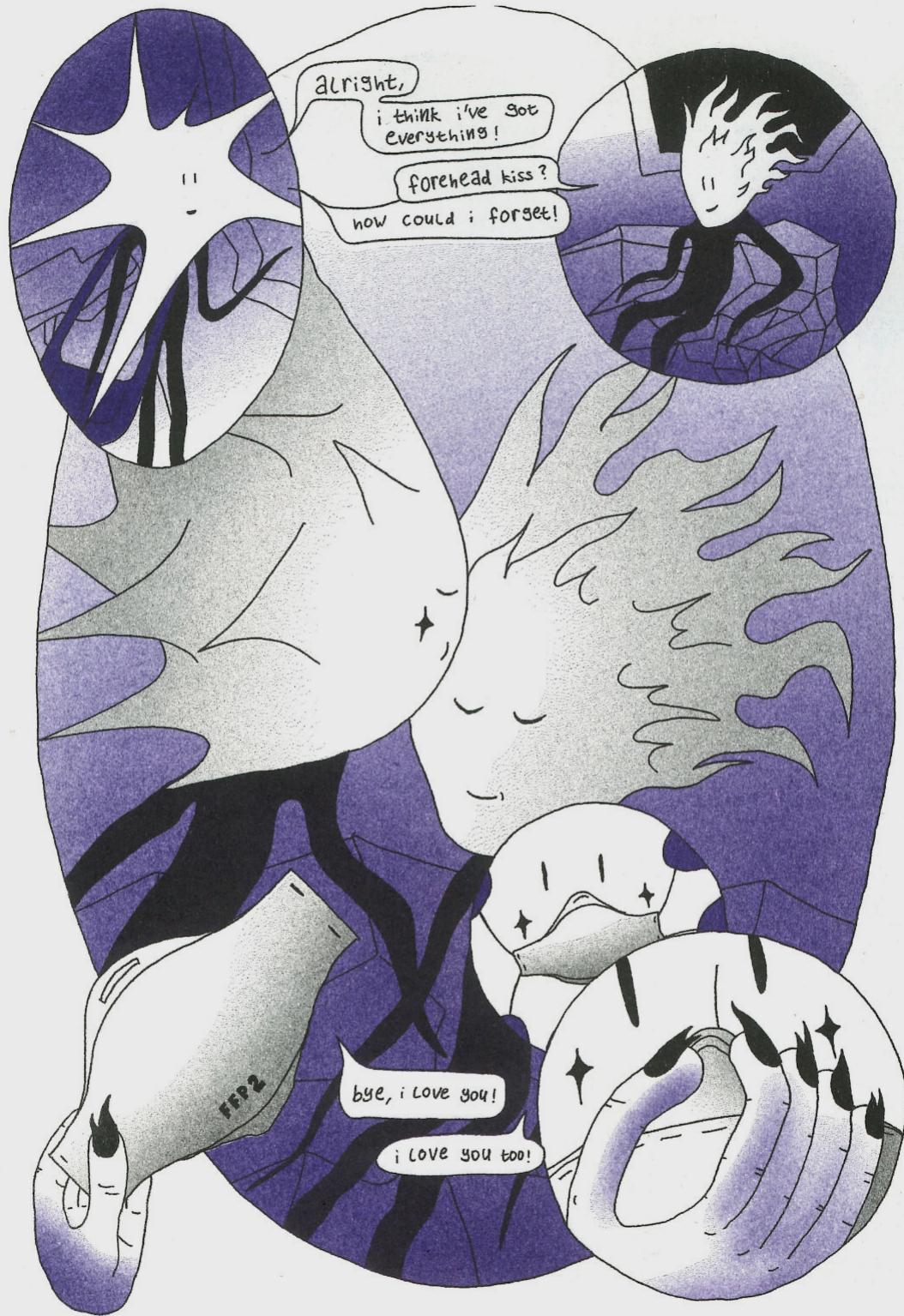


the same air,
differently



alright,

i think i've got everything!

forehead kiss?

how could i forget!

bye, i love you!

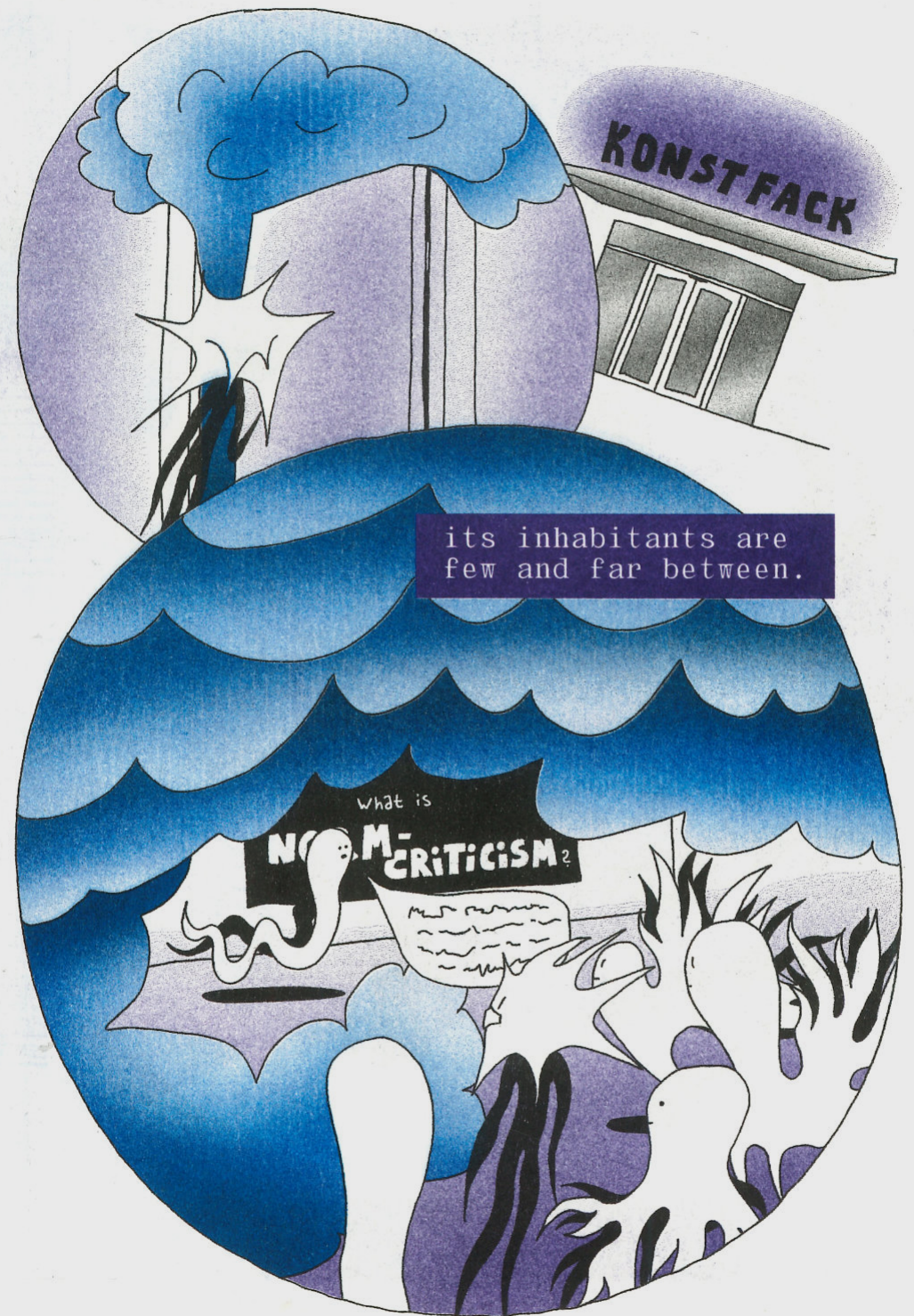
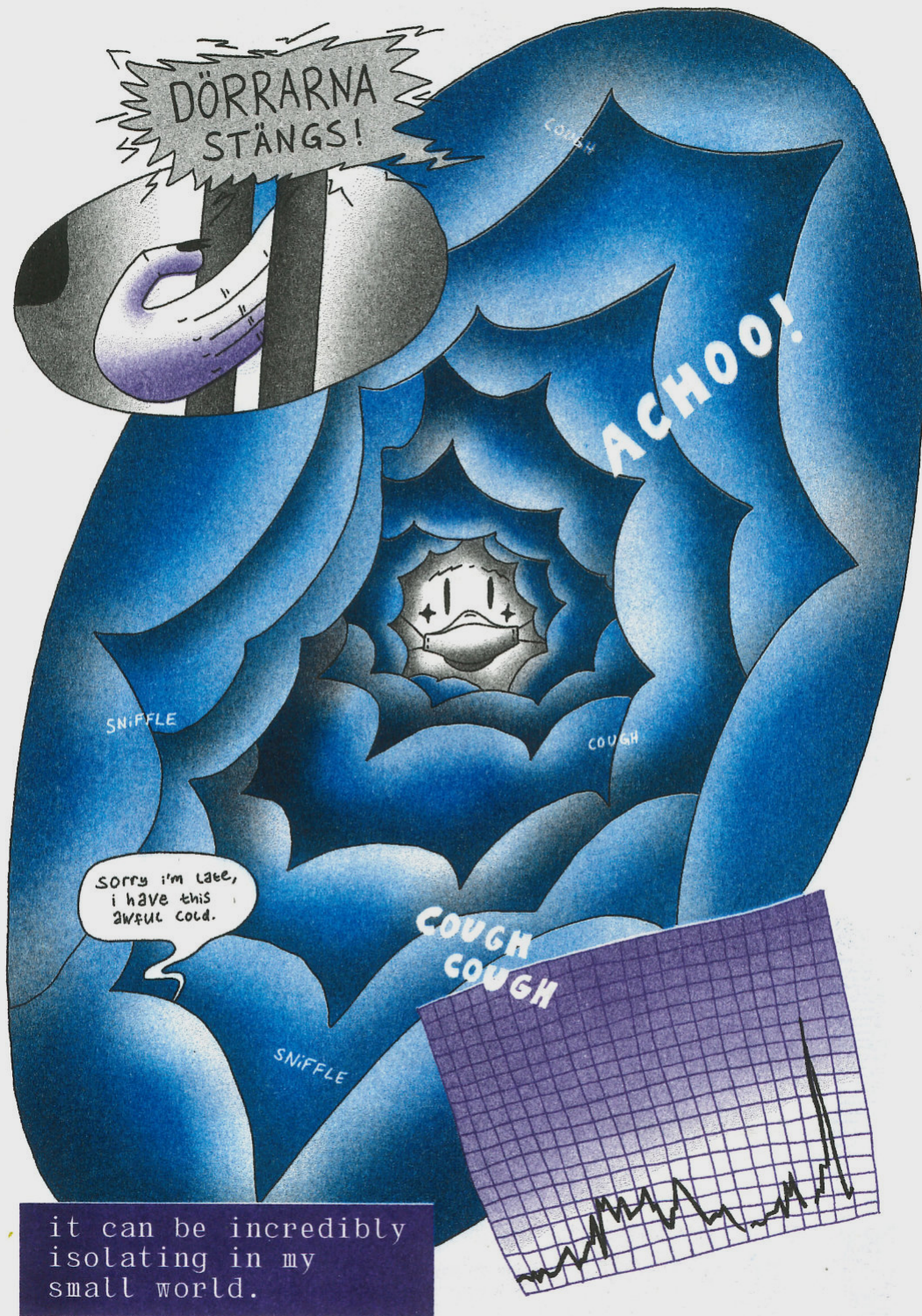
i love you too!




when i go outside, i am reminded that "the world" for me is not "the world" to you reading this;

i remember how fundamentally different our realities, our truths, can be.

T





SOME OF US
ARE HAVING LUNCH IN
THE CAFÉ, IF ANY-
ONE WANTS TO JOIN!

it is disorienting to see
my world clash with yours,

a world i can no longer
enter, even though it
once was my world too.

and to explain why might risk
putting even more space between
us, might risk acknowledging
how far our worlds are apart.

i still breathe the same
air, but differently.

and so i struggle to
invite you into mine.



and yet part of me feels hope.



because our distance,

the concert on
saturday was amazing!

yeah, the place
was packed!

between where i
was (and you are)

and where i am now,

shows that somehow,
change must be possible.

are you gonna join
us at the bar later?

no, i think
i'll stay home.

See you tomorrow!

that a better
world must be
possible.

in some important ways, a
better world already exists.



i know, because - in some important
ways - i already live in that world.



i breathe the same air, differently.

i'm back!

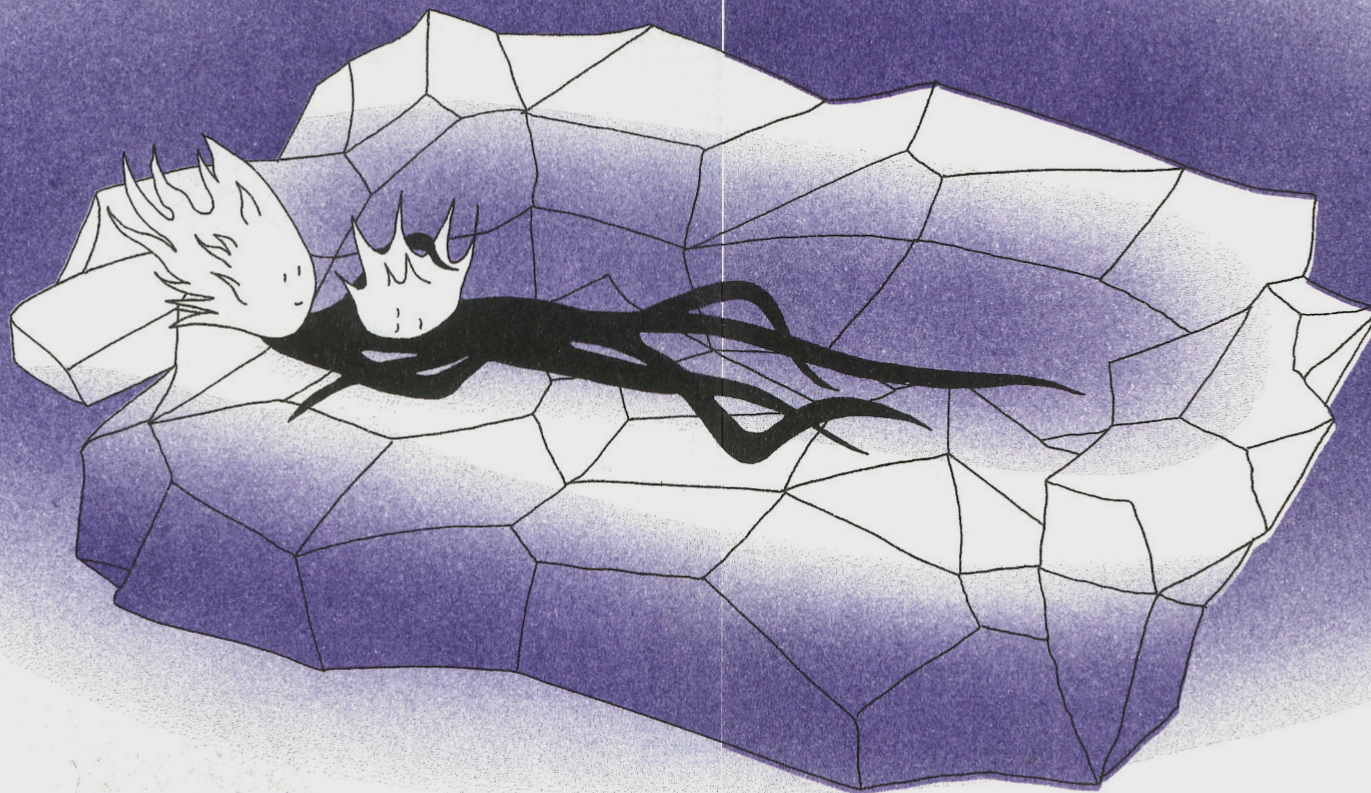
you're back!

this world i'm in,
it's scratchy and
small,



but it
is there
nonetheless.

and if it exists, that means
i can invite you to visit.



and maybe
stay.

covid-19 is an airborne respiratory illness that spreads through aerosols, which are extremely tiny droplets in the air, that people breathe in and out. it can cross the blood-brain barrier, and can permanently harm vital organs, including the brain. each new infection increases the risk of damage and weakens the immune system. for people with disabilities, as well as other marginalised groups, the risk of serious, long-term damage is especially high, but many "healthy" people also have permanent damage from covid-19. a large number of people who have long-term health impacts from covid are not even aware of it (yet).

covid has become a mass-disabling event, affecting hundreds of millions of people around the world.

vaccines can help lower the risk of severe symptoms or death, but they currently can't prevent the spread of the virus or the possibility of permanent damage (in part because of covid-19's ability to mutate). weekly waste water measurements show that the virus is still spreading continuously in stockholm (and sweden, and the rest of the world).

you might have covid right now and not even know.

covid tests (the ones you

can buy at a pharmacy) are not very accurate and can often give false-negative results, because the virus mutates so quickly and because they require a certain amount of the virus to be in the sample to be able to work. this, combined with the fact that many cases are asymptomatic, means that most people have no reliable way to know whether they have covid-19. even asymptomatic cases spread the disease (especially since people are less likely to stay home).

currently, the most effective way to avoid getting infected and to avoid infecting others in crowded spaces and indoors is to wear a well-fitting ffp2 or ffp3 mask (also called respirators). they filter the air you breathe in and out, preventing the virus from getting through. but masks are also not 100% effective in crowded spaces where no one else is wearing them. that is why masking is also an act of solidarity with the people around us, keeping each other safe and enabling those who are at higher risk to participate in gatherings and events. masking also helps prevent the spread of other airborne illnesses such as the cold and flu, which many immunocompromised people cannot afford to be infected with either.

beyond the individual act of masking, it is also crucial that we push for societal and political changes to prevent the spread of covid-19 and other illnesses.

we need to make sure that workers and students are able to stay home when they feel sick (even with "just" a cold or a sore throat). that means paid sick leave without the fear of being punished when staying home for several days or weeks, as well as better ways to keep students in the loop that don't add even more stress to their recovery.

lectures, classes and meetings should have possibility to participate at a distance to allow people to avoid crowded spaces, which also improves accessibility for people who don't have the energy or capacity to commute every day.

schools and workplaces as well as other public spaces and events should implement structures for better air quality and ventilation. a space where fresh or filtered air can circulate and is regularly replaced massively decreases the spread of airborne disease. classes can also be moved outside when possible, where risk of infection is significantly decreased.

healthcare settings also need to become more conscious of the risks of spreading disease at care centres and

hospitals, which both sick and immunocompromised people need to safely access.

we are still living through a global pandemic. "during covid" is right now. but the individualist and profit-driven structures we live in can't let us seriously acknowledge that fact. it would require a large-scale reckoning with how those structures and institutions don't actually have our health and wellbeing at heart; and with how they turn us all into disposable resources while embodying eugenicist ideas around who deserves to live and who does not.

which is why marginalised groups - queer, racialised and disabled people, who have always been dehumanised and excluded from our systems' narratives - are at the frontlines of the fight for covid justice. and they are telling us to wear a mask.

like clean water, clean air is a necessity for a dignified and healthy life.

An abstract graphic design featuring large, stylized, overlapping shapes in various shades of blue and purple. The shapes have soft, cloud-like edges and are outlined with thin black lines. Some shapes have internal curved lines, giving them a sense of depth or movement. The overall composition is dynamic and layered.

falk, october 2025