



WHOA...
HM...

THAT'S...

THAT'S A
LOT.



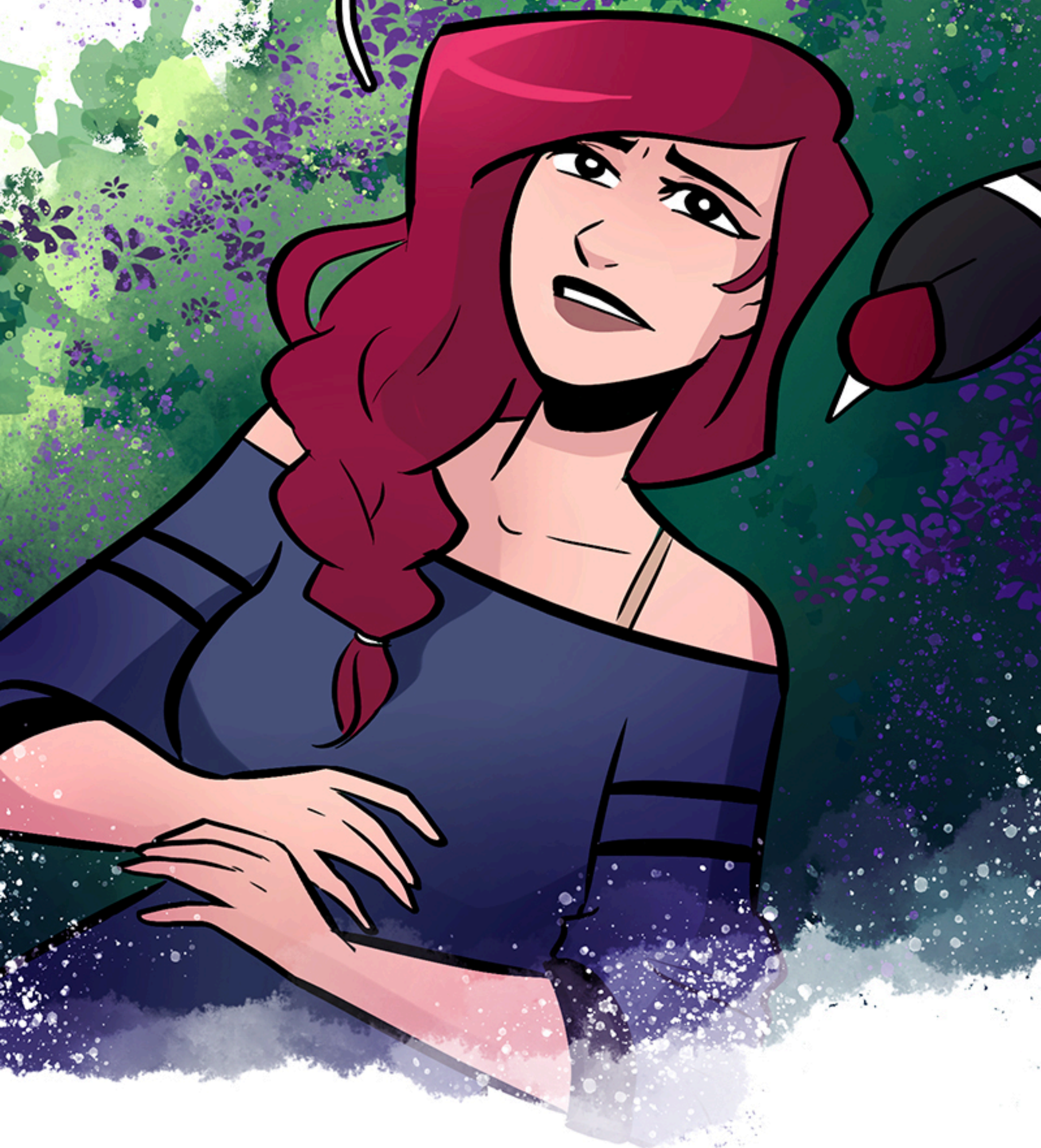
HOW ARE
YOU FEELING
ABOUT ALL
OF IT?





WELL...
YOU KNOW,
BAD.

BUT
LAYING HERE
IS HELPING.



IT'S GETTING
TO THE POINT WHERE
THERE ARE SO MANY
RIDICULOUS THINGS
HAPPENING THAT I CAN
BARELY KEEP TRACK.

AND I'M
JUST TRYING TO
COMPARTMENTALIZE
BEFORE I BURN OUT
OR LOSE IT.



A comic panel featuring two hands at the bottom, palms up, against a background of falling rain. Two speech bubbles rise from the hands. The top bubble contains the text "BUT IT'S HARD." and the bottom bubble contains the text "PROCESSING FEELINGS INSTEAD OF SHUTTING THEM OUT LIKE I USED TO IS VERY HARD." The background is a mix of light blue and purple with white rain streaks and small white dots.

BUT IT'S
HARD.

PROCESSING
FEELINGS INSTEAD
OF SHUTTING THEM
OUT LIKE I USED TO
IS VERY HARD.



TO BE
FAIR, I'M NOT
AN EXPERT ON HOW
THE AVERAGE HUMAN
LIFE GOES BUT...



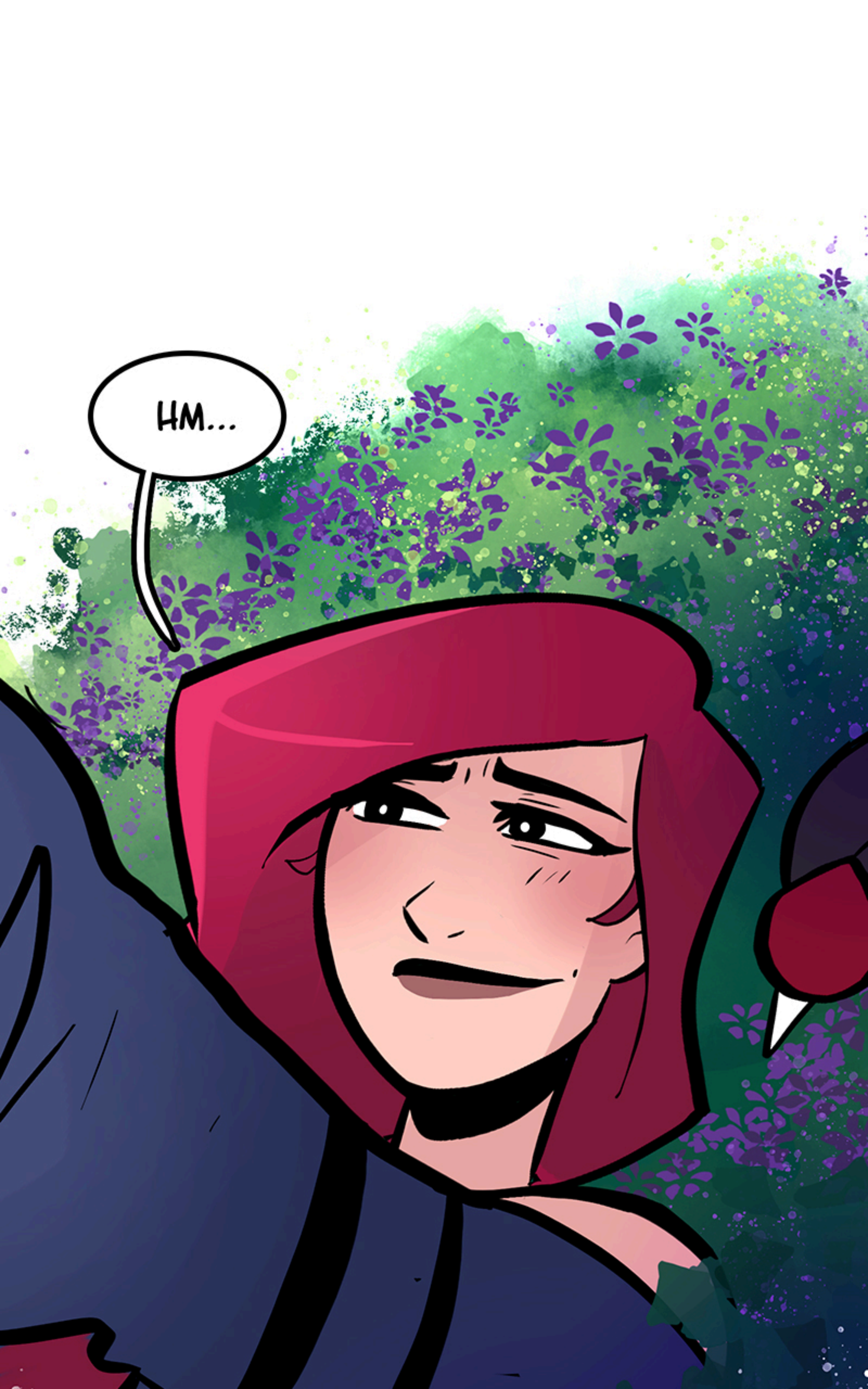
PRETTY
SURE THESE
ARE NOT THE
NORMAL SORT OF
SITUATIONS THAT
MOST PEOPLE
HAVE TO DEAL
WITH.

BUT IT'S
OKAY, BECAUSE

I AM STILL
HERE!

AND WE CAN
FIGHT THROUGH
THIS TOGETHER!





HM...

A hand with a black outline is reaching upwards from the bottom of the frame. The background is a dark, starry sky with a bright, glowing light source on the left, creating a lens flare effect. A speech bubble is positioned above the hand.

THAT'S
PART OF THE
PROBLEM,
THOUGH.

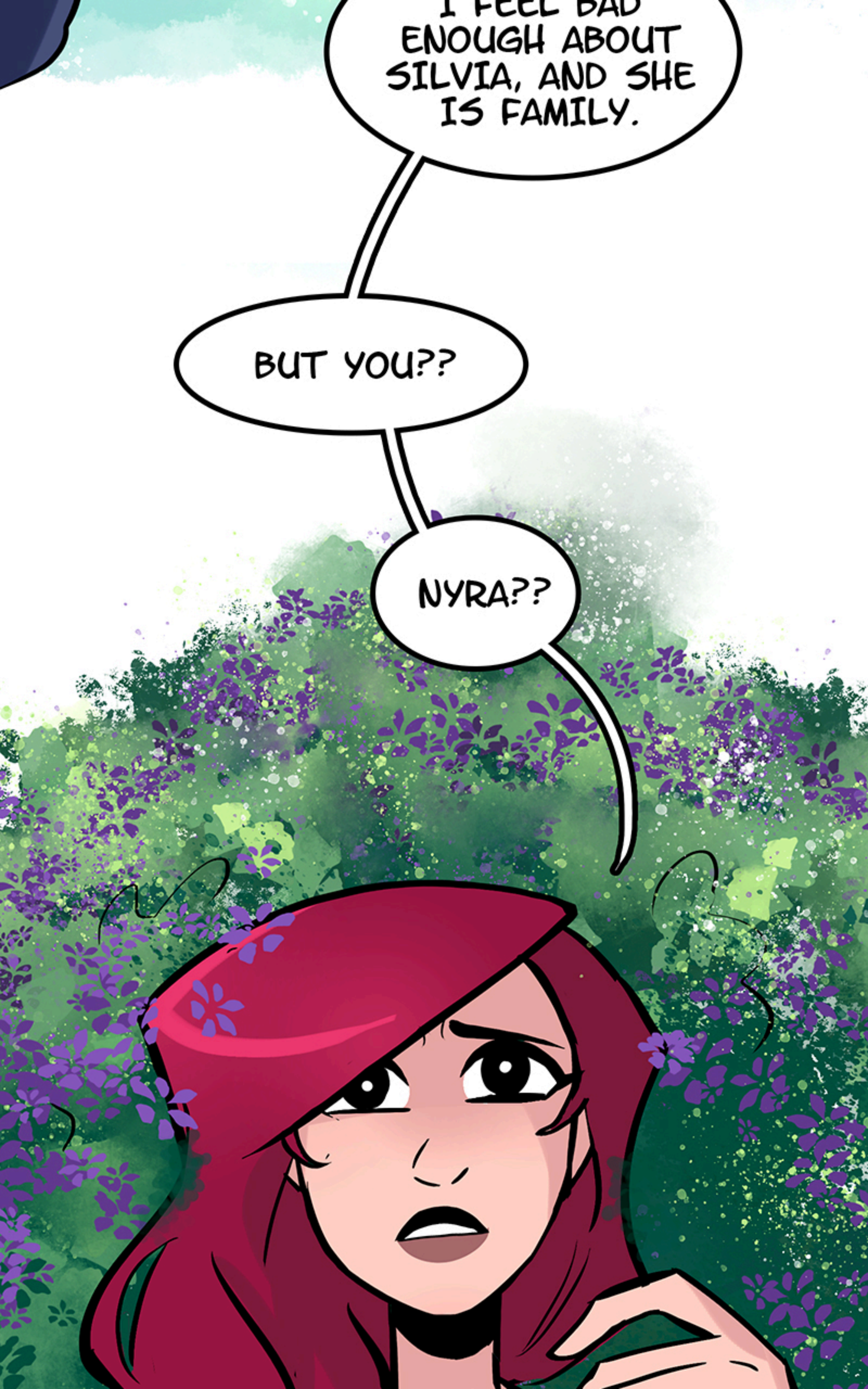


EVERYONE IS
DOING SO MUCH
TO HELP ME...



AND FOR
WHAT?

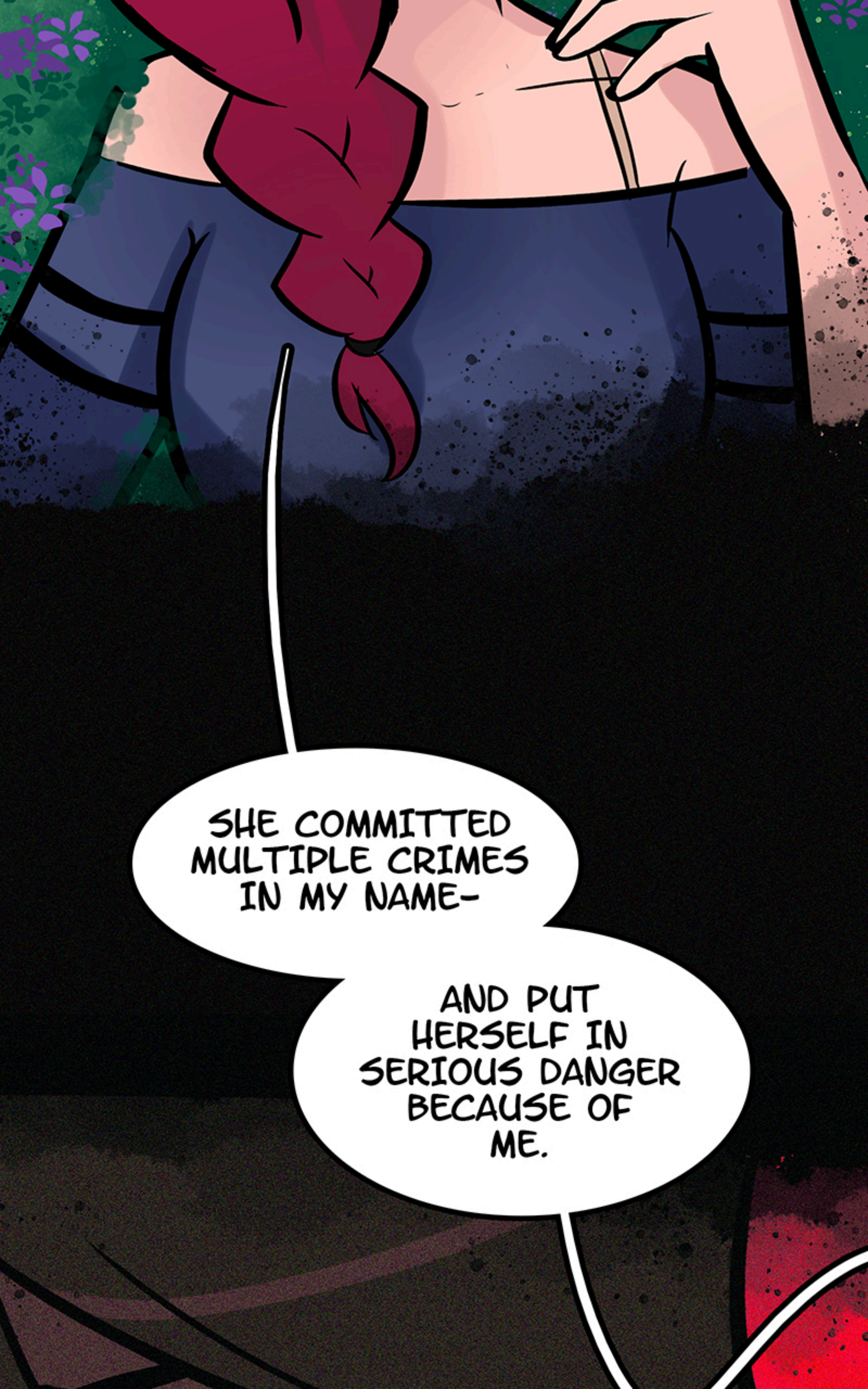
I FEEL BAD



I FEEL BAD
ENOUGH ABOUT
SILVIA, AND SHE
IS FAMILY.

BUT YOU??

NYRA??



SHE COMMITTED
MULTIPLE CRIMES
IN MY NAME-

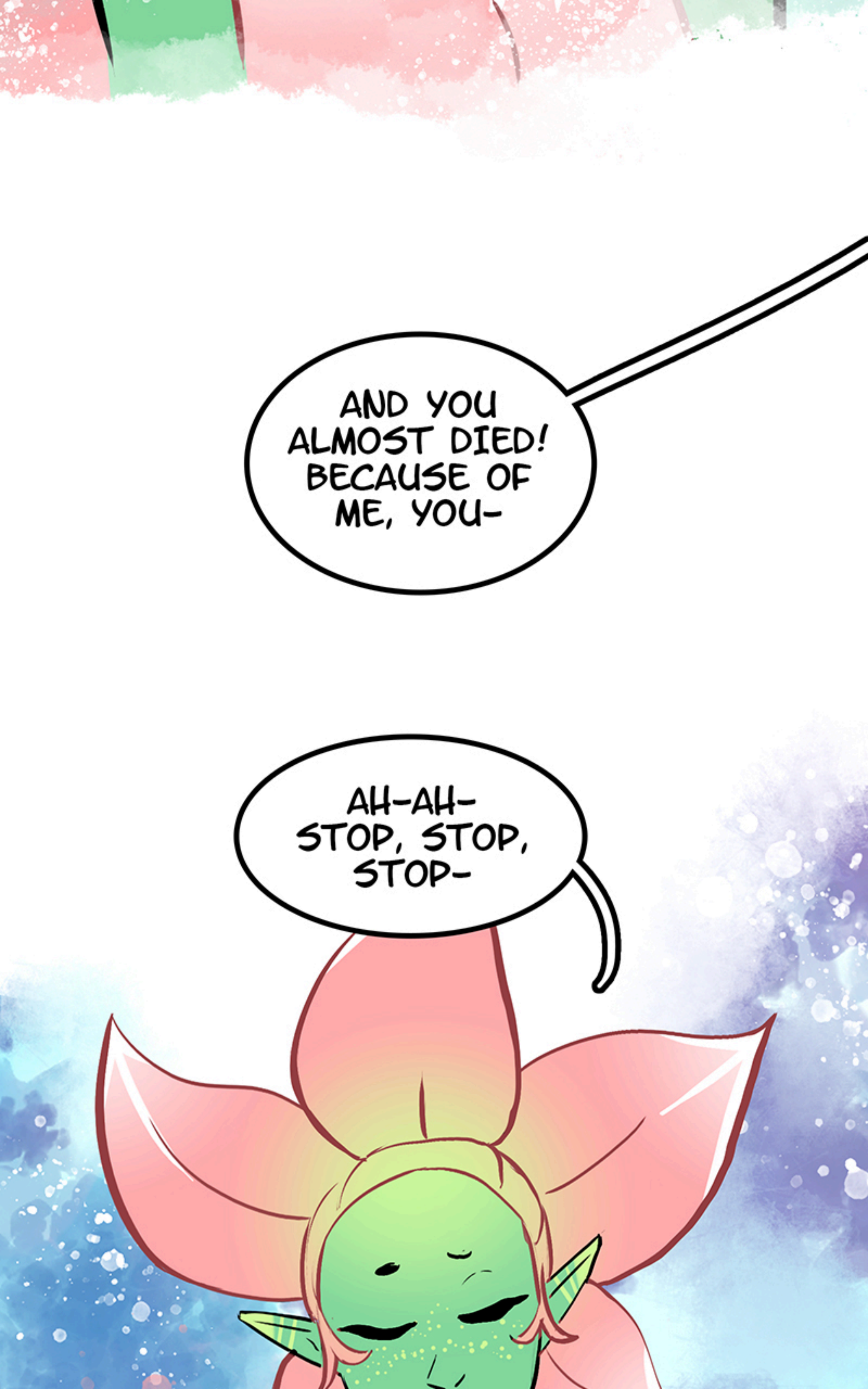
AND PUT
HERSELF IN
SERIOUS DANGER
BECAUSE OF
ME.



I HAD TO
SEND HER AWAY
TO KEEP HER
SAFE.

AND YOU
JUST WANTED TO
COME TO EARTH FOR
A NEW LIFE-



A comic panel featuring a character with a green face and closed eyes, nestled within a large pink flower. The background is a soft-focus blue and purple bokeh. Two speech bubbles are present: one above the character and one further up the page.

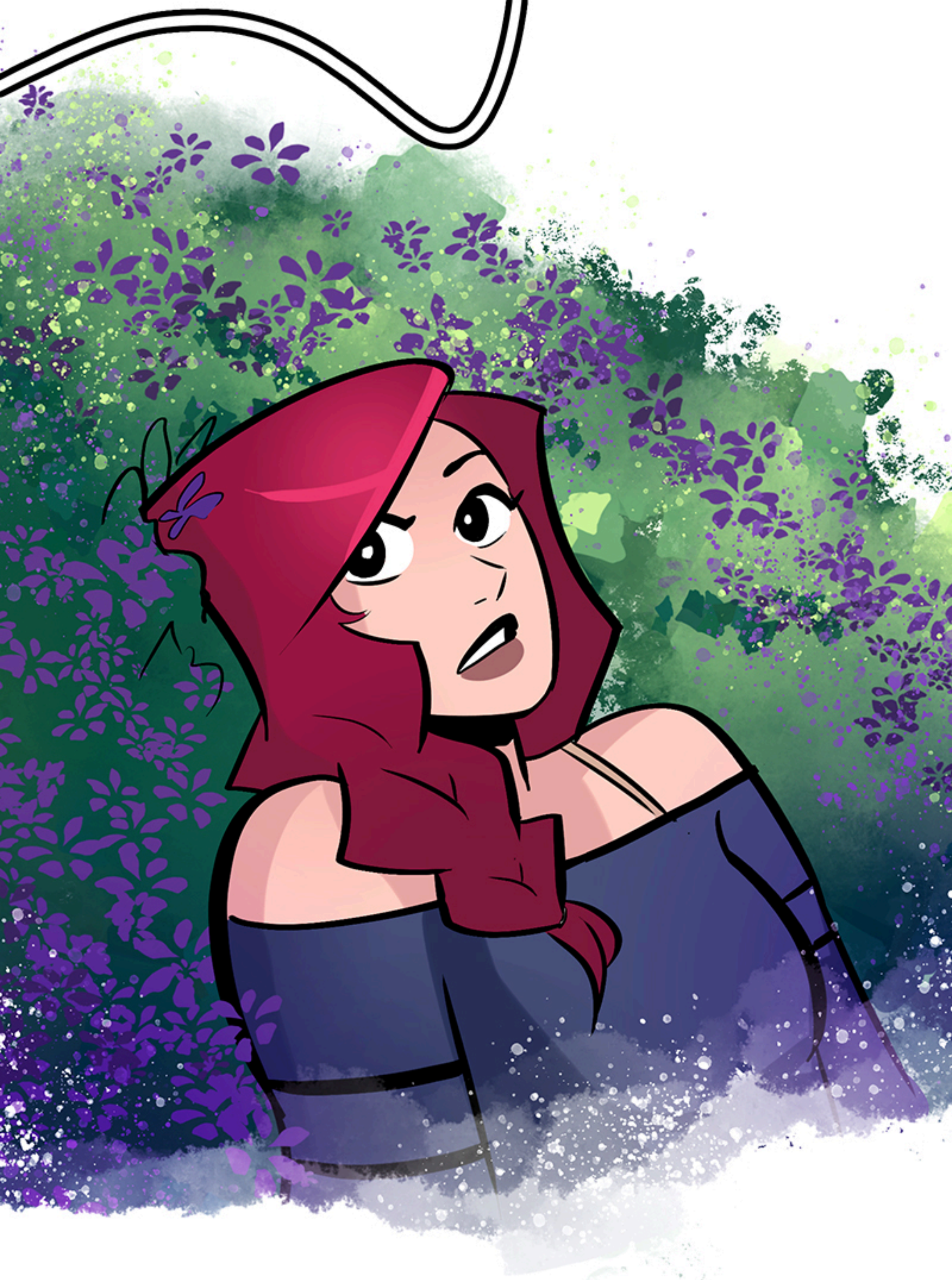
AND YOU
ALMOST DIED!
BECAUSE OF
ME, YOU-

AH-AH-
STOP, STOP,
STOP-

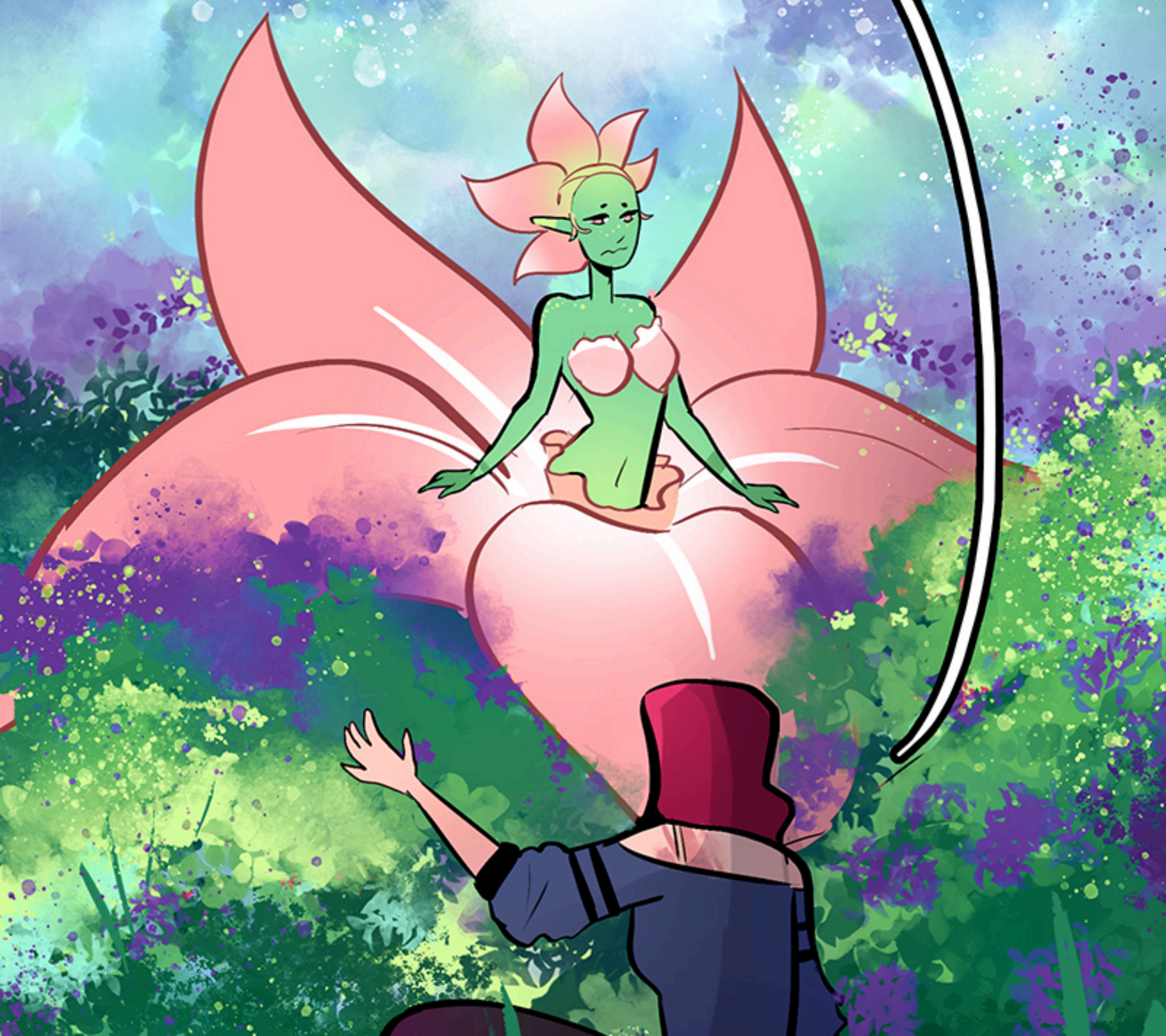


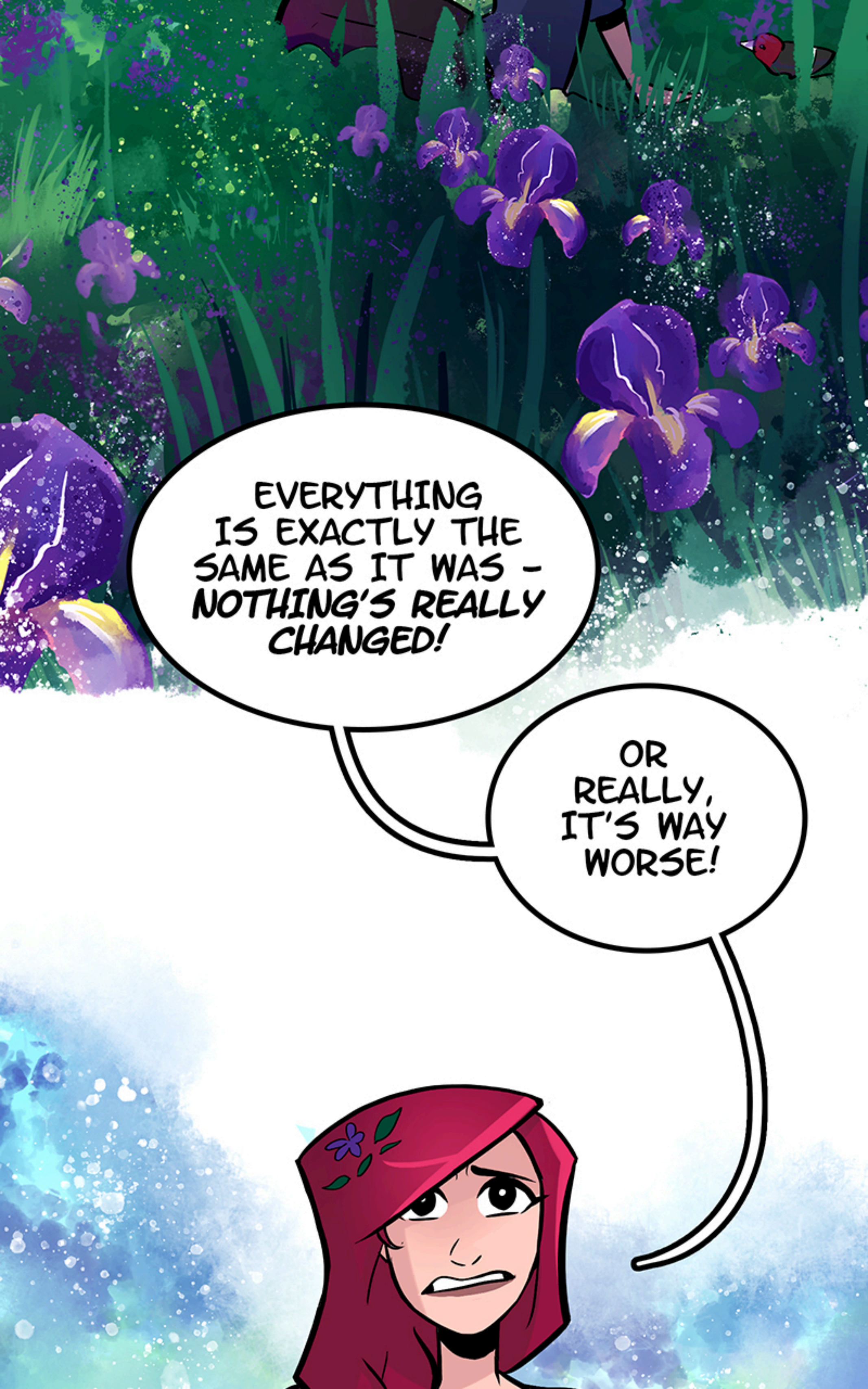
THIS IS VEERING
SHARPLY TOWARDS THE
TERRITORY OF OUR FIRST
HEART FELT CONVERSATION

WHERE YOU BROKE MY
ARM.



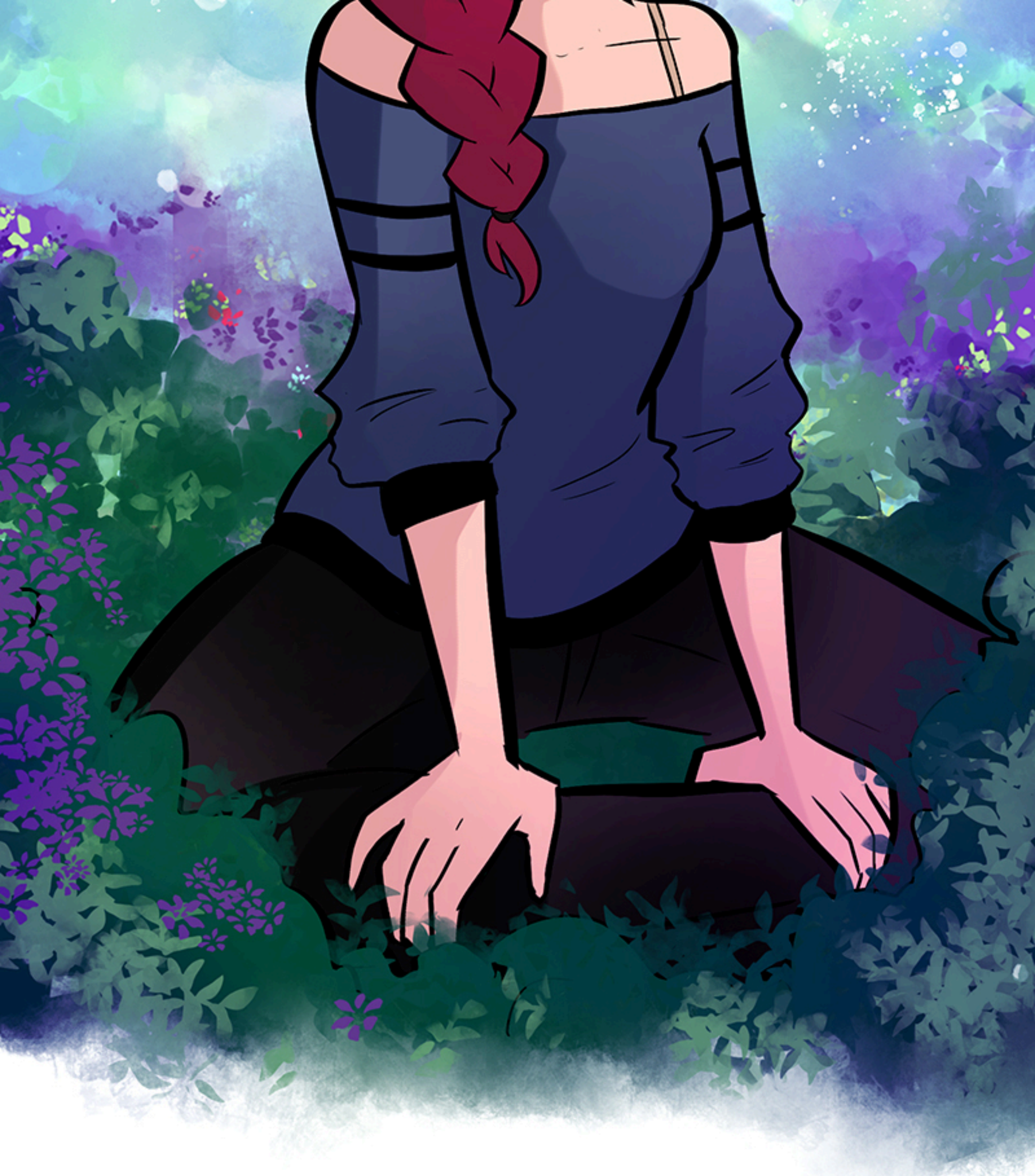
YES! EXACTLY!
THAT'S A GOOD
POINT!





**EVERYTHING
IS EXACTLY THE
SAME AS IT WAS -
NOTHING'S REALLY
CHANGED!**

**OR
REALLY,
IT'S WAY
WORSE!**



WHAT DOES
ANYONE GAIN FROM
HELPING ME?



IT'S JUST
A LOOP OF THE
SAME CRAP OVER
AND OVER!

I JUST CAUSE
PAIN AND SUFFERING
BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS
THAT COME WITH ME AND
THE WAY THAT I AM!



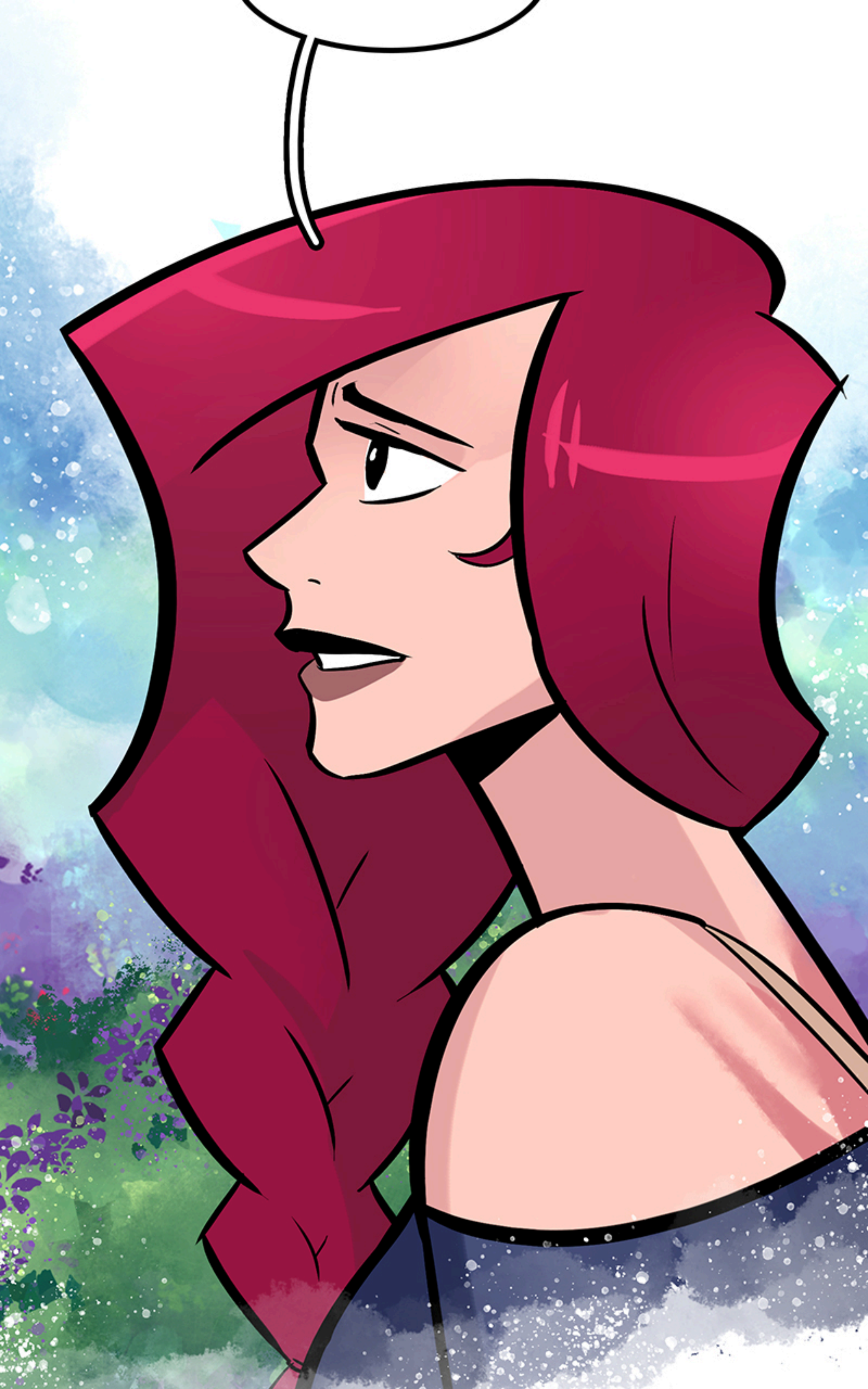
HA

HA

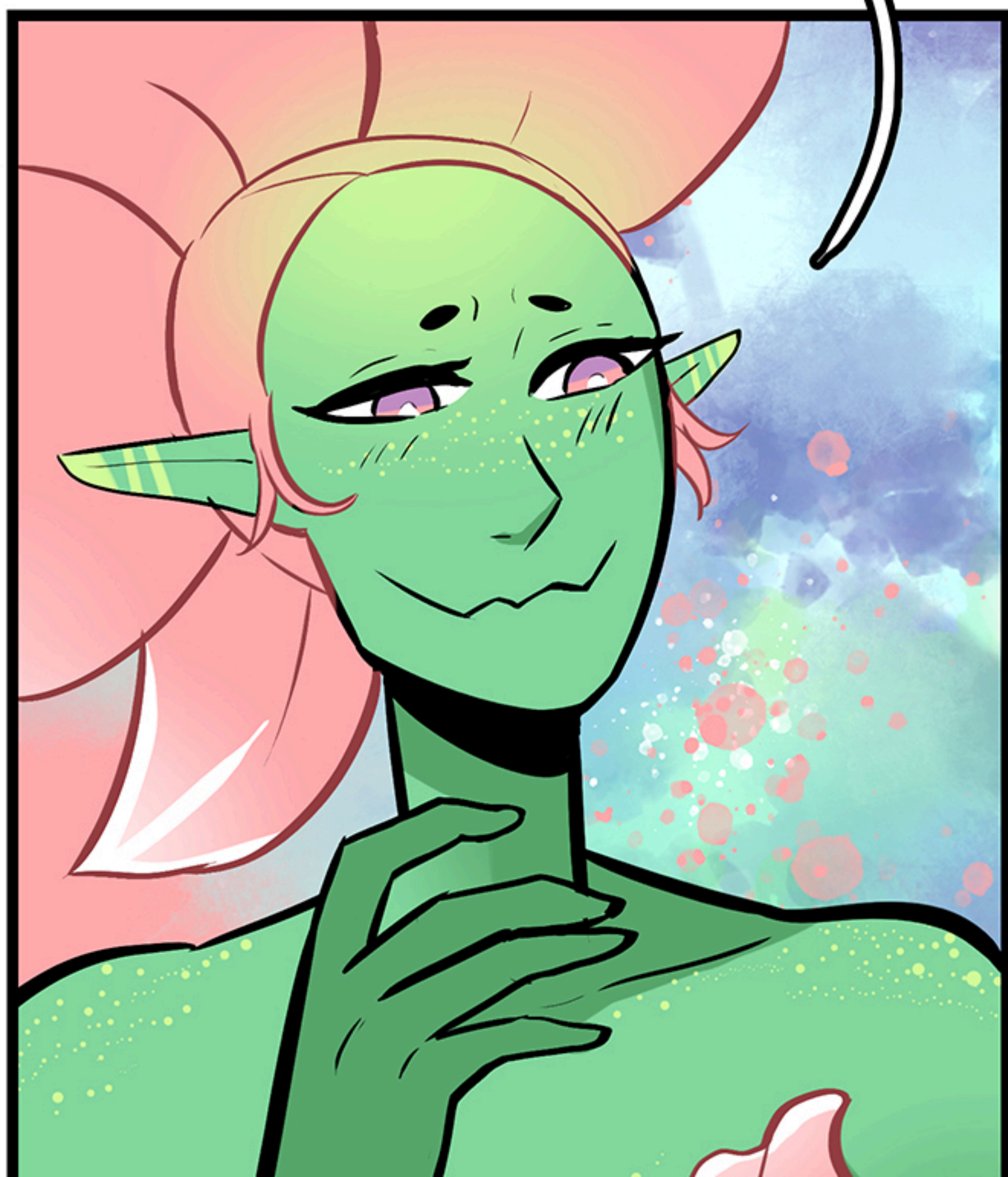
HA



EH?? WHAT-

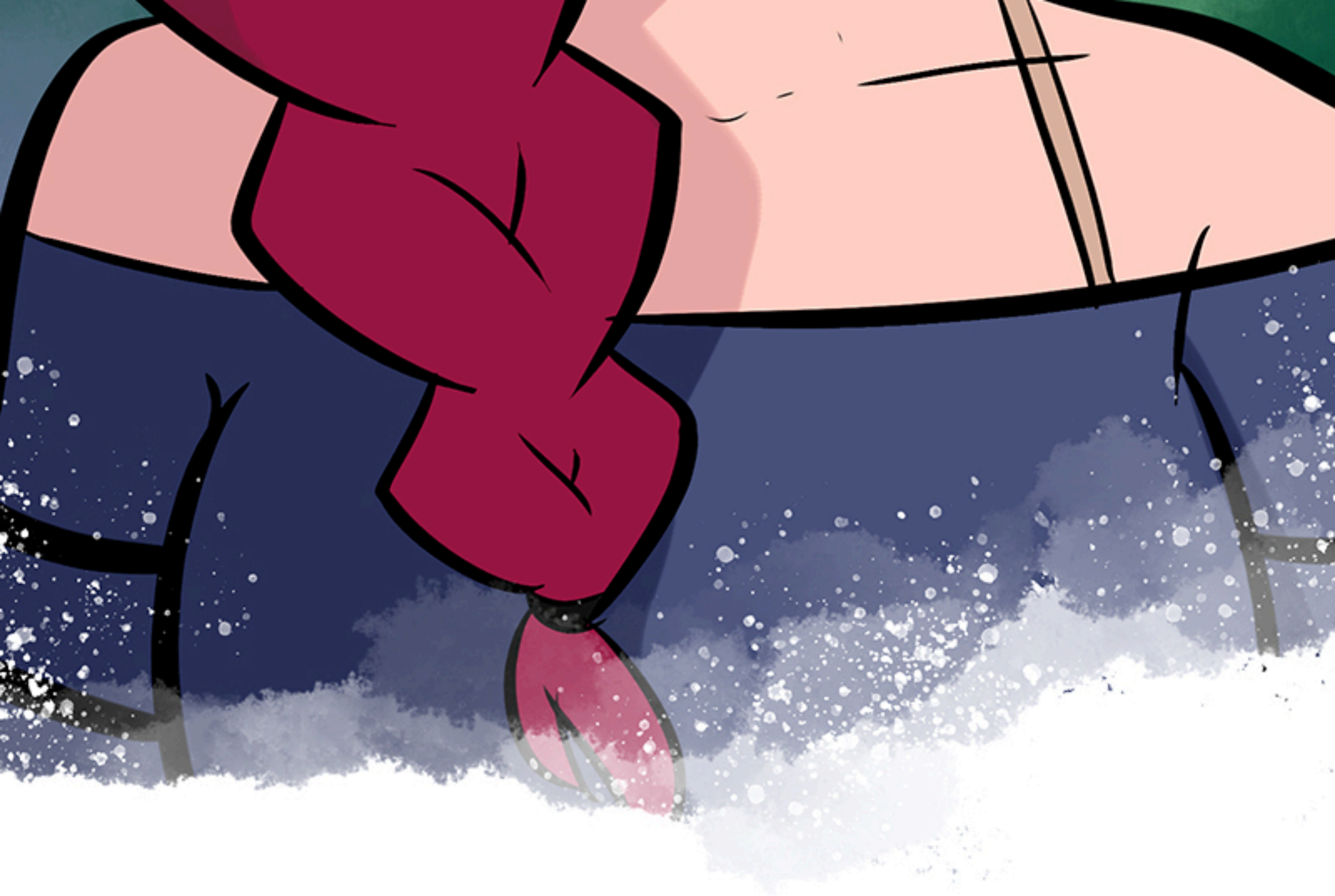


WHAT DO
YOU MEAN NOTHING'S
REALLY CHANGED?



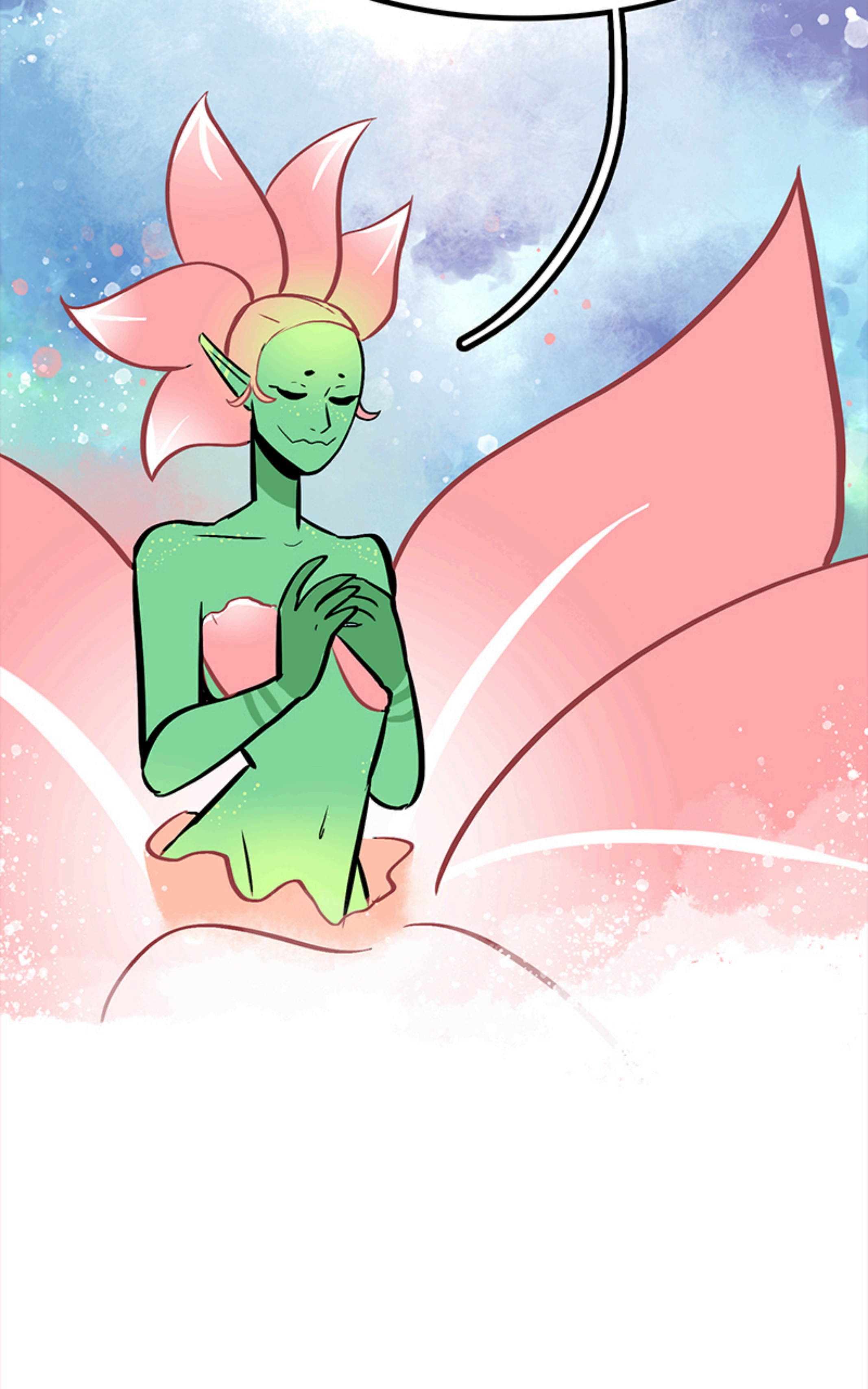


YOU'VE
CHANGED.



SITUATIONS ARE
MORE COMPLICATED,
THAT'S TRUE.

BUT I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE GIVING
YOURSELF ENOUGH
CREDIT.





NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS FROM
NOW ON, THINGS WILL
NEVER BE THE WAY THEY
WERE BEFORE - OR THE
SAME.

BECAUSE
OF HOW MUCH
YOU'VE CHANGED
ALREADY.



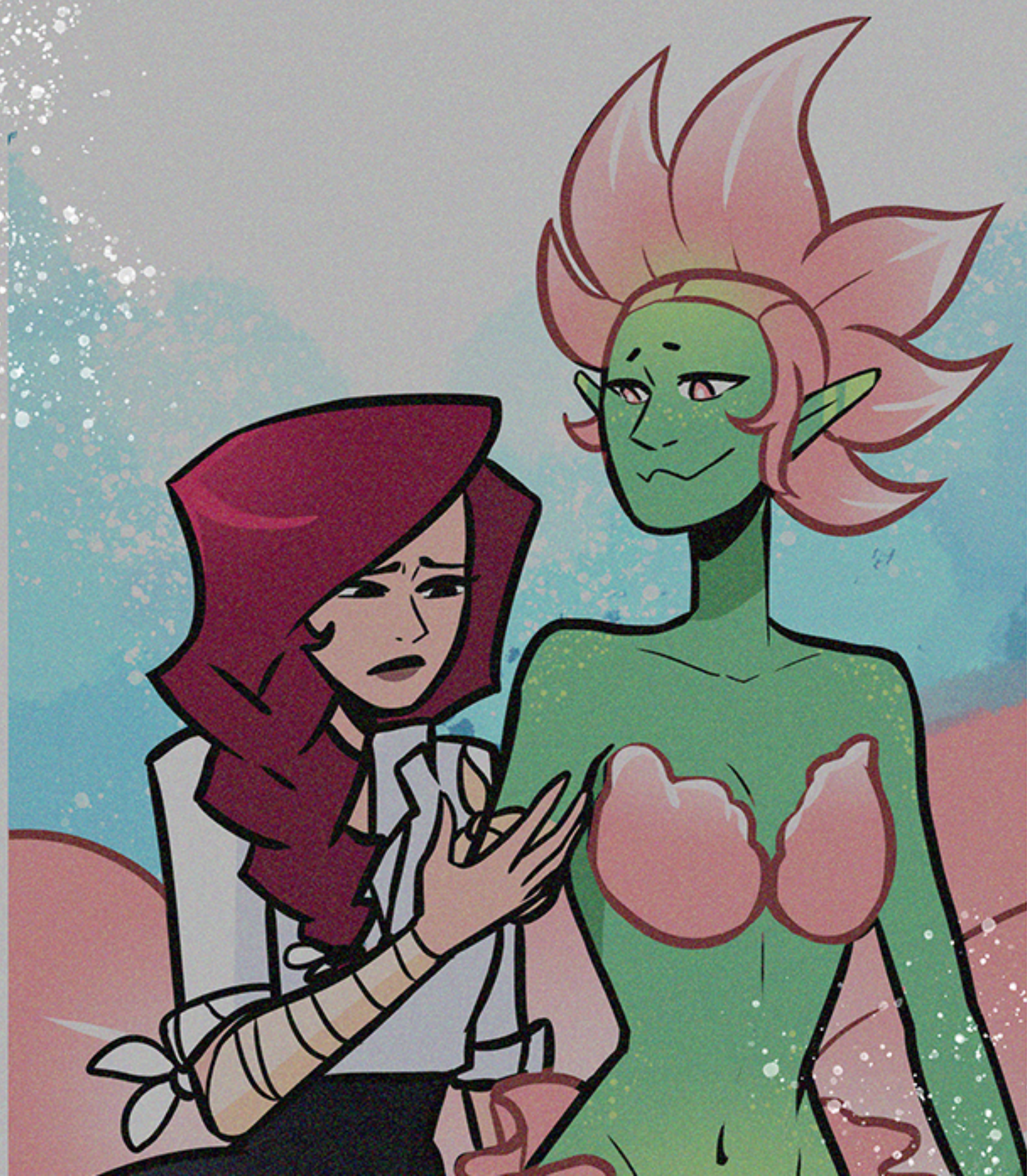
WHEN I FIRST
MET YOU, YOU WERE
UNCERTAIN AND
DISTANT.

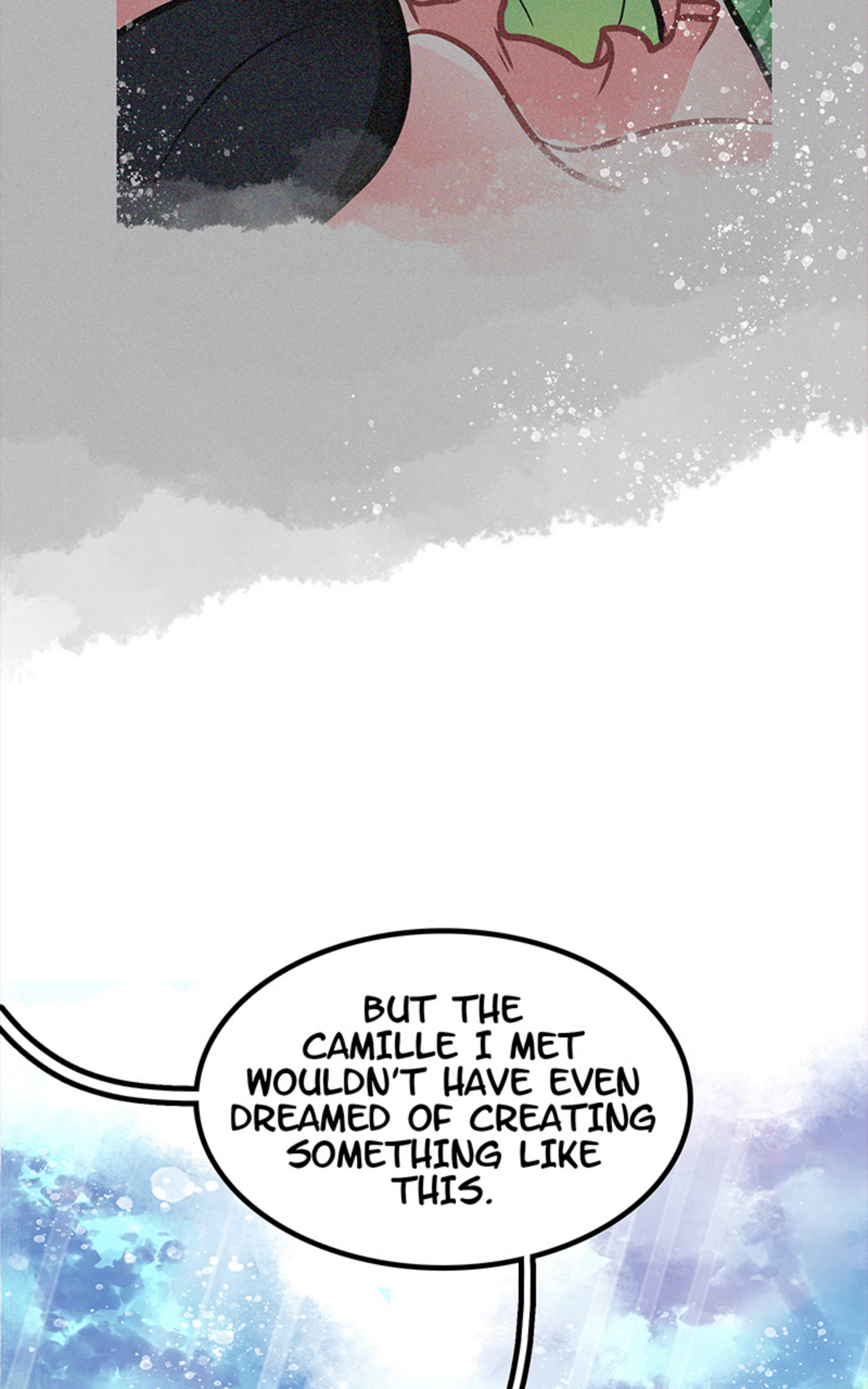
YOU HAD
LOCKED SO MUCH
OF YOURSELF AWAY AND
CONVINCED YOURSELF

THAT YOU COULD ONLY
CAUSE PAIN.



SO SURE,
IT MIGHT FEEL
LIKE YOU'RE REPEATING
OLD PATTERNS RIGHT
NOW...

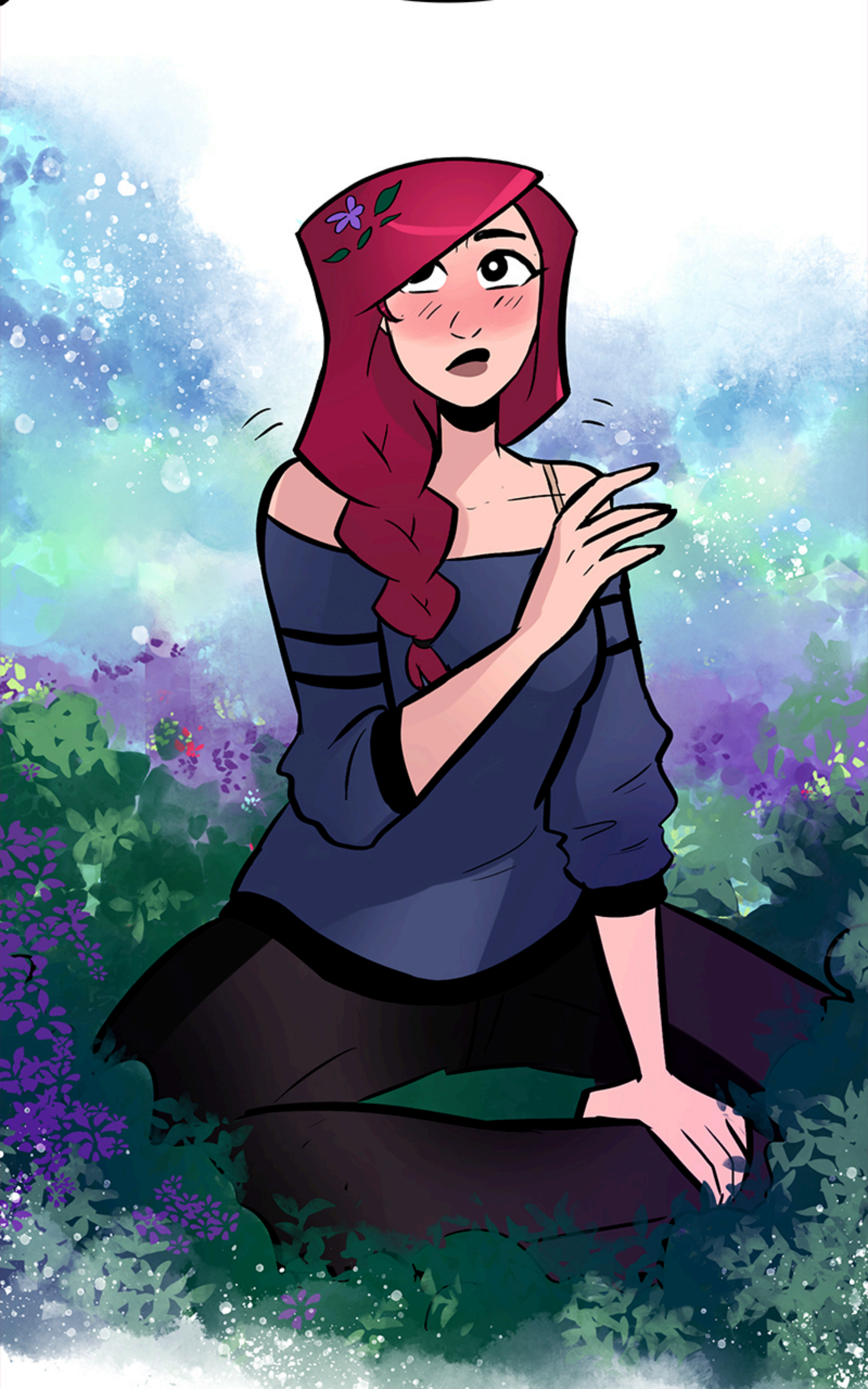




BUT THE
CAMILLE I MET
WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN
DREAMED OF CREATING
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS.



OR EVEN
OPEN TO TALKING
ABOUT HER FEELINGS
WHILE ROLLING
AROUND AND GETTING
FLOWERS IN HER
HAIR.

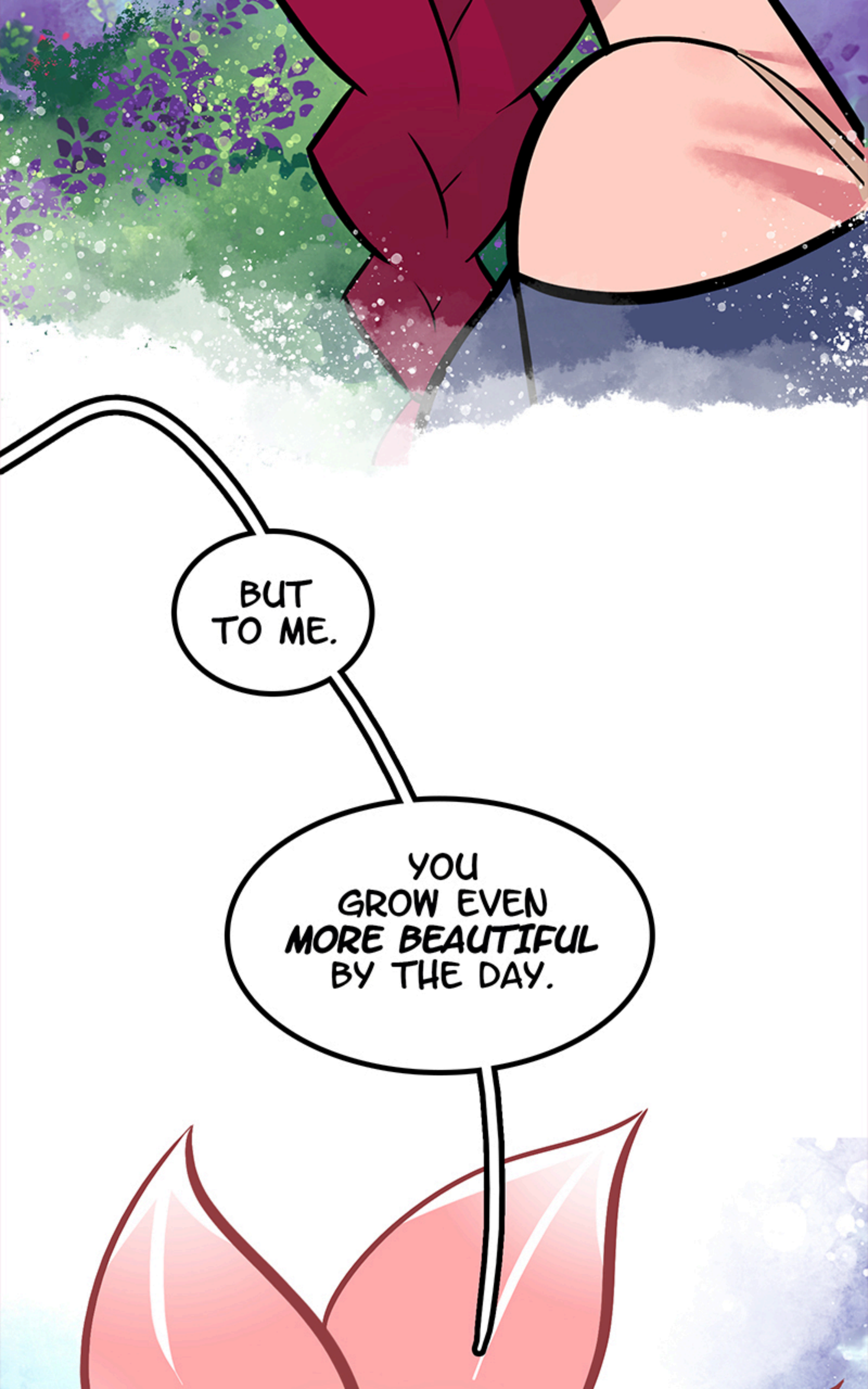


THIS
IS PROOF
OF ALL YOU ARE
CAPABLE OF - NOT
JUST PAIN. YOU
CAN *GROW*.



A comic book panel featuring a woman with short, dark red hair in a bob cut, shown in profile from the chest up. She has a determined expression, looking upwards and to the left. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage at the top and a blue sky with white clouds and small white specks. A large speech bubble is positioned above her head, containing text.

SO YES,
THINGS ARE BAD,
AND THEY MIGHT
EVEN GET WORSE
BEFORE THEY GET
BETTER.

A comic book panel featuring a stylized flower with large, pointed petals in shades of pink and red. The background is a soft, painterly mix of green, purple, and blue with white speckles. A speech bubble originates from the flower.

BUT
TO ME.

YOU
GROW EVEN
MORE BEAUTIFUL
BY THE DAY.



AND I
AM VERY HAPPY
TO KNOW YOU.





AHHH...SHE'S NOT
SAYING ANYTHING, WHY
DO I SUDDENLY FEEL SO
EMBARRASSED??





I'VE TALKED TO HER
LIKE THIS BEFORE...
BUT NOW I...

AAAA...
HAHA, I SUPPOSE
I GOT A LITTLE
OFF TOPIC.

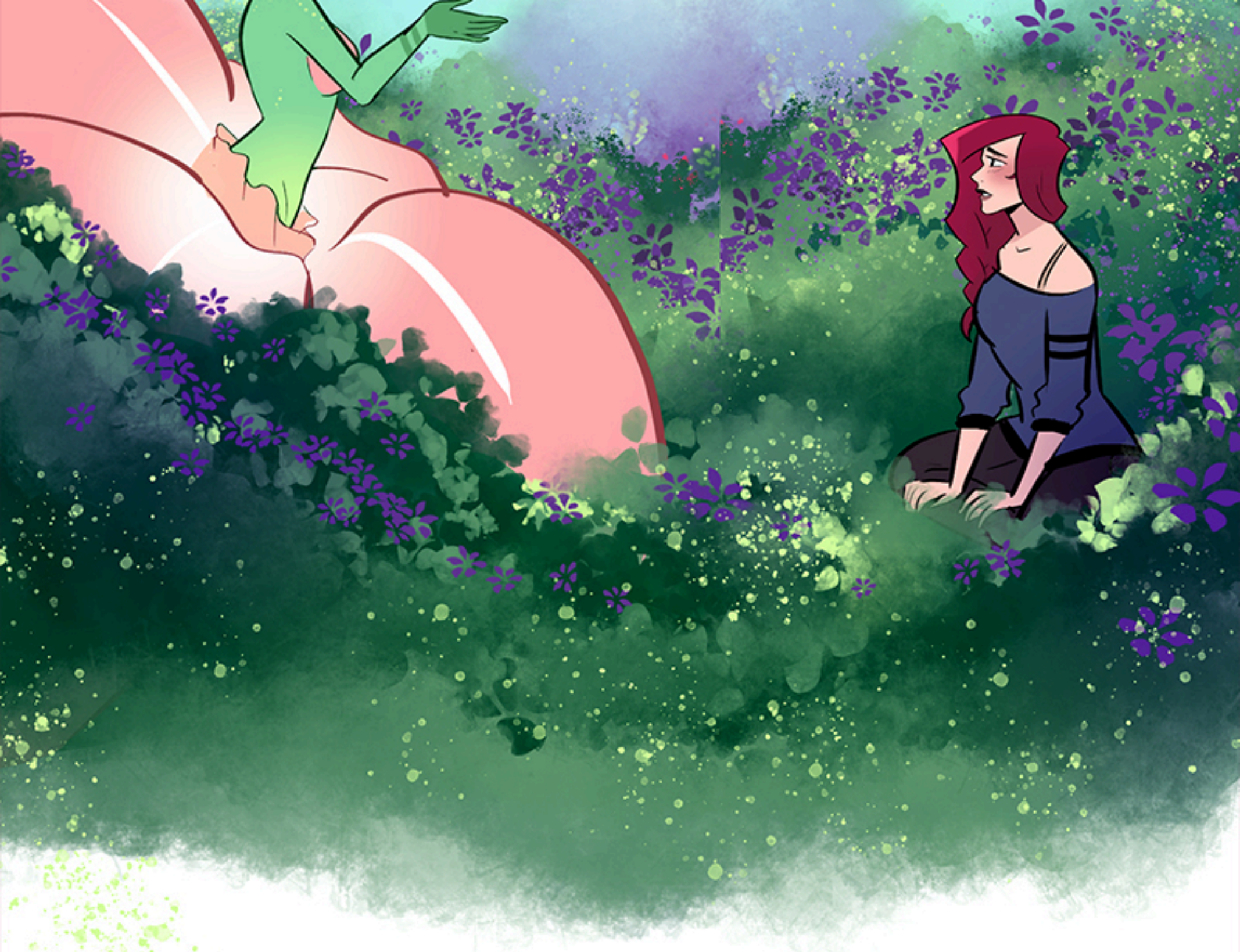




BACK TO
YOUR ORIGINAL
POINT...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO ANYTHING
TO *DESERVE* HELP.





NYRA
AND I HELP YOU
BECAUSE WE WANT
TO HELP YOU. NOT
BECAUSE YOU'VE
FORCED US.

WE ARE
CAPABLE OF
MAKING OUR OWN
CHOICES.



YE-
YOU
KNOW?

IF THAT
MAKES SEN-

I'M VERY
HAPPY TO KNOW
YOU, TOO!





YOU AND
NYRA BOTH...

YOU MAKE
ME FEEL SO HAPPY
AND SAFE...

I DON'T
FEEL WRONG OR
BROKEN WITH
YOU...





IT'S
JUST...

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
ANY OF THIS
STUFF...



AND I'M
STILL SO AFRAID
OF EVERYTHING
AND OF HURTING
YOU...



BUT...
MAYBE AFTER
THIS IS ALL
OVER...





WNOCK

KNOCK
KNOCK





COME
IN.

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