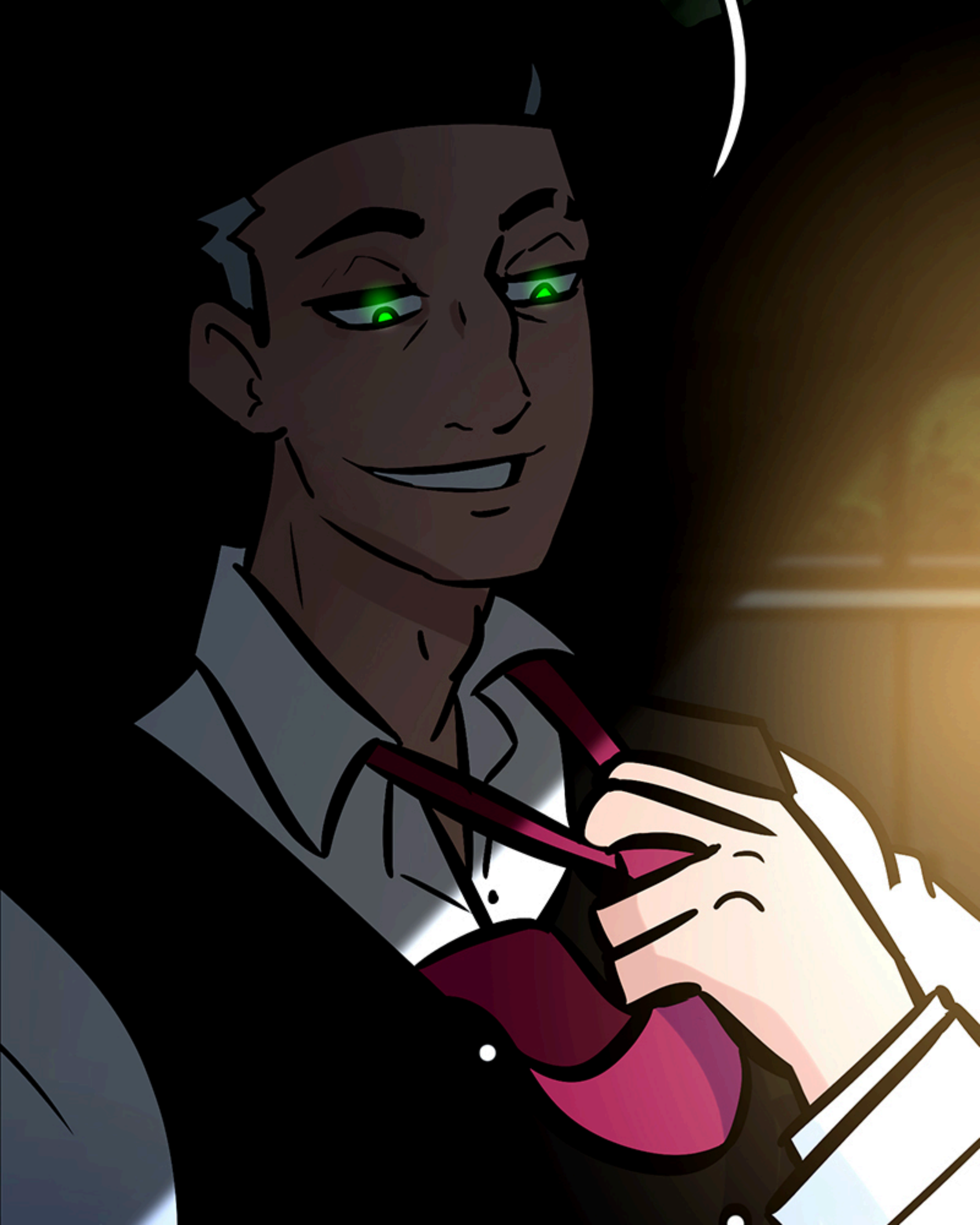
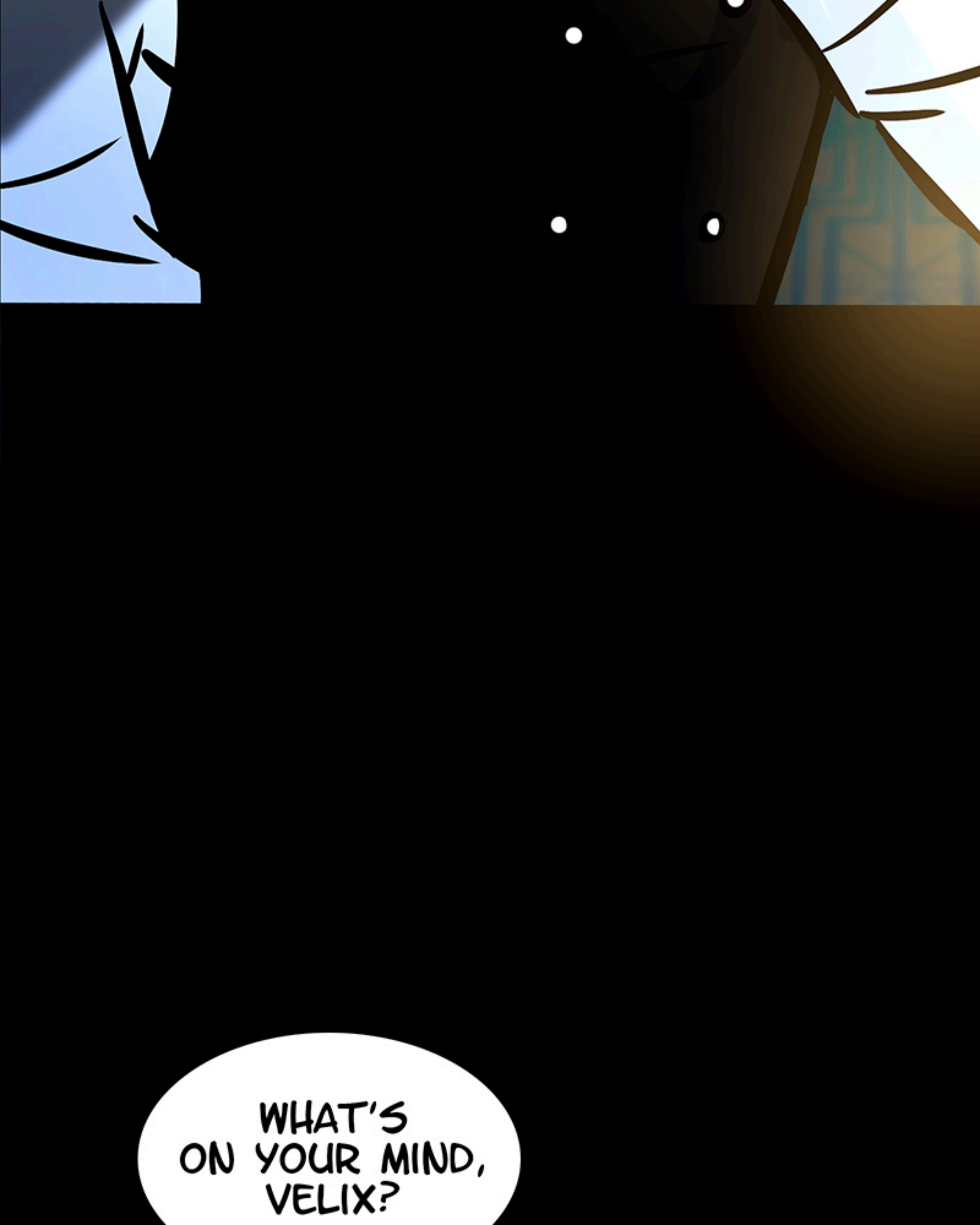




WE TALKED
ABOUT THIS.

CALL ME
CHARLES.





WHAT'S
ON YOUR MIND,
VELIX?

I...UH.
WELL...

IT'S JUST...
A LOT OF
STUFF...





WAIT WHAT
IS HAPPENING?

AM I NOT
IN TROUBLE?





DID NO ONE
REPORT ME FOR
HOW OUT OF IT I'VE
BEEN ALL DAY?? AFTER
YELLING IN THE
LOBBY?



MY, MY...

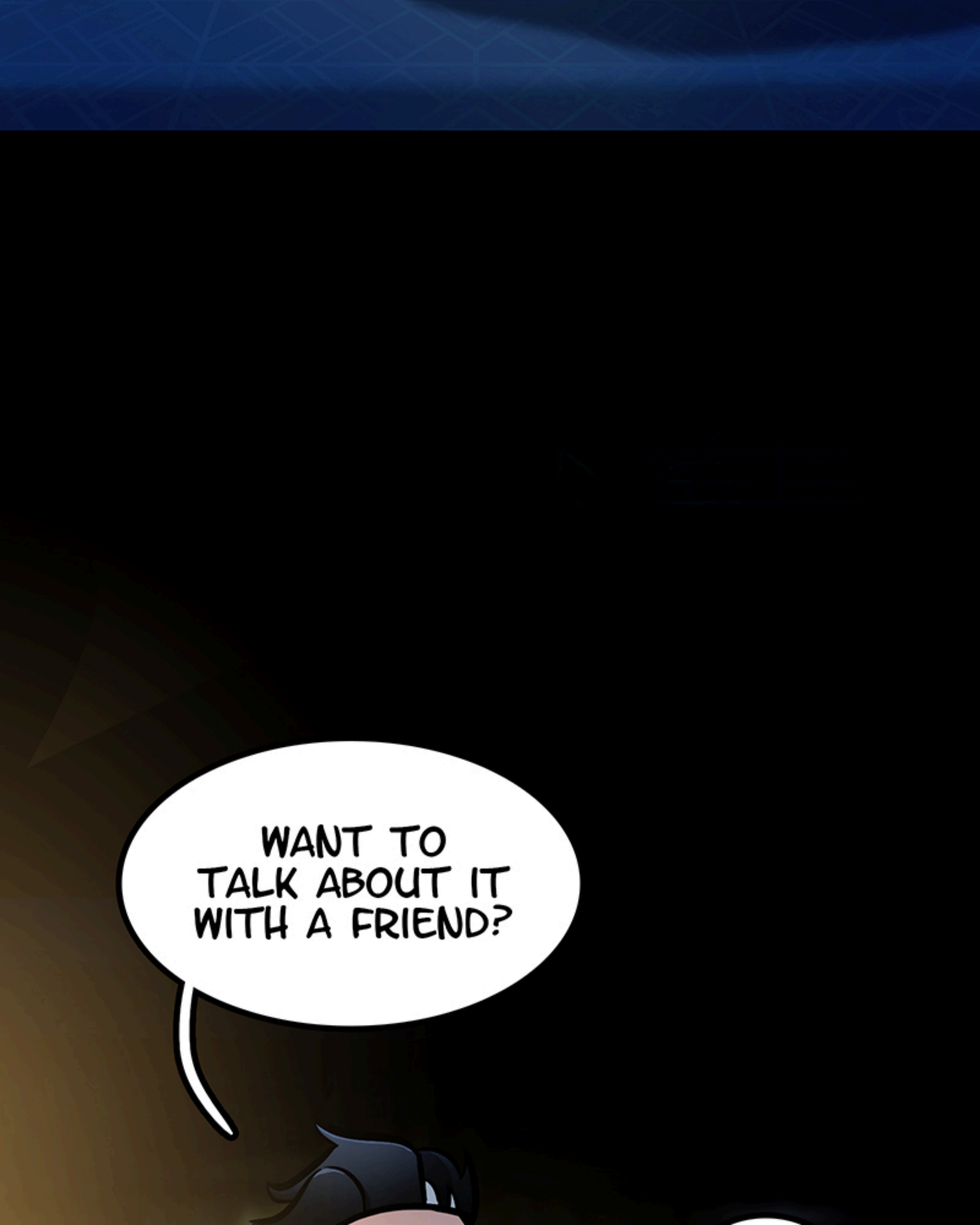
YOU'RE
LOOKING A LITTLE
WORSE FOR WEAR,
IF YOU DON'T MIND
ME SAYING.





LOOKS LIKE
WE'VE BOTH HAD
TRYING DAYS...

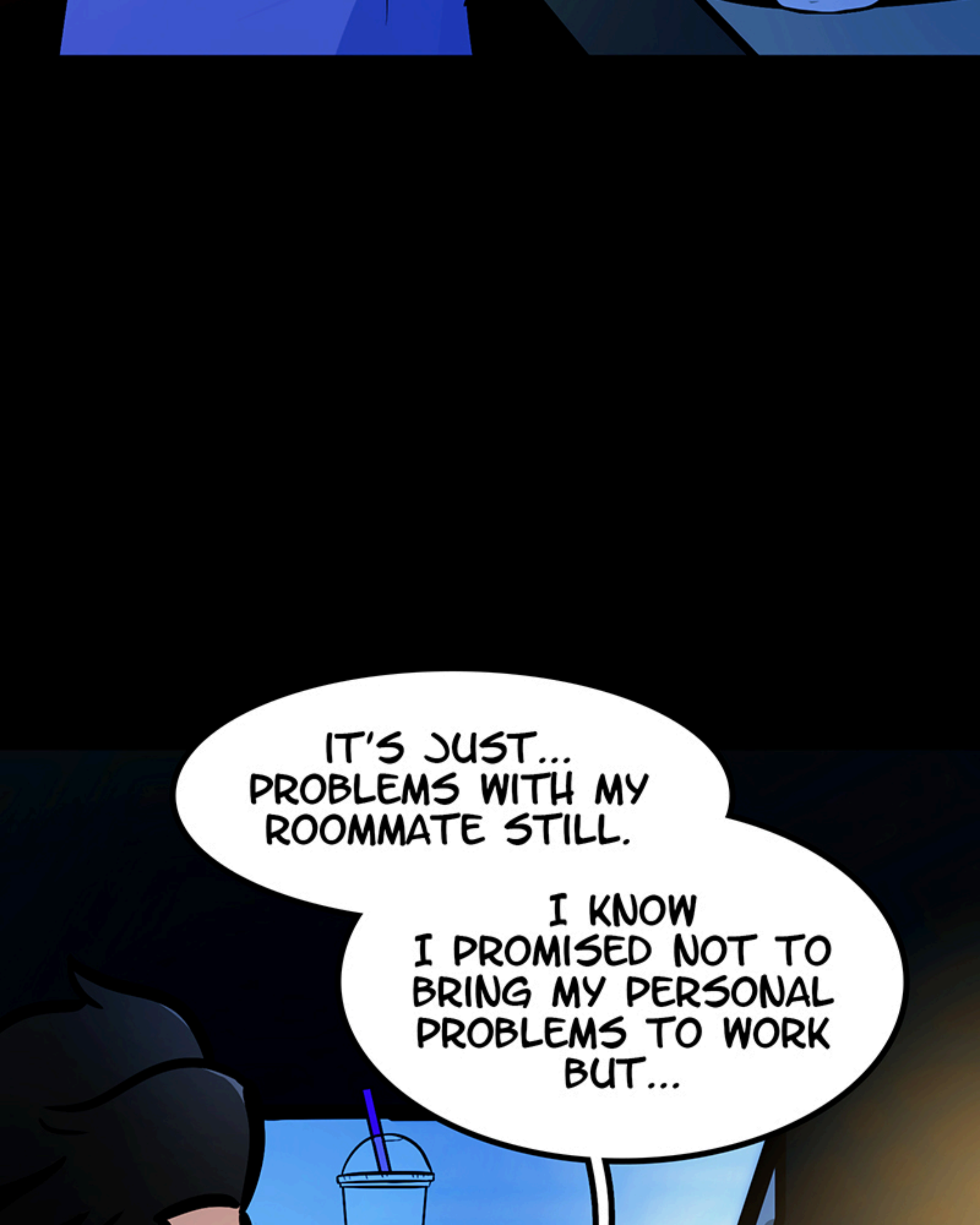
AH-



WANT TO
TALK ABOUT IT
WITH A FRIEND?



I...



IT'S JUST...
PROBLEMS WITH MY
ROOMMATE STILL.

I KNOW
I PROMISED NOT TO
BRING MY PERSONAL
PROBLEMS TO WORK
BUT...



A comic panel featuring a dark, shadowed area under a blue structure. A speech bubble is positioned in the lower center, containing the text "THINGS GOT WAY WORSE THE OTHER NIGHT...". The background is a gradient of blue and black, suggesting a night scene. The top of the panel shows the blue structure and some dark, shadowed areas. The bottom of the panel shows a light blue area, possibly a floor or a wall.

THINGS GOT
WAY WORSE THE
OTHER NIGHT...



AND WHEN I
GOT TO WORK
AND HE SENT
ME A TEXT ...

SAYING
THAT HE'S GOING
TO MOVE OUT AND
HE DOESN'T WANT
TO SEE ME
ANYMORE

ANYMORE.

Flip





AND I
JUST... I JUST
WANT TO FIX
IT...



HE
WAS THE FIRST

FRIEND I HAD THAT
DIDN'T CARE ABOUT
MY DAD'S MONEY.

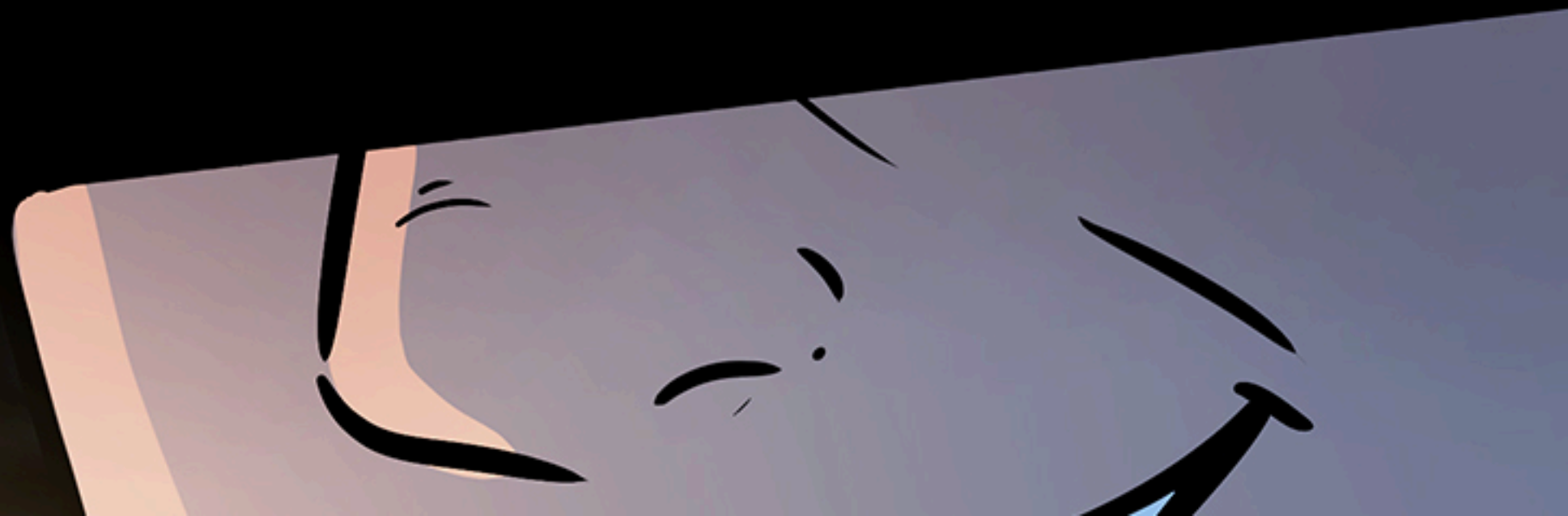
I DON'T...
REALLY HAVE ANY
OTHER CLOSE FRIENDS
THAT REALLY CARE ABOUT
ME AS A PERSON SO...



YOU REALLY
THINK I'M STUPID.

DON'T YOU...

ALL OF YOU...
THINK I'M SO BLIND JUST
BECAUSE I DON'T ACT
WITHOUT PROOF...



A close-up, stylized illustration of a character's face. The character has light blue eyes, a small orange mark on the forehead, and a slight smile. The background is dark and textured. The word "CLENCH" is written in white, hand-drawn capital letters on the left side of the face.

CLENCH

SCURRYING
AROUND. LYING.
PLOTTING.

WORMS.

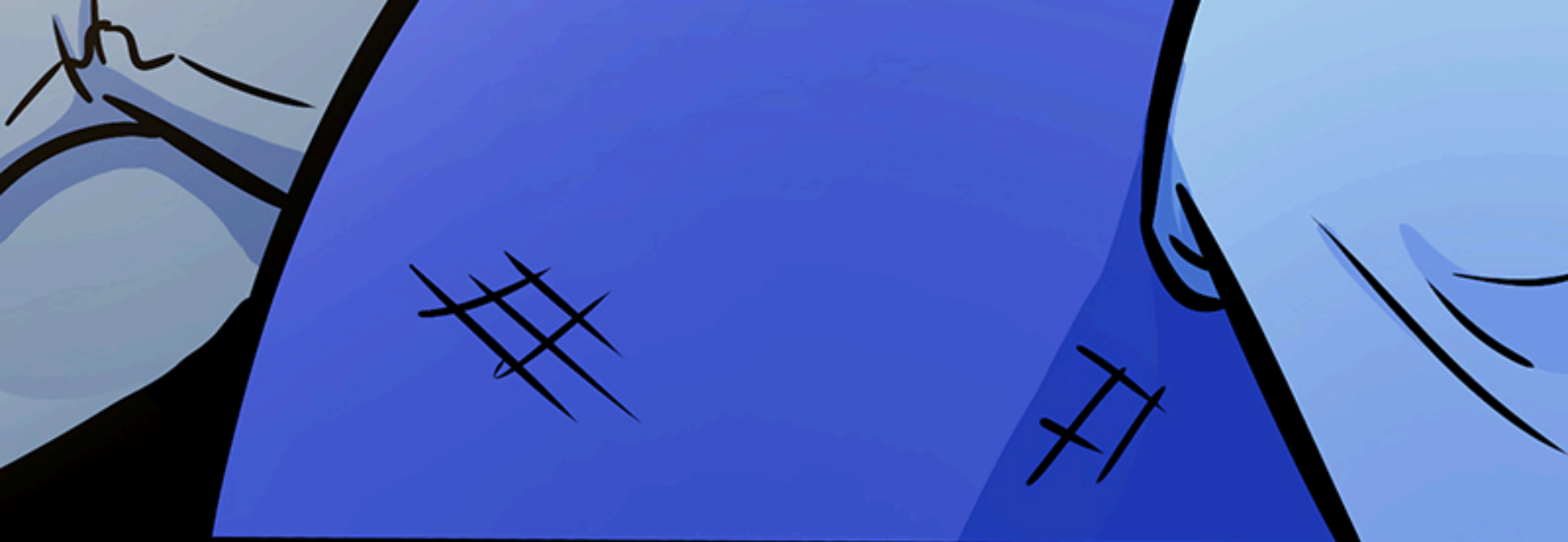
FLEX





AAH...THAT'S
A SHAME... IT'S HARD
TO FIND PEOPLE THAT
UNDERSTAND WHO YOU
REALLY ARE AND ACCEPT
IT COMPLETELY,
HUH?





WHAT DO
YOU PLAN ON
DOING?

I...



#

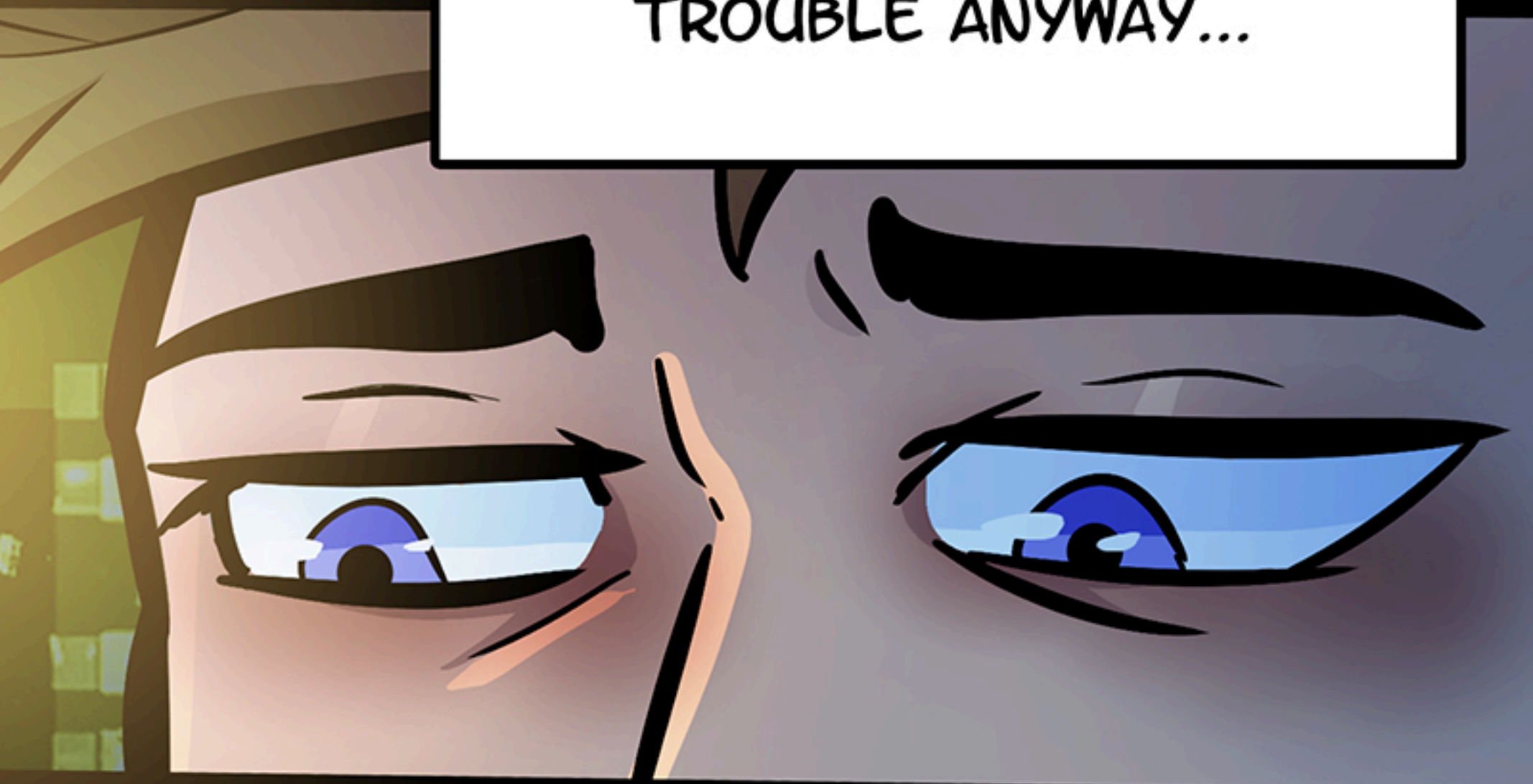
The background of the comic panel is split horizontally. The top half is a light blue sky with a dark blue, jagged shape on the right side, possibly representing a mountain or a building. The bottom half is a solid black ground.

I HADN'T
GOTTEN TO
THAT YET.

THERE IS
NO POINT IN
TELLING HIM ABOUT
THAT BOT...

HE LEFT. HE'S GONE.

AND BRINGING HIM UP
WOULD JUST GET XADA IN
TROUBLE ANYWAY...



IS THERE
ANYTHING THAT
I EVEN CAN
DO?

PUSHING
HIM IS CLEARLY
ONLY MAKING IT WORSE
AND I SAY SO MANY
THINGS WITHOUT THINKING
THAT I CAN'T TAKE
BACK...







BUT IF
I DON'T... IF I
JUST STOP MESSAGING
HIM ALL TOGETHER
THEN...

HE'S JUST
GOING TO FORGET
ME...

HE WON'T
MISS ME AT ALL,
HE'LL JUST LEAVE
ME BEHIND-

HE JUST-
HE LEFT- IT WAS SO
EASY FOR HIM TO
LEAVE ME-





I ALWAYS
THOUGHT WE WERE
WALKING TOGETHER IN
THIS FRIENDSHIP...





BUT AT
SOME POINT I GUESS...
IT BECAME ME DRAGGING
HIM ALONG AND I...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHY
WE CAN'T FIX
IT-



A comic book style illustration featuring a dark, textured background with a city skyline visible at the top and bottom. A large, white, irregular speech bubble is positioned in the center, containing two lines of text.

I'M TRYING-
I'M TRYING SO HARD.
BUT HE ACTS LIKE I'M
NOT DOING ANYTHING-

WHEN
I'M PULLING
ALL THE
WEIGHT!





HE'S THE BEST
PERSON THAT I KNOW,
HE'S A GOOD PERSON...
BUT HE LOOKED AT ME
WITH SO MUCH ...
DISAPPOINTMENT...



WHAT
DOES THAT
MAKE ME?



I CAN'T MAKE
YOU UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU SHOULD
CARE ABOUT THE
WELL-BEING OF OTHER
PEOPLE...



REGARDLESS
OF HOW WELL YOU
PERSONALLY KNOW
THEM...

I'M NOT-

I'M NOT
A MONSTER! JUST
BECAUSE I DON'T CARE
ABOUT **EVERYONE** DOESN'T
MEAN THAT I DON'T
CARE AT ALL!





HE CARES
SO MUCH ABOUT
SO MANY THINGS...
EXCEPT FOR ME...
WHY NOT ME?

AM I THAT
BAD OF A PERSON?
IF HE THINKS SO THEN
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT...



OH...
THERE,
THERE...

CLEAN
YOURSELF
UP, VELIX.



YOU
BUSTED YOUR
BALLS FOR YOUR
FRIEND, DIDN'T
YOU?





YOU PUT SO
MUCH EFFORT AND

CONCERN INTO HIS
WELLBEING AND
SAFETY...

AND THIS IS
HOW HE REPAYS
YOUR LOVE?

HM...





WHAT DO
YOU THINK...

SHOULD I
DRIVE YOU TO
SEE HIM SO THAT
YOU CAN HASH
THIS OUT?

HUH??





NO NO-
I COULDN'T
LET YOU DO
THAT-

YOU'VE BEEN
SO SWEET TALKING
TO ME WHILE I'M A
MESS LIKE THIS-

I DON'T NEED
YOU TO SEE ME
AS *MORE* OF A
WRECK.





BESIDES,
I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE



KNOW WHERE
HE IS...

REALLY?

NO IDEAS
AT ALL?

A comic panel with a dark background featuring a city skyline at night with glowing windows. Two speech bubbles are present. The first speech bubble on the left contains the text "WELL I-". The second speech bubble on the right contains the text "YOU POOR THING. HE'S REALLY RUN YOU RAGGED, HASN'T HE?". At the bottom center, the top of a character's head with brown hair is visible.

WELL I-

YOU POOR
THING. HE'S REALLY
RUN YOU RAGGED,
HASN'T HE?





LET'S
LEAVE.

HAVE DINNER
WITH ME.



THIS GUY IS...
A CEO BUT ALSO
A BORDERLINE
CELEBRITY...

SO MANY
TECH BROS GET OFF
TO THE MERE THOUGHT OF
HAVING ONE CONVERSATION

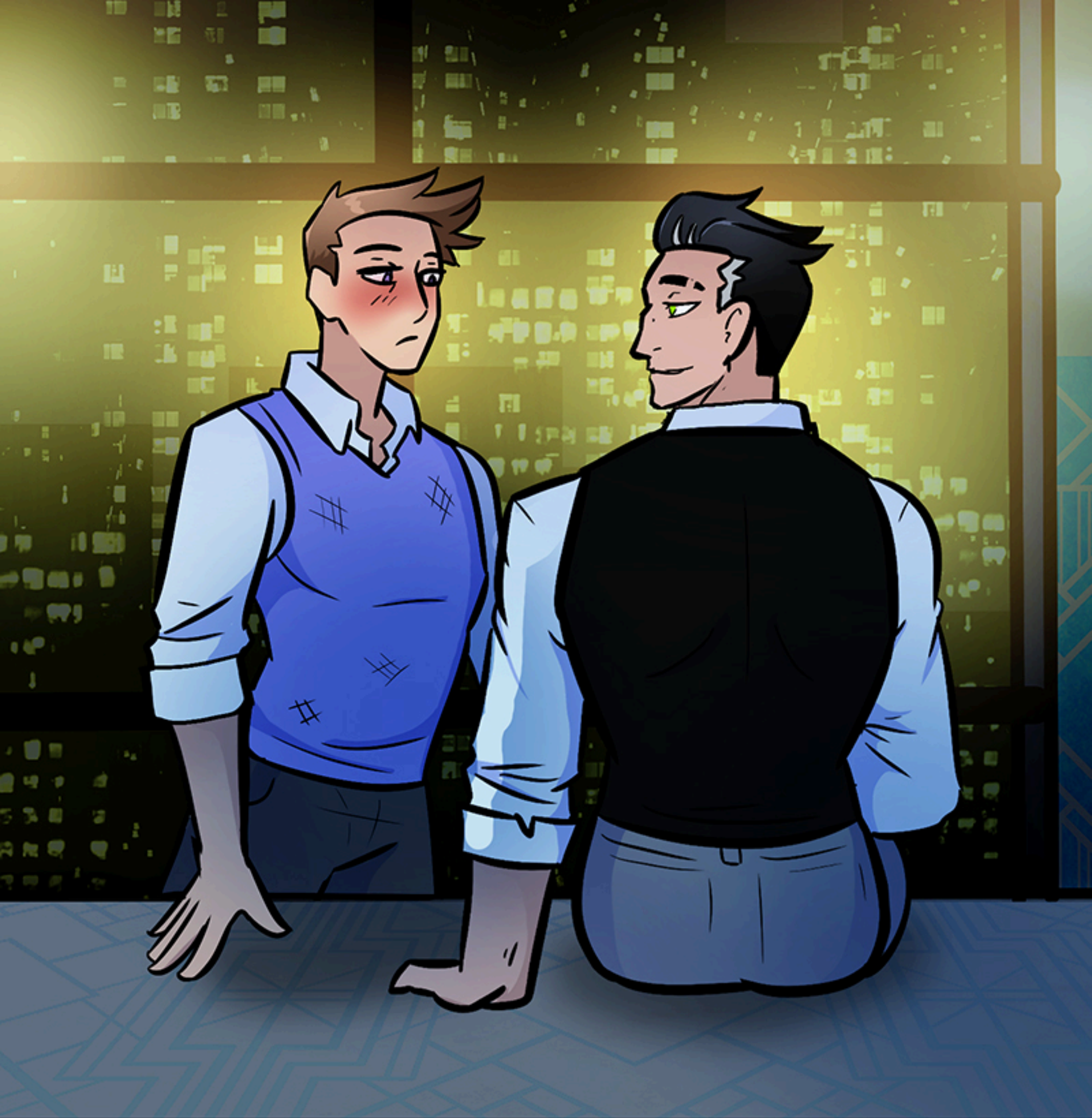
HAVING ONE CONVERSATION
WITH HIM.



O-O-KAY...



BUT HE'S
SO NICE TO
ME...





... WHY? HE HAS
MORE POWER AND
INFLUENCE THAN
I DO...

SO WHAT
DO I HAVE TO
OFFER HIM?



HOW DID WE
EVEN END UP
HERE...

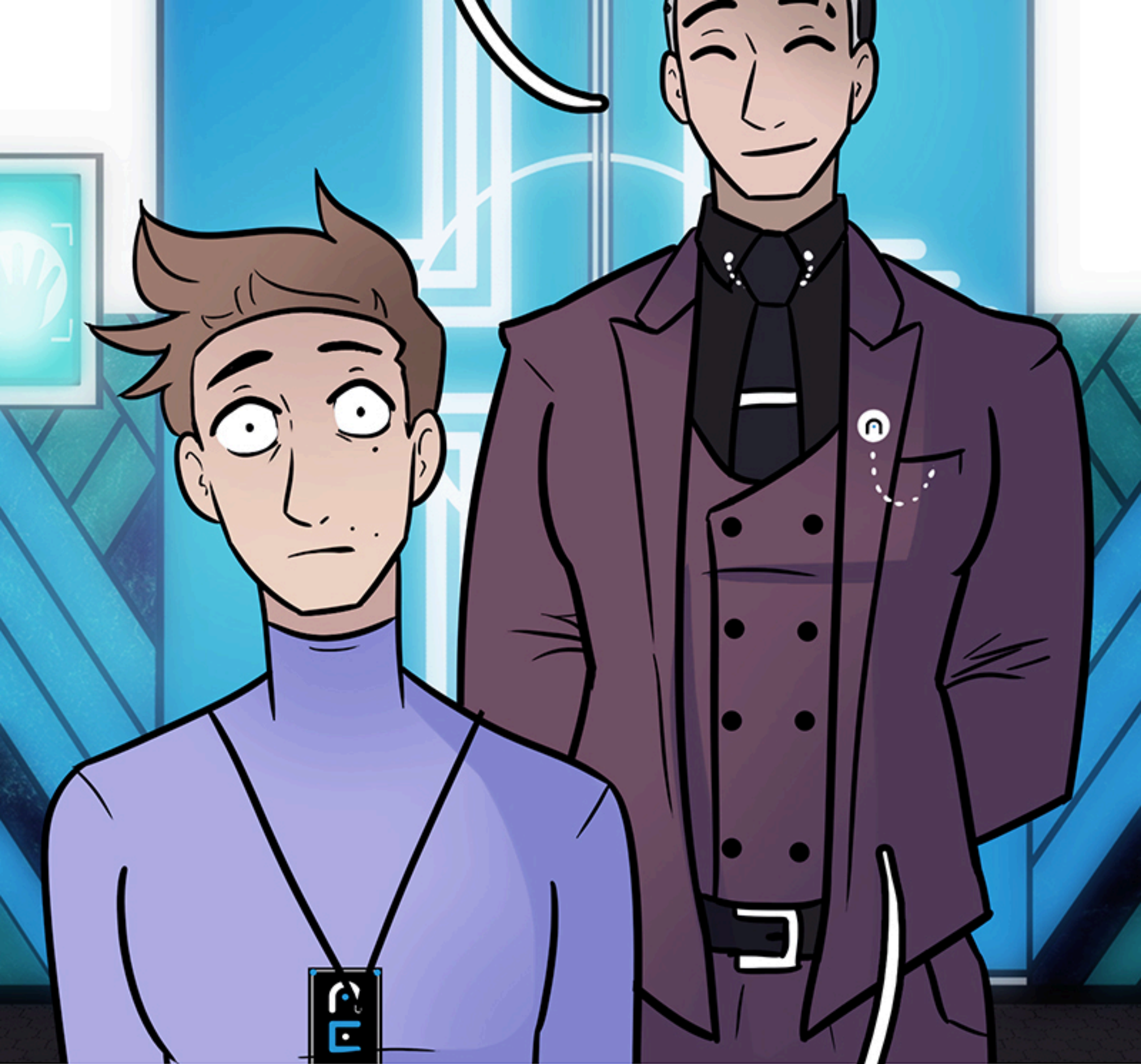
WE ONLY

STARTED TALKING
AFTER...

HE'D BEEN
DRINKING.

HIT HIS
HEAD AND THEN
CAME IN TO YELL
AT ME FOR ALL OF
HIS GREVIENCES.



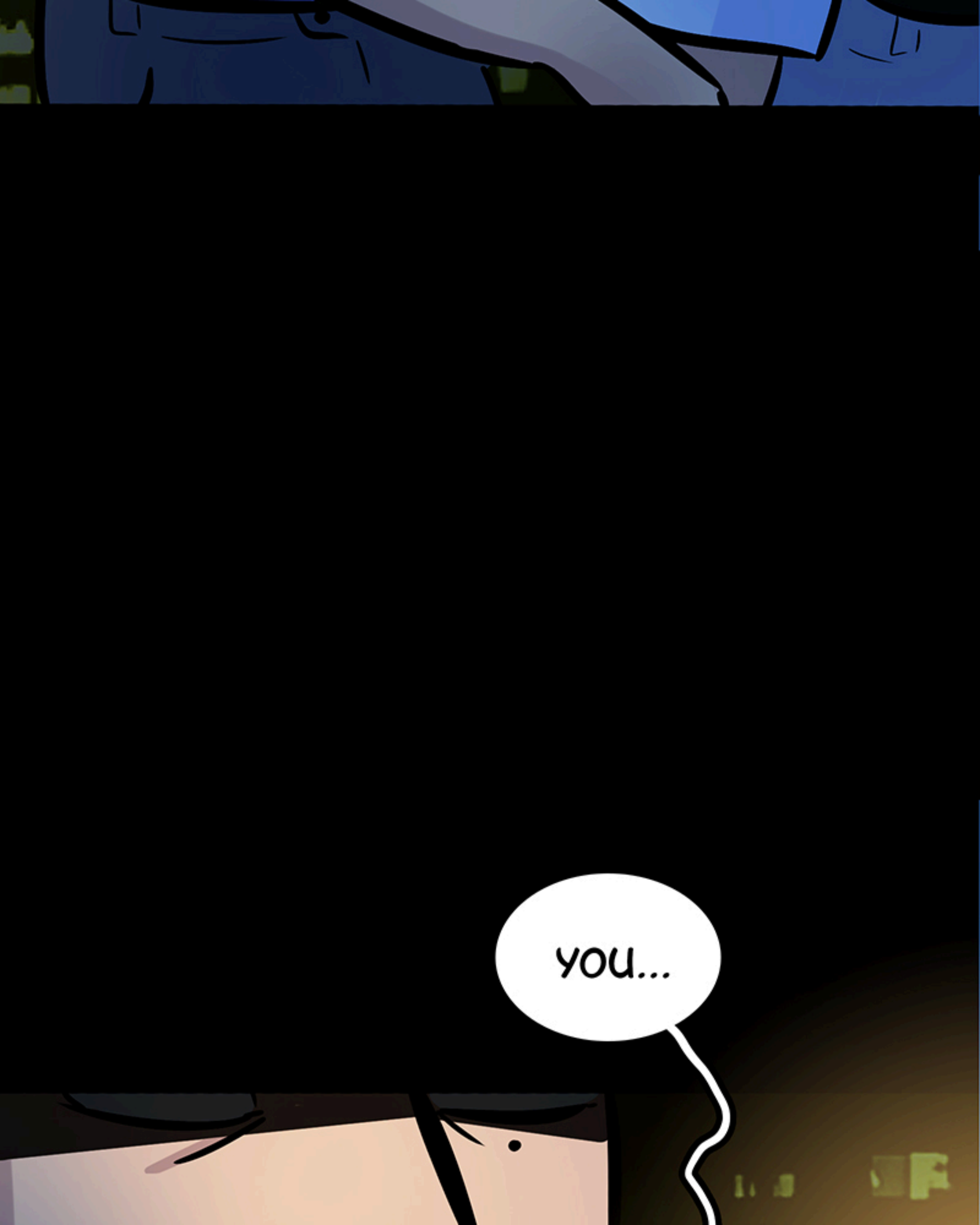


KIND OF
EMBARASSING
REALLY...



....YES?





you...



LIED TO
ME...





YOU SAID
MICHAEL MASTERS
WAS DRINKING AND
HURT HIMSELF...



CHARLES-

WHY DID
YOU LIE TO
ME??





LOVEBOTS

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Character shading Assistant > scrapaporn

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