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Paper GirlsTM

22

Paper Girls 22

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CLIFF CHIANG artist

MATT WILSON colors

JARED K. FLETCHER letters + design

DEE CUNNIFFE color flats

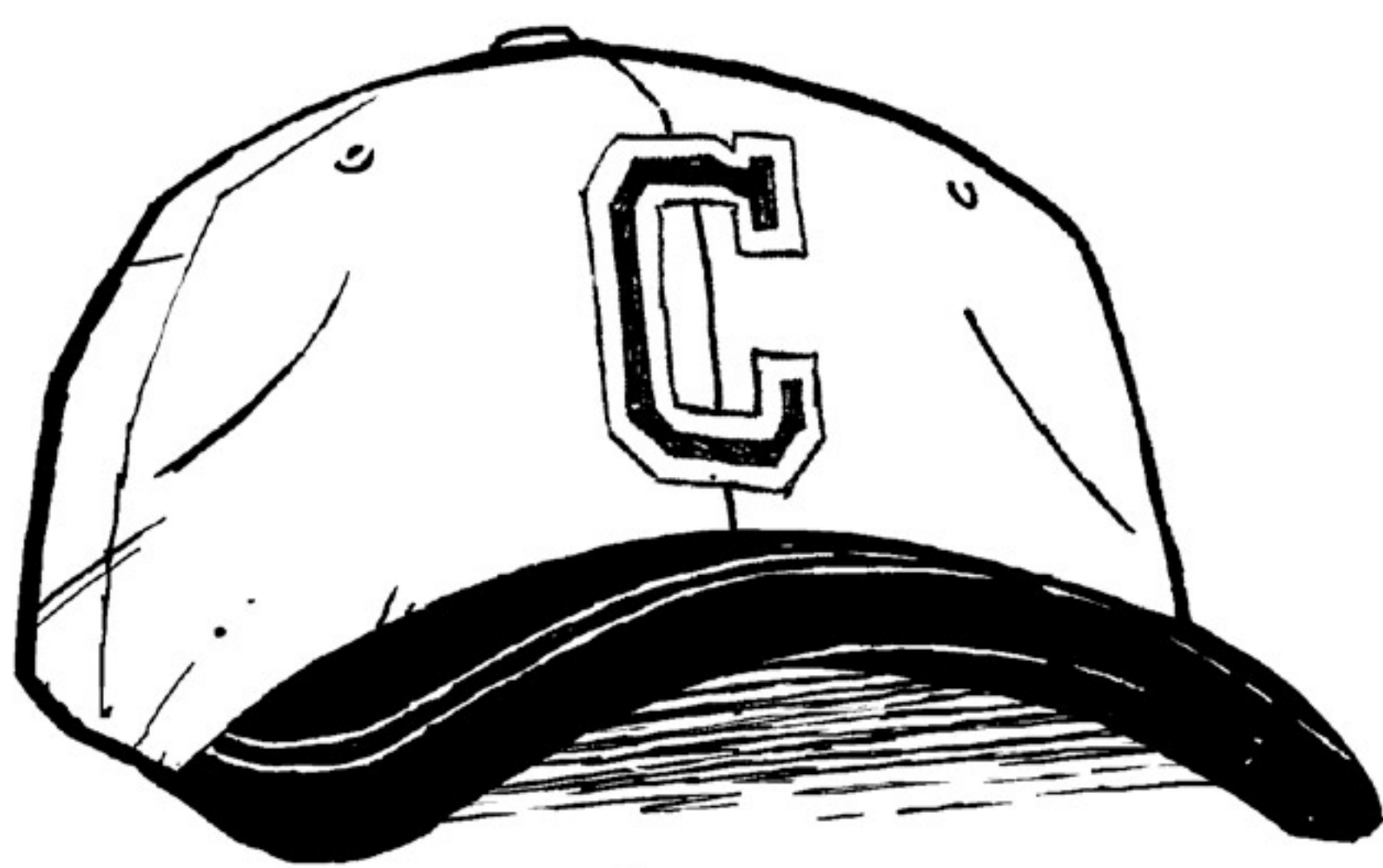


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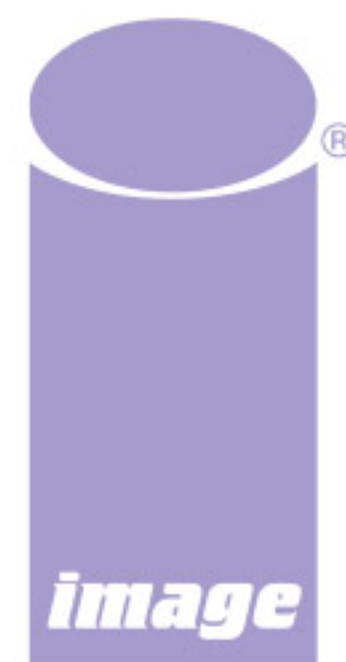
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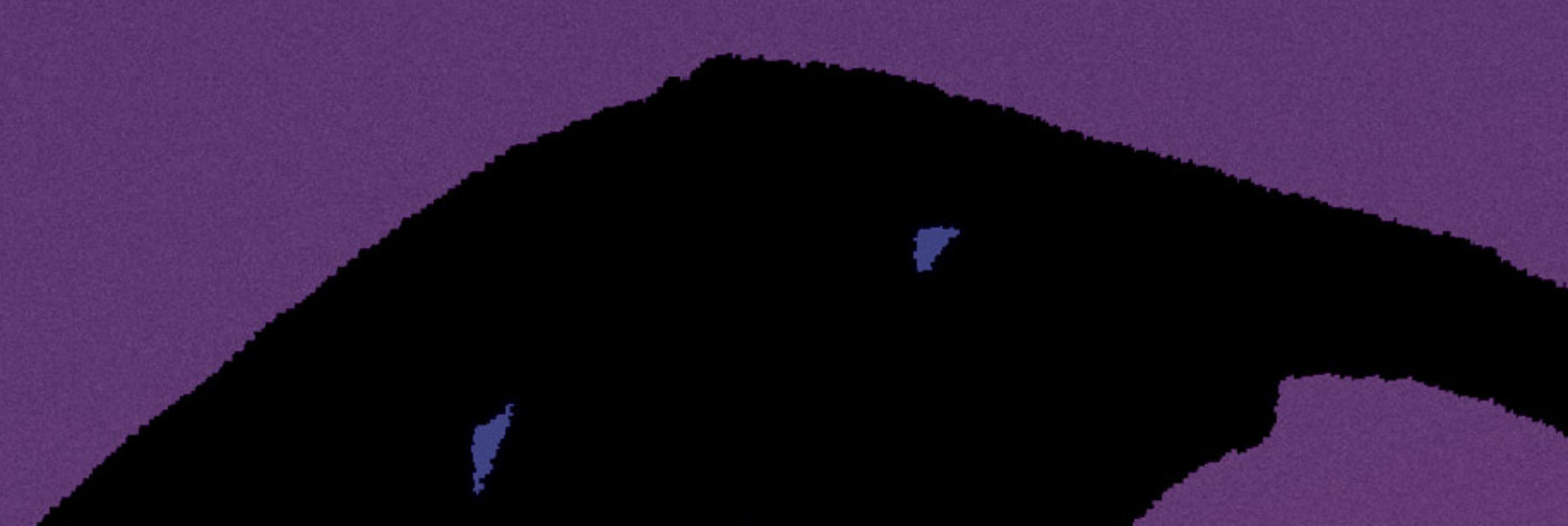
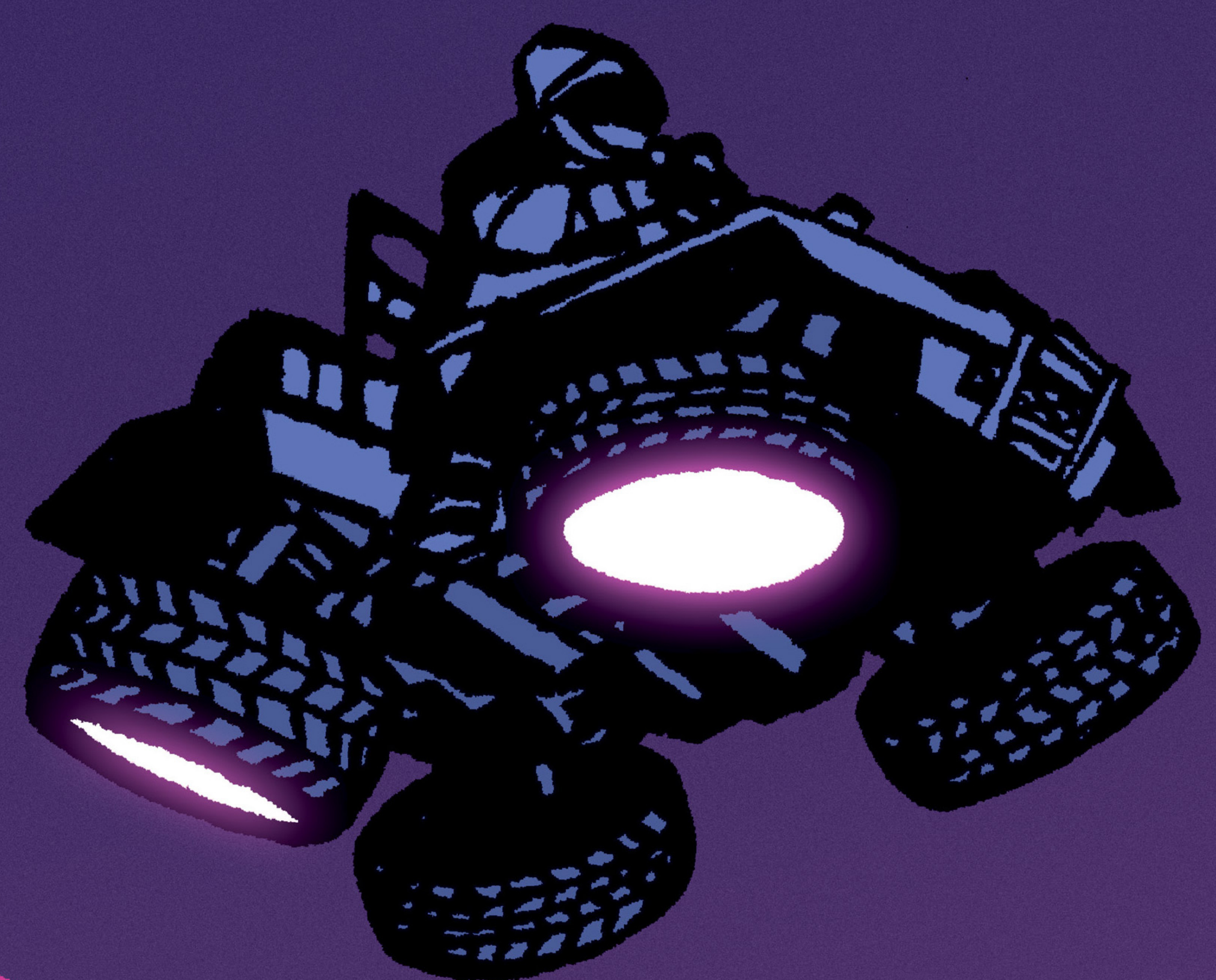
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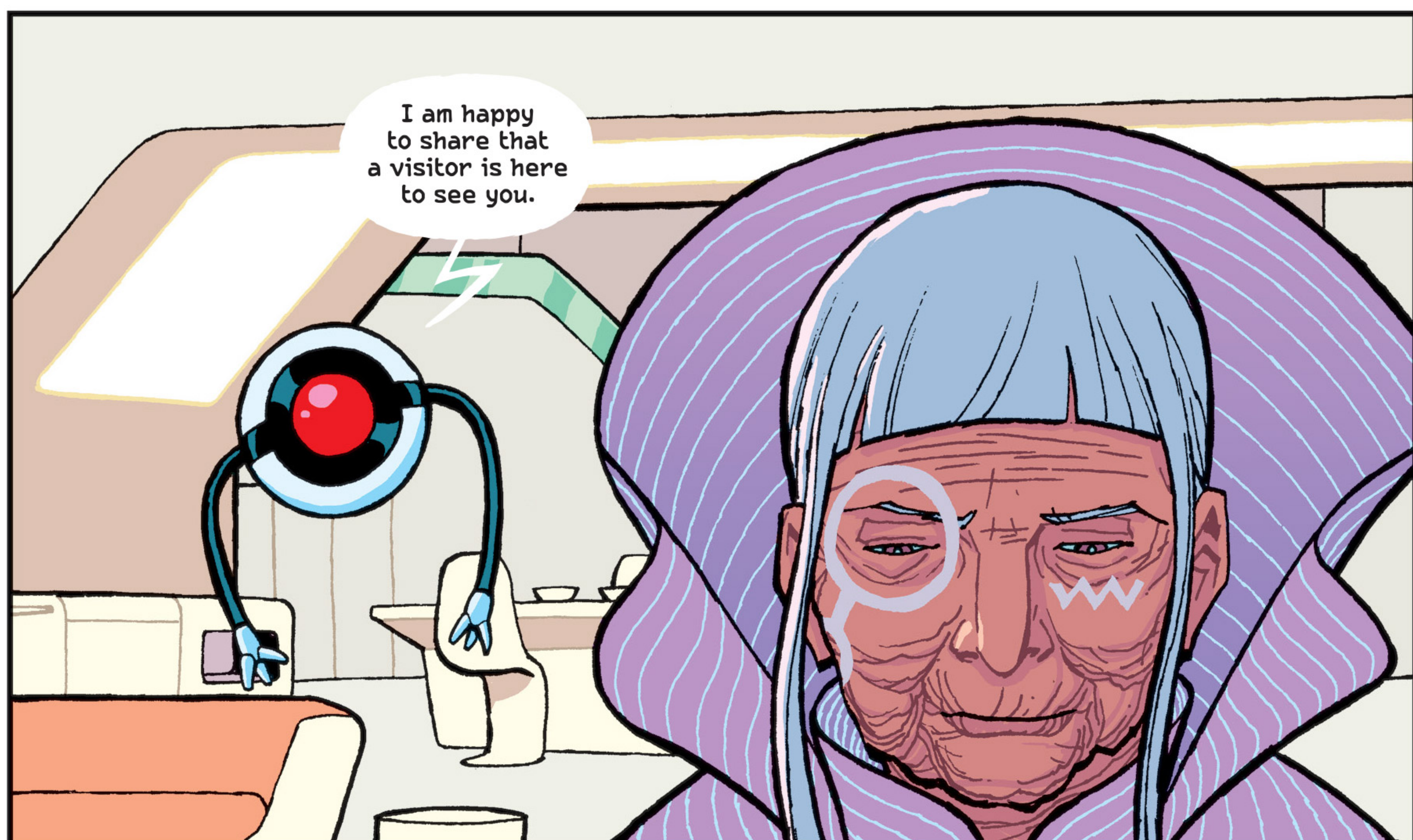
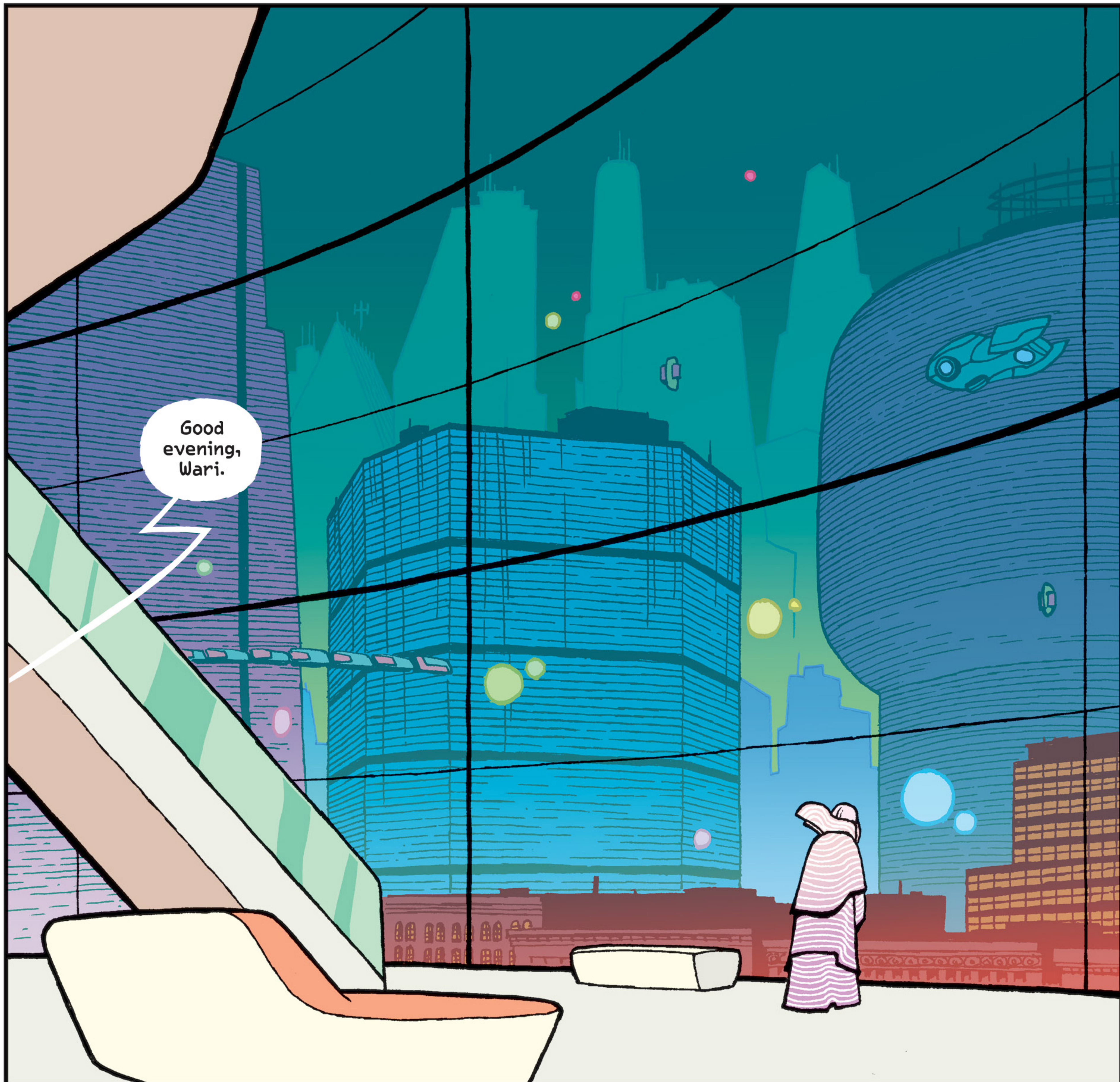


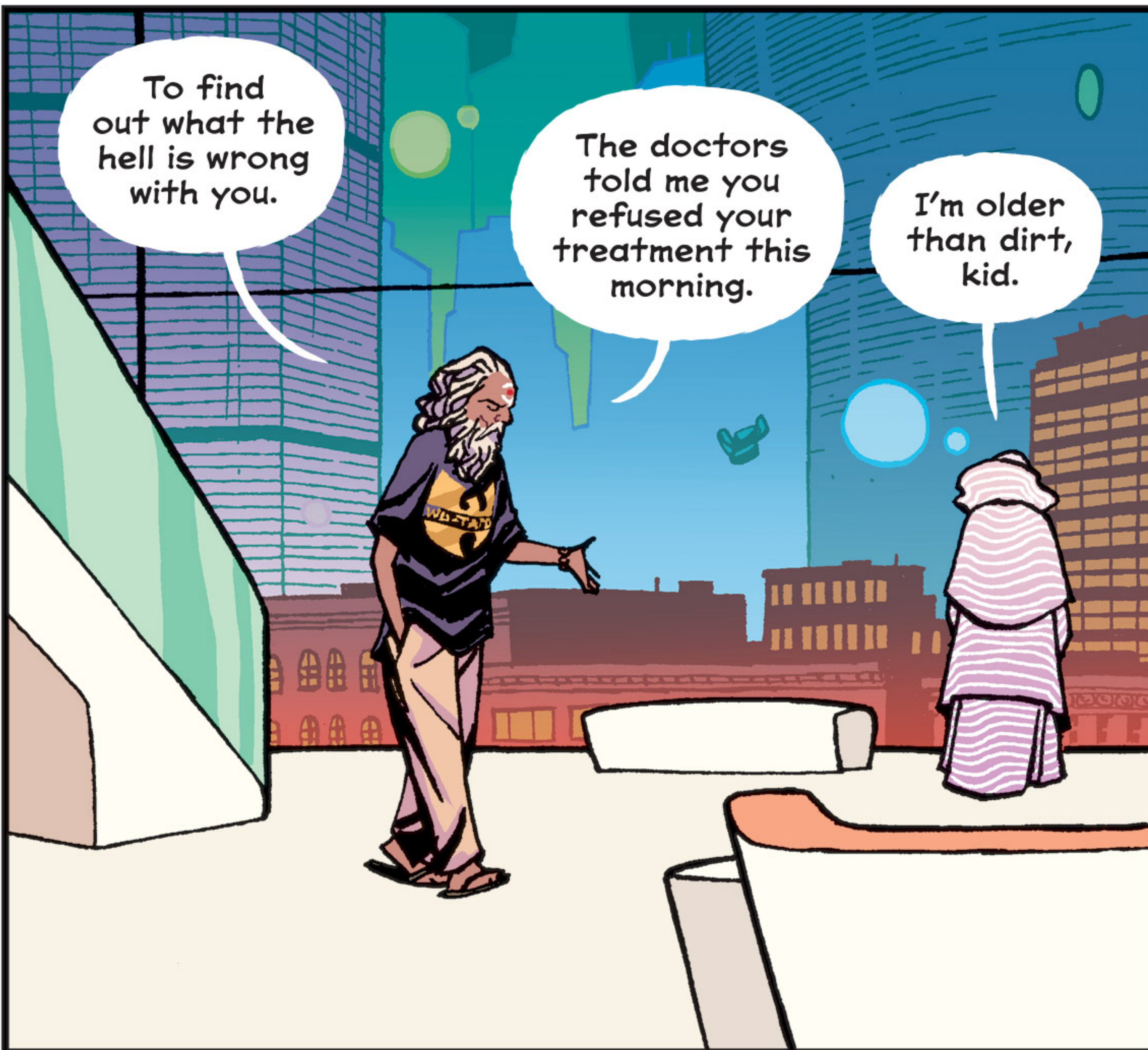
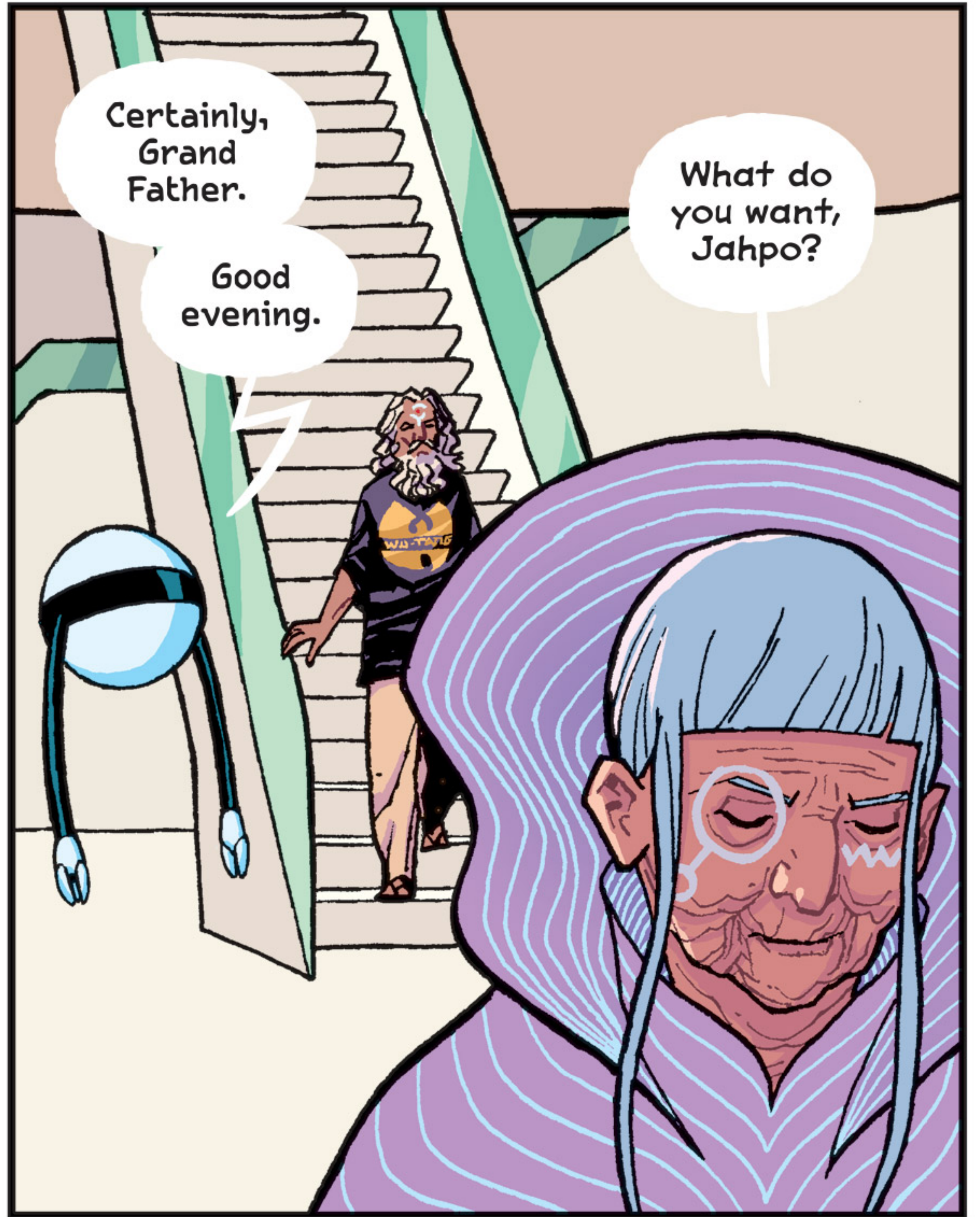
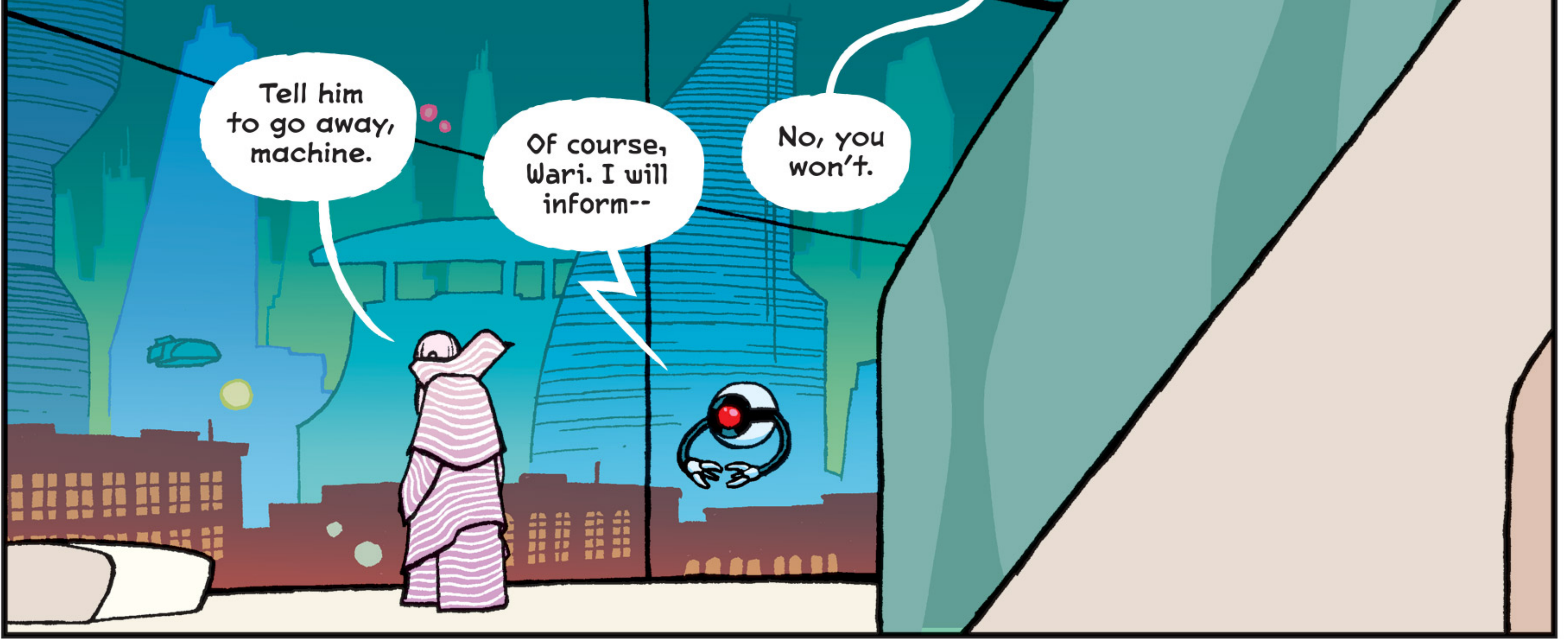
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**“This day and age we’re living in
Gives cause for apprehension
With speed and new invention
And things like fourth dimension”**

**-From the 1931 song “As Time Goes By”
(verse unused in *Casablanca*)
Lyrics by Herman Hupfeld**



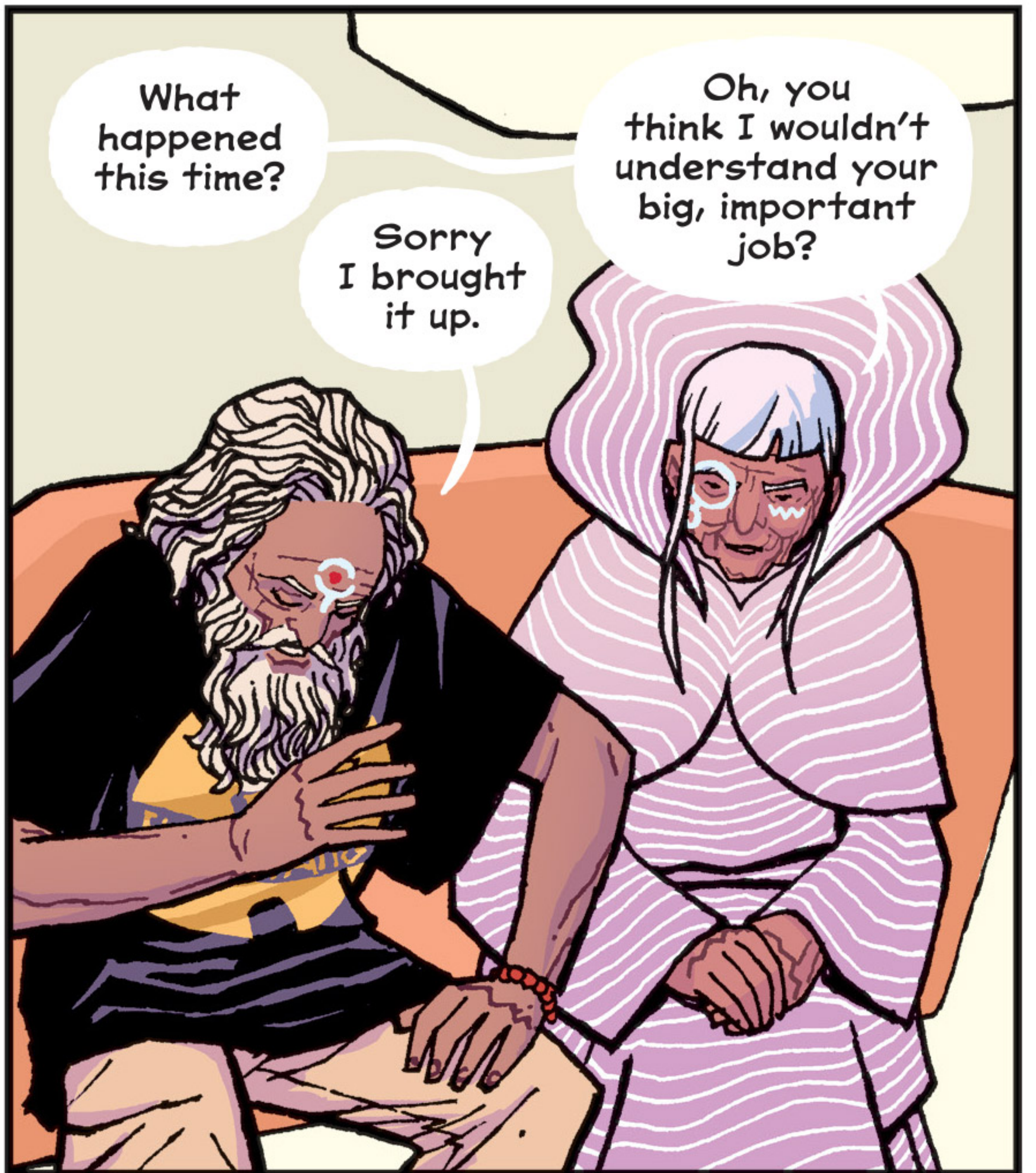






Can we please have this showdown literally any other night?

Work is a disaster at the moment.



What happened this time?

Sorry I brought it up.

Oh, you think I wouldn't understand your big, important job?



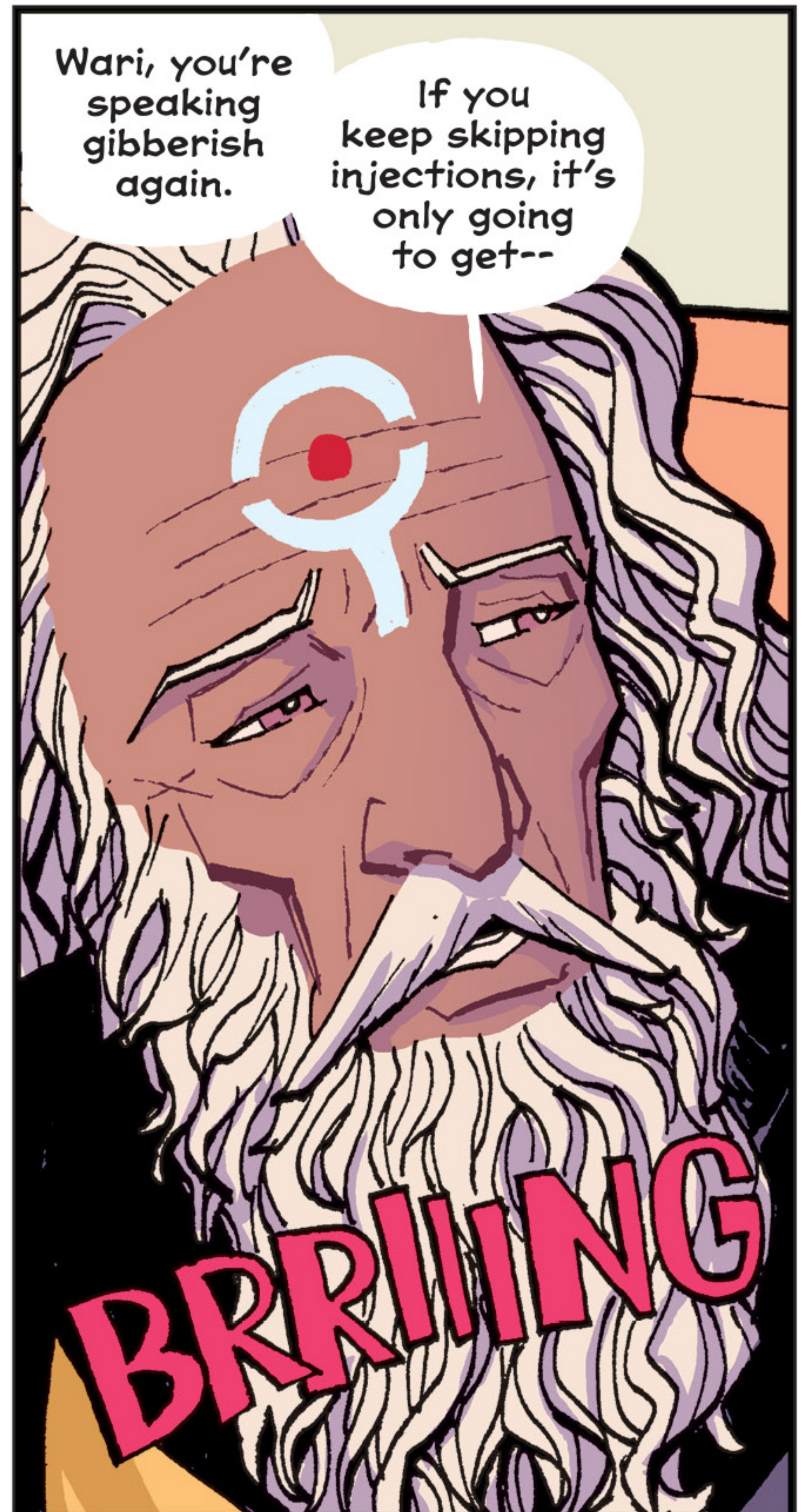
You're the one who's never had a clue about the truth, "baby brother."



And that's supposed to mean *what*, exactly?

Shentog tay!

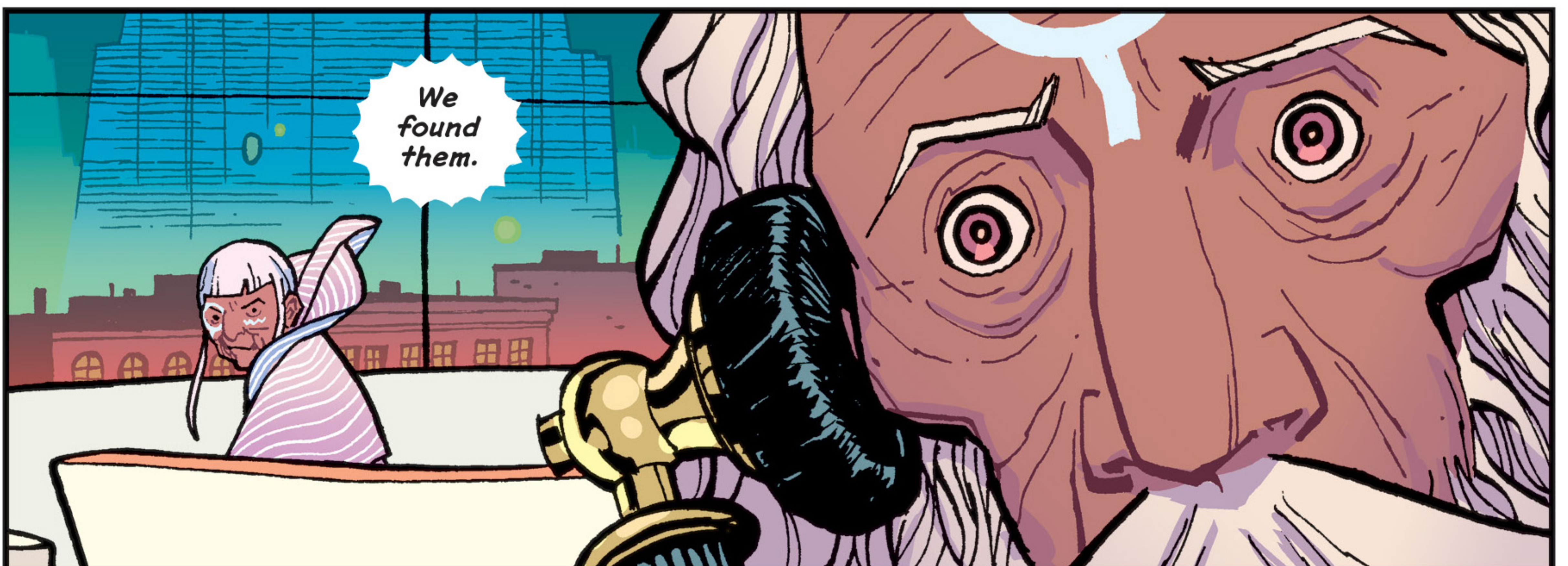
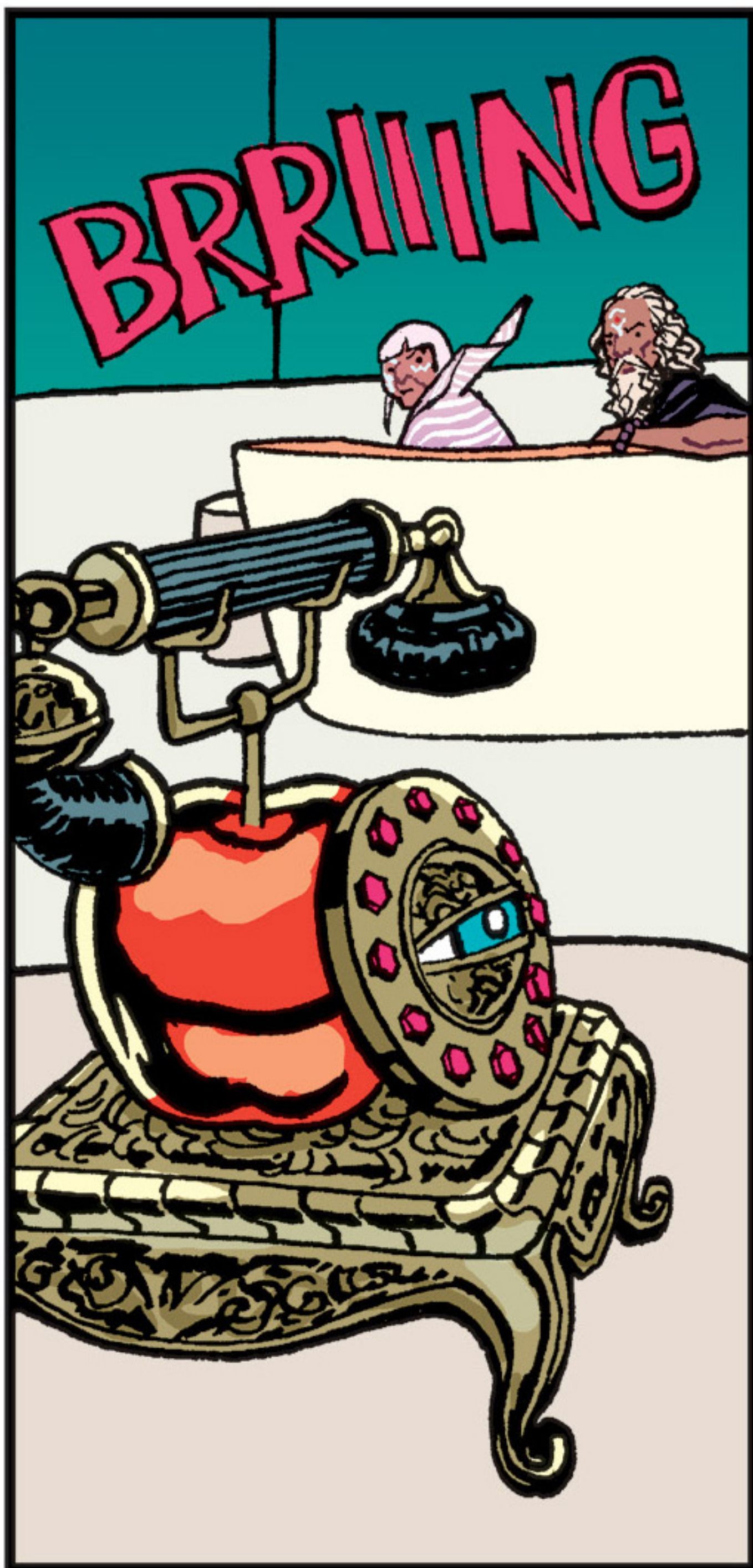
Oochata madi tay!

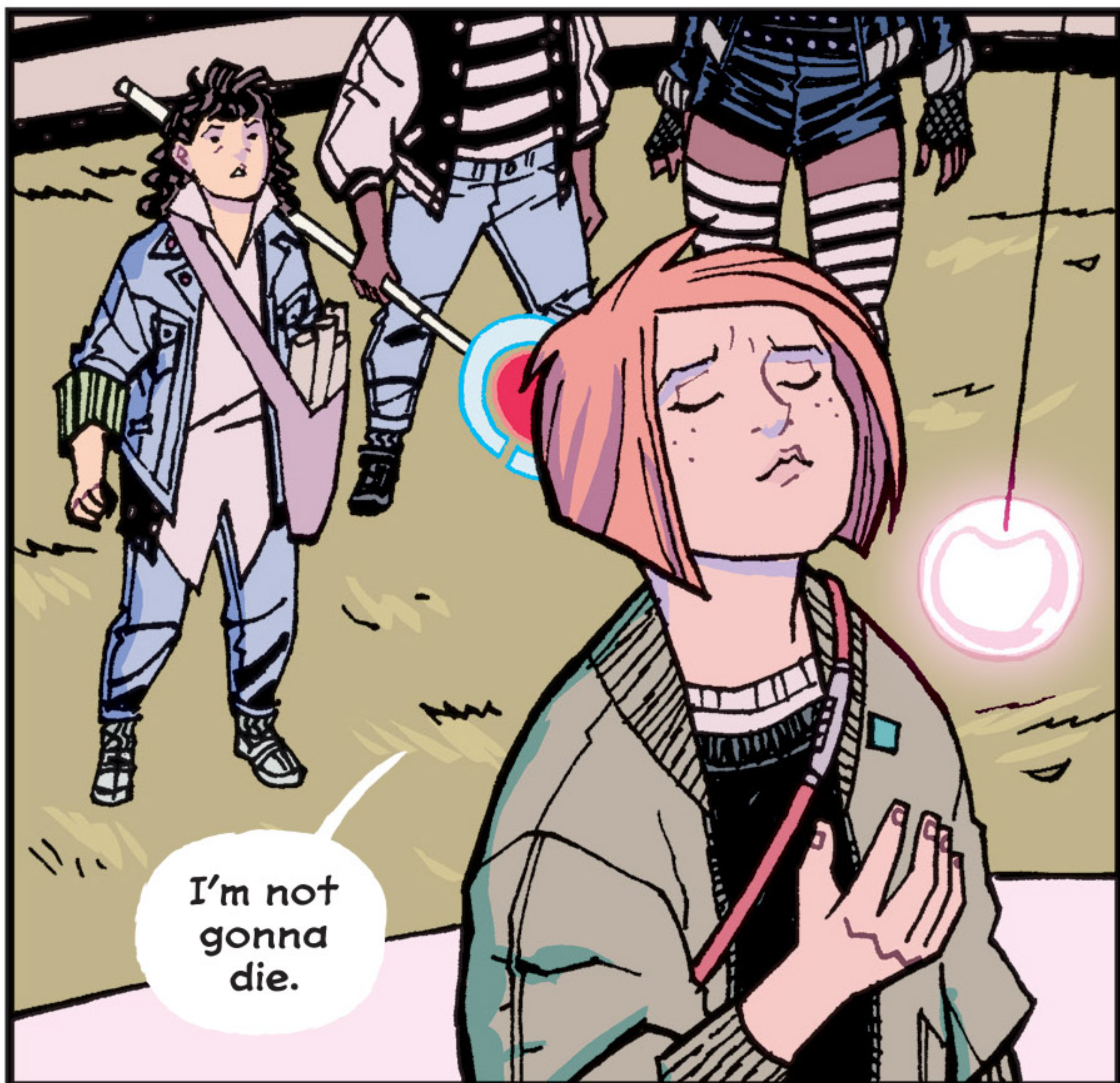
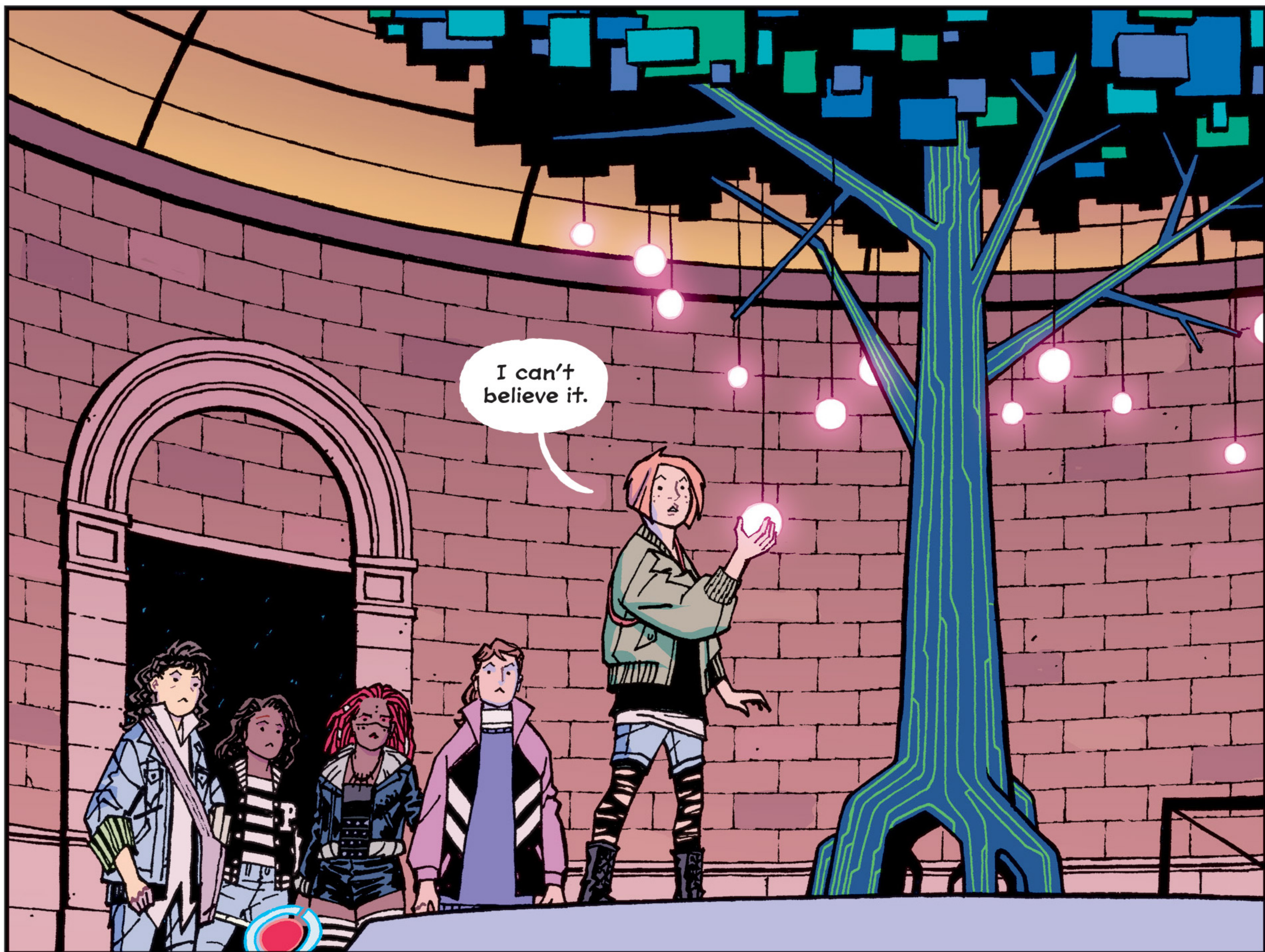


Wari, you're speaking gibberish again.

If you keep skipping injections, it's only going to get--

BRRRIING



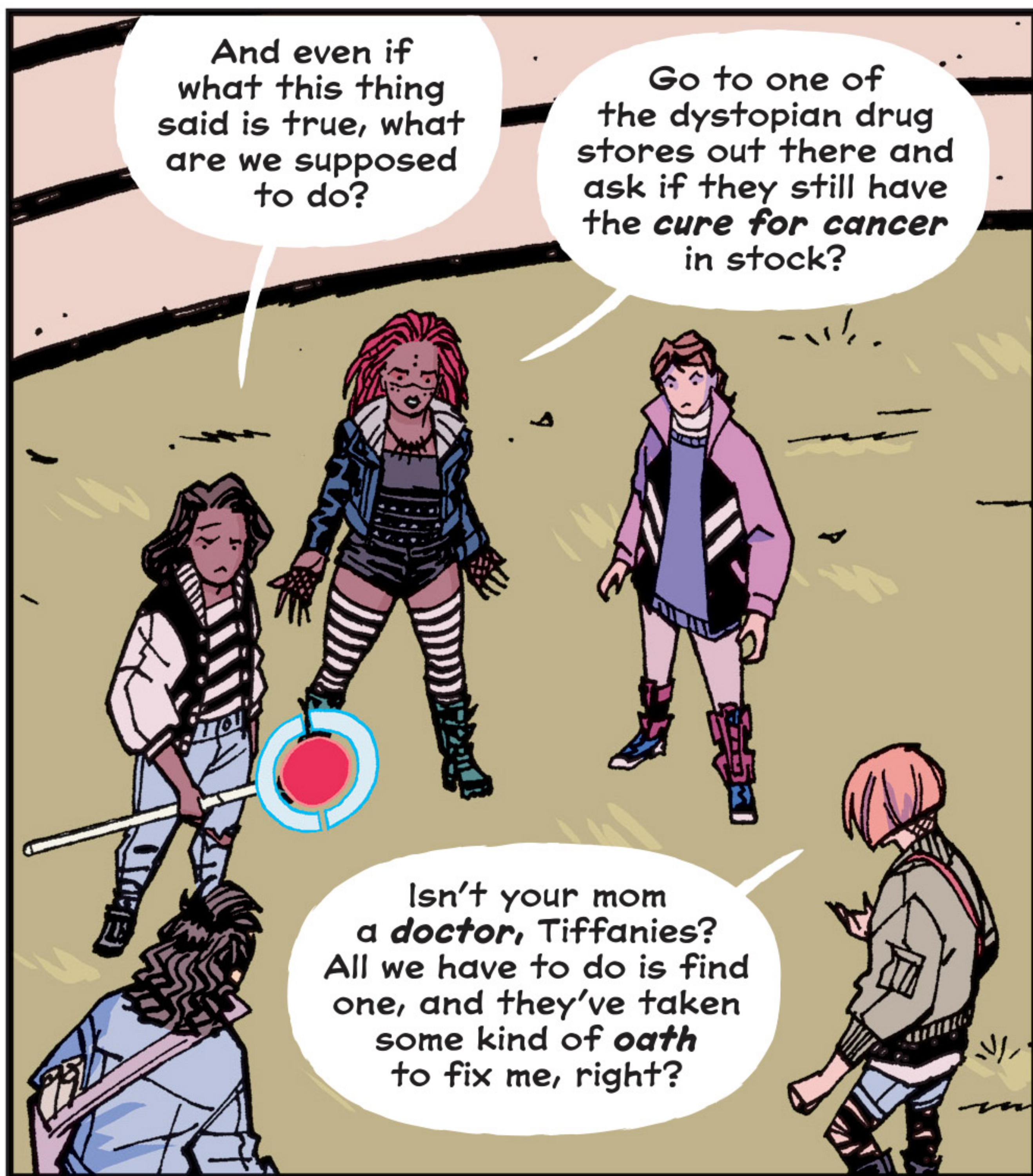




What the hell are you talking about, Erin?

It wouldn't be the first time we've been *lied* to, KJ.

That magic tree just said there's no leukemia in the future!



And even if what this thing said is true, what are we supposed to do?

Go to one of the dystopian drug stores out there and ask if they still have the *cure for cancer* in stock?

Isn't your mom a *doctor*, Tiffanies? All we have to do is find one, and they've taken some kind of *oath* to fix me, right?



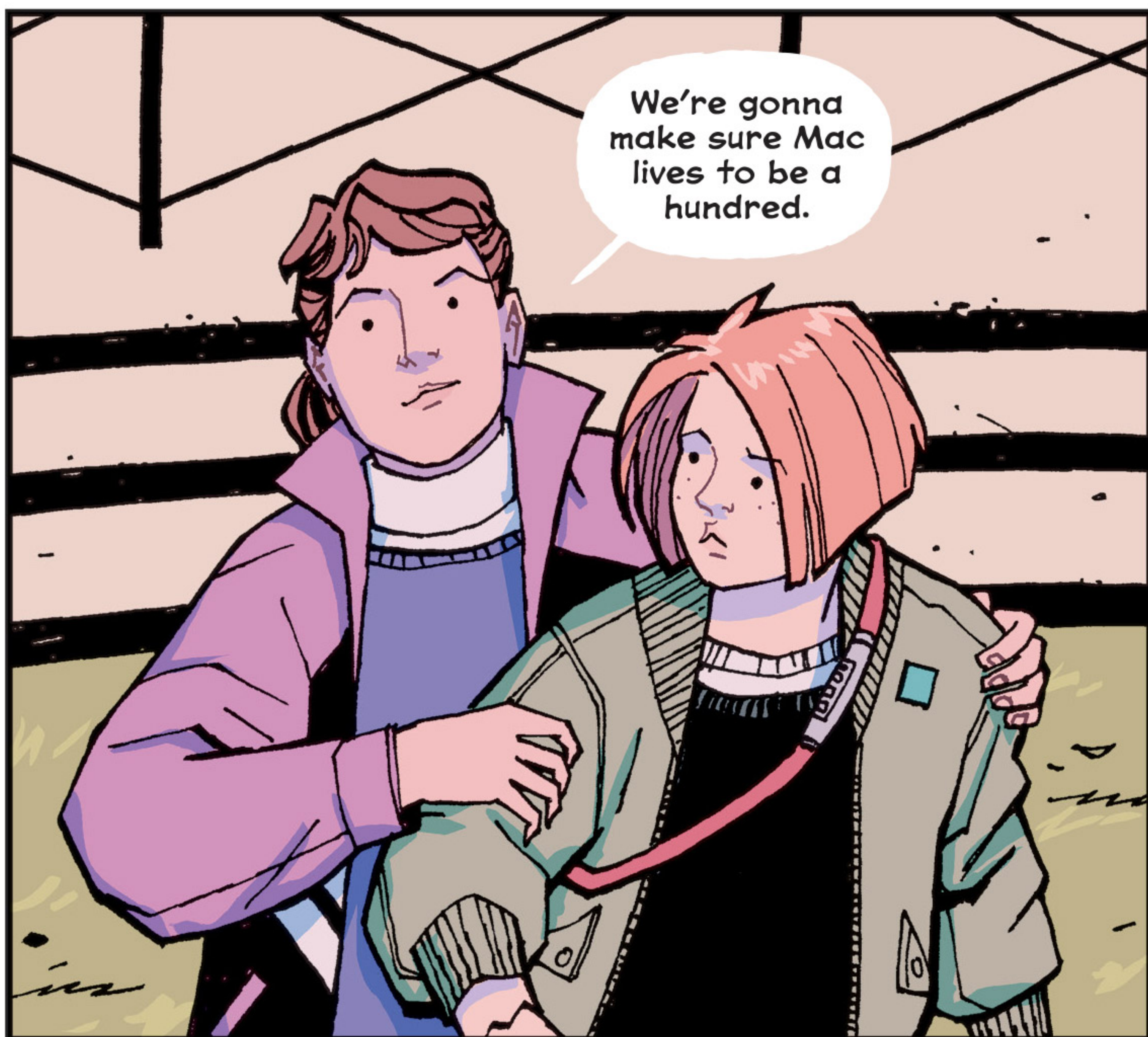
I'm just saying, we shouldn't, you know...get our hopes up.

Heck and Naldo told us that our fate is our fate, that there's no changing when we die.

Oh, you mean the same two guys who used some future crap to save *your* life?



Yeah, fate can go fuck itself.



We're gonna make sure Mac lives to be a hundred.



And I'm all for that plan, really, but shouldn't we also figure out how to make it back to our own century?

Hey, Tree.

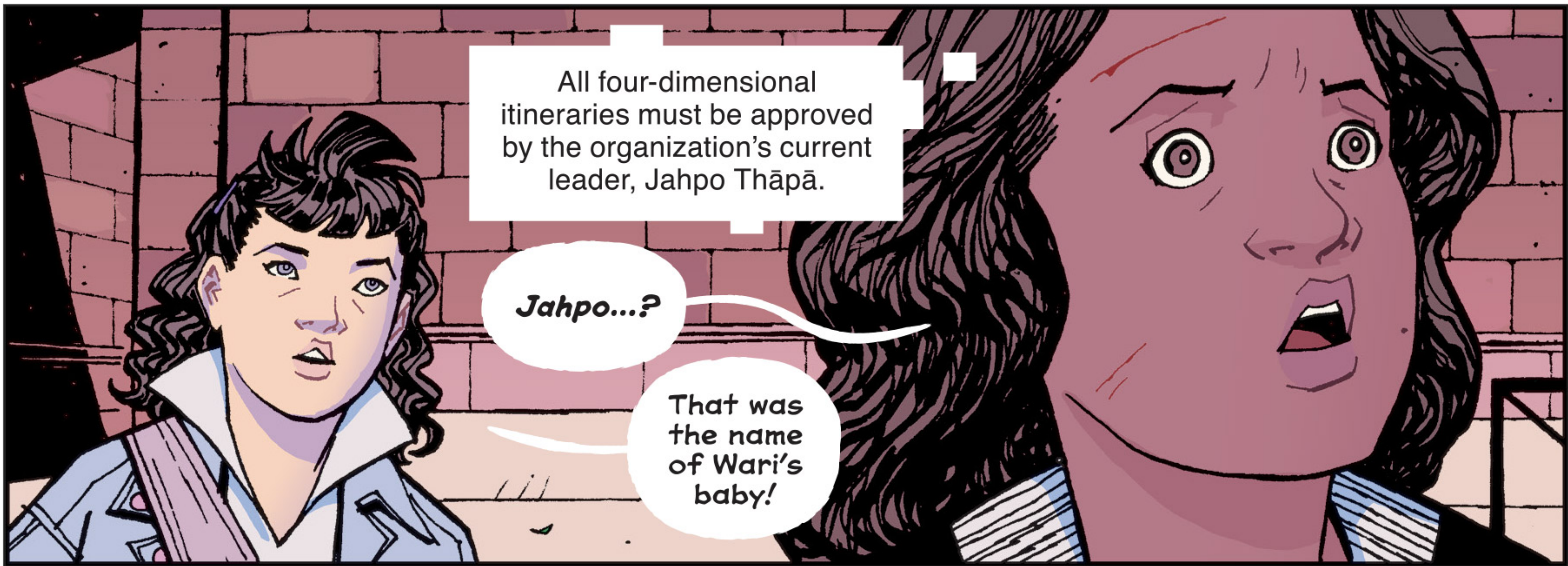


How do my friends and I get home to 1988?



Only those who have been ordained by WATCH are permitted to traverse space and/or time.

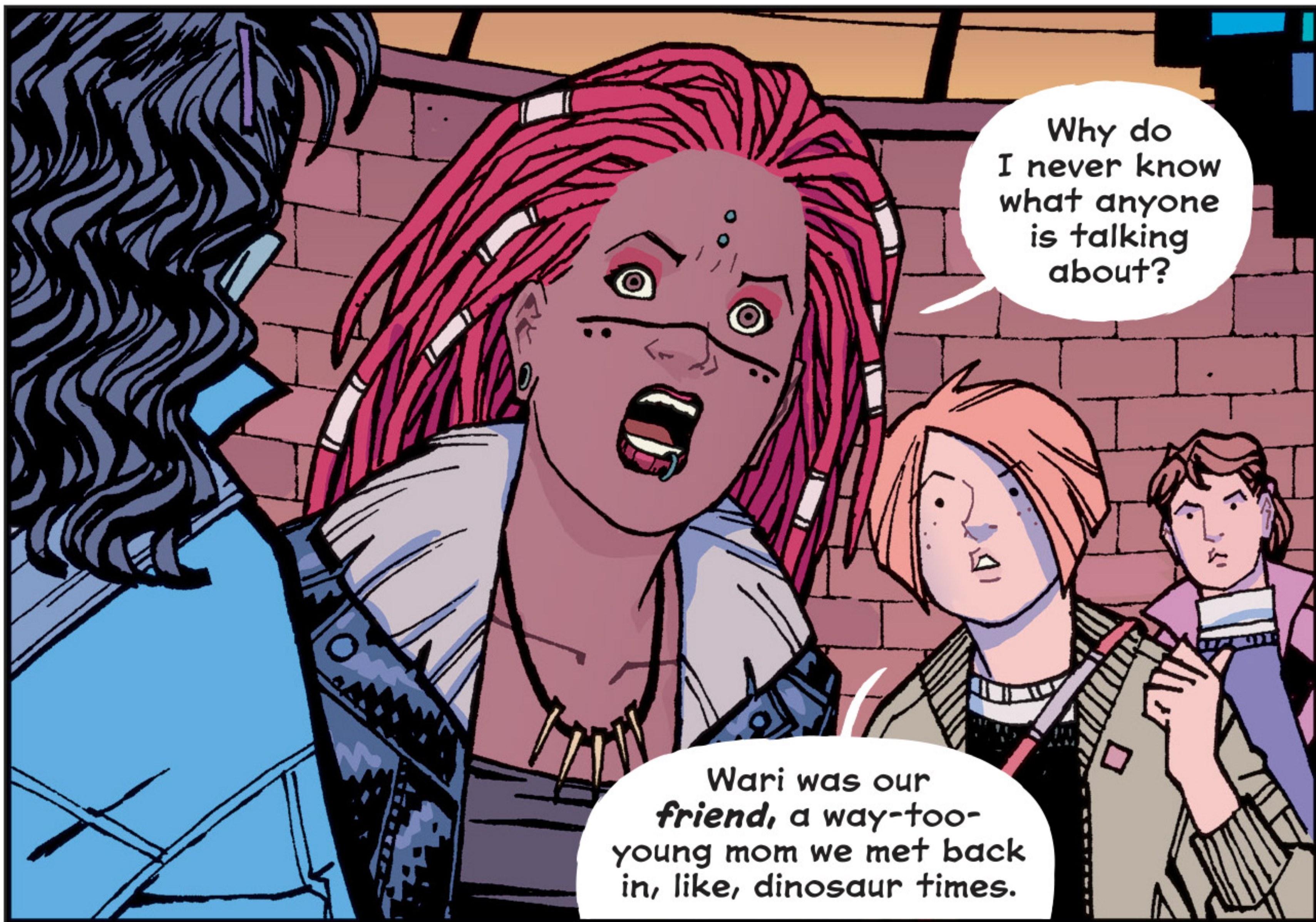
And how do we do whatever the heck it is you just said?



All four-dimensional itineraries must be approved by the organization's current leader, Jahpo Thāpā.

Jahpo...?

That was the name of Wari's baby!



Why do I never know what anyone is talking about?

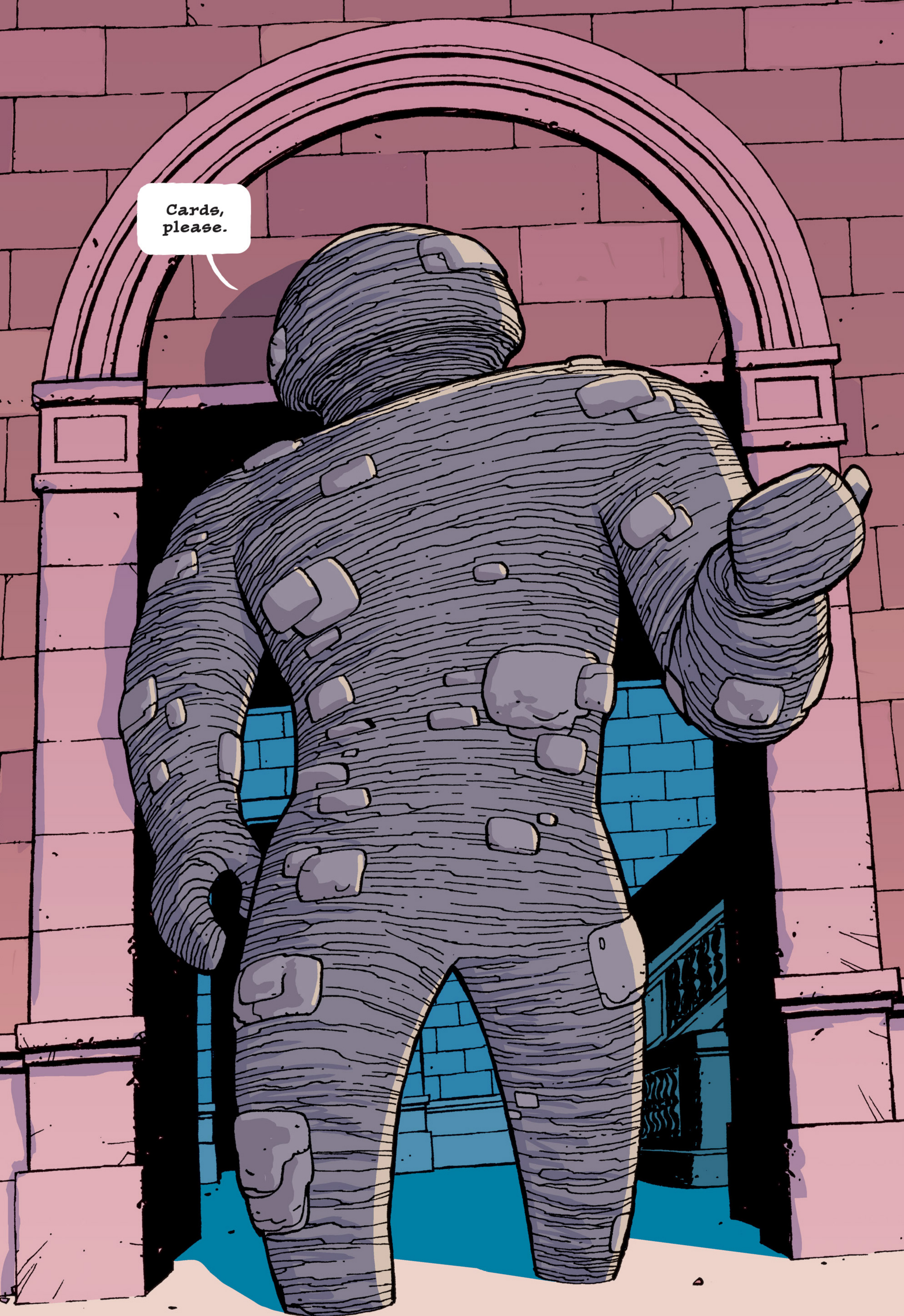
Wari was our *friend*, a way-too-young mom we met back in, like, dinosaur times.

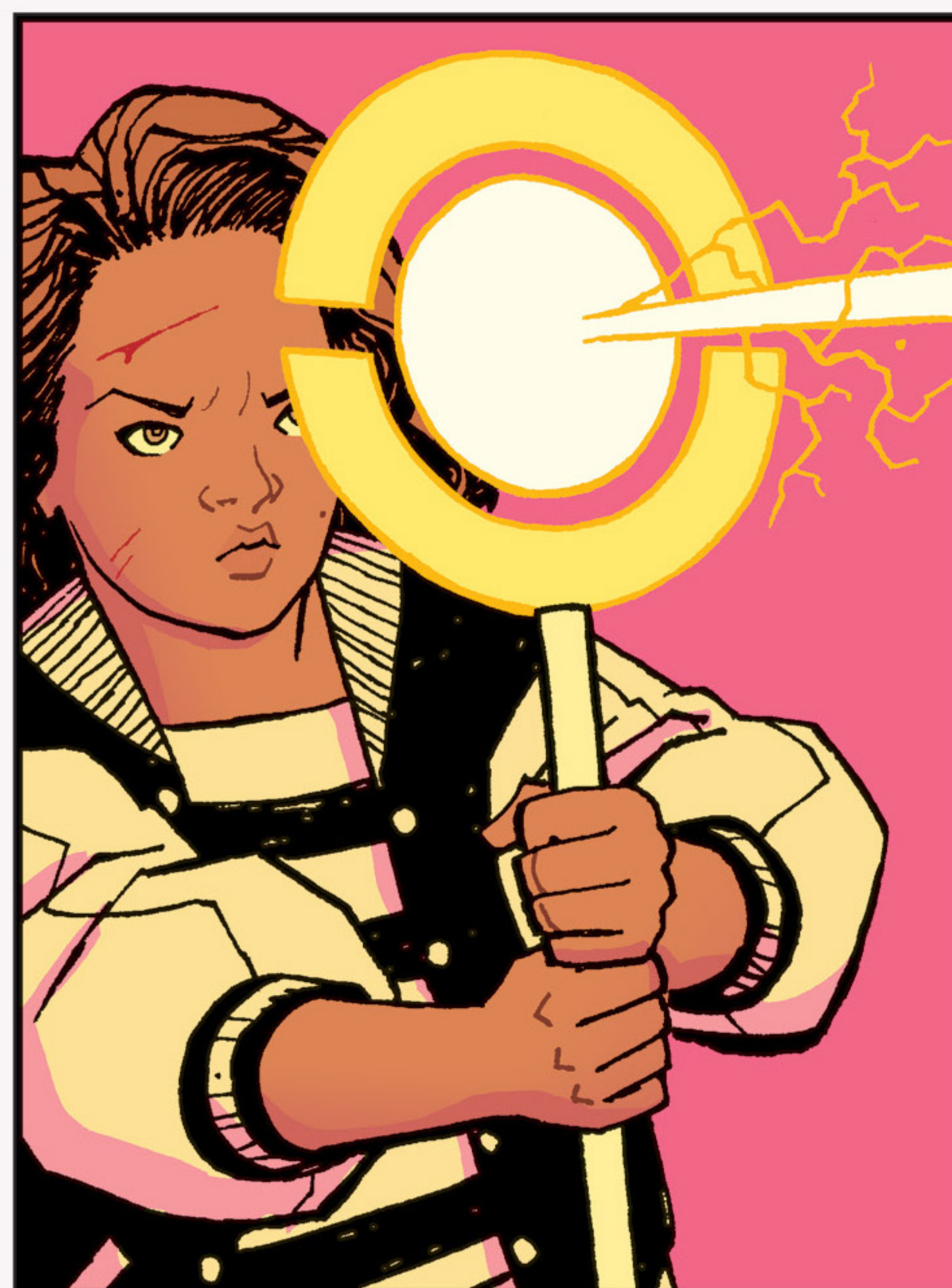
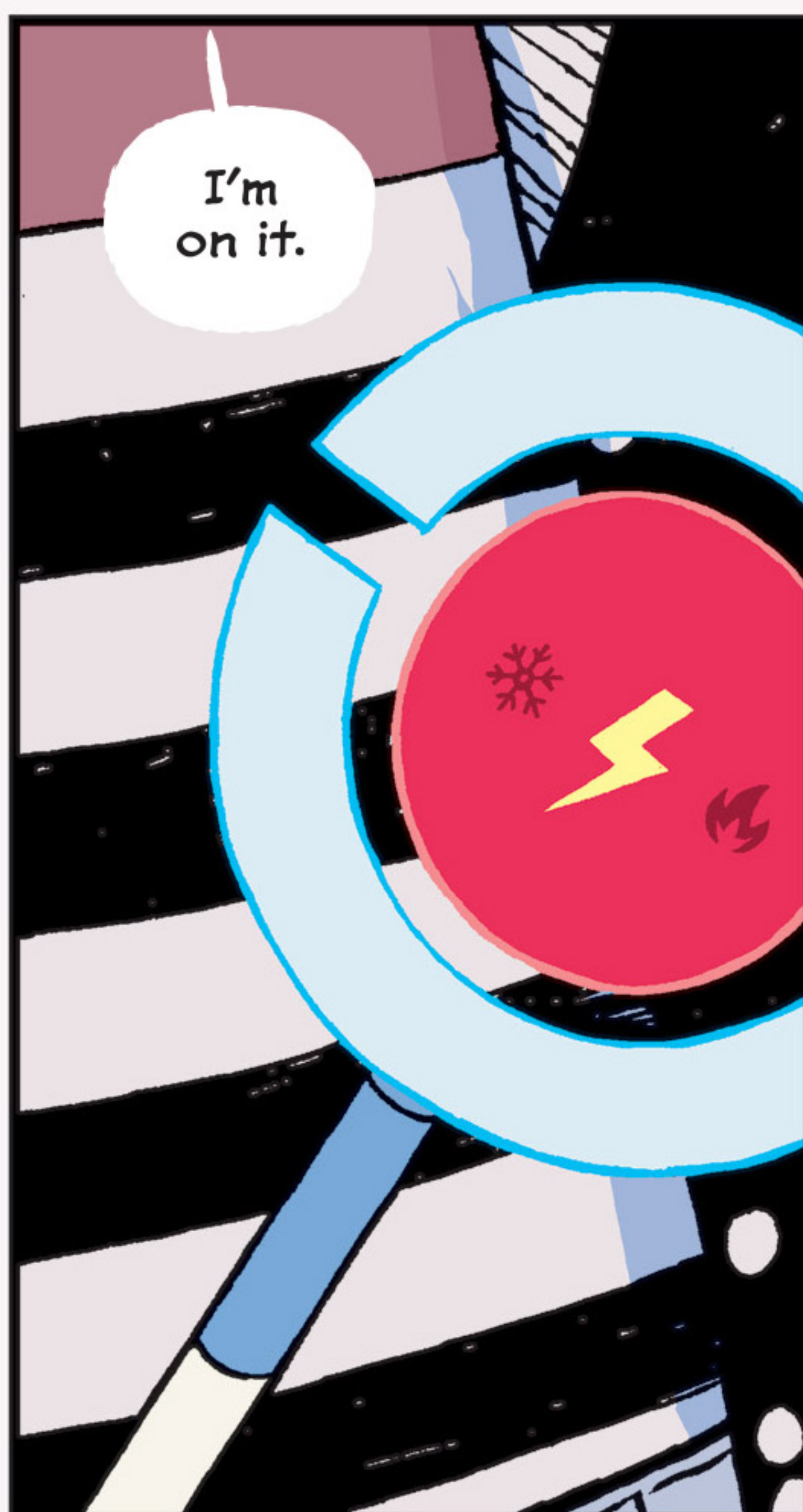
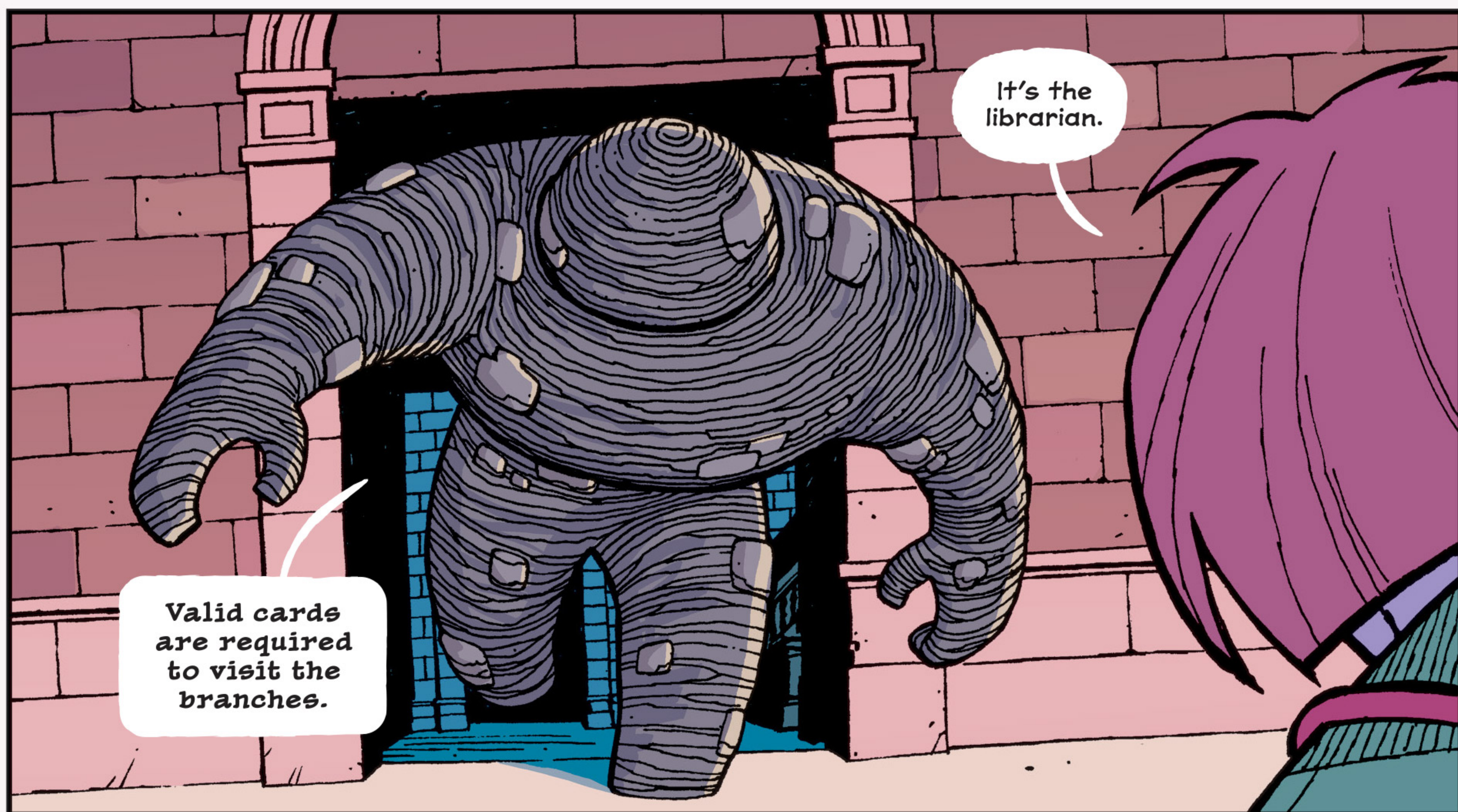


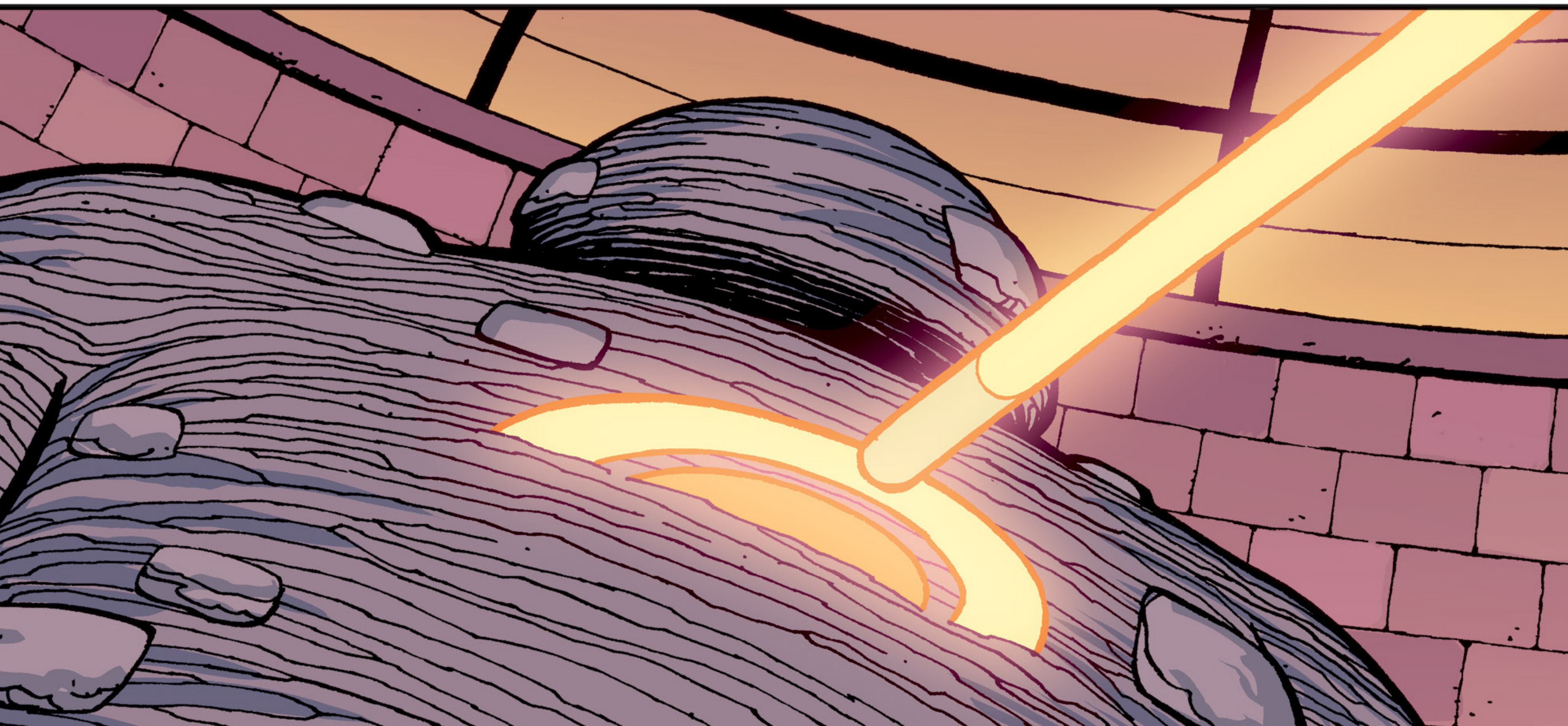
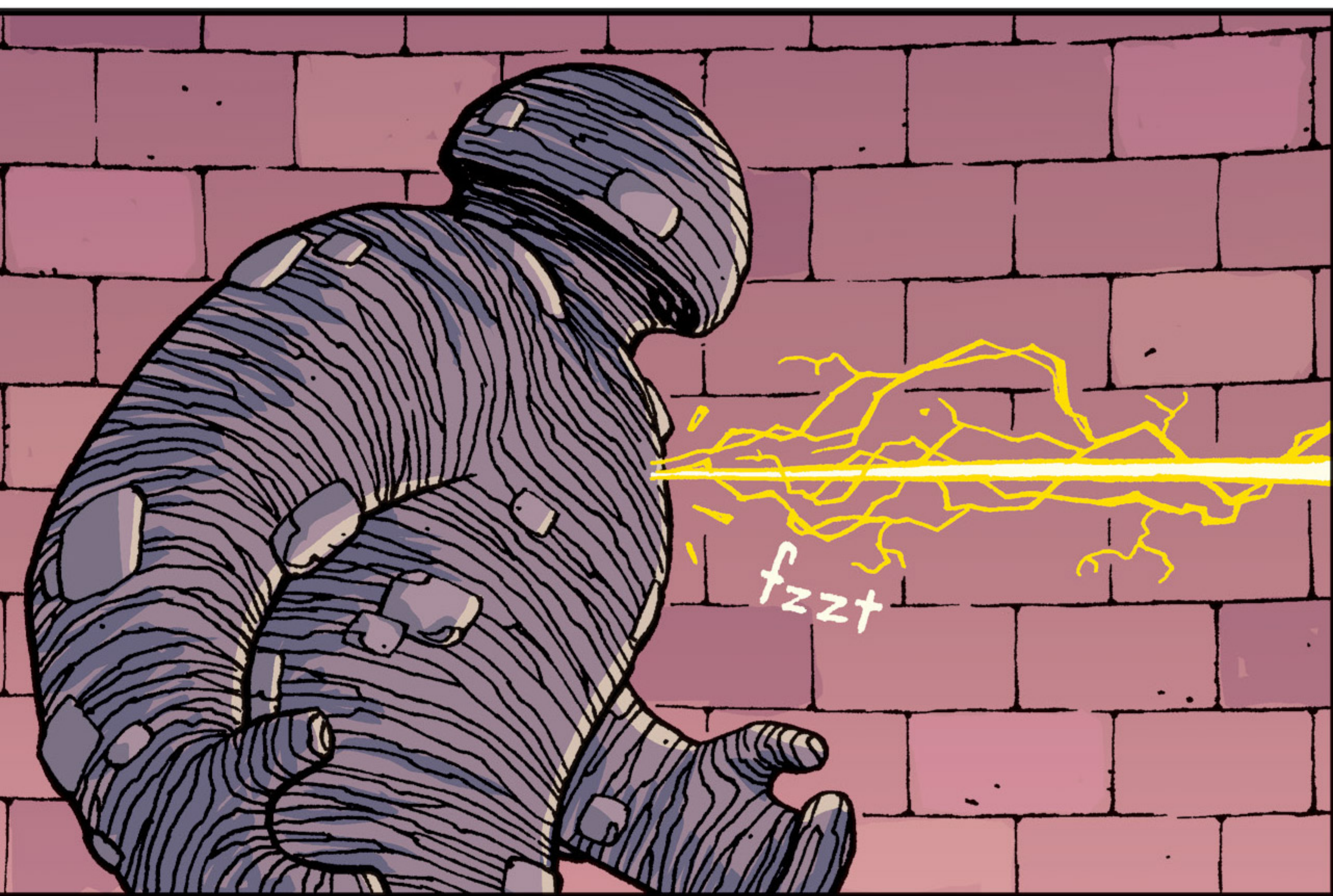
And "Jahpo" isn't exactly a name you see on the back a lot of bicycles. If this isn't a coincidence...

Cards.

Cards,
please.



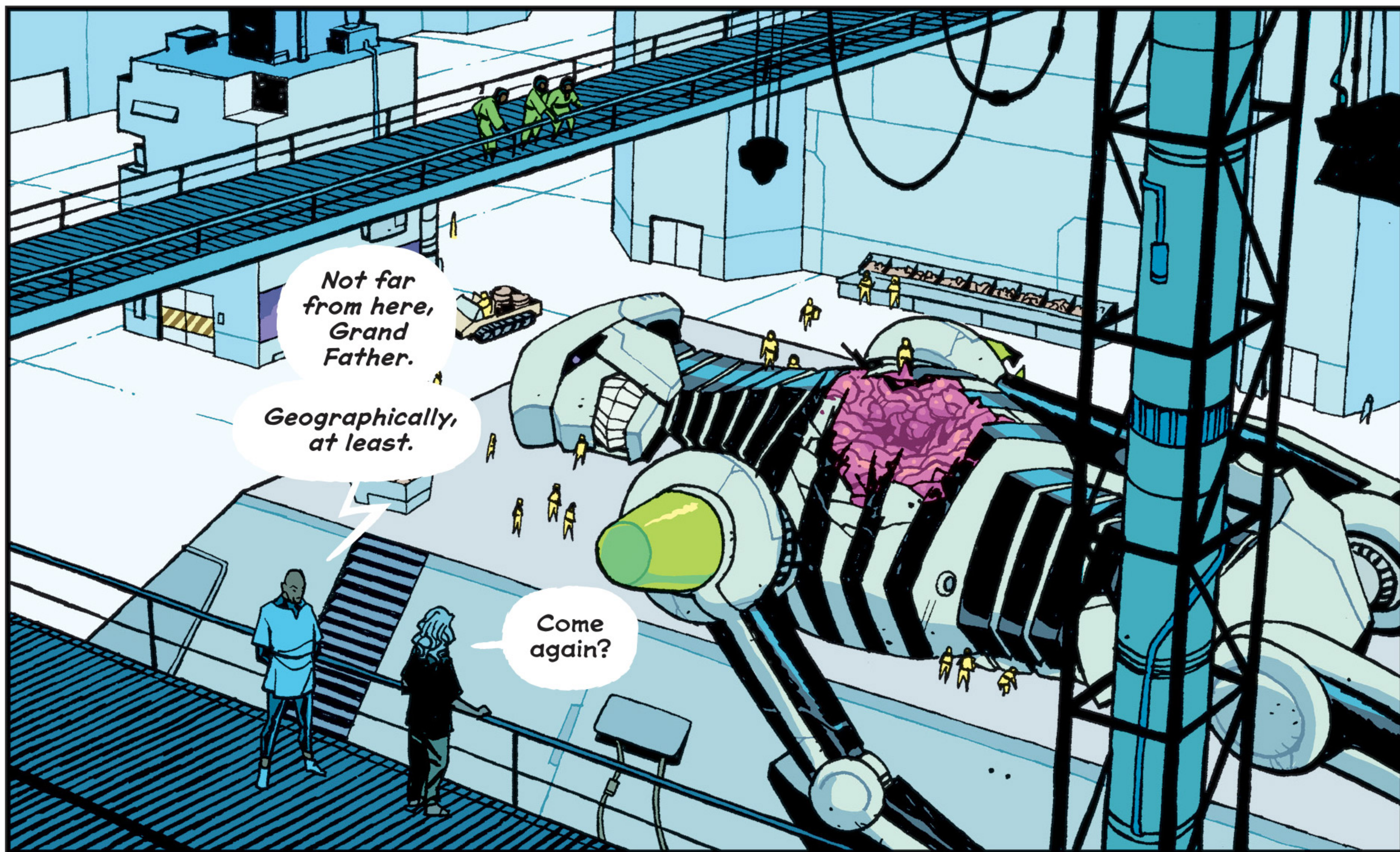








Where are they?



Not far from here, Grand Father.

Geographically, at least.

Come again?



I started wondering, what if these kids didn't really find some way to hide from our sensors?

What if they just left?

Back into the timestream? We'd know if they used one of our foldings.

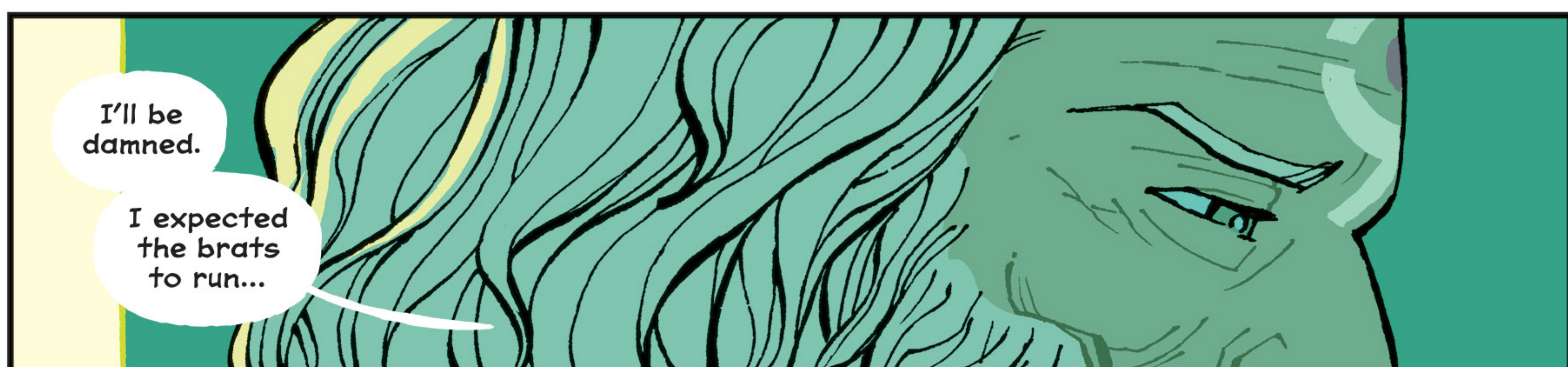
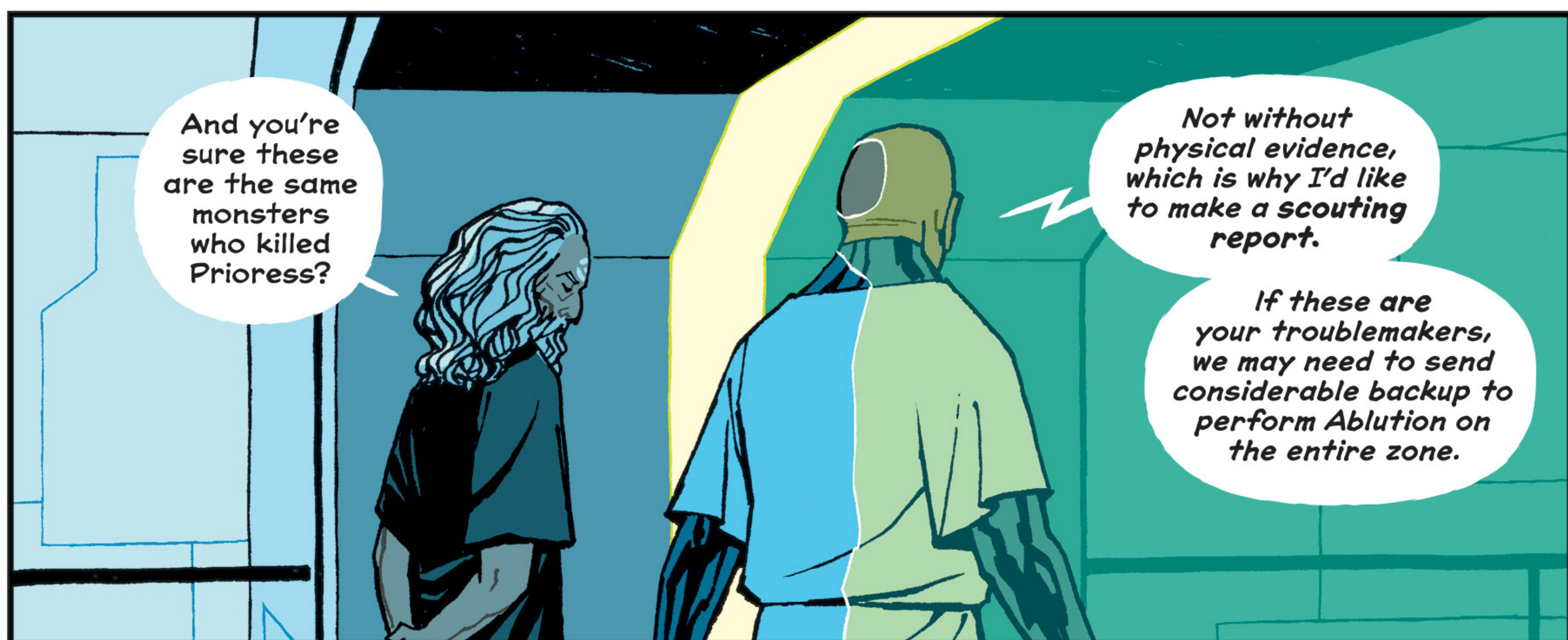


But what if they exploited one of the smaller tears beyond Earth's atmosphere?

Then they'd drown in most unpleasant waters.



Unless they brought along some kind of lifeboat.



Cleveland



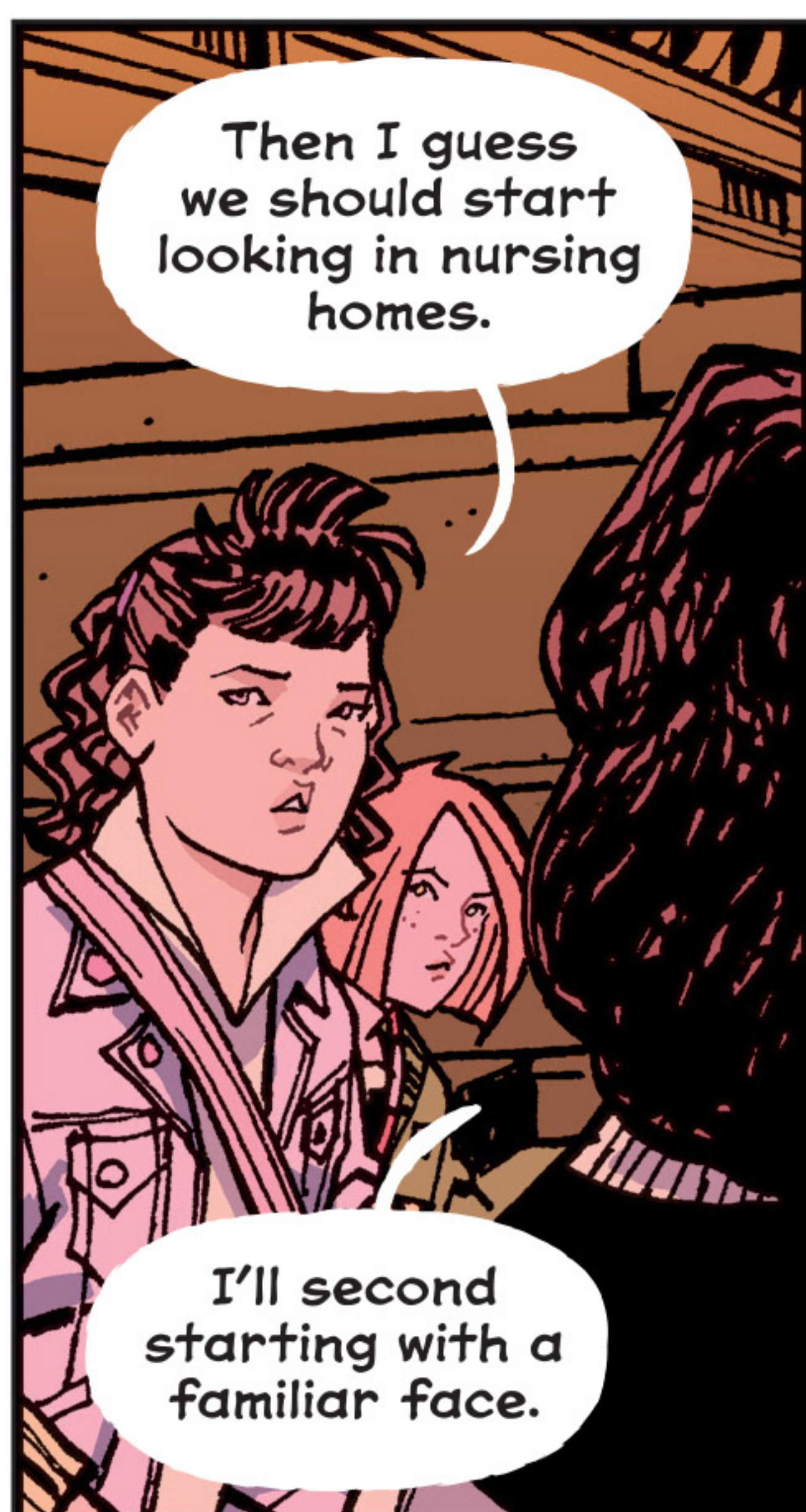
So what do we do now that Tiff broke the entire library?

Hey, I saved us from killer Claymation!

You also threw away the only weapon we had to defend ourselves.

If there's any chance that Wari and Jahpo are really here, I vote we try to find them.

They'd be like a million years old by now!



Then I guess we should start looking in nursing homes.

I'll second starting with a familiar face.

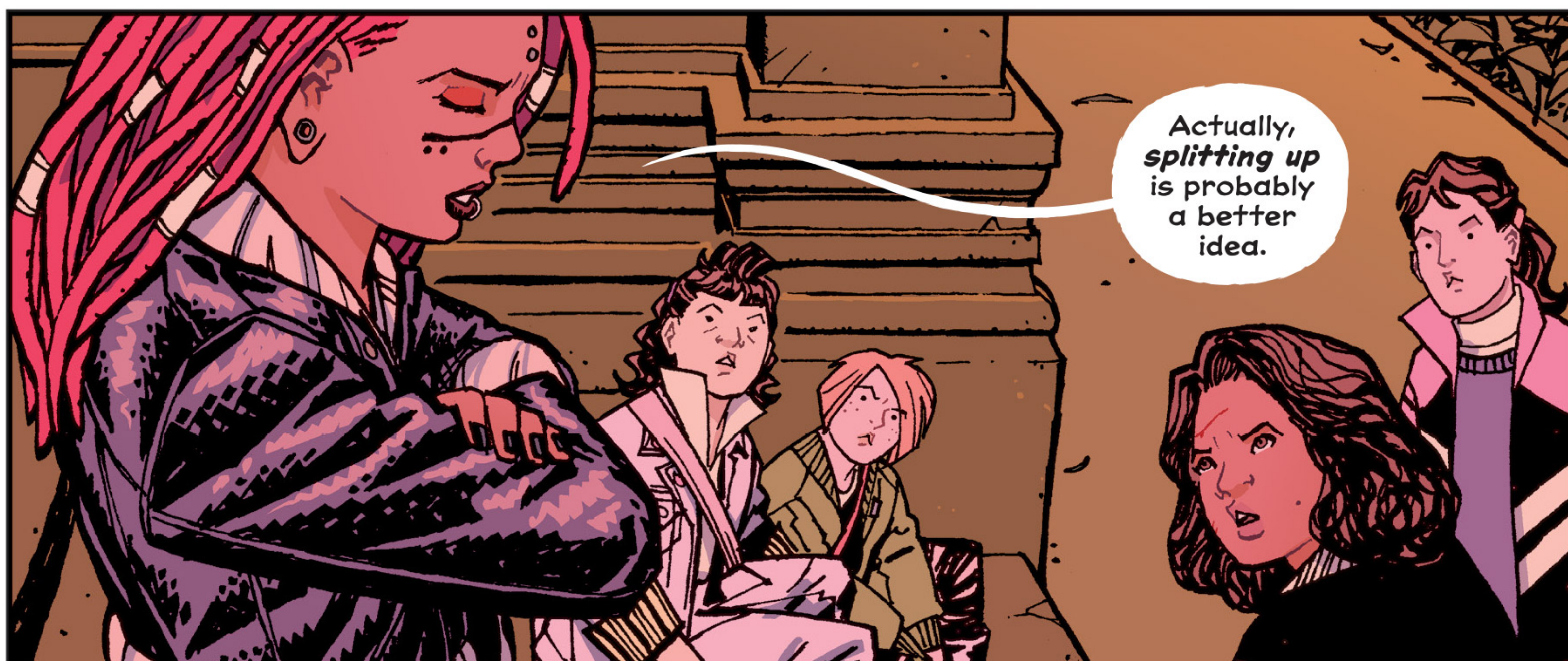


If Wari found some way to bring her kid here, she probably also knows how we can leave.



You guys can do whatever you want, but *I'm* gonna help Mac find her super-medicine.

It's all right, Kaje. We can take care of my stuff later. Best to stick together.



Actually, *splitting up* is probably a better idea.



Are you nuts?

Splitting up is always the stupidest idea!

Unless anyone out there is looking for a group of five chicks from another era, in which case it's definitely the smartest play.



And we could always use your *walkies* to stay in touch.



You've been lugging those things around this whole time?!

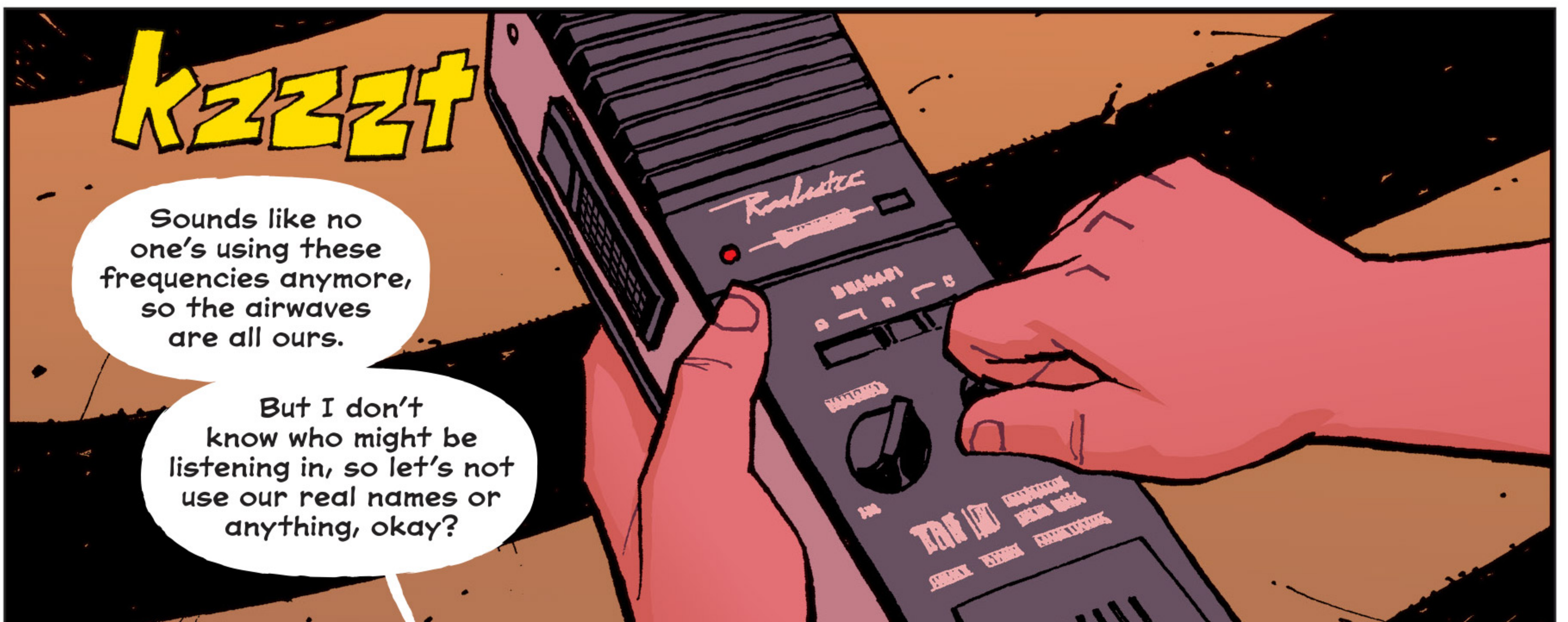
What, Tiffany said they were *expensive*.

This packrat hasn't even dumped her old papers yet!



Don't listen to these ingrates, Tieng.

You saved my *babies*.



kzzzt

Sounds like no one's using these frequencies anymore, so the airwaves are all ours.

But I don't know who might be listening in, so let's not use our real names or anything, okay?



10-4,
good
buddy.

But what if
we run out of
batteries or
whatever?

As long as
we only use them
for emergencies,
these radios should
both be good for
at least a few
more hours.



But just in case
anything goes
sideways, we should
all plan to meet
back here.

At let's
say...
dawn?



Good luck,
assholes.

Good luck,
assholes.

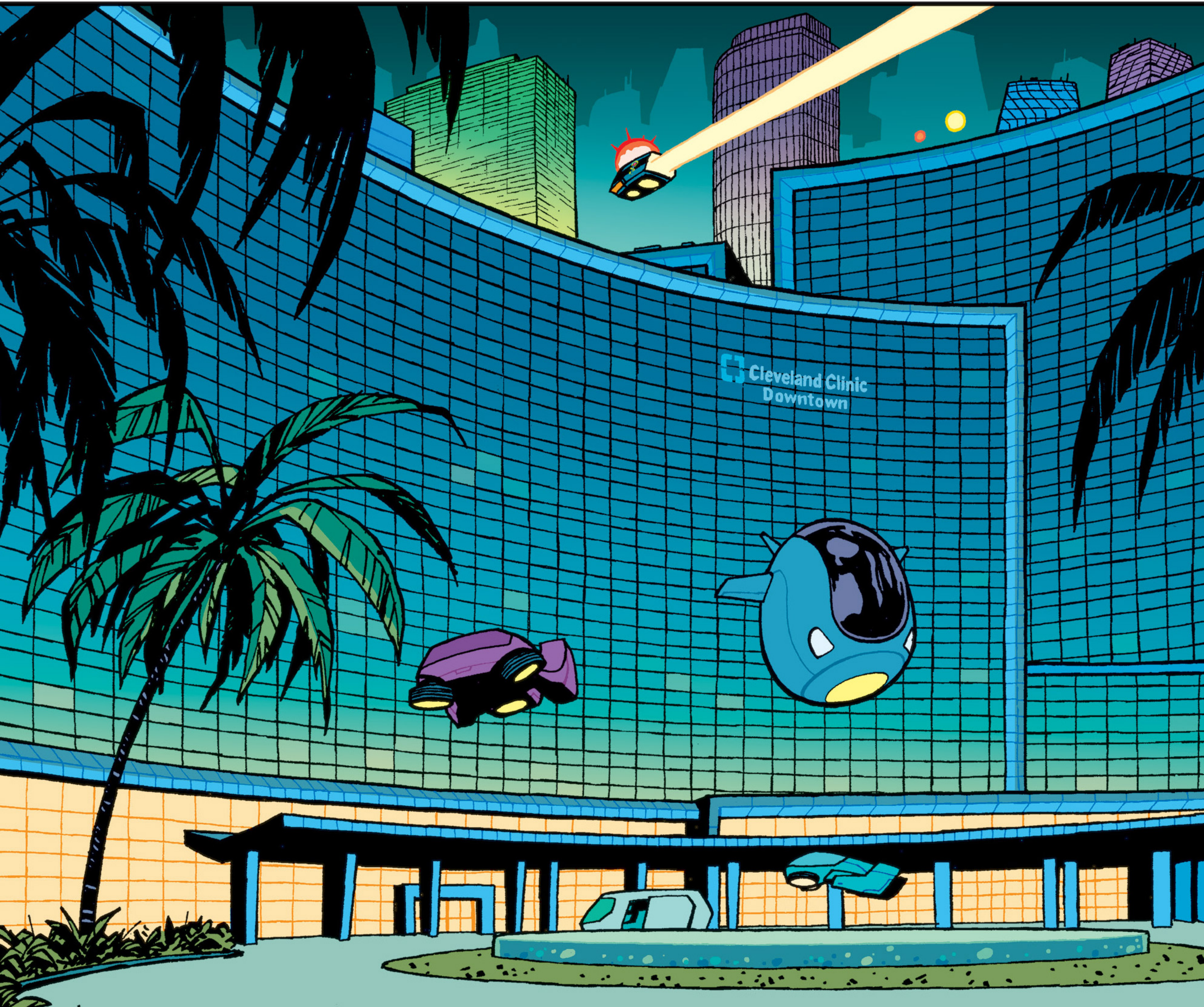
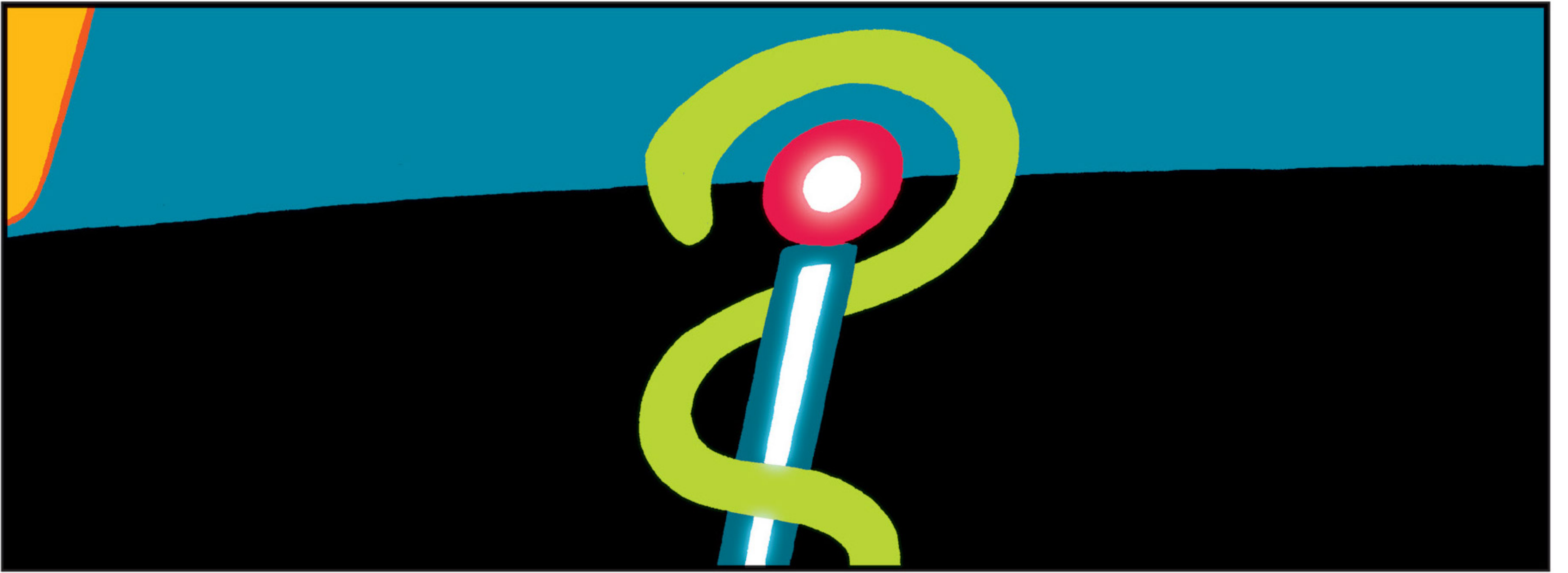


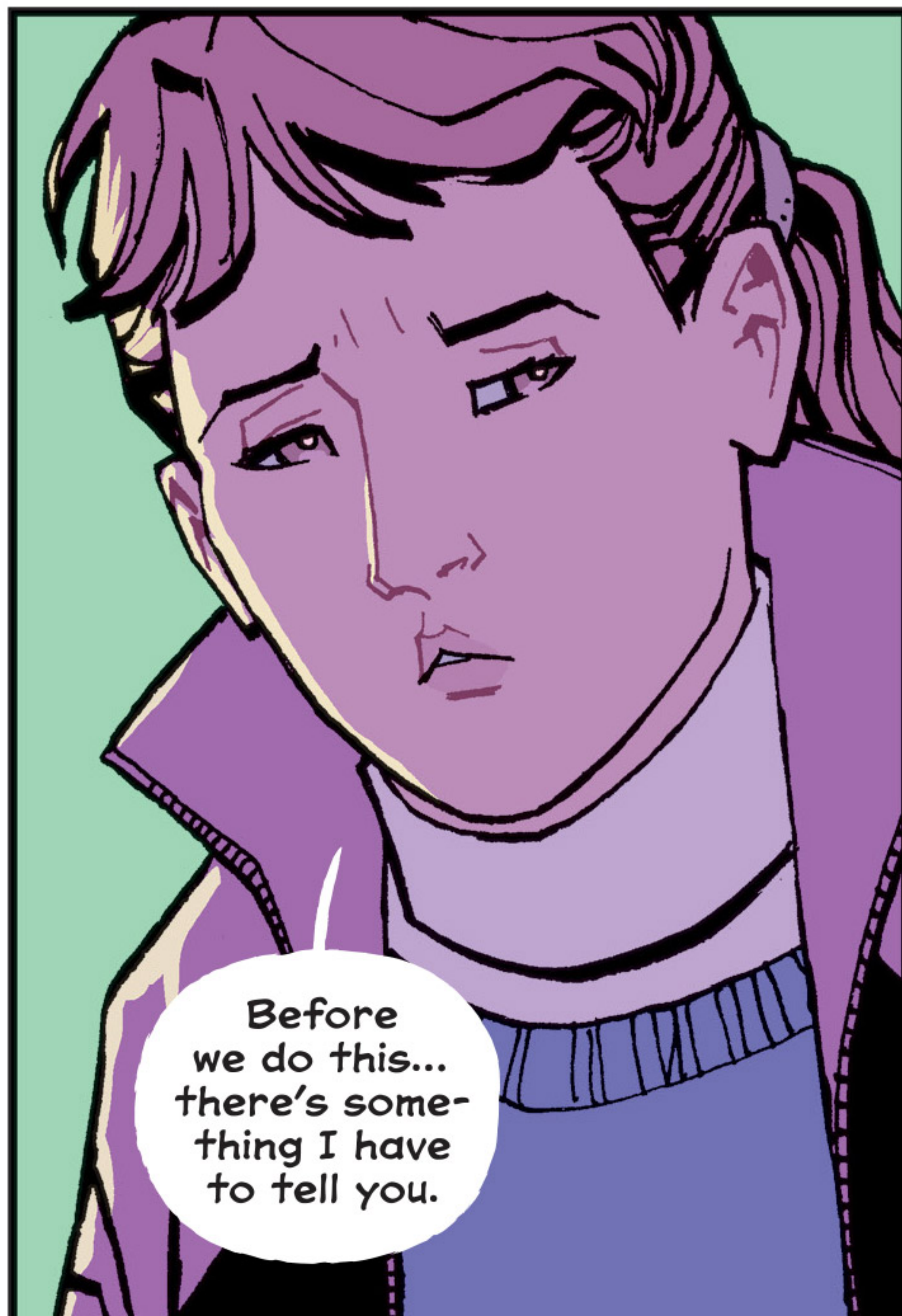
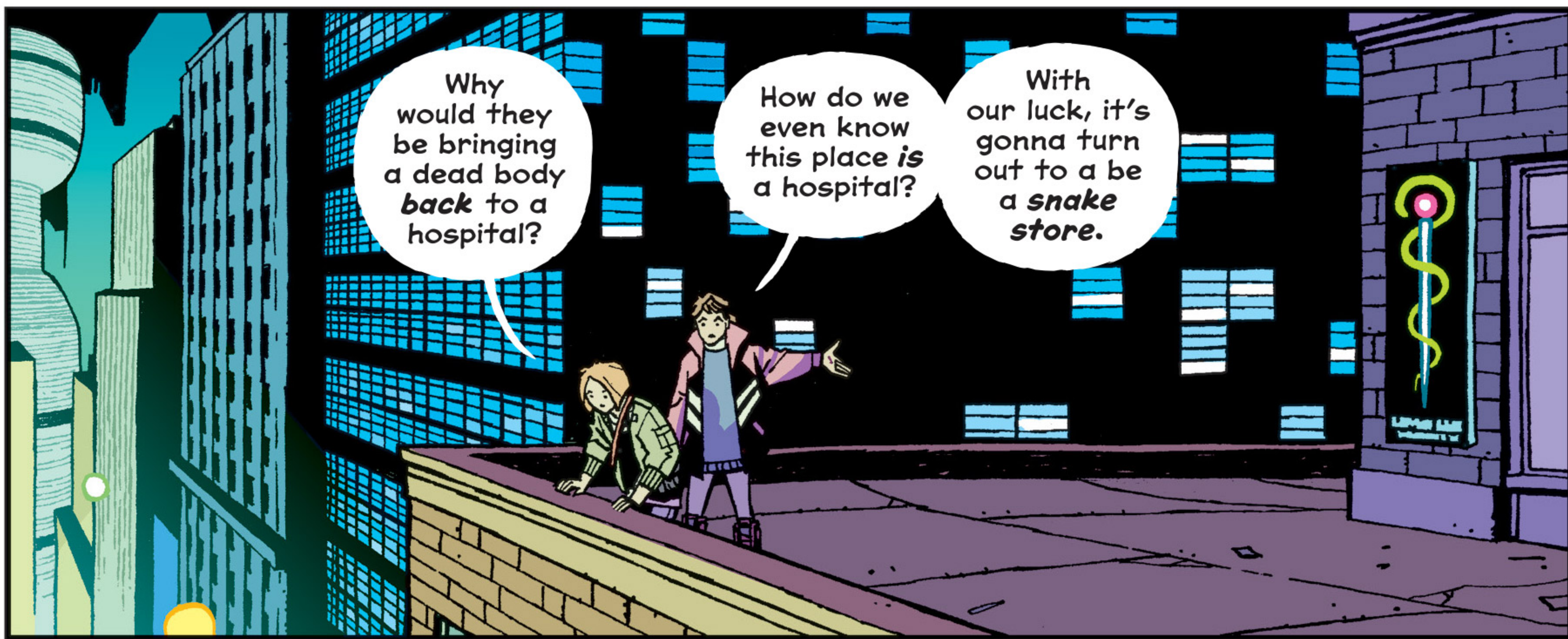
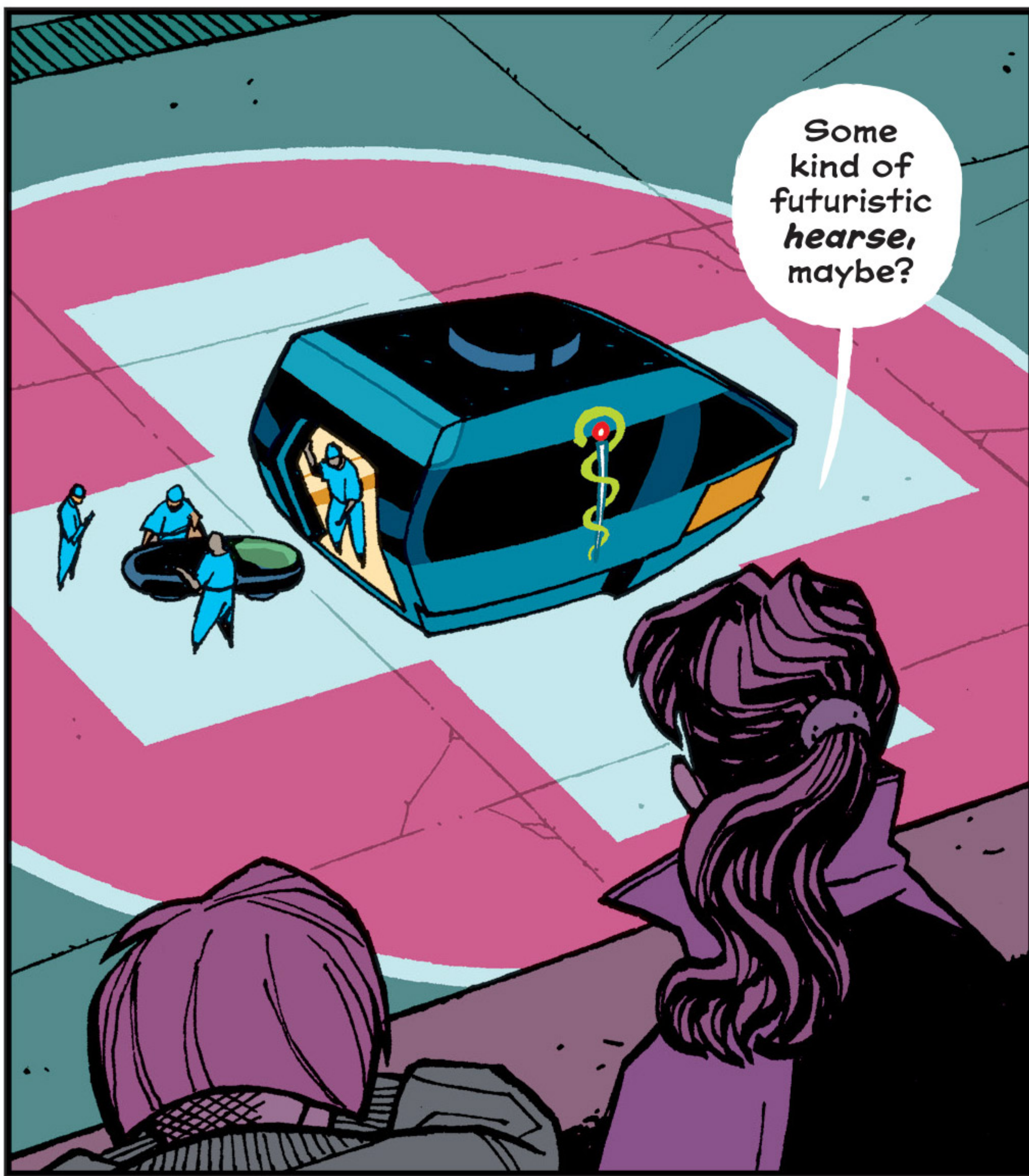
Stay safe,
dummies.

Stay safe,
dummies.



Over
and out.







That's never good.

It's about that thing from another dimension.

The...the one that touched me.



And made you hallucinate about the future?

It *wasn't* a hallucination, Mac.

Isn't that what all crazy people say?



Listen to me, goddammit!



I saw Doctor Braunstein's face covered in blood, and that *happened*.

I saw a skyline that looked exactly like this one, and now we're *here*.



And I also saw something about *us*.

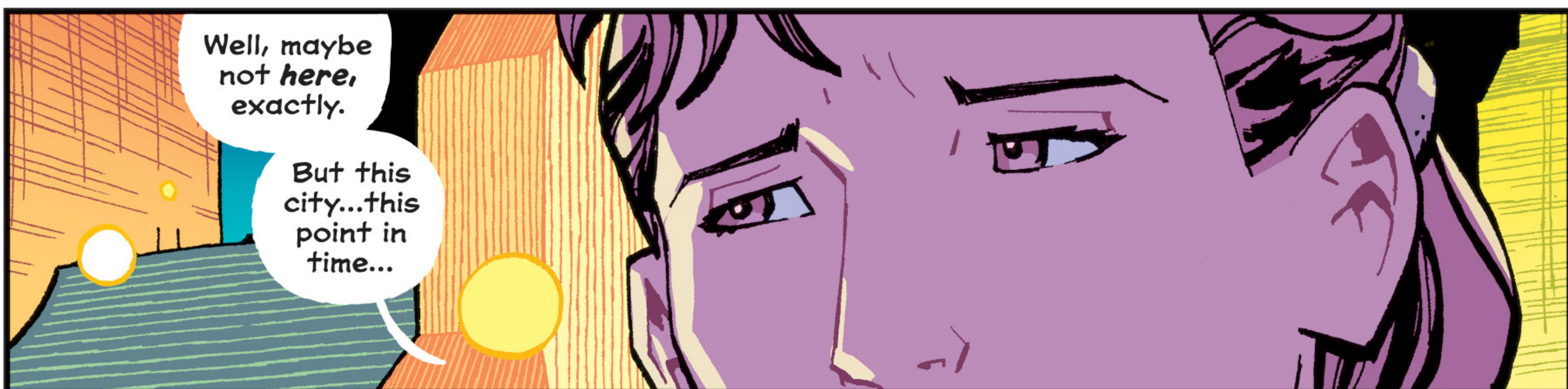




Us?

As in,
me and
you?

We were
right
here.



Well, maybe
not *here*,
exactly.

But this
city...this
point in
time...



And what
happened?

Did we
get my cure
or not?

Oh, my
vision wasn't
really, um,
about that
part.



Then what
the hell *did*
you see?



Fine.



I don't
know what
it means, but
I saw the
two of us
k--

⌘kzzt⌘
ease help!
⌘kzzt⌘



Those guys
are *already*
in trouble?

zzzzt
e to the
zzzzt



Say
again?

We can
barely
hear y--

EEEEEEEEEE



What *is*
that?

I don't
know, but
I think I've
heard it
before.

At Erin's
house, back
when all
this--

EEEEEEEEEE




zzzzt
Please help!
Oh, Christ,
she's dead!
She's really
zzzzt



Who...
who was
that?

How do
you not
recognize
that
voice?



It was
you.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

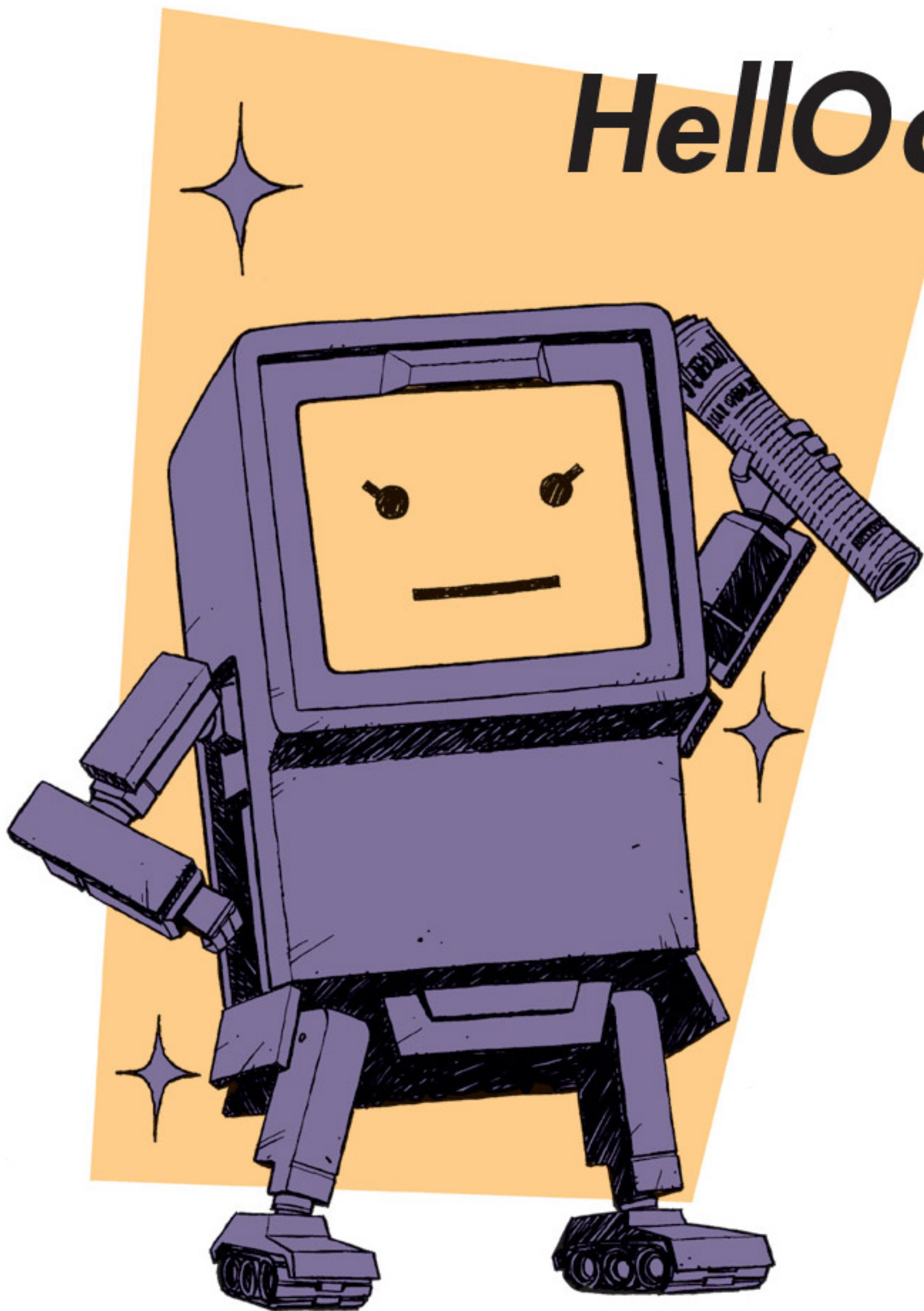
4335 Van Nuys Boulevard - Suite 332, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 U.S.A.

SINCE 1899!

HellOagAin, HonOraryDElivererS!

DASH-DASH DOT THE PAPERBOT here, welcoming U back 2 our ex-amination of the near-AncienT "LETTERS" once sent 2 the lOng-DeFunct AMERICAN NEWSPAPER--BZZZZT--GUILD.

4 thls funstallment, we Will travel wayback to the End of The 20th cenTury, 2 eXplore how R anCEstors dealt with de (Ultlmatly UNfounded?) threat of a PoTential CATASTROPHE known Only as Y2K!



DASH-DASH DOT, Paperbot



Dear Rita,

Here's a true story.

I was just shy of my 21st birthday as 1999 came to a close. I wasn't sure if the Y2K computer crash was going to happen or not, but I was starting to get a little nervous. What I was certain of is that I wanted to have all my stupid wisdom teeth pulled if the s*** really did go down (everyone knows you can't fight off looters and hillbilly zombies with too many teeth in your head!). Like most 20-year-olds, certainty didn't necessarily breed expedition, so I promptly procrastinated scheduling the procedure until Friday, December 31st, 1999. I did have the bright idea that I should convalesce at my parents' farm so that I could survive off their garden and cows once all of society collapsed. As we all know, though, the year 2000 bloomed bright and sunny and Y2K fears were quickly laughed away. I'm glad we're not all living in a Y2K-induced post-farm Mad-Maxian wasteland and all four of my wisdom teeth

gone. At least for a little while, everything seemed to work out for everyone in the end.

Cale
Fayetteville, AK

DesPite lacking dese so-cAlled "wisdom teeth," Writer Cale seemed vEry wise.

Hey Rita,

There isn't anything more 2000 than AOL sign-up discs, dial-up ISPs, and Geocities fan sites. 56 kbs was considered pretty decent download speed. In 2000 I was a high school senior. My friends and I used to play pencil and paper RPGs. I had a blast. Before that I was a paperboy in Ohio; the girl down the street let me have her route. My first job. I initially thought I would be able to deliver them by chucking them from my bike onto the front porch. That was not the case. Everyone had a particular place they wanted their paper. I got everyone's preferences eventually. The job supported my comic book addiction, which I'm still "suffering" from.

My wife remembers butterfly clips and shiny fabrics in fashion. Also a time working at the supermarket watching people stock up on supplies, because "you don't know what's going to happen with these computers." They would ask her if her family is prepared, which she would shrug off, saying whatever is going to happen is going to happen. She's watching our son so I'm writing on her behalf.

My wife and I are loving this book, by the way. She gets a digital copy, so the baby doesn't destroy it. I get a physical copy, since the paper quality is so amazing. I read it before anyone gets up in the morning with some coffee. The story and the pencils are outstanding. Also this has to be the best coloring I've seen.

We'll be looking forward to next month's issue. I might even try to translate earlier issues if I have the time.

Thanks and sorry for the barely-legible handwriting,

Jonathan, Lianiz and Jude
Minneapolis, MN

Dash-Dash Dot Be-lieves that the Oldenglish wOrd "handwriting" is de Most Beautiful she hAs everHeard.

Dear ANDG,

On the night of December 31, 1999, I went with some friends to another friend's house for a small party. He rigged the circuit breakers to a timer, so that the power would cut right at midnight. He wanted us all to think that the "Y2K bug" had actually happened. He gave it away with his bad acting, though.

Love the comic,

Janel M.
Tucson, AZ

LOLOLOLOLOL?

Dear Rita,

On New Year's Eve right before the year 2000, I was a junior in high school. I lived in a rural area and my friends and I had turned a barn at someone's house into a party spot. His parents didn't seem to care that we were underage and drinking almost every weekend. It was literally known as "the Barn" around high school and I created a Geocities website for it (RIP Geocities). We built a really nice-looking bar there. That night in particular

included fireworks fights, someone puking in a cooler and passing out, trying to break a millennium countdown clock, and beer. Same guy that passed out might have been drawn on in the middle of the fireworks fight. I guess we figured we were young and if the world was going to end we might as well celebrate.

Best,

Mark H.
Bartlett, IL

Dis B d 2nd mention of so-cAlled "Geocities," which mUsthave been aMong those de-Stroyed in the TONKIN WARS of 002020.

Rita,

Listen:

As Y2K approached, the teenage version of myself was consumed with contagious anxiety. I was really climbing the walls. To alleviate this trepidation, my mom encouraged me to seek therapy. I obliged since it was sound advice. During our first session, before I had explained my motives for seeking his counsel, my therapist explained that he would only be able to help me for a limited time. He went on to elaborate by stating that he was retiring and moving with most of his extended family to "the mountains." Already certain that I knew the answer, I asked anyway: "May I ask why you're doing that?"

He responded, of course, with three syllables: "Y2K."

One love,

Joshua S.
Fort Worth, TX

Wh0a.

Hello Rita Pearl,

I hope I qualify for the A.N.D.G. I did not deliver papers on a regular basis, but did substitute for a friend of mine back in the day (mid 1970s) when he went on vacation out of state.

The only wrinkle in the process was going to a Senior Housing Building and the management was never around when I arrived. Buzzing the occupants, explaining who I was and asking permission to be let in did not always work for me, so I had to find creative ways to gain entrance. On my first day I missed some people and the next day did they let me have it. The rest of the week went smoothly and I guess he was happy with my performance since I got to deliver for him twice more when he was unable to.

Last year I purchased the Limited Edition #1 t-shirt and wore it to the 2017 Motorcity Comics Convention near Detroit and got a lot of compliments. This past January I purchased and received the World Tour Shirt. I am so looking forward to wearing this to the 2018 Con. What I was wondering, if there will be anything available for cold weather like a hoodie, sweater, or jacket with our fantastic foursome (see what I did there?) on it?

The year 2000, huh? What little I remember from that year was work and madness. But I got over it.

Peace,

Ronald W.
Flint, MI

Mmm, bY 002018, it seems Y2K was alreAdy a Distant Memory 4 most. In time, Dash-Dash Dot gUesses ALL will b 4gotten.

BKV & A.N.D.G.,

I can't think of the year 2000 without hearing the voice of that guy from the Conan O'Brien show. I grew up in Dayton (and incidentally, went to school with the children of one of the original founders of Ponderosa Steakhouse). My favorite band growing up was Brainiac. They were local legends and everyone in the scene absolutely loved them, myself included. In 1997,

Tim Taylor died in an automobile accident. When Tim died it hit me the way that Bowie's passing seemed to hit the rest of the world, except we knew him. He was one of us. In 2000 Brainiac guitarist, John Schmersal went on to form ENON and released the album *Believe!* Your questionnaire did not ask about favorite albums, but this was far and away my favorite record of that year. I imagine that Tiffany and her husband would have been fans.

Speaking of which, I am absolutely loving *Paper Girls* and will continue following along as long as you keep making them. Cliff Chiang's art is beautiful but I feel like I have to call out Matt Wilson. That guy has got to be the best colorist in the industry. Everything he touches is gorgeous. It must be so awesome to get to work with so many highly talented artists in your career.

Thank you again for your kind words and support,

Justin R.
Portland, OR

2day, of cOurse, Brainiac's 001997 EP Electro-Shock for President is con-sidered 1 of de Greatest Musics in Herstory.

Rita,

To celebrate all things "Year 2000" I enclose my tatty copy of *Comics Scene 2000* for your perusal. I had hoped this rather charming publication would become a bastion of specialist print journalism, but alas it did not survive 'til 2001. It does however at least demonstrate the longevity of some printed "stuff," comic book screen adaptations and Brian Michael Bendis.

The "Biggest News Story of 2000" appears on pages 83-87, I hope you enjoy this if you have not seen it previously. Your education on Tefé Holland could be followed with a reading on the initial draft of the human genome.

Please note, Brian K. Vaughan is not mentioned by name on the cover nor within the contents page of *Comics Scene 2000*, because who the hell had heard of him.

Warmest Regards,

Steph
Nottingham, UK

Dash-Dash Dot has nOt heard f tHis ind1vidual either.

Rita & Brian,

Respectfully, I'm close to being finished with *Paper Girls*. No offense Brian, you can be a good writer, but you and I are moving in different circles creatively and I'm losing more interest every month.

I really enjoyed *Y: The Last Man*, although I thought protagonist Yorick was a milquetoasty half-man. Same for sci-fi opus *Saga*. Marko is a wimpy beta-male who lets his wife Alana do all the fighting and heavy lifting. I finally gave up on the title. The *We Stand on Guard* miniseries was so anti-American I'm surprised you haven't moved to Canada with Lena Dunham. However, until recently I liked *Paper Girls*. This entertaining time travel tale of four teenage papergirls always piqued my interest and kept me coming back. But recently the pacing has suffered, the story moves like a glacier going uphill and plot elements have gone in clichéd and uninteresting ways.

In *Paper Girls* #20, Erin, MacKenzie, KJ and Tiffany are still traveling through time and dealing with several future (and past) factions out to get them. The future versions of Tiffany and Erin are interesting and incredibly well-drawn by Cliff Chiang. But the pacing is thunderously slow. The girls have been sent to the distant past where they are chased by the natives, then to the future where they are chased by the authorities, to the present where

they are chased by everyone. Twenty issues in, and they (and the reader) still don't know what is happening, or why, or what to do about it. Instead of taking action or controlling events in any way, the girls are just tossed about by the plot, jumping from one frying pan into another. Add to this that the book is turning out to be just another lesbian story and the result is rather grating. I can read fifty Marvel comics a month for that.

Brian, you once said in an interview you didn't want your female characters defined by their relationships with men. That's fine, but it seems one could fix that by just being a good writer. Now you have solved that problem by having your female characters defined by their relationships with women. Would it have been impossible to have these very well-defined female friends turn out to be just female friends? That would be a radical concept in today's climate, and one I much would have preferred. I'd also love to see the girls take charge of their situation a bit more aggressively.

Sincerely,

Jerry S.
Erlanger, KY

Hmm, eVen as r Ancestors entered a New CEntury, it seems sOme ind1visuals remained sAdly tRapped iN d Past.

ThaNkfully, d kind of peOple who unIronically used tErms like "beta-male" and "lesbian story" are all long dead Here in 002171. YAY!

1nce again, Dash-Dash Dot iS HAppy, and HoPeful 4 a brighter TomoRow.

C U N 30 DAYS!

Luv,

- / - / .

Paperbot

HEY HEY, IT'S EVEN MORE Y2K SURVEY RESULTS!

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

HelLO gain, HerstOrians!

In d basement f the old AMERICAN NEWSPAPERY DELIVERY GUILD, Dash-Dash Dot fOund boXes n Boxes f paperS MARKed: "GREAT BUT UNUSED SURVEY RESPONSES."

Dash-Dash Dot BE-lieves all---BZZZZT---thAt r GREAT should also b USED, so away we Go...

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

"Man, I feel like so many greats were in 1999. Old me would say *Memento*."

—**Sarie K.** from La Mesa, CA

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

"On December 31, 1999 I was allowed to stay up until midnight for the first time ever. I pretty vividly remember playing *Kirby Crystal Shards* on the N64 before watching a *Muppet Show* marathon on Disney Channel. I remember being really worried that my Catz computer game would break at midnight. It didn't."

—**Elizabeth H.** from Holyoke, MA

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

"James from the original *Pokémon* animated series. No, really. I'm not what many would consider 'normal'."

—**Janel M.** from Tucson, AZ

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

"We may not have realized it at the time, but Putin taking power in Russia has certainly had reverberations..."

—**Nathaniel F.** from Champaign, IL

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

"Yes. I love it. Along with *Bugs Bunny*, that movie was my introduction to great classical music. Also, it's just beautiful!"

—**Justin R.** from Portland, OR

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

"I felt then as I do now. Distinctive, profound and (oddly) not in my Kubrick Top 5."

—**Steph** from Nottingham, UK

7) What was the best music video of 2000?

"*Thong Song*. Just kidding. *Sleep Now in the Fire* by Rage Against the Machine. I really enjoyed the activism of RATM and here they really put their money where their mouths are. Unfortunately, it unknowingly predicts a Trump presidential run. I still find it hard that we went through almost eight years of Bush II with no Rage."

—**Mark H.** from Bartlett, IL

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

"Yes."

—**Aaron M.** from Murfreesboro, TN

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

"He certainly would."

—**Alan B.** from Saga City, Japan

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

"Bad reality television, junk food, war."

—**Myra A.** from Mendota Heights, MN

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

"Postmates, the greatest invention of the 21st century."

—**Mirissa J.** from Long Beach, CA

12) Are you helping or hurting?

"I'm helping by building new mountain bike trails."

— **Mike M.** from Boalsburg, PA

*In d Spirit f R "old-school newsletter," dis entry was Rando-Selected 2
RE-Ceive ANCIENT PAPER GIRLS ARTIFACTS, wHich willbe de-livered 2
Mike's DEscendants, who hOpefully still en-joy Rlding his Beautiful Trails.*

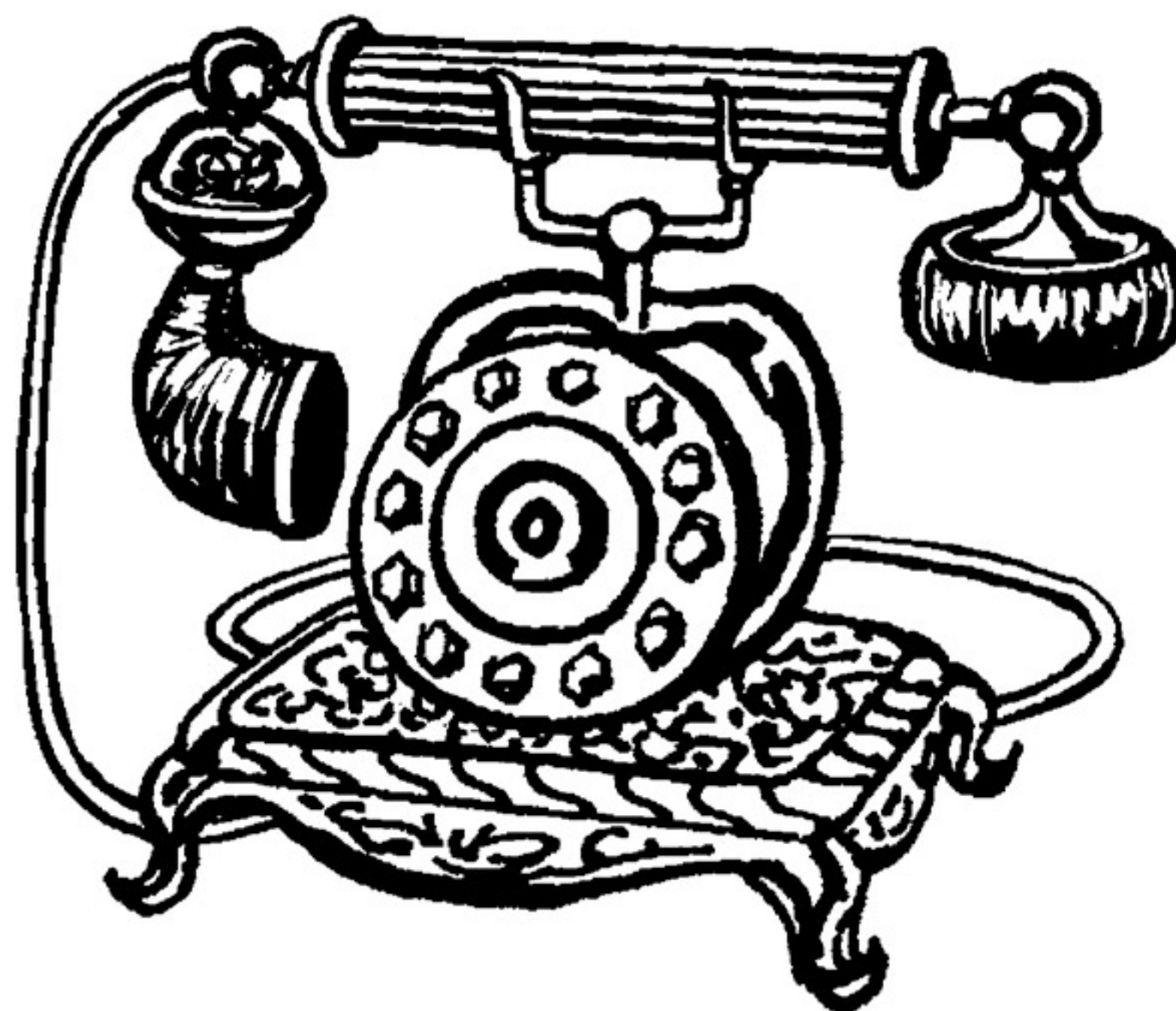
CONGRaTuLaTions!!!





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





Paper Girls 23

ON SALE 8.01.18

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





ISSUE 22

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