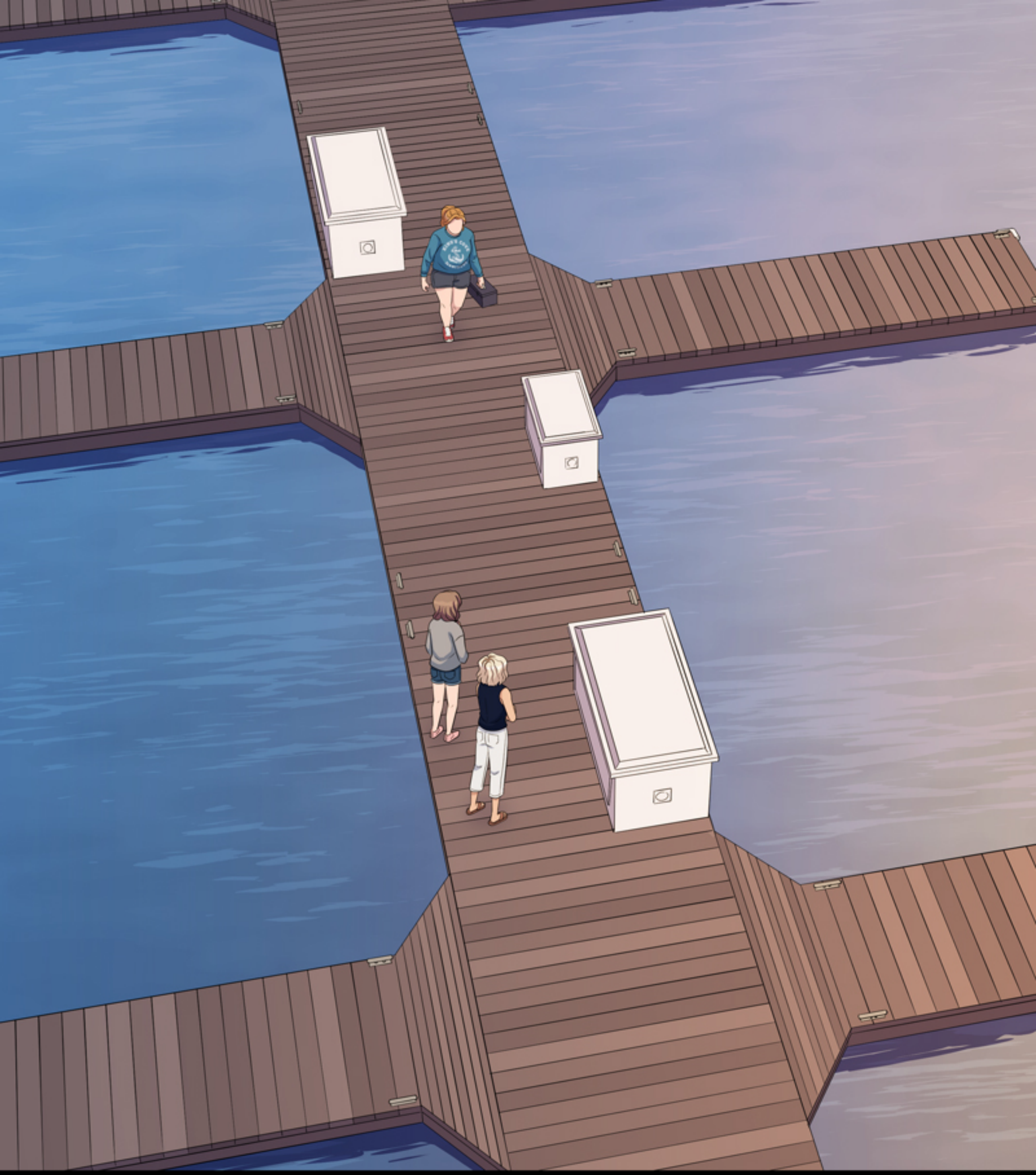


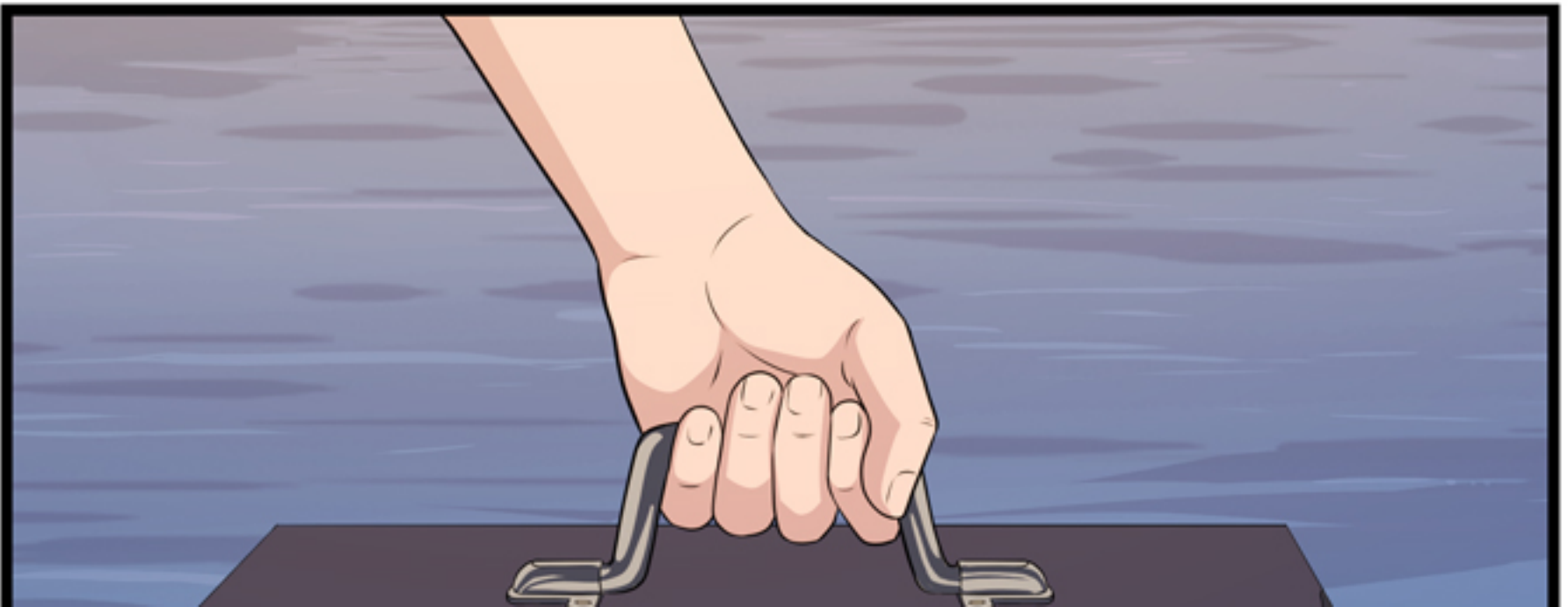
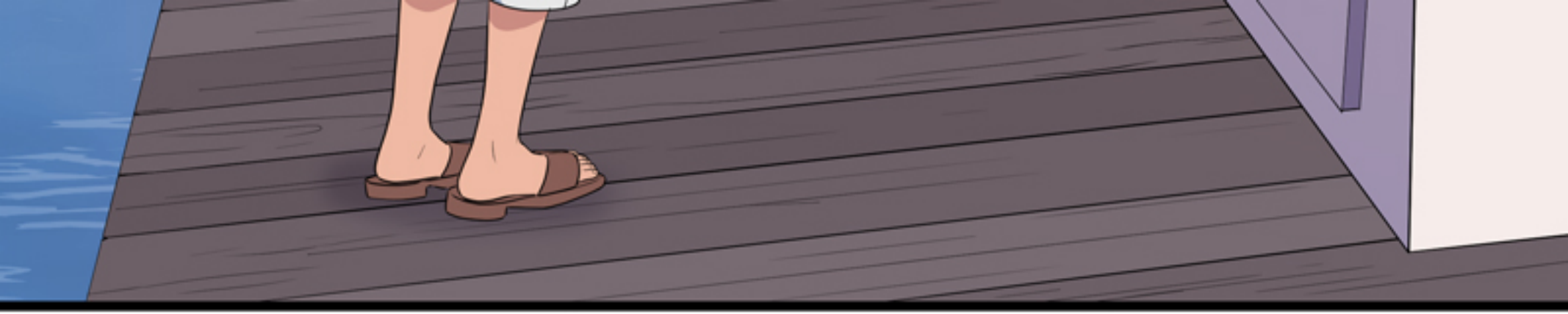


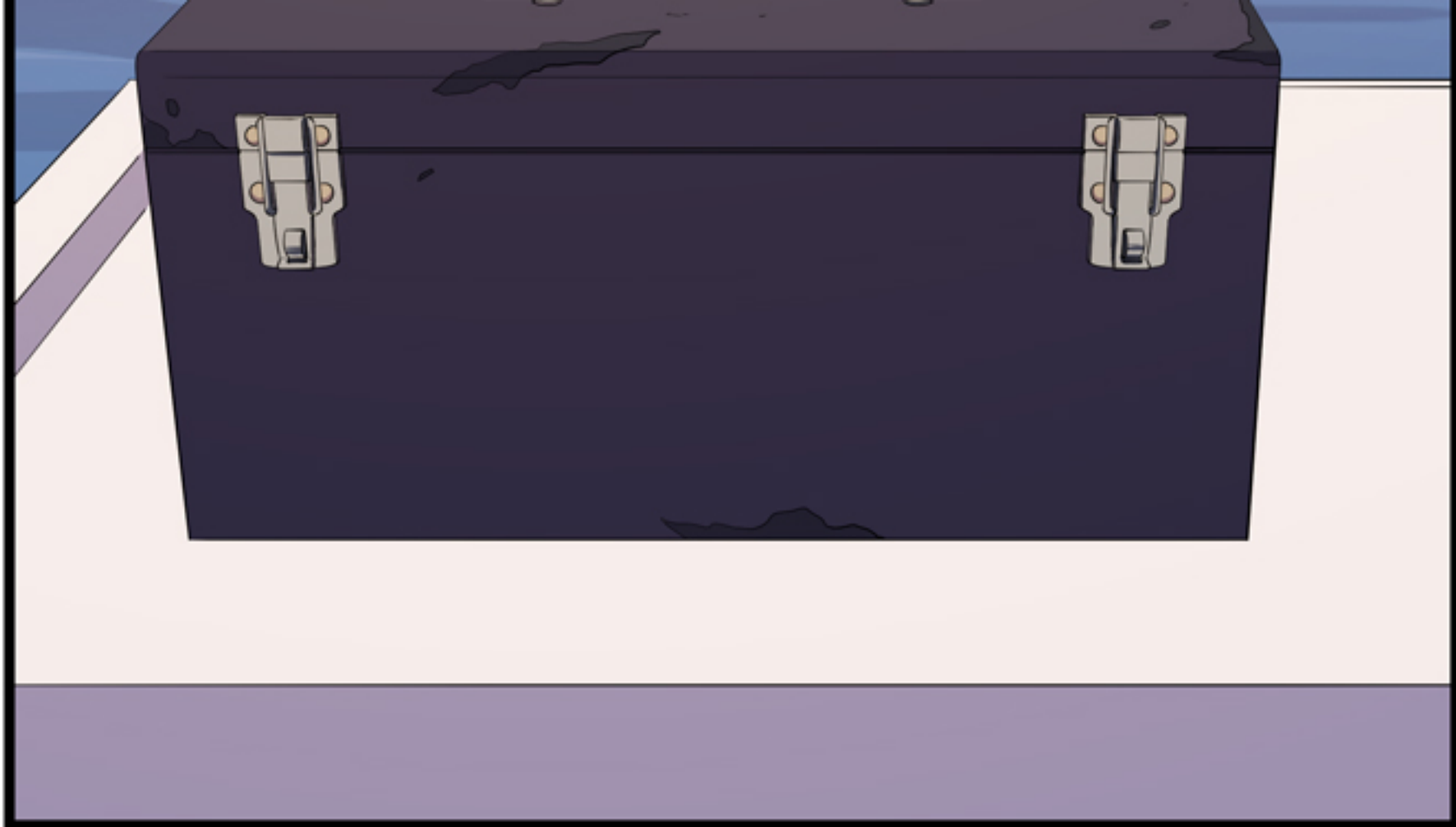


I FOUND
THIS STASHED IN THE
WHEELHOUSE.

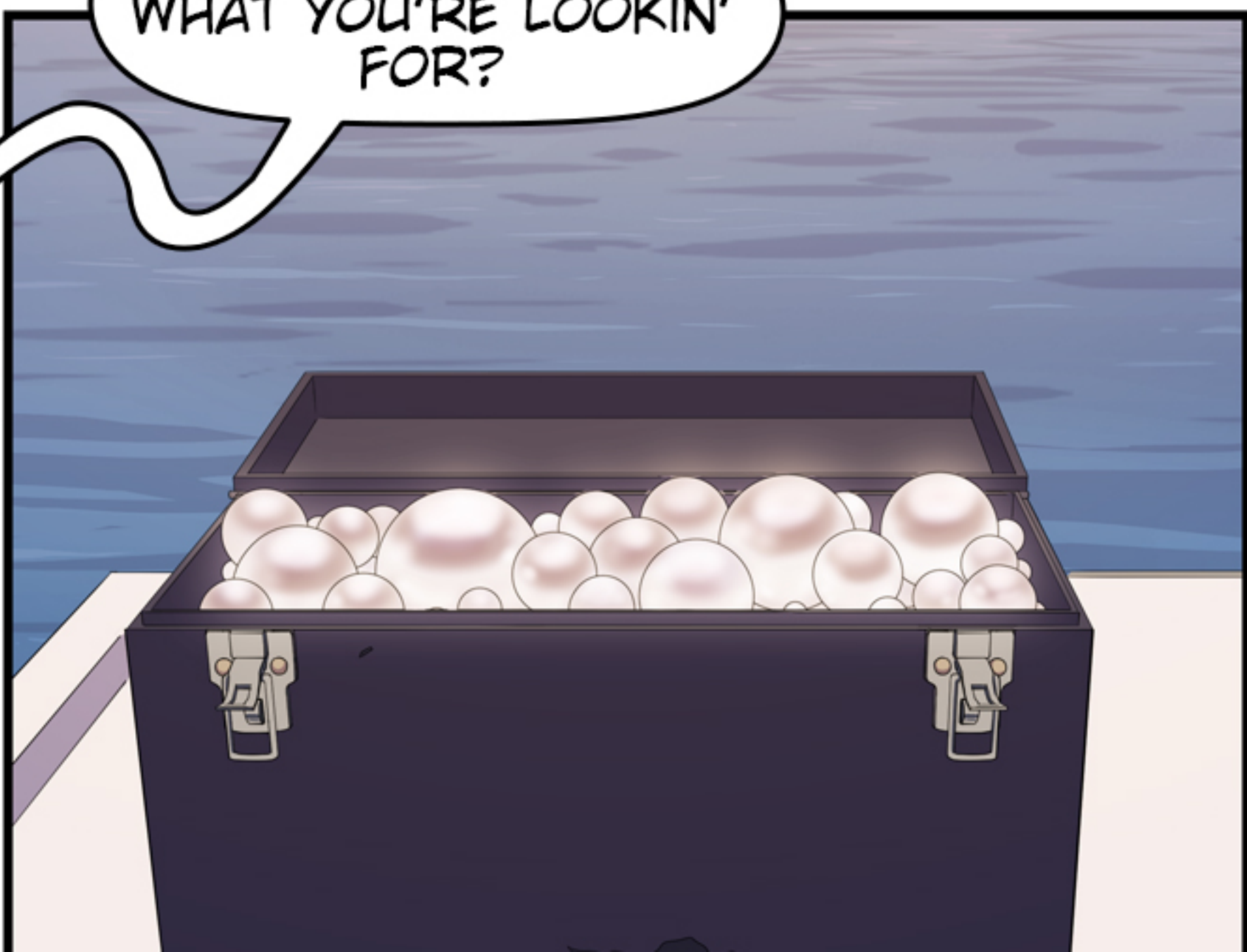
Dock Space 555-189-4529

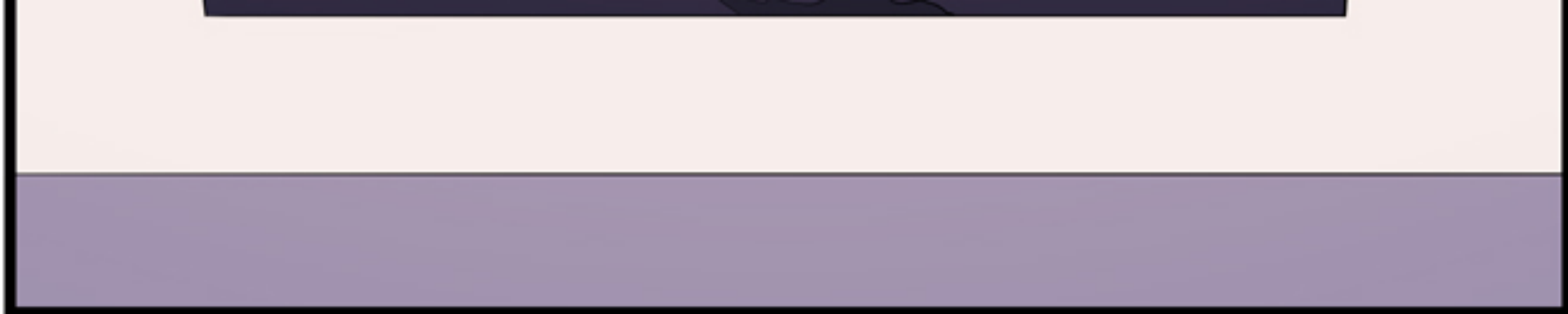
KING'S COVE
MARINERS





ARE THESE
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKIN'
FOR?

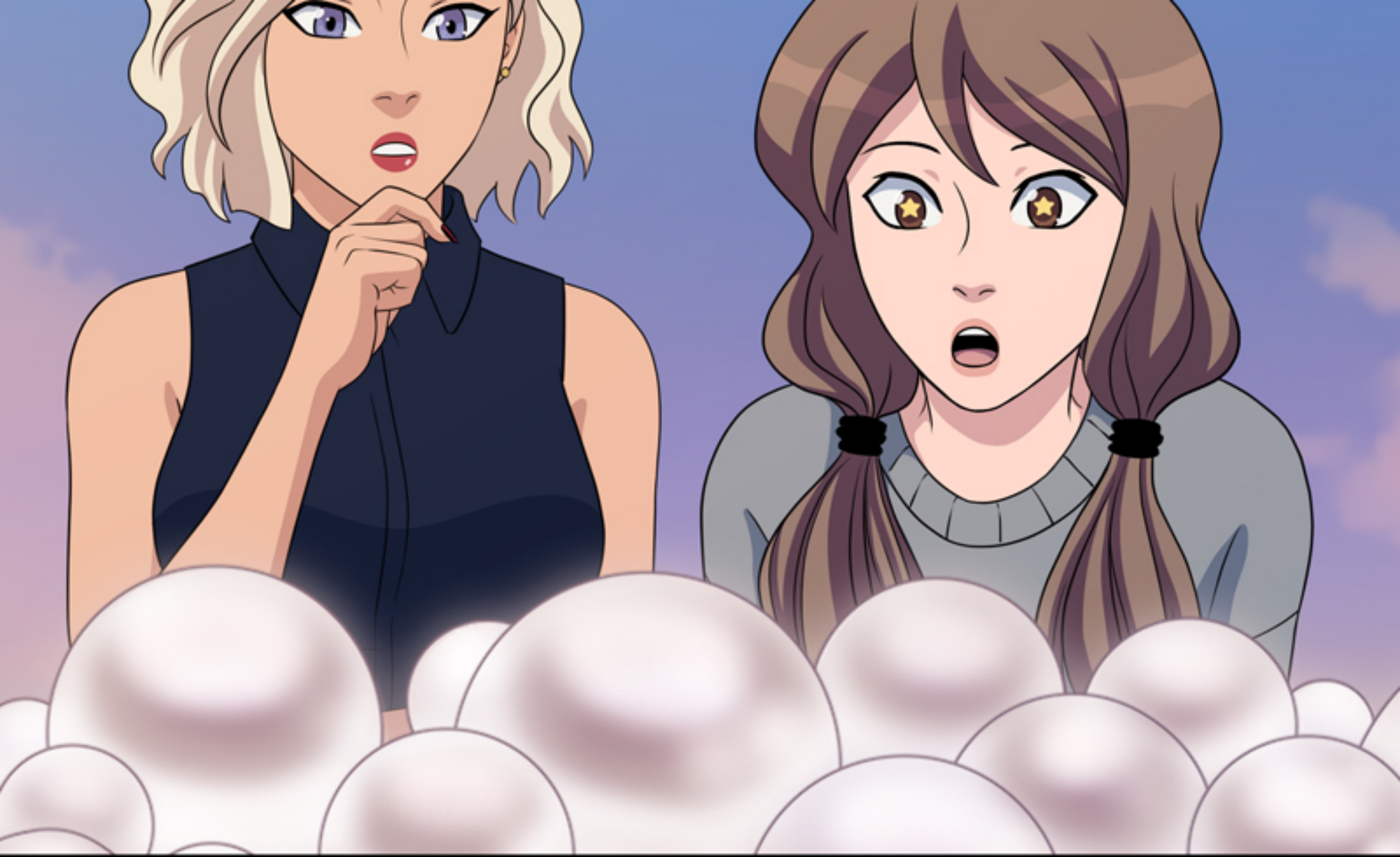


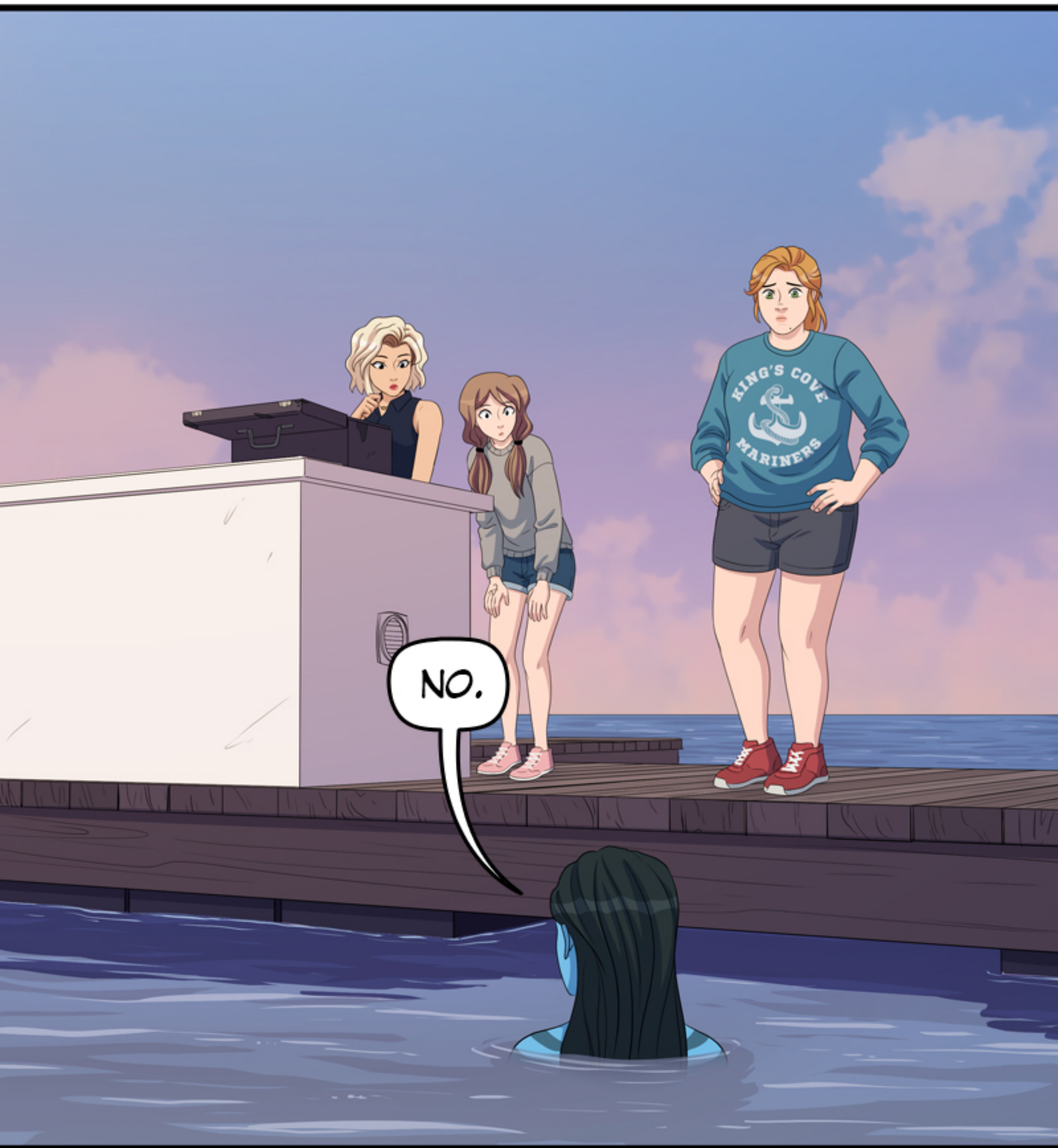


ALL THIS
OVER SOME
PEARLS?



WHOA.





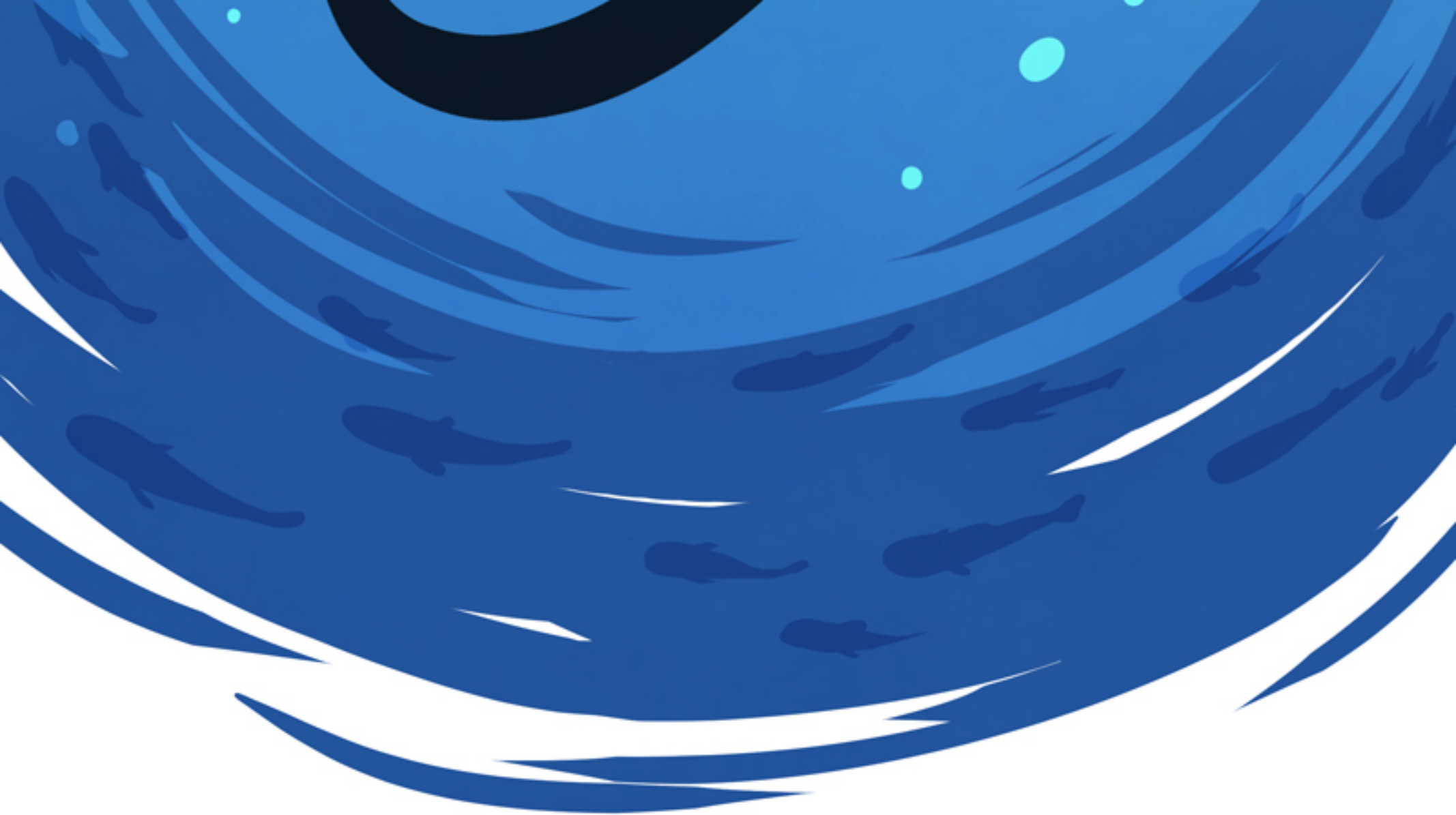
OVER
OUR FUTURE
SISTERS.



"THESE PEARLS
ARE THE SEEDS
AROUND WHICH NEW
MERMAIDS FORM."

"THEY'RE MEANT TO
STAY ON THE SEA FLOOR,
ABSORBING THE ESSENCE
AND THE ENERGY OF THE
OCEAN."

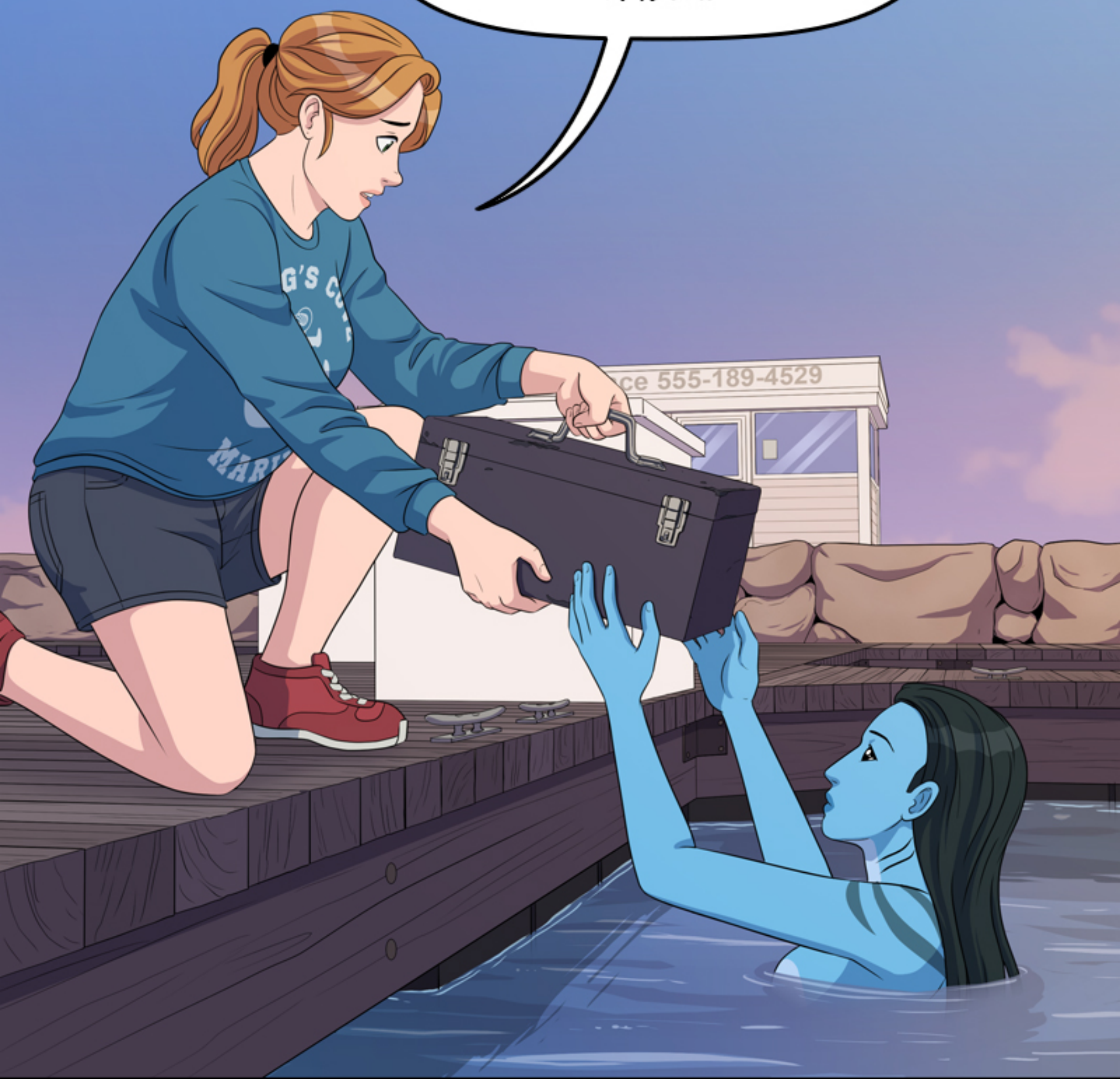




"BUT YOUR MEN
CAME AND HARVESTED
THEM."

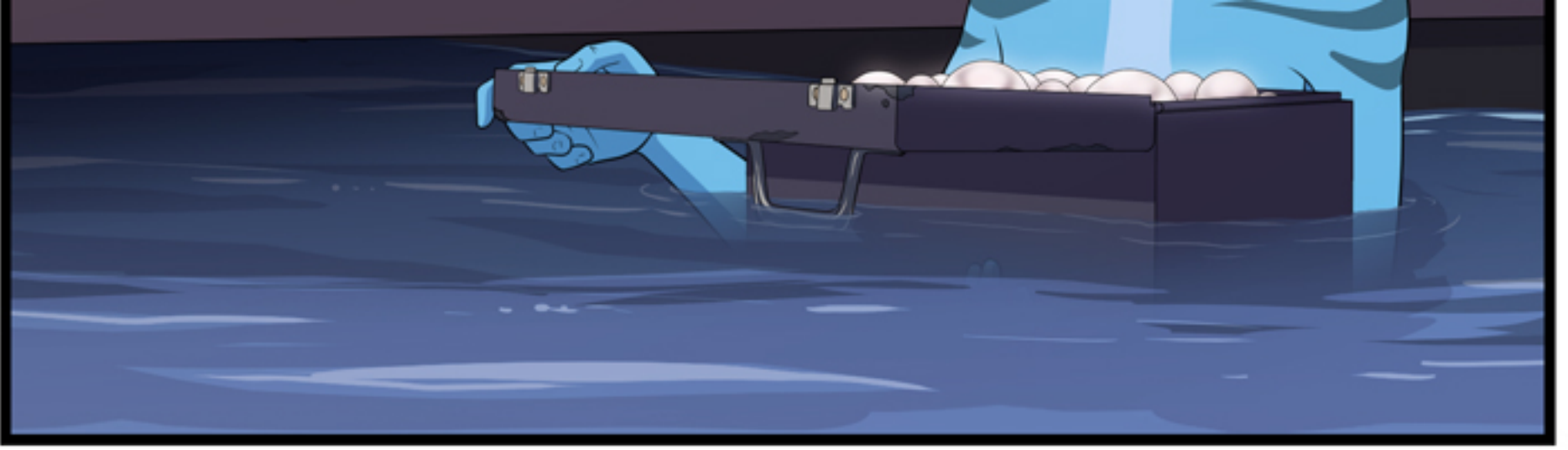
I'M SURE
STEVEN AND FRANCIS

STEVEN AND FRANCIS
DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT
THEY WERE DOIN', AND IF
THEY WERE IN THEIR RIGHT
MINDS, THEY'D BE REALLY
SORRY ABOUT TAKIN'
THEM.



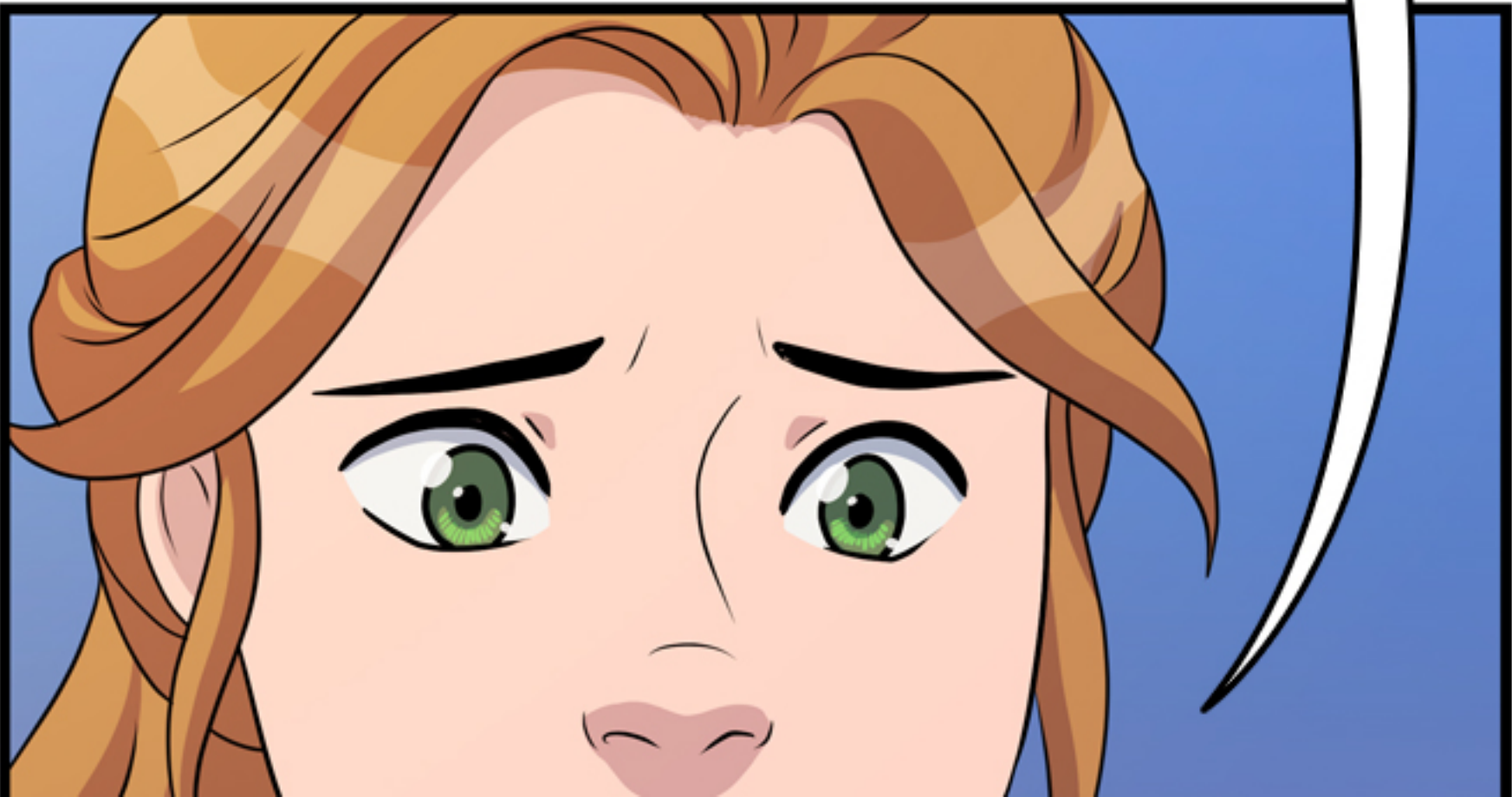
YOU'VE GOT
THEM BACK, THOUGH,
AND I'LL LET THE GUYS --
LET THE **WHOLE TOWN**
KNOW THAT PEARLS
ARE OFF LIMITS.





SO DO
YOU THINK YOU
COULD LIFT WHATEVER
SPELL YOU'VE GOT
THEM UNDER?

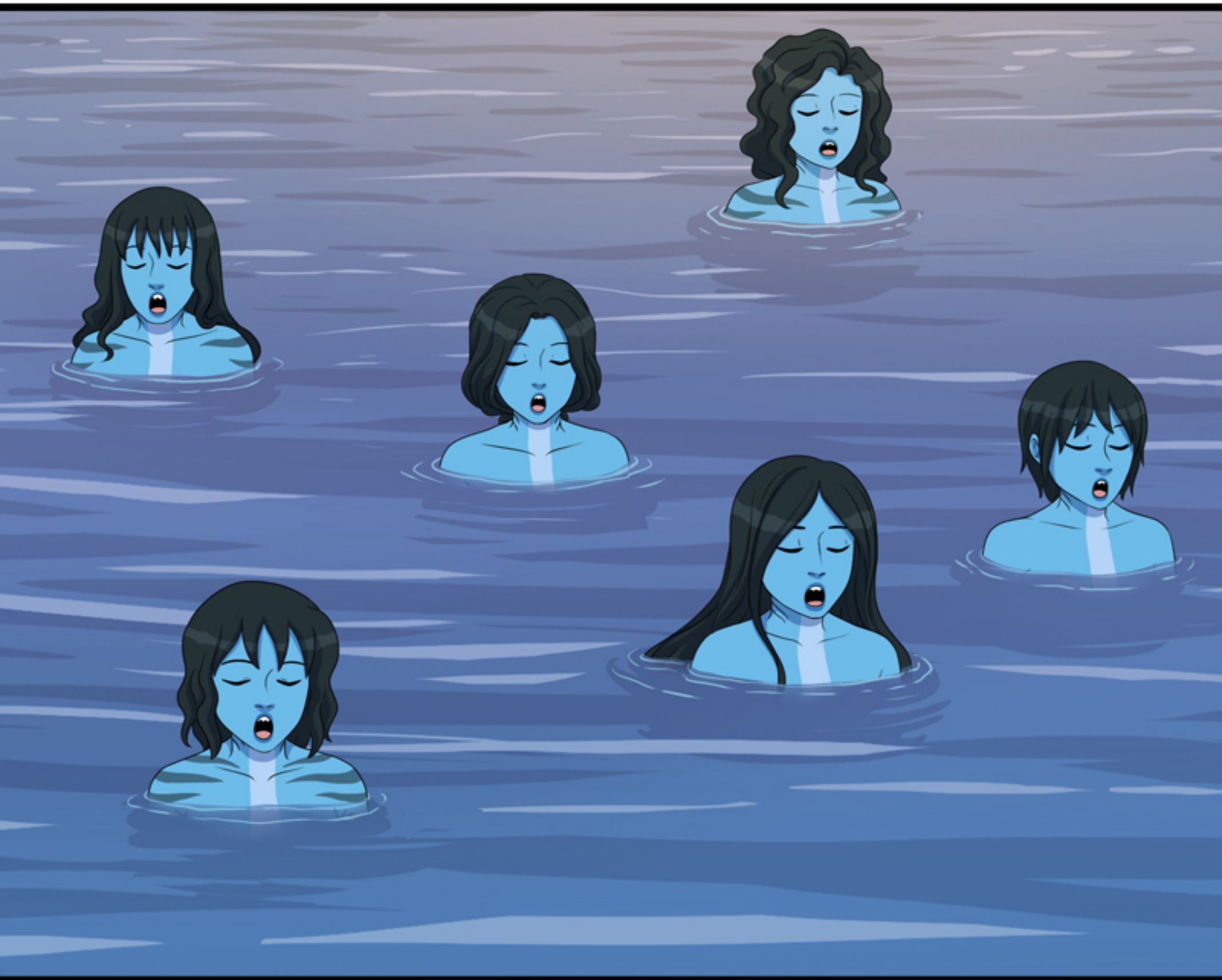
PLEASE?

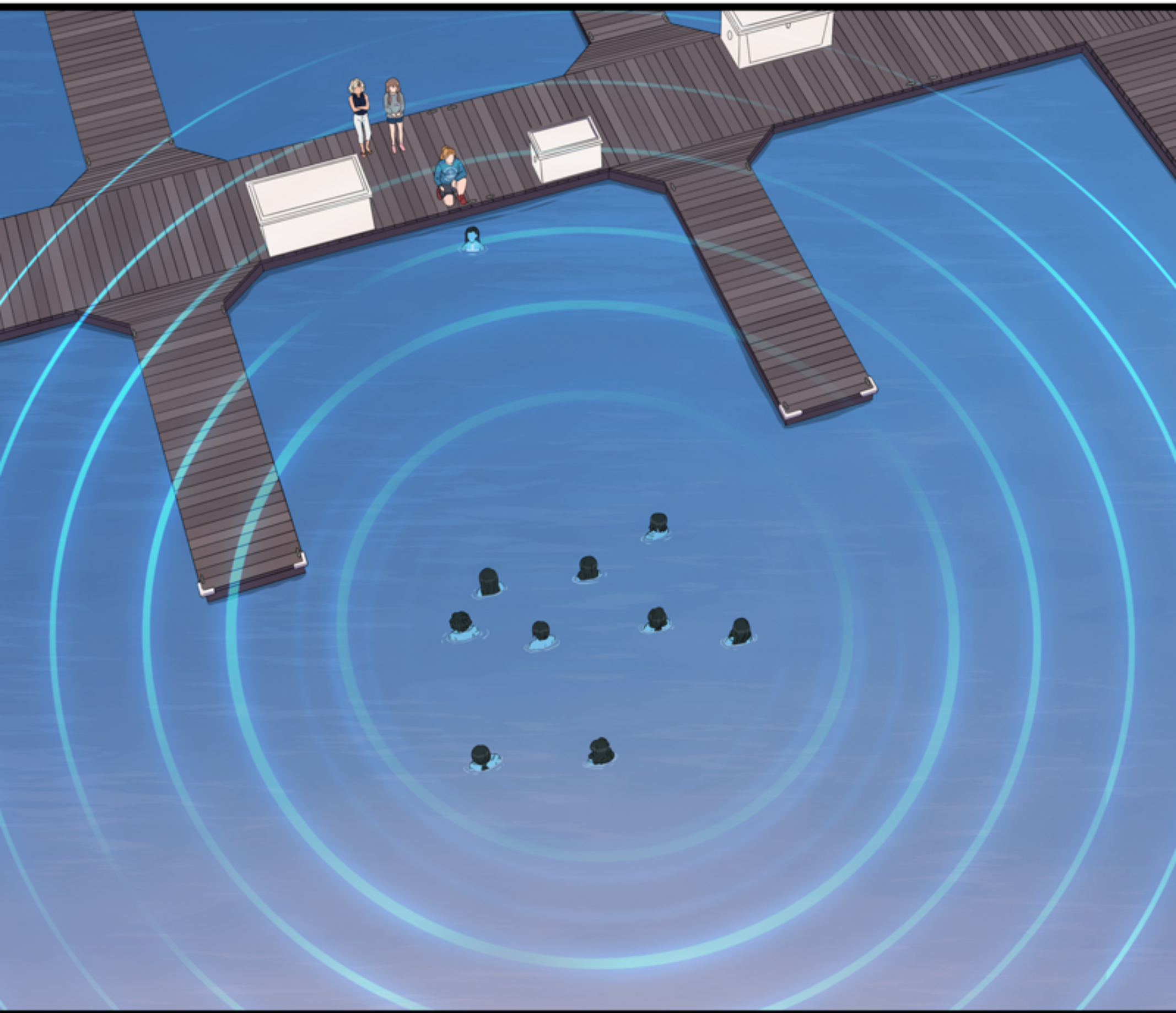






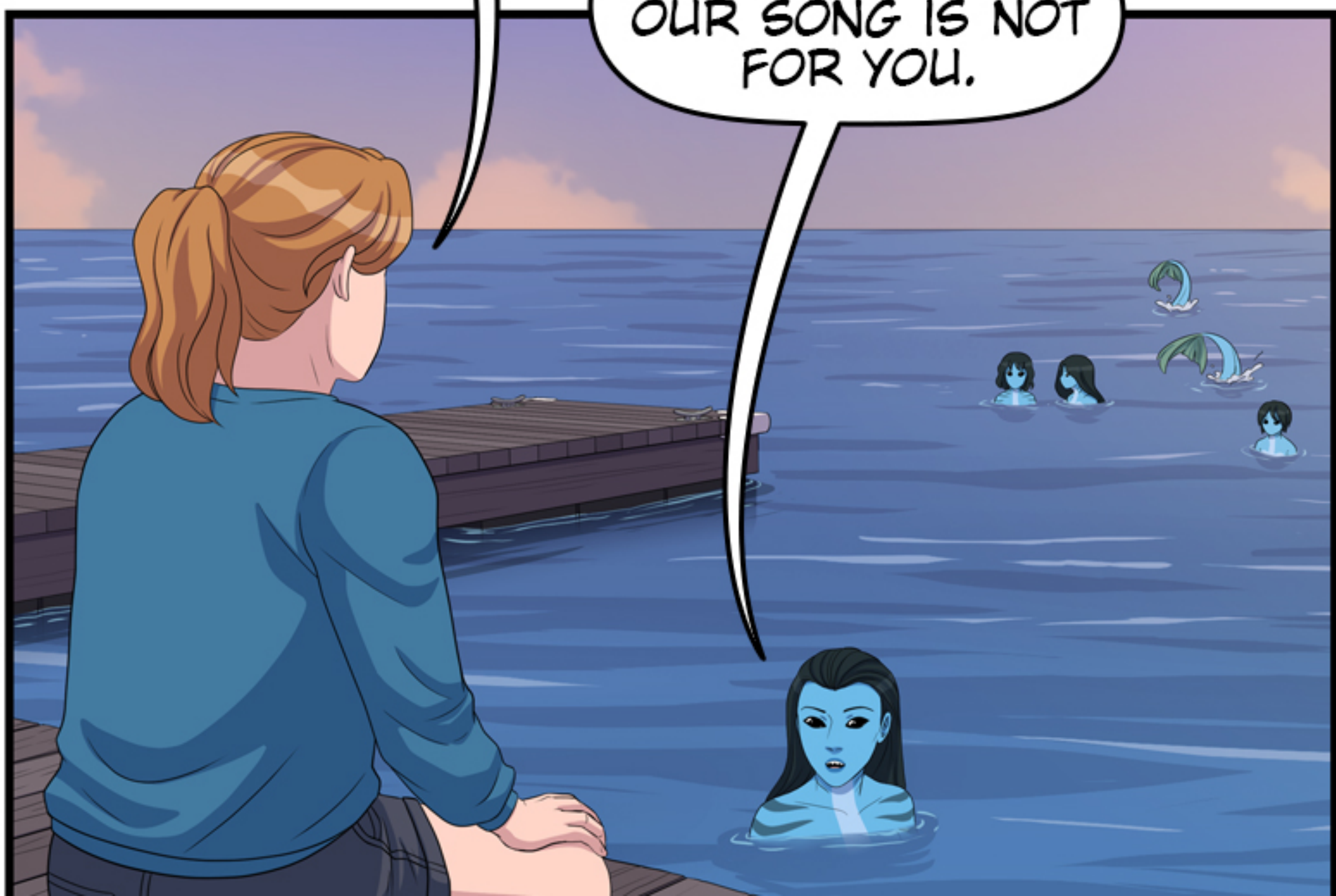






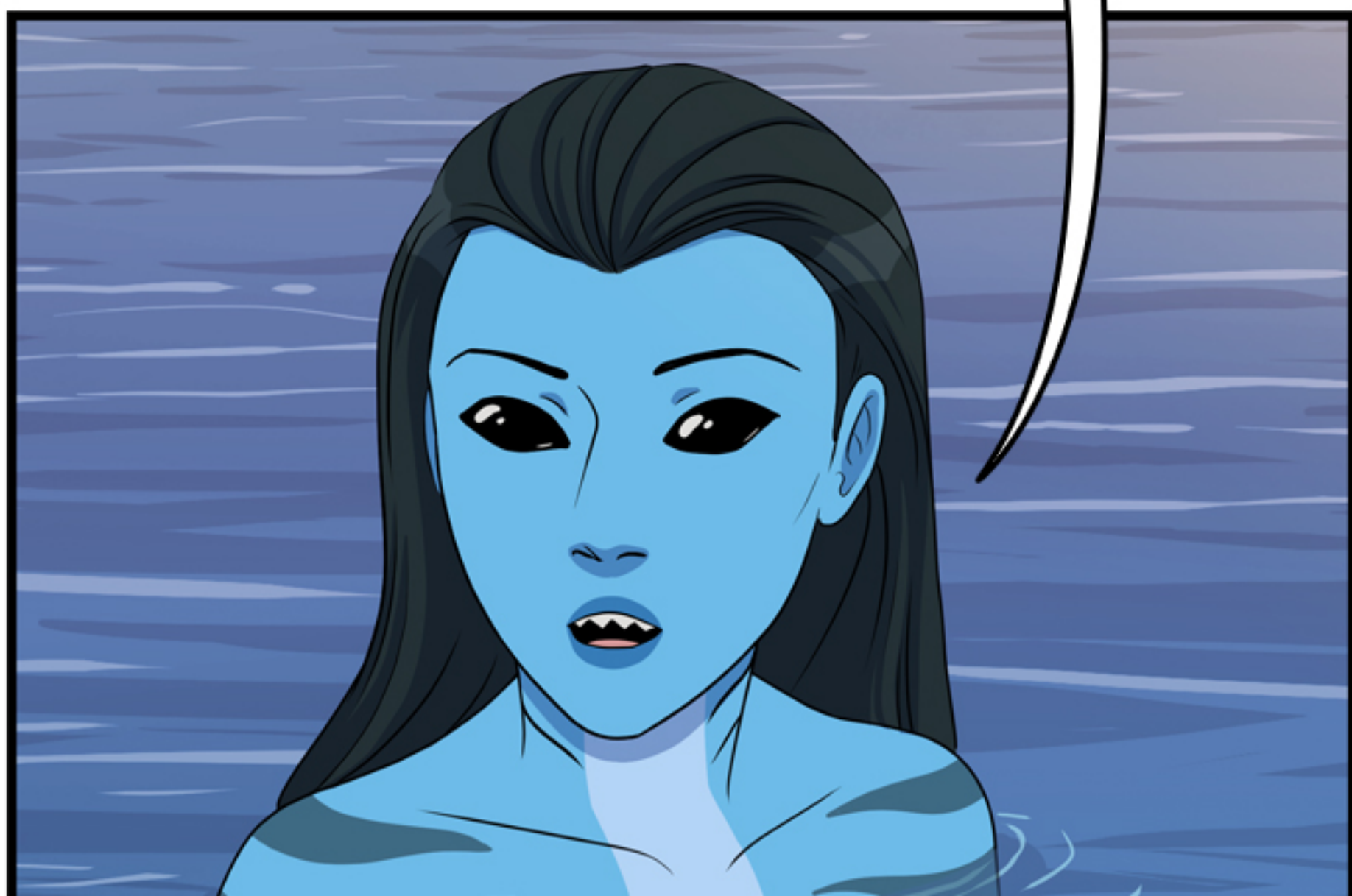
I DIDN'T HEAR
ANYTHING.

BECAUSE
OUR SONG IS NOT
FOR YOU.



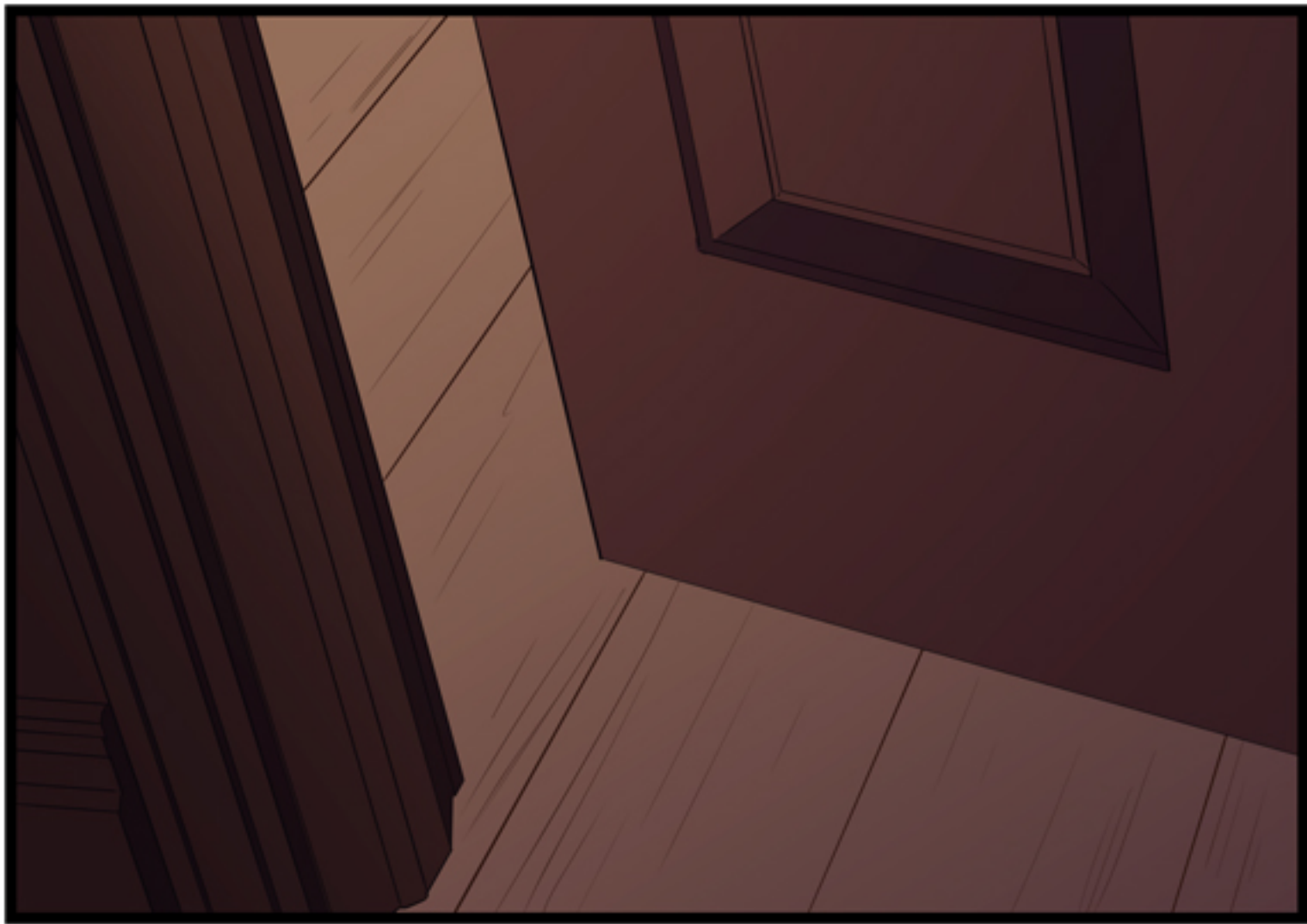


GO TO YOUR
MEN. YOU WILL
FIND WE ARE TRUE
TO OUR WORD.



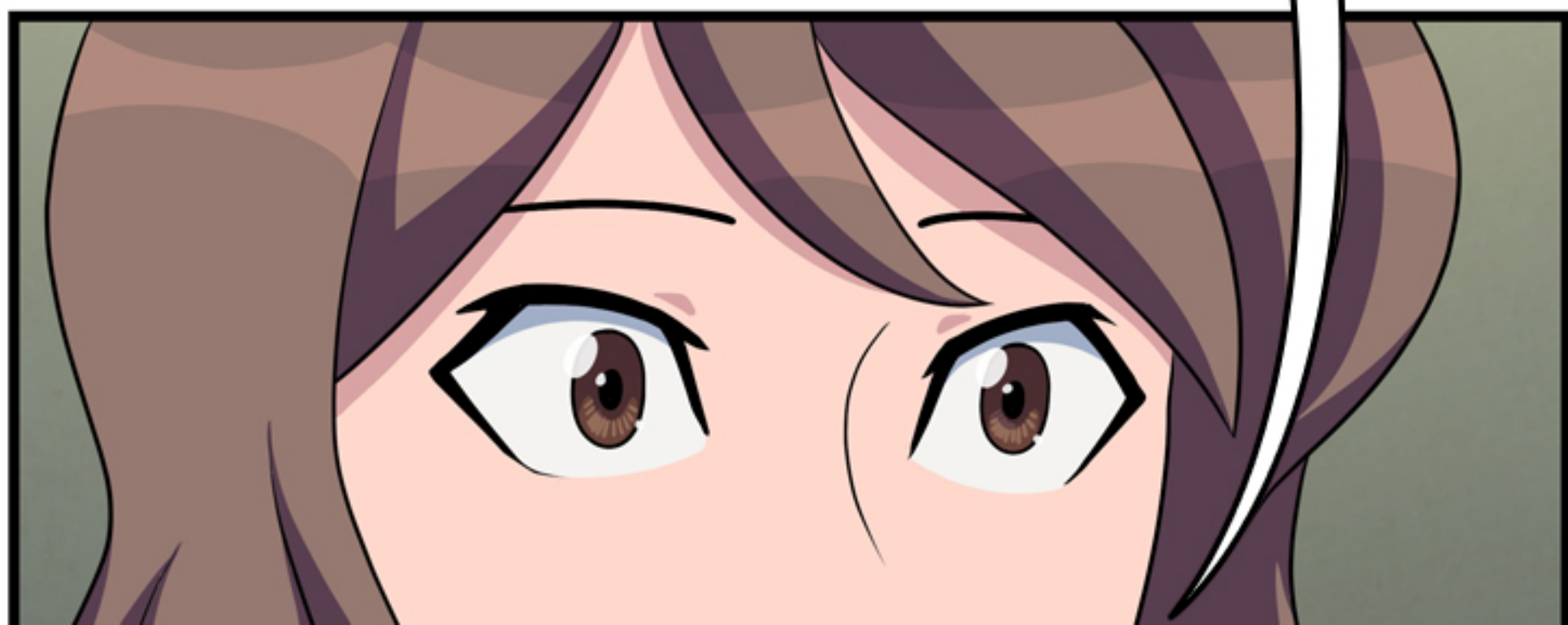


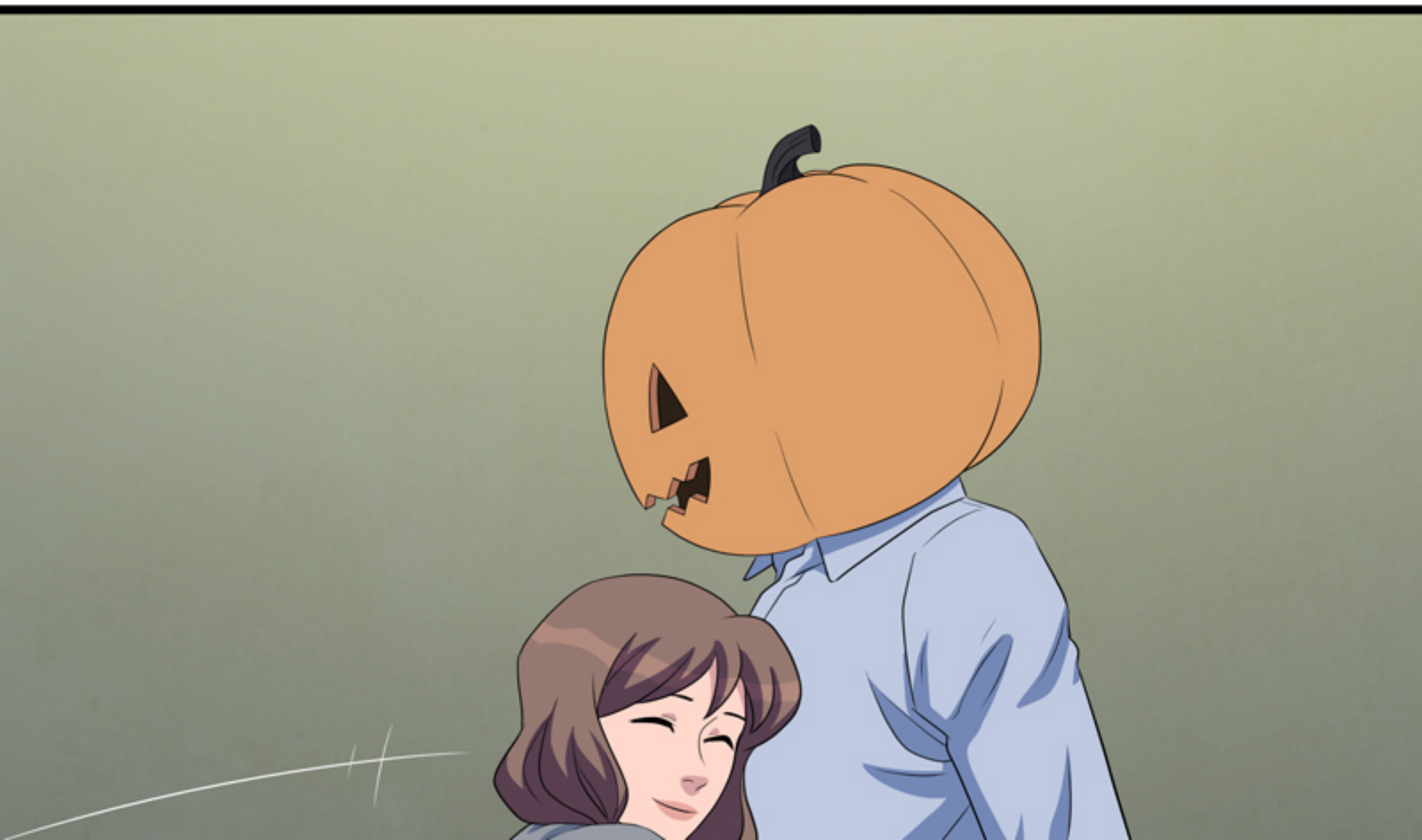


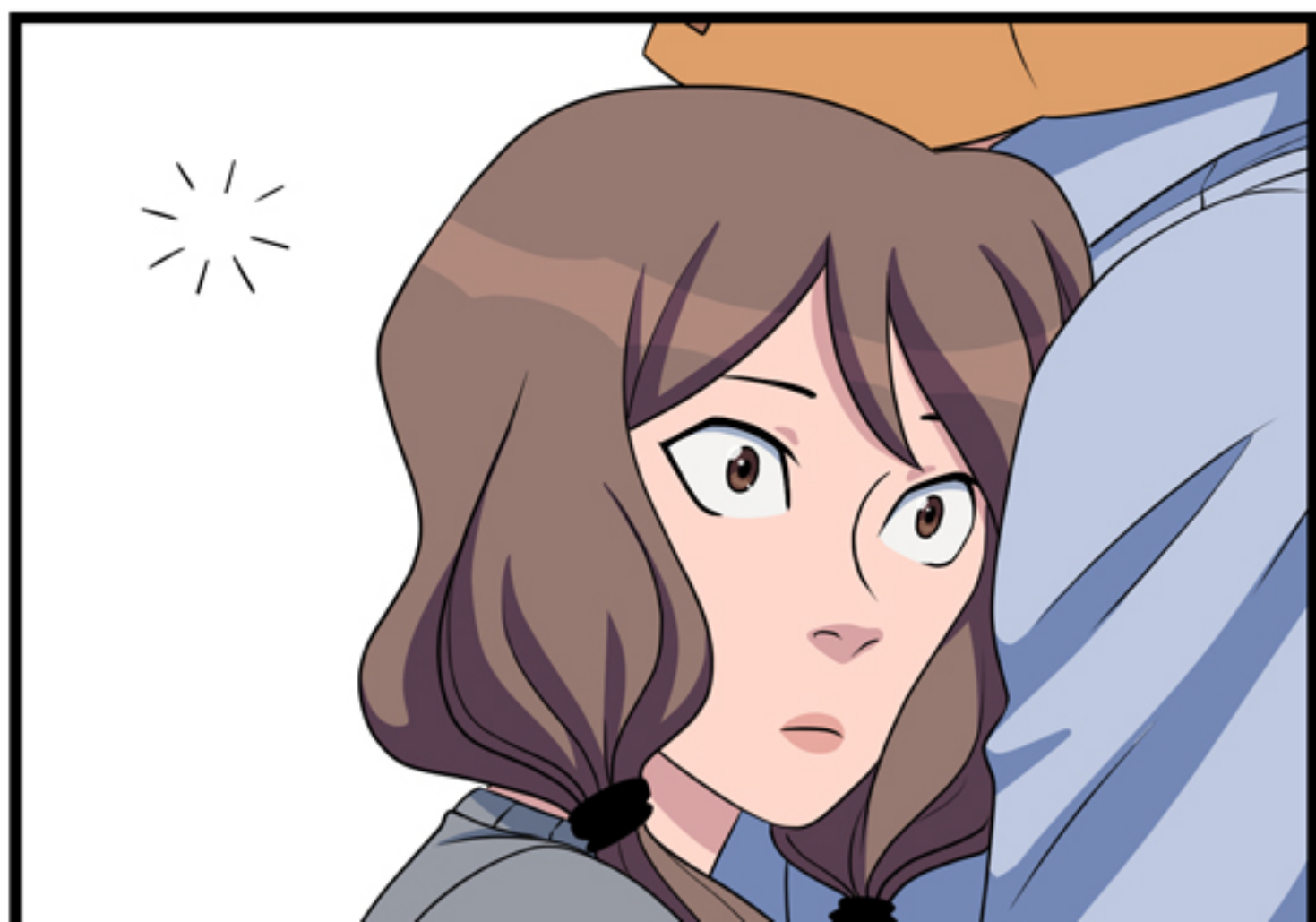




ICHABOD!



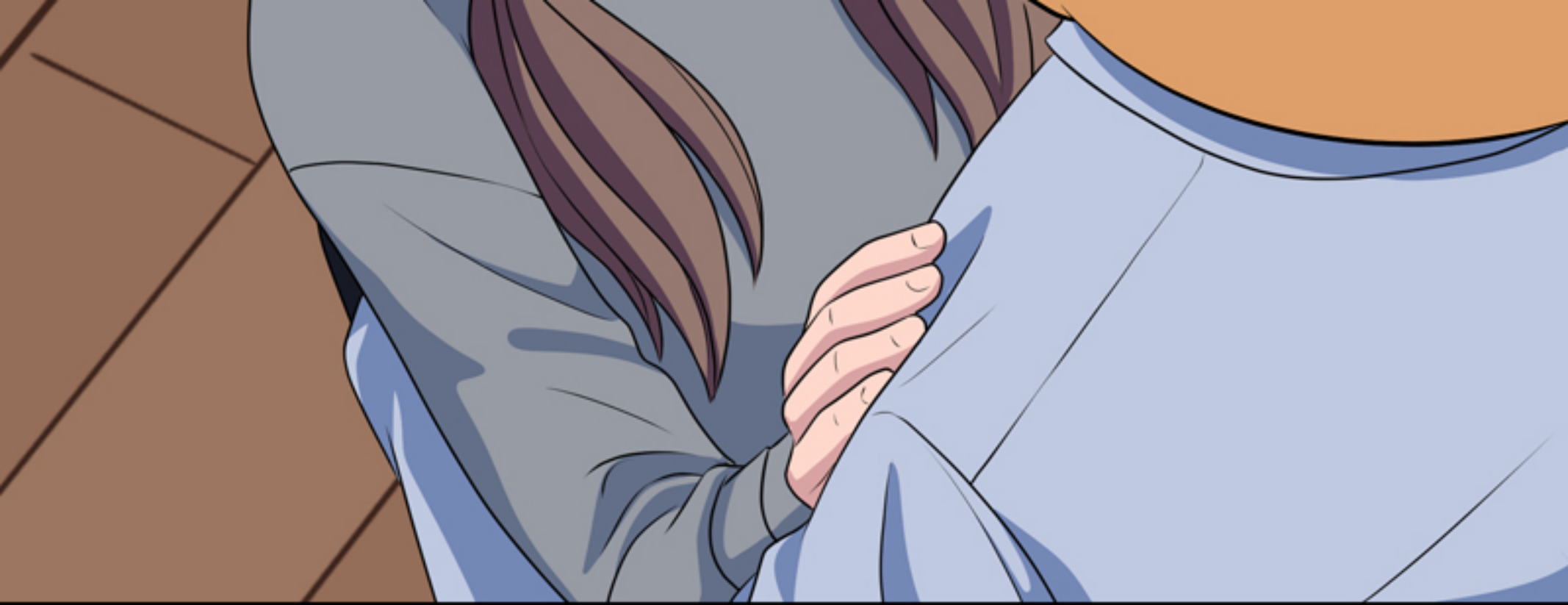






ARE YOU...
BACK?

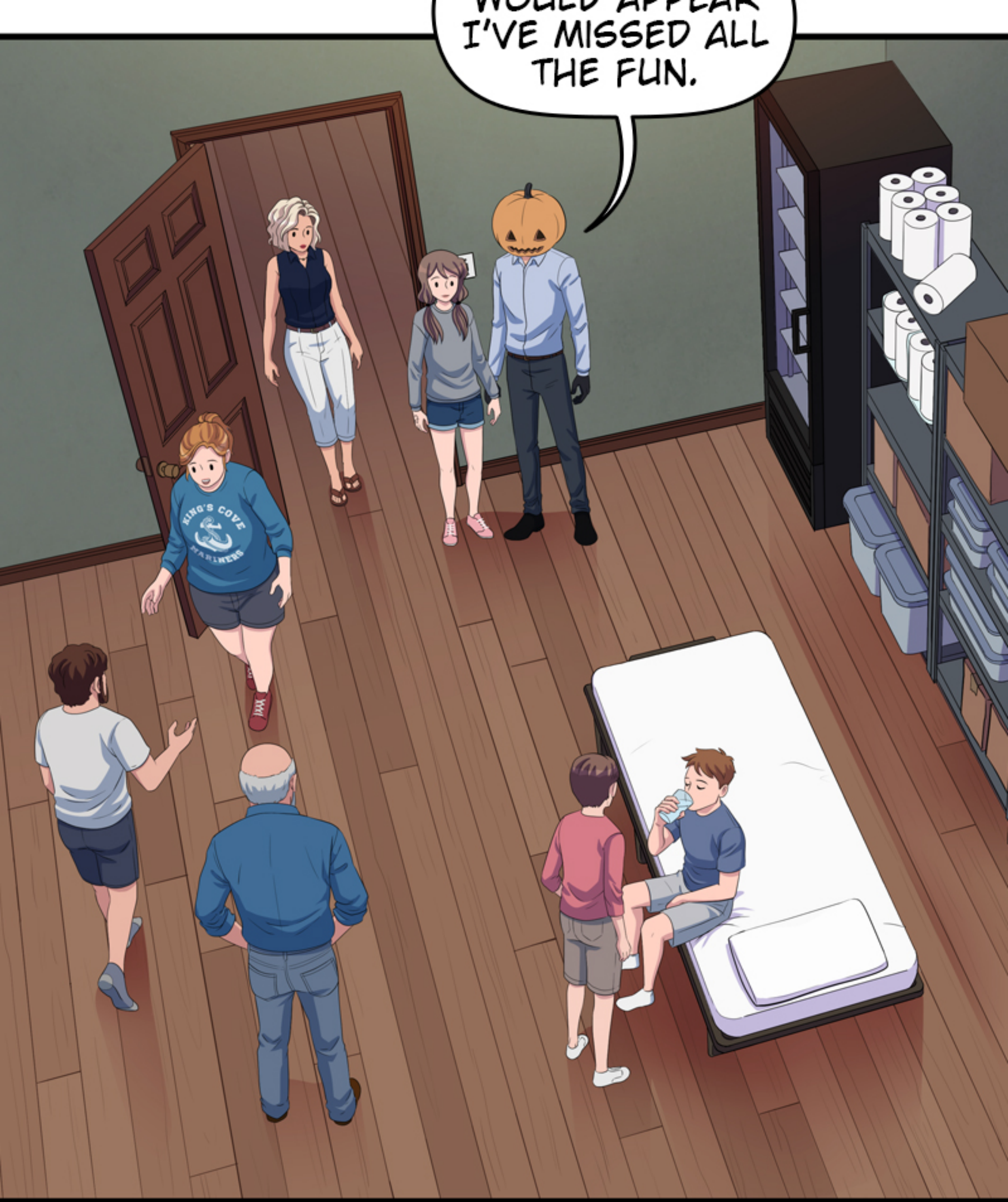






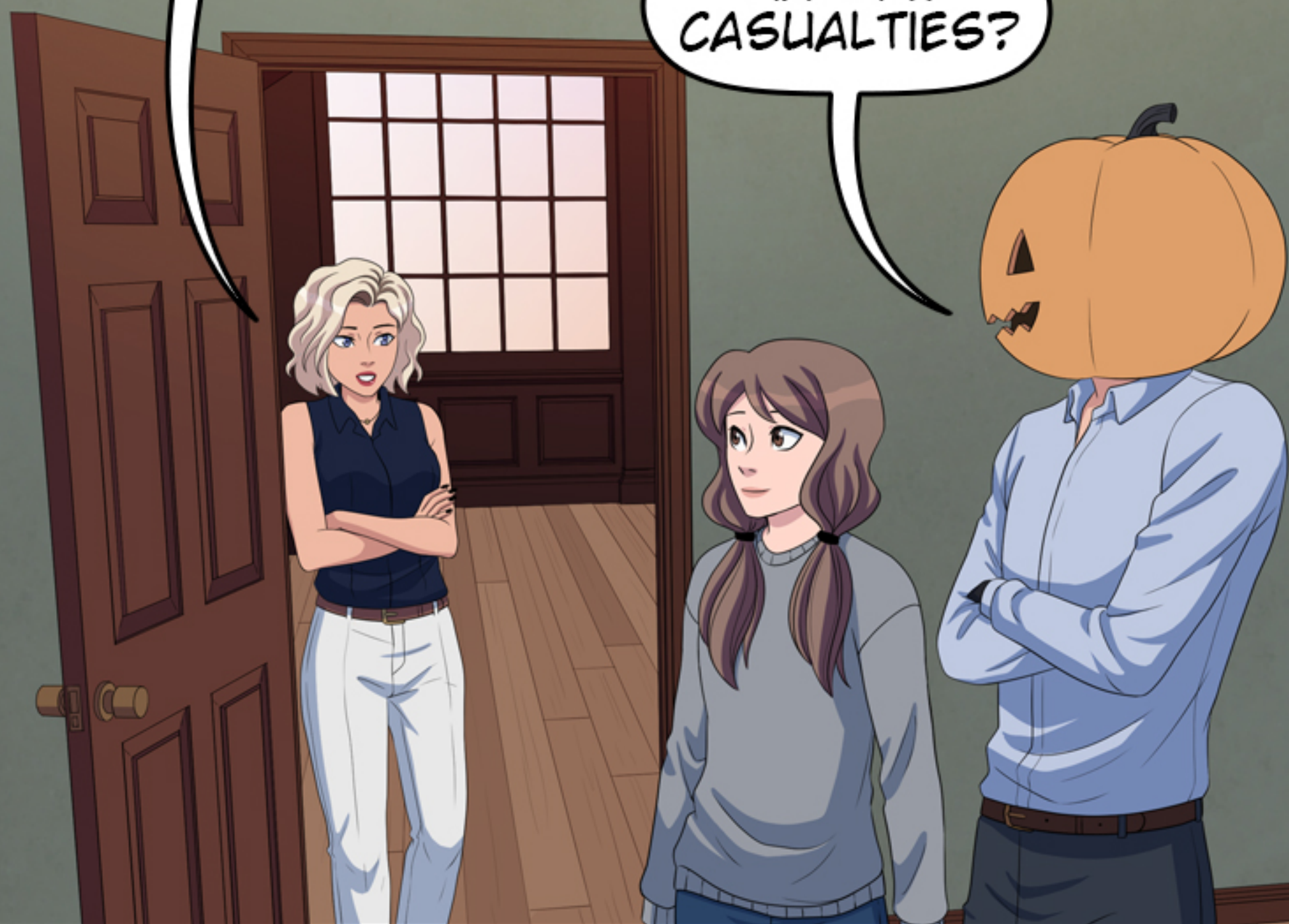
AND IT
WOULD APPEAR

WOULD APPEAR
I'VE MISSED ALL
THE FUN.



MERMAIDS.

AH. ANY
CASUALTIES?



NONE. IT GOT
A LITTLE HAIRY
AT TIMES, BUT THEY
WERE...SURPRISINGLY
TRUSTWORTHY.







A sign with a light blue background and a thin black border, centered on a yellow rectangular background. The sign is flanked by dark blue vertical bars that resemble curtains. The text is in a dark blue, hand-drawn, sans-serif font.

WE'RE OPEN
COME ON IN!

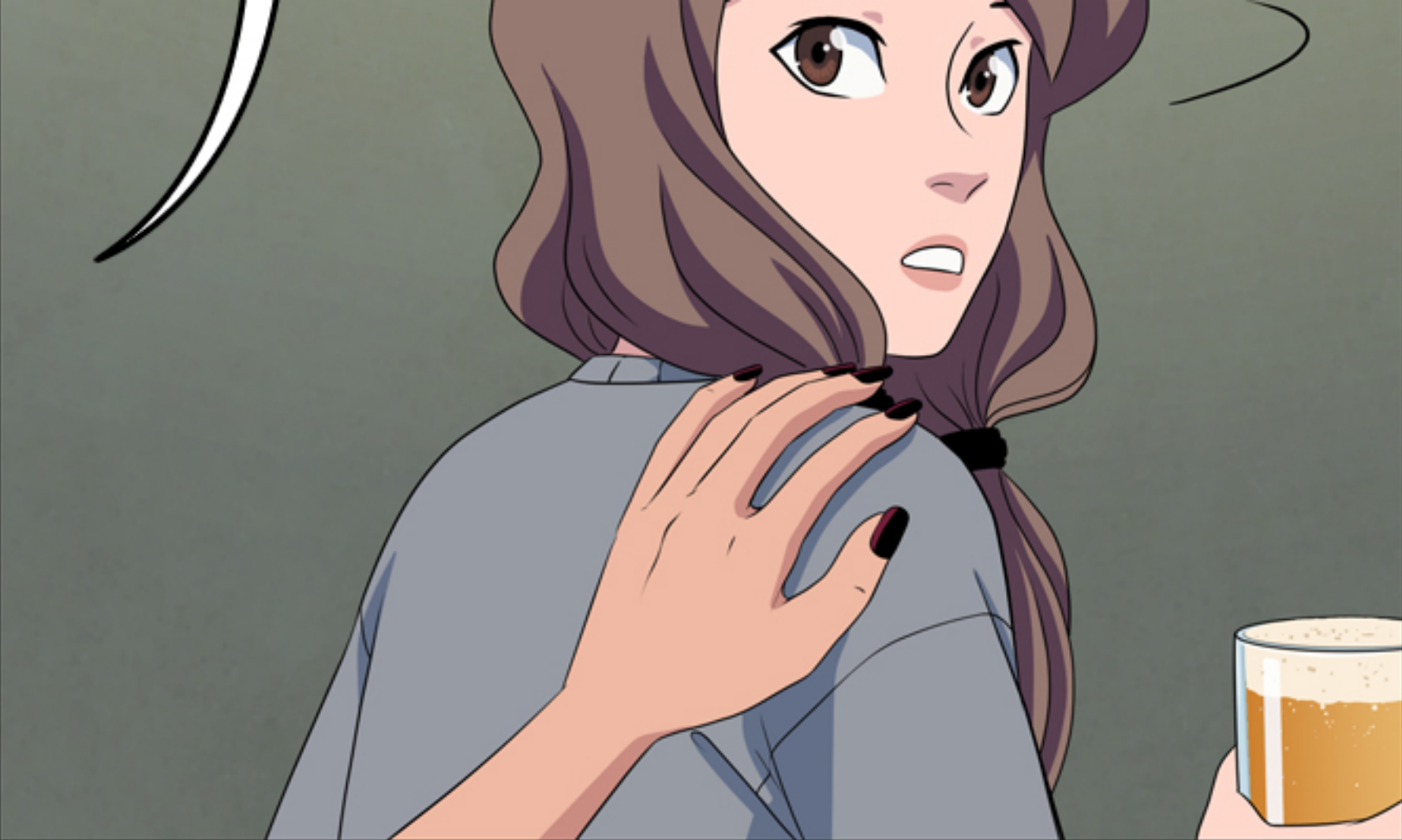




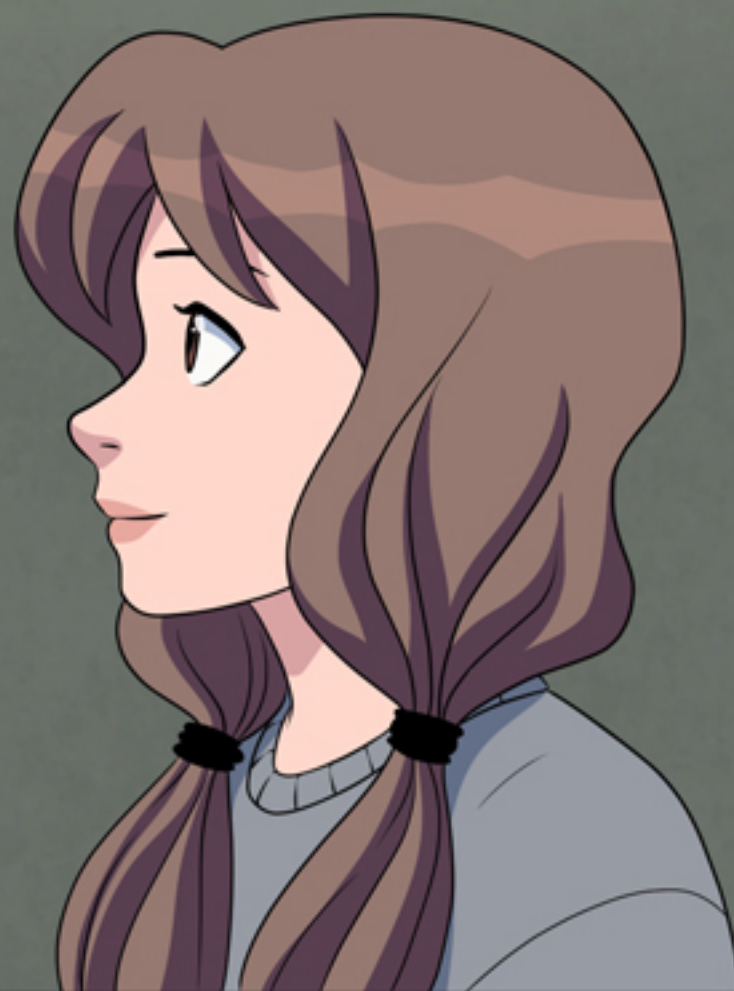


ELLIE?

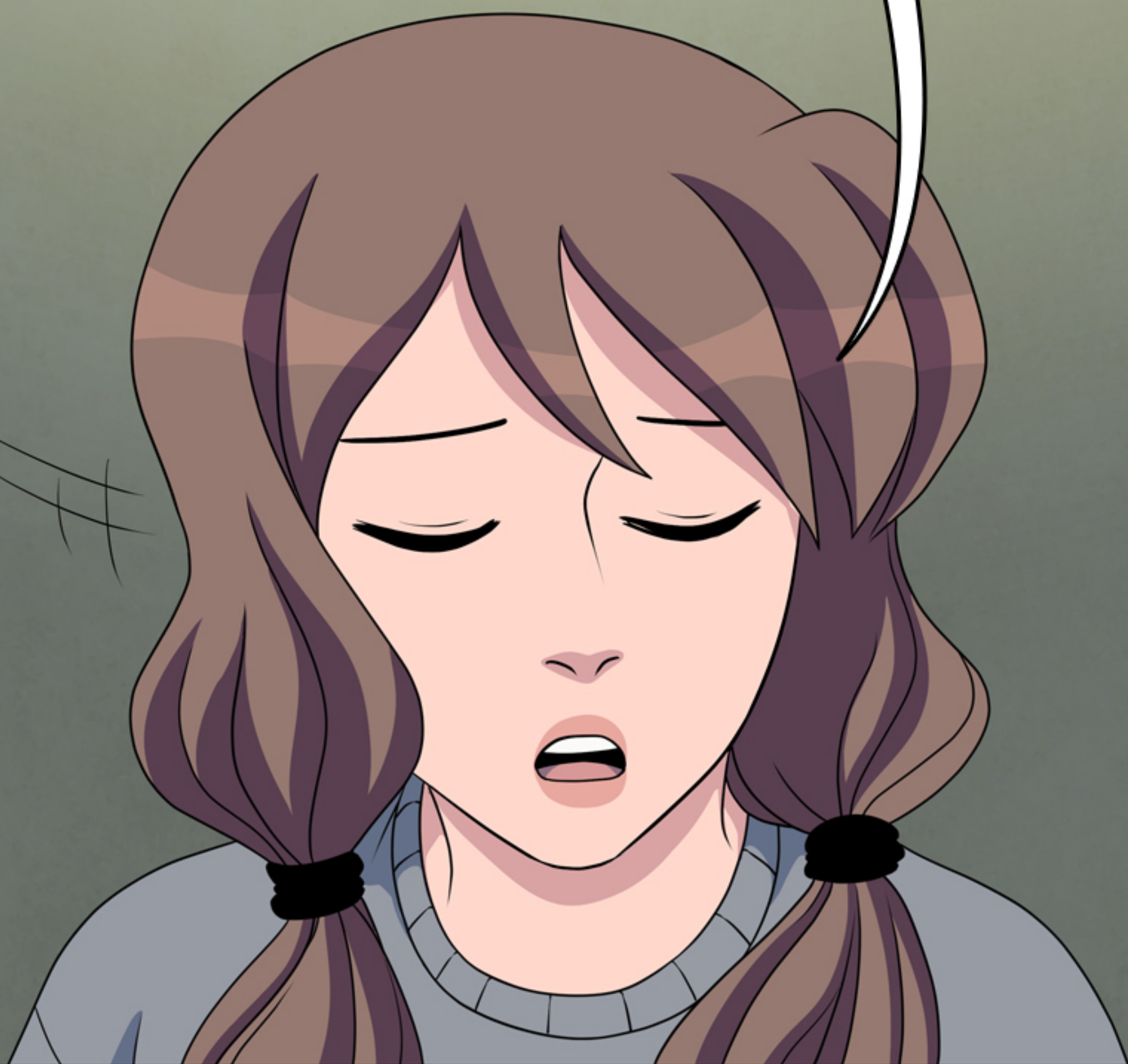




I'M SORRY
FOR WHAT I SAID
EARLIER. I SHOULD HAVE
BELIEVED YOU ABOUT
AMINA.



NO, YOU WERE
RIGHT. IT WORKED
OUT OK THIS TIME, BUT
I CAN'T AFFORD TO
BE SO NAIVE.





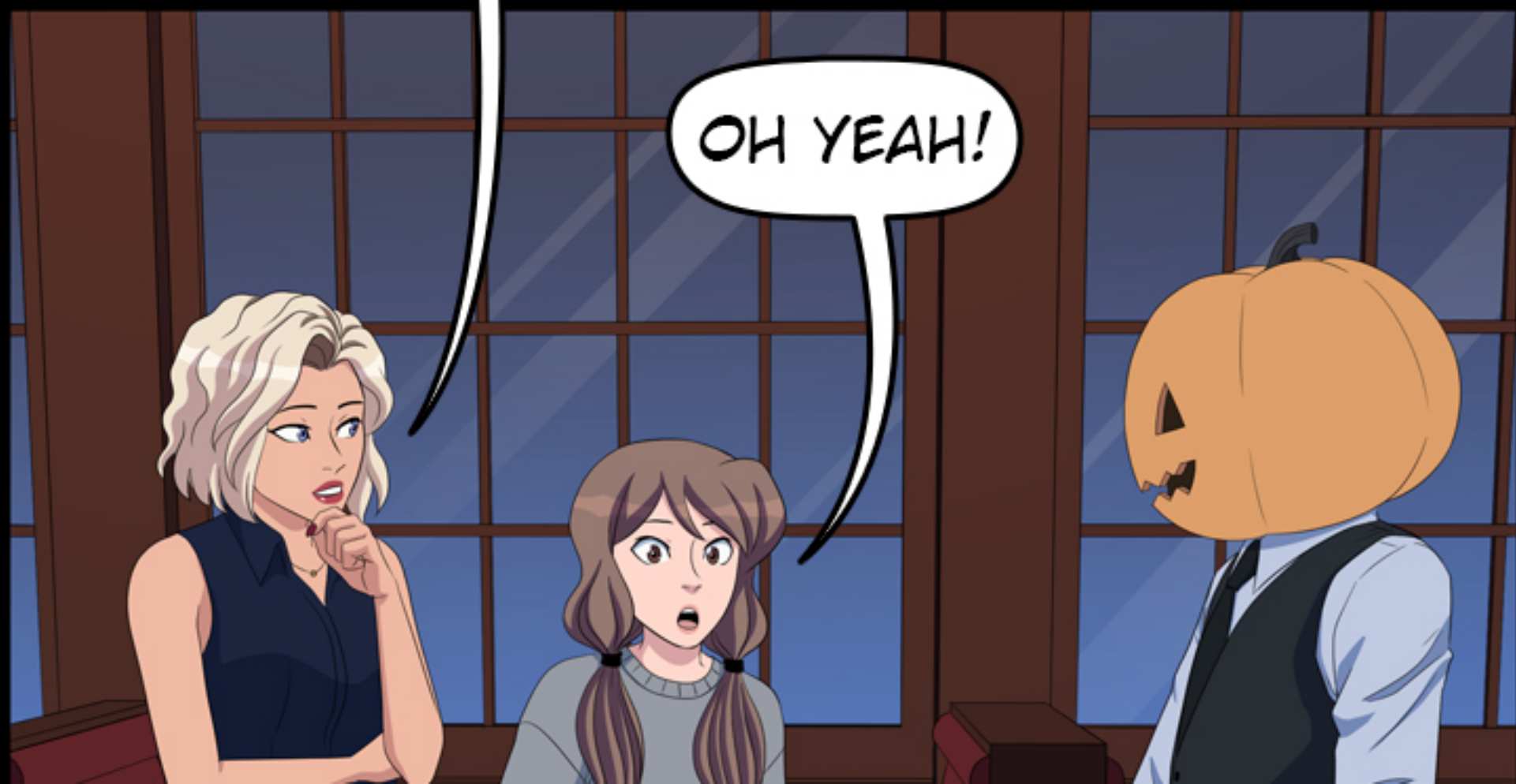
A comic panel set in a library at night. A young woman with brown hair in pigtails and a grey sweater looks surprised. Next to her is a man whose head is a carved jack-o'-lantern. He wears a blue shirt and a dark vest. A large speech bubble from him contains the text. On the left, the back of a person with long blonde hair is visible. The background features large windows and bookshelves.

HM. SOUNDS
LIKE I HAVE SOME
CATCHING UP
TO DO.



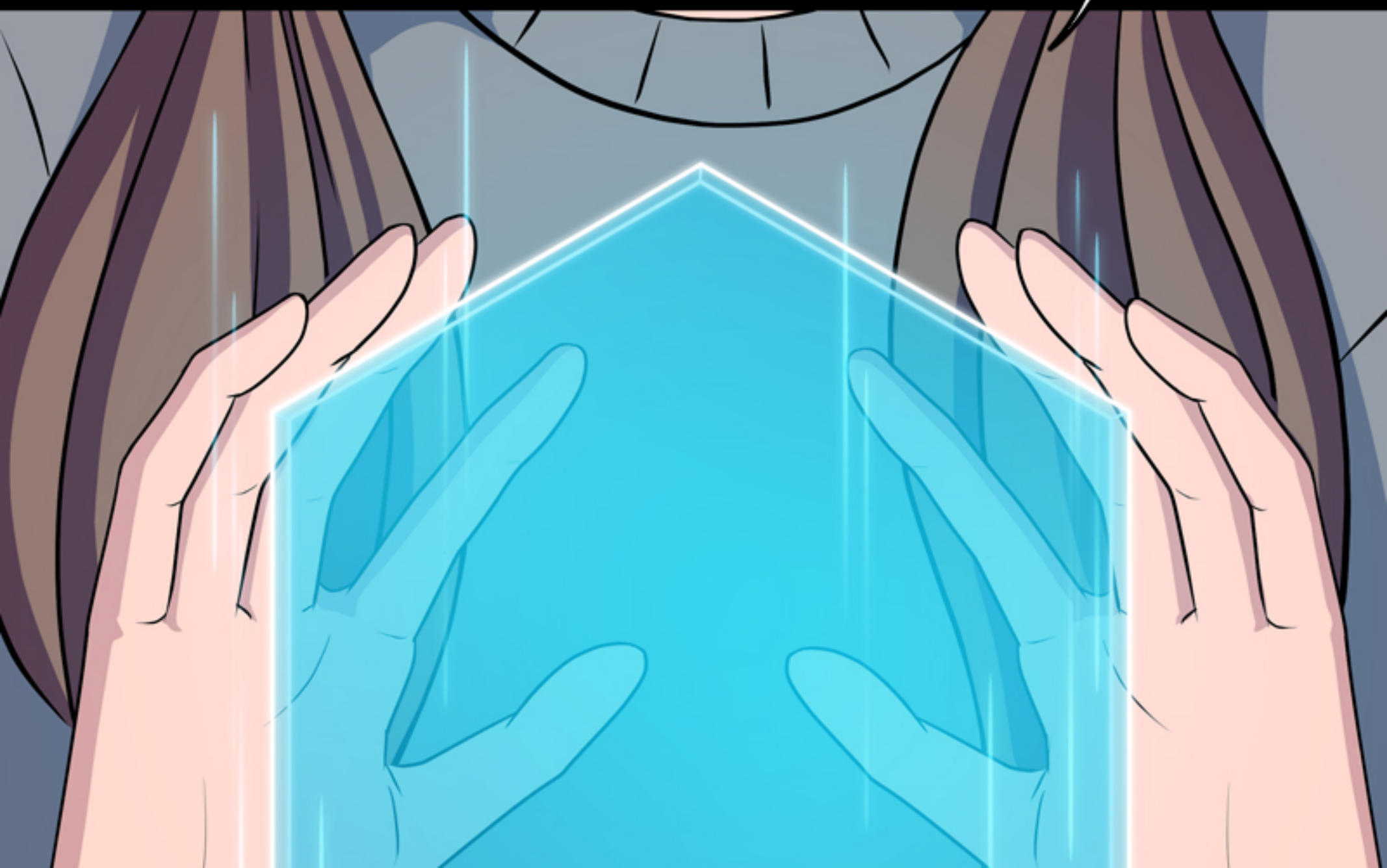
WELL, WE *DID*
HAVE A BIT OF A
BREAKTHROUGH
TODAY.

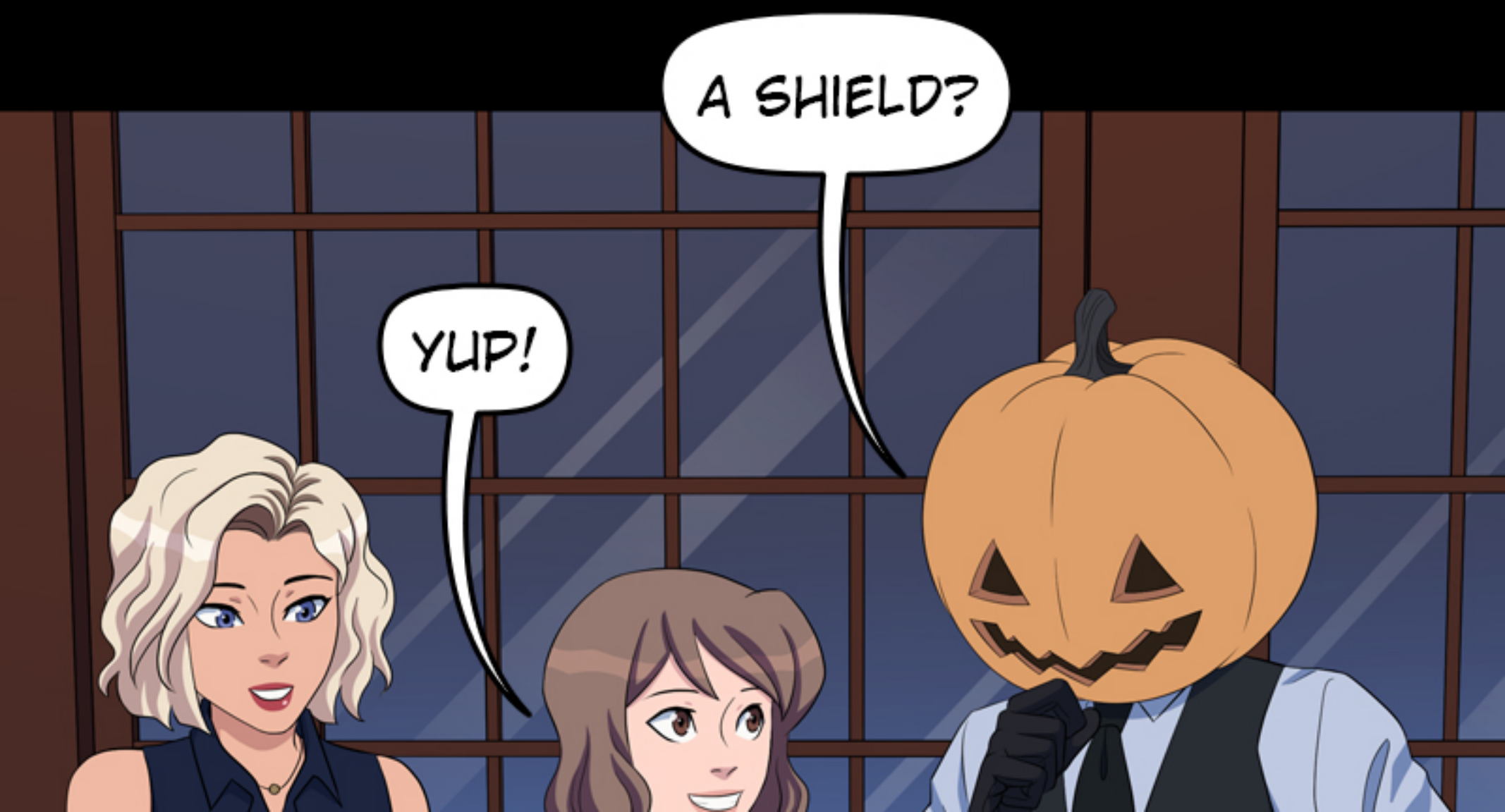
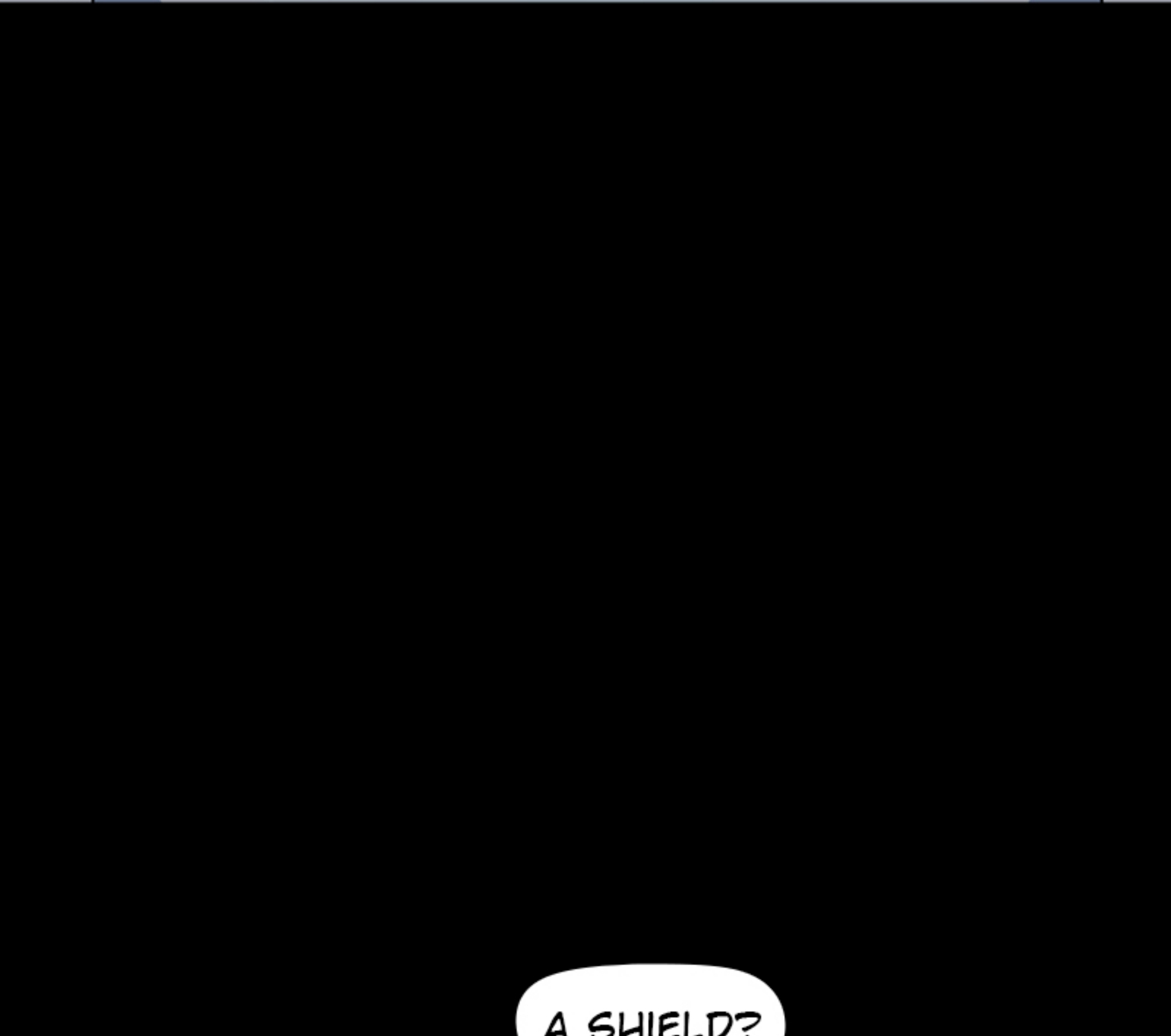
OH YEAH!





TA-DA!

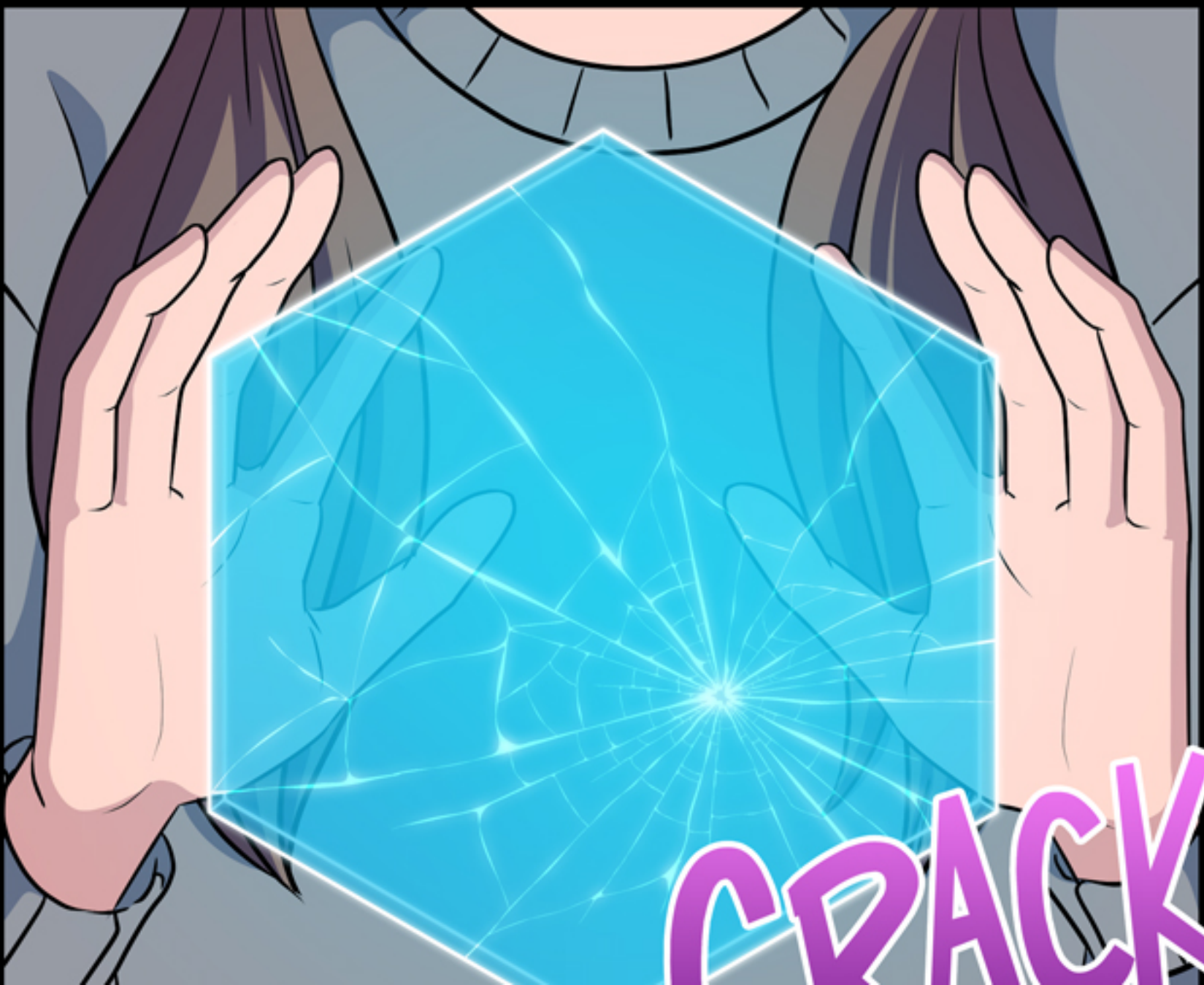






UH, HOLD
ON, IT WAS BIGGER
BEFORE.

MAYBE I
CAN...



CRACK

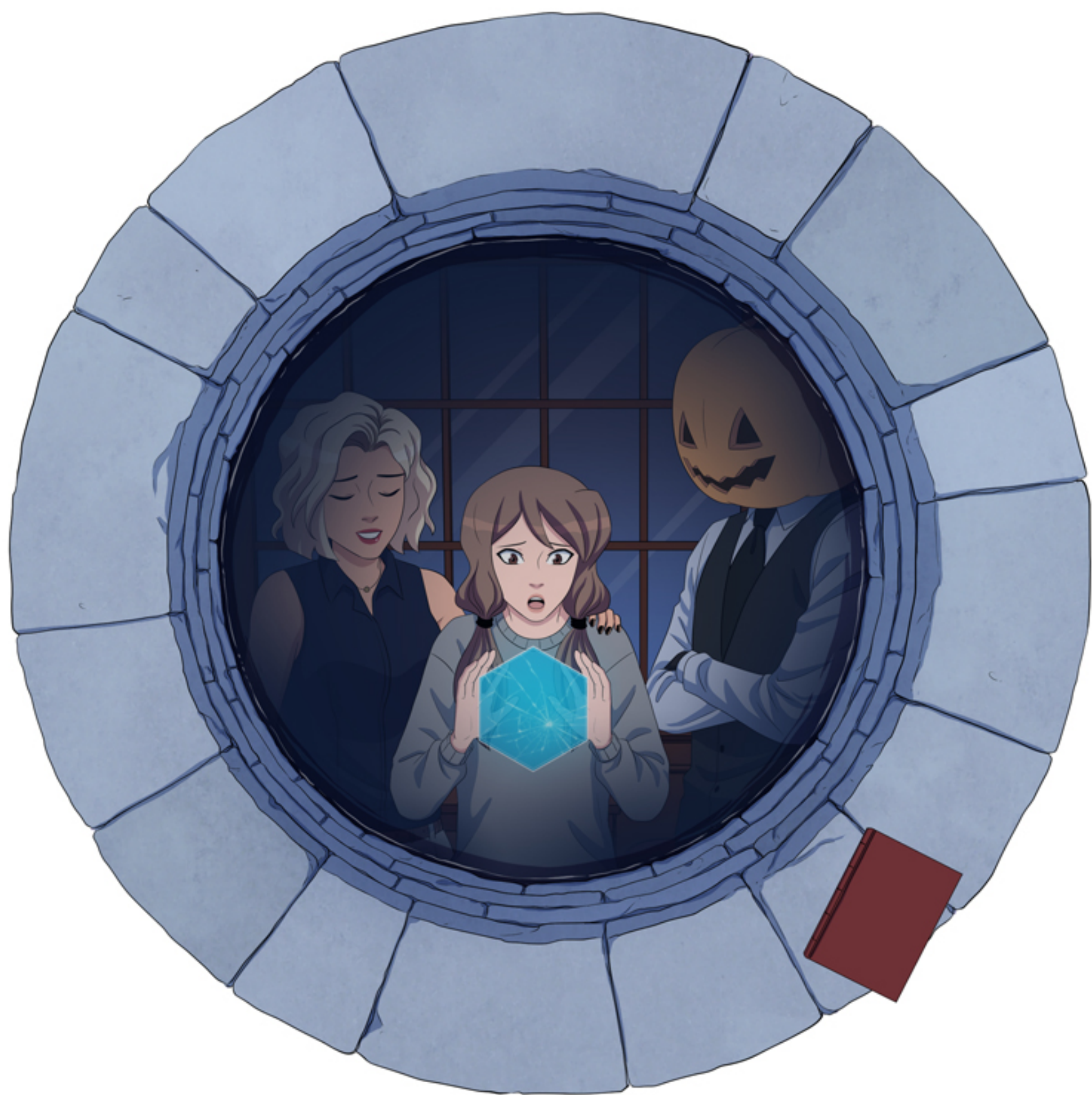


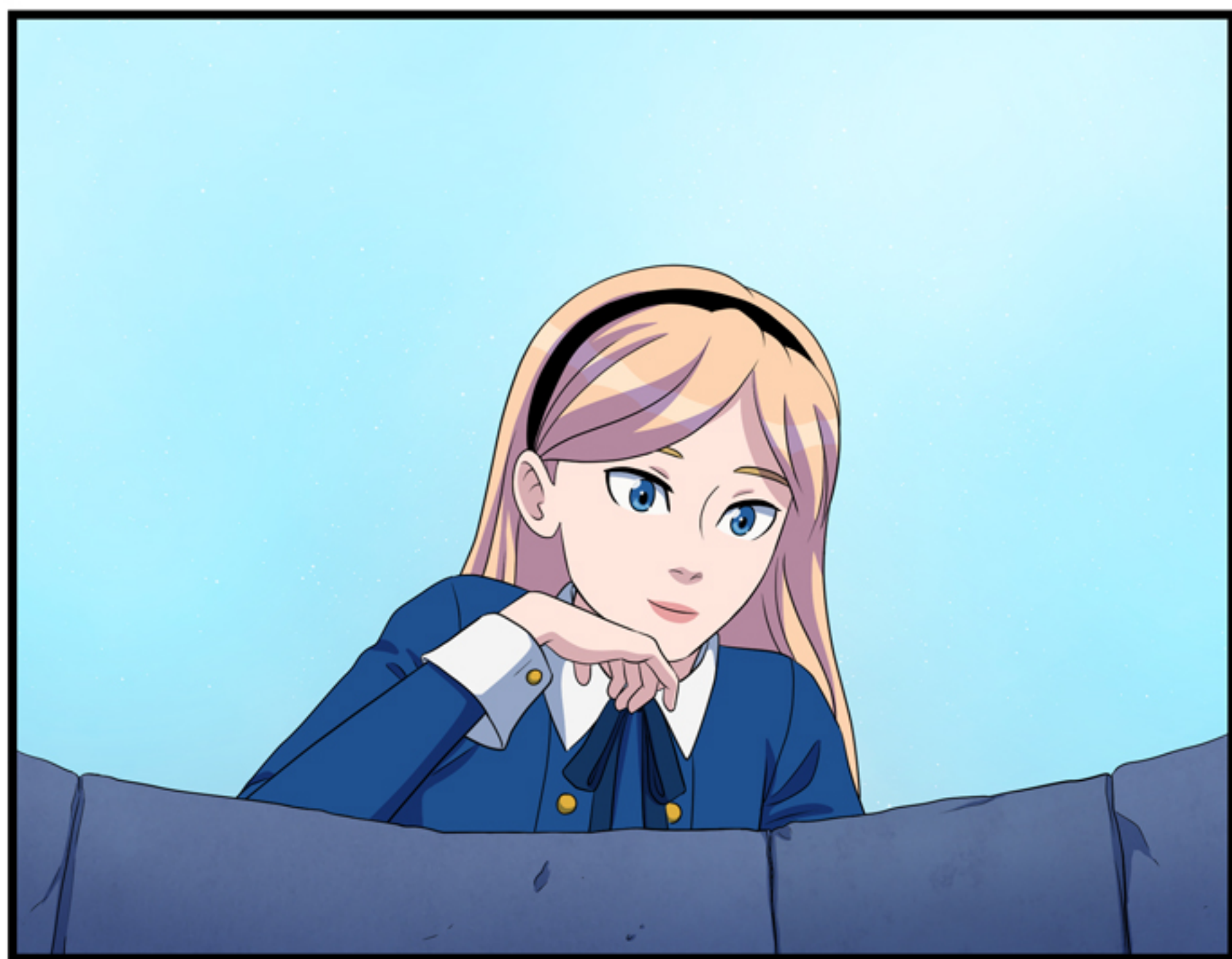
OH, BALLS.

DON'T
WORRY, DEAR,
WE'LL WORK
ON IT.

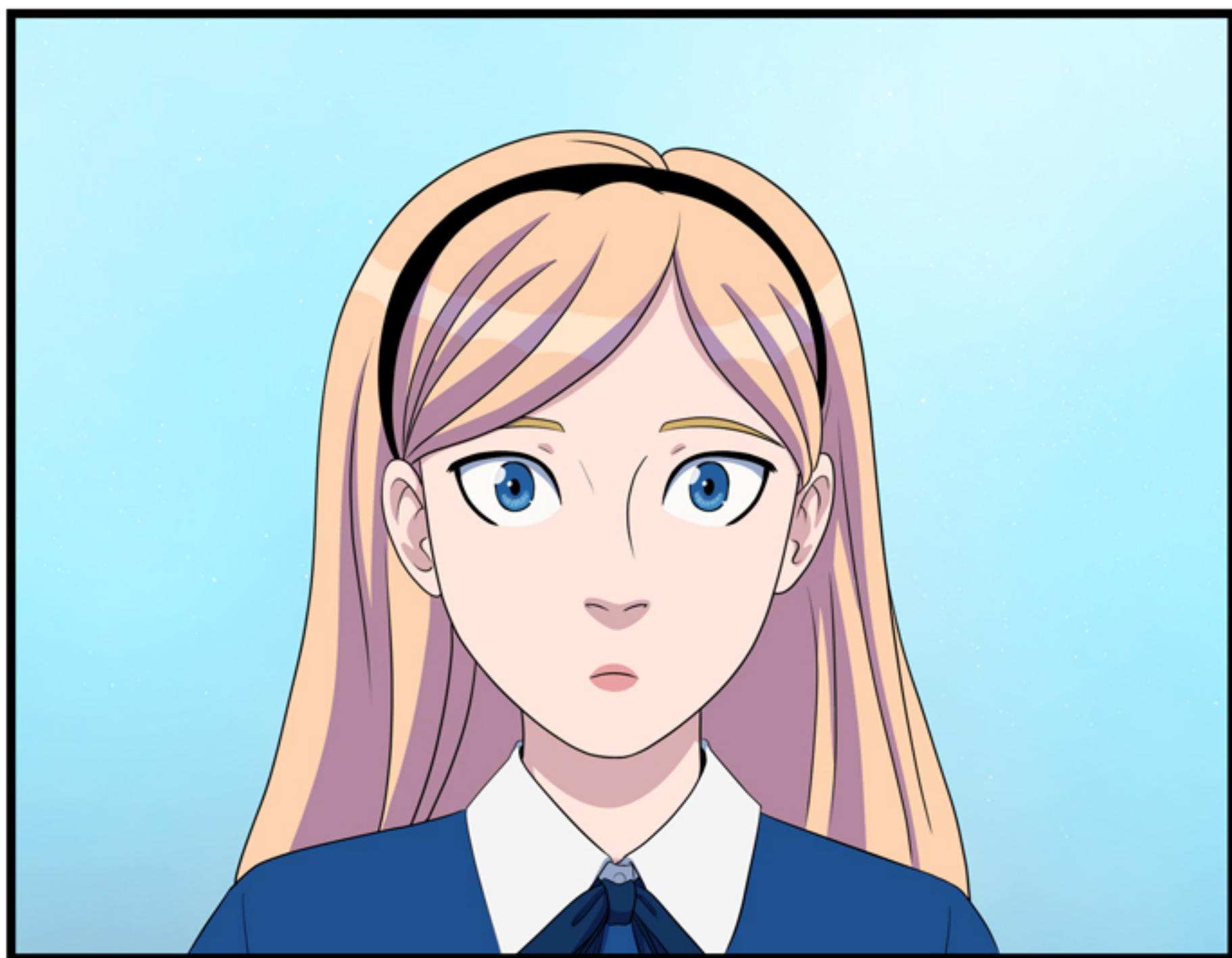








YOU SEEM
PLEASED. HAS YOUR
LITTLE TOY LEARNED A
NEW TRICK?



A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue dress with a white collar and a black belt, stands at the bottom of a circular stone well. The well is built from grey stones and is surrounded by a patch of green grass. A red book lies on the stone ledge to her right. A long, thin white line extends from the well towards the top left, ending in a speech bubble. The ground is a mix of light blue and grey, with some scattered stones. In the background, there is a small garden with a wooden bench, a bush of purple flowers, and a small blue structure. The sky is a solid light blue.

CAN I
HELP YOU,
MOL?

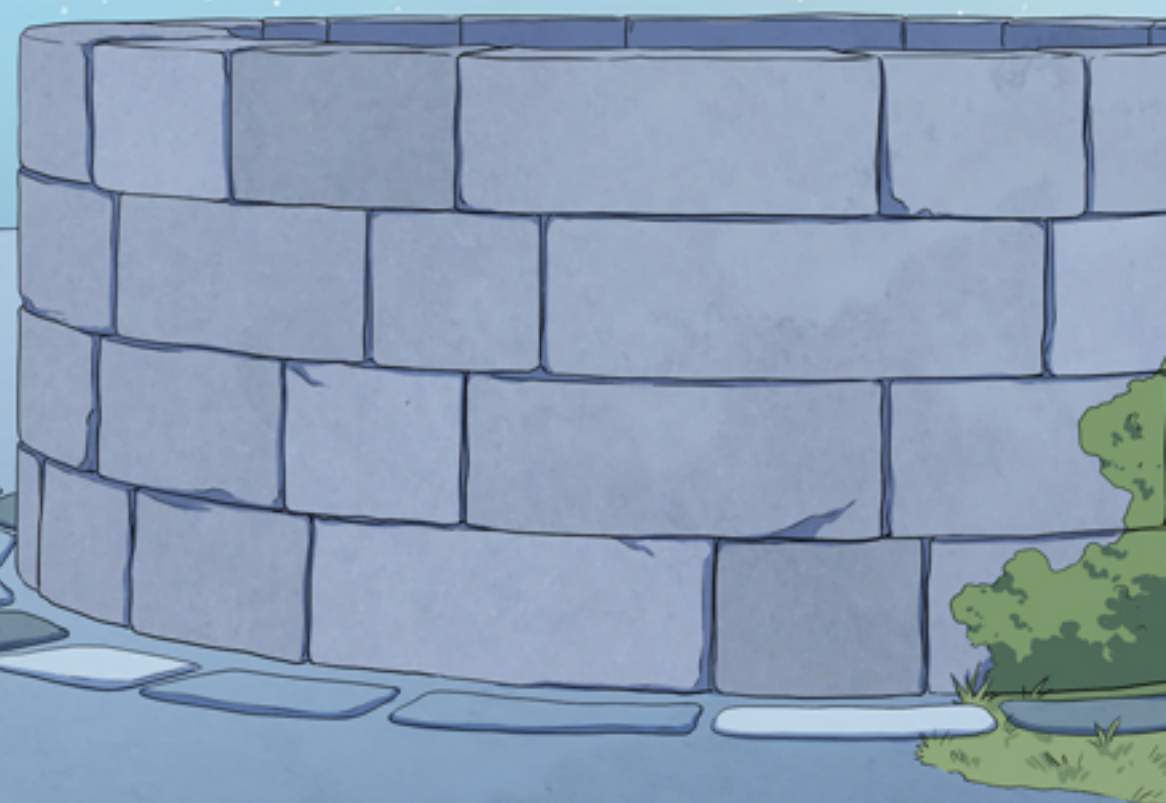
ARE YOU
ANNOYED BY MY
INTRUSION? YOU ARE A
VISITOR IN THE VOID--
MY HOME.

THOUGH,
PERHAPS NOT
FOR LONG...



YOU'RE SET
ON GOING THROUGH
WITH IT, THEN?

EVEN AFTER
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR *POOR*
CHILDREN?



MY ASSOCIATES
ARE MAKING GREAT
PROGRESS.





HM. I WONDER,
DO YOUR MINIONS
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
REALLY UP TO?



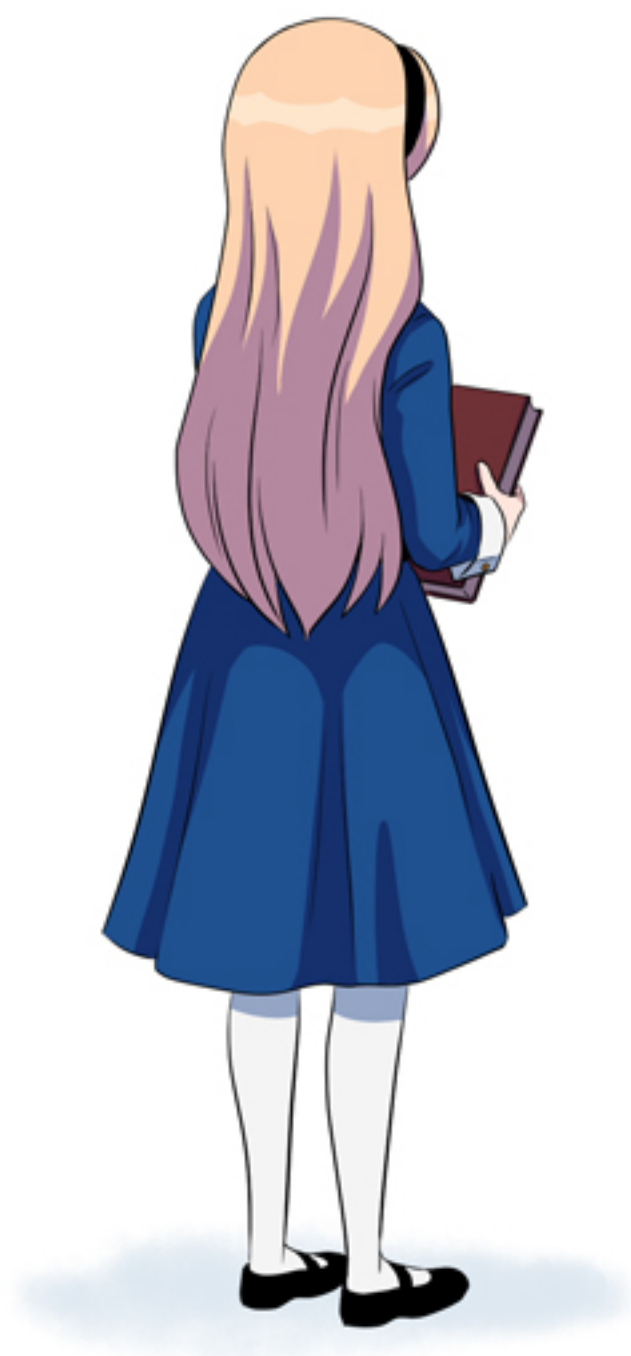


DO YOURS?



THANK YOU,
ALICE.

I ALWAYS
ENJOY OUR LITTLE
CHATS.



THIRD SHIFT SOCIETY

PART 10: THE VIOLENT BLUE

STORY AND ART
MEREDITH MORIARTY

EDITOR
ARIA VILAFRANCA

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THANKS FOR READING!



