

Paper Girls 8



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ISSUE 08

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CLIFF CHIANG
MATT WILSON
JARED K. FLETCHER

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED T+ | TEEN PLUS

image

Paper Girls 8

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CLIFF CHIANG artist

MATT WILSON colors

JARED K. FLETCHER letters + design

DEE CUNNIFFE color flats

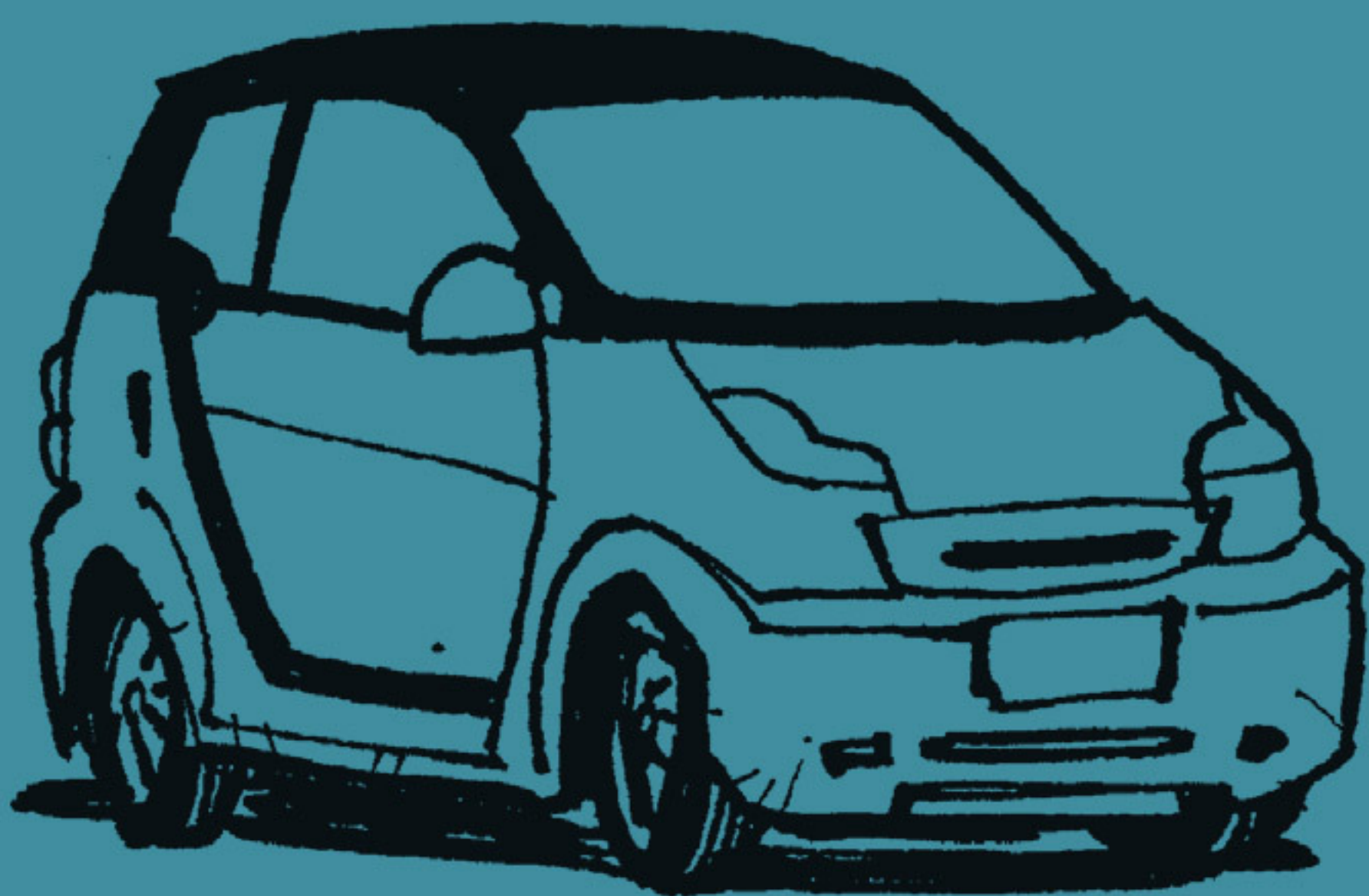


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ONLY TIME IS TIMELESS







Not since we snuck into this wasteland.



But don't panic, I won't quit until we find your lacrosse friend.

She plays *field hockey*, actually.



And to be honest, KJ isn't exactly a "friend." Not yet, anyway.

But she... she seems like she definitely *could* be. All those delivery girls do. Are you sure you guys never--

Kay-Bee!



Um, her name is KJ, not--

No, I meant the old *Kay-Bee Toys*.

This crazy map-thing I'm looking at just started flashing some kind of glowing *symbol* right in front of where that store used to be.

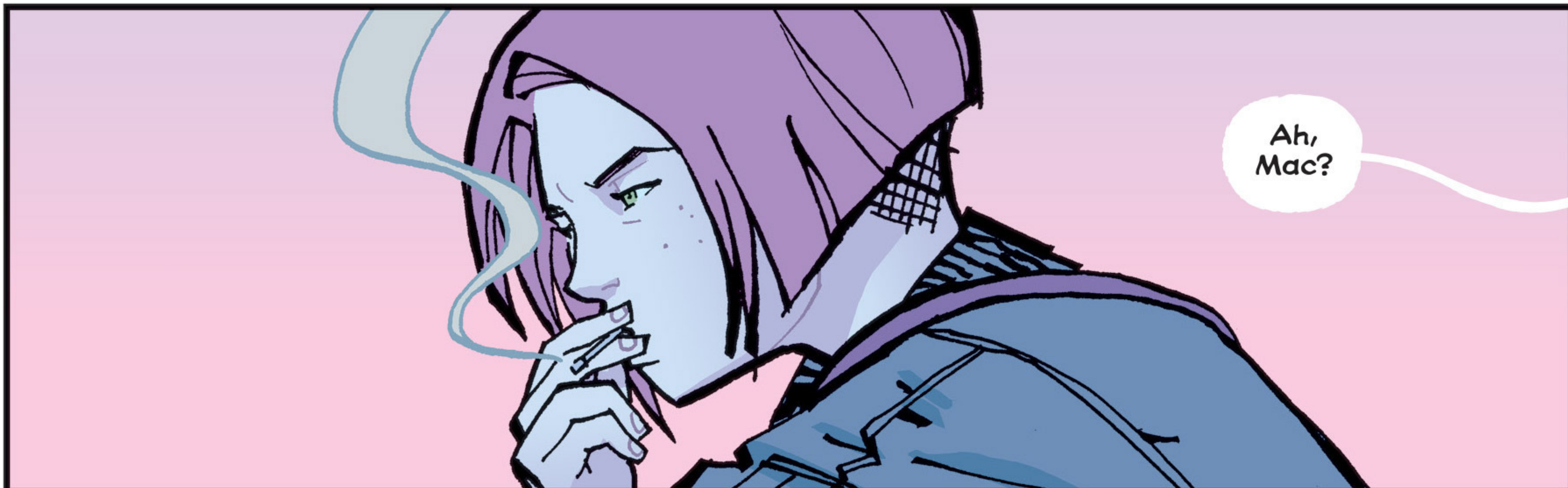
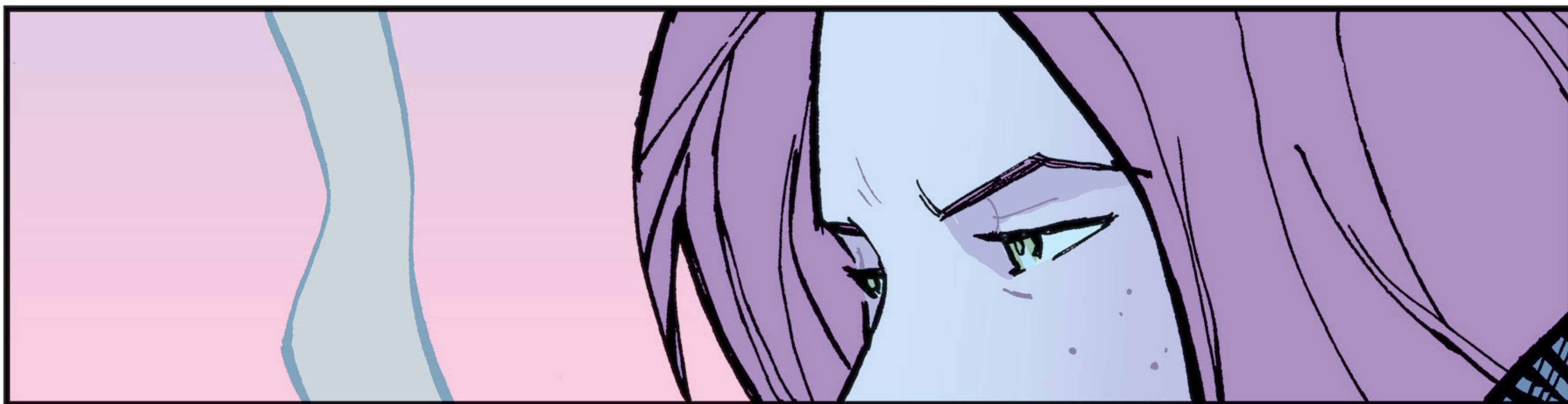


Across from the big fountain?

Yeah, the one dumb kids always tossed their change into.



Who the heck wastes their hard-earned money on a *wish*?





We don't *know* you're going to get sick.

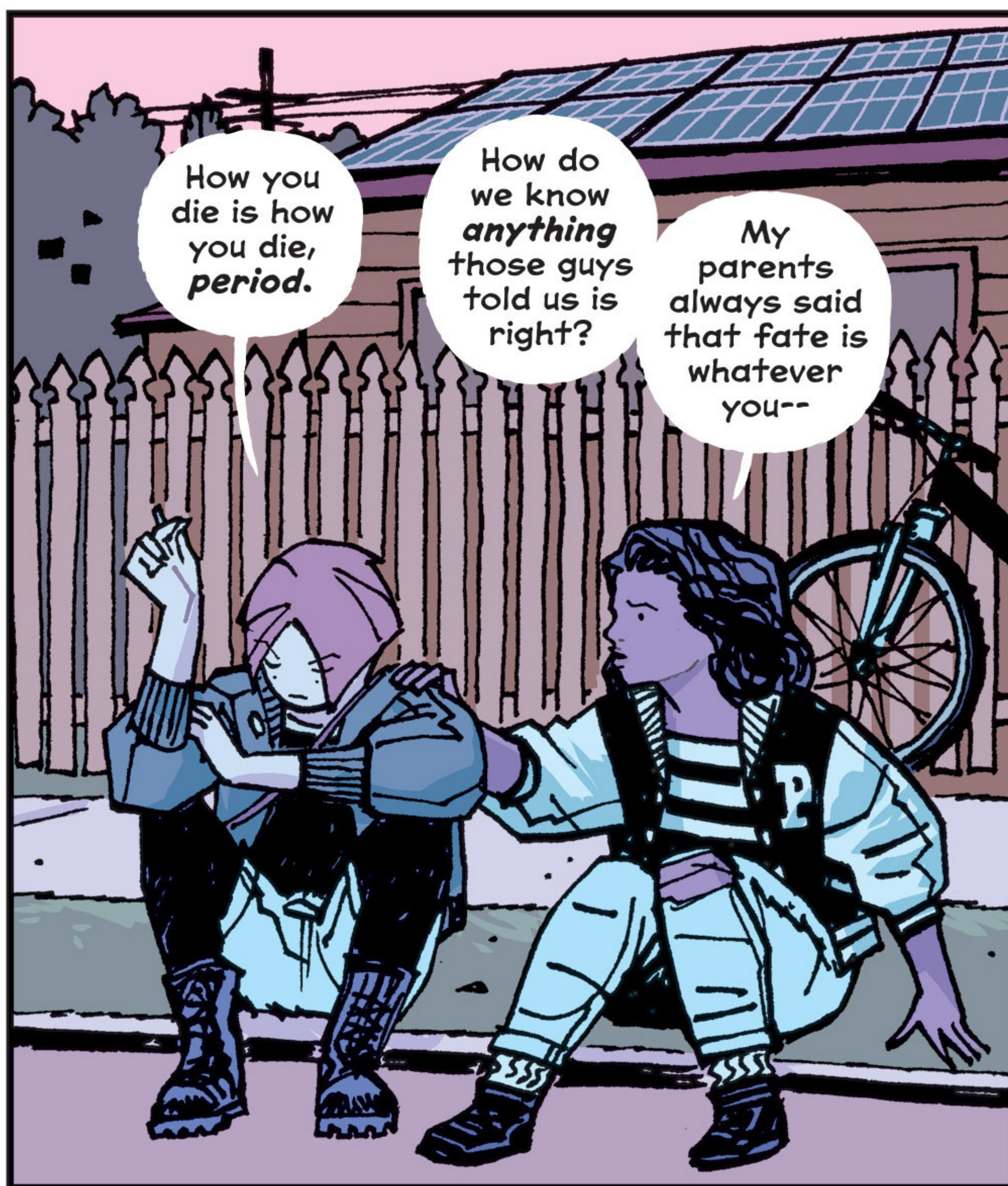
There's still a chance we can, you know... fix things.

Bullshit, Tiffany.



Remember what that one future teen told us?

"Your ending is your ending, no matter what."



How you die is how you die, *period*.

How do we know *anything* those guys told us is right?

My parents always said that fate is whatever you--

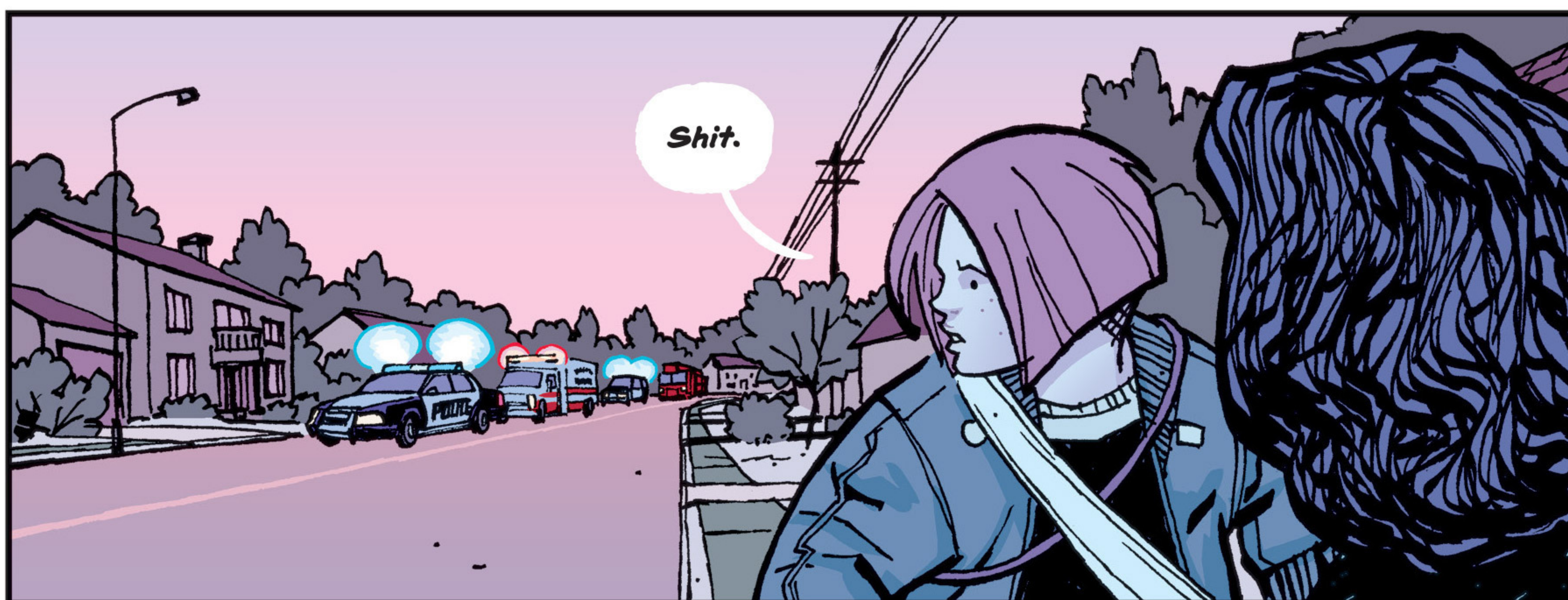
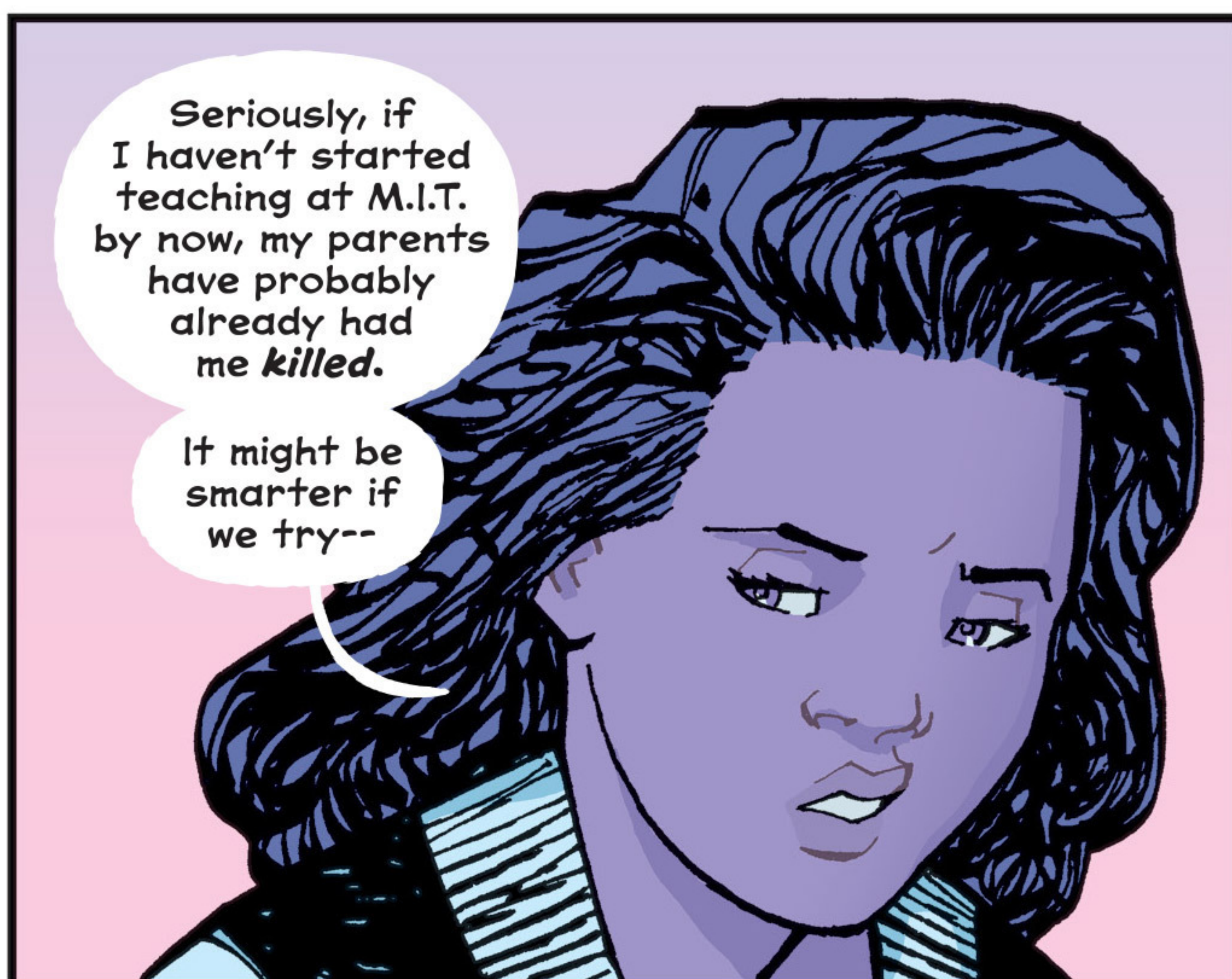


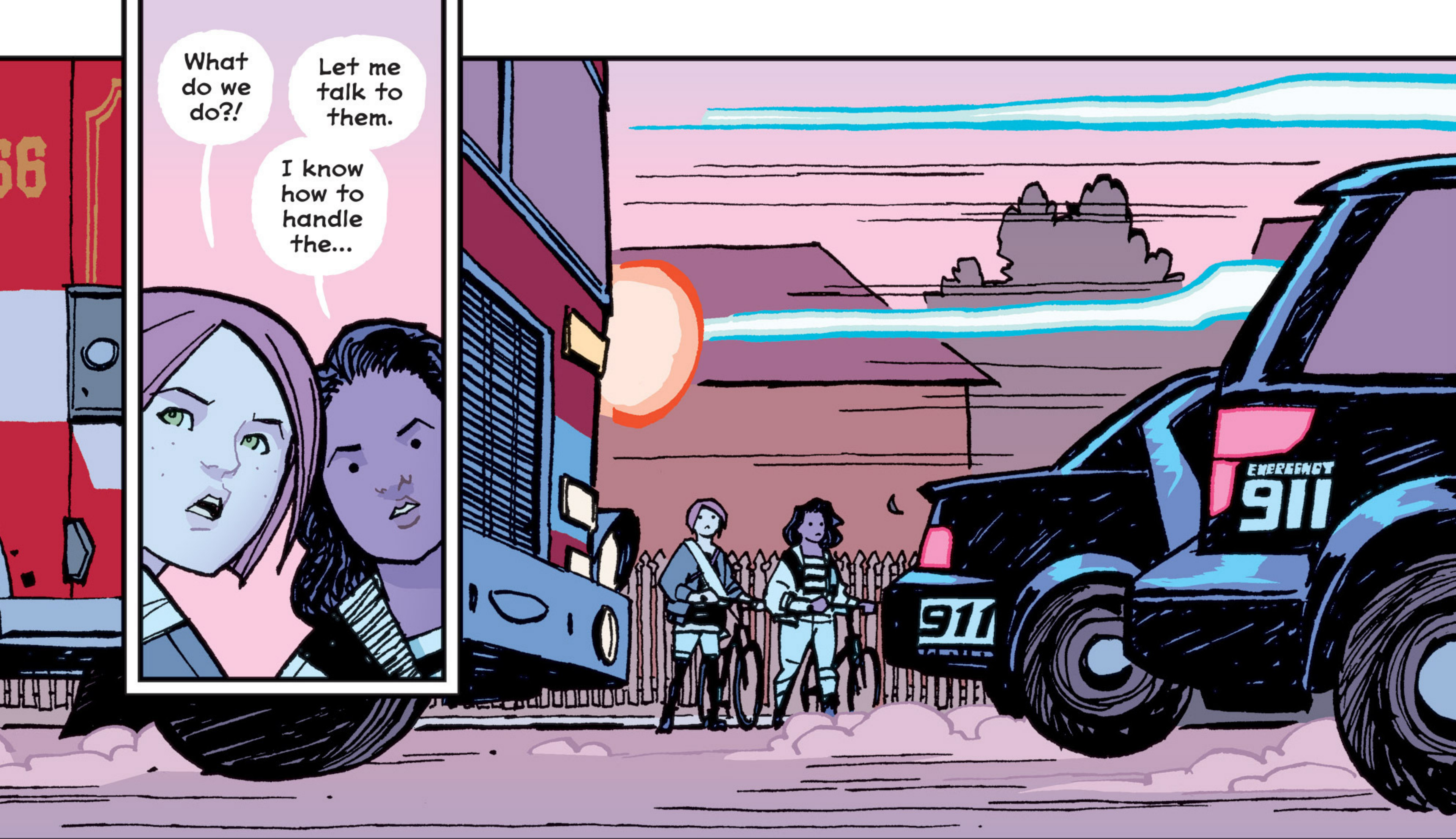
Thanks, but I don't need the *Afterschool Special* talk.

Sounds like I've got, what, three or four years left?



That's a fuckin' eternity.





What do we do?!

Let me talk to them.

I know how to handle the...

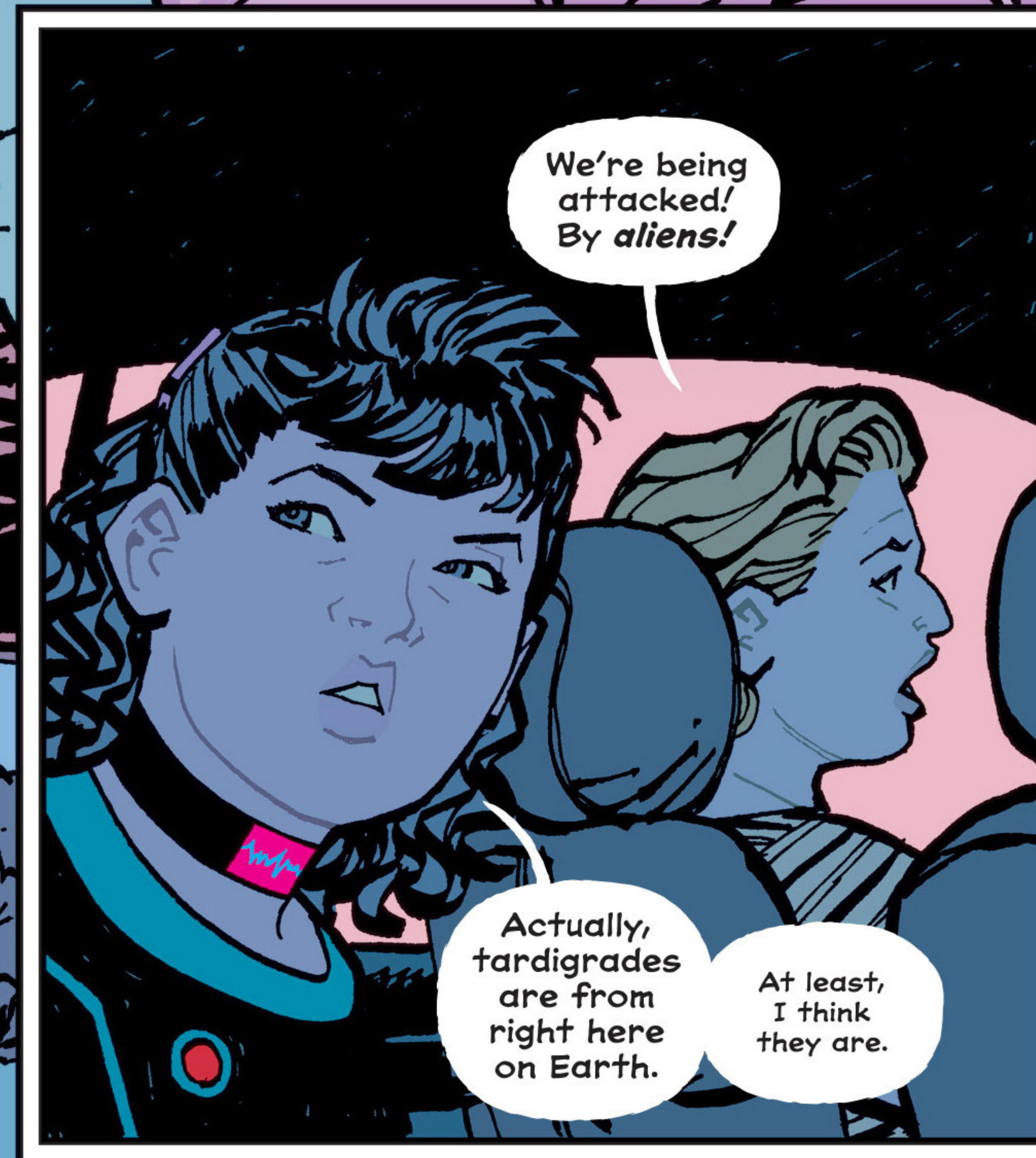
...fuzz?

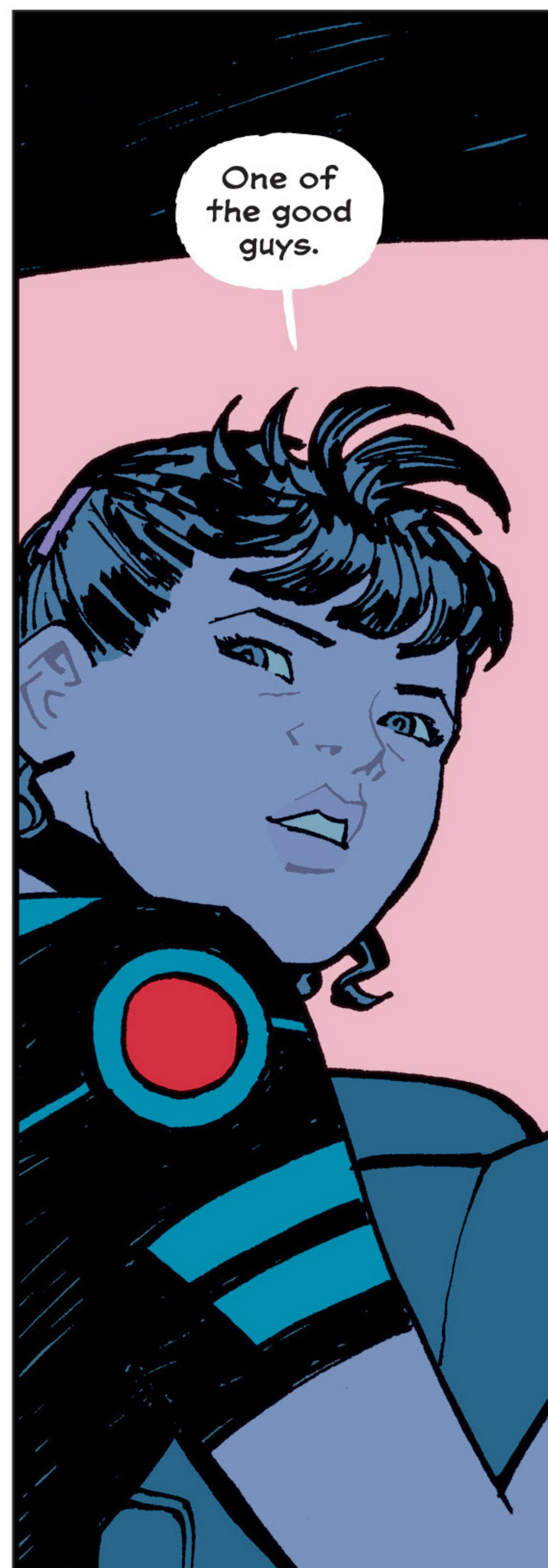
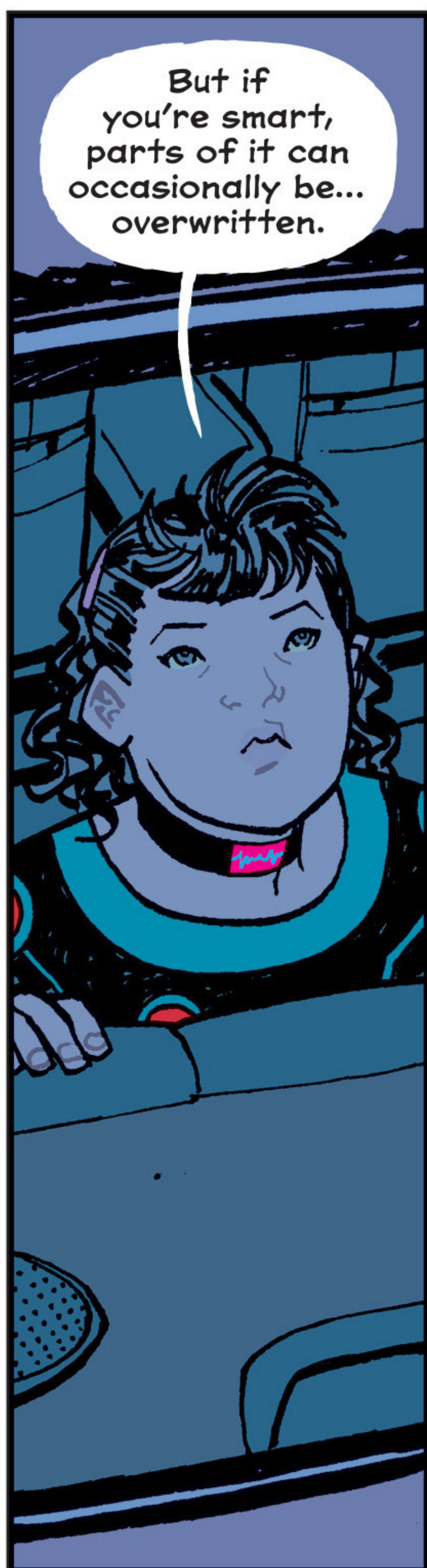
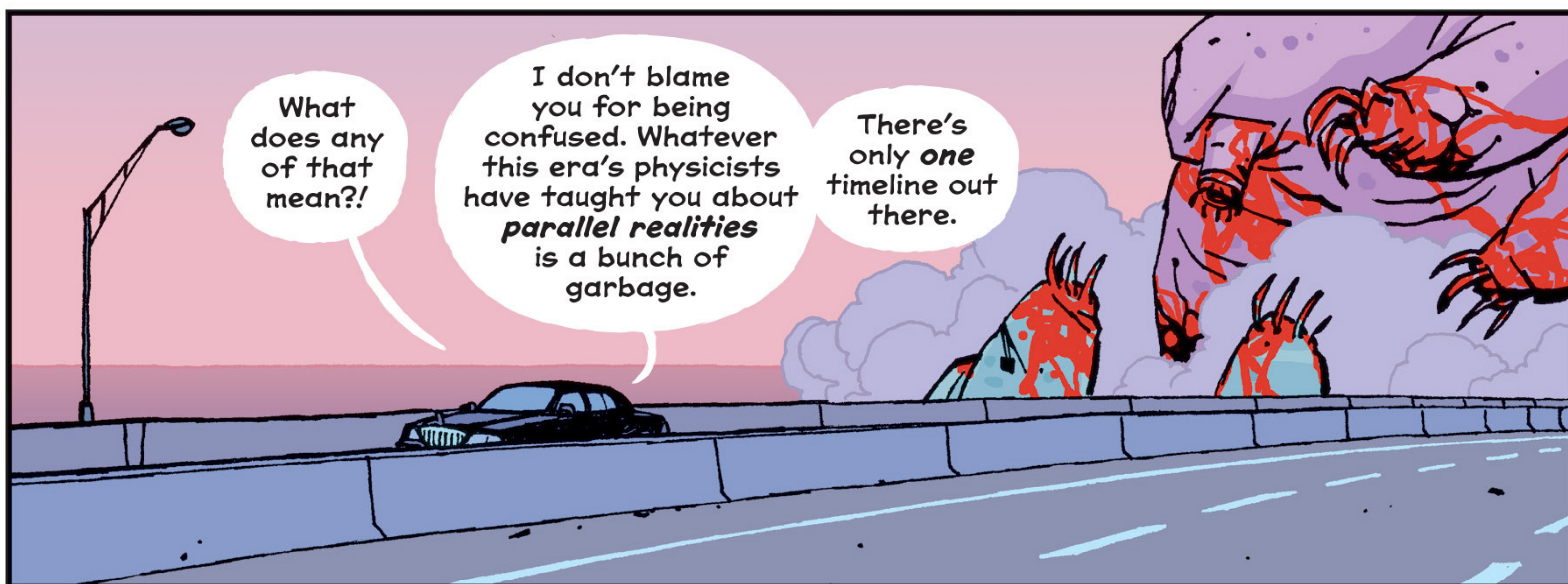
The hell are they off to in such a hurry?

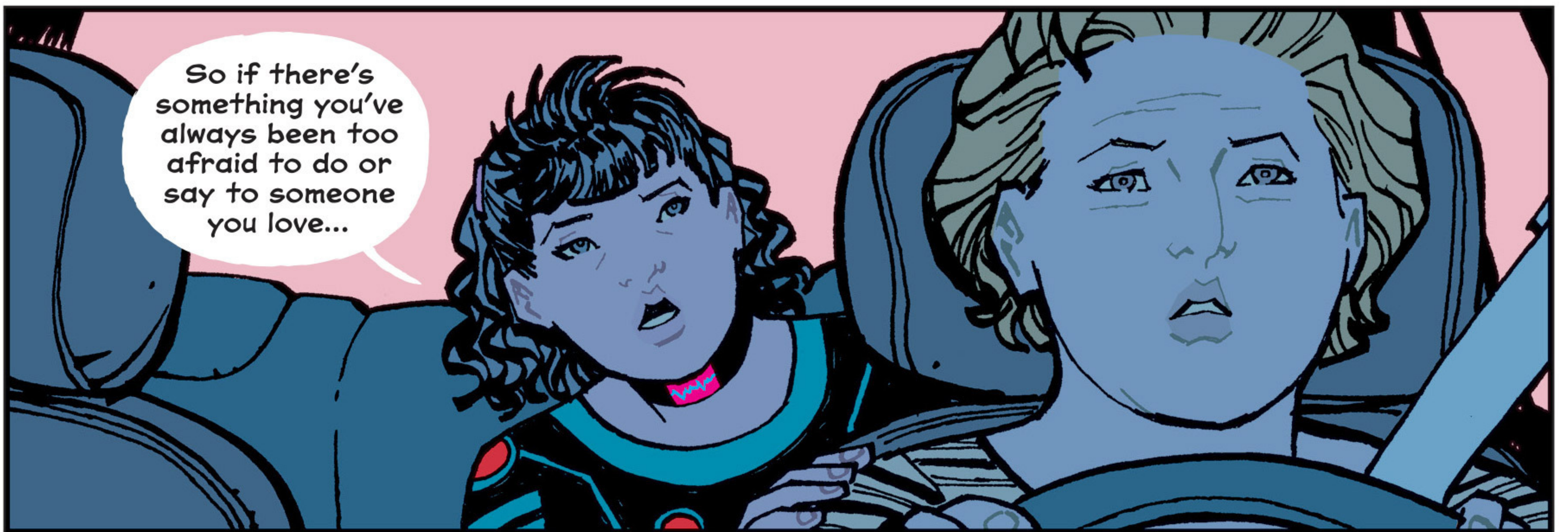
I don't know... but maybe we should get to the mall, make sure the two Erins are okay?

That was like the entire Stony police department, Mac.

Whatever's happening, it's not just kids with cherry bombs.





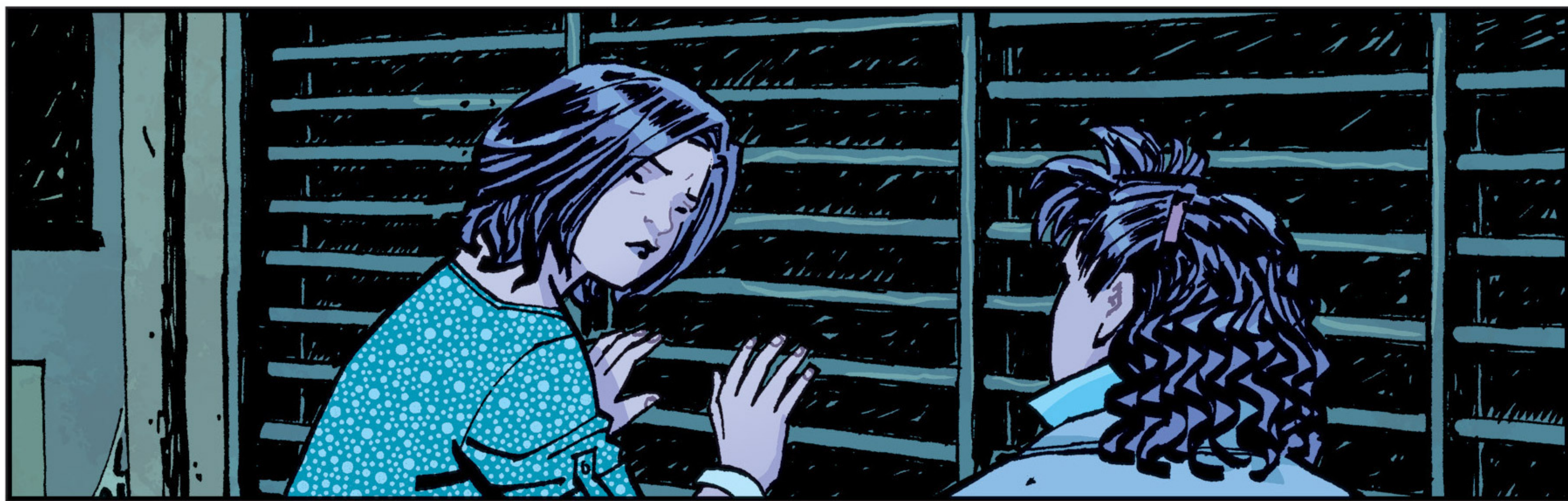




Hello?

Anybody...?

KAJE!



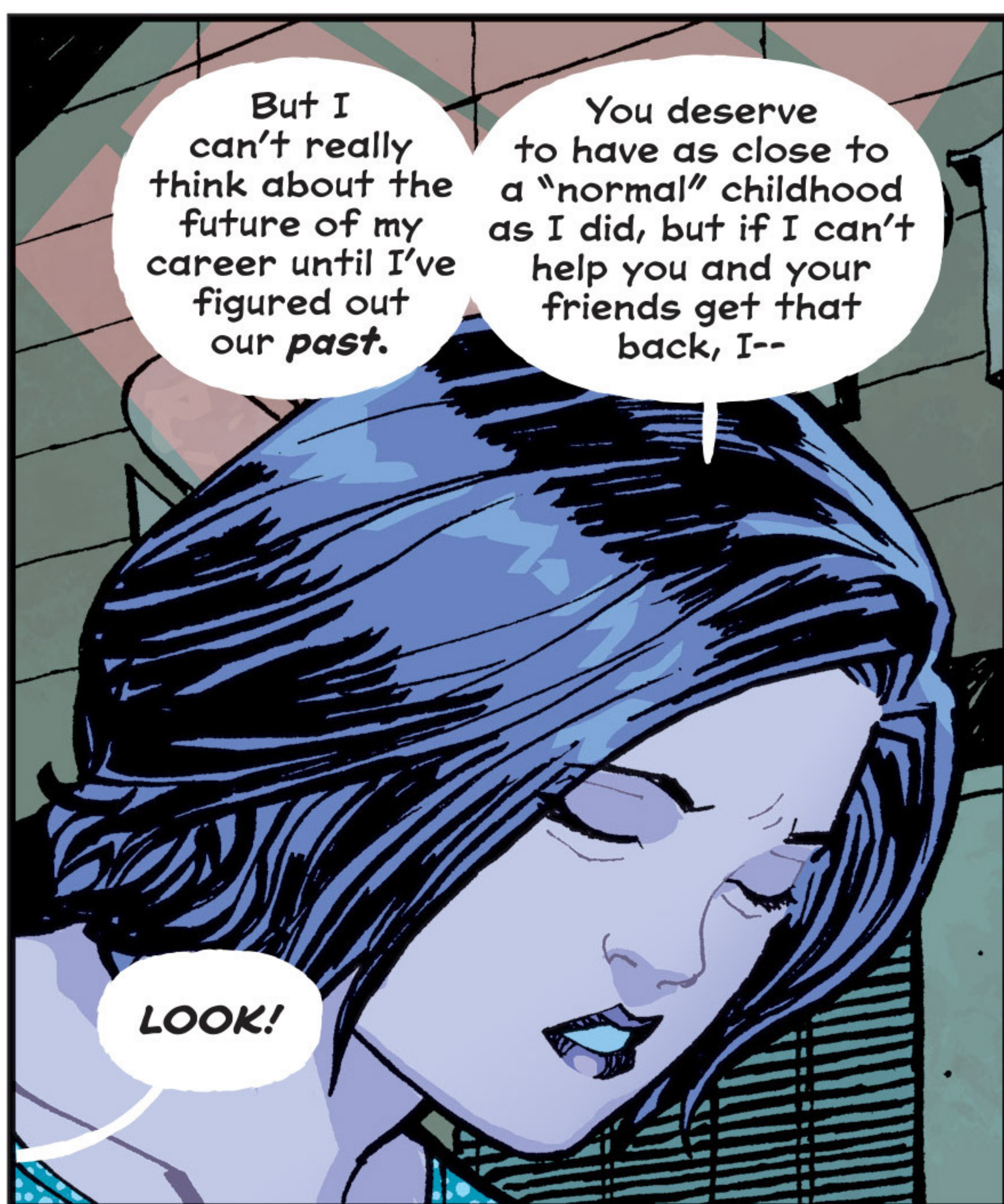
Maybe
it's time we
asked for
some help,
Erin.

From
whom,
Erin?

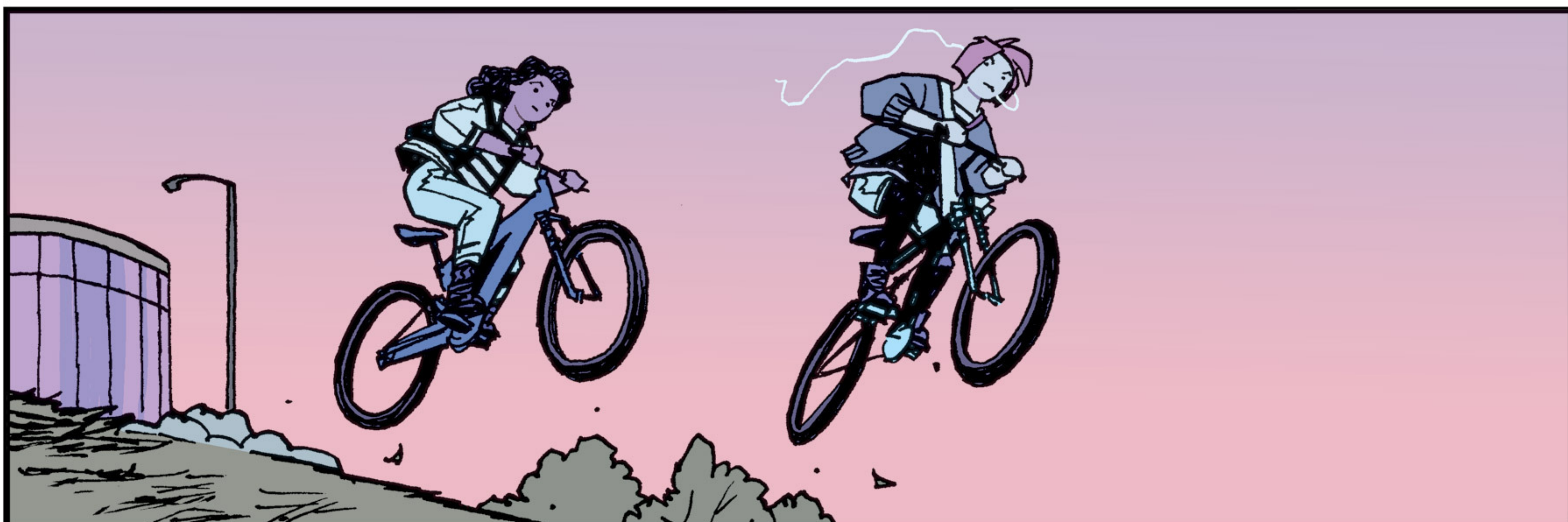
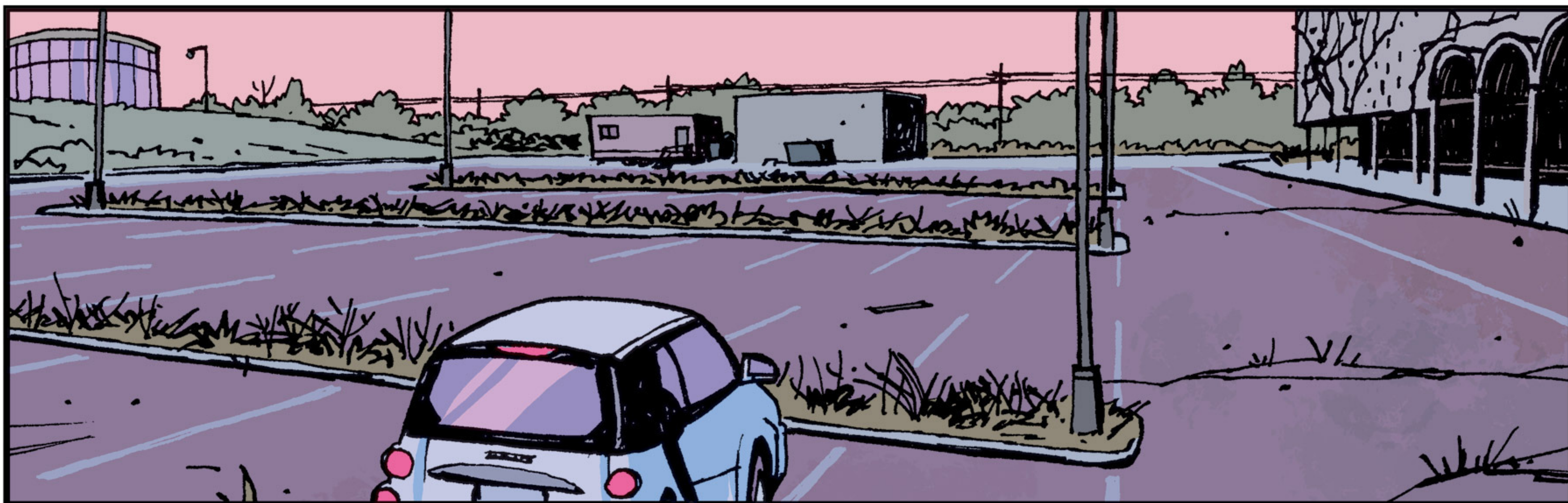
The
cops?



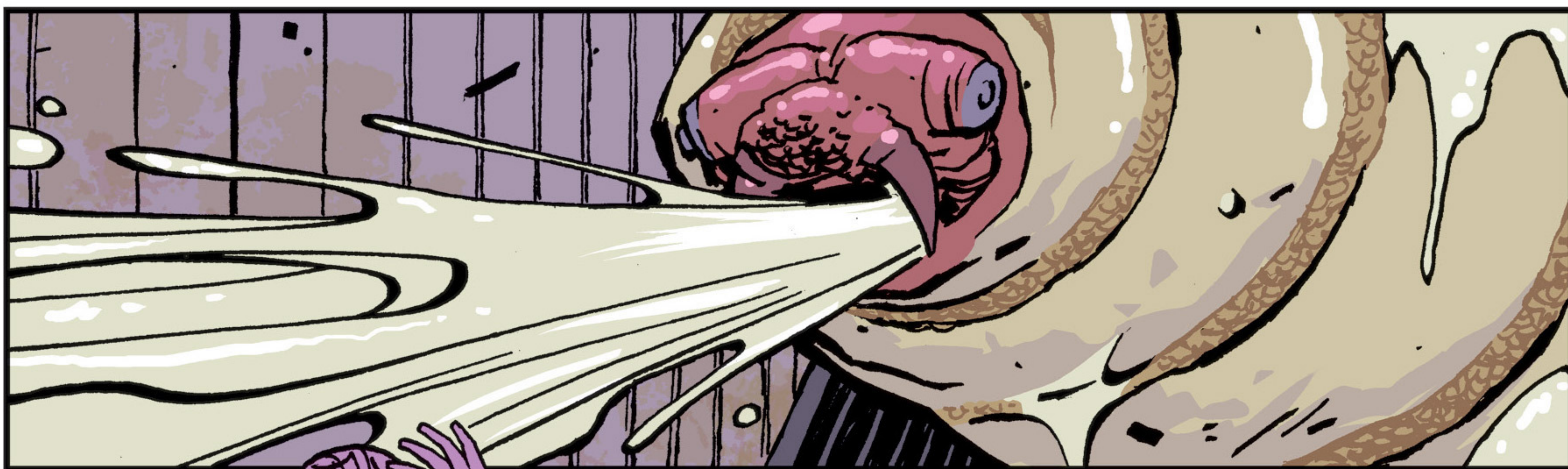
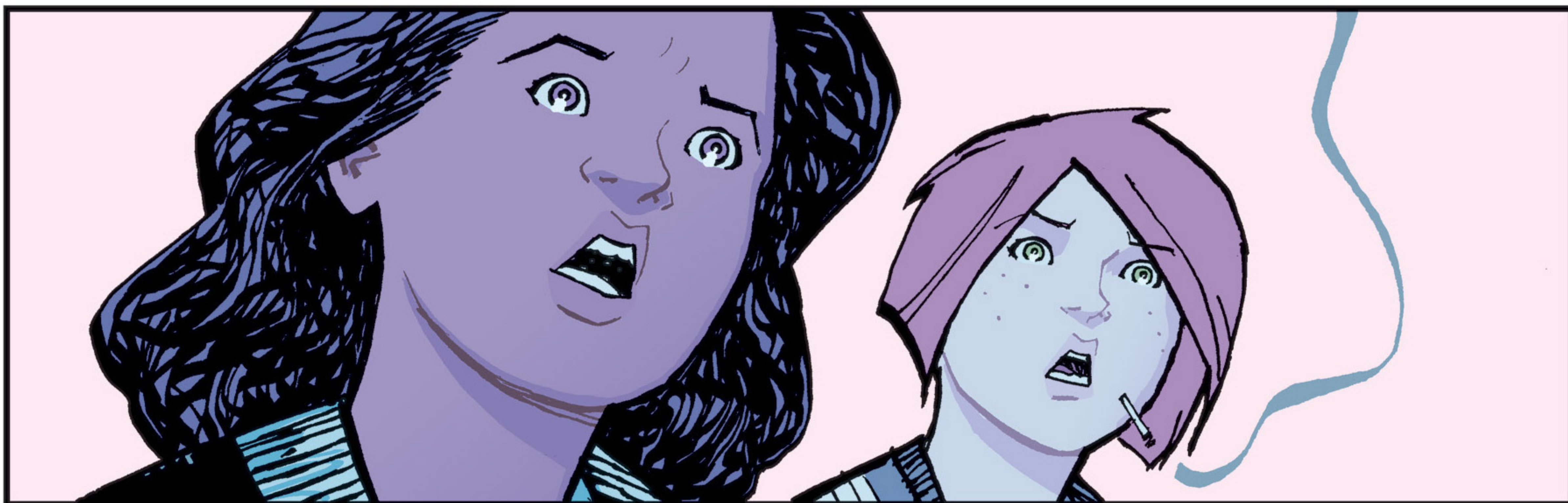
They're
probably in
on this whole
conspiracy.

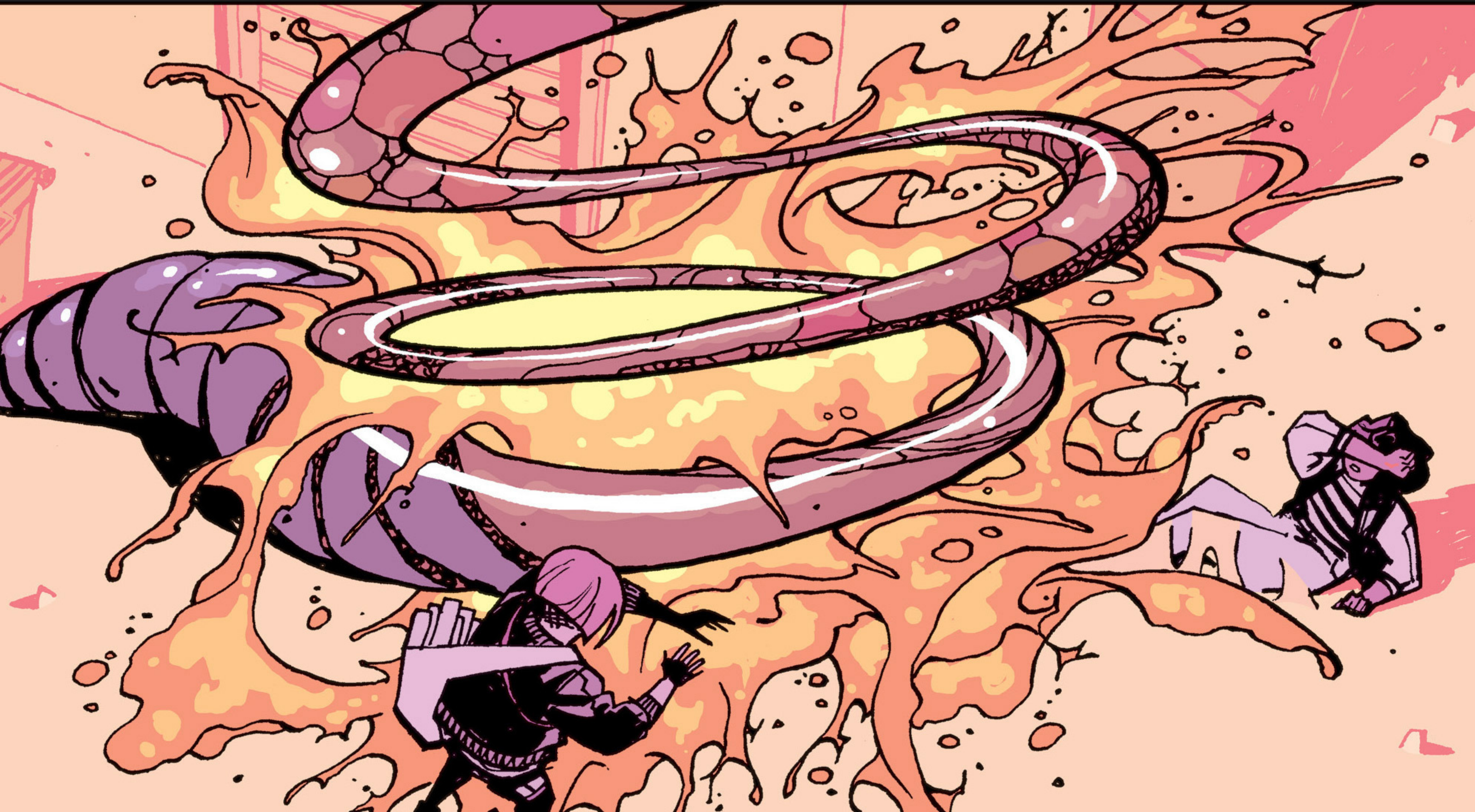




















Um.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

SINCE 1899!

Hey, Guys...and Girls!



Rita Pearl the **Papergirl**



Dear A.N.D.G.,

I hope there are still cards available, as I would love to join! I'm also submitting a recipe to the Latchkey Lunchroom! I call it the "Nacho Grilled Cheese!"

1. You take two pieces of bread and butter them.
2. On the bottom slice, put some cheese. Your favorite cheese!
3. Add some nachos on top.
4. Then more cheese on that!
5. Put the other slice on and microwave for 30 seconds. 45 if the microwave isn't strong.

Rita Pearl, Paper Girl, at your service once again!

The responses are flooding in, and it's awesome to see how many of you are down with our newly relaunched A.N.D.G.! I'm overwhelmed by the volume of new membership requests. Literally. So please bear with us as we wade through the pile and get the new cards out to your folks who diligently sent in your SASEs.

I'm sorry to tell you that if you haven't gotten to the mailbox yet, you've missed the window for cards this time around. But that doesn't mean we can't still be friends! Rita's mailbag is always open for letters from both members and wannabes. Feel free to drop us a line with your questions, queries, reflections—whatever you've got! Even those weird old microwave recipes are still welcome. In fact, here's one to start us off:

6.Eat.

Sincerely, **Richard S.**

Fayetteville, AR

Gooley, chewy and crunchy, too! I was with you right up until Step 6, Richard.

Dear American Newspaper Delivery Guild,

I was never officially a paperboy, but instead helped out my papergirl neighbor on her route several times a week. She always gave me the option for payment in cash or pizza coupons. Looking back now, I wonder if always taking the pizza coupons was the best idea. Should I have taken the money instead? Or should I just have been happy to be that close to an official paperboy? Let me know what you think!

Steve G.

Milwaukee, WI

I appreciate your letter, Steve,

and the friendship that you gave to that intrepid young woman many years ago!

In answer to your question: as a general rule, no one should ever accept pizza coupons as payment for anything. If your friend asked you to cover for her, or to take over a portion of her route, then it would be fair for her to also split her paycheck with you. You should definitely have taken the money!

That said, it's unclear from your letter whether you were "helping her out" because she asked for your help, or because you just wanted to be around her, and be a part of something cool. If it's the latter, then she didn't owe you a thing. The pizza coupons were an extra perk, a way of making it clear that she appreciated you but didn't want to owe you anything. So if that's the case, you were right to take them and refuse the cash.

Hi Rita!

I love all of this girl power—between you and the Paper Girls I am absolutely smitten. Though I don't have the great job that you have or the bad-ass points that the Girls have, I hope that I can be an allied member of the A.N.D.G.!

Sincerely, **Morgan Podraza**

Albuquerque, NM

You can certainly join! And you can also earn "bad-ass points" in many other ways, like: standing up for a friend, helping a young person through a sticky situation, or fighting for a cause that you are passionate about.

Come on Morgan, go out and earn those points!

Welcome aboard, Rita!

Very happy to have you running the show these days. Please tell me that rates for delivery folks have adjusted with the times, though. I could barely afford to buy comics with what little cash I made all those years ago.

Cheers, **Michael**

Walnut, CA

PS. And comics cost a whopping 35 cents then, too!!!

Thanks for the warm welcome, Michael! As I'm sure our readers are aware, things have definitely changed in the world of newspaper delivery over the last few decades. Most of our deliverers do get paid a little more now, but that's because they're often adults, slinging their papers from car windows, before they head out to a second job.

Minors delivering newspapers are still exempt from minimum wage laws, and still don't make a whole lot of dough. Between 10-15 cents per paper, is what I've heard is the going rate. But I'd love to hear from any deliverers out there what the routes pay in

their hood! What are you guys making these days?

Dear American Newspaper Delivery Guild,

I'm bummed to see that Petey Roy has retired. (Question: people sometimes move away to a different country or Florida and take up golf when they retire, but what does the infamous paperboy do in his retirement?) Anyways, I'm thrilled to see a female mascot! It's what I've been waiting to see all these years! Girls represent!

I would love to join A.N.D.G. and receive that sweet membership card. To be part of this awesome guild is a dream come true (if it happens)!

So glad to see that the Guild has been resurrected. Excited to see all the goodness that will come out.

Cheers, **Dee**

Oakland, CA

Your sweet membership card is on its way, Dee! While I never got to meet Petey personally, what I heard from the lawyers who sold us this outfit is that he moved someplace out west and is living off the grid. Which does not surprise me. There's only so much news you can absorb before you end up needing to live in a cave for a while. Petey has earned his quiet time, for sure!

Speaking of Petey, I'm still sifting through his epic mailpile, and thought I'd share a couple of those with you:

Dear Petey Roy of the Paper Boys,

I write to you from glorious Soviet Union regarding your decadent capitalist publication. I see you have much preoccupation with the employment of girls. Why is this? In our worker's paradise, all proletarians are guaranteed right to work. Plenty of money for all needs. Vodka, turnip, potato.

All needs.

Regarding filthy bourgeois publication, is quite excellent despite inferior western mind polluted by mass, unnecessary over-consumption. And, though it probably far less efficient than our mighty Communist Union of Paper Delivery, I wish to join your A.N.D.G. under the American pseudonym on self-enclosed envelope.

Yuri Andreivich Smellnikov

PS. We will bury you!

Well, it's 2016 and the only thing I'm buried in over here is mail. So, I'm thinking we won? No hard feelings, Yuri. And while the A.N.D.G. is only officially open to residents of the U.S. and Canada, I suppose we can make an exception for you, comrade, as you did enclose a proper SASE. Sorry for making you wait so long!

Petey,

The year is 3088, and hard copy newspapers are still in high demand (despite most other products being obsolete—you would not believe how hard it was to find a sheet of plain engineering paper!). Unfortunately, the A.N.D.G. has faded into memory over the centuries, and not much evidence of its existence remains. As a History teacher, this is heartbreaking—that a strong and respected institution is all but forgotten. I request an A.N.D.G. membership card by using a very special form of time-travel correspondence to place this letter into the USPS system millennia in the past. The purpose is to demonstrate to my pupils the existence and importance of your organization, so please send a membership card back as soon as possible. You will notice that the return address is an Air Force address—this is because even as early as 1988, the Air Force had time-travel capabilities. They will know what to do upon receiving

this letter.

Regards, **Jonah S. B. Hide**

PS, Of course I feel comfortable getting my morning paper delivered by a girl. Also, I apologize for any weird time-travel implication of sending this letter back in time—they should be minor at the worst.

Okay, Jonah, I think you're just messing with Petey...right?

Dear Petey,

I don't know much about delivering papers, but when I was a young human* my parents showed me this weird machine they got from the future**. It was called a Nintend? Or Nendo? No, maybe it was Nine-Tender. None the less, it played digital games, one was titled, "Paperboy." I got to control this paperboy and do his digital route. A lady got mad at me and chased me with a rolling pin. There was also a tornado. So, you know, I still don't know much about delivering papers. At least in reality. Having said that, I would love to join the A.N.D.G. I could be beneficial. I know a little about the future.

Cheers! **Abraham**

West Chester, PA

*as I am no longer young, or human

**my parents were recreational time-travelers

This is getting weird. I think I'll go back to my letters. For the record, we can't accept memberships from other timelines. Okay? Can we be clear on that? Even with an SASE, I just...don't even want to go there.

Dear A.N.D.G.,

I don't use social media. Just wanted to say thanks for the 88 bucks. Very cool idea to bring back the mail fan club. You don't know how excited I was when I read that I was the winner. I'm

keeping the check forever, by the way.

Looking forward to future issues,

Sarah Hunt

Montgomery, AL

We at the A.N.D.G don't use social media, either! Print publications FTW. We're very grateful to our anonymous benefactor for supporting the community of deliverers and providing cash prizes to people like you! So sweet that you're going to hang onto the check—save it for a rainy day.

Rita Pearl,

First off, congratulations on your new position with A.N.D.G. I've been a proud member since their first issue, and just finished reading issue #6. The story just keeps getting better. I can't wait to see what happens now that we have three Erins all in the same present day. Tell your bosses that I thought it was a nice touch having the radio say the same date as the release date of issue #6, it makes the story more immersive with all these small touches like allowing us to be members of the A.N.D.G. Along those lines, will you be sending out any alien language decoders? I've made my own, but would love to have an official A.N.D.G. one.

I've included my postcard for the prize drawing. I'll keep my fingers crossed that I get something rad to replace that cool postcard.

Please tell your bosses to keep up the great work. PAPER GIRLS is the one publication I look forward to getting more than any other.

Kindest Regards,

Ryan T., Paperboy

Raleigh, NC

Ryan, you crazy cat, you actually mailed back your postcard! As promised, your card, along with other returned cards, was entered

into a drawing. And I'm happy to report that you have been selected as this month's winner of some AWESOME PRIZES!

Sadly, I don't have any decoder rings for you. While the A.N.D.G. occasionally shares print space with the comic publication PAPER GIRLS, the creators of that book are definitely not my "bosses." It's more of a loose association.

Sometimes they give me things for the prize box, though, and I am pleased to tell you that you have won a mess of cool comic books (or "graphic novels," as I guess they're called these days?), which should be showing up on your doorstep soon.

Congrats, Ryan!

Until next time, I'm signing off with this reminder: just because you're on summer break, doesn't mean you can be late! Set that alarm and get back on that bike. You can always snooze another time, kids!

Your bestest bud,

*Rita Pearl the **Papergirl***

CRYPTOGRAPHY CORNER

4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

Howdy, amateur code-breakers! The A.N.D.G. loves kids who can solve puzzles, so every reader who's able to somehow decipher the below gobbledygook and send us the 100% correct translation will be entered into a drawing to win some incredible original artwork! Good luck!

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1. 2019年12月31日，公司总资产为1,000,000,000.00元，净资产为500,000,000.00元。

የፌዴራል ሚኒስቴር ዘርፍ

ལྷན་སྐྱོང་གི་འབྲེལ་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་ཕྱི་རྒྱུ་དཔྱད་པའི་ཚུལ་གྱིས་ཤིག་ཏུ་ཡོད་པའི་ལྷན་སྐྱོང་གི་འབྲེལ་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་ཕྱི་རྒྱུ་དཔྱད་པའི་ཚུལ་གྱིས་ཤིག་ཏུ་ཡོད་པའི་

1. 项目背景与意义
 2. 项目目标与范围
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