

13 YEARS AGO
YOU SURVIVED A
TERRIBLE FIRE.





AND WITH IT
YOU BURNED AWAY
MOST OF YOUR
CHILDHOOD.

YOU FORGOT
ABOUT YOUR FATHER
AND HIS SIDE OF THE
FAMILY COMPLETELY.

YOU BARELY
REMEMBER YOUR
MOTHER AND
SISTER.



NO I-
I CAN'T BE
HERE.

I CAN'T

I CAN'T
BE HERE-





GATA



LET GO
OF ME!!

A comic book illustration featuring two female characters with long, flowing hair, dressed in black witch-like attire. The character on the left has dark purple hair and wears a wide-brimmed black hat. The character on the right has bright pink hair and wears a black top with a gold pendant. They are both laughing heartily, with their mouths wide open and eyes squeezed shut. Above them are two large, white, starburst-shaped speech bubbles, each containing the text 'LET GO OF ME!!'. The background is a dark, textured green with some lighter green foliage on the left side.

LET GO
OF ME!!

A comic panel showing the lower half of a character with long, thin legs and pink socks. The character is standing on a dark blue surface. A speech bubble with a jagged, starburst-like border is positioned near the top left, containing the text "I CAN'T BE HERE!!". The background is dark green with a speckled texture.

I CAN'T
BE HERE!!

A comic panel showing a speech bubble with a jagged, starburst-like border. The speech bubble contains the text "JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN!". The background is dark green with a speckled texture.

JUST SHUT
UP AND LISTEN!





CHLOE??
COME ON,
SWEETIE!

MOMMA...



YES?

WHY DO YOU KEEP
MAKING ME COME
OUT HERE.



I DON'T
WANT TO LEARN
PLANT MAGIC.

A comic panel featuring a woman with long, dark hair wearing a dark hooded cloak. She has a somber expression. The background is a dark, textured green and blue. A speech bubble is positioned above her head.

UNLESS DAD IS
THE ONE TEACHING
ME.

A comic panel featuring a woman with long, dark hair wearing a dark hooded cloak. She has a somber expression. The background is a dark, textured green and blue. A speech bubble is positioned above her head.

AND HE'S
GONE.



CAMILLE...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S
GONE... LEROUX MAGIC IS
STILL PART OF YOU...



HOW ABOUT
AFTER DINNER WE
SEEK OUT THE

BREAK OUT THE
PAINTS??

YOU HAVEN'T
PAINTED ME ANY
FLOWERS IN A
WHILE-

I DON'T
WANT TO.



HEY
MOMMA!!!

WE HAVE
A VISITOR!!





ANOTHER
SQUIRREL?

OR IS IT
A MOUSE THIS
TIME?





WHERE
ARE YOU,
SWEETIE?



I'M SERIOUS
LET'S HEAD IN
FOR DINNER.

IT'S
GETTING
DARK.



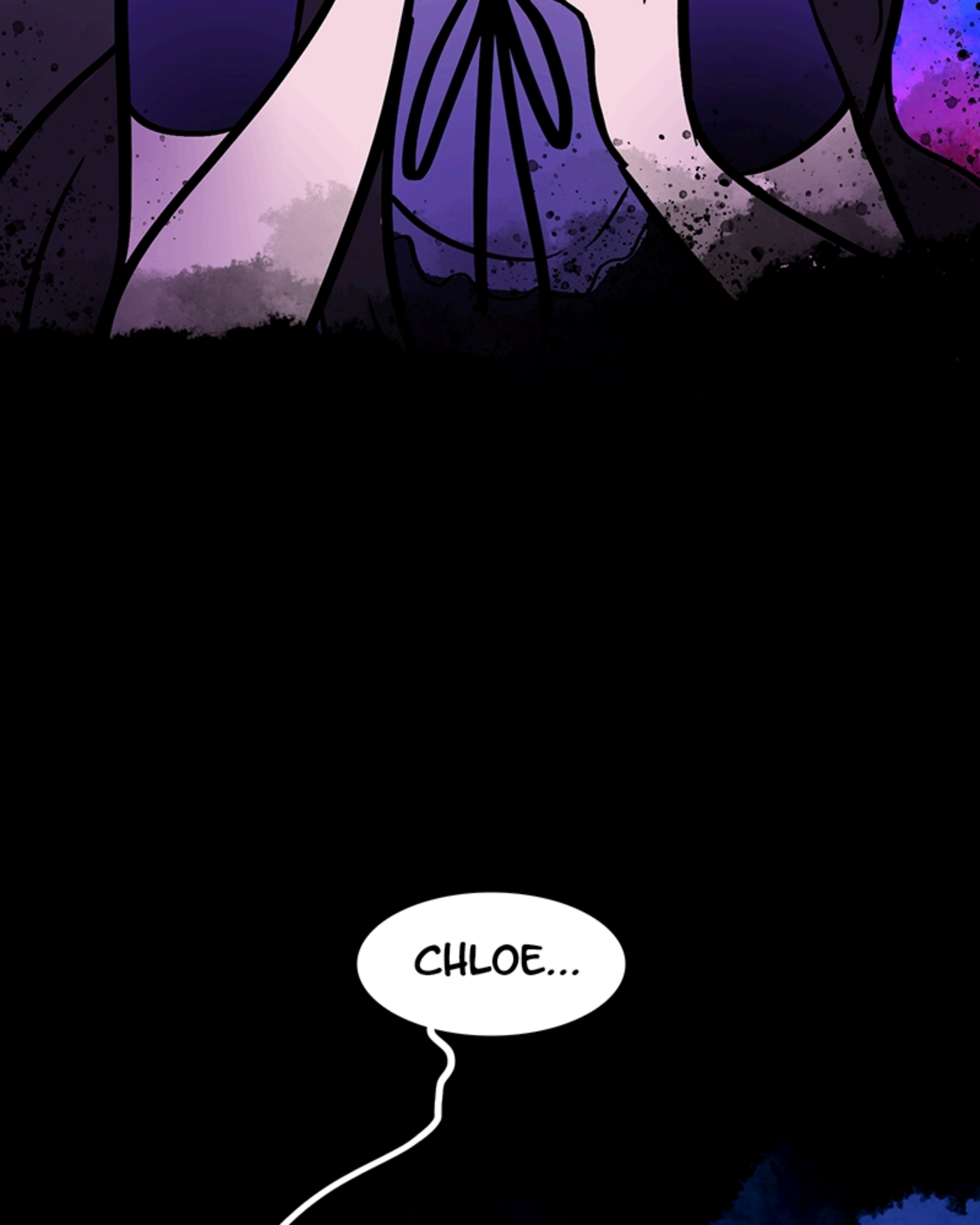


I'M OVER
HERE, MOMMA!

LET'S
SAY GOODBYE
TO YOUR NEW
FRIEND AND-







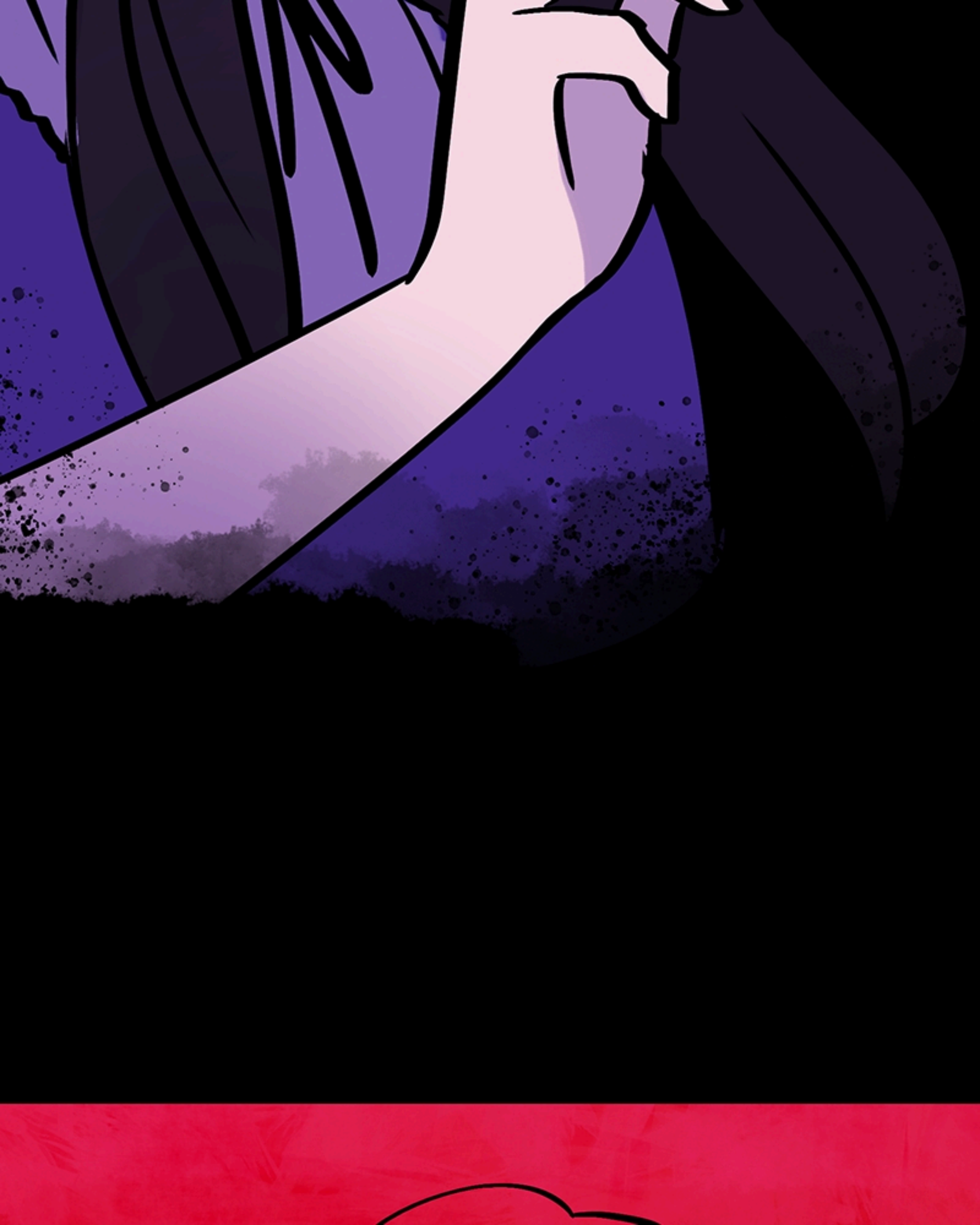
CHLOE...



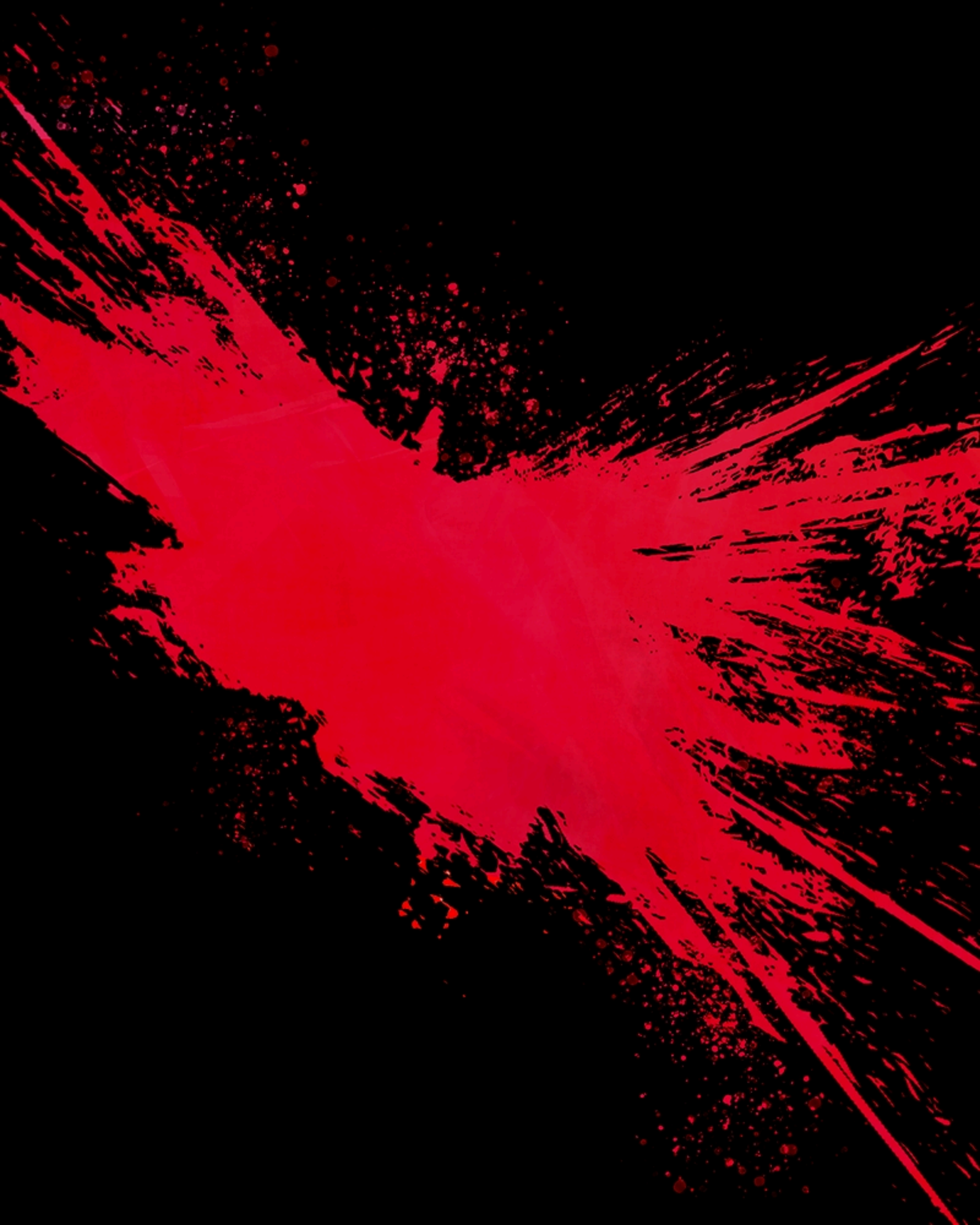


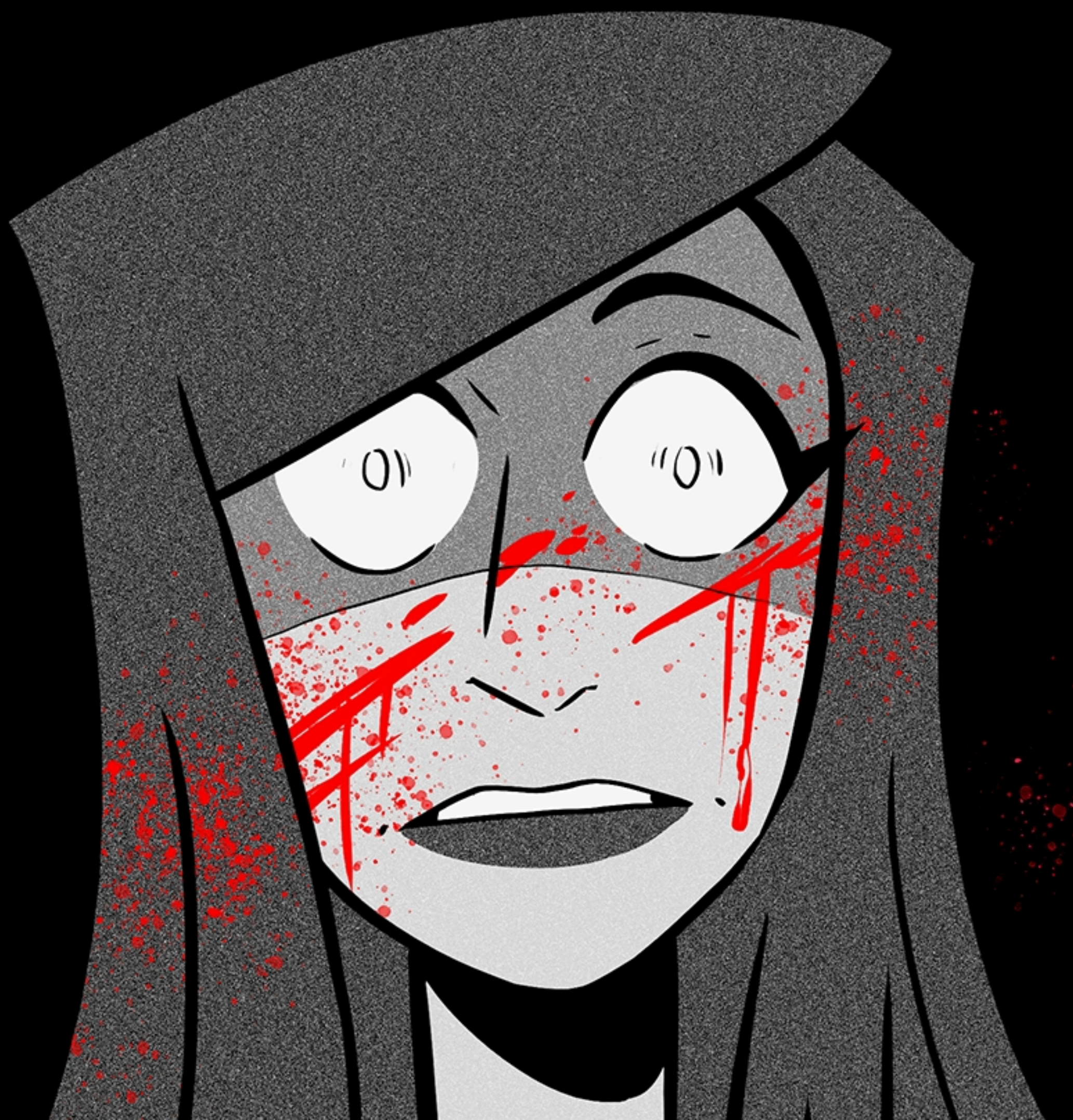
B-BABY-
COME HERE-















SMOKE?

SMOKE?

HA





MOMMA!?
WHERE ARE
YOU!?

WHAT
HAPPENED—

CHLOE!?





CAMILLE!



MOMMA!!

















A hand with pink skin and black outlines reaches down from the top left corner. The background is a dark, black space filled with numerous small, glowing red and orange dots, resembling stars or embers. A large, bright, orange and yellow flame-like shape is visible in the upper left, partially obscured by the hand. A white speech bubble is positioned in the lower center of the frame.

YOU MANAGE
TO SLIP AWAY FROM
ME THAT NIGHT.





A character with dark hair and a black hat is shown from the chest up, looking upwards. The background is a large, intense fire with bright orange and yellow flames and dark red smoke. Two speech bubbles are positioned above the character, containing text.

THE FIRE HAD
ALREADY COVERED
THE ENTRANCE-

SO I THOUGHT
FOR SURE THAT WOULD
STOP YOU. OR THE PAIN
WOULD KILL YOU
LATER.



A SIMPLE
JOB ON PAPER...
AND YET.

YOU SURVIVED.





I'M NOT ACCUSTOMED
TO FAILURE. AND I BLEW
ALL MY ENERGY ON THAT
HUGE SHOWY FIRE THINKING
I'D BE GOING RIGHT
BACK HOME.



SO THANKS
TO YOU, I WAS STUCK
HERE. BECAUSE I WASN'T
ABLE TO COMPLETE MY
CONTRACT.



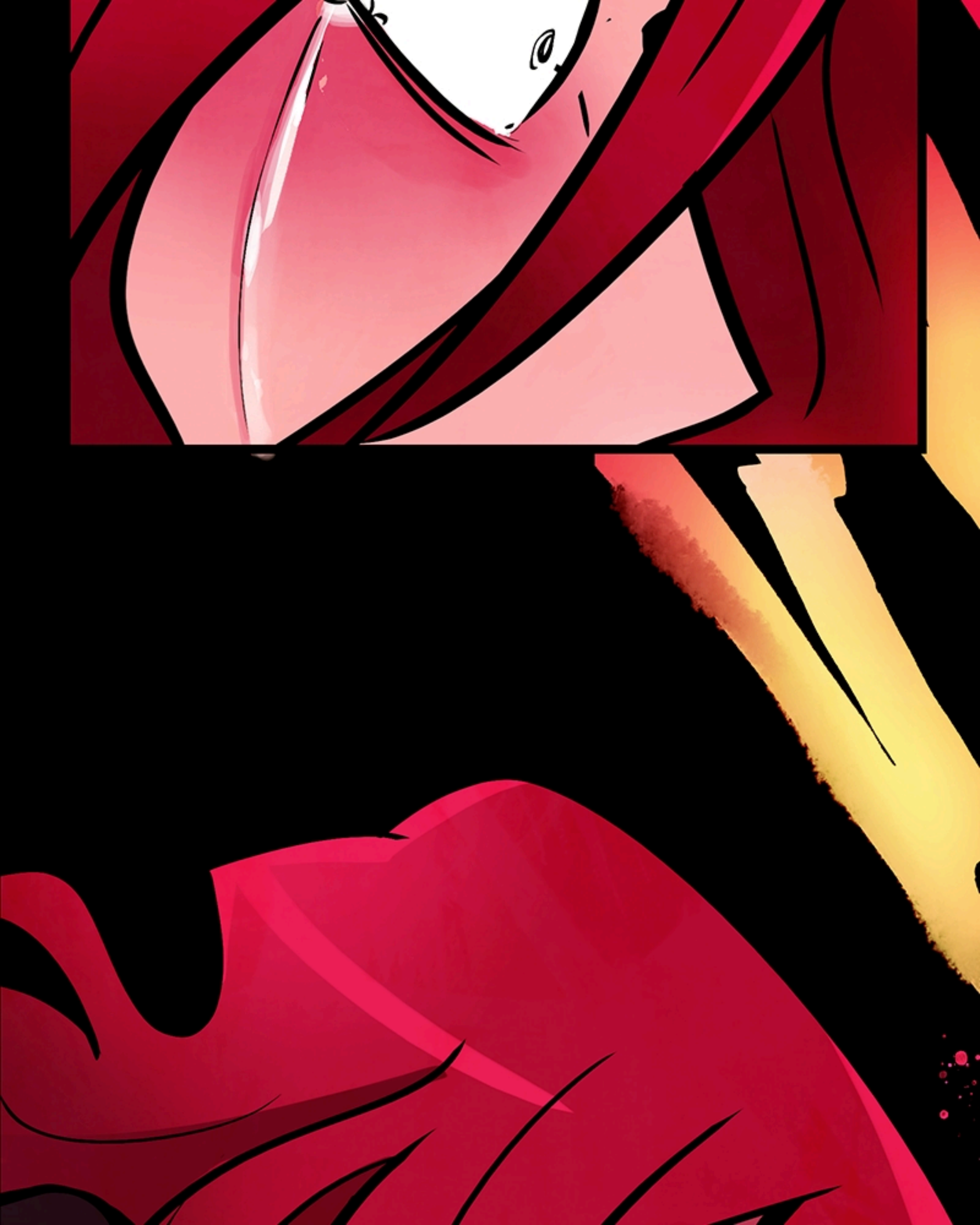
IT'S TAKEN
ME ALL THIS TIME TO
GET ENOUGH ENERGY
TO FIND YOU AGAIN.

IRONICALLY,
YOU HELPED WITH
THE SPEED OF THAT
PROCESS RATHER
SUBSTANTIALLY.



A comic book panel with a black background. At the top, a character with long, flowing pink hair is partially visible. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is centered in the upper half of the panel. The background is filled with several sharp, diagonal streaks in shades of yellow, orange, and red, creating a sense of motion or energy. At the bottom of the panel, a rectangular inset shows a close-up of the character's face, focusing on their eyes and the lower part of their pink hair.

NOW...
LET'S PUT THAT SCENE
ON REPEAT FOR A WHILE
FOR OLD TIME'S
SAKE, HM?









A

A

H

H

#

WHAT AM I DOING...?





THIS PLACE
FEELS FAMILIAR
BUT...





WHEN... OR...
HOW DID I GET
HERE...?



MY HEART HURTS,
I FEEL SO ANXIOUS...



WAS I...
LOOKING FOR

...SOMEONE?
SOMEONE?





NYRA!



HEA KIDDO

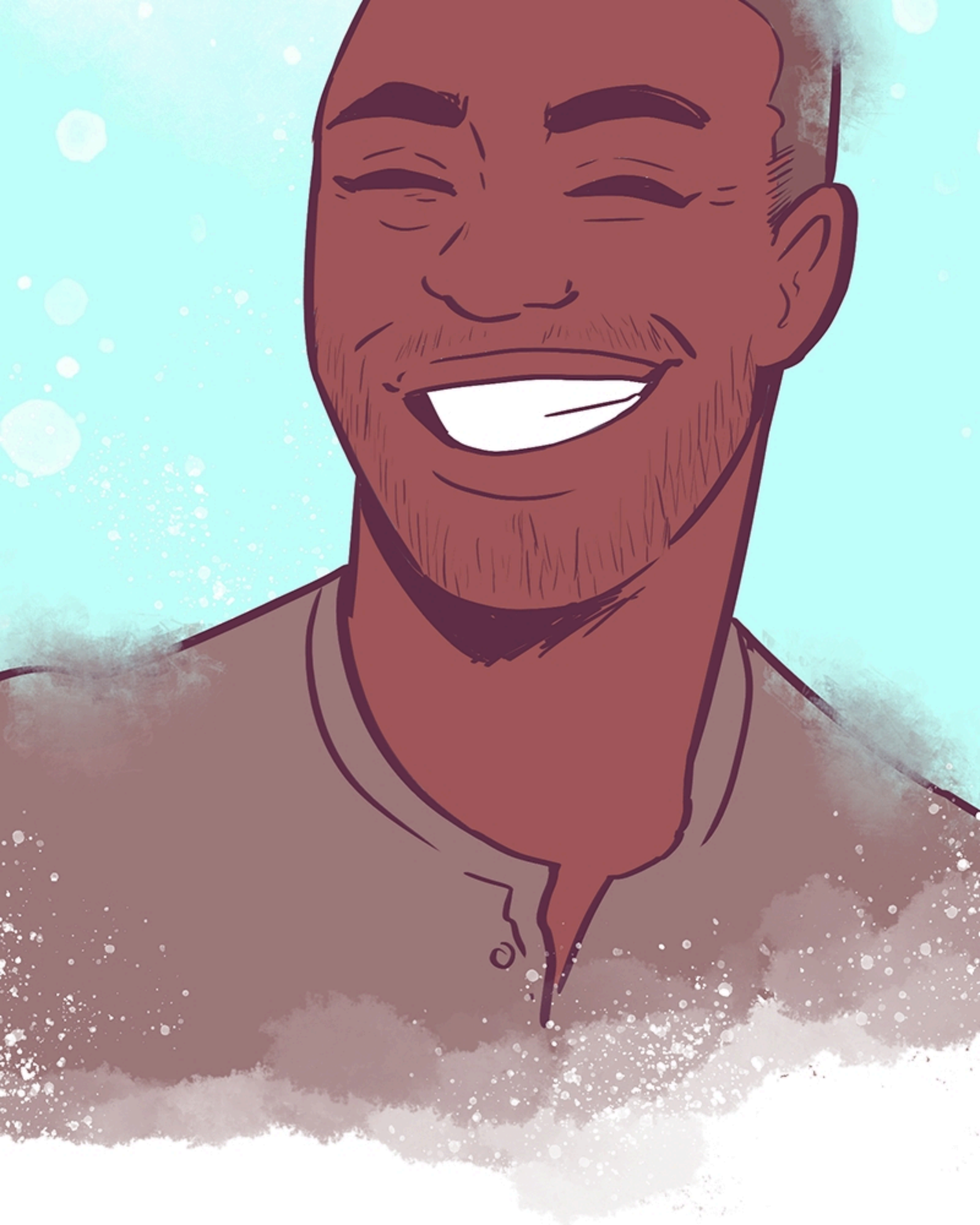
HEY KIDDO,
I WASN'T EXPECTING
YOU HOME SO SOON!

YOU SHOULDA
CALLED SO I COULD
CLEAN THE GUEST
ROOM!





DAD!



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