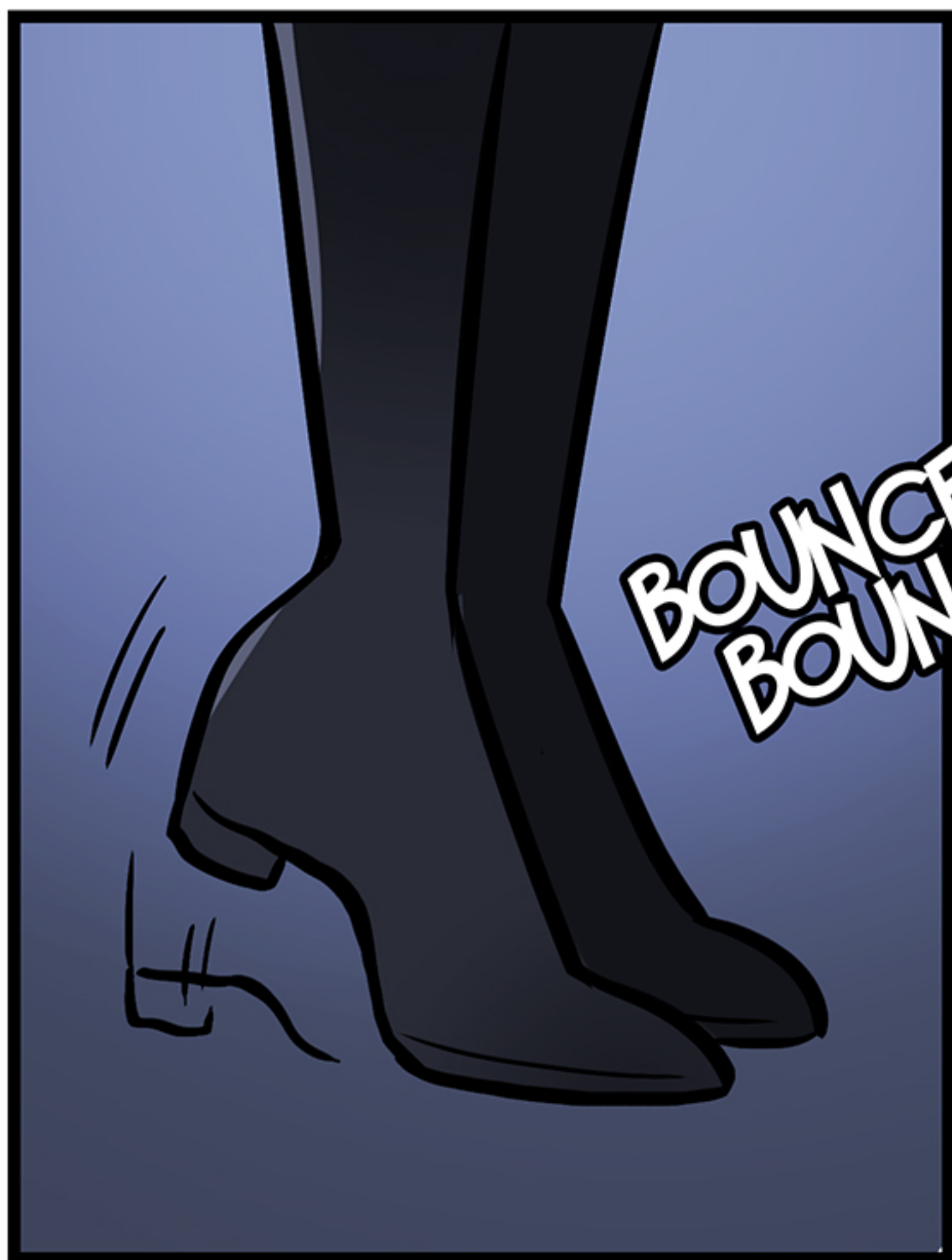




SHAKE
SHAKE





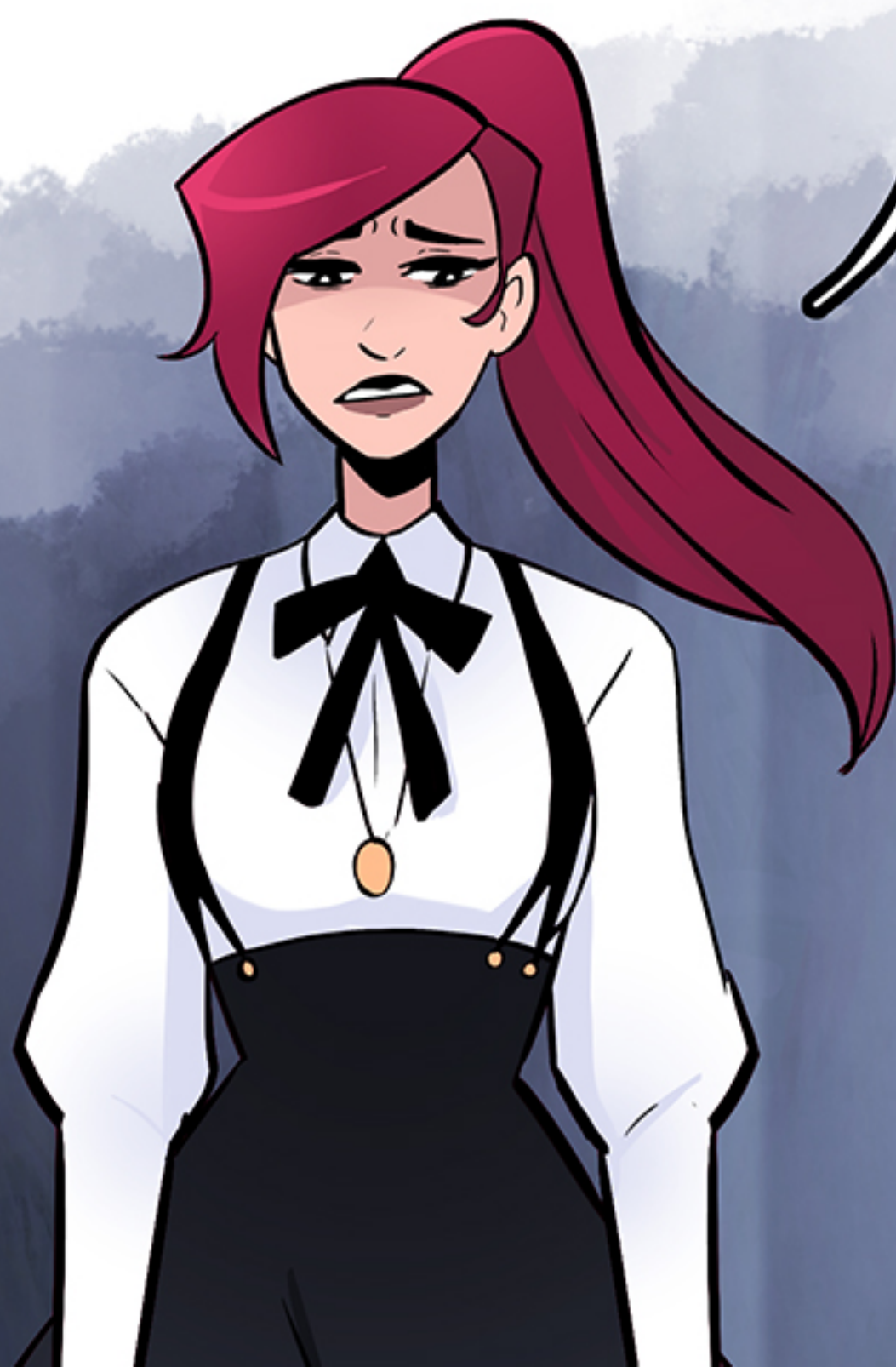
OKAY!

SLAP

SLAP

EVERYTIME
YOU'VE TOLD THE
TRUTH RECENTLY IT'S
TURNED OUT WELL-

THIS WILL
TURN OUT
WELL-



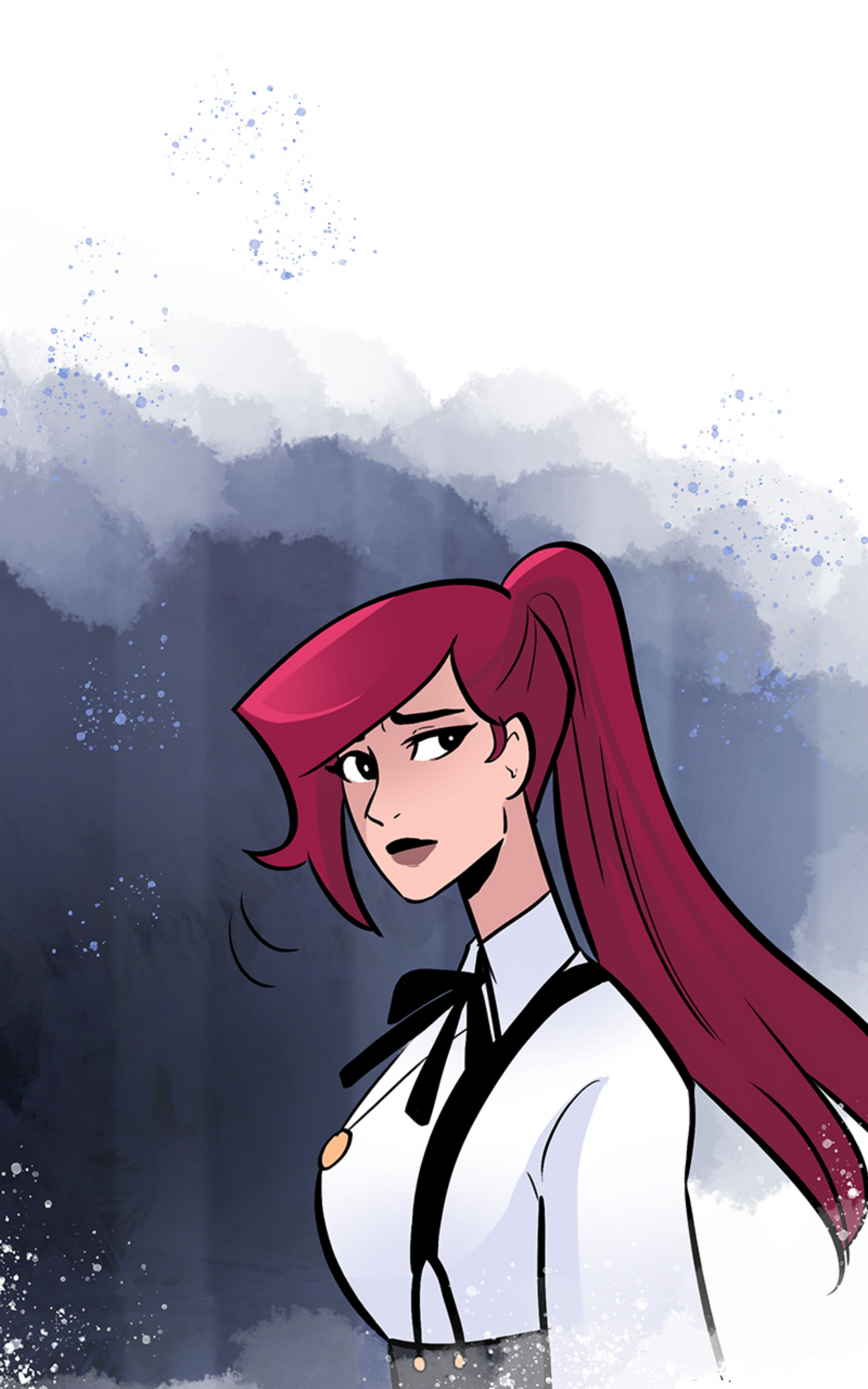


TELLING
SILVIA ABOUT
DENDRO IS A
GOOD IDEA.

THERE IS

THERE IS
NOTHING TO
WORRY ABOUT.

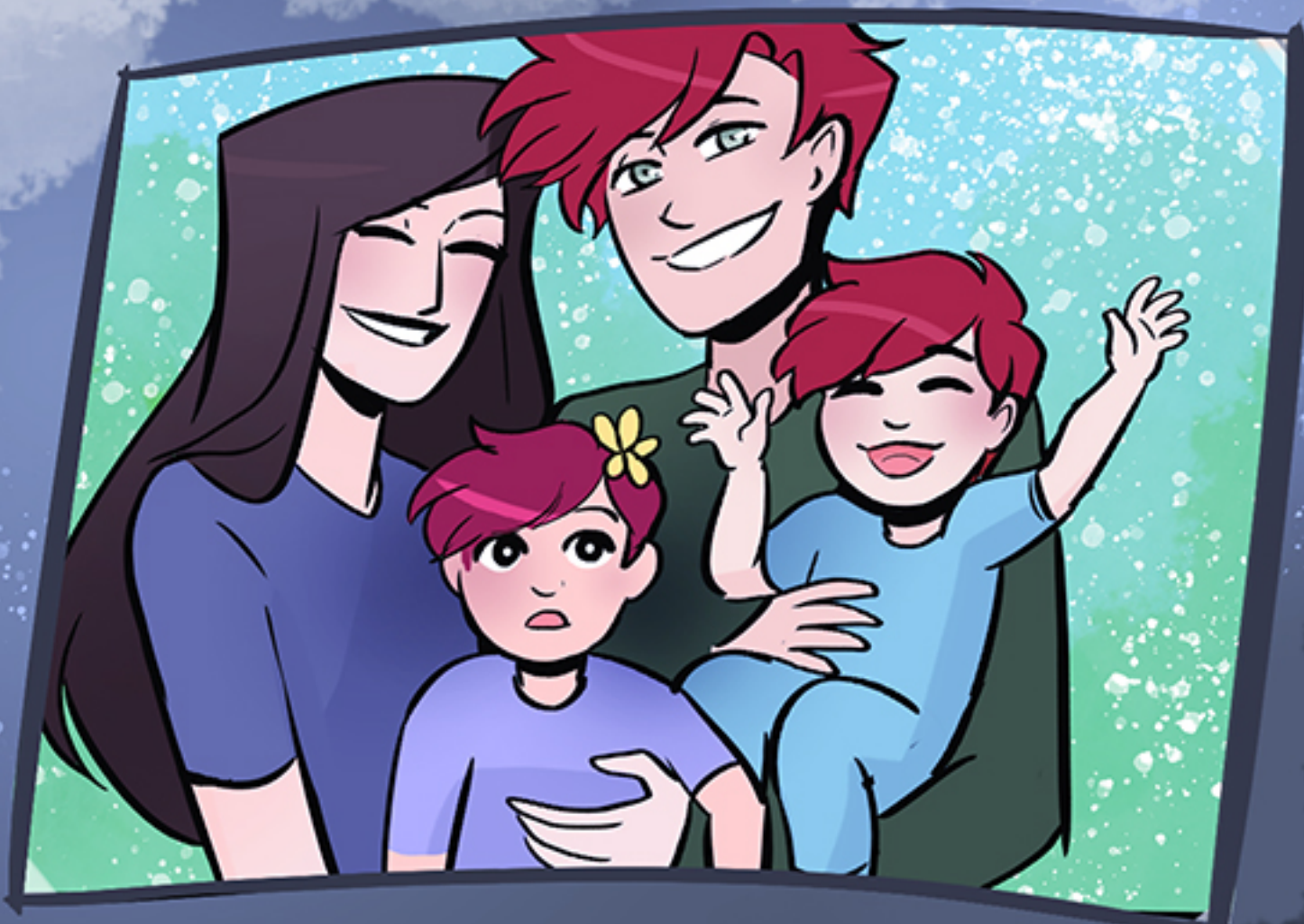
THIS WILL
ALL TURN OUT
WELL.



SECRETS
JUST CAUSE
CHAOS...



AVALINE...

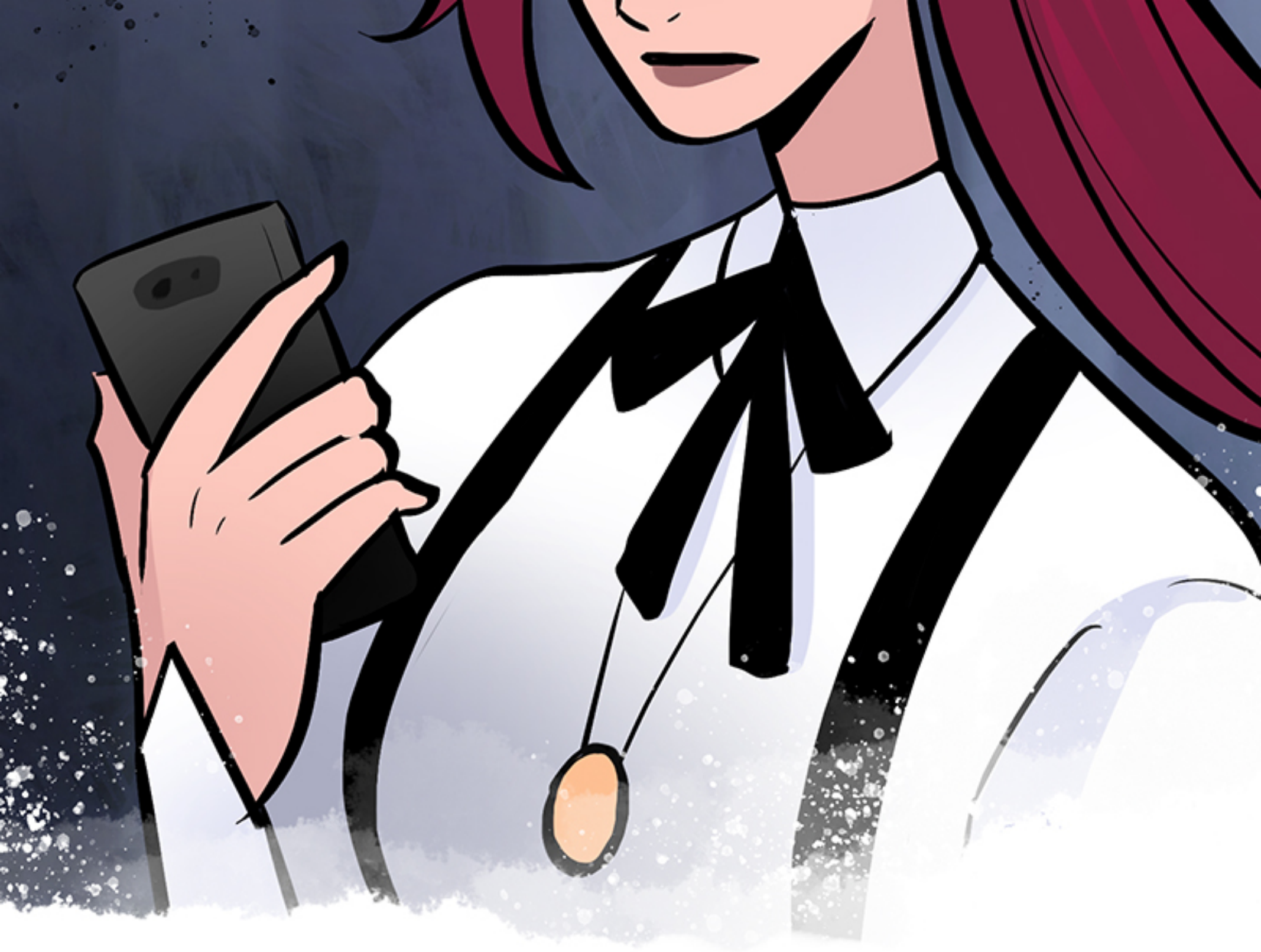


I SHOULD
HAVE TOLD YOU
ABOUT MY DAD AS
SOON AS I FOUND
OUT...

BY AVOIDING
TELLING YOU... I
JUST PUSHED YOU
FARTHER INTO THE
DARK...







**RING
RING**

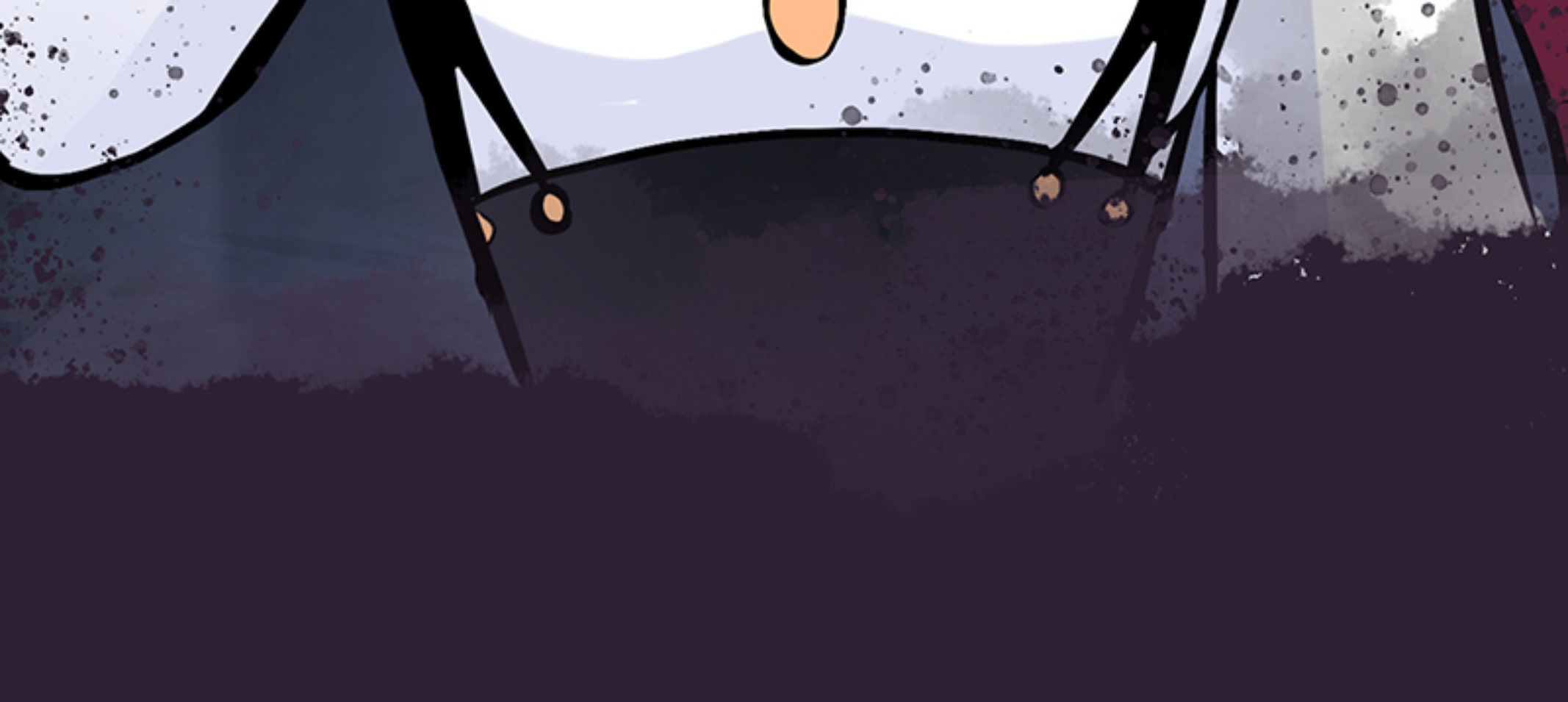
HELLO!



YOU'VE REACHED
AVALINE SEVERIN!

CAN'T COME TO THE
PHONE RIGHT NOW BUT IF
IT'S IMPORTANT PROBABLY
BETTER JUST TO TEXT
ME,





LATER
'GATOR!



REALLY?
LATER
'GATOR?



WHAT?

WE'RE IN
LOUISIANA-

WE HAVE
ALLIGATORS!

IT'S
FUNNY!



IT'S
CORNNY!

AT LEAST
I HAVE A VOICEMAIL
THAT'S NOT JUST

THE DEFAULT LIKE
YOU DO!



PLEASE LEAVE
A MESSAGE AFTER
THE BEEP-

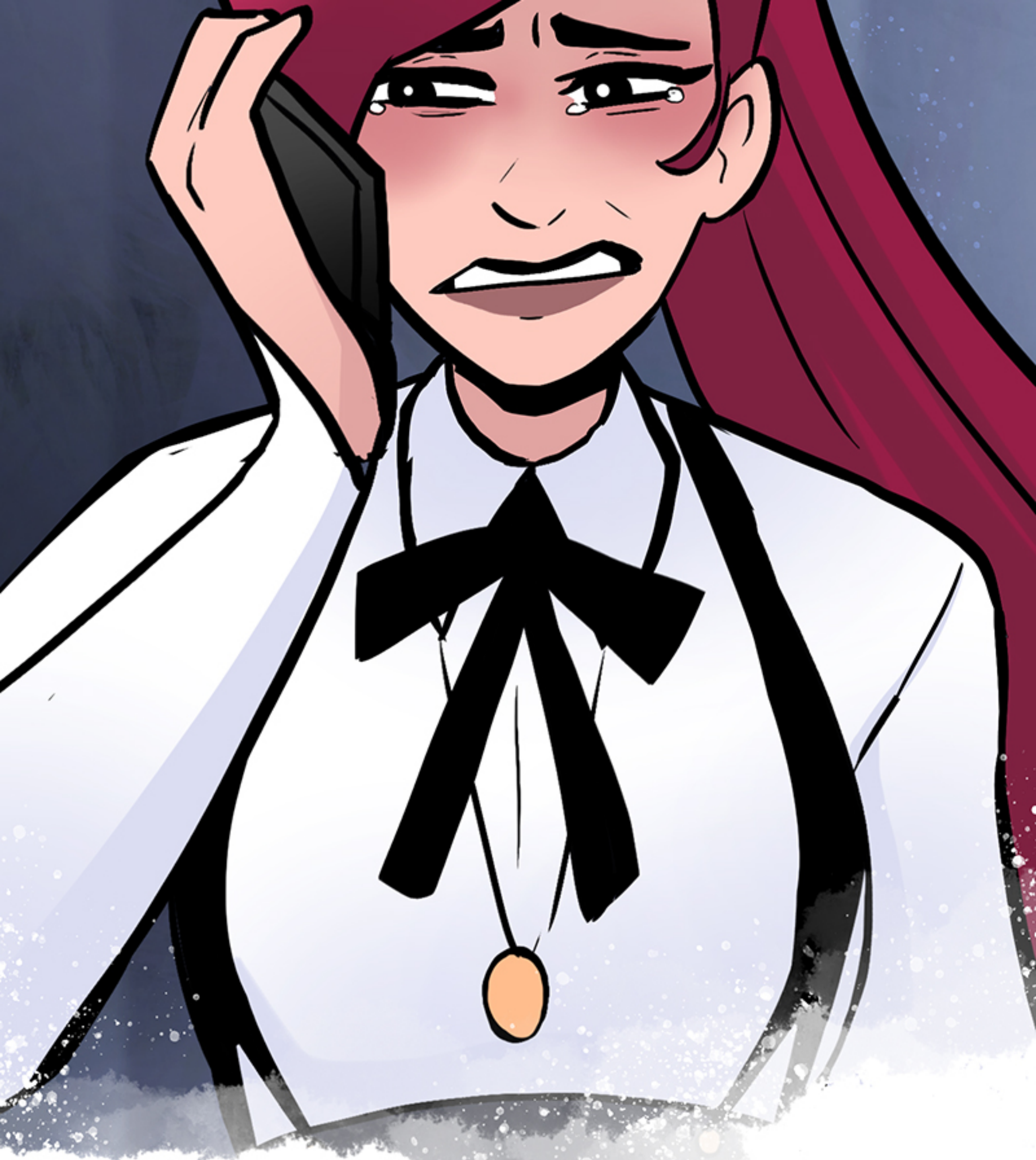
THE BOSS





BEEP





I'M SO
SORRY... I
JUST-

THERE ARE
SO MANY THINGS
THAT I WISH I COULD
DO OVER...



I JUST
GOT SCARED...

I DIDN'T...
I JUST REALLY
DIDN'T WANT YOUR
MOM TO FIND
OUT...

BUT SHE

DID SHE
DID ANYWAY...
AND YOU GOT
CAUGHT IN THE
CROSS FIRE...



PLEASE
BE OKAY...
PLEASE TELL
ME YOU'RE
SAFE—

SAFE

I PROMISE
I WON'T EVER
KEEP ANYTHING
LIKE THIS FROM
YOU AGAIN-

OKAY?

PLEASE
BE SAFE, I
LOVE YOU...



IT'S
TOO
LATE.







BUT WHAT
HAPPENS OR HAS
HAPPENED TO HER IS
NOT YOUR FAULT.

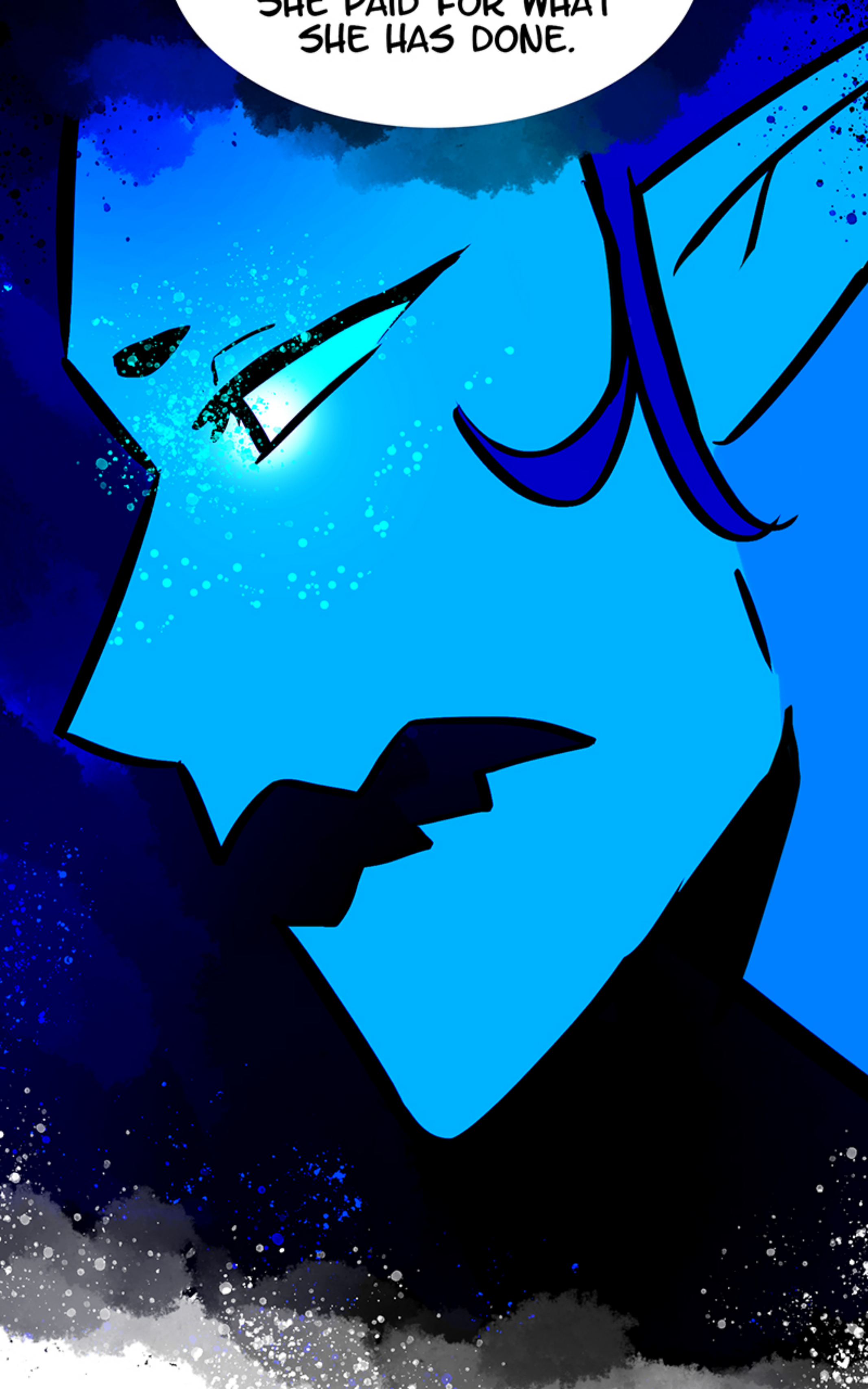
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH THE
WORLD MIGHT TRY
TO CONVINCE YOU
THAT IT IS.



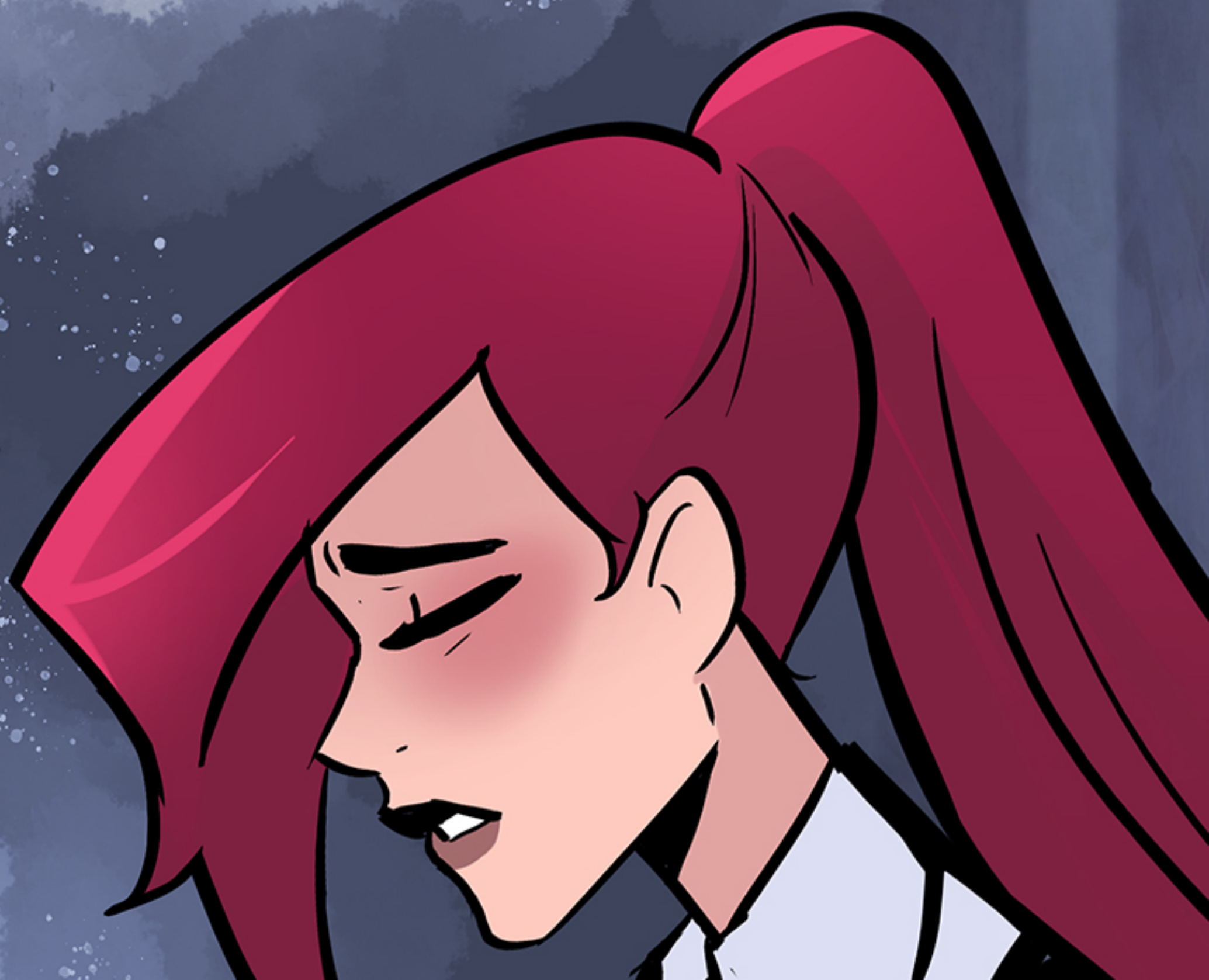
ATHALIE
IS THE ONE AT
FAULT FOR HURTING
YOU BOTH.

AND IF I
HAD LEGS WITH
WHICH TO FIND HER,
I WOULD MAKE SURE
SHE PAID FOR WHAT

SHE PAID FOR WHAT
SHE HAS DONE.



SIGH...





FOCUS.



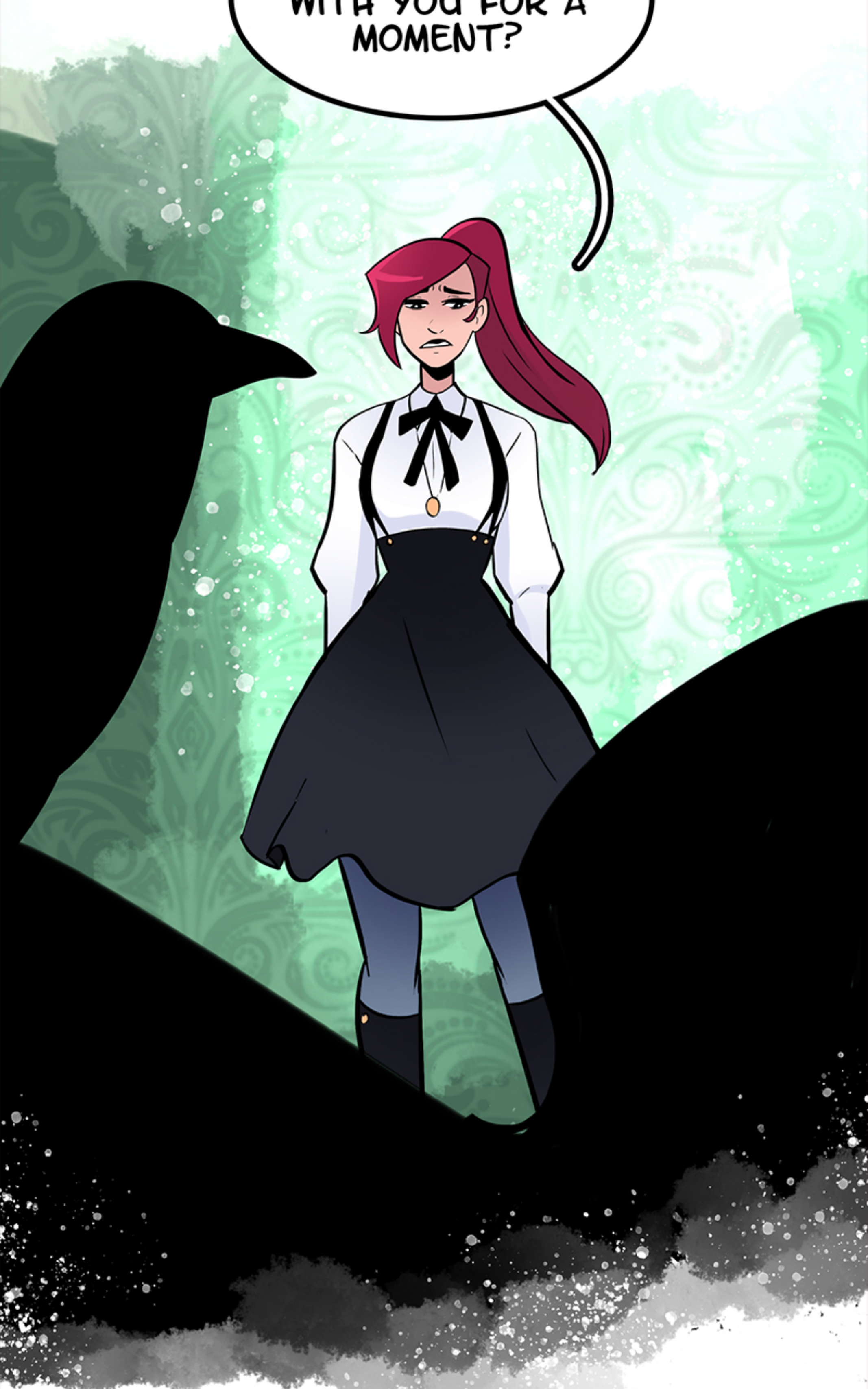
FOCUS ON
WHAT I CAN TAKE
CARE OF NOW.





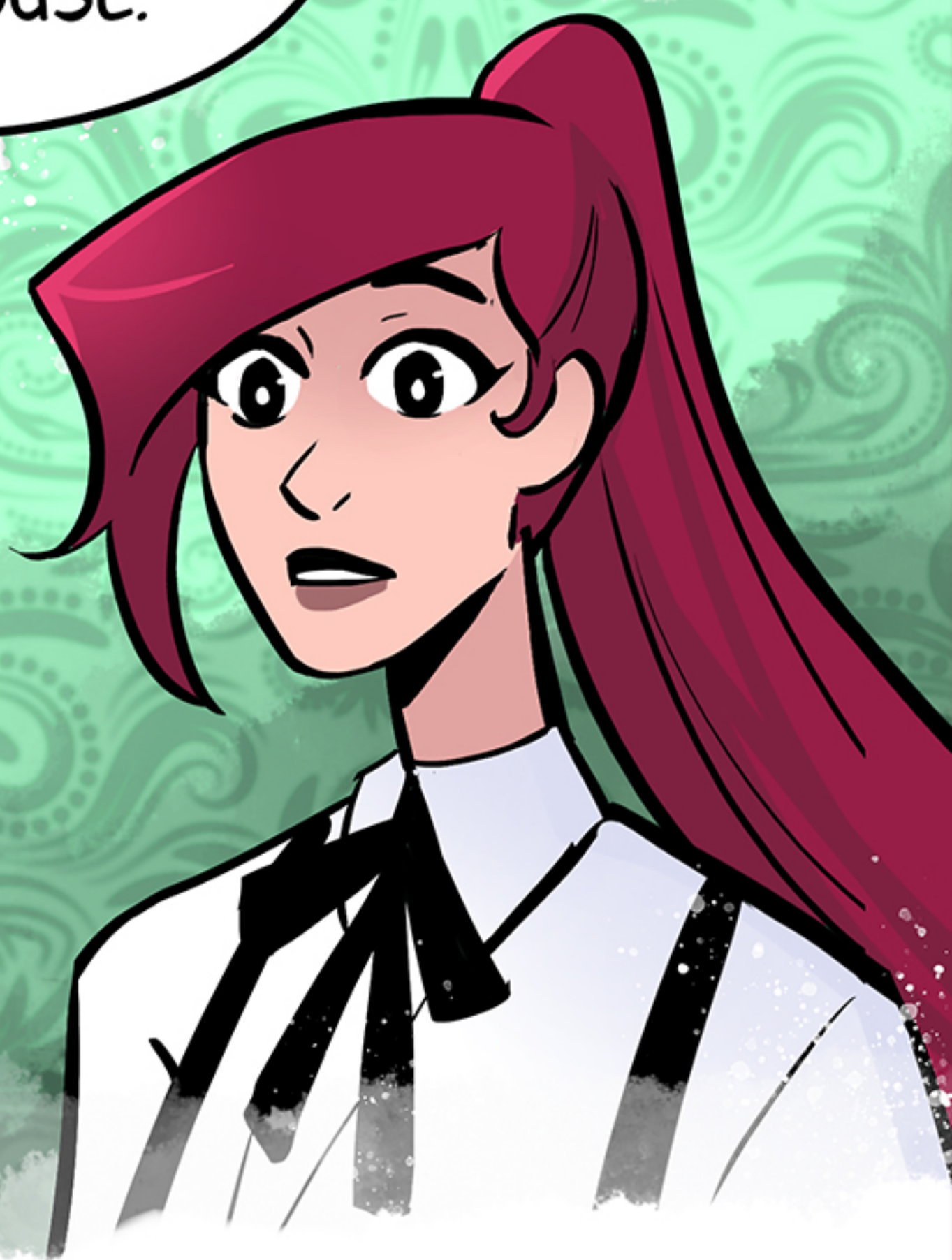


WITH YOU FOR A
MOMENT?



OH!

I'M SURPRISED
THAT SOOT ISN'T
WATCHING THE
GREENHOUSE.



I FIGURED
THAT YOU BOTH
COULD USE A
BREAK.

HE WAS
GETTING
BORED.





WHAT'S
ON YOUR MIND?

WELL...

FIRSTLY...

I WANTED TO
APOLOGIZE...

A woman with short, vibrant red hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a white lab coat over a light blue shirt. She is looking down and slightly to the left with a somber expression. The background is a soft-focus green with white bokeh lights.

YOU'VE DONE
NOTHING BUT TRY
TO HELP ME, I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SNAPPED AT YOU
LIKE THAT.

I ACCEPT
THE APOLOGY...
BUT I REALLY DON'T
NEED IT.

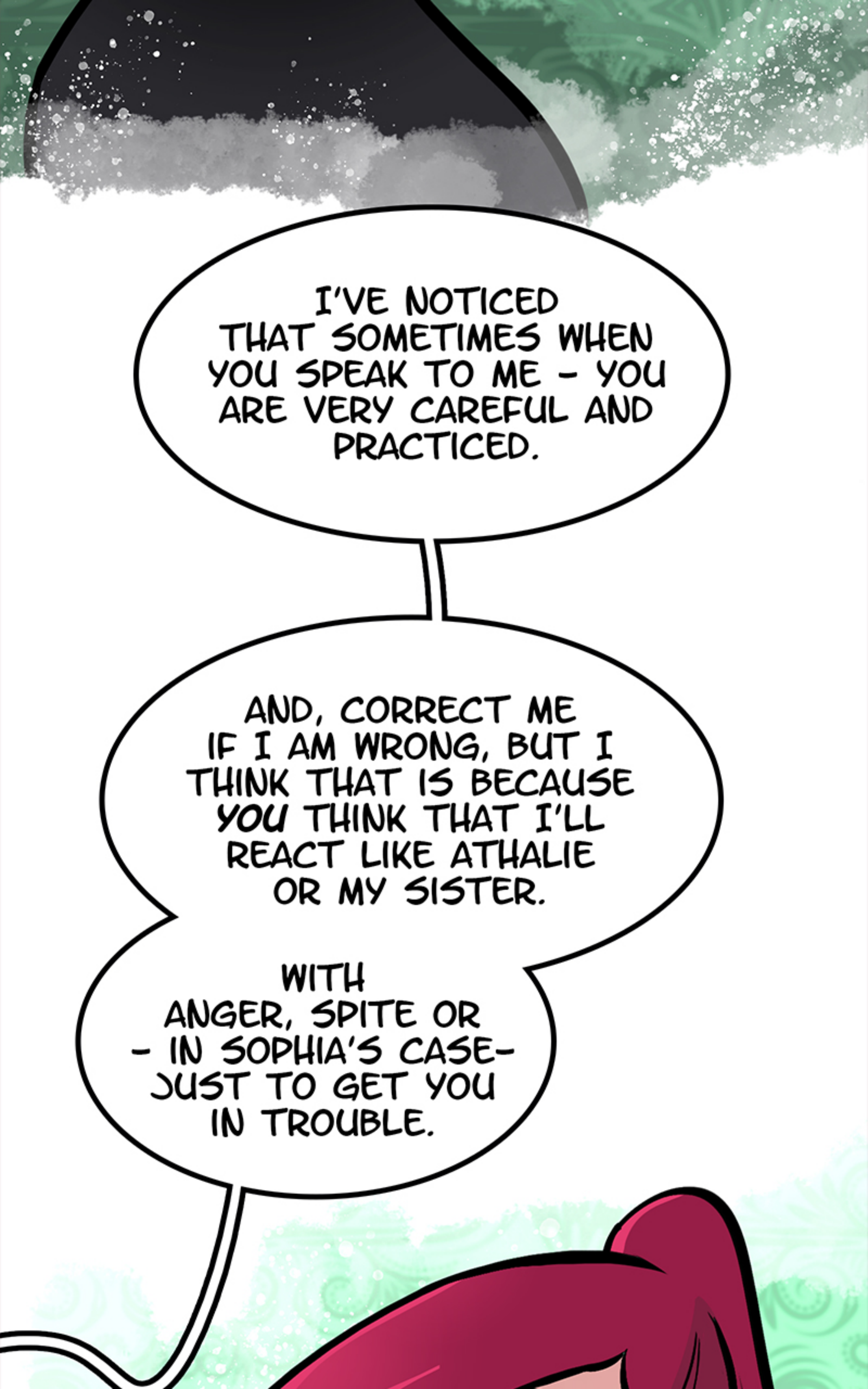


I RECOGNIZE
THAT I'VE BEEN...
COLD, IN REGARDS TO
THE WHOLE AVALINE
SITUATION.

I ACTUALLY
STARTED TO REALIZE
YOU AND I HAVE A
SIMILAR PROBLEM...

YOU SNAPPING
AT ME LIKE THAT...
WAS A LEVEL OF
HONESTY I DON'T
SEE FROM YOU
OFTEN...



A comic panel featuring three speech bubbles and the top of a character's head. The character has dark, curly hair. The background is a light green with a subtle pattern of small white dots. The speech bubbles are arranged vertically, with the first at the top, the second in the middle, and the third at the bottom. The text in the bubbles is in a simple, hand-drawn font.

I'VE NOTICED
THAT SOMETIMES WHEN
YOU SPEAK TO ME - YOU
ARE VERY CAREFUL AND
PRACTICED.

AND, CORRECT ME
IF I AM WRONG, BUT I
THINK THAT IS BECAUSE
YOU THINK THAT I'LL
REACT LIKE ATHALIE
OR MY SISTER.

WITH
ANGER, SPITE OR
- IN SOPHIA'S CASE-
JUST TO GET YOU
IN TROUBLE.



WHILE
ON THE OTHER
HAND... YOU WERE
RIGHT BEFORE.

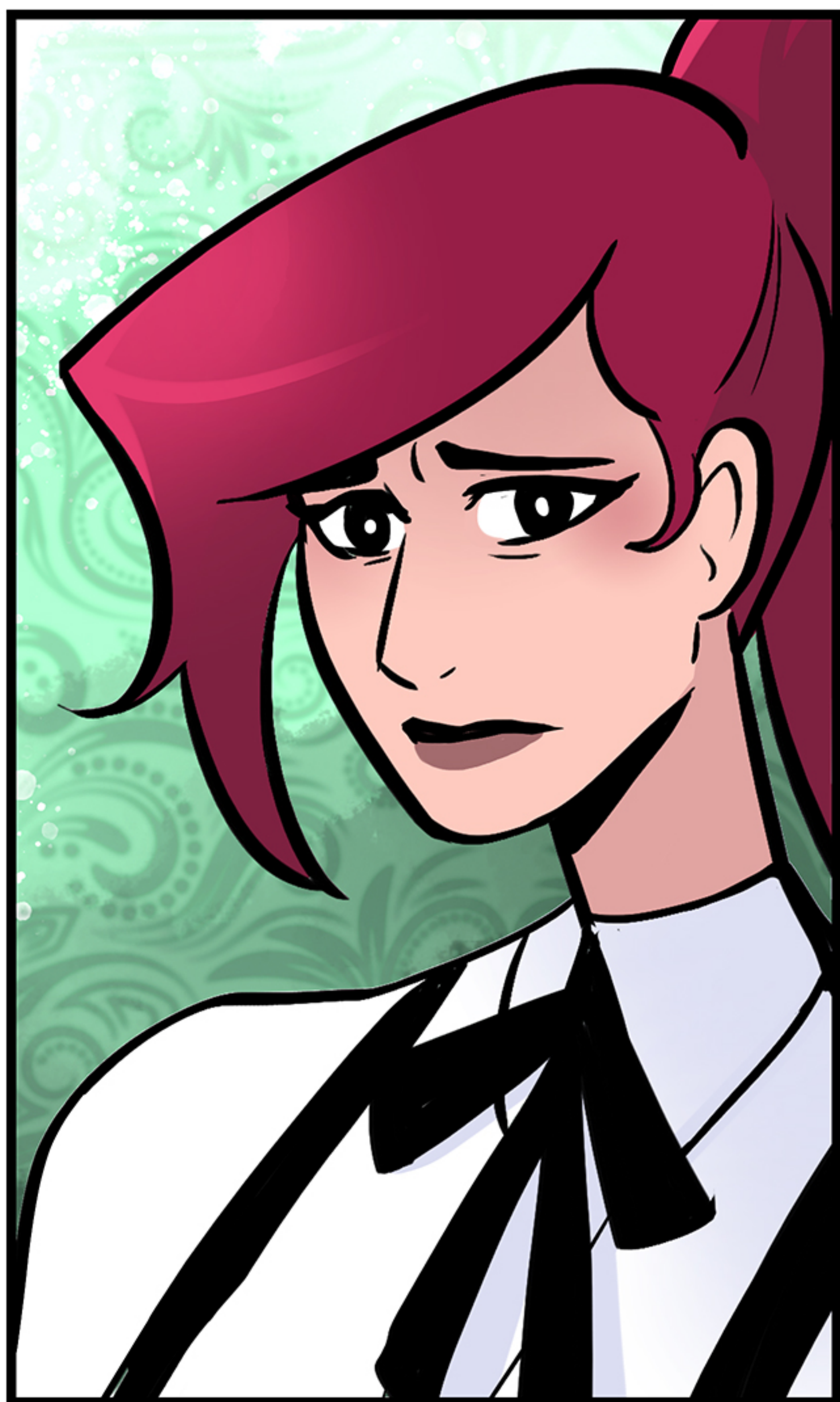
PART OF ME
HAD ALREADY GIVEN
UP ON AVALINE
BECAUSE I THOUGHT
SHE WAS GOING TO BE
JUST LIKE... ATHALIE
OR MY SISTER...



I SHOULD
HAVE TRIED
HARDER TO SEE
WHAT YOU SAW.

SO... I AM
ALSO SORRY.







WELL
THEN...

WHILE
WE ARE ON
THE SUBJECT OF
BEING HONEST...



WOULD
YOU COME WITH
ME TO THE
GREENHOUSE?





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