

A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a character's face. The character has large, expressive eyes with thick black eyeliner and is looking slightly to the right. The skin is a light pinkish-red color. A speech bubble is positioned above the character's mouth, containing the text "STILL NOTHING, HUH...". The background is a solid white color.

STILL NOTHING,
HUH...



IT'S ONLY BEEN A
COUPLE OF HOURS BUT
NORMALLY SHE ALWAYS
HAS HER PHONE.

DID ATHALIE TAKE
IT FROM HER?



A hand with a pinkish-red skin tone is shown from the wrist up, reaching upwards with the index finger pointing. The background is a textured teal color with numerous small white speckles, resembling a night sky or a starry background. The hand is outlined in black.

STILL... AFTER ALL
THAT I DID. I UNDERSTAND
IF SHE DOESN'T WANT TO
TALK TO ME RIGHT NOW.

AH, CAMILLE-



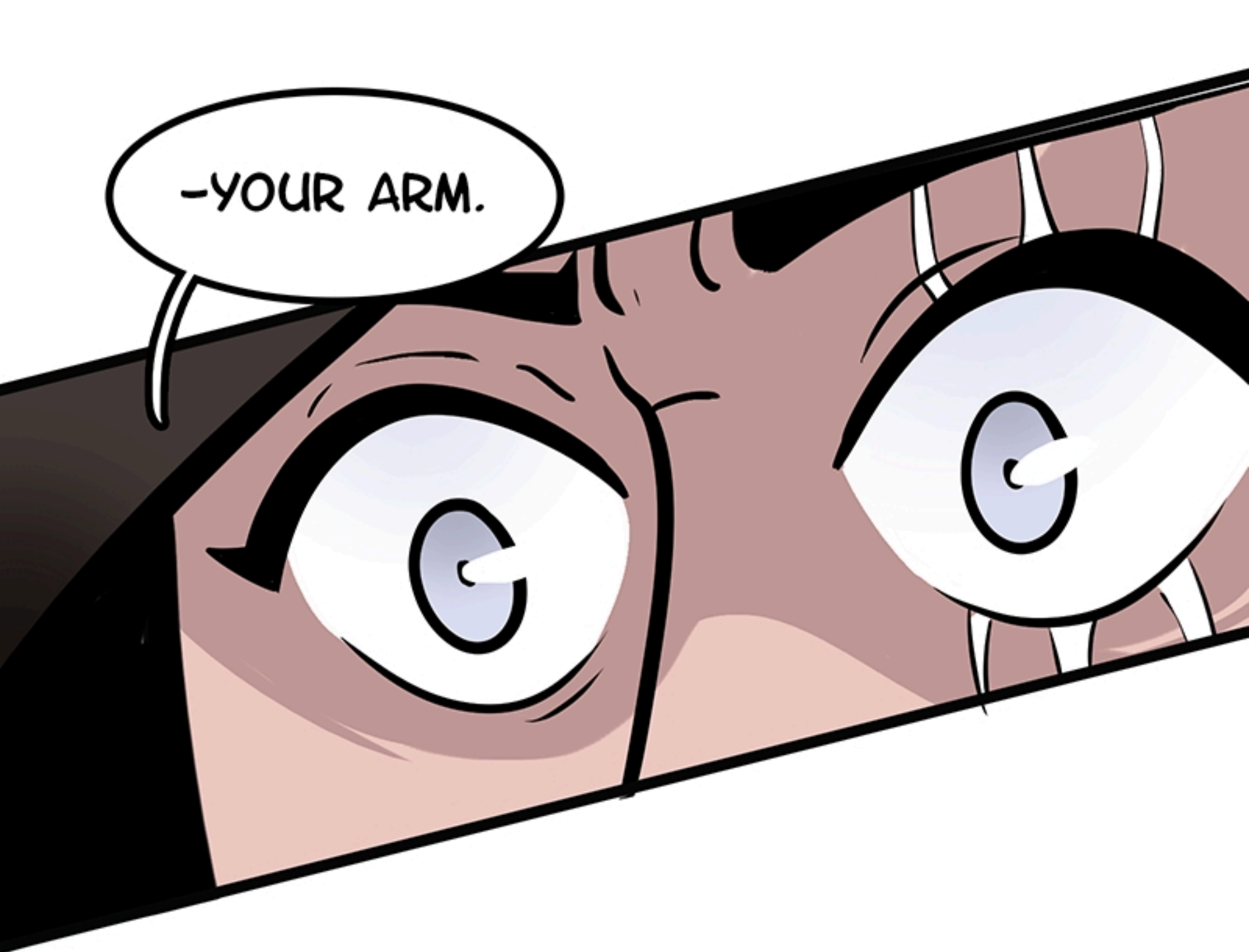


I'M GLAD YOU
DECIDED TO COME
IN FOR DINNER.

THE DUPRE ARE
OUT ON THE BACK
PATIO BUT WE

PATIO BUT WE-



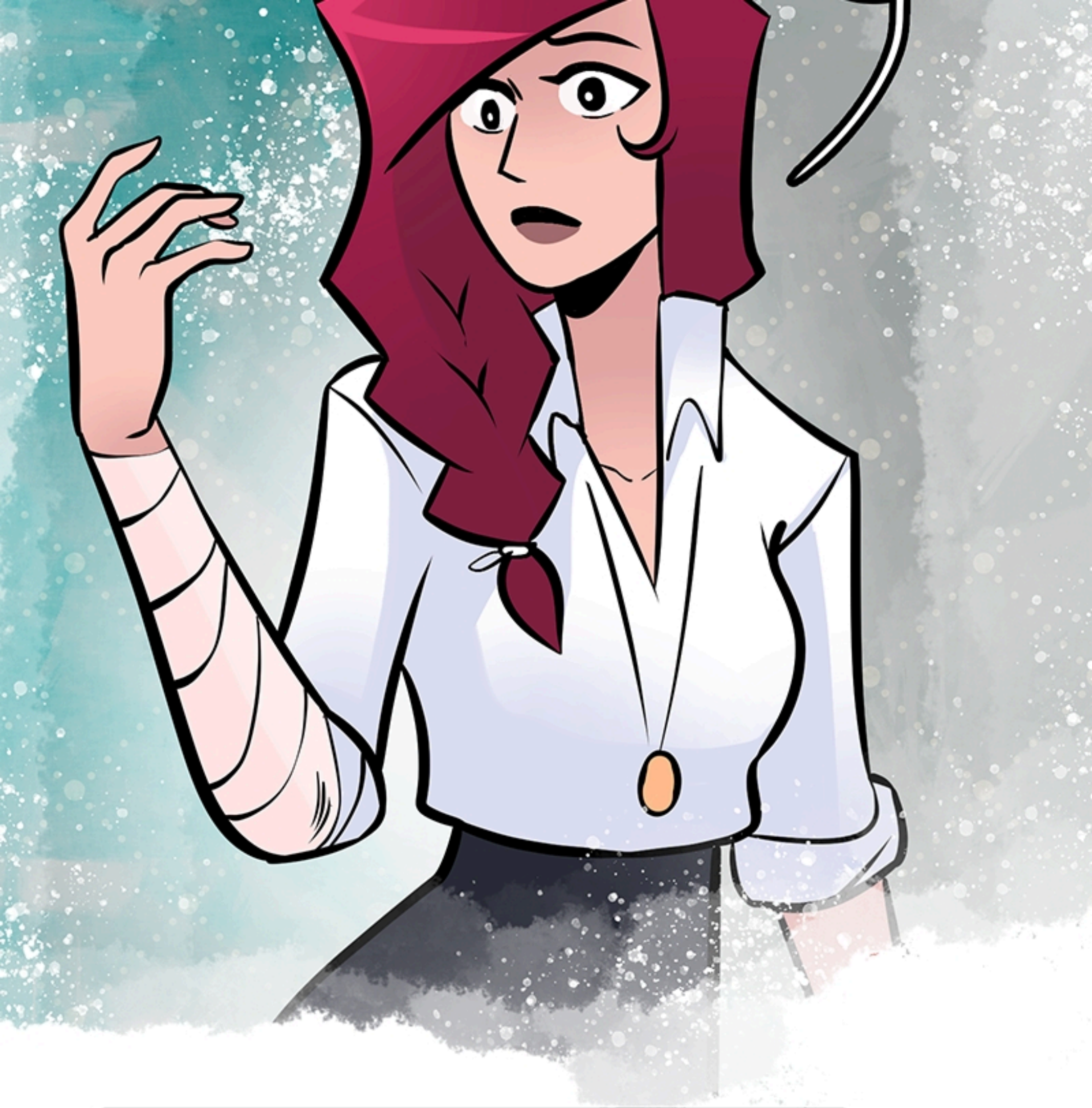
A close-up, high-contrast illustration of a character's face, focusing on their large, wide-open eyes. The character has light skin and dark, thick eyebrows. The eyes are white with blue irises and black pupils. The character's mouth is slightly open, showing a pink tongue. A speech bubble is positioned above the left eye.

-YOUR ARM.

A partial view of a character's head, showing a red cap or hair. A speech bubble is positioned above it.

HUH?

OH-



I'M TIRED OF KEEPING
SECRETS BUT I FEEL LIKE
DENDRO WOULD BE A BIT
MUCH RIGHT NOW.



JUST LIKE YOU
GUESSED EARLIER.

I PUT UP A
BARRIER FOR
PRIVACY.

HM...





ANYWAY,
SILVIA-

THERE IS SOMETHING
THAT I REALLY HAVE TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

YES,
THERE IS
SOMETHING I WANT
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
AS WELL.

LET'S GO
SIT DOWN
FIRST.







DO YOU EVER
GET TIRED OF LIVING
OUT HERE, SILVIA?

NOT AT ALL.

IT IS BUSY RIGHT
NOW, OR WHEN ATHALIE
VISITS, BUT NORMALLY I AM
MAINTAINING THIS OLD MANOR
BY MYSELF.



IT IS NICE
TO HAVE COMPANY
LIKE THIS FROM TIME
TO TIME.

BUT FOR
THE MOST PART I
ENJOY MY PEACE AND
QUIET.





BUT BACK
TO MORE SERIOUS
MATTERS... SHOULD
YOU GO FIRST OR
SHOULD I?



A comic panel featuring a woman with vibrant red hair. She is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful or perhaps slightly annoyed expression. A silver fork is stuck in her mouth. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. A speech bubble originates from the top right, containing the text "... YOU CAN GO FIRST.".

... YOU CAN
GO FIRST.



YOUR MINT

YOUR AUNT
CALLED ME.

I WAS AFRAID
OF THAT.





SHE WANTS
ME TO HAVE YOU
RETURNED TO THE
CITY HOUSE.

SO THAT YOU
CAN MEET YOUR NEW

SUPPOSED FIANCE AND BEGIN
MAKING ARRANGEMENTS
FROM THERE.

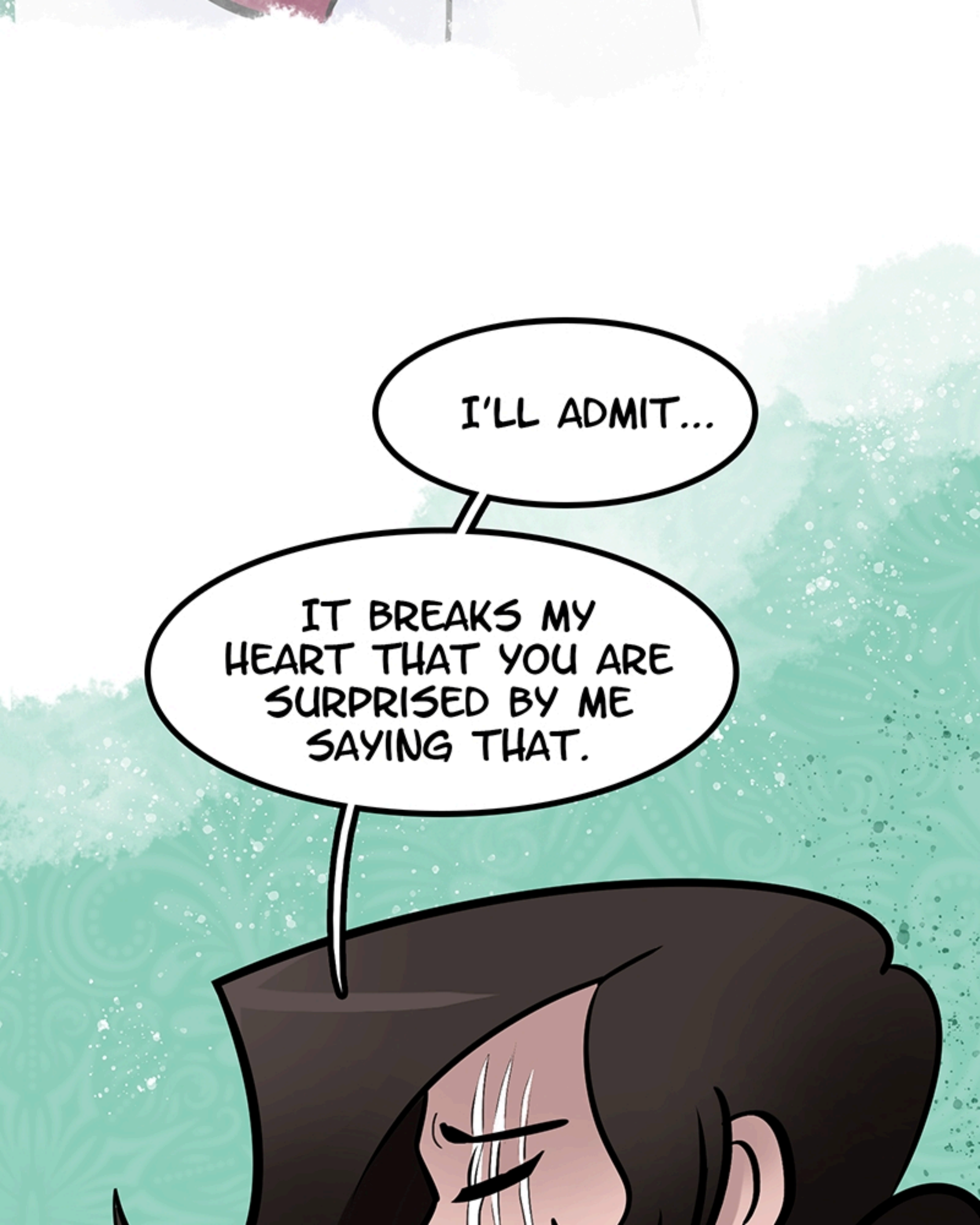




BUT I'M
NOT GOING TO
DO THAT.

WHAT?





I'LL ADMIT...

IT BREAKS MY
HEART THAT YOU ARE
SURPRISED BY ME
SAYING THAT.



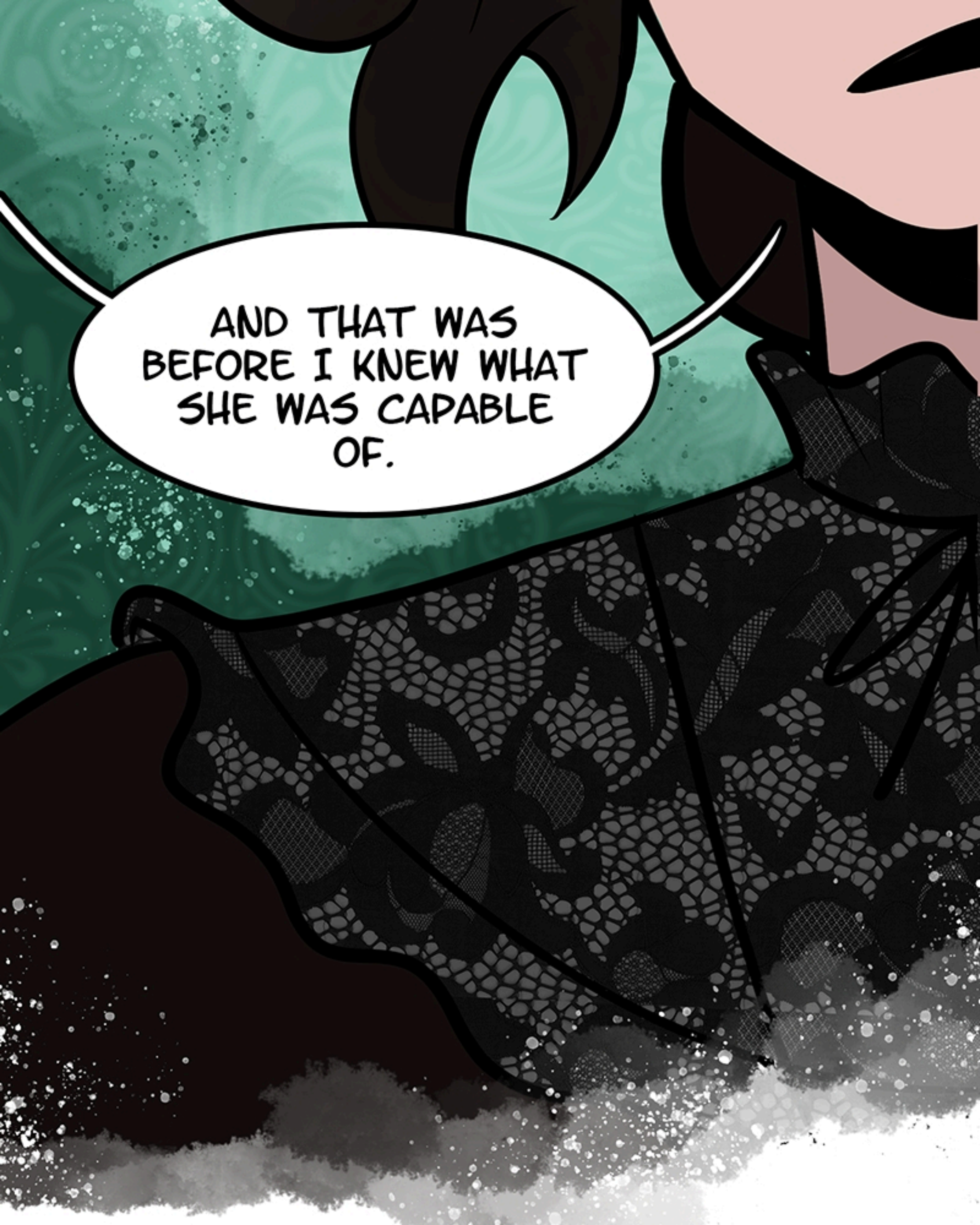


I ALREADY
GAVE YOU TO HER
ONCE BEFORE.

AND I HAVE
REGRETTED IT EVERY
DAY SINCE.





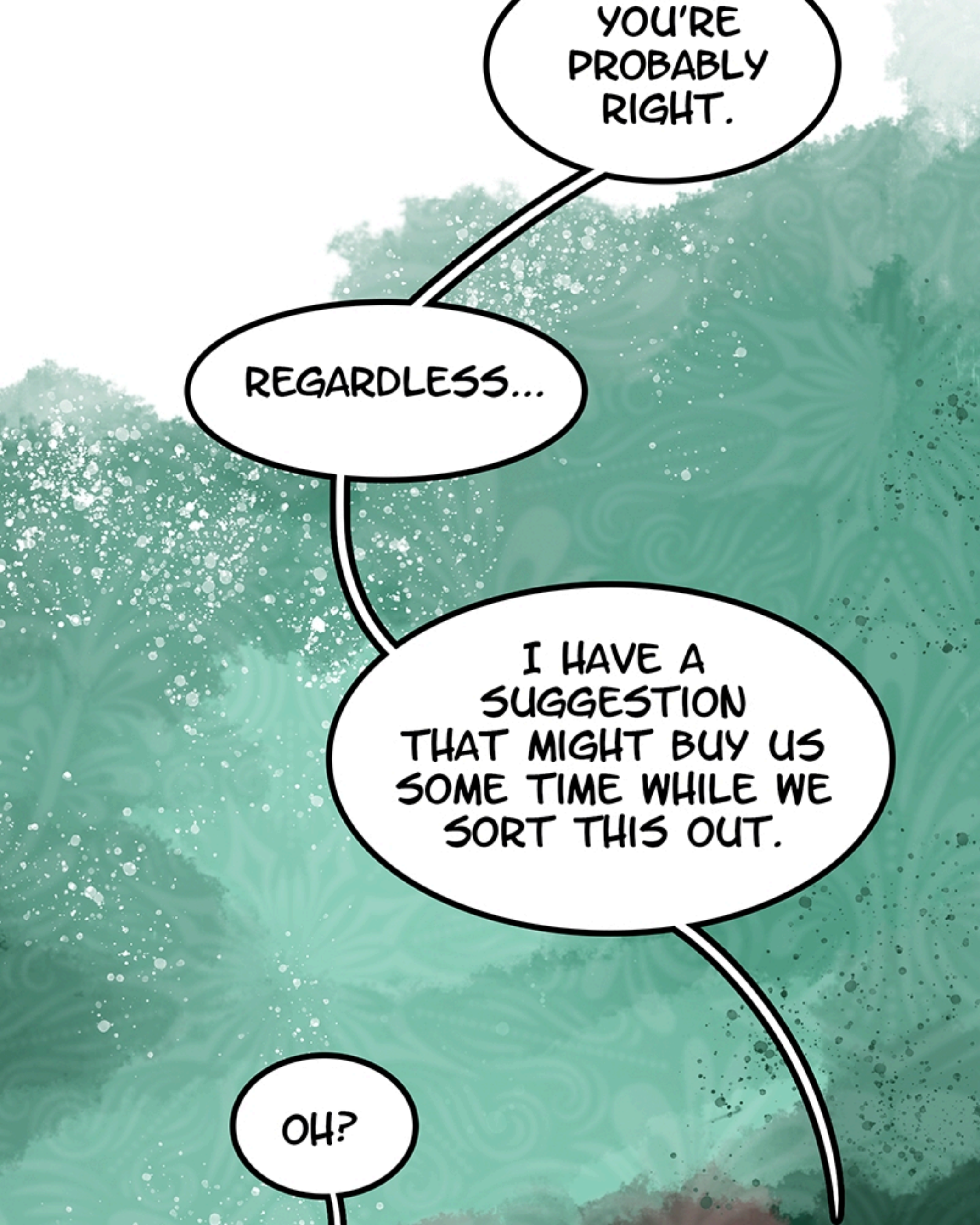
A comic book panel featuring a close-up of a character's face on the right side. The character has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a black lace garment. A large speech bubble originates from the character's mouth, containing the text. The background is a dark green with a speckled texture, and the bottom of the panel shows a dark, textured surface.

AND THAT WAS
BEFORE I KNEW WHAT
SHE WAS CAPABLE
OF.

A comic book panel featuring a character with long, flowing red hair at the bottom. A large speech bubble originates from the character, containing text. The background is a light green with a faint, repeating floral or paisley pattern. The top of the panel has a white background with some grey, textured brushstrokes.

I DON'T THINK
ANY OF US REALLY
KNOW WHAT SHE IS
CAPABLE OF.



A comic panel featuring four speech bubbles of varying sizes against a green, textured background with white speckles. The bubbles are arranged in a vertical sequence, with the largest bubble in the center. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

YOU'RE
PROBABLY
RIGHT.

REGARDLESS...

I HAVE A
SUGGESTION
THAT MIGHT BUY US
SOME TIME WHILE WE
SORT THIS OUT.

OH?



I WOULD
LIKE TO CALL THE
LEROUX -

PERHAPS THEY
WILL BE ABLE TO CREATE A
BARRIER SIMILAR TO THE ONE
THEY HAVE AROUND THEIR
ORCHARD.

ANYONE WHO
IS IN HERE WOULDN'T

BE ABLE TO COME BACK IF
THEY LEFT - SAVE FOR YOU
BECAUSE OF YOUR
BLOOD-

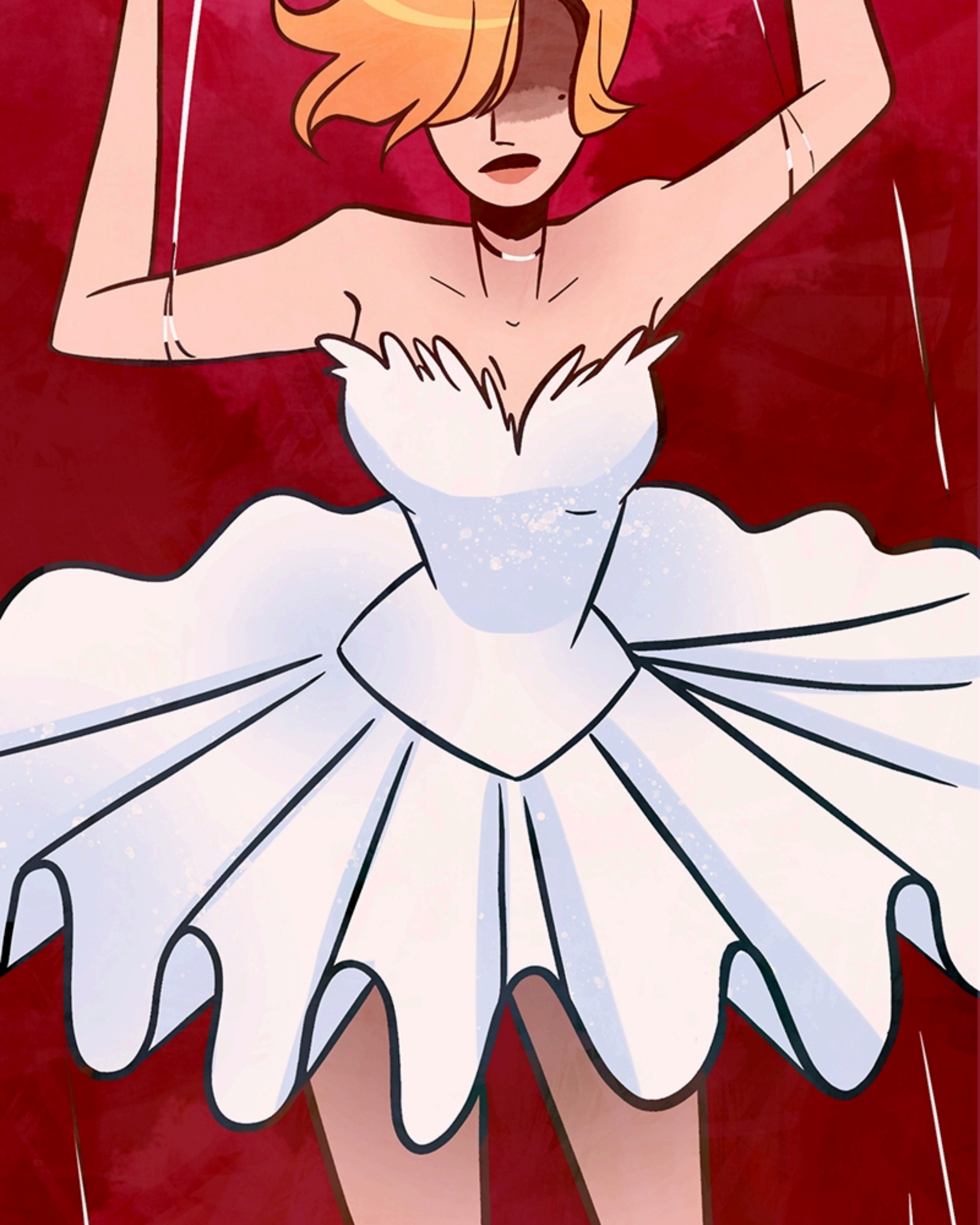






BUT THAT
WOULD MEAN...

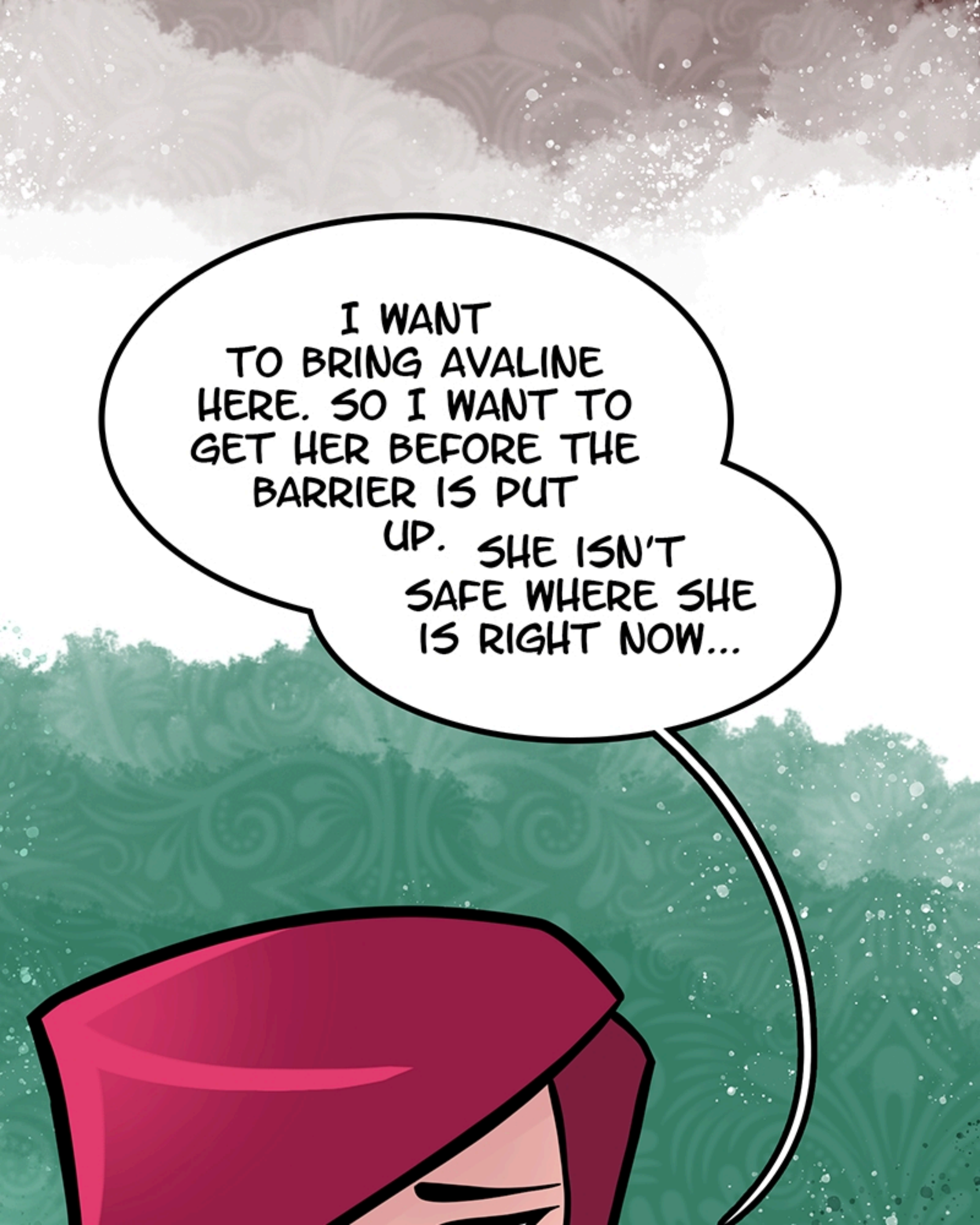






A hand holding a silver fork is positioned over a white plate. The plate contains a piece of seared meat with a cross-hatch grill pattern, a smaller square piece of meat, and a green vegetable garnish. The background is a dark brown surface with a repeating floral pattern. A speech bubble originates from the hand.

I GUESS THAT
TIES INTO WHAT
I WANTED TO SAY
TO YOU RATHER
NICELY.

A comic book panel featuring a character with short, dark red hair and a determined expression, looking slightly to the right. The character's head is in the bottom left corner. A large, white speech bubble with a black outline dominates the upper half of the panel. The background is a soft-focus green field with a repeating pattern of small, stylized flowers. The sky above is a pale, hazy blue with wispy white clouds. The speech bubble contains the following text:

I WANT
TO BRING AVALINE
HERE. SO I WANT TO
GET HER BEFORE THE
BARRIER IS PUT
UP. SHE ISN'T
SAFE WHERE SHE
IS RIGHT NOW...



AVALINE?

ARE YOU
SURE?



THE BIGGEST
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
AVALINE AND I... IS THAT
I KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE
TO NOT BE ALONE.





SHE NEVER
HAD A TWIN LIKE YOU
OR ME - OR LIKE HOW
MY MOTHER AND ATHALIE
WERE. TWINS IN OUR
FAMILY ARE SO COMMON
IT'S ALMOST EXPECTED
AND YET...

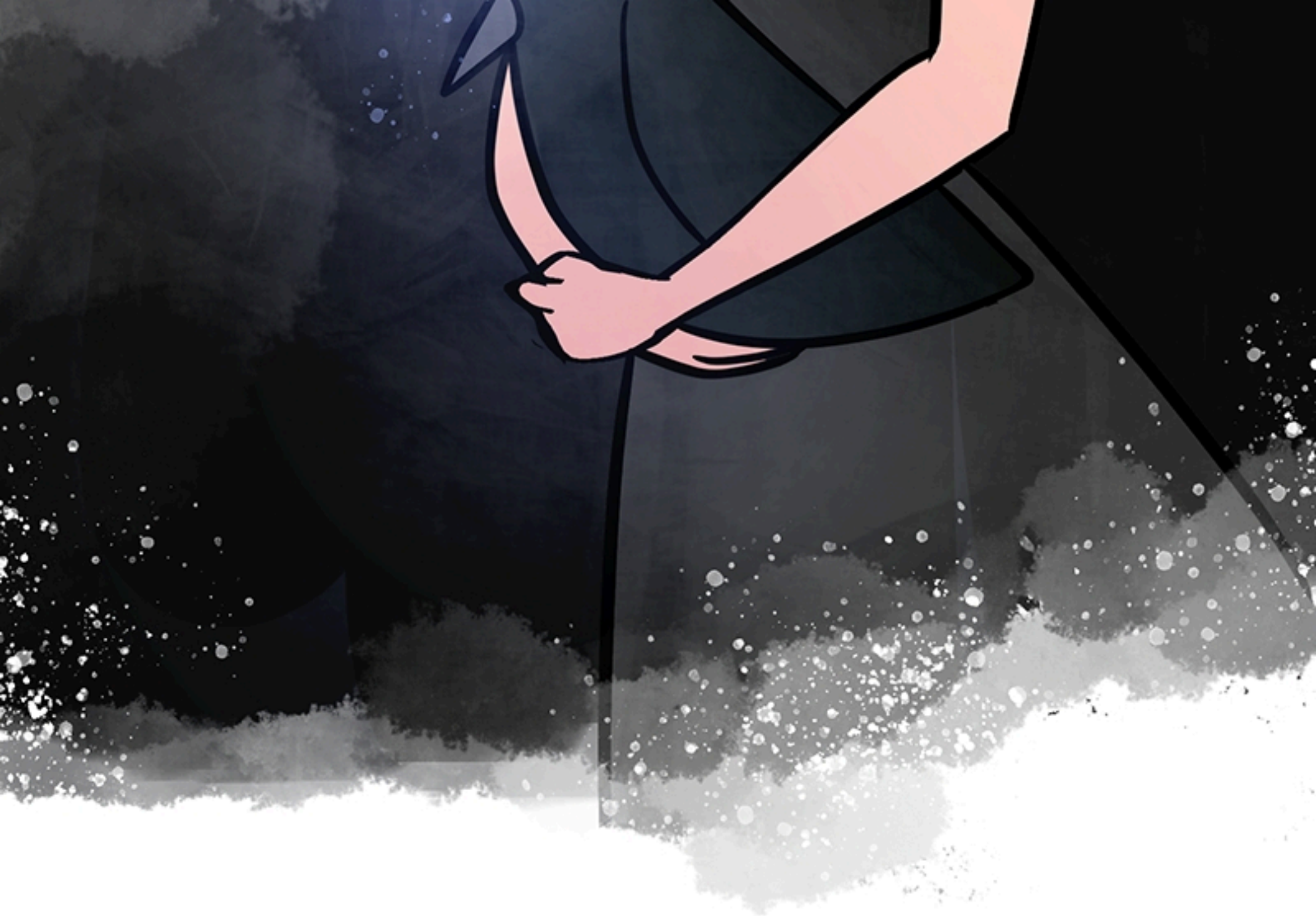
SHE WAS
ALONE WITH

ALONE... WITH
NOTHING BUT HER
MOTHERS WORD.
UNTIL I MOVED
IN...



AND THEN I...
I LEFT HER ALONE AGAIN...
BECAUSE SHE REMINDED ME
OF SOMETHING I WANTED
TO FORGET.





BUT SHE
DESERVES TO
BE FREE JUST
AS MUCH AS
I DO. I WANT
TO GO BACK
TO THE CITY
TO TALK HER INTO
COMING HERE.



A comic book panel featuring a large speech bubble in the center. The background is a light green field with a repeating pattern of stylized leaves and small white dots. In the top left corner, there is a dark red, angular shape with a black outline. In the bottom right corner, the head of a character with dark, wavy hair is visible, looking upwards. The speech bubble contains the text "SILVIA?".

SILVIA?





NO.

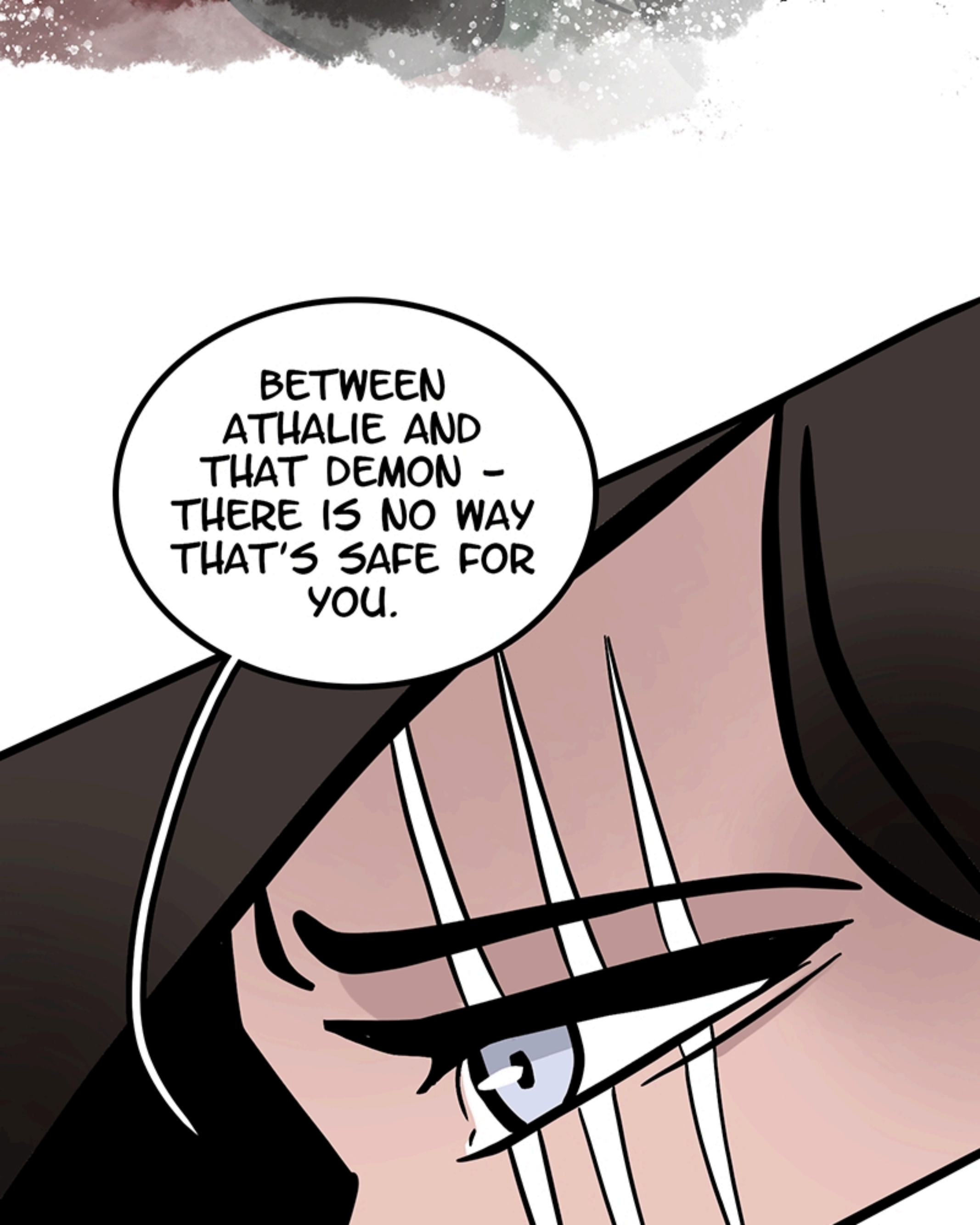
WHAT?
WHY? SHE ISN'T
LIKE ATHALIE-





I'M NOT
SAYING SHE CAN'T
COME HERE I'M SAYING
YOU CAN'T LEAVE TO
GO AND GET HER.



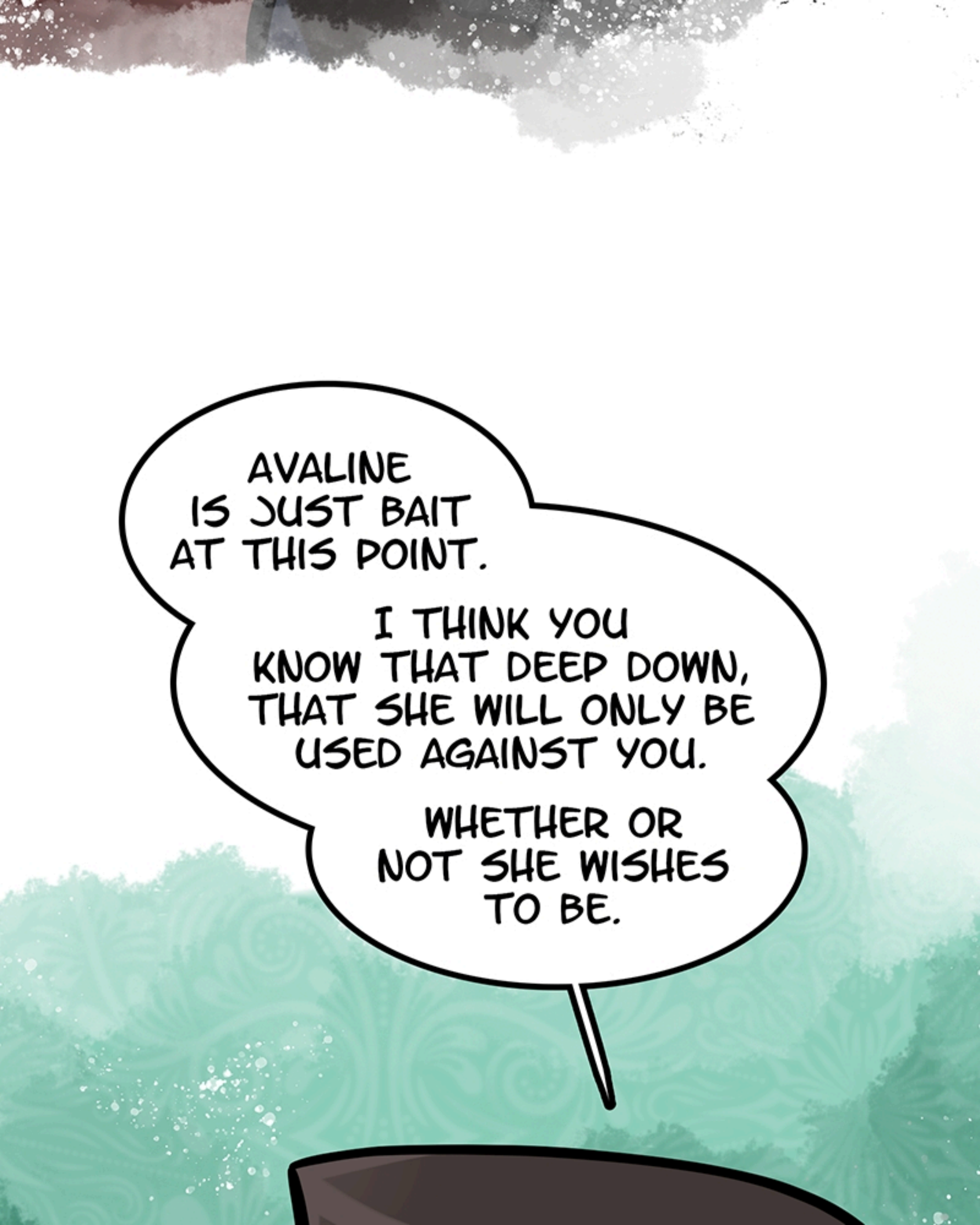


BETWEEN
ATHALIE AND
THAT DEMON -
THERE IS NO WAY
THAT'S SAFE FOR
YOU.

A comic panel featuring a large white speech bubble with a black outline. The speech bubble contains the text "BUT SHE ISN'T GOING TO COME ON HER OWN- SHE CAN'T! SHE NEEDS HELP! JUST LIKE I DID-". The background is a dark green field with a swirling, textured pattern. In the top left corner, there is a black triangular shape and a pinkish-red triangular shape with white curved lines. At the bottom, a portion of a pink, petal-like shape is visible.

BUT
SHE ISN'T
GOING TO COME
ON HER OWN- SHE
CAN'T! SHE NEEDS
HELP! JUST LIKE
I DID-





AVALINE
IS JUST BAIT
AT THIS POINT.

I THINK YOU
KNOW THAT DEEP DOWN,
THAT SHE WILL ONLY BE
USED AGAINST YOU.

WHETHER OR
NOT SHE WISHES
TO BE.



A comic book panel featuring a speech bubble. The background is divided into three horizontal sections: a dark red, textured top section; a white middle section; and a green, textured bottom section. A speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing towards the bottom right contains the text. At the very bottom, a portion of a red, angular object is visible.

SO YOU
WANT ME TO
LEAVE HER THERE
FOR GOOD!?



I'M NOT

I'M NOT
SAYING THAT-

I'LL TAKE
HER.











NYRA?



YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE FEELING
BETTER,
PRINCESS.







MUTED

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