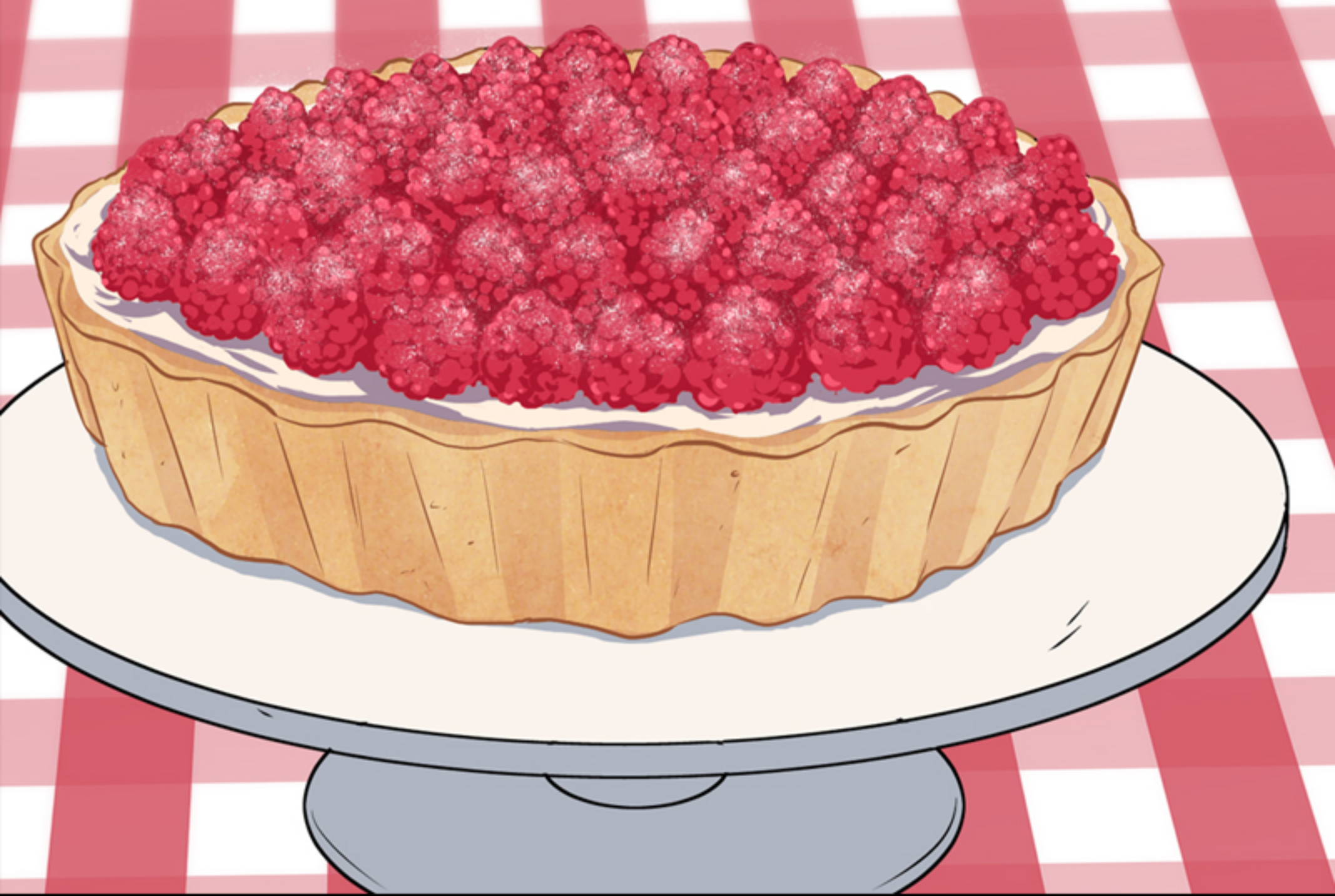


PART 4

FREELANCE BLUES



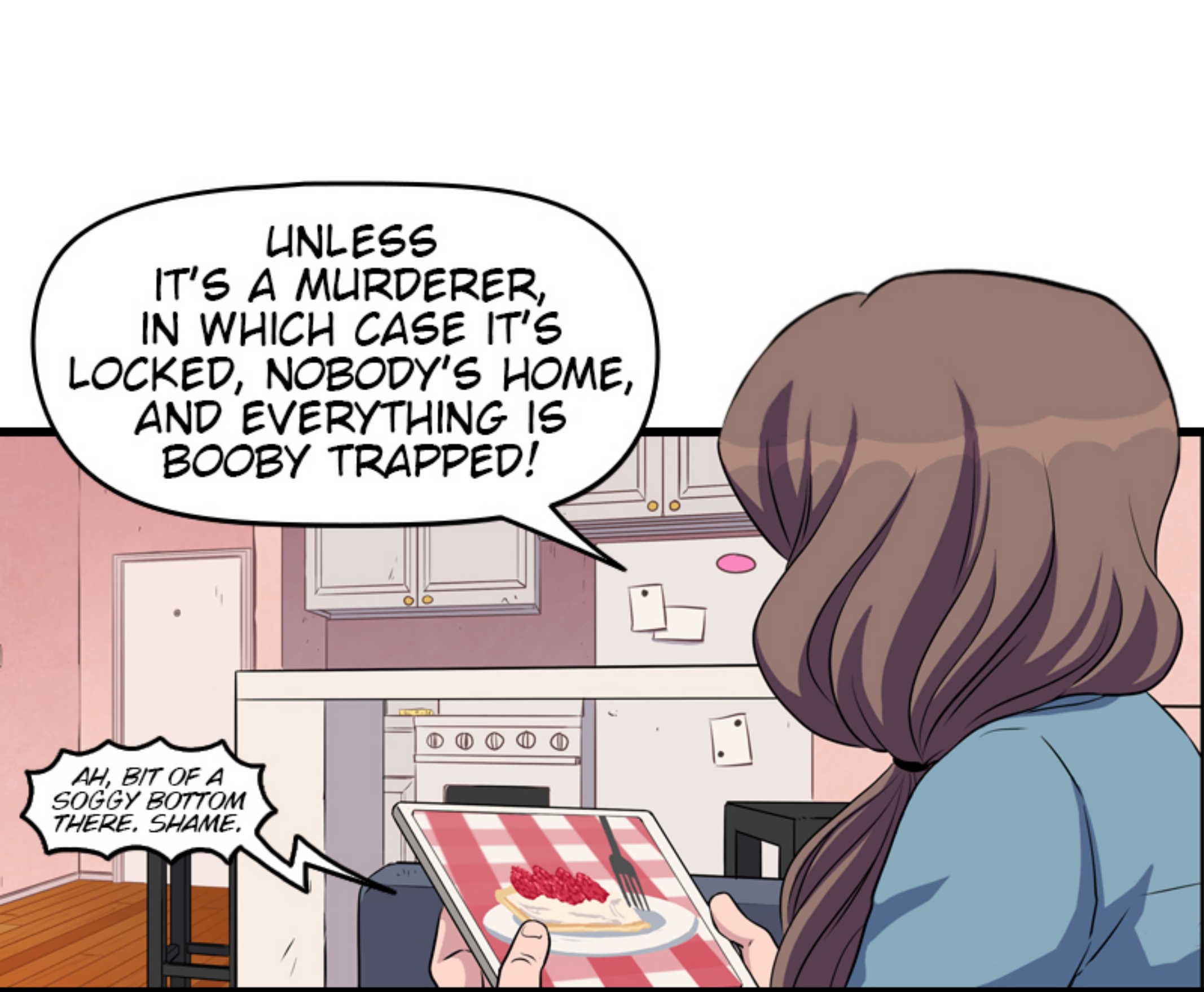


WELL IT LOOKS
BEAUTIFUL, BUT
LET'S SEE HOW IT
TASTES.









UNLESS
IT'S A MURDERER,
IN WHICH CASE IT'S
LOCKED, NOBODY'S HOME,
AND EVERYTHING IS
BOOBY TRAPPED!

AH, BIT OF A
SOGGY BOTTOM
THERE. SHAME.

YOUR SECURITY
SYSTEM LEAVES
SOMETHING TO BE

SOMETHING TO BE
DESIRED.





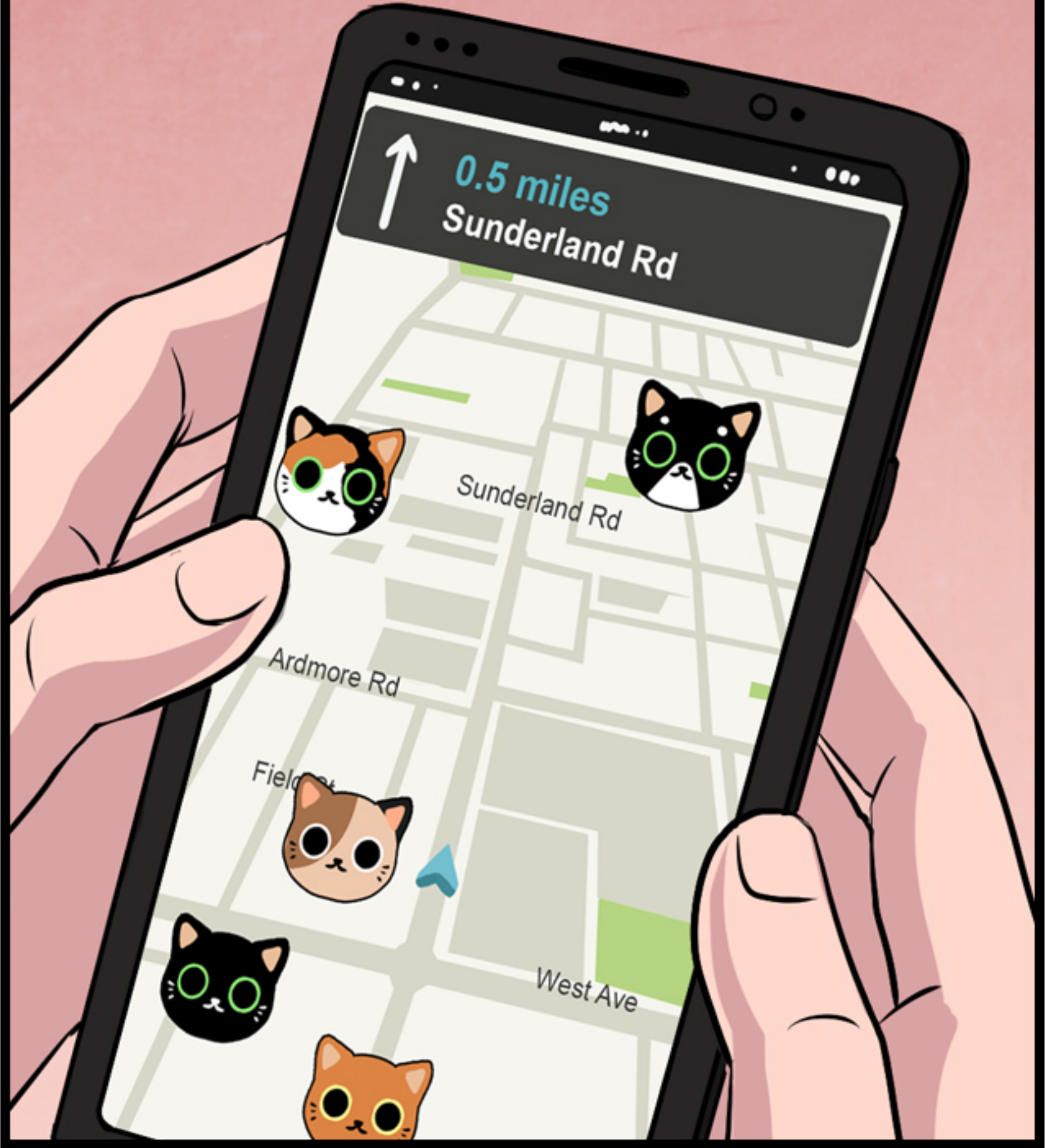
HAHA!

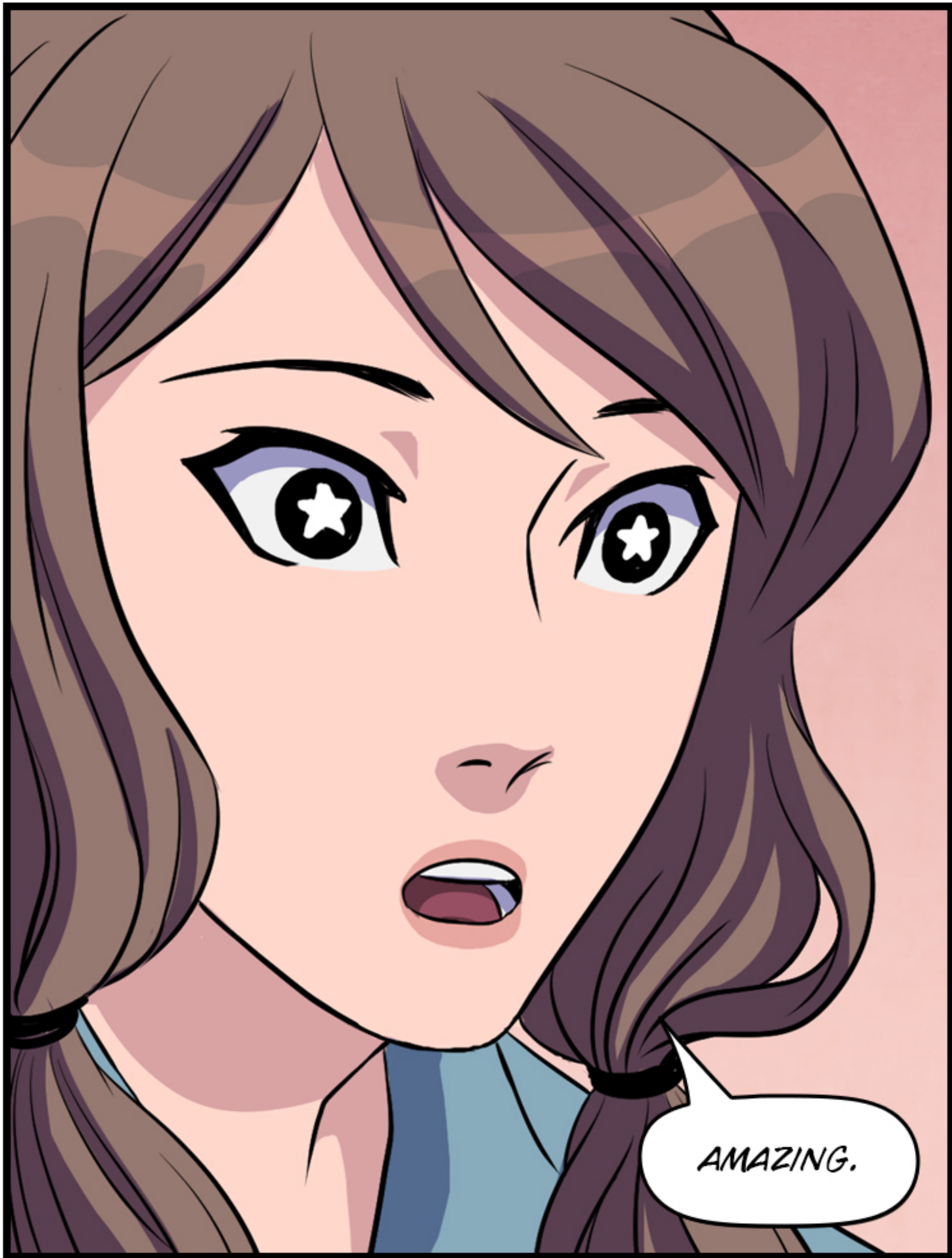
DUDE, I'M *SO*
READY FOR THIS
ROAD TRIP.

I'VE GOT
SNACKS, EXTRA
SOCKS, TONS OF
PODCASTS...

...AND I
EVEN DOWN-
LOADED THIS GPS
APP THAT MAKES
ALL THE USERS'
CARS LOOK
LIKE KITTIES.







UNFORTUNATELY
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT
TILL NEXT WEEK TO
TRY IT OUT.

I'VE ALREADY
PHONED MRS. REYES
TO LET HER KNOW
SOMETHING'S
COME UP.

SOOO LIKE
AN EMERGENCY
JOB? ARE THOSE
KAPPA BACK AT
THE SWIM CLUB
AGAIN?



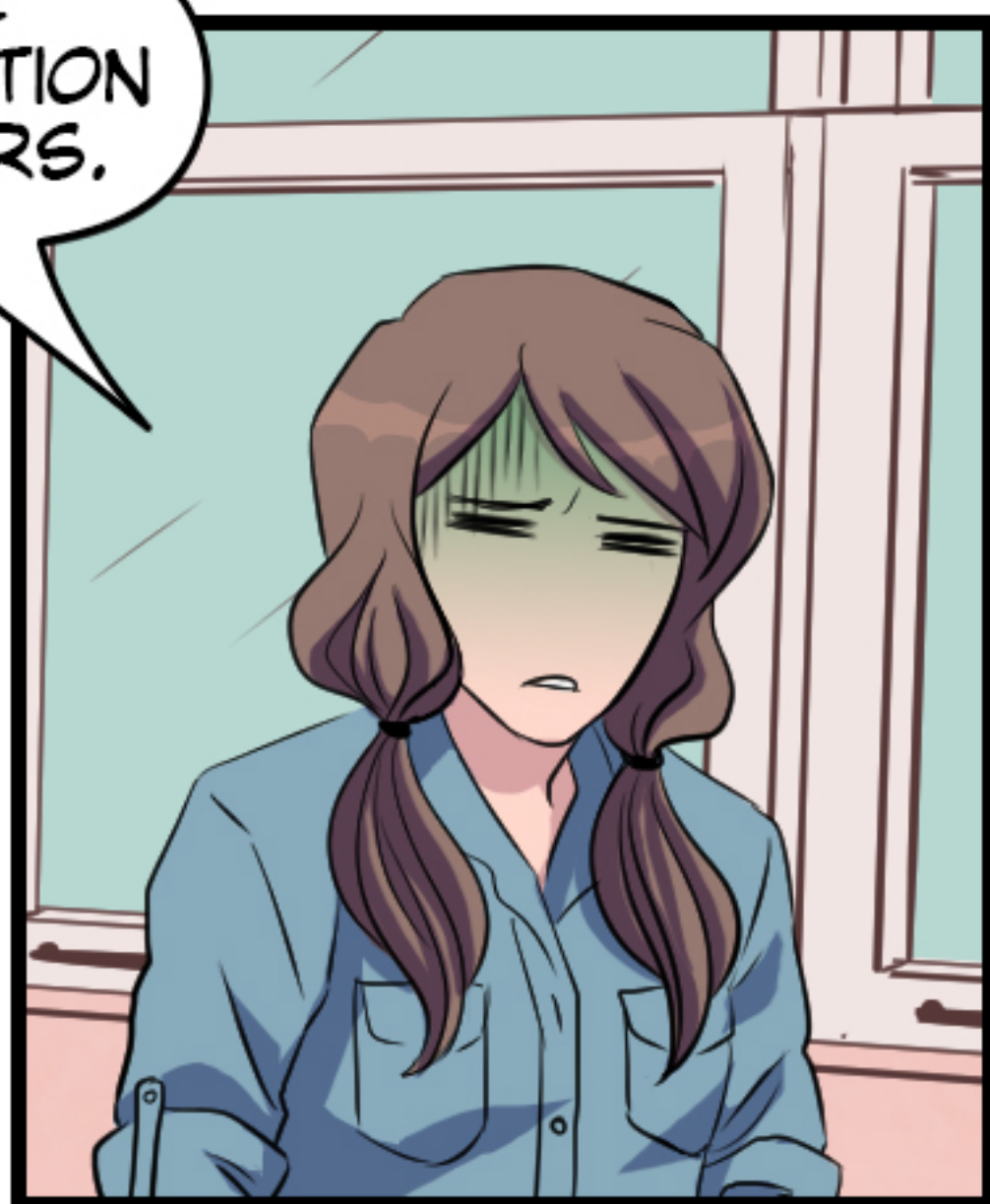


I HOPE NOT.
GETTING RID
OF THOSE EXTRA
CUCUMBERS WAS
A NIGHTMARE.



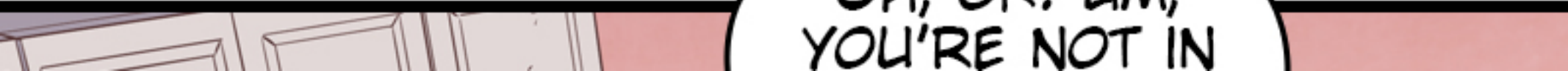


PLEASE
DON'T MENTION
CUCUMBERS.



NO, THIS IS MORE OF
A **PERSONAL MATTER**--
ONE WHICH I'LL HAVE TO
SEE TO ALONE.

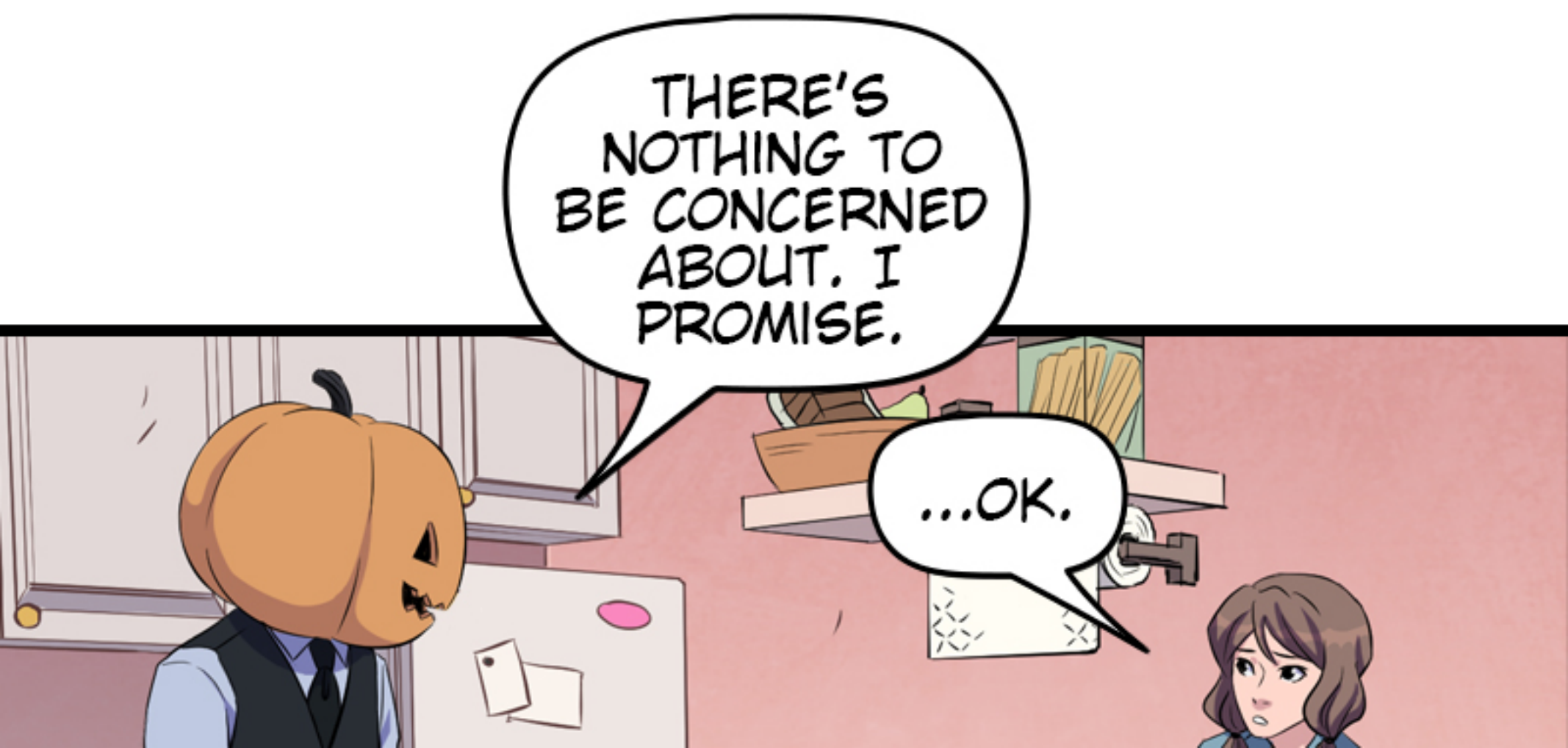
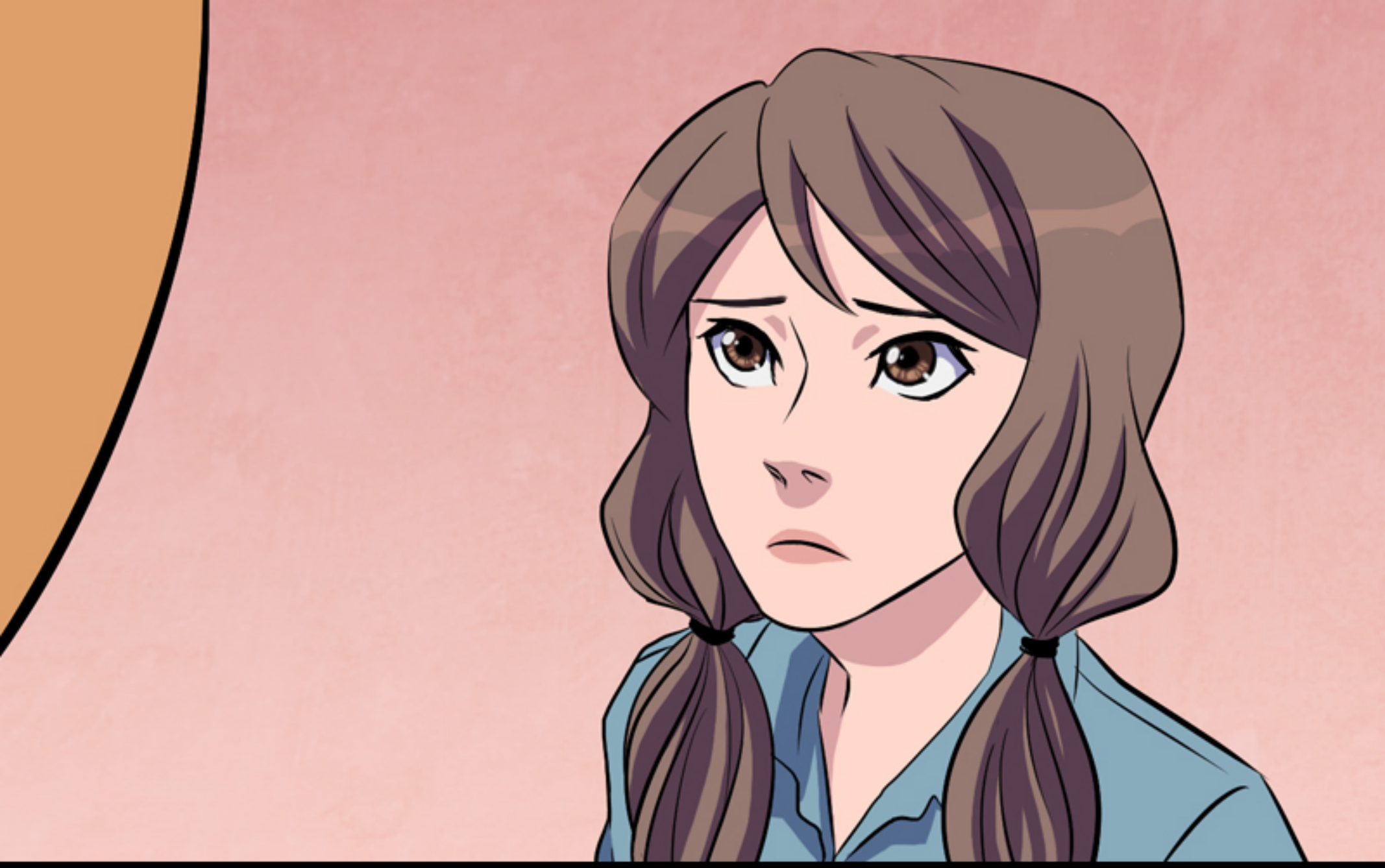
OH, OK. LIM,
YOU'RE NOT IN





NO MORE
THAN USUAL.

ANY *TROUBLE*,
ARE YOU?

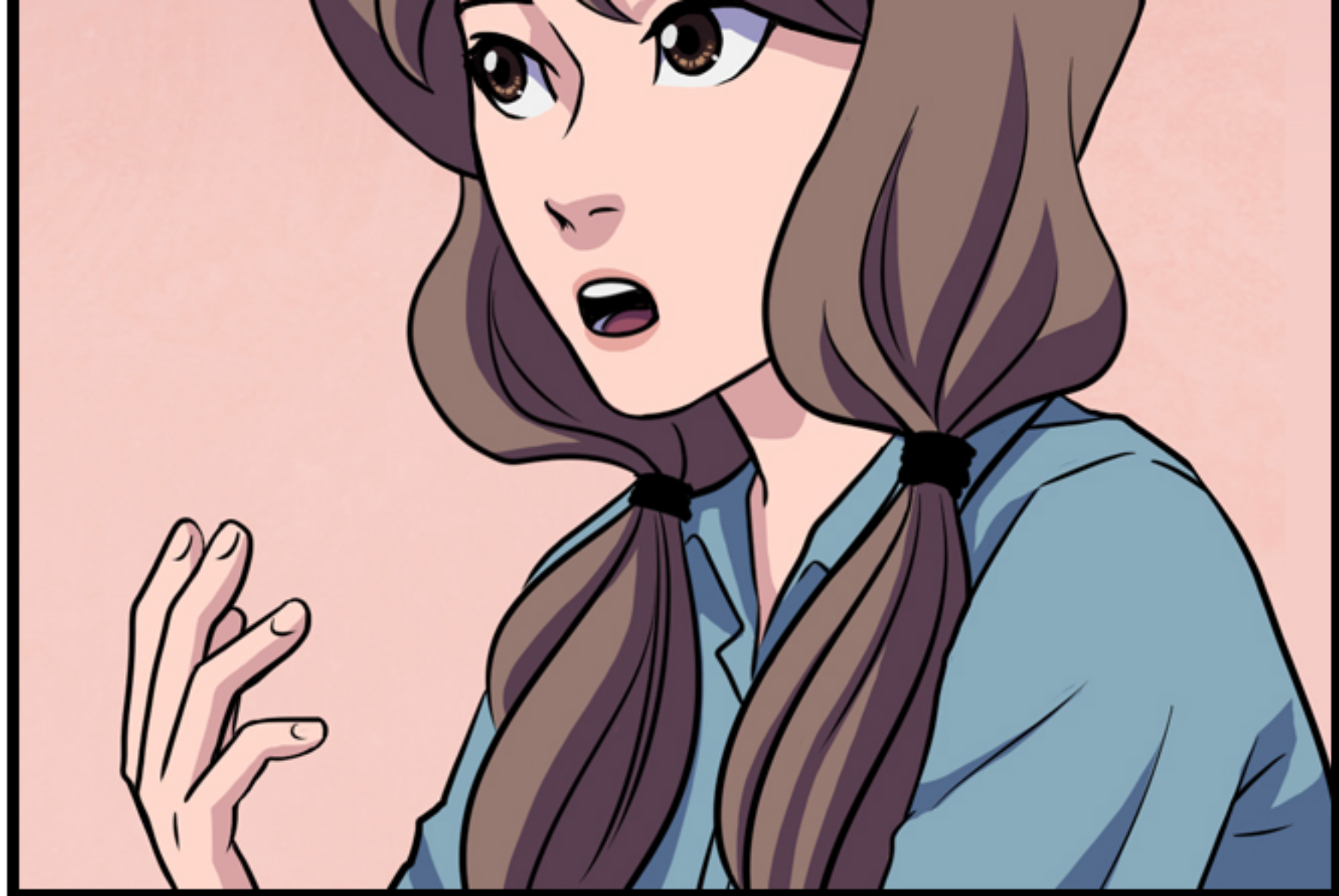




IT SUCKS
TO CANCEL ON
MRS. REYES AT THE
LAST MINUTE,
THOUGH.

MAYBE I COULD TAKE
CARE OF THE CASE ON MY
OWN. IT SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY
STRAIGHTFORWARD
HAUNTING.







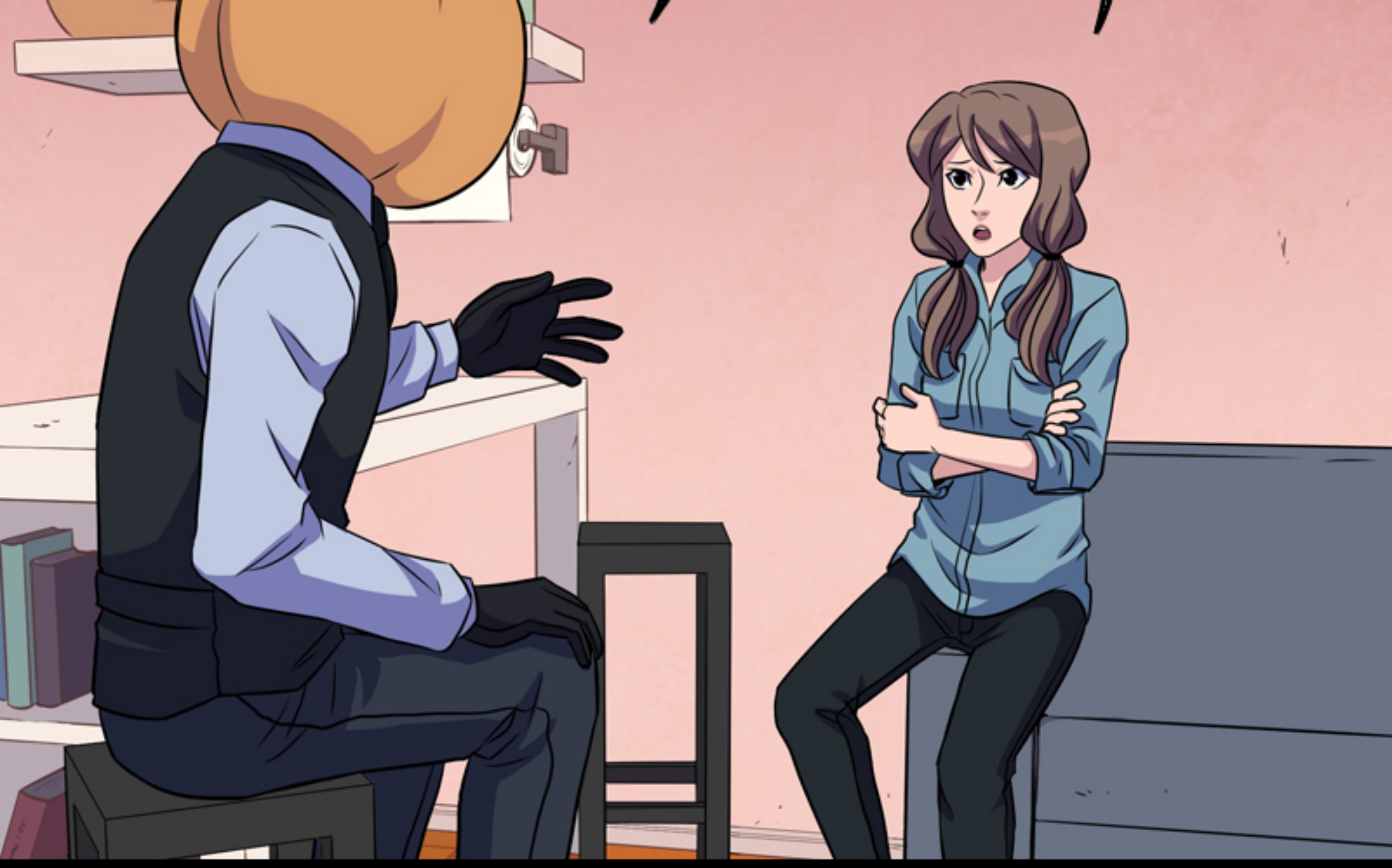
...THINGS AREN'T
ALWAYS AS THEY
SEEM.

BESIDES, I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE QUITE
READY FOR A SOLO
EXCURSION.

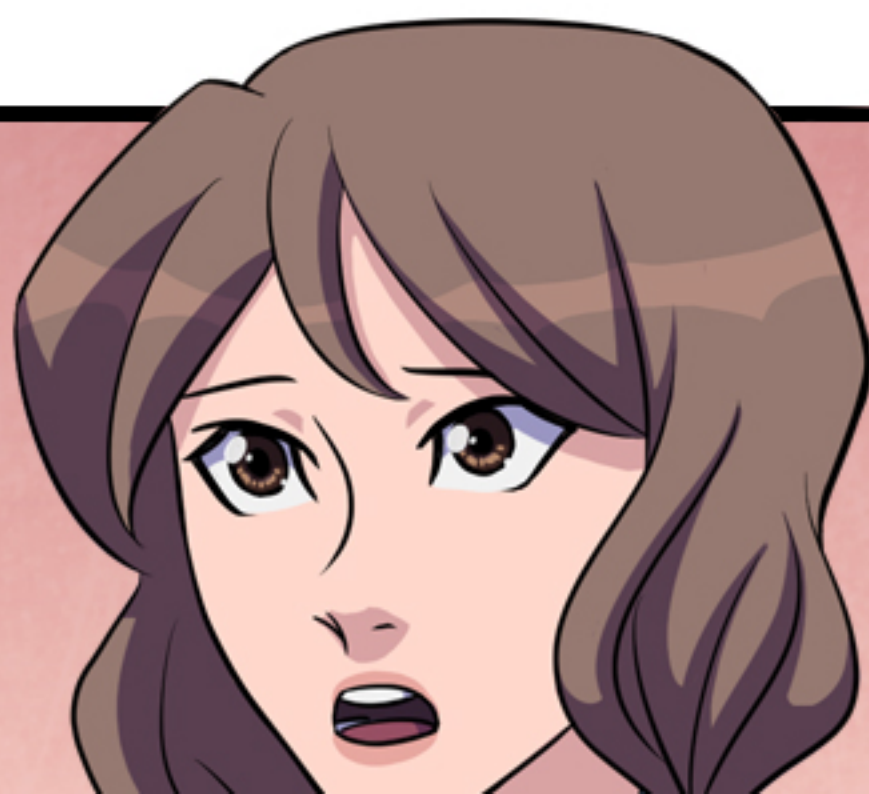
YOU DON'T
THINK I CAN
HANDLE IT?

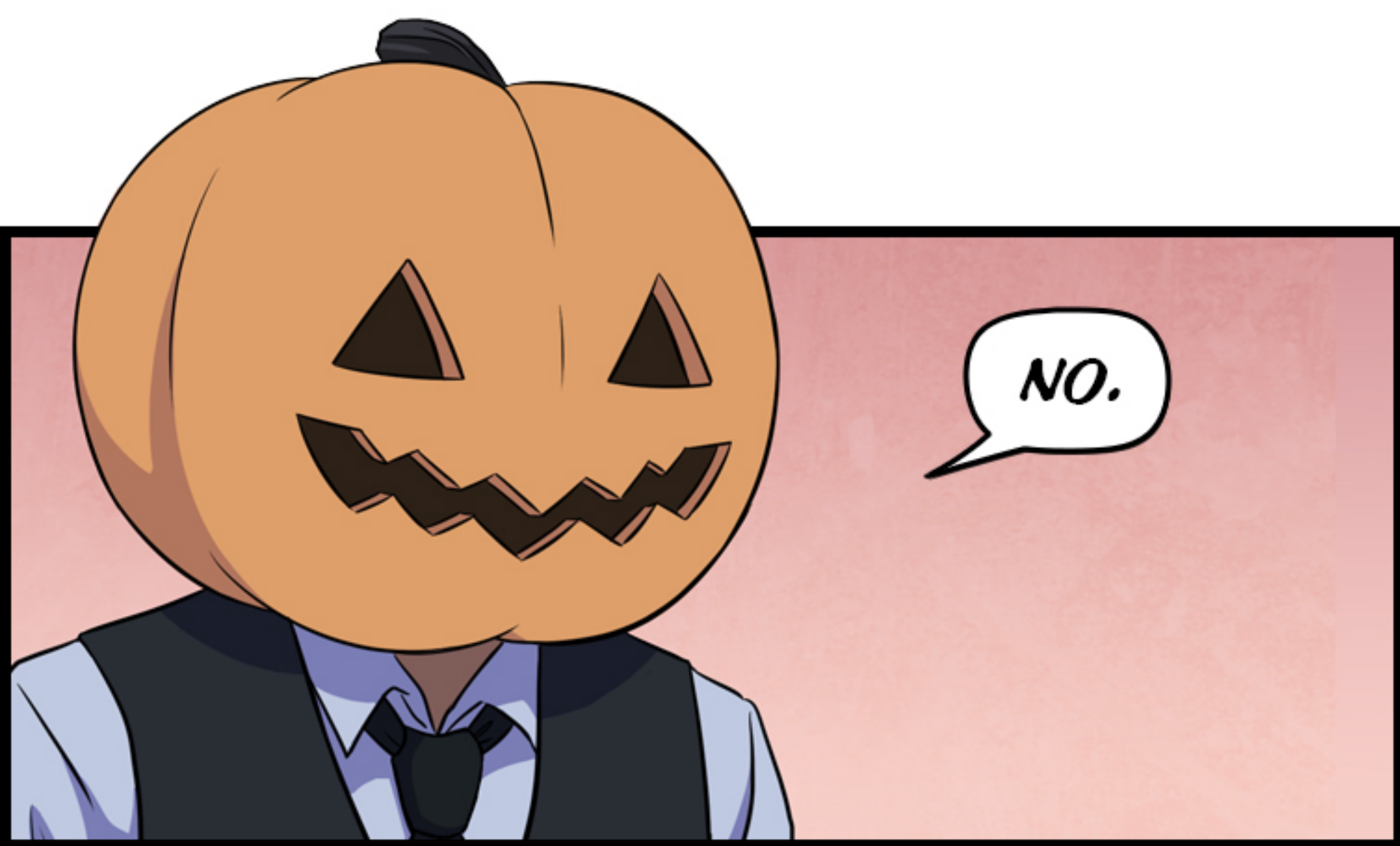


I'D PREFER
NOT TO FIND OUT
TONIGHT.



BUT WHAT IF--









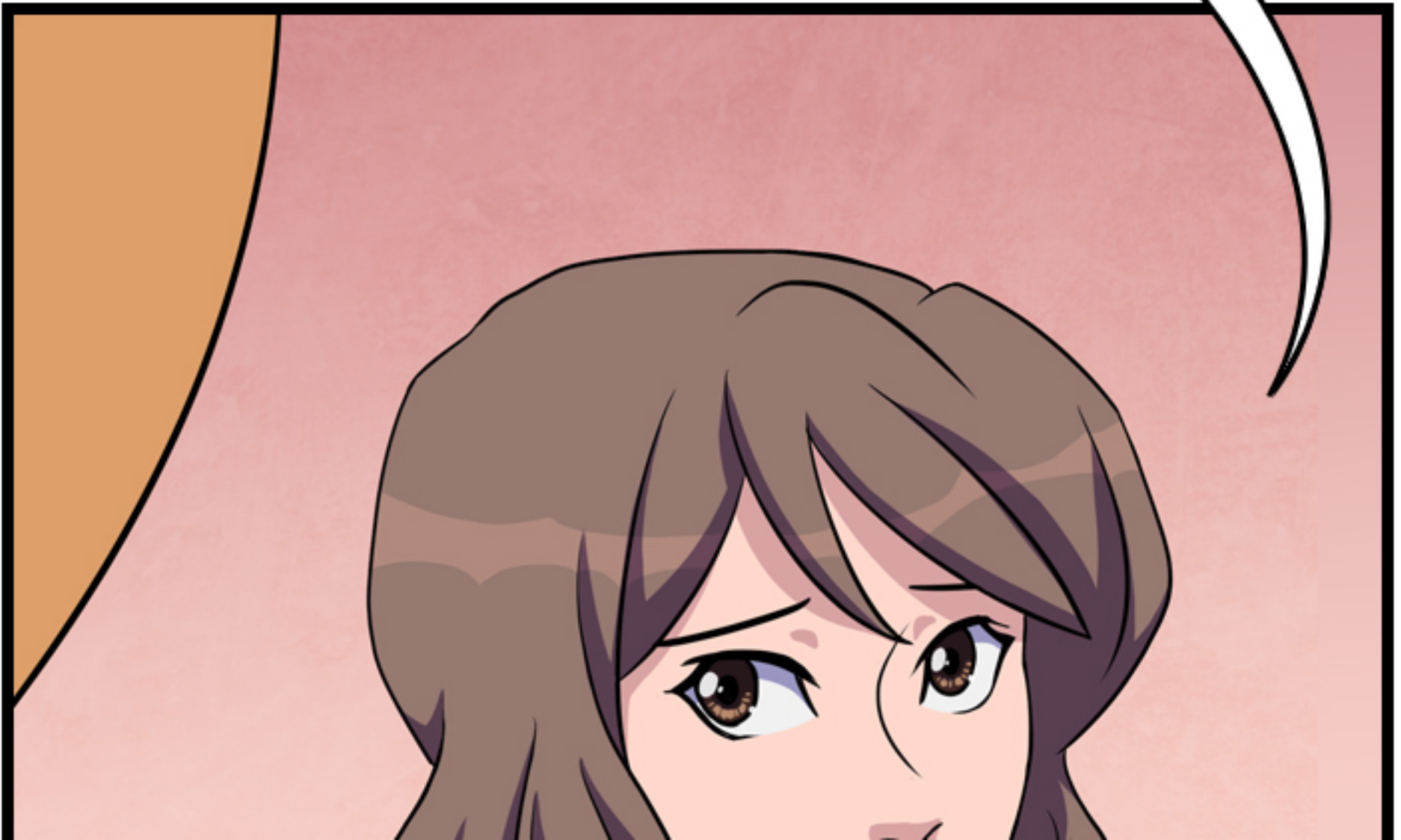
MRS. REYES AND
HER FAMILY ARE STAYING
WITH HER SISTER UNTIL
WE CAN GET THIS
SORTED.

I KNOW YOU
WANT TO HELP, BUT
THERE'S NO NEED FOR
YOU TO PUT YOURSELF
IN DANGER JUST
YET.





...YEAH, ALL
RIGHT.





GUESS THAT
MEANS I'VE GOT
THE NIGHT OFF.

SO IT WOULD
SEEM.





BUT IF
YOU'RE FEELING
CHARITABLE...

STRAUSS DID
MENTION THERE
WAS SOMETHING
HE'D LIKE YOUR
HELP WITH.





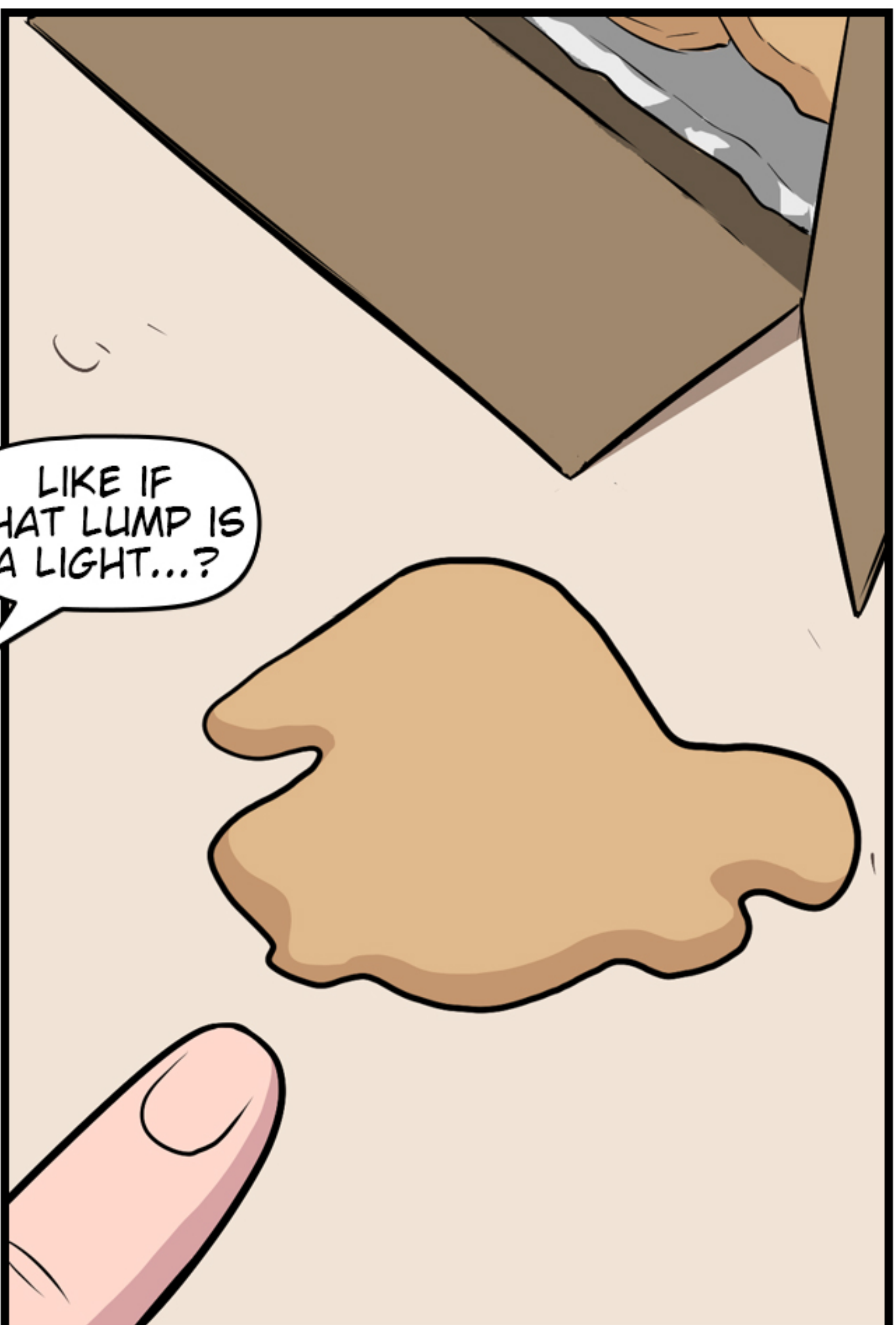


BLOBFISH?
NO--GIANT
CLAM!

MAYBE IT'S AN

WANTED TO AN
ANGLERFISH.





LIKE IF
THAT LUMP IS
A LIGHT...?



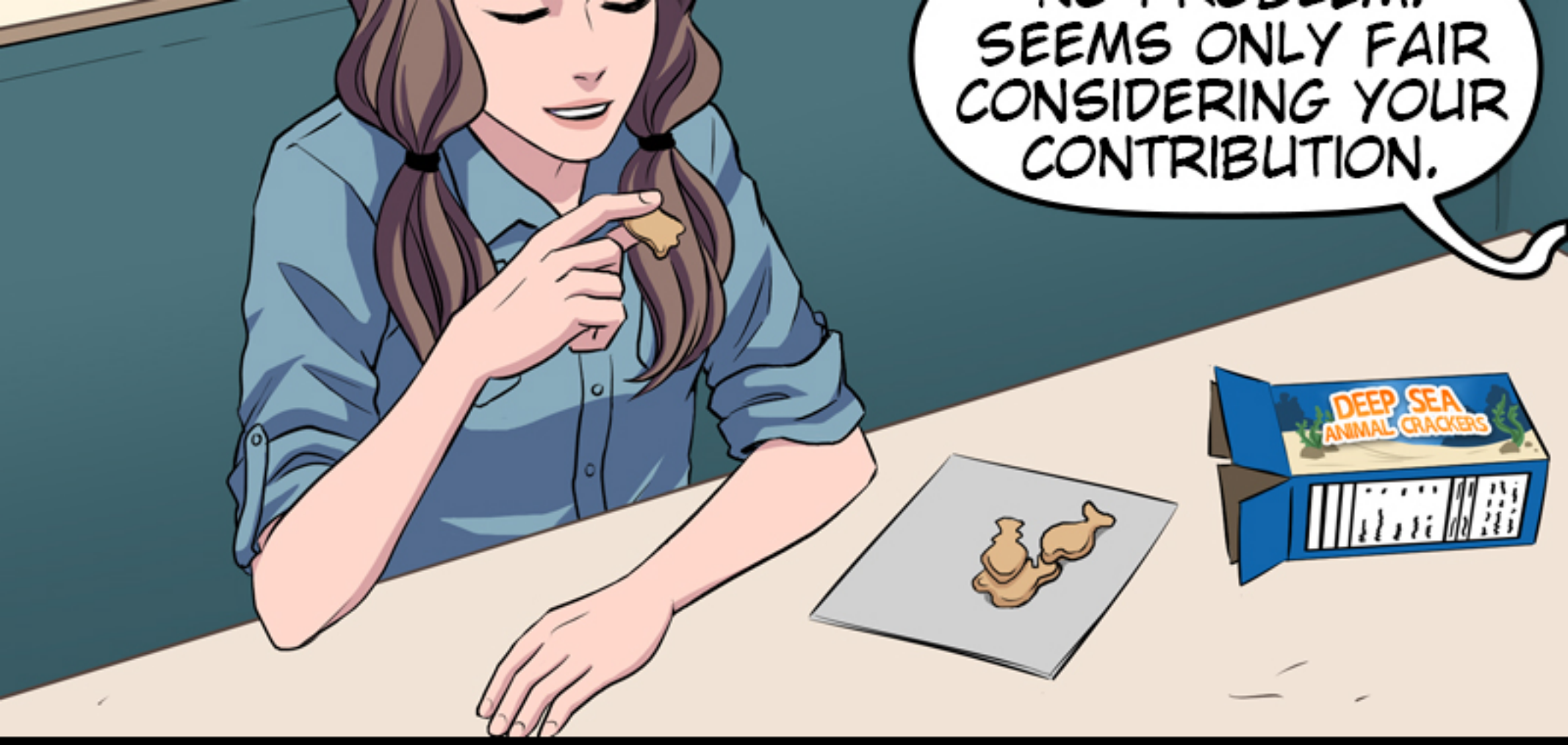
I'M STARTING
TO REALIZE WHY
THEY DISCONTINUED
THESE.

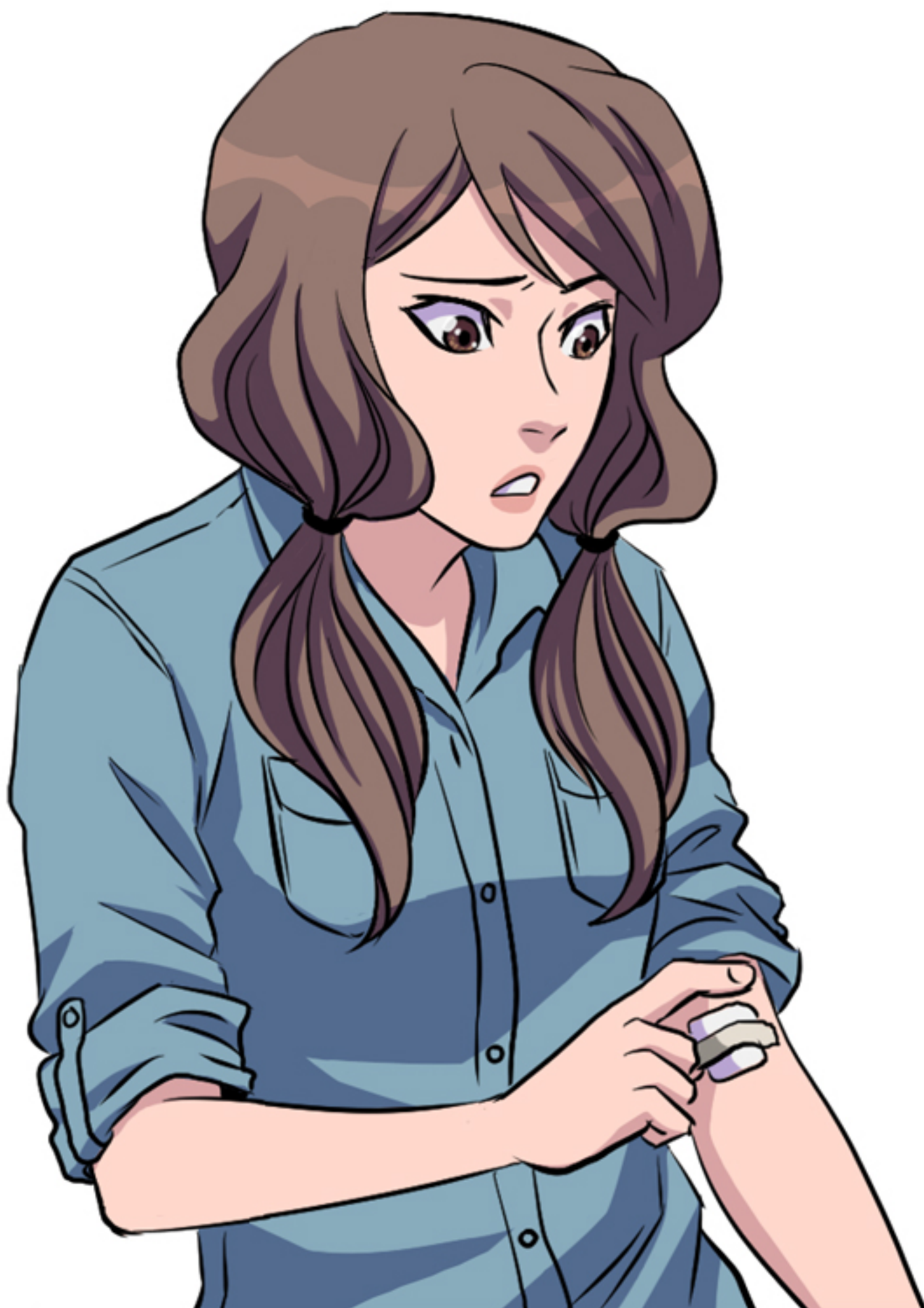
SURFACE
WORLD WASN'T
READY FOR THE
MYSTERIES OF
THE DEEP.



SERIOUSLY
THOUGH, THANKS
FOR THE
SNACKS!

NO PROBLEM.





**QUIT
POKING
AT IT!**

WELL, I APPRECIATE
YOUR HELP. HAVING A LITTLE
EXTRA BLOOD ON HAND MAKES A
BIG DIFFERENCE FOR SOME OF
MY PATIENTS, ESPECIALLY
THESE DAYS.





"THESE
DAYS"...?

WHERE
IS ICHABOD
ANYWAY?

I THOUGHT
YOU TWO HAD
AN AWAY
GAME.



HE BAILED AT
THE LAST MINUTE.
SAID HE HAD SOME SUPER
IMPORTANT PERSONAL
THING TO TAKE
CARE OF.

HUH. DID
HE SAY WHAT
IT WAS?



NAH, HE WAS
PRETTY CAGEY, BUT
I GUESS HE ALWAYS
IS WHEN HE TALKS
ABOUT HIMSELF.





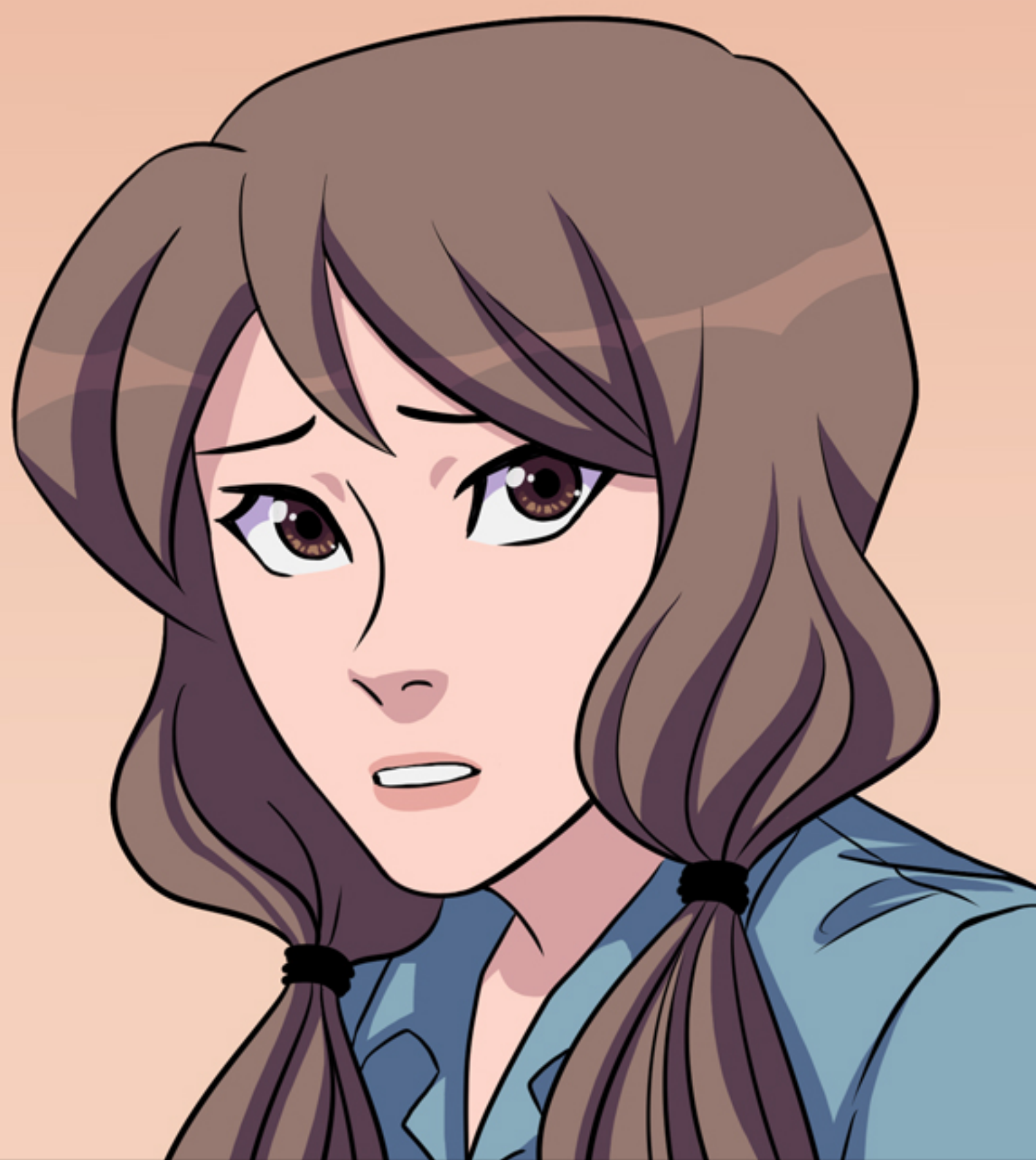
PEOPLE
DON'T ALWAYS ACT
RATIONALLY WHEN THEY
FIND OUT MONSTERS ARE
REAL AND THEIR NEIGHBOR
ISN'T EXACTLY
HUMAN.

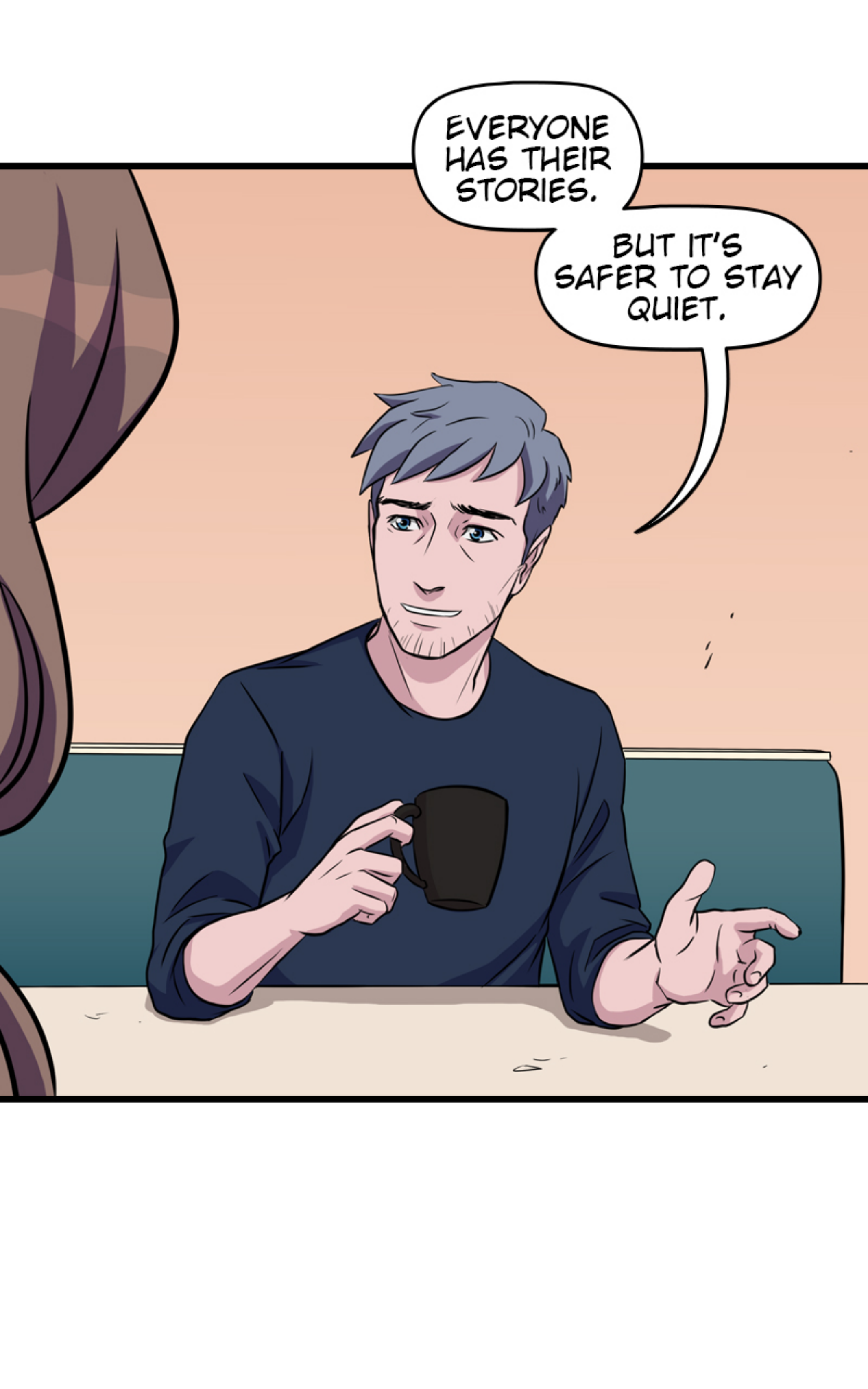




...SPEAKING FROM

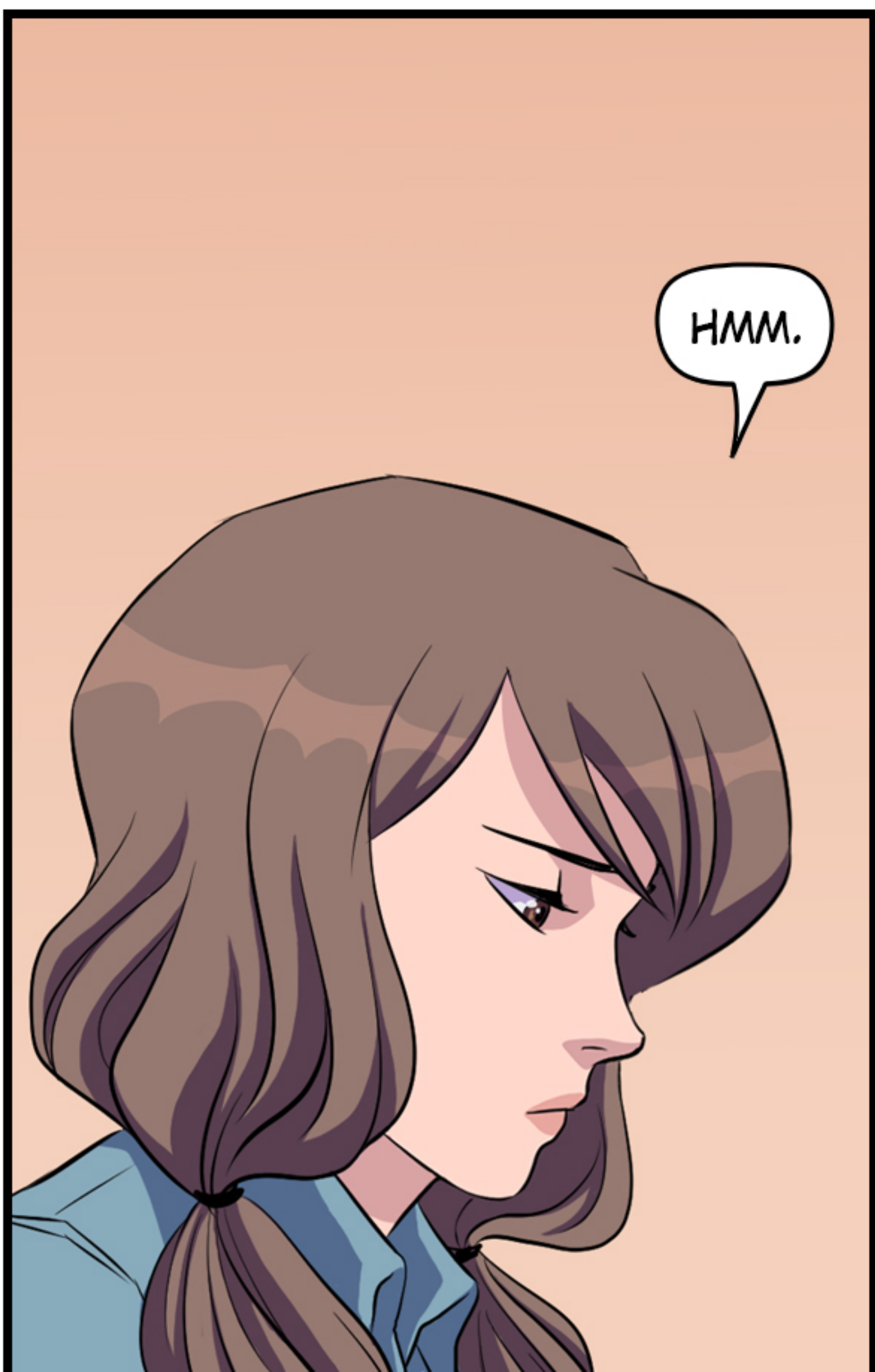
EXPERIENCE?





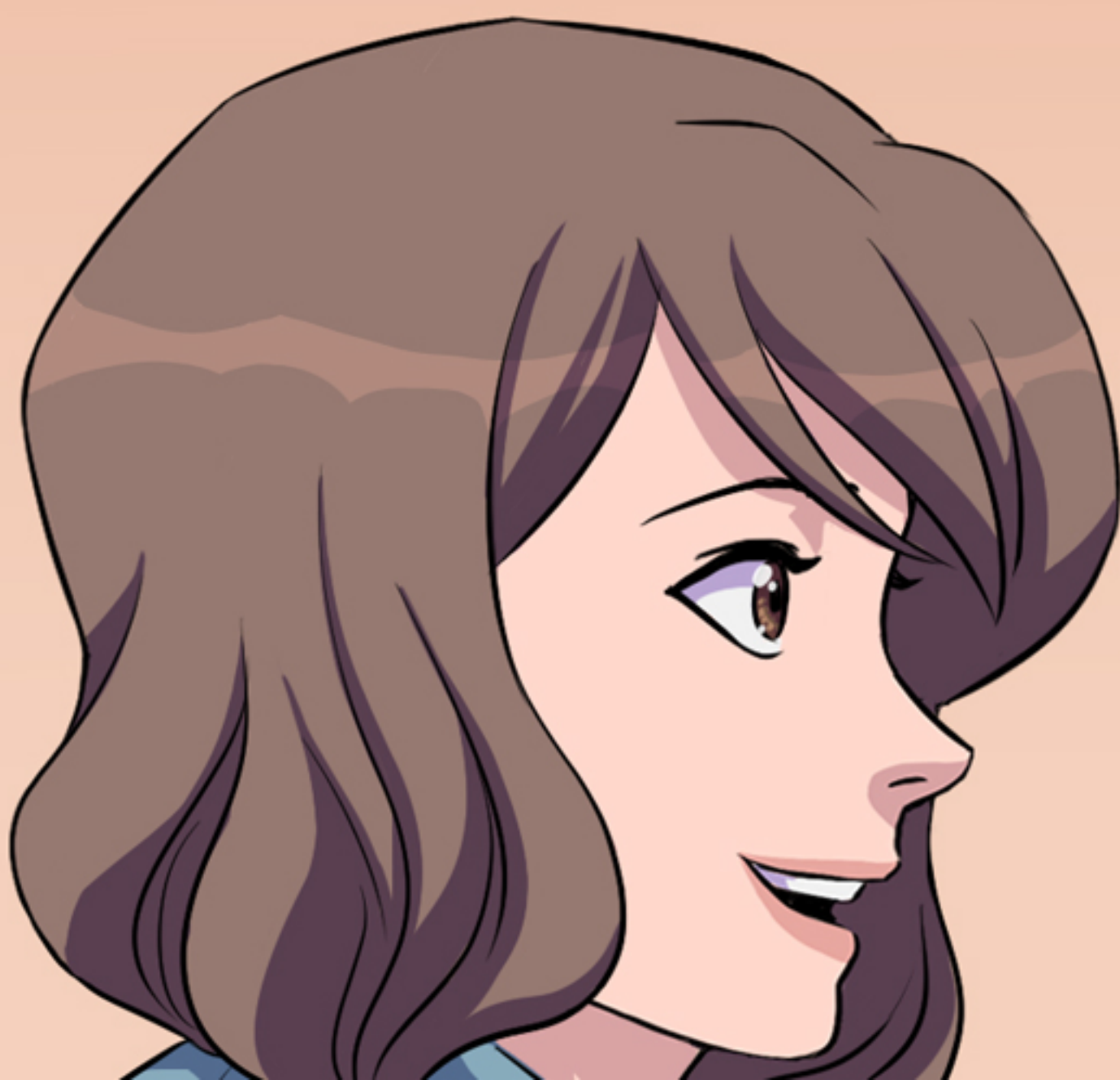
EVERYONE
HAS THEIR
STORIES.

BUT IT'S
SAFER TO STAY
QUIET.





WELL, IT MIGHT
BE NICE TO HAVE
A NIGHT OFF.

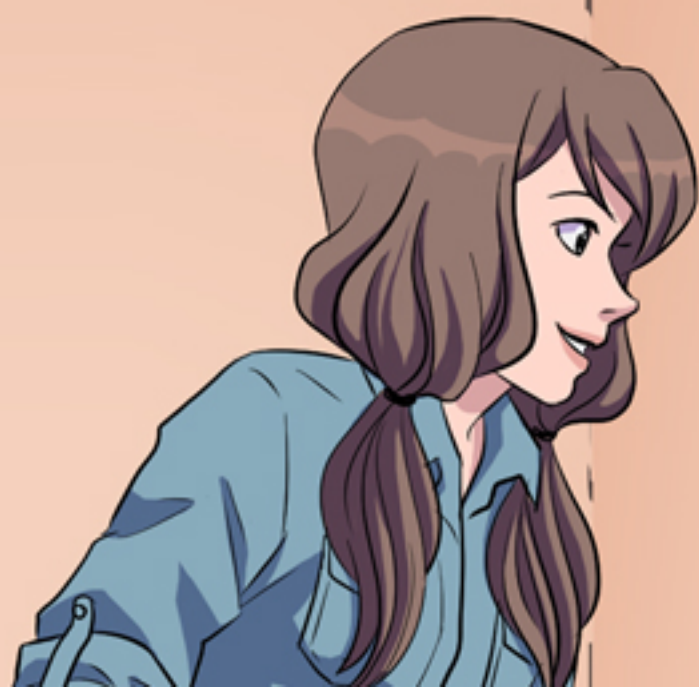




BIG PLANS?

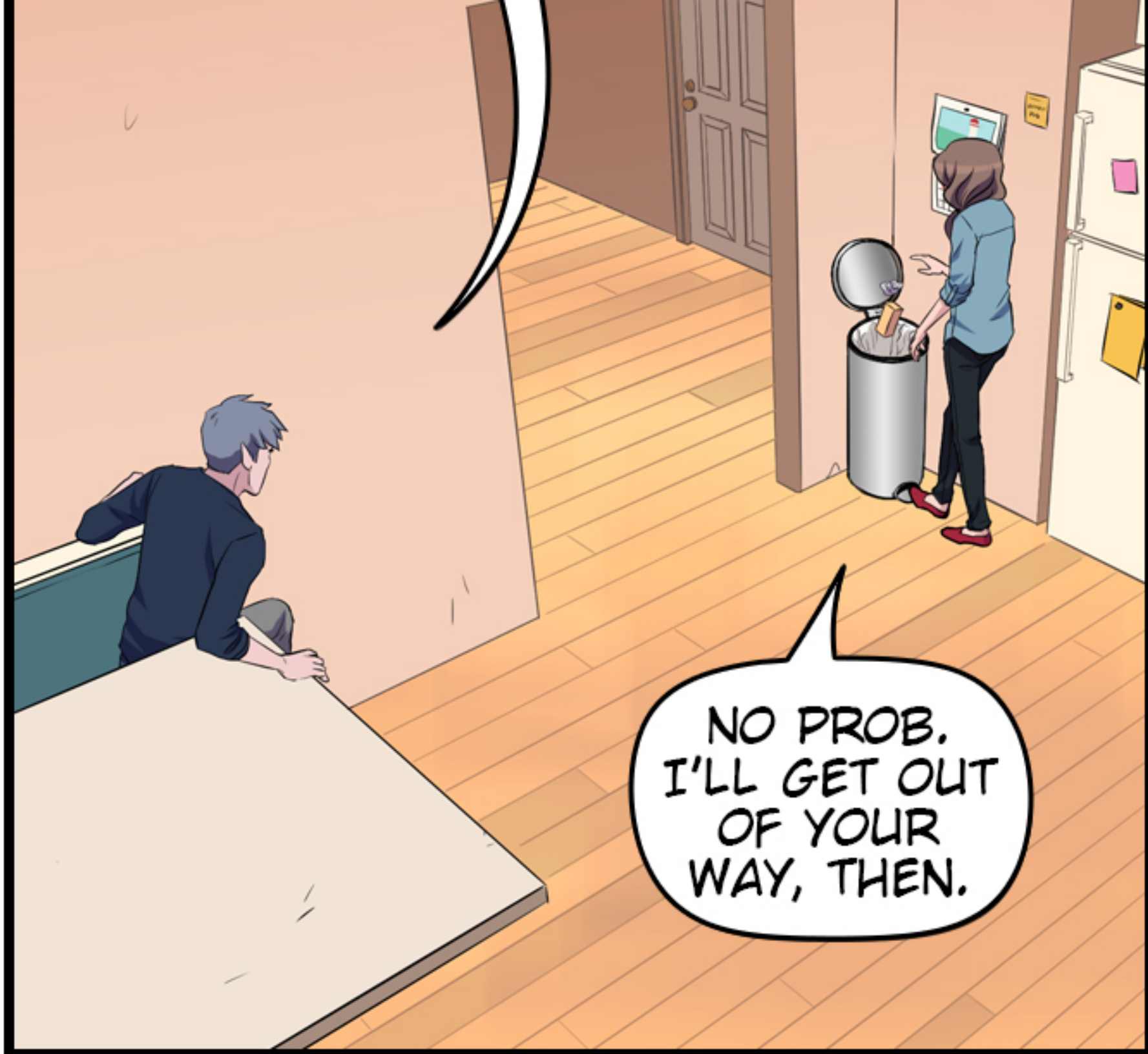
NOT
REALLY.

I'LL PROBABLY
JUST GRAB A COFFEE
AND WANDER AROUND
DOWNTOWN. WANNA
COME?





I'LL PASS.
THERE'RE STILL A FEW
HOURS TILL SUNDOWN, AND
I WANT TO GET SOME
SLEEP BEFORE MY
FIRST PATIENTS
ARRIVE.





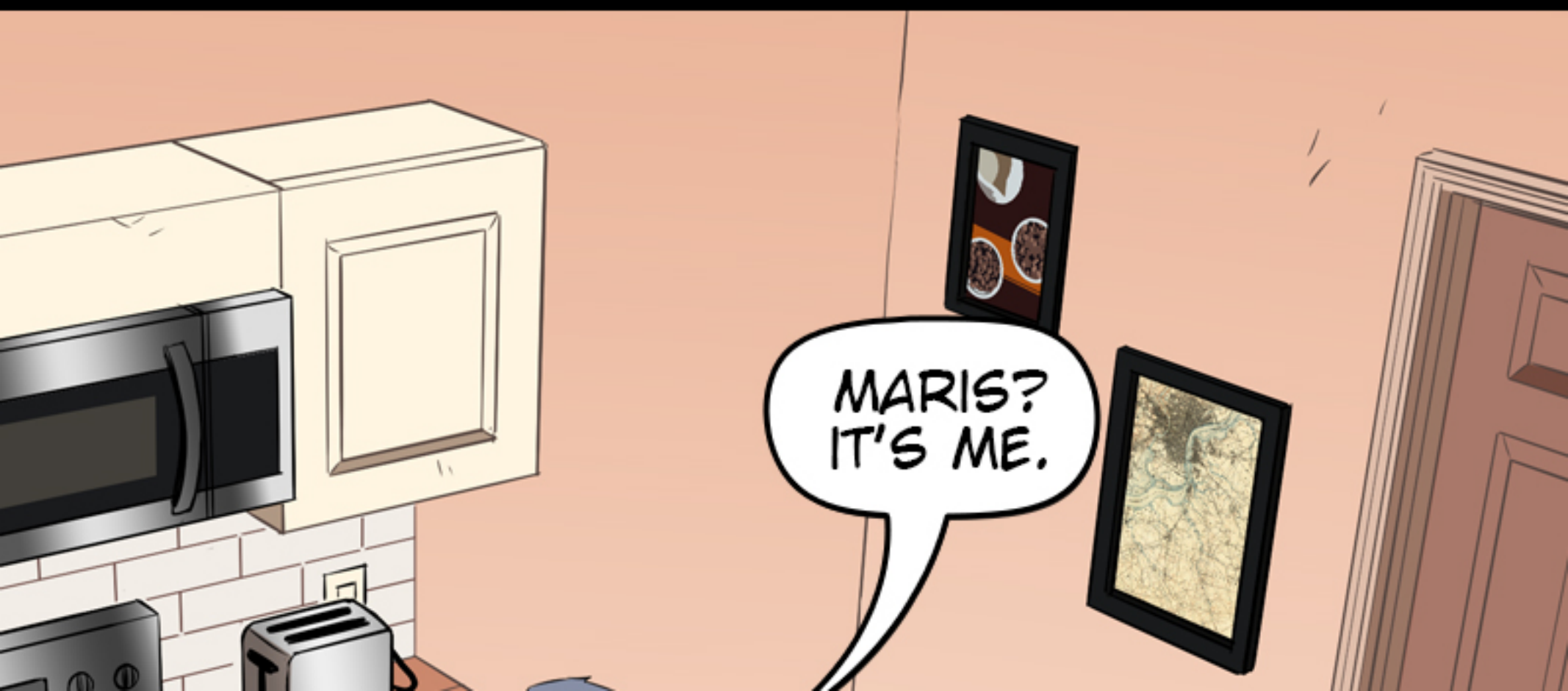
KCHAK













HOW BAD
IS IT THIS
TIME?

