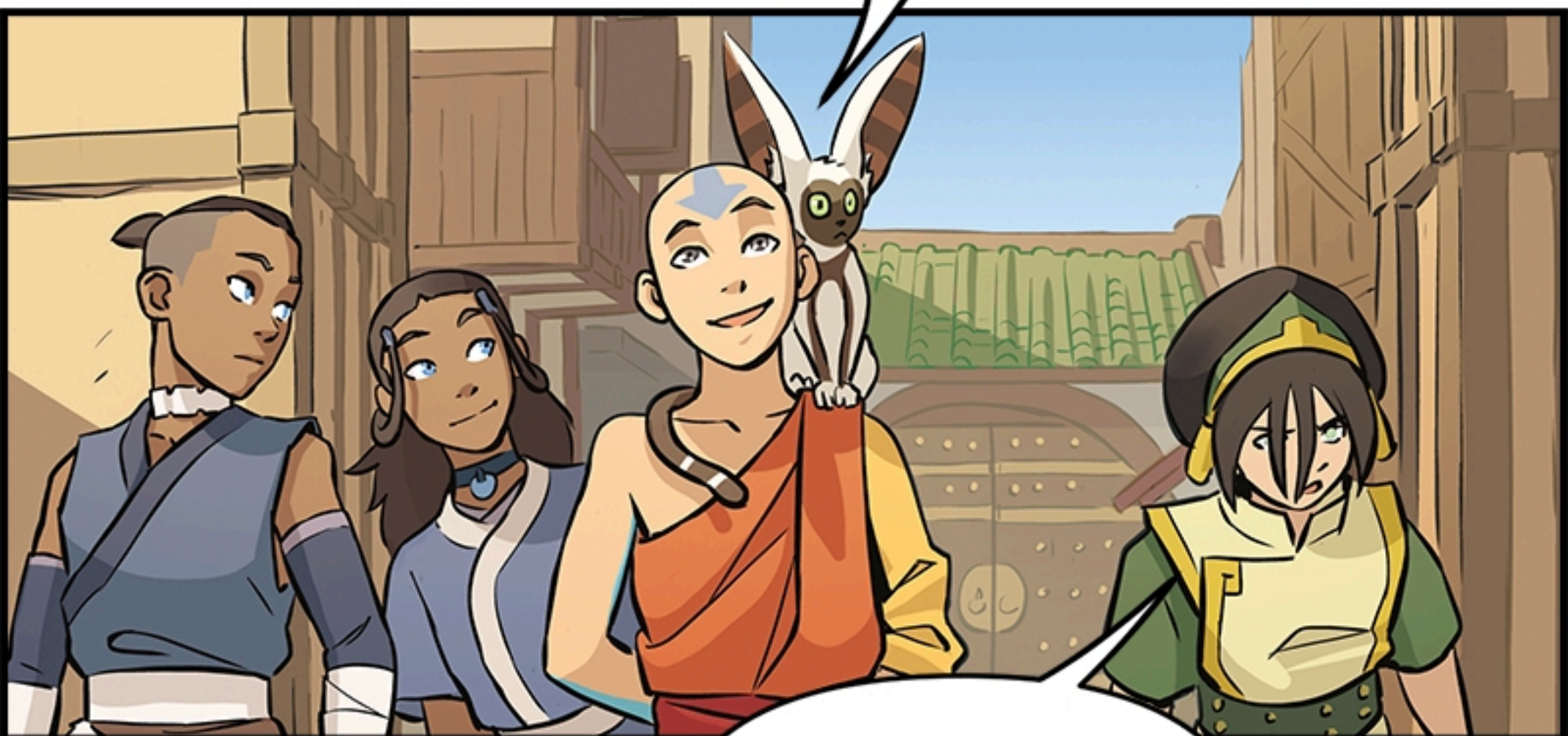


THAT WENT REALLY
WELL! WE HAVE A BENDER
BUSINESS OWNER WILLING TO
SUPPORT THE NON-BENDERS
OF CRANEFISH TOWN.



NOPE. THAT
LADY'S DIRTY.
SHE'S INVOLVED IN
THE SABOTAGE
SOMEHOW.

WHAT?

BUT SHE
SEEMED SO
NICE...



OR WAS
SHE...*TOO*
NICE??

SORRY TO BURST
YOUR BUBBLE,
TWINKLE TOES.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW?



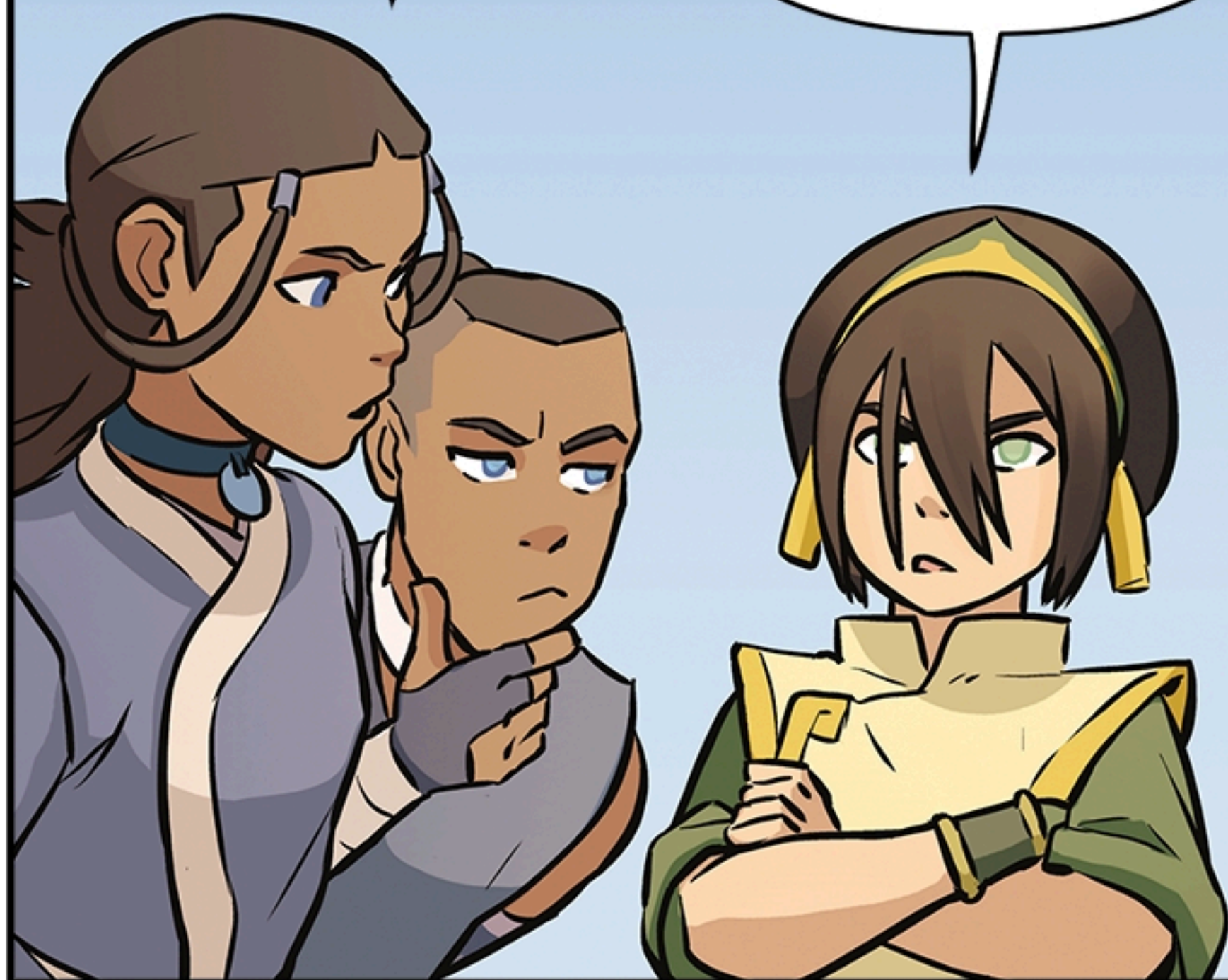
HER DAUGHTERS'
FOOTSTEPS. I FELT
THOSE FOOTSTEPS RUNNING
AWAY FROM MY DAD'S
FACTORY AFTER IT
EXPLODED.



NOT THAT I DOUBT
HOW AMAZING YOUR
LISTENING ABILITY IS,
BUT THAT'S THIN
EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE--

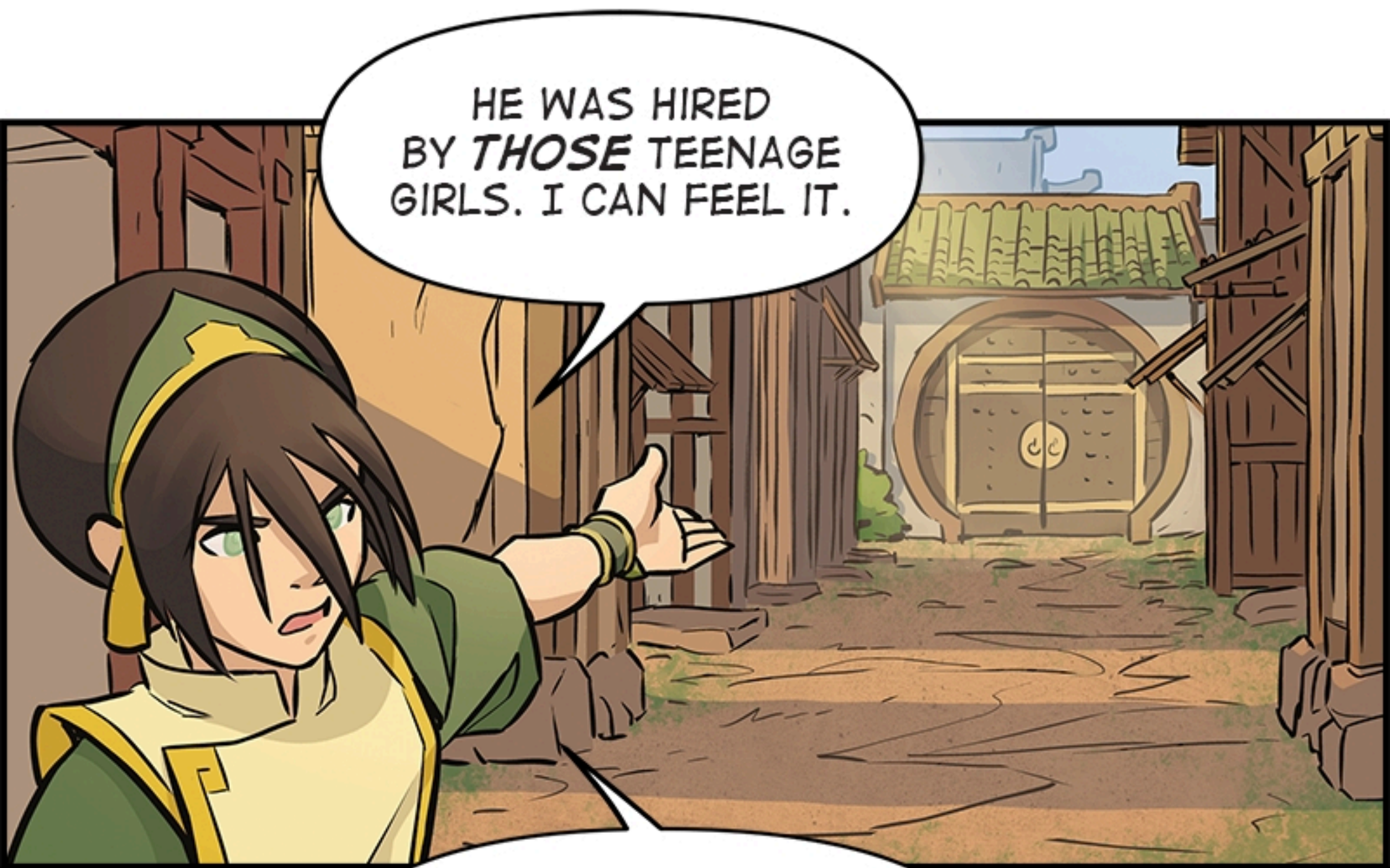
ALSO, WHEN I
ASKED YALING IF
SHE'D BEEN TO LADY
TIENHAI'S CLIFF,
SHE LIED.





WHY WOULD SHE
LIE? UNLESS SHE'D BEEN
ON THAT CLIFF JUST LAST
NIGHT, MAKING SURE THE MUSCLE
SHE HIRED TO SABOTAGE EARTHEN
FIRE INDUSTRIES DIDN'T
SPILL THE BEANS.

THE FIREBENDER DID
SAY HE WAS HIRED BY
TWO TEENAGE GIRLS.



HE WAS HIRED
BY *THOSE* TEENAGE
GIRLS. I CAN FEEL IT.

JUST LIKE I FELT
THEM RUNNING AWAY
AFTER LEAVING ME UNDER
A PILE OF METAL
WRECKAGE.

TOPH, YOU
SOUND UPSET.

YEAH, WELL, AS AN
EXECUTIVE PARTNER,
I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT
PEOPLE BLOWING UP MY
DAD'S FACTORY. AS IN
I REALLY DON'T
LIKE IT.





SO NOW WHAT?
WE THINK LILING
AND HER DAUGHTERS ARE
INVOLVED IN THE ATTACKS
ON NON-BENDER-OWNED
FABRIQUES, HOW DO
WE PROVE IT?

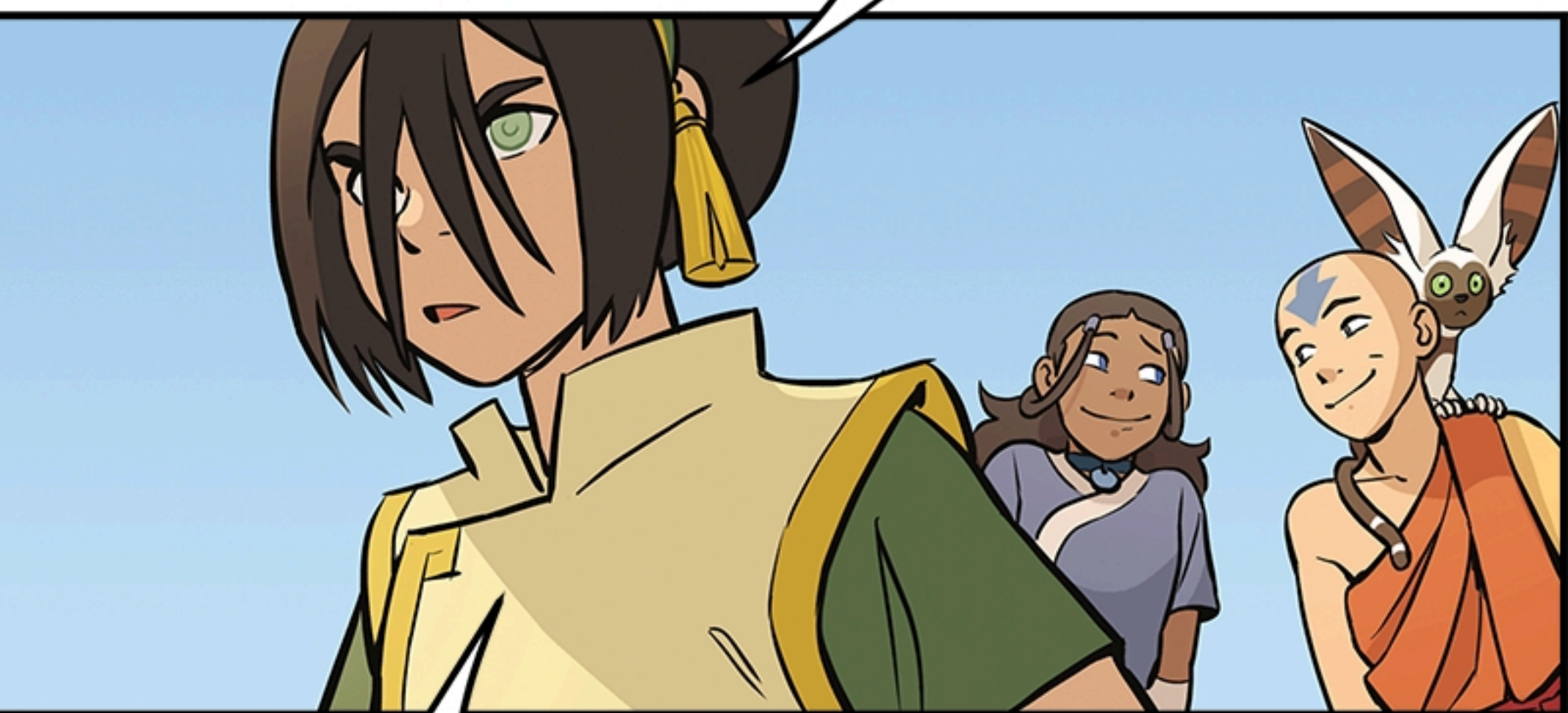


THE EARTHBENDER,
YALING, WANTS TO LEARN
METALBENDING. I'LL PRETEND
TO TEACH HER, AND WHILE
SHE'S FAILING AT IT, I'LL
FIND OUT WHAT SHE
AND HER MOM ARE
UP TO.

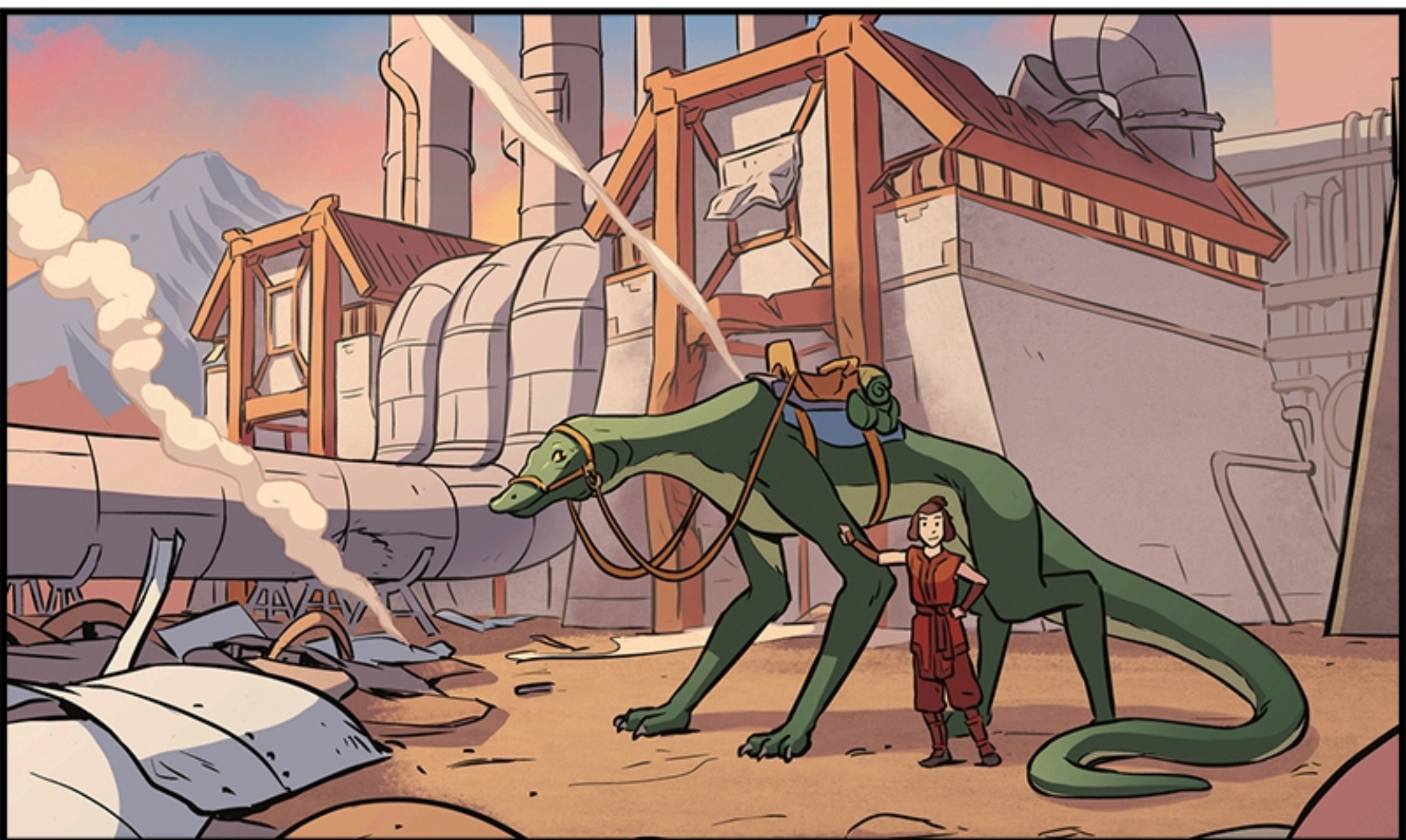


OOH,
COZYING UP
TO A SUSPECT.
I LIKE IT.

LET'S GO HOME.
I'VE GOT AN EARLY
START TOMORROW...

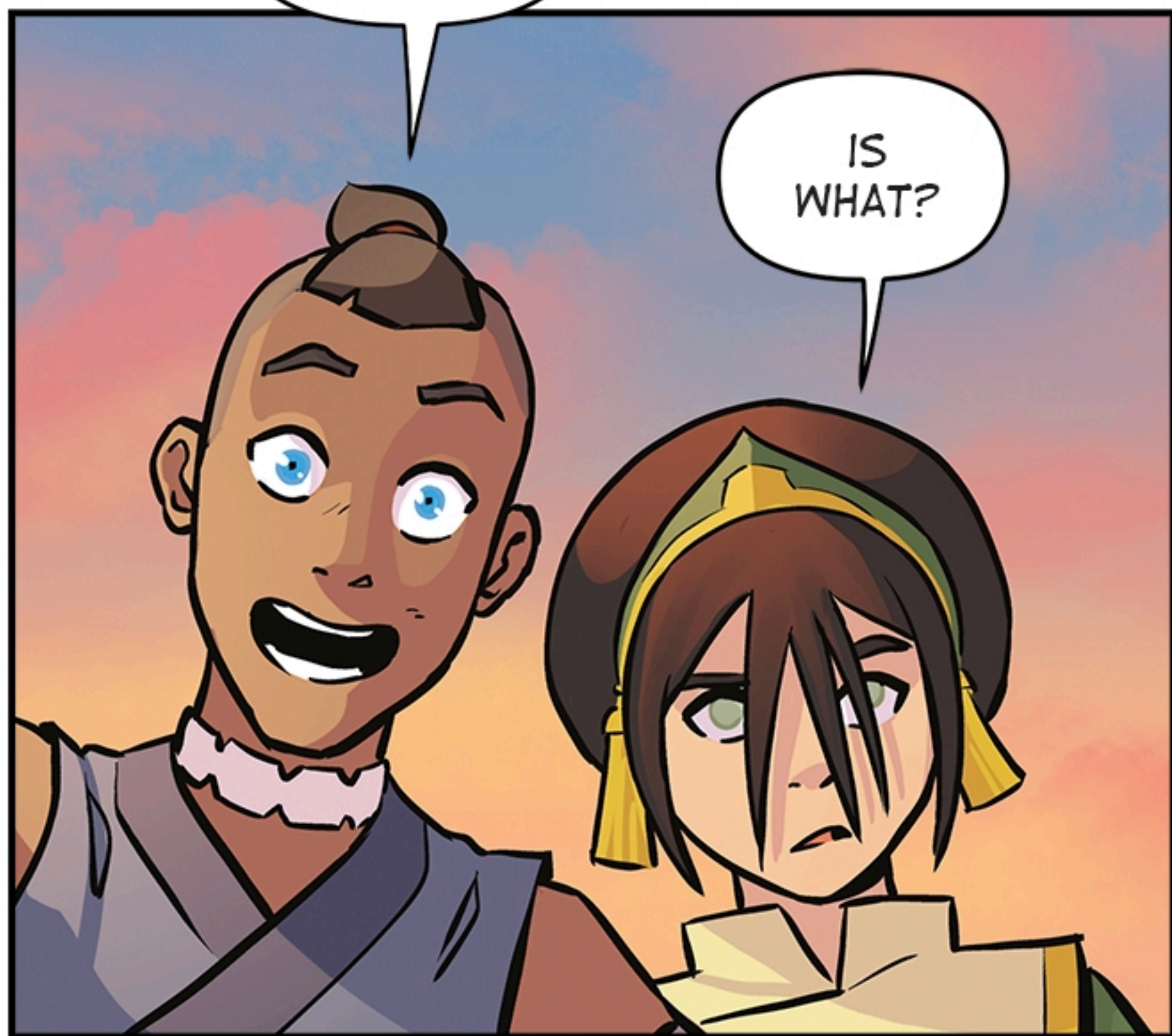


...TEACHING A COCKY
EARTHBENDER THAT I'M
THE ONLY METALBENDER
IN THIS TOWN.



GASP! IS
THAT--??

IS
WHAT?



IT IS!
SUKI'S HERE!





YOU GOT MY
MESSAGE!



OF COURSE! I
CAME AS QUICKLY
AS I COULD.

BORROWED THIS
EEL-HOUND FROM A

FRIEND IN YU DAO. HE
GOT ME HERE IN
NO TIME.



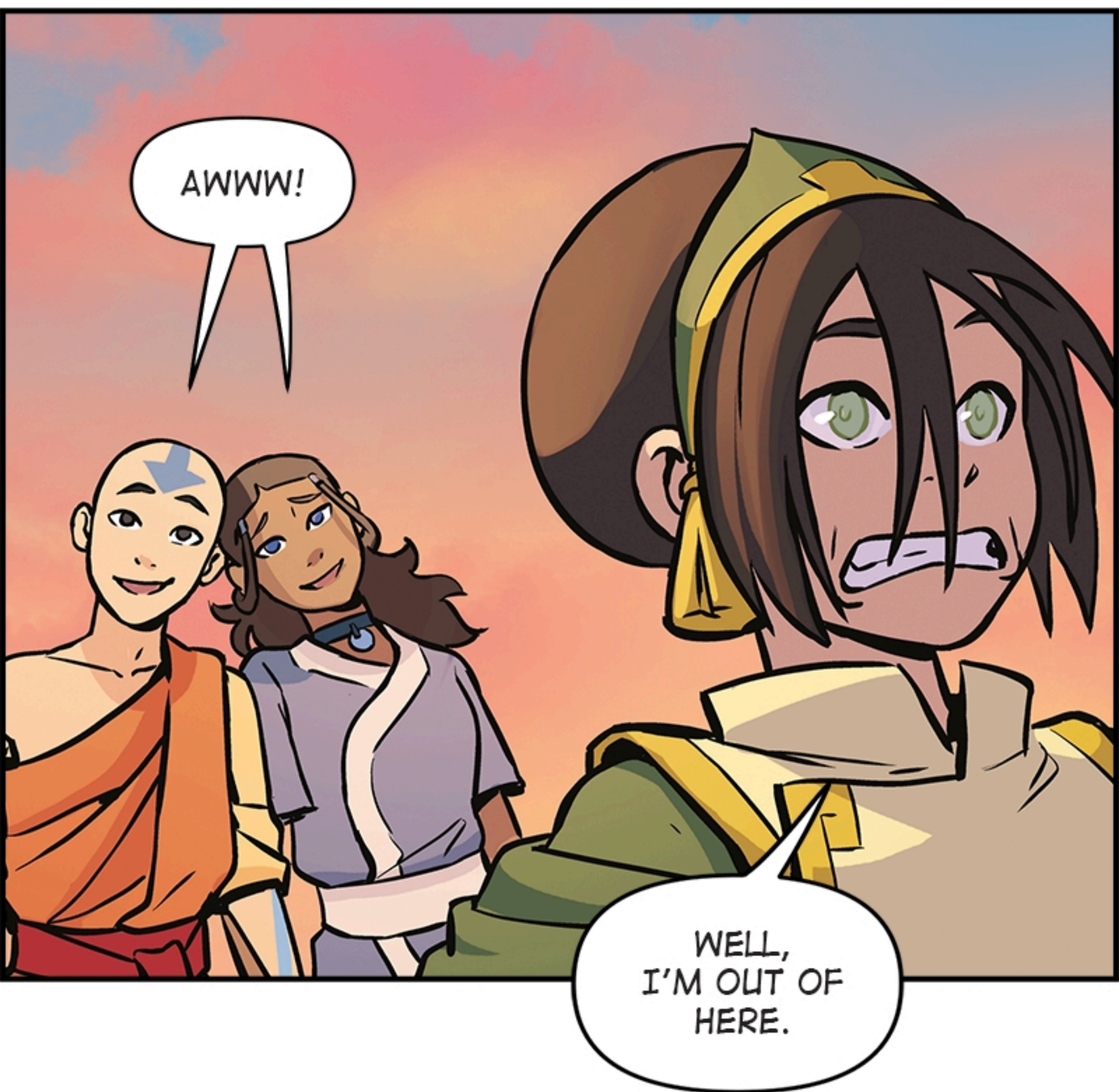
QUICK





I LIKE HIM
TOO. HE BROUGHT
YOU TO ME.







HEY,
SATORU.

YIKES,
THIS PLACE
IS A MESS.



HELLO, TOPH.
I'M AFRAID THE
EXPLOSION RUINED
PRETTY MUCH
EVERYTHING.

YESTERDAY
THIS MACHINE WAS A
TECHNOLOGICAL MARVEL.
FOR IN THE A LOT OF

TODAY IT'S A PILE OF
WRECKAGE. IT'LL
TAKE MONTHS
TO REPAIR.

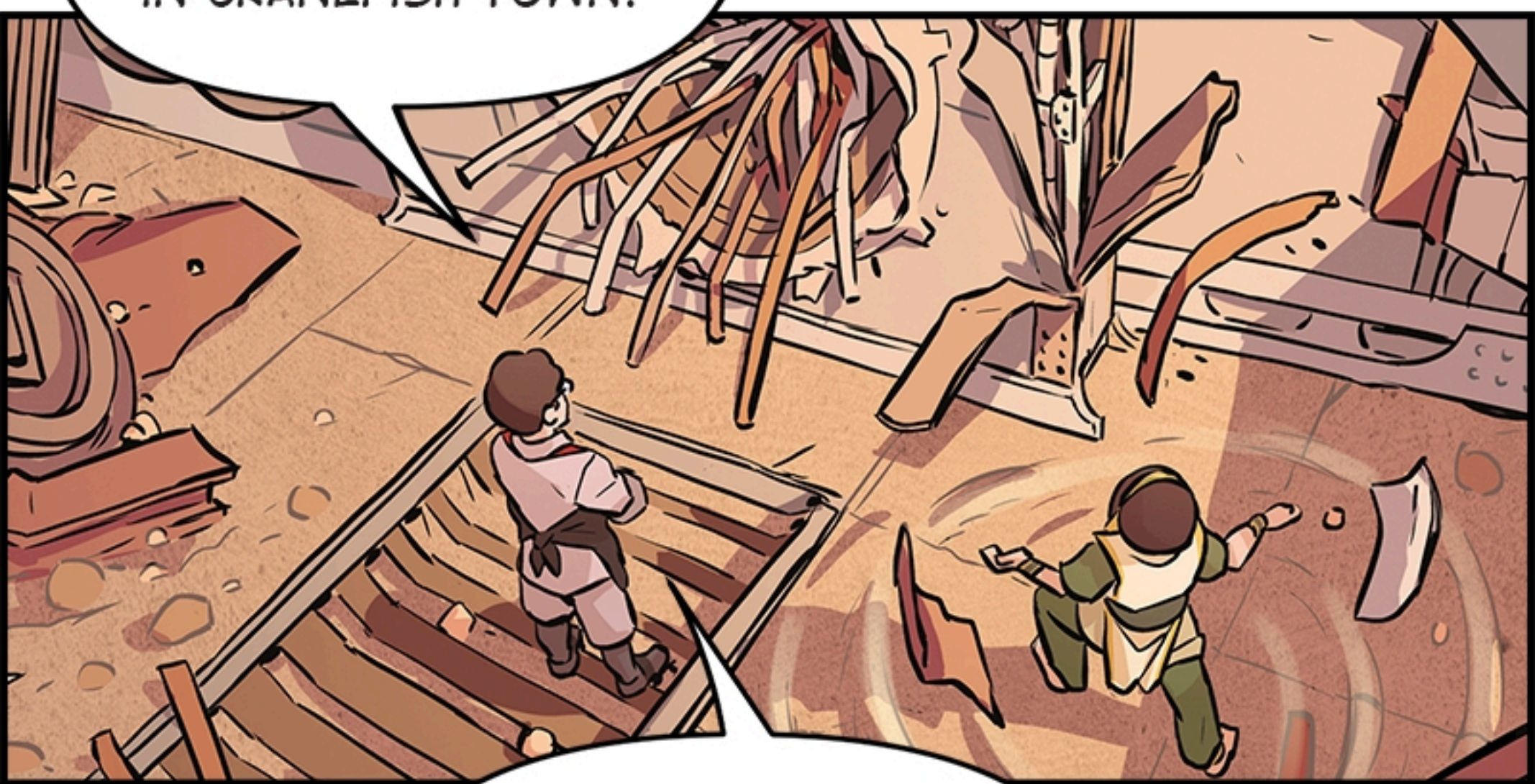
NAH, YOU
DON'T NEED
MONTHS.



YOU JUST
NEED ME.



TOPH, I...I
FEEL RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED
IN CRANEFISH TOWN.



SO MANY
BENDERS THINK
THESE MACHINES TOOK
AWAY THEIR LIVELIHOOD.
THEY FEEL LIKE I MADE
THEM OBSOLETE.

COME ON,
YOU KNOW THAT'S
NOT TRUE.

I DON'T
KNOW. THEY MAY
HAVE A POINT.

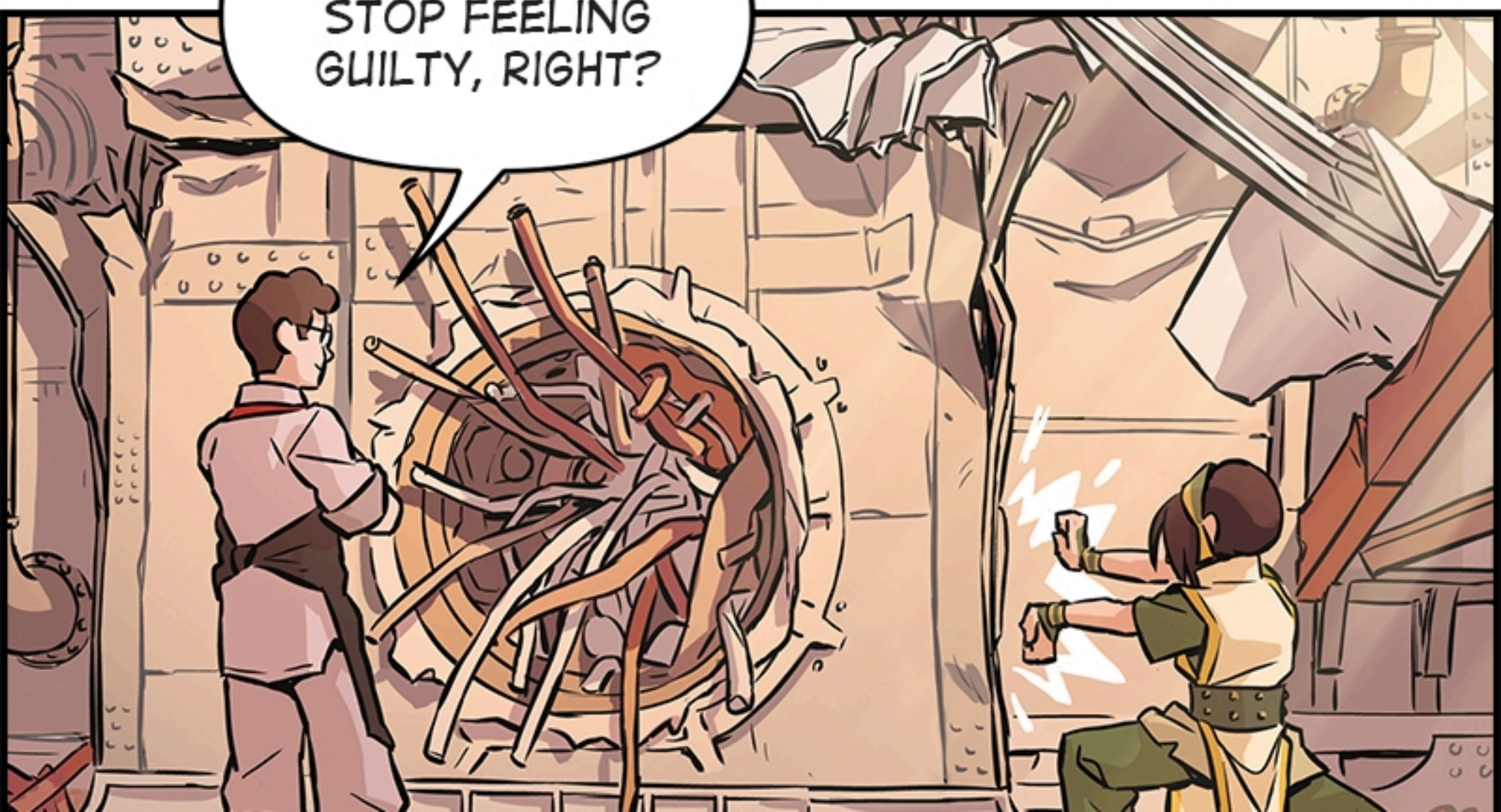


SATORU,
EVEN IF YOU HADN'T
MADE THESE MACHINES,
THERE STILL WOULDN'T BE
ENOUGH JOBS IN CRANEFISH
TOWN FOR EVERY SKILLED
BENDER. PEOPLE ARE JUST
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
TO BLAME.





AND I SHOULD
STOP FEELING
GUILTY, RIGHT?





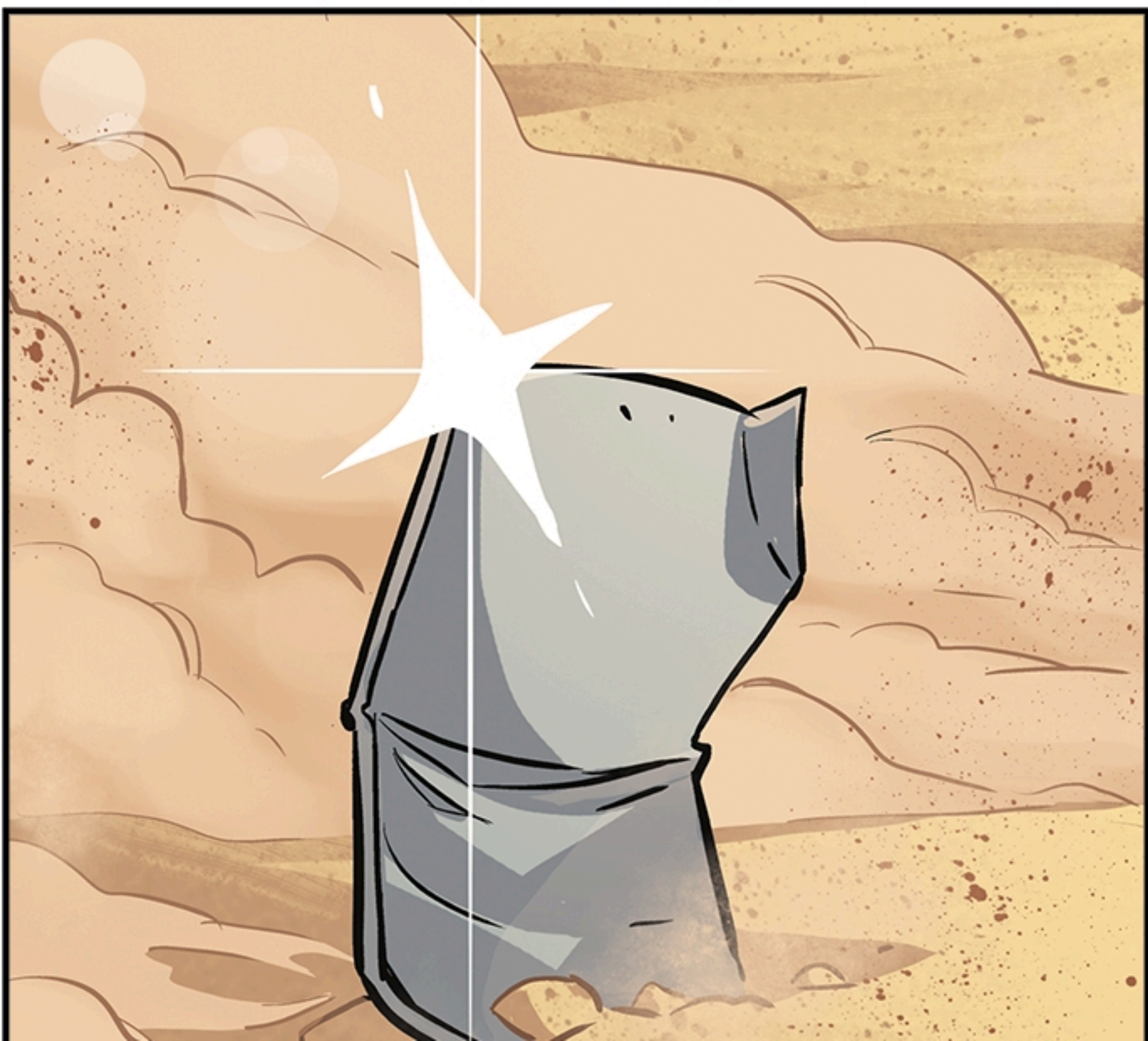
TOOK THE
WORDS RIGHT OUT
OF MY MOUTH.















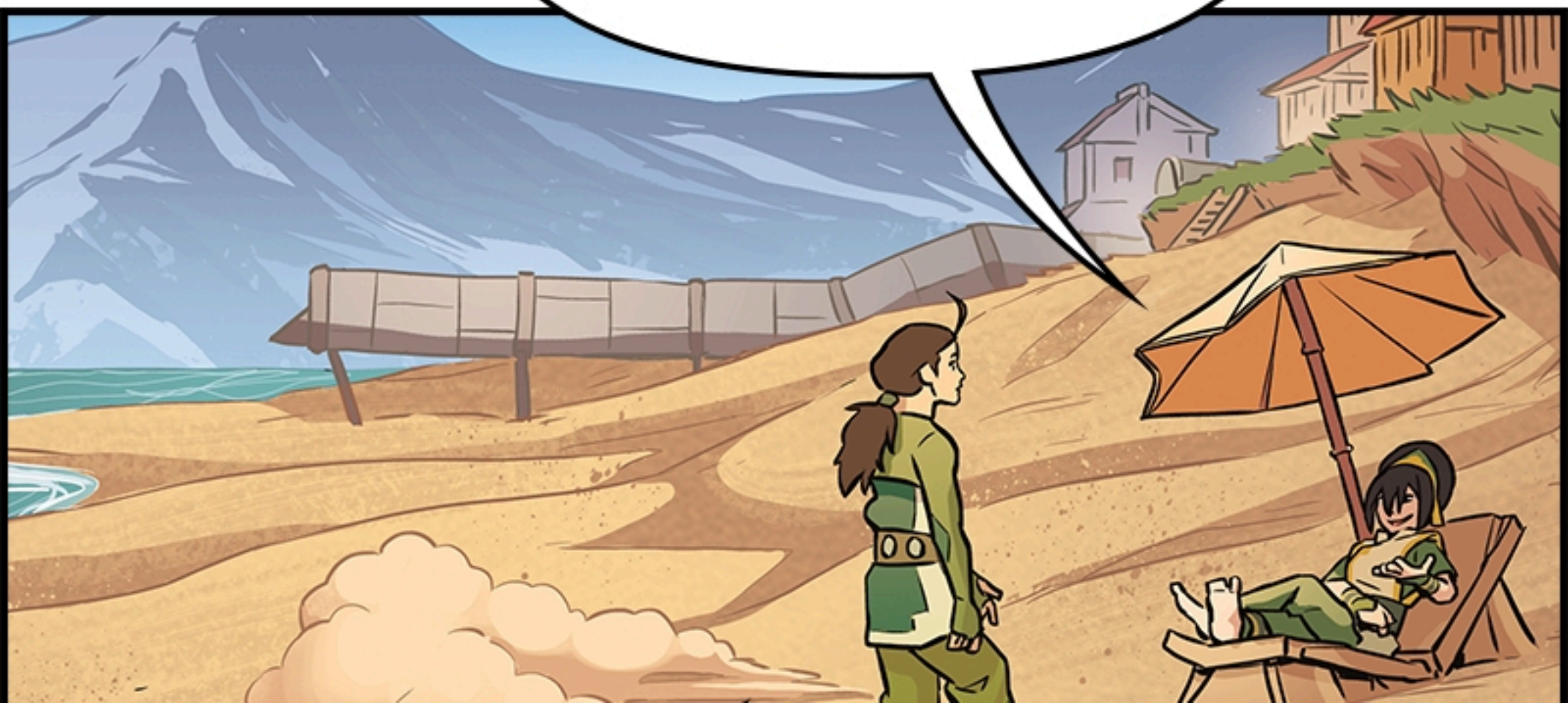
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY THIS IS
SO HARD!





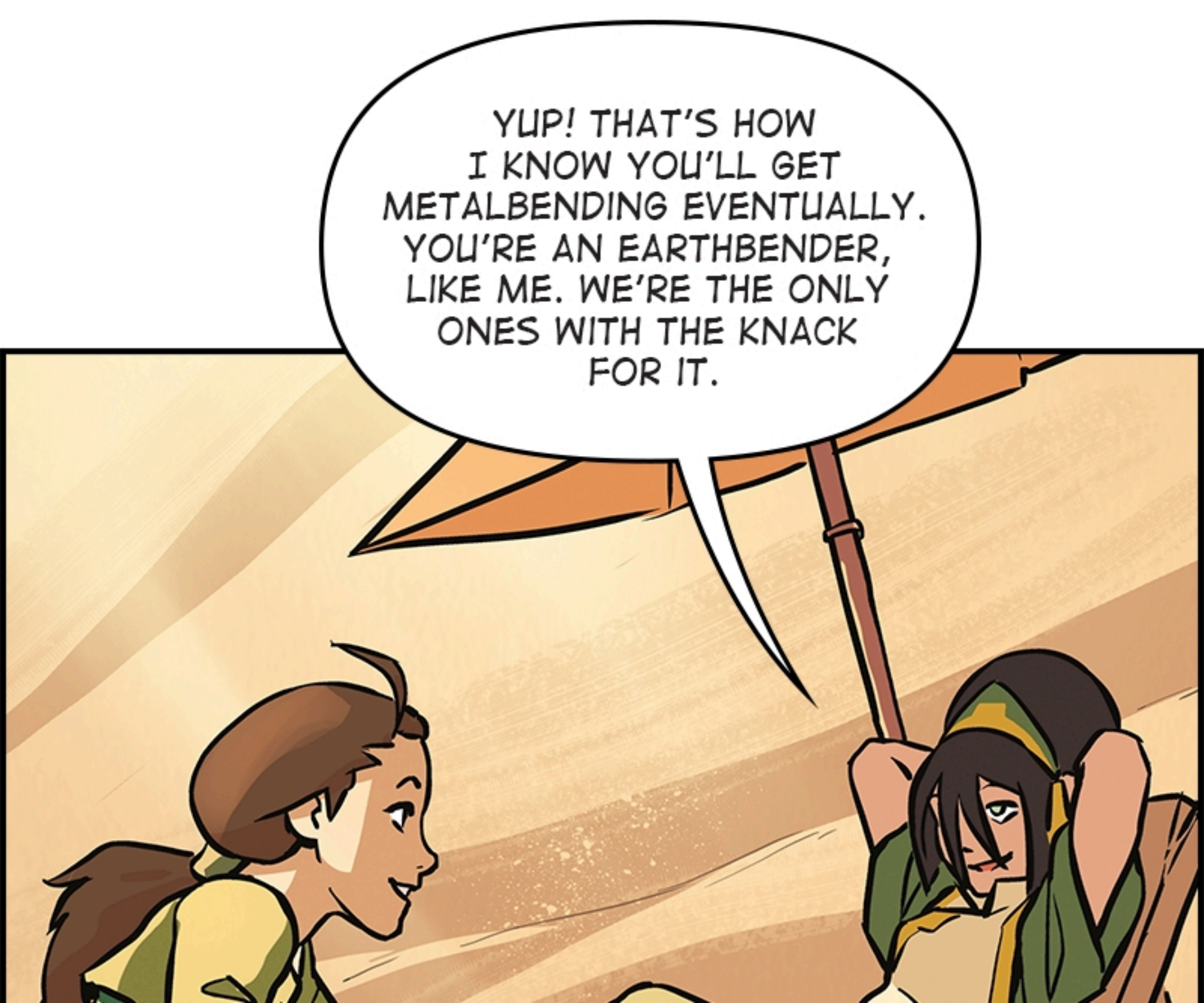
YOU GOTTA
BE PATIENT,
IT'S ONLY YOUR
FIRST DAY.

I TRIED TEACHING
AANG TO METALBEND,
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE
STOMACH FOR IT. KID'S A
GREAT AIRBENDER, BUT
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE
FEEL FOR METAL.





REALLY?



YUP! THAT'S HOW
I KNOW YOU'LL GET
METALBENDING EVENTUALLY.
YOU'RE AN EARTHBENDER,
LIKE ME. WE'RE THE ONLY
ONES WITH THE KNACK
FOR IT.



YEAH. WE'RE A
LOT ALIKE. I COULD
SENSE THAT THE FIRST
TIME I MET YOU.

I'M GLAD
WE GOT TO MEET,
ALTHOUGH IT WAS A LITTLE
EMBARRASSING HOW IT WENT
DOWN YESTERDAY. AANG CAN
BE KINDA PUSHY SOMETIMES,
LIKE BEING IN THAT ICEBERG
FOR A HUNDRED YEARS
STUNTED HIS SOCIAL
SKILLS.



ANYWAY, YOUR MOM
WAS REALLY GENEROUS,
AGREEING TO HELP THOSE
NON-BENDER-OWNED
BUSINESSES. SHE DIDN'T
HAVE TO DO THAT JUST
BECAUSE THE AVATAR
ASKED HER TO.



MY MOM *IS*
GENEROUS. SHE
CARES ABOUT THE FUTURE
OF CRANEFISH TOWN.
SHE WANTS TO HELP
PEOPLE.

I GET THAT.
BUT I GOTTA SAY,
SEEING SKILLED BENDERS
OUT OF WORK IN THIS CITY
BECAUSE OF THE MACHINES
THOSE NON-BENDER
FACTORIES USE...



...IT'S OKAY BY ME
IF THOSE MACHINES
DON'T GET FIXED RIGHT
AWAY, YOU KNOW?

I'D BE
FINE WITH
THAT, TOO.

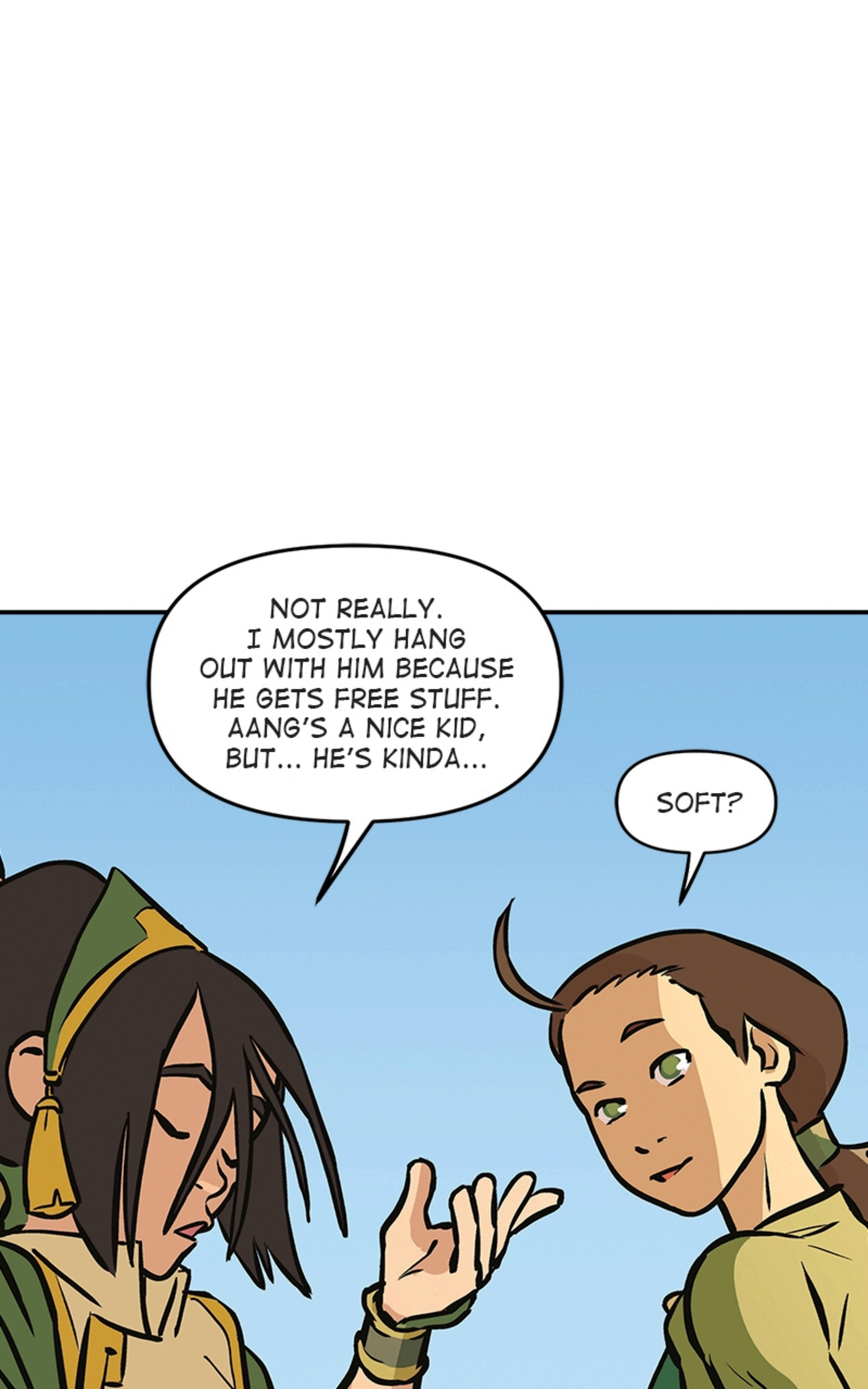


YOU AND THE
AVATAR... ARE
YOU *CLOSE*?







A comic panel with a light blue background. On the left, a character with dark hair and a green and yellow headband is shown from the chest up, looking down. On the right, a character with brown hair and green eyes is shown from the chest up, looking towards the first character with a questioning expression. A large speech bubble originates from the first character, and a smaller one originates from the second character.

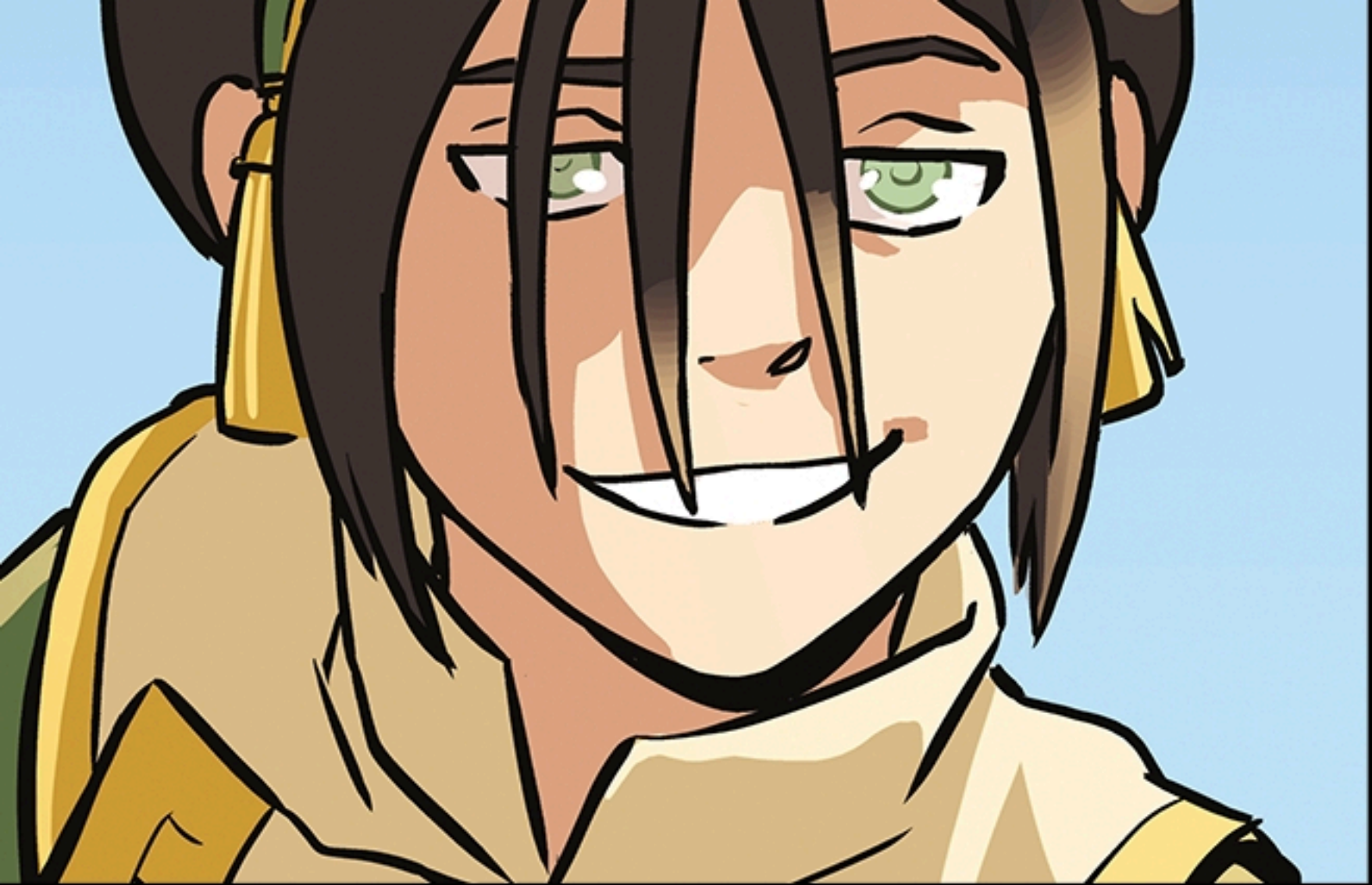
NOT REALLY.
I MOSTLY HANG
OUT WITH HIM BECAUSE
HE GETS FREE STUFF.
AANG'S A NICE KID,
BUT... HE'S KINDA...

SOFT?



HE'S THE
SOFTTEST. LIKE A
BABY TURTLE-DUCK.





THERE ARE LOTS
OF PEOPLE IN THE
CITY WHO THINK THAT
THINGS HAVE GONE WRONG
SINCE THE END OF THE
HUNDRED YEAR WAR.



THINGS ARE OUT OF
BALANCE. ESPECIALLY
THE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN BENDERS

BETWEEN BENDERS
AND NON-BENDERS.

THERE'S A
MEETING TONIGHT
FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS
OF CRANEFISH TOWN.



WE WANT TO
RETURN THINGS TO
THEIR *NATURAL* ORDER,
MAKE THINGS HOW THEY
USED TO BE. HOW THEY
SHOULD BE.



WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
JOIN US?

SURE. I'M
A FAN OF THE
NATURAL ORDER.

I'LL
GIVE YOU THE
PASSWORD.







I DID IT! GET
YOUR BOOMERANGS
AND GLIDERS AND
LET'S GO!

WAIT,
WHAT?



YALING WAS
LIKE SPACE METAL
IN MY HANDS. SHE GAVE
UP THAT THERE'S A RALLY
TONIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE
WHO ATTACKED MY
DAD'S FACTORY.



WE GO IN,
WE BASH HEADS,
WE SAVE THE DAY.

HOLD ON, WE
NEED TO DISCUSS
THIS. WE SHOULDN'T
RUSH INTO ANYTHING.

WHAT'S TO
DISCUSS?

WE DON'T KNOW
WHY THE FACTORIES
WERE ATTACKED, OR WHAT
LILING'S INVOLVEMENT IS.

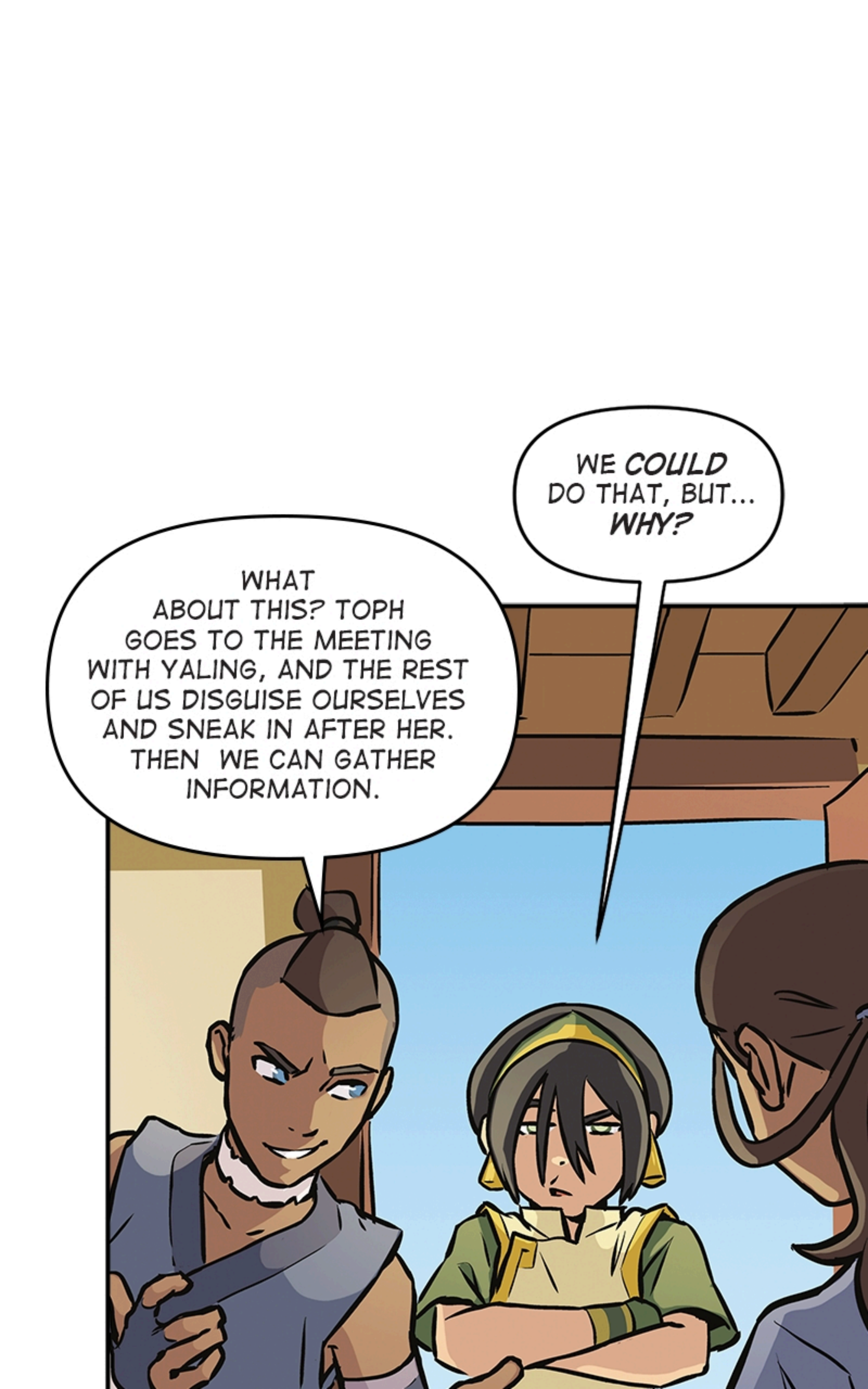


SHE'S ON
CRANEFISH TOWN'S
BUSINESS COUNCIL.
WE CAN'T ARREST HER
WITHOUT PROOF SHE
DID SOMETHING
WRONG.

A comic panel featuring two characters. On the left, a man with dark skin and a ponytail, wearing a grey tunic and a white arm guard, is gesturing with his right hand. On the right, a woman with dark hair and a yellow headband, wearing a green and yellow tunic, is looking at him with a serious expression. They are standing in front of a wooden structure with a blue background.

SO WE GO IN,
BASH SOME HEADS,
AND MAKE THEM
TELL US WHAT'S
GOING ON.

WHAT IF
WE TRIED IT
WITHOUT BASHING
ANY HEADS?

A comic panel featuring three characters. On the left, a woman with dark skin and blue eyes, wearing a grey tunic, is speaking. In the center, a person with short grey hair and a green headband, wearing a green and yellow tunic, is listening with arms crossed. On the right, a man with dark skin and a beard is partially visible, looking towards the speaker. The background shows a wooden structure and a blue sky.

WHAT
ABOUT THIS? TOPH
GOES TO THE MEETING
WITH YALING, AND THE REST
OF US DISGUISE OURSELVES
AND SNEAK IN AFTER HER.
THEN WE CAN GATHER
INFORMATION.

WE *COULD*
DO THAT, BUT...
WHY?



SEEMS LIKE LESS
FUN, BUT IF THAT'S
THE WAY YOU WANT
TO PLAY IT.

I THINK
IT'S A GOOD
PLAN.





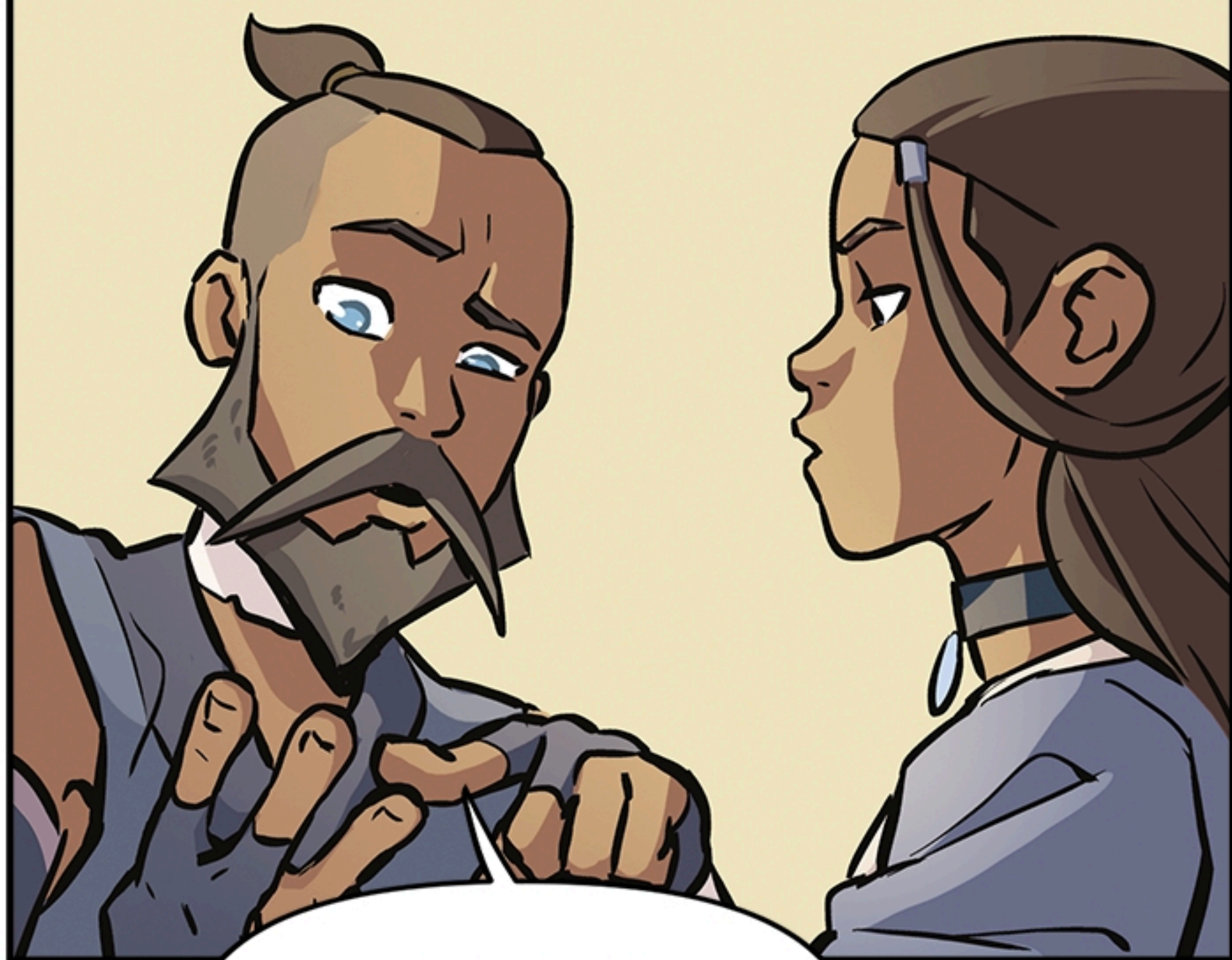
IT'S A ***GREAT***
PLAN. ALSO,
IT MEANS--



--***DISGUISE***
TIME!!



SOKKA, IS THAT
YOUR WANG FIRE
BEARD FROM WHEN WE
WERE UNDERCOVER IN THE
FIRE NATION? DID YOU KEEP
EVERYTHING FROM
OUR TRAVELS?



NO, JUST THE
BEARD. AND THE HAT.
AND A COUPLE OTHER...
DOZEN THINGS.



OKAY, MORE
THAN A DOZEN
THINGS. A DOZEN
DOZEN. BUT THAT'S
IT, I PROMISE.

ARE YOU
OKAY WITH
THIS, TOPH?

I'M GOOD,
TWINKLE TOES.
I WANT TO CATCH
THESE PEOPLE TOO,
SO WHATEVER GETS
THE JOB DONE.



AT LEAST I
DON'T HAVE TO
WEAR A WIG.



nickelodeonTM



AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDERTM

IMBALANCE

Created by

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Reformat Copyediting
KATHLEEN TOWNSEND

Originally Published by
DARK HORSE BOOKS

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