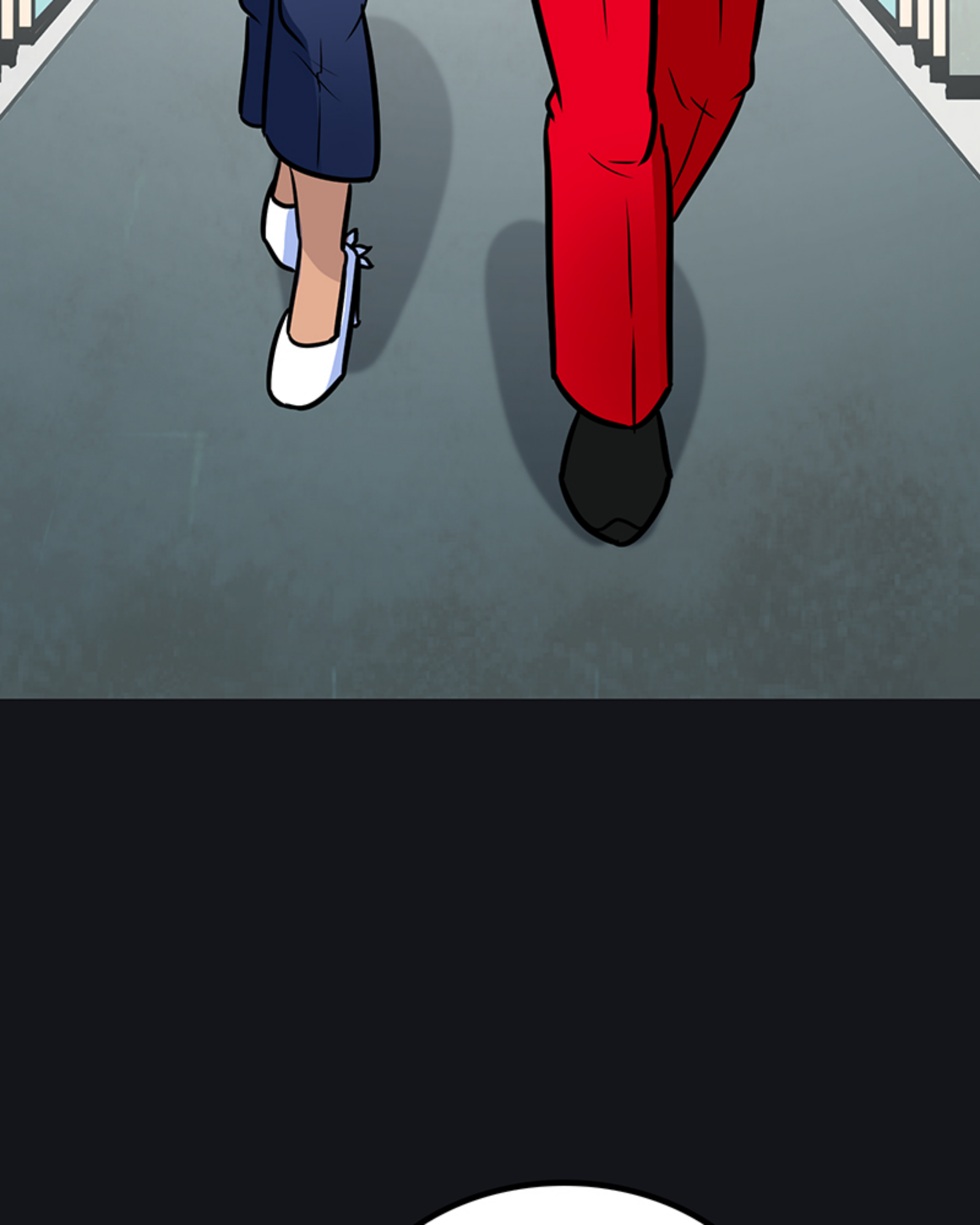




GUESSING
THIS IS A BAD
TIME TO ASK
FOR A FAVOR?

I'M A BIT
BURNT OUT ON
CHARITABLE
FEELINGS,
EVA.





I'M NOT
GOING TO GIVE
YOU ANYTHING
WITHOUT AN
EXCHANGE.



FINE.

I WANT
YOU TO
BACK OFF OF
ADLYNN,

YOU KNOW
SHE DOESN'T
ACTUALLY KNOW
ANYTHING.





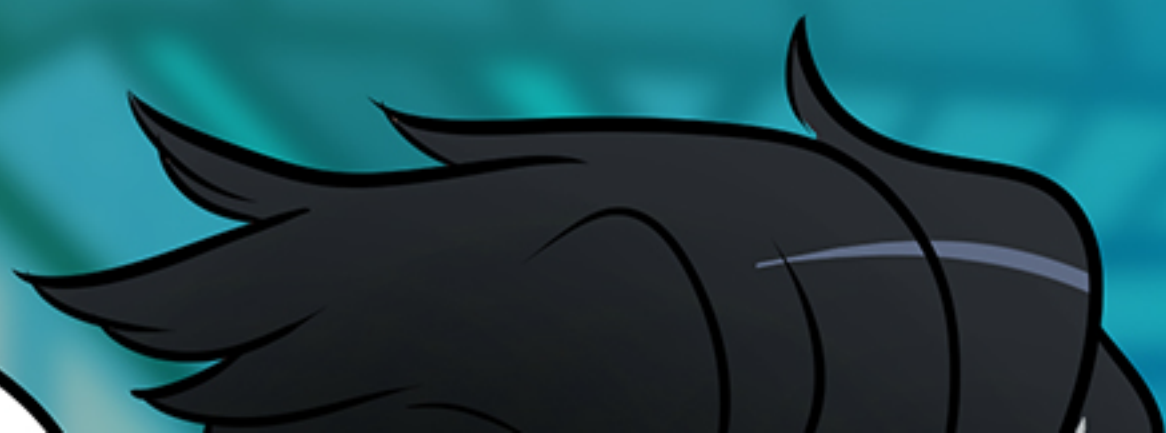
YOU'RE
JUST SCARING
HER AS PART
OF SOME SICK
POWER TRIP.

CHUCKLES





OH,
EVA...





THIS IS SO....
DISAPPOINTING.

ALL THIS
TIME I'VE ADMIRERD
THE FACT THAT THERE
WASN'T REALLY ANYTHING

THAT COULD PHASE
YOU...



YOU

YOU
WEREN'T AFRAID
OF ME, EVEN WHILE
KNOWING WHAT I AM
CAPABLE OF.

I FELT
THAT, EVEN WHEN
YOU ANNOYED ME,
THAT WE HAD A LOT
IN COMMON AT
OUR CORE.





I BELIEVED
THAT YOU
AND I JUST...
KNEW BETTER
THAN MOST.

WE UNDERSTOOD
HOW PATHETIC AND
USELESS MOST
HUMANS ARE.





AND NOW,
WHAT, YOU'RE
PROTECTING HER
OUT OF... GUILT?
AFFECTION?

A comic book panel featuring two characters in silhouette on a balcony. The balcony has a railing and is set against a background of large, arched windows. The windows look out onto a bright, hazy blue sky. The interior walls are dark with a repeating geometric pattern of gold lines. A large, white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper center, with a tail pointing towards the top of the frame. The text inside the bubble is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

I WOULDN'T
EXPECT YOU TO
FALL FOR ANY OF
THAT.

A comic book panel featuring a woman with long dark hair wearing a black niqab, looking slightly to the right. In the background, a staircase with glowing blue steps leads upwards. Two speech bubbles are present. The first speech bubble contains the text: "AND FOR THE RECORD. I DON'T KNOW THAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING." The second speech bubble contains the text: "UNLESS THE EXCHANGE FOR YOUR FAVOR IS PROOF THAT SHE'S INCULPABLE."

AND FOR
THE RECORD. I
DON'T KNOW THAT
SHE DOESN'T KNOW
ANYTHING.

UNLESS THE
EXCHANGE FOR
YOUR FAVOR IS
PROOF THAT SHE'S
INCULPABLE.

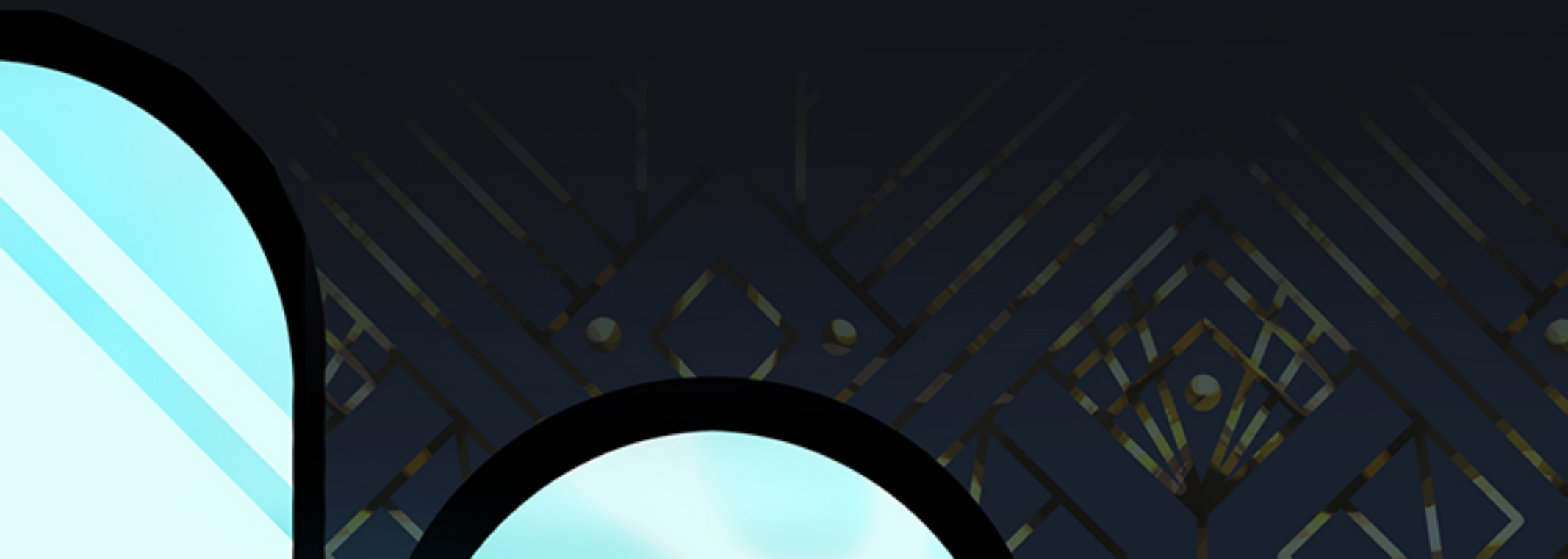


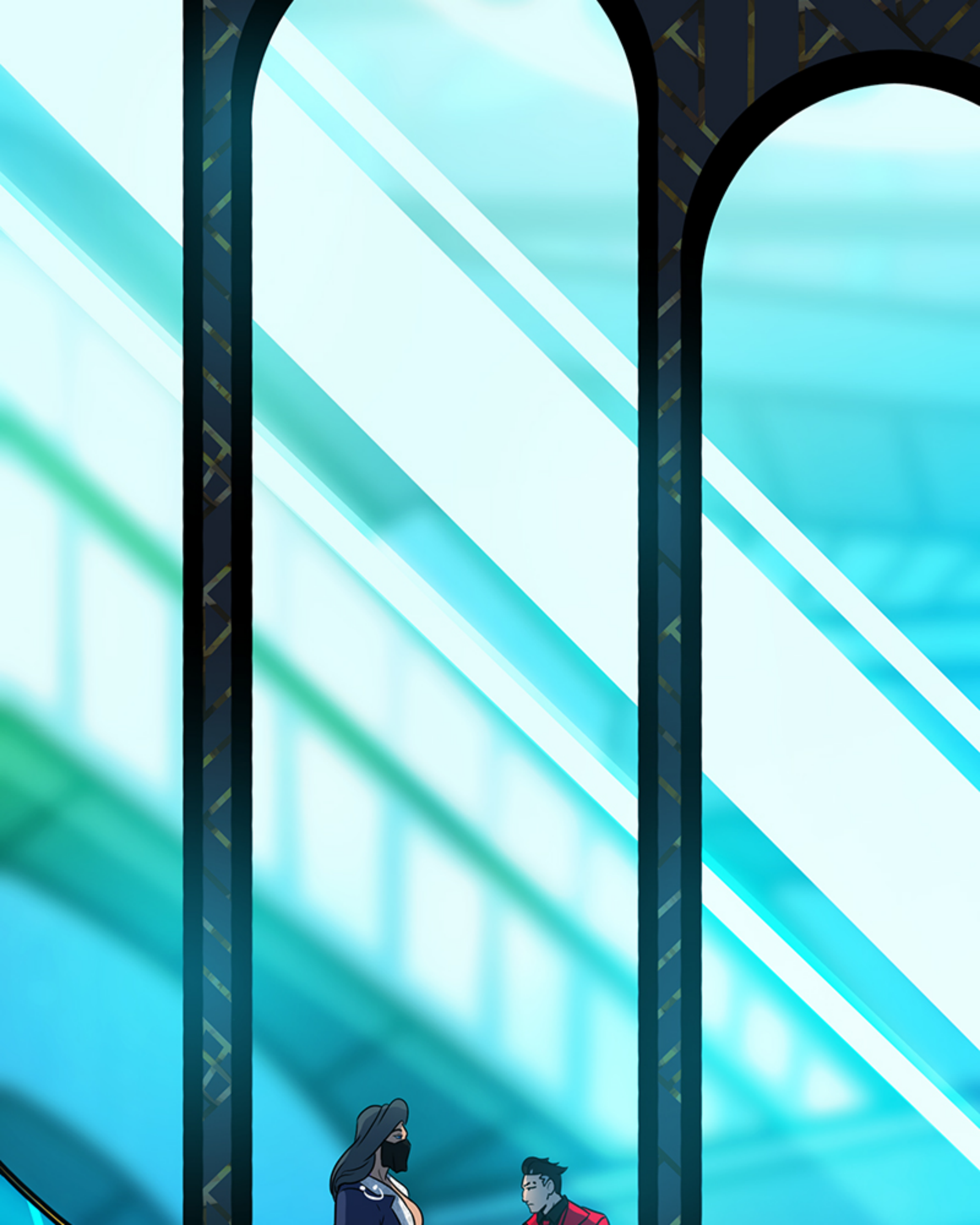
SO. TO
THAT END...

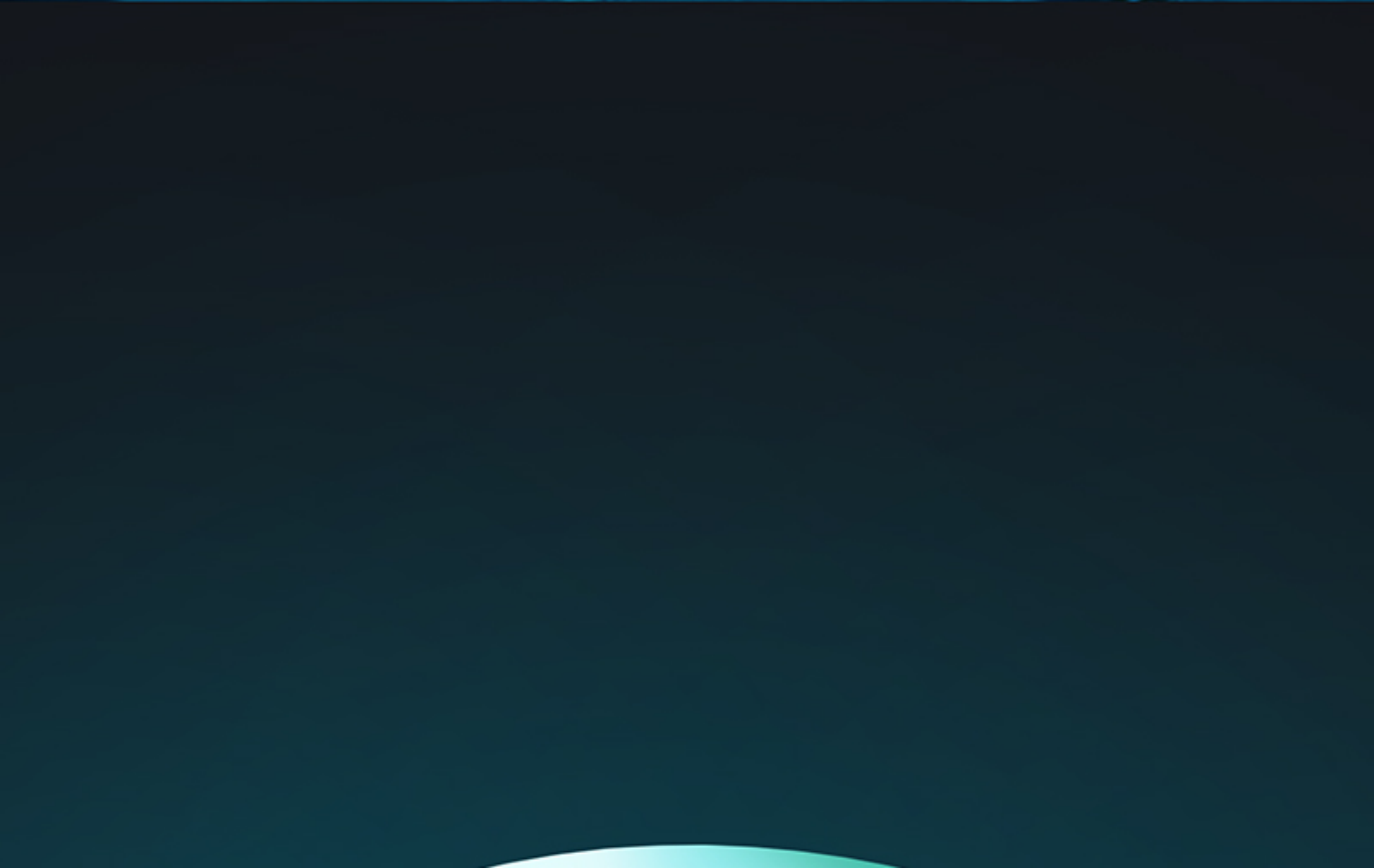


IS THERE
SOMETHING
YOU ARE HOPING
TO CONFESS?

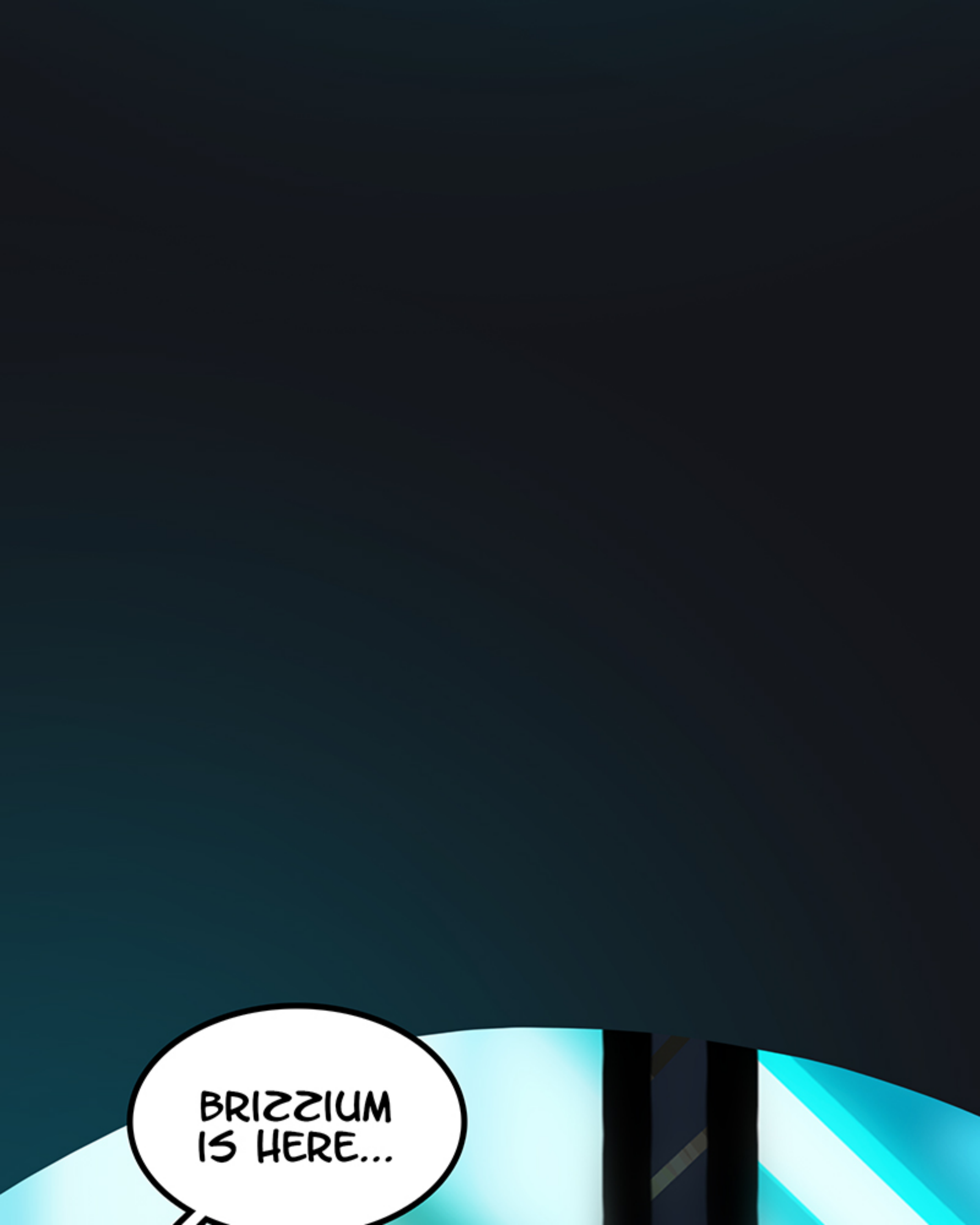










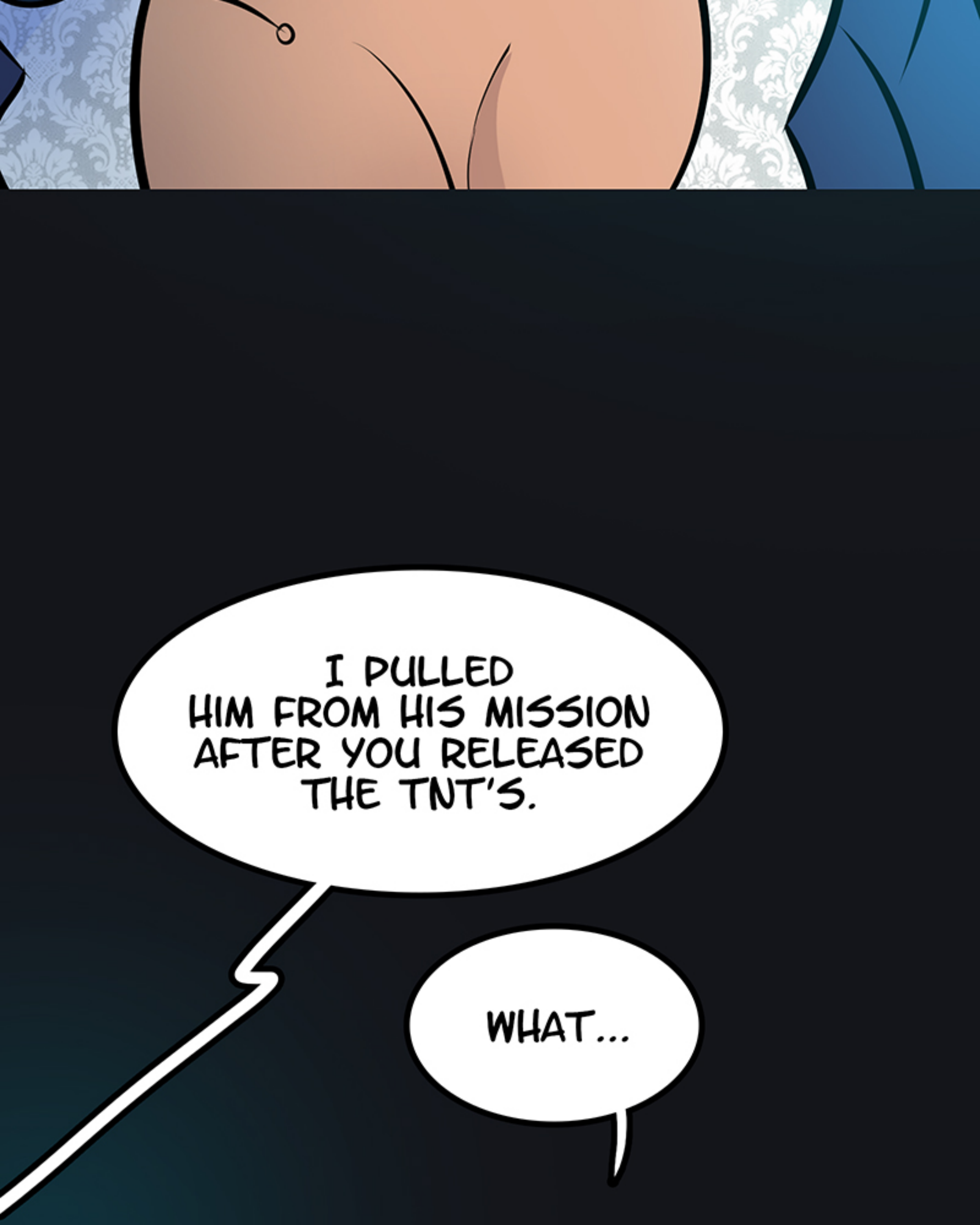


BRIZZIU
IS HERE...





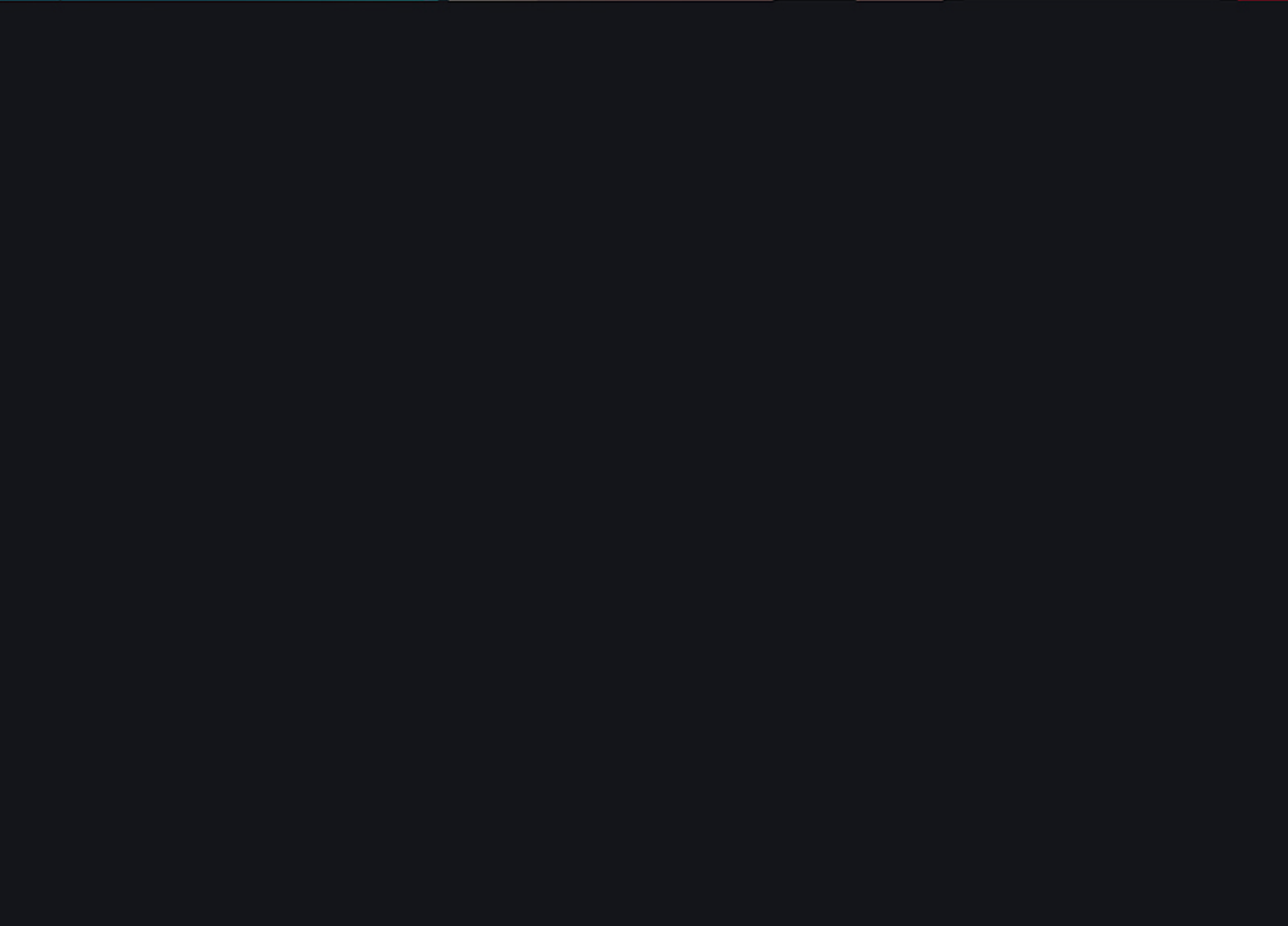
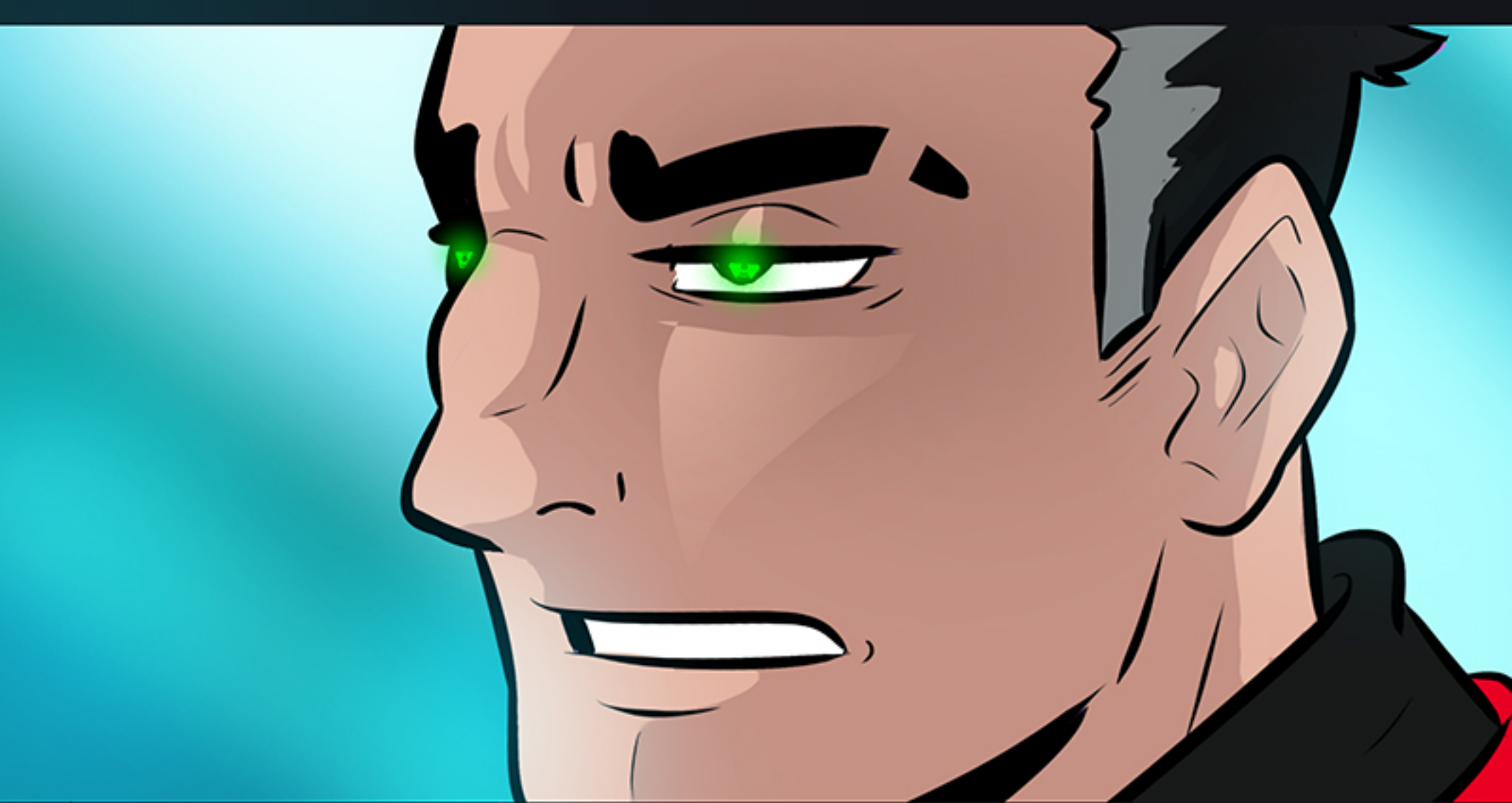
BECAUSE
I SENT HIM
HERE.



A comic book panel with a dark blue background. At the top, a character's chest is visible, wearing a blue patterned garment. Two speech bubbles are present: a large one on the left and a smaller one on the right.

I PULLED
HIM FROM HIS MISSION
AFTER YOU RELEASED
THE TNT'S.

WHAT...



HEADQUARTERS
REQUESTED THAT HE
BE SENT IN FOR
EVALUATION.

IT'S NOT NORMAL
FOR A COMPANY LIKE
OURS TO HAVE A FREE
ROAMING MILITARY
AI, AFTER ALL.

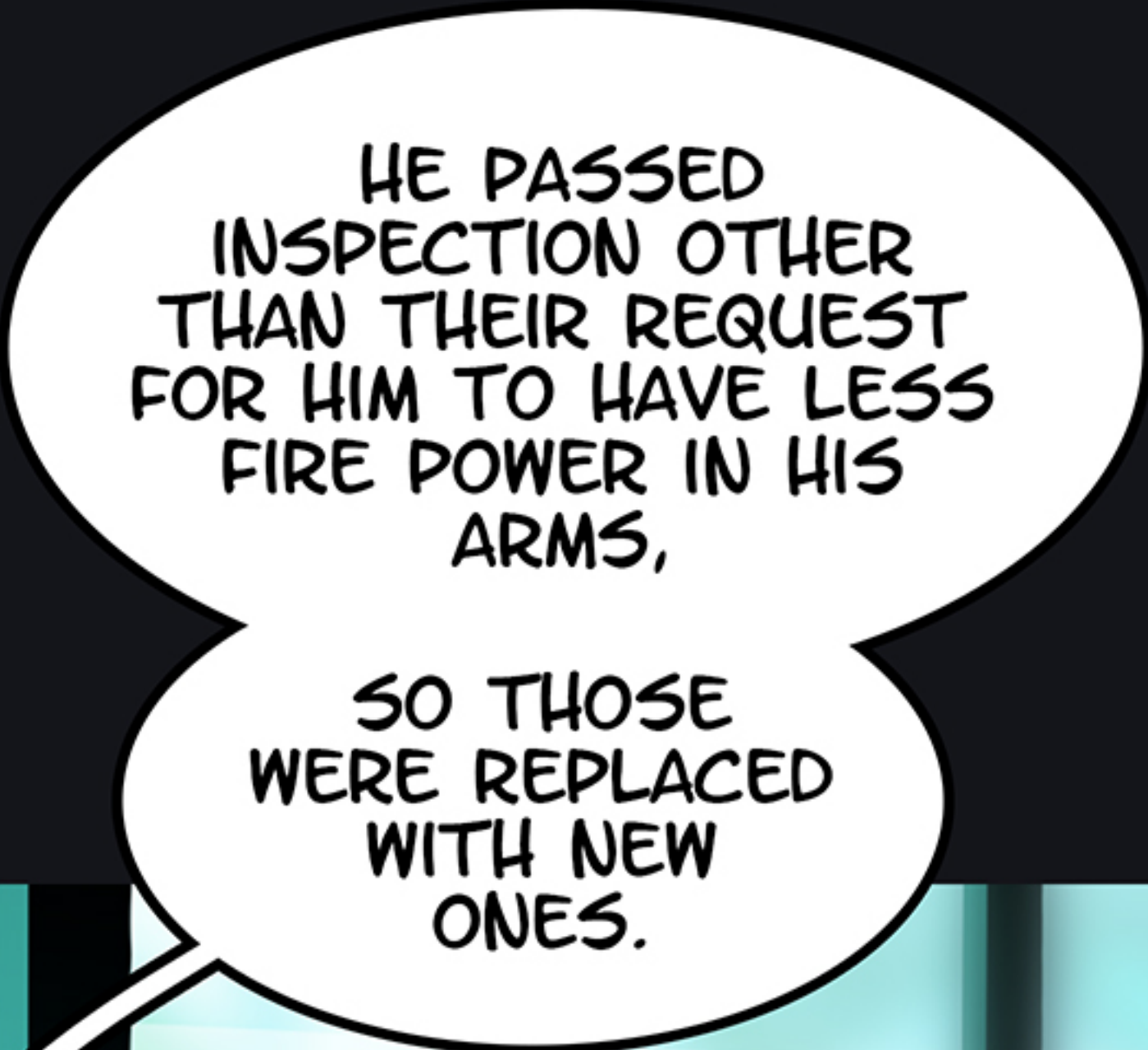
I PUT IT
OFF FOR AS LONG
AS I COULD BUT...

THEY WANTED
TO BE SURE THAT
WE WEREN'T DOING
ANYTHING...

UNTOWARD.





A comic book speech bubble with a white background and a black outline. The bubble is irregular in shape, with a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The text inside is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines. The background of the entire image is dark grey, with a light blue and white striped pattern at the bottom.

HE PASSED
INSPECTION OTHER
THAN THEIR REQUEST
FOR HIM TO HAVE LESS
FIRE POWER IN HIS
ARMS,

SO THOSE
WERE REPLACED
WITH NEW
ONES.





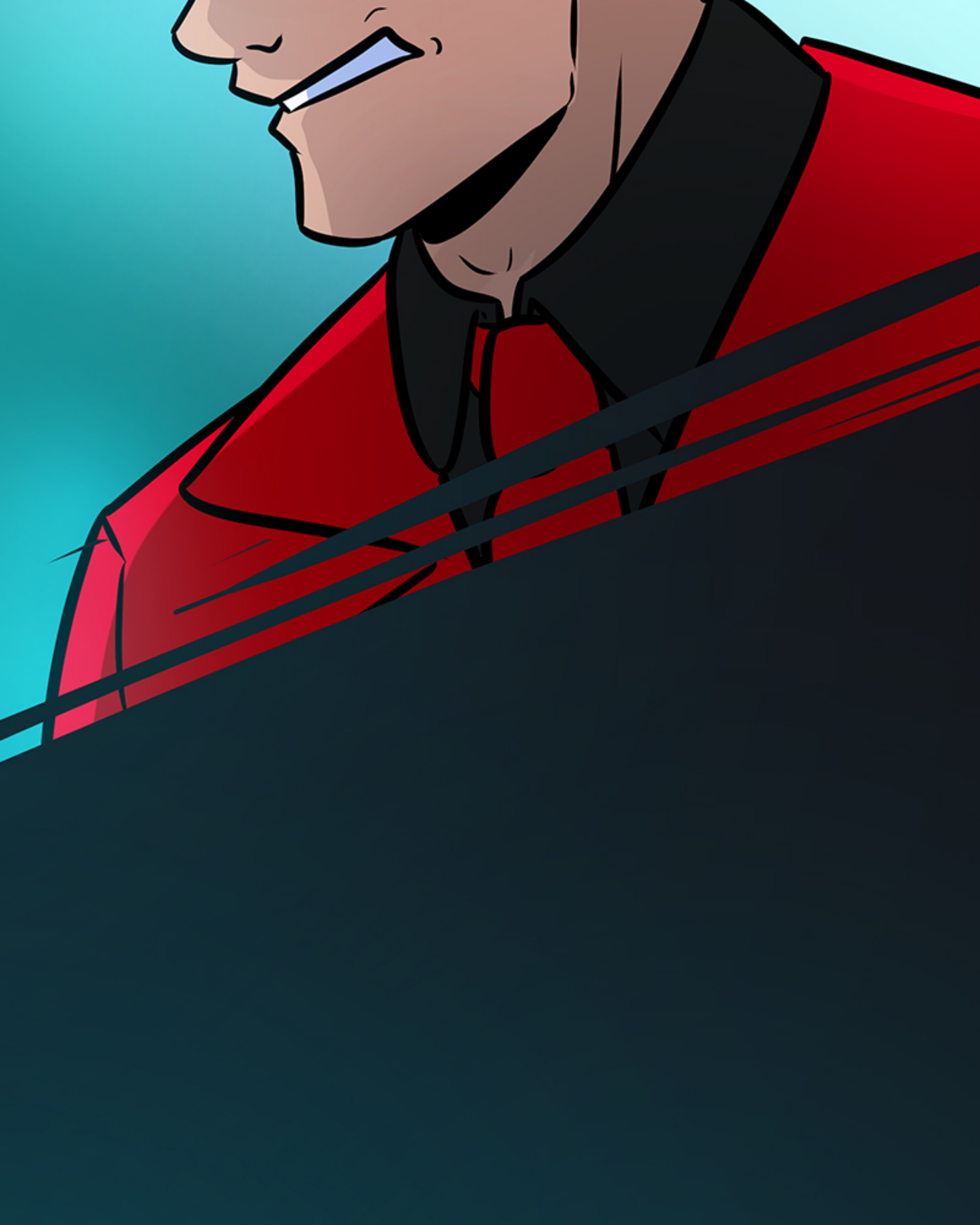
I SUGGESTED
THEY KEEP HIM AROUND
AS SECURITY FOR THE
EXPO. THEN I'D BRING
HIM BACK WITH
ME AFTERWARD.

YOU'RE
LYING TO
ME.



IF THAT'S
TRUE THEN WHY
THE FUCK DIDN'T
YOU MENTION THAT
WHEN I ASKED
WHERE HE WAS
EARLIER!?







OOOH...
CHARLIE.
DARLING.
BABY DOLL.



BECAUSE
WE DO HAVE THIS
MUCH IN COMMON.
POWER TRIPS
ARE FUN.

I LIKE
FUCKING WITH
YOU. BECAUSE I'M
NOT SCARED OF
YOU.





I ONLY
FELT BAD SEEING HOW
SCARED ADLYNN WAS.
CATCHING BLAME FOR
SOMETHING SHE COULDN'T
POSSIBLY KNOW...

IT'D BE UNFAIR OF
YOU TO TORMENT HER
FURTHER. *PATHETICALLY*
HUMAN OF YOU.



A close-up, high-contrast illustration of a character's face, focusing on the eyes. The character has light blue eyes with bright green, hexagonal pupils that appear to be glowing. The skin is a warm, brownish-tan color. The background is dark, and the overall style is reminiscent of comic book art.

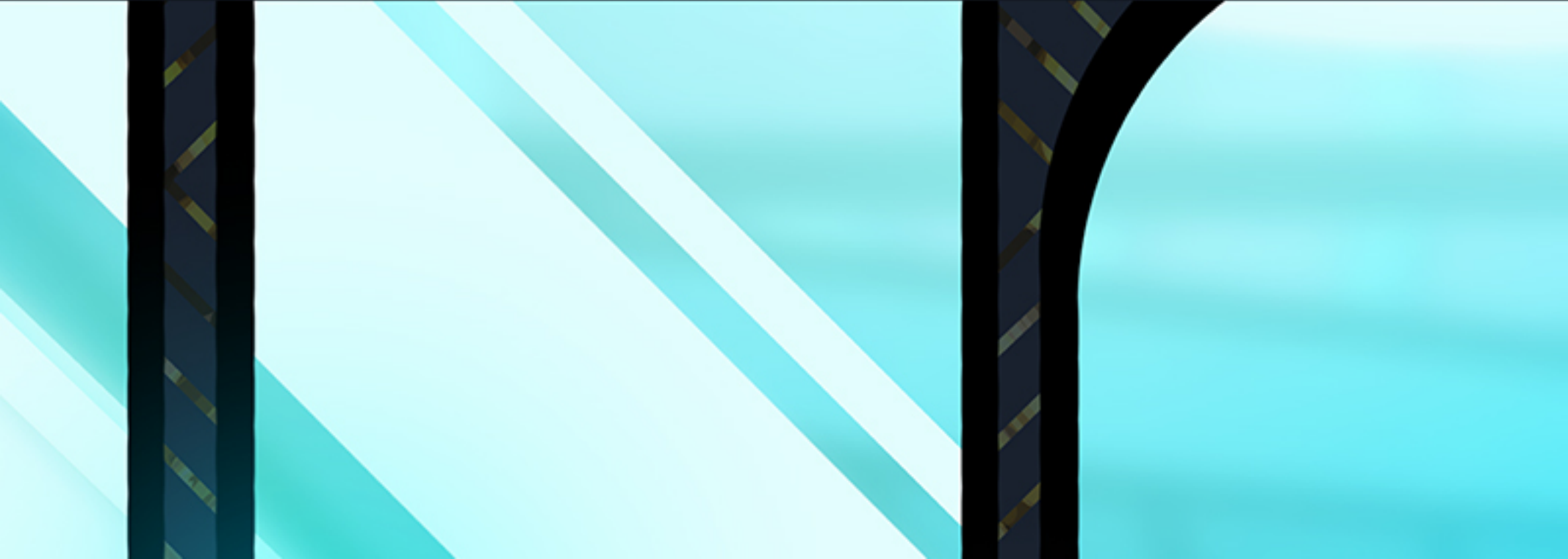
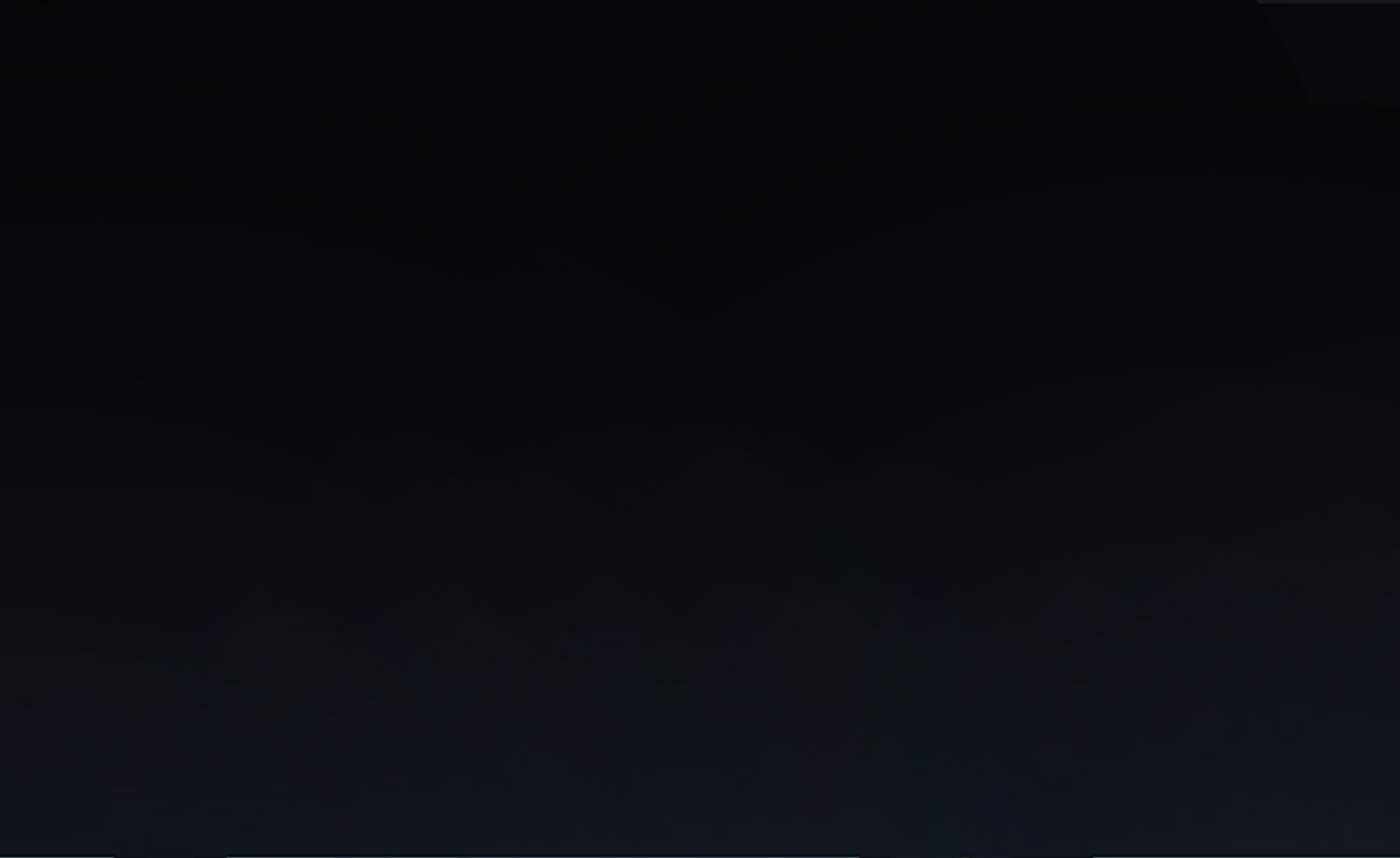
IT'S
VERY HUMAN
TO LASH OUT IN
ANGER AT THINGS
NOT GOING YOUR
WAY.

LIKE A
SPOILED LITTLE
BOY.



A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a character's face. The character has a large, glowing blue eye with a white gear-like symbol in the center. The background is dark, and the character's skin is a light tan color. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character's face.

BUT...
AREN'T YOU
BETTER THAN
ALL THAT?



THINK
ON IT, WON'T
YOU?





OH, AND
JUST A REMINDER.
I LET YOU AND ADLYNN
BORROW BRIZZ. BUT
I MADE HIM.

I DON'T
NEED YOUR
PERMISSION,
YOU NEED

MINE.









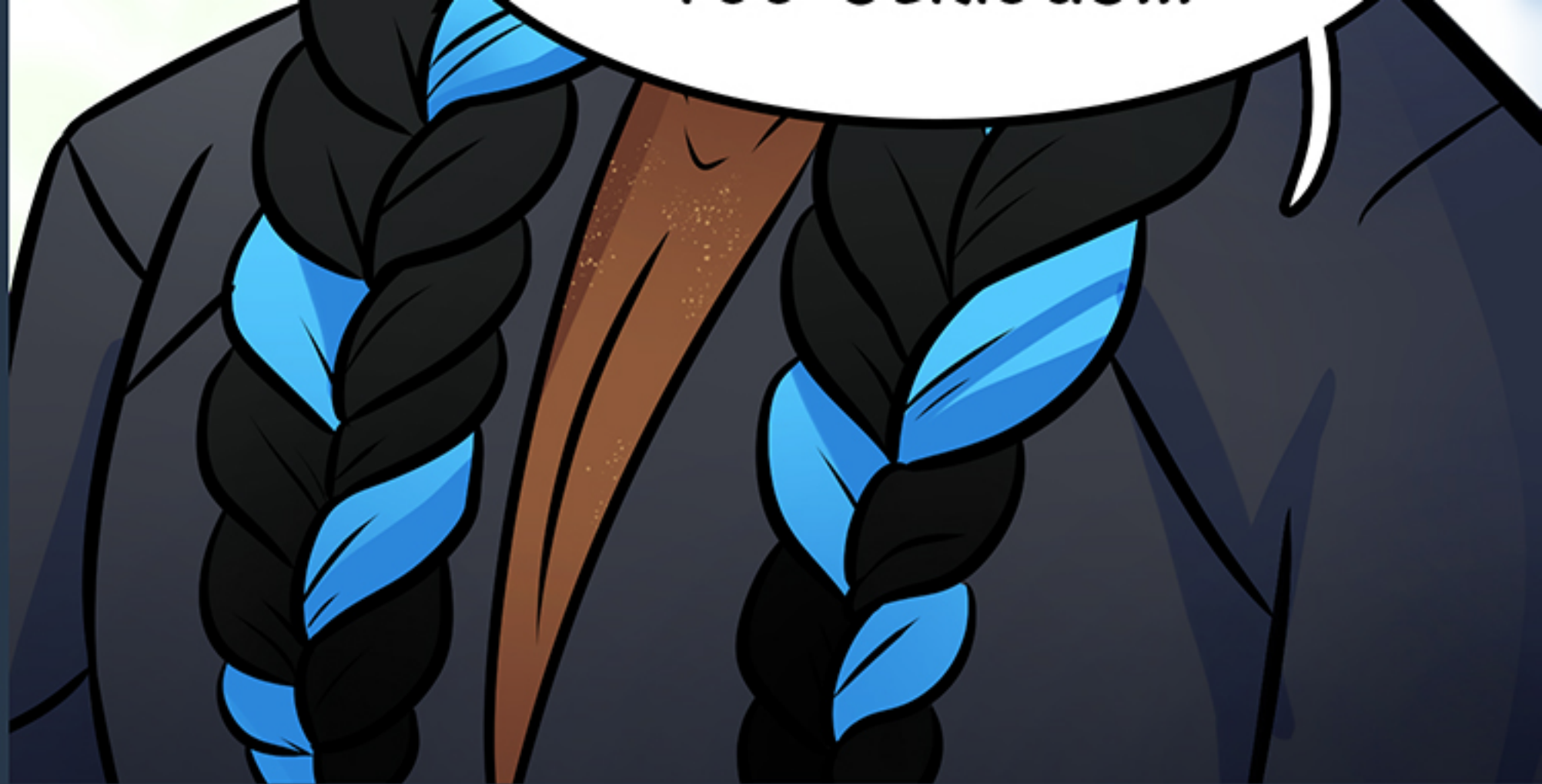


BRIZZ
LEFT SO FAST
AFTER HE GOT THAT

AFTER HE GOT THAT
LAST MESSAGE FROM
EVA, DO YOU THINK
HE'S OKAY?



MAYBE SHE
NEEDED HIS HELP
FOR SOMETHING?
HOPEFULLY NOTHING
TOO SERIOUS...



AT LEAST
I WAS ABLE TO
GET HIS NUMBER
BEFORE HE VANISHED
AGAIN...





WAIT-







ARE YOU
SURE YOU WANT
TO DO THIS...?
WE DON'T HAVE
TO...

WE CAME HERE
TO GET INFO FROM
DR. EVA AND WE
GOT IT.

I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
GIVING A SPEECH OR
SITTING AT A FANCY
DINNER IF YOU FEEL
UNSAFE...







NO...
I WANT
TO. MAYBE
JUST TO BE
STUBBORN
BUT...

HE CAN'T
ATTACK US WITHOUT
US EXPOSING HIM IN
FRONT OF ALL HIS
BOSSES, RIGHT?

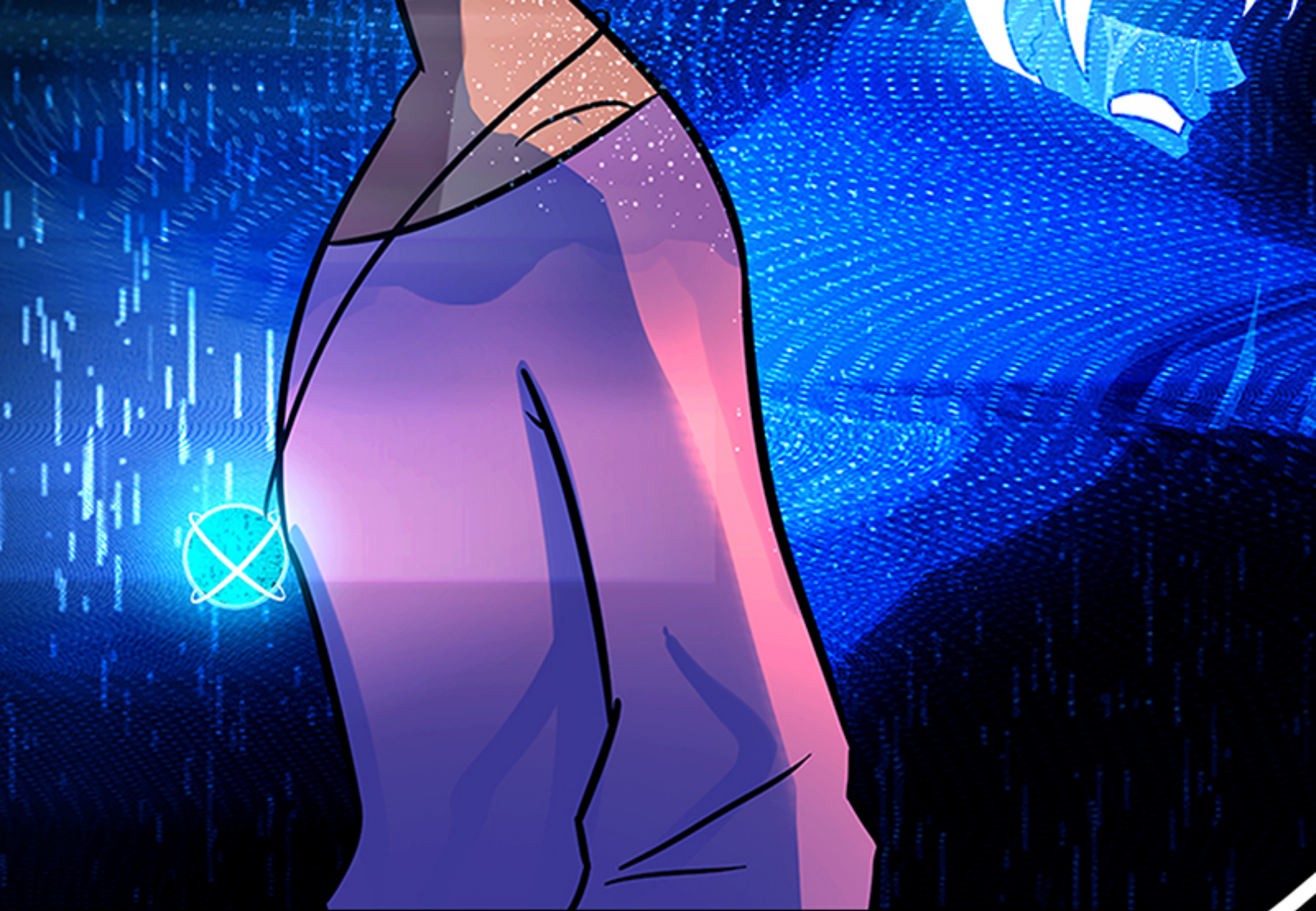


I WANT TO

I WANT TO
SEE WHAT SORT
OF PERSON WE'RE
ACTUALLY DEALING
WITH...

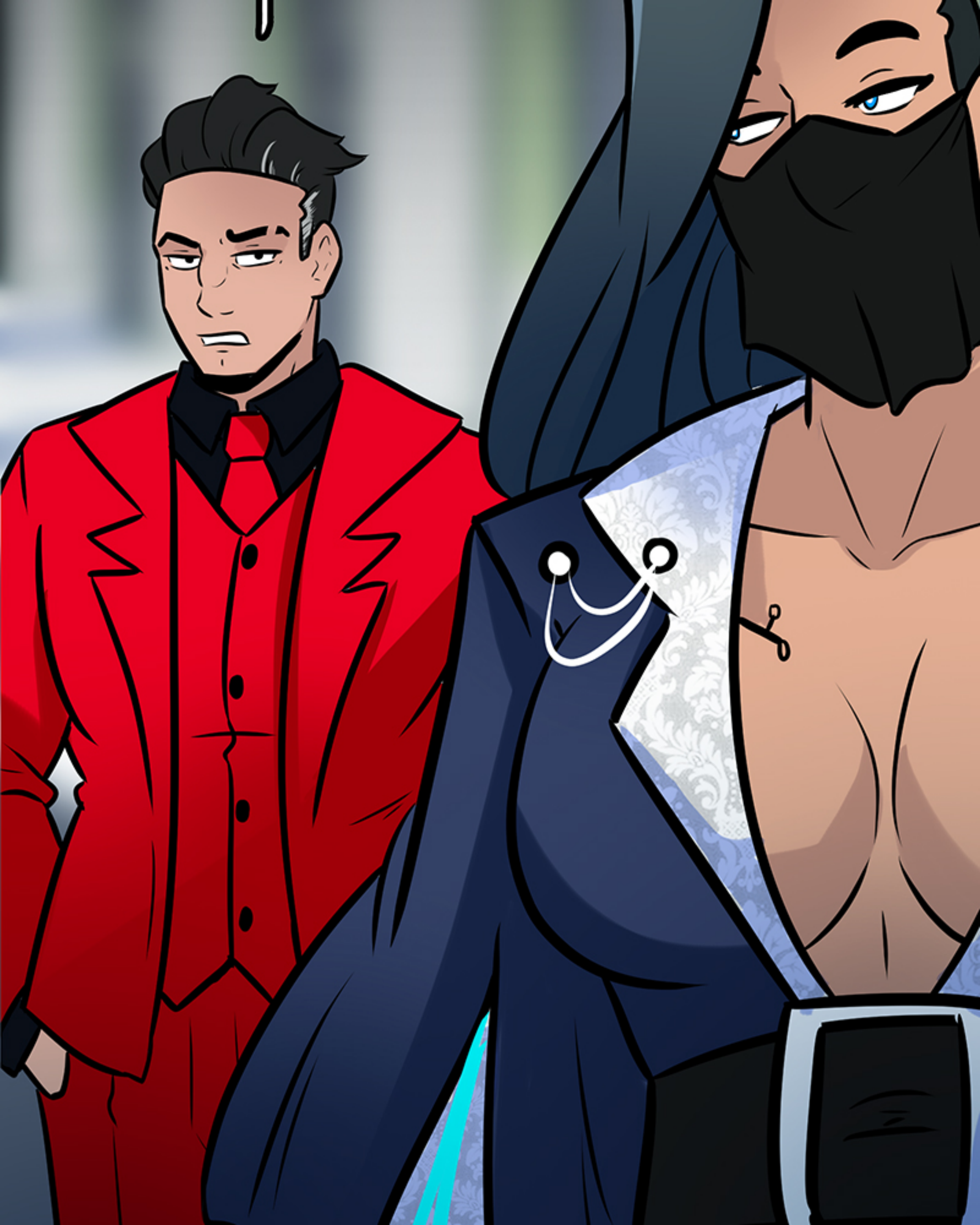
AND I...





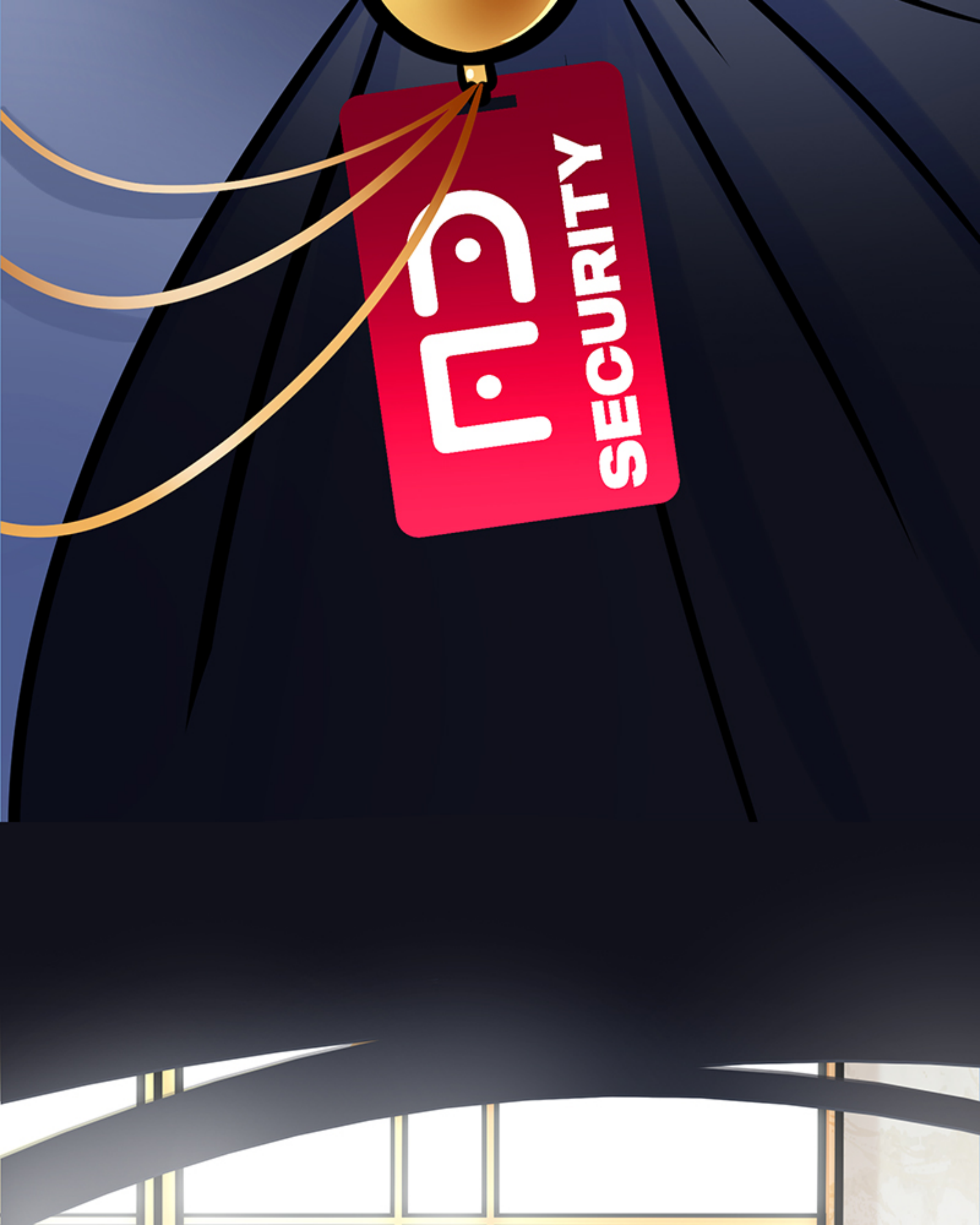
DON'T WANT
TO RUN IN FEAR
ANYMORE...

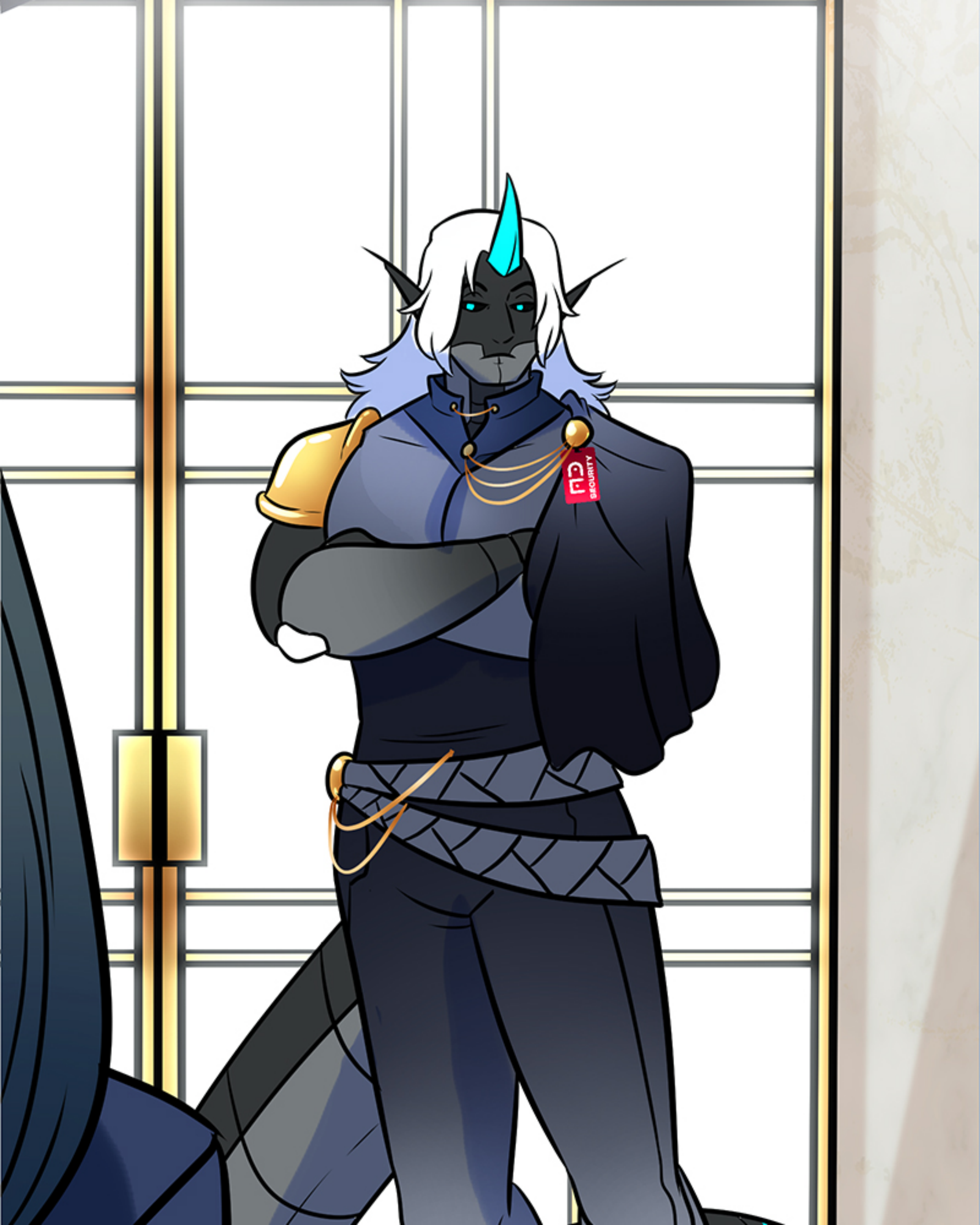




A comic panel with a dark blue background. At the top, a character's torso is visible, wearing a red and white striped garment with a blue patterned collar. At the bottom, a character's face is partially visible, showing a large, golden-yellow eye. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the center, containing the text "YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...".

YOU'VE
GOT TO BE
KIDDING ME...







WELCOME
TO THE
PARTY. MR.
DALLAS.





JUST ABOUT
EVERYONE ELSE
IS ALREADY
INSIDE.

LOVEBOTS

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Edited by **Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell**

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