



OKAY!
TV IS ALL

YOURS WHILE
I'M ON THE
PHONE FOR
A BIT.

MM.

OKAY!





AND THERE
ARE SOME SNACKS
IN THE FRIDGE
IF YOUUU....

UH...



ER..
WELL THOSE
BOOST BOT PACKS
ARE IN THERE TOO
SO...

YOU
CAN HAVE
THOSE.





OH!!

I CAN

I CAN
CATCH YOU
UP ON THE REST
THAT YOU MISSED,
INCLUDING MY
BACKGROUND.

WHAT!

YOU TOLD
XADA YOUR ORIGIN
STORY!? I EXPLICITLY
ASKED YOU FOR
THAT!

I DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE
TALKING ABOUT
IT THEN.





AH- YEAH,
HEY ERIK.

A comic panel featuring two overlapping speech bubbles. The top bubble contains the text 'AH- YEAH, HEY ERIK.' and the bottom bubble contains 'SORRY I JUST MISSED YOUR CALL...'. The background is a blurred image of a blue wall with a clock and a blue object on the left.

SORRY I
JUST MISSED
YOUR CALL...





YOU REALLY
ARE SUGAR SWEET
AROUND HIM,
HUH?

HOW MUCH
OF THAT IS ON
HIM AND HOW MUCH
IS JUST YOU BEING
PROGRAMMED TO
BE A PEOPLE
PLEASER?

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU! YOU
CAN'T TELL ME
HE ISN'T NICE.

A comic panel featuring two characters. On the left is a dark-skinned character with white hair and a single bright blue horn, wearing a dark tunic. On the right is a light-skinned character with white hair and blue eyes, wearing a light blue shirt. They are both looking at each other. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the dark-skinned character at the top left and one from the light-skinned character at the bottom right.

MAYBE.
I THINK HE
GETS SPICY
AROUND ME JUST
LIKE YOU DO.

HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED
THEN THAT THE
PROBLEM IS YOUR
BEHAVIOR?



NOW TELL
ME YOUR
STORY!

I'M SURPRISED
YOU CALLED ME
BACK SO FAST,
HONESTLY.

I WAS JUST
FINISHING UP
WRITING A SUMMARY
TEXT.

WELL,
I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT THE TYPE TO
CALL UNLESS IT'S
IMPORTANT SO...





JUST
PLEASE DON'T TELL
ME IT'S BECAUSE
VELIX IS BUGGING
YOU.





WHY WOULD
WE MAKE

VELIX BE
CONTACTING
ME?





THE KIND OF

I'VE KIND OF
BEEN AVOIDING
HIS CALLS...

SO MUCH
THAT HE'D GET
DESPERATE ENOUGH
TO REACH OUT TO
ME OF ALL
PEOPLE?

I DON'T KNOW...
IT'S BEEN A REALLY
CRAZY COUPLE OF
DAYS...





YEAH, WELL.
I SAW THE NEWS
SO... I GUESS I
GET WHY HE'D BE
FREAKING OUT.



THAT WHOLE
THING IS A LIE!
LACEY DIDN'T - I MEAN-
IT WAS SELF DEFENSE
HE'S NOT VIOLENT-





I KNOW.
I KNOW.

THE CONVERSATION
I HAD WITH LACEY IN
THE HALL WAS ENOUGH
FOR ME TO GATHER
THAT MUCH.

The image features three overlapping speech bubbles with black outlines and white interiors, set against a blurred background of blue library shelves filled with books. The top bubble is the smallest, the middle one is the largest, and the bottom one is medium-sized. Each bubble contains a line of text in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

BUT XADA...

YOU TOOK
HIM TO THE
HOSPITAL WHERE
PEOPLE KNOW
YOU...

YOU TOOK
HIM SHOPPING
IN A CROWDED
AREA...



IF ANYONE
REALIZES THEY
SAW HIM AND GO
TO THE POLICE AND
ALSO DESCRIBE
YOU-



I- I KNOW
I JUST NEVER
HAD TO WORRY
ABOUT THIS KIND
OF THING-
OKAY?

**I'M NOT
SNEAKY!**

MY ALIAS IS
JACKALOPE-



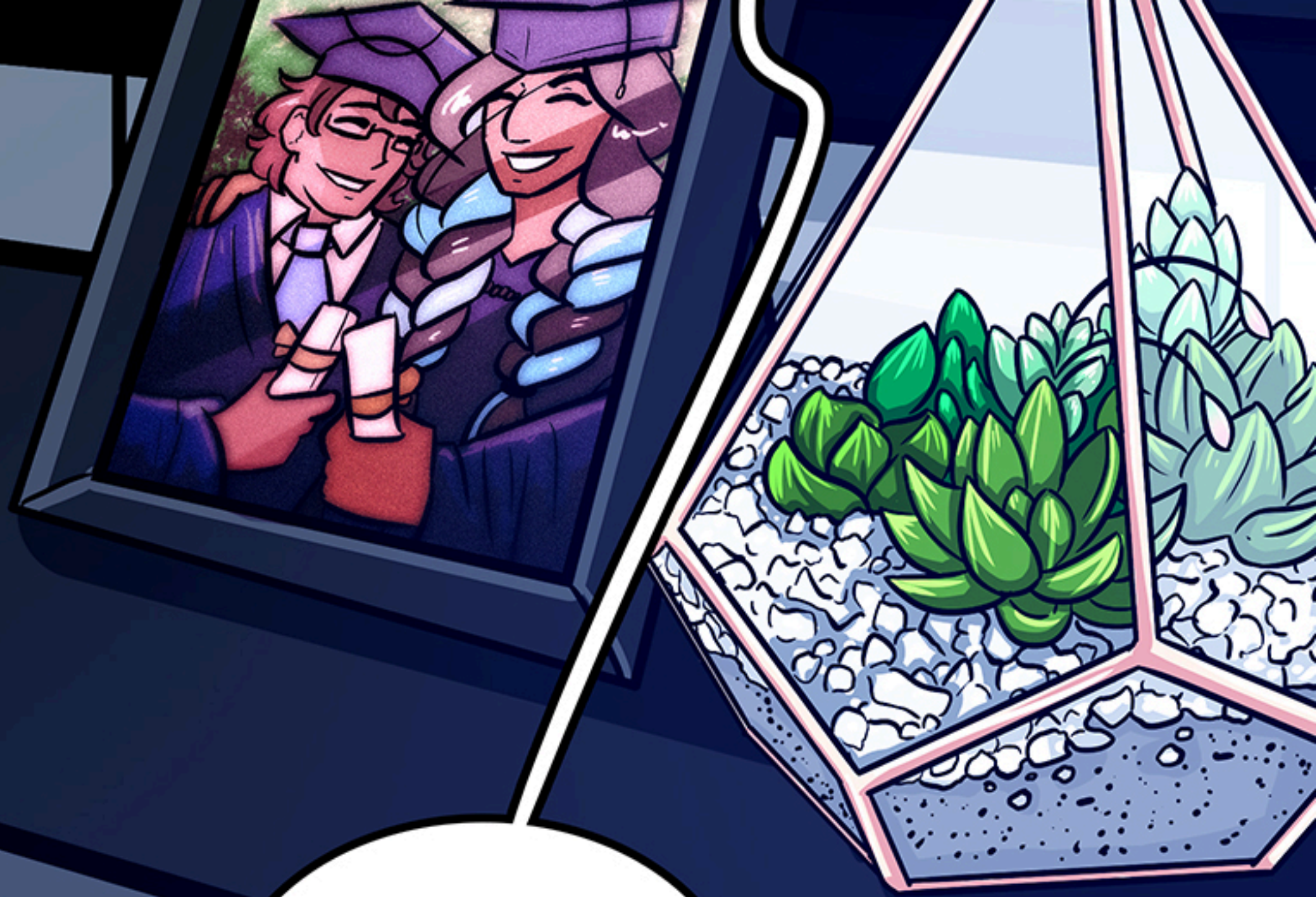


AND I
RUN AROUND
IN A JACKET
COVERED IN
JACKALOPEES!!

I KNOW A
LOT OF THINGS!
LIKE! A LOT!

BUT THIS
WHOLE SITUATION
IS A HUGE GRAY
AREA FOR ME!





**ROCKET
SCIENCE IS
EASIER THAN
THIS!**

I THOUGHT...

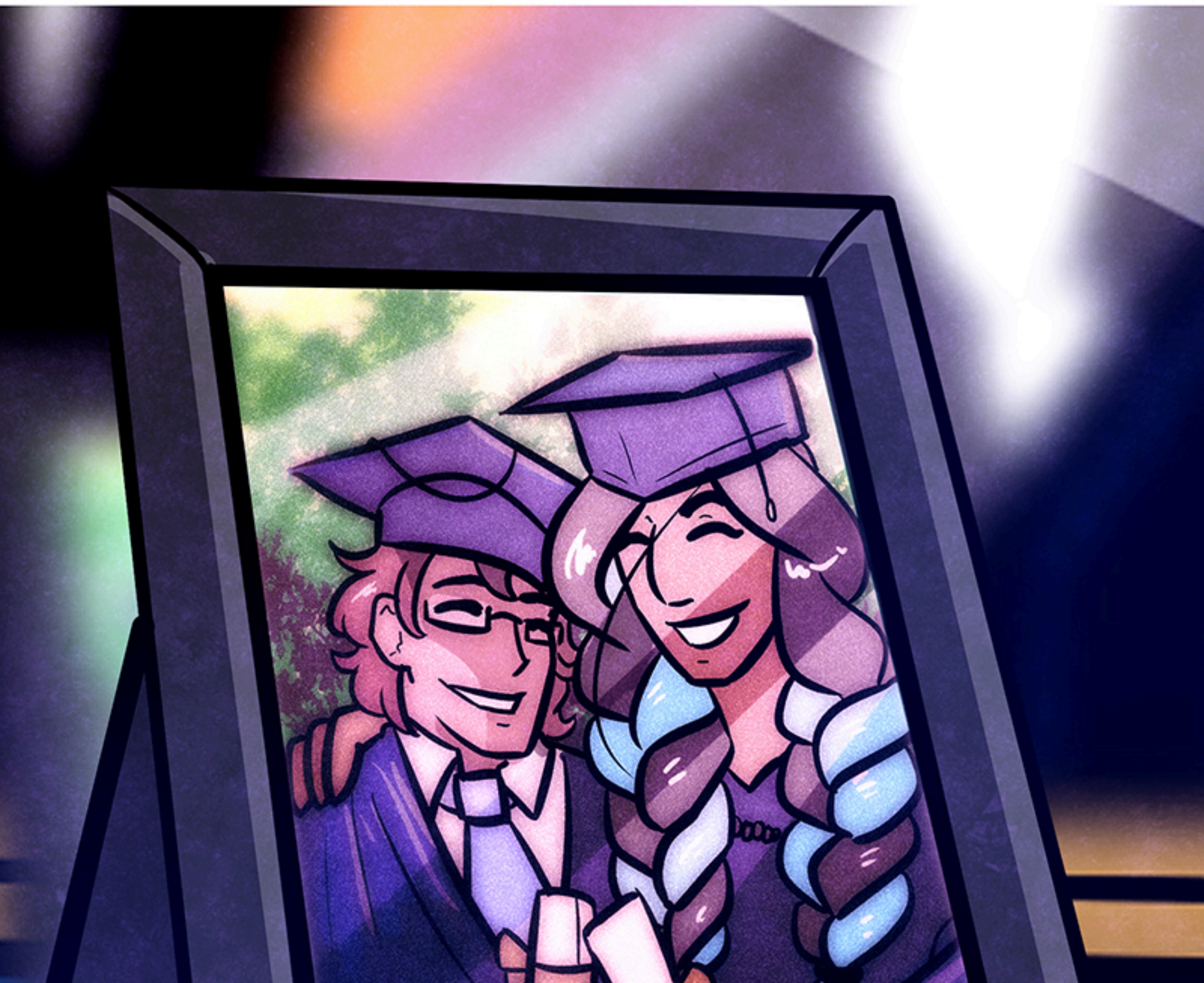
AT THE TIME I
THOUGHT THE ONLY
REAL PROBLEM WAS
THE ONE BIG GUY
CHASING US...





BUT THEN
HE TURNED OUT
TO BE AN ALLY
SO...

SO...
SHOWS WHAT
I KNOW...





I JUST...
I WANTED TO
HELP HIM.

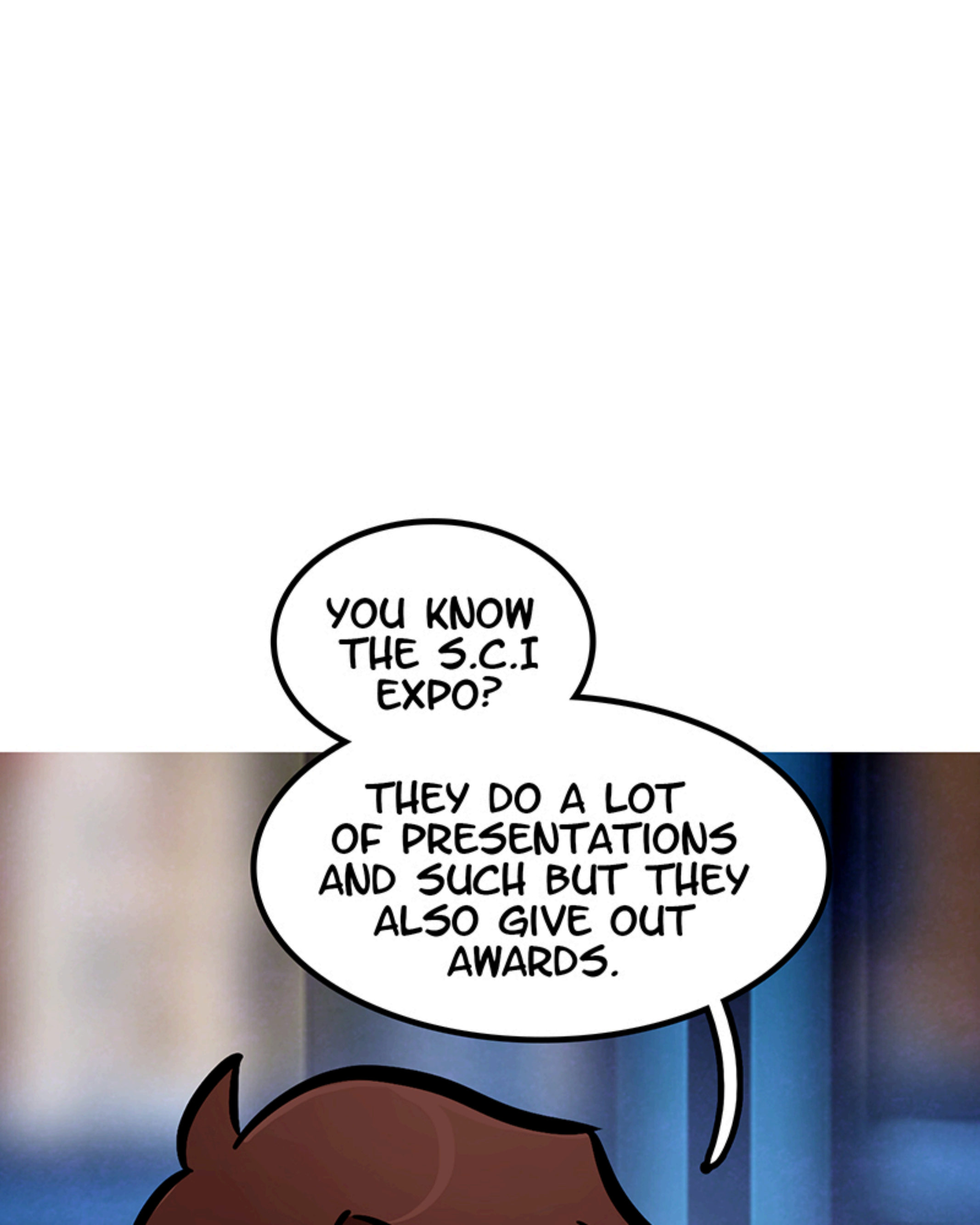
I WANT TO
HELP PEOPLE
AS MUCH AS I
CAN...



I KNOW
YOU DO...

AND IT
ACTUALLY BRINGS
ME TO THE MAIN
REASON WHY I WAS
CALLING...





YOU KNOW
THE S.C.I
EXPO?

THEY DO A LOT
OF PRESENTATIONS
AND SUCH BUT THEY
ALSO GIVE OUT
AWARDS.



FOR VARIOUS
THINGS - BUT ONE IS
FOR LIKE... HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS THROUGH SCIENCE

EFFORTS THROUGH SCIENCE
KNOWN AS THE "HUMAN
ADVANCEMENT AWARD".

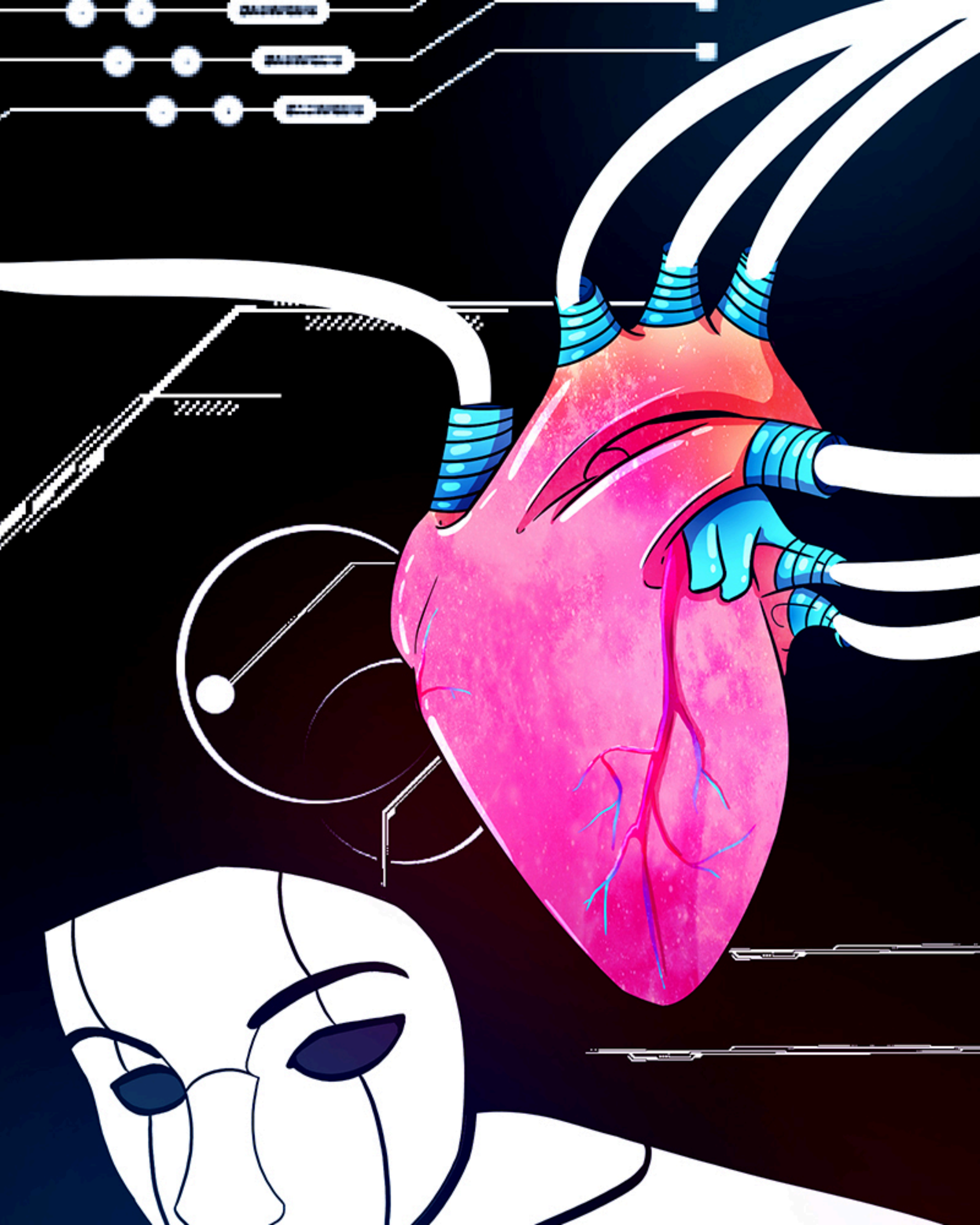
AND YOU
WON.





I SUBMITTED
YOUR NAME A FEW
MONTHS AGO-

WITH A
RECOMMENDATION
AND A LIST OF ALL
YOUR PROJECTS AND
WORK SINCE WE
GRADUATED FROM
TAU.





AND YOU GOT IT...
ALONG WITH AN ALL
EXPENSE PAID, FIRST
CLASS TRIP FOR YOU
AND A PLUS ONE.

IT HAPPENS

IT HAPPENS
IN A COUPLE
OF DAYS...

HAH...



HAHA...

HAHAHA
HAHAHA-





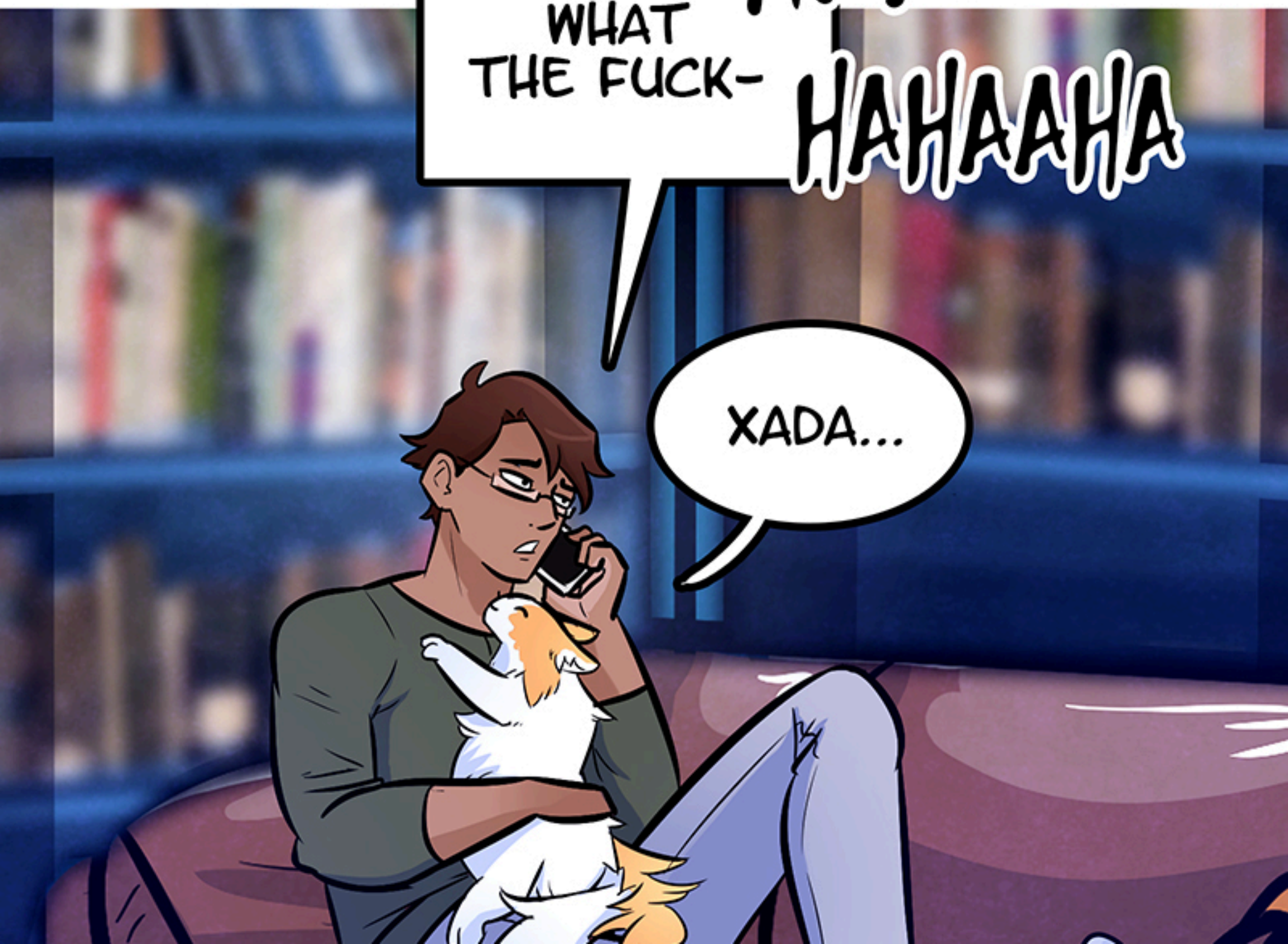
HAHA

HAHAHAHAHA

WHAT
THE FUCK-

HAHAHAHA

XADA...





I
KNOW THAT
IT'S SHORT
NOTICE...

LIKE I SAID
I SUBMITTED IT
A COUPLE MONTHS
AGO BEFORE...

ALL OF
THIS...





MY ORIGINAL
PLAN FOR IF YOU
WON WAS GOING
TO BE MORE...

UH...
GRAND THAN A
PHONE CALL
BUT...

THE SHORT
NOTICE ISN'T
THE PROBLEM-

IT'S THE
FACT THAT IT'S
FUNDED AND RUN BY
**ASTROBLEME
ENTERPRISES!**





YOU THINK
THEY DON'T GET
NEWS IN SPACE? THAT
CHARLES DALLAS WOULDN'T
HAVE SENT THE MEMO
UP THERE??

TO BE
HONEST-

THE ROBOTICS
BRANCH HERE IS
COMPARATIVELY SO
SMALL COMPARED TO
THE REST OF A.E...





I DON'T
THINK ANYONE IS
GOING TO RISK MAKING
A SCENE IF THEY
SEE LACEY AT
HEADQUARTERS.

DALLAS
ALREADY LOOKS
BAD ENOUGH.

AND JUST TO
BE SAFE...
I DUNNO. JUST
PUT HIM IN A
WIG.

A WIG...





AND I
MEAN...

I THINK
THIS IS IMPORTANT
SO IF YOU CAN'T
BRING HIM THEN...



HE CAN
COME TO MY
PLACE AND I CAN
WATCH HIM FOR
YOU.

DON'T SAY
THAT LIKE HE'S
A DOG-

THAT'S
NOT WHAT I
MEANT!!





BESIDES-
IF HE IS HIS OWN
PERSON LIKE YOU KEEP

PERSON LIKE YOU'RE
SAYING, YOU SHOULD
PROBABLY JUST ASK
HIM WHAT HE THINKS.



YEAH,
I KNOW, YOU'RE
RIGHT...

A comic panel with a white background and a blue, blurry background at the bottom. Two speech bubbles are present. The top bubble is smaller and contains the text "AND... THANK YOU, ERIK." The bottom bubble is larger and contains the text "THAT WAS REALLY SWEET OF YOU TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO PUT MY NAME IN...".

AND...
THANK YOU,
ERIK.

THAT WAS
REALLY SWEET OF
YOU TO GO OUT OF
YOUR WAY TO PUT
MY NAME IN...





YEAH YEAH...

JUST THOUGHT
YOU DESERVED
IT, THAT'S ALL.

AND I
REALLY APPRECIATE
BEING ABLE TO TALK
TO YOU ABOUT ALL
THIS IN GENERAL.





IT REALLY
HELPS A LOT TO
KNOW THAT YOU'RE
THERE EVEN IF I DON'T
ALWAYS REACH
OUT...



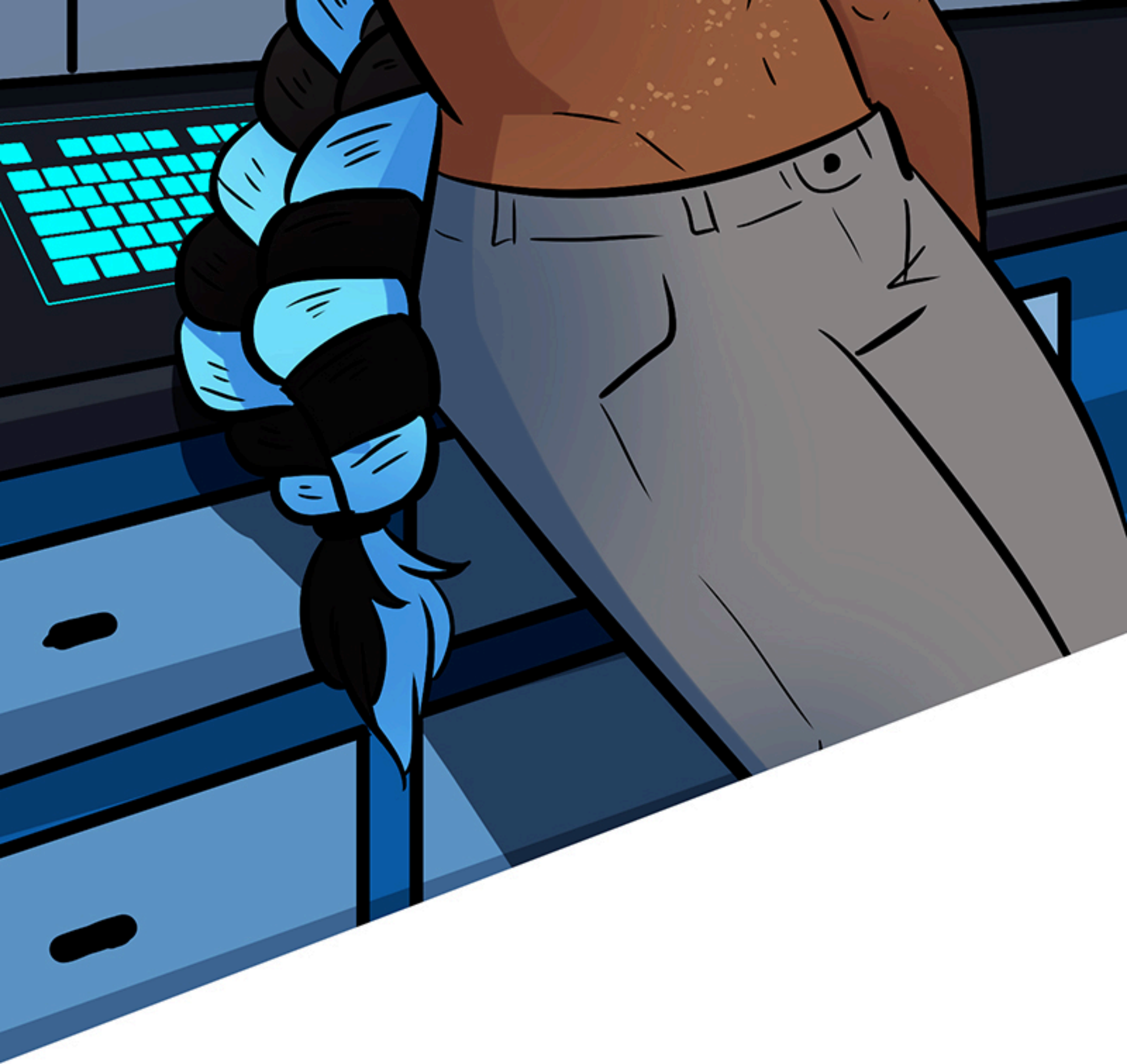
NO PROBLEM,
MAN. JUST TAKE
CARE OF YOURSELF
OKAY?

YEAH...

OH AND
UH... YEAH IF...
VELIX DOES REACH
OUT TO YOU JUST...
BE... GENTLE?

HM.





I'M
SERIOUS,
ERIK...

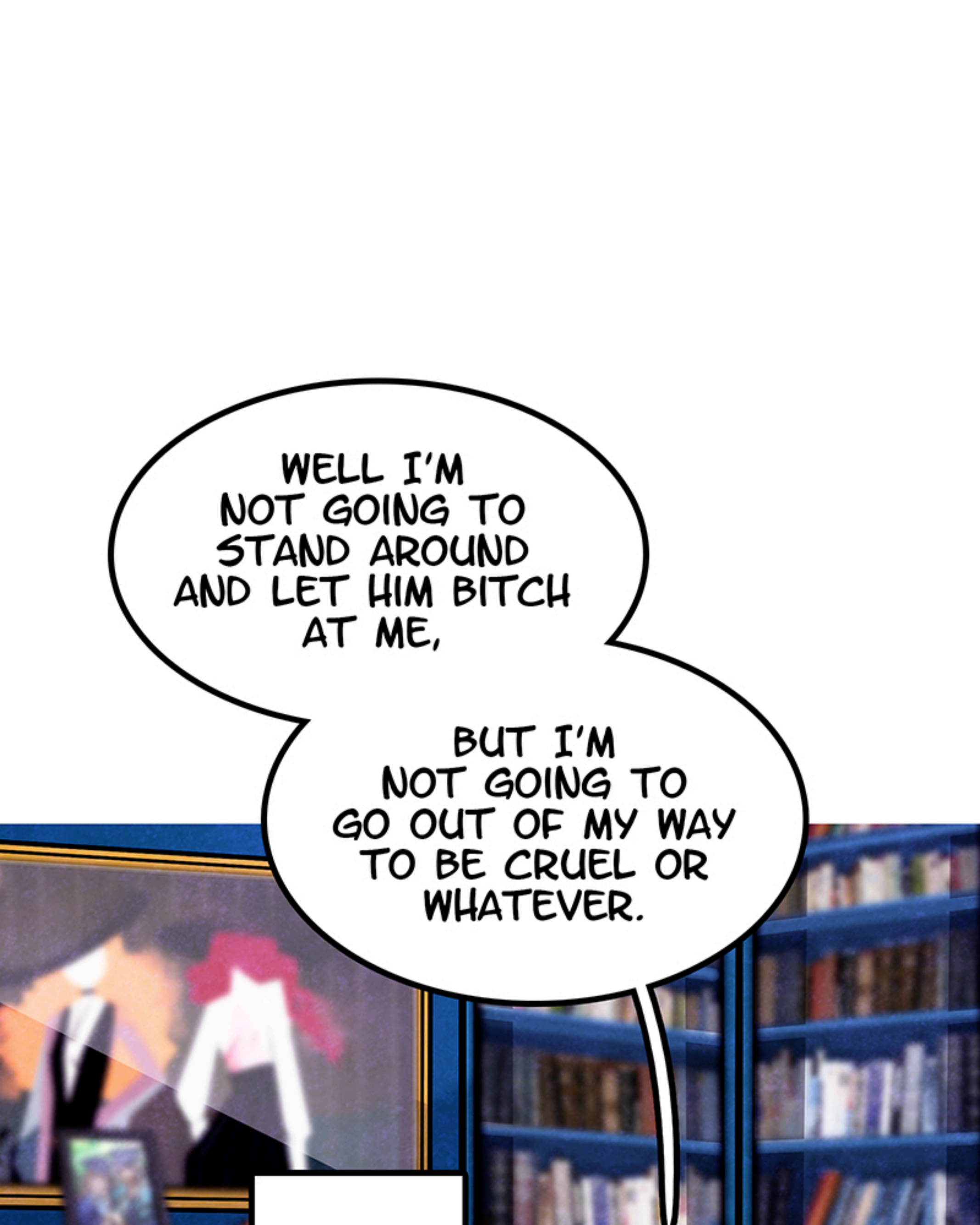




I DON'T
KNOW WHEN OR
IF I'LL EVER TALK
TO HIM AGAIN...

WE'VE NEVER
HAD A FIGHT
THIS BAD...

I JUST KNOW
HE'LL BE IN A
ROUGH SPOT FOR
A WHILE...

The background of the comic panel shows a library or bookstore. On the right, there are blue bookshelves filled with books. On the left, a person with long red hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest, is standing and looking towards the right. The scene is drawn in a classic comic book style with bold lines and a limited color palette.

WELL I'M
NOT GOING TO
STAND AROUND
AND LET HIM BITCH
AT ME,

BUT I'M
NOT GOING TO
GO OUT OF MY WAY
TO BE CRUEL OR
WHATEVER.

THANK
YOU.



I'LL FORWARD
ALL THE INFO AND
STUFF TO YOUR EMAIL
FOR TICKETS AND
SUCH.

AWESOME,
THANKS... TAKE
CARE, MAN.

YOU TOO,
XADA.

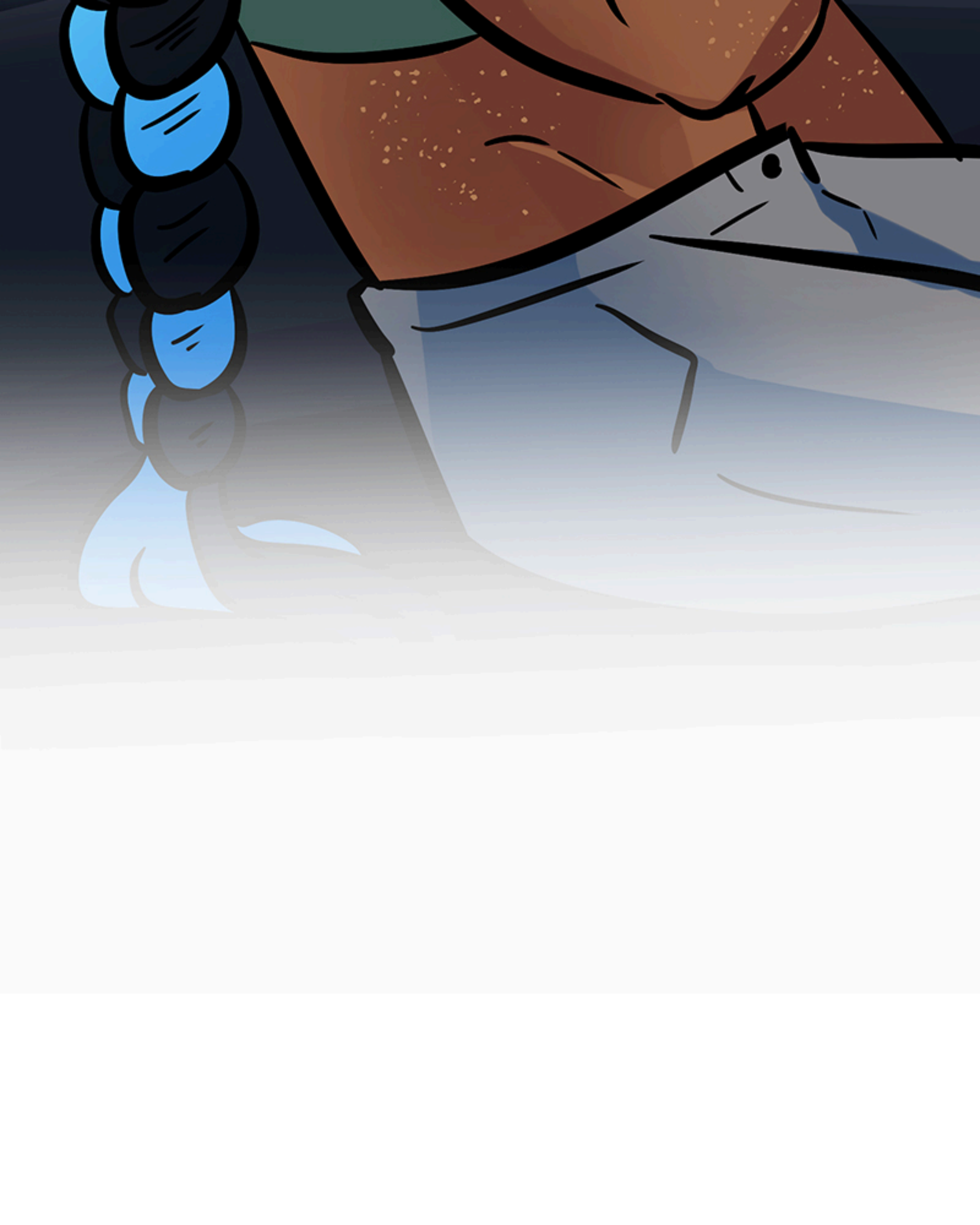


CLICK





HAH...







AN AWARD
HUH...

WELL... LIFE
COMES AT YOU
FAST, I GUESS.



I... REALLY
WANT TO GO
BUT...



XADA!



BRIZZ TOLD
ME HIS WHOLE
BACKSTORY, THEN
WE TURNED ON THE
TV AND SHE WAS
THERE!





IF SHE
HAS ALL THE
ANSWERS
THEN-

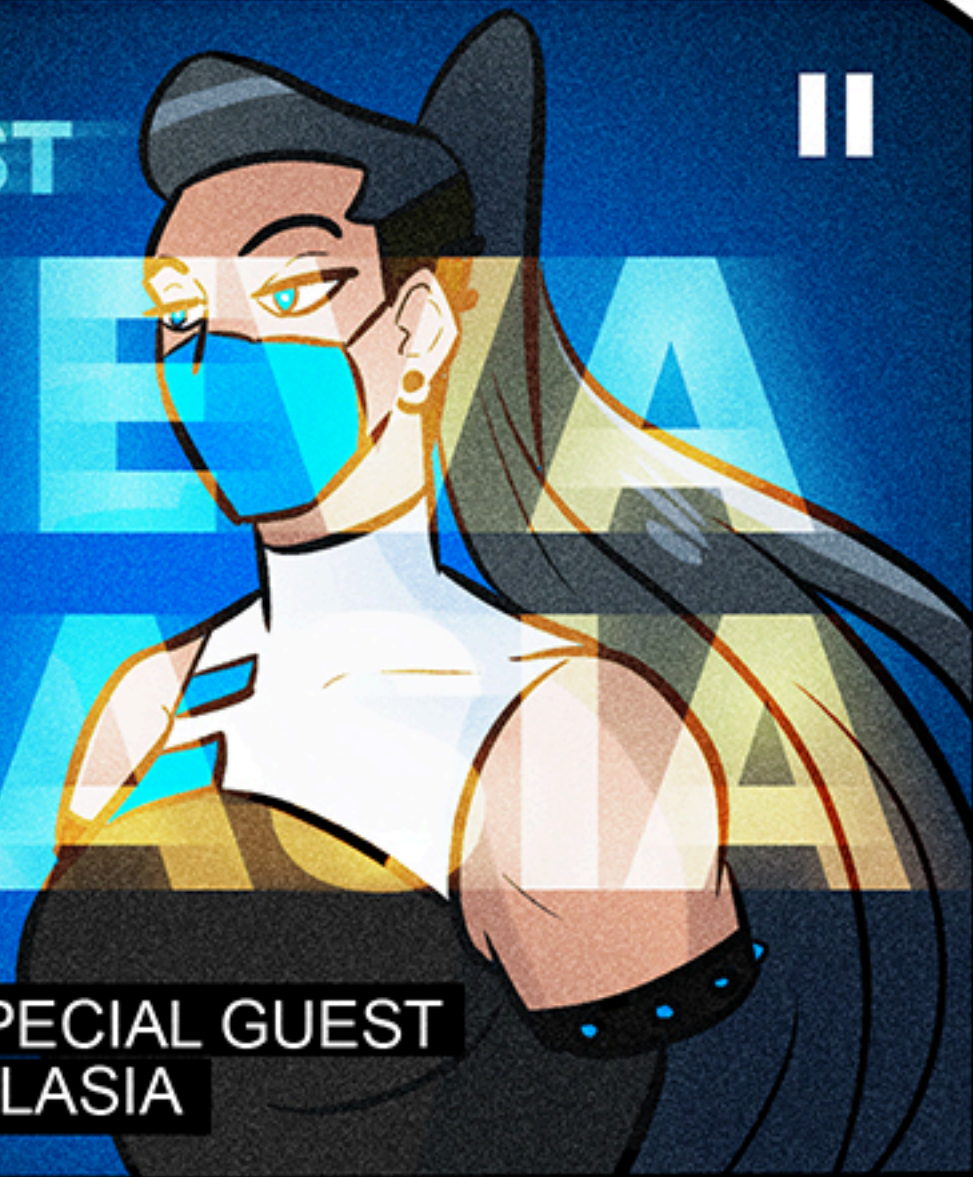
SPECIAL GUEST



DR. EVA

VALASIA

>>INCLUDING SPECIAL GUEST
DOCTOR EVA VALASIA





I THINK
WE SHOULD
FIND A WAY TO
GET TO THAT
EXPO!

AH—





...WHAT'S
YOUR OPINION
ON WIGS?

I LOVE ROBOTS

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