

WARNING

**THIS EPISODE CONTAINS
TRAUMATIC FLASHBACKS OF
DOMESTIC AND PHYSICAL ABUSE.
VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.**

I CAN'T
SEEM TO REMEMBER
WHERE I'VE SEEN
YOU BEFORE!



A comic panel featuring a close-up of a character's face. The character has brown skin, freckles, and is wearing a dark blue shirt. Their eyes are closed, and they have a slight, knowing smile. A white speech bubble is positioned above their head. The background is a solid black.

WHAT
EXACTLY IS
YOUR CONNECTION
TO A.E.?

MY
CONNECTION
...?





YES... THAT'S
NOT A DIFFICULT
QUESTION TO
ANSWER...





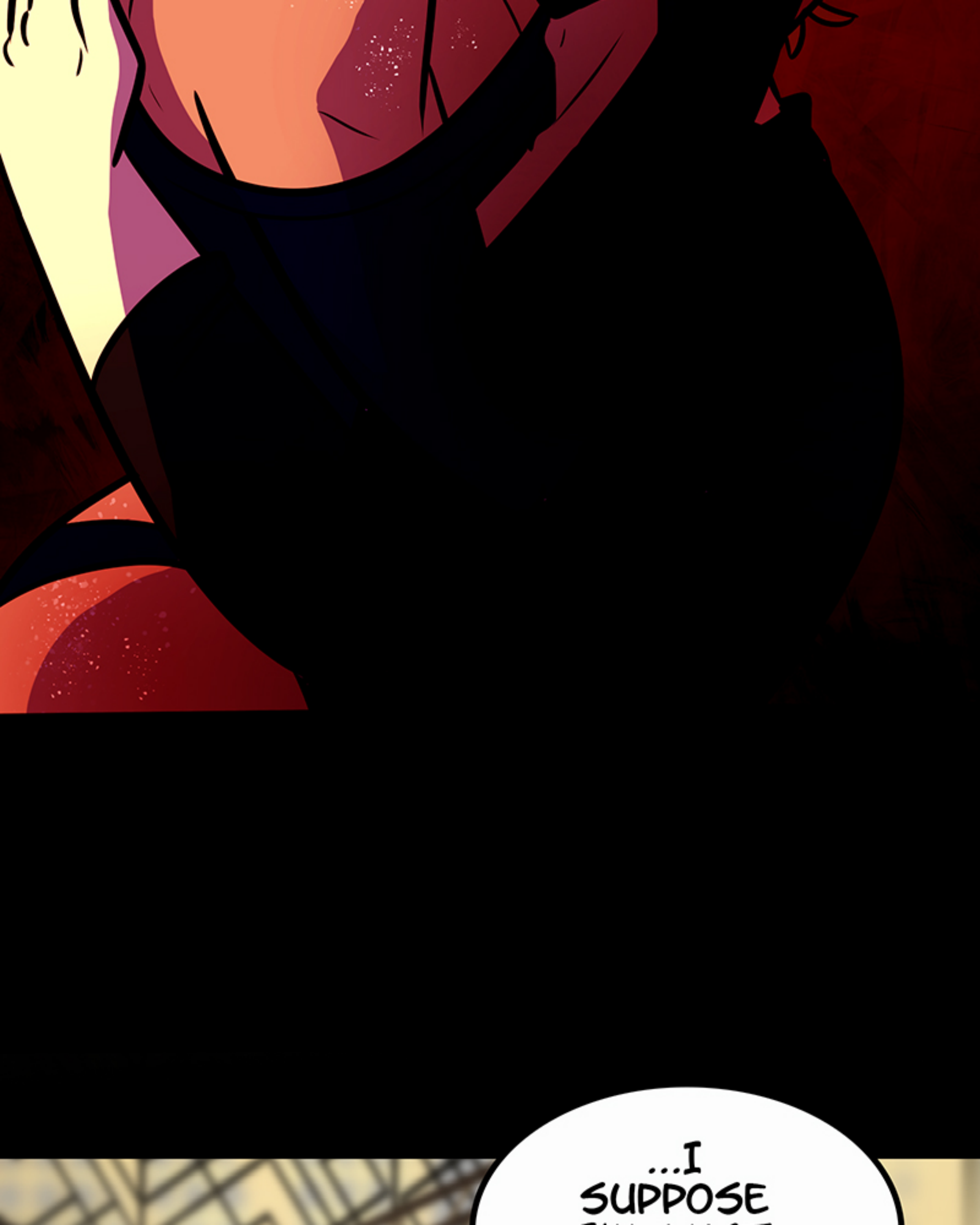
IS IT?

NO...



MY CONNECTION
IS...





...I
SUPPOSE

A comic book panel featuring two characters. On the left, a man with dark hair and green eyes, wearing a red suit, looks slightly confused. On the right, a man with pink hair and freckles, wearing a dark blue jacket with gold buttons, is speaking. The background is a blurred city street.

I'M JUST
CONFUSED...

ABOUT WHO
EXACTLY YOU
ARE.

AND WHAT RIGHT
YOU HAVE TO BE ASKING
ME ABOUT MY PLACE
HERE.

...

I'M
CHARLES
DALLAS.



CEO OF A.E.'S
EARTH BRANCH.



I SEE... I KNOW
THAT LOOK...



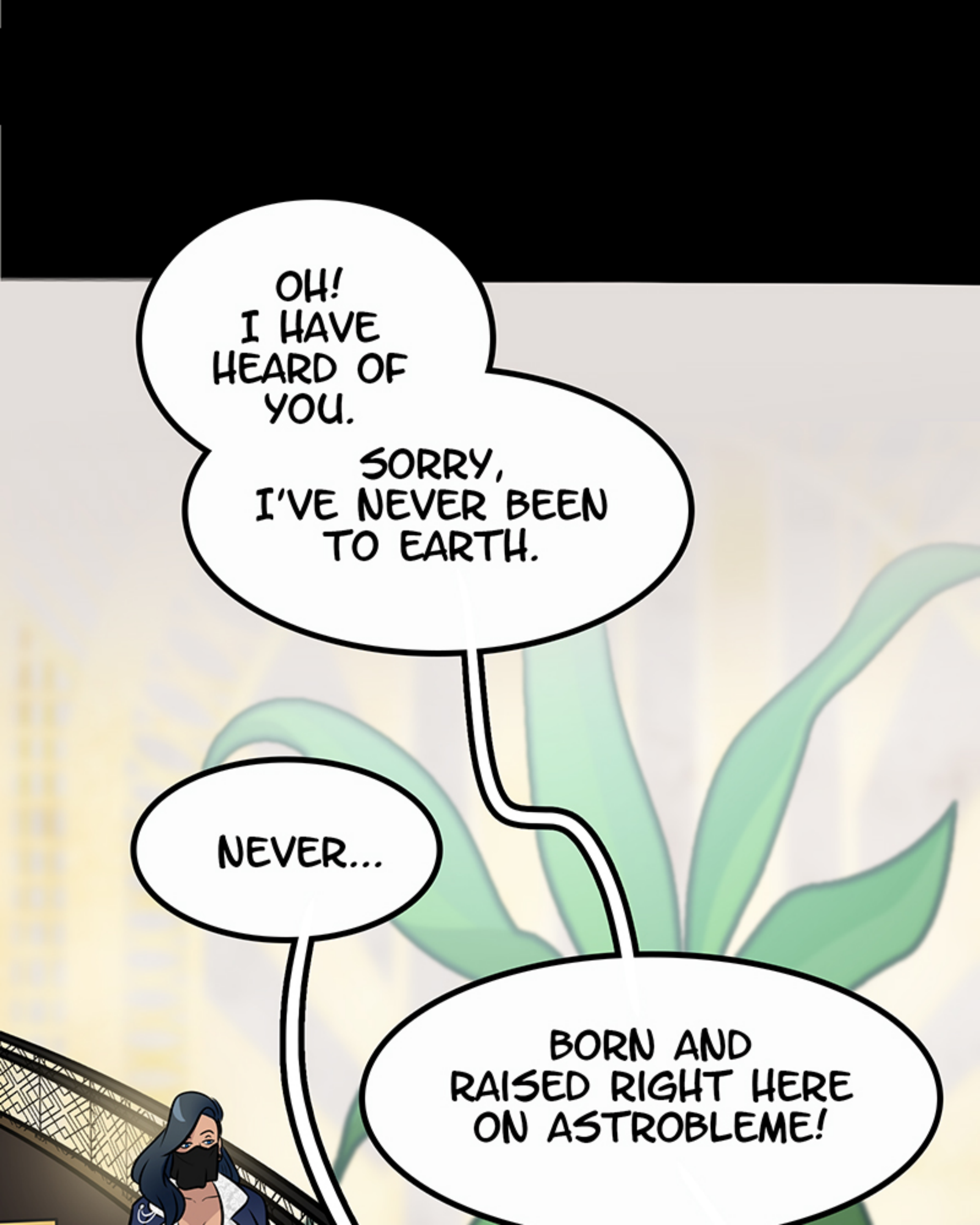
BY WATCHING
YOU... I FEEL LIKE
I'M UNDERSTANDING
HIM BETTER...





MEN LIKE YOU...
CAN'T STAND TO
FEEL SMALL.

EVEN FOR A
MOMENT.

A comic panel featuring a character with long dark hair and a black face mask, wearing a blue jacket, positioned in the bottom left corner. The background is a soft-focus illustration of a green plant with large leaves. Four speech bubbles are arranged in a vertical line, connected by a single line that originates from the character. The speech bubbles contain the following text:

OH!
I HAVE
HEARD OF
YOU.

SORRY,
I'VE NEVER BEEN
TO EARTH.

NEVER...

BORN AND
RAISED RIGHT HERE
ON ASTROBLEME!



MY FATHER
WAS ONE OF THE
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
THAT HELPED TO BUILD
ASTROBLEME WHEN IT WAS
FIRST ESTABLISHED.



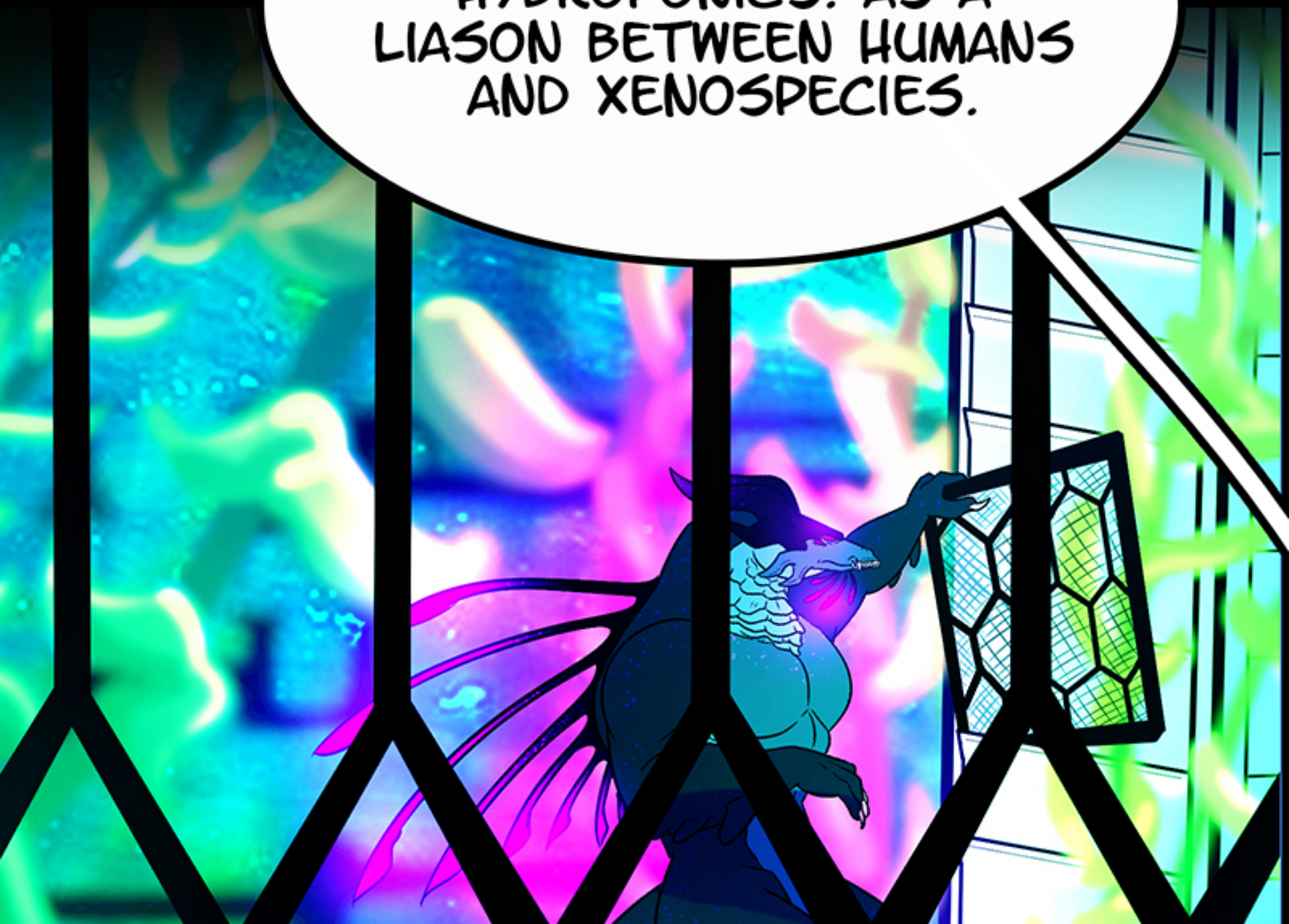


The Proxima-X
is named as a homage to
the original ship that landed
on astrobleme with a crew of
over a thousand people
including mechanics,
biologists and-



GROWING UP
HERE PROVIDED ME
WITH THE OPPORTUNITY
TO STEP INTO NEWLY
DEVELOPED PROGRAMS-

SO NOW I WORK IN
HYDROPONICS. AS A
LIASON BETWEEN HUMANS
AND XENOSPECIES.





A comic panel featuring a large white speech bubble with a black outline. The speech bubble contains the text: "SO IT'S FUN TO COME TO STUFF LIKE THIS... I'M USUALLY TOO CAUGHT UP IN WORK TO SOCIALIZE!". Below the speech bubble, the head and shoulders of a man with dark, spiky hair and green eyes are visible. He is looking towards the right. In the bottom right corner, a small portion of a pink object, possibly a character's head or a piece of clothing, is visible. The background is a blurred green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage and a building in the distance.

SO IT'S
FUN TO COME TO
STUFF LIKE THIS...
I'M USUALLY TOO
CAUGHT UP IN WORK
TO SOCIALIZE!



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue hijab and a black face veil (niqab), is looking upwards with a slight smile. She is wearing a blue and white patterned garment. In the background, there are wide stone steps leading up a hill, a large green plant in a pot, and a table with a white tablecloth covered with many small white candles. The scene is set outdoors with a bright, hazy sky.

HYDROPONICS...
IMPRESSIVE.



ALSO EXPLAINS
WHY YOU STOPPED
FOLLOWING ME.





THAT'S
HILARIOUS.

WHAT I WOULDN'T
GIVE TO STAND HERE AND
SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP
UP THIS STORY BEFORE THE
CRACKS BECOME TOO
OBVIOUS...





UNFORTUNATELY
THE CRACKS WOULD
CAUSE A COLLAPSE ON
TOP OF BRIZZIIUM AND
COMPOUND ONTO
ADLYNN.



COME
ALONG THEN,
CHARLES!

WE
SHOULD
FIND OUR
DATES!

UGH.



IT WAS
NICE MEETING
YOU!



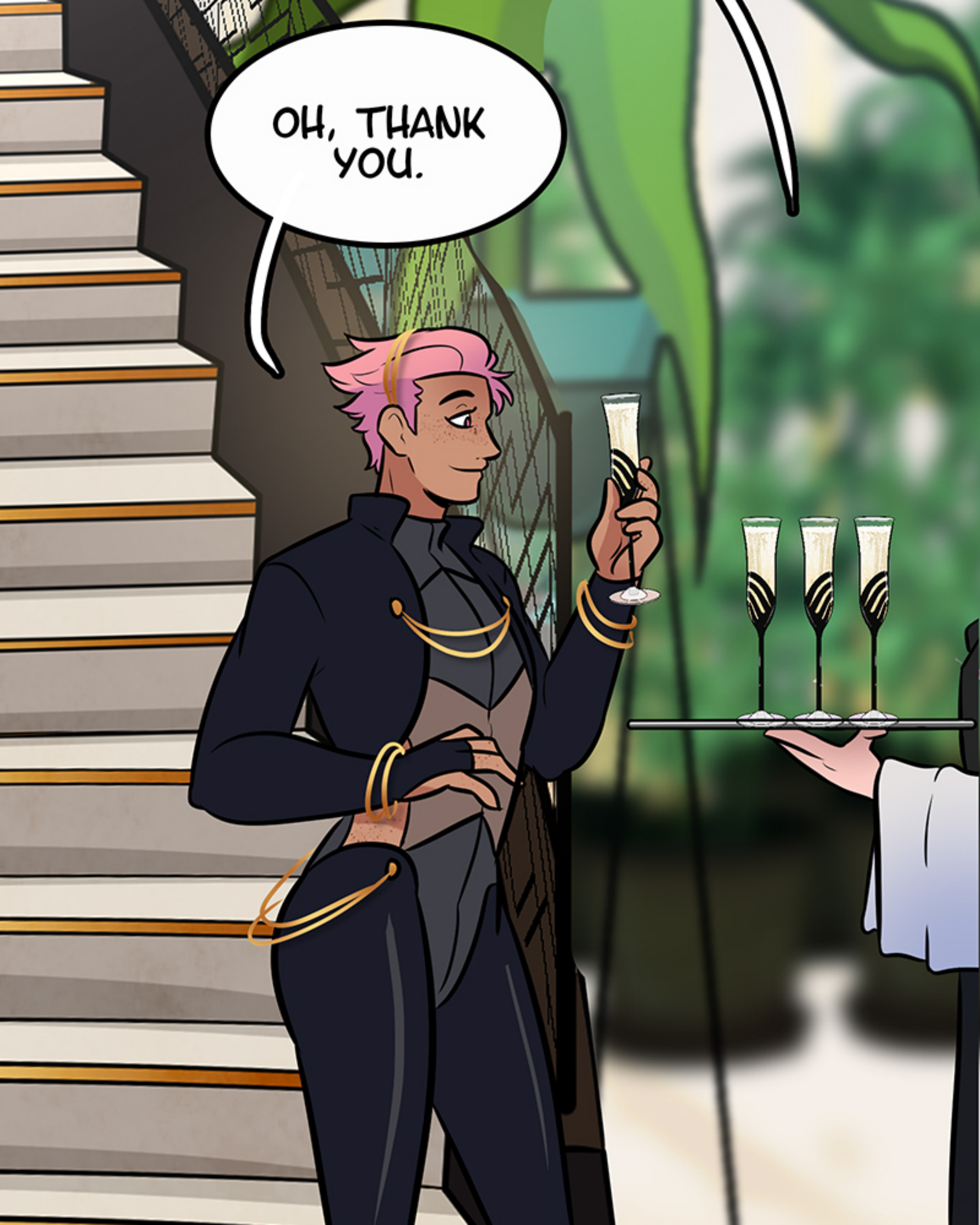
YOU TOO!

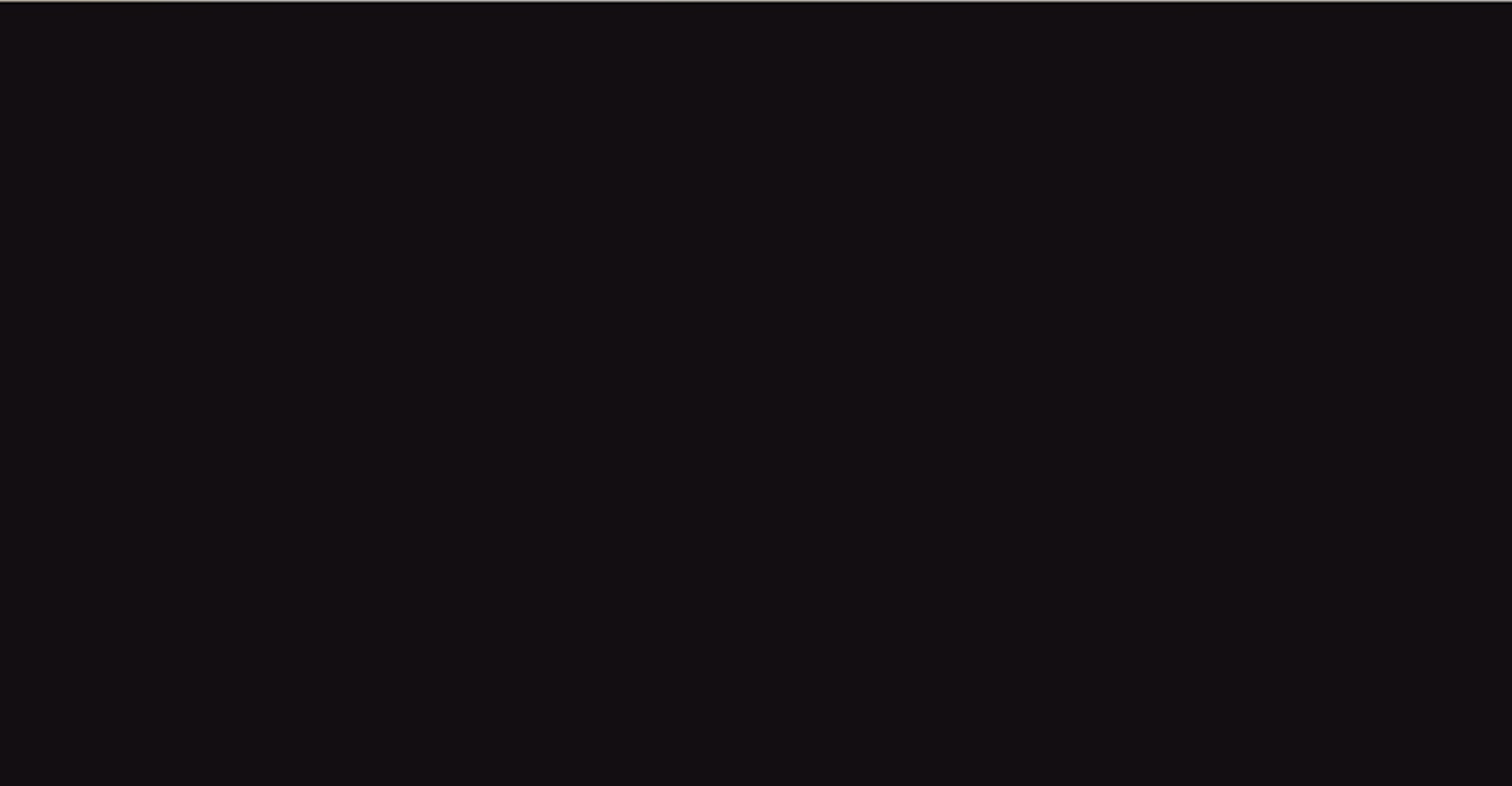




CHAMPAGNE?

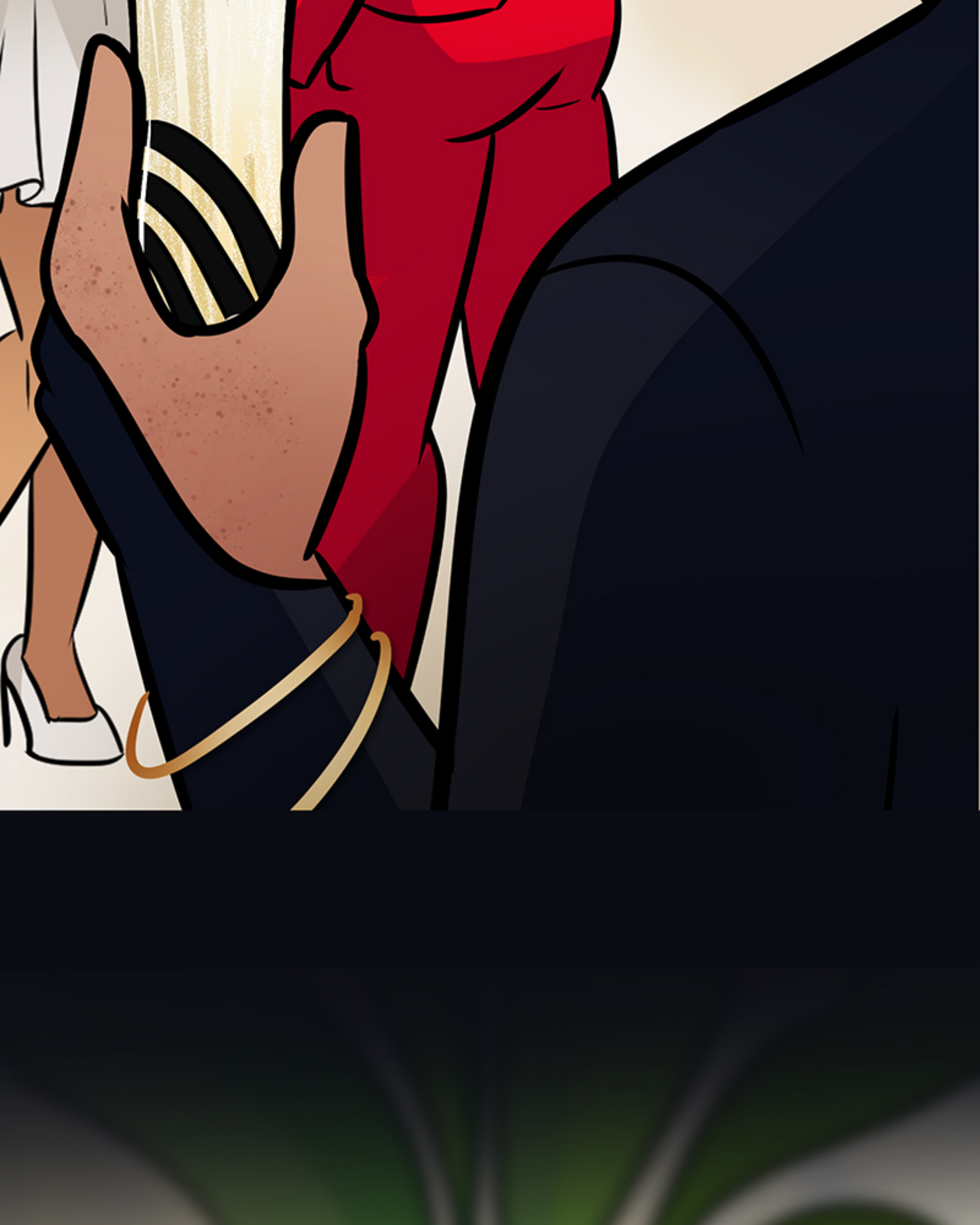
OH, THANK
YOU.





A comic book panel featuring a man in a red suit and a woman with pink hair. The man is in the foreground, seen from the back and side, looking towards the woman. The woman is on the left, smiling and holding a glass of beer. A speech bubble from her says "MR. DALLAS! THERE YOU ARE!". The background shows a large set of stairs and a green plant.

MR. DALLAS!
THERE YOU
ARE!





cheers!



I WONDER IF YOU
KNEW FOR SURE
WHO I WAS...

IF YOU WOULD
REMEMBER WHEN
WE MET.





I BARELY
REMEMBERED, UNTIL
SEEING YOU UP
CLOSE...





HE WAS SO
EXCITED FOR YOU
TO VISIT.





A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a person's back and shoulders. The person is wearing a dark, possibly black, garment. The skin is a light brown color. In the center of the panel, there is a white rectangular speech bubble with a black border. The text inside the bubble is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a solid dark red color.

AND YOUR EYES
BARELY SKIMMED ME.



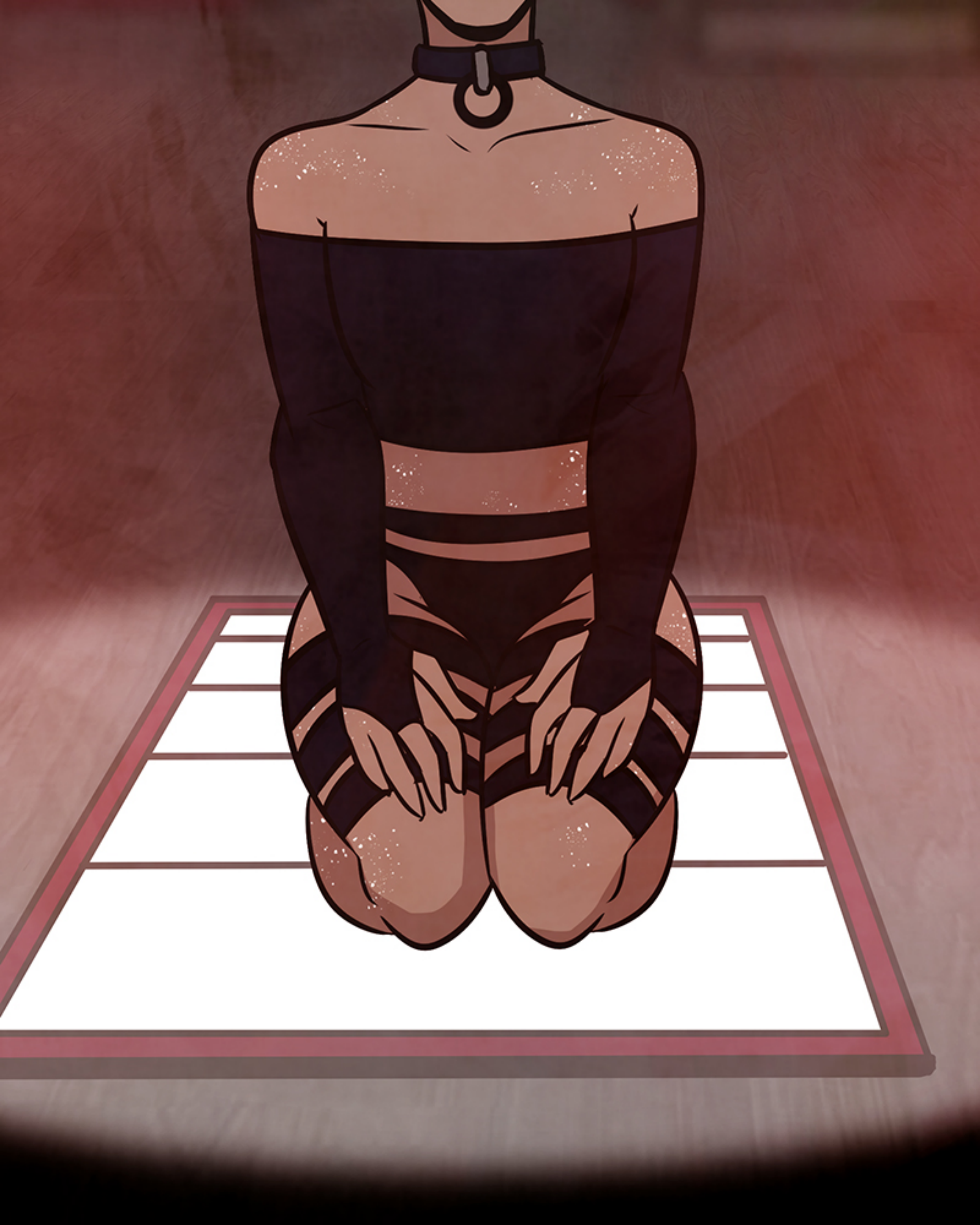
I WAS JUST
PART OF THE DECOR
TO YOU.



BUT SINCE HE
DIDN'T GIVE ME
PERMISSION TO
MOVE...

I WASN'T ABLE
TO ACCESS THE
EVENING PROTOCOL.





SO I REMAINED
THERE...

FOR HOURS
LONGER THAN
USUAL.

STUCK.



AND WHEN YOU
LEFT... YOU DIDN'T
LOOK AT ME AGAIN.





AND I CONTINUED
TO REMAIN THERE..

UNTIL EVENTUALLY-

AEL,
COME
HERE.





GOOD
EVENING,
MASTER!

HOW WAS
WORK? WOULD YOU
LIKE ANOTHER
DRINK?

SOME
STRESS
RELIEF?





TELL ME
HOW I CAN SERVE
YOU...





...DID THAT
HURT?

... YES,
SIR.





NO IT
DIDN'T... IF IT
HURT YOU ENOUGH
THEN YOU'D SHUT
DOWN.



A comic panel featuring a character's face in the upper left corner, rendered in shades of purple and black. The character has a stern expression. Two speech bubbles are present: a large one in the upper right and a smaller one in the lower left. The background is solid black.

YOU CAN'T
FACE ANY REAL PAIN.
BECAUSE YOU'RE
JUST A TOY.

YES,
SIR.

I NEVER LEARNED
ENOUGH ABOUT HIM TO
KNOW IF MICHAEL MASTERS
WAS EVER A "GOOD" MAN.

IF YOU
SHUT DOWN
BEFORE I'M SATISFIED,
I'M LEAVING YOU OFF
FOR A WEEK.

YES,
SIR.





BUT I DO
KNOW THIS...



YOU MADE
HIM FEEL SO
SMALL...





AND I WAS ALL
THAT HE HAD CONTROL
OVER. SOMETHING
SMALLER.



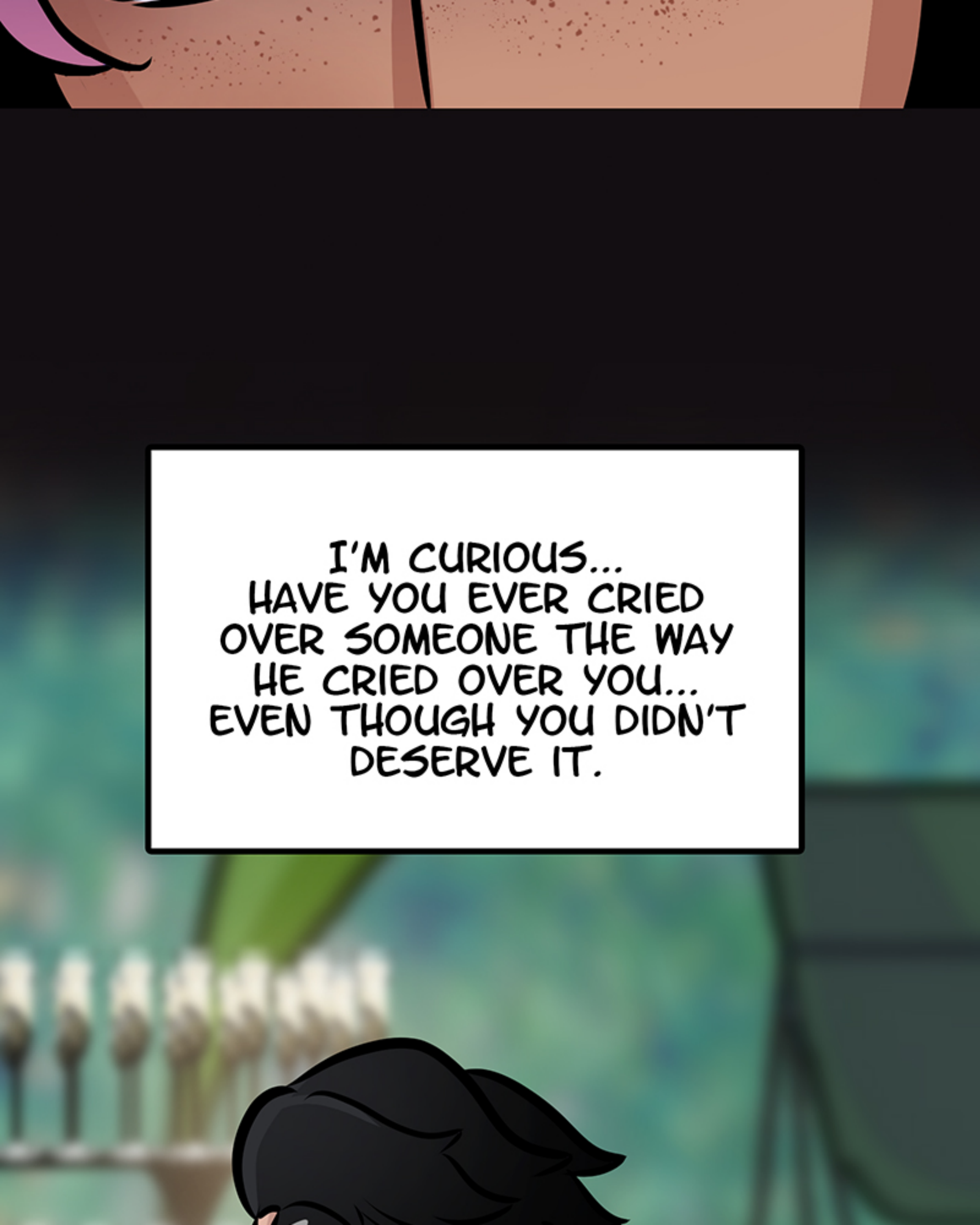
I WONDER AT
WHAT POINT HIS HANDS
ACTUALLY BECAME
YOURS...





AS FAR AS
I'M CONCERNED...
YOU'RE BOTH EQUALLY
PATHETIC AND TERRIBLE.



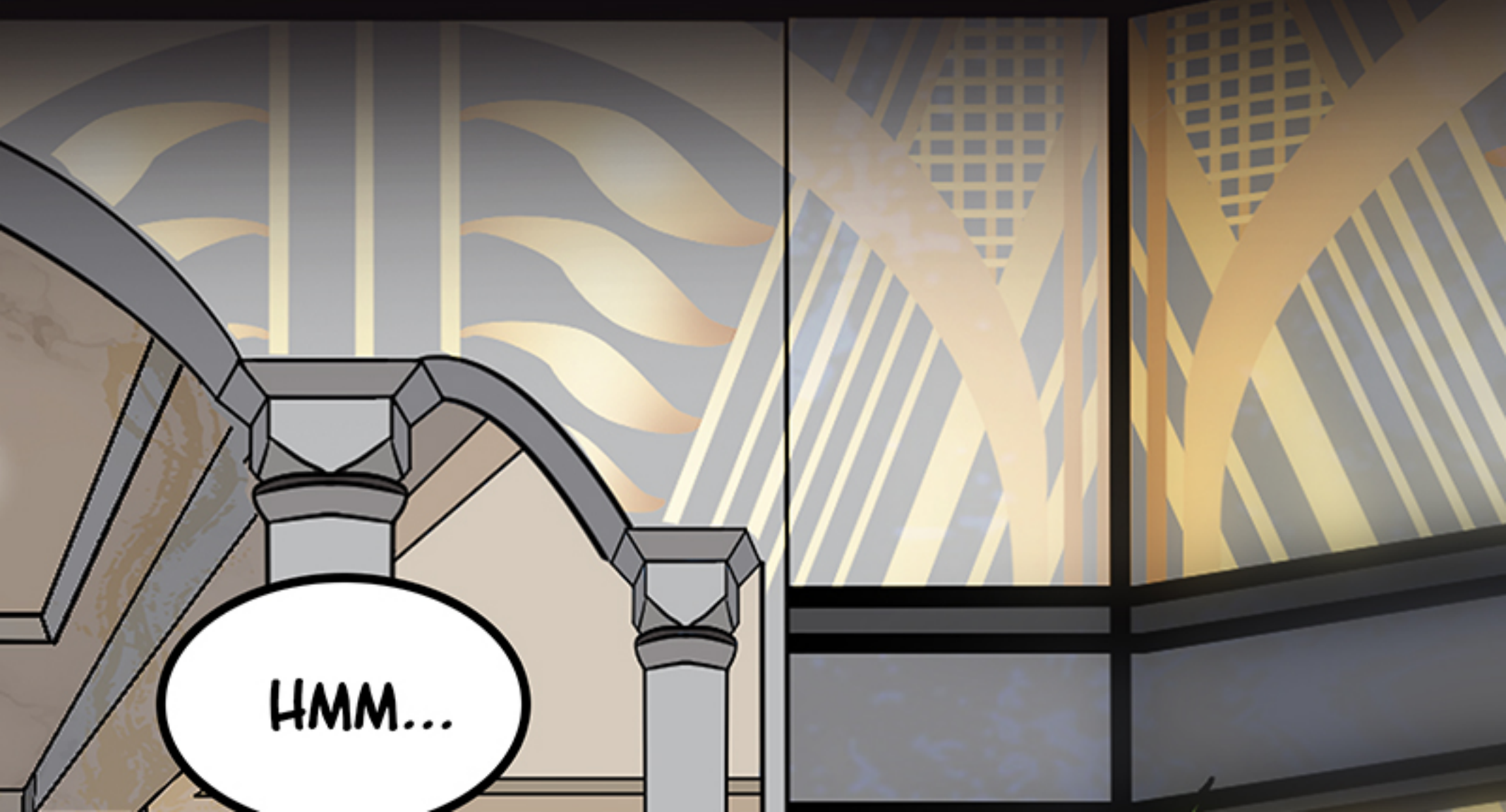
A comic book panel featuring a speech bubble in the center. The background is dark with a blurred image of a person's face at the top and a candelabra at the bottom. The speech bubble contains the following text:

I'M CURIOUS...
HAVE YOU EVER CRIED
OVER SOMEONE THE WAY
HE CRIED OVER YOU...
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T
DESERVE IT.



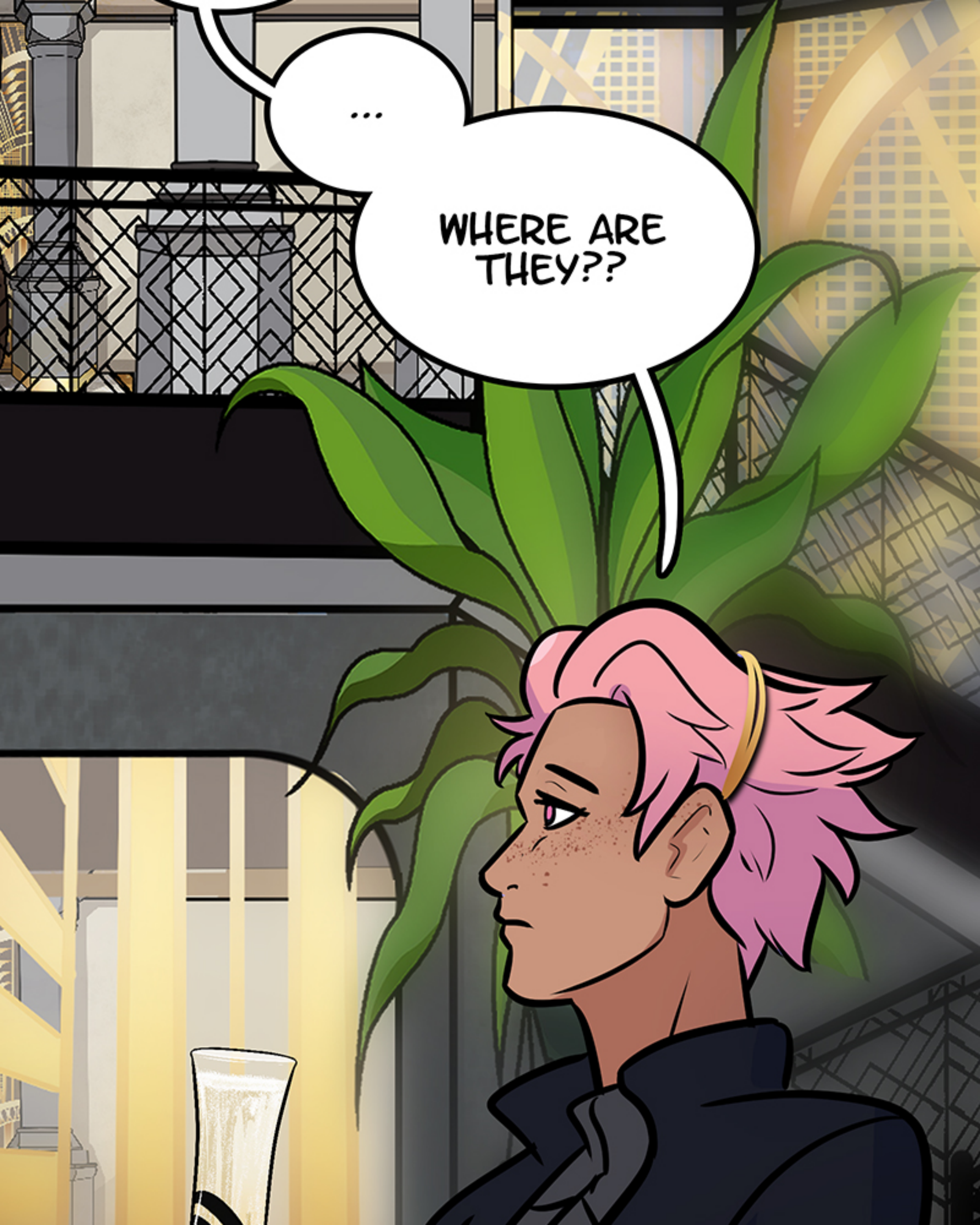
OR LIKE HOW I'VE
CRIED OVER HIM.



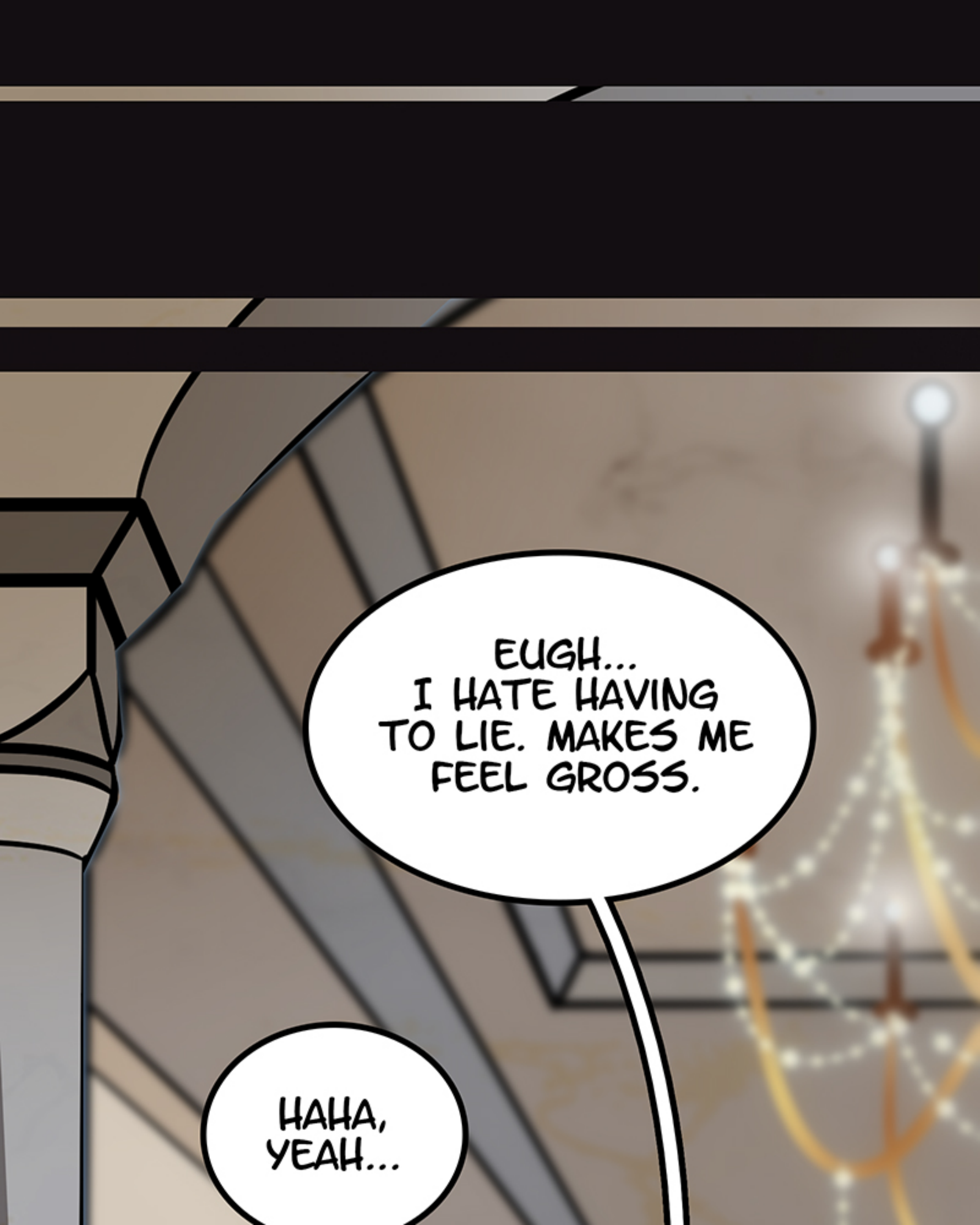


...

WHERE ARE
THEY??





A comic panel background featuring a dark, stylized interior. On the left, a portion of a grey, angular structure is visible. On the right, a string of warm-toned, out-of-focus lights hangs down. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, browns, and dark tones.

EUGH...
I HATE HAVING
TO LIE. MAKES ME
FEEL GROSS.

HAHA,
YEAH...

...?
EVERYTHING
OKAY?





ERIK?

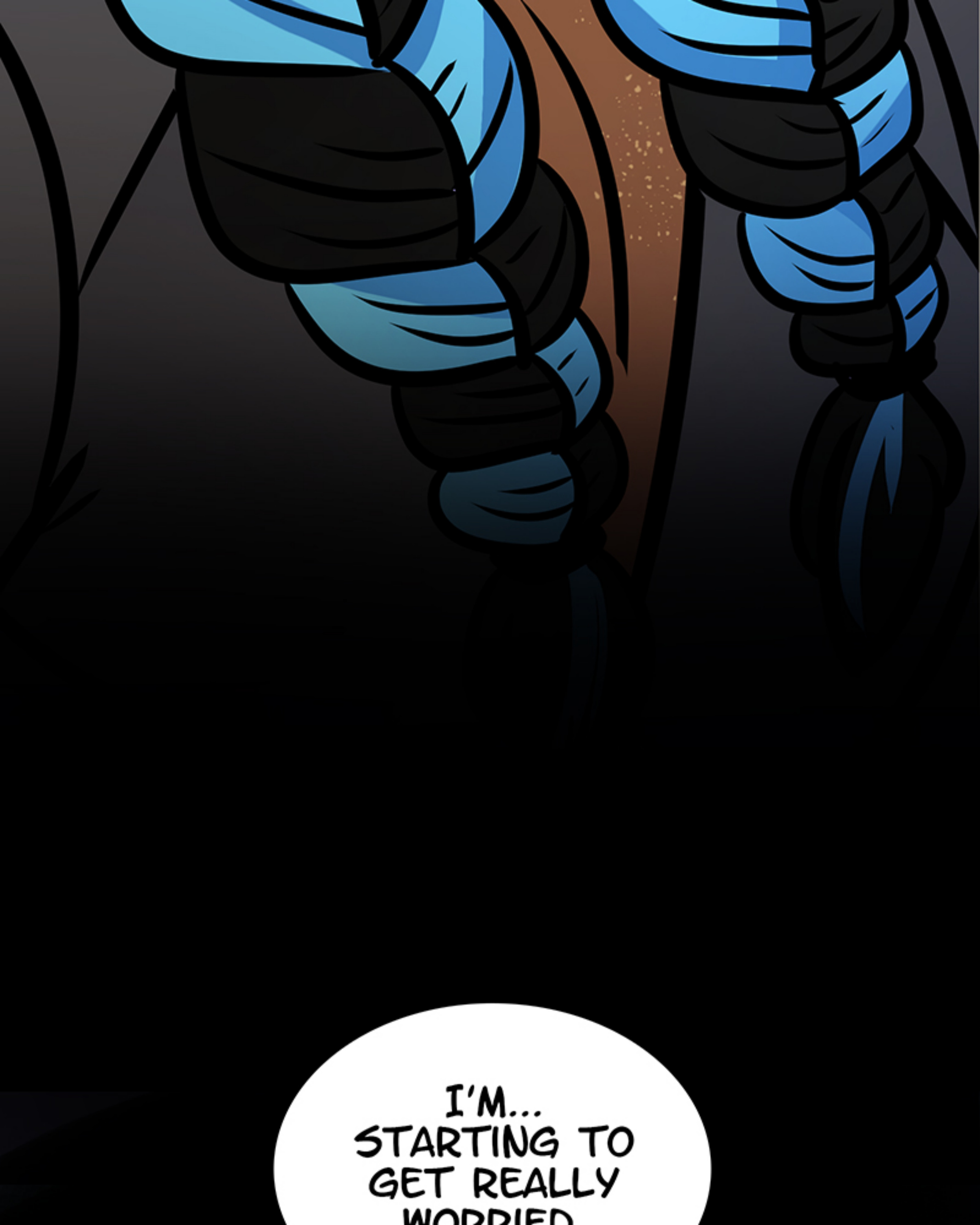


SORRY-
IT'S
JUST...

VELIX.

I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO CALL
HIM AND TEXT HIM
SINCE HE HUNG UP
ON ME BUT HE'S
NOT ANSWERING
ME...





I'M...
STARTING TO
GET REALLY
WORRIED

WORRIED.

LOVEBOTS

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Edited by **Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell**

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