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Opening extract from
Skeleton Key Graphic Novel
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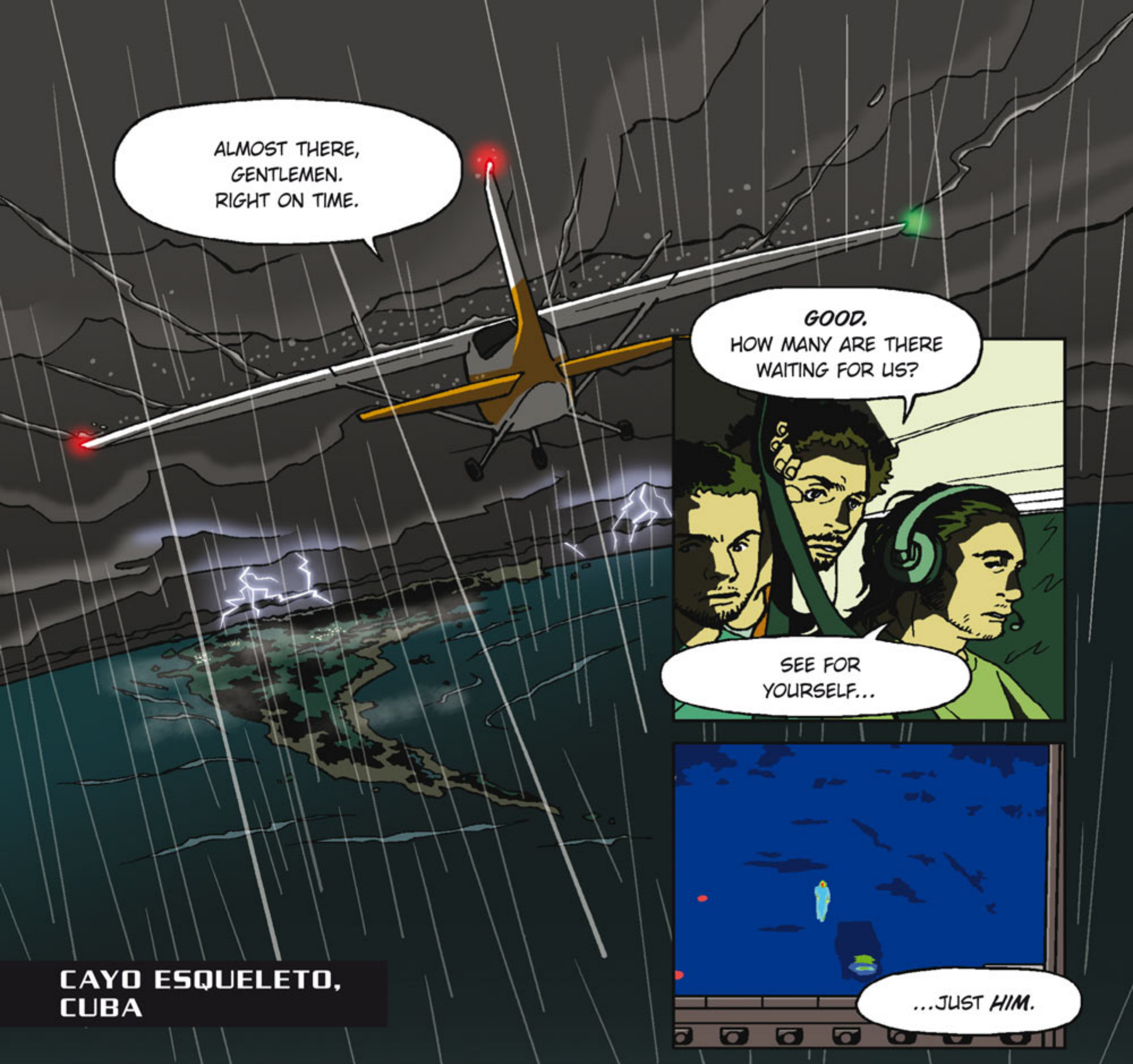
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ALMOST THERE,
GENTLEMEN.
RIGHT ON TIME.

GOOD.
HOW MANY ARE THERE
WAITING FOR US?

SEE FOR
YOURSELF...

CAYO ESQUELETO,
CUBA

...JUST HIM.

THAT RUNWAY LOOKS
VERY *NARROW*. CAN YOU
LAND IN THIS *STORM*?

JUST *WATCH* ME, CARLO.
BUT BRACE YOURSELVES,
IT'S GONNA GET *BUMPY*...

skveeeech



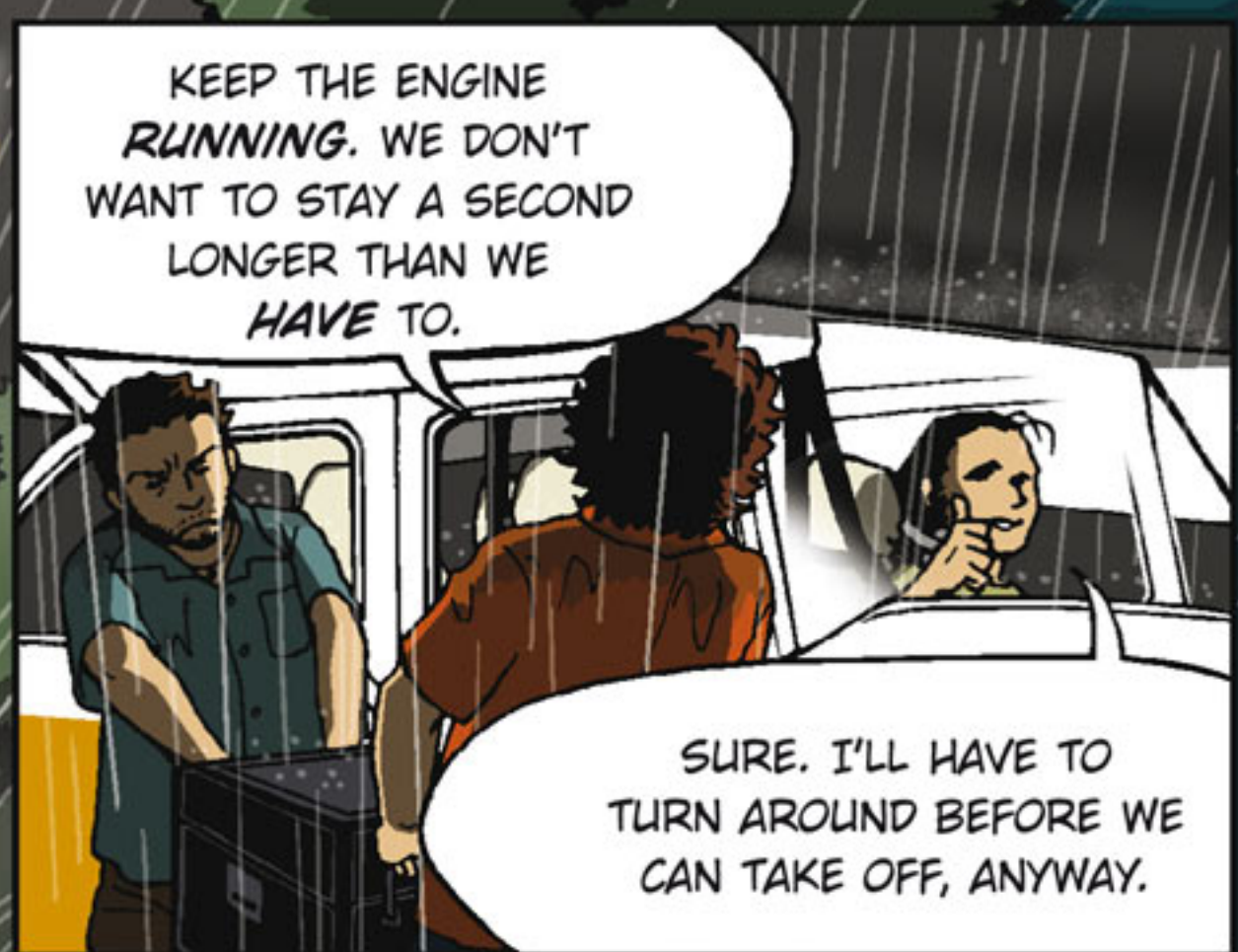
THERE.
EVERYBODY
OK?

WE'RE FINE.
AND THERE'S *THE*
GENERAL. MARC,
ARE YOU *READY*?



I THINK SO.

RELAX, MY FRIEND.
THERE ARE TWO OF US,
AND WE'RE BOTH *ARMED*.
HE'S JUST AN *OLD MAN*.



KEEP THE ENGINE
RUNNING. WE DON'T
WANT TO STAY A SECOND
LONGER THAN WE
HAVE TO.

SURE. I'LL HAVE TO
TURN AROUND BEFORE WE
CAN TAKE OFF, ANYWAY.



GOOD EVENING.
YOU HAD NO TROUBLE
GETTING HERE?

NONE AT *ALL*,
GENERAL.

IS THAT IT?

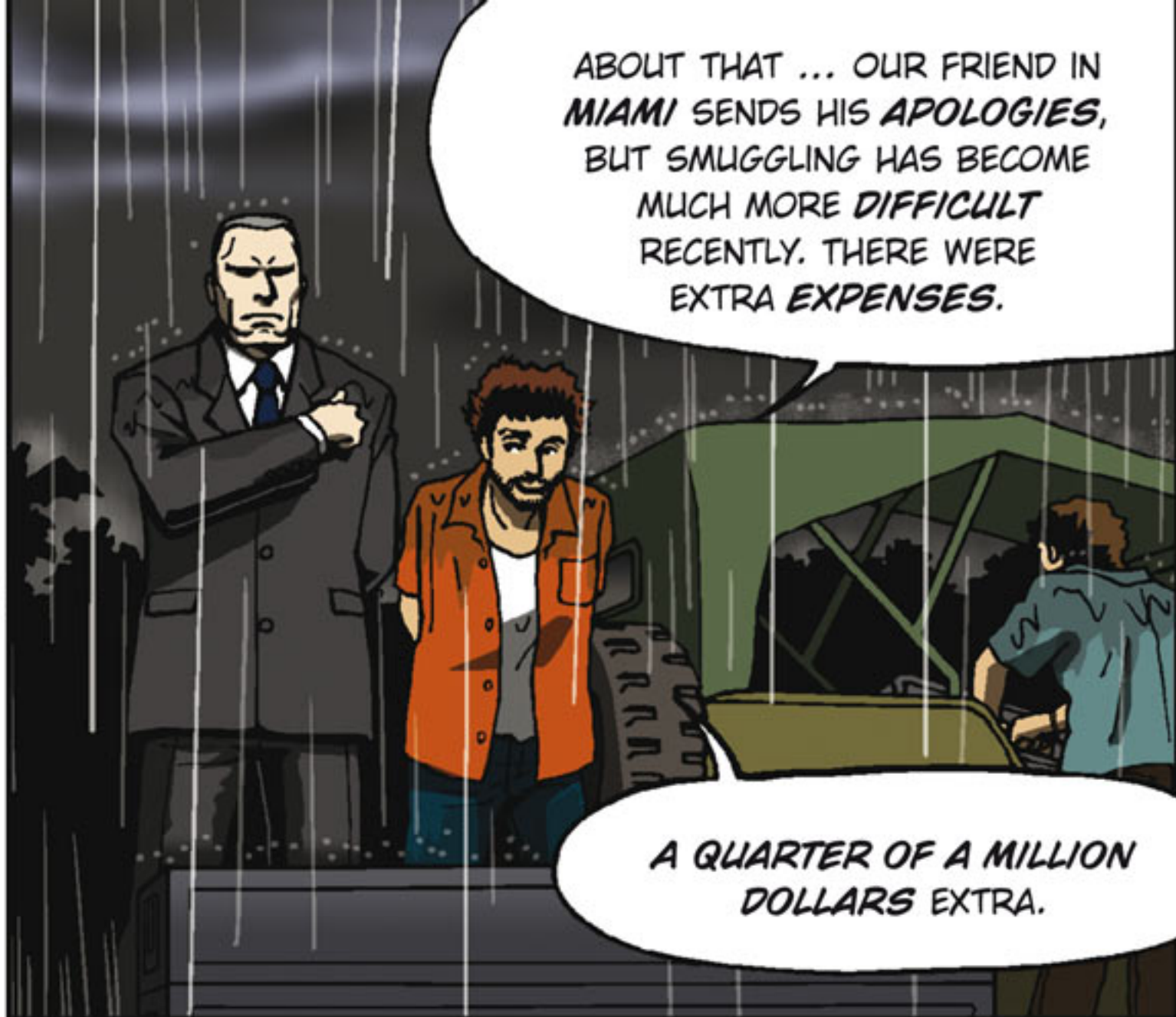


ONE KILOGRAM
OF *WEAPONS-GRADE*
URANIUM. ENOUGH TO
DESTROY A *CITY*.

I WOULD BE
INTERESTED TO
KNOW *WHICH* CITY
YOU HAVE IN MIND.



AND I PAY YOU **NOT** TO ASK QUESTIONS. YOUR MONEY IS IN THE JEEP. **HALF A MILLION DOLLARS**, AS AGREED.



ABOUT THAT ... OUR FRIEND IN **MIAMI** SENDS HIS **APOLOGIES**, BUT SMUGGLING HAS BECOME MUCH MORE **DIFFICULT** RECENTLY. THERE WERE **EXTRA EXPENSES**.

A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS EXTRA.



THAT IS **UNFORTUNATE**.

UNFORTUNATE FOR **YOU**, GENERAL. YOU ARE THE ONE WHO MUST **PAY**.



I SEE.

I WILL HAVE TO **RAISE** THE MONEY. I CAN TRANSFER IT TO THE SAME ACCOUNT AS BEFORE.



SEE THAT YOU **DO**. IF IT IS NOT THERE IN THREE DAYS, **AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE** WILL LEARN WHAT **HAPPENED** HERE TONIGHT. AND YOUR LITTLE ISLAND WILL NOT BE SO SAFE.

GOOD NIGHT, GENERAL.



GOOD NIGHT,
GENTLEMEN. *ENJOY*
YOUR FLIGHT.



LET'S TURN THIS
THING *AROUND...*

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE *LIGHTS*?!



IT'S THE *GENERAL*!
HE'S TRYING TO STOP
US LEAVING!



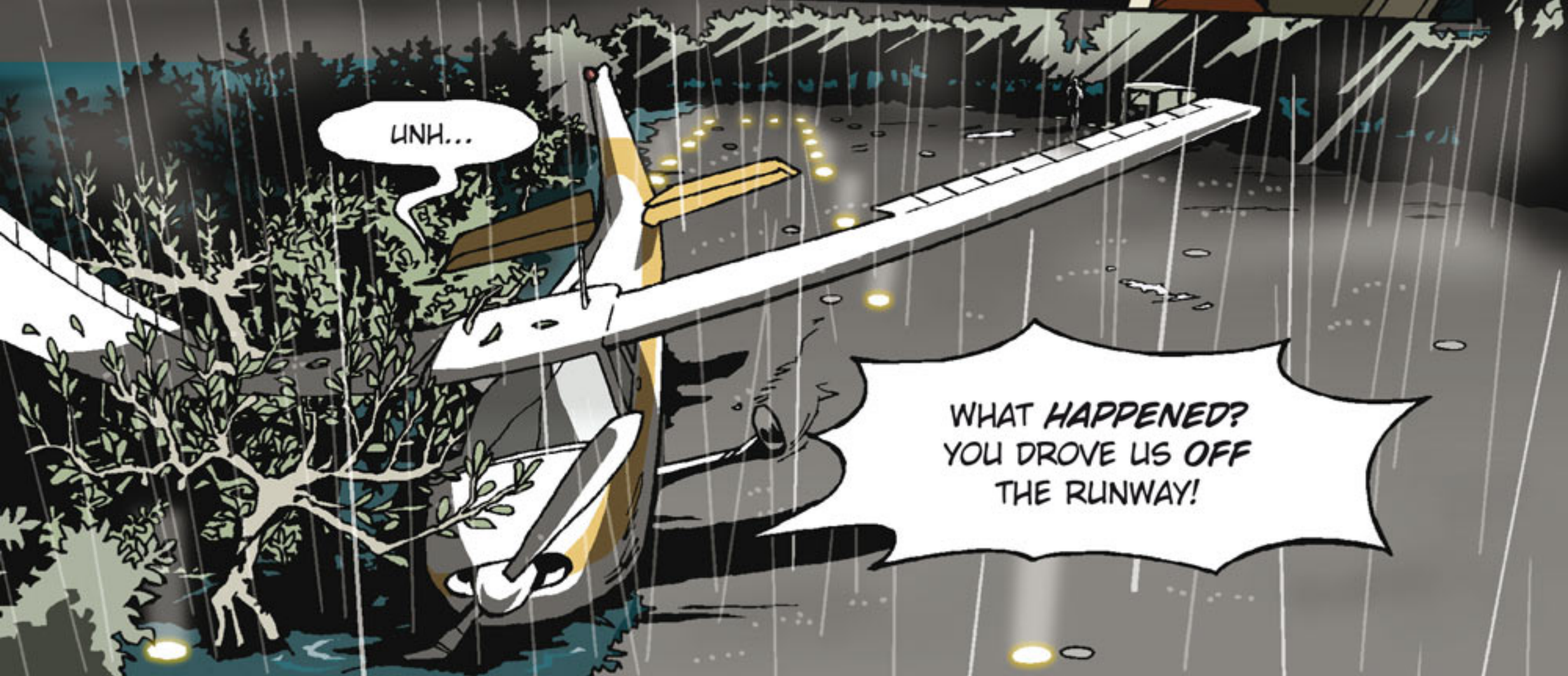
WAIT ... *THERE* YOU GO.
PROBABLY JUST THE
STORM DISRUPTING THE
ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

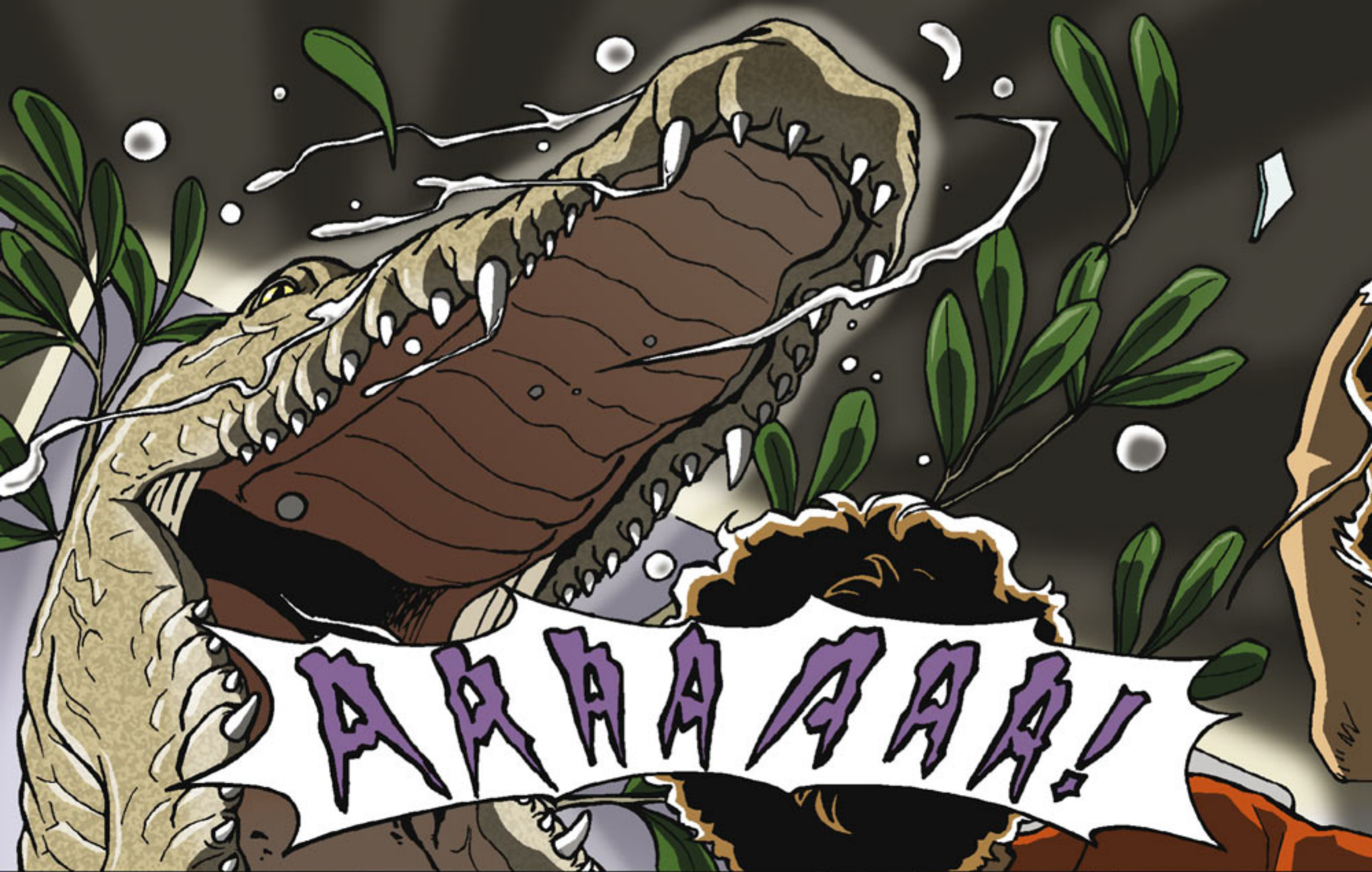
I'LL FINISH
TURNING THE PLANE,
THEN WE CAN GO.

HURRY. THE SOONER
WE ARE IN THE AIR, THE
HAPPIER I WILL BE.



ALL RIGHT,
GENTLEMEN, HERE
WE GO. BACK TO
CIVILIZATION!







ALEX! WHAT A **SURPRISE!**
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR TEAM
PRACTISED **HERE**. **BARKER**
AND I OFTEN WALK—

COME OFF IT,
MR CRAWFORD, WHAT
DO YOU **WANT?**

I TOLD YOU ALREADY,
I'M NOT **INTERESTED**
IN **M16** ANY MORE. I'M A
SCHOOLBOY, **NOT** A SPY.

ABSOLUTELY,
OF **COURSE!** NO, I'M ...
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THE, UM, **COMPANY**.

REALLY.

REALLY! LISTEN,
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE
A FRONT ROW SEAT
AT **WIMBLEDON?**

YOU MEAN THE
TENNIS TOURNAMENT?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M
ON THE COMMITTEE OF
THE **ALL-ENGLAND**
TENNIS CLUB. I CAN
GET YOU IN.

WHAT'S THE
CATCH?

THERE **ISN'T** ONE,
NOT **REALLY**. BUT...

...LET ME EXPLAIN.
IT WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.