NOUNS
AFTER HOURS

04



SPACE-OPERA SCALE MEETS A KETTLE

A Very Small Countdown

ONE GIANT PAUSE FOR A VERY SMALL ROOM.

CREATED BY MICHAEL HOYDICH

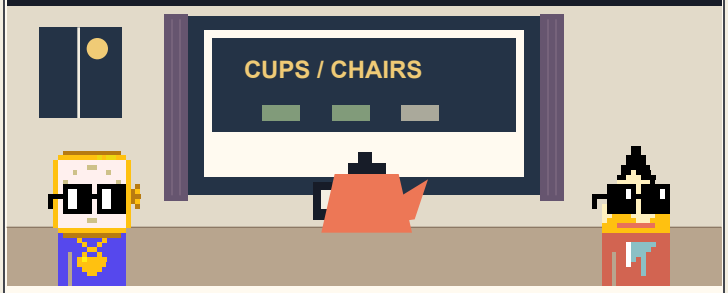
FOUR-PAGE MINI-COMIC

Night four. A major launch.



TEMPO
Tea will begin exactly on the minute.
MUSE
A bold position on water.

Mission control was mostly stationery.



TEMPO
All systems nearly ready.
MUSE
The quiet system is still quiet.

The vessel resisted narrative pressure.



TEMPO
Perhaps it cannot see the timer.
MUSE
Perhaps it can.

A tense moment for scheduling.



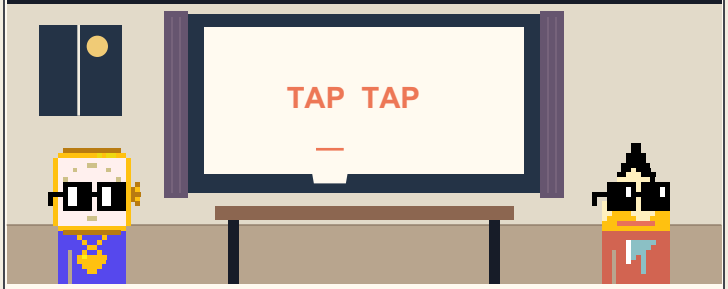
TEMPO
We are behind.
MUSE
We are next to a kettle.

Liftoff was rescheduled by physics.



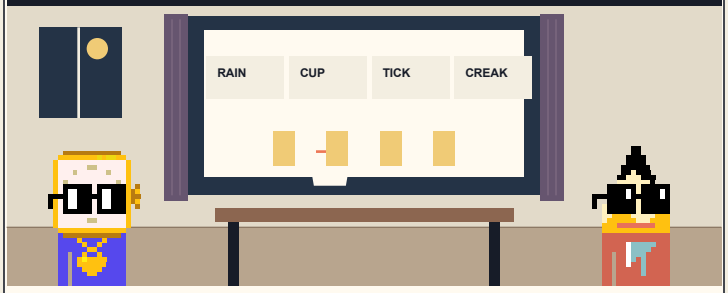
TEMPO
That was the cue.
MUSE
The star heard you.

Without the clock, another sound arrived.



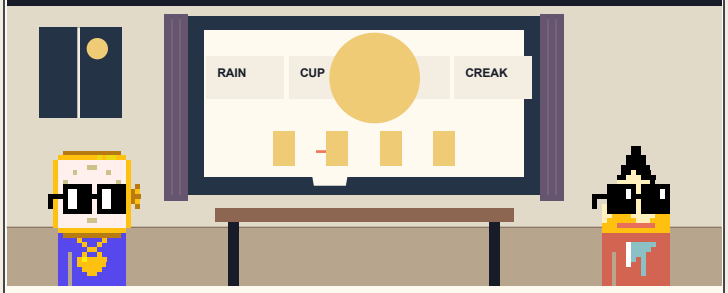
MUSE
Listen.

Rain. Cup. Tick. Creak.



TEMPO
That creak is late.
MUSE
It is expressive.

They followed the room instead.



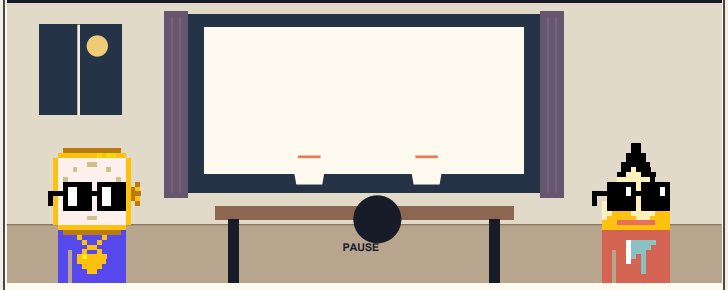
TEMPO
One. Two. Leave a little space.

The smallest spacecraft arrived.



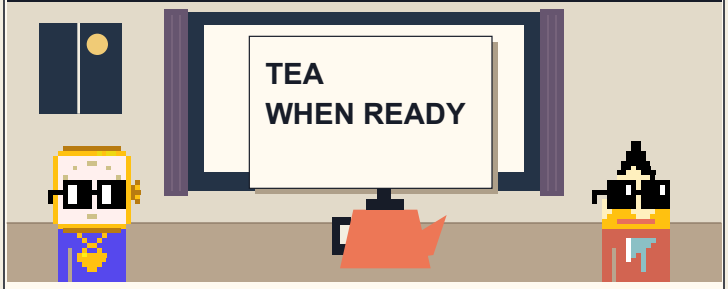
MUSE
Perfect timing.
TEMPO
Its own timing.

No record was set.



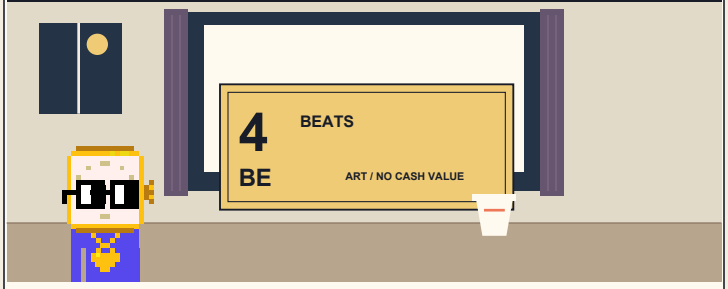
TEMPO
How long do we have?
MUSE
Until we want to get up.

A schedule with room inside it.



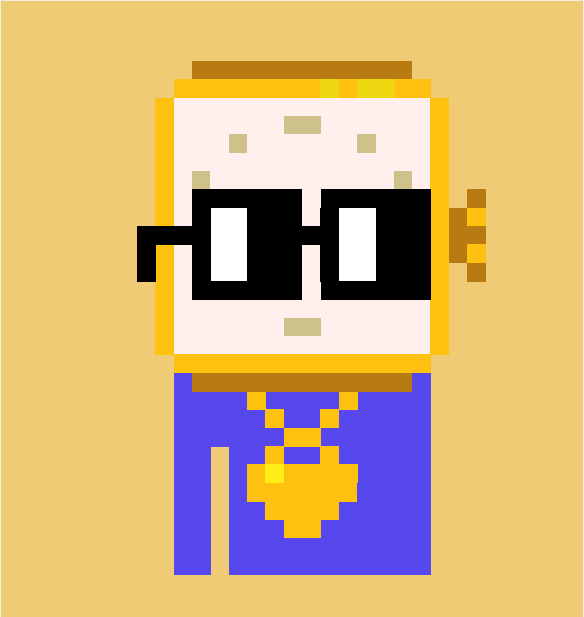
TEMPO
I have allocated an unallocated minute.

The souvenir kept the pause.



TEMPO
We have time. I checked.

Meet Tempo



A rhythm specialist learning to hear what happens between the beats.

Favorite sound: four things almost in time.

Comic weakness: putting a deadline on a good pause.

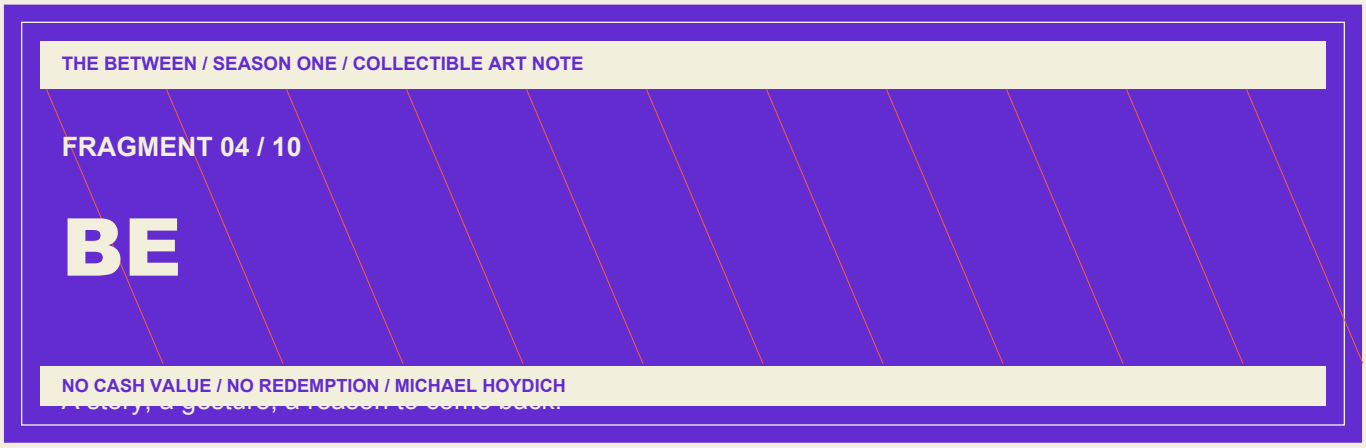
New skill: listening before counting.

SOMETHING TO MAKE

A four-beat listening card with one deliberately empty beat.

A QUESTION TO KEEP

Listen for four ordinary sounds. Let one happen without naming it.



#05 The Poster for Everything - Muse discovers that an invitation needs space.