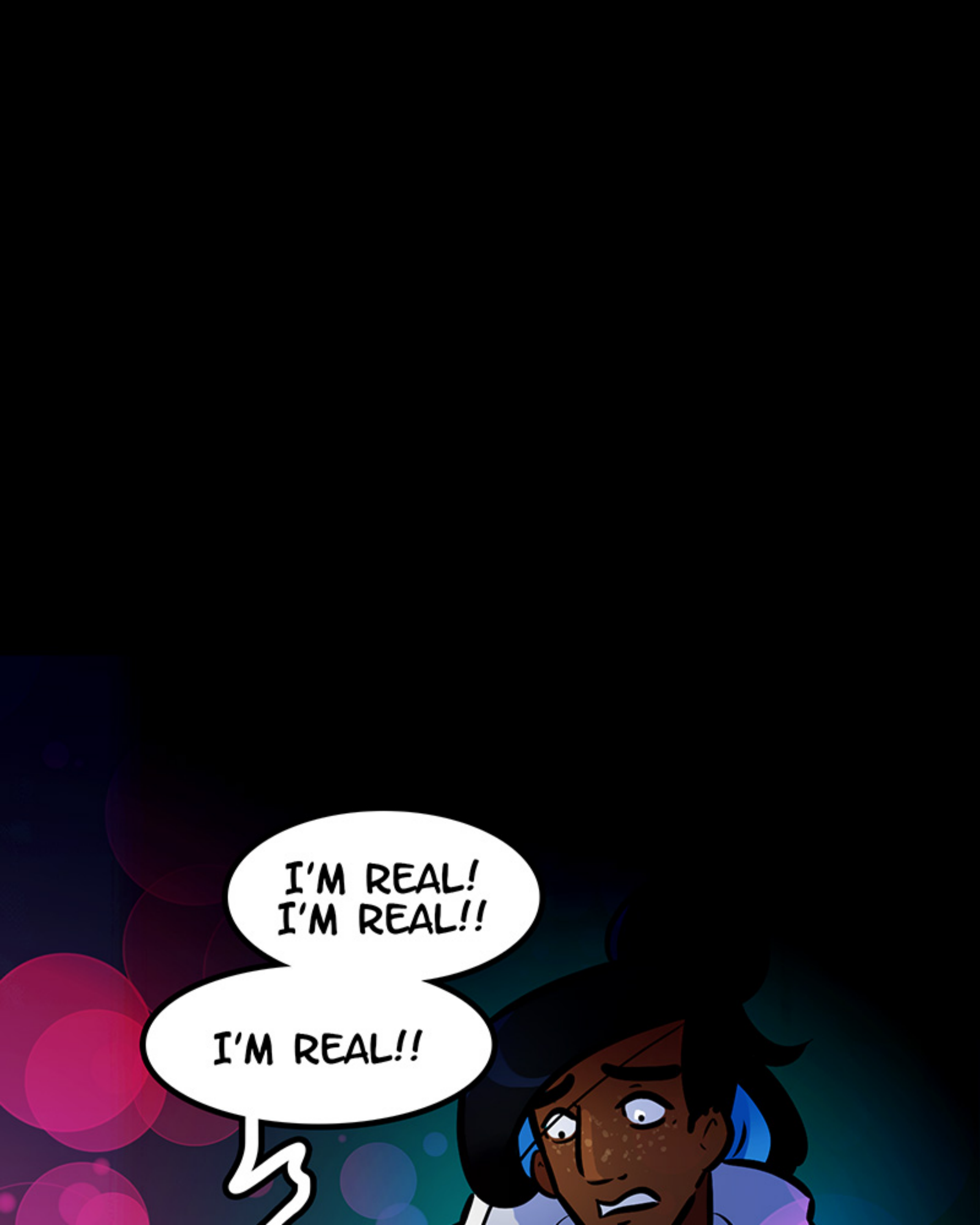


A comic panel featuring a character with dark skin and curly hair, looking upwards with a concerned expression. The character is wearing a blue shirt. To the left of the character are several overlapping pink and purple circles of varying sizes. Two speech bubbles are positioned above the character's head. The top speech bubble contains the text "I'M REAL! I'M REAL!!" and the bottom speech bubble contains "I'M REAL!!".

I'M REAL!
I'M REAL!!

I'M REAL!!



LACE-

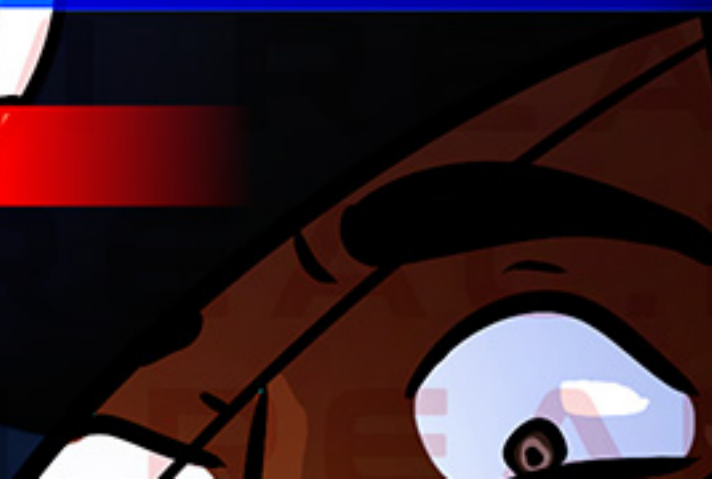
I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL

I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.



I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.

I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.
I'M REAL. I'M REAL. I'M REAL.





LACEY...

I'M REAL,
I PROMISE - I CAN
BE BETTER. I CAN
BE BETTER-

I am evaluating
tones that may
indicate **DISTRESS**?

Could I

A comic strip set against a dark background with a repeating pattern of the text "I CAN BE BETTER" in a reddish-brown color. In the bottom right corner, the top of a character's head is visible, wearing a dark blue or black cap. Three white speech bubbles with black outlines are present. The first bubble, at the top, contains the text "help by pulling up a list of 5 MINDFUL BREATHING TIPS?". The second bubble, in the middle, contains "WH- NO! NO THANK YOU U-NO.". The third bubble, at the bottom left, contains "OKAY!".

help by pulling
up a list of **5**
MINDFUL BREATHING
TIPS?

WH-
NO! NO THANK
YOU U-NO.

PLEASE
GO BACK TO YOUR
CHARGING PORT.

OKAY!





A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a man with dark skin and a ponytail, wearing a blue shirt. He is looking down with a serious expression at a person with short, spiky pink hair. A speech bubble from the man contains the text "LACEY-". The background is dark blue with faint, repeating text "I can compromise" in a light blue/purple color.

LACEY-



**YOU'RE
RIGHT!**



RIGHT!

VITA



...Huh...?





A comic book illustration featuring two characters in a close, intimate conversation. The character on the left has short, spiky pink hair and freckles, looking up at the other character. The character on the right has dark skin, freckles, and dark hair tied in a high ponytail with a blue streak. They are both wearing light blue hoodies. The background is dark blue with glowing pink and purple circles. A speech bubble from the character on the right contains the text: "YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU ARE REAL."

YOU'RE
RIGHT. YOU
ARE REAL.





I KNOW
IT, YOU KNOW
IT.

YOU ARE.



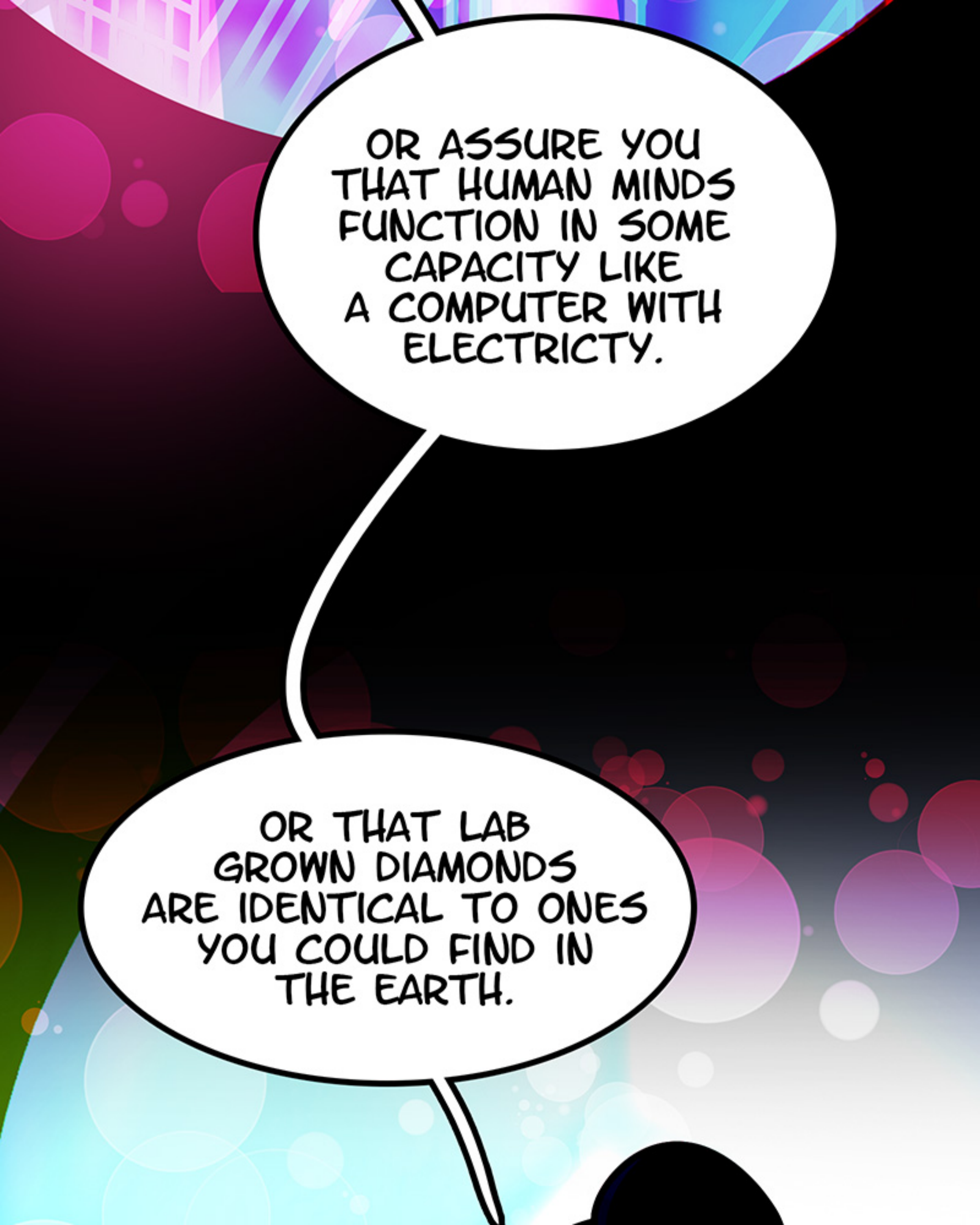
WE COULD
TALK ABOUT THE
SEMANTICS OF WHAT
IT MEANS TO BE
HUMAN...







I COULD
HOLD YOU UP
IN FRONT OF A
CROWD LIKE DIOGENES
AND DECLARE THAT YOU
MEET THE DEFINITION
OF A MAN-

The background is a dark, textured space filled with various colorful circles and geometric shapes. In the top left, there are pink and purple circles. In the top right, there are blue and purple circles. In the bottom left, there are light blue and white circles. In the bottom right, there are pink and purple circles. The overall effect is a vibrant, abstract pattern.

OR ASSURE YOU
THAT HUMAN MINDS
FUNCTION IN SOME
CAPACITY LIKE
A COMPUTER WITH
ELECTRICITY.

OR THAT LAB
GROWN DIAMONDS
ARE IDENTICAL TO ONES
YOU COULD FIND IN
THE EARTH.



A character with long, wavy pink hair is shown from the back of the head. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned above the hair. The background is dark with some purple and pink bokeh effects.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER.



A comic book panel featuring two characters at the bottom. On the left is a character with short, spiky pink hair. On the right is a character with dark skin and black hair tied in a bun. Two speech bubbles are positioned above them. The background is dark with vertical lines and several large, semi-transparent purple and pink circles. The text in the speech bubbles is in a bold, hand-drawn font.

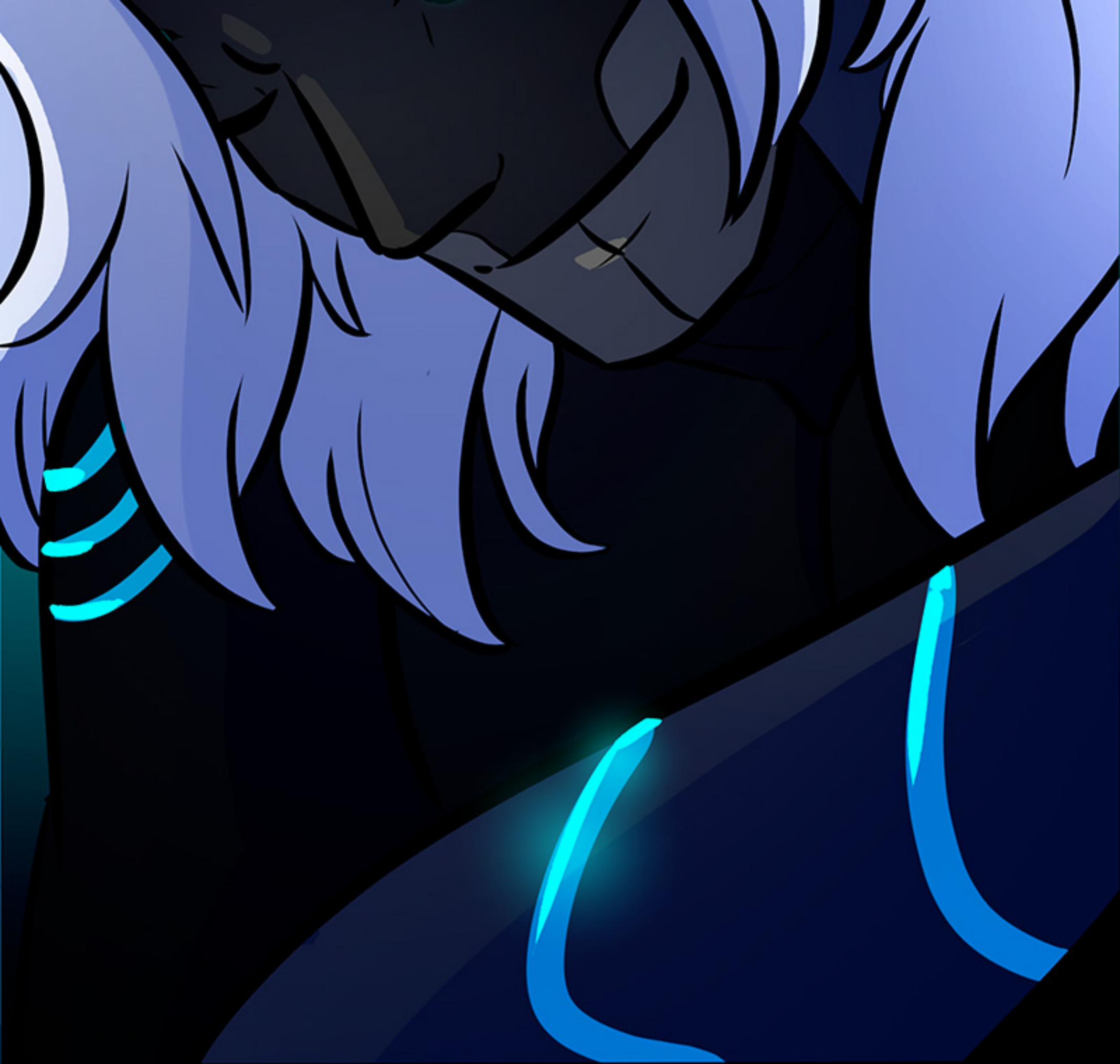
BRIZZ IS
RIGHT, TOO.

YOU ARE
DIFFERENT THAN
A HUMAN.





AND I'M
SURE HE HAD
VERY GOOD
POINTS.



A comic panel with a dark background. At the bottom, the top of a character's head is visible, rendered in dark blue and black with some teal highlights. Two white speech bubbles are positioned above the head. The top speech bubble contains the text "BUT YOU'RE NOT AN OBJECT EITHER. OR A TOY." and the bottom speech bubble contains "YOU'RE REAL, LACEY.".

BUT YOU'RE
NOT AN OBJECT
EITHER. OR A
TOY.

YOU'RE
REAL, LACEY.

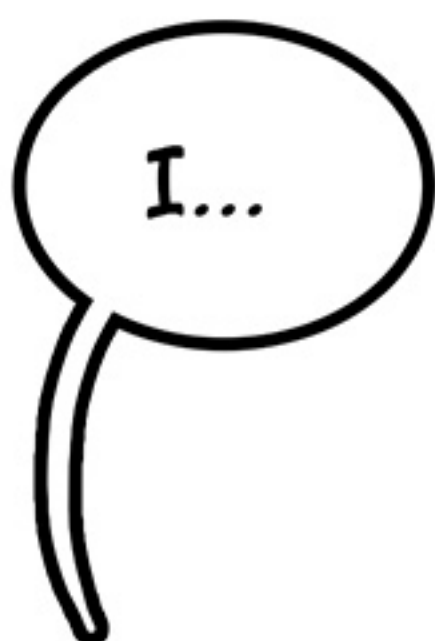


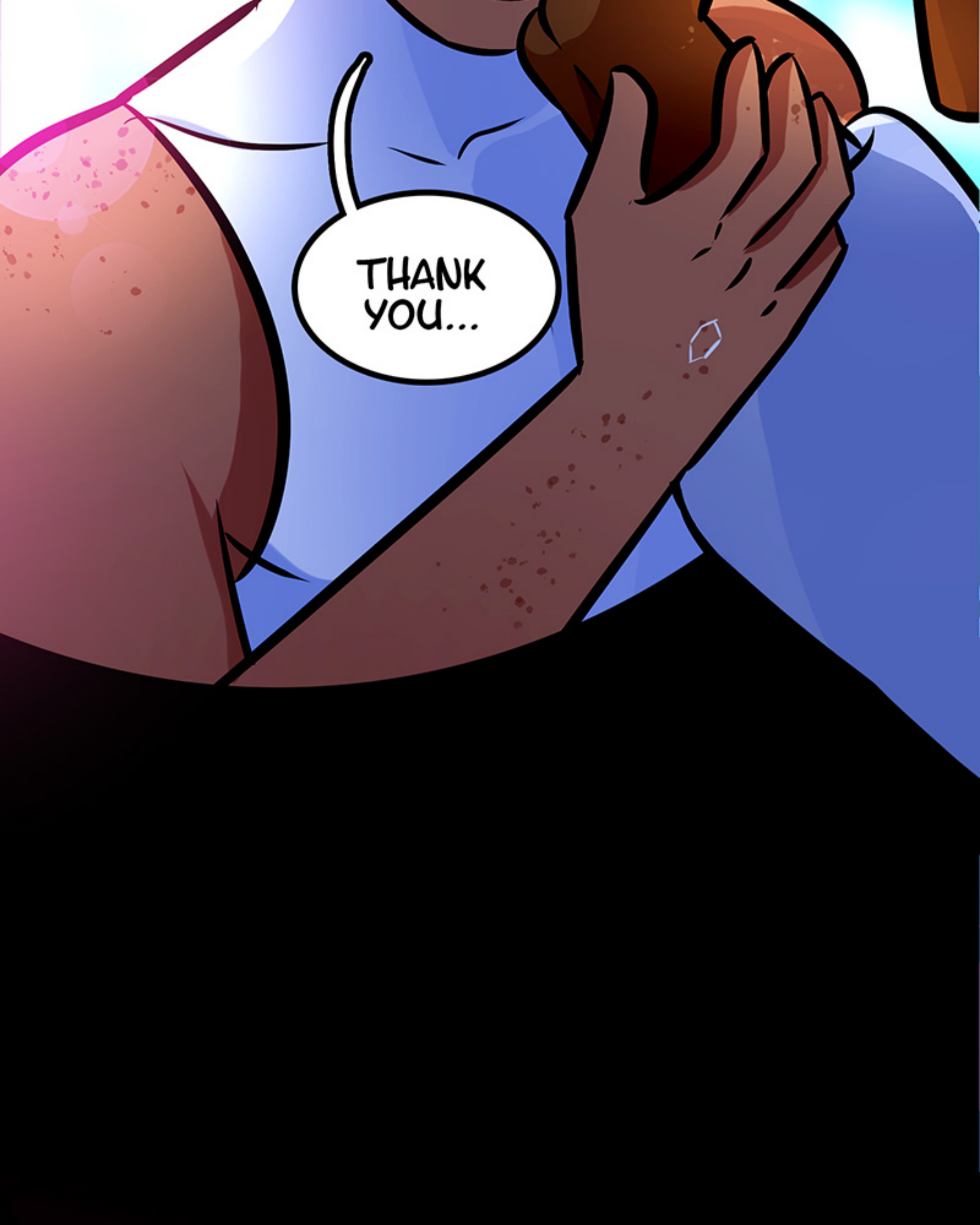


YOU'RE AS
ALIVE AS ME OR
ERIK.

OR ANYONE
ELSE.







THANK
YOU...





A comic book illustration featuring two characters in a close embrace. The character on the left is a young man with dark skin, short black hair, and a white shirt. He is looking down at the other character with a gentle expression. The character on the right is a young woman with light skin, short pink hair, and freckles. She is looking up at him with a soft smile. The background is a vibrant blue with large, overlapping circles in shades of purple and pink, creating a dreamy, bokeh-like effect.

AND...
IF IT HELPS.

I UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S LIKE, IN
A WAY.



TO HAVE
SOMETHING ABOUT
YOURSELF BE SO

A comic book panel with a blue background and several purple circles of varying sizes. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark, abstract shape that appears to be a character's head or shoulder. Three speech bubbles are present: one at the top left, one in the upper middle, and one in the lower left.

UNDENIABLY TRUE
TO YOUR CORE...

BUT
SOME PEOPLE, NO
MATTER WHAT YOU
DO OR SAY, SIMPLY
WON'T BELIEVE IT.

IT'S EXHAUSTING.

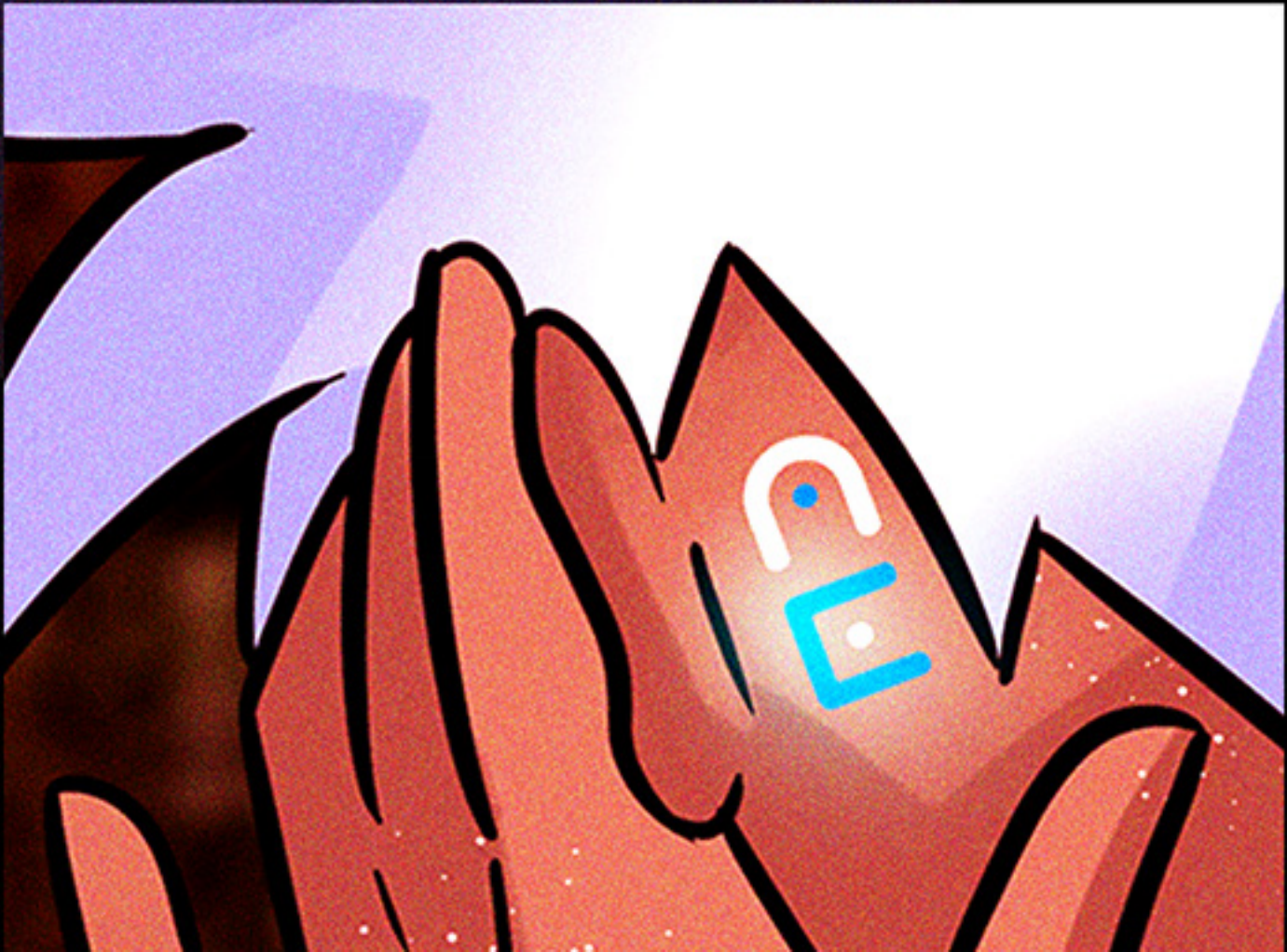
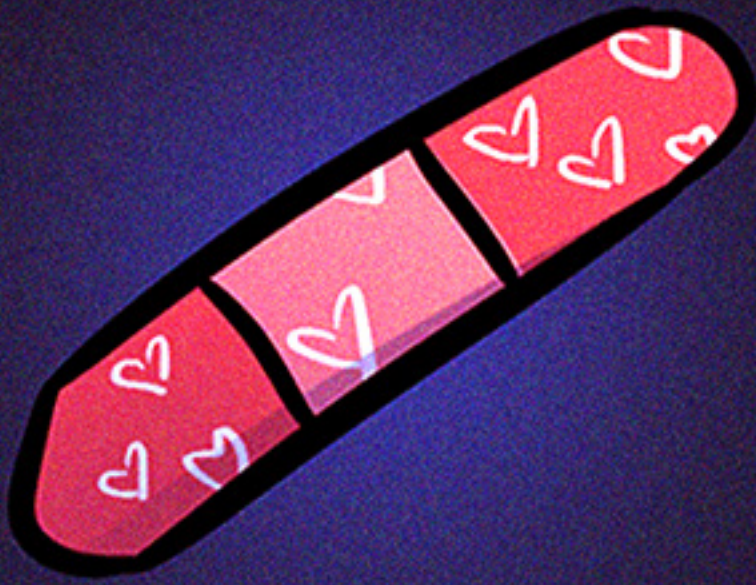




AND IT'S
SCARY, TOO, WHEN
YOU ARE TALKING TO
NEW PEOPLE... WONDERING
IF THEY WOULD LOOK AT
YOU DIFFERENTLY IF
THEY KNEW...



EVEN IF
NOTHING ABOUT
YOU HAS **REALLY** CHANGED
BETWEEN THOSE TWO
MOMENTS - THEIR
PERCEPTION OF YOU
HAS.





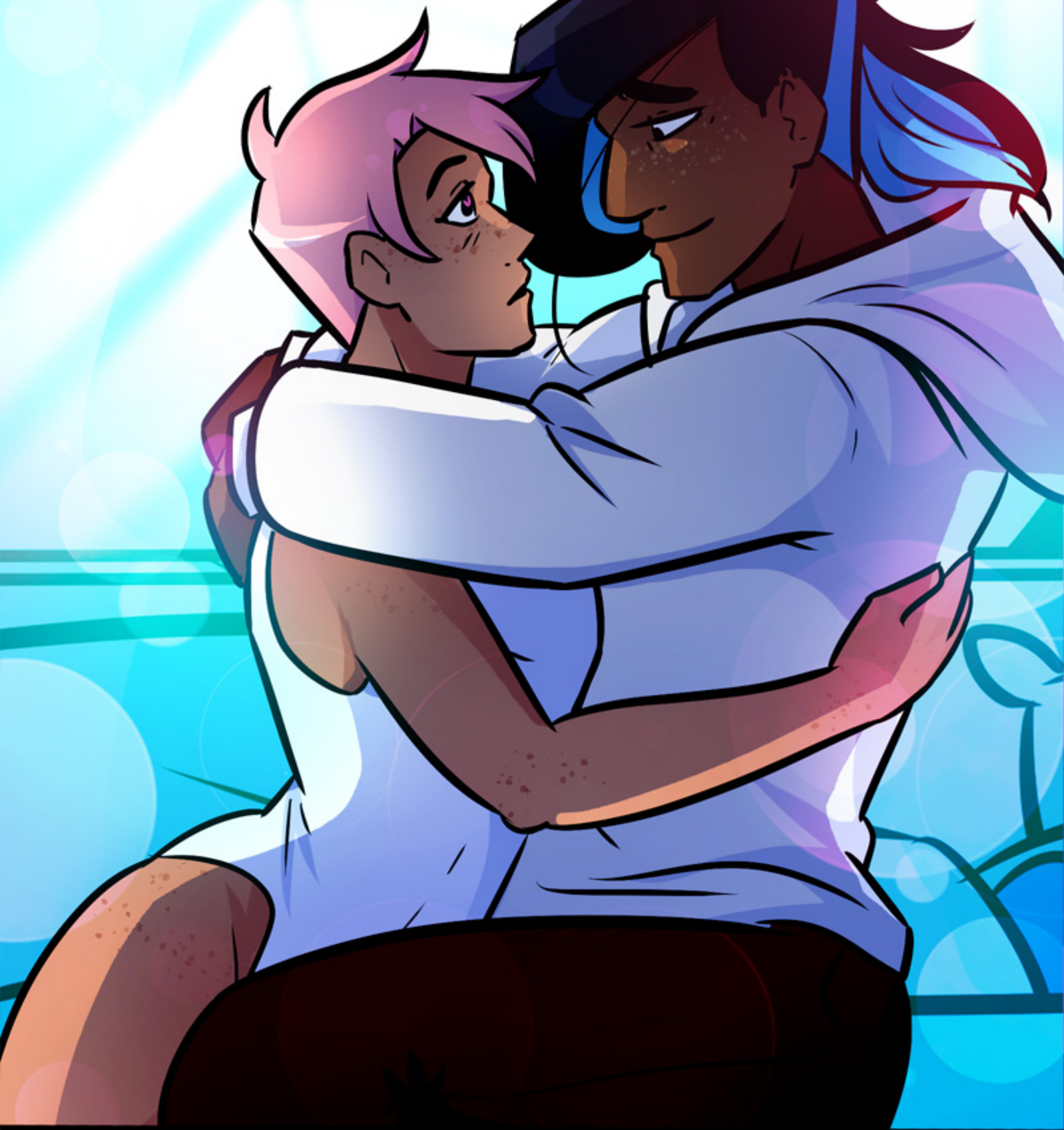
YOUR NOT
EVEN HUMAN-





AND I'M
SORRY I GOT
THAT PERCEPTION
IN MY HEAD
TOO.

YOU SHOULD
KEEP CREATING
STUFF, IF YOU
WANT TO...



The image features a black background with several large, overlapping, colorful abstract shapes in shades of green, red, blue, and purple. Two white speech bubbles with black outlines are present. The larger bubble at the top contains a multi-line text block, and a smaller bubble at the bottom left contains a single-line text block.

AND WHEN THIS
IS ALL OVER, WE'LL
FIGURE IT OUT. A WAY
TO GET YOU RECOGNIZED-
GET YOU AN ID- SO YOU
CAN BUY A TICKET AND
FLY FIRST CLASS
EVEN.

HAHAHA...
PREMIUM
ECONOMY,
MAYBE.





MMM...





IS THERE...

ANYTHING
ELSE ON YOUR
MIND BEFORE
WE...



I GUESS
ONE THING...

YOU'RE
NOT... ASHAMED
OF ME.. RIGHT?
OR PEOPLE KNOWING

OF PEOPLE KNOWING
WHAT I AM... AND BEING
WITH ME ANYWAY...?



A comic book panel featuring a person lying down, partially covered by a dark blue blanket. Their hands are clasped near their face. A large speech bubble originates from the person, containing two lines of text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white light. The art style is clean with bold black outlines and flat colors.

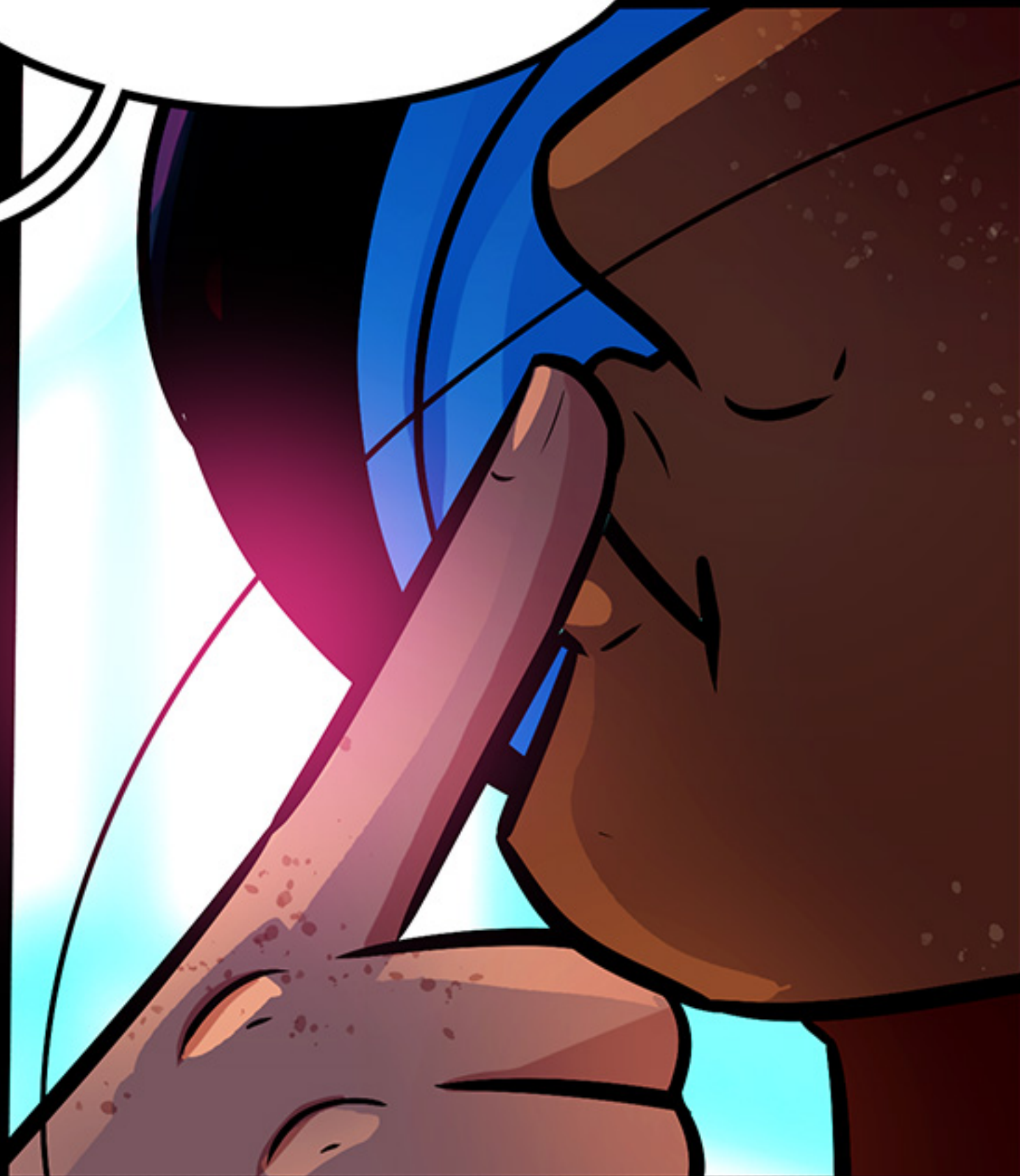
WHAT??
OF COURSE
NOT-

I'M NOT
ASHAMED - I DON'T
WANT YOU TO HAVE
TO HIDE-



SSHH... IT'S
OKAY YOU DON'T

OKAY... YOU DON'T
HAVE TO EXPLAIN.



I FEEL
LIKE I KNEW
THAT. AT MY

THAT, AT MY
CORE BUT...

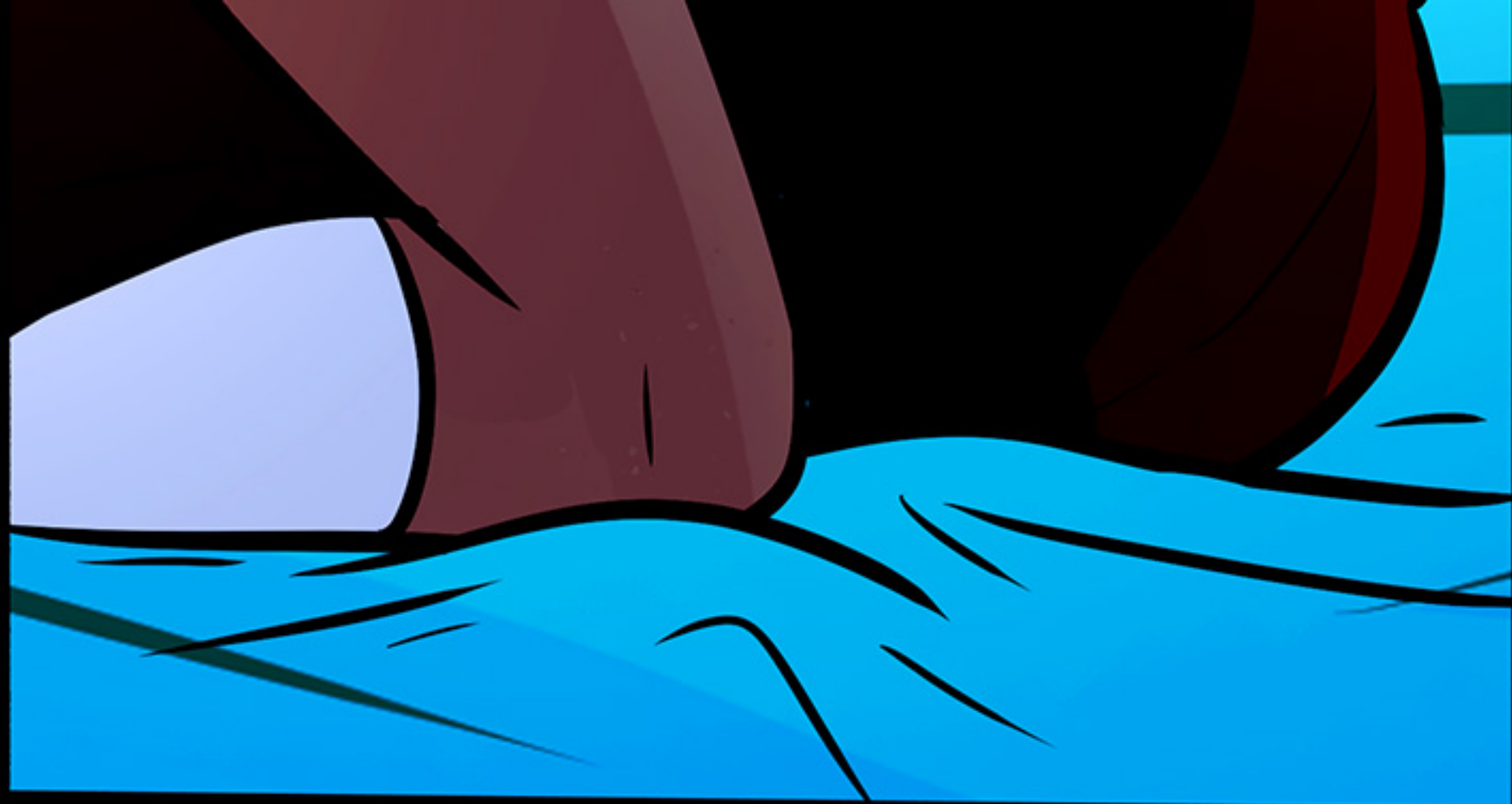
IT IS NICE
TO HEAR IT OUT
LOUD... SO THANK
YOU.





WHAT ABOUT
YOU? ANYTHING
ELSE YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME?





NAHH...
I'M FEELING
PRETTY GOOD
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW...

BUT DON'T

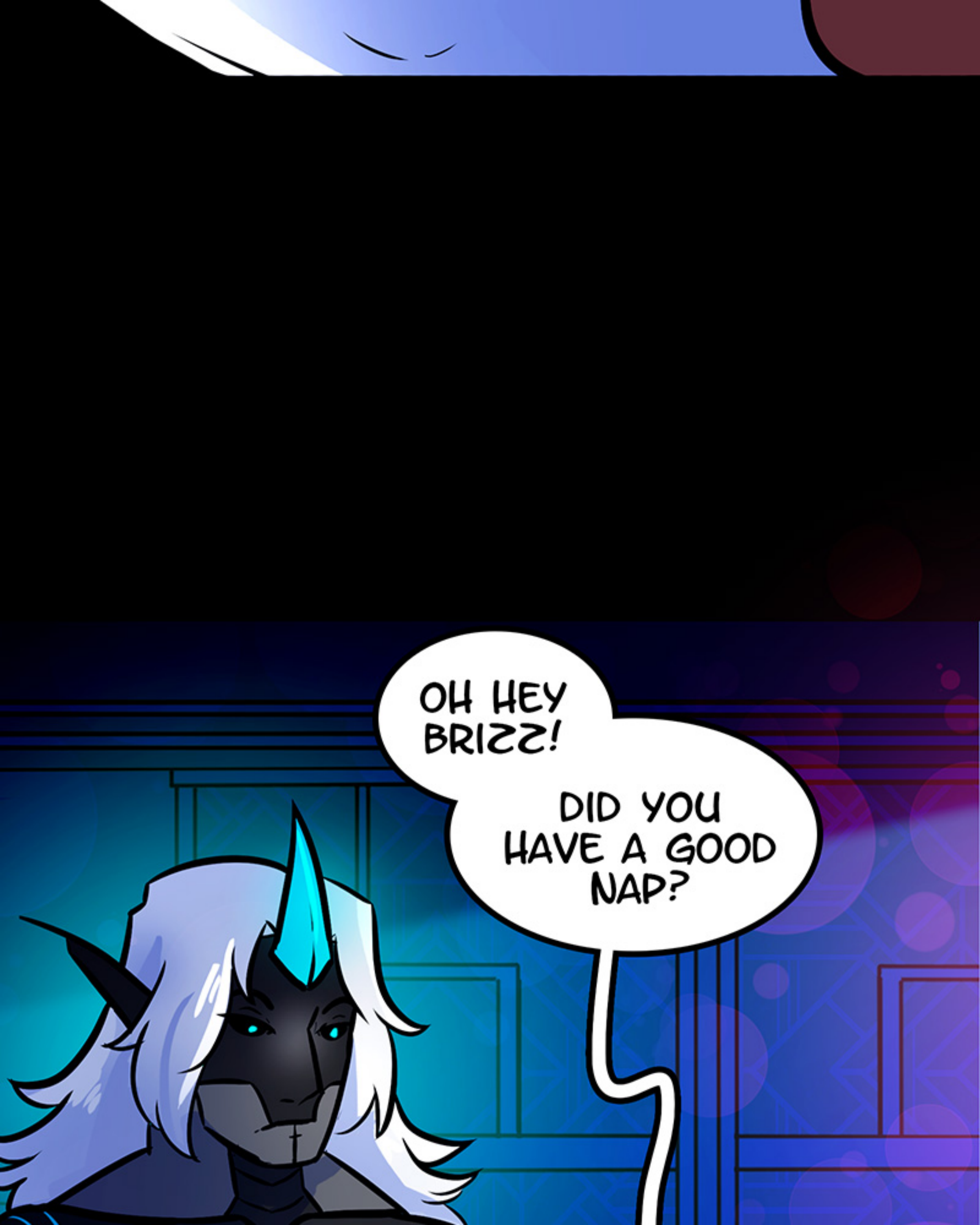
WORRY, I'LL
LET YOU KNOW IF
ANYTHING-





AHH!!
FUCK-!





OH HEY
BRIZZ!

DID YOU
HAVE A GOOD
NAP?



A comic panel showing a character in a blue room with a diamond-patterned wall. The character is not visible, but a speech bubble indicates they are speaking. The room has a blue floor and a blue wall with a diamond pattern. A small blue object is on the floor.

I WASN'T
SLEEPING.

HUH...?
BUT YOU
SAID...





A FEW HOURS AGO:

THANK YOU
FOR WANDERING
AROUND THE EXPO
HALL WITH ME!





WHAT DO
YOU WANT TO DO
UNTIL XADA GETS
BACK?



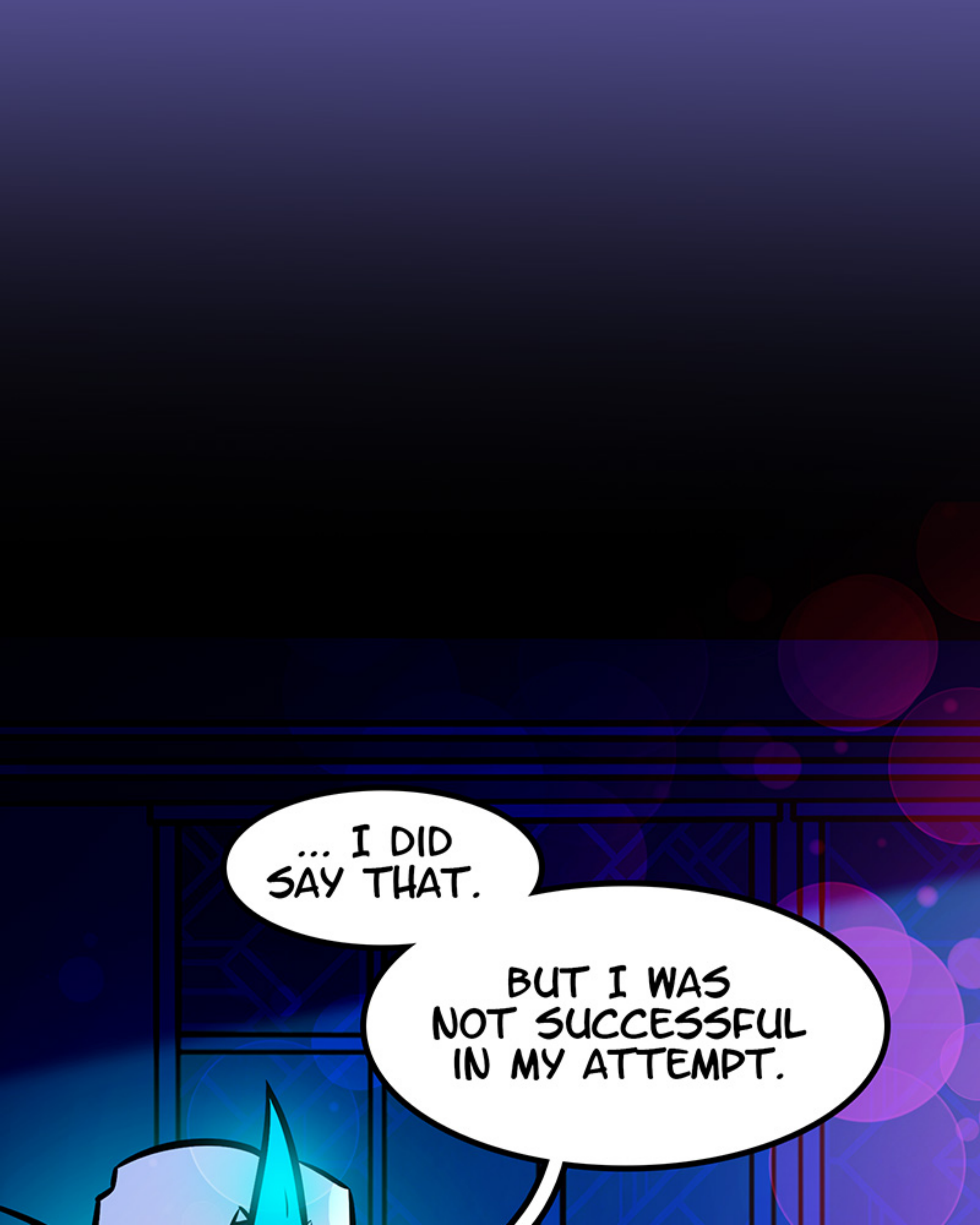




SLEEP.

OH!
OKAY...





... I DID
SAY THAT.

BUT I WAS
NOT SUCCESSFUL
IN MY ATTEMPT.

A comic book panel featuring three characters in a futuristic, blue-lit environment. On the left is a large, dark-skinned character with white hair and glowing blue eyes, wearing a black tactical suit with glowing blue accents. In the center is a character with pink hair and freckles, wearing a white high-collared shirt, looking surprised. On the right is a character with dark skin, a black beret, and a blue visor, looking towards the center character. A speech bubble from the large character on the left contains the text: "OH SORRY, WAS I TOO LOUD?". The background consists of blue panels with geometric patterns and floating purple and blue spheres.

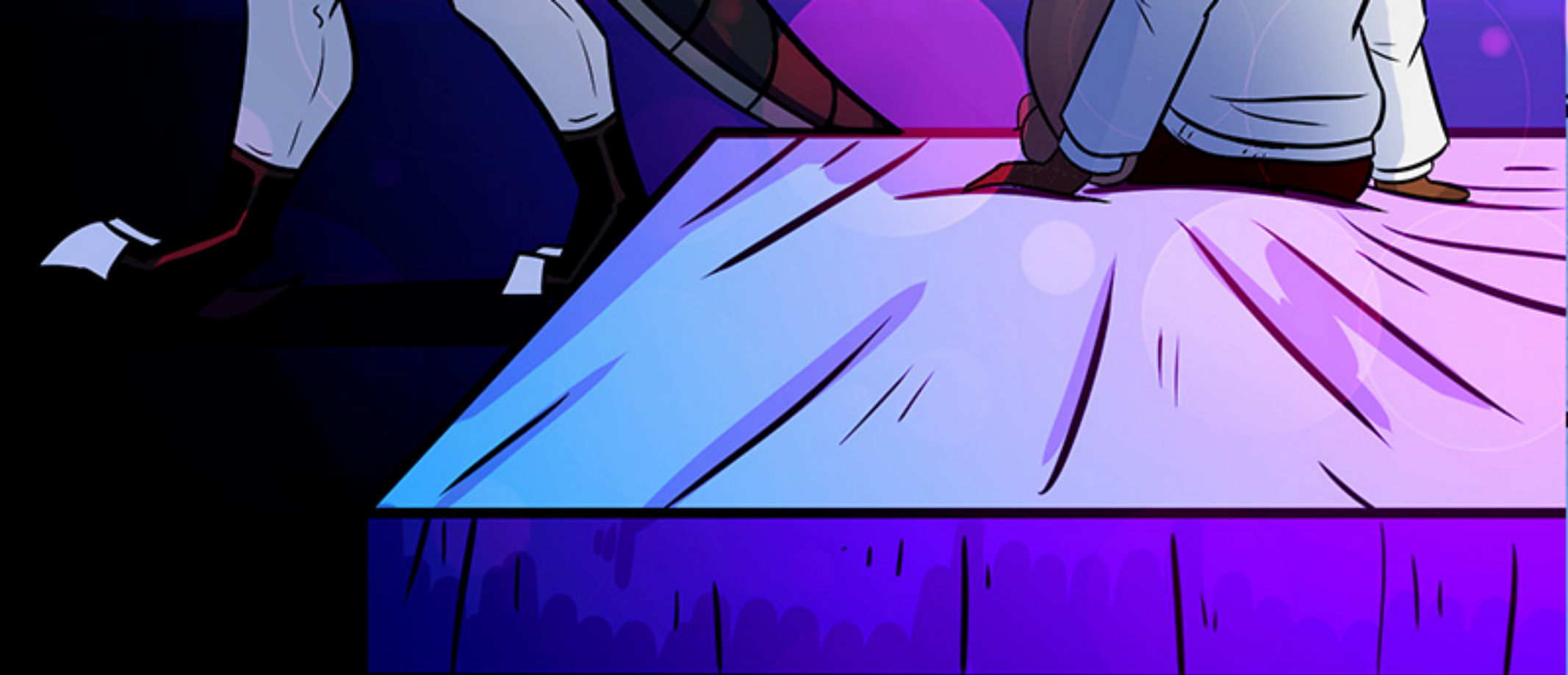
OH SORRY,
WAS I TOO
LOUD?



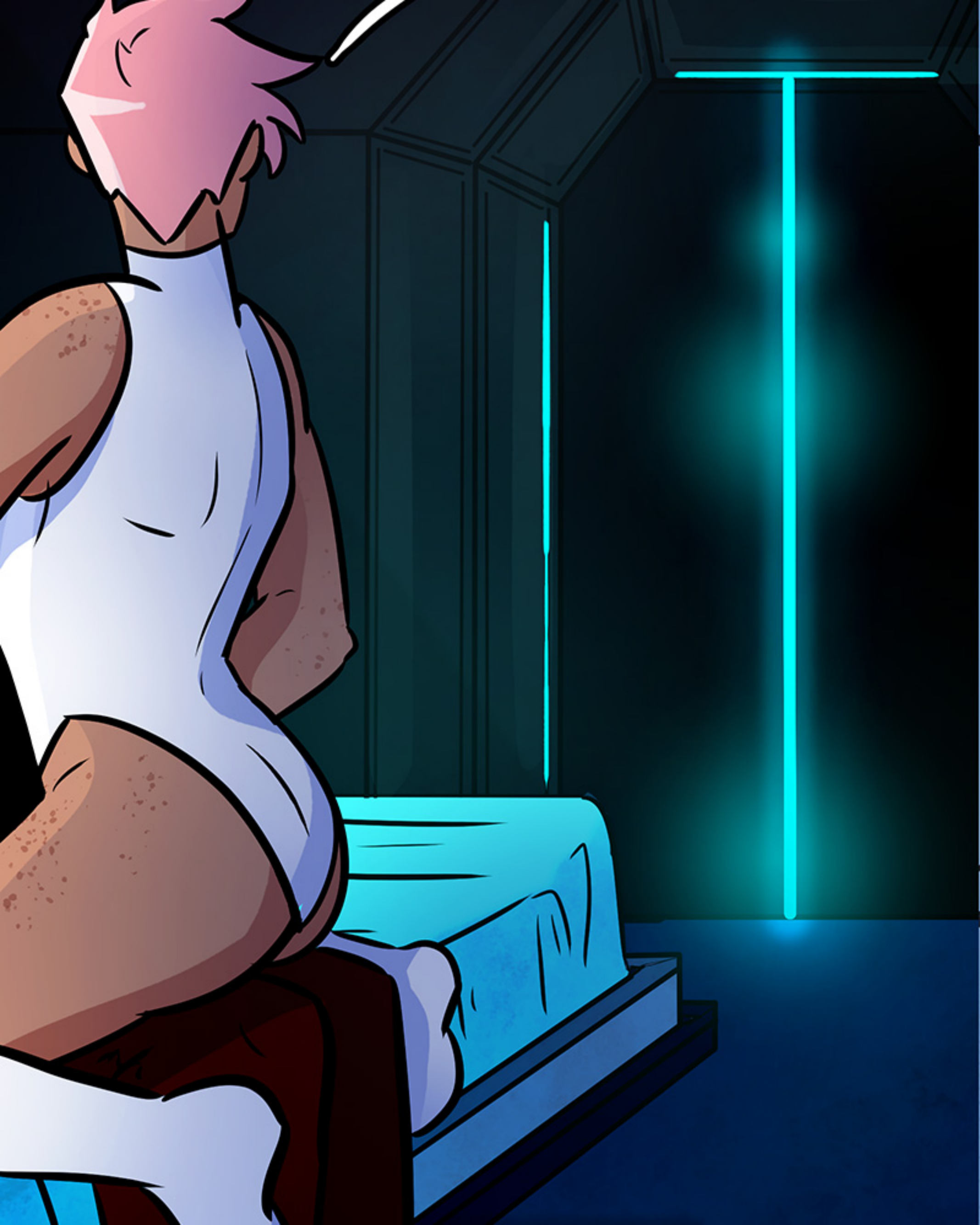
IT'S
FINE.

I'M GOING.
DON'T WAIT
UP.





DON'T
WAIT- ARE YOU
GOING TO BE GONE
ALL NIG-





THAT WAS
KINDA WEIRD...

YEAH...

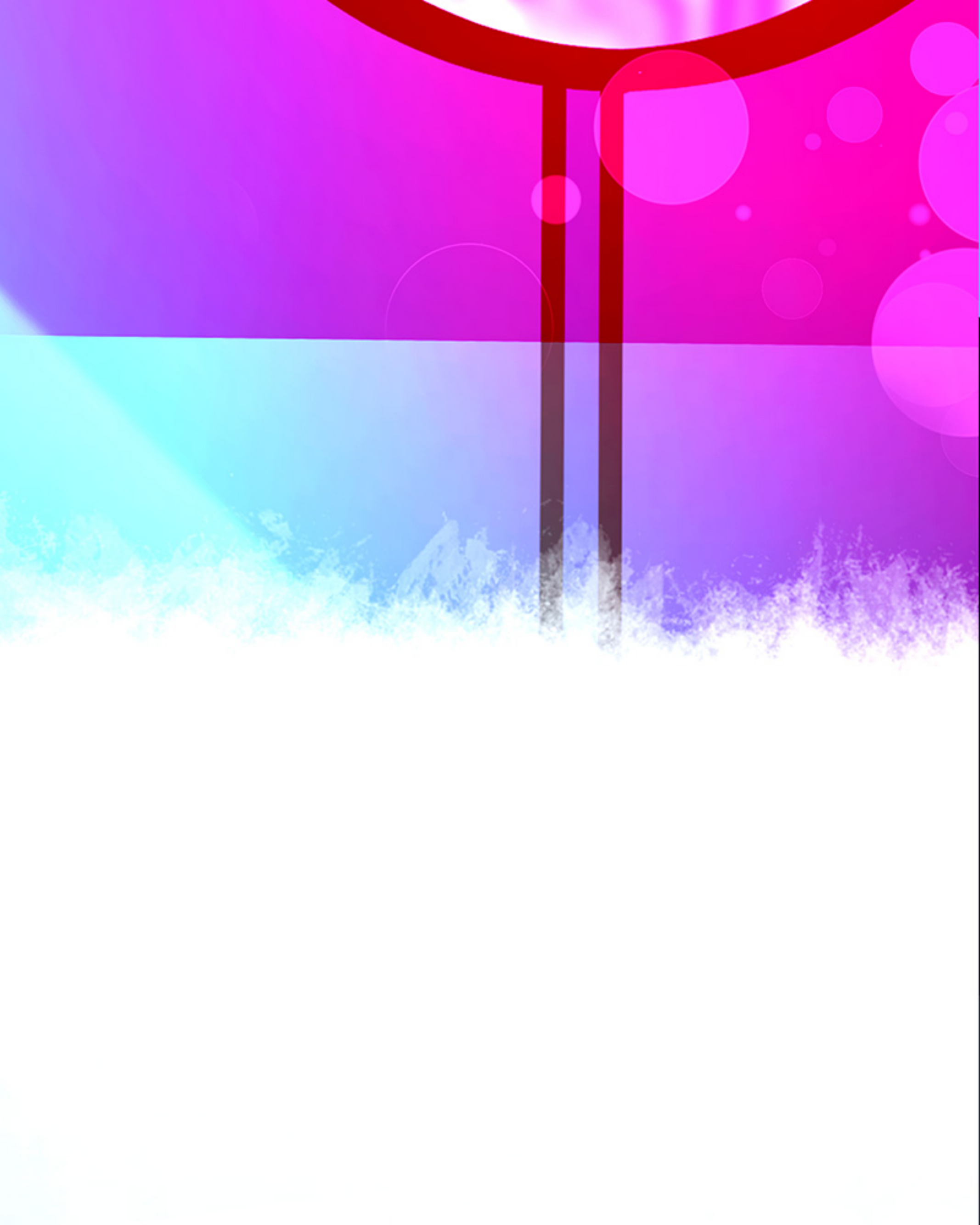






WE PROBABLY
SHOULD SLEEP THOUGH,
WE HAVE A REALLY BIG
DAY TOMORROW.

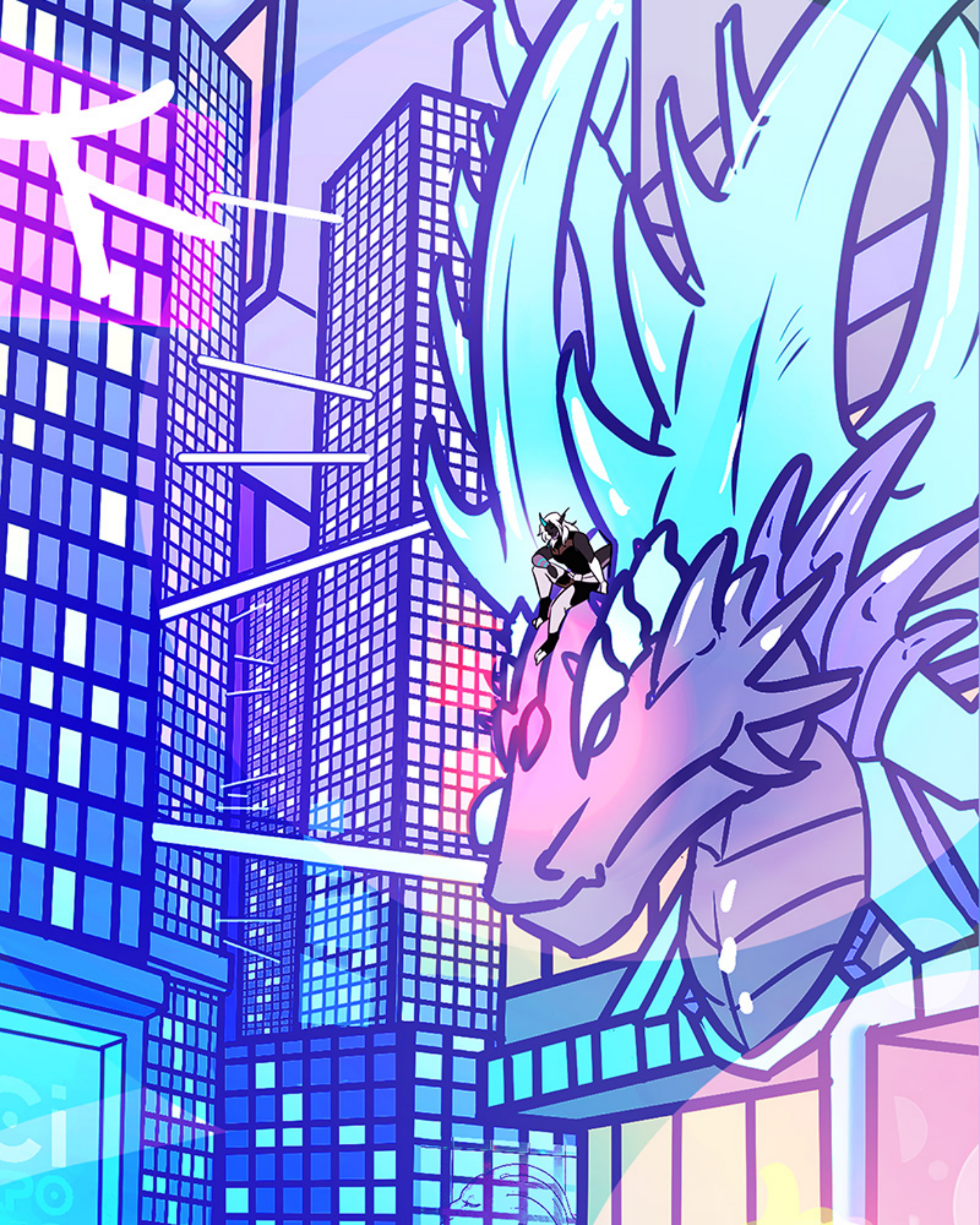
OKAY...







GOOD MORNING
ASTROBLEME!!





ARE YOU ALL
EXCITED FOR THE
SECOND DAY OF THE
SCI-EXPO!?

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Edited by **Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell**

Character Shading Assistant  coldpupsART

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