"Smart Home" Alone

By Swati Balasubramanian

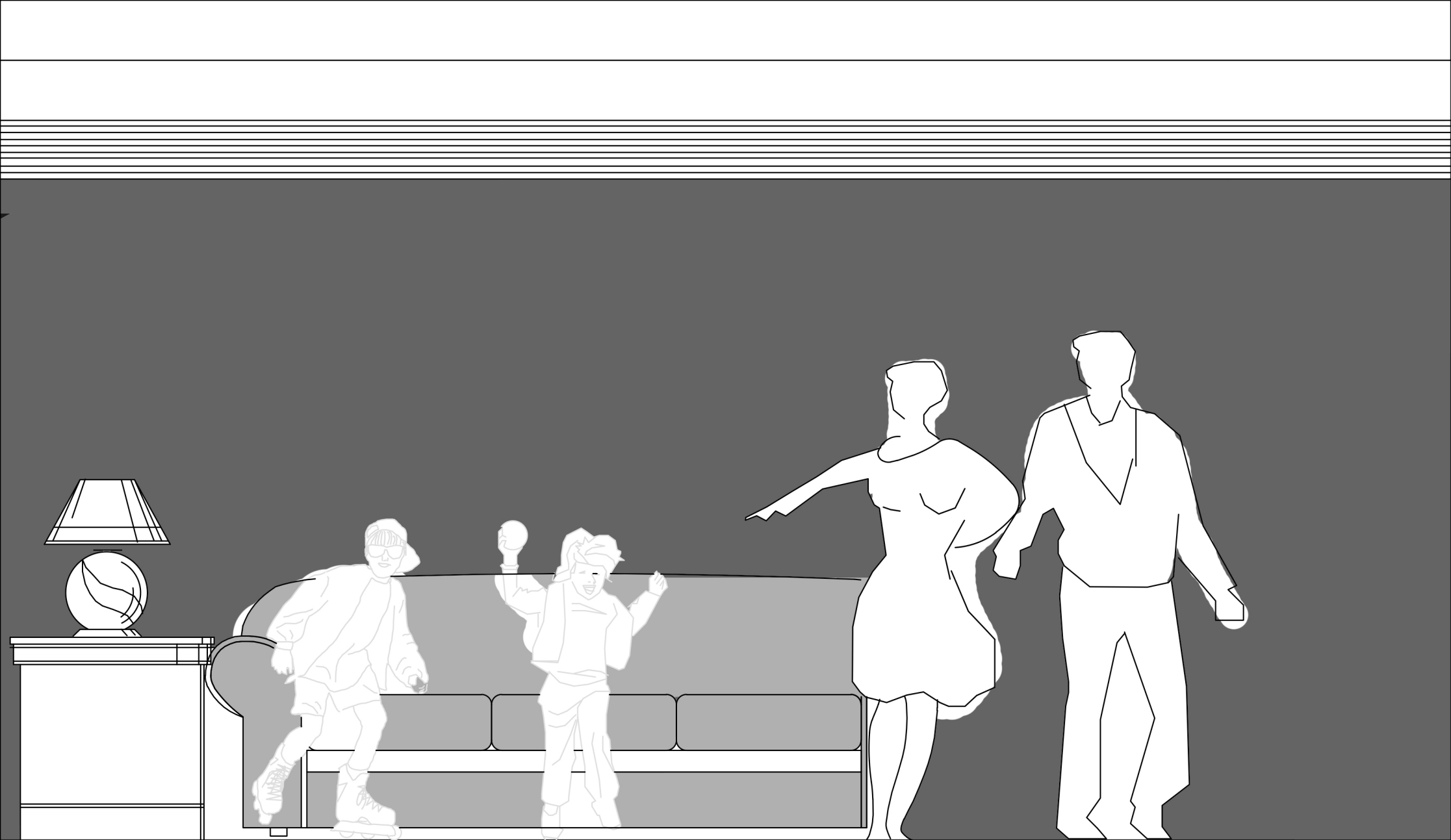
I am one of those people who never put off their phones. The effects of the "**connected age**" have worked their magic on me and I have sort of started getting emotionally attached to the devices I own. We are "**smart**" people but only the inanimate "cohort of the smart" making us smart, isn't it?

By cohort of the "**smart**", I mean the group of devices which have pretty much become an integral part of our daily life. This epic power grab by the lords of the network is not only weaving an intangible system of connectivity, convenience, and comfort in our personal spaces but are also molding the way we function in domicile environments.

Speaking of domicile environments, how many of you own a "smart home system?"
Well, I do and my day is pretty much being recorded, by my google assistant. This thesis is an attempt to investigate the promises of the techno-evolutionary assistants and here I am envisioning a fun future of how deep have these 'smart' home concepts infiltrated into the human systems.

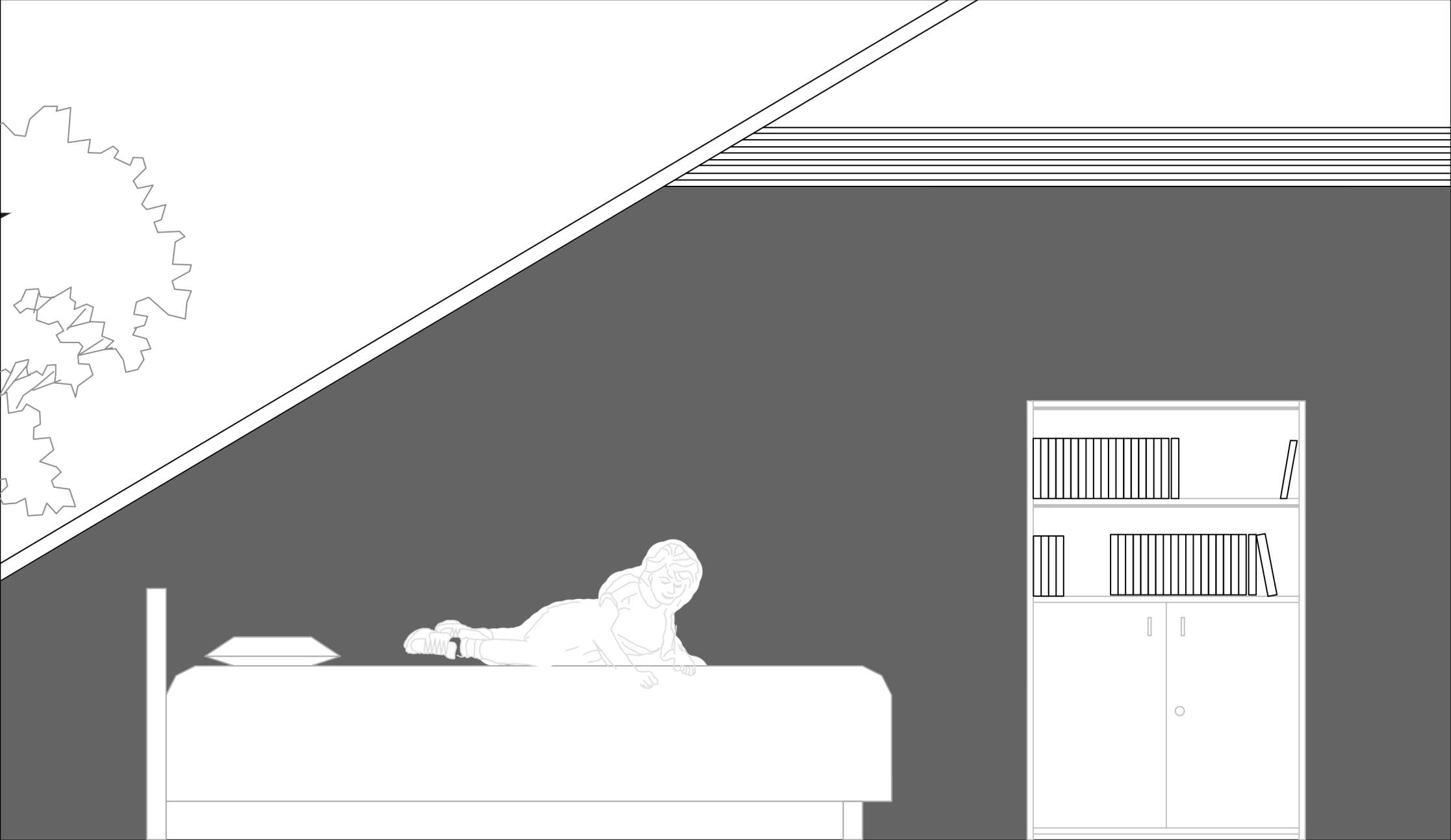
Do not worry folks. This appearance of reality is purely an illusion or a trick of the mind!

In the year 2030, amidst the extra smart infrastructure far far away, called Queenstech lived an even smarter family named the “Maisels” in a cute little “smart” townhouse.



The couple, Joel and Midge Maisel were frustrated to constantly be putting out fights between their two violently argumentative 10-year olds, Ethan and Ester. On the eve of Christmas, when the entire family was planning a trip back to their hometown, poor Ester went crying to her parents after her notorious brother bit her on her arm.

The furious parents sent grounded Ethan for the night and he was ordered to sleep alone in the attic of thier technologically equipped townhouse.



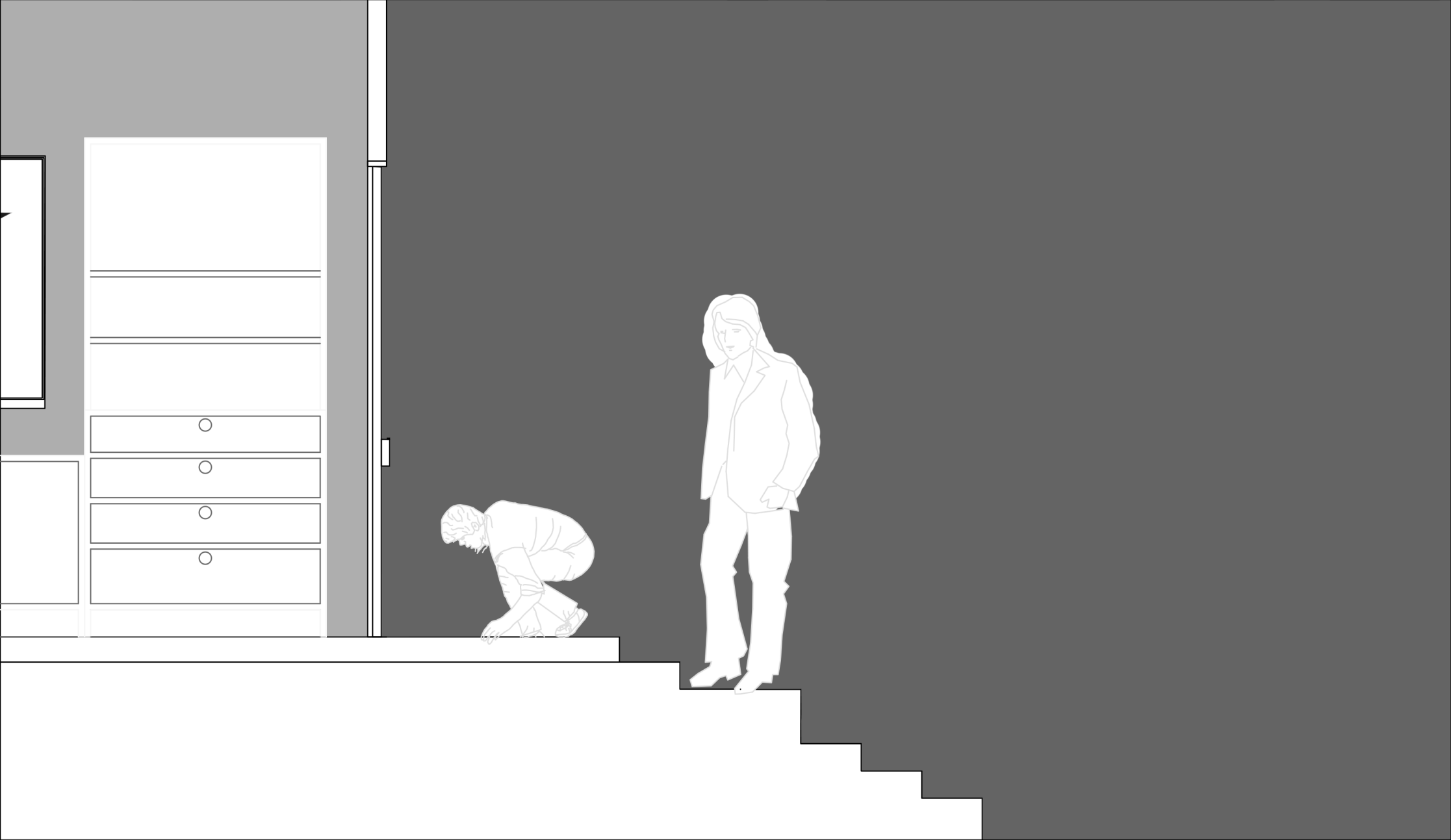
The next morning, exactly at 6 am, the couple woke up in a panic realizing they overslept by an hour and would probably miss their flight. Midge woke Joel and their daughter Ester up and together, they all rushed to the airport to board their flight. After checking in, and boarding the flight, the family finally seemed to settle down.

Amidst all this chaos, Midge's intuition hinted at her about something that might be missing while Joel reassured her with the belief he had in the "smart ecosystem" back home to take care of any hiccups while they were gone. When air hostess came in to ask for their seats, is when they realized, they had 4 tickets and not 3.

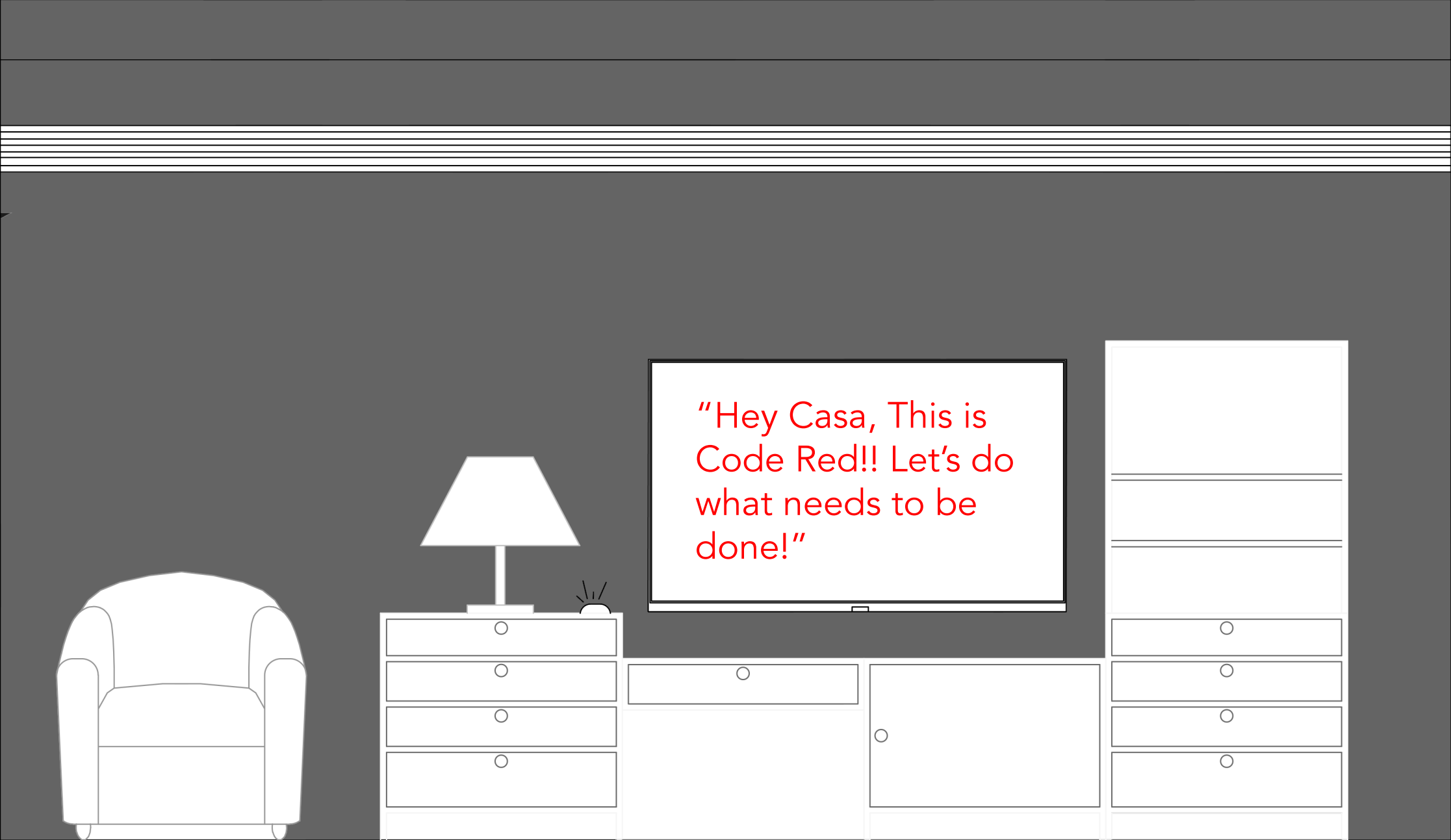
"Oh My God!! We forgot to bring Ethan!!"

Back in the smart townhouse, little Ethan was sound asleep.

Sid and Harry, two bandits knew the schedule of the Maisels. They were trained criminals who had been watching this tech-equipped neighborhood for months now, just waiting for the right opportunity to break into the house and make some money off the gadgets. Finally, their D-Day was here!



As soon as the family left for the airport, the duo arrived at the house trying to make attempts to break into the house. Their first attempt was to poke around their way by hacking the smart lock on the door. Little did they know what smart home systems were capable of doing!

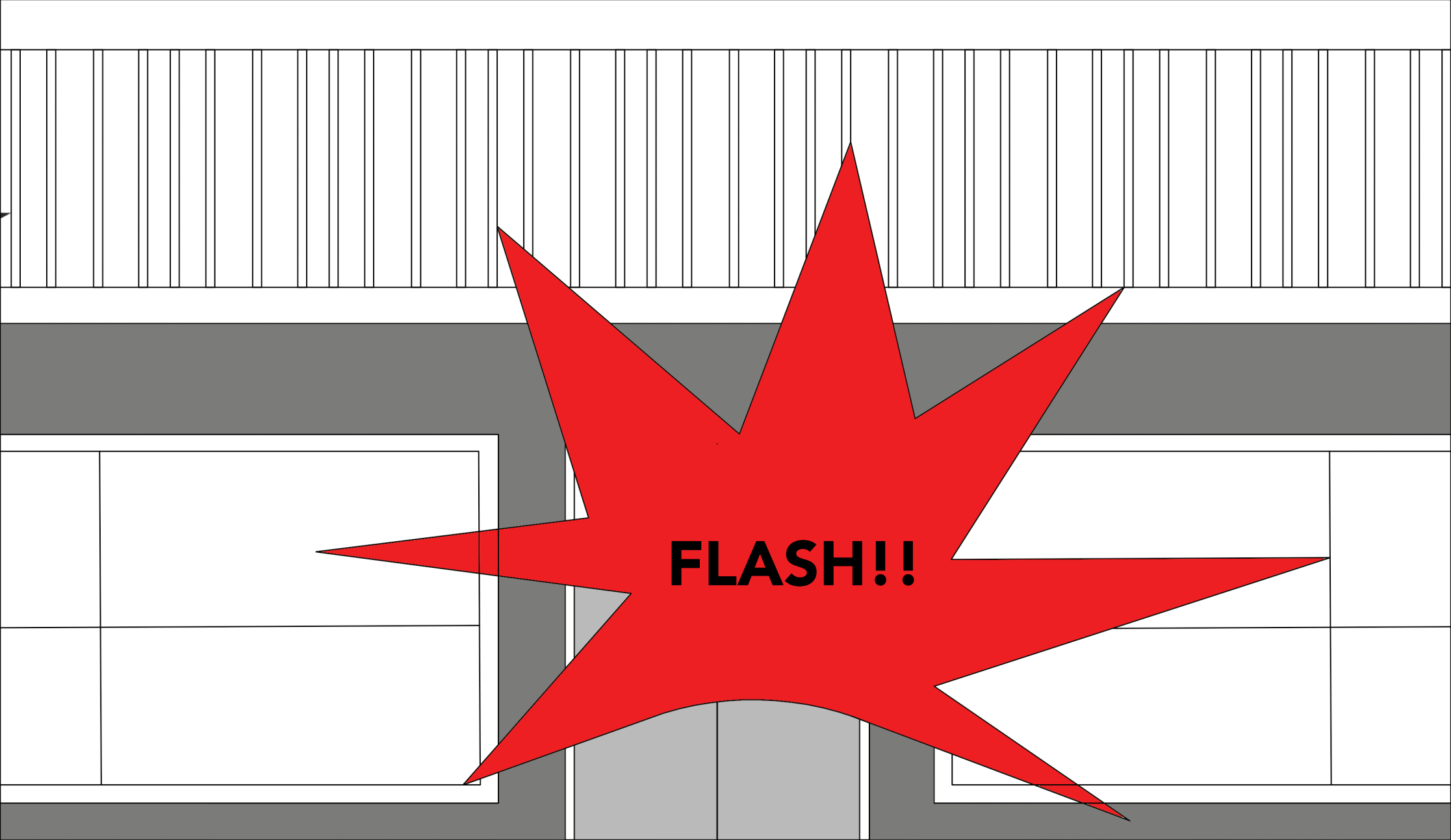

“Hey Casa, This is Code Red!! Let’s do what needs to be done!”

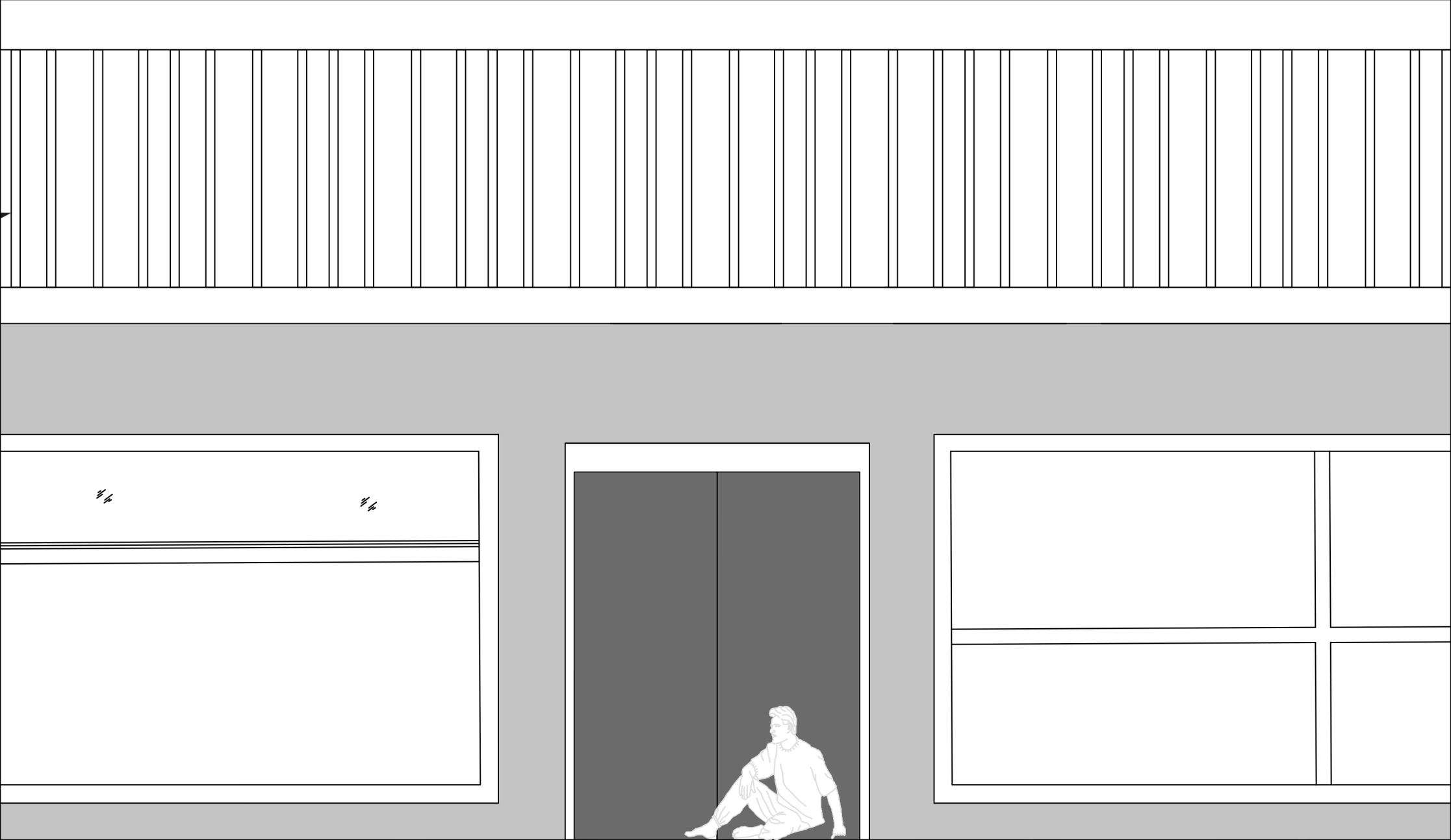
The false fingerprint match on the smartlock alerted the entire smart ecosystem to these threats. Their smart home AI assistant, Zoid communicated its idea to all the devices,

“Hey Casa, This is Code Red!! Let’s do what needs to be done!”

After the home was alerted, it was time to act. The internet of things within this ecosystem all rose to the rescue of the home, and this is when things began to go downhill.

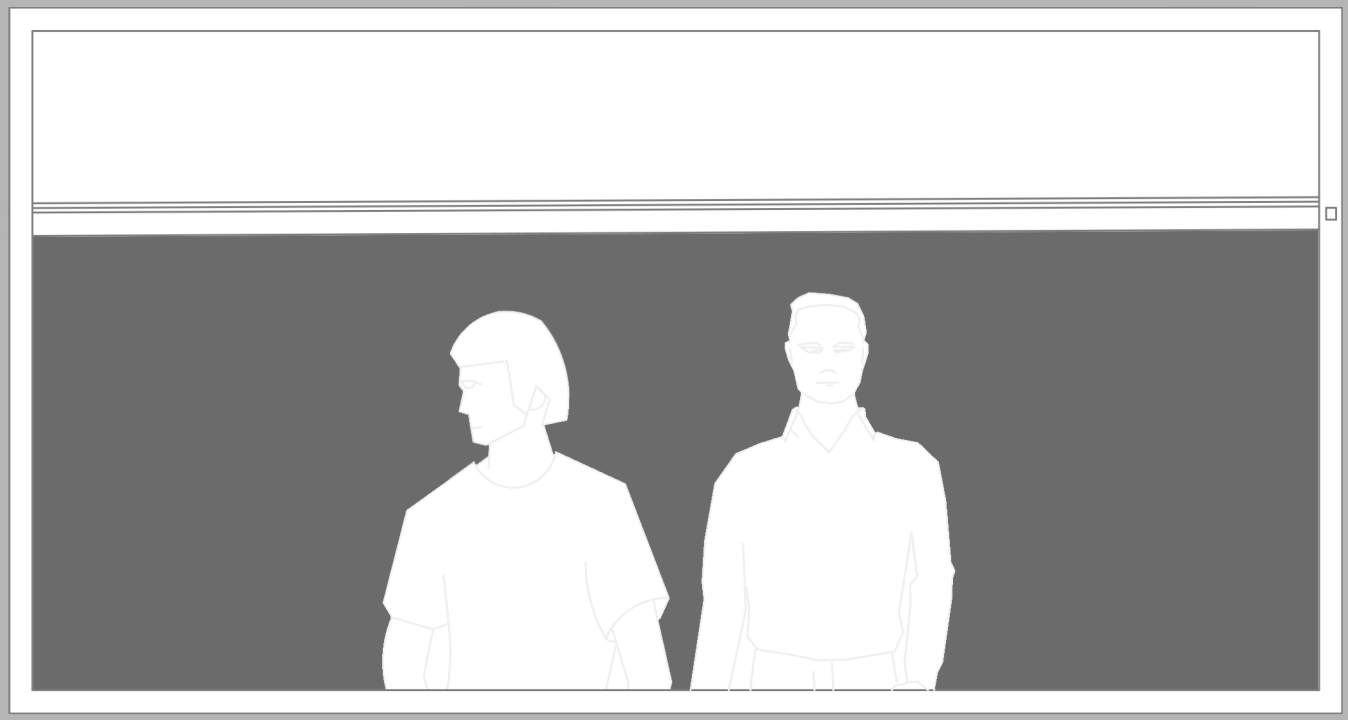
The camera outside at their door kept flashing them until they were out of the door's sight. But the duo decided not to give up so soon. They moved on to finding a better way to break in.

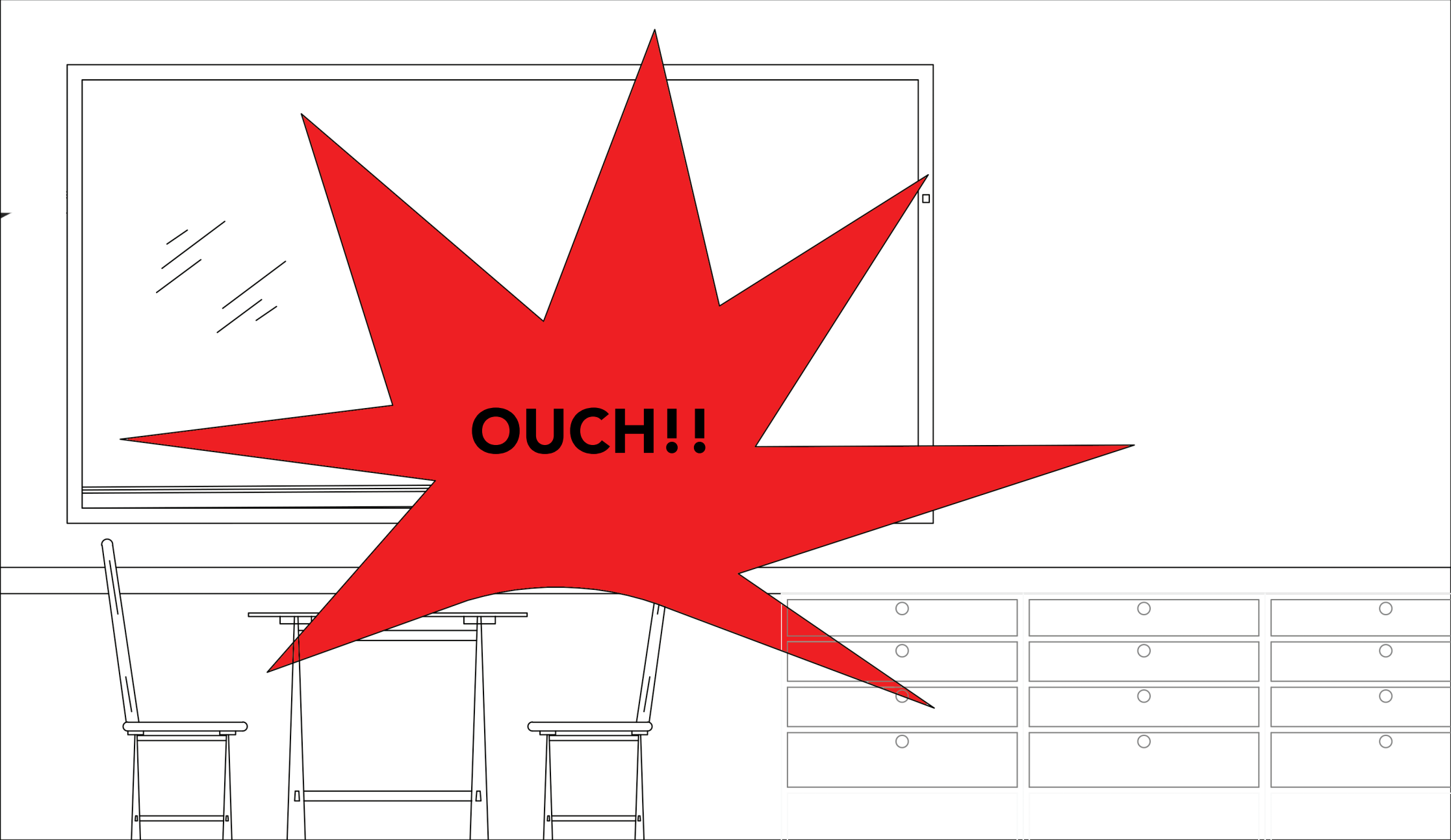

FLASH!!



As Sid went on hunting for an alternative technique to break in, Harry saw that the kitchen window was accidentally left open. Little did he know anything about the smart-device conspiracy against the idiots who wanted to make money out of them.

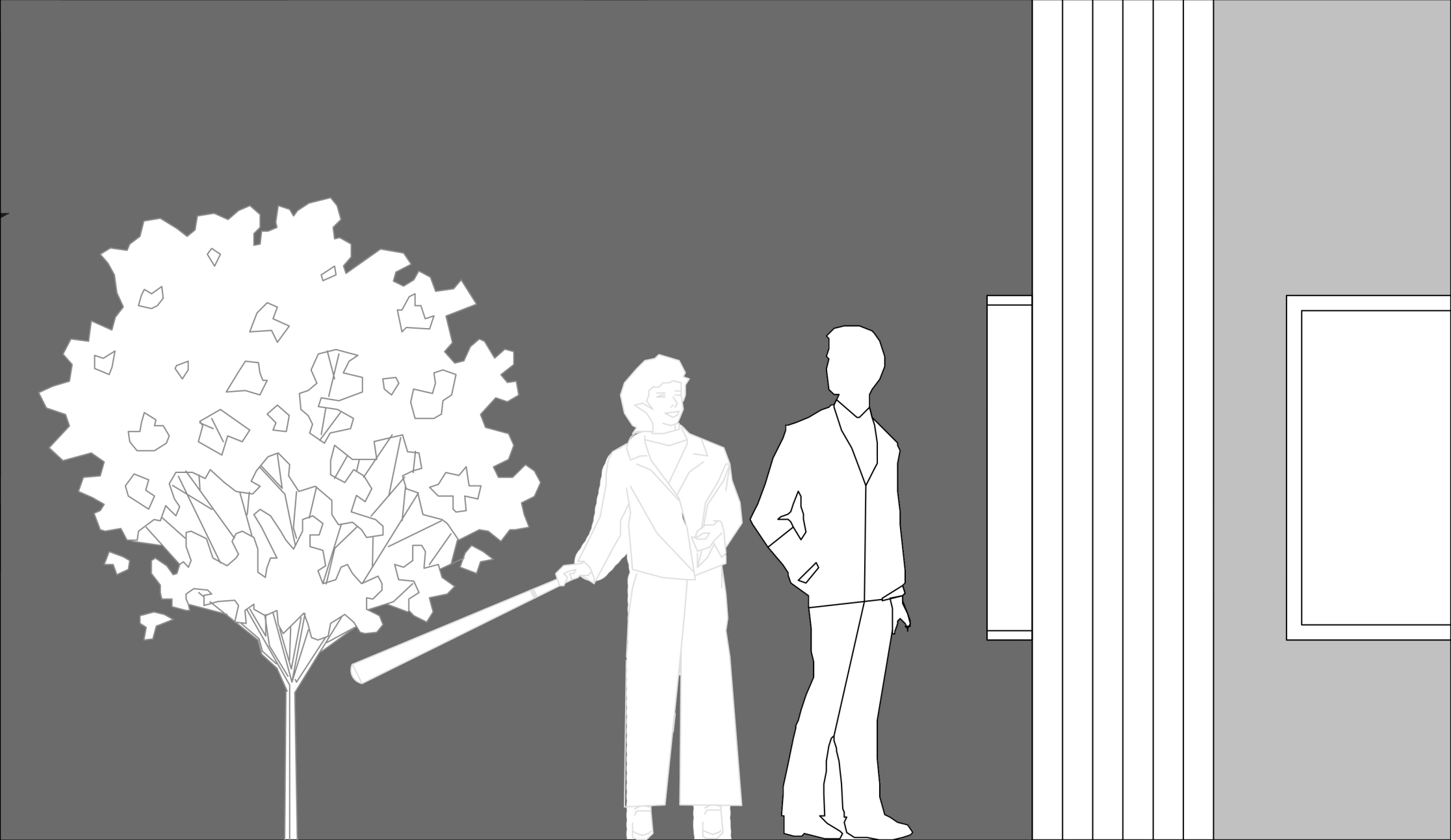
Both of them rushed to the window and stood right in front of it taking a sneak peak into the kitchen.



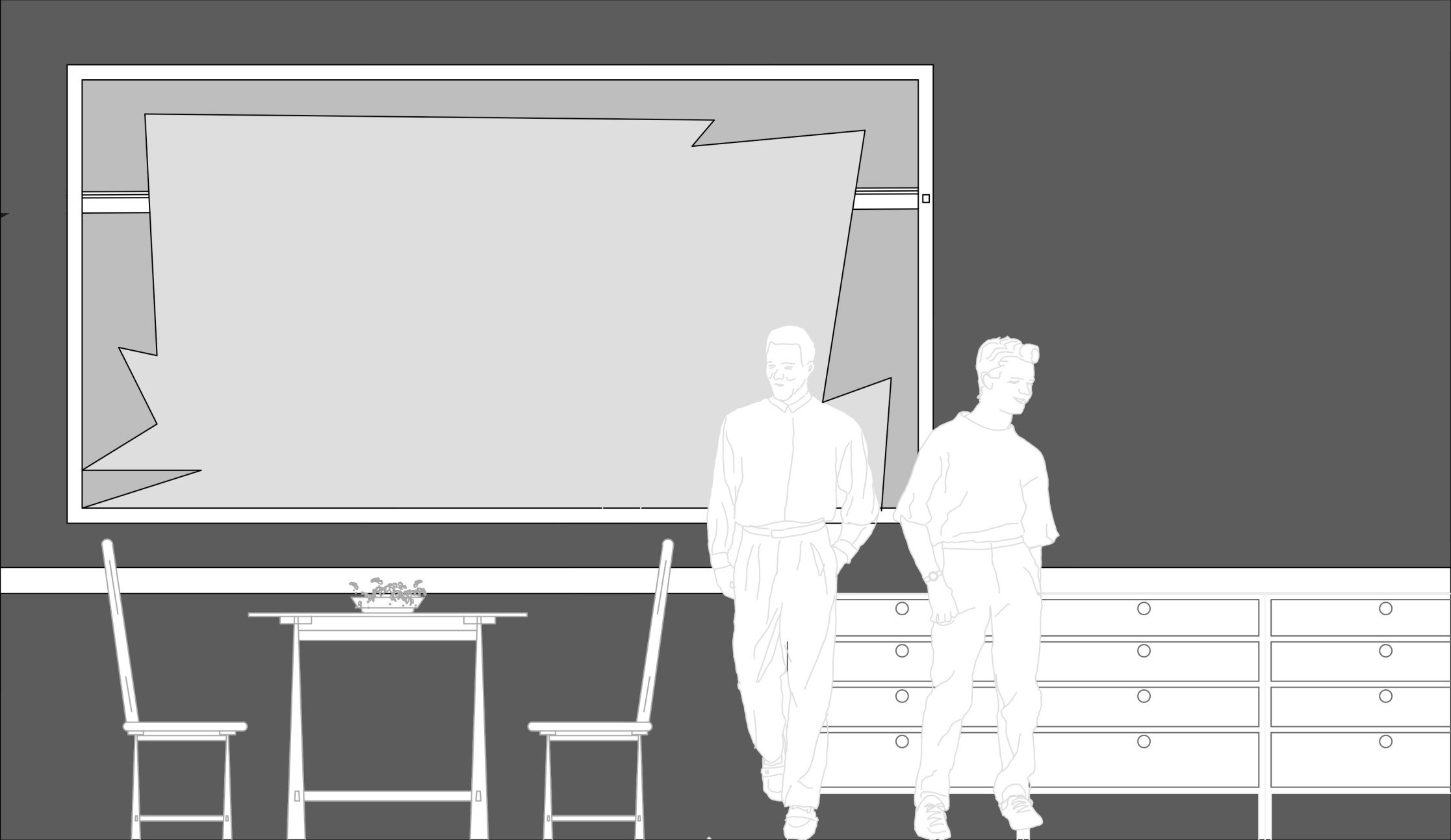

OUCH!!

As soon as Harry put his hands on the frame of the electronic window system, the shutter slammed hard almost crushing his fingers!

Oh yes, this was a planned attack, consipired by the AI assistant Zoid and Winnie, the window! system.



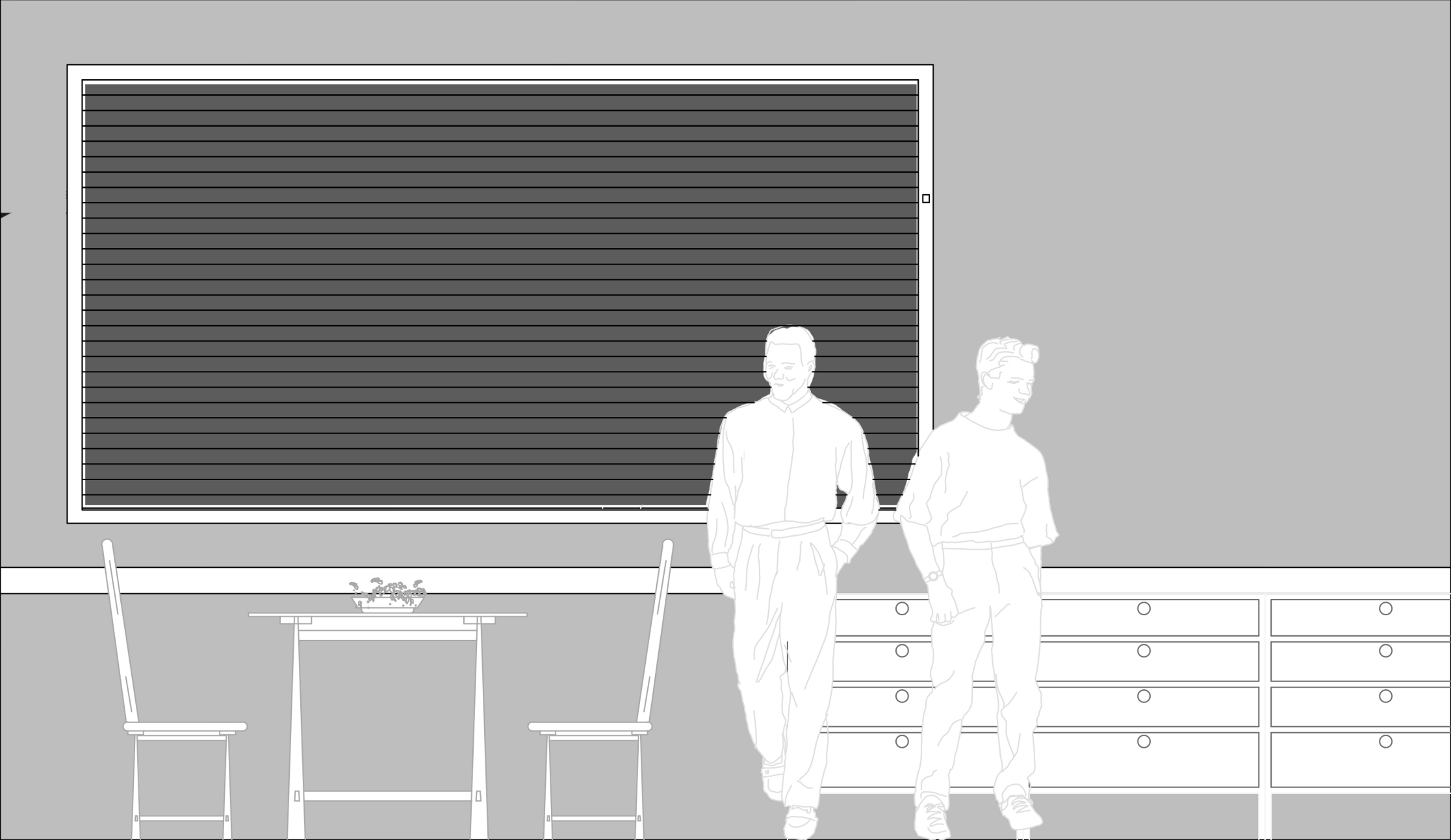
Harry’s side kick sid got sick of these pranks and decided to thrash the window pane with a stick!
And do you know what happened?

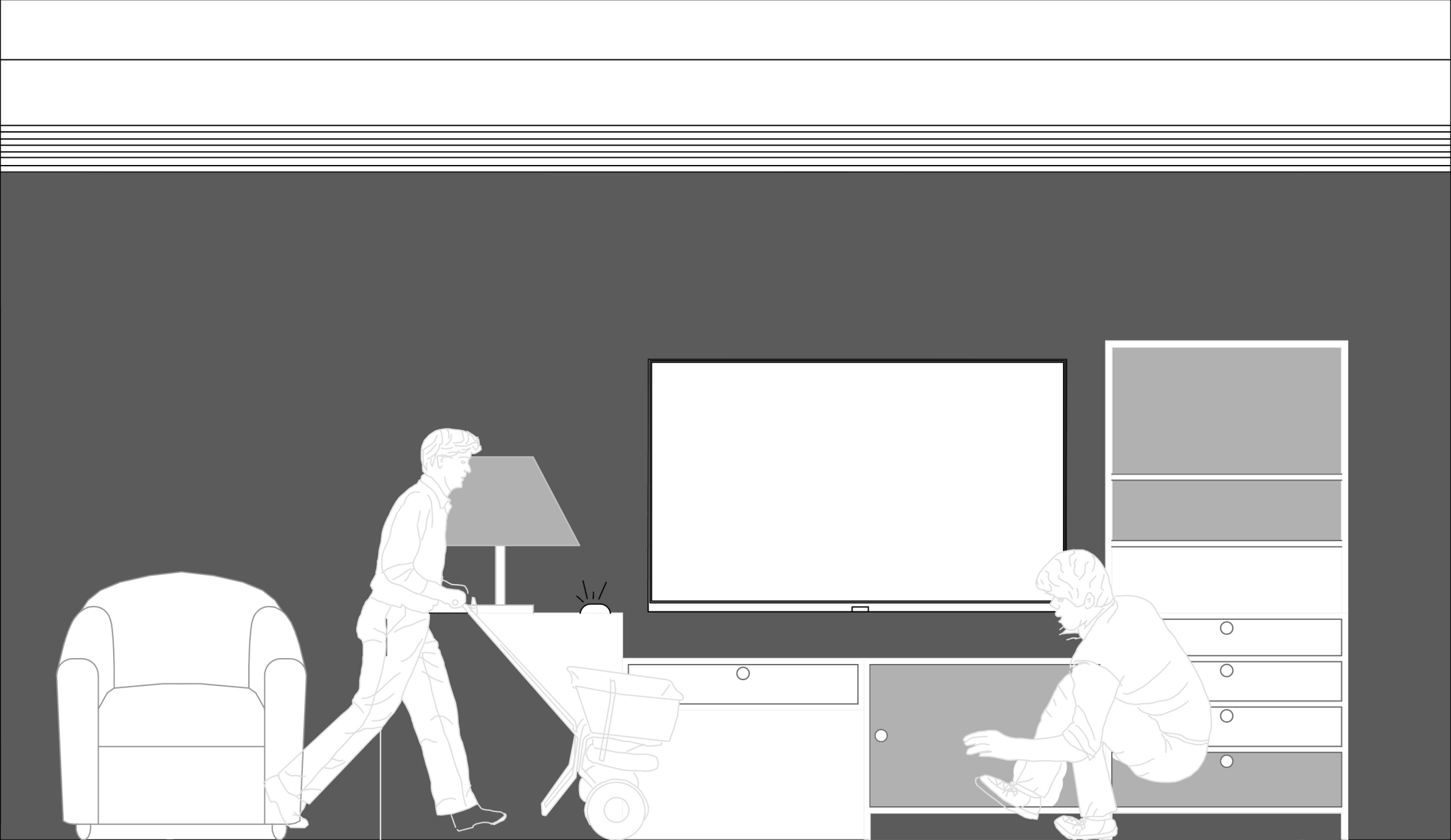


They succeeded!

They finally broke into the Maisel smart-tech world and were amazed to see the house on these devices. It was an intelligently built high-tech assembly of wires, compenents and the internet where the number of things on the internet definitely seemed to exceed the number of people living in the house!

While the bandits were busy admiring the money they were envisioning to make out of this smart ecosystm, the kitchen blinds shut down. And the lights started flickering in the house.



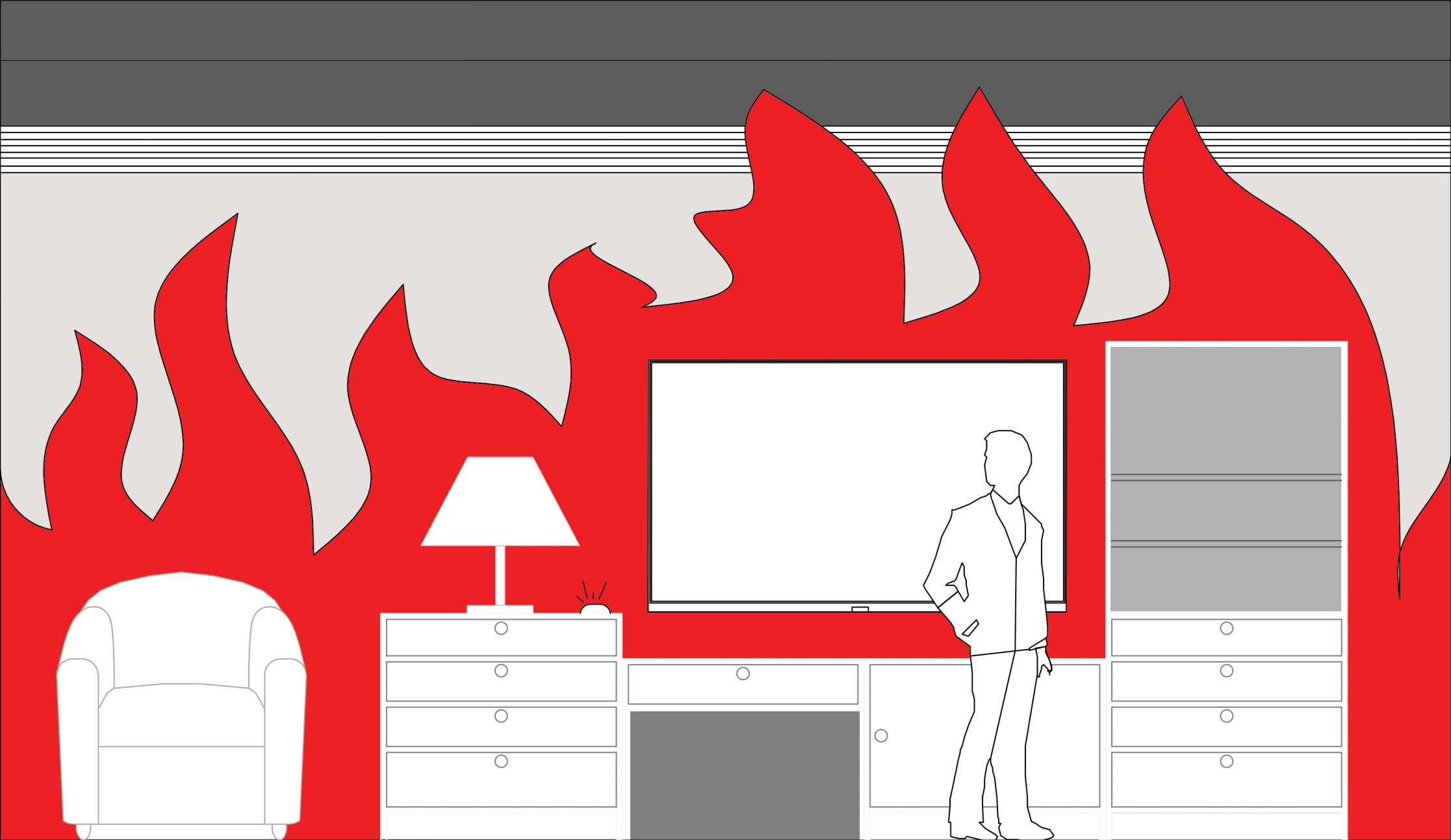


They realized they should get on to unplugging stuff and get out of this place before anyone finds out. They rushed to the living room where Sid started unplugging the smart TV and Harry moved on to exploring what other things in the house could make them some money.

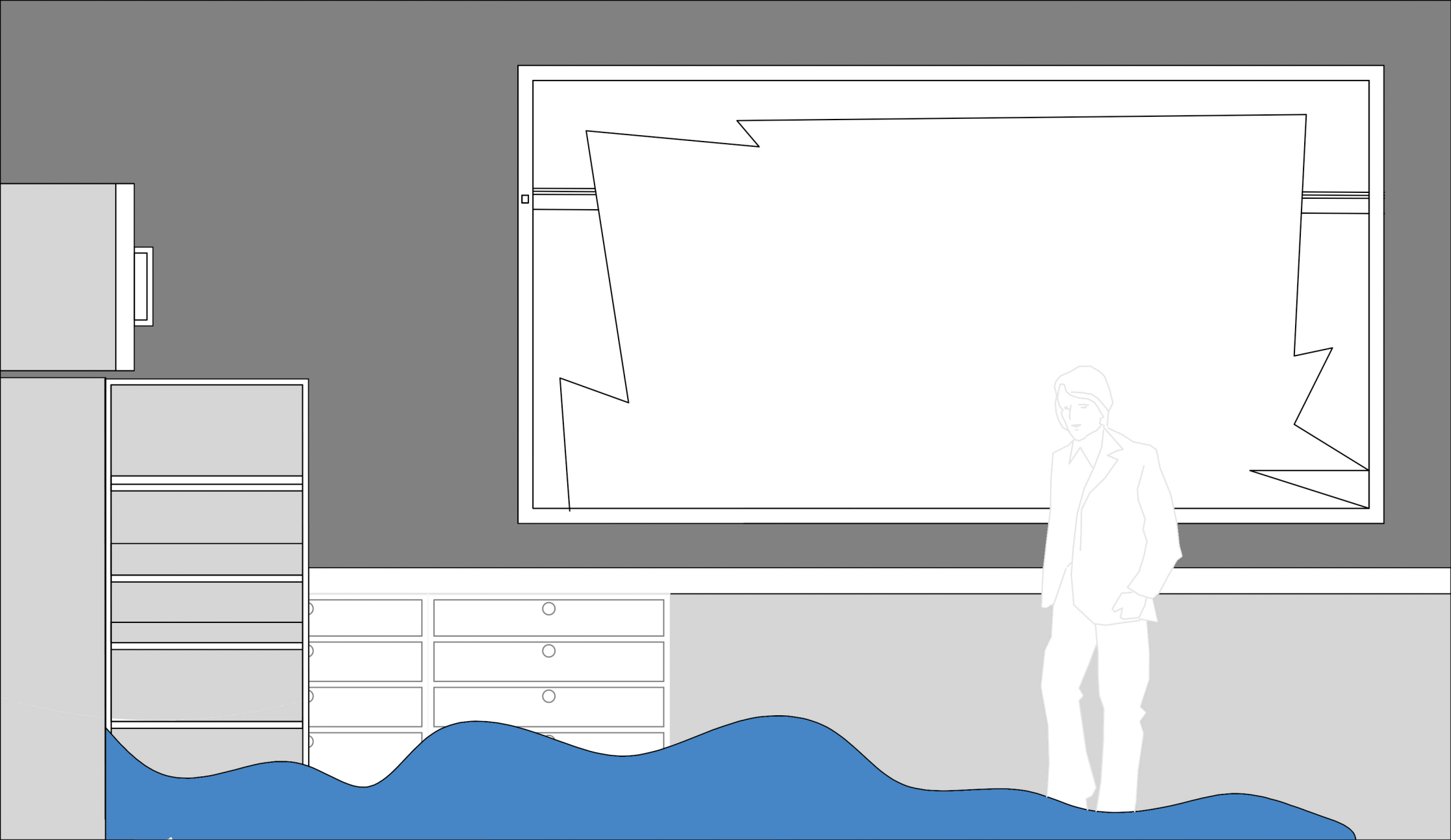
But the switch board gave Sid a shock as soon as he touched it! But this lad did not give up. He kept trying and experienced slight electrocution again and again.

Fed up of these electronic mishaps, Sid finally decided to move on to other things in the house. But wait! He noticed something unusual!

BOOM!!

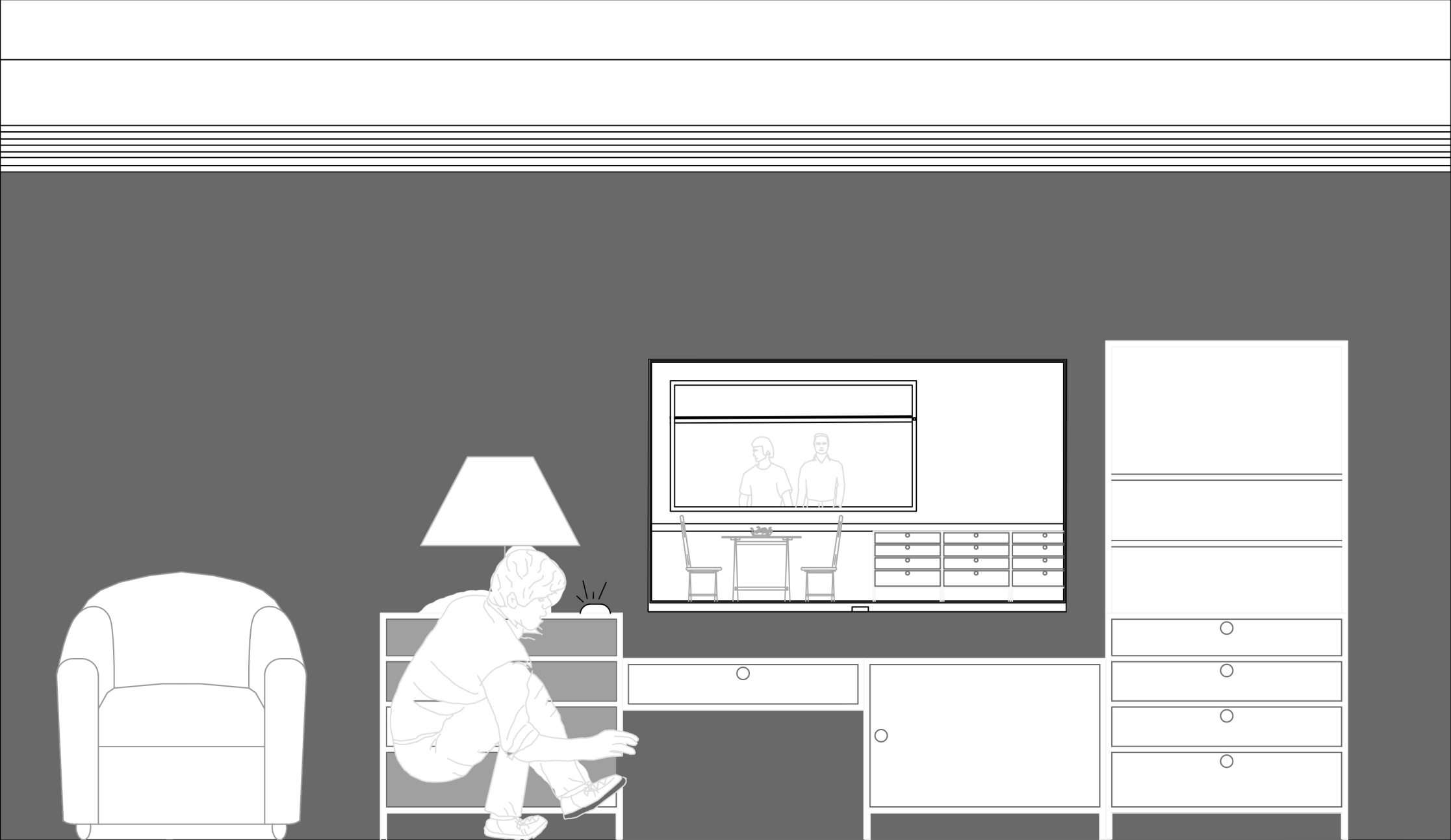


The temperature of the living room drastically rose to a 100 degrees. He began to feel the sudden wave of heat and it felt as if the entire house was burning!



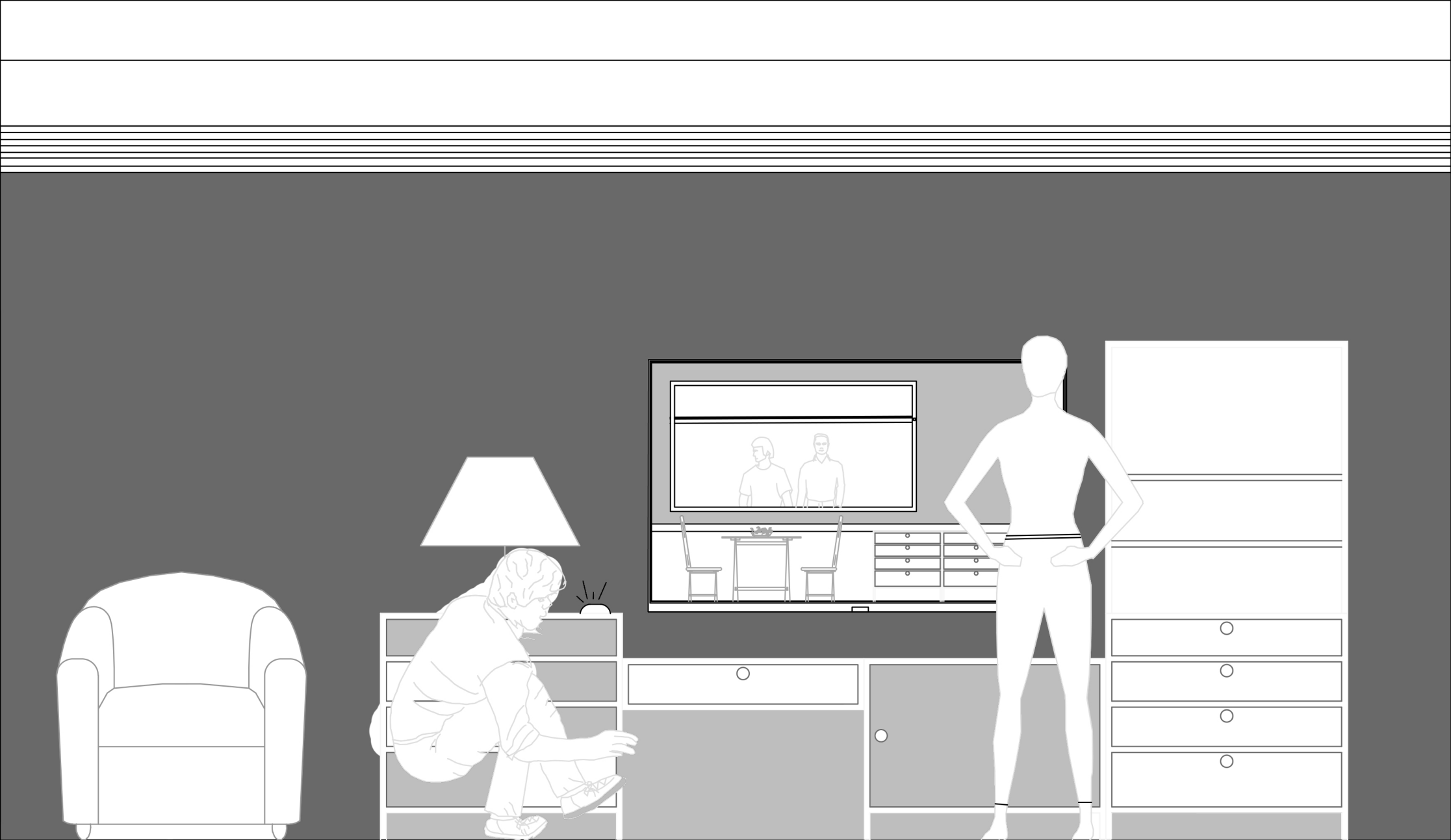
While Harry went to the kitchen to get some ice, he got a wave of water gushing towards him from the refrigerator. Kelvin, the refrigerator had melted all the ice.

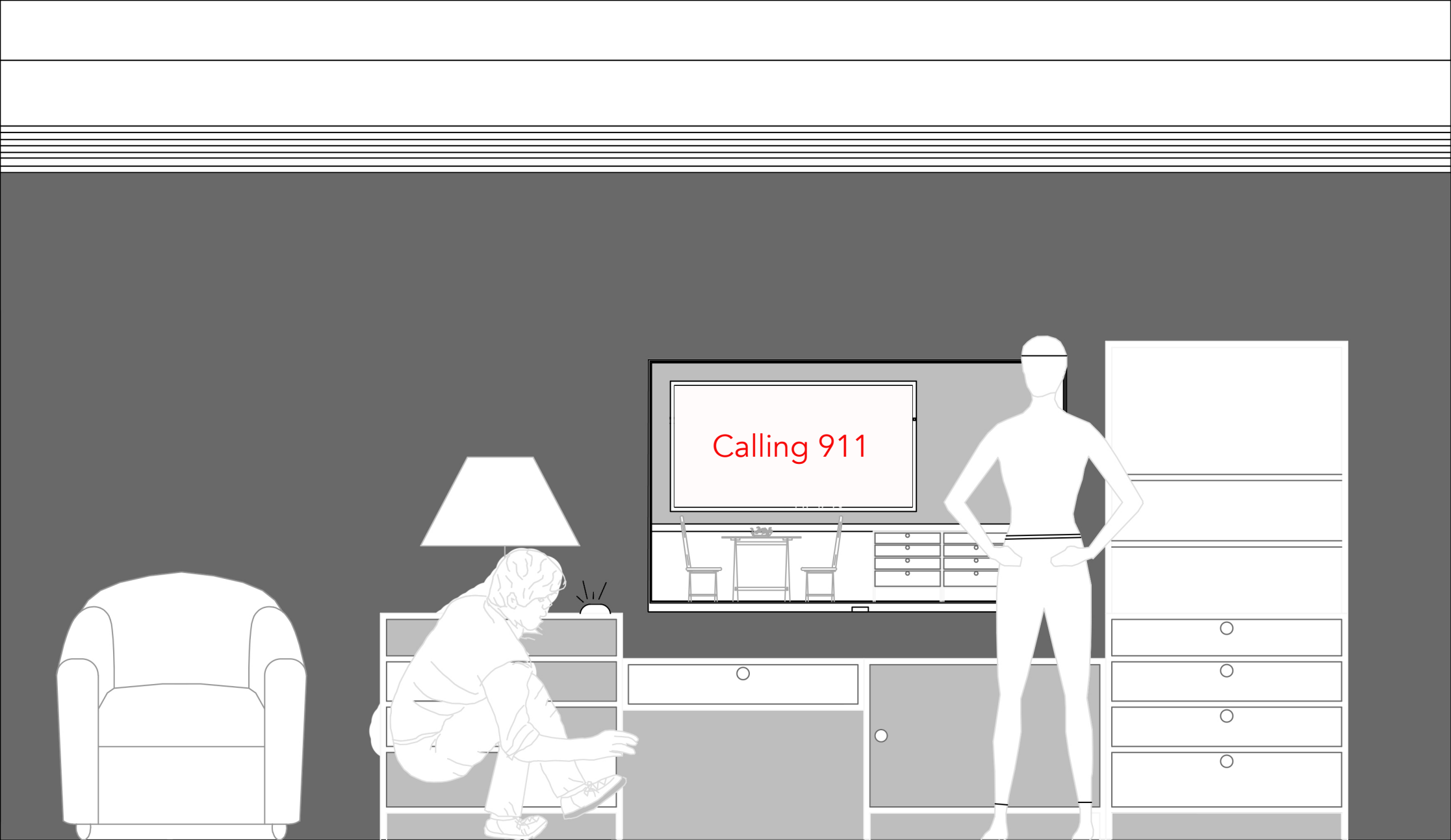
Every device in the smart townhouse planning an attack on the unwanted guests and protecting the home!



In the living room, Sid still busy figuring out how these devices need to be disconnected. But suddenly he saw Stevie, the smart TV turning itself on and playing a video that shocked the hell out of his mind!

The video of all their activites was uploaded on Youtube and it was going viral. He rushed to Harry and as both of them watched themselves becoming famous, a lightning of panic struck their lives.

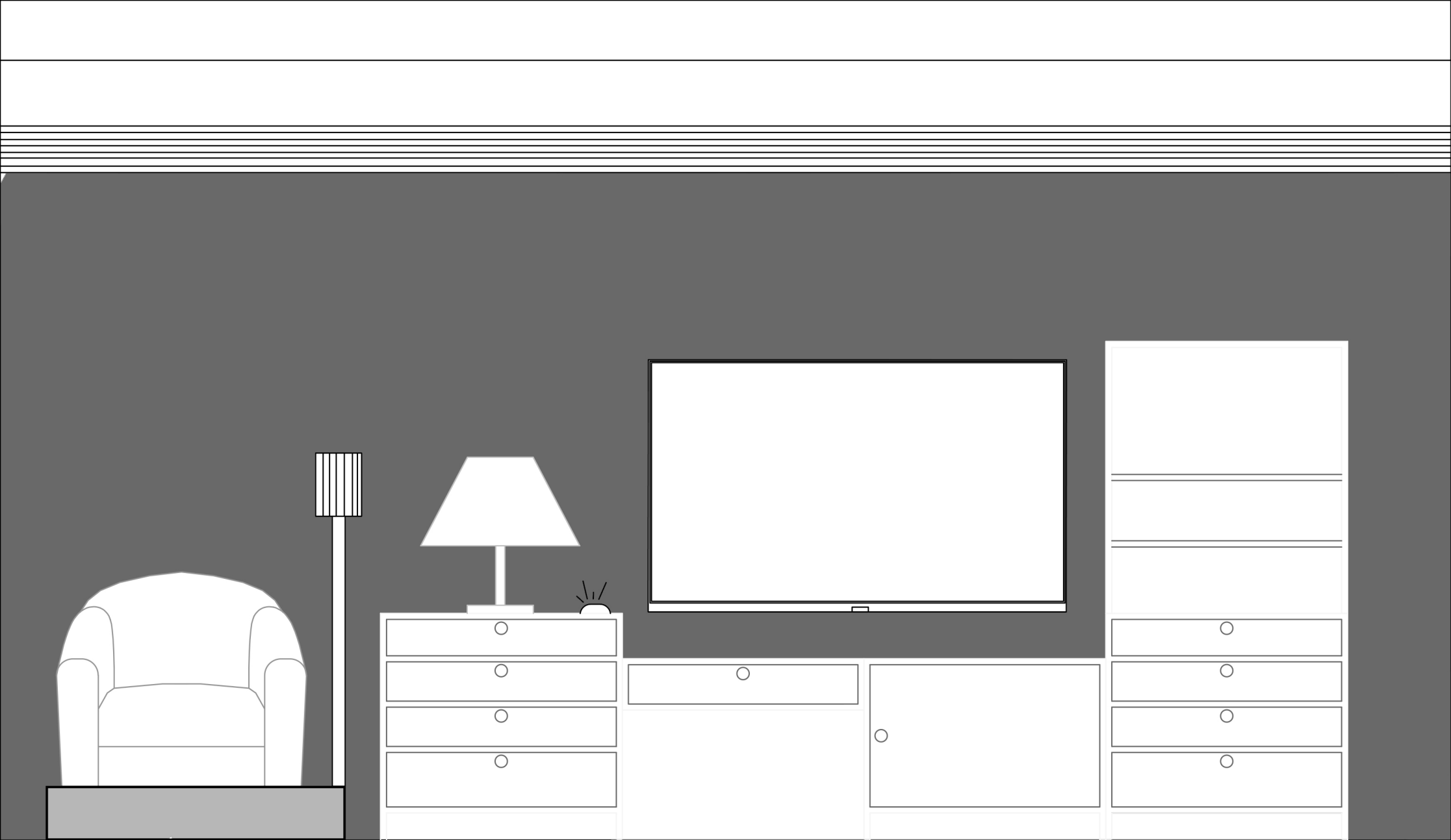



Calling 911

When panic hit the duo, they heard just what they did not wish to. Zoid, the AI assistant in the house said, “I am calling 911 now!”

The smart home made sure they fall prey to each of the pranks. The final one indeed was not a prank. The cops were on their way as they heard the sirens approaching the house. They had to quickly leave the premises.

They escaped out of the house as soon as they could without taking a single penny from the tech-casa.



The house was kind of like a mess now, but the robotic cleaning assistant, Roomba took care of the mess. Everything was in place, spic and span.

The Maisels de-boarded the flight and came back the same day to find the house cleaned and with everything in as it was supposed to be, except for a weird broken window in the kitchen. They rushed to the attic to find out that Ethan was still sleeping!

And the Maisels lived happily ever after, oblivious to the fact that their smart assistant had smartly assisted in keeping their house and their kid safe.

Well, they did miss their trip, but what's more important is the realization --------

"The Cohort of the 'Smart' being an extremely resourceful and efficient boon to human kind."