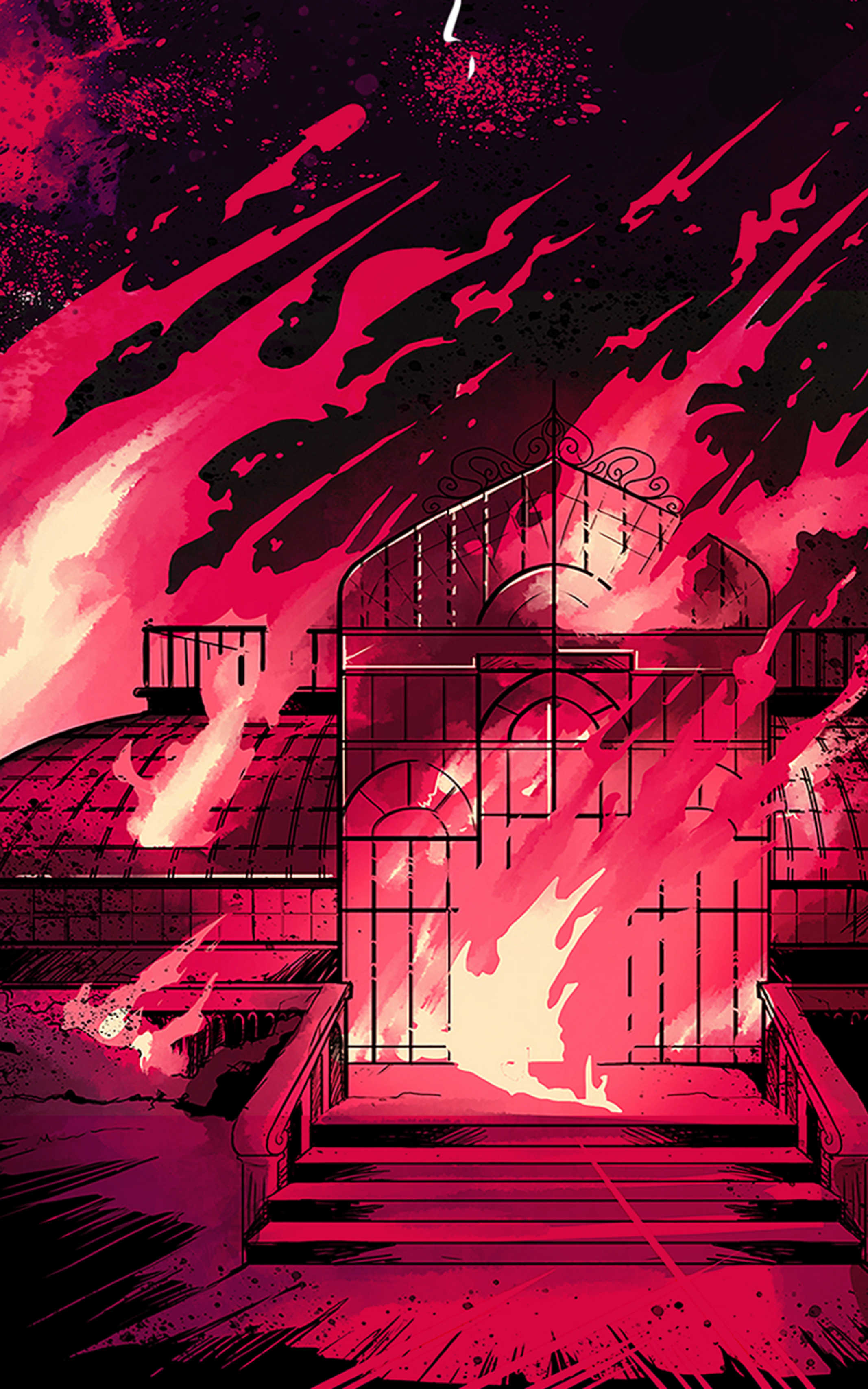




"IN THAT RUINED
GREENHOUSE YOU
CAN'T EVEN
STAND TO LOOK
AT."



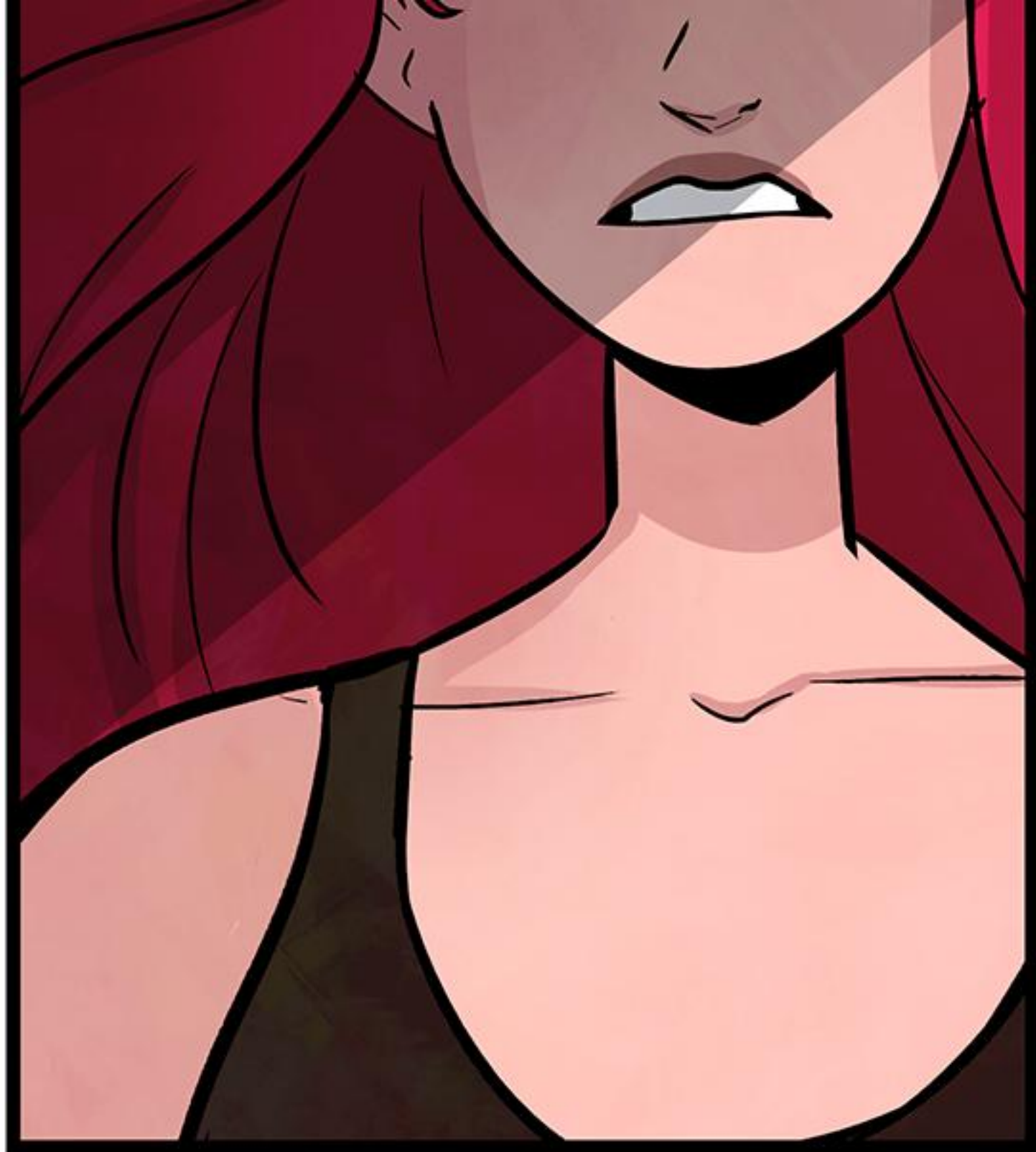
CAMILLE!



RUN!!!







IT'S A DISGRACE-





SHE IS
YOUR NIECE!

HOW CAN YOU
EXPECT HER TO THRIVE WHEN
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN LET
HER BOND WITH HER
FAMILIAR

FOR
THE PAST
8 YEARS!



IT'S
ASTOUNDING
THAT SHE'S EVEN
DOING HALF AS WELL
AS SHE IS CONSIDERING
WHAT YOU'VE PUT
HER THROUGH,
ATHALIE.



**HOW DARE
YOU- WATCH
YOUR TONE!**



A comic panel featuring a speech bubble. The speech bubble has a small tail pointing towards the top left and a larger main body. The text is written in a simple, hand-drawn style. The background is white, with a dark grey, textured area at the bottom. A red, curved shape is visible in the top right corner, and a brown, rectangular shape is in the bottom left corner.

NO.

I THINK
WE BOTH KNOW
YOU'RE OUT OF
LINE.



IF IT WAS
YOU THAT HAD DIED
AND YOUR SISTER
TOOK AVALINE IN
INSTEAD,

SHE
WOULD HAVE *NEVER*
TREATED HER THE WAY
THAT YOU ARE TREATING
CAMILLE.





IF I HAD KNOWN

IF I HAD KNOWN
YOU'D GO THIS FAR I WOULD
HAVE INSISTED THAT SHE
REMAINED AT THE MANOR TO
SPARE HER FROM ENDURING
YOUR TESTS.



THEN WHAT ARE YOU
SUGGESTING THAT WE
DO ABOUT THIS?





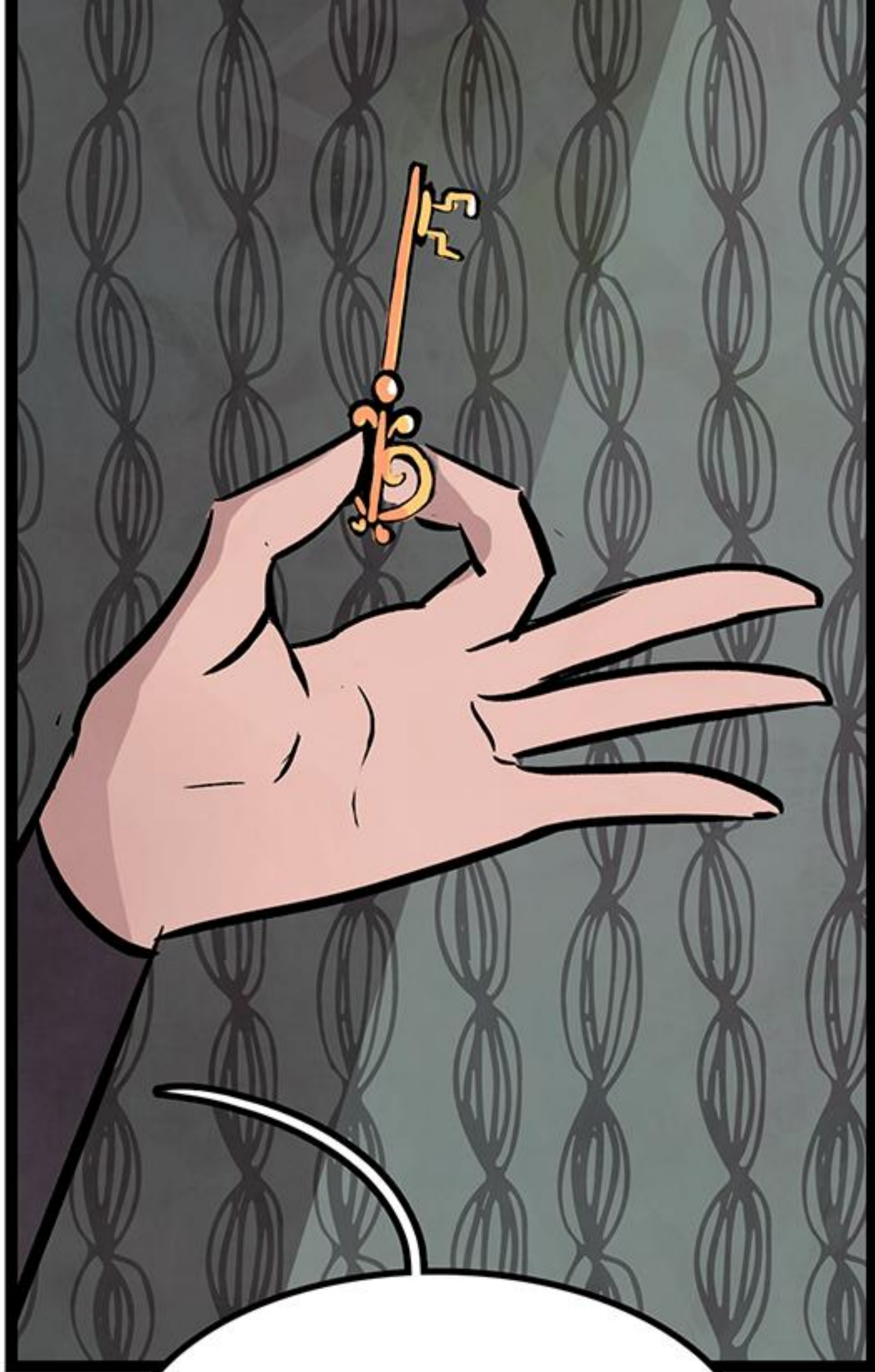
LEAVE HER
HERE FOR NOW... RETURN TO
THE CITY THAT YOU LOVE SO
MUCH, CONTINUE TOTING AROUND
YOUR DAUGHTER TO THE RICHEST
MEN IN TOWN...



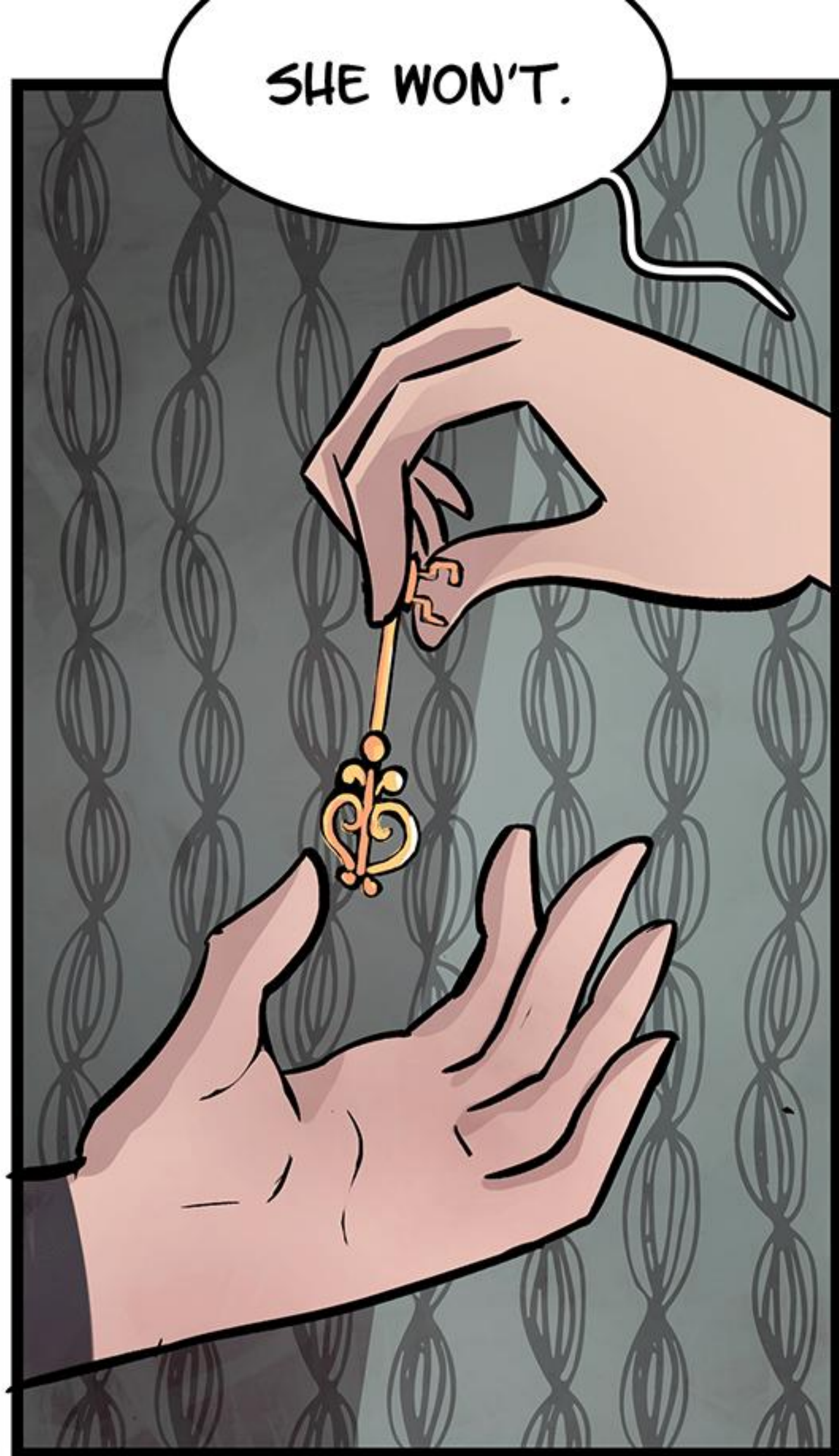


AND ON THE
NEXT FULL MOON, WE'LL
HAVE THE RITUAL AGAIN.
I PROMISE THAT CAMILLE
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.





AND IF SHE
FAILS AGAIN?



ONE MONTH.

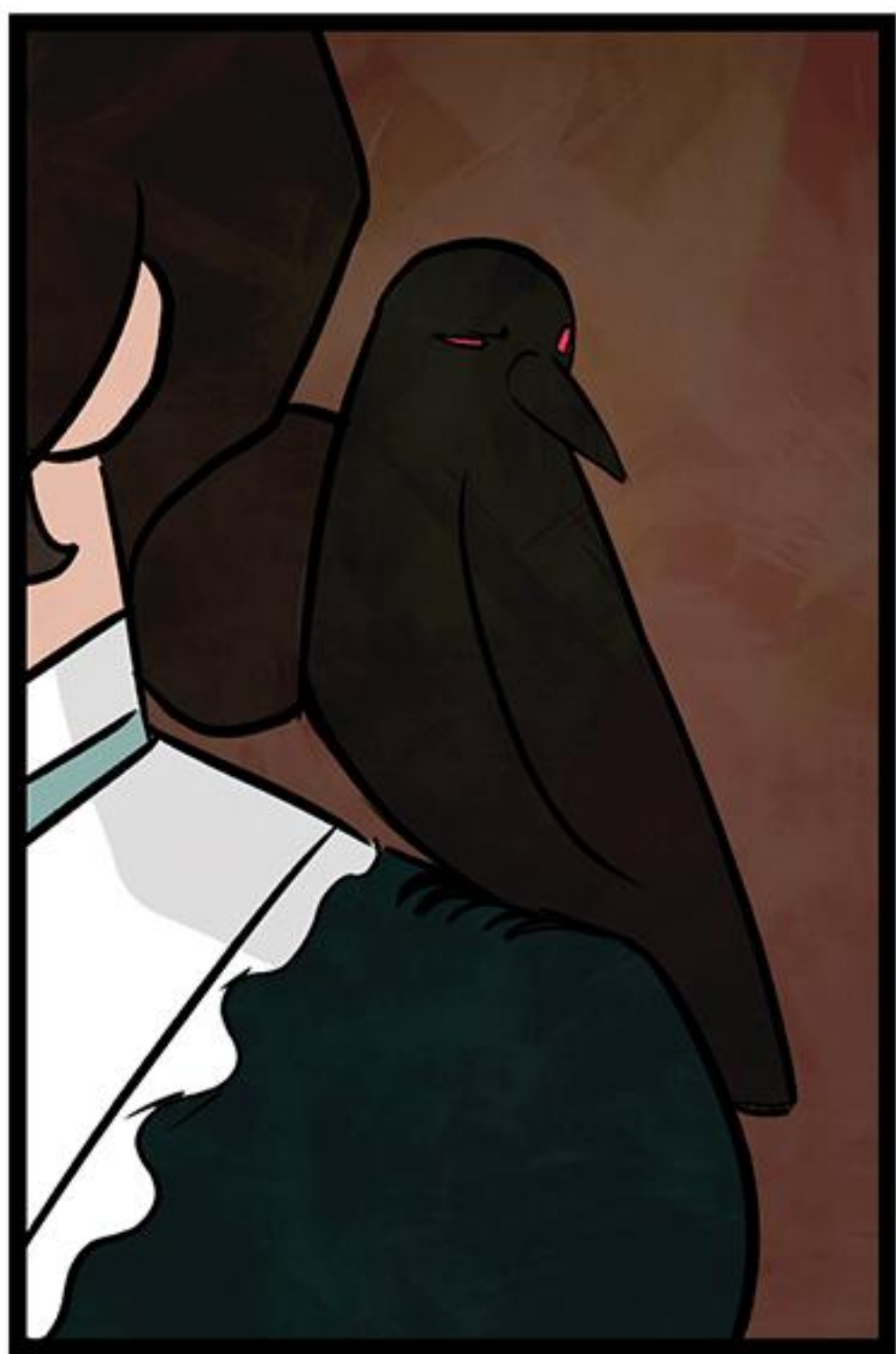
TELL AVALINE
I'LL BE WAITING
FOR HER IN THE
CAR.











MISS AVALINE.

YOUR MOTHER
IS WAITING FOR
YOU OUTSIDE...







5 MINUTES.



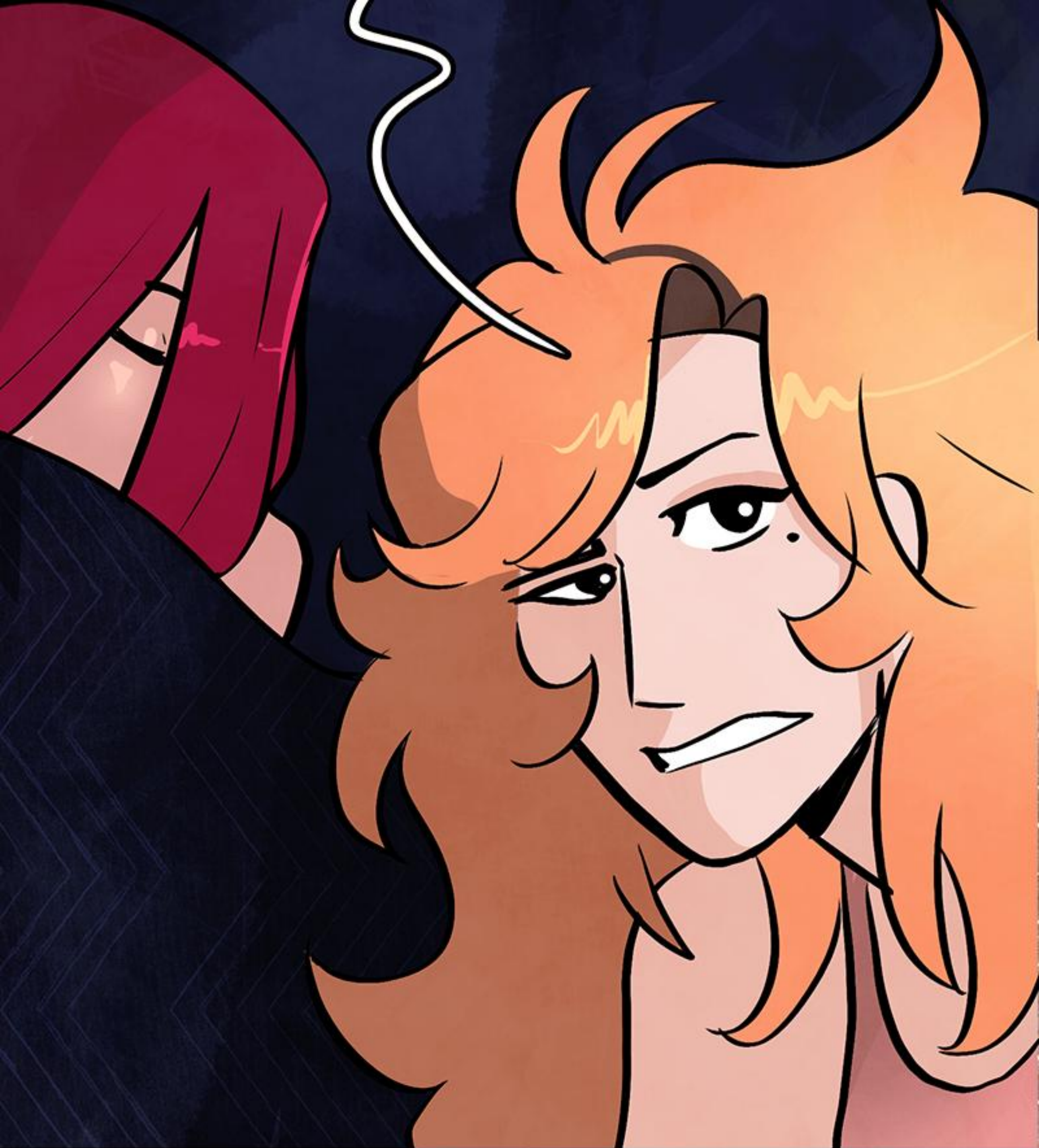


YOU KNOW
HOW IMPATIENT
YOUR MOTHER IS.

COME ON.
I'LL PACK YOUR
THINGS WHILE YOU
SAY GOODBYE.

HUH? MY
GOOD-BYES??

TO WHO?





I THINK
IT'S BEST IF
CAMILLE EXPLAINS
THAT HERSELF.



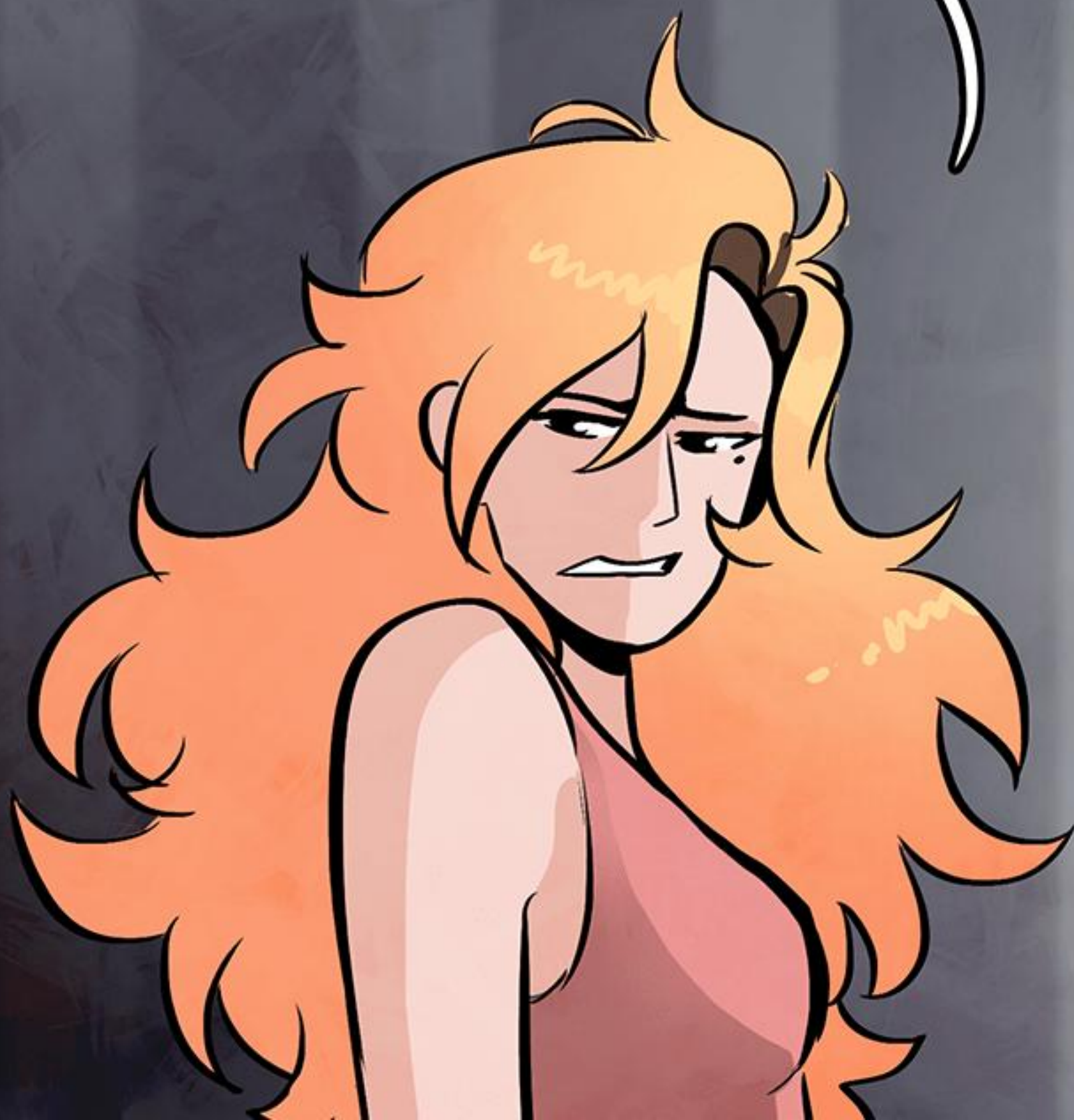
ALRIGHT, CAMILLE?



MHM...

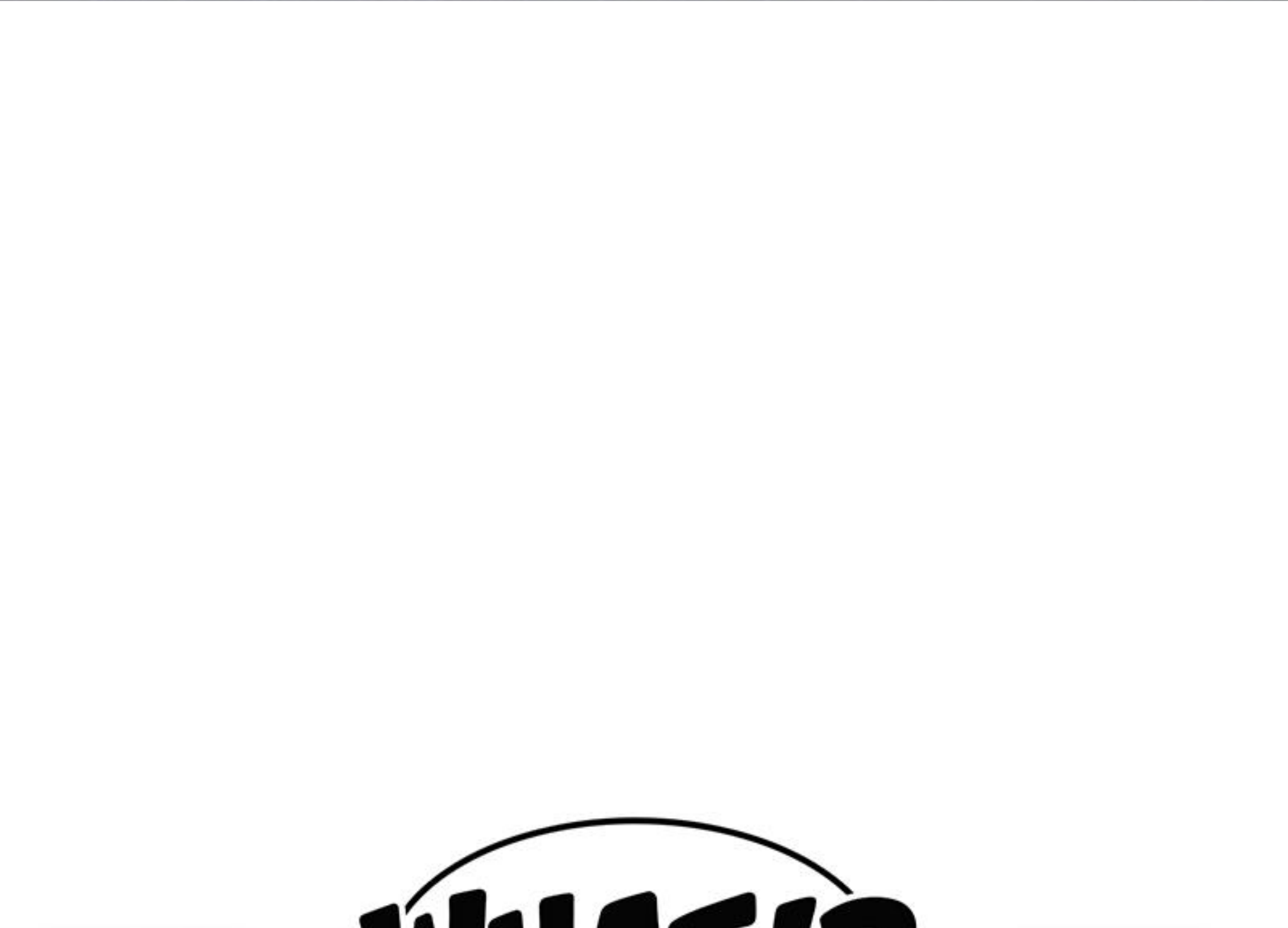
CAUGHT RED HANDED

WHAT IS SHE
TALKING ABOUT
CAMMIE?







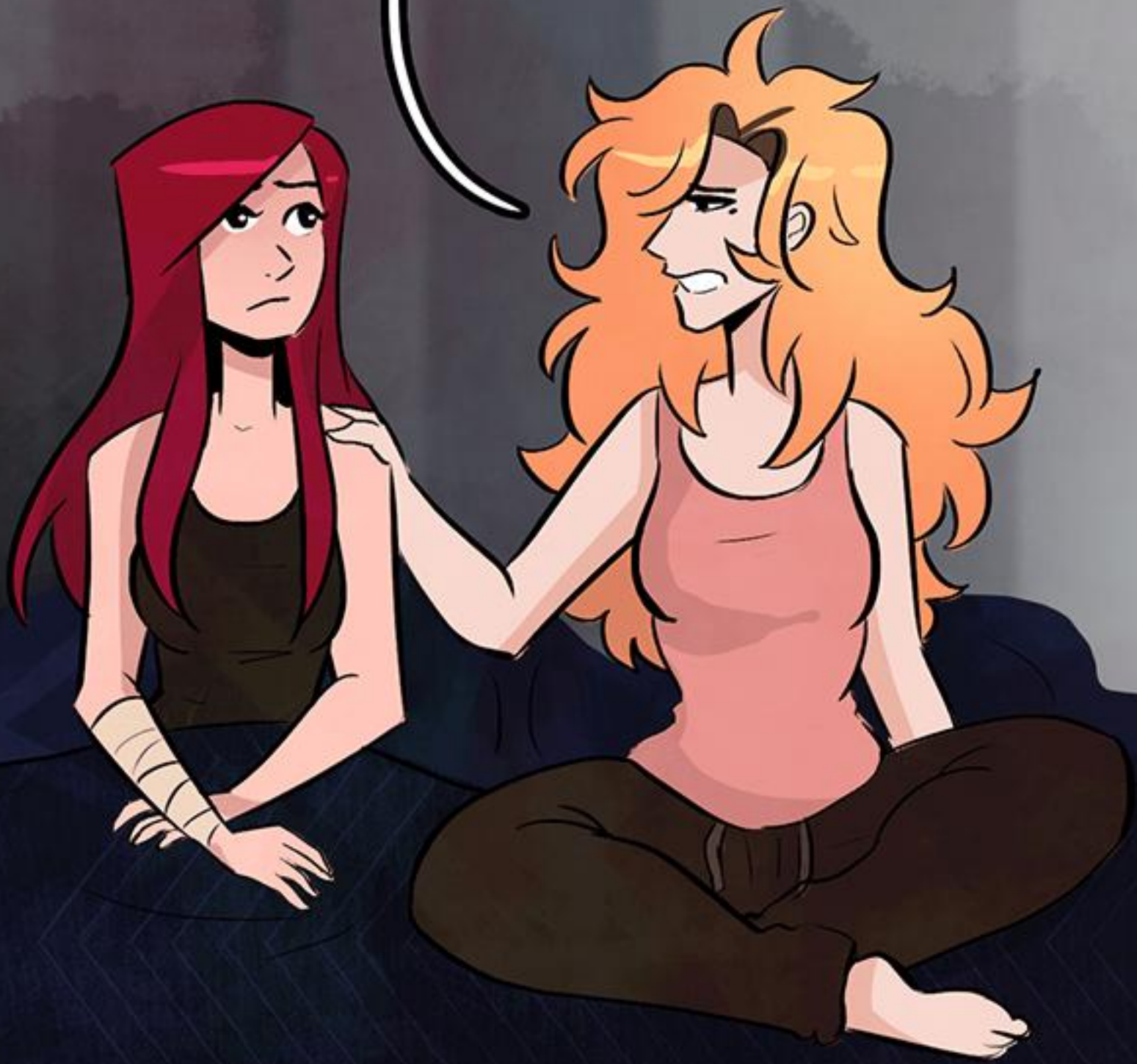




BUT
YOU'RE
SICK!

IF OUR FAMILY
DIDN'T SPECIALIZE IN

DIDN'T SPECIALIZE IN
BLOOD MAGIC YOU PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE DIED!



I'M MUCH
BETTER NOW,
AVI...







WELL...

HOW
CAN I GO BACK
TO NEW ORLEANS
WITHOUT YOU?

WE HAVEN'T
BEEN SEPARATED
FOR MORE THAN 2
WEEKS SINCE YOU
CAME TO LIVE
WITH US!





SINCE THE FIRE, AVALINE HAS
BEEN LIKE A NEW SISTER TO ME.





BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH
SHE CARES, SHE'S NO MATCH
FOR HER MOTHER.



NEITHER OF
US WERE
EVER
STRONG
ENOUGH TO
STAND UP
TO HER
ANGER

ANGER.



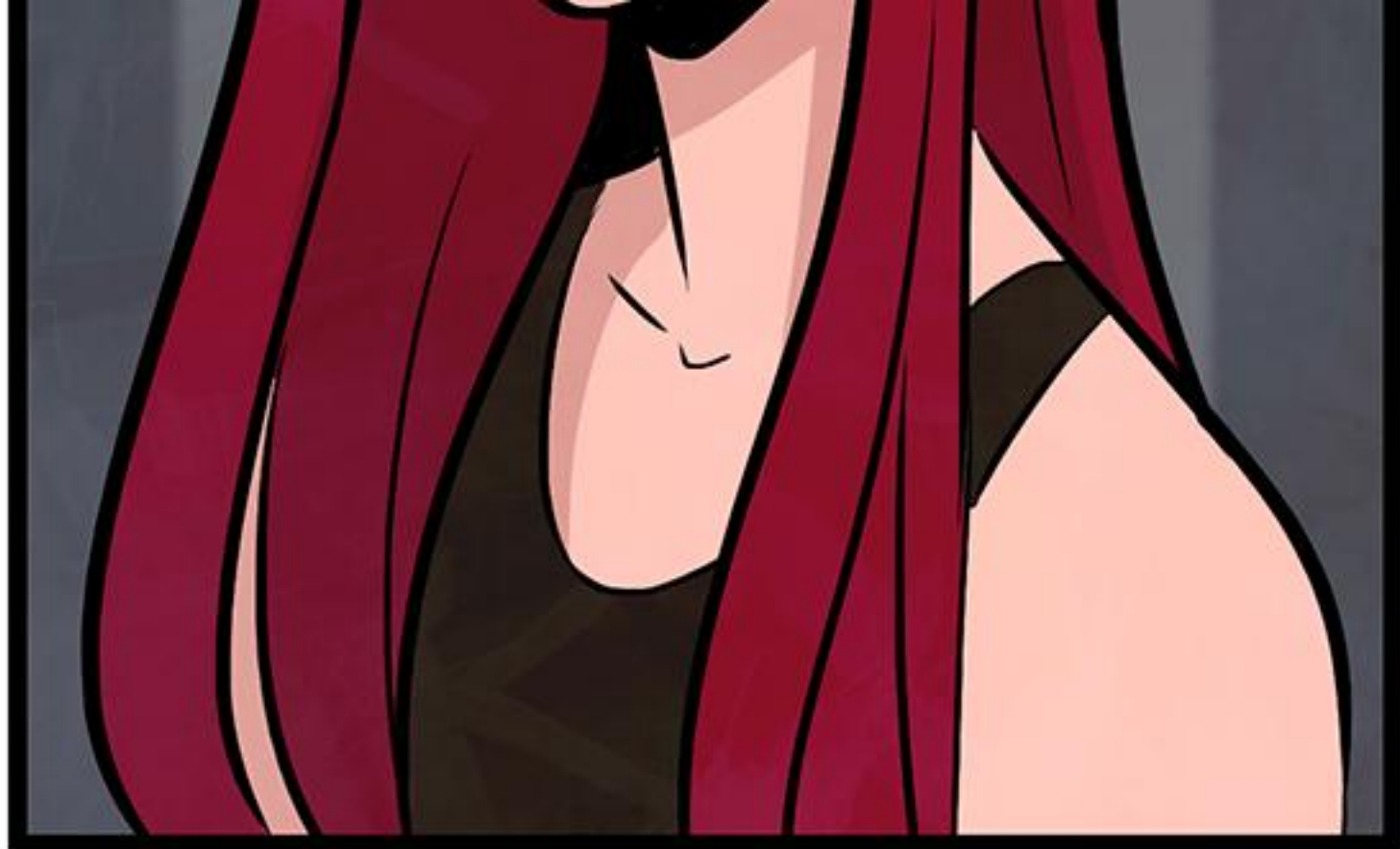
I'M WORRIED...WILL
ANYONE BE ALRIGHT ON HER

AVALINE BE ALRIGHT ON HER OWN? DOES ATHALIE TRUELY ONLY HATE ME - OR WILL SHE TURN ON AVALINE THE MINUTE I'M NOT THERE? I HOPE NOT.

YOU'LL BE
JUST FINE...THE
CITY LIFE SUITS
YOU.

BESIDES,
WE CAN TEXT
EVERYDAY.

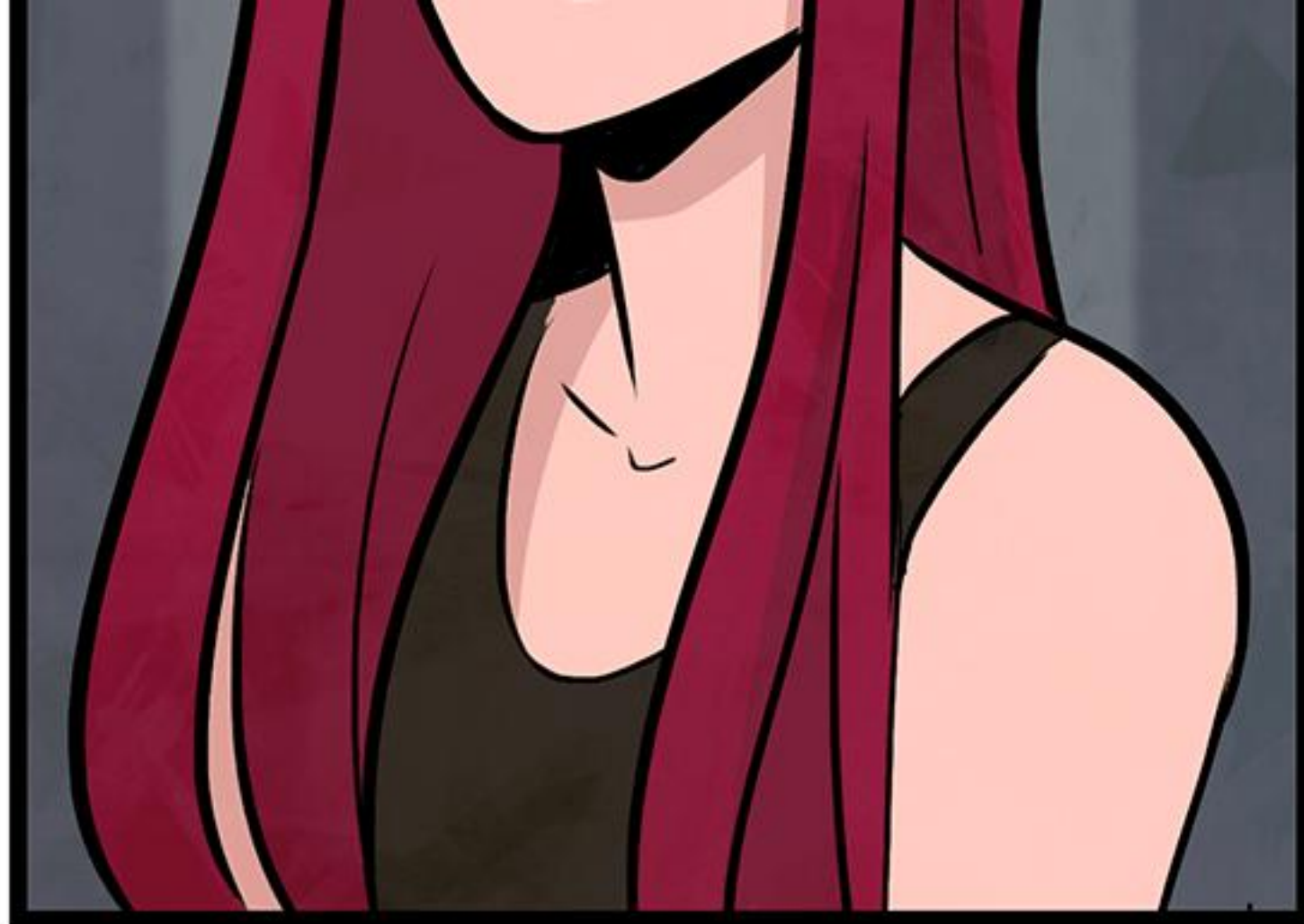




AND I...

I...THINK
TAKING A BREAK
WILL BE GOOD
FOR ME.





TAKING A
BREAK FROM MY MOM,
YOU MEAN.



YEAH...





YOU REALLY
SCARED US YOU
KNOW...

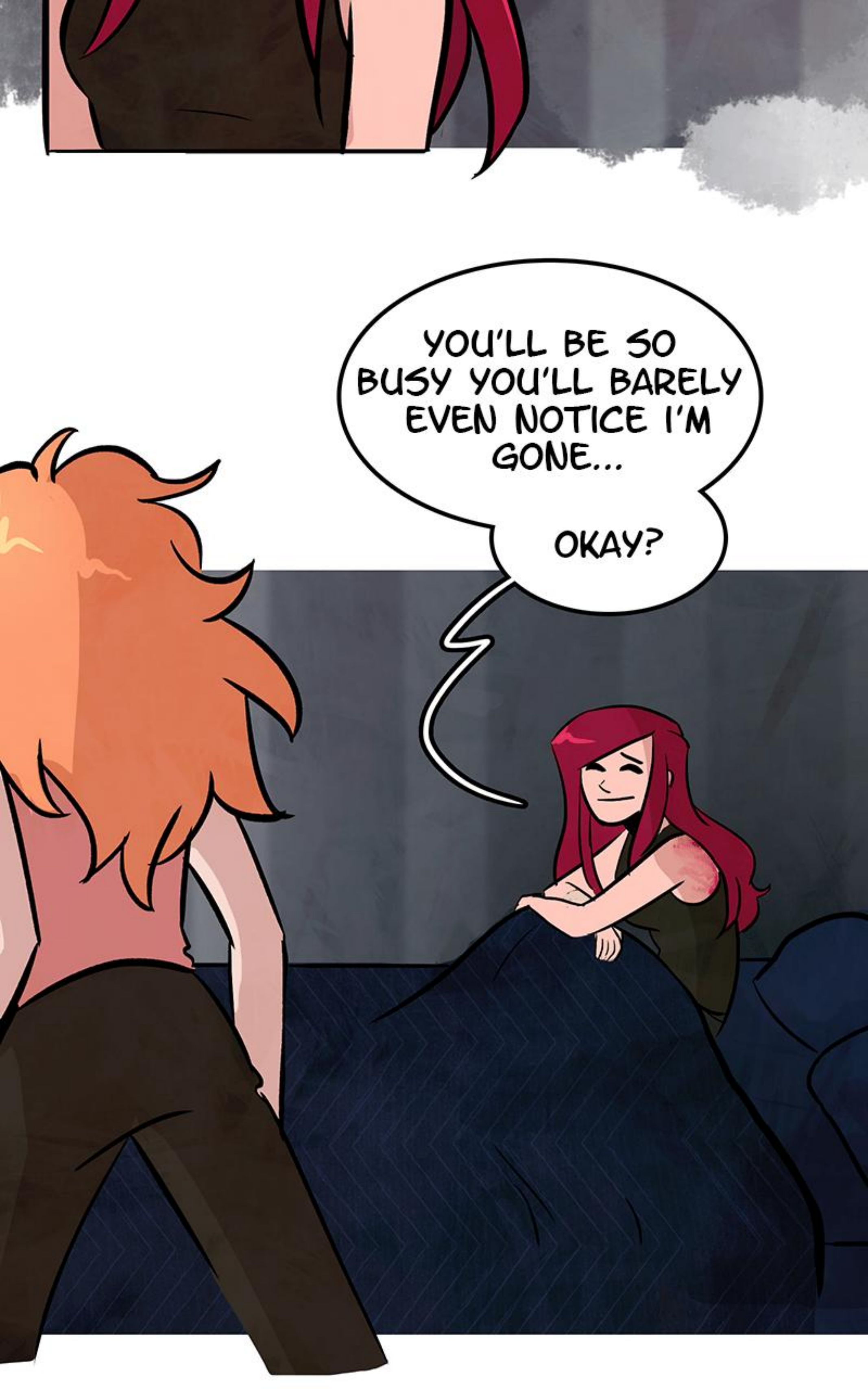




DON'T
GO DOING ANYMORE
CRAZY STUFF LIKE
THAT OKAY?

I'M SORRY...

I PROMISE
I'LL BE MORE
CAREFUL.



YOU'LL BE SO
BUSY YOU'LL BARELY
EVEN NOTICE I'M
GONE...

OKAY?

I'M FINE, AVI.





STAY SAFE.
DON'T BE CRAZY.
CALL ME ANYTIME.



THAT GOES DOUBLE
FOR YOU... NOW GO ON.
YOU DON'T WANT TO KEEP
YOUR MOM WAITING.



ALRIGHT,
FINE.

I LOVE YOU.
I'LL TEXT WHEN
WE GET HOME,
CAMMIE.



I LOVE YOU.
DRIVE SAFE.







MUTED



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