

There is a truth we
all know, on some
deep level, beyond
conscious thought.



WHAT ON
EARTH...

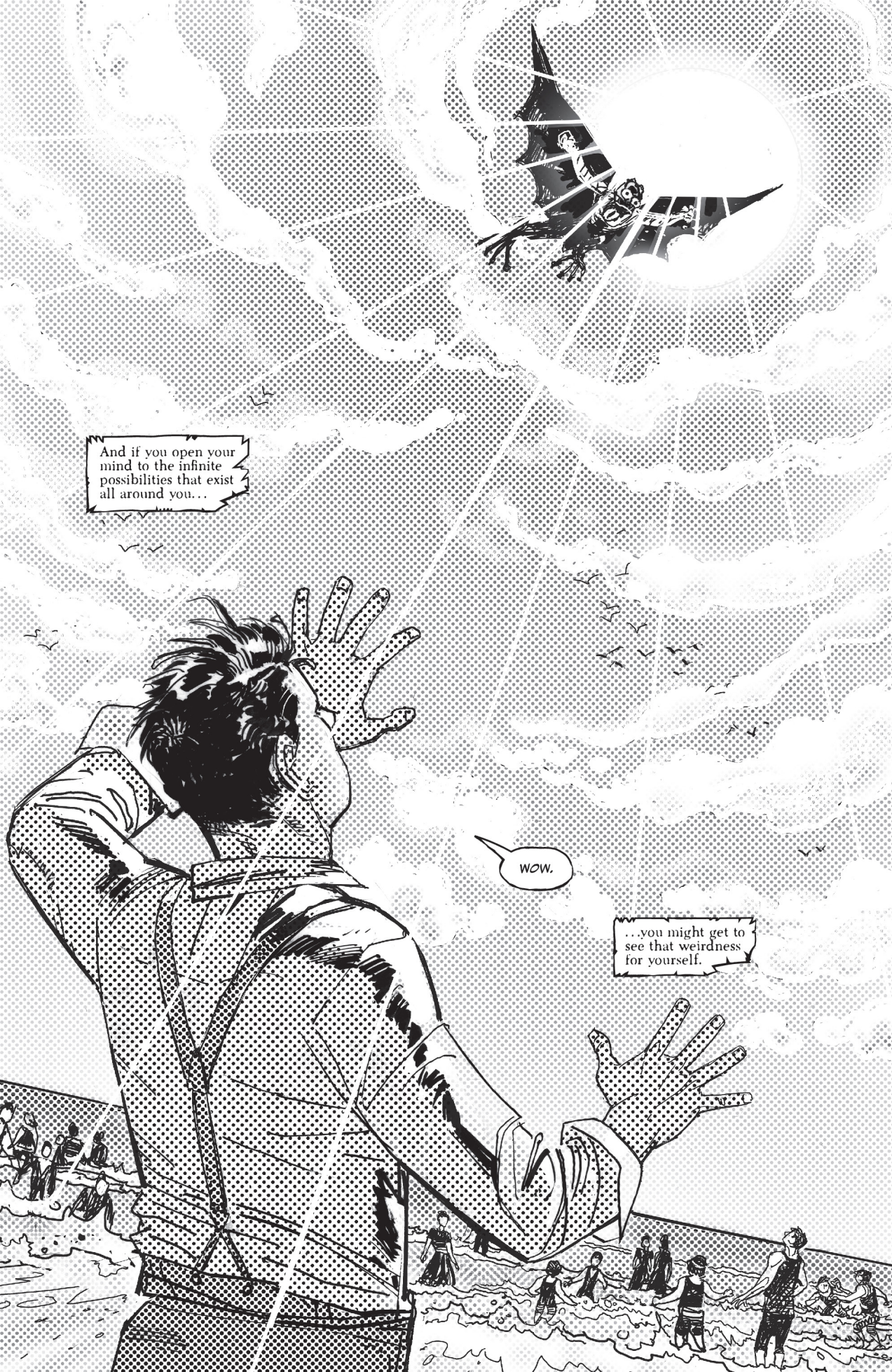


We live in a world
far weirder than
most are willing to
recognize.

IT CAN'T
BE...



Strange wonders
exist around us,
defying all logic,
all reason.

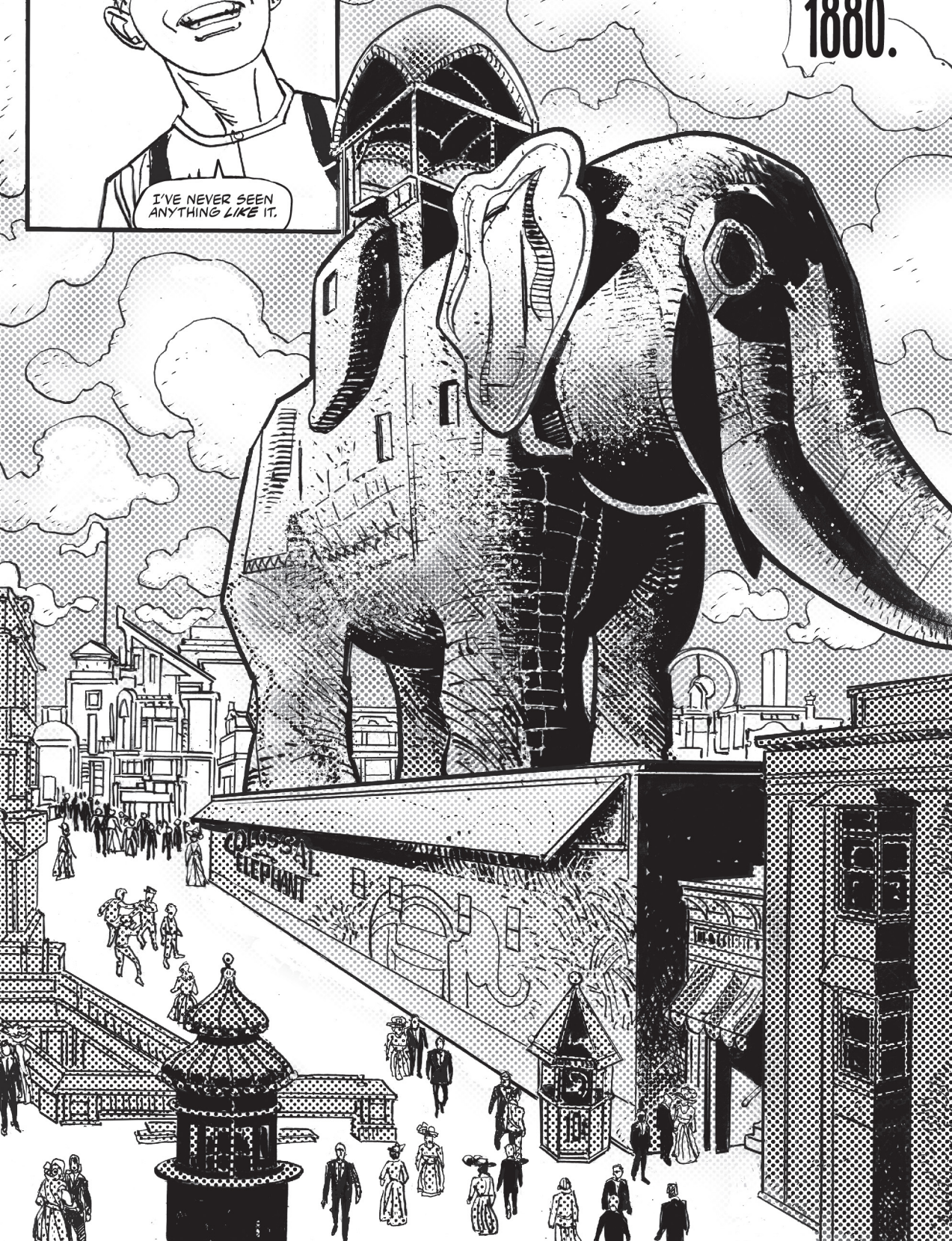
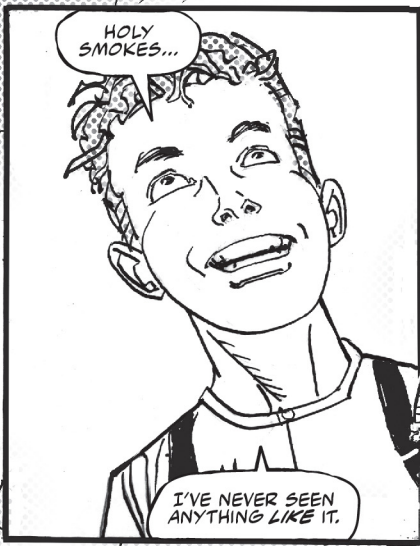


And if you open your
mind to the infinite
possibilities that exist
all around you...

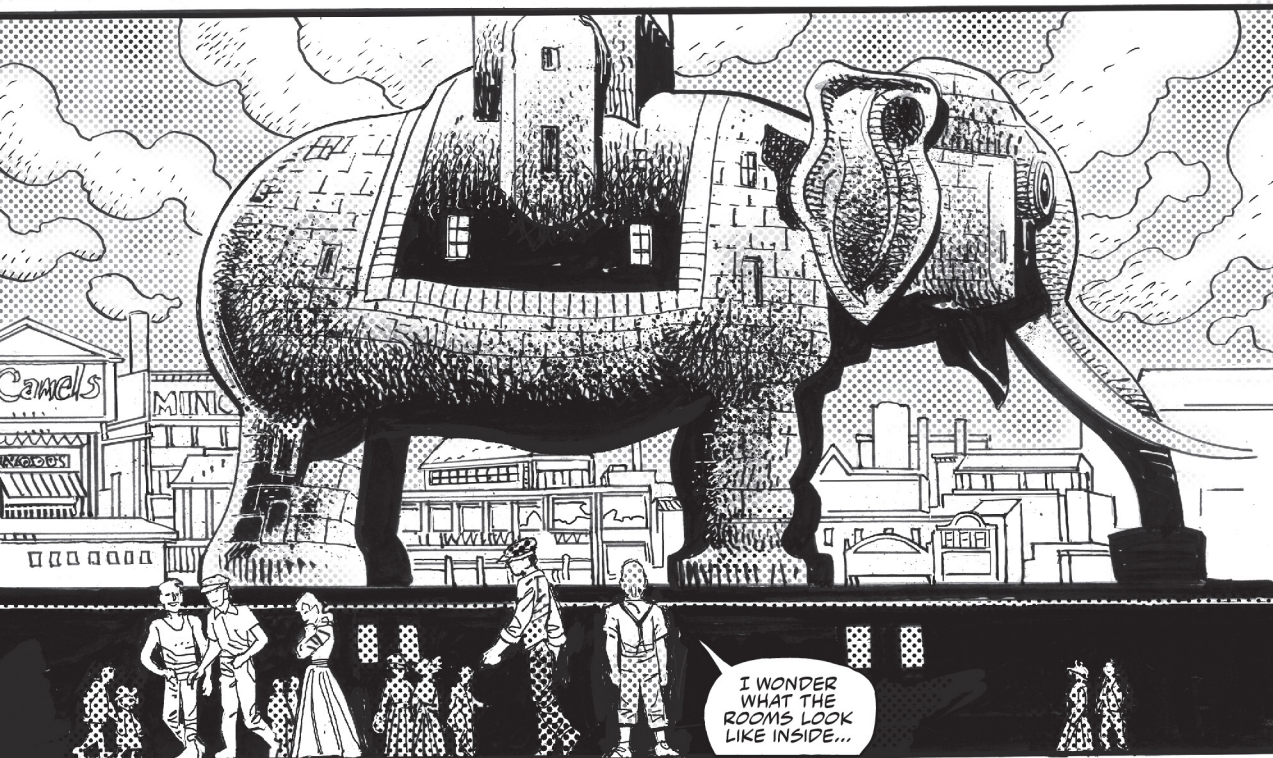
WOW.

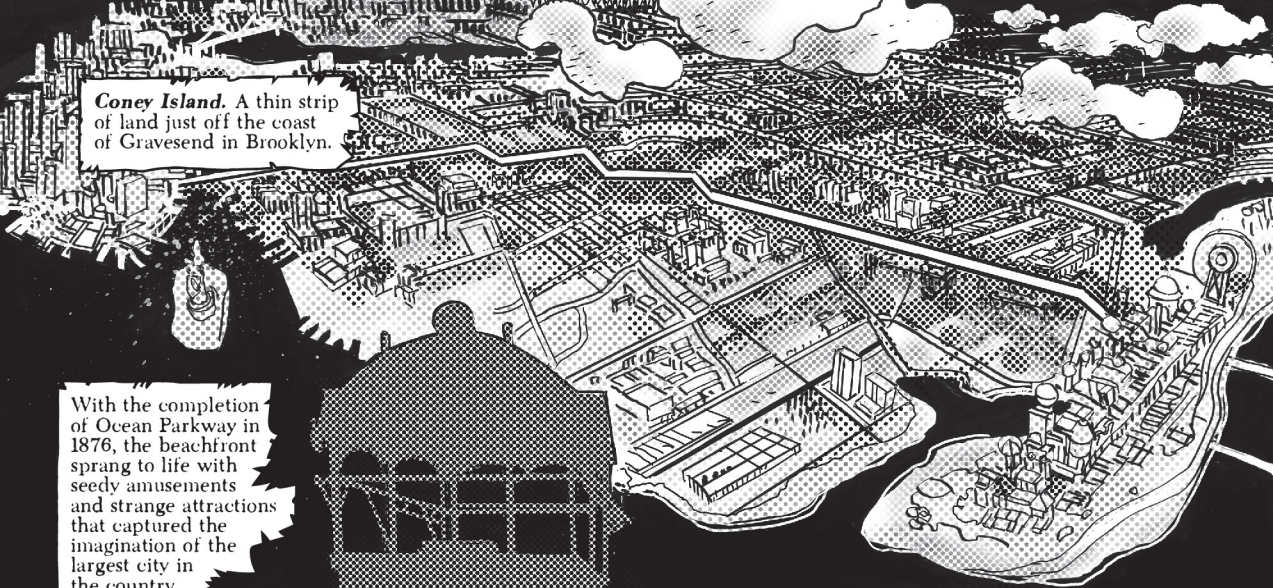
...you might get to
see that weirdness
for yourself.

CONEY ISLAND. Brooklyn, New York. 1880.



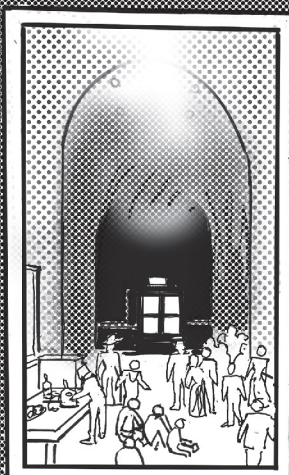






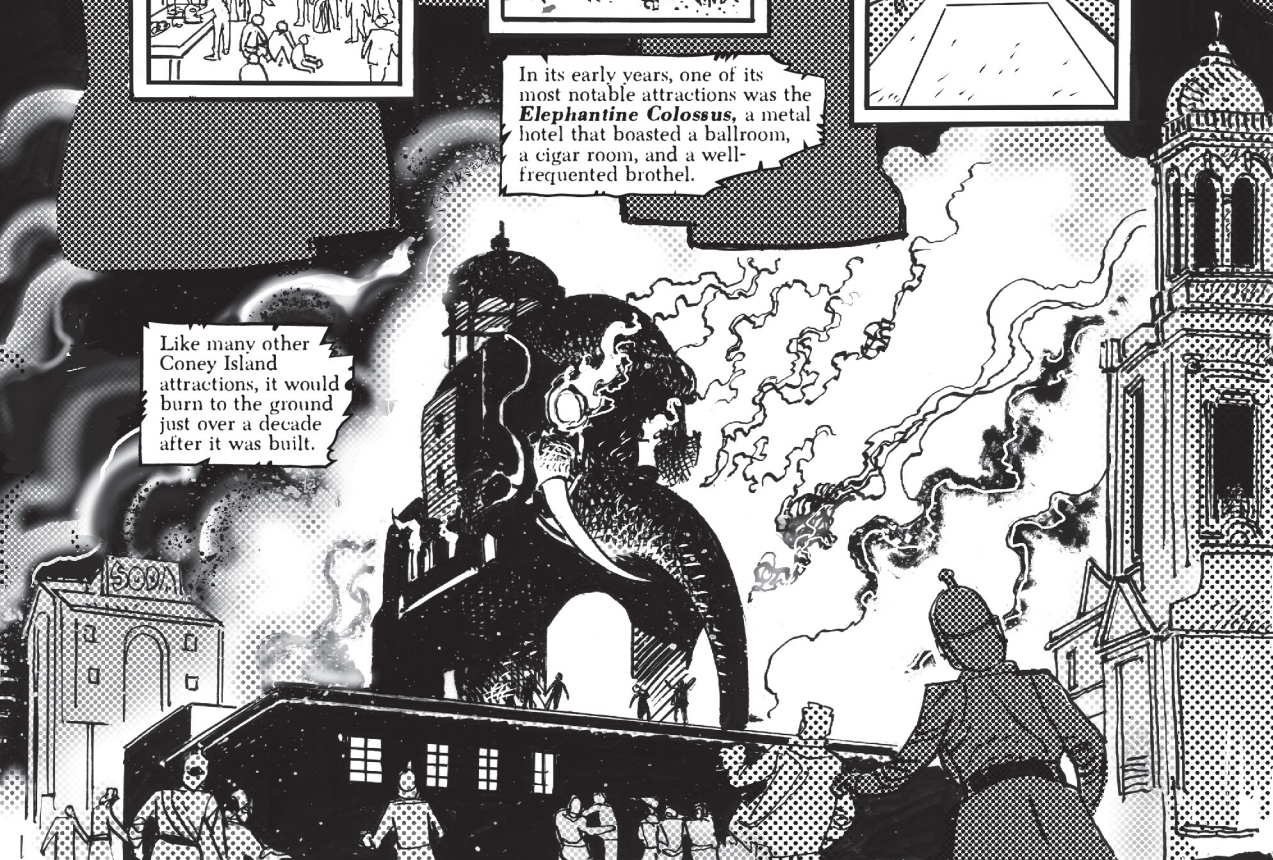
Coney Island. A thin strip of land just off the coast of Gravesend in Brooklyn.

With the completion of Ocean Parkway in 1876, the beachfront sprang to life with seedy amusements and strange attractions that captured the imagination of the largest city in the country.

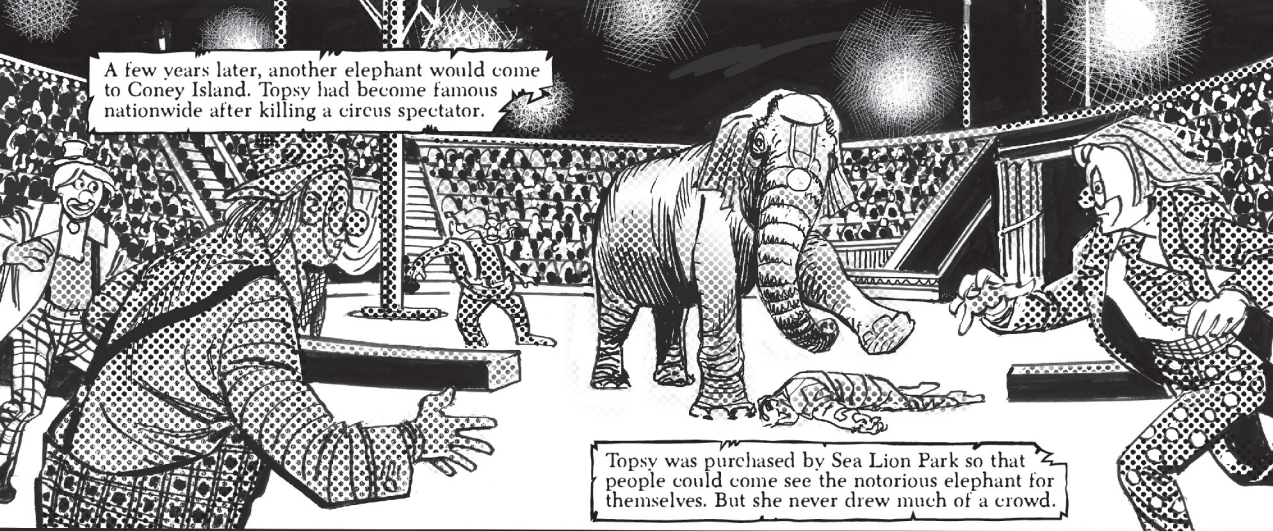


In its early years, one of its most notable attractions was the **Elephantine Colossus**, a metal hotel that boasted a ballroom, a cigar room, and a well-frequented brothel.

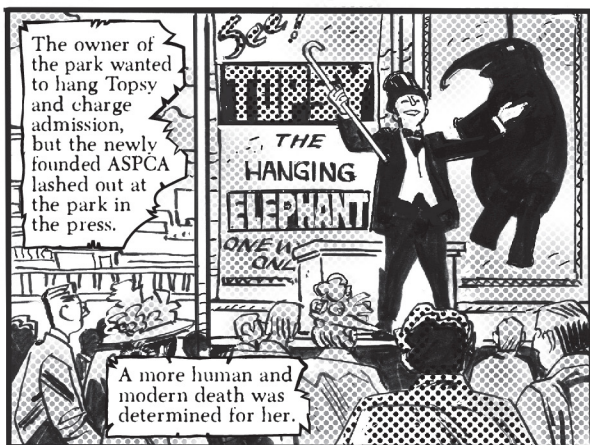
Like many other Coney Island attractions, it would burn to the ground just over a decade after it was built.



A few years later, another elephant would come to Coney Island. Topsy had become famous nationwide after killing a circus spectator.



Topsy was purchased by Sea Lion Park so that people could come see the notorious elephant for themselves. But she never drew much of a crowd.

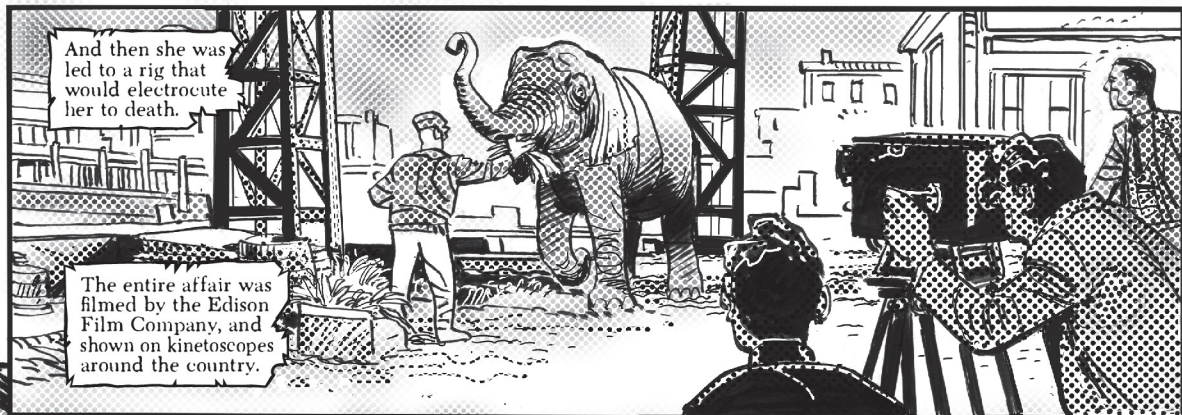


The owner of the park wanted to hang Topsy and charge admission, but the newly founded ASPCA lashed out at the park in the press.

A more human and modern death was determined for her.

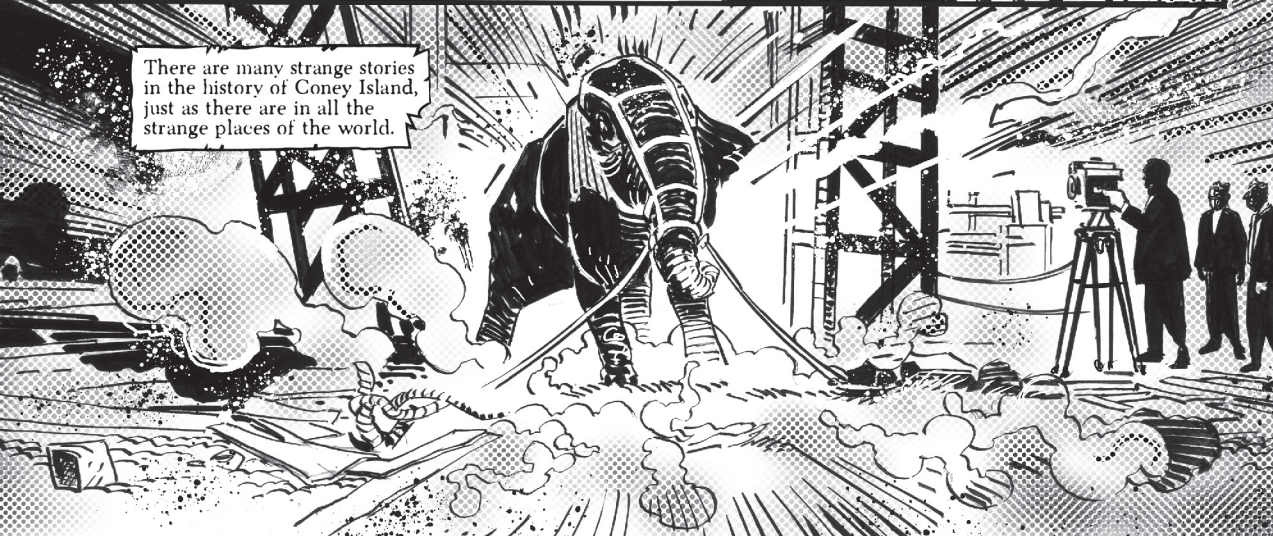


Topsy was fed carrots laced with 460 grams of potassium cyanide.

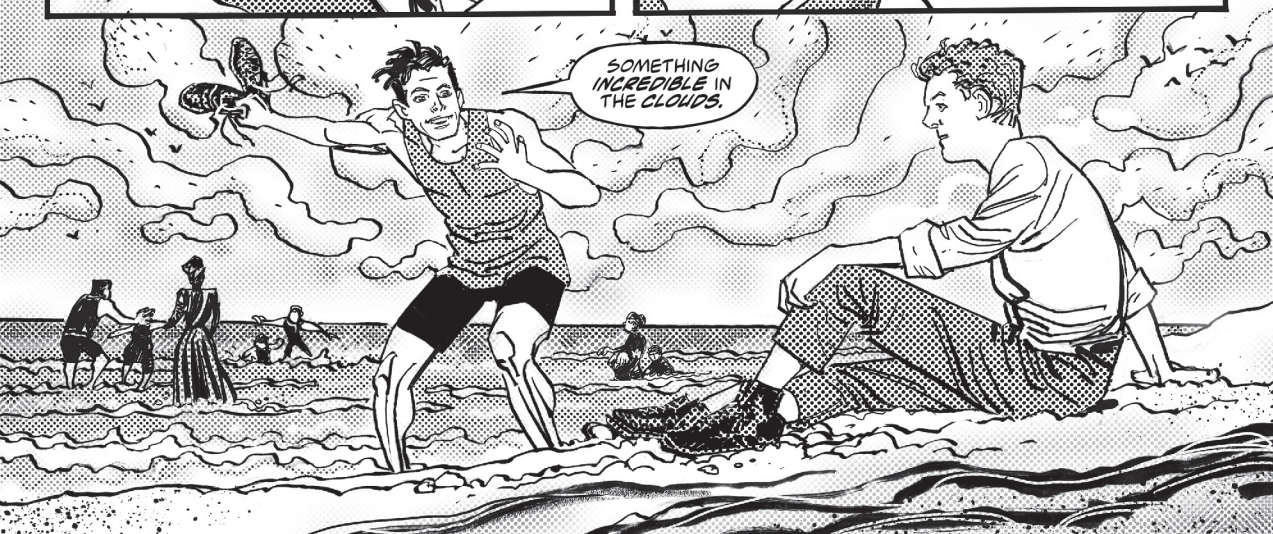
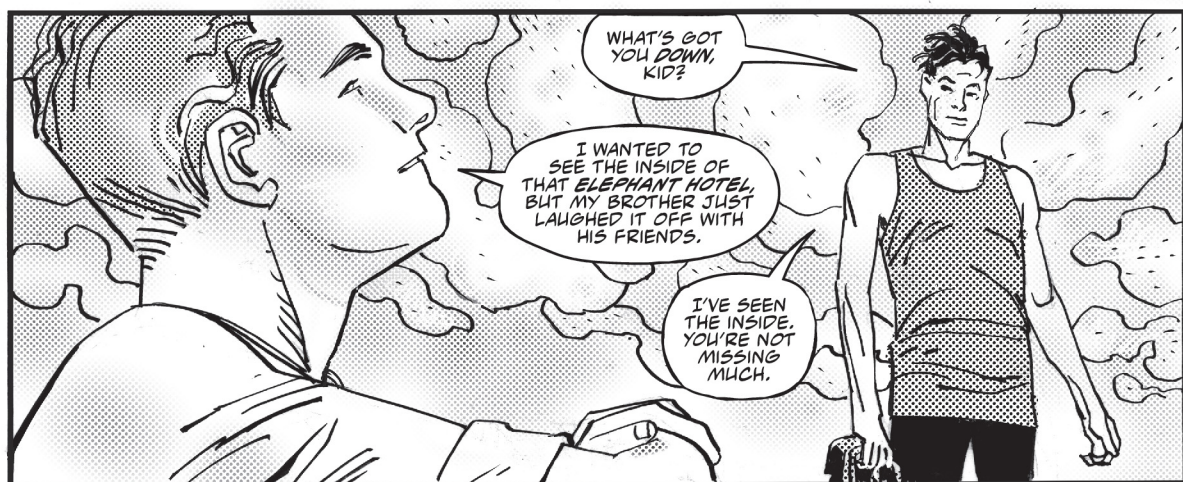


And then she was led to a rig that would electrocute her to death.

The entire affair was filmed by the Edison Film Company, and shown on kinetoscopes around the country.



There are many strange stories in the history of Coney Island, just as there are in all the strange places of the world.

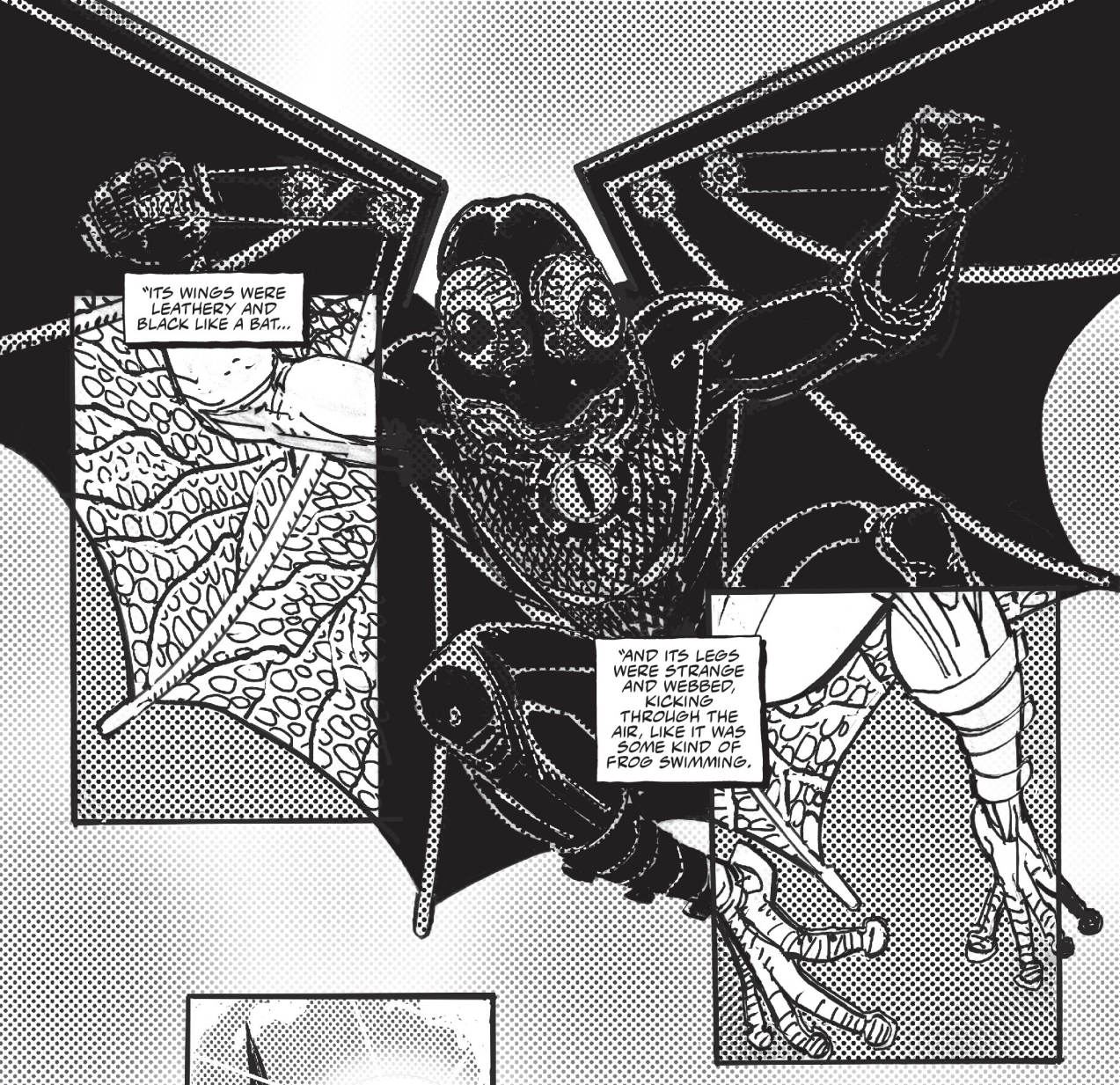




"IT MUST HAVE BEEN
SOME KIND OF MAN,
IN AN IMPOSSIBLE
CONTRAPTION, AND
HE WAS FLYING
OVER THE BEACH."

"A MAN?!"

"HE WAS BIGGER
THAN ANY BIRD,
THAT'S FOR SURE."



"ITS WINGS WERE
LEATHERY AND
BLACK LIKE A BAT..."

"AND ITS LEGS
WERE STRANGE
AND WEBBED,
KICKING
THROUGH THE
AIR, LIKE IT WAS
SOME KIND OF
FROG SWIMMING."



"I'LL TELL
YOU, I'D
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE IT."



"AND HAVEN'T
EVER SINCE."



HUNDREDS
OF PEOPLE
SAW IT. THEY
EVEN WROTE
IT UP IN THE
NEW YORK
TIMES.

"AN AERIAL
MYSTERY," THEY
CALLED IT.



THE PAPER SAID
IT WAS PROBABLY A TRICK
FROM A LOCAL CHARLATAN,
BUT IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS
NOW AND NOBODY'S SHOWN
UP WITH THAT KIND OF
FLYING CONTRAPTION
EVER SINCE.



I COULDN'T
TAKE MY EYES OFF
OF HIM. I WATCHED
AS HE FLEW DOWN
THE COAST, PAST THE
TIP OF THE ISLAND,
AND OFF TOWARD
NEW JERSEY.

I THINK THAT'S
WHY I STILL COME
TO THIS BEACH EVERY
SUMMER. I FIGURE
ONE DAY, I MIGHT
SEE SOMETHING
ELSE LIKE IT.



ANYWAYS...
KEEP YOUR
EYES OPEN,
KID.



"IT'S A WEIRD
WORLD OUT
THERE."

JANKON-22