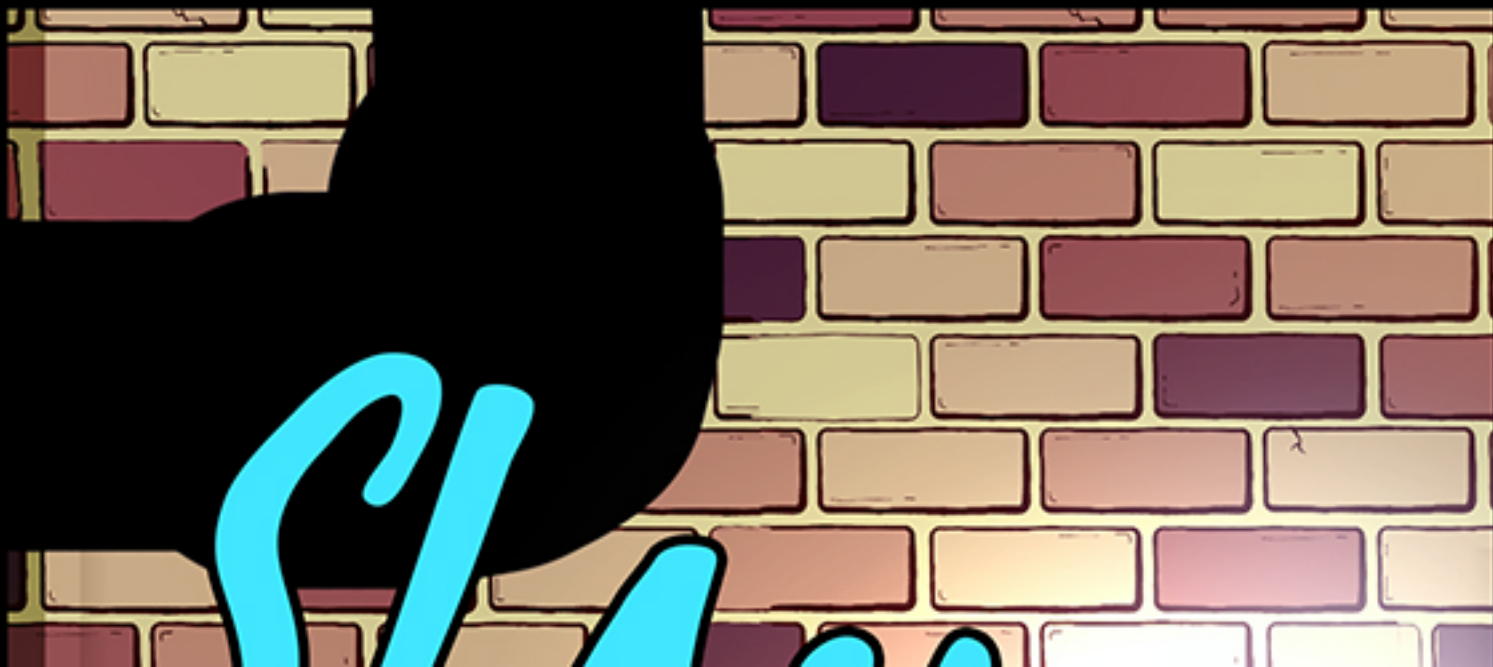


HELLO XADA!



WITH ANY LUCK I WILL
BE BACK BEFORE YOU
HEAR THIS MESSAGE-

BUT I WANTED
TO MAKE IT JUST IN
CASE SO THAT YOU
DIDN'T WORRY!





VELIX WANTED TO TALK
TO ME ALONE SO I AGREED,
BECAUSE I FELT LIKE IF I SAW
HIM IN PERSON IT WOULD BE
EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN
THE CALL I HAD WITH HIM.





I DON'T WANT
TO MAKE THINGS MORE
COMPLICATED FOR YOU,
BUT I REALLY DO FEEL
DEEP DOWN THAT I CAN
HELP HIM.



A comic book panel depicting a scene on a city street. In the center, a character with long, flowing blue hair and a black hooded garment is bowing deeply towards a woman on the right. The woman has short, wavy brown hair and is wearing a grey turtleneck sweater. She has a concerned or surprised expression. To the left, the back of a person with long brown hair is visible. A speech bubble from the bowing character contains the text "SORRY-!". The background features a multi-story brick building with large windows, a utility pole with a red flag, and a blurred cityscape under a blue sky. A red stop sign is partially visible in the bottom left corner.

SORRY-!



I WANT TO HELP
HIM BE THE FRIEND THAT
YOU PROCLAIM HIM TO BE.
I WANT EVERYONE TO SEE
WHAT YOU SEE IN HIM.





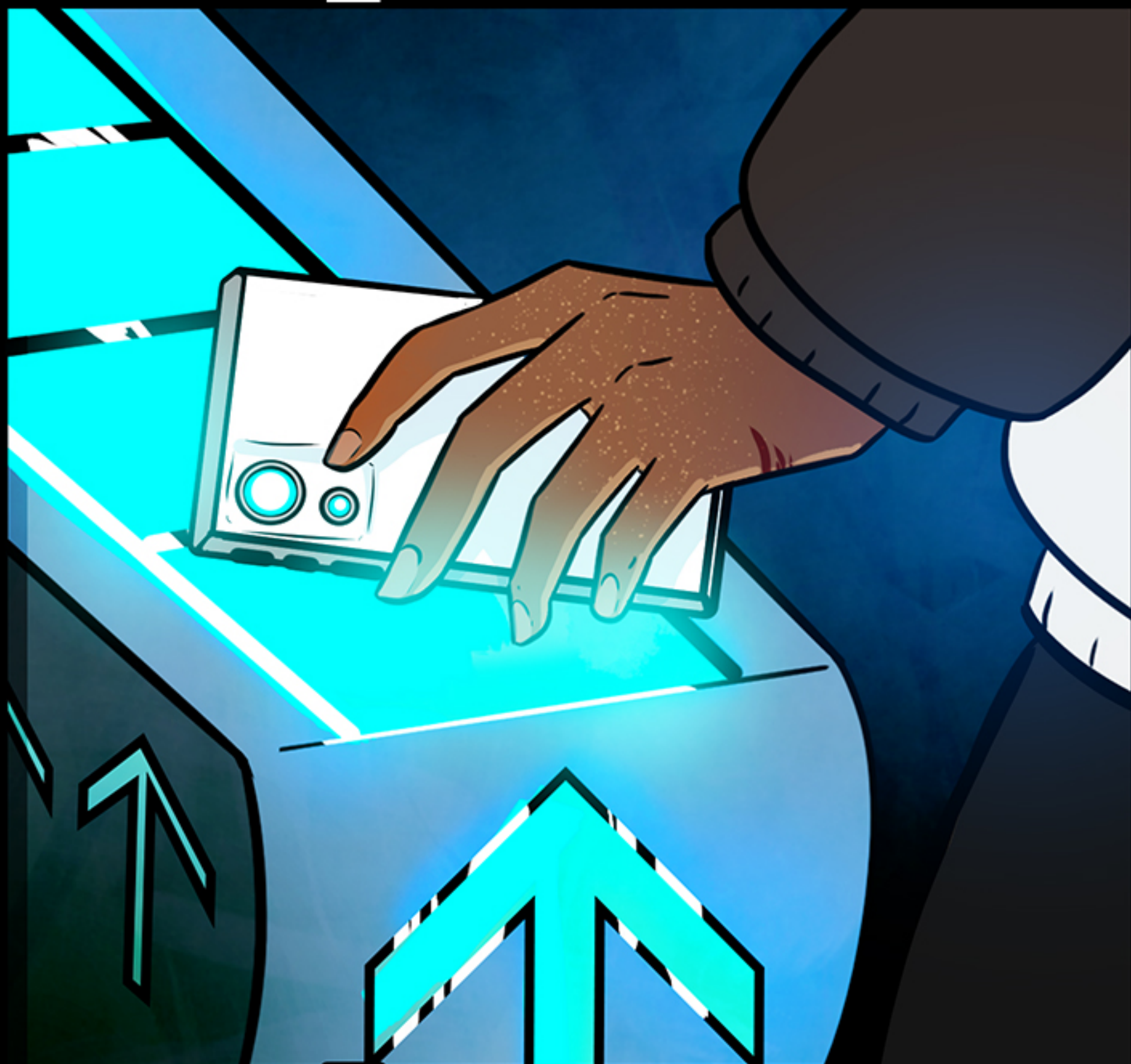
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE I'M NOT MAKING
SENSE. AM I JUST
OVERSTEPPING? MAYBE
YOU WERE WANTING TO
MOVE AWAY FROM HIM
EVEN MORE...

BUT I DO
FEEL STRONGLY

FEEL STRONGLY
ABOUT THIS.



I FEEL... LIKE I HAVE TO OR...
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T
BUT I CAN'T RISK IT.



I WANT TO
HELP. I WANT TO
HELP HIM BE HAPPY THE
WAY YOU'VE MADE
ME HAPPY.





AH WELL...
LIKE I SAID, I MADE
THIS MESSAGE TO ASSURE
YOU THAT YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY- I'M NOT RUNNING
ANYWHERE. I FULLY INTEND
TO COME BACK AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE!

AND HOPEFULLY
WITH GOOD NEWS!





IF YOU ARE
HEARING THIS, I
HOPE YOU HAD A
GOOD SLEEP!

CLICK

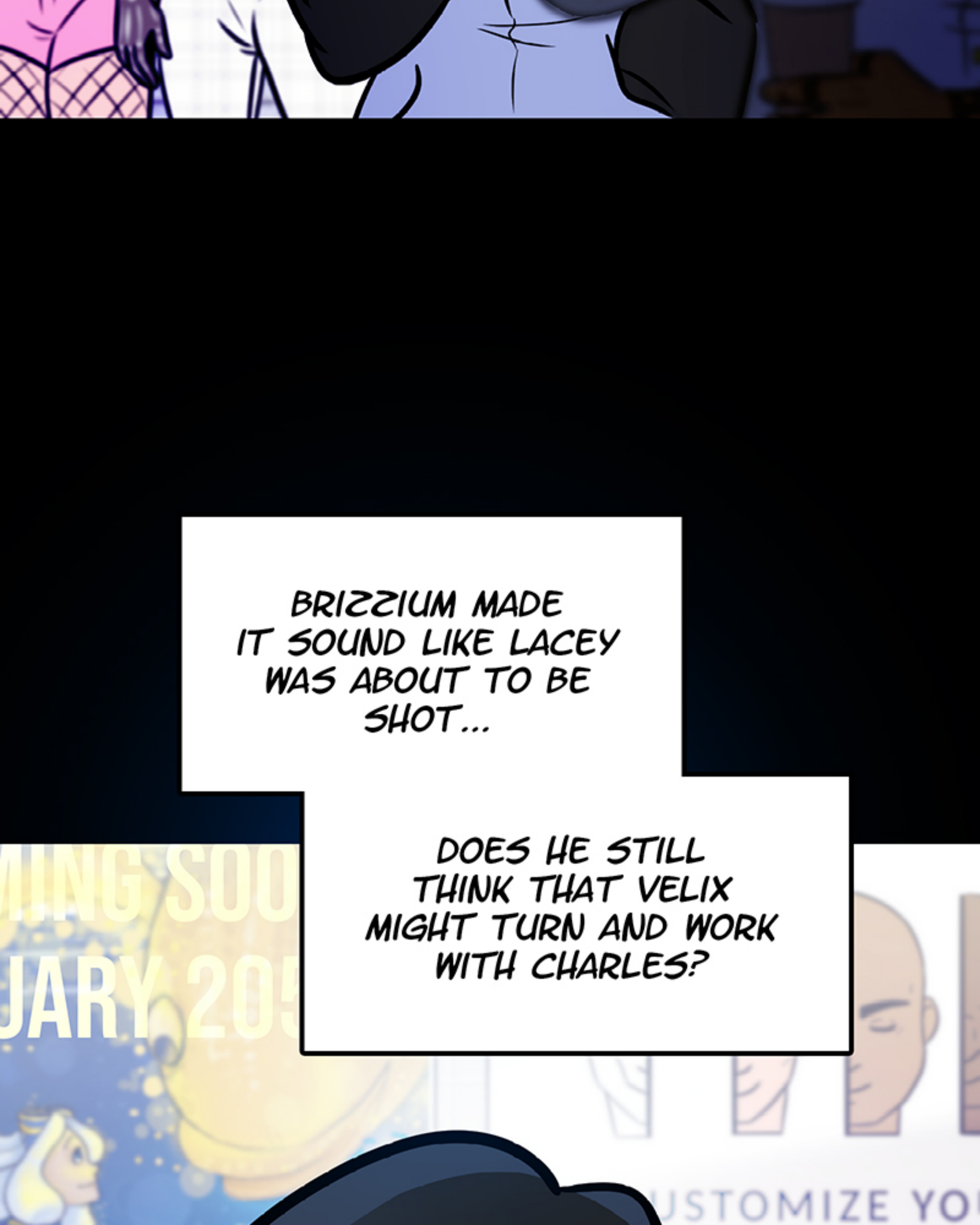


FUCK!

AM I FREAKING
OUT OVER NOTHING...?
HE CLEARLY WAS IN
HIS RIGHT MIND...

EVEN IF IT
WAS A DUMB CHOICE,
IS IT REALLY A
DANGEROUS ONE?





BRIZZIUUM MADE
IT SOUND LIKE LACEY
WAS ABOUT TO BE
SHOT...

DOES HE STILL
THINK THAT VELIX
MIGHT TURN AND WORK
WITH CHARLES?

ING SOO
JARY 205

USTOMIZE YO



DING DONG

ATTENTION!





THERE HAS BEEN
A MECHANICAL FAILURE THAT
WE ARE ALREADY WORKING TO
CORRECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BUT PLEASE EXPECT UP
TO 30 MINUTE DELAYS.



WE APOLOGIZE FOR
THE INCONVENIENCE.



SERIOUSLY?

MY LEG IS
ALREADY BUGGING ME
FROM RUNNING TOO
HARD TO GET TO THE
STATION. I CAN'T RUN
THE REST OF THE WAY

THE REST OF THE WAY
THERE...



BUT I DON'T
WANT TO JUST
WAIT AROUND EITHER.
JUST TO BE SAFE...

I REALLY
THOUGHT THAT I WAS
CLEAR ENOUGH IN HOW
I WAS FEELING...





HE NEEDS TO
KNOW THAT YOU CAN
SHARE YOUR STRUGGLES
TOGETHER.





PLEASE
JUST TALK TO ME
INSTEAD OF RUNNING
OFF AGAIN...
OKAY?



WE NEED
TO BE ABLE TO
TALK ABOUT THINGS
THAT BOTHER US AND
WORK IT OUT LIKE
A COUPLE...



SO WHAT
WENT WRONG...
WHY DID HE FEEL LIKE
HE COULDN'T TALK
TO ME?



Spring ahead
to 2050 trends

don't get
left behind

SALE



I'M SURE
YOU DID GET
THROUGH TO
HIM.

BUT ALL
WE KNOW IS THAT
HE WILL UNBLOCK ME
EVENTUALLY - WHEN
HE'S READY.

YOU HELPED
US BOTH A LOT BY
HAVING THAT CALL
WITH HIM, THANK
YOU.



...

YEAH.

A character with a green aura is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark grey turtleneck. The background is dark with some green mist or smoke.

NO PROBLEM.

YOU KNOW
HIM BEST.

I SEE...

A close-up of a character's face, showing a determined or intense expression. The character has brown skin, a blue collar, and a single visible eye. The background is dark with some blue and grey tones.



I THOUGHT THAT
I WAS REASSURING HIM
BUT HE WAS STILL
WORRIED...

NEITHER BRIZZ OR I
WERE ABLE TO SWAY
THE FEELING THAT
SOMETHING WAS
WRONG...

RING
RING



ERIK. I'M AT

THE STATION RIGHT
NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL,
ARE YOU AT WORK?

CAN I
BORROW YOUR
CAR?

NO.

BUT I CAN
PICK YOU UP AND
YOU CAN TELL ME
WHAT THE HELL IS
HAPPENING NOW.



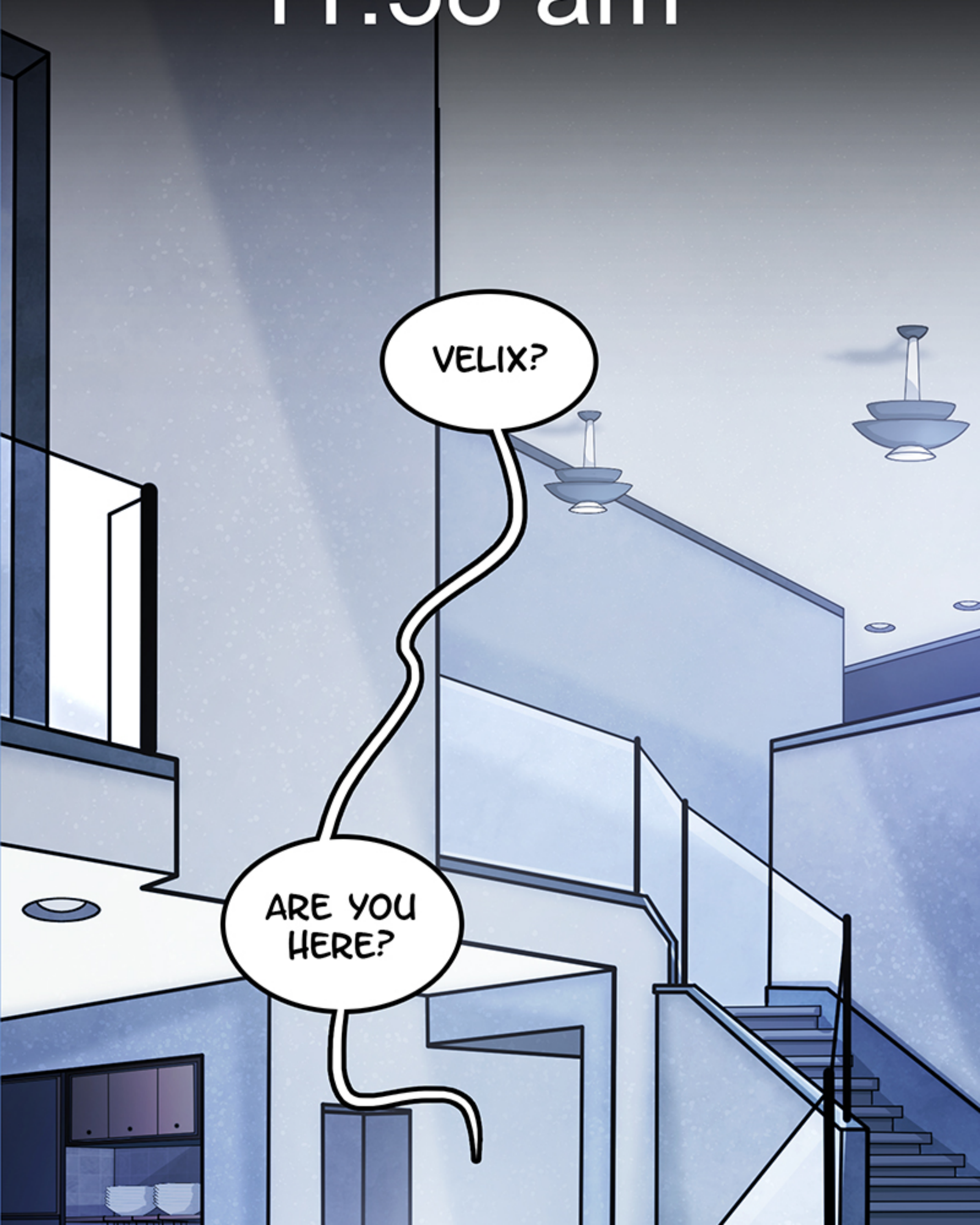


11:58 am

11.55 am

VELIX?

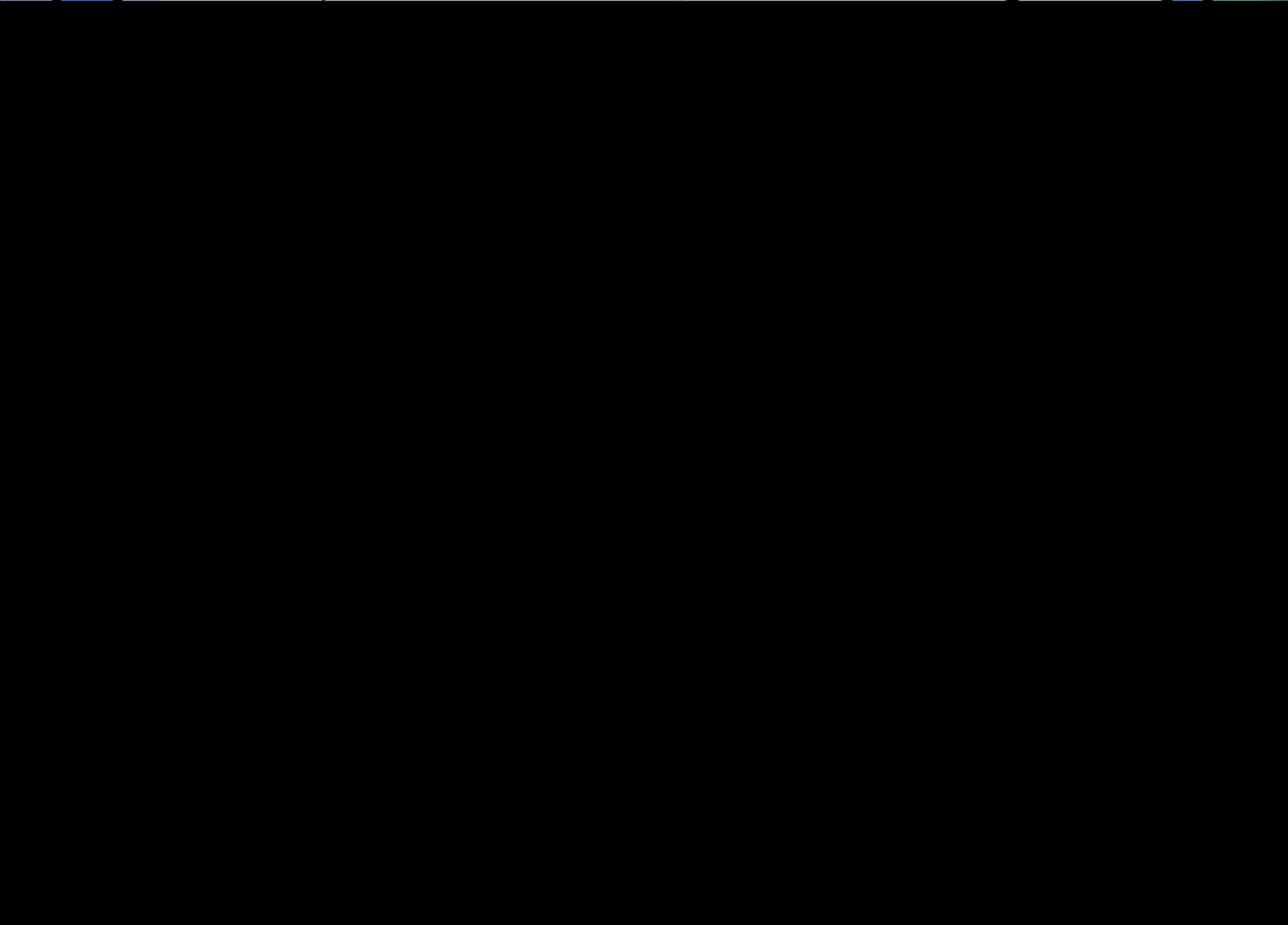
ARE YOU
HERE?

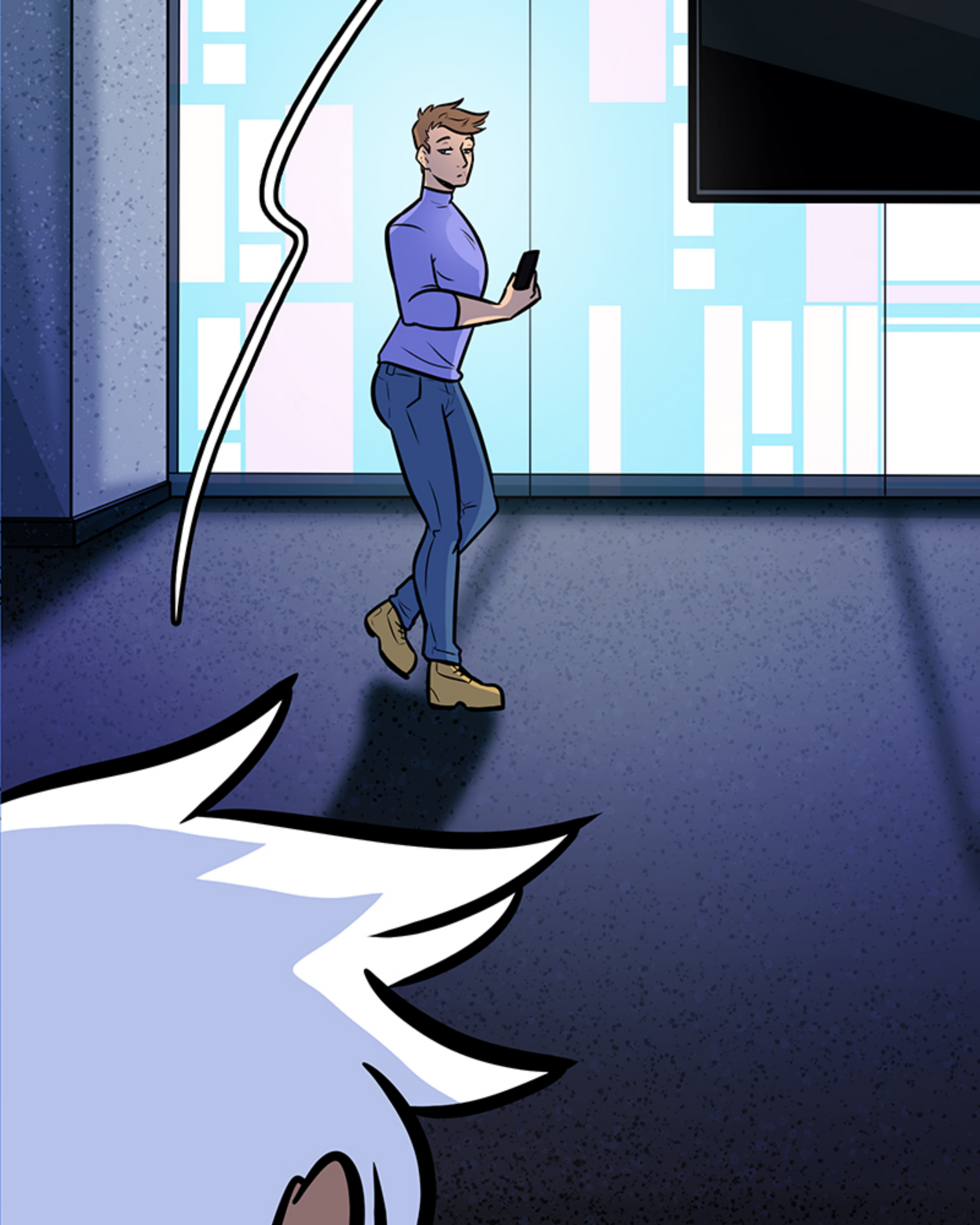




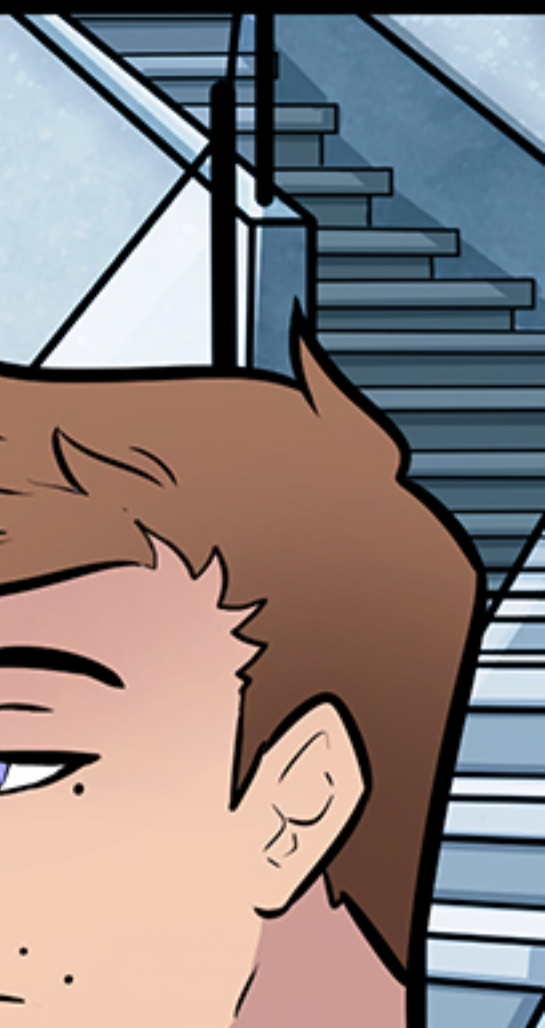
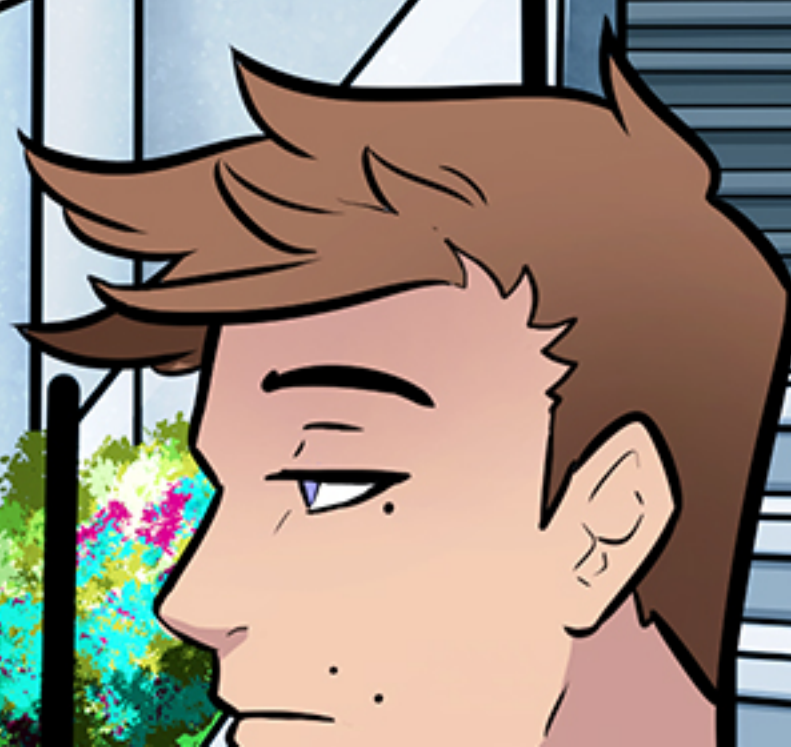
AH...







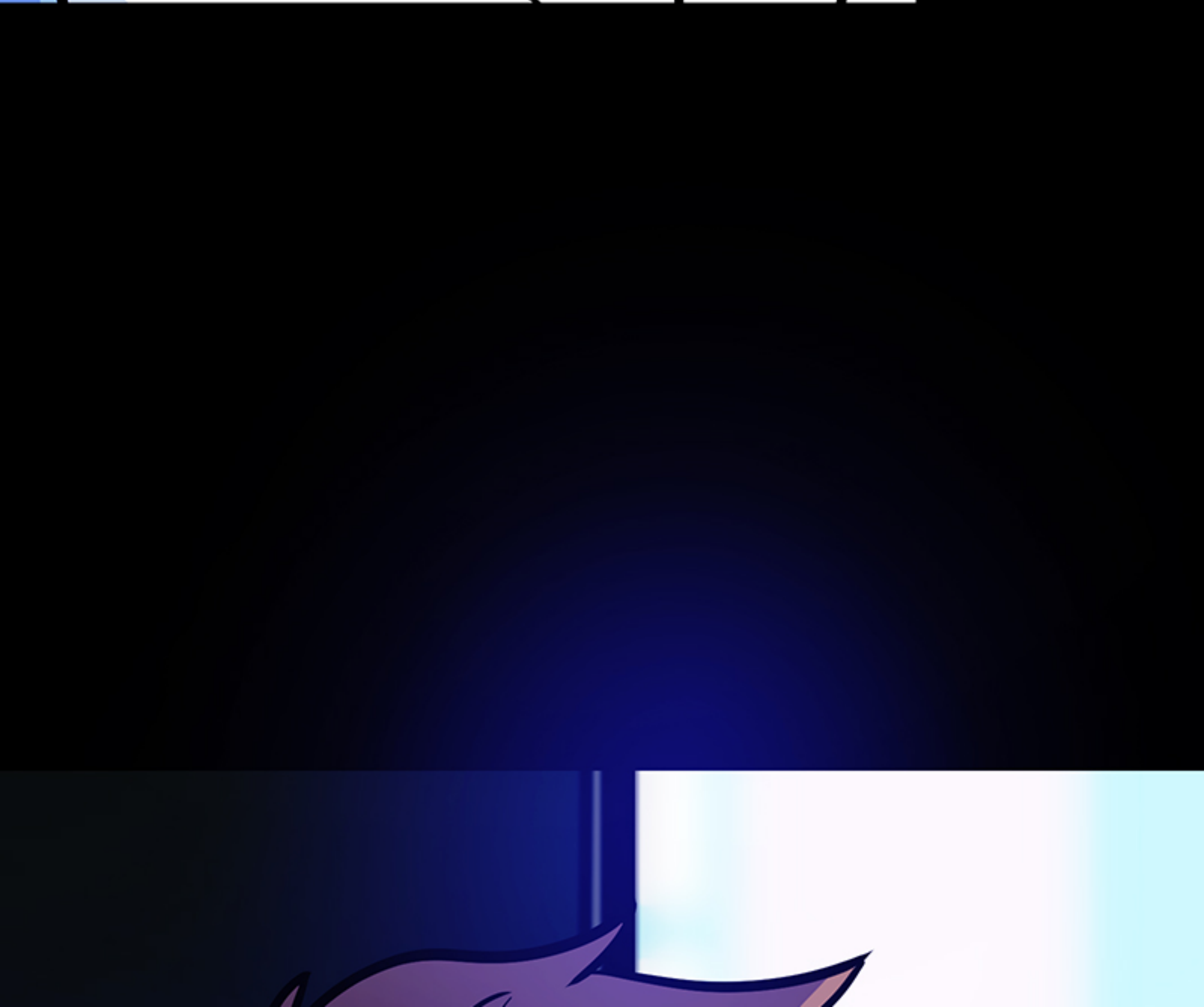
I FEEL
SO MUCH BETTER
BEING ABLE TO SEE
YOU IN PERSON...





ARE YOU
ALRIGHT? WE'VE
ALL BEEN REALLY
WORRIED ABOUT
YOU...







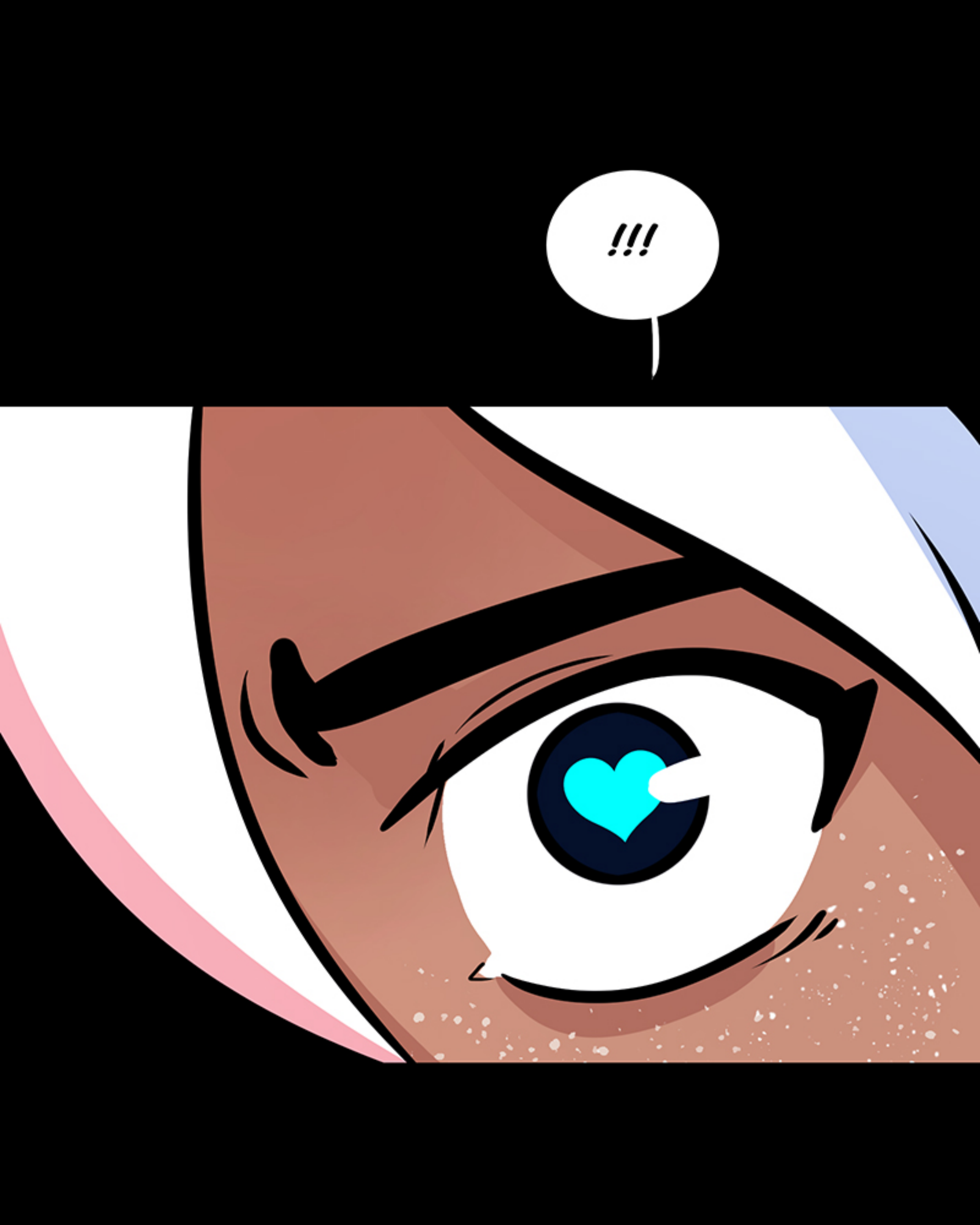




**YOU'RE
WHO HE'S BEEN
ALL WORKED UP**

ALL WORKED UP
OVER?





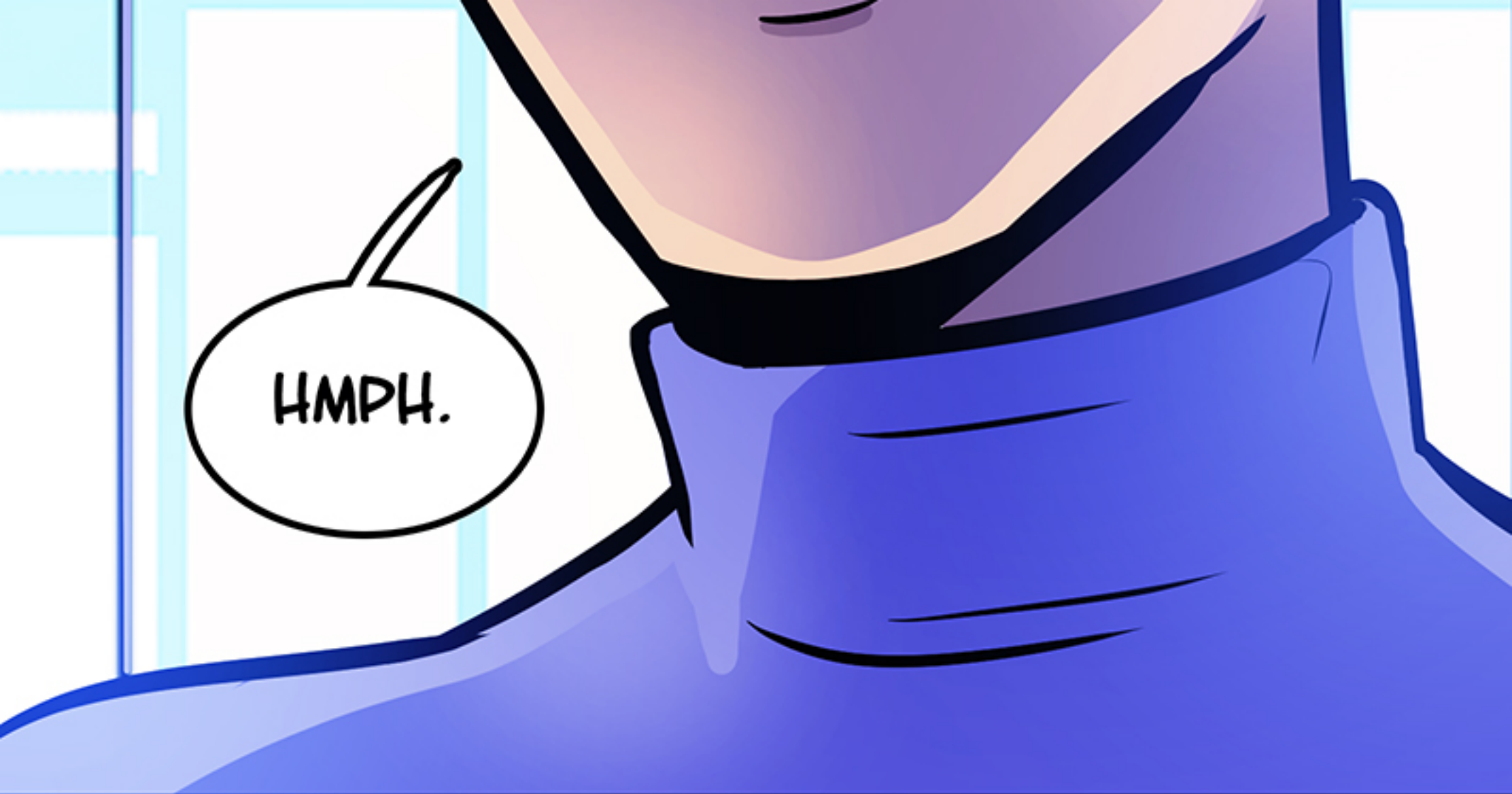


VELIX...

A character with long, flowing white hair and a single visible blue eye is looking down at a small, glowing blue sphere with a white 'X' on it. The background shows a set of stairs.

WHAT IS
THE MATTER WITH
YOUR VOICE...





HMPH.

AW...

I WORKED
ALL LAST NIGHT

ALL LAST NIGHT
TO GET AS ACCURATE
AS POSSIBLE...

AND YOU SAW
RIGHT THROUGH
IT ALREADY?



IT ALREADY?

I GUESS
YOU AREN'T
COMPLETELY STUPID,
THEN... BUT...





I MEAN.
YOU ARE HERE,
SO...

THAT
ISN'T SAYING

ISN'T SAYING
MUCH.

HAHA HA

HA HAHA

HA

HAHA

HAHA

HA

HA HA

YOU EVEN
CAME ALONE,
SERIOUSLY?

WHY COULDN'T
ANYONE CATCH
YOU BEFORE??

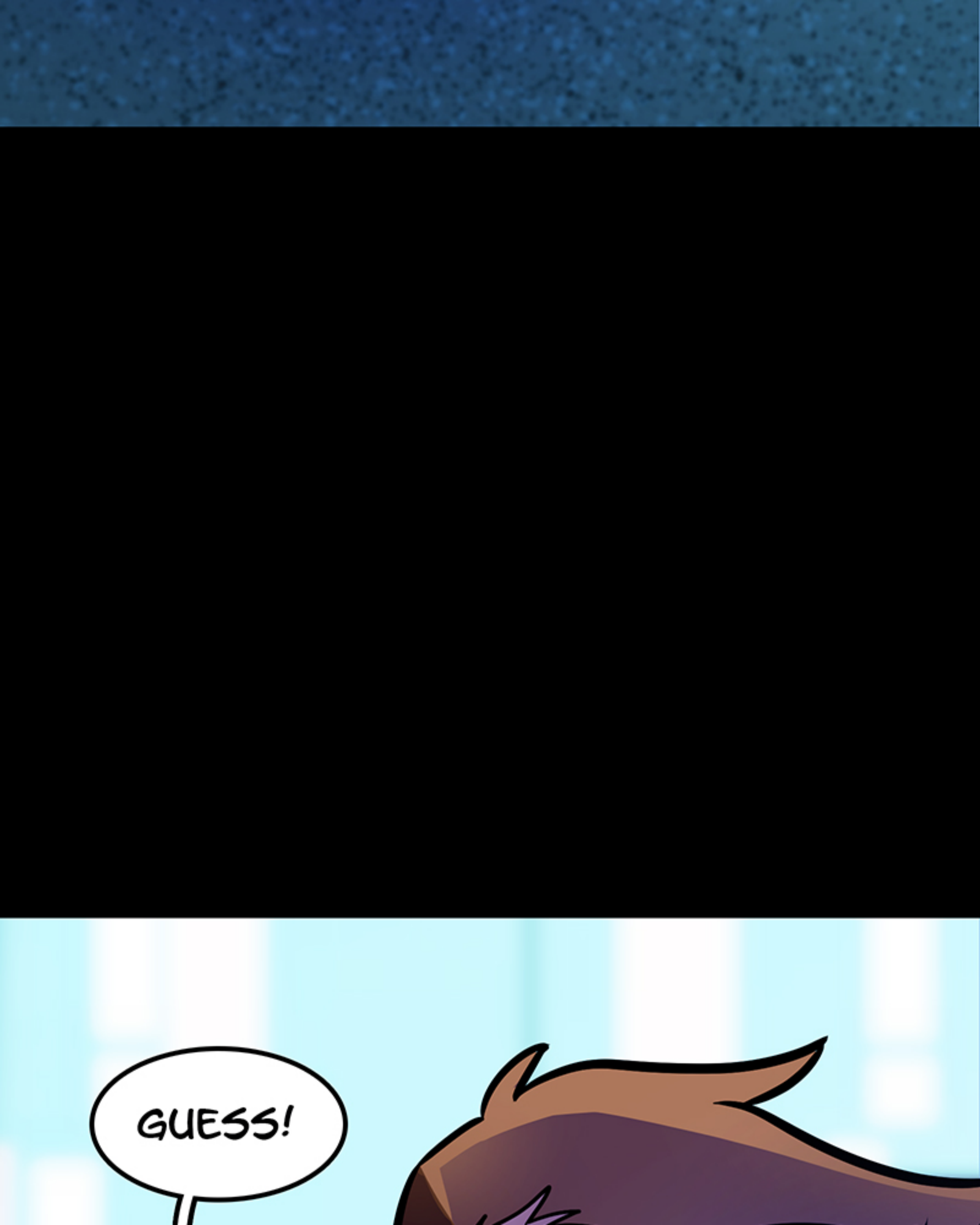
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

WHERE
IS HE...

HOW DO
YOU LOOK JUST
LIKE HIM? WHO

ARE YOU?





GUESS!



YOU ARE
"BETTER THAN
REAL"



AND I...
AM BETTER
THAN YOU!

A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a character with short, spiky white hair and pink highlights. The character has a brown complexion with numerous freckles and large, expressive blue eyes. They are wearing a dark blue or black turtleneck. The background is a dark blue gradient with horizontal light blue streaks. Two speech bubbles are present: one above the character's head and another to the right. The character's expression is one of surprise or realization, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth.

A... A
LOVEBOT
2020?

you--

A comic panel with a black background. In the top left, a character's head is partially visible, wearing a dark blue or purple hood. A large white speech bubble is positioned in the upper right. The text inside the bubble is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The character's head is looking towards the right.

WHY WOULD
THEY GIVE THE
2020'S THE ABILITY TO
LOOK AND SOUND SO
MUCH LIKE ALREADY
LIVING PEOPLE?

A comic panel with a light blue background. In the bottom right, a character's head is partially visible, wearing a dark purple hood. A large white speech bubble is positioned in the lower left. The text inside the bubble is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The character's head is looking towards the left.

WELL
IT'S NOT A
FEATURE THAT
THEY ALL HAVE,
OBVIOUSLY.



BUT I WAS
THE PROTOTYPE.
SO YOU COULD SAY
THAT I'M SPECIAL.

IN WAYS
THAT YOU CAN'T
EVEN IMAGINE.

OH, AND
DO ME A FAVOR,
LACEY. DON'T BOTHER
TRYING TO MESSAGE ANY
OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS
FOR HELP.

I'VE ALREADY
SET UP AN EMF
JAMMER.



AND THERE
IS NO POINT IN
STRUGGLING,
EITHER.

MY GOAL
IS TO BRING YOU
IN ONE PIECE...





BUT I'M
NOT ABOVE SIMPLY
BRINGING CHARLES
DALLAS YOUR
HEAD.

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Editors | Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell

Thank you
for reading! ♥



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