

A comic strip featuring four speech bubbles arranged in a vertical sequence. The background is a light blue sky with soft, white clouds. The speech bubbles are connected by a single, continuous black line that winds between them. The text in the bubbles is written in a simple, hand-drawn, all-caps font.

SO NO WORD
FROM AVALINE
AT ALL, HUH?

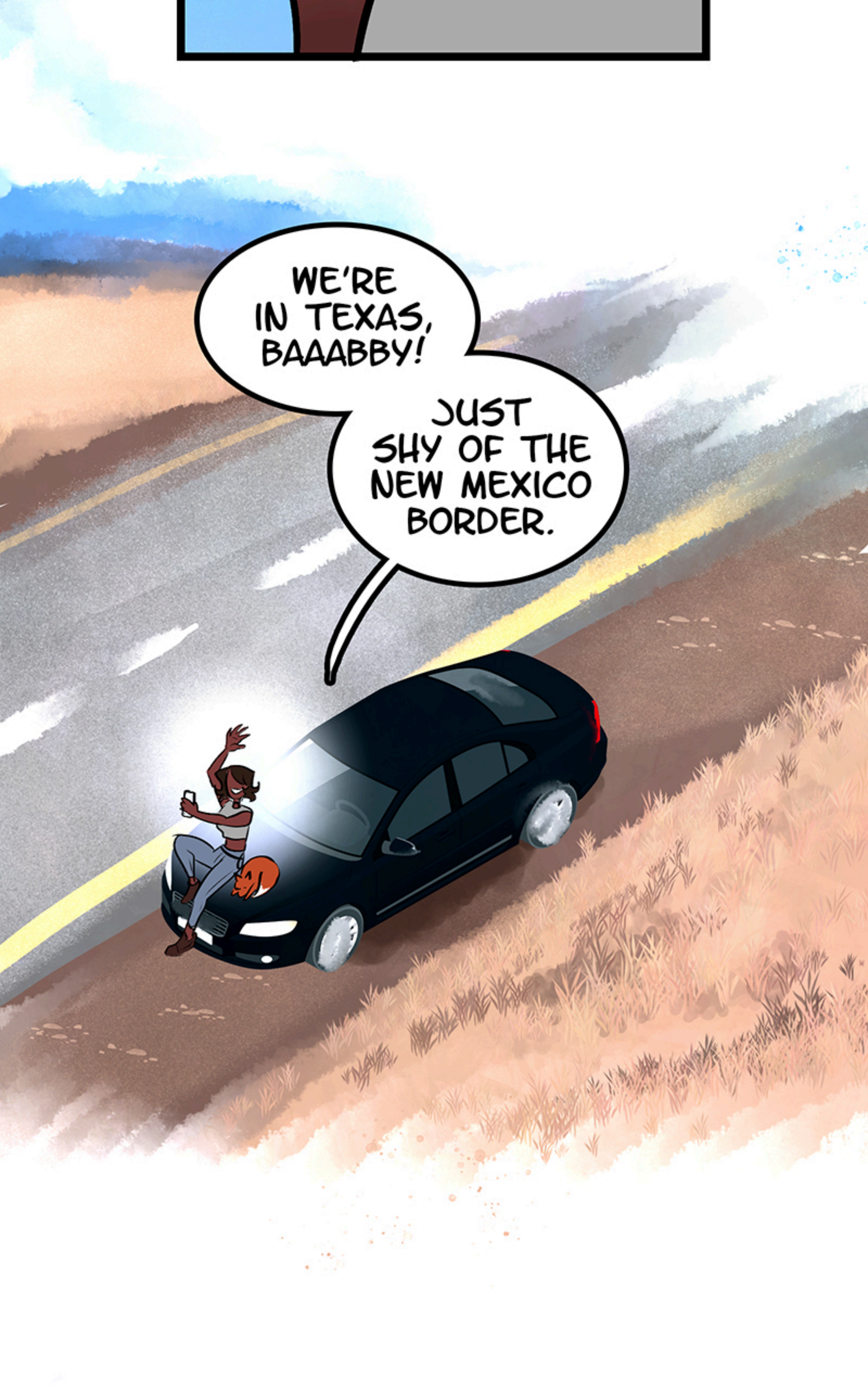
NOT
A PEEP.

THAT
SUCKS...

ALSO- WHERE
ARE YOU RIGHT
NOW??

OH, ME?



A cartoon illustration of a person with brown hair, wearing a grey tank top and blue jeans, sitting on the hood of a black sedan. The car is parked on a dirt road next to a paved road with a yellow line. The person is holding a white smartphone in their right hand and waving with their left. A small orange cat is curled up on the hood next to them. The background features a desert landscape with dry grass and a cloudy sky. Two speech bubbles are positioned above the car.

WE'RE
IN TEXAS,
BAAAABBY!

JUST
SHY OF THE
NEW MEXICO
BORDER.

TEXAS...

WAIT,
WHERE IS
SLOANE?

SLOANE?

ALL THEY'DE

A comic-style illustration of a woman with short brown hair and green eyes, wearing a grey tank top, blue jeans, and brown boots. She is sitting on the hood of a dark-colored car in a desert landscape under a blue sky with clouds. She is holding a mobile phone to her ear. A speech bubble from the phone contains the text: "AH THEY'RE FINE, THEY'LL BE BACK IN A WHILE. MAYBE AN HOUR." Another speech bubble at the bottom of the page contains the text: "THEY LIKE TRAVELLING BUT THEY DON'T LIKE".

AH THEY'RE
FINE, THEY'LL BE
BACK IN A WHILE.
MAYBE AN HOUR.

THEY LIKE
TRAVELLING BUT
THEY DON'T LIKE

DRIVING.



SO THEY
PULLED OVER
AND WANDERED
INTO A FIELD.



WALK.



I'M USED TO IT.
I JUST THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY TO
CALL YOU.

I COULD
HAVE DRIVEN
IF YOU WERE
TIRED!!





THIS WAY
I DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT THEM
SPOTTING DENDRO.

AND TRYING
TO CONVINCE 'EM
THAT SHE IS JUST IN
SOME KIND OF REALLY
GOOD INDIE VIDEO GAME
COSPLAY.

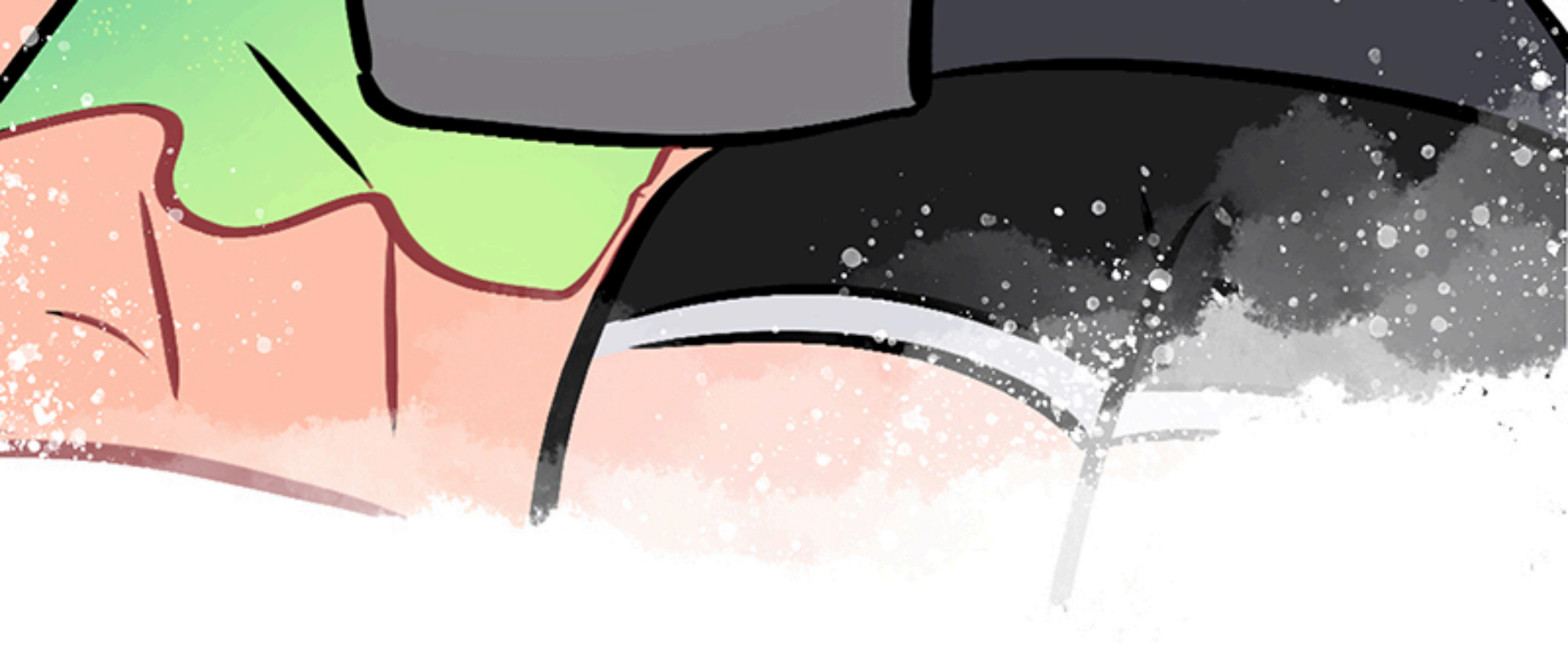




VIDEO GAME
COSPLAY...?



WH...
THEY ARE
JUST IN A
FIELD!?



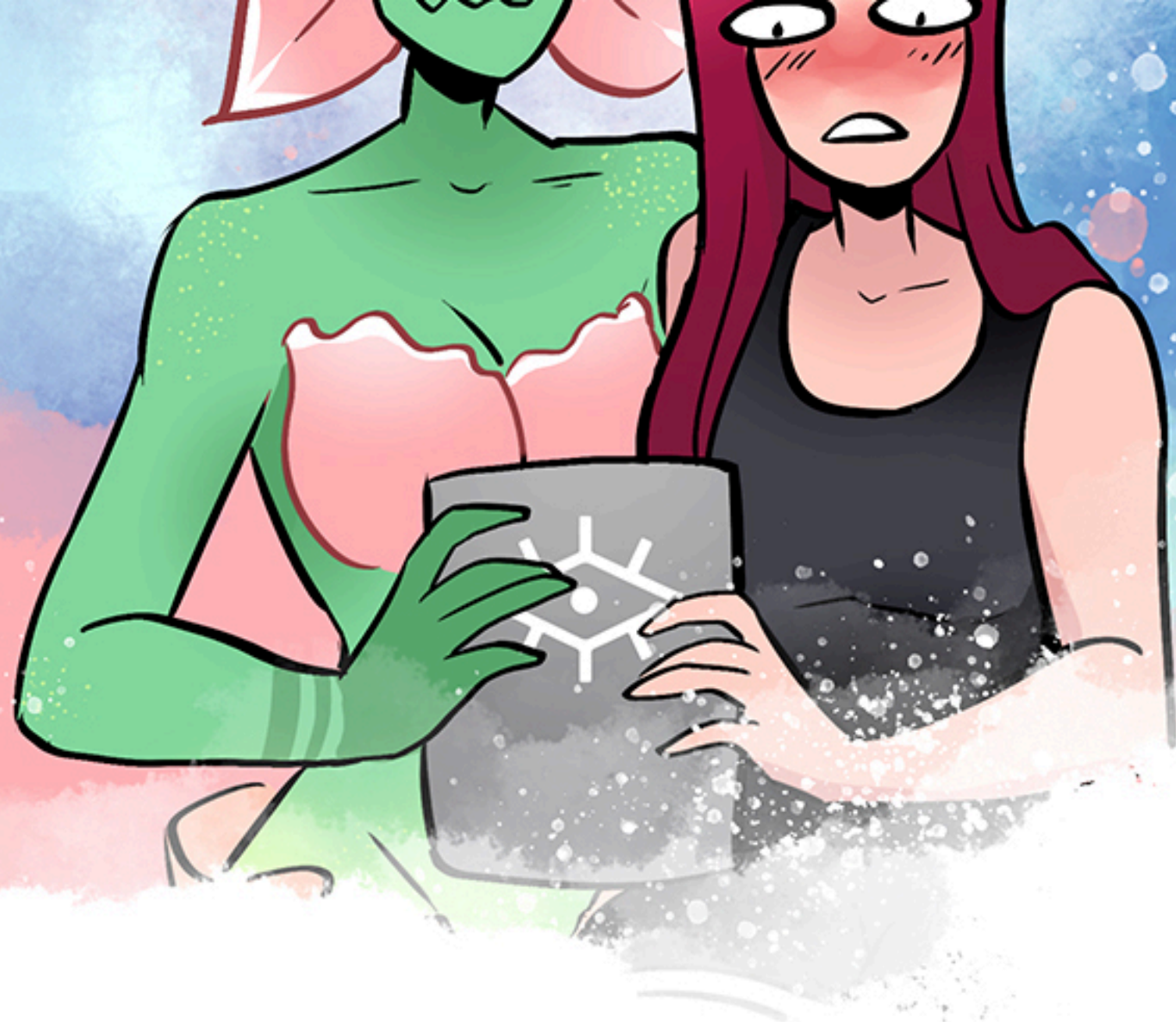
WHY IS
THAT WEIRD?
IS IT REALLY THAT
DIFFERENT FROM A
SWAMP?





YOU WANDER
OFF INTO THOSE
ALL THE TIME,
PRINCESS.





HA
HA HA HA
HA!!





ALSO, AS
EXCITED AS I AM
TO SEE YOU
BOTH-

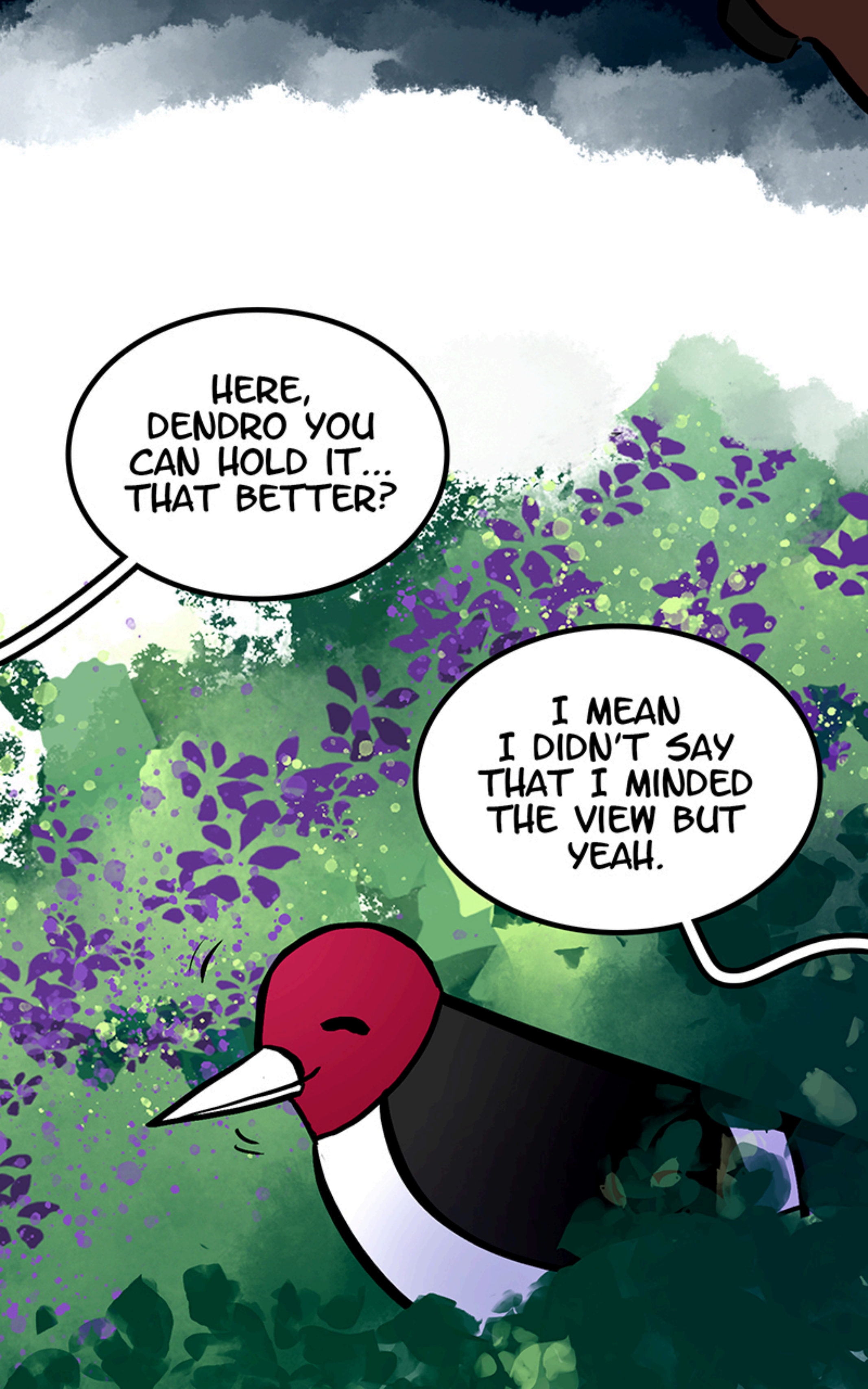
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO ADJUST
YOUR ANGLE.

CUZ RIGHT

A comic panel featuring a woman with dark skin, freckles, and short dark hair. She is wearing a grey tank top and blue jeans with a brown belt. She is holding a smartphone up to take a selfie, looking at the screen with a slight smirk. The background is a bright blue sky with soft white clouds. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top right and one in the middle right.

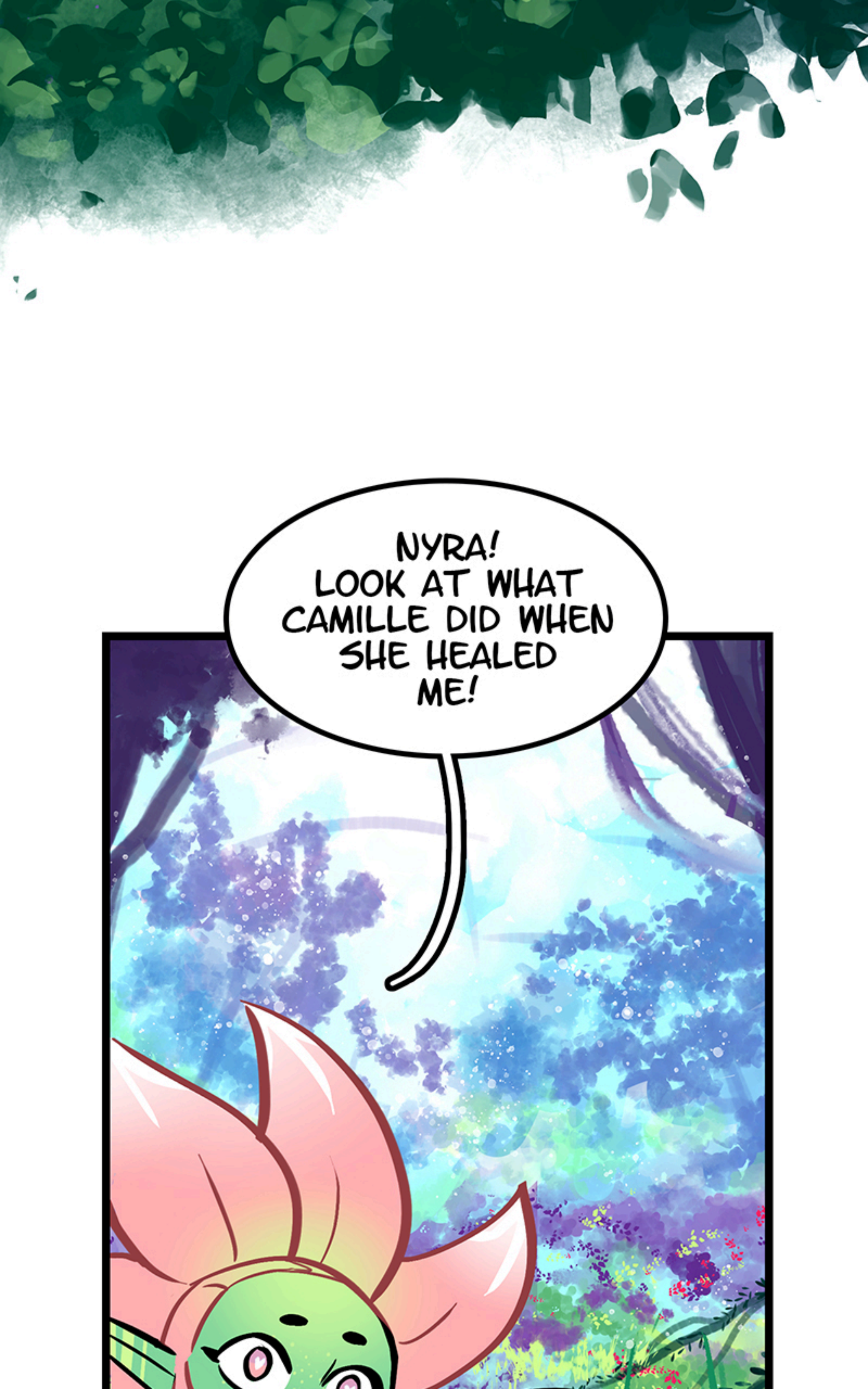
OH RIGHT
NOW IT'S JUST
LIKE... 90%
BOOBS.

OH MY
GOD.

A comic panel featuring a red-headed bird with a white beak and a white patch on its neck, standing in a field of green grass and purple flowers. The bird is looking towards the left. Two speech bubbles are present: one in the upper left and one in the middle right. The background shows a bright sky with white clouds and a dark, silhouetted tree branch in the top right corner.

HERE,
DENDRO YOU
CAN HOLD IT...
THAT BETTER?

I MEAN
I DIDN'T SAY
THAT I MINDED
THE VIEW BUT
YEAH.

A comic panel featuring a character with a green face and large, pink, petal-like ears at the bottom. The character is looking upwards with wide, surprised eyes. Above the character is a large, white speech bubble with a black outline. The background is a vibrant, stylized forest scene with tall, thin trees and dense foliage in shades of blue, purple, and green. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. At the very top of the page, there are dark green leaves and branches, suggesting the character is looking up from under a tree.

NYRA!
LOOK AT WHAT
CAMILLE DID WHEN
SHE HEALED
ME!



OH WOW,
THAT'S AMAZING...
AND I'M GLAD THAT
YOU'RE FEELING
BETTER!

THANKS...

THANK
YOU!!





I'M NOT
SURPRISED TO
HEAR THAT DEMON

BITCH WAS BEHIND
IT.

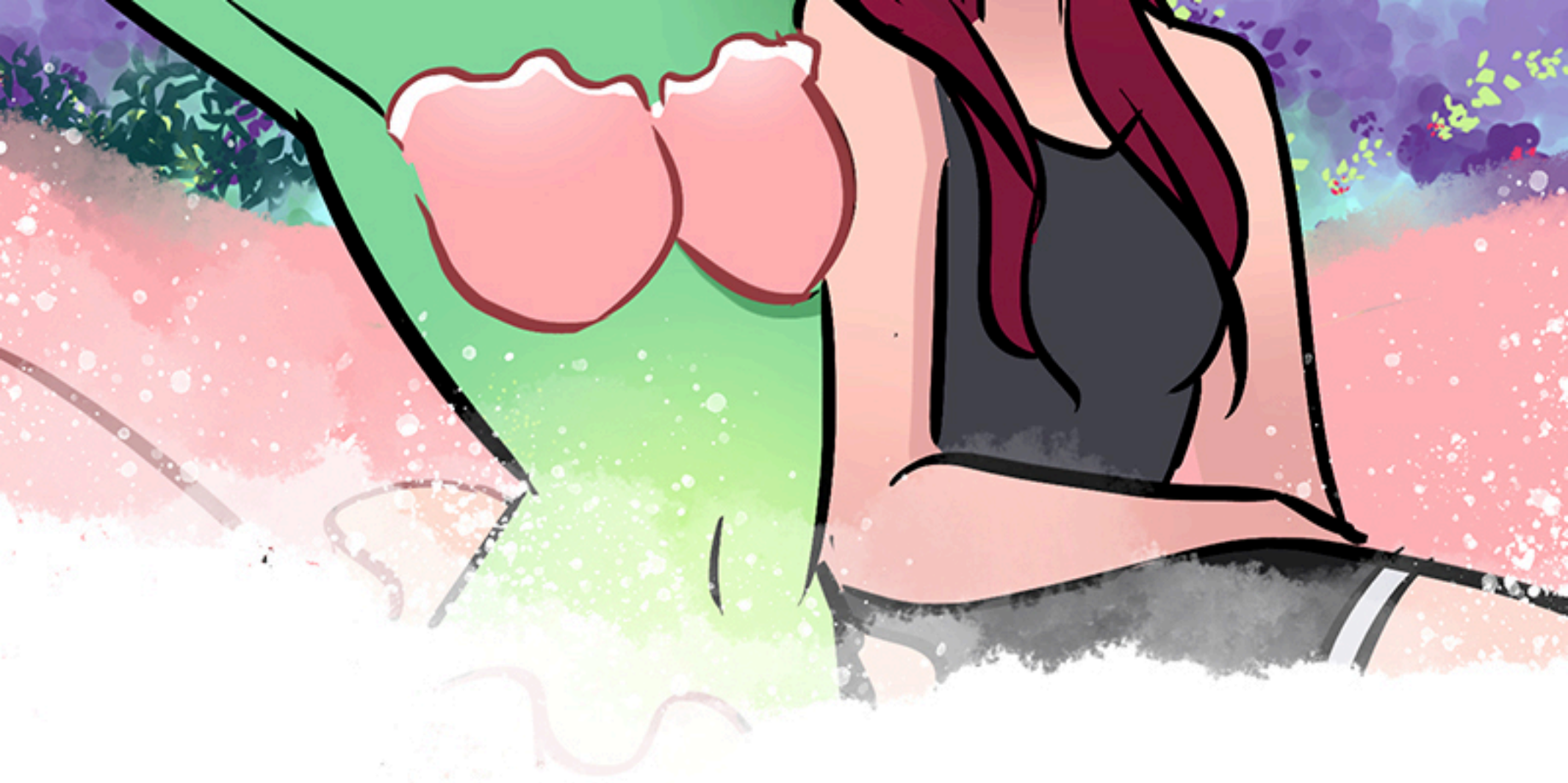
YOU SURE
YOU DON'T WANT
ME TO COME BACK
SO I CAN KICK HER ASS
WHEN SHE SHOWS
UP AGAIN?

NYRA
NO.



OH CUTE,
WAIT STAY THERE
FOR A SECOND WHILE
I TAKE A SCREEN
SHOT.





BUT,
SPEAKING OF
HONESTY AND
HEALING.

DID YOU
TELL SILVIA
EVERYTHING
YET?





SILVIA
KNOWS...

AS MUCH
AS I THINK SHE
NEEDS TO KNOW...

DOES SHE
KNOW ABOUT
DENDRO?

...



NOT TO
LECTURE YOU
ACROSS STATE
LINES...

BUT YOU
KNOW SHE CARES
ABOUT YOU. WE BOTH
WENT TO BAT FOR YOU
IN OUR REPORTS TO
THE LACOUR.

SECREC
Y ABOUT SOMETHING
LIKE THIS WILL JUST
BREED MISUNDERSTANDING
AND COMPLICATIONS.



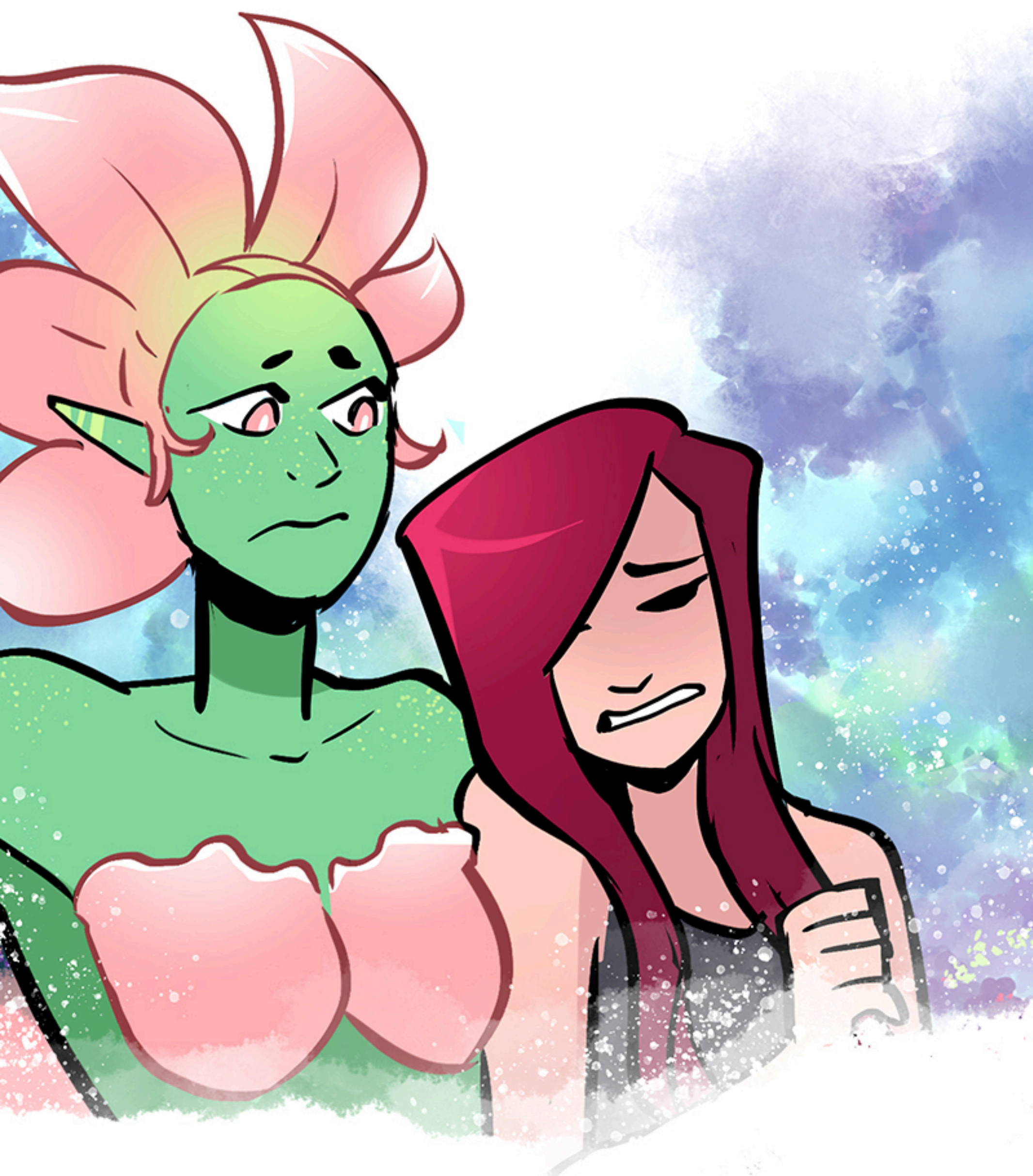
AND BESIDES...
EVEN IF SHE DID
GET WEIRD ABOUT IT,
DENDRO IS SWEET. SHE'D
WIN HER OVER IN A
HEARTBEAT.

WOULDN'T
'CHA, DEN?

AH,
I WOULD
TRY!



AND SHE
ALSO DESERVES TO
MEET MORE PEOPLE
THAN JUST YOU
AND ME.



YOU'RE
RIGHT...

I KNOW
YOU ARE,
BUT...





IT'S NOT
THAT SIMPLE
EITHER...

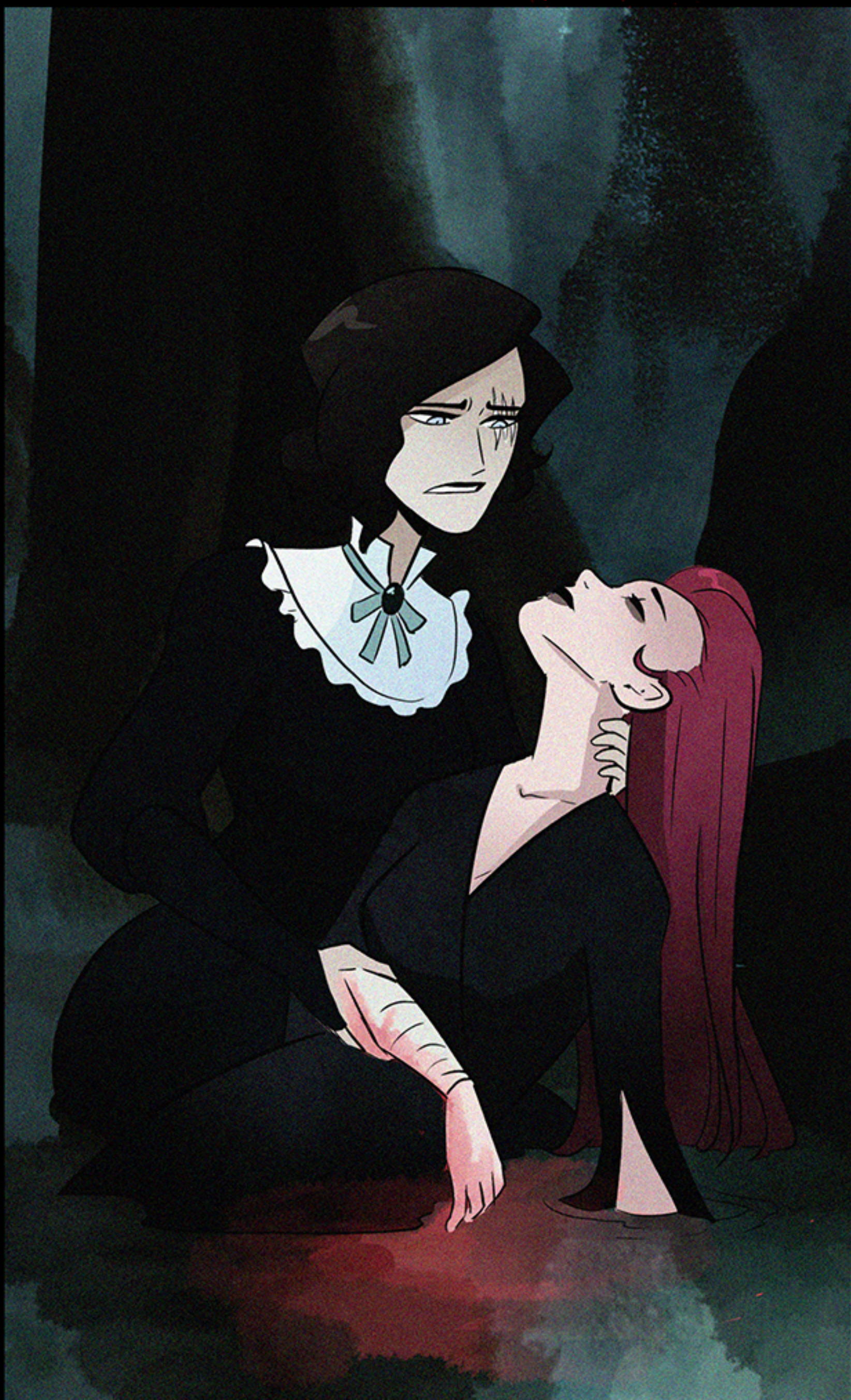
IT'S THE
FACT THAT THE
WISH RITUAL IS VERY
POWERFUL. SO MUCH
SO THAT ONLY SELECT
SEVERIN EVEN GET
TO LEARN IT-

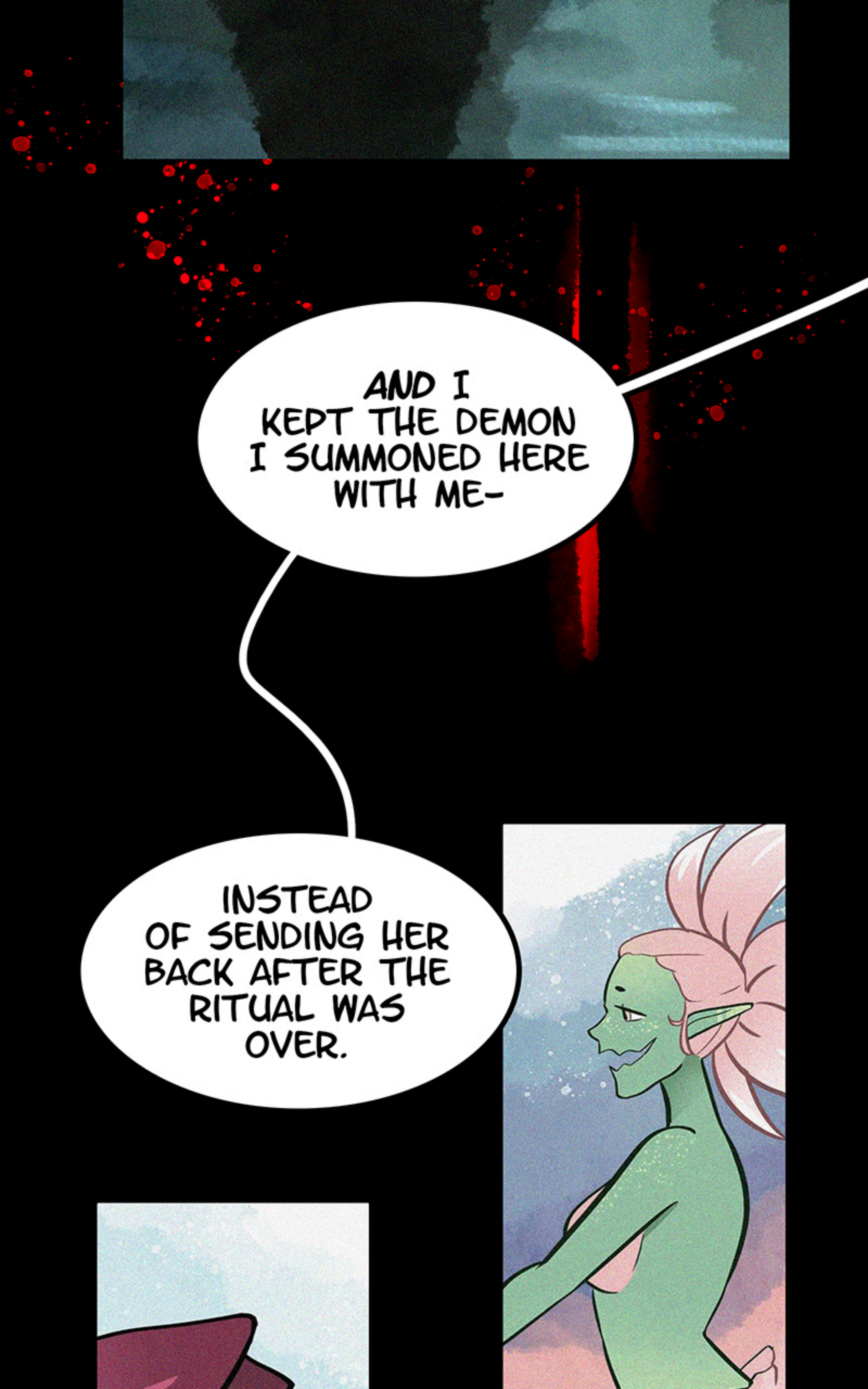


-AND ONLY
SUPPOSED TO BE
USED ONCE...

NOT ONLY
DID I DO IT TWICE-
ONCE COMPLETELY
UNACCOUNTED FOR AFTER
I NEARLY BLED OUT
THE FIRST TIME

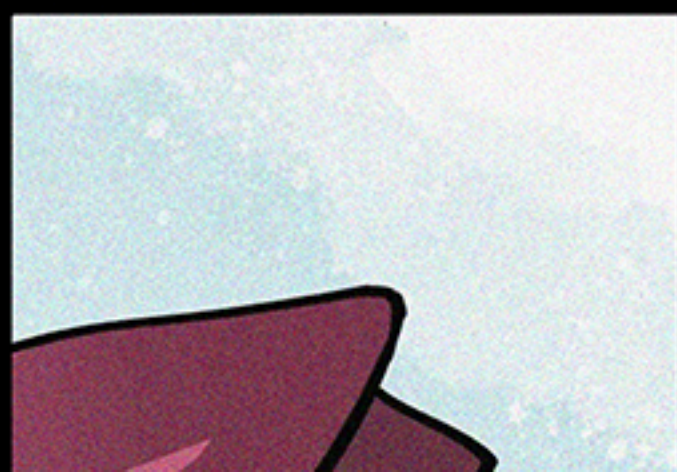
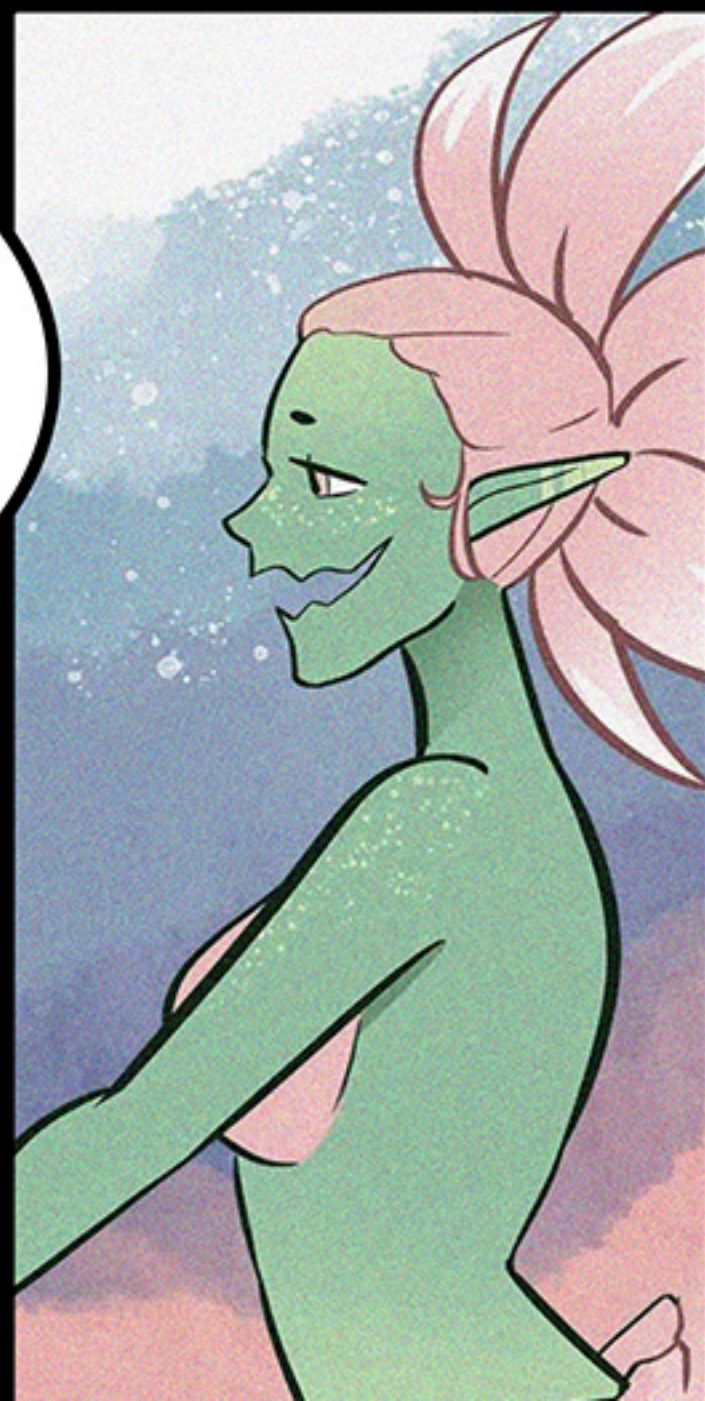
THE FIRST TIME-





AND I
KEPT THE DEMON
I SUMMONED HERE
WITH ME-

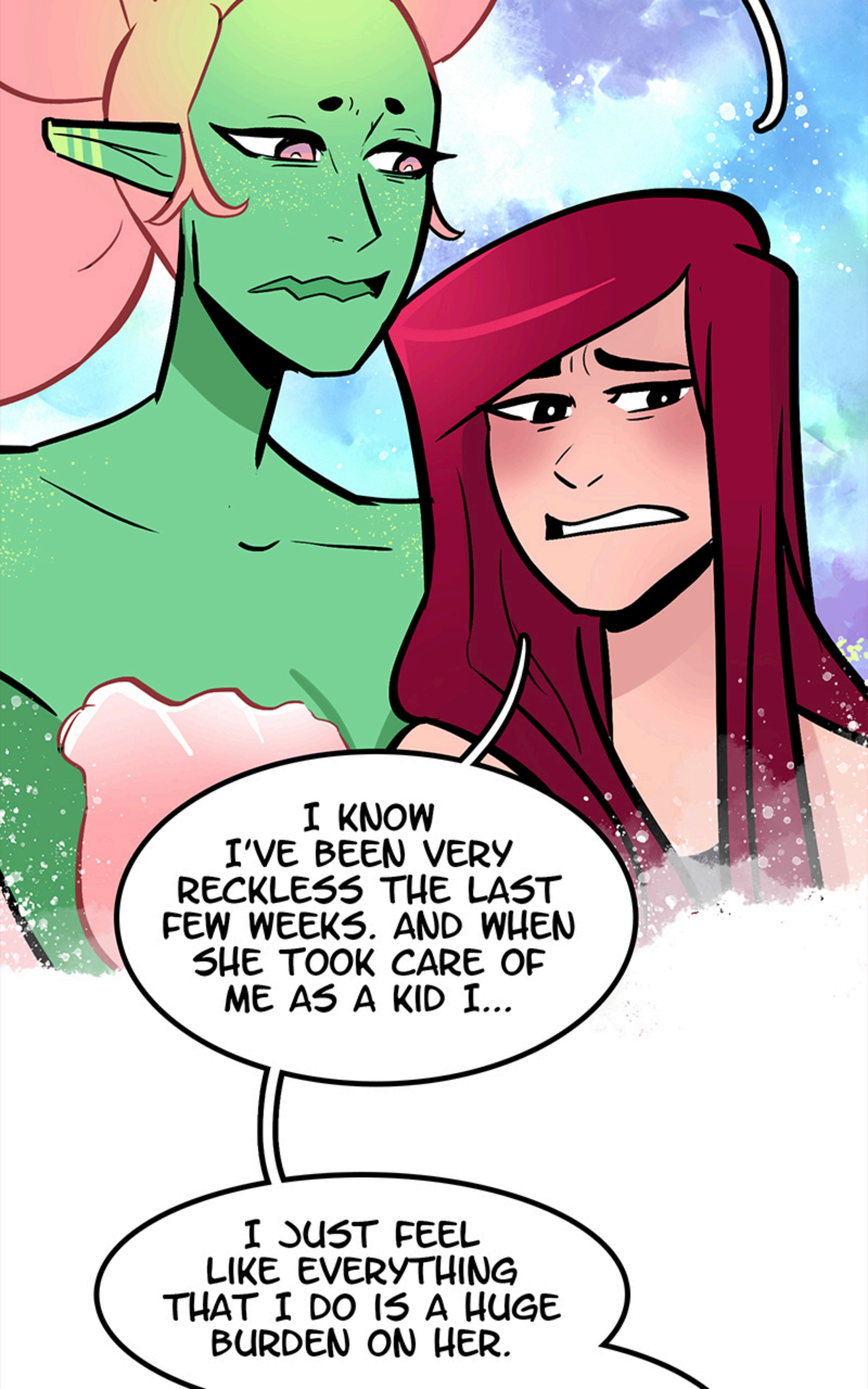
INSTEAD
OF SENDING HER
BACK AFTER THE
RITUAL WAS
OVER.





YOU THINK
SHE'D TRY TO
HAVE YOU SEND
ME BACK?

I DON'T
KNOW... I WOULDN'T
LET HER EVEN IF
SHE TRIED BUT I
JUST...



I KNOW
I'VE BEEN VERY
RECKLESS THE LAST
FEW WEEKS. AND WHEN
SHE TOOK CARE OF
ME AS A KID I...

I JUST FEEL
LIKE EVERYTHING
THAT I DO IS A HUGE
BURDEN ON HER.

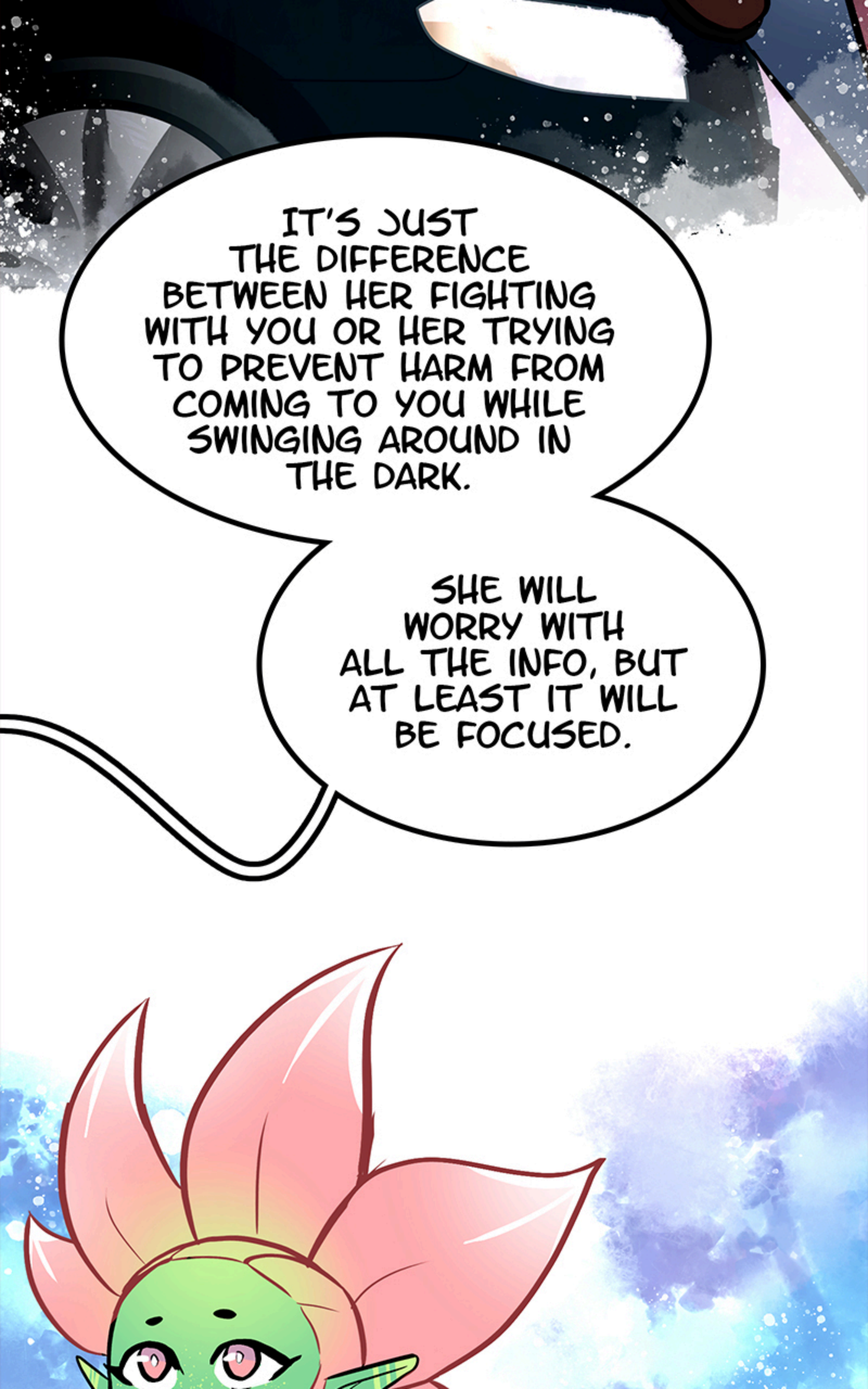
I'M TIRED OF
DOING NOTHING
BUT MAKING HER
WORRY...



WELL,
HATE TO TELL
YA THIS BUT...

SHE'S GOING
TO WORRY WHETHER
YOU TELL HER OR
NOT.





IT'S JUST
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HER FIGHTING
WITH YOU OR HER TRYING
TO PREVENT HARM FROM
COMING TO YOU WHILE
SWINGING AROUND IN
THE DARK.

SHE WILL
WORRY WITH
ALL THE INFO, BUT
AT LEAST IT WILL
BE FOCUSED.

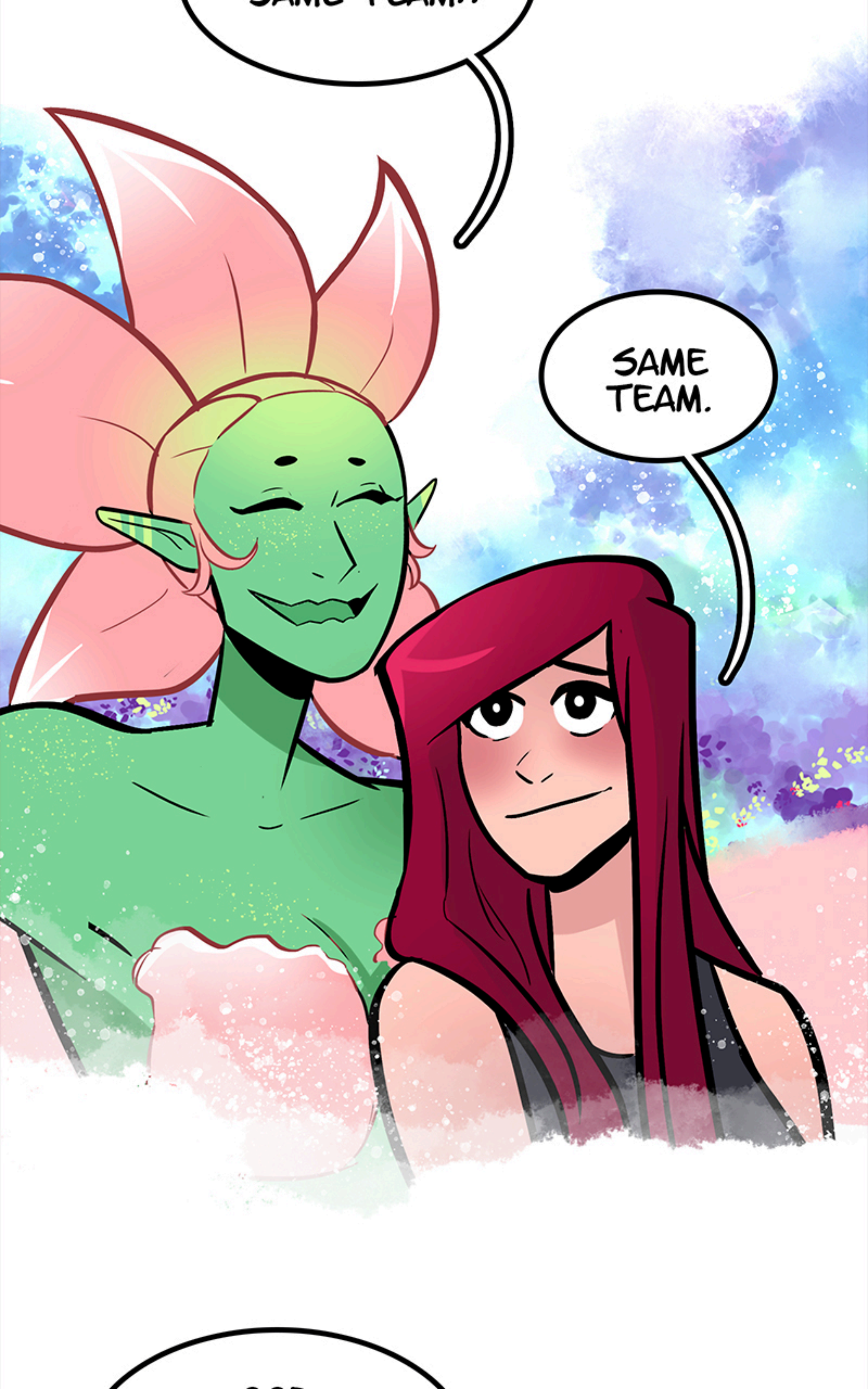


WE GOTTA
STAY FOCUSED ON
ONE THING AT
A TIME-

AND ALSO
STAY ON THE
SAME TEAM,
YEAH?



YEAH!
SAME TEAM!!



SAME TEAM.

SAME
TEAM.

SAME

OOP-
SLOANE IS
COMING BACK.
I GOTTA GO.

KEEP ME
POSTED AND
DENDRO - I'LL START
SENDING ROAD TRIP
PICTURES FOR
YOU!

YAAAY
THANK
YOU!





LATER
NYRA...



**CALL
ENDED**



STORM'S
COMIN'.



WHAT?

WHAT?!



A dramatic sky scene with dark, swirling blue and black clouds in the upper half, and a bright, glowing orange and yellow light source at the bottom, possibly a sunset or a large fire. A speech bubble with a black outline and a white interior is positioned on the left side, containing the text "BIG ONE TOO." in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

BIG ONE
TOO.



OH.
YEAH...

WHAT'S
THE PROBLEM
NOW?



I JUST
HAVE A REALLY
BAD FEELING IN
THE PIT OF MY
STOMACH.

I THOUGHT
CALLING AND
MAKING SURE THEY
WERE OKAY THAT IT
WOULD SETTLE
ME, BUT...





I STILL FEEL
LIKE SOMETHING
REALLY BAD IS
GONNA HAPPEN
SOON.

MAYBE
YOU'RE JUST
HUNGRY.

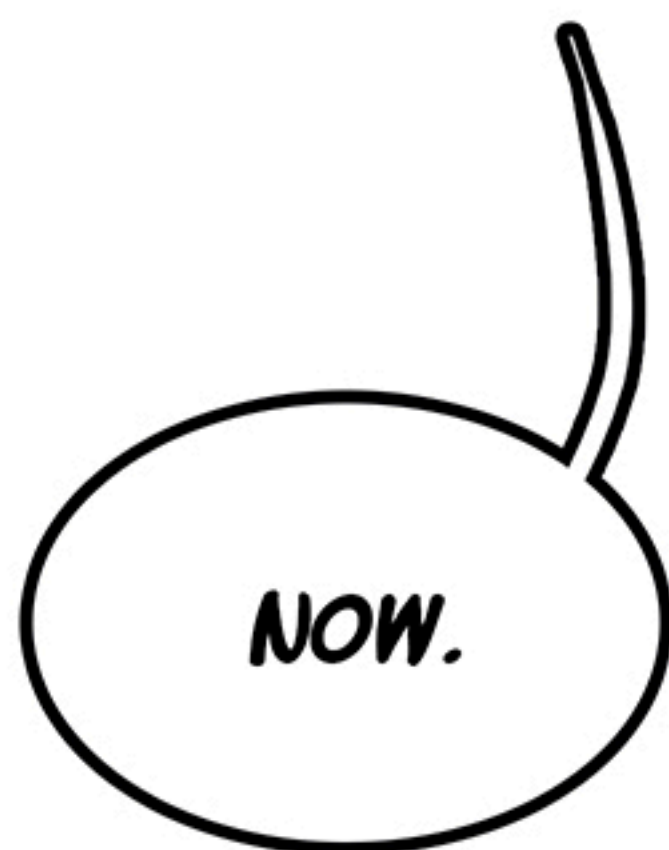


SLOANE.





WE'RE
GOING BACK TO
NEW ORLEANS.



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