

WHEN YOU MIX WATER WITH CORNSTARCH
IN THE RIGHT PROPORTIONS, YOU GET WHAT'S
CALLED A NON-NEWTONIAN FLUID.



NORMALLY IT'S A
GOOEY LIQUID,
BUT GIVE IT A
LITTLE SQUEEZE--



AND, JUST FOR A
MOMENT, IT
TURNS SOLID.

THAT'S HOW I CAME TO
IMAGINE THE ELECTRON.

A NEBULOUS WAVE FUNCTION
THAT COLLAPSES INTO A
SINGLE POINT IN THE
MOMENT YOU OBSERVE IT.



THE IDEA OF SCHRÖDINGER'S
CAT WAS TO EXAGGERATE
THAT TO A LUDICROUS
EXTREME CASE.

A SCIENTIST SEALS
A CAT IN A BOX
WITH A CAPSULE
OF CYANIDE GAS...



THE GAS IS TRIGGERED BY A
QUANTUM EVENT WITH A
50-50 CHANCE OF HAPPENING.

SO DID THE PARTICLE DECAY?
IS THE CAT DEAD?



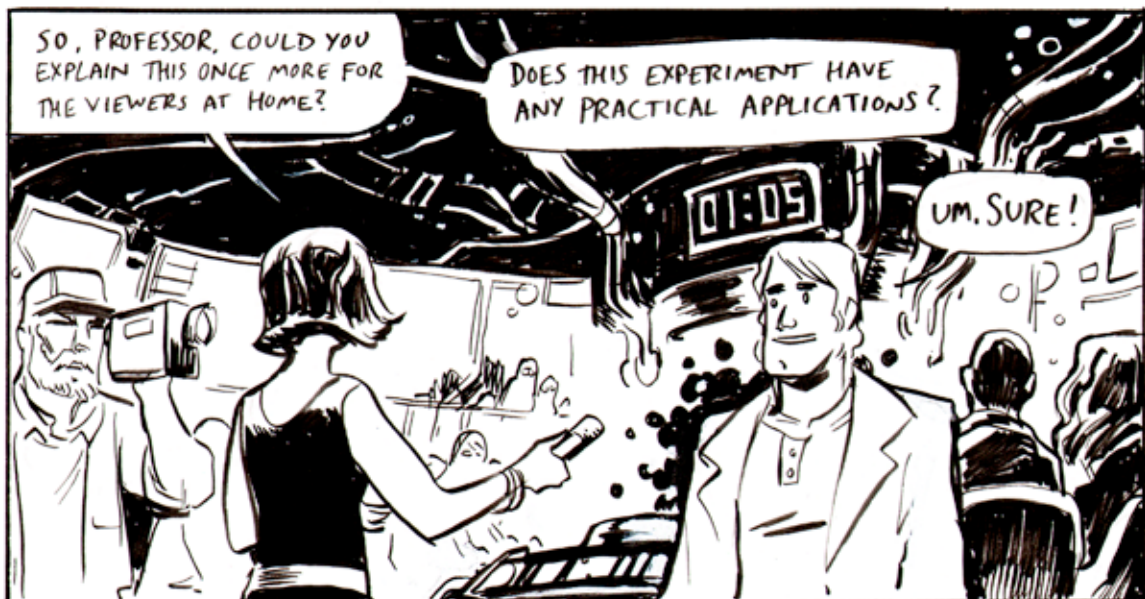
UNTIL THE SCIENTIST
OPENS THE BOX AND
CHECKS, IT'S NEITHER
YES OR NO. BOTH
STATES ARE SUPERIMPOSED.



IT'S JUST A HARMLESS, SILLY
THOUGHT EXPERIMENT.



IT WAS PROBABLY
A BAD IDEA TO
ACTUALLY TRY IT.



SO, PROFESSOR, COULD YOU EXPLAIN THIS ONCE MORE FOR THE VIEWERS AT HOME?

DOES THIS EXPERIMENT HAVE ANY PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS?

UM, SURE!



THE KEY INNOVATION IS OUR QUANTUM ISOLATION CHAMBER.

ITS SUPERCONDUCTING CONSTRUCTION BLOCKS ANY CONCEIVABLE MEANS OF DATA TRANSFER; ELECTRO-MAGNETIC OR EVEN GRAVIMETRIC!



FOR THE DURATION OF THE EXPERIMENT, OUR TEST SUBJECT IS HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF GOD AND MAN ALIKE!



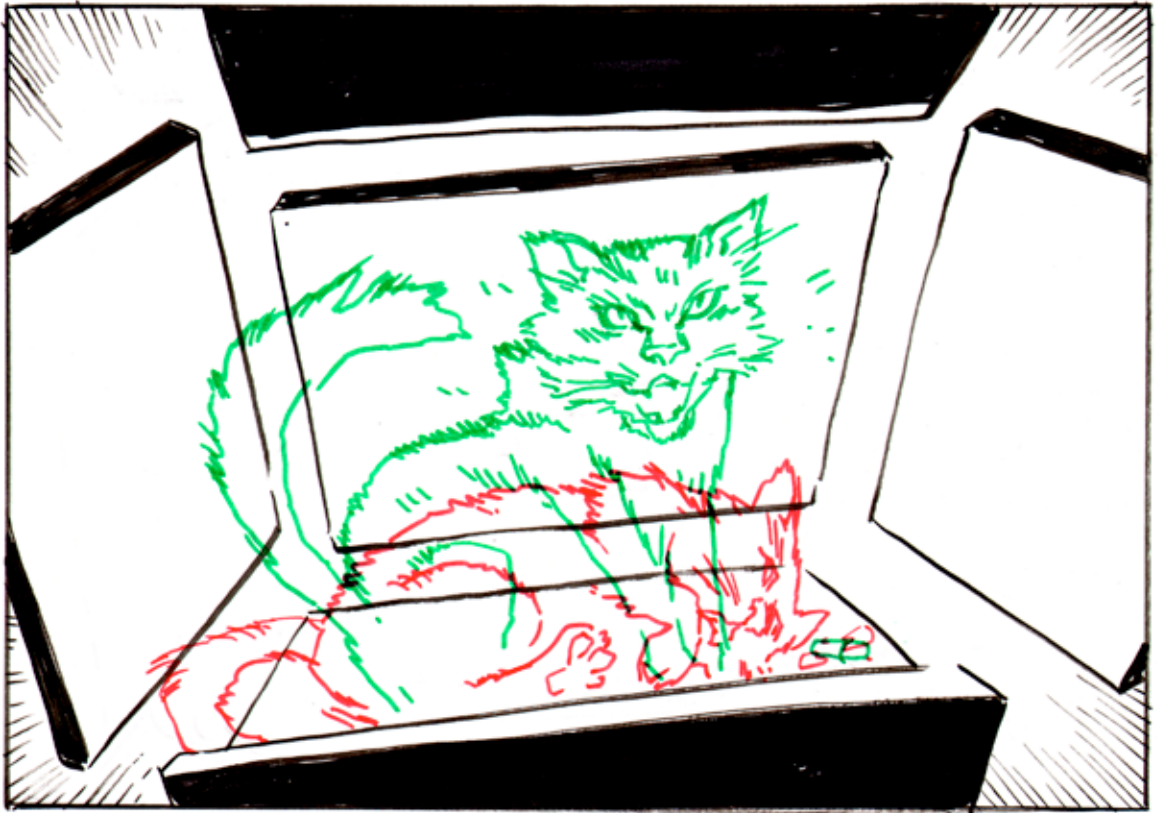
BUT WHY WAS IT NECESSARY TO USE AN ACTUAL LIVE CAT?

UH, WELL...



TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I JUST REALLY HATE CATS.





IN THEORY, ONCE THE
WAVEFORM OF THE CAT
BECOMES ENTANGLED
WITH THOSE OF THE
OBSERVERS, IT'LL
COLLAPSE INTO ONE
SINGLE STATE - FULLY
ALIVE, OR FULLY DEAD.

THE ALTERNATIVE
WOULD BE JUST
LUDICROUS.



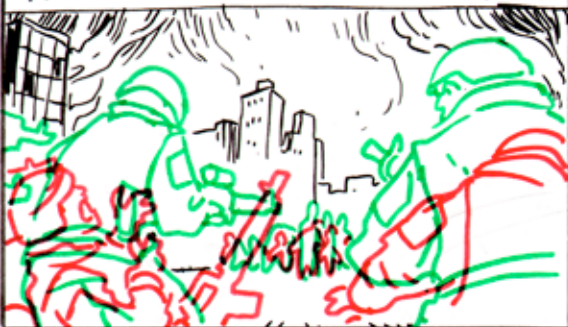
THE INITIAL EFFECT WASN'T LIMITED TO THE PEOPLE ON THE SCENE. REMEMBER, THIS WAS GOING OUT LIVE ON THE LOCAL NEWS NETWORKS.



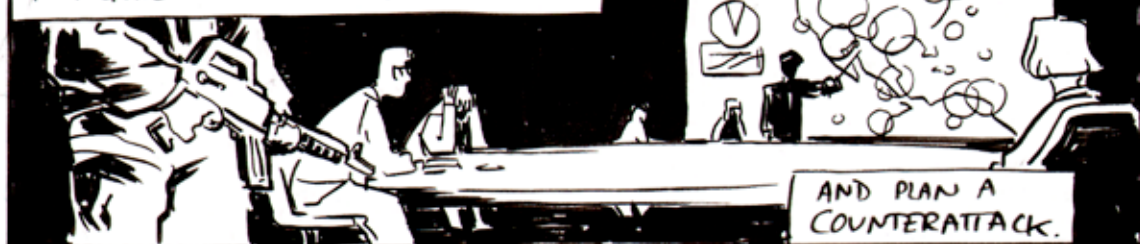
THOUSANDS, THEN MILLIONS BECAME QUANTUM ZOMBIES, NEITHER ALIVE NOR DEAD...



ENTANGLING ANYONE WHO OBSERVED THEM IN THE SAME GRUESOME STATE.



SOMEHOW, THE AUTHORITIES MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT THE NATURE OF THE CRISIS...



AND PLAN A COUNTERATTACK.

AND WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT EVEN HAVE WORKED IF THEY'D USED CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.



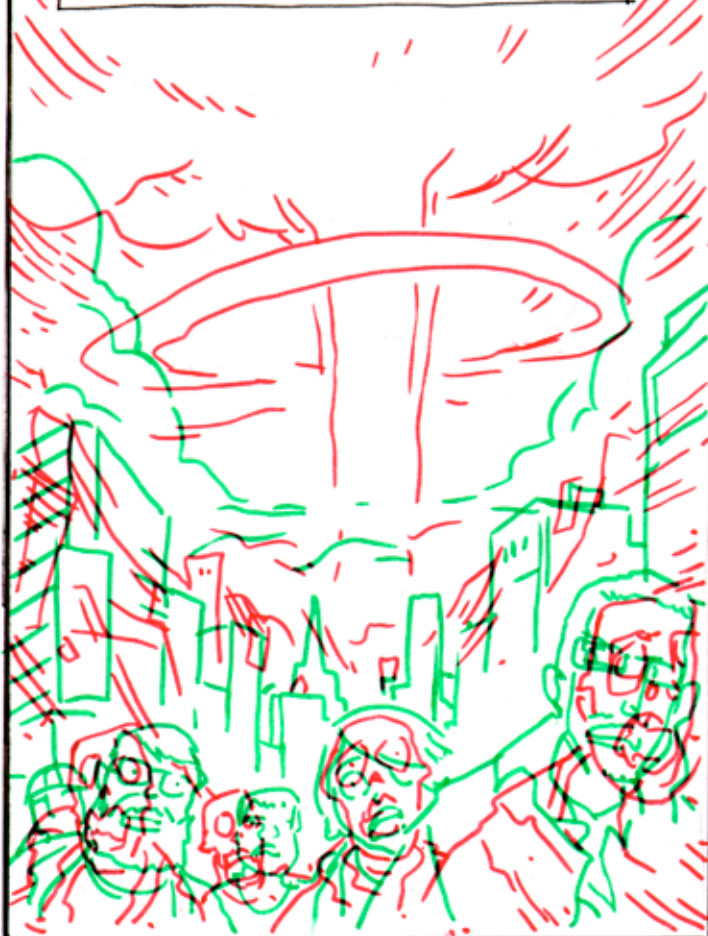
THE THING ABOUT NUKES, YOU SEE...



IS THAT THEY'RE TRIGGERED BY CHAIN REACTIONS ON THE SUB-ATOMIC LEVEL.

THE REALM OF QUANTUM PHYSICS--

THE DOMAIN OF SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT.



CAN YOU IMAGINE IT? A WORLD
WHERE NOBODY IS CONCLUSIVELY
ALIVE OR DEAD, NUKED OR NOT.
WHERE EVERY SIDE OF EVERY
ARGUMENT IS EQUALLY TRUE,
AND NOTHING IS EVER RESOLVED.



SEE, THIS IS EXACTLY
WHY I DROPPED OUT
AND WENT TO CULINARY
SCHOOL.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
WE HAVE NOW EXHAUSTED
EVERY RATIONAL OPTION.

DECOHEREN
QUATNUM
ETNANGRE

BUT, DOCTOR--

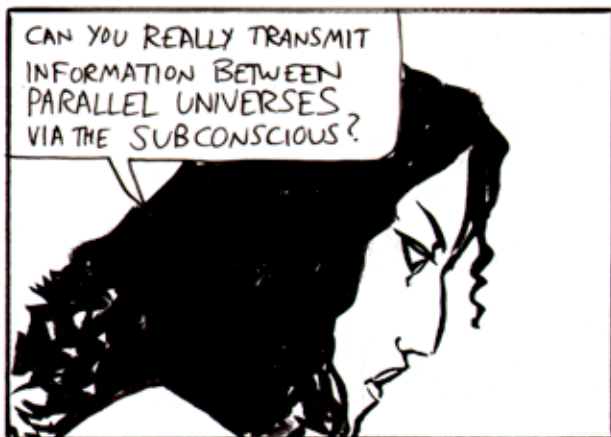


FACED WITH A TRULY
RIDICULOUS CRISIS,
I BELIEVE WE NEED
A RIDICULOUS SOLUTION.



WE REQUIRE -- AN
OUTSIDE OBSERVER.





YOU HAVE BEEN READING

THE BLACK CAT

AN EIGHT-NINE HOUR COMIC
BY MARK SIMMONS