



BECAUSE
I THINK YOU'RE
ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE
OF REPEATING A LOT
OF THEM.





REPEATING??

BUT YOU
WERE JUST SAYING
THAT VELIX WAS THE
MAIN ISSUE-

AND HE
ISN'T AROUND
ANYMORE!



FOR NOW.

I WAS
COMPLETELY
BLIND TO HOW VELIX
WAS ACTING WHEN WE
WERE IN COLLEGE-

BUT
AFTER HE TRIED
TO ASK ME OUT THE
CRACKS STARTED
TO SHOW-





WHEN I WAS
DATING WEREWOLF I
KEPT MY DISTANCE -
I NEVER BROUGHT HIM
TO THE APARTMENT
AND I KEPT IT
CASUAL-

BECAUSE
A PART OF ME
WAS TERRIFIED
THAT THE SAME
THING WOULD HAPPEN
AS WITH YOU-

AND
IT DID.



NO!! HE SAID
HE WAS WANTING
SOMETHING MORE
SERIOUS THAT I
COULDN'T DO AT THE
TIME SO IT WAS
MUTUAL-

XADA
THAT'S-





THAT'S
THE SAME THING!
THAT'S THE SAME
PROBLEM!

HOW!?





HOW IS
EVERYTHING
GOING HERE?

WHAT??

MAY I
INTEREST YOU
TWO IN OUR HOUSE
WINE?

SURE.
YES PLEASE.









THE PROBLEM
ISN'T VELIX... IT
IS YOUR *RESPONSE*
TO VELIX.





PEOPLE
LIKE VELIX
THRIVE ON YOUR
DESIRE TO MAKE
PEOPLE HAPPY.

MAYBE
HE'D BE BETTER
IF YOU EXPLAINED
THAT TO HIM. BUT
YOU DON'T.

BECAUSE
THAT WOULD
MEAN MAKING
HIM UPSET,
WHICH YOU
AVOID.



AND THAT
COMES AT THE
EXPENSE OF
YOURSELF AND
ANYTHING YOU
DESIRE.

IT CAME AT
MY EXPENSE, AND
WEREWOLF'S. AND IF YOU
DON'T ADDRESS THIS,
IT WILL HAPPEN WITH
LACEY.





I DON'T
BELIEVE FOR ONE
FUCKING SECOND THAT
WEREWOLF ACTUALLY
WANTED TO BREAK
UP WITH YOU.

BUT BECAUSE
YOU KNEW THAT
BEING SERIOUS WITH HIM
WOULD MEAN UPSETTING
VELIX - YOU BROKE
IT OFF.



IT'S THE
SAME REASON WHY
WE BROKE UP.

WHEN IT WAS
BETWEEN VELIX
AND SOMEONE
ELSE...

YOU WENT
WITH WHAT YOU
PERCIEVED TO BE THE
LEAST DAMAGING
OPTION.

I DIDN'T
CLARIFY MY
FEELINGS, SO
FROM WHAT YOU
KNEW, IT HURT
ME LESS.



AND THAT'S
WHERE LACEY
COMES IN.



"XADA'S HAPPINESS
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
MY GOAL."





BUT YOU
SAID IT WAS
GOOD THAT HE
DIDN'T PICK A FIGHT
ABOUT GOING TO
DINNER-

HOLD ON-
A LOT OF THINGS
CAN BE TRUE AT
THE **SAME TIME.**



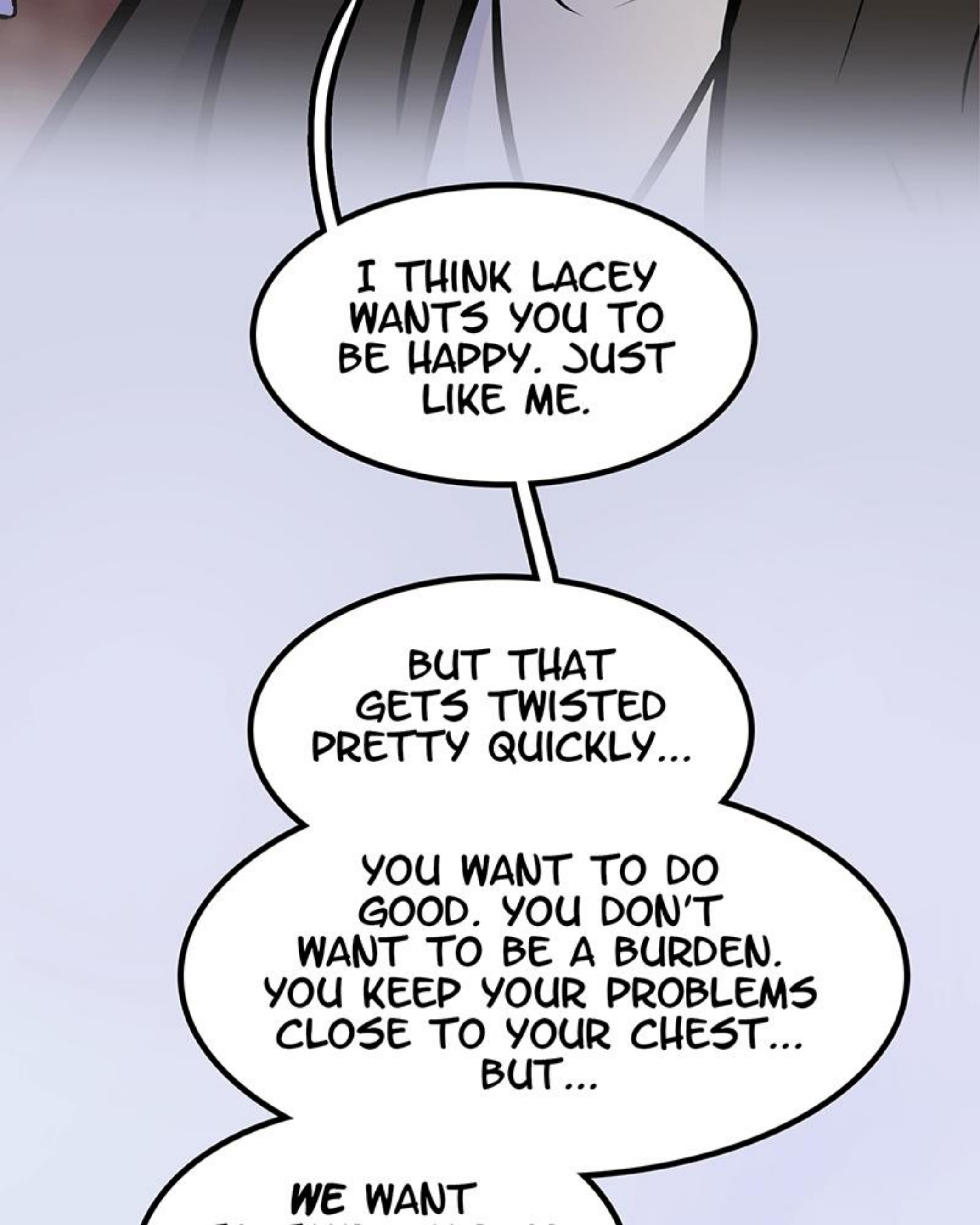


LACEY SHOULD
NOT BE OVERLY
POSSESSIVE OF
YOUR TIME...

BUT IN
GENERAL, HE
SHOULD ALSO FEEL
LIKE HE CAN EXPRESS
WHEN THINGS UPSET

HIM AND THAT YOU
WILL LISTEN. AND
VICE VERSA.



A comic panel featuring three speech bubbles. The top bubble is connected to a character whose face is partially visible at the top of the frame. The middle bubble is connected to the bottom of the top bubble. The bottom bubble is connected to the bottom of the middle bubble. The background is a light blue gradient.

I THINK LACEY
WANTS YOU TO
BE HAPPY. JUST
LIKE ME.

BUT THAT
GETS TWISTED
PRETTY QUICKLY...

YOU WANT TO DO
GOOD. YOU DON'T
WANT TO BE A BURDEN.
YOU KEEP YOUR PROBLEMS
CLOSE TO YOUR CHEST...
BUT...

WE WANT

TO TAKE CARE OF
YOU WHEN YOU'RE
DONE PLAYING
HERO.





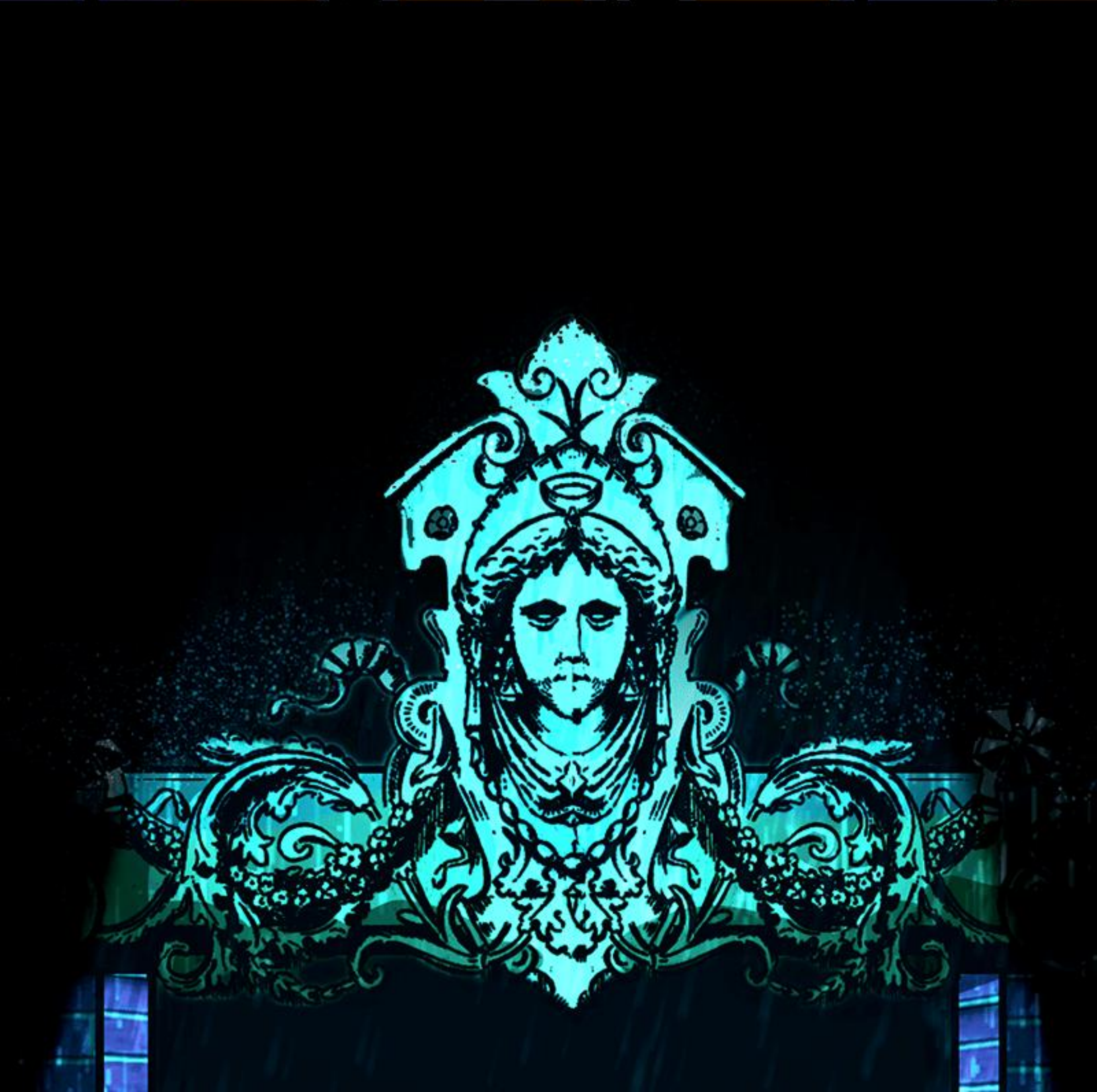
SO WE PUSH
ANY PROBLEMS
DOWN SO THAT WE CAN
BE THE ONE THING IN
YOUR LIFE YOU DON'T
NEED TO WORRY

NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT.

BUT IT
BUILDS UP OVER
TIME... THE UPSET
THAT NONE OF US
TALK ABOUT.

UNTIL
SOMETHING
SNAPS.



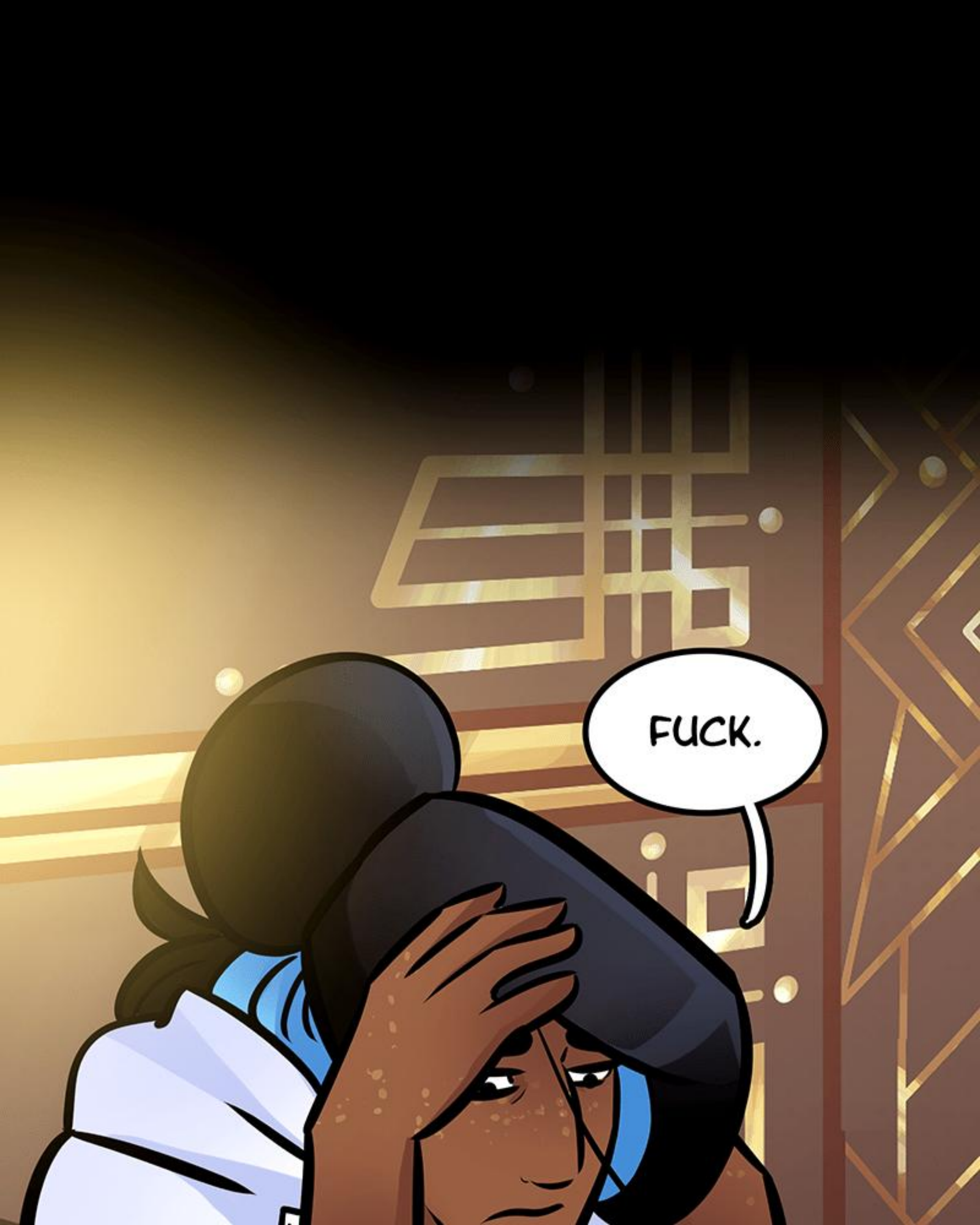


dear Kada,





with Love,
Lucy



FUCK.



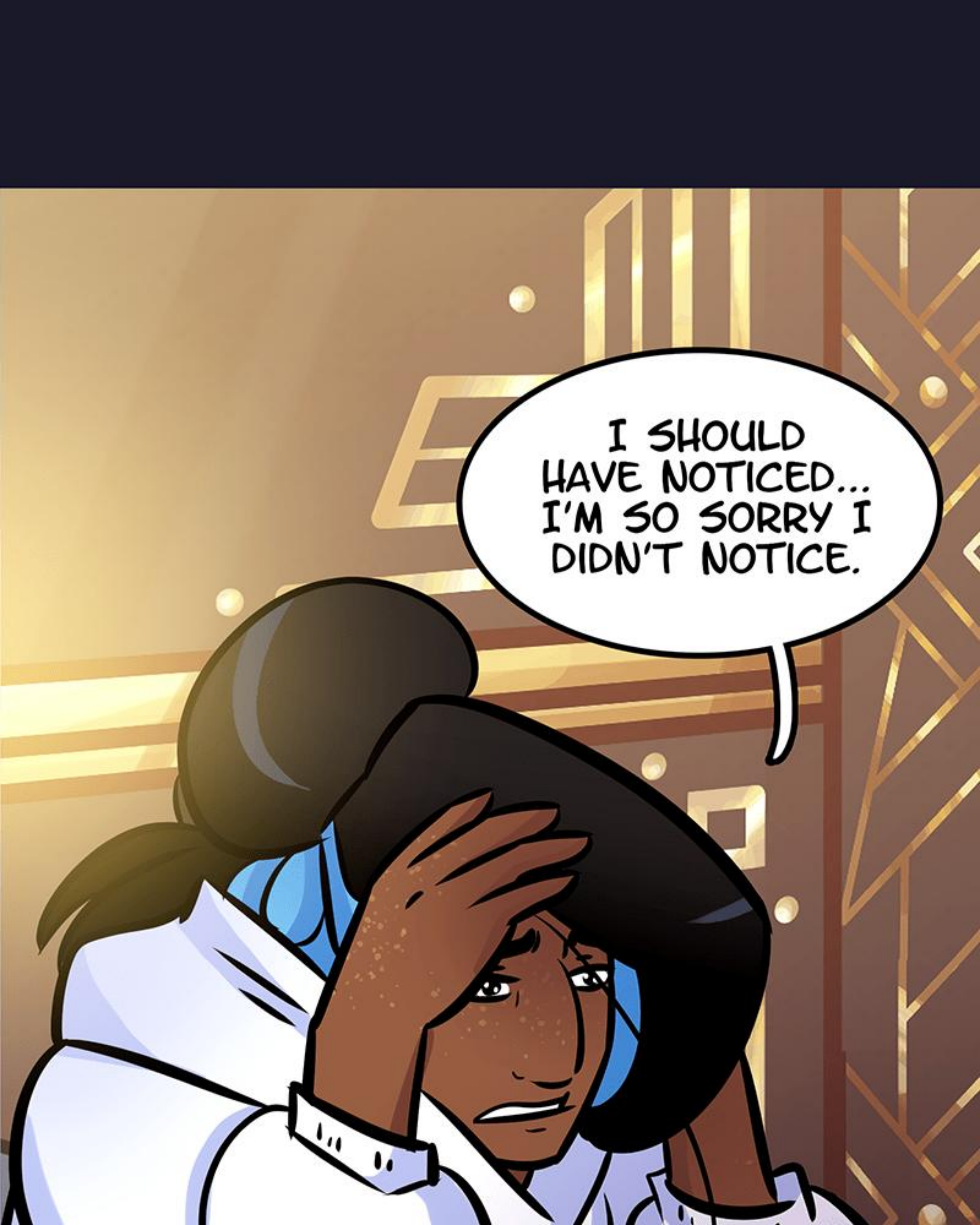


I'M SO
SORRY...

A comic panel featuring a character with brown hair and a beard, shown from the chest up in profile, looking down. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned above the character's head. The background is dark blue, with a yellow wall and a window with a grid pattern visible behind the character. In the top right corner, a glass of water and a plate with food are partially visible.

I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
MORE FIRM WITH
VELIX - I SHOULD HAVE
PAID MORE ATTENTION-
I SHOULD HAVE
LISTENED.



A comic book panel featuring a character with dark skin and short black hair, wearing a white collared shirt. The character is looking down with a somber expression, their right hand covering their face. A speech bubble above them contains the text: "I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED... I'M SO SORRY I DIDN'T NOTICE." The background is a warm-toned interior with gold-colored geometric patterns and circular accents.

I SHOULD
HAVE NOTICED...
I'M SO SORRY I
DIDN'T NOTICE.

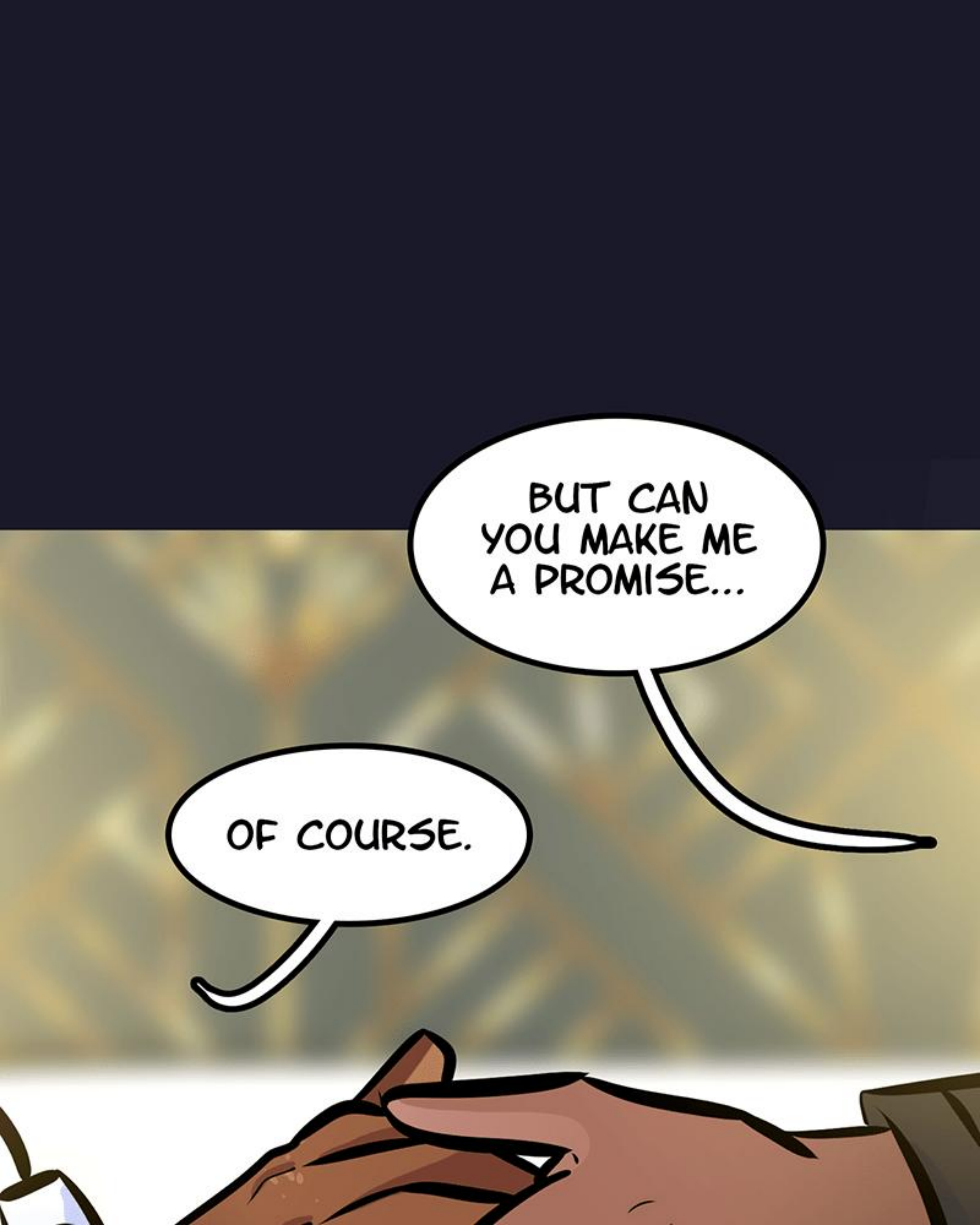


YOU'RE
ONLY HUMAN...
I DON'T BLAME YOU
AT ALL, BUT IF IT
HELPS... I FORGIVE
YOU.

LIKE I SAID, WE

WE WERE IN COLLEGE.
IT WAS ANOTHER
TIME. NONE OF US
HAD ANYTHING
FIGURED OUT.



A comic panel featuring a close-up of a brown, wrinkled hand at the bottom. Two speech bubbles are present: a smaller one on the left and a larger one on the right. The background is a dark blue sky above a golden, shimmering surface.

BUT CAN
YOU MAKE ME
A PROMISE...

OF COURSE.



IF YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
WITH LACEY... I
NEED YOU TO PROMISE
ME THAT YOU WILL

ME THAT YOU WILL
GO ALL IN...

OTHERWISE
YOU NEED TO
TELL HIM **NOW**
THAT YOU CAN'T
DO THIS.





YOU TWO
ARE GOING TO
STRUGGLE... A
LOT. BECAUSE
OF A.E.

BUT YOU
DON'T NEED

DON'T NEED
TO HAVE ALL THE
ANSWERS
FOR HIM RIGHT
AWAY.

YOU JUST
NEED TO *BE*
THERE.





HE NEEDS
TO KNOW THAT
YOU CAN **SHARE**
YOUR STRUGGLES
TOGETHER INSTEAD
OF KEEPING A HAPPY
FACE UP ALL THE
TIME.

OKAY?

OKAY...
YES- OKAY.















I SAID
SCRAM! GO
TALK TO HIM.
ENJOY YOUR
VACATION.





...THIS
ISN'T THE
KINDA THING WHERE
YOU ACTUALLY WANT
ME TO STAY,
RIGHT?





WE'RE
GOOD NOW,
XADA. IT WAS
SEVEN YEARS

...
AGO...

OKAY...

BUT...
I AM SORRY,
YOU KNOW.

I'M SORRY

FOR PULLING THE
RUG OUT FROM UNDER
YOU LIKE THAT WHEN
YOU THOUGHT WE
WERE FINE...



ITALY

WE CAN
TALK ABOUT
IT MORE WHEN
YOU'RE NOT BUSY
IF YOU WANT

...

...
IT'S OKAY...
WE'RE FRIENDS
NOW RIGHT? EVEN
IF YOU CAN BE A BIG
KNOW-IT-ALL
SOMETIMES.



HAH!
THEY GAVE
ME THAT TITLE
ALONG WITH MY

ALONG WITH MY
PHD.

WELL...
THANK YOU
FOR DINNER...
I'LL... SEE YOU
TOMORROW?

BRIGHT AND
EARLY!









DAMN IT.

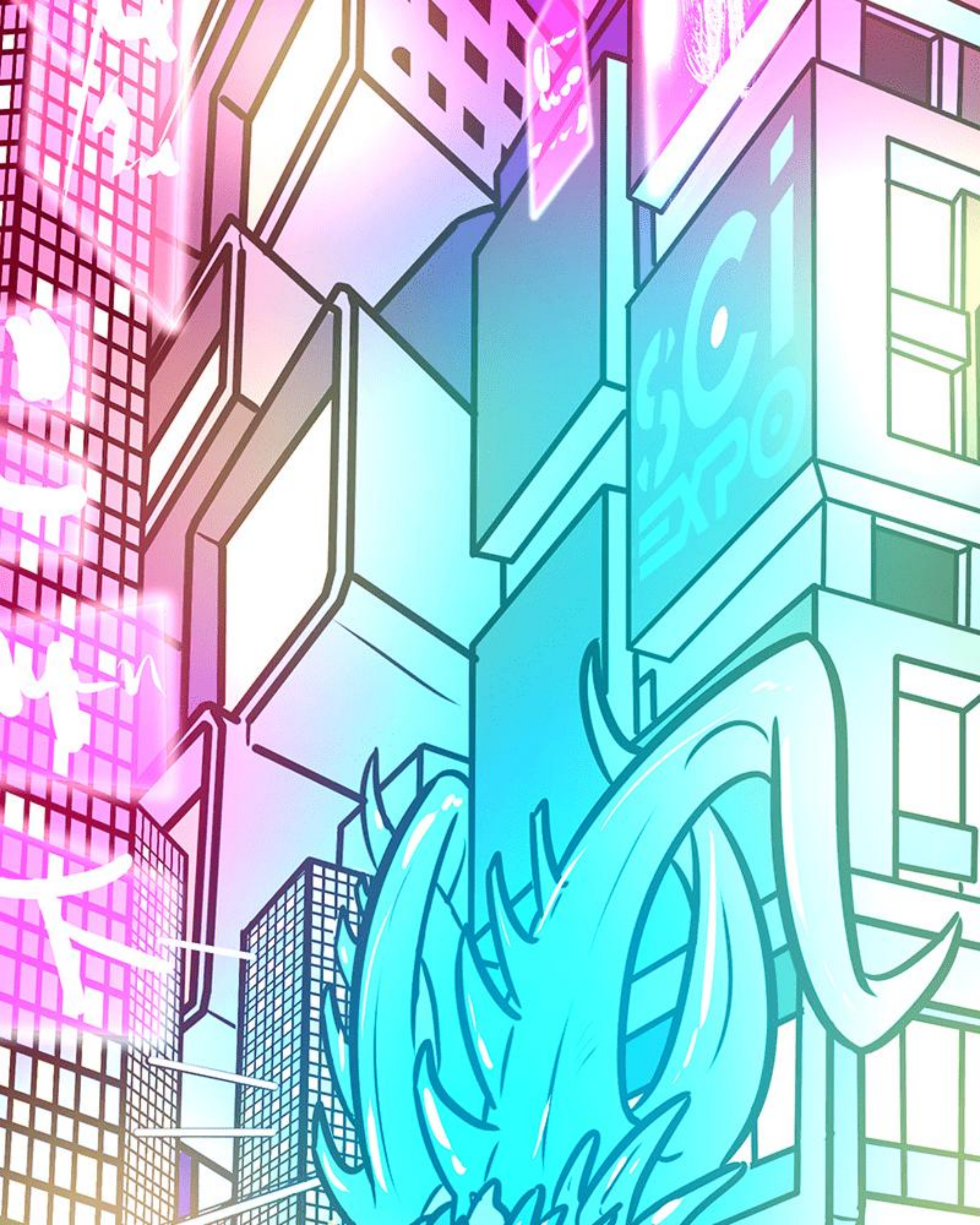
GOOD FUCKING
JOB, ERIK.

WAY TO
MAKE THINGS
WEIRD...



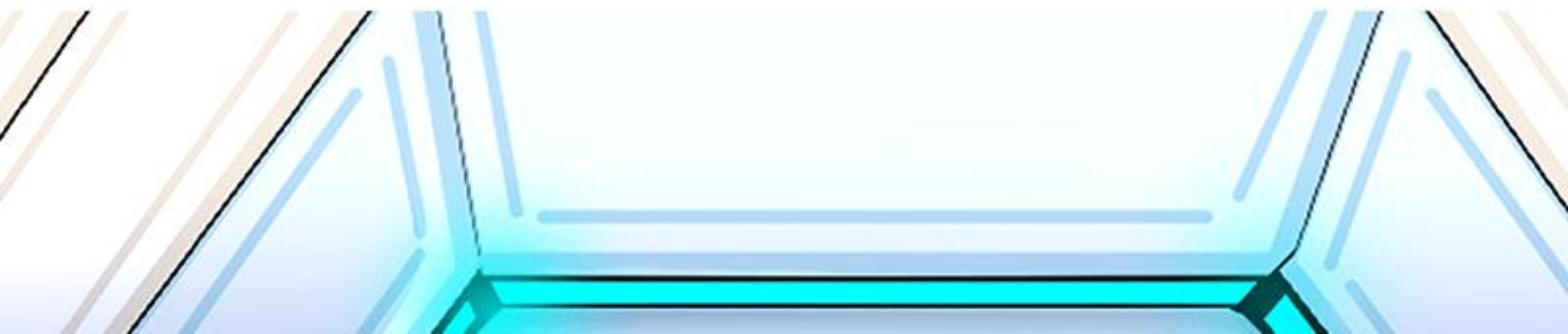
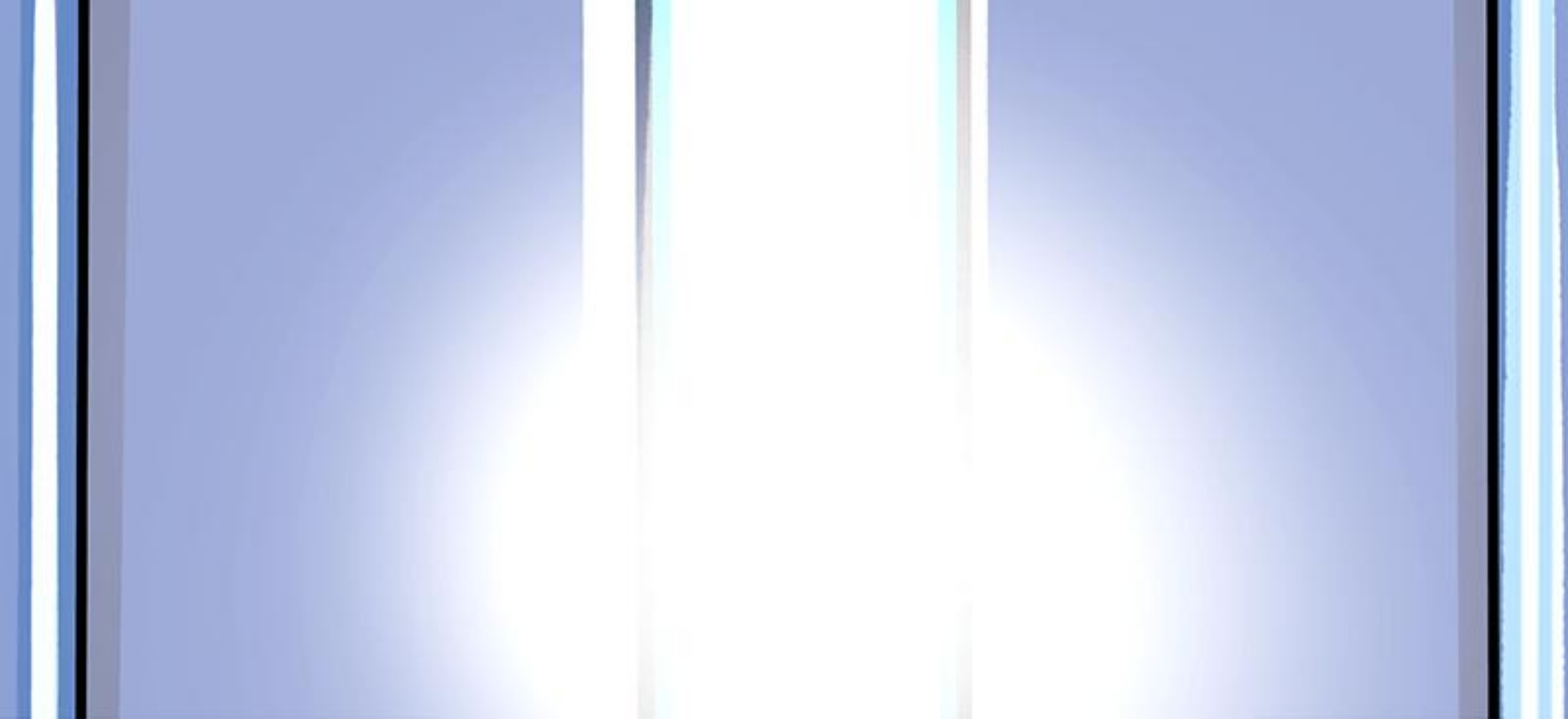
ONE OF
THESE DAYS...
IT WON'T HURT TO
SEE YOU RUN OFF
LIKE THAT...











HAH....
HAH... HOLY
SHIT RUNNING IN
ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY
FEELS WEIRD.





LACEY!! WE
GOTTA TALK
ABOUT-

SHHHH-

WH-!?





LOVEBOT

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