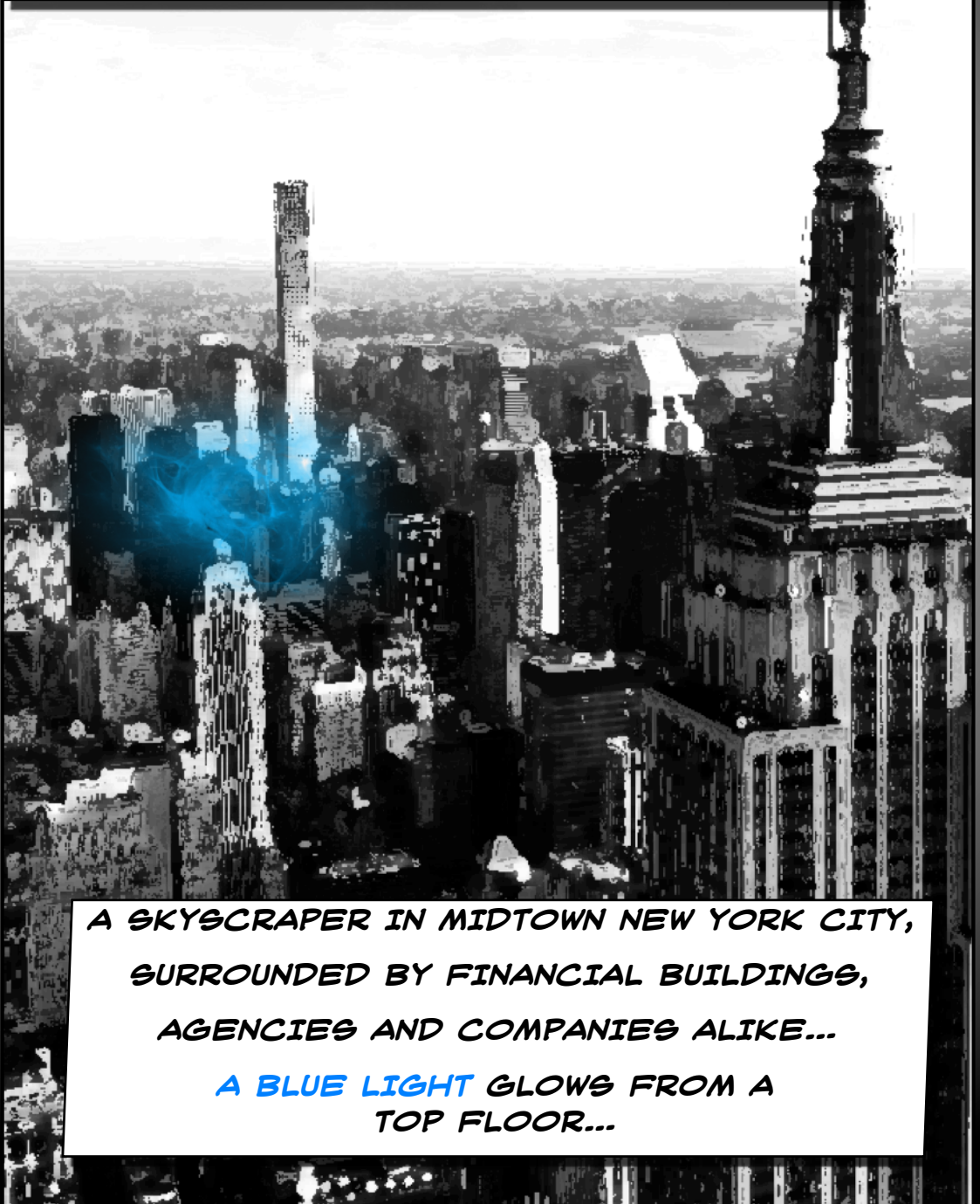


MAY 31ST, 1999

**A TIME LONG, LONG AGO...
NOT PREHISTORIC, BUT KIND OF...**



**A SKYSCRAPER IN MIDTOWN NEW YORK CITY,
SURROUNDED BY FINANCIAL BUILDINGS,
AGENCIES AND COMPANIES ALIKE...**

**A BLUE LIGHT GLOWS FROM A
TOP FLOOR...**

CHAPTER ONE

“ Create your life, don't let life create you ”



Life is strange! Did you ever notice how we are all connected from the PAST to the PRESENT to the FUTURE? We hear these crazy, what sounds like ancient fictional stories from our parents, and we're like, "what are you talking about?" But in this crazy story, we'd have to turn the clock back to before we even came into the world, when our parents were younger, and probably even cool.

There was this hedge fund, named EPIC, which is basically like a huge bank account, where people put their money in as an investment and hope to make more money. EPIC stands for 'Exceptional Principle Investment Choices.' A few of the top people at EPIC secretly took their money and put it into this LAB to create a new 'chemical formula' that basically makes humans super strong. Science fiction, right? Not exactly.

The goal was to sell this formula to the government for military purposes, and make HUGE profits. A kinda get rich quick scheme with a plan. Bottom line, they were doing some crazy science stuff, but there were some really greedy, bad people involved. Yep, just like some kids act in Middle School.

Turns out some poor, little, adorable mice were injected with this chemical formula for testing purposes. After nothing happened for 3 days straight, they considered the lab an EPIC failure (I'm BIG on PUNS). But what they didn't take into account was that this potent chemical, which was injected, has a latent effect.

FACTOID: LATENT is a cool word to learn and really important in this story. Latent means an 'unrealized or dormant potential', or 'delayed', and takes some time before it really works—sometimes just like our talents in real life. Anyway, these mice sat for 3 days and nothing happened, so EPIC's hedge fund managers shut down the lab. But what they failed to realize was the 'latent' effect (told ya, it's an important word) of the chemical's injection made these mice, SUPER MICE, and on day 4, these strong and powerful mice DESTROYED THE LAB.

EPIC'S impatient managers had no idea the injection ACTUALLY worked. They thought it was the head lab scientist, who destroyed everything out of frustration, the brilliant and sometimes very angry genius, Paul Owens.

NEW YORK

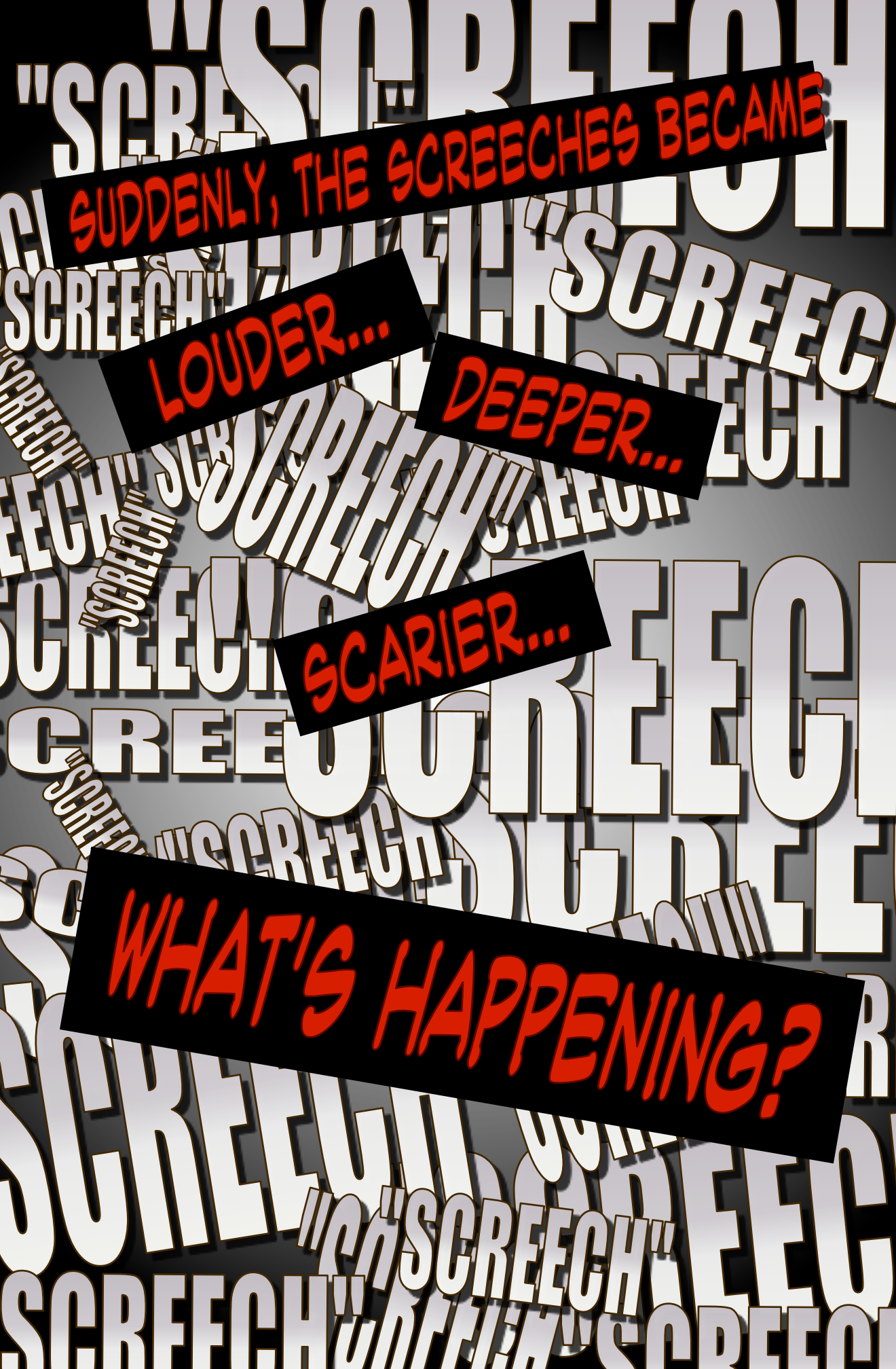


THE CLOCK STRIKES **2 AM** . . .
AND FOR THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS,
IT IS DEAD QUIET . . .



*NO LIFE TO BE SEEN...
NO HUMAN LIFE THAT
IS...*





SUDDENLY, THE SCREECHES BECAME

LOUDER...

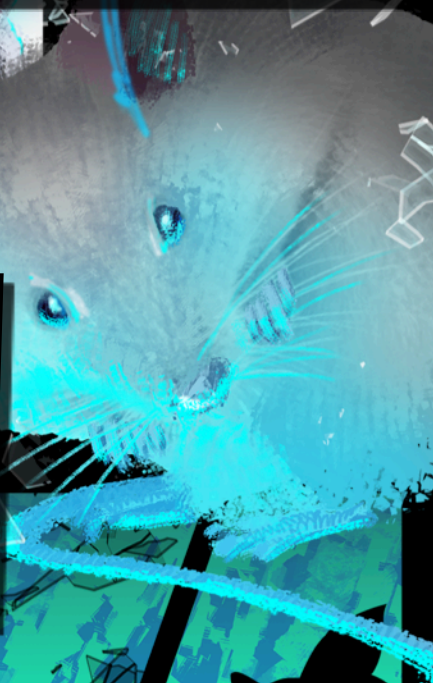
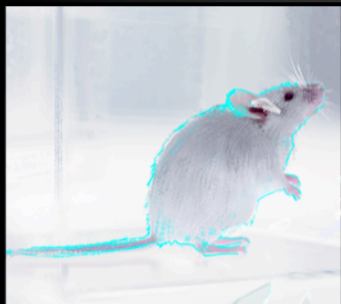
DEEPER...

SCARIER...

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

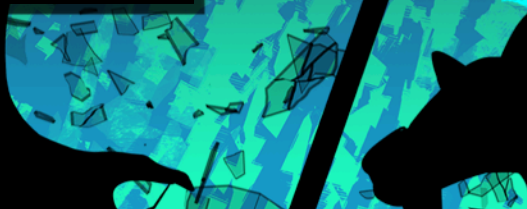
DOZENS OF MUTANT MICE

STORM THE EMPTY
LABORATORY



ON THIS DAY...

UNKNOWN TO ANYONE,
SOMETHING WENT
HORRIBLY, TERRIBLY
WRONG.



NOW, WHILE THE MUTANT MICE STORYLINE
IS DEFINITELY INTERESTING AND ALL...
AND IT PROBABLY WILL HAVE SOME
CONNECTION TO THE NEXT STORYLINE...
I'M KIND OF READY TO MOVE ON...
SO,

20 YEARS LATER!

CHAPTER TWO

“When life puts you in sticky situations,
make slime”



MY NAME is Amy, people call me LOVE. Why LOVE? Sounds nutty, leave that to my parents...the nuttiest people I know, who said I embody the word LOVE. I'm a 12 year-old middle schooler, who had only one friend for a long time. And she doesn't even live in the same city. Still counts, right? But kids made fun of me because I was quiet, which to me is crazy. If you don't know me, then how do you make fun of me?

READ

THE

ENTIRE

BOOK

The three of us share something in common. We all LOVE making SURE. For us, there is the Middle School's over-sized STRESS BALL. One day we figured if we merge our talents, we could start a business. That's when PEACE, LOVE & SURE, a real COMPACT was born.