

THIS CHAPTER HAS REFERENCES TO
SUICIDAL IDEATION THAT MAY BE
UPSETTING FOR SOME READERS.

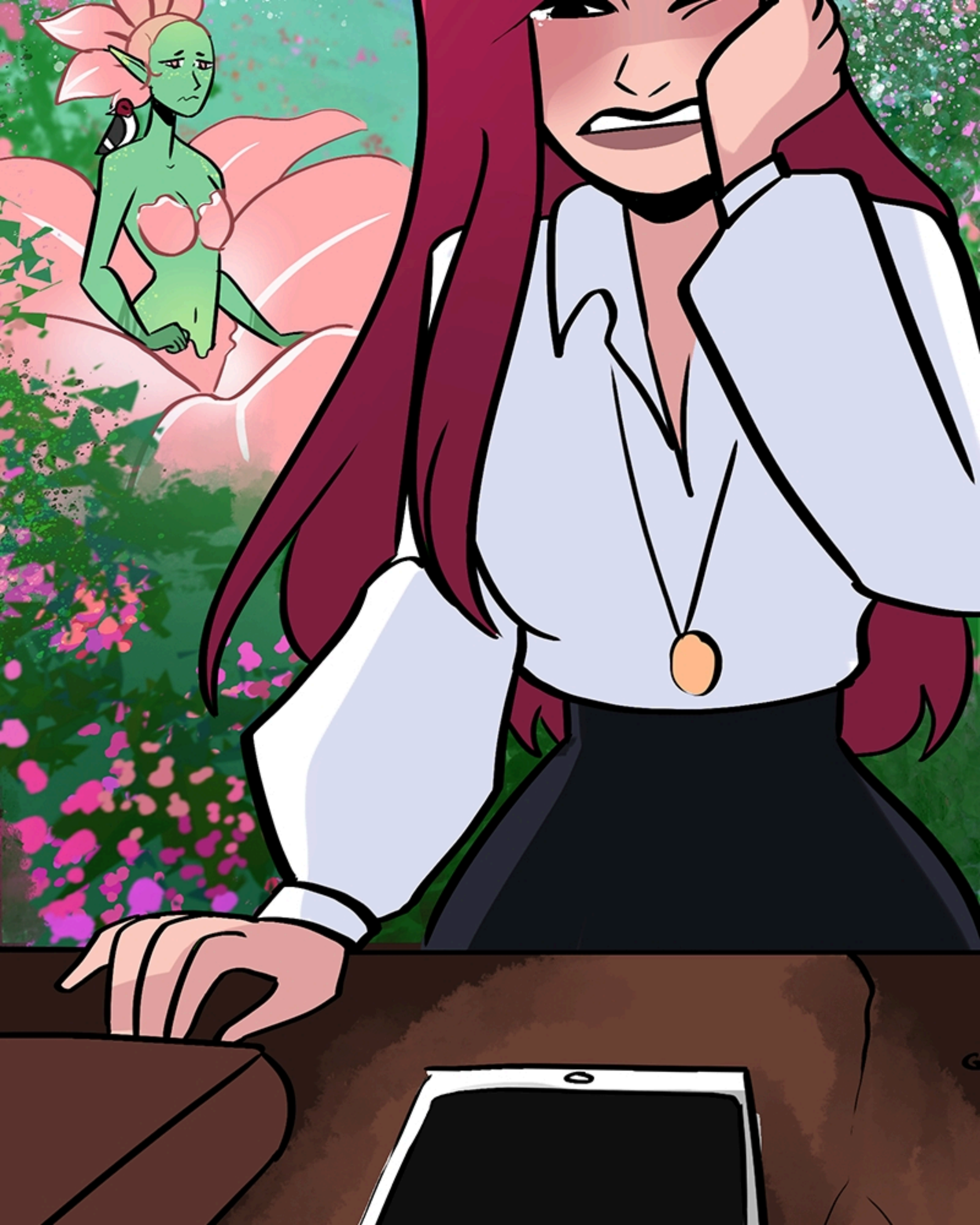
OH GOD-





I'M SO
SORRY.

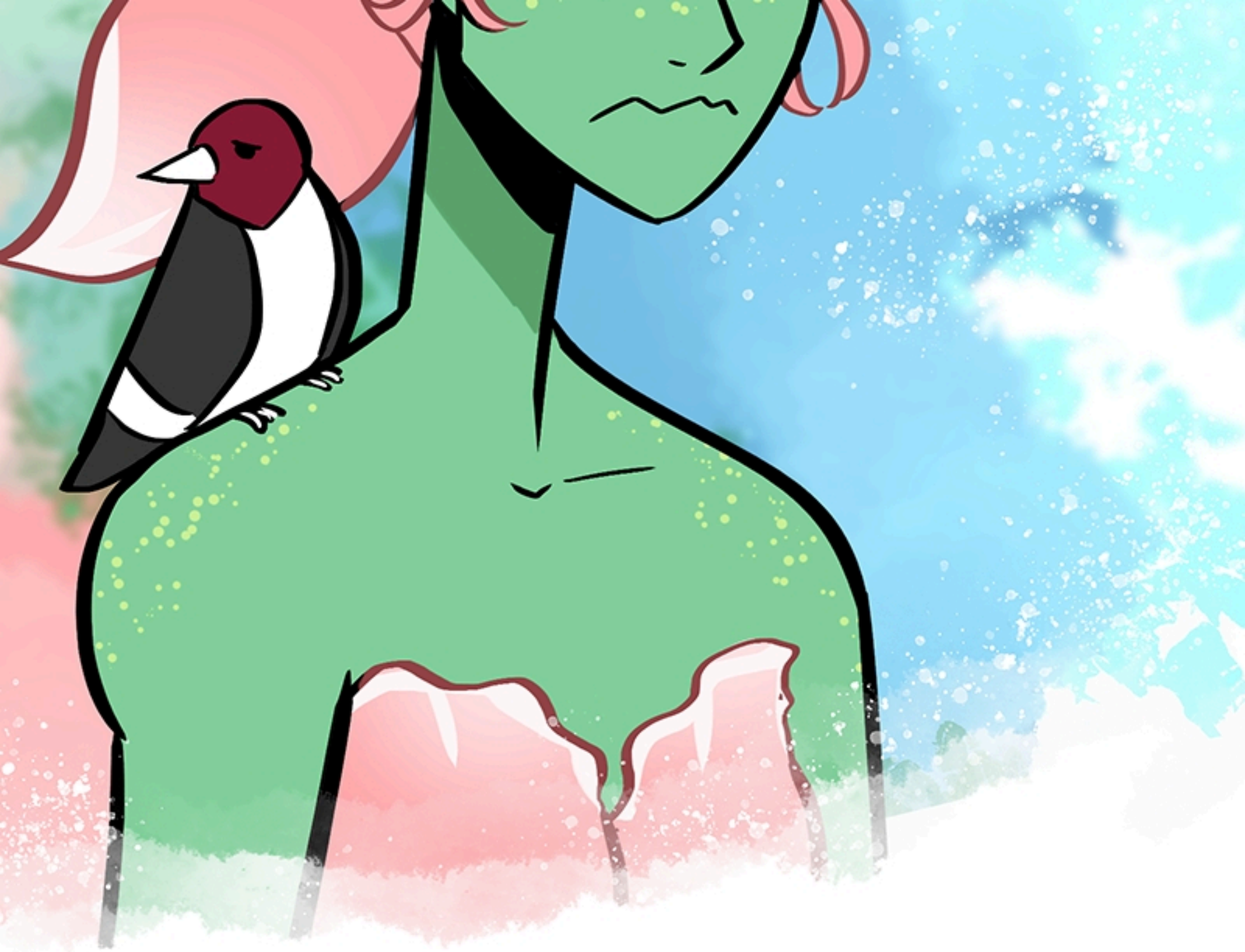
YOU WEREN'T
SUPPOSED TO SEE THAT.
THAT'S EMBARRASSING...



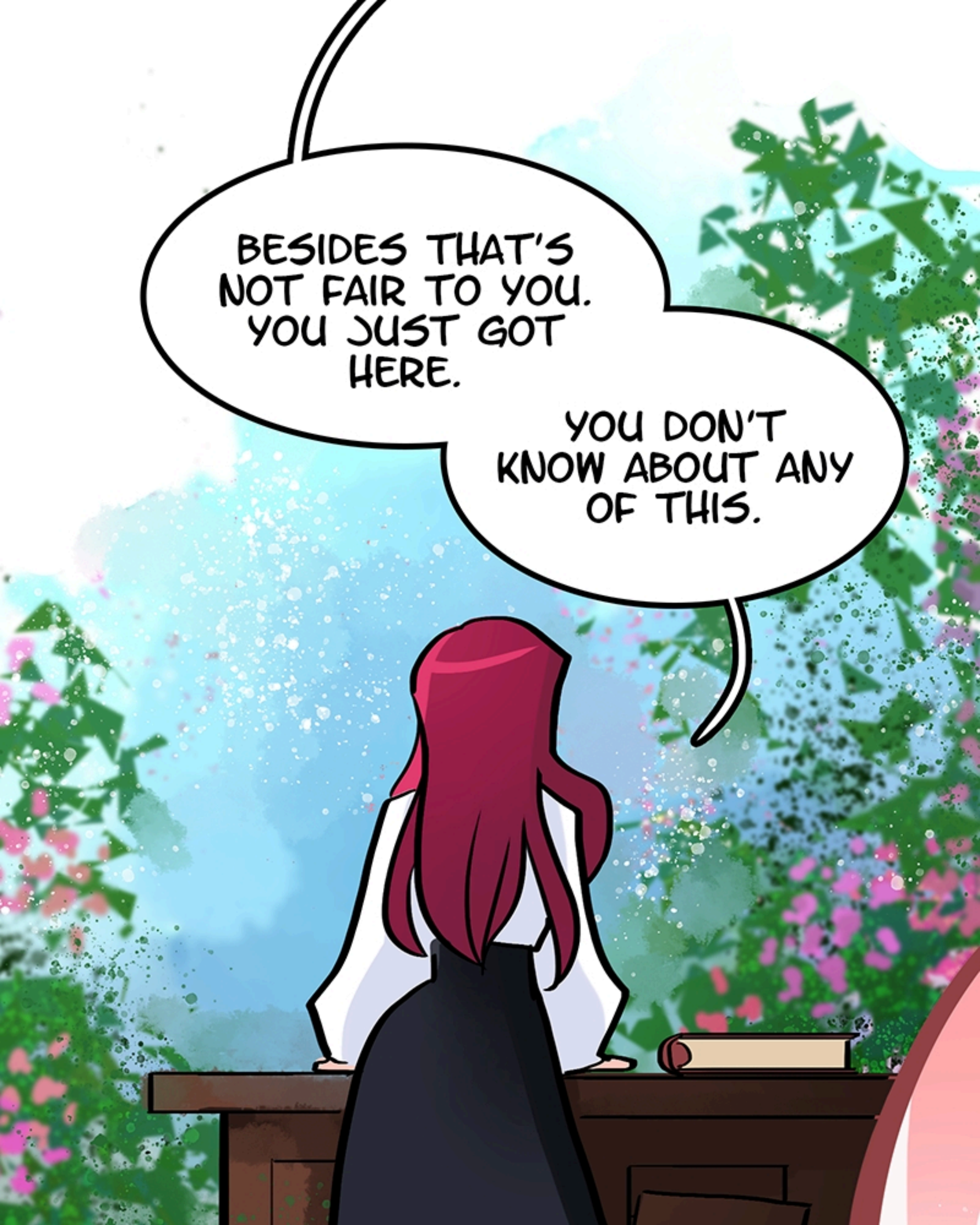


IF YOU NEED
TO TALK, YOU CAN
TALK TO ME,
CAMILLE...

YOU'RE
HURTING...



NO IT'S FINE.
I JUST NEED A
MOMENT.

A woman with long, flowing red hair is seen from behind, standing on a dark wooden ledge. She is wearing a white long-sleeved top and a dark, possibly black, skirt. Her hair is a vibrant red. She is looking out over a lush, magical forest. The trees are green with many small, glowing white and pink particles floating in the air, suggesting a magical or enchanted environment. A speech bubble originates from the top left, containing text. Another speech bubble is positioned to the right of the first one, also containing text. The overall style is that of a comic book or a digital illustration.

BESIDES THAT'S
NOT FAIR TO YOU.
YOU JUST GOT
HERE.

YOU DON'T
KNOW ABOUT ANY
OF THIS.



EXACTLY!

I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING! I'M A
NEUTRAL PARTY!
JUST A WALL
TO VENT AT!

AND IT'S NOT
AS IF I WOULD TELL
ANYONE WHAT YOU SAID.

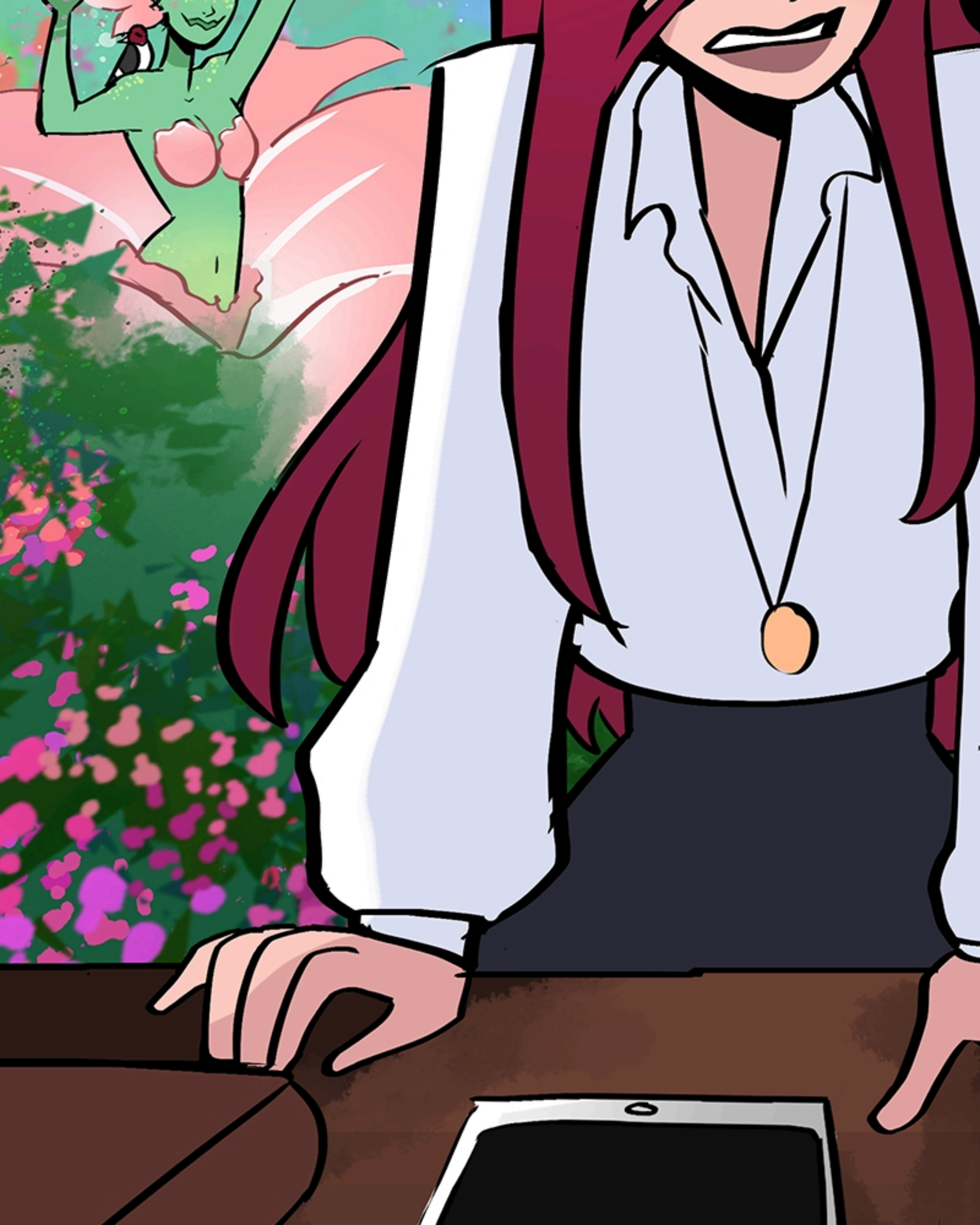
I ONLY KNOW YOU AND
TOBEN!





FEEL
YOUR FEELINGS!

LET IT
ALL OUT!





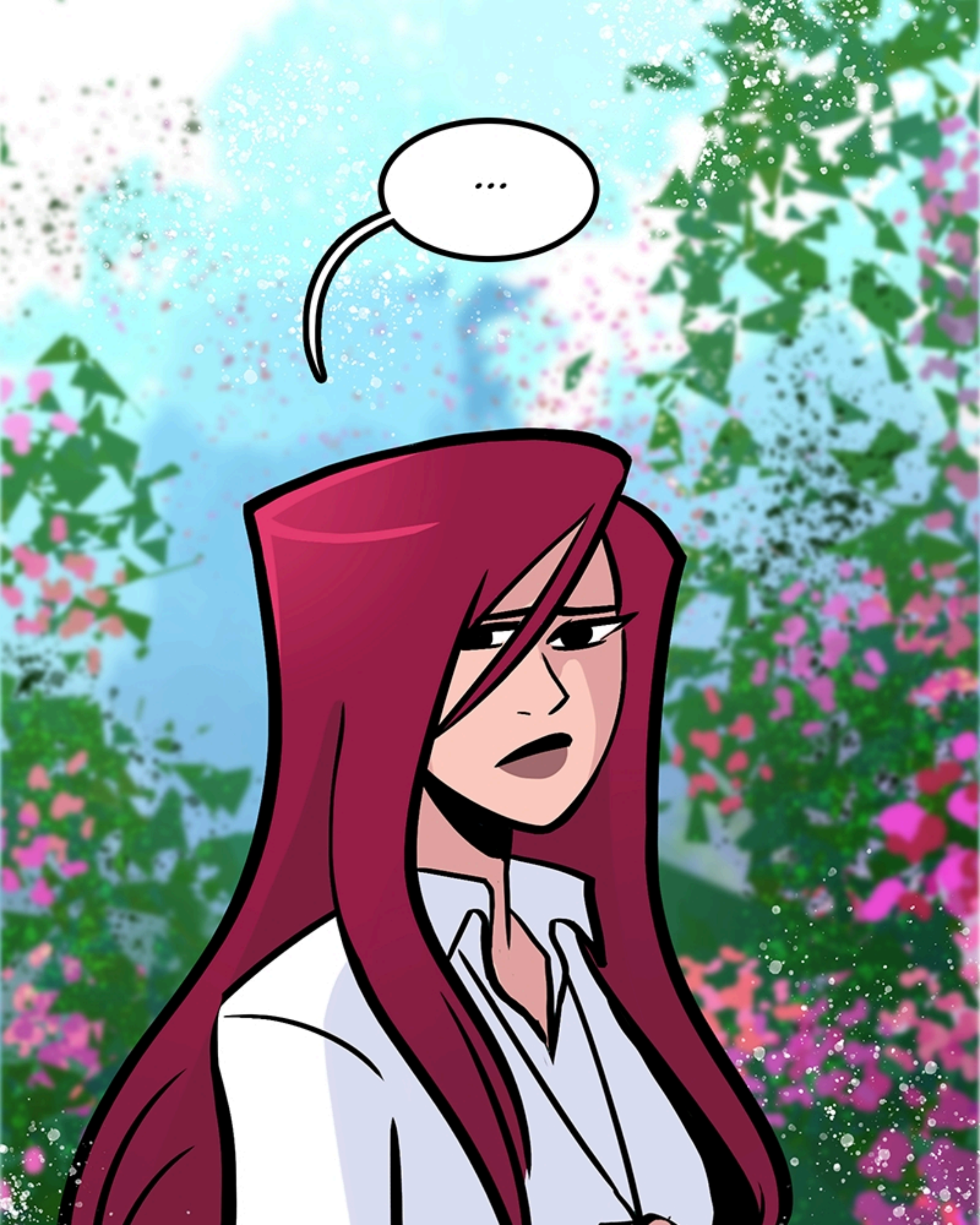
WHEN WAS THE
LAST TIME YOU REALLY
EVER CRIED?

OR LET YOURSELF
FEEL YOUR FEELINGS WITHOUT
WONDERING HOW EVERYONE ELSE
WOULD RESPOND?



A comic book panel featuring a speech bubble. The top of the panel shows a character's face, with pink skin and dark hair. The speech bubble is a large oval with a double-line border, containing the text "YOU CAN TELL ME... IT'S OKAY...". The background is white with a faint, stylized green plant at the bottom right.

YOU CAN
TELL ME...
IT'S OKAY...





WHEN I WAS
A KID...

MY MOTHER
GAVE ME, MY SISTER
CHLOE, AND HERSELF
A MATCHING LOCKET.

AND INSIDE SHE
WOULD DRAW A BLOOD
SIGIL OF PROTECTION
INSIDE OF IT. SHE'D
REDRAW IT EVERY
YEAR.



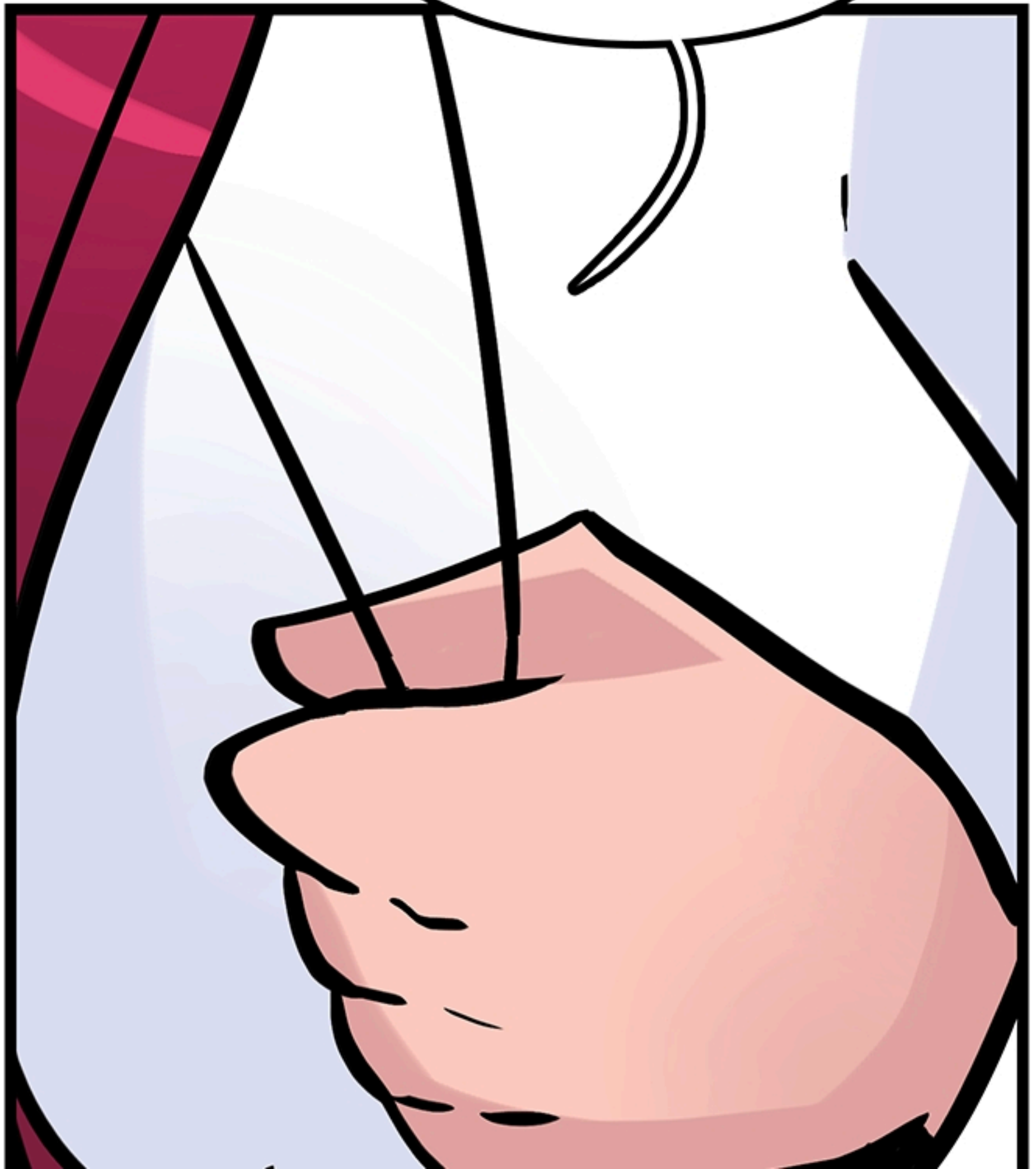


SHE SAID
THEY WERE IMPORTANT.
BUT THEY WERE BOTH VERY
FORGETFUL...

AND I WAS THE
ONLY ONE WEARING
MINE THE NIGHT OF
THE FIRE.

AND SO THEY
DIED.

AND I LIVED.





AND I'VE SPENT
THE LAST 13 YEARS...

HOPING THAT WHATEVER
GRIM REAPER MISSED ME THE
FIRST TIME WOULD COME BACK
ONCE THEY REALIZED THEIR
MISTAKE-

BECAUSE
I'VE WANTED TO
DIE EVER SINCE.





i WANT TO DIE

IT'S A
VOICE THAT
KEEPS ECHOING IN

KEEPS ECHOING IN
THE BACK OF MY HEAD
NO MATTER WHAT
I AM DOING-

IT IS A BACKDROP
TO EVERYTHING!

DIE

i want to die

DIE

i want to

i want to

DIE

DIE
i want to
DIE

STUDYING
OR READING.

DIE

DIE
DIE

DIE
DIE

i want to

i want to

DIE

i WANT TO
DIE

WILL i WANT TO
DIE

WATCHING
A MOVIE.



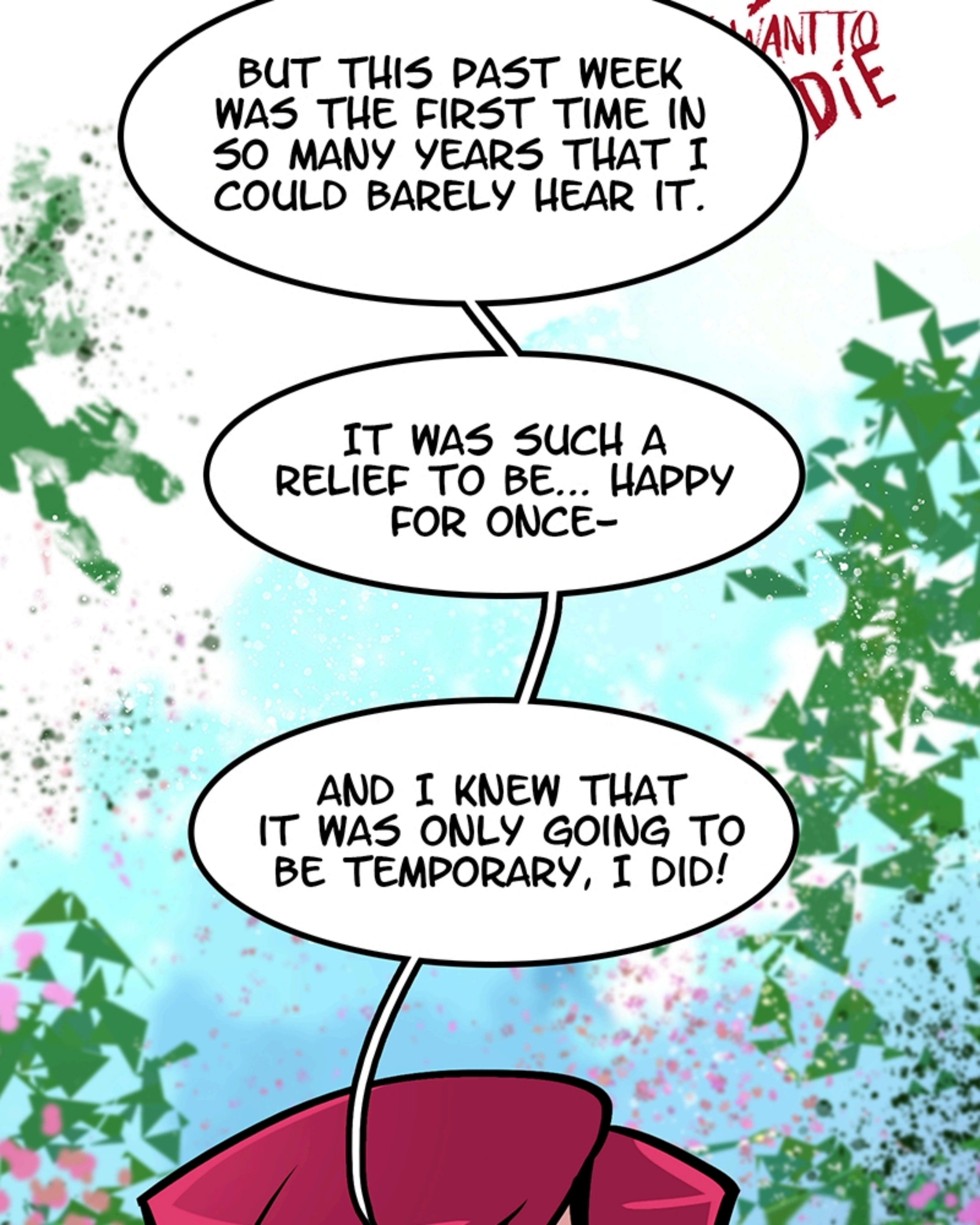
i WANT TO
i WANT TO DIE
DIE

TALKING
TO PEOPLE.

DIE i WANT TO
i WANT TO DIE
DIE



ANYTHING!



BUT THIS PAST WEEK
WAS THE FIRST TIME IN
SO MANY YEARS THAT I
COULD BARELY HEAR IT.

IT WAS SUCH A
RELIEF TO BE... HAPPY
FOR ONCE-

AND I KNEW THAT
IT WAS ONLY GOING TO
BE TEMPORARY, I DID!

WANT TO
DIE





BUT I THOUGHT...
I THOUGHT I HAD AT
LEAST 3 MORE
WEEKS...

I THOUGHT
I COULD BE FREE
TO ENJOY MYSELF
FOR THAT LONG...

OR FIGURE
OUT SOME SORT
OF ALTERNATIVE IN
THAT TIME...





BUT I CAN'T
EVEN HAVE THAT

EVEN HAVE THAT,
HUH....





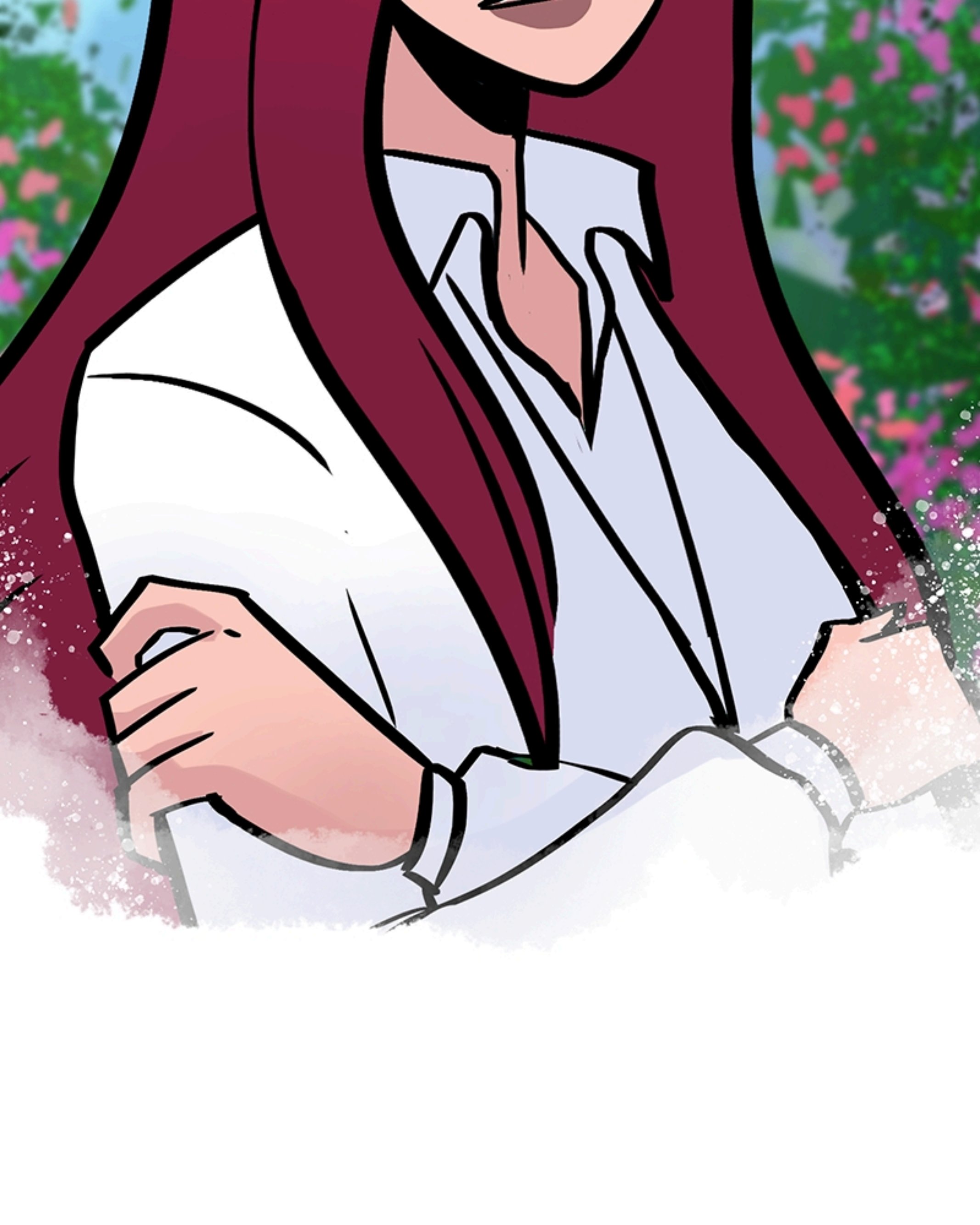
A stylized illustration featuring a woman in the bottom left corner wearing a red hijab and a light blue top, looking upwards. On the right side, a large, close-up profile of a green-skinned face with a pink nose and a slight smile is shown. A white speech bubble with a black outline points from the woman towards the green face. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white with scattered pink and purple specks, suggesting a dreamy or ethereal atmosphere. A large pink circular shape is visible in the top right corner.

WHY NOT?



BECAUSE
IT'S SELFISH.

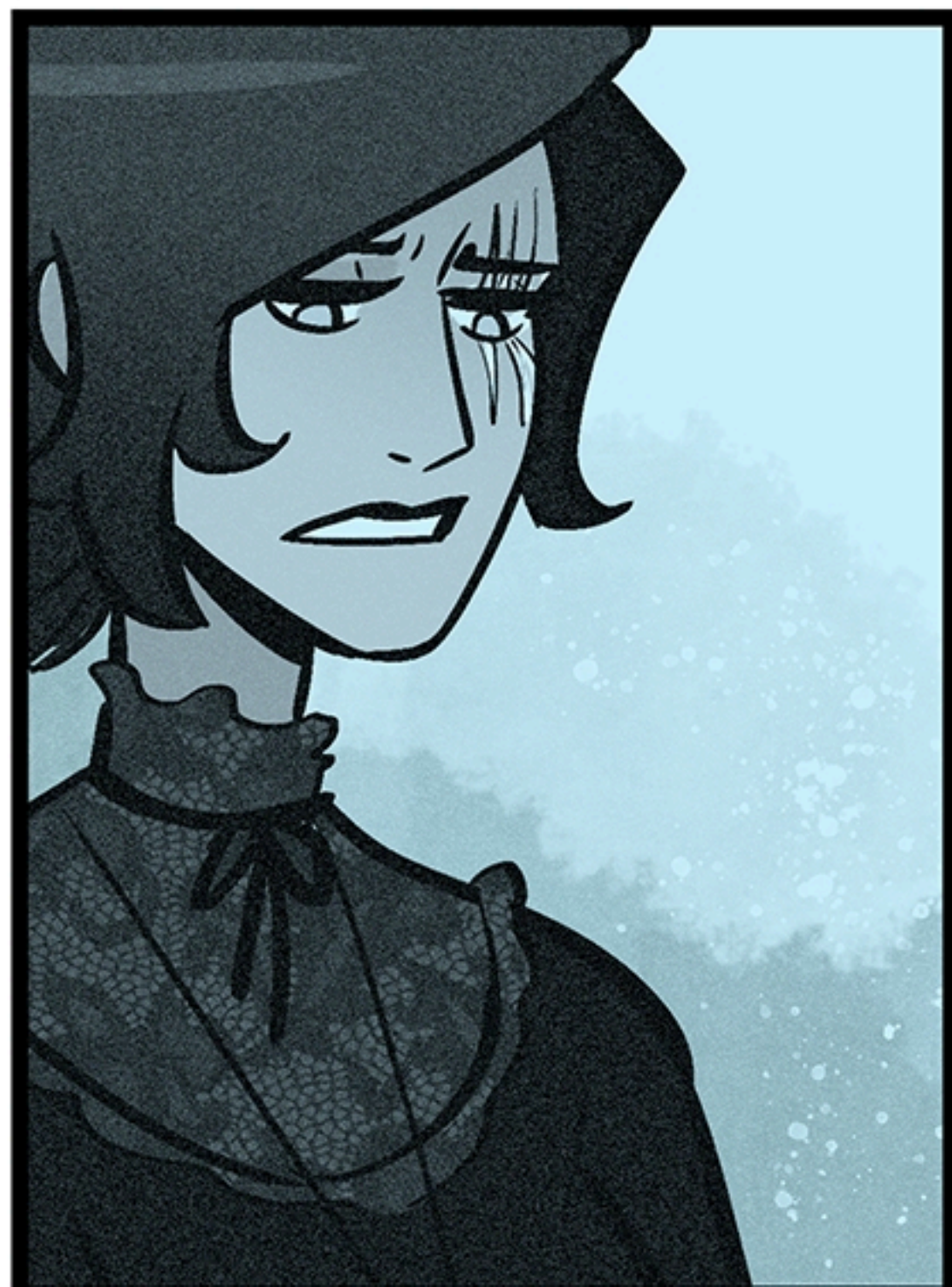




IT'S SELFISH
TO THINK THAT NYRA
WOULD POSTPONE HER
WORK AND HER FAMILY FOR
SOMEONE SHE HAS KNOWN
FOR A WEEK.



SELFISH TO THINK
THAT SILVIA WOULD
ENDANGER HER POSITION
IN THE FAMILY TO GUARD
ME FROM ATHALIE ANYMORE
THAN SHE ALREADY HAS.



SELFISH TO EXPECT
MY GRANDMOTHER TO
SAFEGUARD A HALF-LEROUX
WHEN MY EXISTANCE IS
AGAINST THE RULES
OF ALL THE WITCH
FAMILIES.



AND IT IS
ESPECIALLY SELFISH...
FOR ME TO LEAVE AVALINE
SUFFERING ALONE...



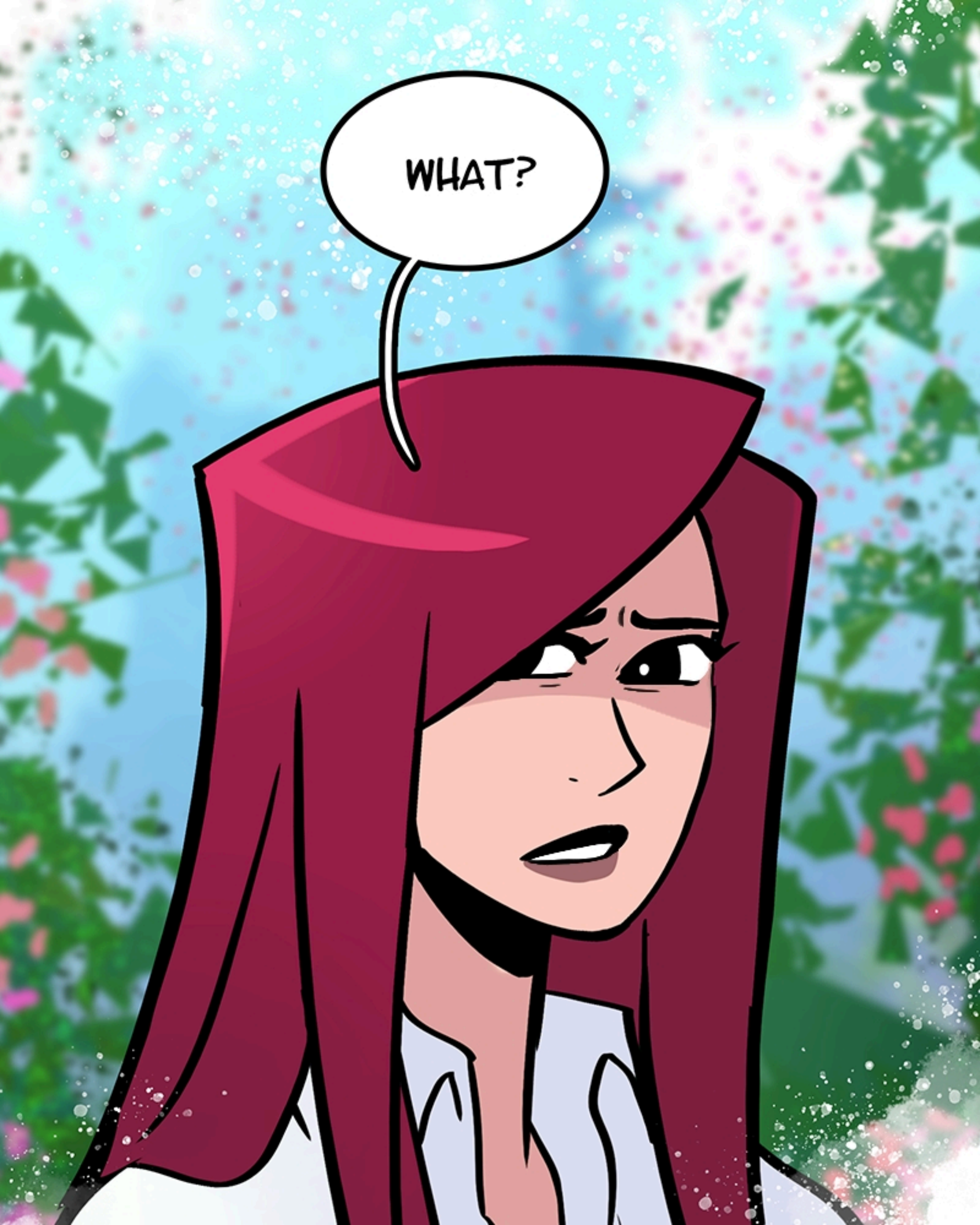
A comic book panel featuring a woman with long, straight, reddish-brown hair. She is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. A large speech bubble originates from her mouth, containing two lines of text. The background is a soft-focus image of green foliage and pink flowers under a bright blue sky with white bokeh light effects.

SELFISH,
JUST LIKE MY
MOTHER.

JUST LIKE
ATHALIE ALWAYS
SAID.



IS IT?

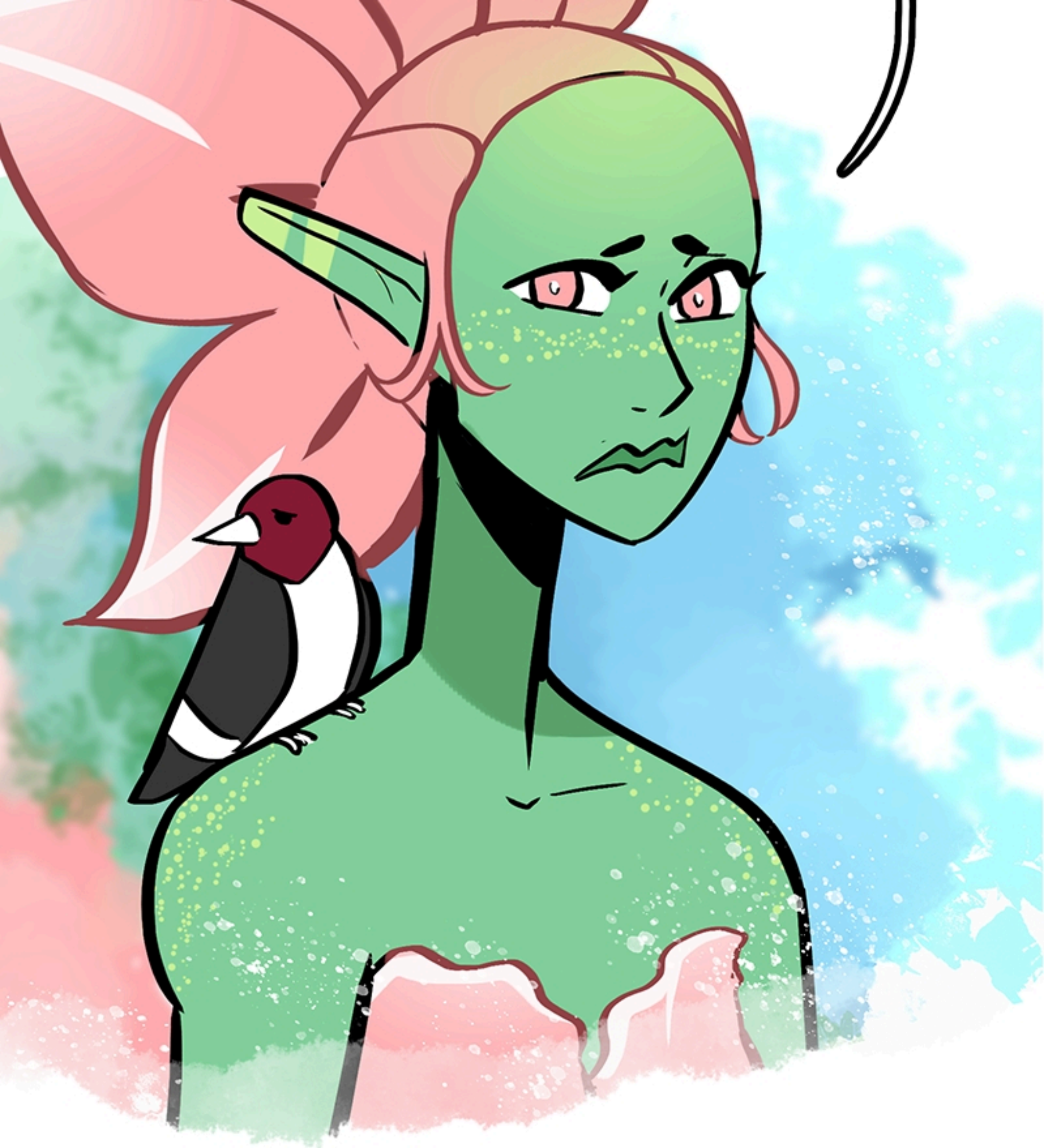


WHAT?

A comic panel featuring two speech bubbles. The background includes stylized purple and blue clouds at the top and pink, petal-like shapes at the bottom. Two long, dark red, teardrop-shaped elements hang from the top. The first speech bubble contains the text "IS IT REALLY SELFISH?". The second speech bubble, positioned below and to the right of the first, contains the text "BECAUSE FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD SO FAR..".

IS IT REALLY
SELFISH?

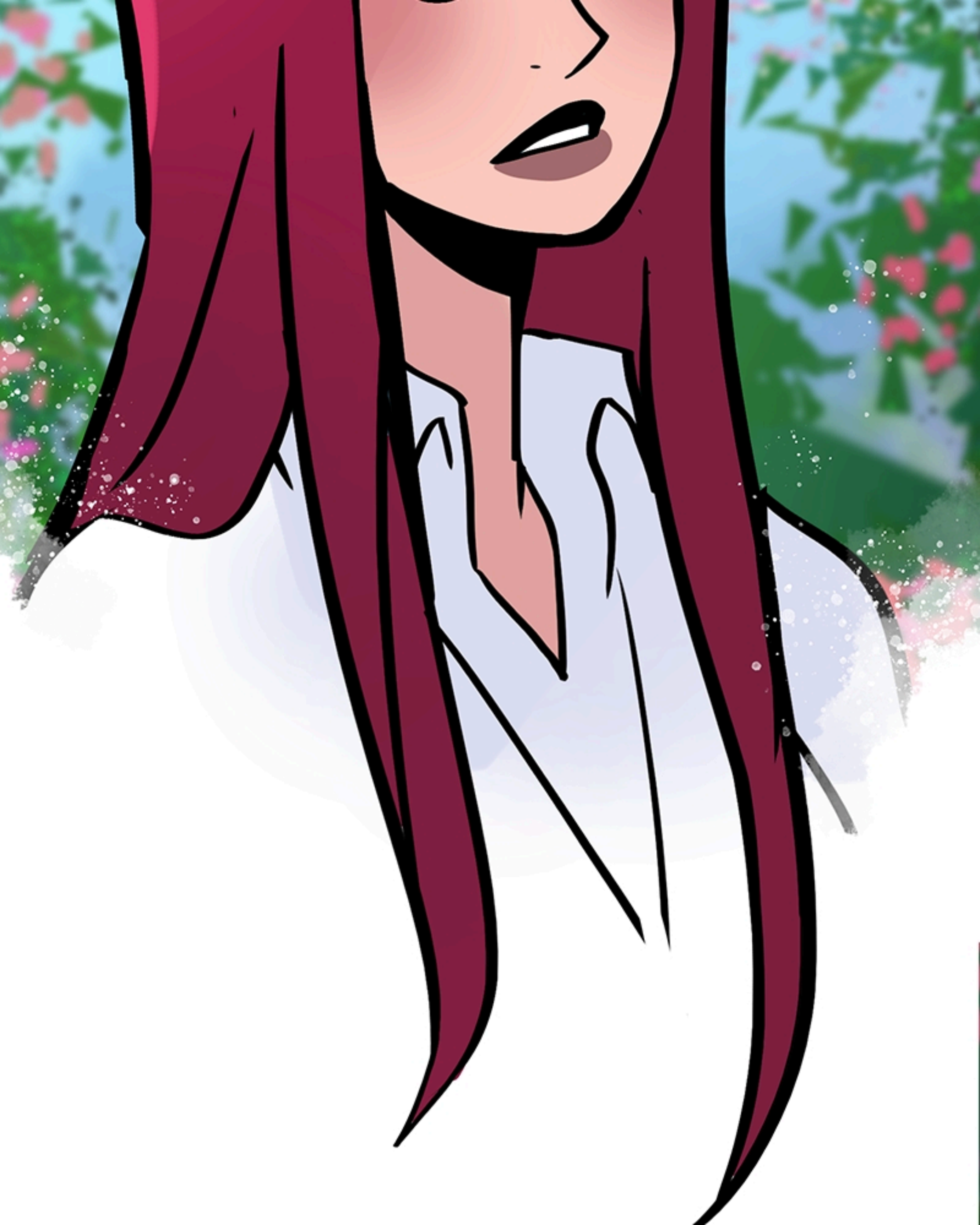
BECAUSE FROM
WHAT I'VE HEARD
SO FAR..



YOU'RE JUST
TRYING TO BE
HAPPY.

I DON'T
CONSIDER THAT
SELFISH...





A comic panel with a light blue, textured background. Two speech bubbles are present. The first bubble, at the top left, contains the text "IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT." The second bubble, below and to the right of the first, contains the text "YOU KEEP SAYING THAT BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IT REALLY IS." In the bottom right corner, a green-skinned character with pointed ears and a pink flower on their head is visible. A small white bird with a red crest is flying in the center of the panel. The speech bubbles have long, winding tails pointing towards the character.

IT'S MORE
COMPLICATED THAN
THAT.

YOU KEEP
SAYING THAT BUT
I DON'T THINK THAT
IT REALLY IS.



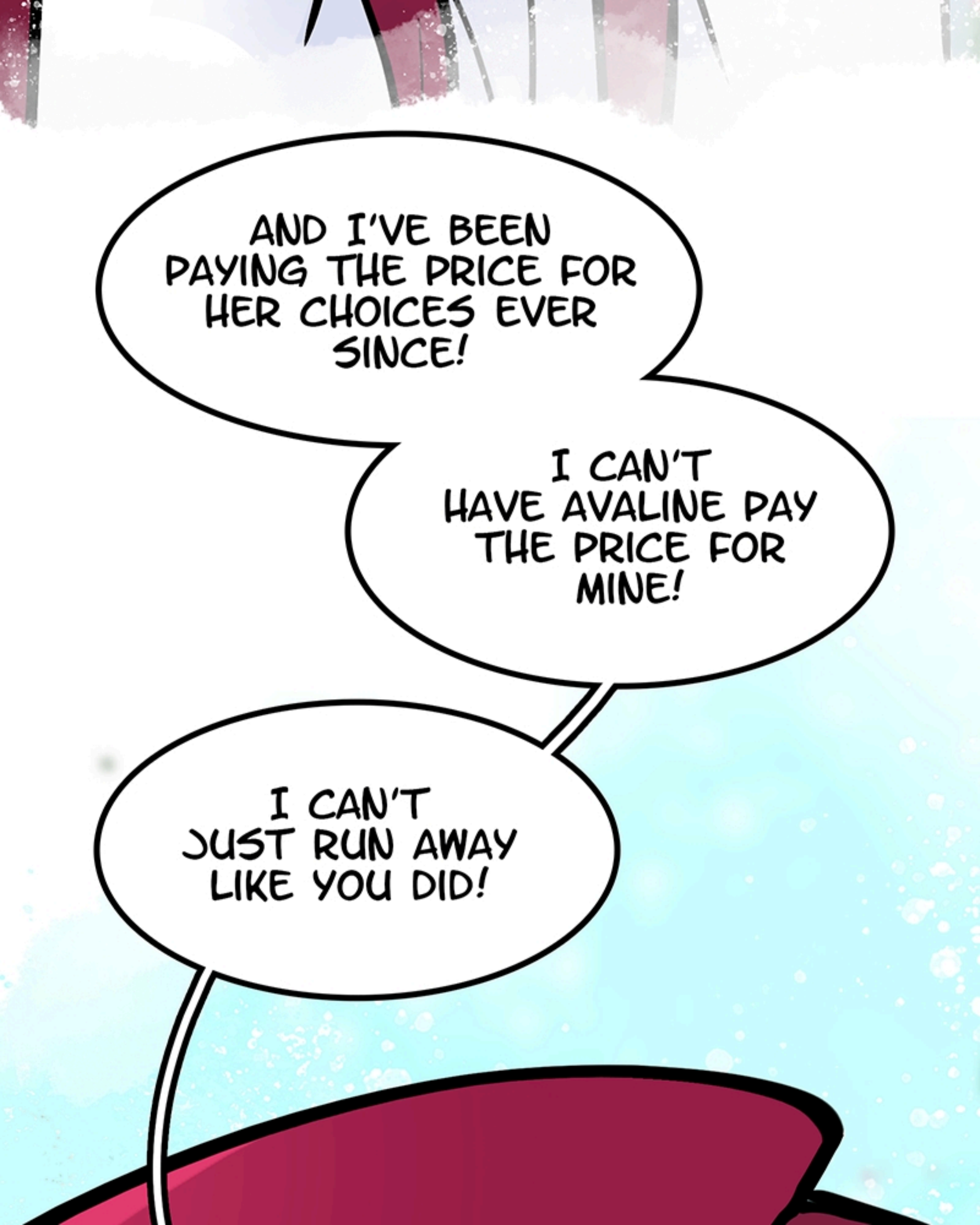
IT IS,
THOUGH!

THERE ARE RULES!
I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES!
I HAVE A DUTY TO MY
FAMILY!

GENERATIONS WORTH

OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES THAT
MY MOM THOUGHT SHE COULD
CHANGE AND INSTEAD IT
MADE IT WORSE THAN
EVER!



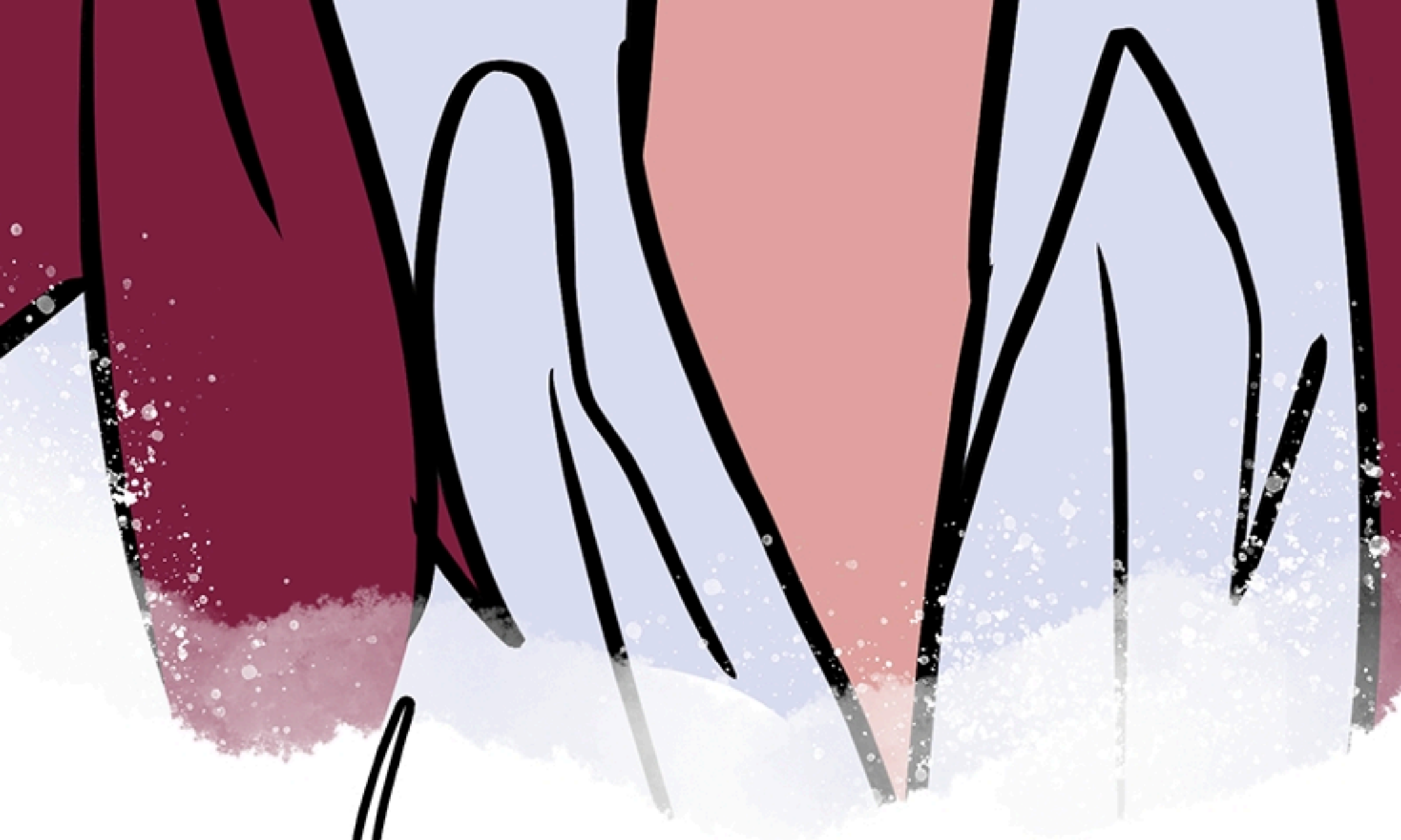
A comic panel featuring three speech bubbles against a light blue background with white bokeh. At the top, a portion of a character with purple hair is visible. The speech bubbles are arranged in a descending staircase pattern. The first bubble is at the top, the second is in the middle, and the third is at the bottom. The text in each bubble is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

AND I'VE BEEN
PAYING THE PRICE FOR
HER CHOICES EVER
SINCE!

I CAN'T
HAVE AVALINE PAY
THE PRICE FOR
MINE!

I CAN'T
JUST RUN AWAY
LIKE YOU DID!





YOU SAID
THAT YOU WERE
NO DIFFERENT FROM THE
REST OF YOUR FAMILY -
THAT THEY ALL EVEN
HAVE THE SAME NAME
AS YOU!

SO OF COURSE
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR PEOPLE
TO DEPEND ON YOU!

TO DEPEND ON YOU!









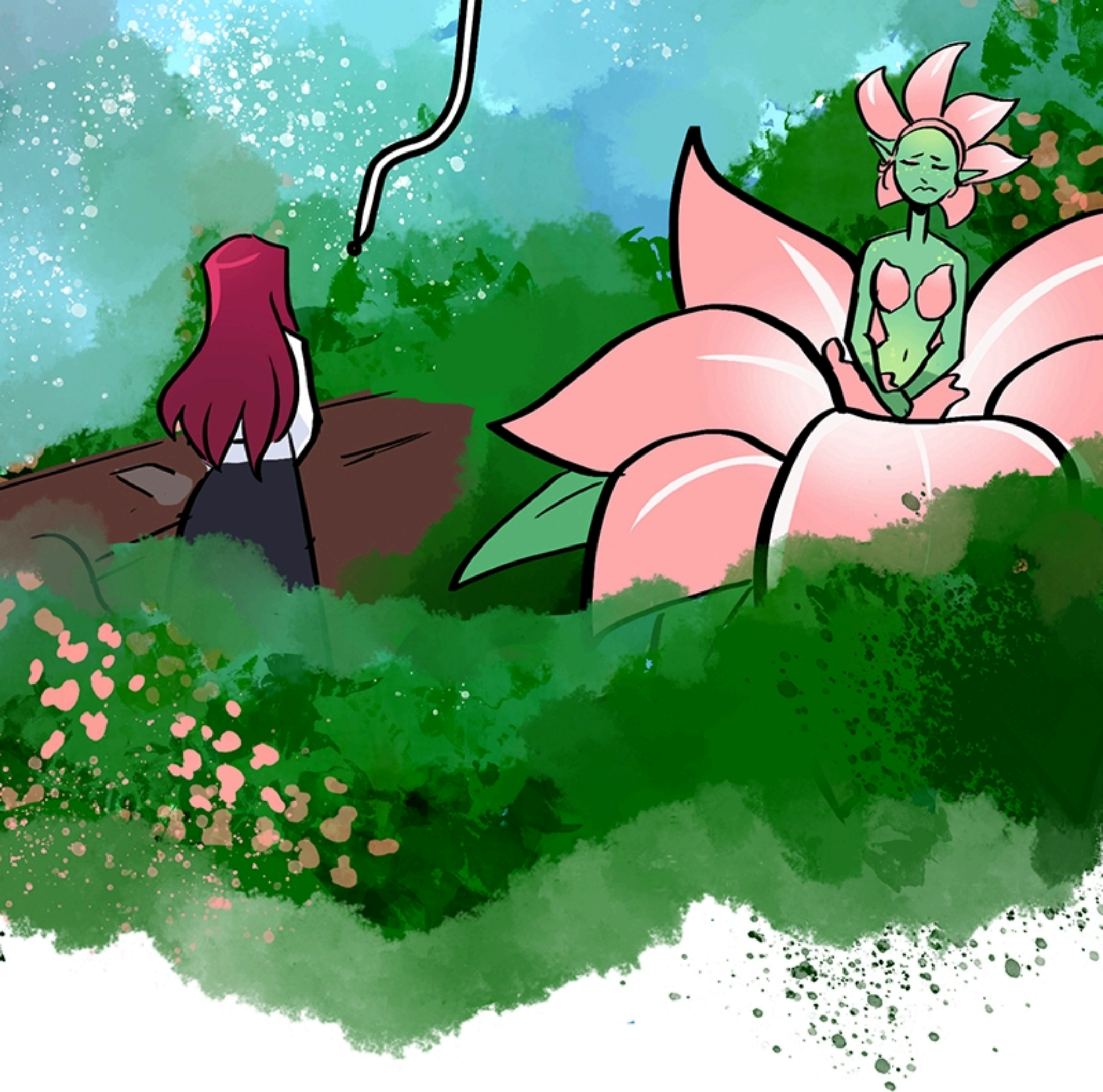
I'M ONLY
TRYING TO
HELP...



I KNOW...

I KNOW...

I'M SORRY...

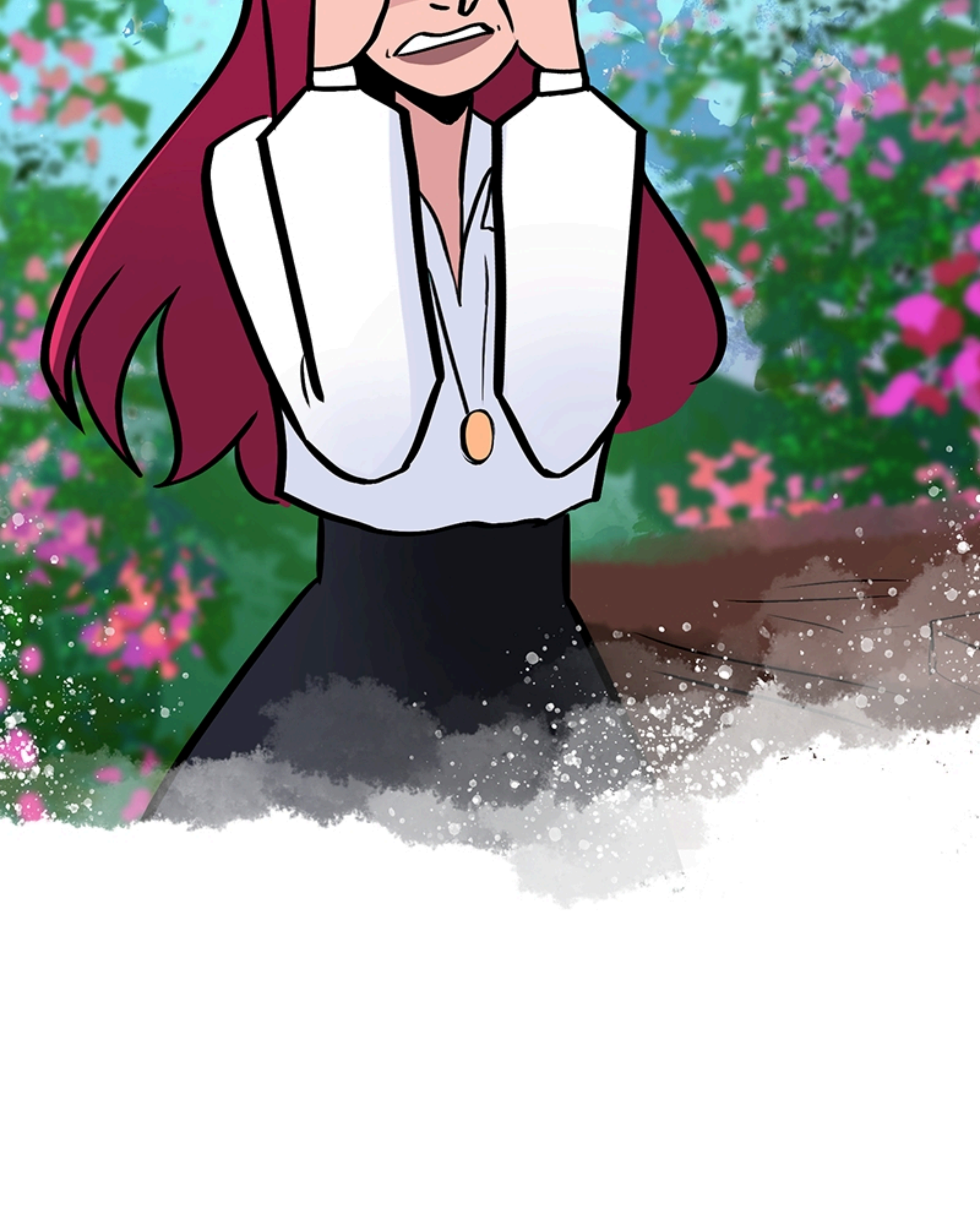


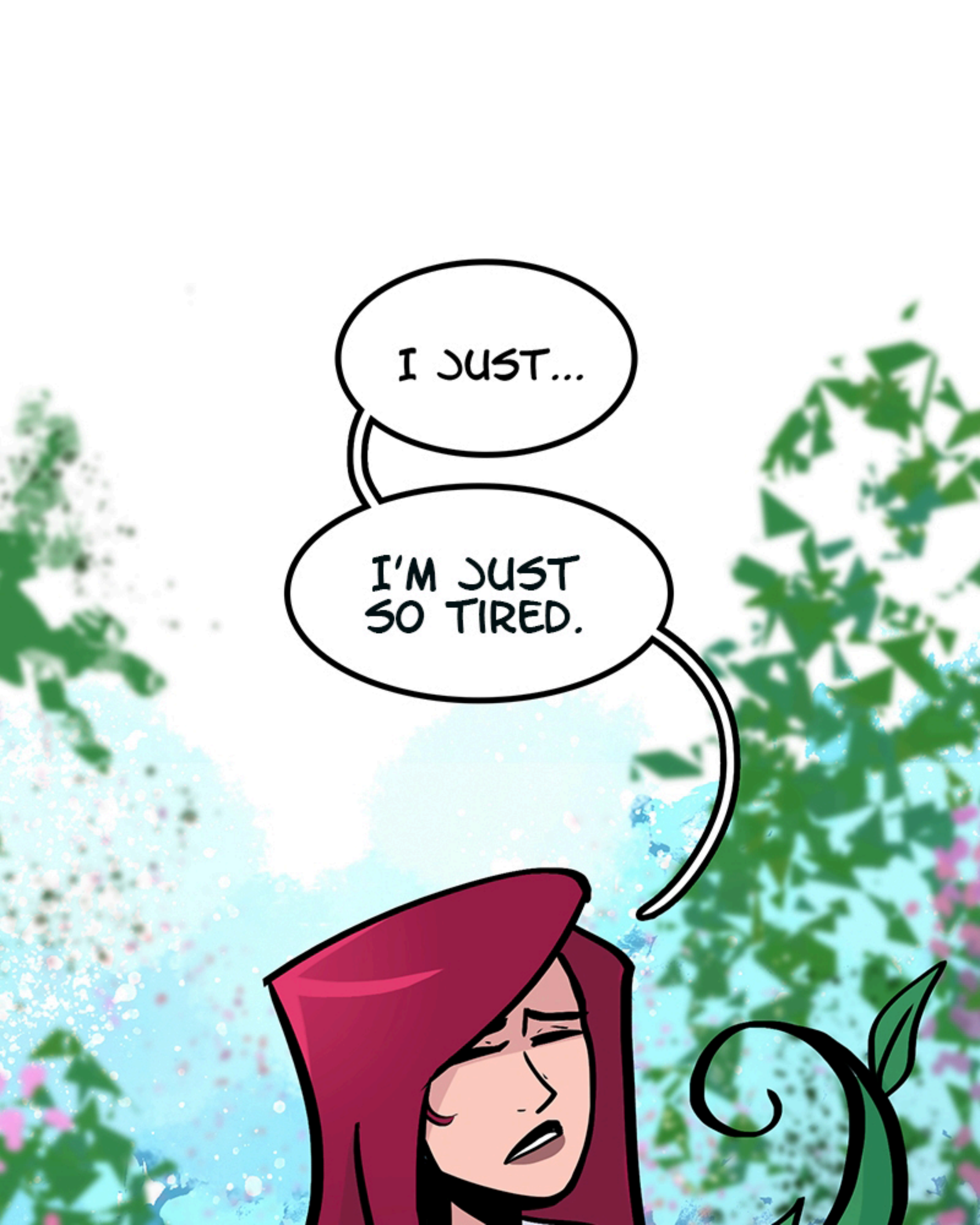
I GOT SO GOOD
AT BURYING MY
FEELINGS...



BUT LATELY
IT FEELS LIKE EVERYDAY
I HAVE LESS AND LESS
CONTROL OVER THEM
AND MY POWERS.

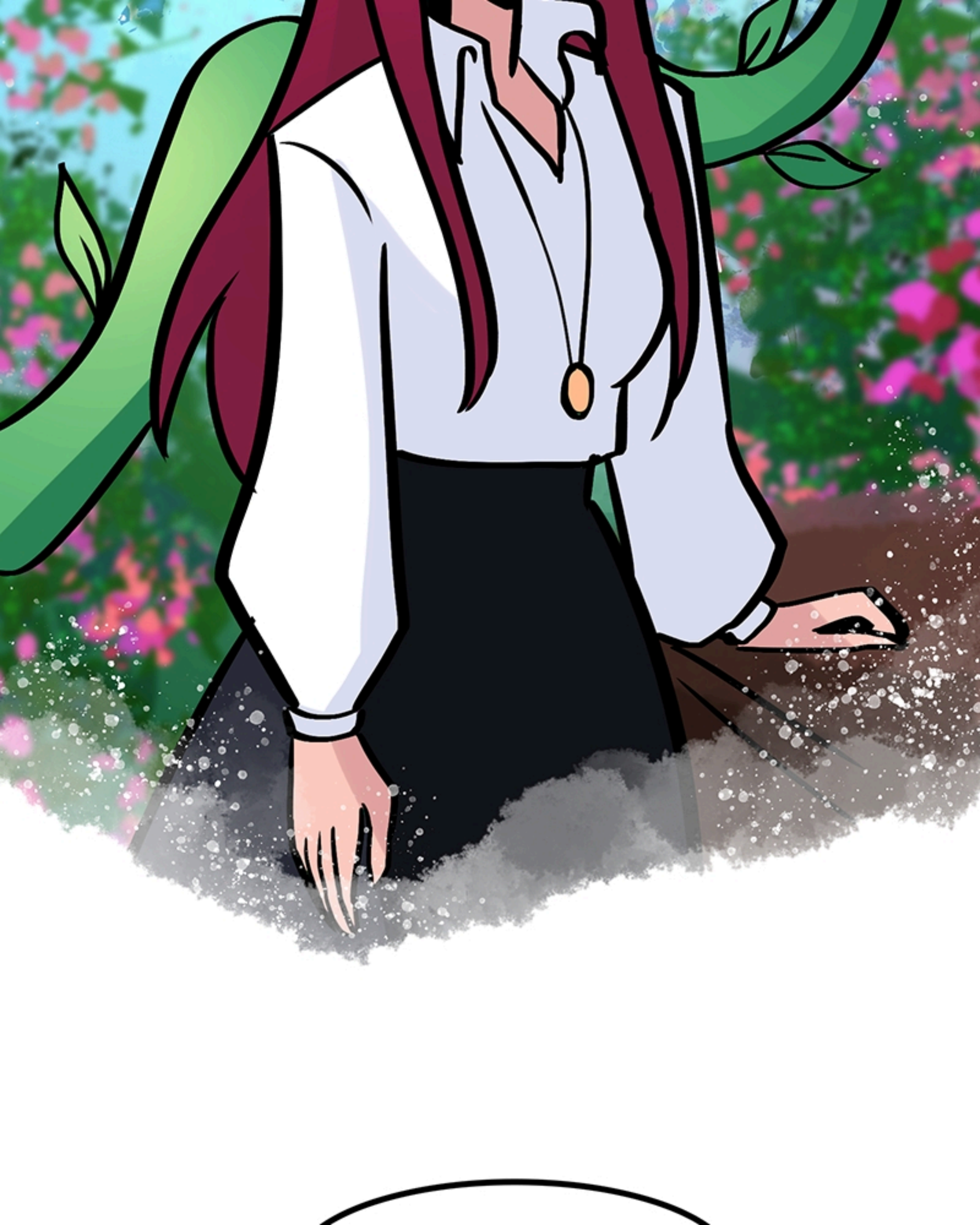
IT FEELS LIKE
I CAN ONLY SAY
THINGS THAT
HURT PEOPLE.



A comic panel featuring a woman with long, dark red hair and a purple headscarf. She has a weary expression, with heavy-lidded eyes and a slightly open mouth. She is positioned in the lower foreground. The background is a lush garden with green foliage and pink flowers, rendered in a soft, painterly style. Two speech bubbles emerge from her head, containing the text "I JUST..." and "I'M JUST SO TIRED.".

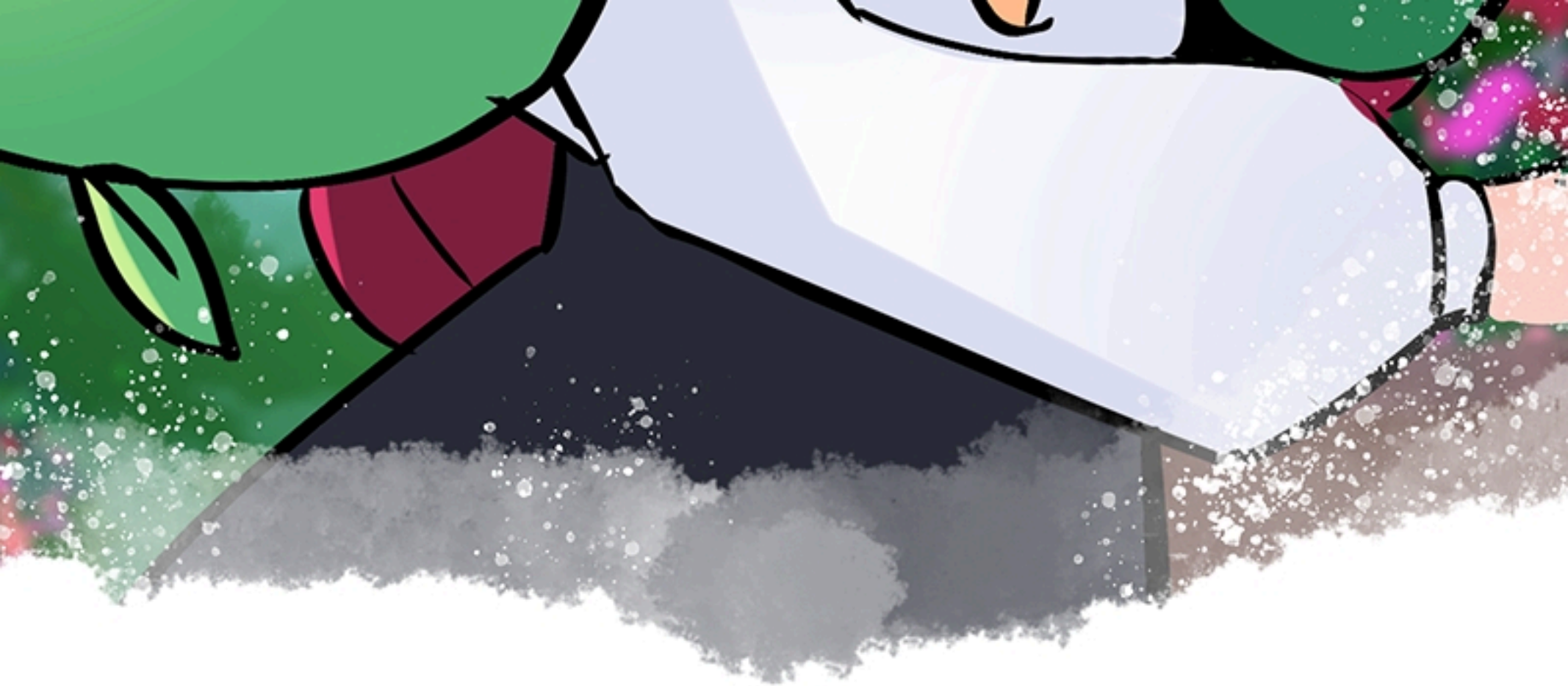
I JUST...

I'M JUST
SO TIRED.



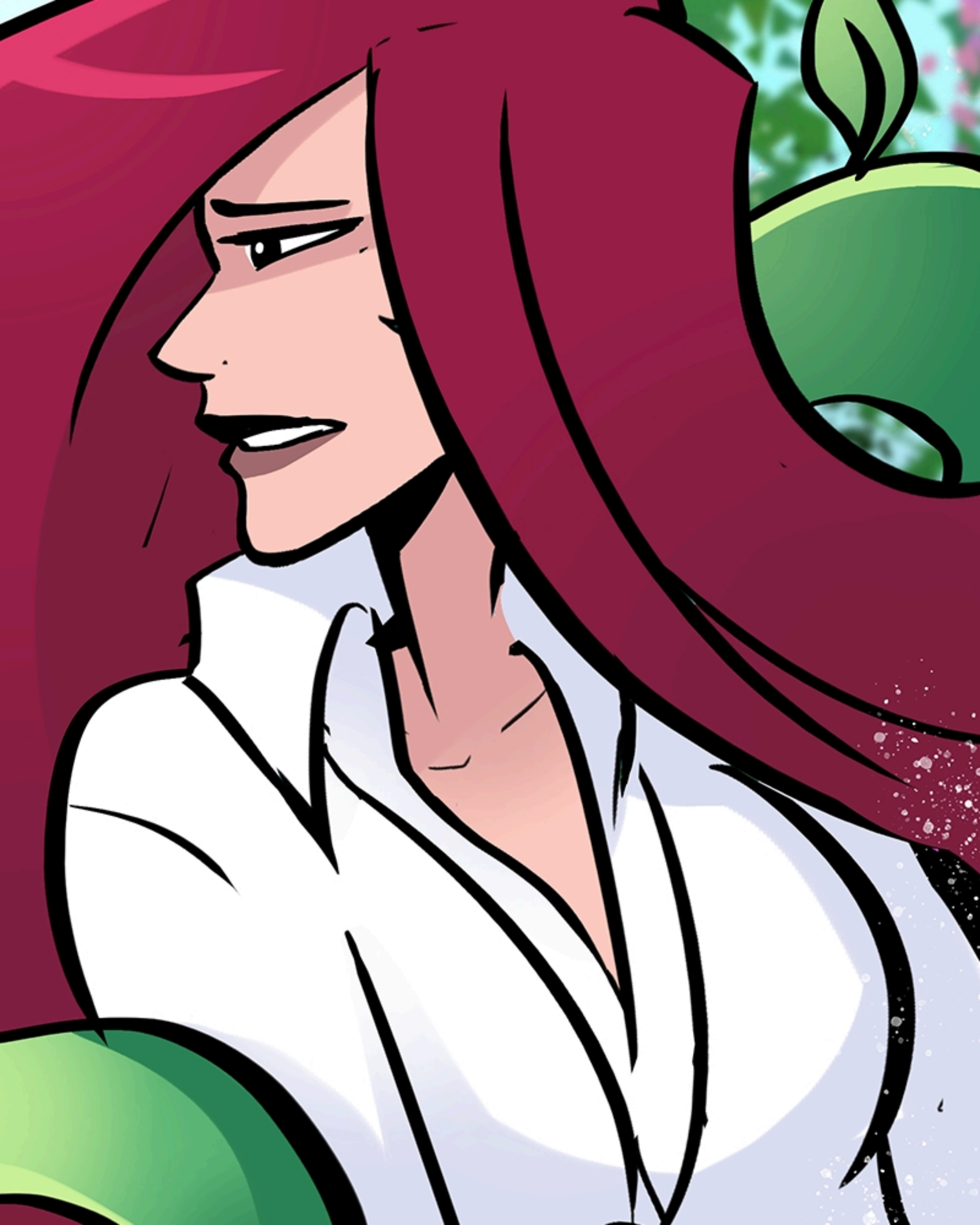
I CAN'T DO IT...





I CAN'T GO
BACK TO HOW IT
WAS, DENDRO...







IT'S OKAY,
I'M HERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO EXPLAIN ANYMORE.

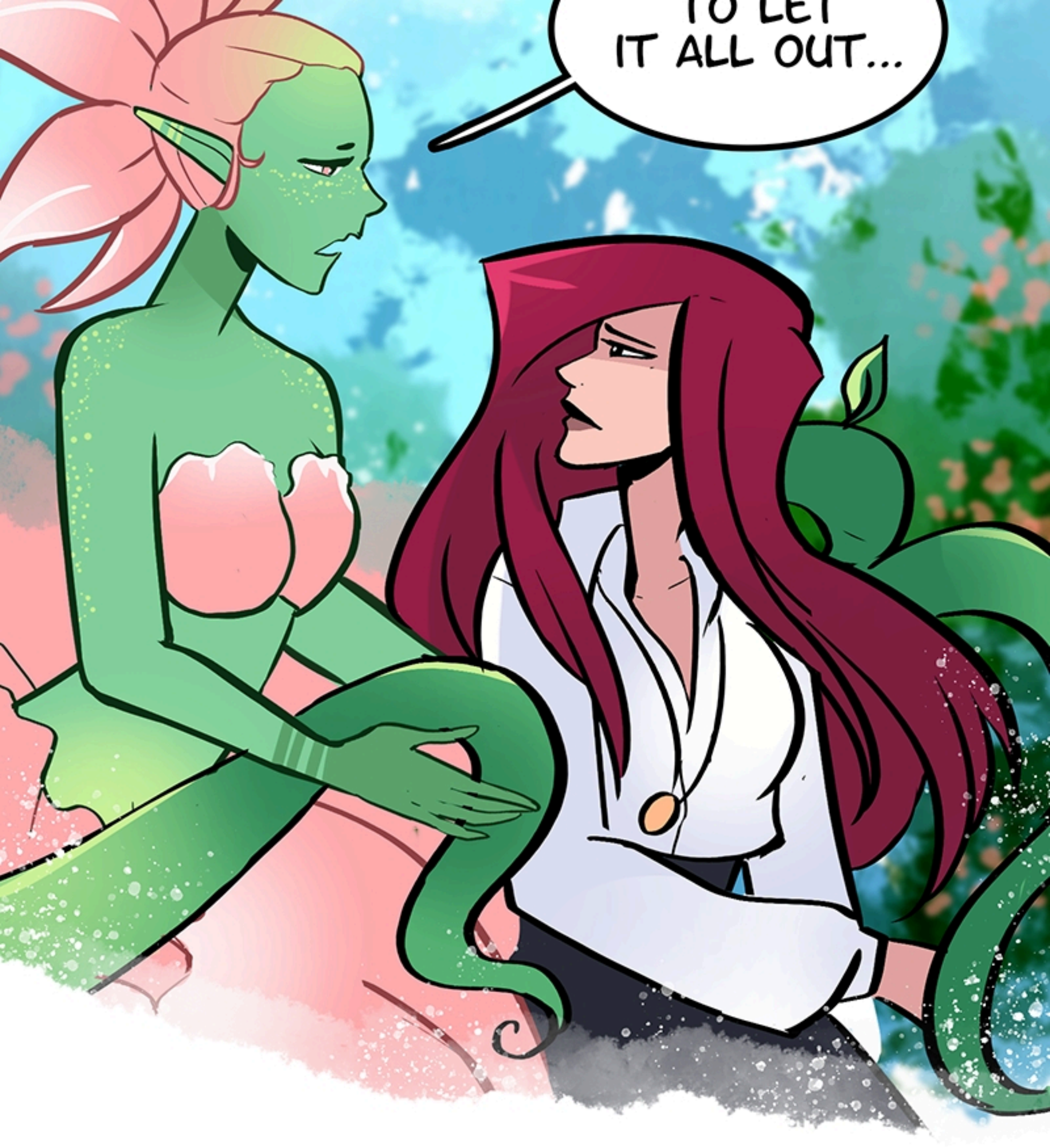




IT'S OKAY
TO JUST CRY.

TO LET

TO LET
IT ALL OUT...









MUTED

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 @rilliedraws

THANK YOU
FOR READING!

PLEASE 
THE EPISODE!



