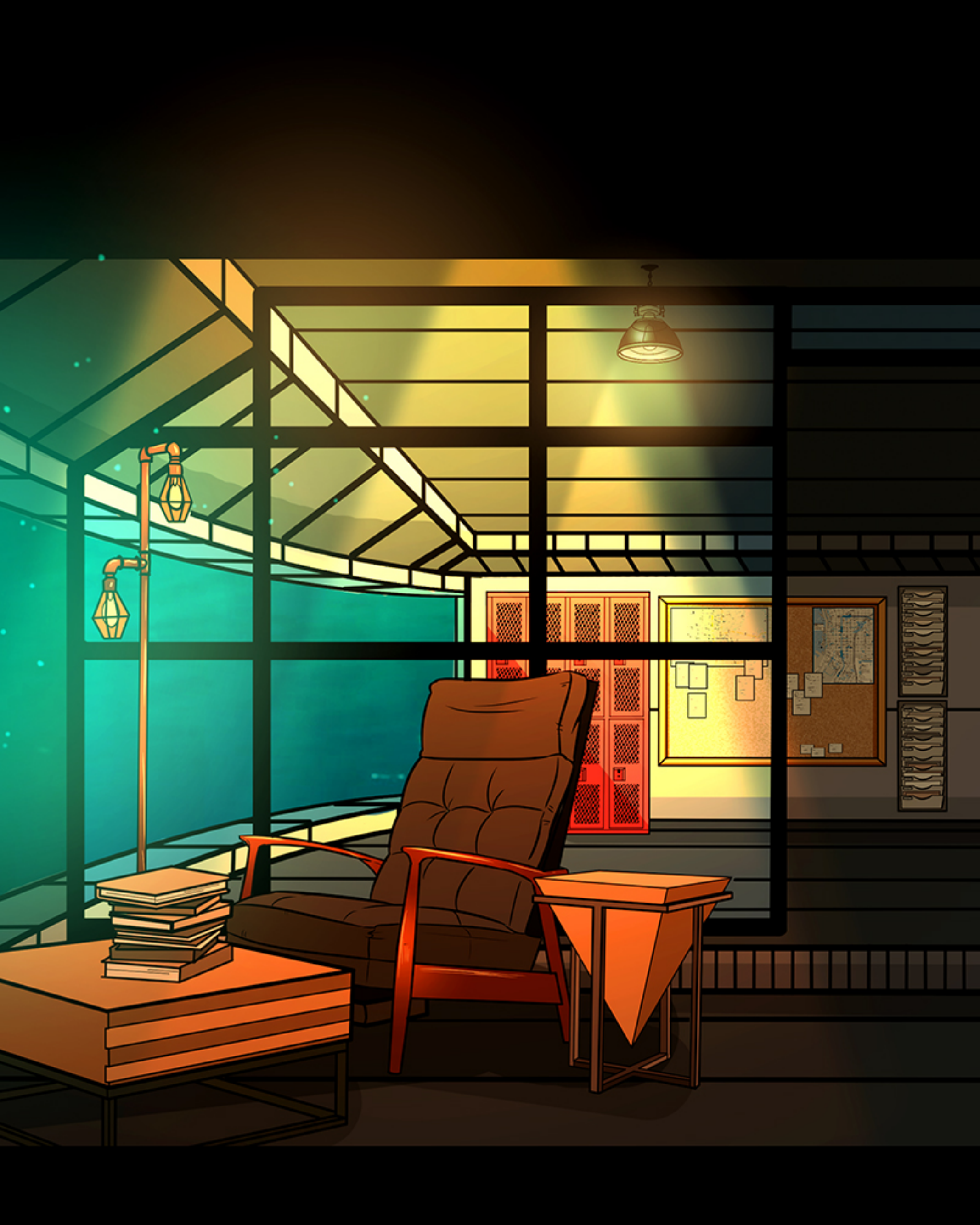


WHERE...?

A young man with short, spiky white hair and freckles is sitting on a wooden bench. He is wearing a dark brown, long-sleeved sweater. He has a thoughtful or questioning expression on his face, looking slightly to the side. The background is a dark night sky with a greenish-blue gradient and small white stars. A wooden railing is visible behind him. A speech bubble is positioned above his head.

AM I...?



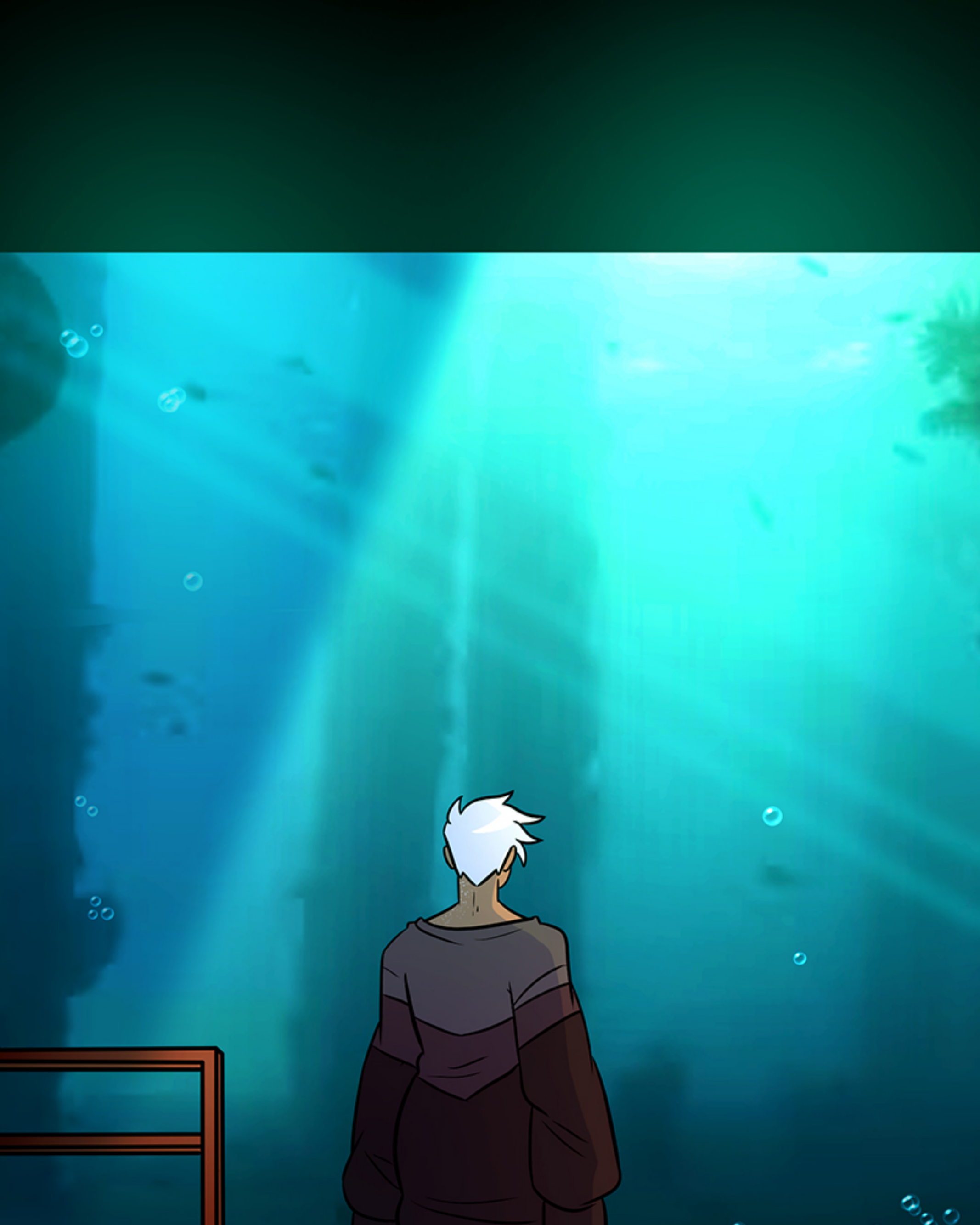






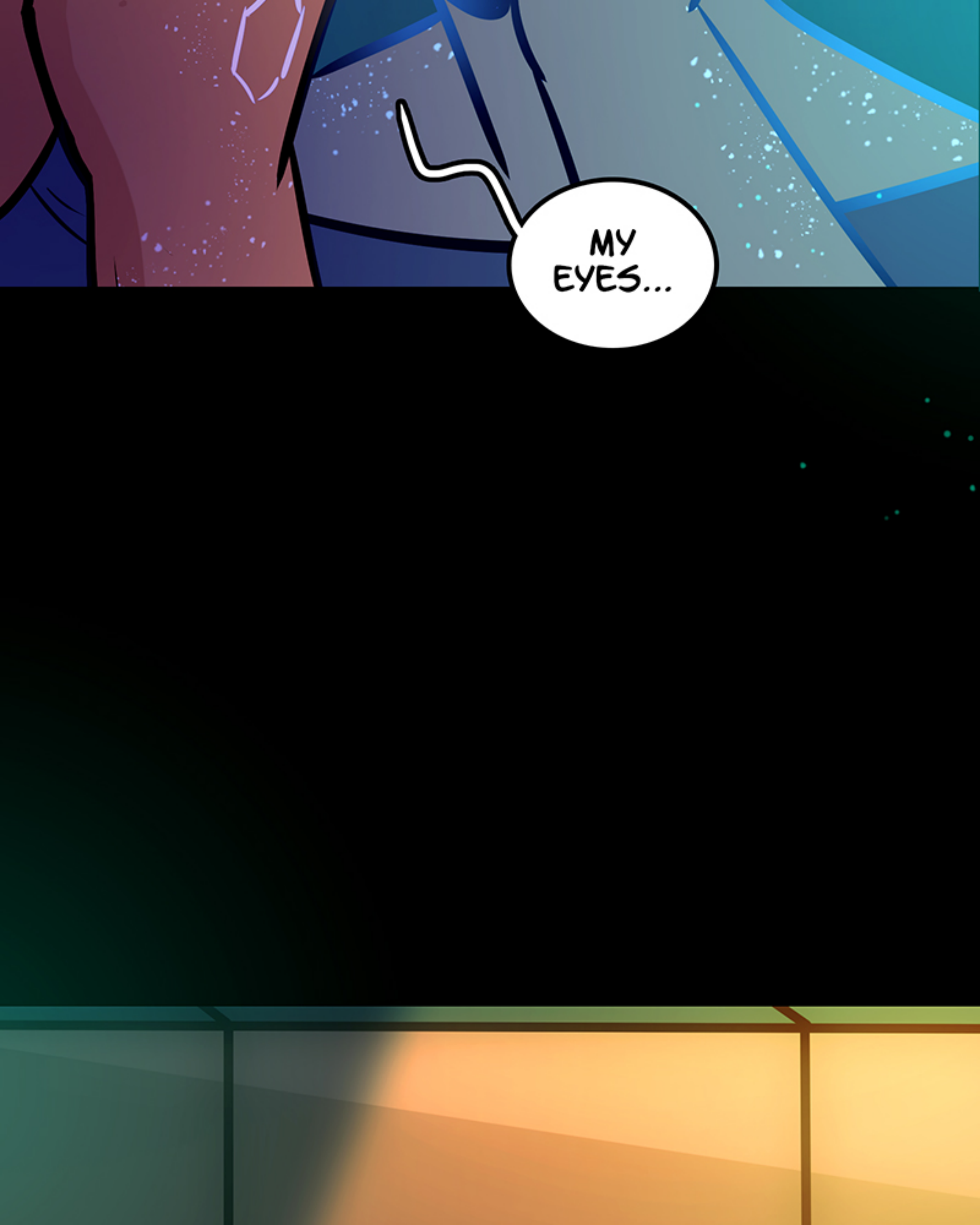












MY
EYES...

✓ CREEEAK



AH!!!







AH, YOU
REACTIVATED
EARLIER THAN I
THOUGHT YOU
WOULD.

GOOD
MORNING.



FEELING
BETTER?

BRIZZ...

WHERE
ARE WE??

WHERE IS
XADA??

HOW LONG

WAS I OUT
FOR?

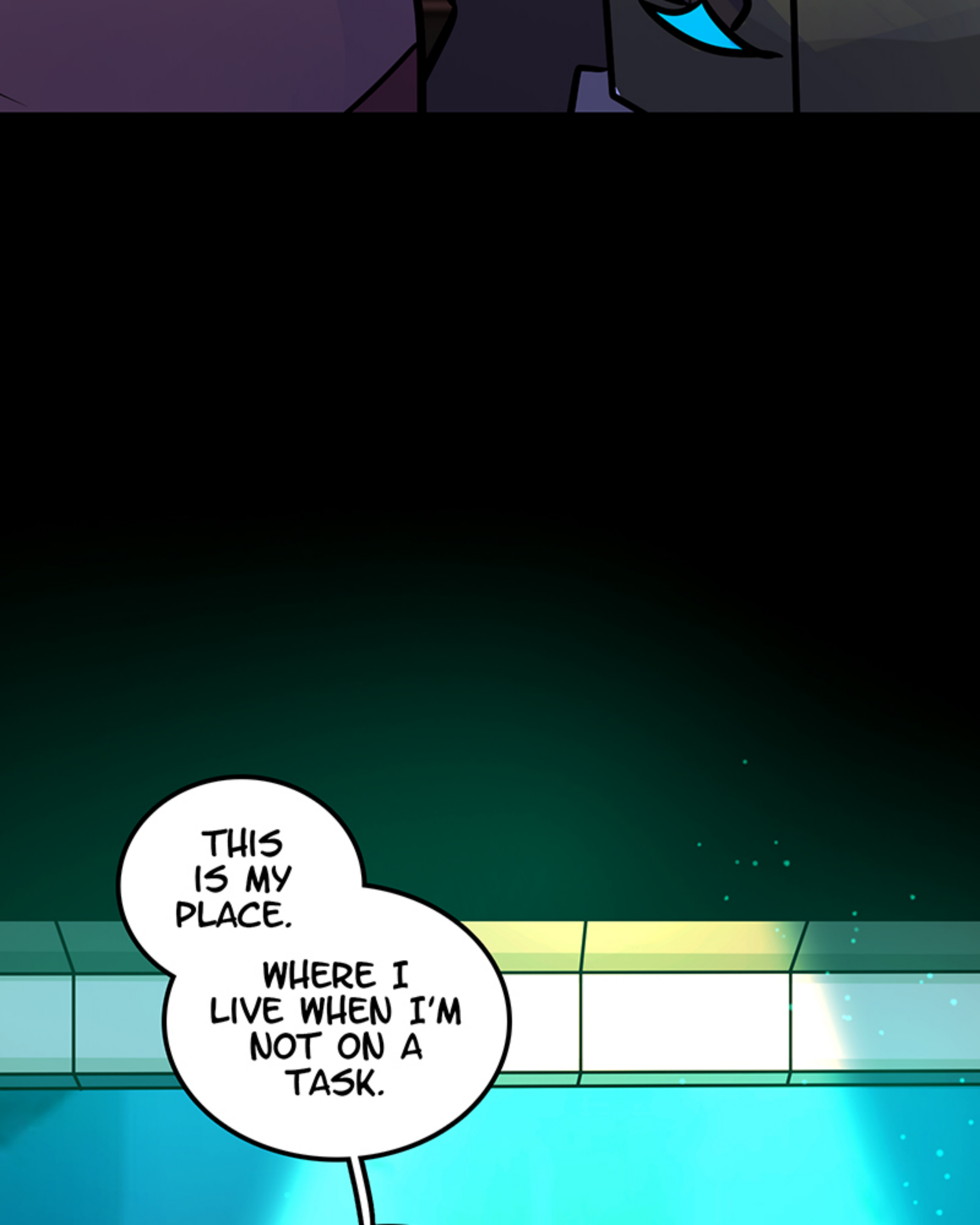




WHOA
THERE...
SLOW DOWN,
COWBOY...





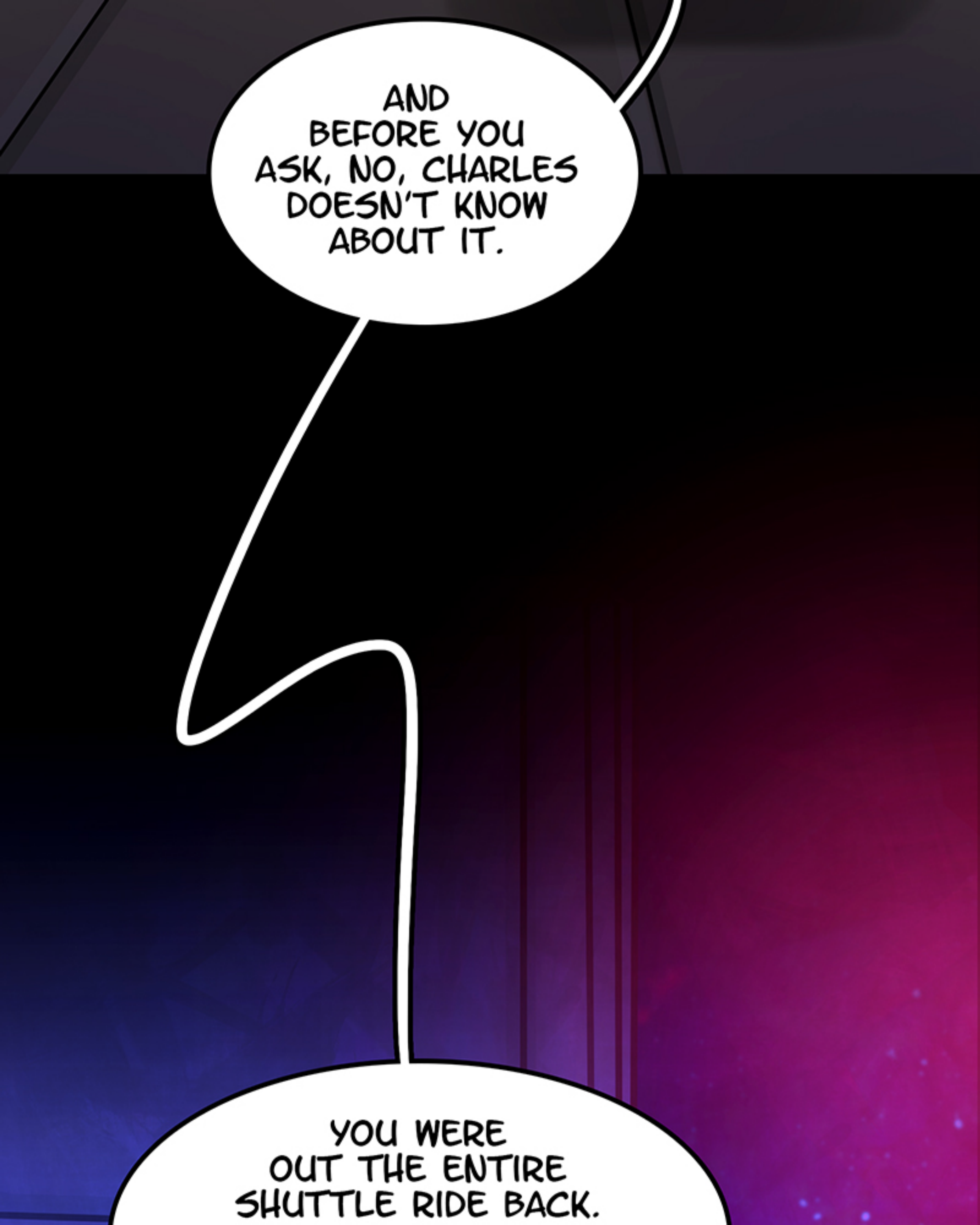


THIS
IS MY
PLACE.

WHERE I
LIVE WHEN I'M
NOT ON A
TASK.

EVA PAYS
FOR IT.



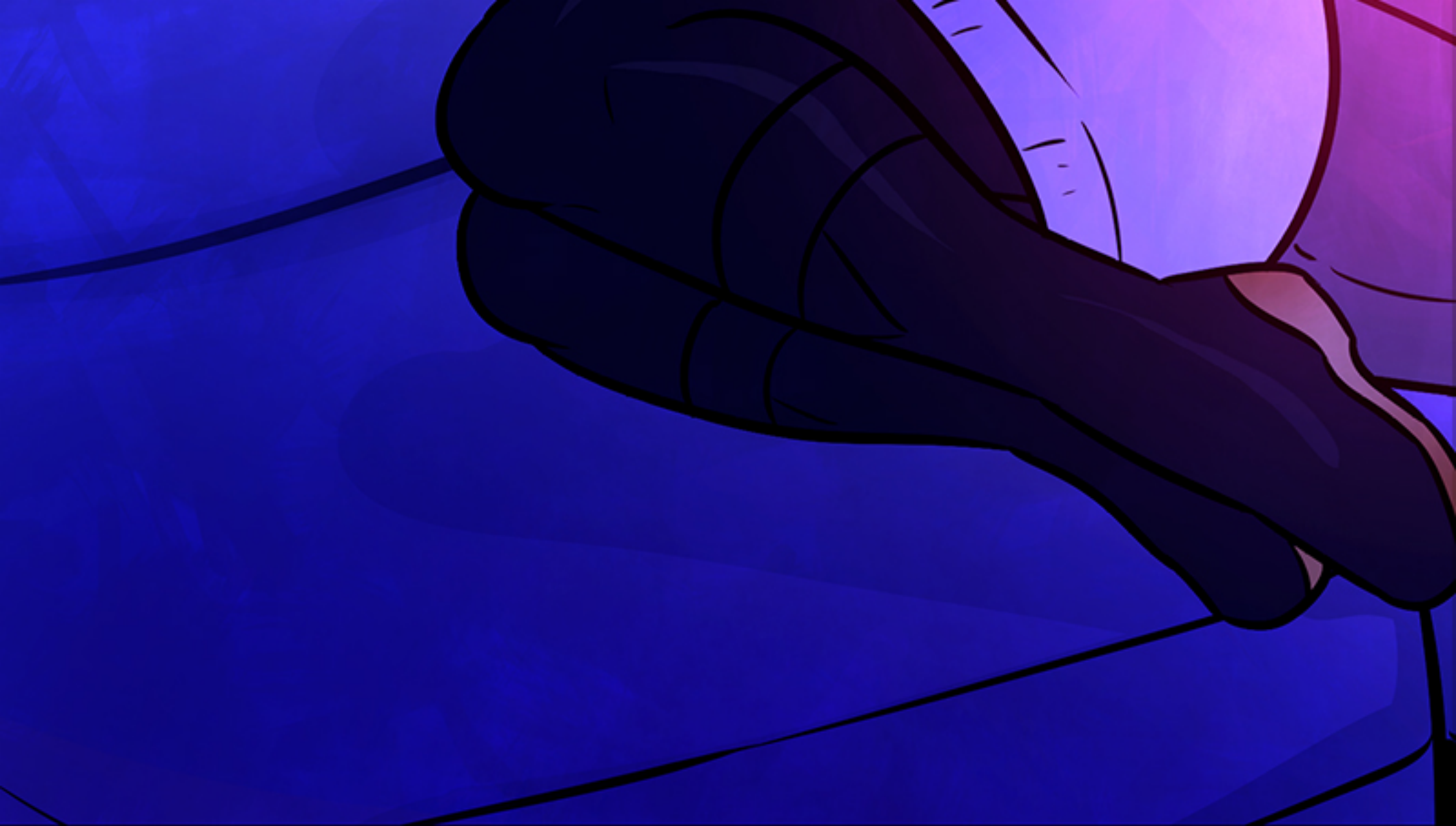
A comic panel featuring two speech bubbles. The top bubble is connected to a line that enters from the top right and curves down to the bubble. The bottom bubble is connected to a line that enters from the bottom center and curves up to the bubble. The background is a gradient of dark purple and blue, with some faint vertical lines and a starry pattern on the right side.

AND
BEFORE YOU
ASK, NO, CHARLES
DOESN'T KNOW
ABOUT IT.

YOU WERE
OUT THE ENTIRE
SHUTTLE RIDE BACK.

SINCE I COULDN'T INITIATE
THE RESTART PROCESS
UNTIL WE GOT
HERE.



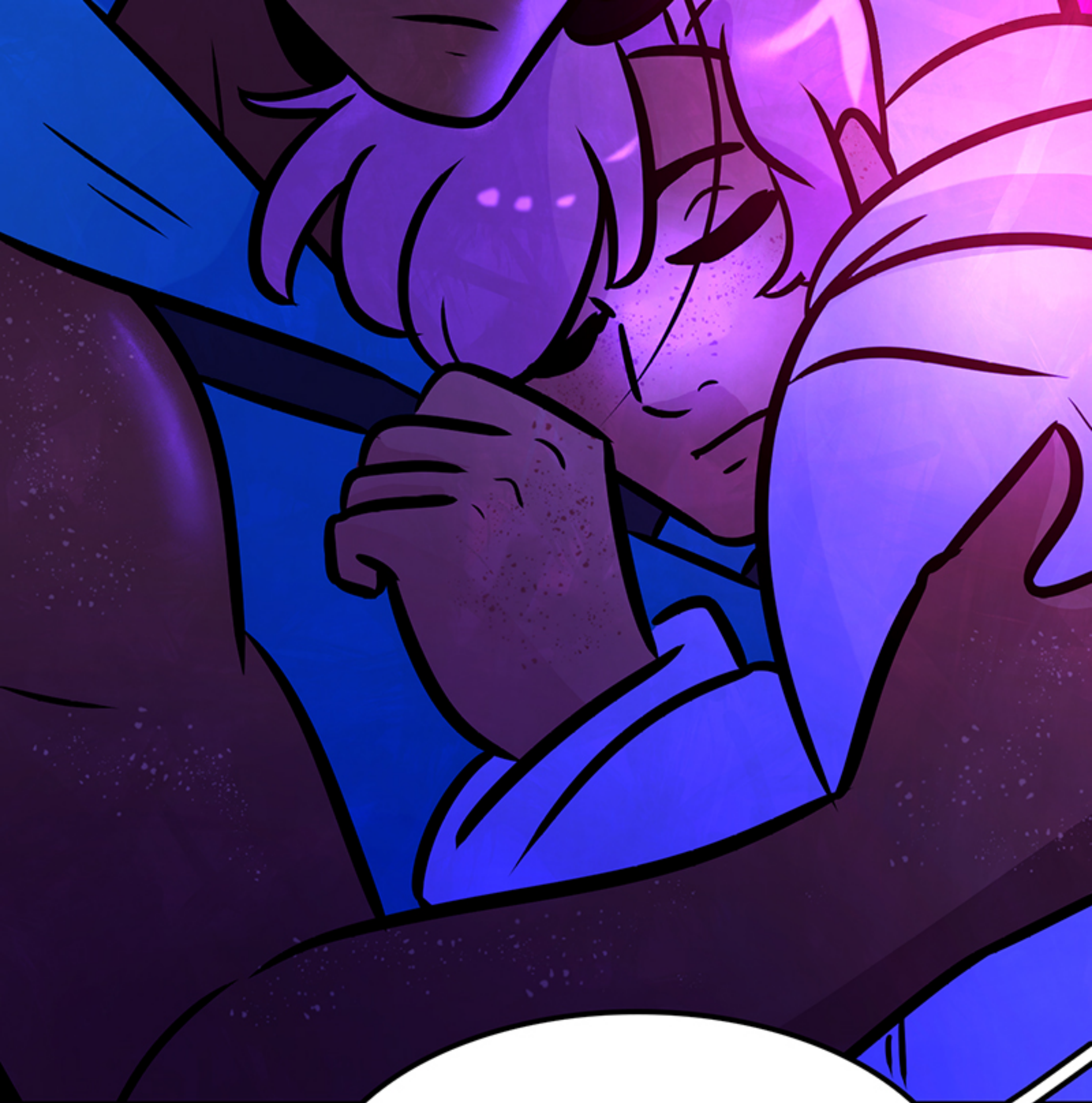


XADA AGREED
THAT HIS APARTMENT

AND WORKSHOP WERE TOO
COMPROMISED FOR YOU
TO BE SAFE IN.

SO HE'S BEEN
IN AND OUT GETTING
SUPPLIES. HE SHOULD
BE BACK SOON.





HE MENTIONED
SOMETHING ABOUT
HAVING TO SEARCH FOR
VELIX TOO SINCE HE
WASN'T AT HOME.



I THINK
ERIK IS ON
THE HUNT
AS WELL.



WAIT-



VELIX NEVER
CONTACTED
HIM?







HE TOLD ME
THAT HE WOULD...
I THOUGHT OUR
CONVO HAD GONE
PRETTY WELL...

MAYBE I
SHOULD REACH OUT
AGAIN AND SEE IF I CAN
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON...

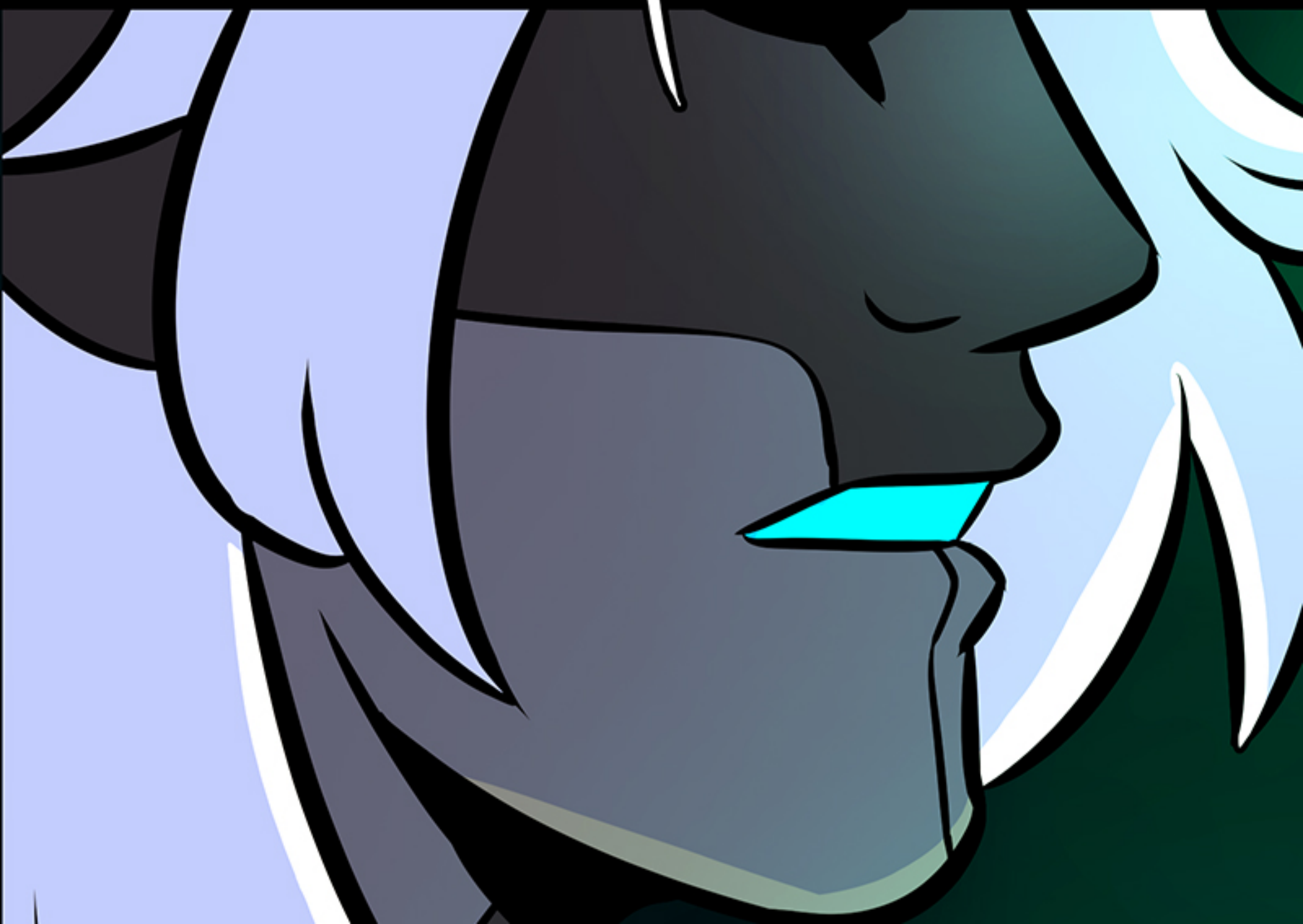


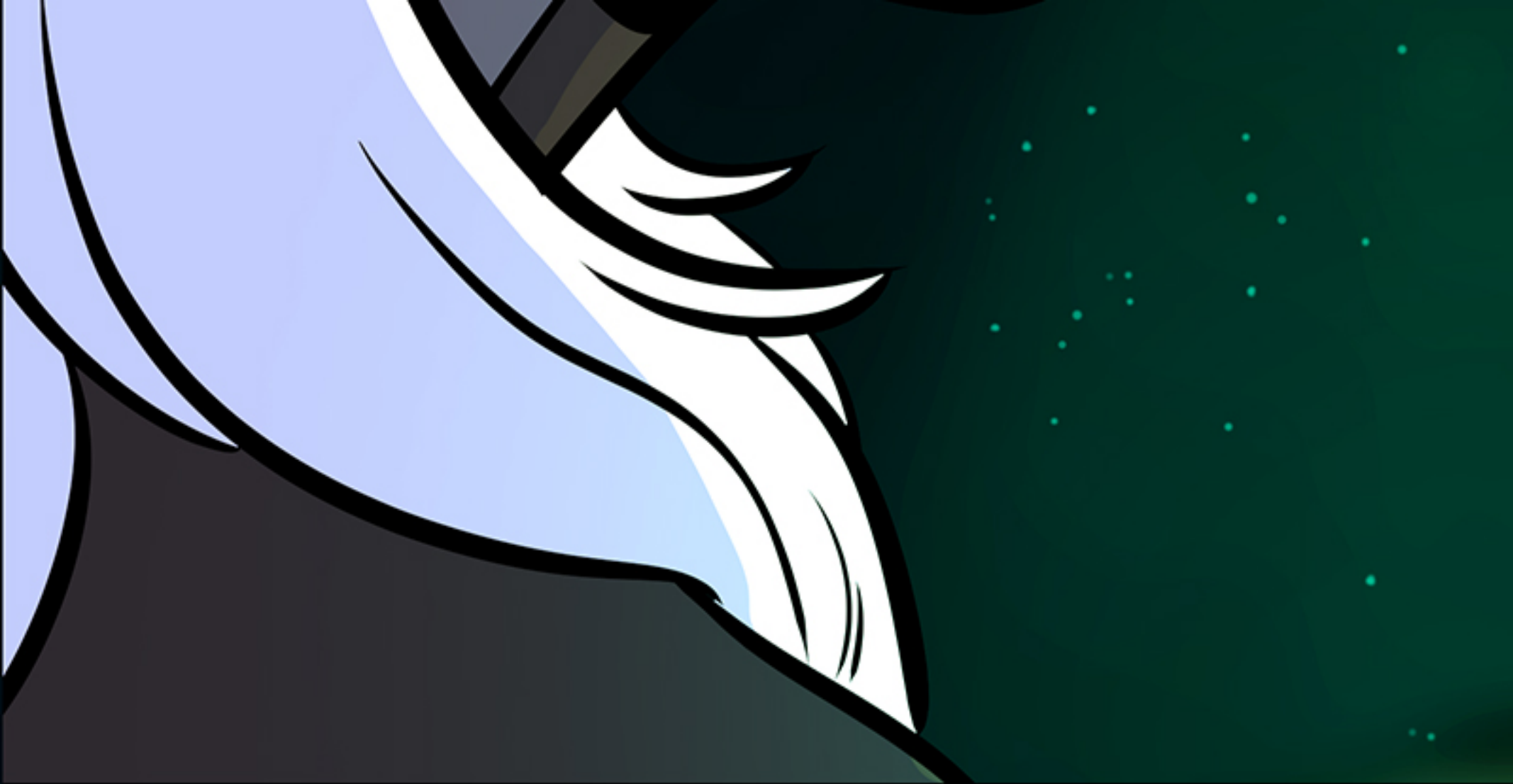






THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT?





YES?

WHAT
ELSE?

I MEAN SO
LONG AS XADA
RETURNS SOON AND
SAFELY LIKE YOU
SAID...





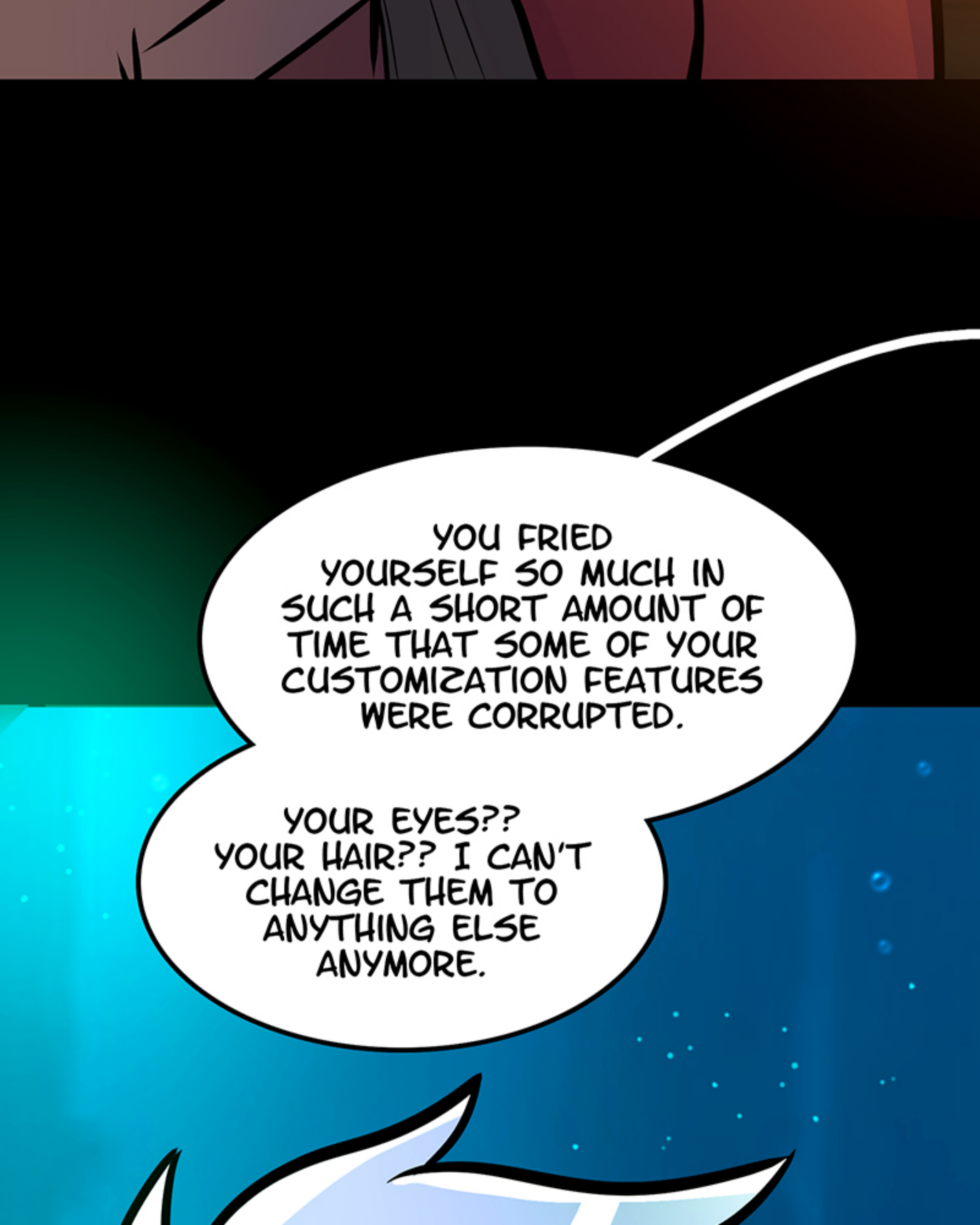
MAYBE
WORRY ABOUT
YOURSELF FOR
ONCE?

DO YOU
EVEN REMEMBER
WHY YOU HAD TO
BE SHUT DOWN?

HAS YOUR
MIND BLOCKED
THAT OUT TO
KEEP IT FROM
HAPPENING
AGAIN??







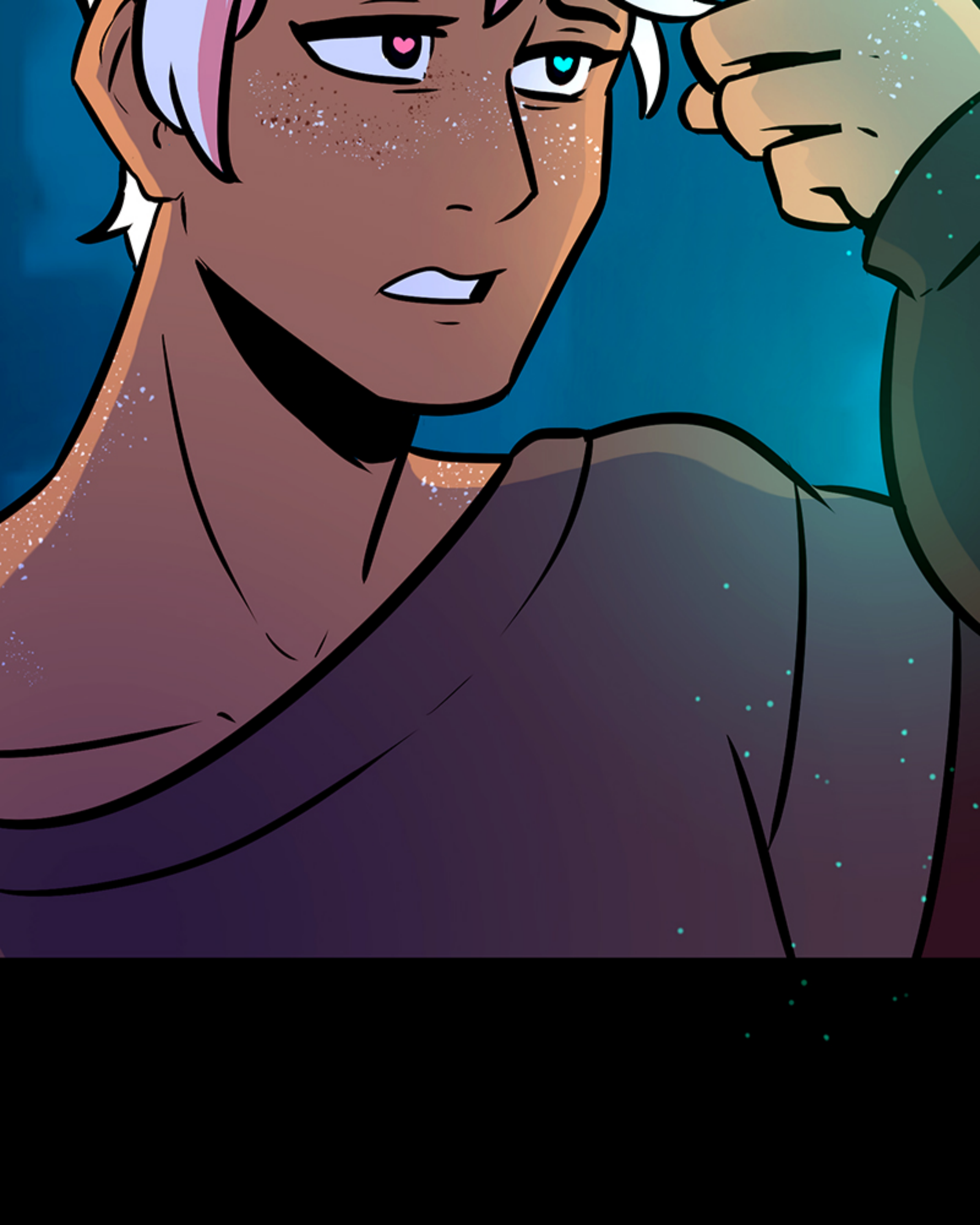
YOU FRIED
YOURSELF SO MUCH IN
SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF
TIME THAT SOME OF YOUR
CUSTOMIZATION FEATURES
WERE CORRUPTED.

YOUR EYES??
YOUR HAIR?? I CAN'T
CHANGE THEM TO
ANYTHING ELSE
ANYMORE.



A close-up of a character with long, flowing white hair and a pink crown. The character's face is partially visible, showing a brown complexion and a blue eye. A speech bubble is positioned above the character's head, containing the text "AH... DO YOU THINK IT ... LOOKS BAD?". The background is a dark blue gradient with some light blue highlights.

AH...
DO YOU THINK IT
... LOOKS BAD?





IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
I THINK ABOUT
HOW YOU LOOK!

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
XADA THINKS
EITHER!



WHAT I'M
TALKING ABOUT
IS WAY MORE
SERIOUS THAN
THAT!

I KNOW YOU'RE
NOT STUPID, SURELY
YOU UNDERSTAND THE
IMPLICATIONS HERE-



IF YOU
BREAK DOWN
AND PUT IT AGAIN

LIKE THAT AGAIN,
WHAT ELSE IS
GOING TO BE
LOST?!



A comic panel with a dark background. At the top, a tree trunk is visible. A white speech bubble on the left contains the text 'HOW MUCH WILL BE CHIPPED AWAY - UNTIL WE DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT ALL?!'. A second, larger white speech bubble on the right contains the text 'WHAT IF NEXT TIME YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO WE ARE?? OR THE NAME YOU CHOSE??'.

HOW MUCH
WILL BE CHIPPED
AWAY - UNTIL WE
DON'T RECOGNIZE
YOU AT ALL?!

WHAT IF
NEXT TIME YOU
DON'T EVEN REMEMBER
WHO WE ARE?? OR
THE NAME YOU
CHOSE??







LACEY.





REALLY??

FWUMP





GGRRRR



SIGH







HEY.

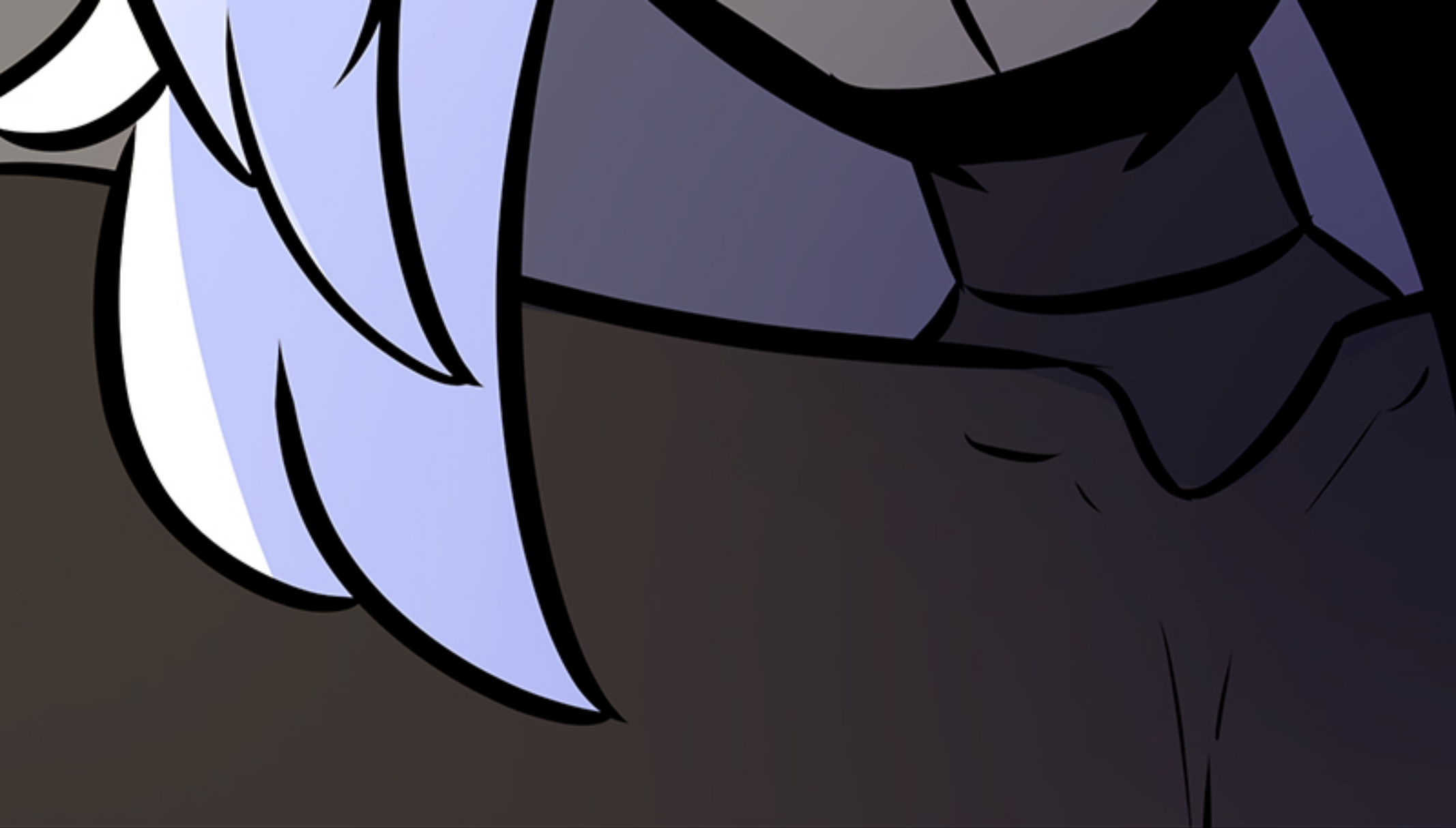
OPEN UP.

THE CORRU



I'M SORRY.
OKAY?

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SNAPPED
AT YOU.



LOOK...

I'M THE GUY
THAT IS CALLED IN TO
FIX PROBLEMS. THE CALM
AND COLLECTED ONE THAT
ALWAYS KNOWS HOW TO
HANDLE THINGS HARD
AND FAST.





MY
FEELINGS

EFFICACY
WAS AT
100%

UNTIL
YOU.





AND INSTEAD
OF BEING ABLE TO
TURN AROUND AND FIX
YOUR PROBLEMS...

YOU JUST KEEP
MAKING THINGS MORE
COMPLICATED.

IS THIS

... IS THIS
SUPPOSED TO MAKE
ME FEEL BETTER?



A comic panel featuring two speech bubbles. The top bubble is white with black text. The bottom bubble is also white with black text. The background is dark with a rainbow-like gradient at the bottom. A character's head with a blue horn is partially visible at the bottom left.

IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO HELP YOU
UNDERSTAND
ME MORE.

IF YOU
FIND IT UPSETTING
THEN I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO ABOUT
THAT.





MY POINT
IS...

YOU'RE ONE
OF THE ONLY THINGS
IN THIS WORLD THAT
IS SIMILAR TO
ME....



THE
DIFFERENCE IS...
YOU LOVE TO LEARN
ABOUT THINGS... NO
MATTER HOW POINTLESS
THEY SEEM.

WHEREAS I
PREFER TO DISCARD
ANY INFORMATION
THAT I DON'T DEEM
OF USE.

SO THE
IDEA OF ONE DAY
YOU WAKE UP... AND
YOU HAVE COMPLETELY
WIPE ME FROM
YOUR MIND...

EVERYTHING
THAT WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH JUST...
EXPUNGED.

IT...

IT SCARES
ME, I GUESS. ALMOST
MORE THAN THE IDEA OF
YOU NOT WAKING UP
AT ALL...





AND IT
MAKES ME FEEL
EVEN MORE
USELESS...

TO SEE YOU
IN THAT MUCH PAIN
AND NOT HAVING ANY
REAL SOLUTION FOR
HOW TO FIX IT.



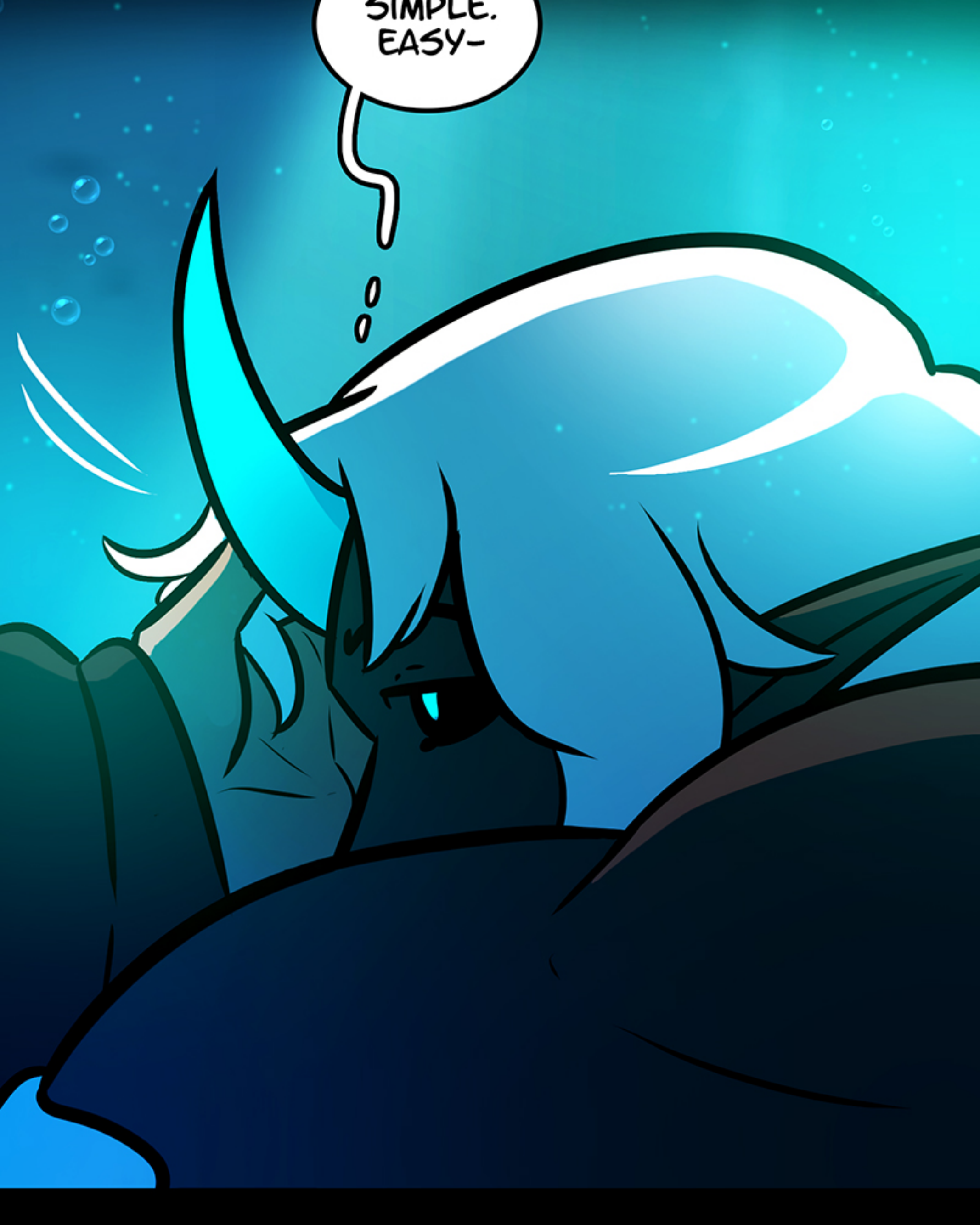


A SELFISH
PART OF ME... WANTS
TO DELETE YOU FIRST.
JUST GO BACK TO
HOW I WAS.

GO BACK TO
THE WAY THINGS
WERE BEFORE...



SIMPLE.
EASY-



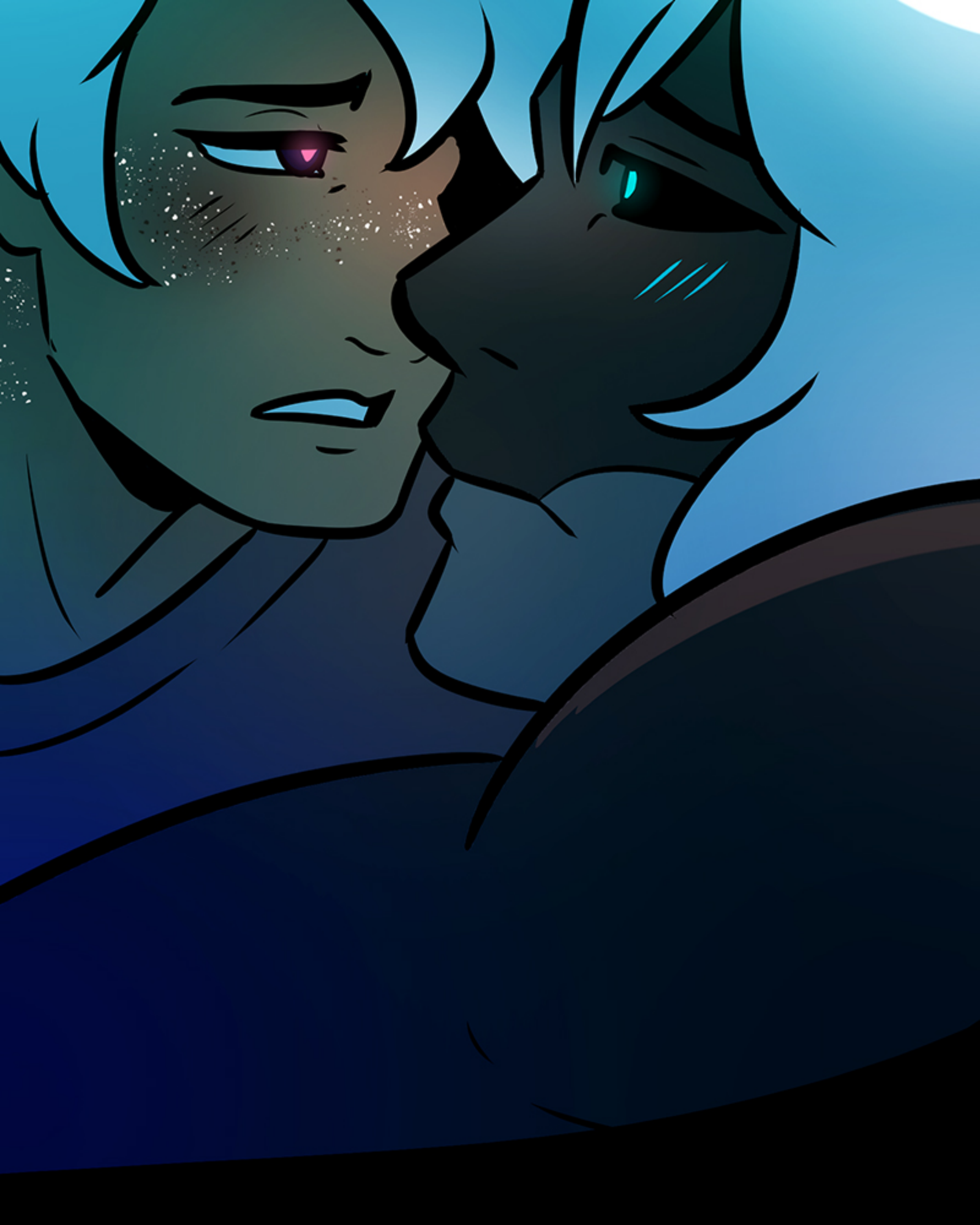






IS THAT
WHAT YOU
WANT?

TO
FORGET
ABOUT
ME?





IF BEING
NEAR ME CAUSES
YOU SO MUCH PAIN...
THEN I THINK YOU
SHOULD.

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

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Thank you
for reading! ♥



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