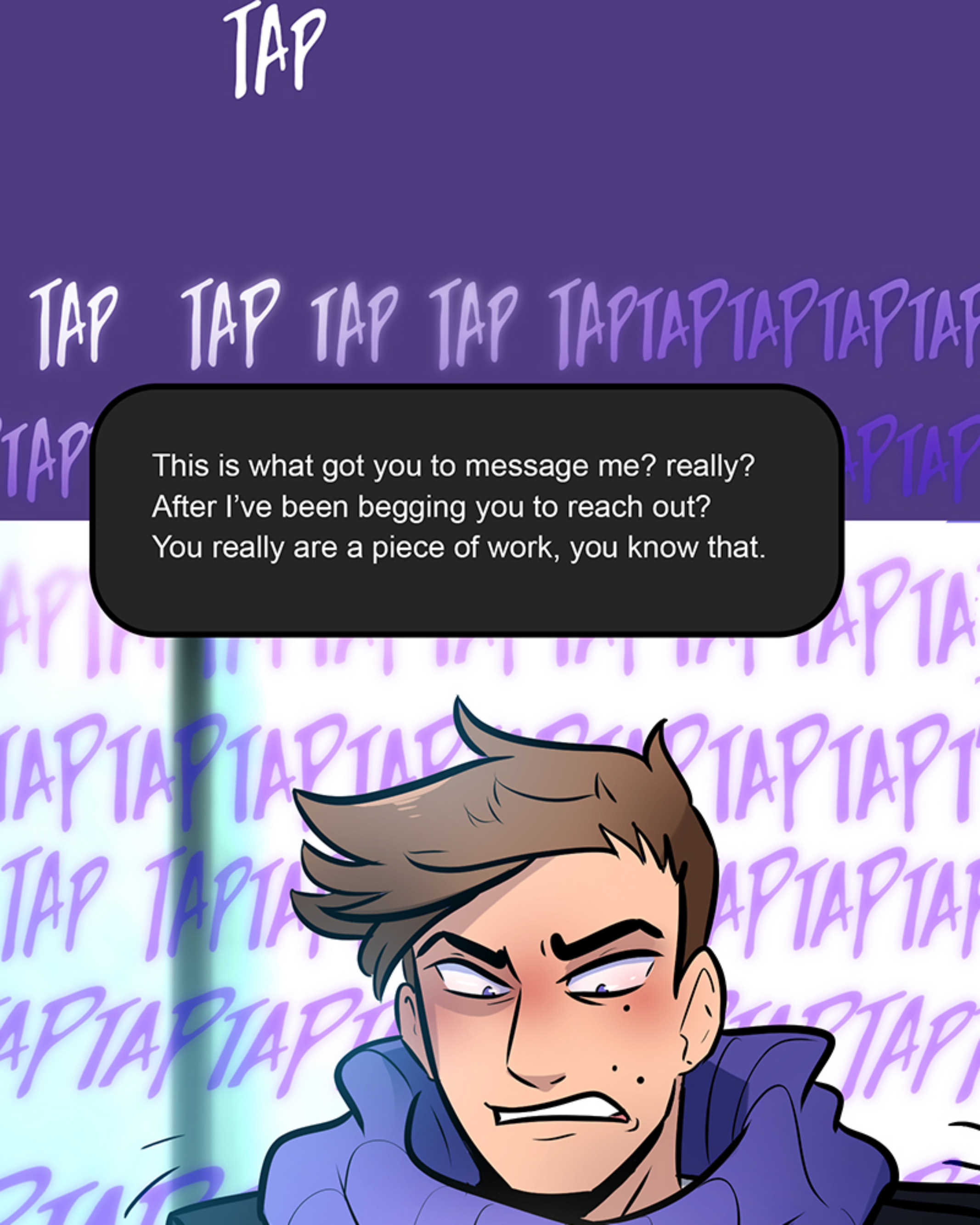
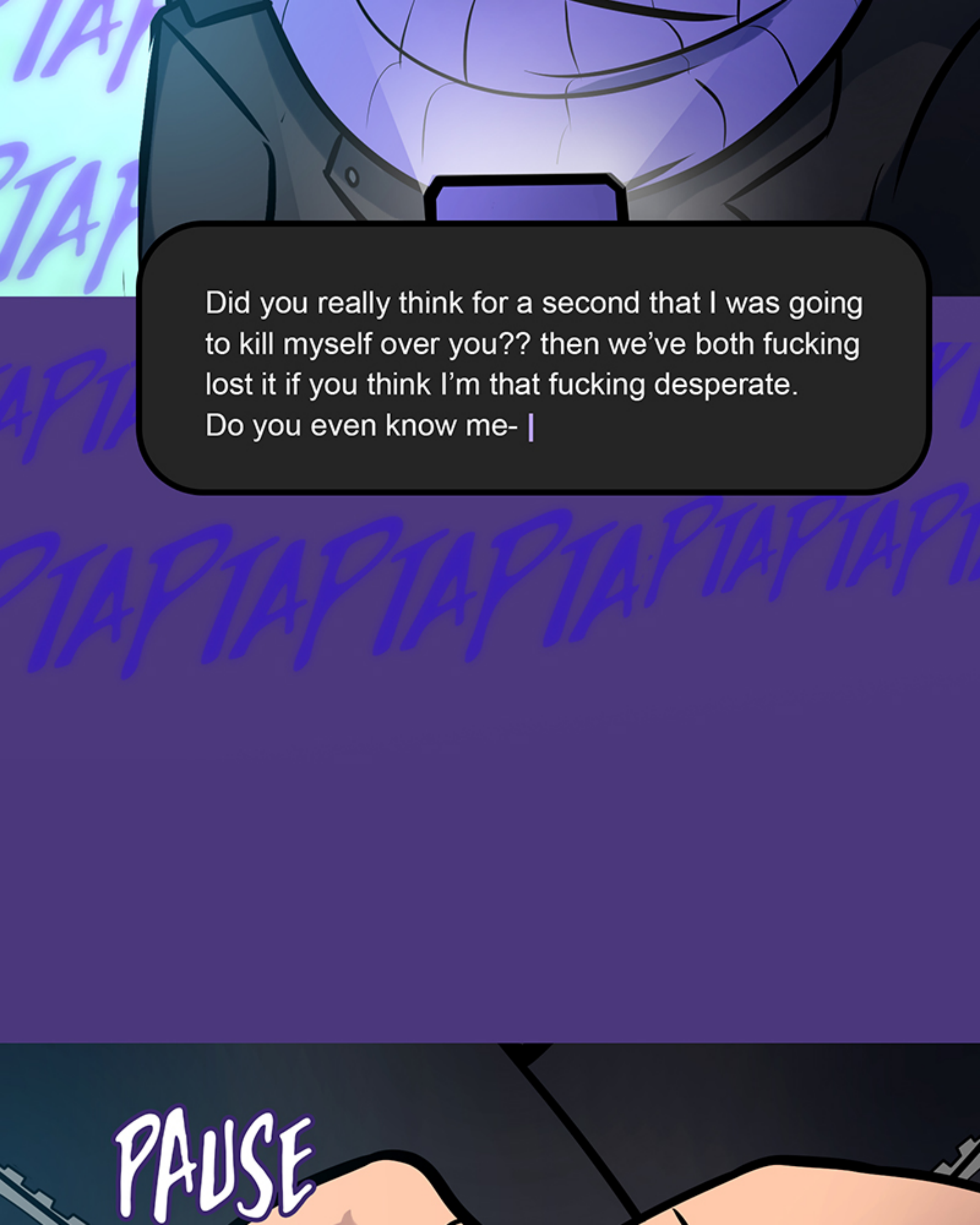


ARE YOU
FUCKING KIDDING



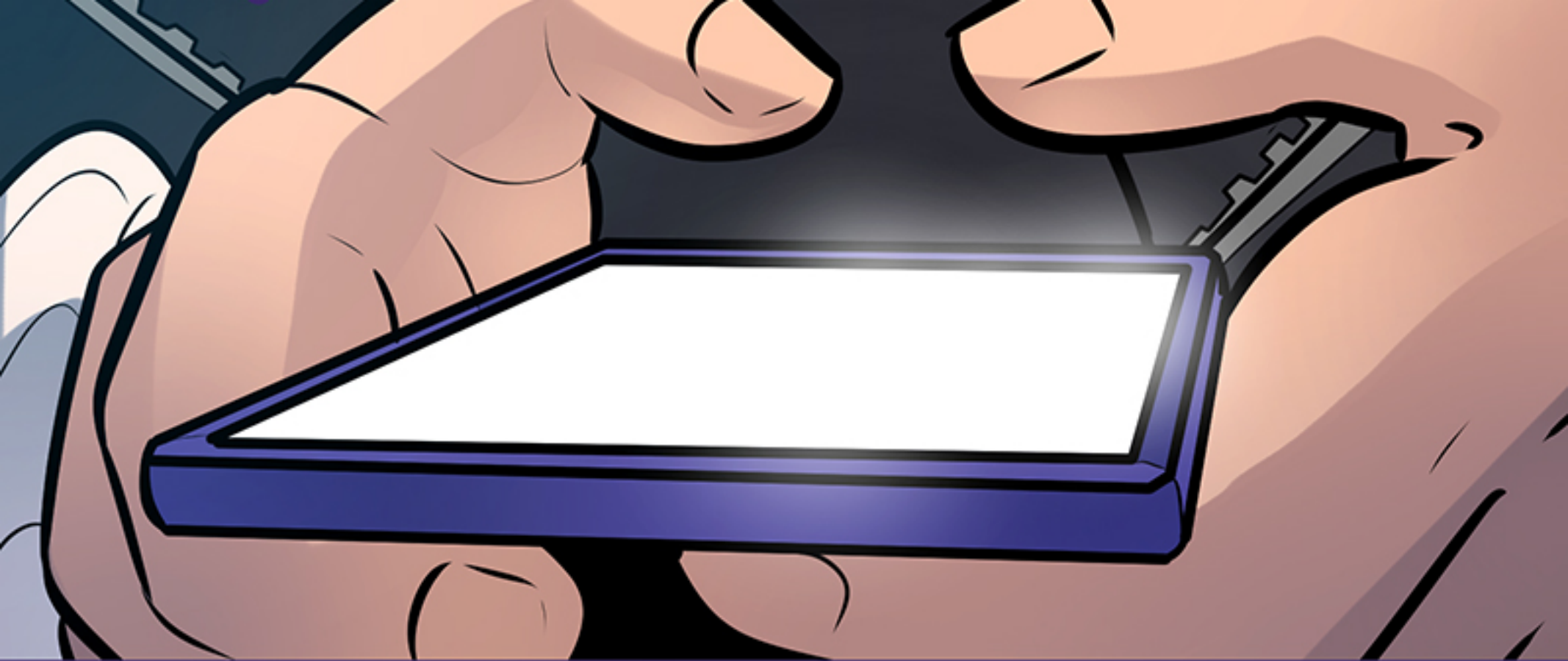
TAP

[illegible][illegible]

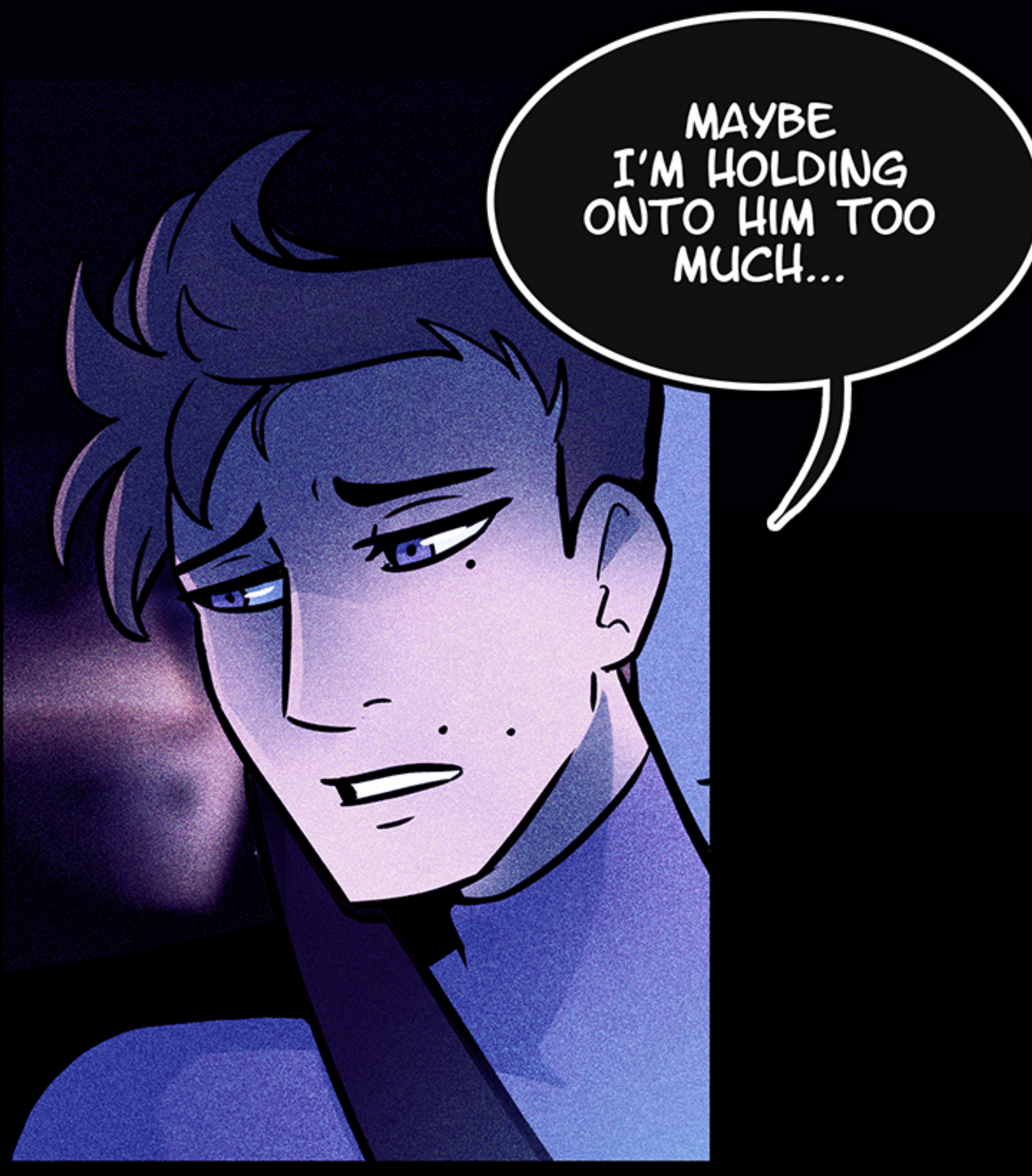


Did you really think for a second that I was going to kill myself over you?? then we've both fucking lost it if you think I'm that fucking desperate. Do you even know me- |

PAUSE

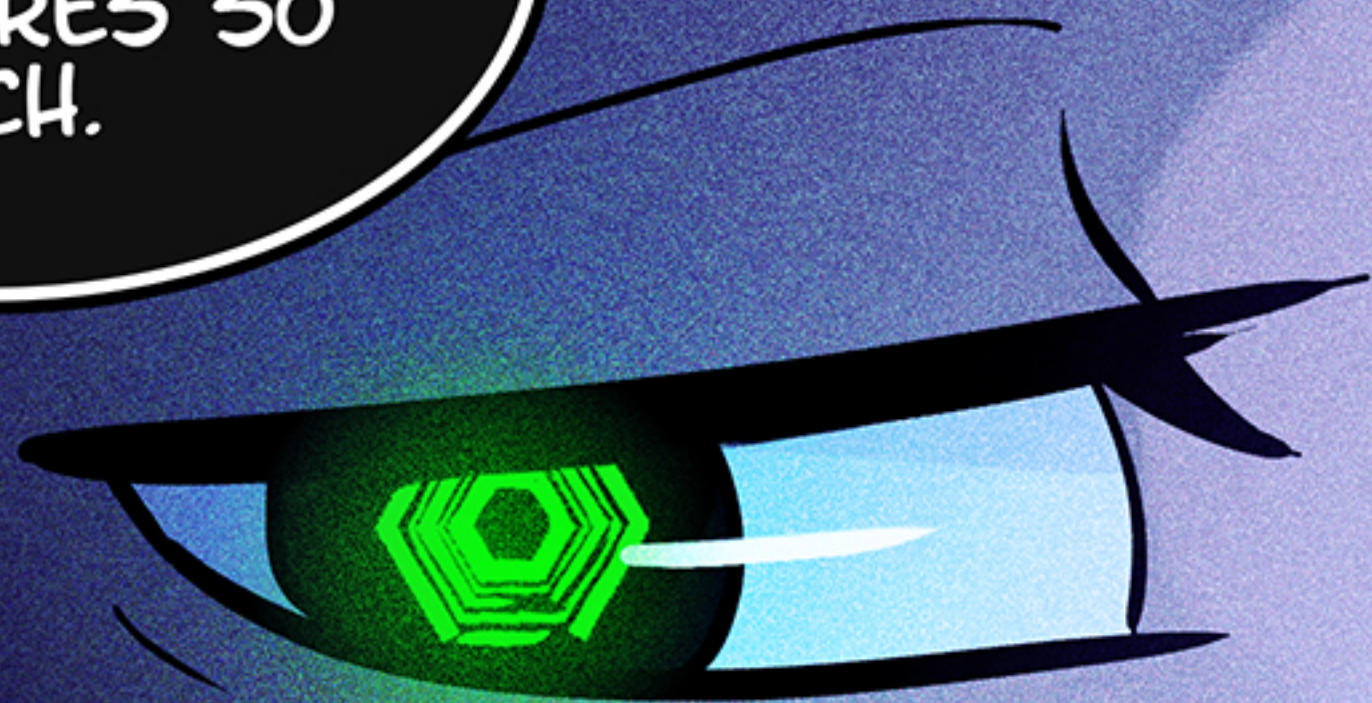


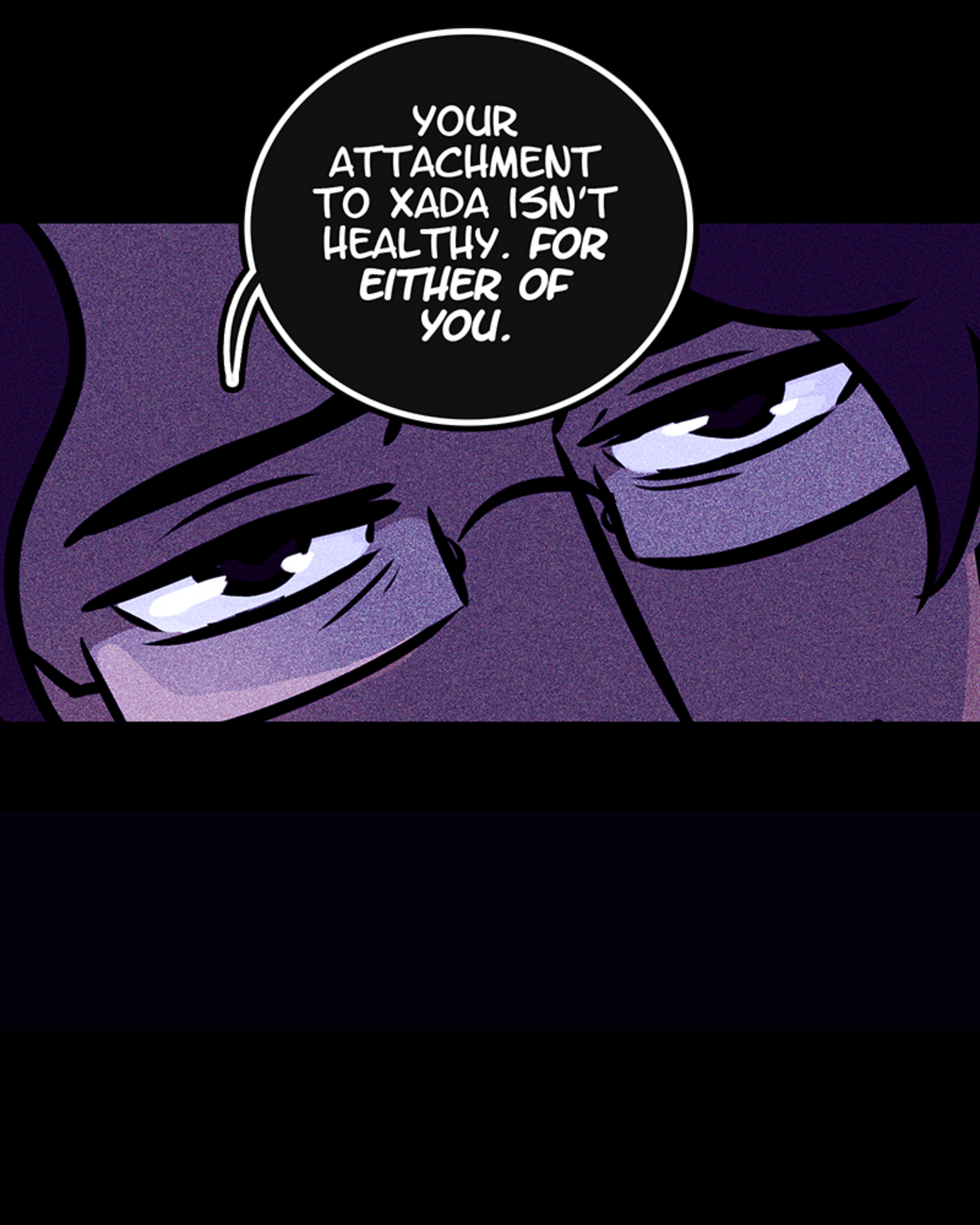




MAYBE
I'M HOLDING
ONTO HIM TOO
MUCH...

I THINK
HE'S LUCKY TO
HAVE A FRIEND
THAT CARES SO
MUCH.



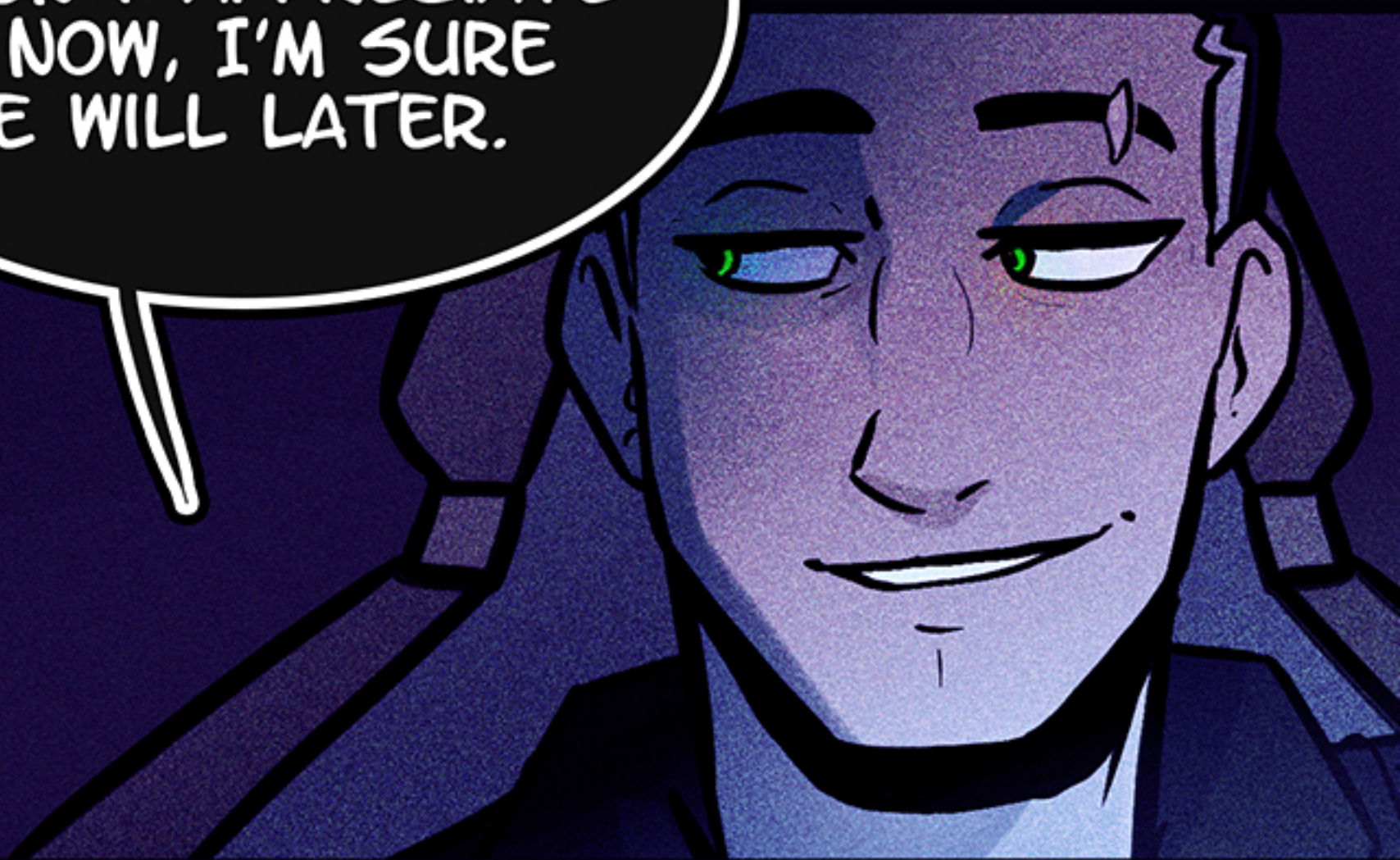


YOUR
ATTACHMENT
TO XADA ISN'T
HEALTHY. FOR
EITHER OF
YOU.

YOU REALLY
THINK SO...?



JUST
BECAUSE HE
DOESN'T APPRECIATE
IT NOW, I'M SURE
HE WILL LATER.



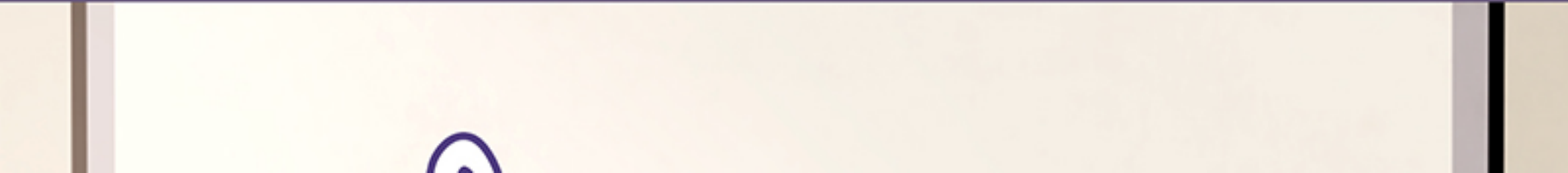


THIS IS
YOUR FIRST
REAL FIGHT.

YOU MIGHT
STILL BE ABLE
TO TURN
THINGS AROUND
WITH HIM.

An illustration of a hand with a pinkish-orange skin tone using a black eraser to delete text from a white background. The word 'DELETE' is written in a stylized, outlined font. A large, solid purple circle is positioned at the top of the frame, partially cut off. The background is a solid dark purple.

DELETE



DING





WRRR



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





I will reach out again when things

are more calm, I promise

WHAT ABOUT
WHEN *I'M* CALM?





DAMN IT...
HERNANDEZ GOT
HIM ALL WORKED UP
THINKING I'M GOING TO
BE DOING SOMETHING
CRAZY.

SO HE'S GOING
TO RUSH TO MAKE
THINGS NICE WHEN
NEITHER OF US ARE
ACTUALLY READY...

AND NOTHING
WILL GET FIXED
IN THE END.





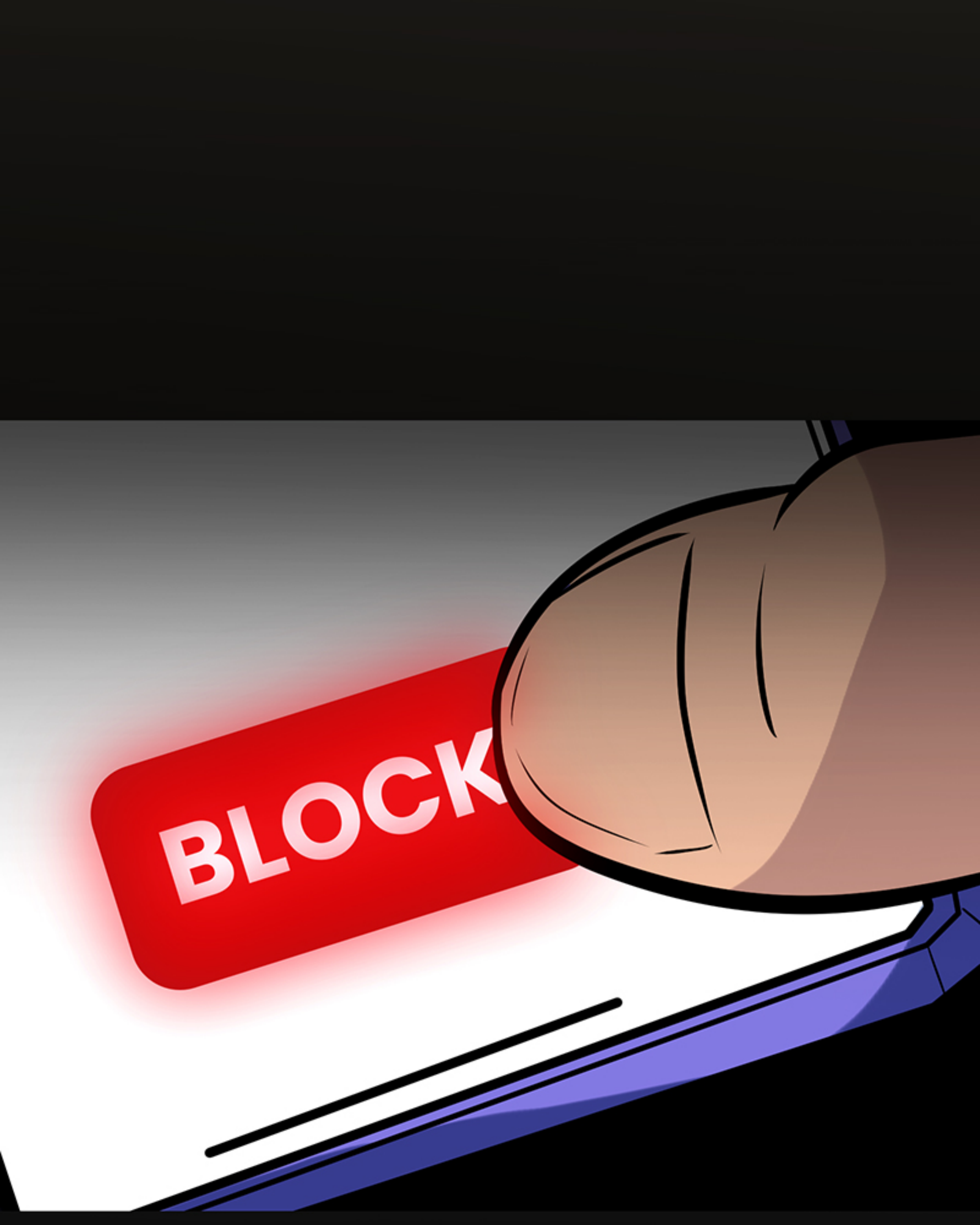
MAYBE THEN...
I'LL PUT THE WALL
BACK UP FOR HIM...

AND THEN WE CAN
TALK WHEN I WON'T
SAY SOMETHING
STUPID...

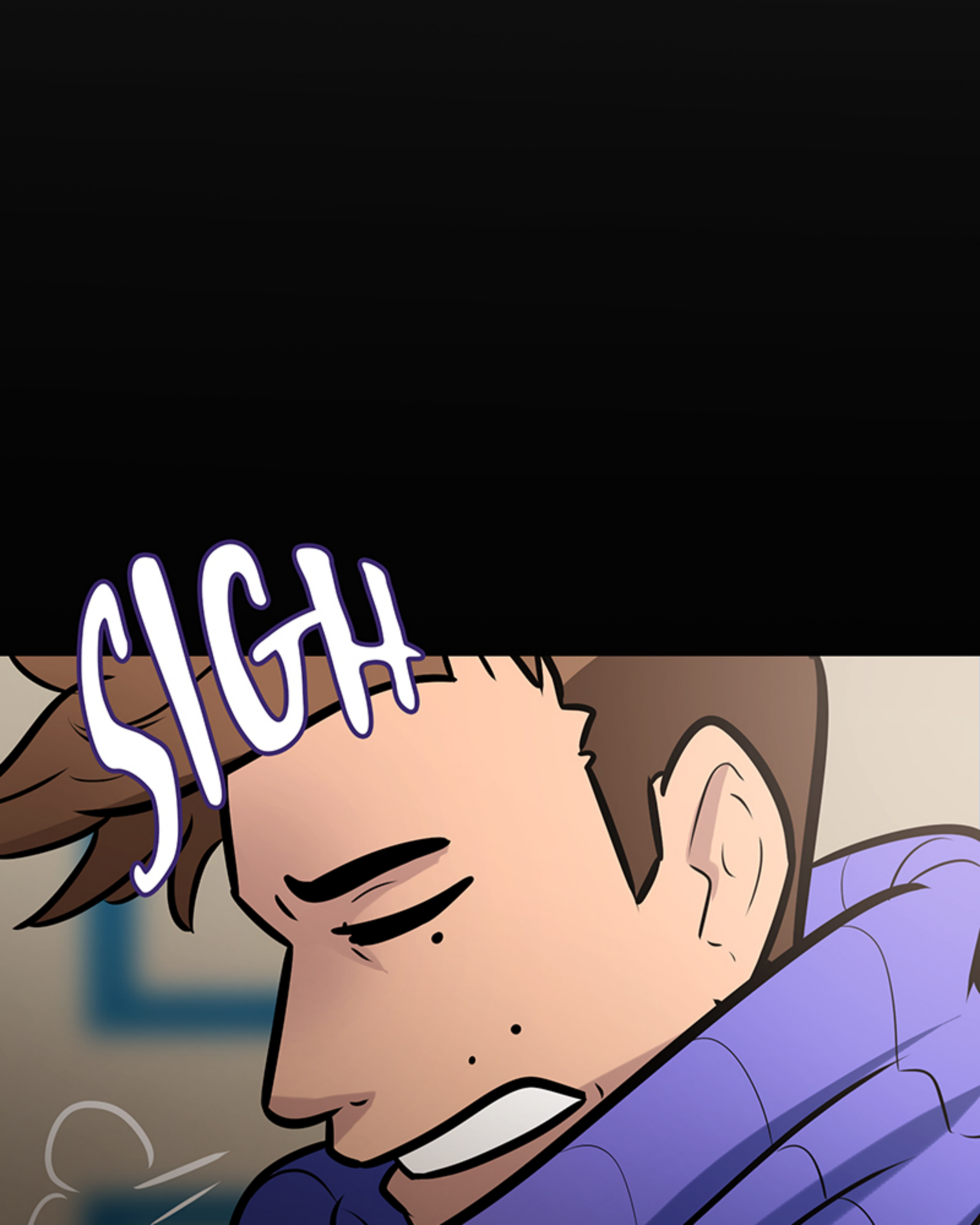


Xada,
You don't have to worry
about me anymore.



A cartoon illustration of a hand with a red button labeled 'BLOCK'. The hand is rendered in a simple, stylized manner with brown skin and black outlines. The button is red with the word 'BLOCK' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The button is being pressed by the thumb of the hand. The background is dark, and there is a bright white light source behind the button, creating a strong glow and shadow. The overall style is reminiscent of a comic book or a simple digital illustration.

BLOCK



SIGH



MAYBE I AM
BEING A LITTLE
BIT CRAZY...

BUT I'M
ALREADY HERE...





AND I JUST...
REALLY DON'T WANT
TO BE ALONE...

I CAN'T BE
ALONE TONIGHT...





HM...

ALRIGHT,
I'M HEARING IT
NOW. I CAN SEE
WHY THEY WERE
WORRIED BUT...



I WOULDN'T
ACTUALLY...
I THINK...





ALERT

Guest Front Desk Check-in
6:53 PM

Guest Apartment Entry
6:55 PM

Purge Record?

Yes

No

Yes

A minimalist illustration of a dark room. The room is mostly black, with some dark grey lines suggesting the corners and structure of the walls and floor. In the center, there is a light-colored, oval-shaped speech bubble. Inside the bubble, the word "HELLO?" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font. A thin, white, wavy line connects the bottom of the speech bubble to the floor of the room.

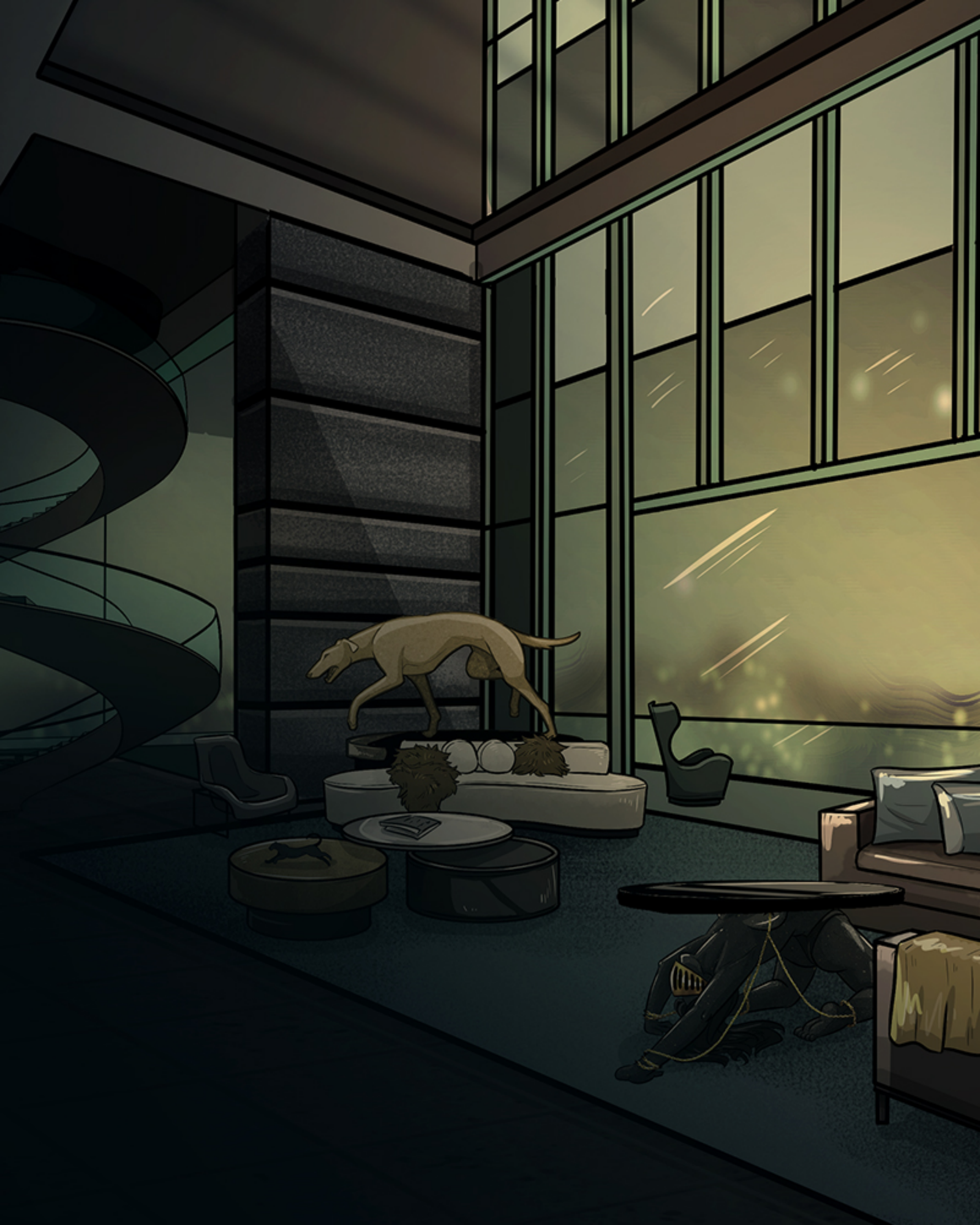
HELLO?







CHARLES...?



UGH.

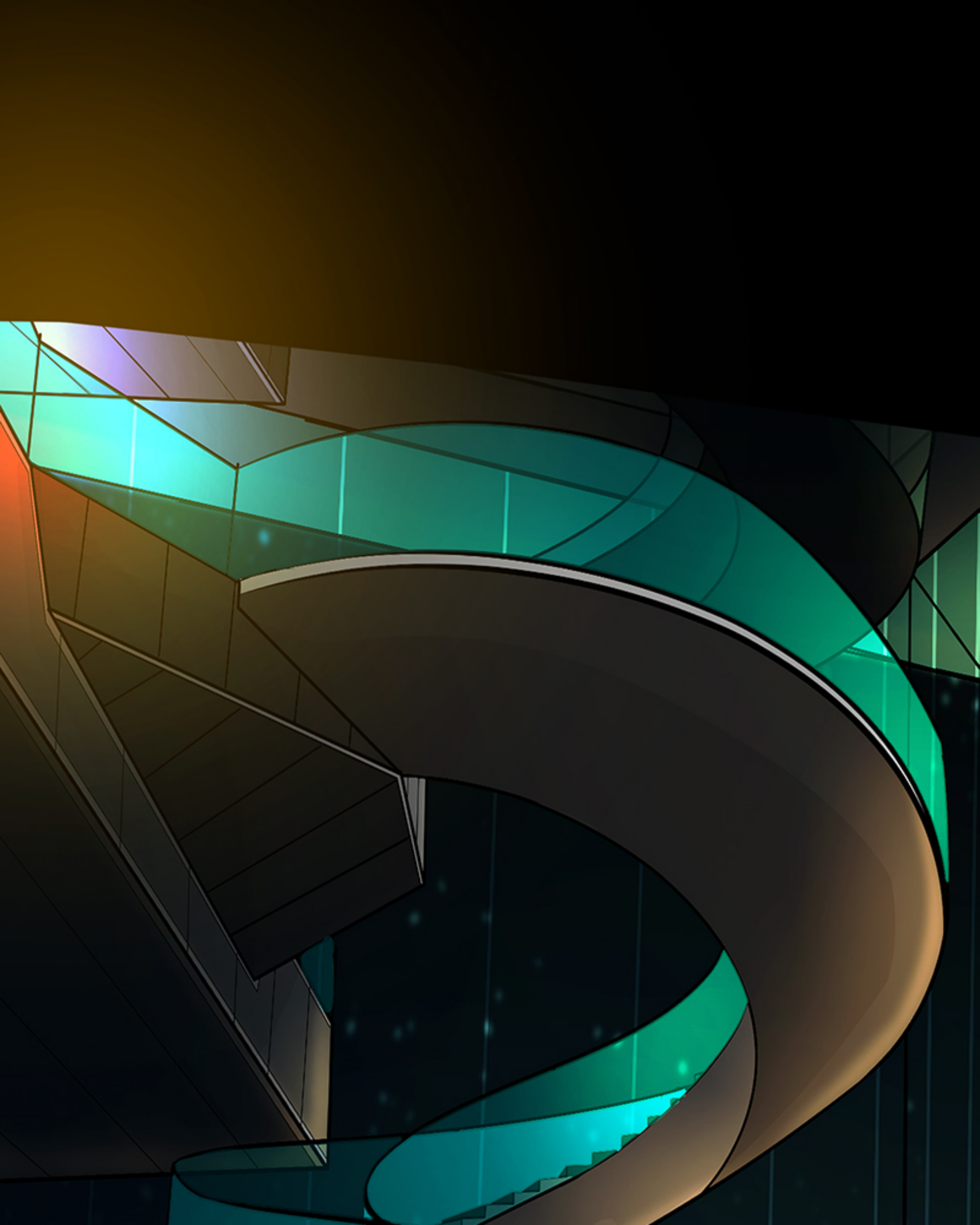
A comic-style illustration of a man with brown hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is shown from the chest up, hunched over with his arms crossed, shivering. His face is pale with a slight blush on his cheeks. The background is a dark, textured grey.

IT'S
FREEZING
IN HERE...

NOT LIKE
HE CAN'T AFFORD
TO HEAT IT...









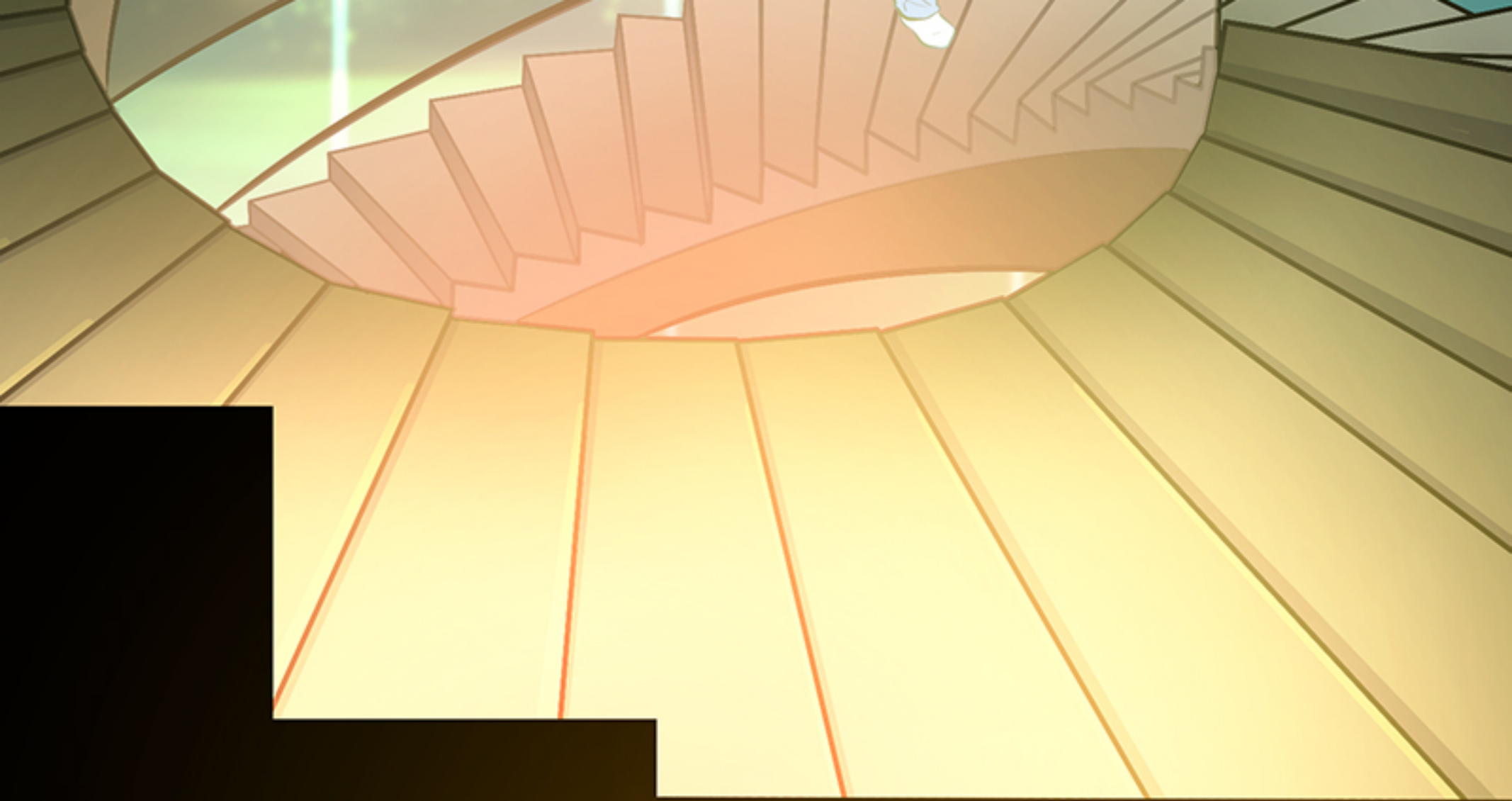
A light pink speech bubble with a black outline. Inside the bubble, the text "CHARLES...?" is written in a black, hand-drawn font. A thin black line extends from the bottom of the bubble, curving downwards and to the left, ending near the bottom edge of the frame.

CHARLES...?

A man with brown hair, wearing a dark jacket and light blue pants, stands on a set of stairs. He is looking up at a massive, dark, mechanical hand that is reaching down towards him. The hand is composed of several segments, with the fingers being long and tapering. The background is a dark, teal-colored space with vertical light streaks and small, glowing particles. The overall scene has a sci-fi or fantasy feel.

MR. DALLAS?

ARE
YOU UP
THERE???



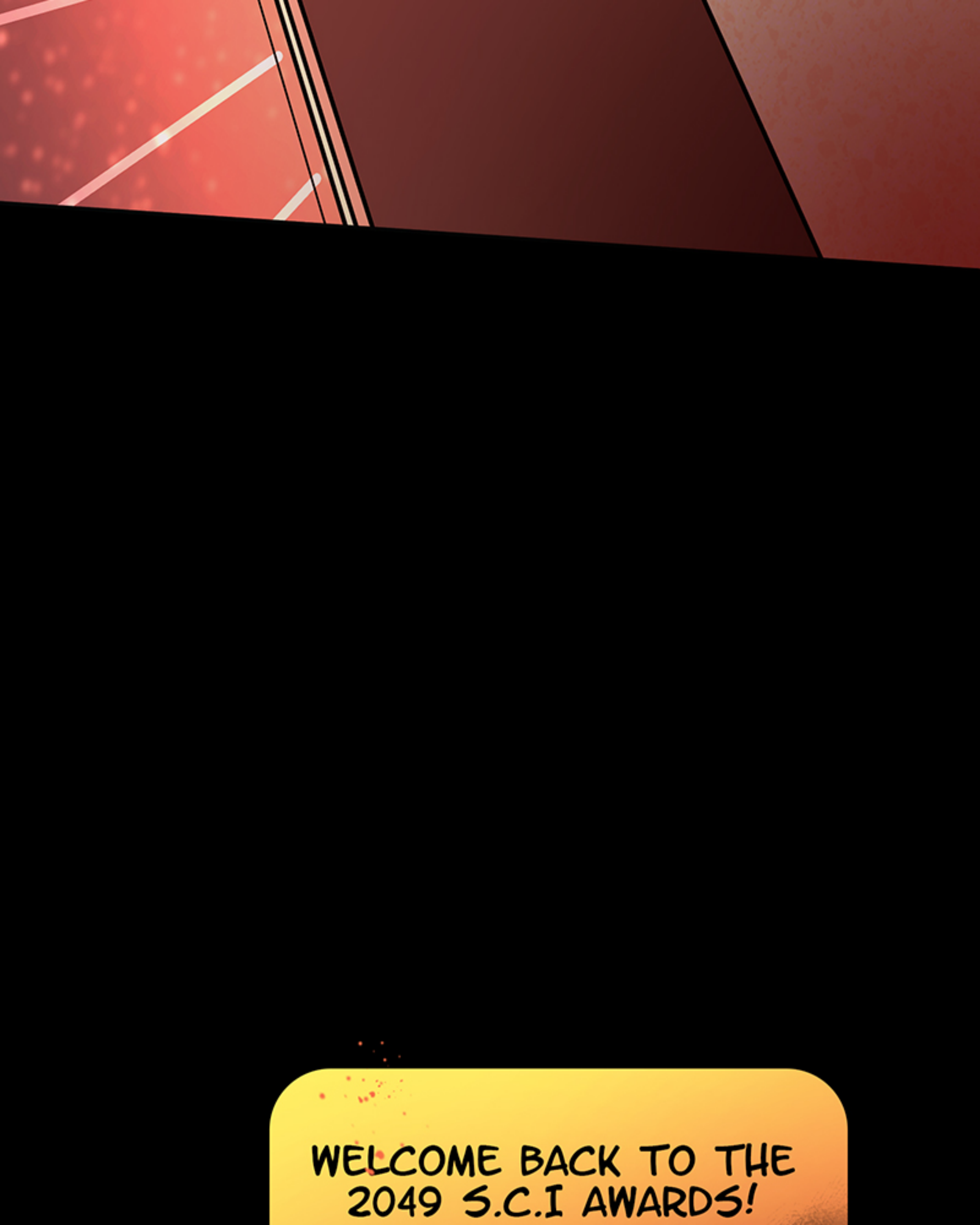


IS THIS
SUPPOSED
TO BE LIKE A
JOKE OR...



SOME
KIND OF ROMANTIC
SURPRISE...?

BECAUSE
IT'S KIND OF
CREEPY.



WELCOME BACK TO THE
2049 S.C.I AWARDS!

OUR NEXT AWARD
GOES TO PROTECTOR
MIOSKE
BREAK

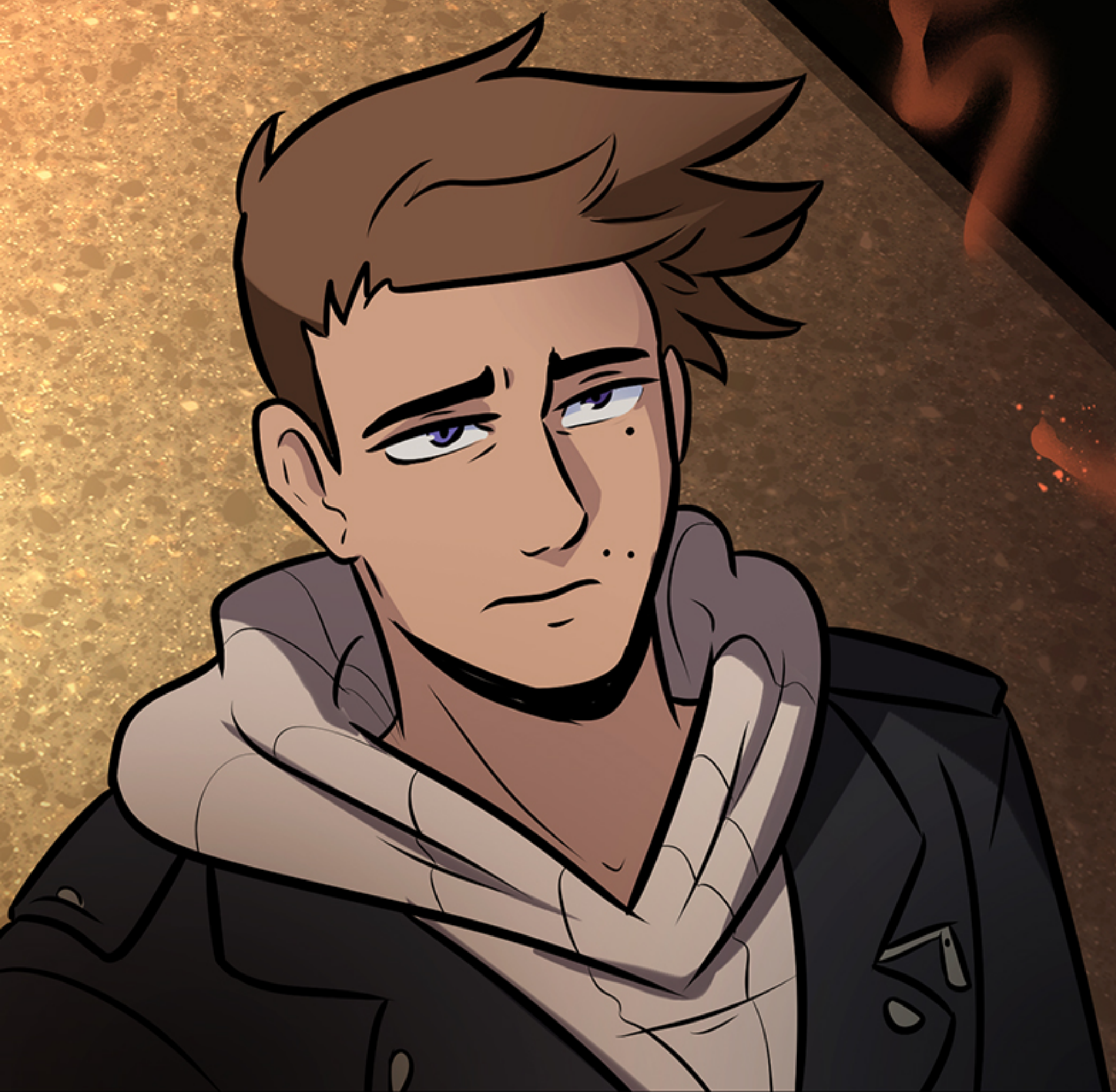
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH





BLAH HAH
BLAH BLAH

OH. HE'S JUST
WATCHING T.V...



BBBB111111

AH!



BBB111111

B111-

MOTHER
FUU—





REALLY?
YOU WANTED
AROUND THE BLOCK
SO BADLY-

-YOU'RE CALLING
THROUGH A PROXY
NUMBER?

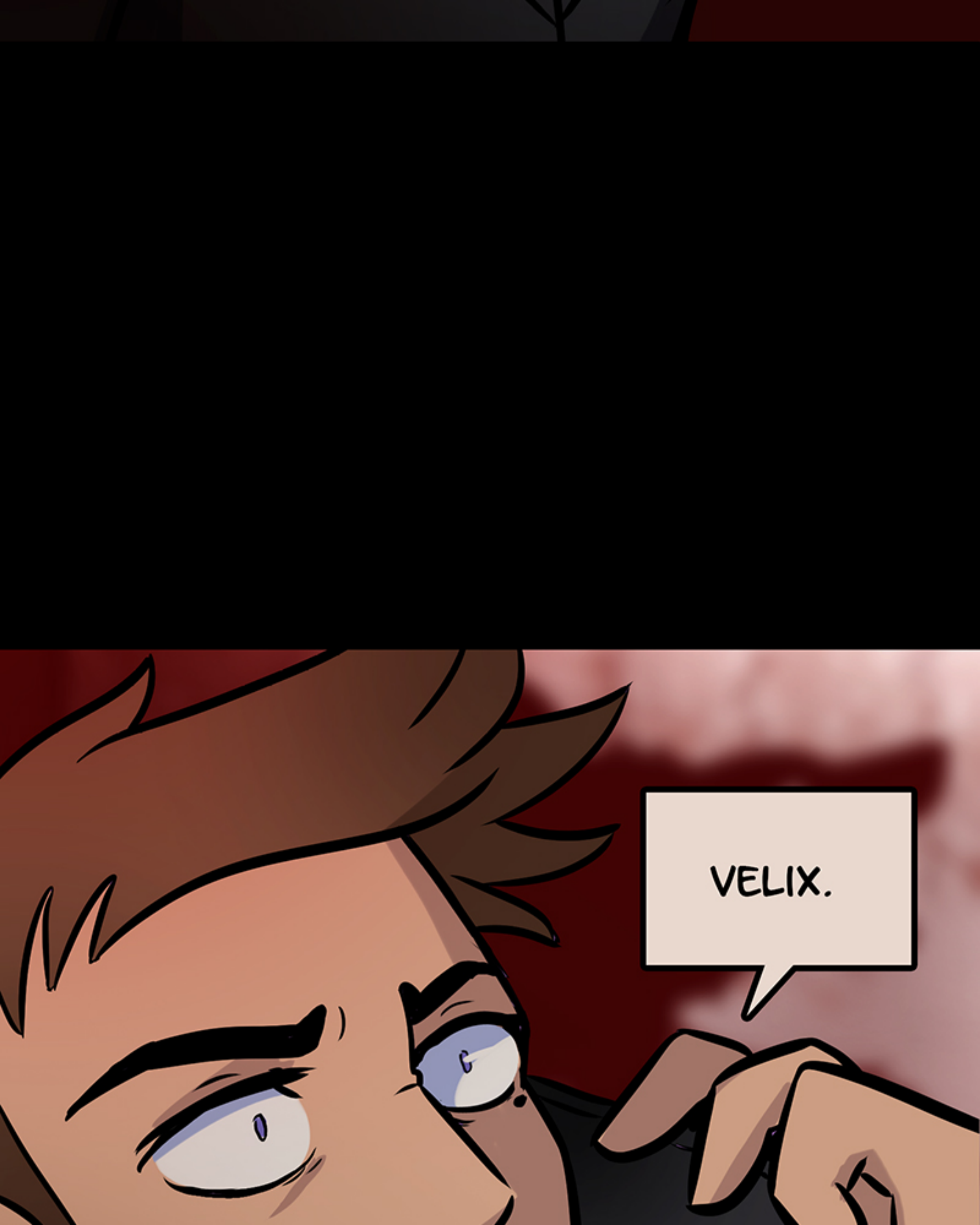


THOSE GET
THROWN OUT THE
WINDOW WHEN YOU
WANT TO TALK?

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO RESPECTING
BOUNDARIES OR
WHATEVER,



Huh?



VELIX.



I'M GLAD
TO HEAR YOU
SOUNDING SO
LIVELY.

HE SAID
YOU'D NEVER
BLOCKED HIM
BEFORE AND HE
PANICKED.

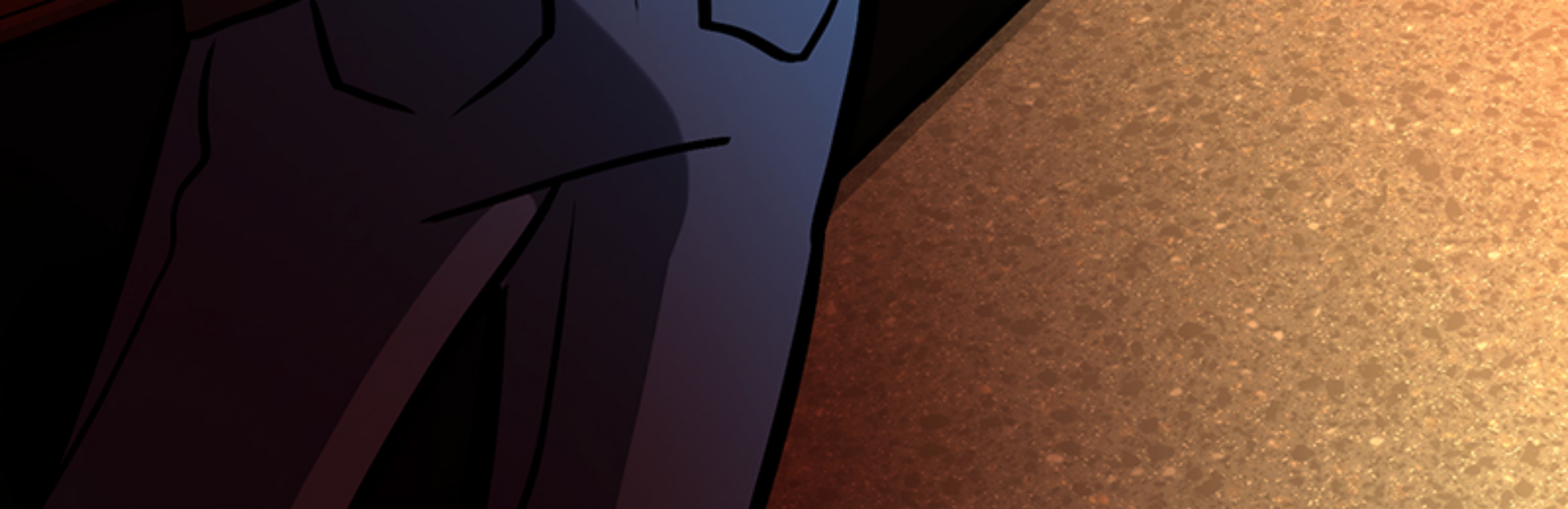




WHAT DO
YOU WANT

YOU WANT.



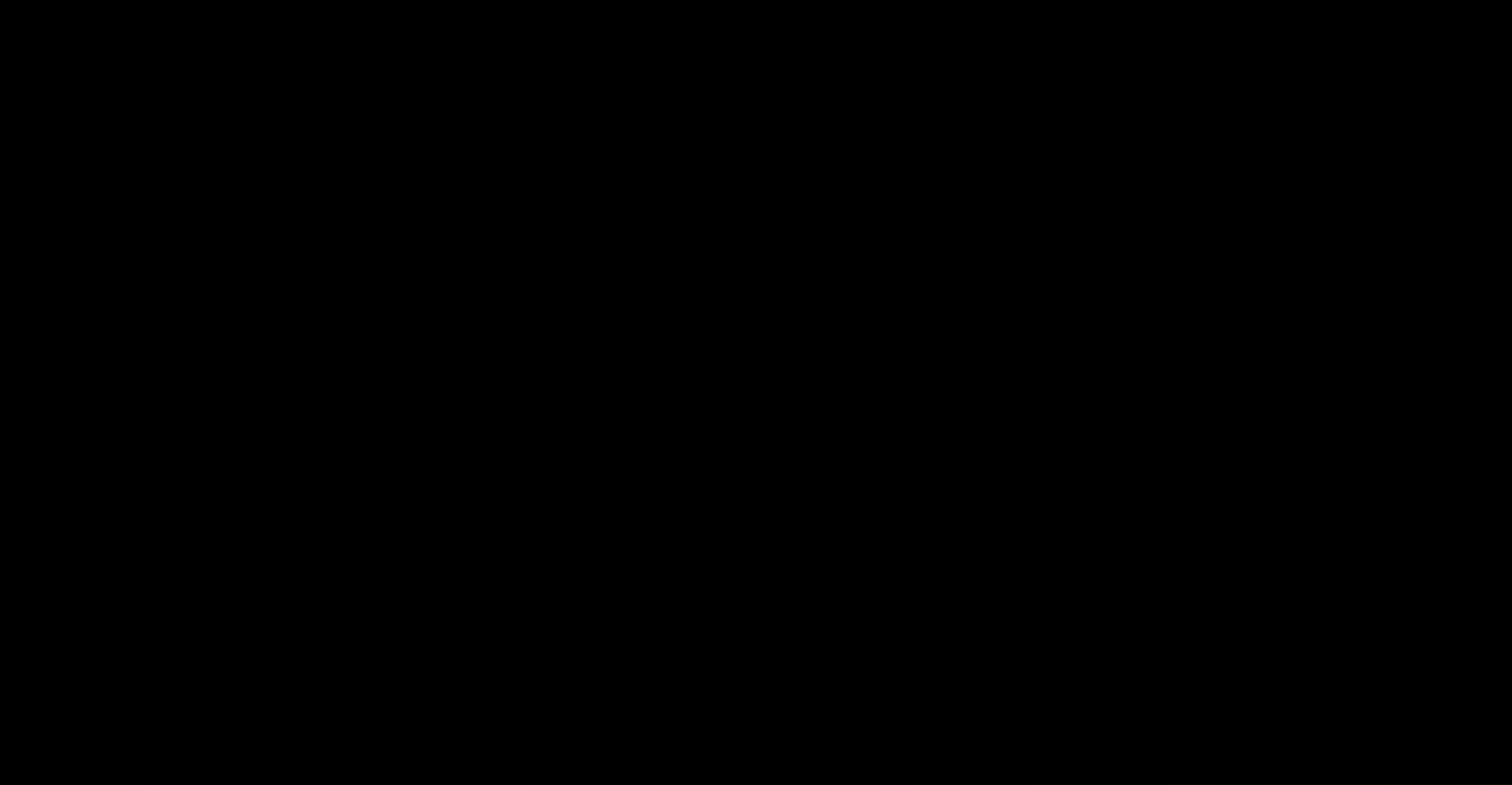


HE DOESN'T
NEED YOU TO CALL
HIM. HE JUST WANTED
TO KNOW THAT YOU
WERE OKAY...

BUT I'M ALSO
HERE IF YOU WANT

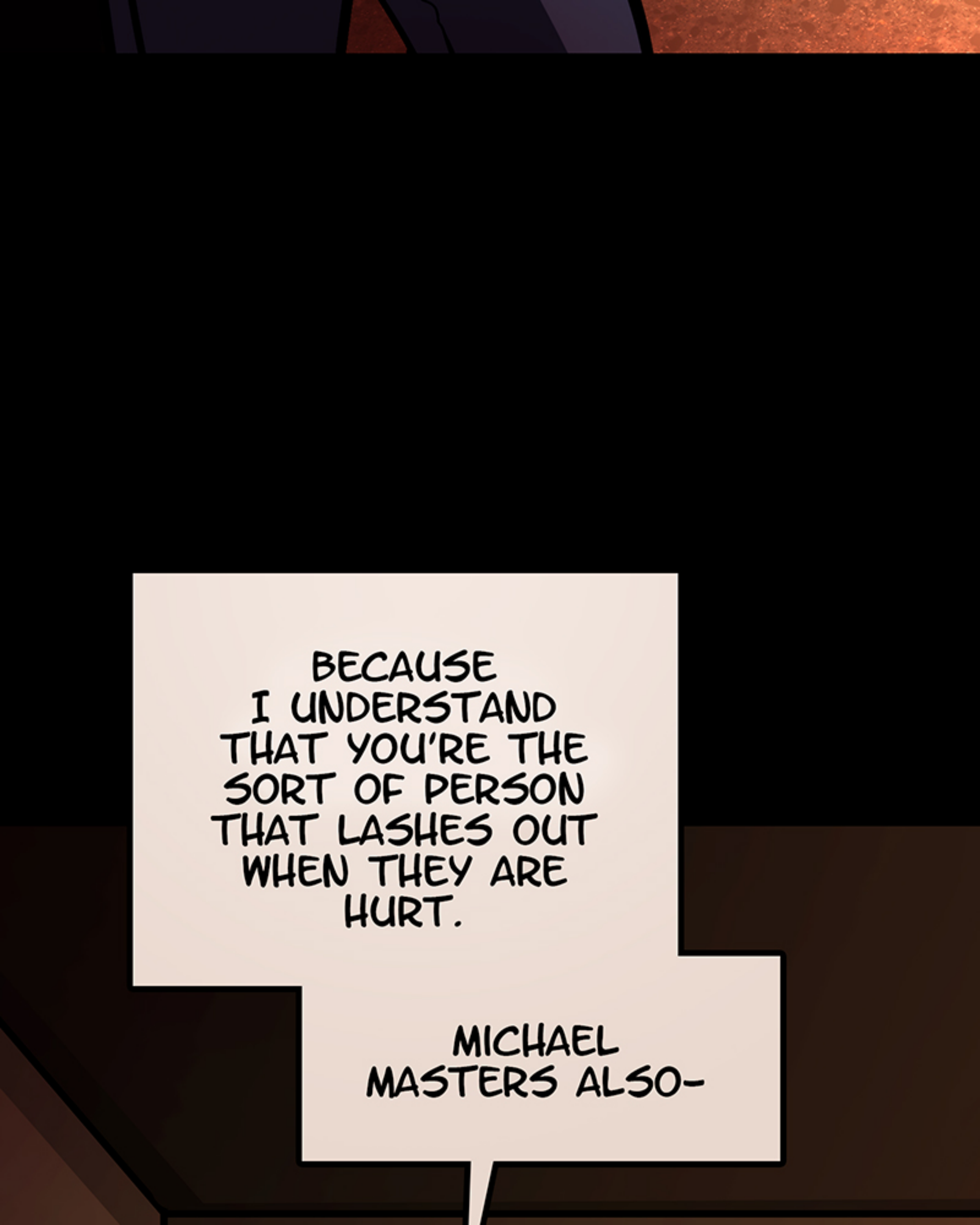
HERE, IF YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT
ANYTHING.







AND WHY
THE HELL WOULD
I WANT TO DO
THAT?



BECAUSE
I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU'RE THE
SORT OF PERSON
THAT LASHES OUT
WHEN THEY ARE
HURT.

MICHAEL
MASTERS ALSO-



DON'T
COMPARE ME
TO HIM.



XADA WAS
OFFENDED WHEN
I POINTED OUT
THAT CONNECTION
AS WELL.

A comic book panel featuring a character with pink hair and a black visor. A speech bubble originates from the character, containing two lines of text. The background is dark, and a bright orange light source is visible on the right side.

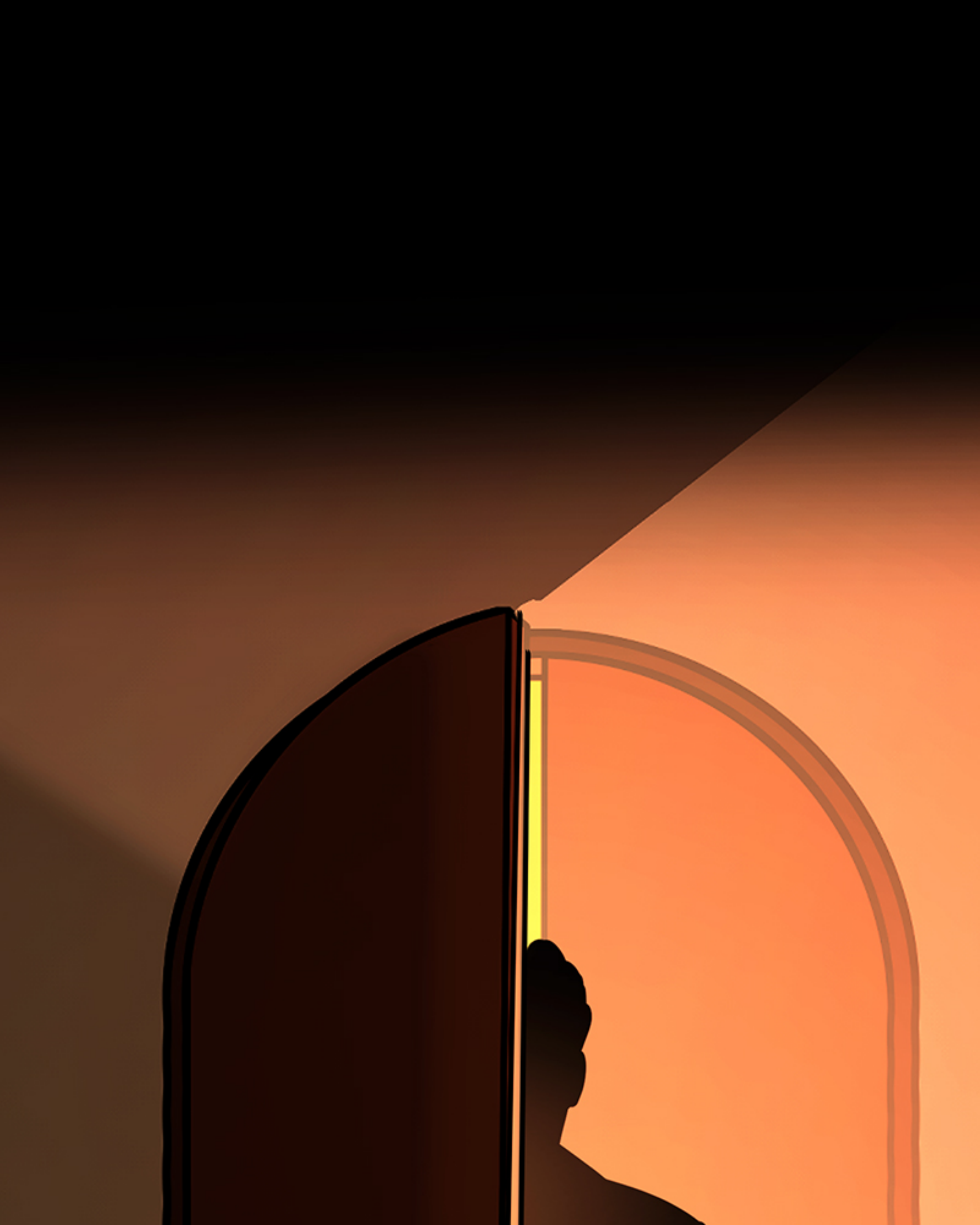
DOESN'T MATTER,
I SUPPOSE.

HE SEES
THE GOOD IN YOU.
AND I TRUST THAT
HE HAS A REASON TO
FEEL THAT WAY.



XADA CARES
FOR YOU AND WANTS
TO PROTECT YOU.

SO EVEN IF YOU
HATE ME, I WANT
TO PROTECT WHAT
XADA CONSIDERS
PRECIOUS TO HIM.





WILL YOU
LET ME HELP
YOU?

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Edited by **Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell**

Character Shading Assistant  coldpupsART

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