

# "FUTURE FICTIONS"

DISCUSSION WITH THREE SCIENCE - FICTION AUTHORS

SOPHIE BOURLET

Everywhere in the world, the situation of confinement, of withdrawal into oneself, into one's home, into one's interiority, leaves spaces for new imaginations. Hyper-connected, we create new ways of interacting and develop new worlds in the face of an uncertain future, a science-fiction future.

The authors, in the forefront of this reflection, adopt different strategies: putting contents in free access to create bubbles of air out of information that is too present and anxiety-provoking, reflecting once again on the place of the imaginary in social constructions, or taking advantage of the moment to promote books or comics as a weapon of anticipation that allows us to build the future.

Will the imaginary save the world? An interview in three questions, for three authors in Brussels, Tunis and Accra, on the need for dreams in these times of withdrawal.



نقص ما نسؤالات الزايرة عيش ودي!  
أنتخب على خوفك ما المعجول وأعطى  
ثيقة مني اوحك ومني طريتك والحباب  
على عينيك يزون

# AROUSI

COLLECTIF LAB619

TUNIS - TUNISIA

Aroussi Tabbena is a young illustrator and comic book author, member of Lab619 in Tunis.

This collective, created in 2013, aims to promote comics in Tunisia by regularly publishing collaborative magazines and received the Honorary Guardian Comics Awards in April 2020 for the Mahmoud Kahil 2019.

Author of "Takhmira", a comic book about the imagination of Stembeli, traditional Tunisian music, or "Darwin, the secret farm", a science-fiction comic book where animals come to power, Aroussi takes advantage of the period to introduce his fellow citizens to the 7th art.



# DARWIN: THE SECRET FARM

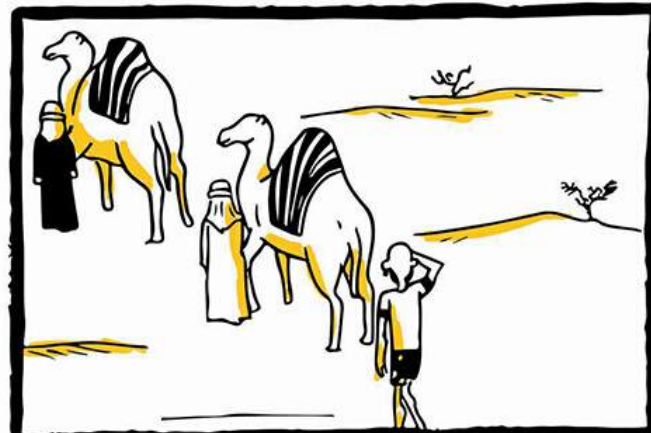
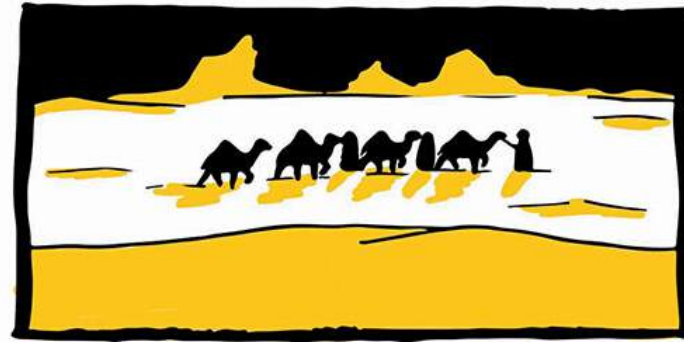
(موش مشكل كان مافهمت شي)

⚠ NE PAS ABUSER DE LA DROGUE



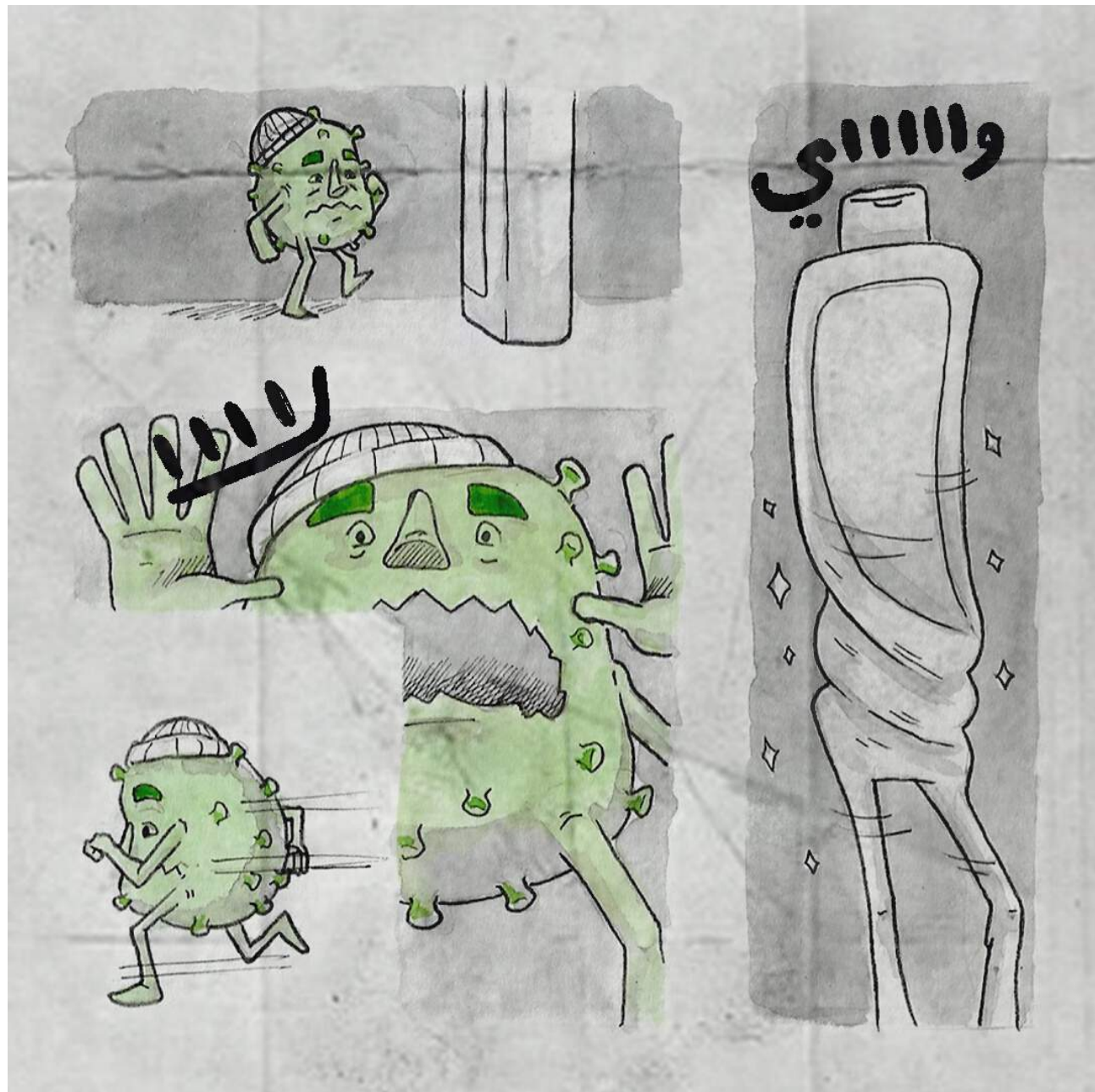
**Are we living in science fiction right now? How do you feel about that?**

*"We're living a real science fiction scenario! Here in Tunisia, it's like everywhere else in the world, we're at home. To allow people to escape from this scary information, we have put all our content on free access. We do our part, like doctors and nurses. "*



## What place for the imagination in Tunisia?

*"The problem in Tunisia is that comics are still considered to be for children. Yet adults also need the imagination! The situation at least allowed us to spread what we were doing more widely. So I'm optimistic!"*



**What are your plans for this period?**

*"I'm developing a project at the moment to help adults talk to children about the virus, using simple words. I'm trying to get back to my childhood world... "*

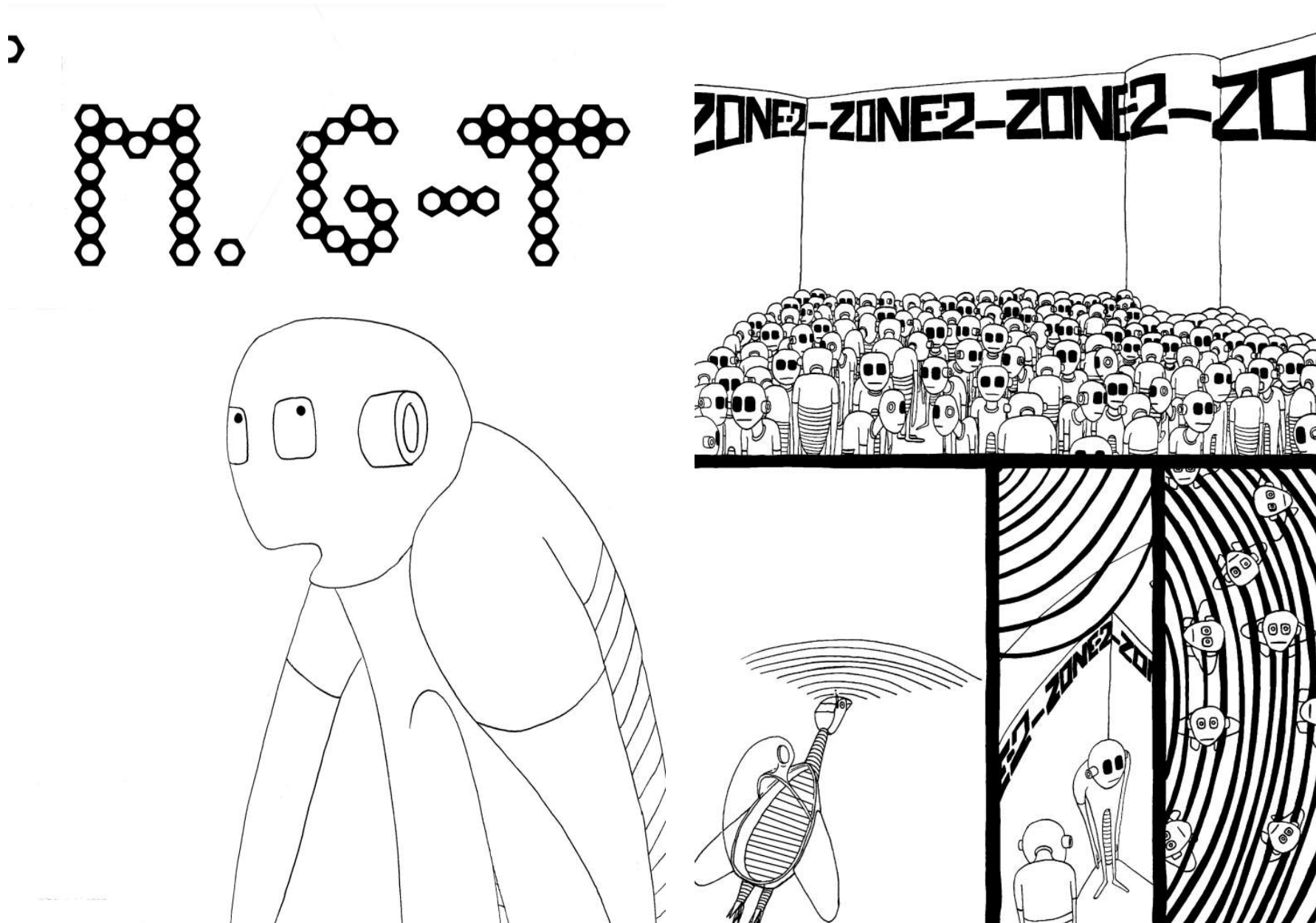


# M.G-T

COLLECTIF EUGENE CHIMERE  
BRUSSELS - BELGIUM

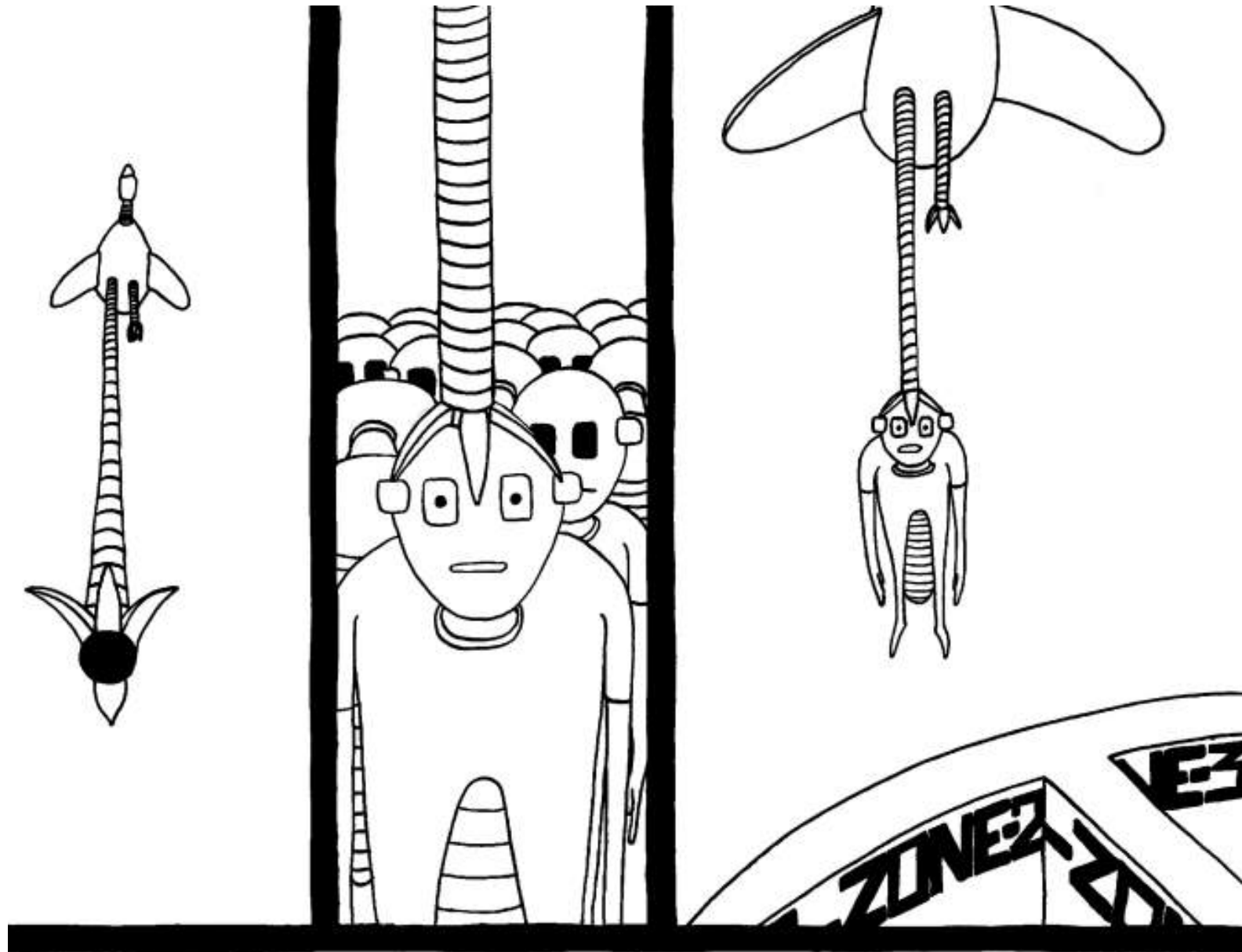
Member of the Eugène Chimère collective in Brussels, Guillaume signs the comic book M.G-T in three parts, full of nuts and bolts in a world as disturbing as it is empty.

He describes his path as solitary and strewn with food jobs. Today, he is a blacksmith for the Compagnie des Machines de l'Île and lives in a caravan.



### What does M.G.T. say?

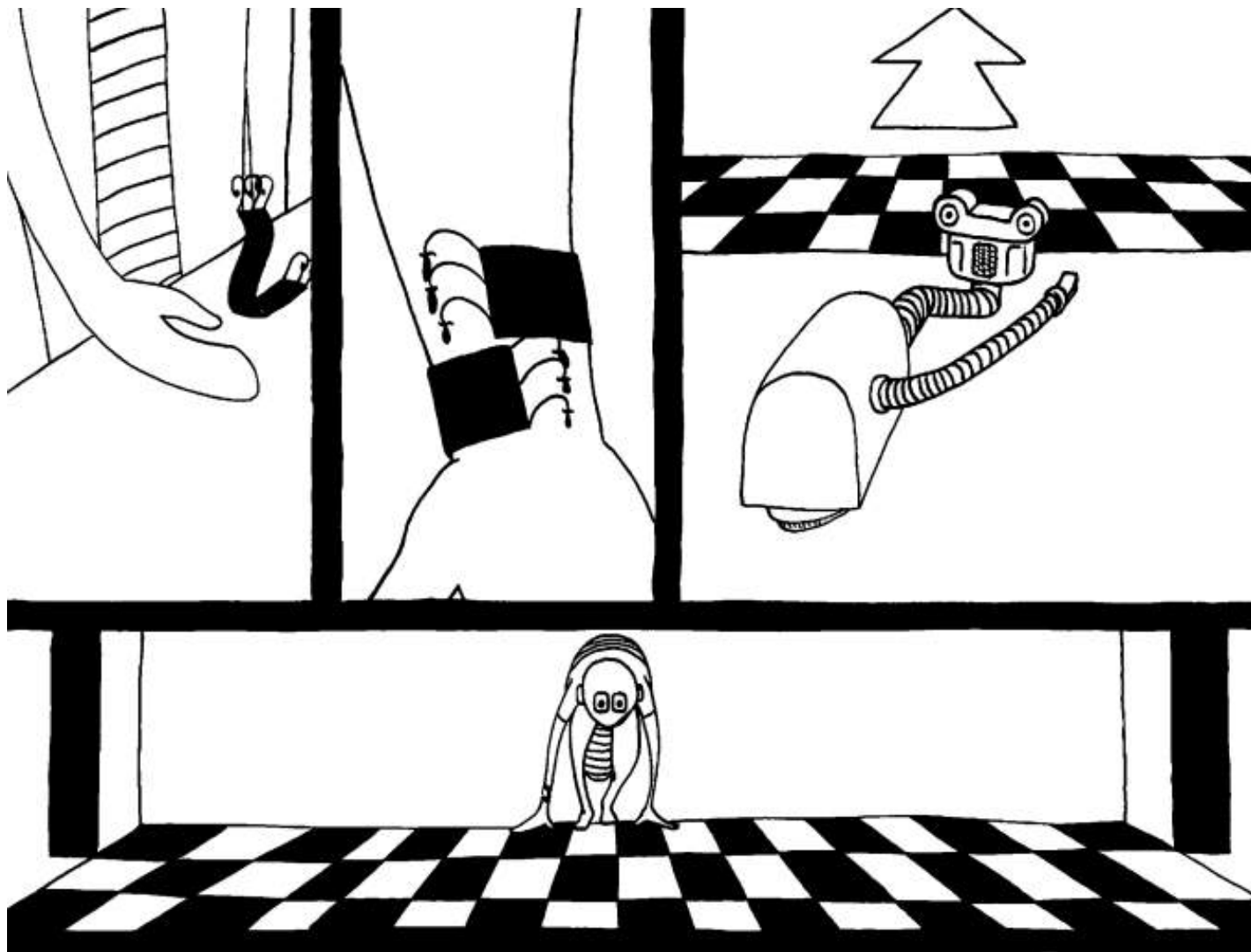
*"The character is a bit of a cockroach, an ordinary person like all the others. At the beginning it was a reflection on unemployment and all the administrative steps. With a character who suffers a lot, in a new and not very dense world. "*



**How are you living this month of March?**

*"Today I live in a caravan so I can't really work, I have only one table that serves me for everything! But I think that this period should not only be a parenthesis, we have to invent new stories, so that we can fabricate ourselves one after the other. I dare to believe that the world and mentalities will change. "*





## **Does science fiction play a special role at the moment?**

*"Science and fiction are two very distinct words and we're right in the middle of it. It's a kind of scientific fiction where history is told through science. A reversal of terms. Today, with this crisis, it is scientists who are advising policy, and the policy behind science. "*

# JACOB A. OSAE

ACCRA - GHANA



Jacob Amanor Osaë, graduated in physics from the University of Ghana, is writing this year his third novel, *The Raven*. He finds his inspiration from science and his students and advocates a specific science fiction related to African cultures.

He is also a member of the Writers Café and Team Volvox, two writing groups linked with the university's Writing Project.

## **What place for science fiction in Ghana?**

*"In Ghana we don't have much science fiction, it's something that has often frustrated me. I had this creative side and the science side in me, so I thought, why not reconcile both? I think novels and fiction can help to build new things, to be innovative, to become creative, to approach the problems we have here in a different way and create a better world."*

## **What's The Raven about?**

*"My novel, The Raven, is a science fiction novel for young adults. It tells the story of a lost kingdom and two interlocking worlds. It explores the power that each of us has within us. I wanted to make people aware of their inner energy. We're used to talking about spaceships and aliens in international science fiction, I'm talking about things closer to people, based on African science and culture."*

## **What's the future for Ghanaian writers?**

*"The quarantine makes people creative. I've started a "writing challenge" with a writing group, so that we can also keep good memories of those times. I believe and pray that fiction will have a bright future in Ghana, and that Africa will be recognized for it on a global scale."*