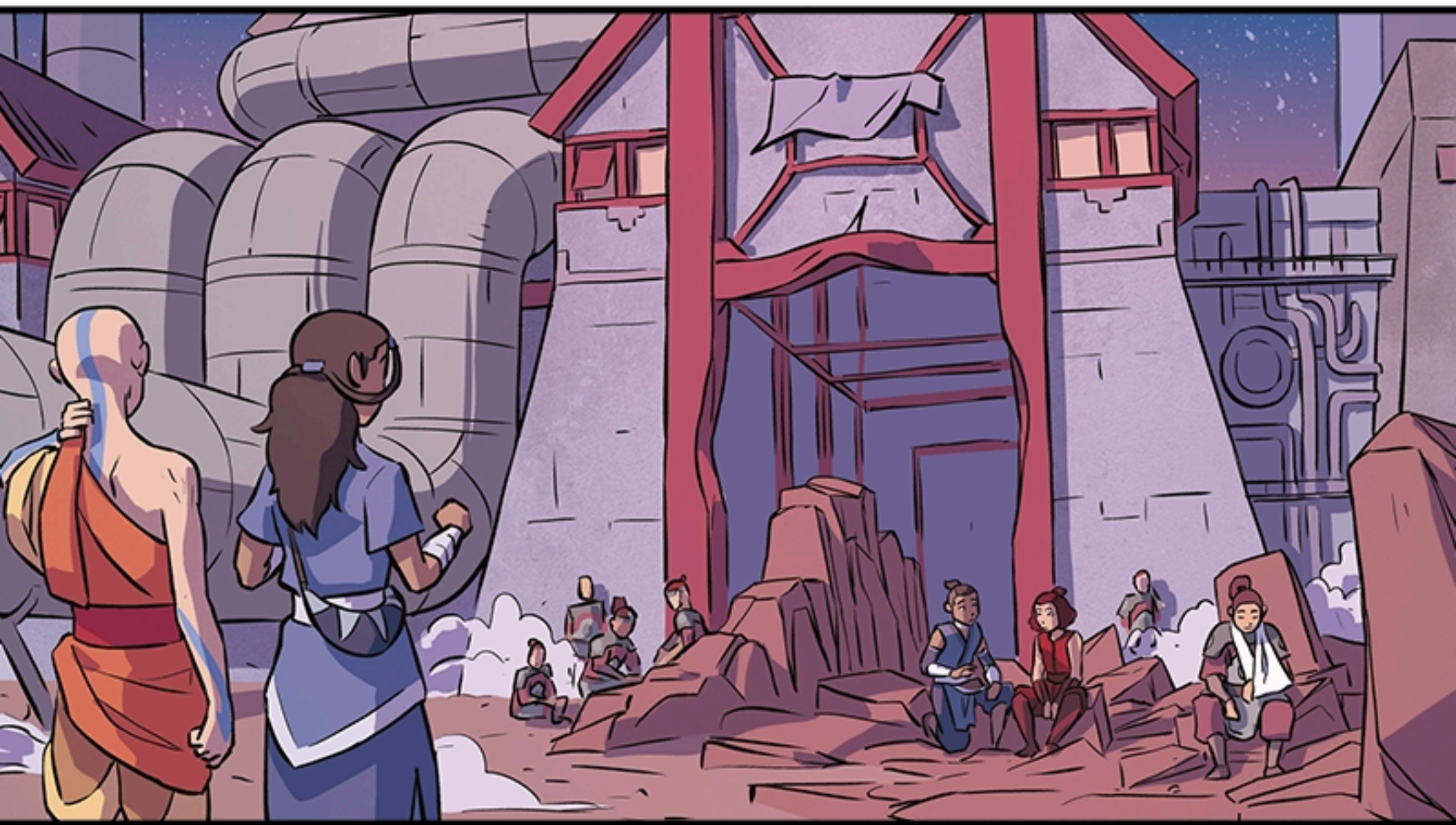




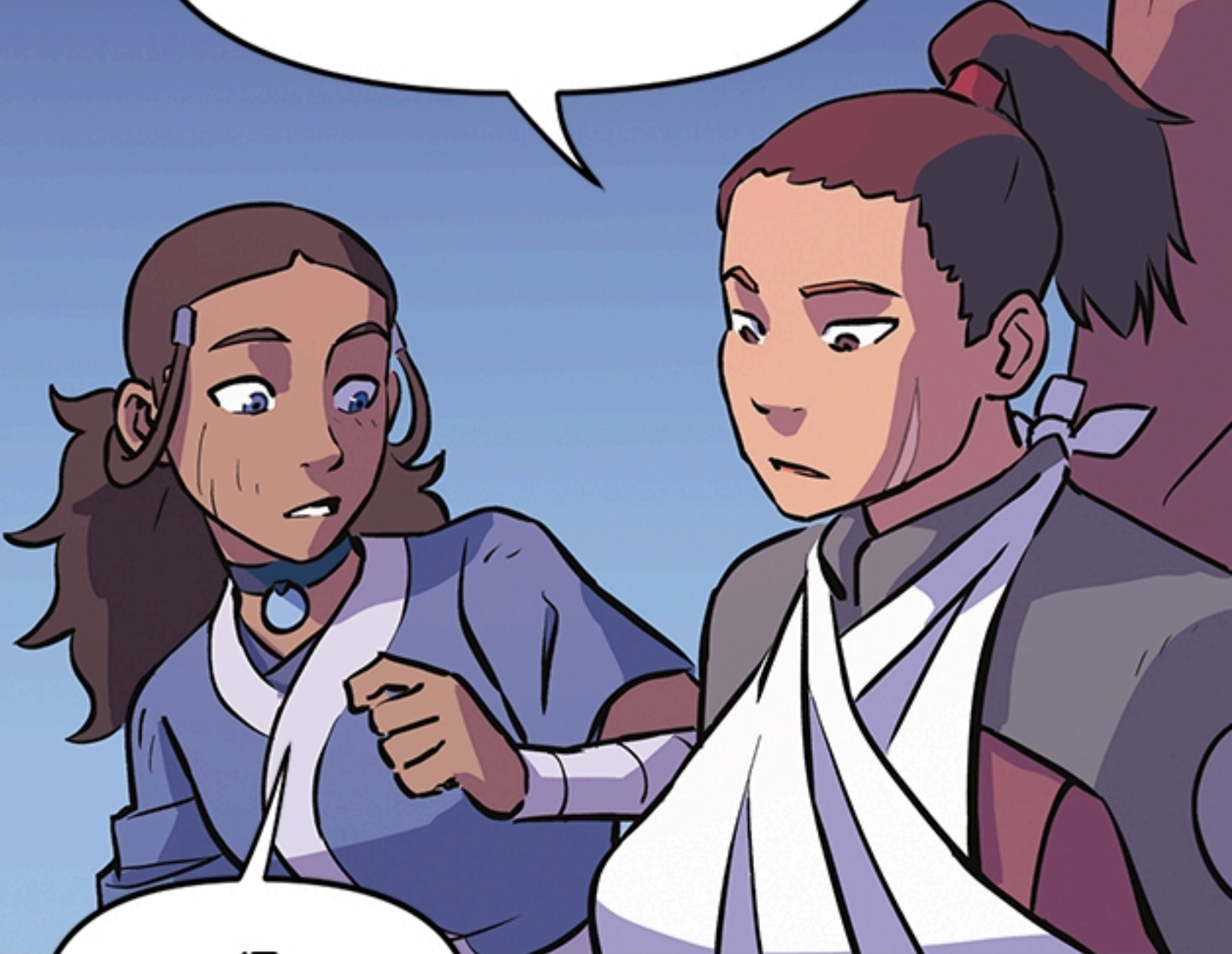


NOW WE KNOW
WHAT THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL ATTACK WAS
REALLY ABOUT.



MY GUARDS ARE
WELL TRAINED, AND WE'VE
FOUGHT BENDERS BEFORE, BUT
THAT MOB COMPLETELY
OVERWHELMED US.

I'M SORRY,
BUT COUNCILWOMAN
LILING ESCAPED. THE
THOUGHT OF HER OUT ON
THE STREETS AGAIN...



IT
FRIGHTENS
ME, TOO.

The illustration shows two female characters in a conversation. The character on the left has dark skin, long brown hair, and blue eyes. She is wearing a blue top with a white sash and a blue choker with a circular pendant. The character on the right has light skin and dark hair tied in a ponytail. She is wearing a grey and white top. They are both looking at each other with concerned expressions. The background is a simple blue gradient.

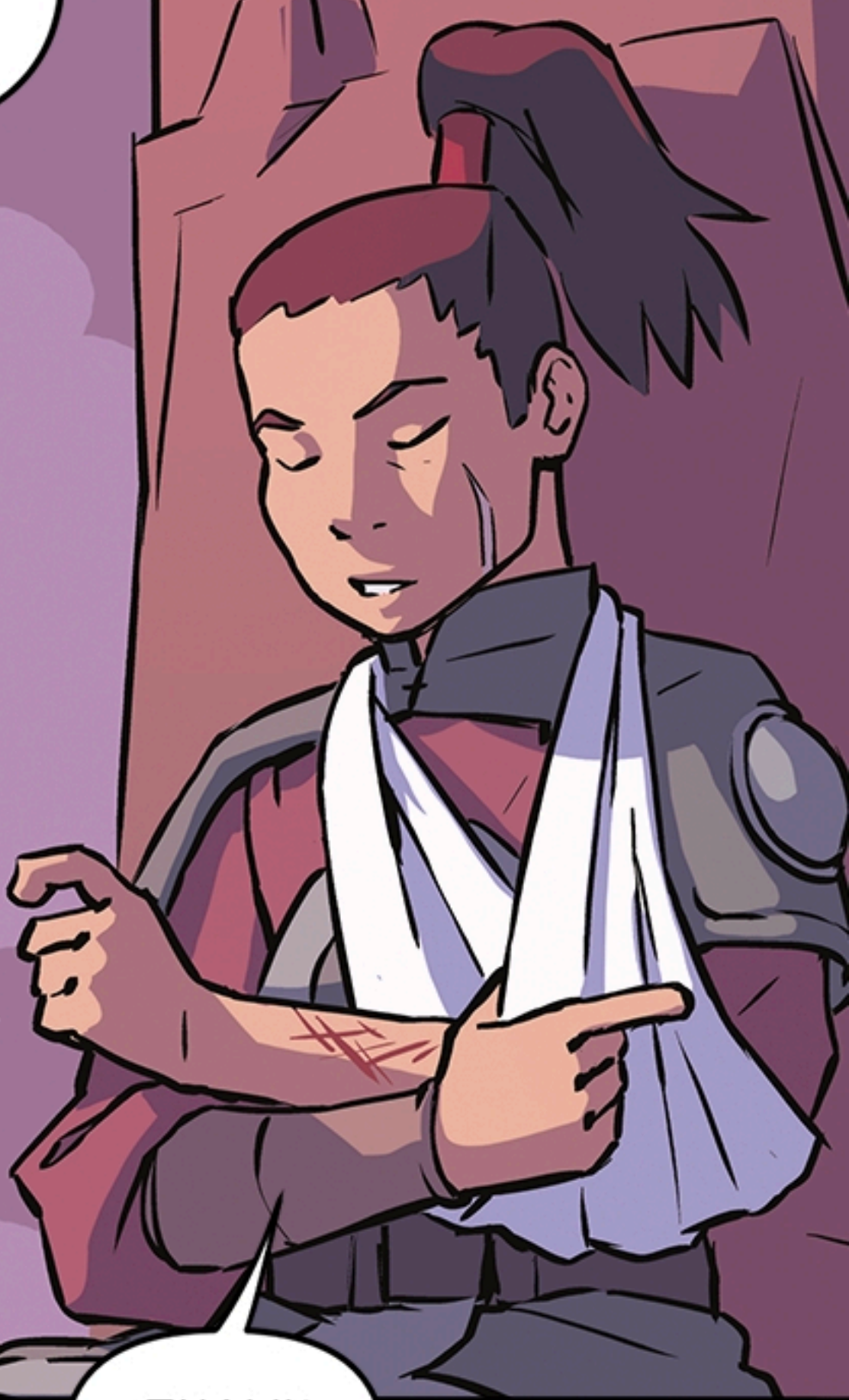
AANG ASKED THE
COUNCIL MEMBERS TO
STAY AT THE FACTORY,
WHERE WE CAN
PROTECT THEM.



BUT AS LONG
AS LILING AND HER
FOLLOWERS ARE FREE,
EVERY NON-BENDER
IN THE CITY IS
IN DANGER.

SHE ALWAYS
SEEMS TO BE ONE
STEP AHEAD OF US. IT'S
FRUSTRATING, I FEEL
LIKE WE NEED TO BE
DOING MORE.

AT LEAST
I CAN HEAL
YOUR ARM.



THANK
YOU.

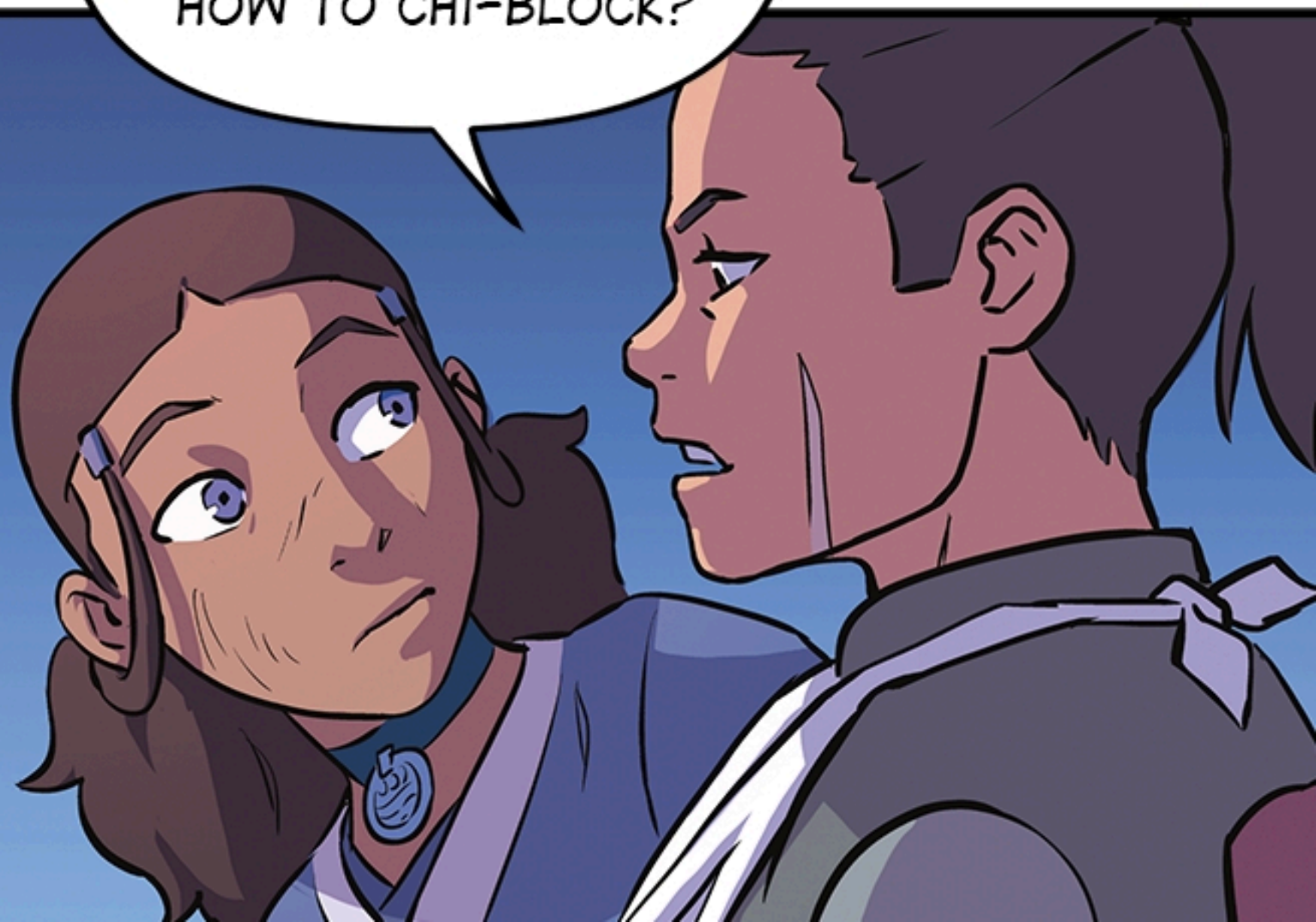
THERE'S
SOMETHING I
WANTED TO ASK...

WHAT
IS IT?



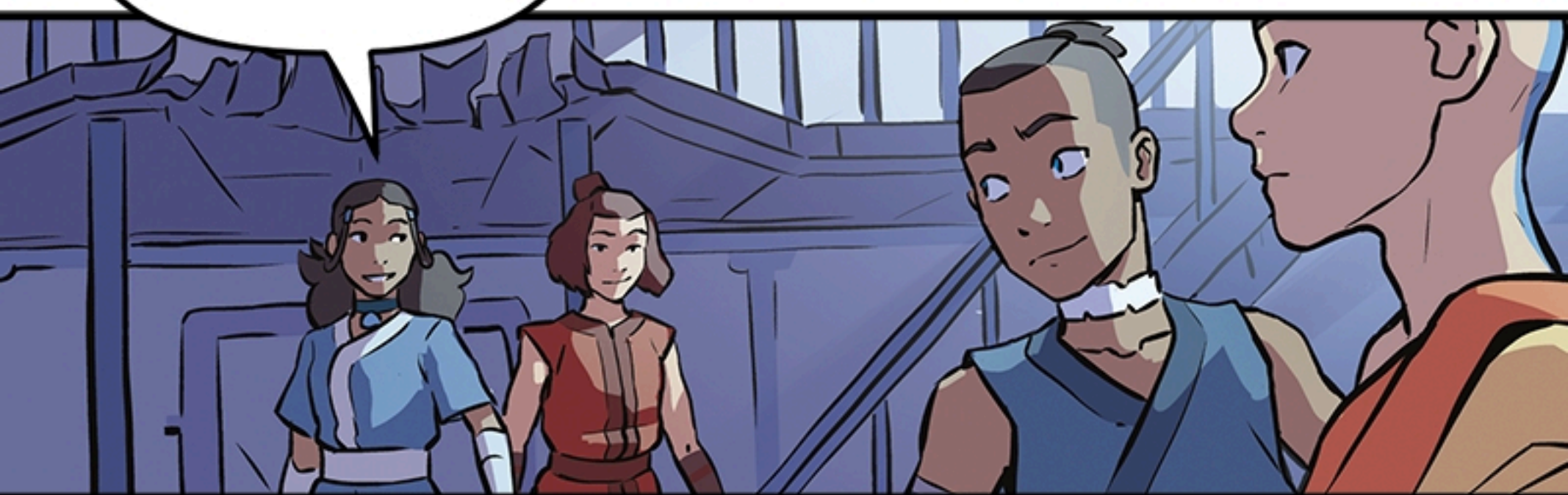


YOUR FRIEND, THE
KYOSHI WARRIOR,
DO YOU THINK SHE'D
TEACH MY OFFICERS
HOW TO CHI-BLOCK?





AANG, SUKI
AND I HAVE
BEEN TALKING.



WE WANT

TO BE READY THE
NEXT TIME LILING'S
FOLLOWERS
ATTACK.

I'M GOING
TO TEACH LAO'S
SECURITY GUARDS
HOW TO CHI-BLOCK.

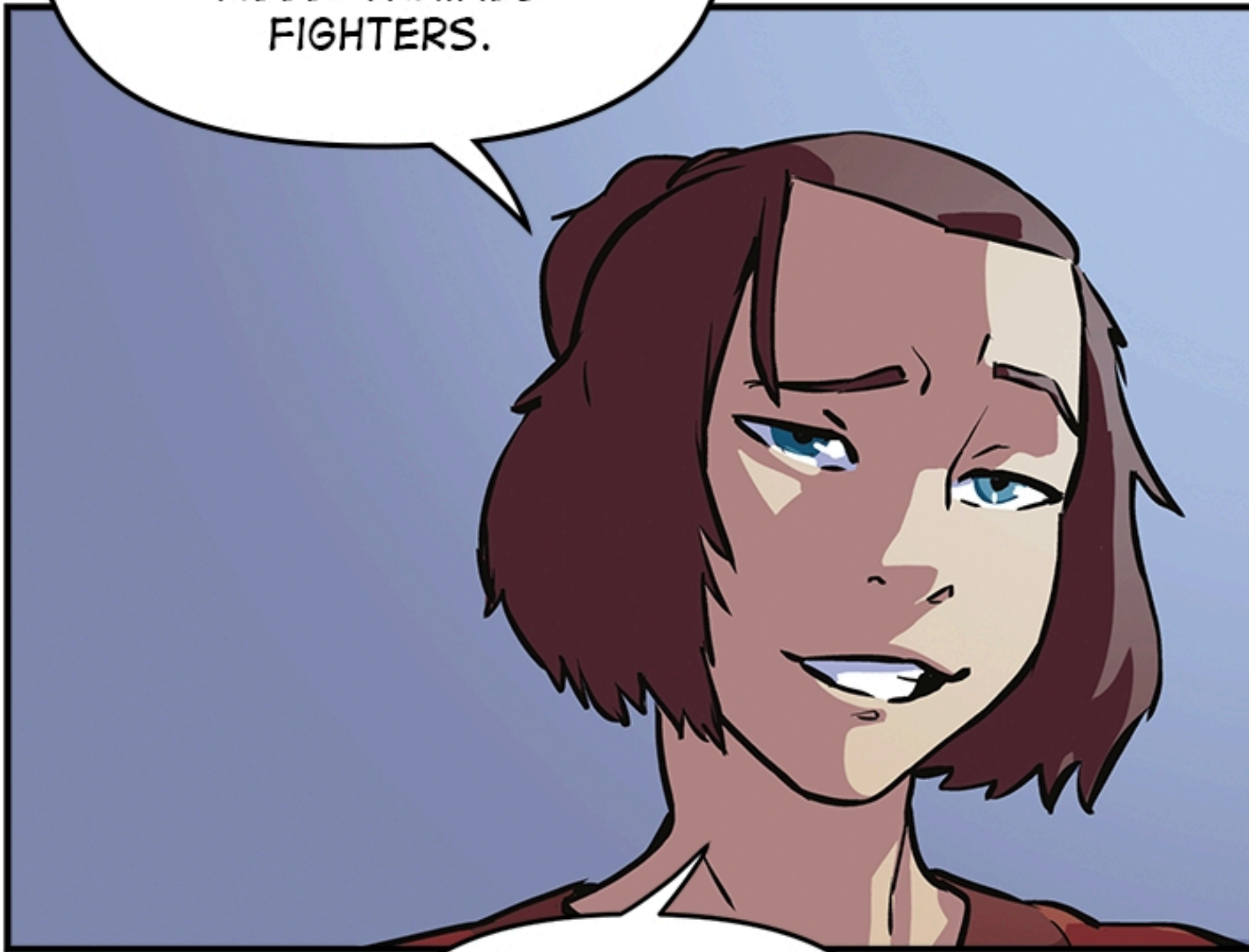




THAT'S A
GREAT IDEA!
YOU'RE SO SMART,
SUKI. AND TALENTED!
EVERYTHING YOU
DO IS AMAZING.

HOW FAST
COULD THEY LEARN?
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN
LILING WILL ATTACK
AGAIN. IT COULD
BE SOON.

IT'LL TAKE
A WHILE, MAYBE
MORE TIME THAN WE
HAVE. BUT THE SECURITY
GUARDS ARE ALREADY
WELL-TRAINED
FIGHTERS.

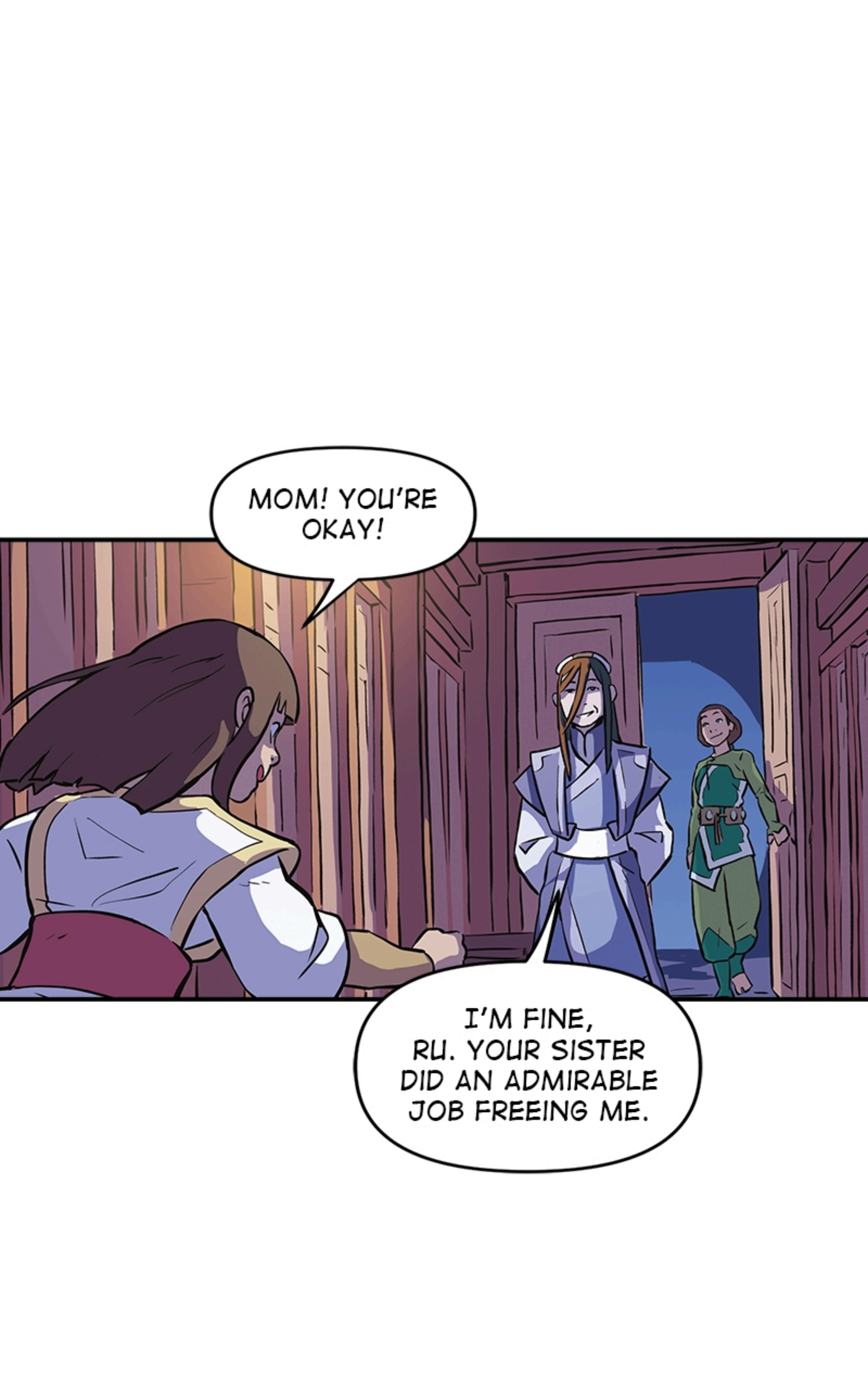


I CAN AT
LEAST START TO
TEACH THEM THE
BASICS.

OKAY.
WE'LL NEED
ALL THE HELP
WE CAN GET.







MOM! YOU'RE
OKAY!

I'M FINE,
RU. YOUR SISTER
DID AN ADMIRABLE
JOB FREEING ME.

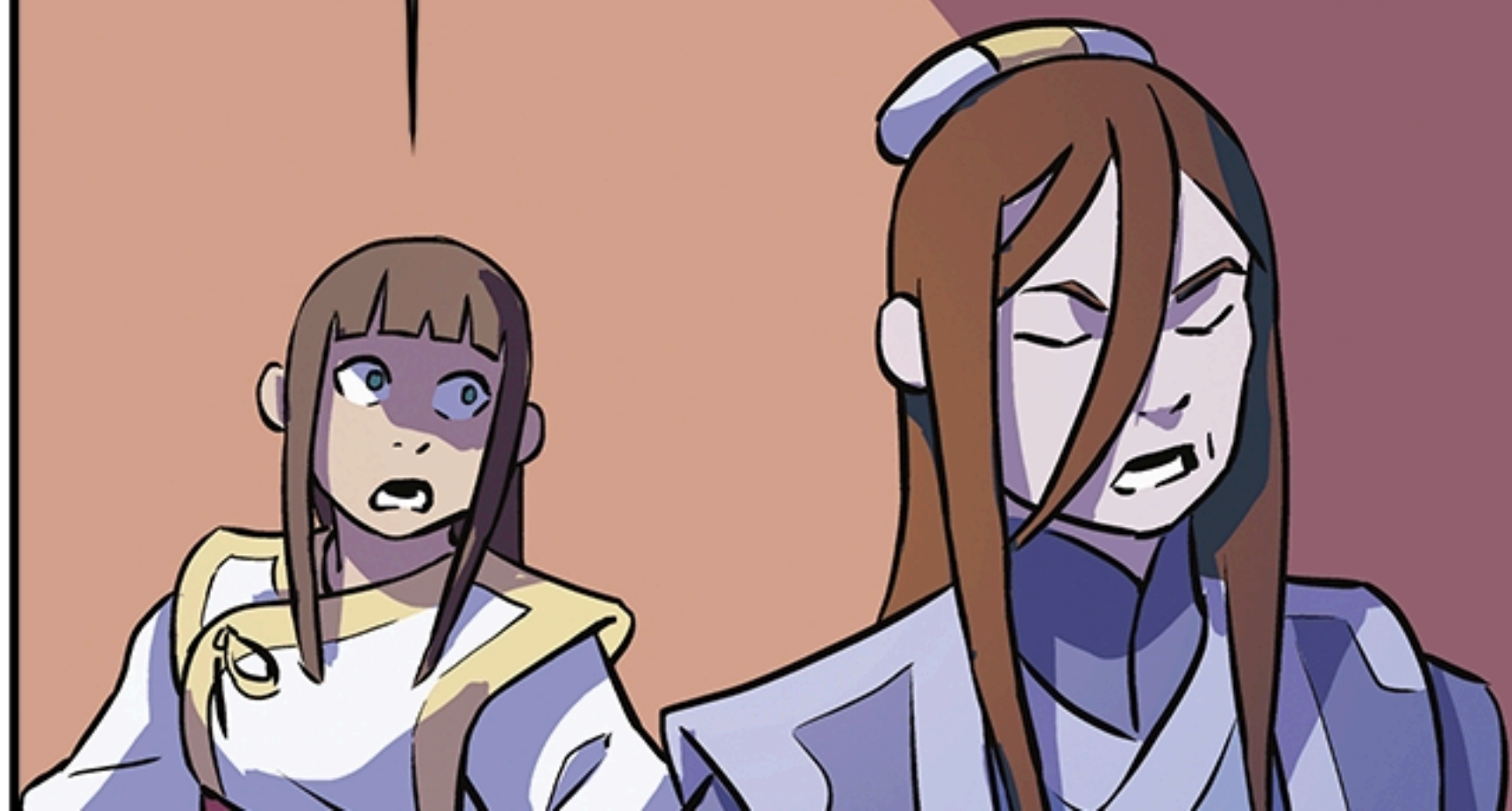


I PACKED
AS MUCH OF OUR
CLOTHING AS I COULD.
THERE'S A SHIP THAT LEAVES
THE CITY TONIGHT. WE
CAN ESCAPE--

WE'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

BUT THE AVATAR--
HE KNOWS WHO YOU
ARE! HE'LL LOCK
YOU UP AGAIN!

I SAID WE'RE
NOT LEAVING! I
WON'T GIVE UP THIS
CITY TO AN AVATAR WHO
CONSPIRES WITH
NON-BENDERS!





I'LL DRIVE HIM
AND HIS FRIENDS
OUT OF CRANEFISH
TOWN MYSELF!

MOM,
WE CAN START
OVER IN ANOTHER CITY.
I DON'T WANT TO
LOSE YOU--

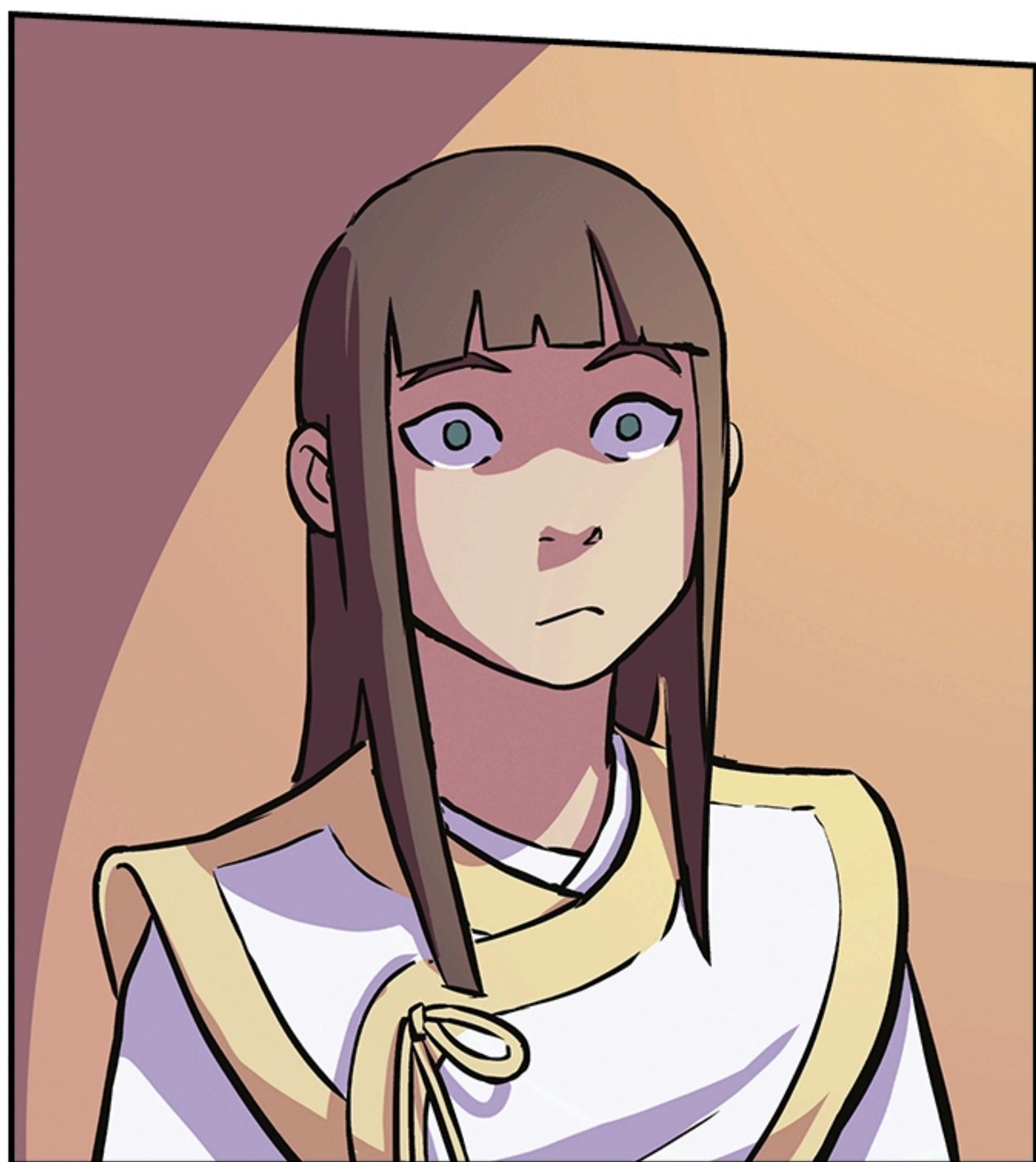
BE
QUIET, RU.



I *WON'T* LET WHAT
HAPPENED TO US IN
BA SING SE HAPPEN AGAIN! WE
LOST *EVERYTHING* WHEN THAT
CITY FELL TO THE FIRE NATION!
OUR HOME, OUR FRIENDS,
EVERYTHING THAT
WAS OURS.

YOU REMEMBER
WHAT THAT WAS LIKE,
DON'T YOU, RU? FLEEING
THE CITY WITH ONLY THE
CLOTHES ON OUR
BACKS?



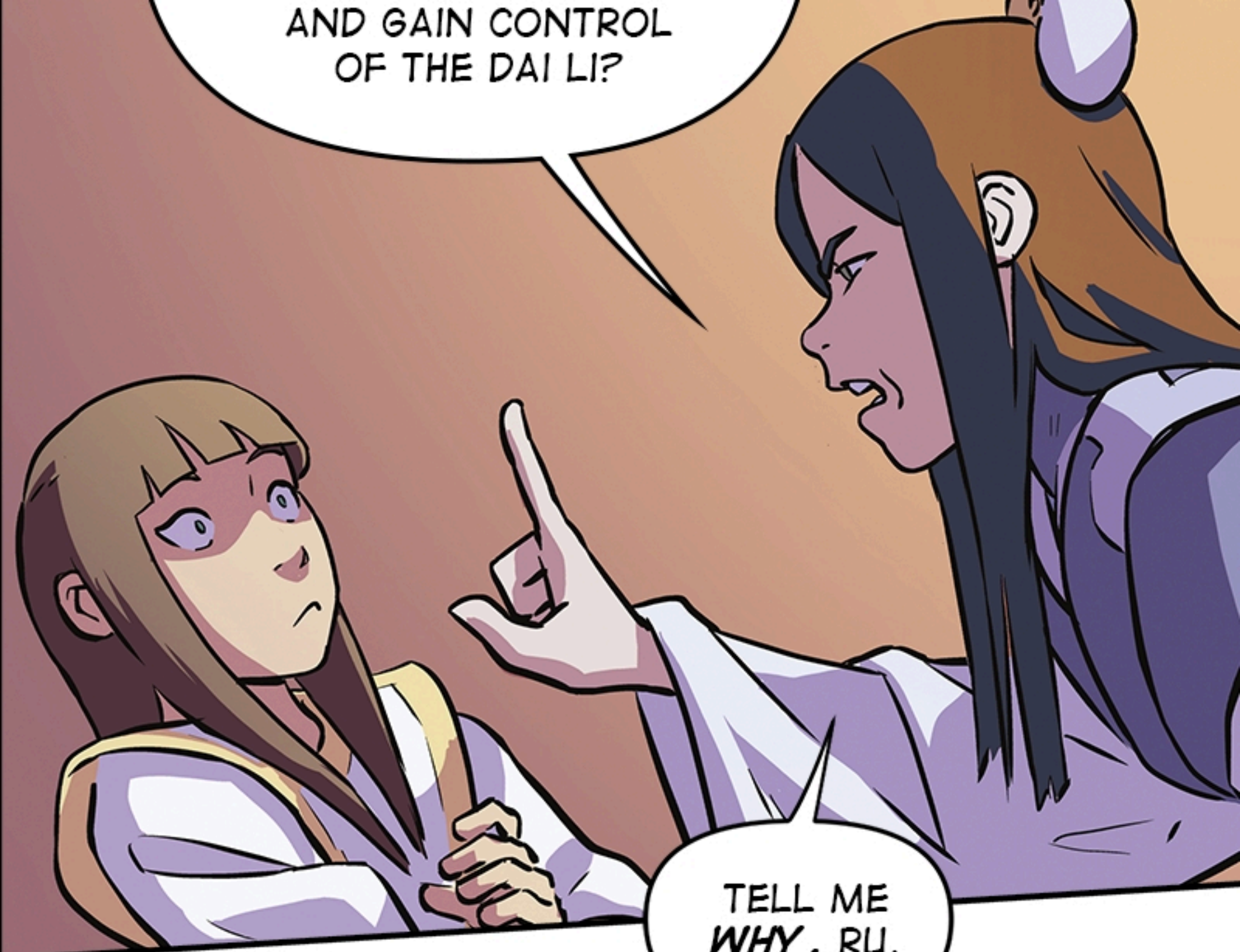


YES, MOM.
I REMEMBER.





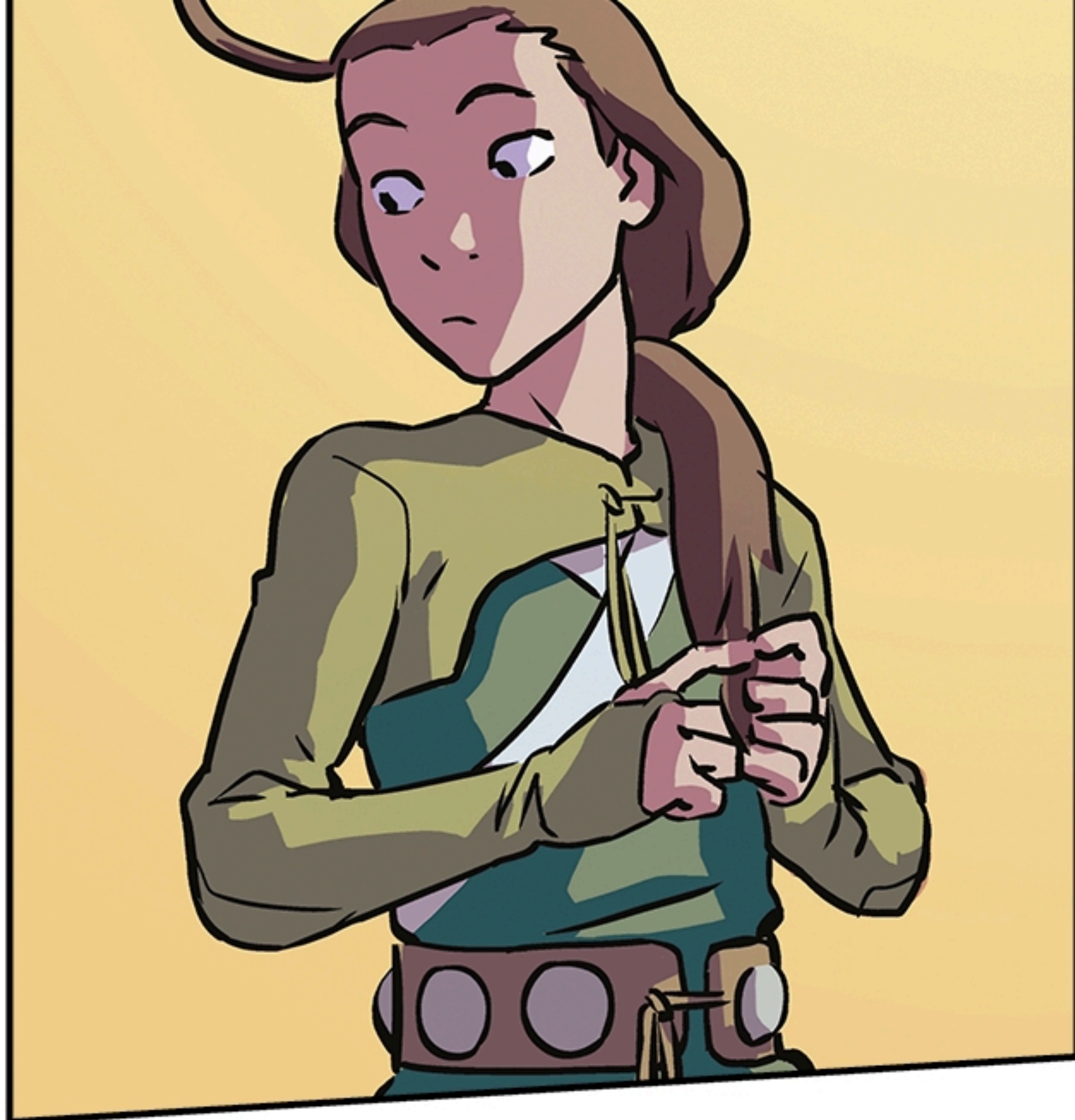
AND *WHY*
DID BA SING SE
FALL SO EASILY
TO THE FIRE NATION?
WHY WAS IT *SO EASY*
FOR PRINCESS AZULA TO
INFILTRATE ITS WALLS



AND GAIN CONTROL
OF THE DAI LI?

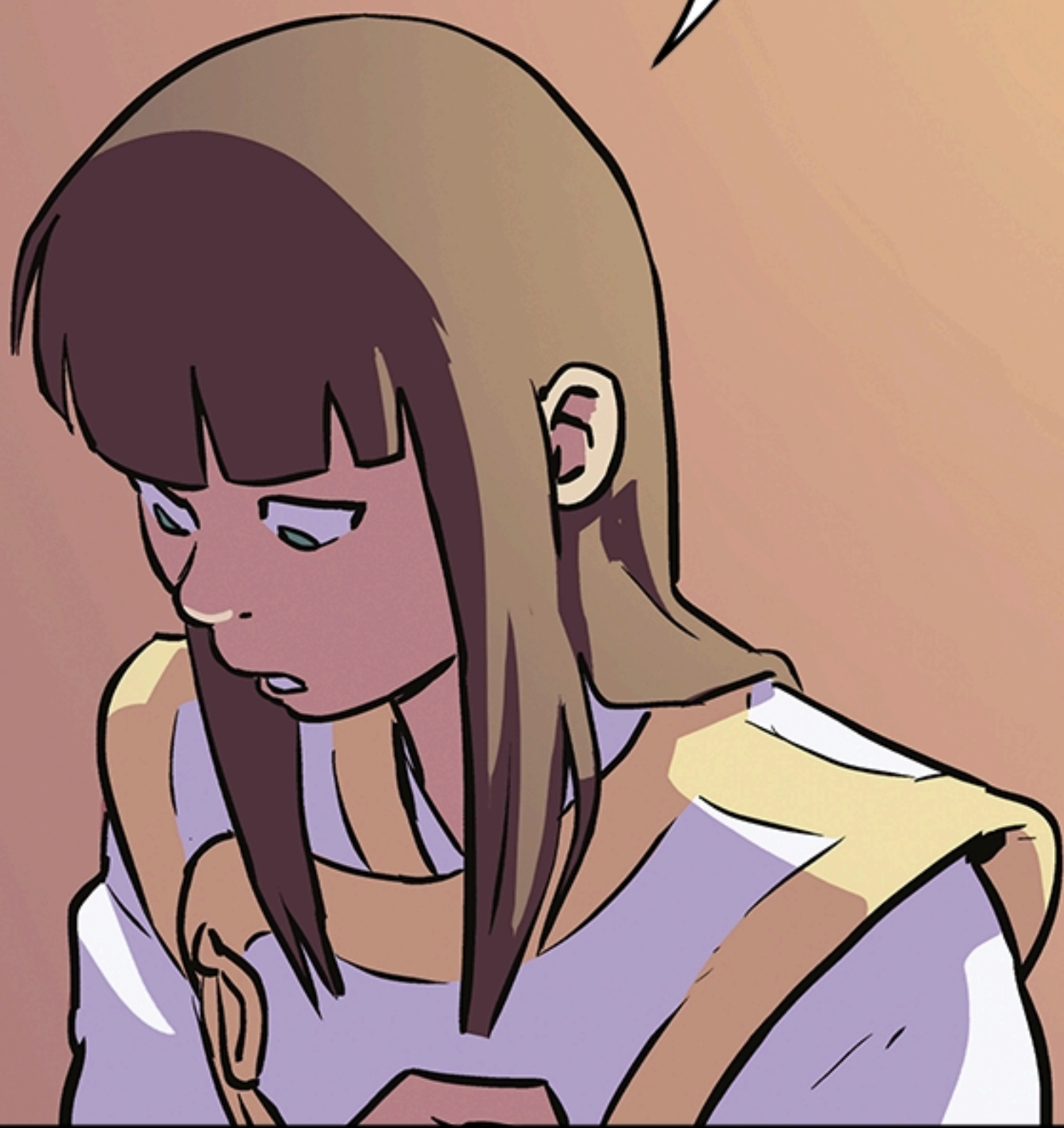
A comic panel featuring two female characters. On the right, a woman with long brown hair and a purple top is speaking, pointing her index finger towards the other woman. On the left, a woman with long brown hair and a purple top with a yellow sash is listening with a concerned expression. The background is a solid brown color.

TELL ME
WHY, RU.



BECAUSE--
BECAUSE THE
EARTH KING WAS
A NON-RENDER

A NON-BENDER.



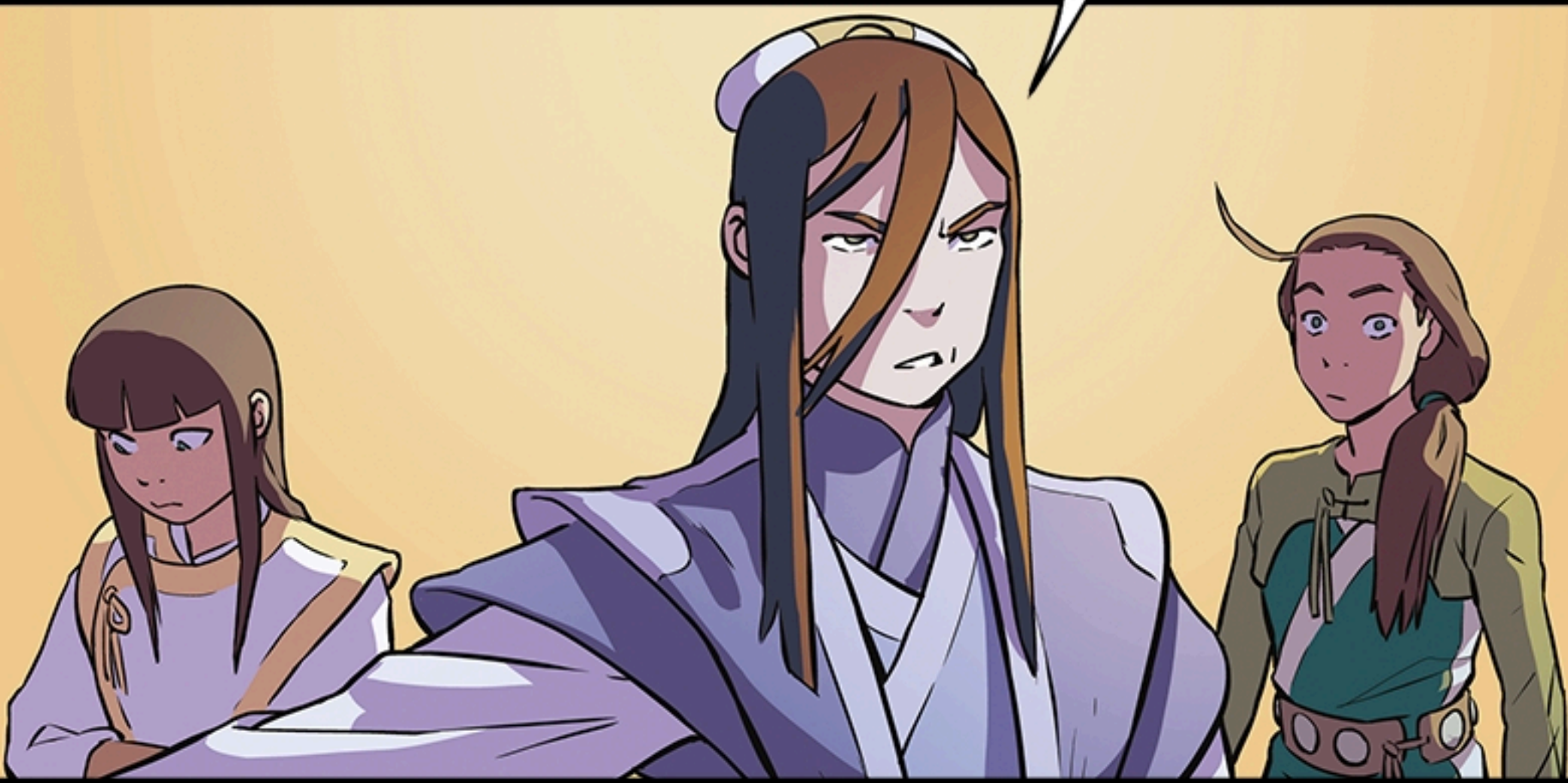
THAT'S RIGHT!

THAT'S RIGHT!
IF HE WAS A BENDER,
HE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE
TO CONTROL HIS AGENTS!
HE WOULD'VE BEEN
ABLE TO PROTECT
HIS CITY.



I WON'T LET
NON-BENDERS RUIN
THE LIFE I'VE BUILT IN
CRANEFISH TOWN THE WAY
A NON-BENDER RUINED OUR
LIVES IN BA SING SE.

WE'RE
STAYING HERE.
WE'RE FIGHTING
FOR OUR HOME.



BUT--BUT
IT WASN'T THE
EARTH KING'S FAULT WE
HAD TO LEAVE BA SING SE,
IT WAS THE FIRE NATION'S!
THEY ATTACKED US--THEY
TRIED TO CONQUER
THE WORLD!



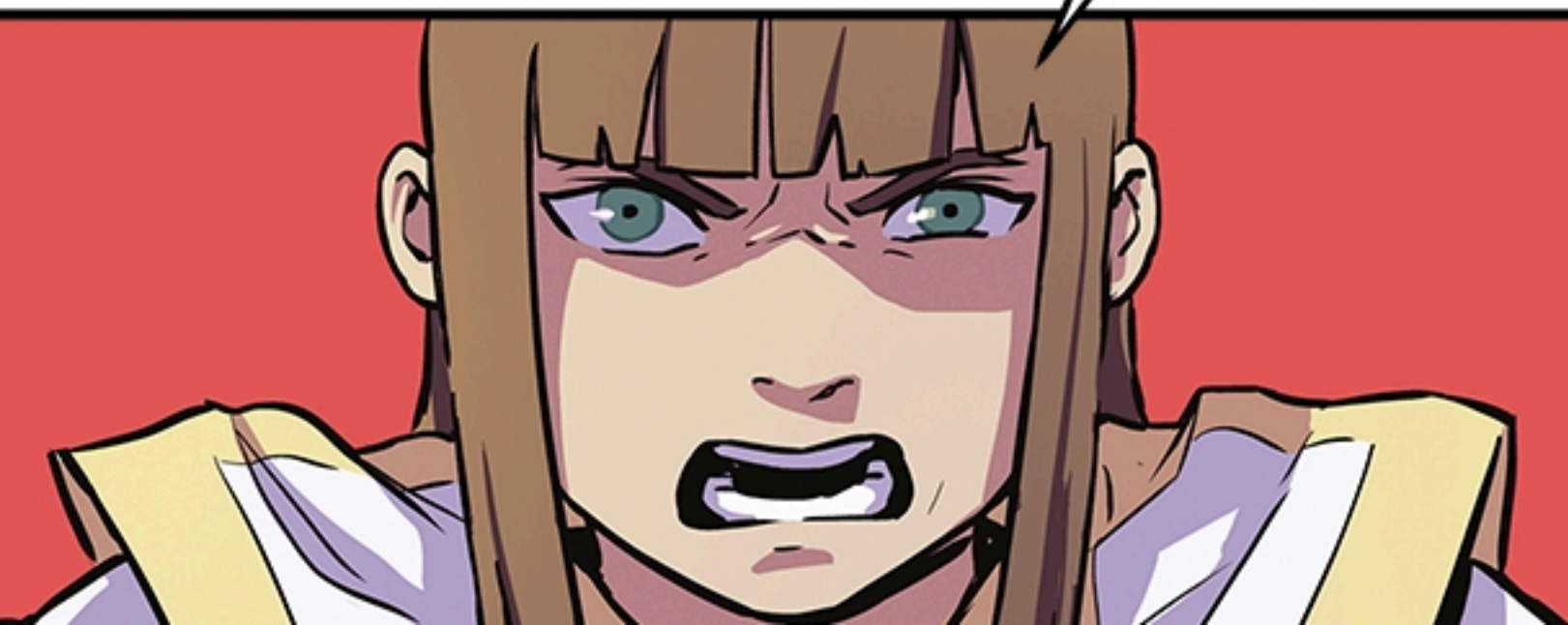
THE FIRE LORD
WAS ONLY DOING
WHAT ANY STRONG
BENDER LEADER
WOULD DO.

HE WAS
EXPLOITING A
WEAKNESS.





IS THAT
HOW YOU
SEE *ME*?





I'M WEAK
BECAUSE I DON'T
HAVE BENDING
ABILITIES?

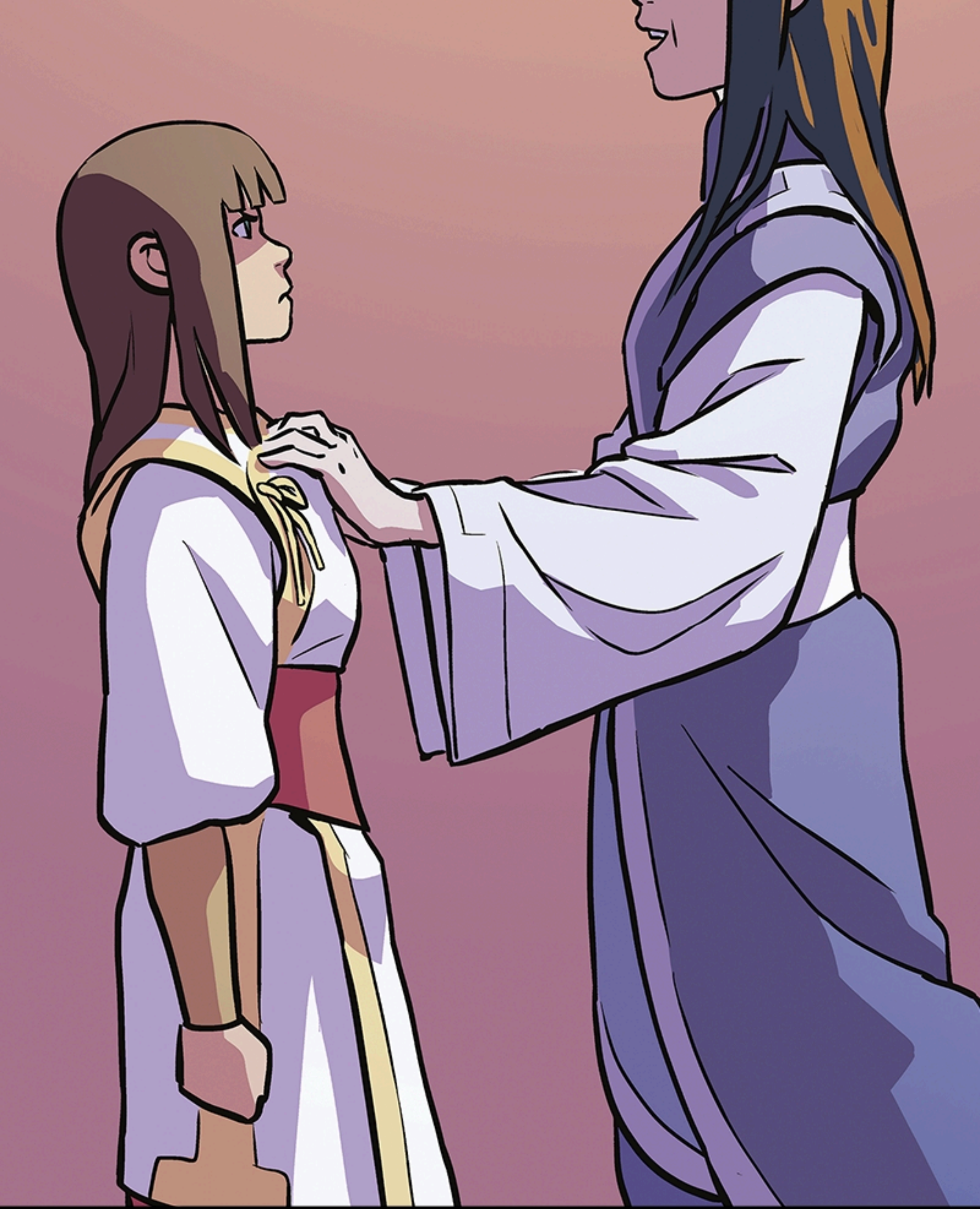




RU...YOU MUST
UNDERSTAND.

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU JUST
AS MUCH AS YOUR
SISTER.





BUT THIS IS
THE WAY THE WORLD
WORKS. BENDERS ARE
POWERFUL, NON-BENDERS
AREN'T. IT'S JUST HOW
THINGS ARE.

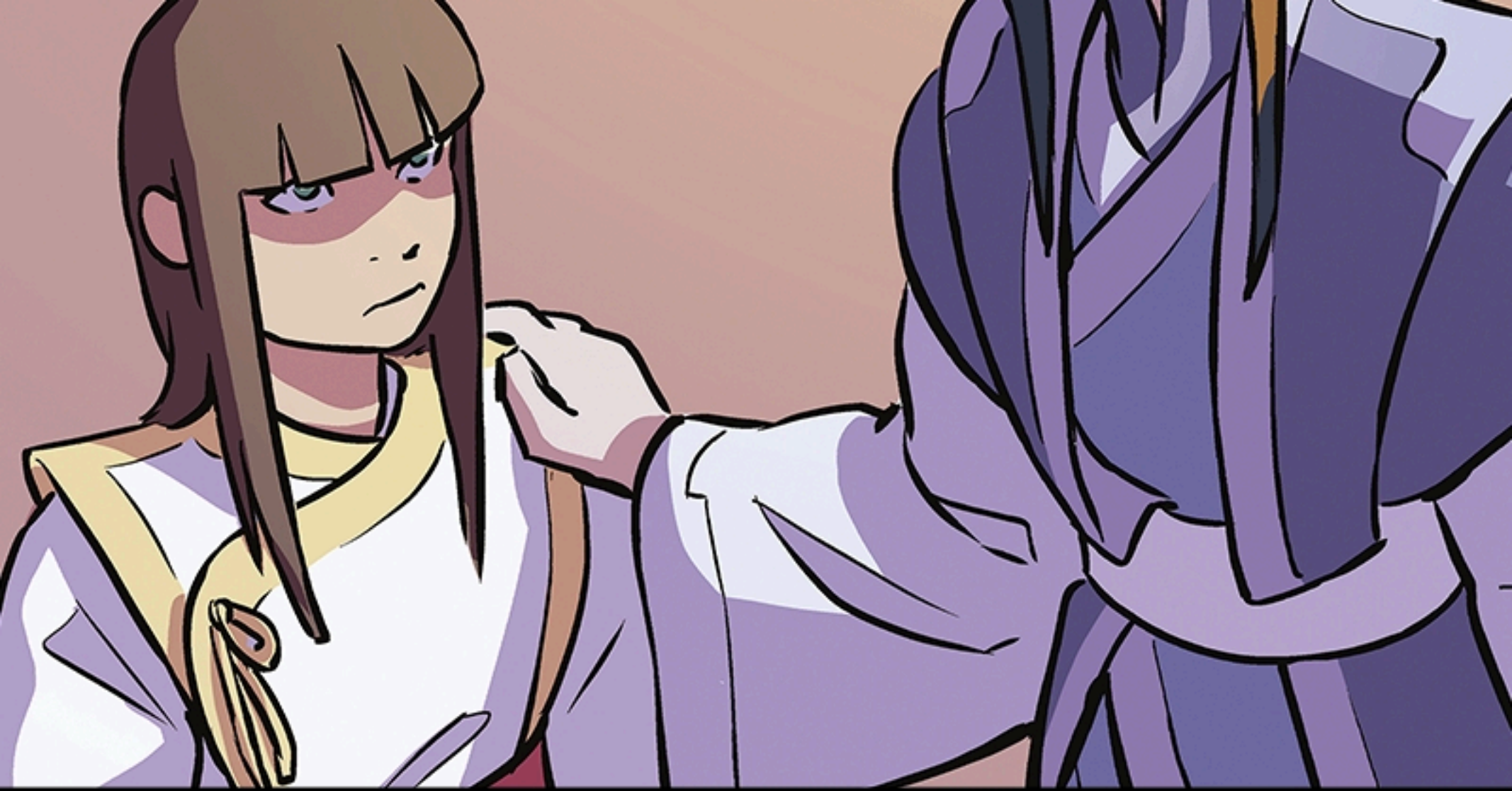
AND
IT'S BEST FOR
NON-BENDERS IF THEY
RECOGNIZE THAT.



NOW UNPACK
THOSE BAGS. WE'RE
STAYING HERE.

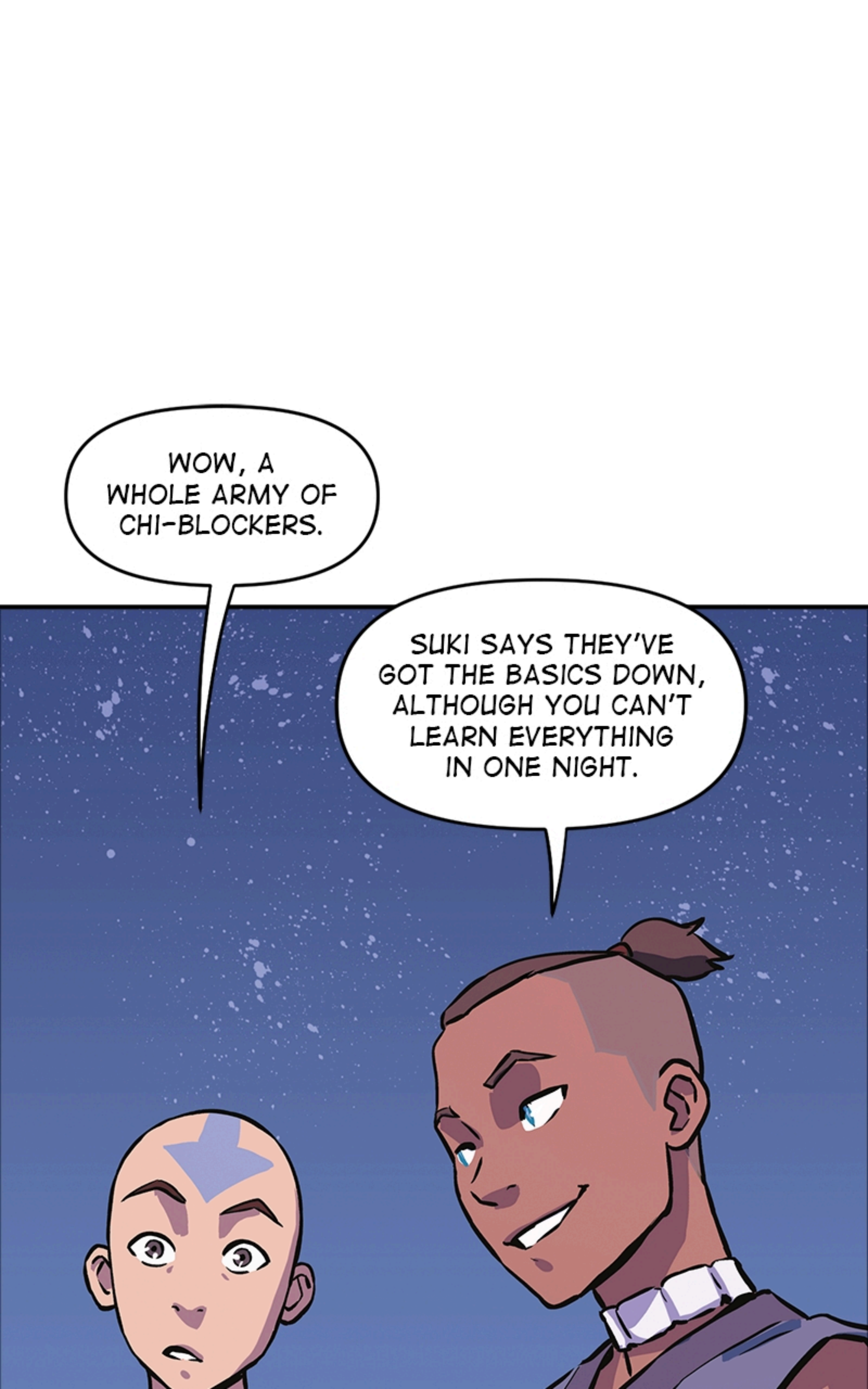
TOMORROW,
I'LL TAKE A GROUP
OF BENDERS TO EARTHEN
FIRE INDUSTRIES AND DRIVE
THE AVATAR FROM
OUR HOME.









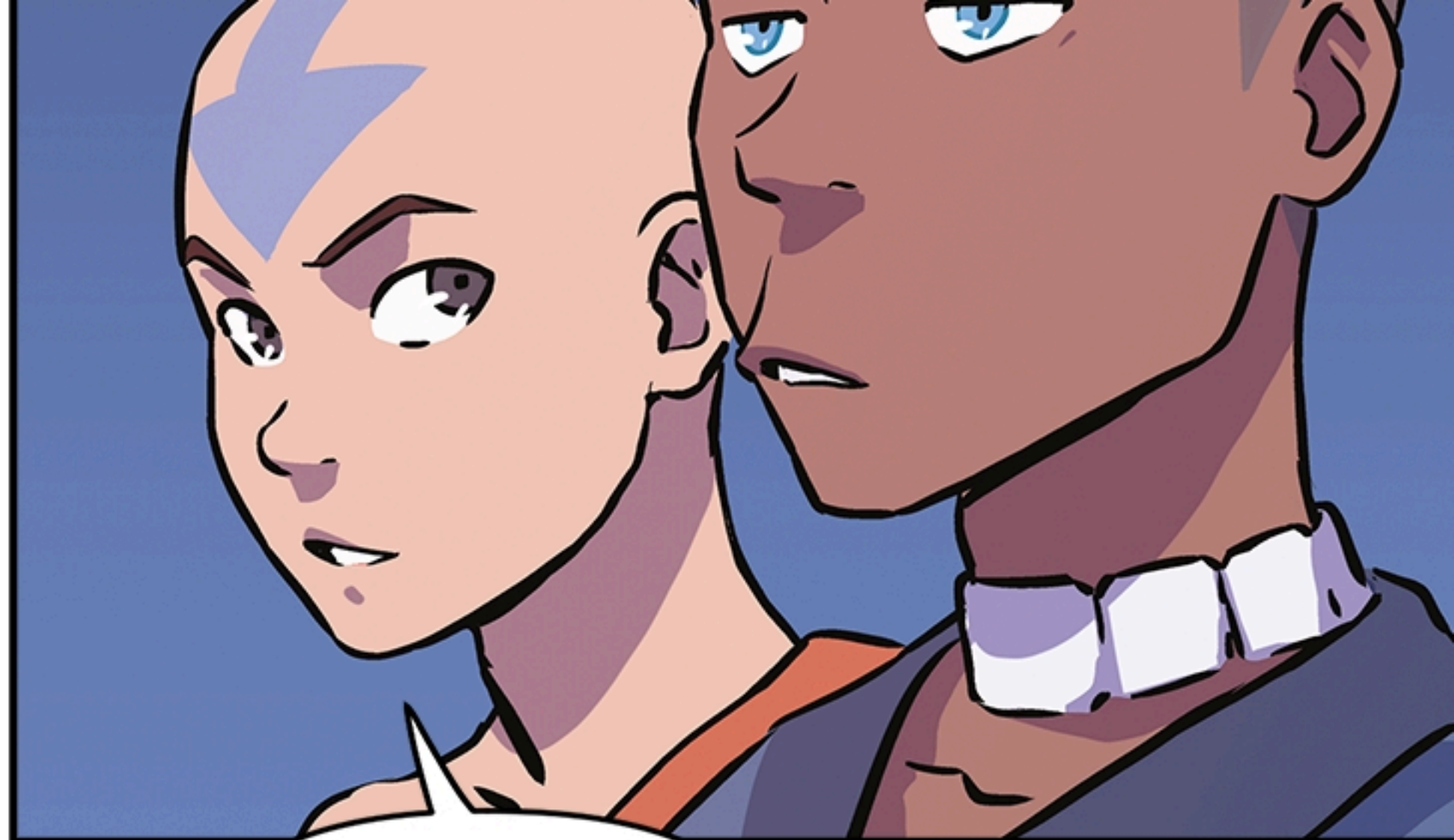


WOW, A
WHOLE ARMY OF
CHI-BLOCKERS.

SUKI SAYS THEY'VE
GOT THE BASICS DOWN,
ALTHOUGH YOU CAN'T
LEARN EVERYTHING
IN ONE NIGHT.

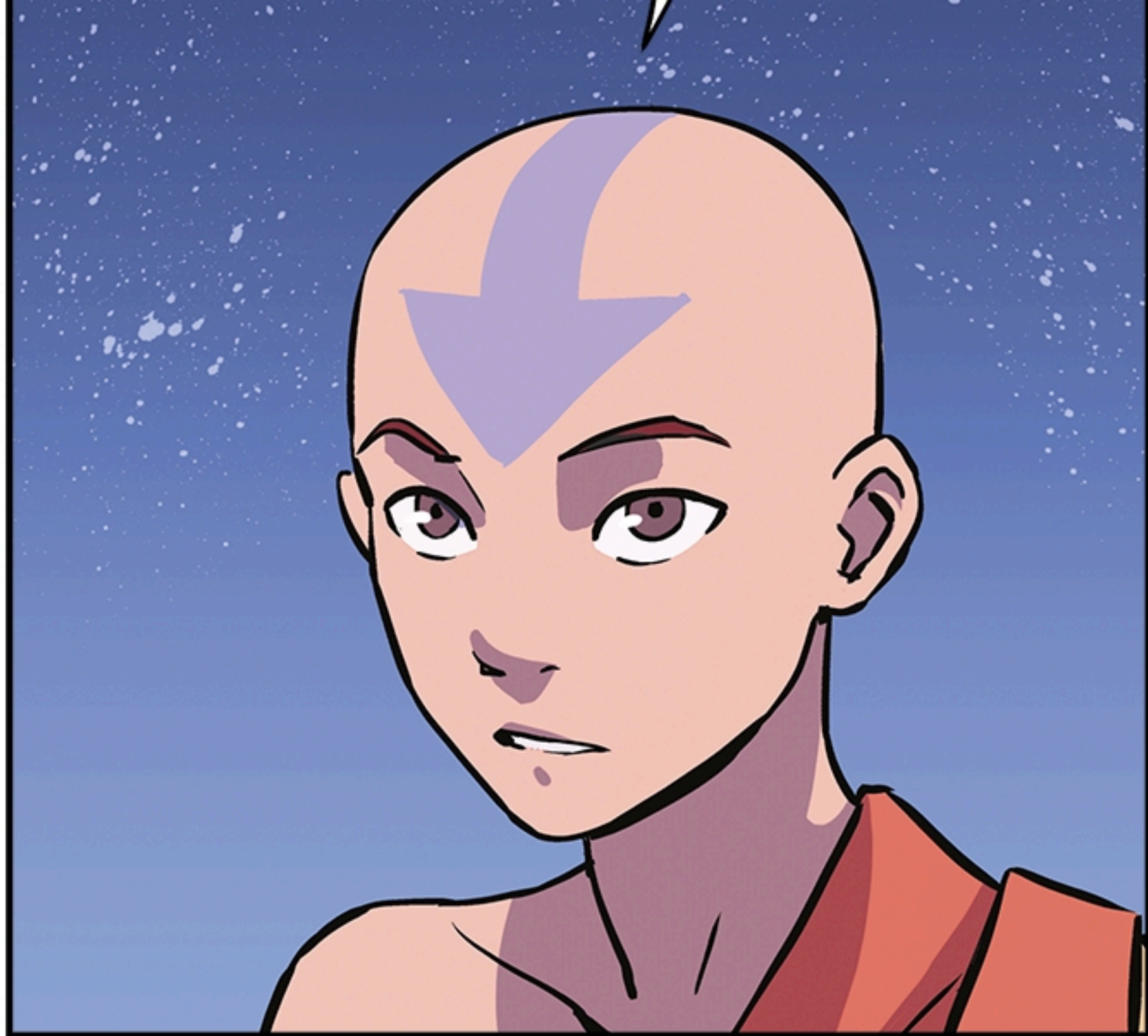


I CAN'T BELIEVE I
THOUGHT LILING WAS ALL
RIGHT. SHE'S CLEARLY A
TERRIBLE PERSON WITH
TERRIBLE IDEAS.

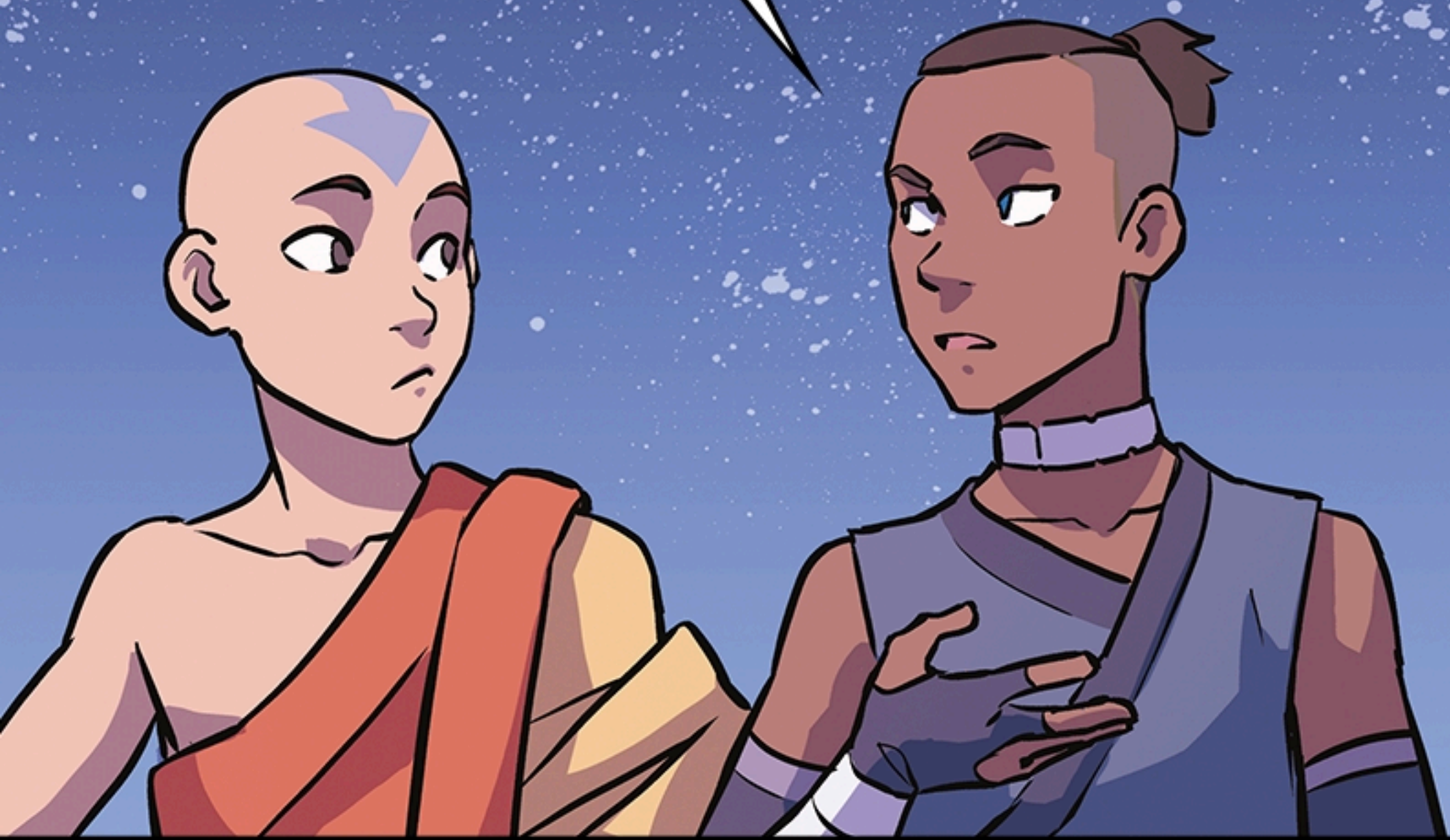


SHE FOOLED
ME AS WELL.
SHE SEEMED SO...
RESPECTABLE.

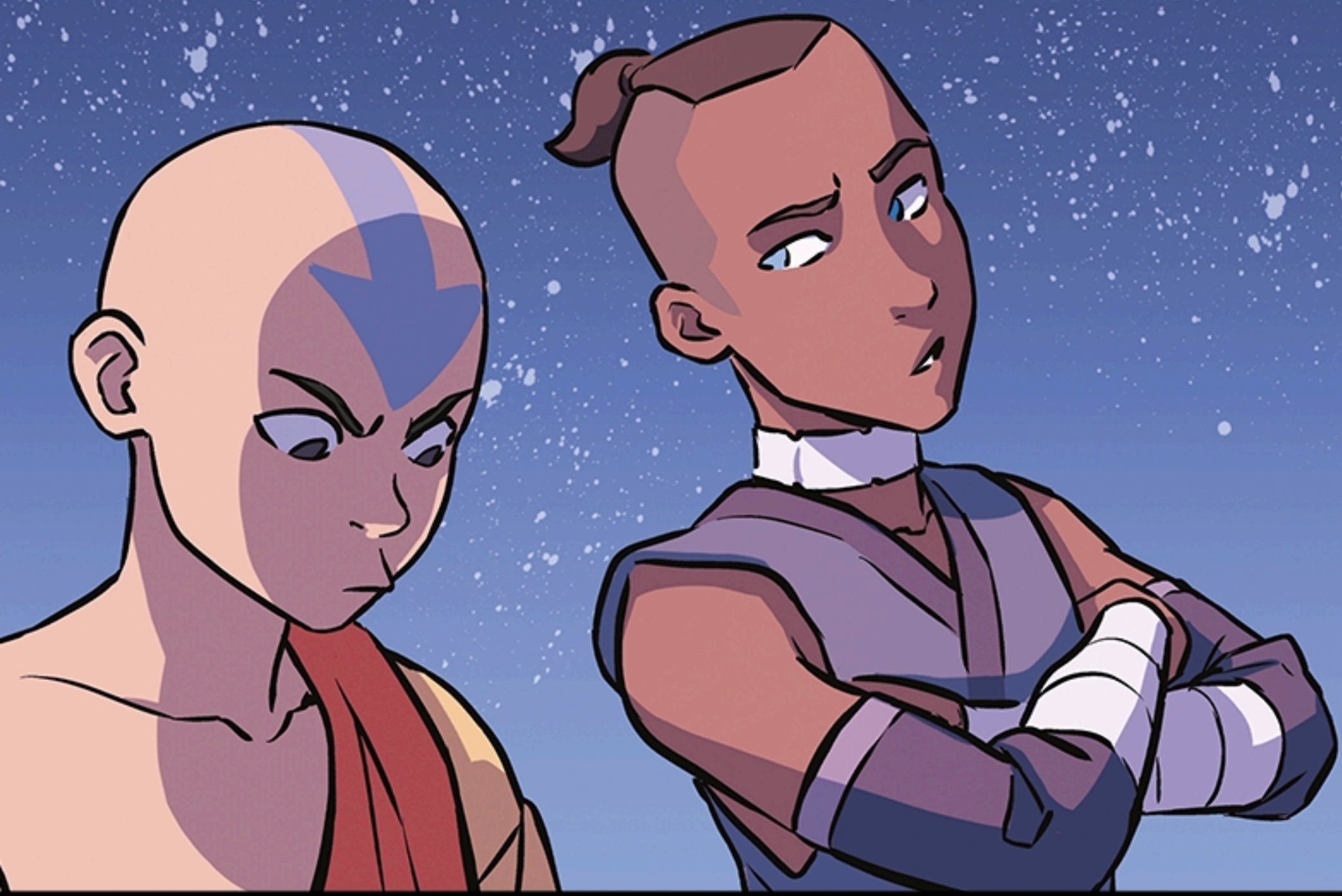
IF I'D DONE WHAT
TOPH SAID AND TAKEN
AWAY LILING'S BENDING
WHEN WE'D CAPTURED HER,
EVERYTHING MIGHT BE
OVER BY NOW.



THIS
BENDER SUPREMACIST
MOVEMENT IS MORE THAN
ONE PERSON. REMEMBER ALL
THE BENDERS WE SAW AT
THAT UNDERGROUND RALLY?
SOME OF THEM WERE EVEN
ON THE BUSINESS
COUNCIL.



ARE YOU WILLING
TO TAKE AWAY THE
BENDING OF ALL LILING'S
FOLLOWERS, TOO?



ARGH! NO,
OF COURSE
NOT.



ALL OF THIS...
THE POLLUTION,
THE TENSION BETWEEN
BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS,
IT STARTED WITH THE
FACTORY MACHINES.

IT'S THE
SAME AS WHEN
THE FIRE NATION
ATTACKED THE OTHER
NATIONS USING TANKS
AND STEAM SHIPS.





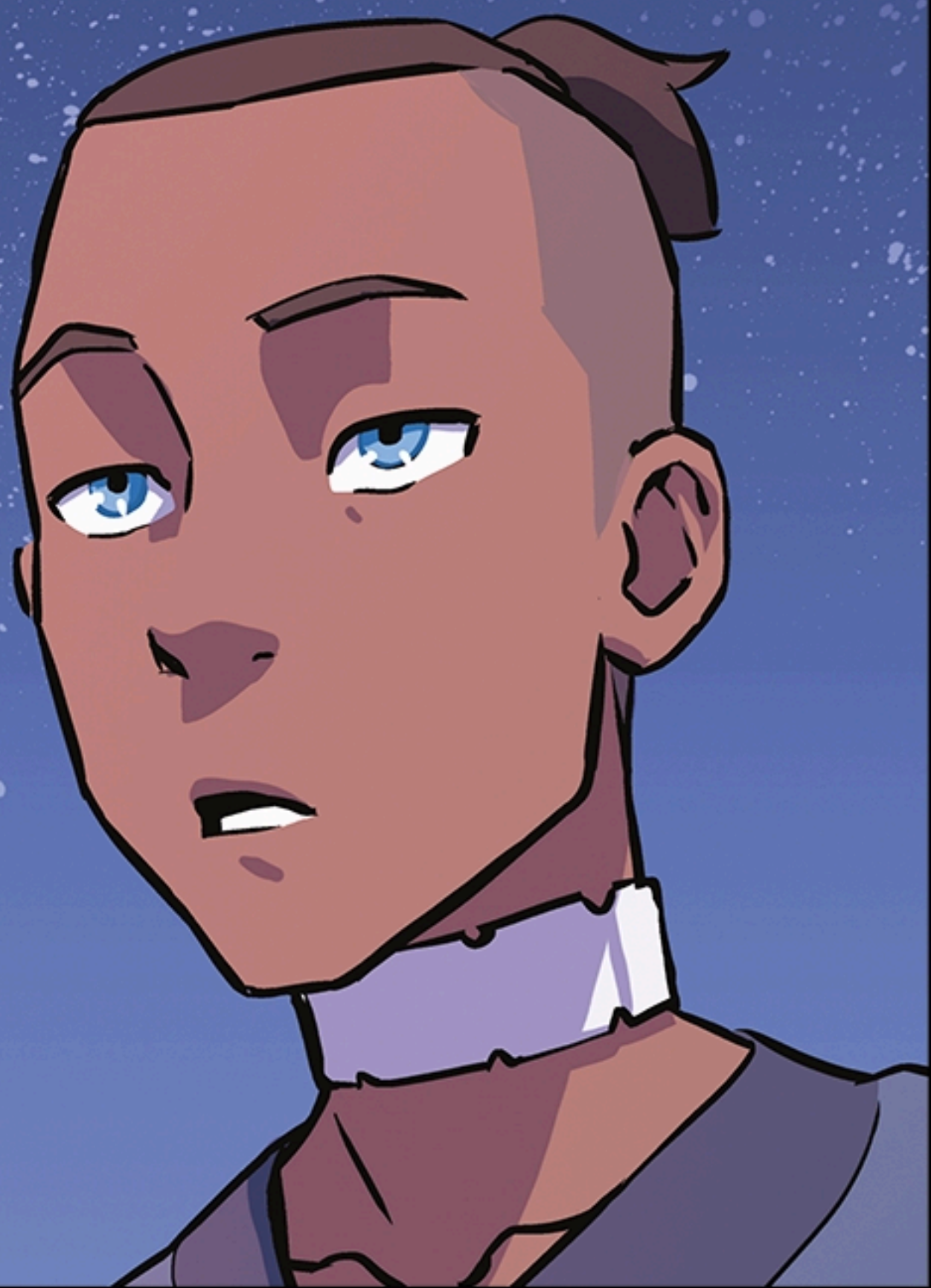
THEY NEVER
WOULD'VE GONE
TO WAR IF THEY
DIDN'T HAVE THAT
TECHNOLOGY.



IT WAS BETTER
WHEN PEOPLE AT
LEAST ***TRIED*** TO LIVE
IN HARMONY WITH NATURE.
ALL THESE MACHINES DO
IS CAUSE POLLUTION
AND PROBLEMS.

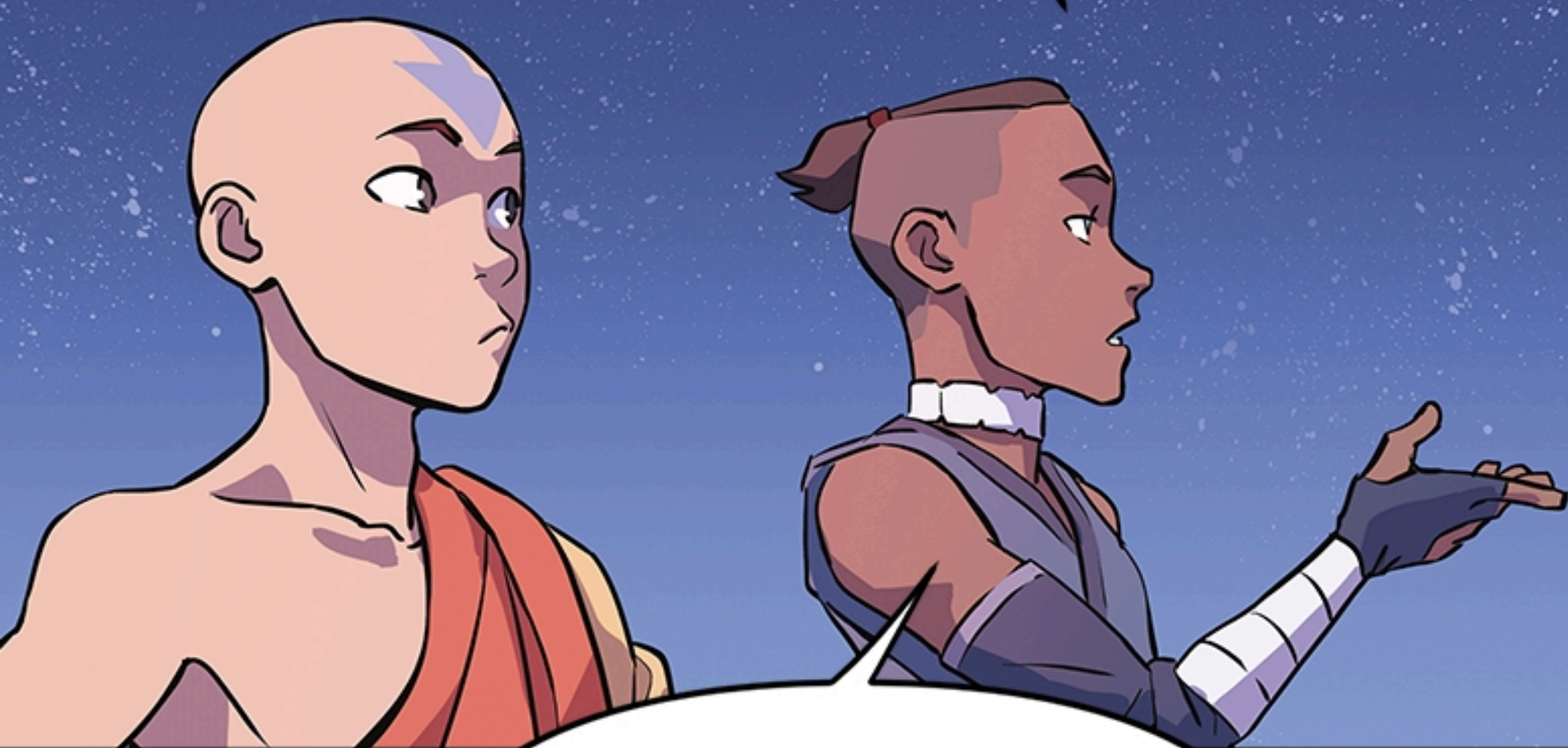


THERE'S A LOT
ABOUT THE GOOD
OLD PRE-MACHINE DAYS
THAT DOESN'T SEEM THAT
GOOD TO ME, SPEAKING
AS A NON-BENDER.



YOU'VE SEEN
HOW MACHINES CAN
MAKE THINGS BETWEEN
BENDERS AND NON-BENDERS
A LITTLE MORE EQUAL.

SATORU'S A
NON-BENDER AND
HE CAN MANAGE AN
ENTIRE FACTORY BY HIMSELF,
SOMETHING THAT WOULD'VE
BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT
THE HELP OF BENDERS ONLY
A FEW YEARS AGO.



THE POLLUTION IS
AWFUL, AND WE NEED
TO FIND A WAY TO DEAL
WITH THAT. BUT YOU CAN'T

WITH THAT, BUT YOU CAN'T
BLAME THE RISE OF BENDER
SUPREMACY IN CRANEFISH
TOWN ON *MACHINES*.



YOU HAVE
TO BLAME IT ON
THE BENDERS RUNNING
AROUND BURNING DOWN
BUILDINGS AND ATTACKING

NON-BENDERS.

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M
SORRY, I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID THAT.



AND THE FIRE
NATION DIDN'T GO
TO WAR BECAUSE THEY
INVENTED STEAM SHIPS,
THEY DID IT BECAUSE THE
FIRE LORD WAS A GIANT
JERK WHO WANTED TO
RULE THE WORLD.





OKAY,
OKAY, SOKKA.

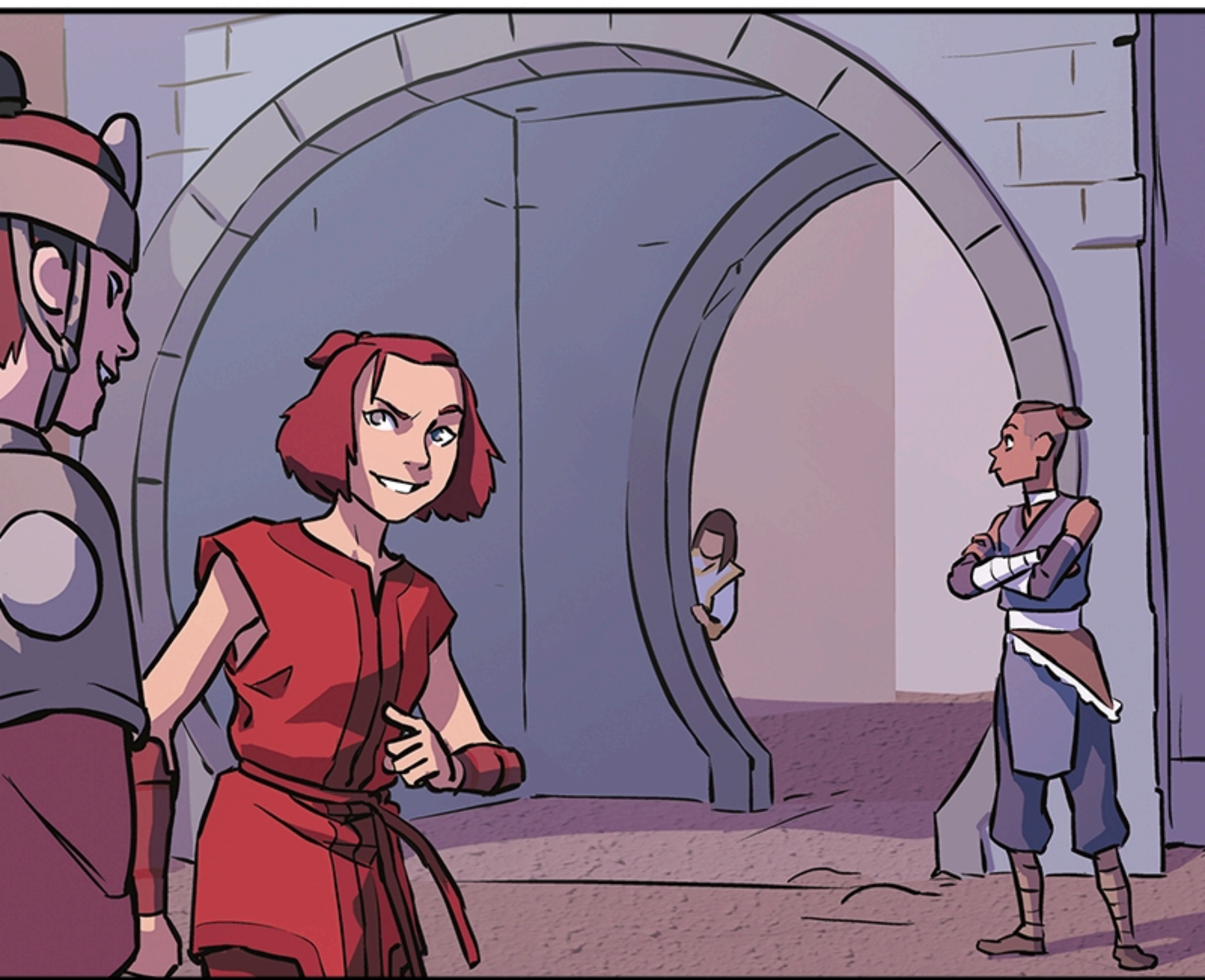
SORRY,
IT'S FUN TO
BE RIGHT.

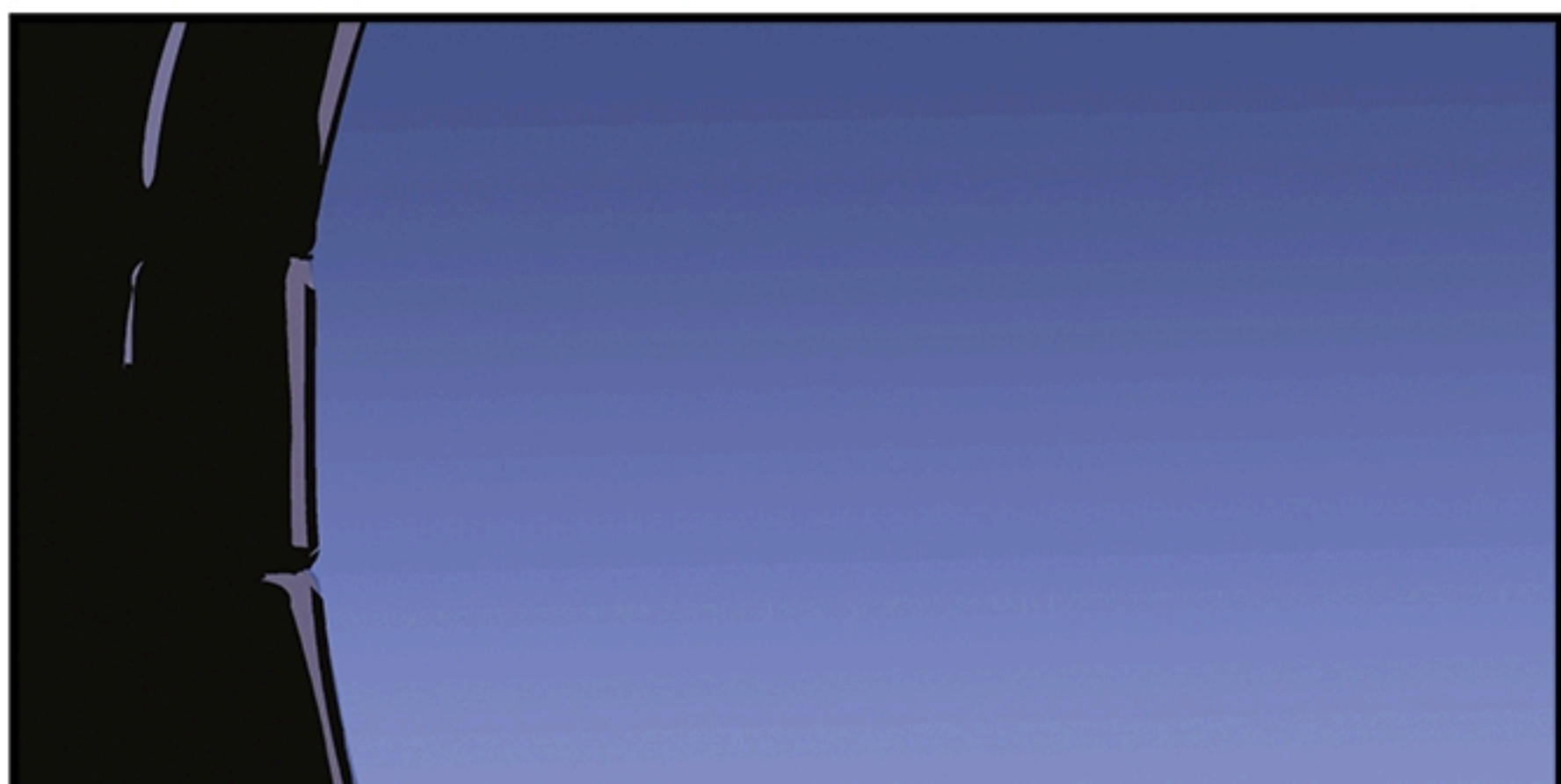




I'M TURNING
IN, ARE YOU
COMING?

NAH, I'M GOING
TO WAIT FOR SUKI
TO FINISH UP.







DID YOU SEE
SOMEONE?

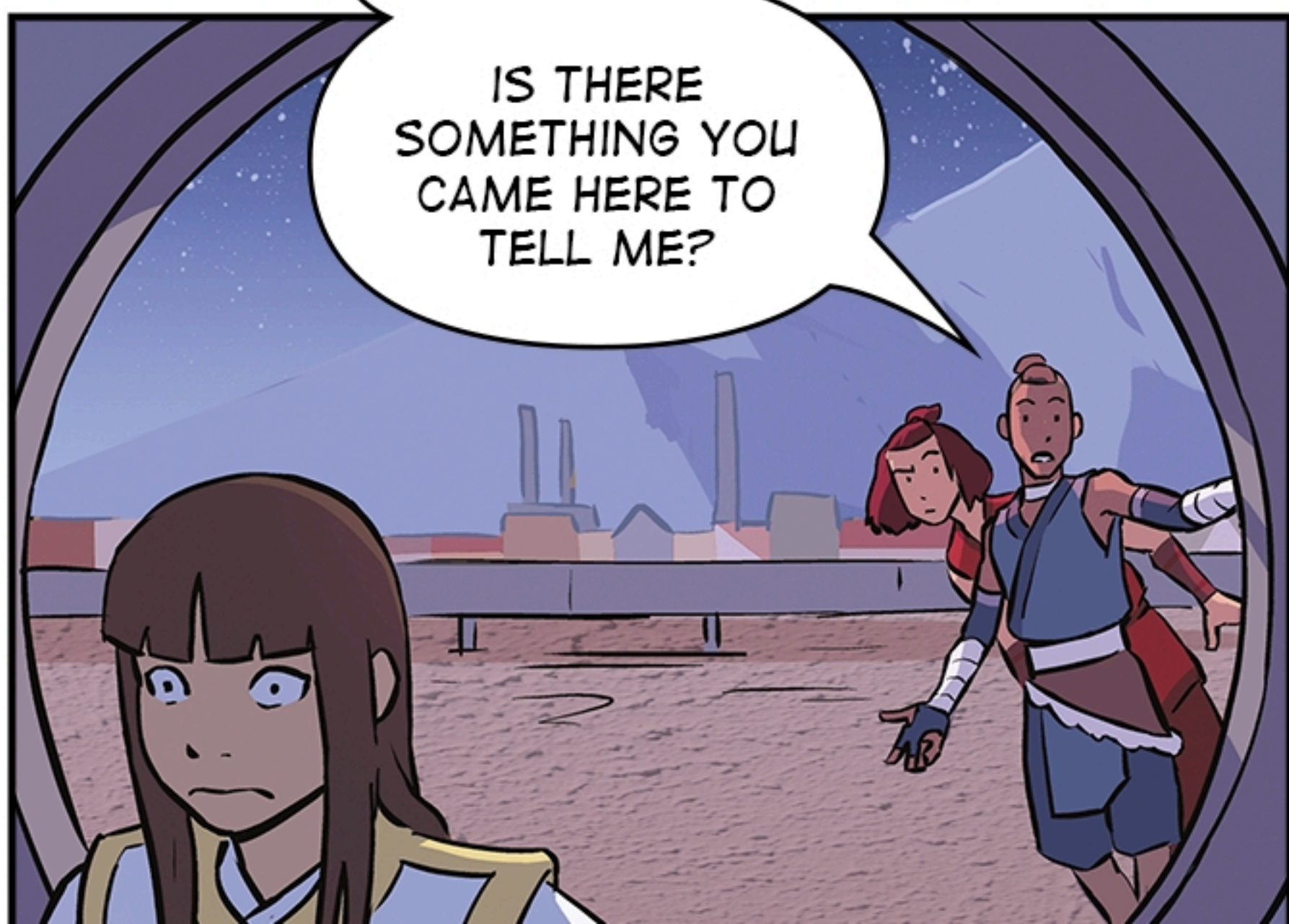
YEP. AND I
THINK I KNOW
WHO IT IS.





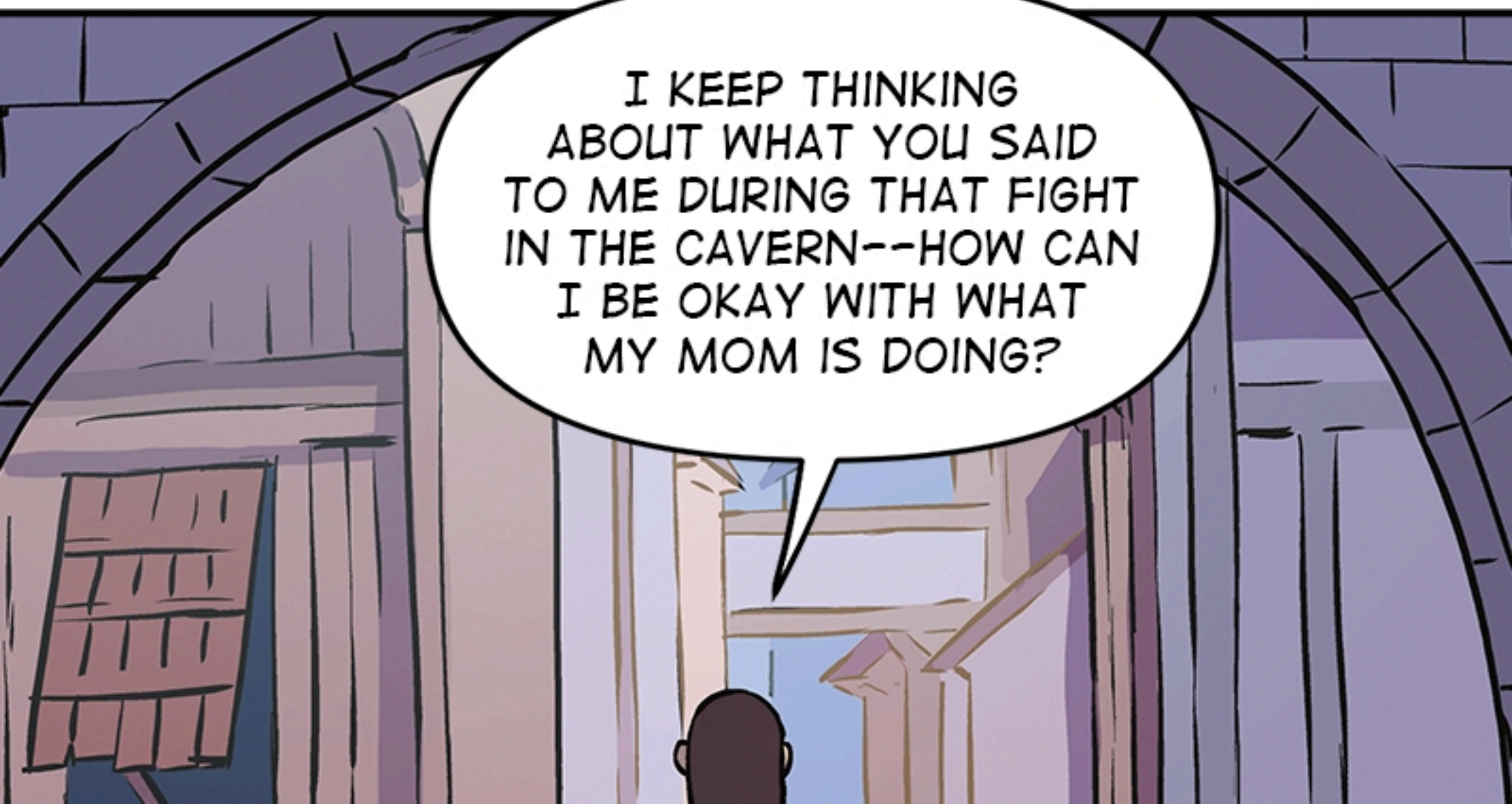
RU?

IS THERE
SOMETHING YOU
CAME HERE TO
TELL ME?





I KEEP THINKING
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID
TO ME DURING THAT FIGHT
IN THE CAVERN--HOW CAN
I BE OKAY WITH WHAT
MY MOM IS DOING?



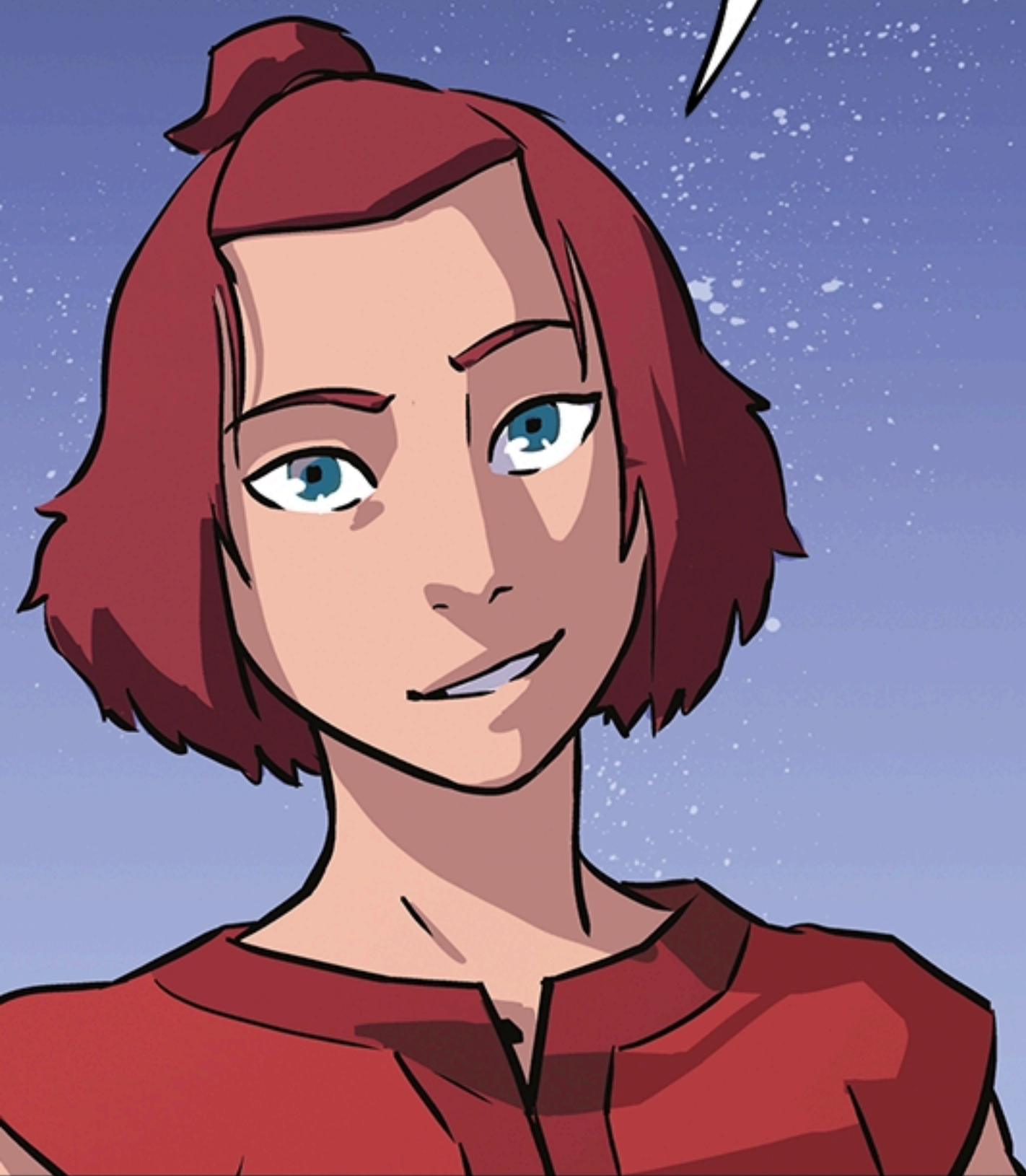


I LOVE MY
MOM AND MY
SISTER, BUT THE WAY
THEY TALK...THE THINGS
THEY WANT TO DO...I'M
NOT OKAY WITH IT.

BUT THEY'RE
MY ONLY FAMILY!
HOW COULD I TURN
AGAINST THEM?

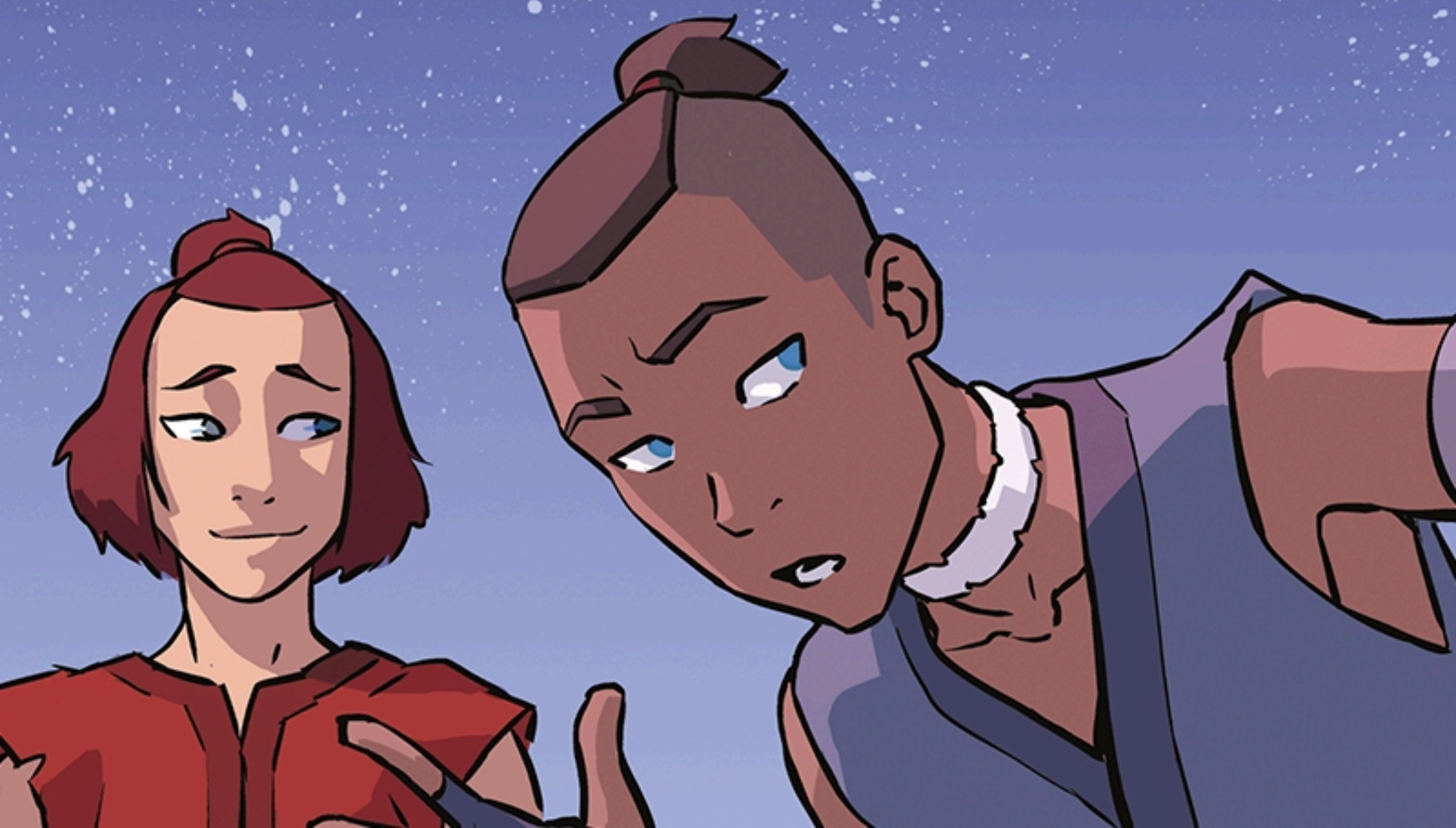


I KNOW IT'S
DIFFICULT, BUT YOU
WOULDN'T BE HERE IF
YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE WHAT
YOUR MOTHER AND SISTER
ARE DOING IS WRONG.



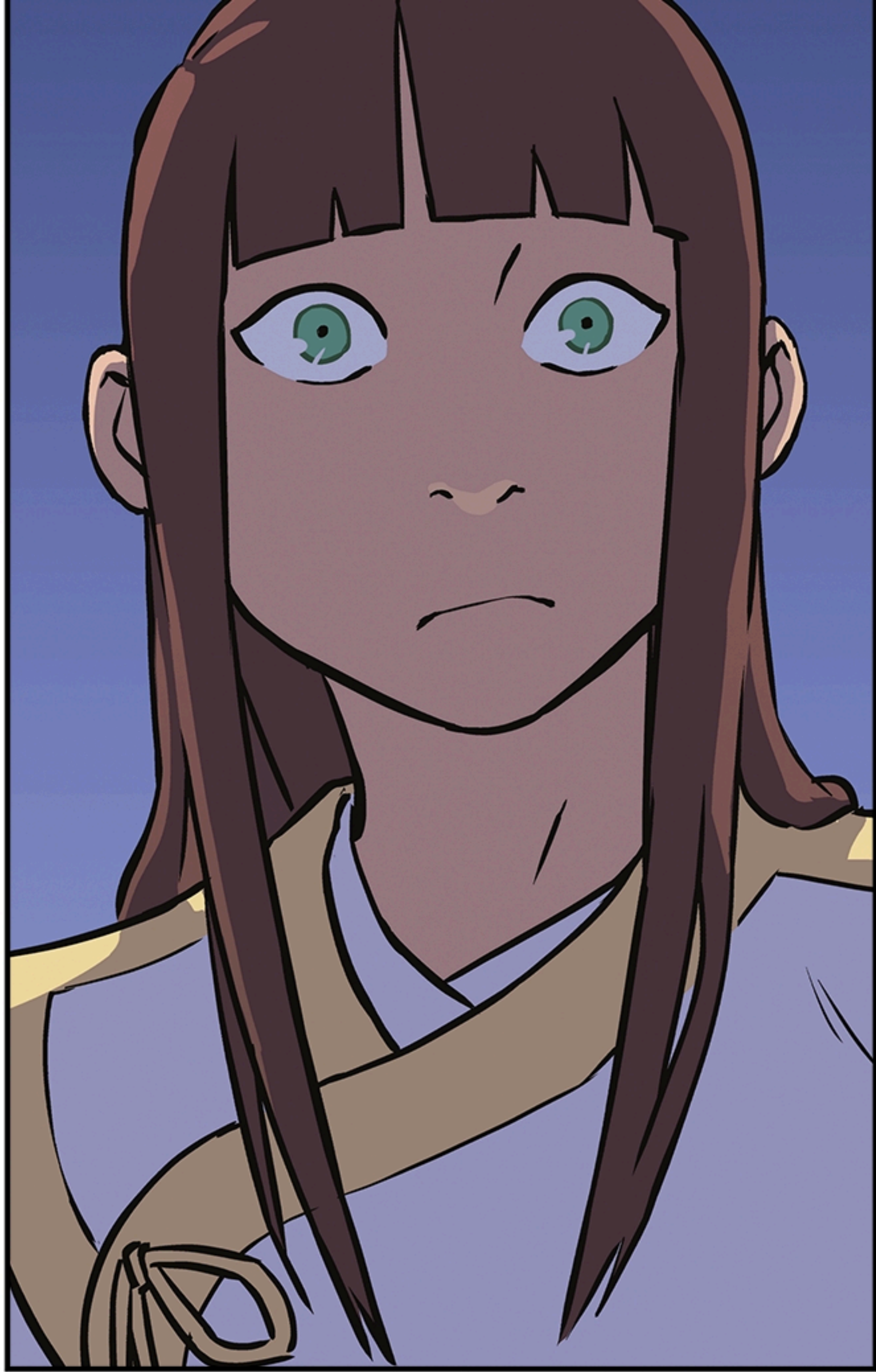
I KNOW A GUY
WHO WAS ONCE IN A
SIMILAR SITUATION. HIS
DAD WAS THE WORST DAD
EVER, AND WANTED TO
CONQUER THE WORLD.

IT TOOK A WHILE
FOR ZUKO TO STAND
UP TO HIS FATHER, BUT
EVENTUALLY HE DID. AND
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS
THE HUNDRED YEAR WAR
FINALLY ENDED.

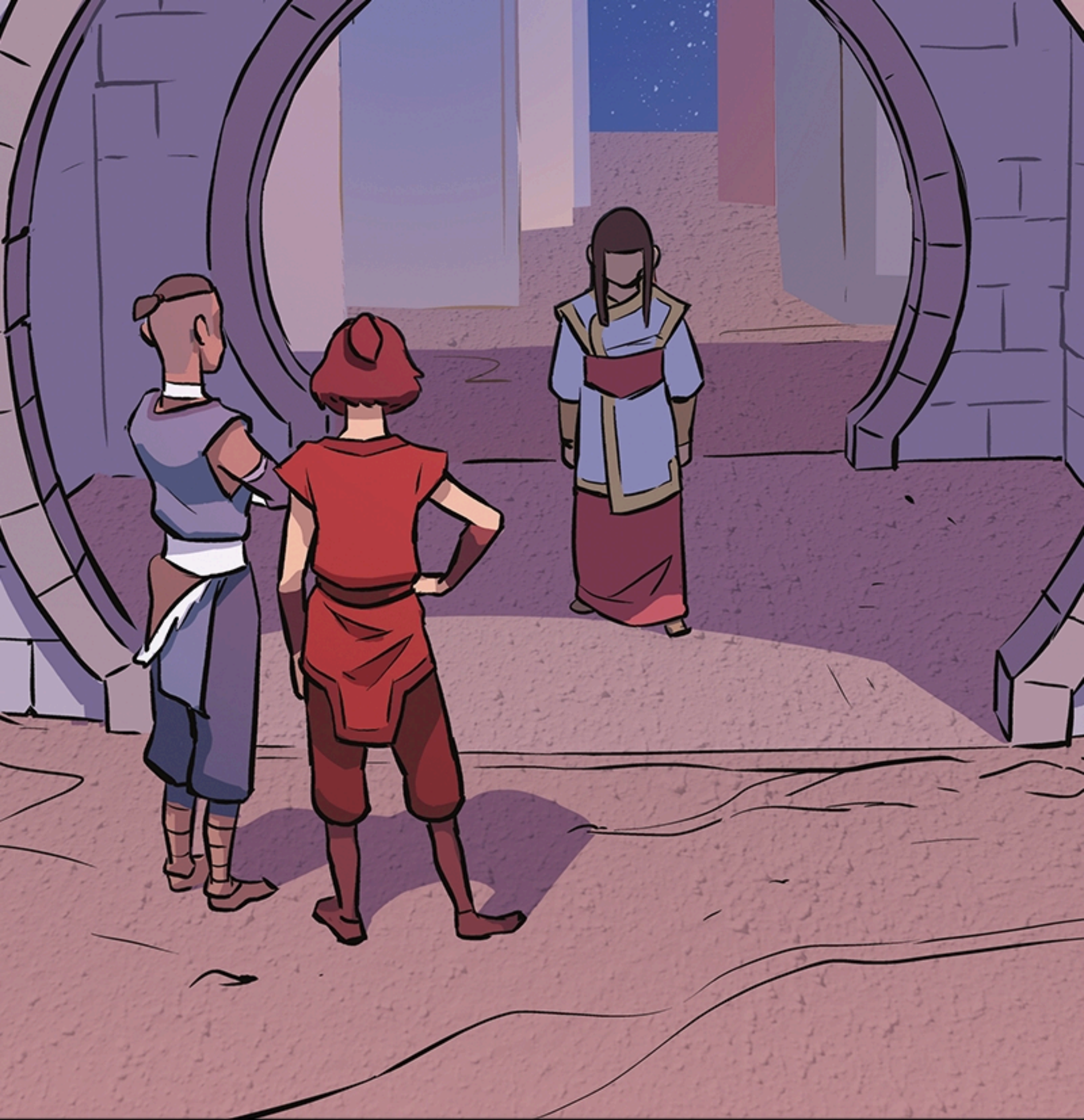




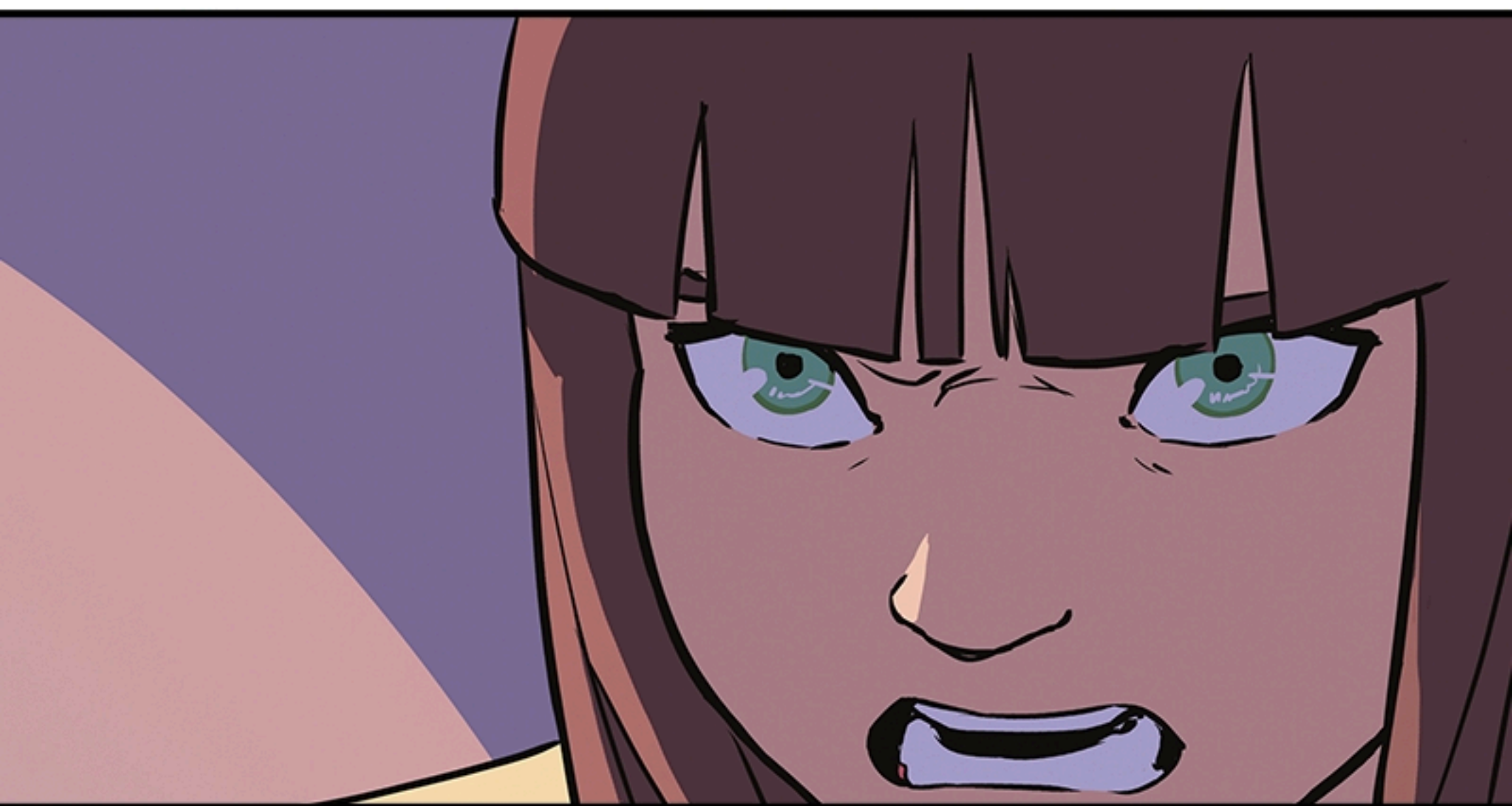
YOU HAVE A
CHANCE TO DO
GOOD. DON'T
WASTE IT.







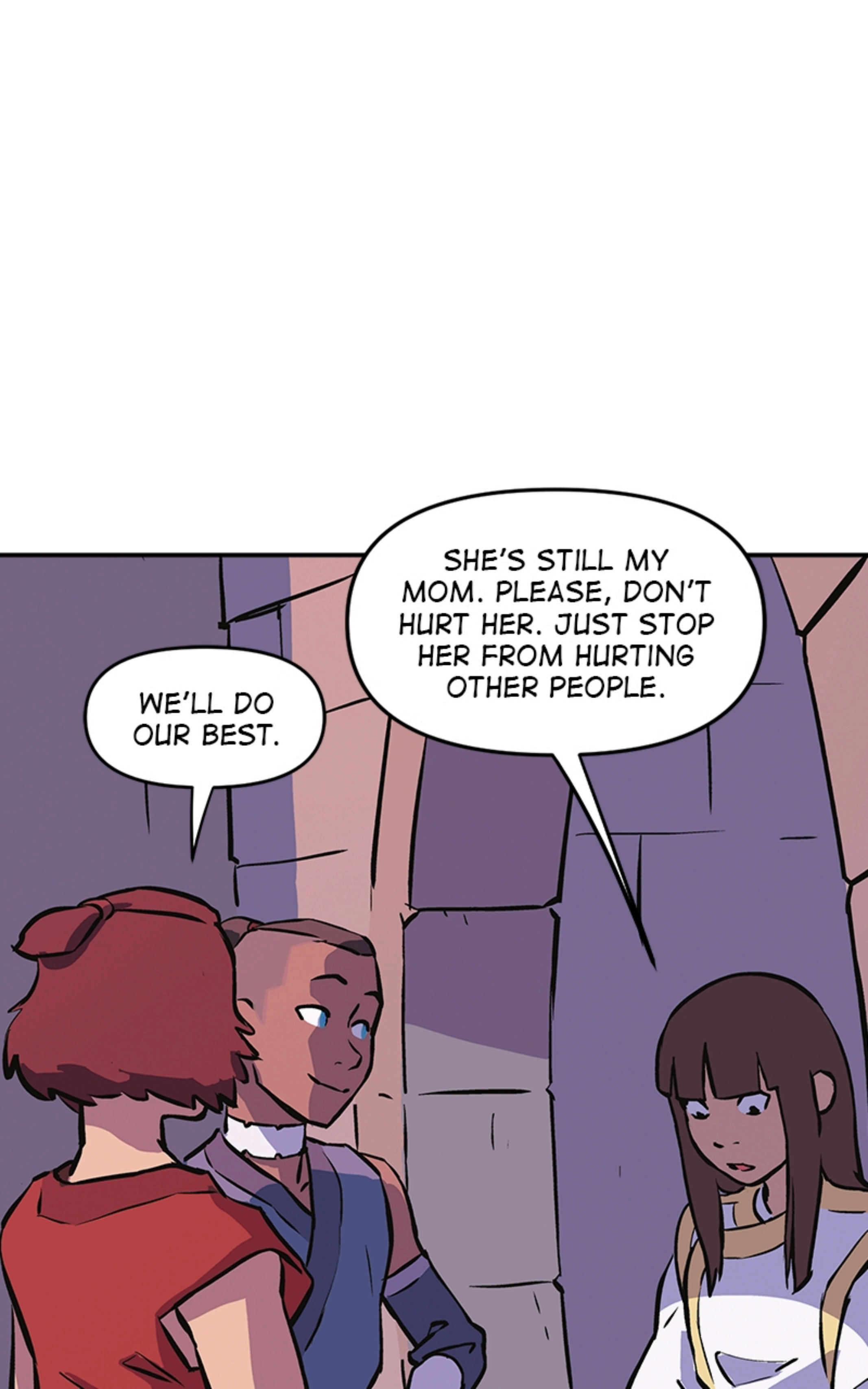
MY MOTHER IS
PLANNING TO ATTACK
EARTHEN FIRE INDUSTRIES
IN THE MORNING. SHE HAS
DOZENS OF BENDERS READY
TO TAKE ON THE AVATAR.
YOU ALL SHOULD GET OUT
OF CRANEFISH TOWN
WHILE YOU CAN.





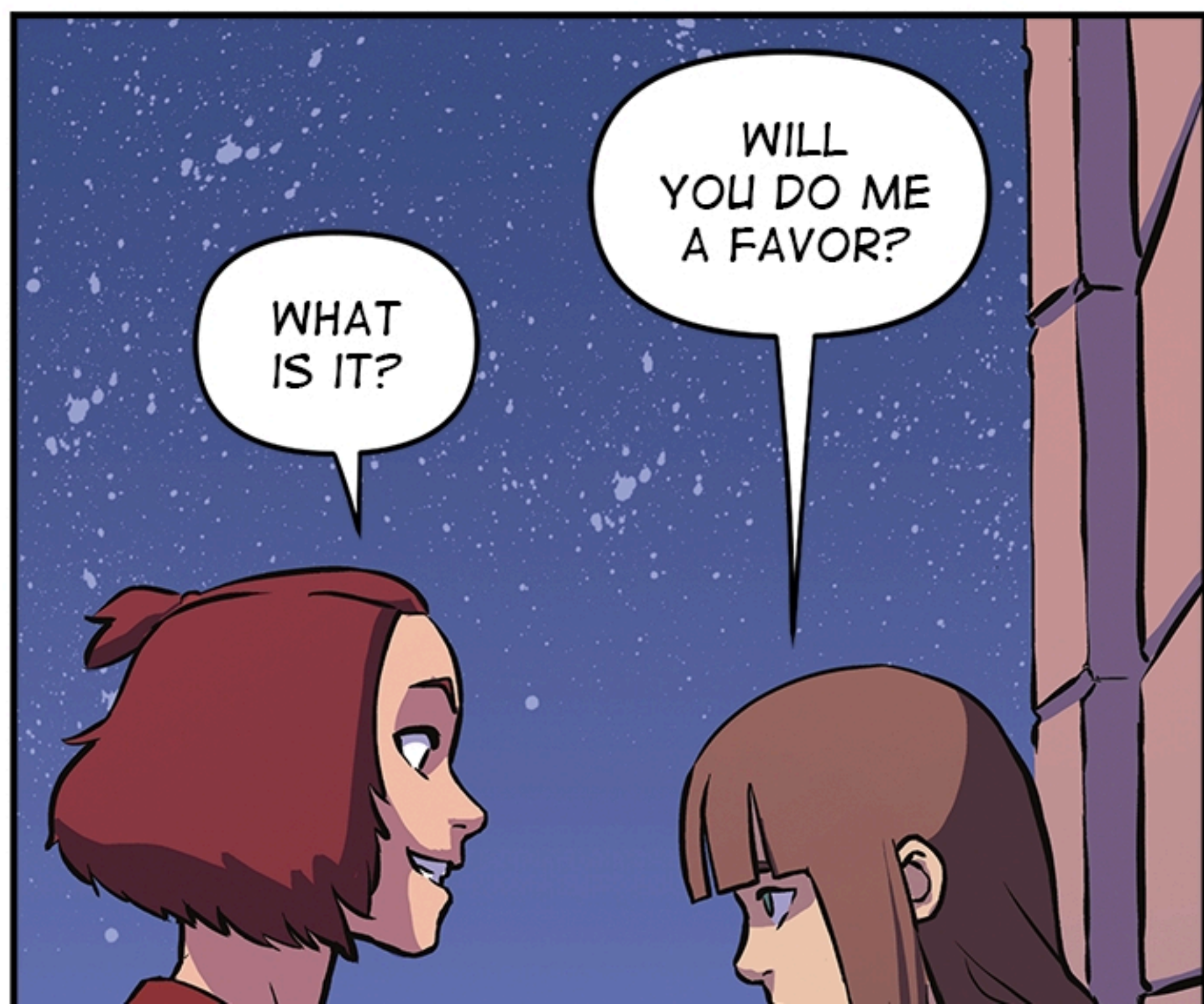
WE'RE NOT
LEAVING.

WE'LL BE
READY FOR HER,
THANKS TO YOU.



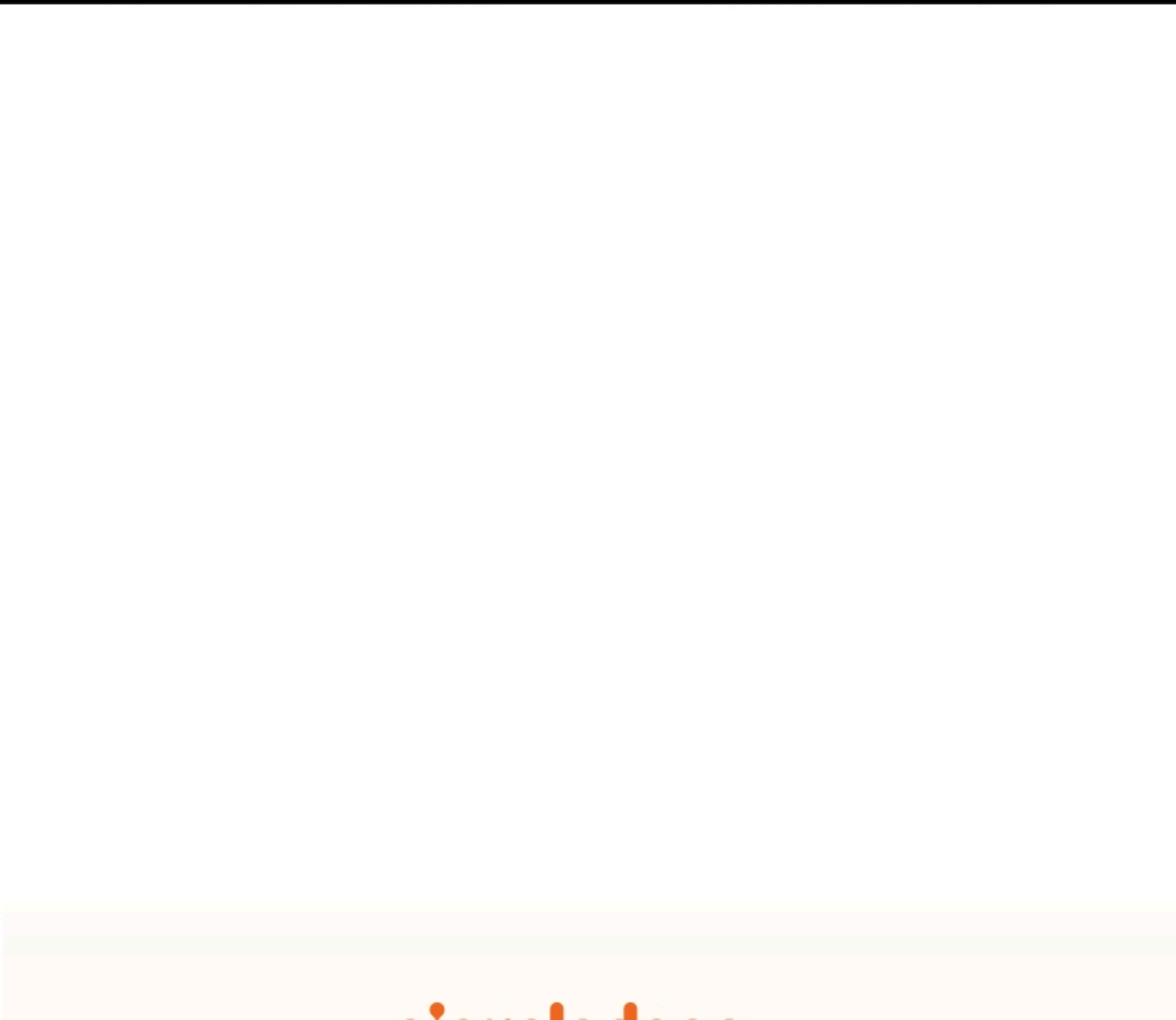
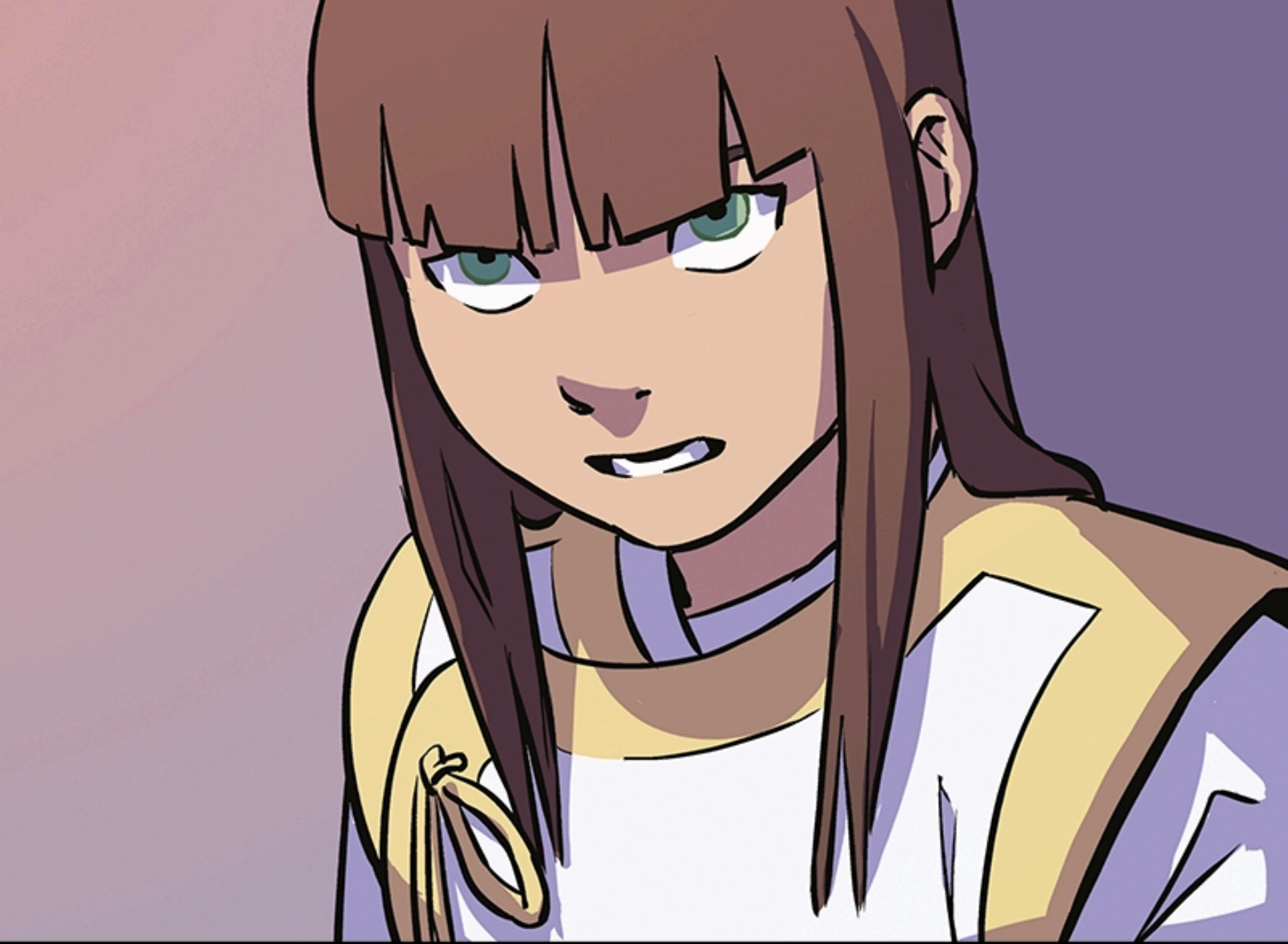
WE'LL DO
OUR BEST.

SHE'S STILL MY
MOM. PLEASE, DON'T
HURT HER. JUST STOP
HER FROM HURTING
OTHER PEOPLE.





TEACH ME TO
CHI-BLOCK.



nickelodeon™



AVATAR

THE LAST AIRBENDER™

IMBALANCE

Created by

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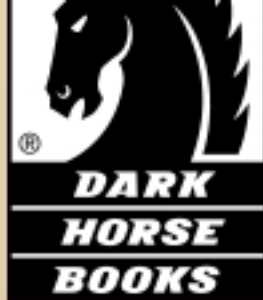
KATHLEEN TOWNSEND

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