Comic strip descriptions

* Snails to bees
  + This little cartoon is to represent the first responders’ mindset pre and post 9/11. Of course, first responders, like police and EMTs, have always taken their job seriously and carried it out to the full extent of their duties. I am in no way trying to degrade their abilities by depicting them as snails. However, I thought that Marie Laure’s ideology of the snails and bees took great symbolism in mirroring our first responder teams after such a tragic event like 9/11. Before, they were just doing their public services, helping domestic calls, preventing accidents from happening or getting worse, all in separate departments. Furthermore, I do not doubt they took their jobs seriously, but after 9/11 it all went into a frenzy. This is where the bees come in, because a terrorist attack so major as the twin towers falling on our own soil is enough to unite our first responder departments. I think that in the post 9/11 world they are doing more to prevent something like that from ever happening again and working together more in the colonist mindset of bees instead of the individualist mindset of snails. For example, heightened security in public places, more fire escape routes in case of emergency, increased accessibility to first aid and increased pride in our own home defense, the army.
* Sirens
  + This comic strip actually relates to me. I was napping in my dorm one day and was unaware that there would be an earthquake drill going on at the school. So, I woke up to blaring sirens and alarms, and the only reason I did not freak out and call my entire family was because I saw the email notification on my phone announcing the drill. Then, I thought to myself, what if someone did not know it was a drill for a natural disaster. Surely, whether completely paranoid and delusional or completely rational and sane, they would be scared out of their mind because of some siren that would not cease. So, I decided to make it into my comic strip because I think the world today is full of this underlying everlasting fear of being unsafe in our own homes. After 9/11, many people realized that anything could happen to them at any time, and that is a terrifying epiphany no one wants to talk about. Furthermore, I drew the building tall to highlight that there are more measures nowadays to help people get out of buildings in case of emergency, like fire escape routes and shelters or safe spaces in the building. Another thing about the art itself is that I decided to draw the siren as growing bigger to symbolize the impending doom of the situation, but also to contrast the calming skies in the background.
* Crumbling buildings
  + Again, taking inspiration from All the Light We Cannot See, the setting of this one is Uncle Etienne’s street, the Rue Vauborel. Since they lived in #4 Rue Vauborel, I drew that building as the least demolished, but of course with some damages since it was war time. Even though they did not have cell phones back then, I thought it would be good to envelop my character into this landscape to show the full extent of his obliviousness. One day, while on my phone actually, I realized that no one ever looks at the sky anymore. Who knows why? Maybe it is because we are all too self-absorbed or maybe it is because we want to deny the fact of what I said earlier about being at risk all the time. Over the progression of the comic strip, you can see how he cares less and less about the buildings and sky getting worse and worse. Each panel brings more bombs and less of the houses themselves, but all the while the character just happily plays on his phone, oblivious to everything. I think it is a good representation of our society post 9/11 being too busy to notice anything around them no matter how severe the circumstances may be.