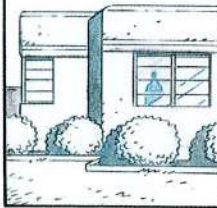


JONAS
DID
NOT
WANT
TO GO
BACK.



HE DIDN'T WANT THE
MEMORIES, THE
HONOR, THE WISDOM,
OR THE PAIN.



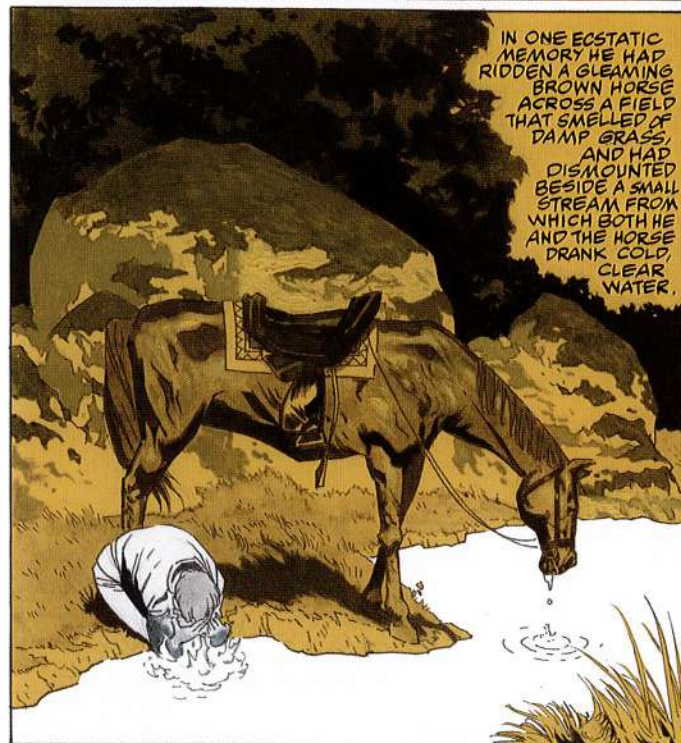
HE WANTED HIS CHILDHOOD
AGAIN, HIS SCRAPED KNEES
AND BALL GAMES.



BUT THE CHOICE WAS NOT HIS.
HE RETURNED EACH DAY TO
THE ANNEX ROOM.



THE GIVER WAS GENTLE WITH HIM FOR
MANY DAYS FOLLOWING THE TERRIBLE
SHARED MEMORY OF WAR.

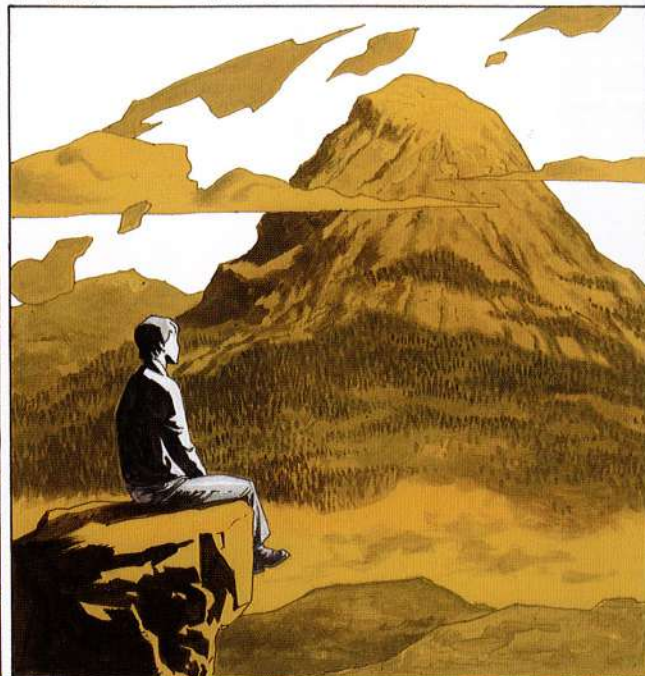


AND IN THAT MOMENT, HE
PERCEIVED THE BONDS BETWEEN
ANIMAL AND HUMAN.

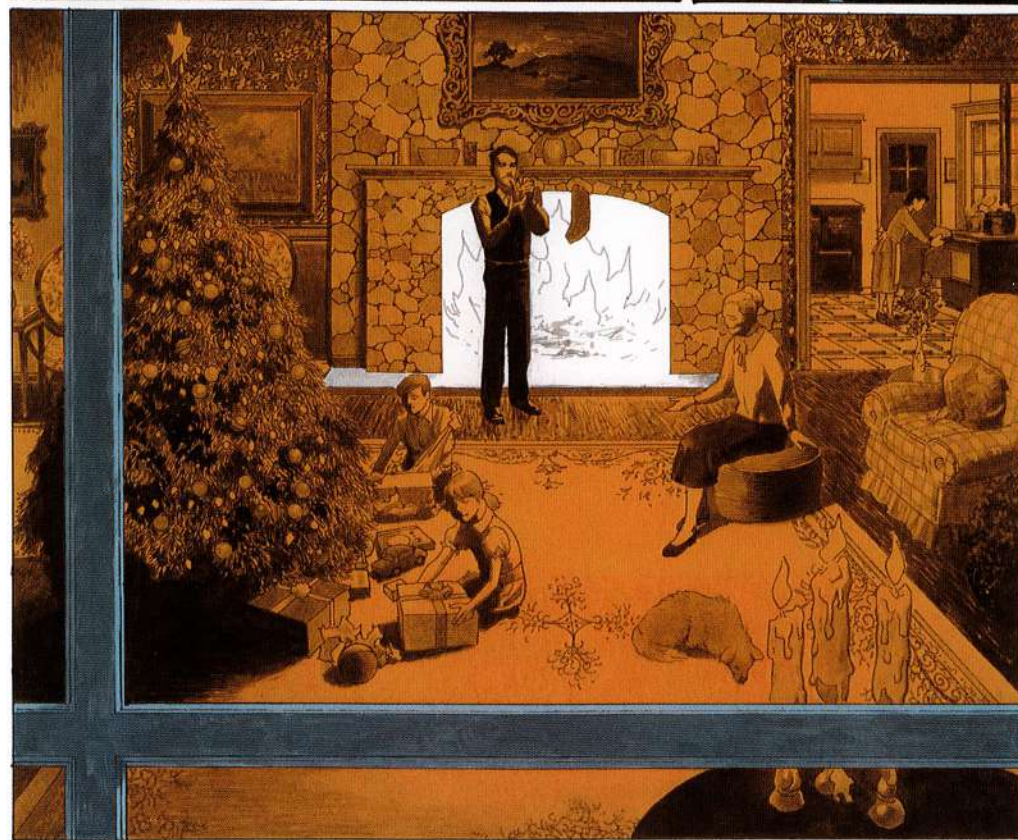
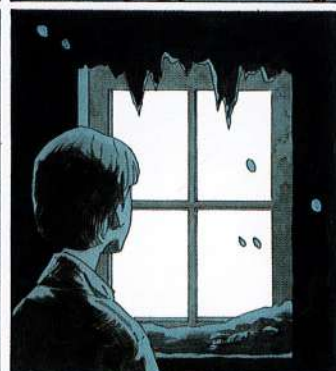
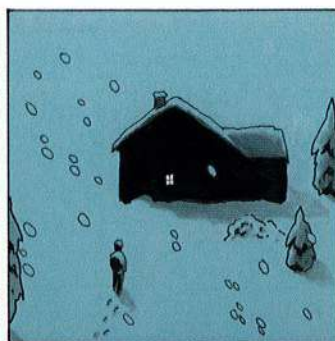
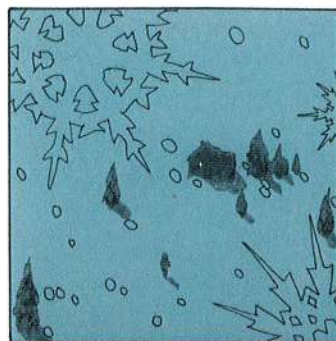


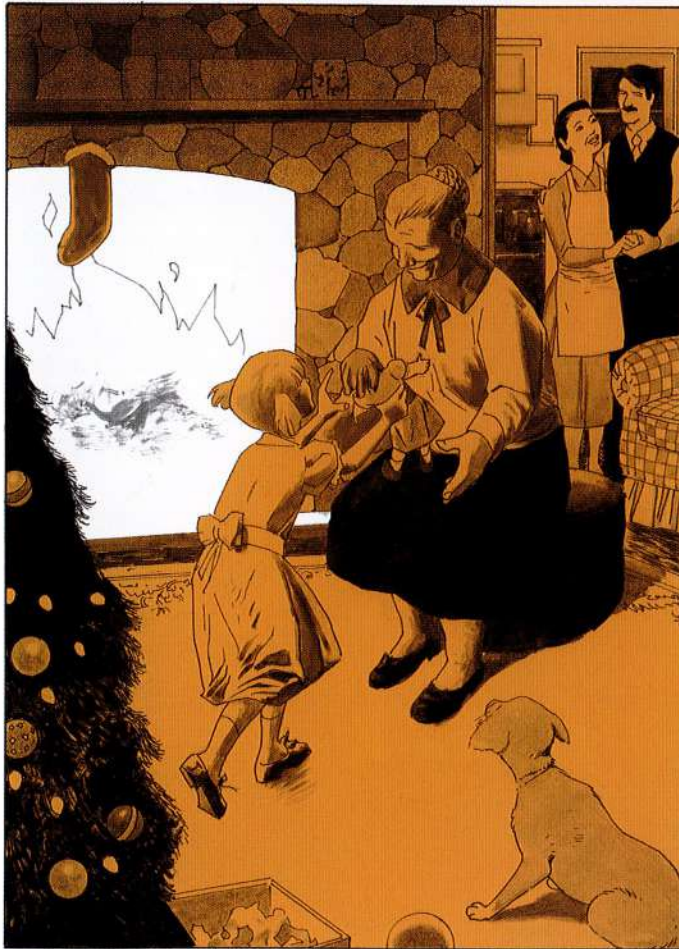


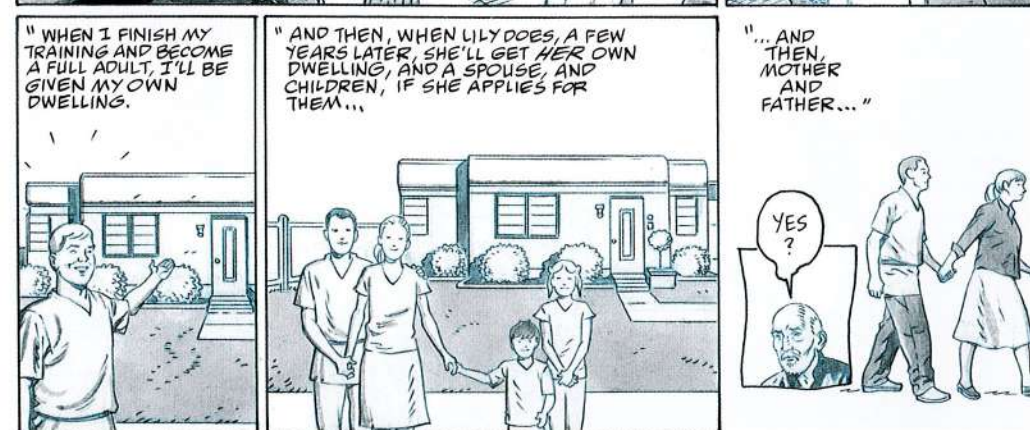
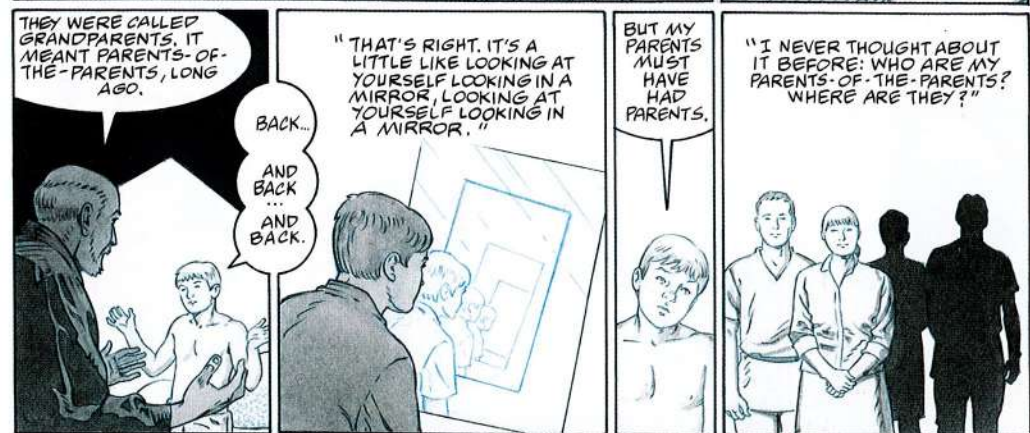
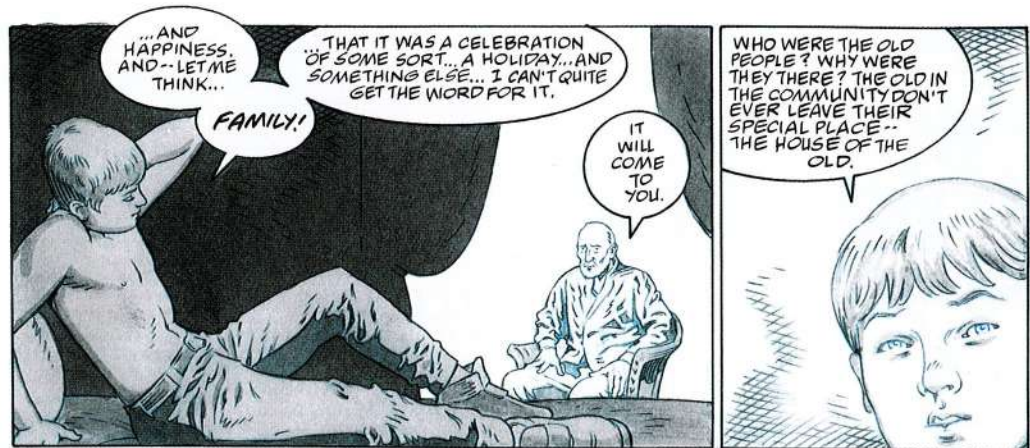
ALTHOUGH HE HAD, THROUGH THE MEMORIES, LEARNED ABOUT THE PAIN OF LOSS AND LONELINESS NOW, HE GAINED, TOO, AN UNDERSTANDING OF SOLITUDE AND ITS JOY.

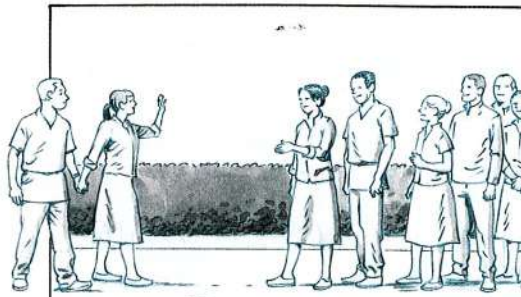


WONDER ABOUT
THE DOG AN

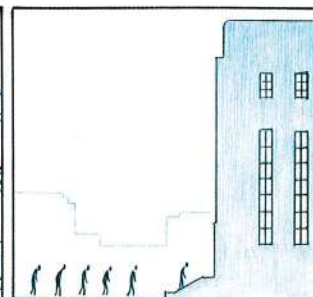




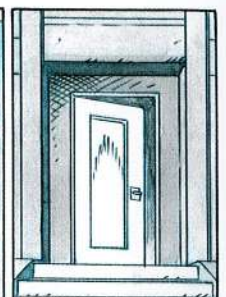




"AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL WORKING AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY, THEY'LL GO AND LIVE WITH THE OTHER CHILDLESS ADULTS. AND THEY WON'T BE A PART OF MY LIFE ANYMORE."



"... AND AFTER THAT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, THEY'LL GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE OLD. AND THEY'LL BE WELL CARED FOR, AND RESPECTED."



"AND WHEN THEY'RE RELEASED THERE WILL BE A CELEBRATION."



WHICH YOU WON'T ATTEND.



NO...



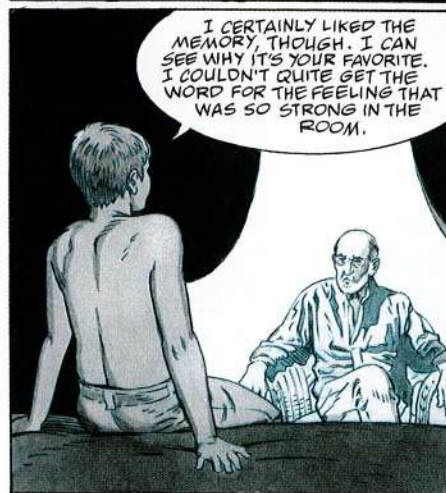
"... OF COURSE NOT, BECAUSE I WON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT. BY THEN, I'LL BE SO BUSY WITH MY OWN LIFE. AND LILY WILL, TOO. SO OUR CHILDREN, IF WE HAVE THEM, WON'T KNOW WHO THEIR PARENTS-OF-PARENTS ARE EITHER."

IT SEEMS TO WORK PRETTY WELL THAT WAY, DOESN'T IT? THE WAY WE DO IT IN OUR COMMUNITY?

I JUST DIDN'T REALIZE THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY, UNTIL I RECEIVED THAT MEMORY.



IT WORKS.



I CERTAINLY LIKED THE MEMORY, THOUGH. I CAN SEE WHY IT'S YOUR FAVORITE. I COULDN'T QUITE GET THE WORD FOR THE FEELING THAT WAS SO STRONG IN THE ROOM.



LOVE.



LOVE.



I CAN SEE THAT IT WASN'T A VERY PRACTICAL WAY TO LIVE, WITH THE OLD RIGHT THERE IN THE SAME PLACE WHERE MAYBE THEY WOULDN'T BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF, THE WAY THEY ARE NOW.

...AND THAT YOU COULD BE MY GRAND-PARENT.

THE FAMILY IN THE MEMORY SEEMED A LITTLE

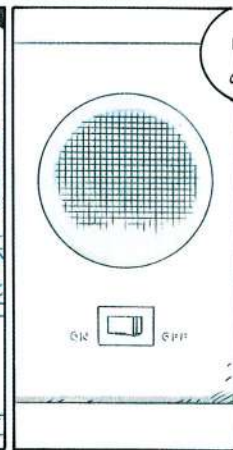
...MORE...

COMPLETE?

YES!

ANYWAY I WAS THINKING, I MEAN, FEELING, ACTUALLY, THAT IT WAS KIND OF NICE THEN, AND THAT I WISH WE COULD BE THAT WAY...

"AND WHEN THEY'RE RELEASED THERE WILL BE A CELEBRATION."

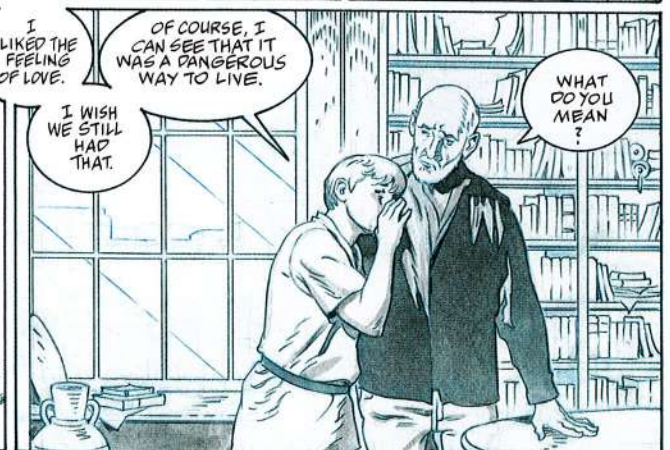


I LIKED THE FEELING OF LOVE.

OF COURSE, I CAN SEE THAT IT WAS A DANGEROUS WAY TO LIVE.

I WISH WE STILL HAD THAT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I'M NOT CERTAIN ...

BUT THERE WAS RISK INVOLVED. THEY HAD FIRE RIGHT THERE IN THAT ROOM, BURNING IN THE FIREPLACE. AND CANDLES. I CAN CERTAINLY SEE WHY THOSE THINGS WERE OUTLAWED.

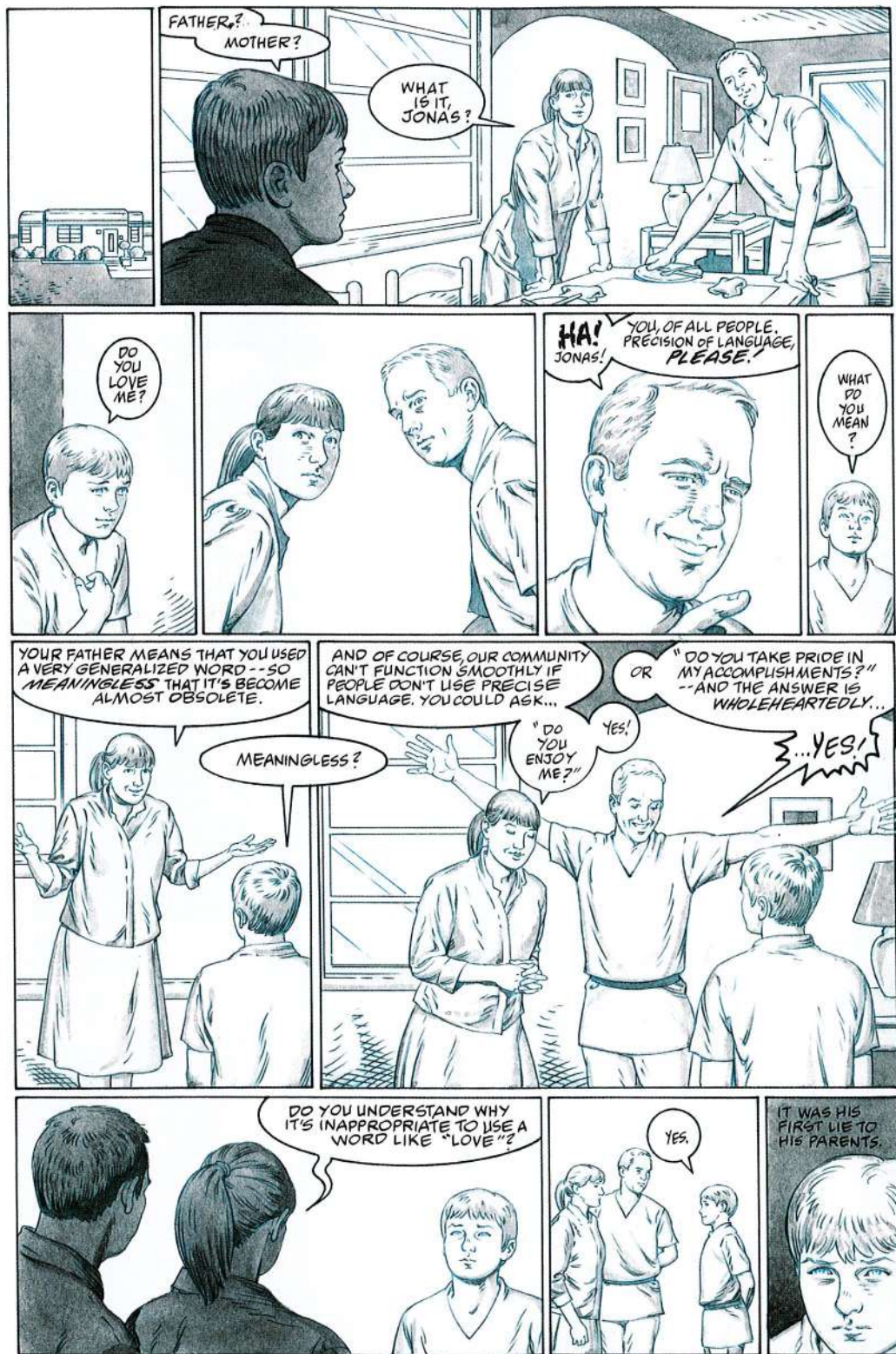
NOT REALLY.



STILL ...



"I DID LIKE THE LIGHT THEY MADE, AND THE WARMTH."



THE CRIB WAS IN HIS ROOM AGAIN. AFTER GABE HAD SLEPT SOUNDLY IN JONAS'S ROOM FOR FOUR NIGHTS, HIS PARENTS HAD PRONOUNCED THE EXPERIMENT A SUCCESS.

GABRIEL?

HE CAN BE UPGRADED IN THE NURTURING CENTER, NOW THAT HE'S SLEEPING.

AND HE CAN BE OFFICIALLY NAMED AND GIVEN TO HIS FAMILY IN DECEMBER.

BUT WHEN HE WAS TAKEN AWAY, HE STOPPED SLEEPING AGAIN, AND CRIED IN THE NIGHT.

SO, HE WAS BACK IN JONAS'S SLEEPING ROOM.

THINGS COULD CHANGE, GABE.

THINGS COULD BE DIFFERENT. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY FOR THINGS TO BE DIFFERENT.

MMN

SMEK

SMEK

THERE COULD BE COLORS ...

AND GRAND-PARENTS ...

... AND EVERYBODY WOULD HAVE THE MEMORIES.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MEMORIES.



THE NEXT MORNING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, JONAS DID NOT TAKE HIS PILL.

