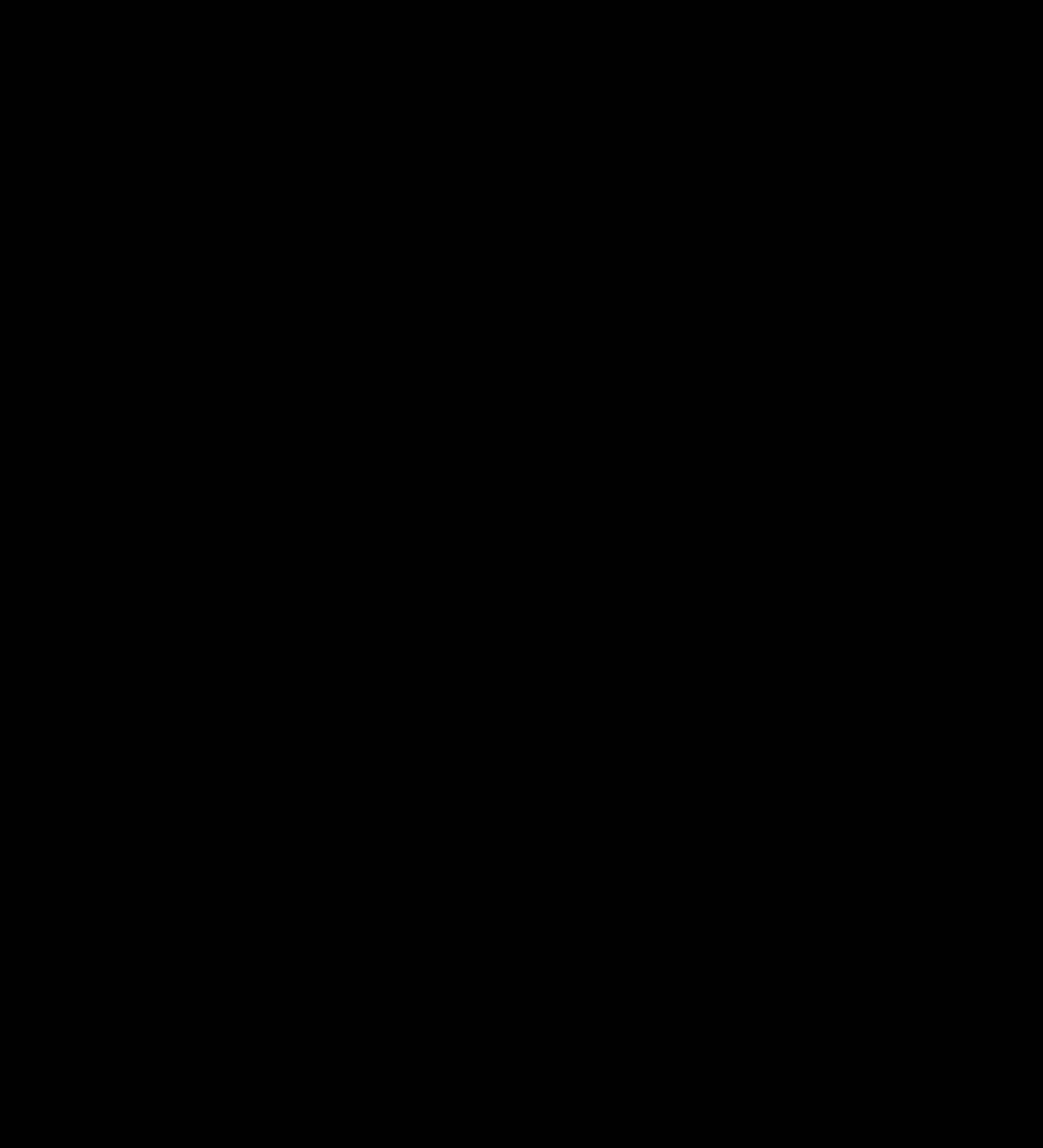






SO YOU JUST
WOKE UP LIKE
THIS?

YEAH. AT FIRST I
THOUGHT IT WAS A
DREAM--*HOPED* IT WAS
A DREAM, REALLY.



THERE WAS



THIS *GREEN STUFF*
EVERYWHERE AND MY
CLOTHES WERE ALL
TORN UP.

I GUESS I MUST'VE
BUSTED OUT OF THEM
WHEN I...





I RAN. I COULDN'T
LET MERCEDES SEE ME
LIKE THIS, SO I CLIMBED

OUT THE WINDOW AND
ONTO THE ROOF.

SINCE THEN I'VE
BEEN SCROUNGING IN
DUMPSTERS AND SLEEPING
IN ABANDONED
BUILDINGS.



BUT YOU

ALWAYS COME
BACK.

YEAH. I DON'T
KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.
I MISS HER SO MUCH, AND
I KNOW SHE MUST BE
FREAKING OUT.

IT'S JUST...



**WHY THE
HELL DID THIS
HAPPEN?!**



IT'S NOT LIKE I
STOLE A MAGIC AMULET
OR ROLLED AROUND IN
NUCLEAR WASTE.

I BUILD WEBSITES
FOR A LIVING AND PAINT
LITTLE PLASTIC MODELS FOR
FUN! I DIDN'T SIGN UP
FOR THIS GIANT
BUG SHIT!



≡SIGH≡

I JUST
WANT MY OLD
LIFE BACK.



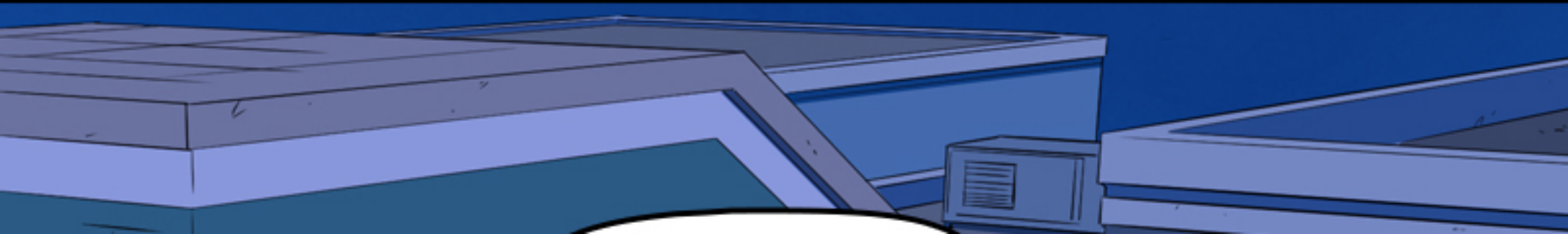
I'M SORRY.

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH

YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH
QUITE AN ORDEAL. I'M NOT
SURE WHAT CAN BE DONE
TO HELP, BUT WE--



BZZZ



AH, EXCUSE
ME FOR JUST A
MOMENT.





HEY, SO UM,
THANKS FOR SAVING
ME EARLIER.





SHE'S
REALLY WORRIED,
Y'KNOW.

I GET THAT
THIS WHOLE THING
IS SUPER WEIRD, BUT
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST
LET HER KNOW
YOU'RE OK.



BELIEVE
ME, I WANT TO
BUT...WELL, **LOOK**
AT ME, ELLIE.

I'M A **MONSTER**.
THE STUFF OF LITTLE
KIDS' NIGHTMARES. AND
I DON'T WANT HER TO
REMEMBER ME
THAT WAY.



I'M SURE
IT'LL BE TOUGH,
BUT ULTIMATELY SHE'S
BETTER OFF NOT
KNOWING.



...BULLSHIT.



WHAT?

WHAT?

THIS ISN'T ABOUT
HER, IT'S ABOUT *YOU*.
YOU'RE AFRAID--AFRAID
SHE'LL RUN SCREAMING
WHEN SHE SEES
YOU.

AND YEAH,
THAT MIGHT HAPPEN
AND IT WOULD TOTALLY
SUCK, BUT THERE'S ALSO
A CHANCE SHE'LL WANT
TO STAY.



EITHER WAY,
THAT'S *HER* CHOICE
TO MAKE, AND IT'S NOT
RIGHT TO TAKE IT AWAY
FROM HER.

IF YOU CARE
ABOUT SOMEONE,
YOU SHOULD TRUST
THEM ENOUGH TO TELL
THEM THE TRUTH.







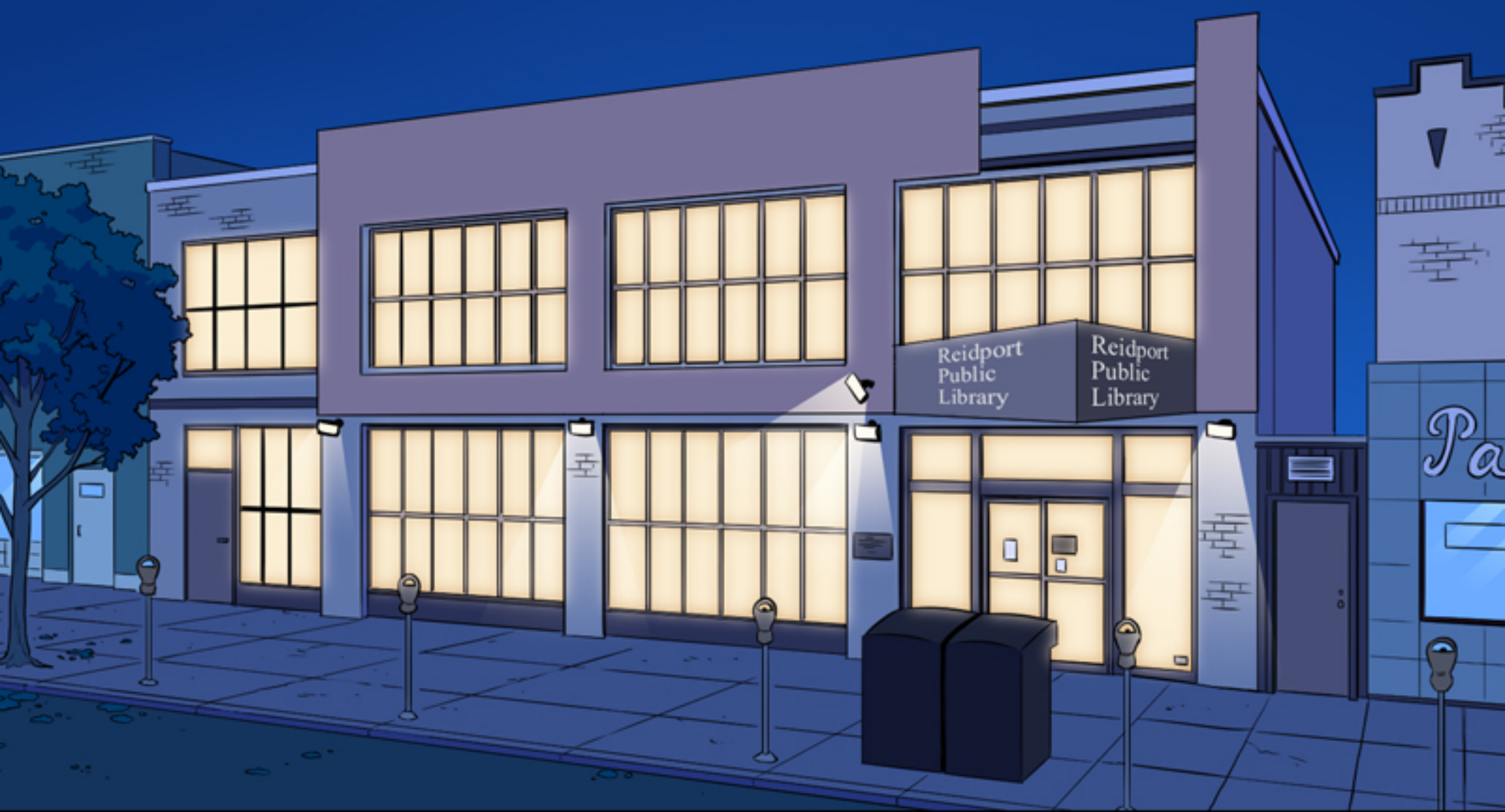
NO,
YOU'RE
RIGHT. SHE
DESERVES TO
KNOW.

AGREED.
BUT FIRST WE NEED
TO PAY KATHERINE
A VISIT.



SHE'S GOT
SOMETHING YOU'LL
WANT TO SEE.





I STILL HAVE TO

TRANSLATE A LOT OF
THE MIDDLE ENGLISH, BUT
SO FAR THIS LOOKS LIKE
THE MOST PROMISING
LEAD.



"CHANGELINGS?"

YEAH. BASICALLY
THEY'RE DISGUISED
FAIRY CHILDREN. THE
FAIRIES WOULD KIDNAP A
HUMAN BABY AND LEAVE
A CHANGELING IN ITS
PLACE.

Changelings

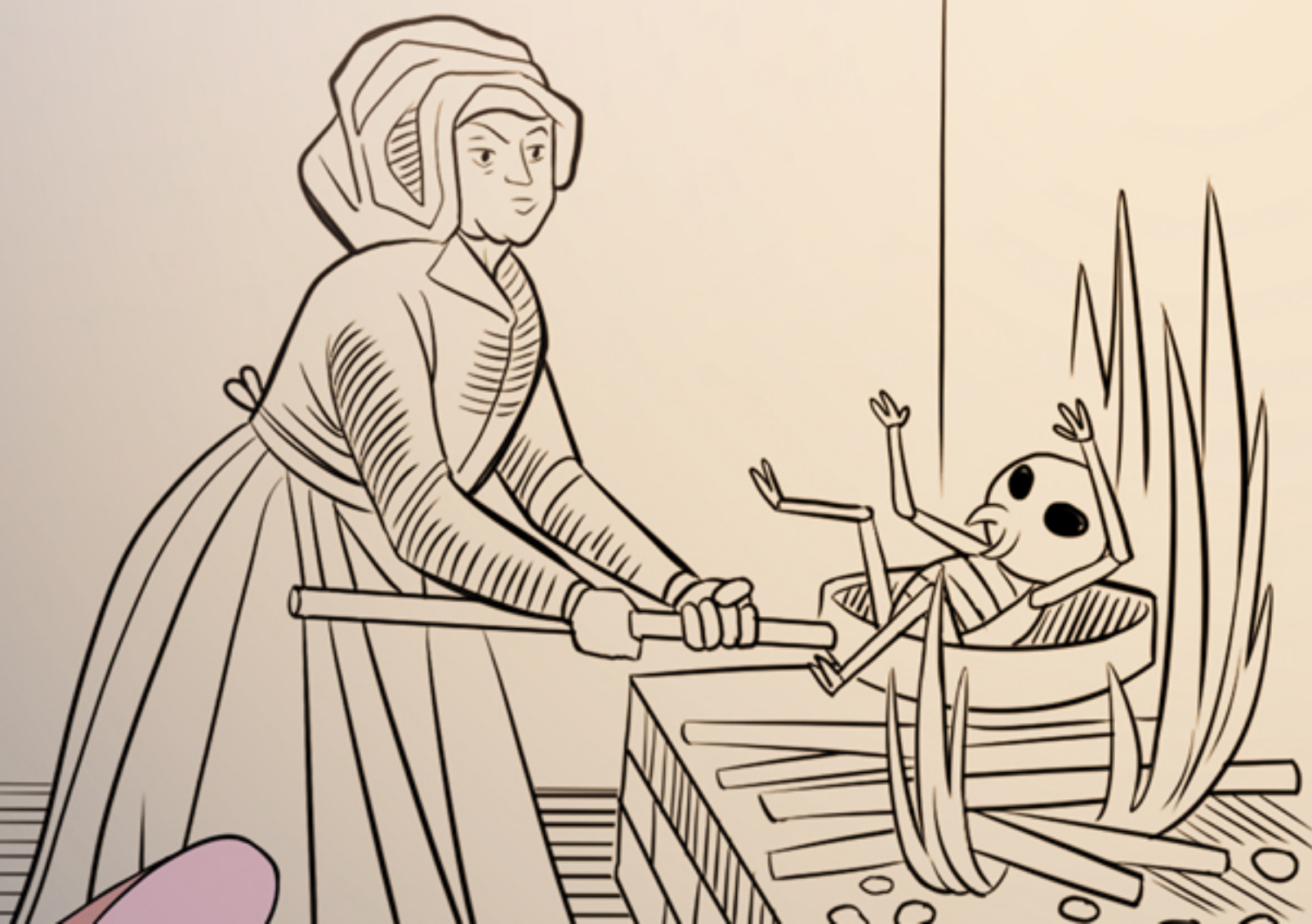


KEEP IN MIND
THIS IS BACK WHEN
"FAIRY" WAS A CATCH-ALL
TERM FOR THE MYSTICAL
CREATURES LIVING JUST
OUTSIDE HUMAN
CIVILIZATION.



ANYWAY, OVER TIME THE
CHANGELING'S TRUE NATURE
WOULD BECOME APPARENT, AND IT
WOULD EITHER LEAVE ON ITS
OWN, OR ELSE THE HUMAN
PARENTS WOULD, AH...

...ENCOURAGE IT
TO GO AND TO RETURN
THEIR REAL CHILD.





NOT TO BE
A JERK, BUT WHAT
DOES THIS HAVE TO DO
WITH THE CURRENT
SITUATION?





WELL, EVERY
ONCE IN A WHILE,
A CHANGELING WOULD
FORGET WHAT IT REALLY
WAS AND GO THROUGH
LIFE AS A HUMAN.

ALL FINE
AND DANDY
UNTIL SOMETHING
CAUSES THEM
TO *REVERT*.

USUALLY
IT'S A BIG LIFE
EVENT--AN ILLNESS,
MARRIAGE--



BUYING
A HOUSE

AND SETTLING
DOWN?





IN FOLKLORE,
PEOPLE ARE MOST
VULNERABLE IN
LIMINAL STATES.
I GUESS THERE'S
SOMETHING
TO THAT.

A blue-skinned alien with a segmented body and a white lab coat is shown from the waist up. The alien has a concerned expression, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. It is gesturing with its hands towards a person whose back is to the viewer. The person has dark, curly hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The background is a solid dark blue.

IS THERE ANY
WAY TO REVERSE IT?
CHANGE ME BACK TO
THE WAY I WAS?

...I'LL KEEP
LOOKING, BUT
BASED ON WHAT
I'VE SEEN...
I'M SORRY,
GREG.



SO THAT'S IT.
THIS... IS ME NOW.
OR I GUESS IT
ALWAYS WAS.



MY FAMILY, MY
NAME--HELL, EVEN MY
SPECIES--IT'S ALL A LIE.
WHERE DO I EVEN GO
FROM HERE?



I THINK
YOU ALREADY
KNOW THE ANSWER
TO THAT.







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