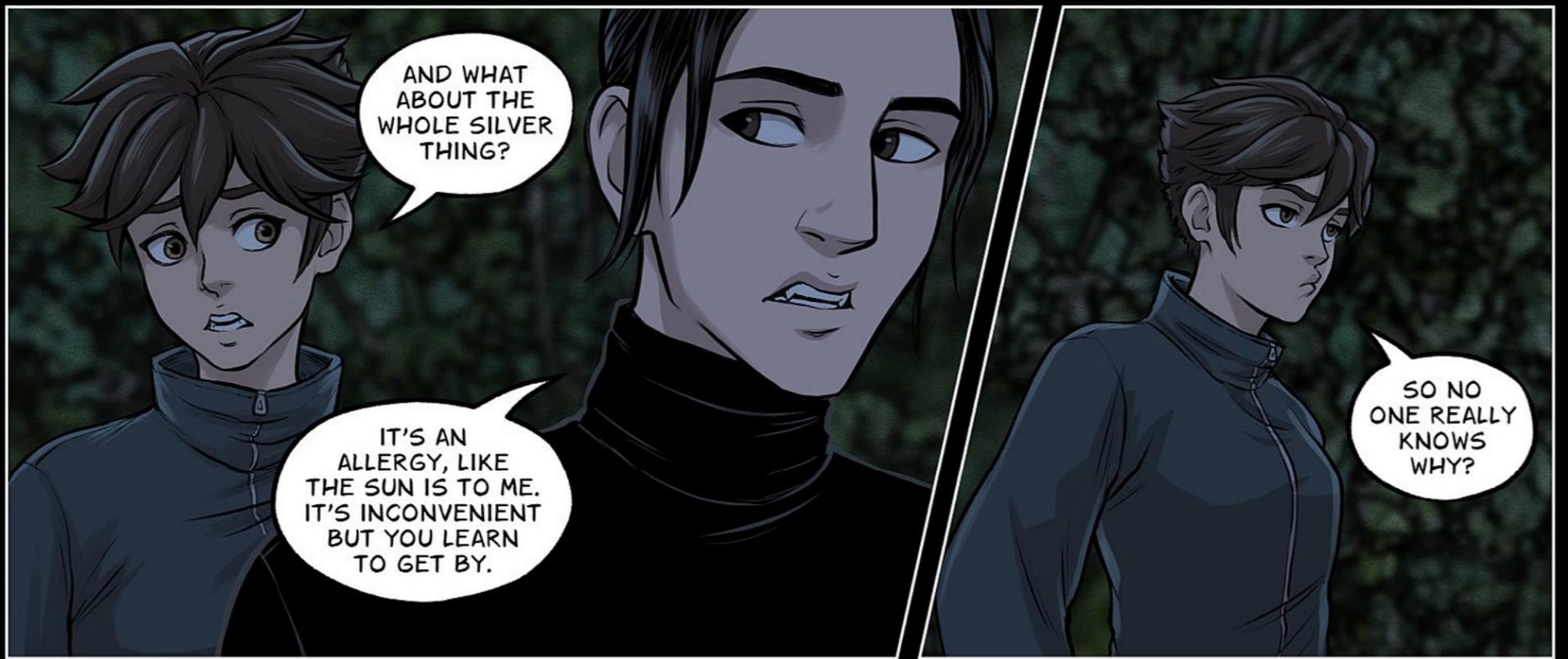


MONSTER SOUP

CHAPTER 12

SPIRAL





AND WHAT ABOUT THE WHOLE SILVER THING?

IT'S AN ALLERGY, LIKE THE SUN IS TO ME. IT'S INCONVENIENT BUT YOU LEARN TO GET BY.

SO NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHY?



IT'S ALL MYTHS BUILT UPON MYTHS, BUILT UPON SOME TRUTH.



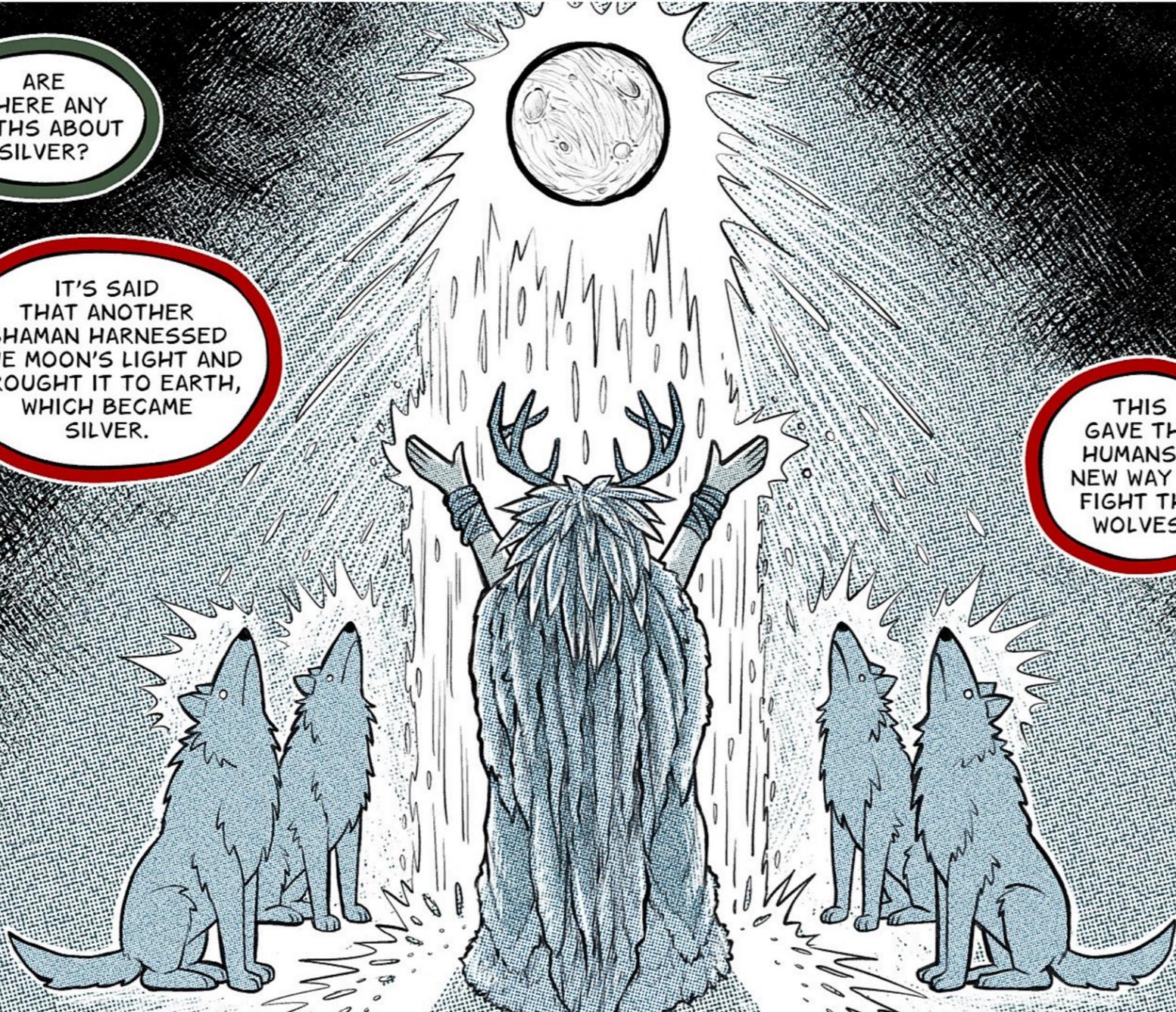
THOUGH WITH THE PREVALENCE OF INFORMATION THESE DAYS, SOME FACTS ABOUT OUR TWO KINDS HAVE BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE WITHIN HUMAN FICTION.

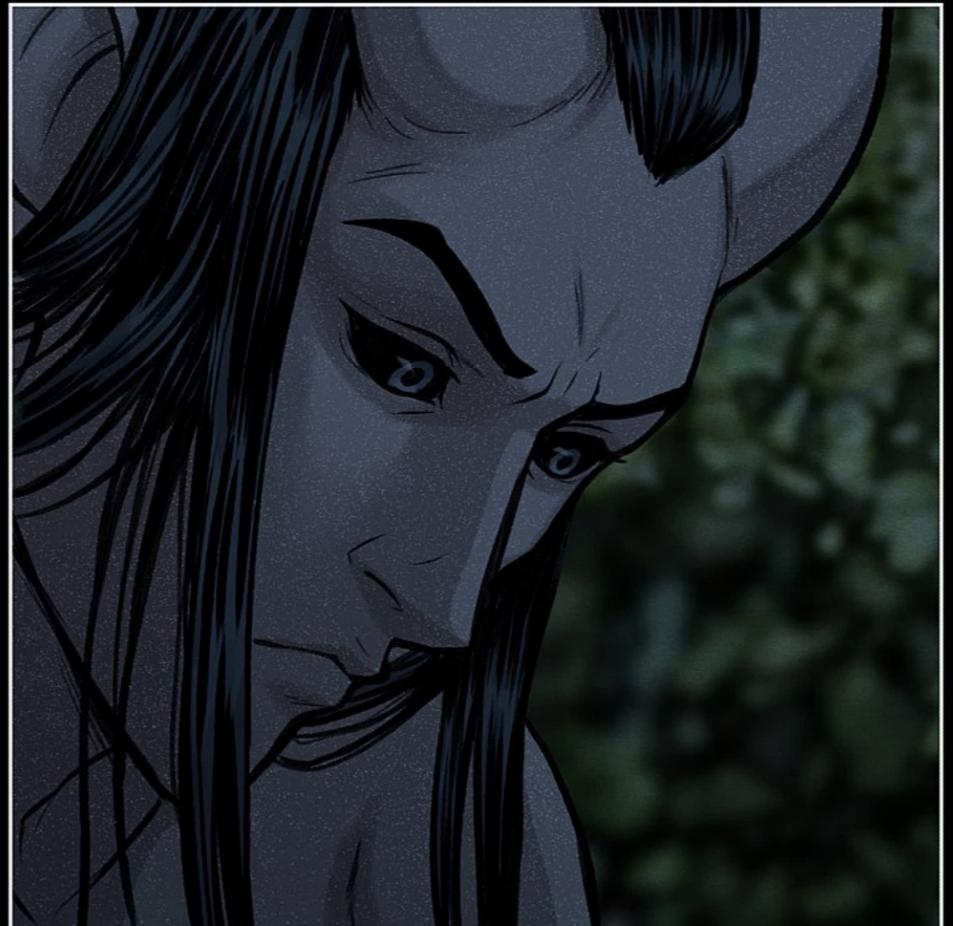
AND WHILE HUMANS ARE AWARE OF OUR EXISTENCE WITHIN THE REALM OF FICTION, THE REALM OF TRUTH REMAINS SOMEWHAT UNTOUCHED, THUS THE VEIL REMAINS UNBROKEN.

ARE THERE ANY MYTHS ABOUT SILVER?

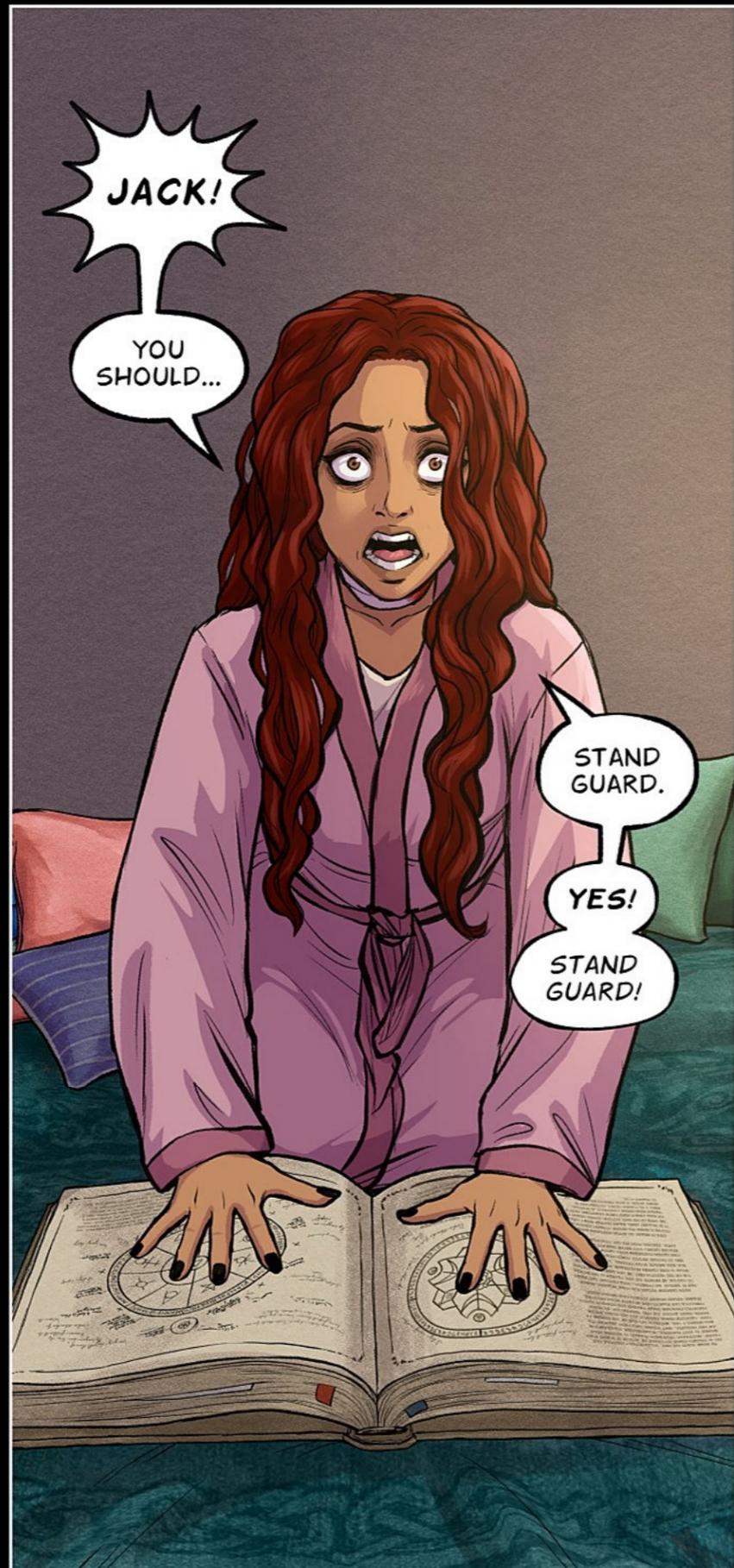
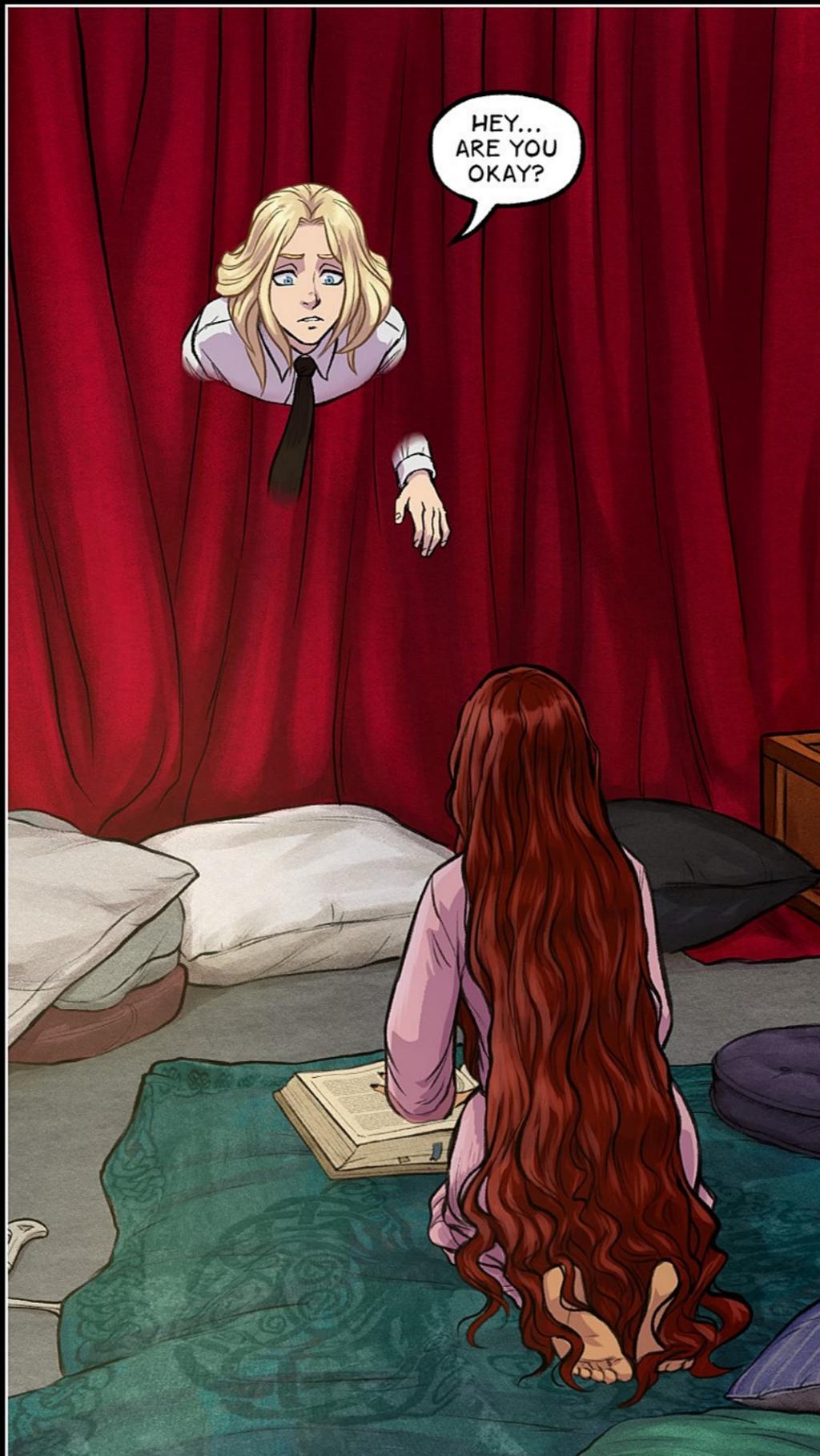
IT'S SAID THAT ANOTHER SHAMAN HARNESSED THE MOON'S LIGHT AND BROUGHT IT TO EARTH, WHICH BECAME SILVER.

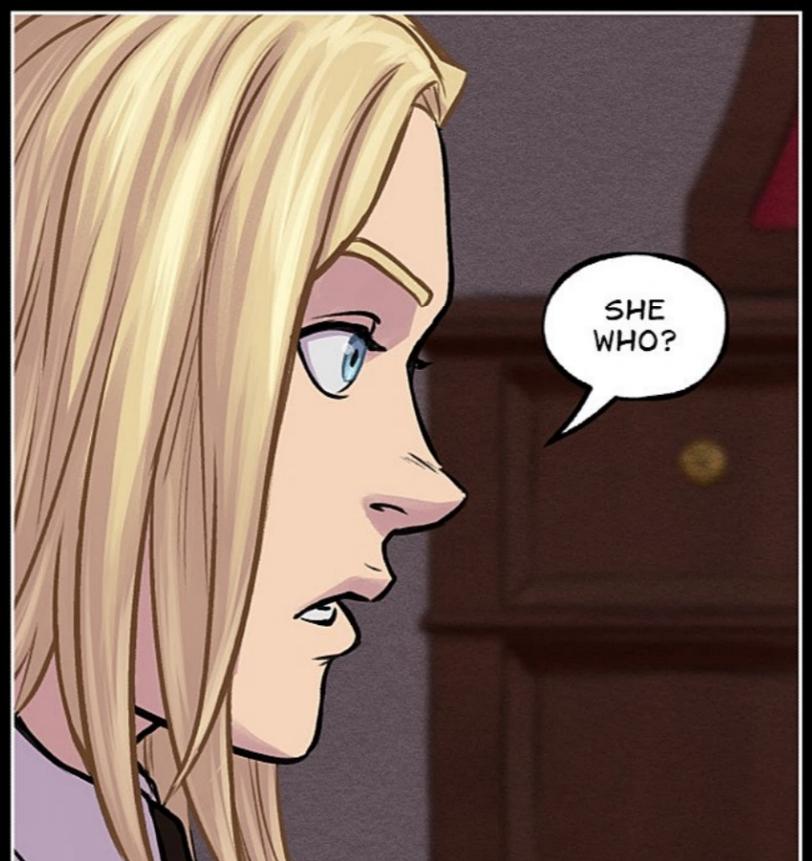
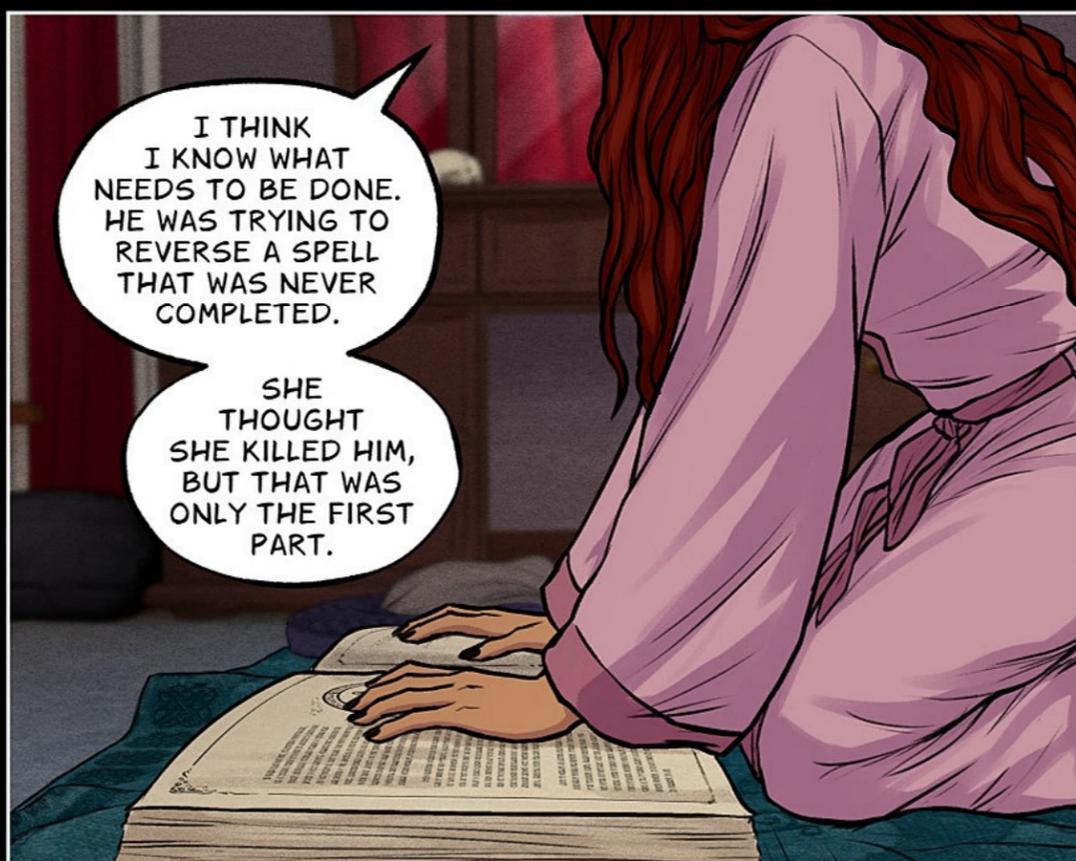
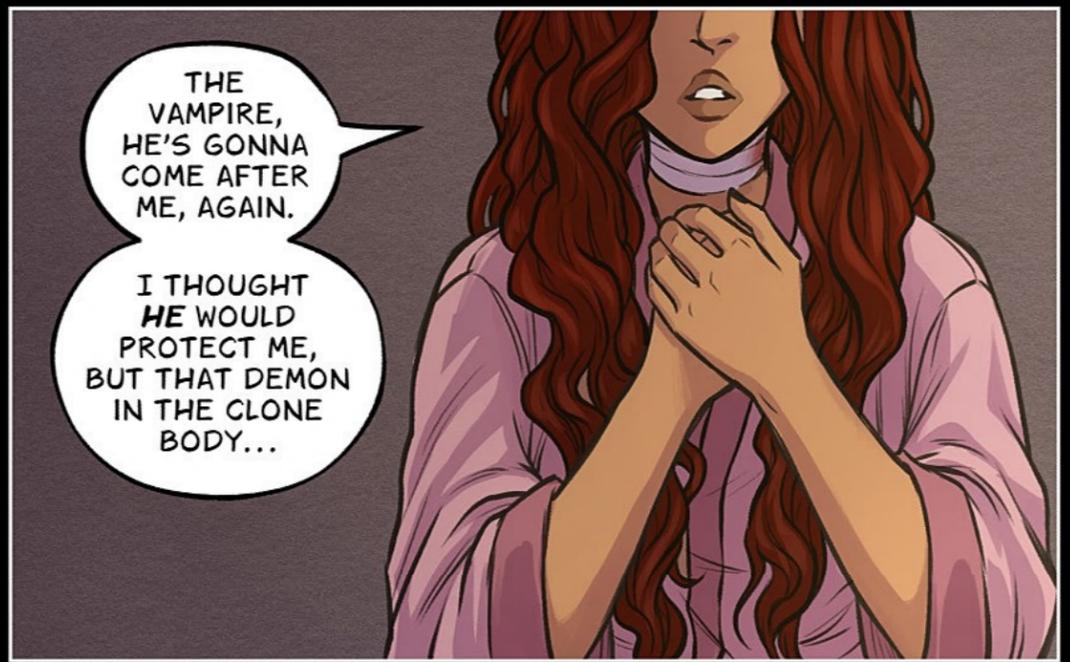
THIS GAVE THE HUMANS A NEW WAY TO FIGHT THE WOLVES.





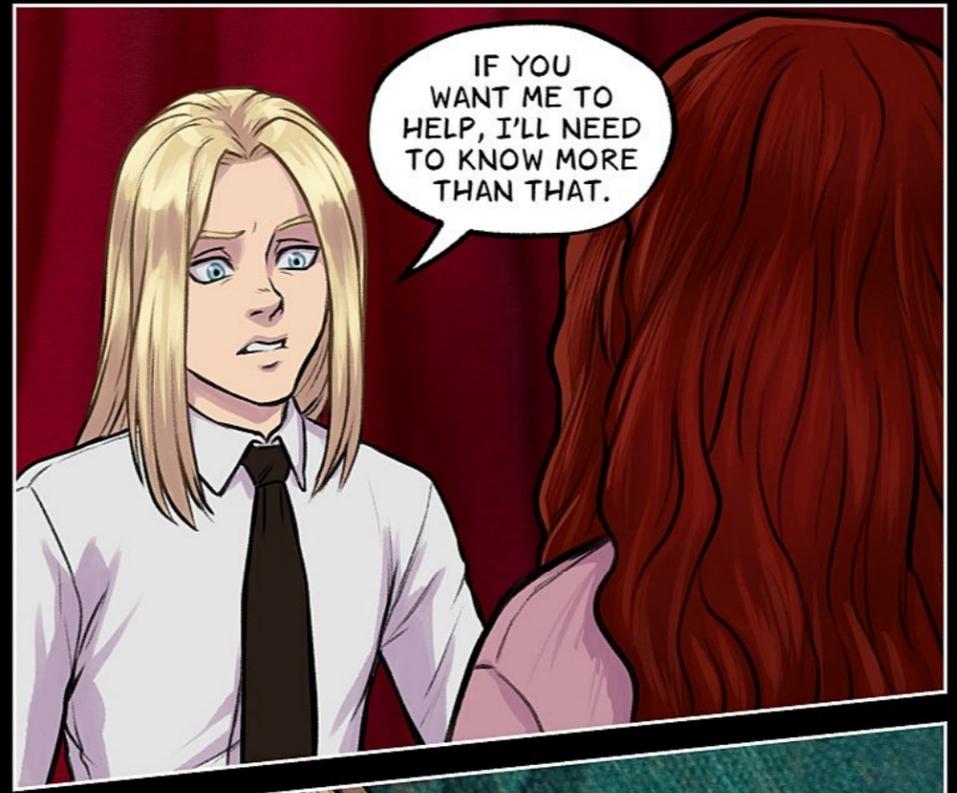




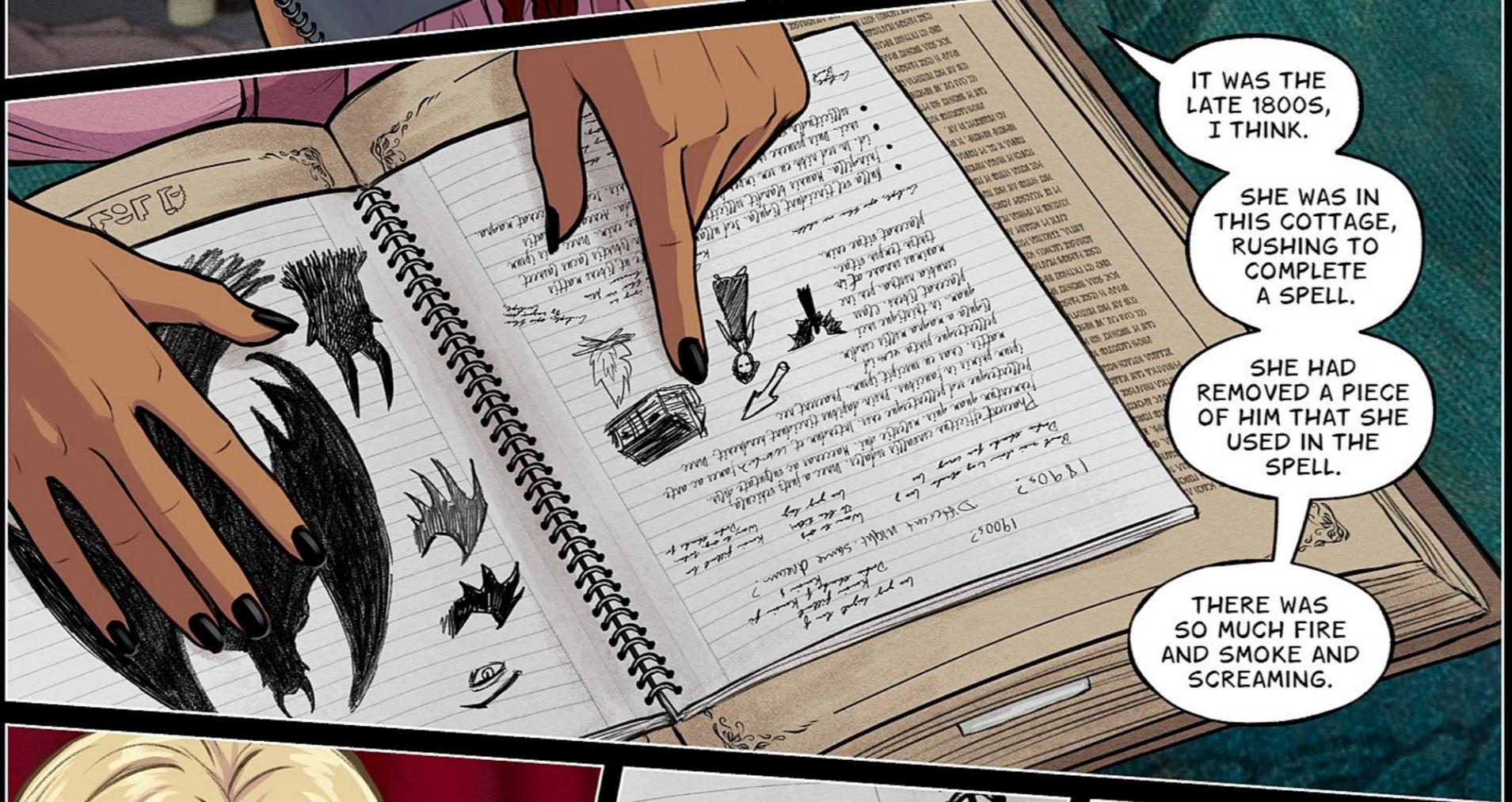




IT'S A DREAM I KEEP HAVING. I THINK HE'S SHOWING IT TO ME, AND I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THAT'S HOW THIS ALL STARTED.



IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP, I'LL NEED TO KNOW MORE THAN THAT.

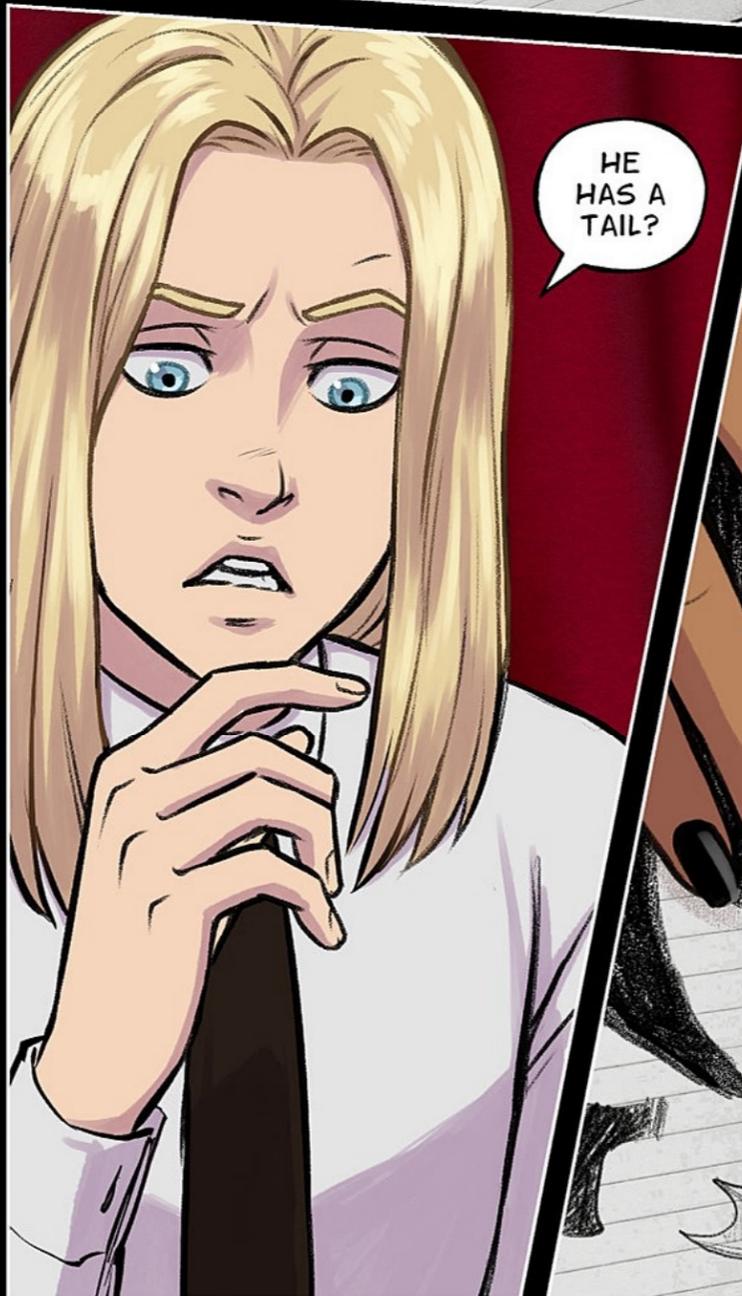


IT WAS THE LATE 1800S, I THINK.

SHE WAS IN THIS COTTAGE, RUSHING TO COMPLETE A SPELL.

SHE HAD REMOVED A PIECE OF HIM THAT SHE USED IN THE SPELL.

THERE WAS SO MUCH FIRE AND SMOKE AND SCREAMING.



HE HAS A TAIL?



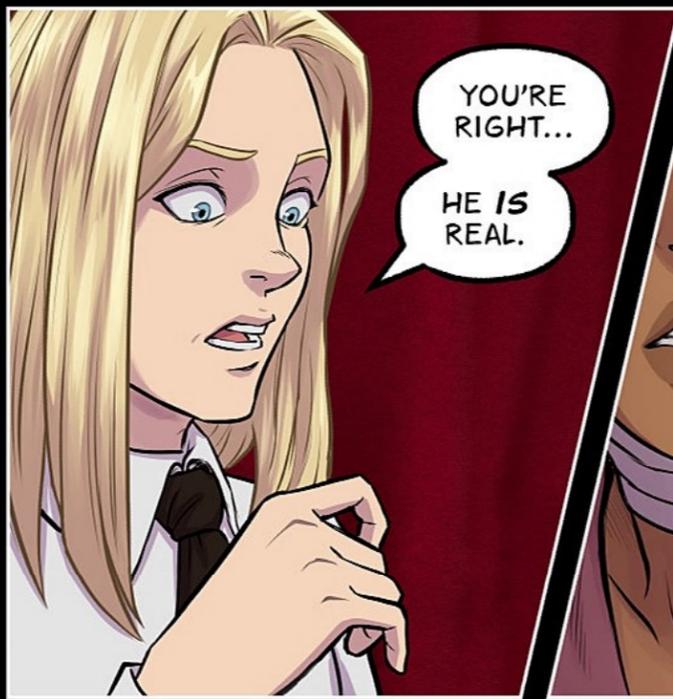
YEAH, AND SOMETIMES WINGS.



AND HORNS?



YEAH.



YOU'RE RIGHT...
HE IS REAL.



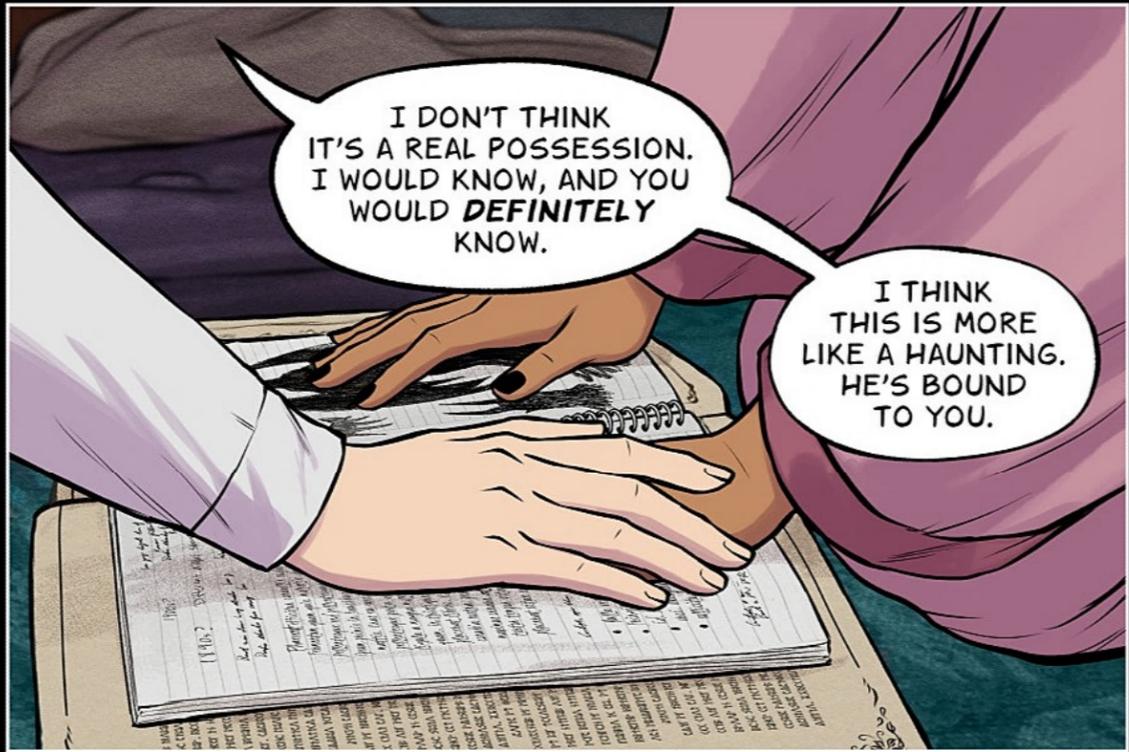
HOW DO YOU KNOW?



WHEN YOU HELPED ME RECOVER SOME OF MY MEMORIES, I THINK I SAW HIM.
I THINK I TALKED TO HIM.



SO I AM POSSESSED.



I DON'T THINK IT'S A REAL POSSESSION. I WOULD KNOW, AND YOU WOULD DEFINITELY KNOW.

I THINK THIS IS MORE LIKE A HAUNTING. HE'S BOUND TO YOU.



BUT WHAT IS HE?



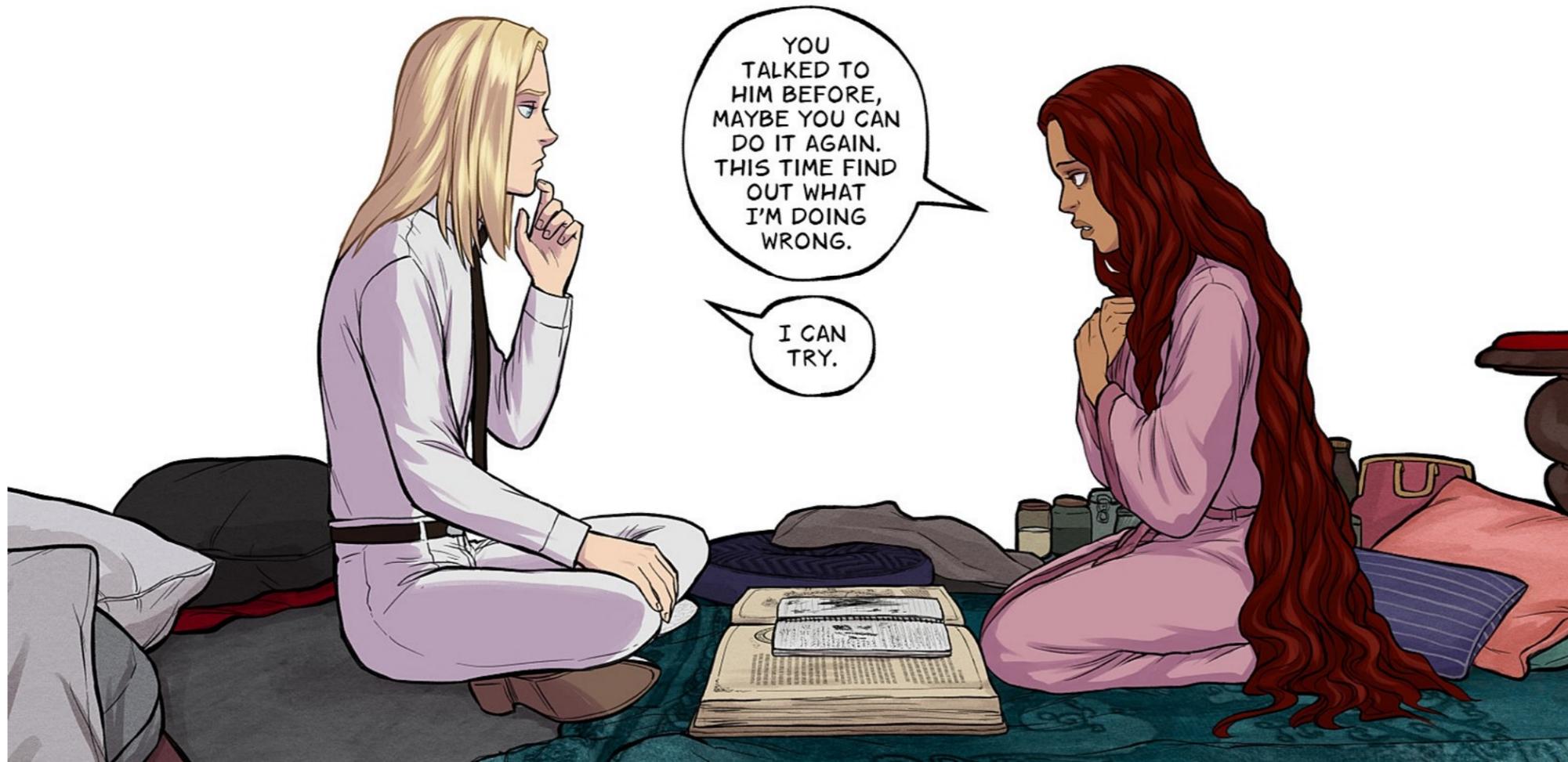
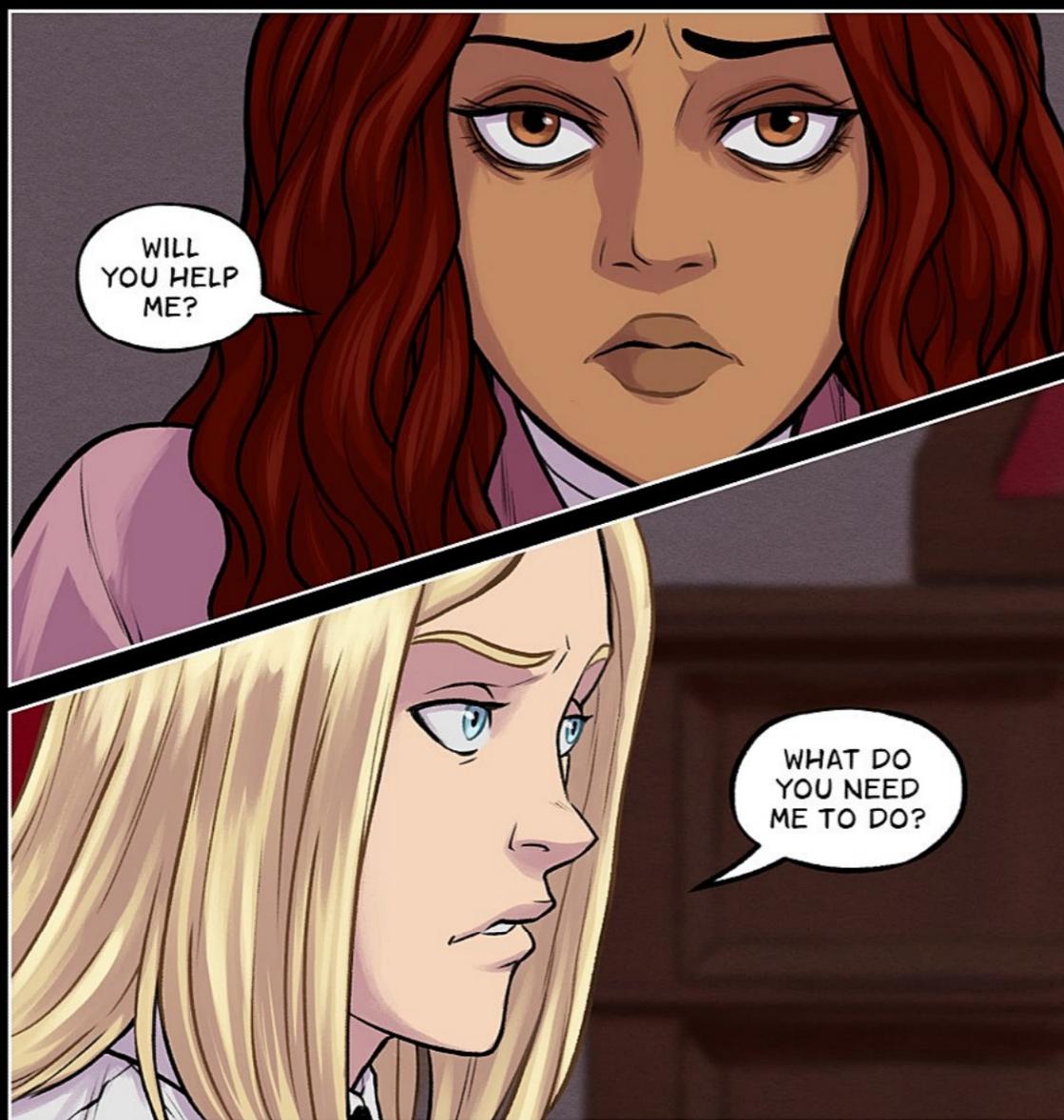
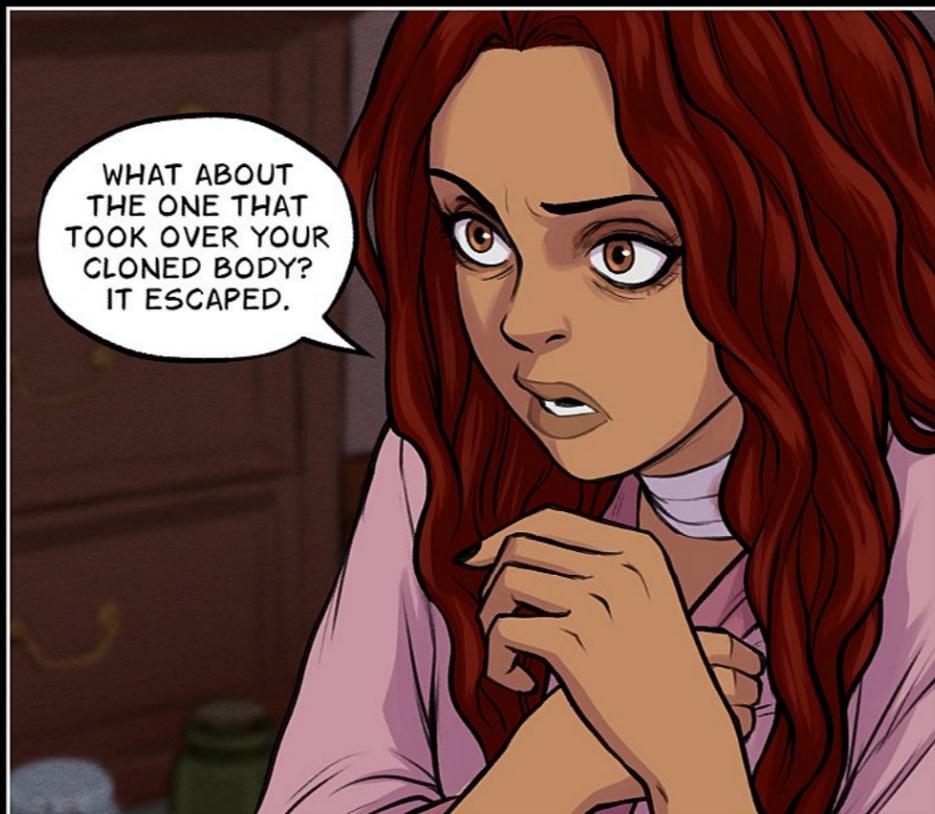
A DEMON.

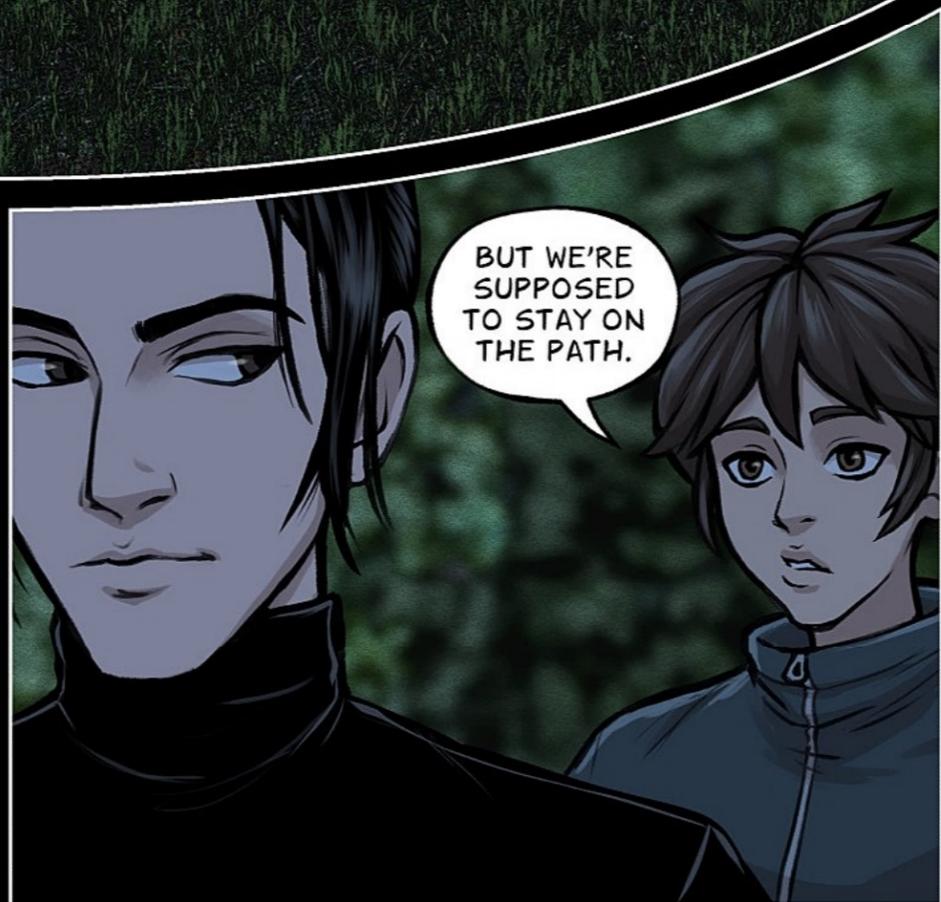


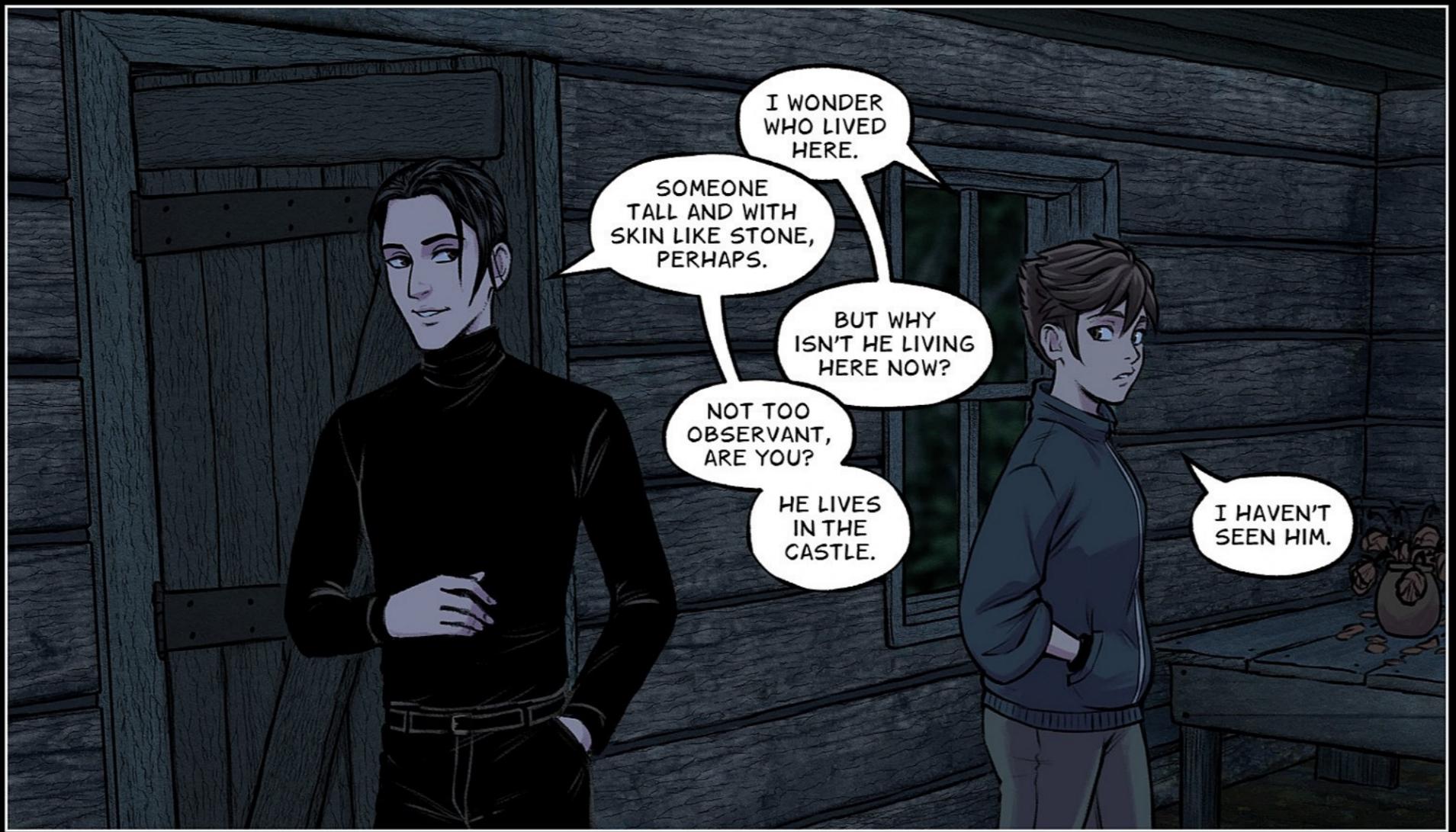
AND IT'S NOT A POSSESSION?



HE'S TRYING TO BE "REBORN," RIGHT?
IN A POSSESSION, THEY LIKE TO HOLD ON TO THEIR HOST, NOT ESCAPE IT.







I WONDER WHO LIVED HERE.

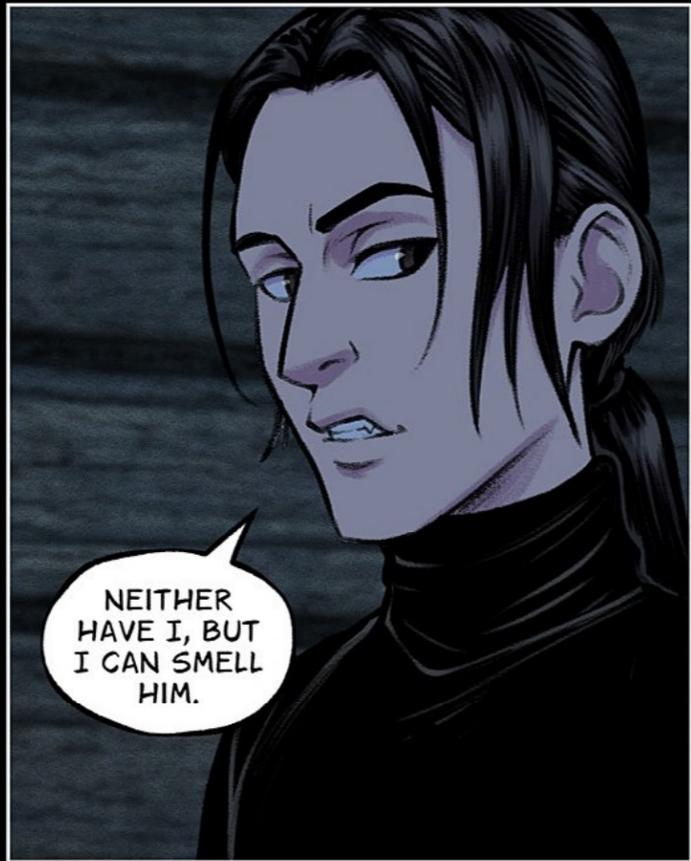
SOMEONE TALL AND WITH SKIN LIKE STONE, PERHAPS.

BUT WHY ISN'T HE LIVING HERE NOW?

NOT TOO OBSERVANT, ARE YOU?

HE LIVES IN THE CASTLE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.



NEITHER HAVE I, BUT I CAN SMELL HIM.



GO COLLECT SOME FIREWOOD.



WHY?
IT'S NOT THAT COLD. BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL FREEZE TO DEATH.



YOU'RE CATCHING YOUR DINNER TONIGHT.

UNLESS YOU PREFER EATING IT RAW.



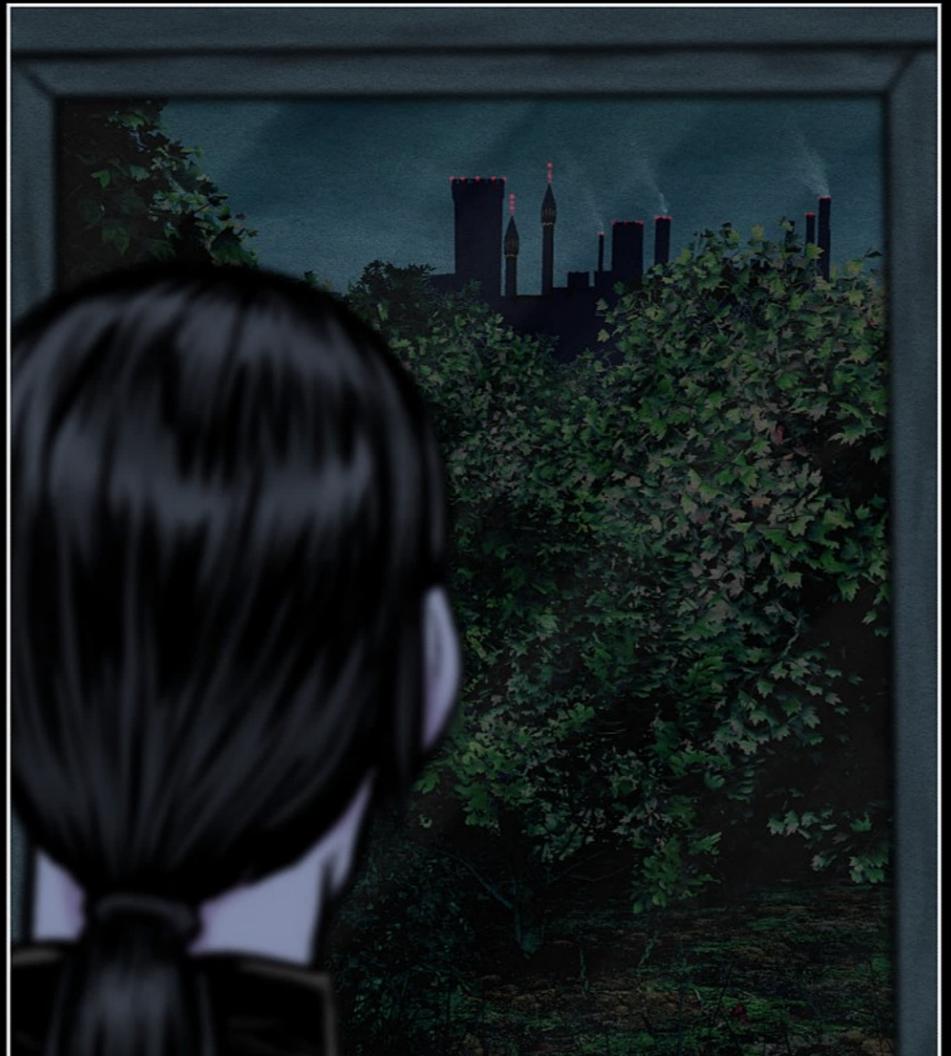
FINE!
FIREWOOD
IT IS!

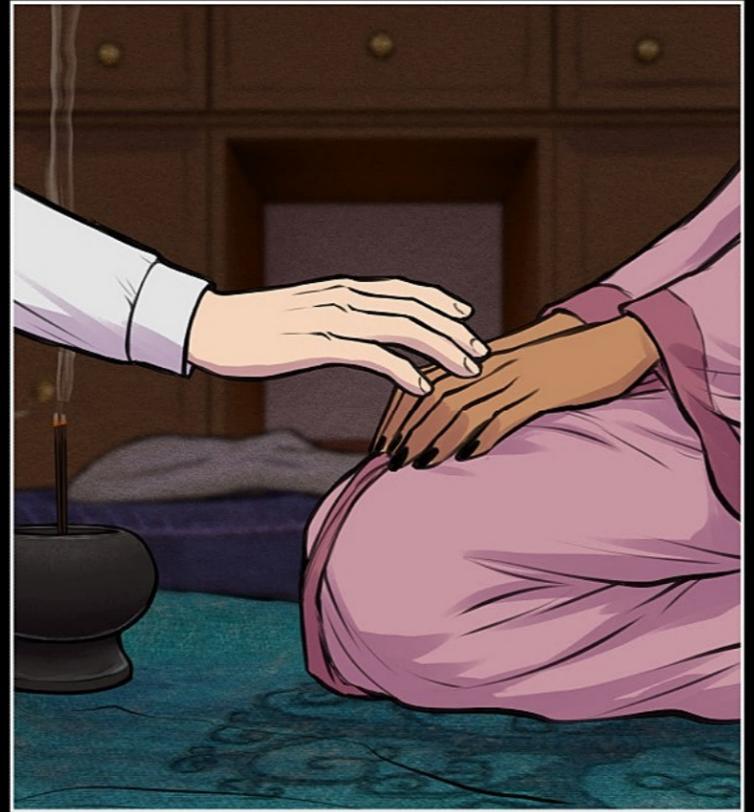


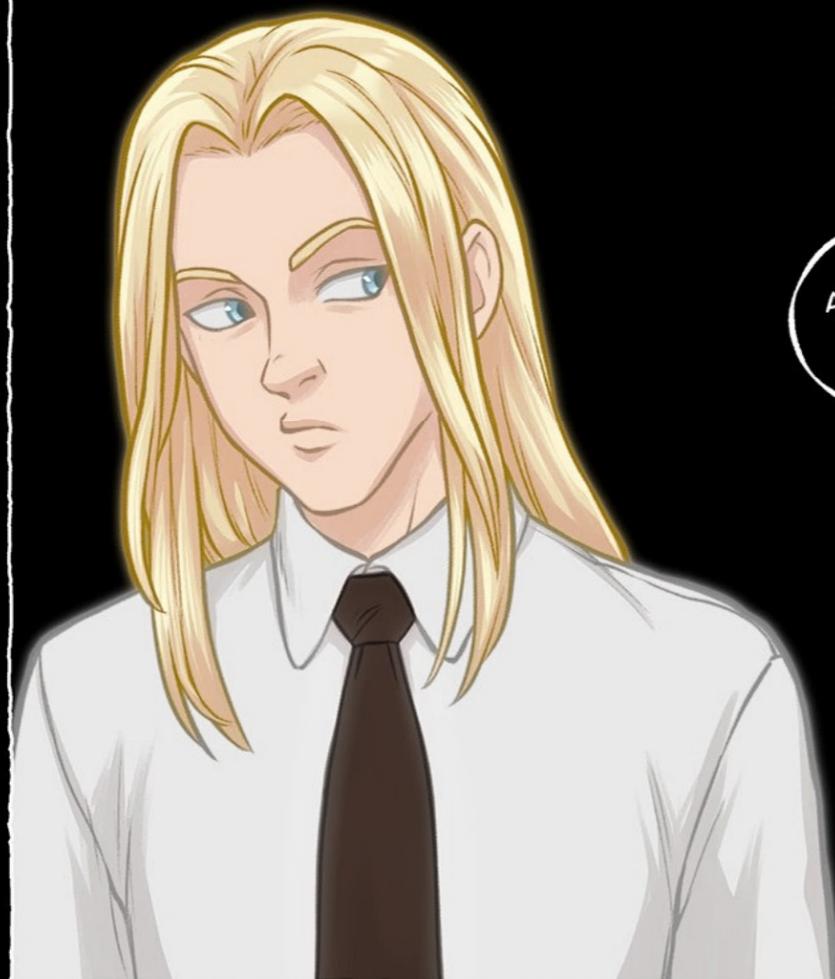
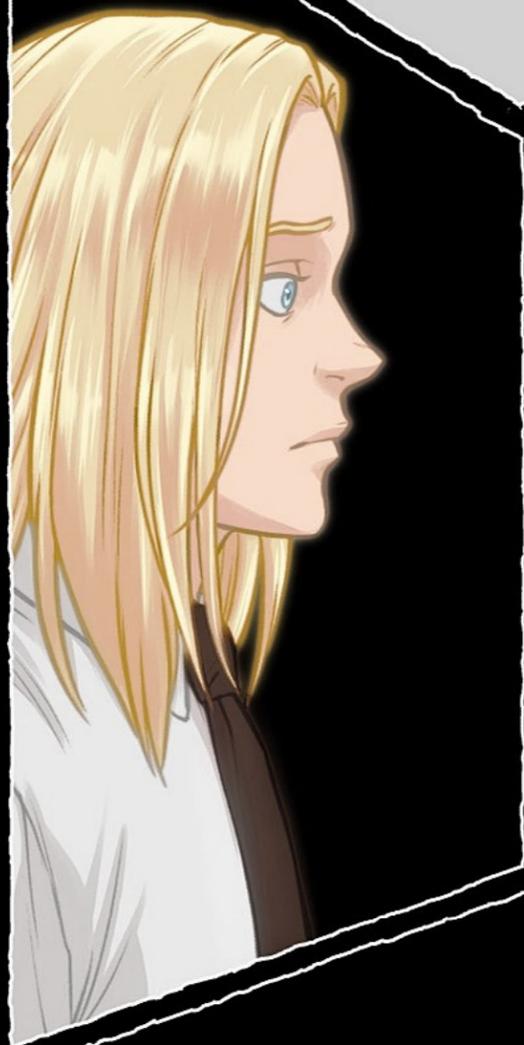
I SHOULD START WITH THAT STICK UP YOUR ASS...



PROBABLY LEFT THERE AFTER SOMEONE TRIED TO STAKE HIM.







I WAS TOO LATE.

IF I HAD ARRIVED SOONER, I COULD HAVE HEALED HER.





WHO WAS SHE?

SHE WAS THE FIRST, THE ONE WHO INITIATED THE CONTRACT.



ARE YOU...



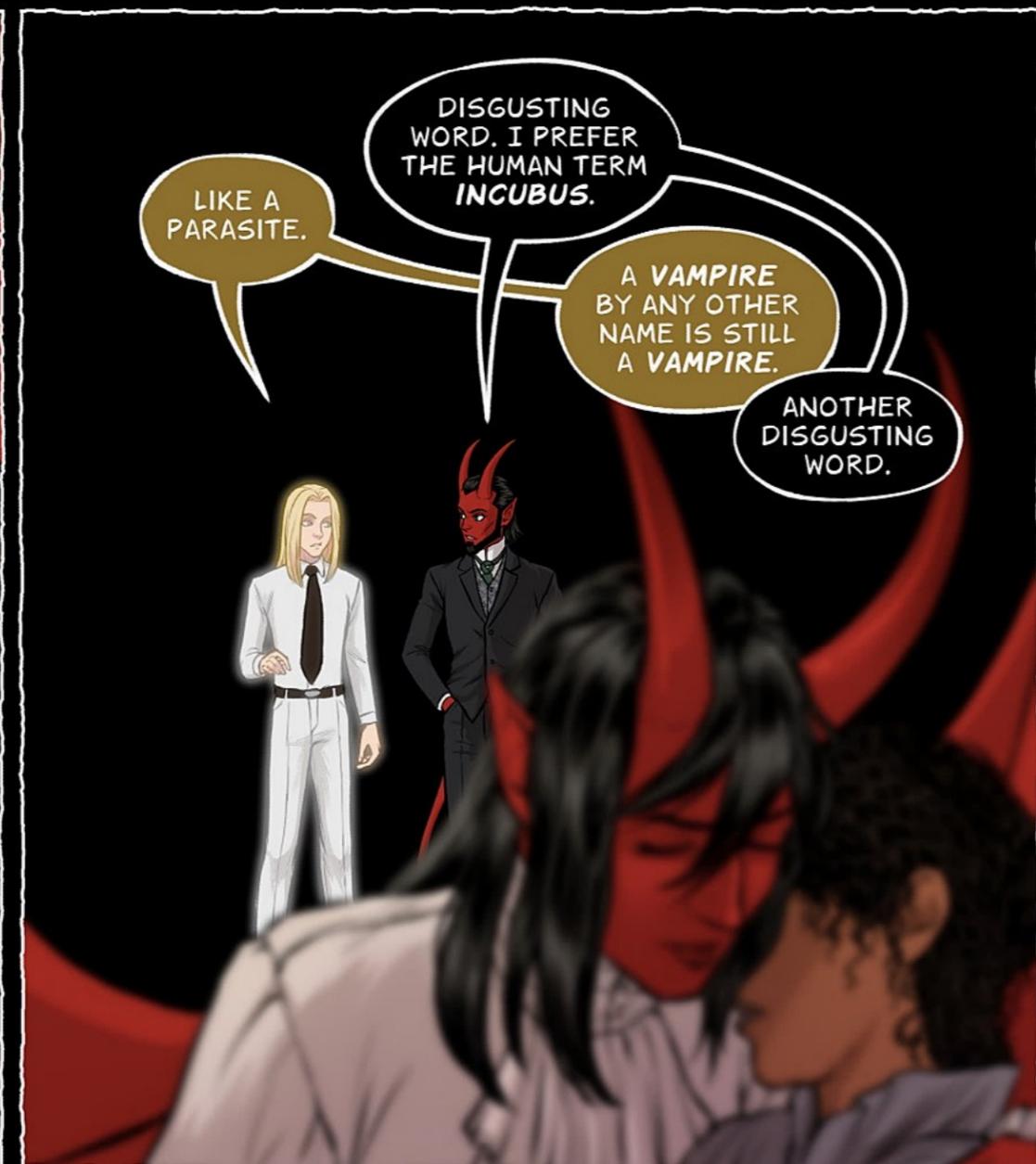
THE DEVIL?
NO, BUT I DO AID THOSE WITH MAGICAL TALENTS.
AND WHAT DO YOU GET IN RETURN?

LIFE.



HOW?

IT'S A SYMBIOTIC BOND.



LIKE A PARASITE.

DISGUSTING WORD. I PREFER THE HUMAN TERM **INCUBUS**.

A **VAMPIRE** BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL A **VAMPIRE**.

ANOTHER DISGUSTING WORD.



SHE SENT YOU HERE, CORRECT?

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW EVERYTHING?



NOT SINCE THAT FOUL DEMON LOCKED ME AWAY FROM HER.

I MAY BE BOUND TO HER BLOODLINE, BUT MY INFLUENCE IS LIMITED.

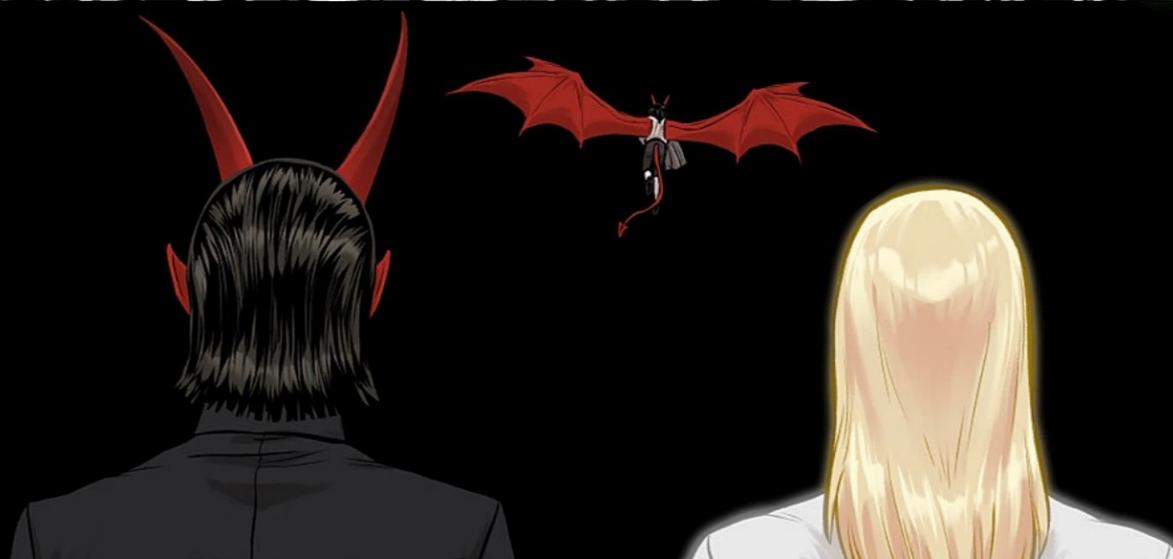
WHY CAN'T I SEE YOU OUT THERE?

YOU'RE NOW LIKE A GHOST, RIGHT?



WE'RE TWO DIFFERENT ENTITIES. ALL THAT WAS ONCE ME WAS COMBINED AND READY FOR DESTRUCTION.

THOUGH THE SPELL WAS NEVER COMPLETED.

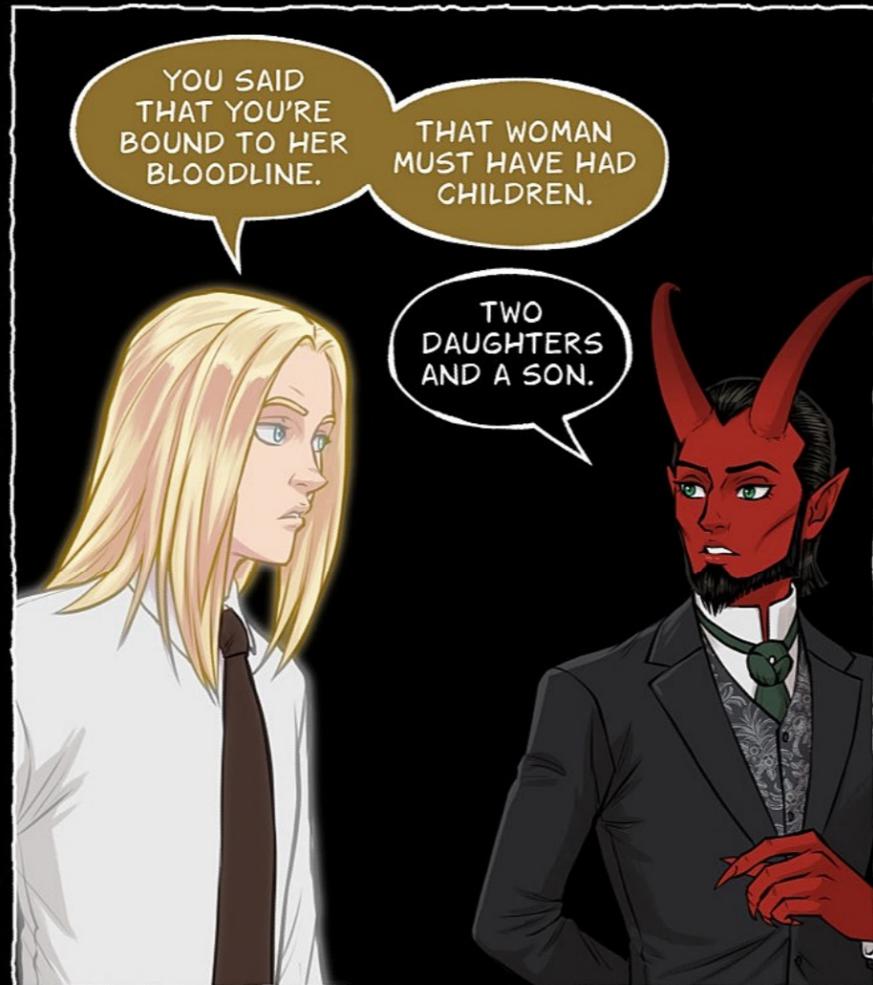




AND YOU'RE MERELY A GHOST, YET UNLIKE ANY GHOST I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

YOU TRAVEL IN HER WORLD WITHOUT MANIFESTING.

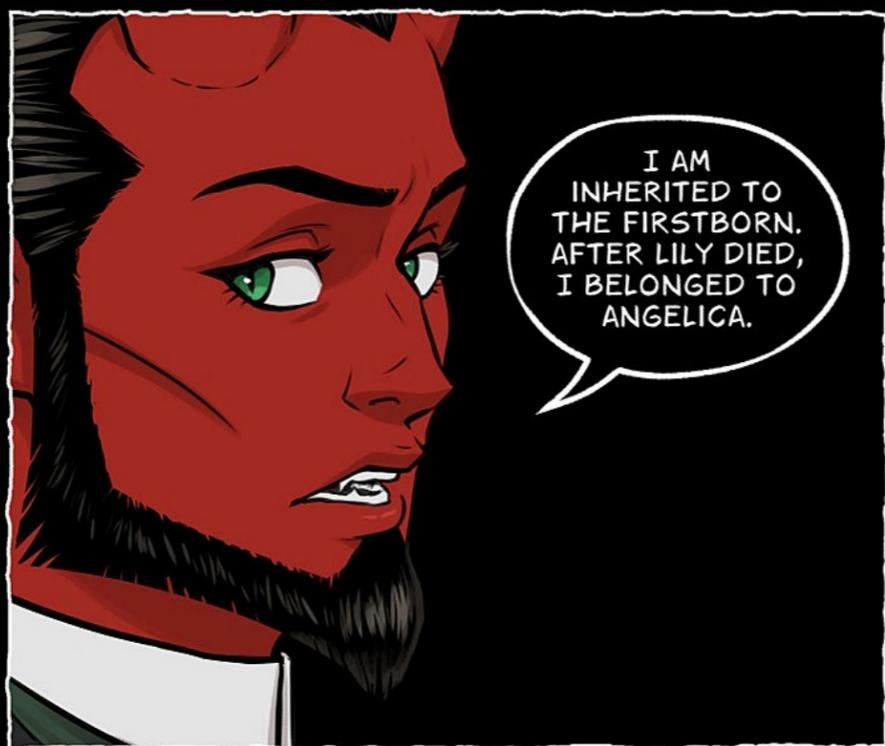
THAT'S ONE POWERFUL SPELL KEEPING YOU AMONG THE LIVING.



YOU SAID THAT YOU'RE BOUND TO HER BLOODLINE.

THAT WOMAN MUST HAVE HAD CHILDREN.

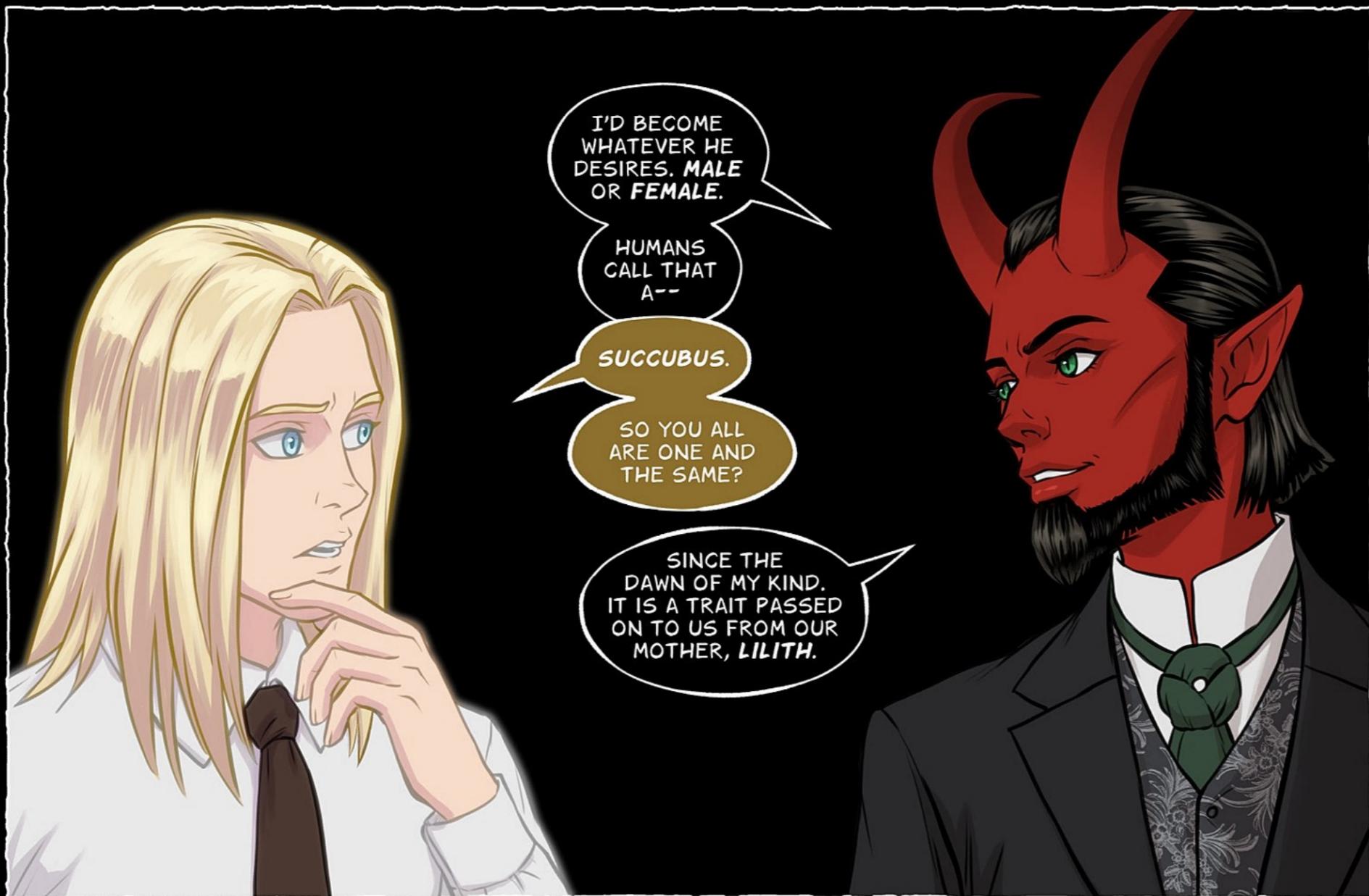
TWO DAUGHTERS AND A SON.



I AM INHERITED TO THE FIRSTBORN. AFTER LILY DIED, I BELONGED TO ANGELICA.



AND IF IT WERE HER SON WHO WAS BORN FIRST?



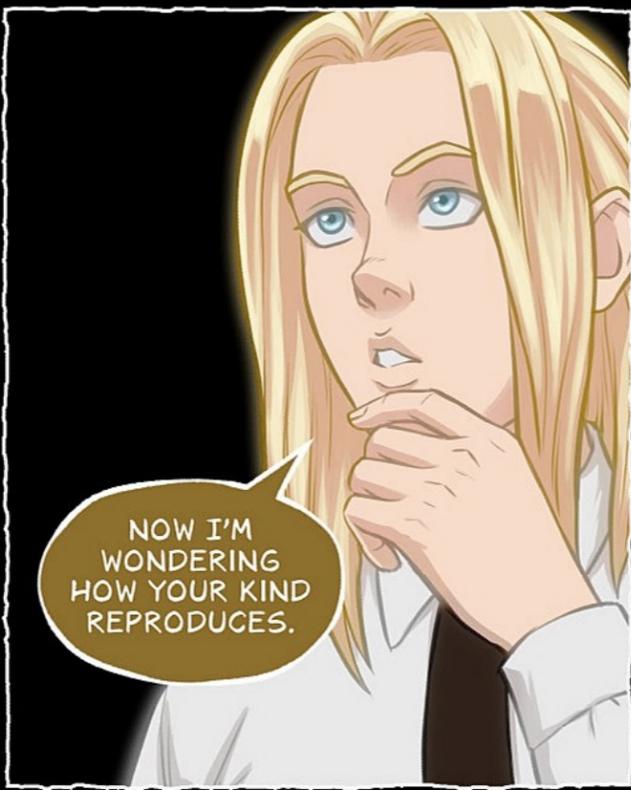
I'D BECOME WHATEVER HE DESIRES. MALE OR FEMALE.

HUMANS CALL THAT A--

SUCCUBUS.

SO YOU ALL ARE ONE AND THE SAME?

SINCE THE DAWN OF MY KIND. IT IS A TRAIT PASSED ON TO US FROM OUR MOTHER, LILITH.



NOW I'M WONDERING HOW YOUR KIND REPRODUCES.



WE FLIP A COIN.



WE'RE WASTING TIME. SHE WANTS TO KNOW HOW TO RELEASE YOU.



IT'S A REBIRTH SPELL. WELL, A RESURRECTION SPELL.

SINCE THE ORIGINAL SPELL WAS NEVER COMPLETED, SHE NEEDS TO GET CREATIVE.

SHE'LL NEED TO WRITE A NEW ONE FROM SCRATCH.



SHE CAN DO THAT, RIGHT?



UH... SHE...

I LOVE THE GIRL, BUT SHE'S NEVER BEEN FORMALLY INSTRUCTED ON HOW TO USE THIS KIND OF MAGIC.

SHE'S ONLY BEEN AT IT FOR BARELY A DECADE. THAT'S STILL NOVICE TERRITORY--

NOVICE COMPARED TO WHAT SHE MUST DO. **BLOOD AND DEATH** MAGIC ARE PRACTICED YEARS BEFORE ANY SERIOUS SPELLS ARE ATTEMPTED.

BUT CAN SHE DO THIS, RIGHT?

EVEN WITHOUT ME, SHE HAS A WELL OF UNTOUCHED POWER.

THE ABILITY IS THERE, BUT IT'S THE SPELL THAT WORRIES ME.

YET THEREIN LIES ANOTHER PROBLEM.

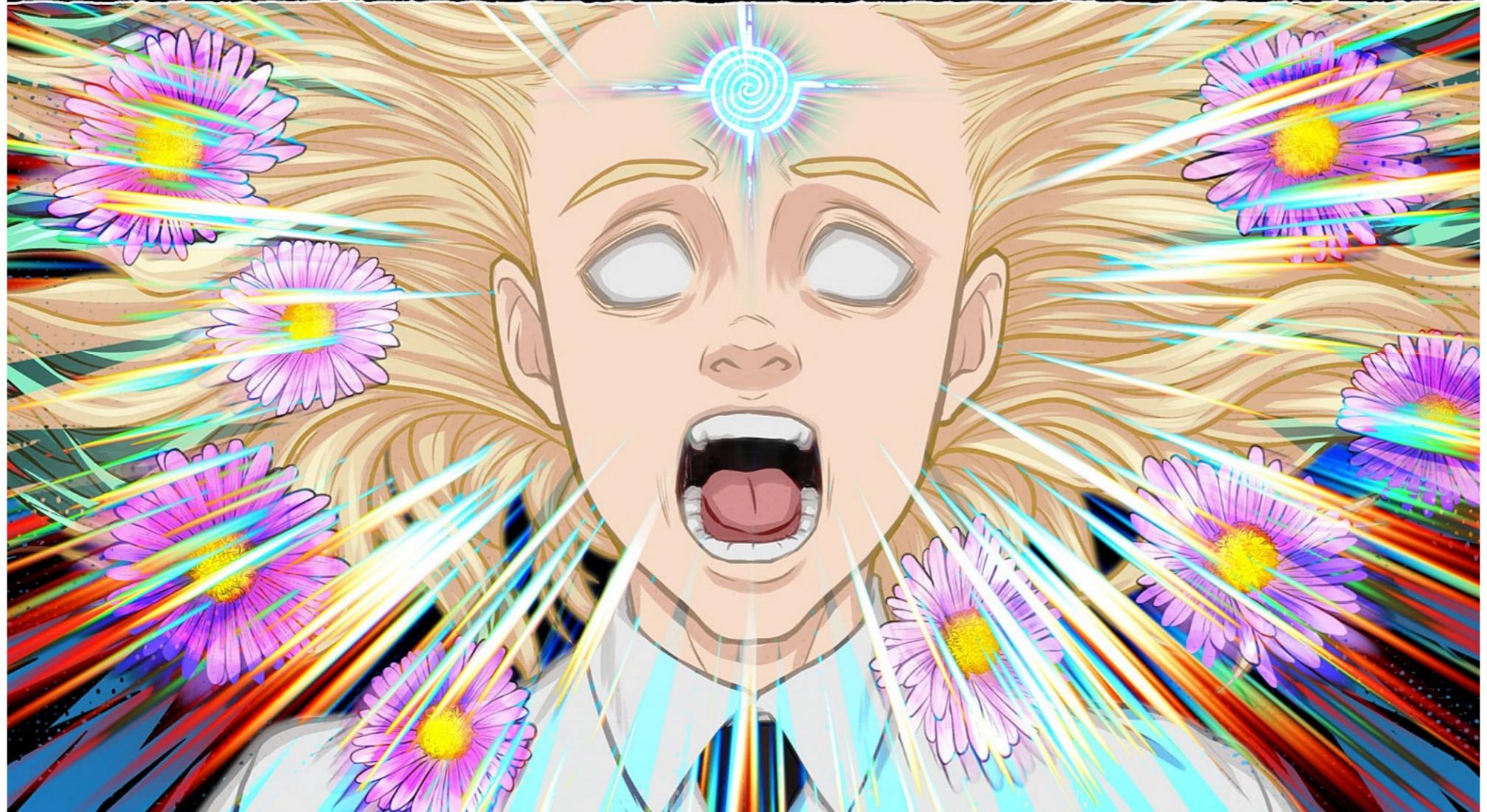
YOU WON'T REMEMBER OUR CONVERSATION.

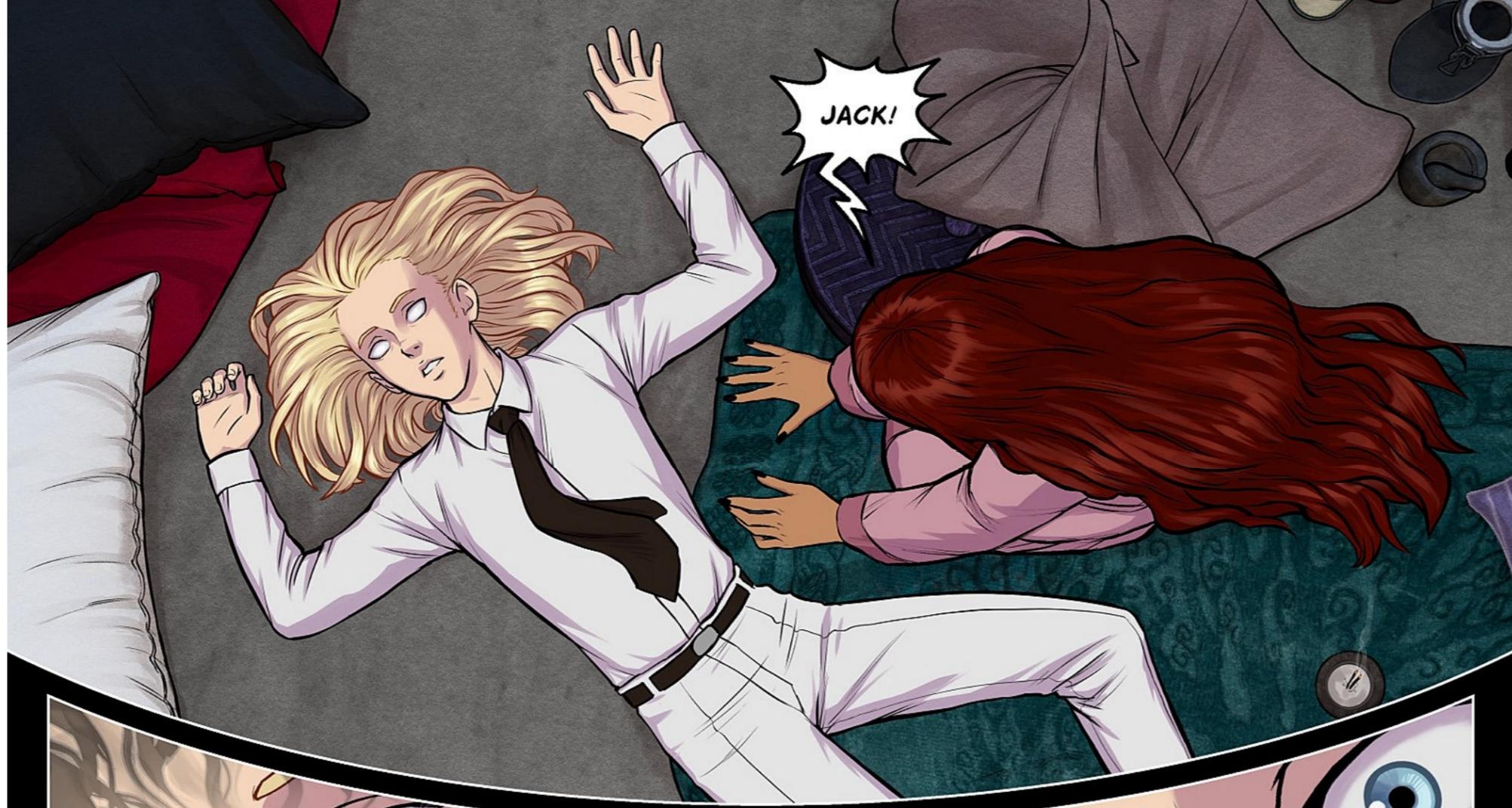


THEN HOW DO I HELP HER?

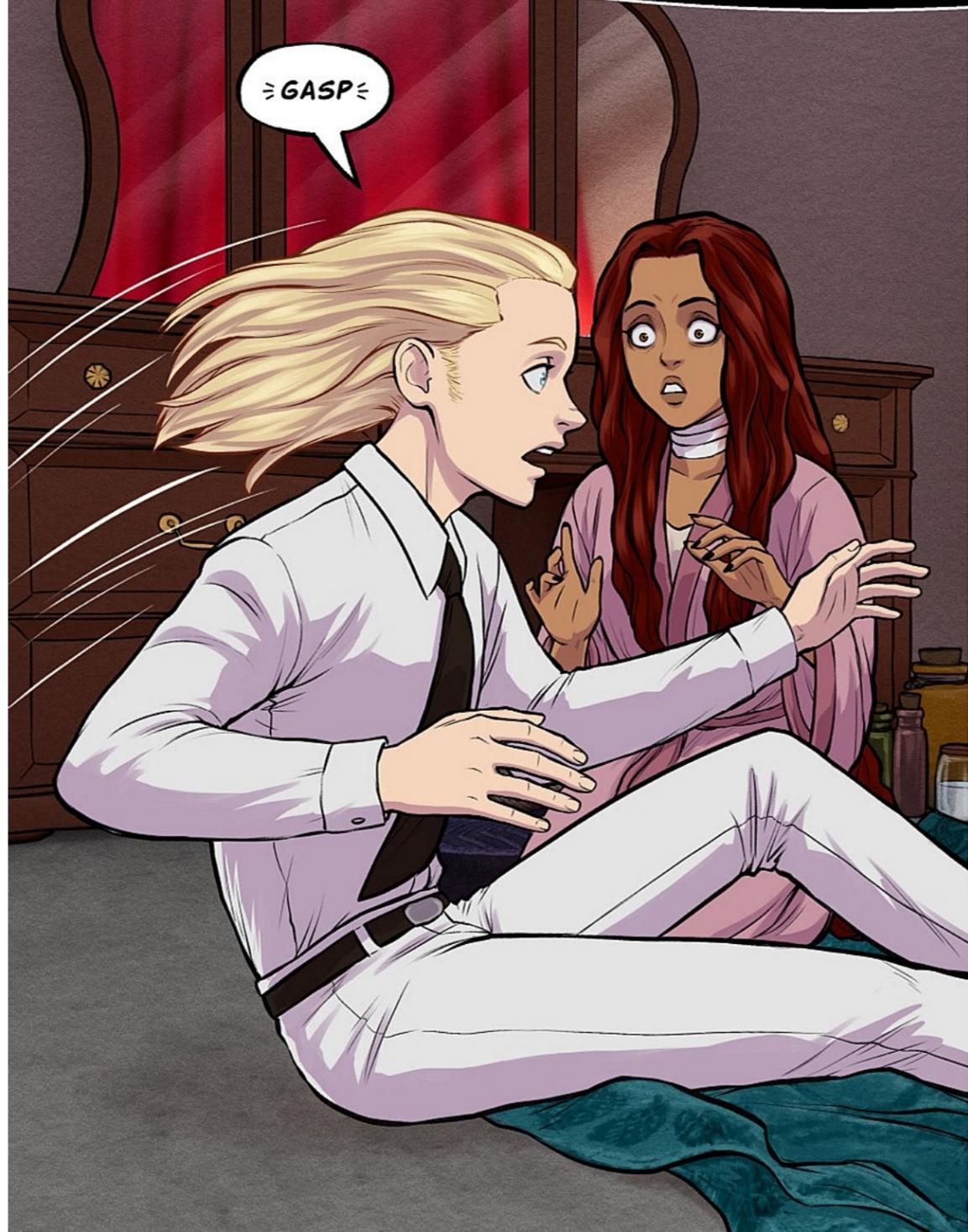


THIS MAY FEEL SLIGHTLY UNCOMFORTABLE.





JACK!

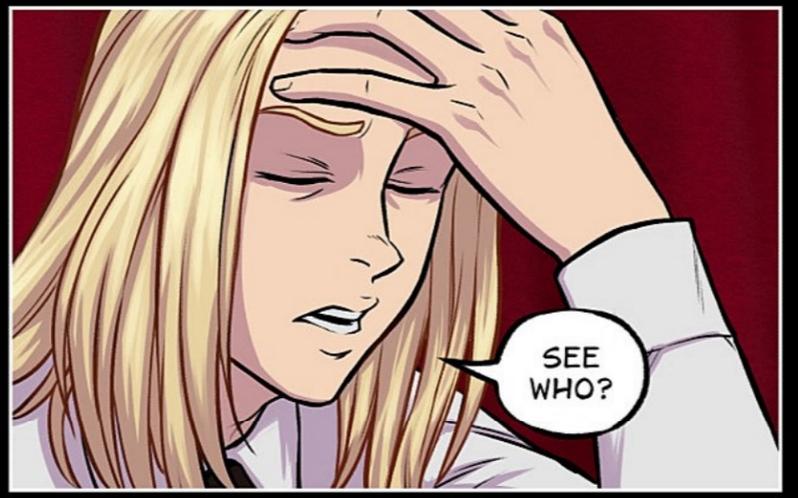


≡GASP≡

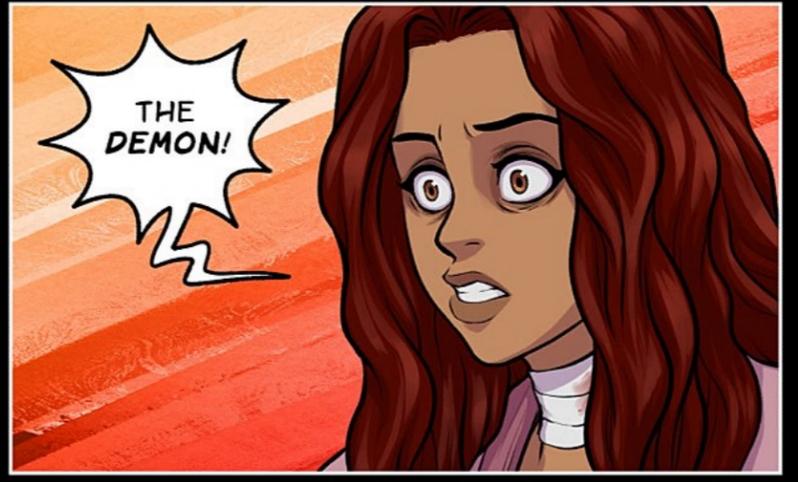


DID IT WORK?

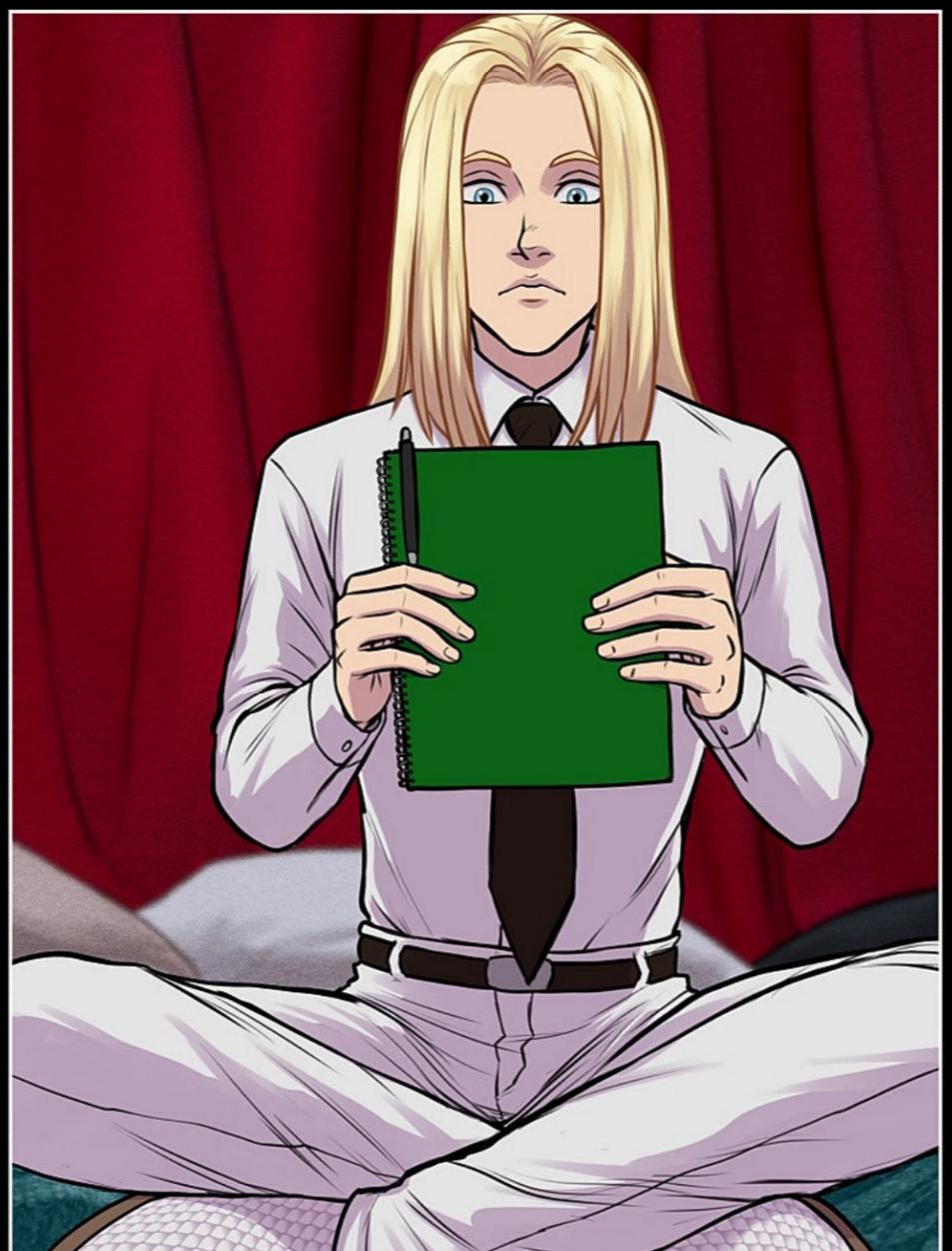
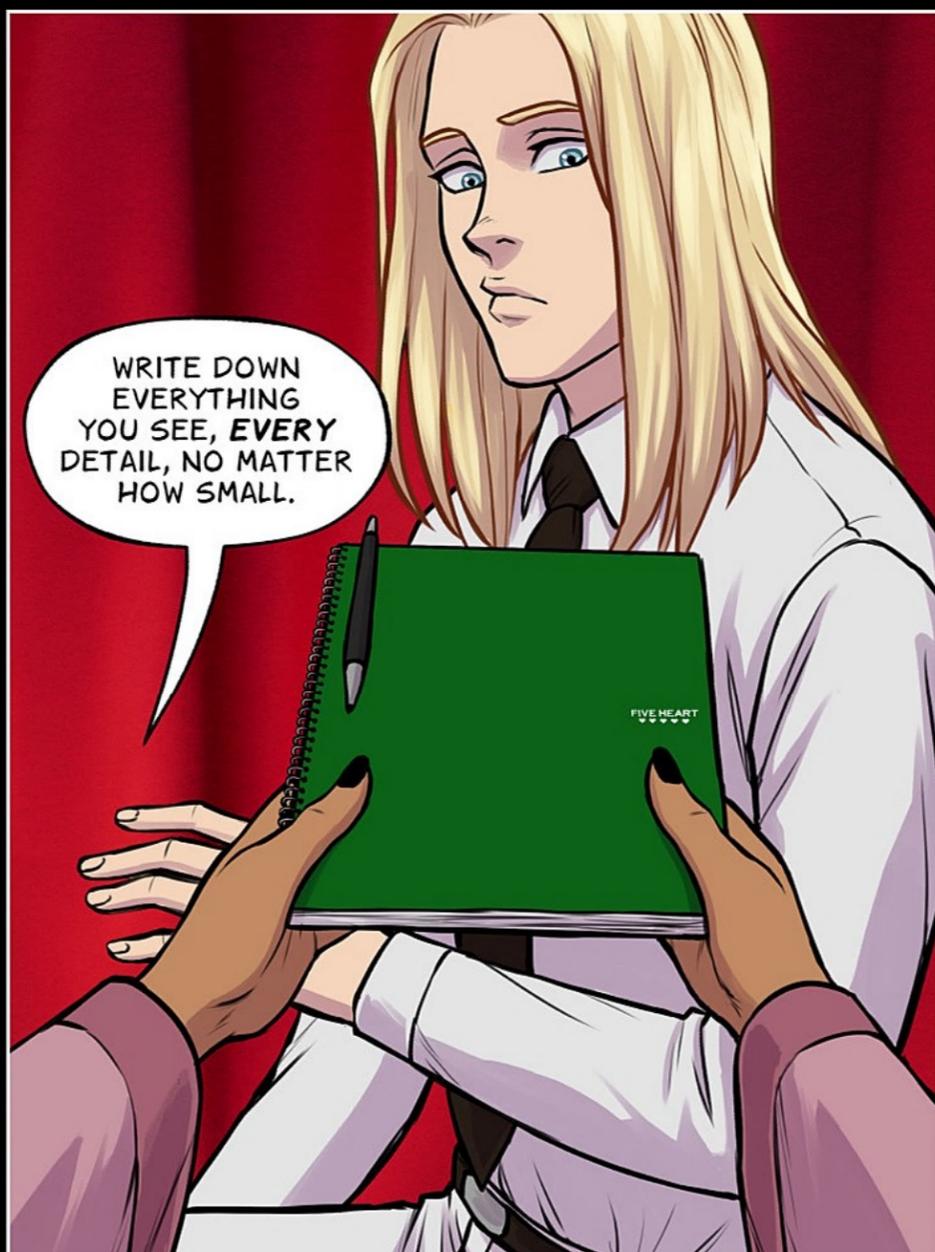
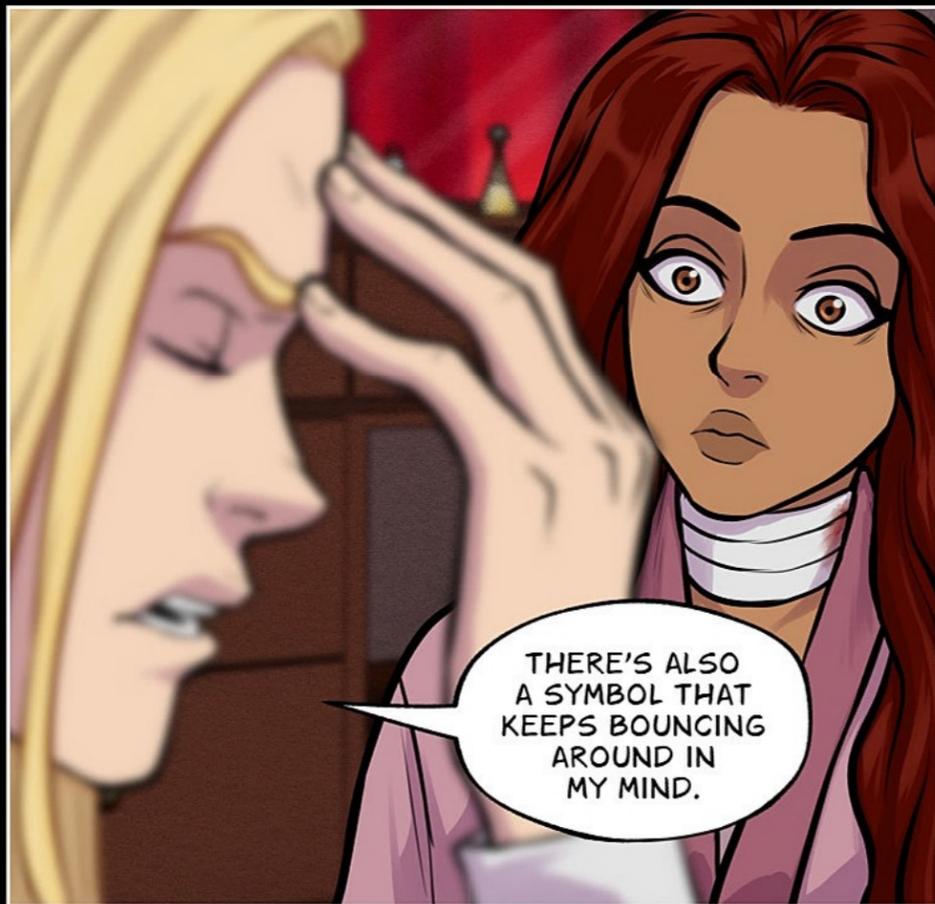
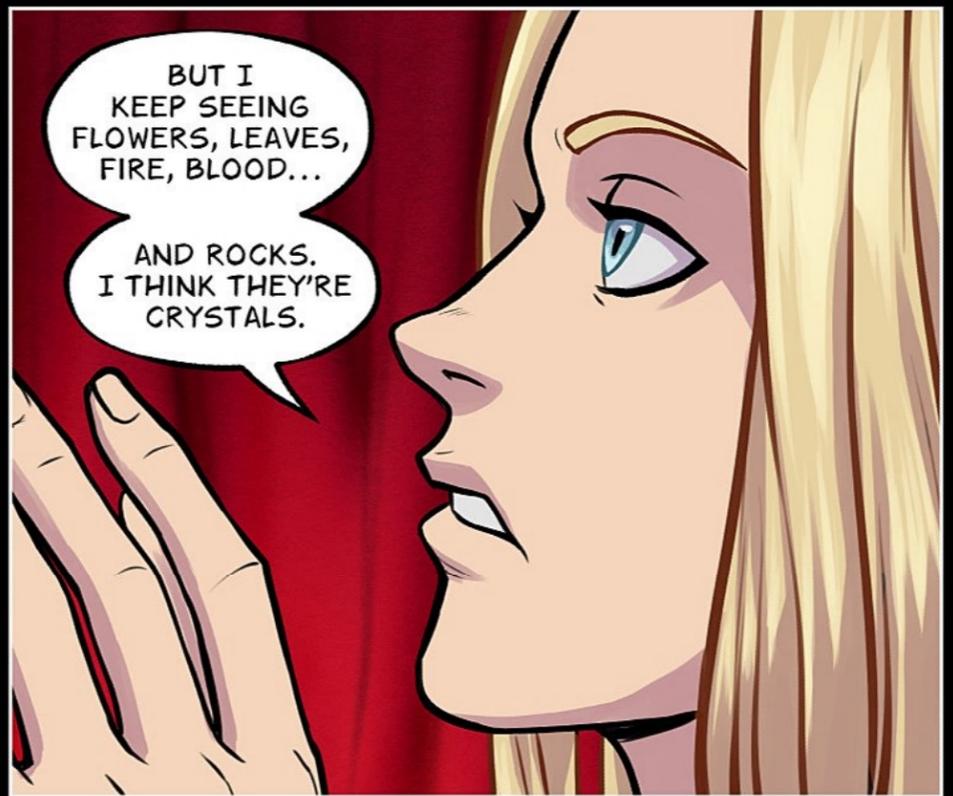
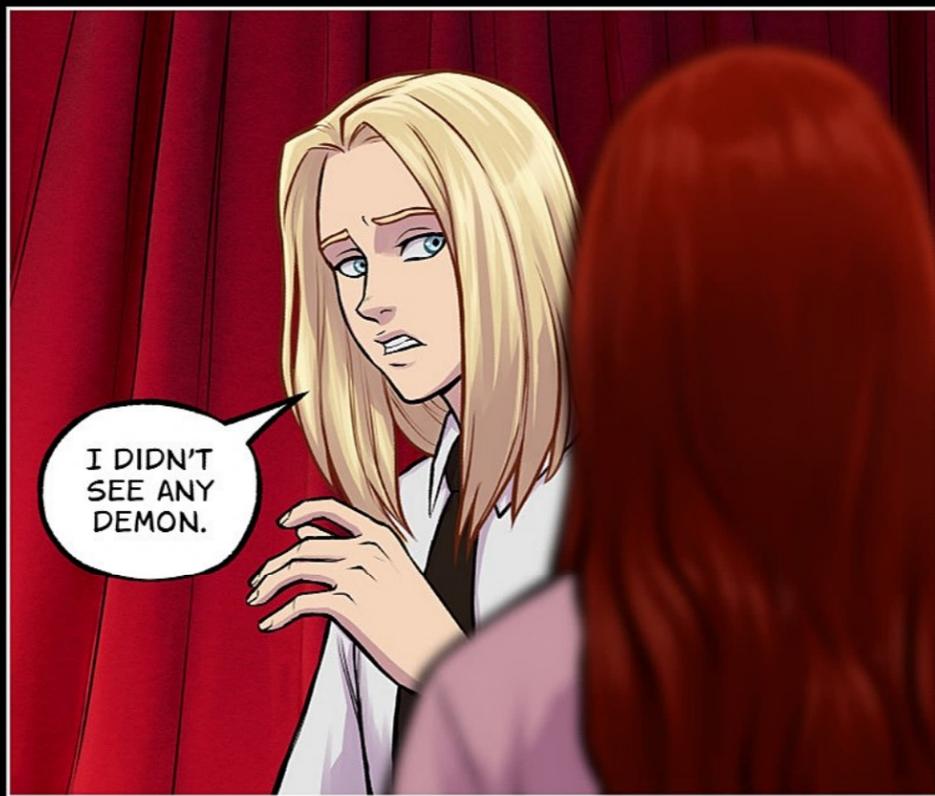
DID YOU SEE HIM?



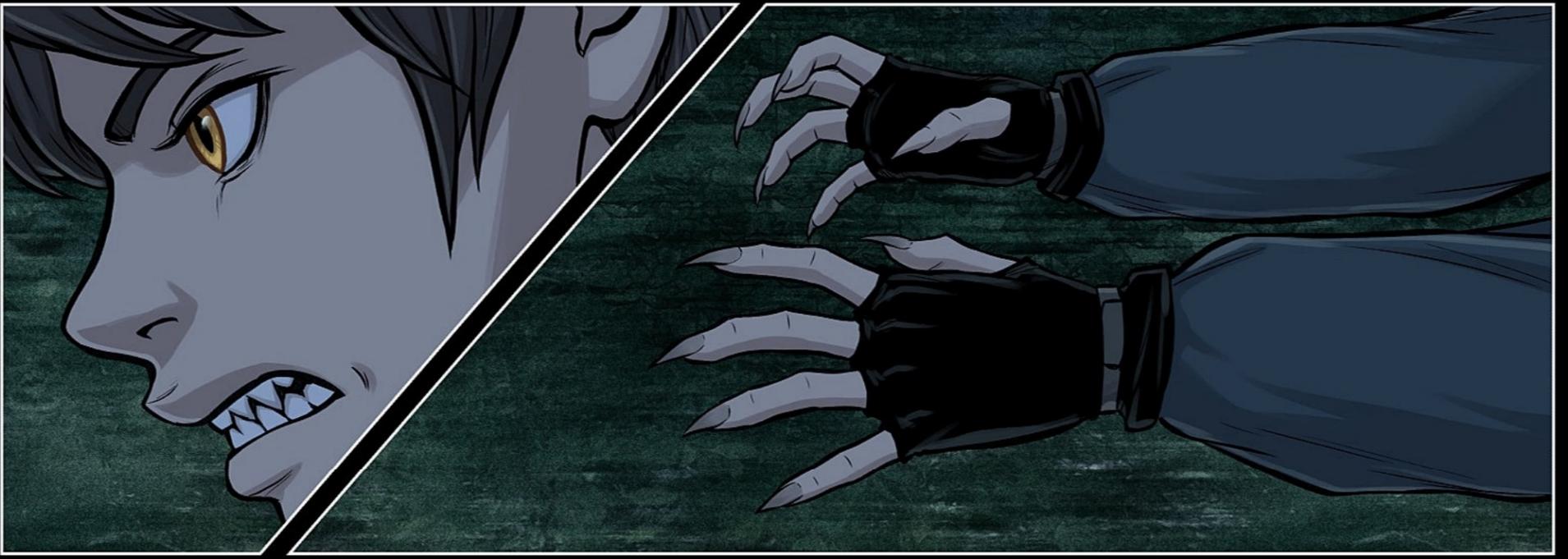
SEE WHO?

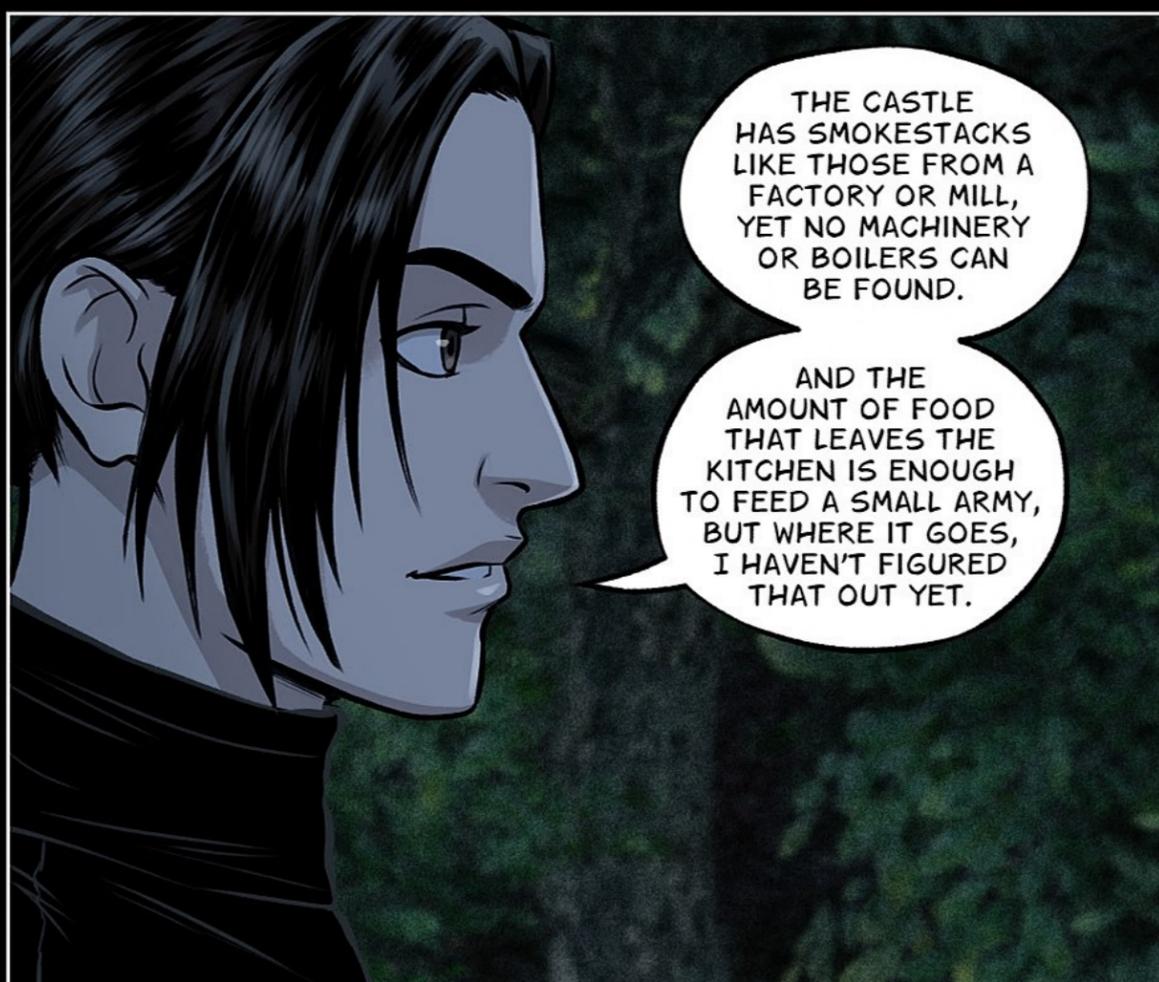


THE DEMON!



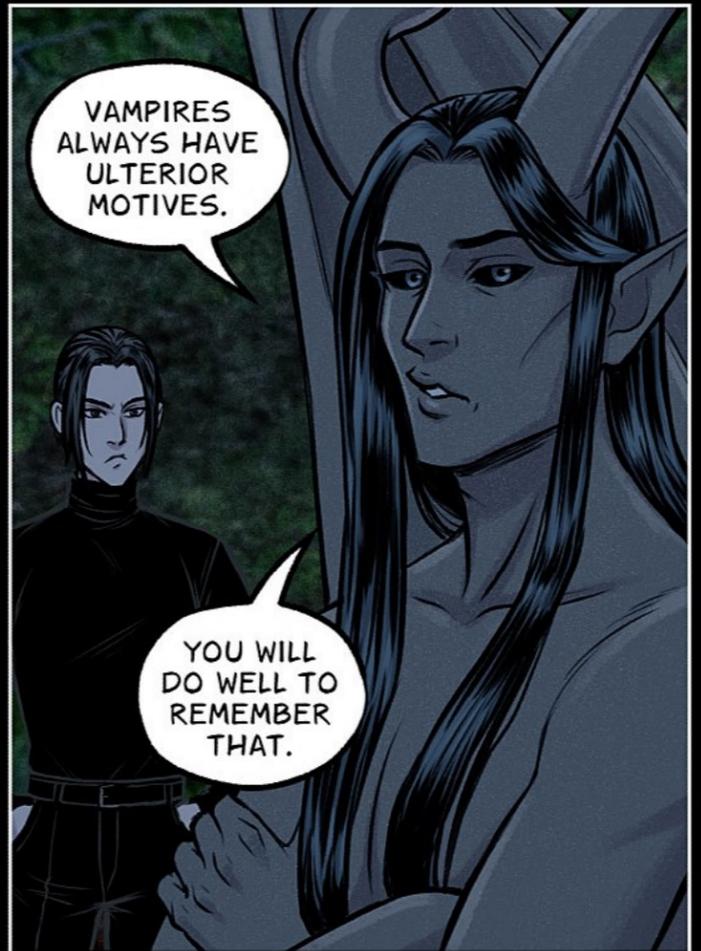








DID YOU USE ME AS BAIT TO DRAW HIM OUT?



VAMPIRES ALWAYS HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

YOU WILL DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT.



WHAT IS VENGARI HIDING?



HE HAS MANY SECRETS. THIS ONE HAPPENS TO BE PART OF HIS GOD-COMPLEX PHASE.



YOU'RE DOING A TERRIBLE JOB IN KEEPING HIS SECRETS.

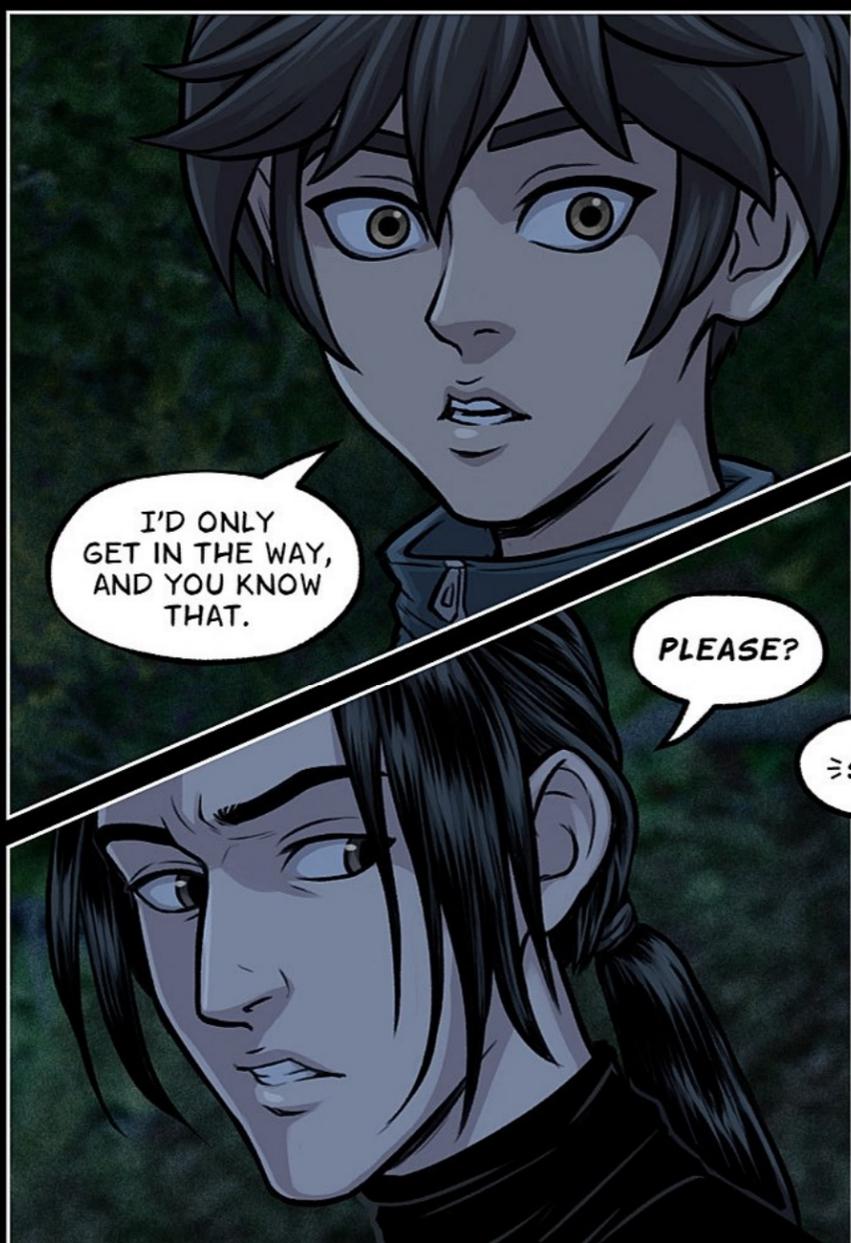
I COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT **THIS** SECRET.

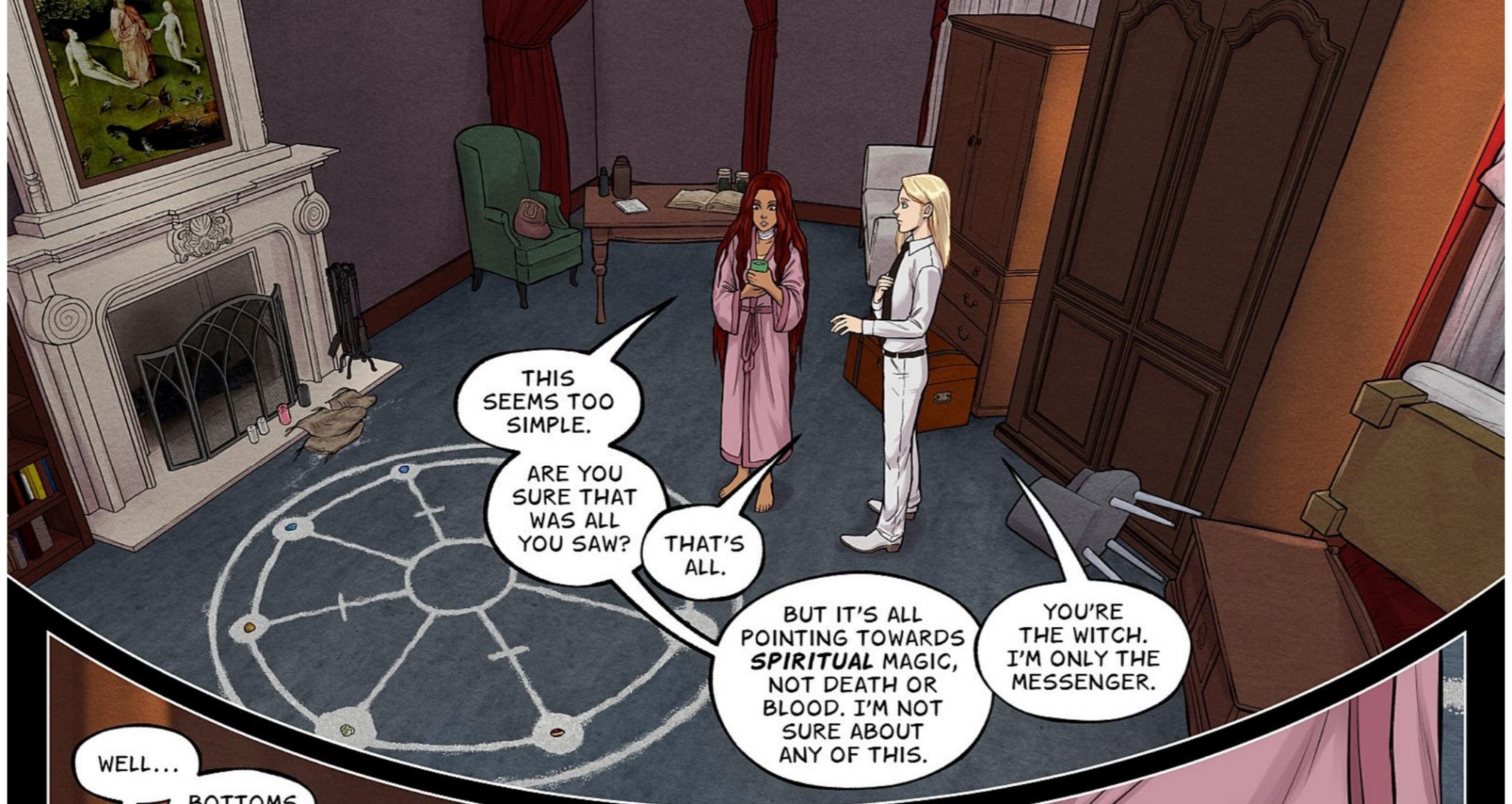
I TOLD HIM I WOULD FOLLOW YOU TWO AND I HAVE.

YOU'RE THE WARDEN, YET YOU TAKE ORDERS FROM HIM?



THEY'RE REQUESTS. I AM BOUND TO THE COURT, NOT HIM.





THIS SEEMS TOO SIMPLE.

ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS ALL YOU SAW?

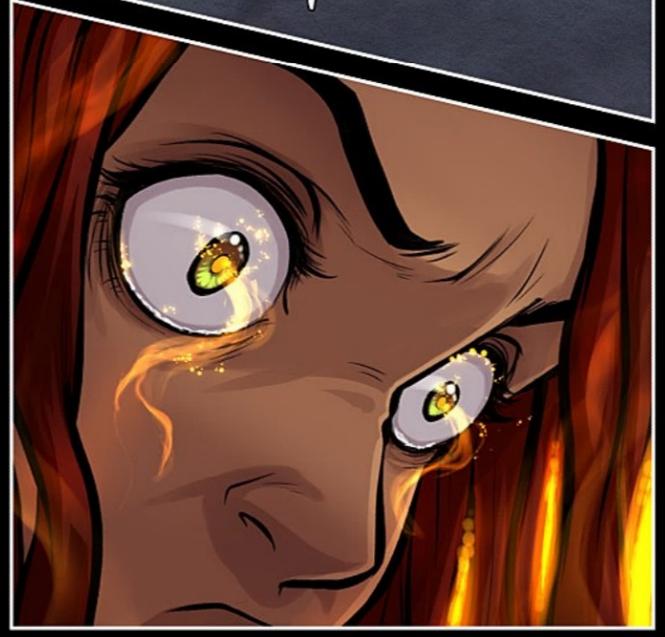
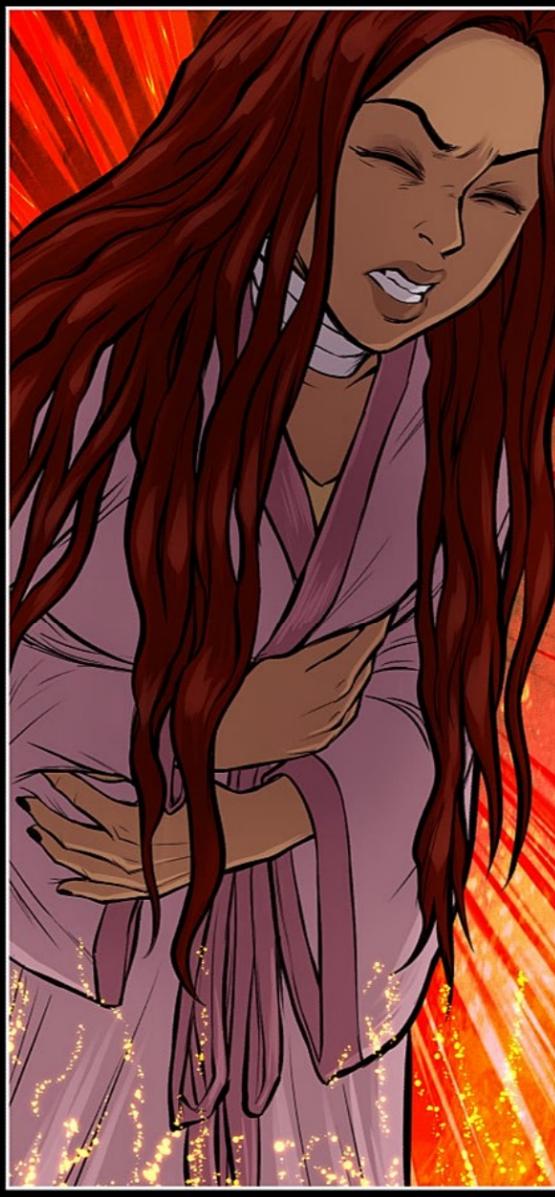
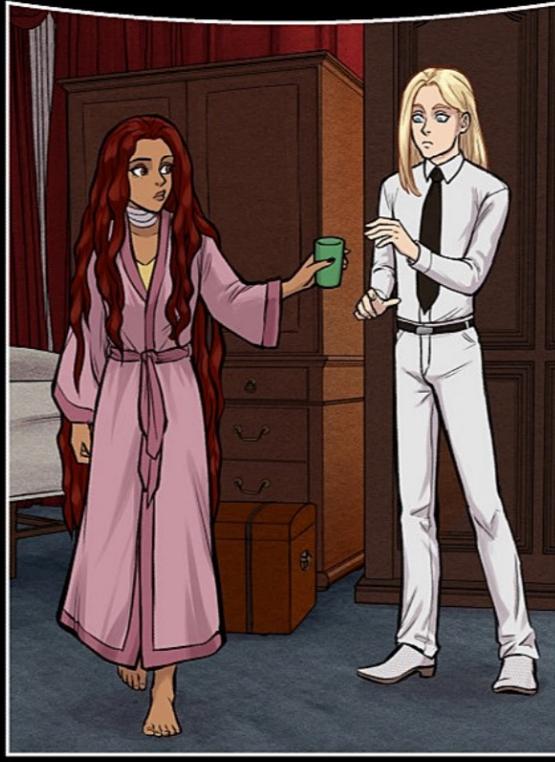
THAT'S ALL.

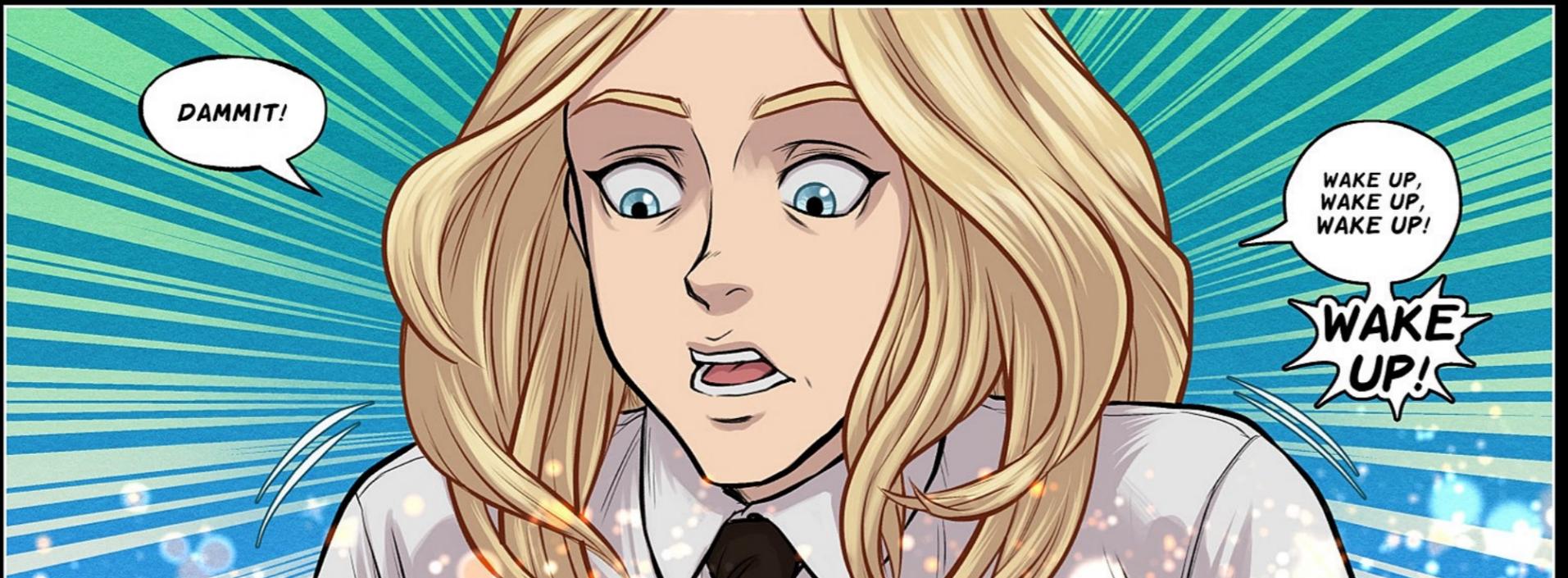
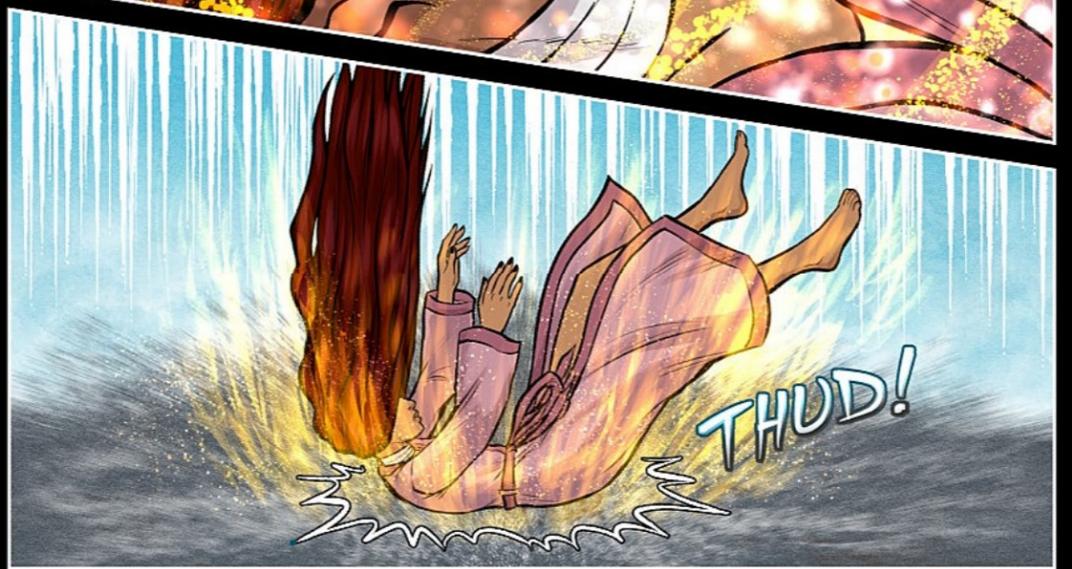
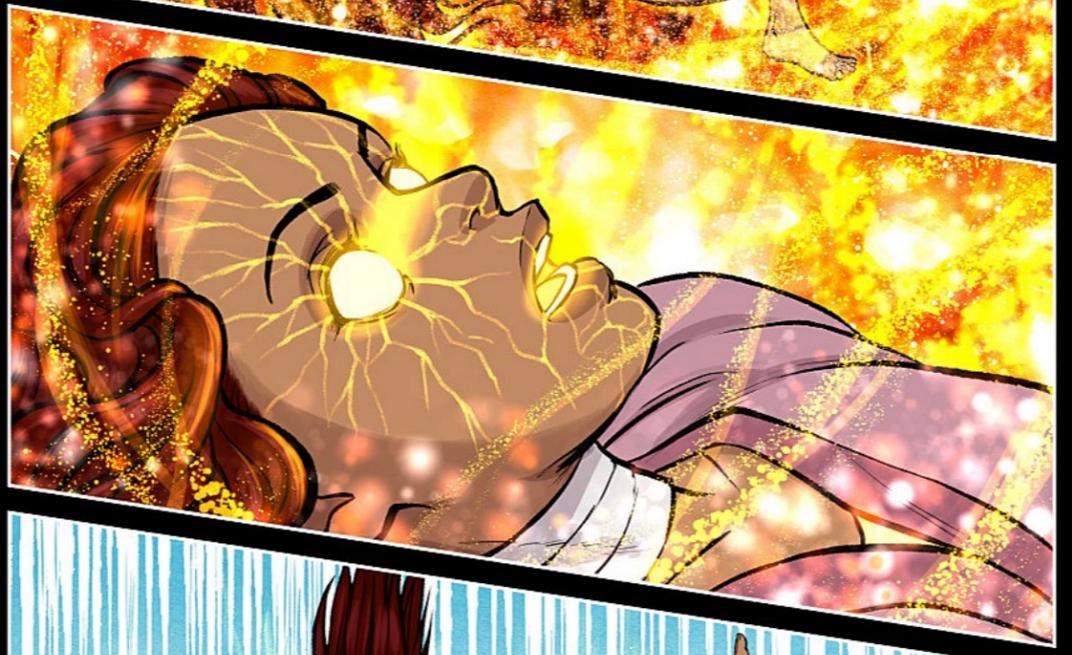
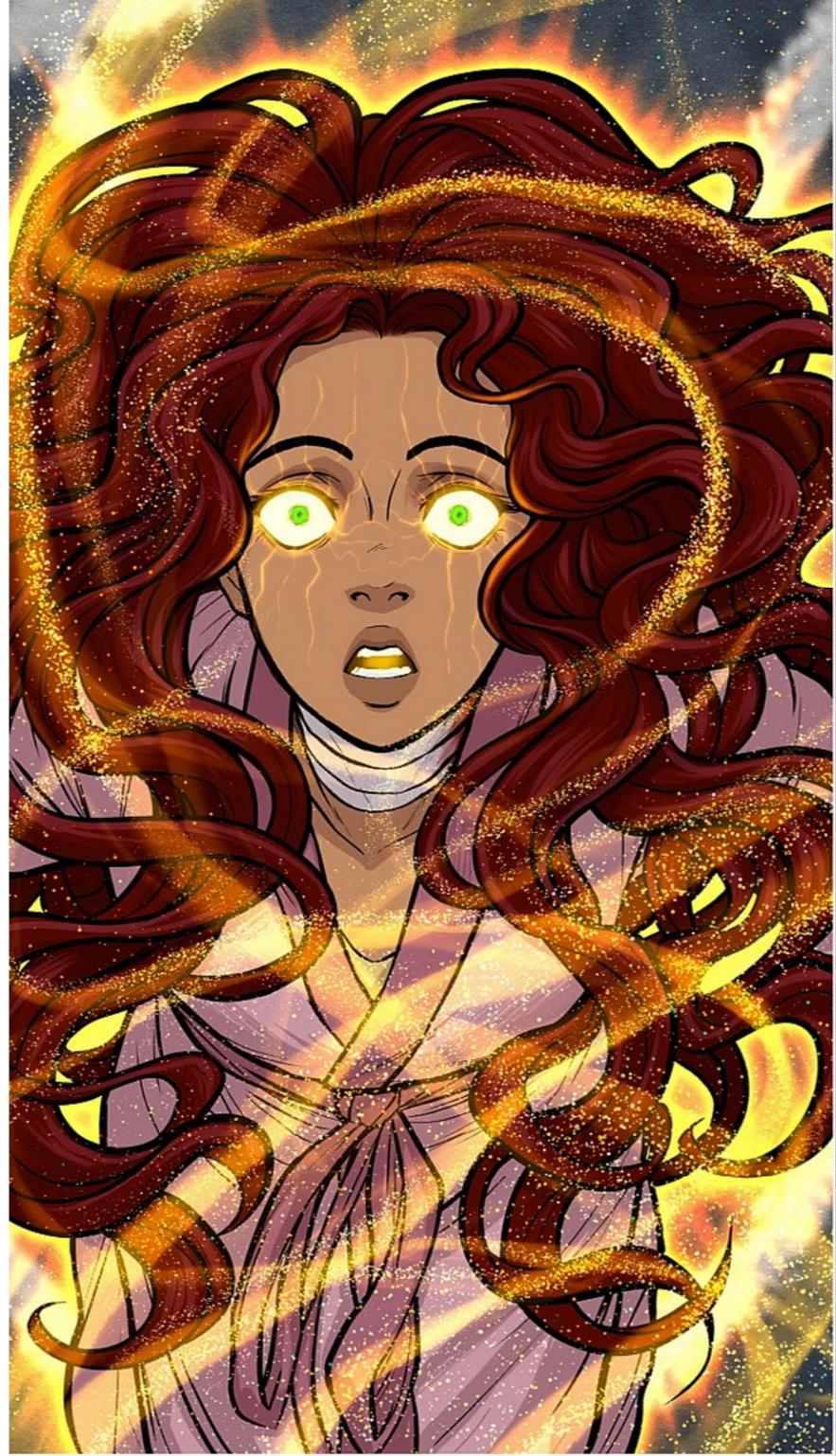
BUT IT'S ALL POINTING TOWARDS **SPIRITUAL** MAGIC, NOT DEATH OR BLOOD. I'M NOT SURE ABOUT ANY OF THIS.

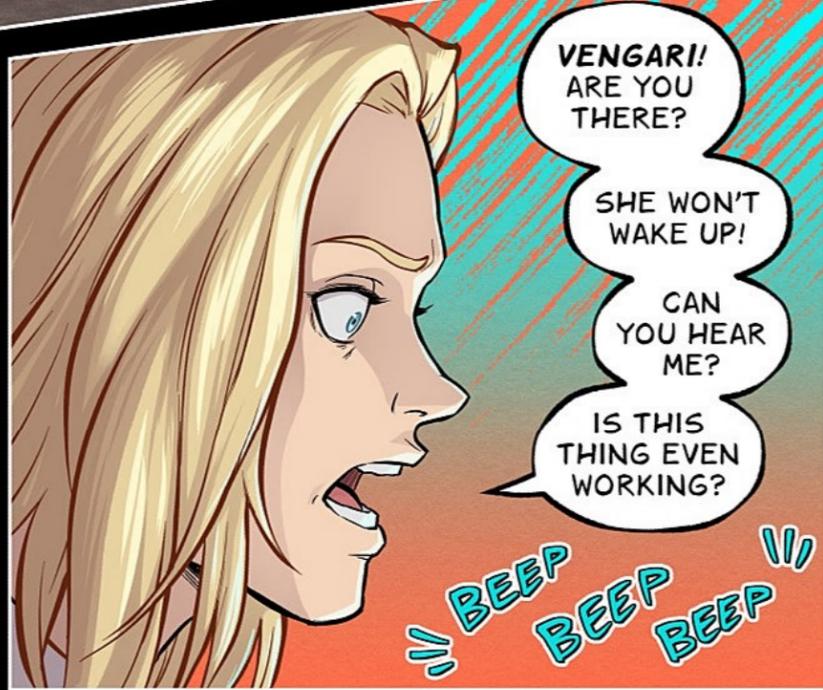
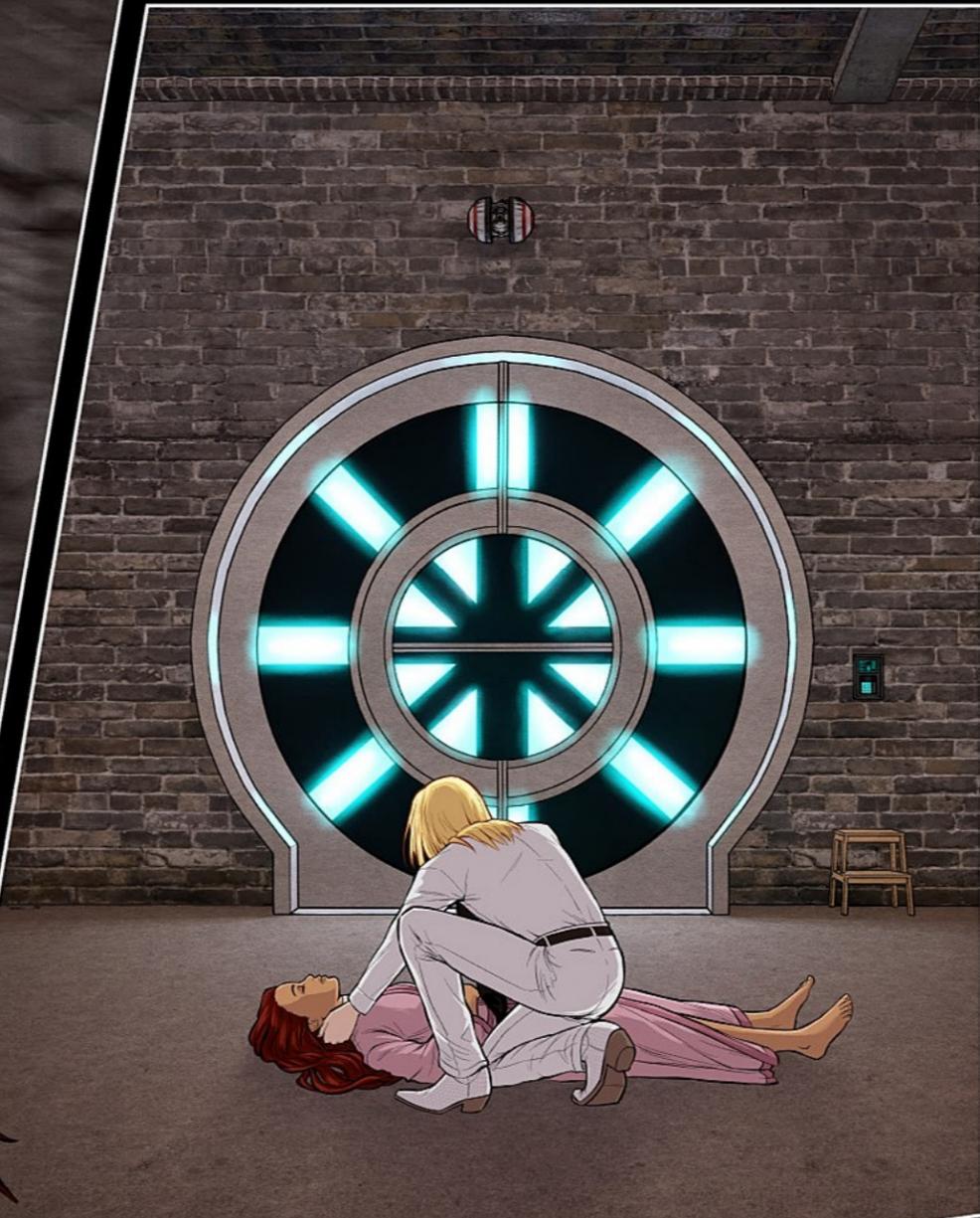
YOU'RE THE WITCH. I'M ONLY THE MESSENGER.



WELL...
BOTTOMS UP.







VENGARI!
ARE YOU
THERE?

SHE WON'T
WAKE UP!

CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

IS THIS
THING EVEN
WORKING?

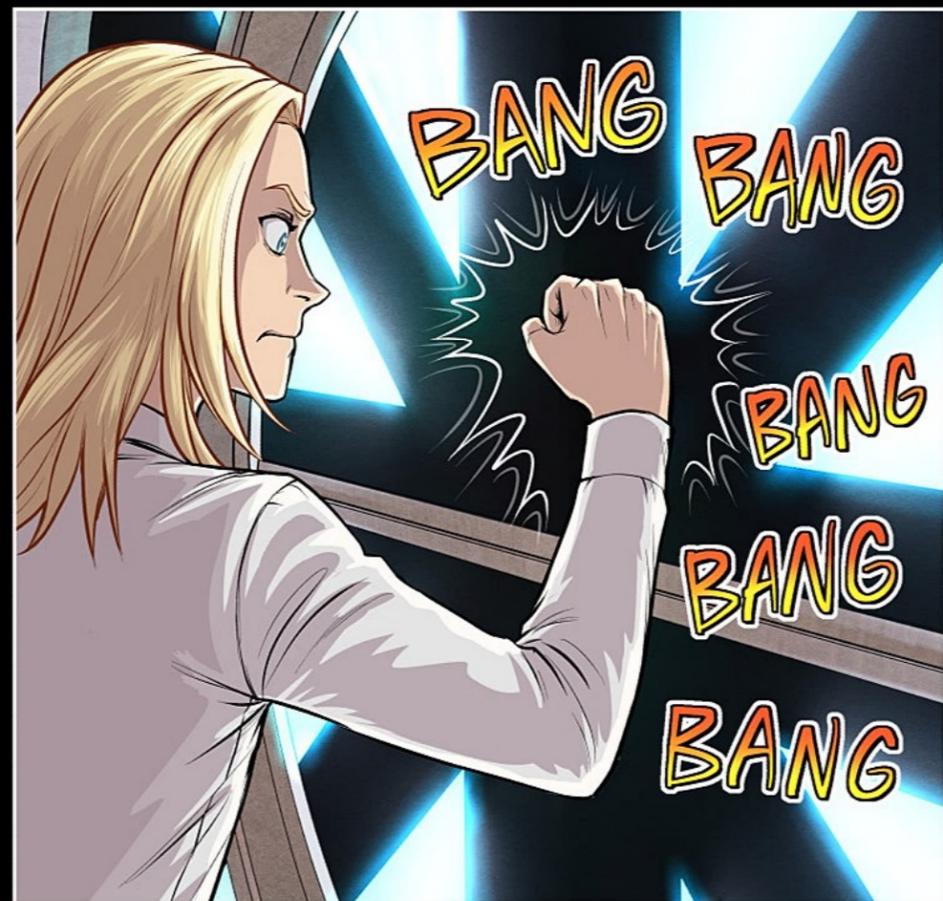
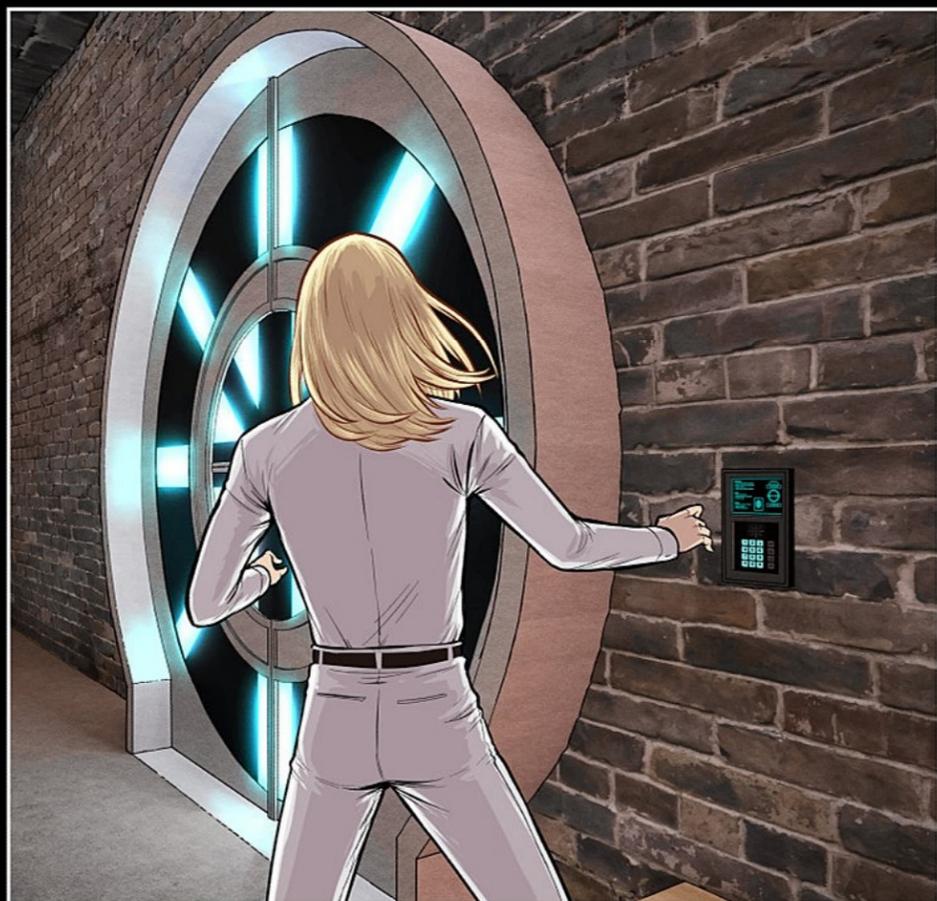
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



ATTEMPT
2 of 2

LOCKED

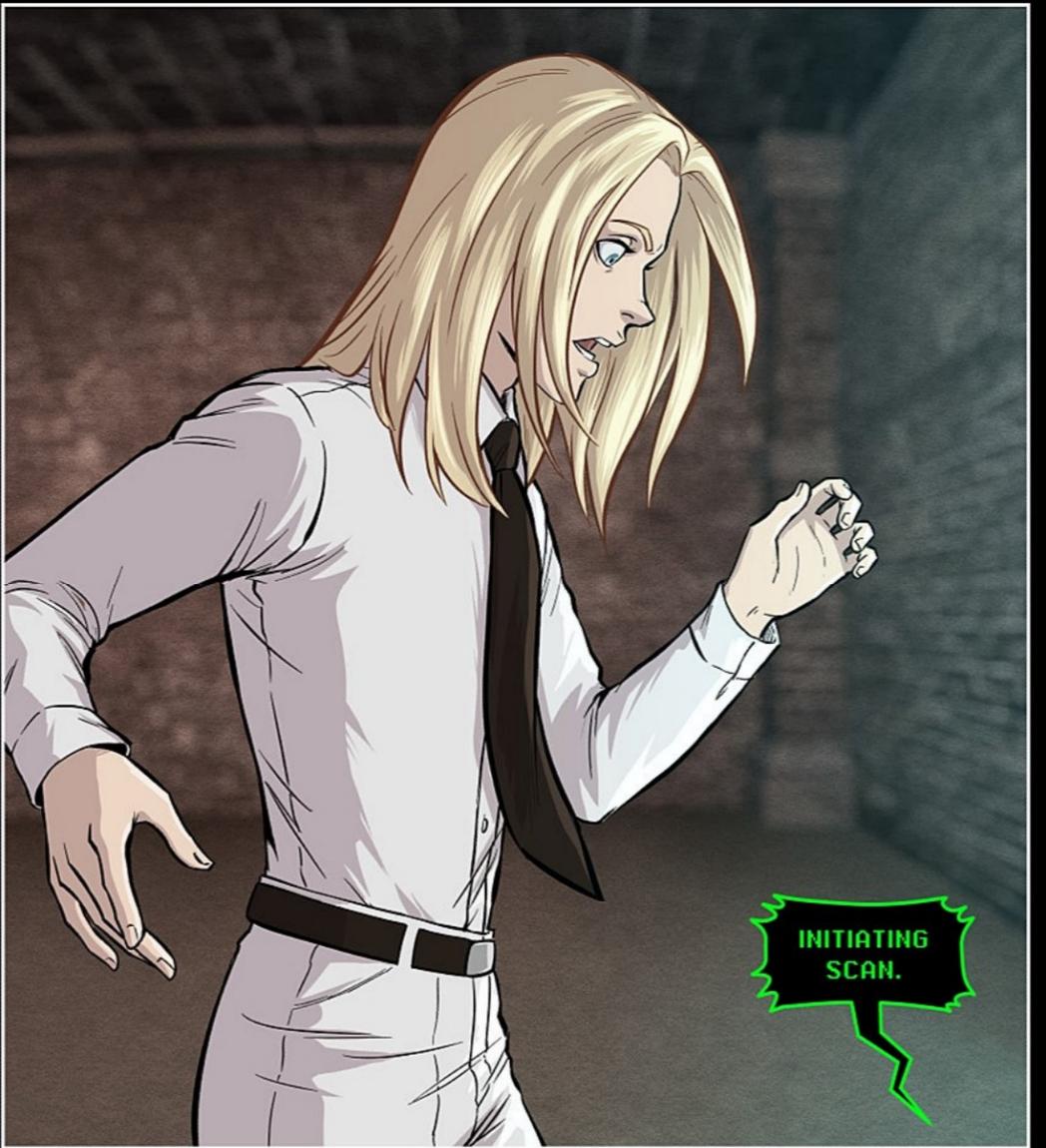
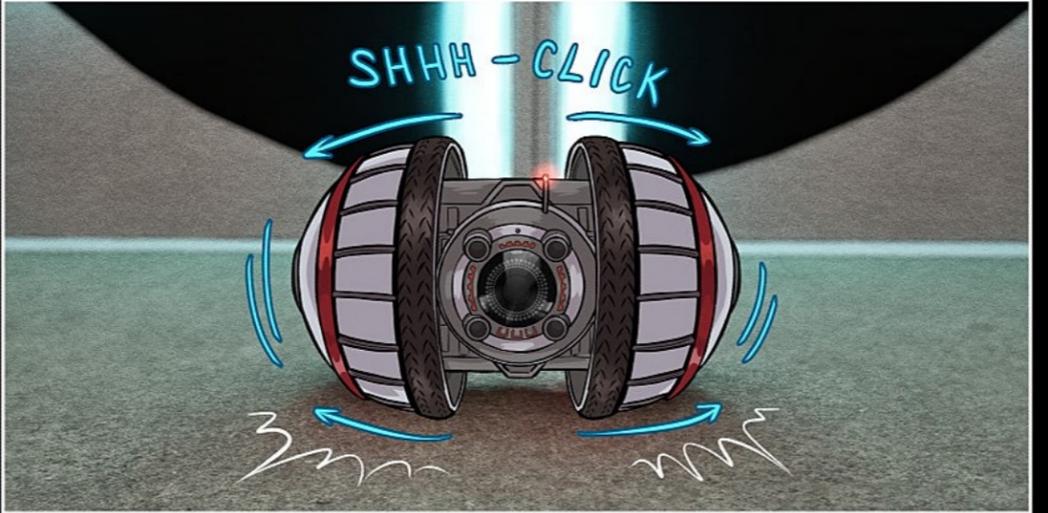
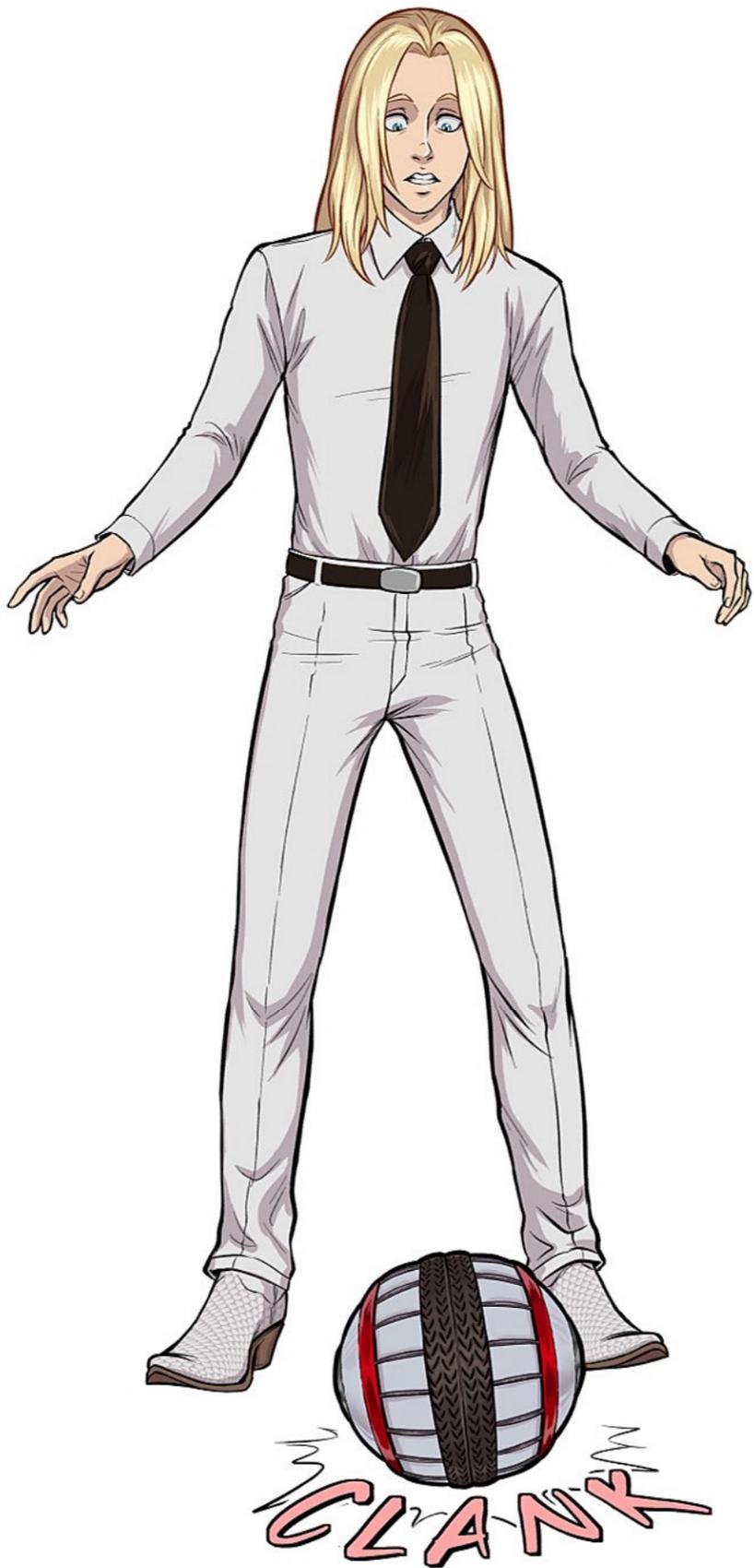
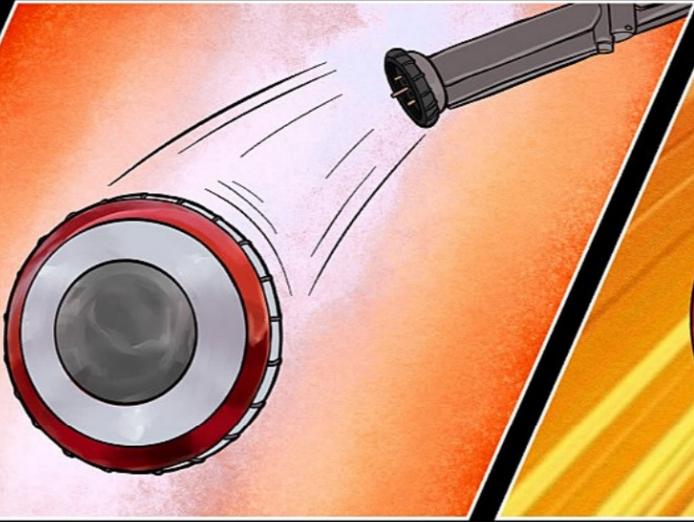
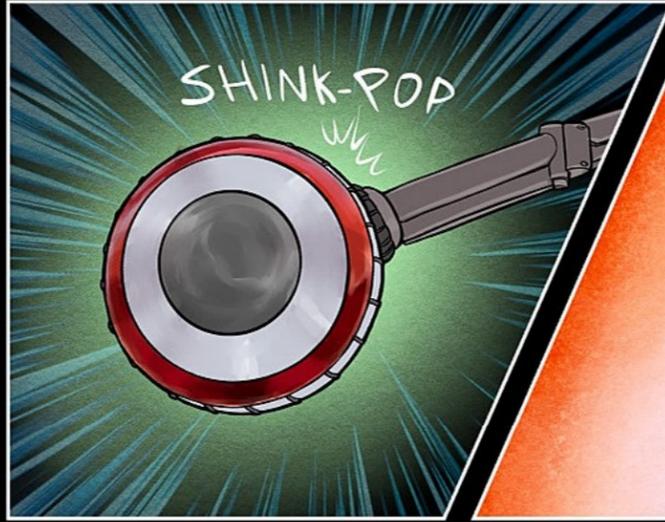
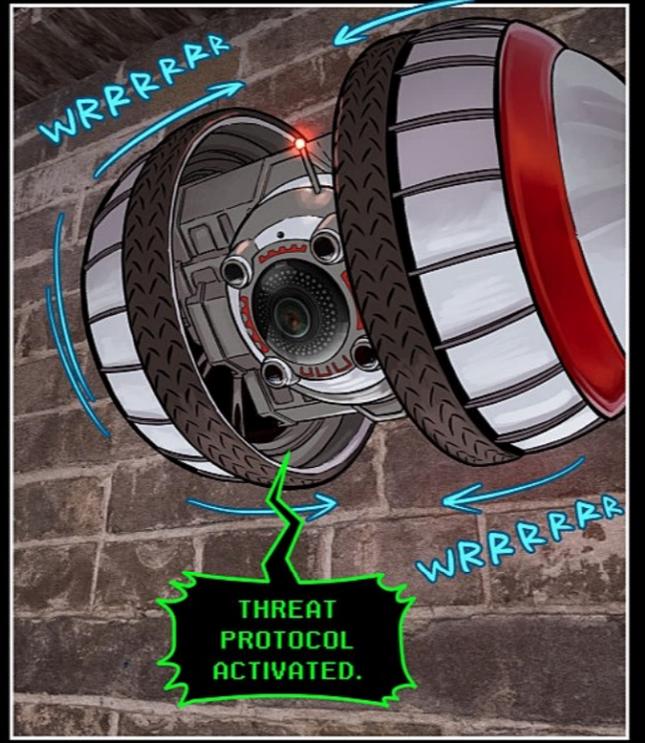
DAMMIT!

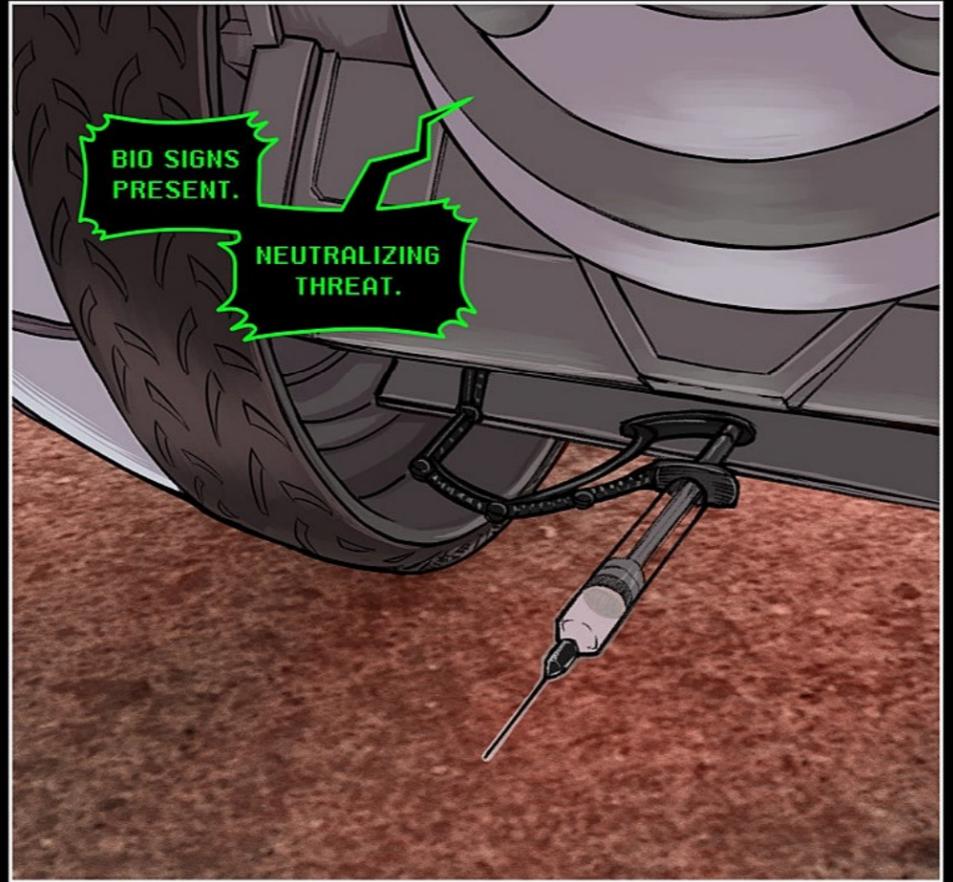
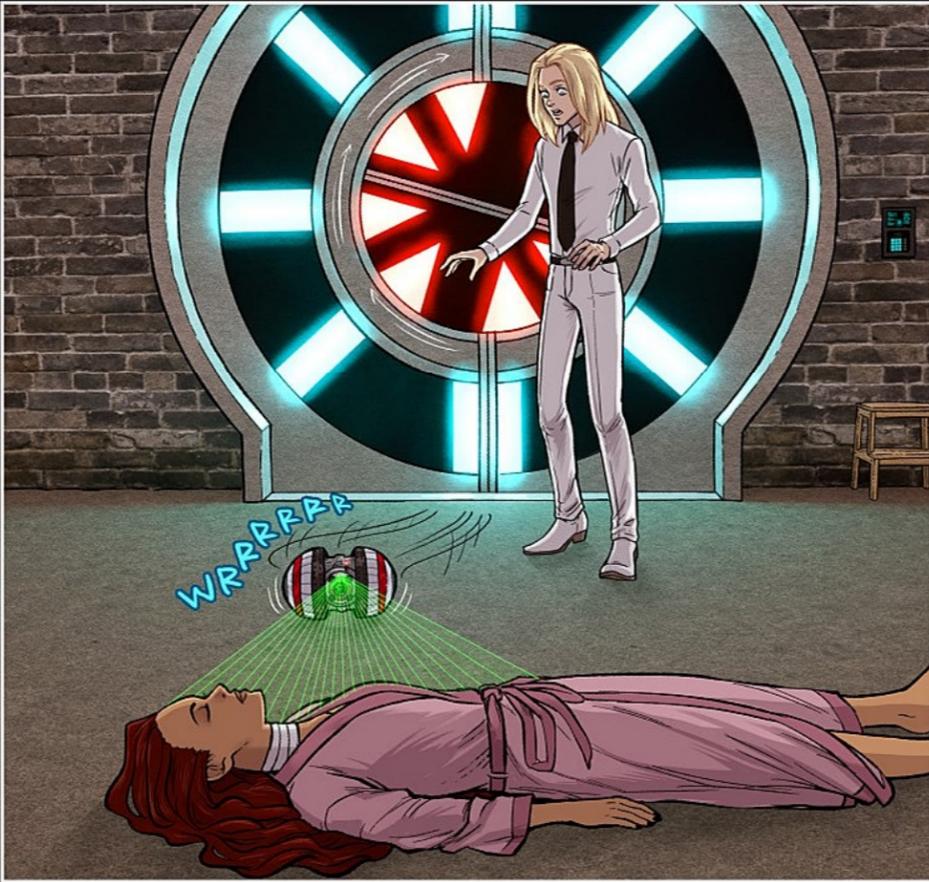
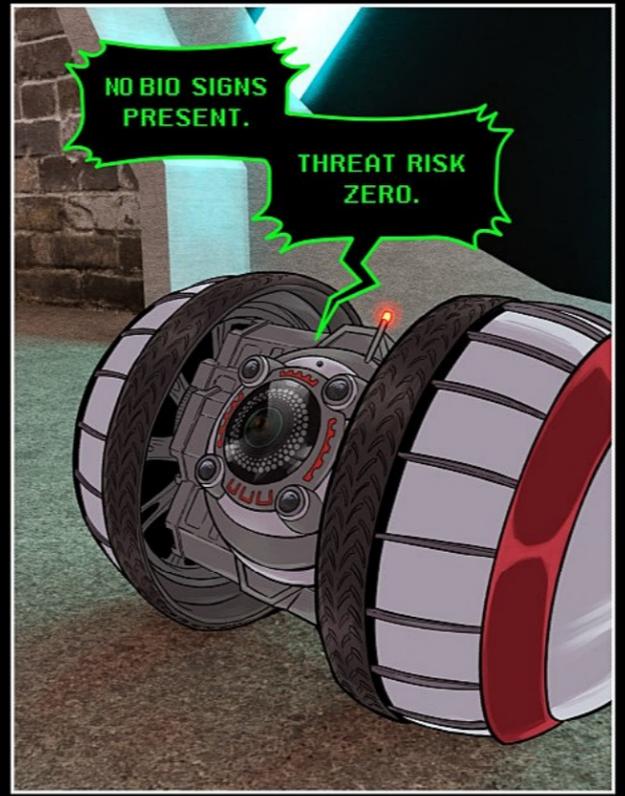
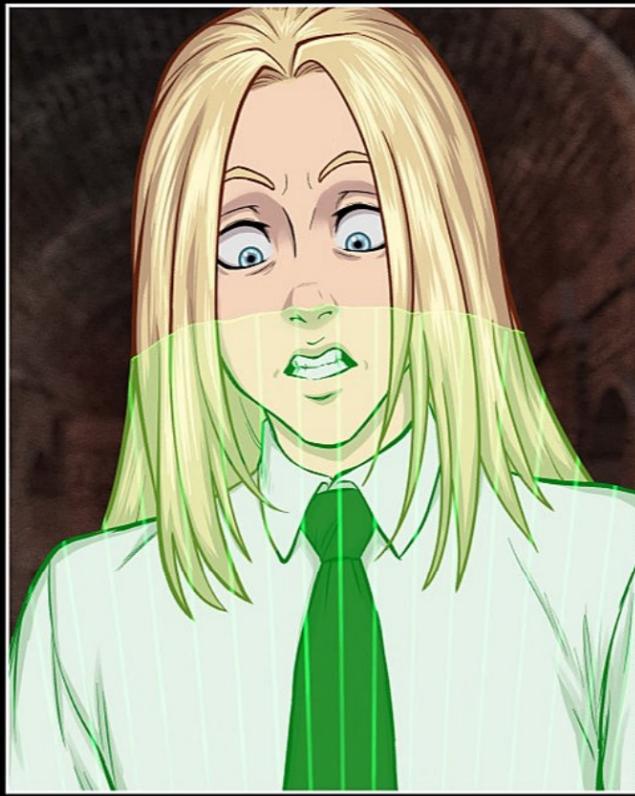
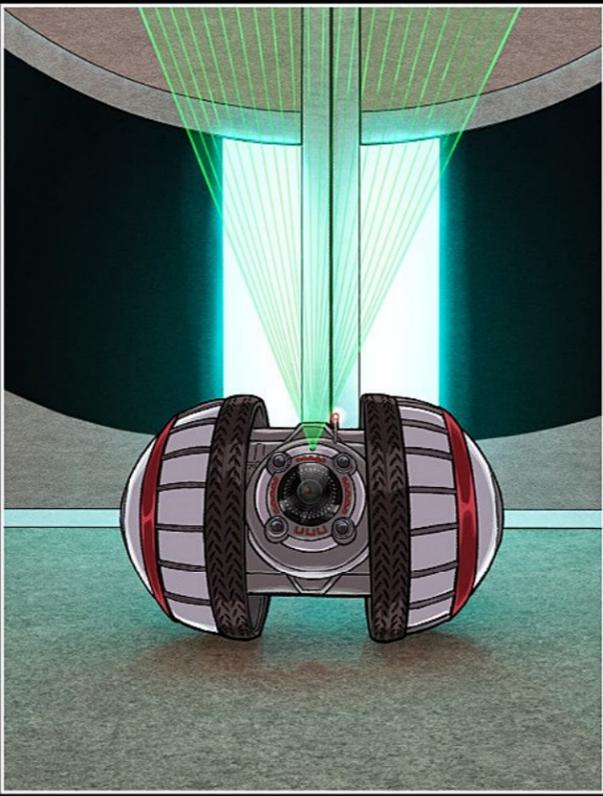


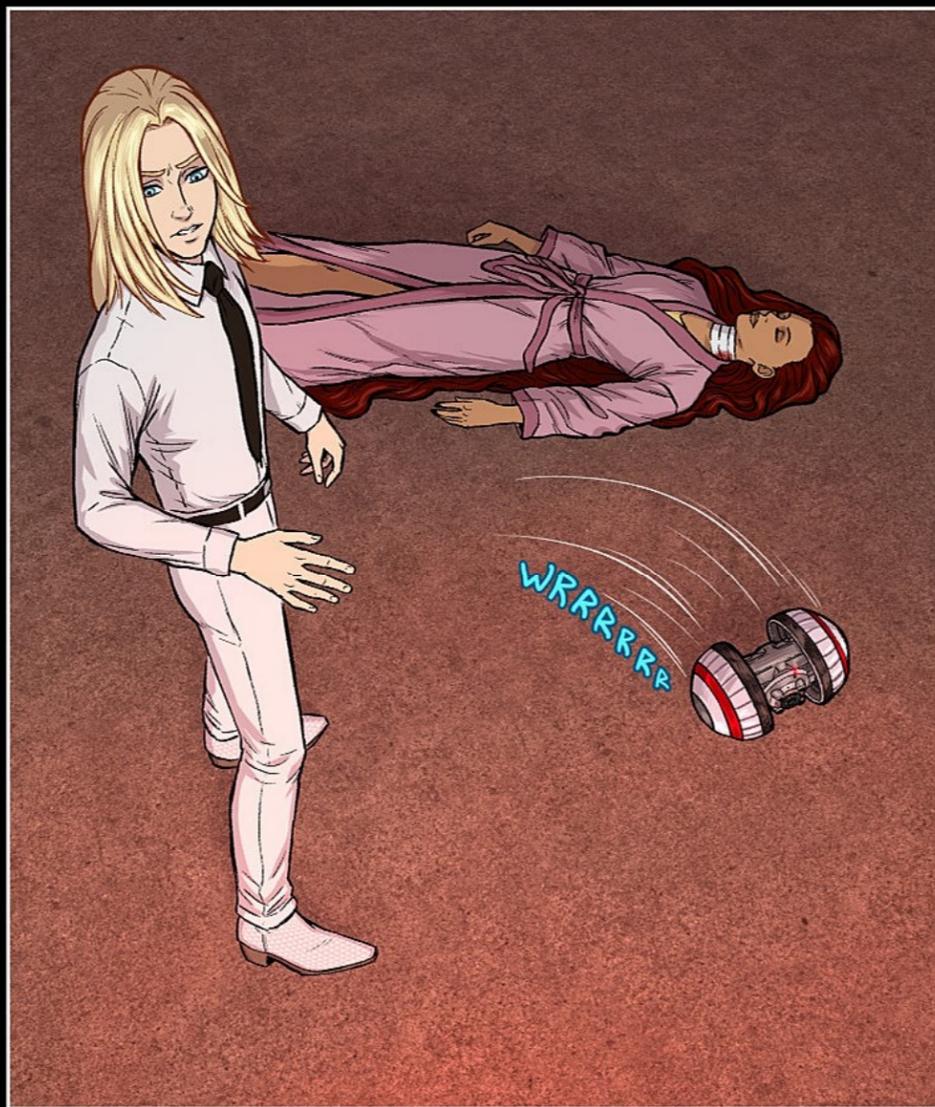
BANG
BANG
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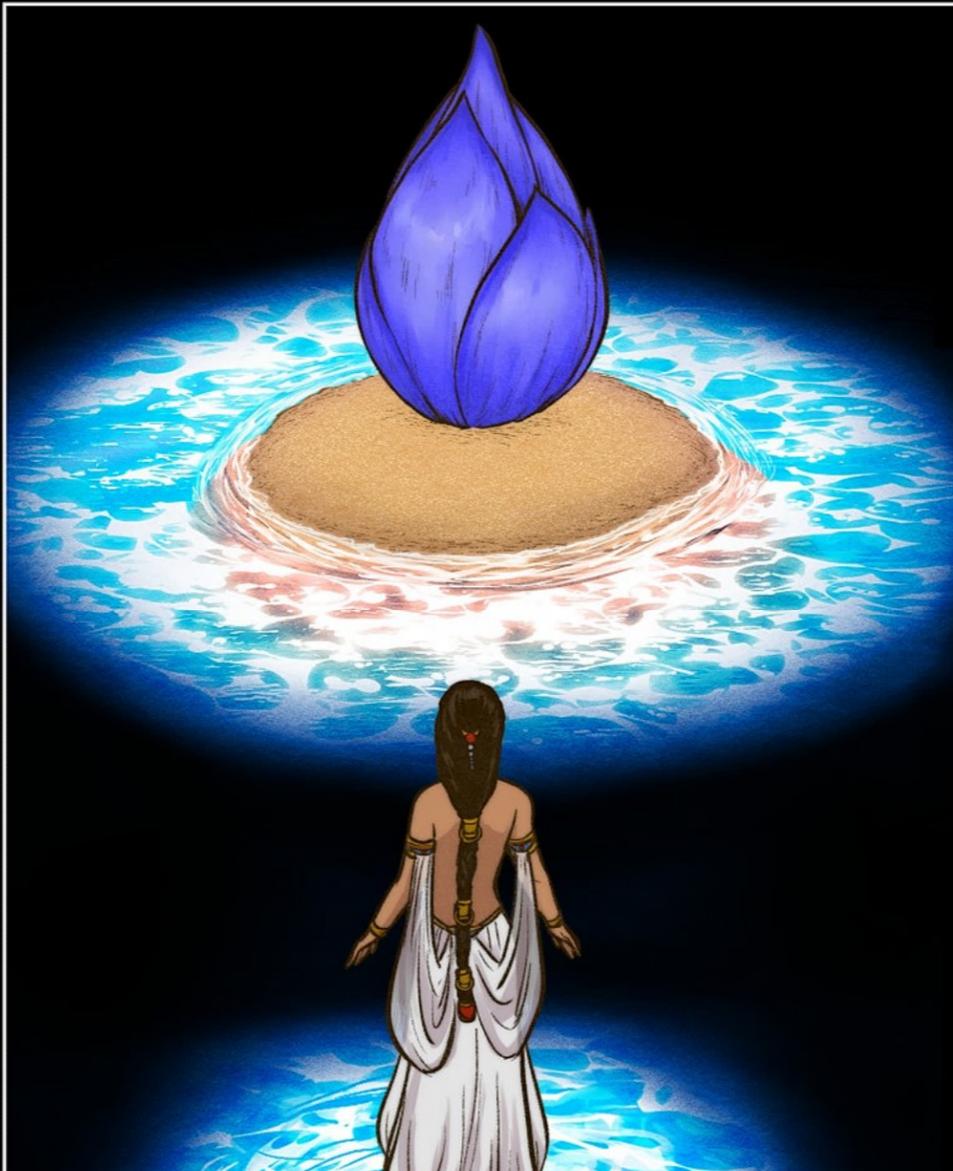
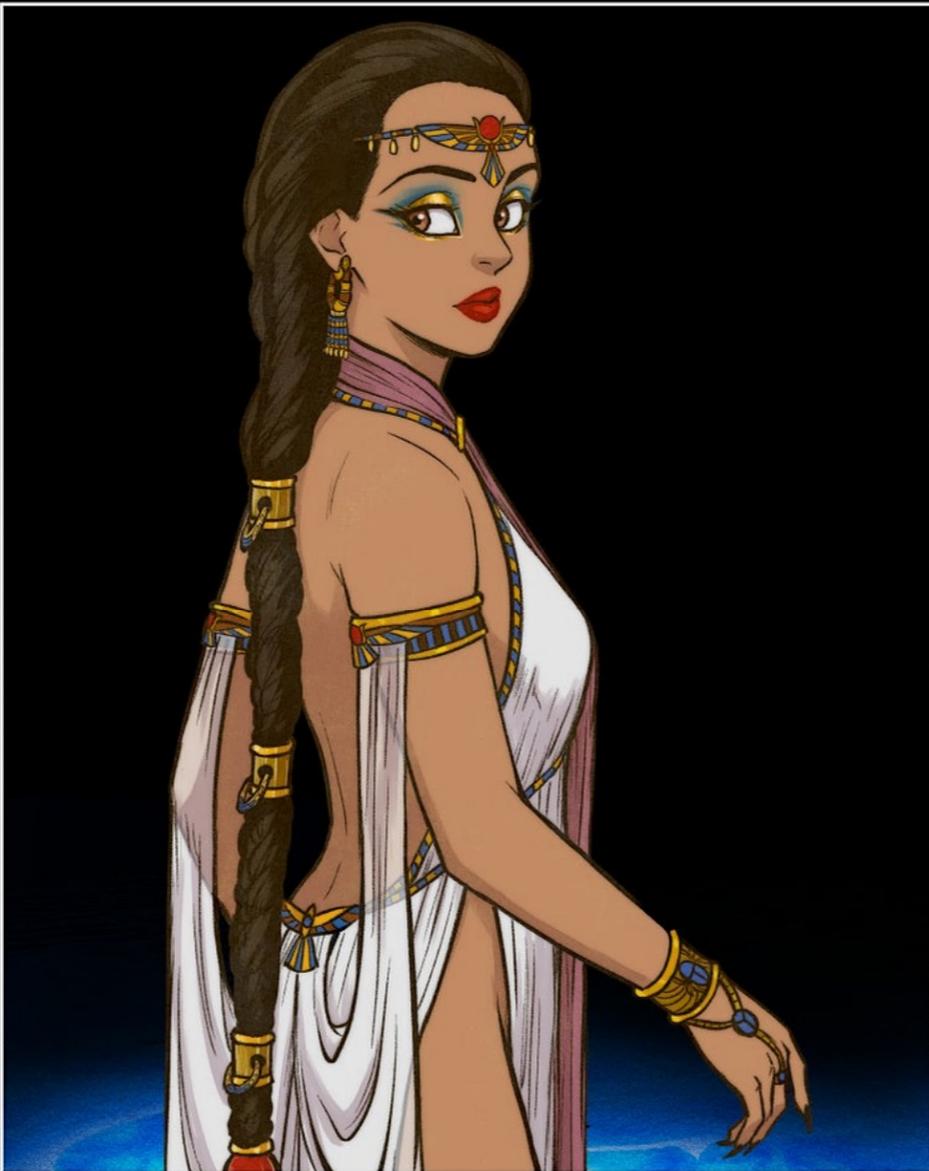
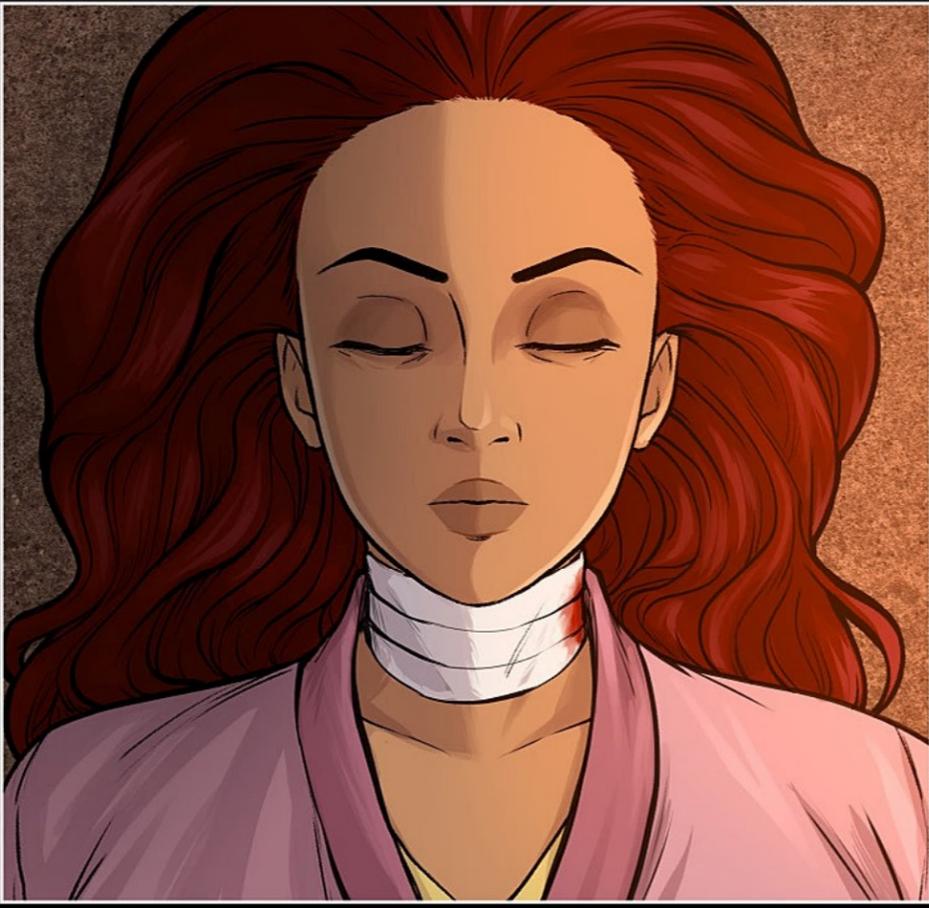


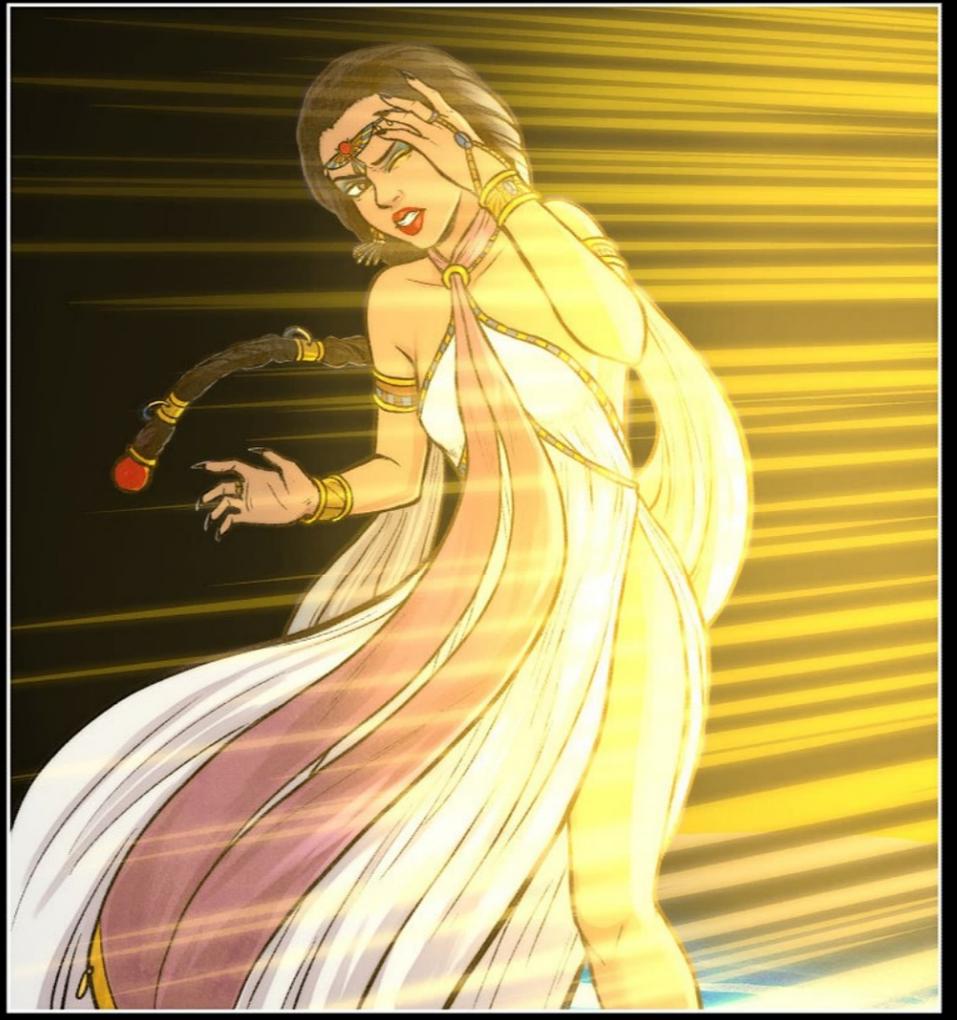
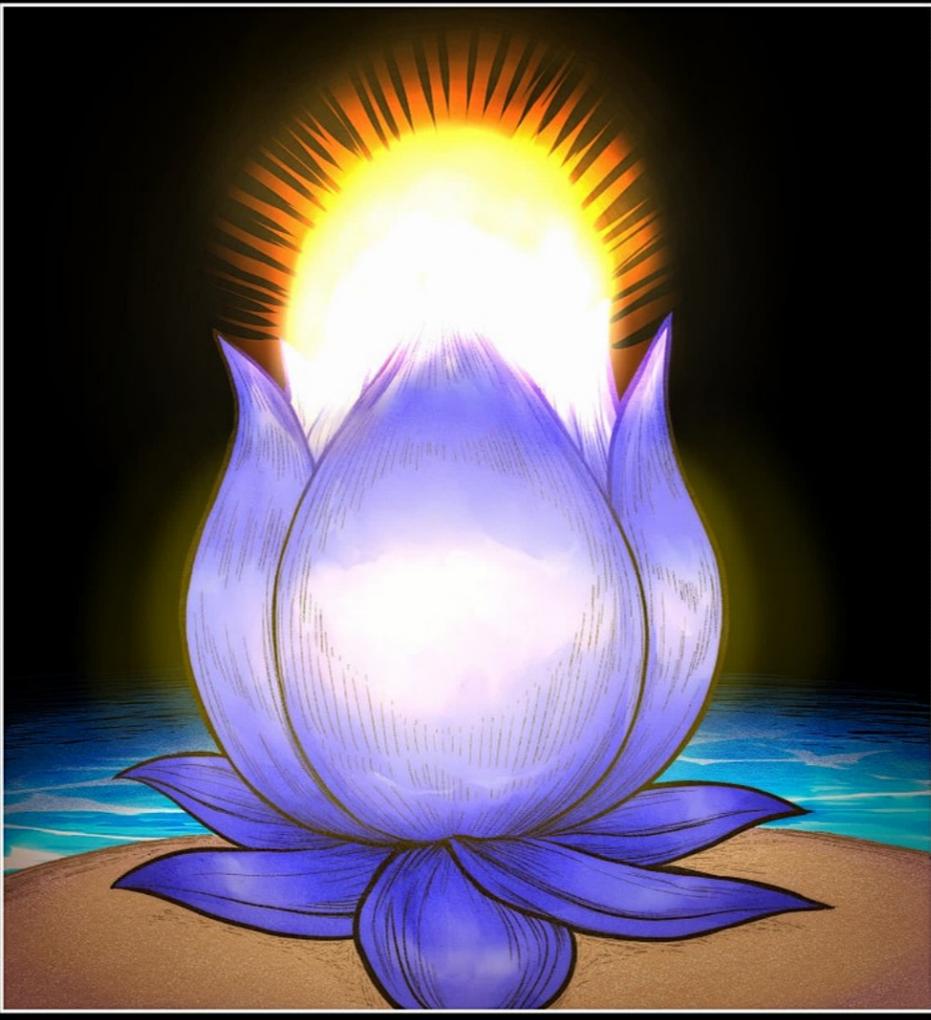
VENGARI,
PLEASE!
SHE NEEDS
HELP!

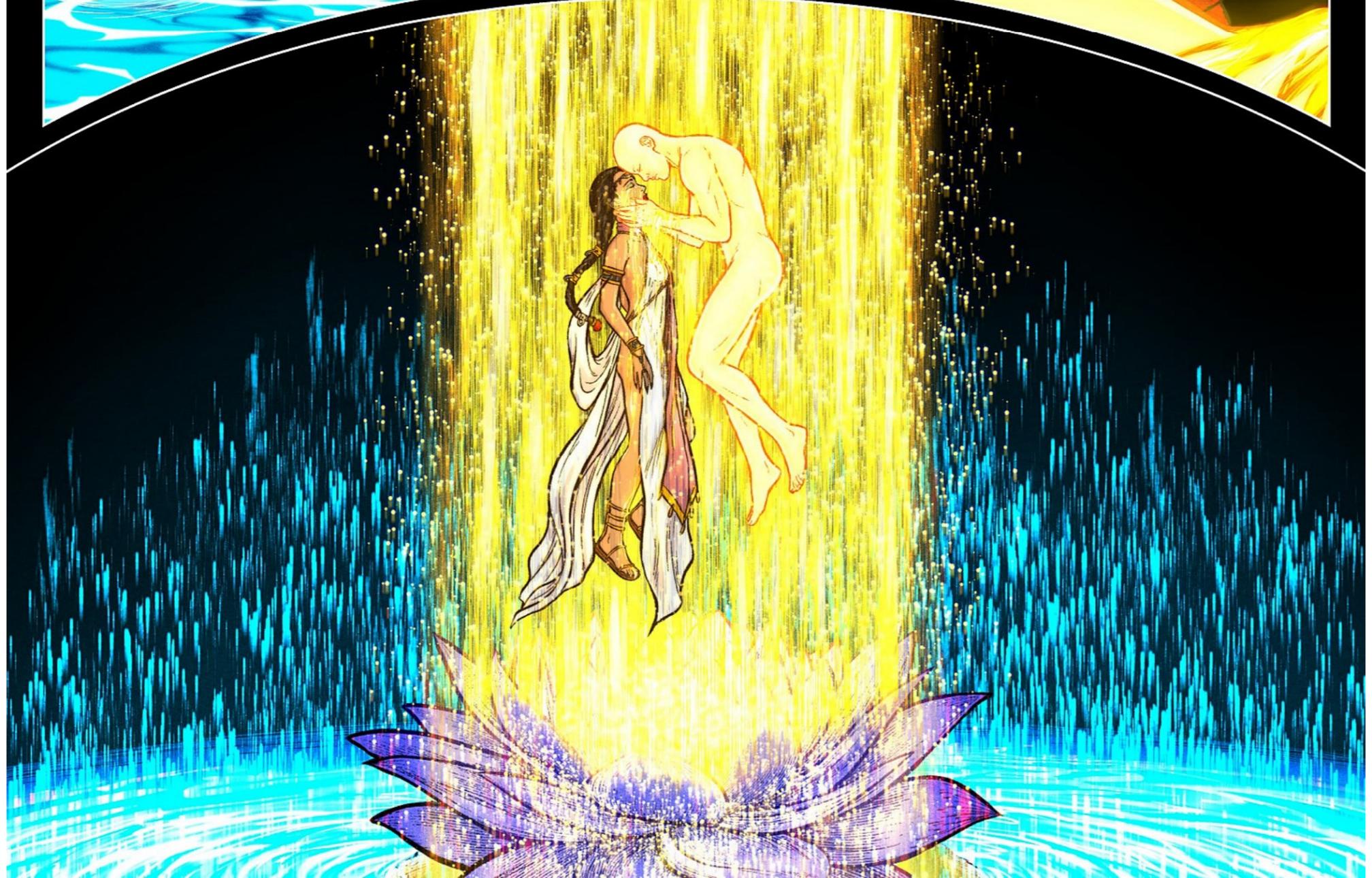
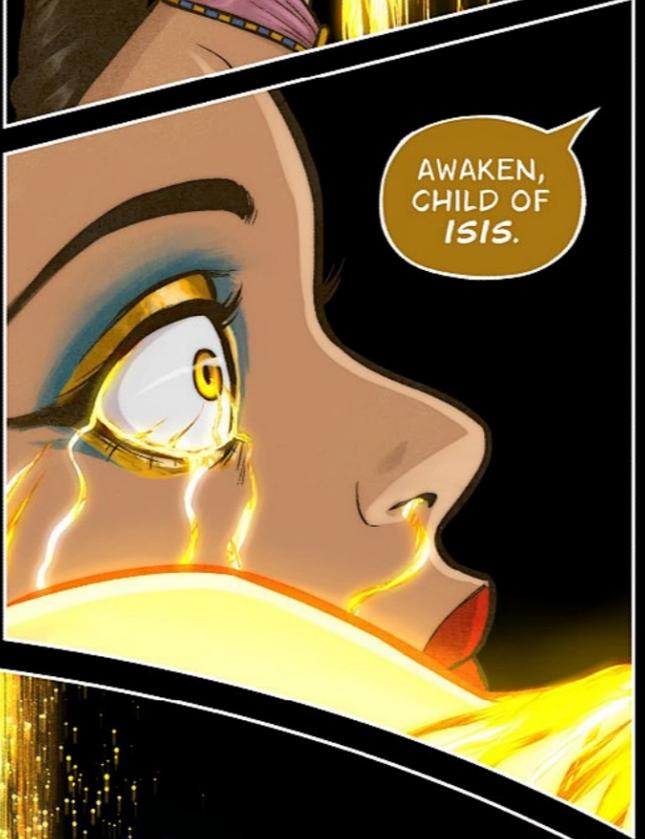


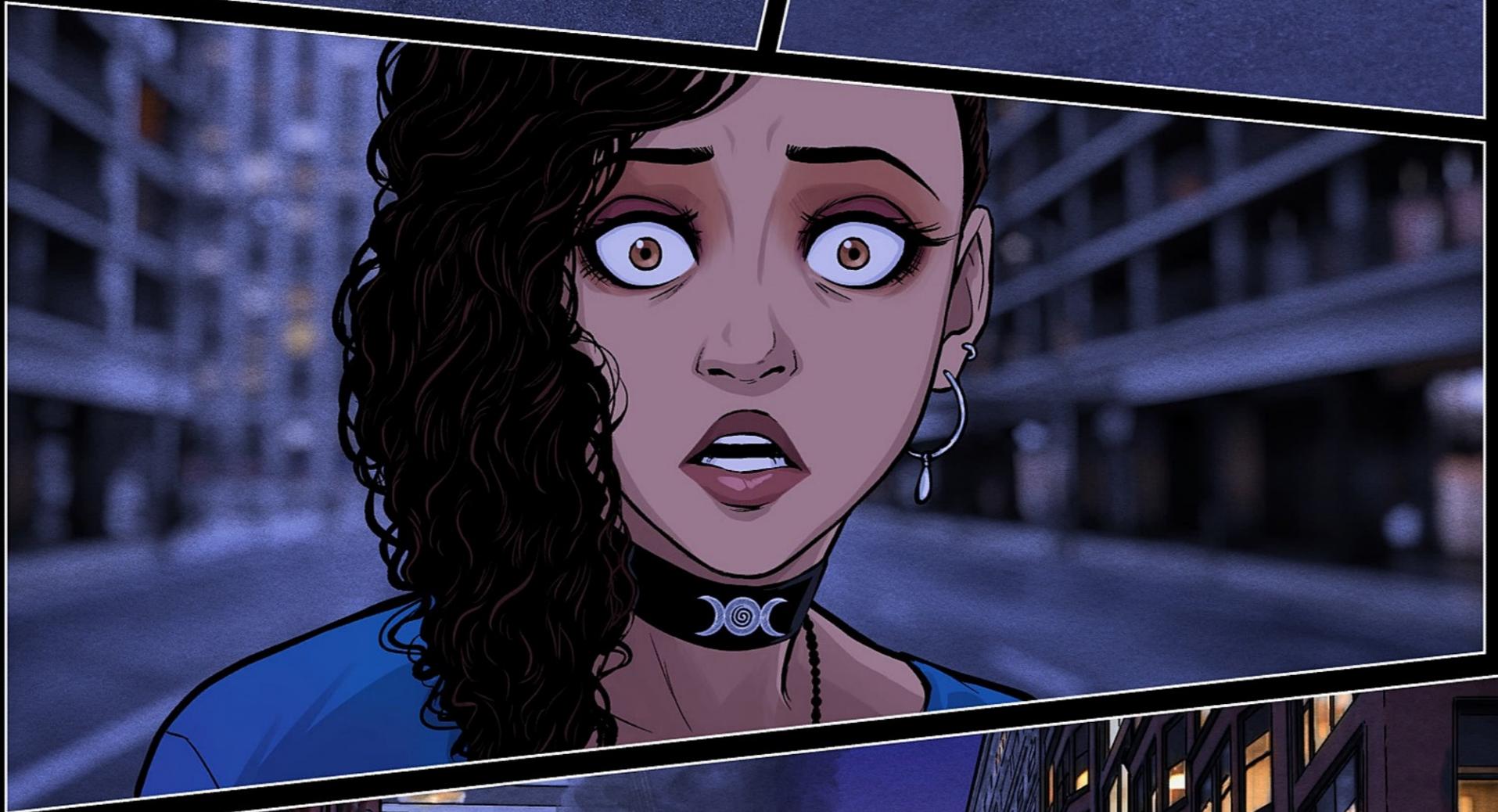


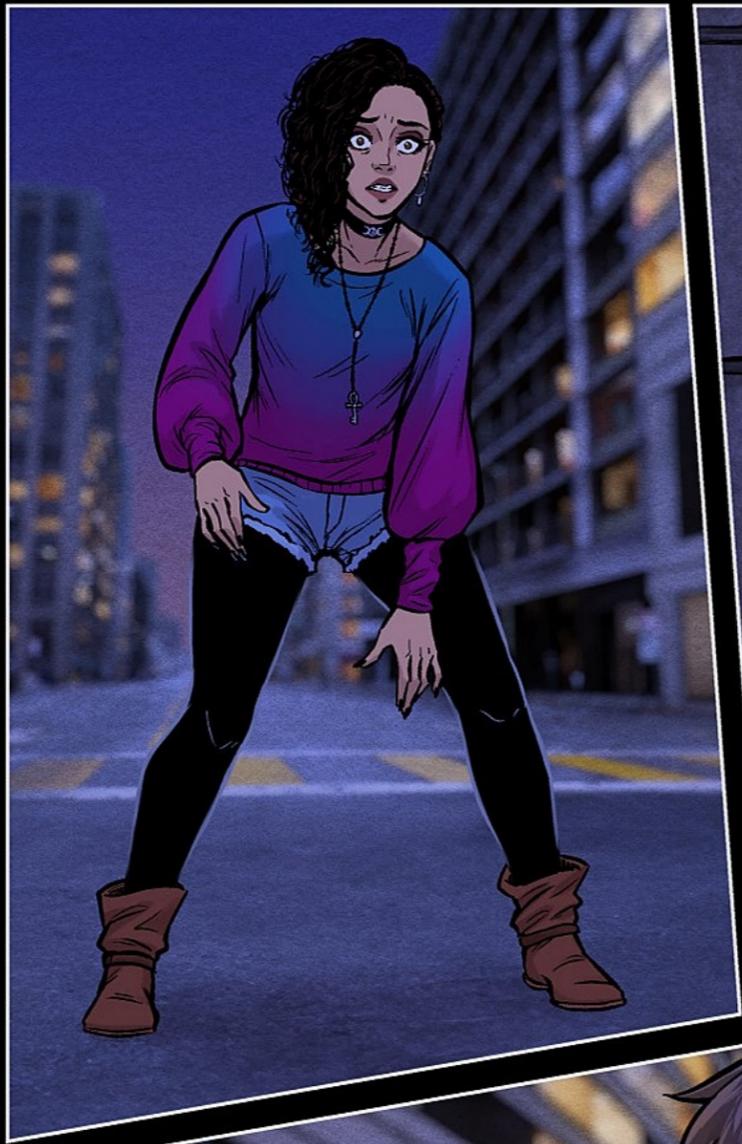












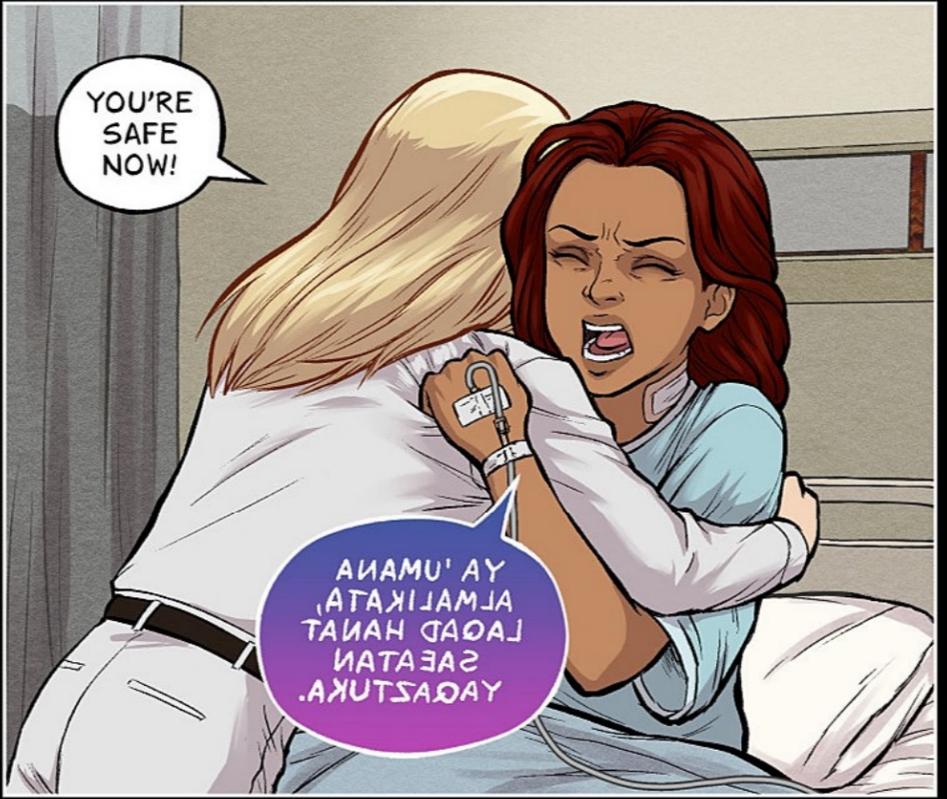






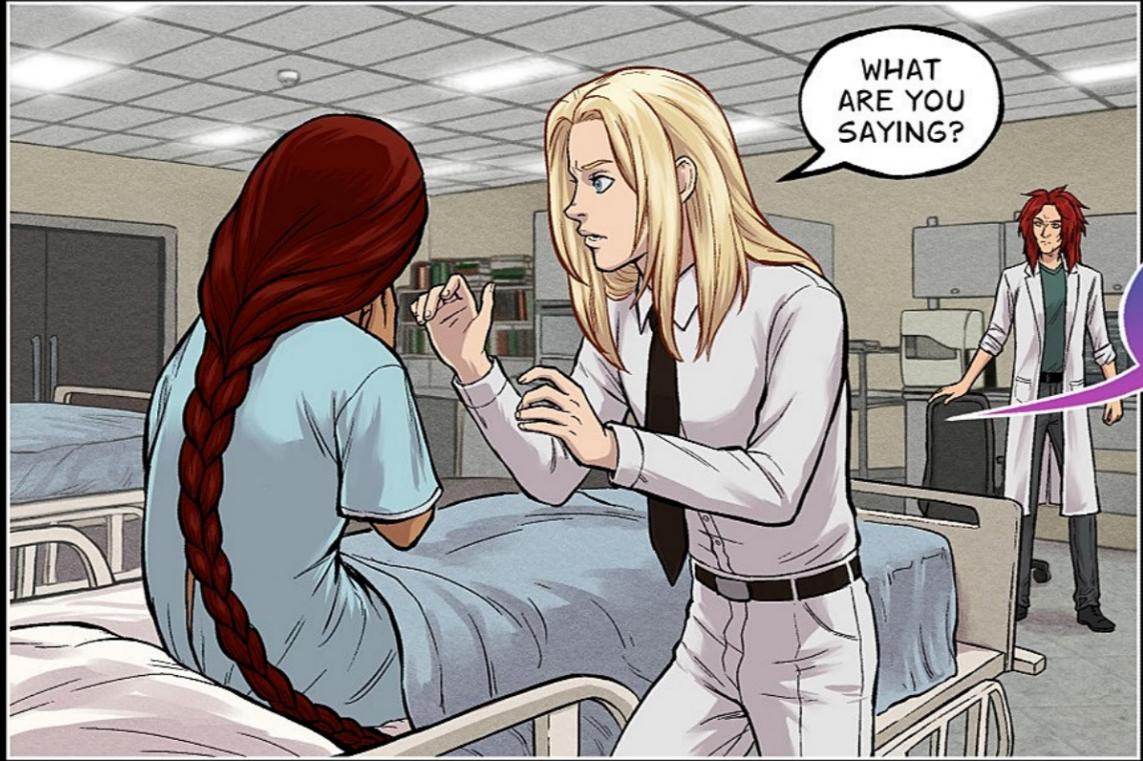
Я ЗАБАВЛЯЮ
ИДИИ, КРАСИВЫЕ
ИДИИ! А
ИДИИ!

NITA!



YOU'RE
SAFE
NOW!

ИДИИ! А
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!

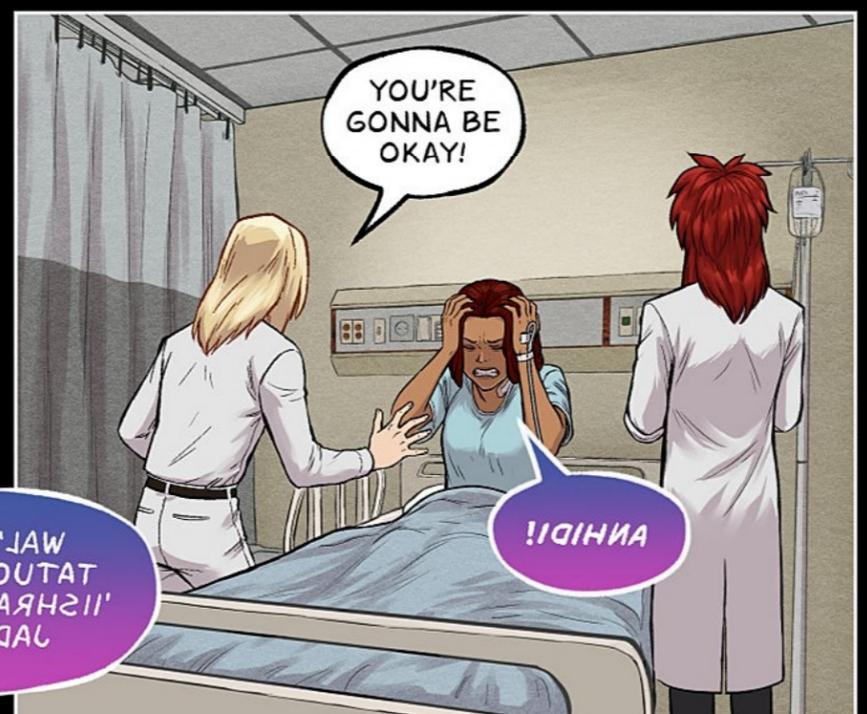
PLEASE!
CALM
DOWN.



ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!



ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!
ИДИИ!



YOU'RE
GONNA BE
OKAY!

ИДИИ!

