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# Paper Girls<sup>TM</sup>

## 21



# Paper Girls 21

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**CLIFF CHIANG** artist

**MATT WILSON** colors

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**DEE CUNNIFFE** color flats

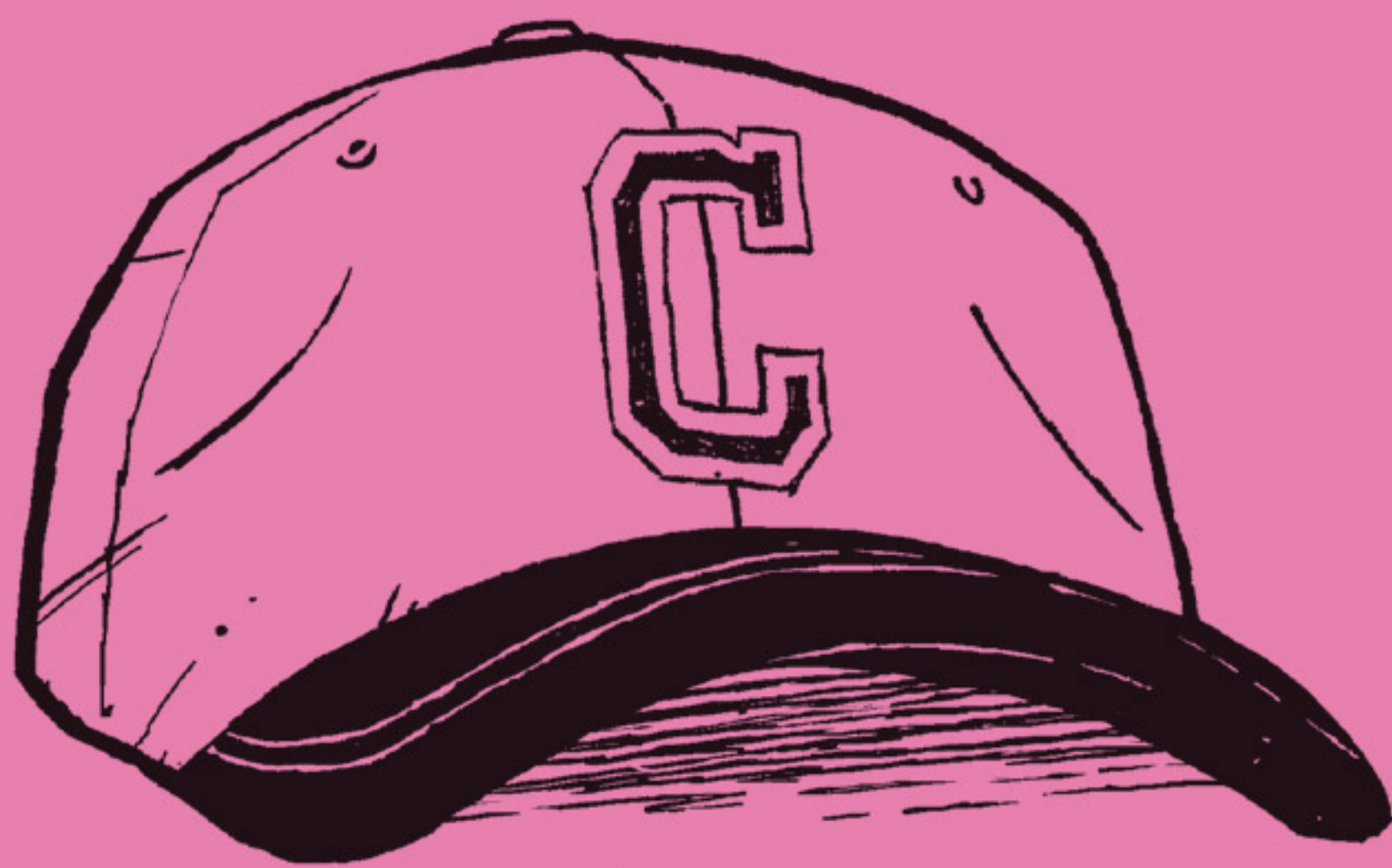


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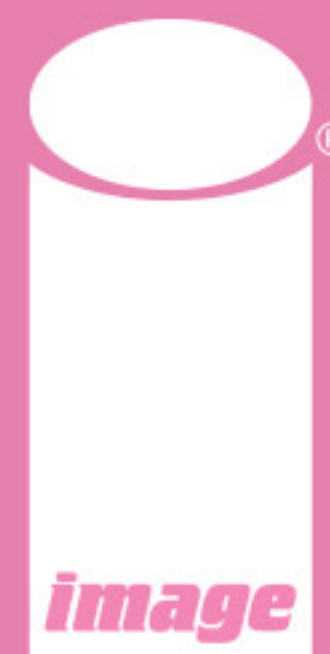
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# Paper Girls<sub>22</sub>

ON SALE 7.04.18

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





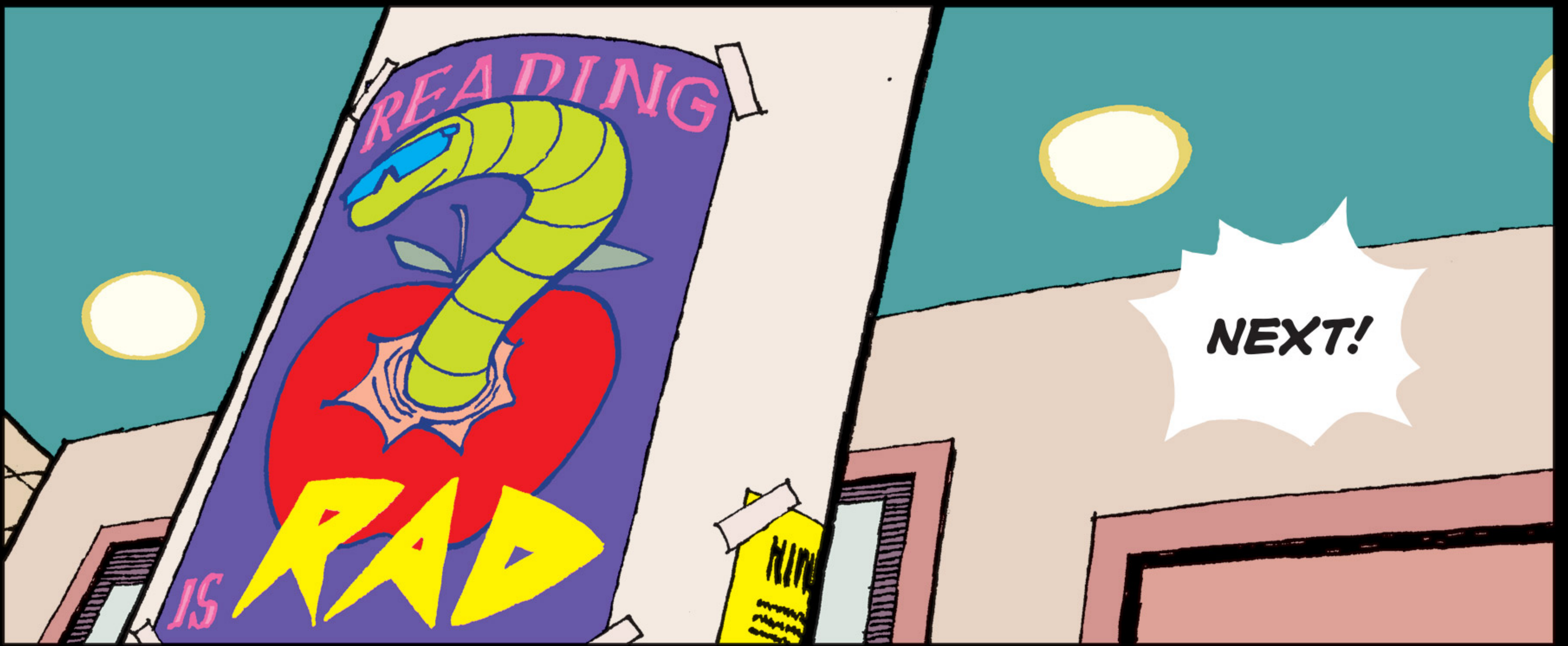


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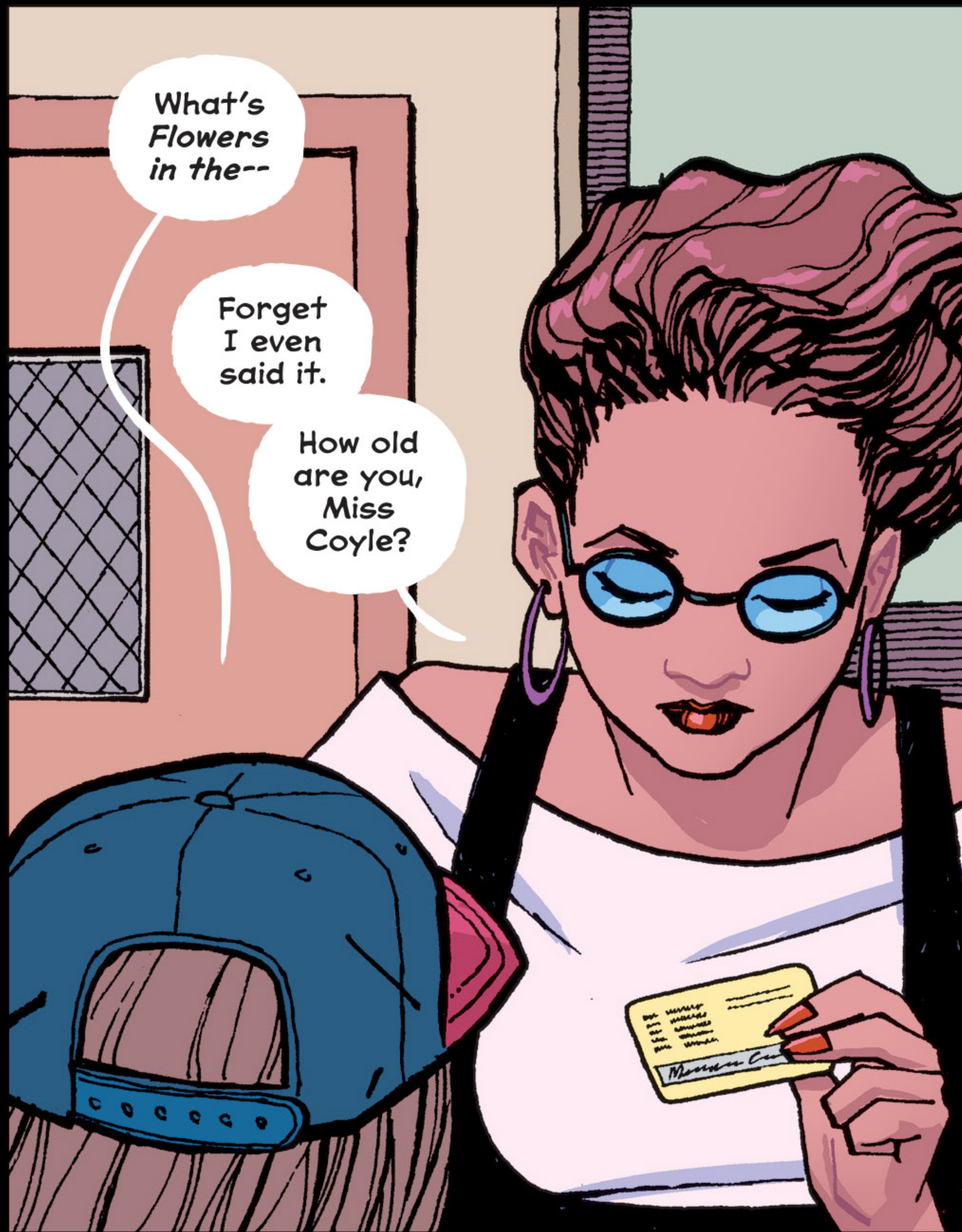
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RATED **T+** | TEEN PLUS









What's  
Flowers  
in the--

Forget  
I even  
said it.

How old  
are you,  
Miss  
Coyle?



Twelve.

Essentially.

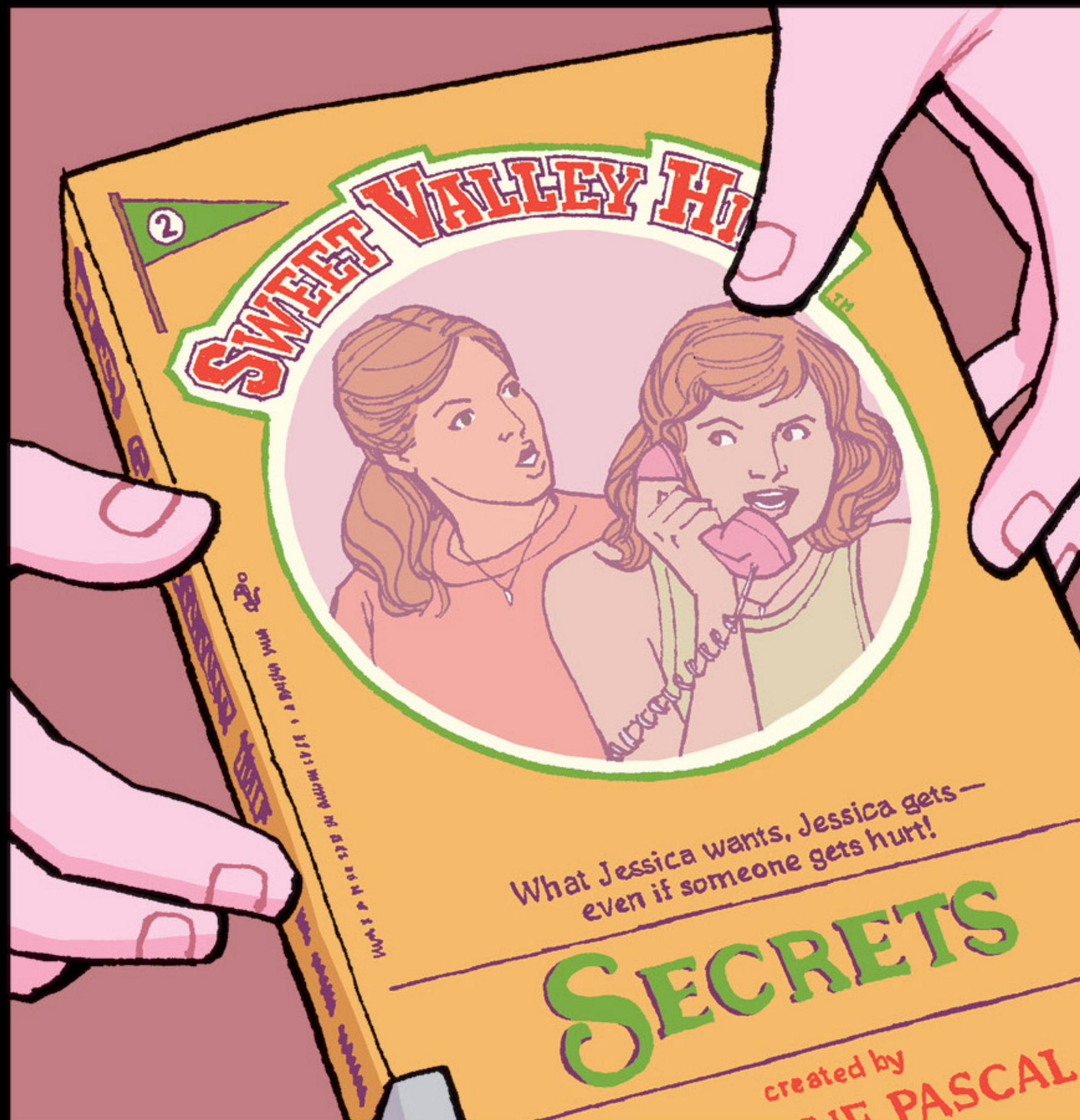
And what,  
you want the new  
Stephen King door-  
stopper? Because it's  
checked out, all  
three copies.



Nah, my brother tried to  
get me to read that green  
one...*Eyes of the Dragon*,  
but I'm not really into  
fantasy shit.

Sorry,  
fantasy  
crap.

Kid, if you're  
holding anything  
shy of *The Anarchist's  
Cookbook*, I'm going  
to be severely  
disappointed.







Hmm.



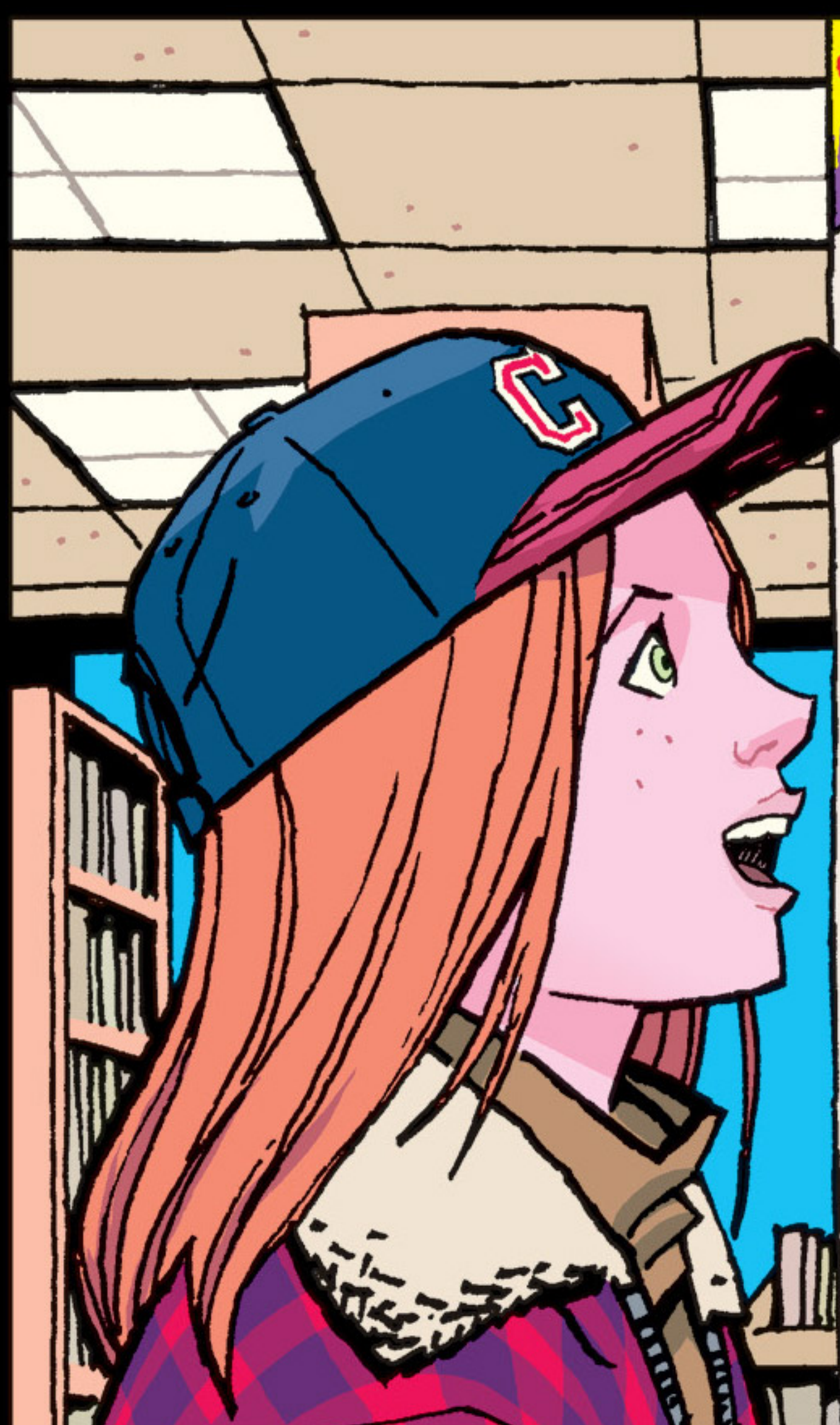
I'm not in high school.

You don't say.

Everyone in my class is still obsessed with *Baby-Sitters Club*, but I think *they're* a bunch of babies.



Anyway, this book just looks...more interesting.



Well, it's the deep end of the pool, all right.

But, I think you can handle it.

For real?

Just get it back on time.



You're going to be dying of leukemia any day now.





Oh.

I almost forgot.



We never do.

Did you really think you could *escape?*

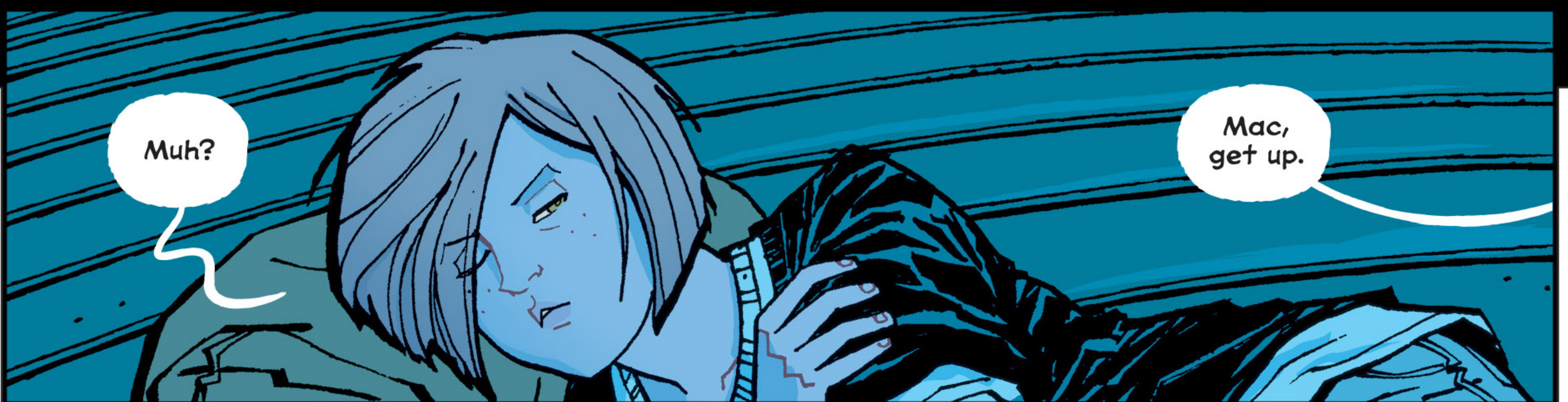
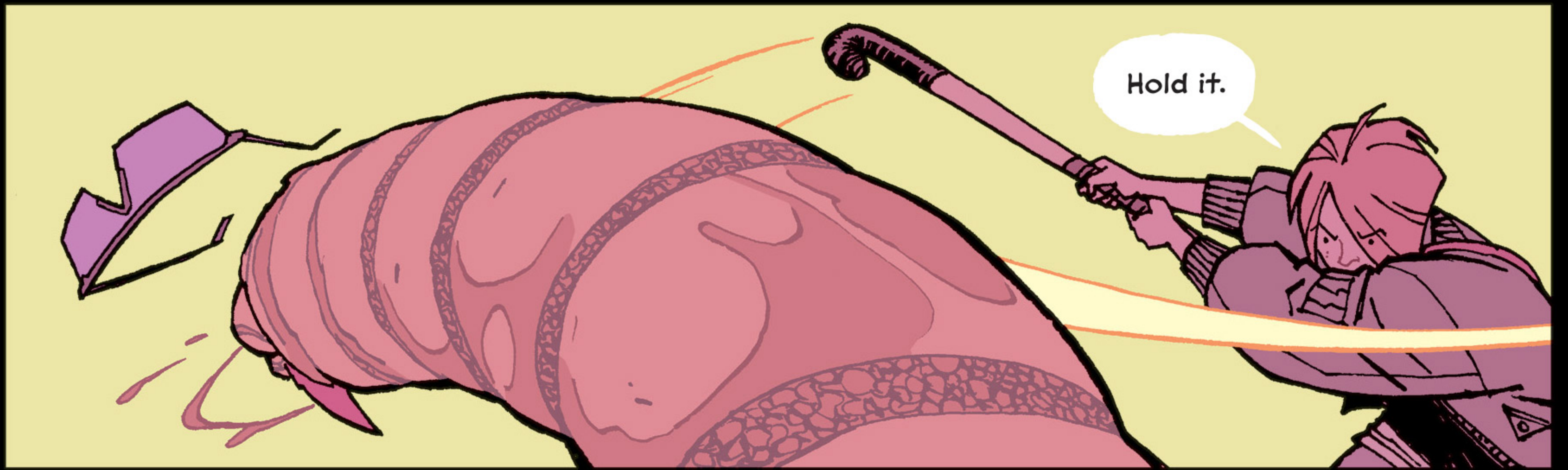
Into some book?



Only dorks want to escape life.





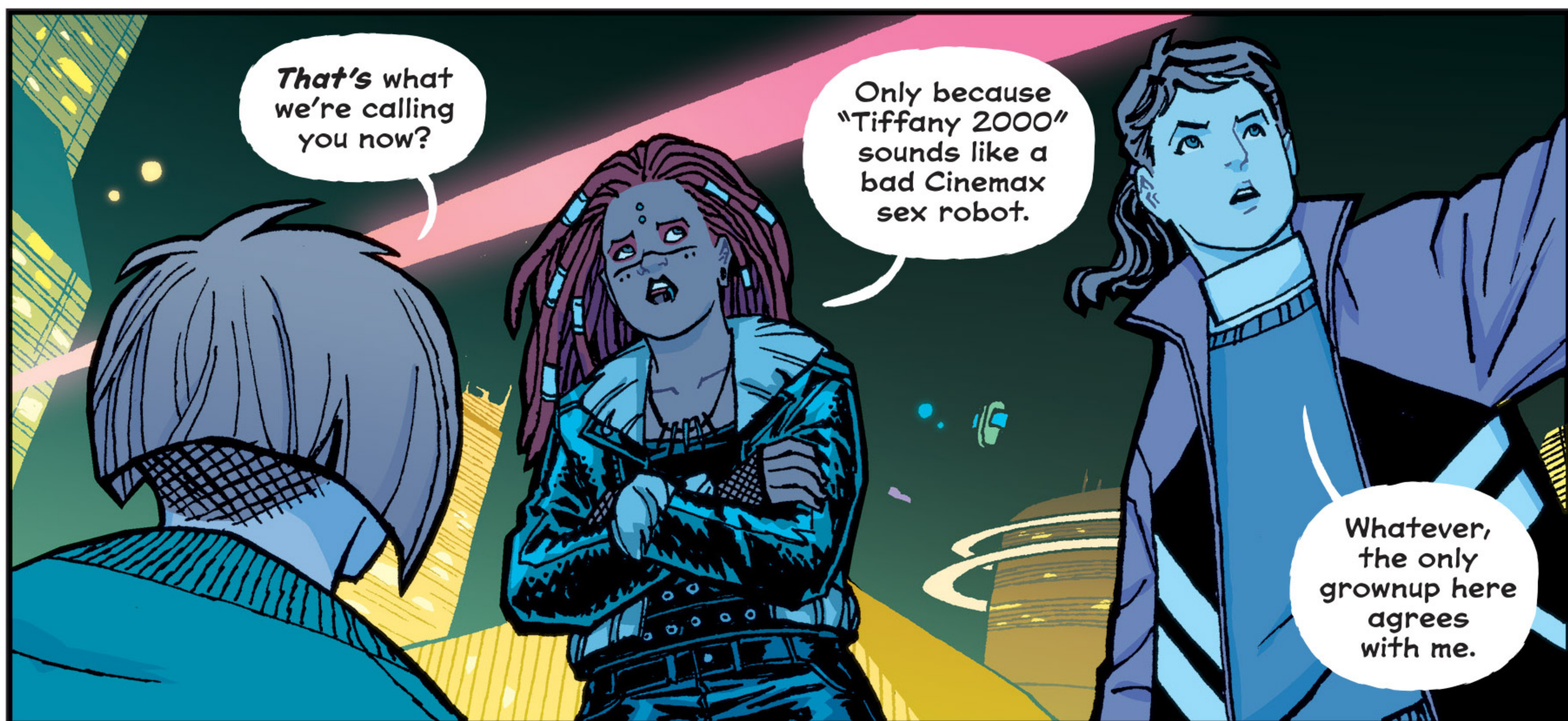
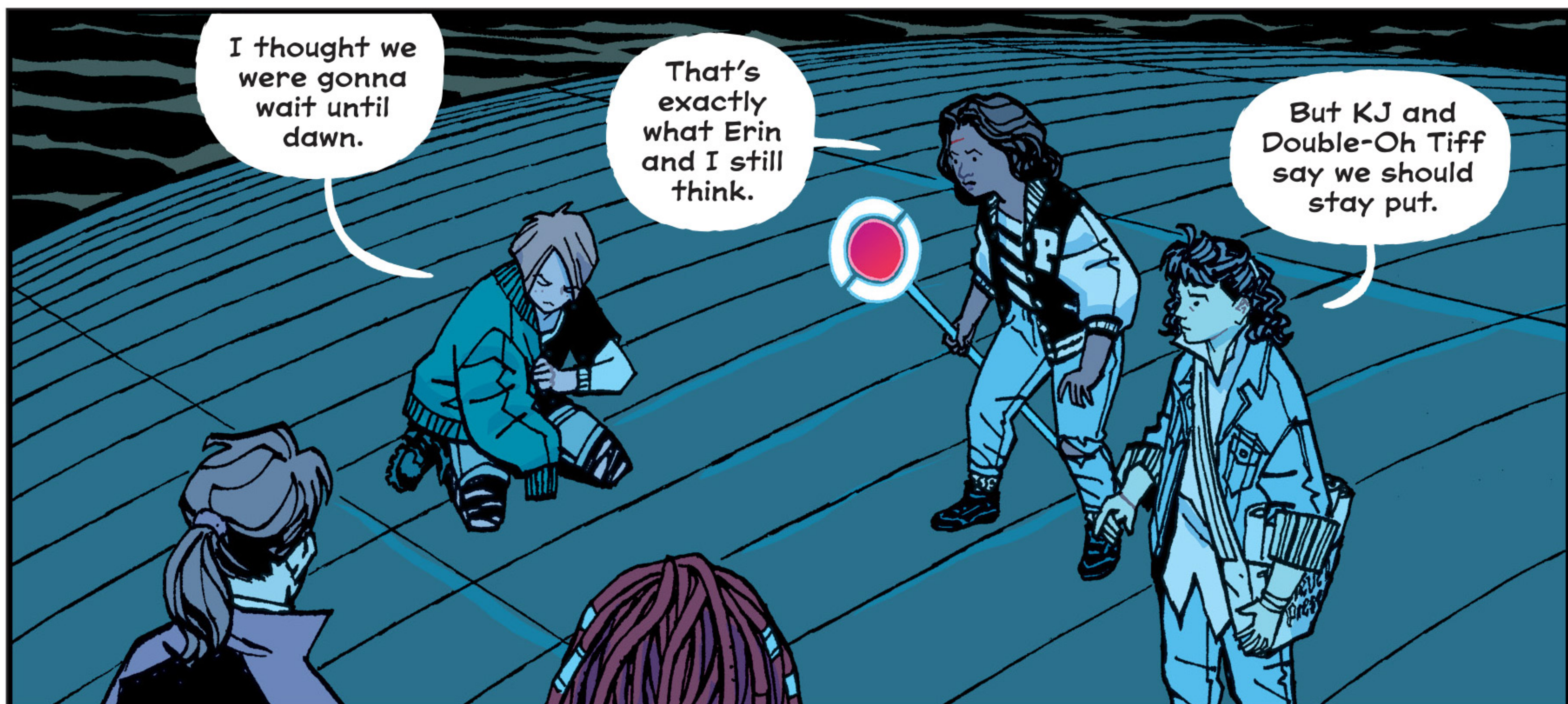






We gotta  
keep  
moving.





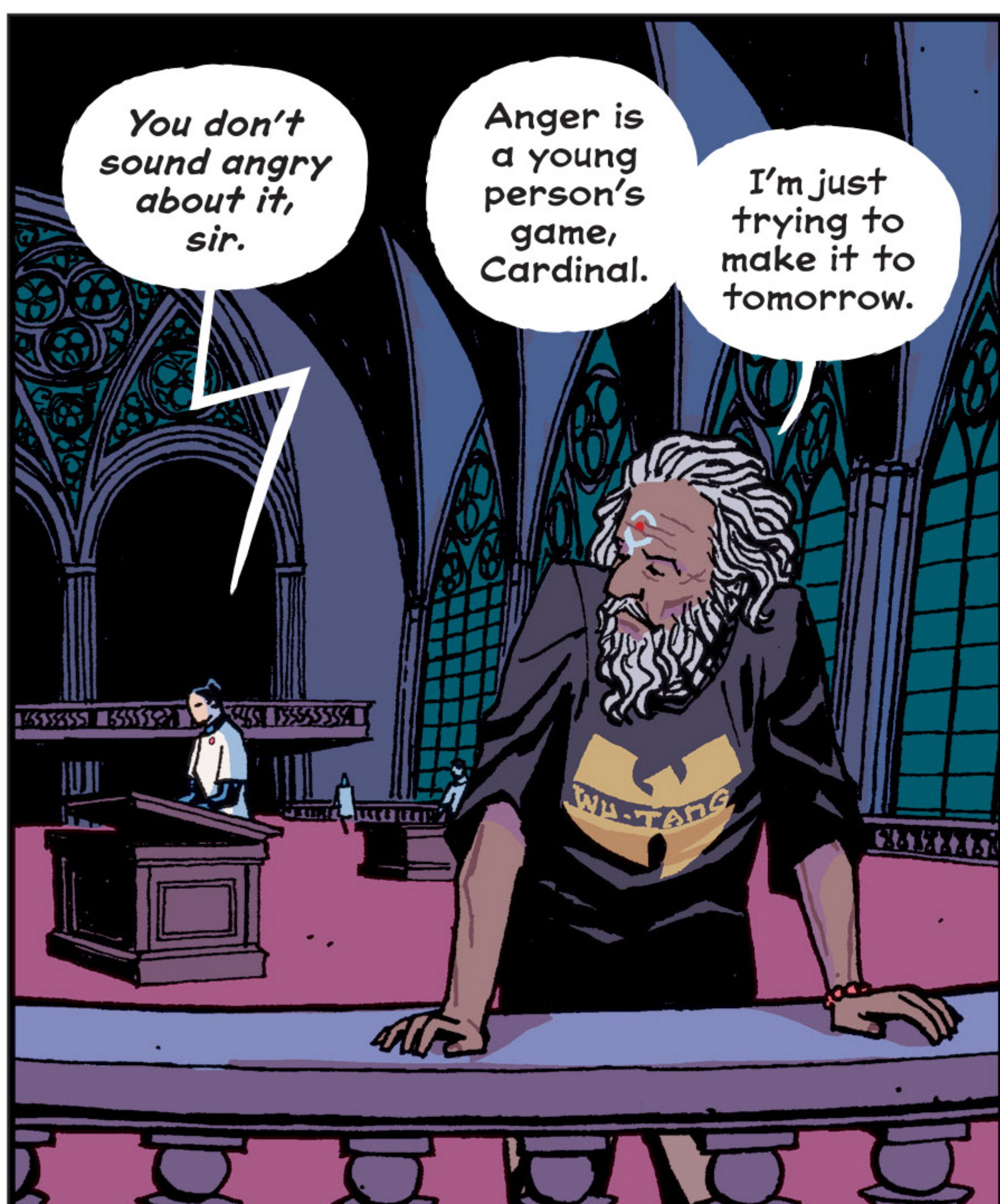
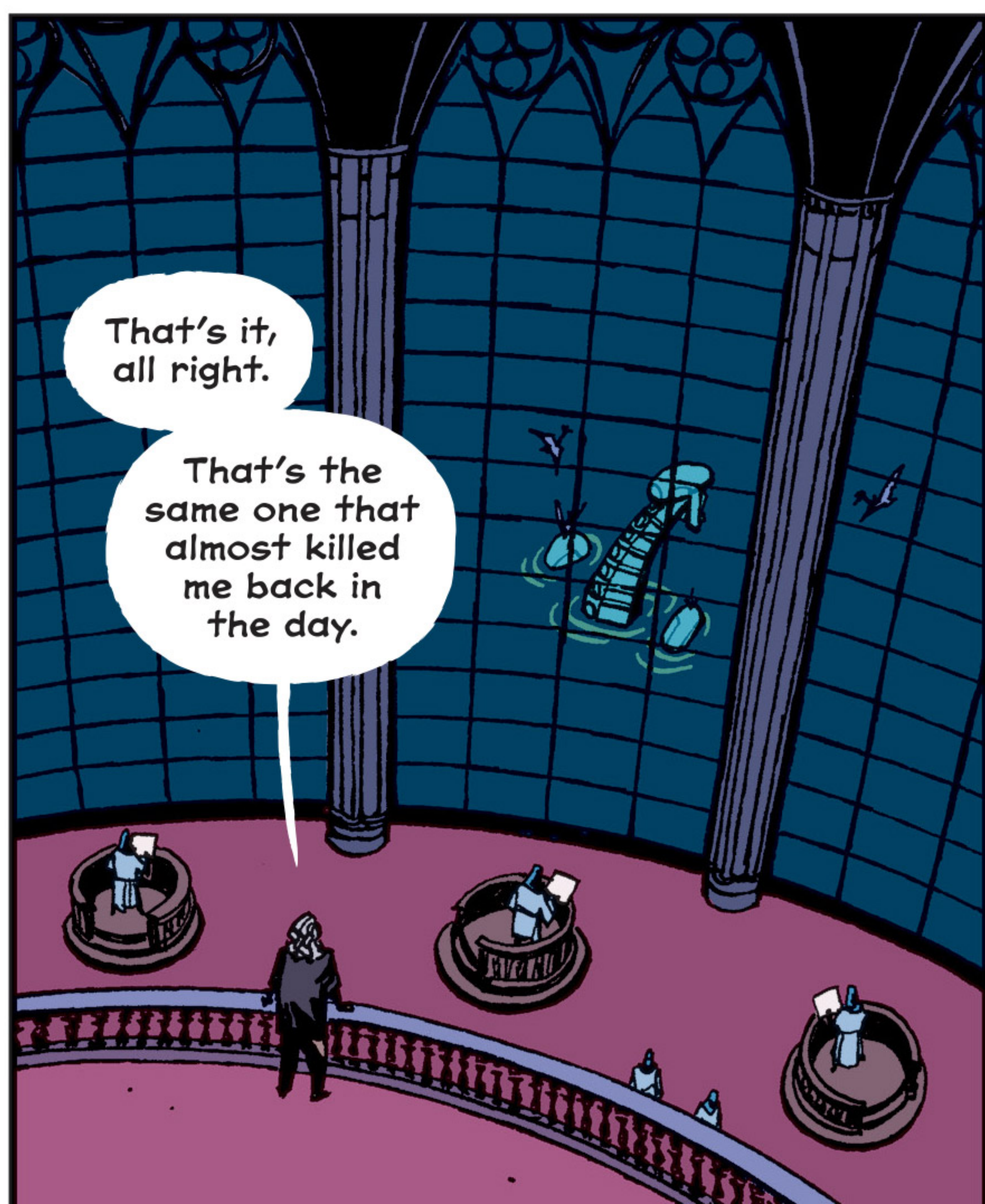
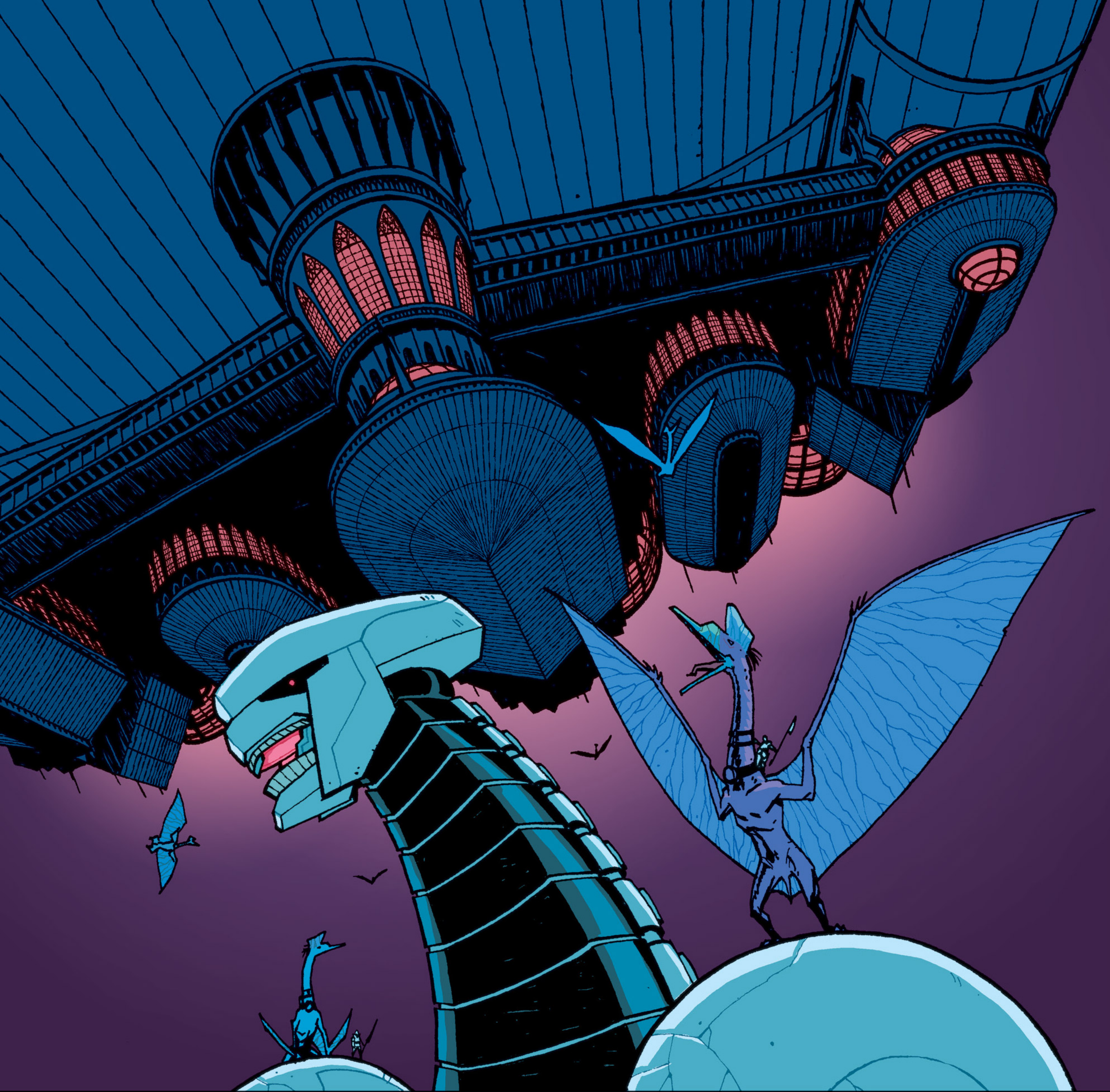
















Well, we may have a lead on the invading ship's occupants.

On the bank of the reservoir, a sniffer team recovered a piece of wreckage that we think may have been used as a raft.

Think or know?



There's the rub, Grand Father.

We found multiple footprints in the sand, but our instruments are detecting absolutely no traces of human life.



They've learned to hide from us.

That's not good.



If enemy soldiers already escaped into our general population, shouldn't we alert the local authorities?

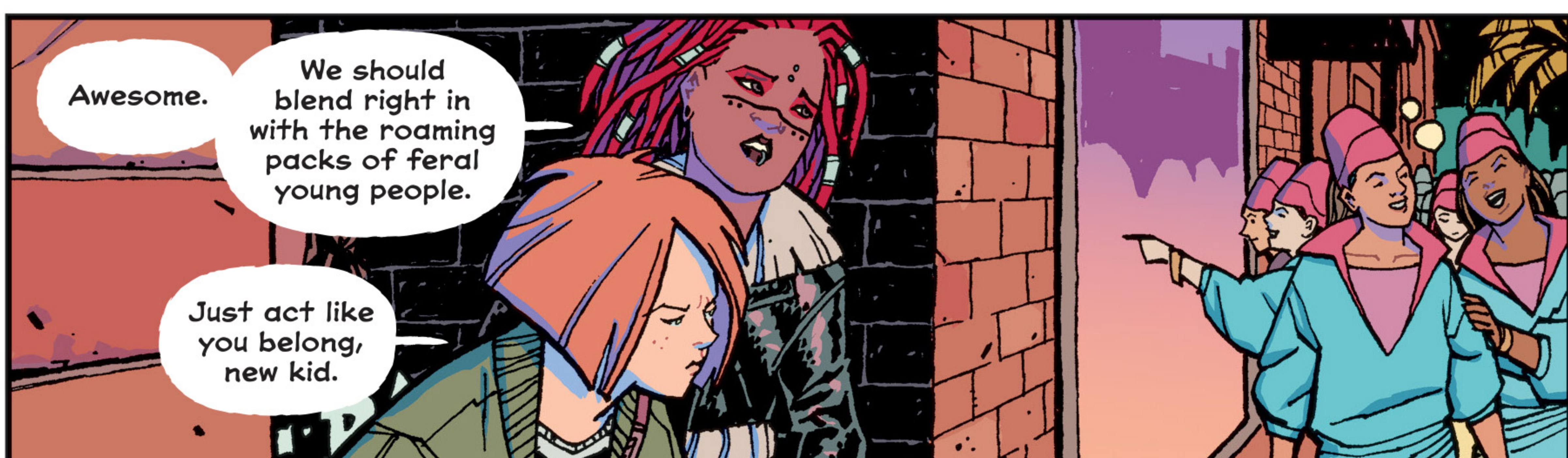
Hell, no.

If these kids have really figured out how to avoid detection, we need to **question** them.

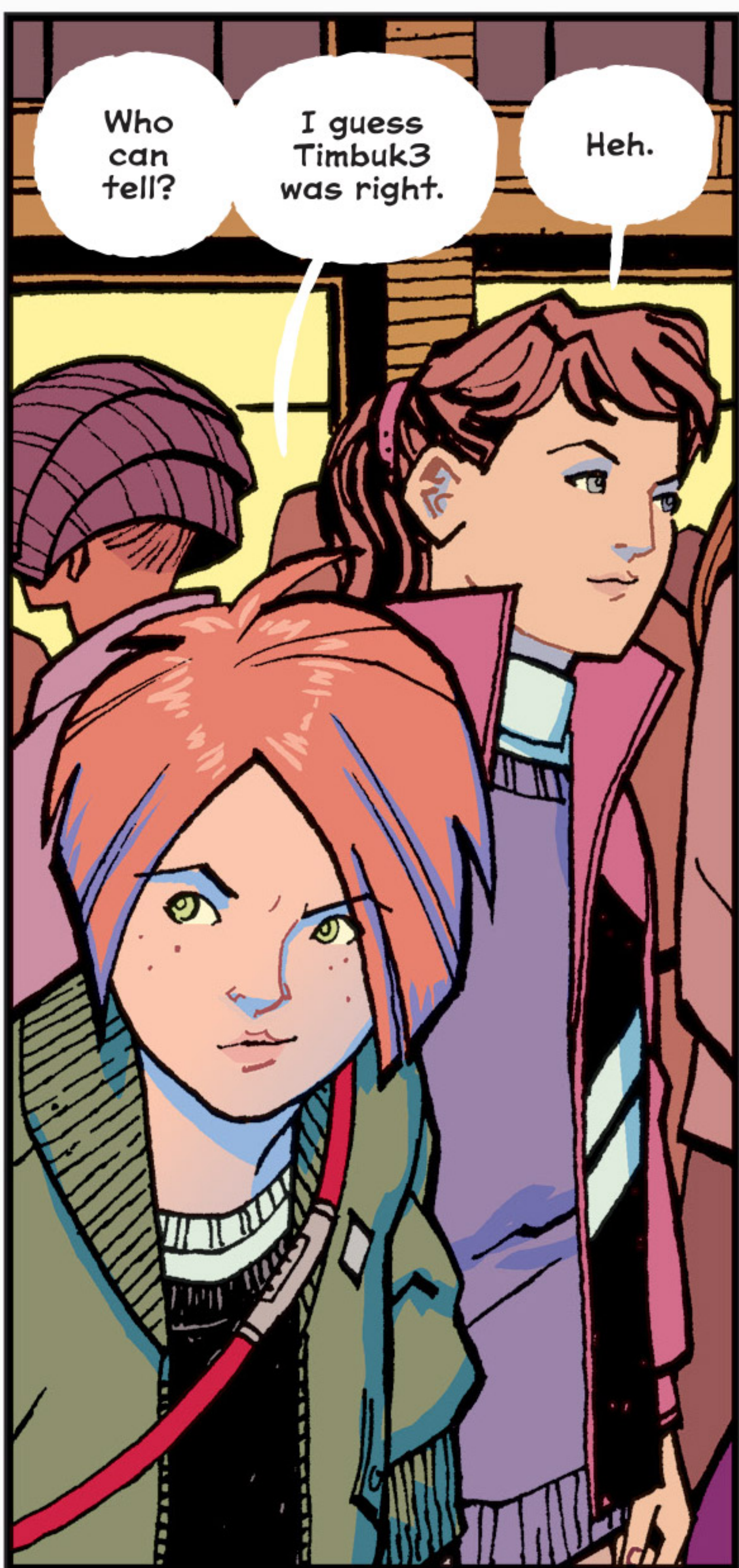


And the Cleveland P.D. doesn't take prisoners.

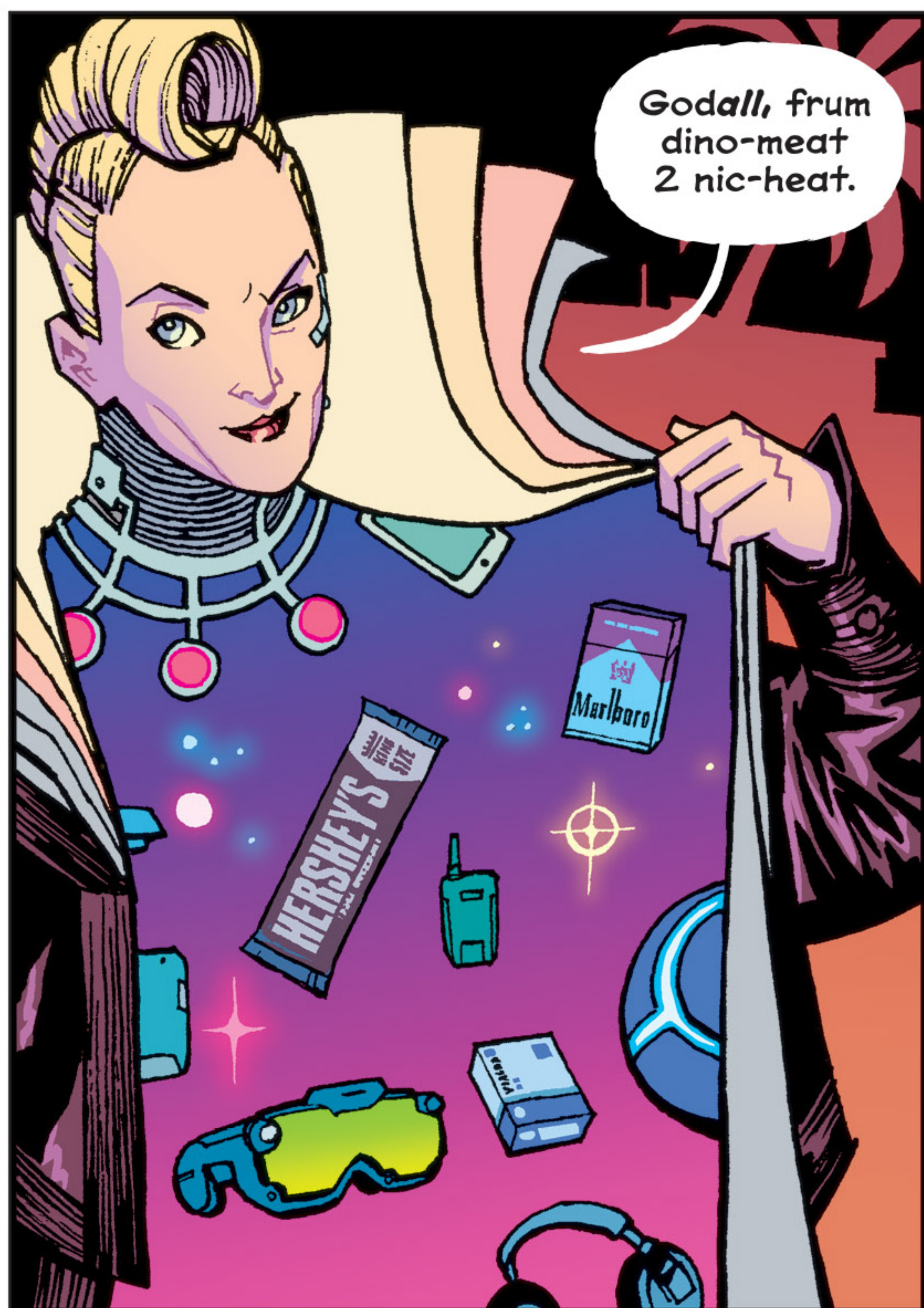








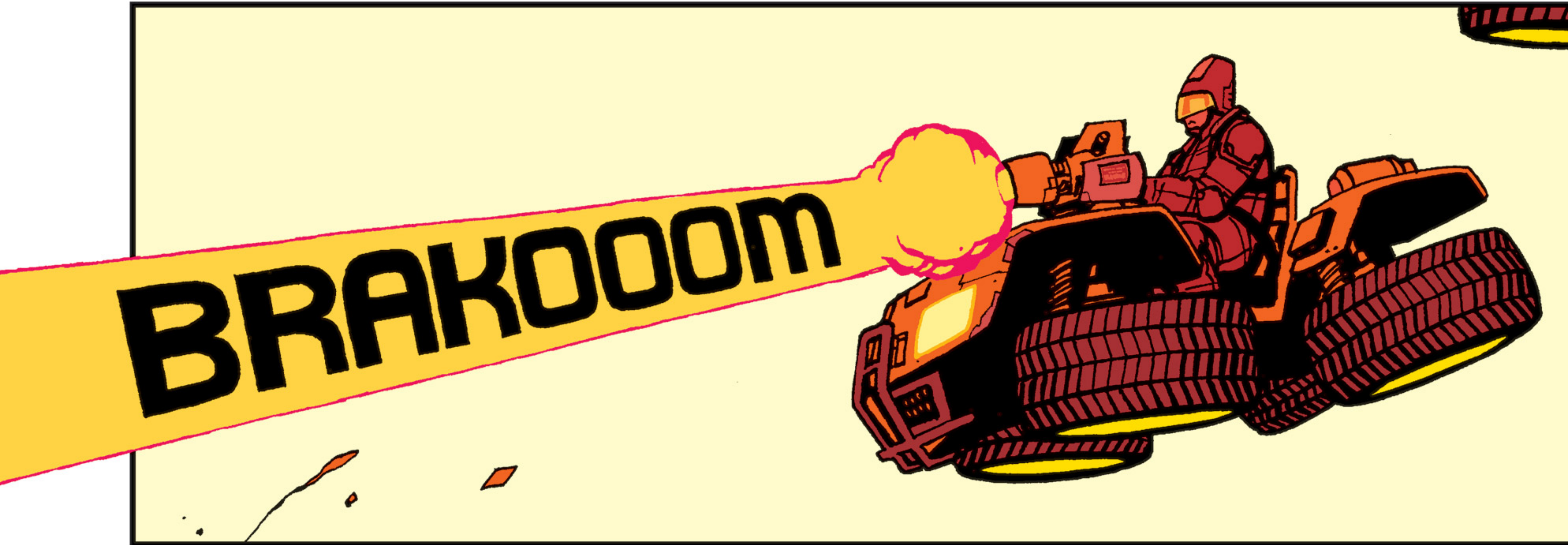
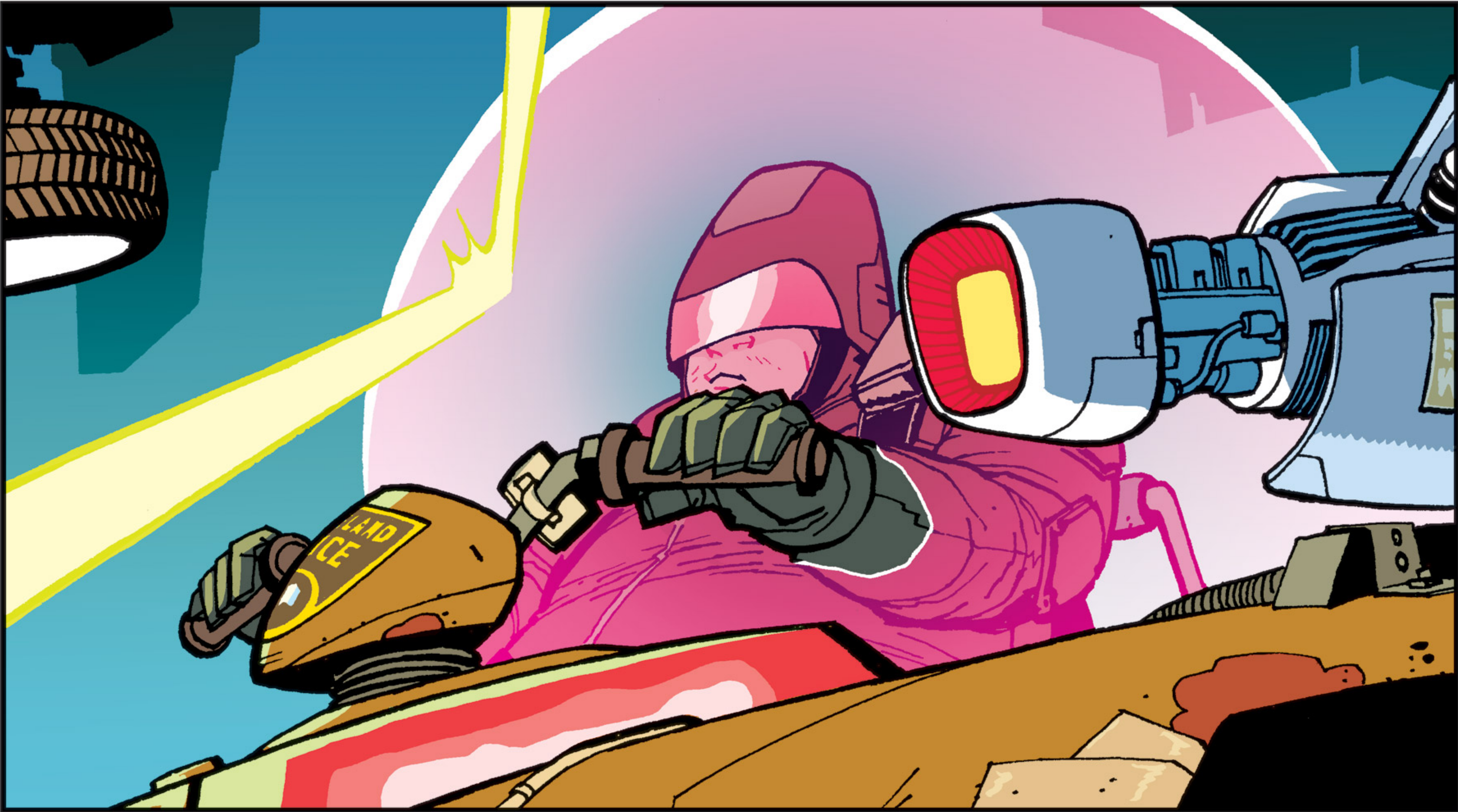
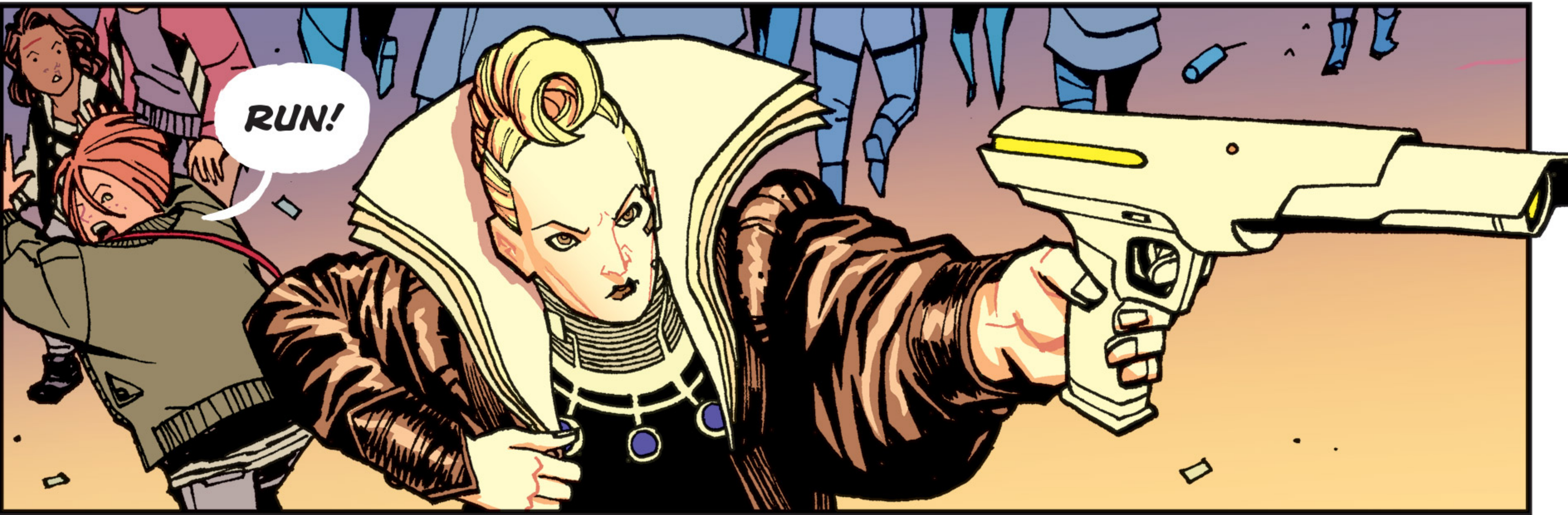




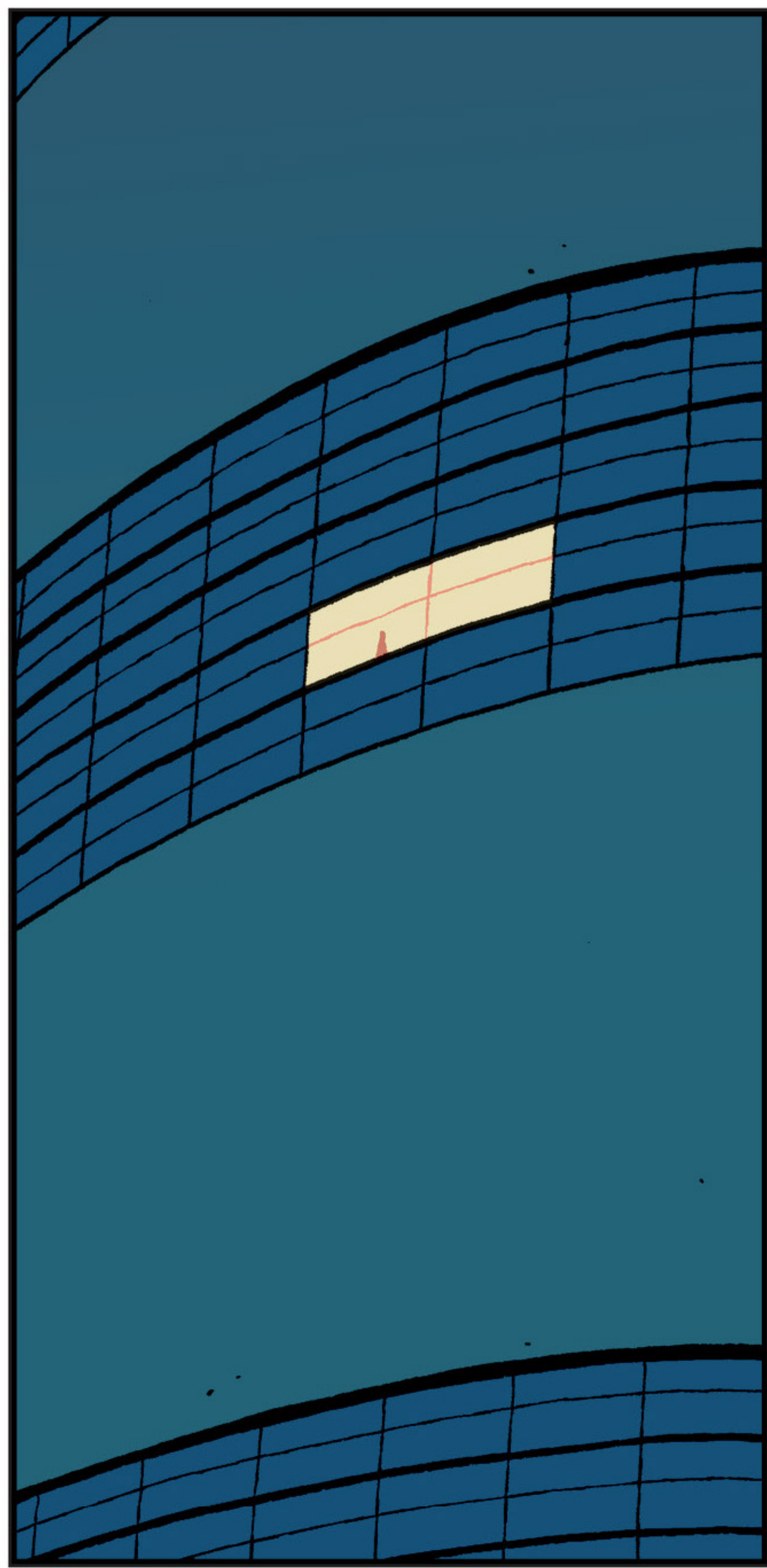










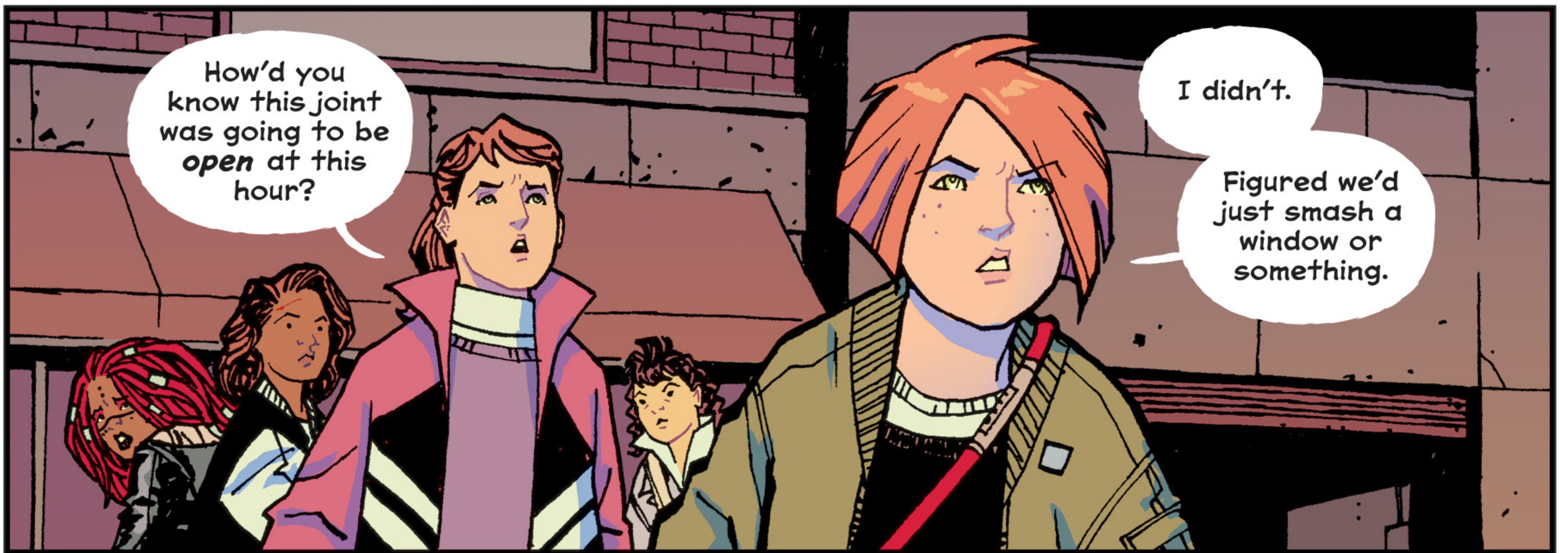






Is everybody okay?

I...haven't run like that... since eighth grade...



How'd you know this joint was going to be **open** at this hour?

I didn't.

Figured we'd just smash a window or something.



That woman back there.

You think she **killed** those cops?

Unless they killed her first, I guess.

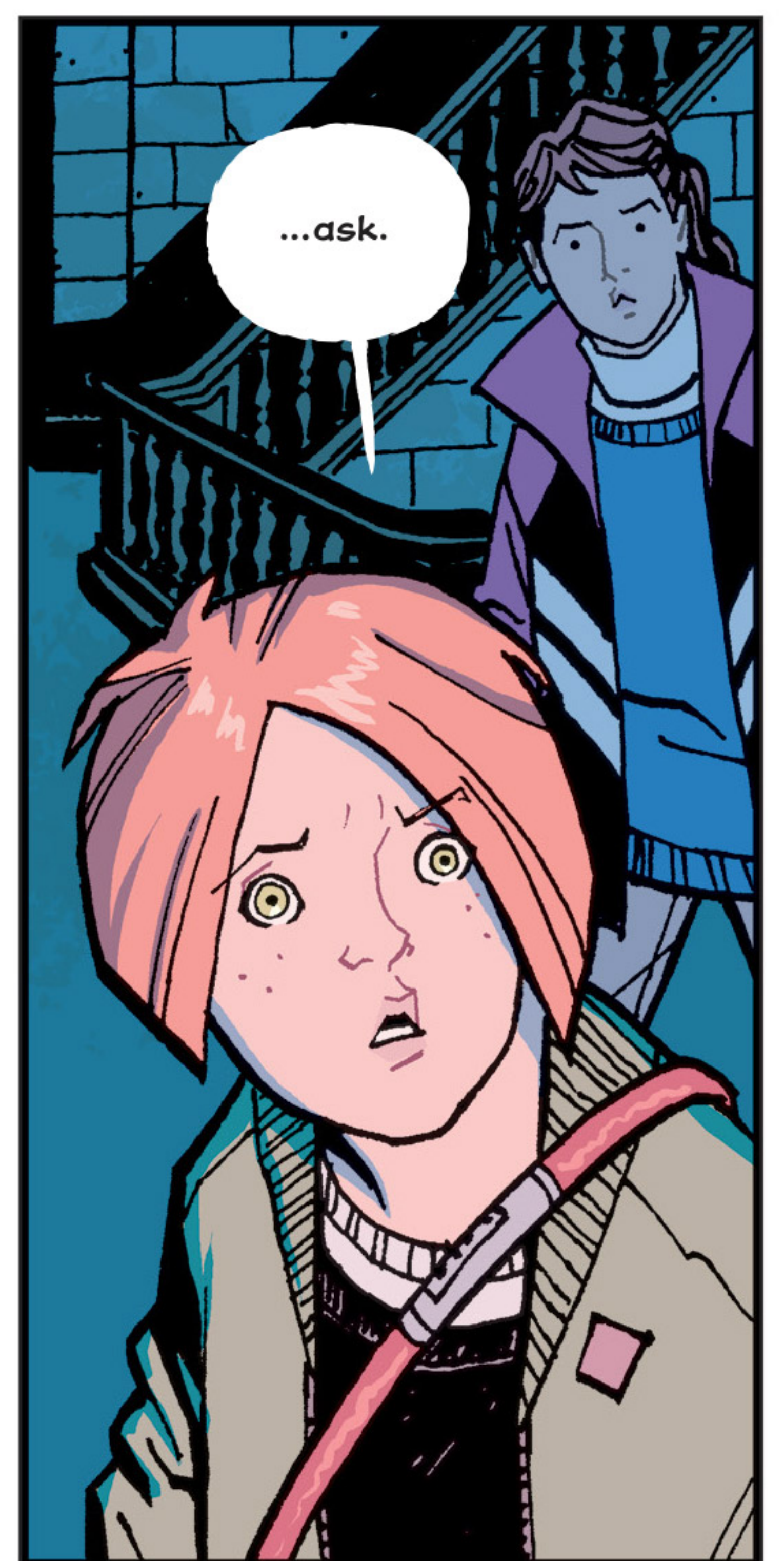
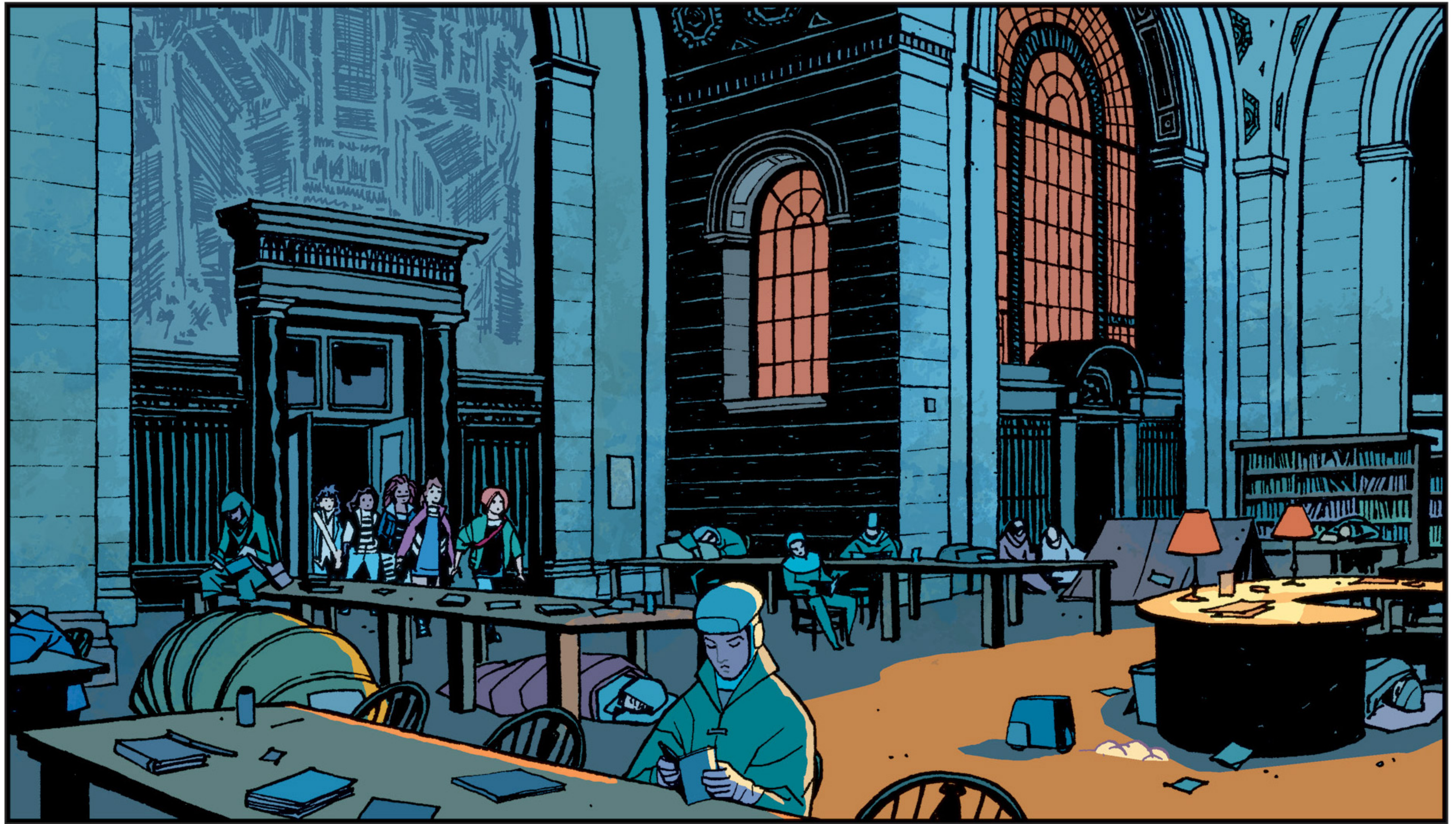


You guess? I'm seriously worried about what all this violence is doing to your brain, kid.

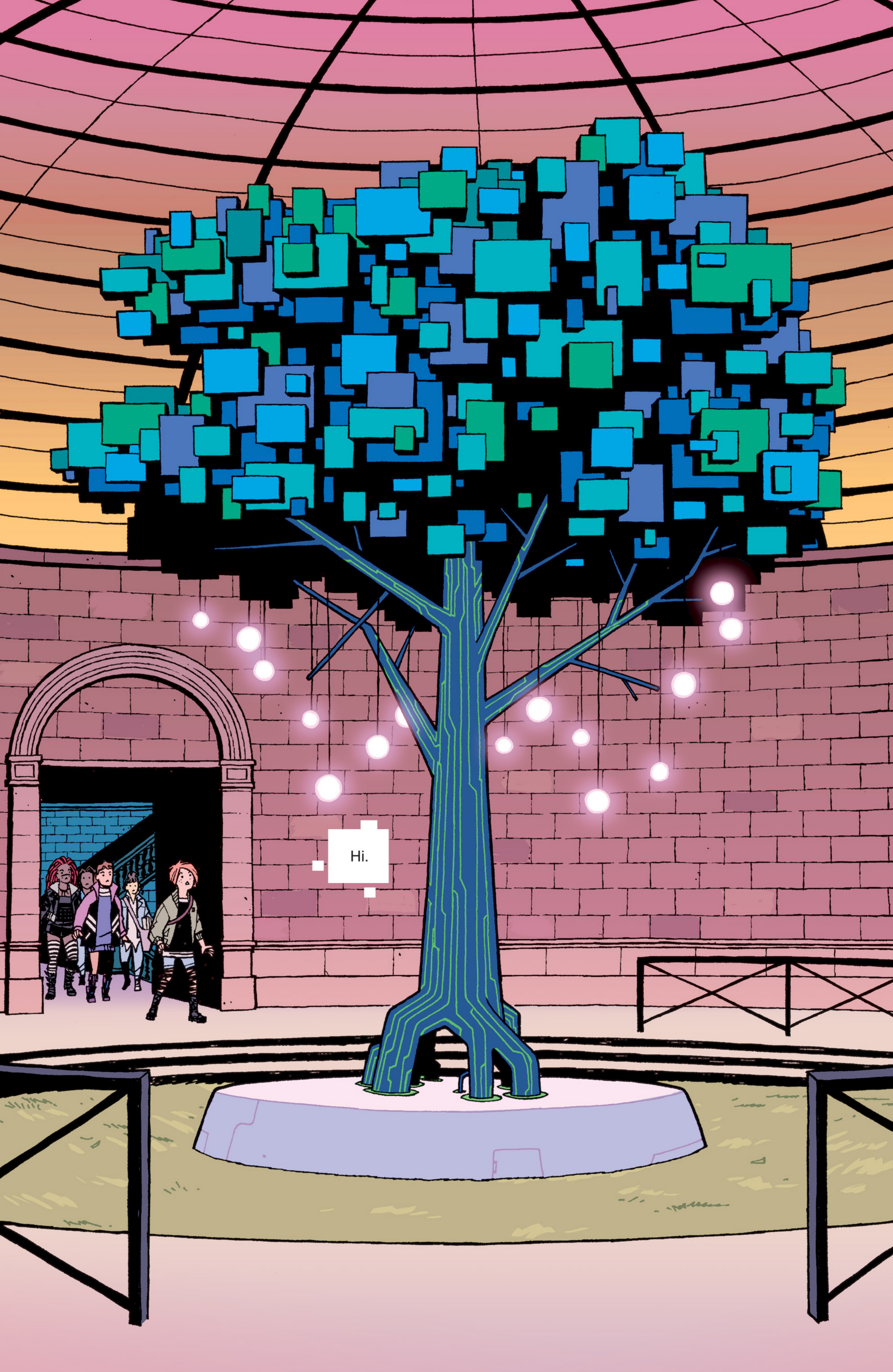
I mean, seeing *A Clockwork Orange* in high school really messes us up.





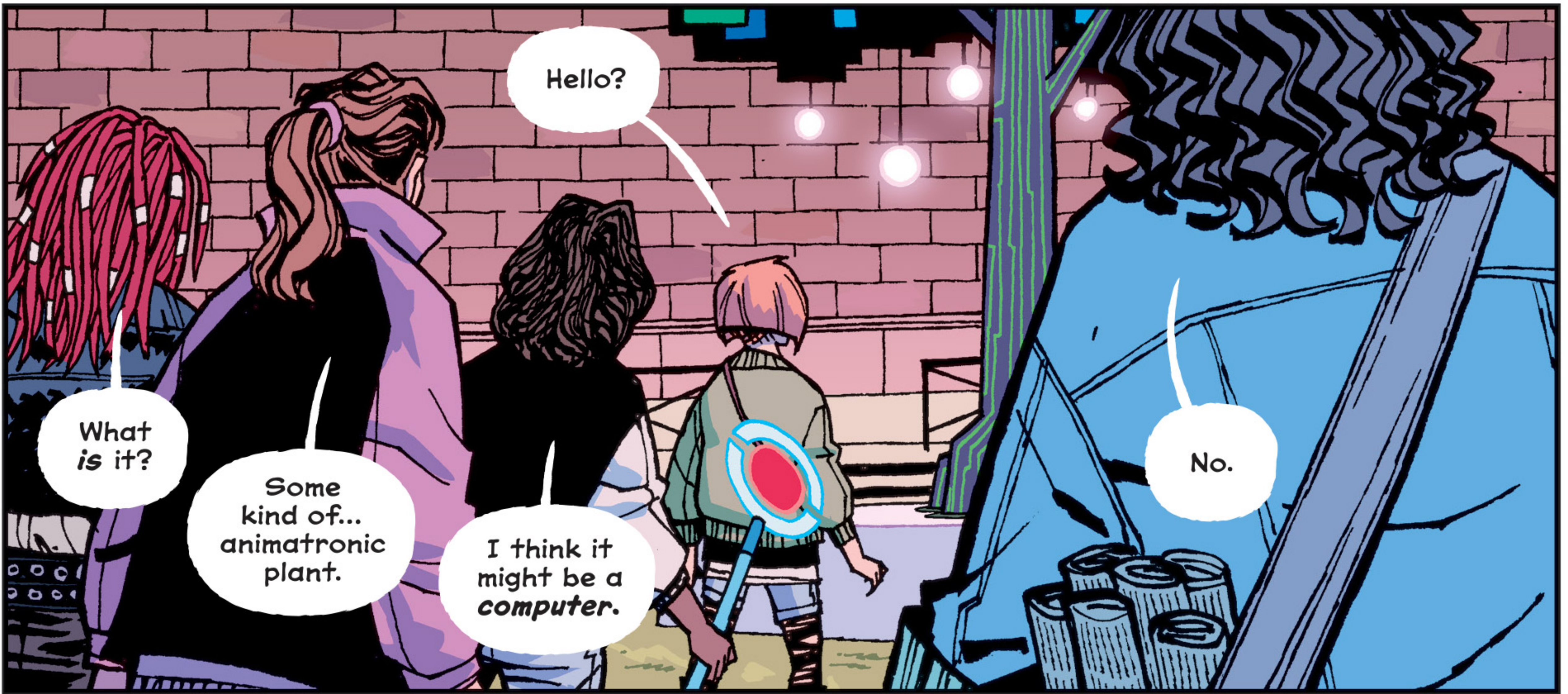






Hi.





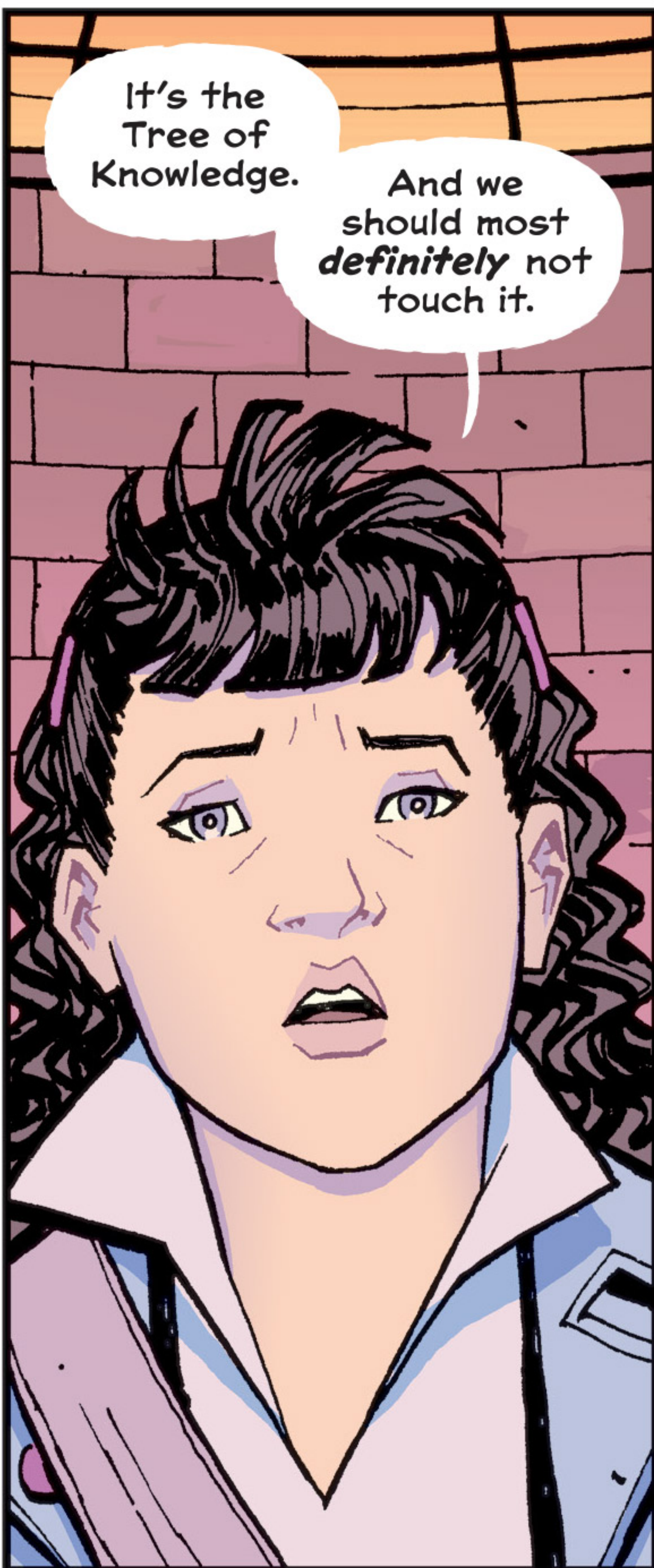
Hello?

What is it?

Some kind of... animatronic plant.

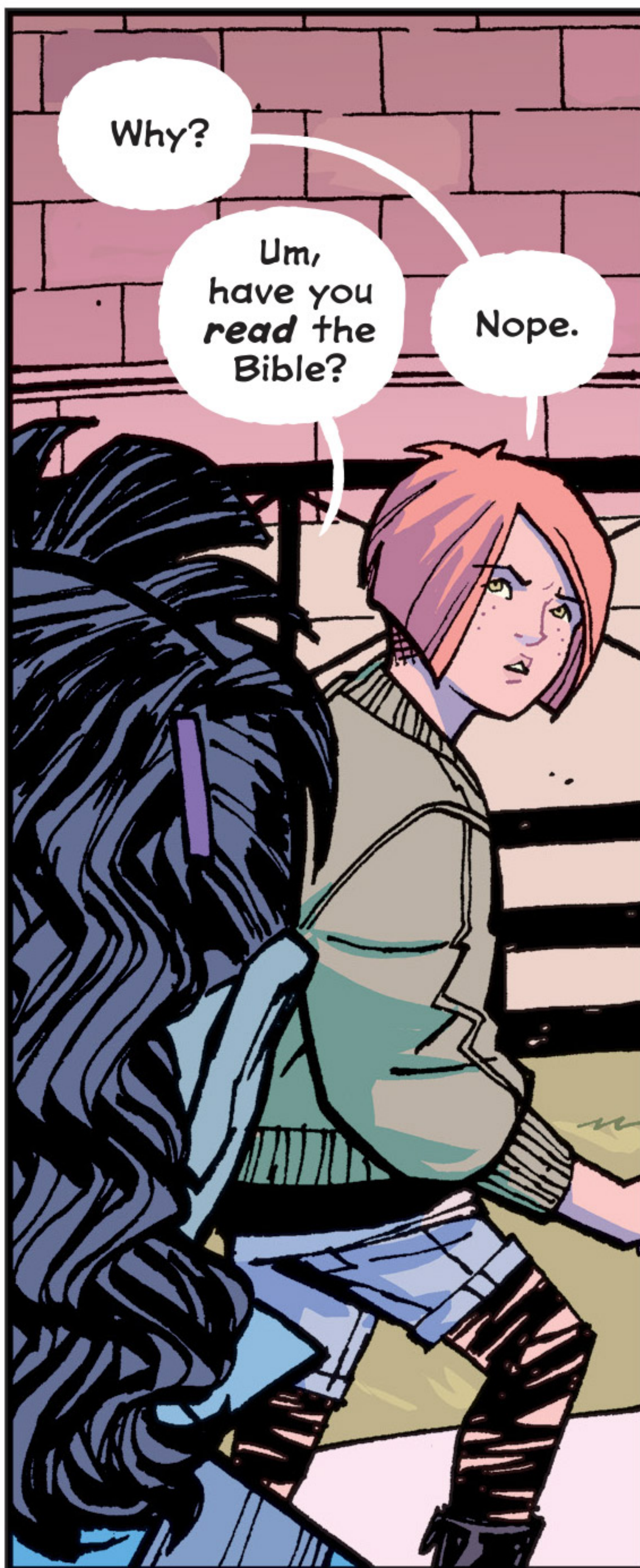
I think it might be a *computer*.

No.



It's the Tree of Knowledge.

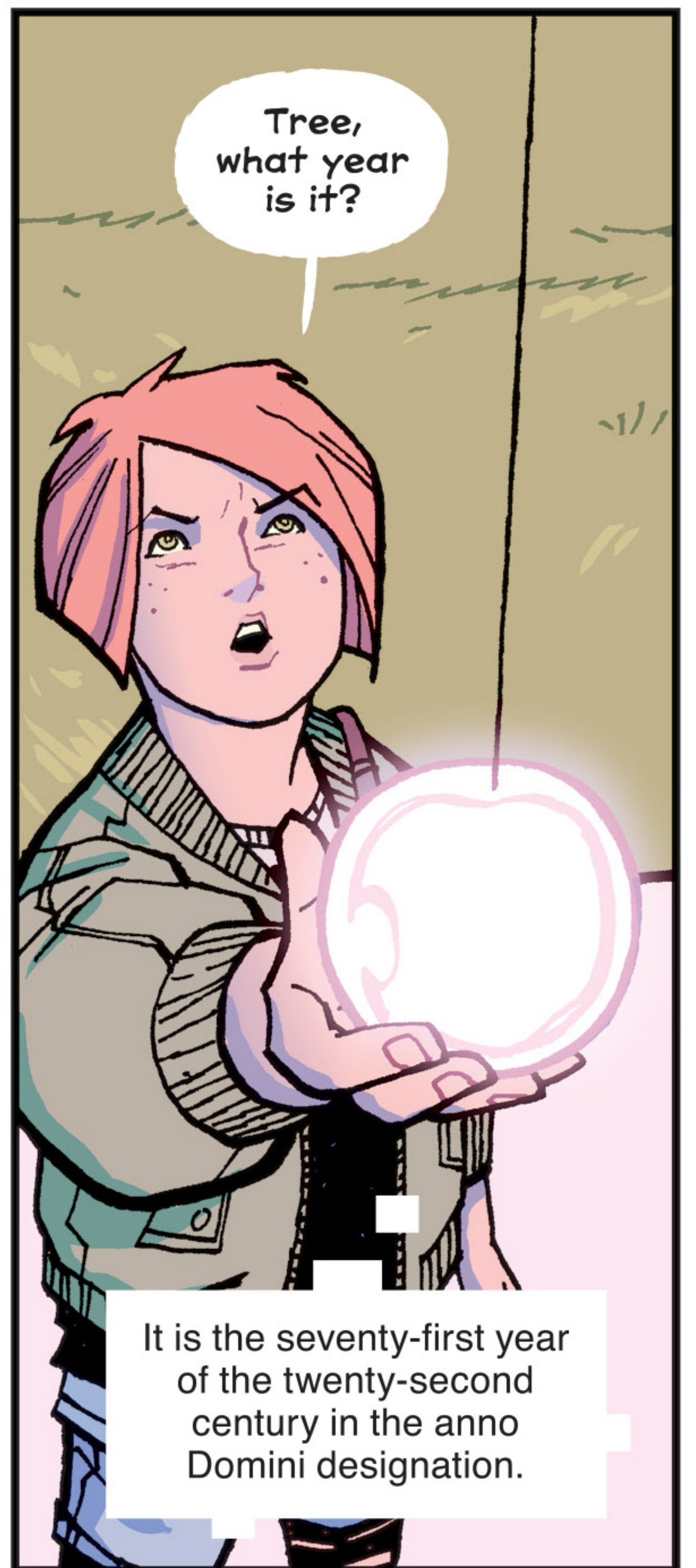
And we should most *definitely* not touch it.



Why?

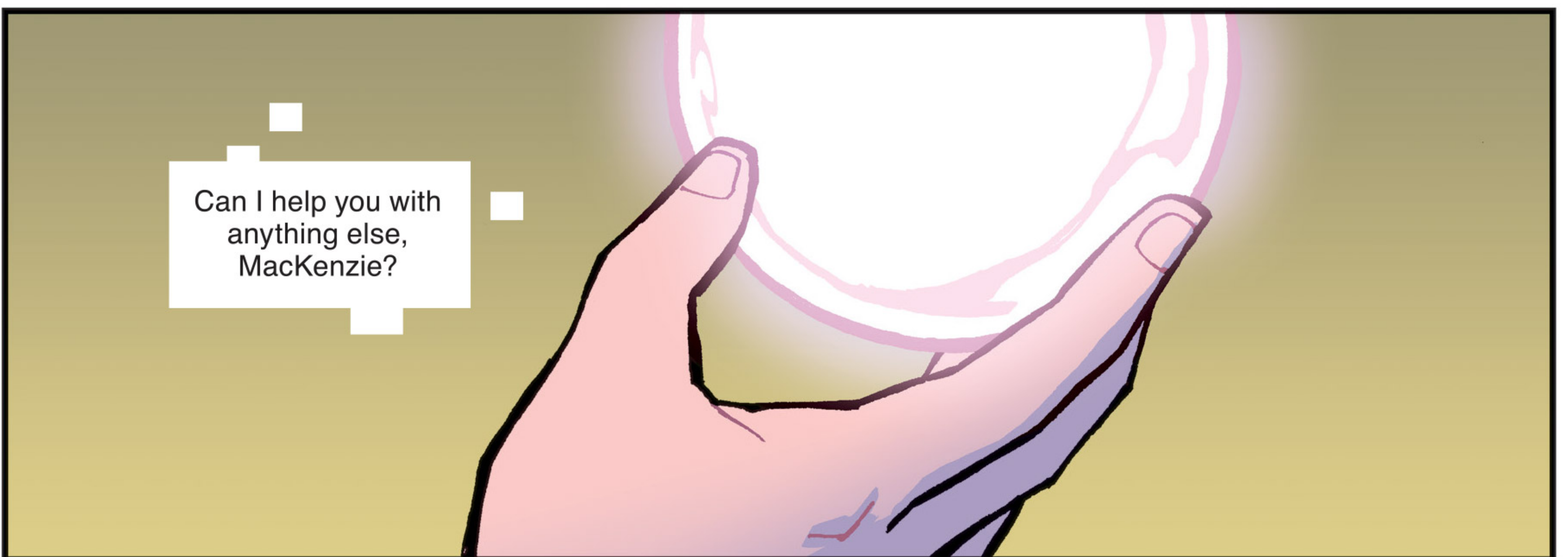
Um, have you *read* the Bible?

Nope.



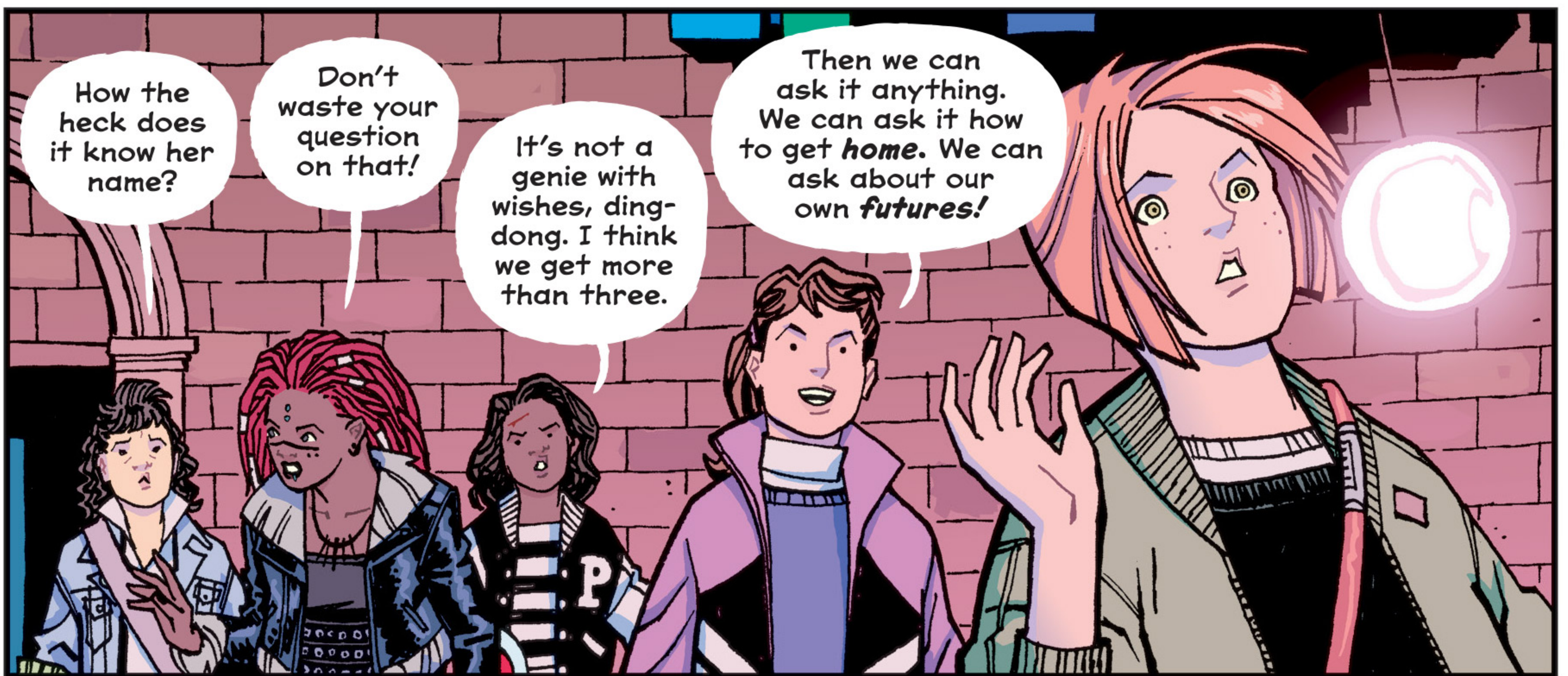
Tree, what year is it?

It is the seventy-first year of the twenty-second century in the anno Domini designation.



Can I help you with anything else, MacKenzie?





How the heck does it know her name?

Don't waste your question on that!

It's not a genie with wishes, ding-dong. I think we get more than three.

Then we can ask it anything. We can ask it how to get *home*. We can ask about our own *futures*!



Asking about ourselves is a really, really bad idea.

I kind of agree, actually.

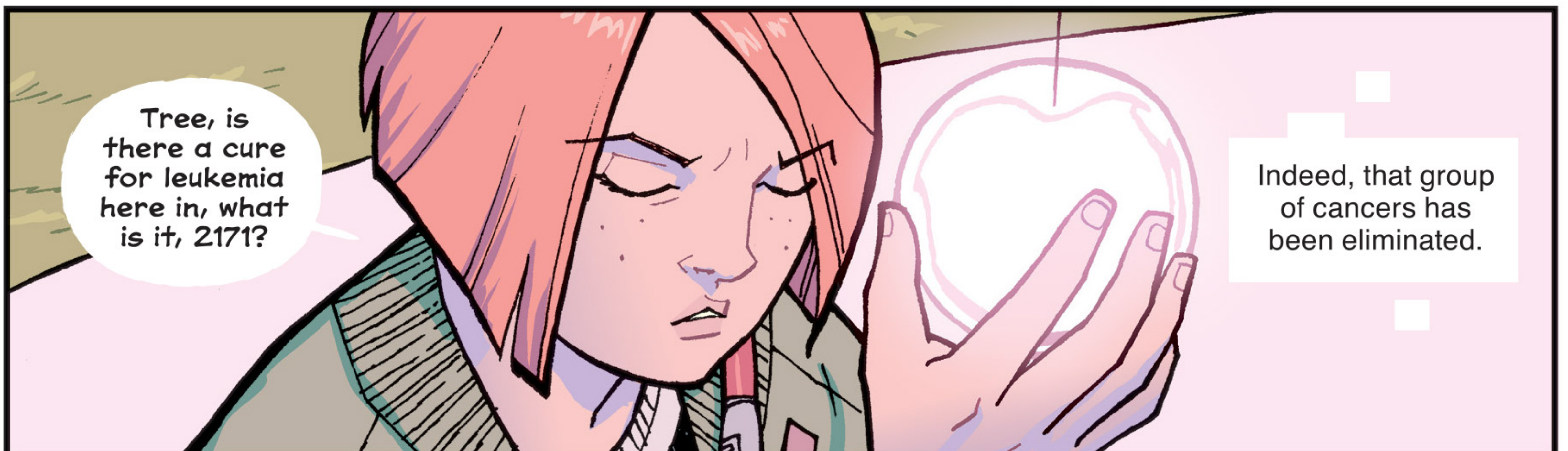


Easy for you to say. You guys got to *see* how you turned out. And Mac already knows what happens to...



...sorry.

No, I like what you're getting at.



Tree, is there a cure for leukemia here in, what is it, 2171?

Indeed, that group of cancers has been eliminated.



Hell, yes.

TO BE CONTINUED

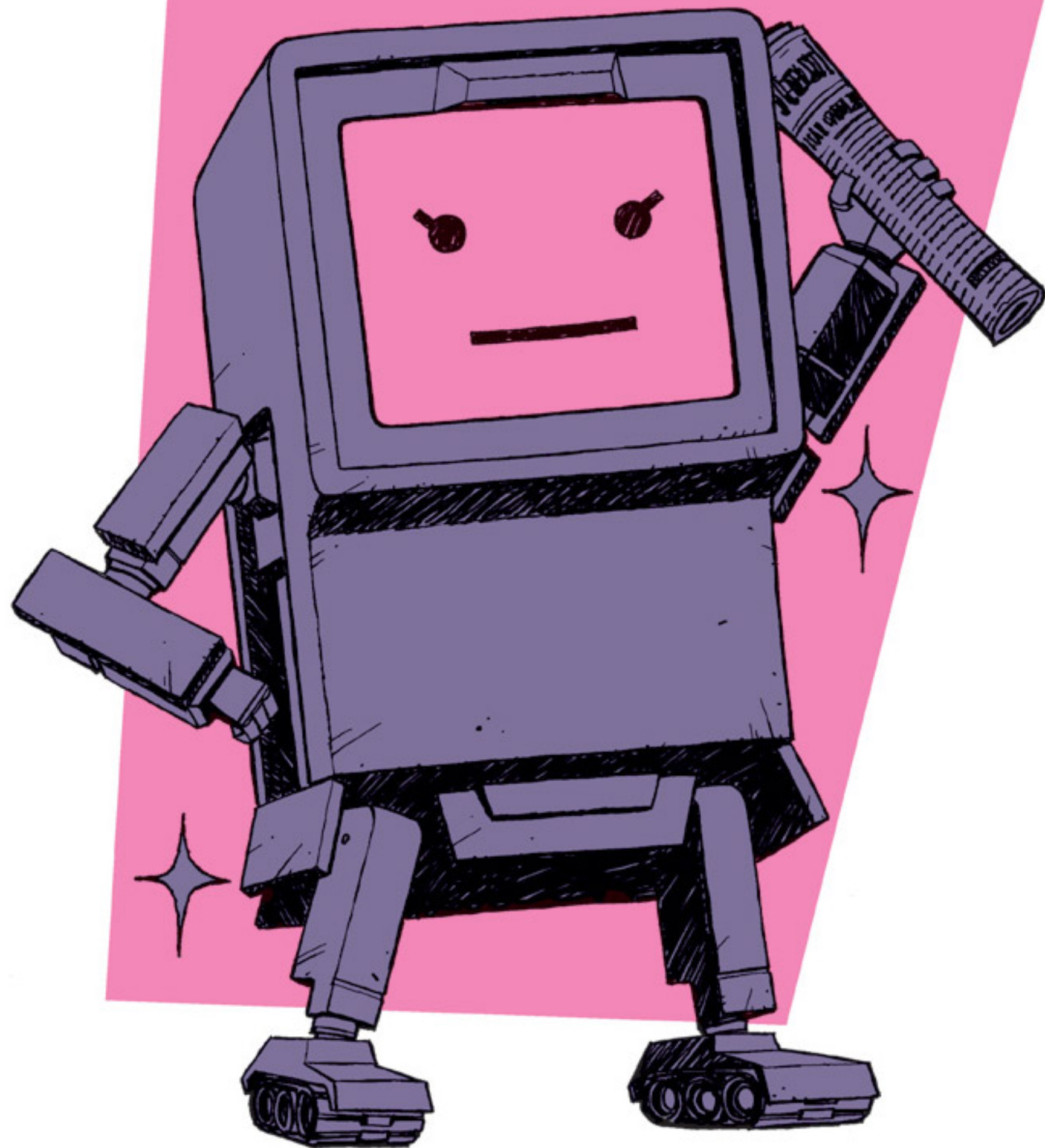


# THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

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

SINCE 1899!

## Hello, fellow herstorians!



**DASH-DASH DOT**, Paperbot

DASH-DASH DOT THE PAPERBOT here, welcoming you to another installment of our "old-school newsletter," celebrating the American Newspaper Delivery Guild, an organization that "closed its doors" for good way back in year 002019.

But don't be sad: to better understand our predecessors, and a time when information was delivered by people instead of machines, my fellow ---BZZZZT--- and I regularly unearth unpublished physical core-correspondence with the A.N.D.G. from throughout the 20th and 21st centuries to share with contemporary humans like you.

And as per my own education-communicatives, all letters are perfectly presented in their original Oldenglish. So now, onto the shows!



Dear Rita,

Please accept my S.A.S.E. for entry into the A.N.D.G. While I have not had an official paper route, I did help sell my school newspaper in elementary and junior high school. I also worked on my junior and senior high school yearbook, eventually becoming editor-in-chief for my senior year.

Luckily, we never got into anything as serious as these *Paper Girls*, but I do recall one instance where my life was in danger.

During my junior year, we would leave school and grab some dinner before coming back to work on the yearbook. One trip we were goofing around at the local fast food joint, and I ended up getting a piece of a chicken nugget stuck in my throat because I was laughing so hard. Luckily, we were able to get it dislodged and avoided any serious consequences, and instead it turned into an ongoing joke for the rest of the year.

Thanks again and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

**Michael M.**

Washington, PA

P.S. The above is okay to print!

*HmMm, in 2017, they had very loose standards for what was "okay to print".*

Dear Rita Pearl,

I was never a papergirl--I babysat the kids in my neighborhood--but I always thought the kids who did were cooler than me.

My parents never let me or my siblings be paper delivery kids because their paperboy was kidnapped and murdered in 1983. He was just 13 years old. I wasn't even 1 yet, so I don't remember anything from the news, but I think it made a big impact on how my parents raised us three kids.



I always wonder if it's the real reason they moved out of Olde Towne.

You rock so hard,

**Sherry G.**  
Bellevue, NE

*SomE-Times, the Past is kind of ScAry to Dash-Dash Dot.*

Hi, Rita!

Long-time reader, first-time writer, here!

I just want to say how much I love reading *Paper Girls*! It has been so great to read the story and admire the awesome artwork. I also very much appreciate the diversity (of the characters, relationships, sexuality, etc.) that are in the story.

Growing up in central Texas, this wasn't always something I got to see in comics, books, or TV; so I am very thankful to see this now—I've been pretty much asking all my friends to read *Paper Girls* so we can chat about it and they can bask in the awesomeness.

I was never able to be a paper delivery girl because of other family responsibilities, but I'm including an S.A.S.E. in hopes that I can be an honorary member!

Many thanks,

**Sierra**  
Austin, TX

P.S. Can I also say and give a shoutout to Cliff Chiang? I got the rad opportunity to meet him at a local comic shop. He was totally cool and kind as I gushed about diversity and his artwork!

*It reMains UnKnown what eXactly an "S.A.S.E." ever was.*

Dear American Newspaper Guild,

From the late 80's until the early 90's I was an esteemed paperboy for *The Columbus Dispatch* in Columbus, Ohio.

I have fond memories of walking the streets of suburbia in pre-dawn hours, listening to Casey Kasem on my Sony Walkman, a sack of the previous day's news weighing down my teenage frame so much that one swift breeze could have knocked me over.

Warm regards,

**Jonathan D.**  
Boulder, CO

*AppAren-tly, B4 effEcts of climatEchAnge, swift breezes could not normally KnOck ovr teeNagers.*

Rita,

I am a comic book retailer in Lancaster, PA since 1985. The actual store was established in 1977.

I immensely enjoy *Paper Girls* and it is a favorite at the store.

I was a newspaper carrier for the weekly "GRIT" in the early 1960's.

"GRIT" targeted small towns and rural families from the 1930's through 2006. I think it is a glossy magazine now.

Keep up the great work,

**Joe M.**

*Dash-Dash Dot likEs 2 beliEve that SHE has "GRIT".*

Dear Rita Pearl,

How long I've waited to write in, and I'm thrilled to finally be doing so!

I'm requesting an honorary membership, since I never did deliver papers -- my house was on a dead-end street off a highway when I was growing up, so our papers were delivered by grown-ups in cars.

I made my money by waitressing at the Friday night fish fries during Lent at our local Knights of Columbus, where my dad was a member. I chronically smelled

like fish, but the tips were pretty good -- especially if people were winning at bingo, which went on at the same time.

Also, shoutout to Nat N. the Paper Person from Salt Lake, whose letter was printed in issue 18. I am a fellow paper person, who does not feel I fit under the two major labels. In fact. I thought of writing a very similar letter to you, but I hesitated, I guess because I wonder sometimes if I'm adequately advocating for myself as a gender nonconforming person, or if I'm making an issue out of something that shouldn't be an issue. When I read Nat's letter, I remembered it's always okay to speak up for myself. Thanks, Nat! Incidentally I also think it's cool we both have the same first and last initials.

For readers wanting more information about gender identity, I recommend visiting [genderbread.org](http://genderbread.org). It's a great tool for folks of all kinds, and I have a printout of it taped up in my office.

Thanks for a great comic, and for naming a character after me!

**Mac M the Paper Human**  
(he/him/his pronouns)  
Austin, TX

P.S. Shoutout also to Dragon's Lair Comics, which became my home store when I saw them march in the PRIDE parade. LGBT\*-friendly geeks FTW.

*In this wOnderful Letter, we can see an early example of the pAst racing confiDently 2 meEt the Future.*

Dear A.N.D.G.,

Funny stuff. Ish #19: "Who doesn't know how to spell 'due'?"

Y2K, I was holed up in a hospital in Boise, ID with blood clots in my leg. Not much fun for sure. Fortunately, no computers or anything else shut down. Everything went fine.



Back in the 70's, I used to deliver papers down in Fresno, CA. At a few apartment complexes, it was a real hassle because I had to deliver papers on two-story buildings. I learned how to toss those papers two stories up in no time.

Once in a while, I would get a call saying I didn't deliver the paper to apartment blah-blah, and I had to get up out of bed, again, to get their paper to them. Bummer!!!

I did buy lots of comics that year that I was a paperboy. Still read them to this day (I'm going to be 52 in February).

Thanks,

**Bart B.**  
Boise, ID

P.S. - Had to save paper, so this is written on the back of an old flyer from the band Hot Dog Sandwich.

*Had Bart B. from Boise, ID not sCribblEd all oVer this rare Flyer for the wOrld-Famous mUsical act Hot Dog Sandwich, it Would today be Worth sEveral mllion pesos.*

Dear A.N.D.G.,

I came across this first day of issue stamp and cover for Newspaper Boys (and girls?) of America. It's my gift to you.

I enjoy reading *Paper Girls* by myself and hope in about five years my oldest Emma will read along with me as well.

The cypher language has been quite fun to decode. I would recommend you to consider a membership to the American Cryptogram Association, as there are hundreds of fun ways to cypher and solve substitutions.

[www.cryptogram.org](http://www.cryptogram.org)

There is even a free sample on the website as a good place to start.

Keep on writing!

Alex, Emma and Lucy

(all members, card-carrying, of the A.N.D.G.)

*O ZTM TDDA UKTC WH MG Z LGDTGFT XTKB ODHGKMAFM.*

Dear Rita Pearl,

I've loved comics for much of my life, but wasn't having any success getting my husband into them. *Paper Girls* changed that! The first issue completely hooked him, and he looks forward to new issues just as much as I do. I had shown him other series I read, but nothing caught his interest until *Paper Girls*.

Now that he's seen how good a comic can be, he's given other series a chance as well, and likes several. *Paper Girls* is his absolute favorite, however, as well as mine. Thank you for the awesome work! It's helped me share this part of my geekdom with a loved one.

**Janel M.**  
Tuscon, AZ

P.S. - Y2K Rita Pearl is the best Rita Pearl!

*Of course, "Comics" R still popular to this DaY, thOgh u maY know thEm as manga.*

Dear ANDG and Rita Pearl,  
Papergirl --

My first job was at age 11, in 1964, delivering *The Courier-News* and *The Star-Ledger* in my hometown of Raritan, NJ.

I hated collection day, but loved being out early in the morning to make deliveries. It was just me and the milk man on the roads, back in the days when there was such a thing as a milk man.

I read my first comic in 1961. It was an early issue of *Green Lantern* which I found in the magazine bin at my mom's hairdresser, a "beauty parlor" that was actually

someone's parlor. I have been an avid comics reader ever since. I never gave 'em up and came back later; I just never stopped reading and loving them.

Sincerely yours,

**Tom H.**, age 64  
Harrisburg, PA

*I have nodoubt this EX-cellent, Enlightening submiSS-ion wOuld haveben named "Deliverer of the Month" wHEn it was mailed in 002018, so "prizes" wlll be send 2 any rEmalning Beneficiaries of Letter's writer.*

*MorE informAtion n material from r pAst n 30 DAYS!*

Luv,

- / - / .

**Paperbot**



# ARCHEOLOGICAL ART CORNER!

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

*Hello gain, HerstOrians! Th3se 3 pieces wEre found in the basement f the old AMERICAN NEWSPAPERY DELIVERY GUILD in folder marked "PROPERTY OF RITA PEARL, DON'T TOUCH!"*

*Dunno who's RITA PEARL, but these beauty drAWings were done by JOHN C. GARAVAGLIA in year 002017, so Dash-Dash Dot senz PRIZES to his descendENts.*



*My fellow ---BZZZZT--- and I LOVE art, SO please send MOre. THANX!*





# Paper Girls

VOLUME 4

COLLECTING ISSUES 16-20

ON SALE NOW!

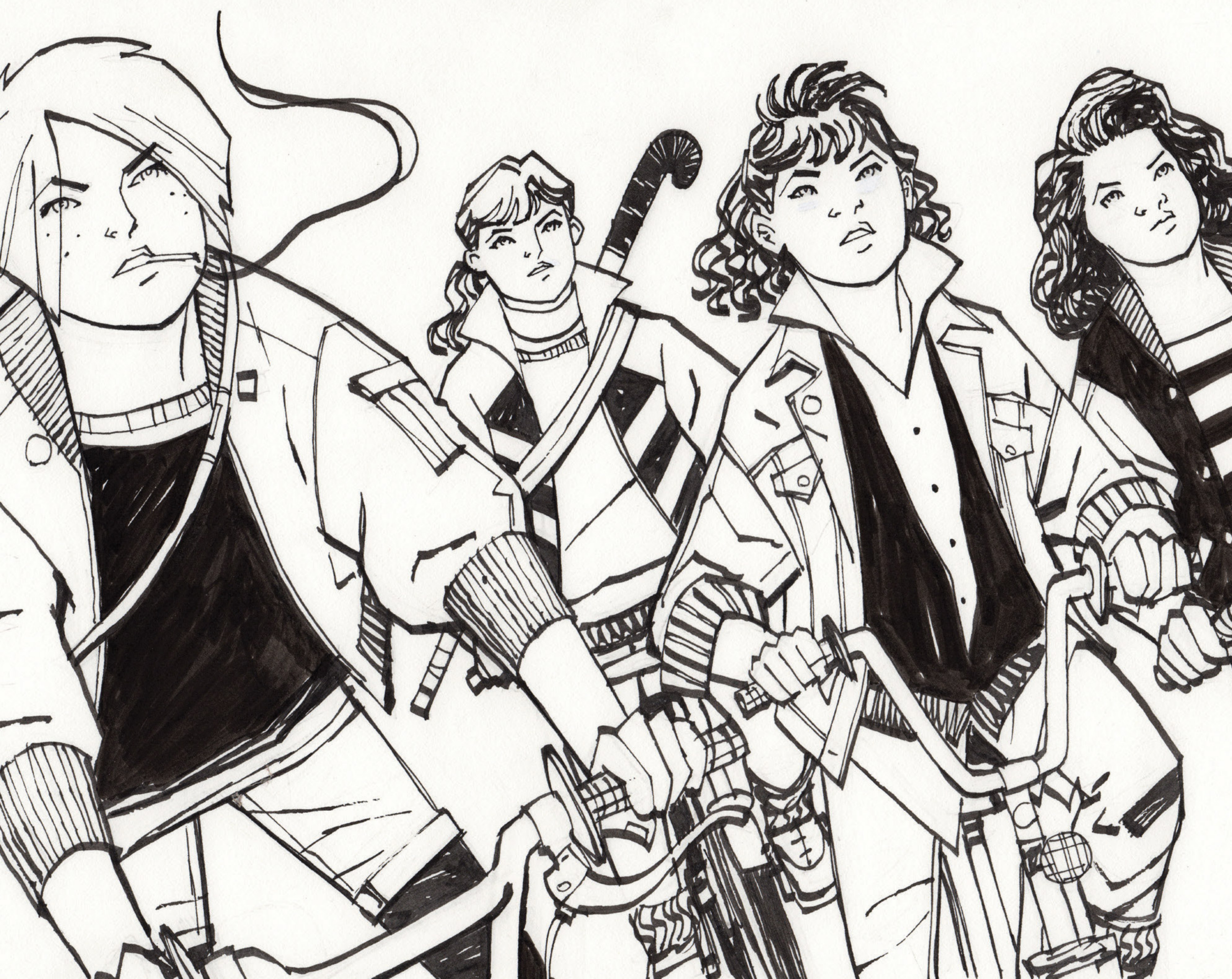
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# CHIANG

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Fictional stories and actual eye-witness accounts that explore themes such as: gun violence, common sense gun control, value of a compassionate society, mental health stigmatization, aftermath of tragedy and how individuals and communities persevere, and an appreciation of Las Vegas as a vibrant community.

# WHERE WE LIVE™

*A Benefit for the Survivors  
in Las Vegas*

"It's a strange place, this time and this country, in which having tools that can only be used to murder is seen as human right. I wanted to write something to help raise funds for the victims of the Las Vegas mass shooting and for their families. It's about wounds and healing, about death and forgiveness, about pain and childhood and the dark. I hope it helps make people think, and I'm honoured to be part of the conversation."

—NEIL GAIMAN

"On October 1, 2017, Las Vegas, Nevada suffered the worst mass shooting in modern American history, resulting in 58 deaths and over 500 injured. It broke my heart. Las Vegas is my home. I felt like something needed to be done to help in a unique way."

—J.H. WILLIAMS III



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100% of the proceeds from WHERE WE LIVE will be donated  
to benefit victims of the Las Vegas shooting.