

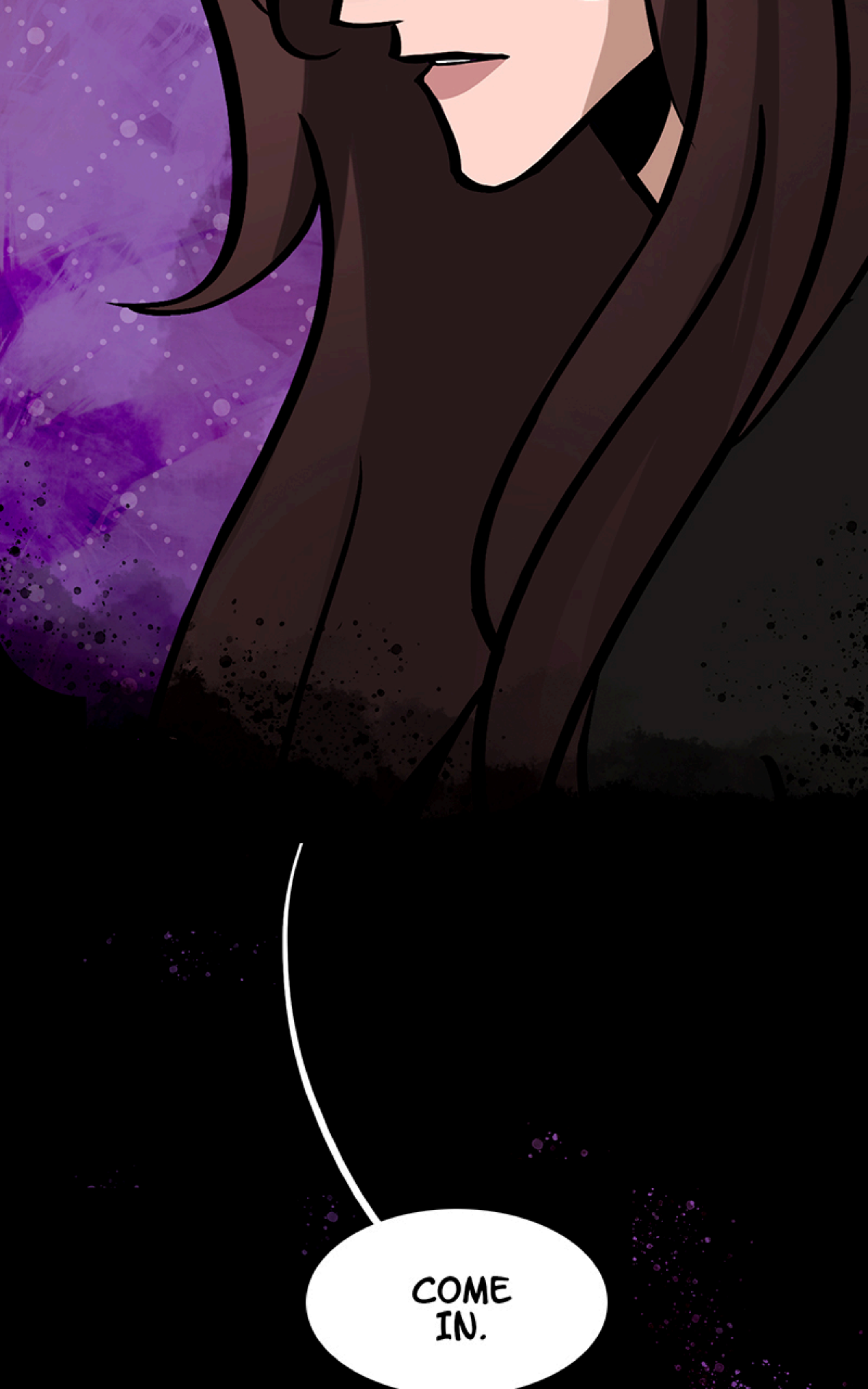




**KNOCK**  
**KNOCK**







COME  
IN.





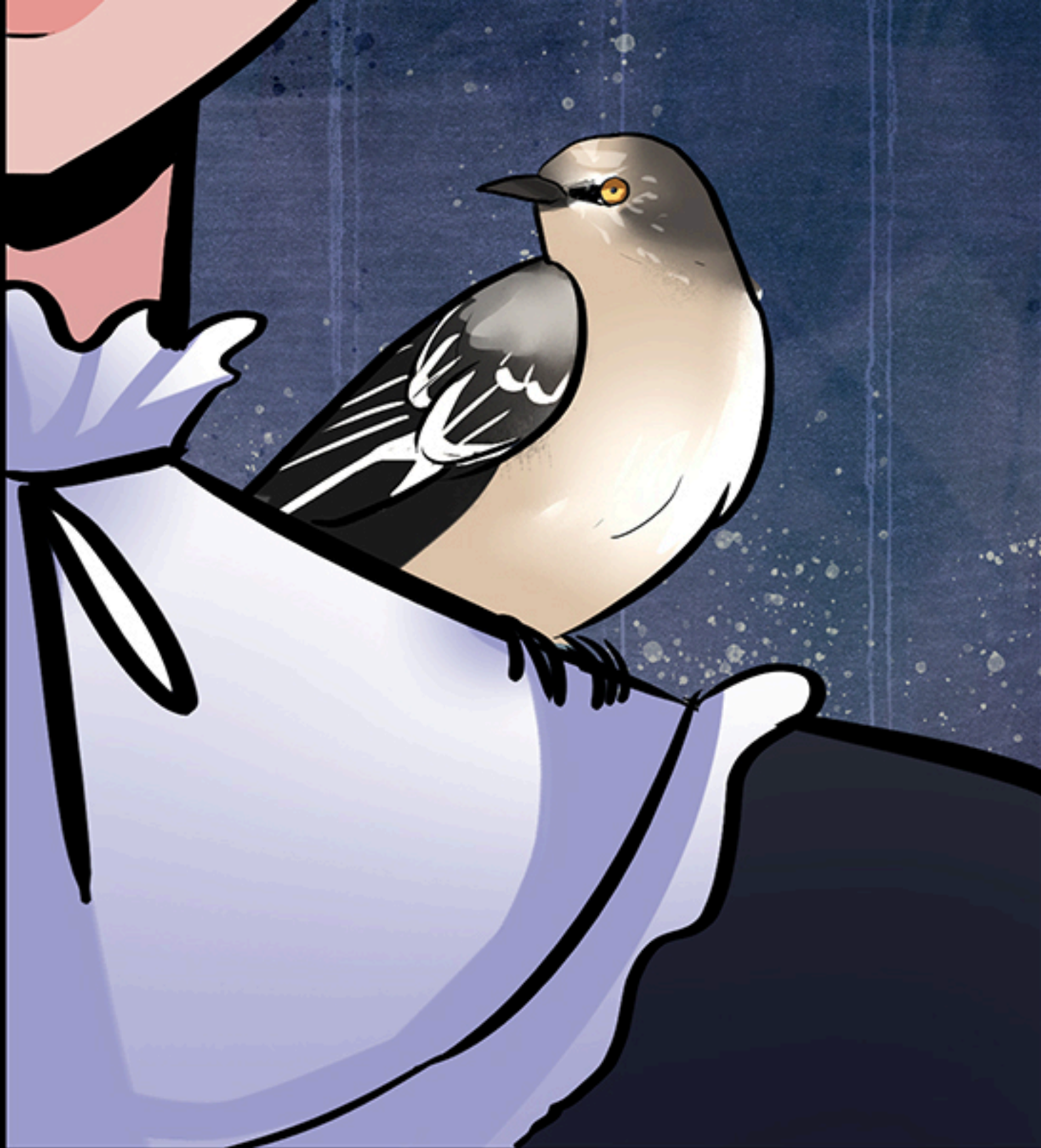
MISS  
AVALINE...





YOUR  
MOTHER WAS  
WANTING TO  
SPEAK WITH  
YOU...









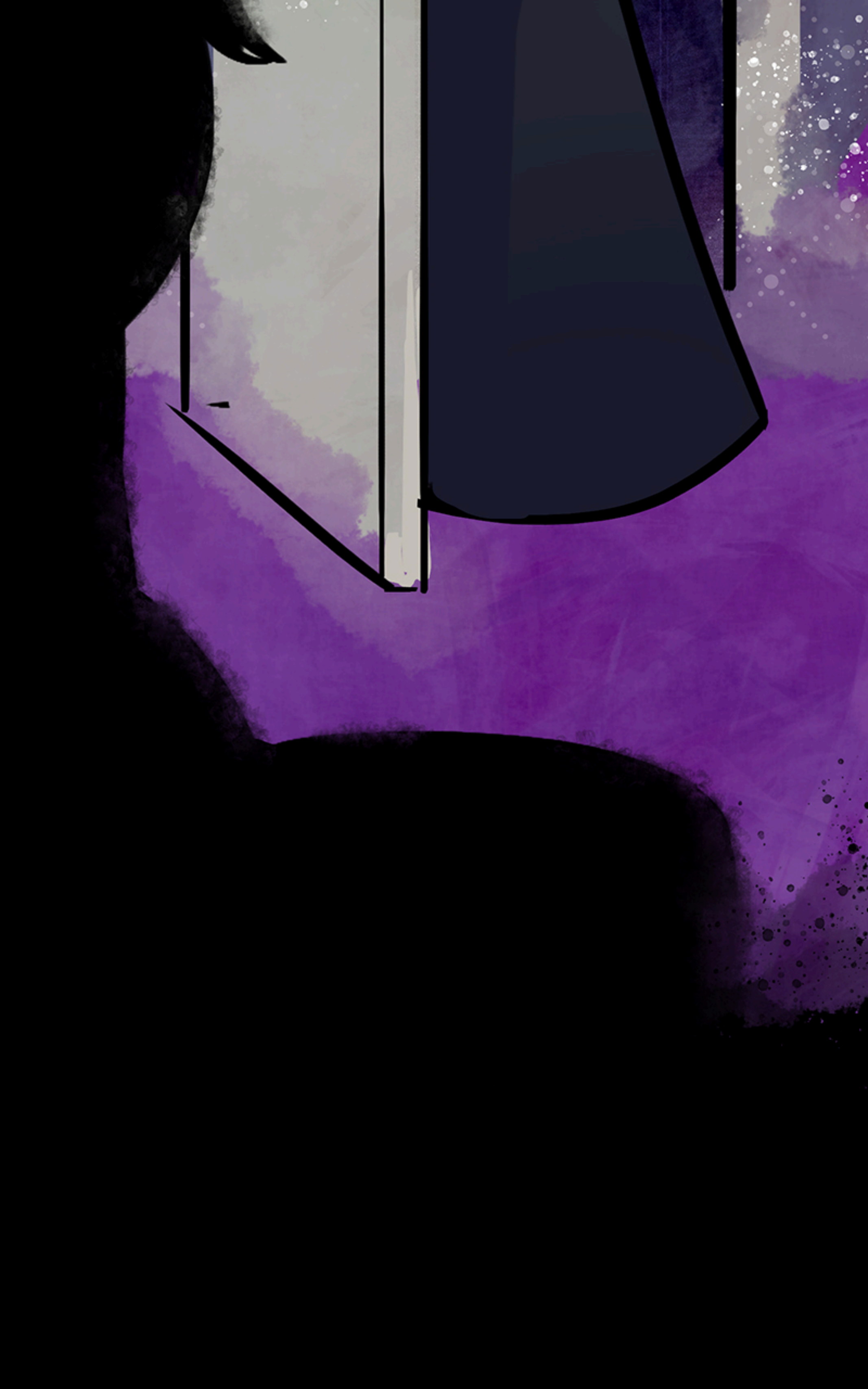


YOU'RE  
NEW. HOW ARE  
YOU RELATED  
TO ME.

UH- OH!











I BELIEVE  
THAT YOU AND I  
SHARE A GREAT  
GRANDMOTHER?

OR...  
A GREAT GREAT  
GRANDMOTHER?

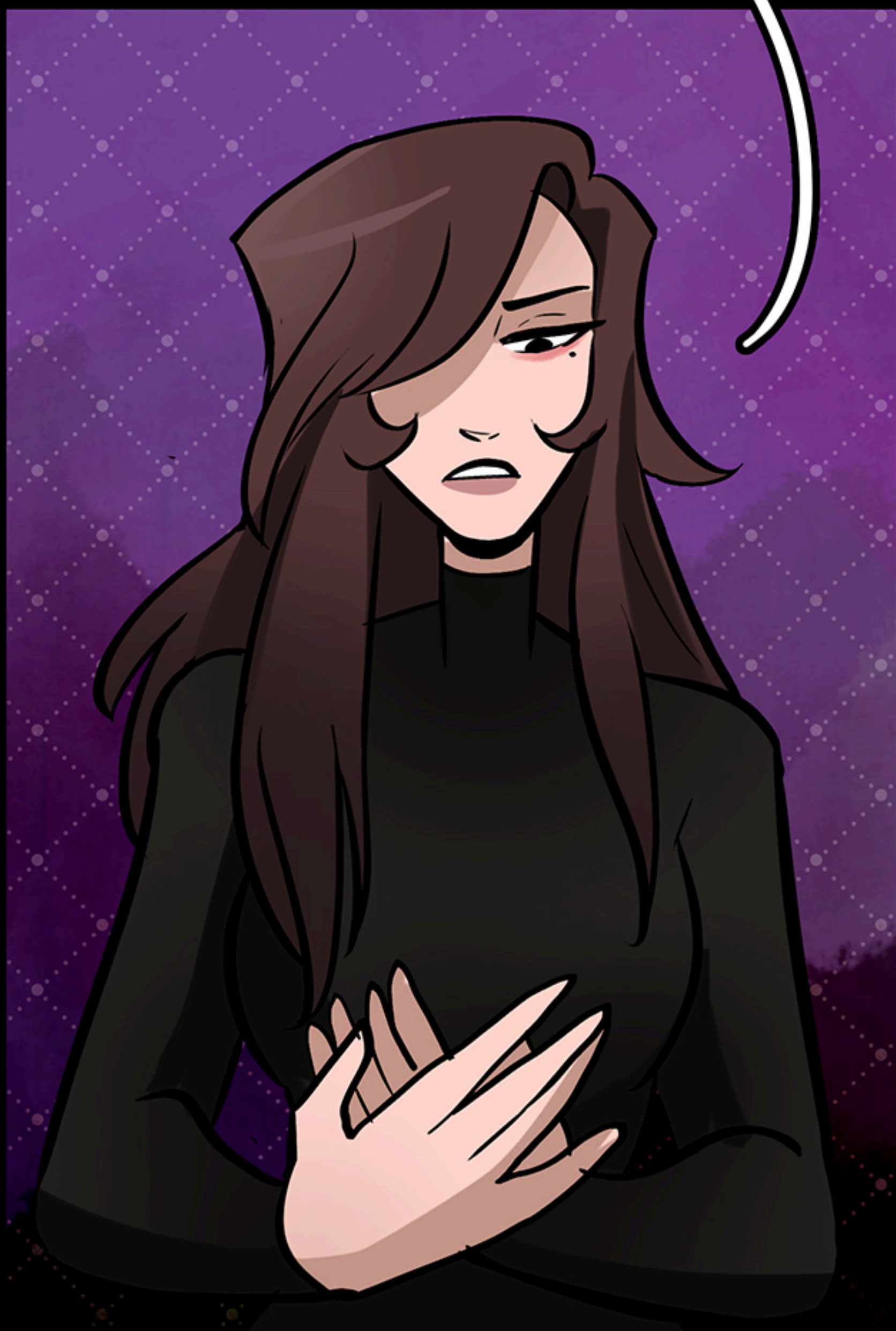




MY MOTHER  
SEEMS TO GO BACK  
AND FORTH ON  
THAT-



YOU ARE  
FAR ENOUGH AWAY  
FROM THE MATRIARCH  
LINE THAT YOU DON'T  
EVEN HAVE A SINGLE  
SILVER WING.





A comic book panel with a dark, textured background. At the top, there is a faint, dotted circular pattern. Two speech bubbles are present. The upper bubble is large and white, containing text. The lower bubble is smaller, also white, and contains more text. The text is in a bold, hand-drawn, sans-serif font.

AH-  
WELL MY MOTHER  
SAYS THAT IF I WORK  
HERE FOR A COUPLE OF  
YEARS WITH YOU -

THAT  
I MIGHT BE  
ELIGIBLE FOR A  
SILVER WING!







A hand is shown holding a red, oval-shaped gemstone. A gold chain with three small white beads is draped over the gemstone. The background is a deep purple with a pattern of small white dots, resembling a starry night sky. On the right side, a portion of a dark brown, curved object, possibly a head or a piece of clothing, is visible. A speech bubble originates from the upper right, containing the text.

AND WHY  
ON EARTH WOULD  
YOU WANT THAT.



A hand is shown holding a book, with the pages visible. The background is a deep purple with a starry, nebula-like texture. A large white speech bubble is positioned in the upper center, containing text. To the right, a portion of a character's face with a wide, toothy grin is visible. The overall style is that of a comic book or graphic novel.

WELL,  
I MEAN, *MY MOTHER*  
*SAID* THAT THE MORE  
SILVER WINGS WE ARE  
AWARDED-



A hand holding a black pen is shown in the upper right corner of the frame. The background is a deep purple with a pattern of small, light-colored dots, resembling a starry night sky. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned in the center-left of the image. A smaller, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is located below the first one, connected by a thin white line. At the bottom of the image, the top of a person's head with brown hair is visible.

THE LARGER  
ALLOWANCE WE  
GET FROM THE  
FAMILY FUNDS-

OH-





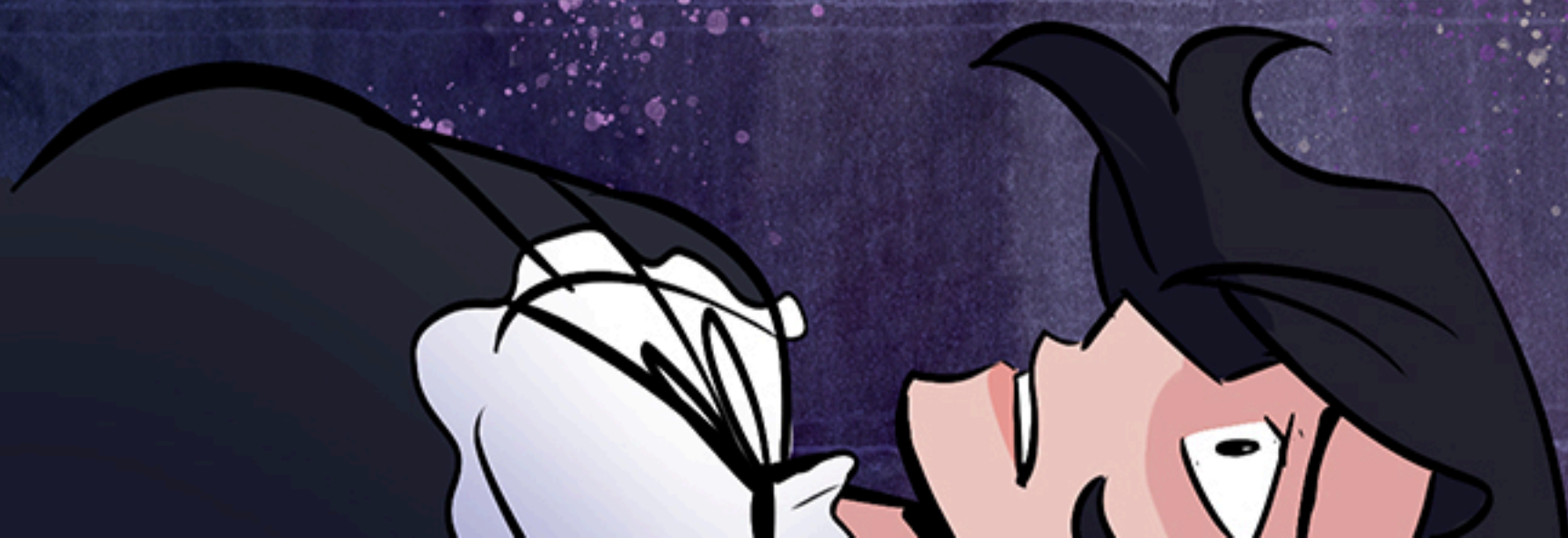








LET ME  
GIVE YOU SOME  
ADVICE.







STRAIGHT  
FROM ME TO  
YOU.







A VERY  
HARD LESSON.





SLAM







DON'T  
DO EVERYTHING  
YOUR *MOTHER* TELLS  
YOU TO DO.

OR LISTEN  
TO EVERYTHING



...SHE SAYS.







AND BELIEVE  
IT OR NOT, YOU'RE  
MORE FREE WITHOUT  
ANY WINGS.













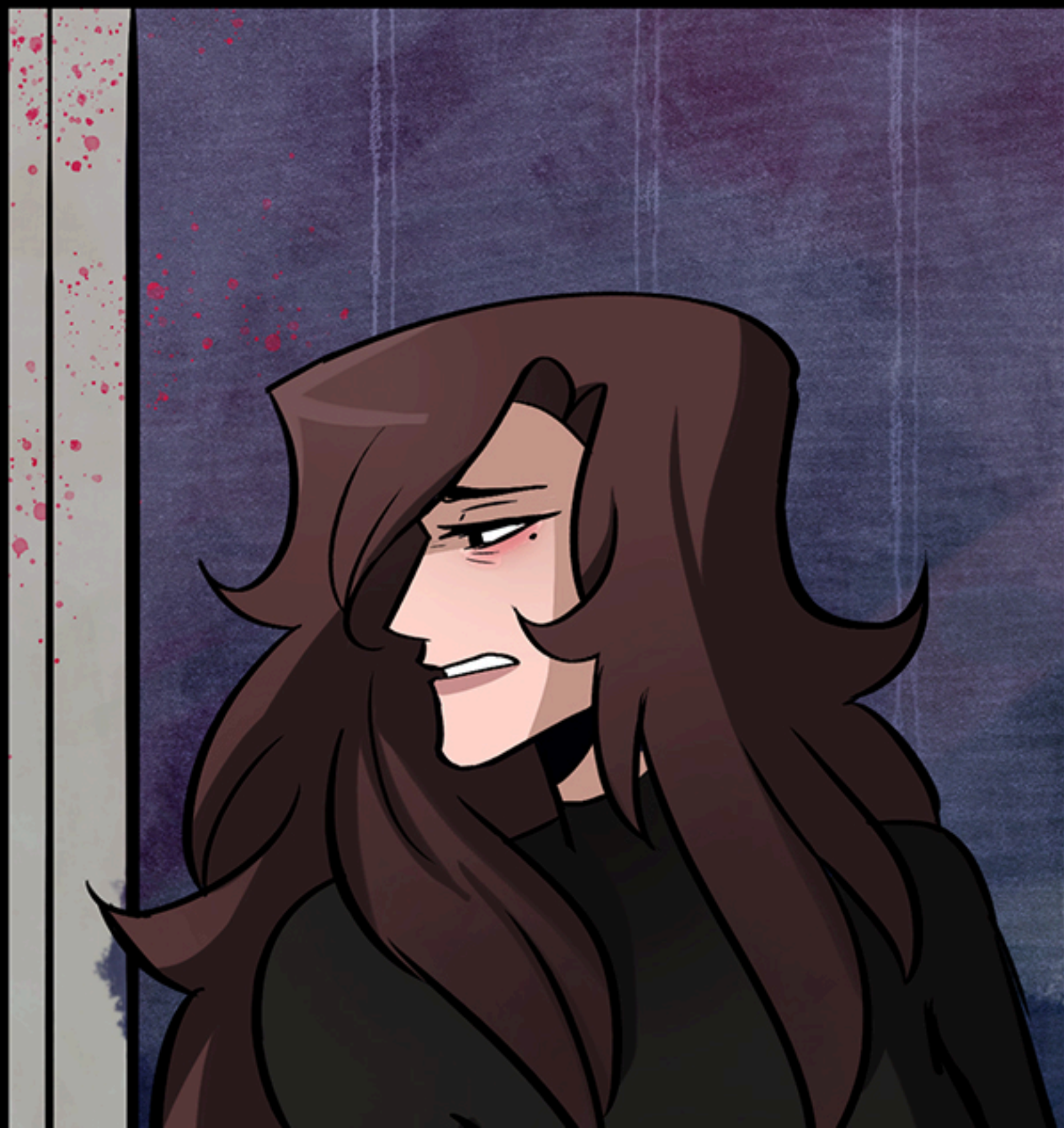




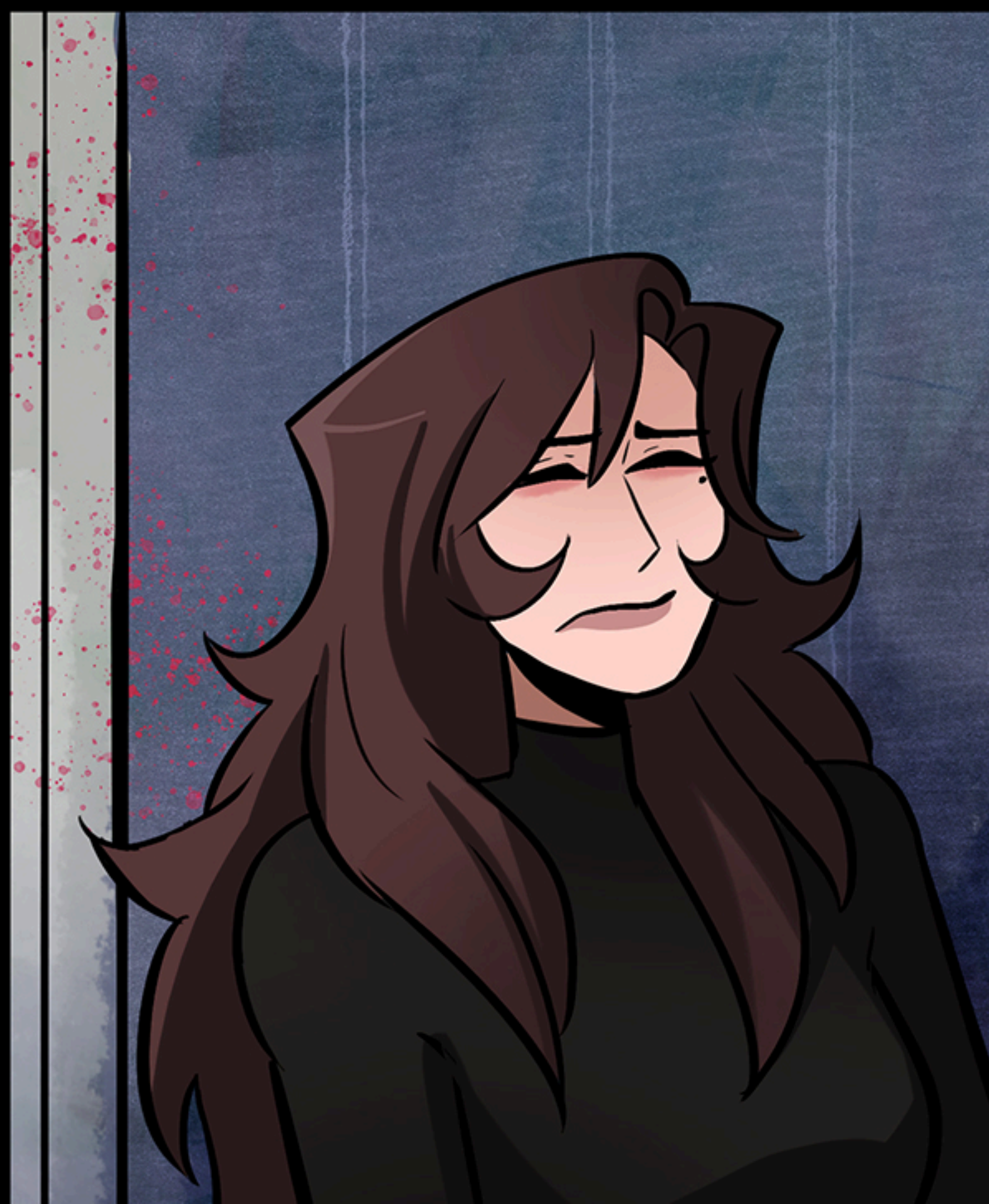
















AVALINE.



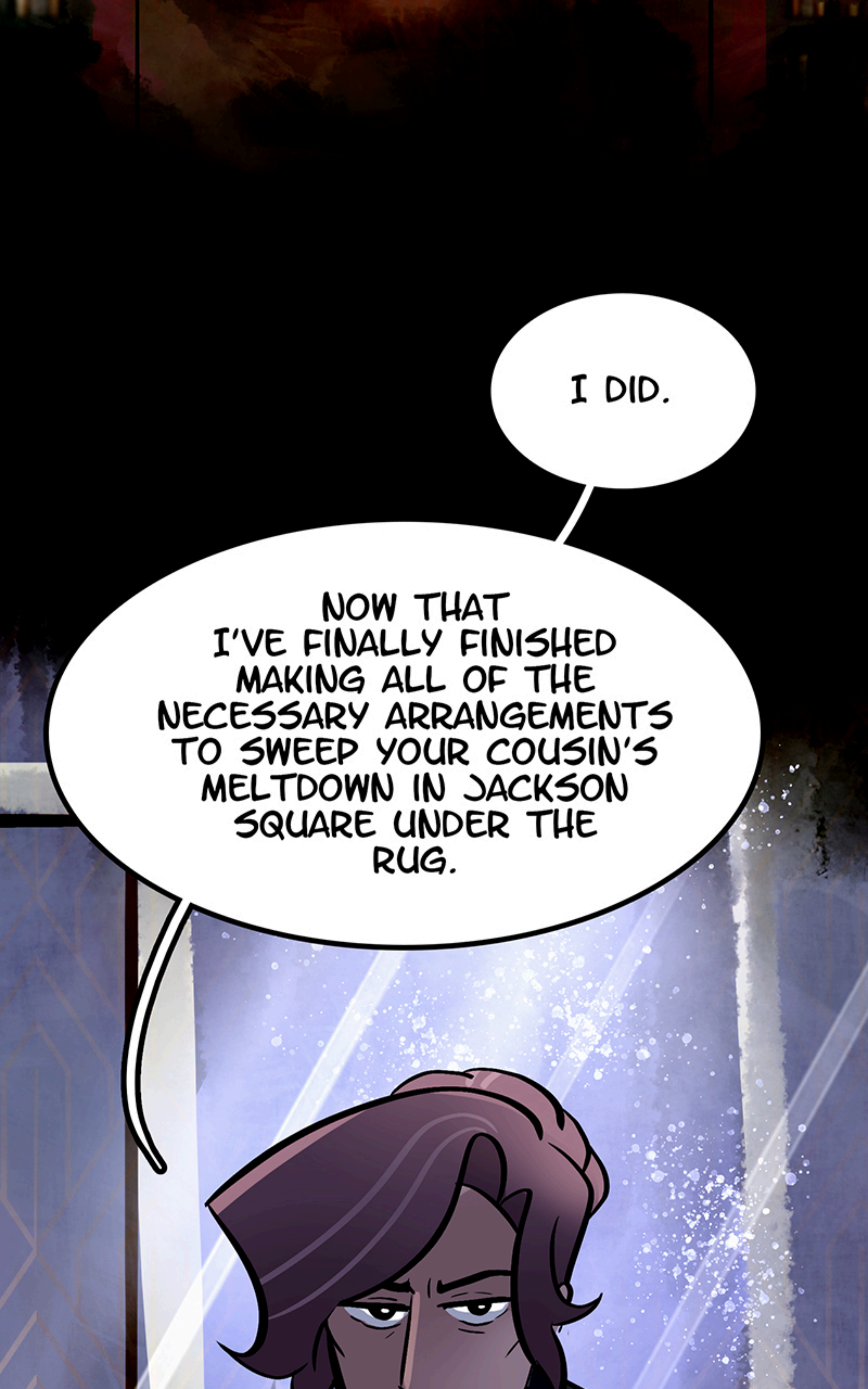




A person with short, light-colored hair is sitting at a dark wooden desk, looking out a large window. The person is wearing a dark jacket and has their hand near their face. On the windowsill to the right, a penguin is perched, looking towards the person. The window looks out onto a night sky filled with stars and a bright, diagonal beam of light. The room has red patterned wallpaper and a bookshelf is visible on the left. A speech bubble originates from the person, containing the text "YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH ME?".

YOU  
WANTED TO  
SPEAK WITH  
ME?

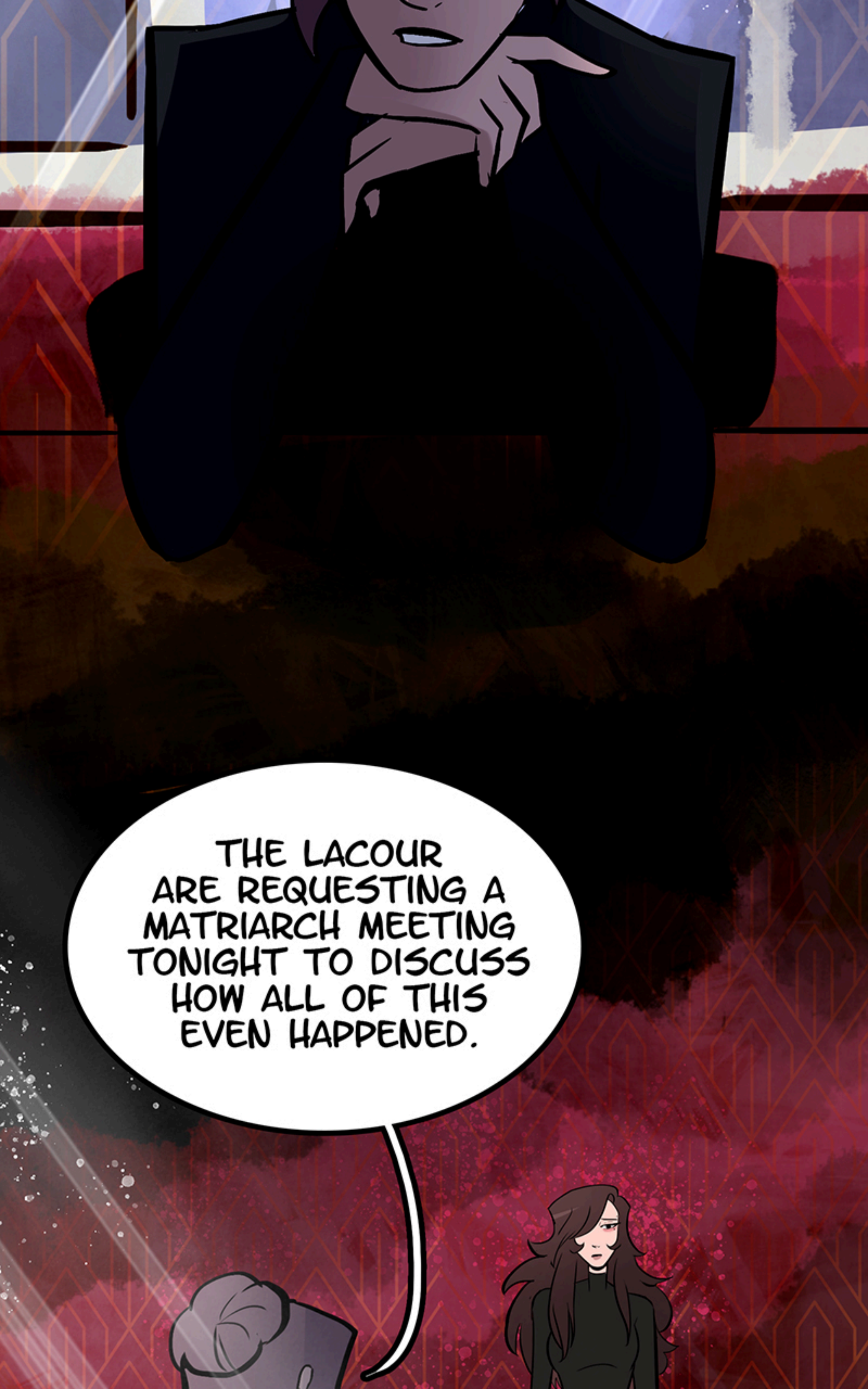


A comic book panel featuring a character with dark, wavy hair and a serious expression at the bottom. Two speech bubbles are present: a smaller one above and to the right of a larger one. The background is dark with a blue and white light effect on the right side.

I DID.

NOW THAT  
I'VE FINALLY FINISHED  
MAKING ALL OF THE  
NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS  
TO SWEEP YOUR COUSIN'S  
MELTDOWN IN JACKSON  
SQUARE UNDER THE  
RUG.





THE LACOUR  
ARE REQUESTING A  
MATRIARCH MEETING  
TONIGHT TO DISCUSS  
HOW ALL OF THIS  
EVEN HAPPENED.







BUT I HAD  
SOME QUESTIONS  
FOR YOU, FIRST.







AVALINE,  
PAY ATTENTION  
TO ME.





YES, MA'AM.





A comic book panel featuring a character with long, wavy brown hair and light blue eyes. The character is wearing a dark jacket and has their hand near their chin in a thoughtful or listening pose. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with a bright light source on the right, creating a lens flare and illuminating the character's face. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and another to the right of the character's head.

DID YOU  
KNOW ABOUT WHAT  
SHE IS?

THE LACOUR  
WILL WANT TO  
KNOW IF YOU WERE  
COMPLICIT.





NO... SHE  
NEVER TOLD ME  
ANYTHING LIKE  
THAT.

I HAD  
NO IDEA.





BUT YOU  
DID...

DIDN'T YOU?





"I KNEW IT."

YOU SAID...







WATCH YOUR  
TONE.





SO THEN WHAT  
WAS THE POINT IN  
ALL OF THIS!?





WERE YOU  
PUSHING HER THIS  
WHOLE TIME JUST TO  
SEE IF SHE'D SLIP AND  
SHOW HER POWERS?



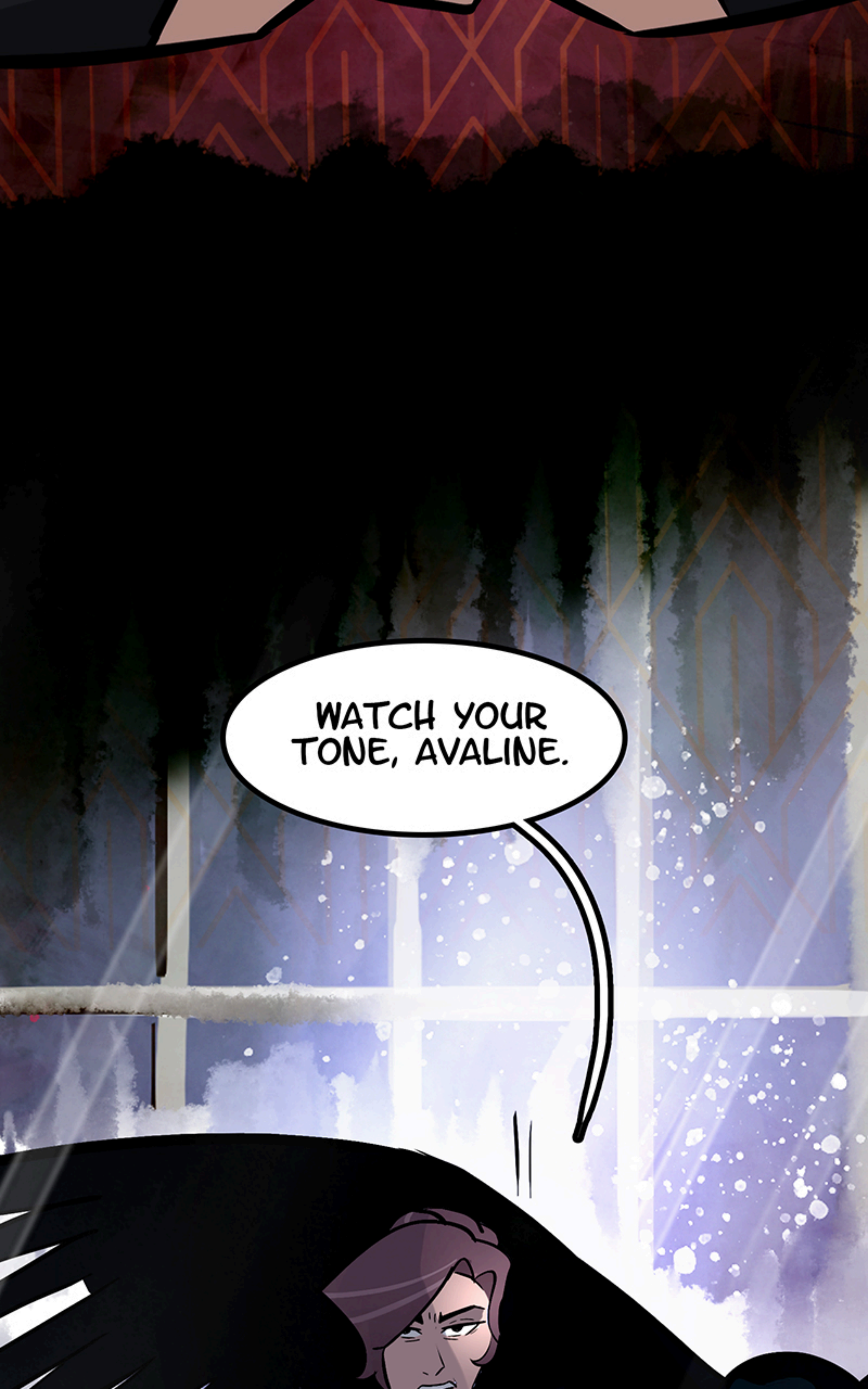
AND THEN WHAT!?  
IF SHE HAD CRACKED  
WHAT WOULD YOU  
HAVE DONE!?

SHE IS  
YOUR NIECE!

I SAID...





A comic book panel featuring a woman with short brown hair and a concerned expression in the bottom foreground. Behind her is a large window with a white cross-shaped frame. The window looks out onto a dark, rainy night with silhouettes of trees and a red, geometric pattern on the roof. The scene is filled with raindrops and light streaks from the window panes.

WATCH YOUR  
TONE, AVALINE.





CAMILLE  
IS HALF LEROUX,  
LIKE I ALWAYS  
EXPECTED



EXPECTED...







WHICH MEANS  
SHE IS NOT  
MY NIECE.

SHE IS A  
MONSTER.





AND HER  
MOTHER WAS  
A *TRAITOR*.





THEN WHAT  
AM I?





THIS WHOLE  
TIME I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE PUSHING HER TO  
MAKE HER STRONGER.



BECAUSE  
YOU CARED IN YOUR  
OWN TWISTED WAY.  
AND YOU WANTED HER  
TO SUCCEED.

BECAUSE  
SHE WAS BETTER  
THAN ME.

BUT IF THAT  
ISN'T THE CASE...  
WHAT AM I  
TO YOU?







WAS THERE  
EVEN A *SINGLE*  
POINT IN YOUR LIFE...  
WHERE YOU WANTED



WHERE YOU WANTED  
OR LOVED ME?

TELL ME!







YOU REALLY  
WANT THE TRUTH,  
AVALINE...



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