

50.000 years ago during the late pleistocene,
across the vast stretches of the european continent—



lived some folks we call the Neanderthals.

They're a primitive ape-like species,
barely even capable of starting a fire.



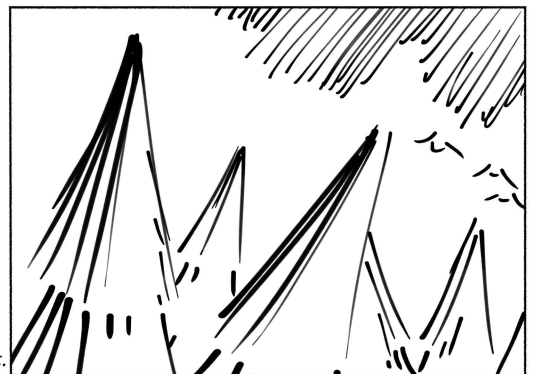
Or so we thought...

But science has spoken! And she told us, loud and clear—
These monkeys may be more competent than you realise.

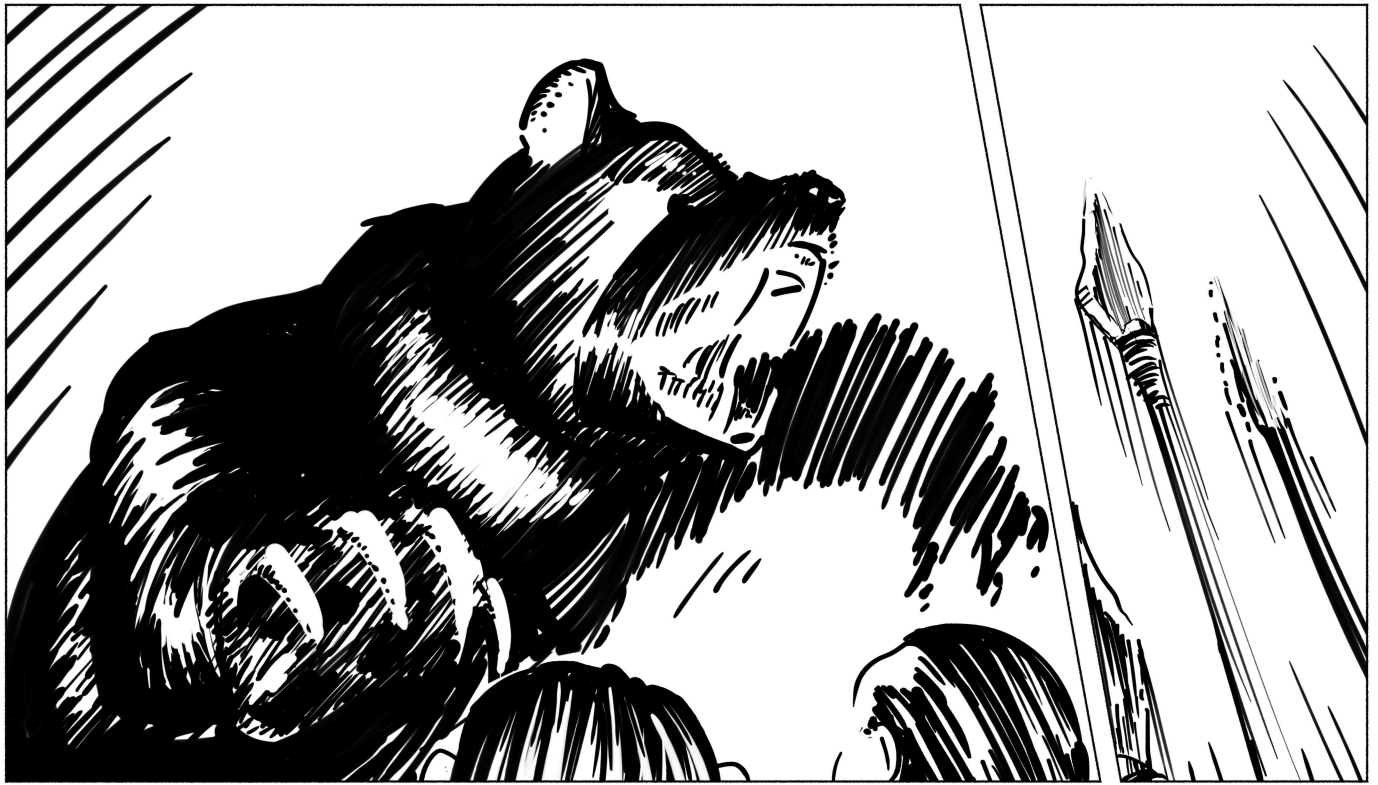


Besides having a face
only a mother could love.

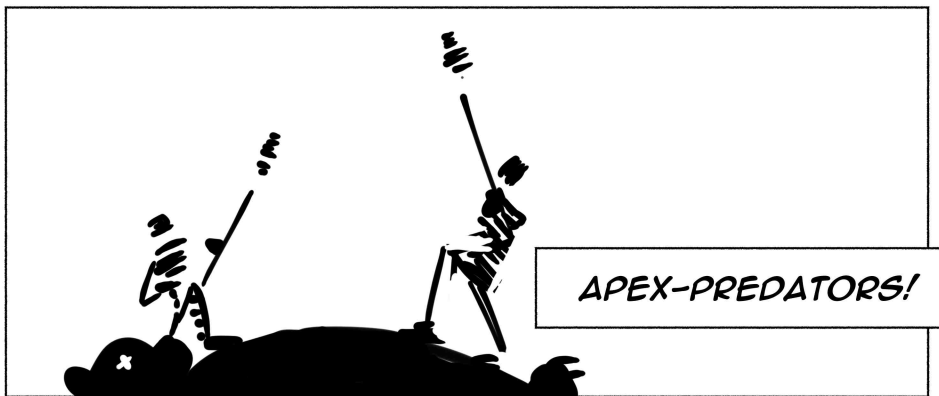
These beauties were
remarkably well-
adapted to survival in
their colder environment.



But getting a cold tummy was not
the only thing they had to worry about
in the merciless world of the pleistocene.



From their scarred bones left behind, we can tell without a doubt that these people were—



APEX-PREDATORS!

They earned this *epic* title by employing complex hunting strategies to catch anything from deer and small game—



To striking down even the mighty—

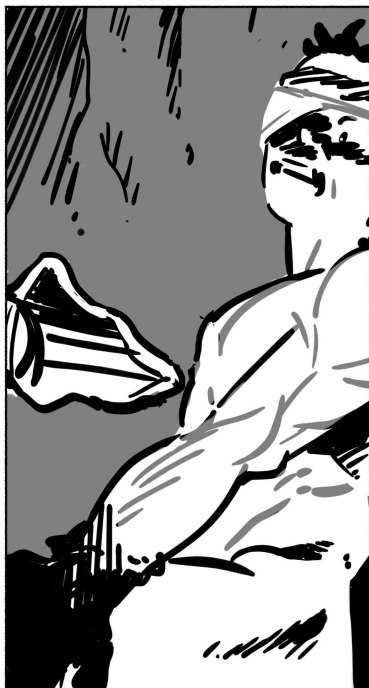
WOOLLY MAMMOTH!



But not all hunts turned out succesfull.

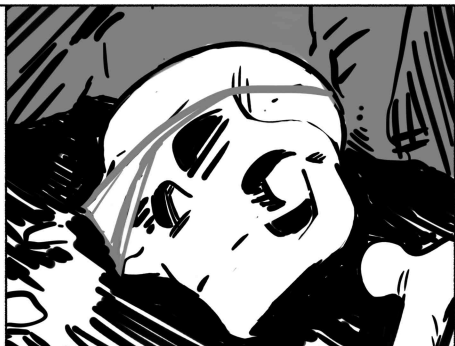
And injuries on the battlefield had to be dealt with immediatly.





A specimen known as shanidar 1 shows us that the neanderthal lifestyle is not all sunshine and roses.

As a young bloke his eye socket suffered a blow, causing visual impairment.



He was also likely deaf, seeing as his ear canal had grown shut.

But it doesn't end there, his right hand and forearm were missing, indicating an amputation.



And finally, his left foot was crushed, meaning he was unable to walk properly, thereby excluding him from the hunts.

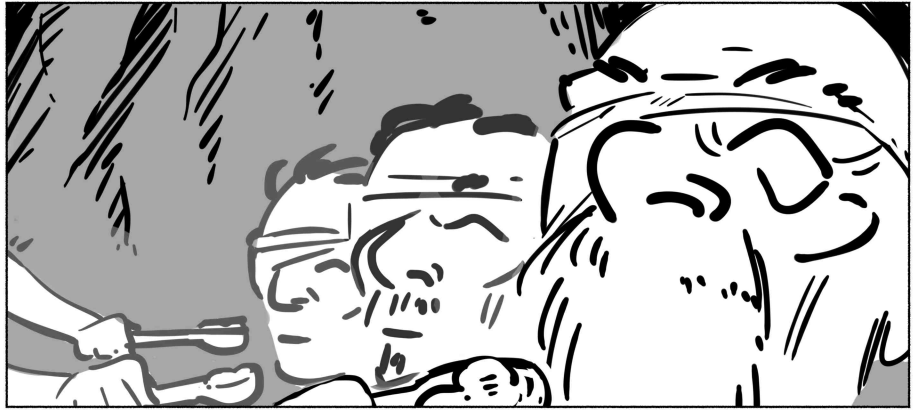
With nothing to contribute to his community and requiring a near constant care—



THAT'S MEAN.

I wouldn't blame them if they left this loser behind.

And yet—



These fools took care of him, allowing him to live well into his forties.

Shanidar and his pals, show us that Neanderthals cared for each other through thick and thin. Real lovely stuff.

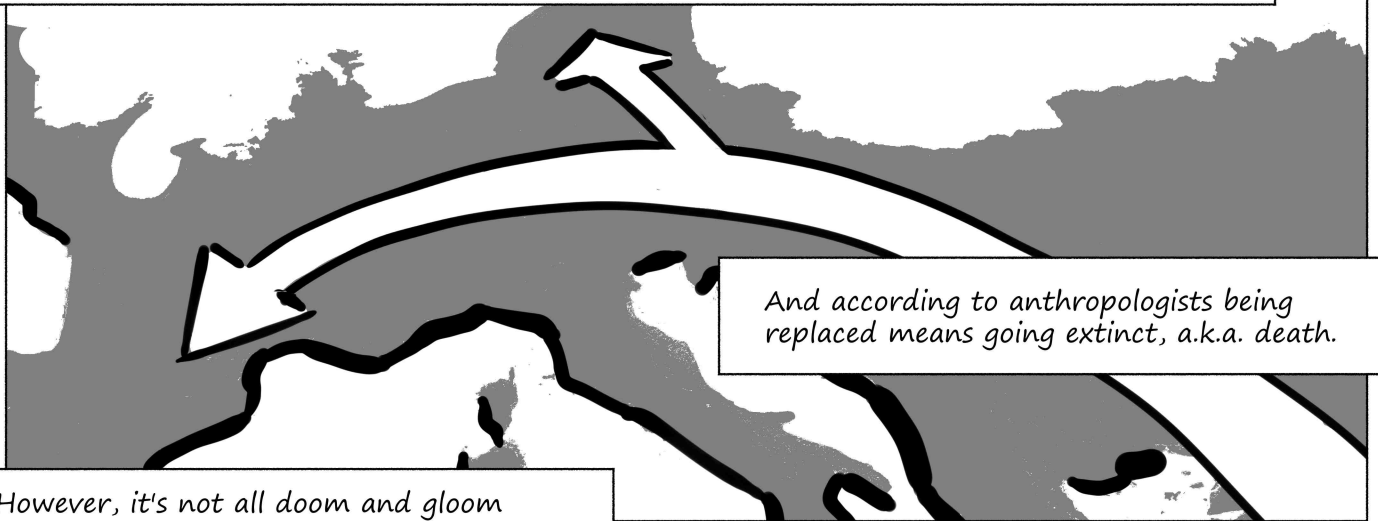
Unfortunately the chances of getting closer to one of these compassionate chaps are not high.



Seeing as they're all dead.

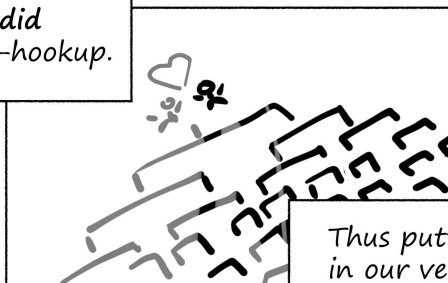
— Hello?

During the Late Pleistocene Mass Extinction Event, a rude bunch called the *homo sapiens* moved out of Africa and ended up replacing the Neanderthal population.



And according to anthropologists being replaced means going extinct, a.k.a. death.

However, it's not all doom and gloom as a recent genetics study has shown that some of our ancestors actually did succeed in getting that neanderthal-hookup.



Thus putting a tinge of neanderthal in our very own DNA.

So in a strange way, within us—



their legacy goes on.

END.