cardboard | Closed ending.

**PHASE: Storyboard**

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# SYNOPSIS

Eva has no hope. Her personal situation isn't going to improve. She went blind in one eye and lost vision in the other in an accident caused by her and in which her partner died. She decided some time ago to isolate herself from everyone in the "Shelter", a huge country house near a swamp. There, they live in a self-sufficient community run by an old woman, strong-willed but charitable, called Ruth.

There, Eva meets Bruno, who came there due to a past marked by bullying and who becomes an indispensable person in her life. However, Bruno feels that the Shelter is not protective as they thought: he is mad at control routines, at meditation sessions with herbs and at punishments for breaking absurd rules. That's why he tries to talk to Eva, but she refuses to listen to him, because since she has been in the Shelter, she feels comfortable, it is the life of her dreams. However, the reality is quite different, because being there allows her to avoid responsibilities, therefore, she can continue to run away from her problems.

However, Eva has a secret, which not even Bruno knows: every night of the full moon, she goes down to the swamp with a group of women who are also looking for a cure for their illnesses and who carry out rituals to contact the spirit of Lucia, a very famous healer from the old town covered by waters until the terrible drought of the last two years. That year, when the full moon fell on the night of the Holy Innocents and during the ritual, Eva decided to move away from the group, because she felt that a voice was calling her. Then, she saw how a translucent and cold hand, with long and weightless fingers, grabbed her shoulder and a voice with a strange tone pronounced her name. Eva did not see anything else, because she ran away.

When she returns to the shelter, she is told that Bruno has disappeared. Eva tries to talk to some girls with whom she had a good relationship and they don't want to tell her anything, it seems that they want to avoid the subject. Eva doesn't believe that Bruno would have left without saying anything and goes to talk to Ruth, in case they know something that hadn't reached the community. Ruth avoids the conversation and says that Bruno left the path a long time ago, yet it was surely Eva's fault that he had left permanently, as had happened on other occasions.

Eva spends days without sleeping, she blames herself for her friend's fate. She feels very bad about how she has treated him and remembers how she treated her family after the accident. It's normal that she is always alone.

Finally, Eva escapes at night to the swamp and walks through it aimlessly. Then, a ball of red rope rolls towards her. Without thinking too much, clinging to that line to follow, she grabs the thread and begins to pull it. Along the way, she finds drawings on the walls that seem to tell the story of the town: it was a town full of people, who were removed from their homes by the authorities, despite the resistance of some of them. She also discovered images of the work on the dam and how it seemed that there were people walled up in its walls. In addition, she also saw some very strange scenes of girls and babies leaving the town.

When she reaches the end of the thread, she finds herself in the ruins of the old church square. The thread ends precisely in this place, it seems to go through a wall. Then, Eva does not hesitate and decides to pull it. With great effort, she manages to make the thread move and it makes the wall fall which appears an avalanche of ghosts, little fish and bones. Eva screams and tries to escape, but the ghosts surround her. They form a whirlwind around her and many voices ask her for help, they assure her that they are not going to harm her if she does listen to them, because they need to not be forgotten. Eva eventually falls dizzy and unconscious in the whirlwind, which dissipates after a great final burst of light. Ruth watches the scene from the Shelter.

Eva wakes up in her room. She is showered, dressed in her nightclothes and, most incredibly, she can see perfectly with both eyes. However, she doesn't have much time to be surprised, because Ruth enters her room. The owner of the house looks at her severely. Eva expects a reprimand for running away at night, but, instead, Ruth tells her that she was missing for three days and that it is lucky that she is alive, because Bruno's body has been found drowned in the area of the swamp where there is still water. Eva cries inconsolably, expecting affection from her protector, but, on the contrary, Ruth gets up without a word or a hug and leaves her locked there, alone, with some knives. Before leaving, she reminds her: "This is your fault, again." The cries of a baby can be heard in the distance, while Eva thinks about what to do.

Eva decides that she is not safe there, escapes again and decides to return home. They welcome her in silence, but excited, and let her be there without asking too many questions. Eva doesn't talk much and just goes along with them. Days go by and she has nightmares; in them, the scenes she saw drawn on the walls of the house in the swamp come to life, as if she herself had been there: she hears the voices of the ghosts, the screams, the pleas, she sees the villagers organizing and rebelling, the punishments imposed on them and she sees some nuns, dressed in a very characteristic habit, taking away a group of girls and babies. These nightmares repeat themselves over and over again, becoming more and more vivid. Among these nightmares, the vision of Bruno dead in the waters of the swamp torments her.

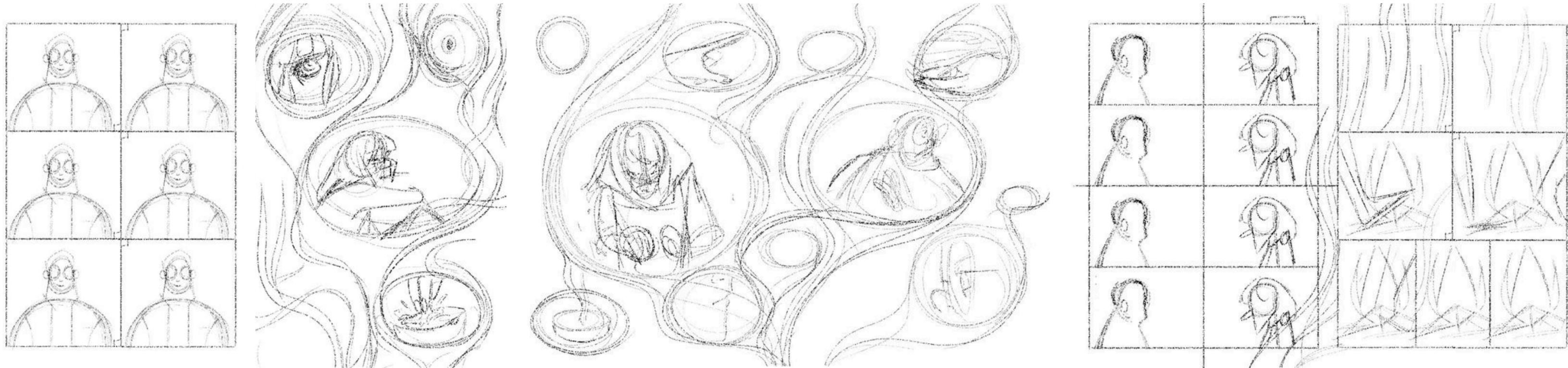
One day, while eating in silence with her family, she hears news that worries her, although she still doesn't quite understand why: they are going to proceed with the demolition of what remains of the village in the swamp. In the images, she is struck by the vision of Ruth dressed in the habit of the nuns from her nightmares. And then she remembers her, younger, yet it was definitely her. On impulse, she turns off the TV, she doesn't want to know anything. Her family looks at her worriedly, because, on top of that, she goes to her room without saying anything else. And yet, she can't stop thinking about it, so finally, she decides to take action.

Eva takes a camera and goes to the swamp to take photos of all the graffiti. Then, Lucía appears and tells her that she healed her eye, but, in exchange, she must help them. When they reach the town square, more or less at dawn, they find a figure in front of the rubble that she did not expect: Ruth. There, the woman tells her that she must stop trying to fix problems that doesn't deal with her: dead people are dead and the past must not be removed.

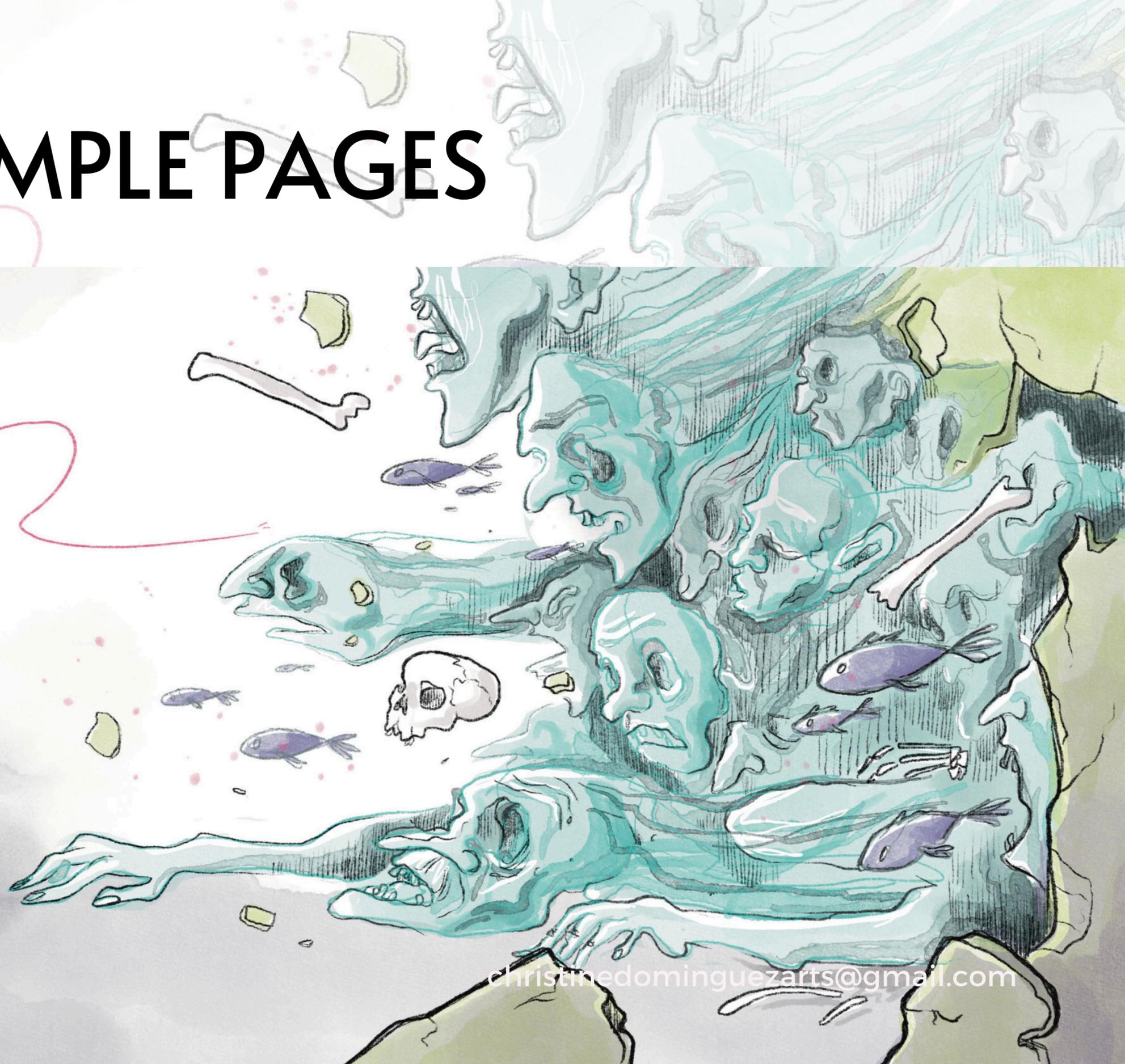
Then, the rest of the ghosts appear and surround Ruth, while they berate her. Despite their supernatural strength, the ghosts do not harm Ruth or scare her. Bruno's ghost also appears, who says that he died by drowning on Ruth's orders. She laughs loudly and sentences the town: "You can't stop this anymore." Eva pounces on her, furious, and, during the struggle, the old woman throws sand in her eyes, so Eva stops seeing and becomes very scared. At that moment, Ruth takes the opportunity to hit her on the head and knock her unconscious.

Eva puts out her last cigarette in her room in the house on the swamp. She has not dreamed again, and yet she knows that everything is real. The room is practically empty and she cannot leave without asking for service or surveillance. Every day from her window she sees new girls arriving at the Shelter. She no longer feels or hears the ghosts, but every morning, she sits at her desk and begins to write, so that no one will ever forget them.

# STORYBOARD



# SAMPLE PAGES





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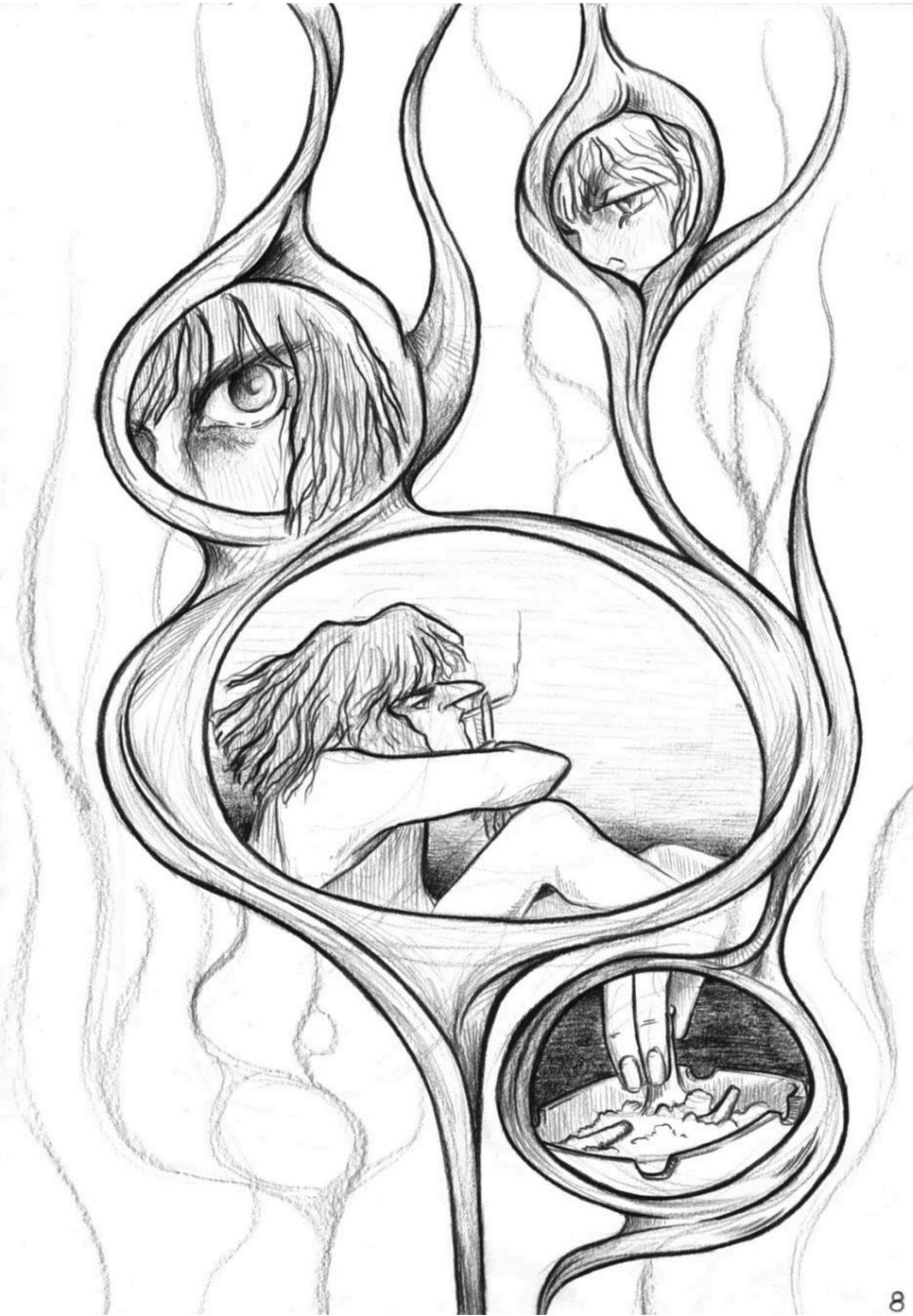


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# CHARACTERS AND BACKGROUNDS

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# Eva, Bruno & Ruth



# BACKGROUNDS

The swamp



The swamp town



The Refuge



# WHY?

Rights and freedoms are lost much faster than they are gained. Hopelessness and lack of vision for the future create an environment of disconnection from reality that encourages the echoes of an intolerant past to become full-fledged voices.

The concept around which my story revolves is the female patronage (or as it was popularly known, “the nuns”), which was an institution that operated in Spain during the Franco regime and until more or less 1985 and whose function was the control of the female population that went beyond the standards accepted by the type of society imposed.

The comic reflects on turbulent times and the possibility that cruelty and intolerance from the institutions themselves could act again and destroy the rights of a large part of the population.

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# BIOGRAPHY

Valencia (Spain), 1994

I studied Fine Arts at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, where I specialized in art direction for animated films. I have participated in some projects in this field, such as the short “Cazando Gamusinos” (2019), in healthy eating campaigns for the AECC YouTube channel or in the live illustrated poetry shows, “Spoken Draws”. In addition, I have carried out illustration commissions for individuals and companies such as Gabol and I have published self-published material such as the short comics “Bailarina” or “La cola de la Lagartija”. Currently, I combine teaching with illustration and the creation of comics, which is what I want to focus on. My stories revolve around themes such as memory, folklore, the abandonment of the rural world and roots.

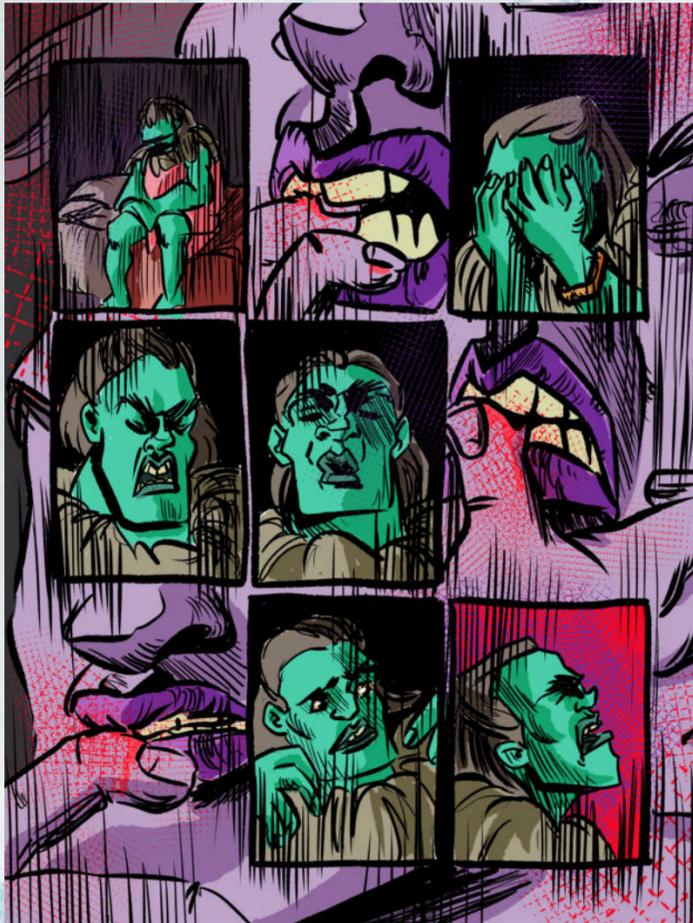
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# OTHER WORKS

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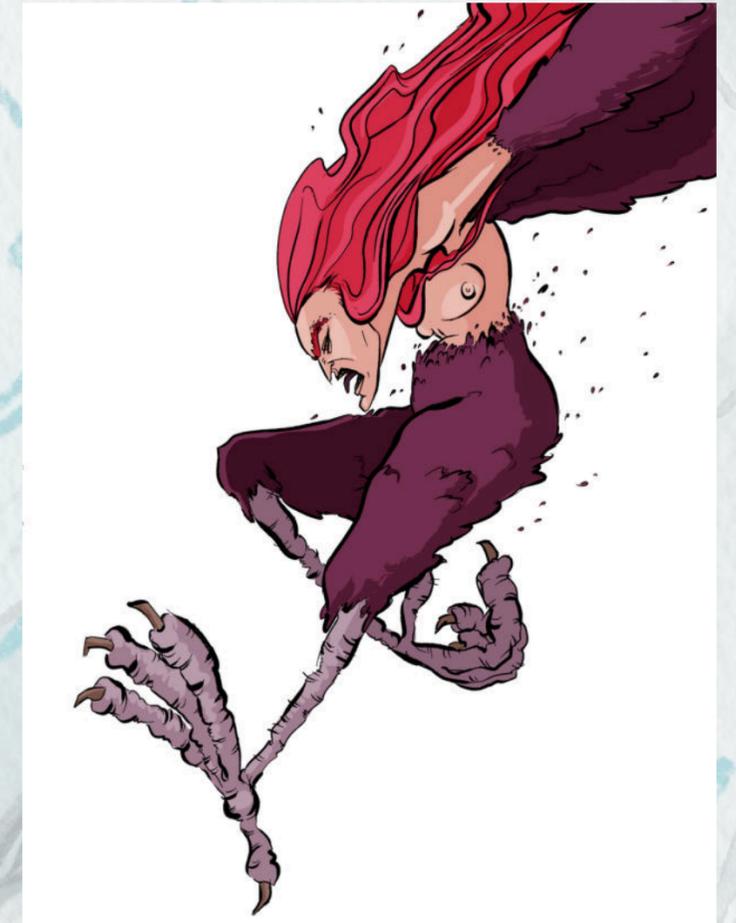
*The Fall*



*Bailarina*



Character design for role-playing and card games





## **THANK YOU FOR PULLING ON THE THREAD!**

If you are not interested on this project, it would be wonderful if you let it reach someone taht could love it.

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