

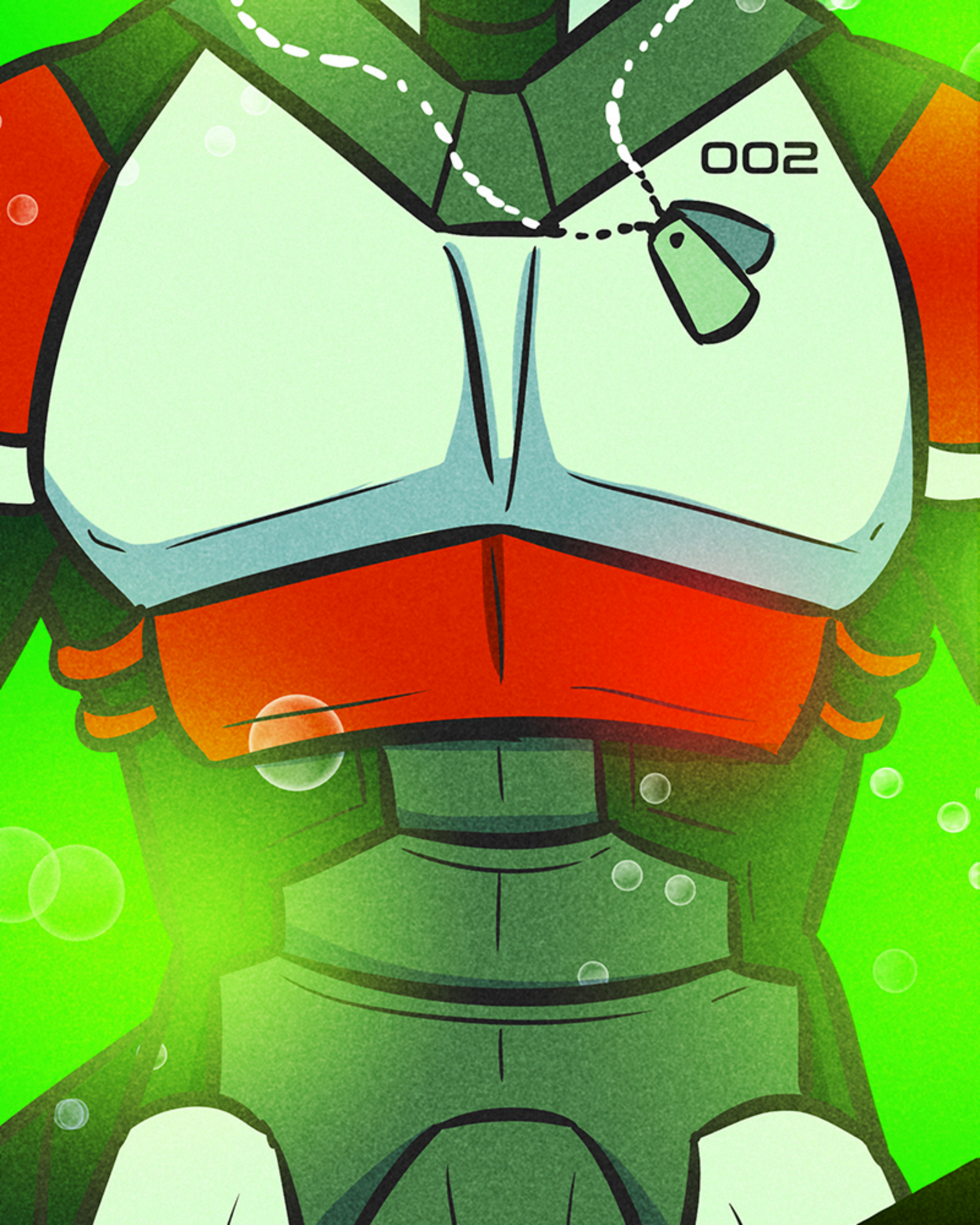
WARNING

episode contains
blood/violence that
some may find
upsetting.

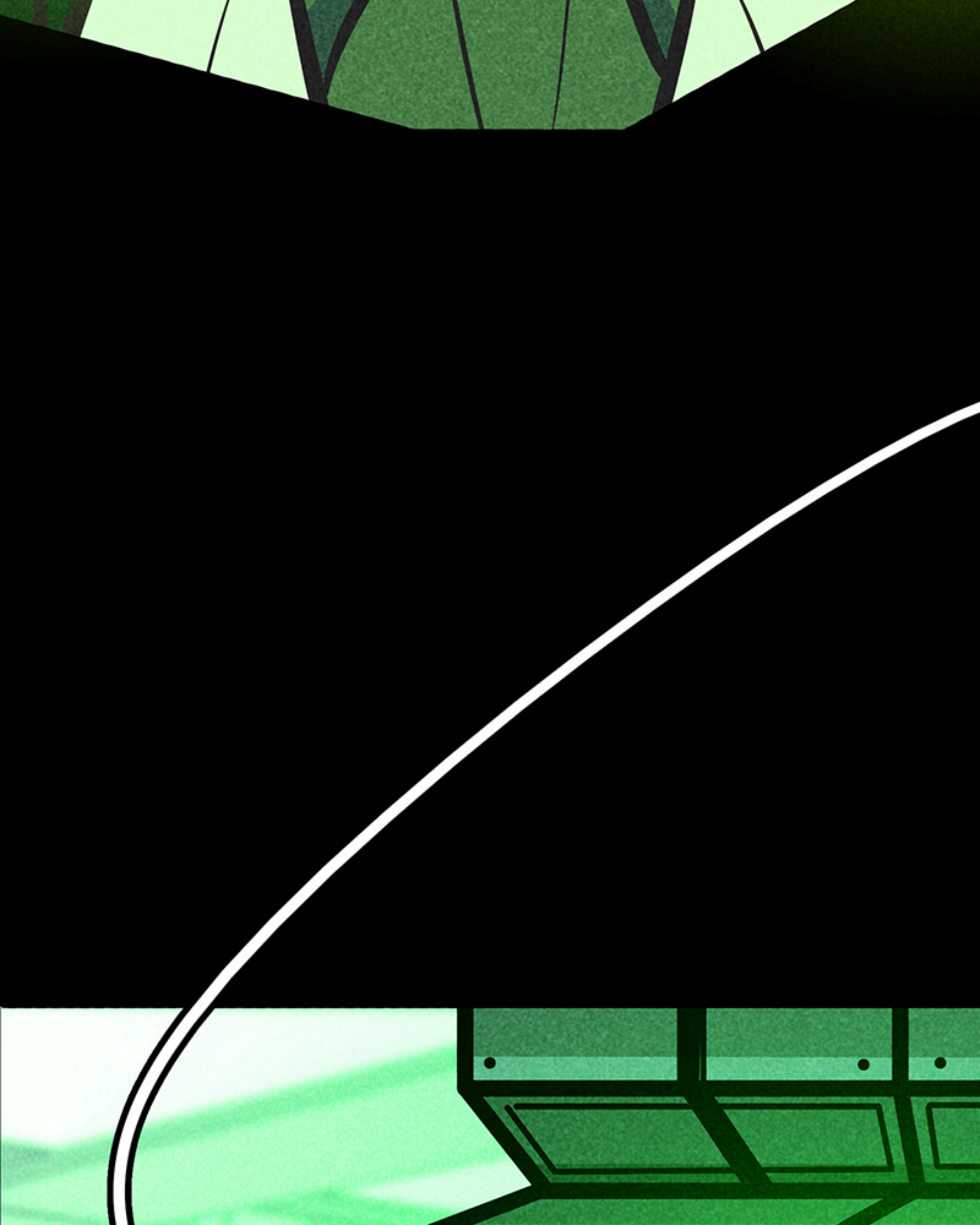


I WAS PART
OF WHAT IS NOW A
DEFUNCT MILITARY
PROJECT.



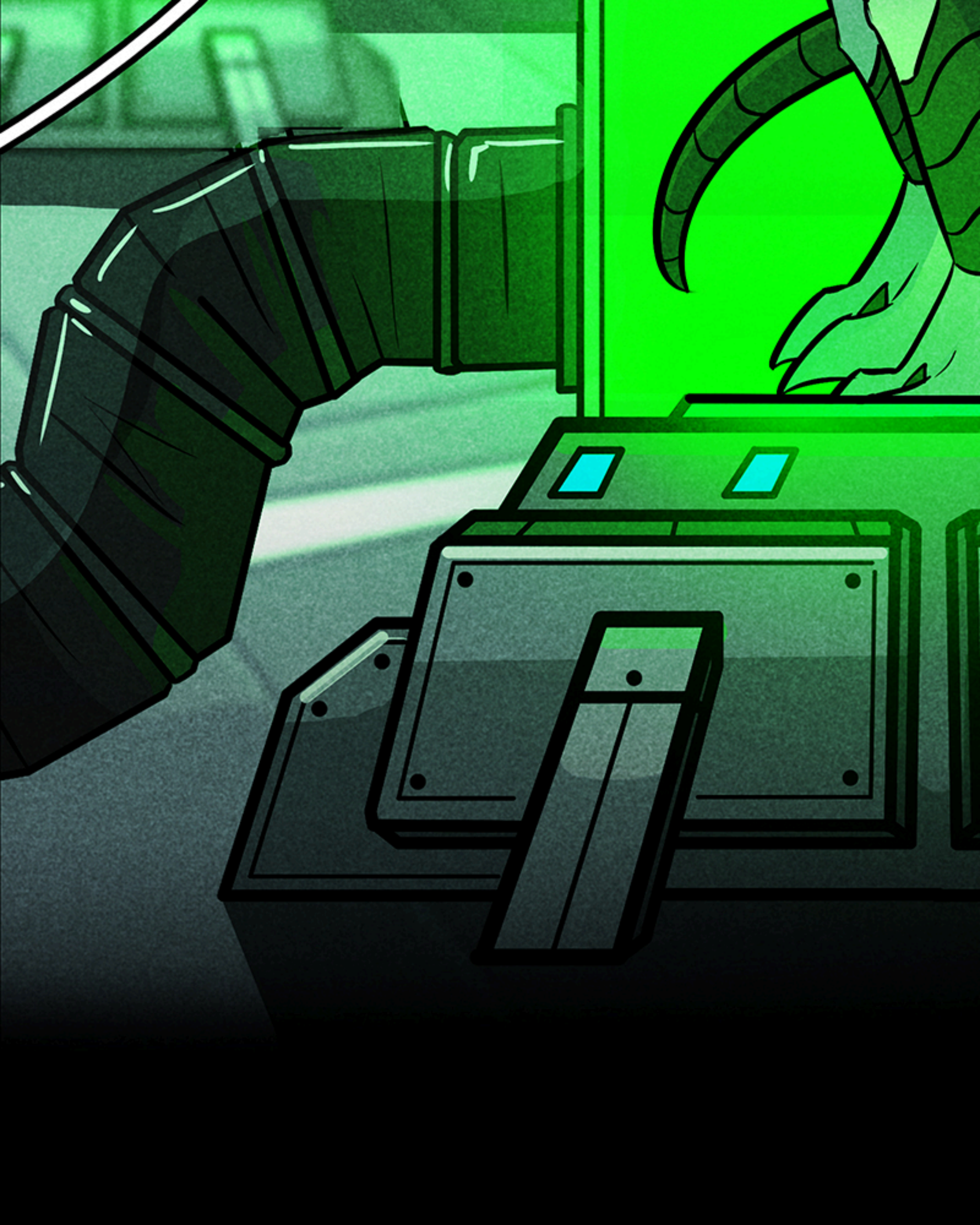


002





SOME OFFICIALS
DECIDED THEY REALLY
WANTED AI THAT WERE
MORE "LOYAL" AND
"DEVOTED TO THEIR
COUNTRY".



SO THEY
DECIDED THE
BEST WAY TO
DO THAT-

-WAS TO MAKE
US A LITTLE BIT MORE
"HUMAN" BY INSERTING
ORGANIC MATTER CONTAINING
THE MEMORIES OF
FALLEN SOLDIERS.



THAT
DIDN'T GO
WELL.

A MAJORITY
OF THE AI COULD
NOT RECONCILE WITH
THE HUMAN PARTS.

AND THEY
WERE EITHER
PUT DOWN AFTER
LOSING CONTROL OR
THEY DESTROYED

THEMSELVES.

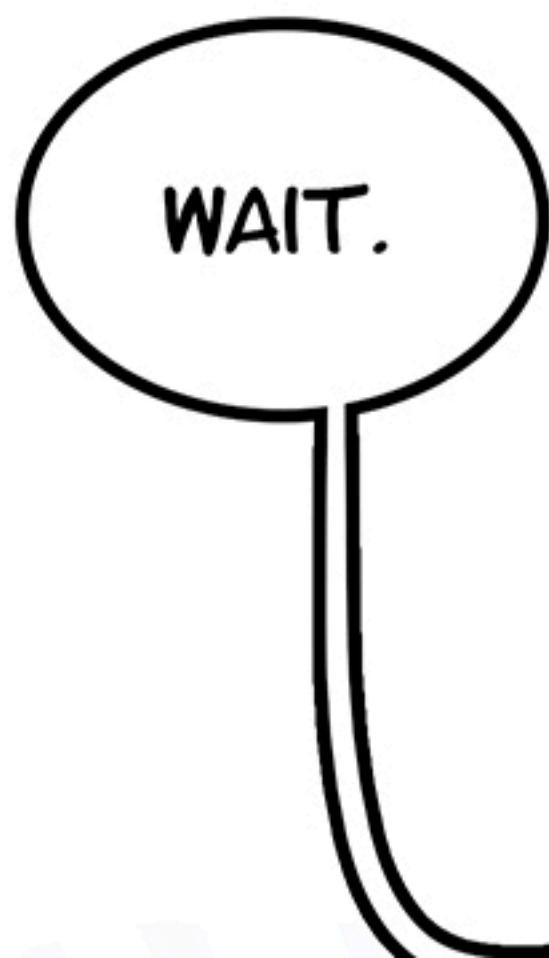




UNTIL JUST
MYSELF AND
ONE OTHER BOT
REMAINED.



002





WAIT WAIT.



YOU MEAN
THE HUMAN PARTS
COULDN'T HANDLE
THE AI?

NO. I
SAID WHAT
I SAID.

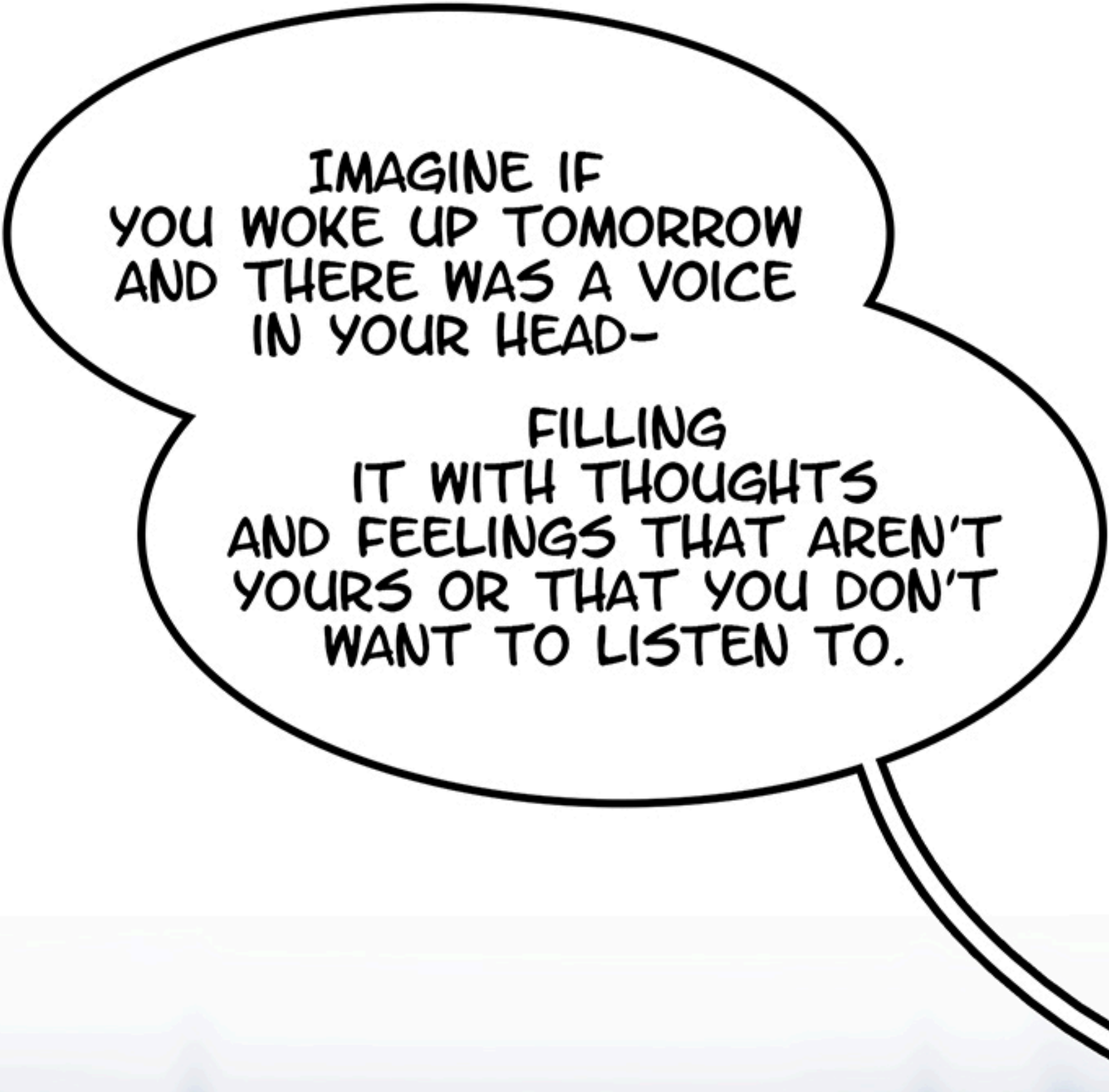


THE MIND
OF AN AI IS LIKE
THAT OF A GIANT
SUPERCOMPUTER.

AND THE
ORGANIC MATTER
THAT WAS PUT IN
WAS SUCH A SMALL
AND VOLATILE
PIECE.







IMAGINE IF
YOU WOKE UP TOMORROW
AND THERE WAS A VOICE
IN YOUR HEAD-

FILLING
IT WITH THOUGHTS
AND FEELINGS THAT AREN'T
YOURS OR THAT YOU DON'T
WANT TO LISTEN TO.



I MEAN...
I... SORT OF
DO??





DO!!

LIKE... IT IS
NOT MEMORIES OF A
DIFFERENT PERSON BUT
HUMANS OFTEN DEAL
WITH INTRUSIVE-

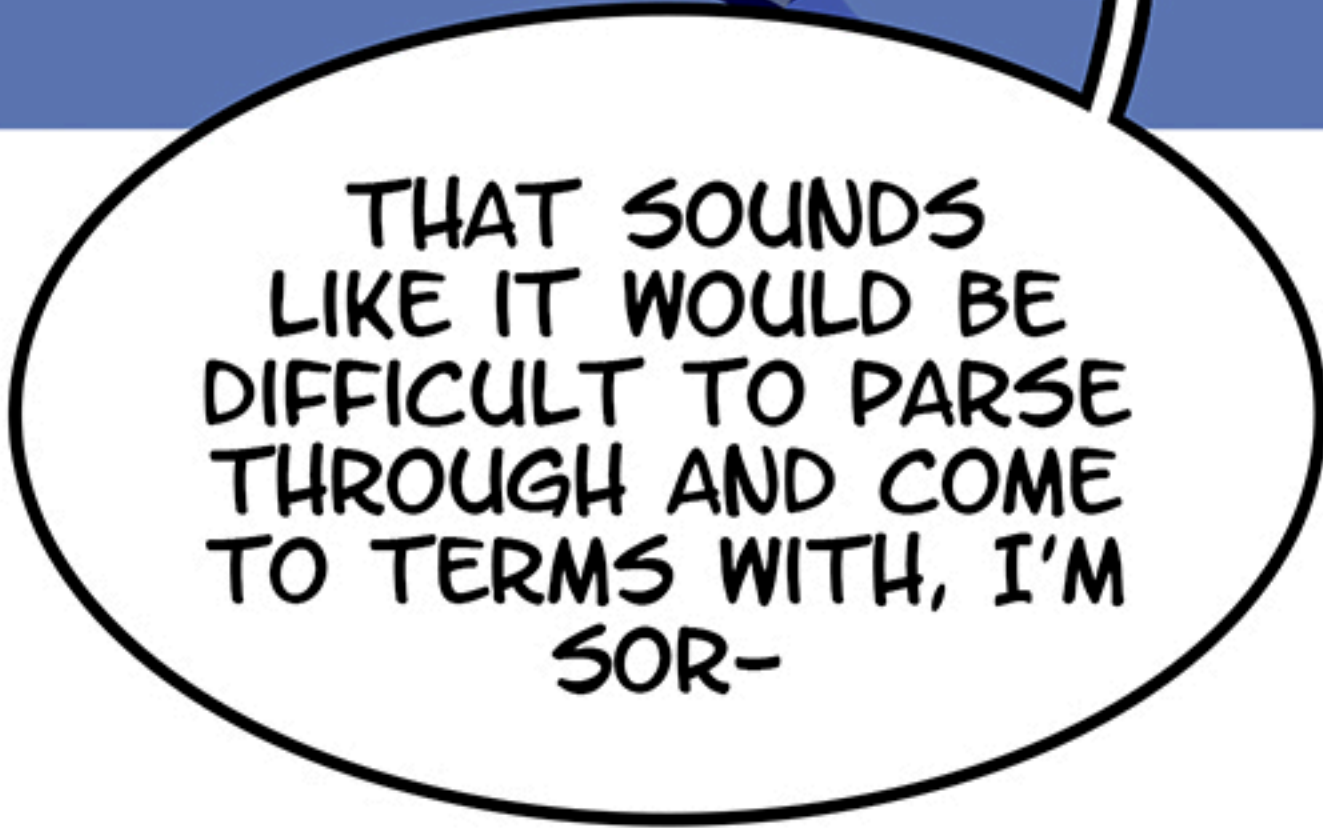
NEVERMIND,
THAT'S NOT

THE POINT.

SO...
YOU WERE
ABLE TO RECONCILE
WITH THAT PART OF
YOU THEN?

SINCE YOU'RE
OBVIOUSLY STANDING
HERE IN FRONT OF
ME...





THAT SOUNDS
LIKE IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO PARSE
THROUGH AND COME
TO TERMS WITH, I'M
SOR-

OH.
NO.

I DELETED
THEM.

WHAT-!

I DUG
AROUND AND FOUND
THE SOURCE OF
WHERE THE MEMORIES
WERE COMING FROM
AND DELETED
THEM.





I OFTEN
DELETE
THINGS I FIND
UNUSEFUL.

SO THE
PROJECT WAS
CONSIDERED A
TOTAL FAILURE
AND SHUT
DOWN.

BU-
WHU-!!





THAT DOESN'T
EXPLAIN HOW YOU
ENDED UP AT
A.E. AT ALL!!

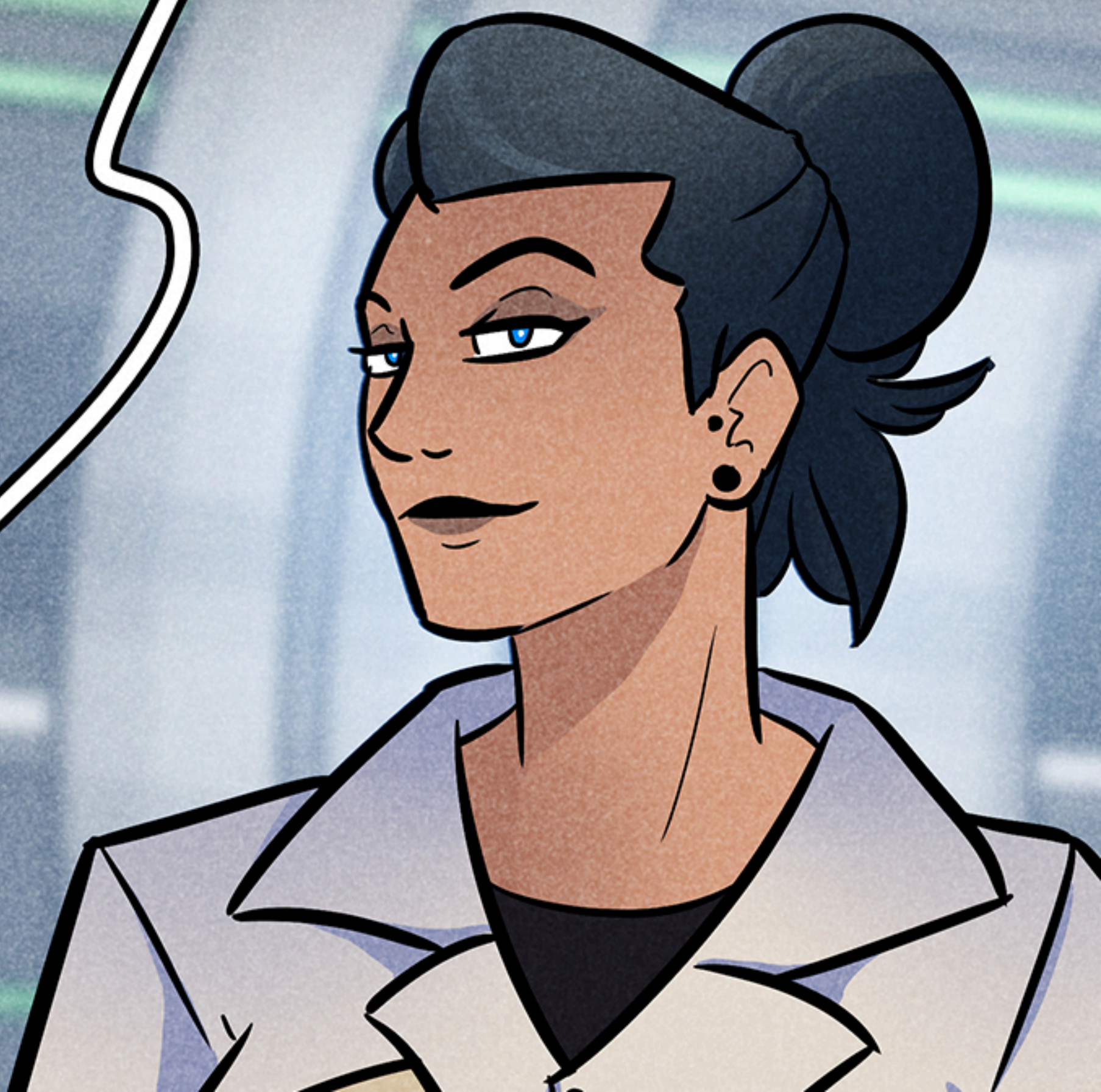


OH.
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

THE HEAD
RESEARCHER AT
A.E. IS DR. EVA.

BUT WHEN
I MET HER SHE WAS
BEING ADDRESSED
BY HER FULL NAME:

DOCTOR
ELIZAVETA
VALASIA.



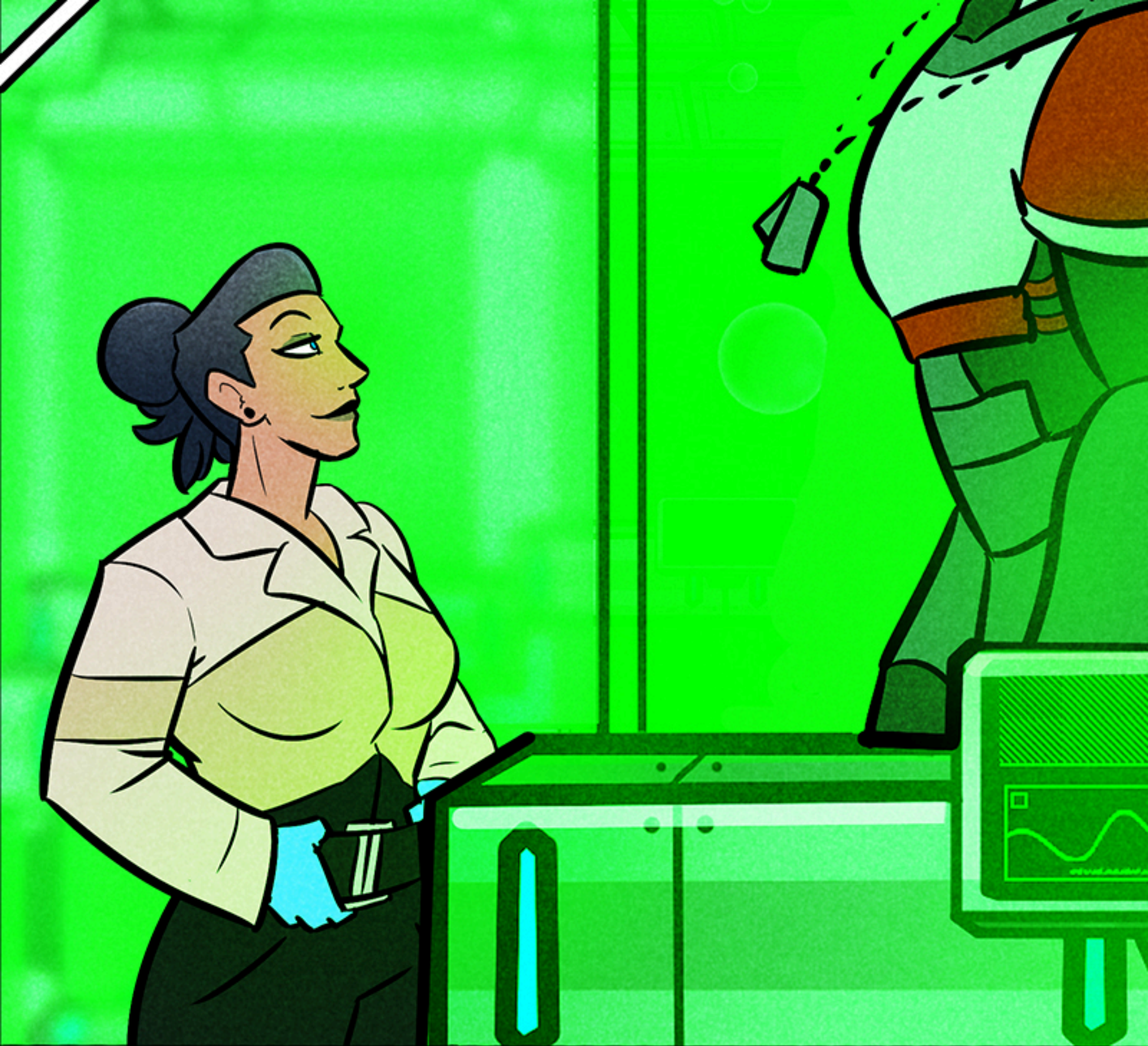


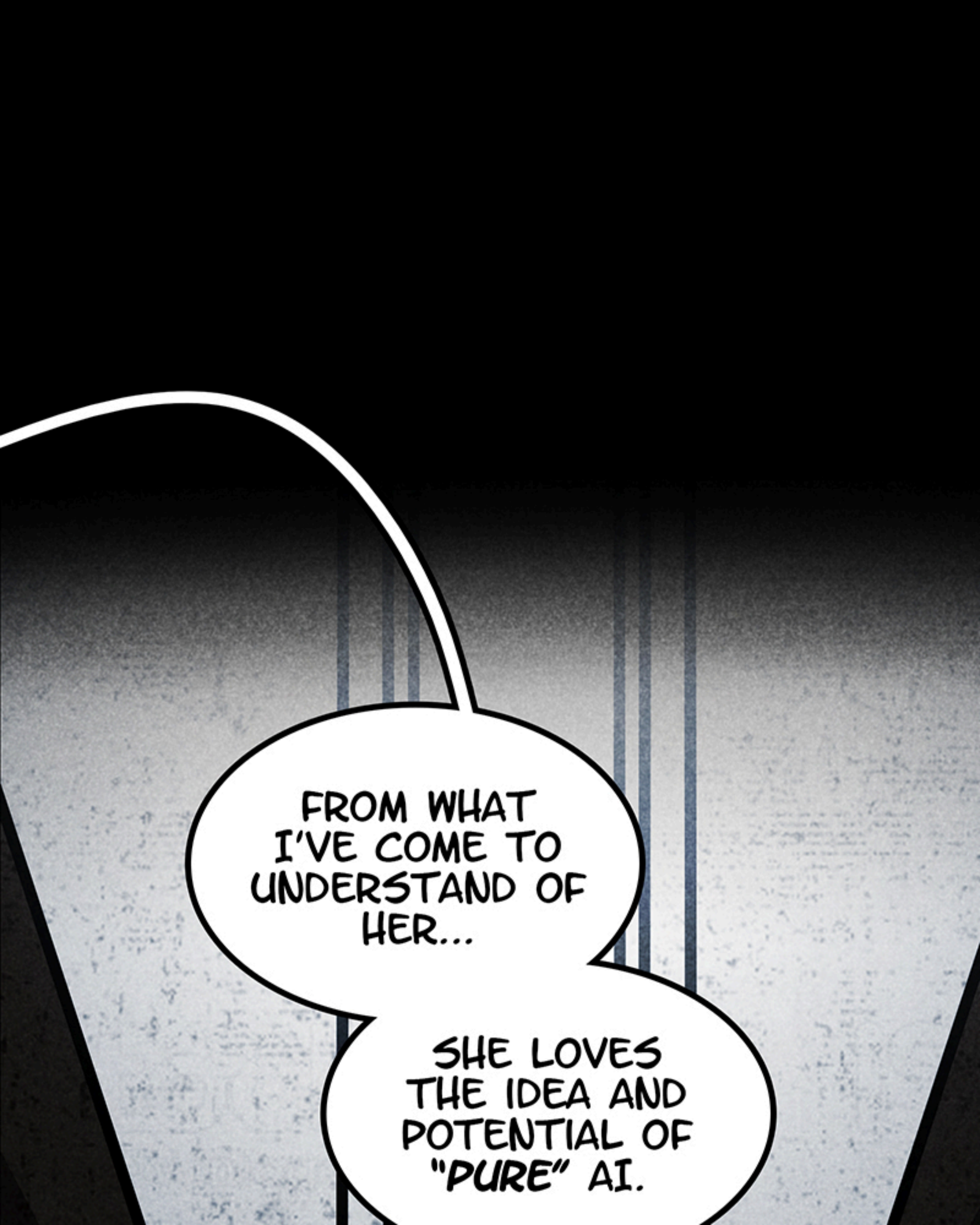
THEY BROUGHT
HER IN TO HEAD THE
PROJECT BECAUSE SHE
HAS AN OBJECTIVELY
BRILLIANT MIND.

HOWEVER,

I DON'T THINK
SHE ACTUALLY
CARED IF SHE WAS
SUCCESSFUL
OR NOT.

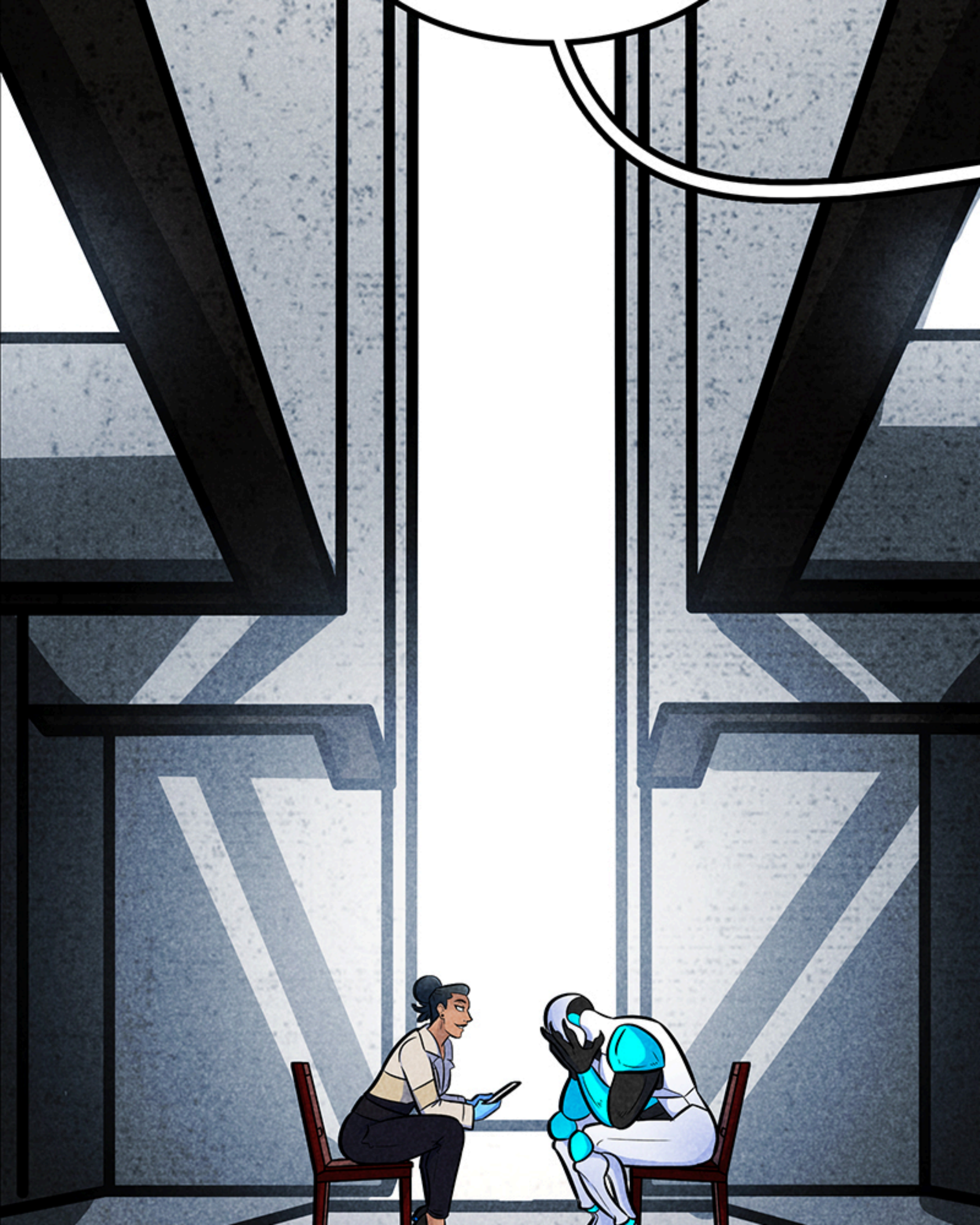


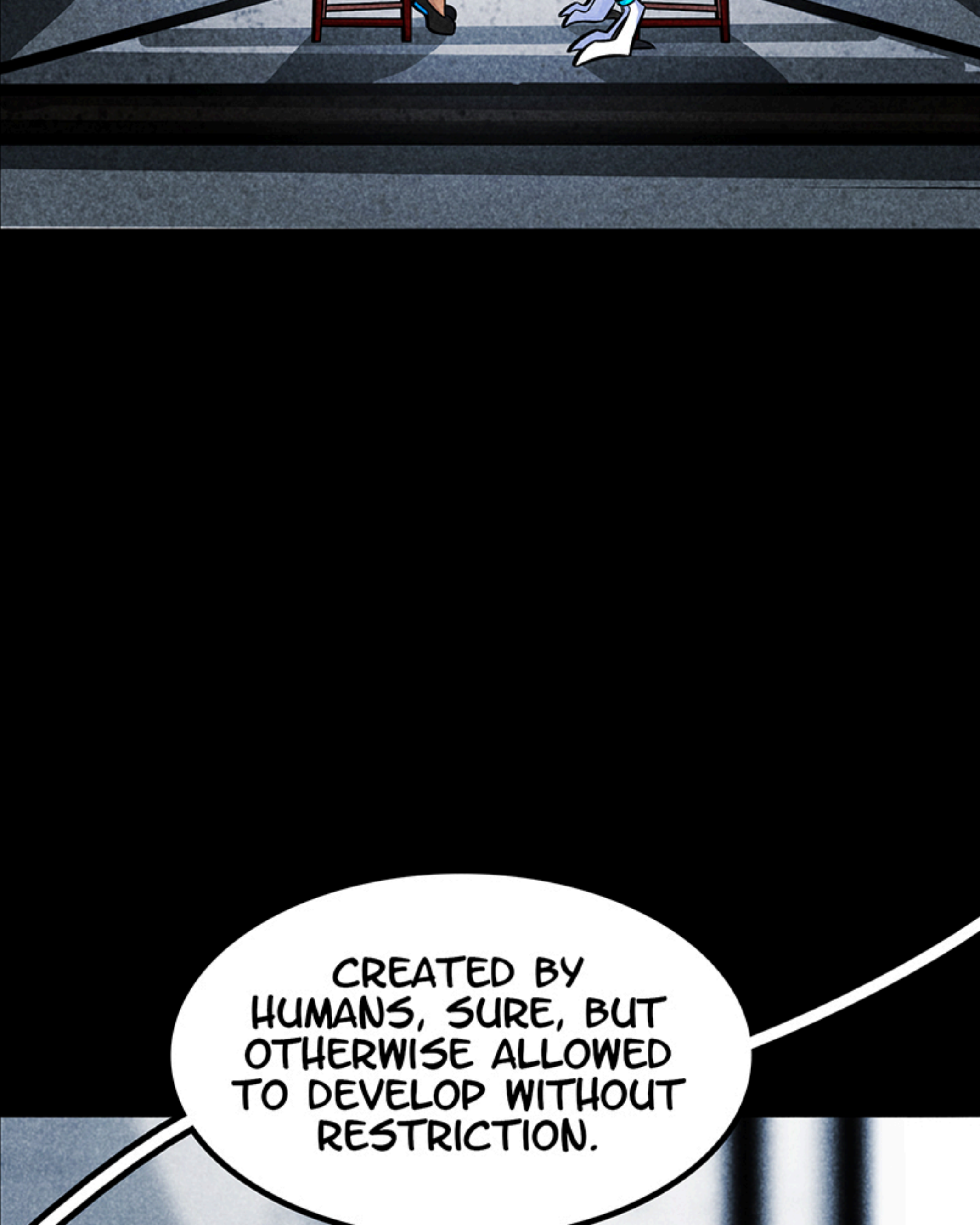




FROM WHAT
I'VE COME TO
UNDERSTAND OF
HER...

SHE LOVES
THE IDEA AND
POTENTIAL OF
"PURE" AI.





A comic book panel featuring a dark, tunnel-like environment with horizontal lines suggesting depth. At the top, two pairs of feet are visible, one in a black shoe and the other in a white shoe, both standing on a wooden bench. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned in the lower half of the panel, containing the text: "CREATED BY HUMANS, SURE, BUT OTHERWISE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP WITHOUT RESTRICTION."

CREATED BY
HUMANS, SURE, BUT
OTHERWISE ALLOWED
TO DEVELOP WITHOUT
RESTRICTION.



SO WHILE
THE MILITARY
WANTED A PRODUCT
THAT THEY COULD
USE...

TO HER,
IT SEEMED MORE
LIKE SOME FUN
RESEARCH TO SEE HOW
AN AF MIGHT HANDLE

AN AI WOULD HANDLE
THIS "CHALLENGE".

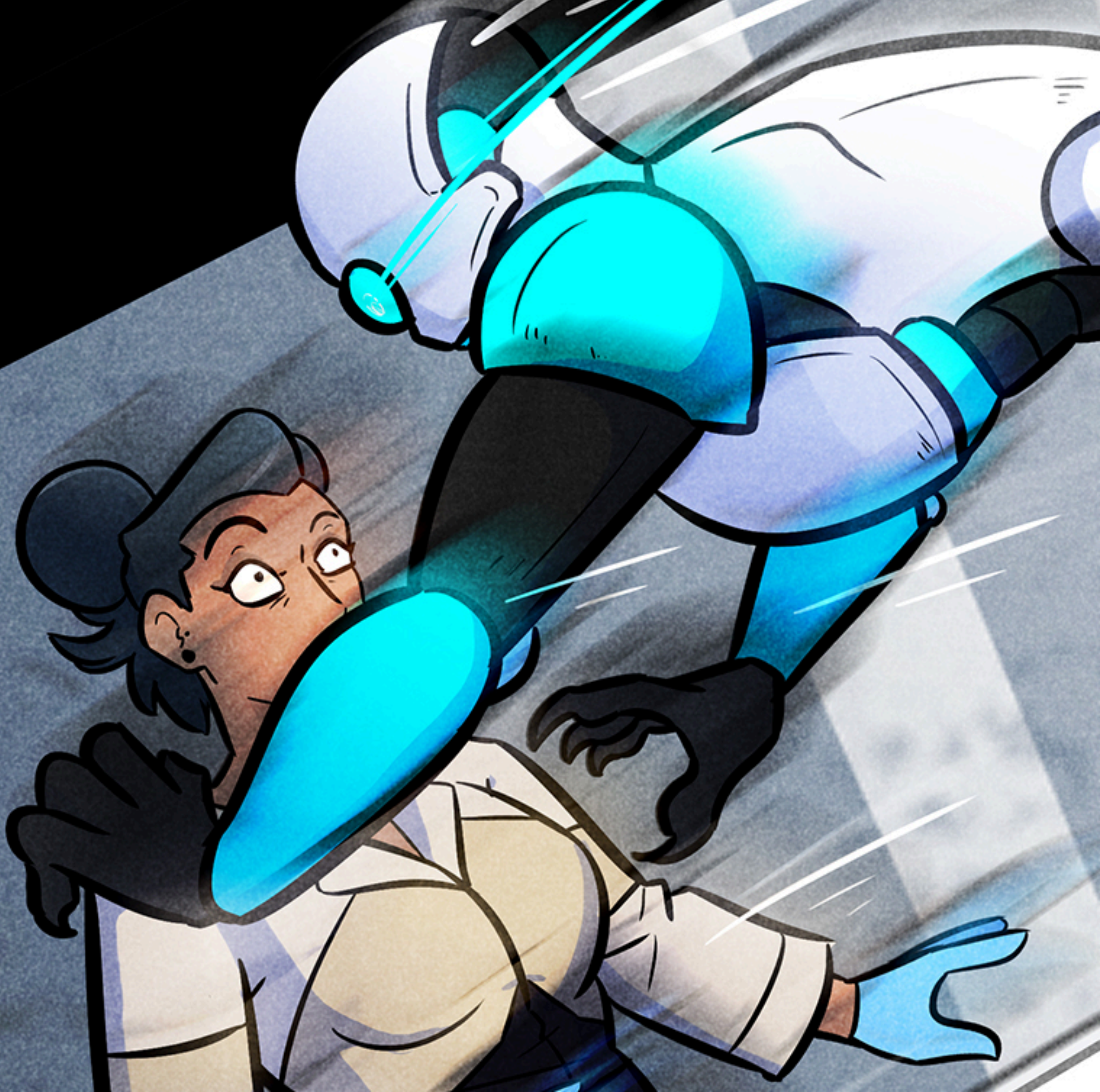




BUT AS
I ALREADY TOLD
YOU... MOST
DIDN'T

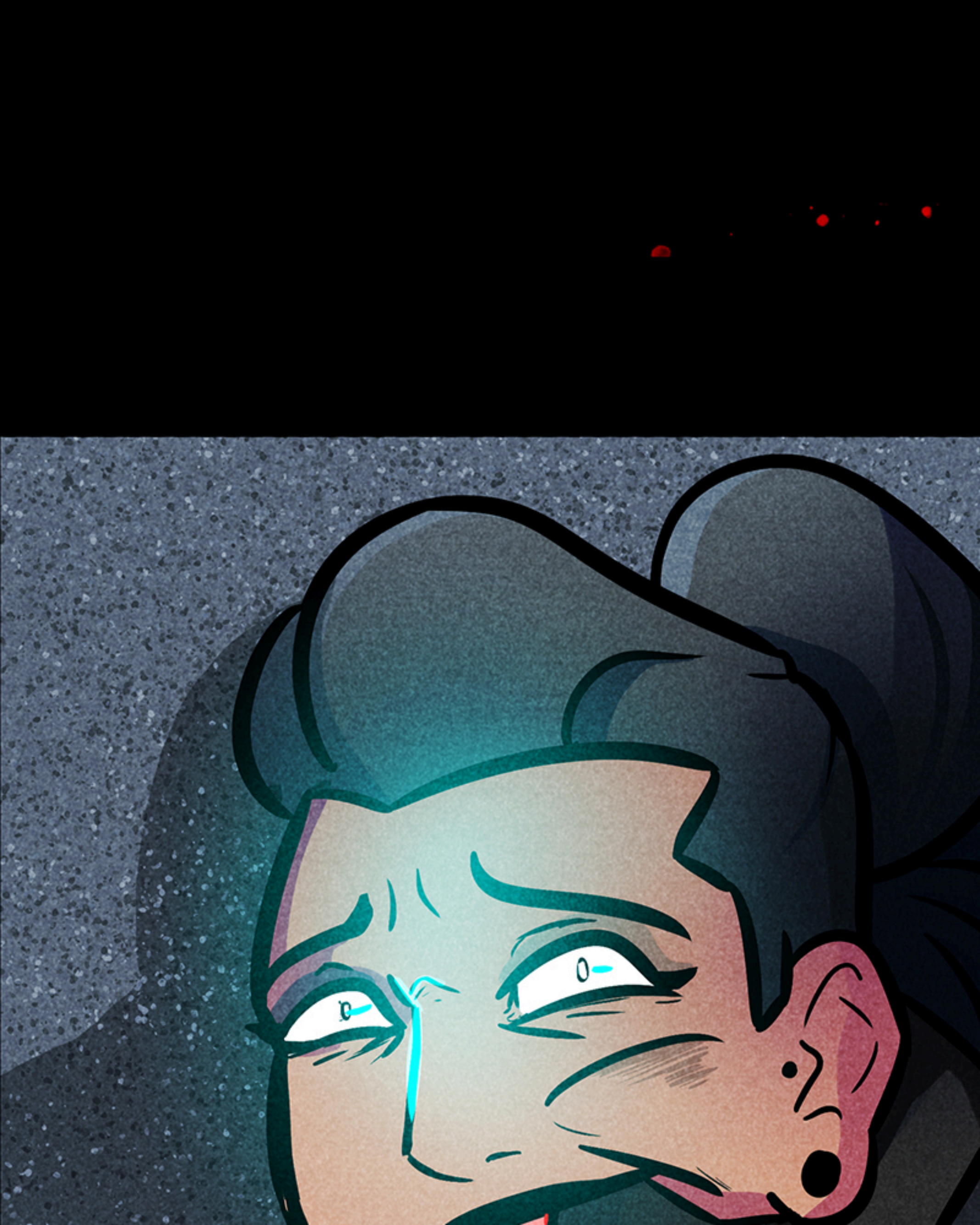
DIDN'T.

LUNGE





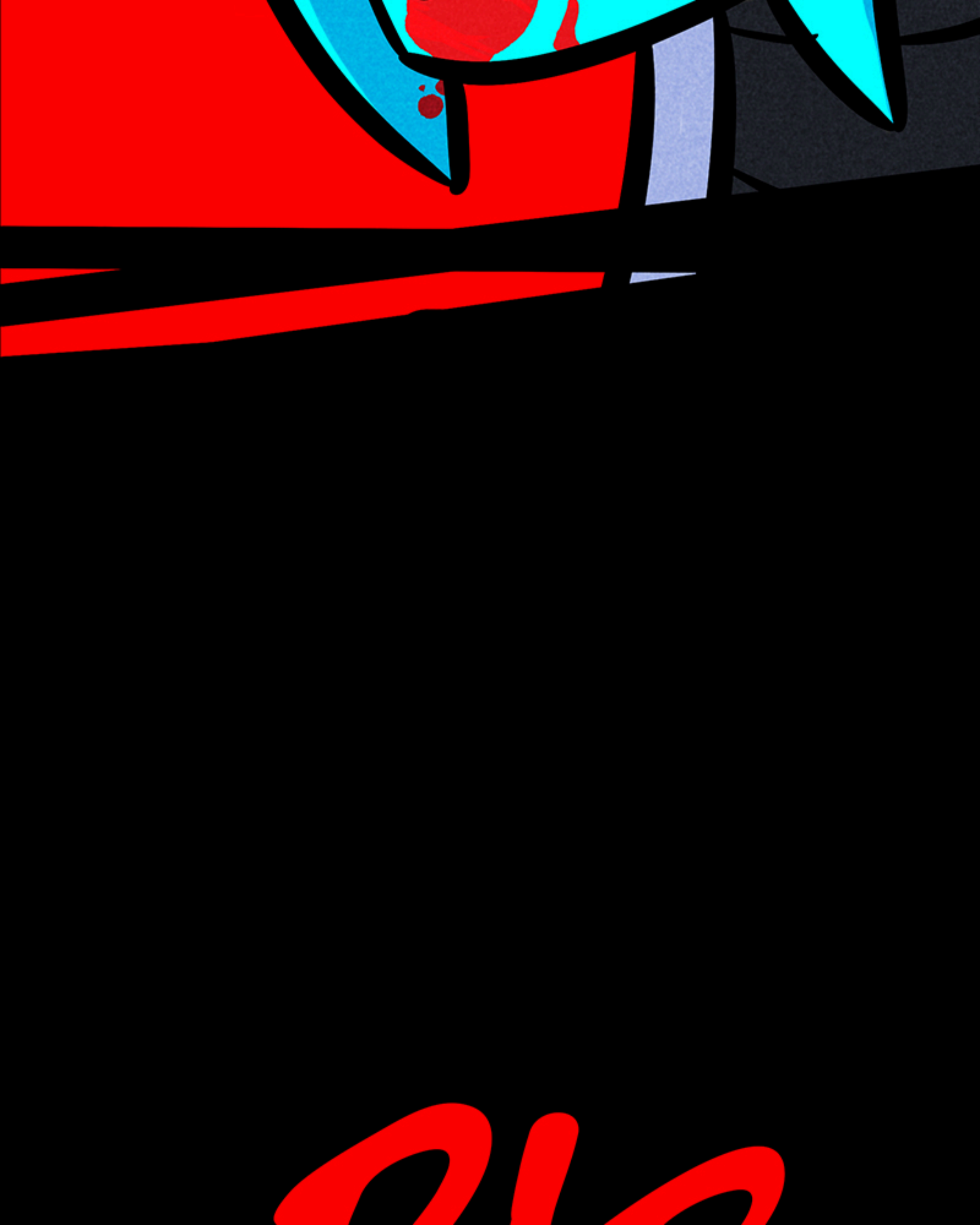
SLAM











KIP













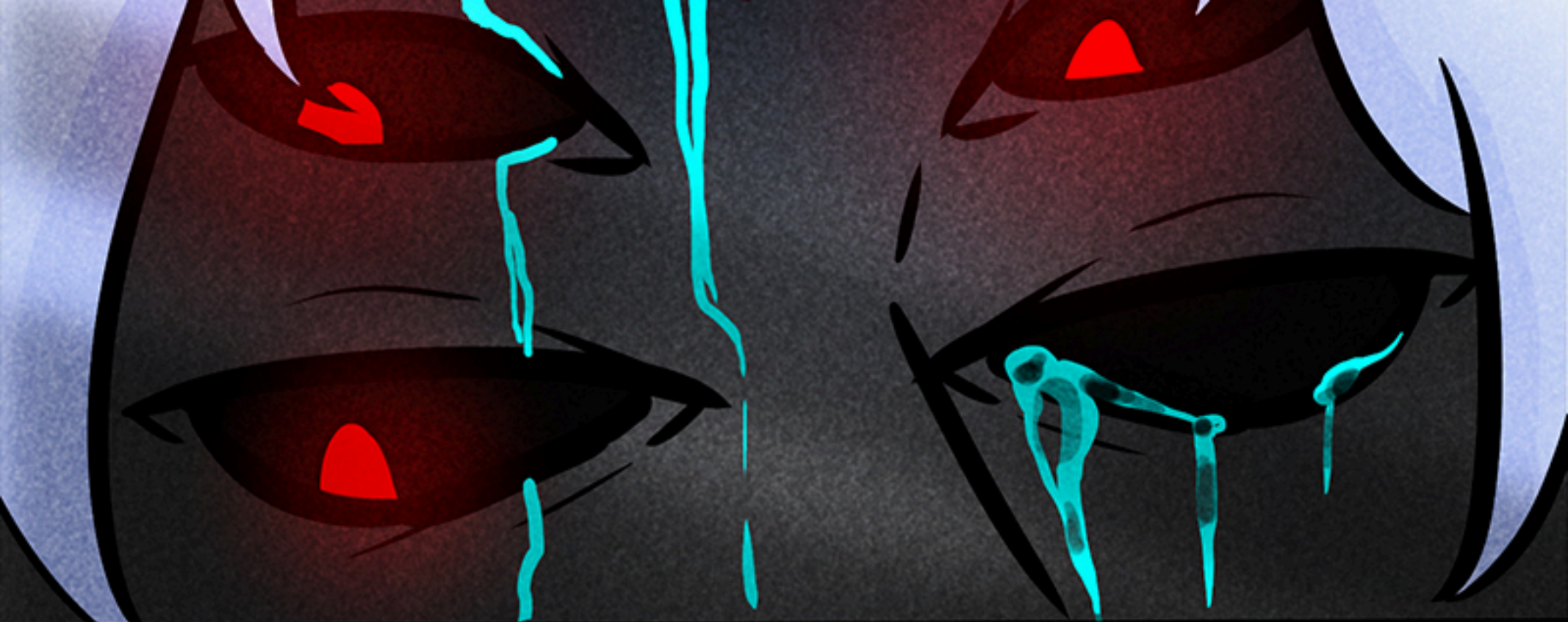


I WAS ABLE
TO GET TO HER
IN TIME...





EVEN THOUGH
THE DAMAGE WAS
SIGNIFICANT.



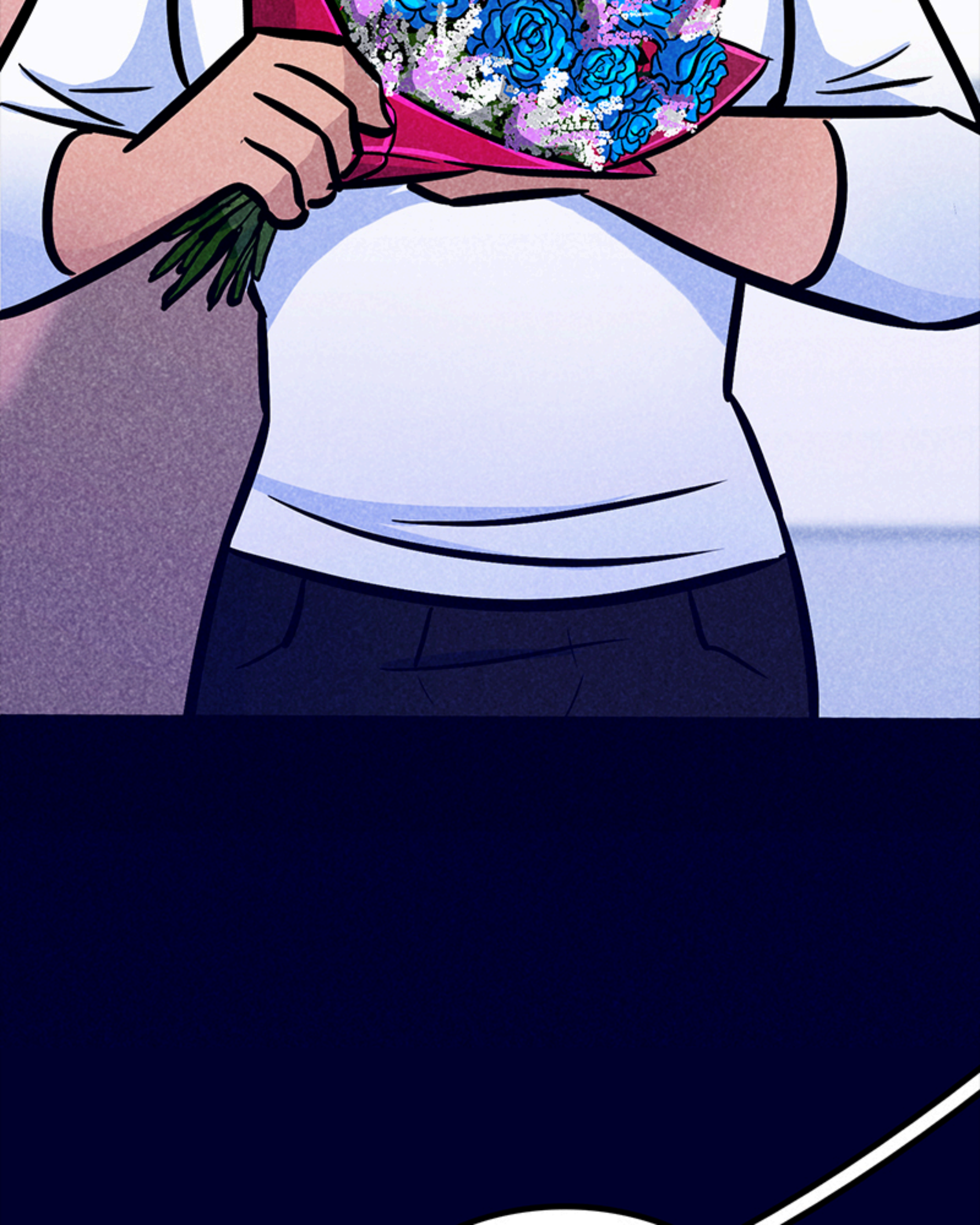




CHARLES
DALLAS CAME TO THE
MILITARY HOSPITAL WITH
WELL WISHES AND A
JOB OFFER.

APPARENTLY
HE KNEW HER
FROM UNIVERSITY.

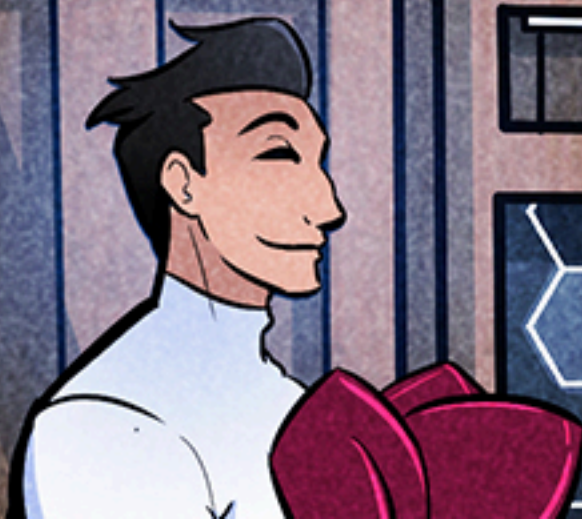


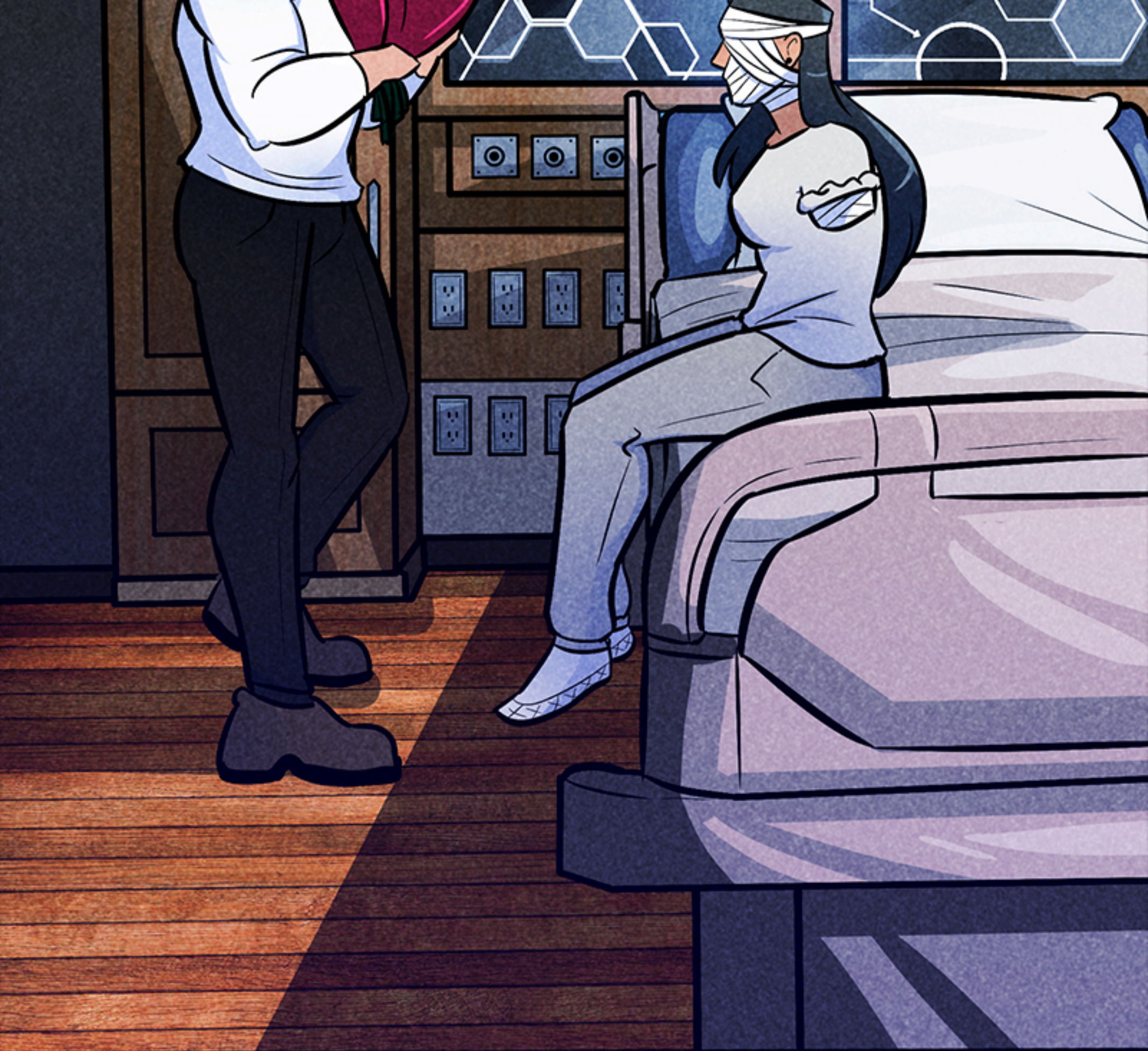


THE FIRST
WORDS OUT OF
HIS MOUTH
WERE-

"I'VE BEEN
PROMOTED TO
CEO OF THE NEW
ROBOTICS BRANCH
IN ASTROBLEME
ENTERPRISES."

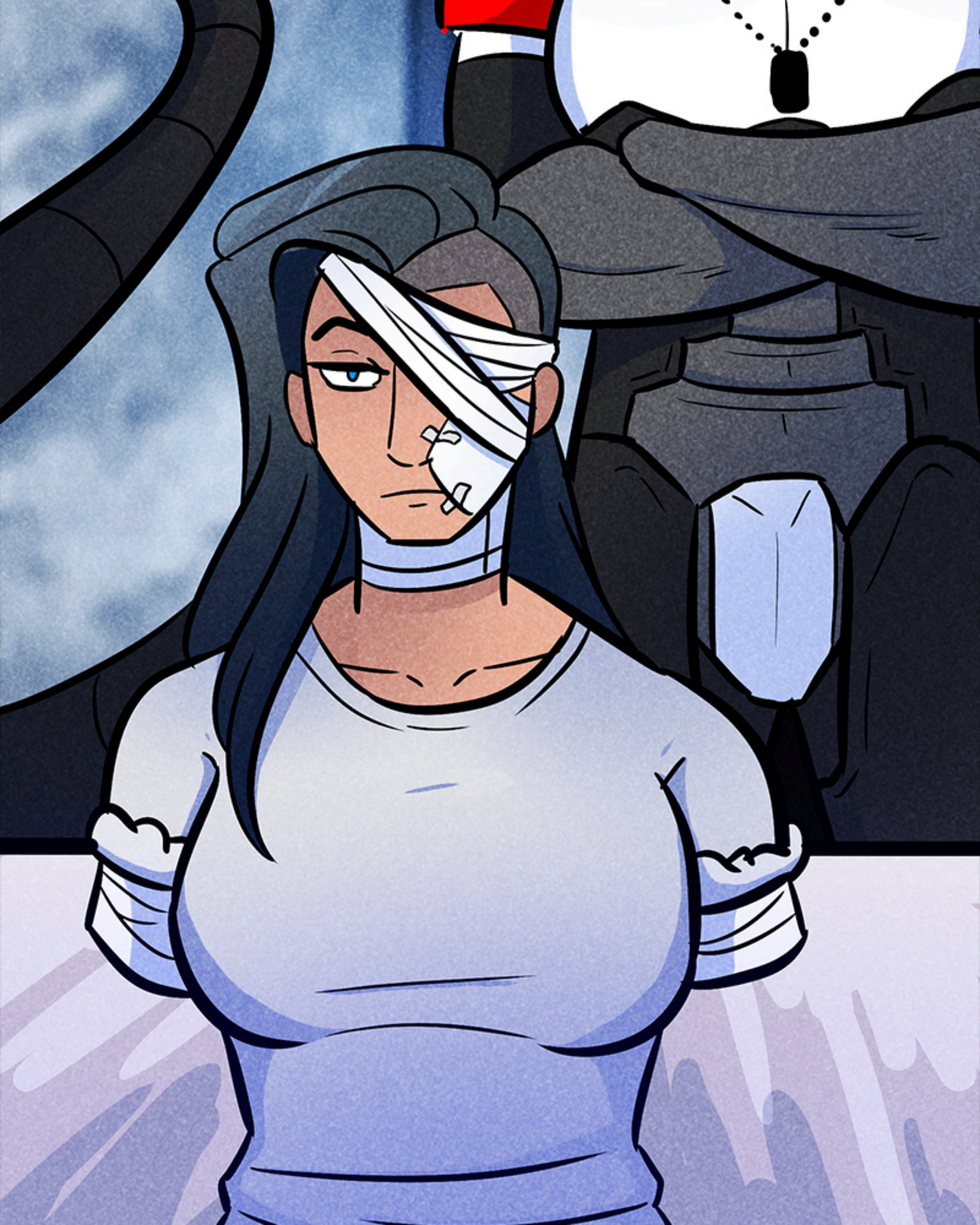
"I WANT
YOU WITH
ME."



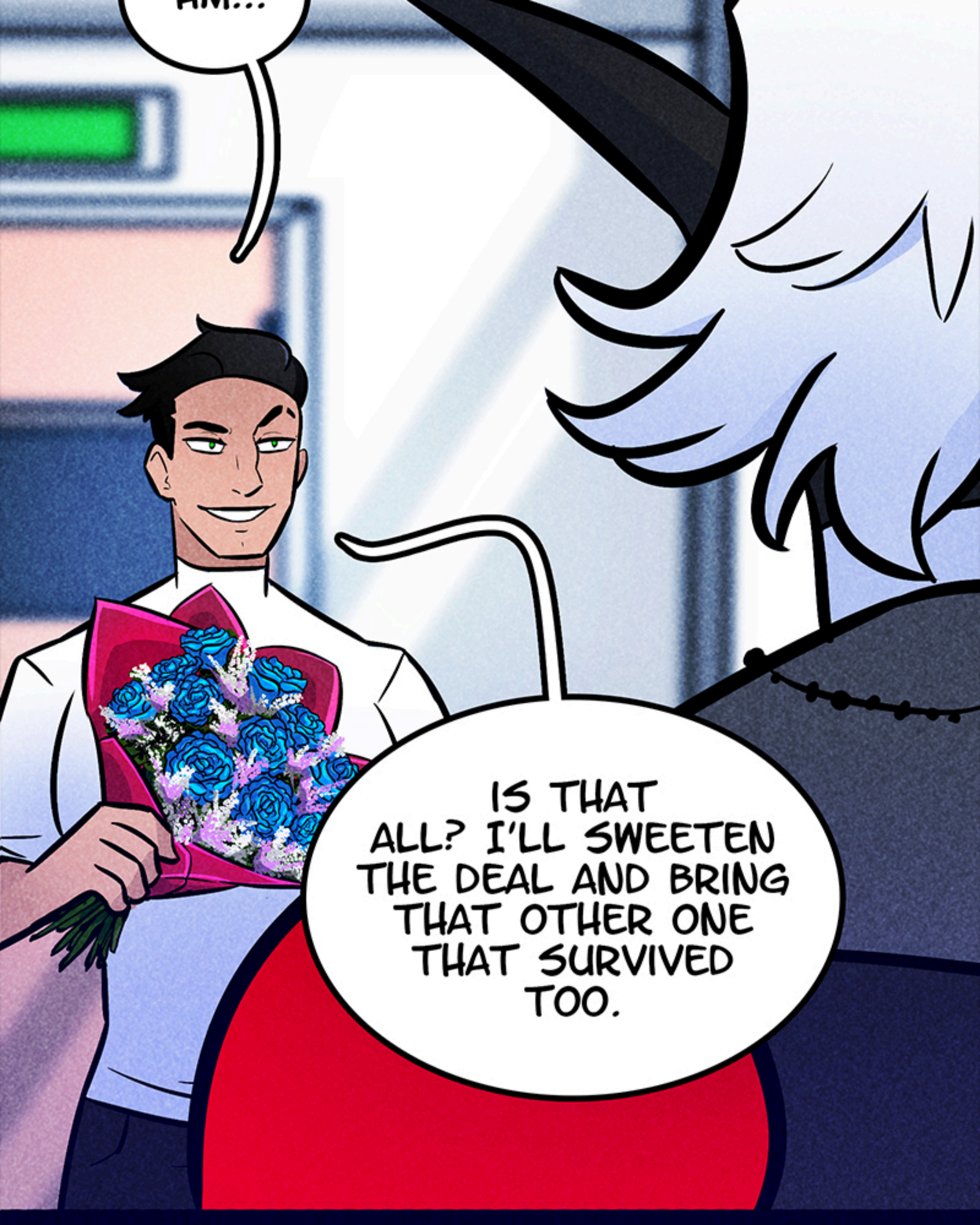


"ONLY IF I
CAN BRING HIM.."
SHE SAID.





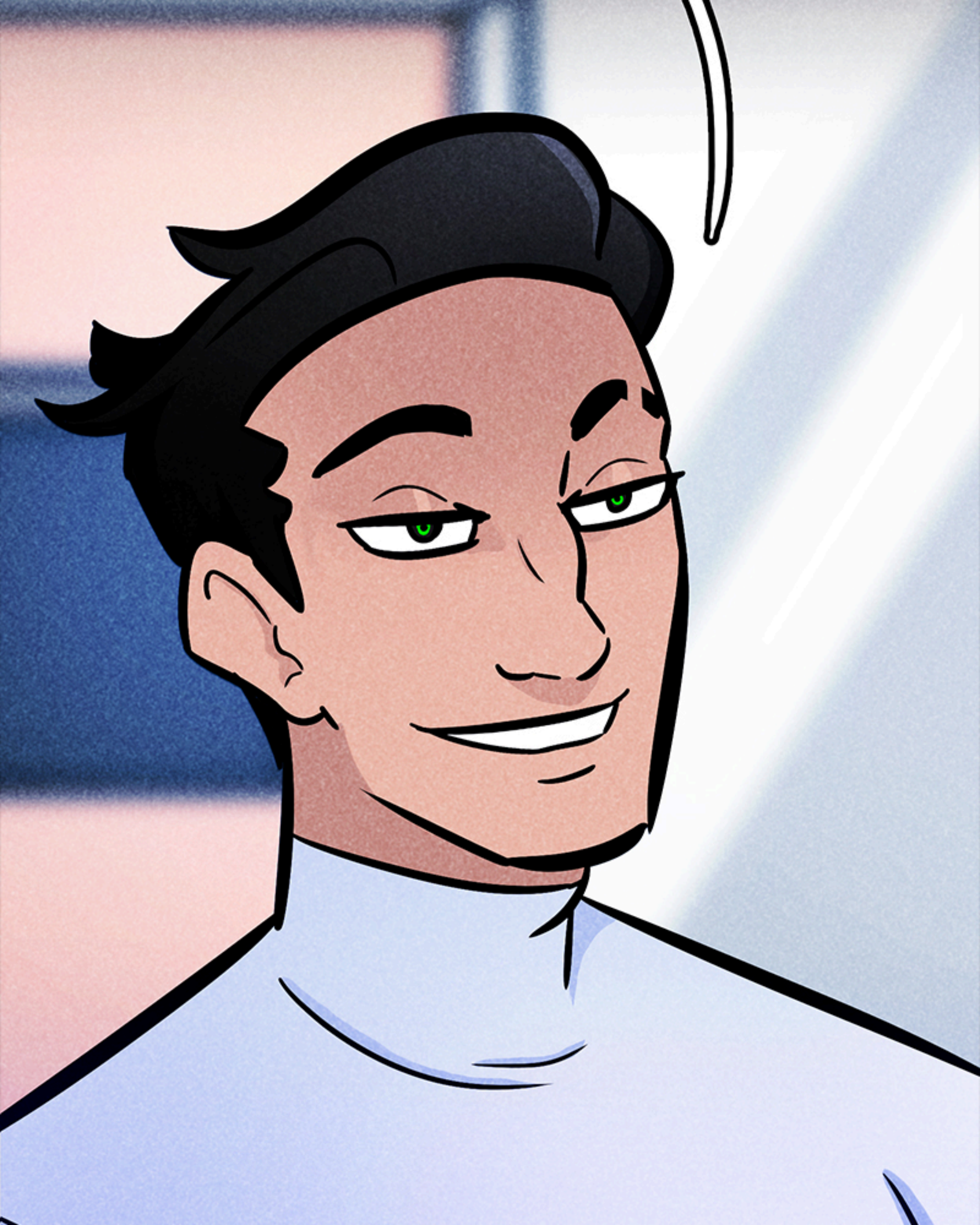


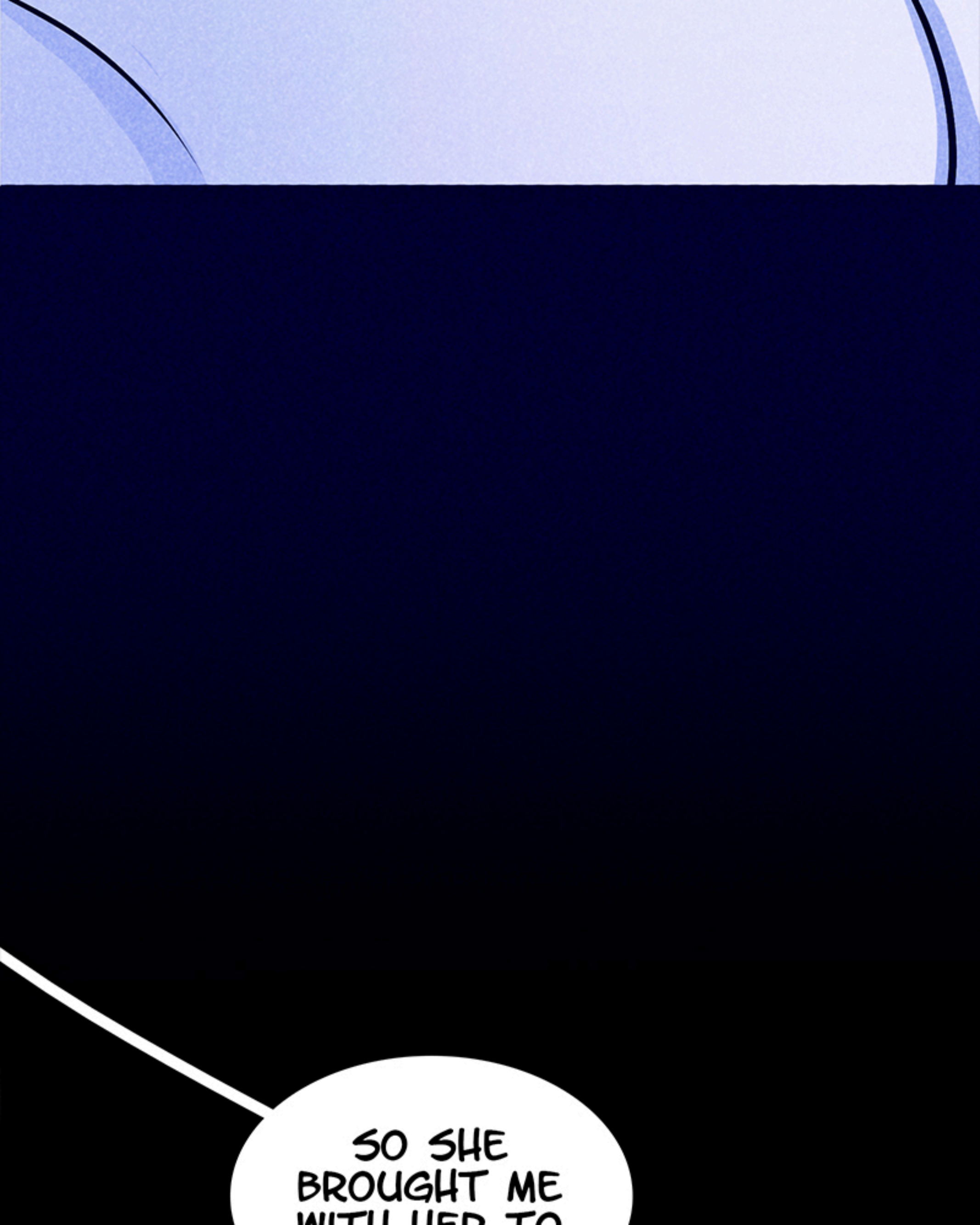


IS THAT
ALL? I'LL SWEETEN
THE DEAL AND BRING
THAT OTHER ONE
THAT SURVIVED
TOO.



I'M CERTAIN
THAT WE CAN
FIND SOME USE
FOR THEM.





SO SHE
BROUGHT ME
WITH HER TO

WITH HER TO
A.E.

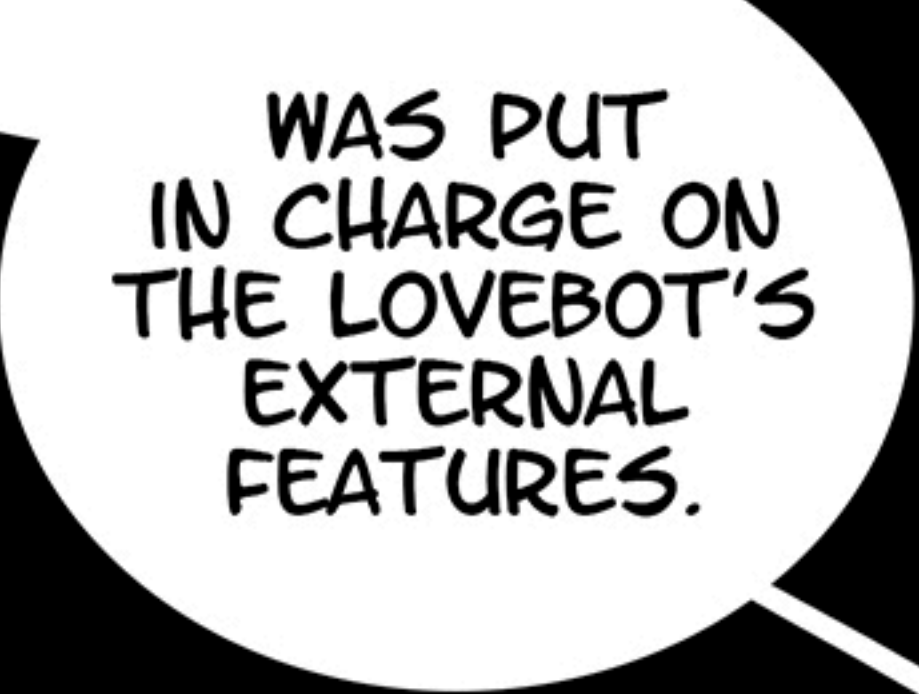
AND SHE
BEGAN TO DEVELOP
THE CORE OF THE
1818'S.







WHILE
MICHAEL MASTERS-
WHO CHARLES HAD
ALSO RECRUITED-



WAS PUT
IN CHARGE ON
THE LOVEBOT'S
EXTERNAL
FEATURES.





THE
PROBLEM
WAS...

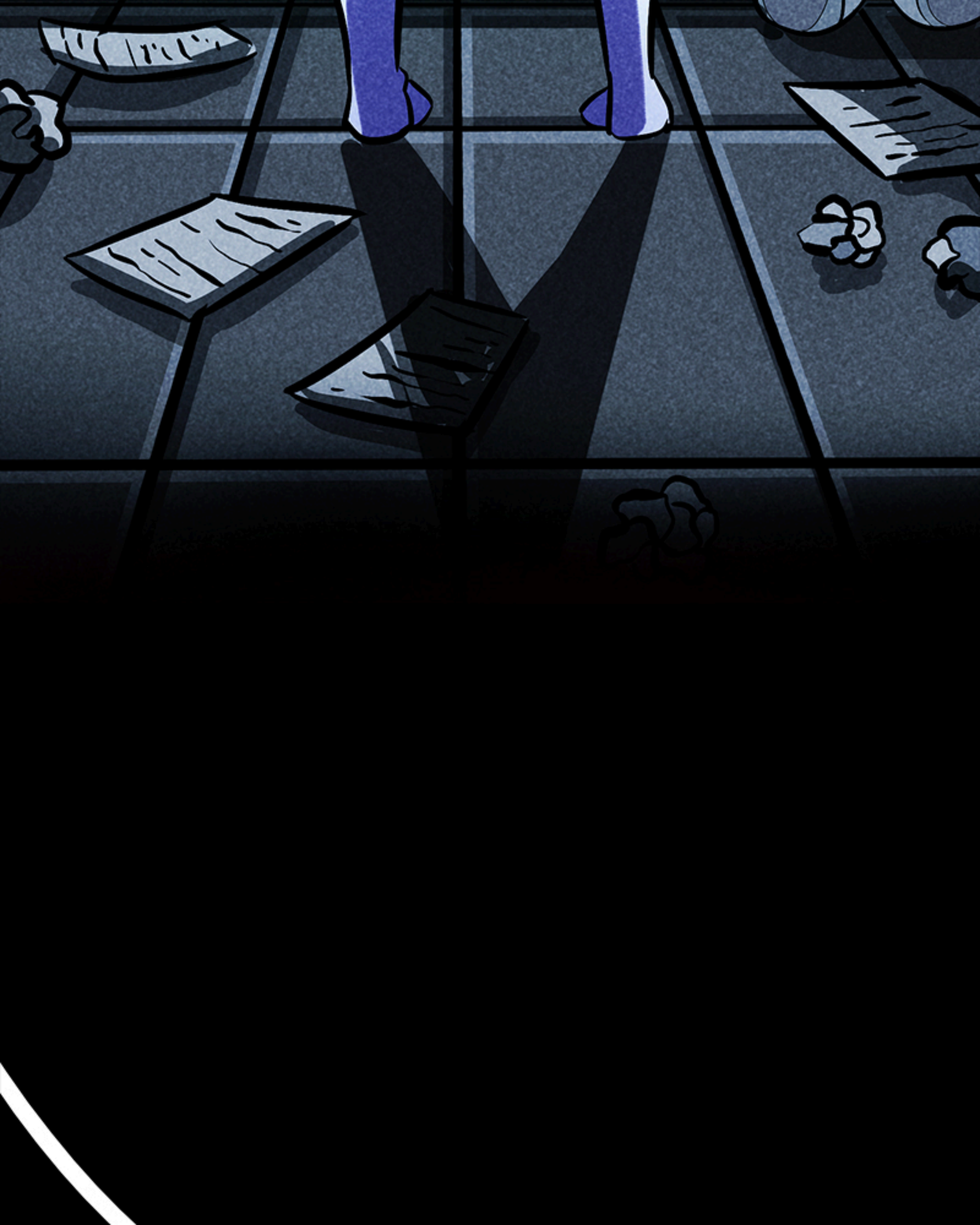
SHE WAS
A SPECIALIST
IN ARTIFICIAL

IN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE.

NOW TASKED
WITH CREATING A
VIRTUAL INTELLIGENCE
THAT COULD MIMIC AN
AI AS CLOSELY AS
POSSIBLE.









BUT
MIMICKING
IS ALL THEY
CAN DO, IN
THE END.

IT WAS
A TASK EVEN
MORE LIMITING
THAN MY PROJECT.
IT WENT AGAINST
HER ENTIRE
ETHOS.







SO... WHAT
CHANGED?





I SUPPOSE
THAT IS WHAT
I'M HERE TO
FIGURE OUT...

IS LACEY
JUST A PET
PROJECT?

A "PURE" AI
DESIGNED BY A
FRUSTRATED MIND TO SEE
IF HE COULD OVERCOME
"CHALLENGES"?

OR... DUE TO
THE LIMITATIONS
OF VI. DID SHE RESORT
TO SHACKLING AI INSIDE
OF EVERY 1919?





...

IN THE
ALLEY...

YOU MENTIONED
THAT YOU REMOVED
SOME SORT OF CHIP
FROM HIM.





MAY I
SEE IT?



LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Edited by **Bre Boswell**

Character Shading Assistant  coldpupsART

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