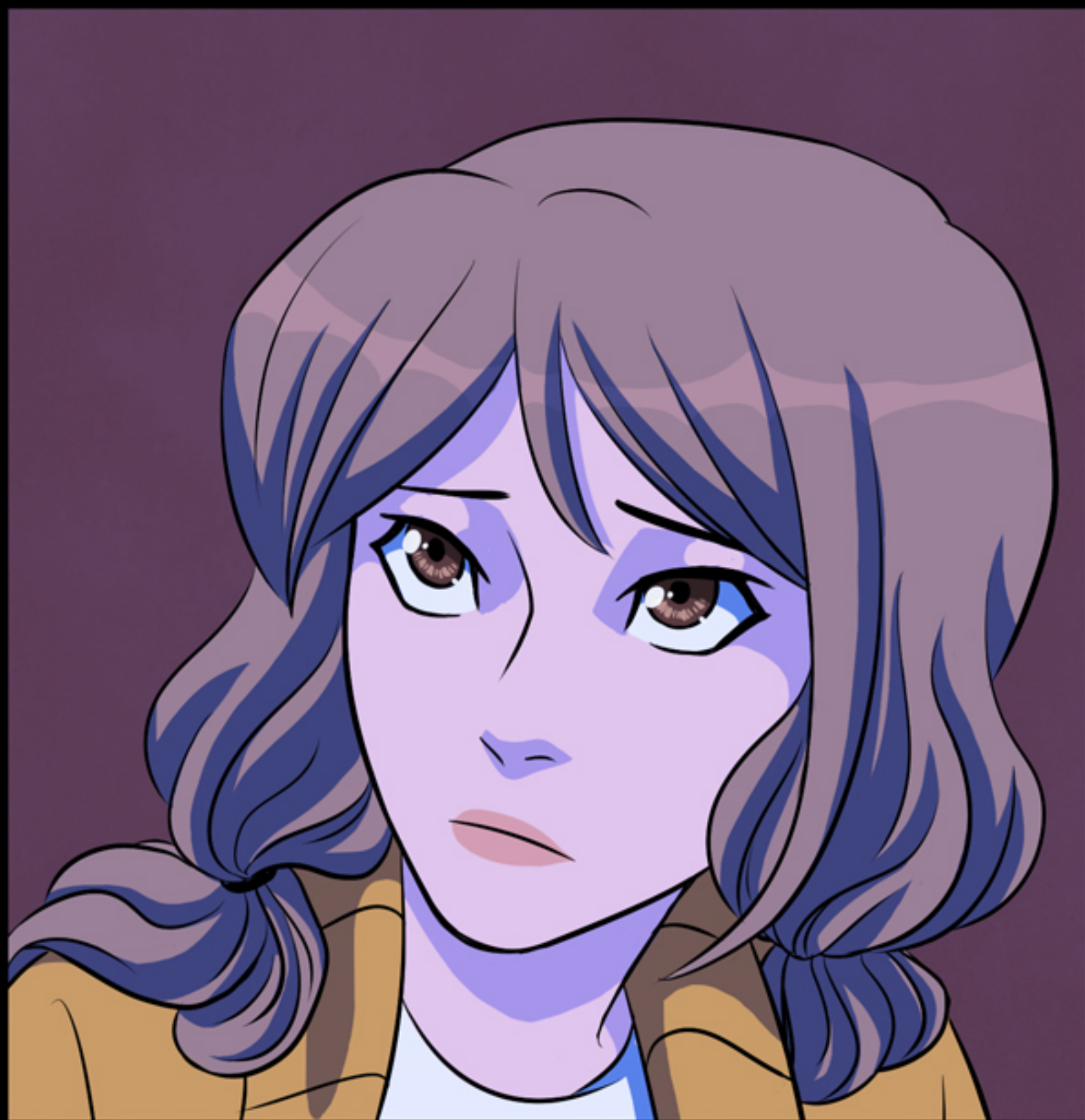




ARE YOU
SURE YOU'RE
OK?

I'LL BE
FINE.

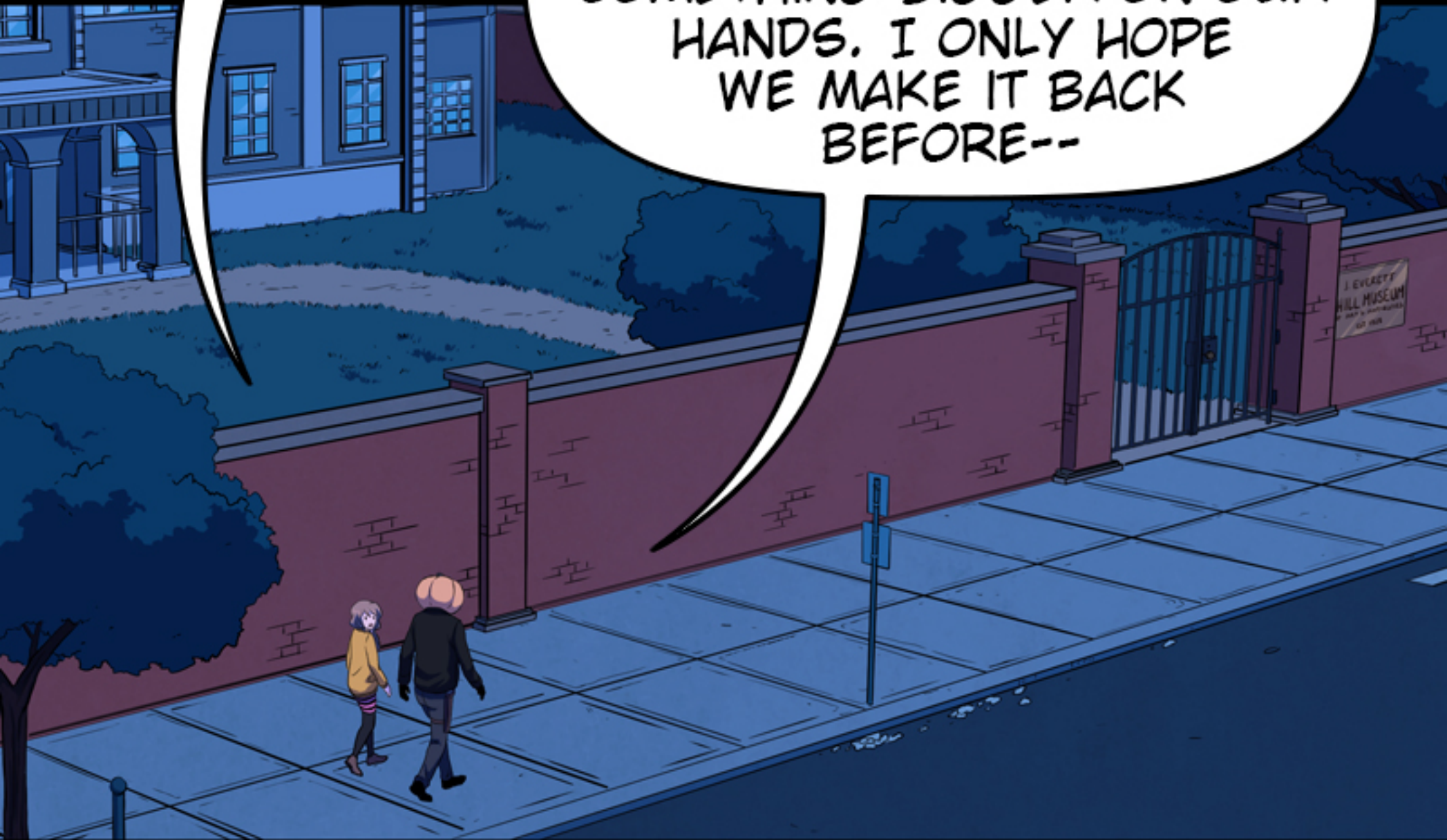




SO WHAT'S
THE BIG HURRY?
I THOUGHT WE
GOT ALL THE
CHANGES

SNAKES.

SO DID I, AT FIRST.
BUT IT SEEMS WE MAY HAVE
SOMETHING BIGGER ON OUR
HANDS. I ONLY HOPE
WE MAKE IT BACK
BEFORE--



***THERE YOU
ARE!!***



DIRECTOR
MAJUMDAR?
WHAT ARE--

NO, STOP!
I DON'T WANT
TO HEAR IT.



DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT I'VE
BEEN THROUGH
TONIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL

WHAT THE **HELL**
HAVE YOU PEOPLE
BEEN DOING TO MY
MUSEUM?! IT LOOKS
LIKE A BOMB
WENT OFF.



UGH, THIS
IS MY FAULT.
I NEVER SHOULD
HAVE INDULGED NORRIS.
WHAT SELF-RESPECTING
NIGHT WATCHMAN
BELIEVES IN
GHOSTS?



I SUPPOSE IT
SERVES ME RIGHT
FOR TRUSTING
ANONYMOUS ONLINE
REVIEWS.

WHO THE
HECK GAVE US
A REVIEW?



DIRECTOR,
ARE THE POLICE
INVOLVED?

NO, THANK
GOODNESS. I
MANAGED TO CONVINCE
THEM THE JANITOR SET
OFF THE ALARM BY
MISTAKE.

GOOD.
WE NEED TO
GET BACK INTO
THE MUSEUM AT
ONCE.





A comic book panel with a purple brick wall background. At the top, a woman in a blue cardigan and patterned dress stands with her arms crossed. On the right, a large, muscular man in a dark suit is partially visible. A large white speech bubble with a black outline contains the text 'ARE YOU INSANE?!' in bold, black, handwritten-style capital letters. At the bottom, a woman with short grey hair and a shocked expression looks up at the man. She has a gold watch on her left wrist and her hand is raised near her head. A large, rounded, pinkish-orange shape, likely the man's back or arm, is in the foreground on the right.

**ARE YOU
INSANE?!**



WHAT POSSIBLE
REASON WOULD I
HAVE TO LET...

YOU



YOU

WHAT ON
EARTH IS
THAT?

A comic book panel with a dark purple background. At the top, there is a small, partially visible image of a creature's head with a purple and blue color scheme. Below this, the background is a solid dark purple. Two white speech bubbles are positioned in the lower half of the panel. The first speech bubble is on the left and contains the text: "A TOOTH FRAGMENT FROM ONE OF THE CREATURES THAT ATTACKED US. TURNS OUT YOUR NIGHT WATCHMAN WAS ONTO SOMETHING." The second speech bubble is on the right and contains the text: "WE MANAGED TO NEUTRALIZE ONE OF THE SOURCES, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S STILL DRAWING ENERGY FROM SOMEWHERE".

A TOOTH
FRAGMENT FROM
ONE OF THE CREATURES
THAT ATTACKED US.
TURNS OUT YOUR NIGHT
WATCHMAN WAS ONTO
SOMETHING.

WE MANAGED
TO NEUTRALIZE ONE
OF THE SOURCES, BUT
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S STILL
DRAWING ENERGY FROM
SOMEWHERE

SOMEWHERE.





REMARKABLE...

DIRECTOR.

**WE NEED TO
GET IN AND FINISH
THE JOB.**







FINE.

I'LL OPEN THE
DOORS, BUT I *INSIST* ON
ACCOMPANYING YOU ON YOUR
"INVESTIGATION."

BASED ON
WHAT I'VE SEEN,
IT'S CLEAR THAT I CAN'T
ALLOW YOU TO GALLIVANT
ABOUT THE MUSEUM
UNCHAPERONED.

IF THAT'S
WHAT IT
TAKES.



LET'S GO.





FOUND IT!





HMPH, IT'S EVEN
WORSE SEEING IT THE
SECOND TIME...

WELL?

LOOKS
LIKE IT'S STILL
DEAD.

MM, JUST
AS I THOUGHT.
RIGHT THEN, WE
SH--



**ARE THOSE
SCORCH MARKS?!**



UH...

**UGH, JUST WHAT I
NEED--EXHIBIT REPAIRS
AND A RESTORATION! THE
BOARD WILL HAVE MY
HEAD FOR THIS!**





WELL? ANY
MORE SURPRISES
YOU'D LIKE TO SPRING
ON ME?

JUST ONE.



DIRECTOR, ARE
YOU FAMILIAR WITH
THE CONCEPT OF A
BOOK CURSE?

OF COURSE.



FOLLOW-UP
QUESTION: WHAT'S
A BOOK CURSE?





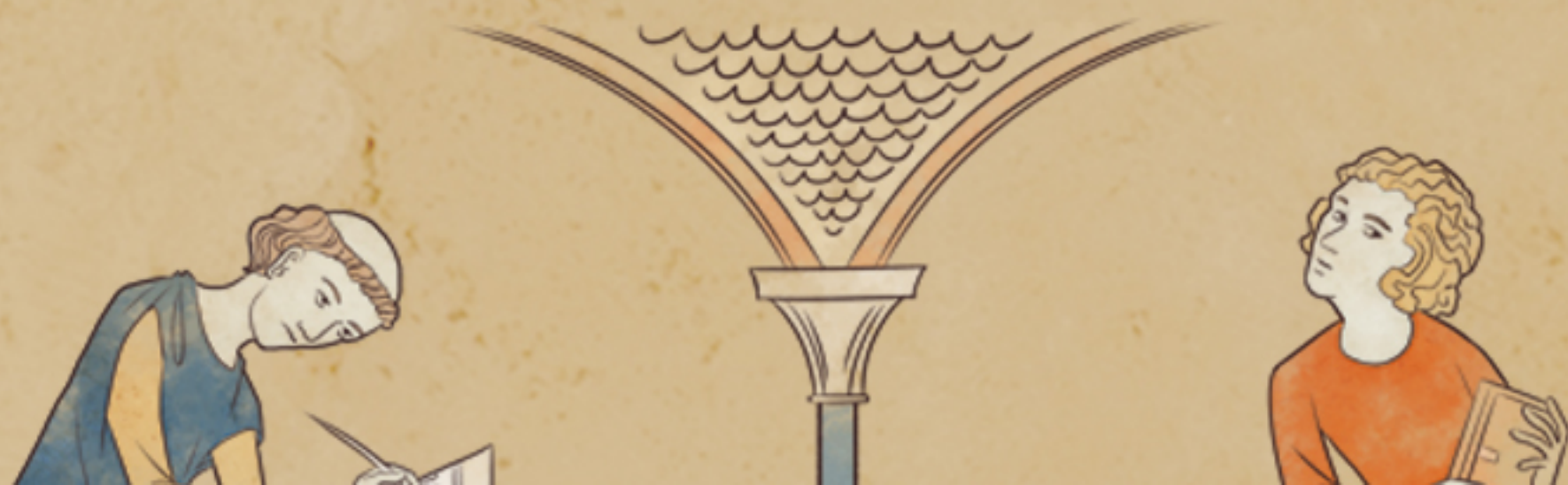
...NICE TO SEE
YOU'VE DONE YOUR
RESEARCH.

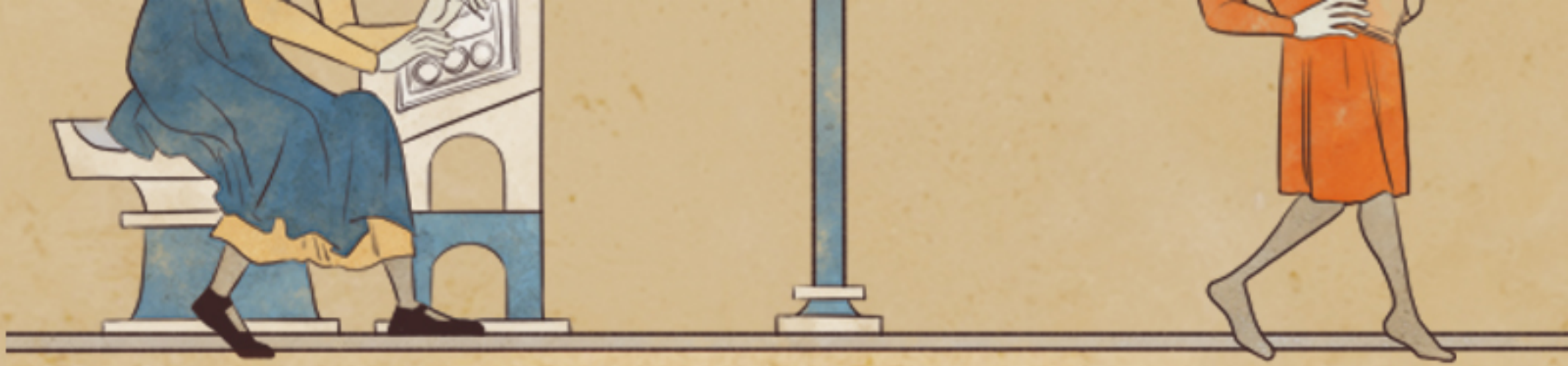
"TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, A
BOOK CURSE IS AN ANCIENT
ANTI-THEFT DEVICE."

"BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE
PRINTING PRESS, BOOKS WERE
TRANSCRIBED BY HAND, WHICH
WAS A SLOW AND ARDUOUS
PROCESS."



"THESE BOOKS WERE THEREFORE EXCEEDINGLY VALLUABLE. TO DETER WOULD-BE THIEVES, SCRIBES AND BOOK OWNERS TOOK TO INCLUDING CURSES IN THEIR TOMES."





"THEY USUALLY THREATENED
DEATH, DISMEMBERMENT, SCREAMING
HELLFIRE, AND THE LIKE AGAINST ANY
WHO WOULD DARE DAMAGE OR
ABSCOND WITH A BOOK."





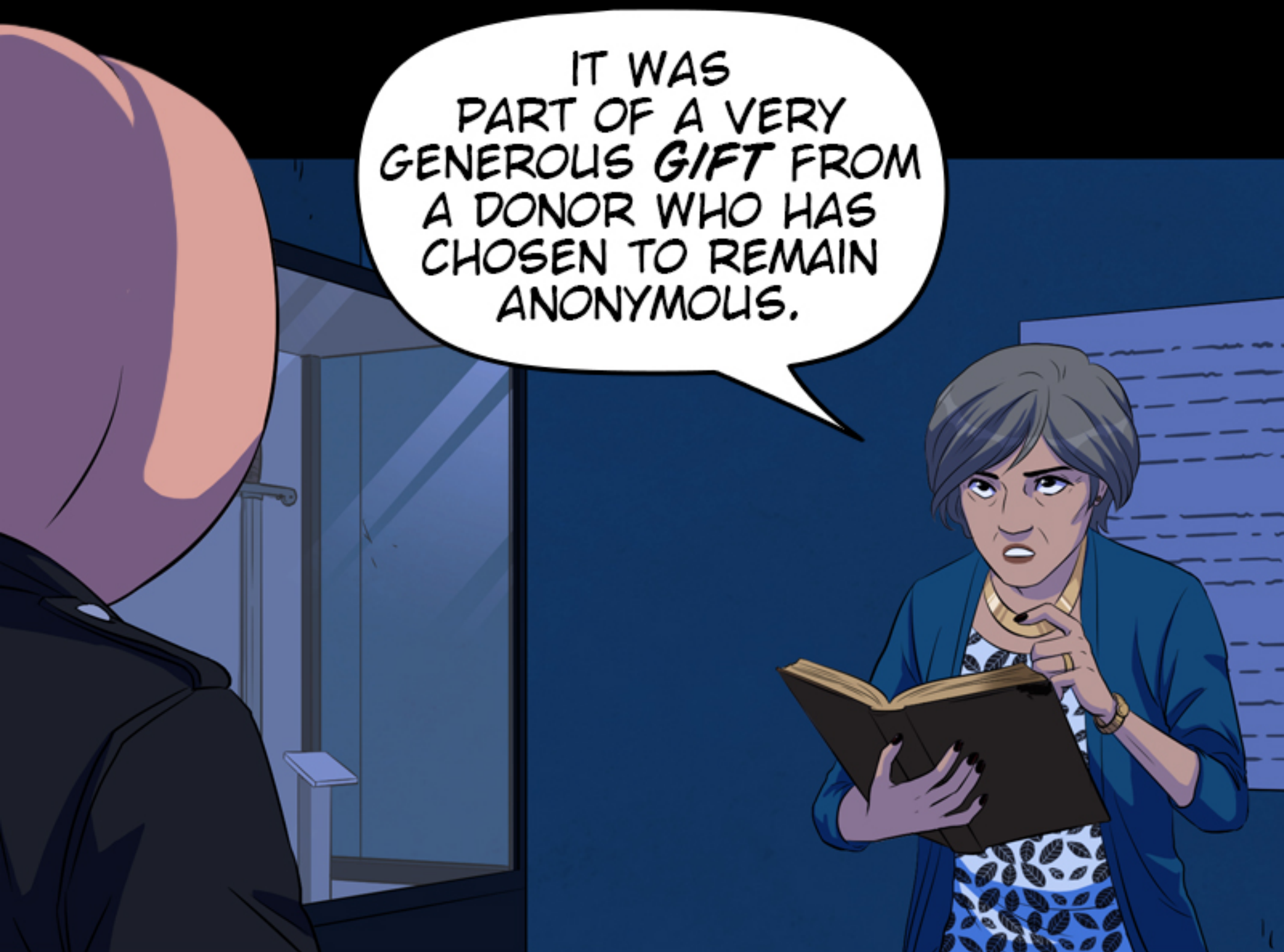
A FASCINATING
HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE,
BUT ULTIMATELY IT'S ALL
JUST SUPERSTITIOUS
NONSENSE.



UNLESS THE
PERSON WHO
WROTE THE CURSE
KNEW WHAT THEY
WERE DOING.



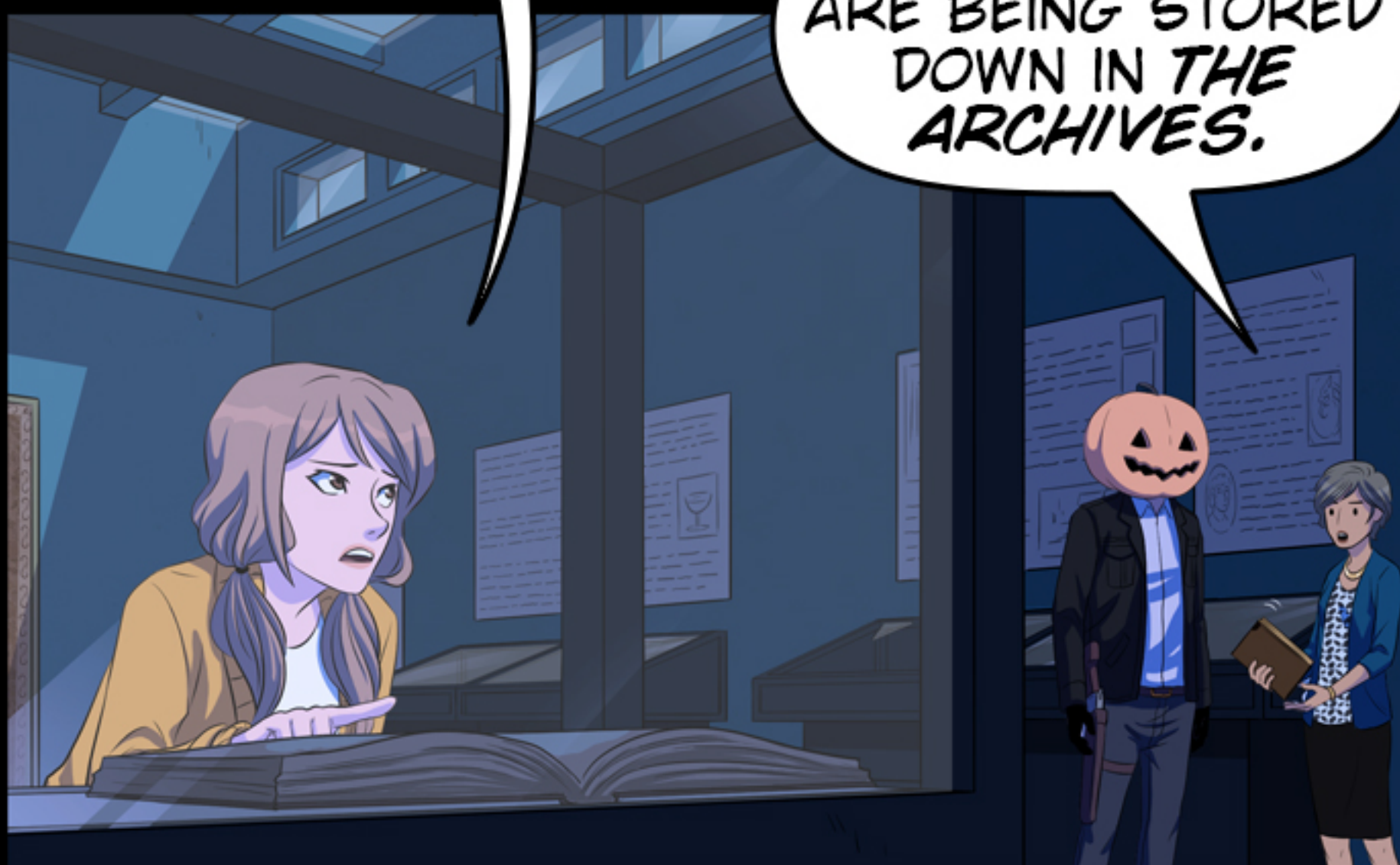
DIRECTOR,
HOW DID THE



"PART"?
SO THESE OTHER
BOOKS ARE...?

NO. THIS
IS THE ONLY
PIECE IN ANY OF
OUR EXISTING
EXHIBITS.

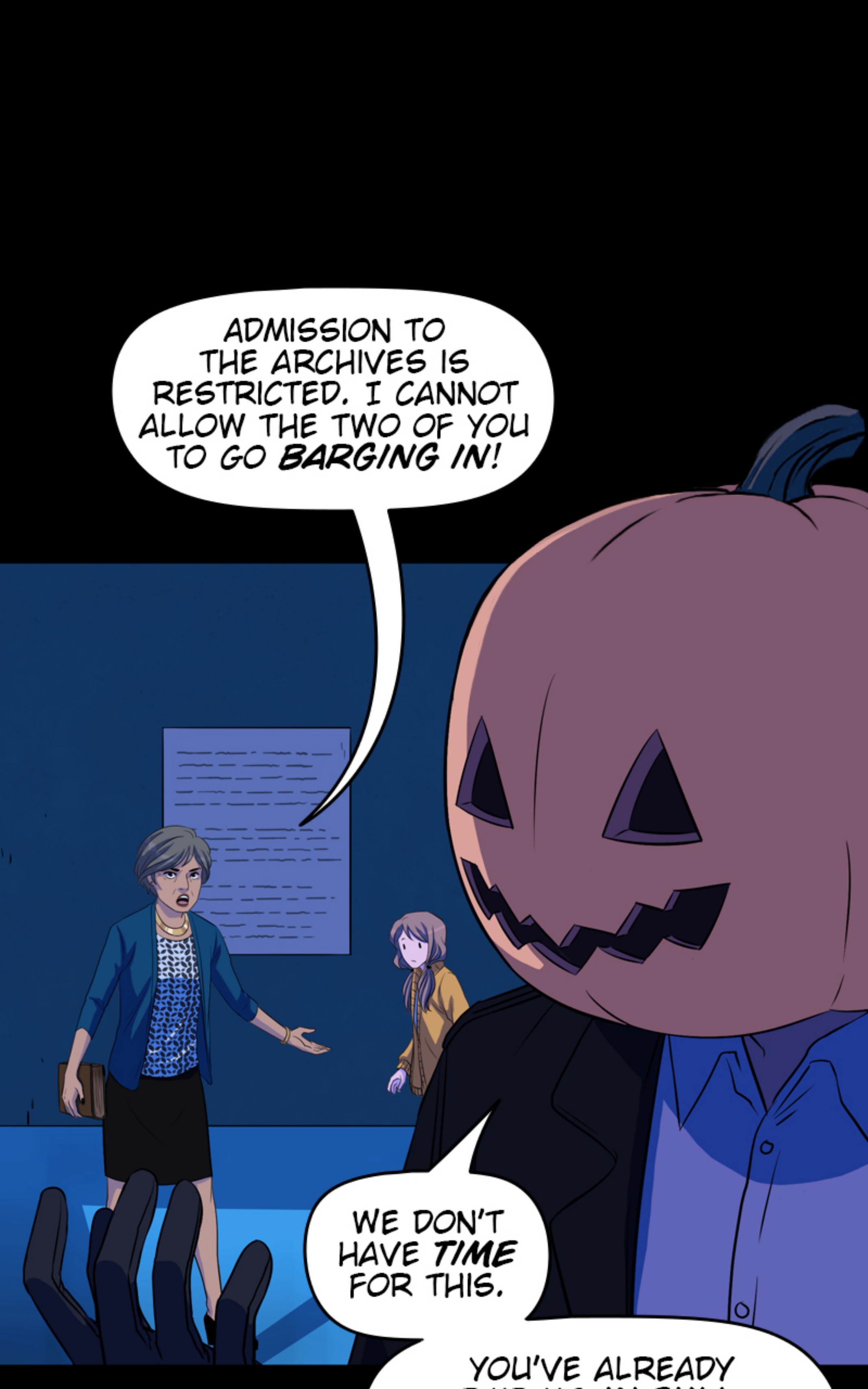
THE REST
ARE BEING STORED
DOWN IN *THE*
ARCHIVES.



RIGHT THEN,
THAT'S OUR NEXT
PORT OF CALL.

EXCUSE ME?





ADMISSION TO
THE ARCHIVES IS
RESTRICTED. I CANNOT
ALLOW THE TWO OF YOU
TO GO *BARGING IN*!

WE DON'T
HAVE *TIME*
FOR THIS.

YOU'VE ALREADY

PAID US *IN FULL*.
WHAT WOULD WE HAVE
TO GAIN FROM LEADING YOU
ON A WILD GOOSE
CHASE?

AAAND YOU'D
ALSO BE THERE TO
MAKE SURE WE DON'T
TOUCH ANYTHING,
SO...



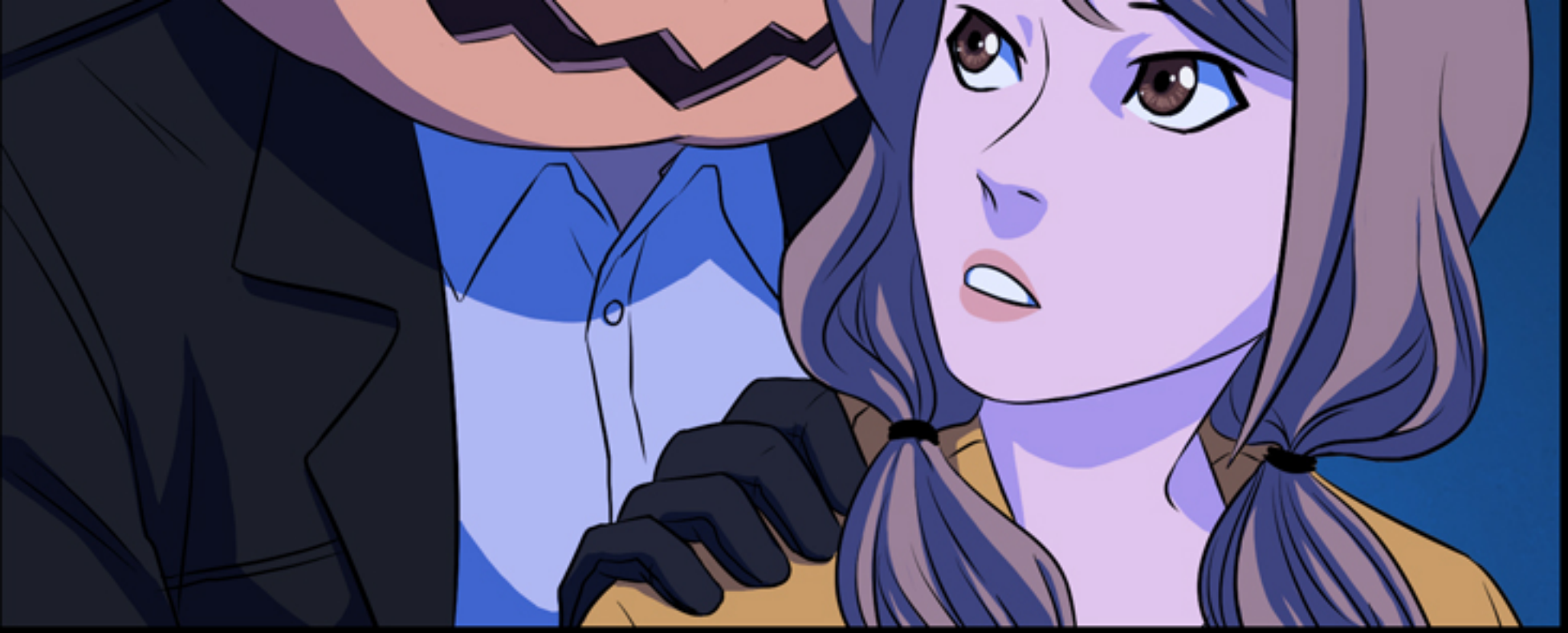


FINE.

**WHAT'S A
LITTLE *MORE*
PROPERTY
DAMAGE.**







I REALIZE THIS IS
ABRUPT, BUT IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO
TAKE POINT ON THIS
ONE.

WHAT?! WHY?

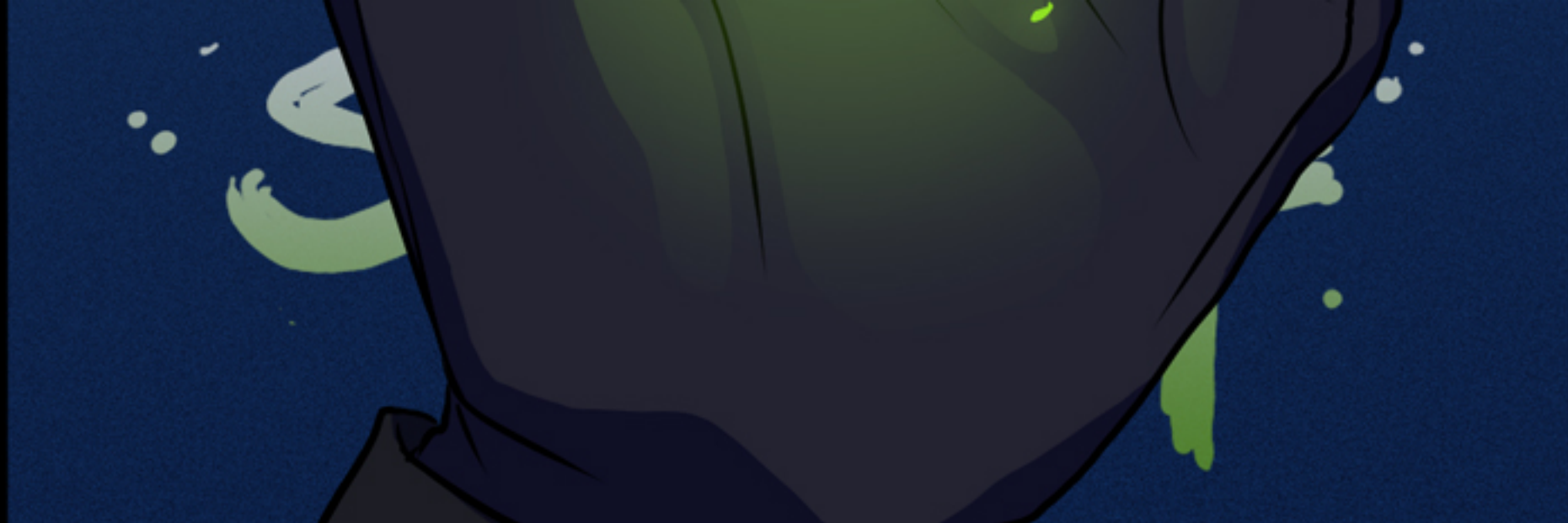


WHATEVER THAT
SNAKE DID SEEMS TO
HAVE SHORTED ME OUT.
I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE
MUCH GOOD IN
A FIGHT.

Fsst

Ssst





THIS IS
TEMPORARY,
RIGHT?

IT
SHOULD
BE.





THOUGH FOR THE
TIME BEING, THERE'LL
BE NO SPELLS AND
NO FIRE.

I'VE STILL
GOT *THIS*, BUT
AS YOU KNOW IT ONLY
CONCENTRATES MY ENERGY
OUTPUT, AND CURRENTLY
THERE'S NOT MUCH TO
SPEAK OF.



CAN'T WE
COME BACK
LATER WHEN THIS
WEARS OFF?

PAT
PAT

TOO
RISKY.

WHATEVER'S
DOWN THERE WILL
ONLY GET STRONGER
THE LONGER IT'S LEFT
UNCHECKED. IT WILL HAVE



TO BE DEALT WITH
TONIGHT.

BEEP
BEEP

ARE
YOU TWO
COMING? I'D
LIKE TO MAKE
THIS QUICK.

NOW I'M
SURE I DON'T HAVE
TO TELL YOU TO LOOK
WITH YOUR EYES,
NOT WITH YOUR
HANDS.





DEEP BREATH



LET ME GO
FIRST.

