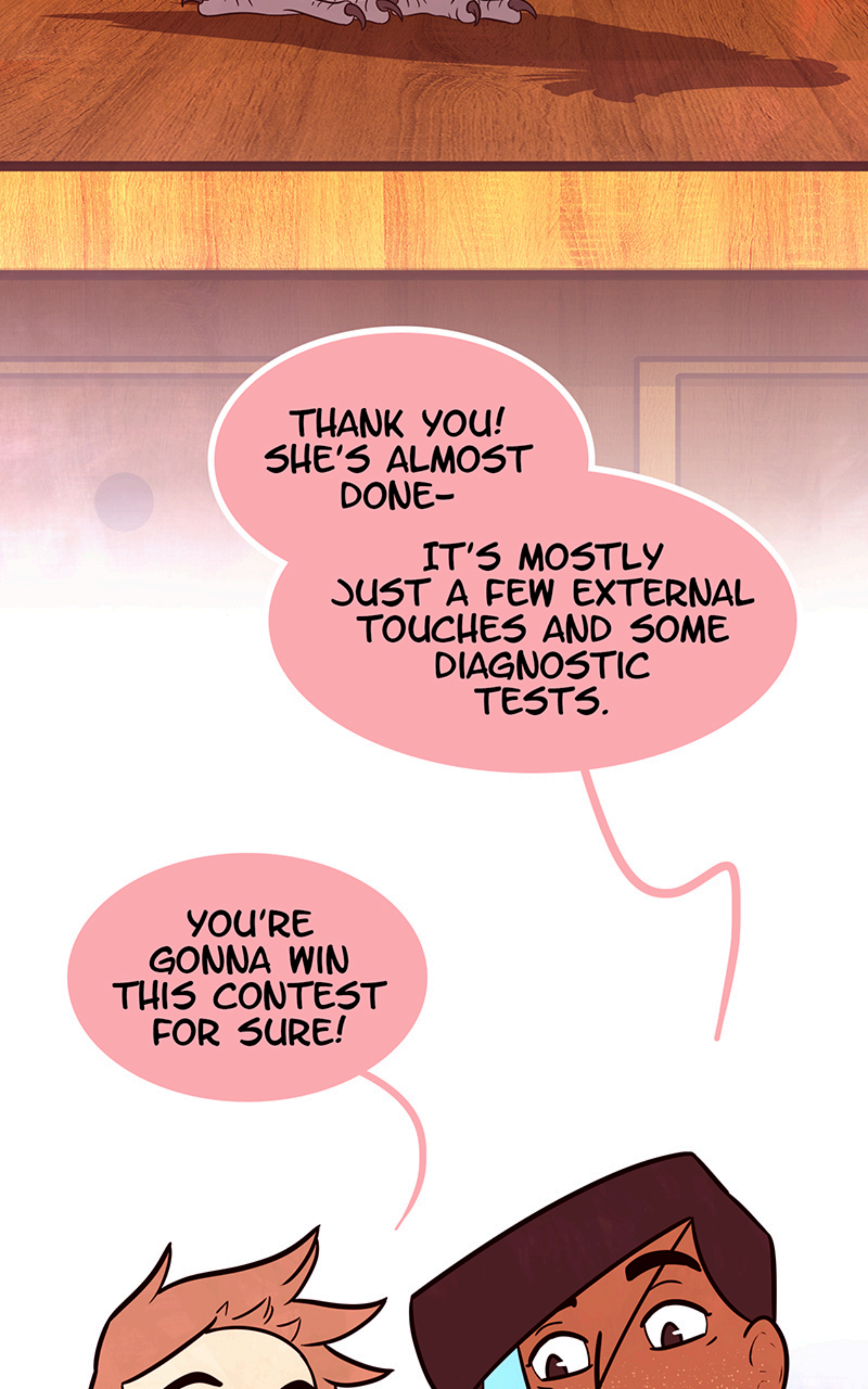


A white cockatoo with a vibrant, multi-colored crest (featuring shades of blue, pink, and white) is shown in profile, looking at a tablet computer. The background is a stylized workshop or laboratory filled with various tools and equipment, including a large blue triangle, a red circular object, and a blue rectangular object. The scene is set against a light blue background with a subtle pattern of geometric shapes. The floor is a dark brown wood.

WOW,
THAT LOOKS
GREAT!



THANK YOU!
SHE'S ALMOST
DONE-

IT'S MOSTLY
JUST A FEW EXTERNAL
TOUCHES AND SOME
DIAGNOSTIC
TESTS.

YOU'RE
GONNA WIN
THIS CONTEST
FOR SURE!



HEY! YOU
SHOULD APPLY TO
BE AN INTERN AT A.E.
WITH ME!

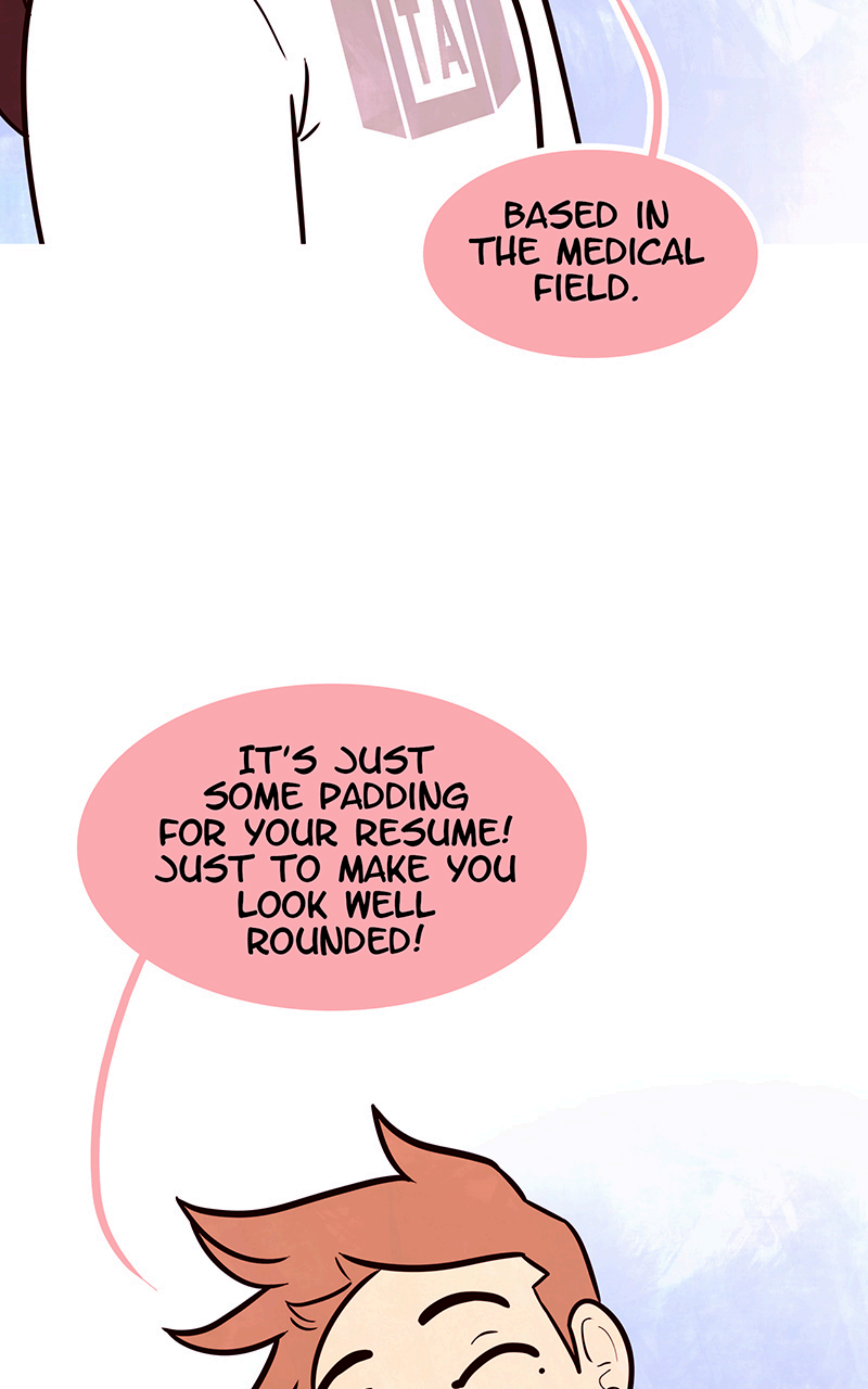
HUH?



YOU'LL GET
IN NO PROBLEM!

AH, I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT THAT...
LIKE I LIKE BUILDING
ROBOTS BUT MY CAREER
GOALS ARE MORE...





BASED IN
THE MEDICAL
FIELD.

IT'S JUST
SOME PADDING
FOR YOUR RESUME!
JUST TO MAKE YOU
LOOK WELL
ROUNDED!



HUH... YEAH
OKAY - SURE!





VELIX... YOU ALWAYS WERE
ENCOURAGING ME TO
DO THINGS I WOULD NEVER
EVEN THINK OF DOING.

AND THE WINNER
OF THE ROBOT DESIGN
COMPETITION IS...
XADA TSETHLIKAI!

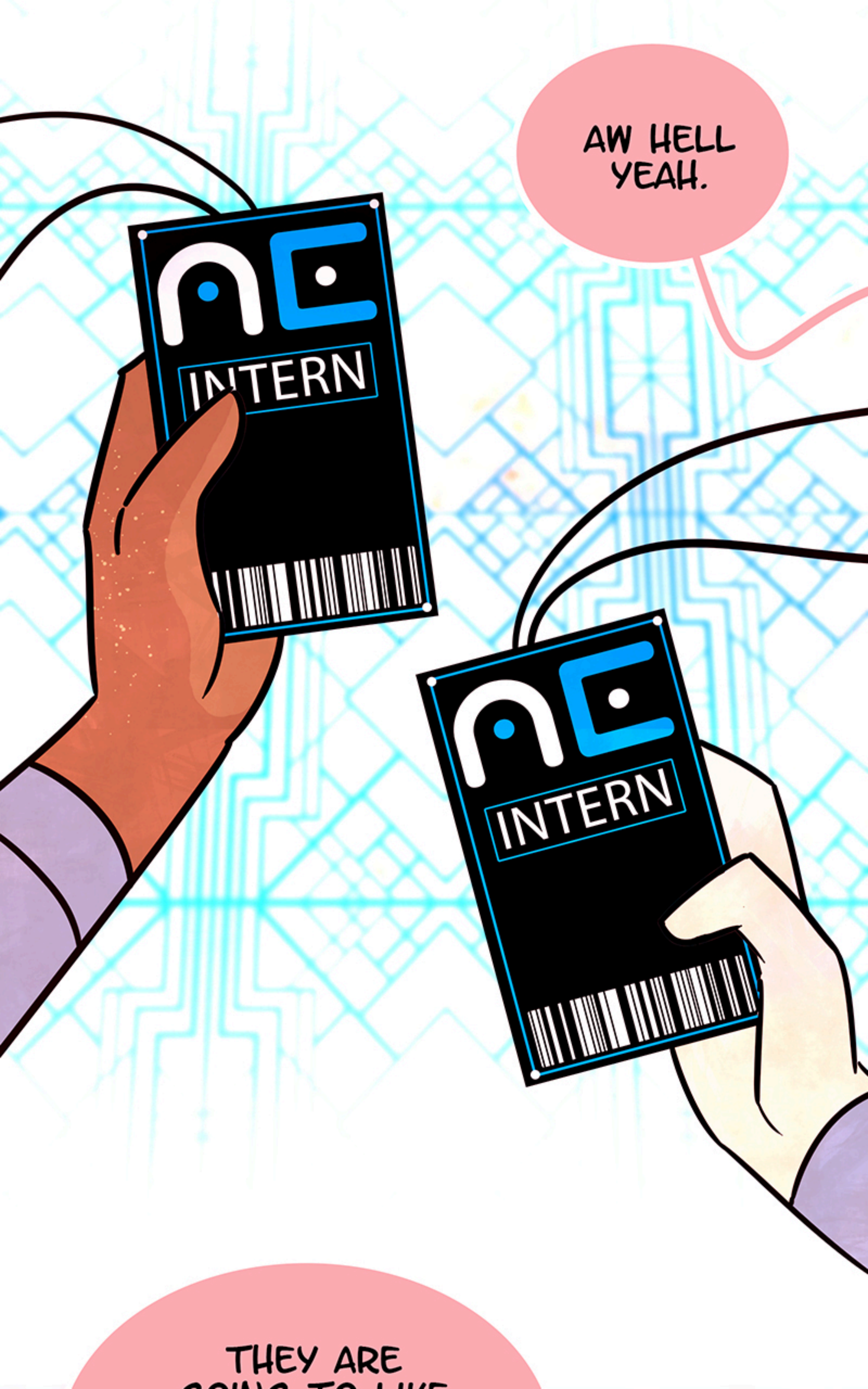


YEAH!! YOU
DID IT!! I TOLD YOU
YOU WOULD!!





THINGS THAT
ALWAYS TURNED OUT
FOR THE BEST, MORE OR
LESS.



AW HELL
YEAH.

THEY ARE
GOING TO LIVE

GOING TO LIKE
ME SO MUCH THEY
WILL HIRE ME BEFORE
THE INTERNSHIP IS
EVEN OVER!





AFTER ALL...

INTERNS
HUH?

FOLLOW
ME, I GUESS.





WOULD I HAVE
EVEN STARTED DOING
WORK AS JACKALOPE IF
I HADN'T WORKED WITH

I HADN'T WORKED WITH
THE 1818'S AT THAT
INTERNSHIP?





I THINK ABOUT STUFF
LIKE THAT SOMETIMES...
ALL THE SMALL THINGS
THAT LEAD UP TO WHERE
WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE...

HEY XADA

HEY XADA,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING AFTER WE
GRADUATE?

HMM... PROBABLY
GOING BACK OVER THE
CASCADES TO STAY WITH
MY PARENTS FOR A
WHILE.





OH EW
GROSS.

UWU??

HUH?!

IF YOU LEAVE
SEATTLE THEN YOU'LL
LOSE ALL OF YOUR
MOMENTUM!!



THEN WHAT
DO YOU SUGGEST,
SMART GUY?



YOU SHOULD
MOVE IN WITH
ME!

WE CAN GET
AN APARTMENT
TOGETHER IN THE
CITY!





IF YOU CAN'T
AFFORD IT NOW, YOU
CAN JUST START
PAYING ME BACK WHEN
YOU GET A JOB.





WHAT?? I'M
SERIOUS!!

YEAH
YEAH SURE,
FINE. LET'S
DO IT.



FOR BIG OR SMALL
THINGS... IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO SAY NO TO YOU.
AT LEAST FOR VERY LONG.

HEY
XADA...



SO MAYBE
YOU HAD COME TO
EXPECT A 'YES' AND
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE
SO CONFUSED.

WE
SHOULD GO OUT
TOGETHER.





BUT I DON'T THINK
YOU WERE AS CONFUSED
AS I WAS...

EVERYONE
ALREADY THINKS
WE'RE DATING.

PLUS WE

LIVE TOGETHER-

WHAT...



I'M SORRY
BUT... NO-

NO,
VELIX.





YOU'RE MY
BEST FRIEND BUT...
I DON'T LIKE YOU
THAT WAY...



YOU
DON'T



I THOUGHT
YOU LIKED
GUYS!

I DO! BUT
DOESN'T MEAN
THAT I LIKE EVERY
GUY!





ALL THE
BEST RELATIONSHIPS
START WITH FRIENDSHIPS-
WHY DON'T YOU WANT TO
AT LEAST TRY??



WHY ARE YOU
TRYING TO CONVINCE
ME TO CHANGE MY
MIND??





I SAID
NO, V.

I LEARNED THAT DAY
HOW MUCH YOU DISLIKE
BEING TOLD NO. I GUESS
I KNEW, BUT I NEVER HAD
BEEN ON THIS SIDE OF IT.

NEVERMIND
THEN.

FORGET I
MENTIONED IT.



YOU NEVER BROUGHT
IT UP AGAIN BUT I COULD
NEVER SHAKE THE FEELING
YOU WERE STILL WAITING FOR
ME TO GIVE UP AND CHANGE
MY MIND.





TURNS OUT
I WAS RIGHT.





I'M SORRY, V...





XADA...



YOU SET ME
INTO A TIMED
SLEEP MODE...

BUT I WOKE
UP BEFORE
YOU...





I WAS GOING

I WAS GOING
TO LET YOU KEEP
SLEEPING SO YOU
COULD RECOVER...



BUT THEN
YOUR HEARTRATE
SPIKED...





IT'S
FINE... JUST
A WEIRD DREAM
IS ALL.



HEY, LET'S

BLOW THIS POP
STAND, HUH?



THERE IS
A LOT OF THINGS
THAT WE GOTTA
DO TODAY-





BUT WE HAVE
TO GO BACK TO MY
APARTMENT SO I CAN
FINISH UP SOME THINGS
FIRST.



YOUR
APARTMENT?
OKAY!



THAT'S RIGHT...
ALL THE SMALL THINGS
THAT LEAD UP TO WHERE
WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE...

WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE!!

WHEN WE
GET THERE I
CAN MAKE YOU
BREAKFAST!





ALL THAT LED ME
HERE TO YOU.



WHAT ARE
YOUR FAVORITE
BREAKFAST
FOODS?

I'M ALWAYS
PARTIAL TO EGGS
IN THE MORNING BUT
ANYTHING WITH BELL
PEPPERS IS A
BONUS!

YOU GOT
IT!





I WONDER WHERE
WE'LL END UP...

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels and Miranda M.

Edited By Bre Boswell



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