

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN
CLIFF CHIANG
MATT WILSON
JARED K. FLETCHER



Paper GirlsTM

20

Paper Girls 20

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN writer

CLIFF CHIANG artist

MATT WILSON colors

JARED K. FLETCHER letters + design

DEE CUNNIFFE color flats



Image Comics, INC.

Robert Kirkman - Chief Operating Officer

Erik Larsen - Chief Financial Officer

Todd McFarlane - President

Marc Silvestri - Chief Executive Officer

Jim Valentino - Vice-President

Eric Stephenson - Publisher

Corey Hart - Director of Sales

Jeff Boison - Director of Publishing Planning & Book Trade Sales

Chris Ross - Director of Digital Sales

Jeff Stang - Director of Specialty Sales

Kat Salazar - Director of PR & Marketing

Drew Gill - Art Director

Heather Doornink - Production Director

Branwyn Bigglestone - Controller

IMAGECOMICS.COM

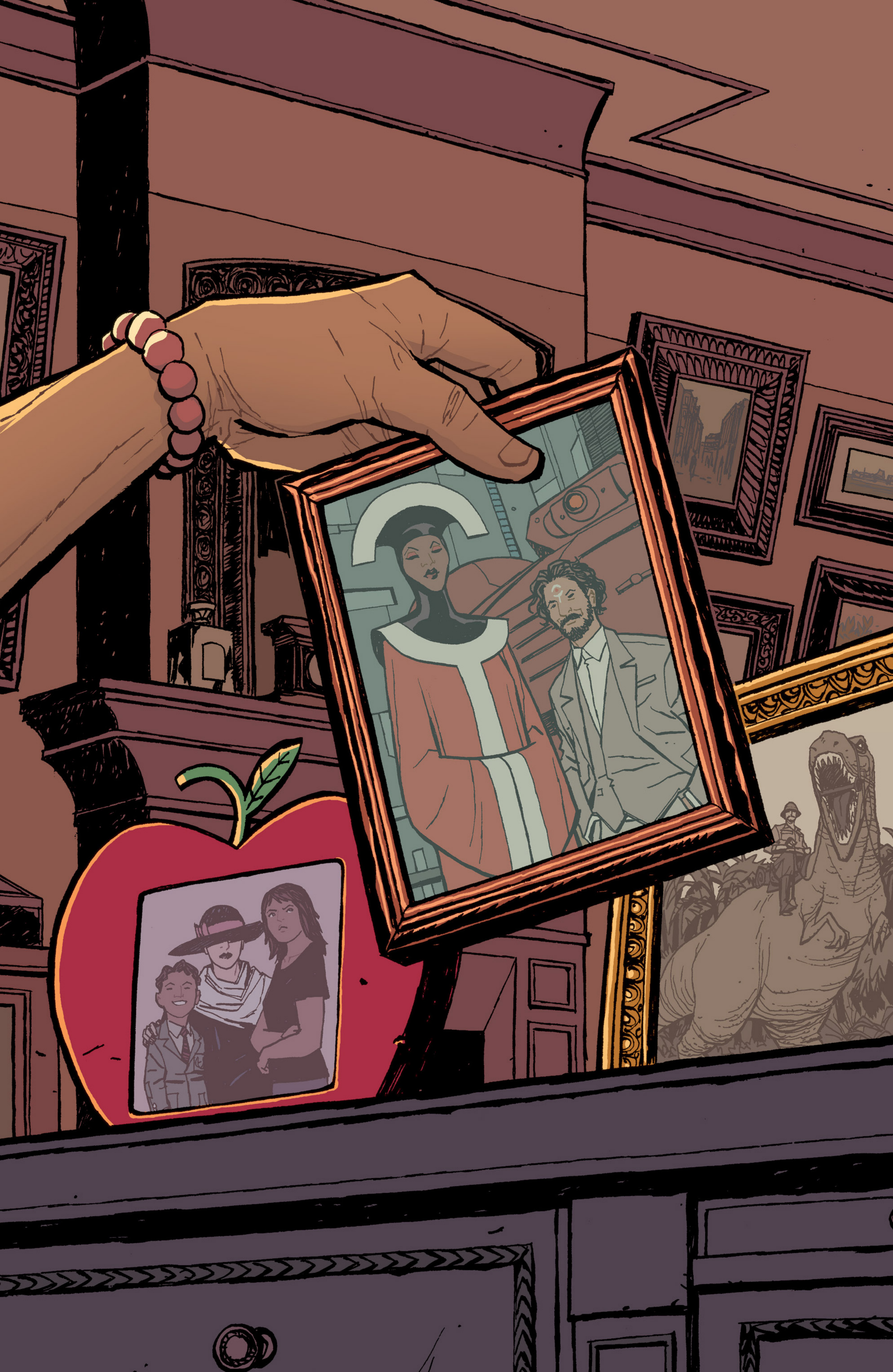


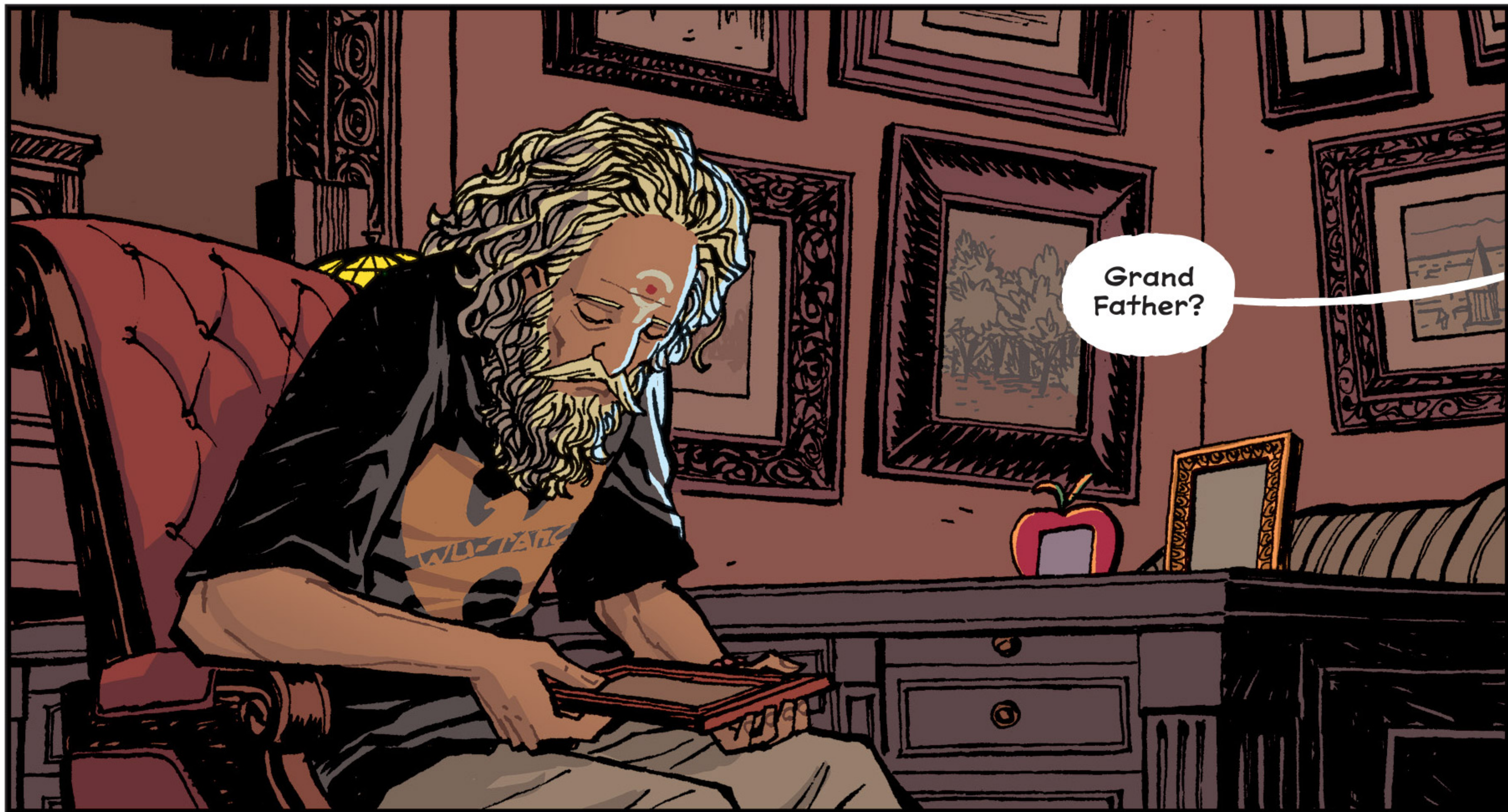
PAPER GIRLS #20. February 2018. Copyright © 2018 Brian K. Vaughan & Cliff Chiang. All rights reserved. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2701 NW Vaughn St., Suite 780, Portland, OR 97210. "Paper Girls," its logos, and the likenesses of all characters herein are trademarks of Brian K. Vaughan & Cliff Chiang, unless otherwise noted. "Image" and the Image Comics logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for journalistic or review purposes), without the express written permission of Brian K. Vaughan, Cliff Chiang or Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com

“ARMAGEDDON
Year 2000 Computer Bug
Will Turn Machine Against Man!”

-Weekly World News headline, 1999









Are you
girls all
right?

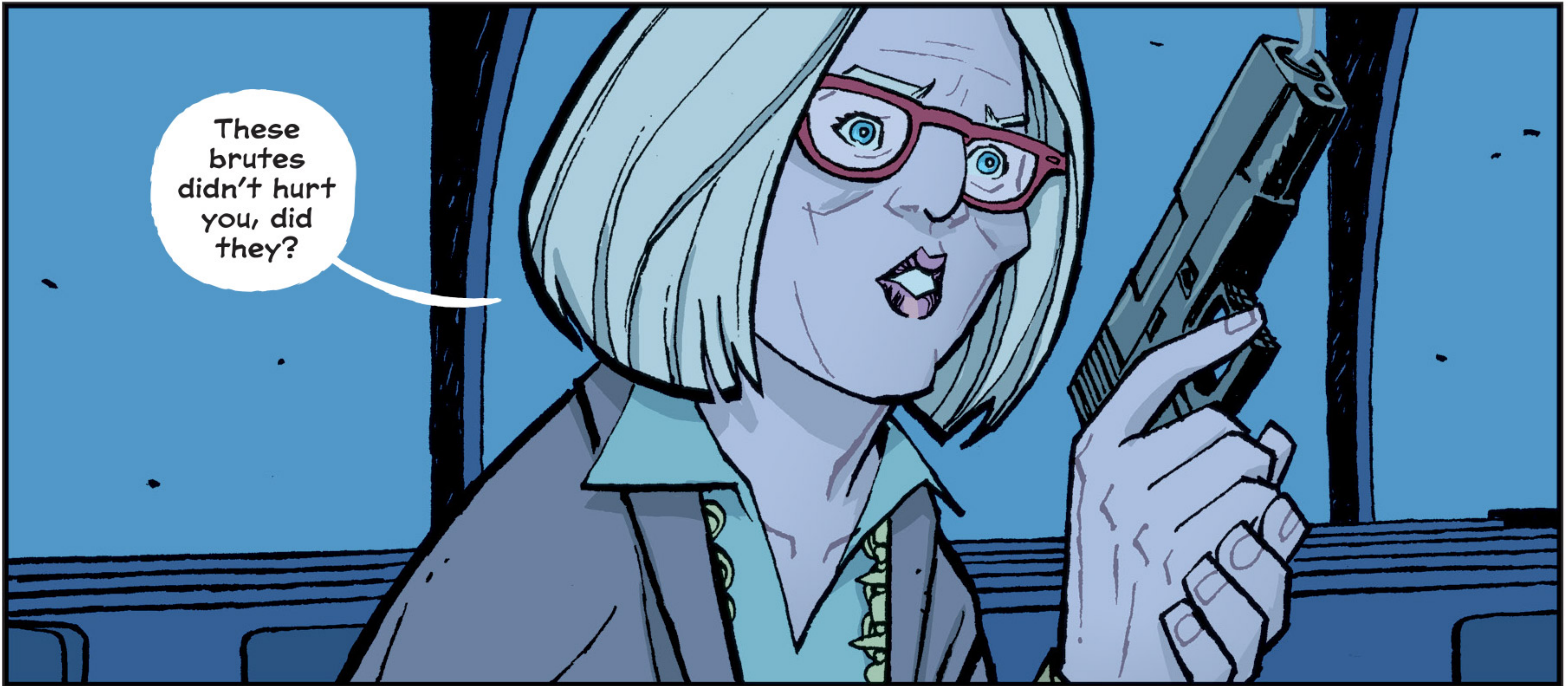
SAINT PETER'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**PRAISE JESUS,
YOU SURVIVED THE 90S!**

SATURDAY VIGIL 5:15PM

WEEKEND LITURGIES

SUNDAY MASSES 7:30AM, 9AM & 11:30AM



These brutes didn't hurt you, did they?



They killed Chris!

They *murdered* my future husband!

The men you shot, they...they *vaporized* him!



Sorry, *who* are these two?

Charlotte, that's our friend Tiffany.

Both of them.



You're from the future?

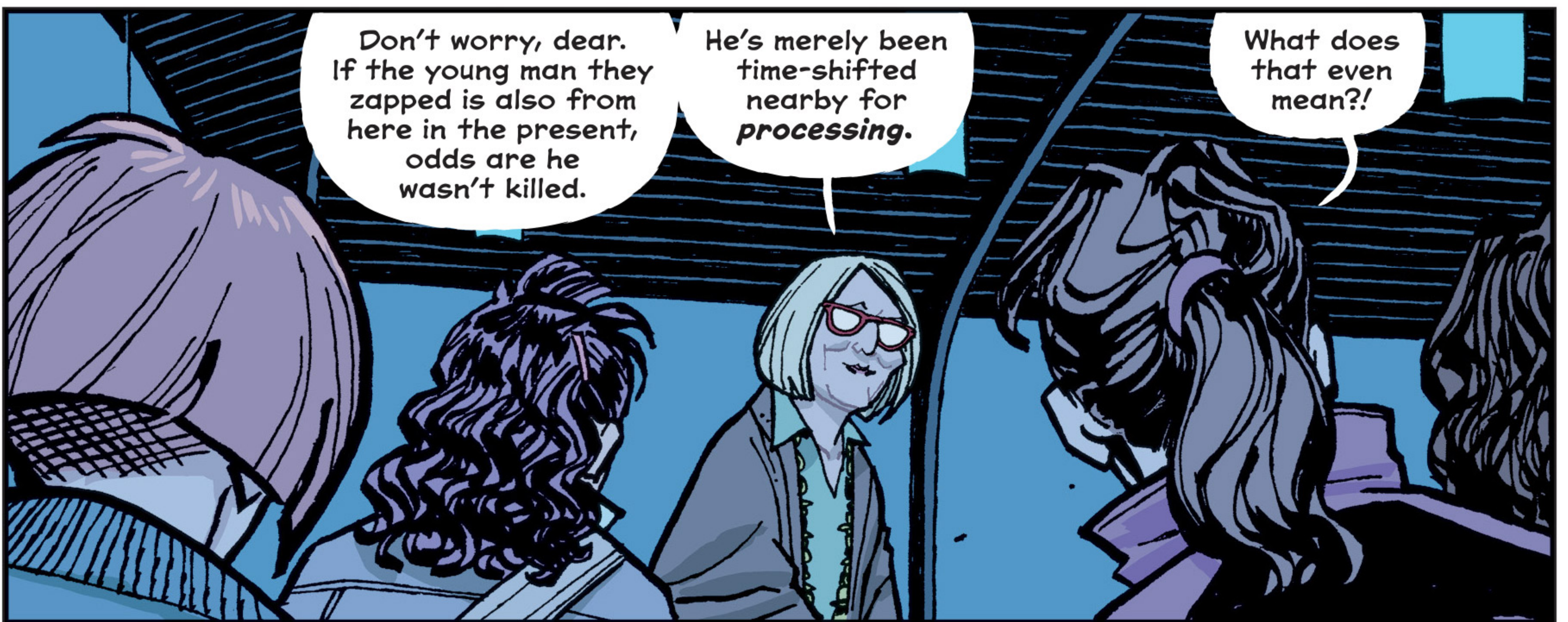
No, I'm from Stony Stream! From *now*!

I have nothing to do with any of this!



I'm just another unemployed Gen Xer.

What the hell's a jenecksor?



Don't worry, dear. If the young man they zapped is also from here in the present, odds are he wasn't killed.

He's merely been time-shifted nearby for *processing*.

What does that even mean?!



The old-timers live to maintain the *status quo*.

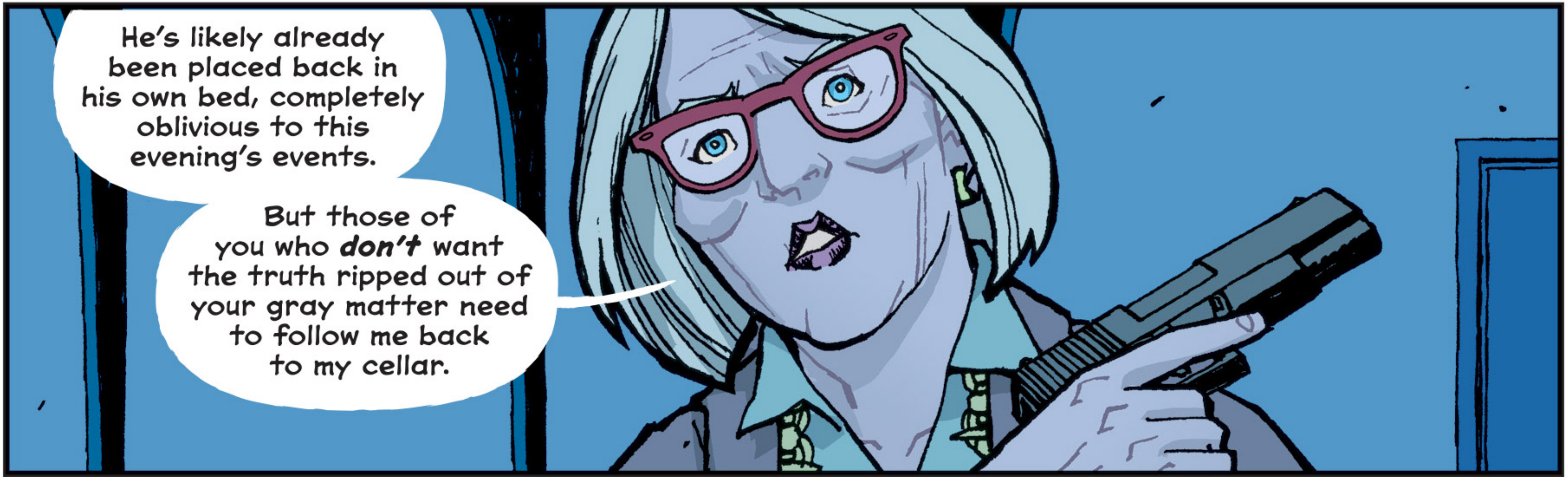
They do everything in their power to make sure that no time period shows any lasting effects of visitors from other eras...



...even if it means the local population has to get a little *brain damage* to make sure they forget.

But he's still alive?

We can rescue him?



He's likely already been placed back in his own bed, completely oblivious to this evening's events.

But those of you who *don't* want the truth ripped out of your gray matter need to follow me back to my cellar.



A blind skunk could have tracked your *footprints* in that fresh snow, so we need to be more careful of our routes.

I don't think so, lady.

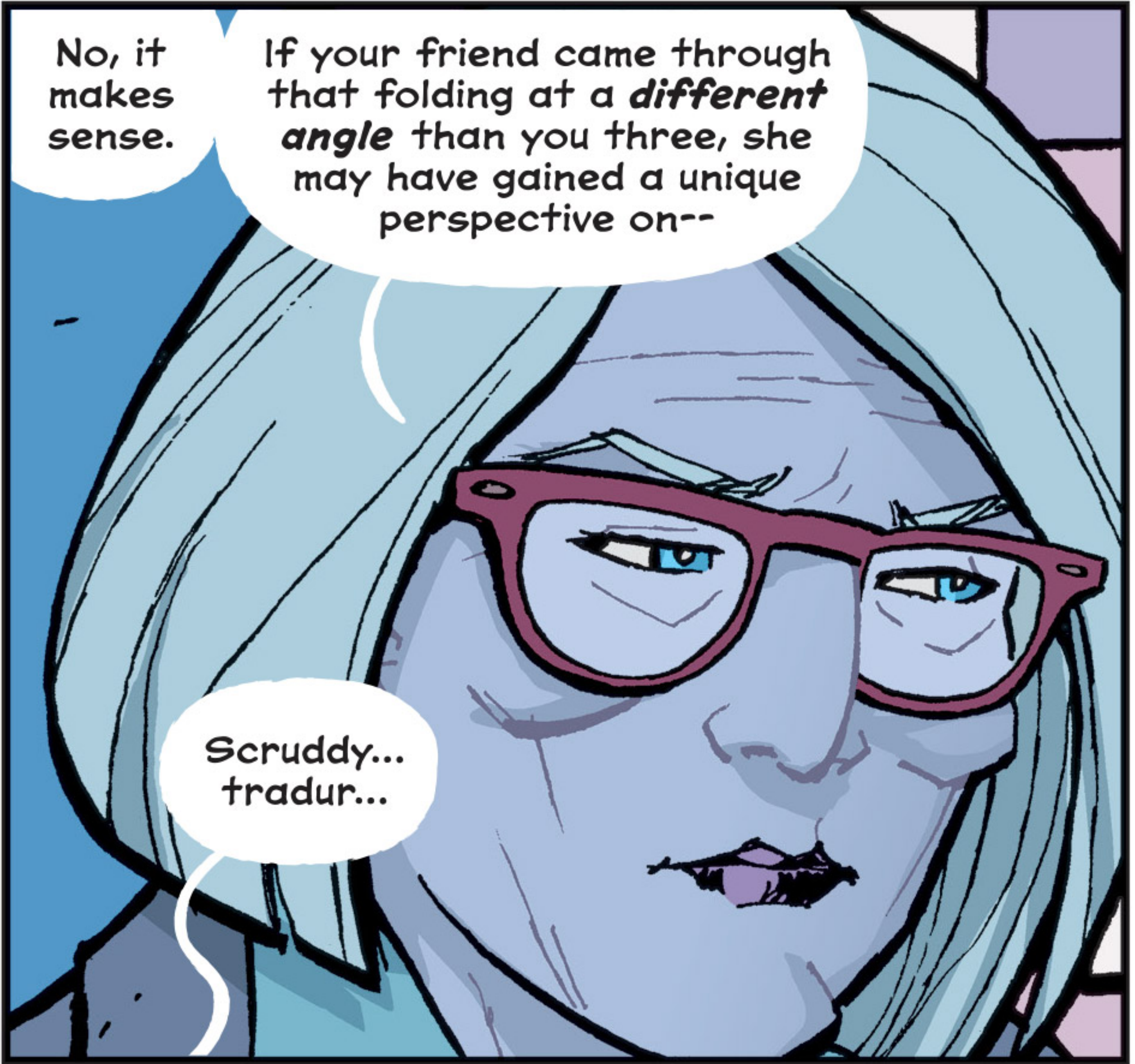
Thanks for saving us from these a-holes, but we're gonna hitch a ride back home to '88 in one of the *robots* out there.



What robots?

Somehow, the Tiffanies can both *see* whatever's making all those terrible noises out there, ma'am.

Or they're bullshitting us.



No, it makes sense.

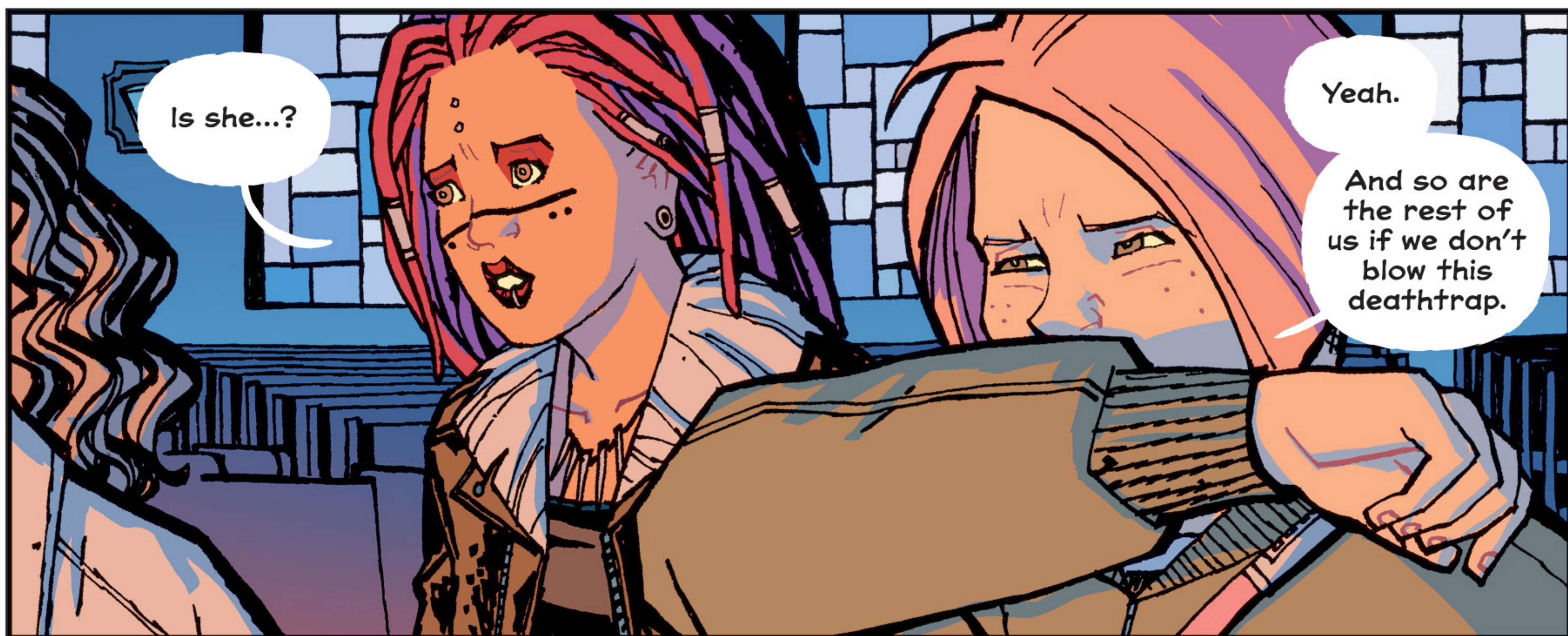
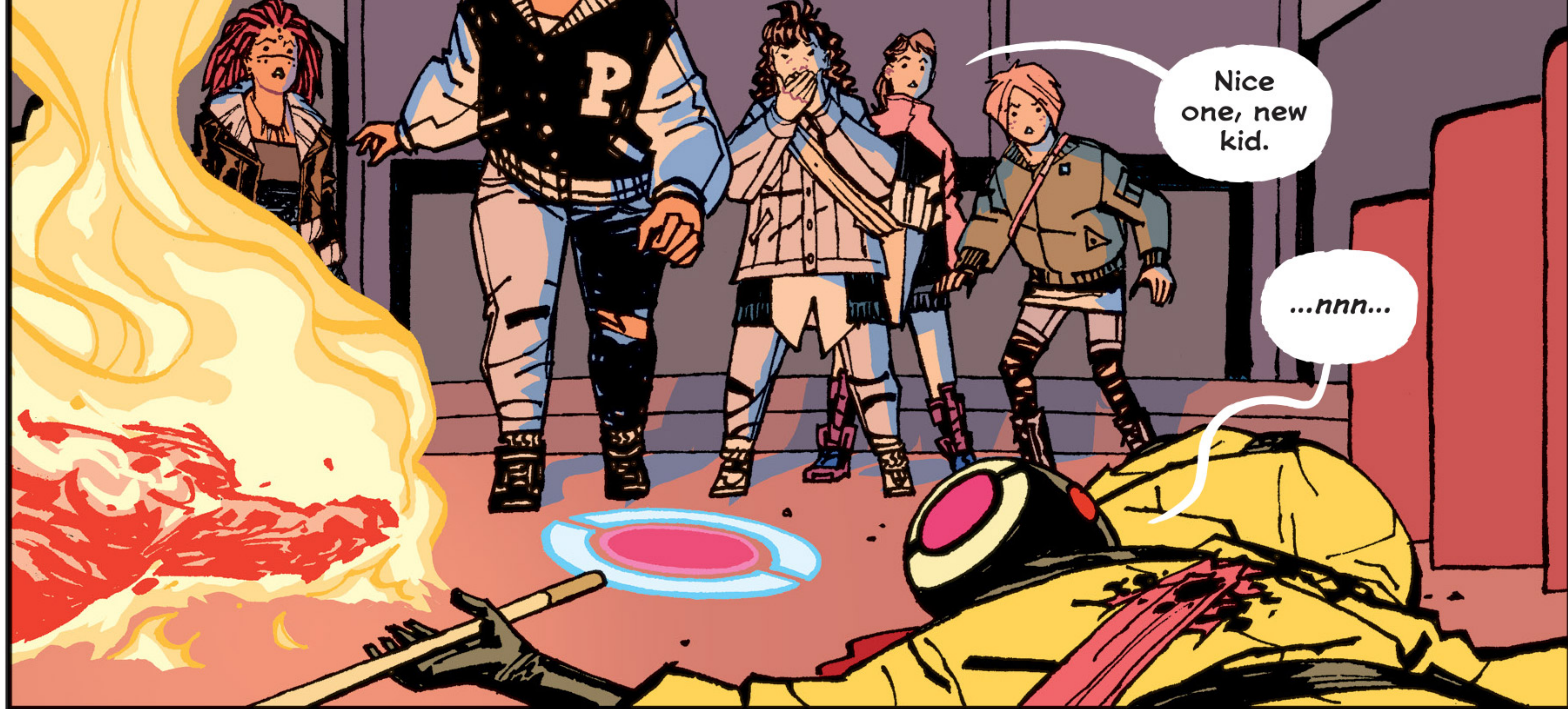
If your friend came through that folding at a *different angle* than you three, she may have gained a unique perspective on--

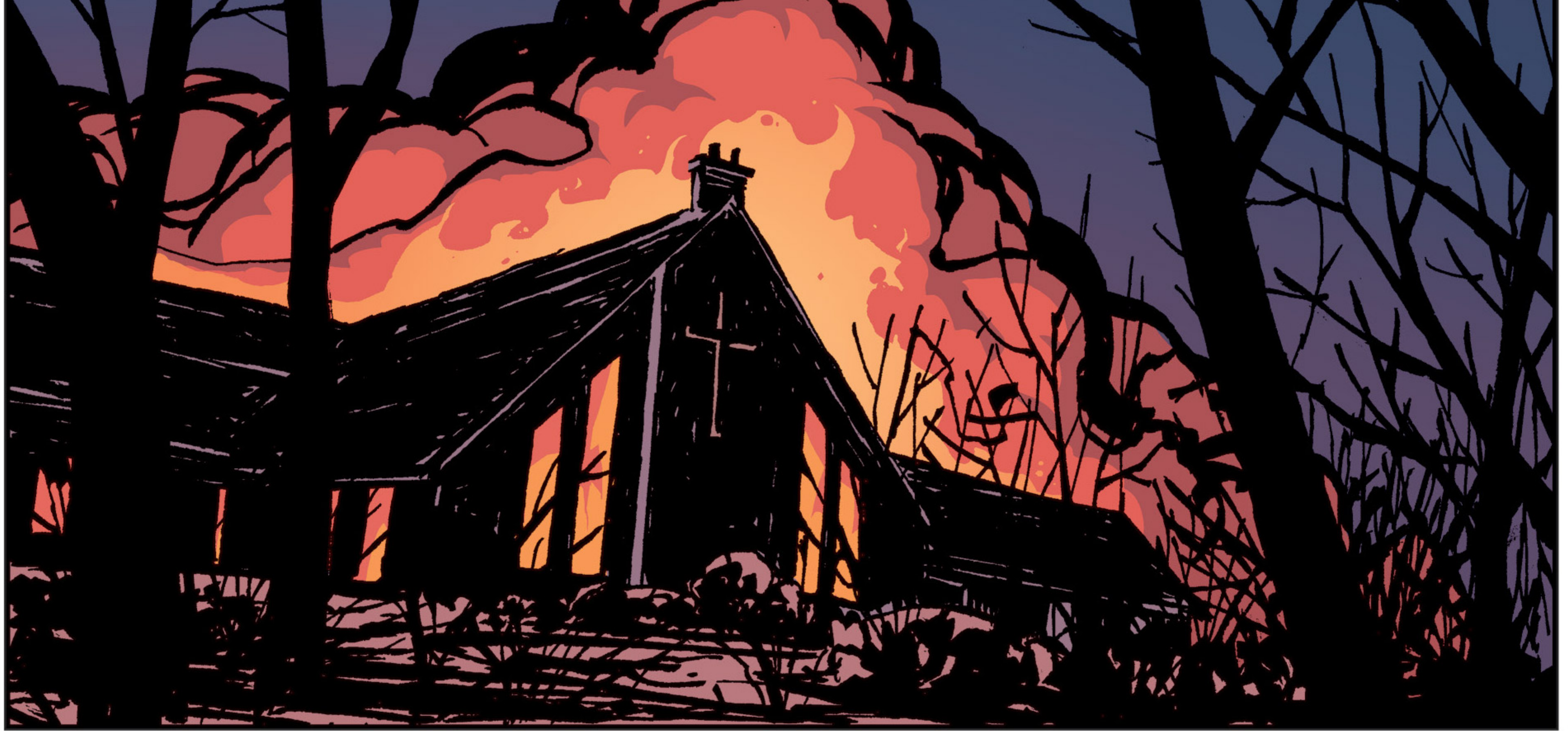
Scruddy... tradur...



...b... ashin.





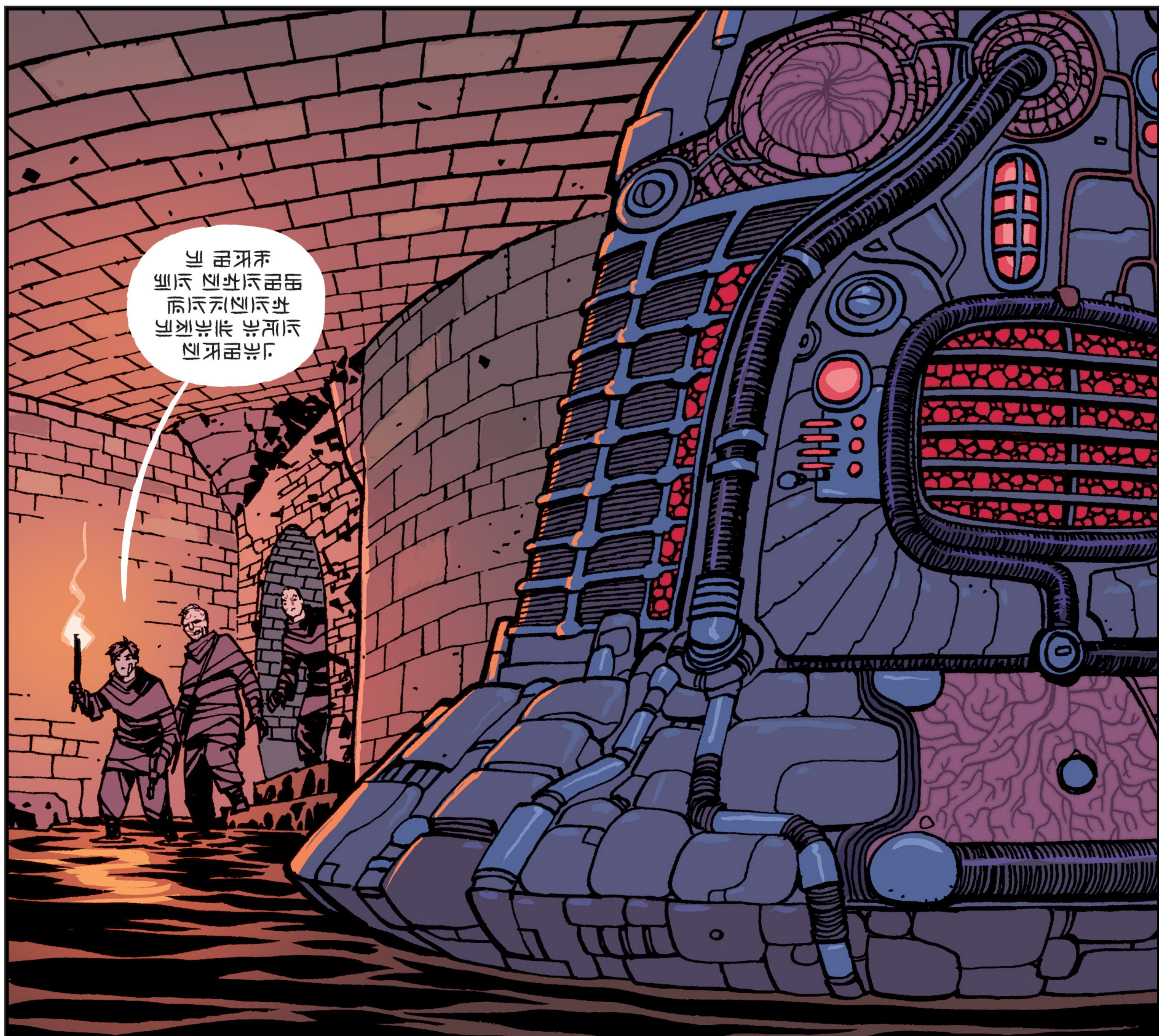




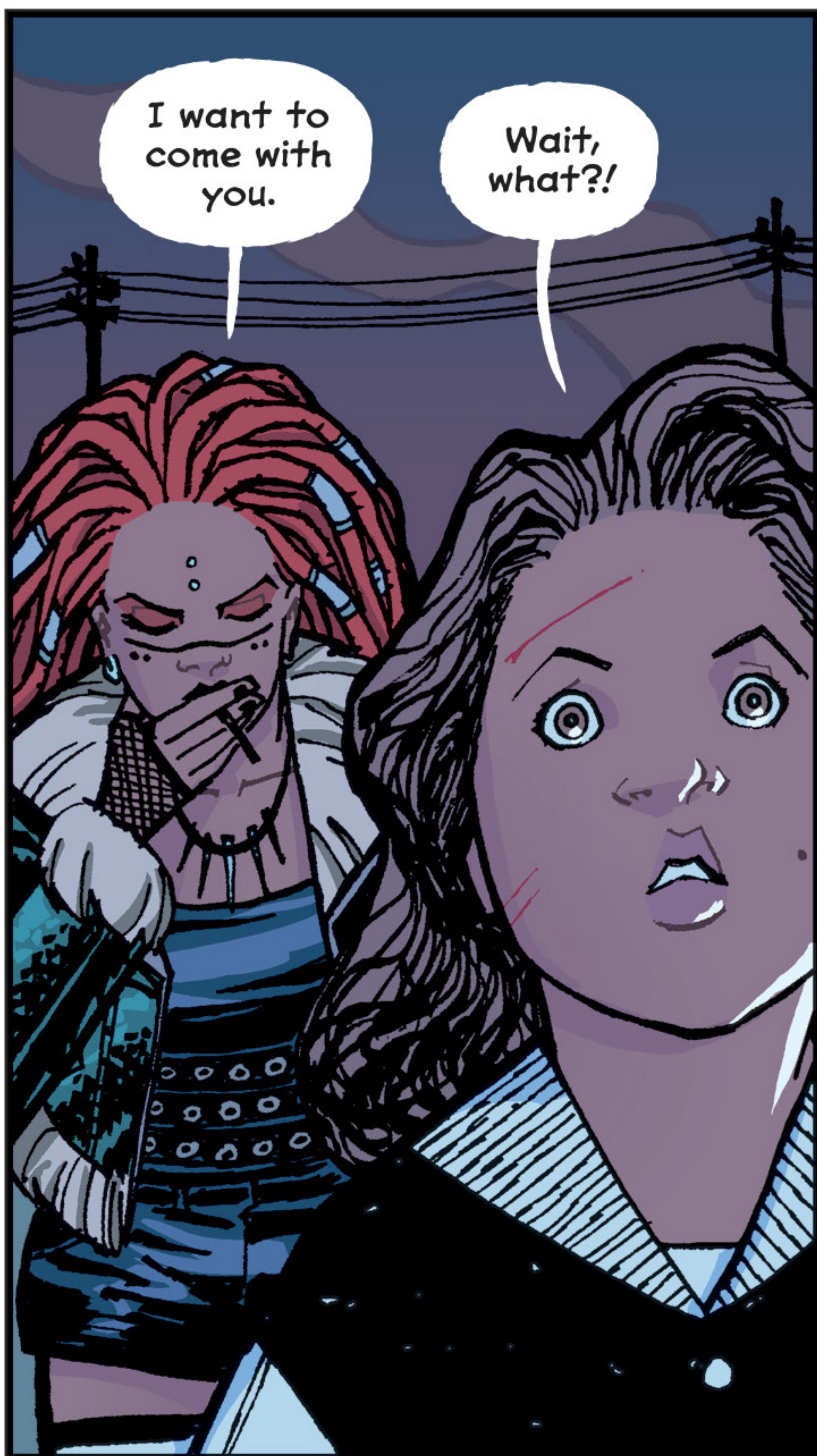
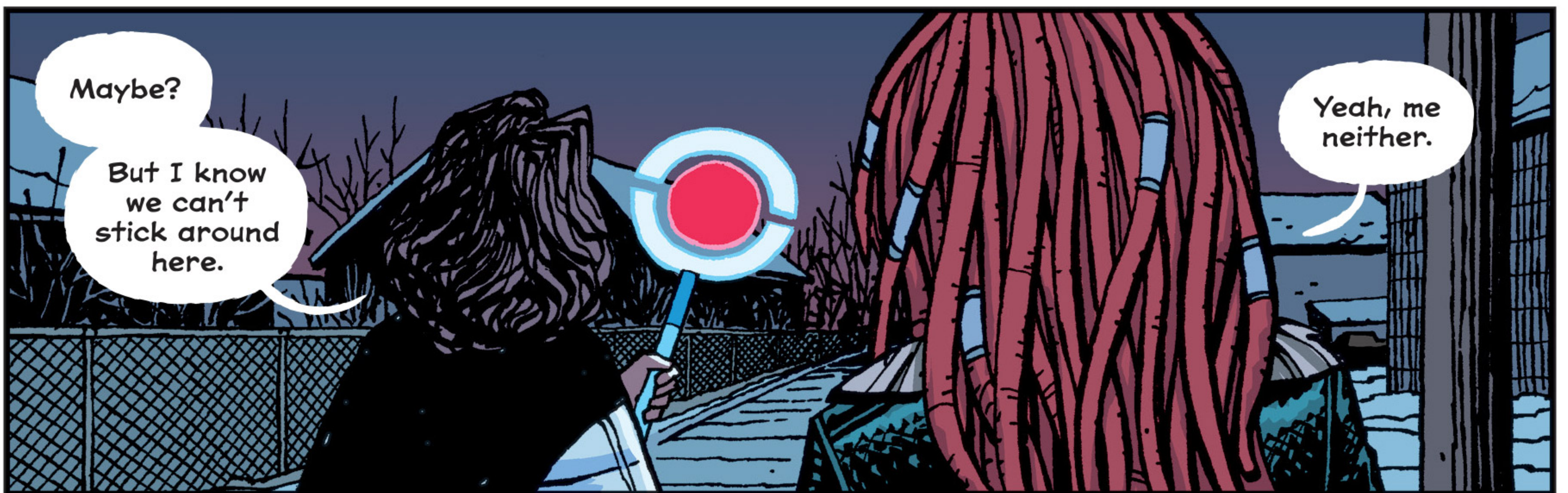
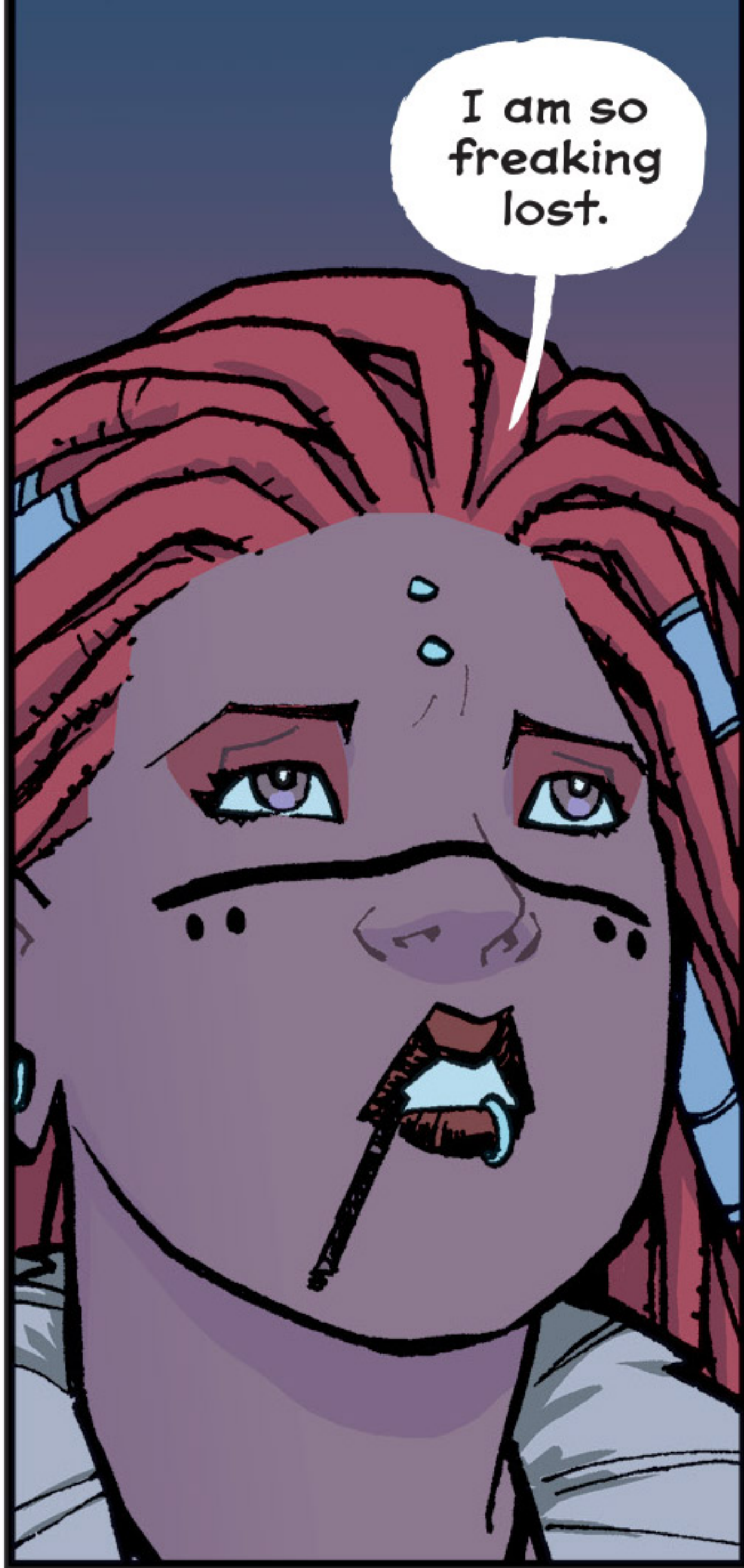
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다



이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다



이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다
이런저런 것들이 다





I...I could help stop all the **disasters** that are about to happen.

The Unabomber, Oklahoma City, that terrorist attack underneath the World Trade Center...



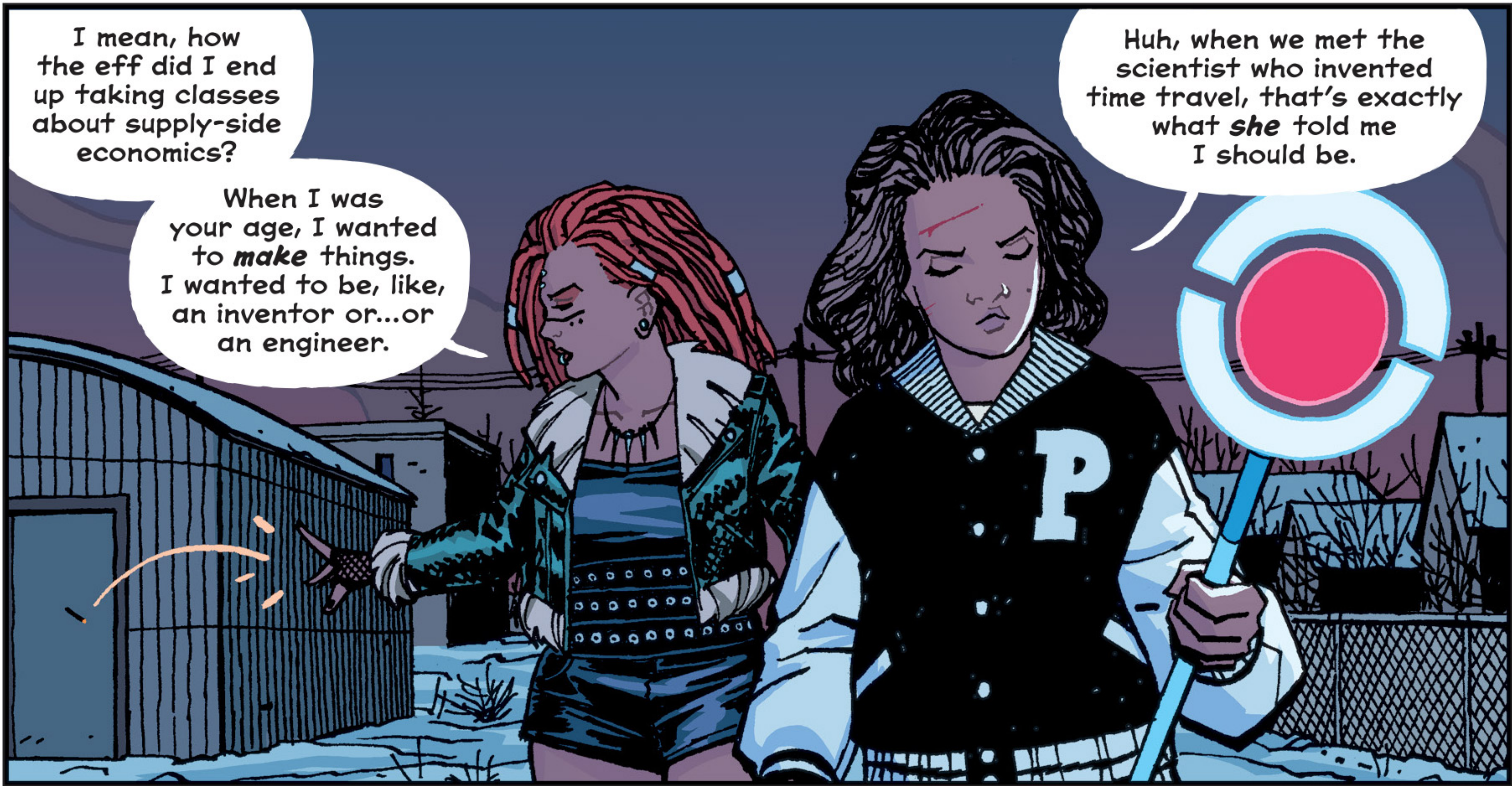
...my life.

Hey--



No, it's true.

I love Chris, and I'm grateful for everything I have, but deep down, it's always felt like...like everything went **wrong** somewhere along the way.



I mean, how the eff did I end up taking classes about supply-side economics?

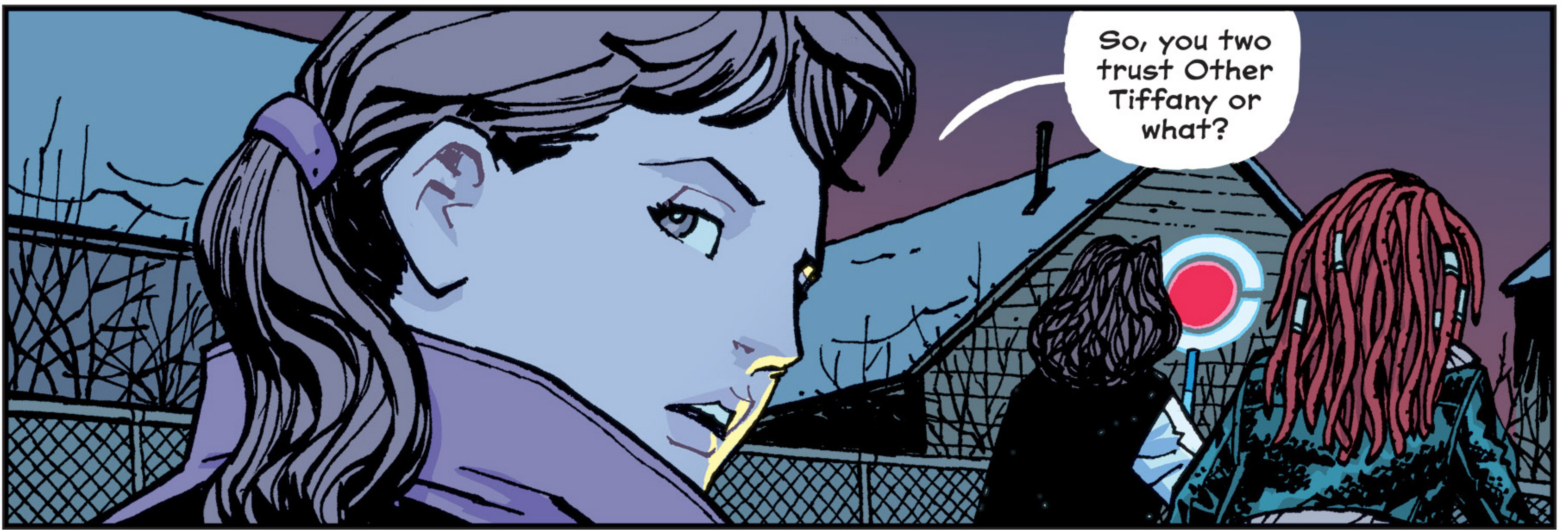
When I was your age, I wanted to **make** things. I wanted to be, like, an inventor or...or an engineer.

Huh, when we met the scientist who invented time travel, that's exactly what **she** told me I should be.



Time travel gets invented by a **woman**?

Hell, yeah.



So, you two trust Other Tiffany or what?



Um, actually, speaking of other versions of us, Mac is kind of worried *you* might have been replaced by some kind of... impostor.

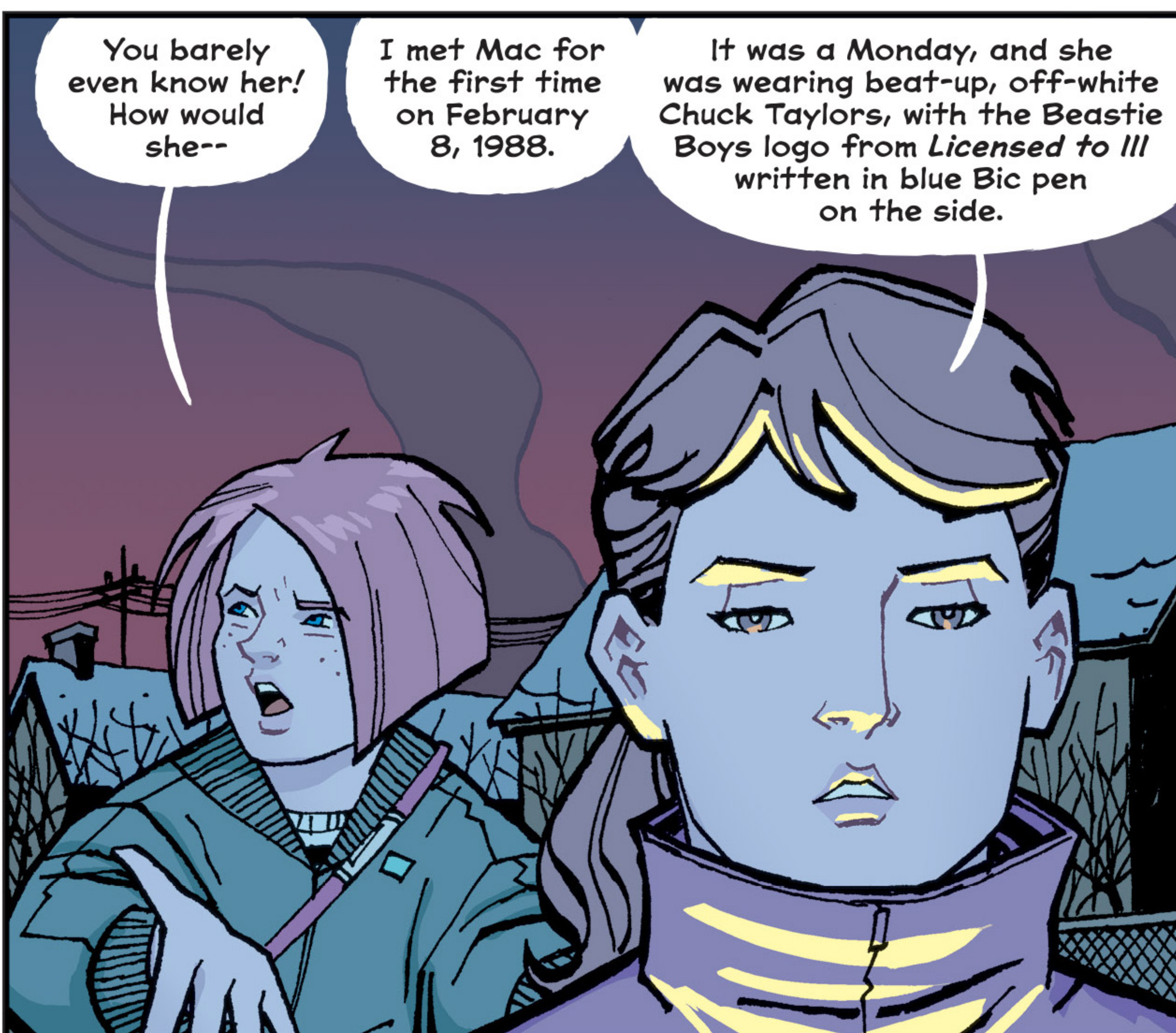
Say what?

Jesus Christ, Erin!



Sorry, but if we're going to bring KJ home with us, we need to make sure it's really her.

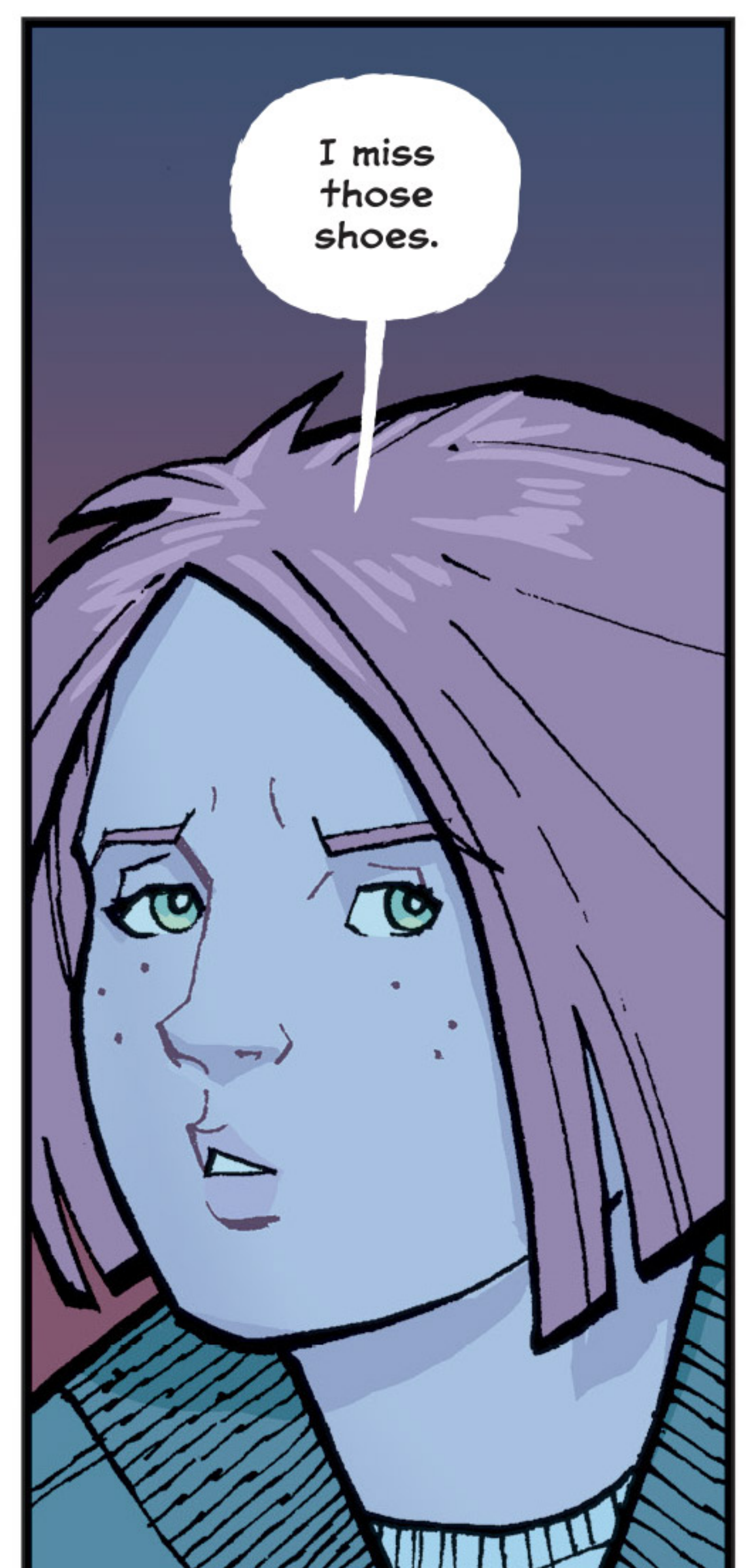
Like, can you tell us something only we would know is true?



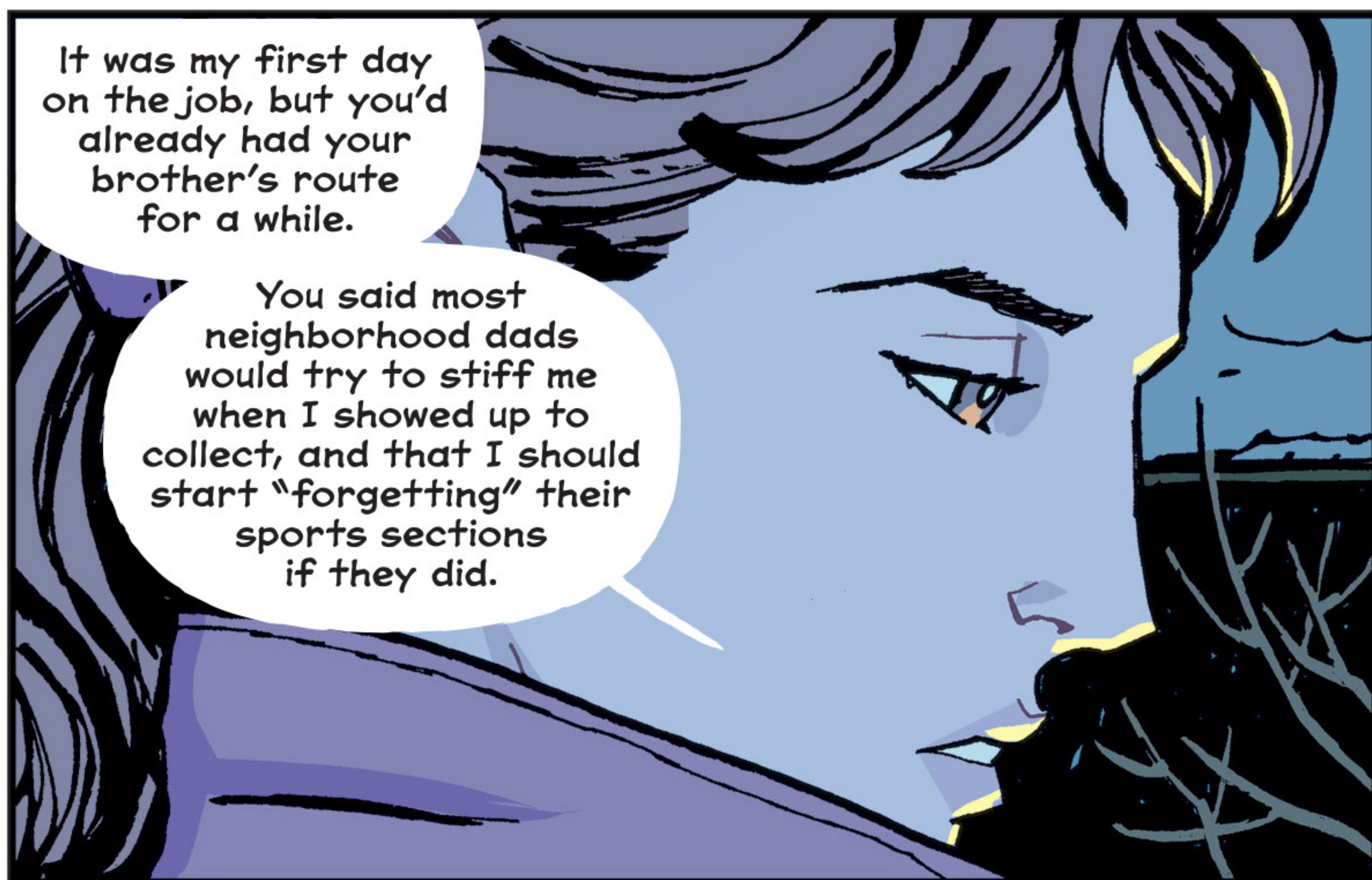
You barely even know her! How would she--

I met Mac for the first time on February 8, 1988.

It was a Monday, and she was wearing beat-up, off-white Chuck Taylors, with the Beastie Boys logo from *Licensed to Ill* written in blue Bic pen on the side.

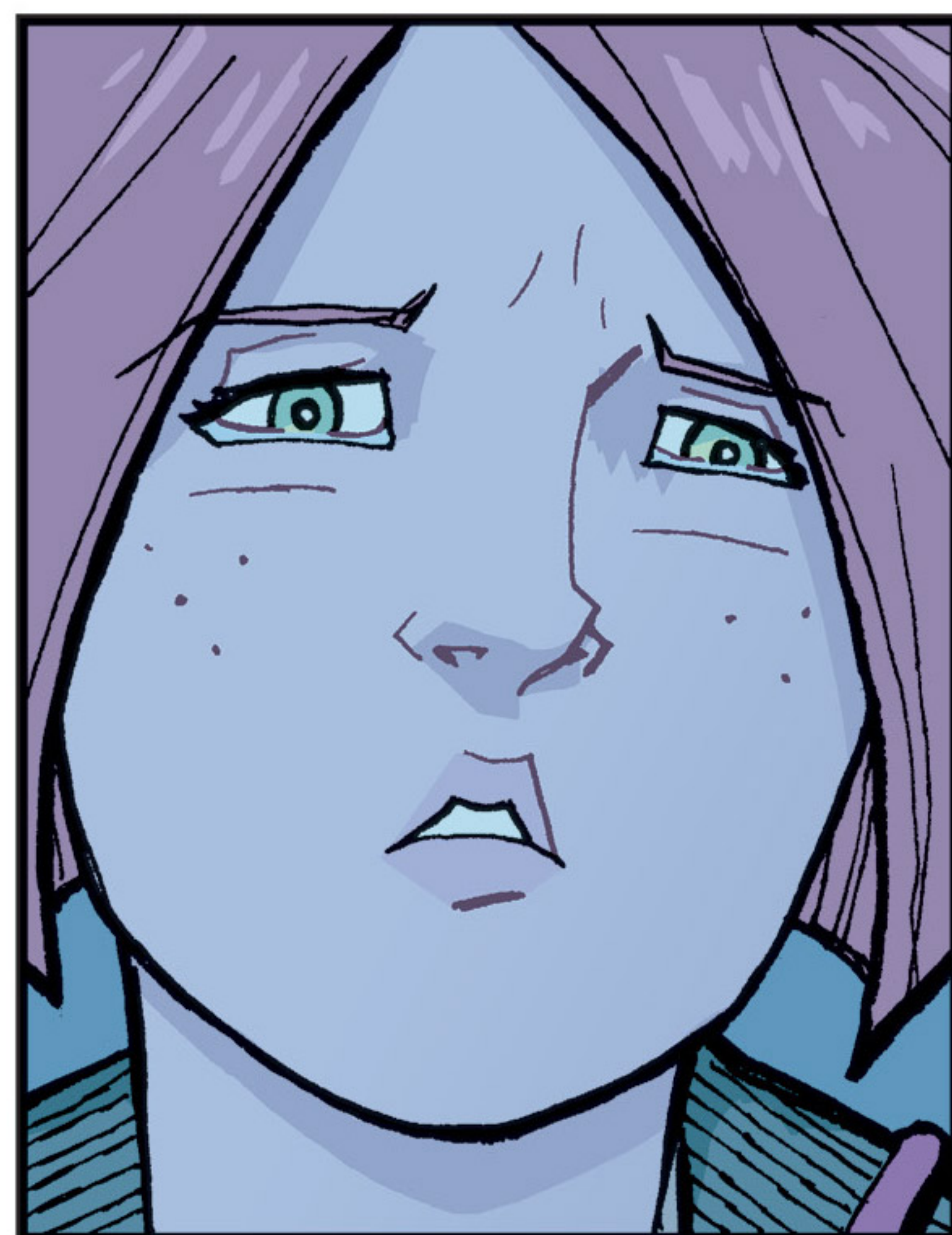


I miss those shoes.



It was my first day on the job, but you'd already had your brother's route for a while.

You said most neighborhood dads would try to stiff me when I showed up to collect, and that I should start "forgetting" their sports sections if they did.



You were eating string cheese, but instead of pulling it off in strips like a normal person, you just ate it like a god-damn banana, which I thought was--

All right, all right!

It's really you, I get it.



≡Whew≡

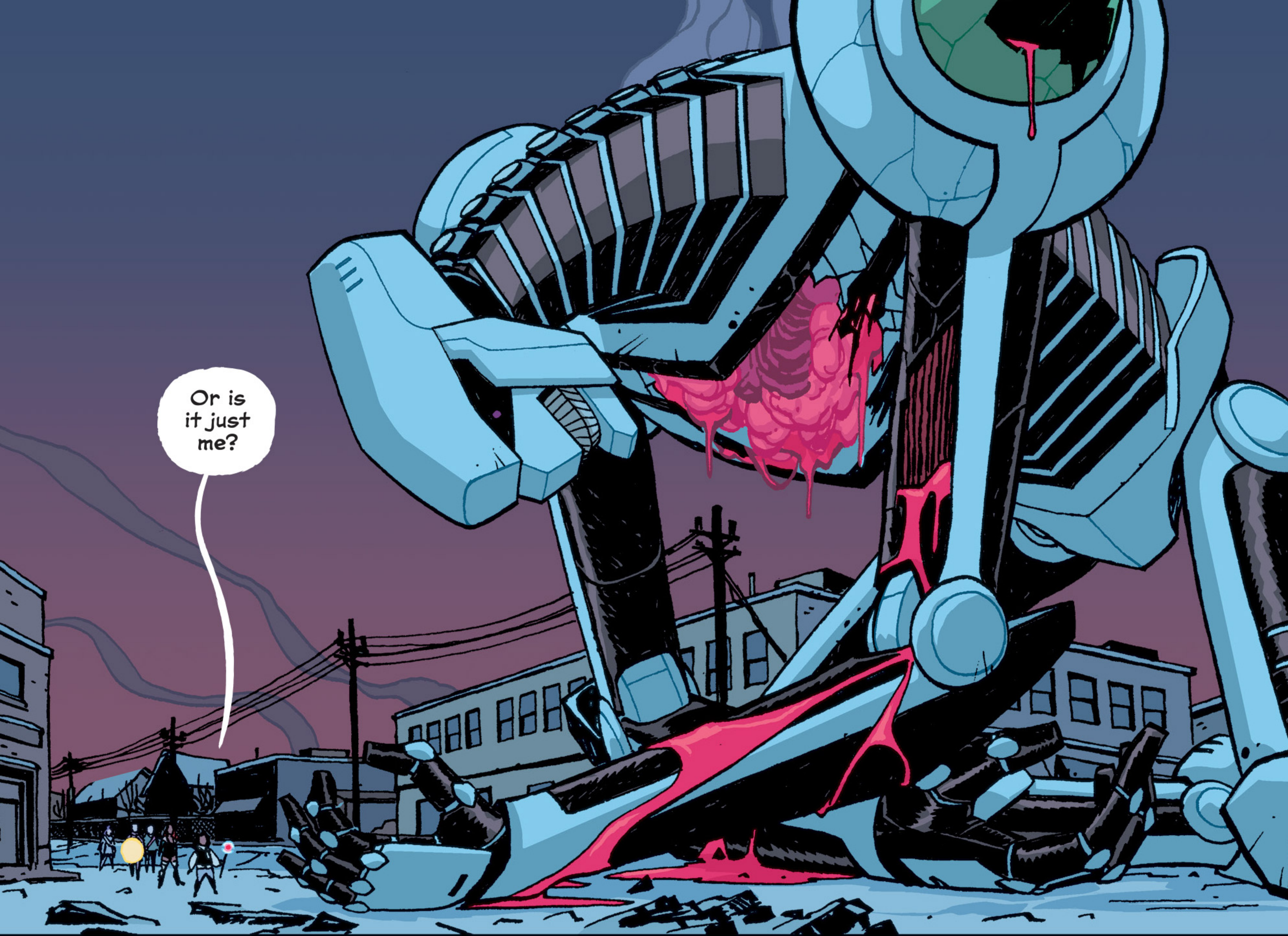
Mac was seriously convinced you were some sort of gay pod person.

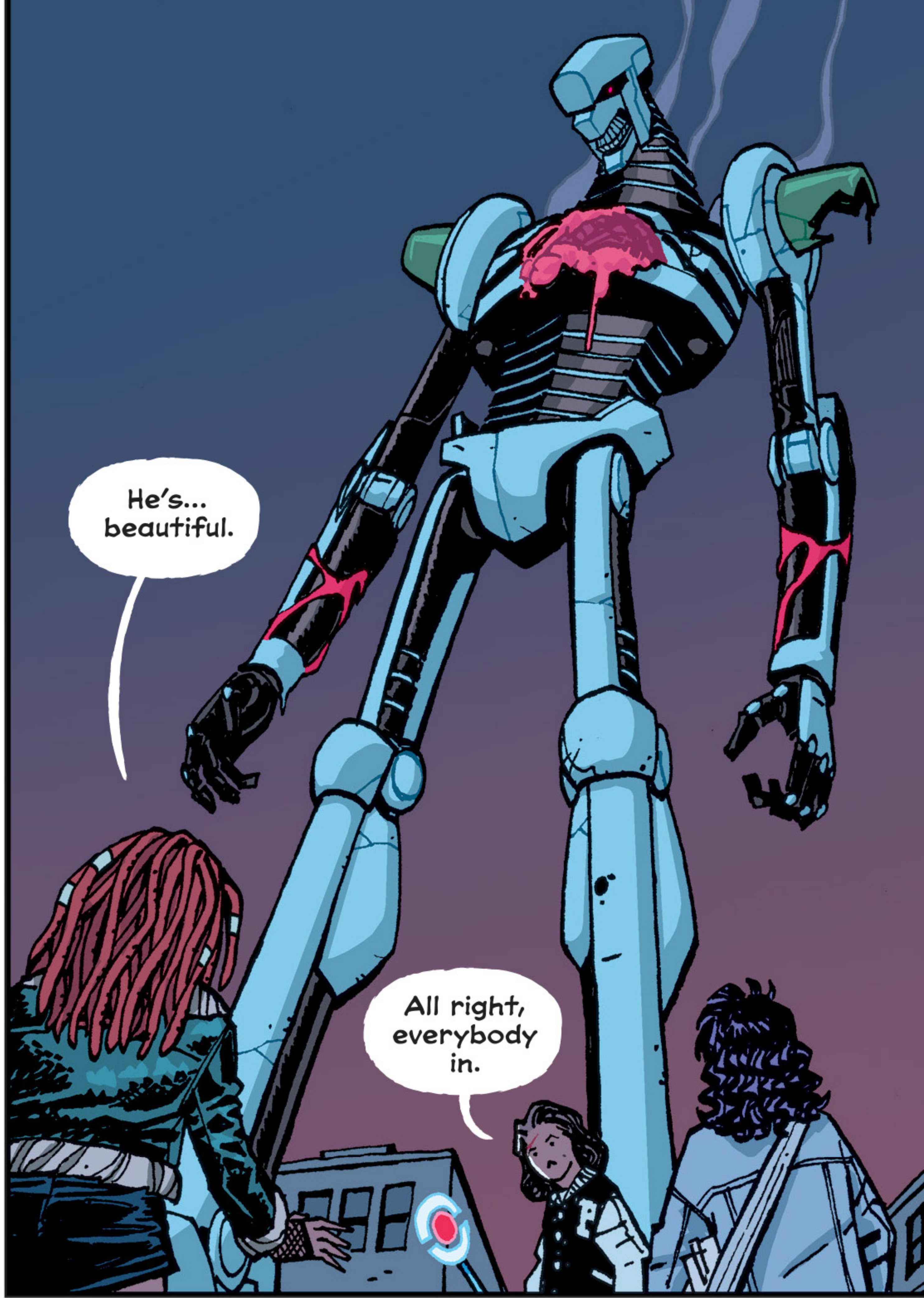
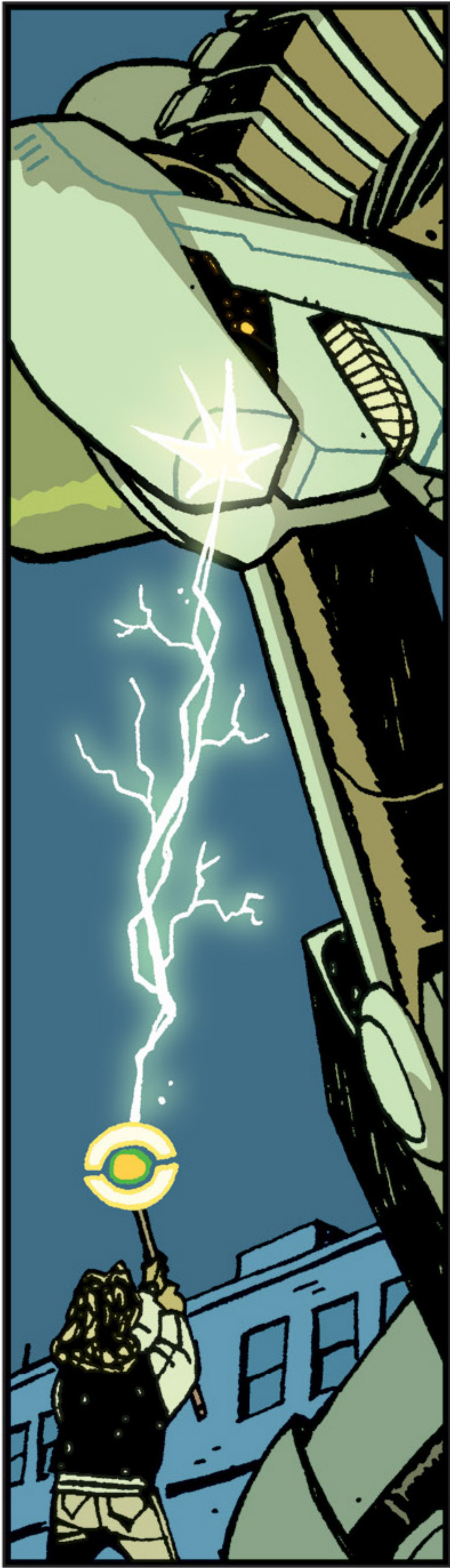
One out of two, anyway.



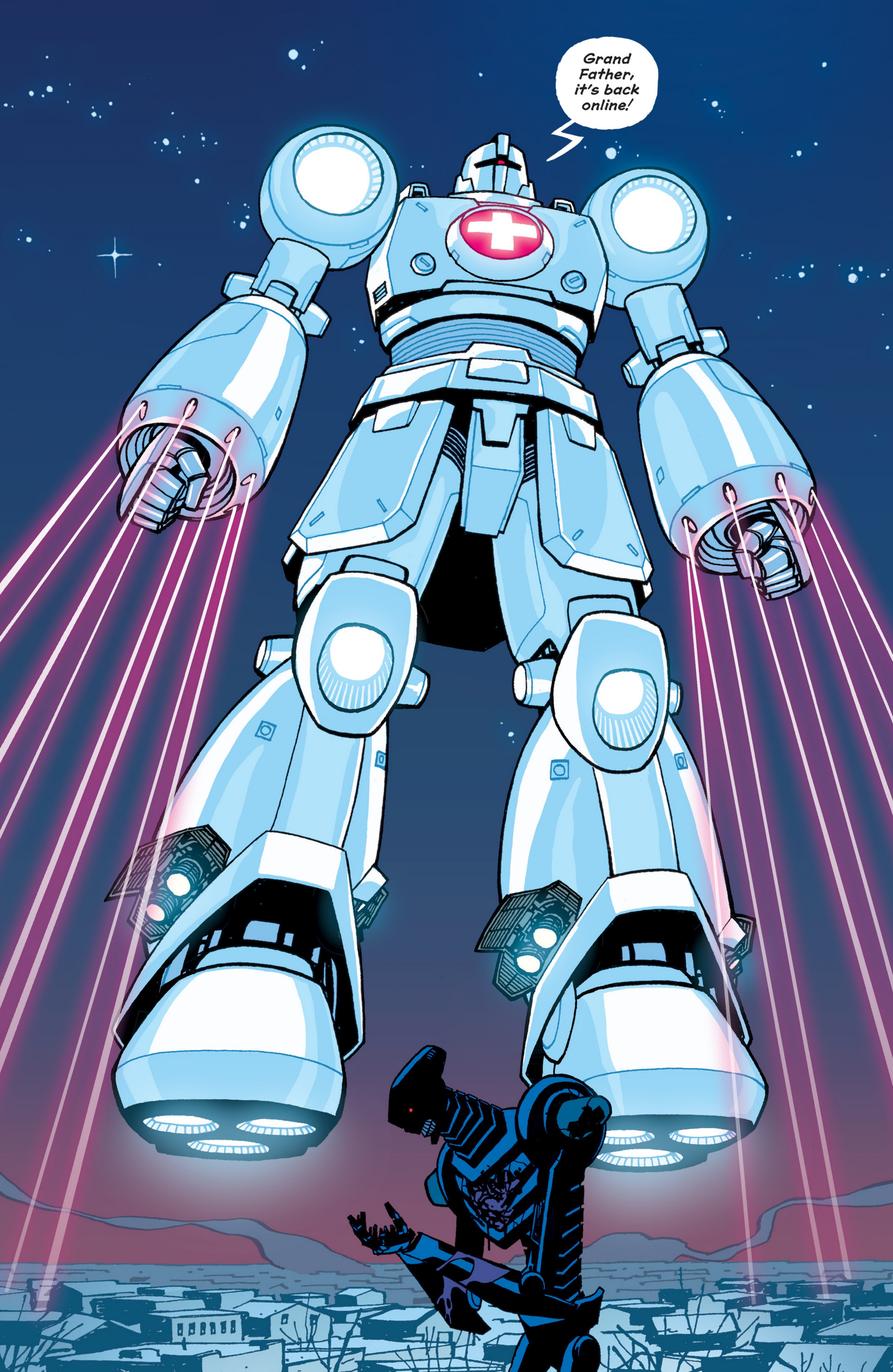
Cool.

Can you guys see this?





*Grand
Father,
it's back
online!*

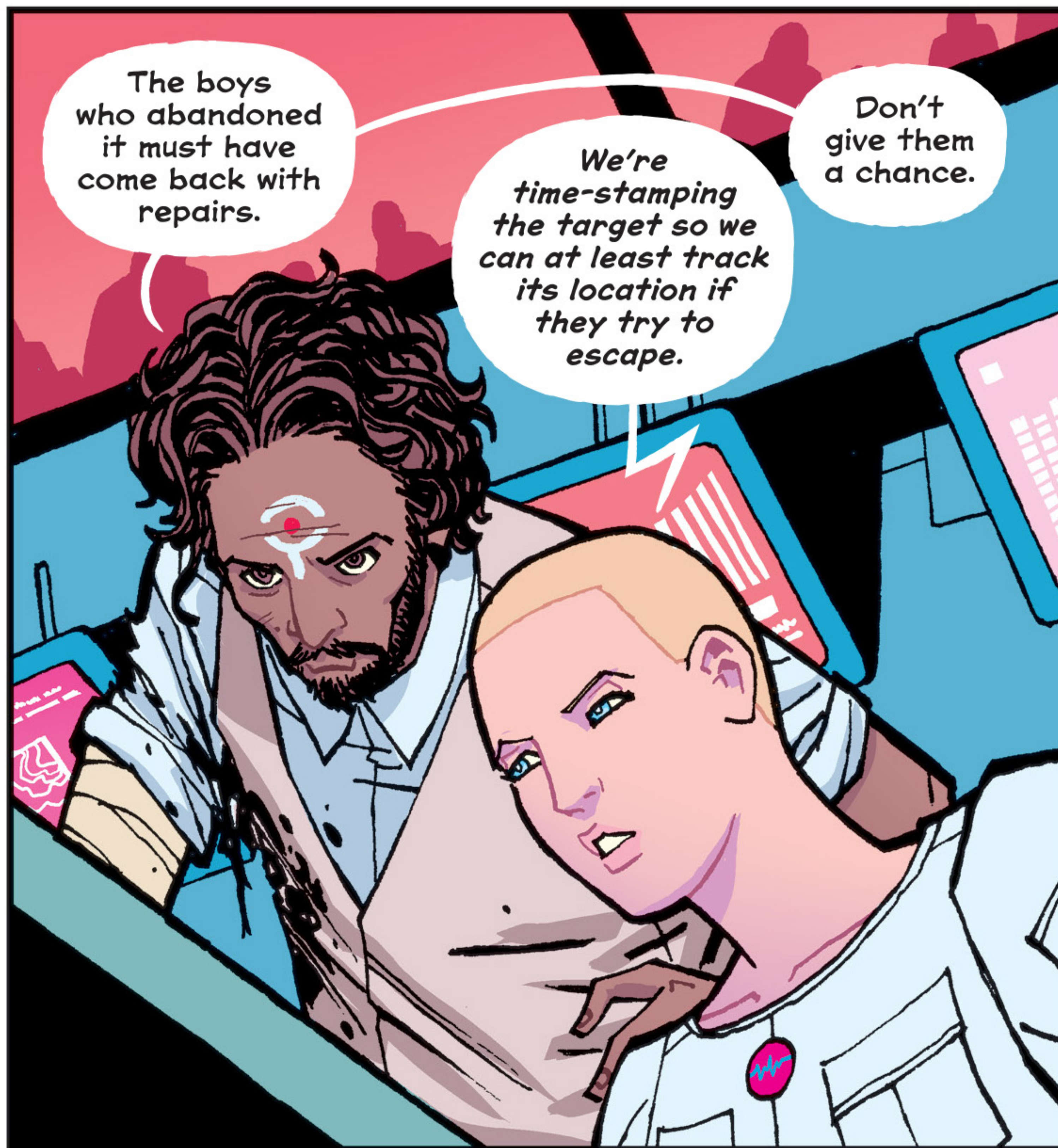




What is, Altar Girl?

The stomper, sir.

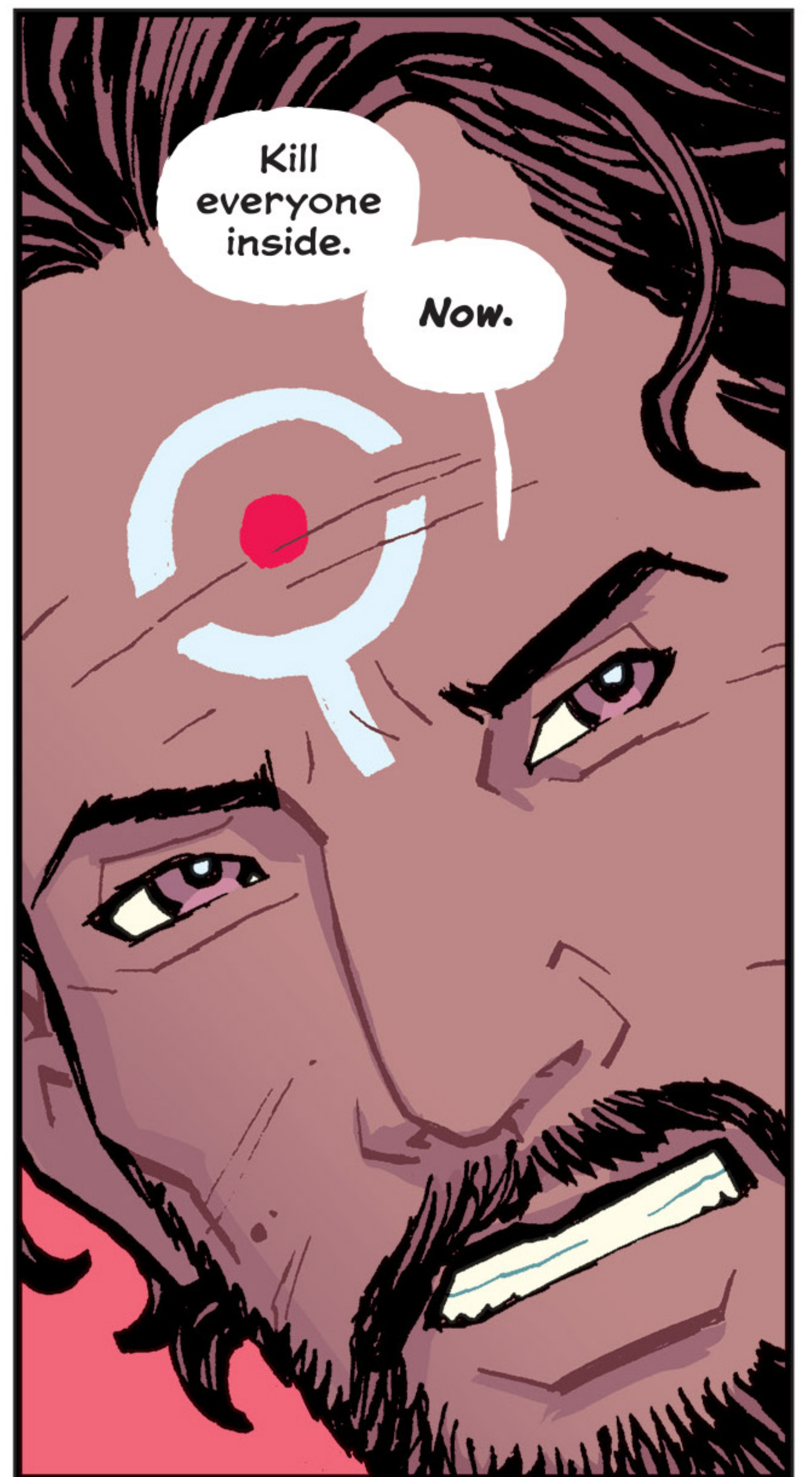
The one that killed Prioress.



The boys who abandoned it must have come back with repairs.

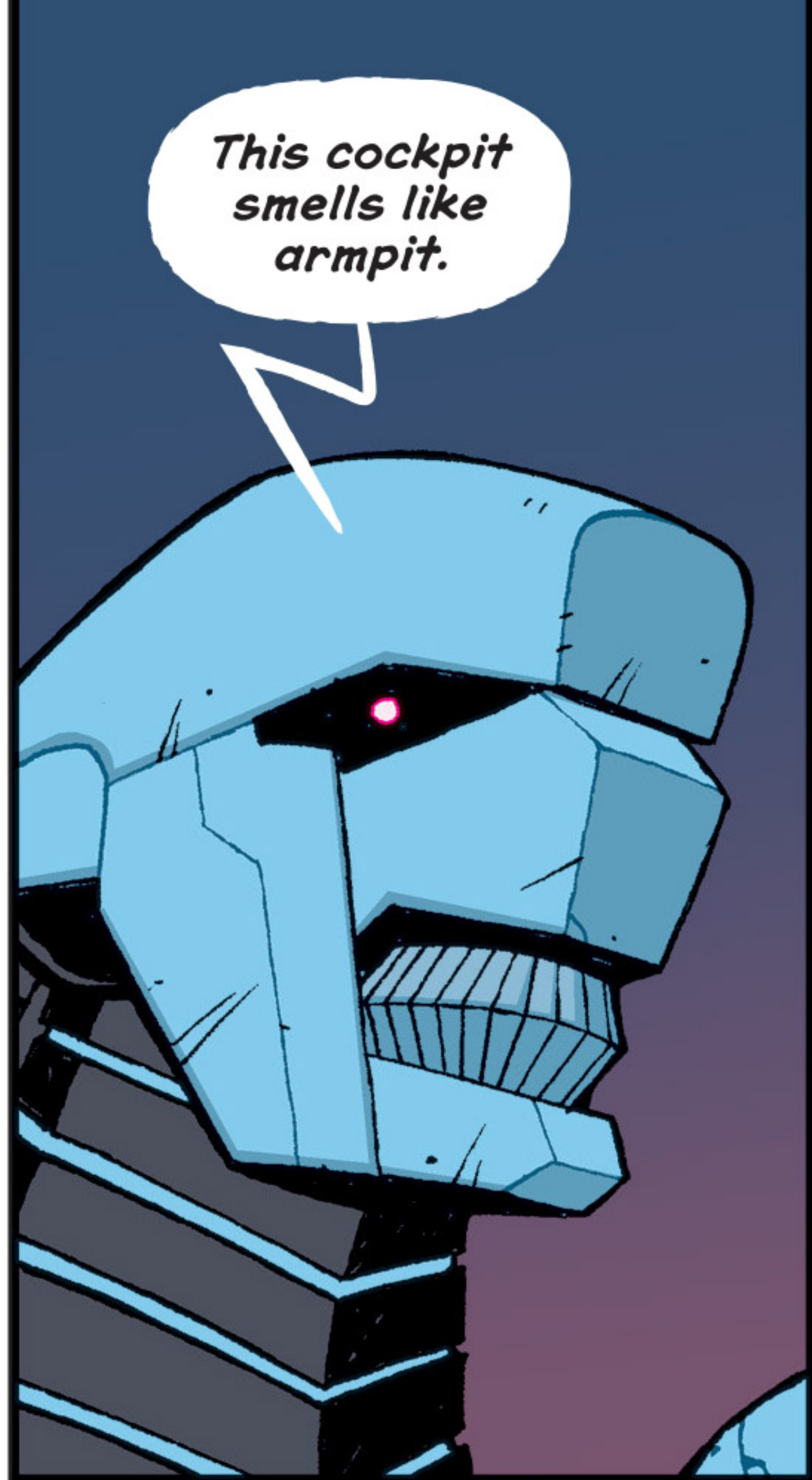
We're time-stamping the target so we can at least track its location if they try to escape.

Don't give them a chance.



Kill everyone inside.

Now.

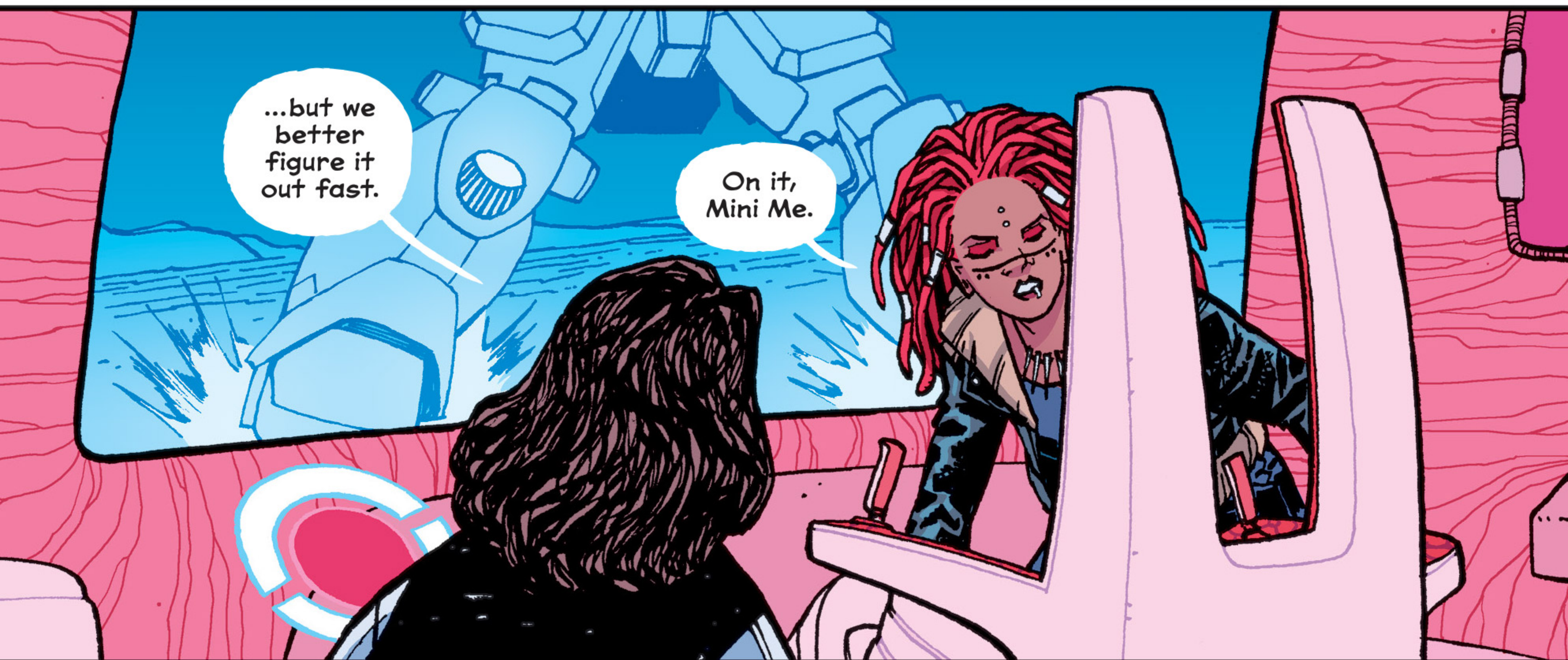


This cockpit smells like armpit.



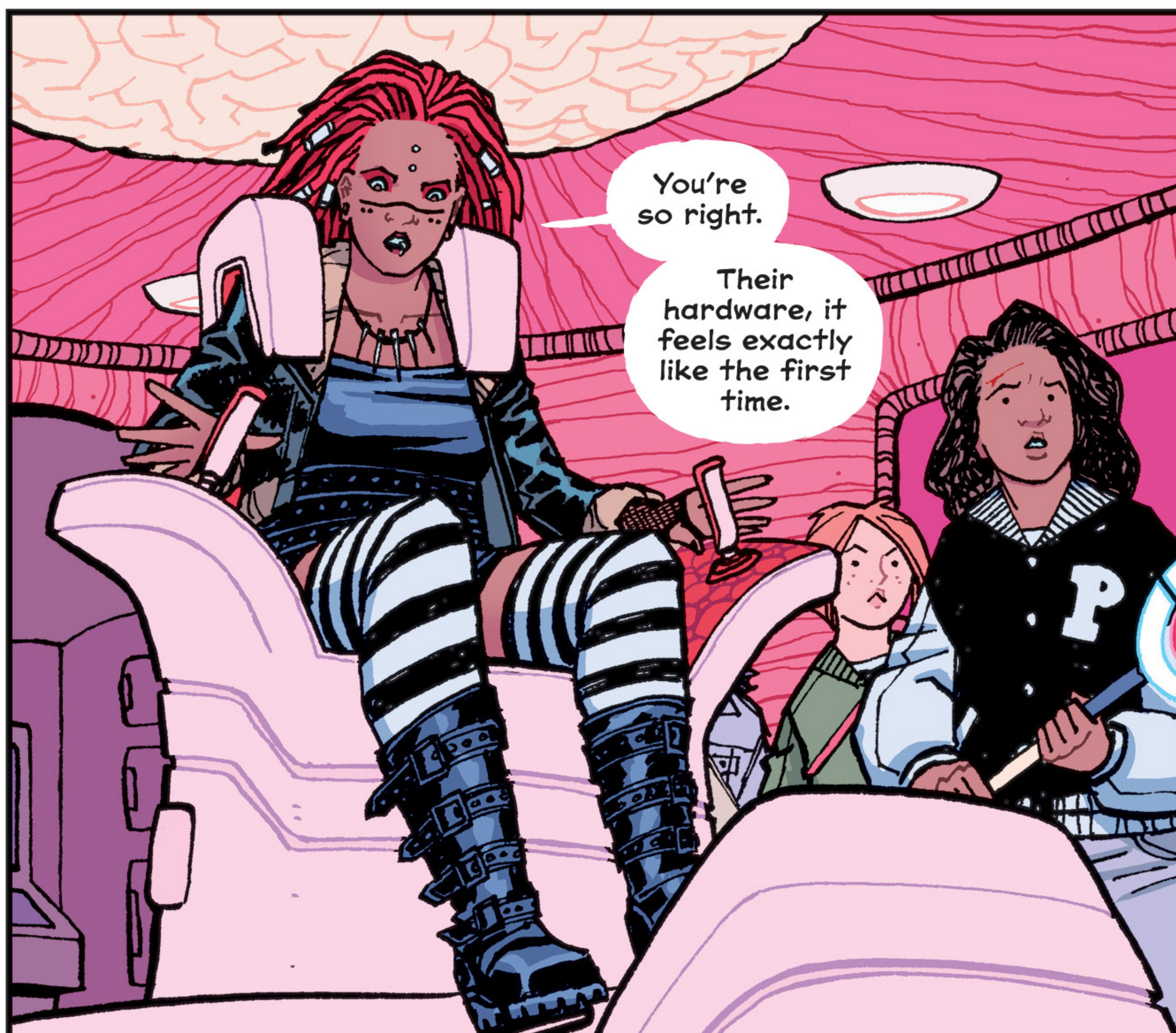
How the hell do we drive this weird thing?

I have no clue...



...but we better figure it out fast.

On it, Mini Me.

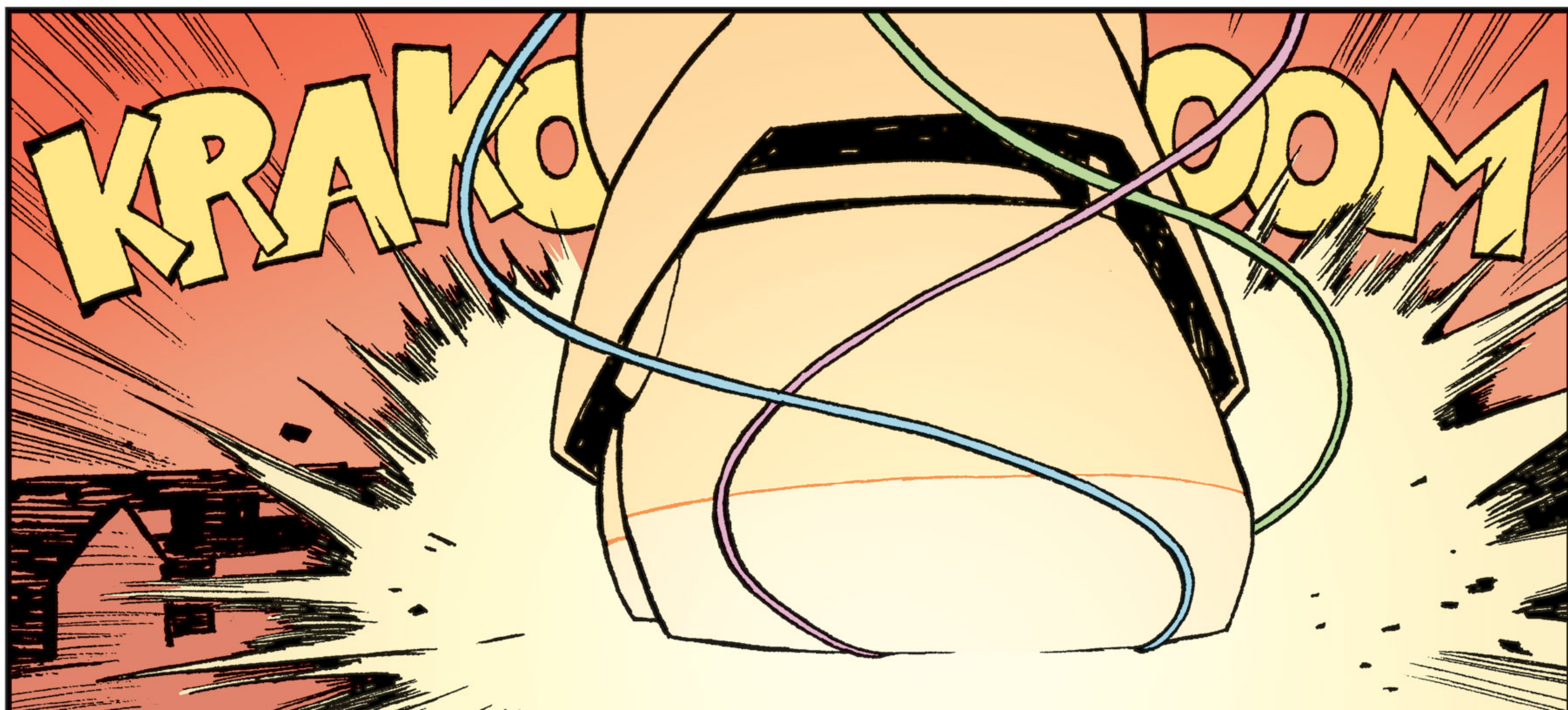
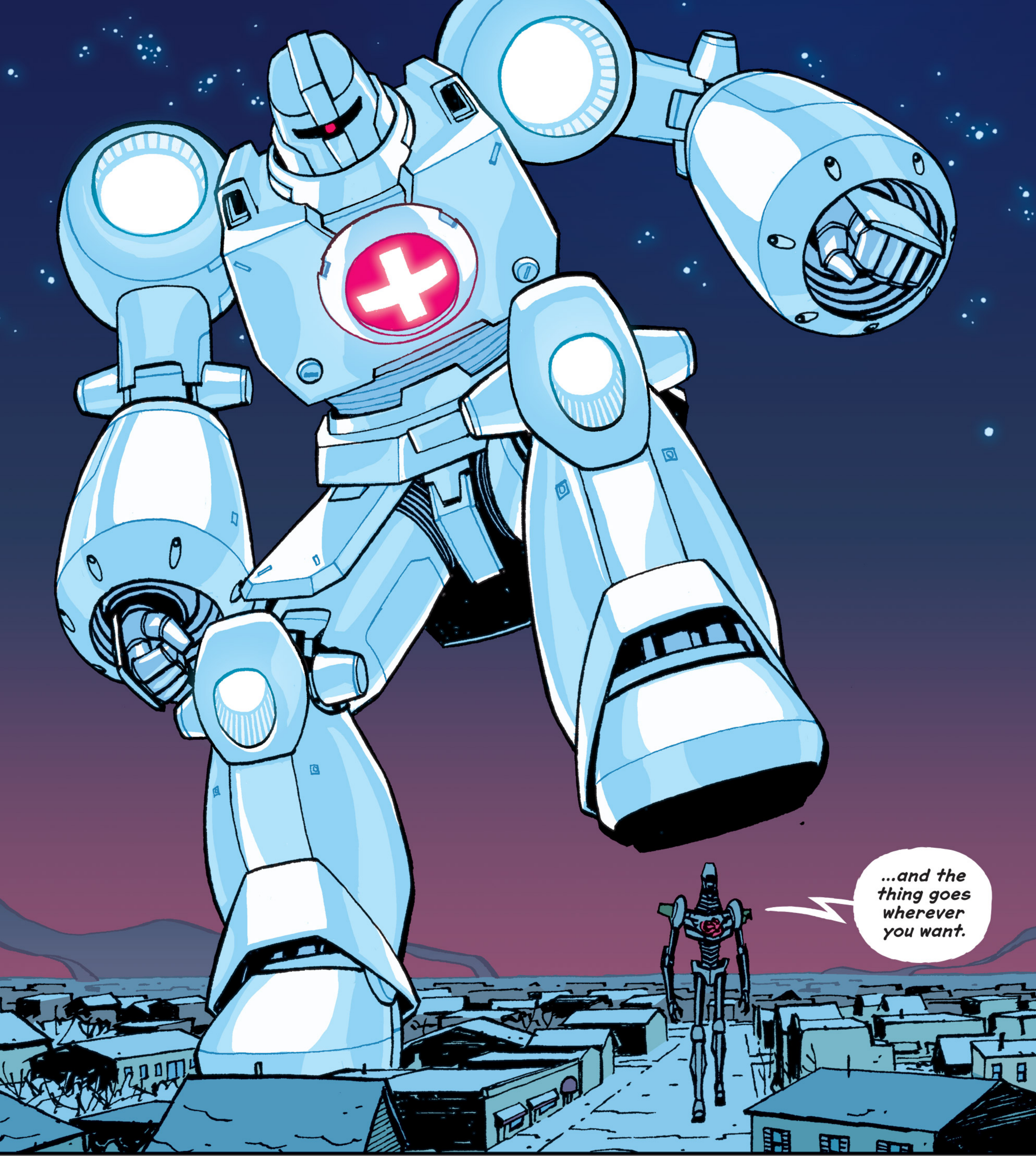


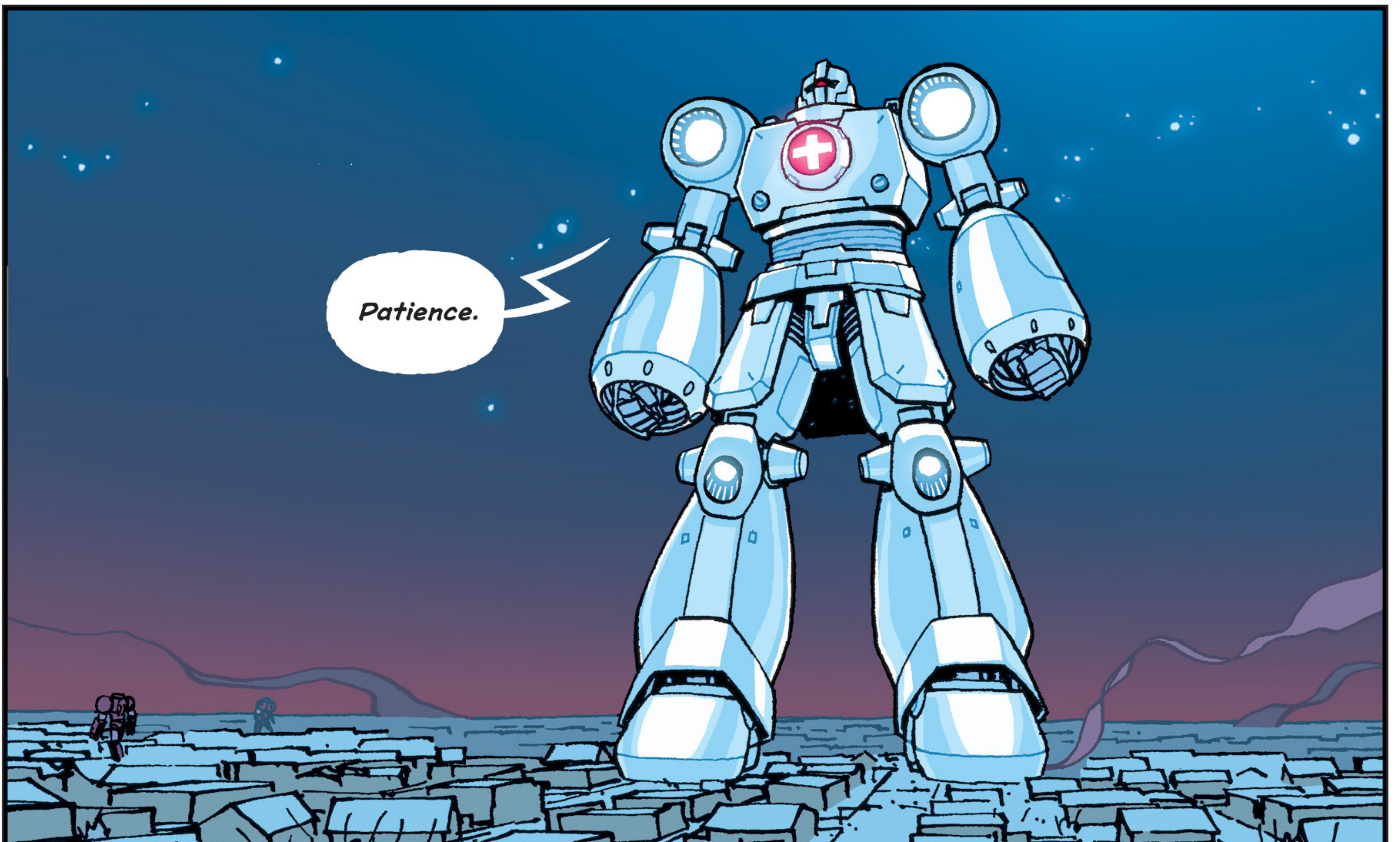
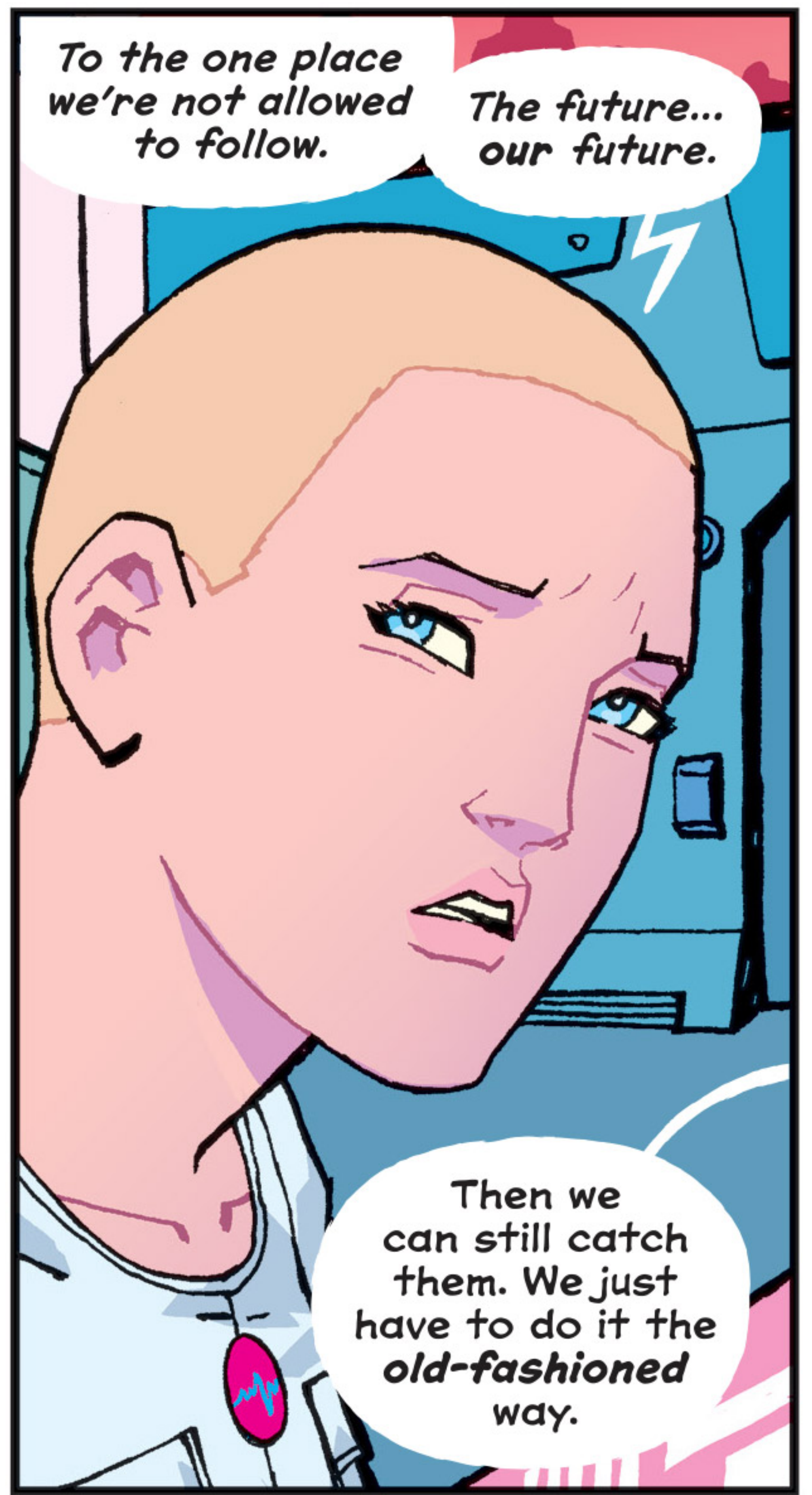
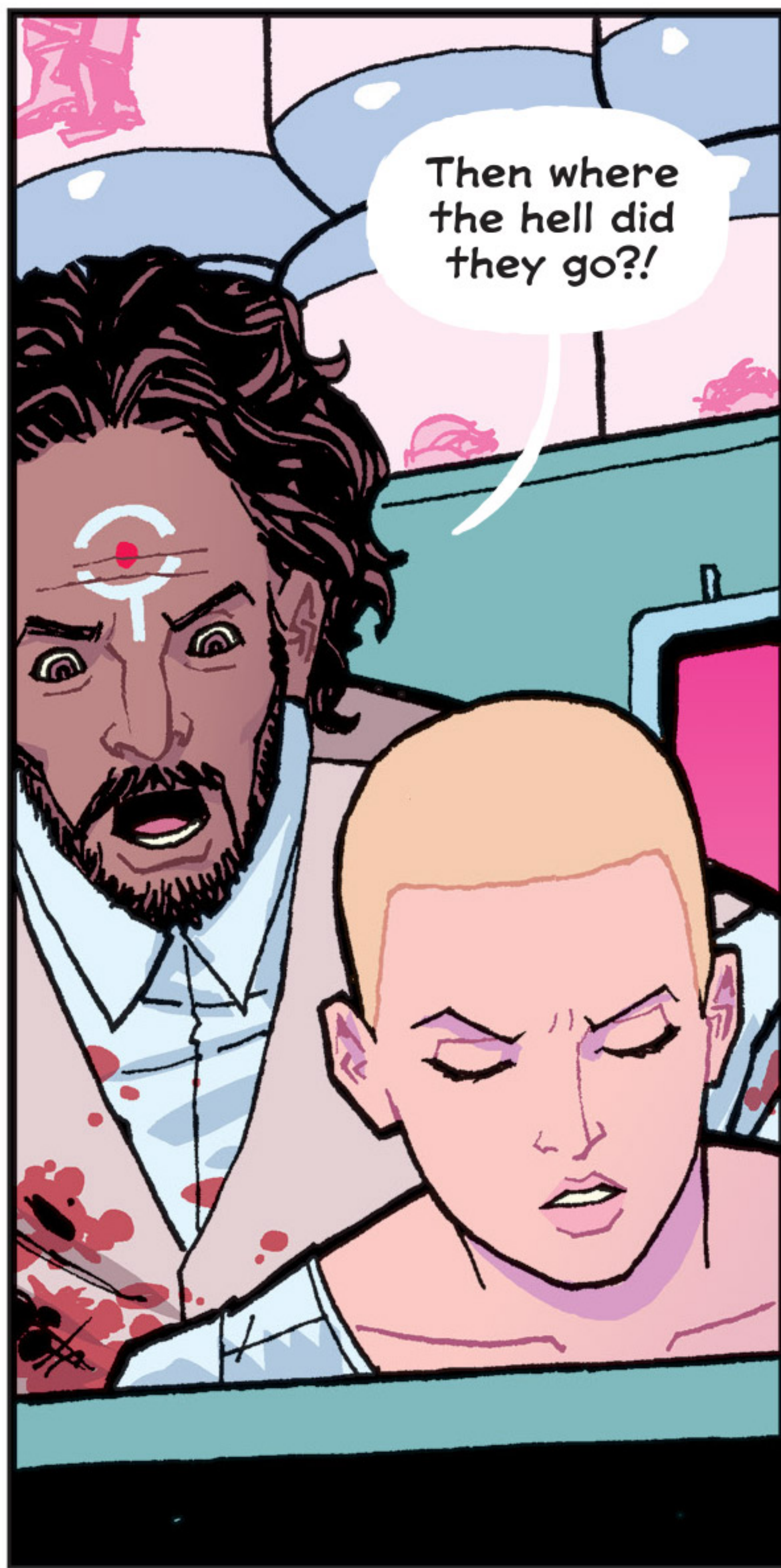
You're so right.

Their hardware, it feels exactly like the first time.



All you have to do is touch it...





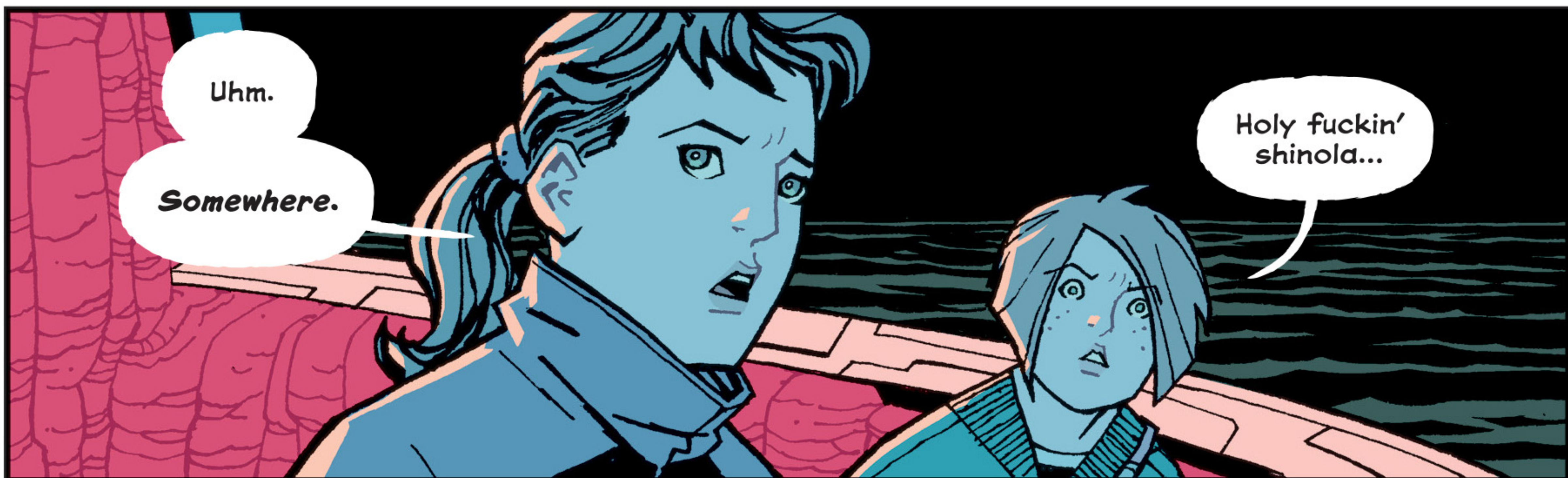


Ouch.



Everyone still in one piece?

Did... did we make it?



Uhm.

Somewhere.

Holy fuckin' shinola...



...now
that's what
I thought the
year 2000
would look
like.

TO BE CONTINUED

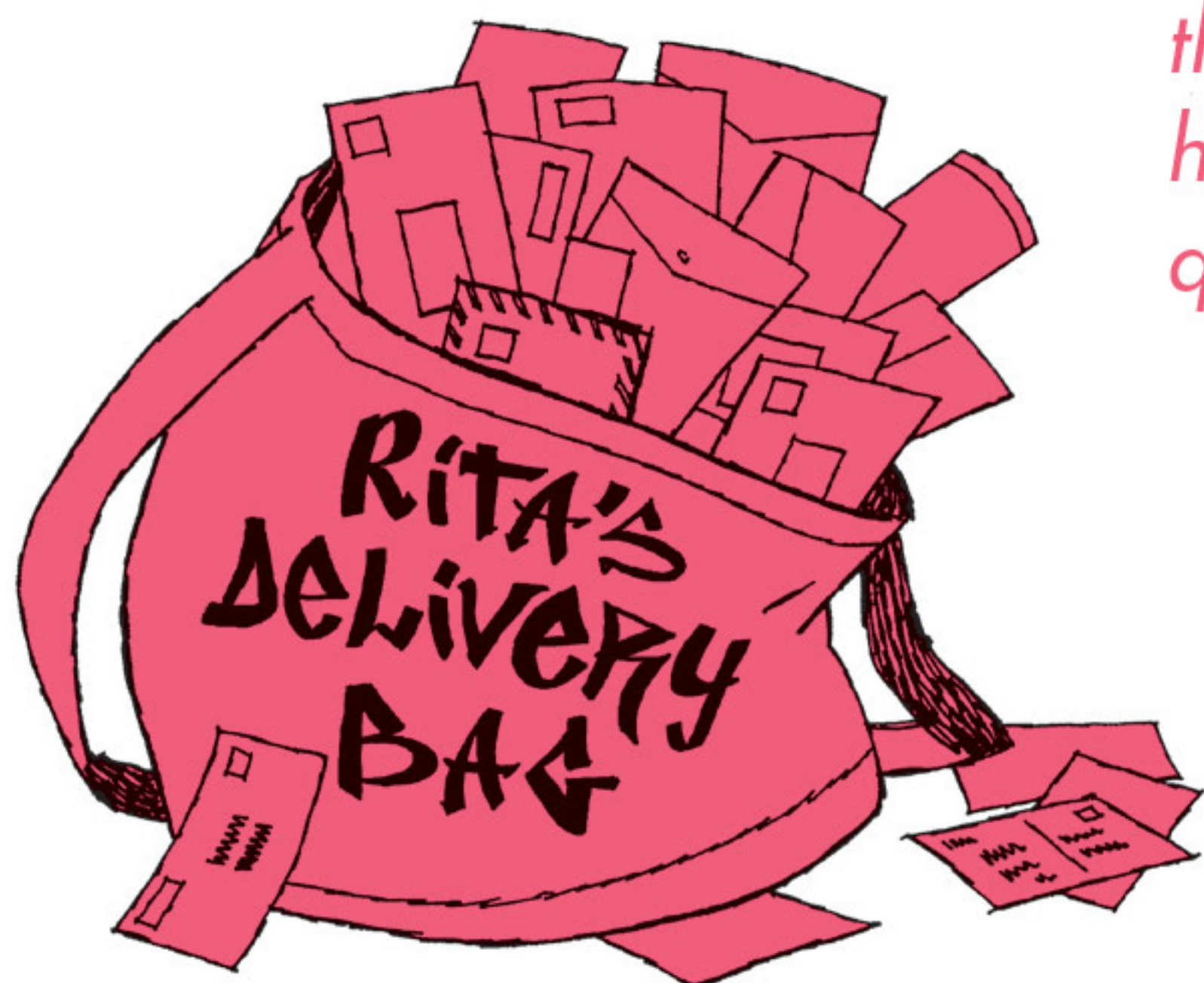
THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

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

SINCE 1899!



Rita Pearl, Papergirl



Hey, Gang!

At long last, our seemingly endless Y2K celebration comes to a close!

RITA PEARL THE PAPERGIRL here, and while I've really enjoyed hearing about your circa-2000 tales for the last five months, I'll be more than ready to jump back to the future when the comic-book periodical that hosts this fine newsletter returns from a brief hiatus in JUNE, 2018.

Speaking of our hosts, they politely asked if they could steal a couple of pages from the A.N.D.G. to use for their big "season finale." Rita loves to share, so I was happy to oblige, but that means this will have to be a quick one. Let's get to it!

Dear Rita Pearl,

1999/2000 was a pretty happening time for live music in my town (Portland). Here are some of the bands that I saw then...

Unwound, The Need, The Ex, Fugazi, Death Cab for Cutie, Mudhoney, Stars of the Lid, Angels of Light, Will Oldham, The Mountain Goats, Red Monkey, The Cannanes, Bonfire Madigan, Juno, Cat Power, Robin Hitchcock, Imperial Teen, Hovercraft, Built to Spill, Bis, Jazz Butcher, The Kiss Offs, Magnetic Fields, Low, Hazel, New Bad Things, GWAR, Dead Beat Hearts, Texacala Jones and the TJ Hookers, Dear Nora, The Lucksmiths, Kissing Book, Gomez, Lou Barlow, Dressy Bessy, The Aislars Set, Yo La Tengo, All Girl Summer Fund Band, The Softies, Silver Scooter, Jonathan Richman, Glass Candy, Go Go Go Airheart, Optigonally Yours, Thingy, Sunny Day Real Estate, Joan Jett and the Black Hearts, Tullycraft, John Doe, Refrigerator, Microphones, Mirah, Two Ton Boa, Tracy and the Plastics, Le Tigre.

It was a good time for indy rock. Gas was still cheap enough that a band could tour. People were still spending money at record stores.

Thanks,

Omar's Dad
Portland, OR

Whoa, that is incredibly impressive, Omar's Dad (unless you're just pulling Rita's leg and made up a bunch of those band names).

2000 sounds like it was a more interesting time than I first thought, and not just because of the affordable fuel and abundant music stores.

Dear Rita at the A.N.D.G.,

I greatly enjoyed Issue #16 of your *Paper Girls*. Speaking of "you," I wonder if there will be an issue where our fearless team will time travel to the present and meet... Rita Pearl?!?!?

Anyway, back to the issue at hand: I loved the cover! Tiff standing on a police car with an awesome robot in the background.

I'm still wondering about the significance of "apples" in the story. Applebee's seems to be very important.

Ah, the year 2000. It seems so long ago. That year I split time living in both the U.S. and in Japan. And I was still reading newspapers - occasionally *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Japan Times*, *The Daily Yomiuri* and *USA Today*. I would pick these papers up at the newsstand and look them over while drinking my canned coffee.

Well, the girls are split up again, Tiff with the policeman and Erin, KJ and Mac in the mall. Tiff's flashback was interesting, but what I liked most was Erin tracking down the artist of *Frankie Tomatah*. However, it looks like C. Spachefski thinks the girls are someone else.

In addition, as I always do, I enjoyed the letter section and the Summer Vacation Survey Results.

Wait, Canadian Tire money? Never heard of it... and I've been to Calgary and Toronto more than a few times.

'Course, we don't have such "money" here in Japan, but here's a Thanks Ticket from my favorite burger place.

Alan Bowman
Saga City, Japan

Thanks for the "Thanks Ticket," Alan, and for the delightful letter! We always look forward to opening your cloudy blue Air Mail envelopes whenever they arrive here at A.N.D.G. Headquarters.

Hi Petey, Rita, and at the A.N.D.G. Co!

First time writing in to ANY comic!

I just wanted to say how much BKV has influenced me in my mid-twenties. After my hardest (and last) break-up in 2014, I fell into a pretty bad depression. Social interaction was not something

that interested me for a good while, so I began seeking new ways to spend my time alone.

Playing *Batman: Arkham Knight* on X-Box was one of my favorite pastimes, so when I found out that a comic series was released alongside it, I made my first venture into a comics shop. Along the wall of new releases, *We Stand On Guard* stood out next to *Batman*. After the first four pages, I was hooked. Having never thought of comics as more than superhero cartoons lacking animation, reading a gripping war story with a more-than-believable premise excited me so much that I started buying BKV's catalogue like a house on fire: *Pride of Baghdad*, *Doctor Strange: The Oath*, *The Private Eye*, and even three issues of *Batman*!

But I'd say my mindset on life truly changed after reading *Y the Last Man* in its entirety. Not since I read the Harry Potter books in my adolescence has literature made me feel so strongly for fictional characters. The jokes were constantly cracking me up out loud in public, and I wept like a baby for an hour during my overnight hotel shift after finishing the final few issues.

Anyway, thanks for all of the amazing works, and thanks to everyone who works on *Paper Girls*!

Sincerely yours,
Travis K.
Arnold, MO

Sorry to hear about your breakup, Travis, but I'm glad it helped bring you to the wonderful world of comic books!

And thanks, I'll pass along your kind words to that writer guy, whose last name I always misspell.

Hey Rad Rita!

I love *Paper Girls* and all of the

great directions it's headed in.

I wanted to send a note to suggest a great 2000-era album: "The Shape of Punk to Come" by Refused.

Was probably one of the most innovative and forward-thinking albums made in that era.

Please give it a listen and tell me what you think.

Benjamin Leonard
Philadelphia, PA

PS

Here's a zine I help make!

Benjamin, with the power of my 2018-era smartphone, I've been rocking out INTENSELY to this 2000-era (or 1998-era, per Wikipedia) album by Swedish hardcore punk band Refused. It's wonderful.

And everyone here at the A.N.D.G really enjoyed Moviejawn, that rad zine you help make! For all of your contributions to expanding our horizons, we've decided to name you DELIVERER OF THE MONTH. Congrats, and be on the lookout for your prizes, which I'll mail out as soon as I finish listening to the rest of Refused's discography (in 2000-speak).

And talk of mail reminds me, I've also got to start stuffing some of your self-addressed envelopes with official A.N.D.G. membership cards. And while this newsletter will be on hiatus until Paper Girls returns in June, I'll still be accepting your S.A.S.E.s (ask a grownup if you're not hip to these) until March 1, 2018.

Other than the cost of the stamp, it's still free to join. Just like it was way back in the year 2000, at least according to Petey Roy's meticulous old ledgers.

See you in June, I hope,

Rita Pearl, Papergirl

HEY HEY, IT'S THE Y2K SURVEY!

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

Boy, you deliverers sure do love answering surveys, huh? We received a lot of wonderful responses from readers, many of whom could barely remember the year 2000, but were nevertheless happy to share their thoughts. Here are some of our favorites...

1) *What was the best movie of the year 2000?*

O Brother, Where Art Thou?

—**Byron D.** from Ames, IA was one of the few readers to answer this first question correctly.

2) *If you were alive, what did you do for New Year's Eve on December 31, 1999?*

"I was playing *Samba de Amigo* on the SEGA Dreamcast and intentionally leaving all my devices on through the date change."

—**Shaun G.** from Eugene, OR

3) *And who was your Hollywood crush circa the year 2000?*

"I was nine, so I can proudly say my Hollywood Crush of 2000 was still Meg from Disney's *Hercules*. So sultry. I can admit that after seeing *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys* and *Donnie Darko*, my crush has been Jena Malone for a solid fifteen years. She plays bass!"

—**Travis K.** from Arnold, MO

4) *In your opinion, what was the biggest news story of 2000?*

"According to my fuzzy recollection (aided by a Wikipedia search), Elián González was a very prominent news topic for Americans and Cubanos alike."

—**Aaron K.** from Lubbock, TX

5) *Had you already seen the movie 2001 before the year 2000?*

"Still haven't seen it."

—**Edward C.** from Astoria, NY (and a troubling amount of you; you're missing out!)

6) *If so, what did/do you think of it?*

"I think it's the grandest film ever made. Let's just say I was very disappointed in the real 2001."

—**Jordan H.** from Salem, OR

7) What was the best music video of 2000?

Lots of deep cuts mentioned in these interesting responses, but the most frequently named video from 2000 was mainstream juggernaut “Oops!... I Did It Again” by Britney Spears.

8) Has this new century been better or worse than you thought it would be?

Sadly, nearly everyone who responded to our survey said that this century has been significantly WORSE than they thought it would be...

9) Would 2000-era You be proud of the You of Today?

...but happily, nearly everyone also felt that Y2K You would be proud of the You of Today. Congratulations? Now get busy fixing this century!

10) In what ways are we all still trapped in the year 2000?

The most popular responses involved pop culture (specifically the lack of originality in endlessly rebooted franchises, some of which were already getting long in the tooth back in 2000) or American politics (and the way things seemed to change around *Bush v. Gore*).

11) Has anything gotten better over the last seventeen years?

“The internet! Women and POC representation. Powerful men are finally falling from grace for their crimes. I don’t get lost anymore now that I have a smartphone! Seriously, I was always getting lost. Barack Obama. And we’ve mapped the human genome, so hopefully some big cures are on the horizon.”

—**Sherry G.** from Bellevue, NE


12) Are you helping or hurting?

“I’m helping in small ways. I haven’t joined the Peace Corps or anything, but every day, I live by the Golden Rule (‘Do Unto Others...’).”

—**Travis R.** from Hatfield, PA

Travis, helping out in small ways is already paying off in a big karmic way for you, as your survey entry was the one randomly selected to win some terrific PAPER GIRLS SWAG!

Thanks to everyone who shared their Y2K memories with us, and we’ll meet you all back here in these pages this summer.







4 of 4

1

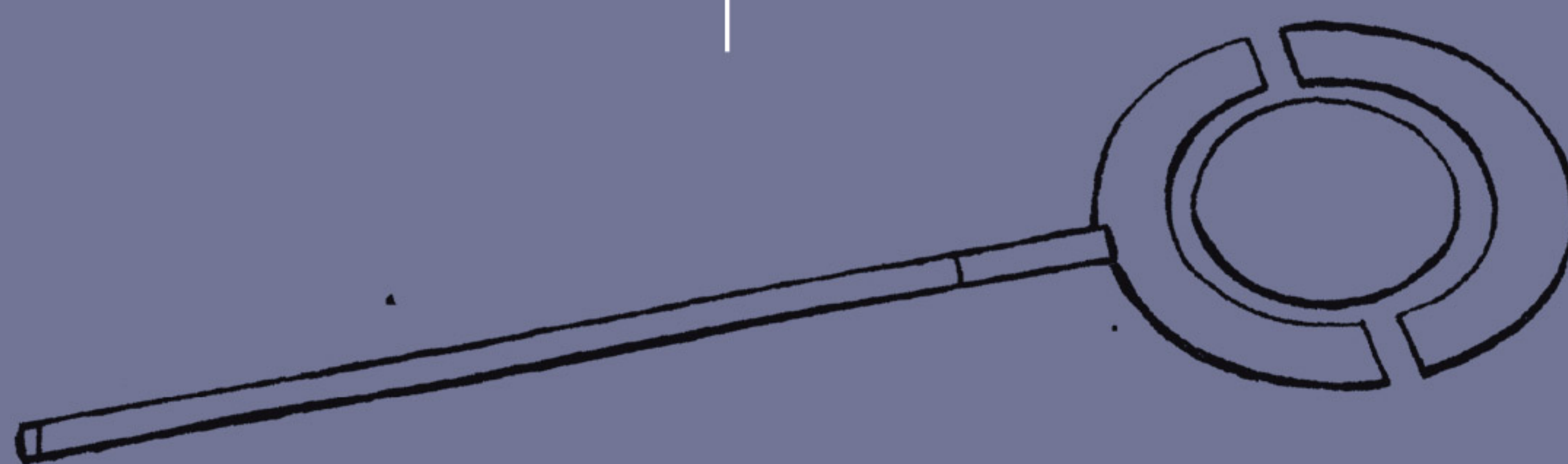
2

3

4

Carefully remove each poster and connect
all four posters to see the bigger picture!





Paper Girls 21

ON SALE 6.06.18

BRIAN K. VAUGHAN
CLIFF CHIANG
MATT WILSON
JARED K. FLETCHER



ISSUE 20

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED **T+** | TEEN PLUS

