







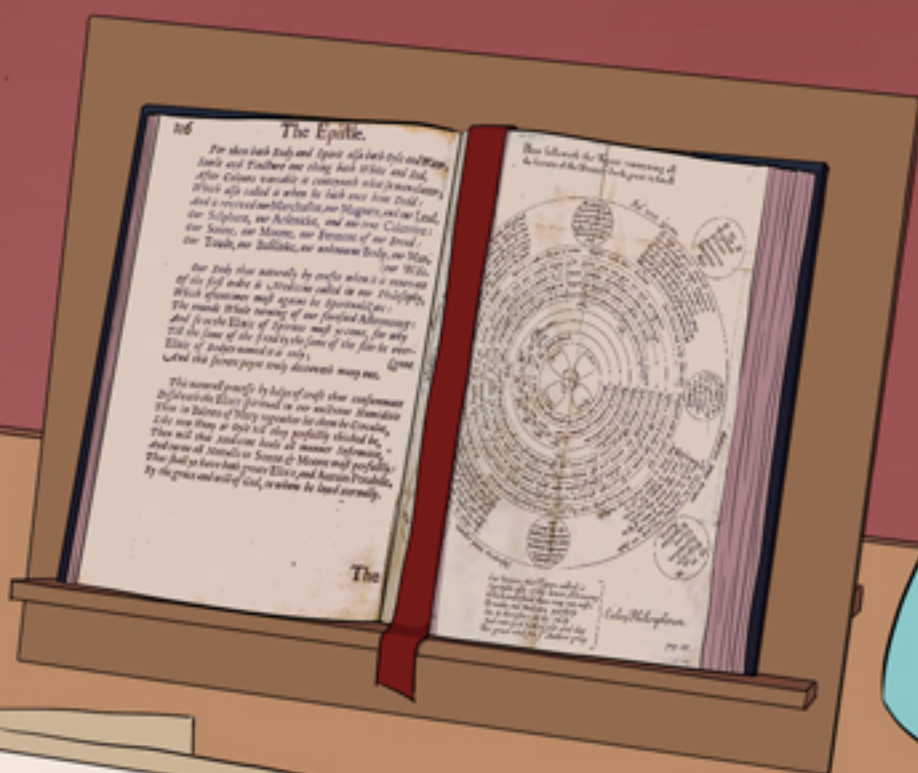
≡ SIGH ≡
NO, THAT'S NOT
RIGHT.

him tell it, it's a matter of trust, but I'm not so
sure. Well, you didn't hear it from me.

Which reminds me, I've been thinking about our
discussion at the last meeting. Instead of full nested
circles, have you tried using parallel rays? It's not
an officially recognized technique, but I recall seeing
it demonstrated at the Budapest conference in '33 or
'34. I suppose that was a bit before your time,
though I agree you the results were impressive.

It should keep the spill from exceeding
the limit. The only issue I could foresee is
precision. As I said, it's not an official
technique, so there's no codified standard order; it
has to be explicitly defined, especially if you
employing dependent variables.

That would of course add
energy to the channel, but
perhaps the difference would
be enough to keep you from
being "Revised." I imagine I
shall see you soon.





DARLING,
YOU KNOW I
HATE BEING
RUSHED.

I'M AFRAID IT
CAN'T BE HELPED.
OUR OPPONENTS REFUSE
TO STAY ON THEIR SIDE
OF THE FIELD.





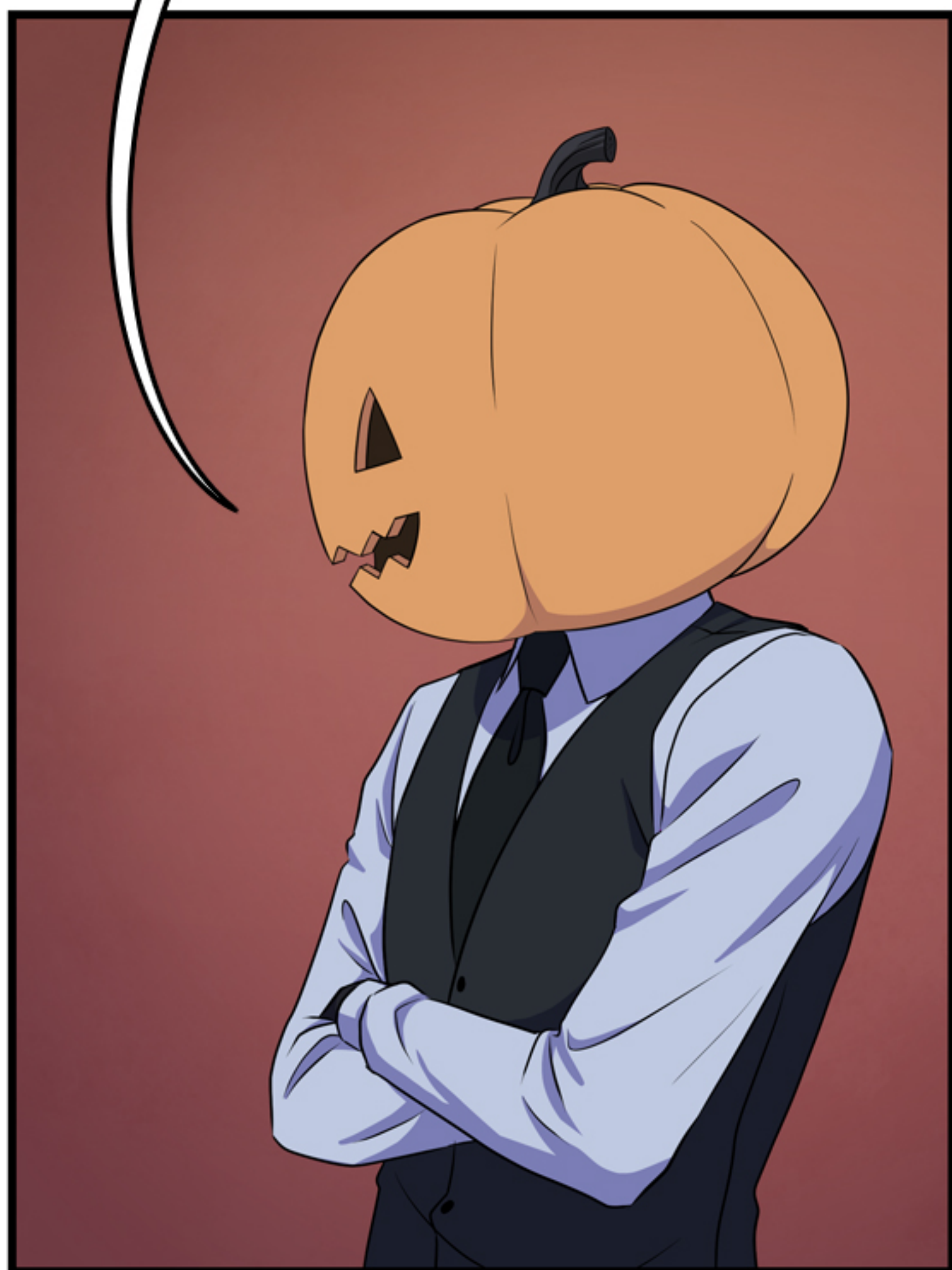
YES, SHOWING
UP AT THE POOR
DOCTOR'S APARTMENT
LIKE THAT. HOW
DREADFUL.





BRAZEN

DRAZEN.



DRAGON

DICKHEADED.

TERRIFYING.



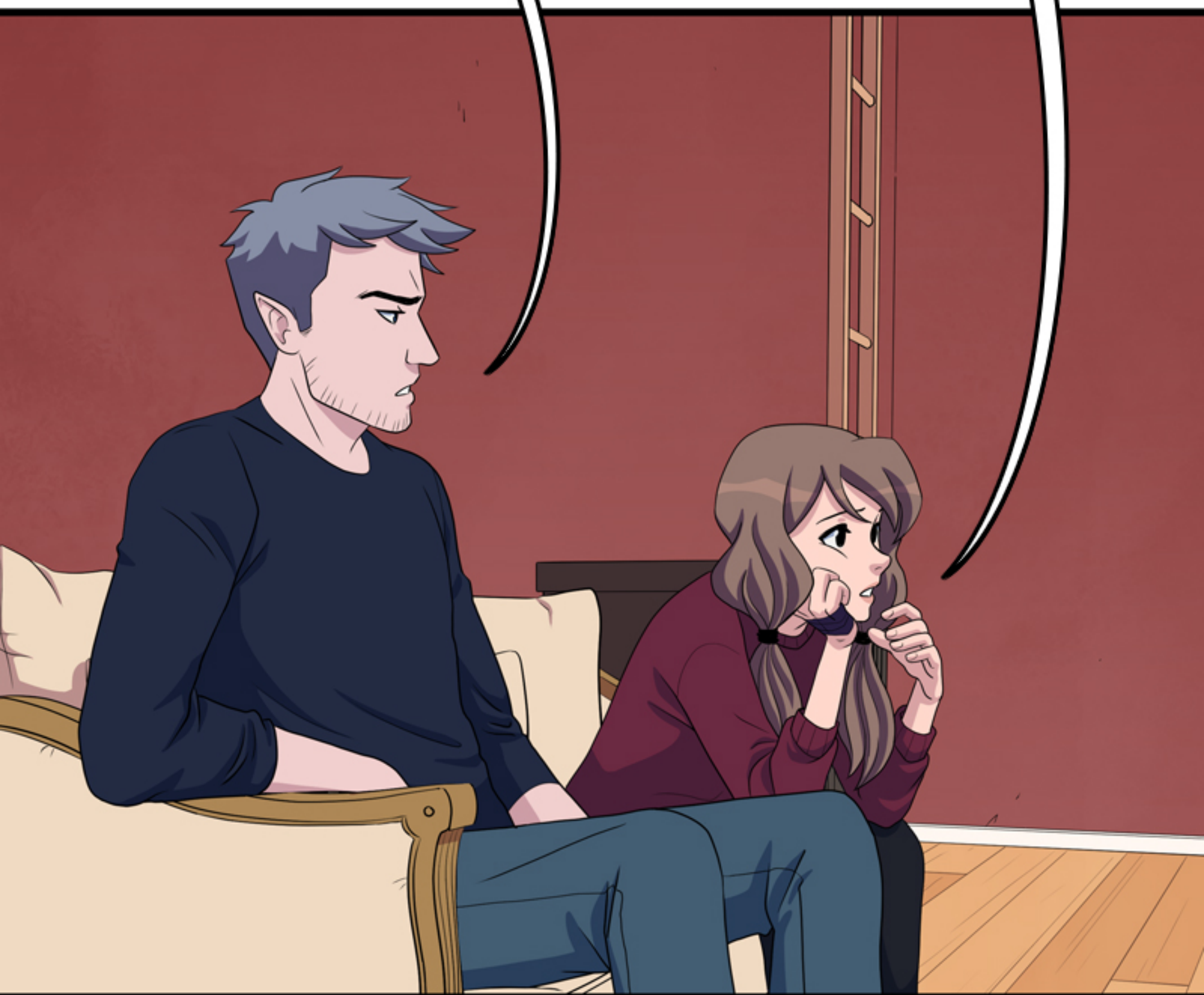
WHATEVER
YOU CALL IT,
WE CAN'T ALLOW
THIS TO GO ANY
FURTHER.

IT'S TIME
TO GO ON THE
OFFENSIVE.



SOOO...WE GO
STRANGLE OBERON
OUTSIDE *HIS*
HOUSE?

I'M IN.



NOT QUITE.

WHATEVER
OUR DEMON FRIENDS
ARE PLANNING, IT SEEMS
TO REQUIRE THE REMOVAL
OF ALICE'S BARRIER
SPELL.

WHICH
MEANS THEY'LL
NEED ACCESS TO
THE NODES.

"NODES?"





PHYSICAL
OBJECTS USED
TO ANCHOR COMPLEX
SPELLWORK. DESTROY
THOSE AND THE
SPELL GOES WITH
THEM.

OBERON AND
TITANIA ALREADY HAVE
THE **PAPER GUARDIAN'S
RING**, BUT THERE ARE
BOUND TO BE OTHER
SUCH ARTIFACTS.

IF WE
CAN TRACK DOWN
THE REMAINING NODES
AND FIGURE OUT A WAY TO
PROTECT THEM, WE MAY BE ABLE
TO HALT WHATEVER NEFARIOUS
SCHEME OUR OPPONENTS
HAVE IN MIND.



MAKES
SENSE BUT HOW

SENSE. BUT HOW
DO WE KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK?

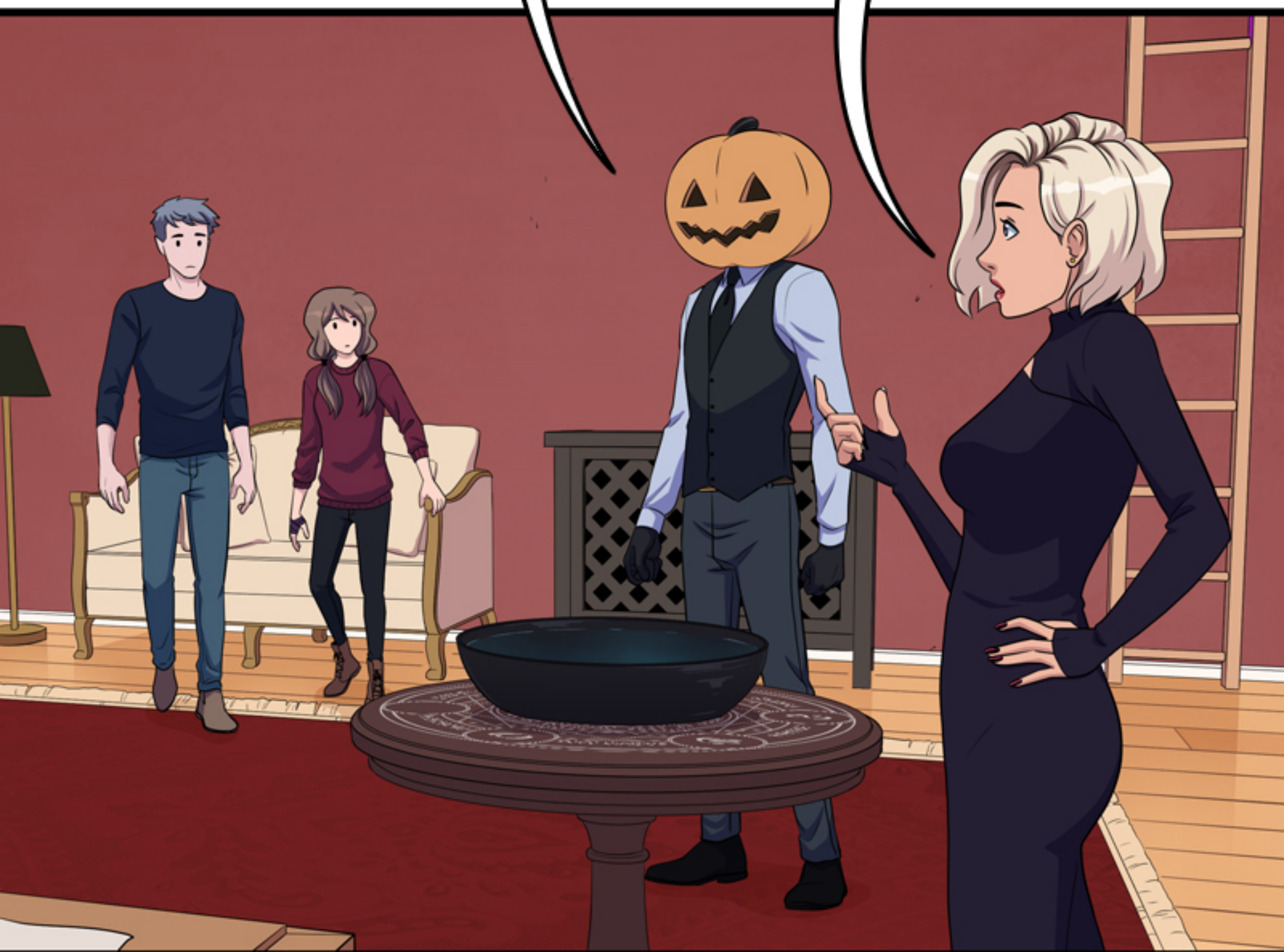


THAT'S
WHERE MY
LITTLE PROJECT
COMES IN.



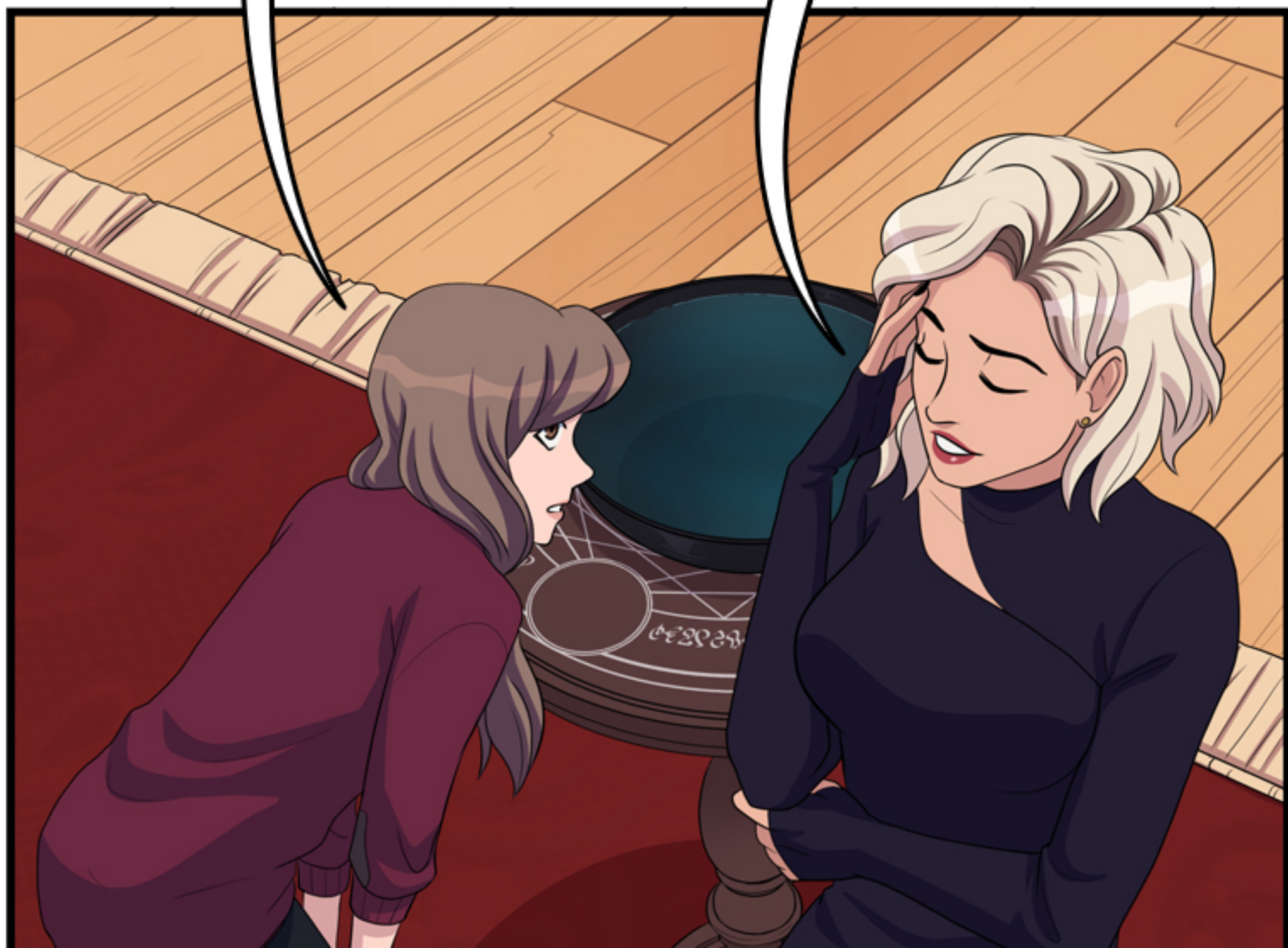
IT IS READY?

IT SHOULD
BE. OF COURSE
WE WON'T KNOW FOR
SURE UNTIL WE TAKE
IT FOR A SPIN.



UH, MARIS?
NOT TO BE RUDE,
BUT...WHAT
IS IT?

⇒ SIGH ⇐
IT'S FINE, DEAR.
GENIUS IS OFTEN
UNDERAPPRECIATED
IN ITS OWN
TIME.



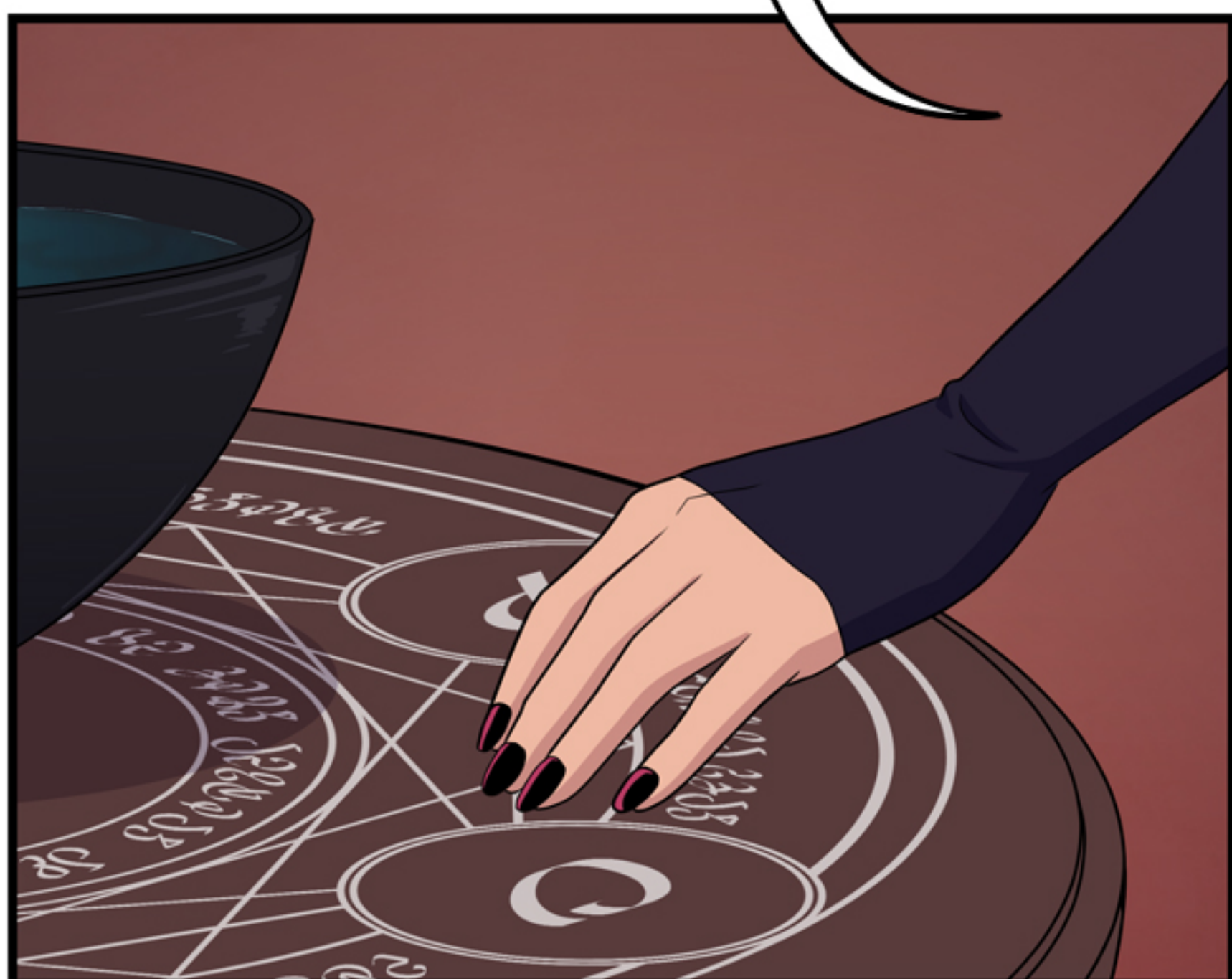


I SUPPOSE
YOU COULD CALL IT A
**MODIFIED SCRYING
APPARATUS.**

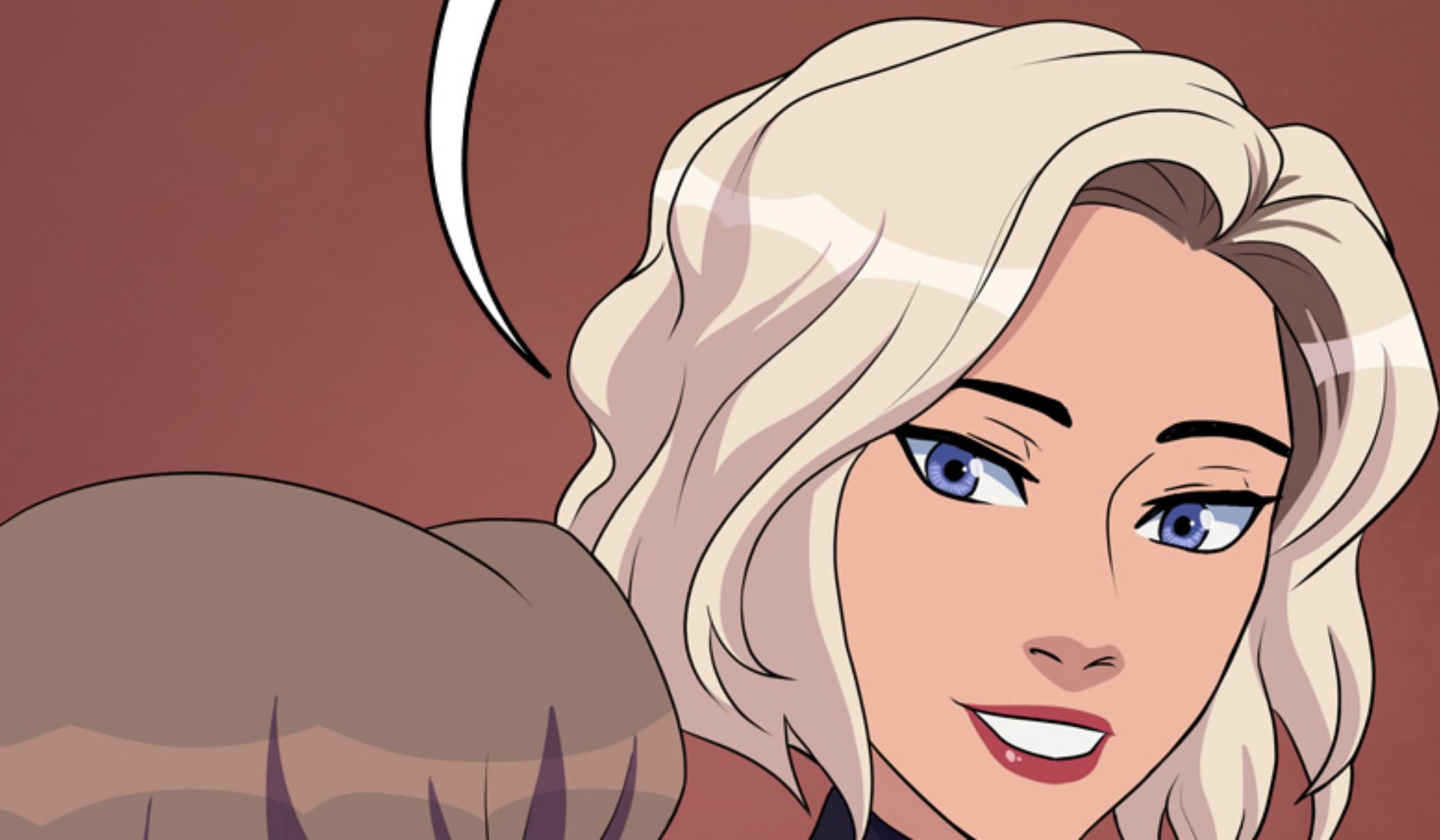




THIS SPELL
WILL SEARCH THE
CITY FOR ANYTHING THAT
FITS THE CRITERIA FOR
A POTENTIAL
NODE.



WE CAN
NARROW THINGS
DOWN BY LOOKING
FOR ALICE'S SPELLS
SPECIFICALLY, BUT
FOR THAT WE NEED
A **SAMPLE** OF
HER MAGIC.







BUT IF I
TAKE THIS OFF
AND ALICE FINDS
OUT WHAT WE'RE
DOING...





IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MARIS'S HOUSE IS
WARDED AGAINST ATTACKS
THROUGH THE ETHER. YOU'RE
LIKELY SAFER HERE THAN
ANYWHERE ELSE IN
THE CITY.





AND OF
COURSE NONE
OF US WOULD LET
ANY HARM COME
TO YOU.

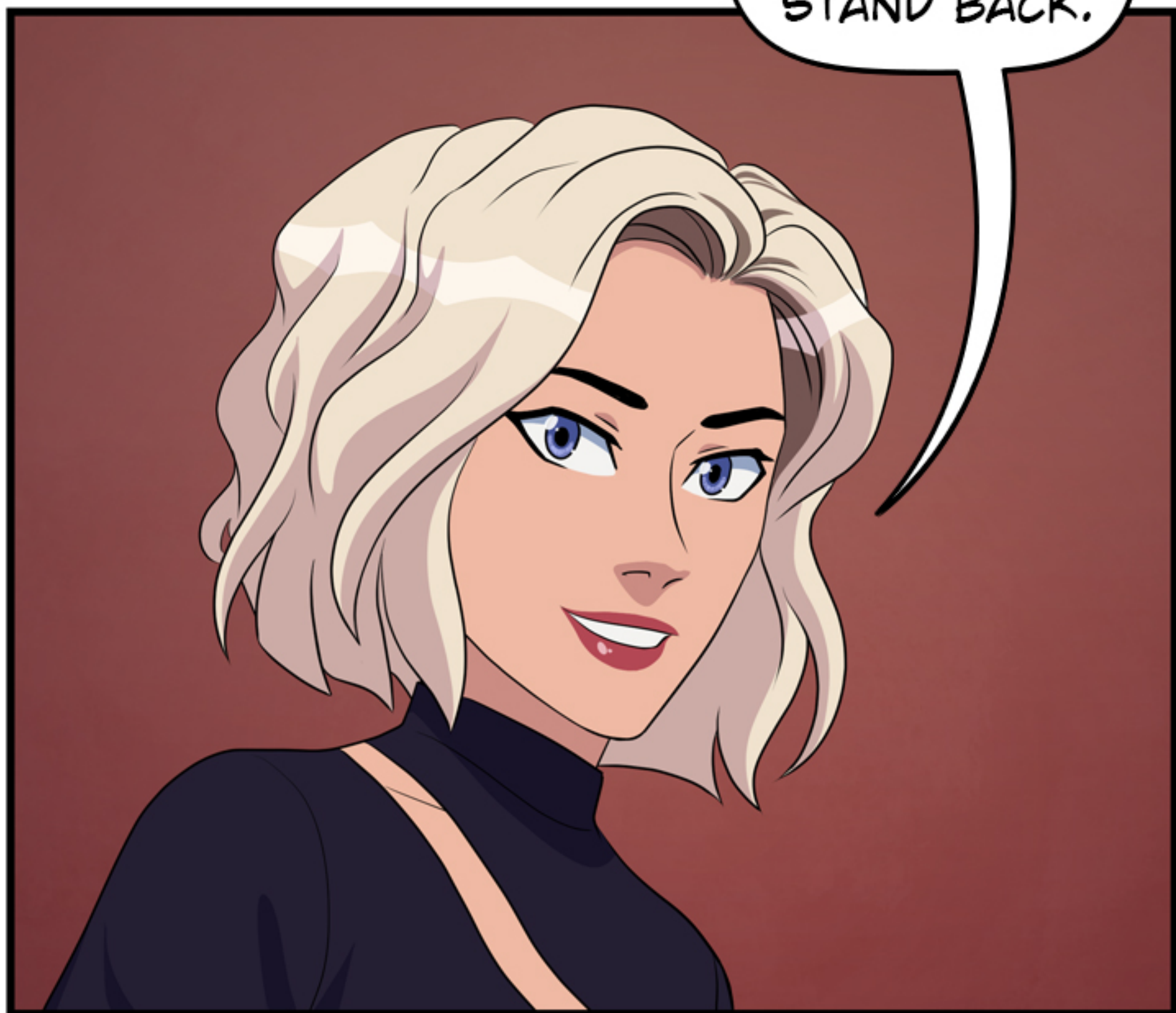


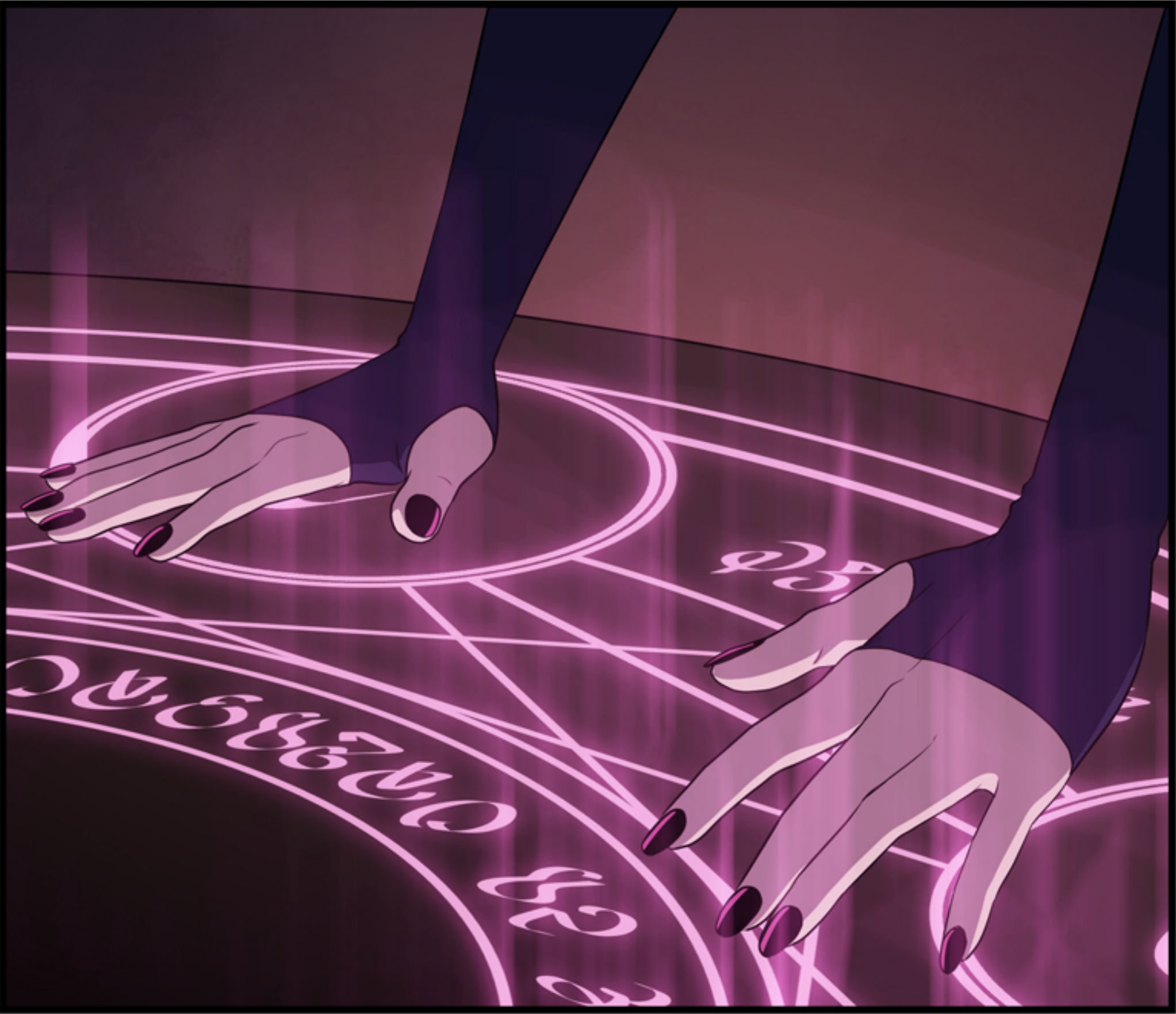
...OK.

GOOD. NOW
PLACE YOUR HAND
IN THAT CIRCLE AND
DON'T MOVE UNLESS
I TELL YOU TO.



BOYS, YOU
MAY WANT TO
STAND BACK.



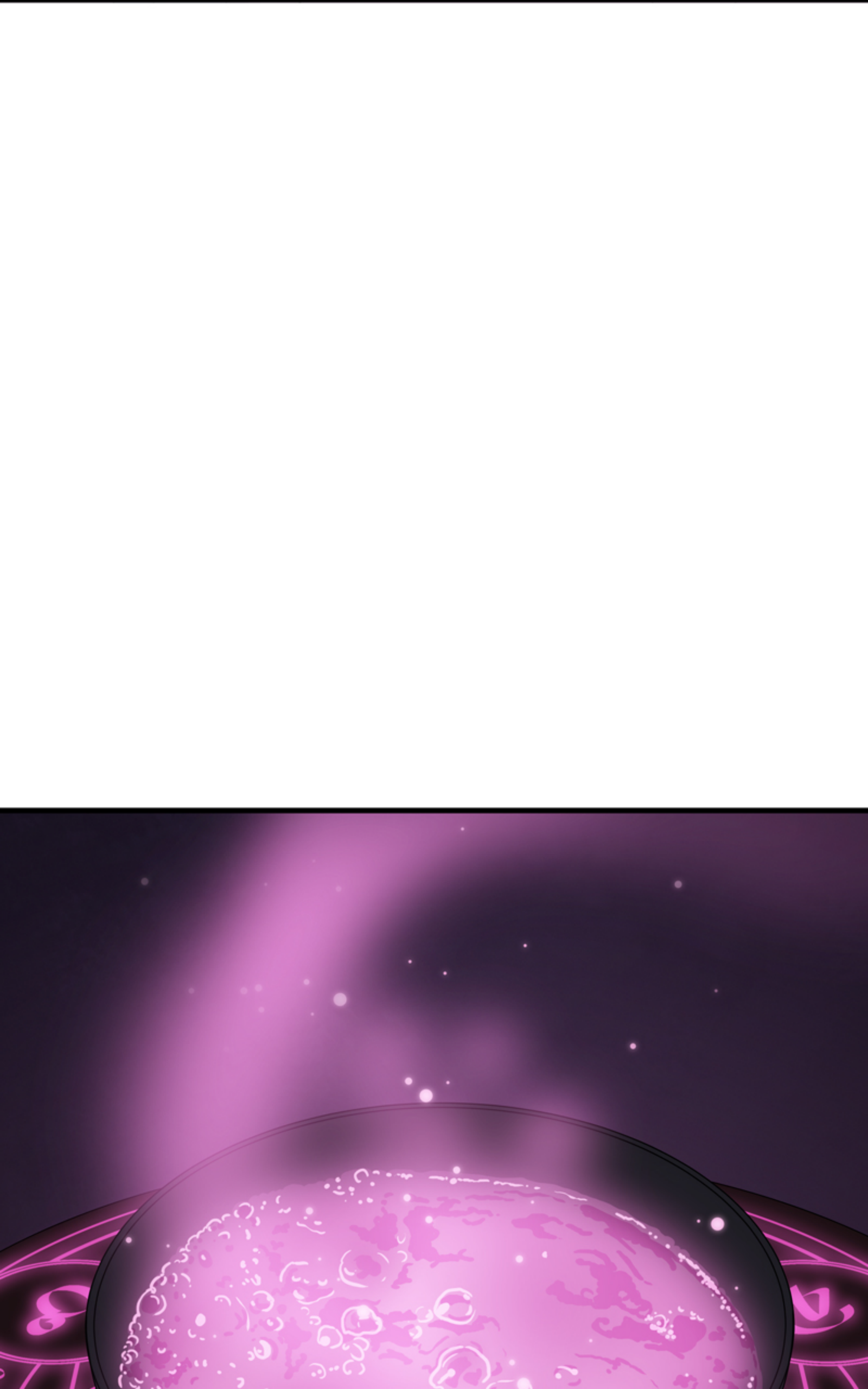


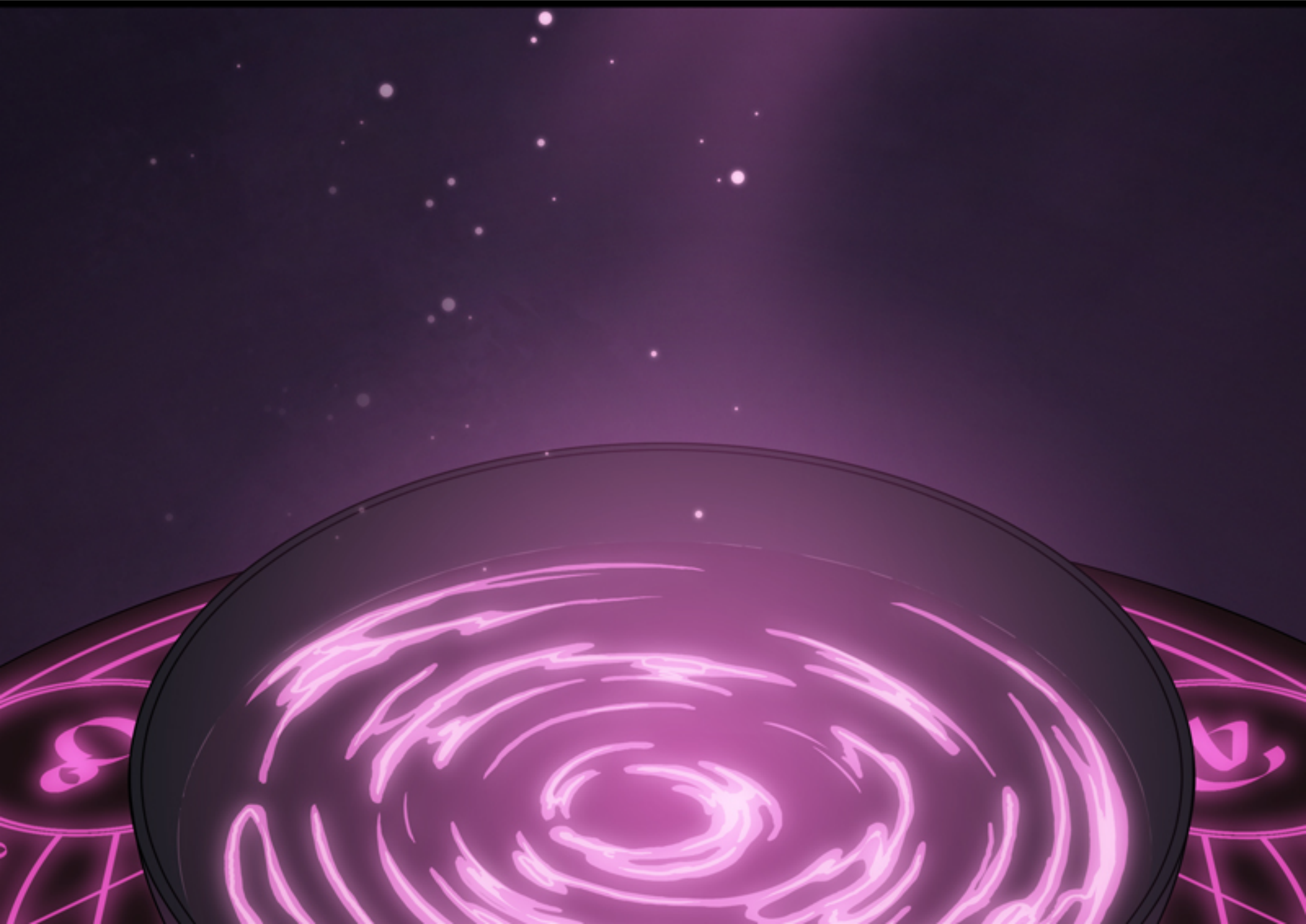
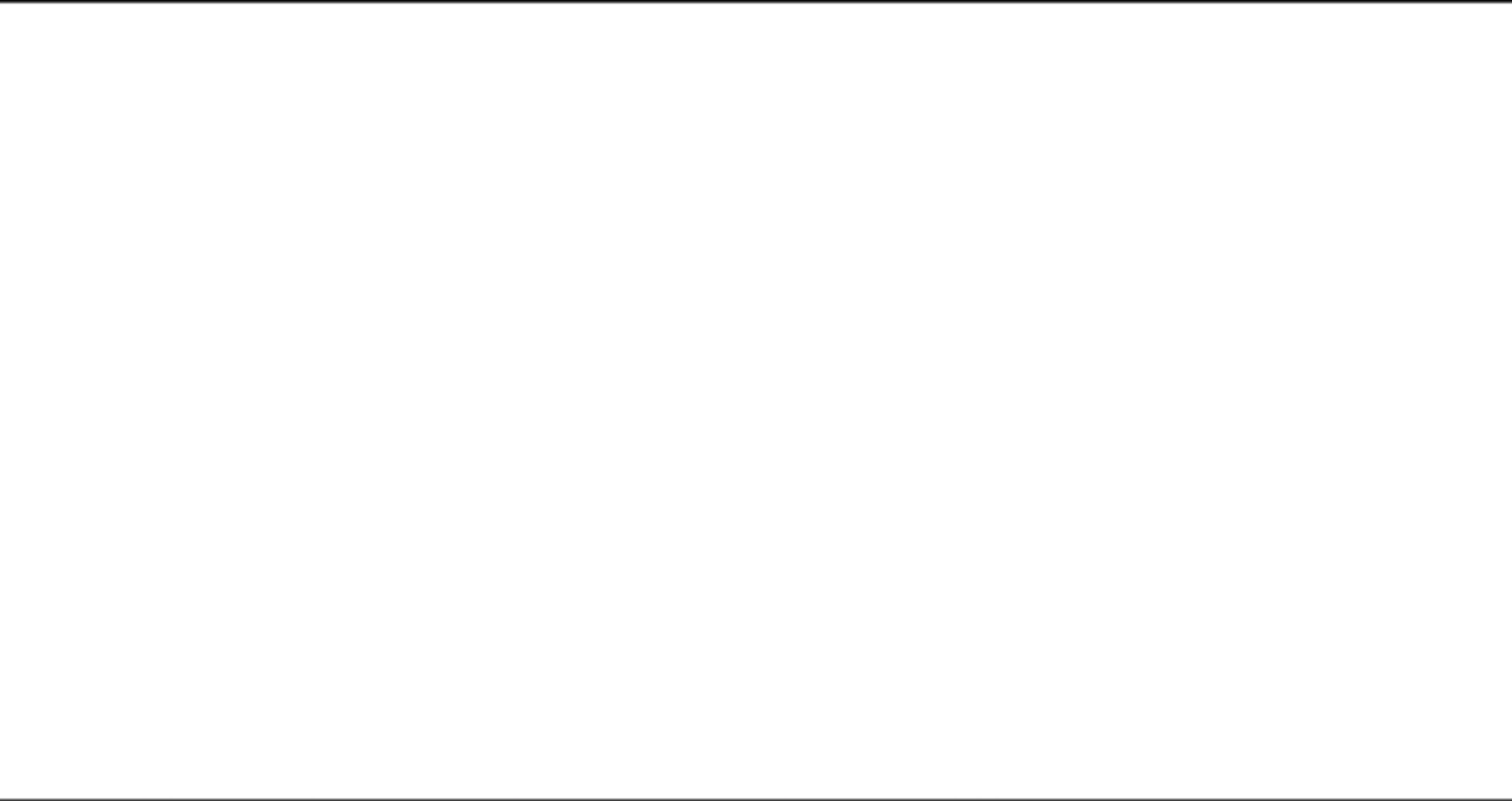
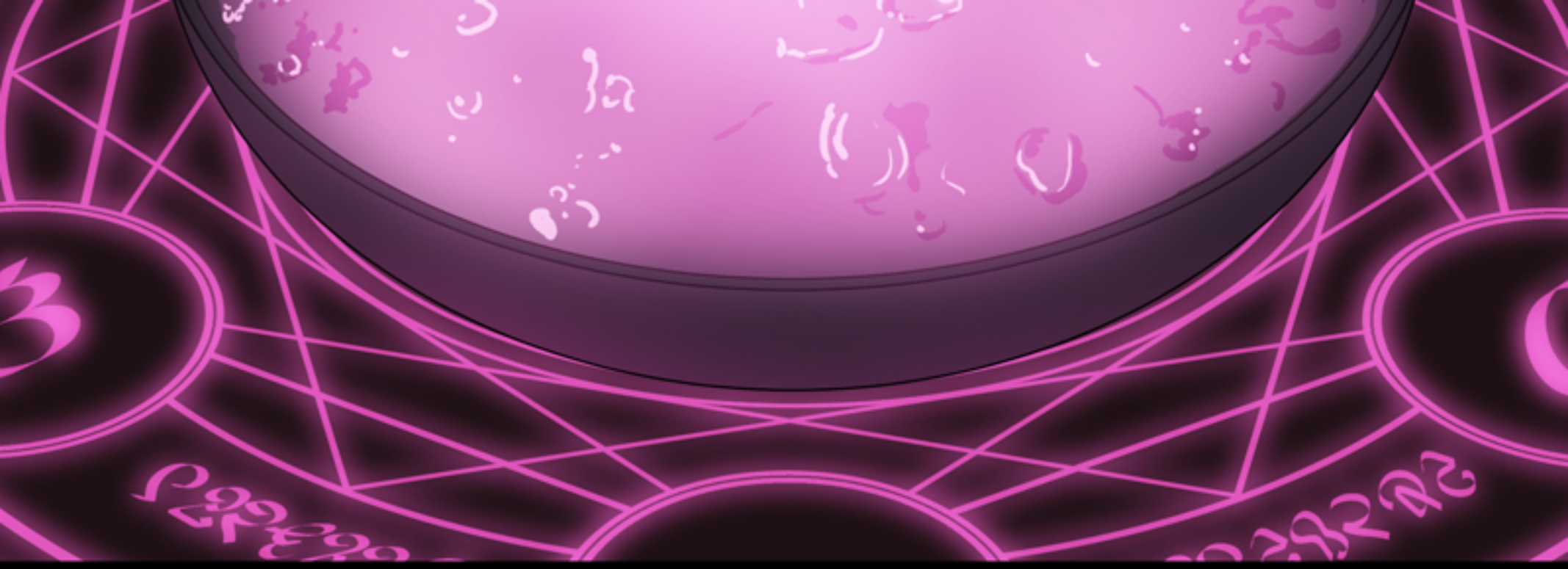


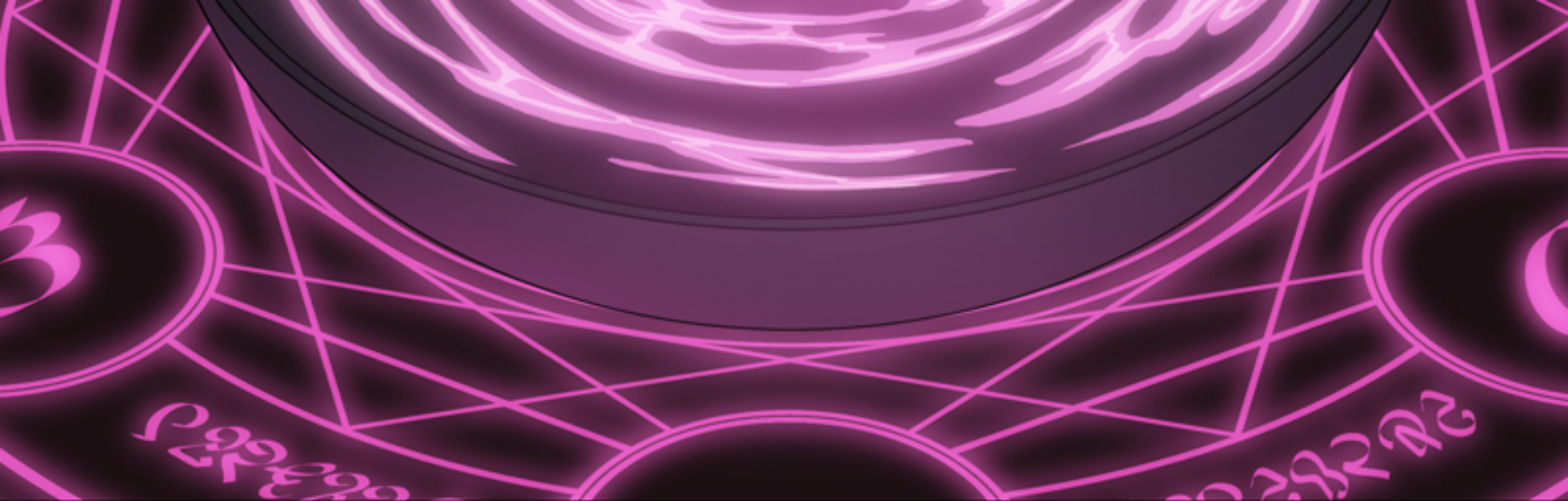


FWOOSH











"342?"

SOME
KIND OF
CODE?





MARIS, DOES
THIS MEAN ANYTHING
TO YOU?





UNFORTUNATELY,
IT DOES.



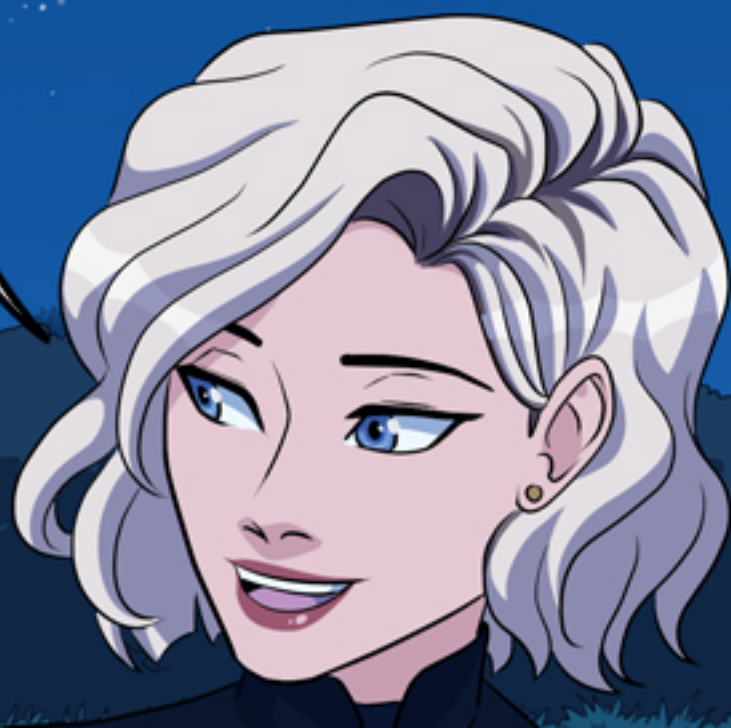
WHEN YOU
TOOK THIS JOB, DID
YOU EVER THINK YOU'D
END UP **ROBBING
GRAVES?**

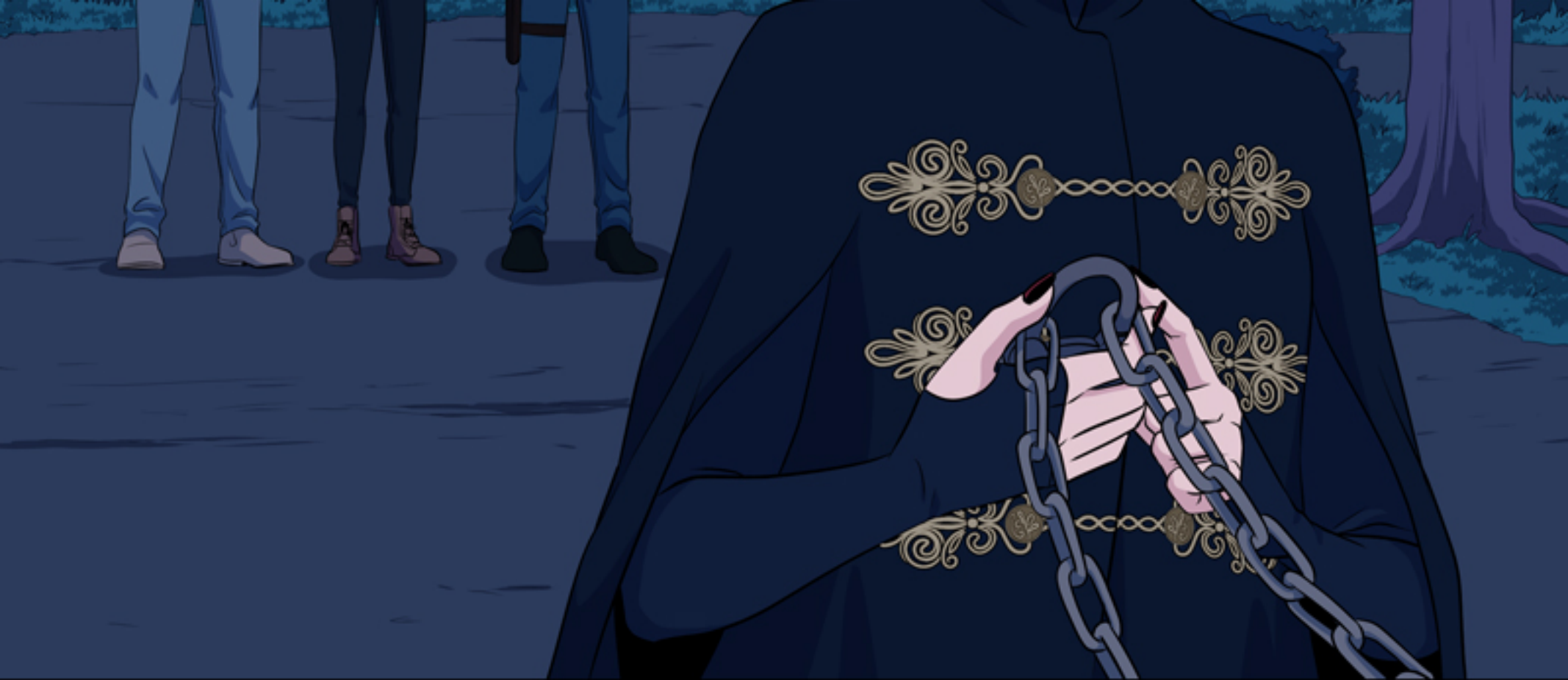
HONESTLY,
I'M JUST SURPRISED
IT HASN'T HAPPENED
SOONER.





REALLY?
OH ICHABOD, I
THOUGHT YOU KNEW
HOW TO SHOW A
GIRL A GOOD
TIME.





IN MY
DEFENSE, WE
DID GO TO THE
THEATRE LAST
MONTH.





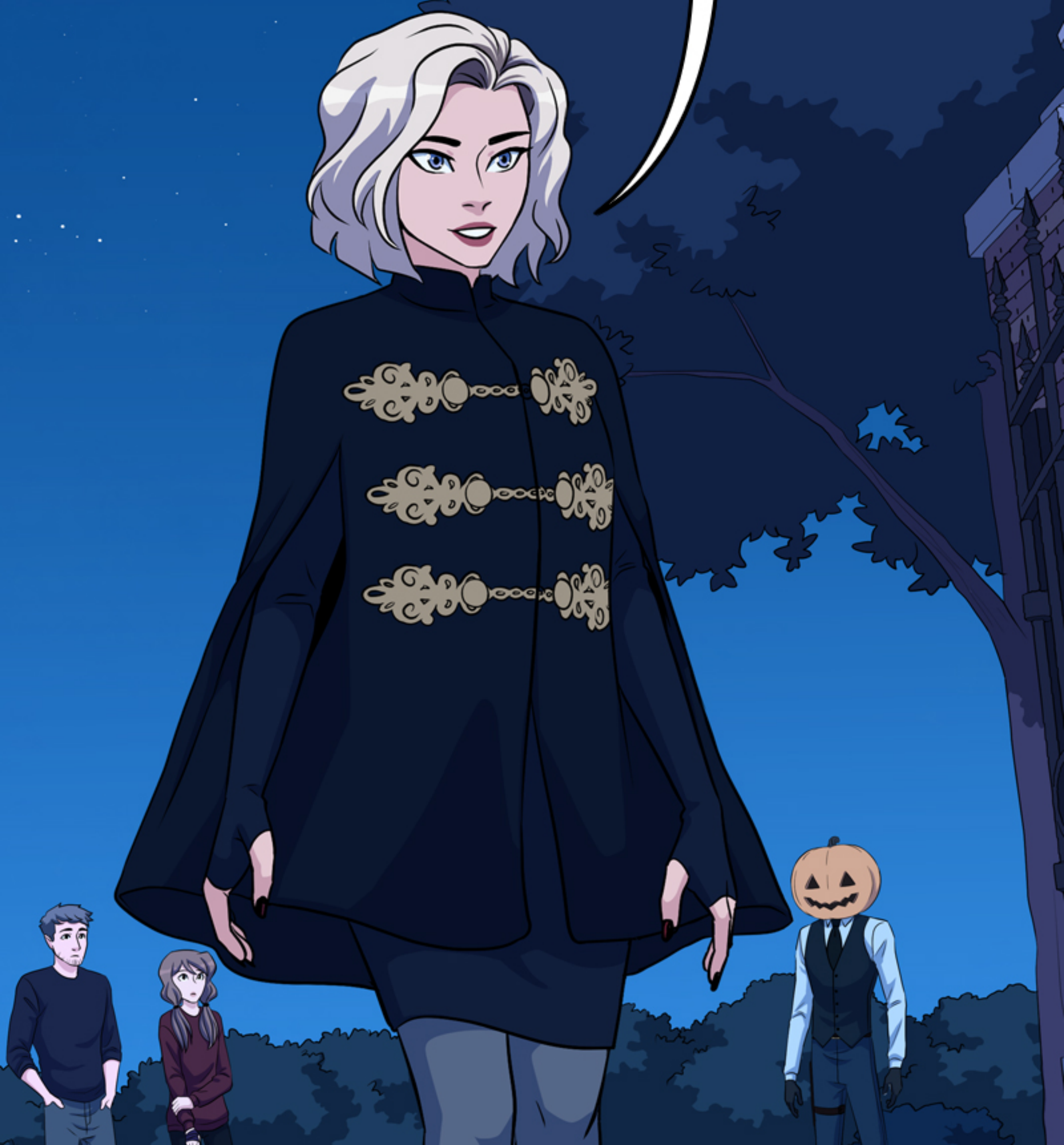
MM. WELL,
IT CERTAINLY
PROMISES TO BE
A MEMORABLE
FIRST.

CLICK





AFTER ALL,
IT'S NOT EVERY
DAY YOU GET TO PEEK
INSIDE A *WITCH'S*
TOMB.







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