

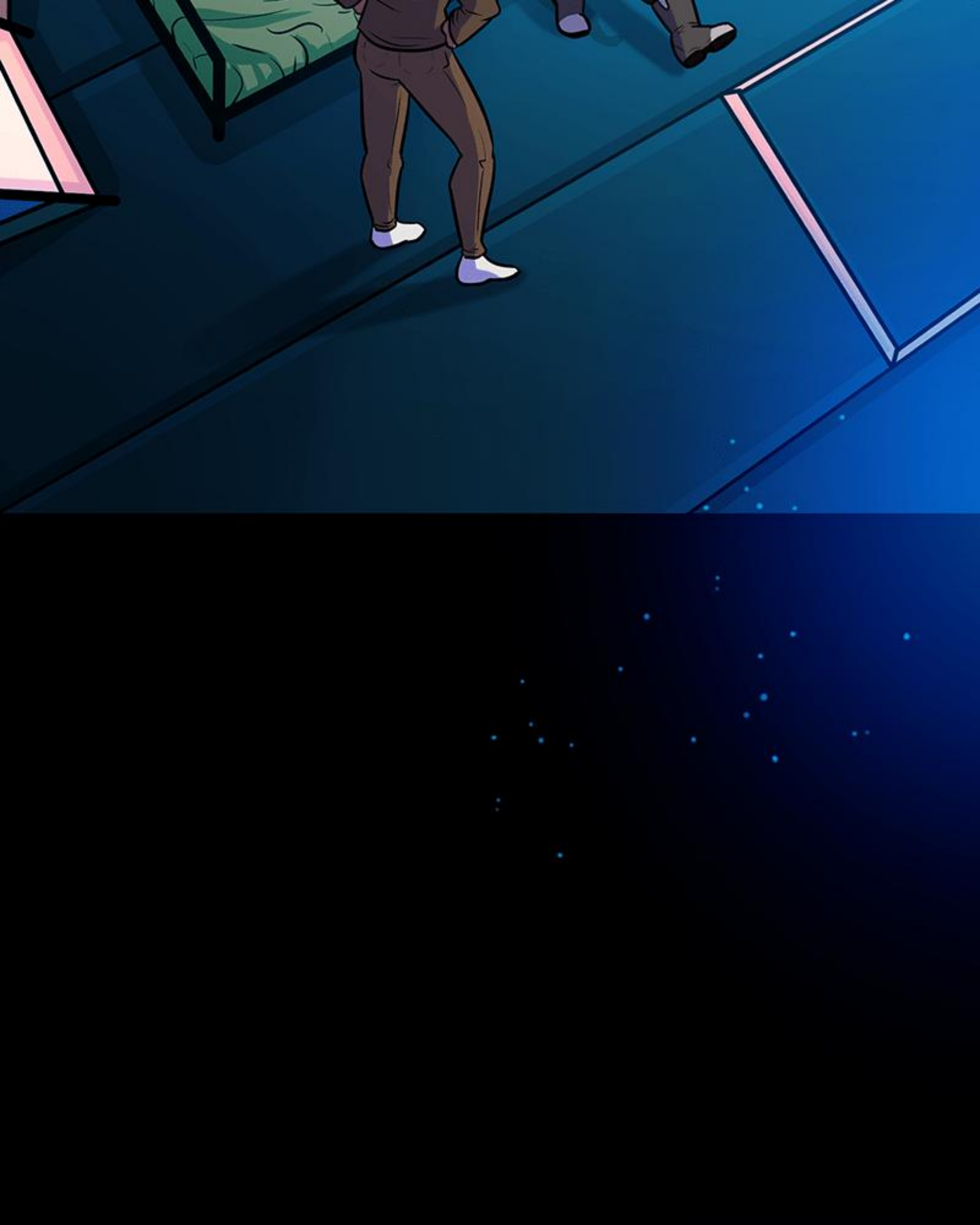
A comic panel featuring a character with dark brown hair seen from the back, looking up. A large white speech bubble with a black outline contains the text. The background is a dark blue space with small blue stars. The bottom of the panel shows a blurred, colorful geometric pattern, possibly a window or a futuristic structure.

I KNOW
I WAS ON BOARD
WITH THIS IDEA BACK
AT YOUR PLACE
BUT...



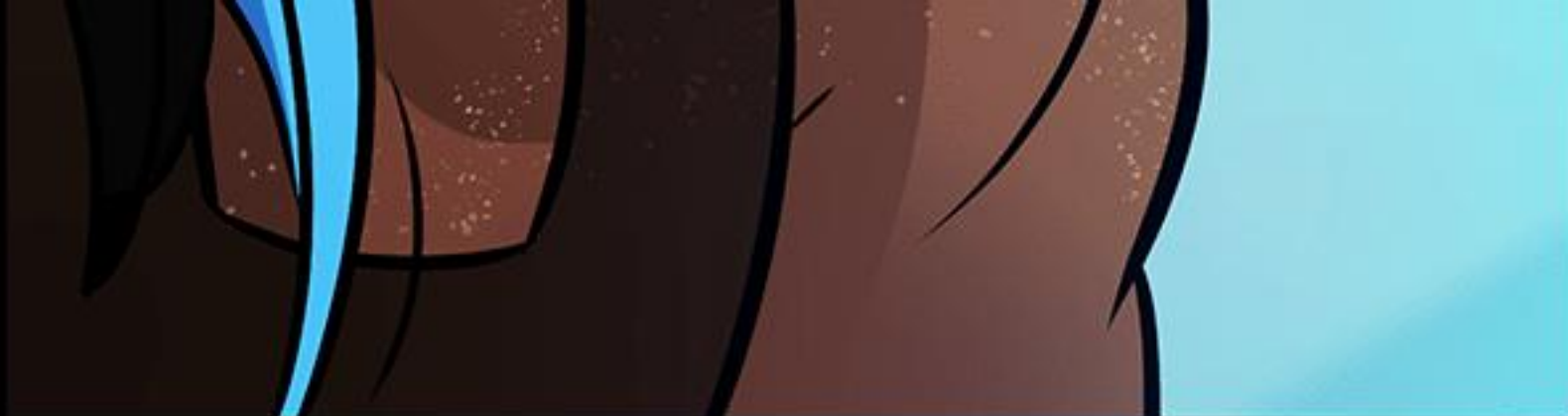
ARE WE
REALLY SURE THAT
STORMING A.E. LIKE A
GROUP OF VIGILANTES
IS THE BEST WAY TO
HANDLE THIS?







YOU'RE
RIGHT.



YOU SHOULD
GO TO THE
POLICE.



WELL I DON'T
THINK THEY WOULD
REALLY-

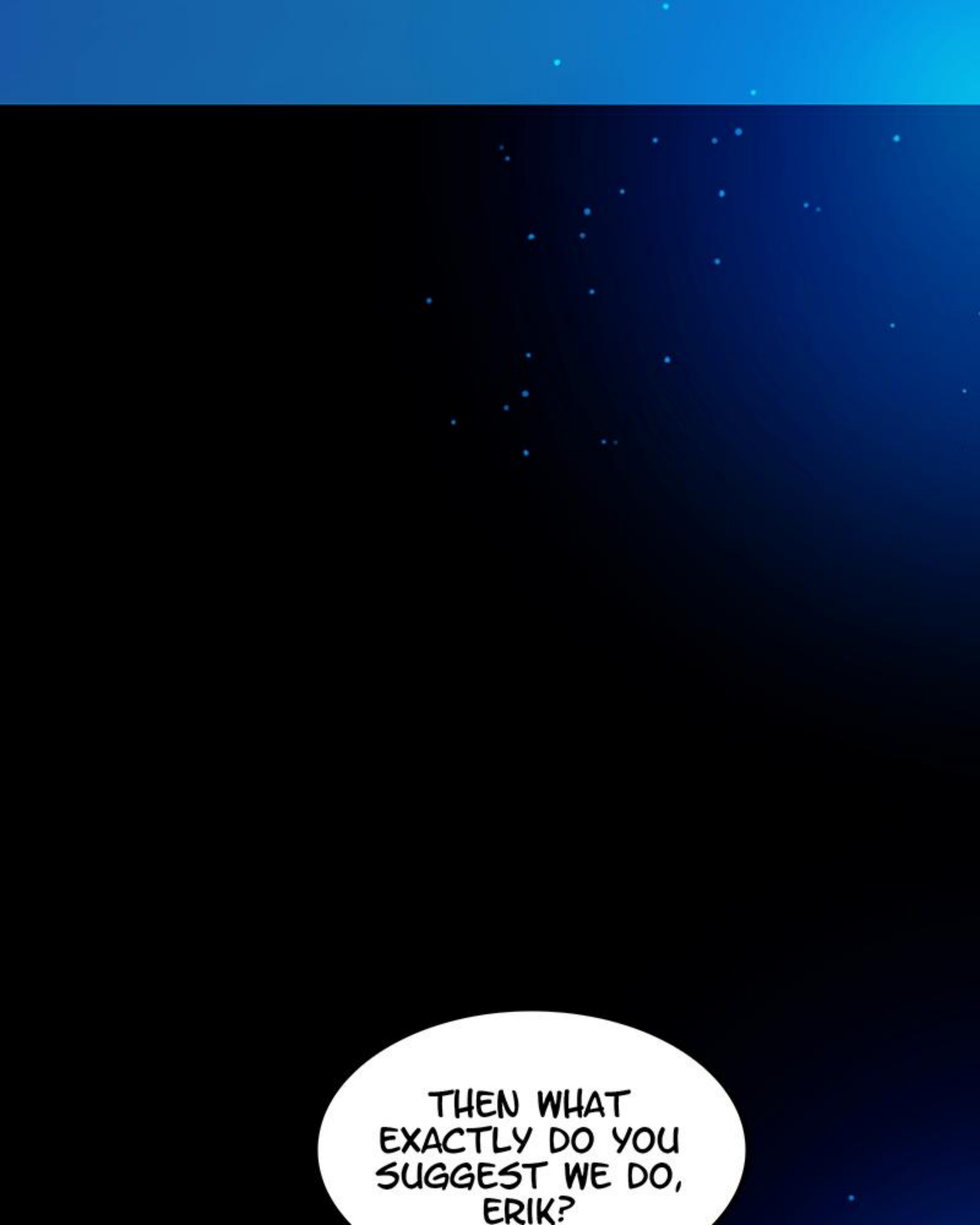




W-WAIT! WHY
JUST ME? THAT
IMPLIES THAT YOU'RE
STILL GOING!

YOU ARE GOING
TO LOOK LIKE THE
BAD GUY IN THIS
SITUATION!





THEN WHAT
EXACTLY DO YOU
SUGGEST WE DO,
ERIK?

NOTHING?



A comic panel featuring a character with long, flowing blue hair and a brown, textured face. The character is shown from the chest up, with their mouth open as if speaking. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned in front of the character's face. The background is a dark blue gradient with small, white, star-like specks, suggesting a night sky or a space-themed setting. The overall style is that of a modern comic book.

JUST PRETEND
THAT LACEY WASN'T
KIDNAPPED AND THAT
DALLAS ISN'T DOING A
BUNCH OF ILLEGAL
SHIT FOR PROFIT?

WELL...
NO OBVIOUSLY

NO...OBVIOUSLY.
I JUST...

THIS DOESN'T
FEEL SAFE.

BECAUSE
IT'S NOT.

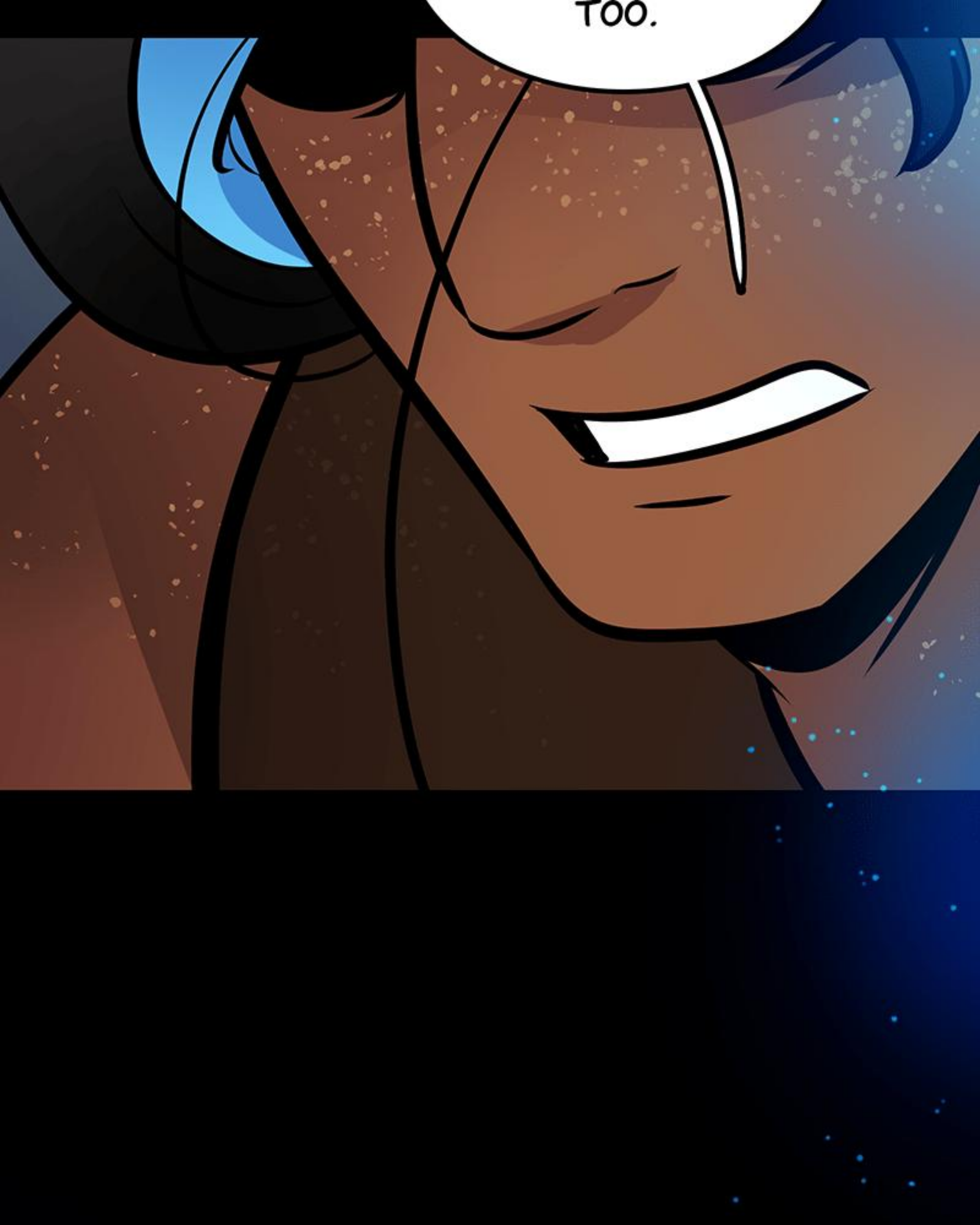




I JUST
DON'T WANT
YOU TO GET
HURT.

YEAH. THAT
WAS VELIX'S
MOTIVATION FOR
EVERYTHING

Too.







IS IT
WRONG TO
WANT THAT?

NO.



I DO
APPRECIATE
THAT YOU
CARE.

BUT I ALSO
NEED YOU TO
TRUST ME TO DO THIS
AND TRUST ME TO FIND
A WAY OUT IF THINGS
GO WRONG.

SNEAKING INTO A.E.
WAS ALWAYS PART OF
THE PLAN. NOW RESCUING
LACEY IS AN EVEN BIGGER
AND MORE IMPORTANT
PART OF THAT SAME
PLAN.

AND WE NEED
TO GET LACEY OUT
FIRST OTHERWISE THE
POLICE ARE LIKELY TO
SEIZE HIM AS EVIDENCE
OR SIMPLY DESTROY
HIM.

I WON'T
ASK YOU TO COME
WITH US BECAUSE IT
IS DANGEROUS-





BUT THIS
IS SOMETHING
THAT I NEED
TO DO.

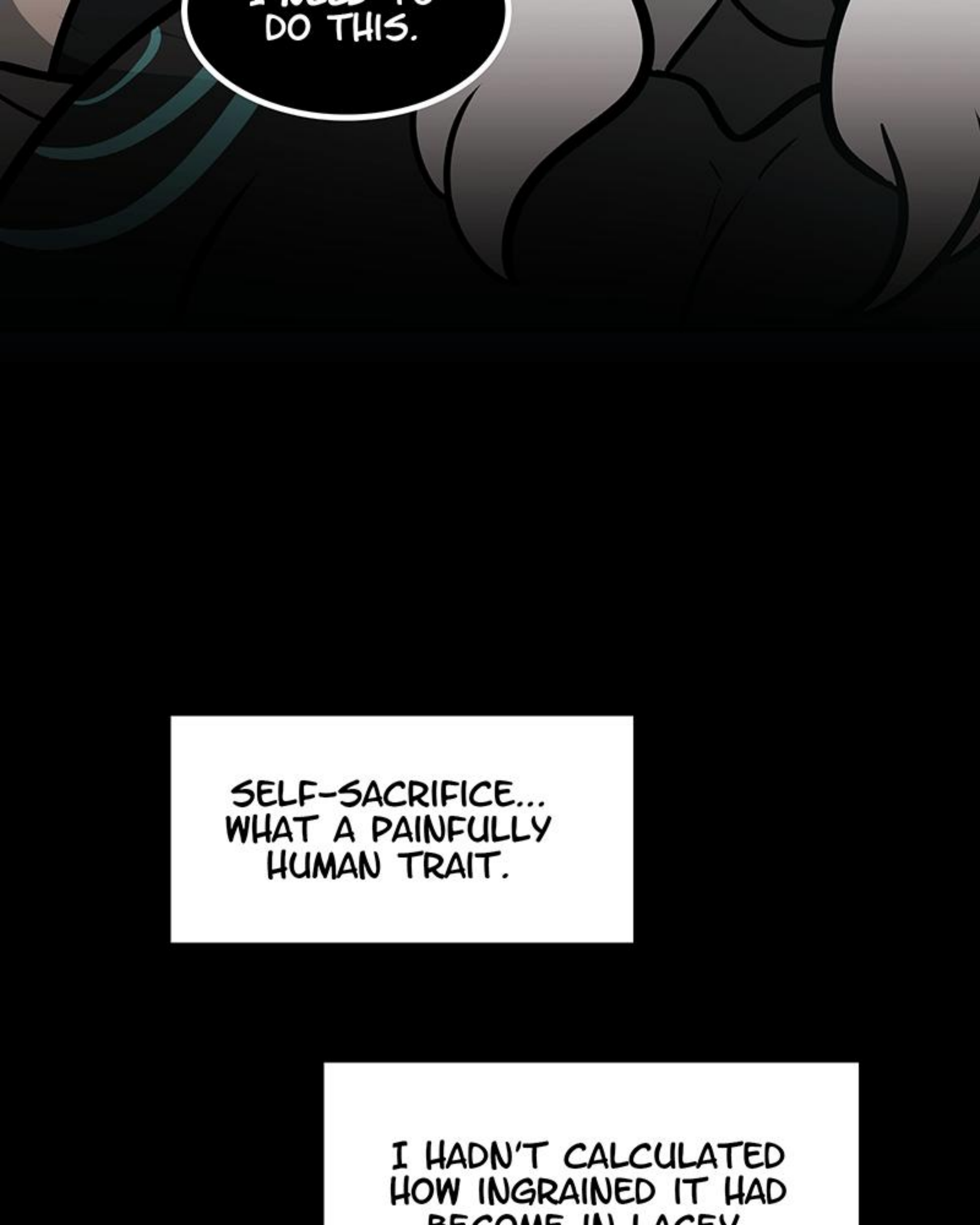
TWITCH





THIS FEELS
RIGHT TO ME.
I WANT TO DO
THIS...

I NEED TO



I HAD TO
DO THIS.

SELF-SACRIFICE...
WHAT A PAINFULLY
HUMAN TRAIT.

I HADN'T CALCULATED
HOW INGRAINED IT HAD
BECOME IN LACEY.

BECOME IN LACEY.

FEELS MORE
APPROPRIATE TO SAY
SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.

click





FOOLISH.
UNREASONABLE.

VEXATIOUS.





WHY COULDN'T
HE JUST...

THEN AGAIN,
HOW AM I ANY
BETTER?

HE OFFERED ME
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO PURGE MY MIND
OF ANY MEMORY OF
HIM AND I DIDN'T
TAKE IT.





AND NOW
WE'RE HERE.

ALRIGHT,
SO I TRUST TO
DO WHAT YOU

DO WHAT YOU
HAVE TO.

BUT WITHOUT
YOU THERE WITH ME
THE POLICE PROBABLY
GOING TO THINK I'M JUST
SOME CONSPIRACY
NUT.





BRIZZ AND
I COMPILED A
BUNCH OF EVIDENCE
TOGETHER YOU'LL
HAVE THAT.

click

AND IF DALLAS
TRIES TO BURY IT
THEN WE WILL RELEASE
THE BACKUPS TO
THE PRESS.

OH-
THAT...

THAT
ACTUALLY MAKES
ME FEEL A LOT
BETTER

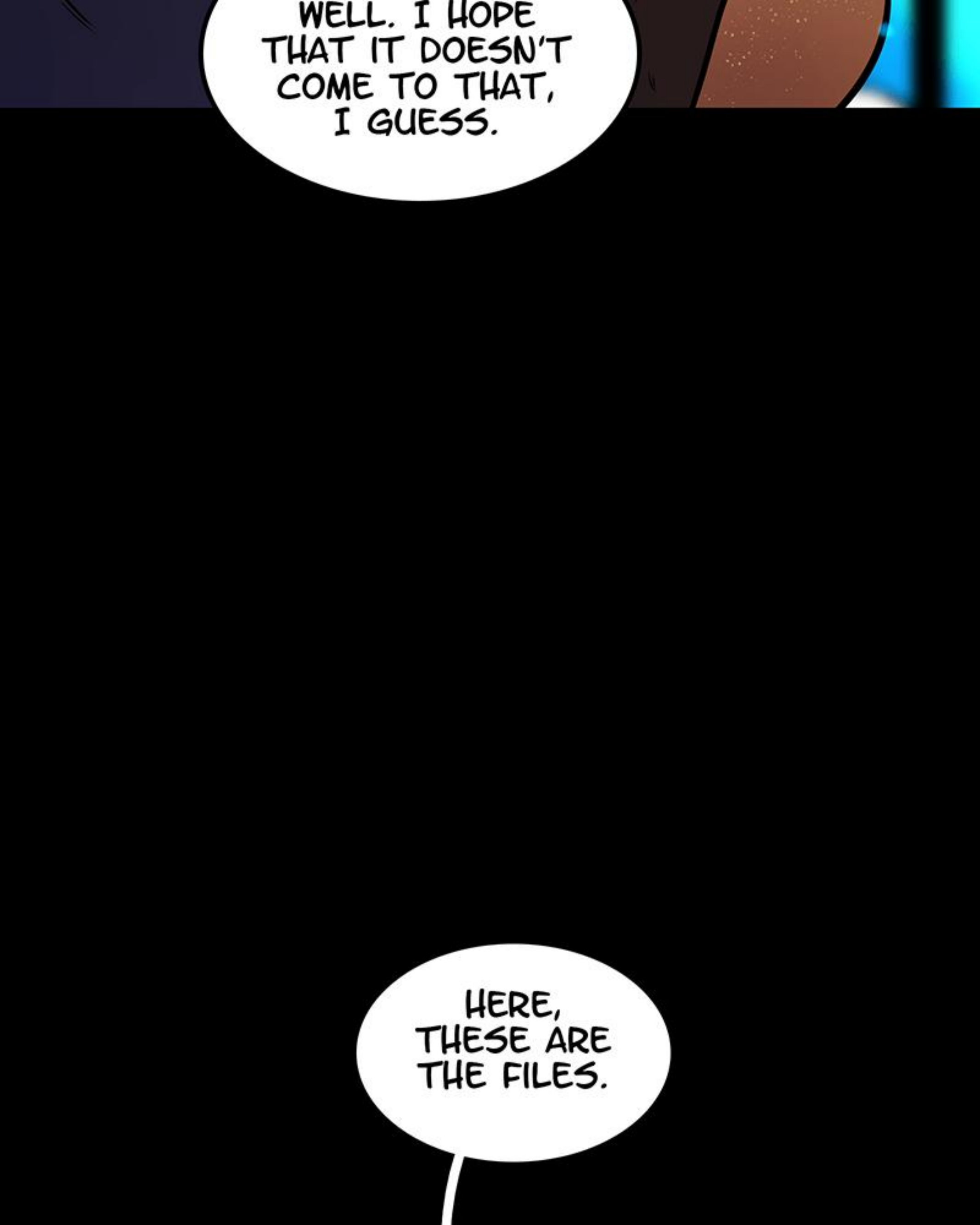
BETTER.



FOR A
MOMENT THERE
I FELT LIKE YOU
TWO WERE ACTUALLY
PLANNING ON
KILLING...



RIGHT,

A comic panel with a solid black background. At the top, a white circular speech bubble contains text. At the bottom, a white oval speech bubble contains text. The top speech bubble is partially cut off by the top edge of the frame. The bottom speech bubble has a short tail pointing downwards.

WELL. I HOPE
THAT IT DOESN'T
COME TO THAT,
I GUESS.

HERE,
THESE ARE
THE FILES.

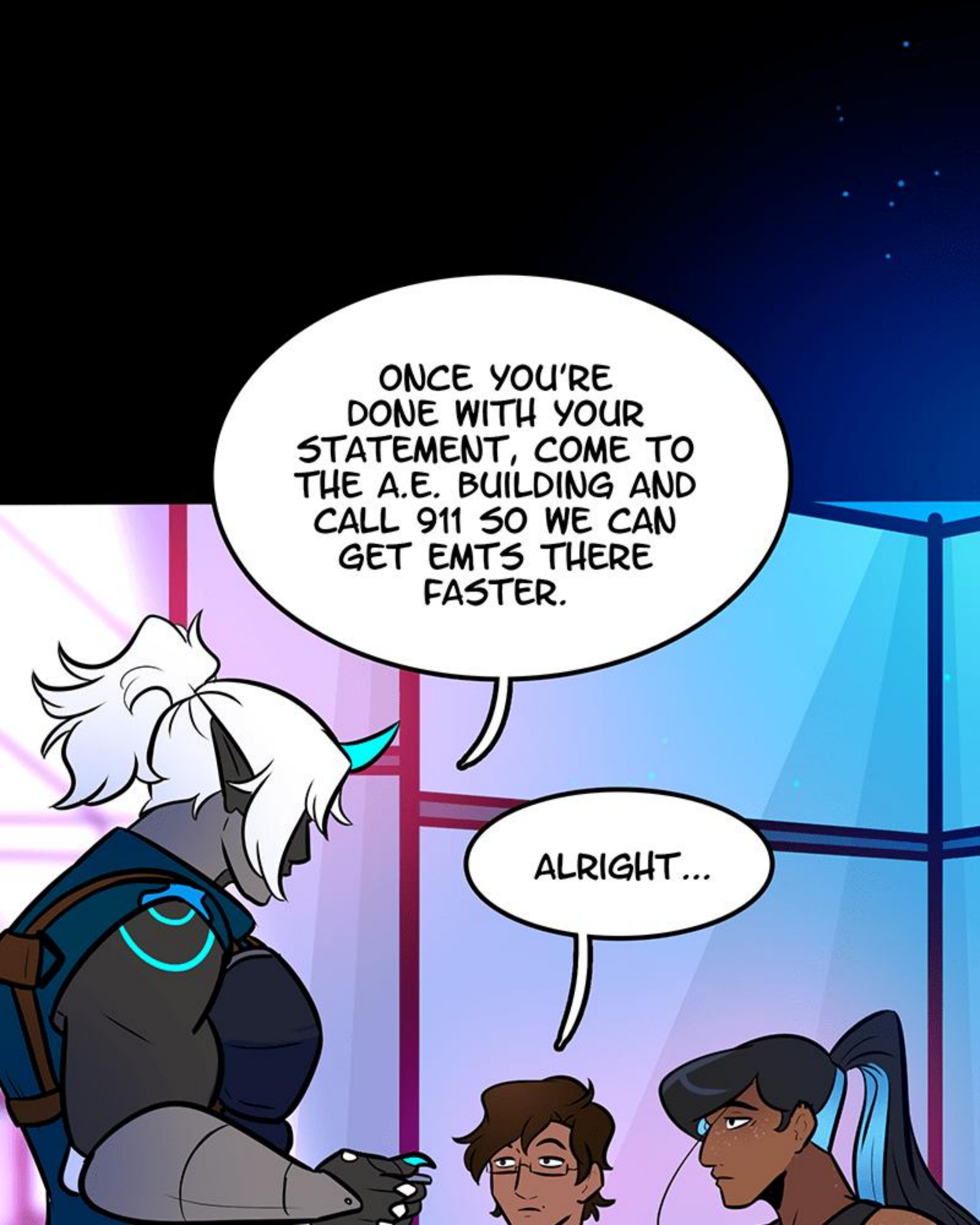
NOT ONLY
DOES IT CONTAIN
EVERYTHING THAT XADA
AND I KNOW REGARDING
LACEY AND THE
CHIP-

BUT ALSO
EVERYTHING THAT
I'VE HAD SINCE I
STARTED WORKING
WITH THEM.





DON'T BE
FRUSTRATED IF
THEY WON'T JUMP INTO
ACTION RIGHT AWAY. THIS
IS MORE JUST TO CREATE
THE REPORT AND START
A PAPER TRAIL.



ONCE YOU'RE
DONE WITH YOUR
STATEMENT, COME TO
THE A.E. BUILDING AND
CALL 911 SO WE CAN
GET EMTS THERE
FASTER.

ALRIGHT...



PLEASE
BE SAFE,
XADA.

OF COURSE



OF COURSE,
I PROMISE.

The background of the comic panel is a dark blue gradient with small, light blue dots scattered across it, resembling a night sky or a deep space scene. In the top left corner, there is a small, bright pink triangular shape. A white oval speech bubble is positioned in the upper center of the panel.

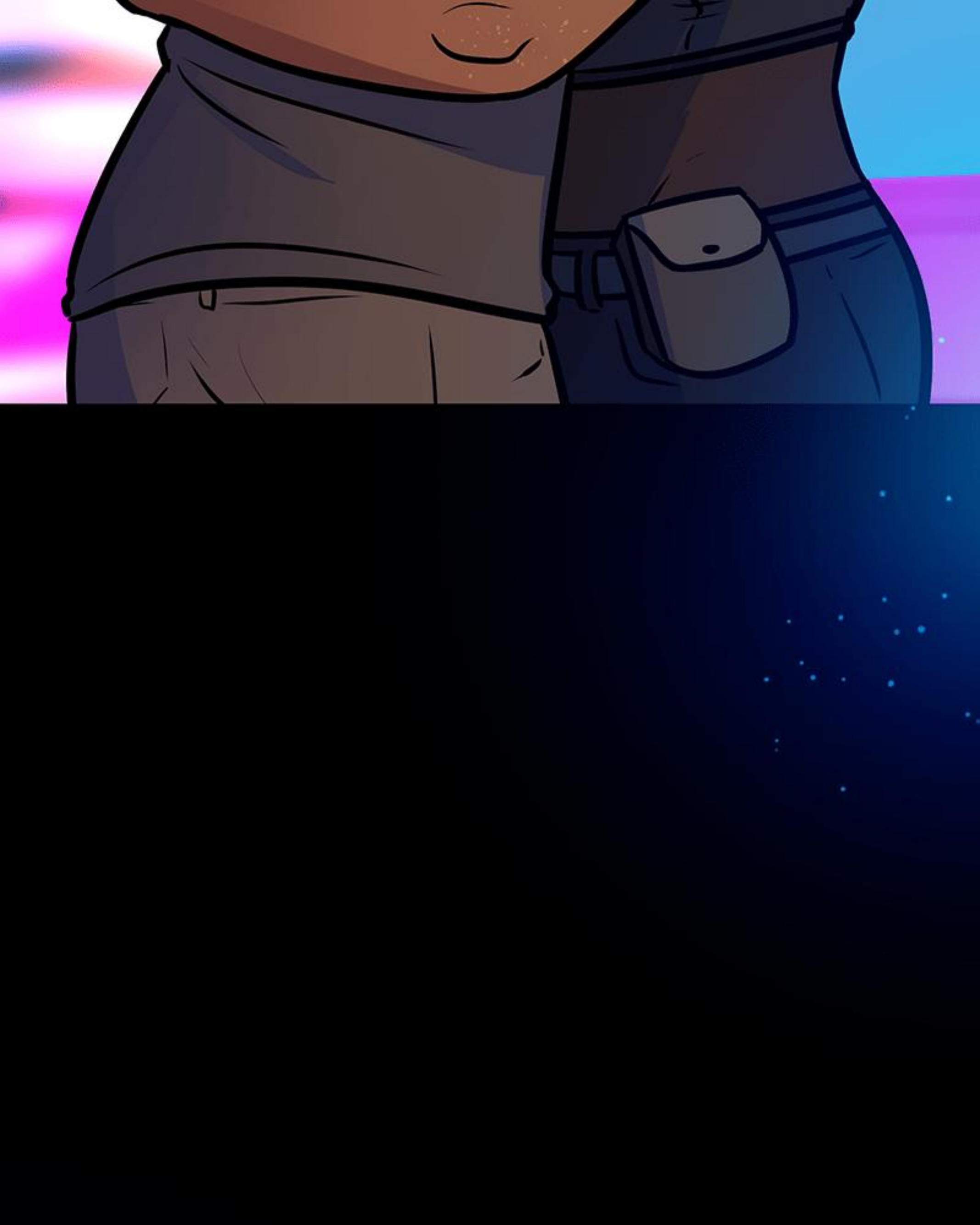
CALLING FOR
PARAMEDICS IS JUST
A PRECAUTION, THAT'S
ALL. THANK YOU,
ERIK.

The background of the comic panel is a dark blue gradient with small, light blue dots scattered across it, resembling a night sky or a deep space scene. In the top left corner, there is a small, bright pink triangular shape. A white oval speech bubble is positioned in the upper center of the panel.

I HOPE
THAT LACEY
TURNS OUT TO
BE OKAY...

ME TOO.





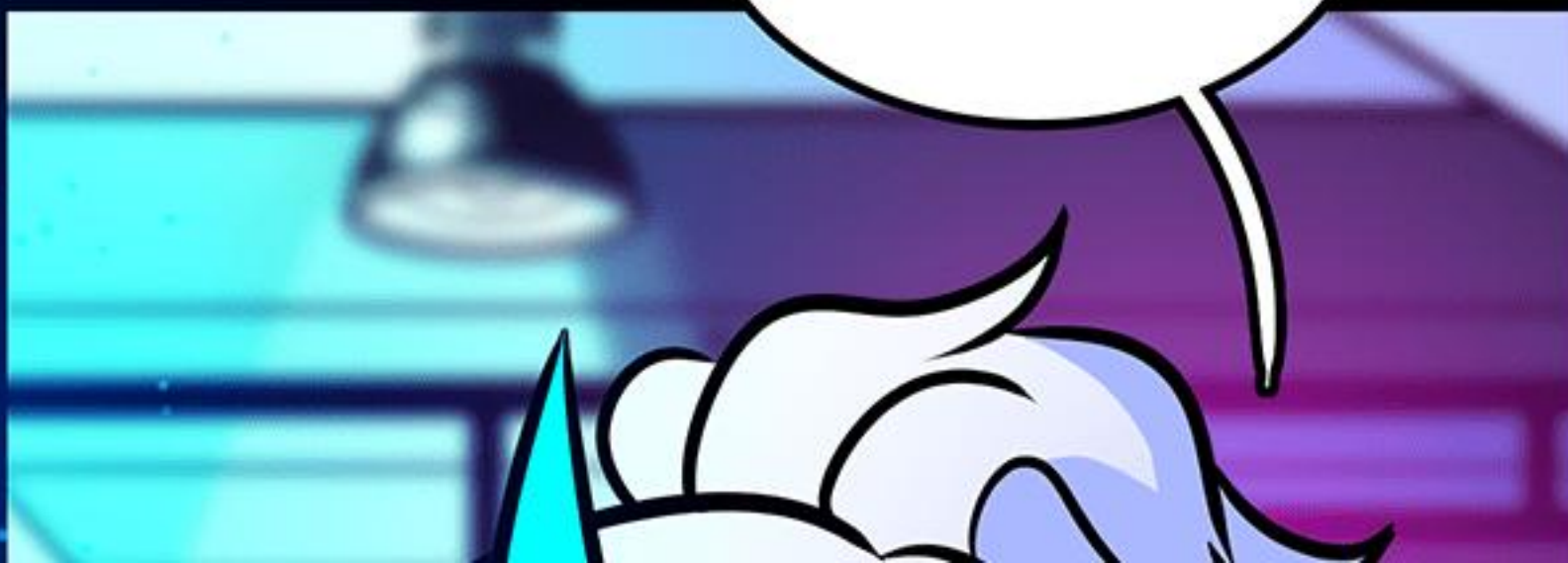
BYE.

UH-
BYE.





ARE YOU
ALL SUITED
UP?





WE SHOULD
HEAD OUT SOON,
TOO.



XADA?



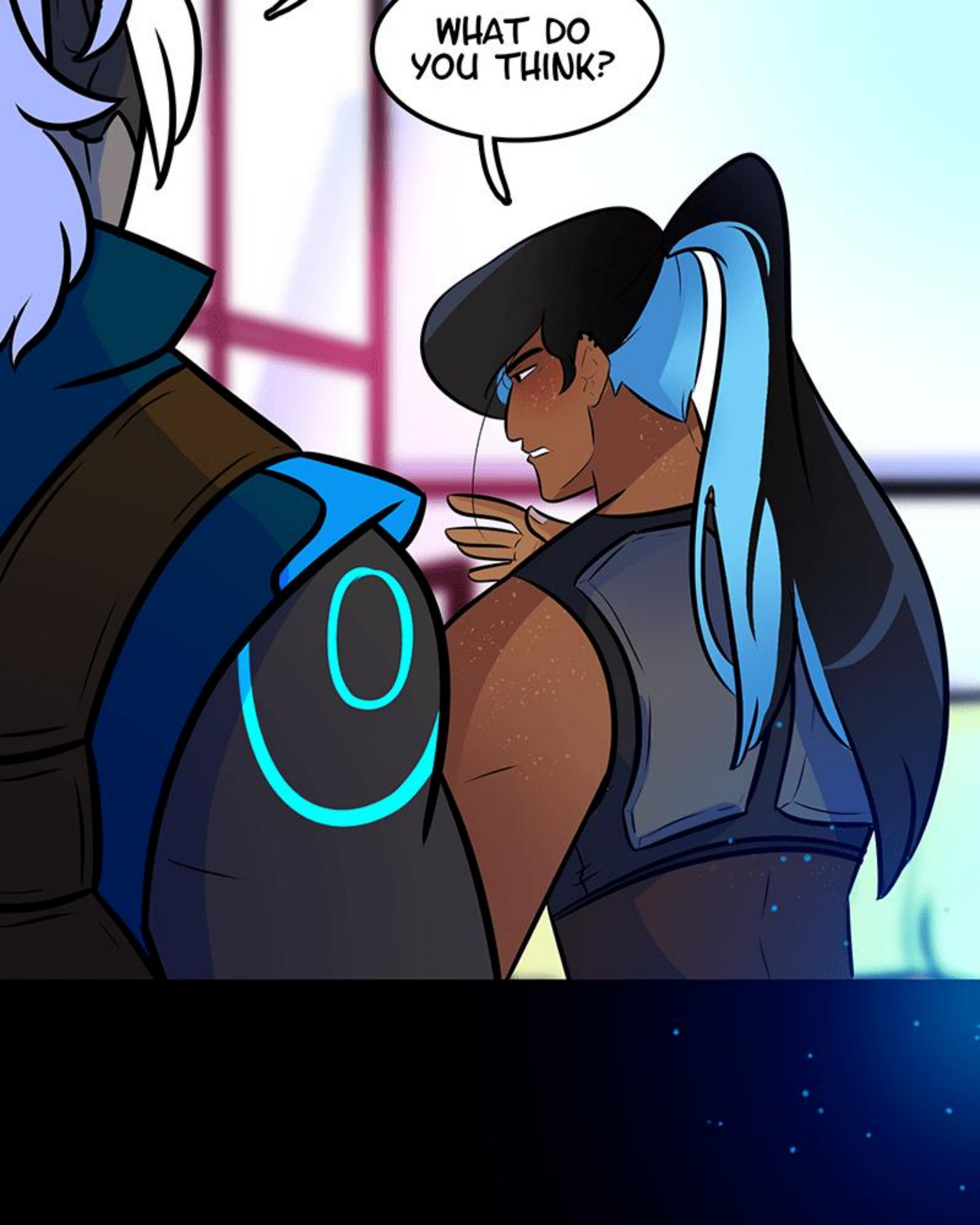






ARE YOU
ALRIGHT-

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?





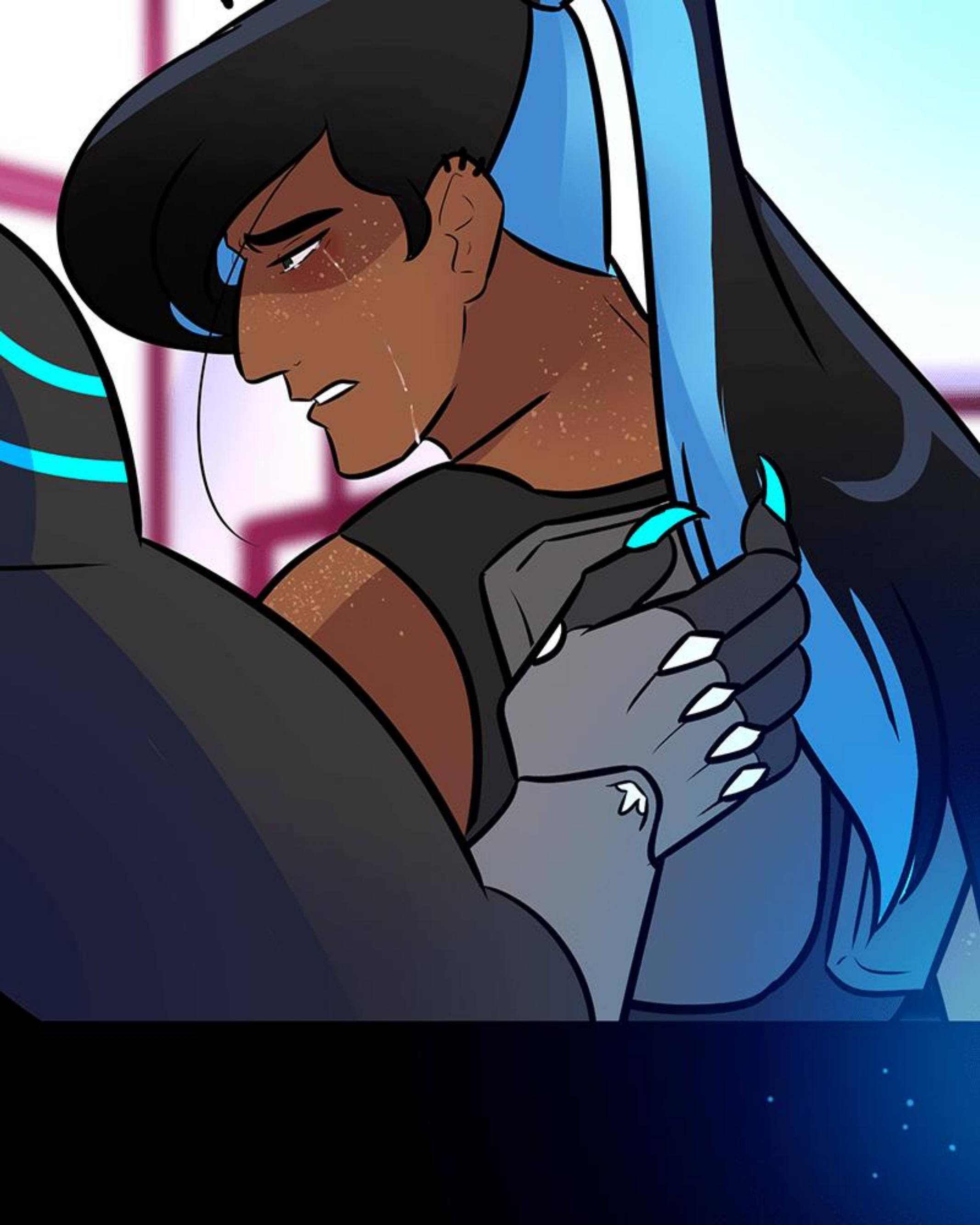




I'M SORRY.

NO. I'M
SORRY.

I SHOULDN'T
SNAP, I JUST...





I CAN
UNDERSTAND WHY
LACEY LEFT THE
WAY HE DID...

BECAUSE
THIS HAPPENING
AS A RESULT IS SO...
UNBELIEVABLE



I CAN'T...

THIS WHOLE
TIME I'VE BEEN
SO CERTAIN THAT
NO MATTER HOW ANGRY
VELIX WAS THAT HE
WOULD NEVER...

HE WOULD
NEVER ACTUALLY

NEVER ACTUALLY
DO SOMETHING
LIKE THIS...

I WAS CERTAIN
THAT I COULD TRUST
THAT AS FACT, IF NOTHING
ELSE.. AND NOW LACEY
MIGHT BE...

I CAN'T...
I CAN'T EVEN

I CAN'T EVEN
COMPREHEND
IT.

MY HEART
STILL WANTS TO
SAY THAT I'M MISSING
SOMETHING. THAT VELIX
WOULDN'T DO THIS.

I KEEP...
WANTING TO SAY
THAT HE AND LACEY
WERE JUST...AMBUSHED
AND THEY RAN AWAY TO
HIDE TOGETHER...

FROM
WHAT I COULD
RECONSTRUCT OF
THE SCENE...

THERE WERE
ONLY TWO FIGURES
INVOLVED. PRESUMABLY
LACEY AND VELIX BY
THE SIZE OF THE
FOOTPRINTS.





TSH-

IF LACEY
IS D-DEAD-

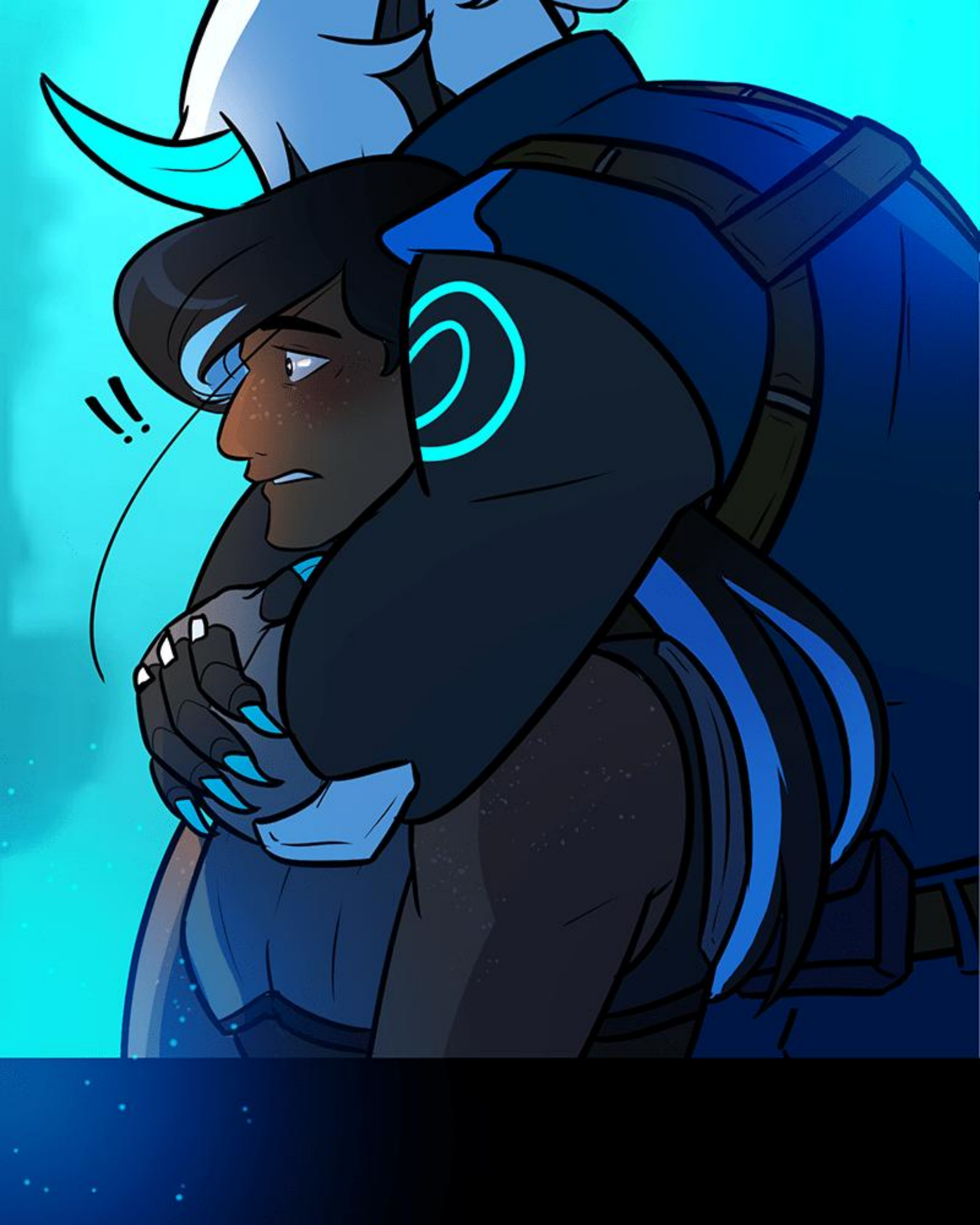
THEN IT'S
M-MY FAULT
FOR-



A character wearing a dark blue or black suit with a large, textured brown chest piece. The character is shown from the chest up, with their right arm extended to the right. The background is a bright cyan color.

F-FOR
THINKING
THAT-





A comic panel with a dark blue background featuring small white stars. Three white speech bubbles are arranged in a cluster. The top bubble contains the text "IT IS BOTH OF OUR FAULTS...". The middle bubble, which is partially overlapping the top one, contains "AND IT IS NEITHER OF OURS.". A line connects the bottom of the middle bubble to a third speech bubble on the right, which contains "VELIX AND LACEY MADE THEIR OWN CHOICES.". At the bottom of the panel, the top of a character's head with light blue, spiky hair is visible.

IT IS
BOTH OF OUR
FAULTS...

AND IT
IS NEITHER
OF OURS.

VELIX AND
LACEY MADE THEIR
OWN CHOICES.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO FORCE
YOURSELF TO
COMFORT ME.

A comic panel with a dark blue background. At the bottom, a character's head and shoulders are visible, wearing a blue shirt. Two white speech bubbles are present. The first bubble, at the bottom left, contains the text "I'M COMMISERATING WITH YOU." The second bubble, positioned above and to the right of the first, contains the text "I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF TO DO ANYTHING." A line connects the two bubbles.

I'M NOT
FORCING MYSELF
TO DO ANYTHING.

I'M
COMMISERATING
WITH YOU.

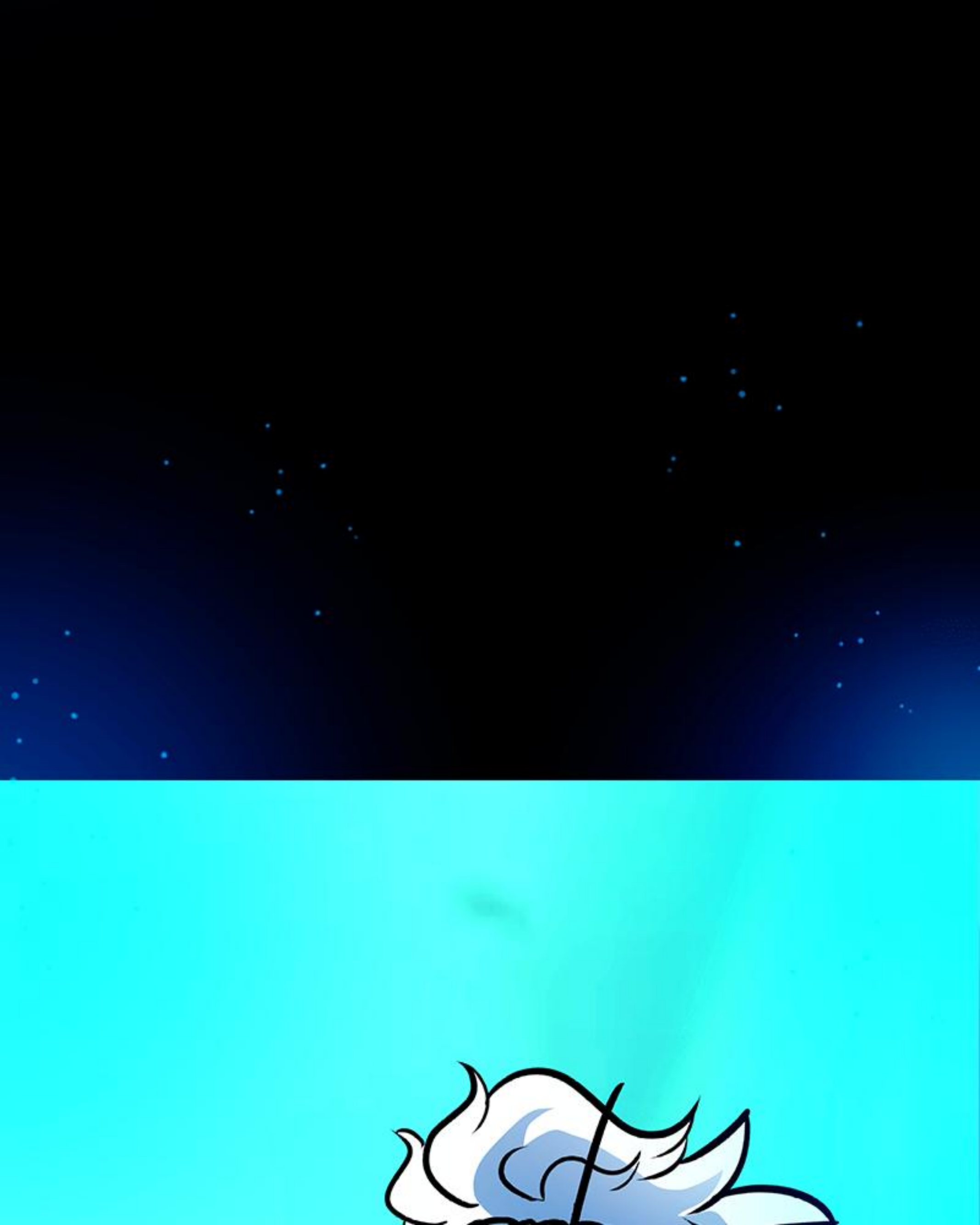




JUST
BECAUSE I DON'T
HAVE THE PHYSICAL
CAPACITY TO SHED
TEARS LIKE YOU AND
LACEY DOESN'T MEAN
THAT I DON'T
FEEL...

EVEN
THOUGH, RIGHT
NOW, I WOULD REALLY
RATHER I DIDN'T
FEEL ANYTHING.









LET'S GO
GET HIM
BACK.

LOVEBOT

By Chase Keels & Miranda M.

Editors | Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell

Thank you
for reading! ♥



Patreon.com/



lovebot_webcomic

♥ [Twitter.com/lovebot_webtoon](https://twitter.com/lovebot_webtoon)

lovebot_webtoon

♥ [Merch](https://merch.mirandamundt.com)
mirandamundt.com