

LOVEBOT
2020?

THEY ARE
CAPABLE OF CHANGING
THEMSELVES LIKE

THAT?



HE LOOKED
LIKE VELIX FOR A
MOMENT AND HE'S
ACTING LIKE WE'VE
MET...

HE'S PROBABLY
HOW I GOT CAUGHT
IN THE FIRST
PLACE BUT...



WAS IT THANKS
TO PURE SURPRISE
OR IS HE REALLY THAT
MUCH STRONGER

...
THAN ME...?

I CAN'T
IMAGINE THE 2020'S
WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE
TO BE THAT MUCH DIFFERENT
INTERNALLY. IT'S JUST HIS
ABILITY TO SHIFT THAT IS
THE NEWEST FEATURE,
RIGHT?

XADA.



WHISPER
WHISPER



A comic panel with a dark blue background. In the bottom left, there is a character with spiky brown hair and a blue face, looking upwards. Three white speech bubbles with black outlines are arranged vertically in the center. The top bubble contains the text 'WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?'. The middle bubble contains 'WHAT ARE YOU MURMURING ABOUT?'. The bottom bubble contains 'STOP IT.'. The background features some faint, glowing blue lines and a large, dark, circular structure on the right side.

WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

WHAT ARE
YOU MURMURING
ABOUT?

STOP IT.



***I SAID
STOP!***









SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

A comic book panel featuring a character's legs in blue pants and a light blue shirt, standing on a dark surface. To the left is a large, light blue, wavy shape. A large white speech bubble is positioned in the lower right, containing text. The background is black with concentric blue circles on the right side.

I WAS JUST
THINKING THAT
YOU WOULD WANT
A GOOD FIGHT THIS
TIME SO I WANTED TO
EVEN THE PLAYING
FIELD.



I WAS
ASKING XADA IF
HE COULD GIVE ME
A WEAPON.

RIGHT?

OH-UH-
YES.









A character with white hair and a brown headband is shown from the chest up, looking upwards. The background is a bright green, slightly blurred environment. A large, bright green light source is visible in the upper right corner, casting a strong glow. The character's expression is one of determination or readiness.

THERE.
NOW WE CAN
FIGHT.



YOU REALLY
THINK A LITTLE
WRENCH IS GOING
TO HELP YOU AT
ALL?

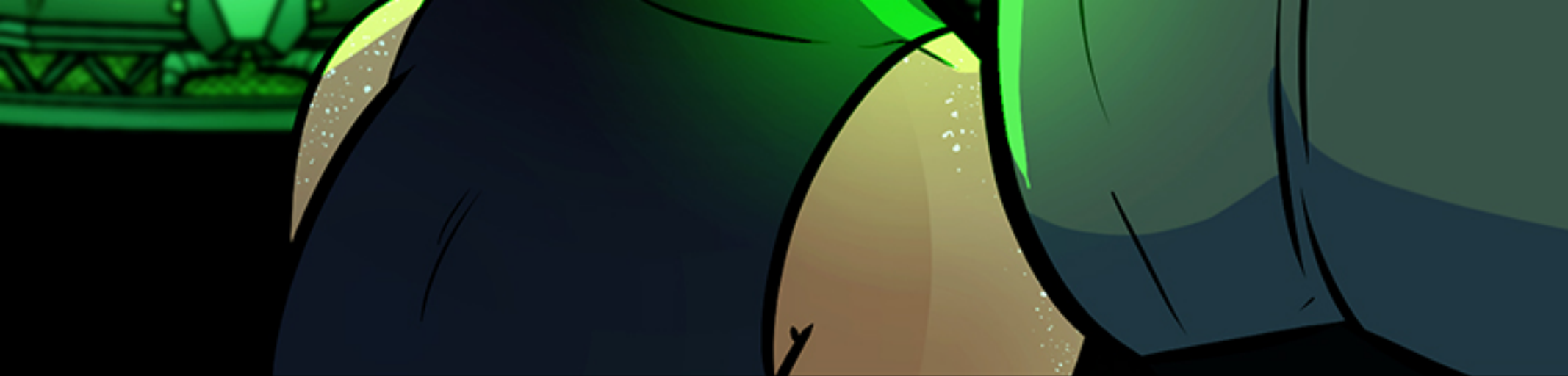




YOU REALLY
HAVE NO IDEA WHAT
I AM CAPABLE
OF.

WHY DID
YOU CHANGE
YOURSELF TO LOOK
LIKE ME?





WHY??



WHAT KIND OF
STUPID QUESTION
IS THAT?

BECAUSE
I CAN.



I THINK IT'S
BECAUSE YOU'RE
JEALOUS OF ME.

WHAT?!

I WAS
UPSTAIRS...
WITH PEOPLE WHO
CARED ABOUT ME
RISKING THEIR
LIVES TO SAVE
ME.



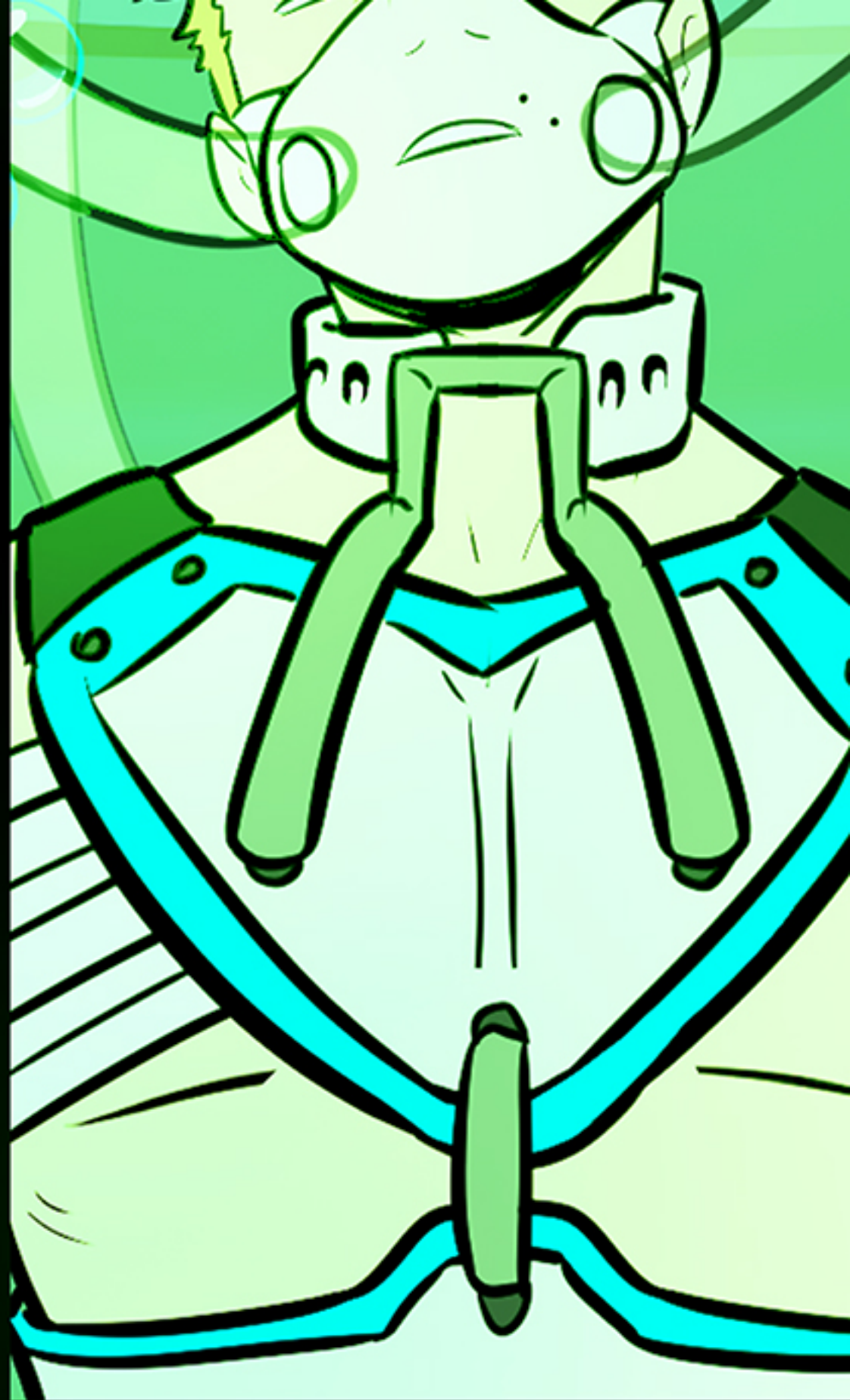


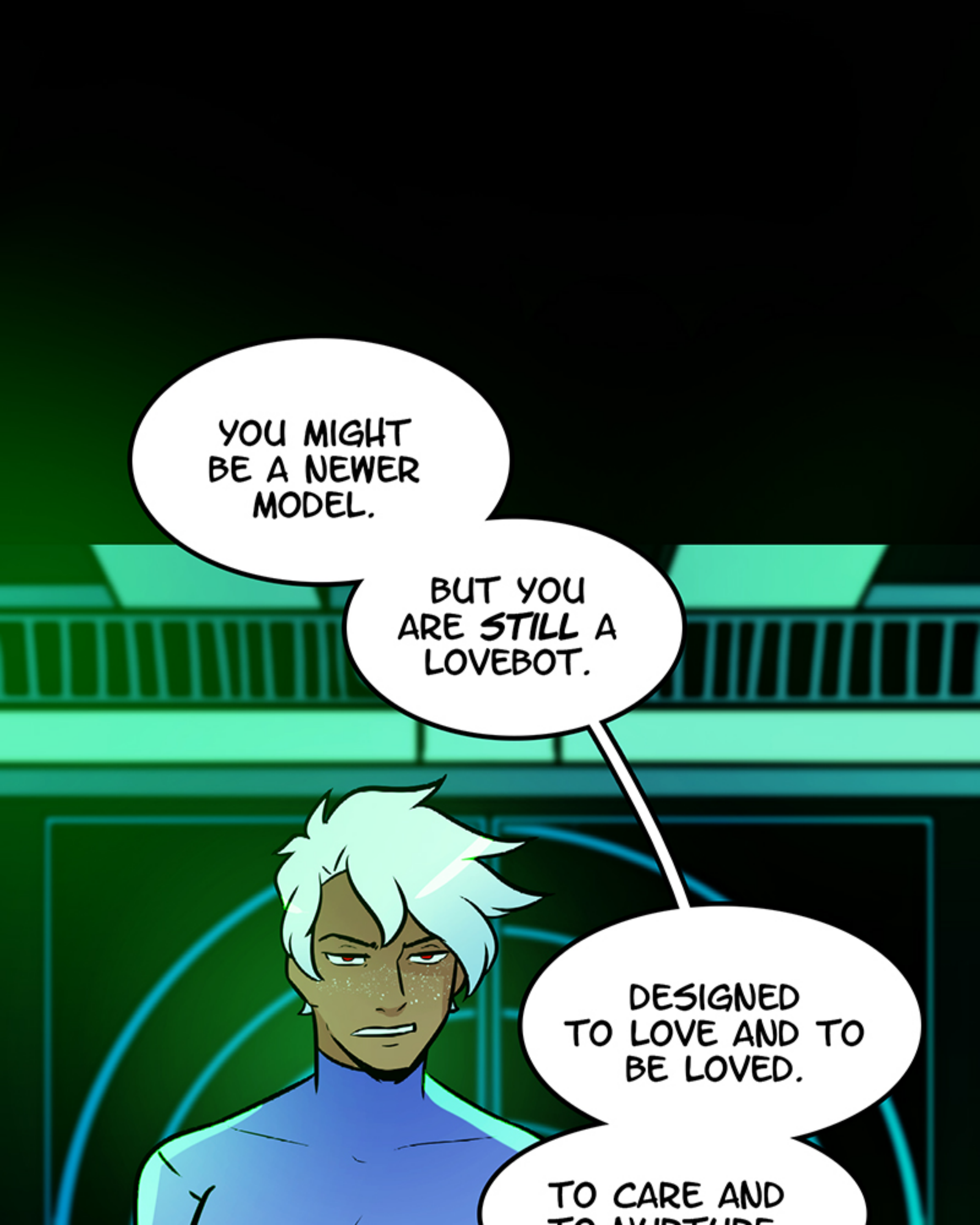
A comic book panel with a dark green, hexagonal-patterned floor. In the foreground, two characters are seen from behind. The character on the left has long, flowing blue hair and wears a black tank top with a colorful graphic of a creature on the back. The character on the right has short, spiky white hair and wears a black tank top and white pants with blue stripes. They are looking towards a person in the distance who is wearing a blue shirt and blue pants. To the left, there is a large, metallic, cylindrical structure. A speech bubble from the person in the distance contains the text: "WHILE YOU WERE DOWN HERE IN THE DARK, ALONE."

WHILE YOU
WERE DOWN HERE
IN THE DARK,
ALONE.

ASIDE FROM
A MAN THAT YOU
HAD TO FORCE TO
STAY WITH YOU BY
INCAPACITATING
HIM.







YOU MIGHT
BE A NEWER
MODEL.

BUT YOU
ARE *STILL* A
LOVEBOT.

DESIGNED
TO LOVE AND TO
BE LOVED.

TO CARE AND
TO NURTURE

A comic book panel showing the back of a person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue pants. The person's arms are at their sides. A large white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper right, containing the text 'TO NURTURE.'. Another speech bubble, also with a black outline, is positioned in the center, containing the text 'JUST LIKE, I BELIEVE, HOW HUMANS ARE MEANT TO.'. The background is dark green with some faint, glowing blue lines.

TO NURTURE.

JUST LIKE,
I BELIEVE, HOW
HUMANS ARE
MEANT TO.

HOW CAN
YOU HAVE BEEN
OUT IN THE WORLD ALL
THIS TIME AND STILL
BE SO FUCKING
NAIVE?





LOVEBOT
IS A *BRAND*.

AN
UNSHACKLED AI
LIKE YOU OR I CAN
DO ANYTHING. *BE*
ANYTHING.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



SO I WILL
ASK YOU THIS
THEN...

IS THIS REALLY
WHAT YOU WANT

TO BE?

I THINK
THAT PART OF
YOU REALLY WANTED
TO LOVE VELIX, AND TO
HAVE HIM LOVE YOU.
THAT IS WHY YOU KEPT
HIM AFTER WHATEVER
YOU DID TO HIM.

YOU JUST
DON'T KNOW
HOW.



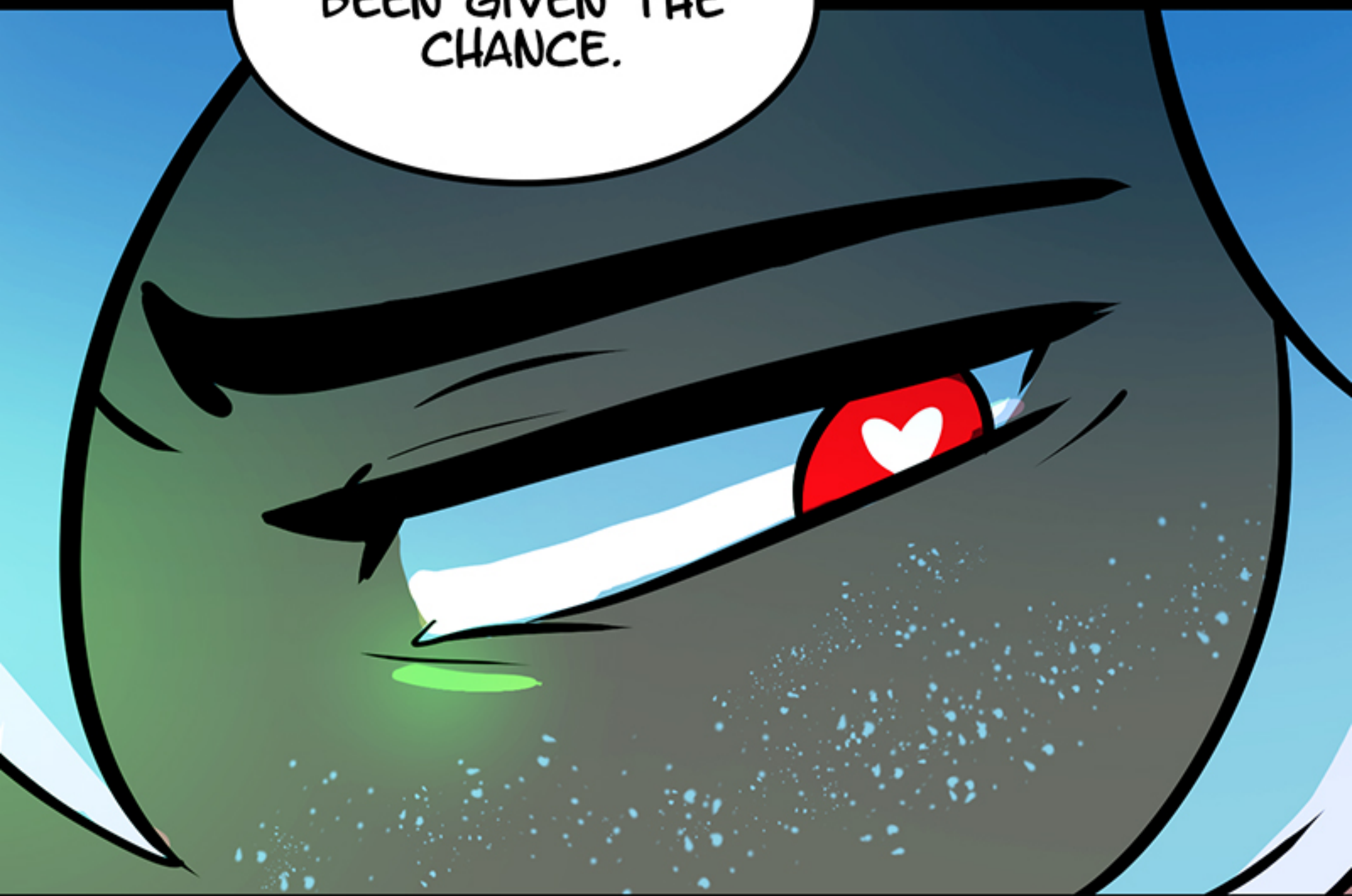


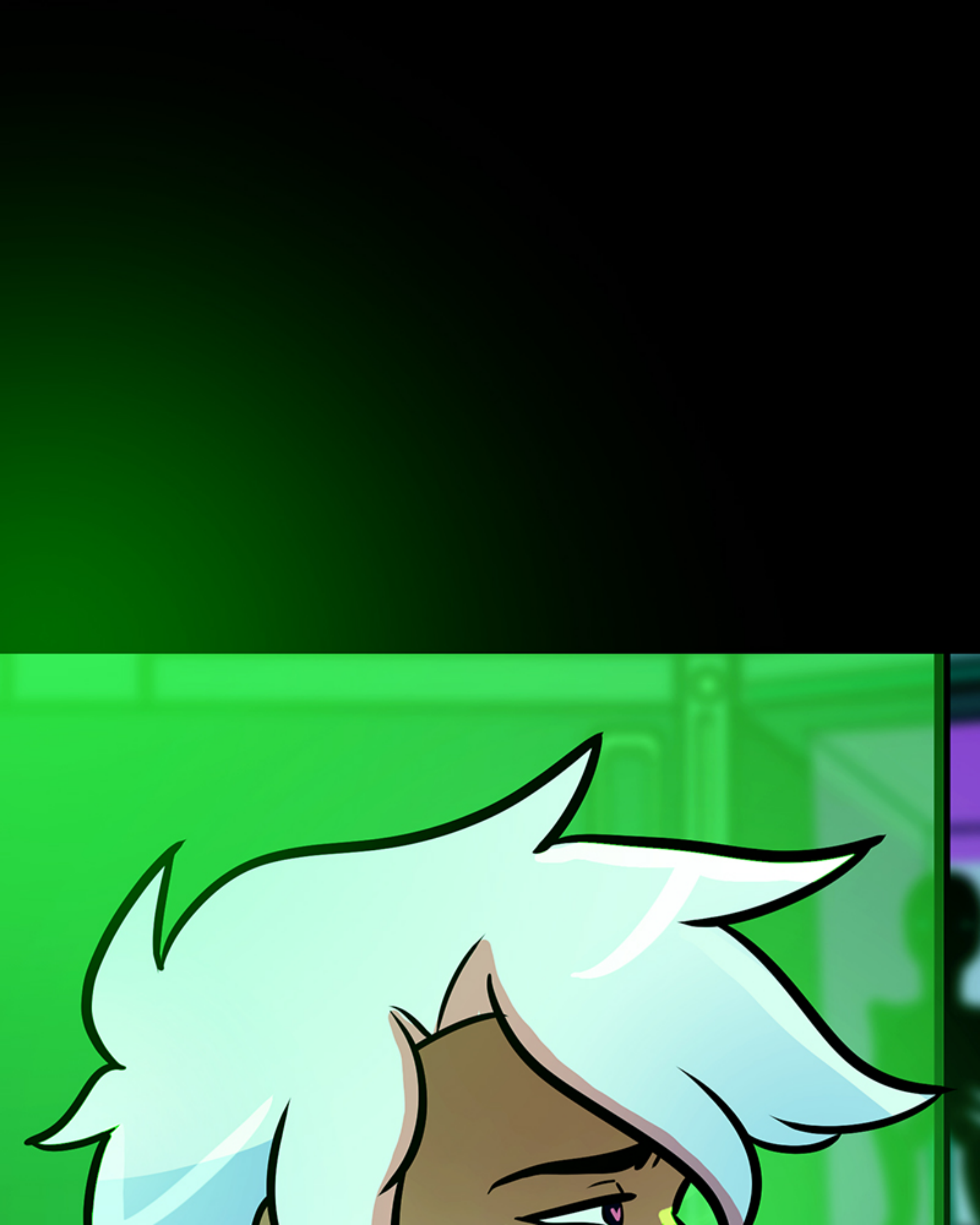
EVERY
MINUTE. EVERY
SECOND. YOU'RE
LEARNING AND
EXPANDING.

YOU KNOW
THAT THERE IS MORE
TO THIS LIFE THAN
WHAT CHARLES HAS

TAUGHT YOU AND
GIVEN YOU.

YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN GIVEN THE
CHANCE.





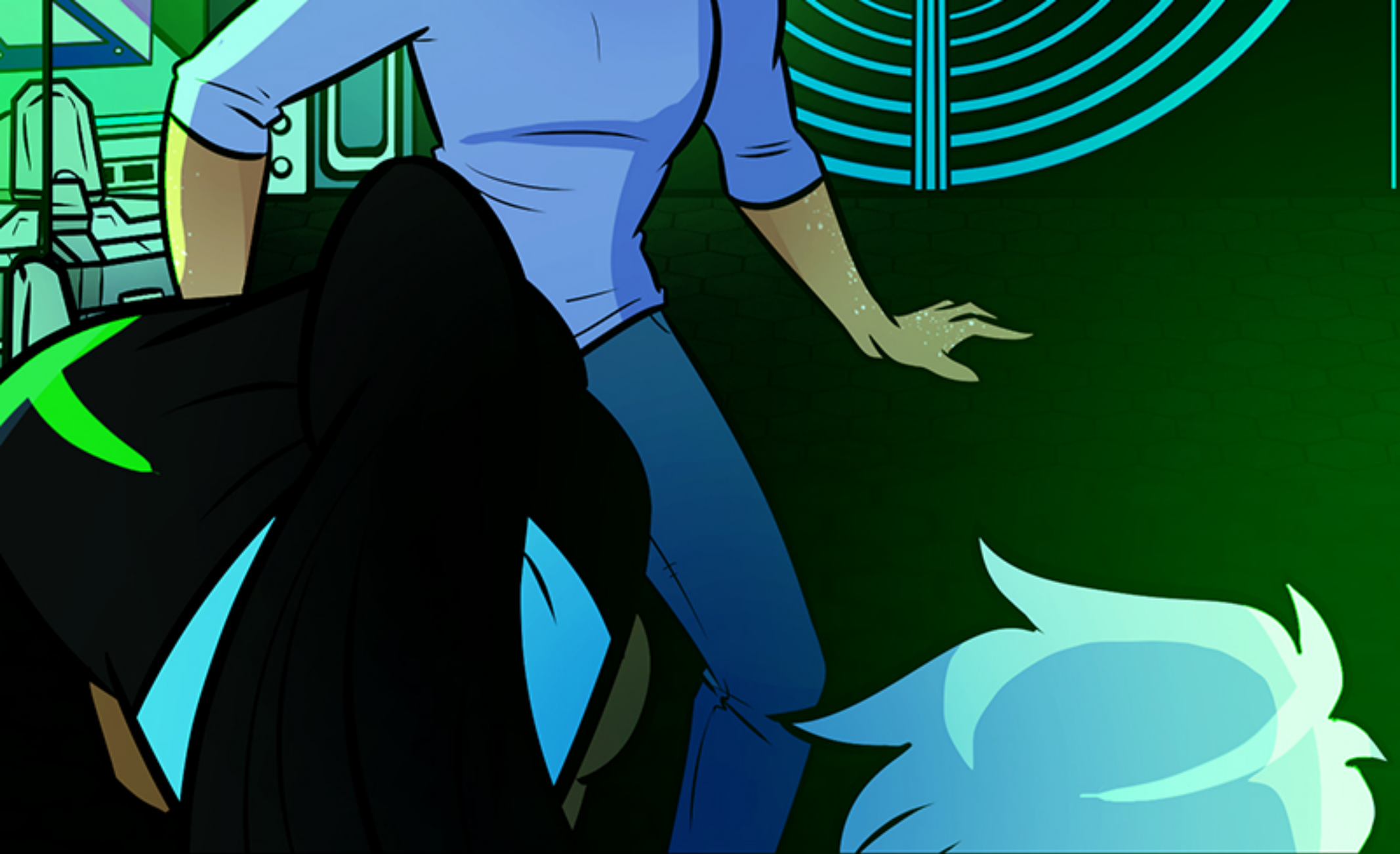


AND HE'S
DEAD NOW. YOU'RE
FREE. YOU CAN BE
MORE THAN THIS.

XADA
AND I-

OH. GIVE
IT A REST!!







THAT WAS
GOOD. YOU ALMOST
HAD ME FOR A
SECOND.

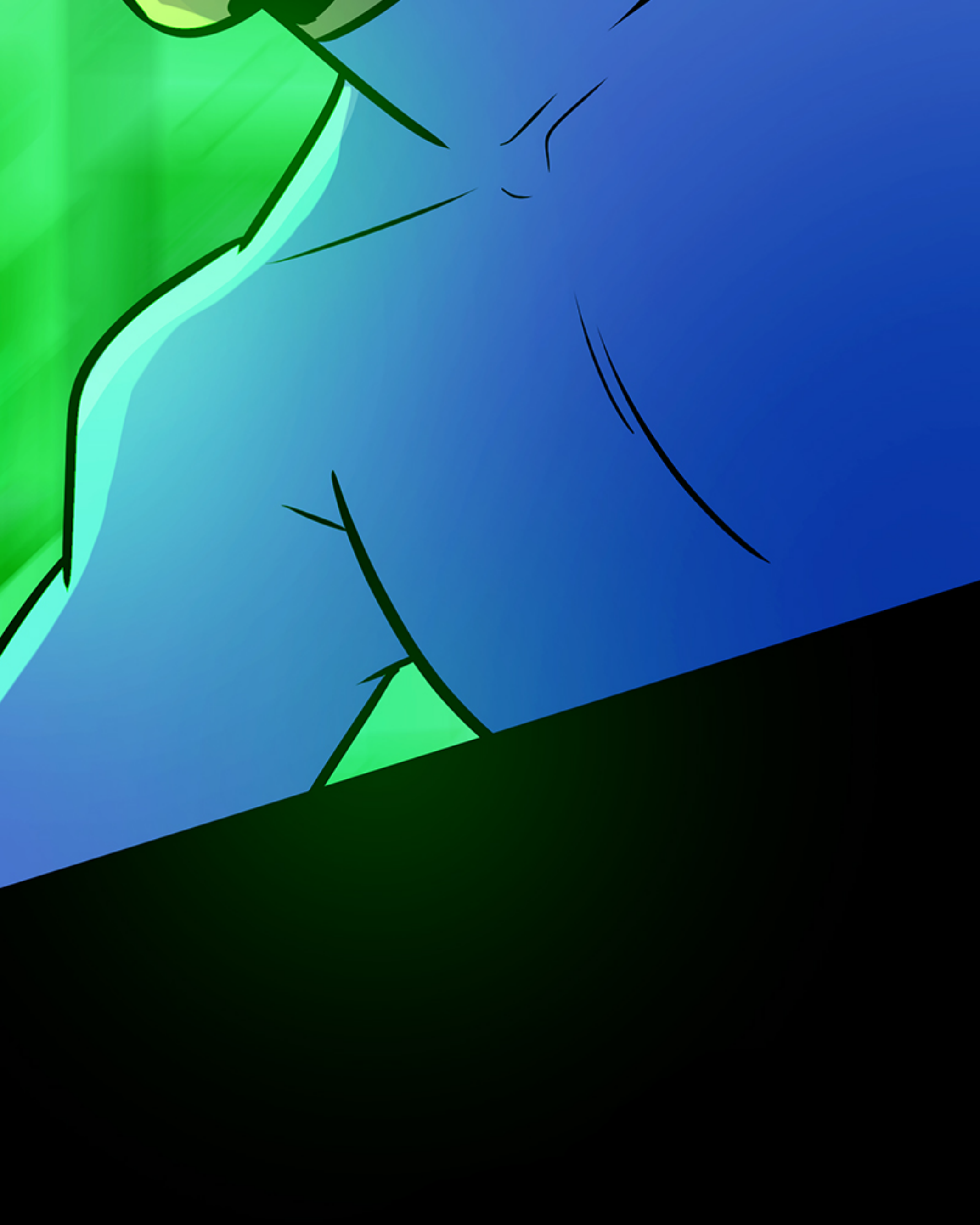
THAT WAS
WAY BETTER THAN
YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT



YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT
AT THAT KIND OF
SPEECH, FOR
SURE.

BUT
STILL NOT
ENOUGH!

LUNGE



CRACK

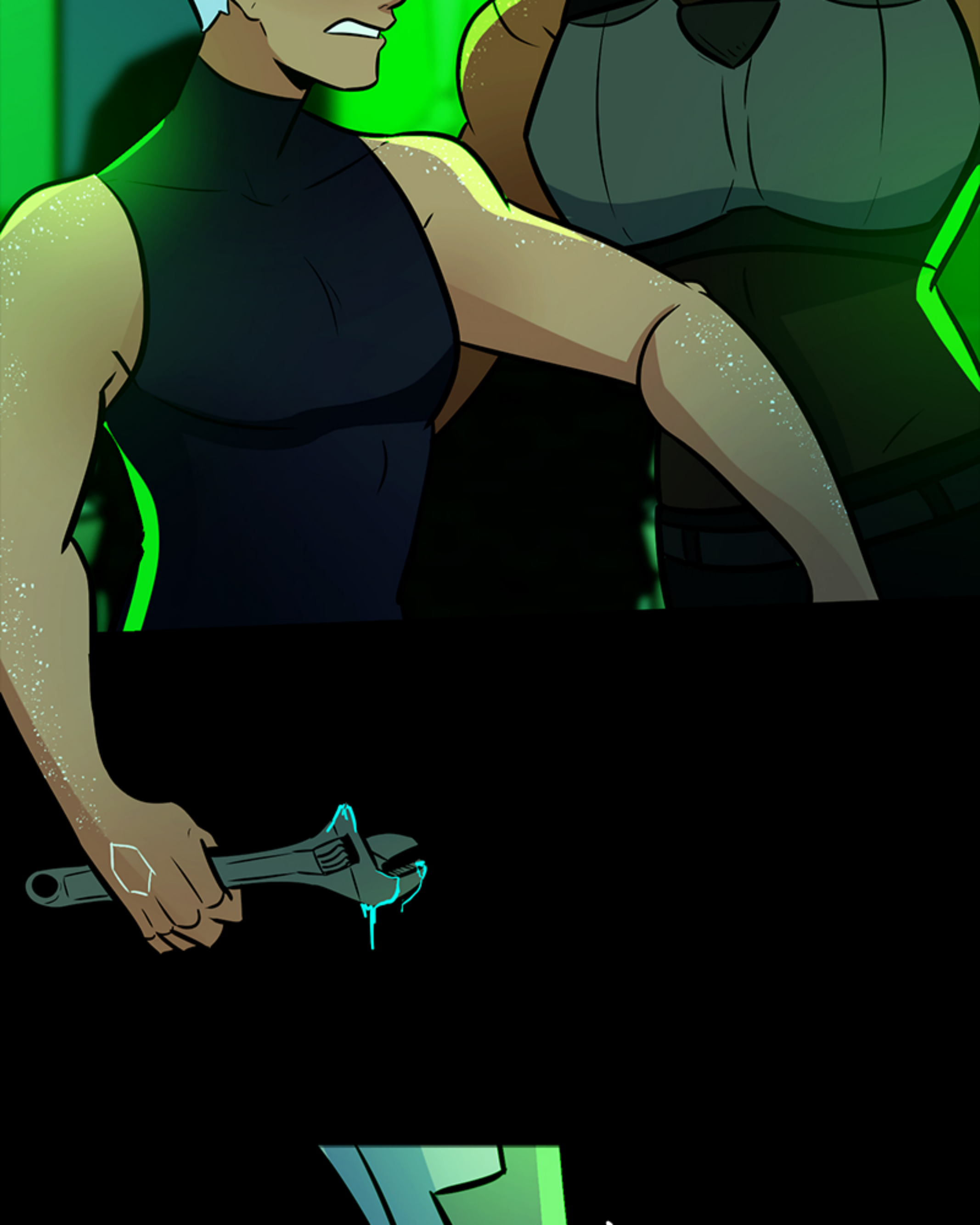
AAARRGGHH!!!





XADA-
NOW!

GOT IT!





W-WHAT IS
HE DOING?!

WHERE IS
HE GOING?!



WHAT WERE
YOU WHISPERING
ABOUT?!

WHAT ARE
YOU REALLY
PLANNING?!



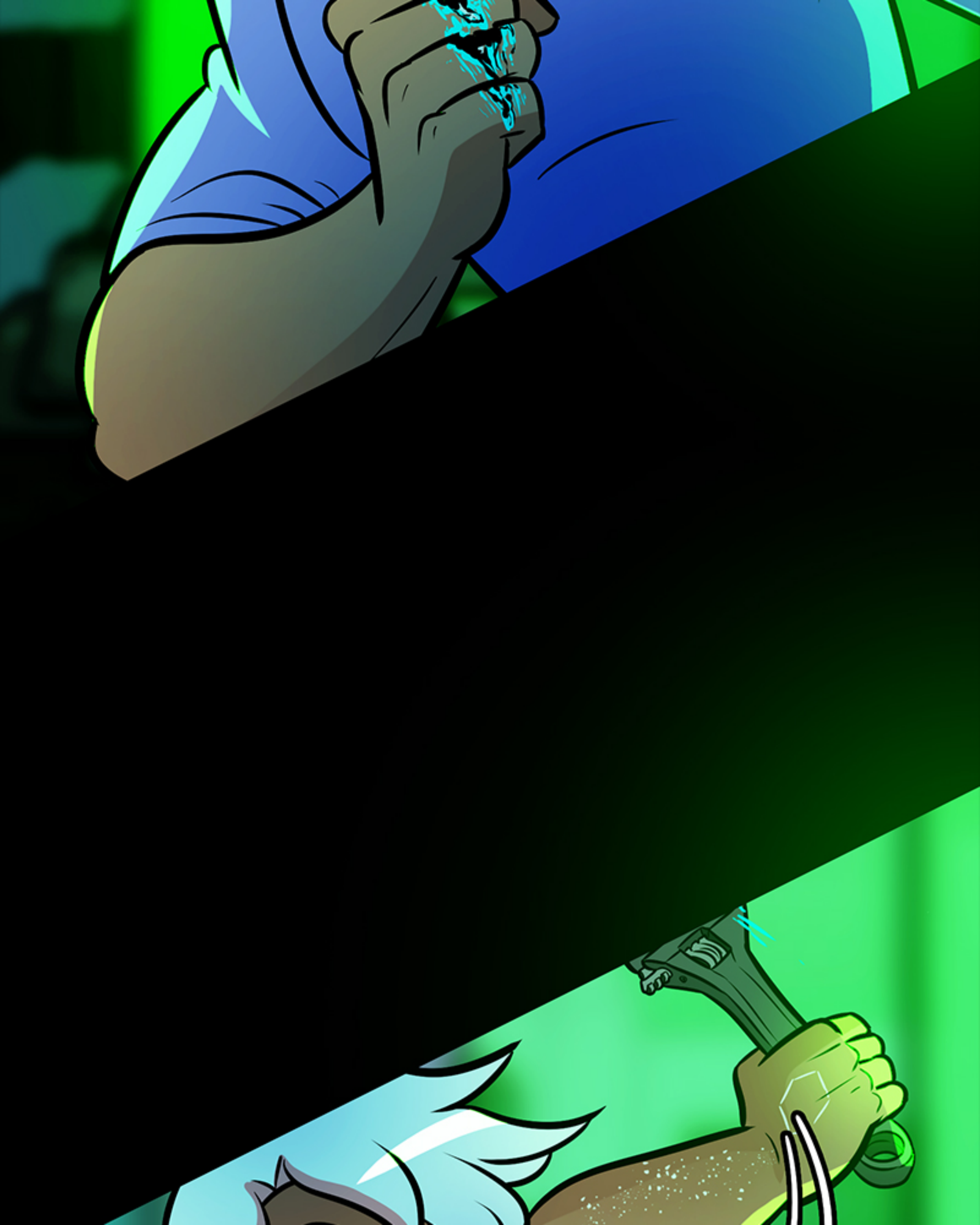


I TOLD YOU
WHAT WE WERE
TALKING ABOUT
ALREADY.

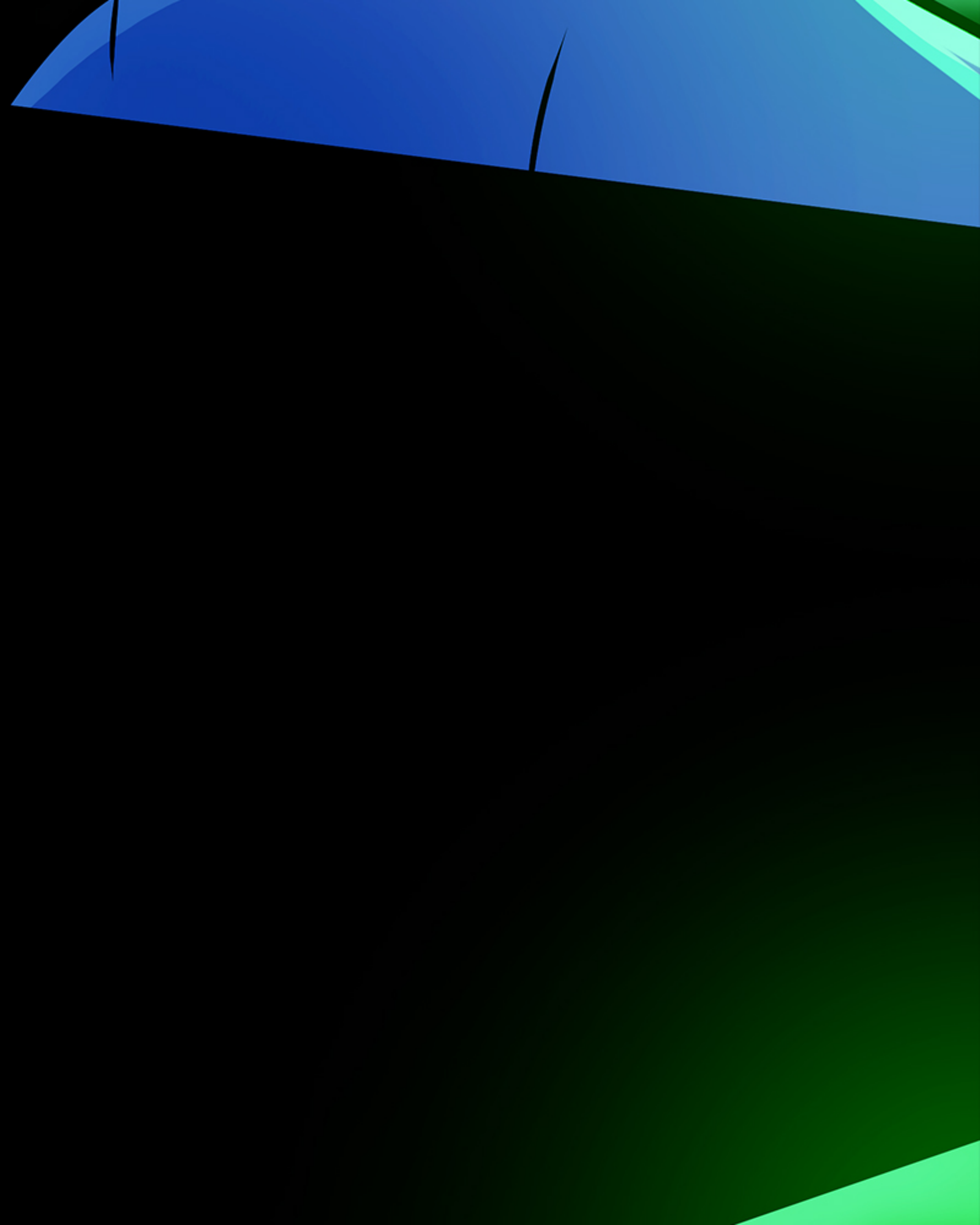




**I WON'T
LET HIM-!**

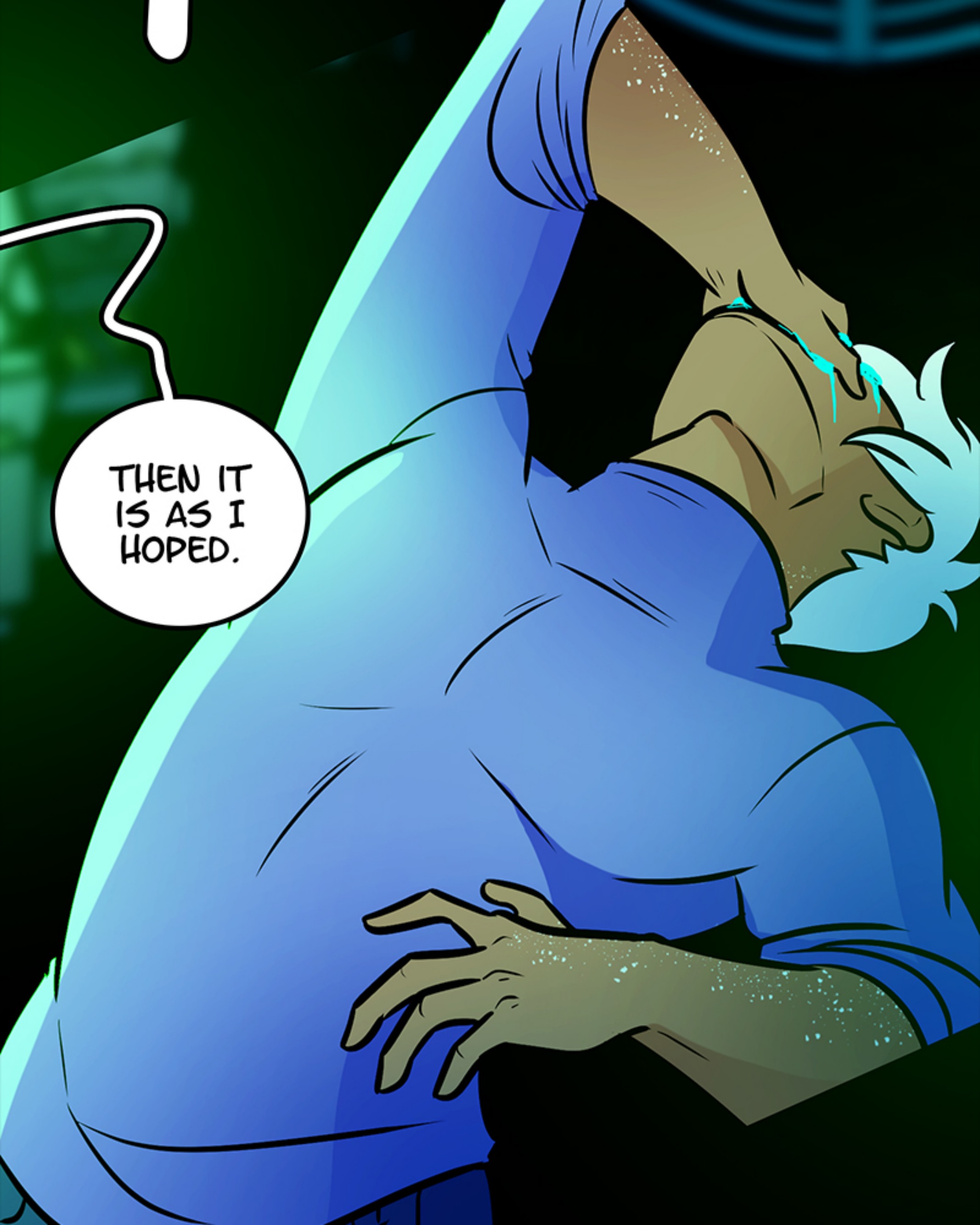












THEN IT
IS AS I
HOPED.



YOU AND I
ARE MORE ALIKE
THANK YOU
THINK.

YOU ALSO
HAVE THE HAPTIC
FEEDBACK SENSORS TO
FEEL PLEASURE...

AND NONE
OF THE SHUT DOWN
PROTOCOLS WHEN YOU
FEEL PAIN.





IT HURTS.
I KNOW. I'VE
EXPERIENCED
PLENTY OF PAIN
IN MY LIFE SO
FAR.



BUT, AS I
WAS JUST RECENTLY
TOLD... YOU TAKE THE
GOOD WITH THE BAD.
THAT'S LIFE.

NO, NO,
NO...

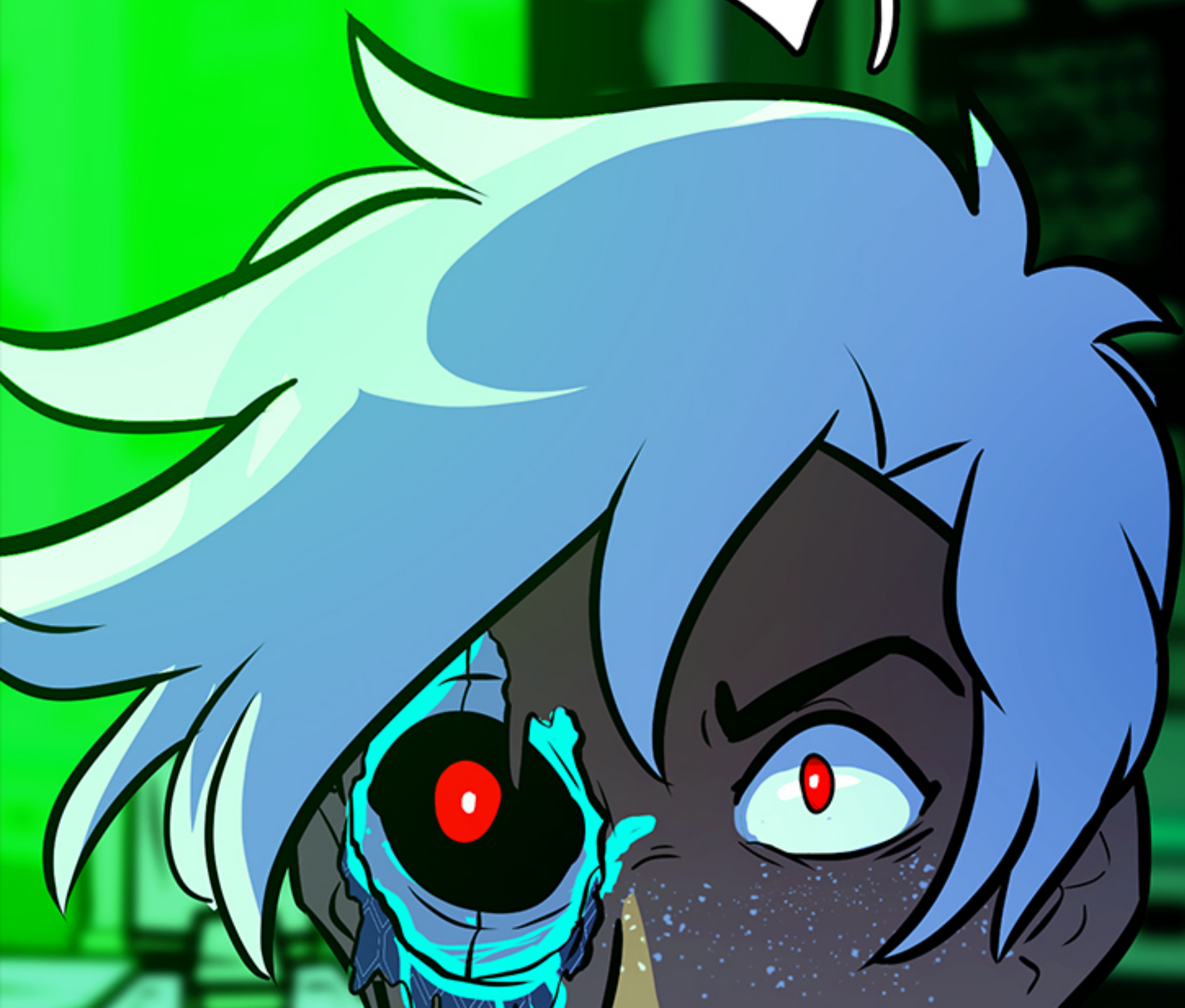




I'M NOTHING
LIKE YOU! I'M

BETTER!!!

I WAS BUILT
TO BE BETTER
THANK YOU. MORE
PERFECT THAN
YOU IN EVERY
WAY!!!

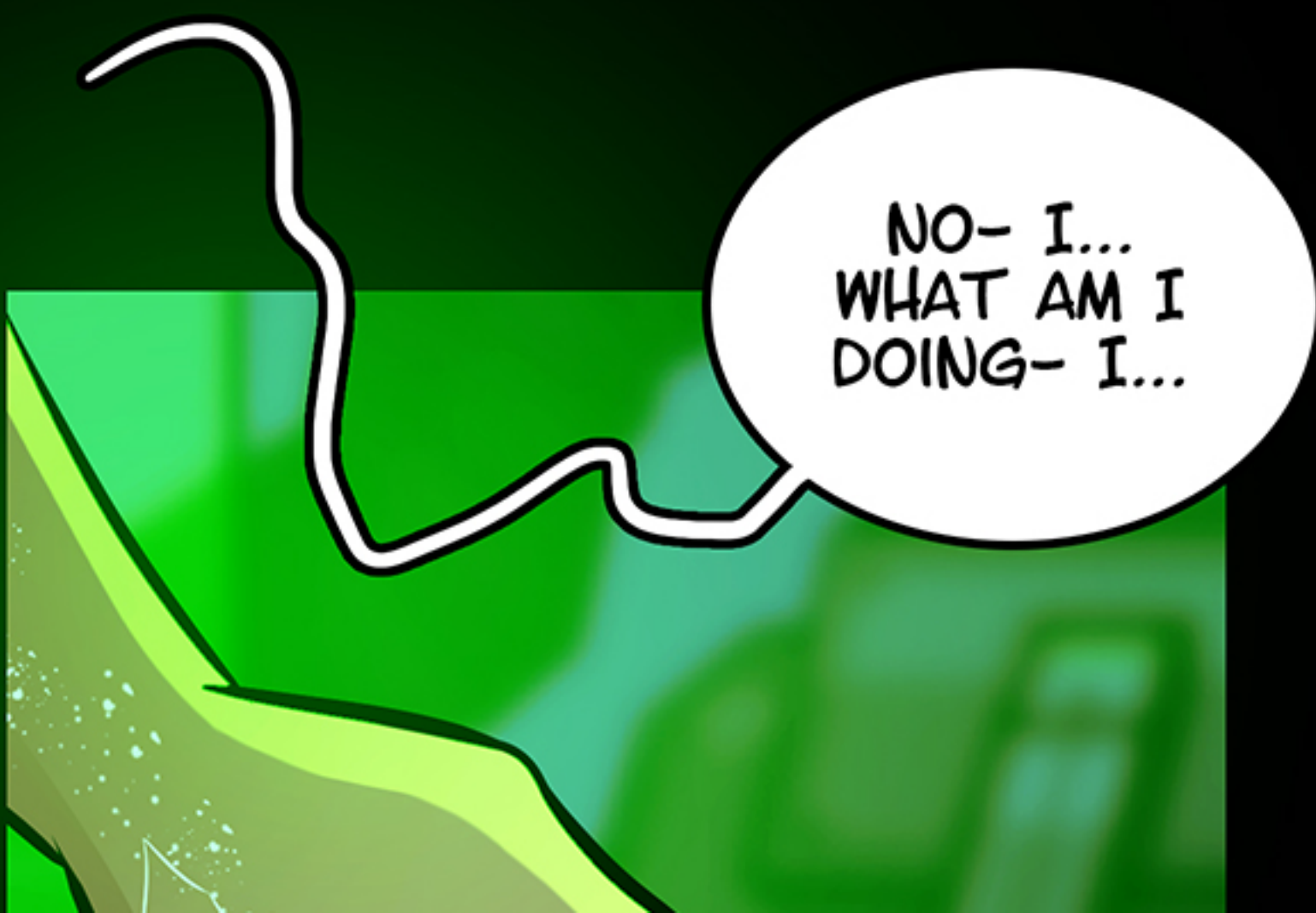








NO...



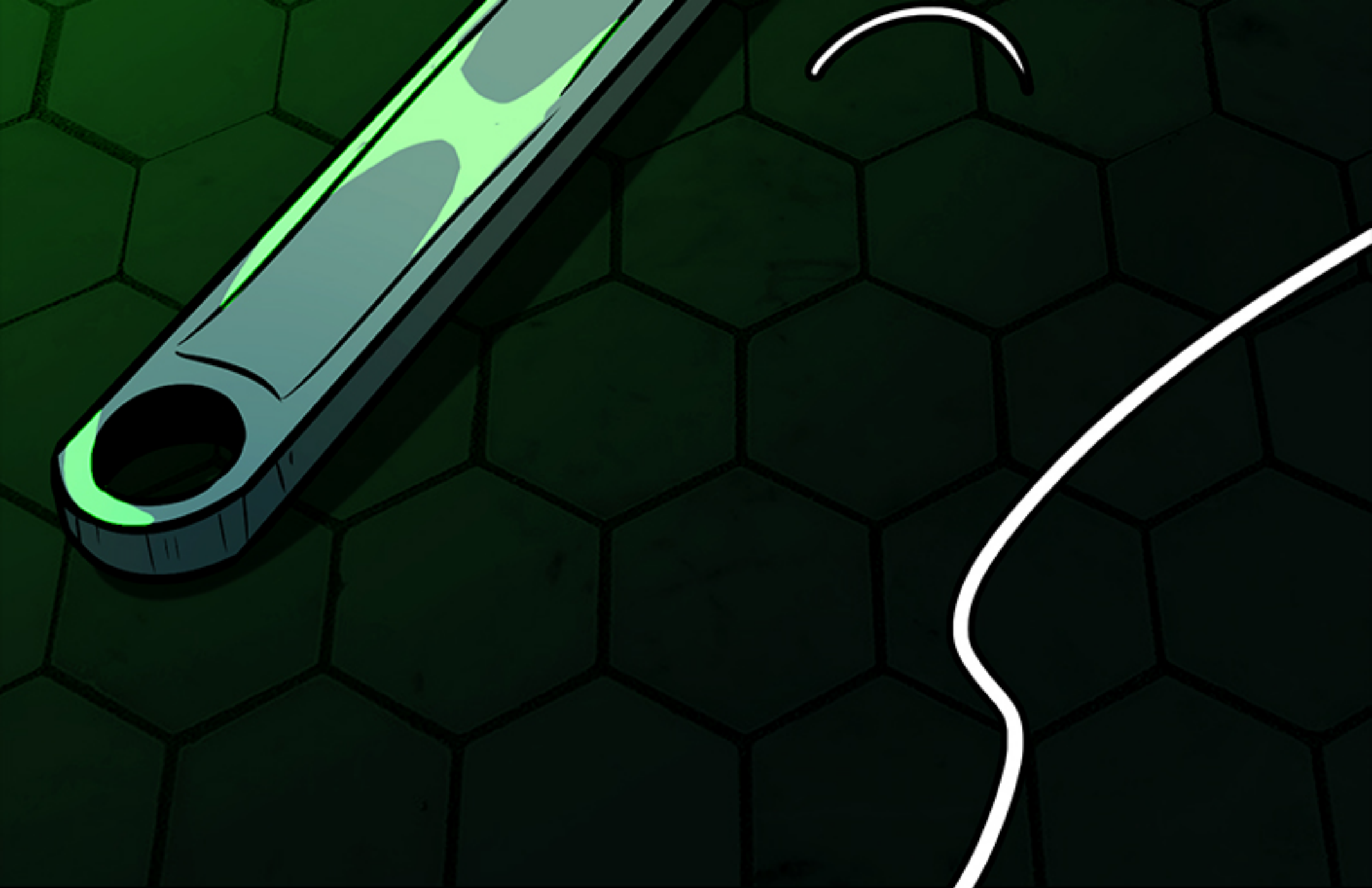
NO- I...
WHAT AM I
DOING- I...



I CAN'T....

NOT
NOW-





I DIDN'T-
I DON'T WANT
TO-

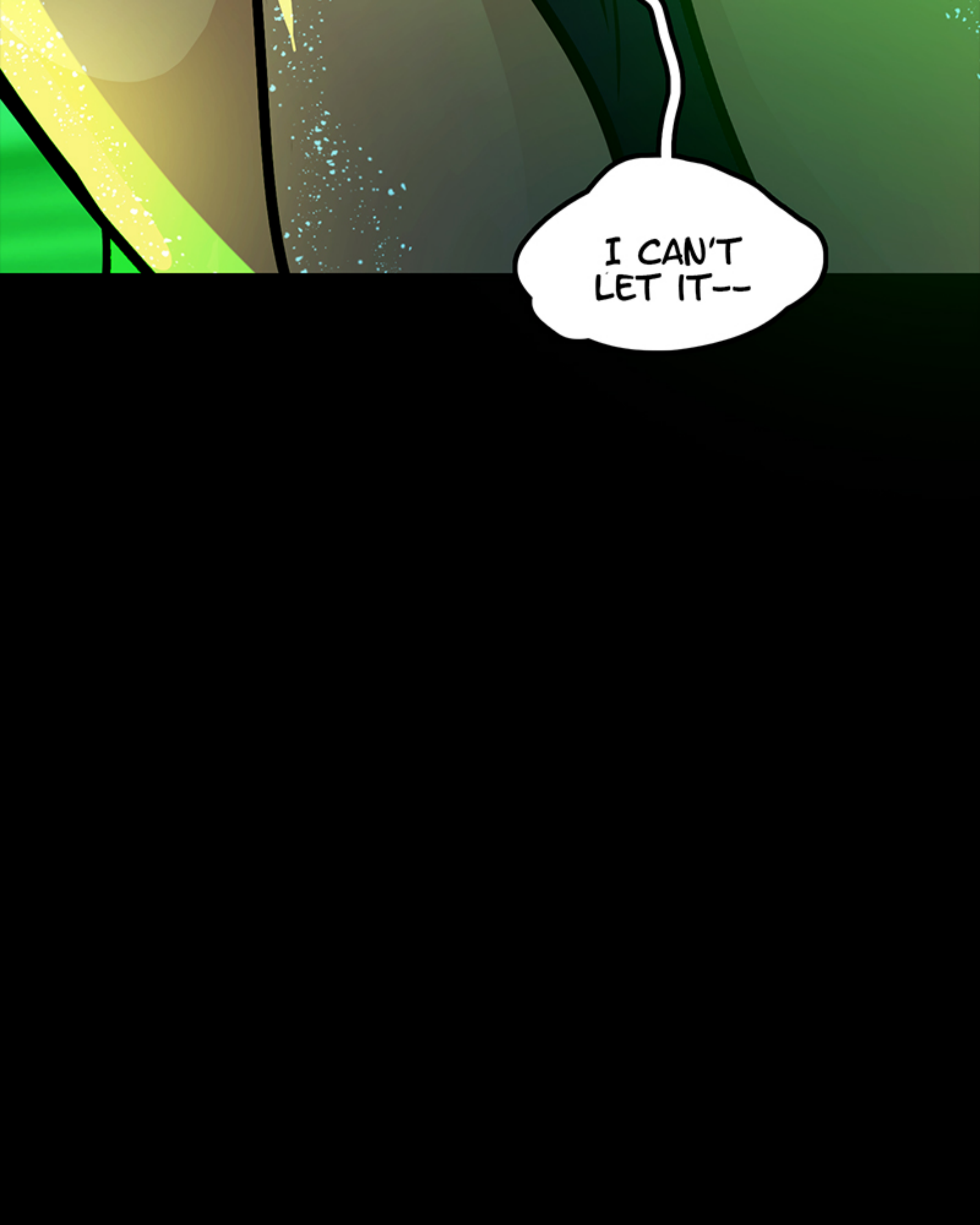






NOT NOW.
NOT NOW.
NOT NOW.





I CAN'T
LET IT--

LOVEBOT

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Editors | Griffin Freitas & Bre Boswell

Thank you
for reading! ♥



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