

WARNING

THIS EPISODE CONTAINS
ALLUSIONS TO SELF HARM.
VIEWER DISCRETION IS
ADVISED.

Velix, when I said we needed a break I really did mean for it to be temporary.

I think we both needed space, I thought it would be good for us.

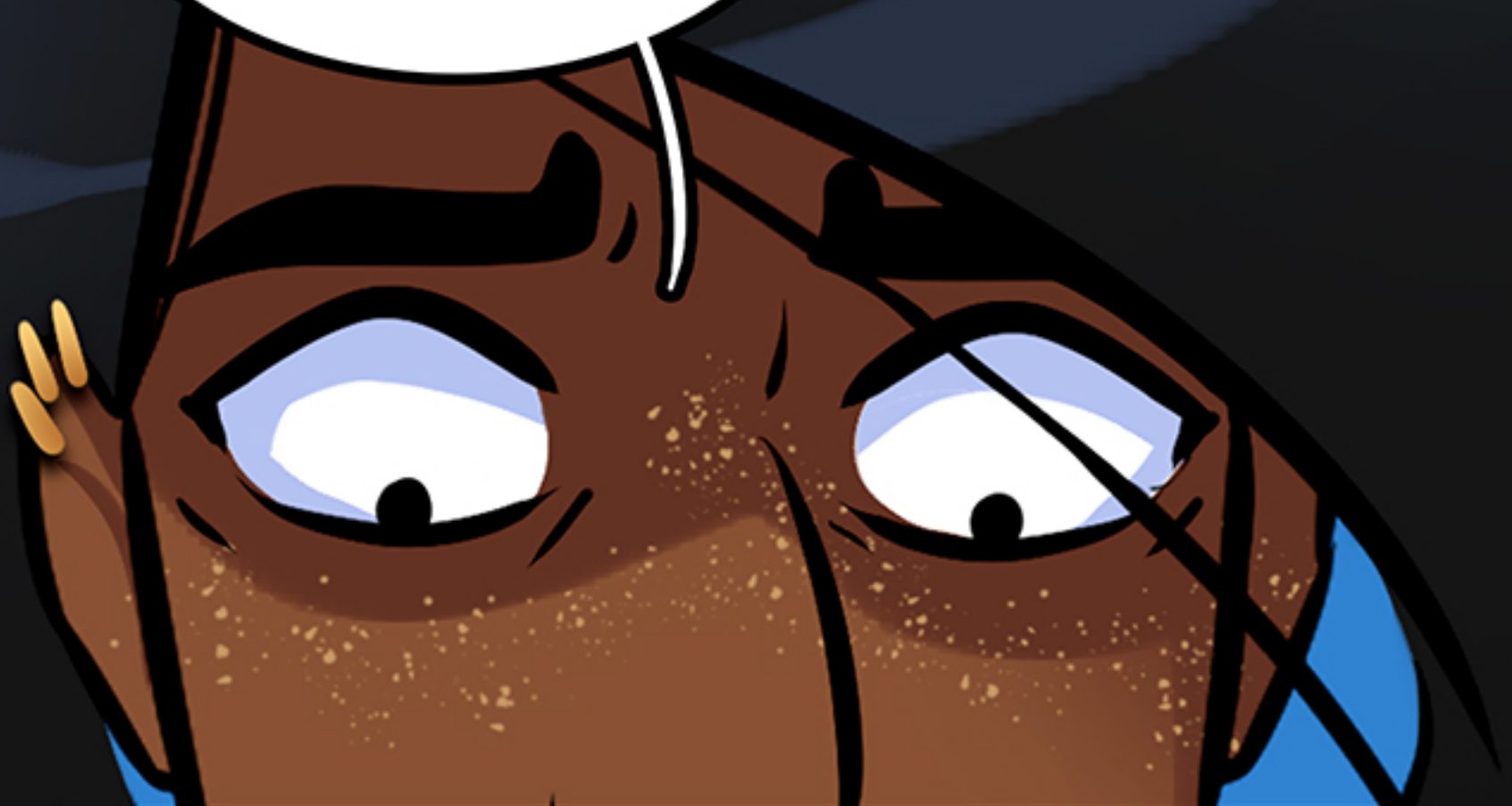
I will reach out again when things are more calm, I promise. And we can talk about everything moving forward.

You're my best friend and I love you very much, Be safe, okay?

Read

Xada

WH- WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?!



Xada,
You don't have to worry
about me anymore.

***You can no longer send
messages to this contact.***

***You can no longer send
messages to this contact.***



BA
BUM

BUM
BUM



HE...
WHY...?

BOOM
BUM
BUM

BOOM





I'M
STARTING
TO GET
WORRIED.



HAS
VELIX...

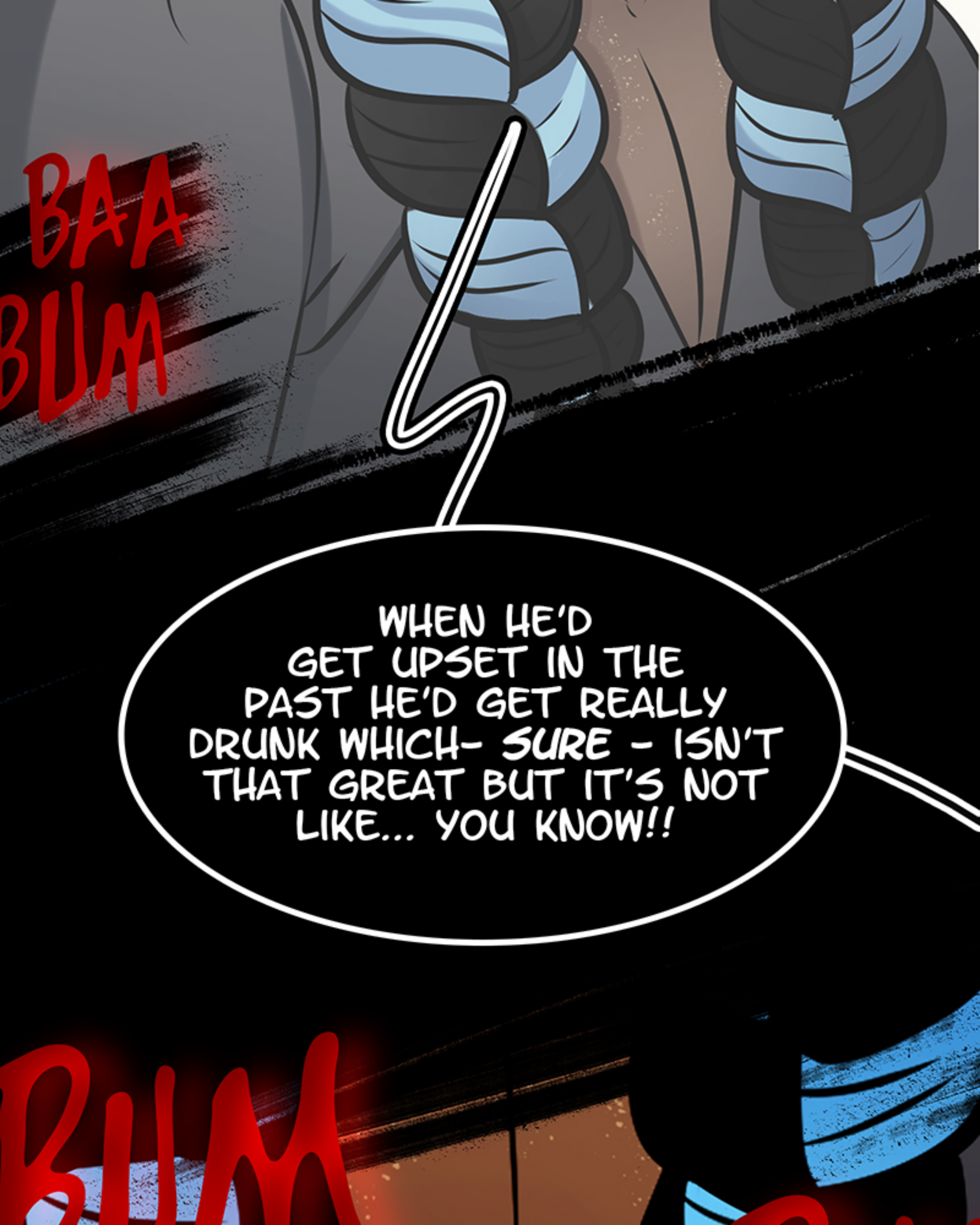
EVER SEEMED
LIKE THE SORT OF
PERSON THAT WOULD
HURT HIMSELF...?

WHAT??
NO!

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
MAKE YOU SAY
THAT??

BA
BU

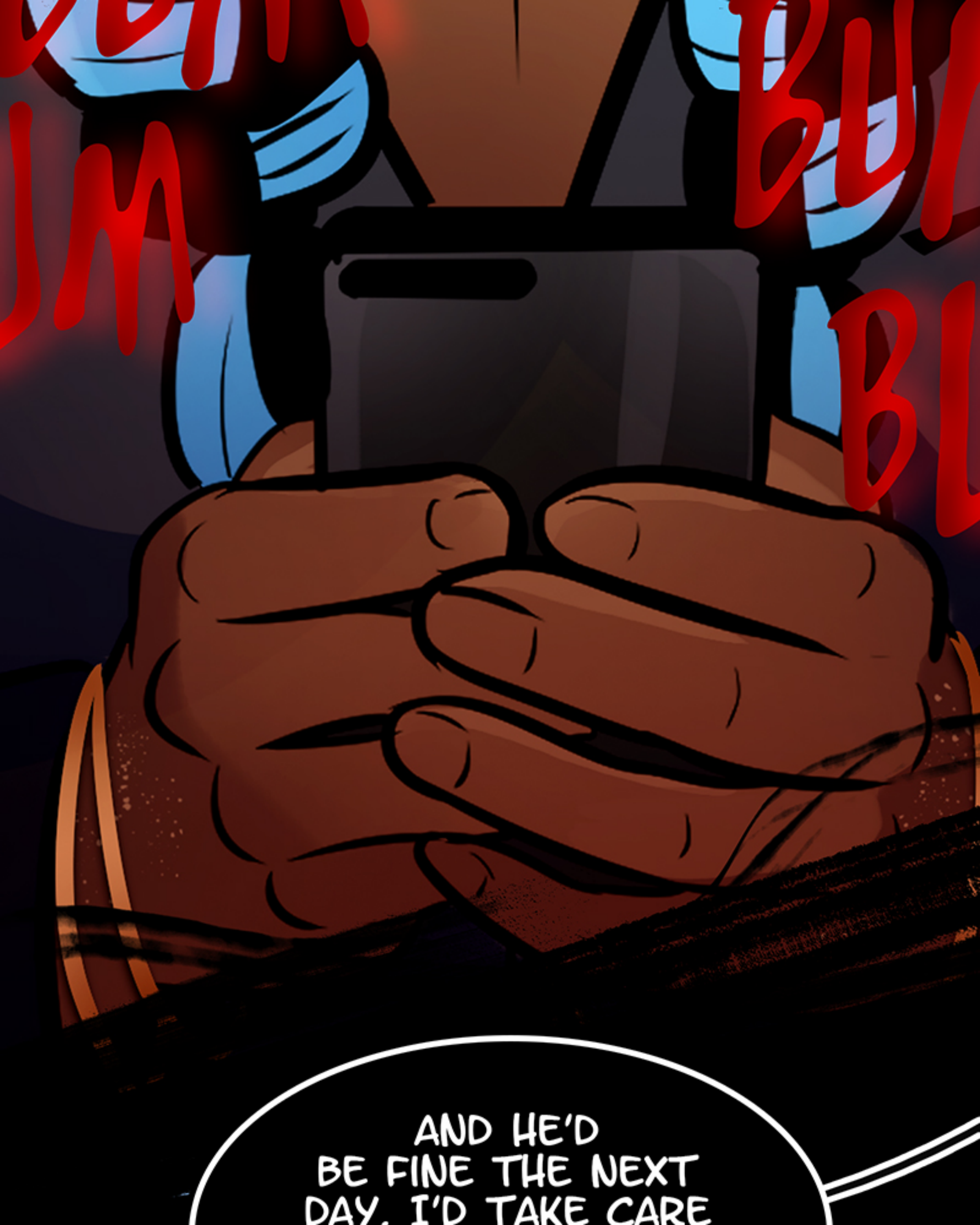


A comic book panel featuring a character with blue and black braided hair. The character is wearing a blue and black striped shirt. The background is dark with some light streaks. The text "BAA BUM" is written in large, red, stylized letters on the left side. A speech bubble is located in the center of the panel, containing the text "WHEN HE'D GET UPSET IN THE PAST HE'D GET REALLY DRUNK WHICH- SURE - ISN'T THAT GREAT BUT IT'S NOT LIKE... YOU KNOW!!". At the bottom of the panel, the word "BUM" is written in large, red, stylized letters.

BAA
BUM

WHEN HE'D
GET UPSET IN THE
PAST HE'D GET REALLY
DRUNK WHICH- SURE - ISN'T
THAT GREAT BUT IT'S NOT
LIKE... YOU KNOW!!

BUM



AND HE'D
BE FINE THE NEXT
DAY. I'D TAKE CARE

OF HIM AND SOMETIMES
HE'D TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED...





I'D TAKE
CARE OF HIM

LAKE OF HIM.



SLIDE



GRAB

BUN
BL

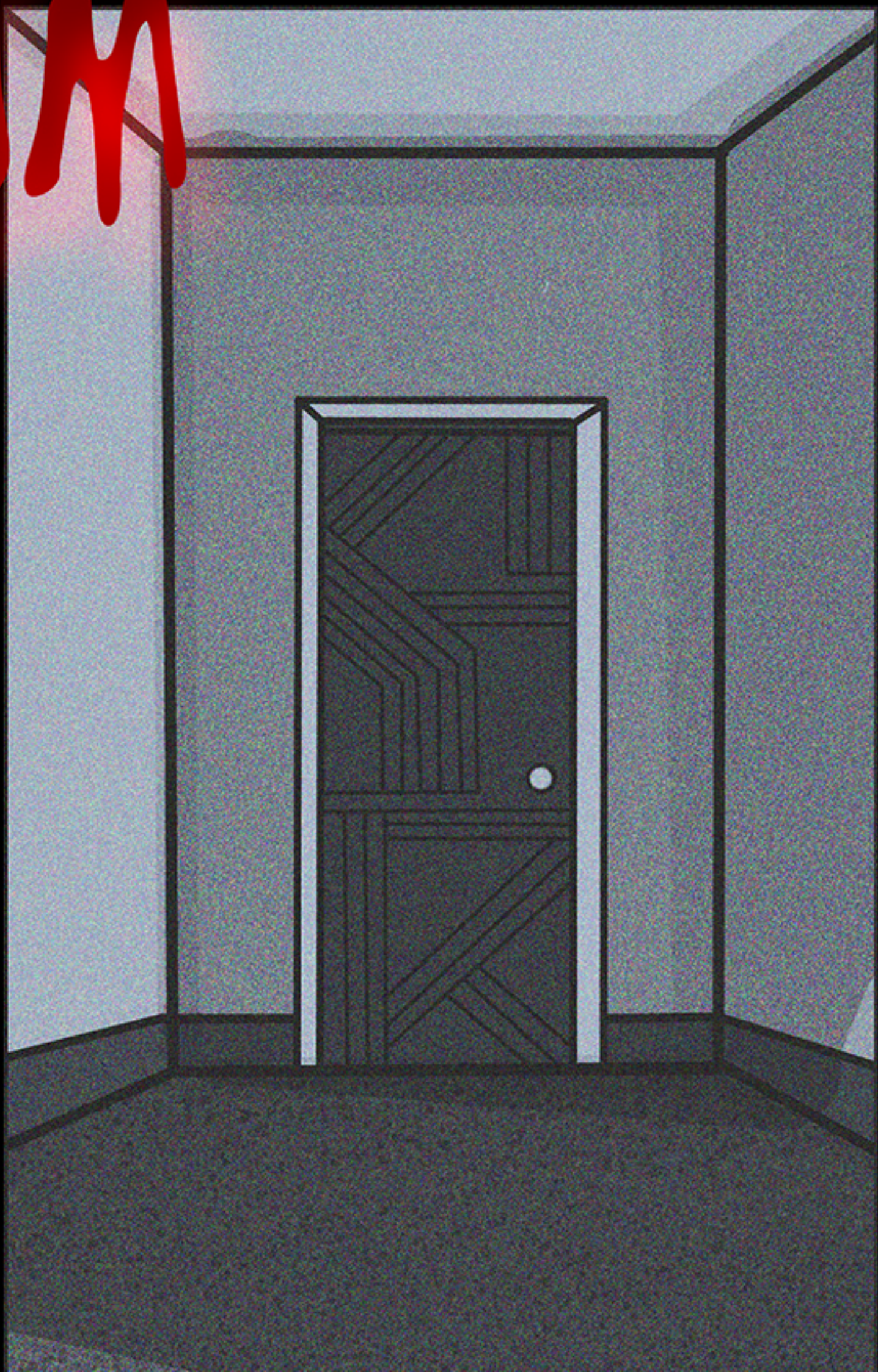


BUM
BUM

BUT THIS
TIME

BUM

BUM



WHO
PICKED UP THE
PIECES?

BUM
BUM



ANYONE?







DID HE
HAVE ANYONE

HAVE ANYONE
ELSE?





SURELY
THERE WAS
SOMEONE
ELSE...



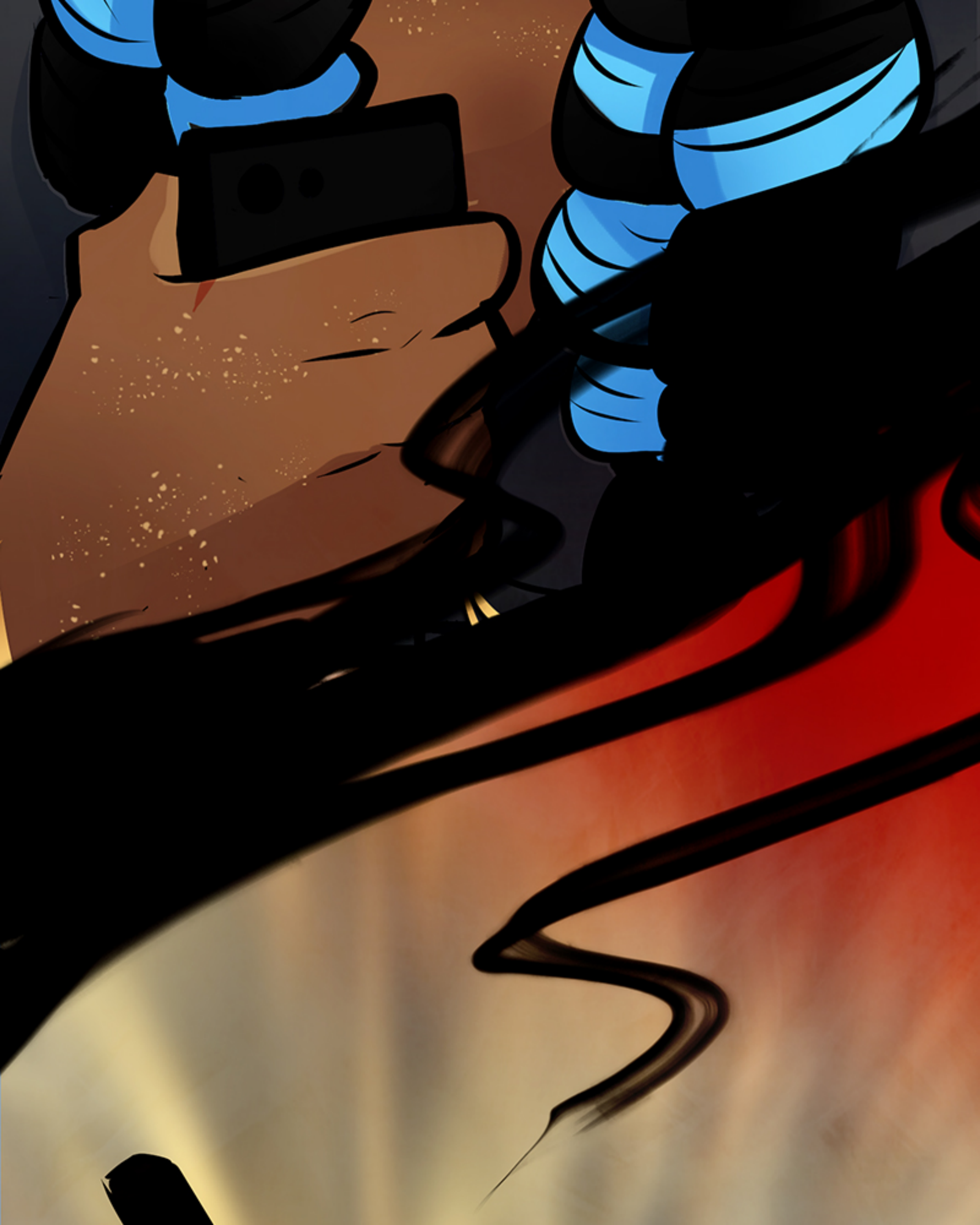


...IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
YOU SHOULD FEEL
RESPONSIBLE
FOR...



*BUT
I DO!*









XADA!

**WHAT'S
WRONG??**





LACEY-
YOU CAN'T-
HE'LL SEE-





I DON'T
CARE!

I SAW HIM
WANDER OFF BUT
EVEN IF HE HADN'T
I COULDN'T JUST
IGNORE YOU...



GOOD
EVENING EVERYONE,
AND WELCOME TO THE
2049 S.C.I. AWARDS!
PLEASE TAKE YOUR
SEATS-





DINNER
WILL BE GIVEN
ALONGSIDE THE AWARDS,
AND ALL CAMERAS WILL BE
FOCUSED ON THE STAGE BUT
PLEASE BE MINDFUL AND
COURTEOUS TO THE
SPEAKERS.

OH GOD.
SPEECH! HOW
AM I SUPPOSED
TO GIVE A
SPEECH-





HERE-
COME THIS
WAY-

Can I
just say thanks
and then leave?
That might be
easier...



A comic book panel featuring a large, vibrant green plant with broad, pointed leaves. The plant is the central focus, with its leaves filling most of the frame. Two speech bubbles are present: a larger one on the right and a smaller one on the left. The background is a simple, light-colored surface, possibly a wall or ground, with some darker green foliage visible in the bottom corners.

LACEY-
I - I NEED TO
ASK YOU A HUGE
FAVOR-

ANYTHING.

IT'S VELIX.
HE'S NOT ANSWERING
ERIK AND HE JUST
BLOCKED ME - HE'S
NEVER-





BUT I-
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT ELSE TO
DO- I NEED TO
KNOW THAT HE'S
OKAY-



I'LL CALL
HIM. I'LL FIGURE
IT OUT-

GIVE ME
THE NUMBER
AND GO BACK
TO EDU-

A comic book panel featuring a dark, textured background with stylized green foliage and bushes. The leaves are drawn with thick black outlines and some internal shading. At the top, a white speech bubble contains the text 'TO ERIK.'. In the lower-left area, there are two overlapping white speech bubbles. The first bubble contains the text 'I ... NO-NO.', and the second bubble, which is larger and overlaps the first, contains the text 'NEVERMIND- IT WILL PROBABLY JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE-'. The bottom of the panel shows a small portion of a dark, rounded shape, likely a character's head or shoulder.

TO ERIK.

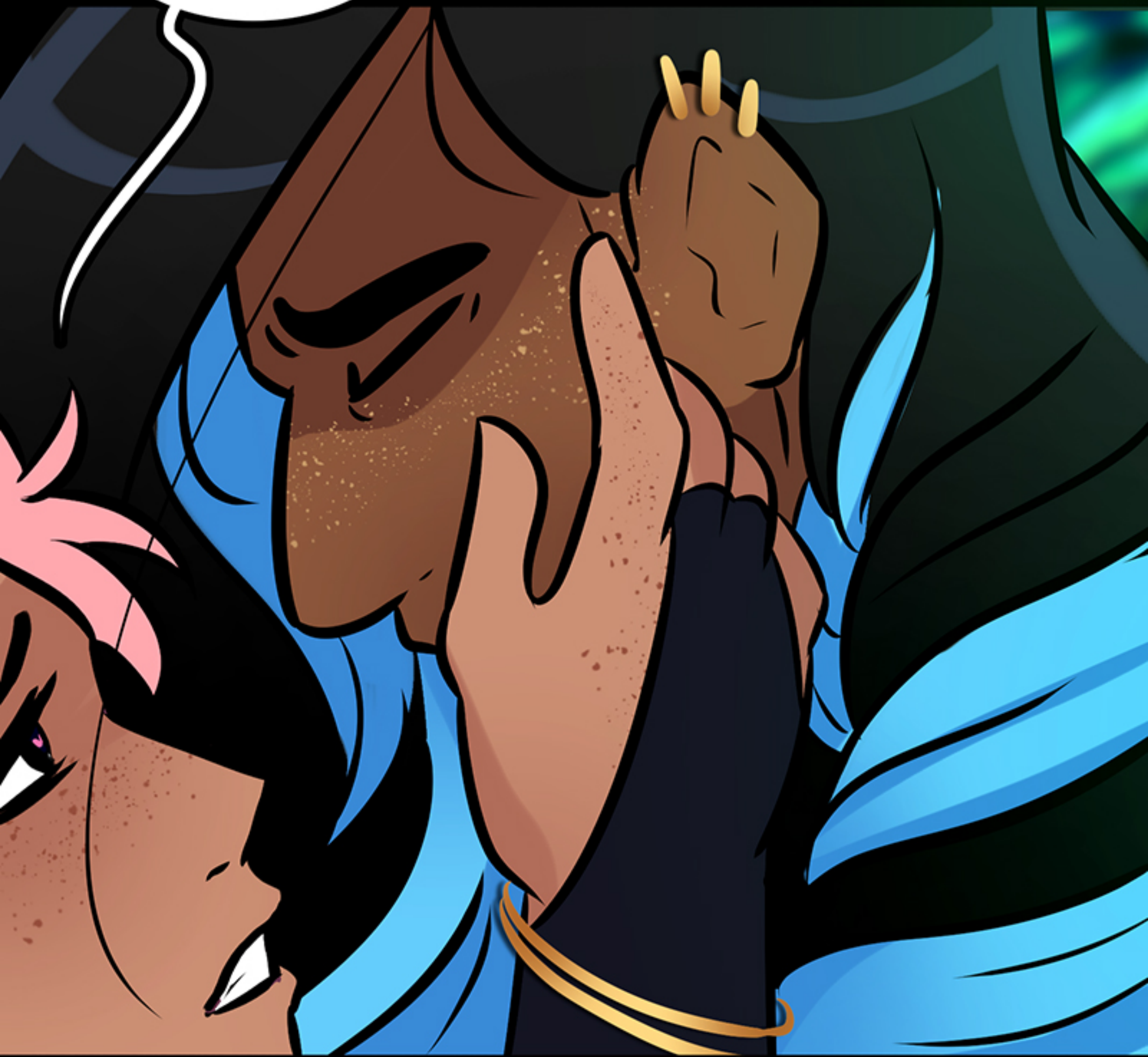
I ...
NO-NO.

NEVERMIND-
IT WILL PROBABLY
JUST MAKE THINGS
WORSE-



I FEEL
LIKE EVERYTHING
I'VE DECIDED TO DO
LATELY HAS JUST
MADE THINGS
WORSE-

SHHH...



YOU WANT
TO HELP... YOU'RE
DOING ALL THAT
YOU CAN...





PUH...

WHAT'S
THAT THING THEY
SAY ABOUT PAVING
ROADS AND GOOD
INTENTIONS...



I FEEL
LIKE PUSHING OR
DOING NOTHING ARE
EQUALLY SHITTY
OPTIONS HERE...







CAN I GIVE
YOU ONE MORE
BIT OF ADVICE?

HE'S HUMAN.
JUST AS MESSY
AS THE REST.



IN YOUR
PARTICULAR SITUATION.
THERE IS NO WAY FOR IT TO
WORK OUT PERFECTLY.

SOMEONE WILL
GET HURT.





AND YOU'LL
HAVE TO LEARN
TO RECONCILE
WITH THOSE
FEELINGS.



HE DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT HE'S
TALKING ABOUT.

I CAN BE
PERFECT.

WHAT...?

I'LL CALL
HIM! IT IS OUR
BEST OPTION.





VELIX IS
IMPORTANT TO
YOU. SO I WILL
DO EVERYTHING IN
MY POWER TO MAKE
SURE HE'S
SAFE!

LEAVE IT
TO ME!



I...



THE AWARD STREAM
WILL BEGIN IN TWO
MINUTES! EVERYONE PLEASE
TAKE YOUR SEATS-



ALRIGHT...
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO DO ANYTHING
CRAZY...





JUST MAKE
SURE HE'S SAFE
AND MAYBE ASK
HIM TO MESSAGE
ME?

YOU
GOT IT.

A comic book illustration showing two hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, holding each other. The light-skinned hand is on the left, wearing a dark green sleeve with a gold band. The dark-skinned hand is on the right, wearing a dark blue sleeve with a gold band. They are holding hands in a supportive grip. Above them is a large, leafy tree with green and yellow leaves. A speech bubble from the dark-skinned hand says "THANK YOU, LACEY...".

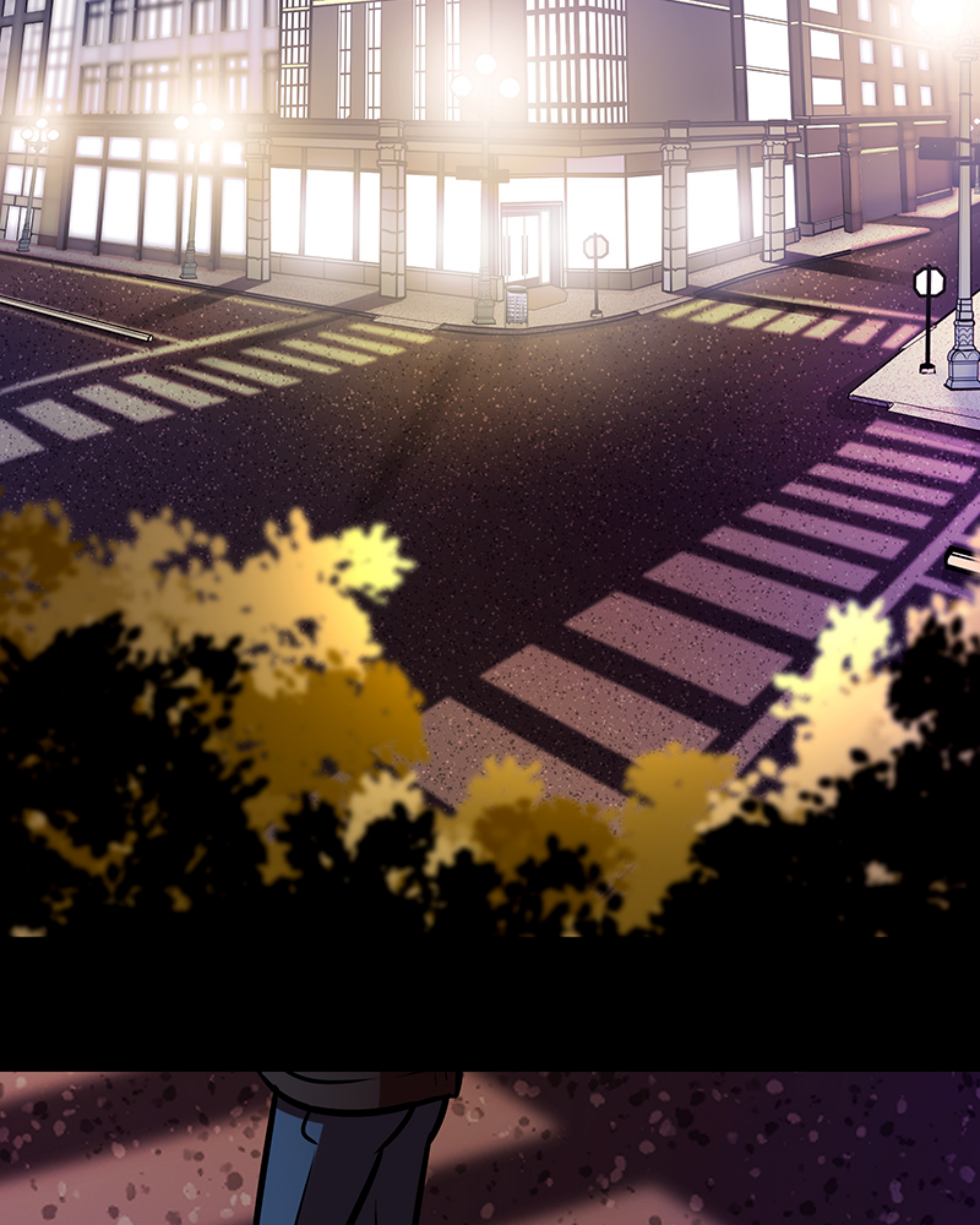
THANK
YOU, LACEY...

A comic panel featuring a speech bubble in the center. The background is a gradient of light orange to yellow. At the top, there are two brown, pointed shapes, possibly ears or hands. The bottom half of the panel is filled with stylized, vibrant green foliage. A speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing towards the top center contains the text "OF COURSE, XADA." in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

OF COURSE,
XADA.

5 MINUTES EARLIER







TAK

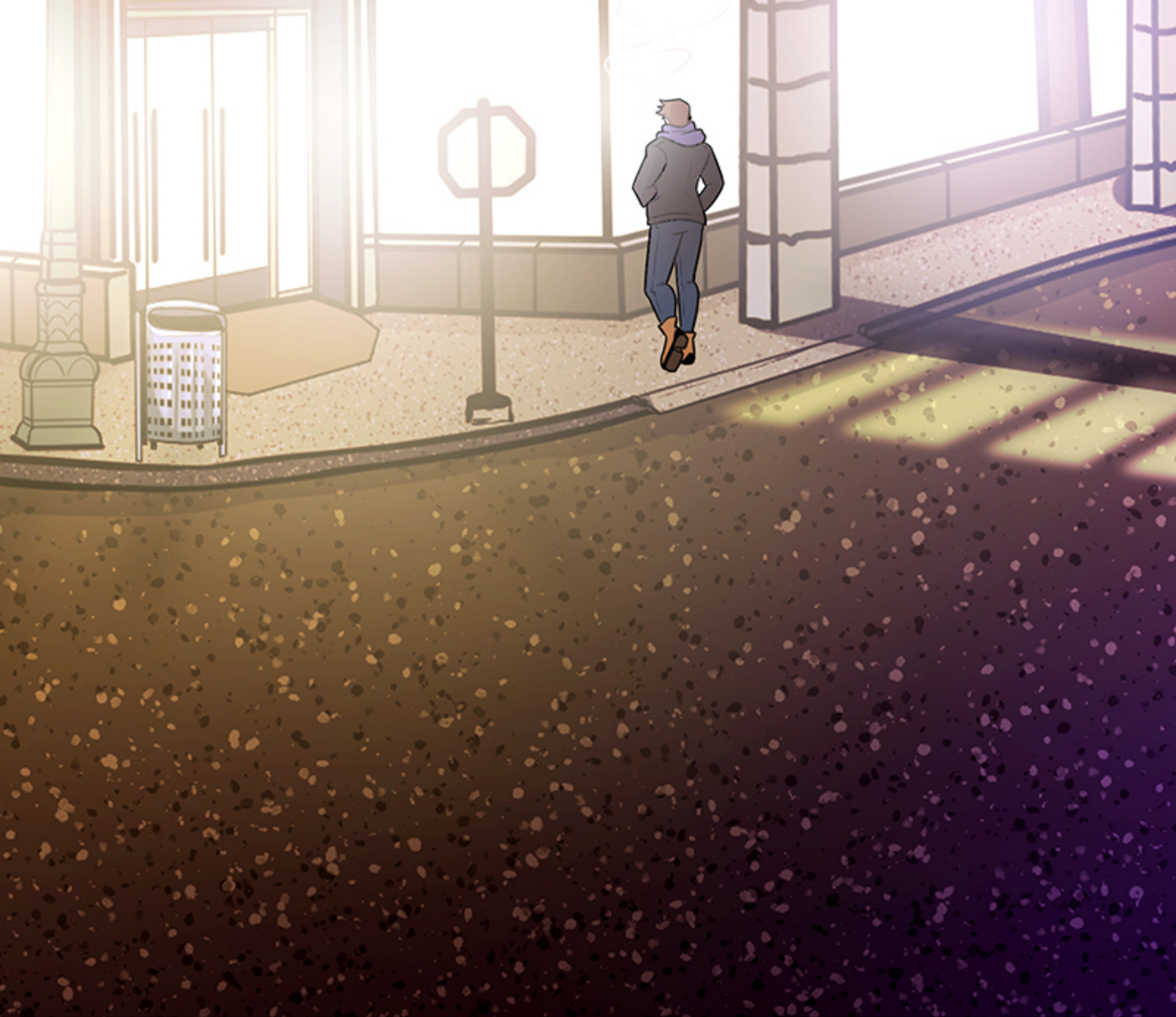
TAK

TAK

I CAN'T BELIEVE
I WALKED ALL THE
WAY HERE...

FRESH AIR
DIDN'T DO JACK SHIT.
NOW I FEEL LIKE ASS
AND I'M FREEZING.





UGH...I GUESS
IT HELPED A LITTLE
BIT...

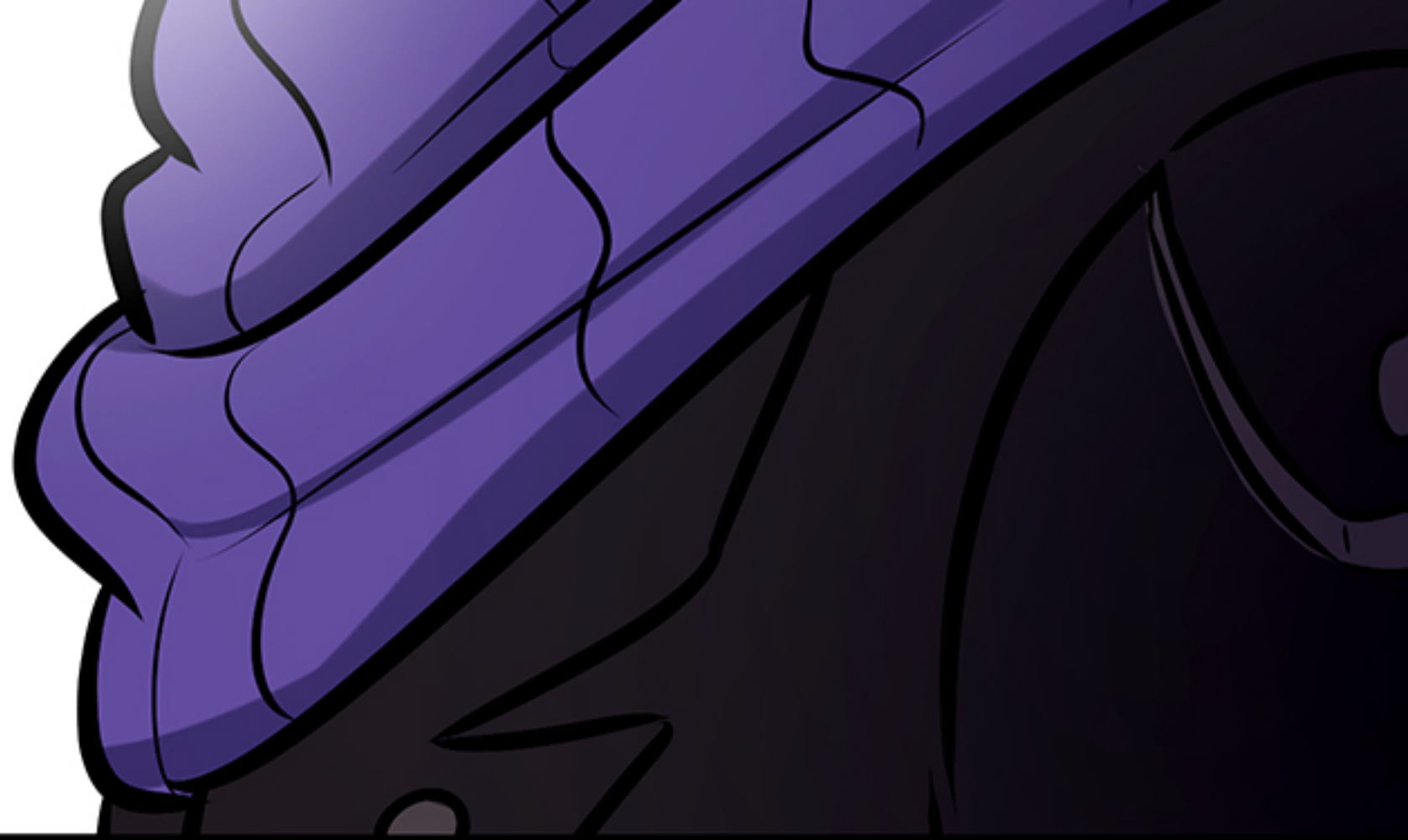
AT LEAST
IT'S A GOOD EXCUSE
FOR MY FACE BEING
RED...



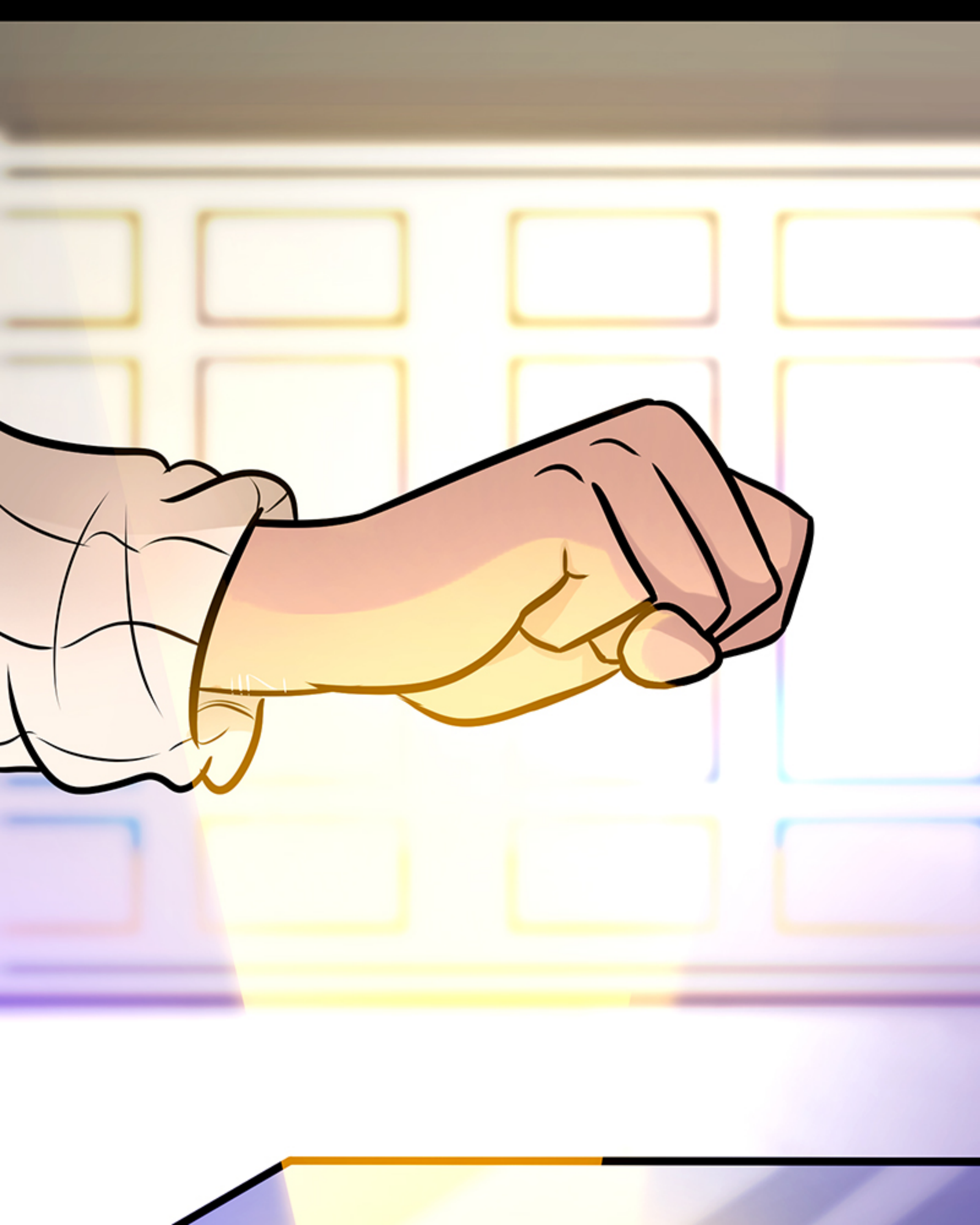
HAI'

HAH
hrrr

HAH...







**BEEP
BEEP**

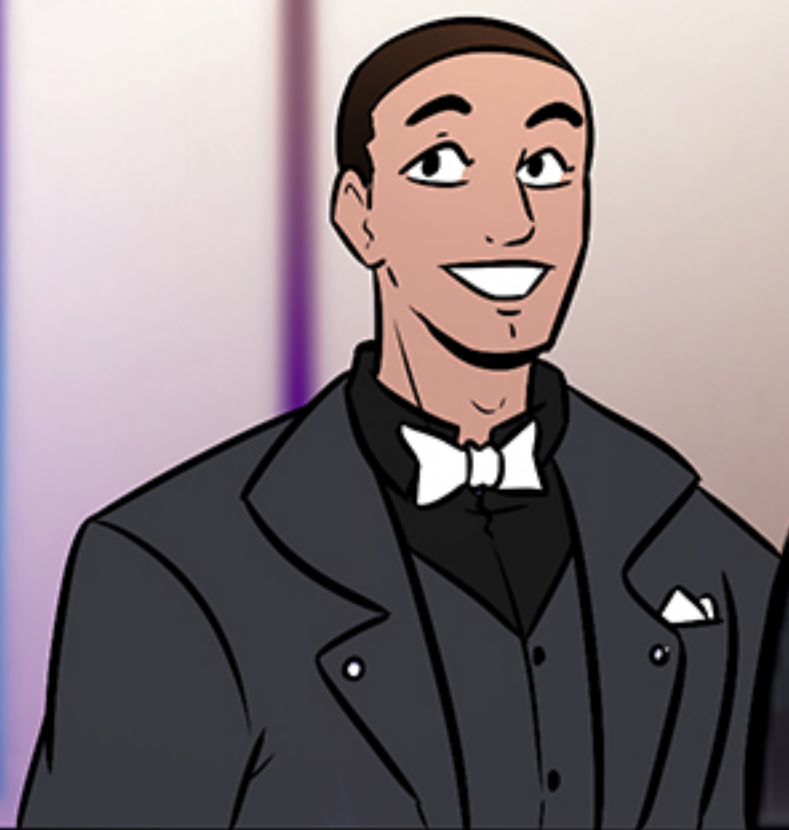
**PENTHOUSE
ELEVATOR ACCESS
FOR:**

**CHARLES
DALLAS
GUEST.**

WOW. I'VE

HOW I
ONLY EVER SEEN HIM
GIVE THAT KIND OF
ACCESS TO HIS
SECRETARY.

Usually to
drag his dry
cleaning in.





YOU MUST
BE PRETTY
SPECIAL,
HUH?



HMM...

YOU
THINK
SO?





HAVE
A GOOD
EVENING!



YOU
TOO!

DAMN, DOC, GIVE
IT A REST...

DOES HE SERIOUSLY
THINK I'M GOING TO
OFF MYSELF?



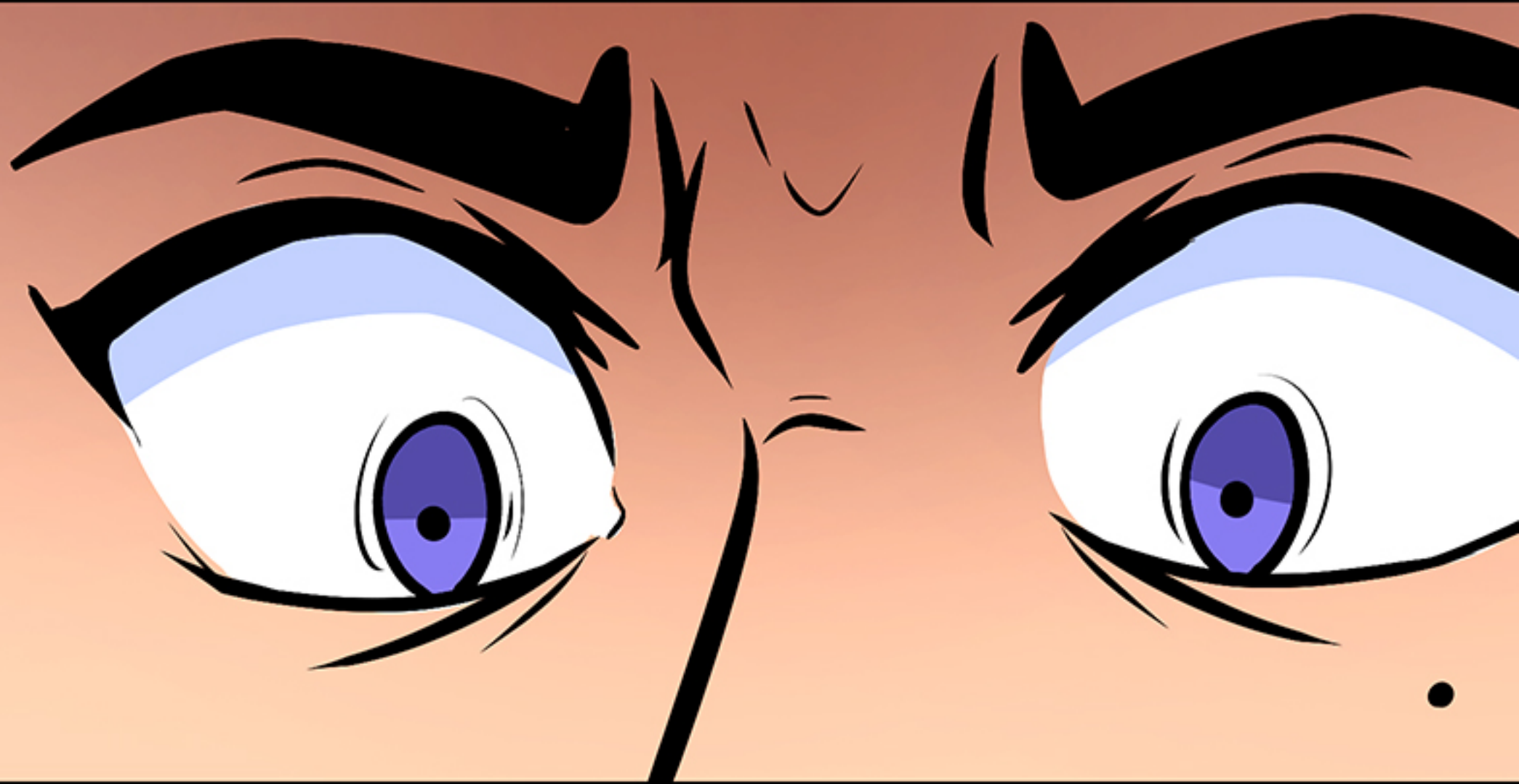


MY DAD WOULD
TOSS MY ASHES IN
A DITCH IF I EVER

TAPPED OUT LIKE-



!!!



Xada

you're already reading these so
I send them? Are you fucking
kidding me?? CALL ME!! I don't
know what you want me to do!?

8:39 AM

Yesterday

okay, I get it. You made your
point. I'll wait.

10:23 PM

Read

Today 6:53 PM

Velix, when I said we needed
I really did mean for it



WHAT...

WHY NOW!?

LOVEBOTS

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Edited by Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell

♡ **Special Thank
You To Rozen!!!**



For help with flat coloring while
we dealt with our pipes bursting



**Go Read
Code Adam!**

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ATTEROZEN