

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



# Paper Girls<sup>TM</sup>

23



# Paper Girls

## 23

**BRIAN K. VAUGHAN** writer

**CLIFF CHIANG** artist

**MATT WILSON** colors

**JARED K. FLETCHER** letters + design

**DEE CUNNIFFE** color flats

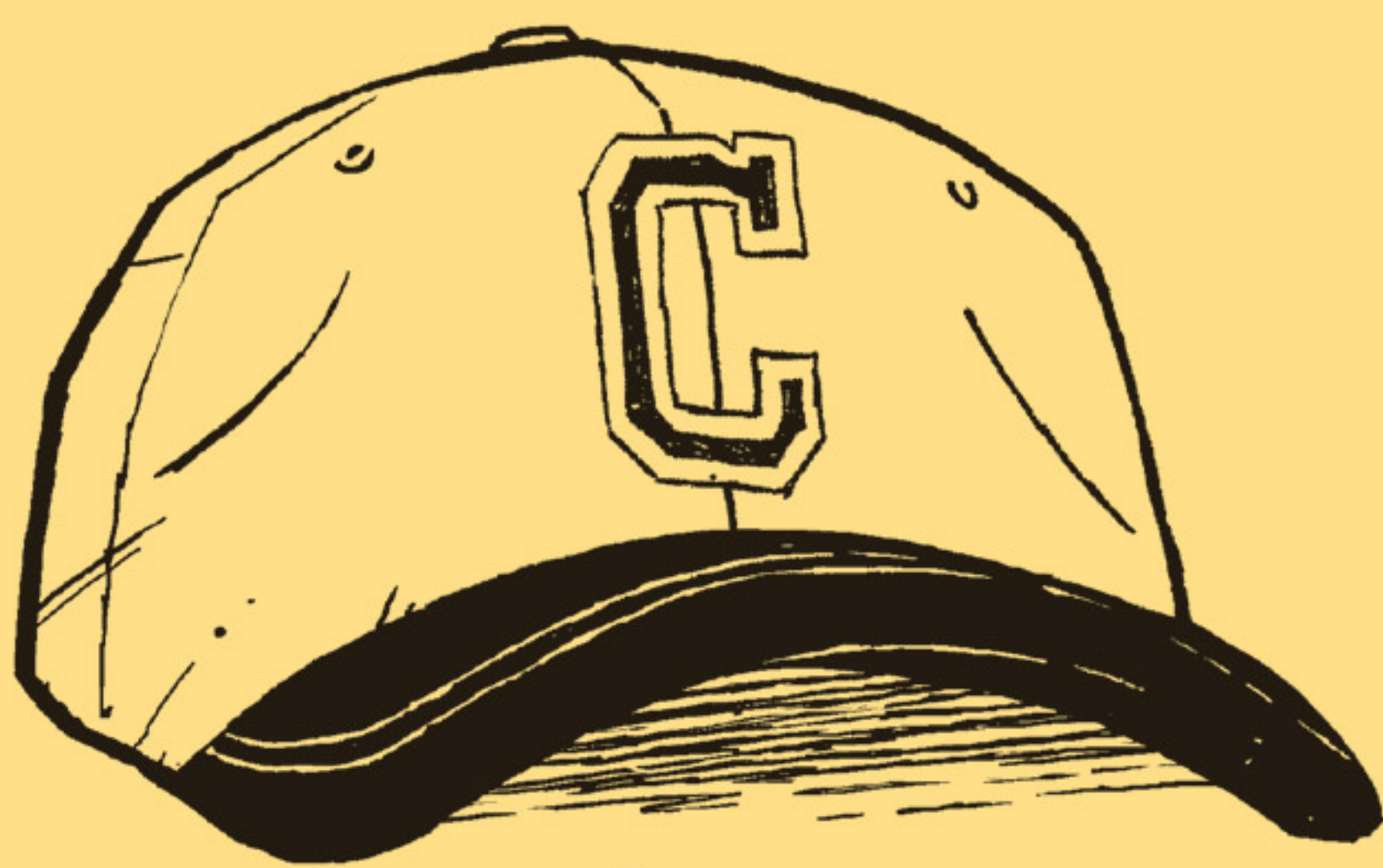


Image Comics, INC.

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 / Chief Creative Officer

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 Doorninck - Production Director

Nicole Lapalme - Controller

IMAGECOMICS.COM



PAPER GIRLS #23. August 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. Digital edition. For international rights, contact: foreignlicensing@imagecomics.com



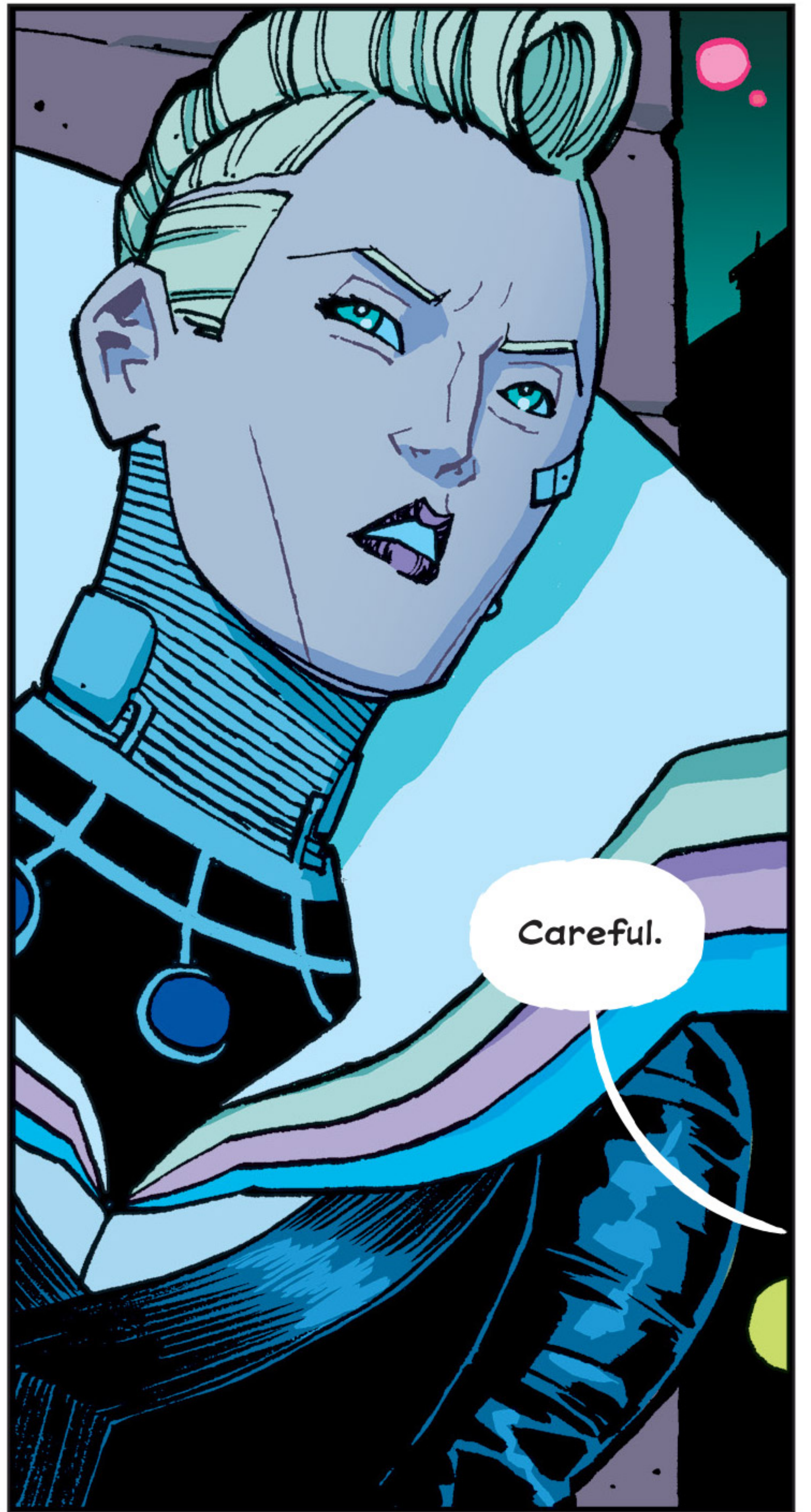
**“Yet we get a trifle weary  
With Mr. Einstein’s theory  
So we must get down to earth at times  
Relax, relieve the tension”**

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













I wouldn't go in there if I was you.



Yeah, well, I'm kind of the only person in this trio who *isn't* you, Tiffany.

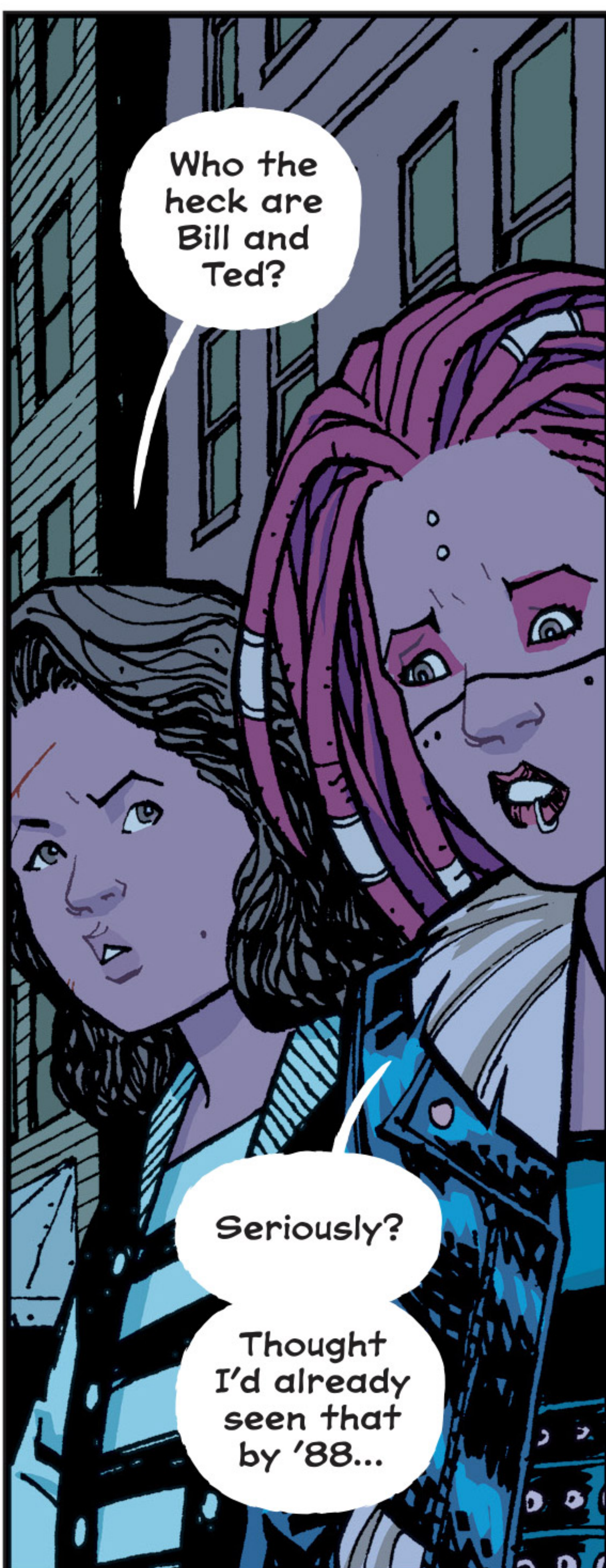
Besides, I've had a lot of luck finding people with phonebooks.



That was in the past, Erin!

And we don't even know if this thing *is* a phone booth!

Maybe it's another time machine? Like in *Bill & Ted's*?



Who the heck are Bill and Ted?

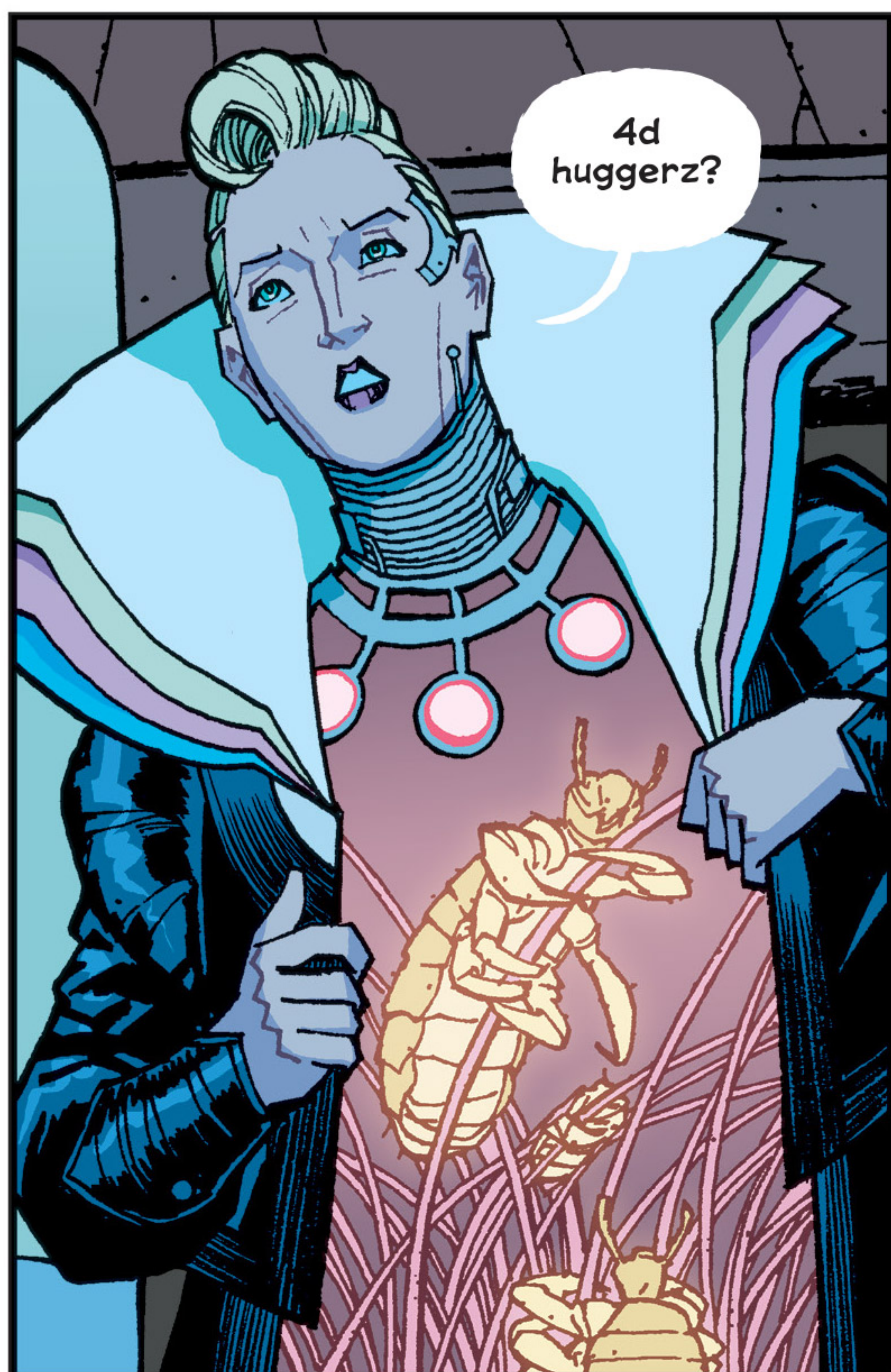
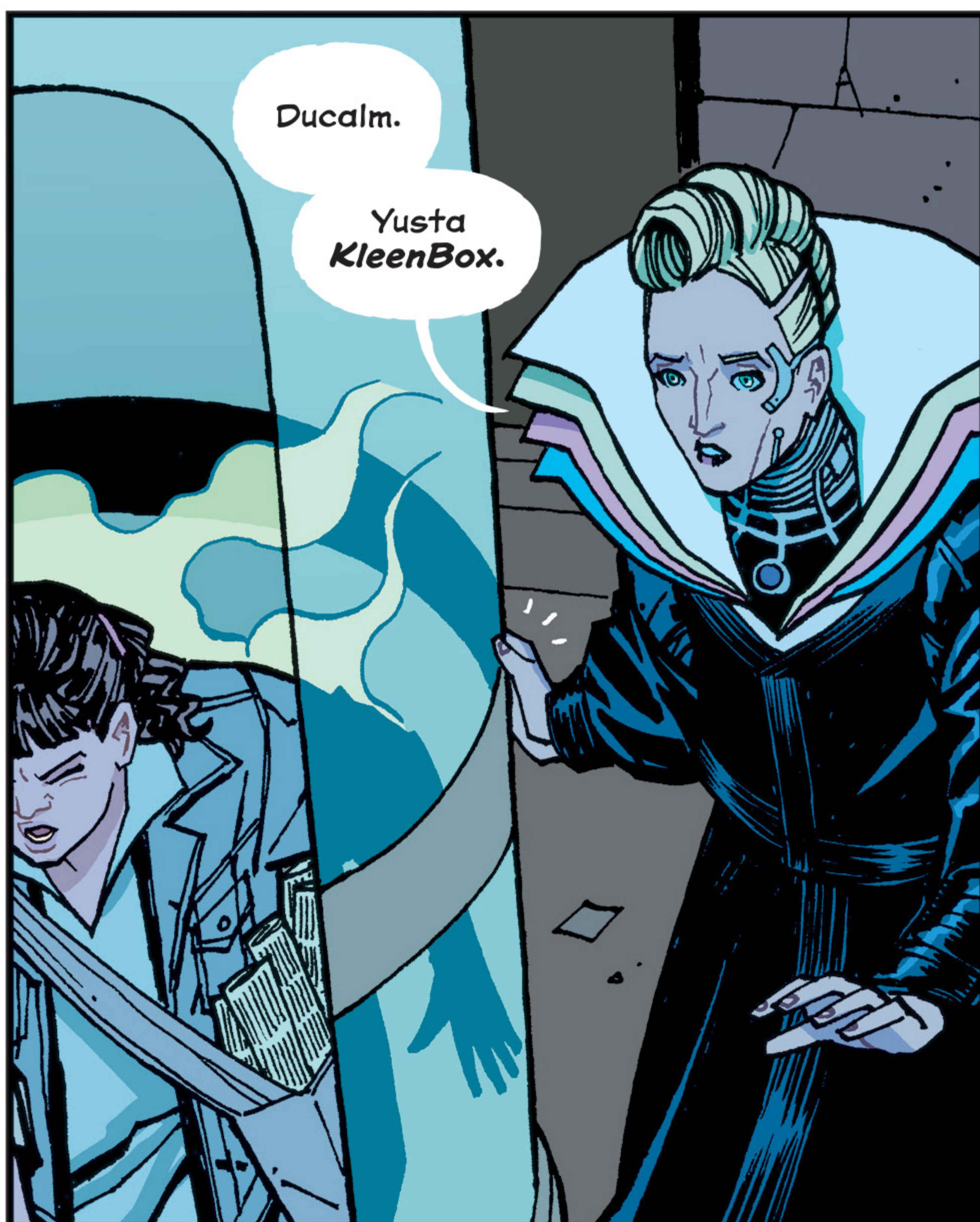
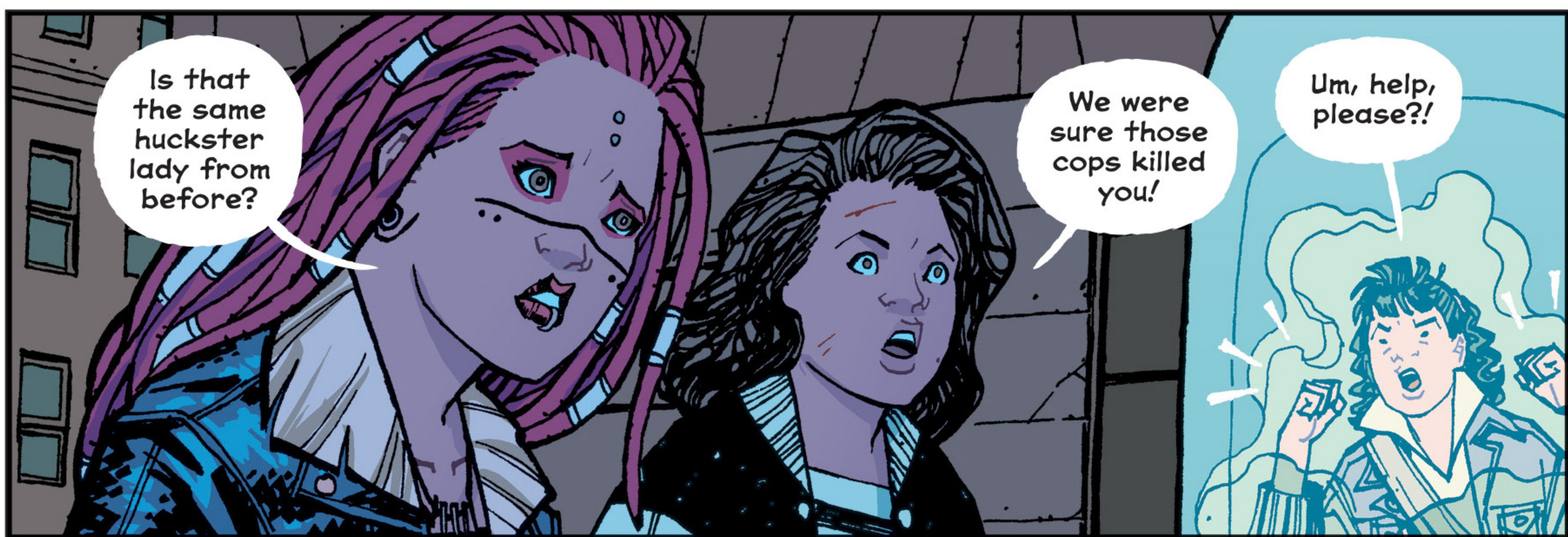
Seriously?

Thought I'd already seen that by '88...

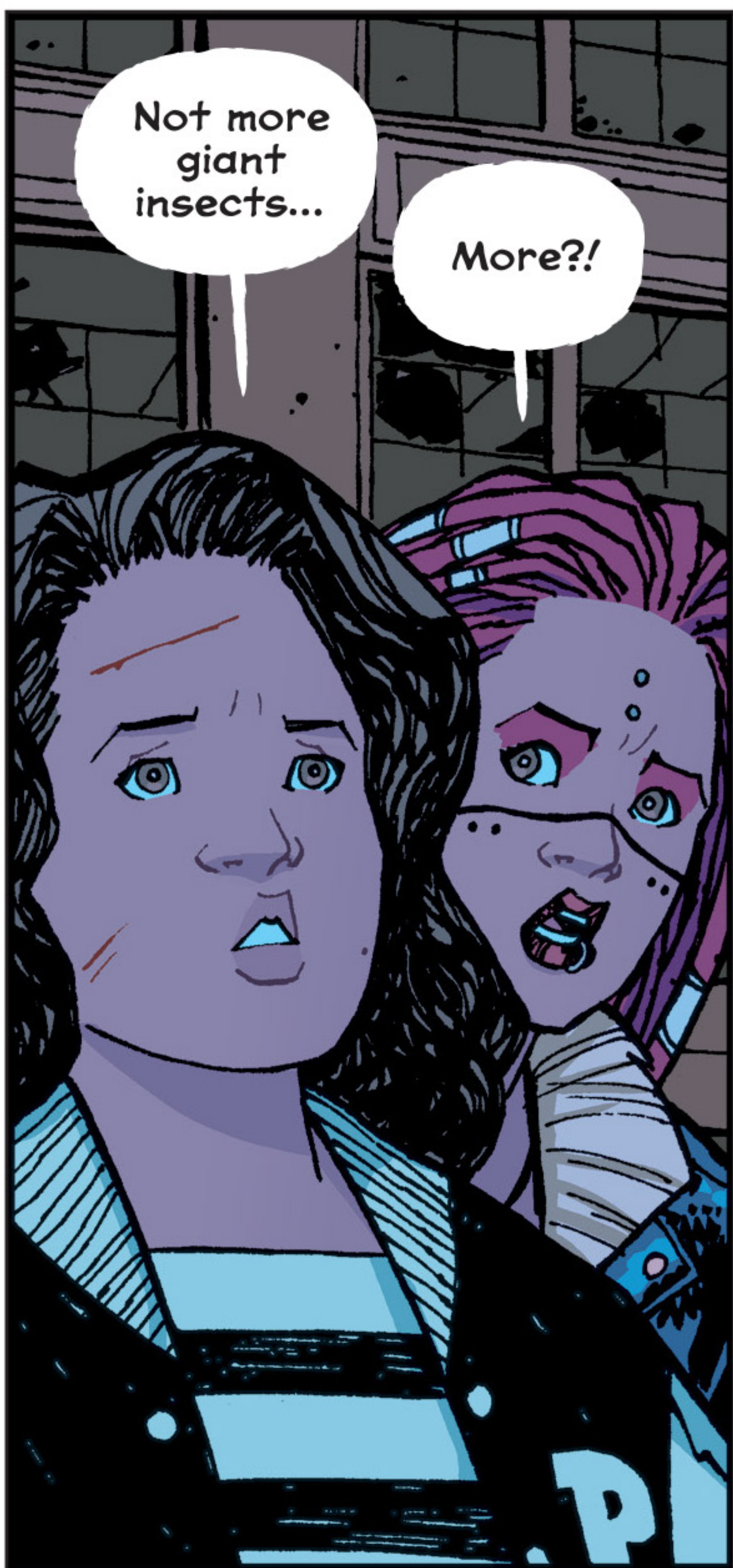


Uh-oh.









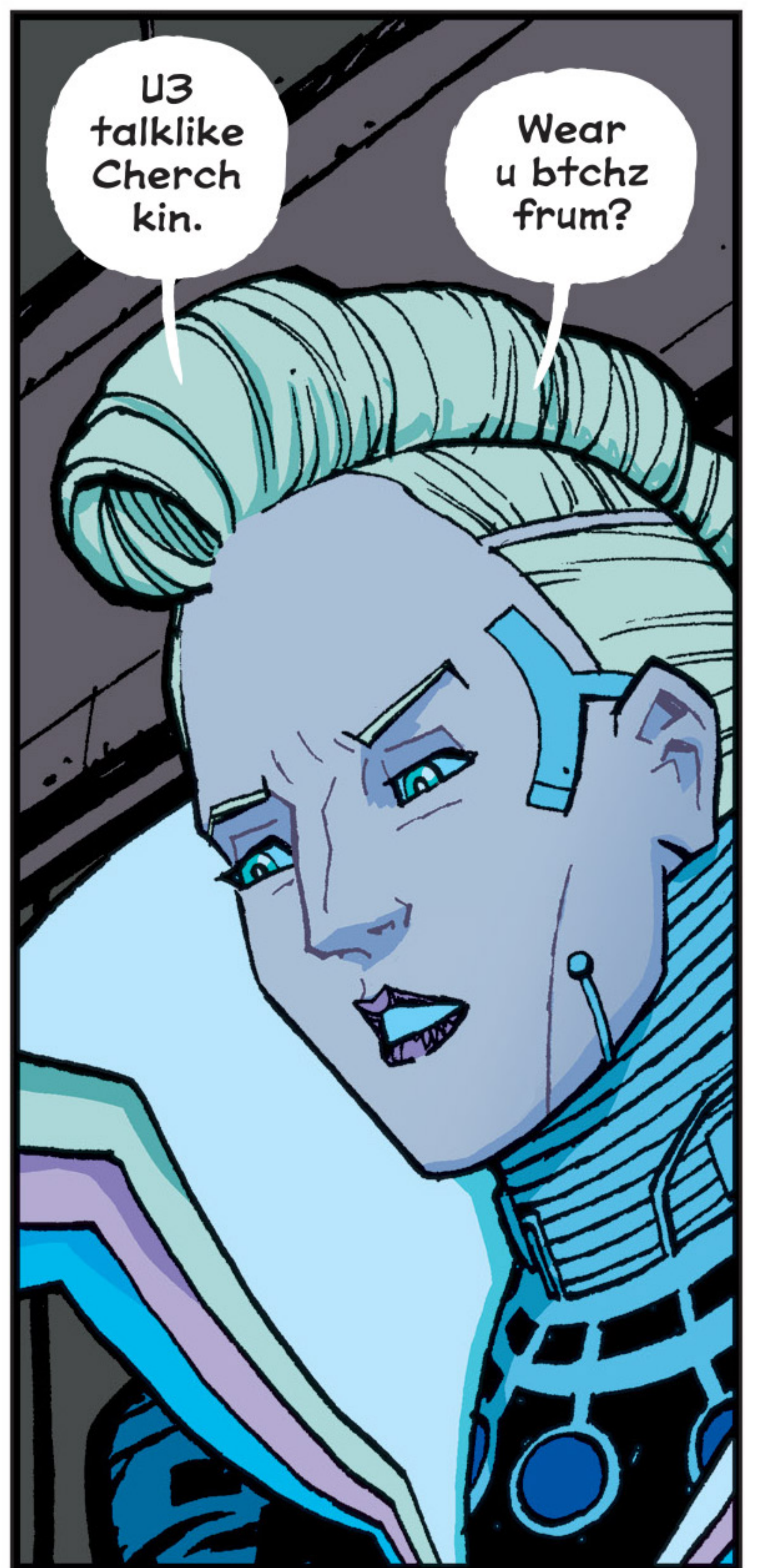
Not more  
giant  
insects...

More?!



☹koff☹

I think she means  
that thing was for  
*delousing*...like  
when my entire  
third grade got  
head lice?



U3  
talklike  
Cherch  
kin.

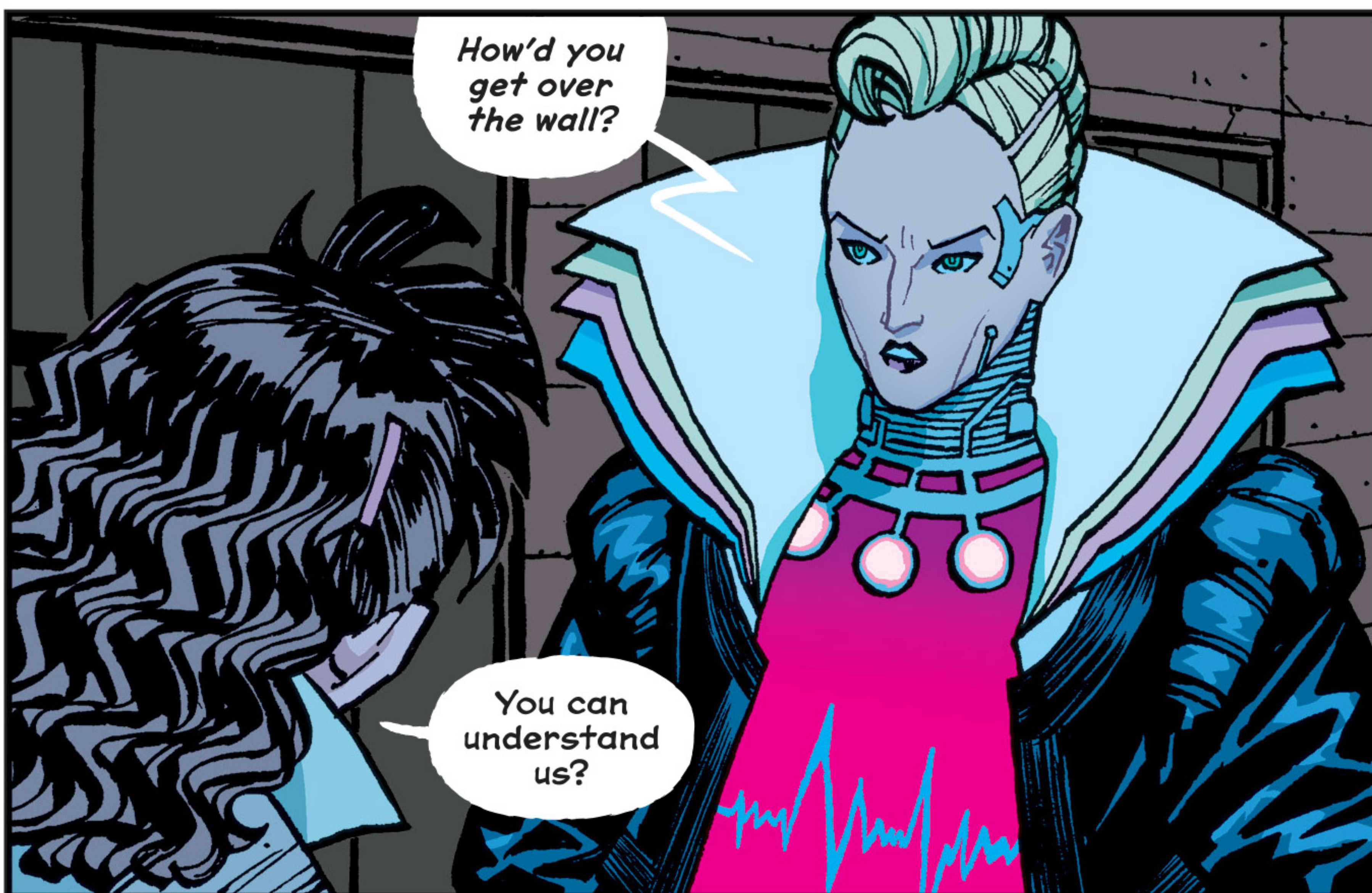
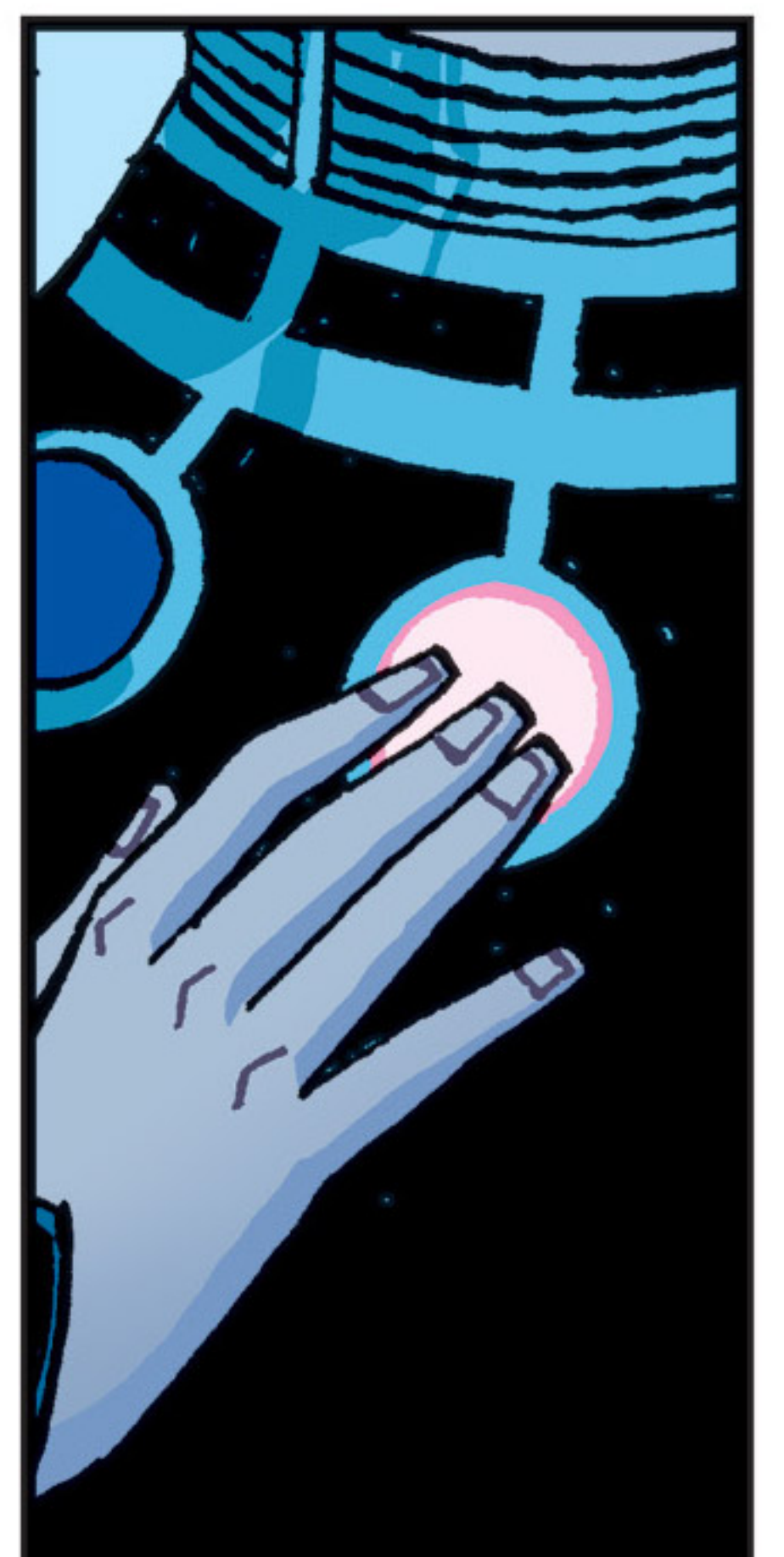
Wear  
u btchz  
frum?



Uh...

My sisters  
and I are from  
*Canada*.

Cuckos?



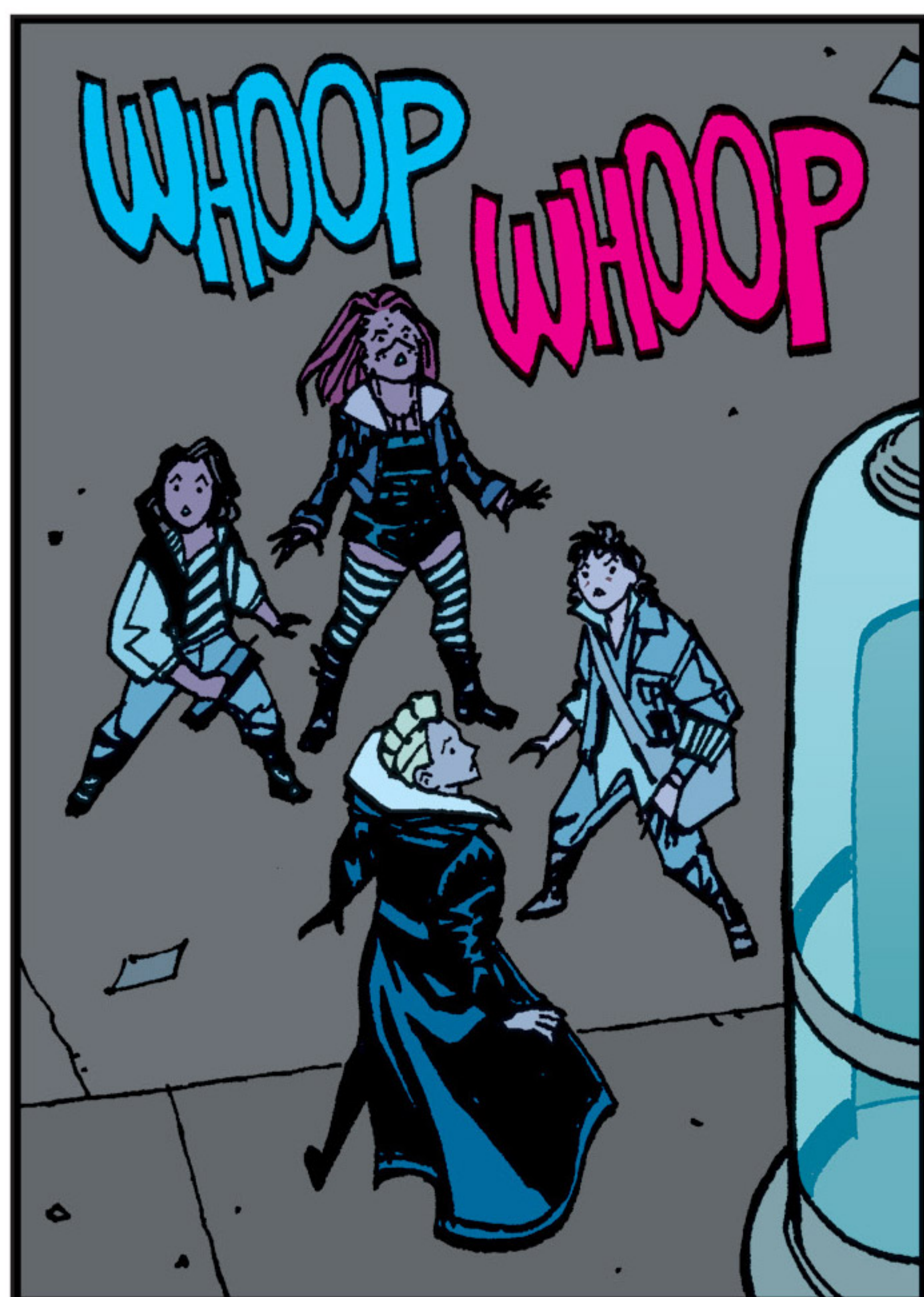
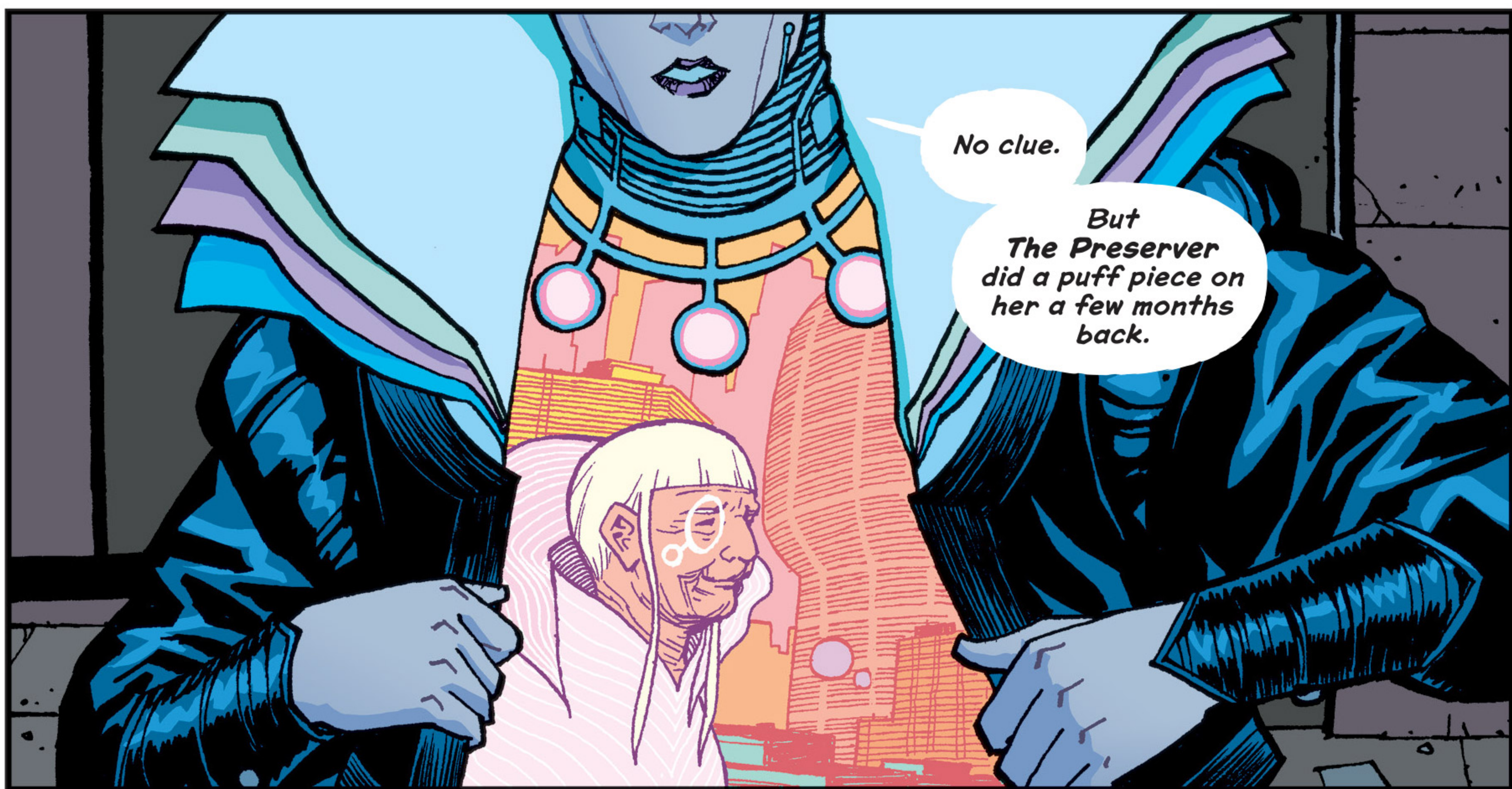
How'd you  
get over  
the wall?

You can  
understand  
us?

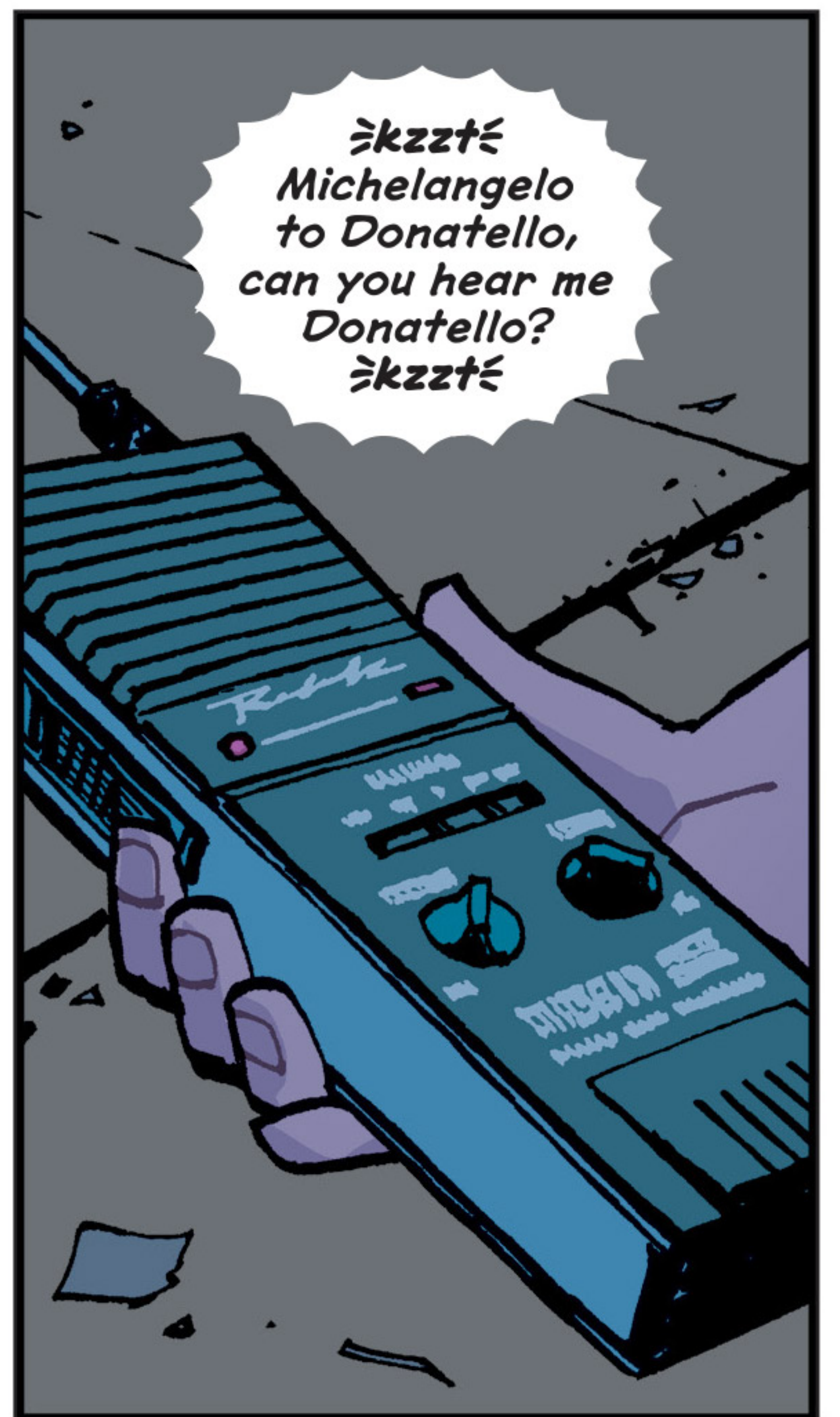
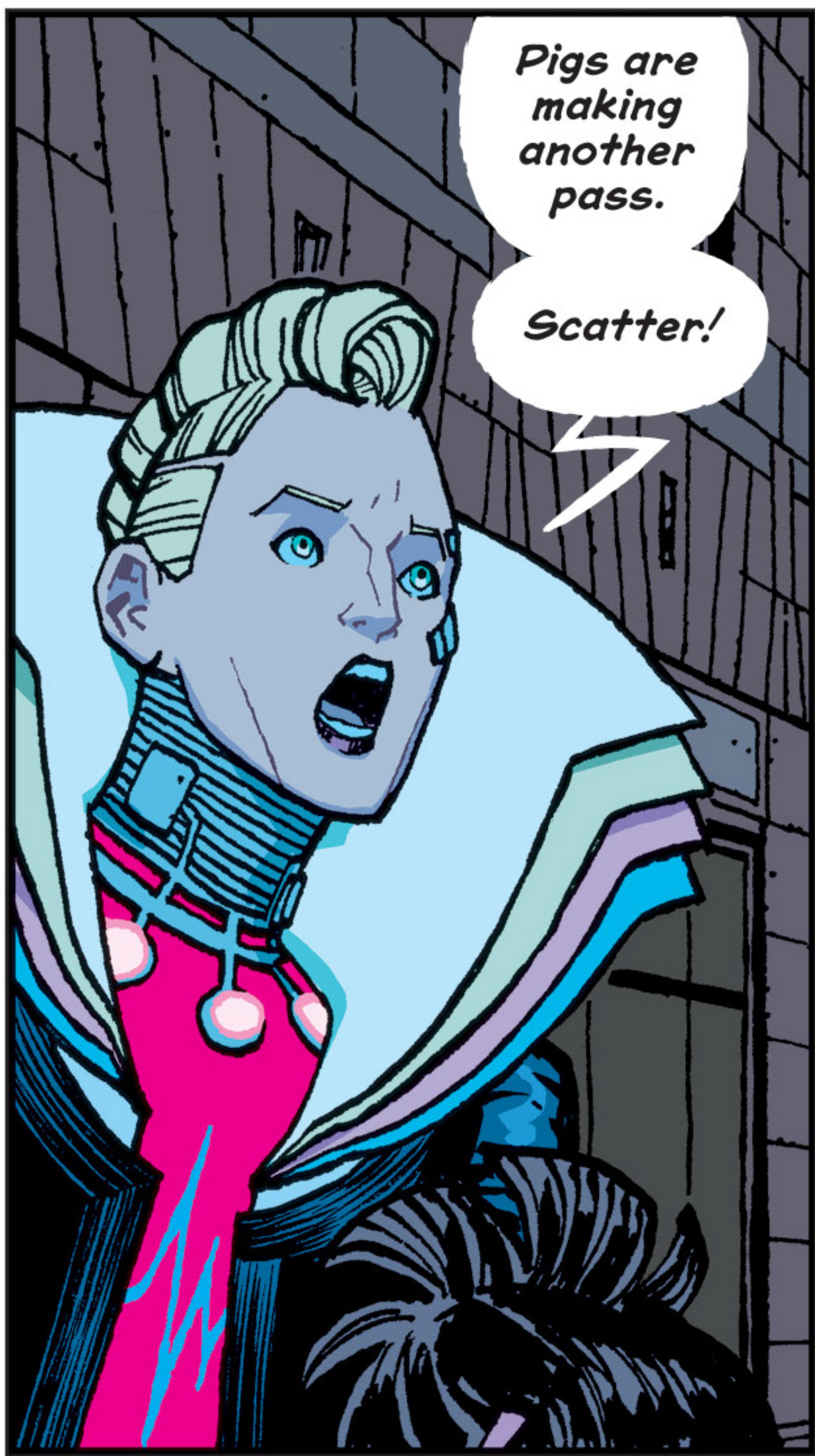


Please, my  
friends and  
I are trying to  
find a woman  
named *Wari*.













I still don't get why New Kid is Leonardo.

I mean, Leo is the leader.

We're still on the move, but listen, did you guys just hear anything... *weird* on your walkie?



Uh, negative, this is the first peep we've heard out of our radio since we split up, why?

Rad.

We'll call you back when we have anything to report, over and out.



You didn't want to maybe give them a heads-up that we just heard *you* say somebody was *dead*?!

That's what *you* heard, KJ.

It could have been any chick's voice, or just your imagination.



Mac...

Those ambulance guys left an entrance open.

Should be easier than talking our way past some psycho nurse at the front desk, so let's roll.





I'm just saying, if that really was some kind of...of future broadcast, the person you were saying was dead is probably *me*.



Kaje, the kid most likely to croak next is still *yours truly*.

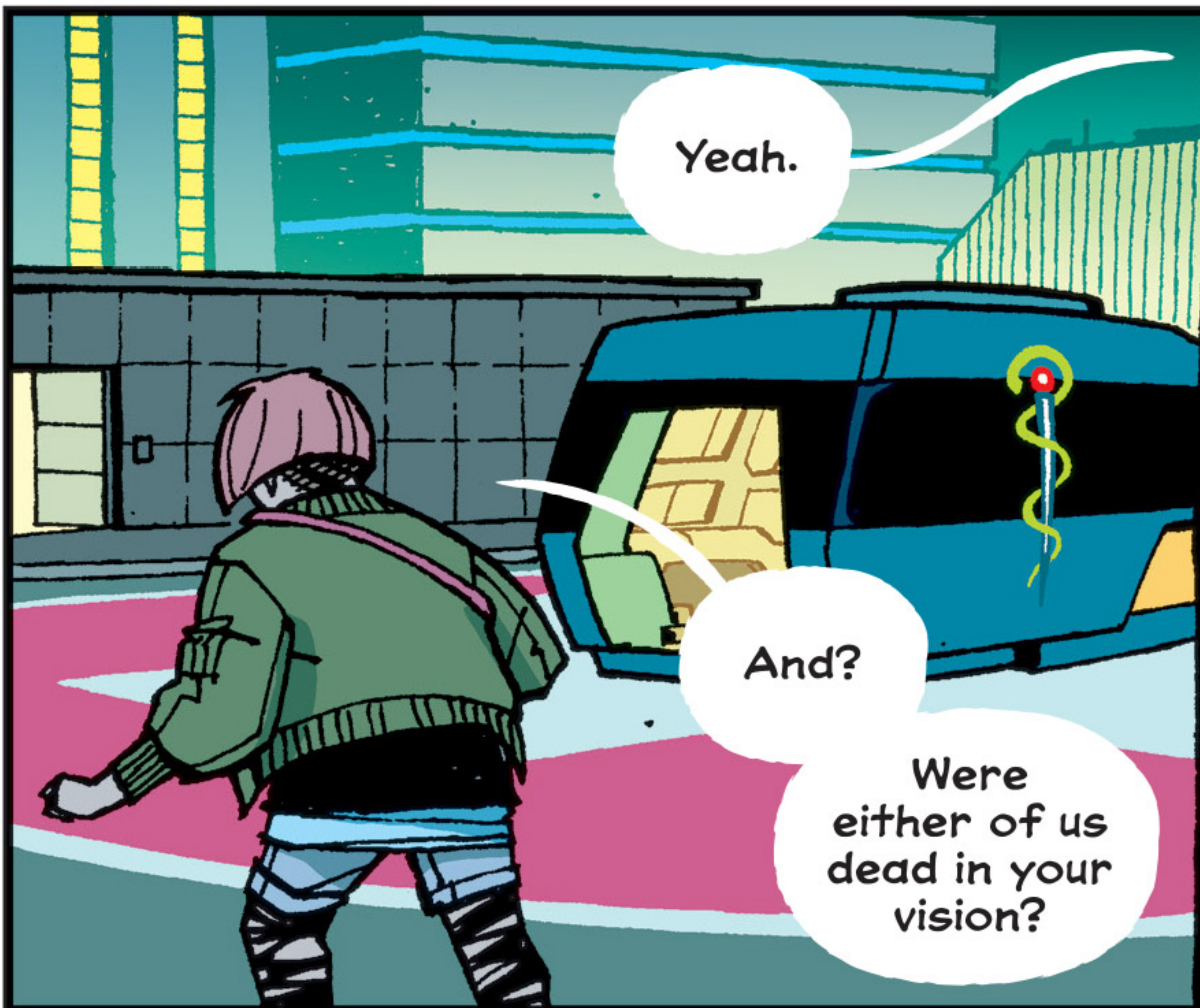
So let's grab this anti-leukemia juice and get the hell out of here.



You sure you don't want to wait until we hear anything else?

Why?

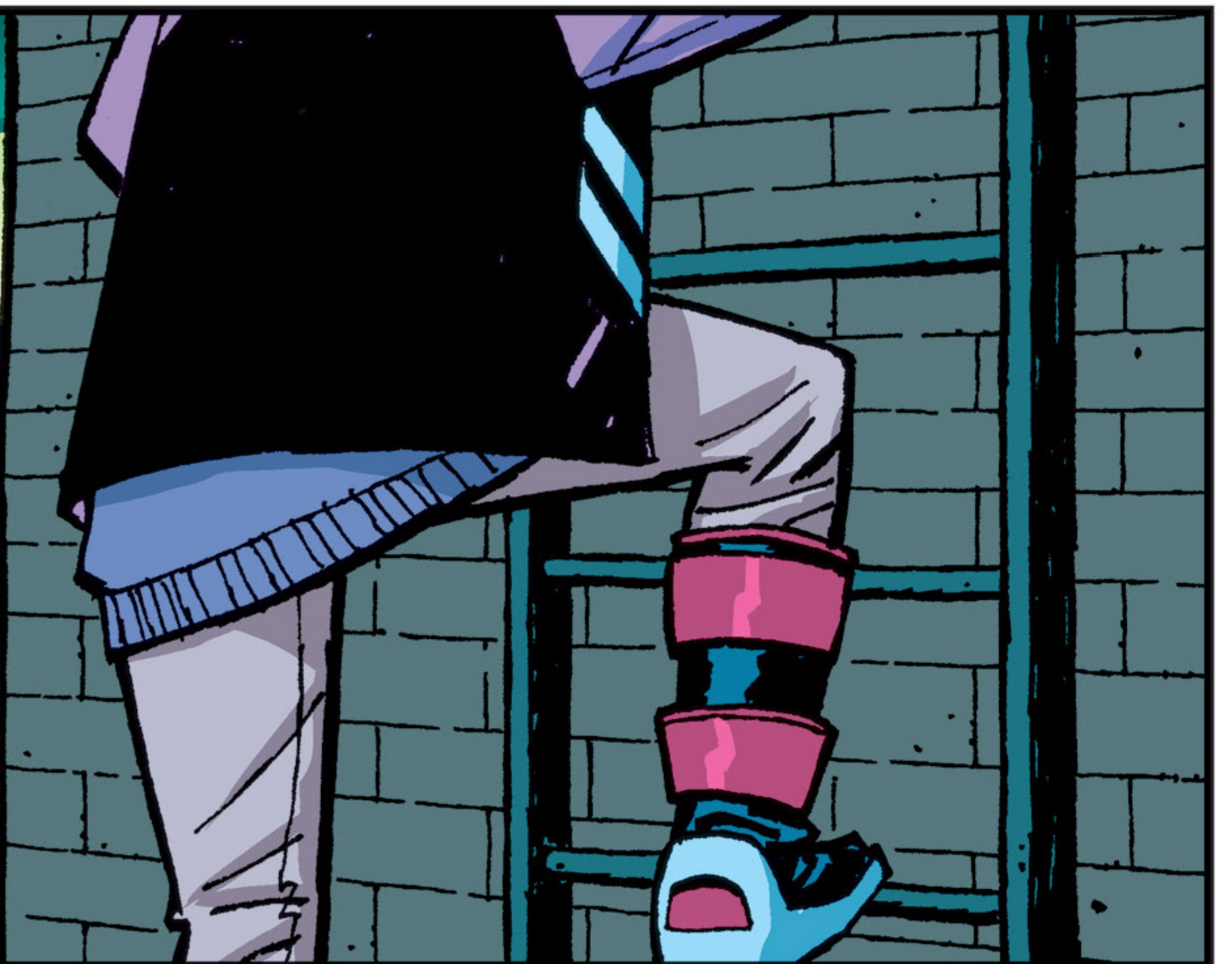
Aren't you the one who had some sort of premonition about this wacky time zone?



Yeah.

And?

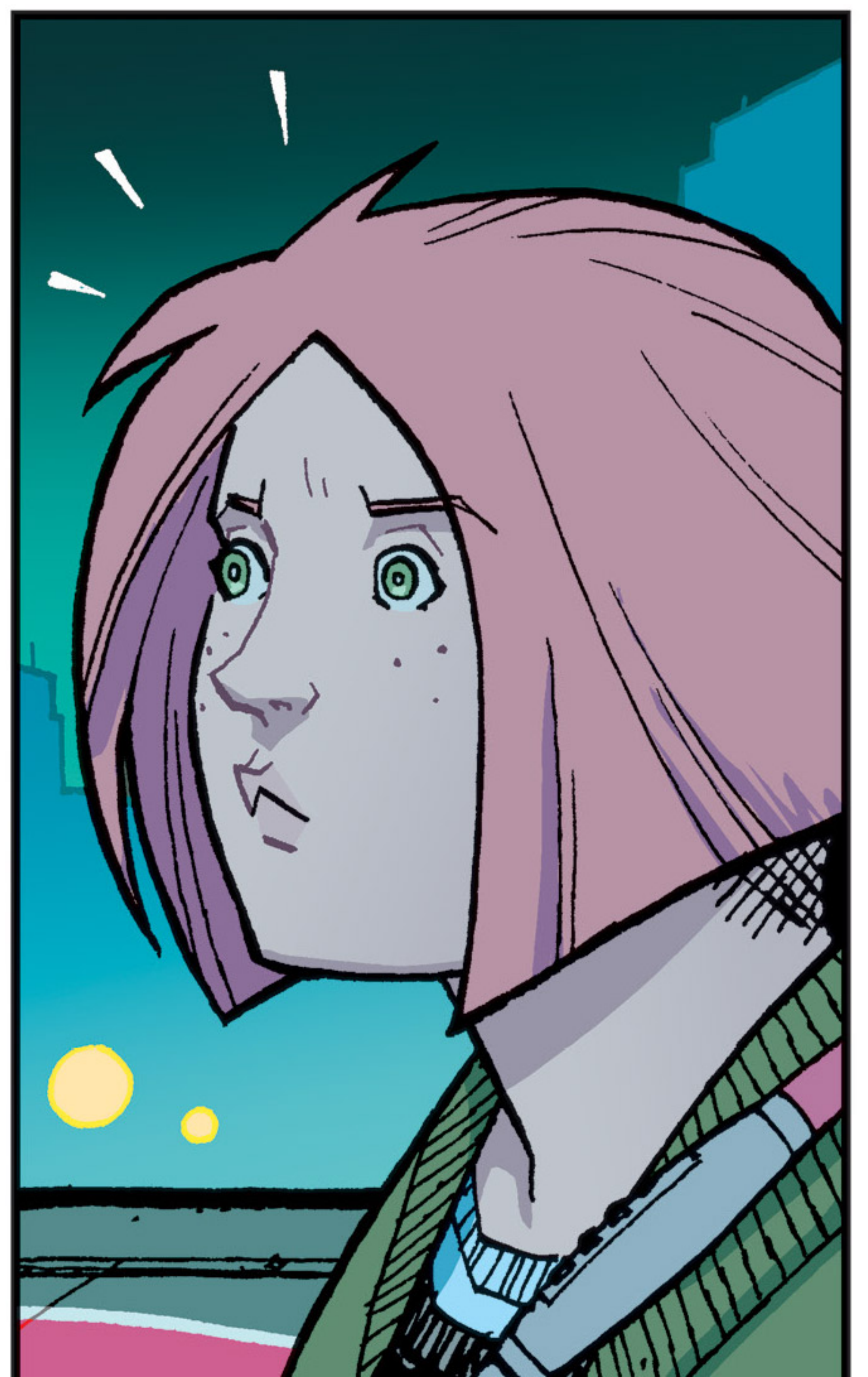
Were either of us dead in your vision?



Uh-uh.



We were... romantic.







The two of us?

As in, you and me...?

Yeah.



That's *disgusting*.



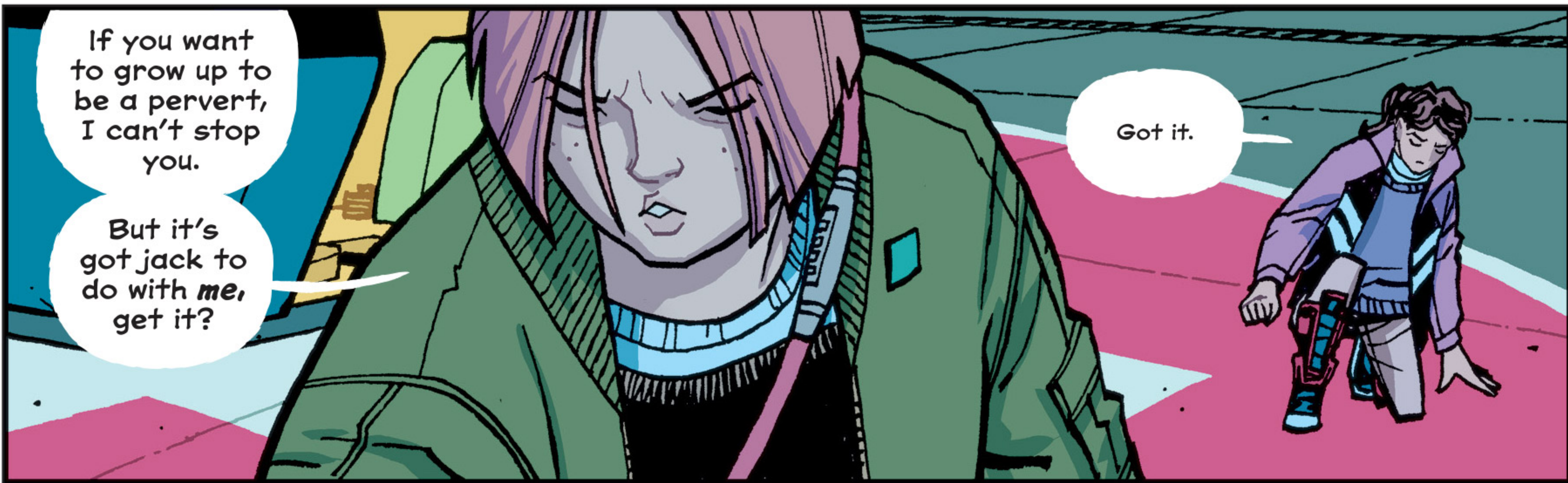
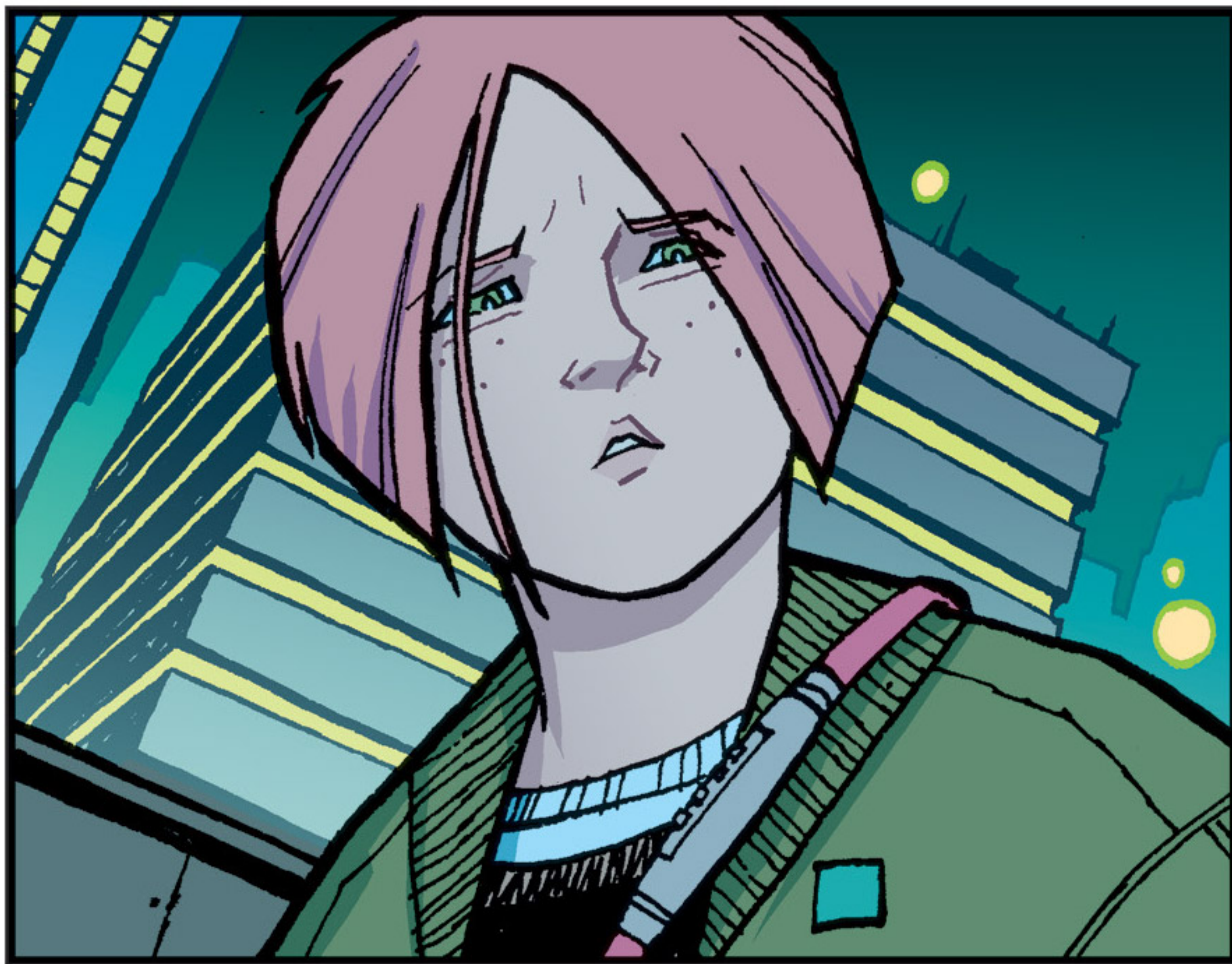
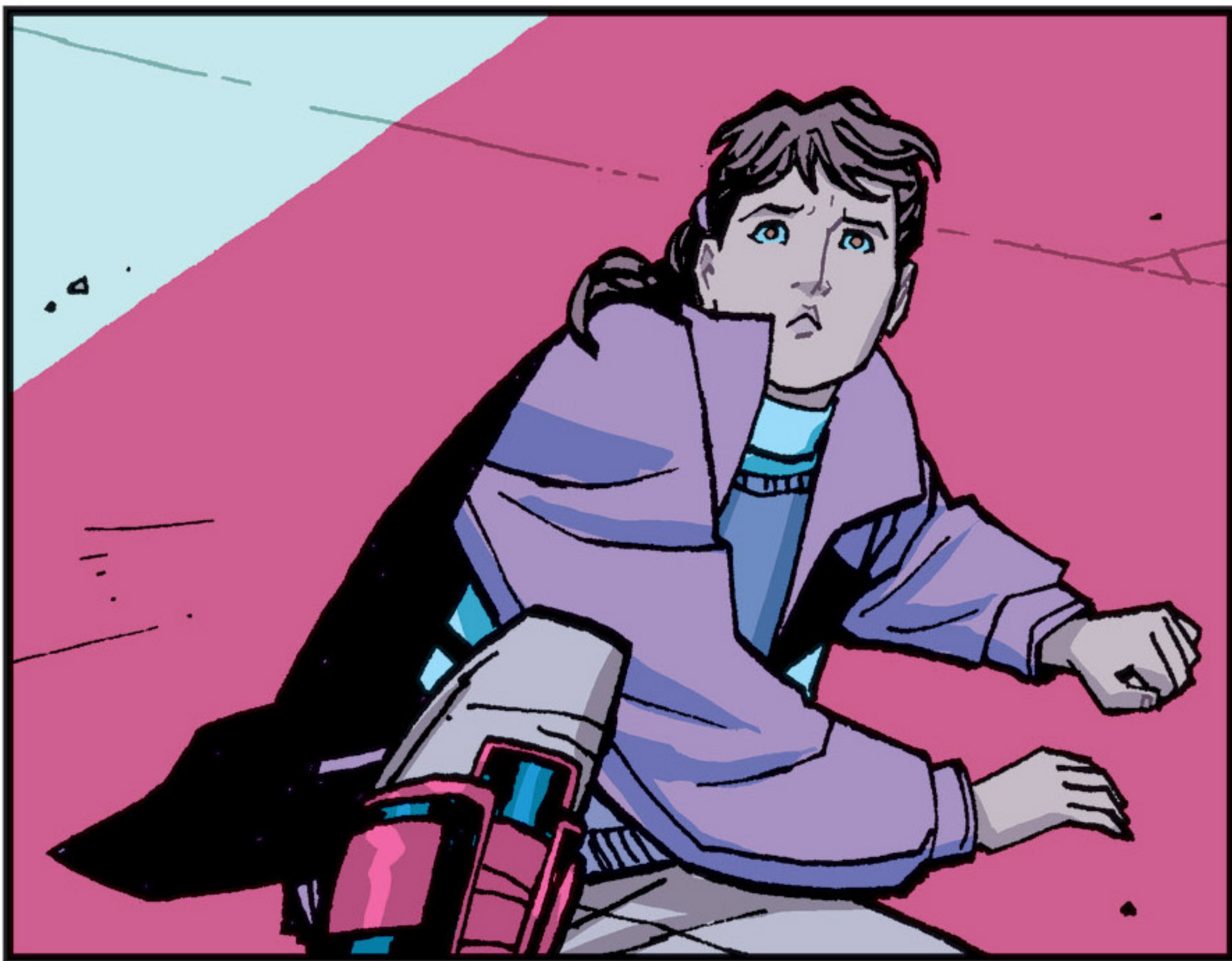
I'm so sorry.

I didn't mean to--

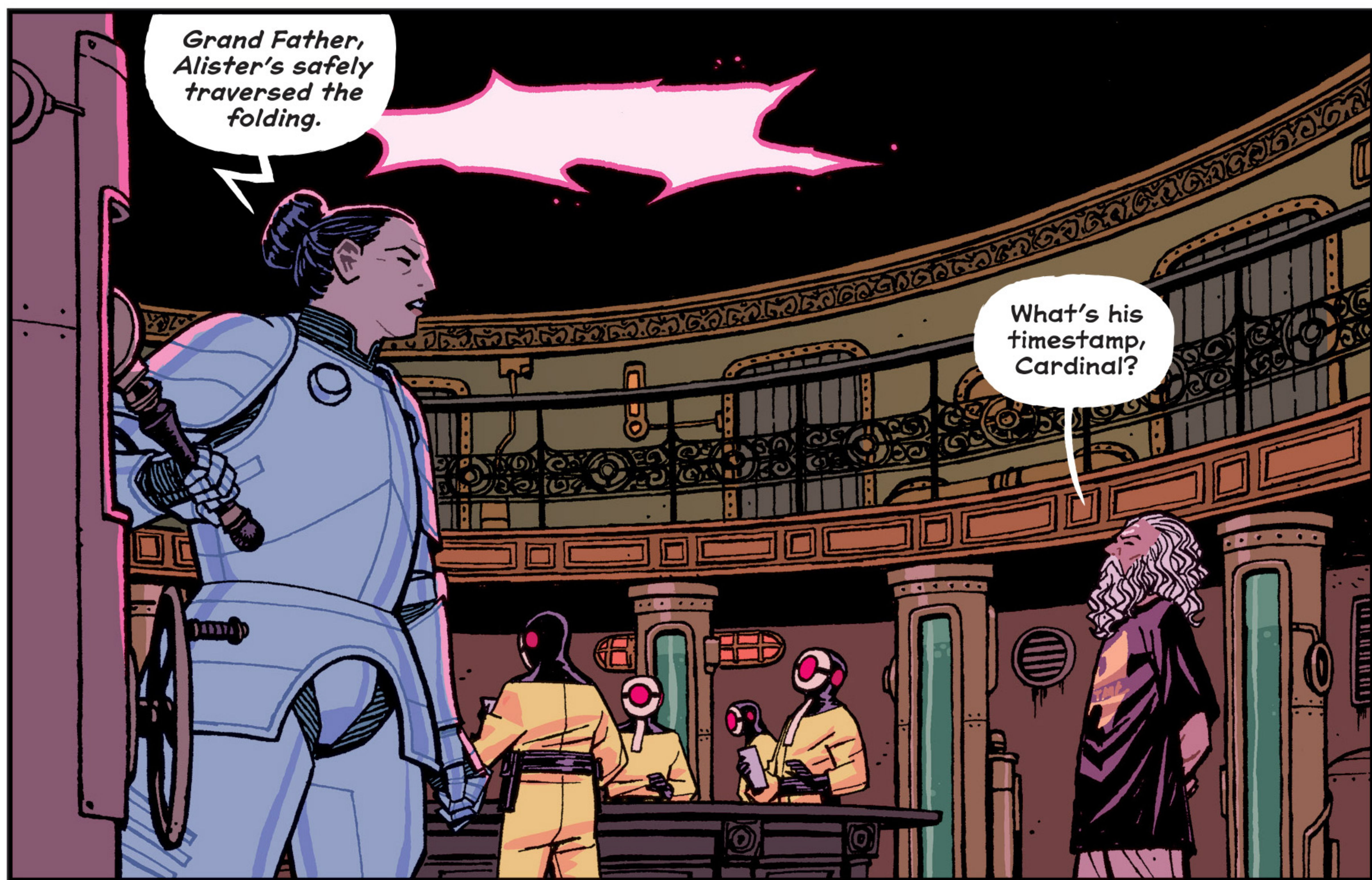
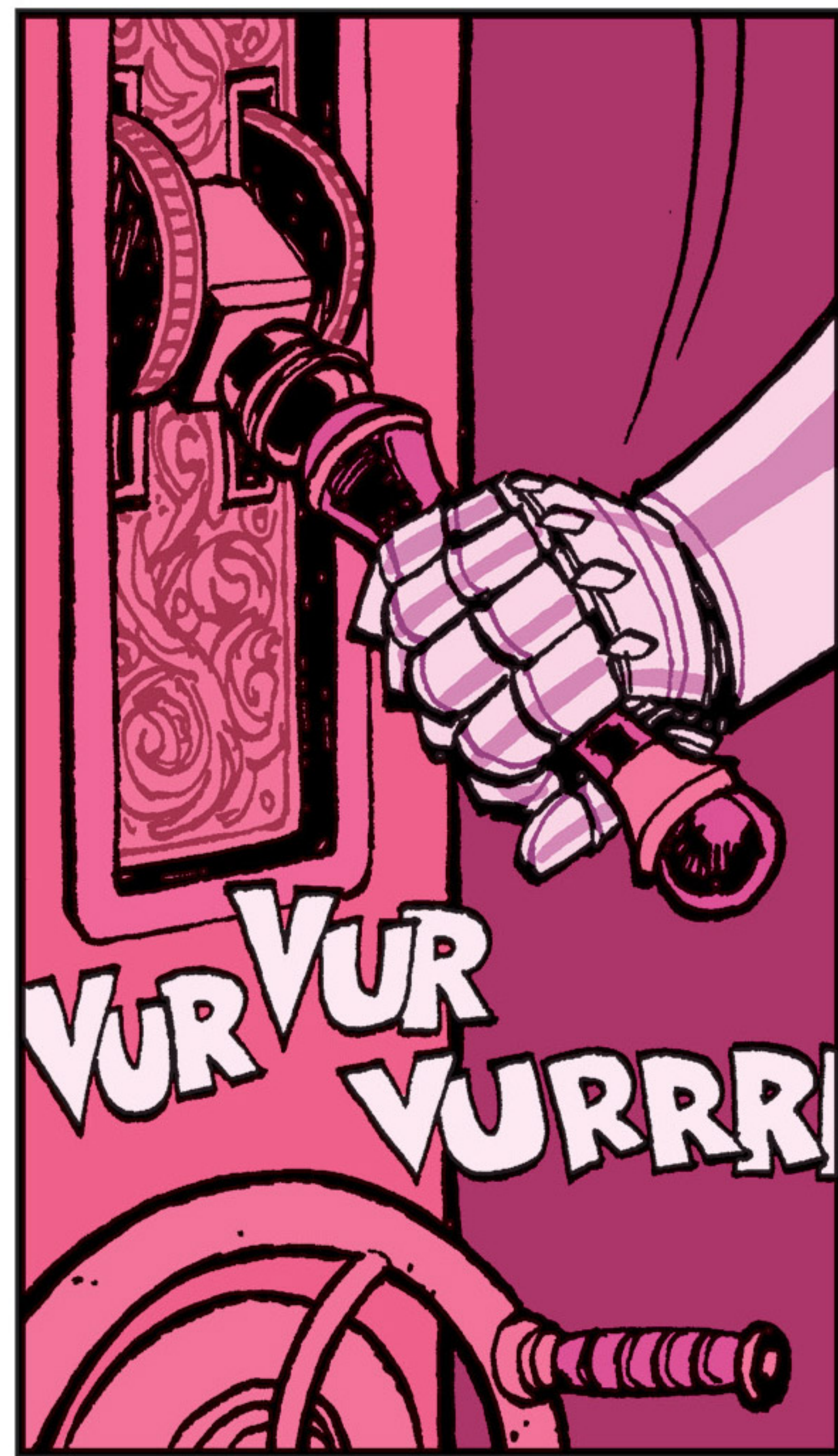


**Don't touch me!**







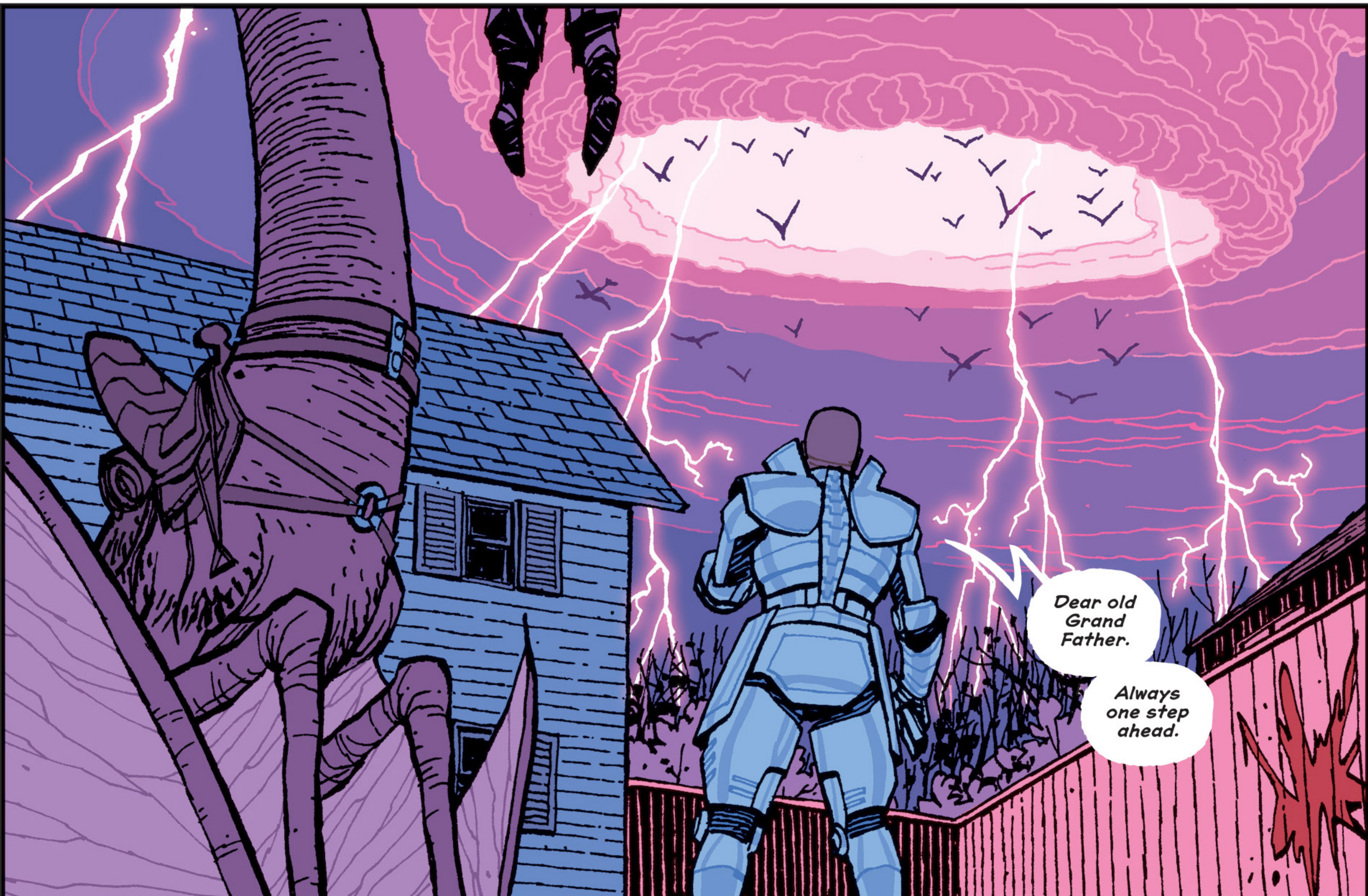
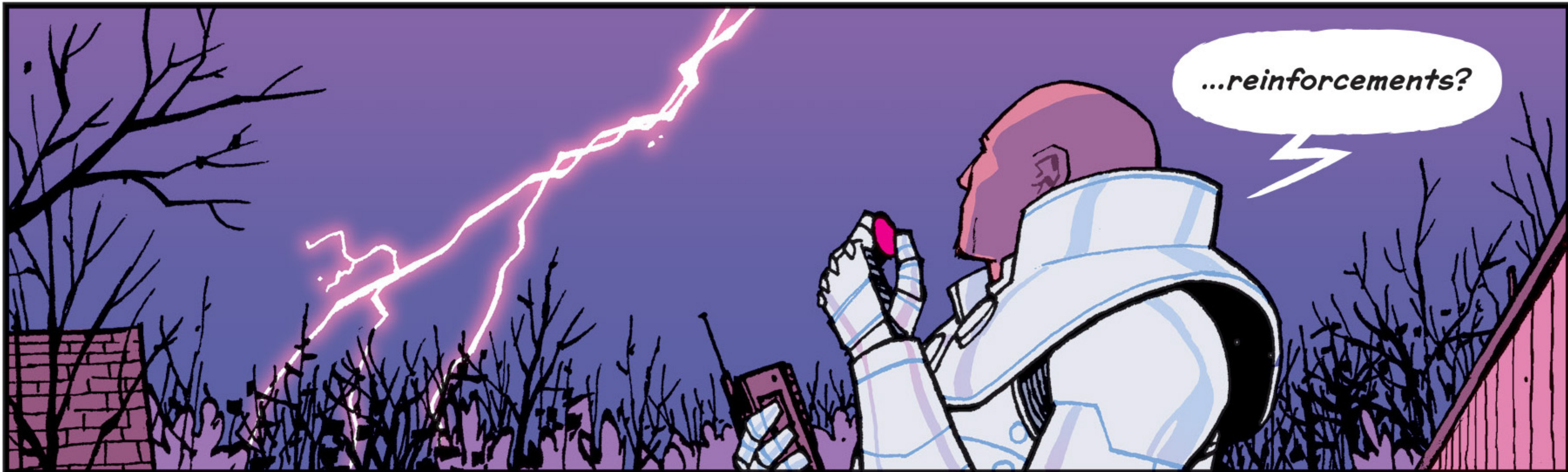
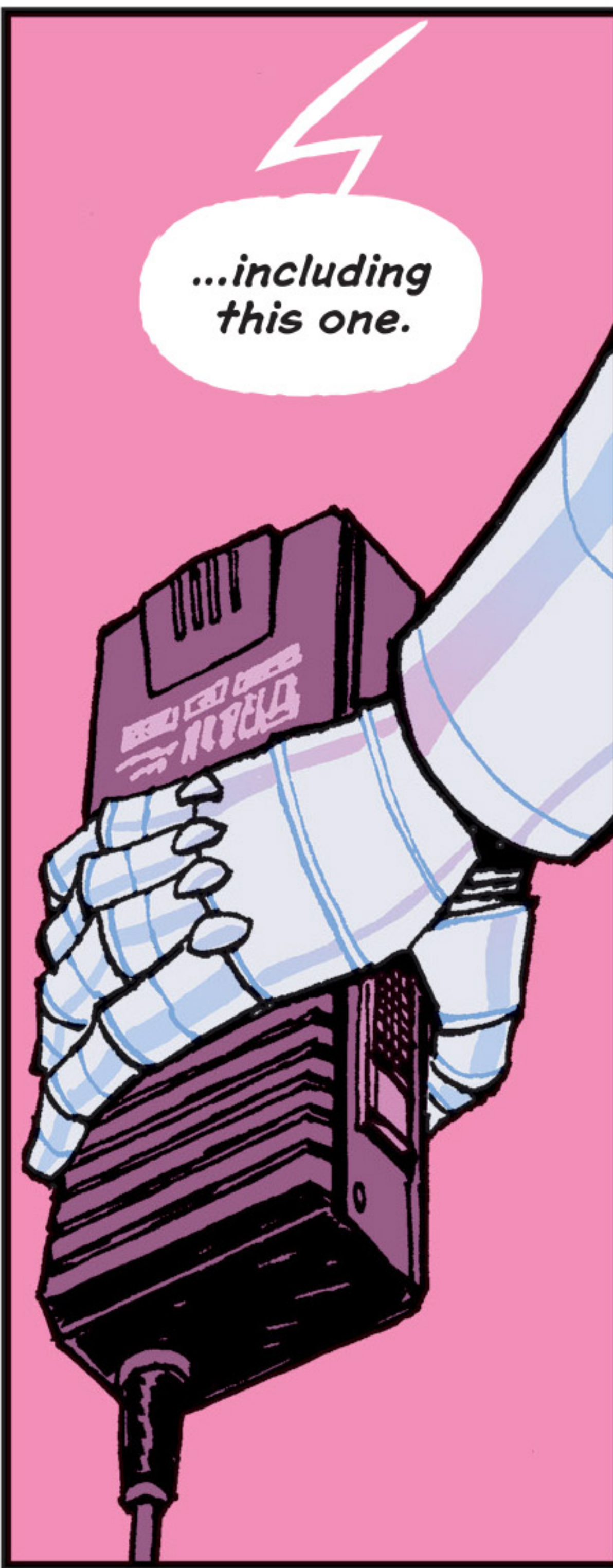
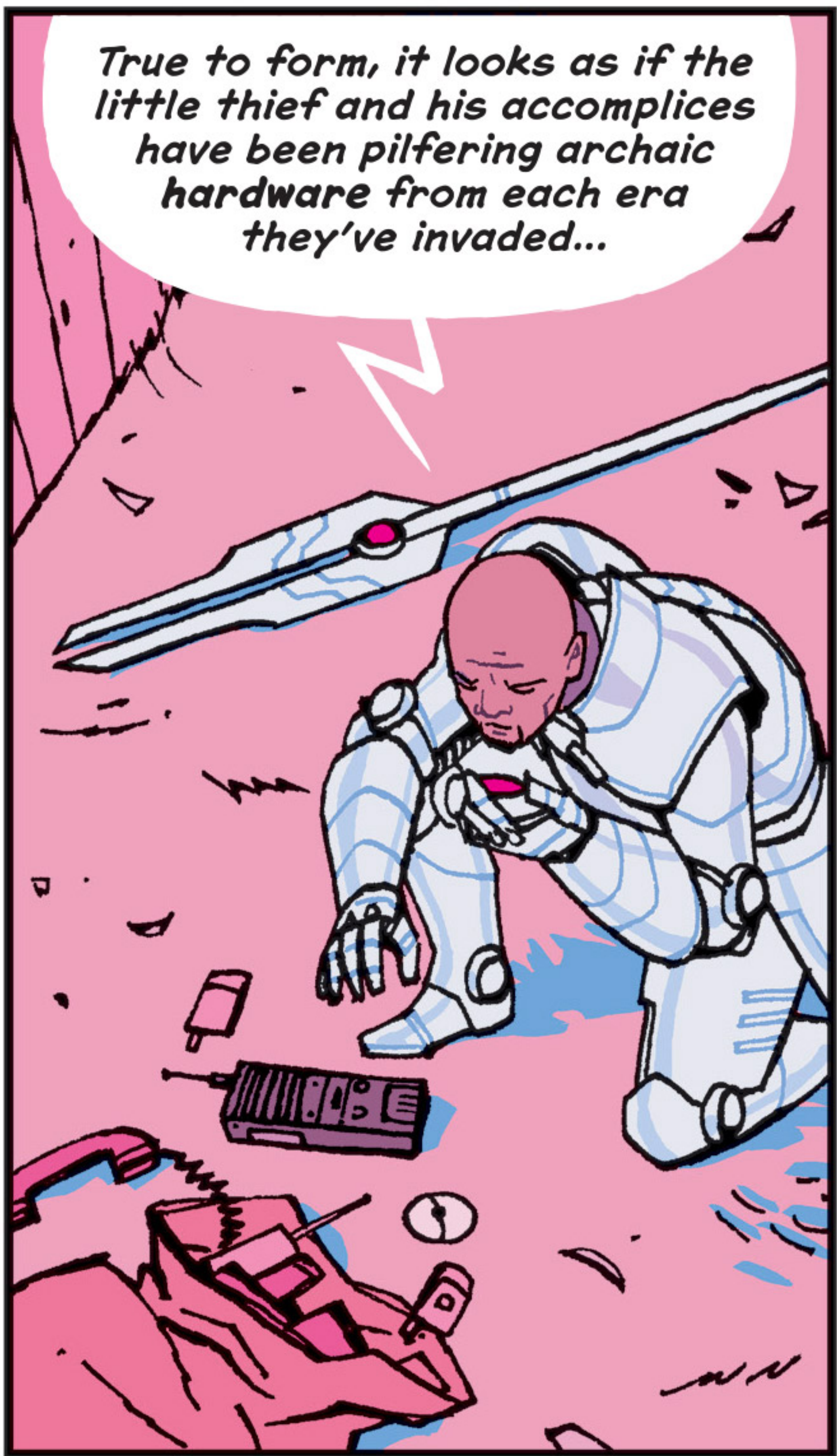




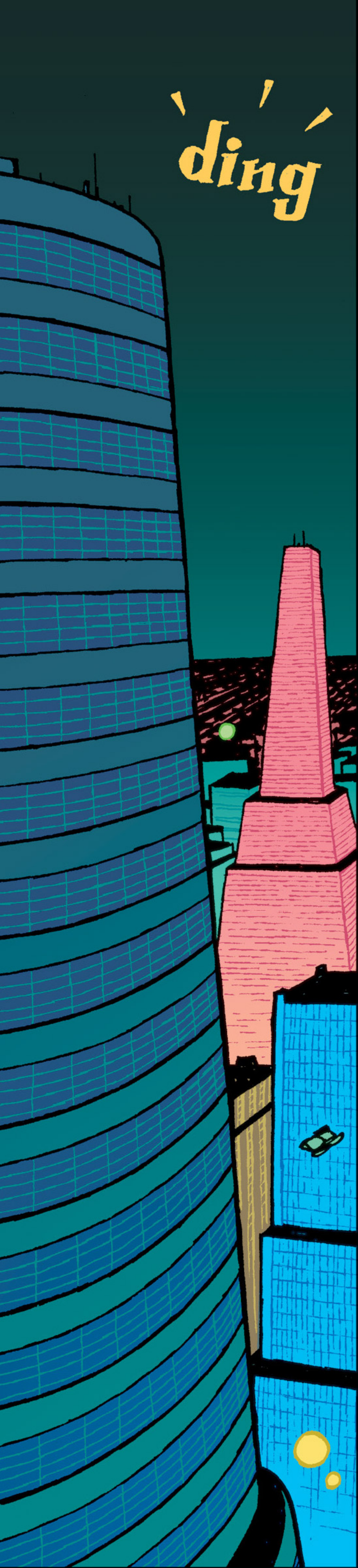


*I'm afraid  
we had no  
choice but  
to engage.*

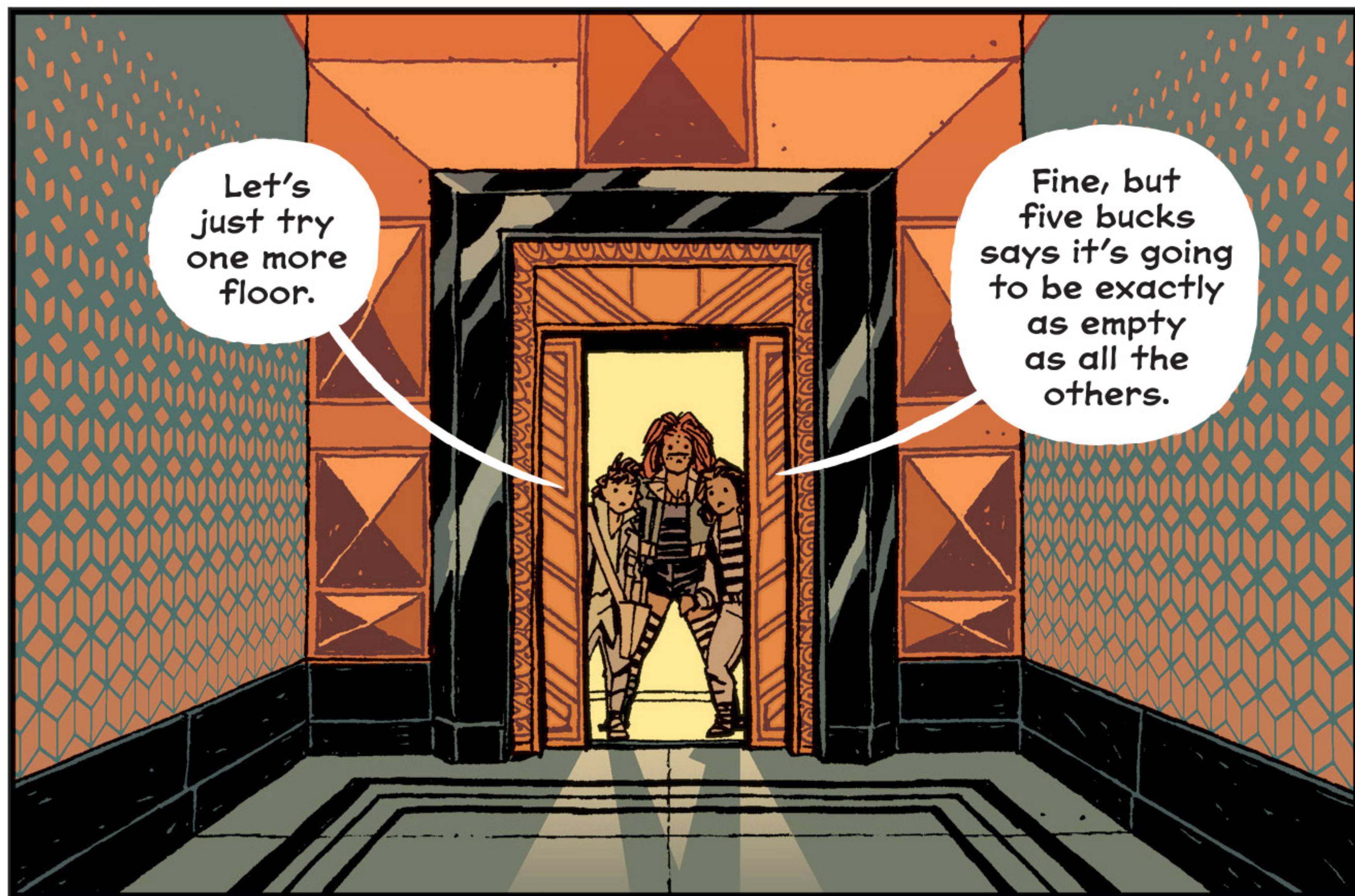






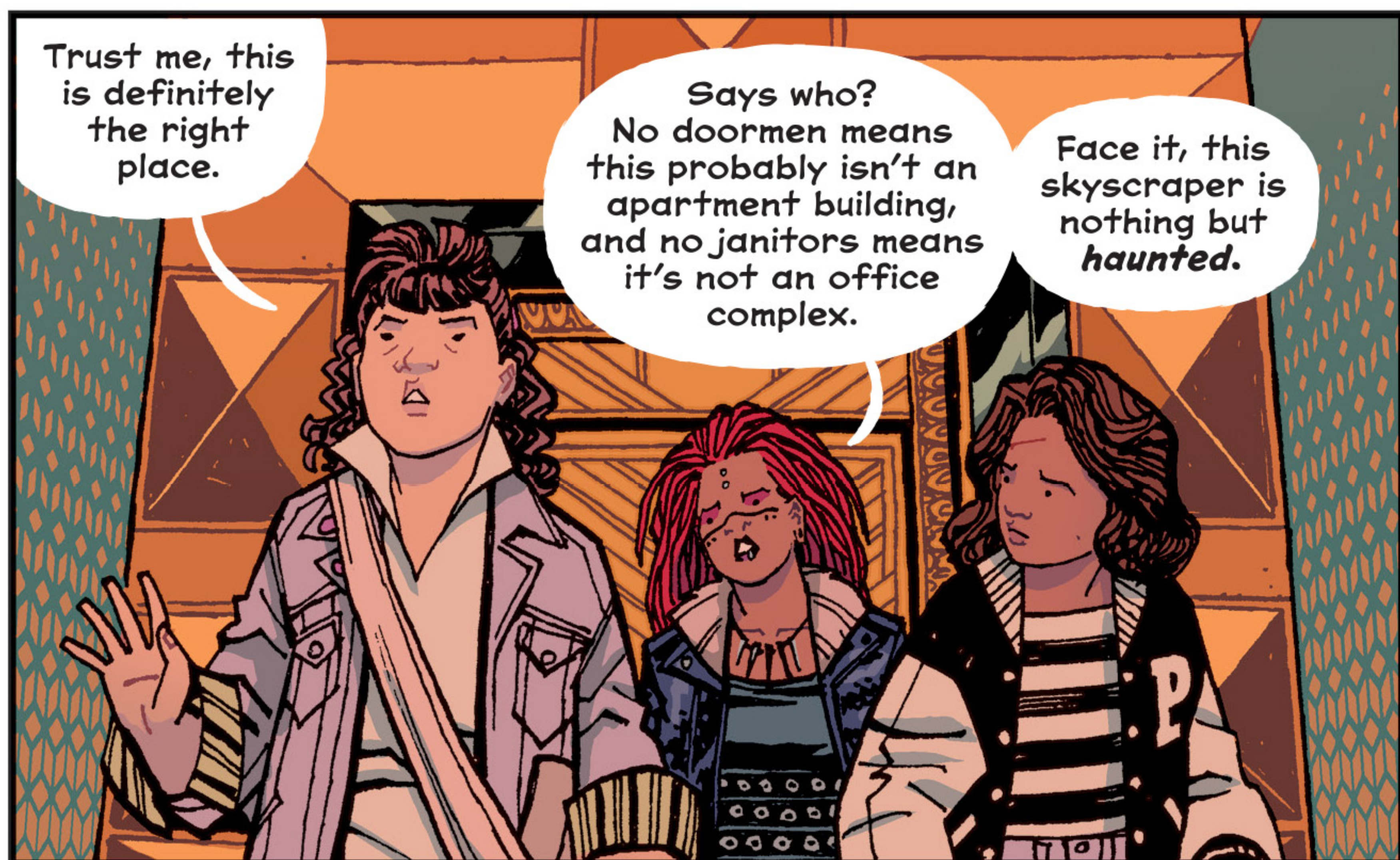


ding



Let's just try one more floor.

Fine, but five bucks says it's going to be exactly as empty as all the others.



Trust me, this is definitely the right place.

Says who? No doormen means this probably isn't an apartment building, and no janitors means it's not an office complex.

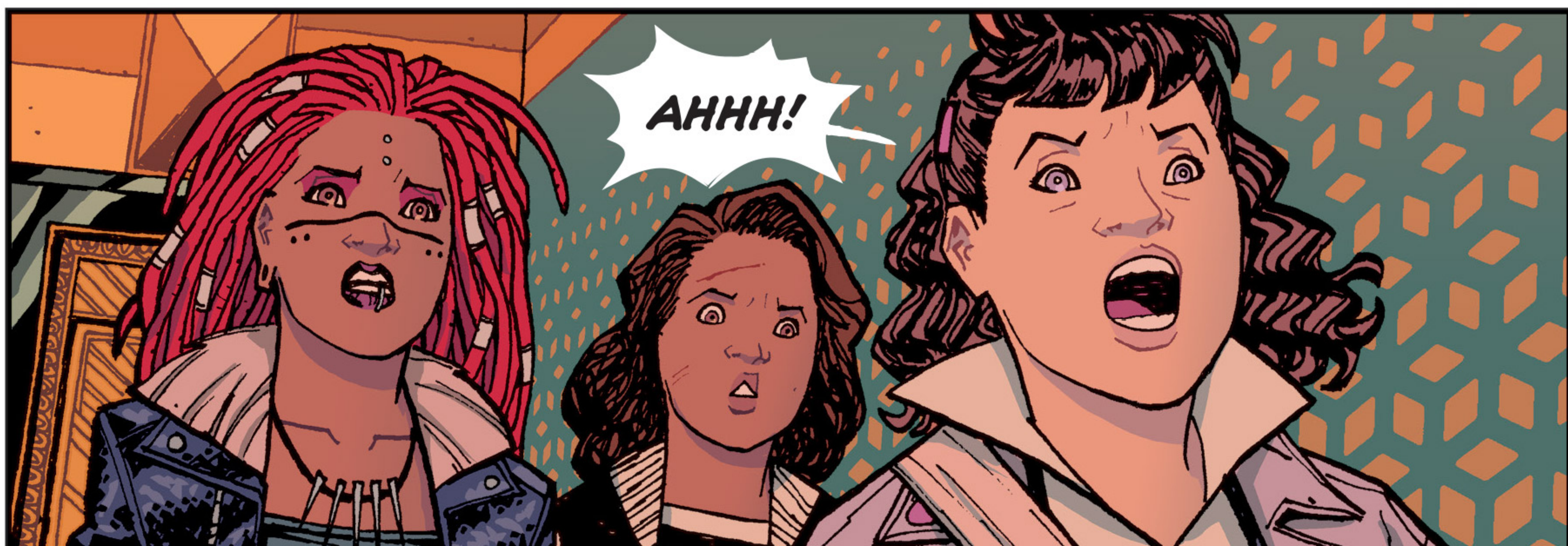
Face it, this skyscraper is nothing but **haunted**.



Please don't tell me I grow up to believe in ghosts.

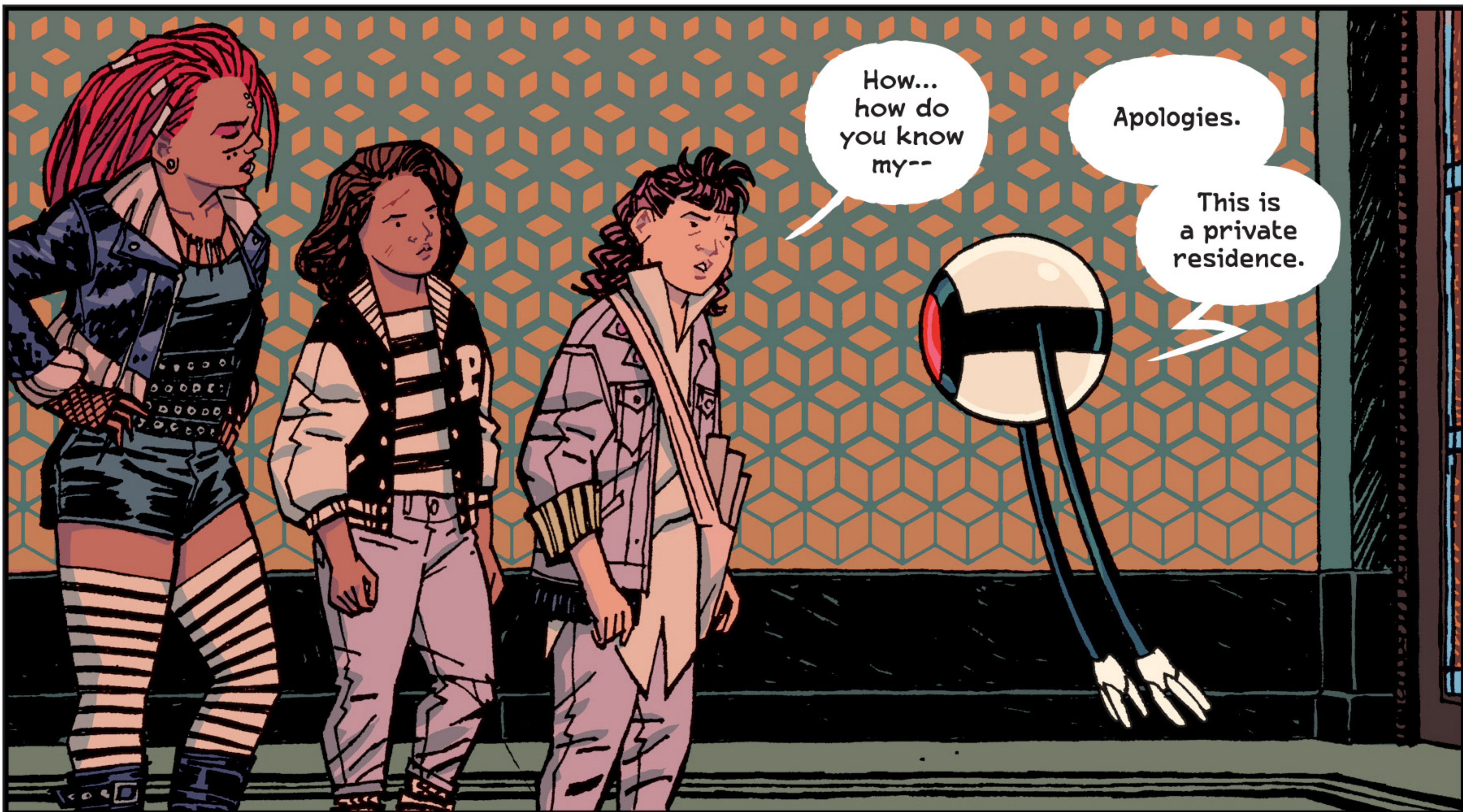
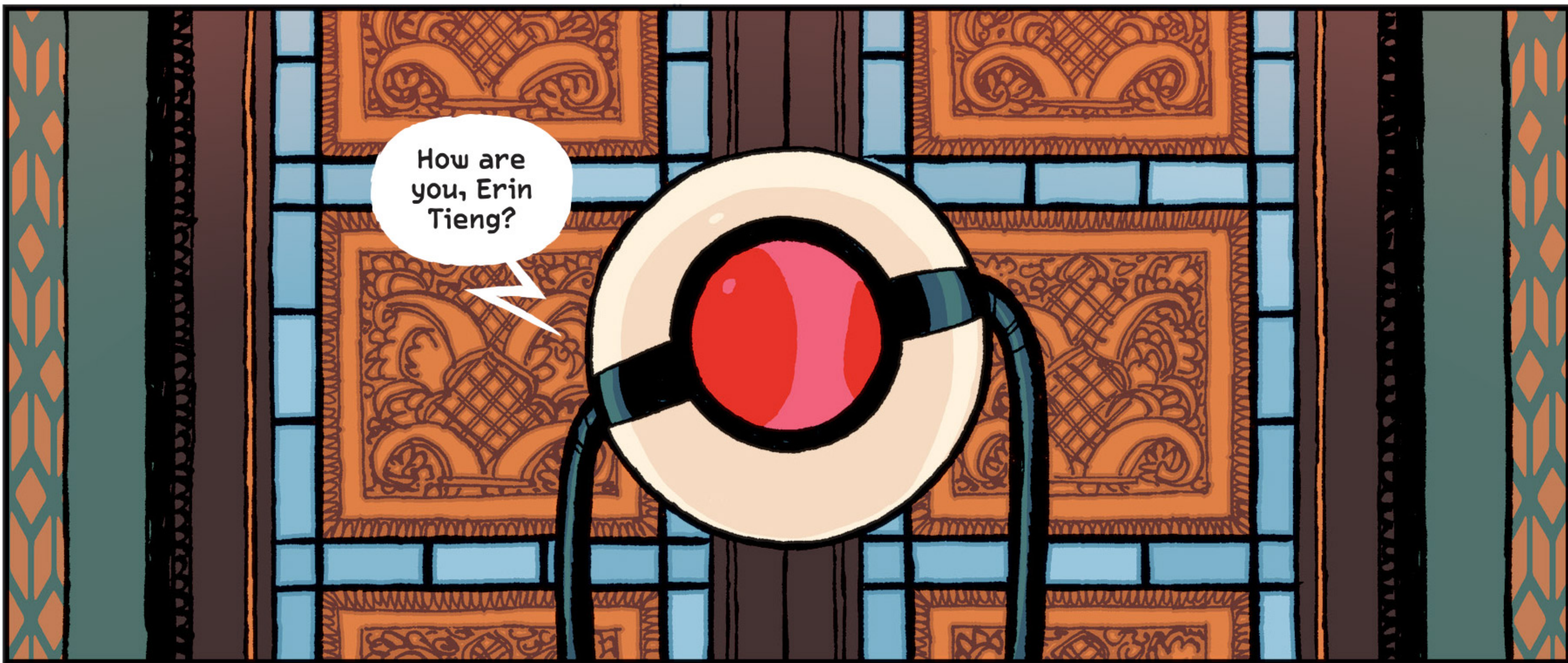
What, like undead spirits would be any less insane than everything else we've--

Good evening.

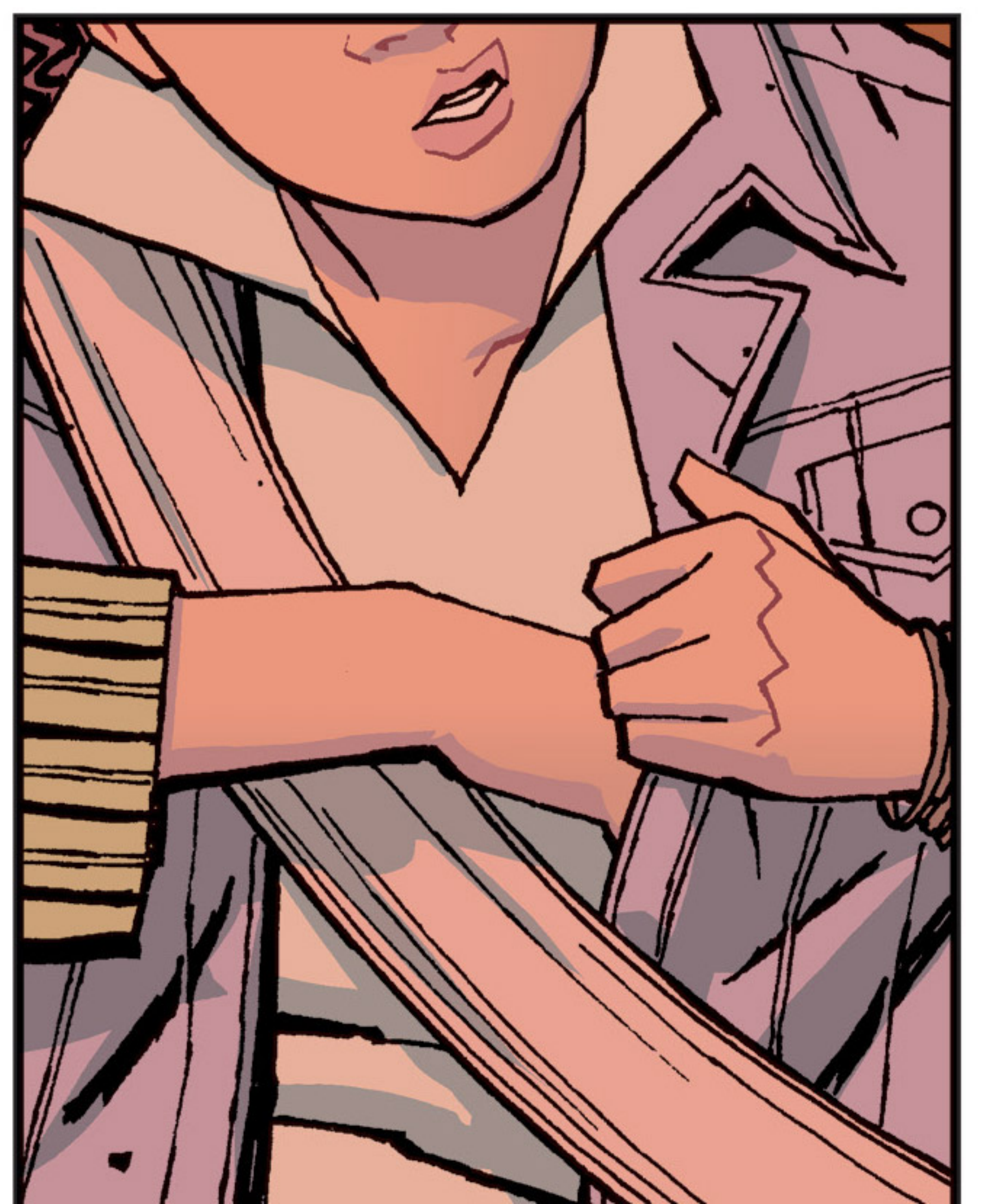
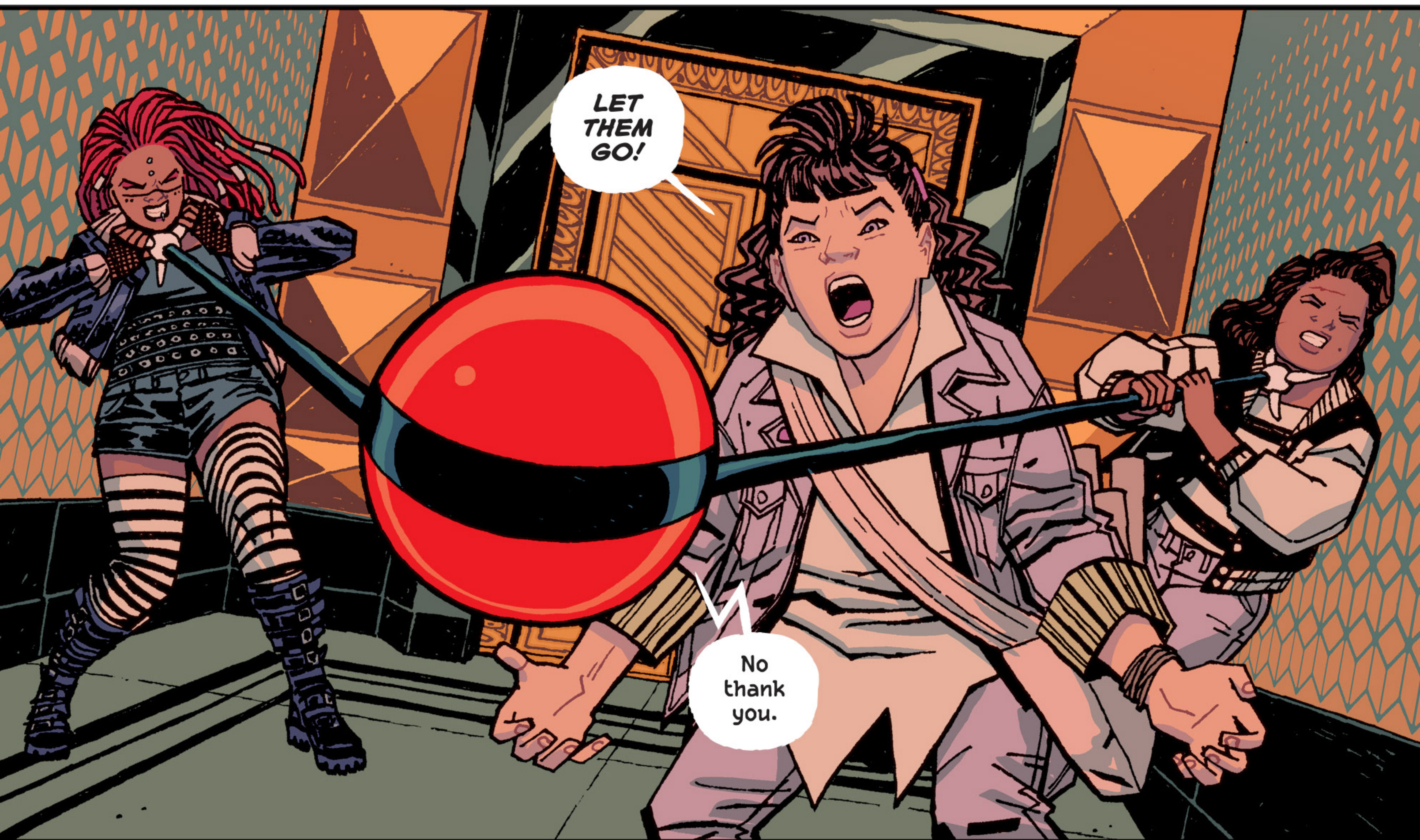


AHHH!

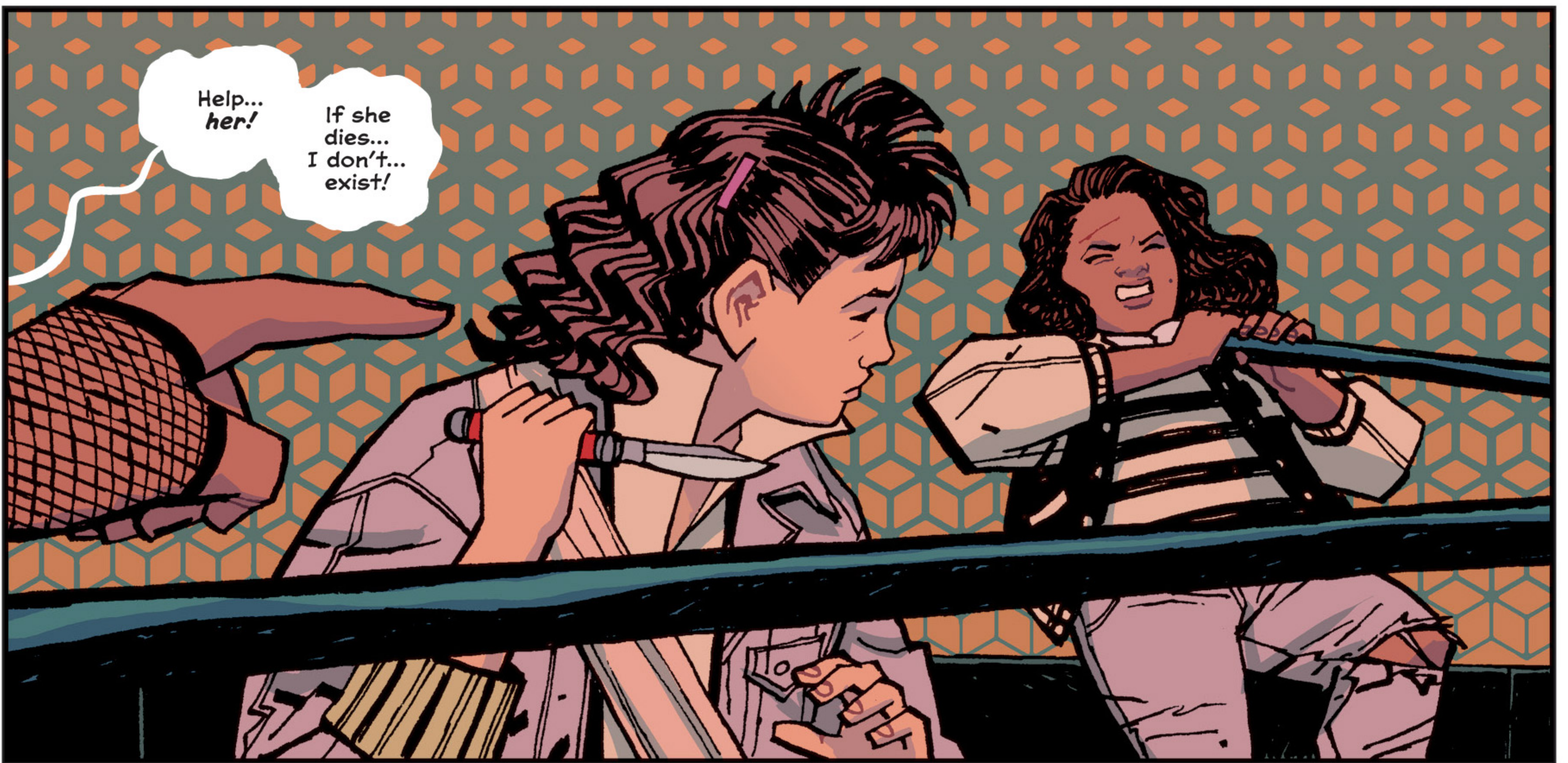
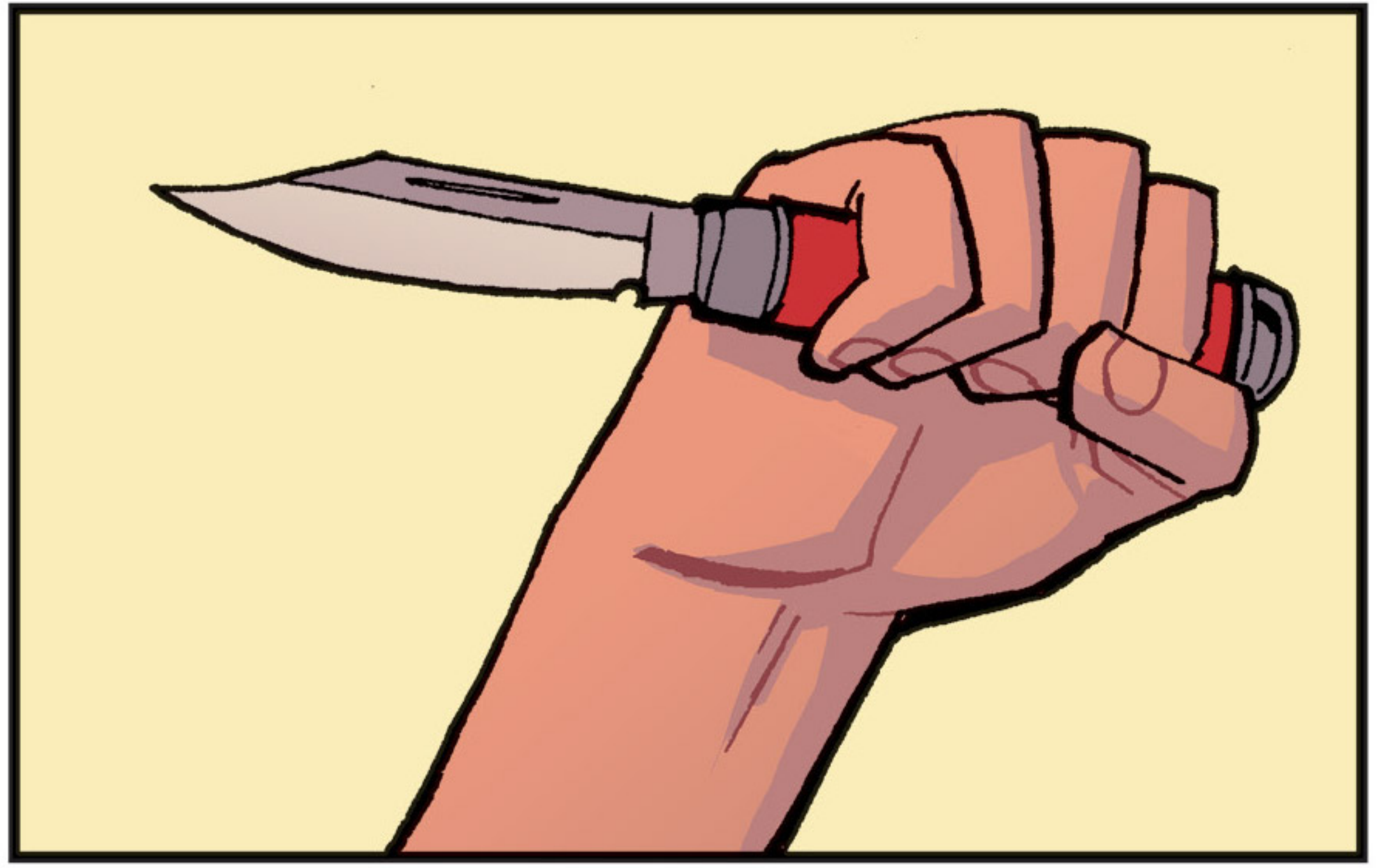




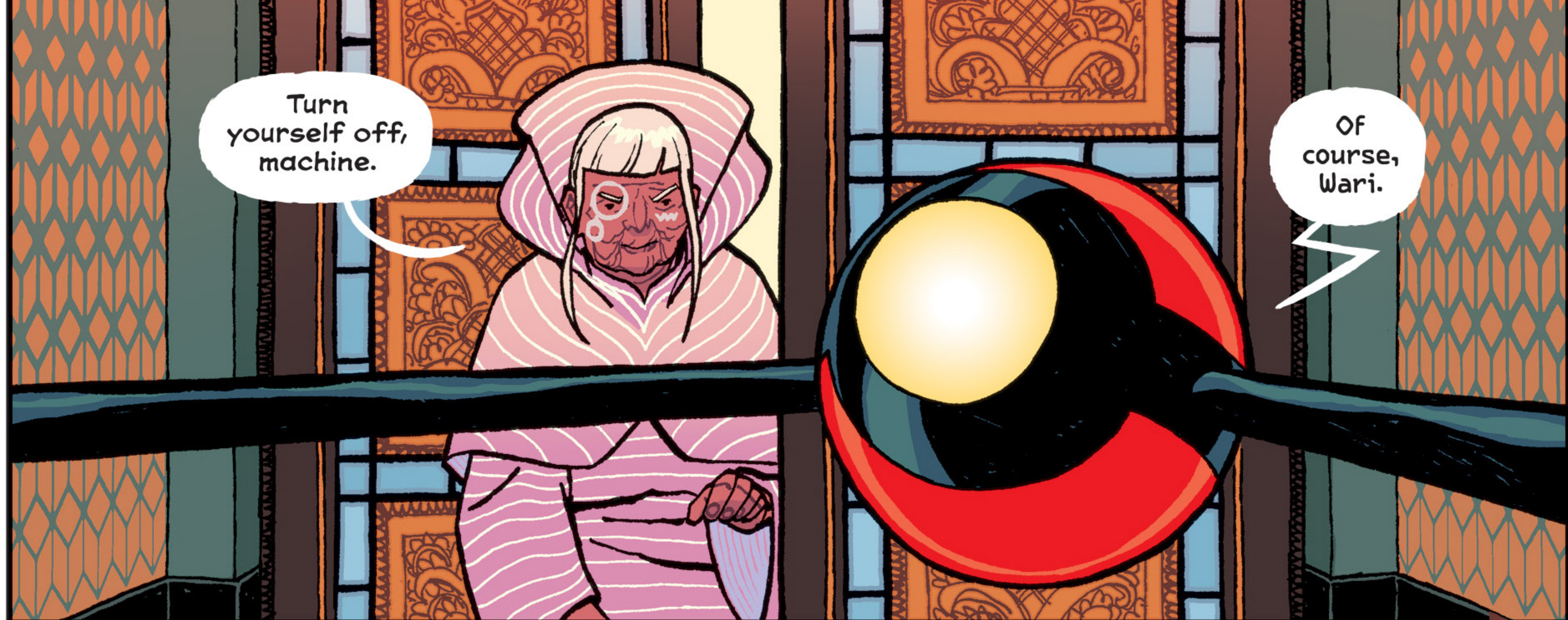




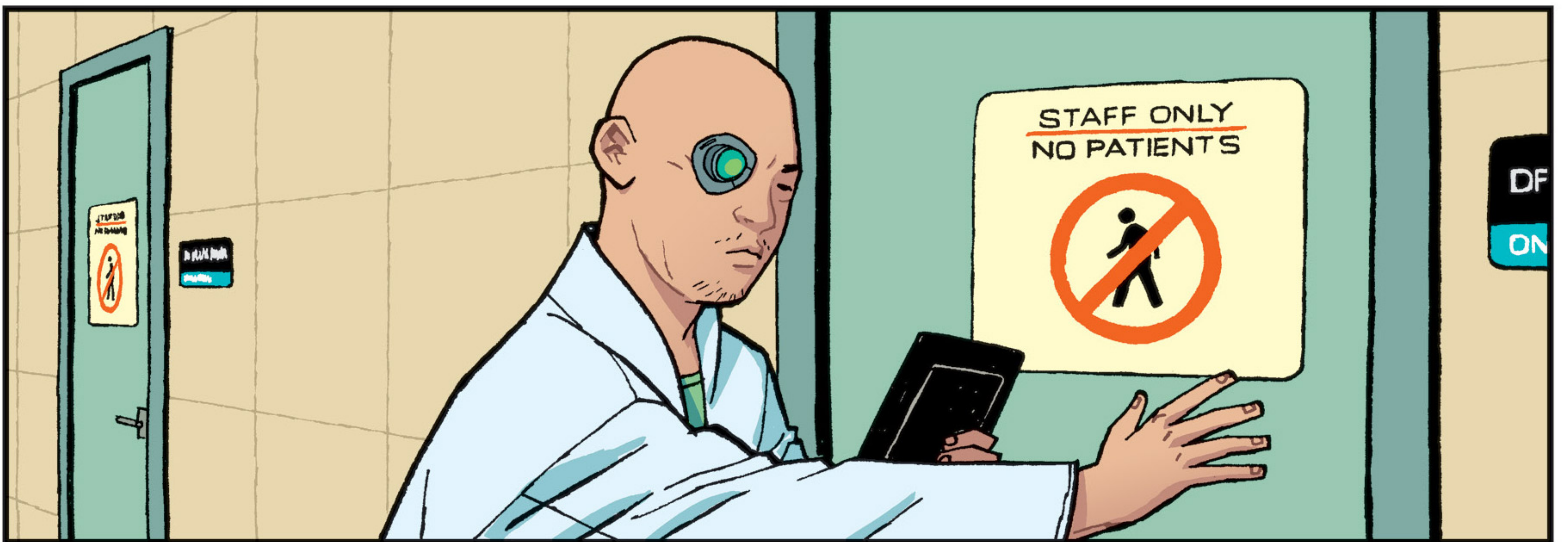
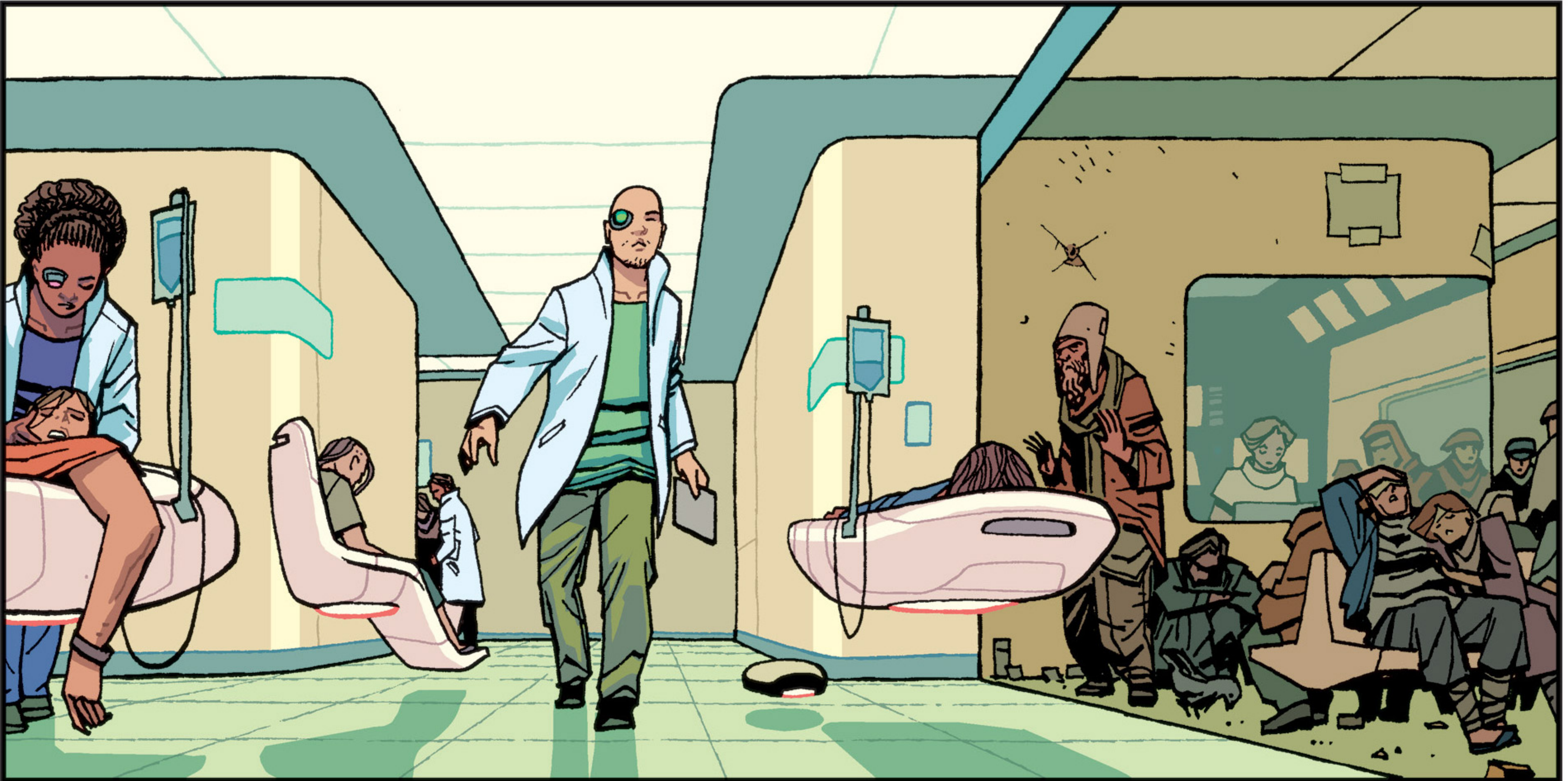












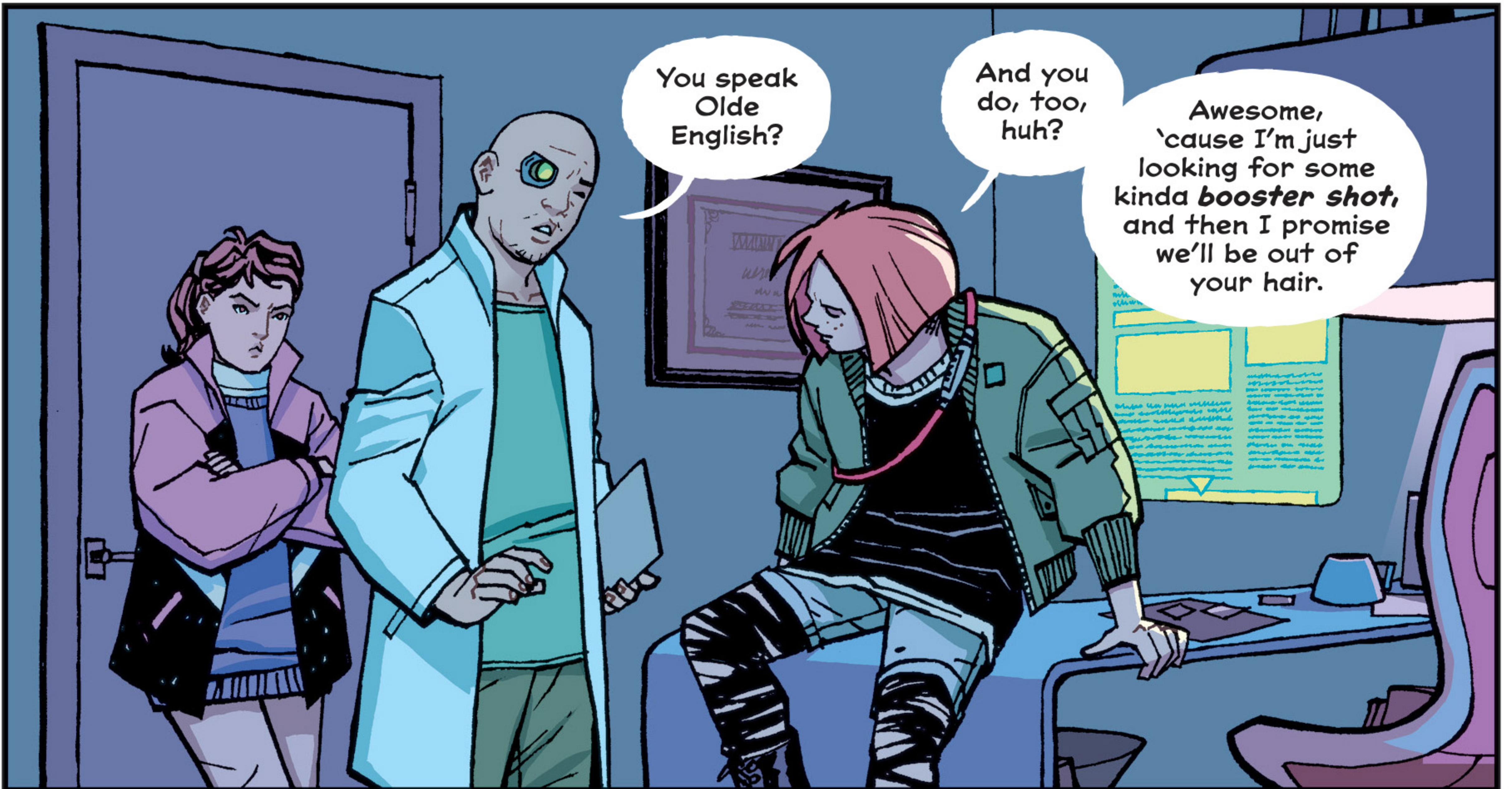




Dahell  
B U?



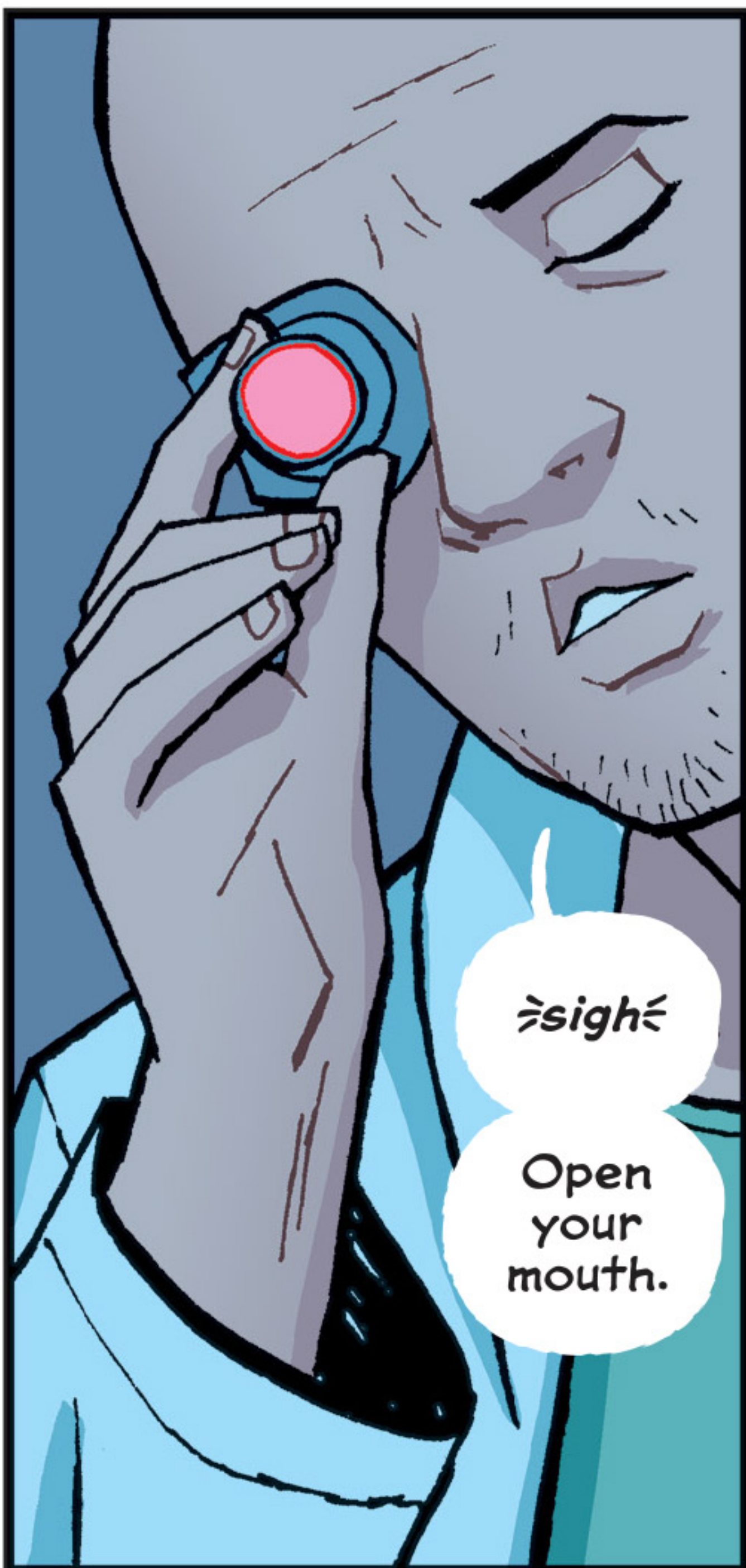
You don't  
need to  
know who  
we are.



You speak  
Olde  
English?

And you  
do, too,  
huh?

Awesome,  
'cause I'm just  
looking for some  
kinda **booster shot**,  
and then I promise  
we'll be out of  
your hair.



~sigh~

Open  
your  
mouth.

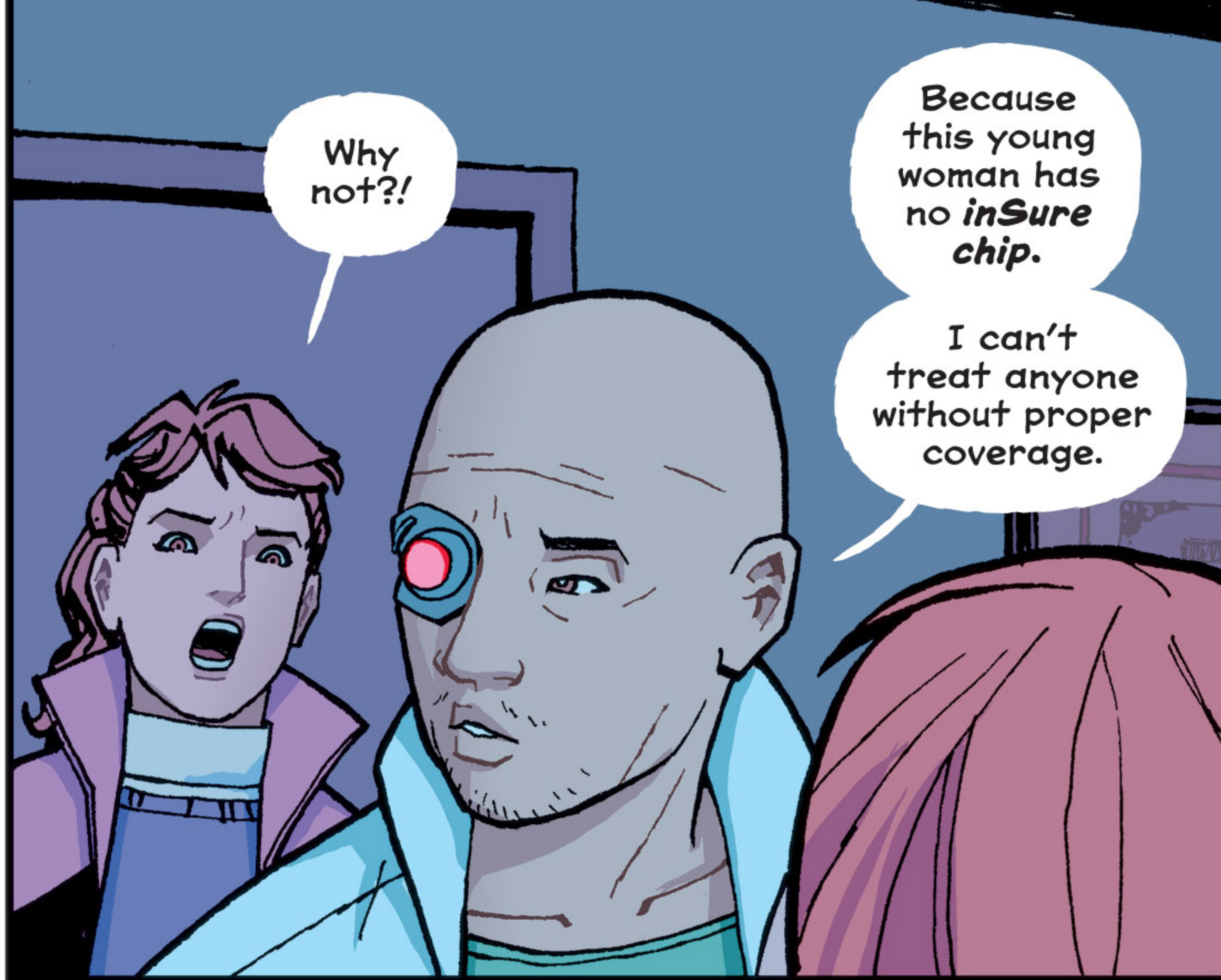


ahhhhhh

That's  
what I  
thought.

There's  
nothing  
I can do  
for you.





Why not?!

Because this young woman has no *inSure* chip.

I can't treat anyone without proper coverage.



Bullshit.



Kaje, what are you doing?!



Saving your life.

SECURI--



Don't.

You wouldn't be the first guy I've killed, understand?

I...I understand.



Cool.

You help my friend stay alive, I do the same for you.





Badass.

TO BE CONTINUED

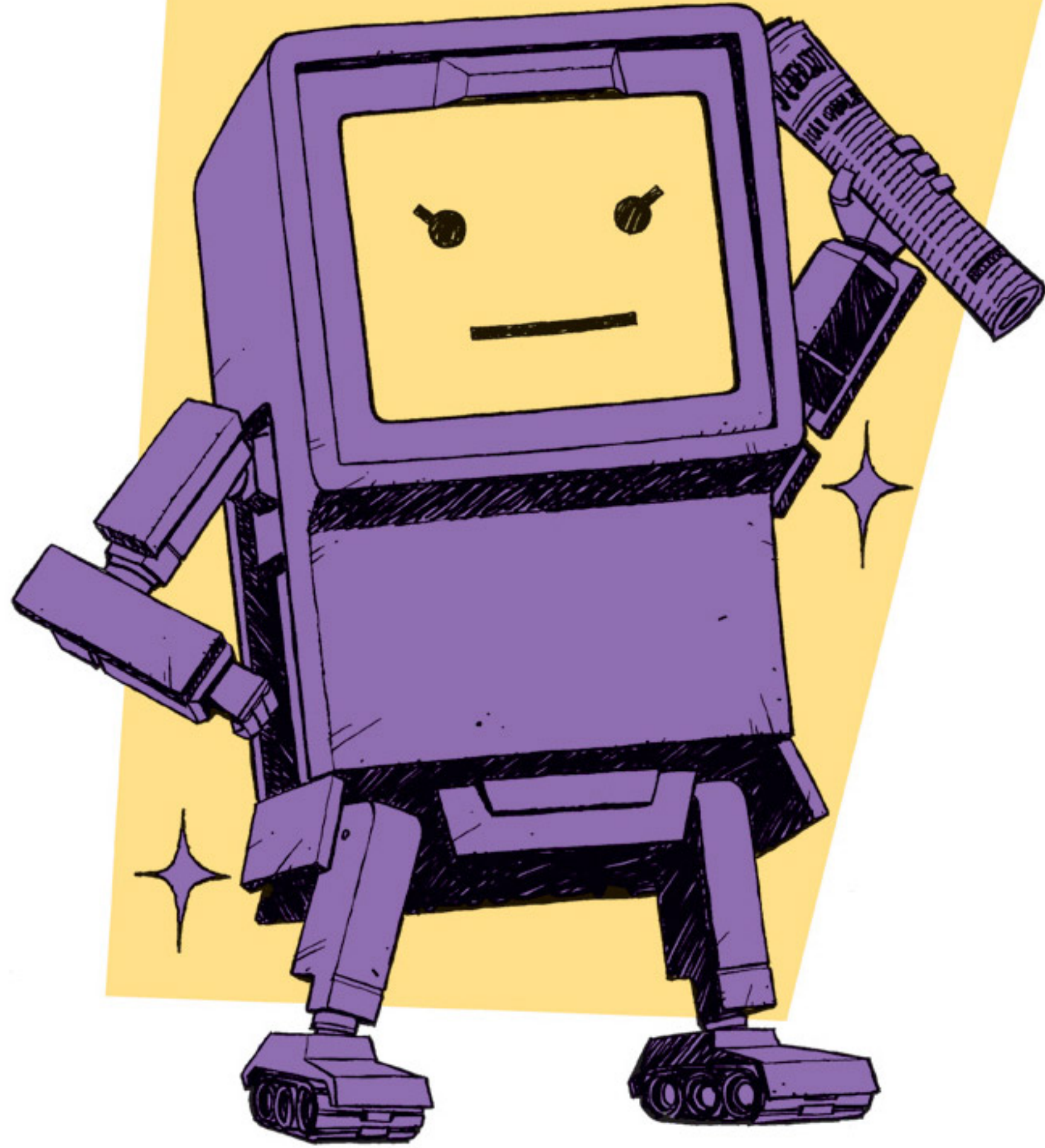


# THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

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

SINCE 1899!

## WelCome BaCk, ANDG fanAtiCS!



**DASH-DASH DOT**, Paperbot

*DASH-DASH DOT THE PAPERBOT here, X-ited 2 checkout MOR old-timey "LETTERS" thawere delivered through d Mails many, many, MANy, many, many MoOns agO.*

*SO, R U rEady 2 X-amine what LIFE was lIke wayBack n d 21st CEntury? ThEn let's get 2 it!!!*



Dear *Paper Girls* Team,

Thank you for creating an amazing comic. My husband and I love to read your works and usually discuss them at length. Your ability to create compelling characters and new plot twists always keep me engaged.

As a librarian, I have an arsenal of comics I like to recommend once I learn more about a person's reading habits. *Paper Girls* is often at the top of my list for people who enjoy science fiction, strong female characters, and action/adventure fiction.

Please keep making amazing comics!

Thank you and I promise to be the best member of the ANDG that I can be.

**Tracy B.**  
Austin, TX

*All-Praise LIBRARIANS, SaviorS of d Wars f Words I-IV.*

Hello ANDG/*Paper Girls* crew,

I've been reading *Paper Girls* from the start, but I'm just now writing after issue 19. I have no good excuse for waiting so long. I was a paper carrier myself for a couple years during 1993-94, delivering the locally owned paper on weekday afternoons and weekend mornings. I lived at the bottom of a long and steep hill and my route was at the top of the hill. Those Sunday editions were a heavy load to carry, but I always enjoyed knowing I was bringing the comics page(s), including *Calvin & Hobbes*, to all the houses... and I guess all that other news, too. Anyway, *Paper Girls* just seems to get better each issue, and those wraparound covers have been phenomenal during this current story arc. I had the pleasure of chatting briefly with Cliff Chiang at the Boston Comic Con in 2016, and he signed a couple issues for me—I had him sign inside on the first page because I couldn't bear to mark up those astounding covers! Keep up the great work.

**Aaron E.**  
Devens, MA

*MaY we All carry R hEavy loads s Gracefully s Aaron Ice Did.*



Dear Rita Pearl,

So excited to be a bonafide, card-carrying member of the ANDG! Although I haven't delivered the paper since 1983, I still own a rad bicycle, and my throwing game is on point, they always land on the front porch! So if I'm ever called into action, I got the skills to pay the bills. Just sayin'.

Please let the gang know they're doing a fine job with this publication, and tell the Paper Girls to keep up the excellent work!

**Daniel M.**  
Lincoln Park, NJ

*Dese long-gone OldenTime Boyz seemed Nice!*

Dear Rita,

I was a kid from Akron, Ohio in the 80s when I delivered newspapers. But, I didn't deliver for the *Akron Beacon Journal*, a highly sought-after, well-paid position. No, my next-door neighbor and good friend, Jeff C., got that job.

I was hired by *The Trading Post*, the free weekly newspaper that paid \$18 every other week. A stack of newspapers was delivered to my front porch every Sunday and I had to fold each one. The ink from the fresh newsprint would blacken my hands. I was required to deliver a copy to each house on my route by the end of the day on Monday. I procrastinated often because my route included scary houses, barking dogs, roads that didn't exist, customers who rejected delivery of the free newspaper and bad weather.

Out of all these things, it was the last one that finally got to me. I headed out to do my job after a heavy snowstorm, slipped on the ice at the bottom of our driveway and all my papers fell out of the bag. I got up, left the newspapers in the wet road, went into the house and quit my job with *The*

*Trading Post*.

Today, the same newspaper is delivered by the post office.

**Chris S.**  
Wadsworth, OH

*Dash-Dash Dot 1ders whata "post office" b...?*

Dear Rita,

I've only recently started reading *Paper Girls*, but let me tell you, in that short amount of time I've read every issue and fallen in love! From the wonderfully-written story to the gorgeous artwork, *Paper Girls* has quickly become one of my favorite comics. Even though I'm still a newbie here, I was hoping I could possibly join the A.N.D.G.!

While I've never been a paper delivery girl myself, I still religiously read my local newspaper every day and hope I never see the day when all newspapers go digital for good. Anyways, thanks so much for putting a smile on my face each time I read a new issue and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

**Julia A.**  
Lake Jackson, TX

*We HoPe U R still SMiling, Julia From Lake Jackson, wherEVER u may now B.*

Dear A.N.D.G.,

Hello, please consider me for membership! I was a delivery boy in the late 70's and early 80's. I delivered *The Indianapolis News* for many years to earn money to buy comics and things like that. I always loved the ticket book with its big metal rings. My paper bag was a "pullover" type, and I always had to keep it balanced by alternating between front and back. I used to get out of school and try to get it done quickly so I could get home to watch the 3 o'clock movie!

Thank you very much!

**Tom W.**  
Indianapolis, IN

*"3 o'clock movie"?*

*Hmmmm, perhAps D Past is a MYsTERY thatill never b SolVed.*

Dear A.N.D.G.,

Thanks for opening up membership again! I was once an unofficial newspaper delivery girl back in the early 2000s. Never got paid a cent because it was my older siblings' route who generously allowed me to "help" them. It oddly felt like I was doing most of the work... but I did get to spend some quality time with them at least. Boy, were those newspaper bags heavy! Thanks for allowing me the opportunity for official newspaper girl recognition all these years later.

Sincerely,

**Veronica A.**  
Whitby, ON

*F D PATRIARCHY (assuming Veronica's stinGy "SibLings" WEr brothERS).*

Dear Rita Pearl and the A.N.D.G.,

I'm writing to request membership in your honorable guild! Alas, I was never a newspaper deliverer. When I was in late elementary school or early middle school, my neighborhood was looking for a new paper-slinger. I was not allowed to apply, though, because my parents were worried about my safety, a situation we recently learned that Cleveland papergirl Tiffany can relate to. However, I did wake up early and spend time outside every morning, rain or shine (and also often wind and snow, as I grew up in Pennsylvania). My mother and I took walks every morning in an effort to be healthier. Thanks for giving me the chance to reminisce about those fond memories of time with my mom each day.



BKV, it's so good to see you in top feminist form with *Paper Girls* (as well as in top form in all other ways with it)! *Y: The Last Man* is one of the greatest pieces of feminist literature in my opinion, and it continues to impact me to this day. Cliff Chiang, your work here is stellar, as always, and your collaboration with Brian Azzarello on *Wonder Woman* was masterful! That book was my favorite superhero comic.

It will be tough waiting until June for more *Paper Girls* and Rita's Delivery Bag, but joining the A.N.D.G. will help make the wait bearable.

Sincerely Yours,

**Justin W.**  
Portland, OR

*WowW. JuStin W. was 1 F d most Famousest -bzzzzzzzt- wayback N hls era.*

Dearest A.N.D.G.,

Please accept this adorable picture of my girlfriend, dog and myself and update your records to reflect my new address.

**Sam L.** (you have me as "Jam," but that isn't actually a name, just a fruit preserve).

Thank you,

**Sam (again, not Jam)**  
Stoneham, MA

*NO DEAL, JAM.*

Hey Rita Pearl!

I was—(and always will be at heart)—a paperboy for the *Rancho Penasquitos* newspaper—which I believe is now defunct. I along with a couple of my mates would love membership cards to the A.N.D.G. One of them currently reads *Paper Girls*, and the other one I'm working on to check the series out! Anyhow, enclosed you'll find the 3 S.A.S.E.s, and until it snows twelve inches in San Diego, make mine *Paper Girls*!

Rock on!

**Chris S.**  
San Diego, CA

*I hope Rita got U boys your CardS... while Rita WAS still a Living GIRL. FRownY Face.*

Greetings from Austin, Texas!

My name is Natasha, and although I was never a papergirl, I was known to roam the neighborhoods on my bike—sometimes even "jumping" the curbs 2" of air! Thank you for sharing the wonder and joy and intrigue of *Paper Girls* with us!

All the best,

**Natasha**  
Austin, TX

*2"?! RAd.*

Hi Rita!

I love reading both *Paper Girls* and the A.N.D.G. newsletters! Here is my S.A.S.E. and also a flower. I see that you're based in California so I just want to also send good wishes for your safety and peace of mind, with all the fires and everything lately. I'm a Californian too, although I'm going to college in Ohio right now. Thanks for running this newsletter, it's super fun to read what everyone has to say and I hope you like the flower.

**Susannah B.**  
Oberlin, OH

*Dash-Dash Dotwuz suRe InCluded flower would B DEAD, buttit wuz made of FELT n it SURVIVED d centUries. SmiLEY Face, indeEd.*

Dear Rita Pearl Paper Girl:

I was only a summer relief paper boy for my friend when he was out of town. However, my father was the real deal growing up in Lake Park, Iowa during WWII. He is still around and proud of his paper route although he is more into NASCAR these days than time traveling. During a recent

trip to visit him we went to the small cemetery where his parents are buried and after paying our respects he began to give us a tour of the headstones and he had a paper route anecdote for nearly every gravesite: the family who stiffed him over 70 years ago; the widower who asked if he had change for a \$5.00 bill each week (he didn't because that would be like asking a kid today for \$95.00 change for a \$100.00 bill); the women who treated him well in the summer and the winter; and the family who put on airs of having a fortune when the town knew otherwise. He reminisced about how difficult it would have been in those days for the delivery truck to make it from Des Moines to NW Iowa every day, even on snow days. And he also told us that he was able to sell enough papers to get a new bike from *The Des Moines Register*.

Take care out there delivering papers while there are still papers to deliver.

**T. Vetter**  
Kalama, WA

*T. Vetter, 4 ShaRing yer family's ePic sTory, Dash-Dash Dot has named U DELIVERER OF THE MONTH, N Will send COOLPRIZEZ 2 d Next chapter F ur saga, wherEVER dey nowrEside.*

*OKOK, morE old-TIMEy mySteries n qUandries n 1MONTH!*

Luv,

- / - / .

**Paperbot**



Hello Rita & Petey!

I was never a papergirl but I helped my brother out when he delivered. I would fold the paper for him and put the rubber band around the paper to keep it folded! I remember he would get 25-50 cent tips sometimes!

All the best!

Go Johnny Girl Berella

PS. I'm not an artist so I made you a crossword puzzle. Enjoy!

WhAT Manner of AnCient cypher B dis??

1st 2 solve R "crossword" n sendus YER AnswerS willget FABU-PRIZEZ, justlike d 1s we Bsending 2 descEndents of "Go Johnny Girl Berella," so get -bzzzzzzzt- my fellow PuzzB0ts!



ACROSS

- 1: Chuck Spachefski's first name.
- 3: Store that Erin and Erin go to at the mall.
- 4: Vaughn's Dachshund's name.
- 6: Talks to Erin in the pumpkin patch.
- 12: The baby's name.
- 13: The D in A.N.D.G.
- 14: First non-boy paper boy.
- 17: Hell morning calendar artist.
- 19: Comic with coded messages.
- 21: Grand Father's shirt logo.
- 23: Full-size candy at Erin's
- 25: Wearwolf's tshirt.
- 28: Newspaper.
- 29: Band on Mackenzie's Chucks.

DOWN

- 2: Paper Girls opens the day after which holiday?
- 3: KJ's name
- 5: Erin's sister's name.
- 7: Restaurant where Tiffany lands in 1999.
- 8: Which tribe named our "Crooked River" the Cuyahoga?
- 9: KJ's weapon
- 10: Erin's sister's profession
- 11: Wilson's degree in \_\_\_\_ Art.
- 15: Dr. Braunstein's gun.
- 16: The cure for Erin's gunshot wound.
- 18: Tiffany's video game.
- 19: Time portal.
- 20: Chiang was introduced to comics by his \_\_\_\_.
- 22: Tiffany's husband.
- 24: Fletcher's first comic company job.
- 26: Lucas K's costume.
- 27: Mackenzie's name for Erin.









2 of 4

1

2

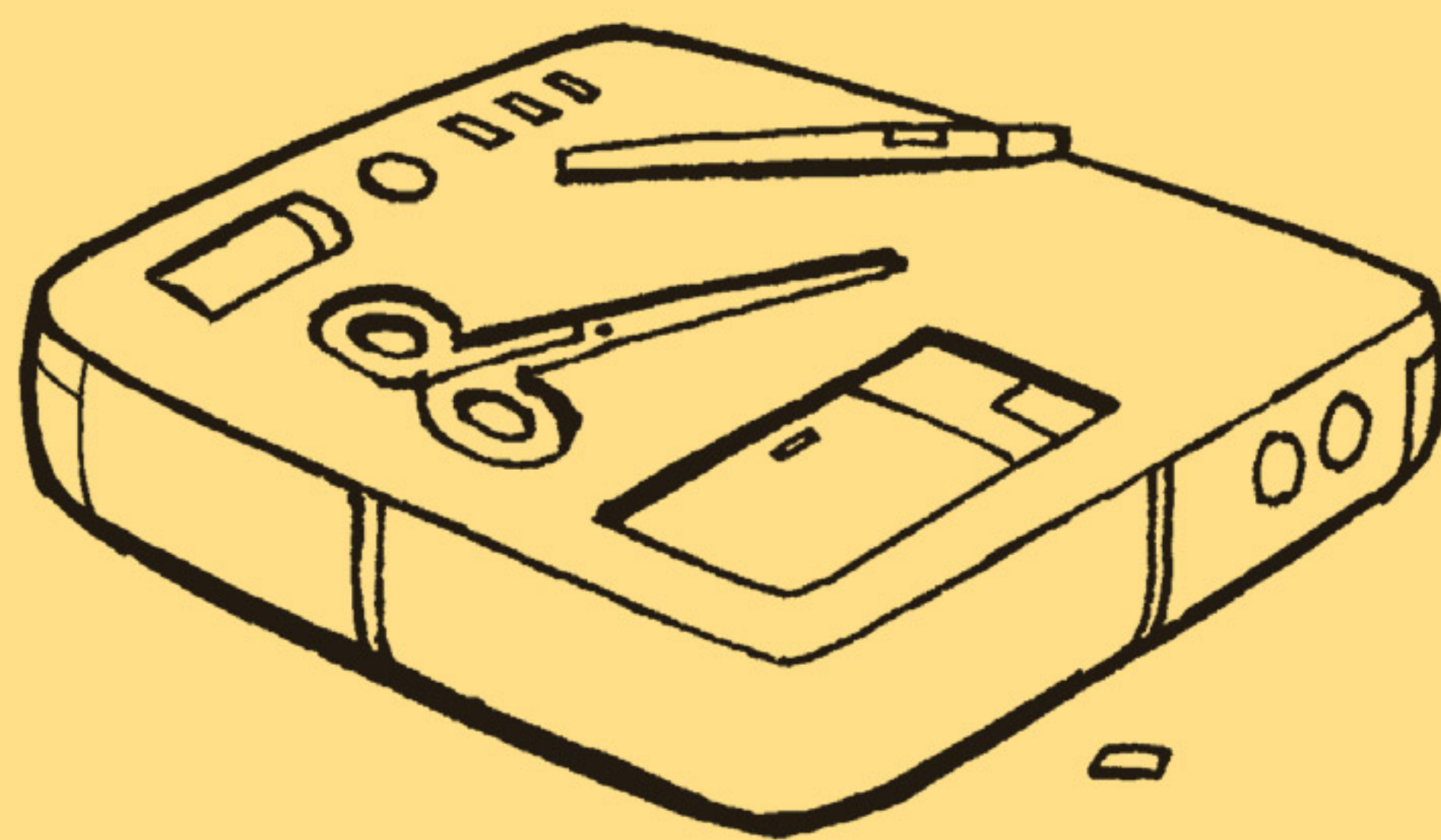
3

4

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







# Paper Girls<sub>24</sub>

ON SALE 9.05.18

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







ISSUE 23

IMAGECOMICS.COM

RATED **T+** | TEEN PLUS