



I'M
SORRY...

I'M SO
SORRY... I DIDN'T
MEAN IT - I JUST
COULDN'T SEE
YOU...





IT'S
OKAY...

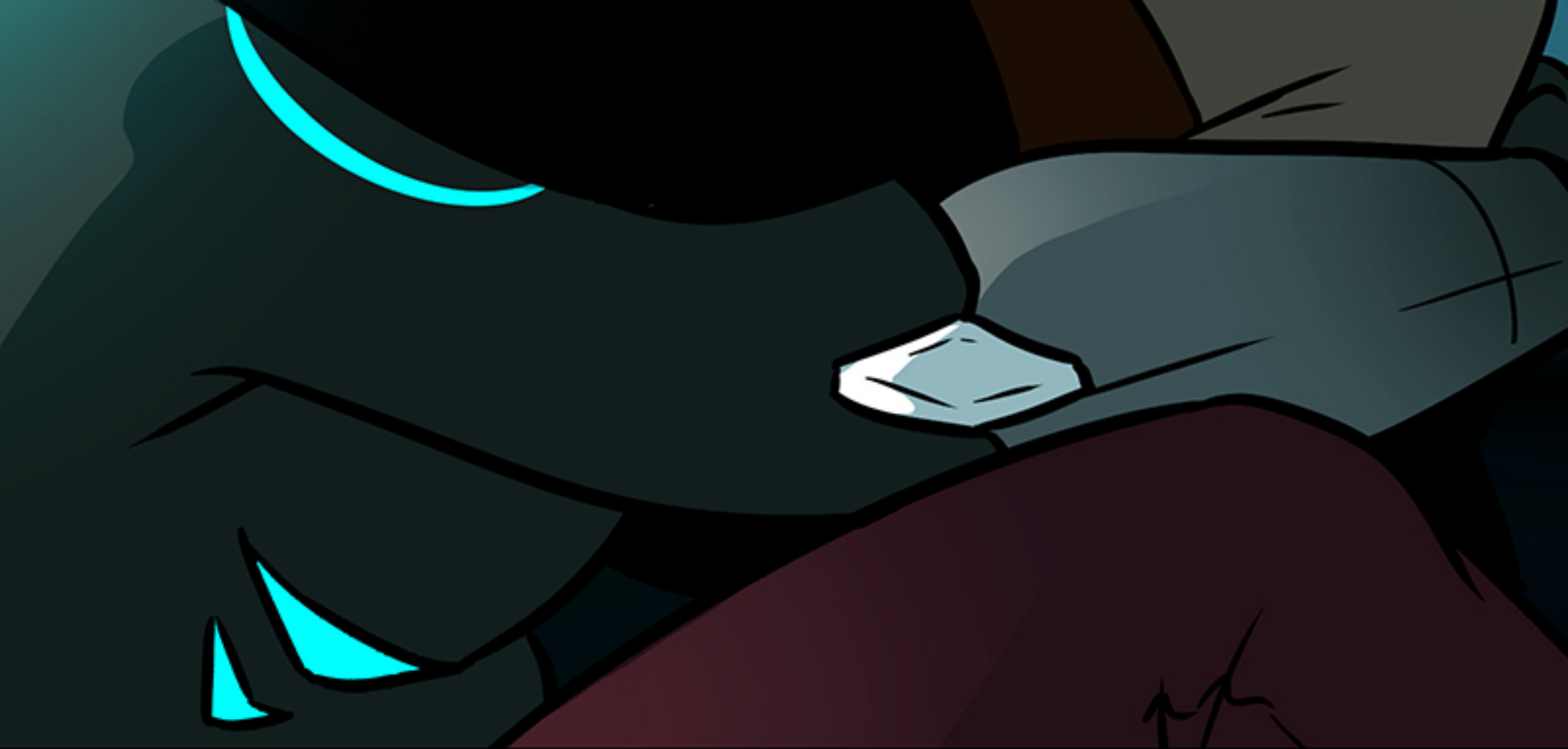
WE'RE
BOTH OKAY, NOW,
YEAH?



WHAT
HAPPENED? WHAT
WAS THAT...

AH...
WELL.





A comic panel featuring a character with a large, bushy white tail and a single visible blue eye. The character is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. Two speech bubbles are present. The background is a vibrant blue with a wavy, aurora-like pattern and small white specks.

IT'S
SOMETHING THAT
YOU WEREN'T EVER
MEANT TO ACTUALLY
SEE...

I JUST
LOST TRACK OF
TIME. OR MAYBE I
WAS MORE WORN OUT
THAN I THOUGHT...



VRRRRRR

THAT
DOESN'T REALLY
ANSWER MY
QUESTION...







HM?



AH-

FRANKIE.





FRANKIE!







snorts!

OH
NO-



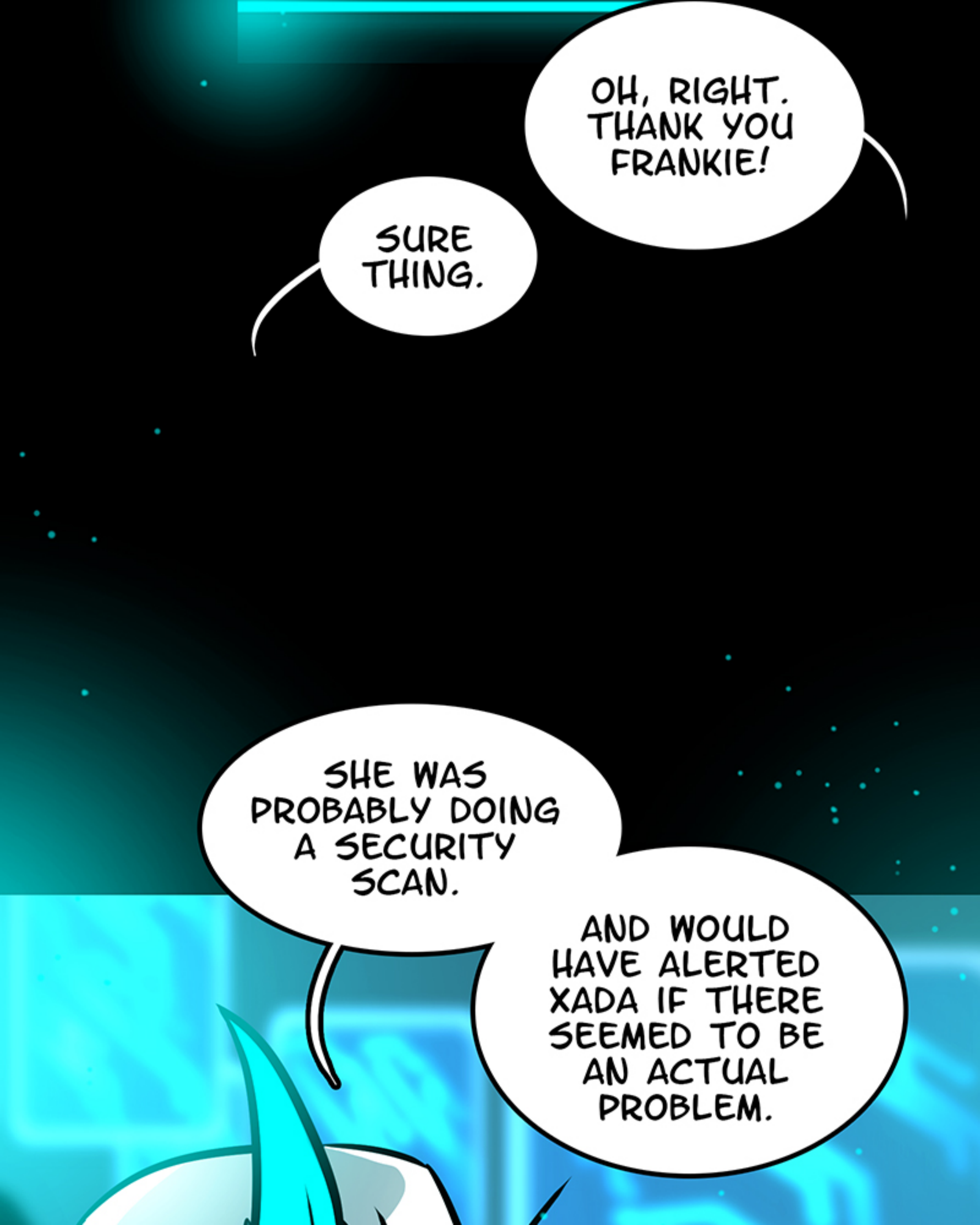
DID WE
WAKE XADA
UP??

He asleep.



Also please
turn lights
down!





OH, RIGHT.
THANK YOU
FRANKIE!

SURE
THING.

SHE WAS
PROBABLY DOING
A SECURITY
SCAN.

AND WOULD
HAVE ALERTED
XADA IF THERE
SEEMED TO BE
AN ACTUAL
PROBLEM.

A comic book panel featuring two characters. On the left, a character with dark skin, long white hair, and a small blue horn-like feature on their forehead looks down with a somber expression. On the right, a character with light skin, short white hair with a pink streak, and freckles looks towards the first character with a serious, slightly angry expression. The background is dark with bright blue, jagged energy lines. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the character on the left and one from the character on the right.

THAT'S
WHY I HAD
TO SMASH HER
BEFORE TO KEEP
MY COVER.

DON'T
REMIND ME.

A white dove with a blue and red crest is shown in flight, its wings spread wide. It is positioned in the lower left of the frame, flying towards the right. The background is a dark blue gradient with some faint, lighter blue horizontal lines. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is located in the upper left quadrant, containing the text. The speech bubble has a long, thin tail pointing towards the dove.

STILL, I'M
NOT SURPRISED
HE DIDN'T WAKE UP
ON HIS OWN.



BETWEEN
THE CONVENTION
AND NOW HE'S HARDLY
SLEPT MORE THAN A
CUMMULATIVE SIX
HOURS.

AT BEST.

WHICH IS
STRETCHING EVEN
MY LIMITS. I'M NOT
SURE HOW A HUMAN CAN
FUNCTION UNDER THOSE
CONDITIONS FOR SO
LONG.



A comic book panel featuring a dark teal background with a white speech bubble. The speech bubble contains the text: "I ASSUME THAT FRANKIE WILL BE MONITORING HIS VITALS IF HE ENDS UP SLEEPING FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD TO RECOVER." The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background has some faint, curved lines and small white dots, suggesting a night sky or a dark environment.

I ASSUME
THAT FRANKIE WILL
BE MONITORING HIS
VITALS IF HE ENDS UP
SLEEPING FOR A
PROLONGED PERIOD
TO RECOVER.



AH-
SO YOU WERE
ACTUALLY SLEEPING
LIKE A PERSON!

MM.

SO YOU
WERE...
DREAMING?

A comic panel with a dark background. At the top, a character is lying down, wearing a dark red long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. Their right arm is extended, and a white speech bubble tail leads from their hand down to a large white oval speech bubble. The character's face is not visible. On the left side, there is a large, dark, textured object, possibly a rock or a piece of machinery, with some small blue and green dots nearby. The speech bubble contains the text: "I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT THAT. EVEN IF I WOULDN'T."

I SUPPOSE
YOU COULD CALL
IT THAT. EVEN IF
I WOULDN'T.

BUT
HOW??

HOW IS
THAT POSSIBLE?





HOW WERE
YOU ABLE TO
MANAGE THAT?



I DIDN'T
"MANAGE"
TO DO IT.

IF I HAD
THE CHOICE THEN
I WOULDN'T.



I'M FORCED
TO GET A COUPLE
OF HOURS A WEEK IN
ORDER TO SATISFY THE
ORGANIC MATTER IN
MY BRAIN.

I TRY
TO USE THAT TIME
TO COMPILE AND ORGANIZE
INTERNAL DATA. BUT SOMETIMES
THERE ARE... UNFORTUNATE SIDE
EFFECTS THAT ARE OUTSIDE
OF MY CONTROL.

SUCH AS
FLASHES OF
WHAT I BELIEVE TO
BE THE SOLDIER'S
DEATH.

...WHAT?





... YOU
KNOW... THE
FAILED MILITARY
PROJECT THAT EVA
WAS HIRED FOR?

...USING
MEMORIES OF FALLEN

SOLDIERS TO TRY
AND CREATE "MORE
LOYAL" AI??

NO.





...OH, RIGHT
THAT WAS WHEN
YOU WERE SHUT
DOWN AFTER THE
TNT ATTACK.

I WAS
EXPLAINING
IT TO XADA BUT I
SUPPOSE I FORGOT
TO GIVE YOU THE
DETAILS.



GREAT.
THANKS.



BUT WAIT,
HOW ARE YOU
HAVING THOSE
SORTS OF
DREAMS?



YOU TOLD ME
THAT YOU DELETED
ANYTHING THAT YOU
DIDN'T FIND USEFUL
TO YOU.

WOULDN'T
THAT INCLUDE
THOSE SORT OF
MEMORIES?



TRUST
ME I'VE
TRIED.



UNFORTUNATELY,
HUMAN BRAINS DON'T
FILE THEMSELVES VERY
EFFECTIVELY.

AND WHILE
I WAS ABLE TO GET
RID OF ANY NAMES
AND FACES OR REAL
INFORMATION...

The background of the comic panel is a dark, teal-colored illustration of a laboratory or medical setting. On the left, a robotic arm with various mechanical components is visible. In the center and right, there are dark, rectangular frames that appear to be windows or monitors. The overall lighting is dim, creating a somber and clinical atmosphere.

THESE FEELINGS
AND IMAGES ARE MORE
NEBULOUS. AND ANYTIME I
FEEL LIKE I'VE FIGURED OUT
HOW TO CUT THEM OUT
THEY JUST COME
BACK.

IT'S
LIKE SOME
SORT OF... BRAIN
FUNGUS.



HMM...
I THINK THAT
IS WHAT HUMANS
CALL TRAUMA?

DISGUSTING.





I'M SORRY.
I SHOULDN'T
LAUGH...

I JUST
THINK IT'S CUTE HOW
ANNOYED YOU GET AT THE
CONCEPT OF HAVING
EMOTIONS.



A person with dark hair, wearing a dark turtleneck sweater, is shown from the chest up. Their right hand is raised towards their face, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a dark, textured teal color. A large white speech bubble is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

WHEN IN
REALITY, IF YOU
DIDN'T HAVE ANY
FEELINGS THEN I
WOULDN'T LIKE YOU
HALF AS MUCH, OR
AT ALL.

YOUR REAL
PERSONALITY
CAN BE REALLY
FUN







YEAH,
WELL...

WHAT AM I
DOING? I NEED TO
REFOCUS BEFORE I
MAKE THIS WEIRD.







YOU'RE SO
HEAVY-! YOU'RE
NOT EVEN TRYING
TO STAND UP, ARE
YOU??

HAHA,
SORRY.



A comic book panel featuring a large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble in the center. The background is dark with teal-colored, angular shapes on the right side. The speech bubble contains the text: "SO, UH, WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA FOR TOMORROW?".

SO, UH,
WHAT'S ON
THE AGENDA FOR
TOMORROW?



ARE WE
READY TO STORM
HEADQUARTERS?

ALMOST,
I JUST NEED
TO TWEAK THE
EMP DEVICE A BIT
MORE.

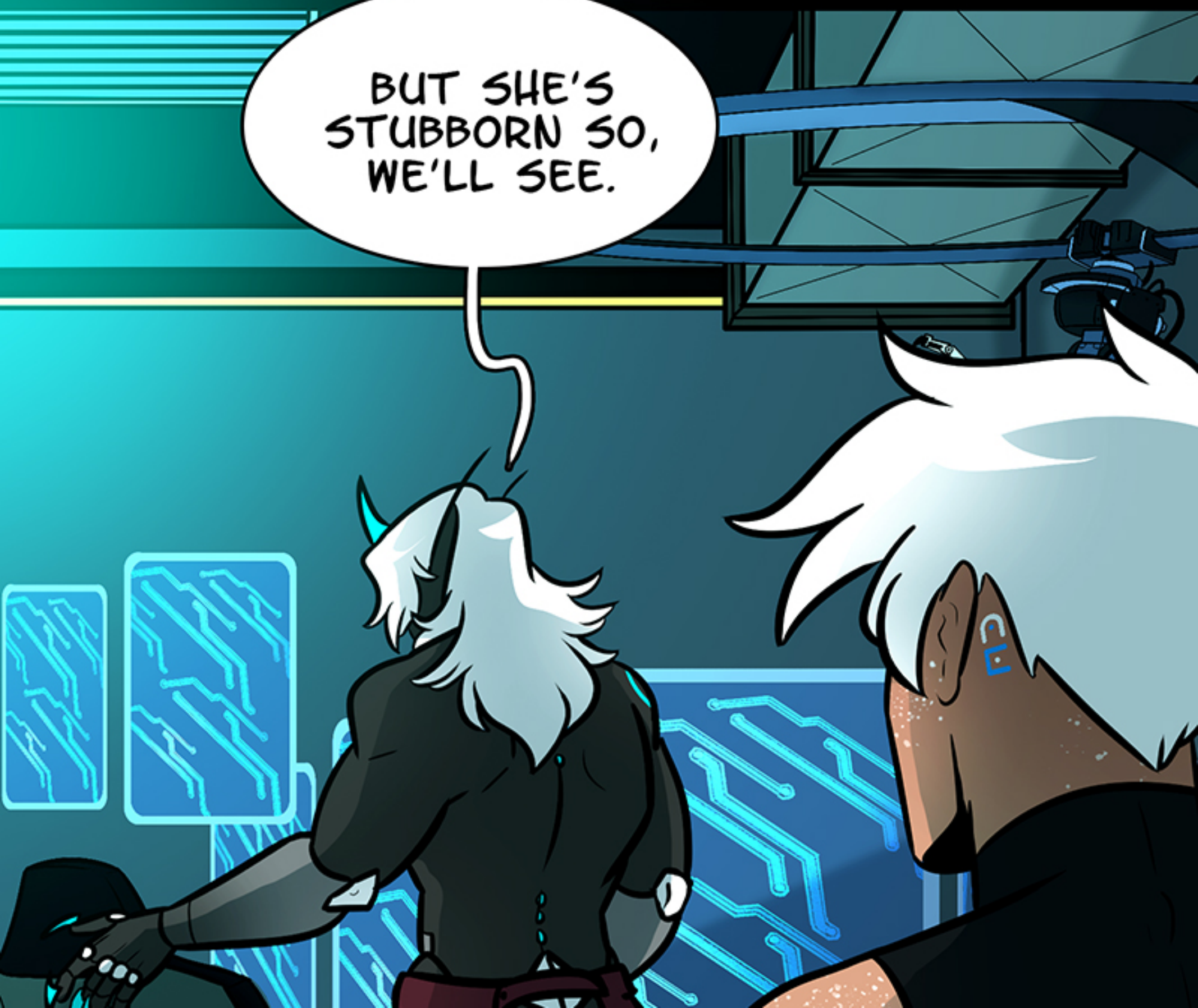




I ALSO
WANTED TO
SLIP OUT IN A FEW
HOURS TO TALK
TO ADLYNN IN
PERSON.

FULLY
INFORM HER OF
EVERYTHING SO
HOPEFULLY SHE GETS OUT
BEFORE EVERYTHING
GOES TO HELL.

BUT SHE'S
STUBBORN SO,
WE'LL SEE.



A comic book panel featuring a character in a dark, possibly black, suit with a large orange, egg-shaped object on their back. The character is in a crouched position, looking down. The background is dark with some blue and green highlights. A speech bubble is positioned below the character.

OH YEAH,
ADLYNN...

THAT MAKES
SENSE, SHE IS KIND
OF JUST CAUGHT IN
THE MIDDLE OF ALL
OF THIS...



AND
YOU TWO SEEM
REALLY CLOSE? SO
MAKES SENSE YOU
WOULD WANT TO
PROTECT HER.

I GUESS.



"I GUESS"?

I SUPPOSE I
SHOULDN'T ASSUME
HOW HE FEELS ABOUT
ANYTHING OR ANYONE.

BUT IF HE CAN'T
EVEN REALLY SAY THAT
HE'S FRIENDS WITH HER
THEN... I CAN'T ASSUME
THAT HE REALLY FEELS ANY

THAT HE REALLY FEELS ANY
PARTICULAR WAY ABOUT
ME, EITHER...

REGARDLESS
OF HOW I FEEL ABOUT
HIM... MAYBE I GOT IT
ALL WRONG...IT'S HARDER
TO READ HIM...

WILL YOU
BE BACK BY
THREE PM
OR SO?



I WAS ABLE
TO GET AHOLD OF
VELIX! AND HE WANTS
TO MEET AT XADA'S
APARTMENT AT
4PM!

I DON'T THINK
HE'D WANT TO TALK
TO YOU BUT YOU COULD
OBSERVE IN YOUR
USUAL WAY AT A
DISTANCE.





VELIX,
HUH...



....LACEY.
I'LL BE HONEST.
I THINK THAT'S
A REALLY BAD
IDEA.

WHAT?
WHY??

IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M TRYING
TO RECRUIT HIM FOR
THE MISSION, I JUST
WANT TO TALK AND
CLEAR THE AIR
MORE

MORE.

BECAUSE-
WE HAVE WAY
BIGGER PRIORITIES
RIGHT NOW. AND XADA
HIMSELF SAID THAT
IT'S GOOD TO SPEND
SOME TIME APART.

YOU FORCING

YOU FORCING
THE ISSUE IS JUST
GOING TO MAKE
THINGS WORSE.



I'M NOT

SAYING THAT YOU
HAVE TO GIVE UP
ON HIM ENTIRELY...
JUST THAT IT'S NOT
THE TIME FOR IT
NOW.

I'M NOT
FORCING ANYTHING!

I JUST WANT TO
MAKE SURE THAT
HE'S OKAY!

I KNOW
YOU HAVE GOOD
INTENTIONS...

BUT YOU'RE
GOING TO HURT



A hand with blue claws is visible in the top right corner of the first panel.

GOING TO HURT
YOURSELF IF YOU
DON'T SEE WHAT IS
REALLY GOING ON
HERE...

OH? AND
WHAT WOULD
THAT BE?

I THINK THAT
VELIX, ON SOME
LEVEL, REMINDS YOU

LEVEL REMINDS YOU
OF MICHAEL.

AND THAT YOU
HAVING FULL AUTONOMY
WILL BE ENOUGH TO SAVE
SOMEONE FROM THEIR OWN
INSECURITIES.





AM I
WRONG?

YOU'VE
PRACTICALLY
SAID SO
YOURSELF.

LOVEBOT

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