

"MY EARLIEST  
MEMORY IS OF ABSOLUTE  
DARKNESS..."

"...AND A  
*CRUSHING*  
*WEIGHT.*"

"IN A PANIC I  
CLAWED DESPERATELY  
AT MY SURROUNDINGS FOR  
WHAT FELT LIKE HOURS,  
UNTIL FINALLY..."

"THERE WAS LIGHT."







"I HAD NO IDEA  
*WHO* I WAS, MUCH  
LESS *WHERE*."

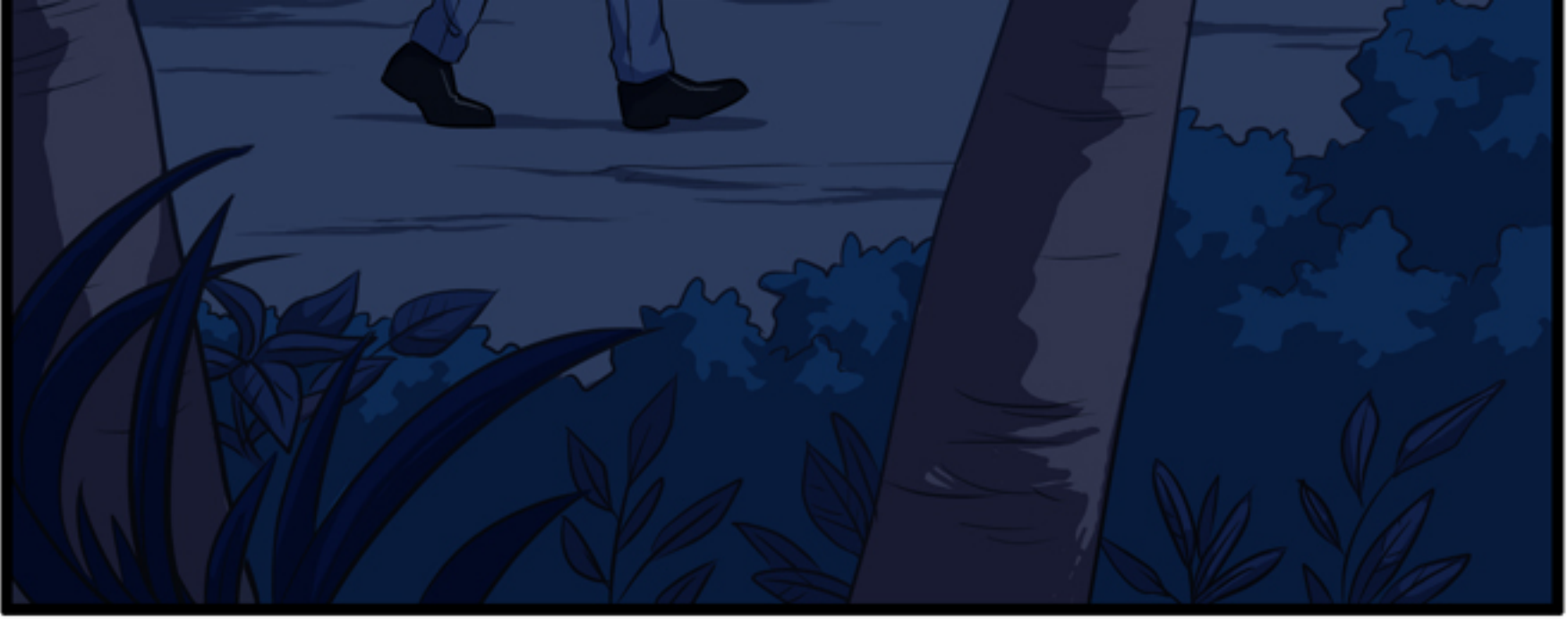




"BUT LUCKILY  
I WAS LUCID ENOUGH  
TO STUMBLE TOWARDS  
TOWN."



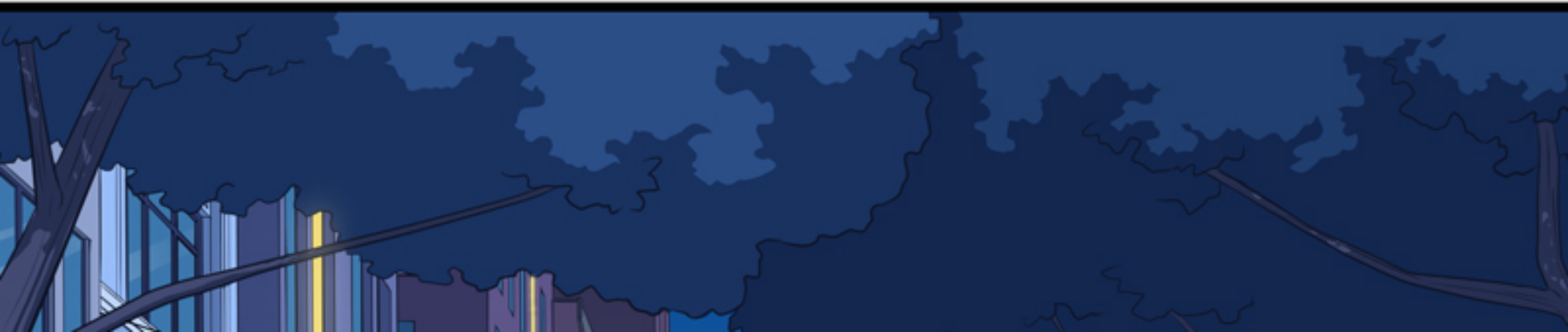








"IF GODS ARE REAL,  
THEY MUST HAVE A SENSE  
OF HUMOR."







DUDE, THAT  
IS AN **EXCELLENT**  
COSTUME!

COSTUME?

YEAH, WITH  
THAT MASK AND THE  
BLOODSTAINS -- YOU'RE  
LIKE THAT SLEEPY  
HOLLOW GUY!

ICHABOD  
CRANE?

YEAH, THE  
HORSEMAN  
DUDE!



"ICHABOD..."



"LITERARY CONFUSION  
ASIDE, IT'S AMAZING WHAT  
STICKS WITH YOU."

THAT WAS  
FIVE YEARS AGO.  
EVENTUALLY I FOUND  
MY WAY TO THIS LINE OF  
WORK, AND THROUGH IT  
MET MARIS AND  
STRAUSS.

THEY'VE  
MANAGED TO  
KEEP ME IN ONE  
PIECE AND LOOKING...  
WELL, IF NOT *NORMAL*,  
AT LEAST LESS LIKE  
A *DESICCATED*  
*CORPSE*.



THIS  
IS A LOT TO  
PROCESS...

I MEAN, I ALWAYS  
ASSUMED YOU WERE  
*DIFFERENT*,  
BUT...



DID YOU KNOW  
THE DISRUPTOR  
WOULD AFFECT YOU  
LIKE THAT?

NO. THE TRUTH IS  
I KNOW VERY LITTLE  
ABOUT MYSELF. IT'S NOT  
A SUBJECT ON WHICH I  
LIKE TO DWELL.





EVEN SO,  
I SHOULD HAVE  
TOLD YOU ALL OF THIS  
AGES AGO.

HEH, YOU  
MUST THINK ME  
A MONSTER **AND**  
A HYPOCRITE.



A comic panel featuring a character's head at the top, with dark, wavy hair. A speech bubble originates from the character's mouth. The background is a solid dark blue. The text in the speech bubble is in a stylized, hand-drawn font.

...WE'RE  
ALL HYPOCRITES  
SOMETIMES.





BUT  
YOU'RE *NOT* A  
MONSTER.







ELLIE...

THANK YOU.



URGH...





WHAT ARE WE  
GONNA DO ABOUT  
HIM?

≡SIGH≡  
WHAT INDEED...



HE'S A MAGIC  
USER OF SOME SORT--  
PROBABLY A  
WARLOCK.

IT'S OUTSIDE  
THE **LOCAL COVEN'S**  
OFFICIAL JURISDICTION, BUT  
THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP  
HIM CONTAINED UNTIL WE  
FIGURE OUT WHAT  
WE'RE DEALING

WERE DEALING  
WITH.

I'LL SEE IF  
MARIS CAN ARRANGE  
SOMETHING. HOPEFULLY  
SHE'S FEELING  
GENEROUS.



DO YOU  
THINK THEY CAN  
HELP RYAN,  
TOO?





BUT I'M

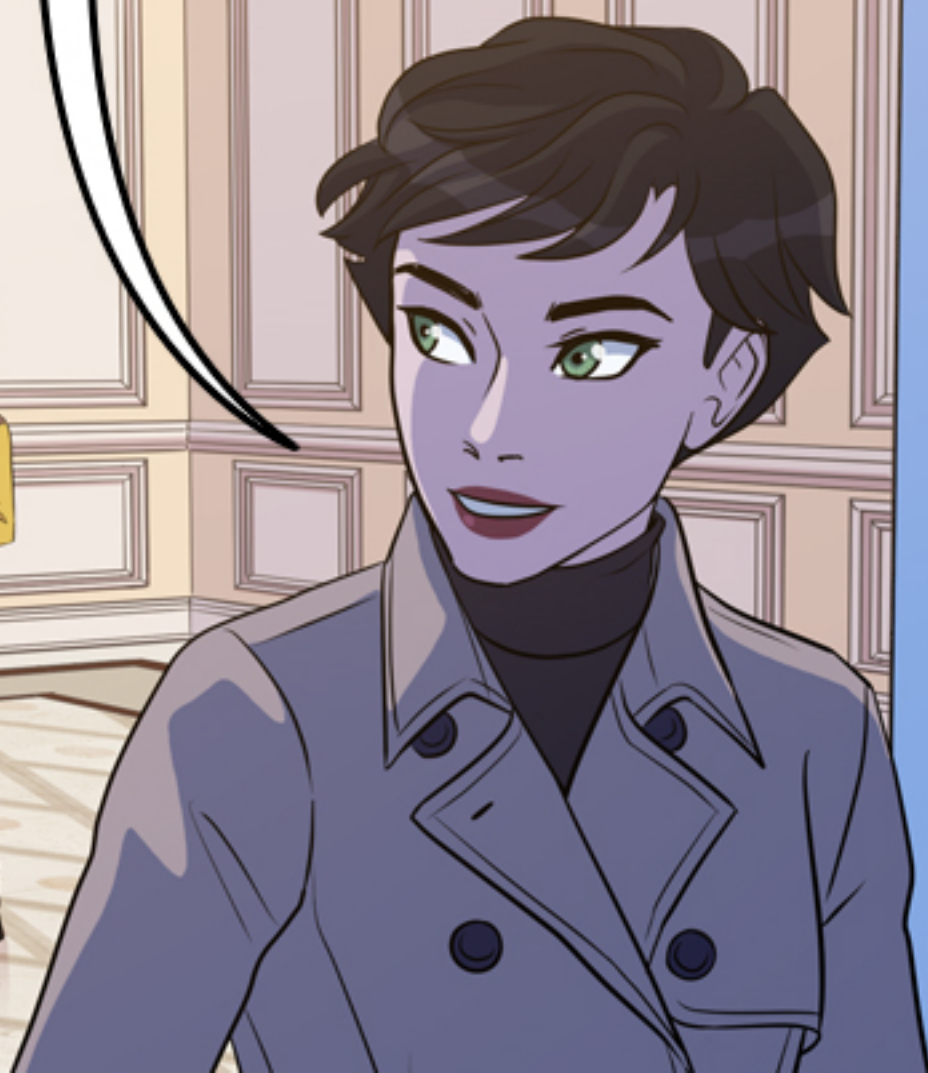
SURE THEY'LL  
TRY.







I'LL BE RIGHT  
BACK. JUST NEED TO  
STEP OUT FOR  
SOME AIR.











2110

RING

RING

RING

≡CLICK≡

YES?





T, IT'S  
CELINE. THE COVEN  
HAS THORNE.

THEY'RE  
KEEPING HIM  
UNDER LOCK AND KEY,  
BUT HE MANAGED TO SLIP  
ME A MESSAGE. SAID  
TO PASS IT ON  
TO YOU.

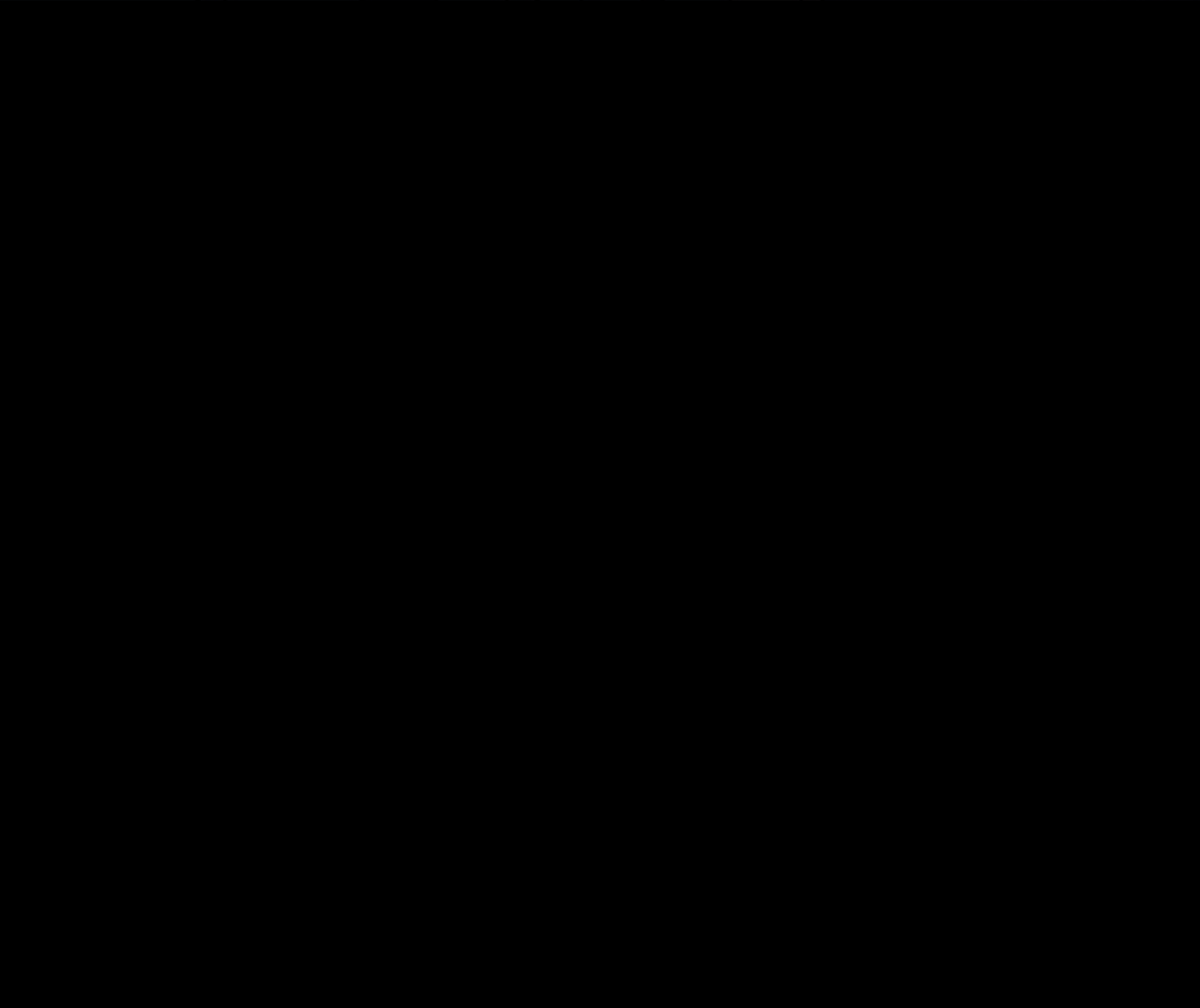




GO AHEAD.



"YOU WERE  
RIGHT--IT'S ONE  
OF YOURS. VESSEL  
APPEARS VIABLE.  
MOVE QUICKLY  
TO RECLAIM."





I SEE. THANK YOU,  
CELINE. YOUR DEBT IS  
REPAID AND I RELEASE  
YOU FROM YOUR  
CONTRACT.



HMM...

\*BOOP\*



OBERON.





I THINK  
IT'S TIME YOU  
PAID YOUR **OLD**  
**FRIEND** A  
VISIT.

THIRD SHIFT SOCIETY

# PART 8: WHAT WE PRETEND TO BE

STORY AND ART

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THANKS FOR READING!





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