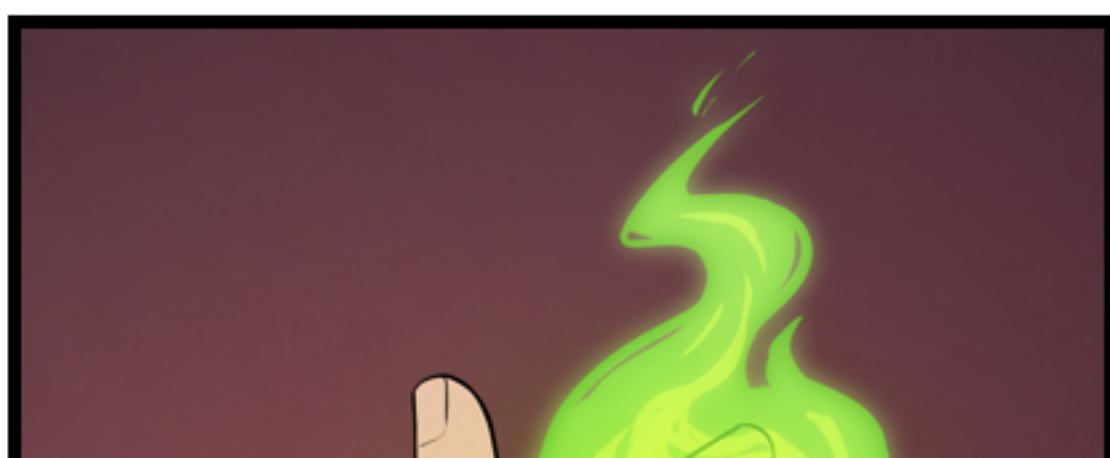


PART 8

WHAT WE PRETEND
TO BE











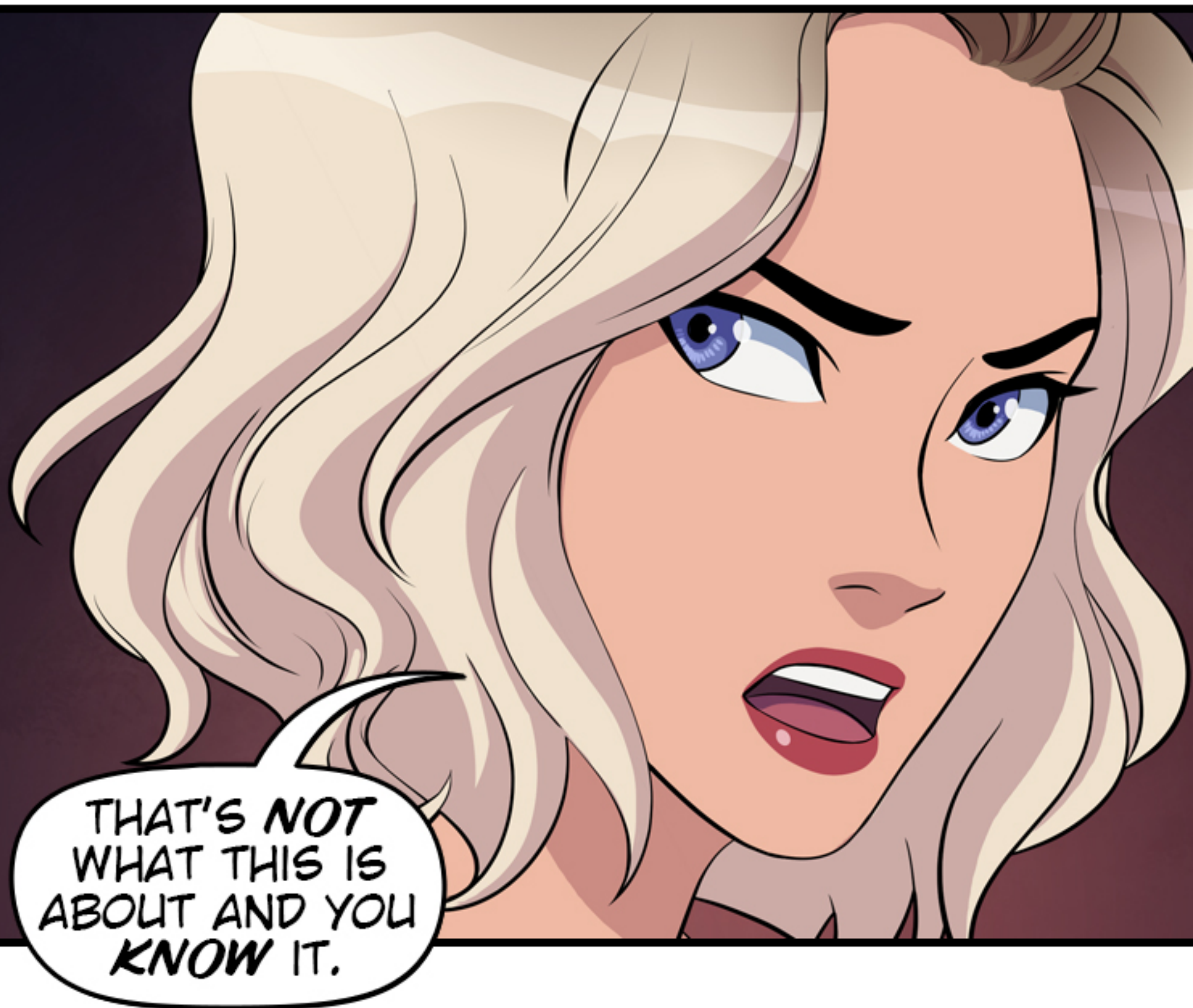
WELL I'M GLAD
YOU'RE HAPPY, BUT
WE CAN'T KEEP THIS
UP FOREVER,
ICHABOD.





I UNDERSTAND
MATERIALS ARE
EXPENSIVE. IF YOU
NEED TO INCREASE
YOUR RATE--





I'VE ALWAYS
HAD TROUBLE GETTING
SPELLS TO STICK TO YOU,
AND IT'S ONLY GOTTEN
WORSE SINCE THAT
INCIDENT WITH THE
SNAKES.







I NEED MORE
INFORMATION.

LET ME DO
SOME RESEARCH,
MAYBE TAKE A FEW
SAMPLES--

I'LL PASS.





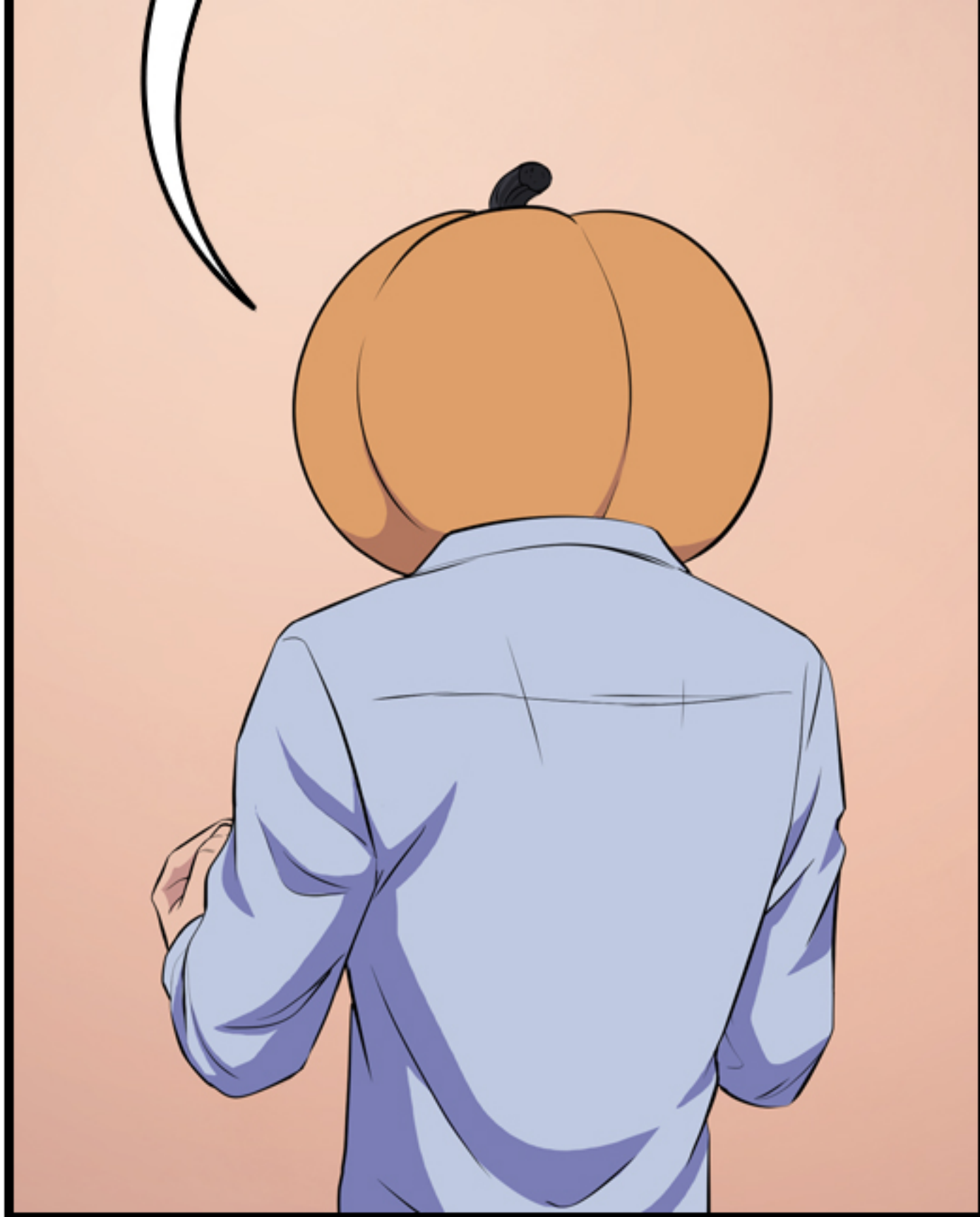
AREN'T
YOU THE LEAST BIT
CONCERNED? ESPECIALLY
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED
TO THAT POOR
BOY.

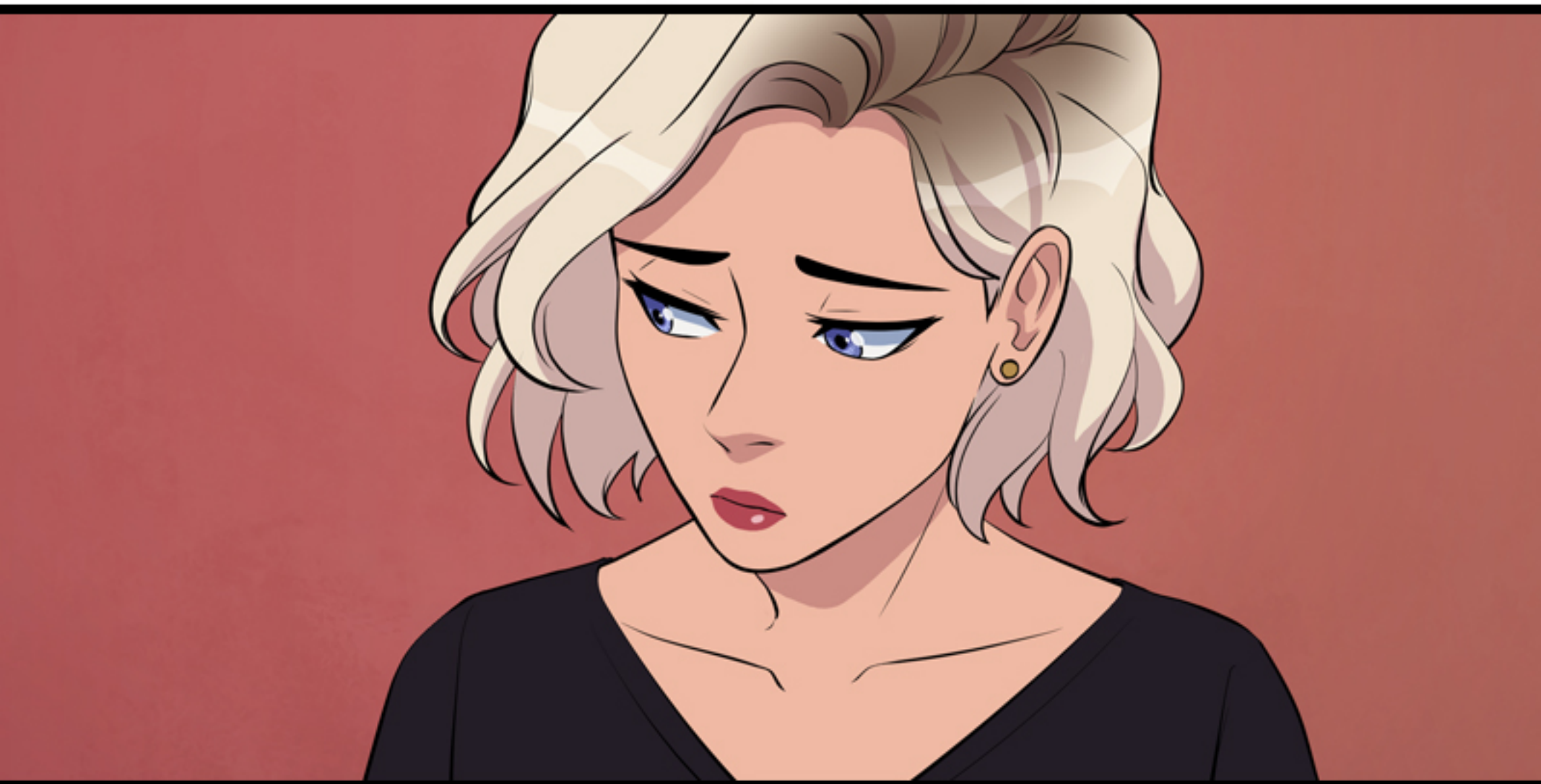
LIAM.

RIGHT.



LIKE
I SAID, I'LL
PASS.



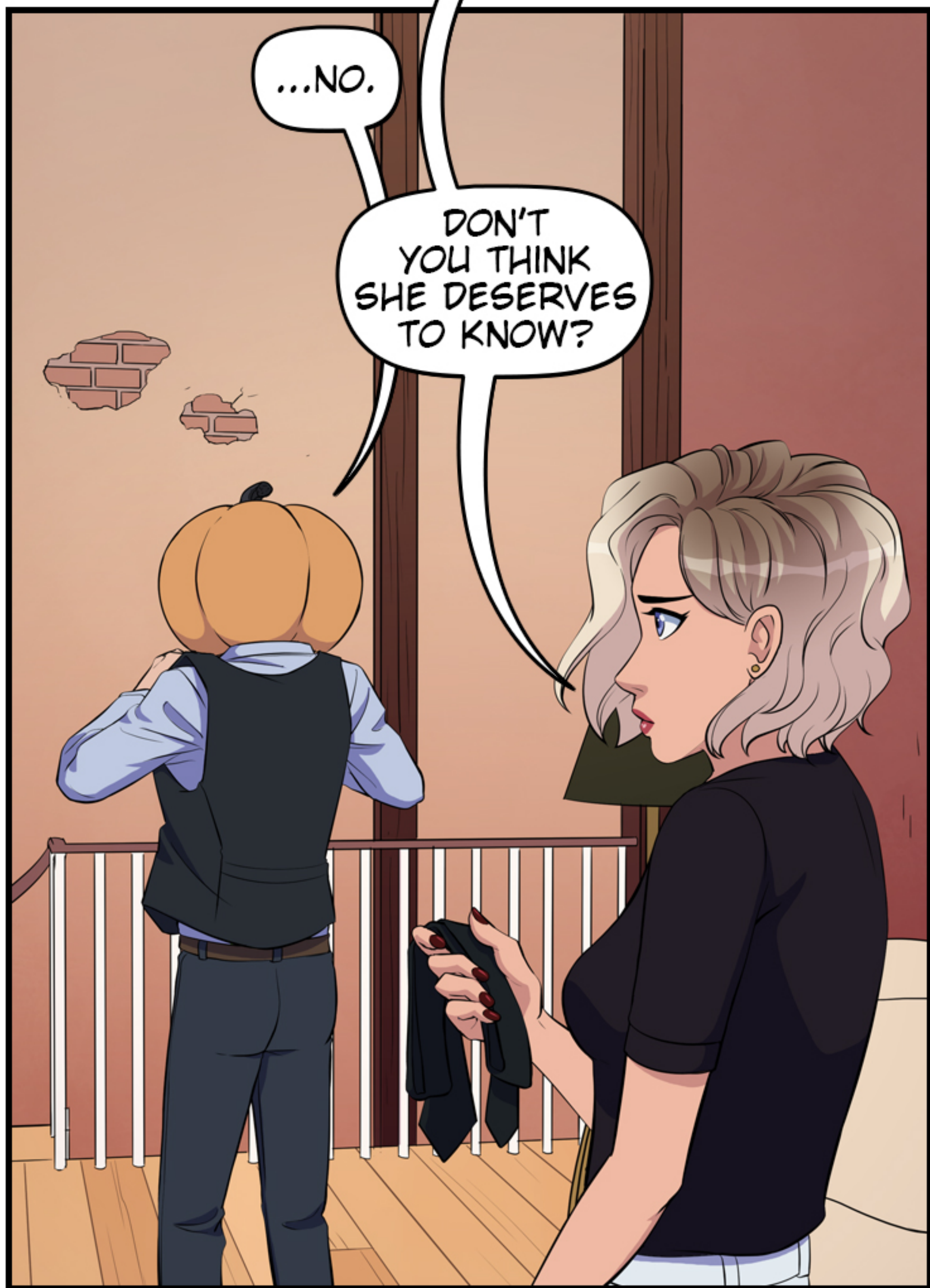




HAVE
YOU TOLD
ELLIE?

...NO.

DON'T
YOU THINK
SHE DESERVES
TO KNOW?



AND HOW,
PRECISELY, WOULD
ONE BROACH ***THAT***
TOPIC?





I APOLOGIZE.
THAT WAS...UNCALLED
FOR.



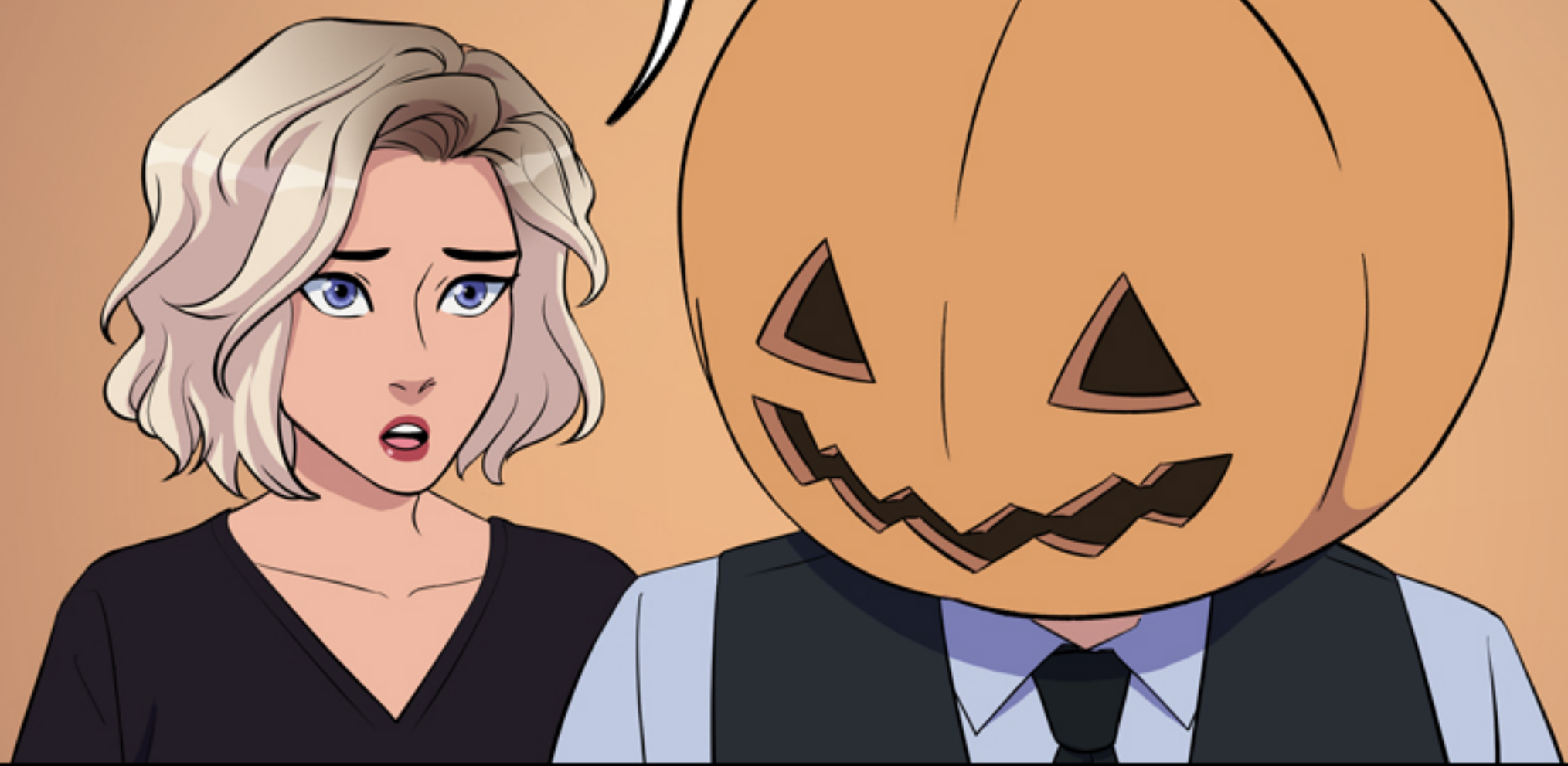


IT'S GETTING
LATE. I SHOULD
GO.



ICHABOD.

JUST...
GIVE IT SOME
THOUGHT, WON'T
YOU?





...THANK YOU
FOR YOUR HELP,
MARIS. HAVE A
GOOD NIGHT.







*WHAT A PIECE OF
WORK IS A MAN!*

*HOW NOBLE IN REASON,
HOW INFINITE IN FACULTY!*

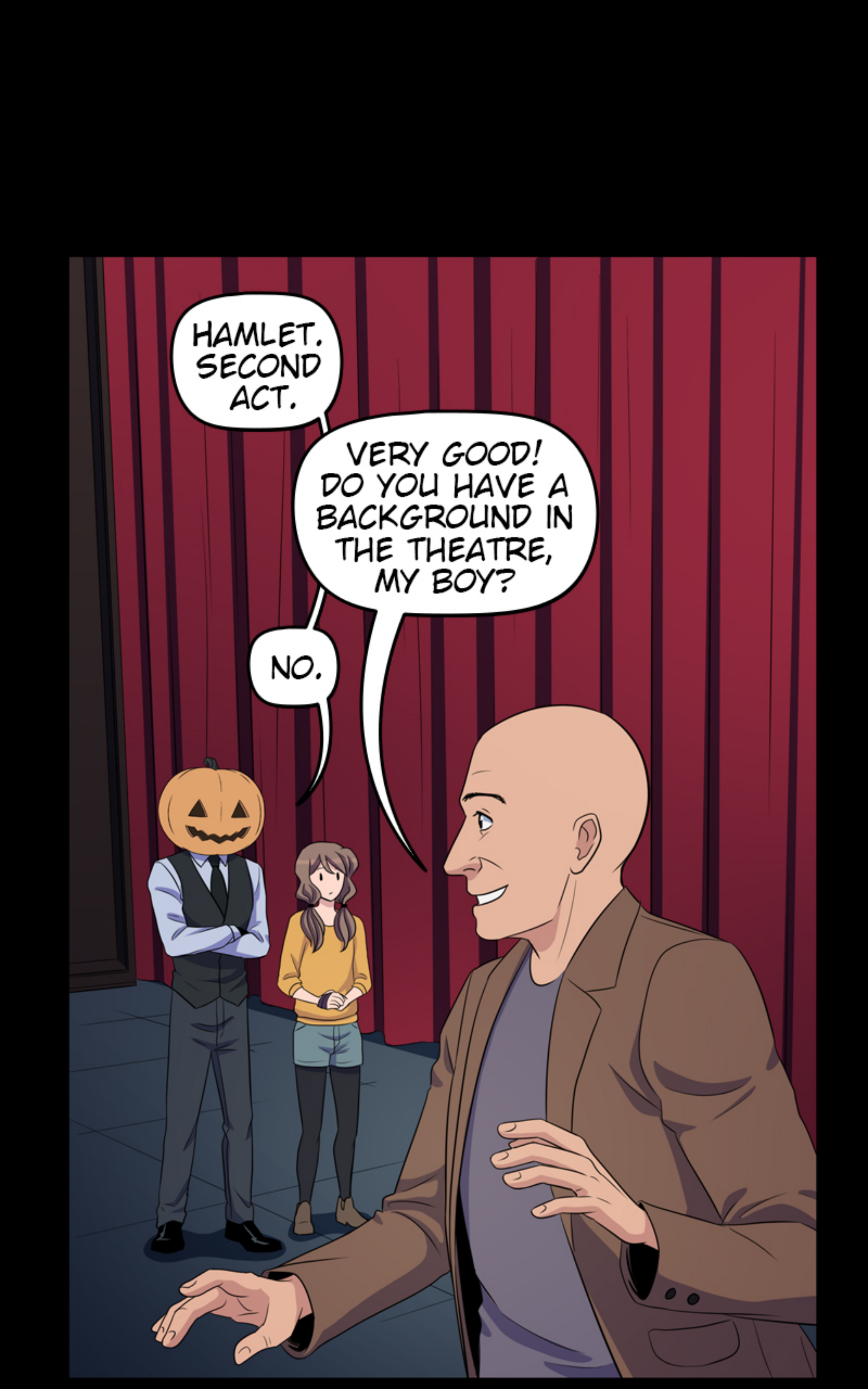
*IN FORM AND MOVING HOW
EXPRESS AND ADMIRABLE!
IN ACTION LIKE AN ANGEL,
IN APPREHENSION HOW LIKE
A GOD!*



A man in a dark suit is shown from behind, with his arms raised in a gesture of awe or contemplation. He is looking up at several bright, glowing circular lights against a dark background. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and another to the right of the man's head.

THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD.
THE PARAGON OF ANIMALS.

AND YET,
TO ME, WHAT IS THIS
QUINTESENCE
OF DUST?



HAMLET.
SECOND
ACT.

VERY GOOD!
DO YOU HAVE A
BACKGROUND IN
THE THEATRE,
MY BOY?

NO.

WELL,
YOU SHOULD
CONSIDER A TURN
ON THE STAGE!

YOU'VE
CERTAINLY
GOT THE PRESENCE
FOR IT, AND THE
VOICE...



...THOUGH YOUR
CHOICE OF ROLES
MIGHT BE...
LIMITED.

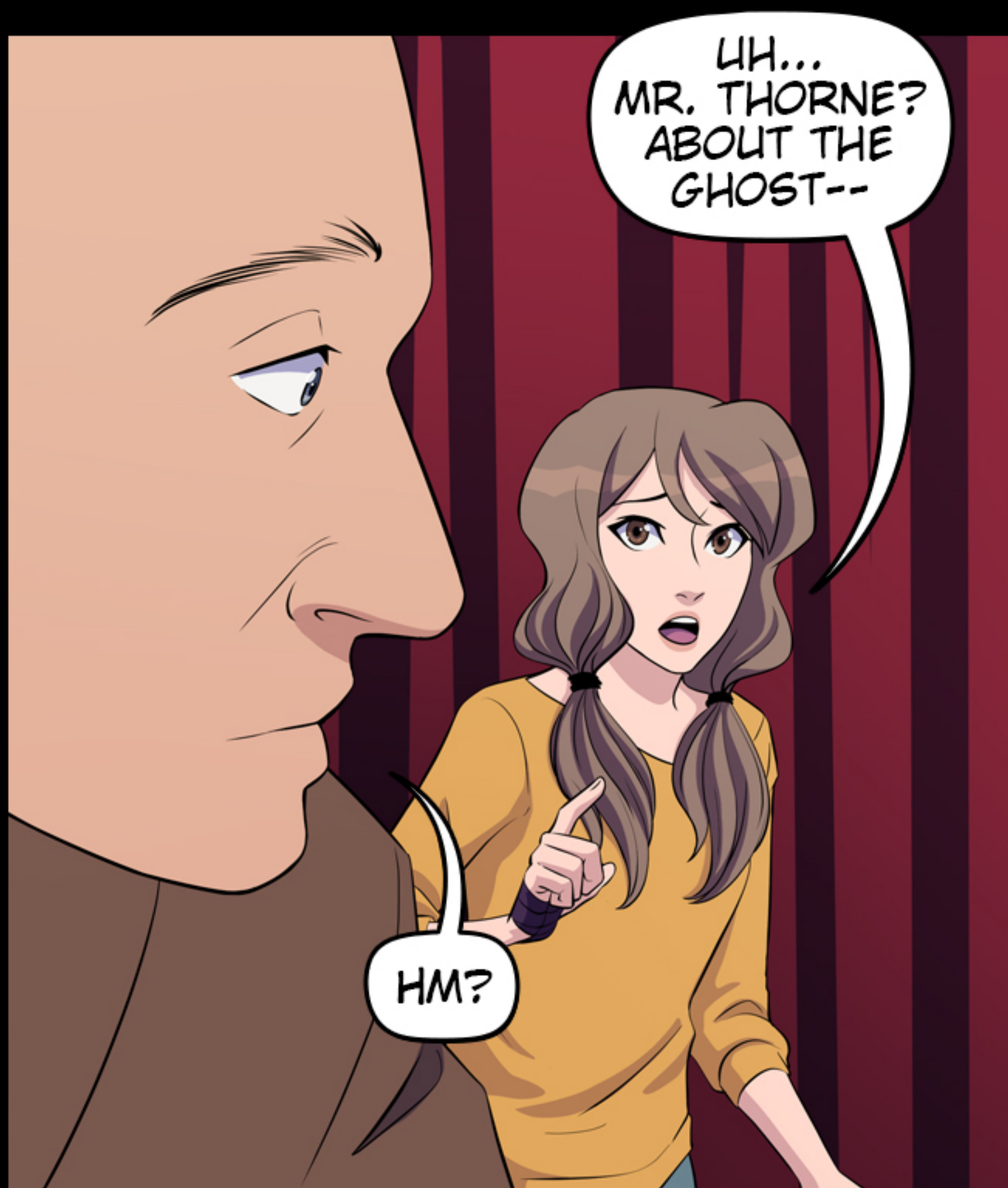


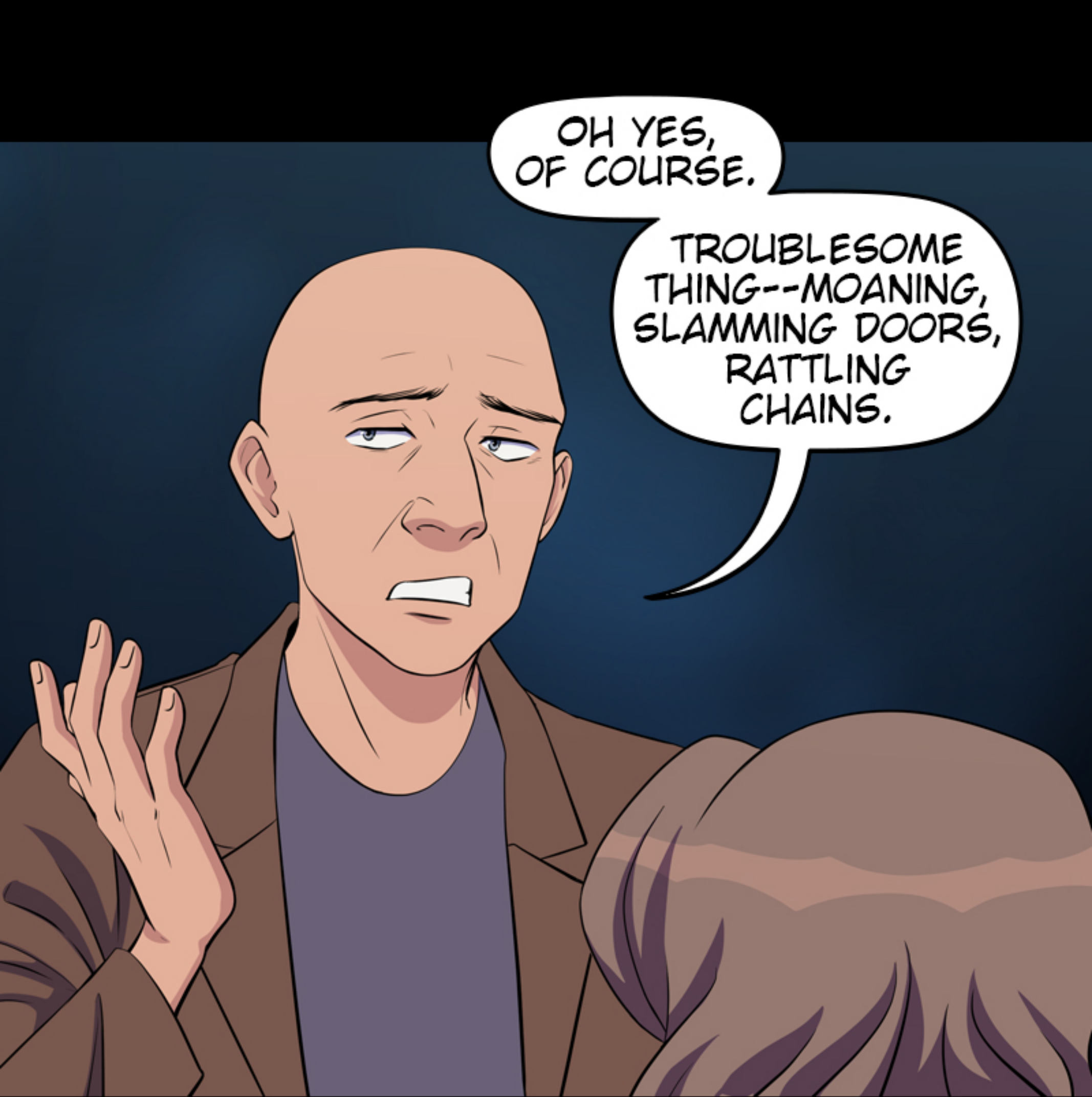
I CAN'T
IMAGINE
WHY.

HA!

AND WIT,
TO BOOT!







OH YES,
OF COURSE.

TROUBLESOME
THING--MOANING,
SLAMMING DOORS,
RATTLING
CHAINS.

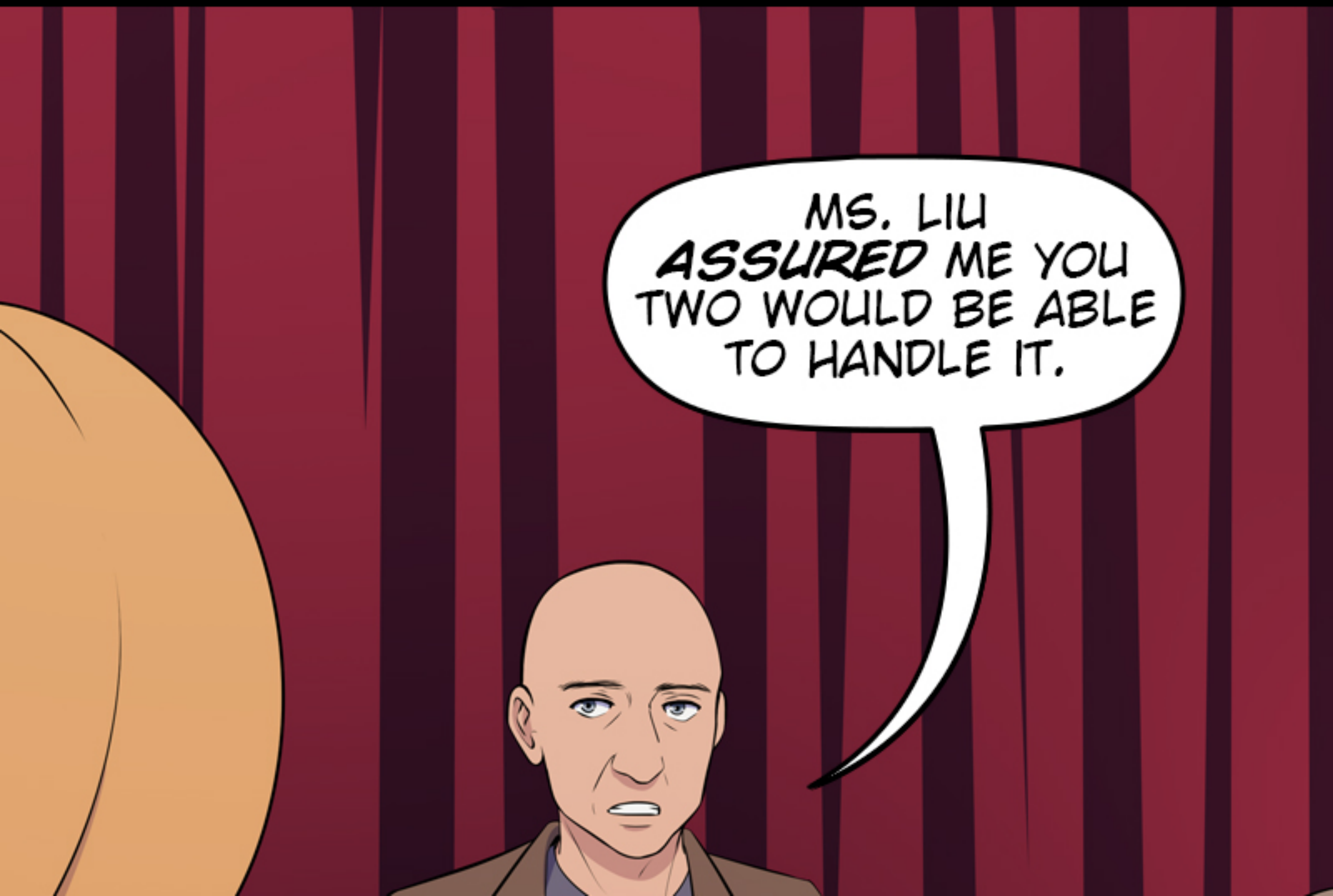
YOU'VE
SEEN THIS
SPIRIT?

JUST
GLIMPSES OF A
SHADOWY SOMETHING.
IT'S BEEN MAKING ITSELF
KNOWN THROUGHOUT
THE BUILDING.





NO HOSTILITIES
AS YET, BUT I CAN'T
HAVE IT UPSETTING MY
CAST AND CREW.



MS. LIU
ASSURED ME YOU
TWO WOULD BE ABLE
TO HANDLE IT.



IT SOUNDS
STRAIGHTFORWARD
ENOUGH.

WE'LL
CONDUCT OUR
INVESTIGATION AND
UPDATE YOU IN THE
MORNING.





WONDERFUL!
IN THAT CASE,
I'LL BE OFF.

HERE
ARE THE SPARE
KEYS TO THE BUILDING.
I'LL MAKE SURE TO LOCK
THE EXTERIOR DOORS
SO YOU WON'T BE
DISTURBED.





BON CHANCE,
MY FRIENDS. I DO
HOPE YOUR HUNT IS

SUCCESSFUL.





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