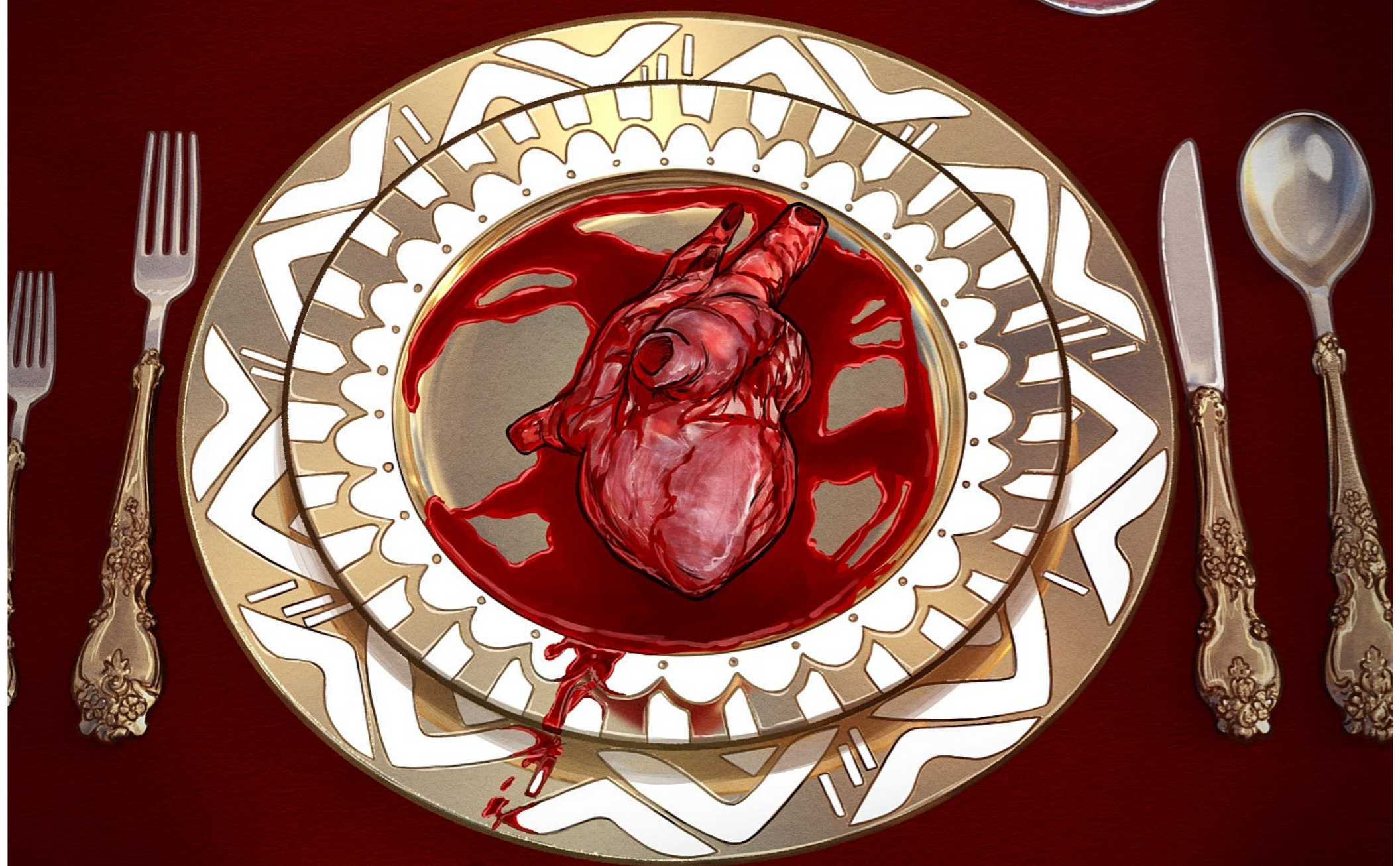




# MONSTER SOUP



CHAPTER 10  
SPICE of LIFE

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HAVE CHOCOLATE?



I'M SURE.



OKAY, BUT IF YOU START VOMITING, YOU'RE CLEANING IT UP.

GOT IT?

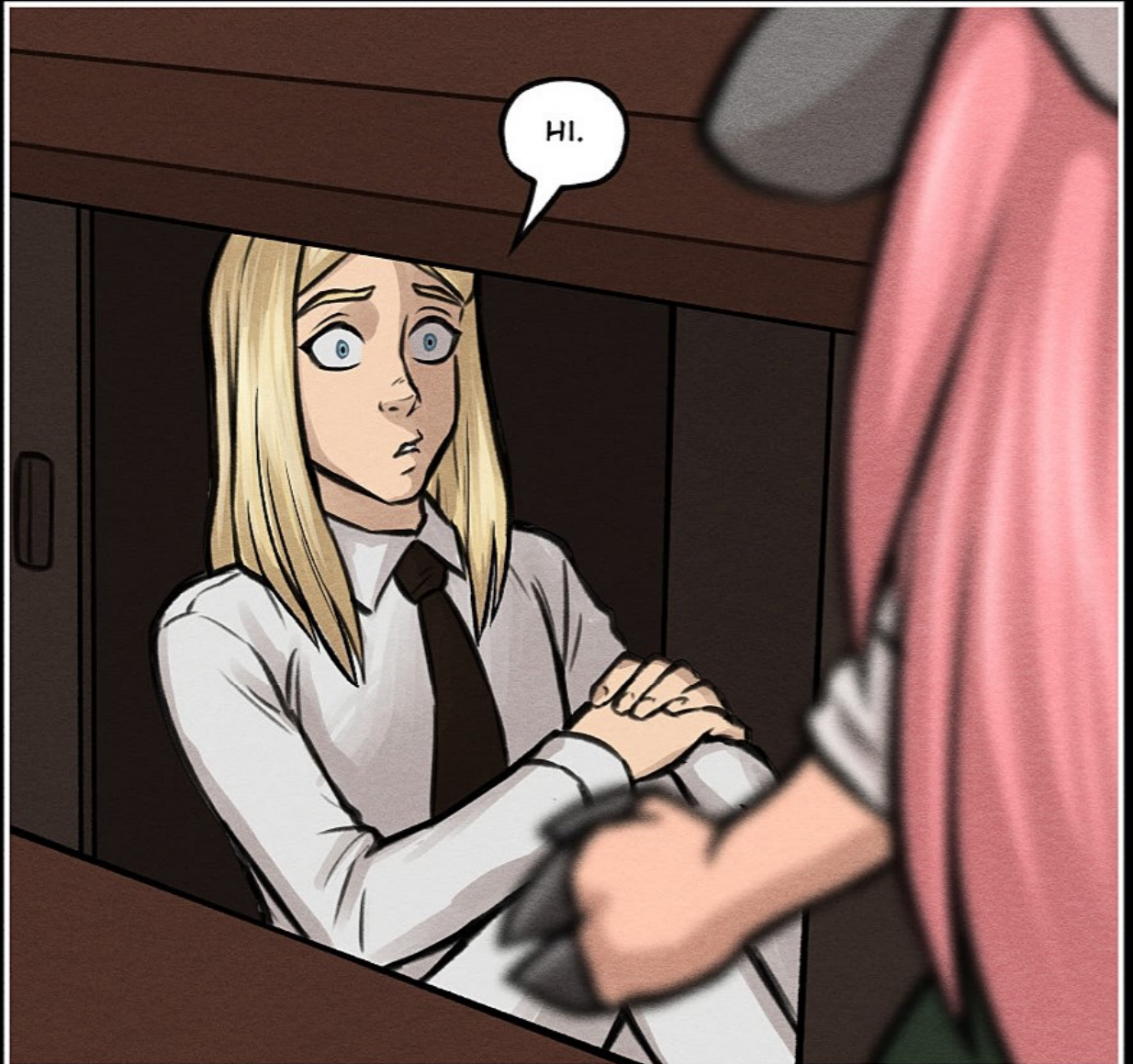
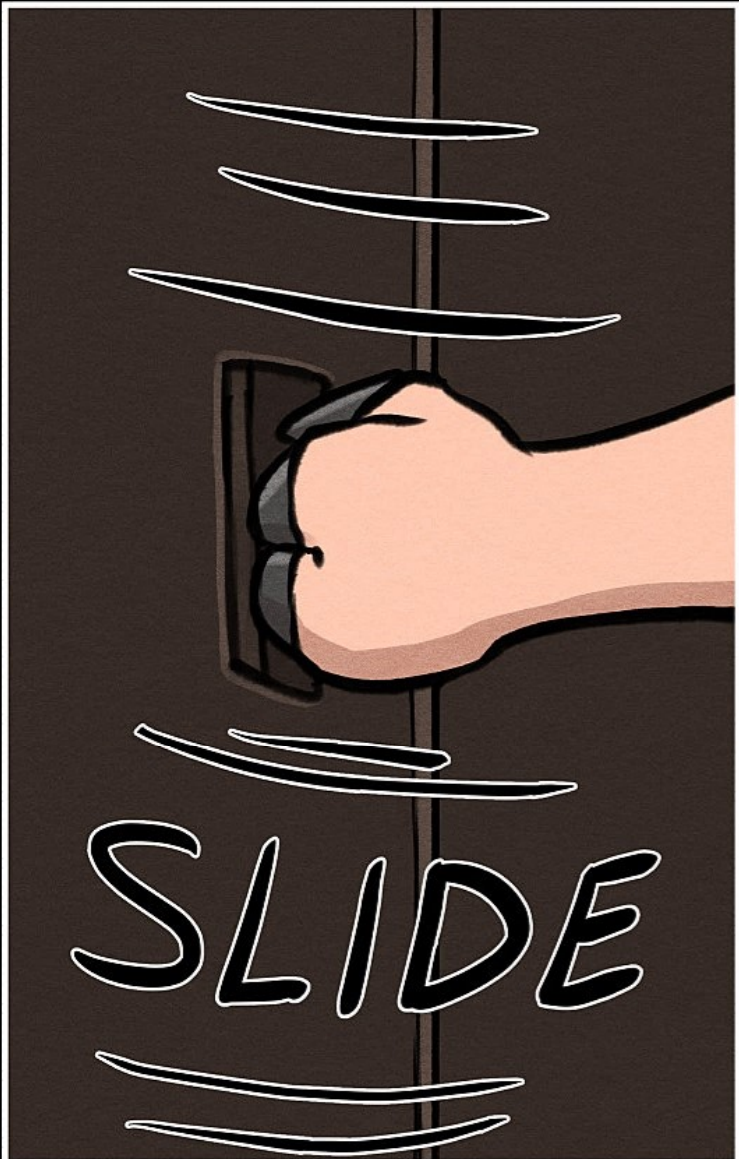
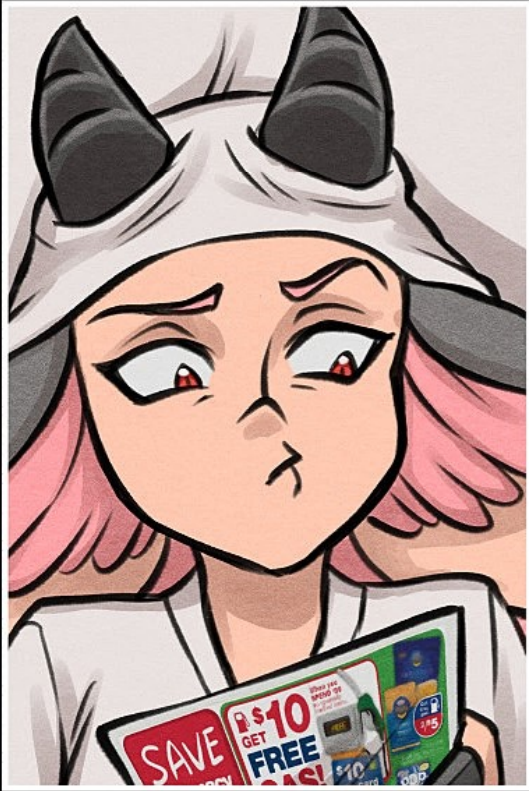
WHATEVER.

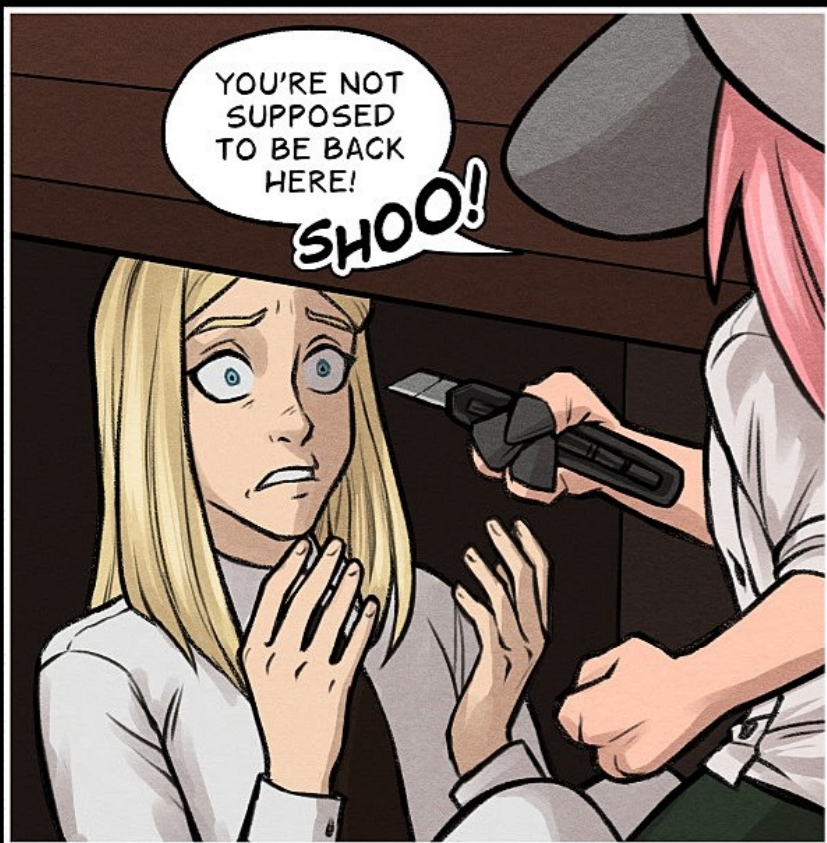


I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK--

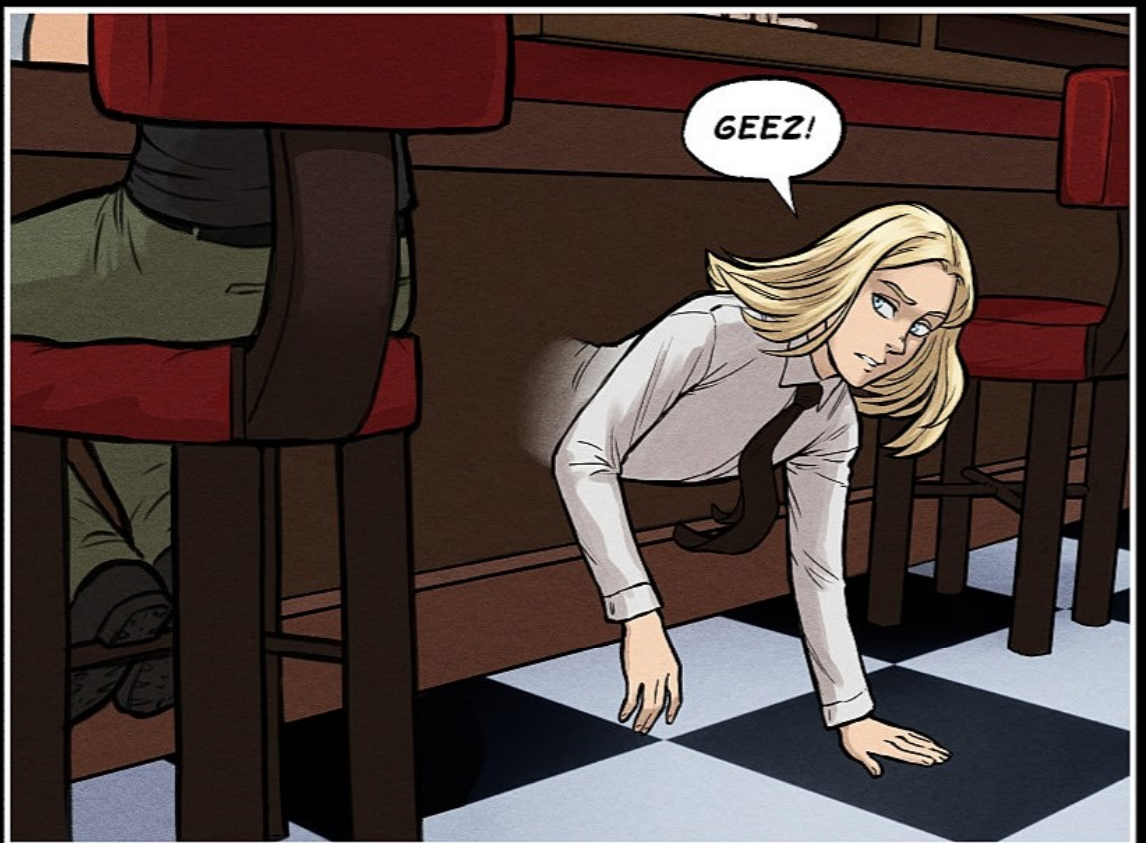
WHEN ARE THE EARLIEST SNOWS AROUND HERE?

SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER.

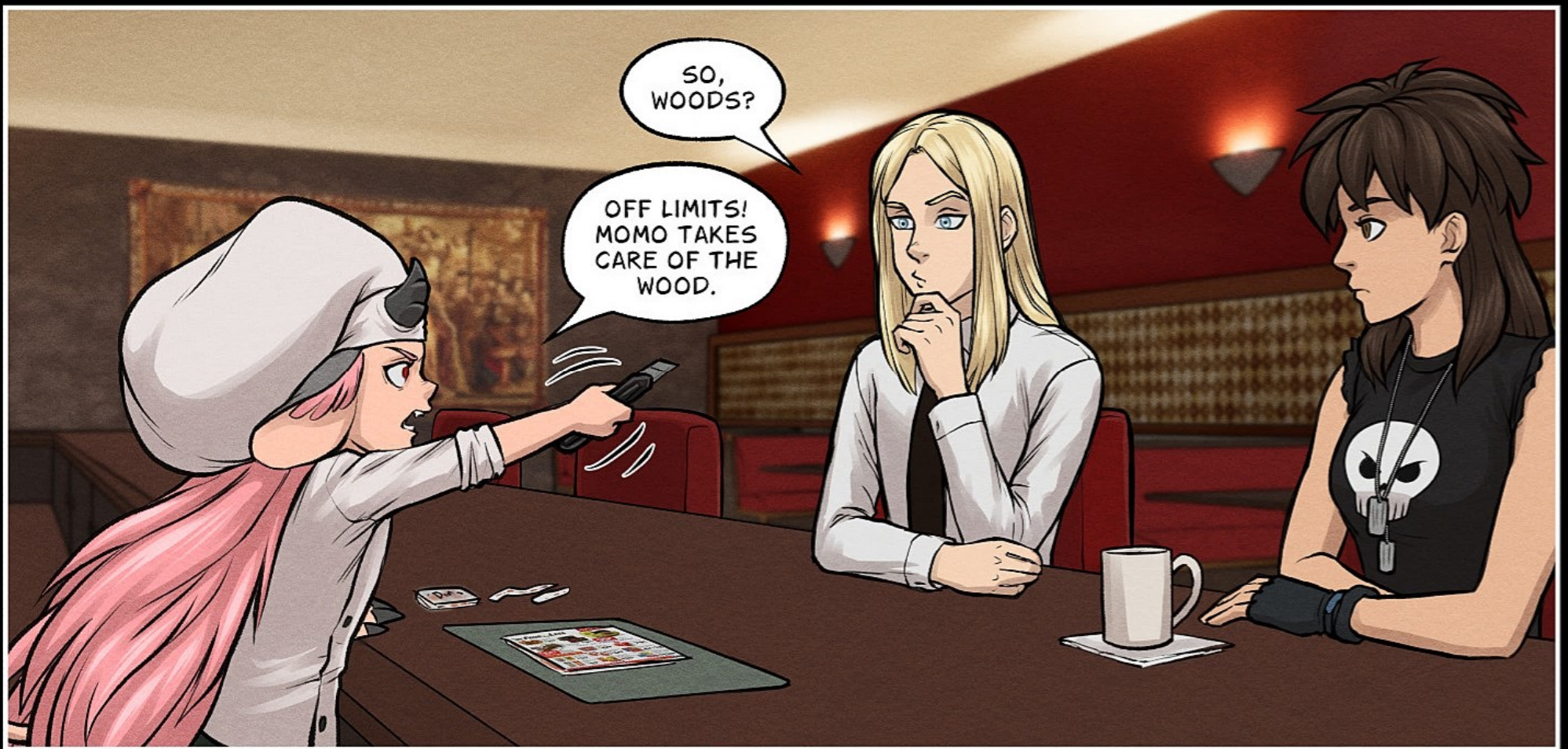




YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE BACK HERE!  
**SHOO!**



**GEEZ!**



SO, WOODS?

OFF LIMITS! MOMO TAKES CARE OF THE WOOD.



YOUR CREATOR ORDERED YOU TO EAT ONLY ANIMALS?

YES.



HUMANS ARE SACRED.

YOU DON'T REMEMBER MUCH THESE DAYS, BUT **THAT** YOU NEVER FORGET?



DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT **WHY** YOU WERE SENT HERE?

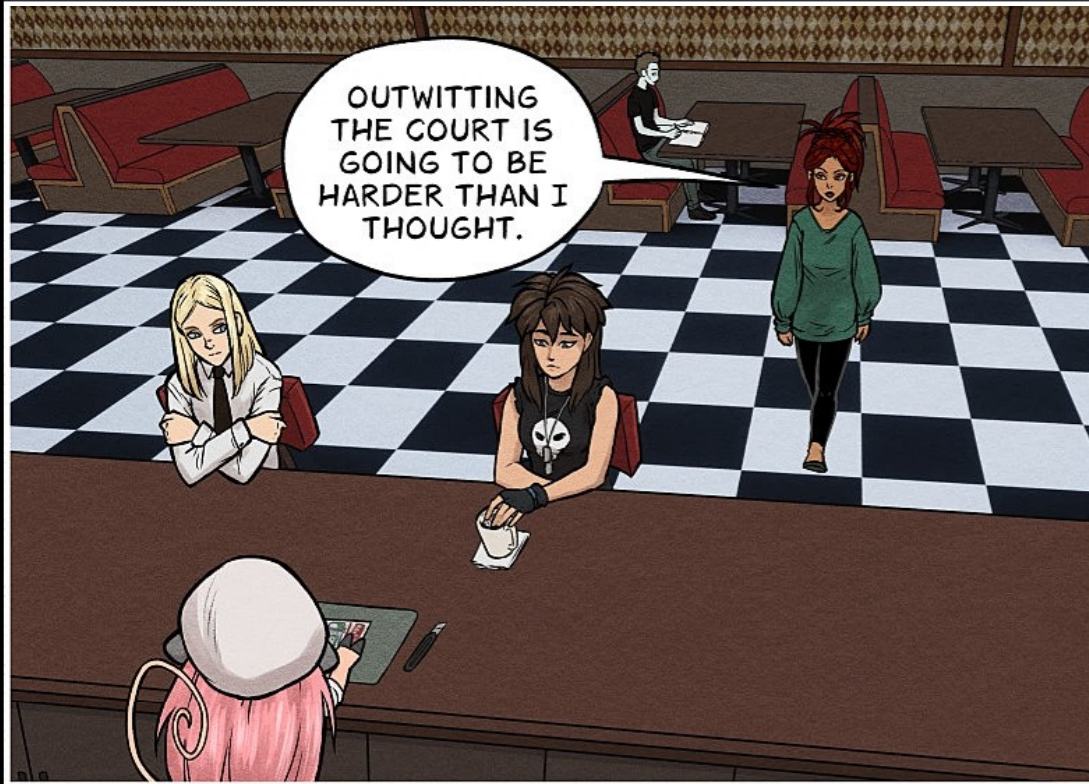
UH, NOT TODAY I CAN'T.



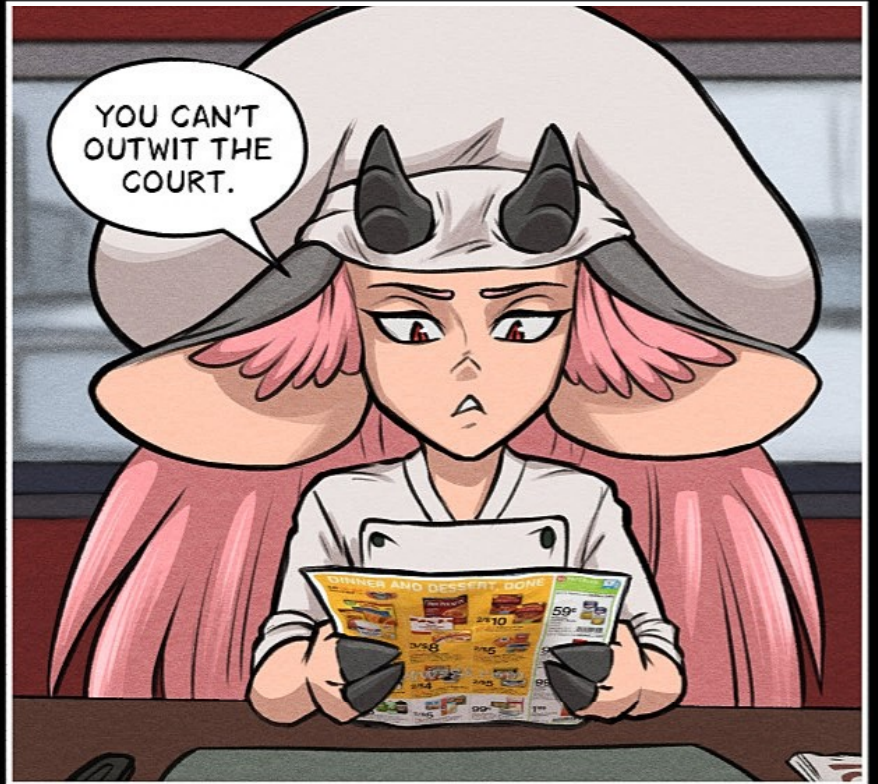
MAYBE TOMORROW?



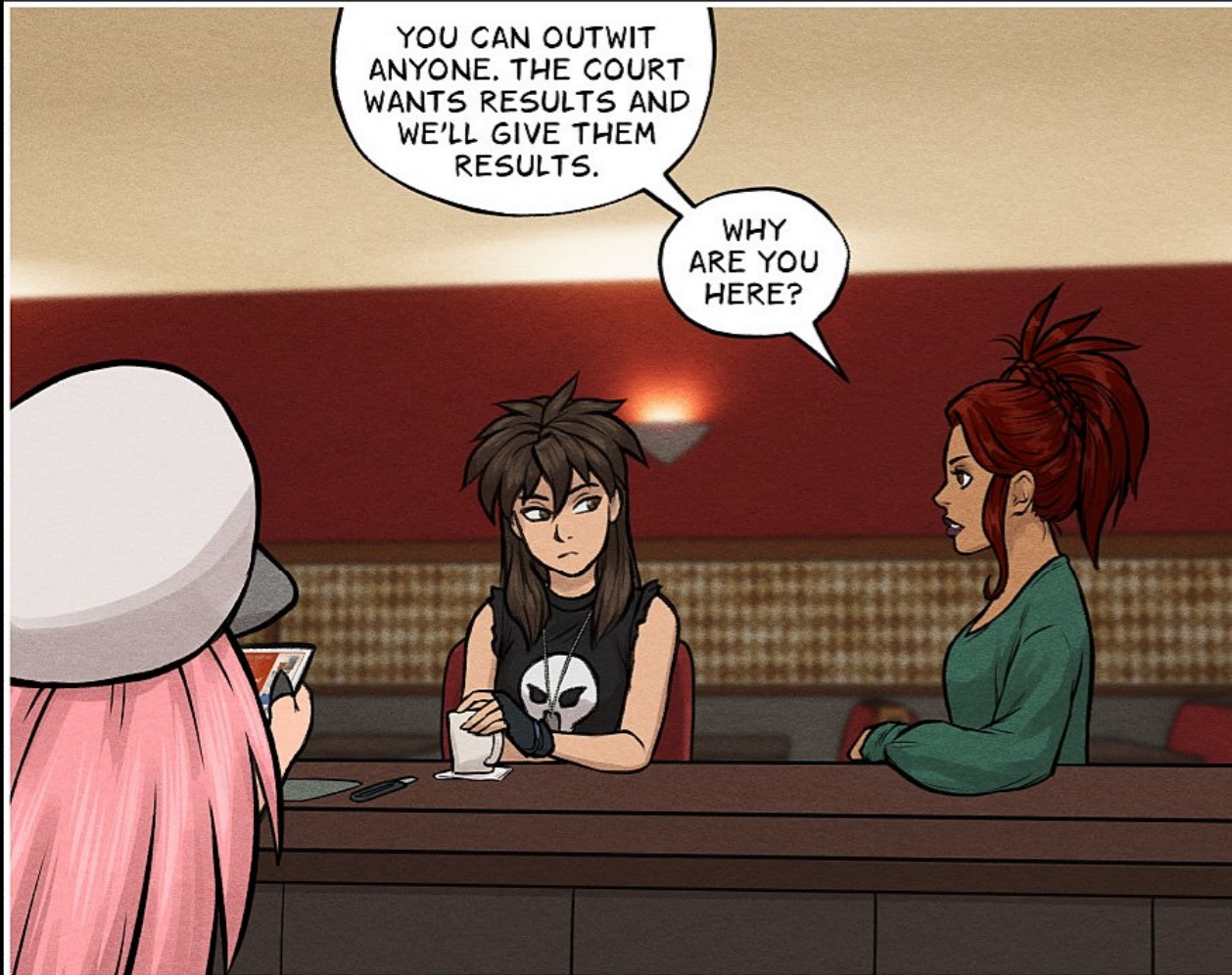
≡SIGH≡  
ZOMBIES.



OUTWITTING THE COURT IS GOING TO BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.

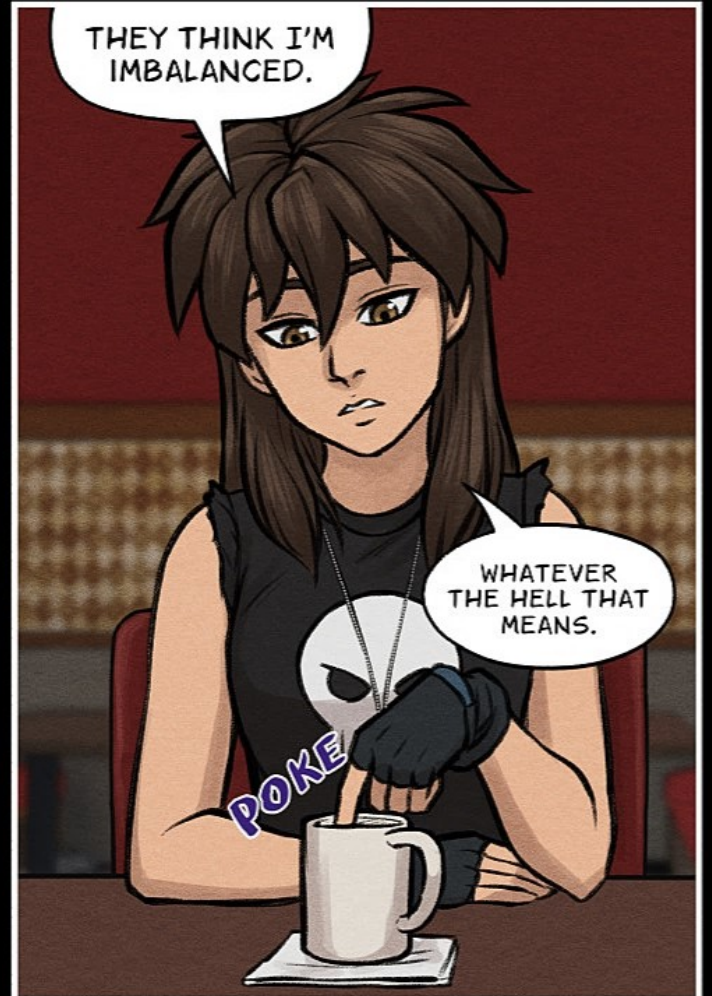


YOU CAN'T OUTWIT THE COURT.



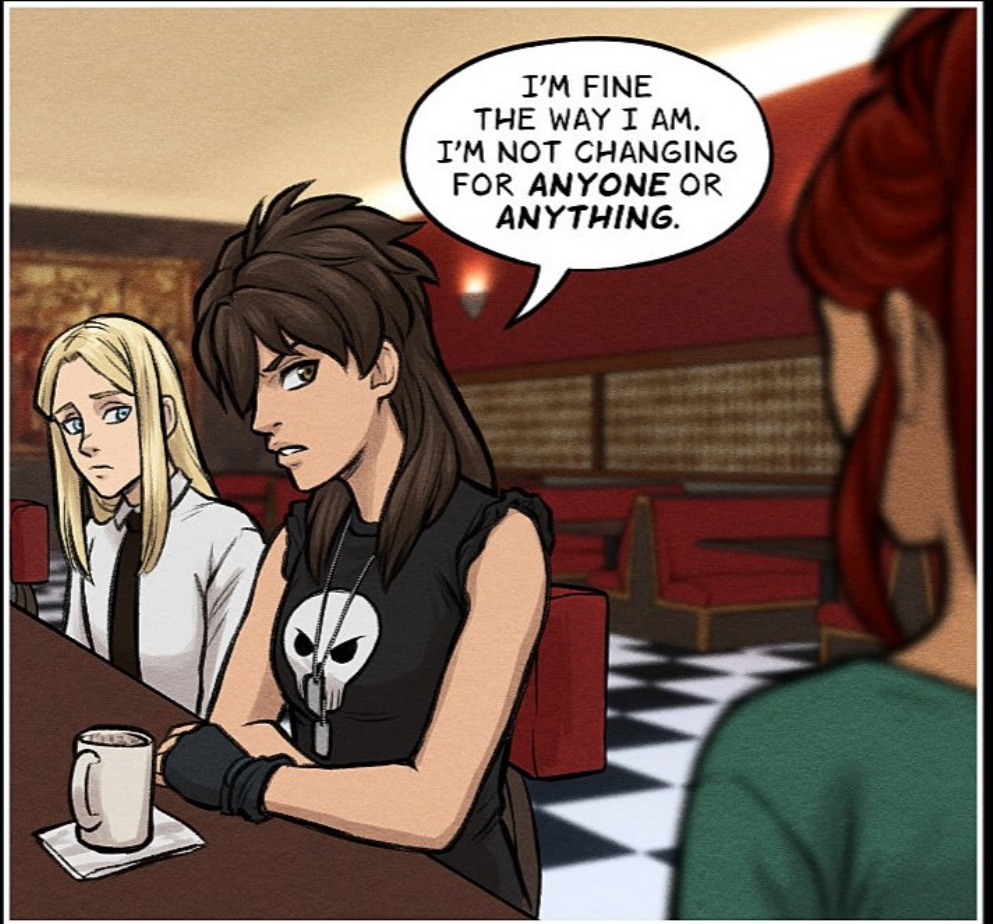
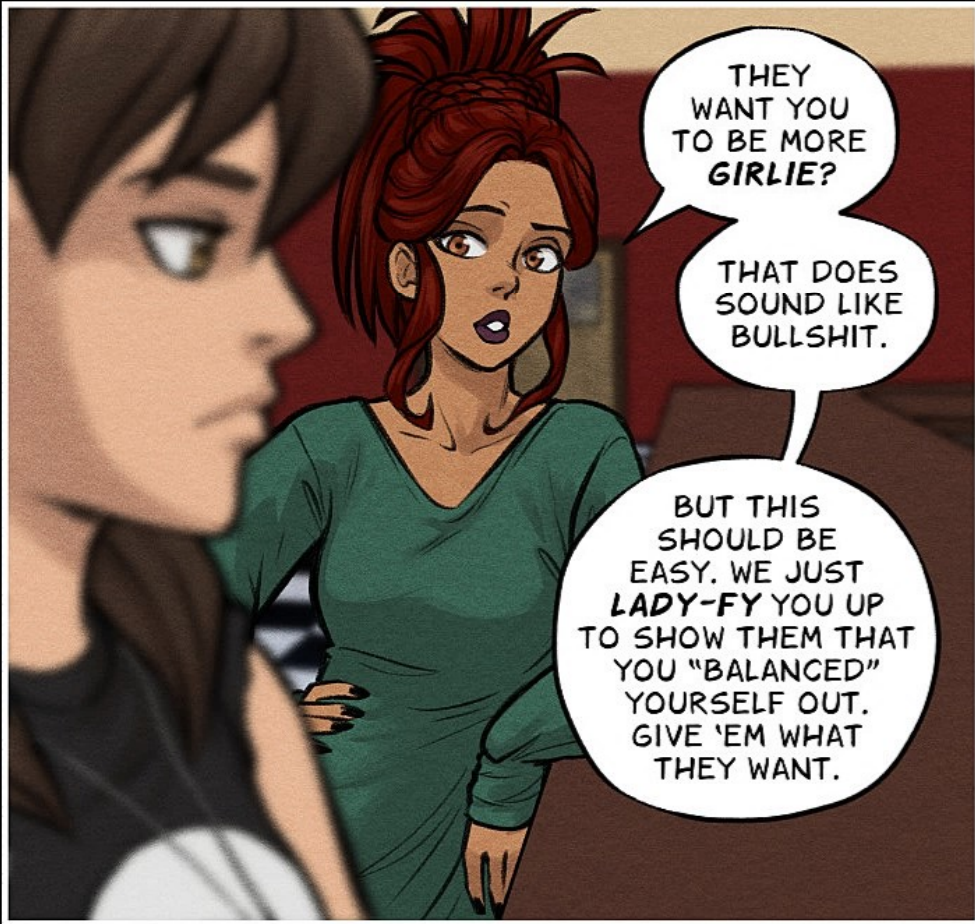
YOU CAN OUTWIT ANYONE. THE COURT WANTS RESULTS AND WE'LL GIVE THEM RESULTS.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?



THEY THINK I'M IMBALANCED.

WHATEVER THE HELL THAT MEANS.



COME ON, JUST A LITTLE BIT OF MAKEUP, NEW CLOTHES, AND WE CAN DO **SOMETHING** WITH THIS HAIR.

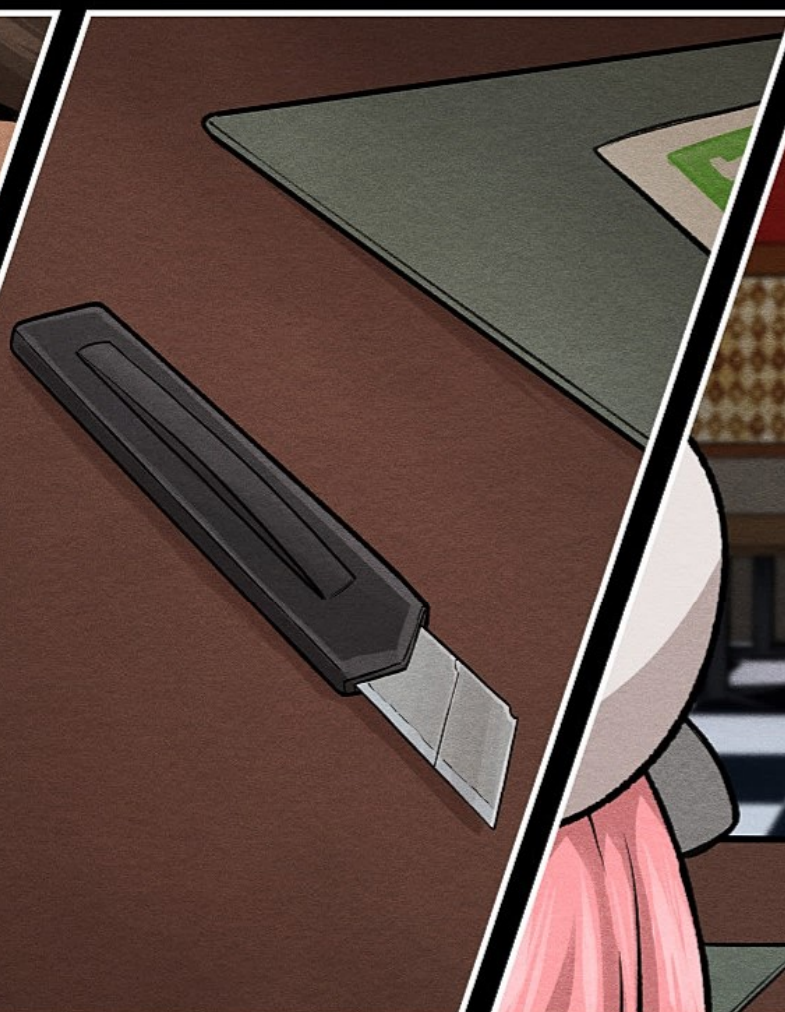
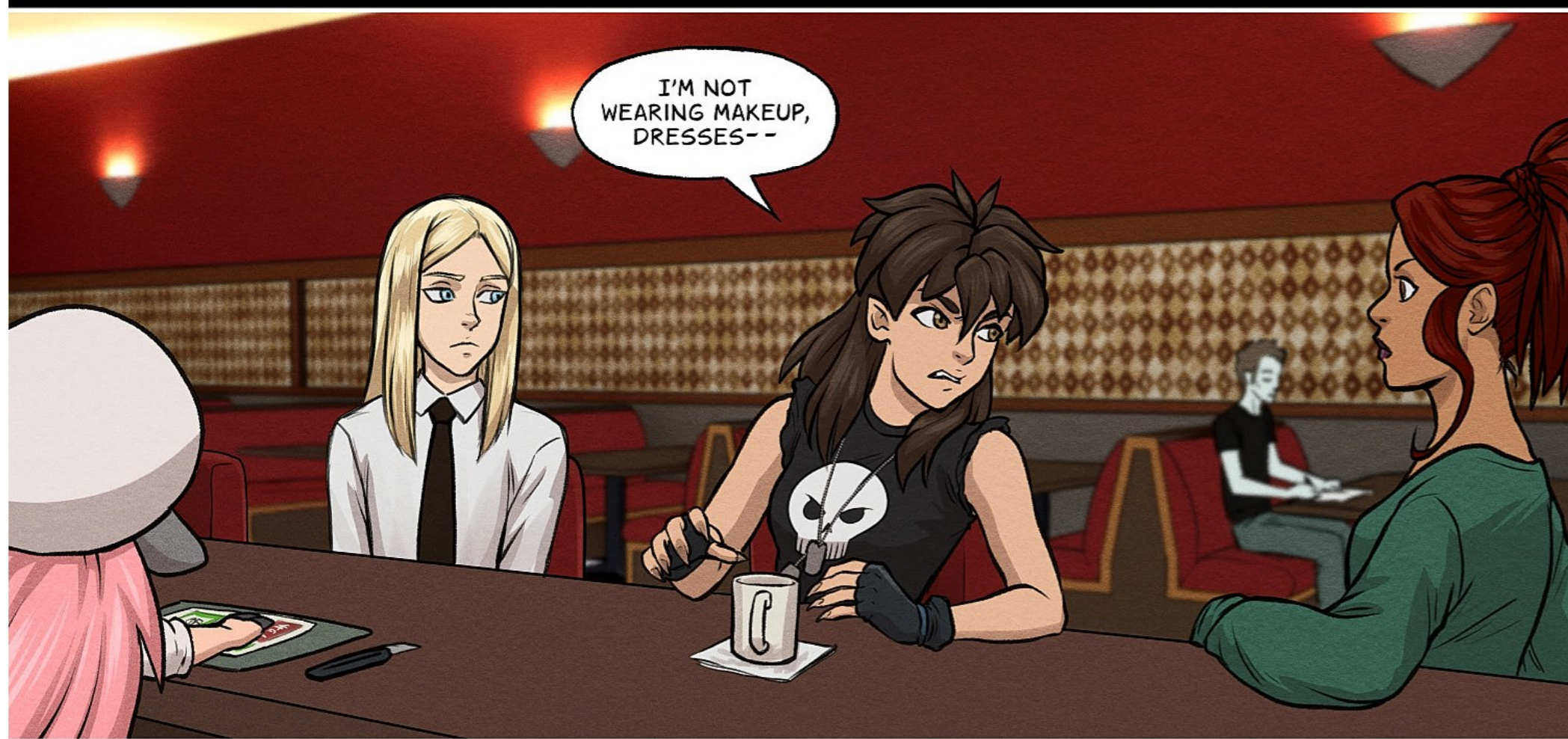
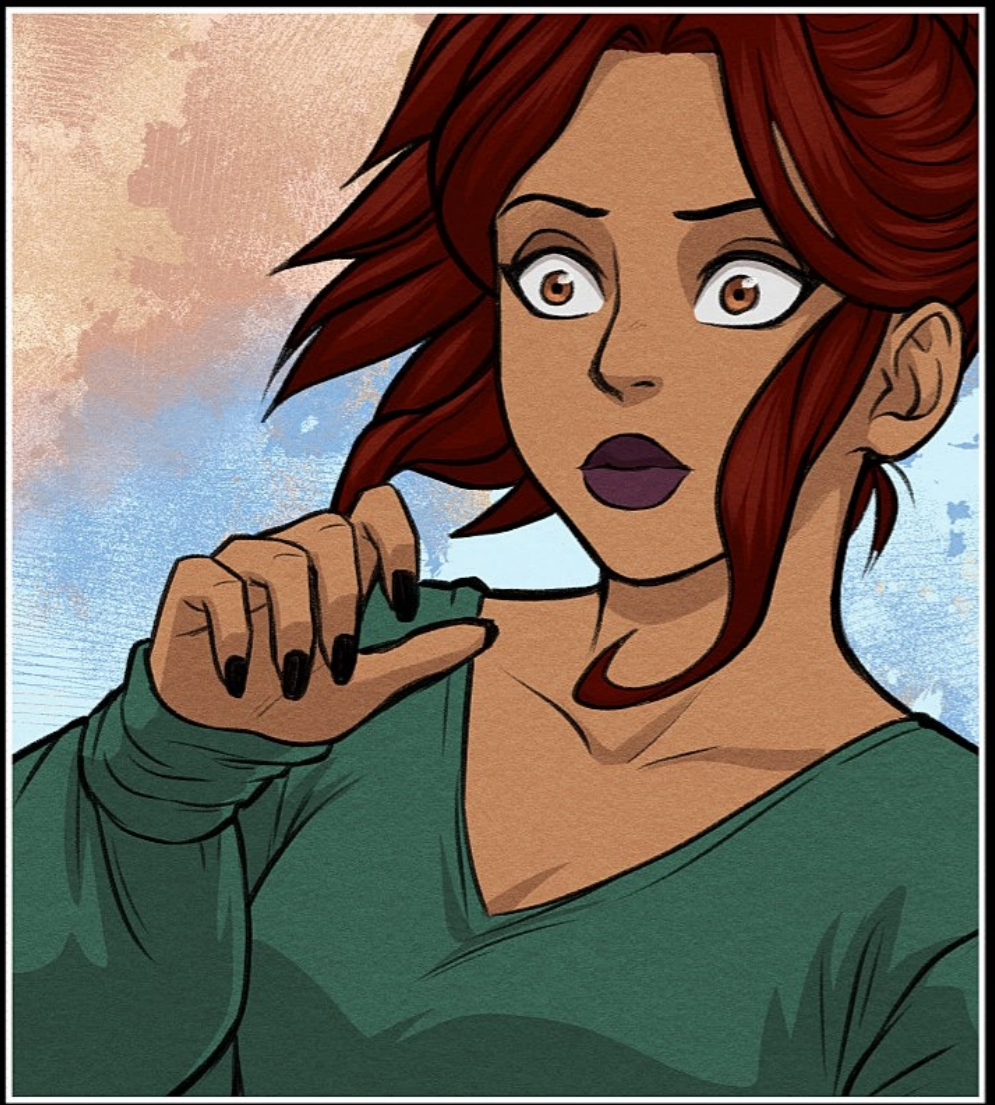
DON'T YOU WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

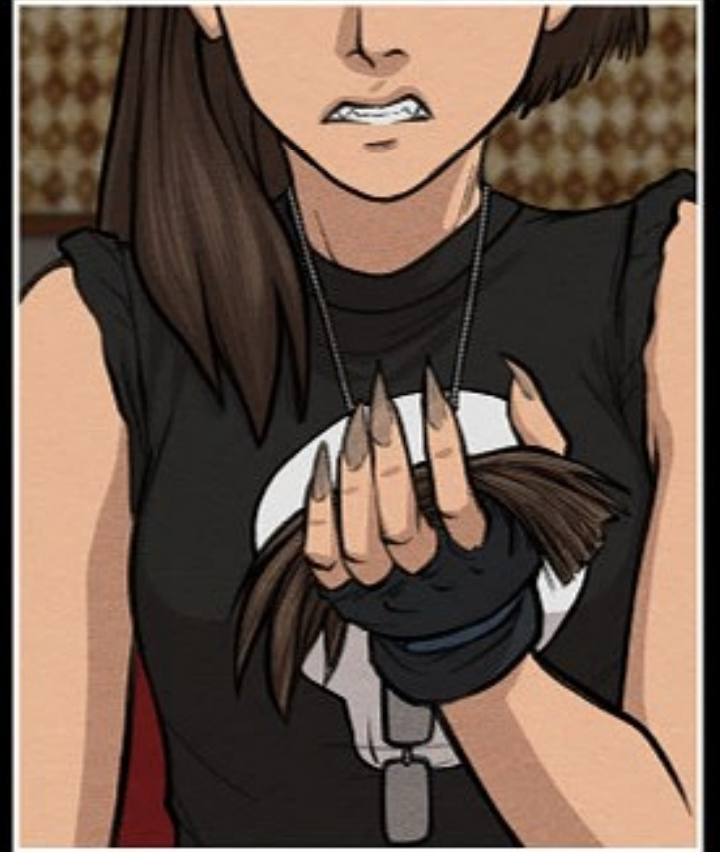
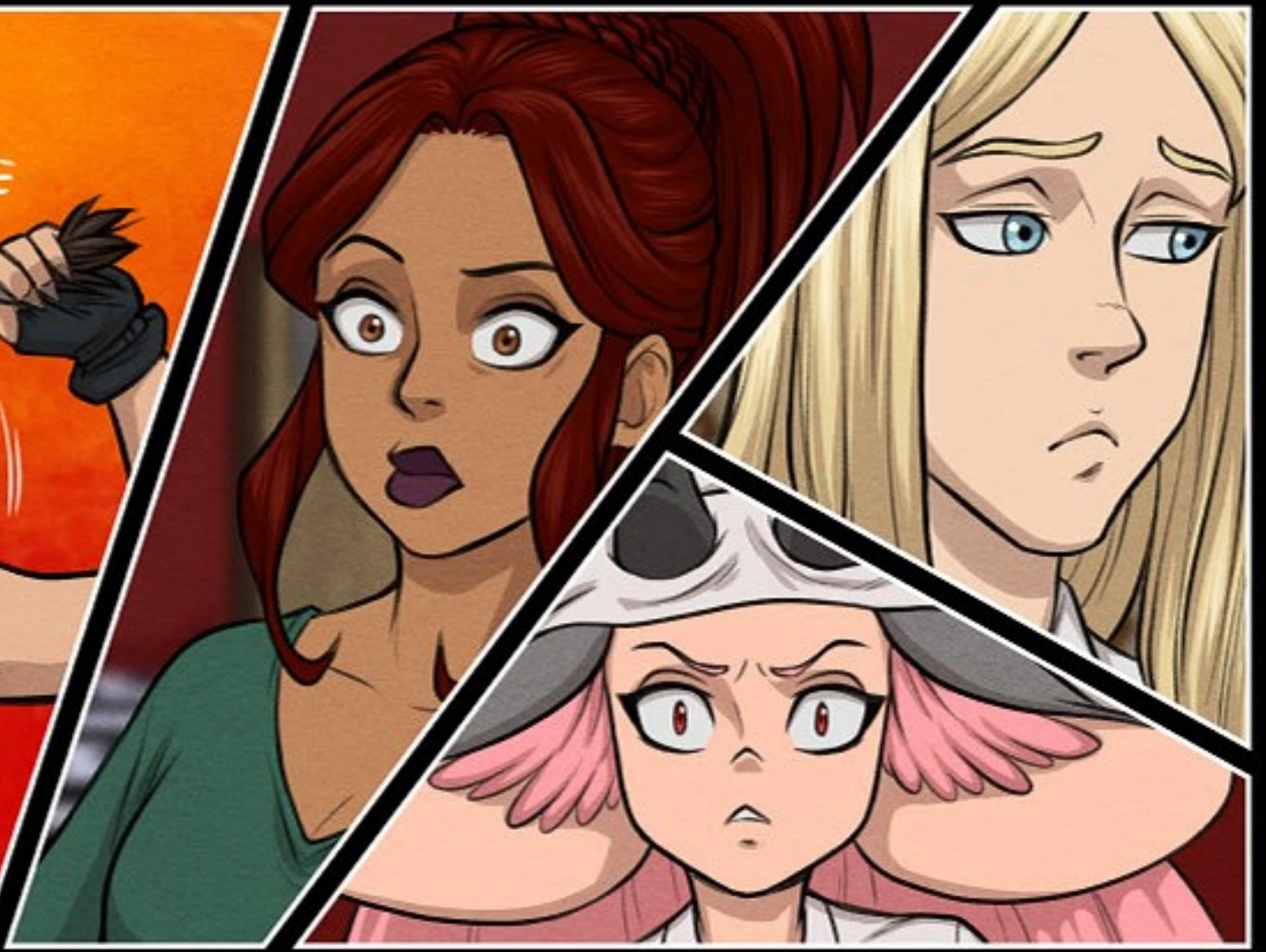
I'M NOT A **PROJECT** FOR YOU TO WORK ON!

IT'LL BE FUN, LIKE A HALLOWEEN COSTUME.

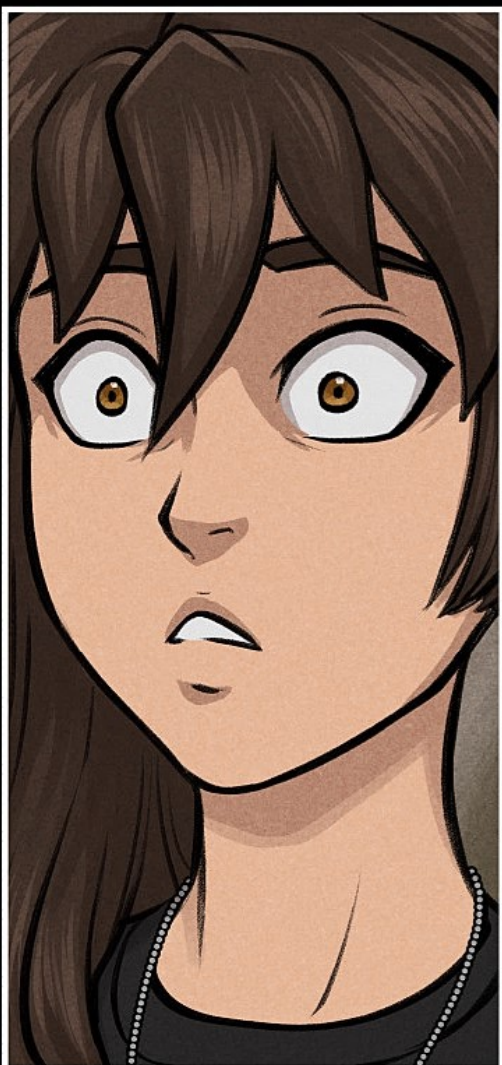
SCRATCH  
SCRATCH

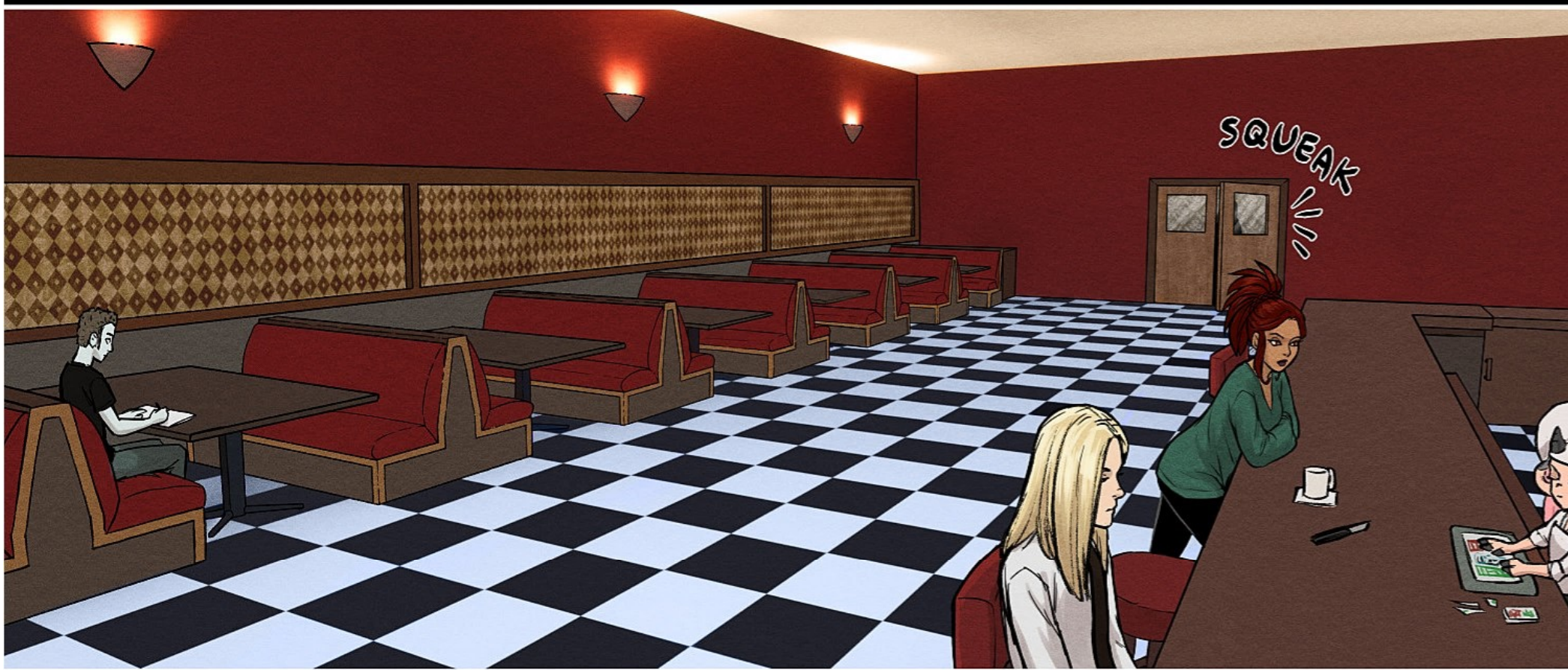


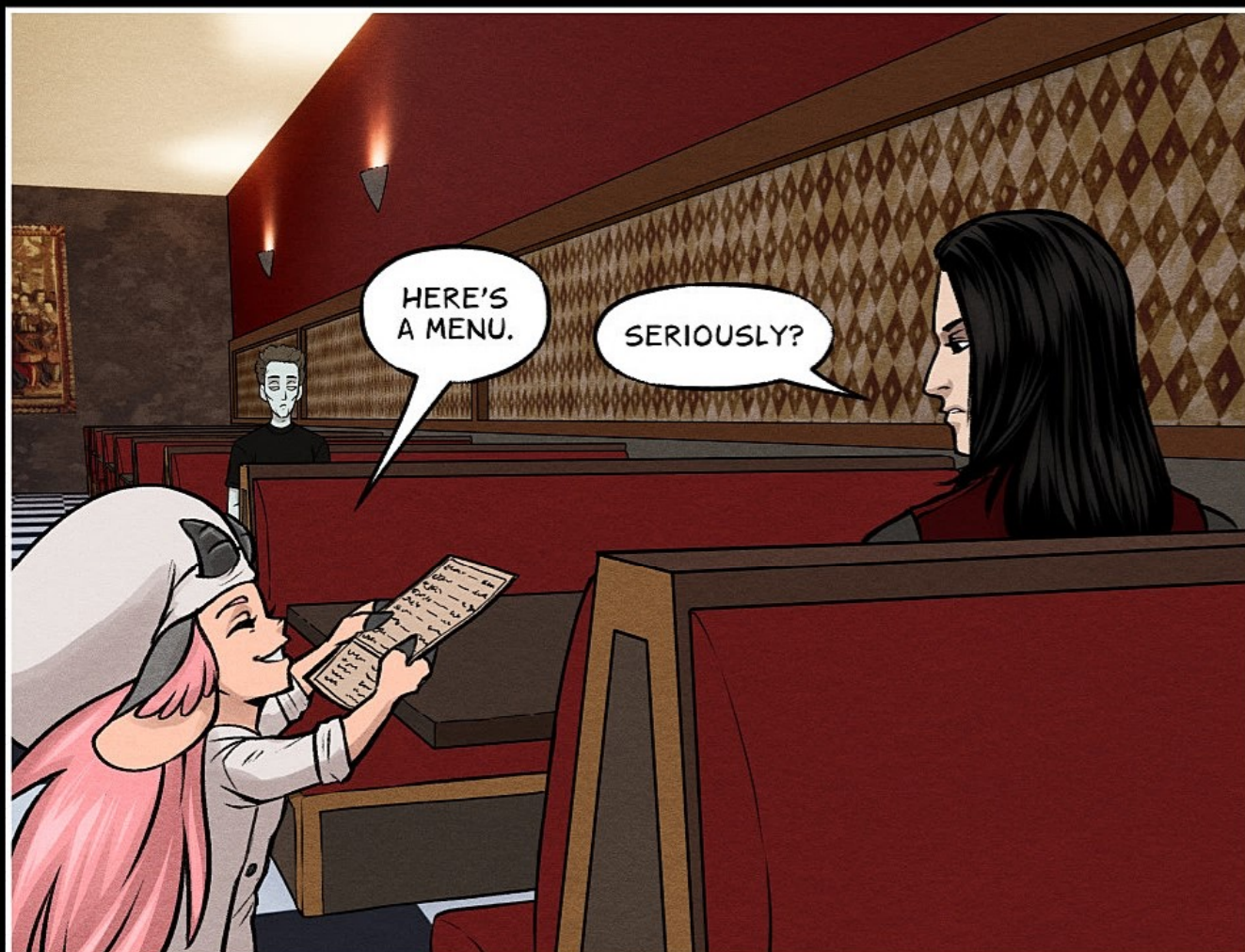
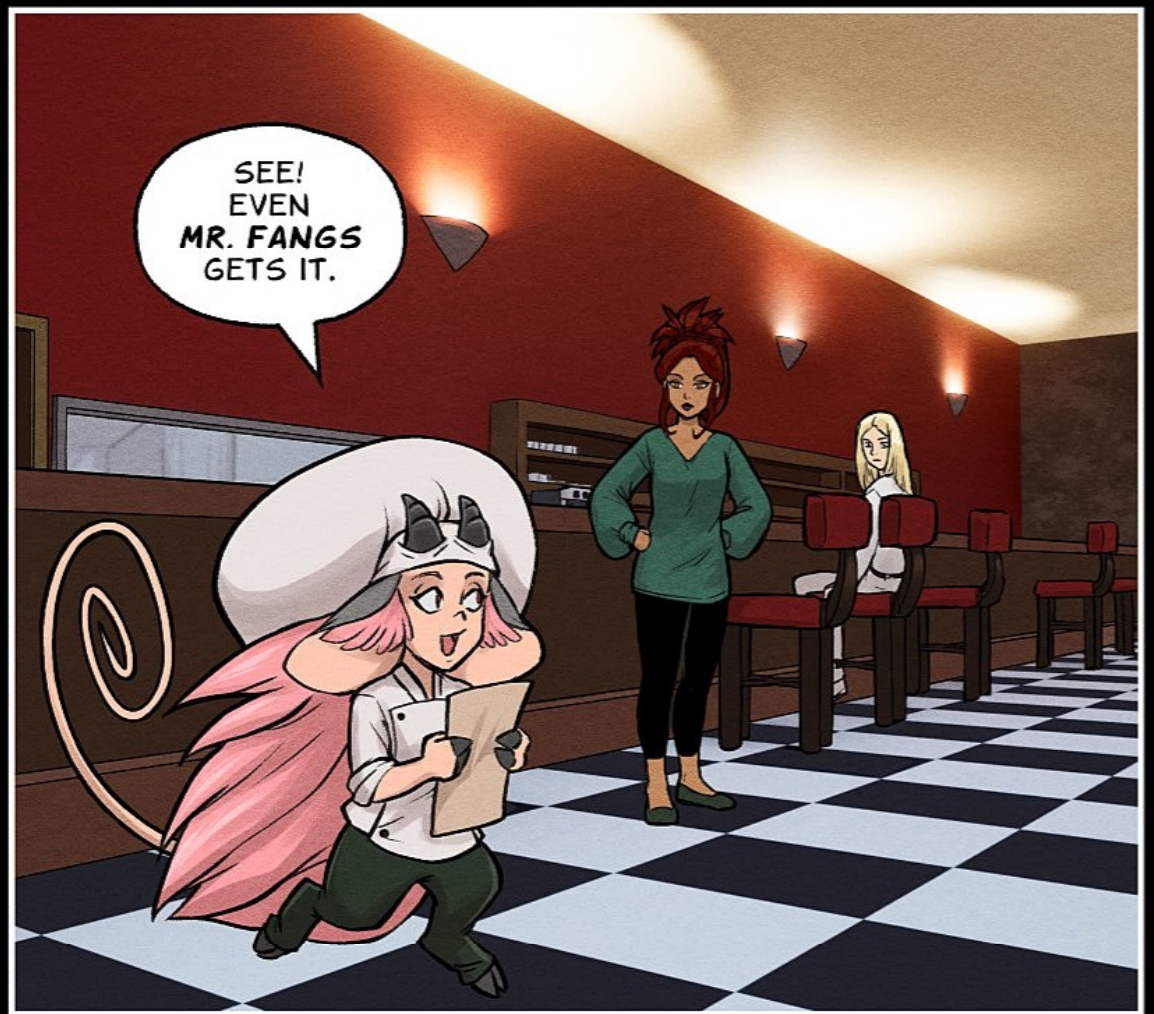


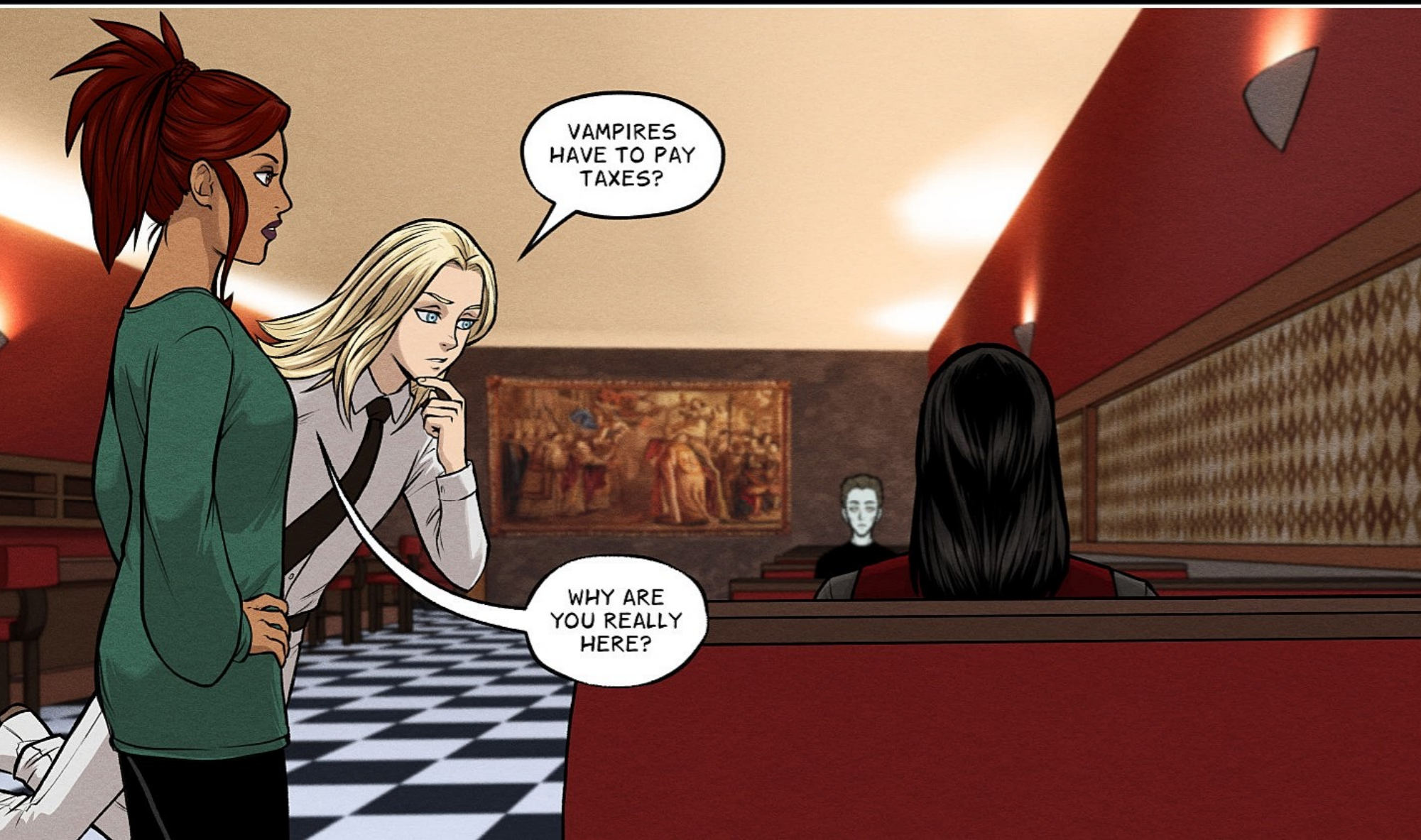


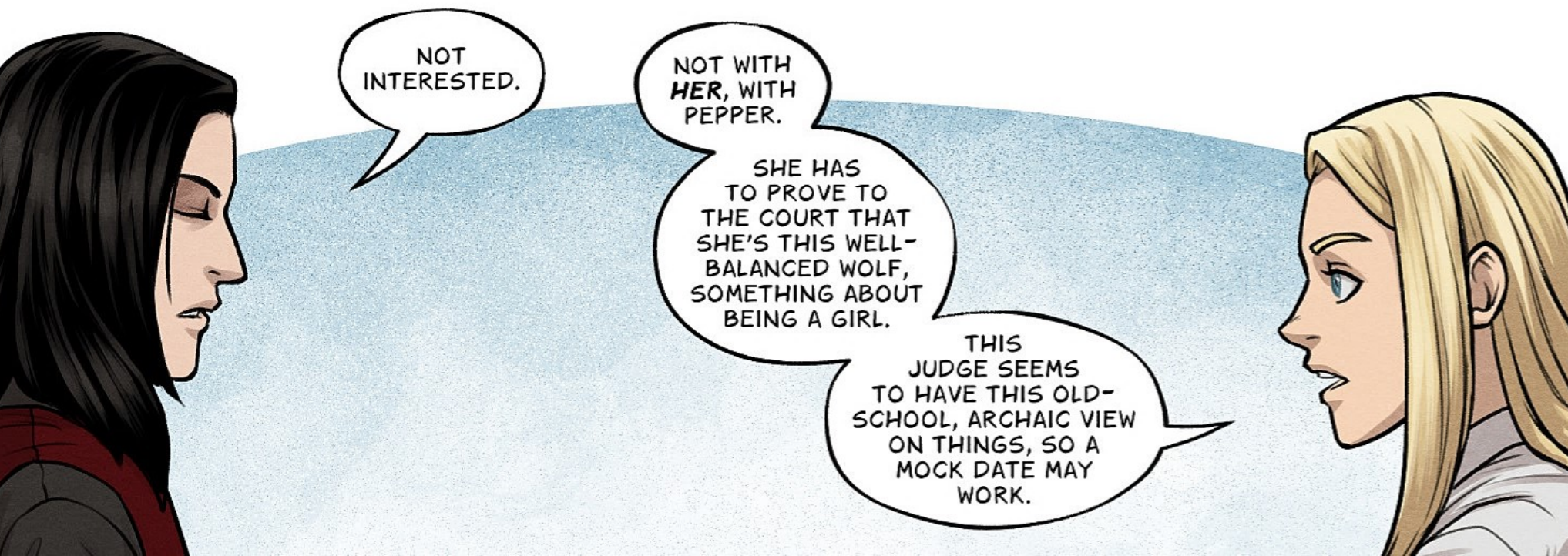
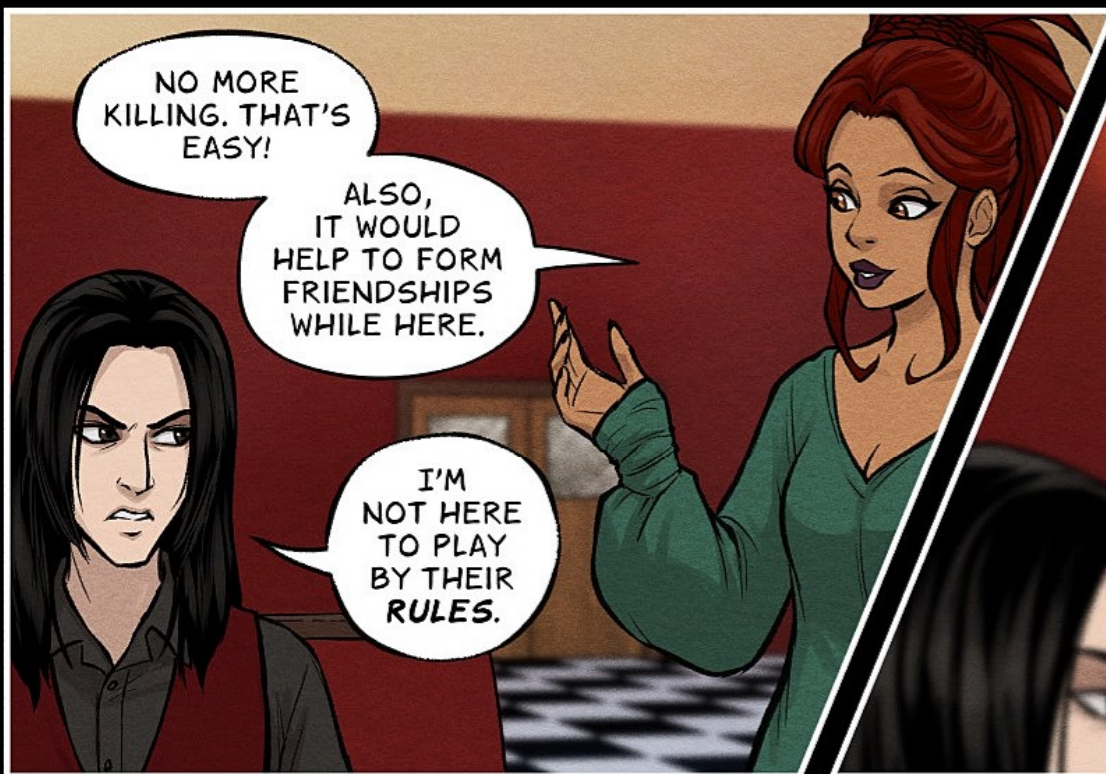
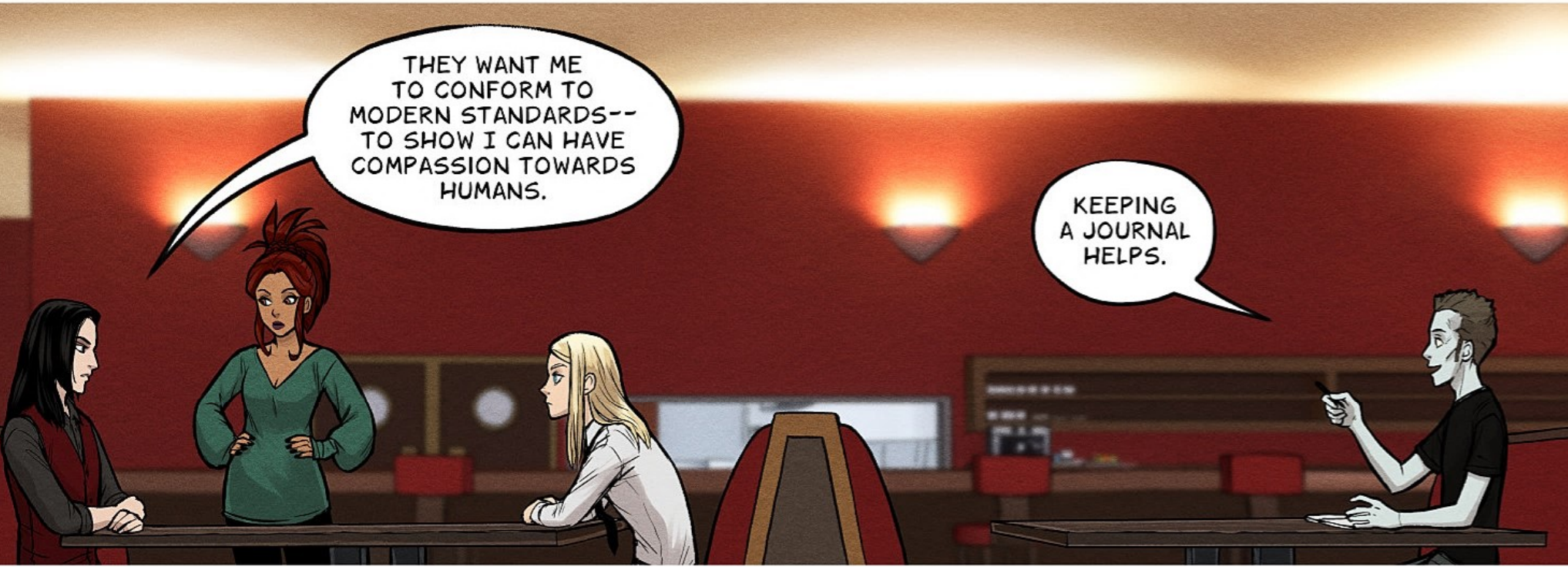




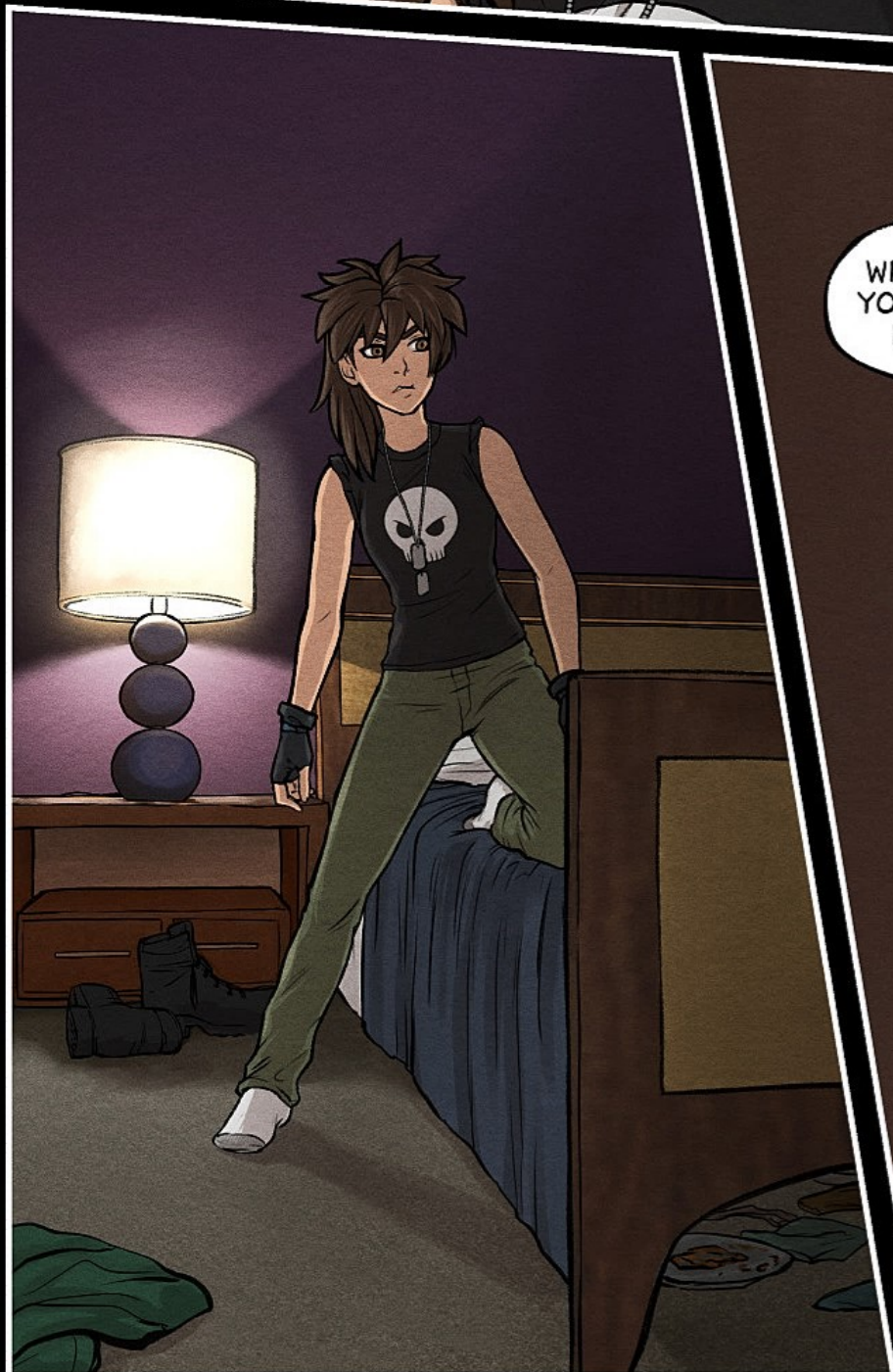
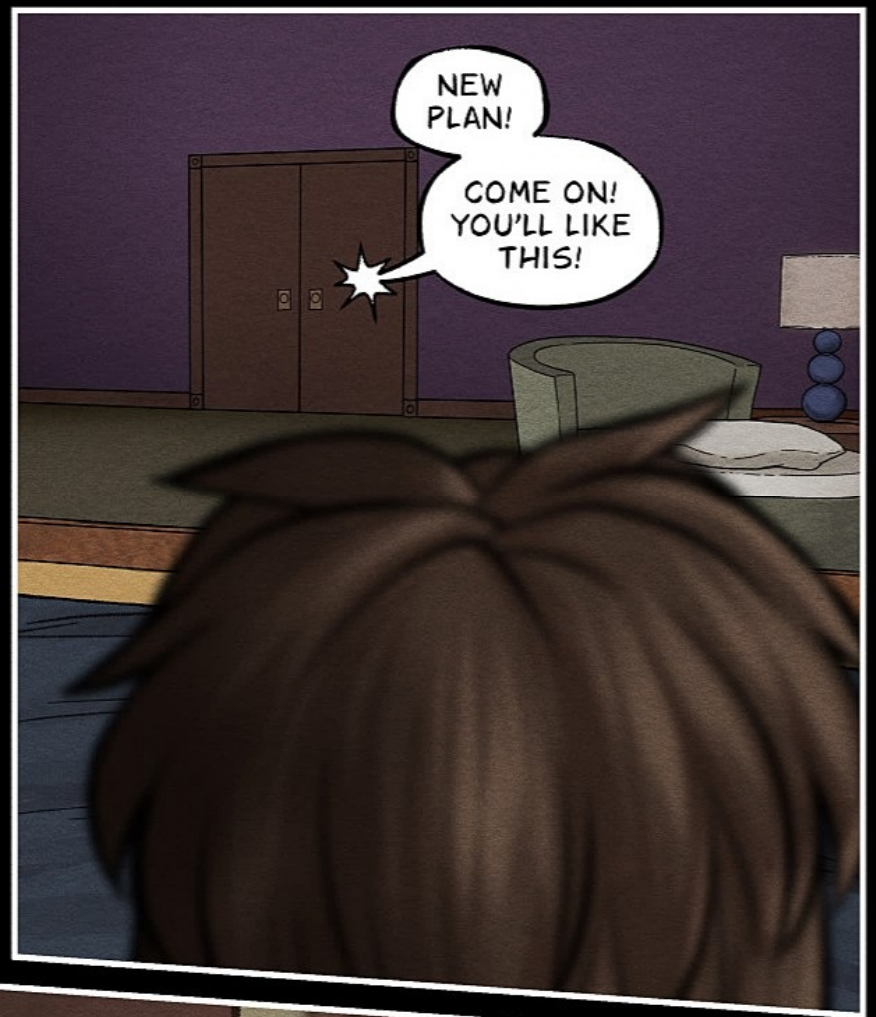
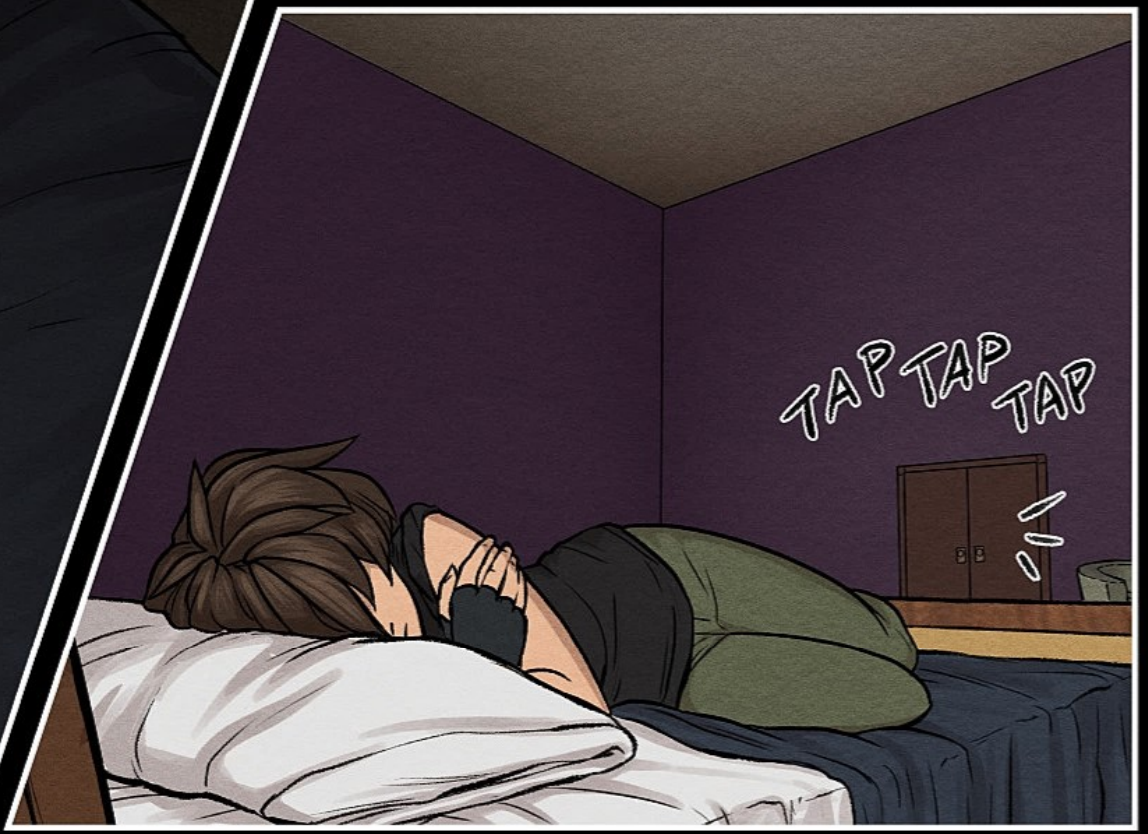






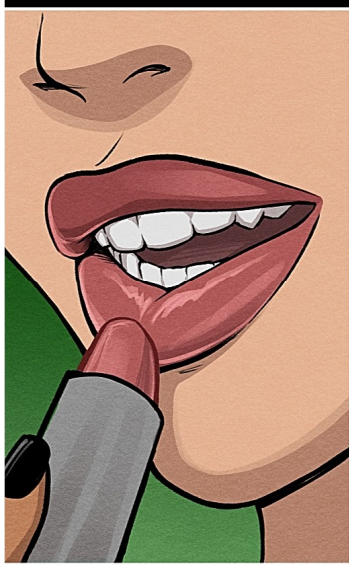


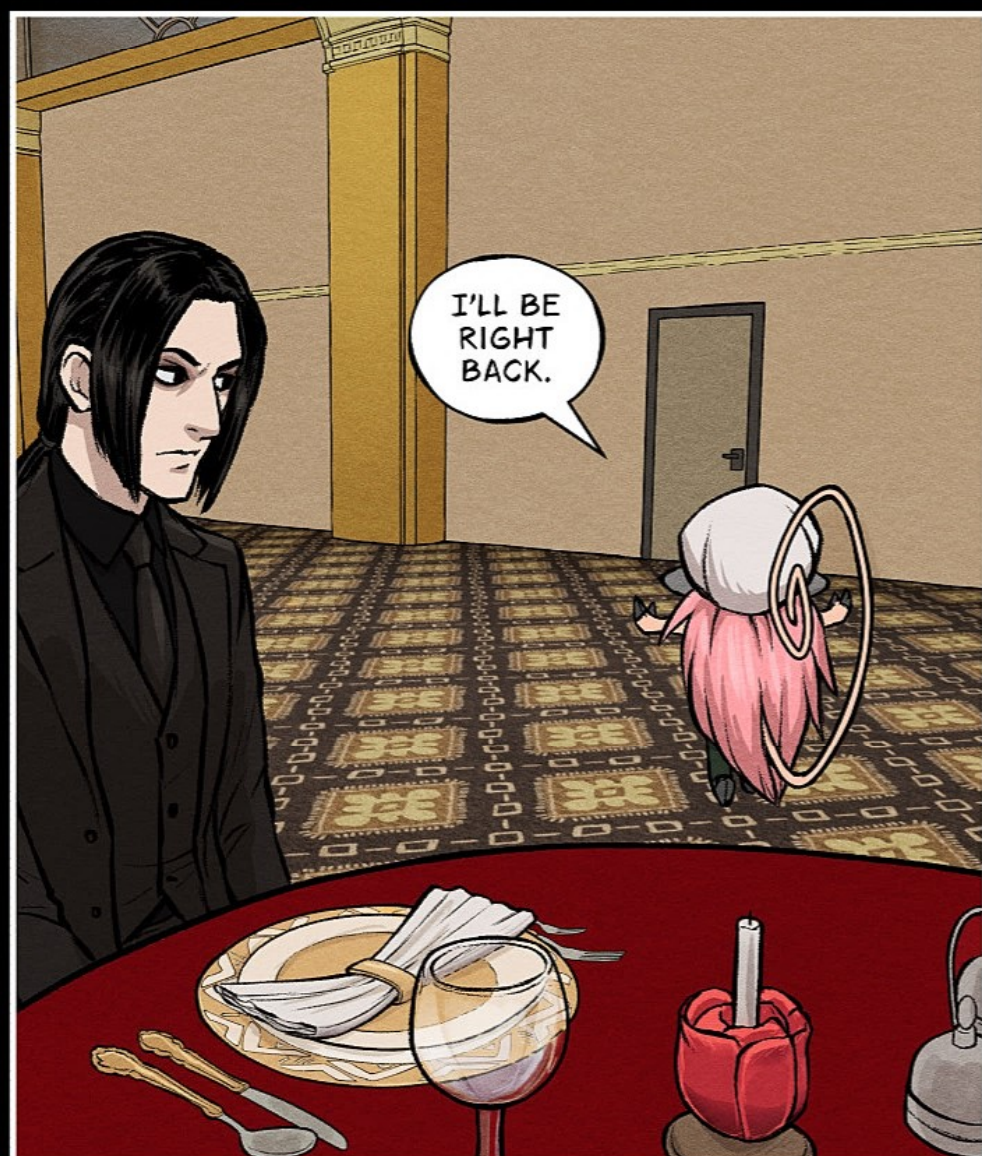
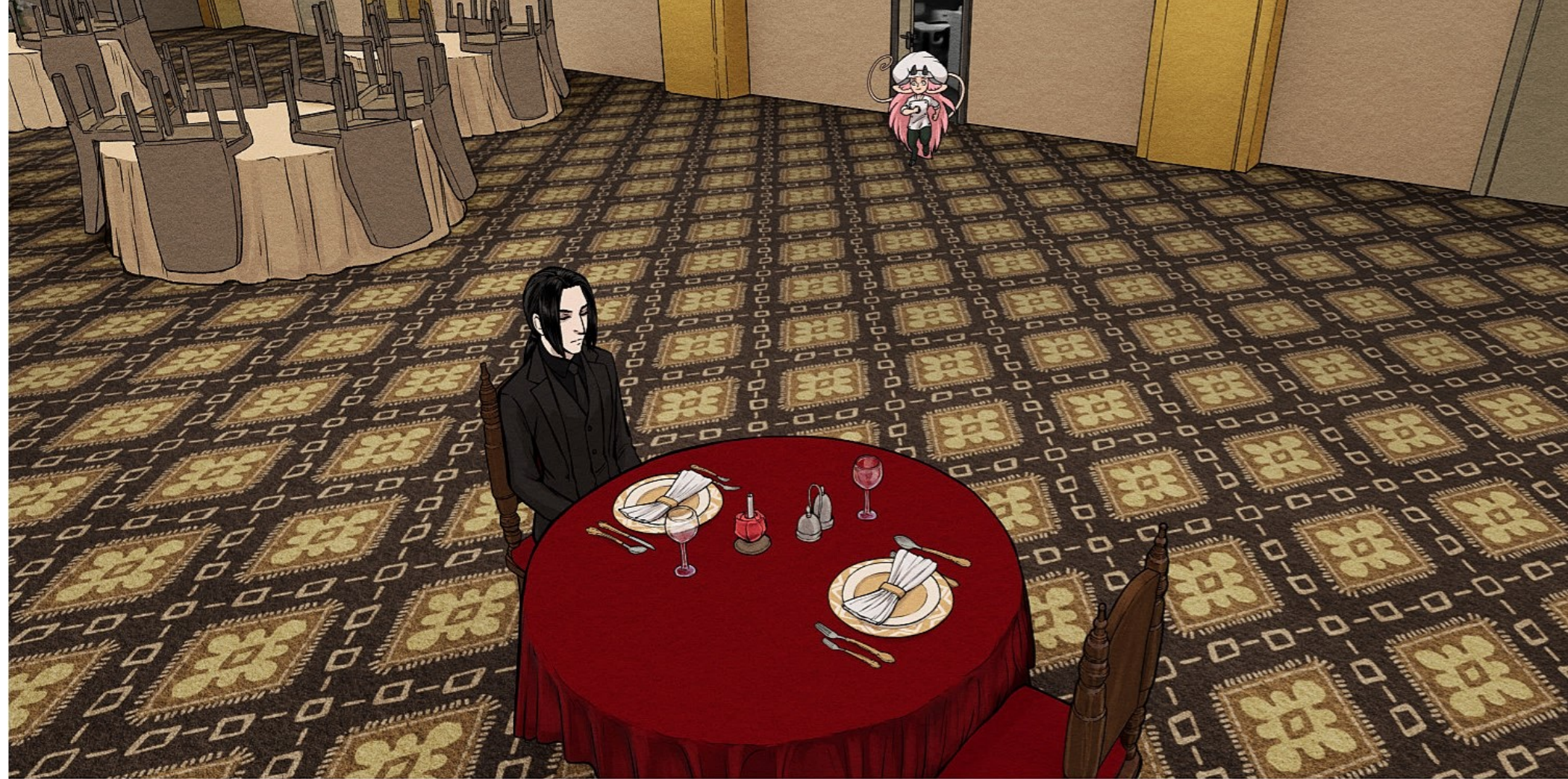


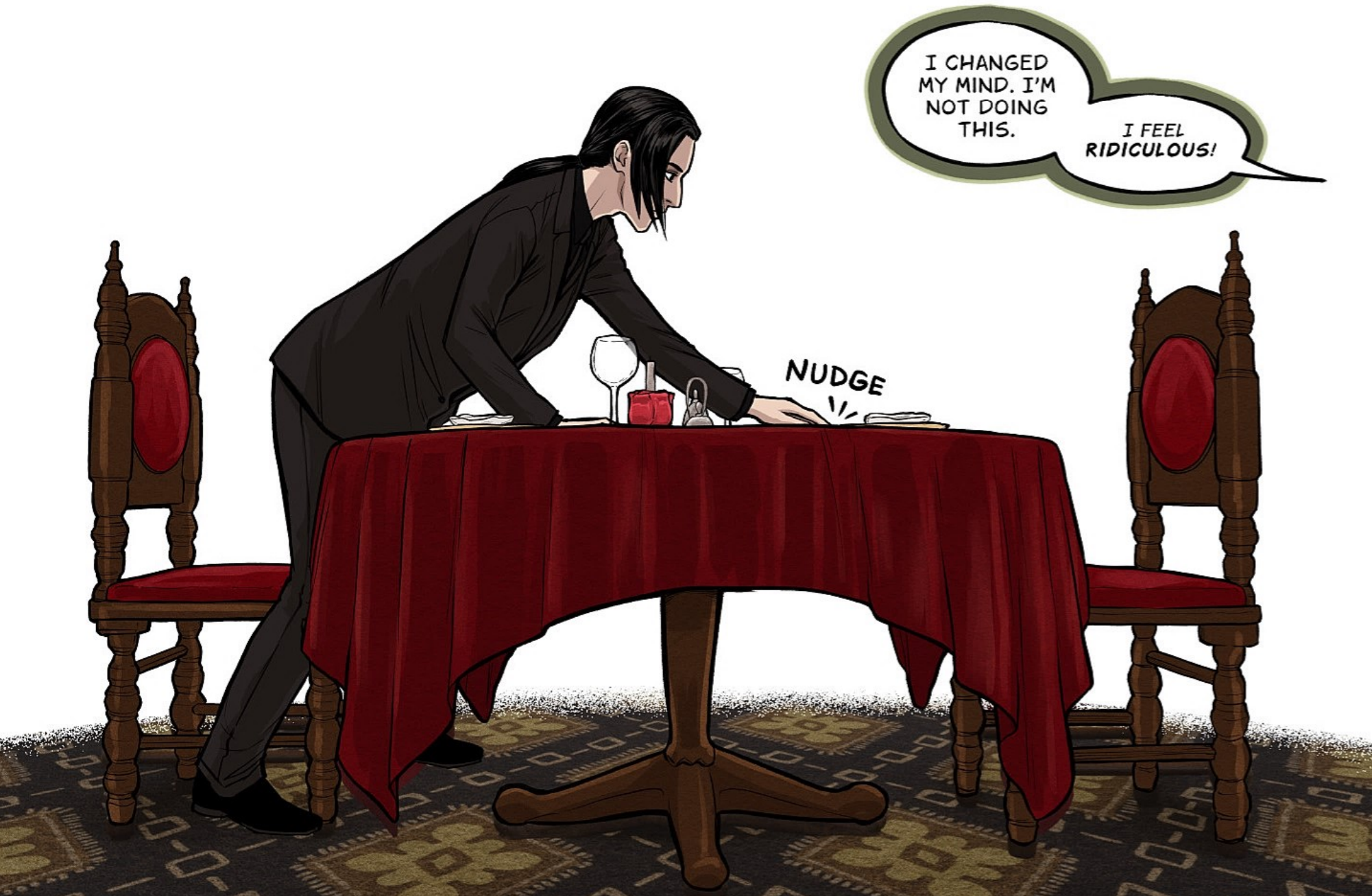
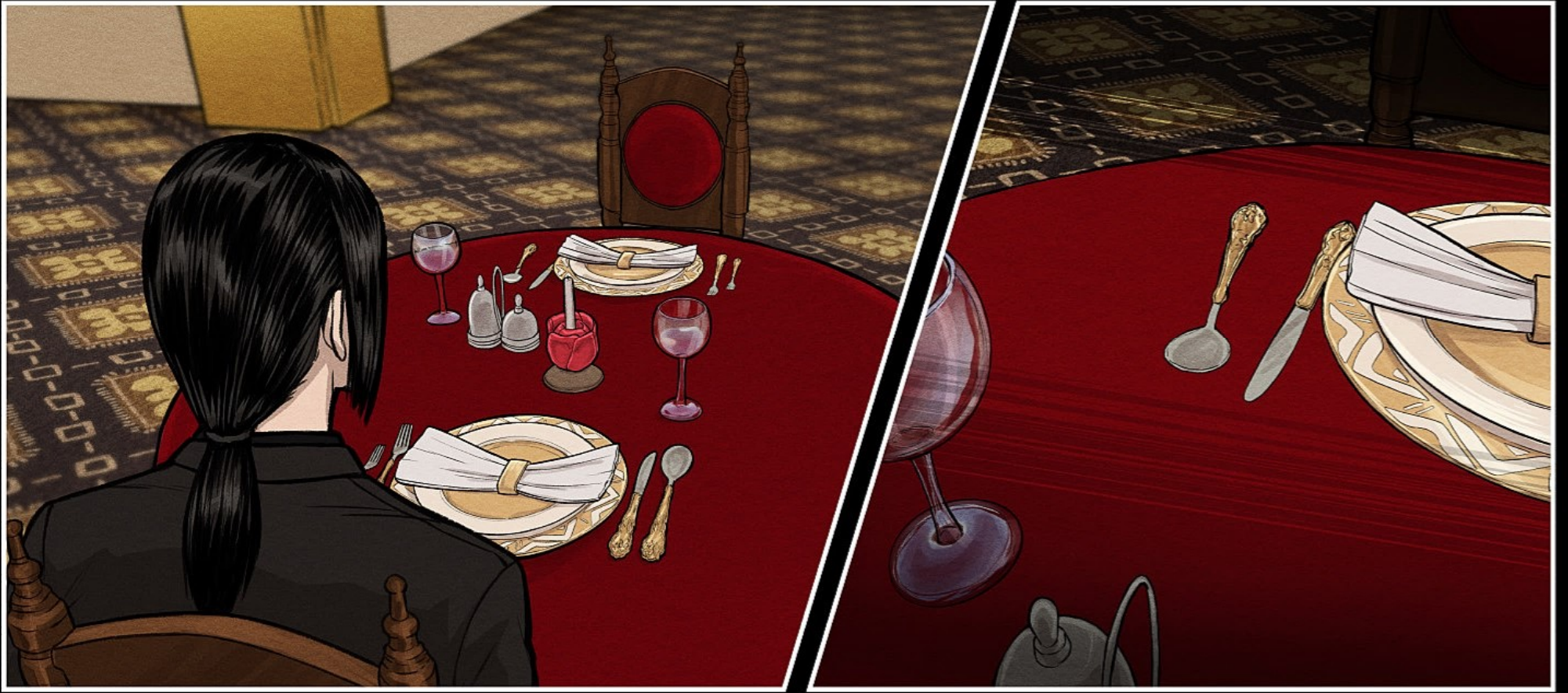
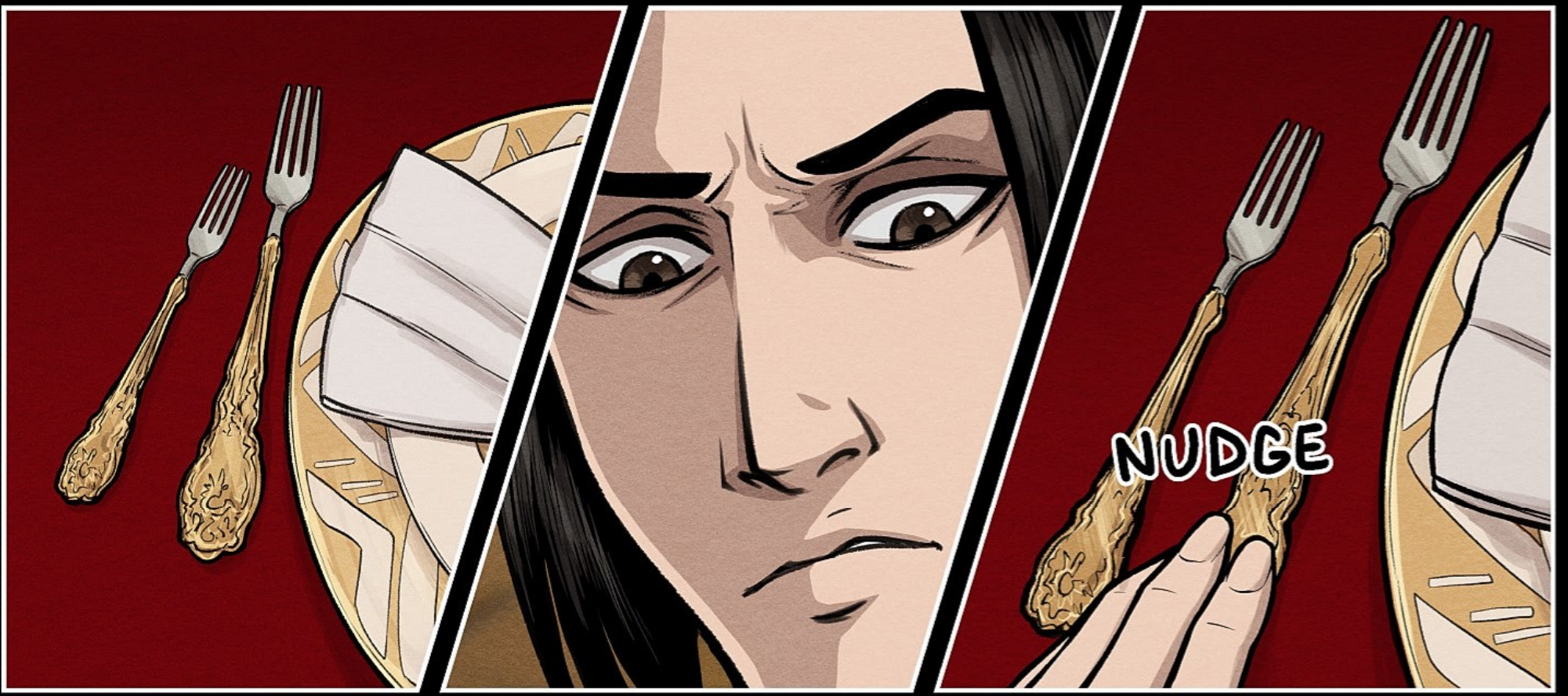


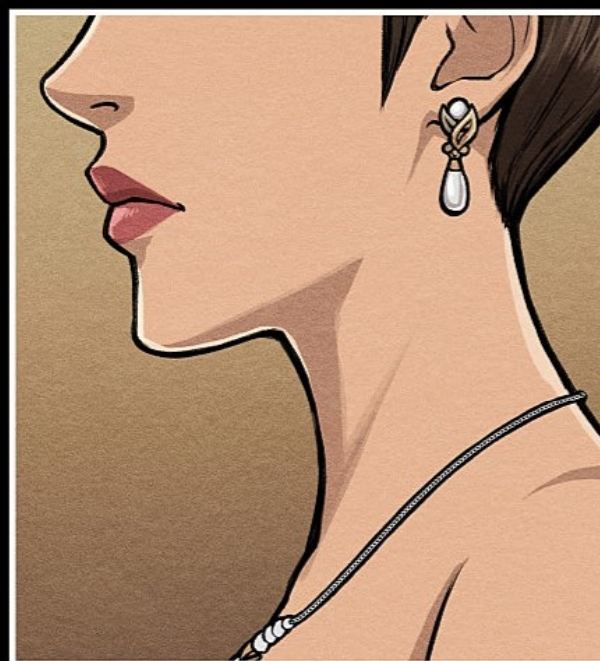
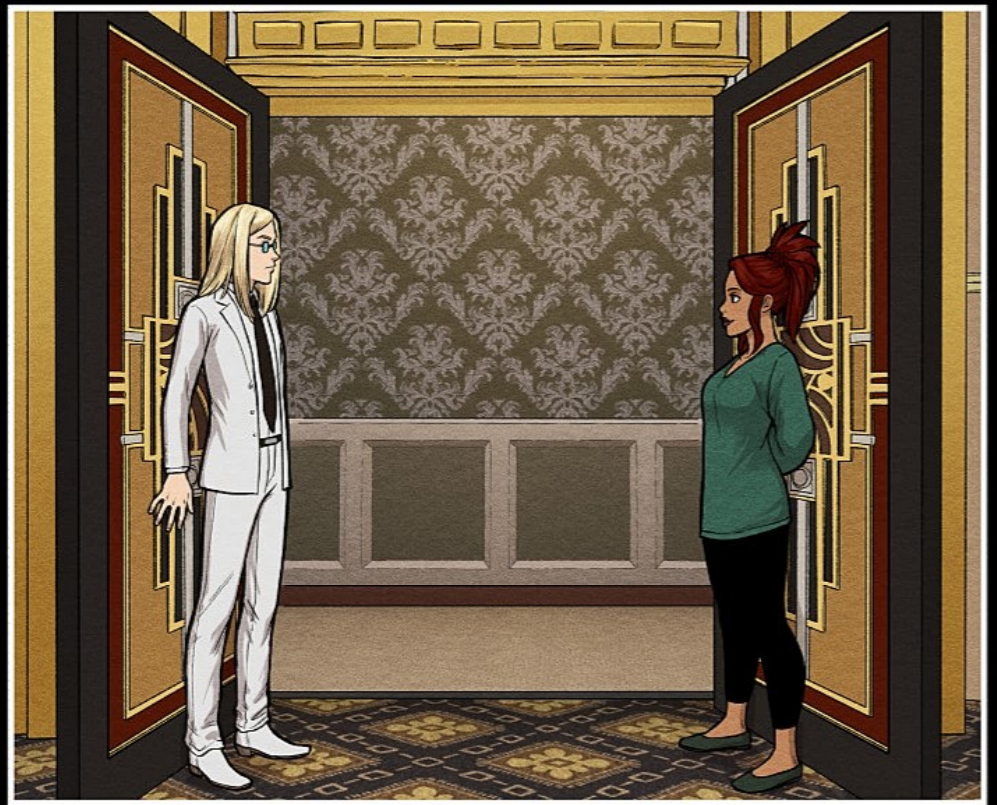
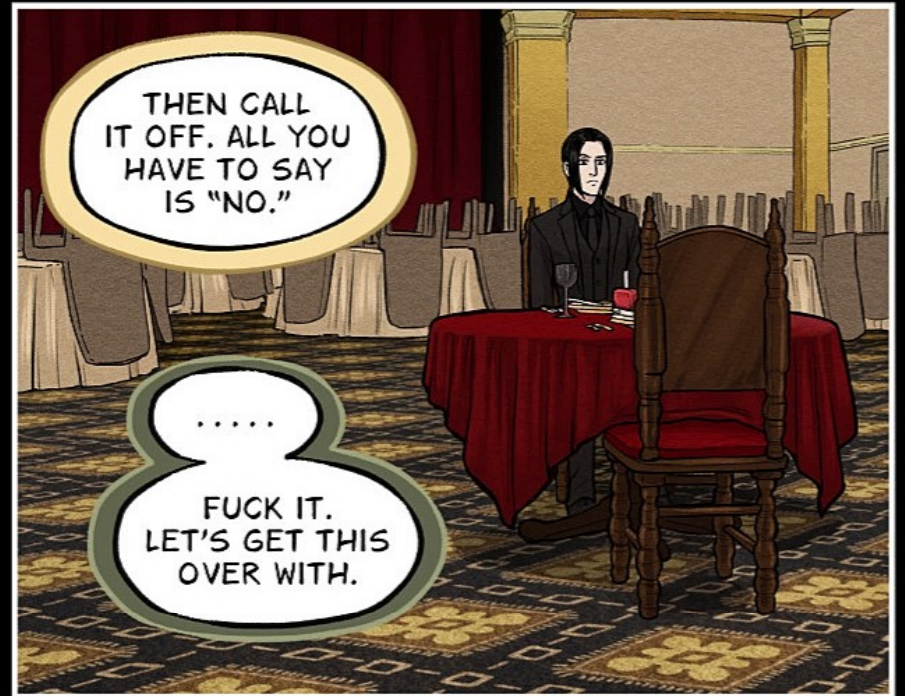
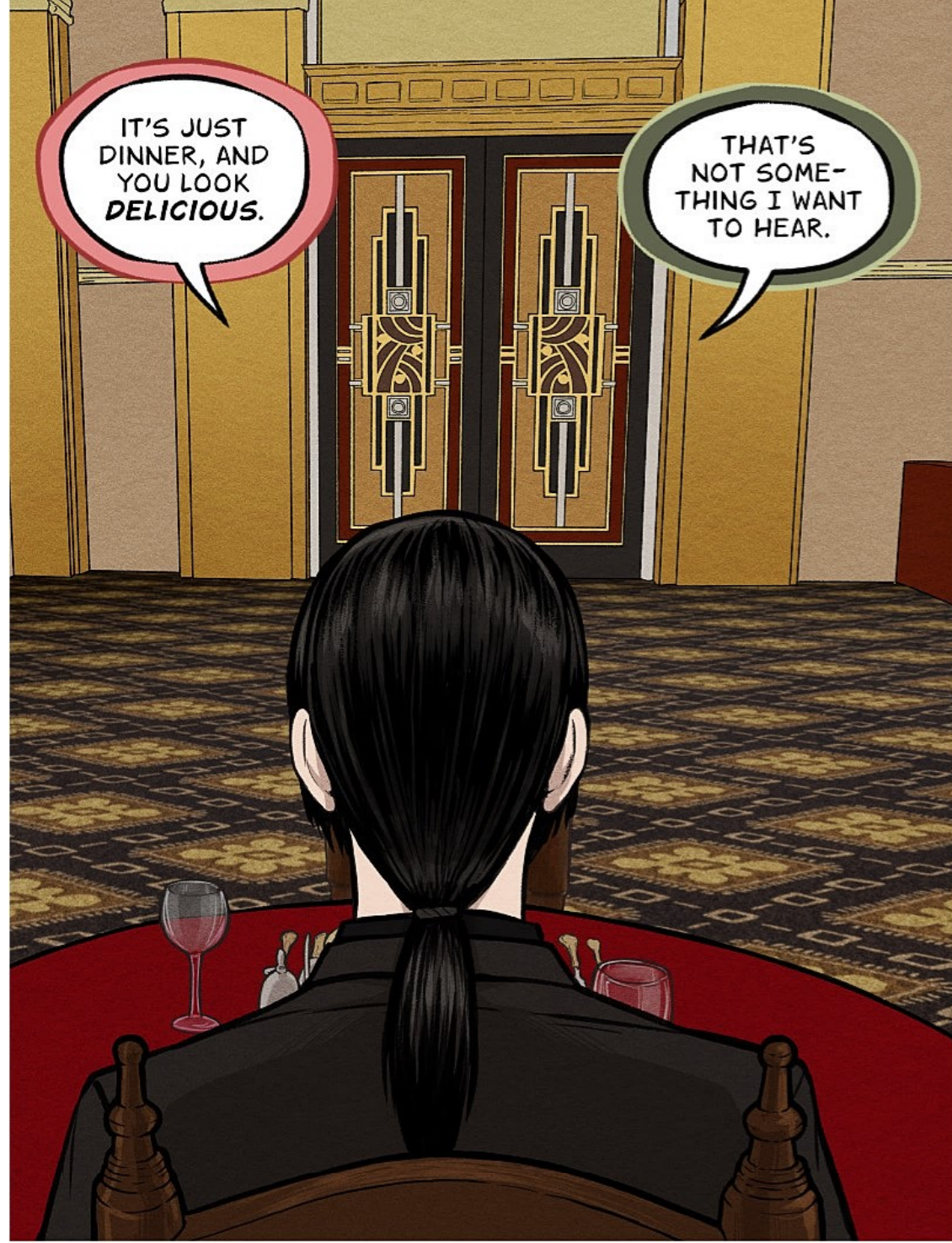




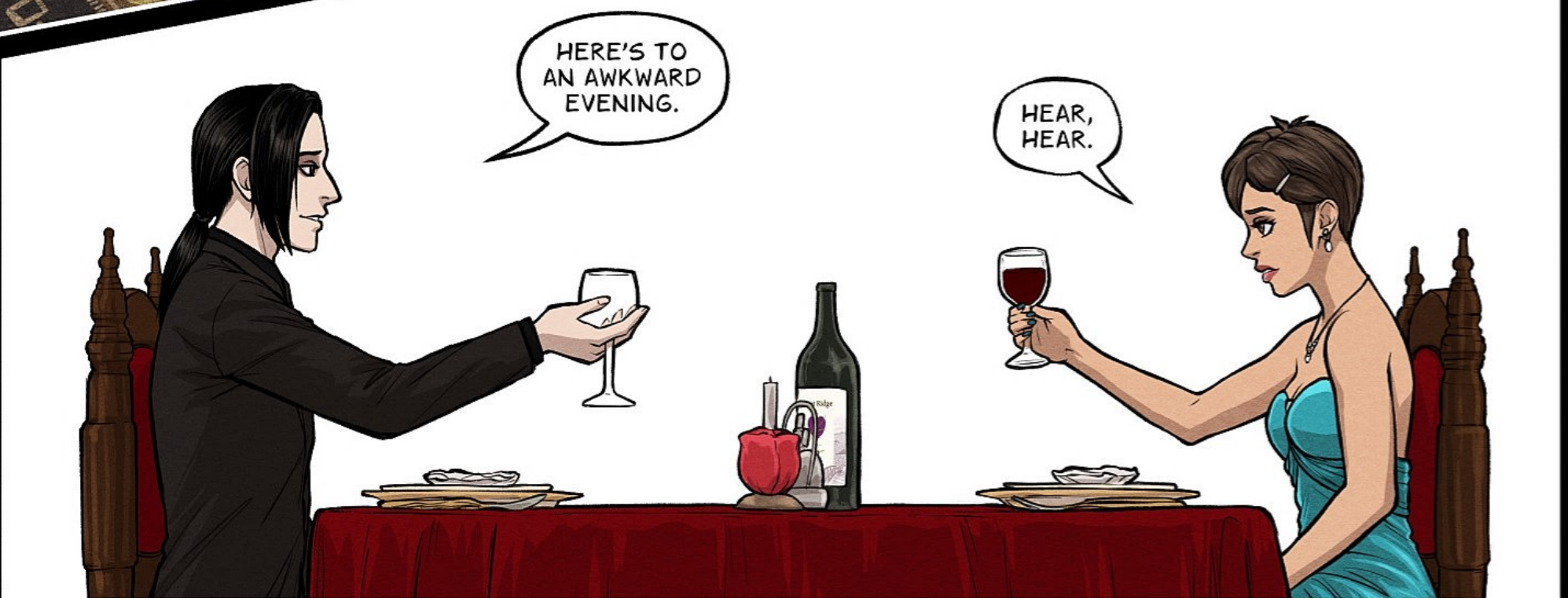
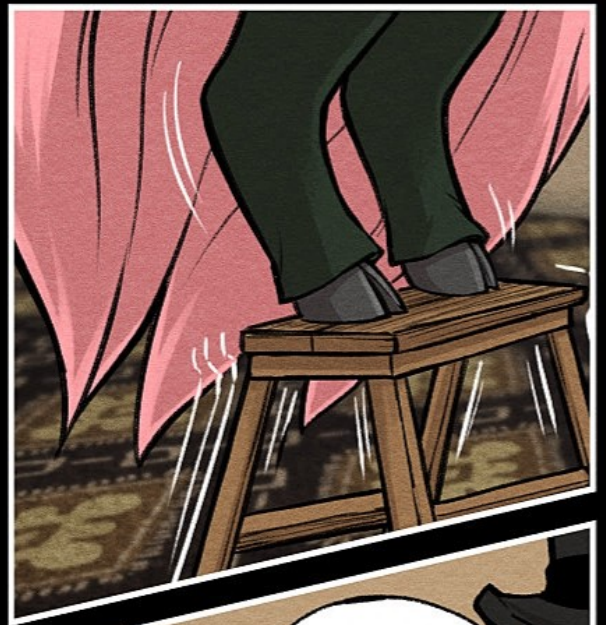
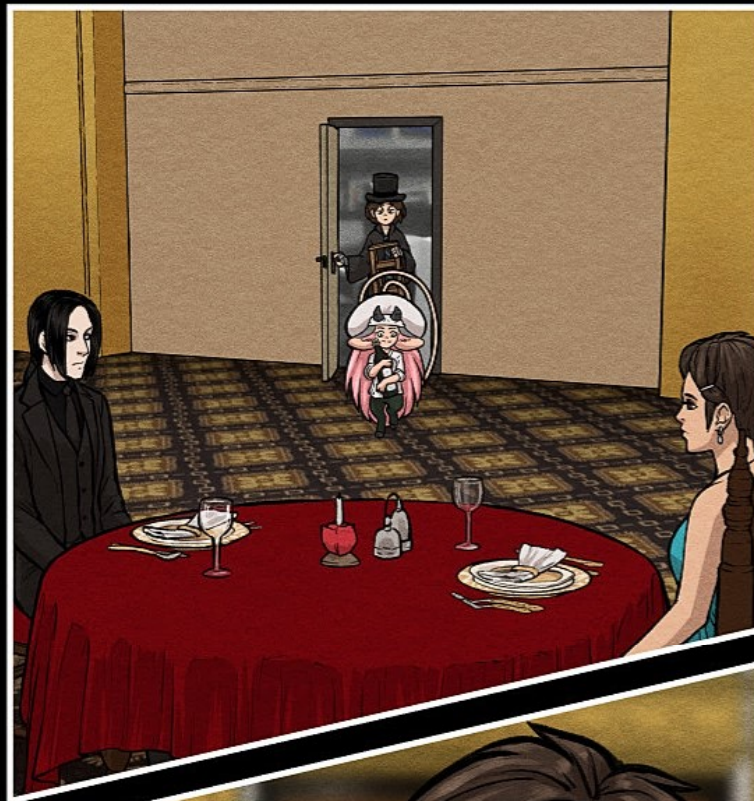
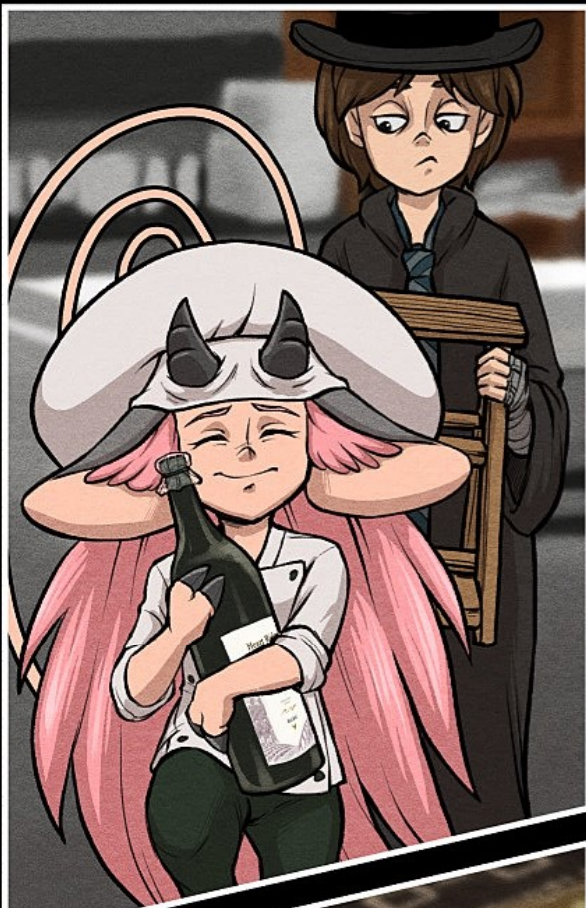


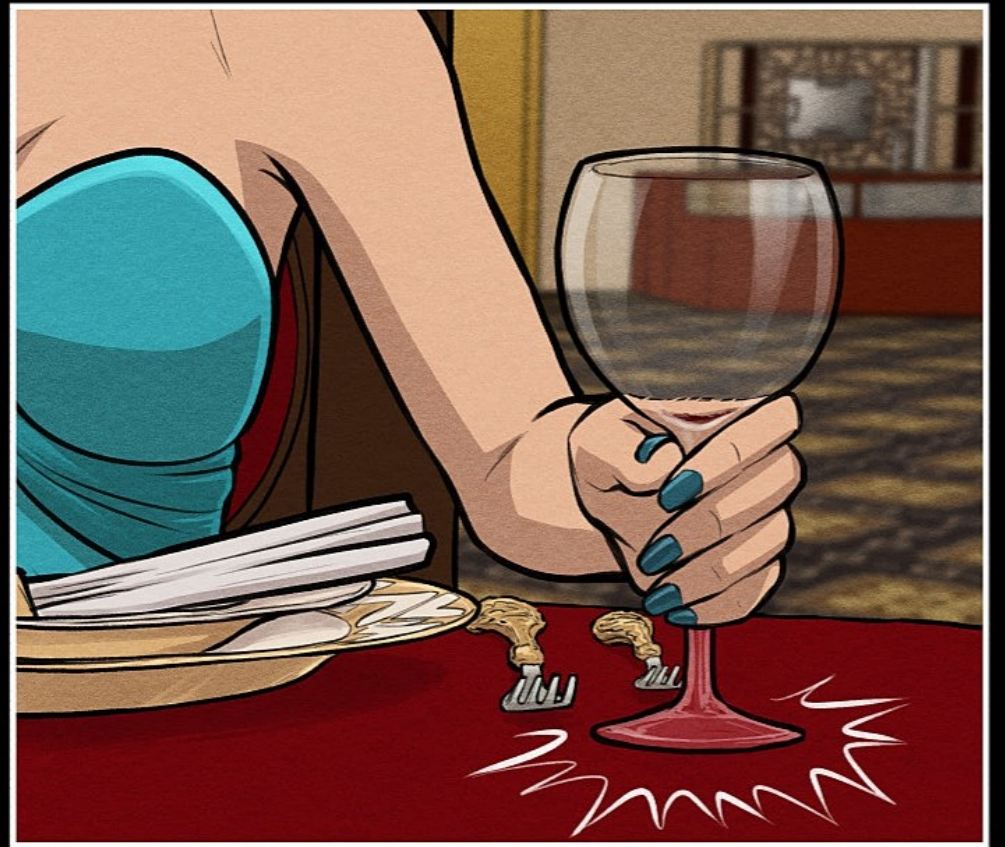
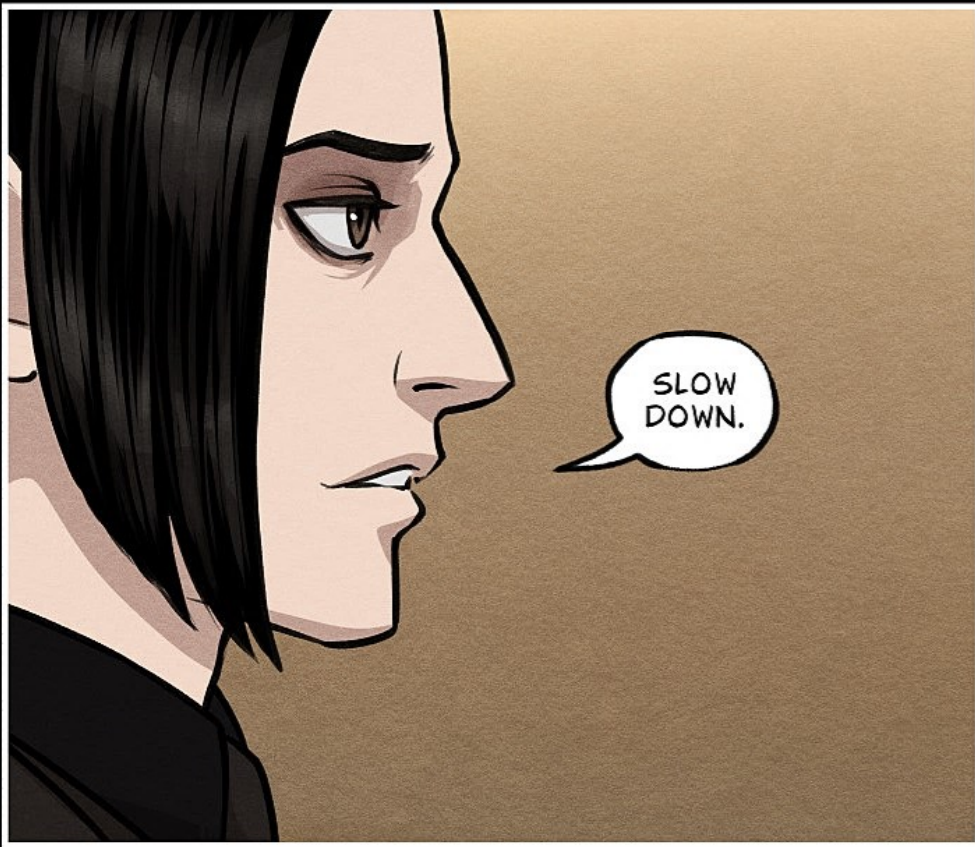
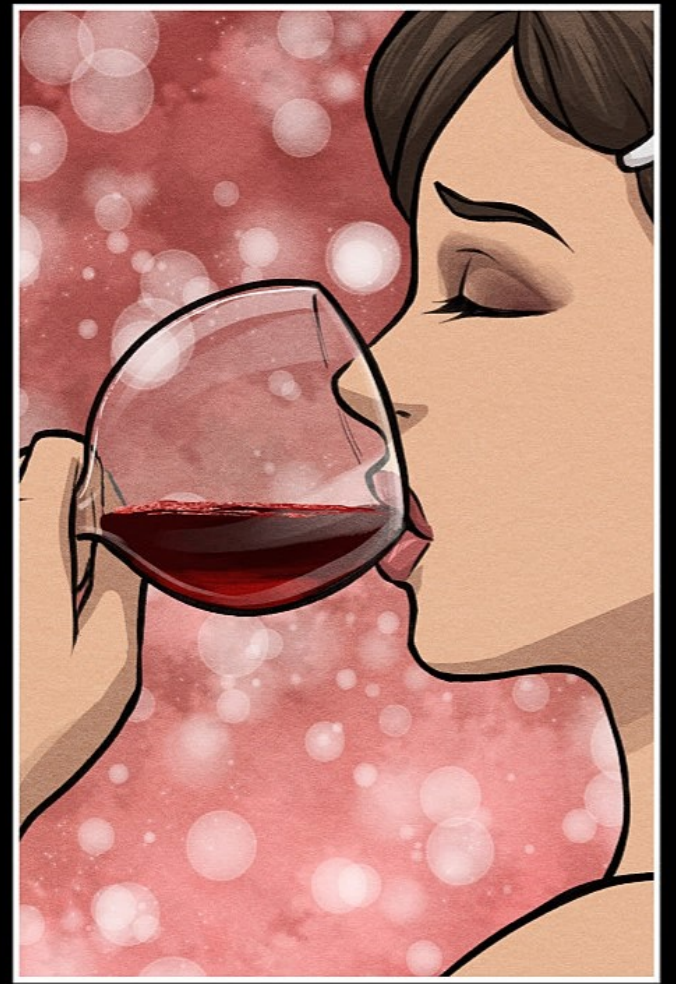


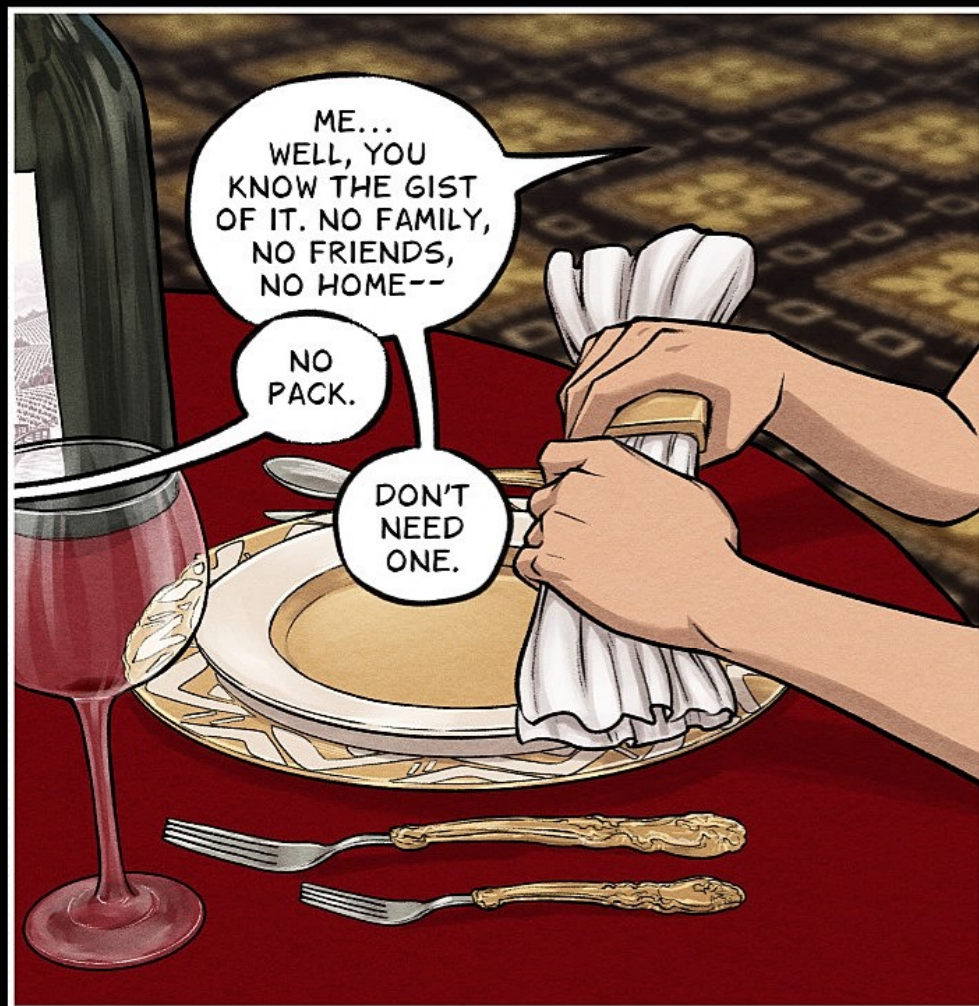












ME... WELL, YOU KNOW THE GIST OF IT. NO FAMILY, NO FRIENDS, NO HOME--

NO PACK.

DON'T NEED ONE.



ON THAT, I DISAGREE.

LIKE YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT WEREWOLVES.

MORE THAN YOU.



THIS IS NOT HOW I IMAGINED MY FIRST DATE TO BE.



I'M YOUR FIRST?

YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST I--



PROPER DATE. MY FIRST PROPER DATE.

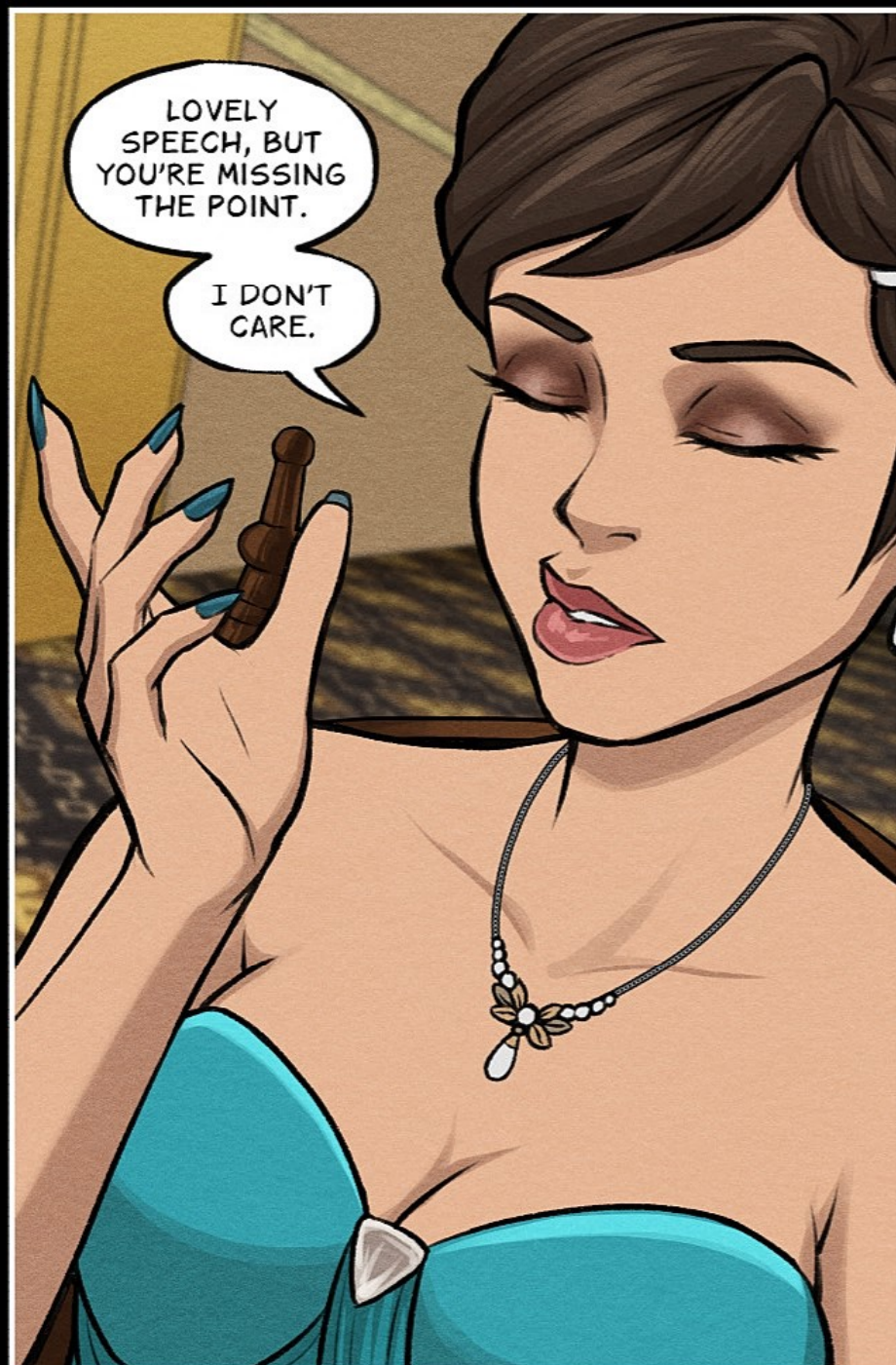
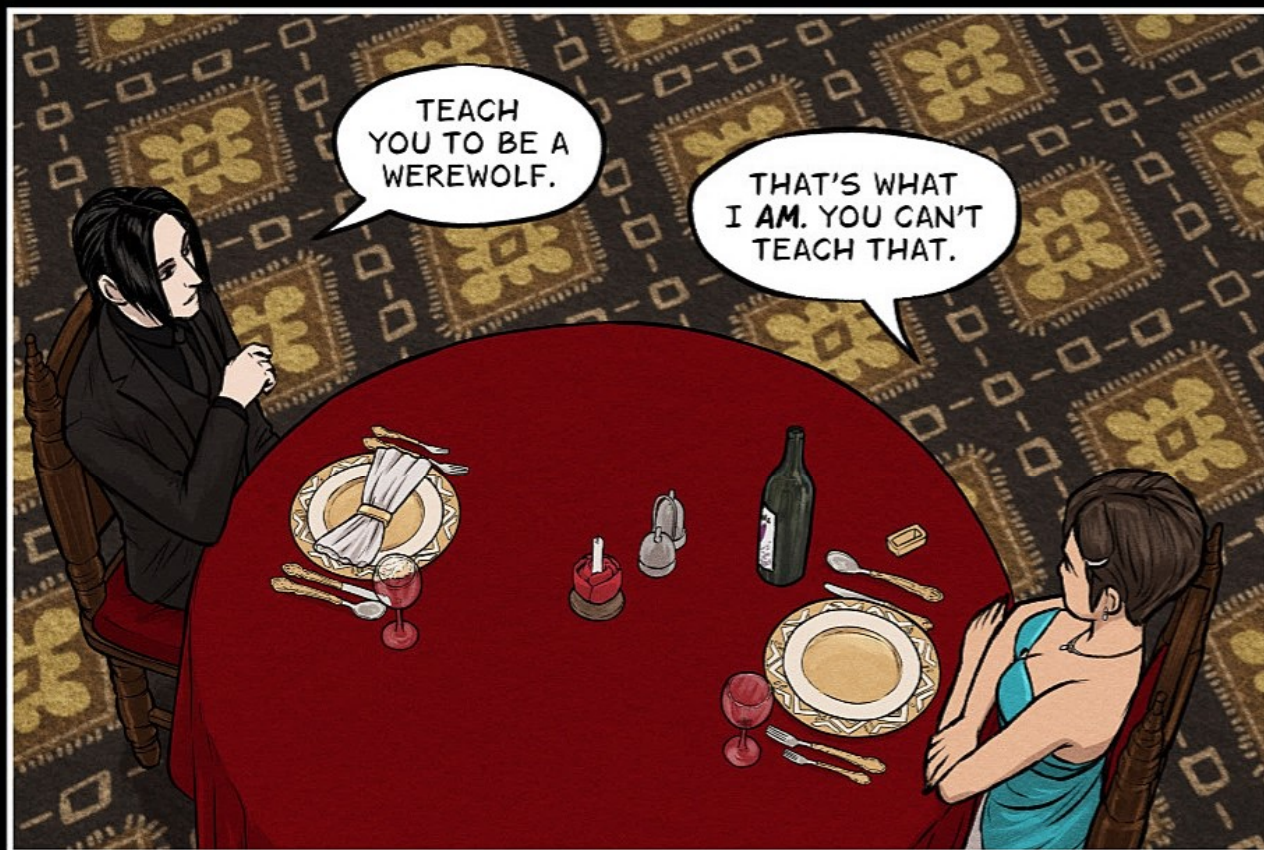
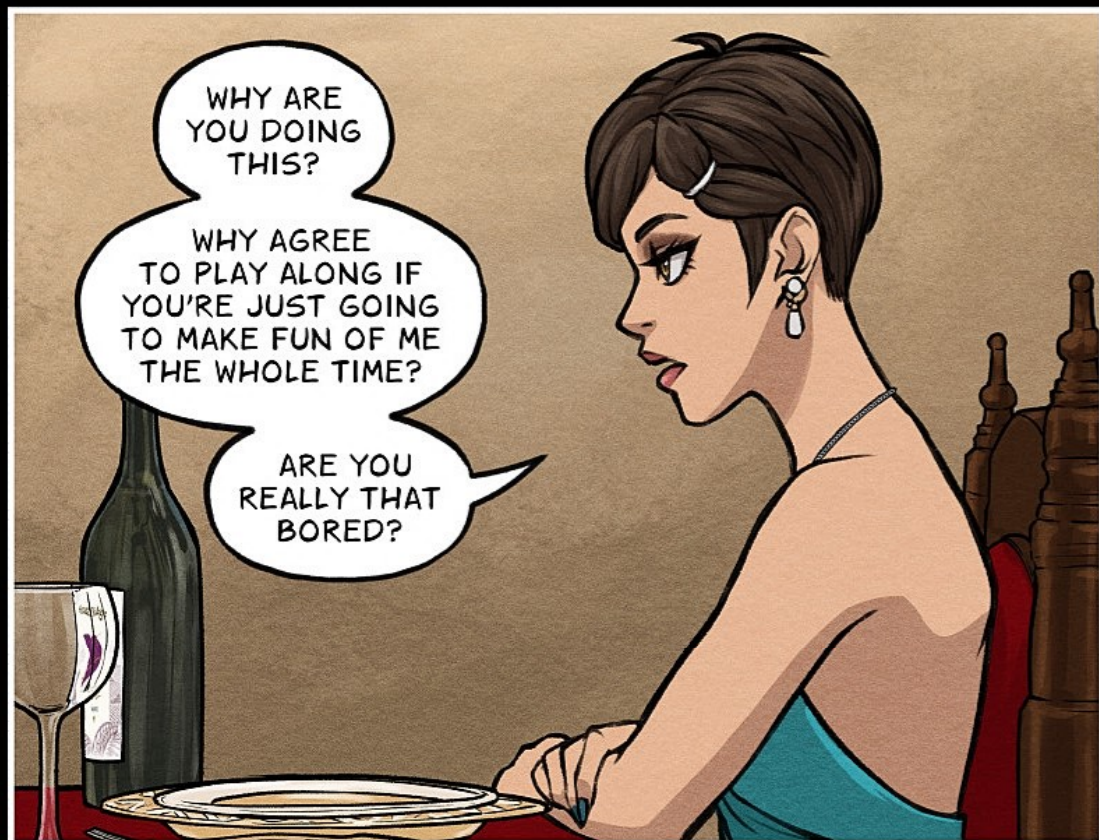
YOU KNOW, ALL THE MOVIE CRAP; CANDLES, DINNER, AND FANCY CLOTHES.



AS OPPOSED TO YOUR OTHER DATES?

MOONLIGHT, DIRT, AND NO CLOTHES?







YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED IT.



YES, I DO. EVERY MONTH, MR. KNOW-IT-ALL.

YOU ARE WHAT THE HUNTERS CALL A "RUNNER," THOSE RARE WEREWOLVES WHO SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS.

THESE PITIFUL FEW ONLY ALLOW THEMSELVES TO CHANGE UNDER THE PULL OF THE MOON--

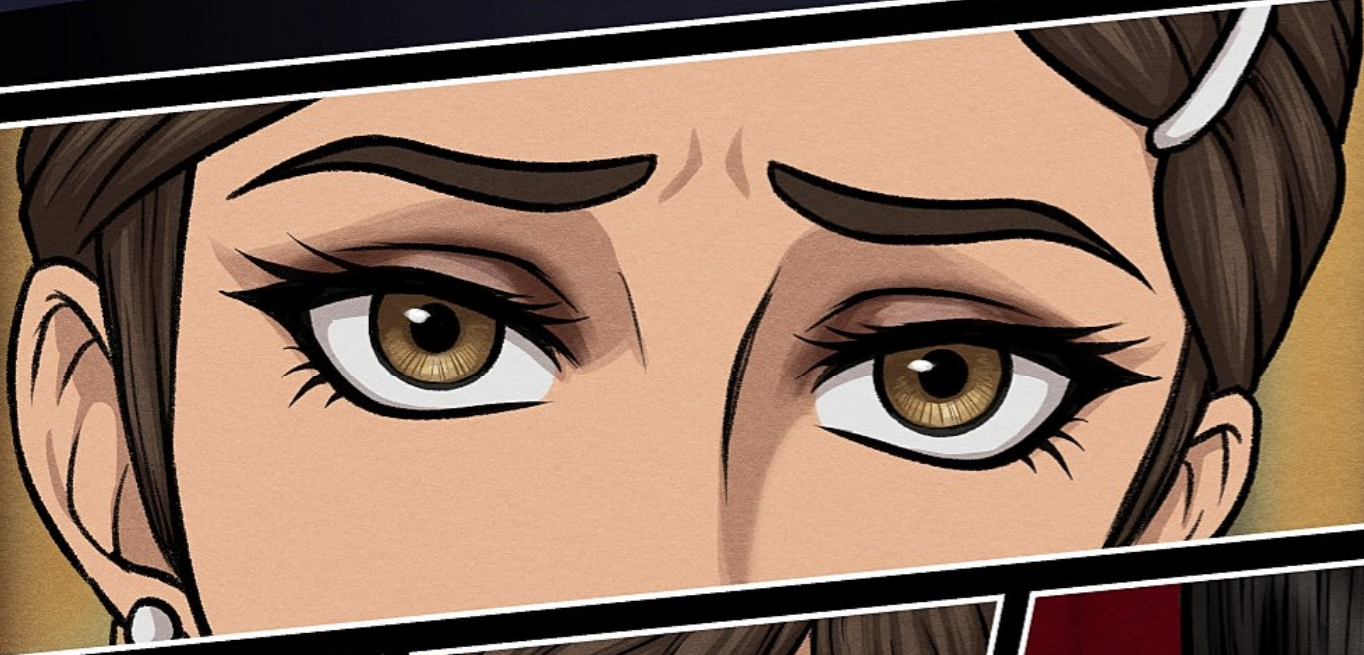


ALWAYS WAKING THE NEXT MORNING WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED. THEY SEE IT AS A CURSE.

BUT ONCE YOU LEARN TO COEXIST WITH THAT SIDE, TO CALL UPON YOUR TRUE SKIN, YOU WILL BE AS AWARE AS YOU ARE NOW.



ARE YOU A HUNTER?



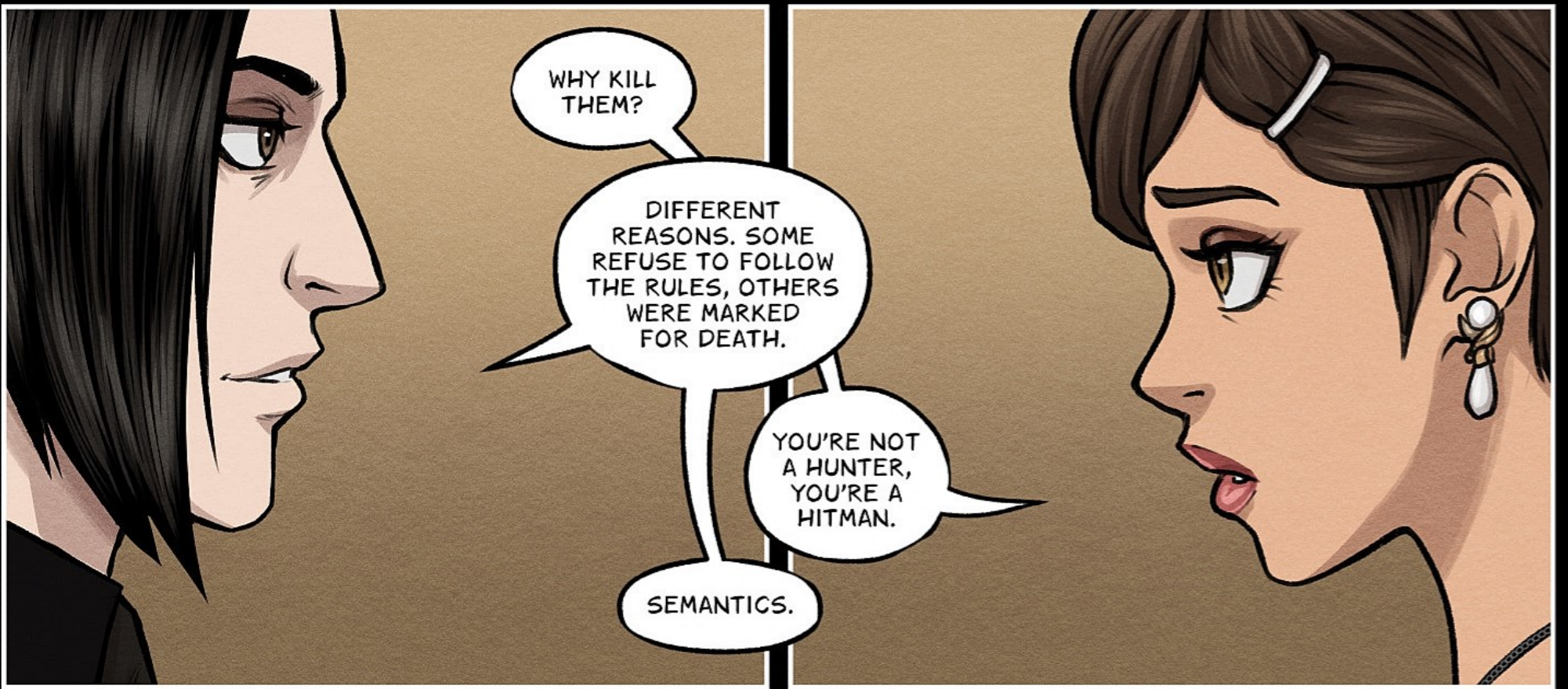
ALL VAMPIRES ARE HUNTERS.



A WEREWOLF HUNTER?



I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO HUNT WEREWOLVES AND VAMPIRES IF THE PAY IS RIGHT.

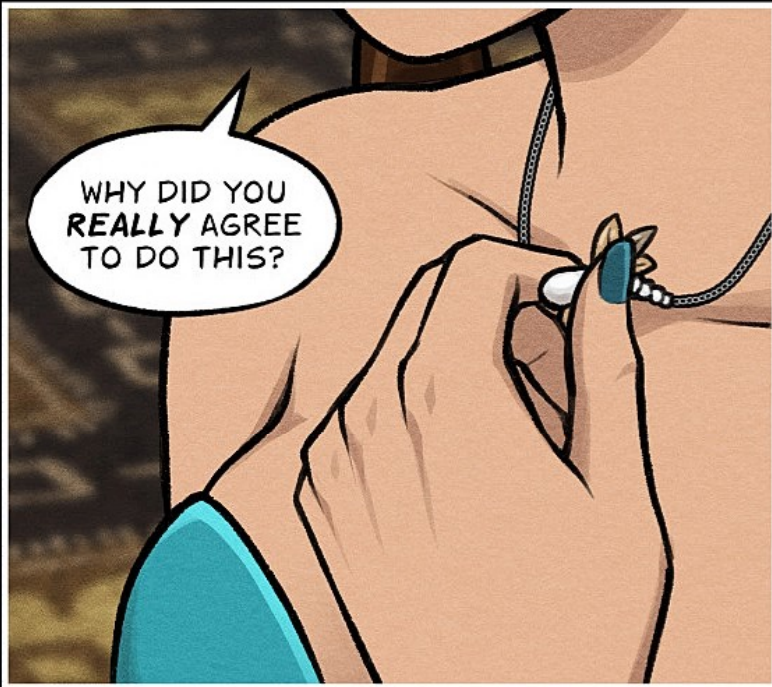


WHY KILL THEM?

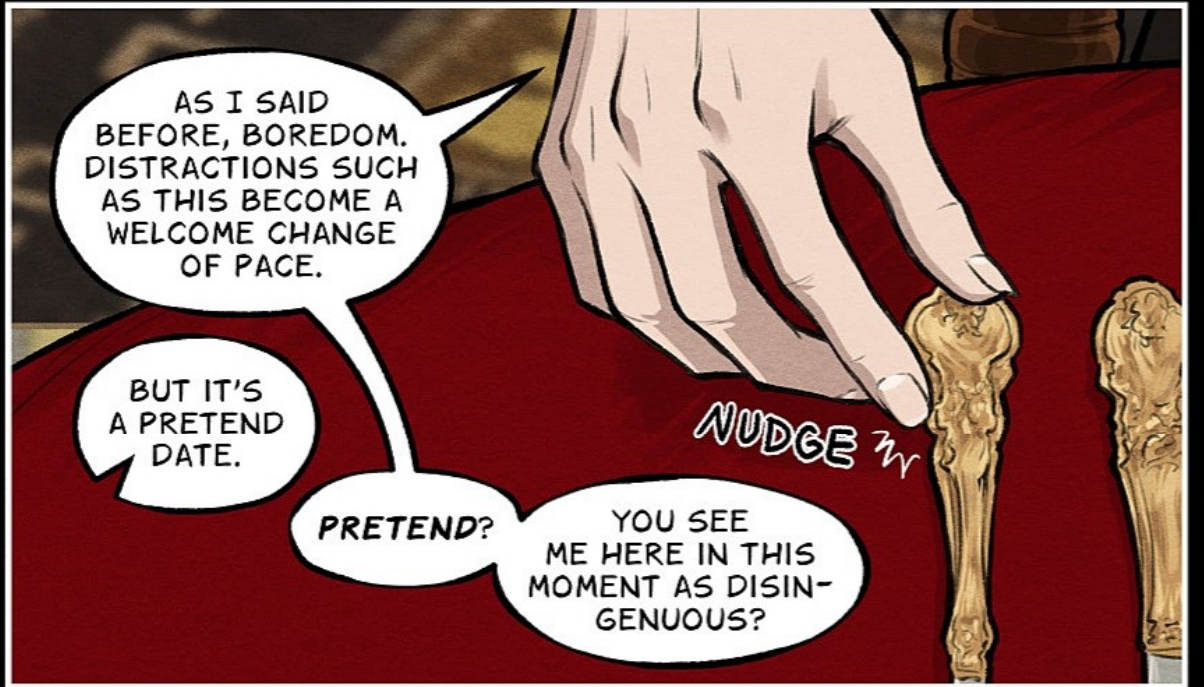
DIFFERENT REASONS. SOME REFUSE TO FOLLOW THE RULES, OTHERS WERE MARKED FOR DEATH.

YOU'RE NOT A HUNTER, YOU'RE A HITMAN.

SEMANTICS.



WHY DID YOU REALLY AGREE TO DO THIS?



AS I SAID BEFORE, BOREDOM. DISTRACTIONS SUCH AS THIS BECAME A WELCOME CHANGE OF PACE.

BUT IT'S A PRETEND DATE.

PRETEND?

YOU SEE ME HERE IN THIS MOMENT AS DISINGENUOUS?

NUDGE



IT'S TRUE WE ALL WEAR MASKS, EVEN YOU IN THIS MOMENT.

YOU LET THE WITCH DRESS YOU UP LIKE SOMEONE DESPERATE TO WIN A BEAUTY PAGEANT, YET YOU'VE BEEN FIDGETING THE MOMENT YOU WALKED THROUGH THAT DOOR.

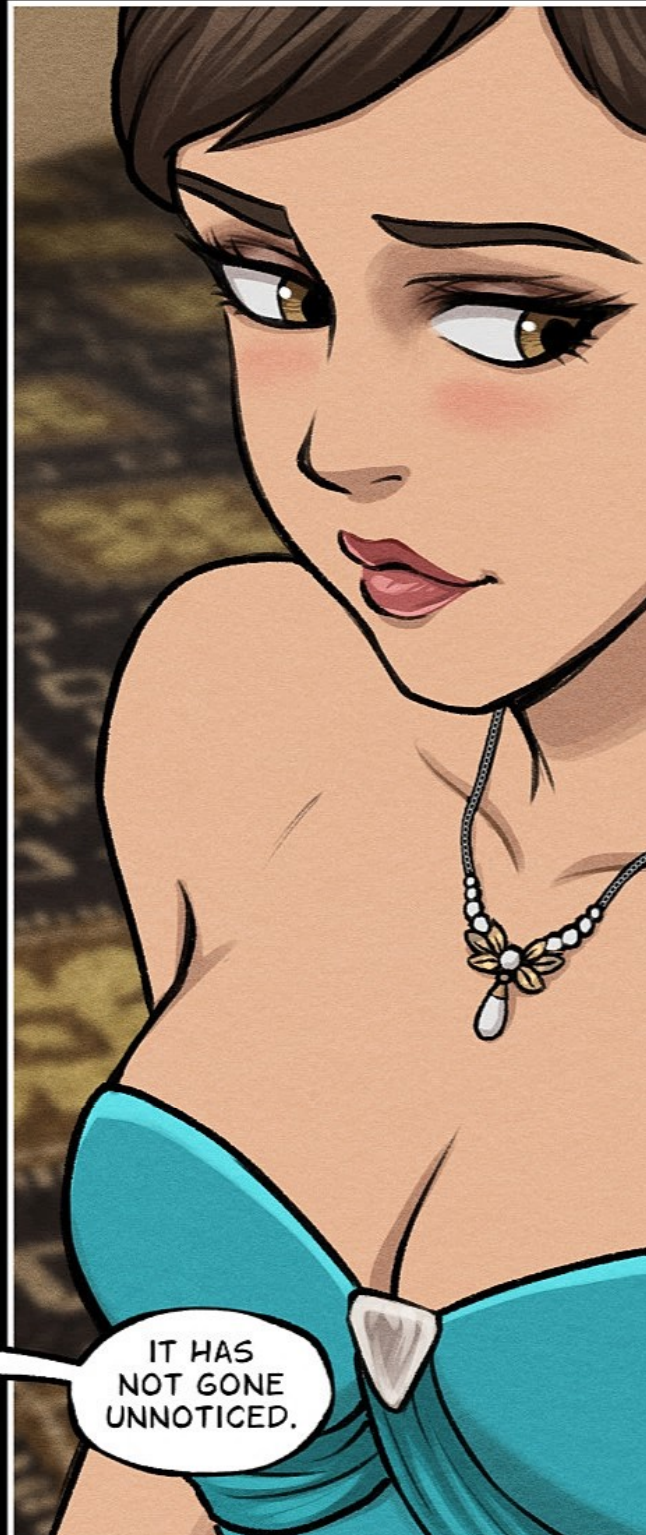
YOU COULD HAVE SHOWN UP IN ONE OF YOUR WORN-OUT JEANS, RIPPED SHIRTS, AND BOOTS AND I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT NO LESS OF YOU.



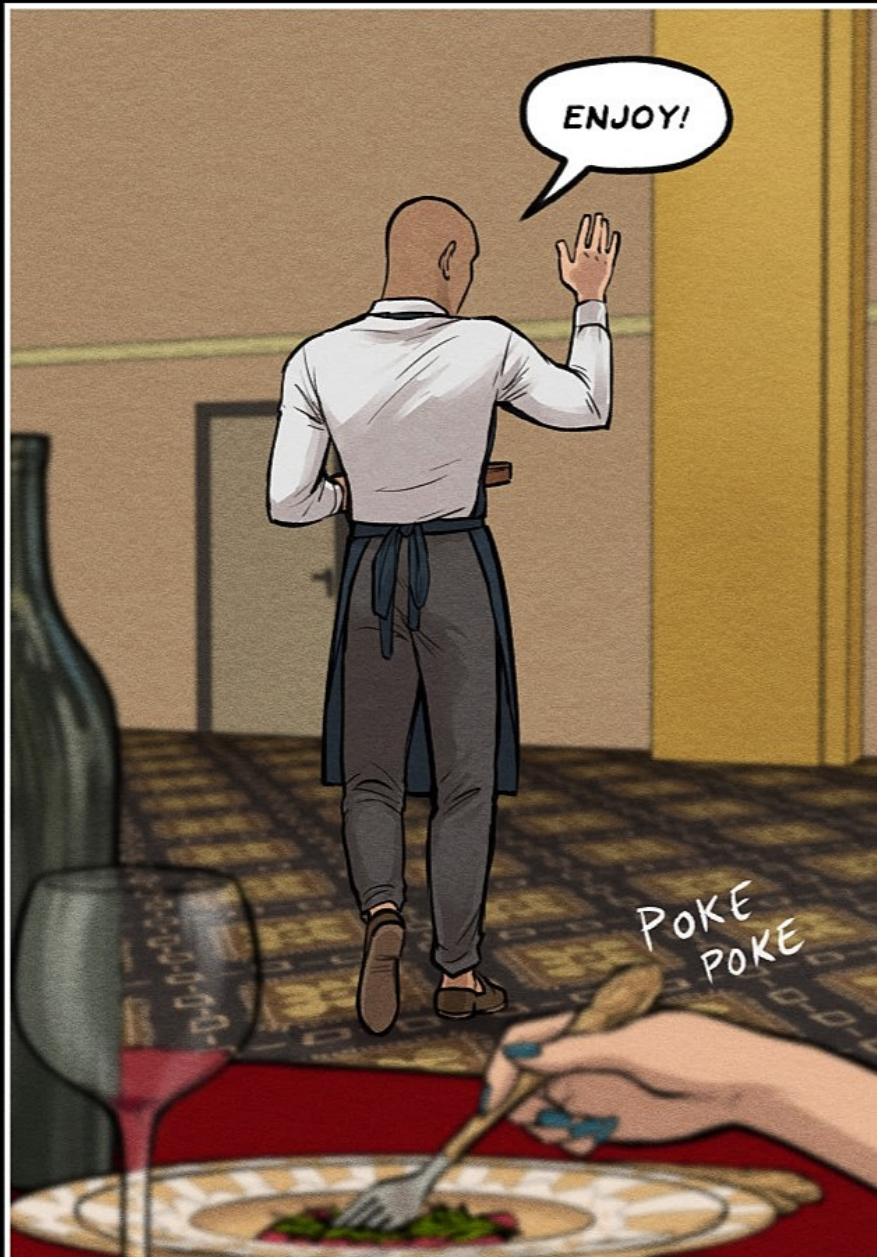
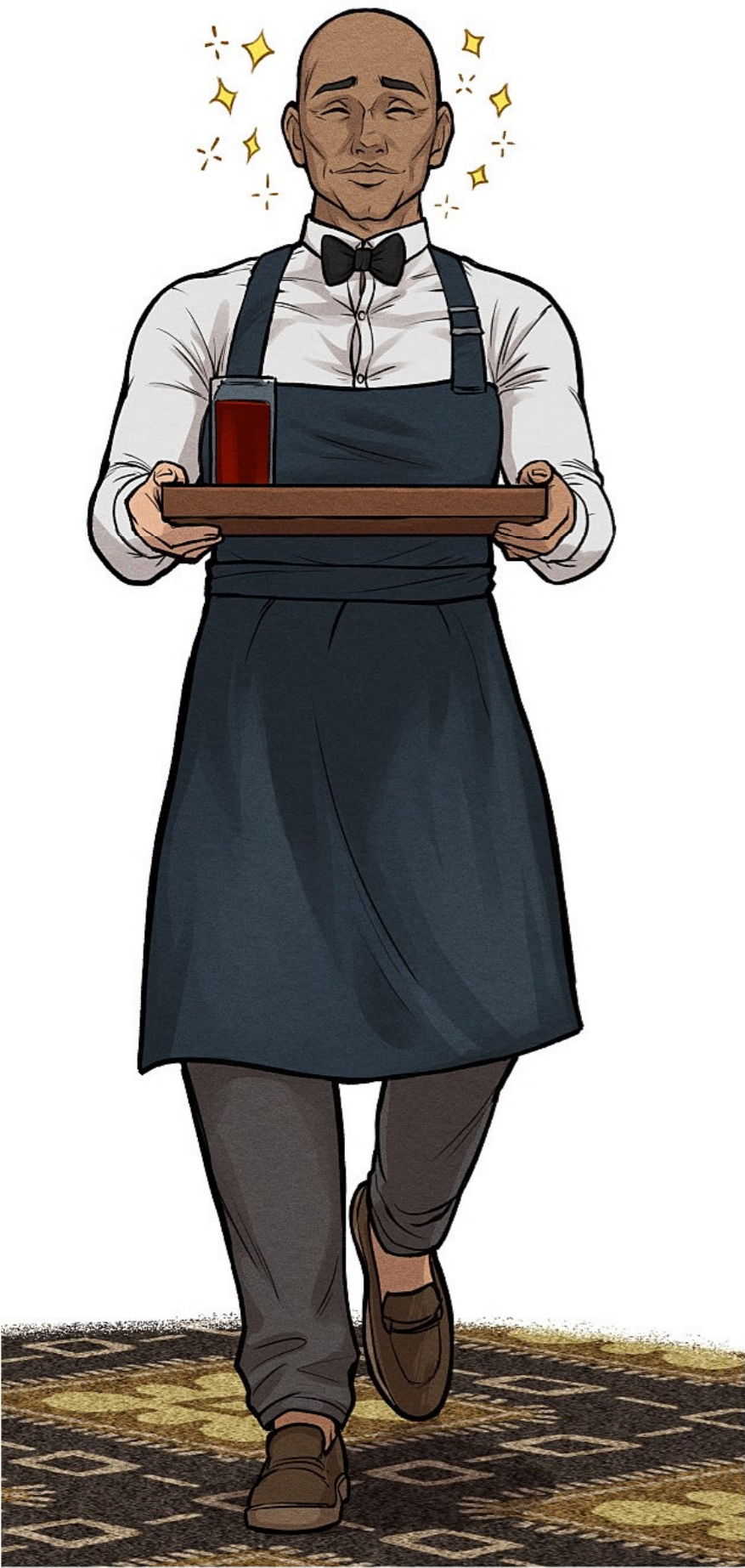
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO KNOW BEFOREHAND.



BUT THE FACT YOU ALLOWED YOURSELF TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME...



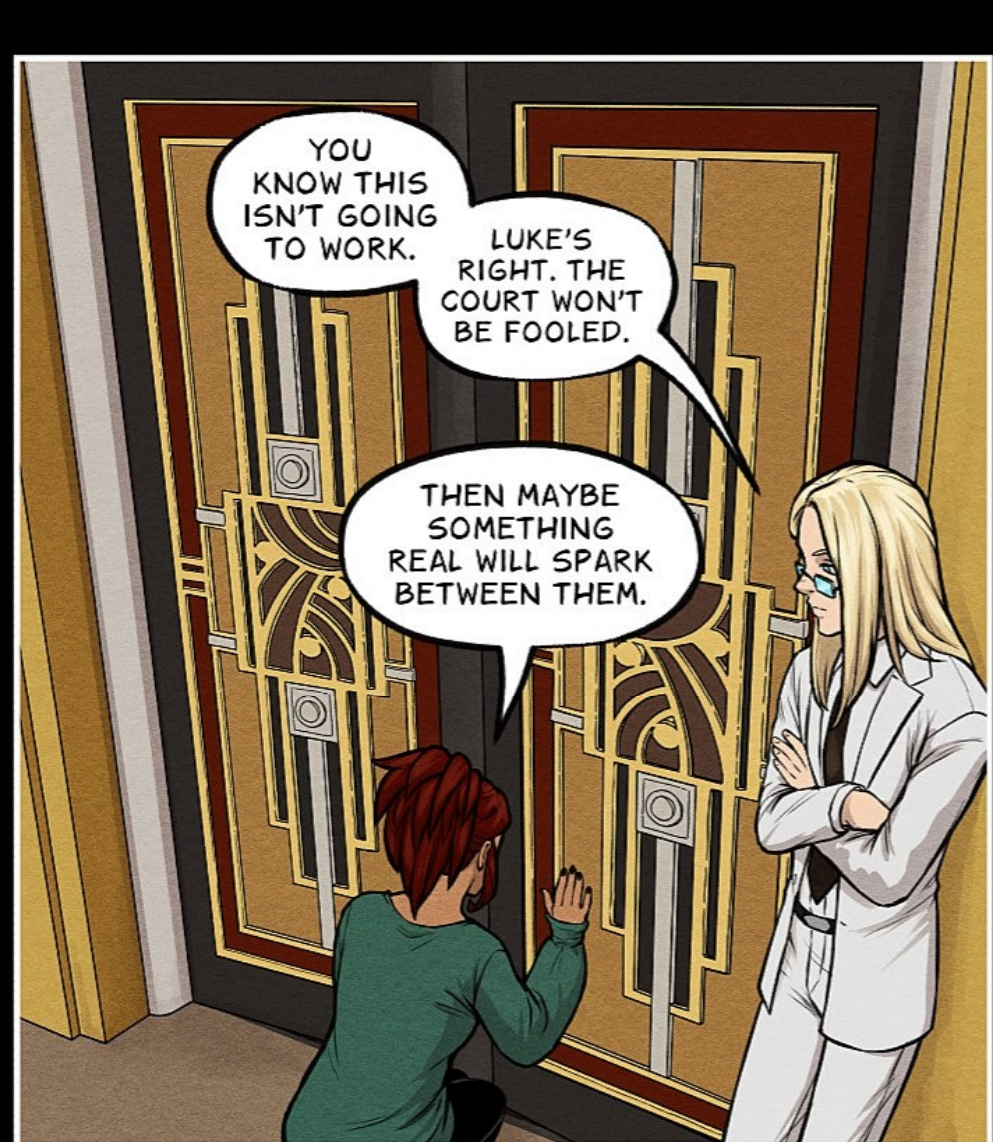
IT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED.





HOW DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING?

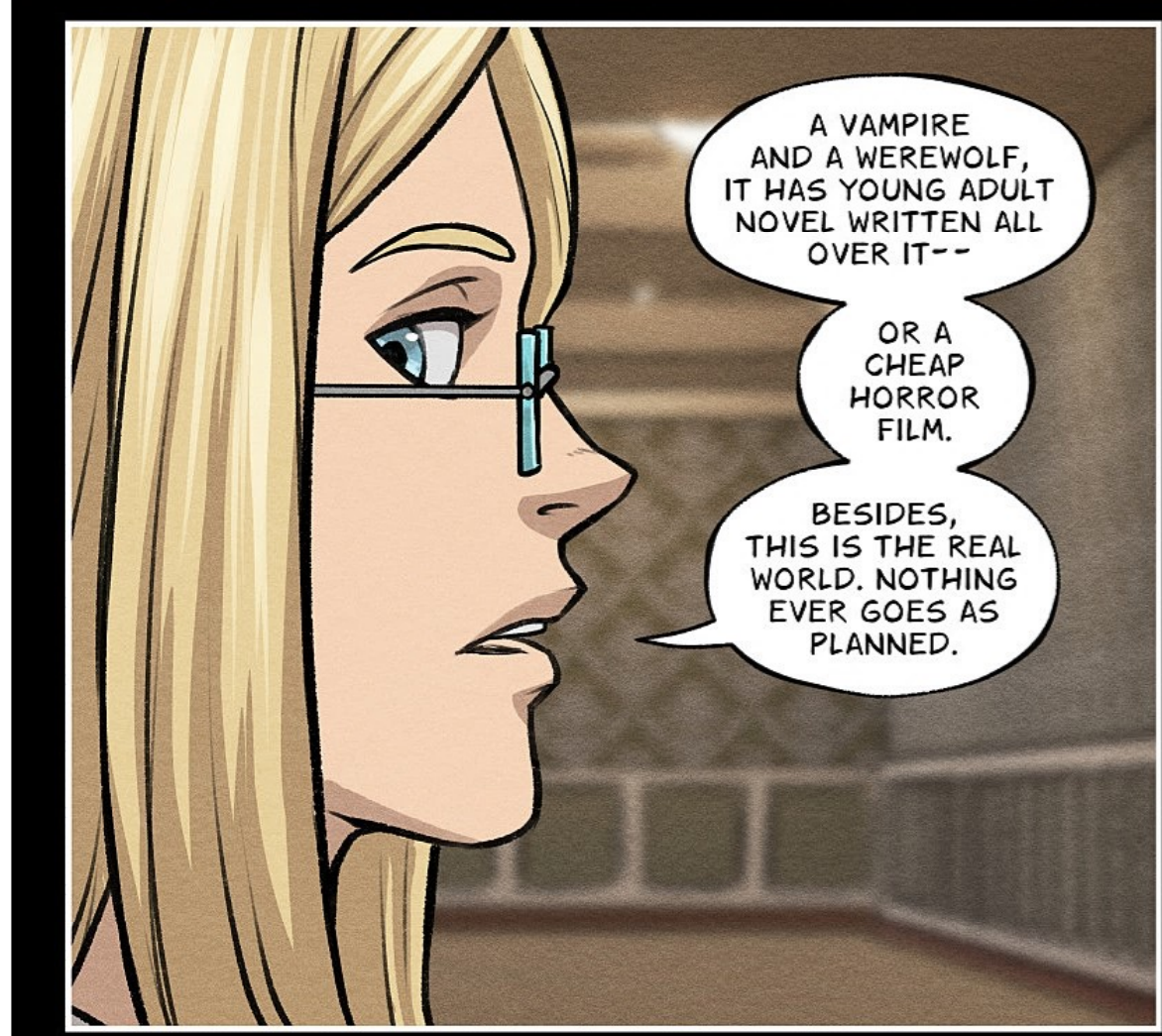
NEITHER HAS STORMED OFF YET. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.



YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.

LUKE'S RIGHT. THE COURT WON'T BE FOOLED.

THEN MAYBE SOMETHING REAL WILL SPARK BETWEEN THEM.



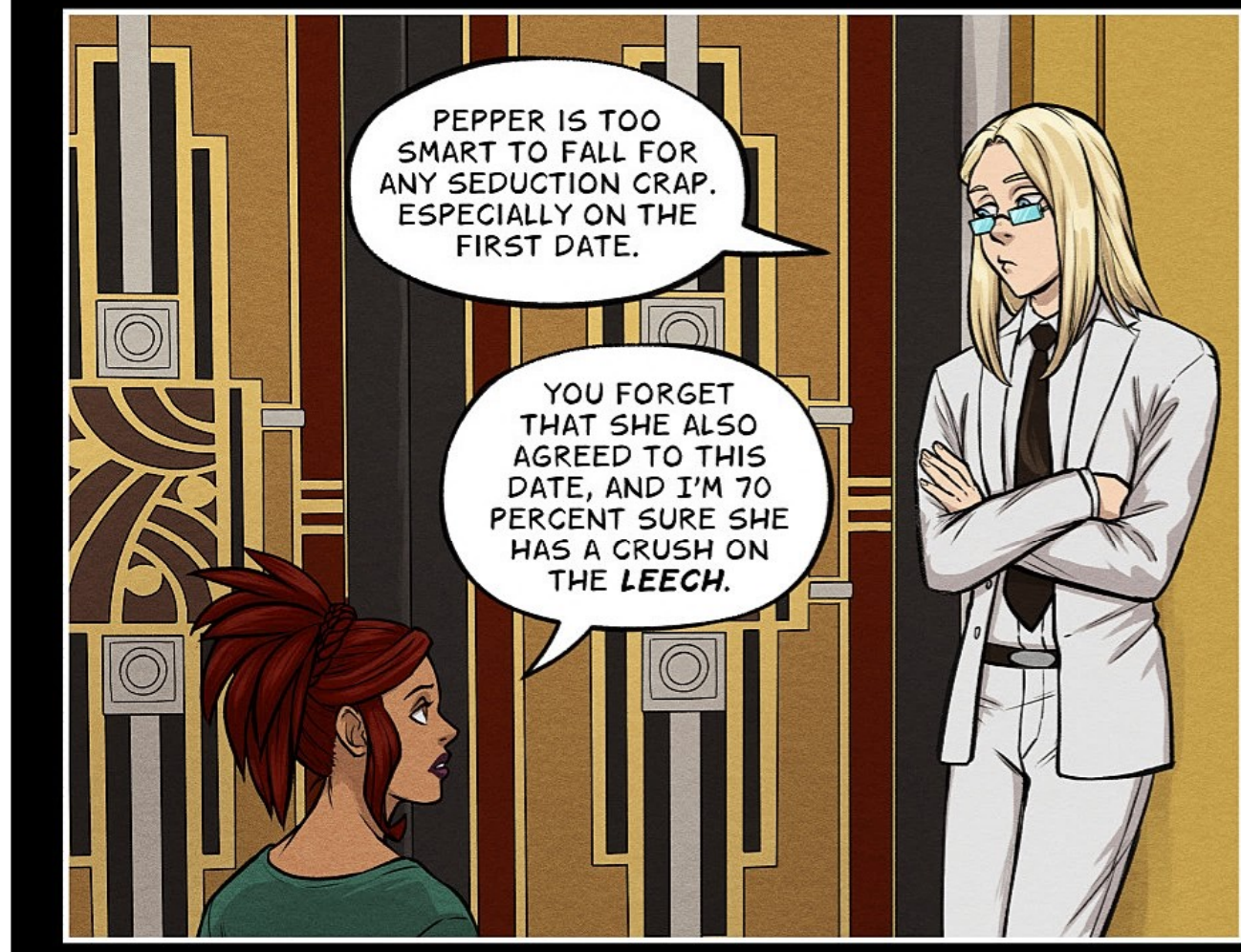
A VAMPIRE AND A WEREWOLF, IT HAS YOUNG ADULT NOVEL WRITTEN ALL OVER IT--

OR A CHEAP HORROR FILM.

BESIDES, THIS IS THE REAL WORLD. NOTHING EVER GOES AS PLANNED.



YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.

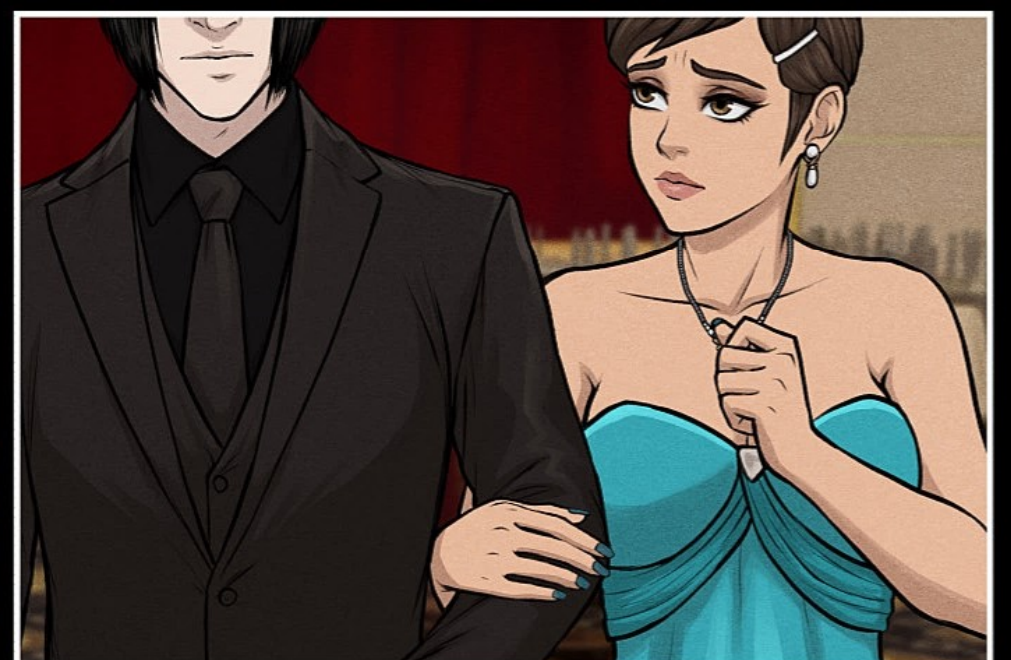
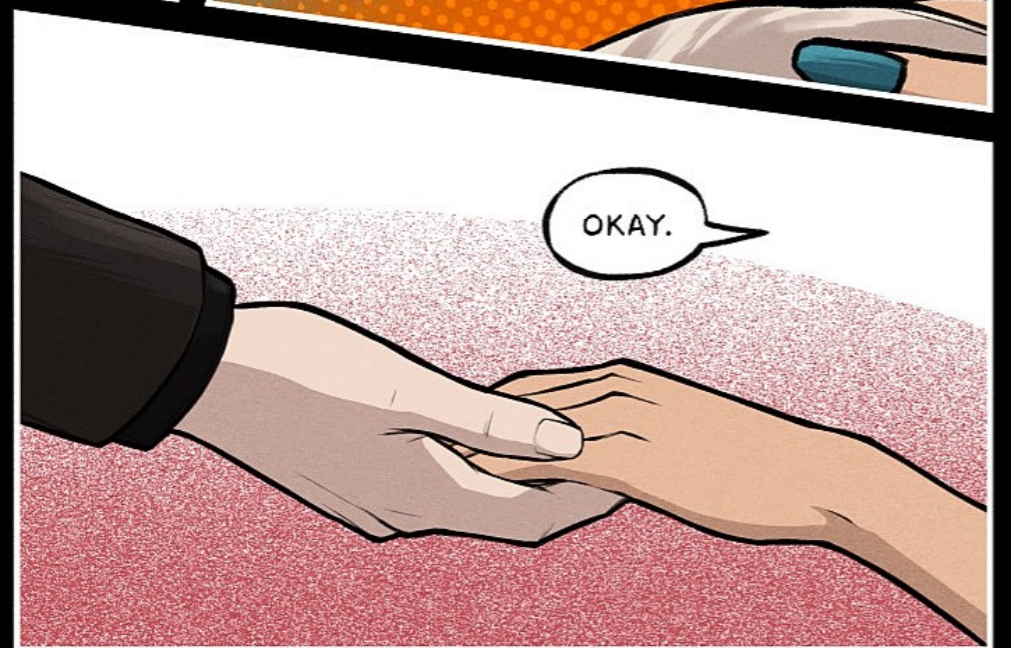
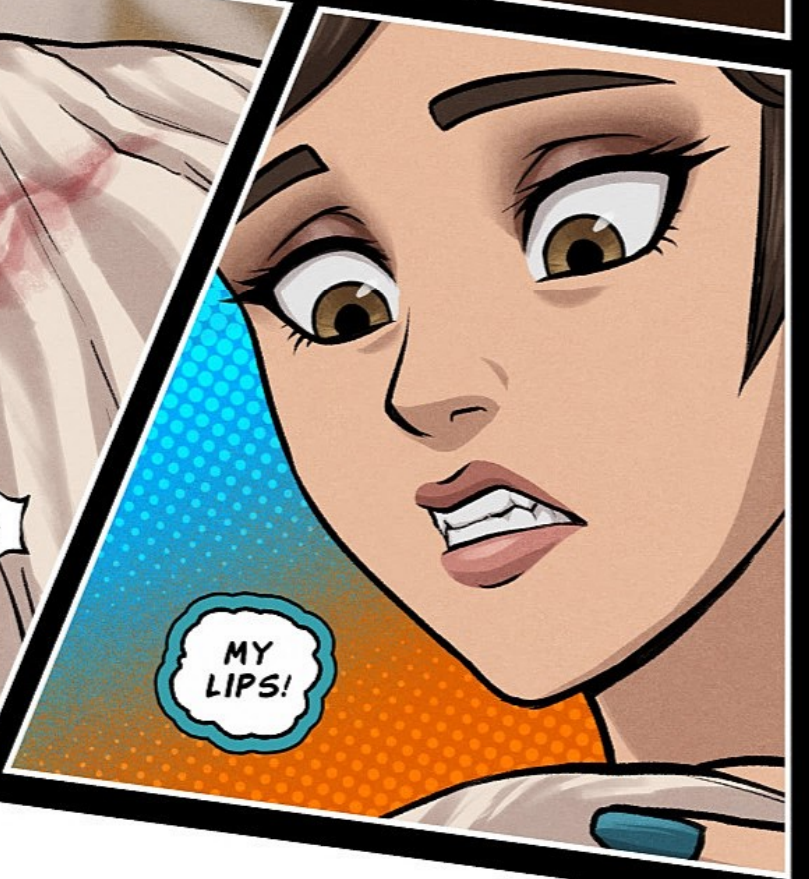


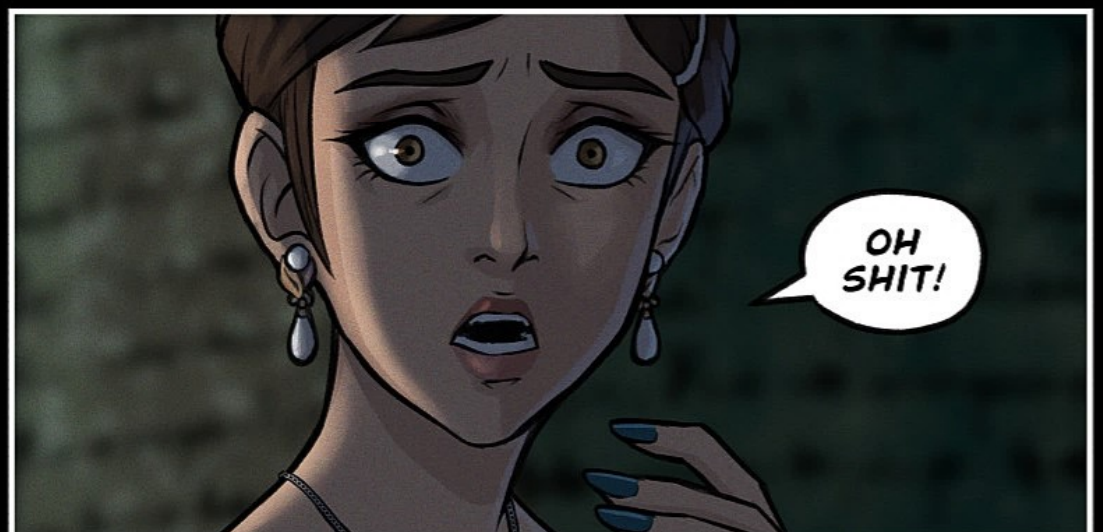
PEPPER IS TOO SMART TO FALL FOR ANY SEDUCTION CRAP. ESPECIALLY ON THE FIRST DATE.

YOU FORGET THAT SHE ALSO AGREED TO THIS DATE, AND I'M 70 PERCENT SURE SHE HAS A CRUSH ON THE LEECH.




WE'LL SEE.







I DIDN'T  
REALIZE HOW  
LARGE THIS  
ISLAND IS!



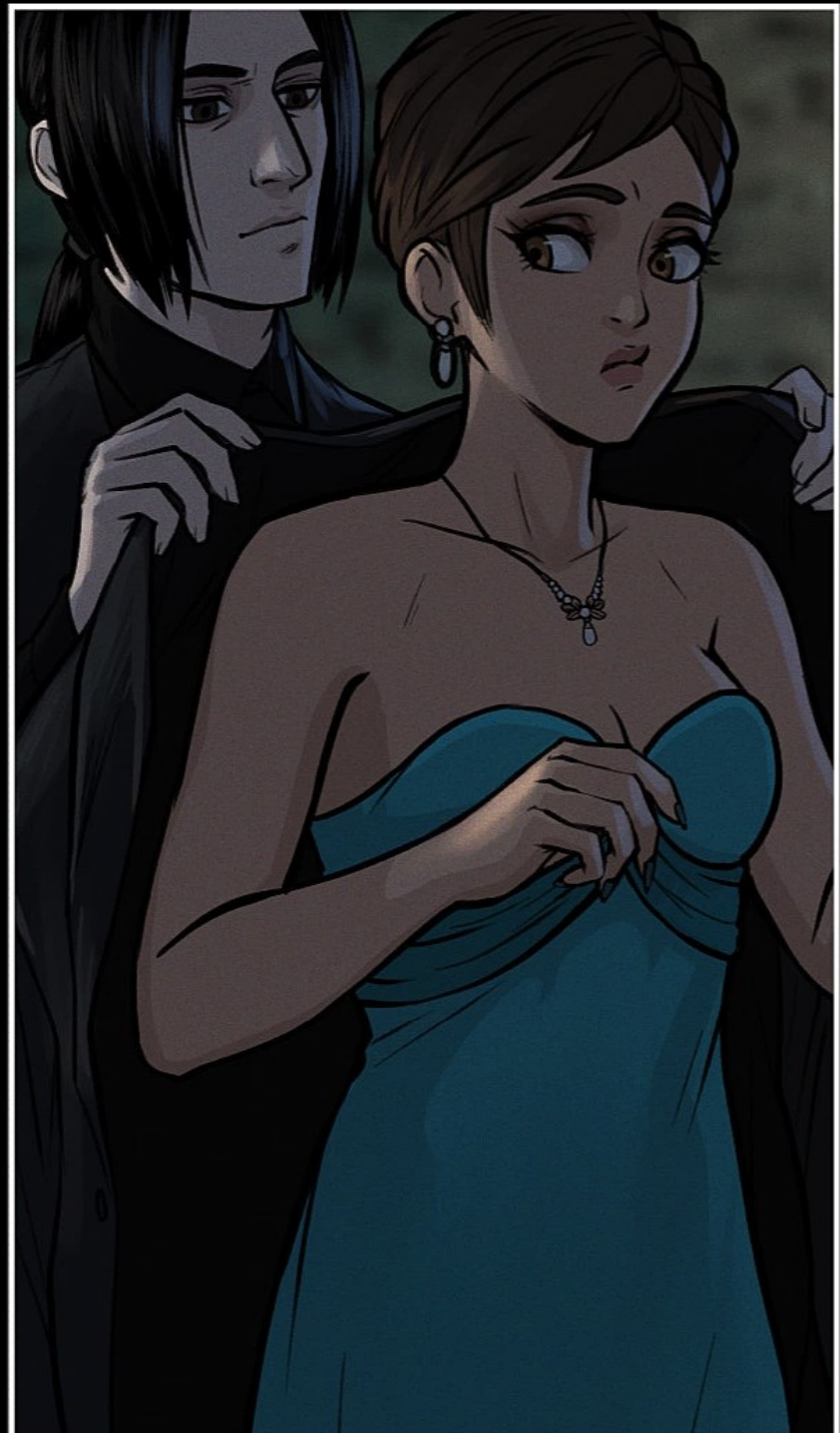
YOU CAN'T  
EVEN SEE  
THE OCEAN!



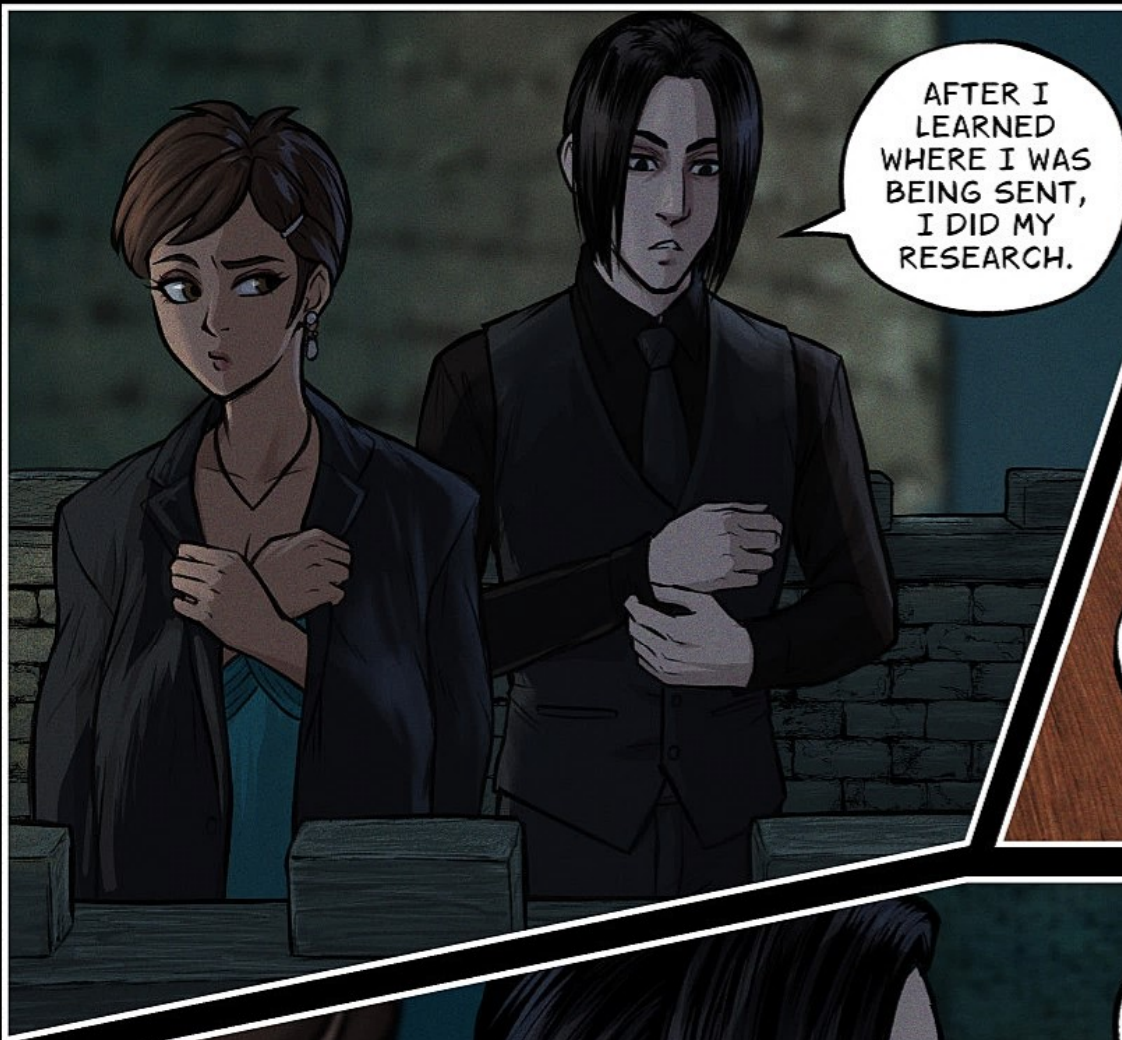
EASY TO  
MISS WHEN  
YOU'RE ALWAYS  
INDOORS.



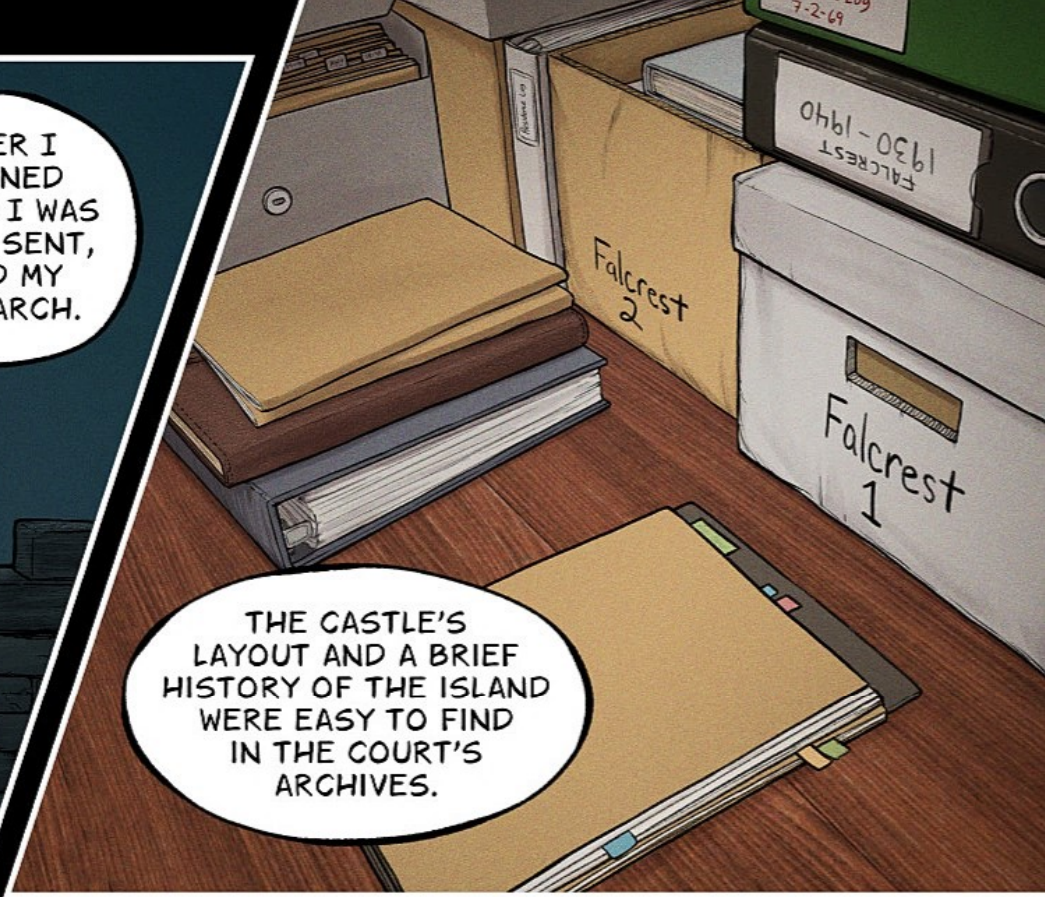
HOW  
DID YOU  
KNOW THIS  
WALKWAY  
WAS UP  
HERE?







AFTER I LEARNED WHERE I WAS BEING SENT, I DID MY RESEARCH.



THE CASTLE'S LAYOUT AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ISLAND WERE EASY TO FIND IN THE COURT'S ARCHIVES.



THE MAIN PART OF THE CASTLE WAS FIRST BUILT IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY.

THERE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD A SELF-SUSTAINING VILLAGE, BUT THE SETTLEMENT WAS ABANDONED NOT LONG AFTER THE CASTLE WAS FINISHED.

WITH ALL OF THE CONSTRUCTION, THE LAND HAD BEEN STRIPPED BARE.

IT LOOKS LIKE MOST OF THE ISLAND HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED IN DECADES.



ALSO, THE NAME "OUBLIETTE" ISN'T THE OFFICIAL TITLE OF THIS PLACE.

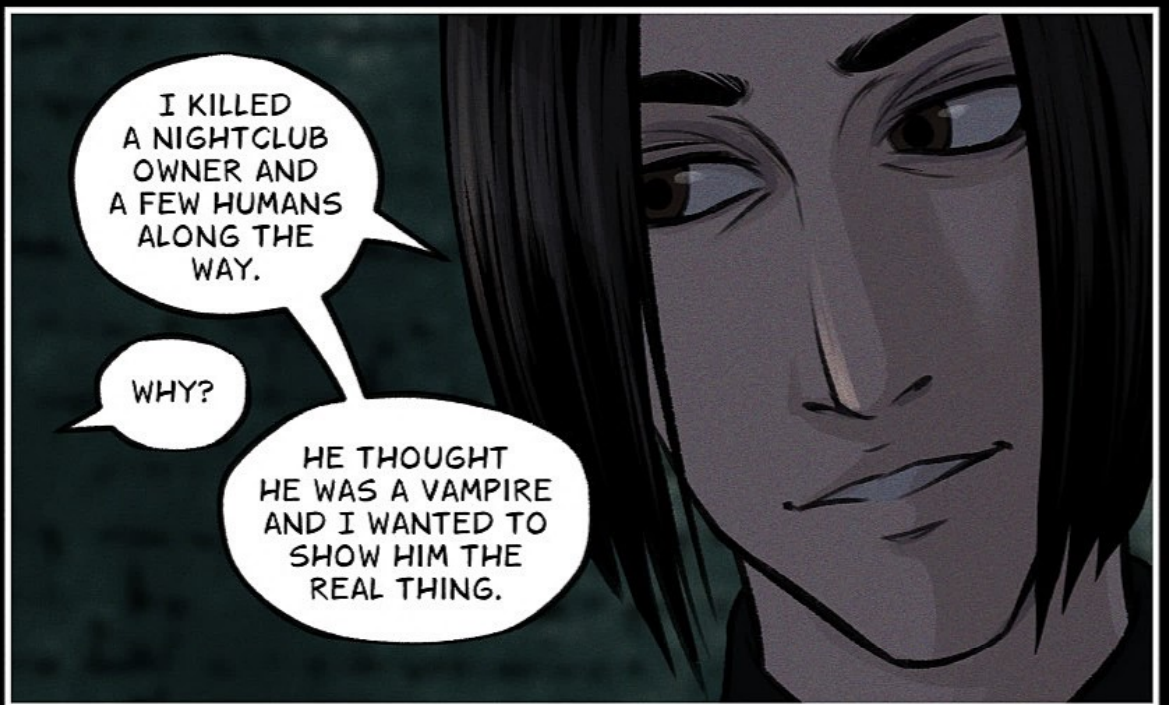
THAT NAME ONLY APPEARS IN THE PERSONAL NOTES SCATTERED WITHIN THE ARCHIVES.



THE ORIGINAL NAME IS FALCREST.



WHY DID THEY SEND YOU HERE?



I KILLED A NIGHTCLUB OWNER AND A FEW HUMANS ALONG THE WAY.

WHY?

HE THOUGHT HE WAS A VAMPIRE AND I WANTED TO SHOW HIM THE REAL THING.



AND THE OTHER PEOPLE?

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME.

YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE WHO WOULD ALLOW HIMSELF TO GET CAUGHT.

WE ALL SLIP UP FROM TIME TO TIME.



WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WEREWOLVES?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?



I THINK I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS. I MEAN, I'M CERTAIN I WAS NEVER BITTEN.

FOR THE MOST PART, WEREWOLVES ARE BORN. THERE IS A WAY FOR A HUMAN TO BECOME ONE, BUT IT'S NOT FROM A SIMPLE BITE.

YOU, HOWEVER, ARE A **PUREBLOOD**, SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN A WEREWOLF.

AND THE ORIGIN OF ALL WEREWOLVES?

THERE ARE SEVERAL MYTHS.



SOME SAY YOUR KIND ARE **DIRE WOLVES** WHO MANAGED TO AVOID EXTINCTION BY BLENDING IN WITH HUMANS.

OTHER MYTHS SAY YOUR KIND ARE CURSED HUMANS, YOU KNOW, THE COMMON, MODERN LORE.

DO YOU KNOW THE REAL ORIGIN OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET?

BUT DO YOU KNOW THE **REAL** ORIGIN?



OKAY, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF VAMPIRES?

I'M CERTAIN YOUR KIND'S HISTORY IS WELL DOCUMENTED, AND ALSO, HOW DID YOU BECOME A VAMPIRE?



THAT'S A CONVERSATION FOR LATER.

LET US HEAD BACK INSIDE.



**FINE.** DON'T TELL ME.

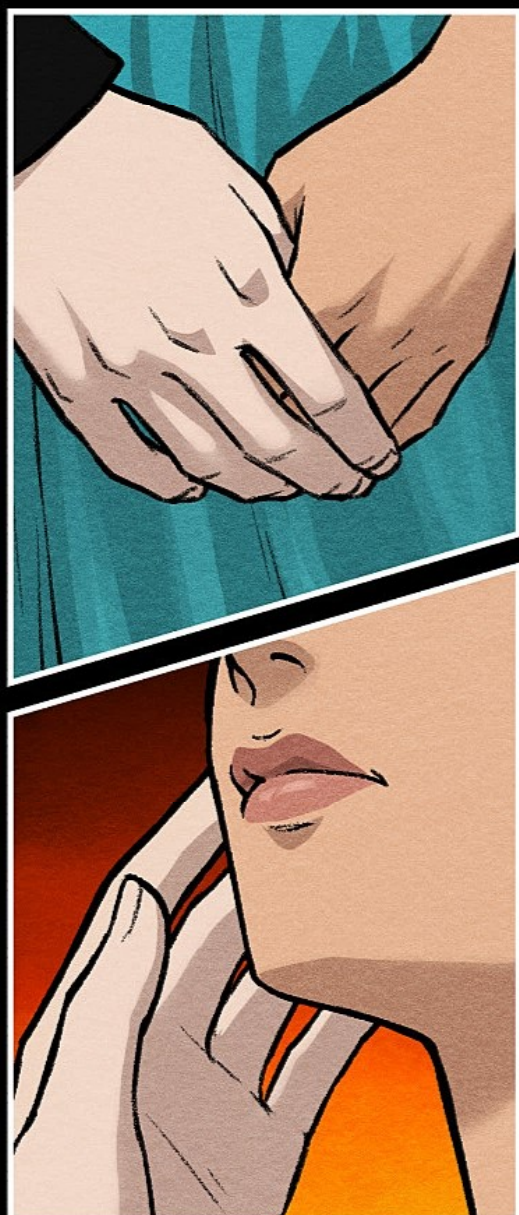
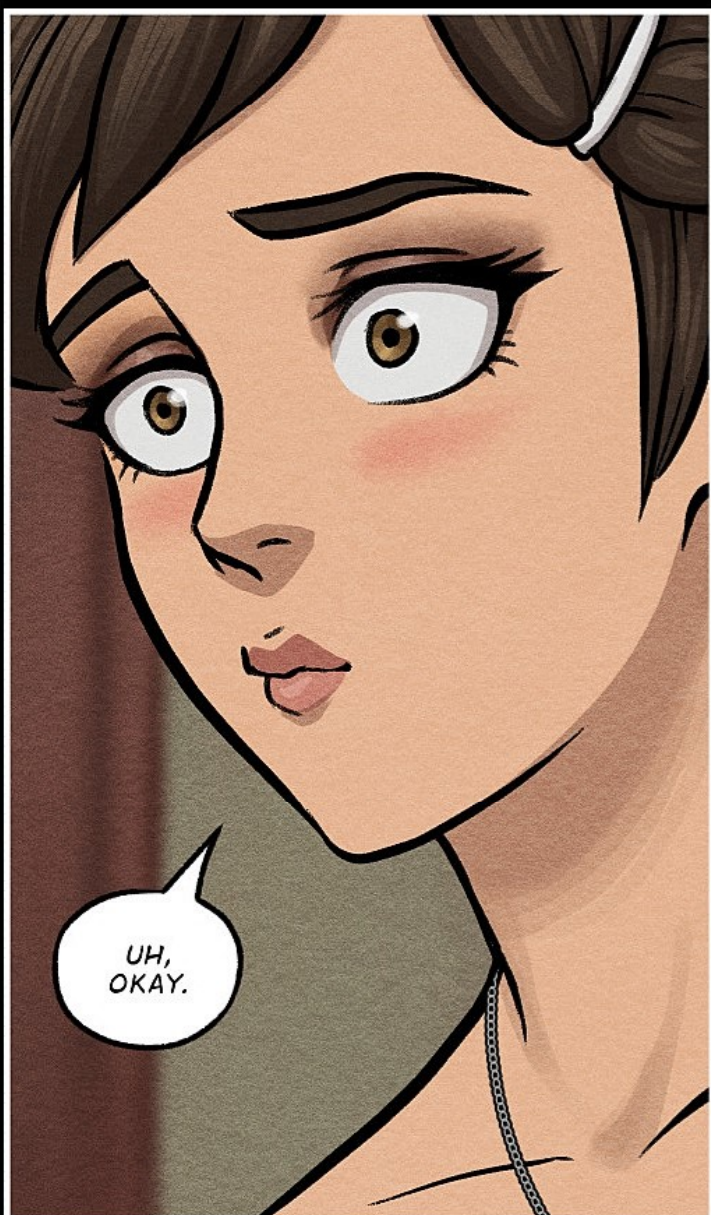
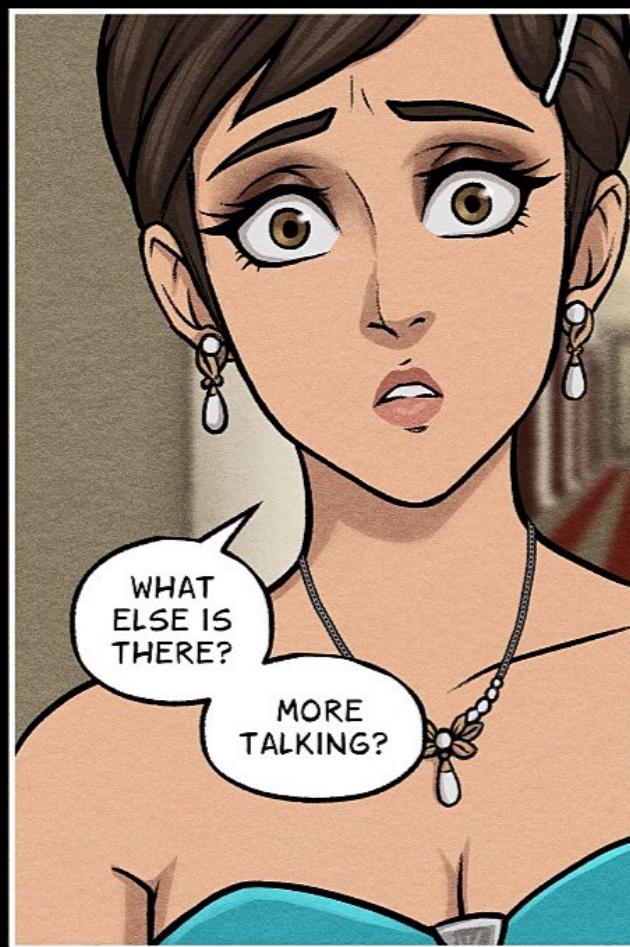


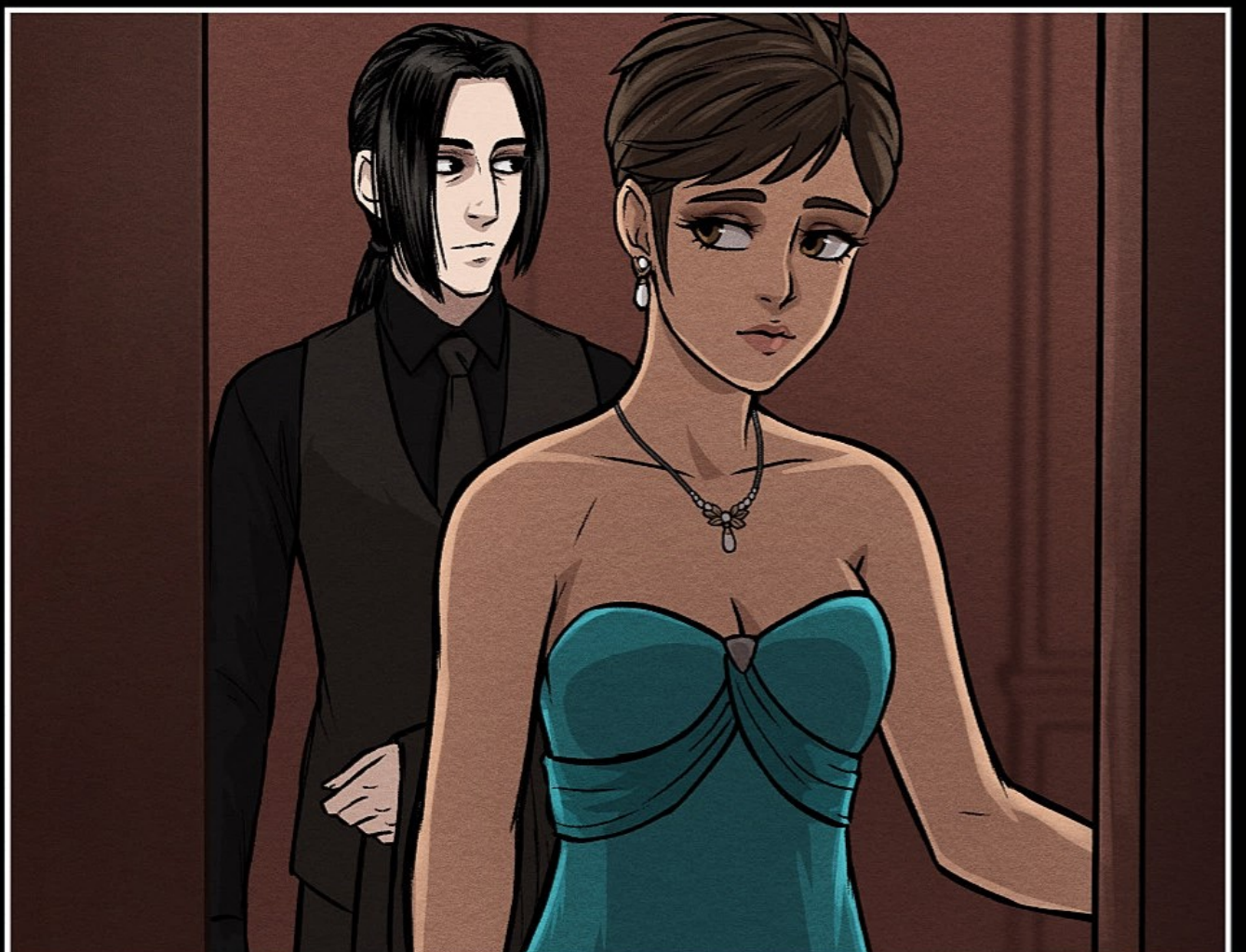
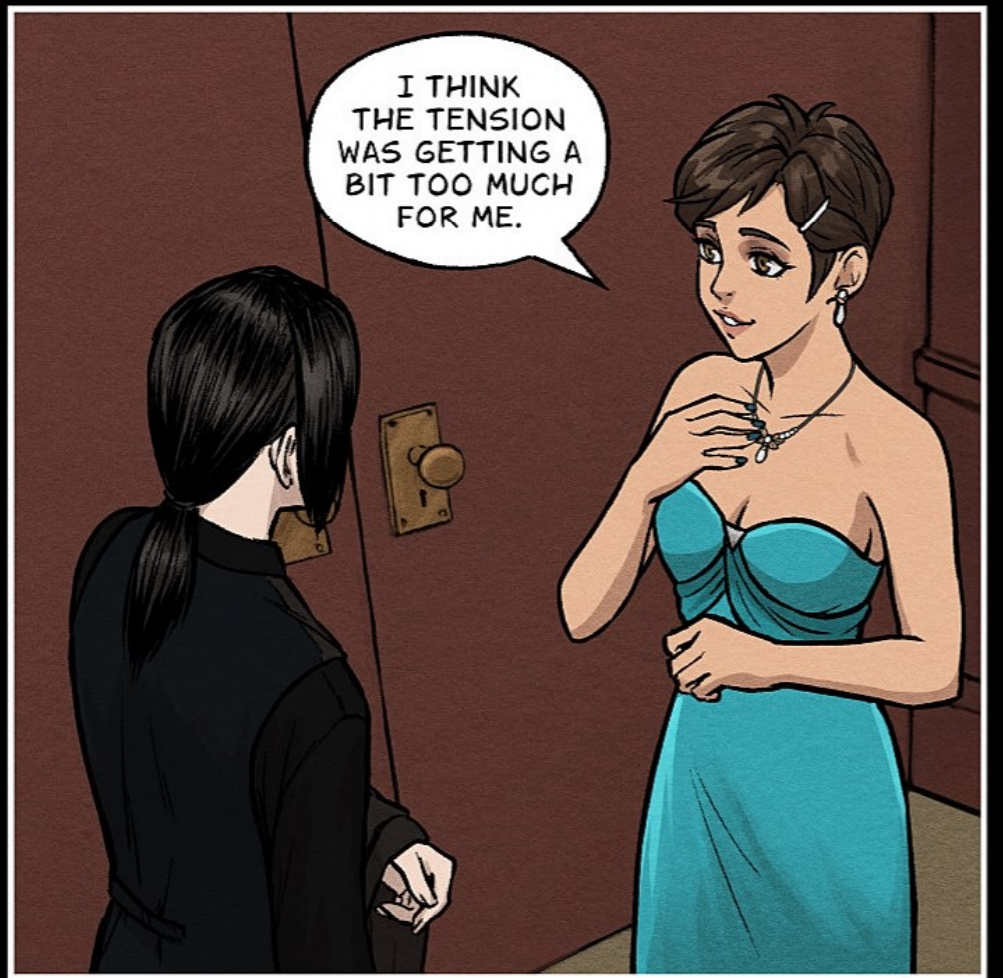
ALL THIS WALKING AND TALKING...

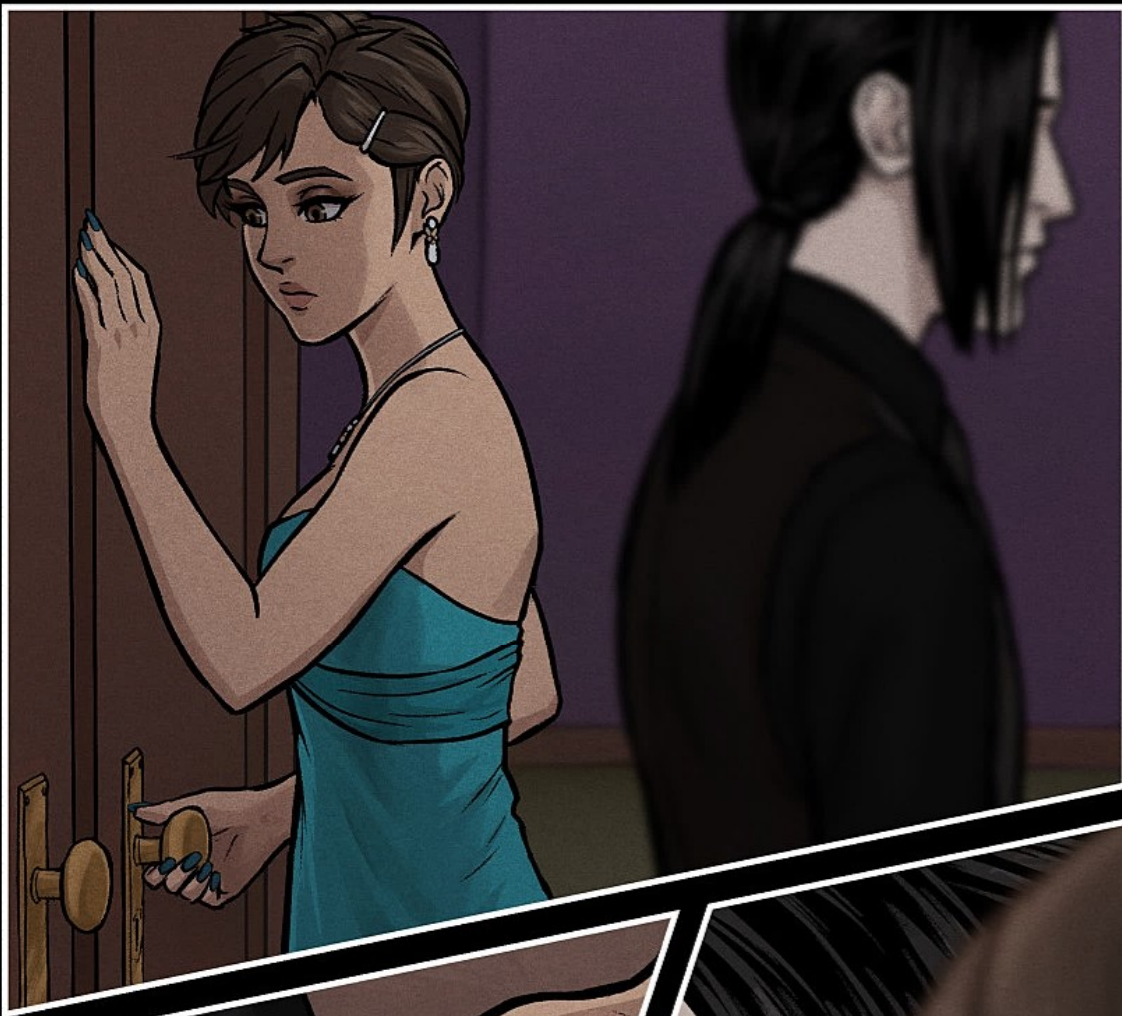
THIS IS THE MOST BORING DATE EVER.

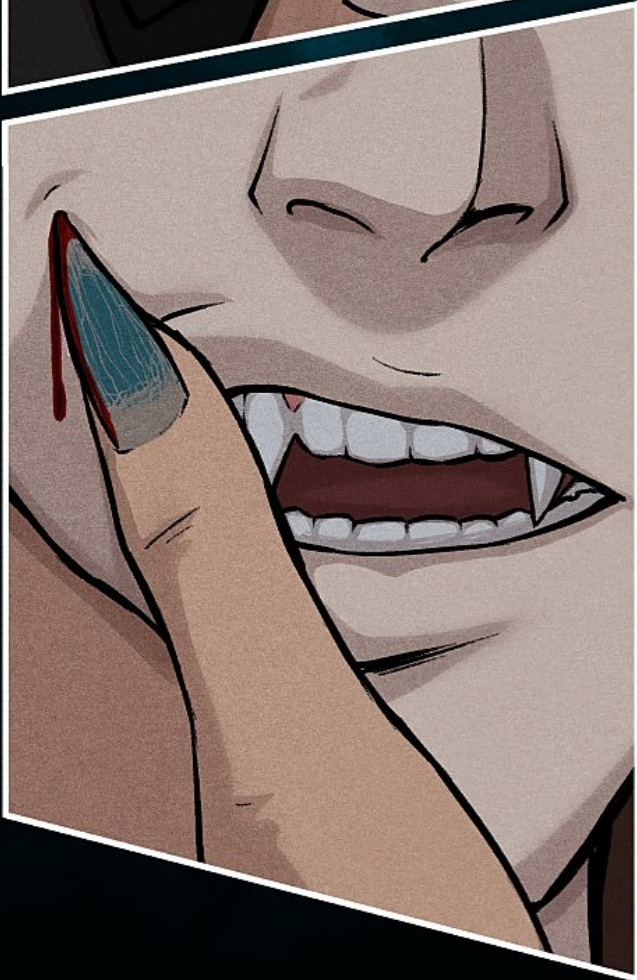
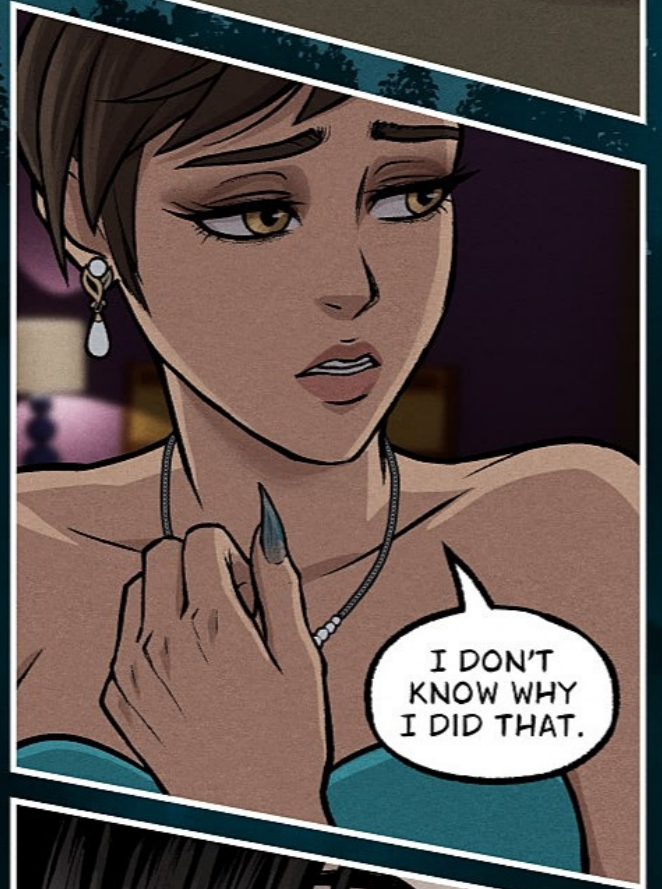
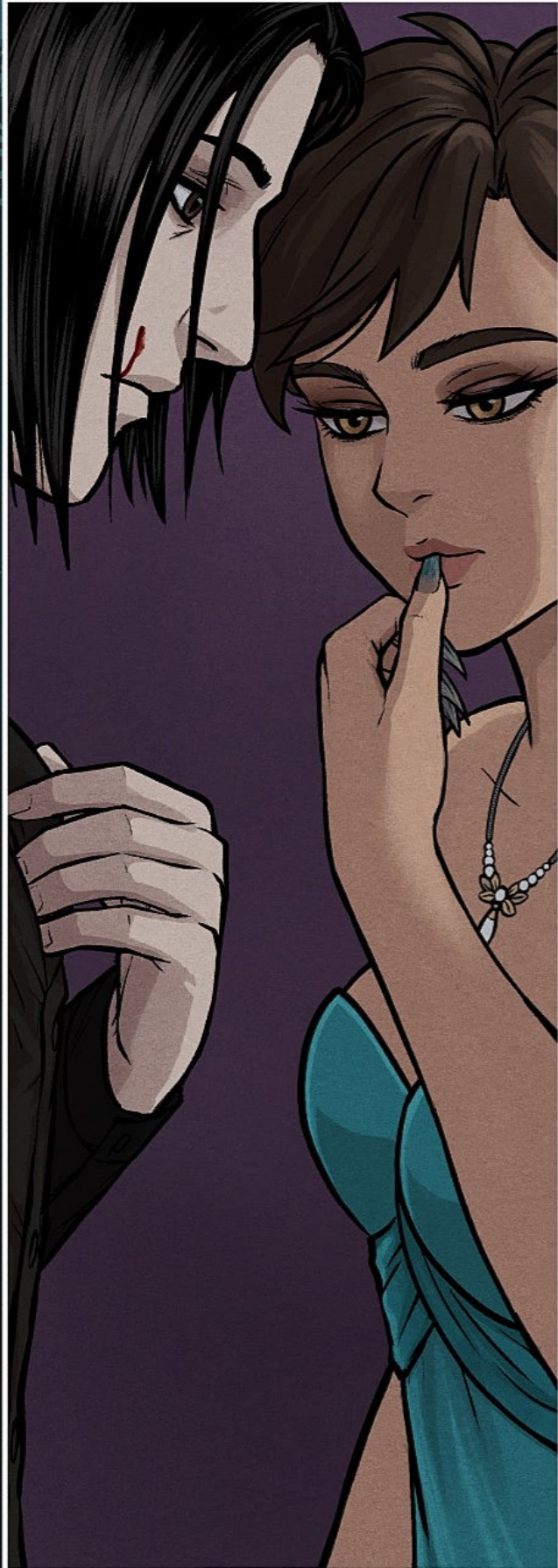
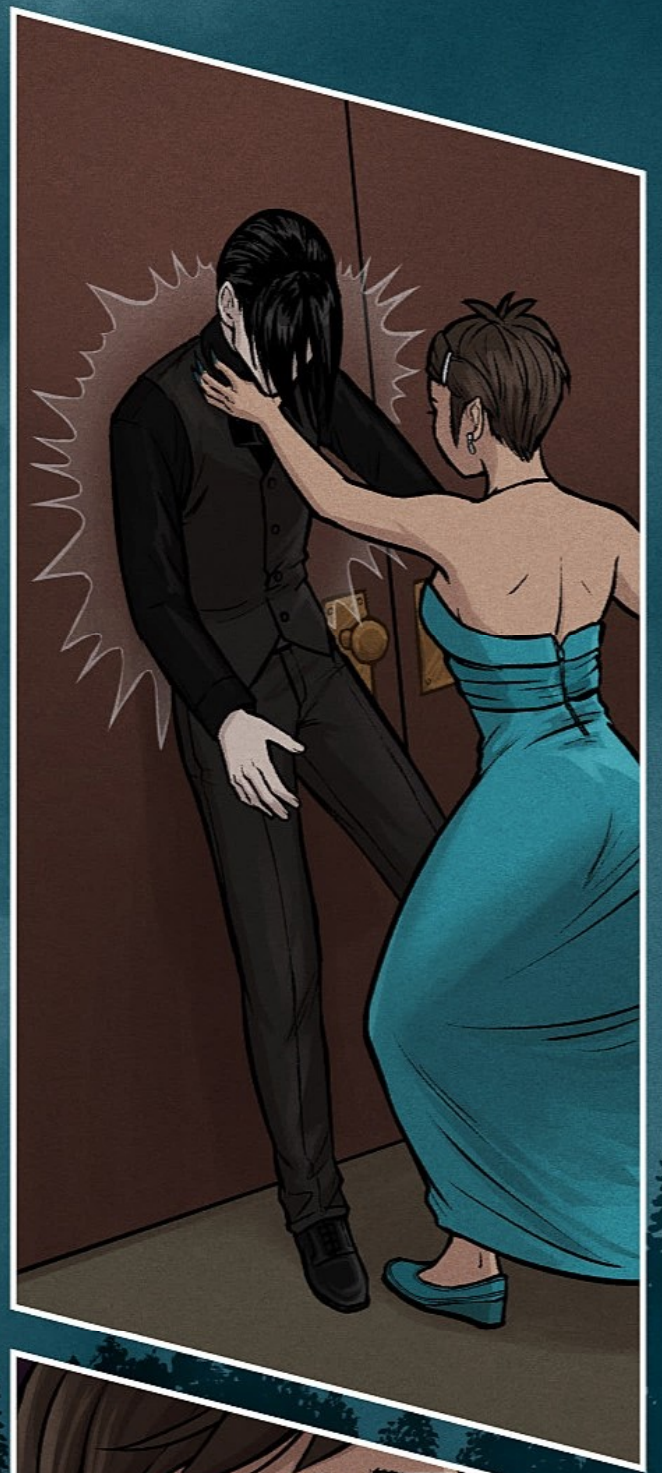
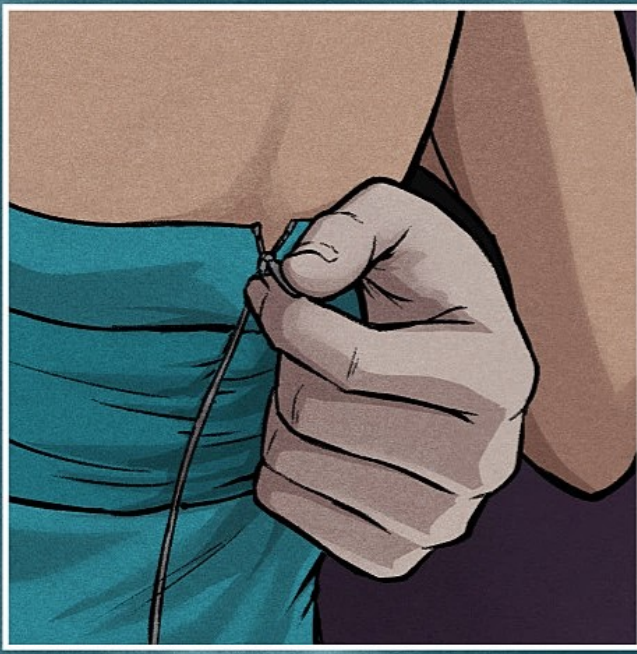
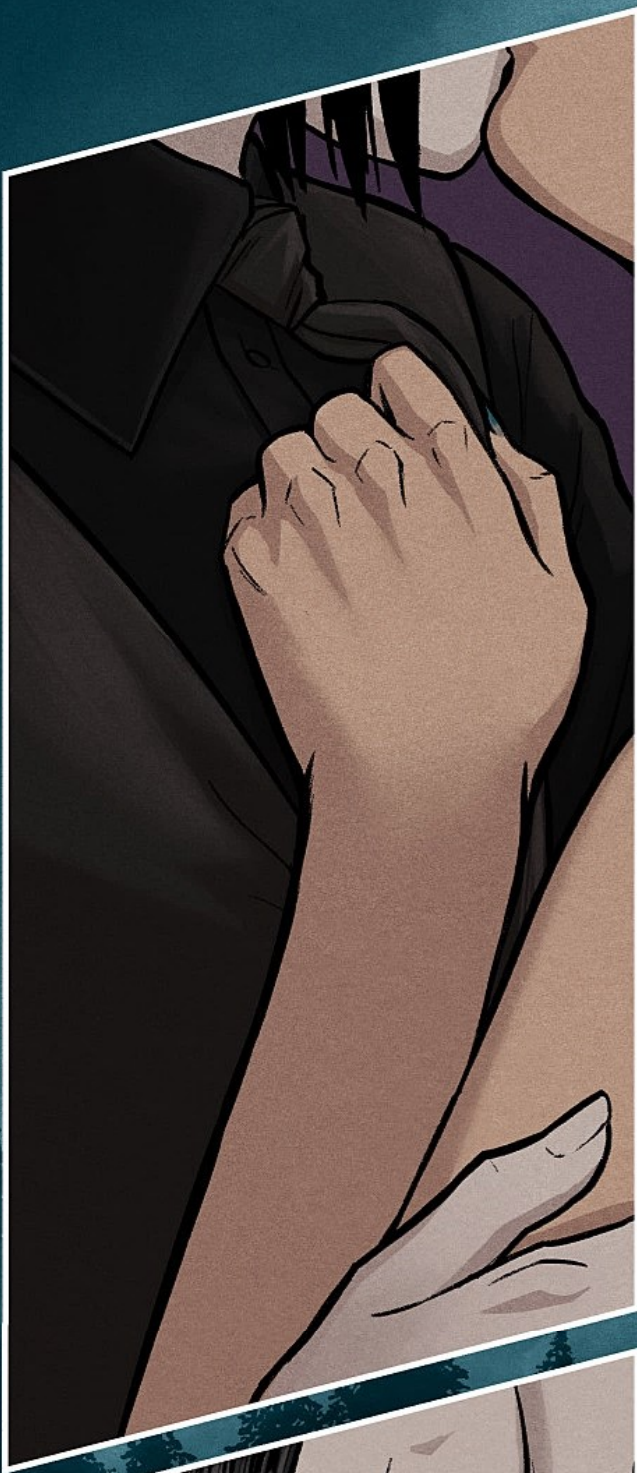


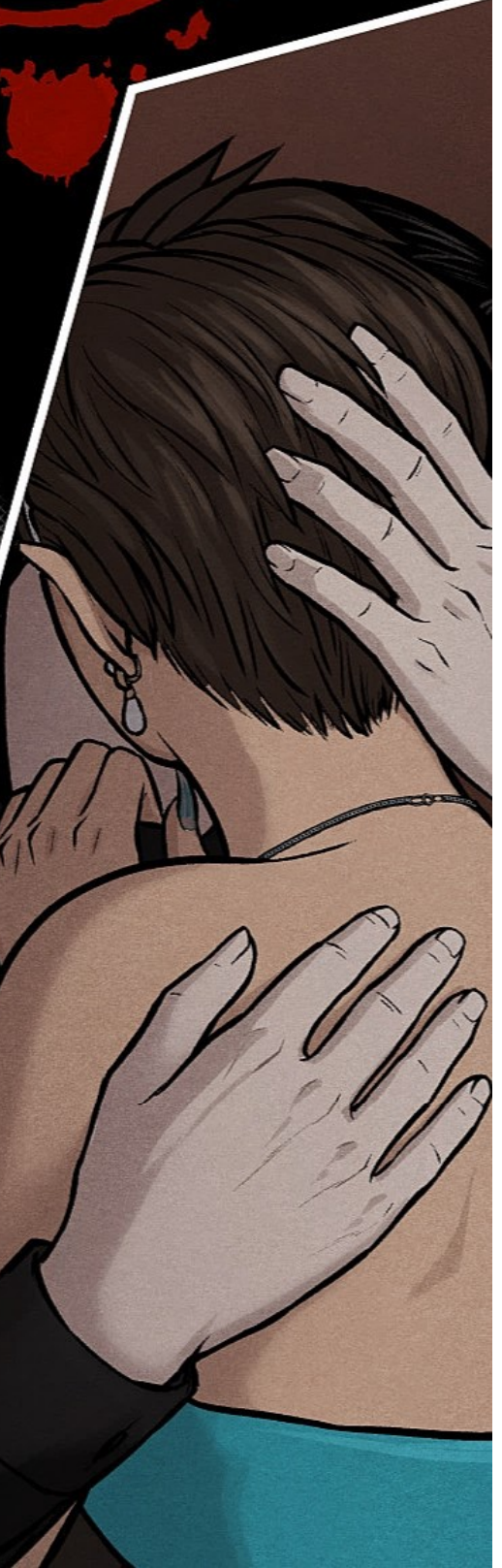
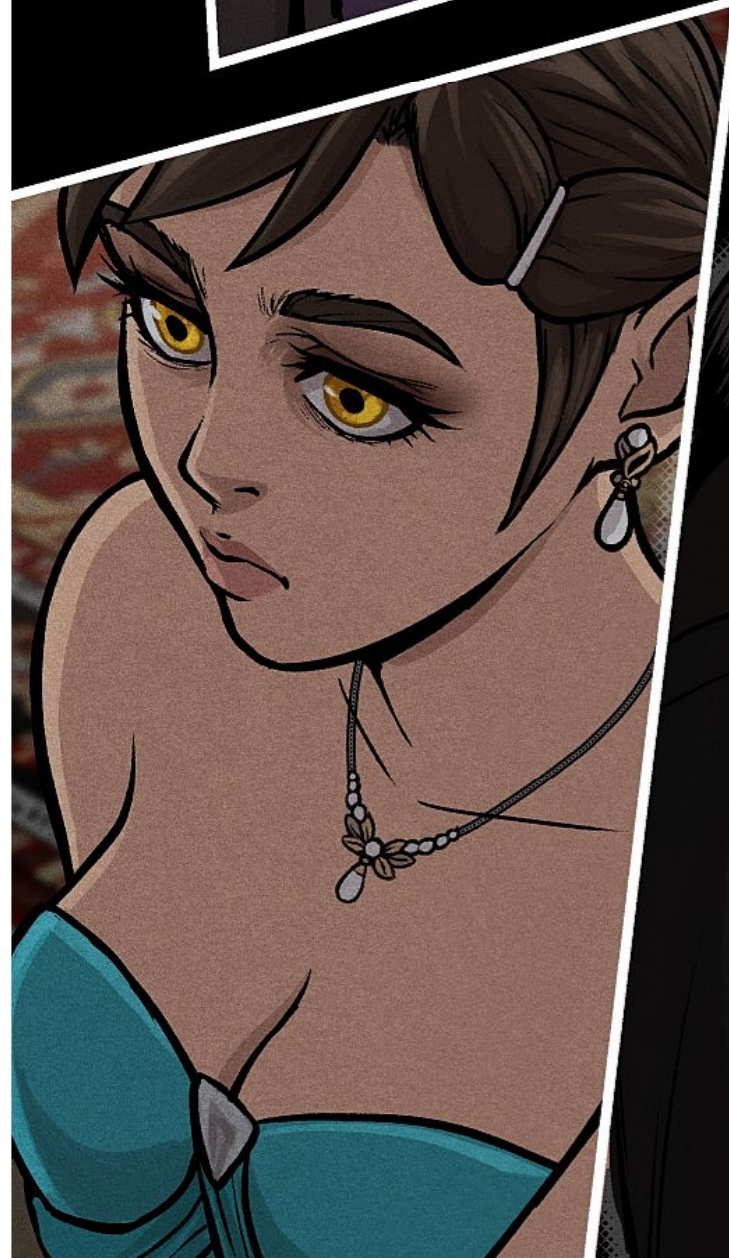
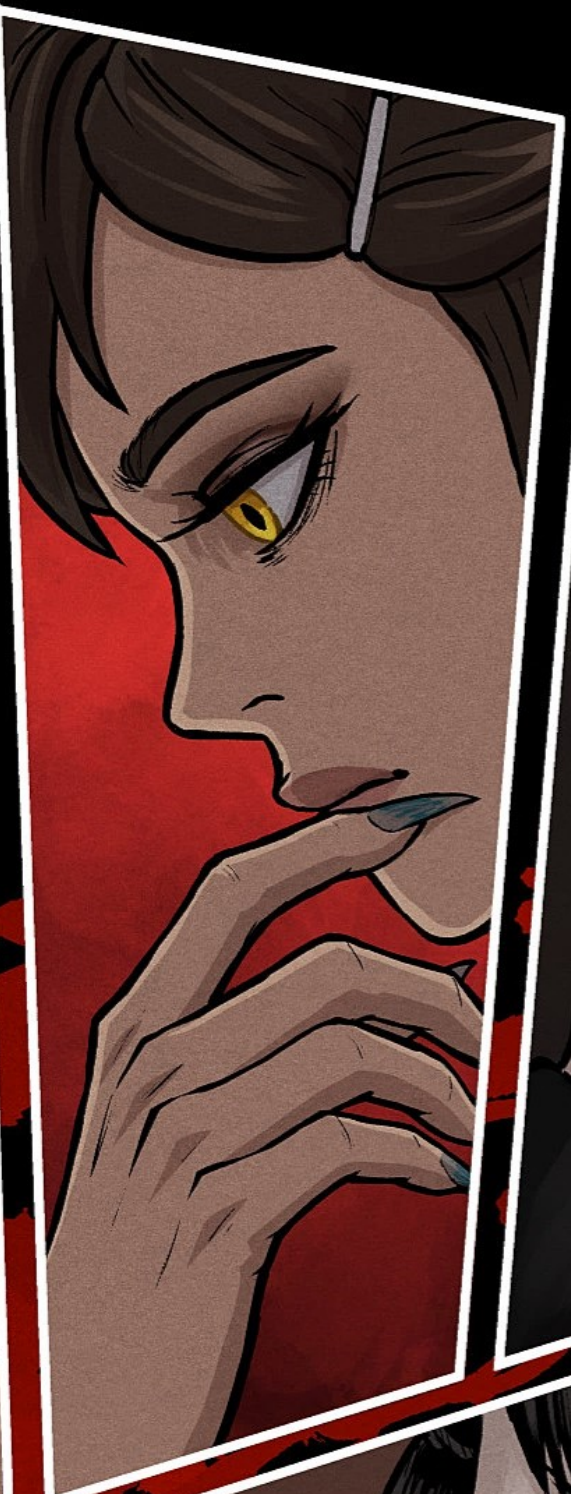
RESIDENCE HALL 4TH FLOOR - 10:2



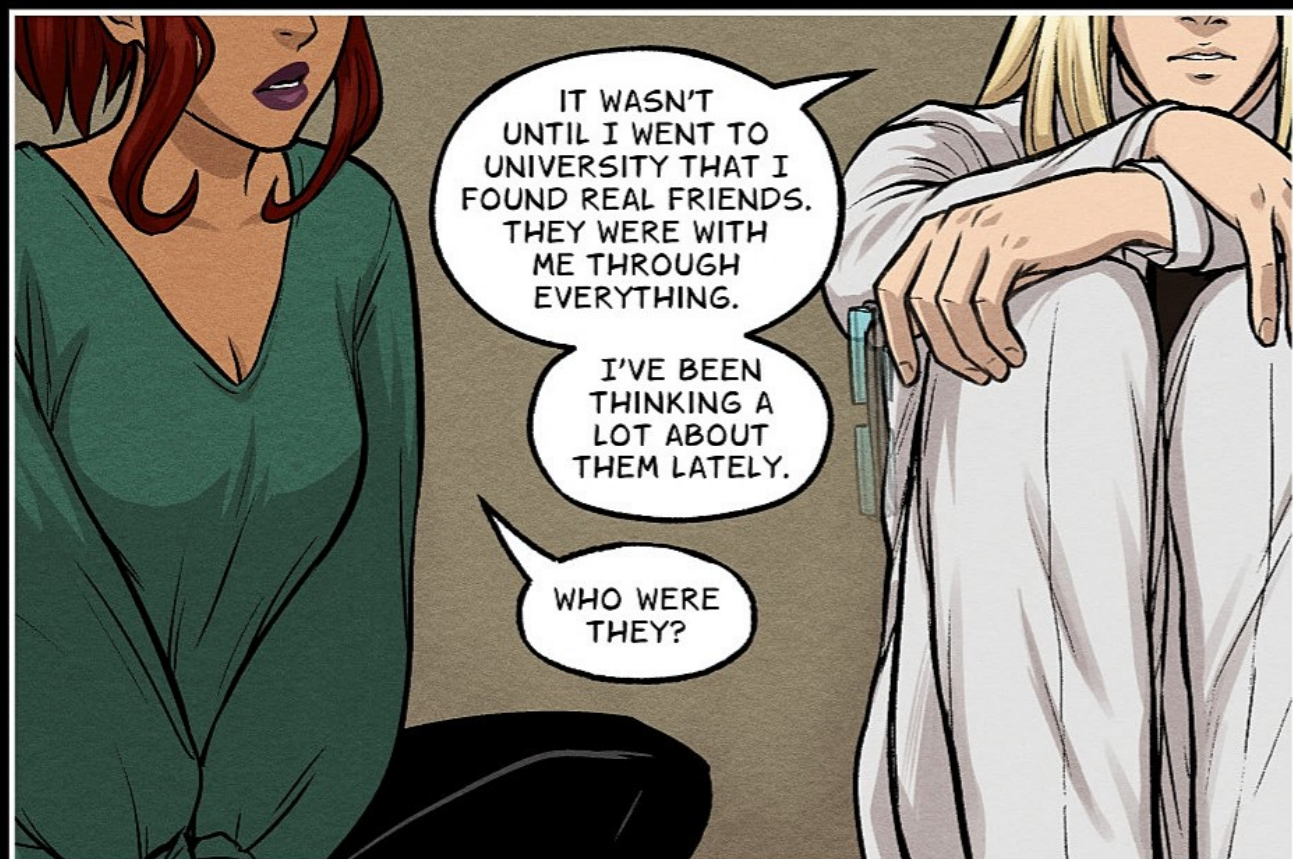
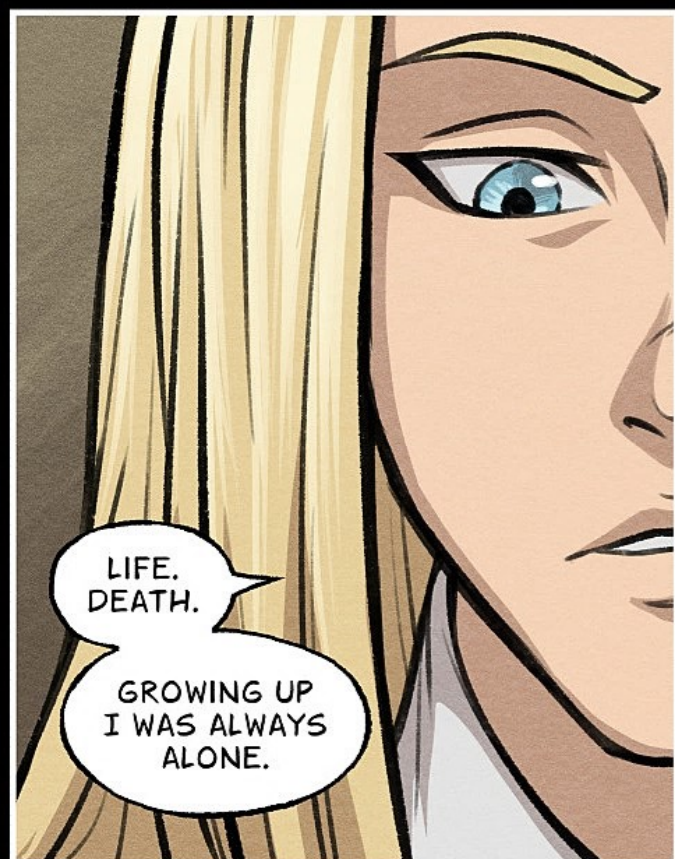
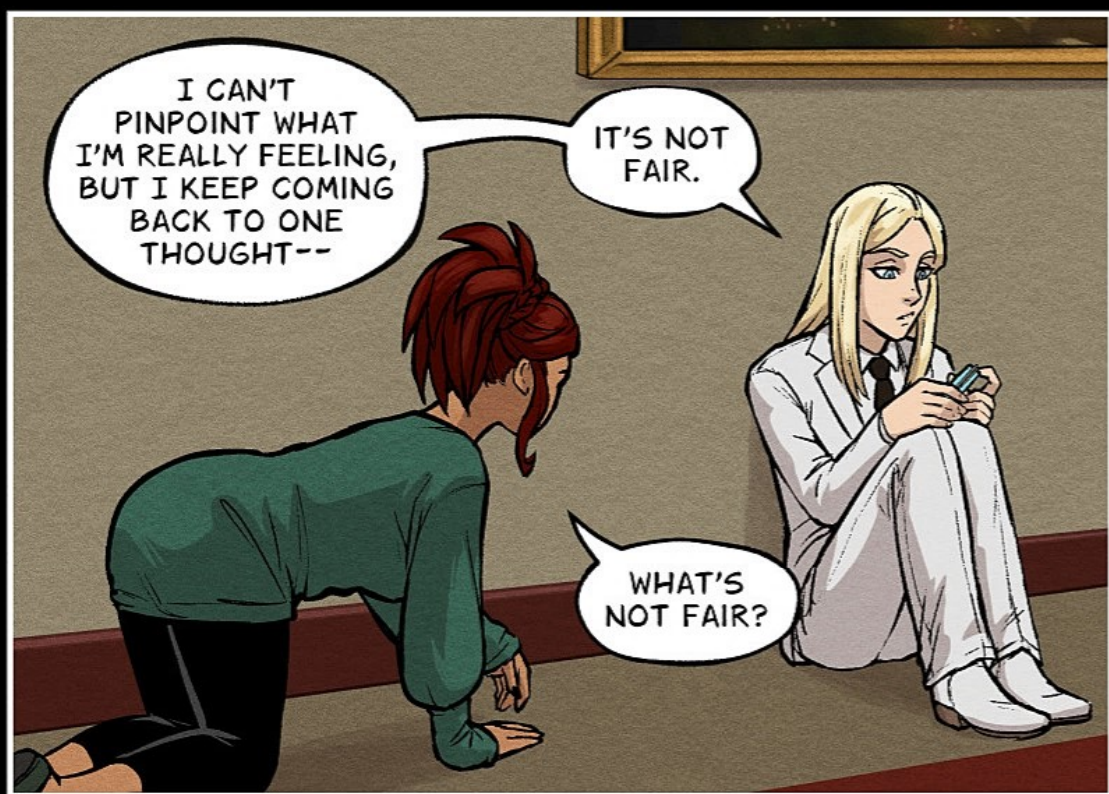
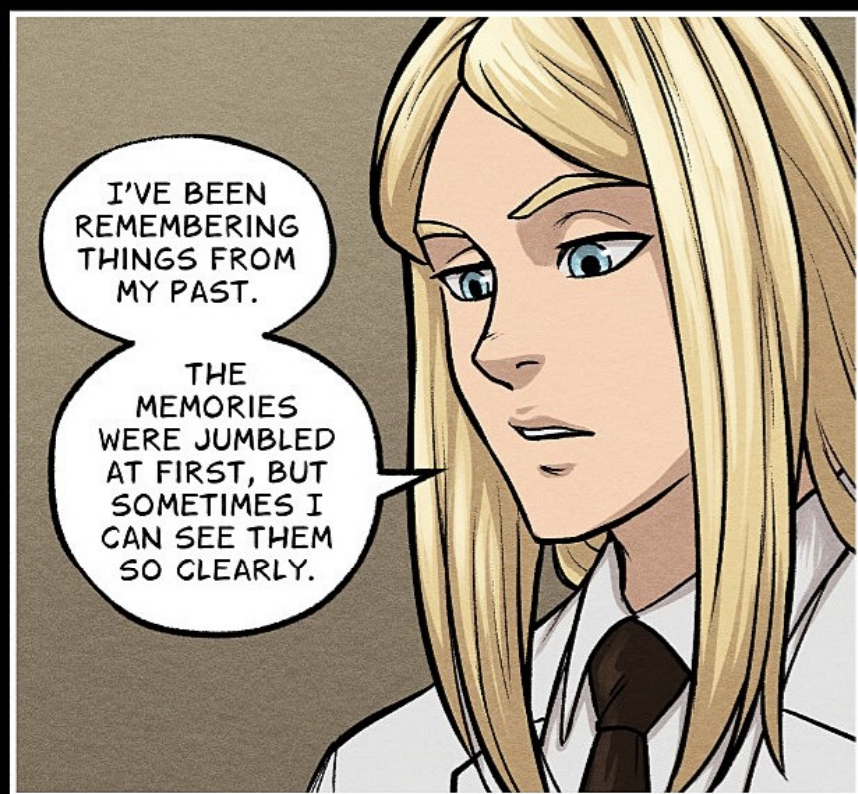
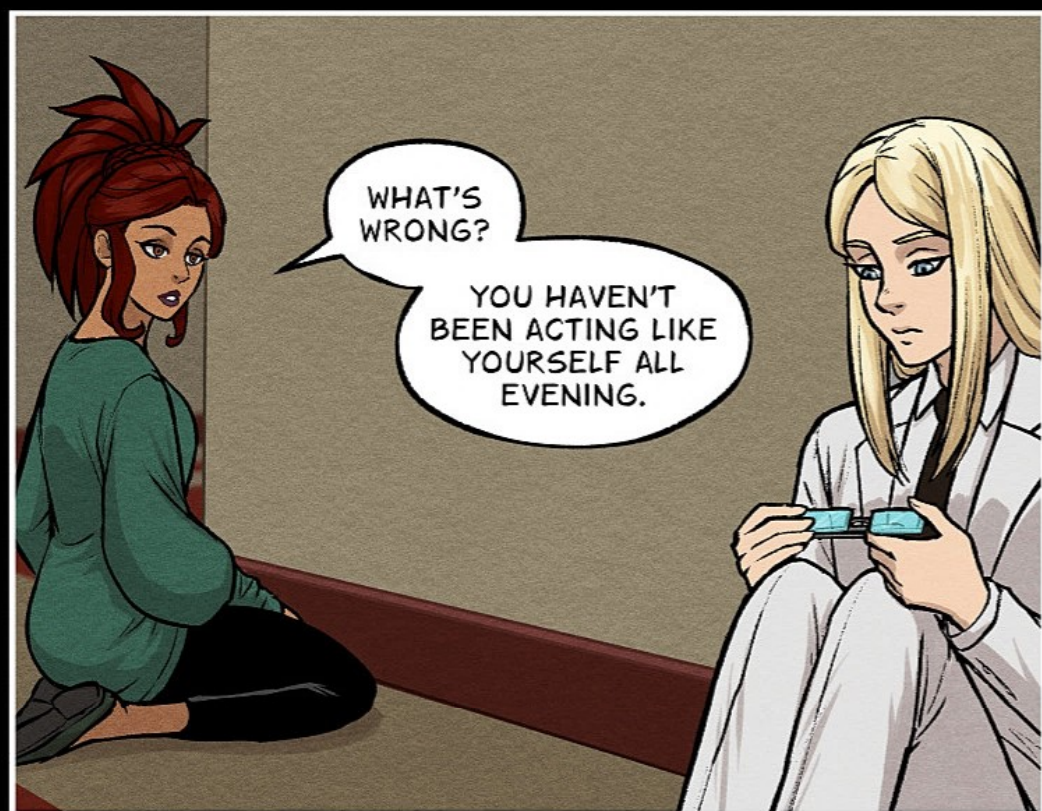
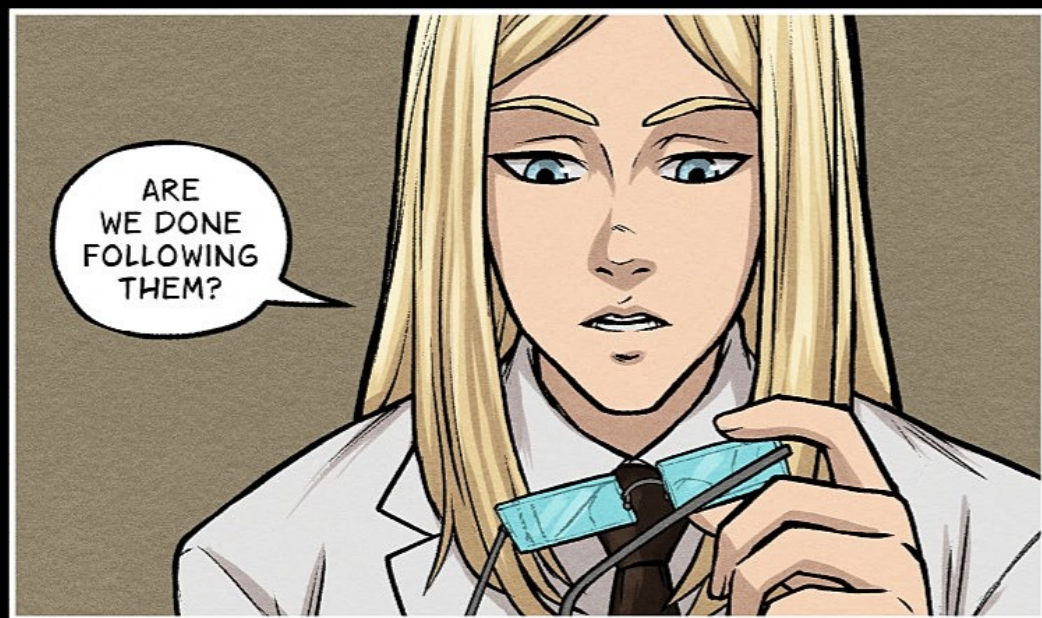






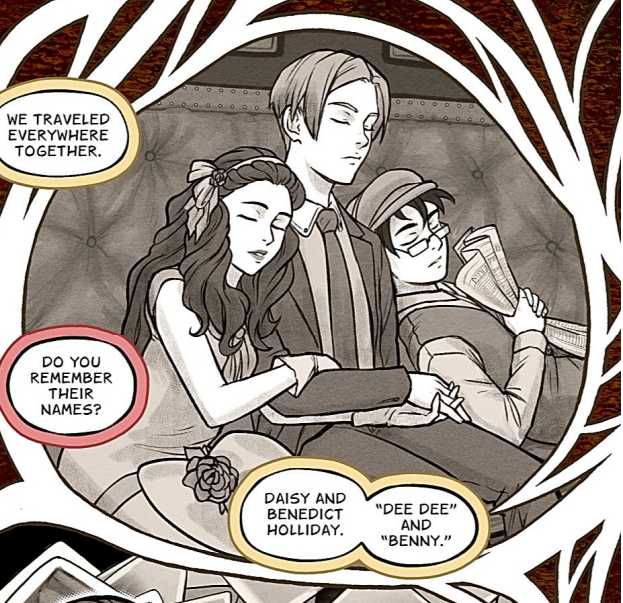








MY ASSISTANT AND HIS SISTER.

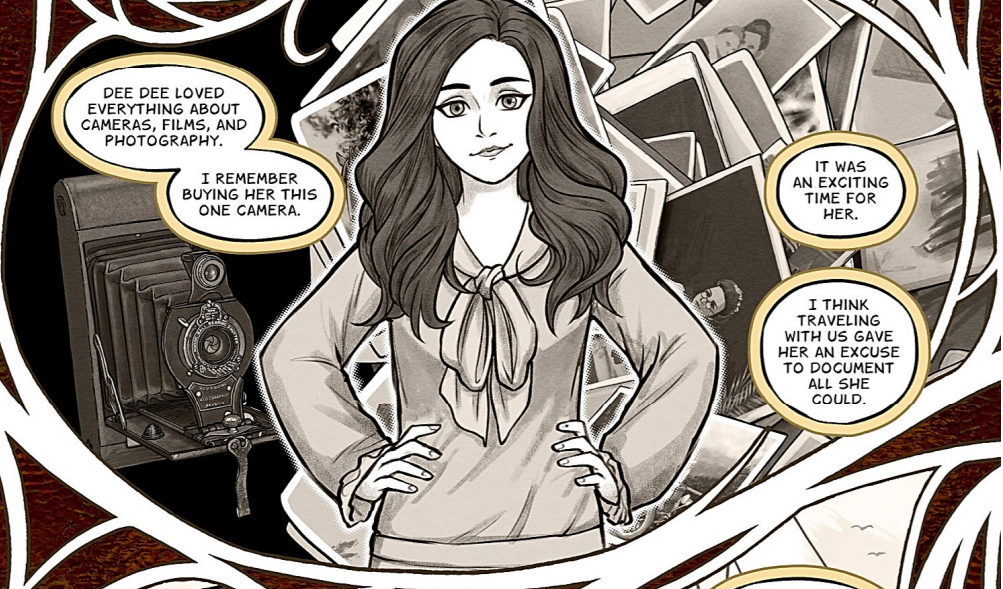


WE TRAVELED EVERYWHERE TOGETHER.

DO YOU REMEMBER THEIR NAMES?

DAISY AND BENEDICT HOLLIDAY.

"DEE DEE" AND "BENNY."

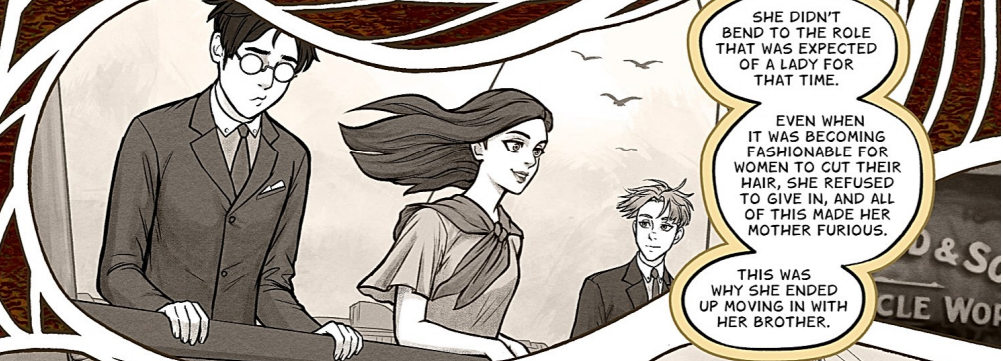


DEE DEE LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT CAMERAS, FILMS, AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

I REMEMBER BUYING HER THIS ONE CAMERA.

IT WAS AN EXCITING TIME FOR HER.

I THINK TRAVELING WITH US GAVE HER AN EXCUSE TO DOCUMENT ALL SHE COULD.



SHE DIDN'T BEND TO THE ROLE THAT WAS EXPECTED OF A LADY FOR THAT TIME.

EVEN WHEN IT WAS BECOMING FASHIONABLE FOR WOMEN TO CUT THEIR HAIR, SHE REFUSED TO GIVE IN, AND ALL OF THIS MADE HER MOTHER FURIOUS.

THIS WAS WHY SHE ENDED UP MOVING IN WITH HER BROTHER.



I MET BENNY DURING MY FIRST YEAR AT UNIVERSITY.

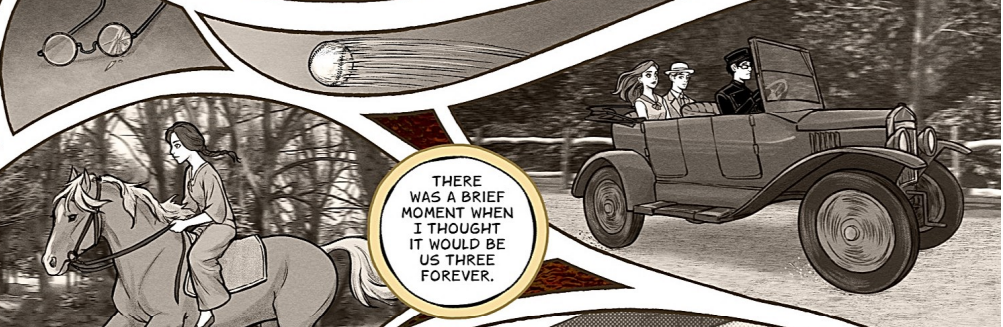
HE DIDN'T SEEM AS INTERESTED IN HISTORY OR EXPLORATION, BUT HE ALWAYS LISTENED TO MY PLANS FOR TRAVELING THE WORLD.

HE WAS THE ONE WHO WORKED OUT ALL THE DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND LODGING, MAKING SURE I SPENT MOST OF MY TIME EXPERIENCING THESE NEW PLACES WITHOUT ANY WORRY.

HE PUT UP WITH A LOT OF MY ECCENTRICITIES AND...

~SIGH~

I COULD BE MYSELF AROUND THEM.



THERE WAS A BRIEF MOMENT WHEN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE US THREE FOREVER.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

THEIR MOTHER ASKED DEE DEE TO VISIT FOR THE SUMMER.

THE NEXT TIME I SAW HER--



JACK?  
BENNY?

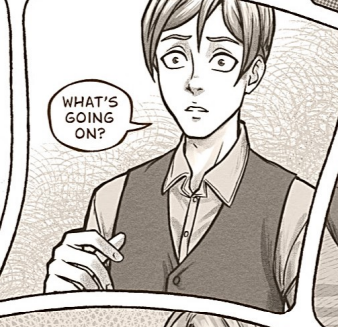
DAISY?  
YOU'RE  
BACK.

WHERE'S  
BENNY?

HE'S ON  
CAMPUS  
TODAY.



OH.  
I CAN'T  
STAY  
LONG.



WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



I MADE A  
TERRIBLE  
MISTAKE.

DEE DEE...

I FELT  
LIKE YOU  
NEEDED  
TO HEAR  
THIS  
FROM ME.



I HAVE  
NO OTHER  
CHOICE. I  
HAVE  
TO MARRY  
HIM.



YOU  
HAVE A  
CHOICE.

YOU  
CAN STAY  
HERE. THIS  
IS YOUR  
HOME.



I CAN'T.



DON'T  
LISTEN TO  
WHAT YOUR  
MOTHER  
SAYS OR  
WHAT OTHERS  
THINK. YOU  
CAN  
DO WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.

THE TRIP  
TO SOUTH  
AMERICA WE  
WERE PLANNING,  
WE CAN LEAVE  
EARLY, WE CAN  
LEAVE NOW.



I REALLY WISH  
THINGS COULD BE  
DIFFERENT. I WISH WE  
ALL COULD ESCAPE TO  
SOME ISLAND AND  
JUST BE. BUT THE  
REALITY...

MOST OF  
US WILL NEVER  
LIVE OUR DREAMS.  
WE ARE DOOMED  
TO REMAIN IN THE  
PRISON SOCIETY  
AND TRADITION  
HAS MADE  
FOR US.

BUT  
OUR TIME  
TOGETHER,  
I WILL HOLD  
ONTO THAT FOR  
THE REST OF  
MY LIFE.



I ASKED HER  
TO MARRY ME AND  
SAID THAT I WOULD  
RAISE THE CHILD AS MY  
OWN, BUT SHE SAID  
SHE WAS ALREADY  
ENGAGED.

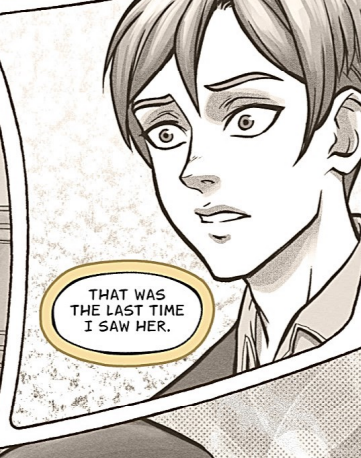
THREE MONTHS  
HAD CHANGED OUR  
LIVES FOREVER.



YOU HAVE  
MY BROTHER  
NOW. PLEASE,  
TAKE CARE  
OF HIM.

GOODBYE,  
JACK.

HER  
MOTHER  
WON.



THAT WAS  
THE LAST TIME  
I SAW HER.



BENNY.  
.....

HE HATED  
HIS MOTHER.



FROM  
AN EARLY  
AGE, SHE MADE  
IT HER MISSION  
TO BELITTLE  
AND Demean  
EVERYTHING  
ABOUT HIM.

BUT NONE OF  
IT BROKE  
HIM.



I NEVER  
MET THEIR  
MOTHER, BUT  
I HATED HER  
WITH EVERY  
OUNCE OF  
MY BEING.



THE LAST  
YEARS OF MY  
LIFE WERE SPENT  
TRAVELING WITH  
BENNY.

TRUANCING  
AROUND TO ALL  
OF THOSE DECAYED  
RUINS, I THINK  
HE DID THAT  
FOR ME.

I KNOW  
ONE THING FOR  
CERTAIN, I COULD  
TRUST HIM WITH  
ANYTHING.

HE NEVER  
ABANDONED  
ME.

DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HIM?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

I LIKE TO THINK HE RETURNED TO SCHOOL AND FULFILLED HIS DREAMS.

HE WAS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE. HE WANTED TO DEDICATE HIS LIFE TO IT.

IT WAS SO LONG AGO. HE WOULDN'T BE ALIVE NOW, THAT'S FOR SURE.

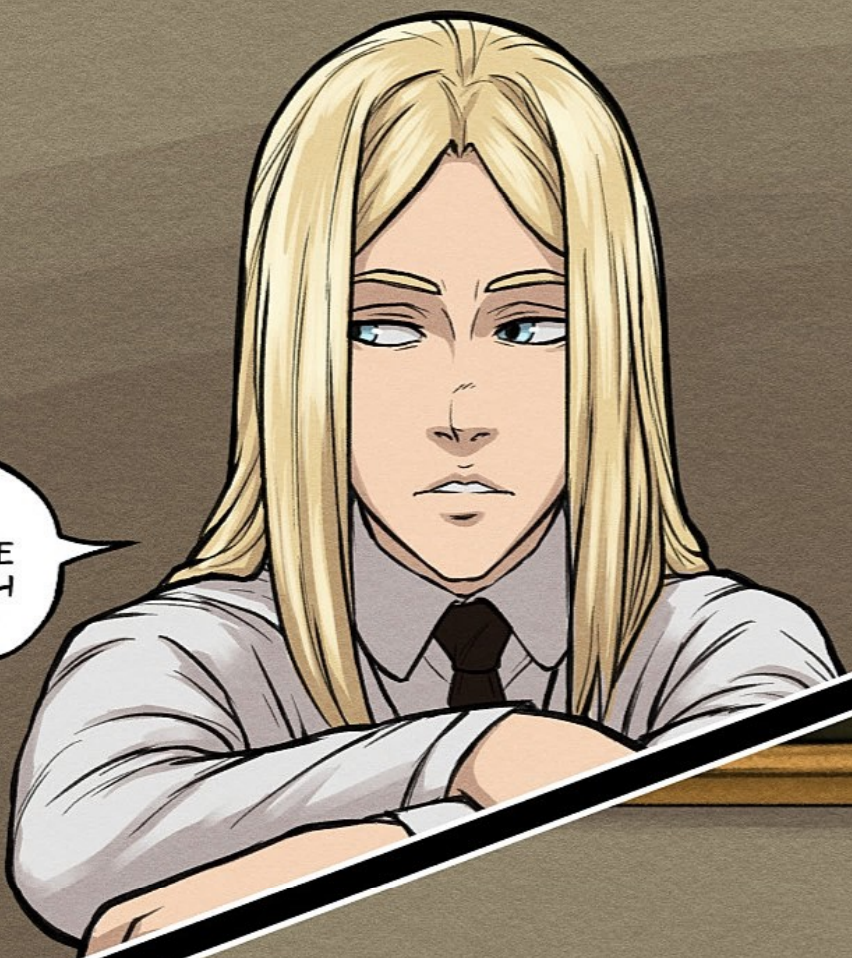


MAYBE HE'S A GHOST LIKE YOU?

I DOUBT IT.

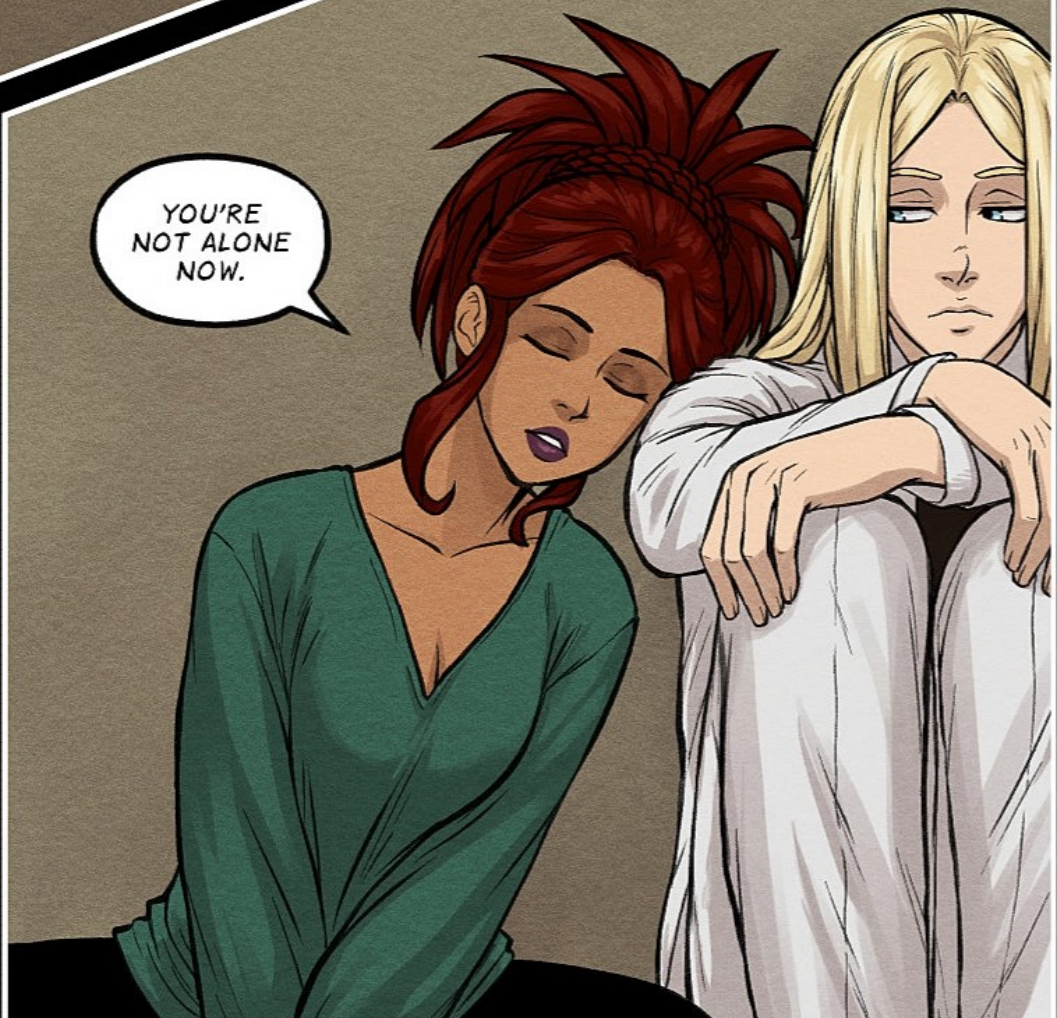
HE NEVER SEEMED LIKE THE TYPE TO BE BOTHERED WITH AN AFTERLIFE.

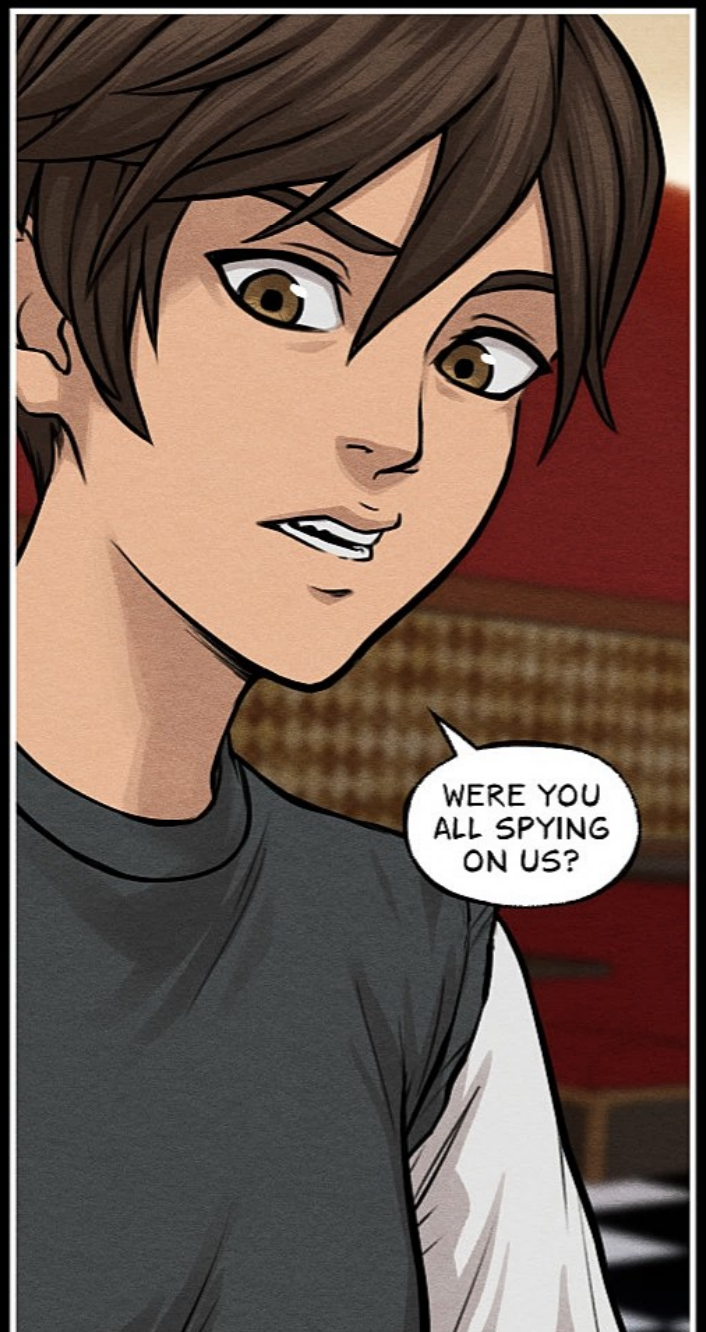
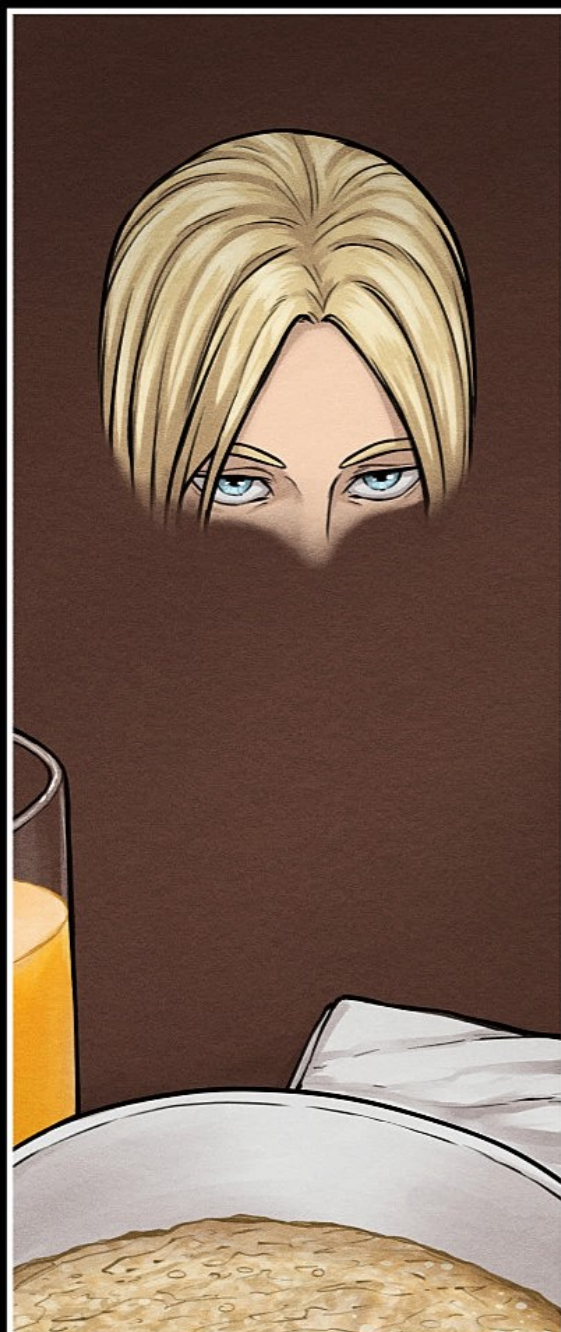
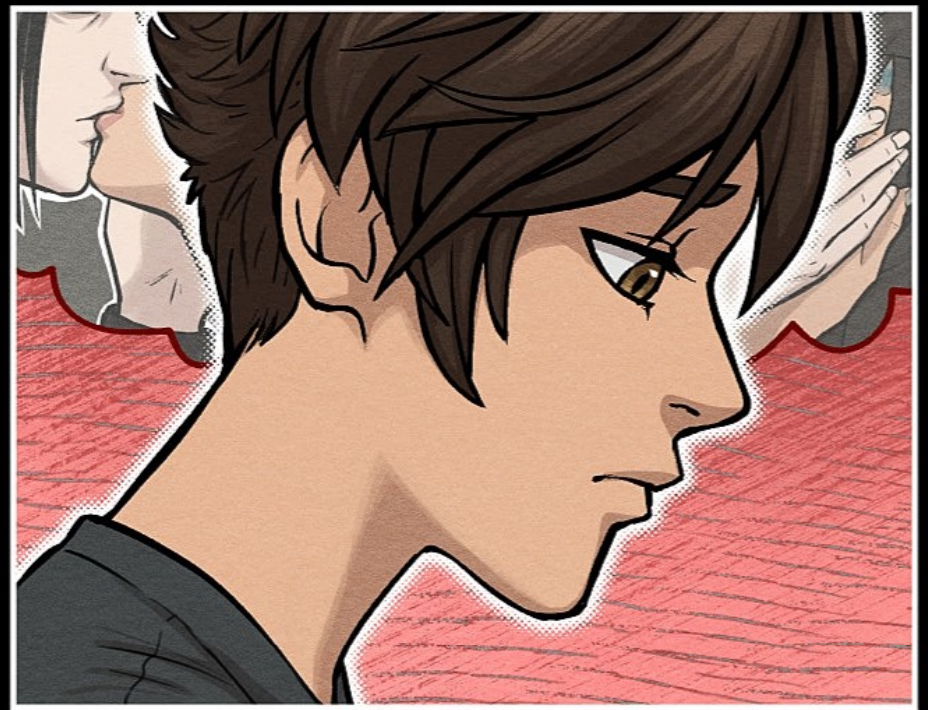
STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN THIS WORLD.



.....  
NOT THIS TIME.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE NOW.

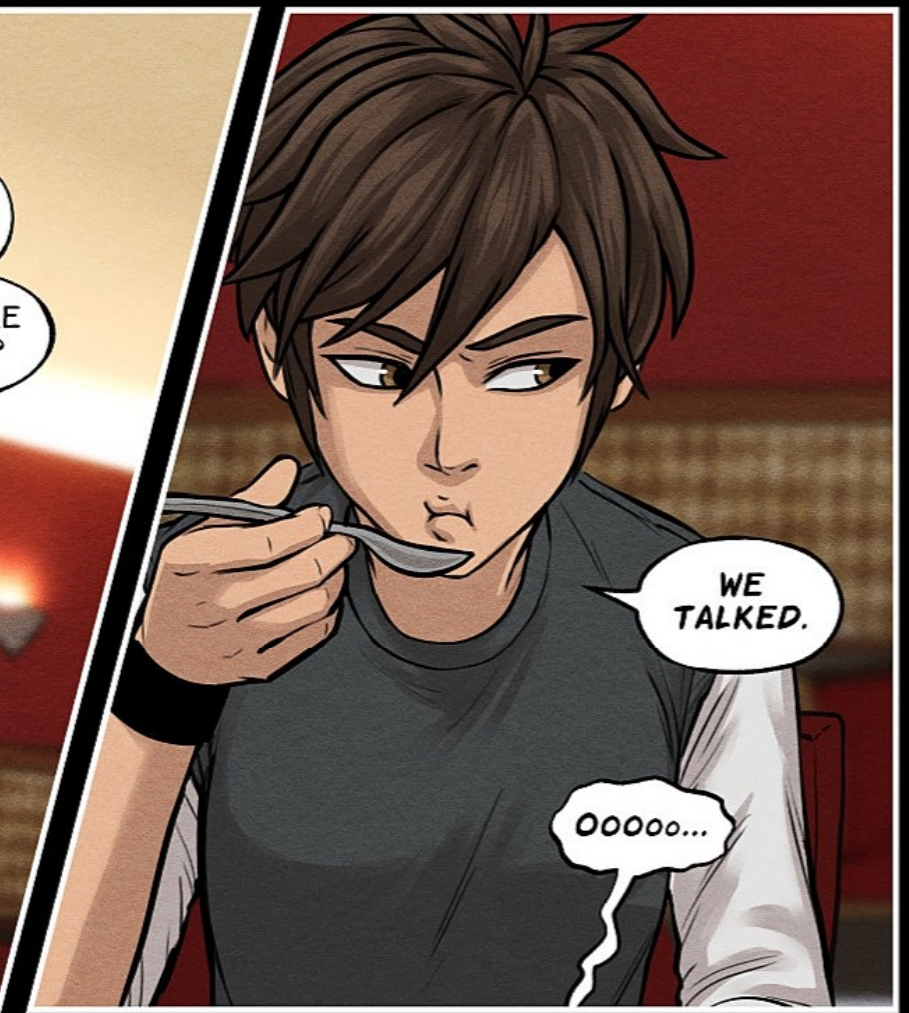






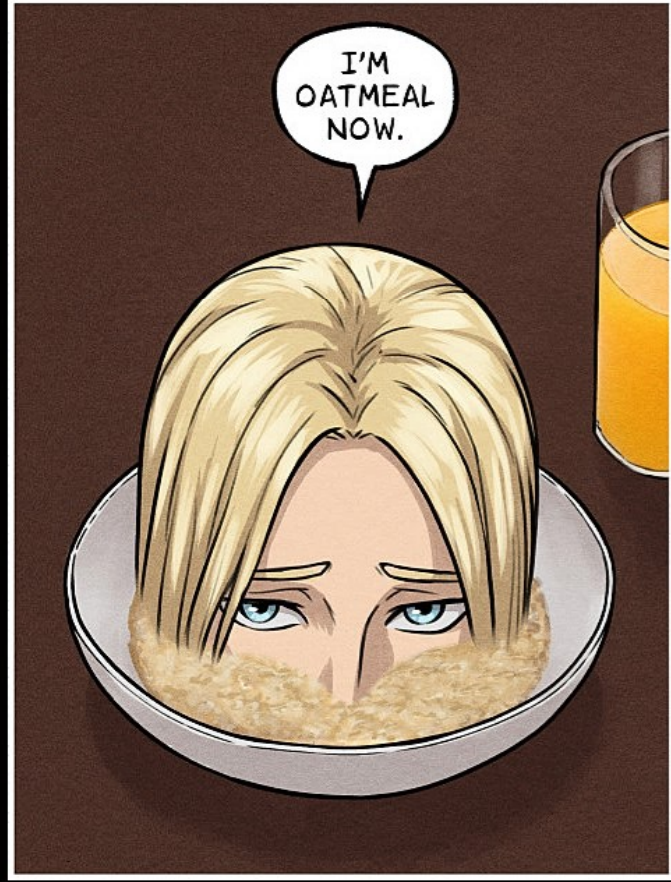
NOT THE WHOLE NIGHT.

SO, KISS 'N TELL?  
WAS THERE KISSING?



WE TALKED.

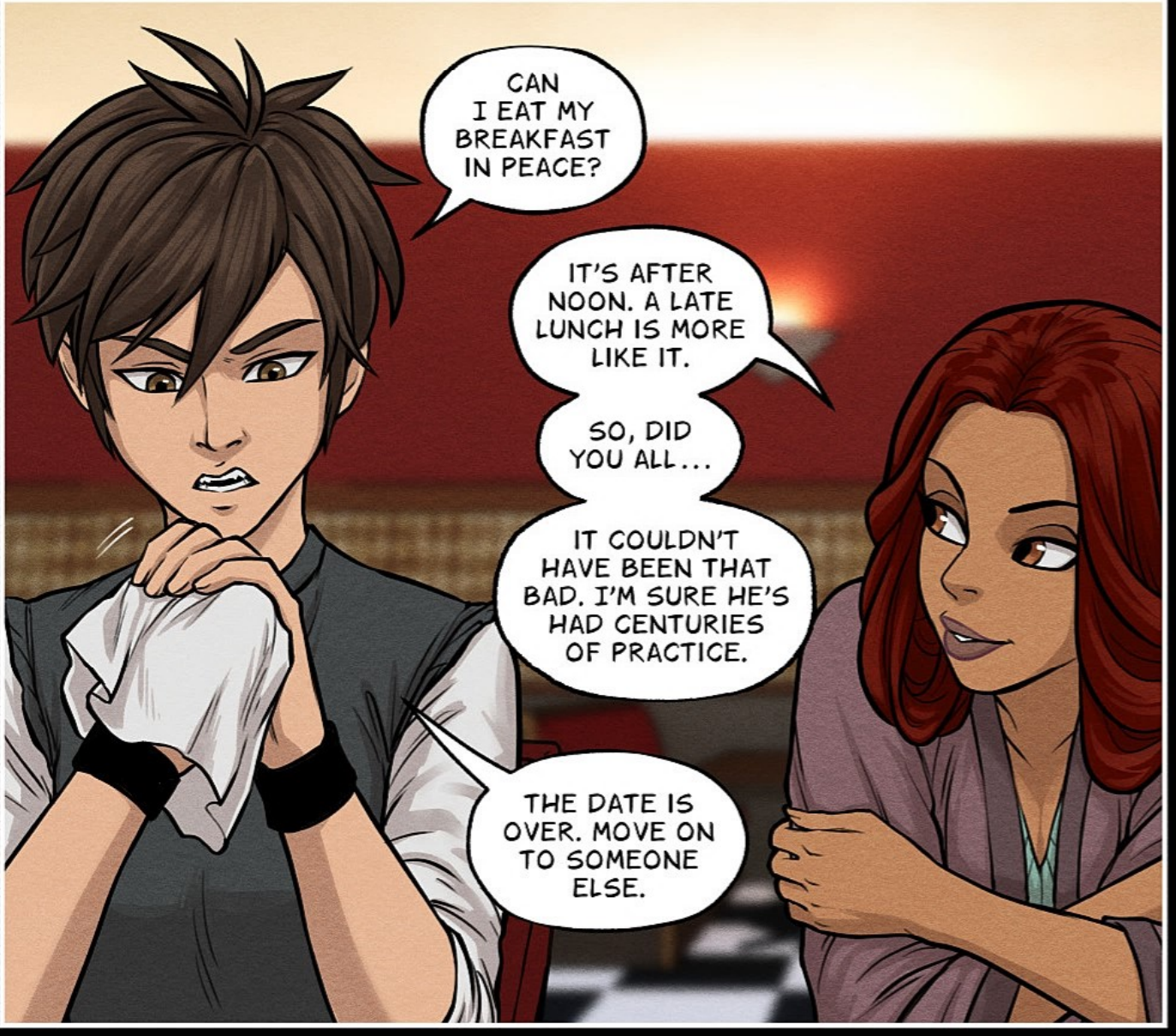
OOOOO...



I'M OATMEAL NOW.



YOU'RE OATMEAL NOW.



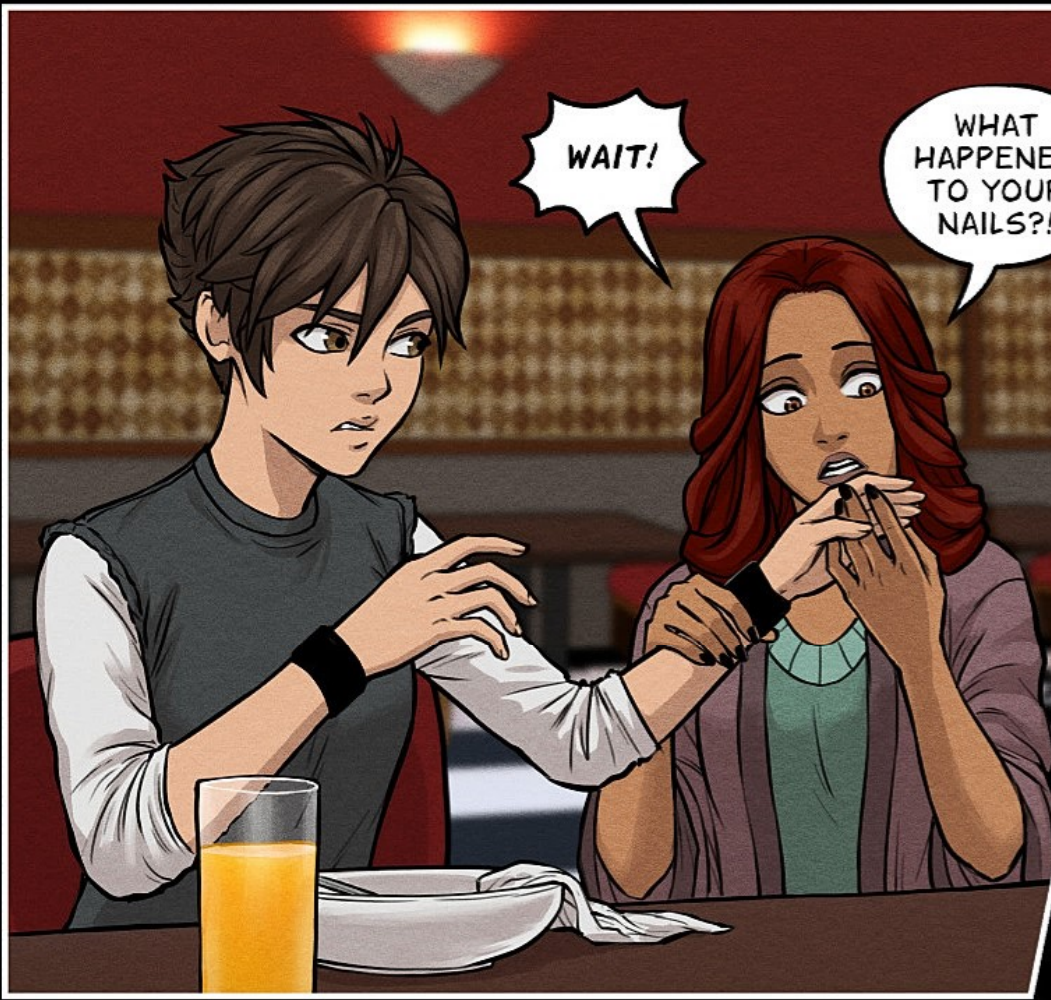
CAN I EAT MY BREAKFAST IN PEACE?

IT'S AFTER NOON. A LATE LUNCH IS MORE LIKE IT.

SO, DID YOU ALL...

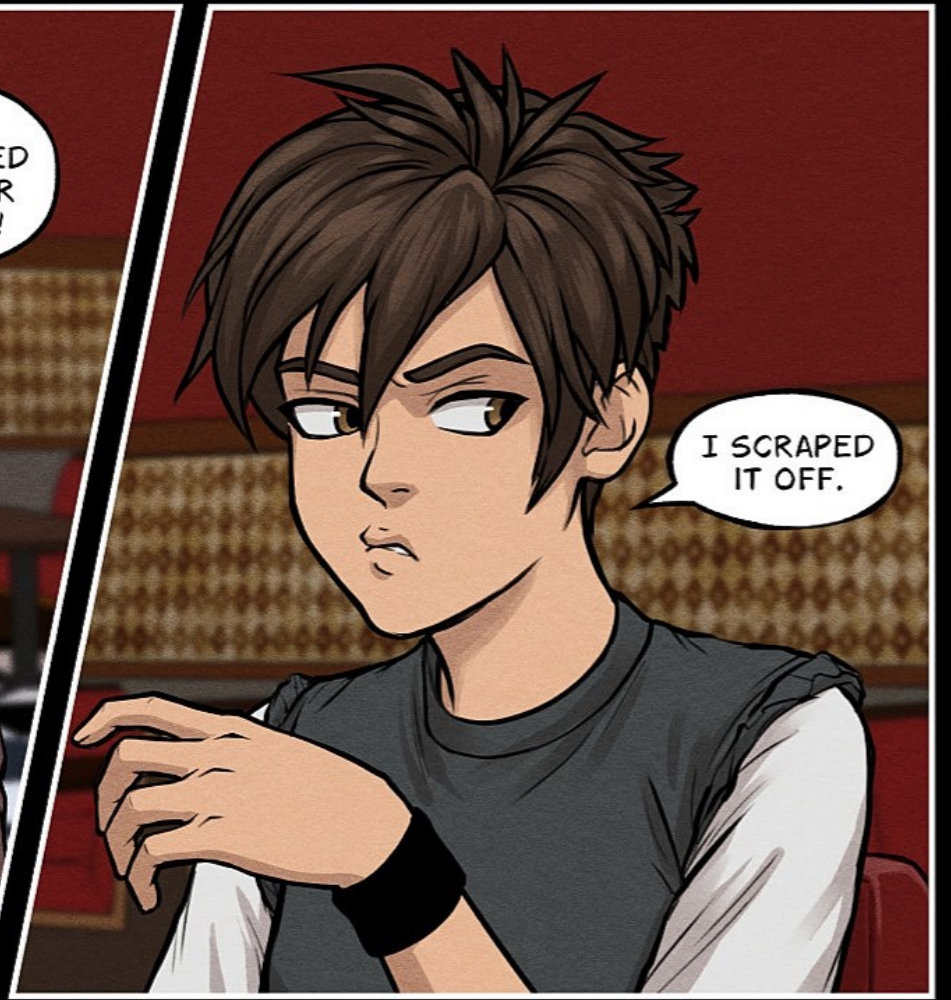
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT BAD. I'M SURE HE'S HAD CENTURIES OF PRACTICE.

THE DATE IS OVER. MOVE ON TO SOMEONE ELSE.

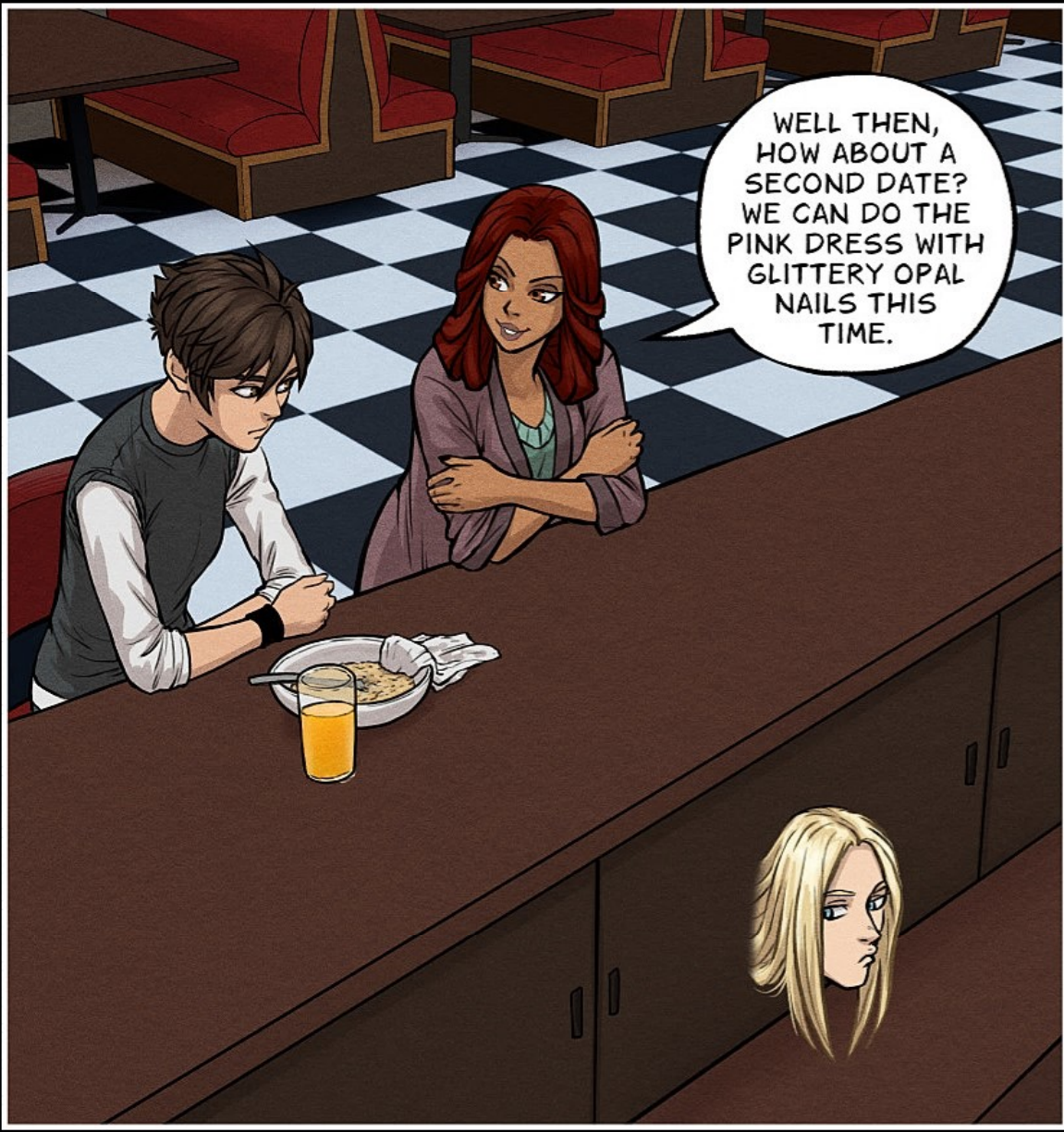


WAIT!

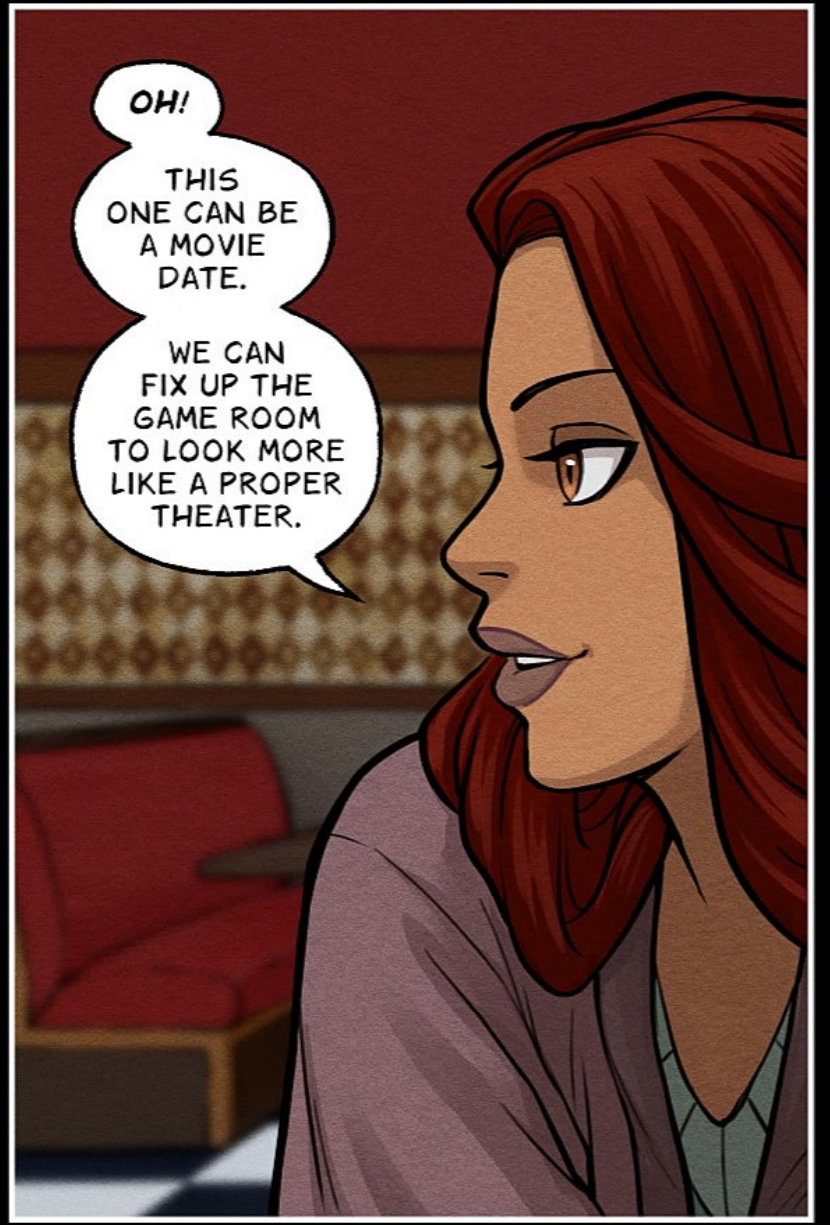
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR NAILS?!



I SCRAPED IT OFF.

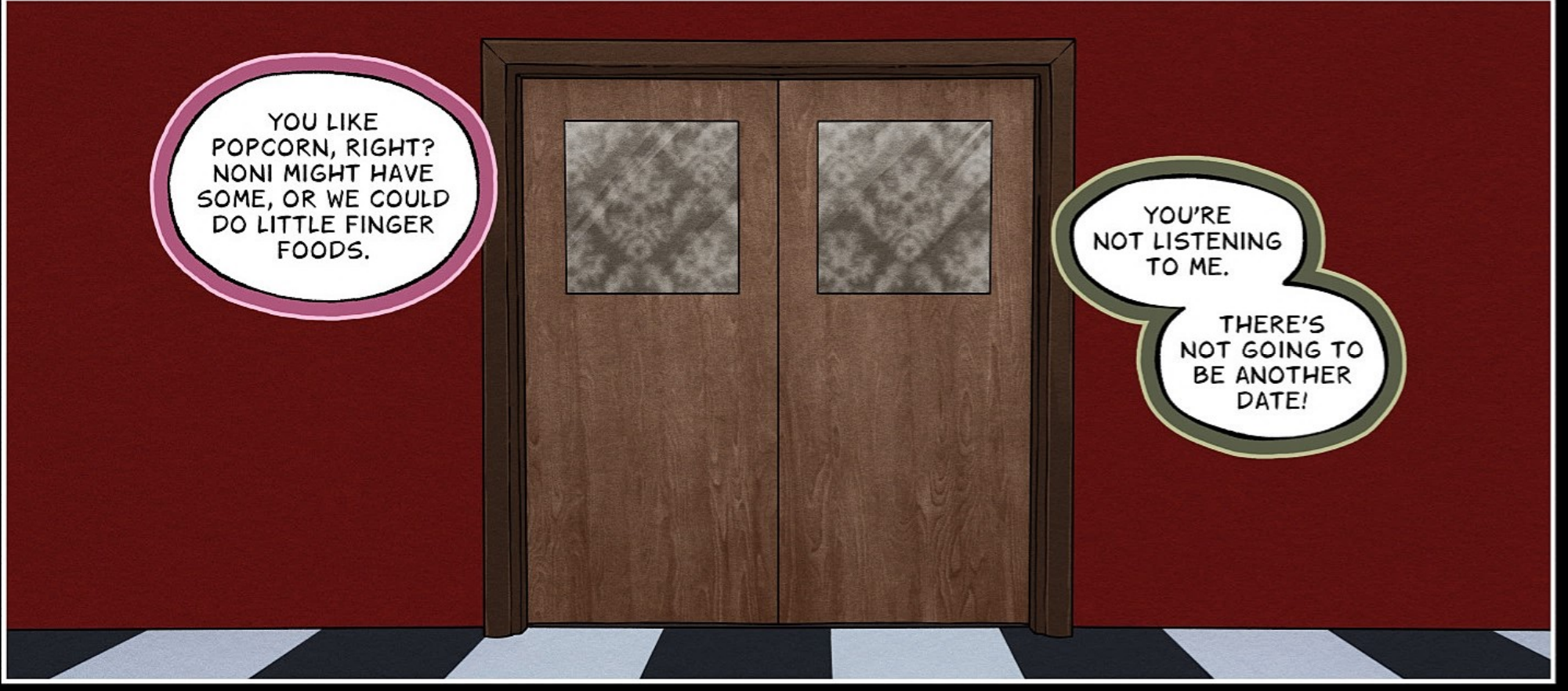


WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT A SECOND DATE? WE CAN DO THE PINK DRESS WITH GLITTERY OPAL NAILS THIS TIME.



OH!  
THIS ONE CAN BE A MOVIE DATE.

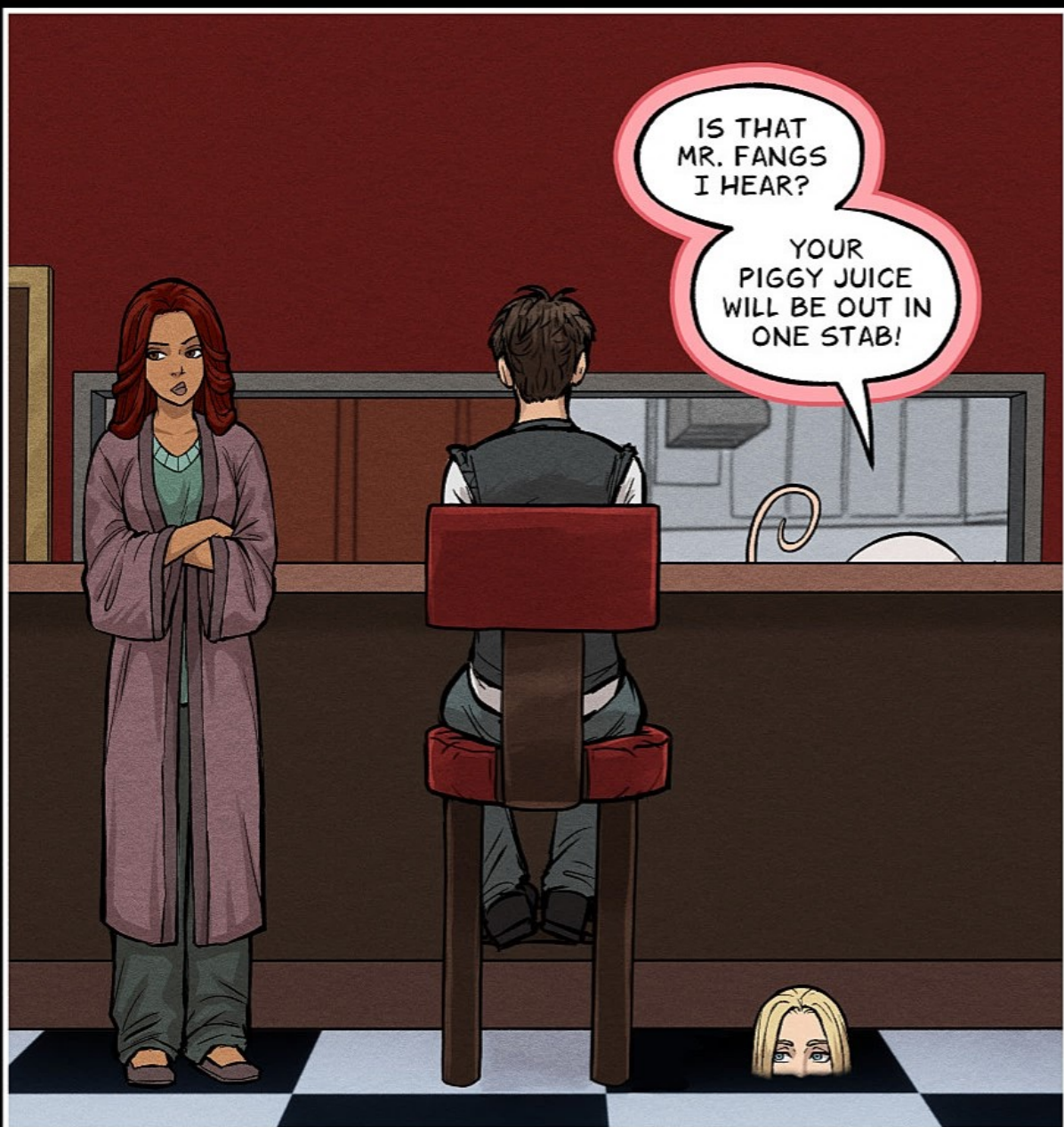
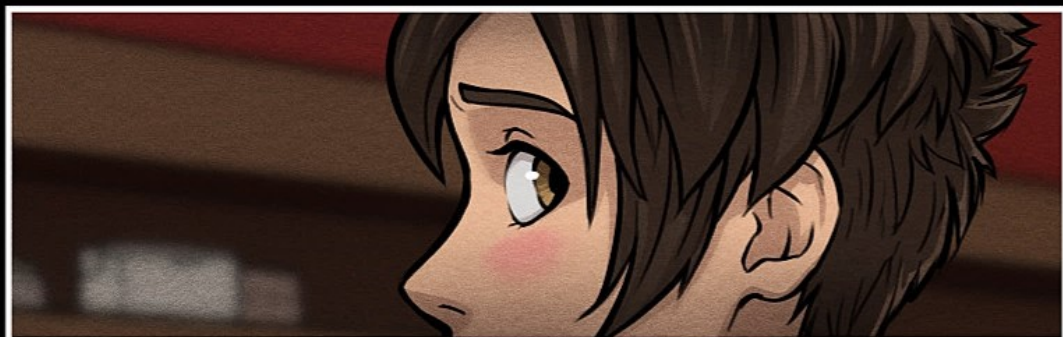
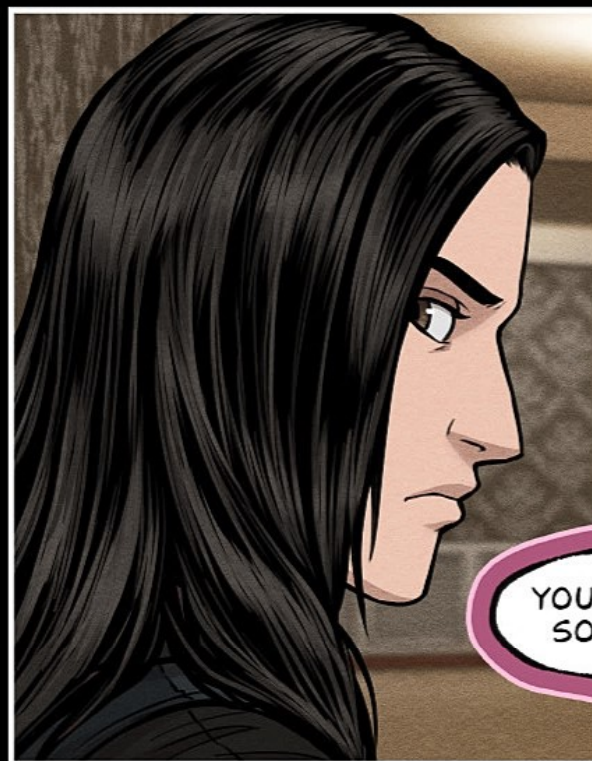
WE CAN FIX UP THE GAME ROOM TO LOOK MORE LIKE A PROPER THEATER.



YOU LIKE POPCORN, RIGHT? NONI MIGHT HAVE SOME, OR WE COULD DO LITTLE FINGER FOODS.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME.

THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANOTHER DATE!







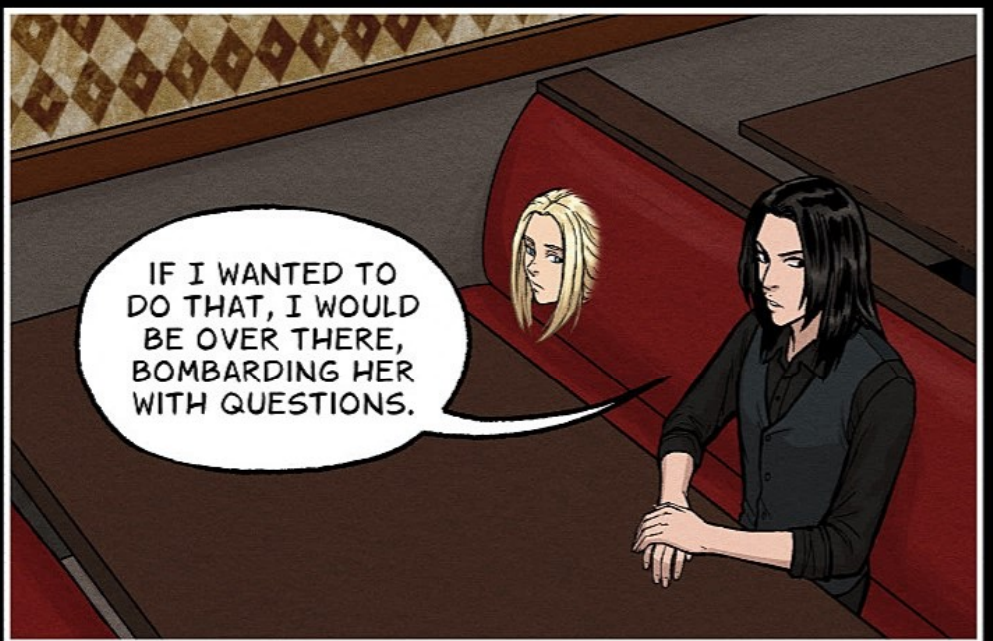
HOW WAS YOUR NIGHT?



DELICIOUS.



I BELIEVE YOU'RE EMBARRASSING HER.



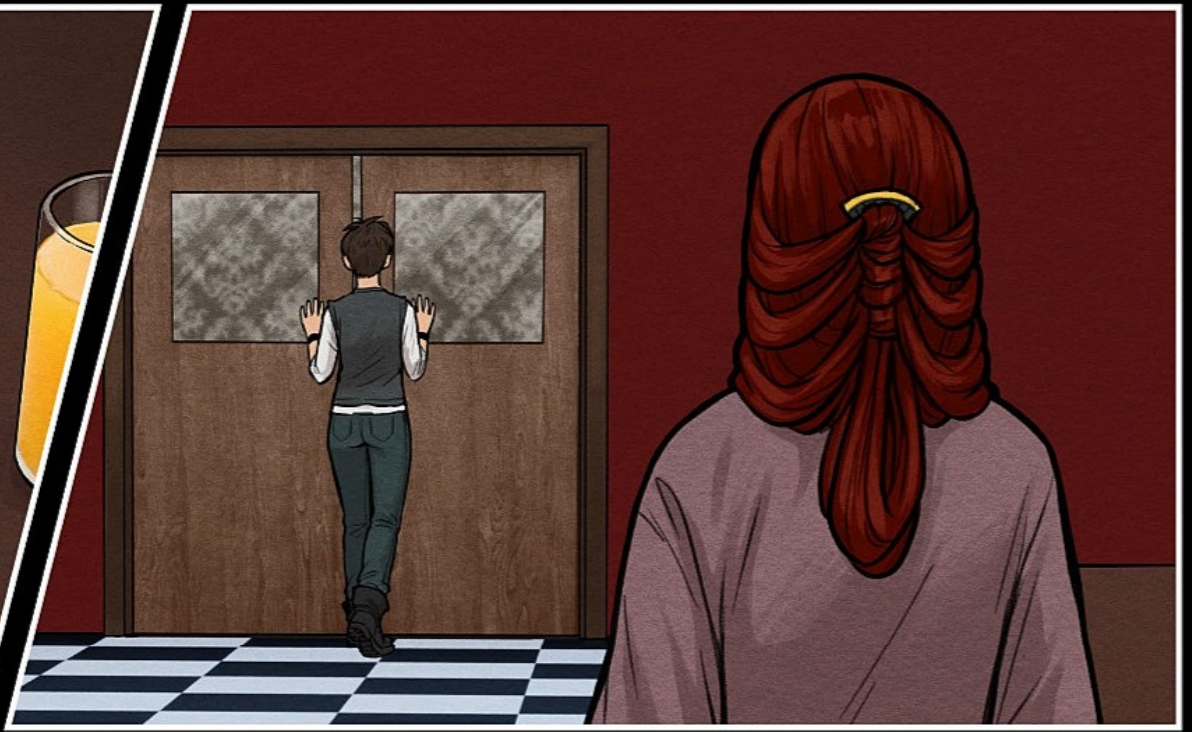
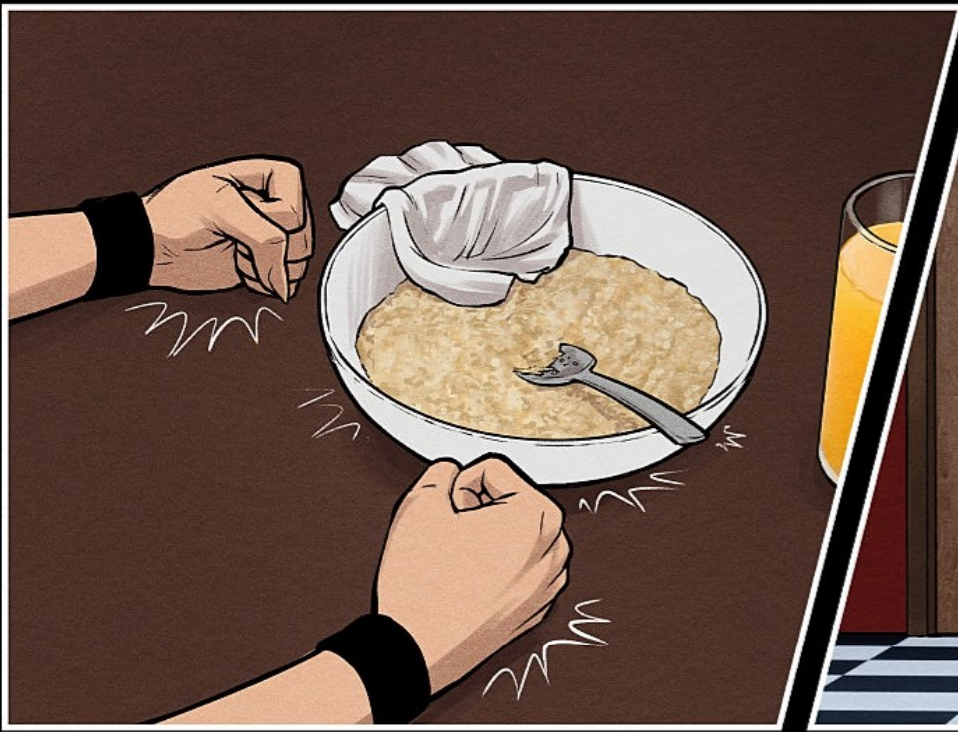
IF I WANTED TO DO THAT, I WOULD BE OVER THERE, BOMBARDING HER WITH QUESTIONS.



HONESTLY, THOUGH, YOU SHOULD SPEAK WITH ME INSTEAD.  
THE WOLF WOULD HAVE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE LAST NIGHT.

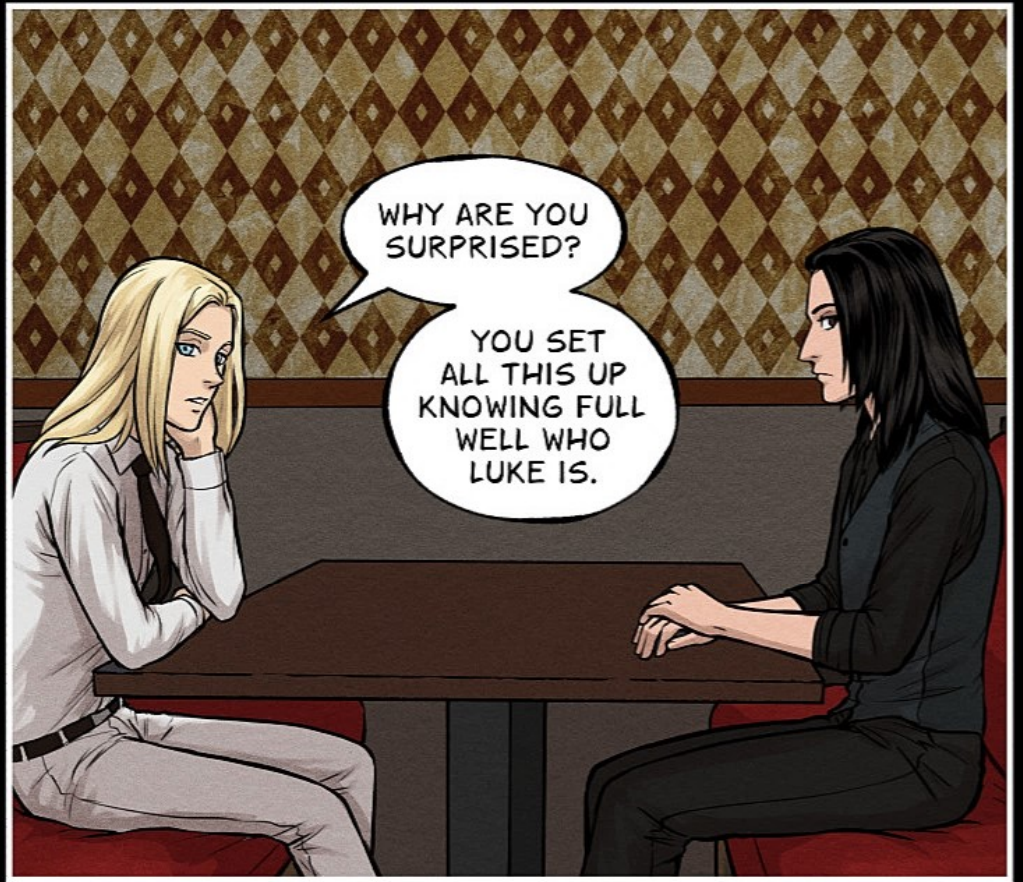


COY AND SHUDDERING.  
LIKE NOW.



WHAT THE FUCK, LUKE?!

WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?!



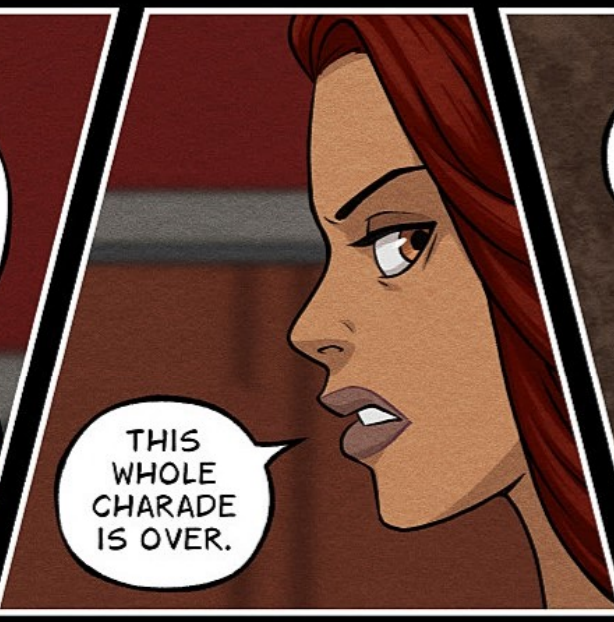
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?

YOU SET ALL THIS UP KNOWING FULL WELL WHO LUKE IS.



TO FOOL THE COURT AND PLAY BY A SCRIPT.

BUT WHEN LEECH-BOY DECIDES TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF PEPPER, IT KINDA DEFEATS THE PURPOSE.



THIS WHOLE CHARADE IS OVER.

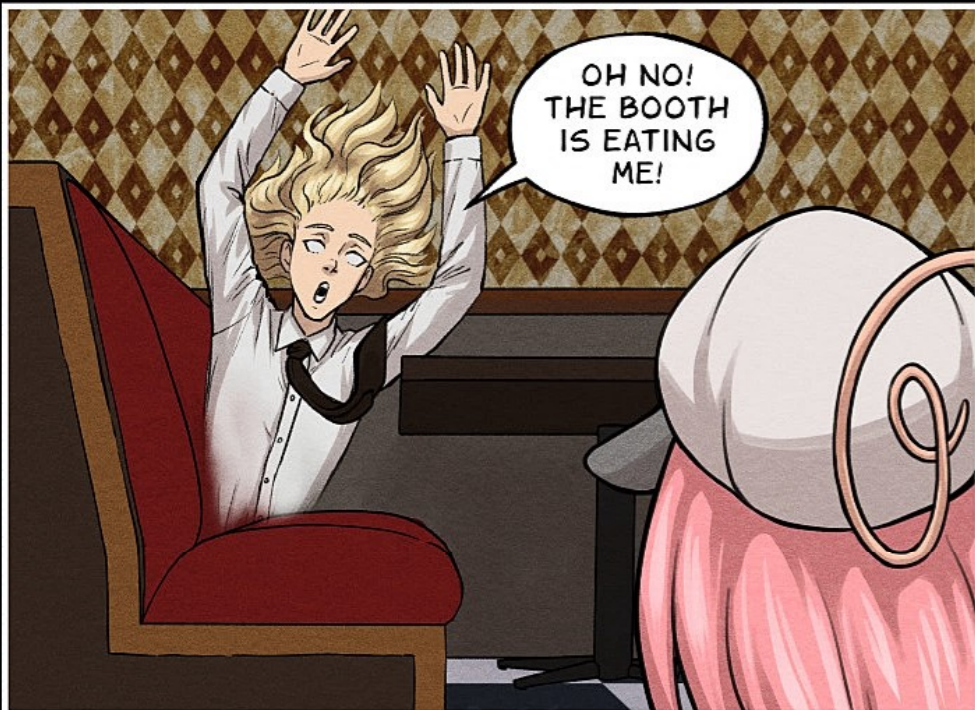
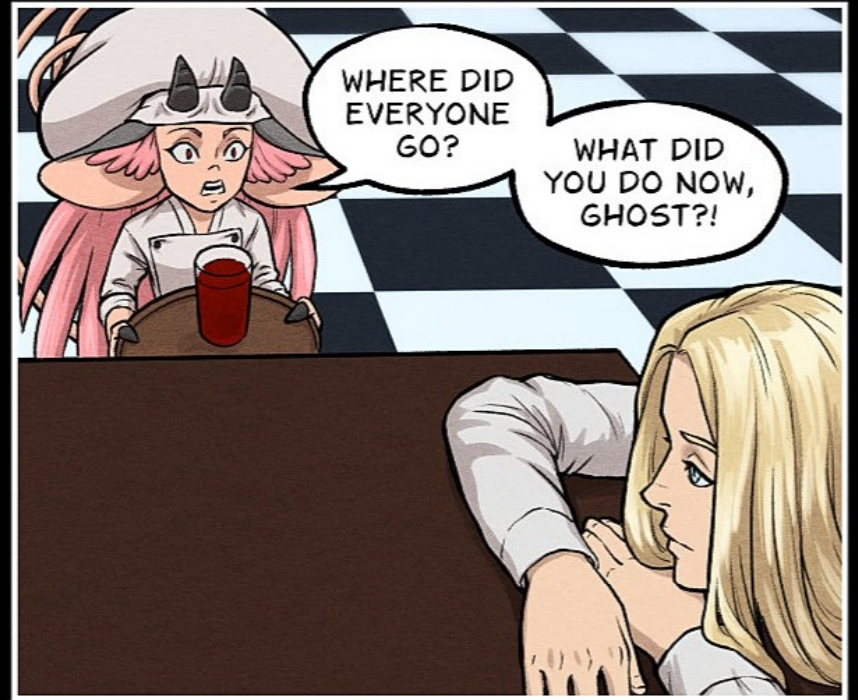
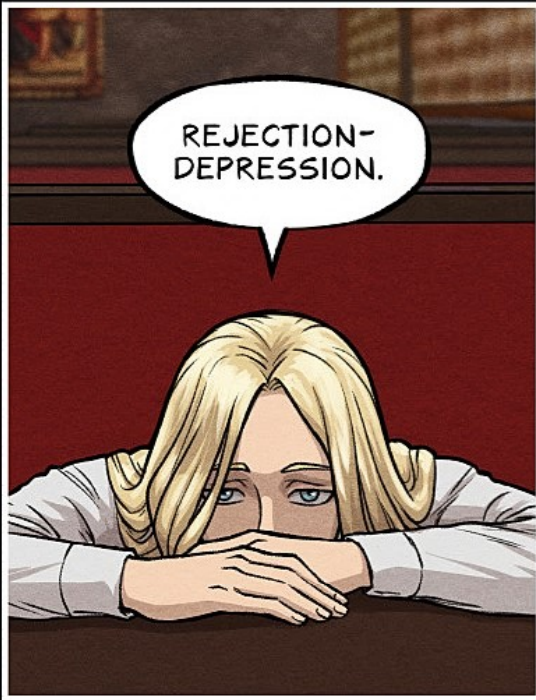
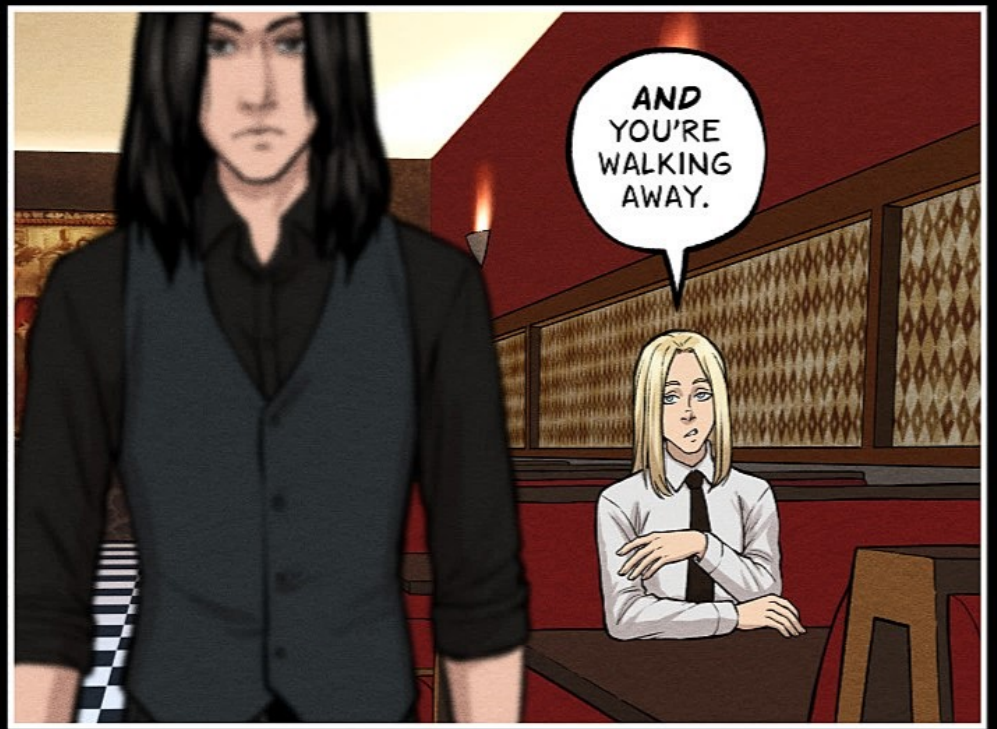
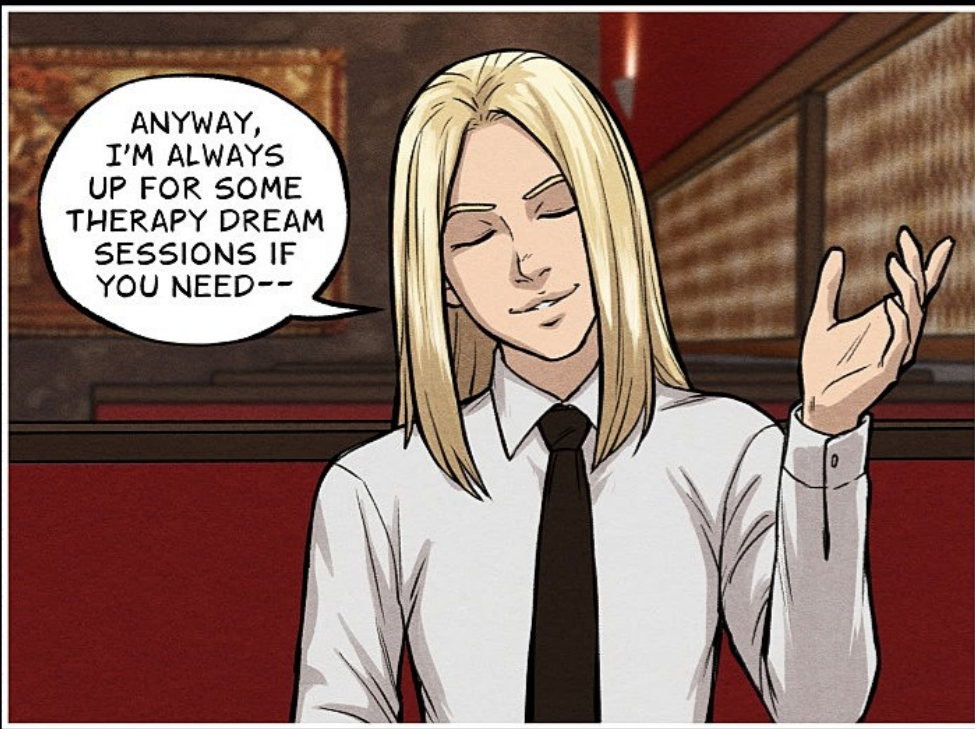


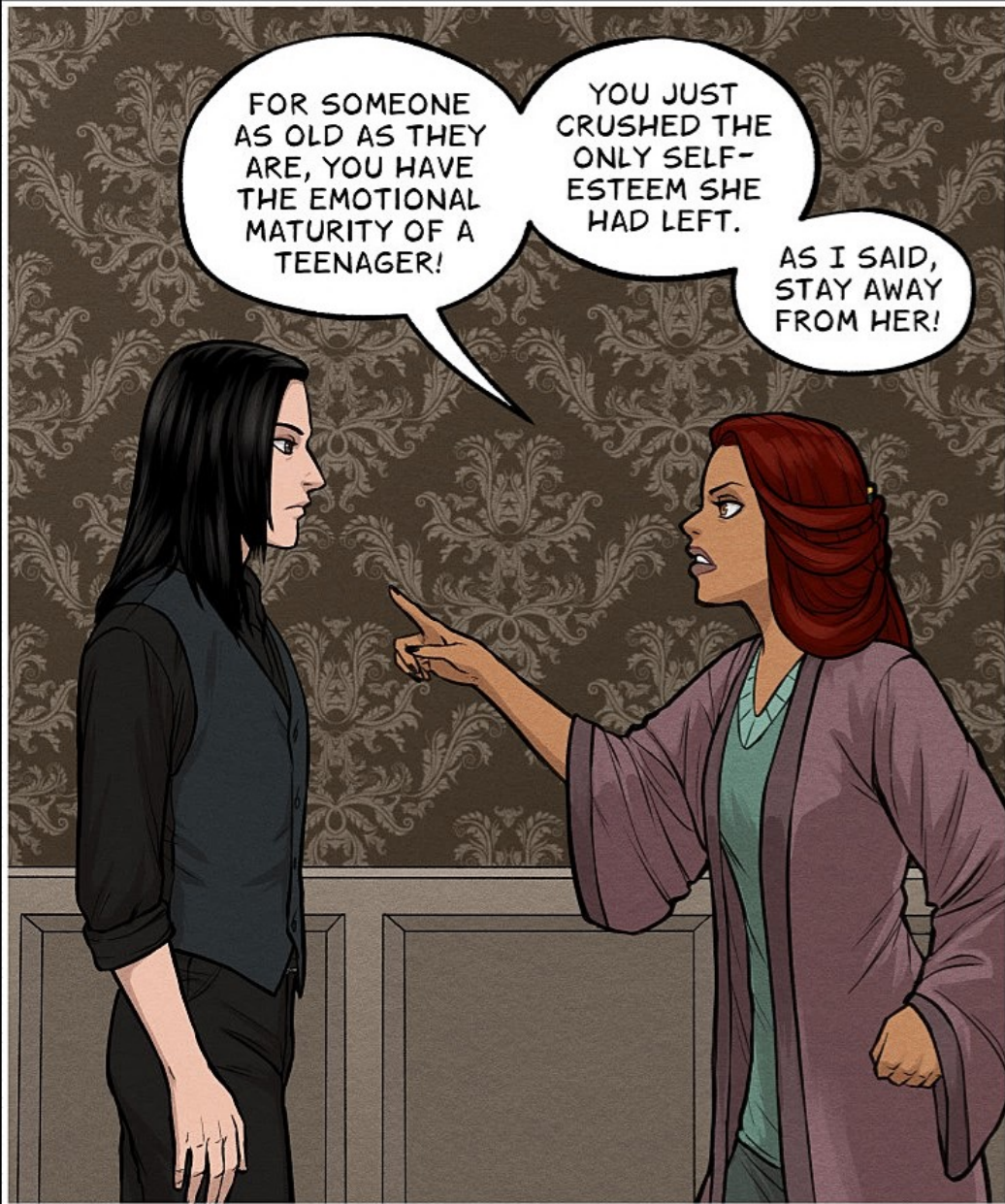
THE BOTH OF YOU ARE JERKS THROUGH AND THROUGH.

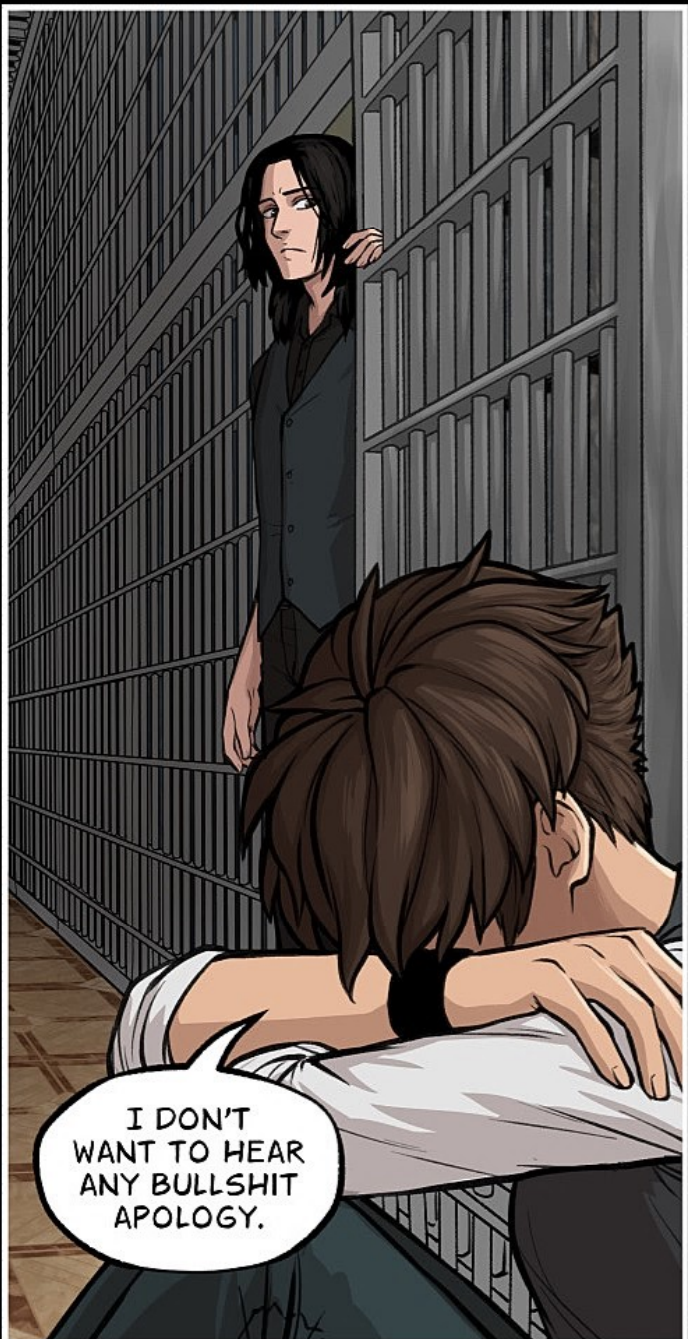
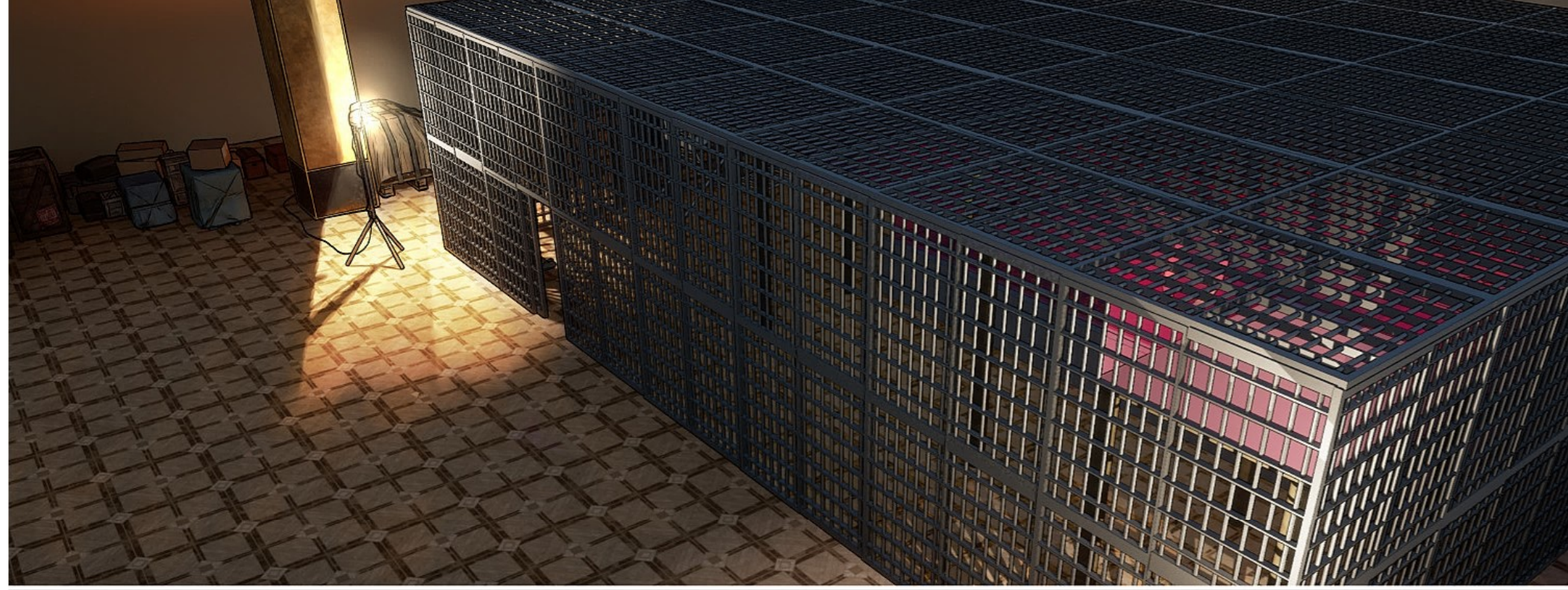
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE FIGURED OUT, THAT WAY THEY CAN NEVER SURPRISE YOU.

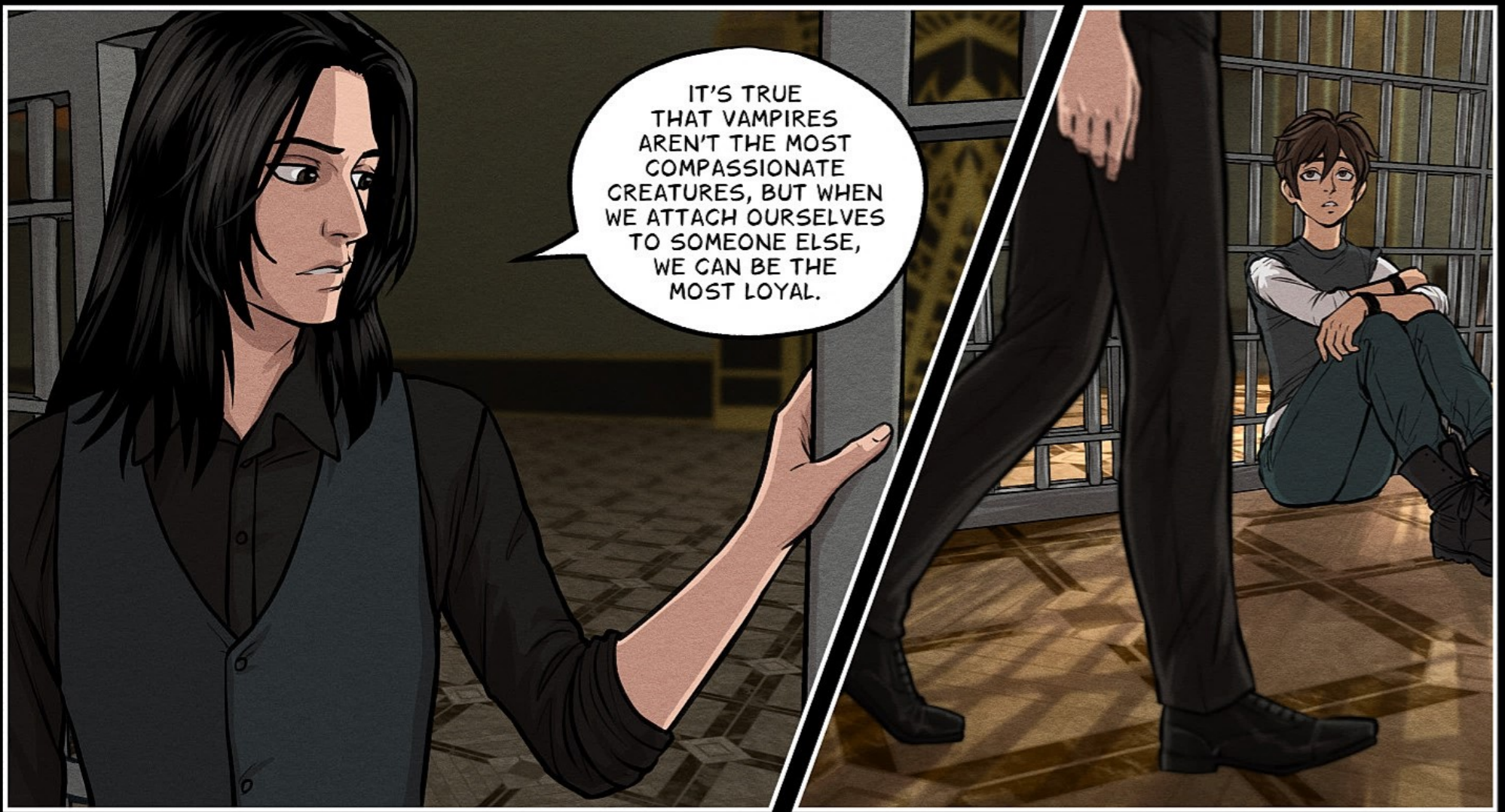


STAY AWAY FROM HER!

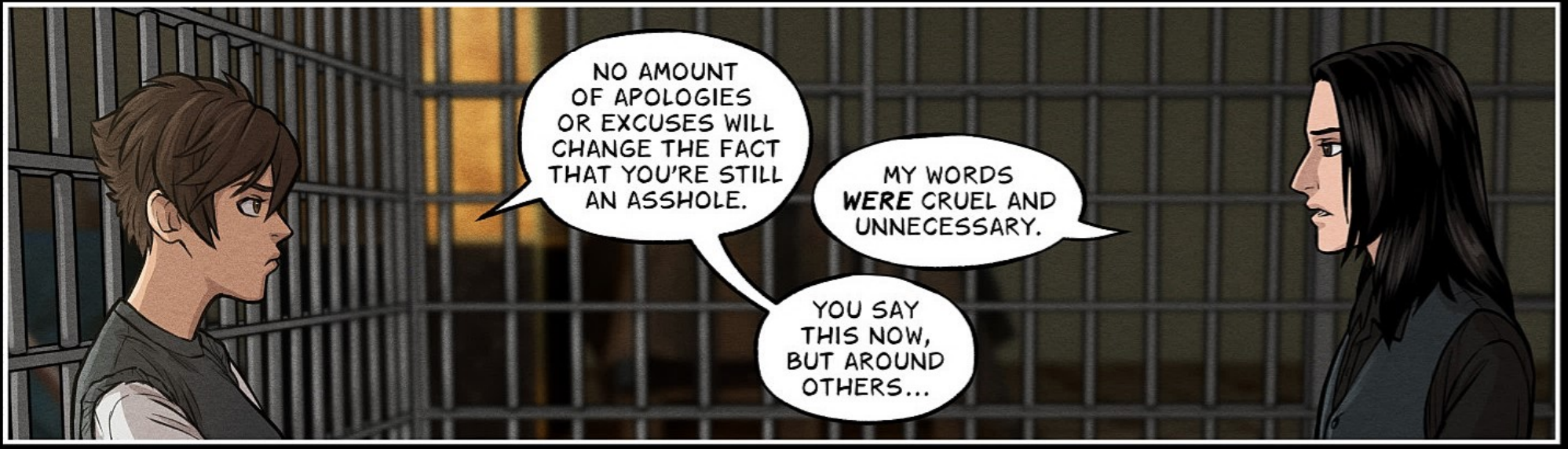








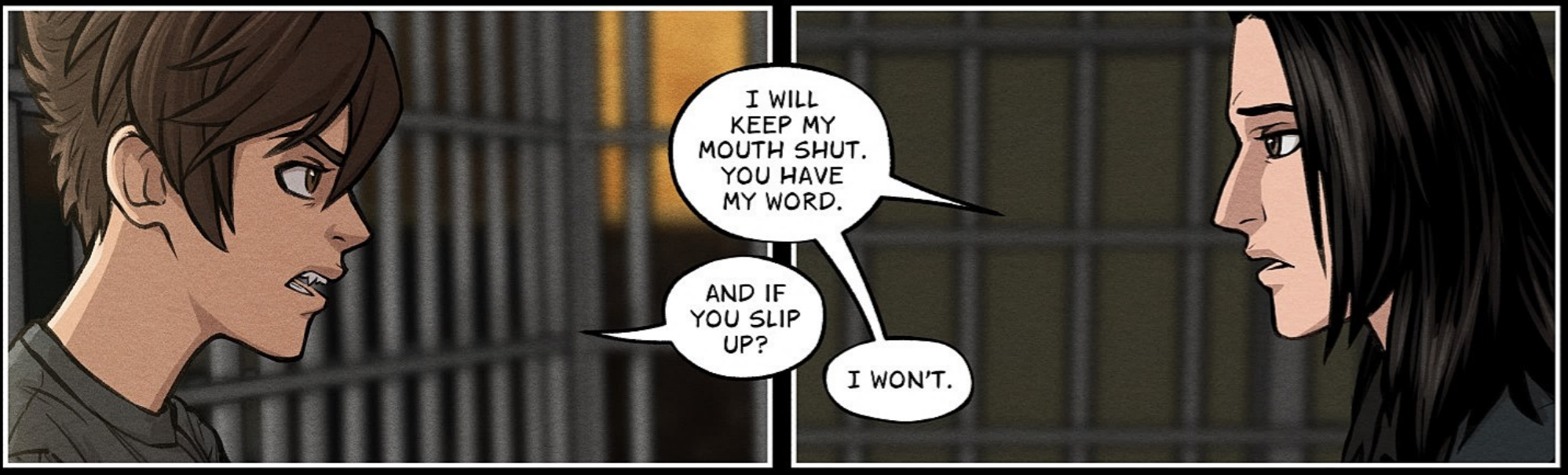
IT'S TRUE THAT VAMPIRES AREN'T THE MOST COMPASSIONATE CREATURES, BUT WHEN WE ATTACH OURSELVES TO SOMEONE ELSE, WE CAN BE THE MOST LOYAL.



NO AMOUNT OF APOLOGIES OR EXCUSES WILL CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL AN ASSHOLE.

MY WORDS WERE CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY.

YOU SAY THIS NOW, BUT AROUND OTHERS...



I WILL KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT. YOU HAVE MY WORD.

AND IF YOU SLIP UP?

I WON'T.



WHAT IS THIS GAUDY PLACE?

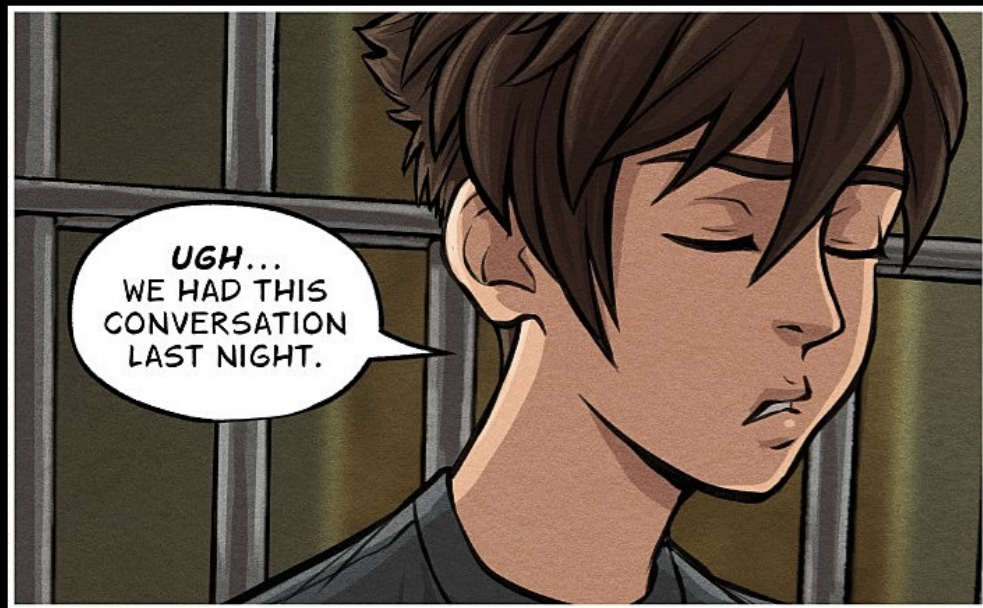
IT'S MY CAGE. MOMO AND NONI MADE IT FOR ME.

YOU SHOULDN'T NEED A CAGE.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.



I WILL TEACH YOU, AND SOON, YOU WON'T NEED A CAGE.

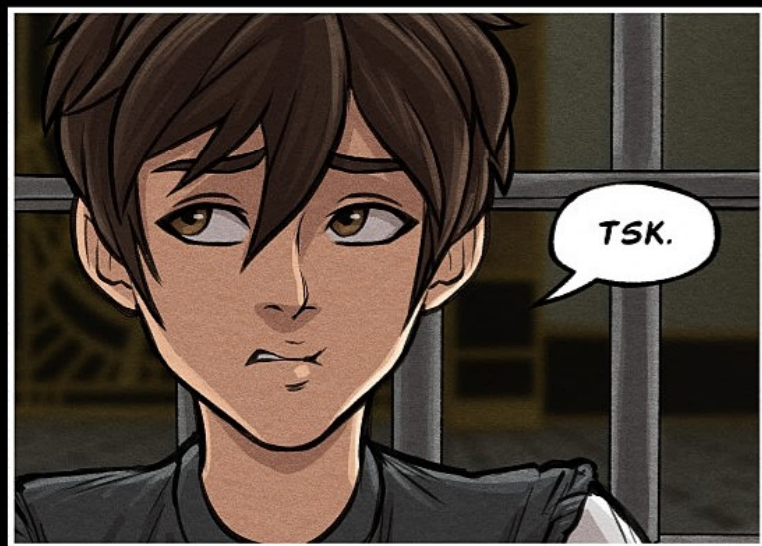


UGH... WE HAD THIS CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT.



WE DIDN'T **FINISH** THE CONVERSATION.

YOU DO NEED SOMEONE TO HELP GUIDE YOU.

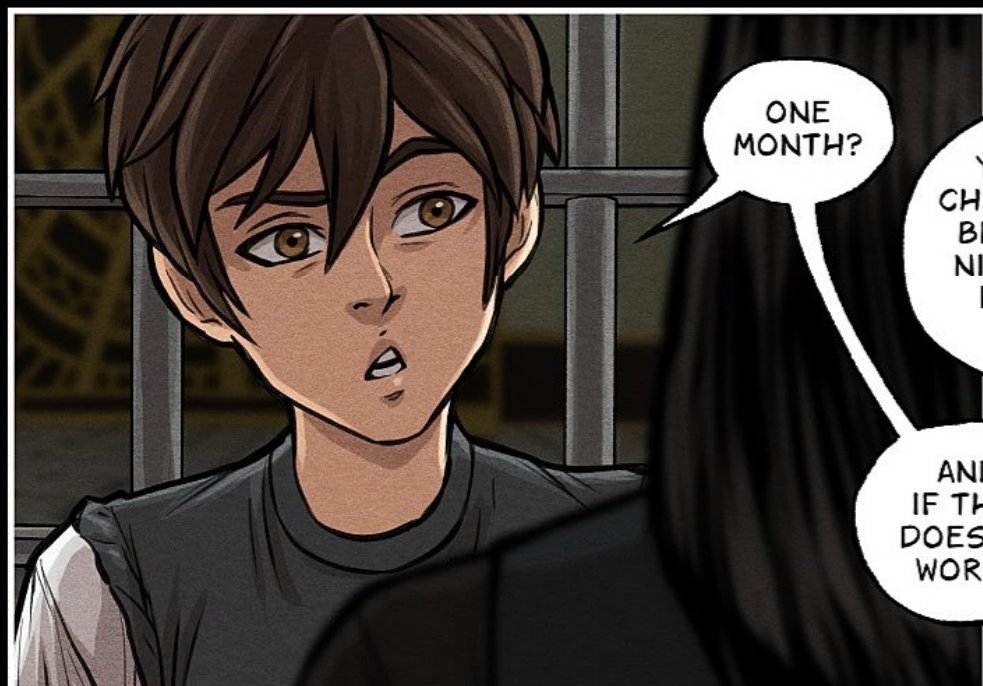


TSK.



I HAVE HELPED OTHER WEREWOLVES IN THE PAST.

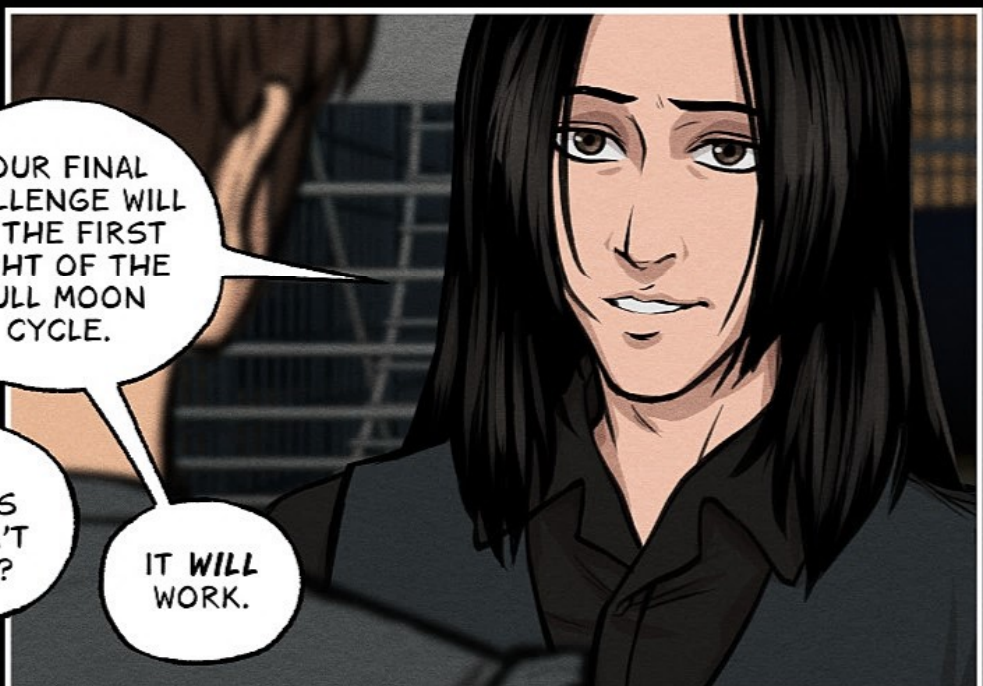
GIVE ME ONE MONTH.



ONE MONTH?

YOUR FINAL CHALLENGE WILL BE THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON CYCLE.

AND IF THIS DOESN'T WORK?



IT **WILL** WORK.



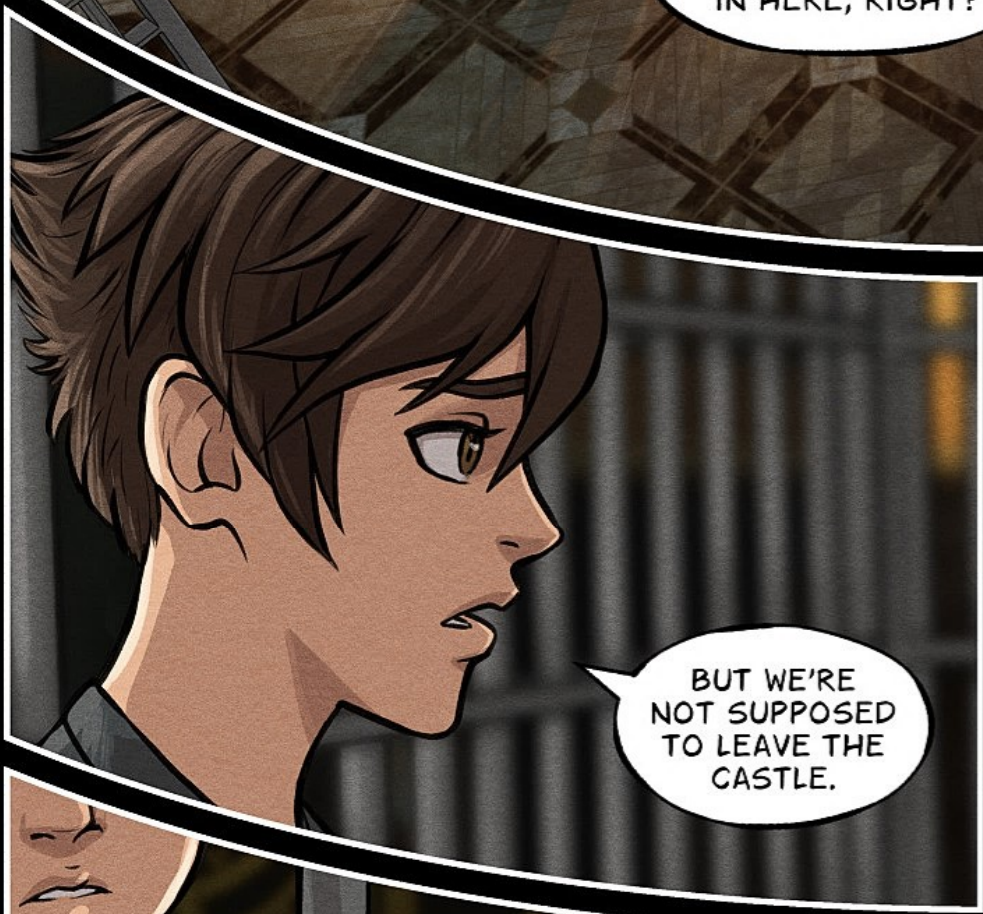
WHEN DO WE START?

AT SUNSET.

WHY NOT NOW?

WHATEVER YOU NEED TO TEACH ME CAN BE TAUGHT IN HERE, RIGHT?

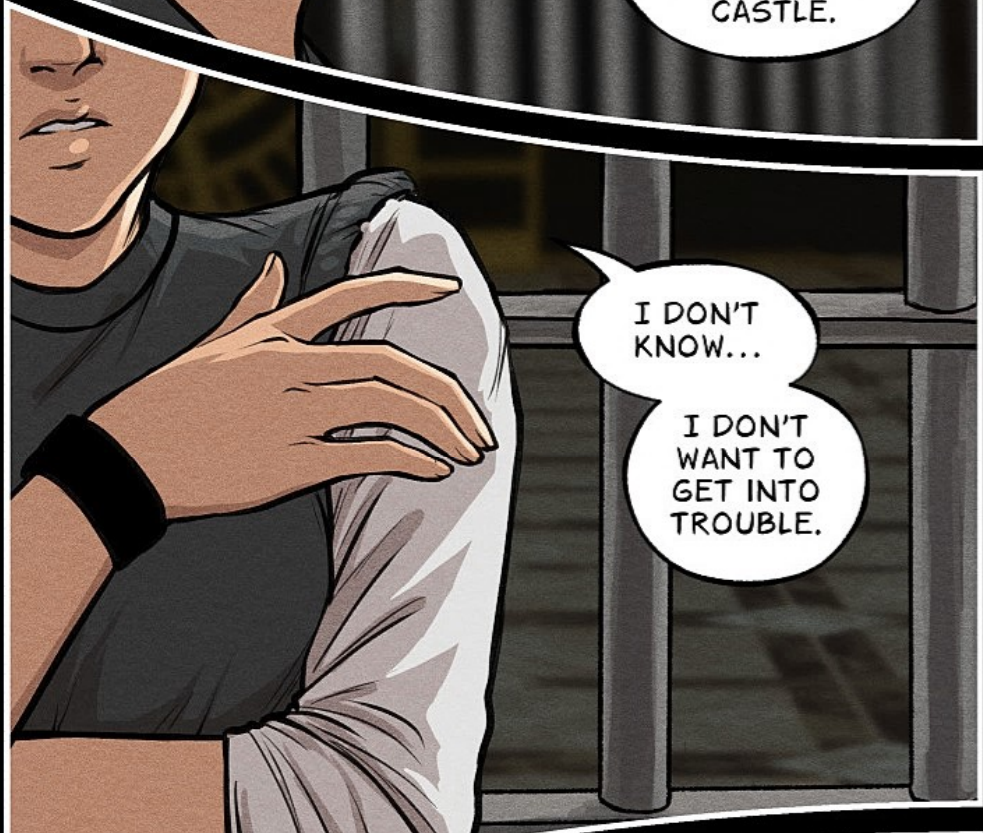
WHY STAY INDOORS WHEN THERE'S A LARGE ISLAND OUT THERE TO EXPLORE?



BUT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE CASTLE.



WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE ISLAND.



I DON'T KNOW...

I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO TROUBLE.



YOU WON'T.

WHAT ARE YOU REALLY AFRAID OF?



.....  
I'M NOT AFRAID.



YOU ARE.

IT'S THE COMFORT OF YOUR COMPLACENCY YOU ARE AFRAID TO CHANGE.

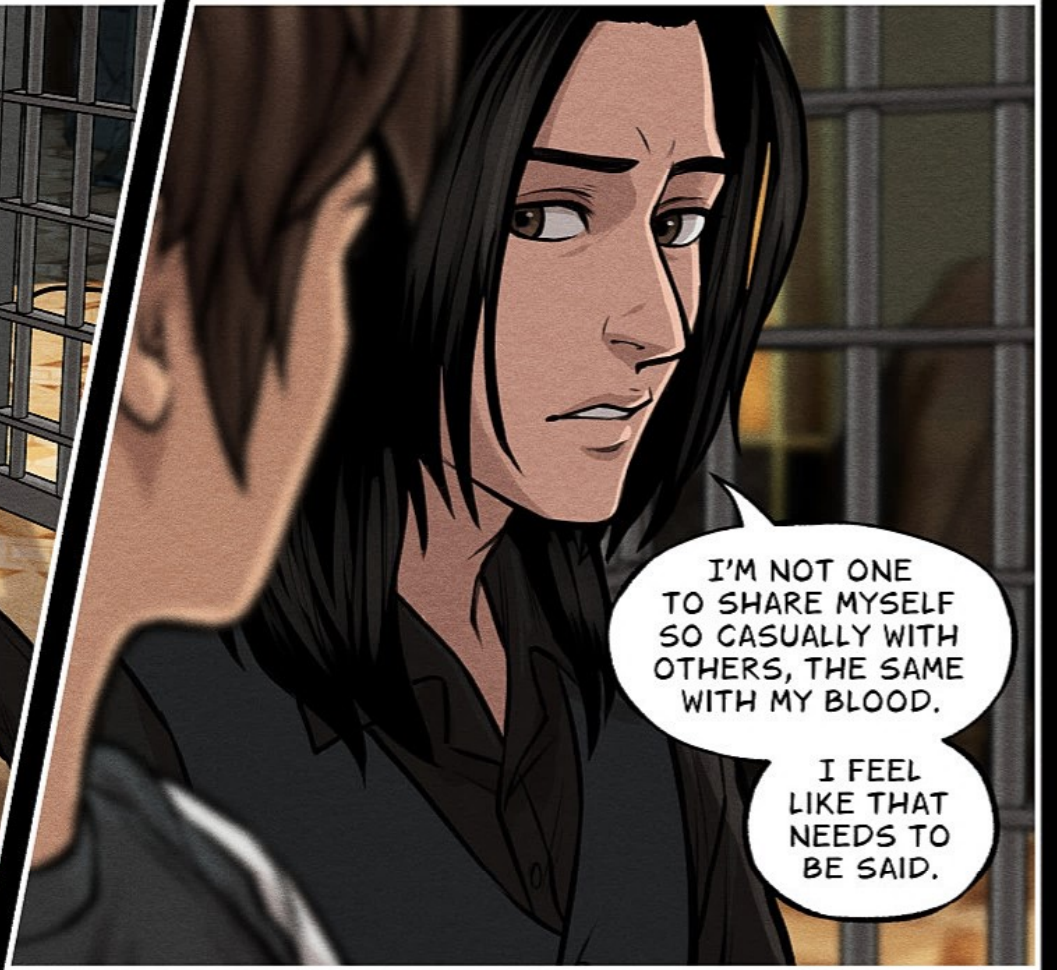
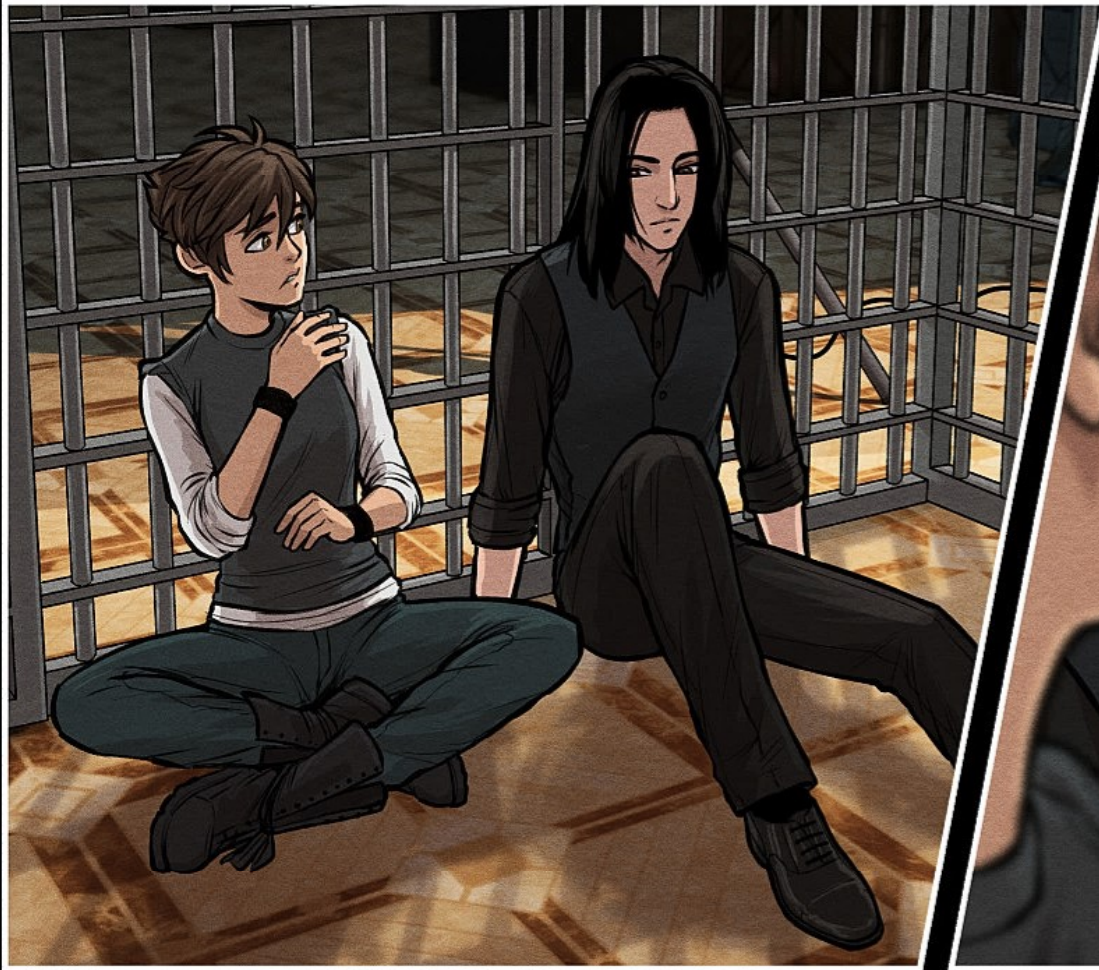




LAST NIGHT,  
THAT WAS **VERY**  
**MUCH** OUTSIDE  
OF MY COMFORT  
ZONE.

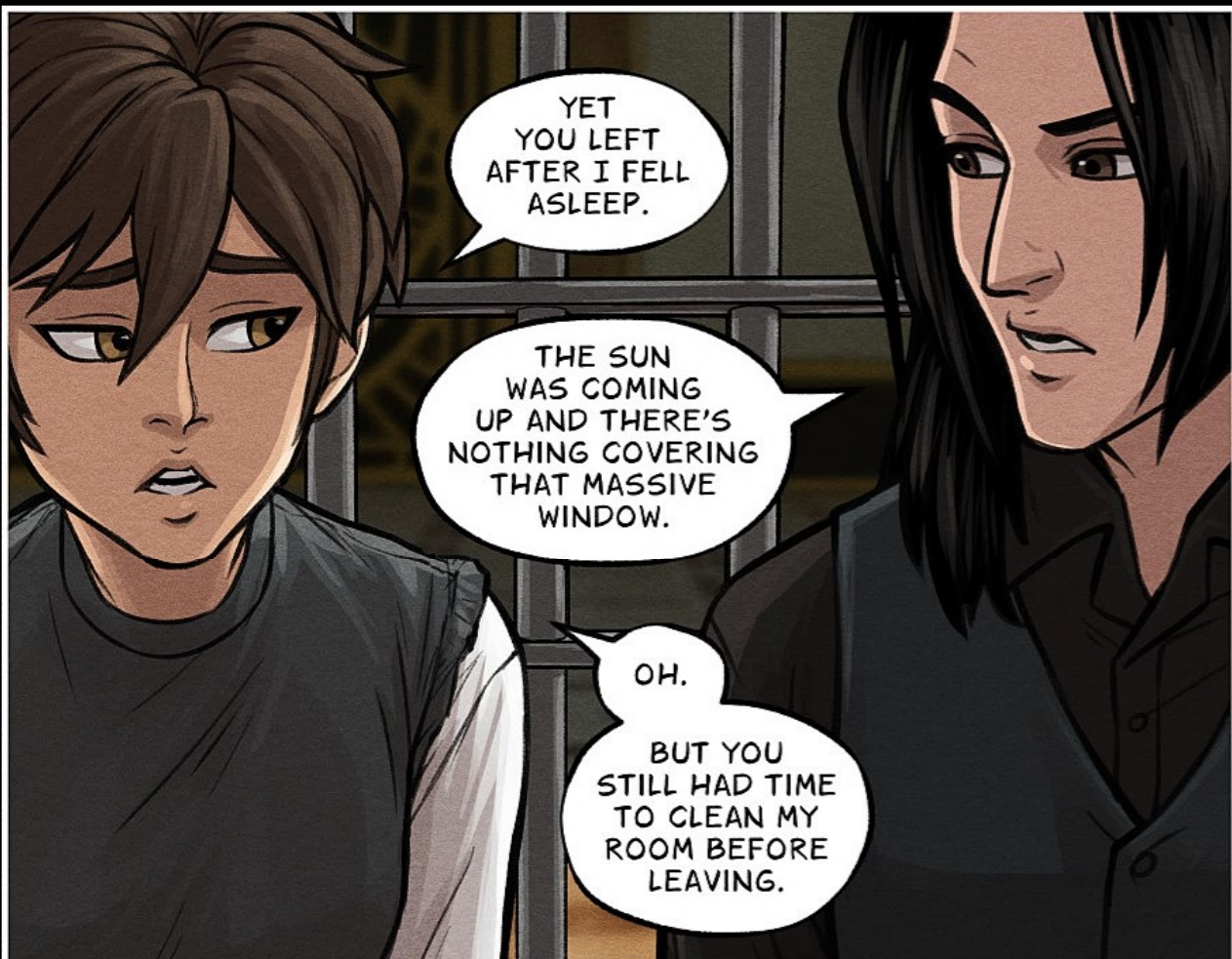
DO YOU  
REGRET  
IT?

NO.



I'M NOT ONE  
TO SHARE MYSELF  
SO CASUALLY WITH  
OTHERS, THE SAME  
WITH MY BLOOD.

I FEEL  
LIKE THAT  
NEEDS TO  
BE SAID.



YET  
YOU LEFT  
AFTER I FELL  
ASLEEP.

THE SUN  
WAS COMING  
UP AND THERE'S  
NOTHING COVERING  
THAT MASSIVE  
WINDOW.

OH.

BUT YOU  
STILL HAD TIME  
TO CLEAN MY  
ROOM BEFORE  
LEAVING.



IT  
NEEDED  
IT.



IT WASN'T THAT BAD.

WAIT A MINUTE...

HOW *DID* YOU KNOW I'D BE IN HERE? DID NITA TELL YOU WHERE TO FIND ME?



AFTER LAST NIGHT, I CAN SENSE WHERE YOU ARE.

IT'S CALLED A **BLOOD BOND**. THOUGH OURS IS NOT AS STRONG AS IT COULD BE.



WHAT DOES IT DO?

I MEAN, I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT.



YOU WOULDN'T. THE CONNECTION IS TEMPORARY. AT THE MOMENT, I CAN ONLY CATCH GLIMPSES OF YOUR EMOTIONS.



AM I YOUR **THRALL** OR SOMETHING?

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL.



BUT THE STRONGER THE BOND, THE MORE CONNECTED WE WOULD BE. IT CAN FEEL LIKE TELEPATHY AT TIMES.

IT IS A SKILL SOME VAMPIRES HAVE USED FOR SURVIVAL.



IS  
THIS HOW  
YOUR KIND  
HYPNOTIZE  
PEOPLE?

I GUESS  
IT COULD BE  
CONSIDERED  
AS SUCH.

BUT AGAIN,  
I CANNOT MAKE  
YOU DO ANYTHING  
AGAINST YOUR WILL.  
IT'S MORE LIKE  
SUGGESTIONS.



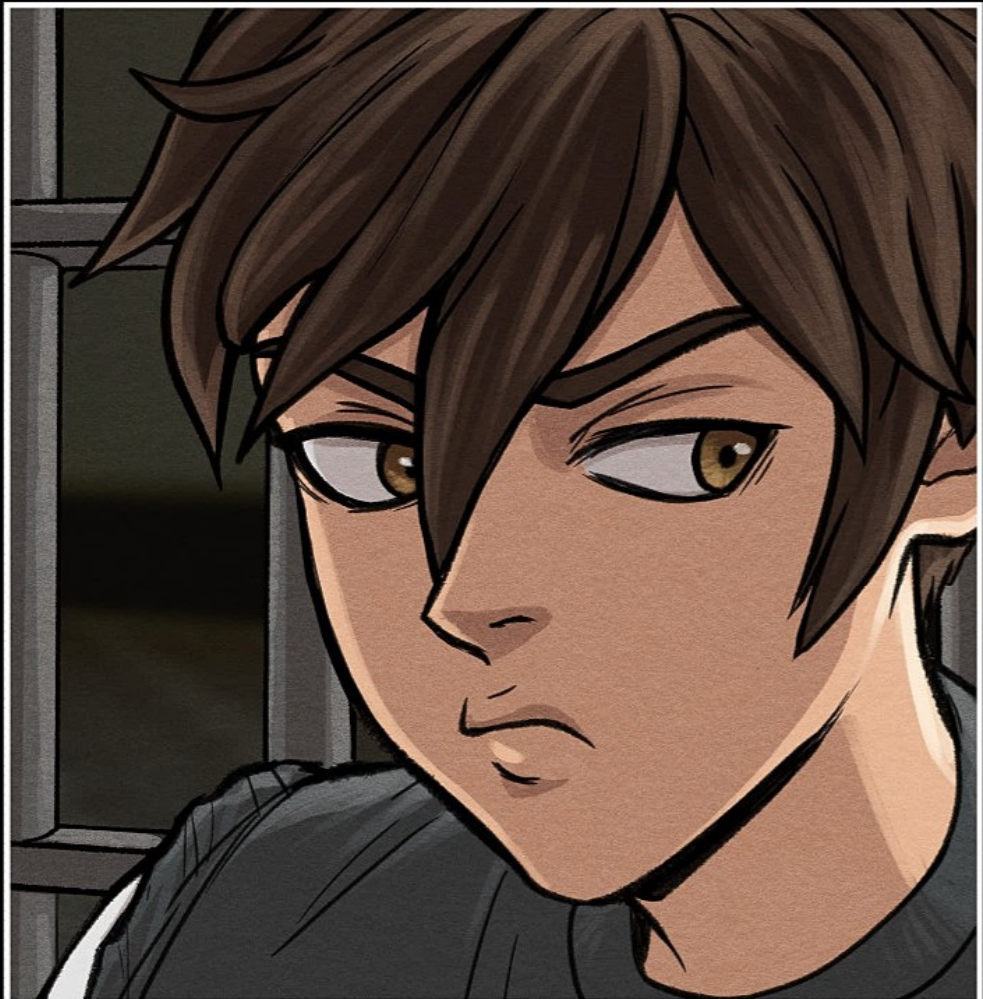
IT IS  
REMARKABLE,  
THOUGH.

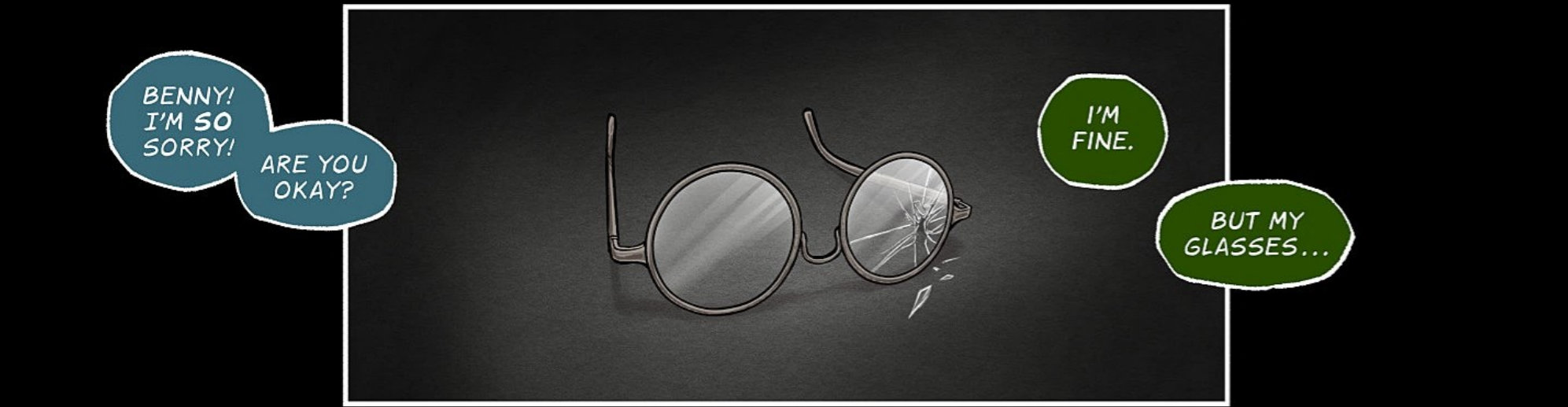


WHAT?



HOW  
CLEAN YOU  
KEEP THIS  
CAGE.

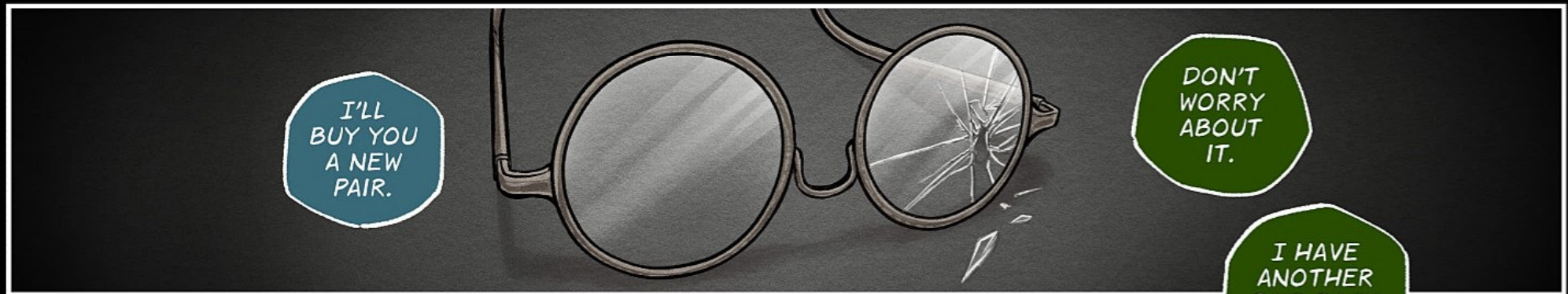




BENNY!  
I'M SO  
SORRY!  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

I'M  
FINE.

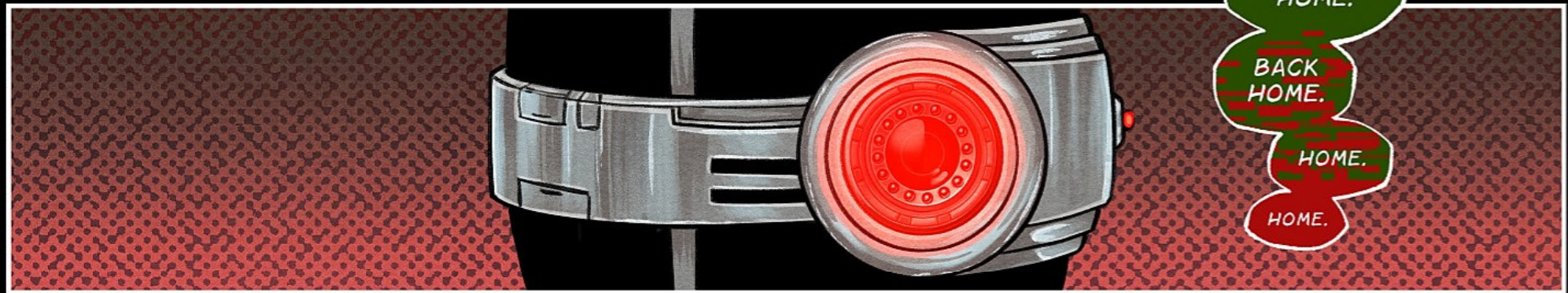
BUT MY  
GLASSES...



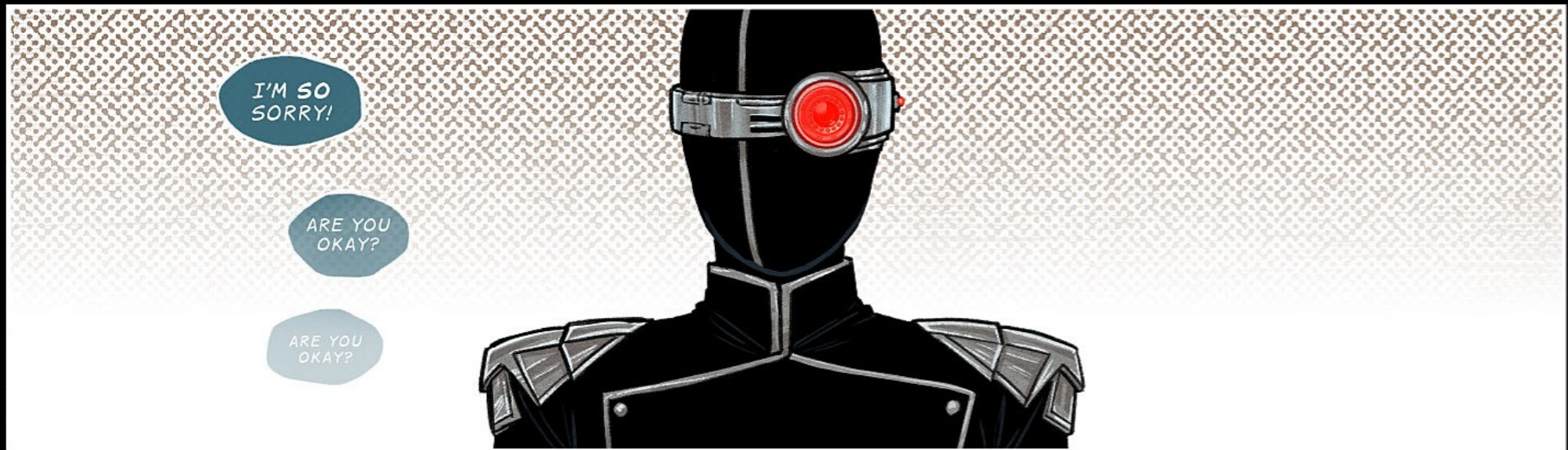
I'LL  
BUY YOU  
A NEW  
PAIR.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.

I HAVE  
ANOTHER  
PAIR BACK  
HOME.



BACK  
HOME.  
HOME.  
HOME.



I'M SO  
SORRY!

ARE YOU  
OKAY?

ARE YOU  
OKAY?



MY HANDS  
ARE TIED.

THEIR EVALUATIONS  
ARE COMING UP, AND BASED  
ON THE FLIMSY EVIDENCE USED  
TO SEND MOST OF THEM THERE,  
THEY **WILL** BE SET FREE.

