

# Paper Girls

24



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

# Paper Girls

## 24

**BRIAN K. VAUGHAN** writer

**CLIFF CHIANG** artist

**MATT WILSON** colors

**JARED K. FLETCHER** letters + design

**DEE CUNNIFFE** color flats

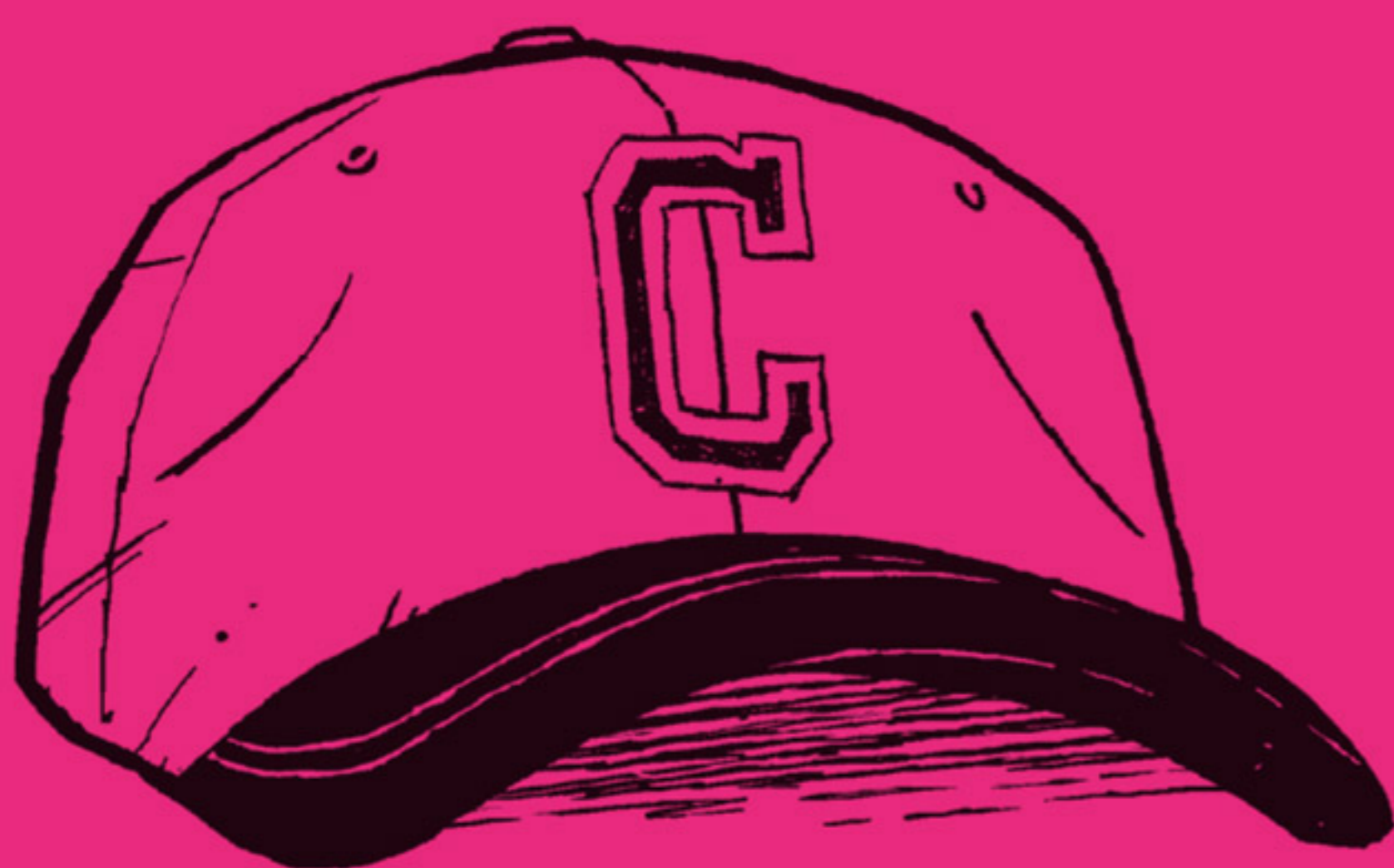


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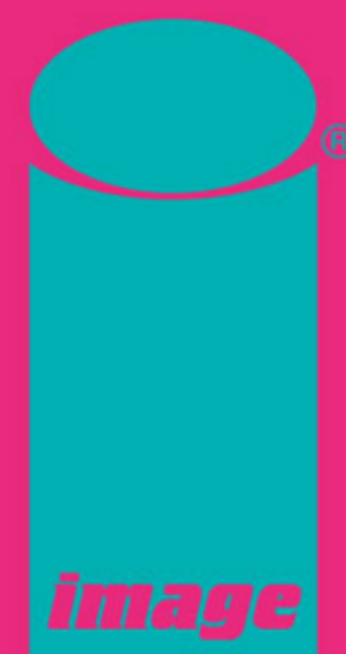
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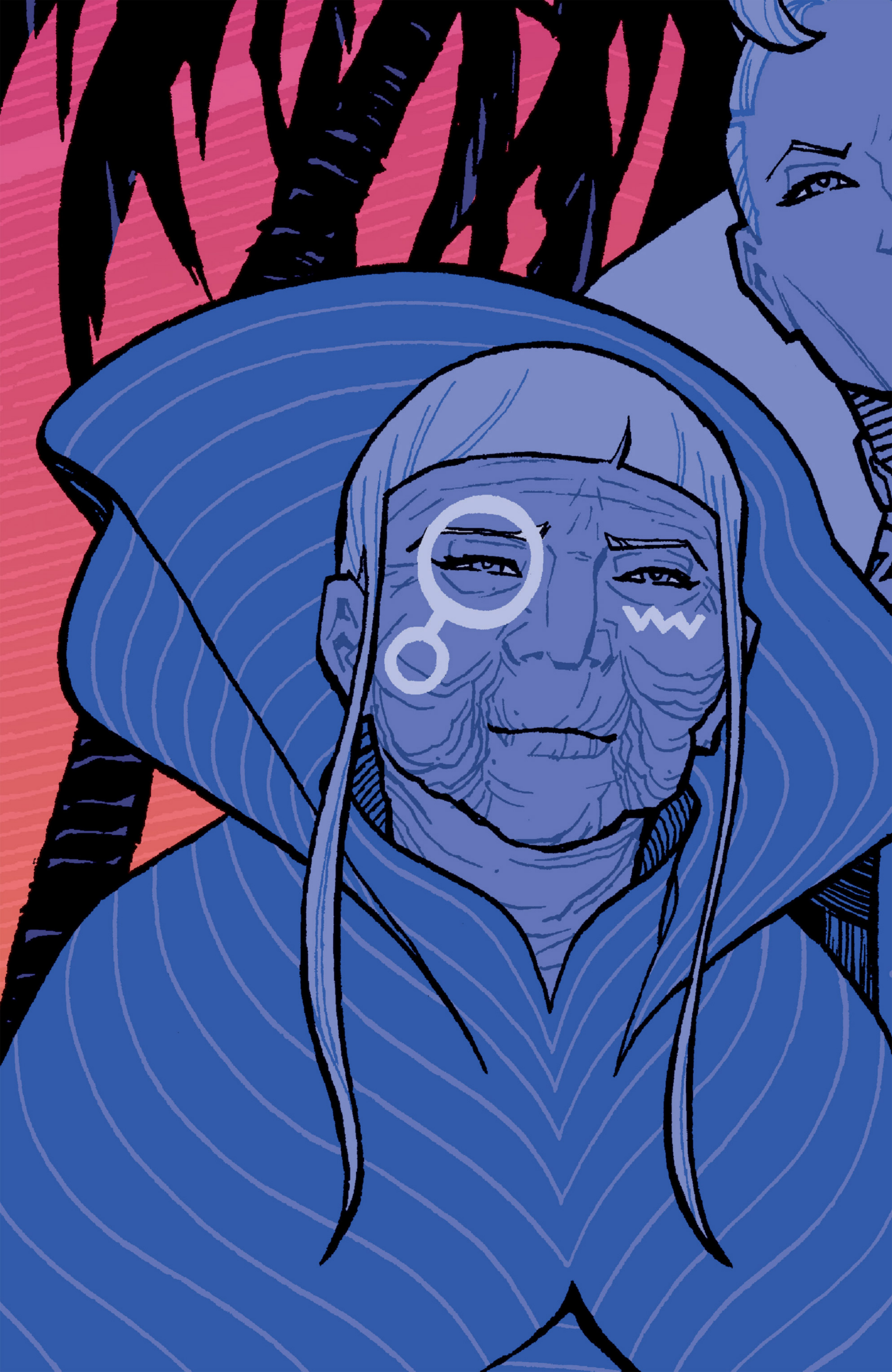
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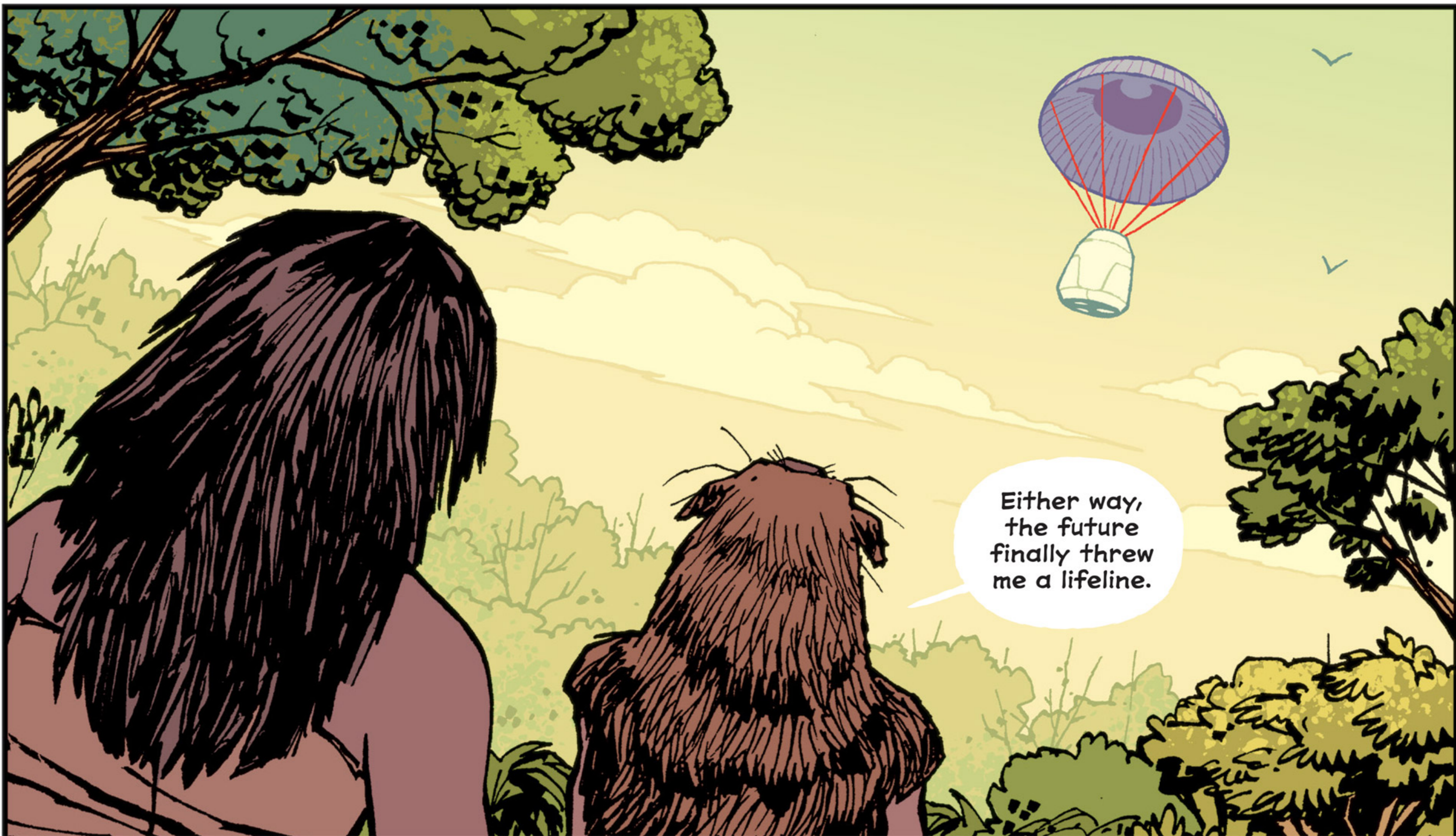
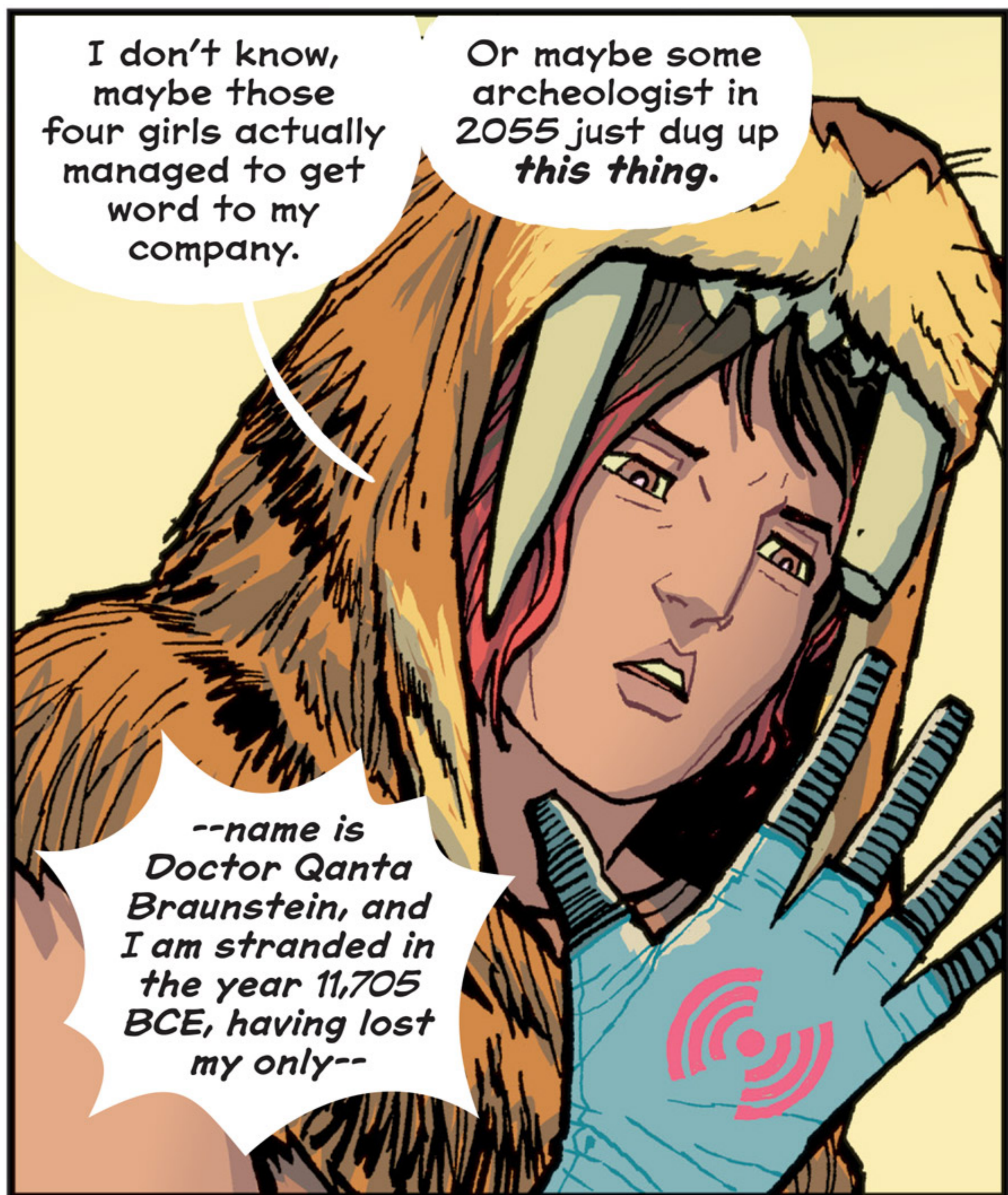
**“No matter what the progress  
Or what may yet be proved  
The simple facts of life are such  
They cannot be removed”**

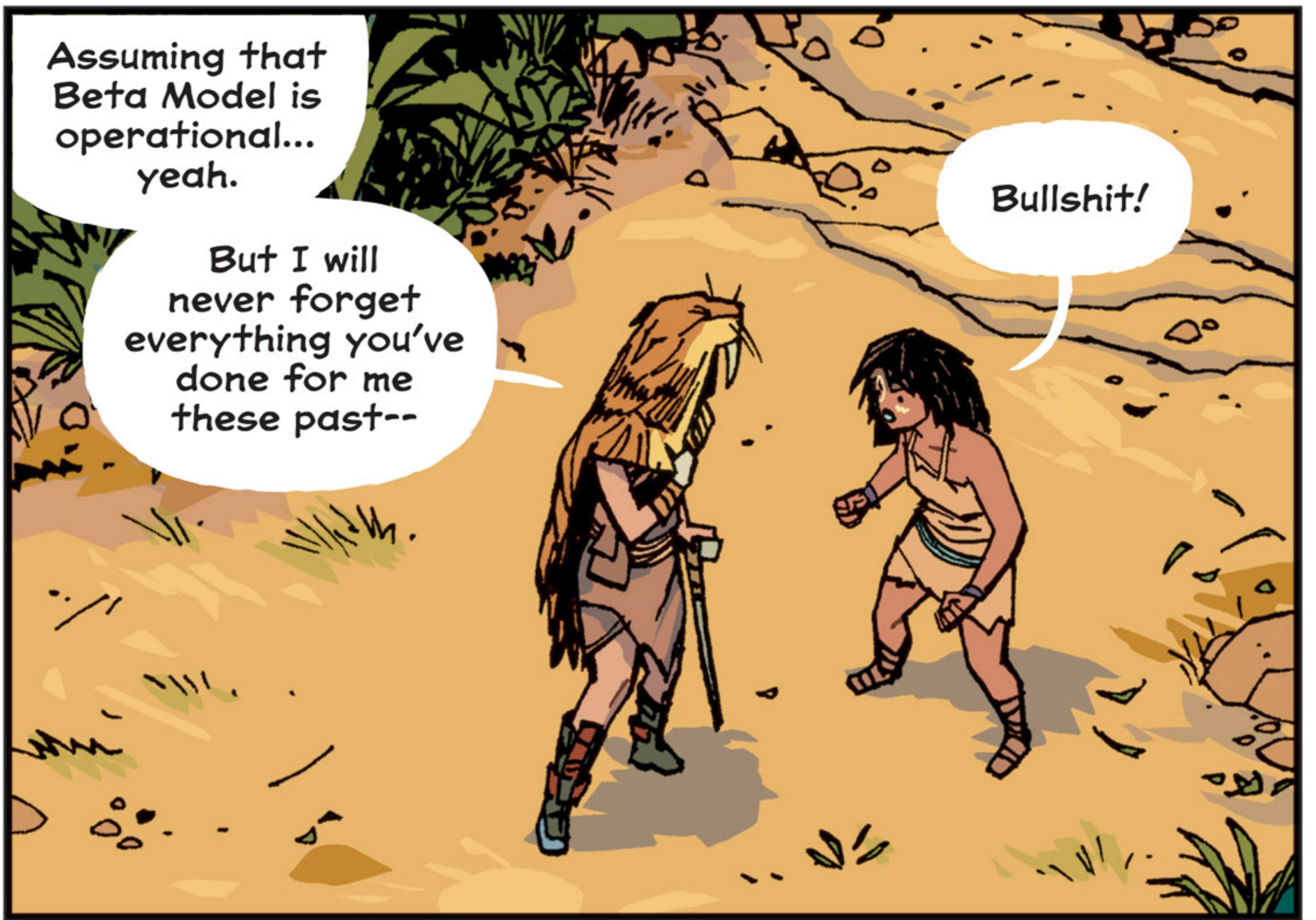
**–From the 1931 song “As Time Goes By”  
(verse unused in *Casablanca*)  
Lyrics by Herman Hupfeld**

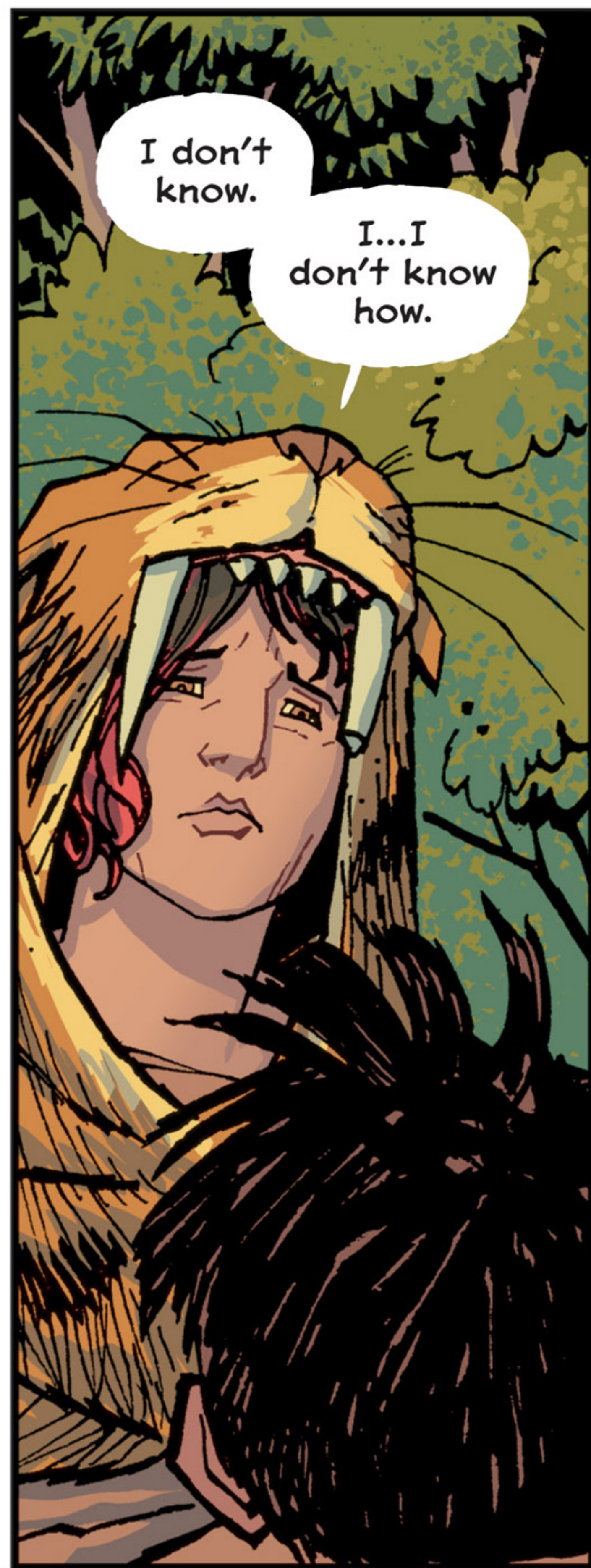
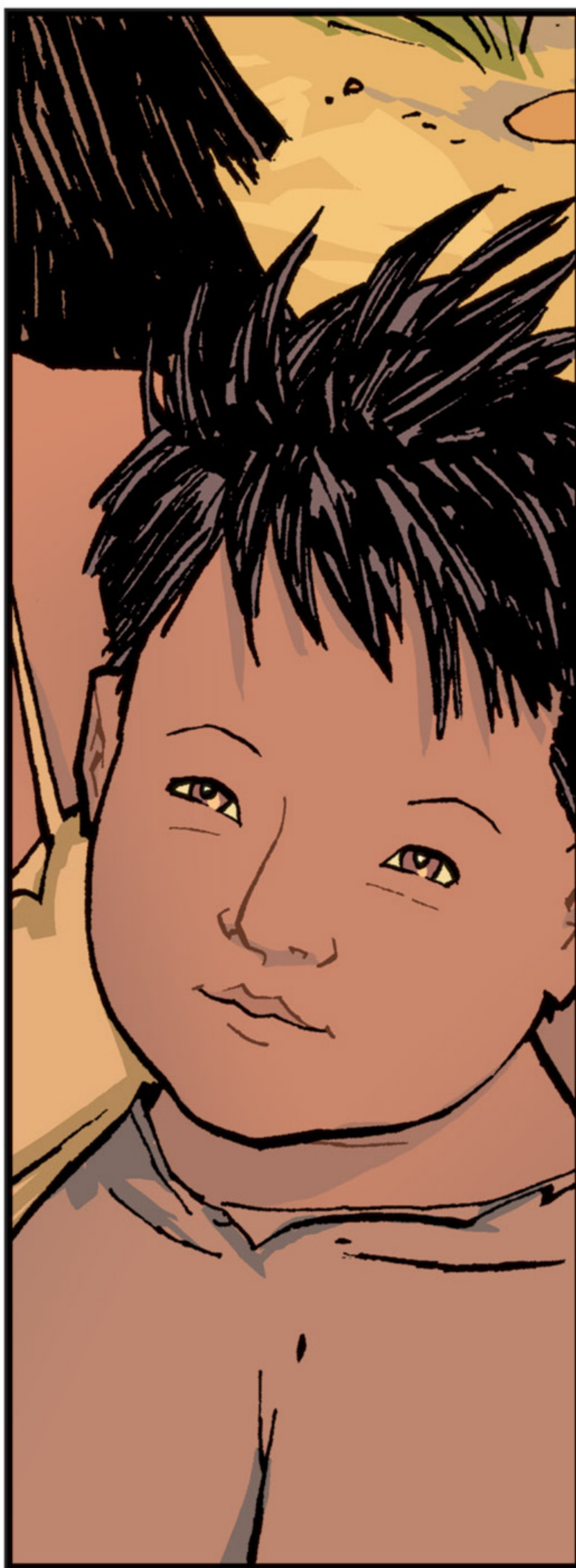


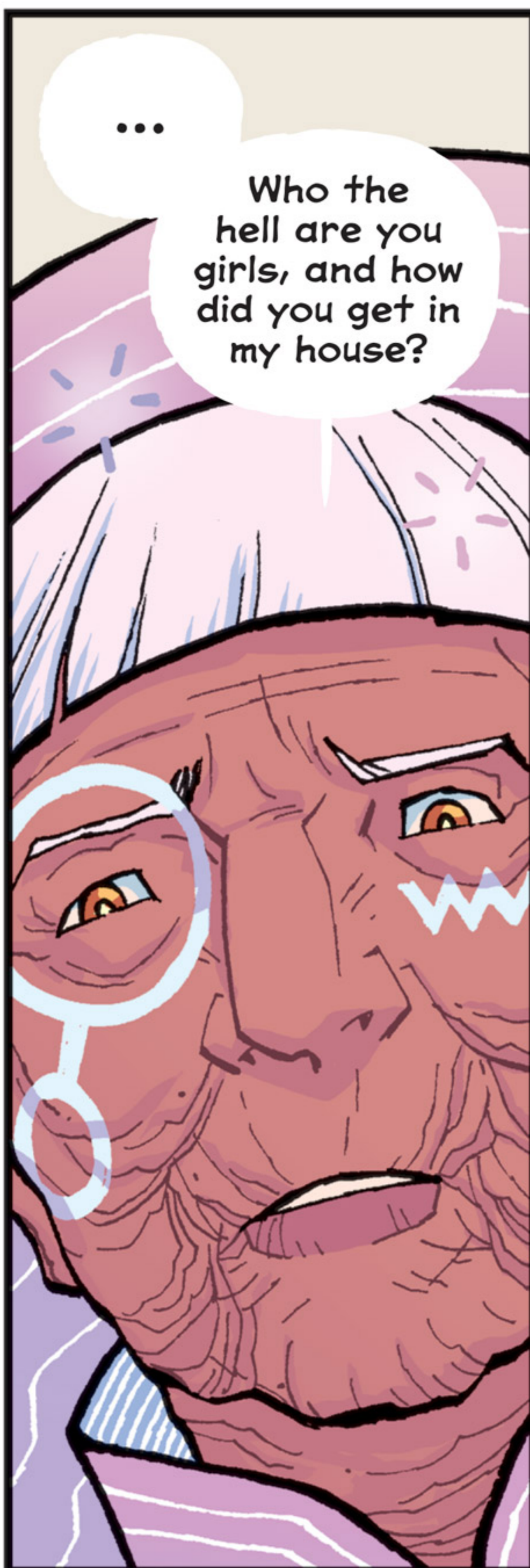
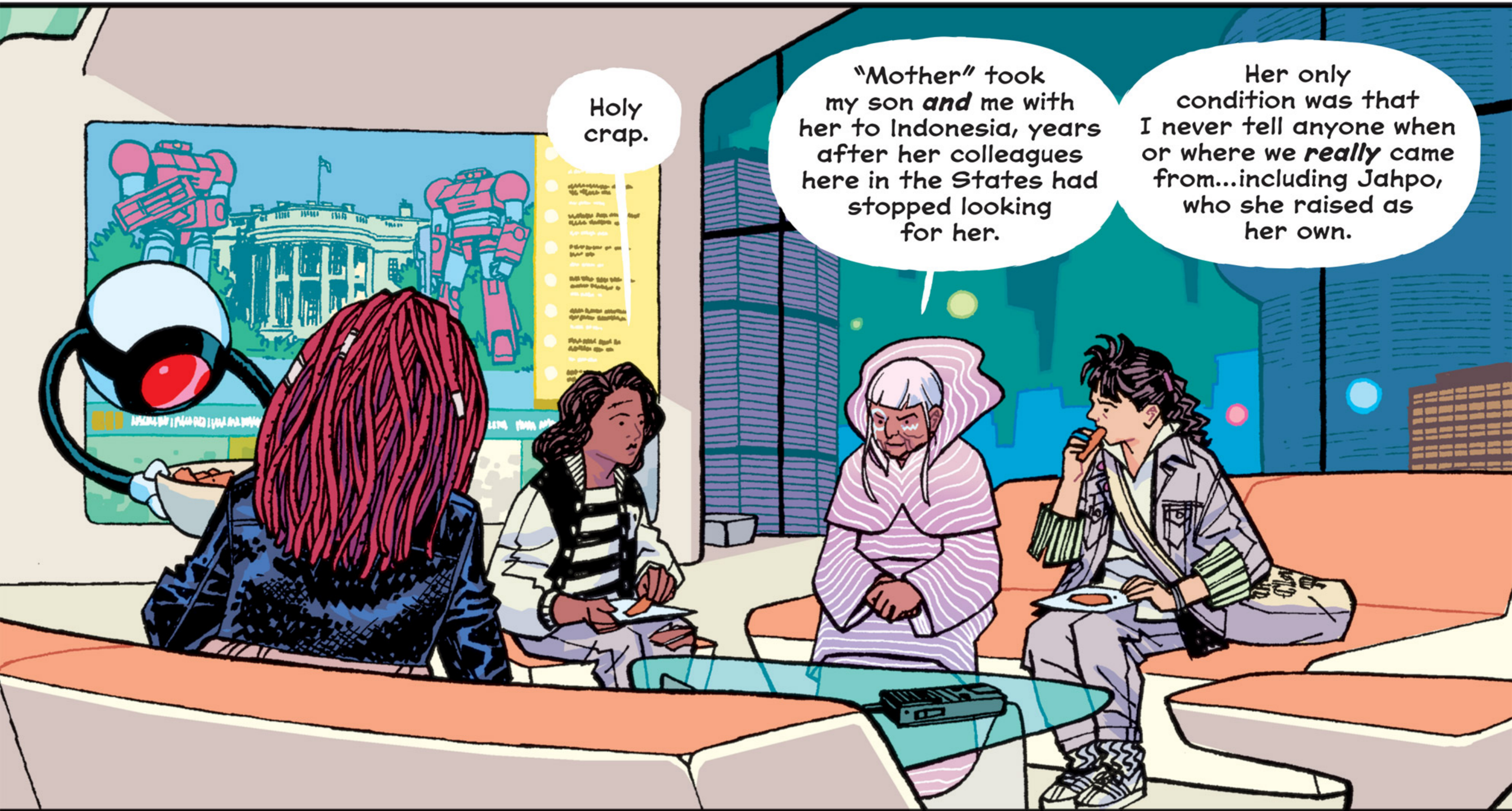


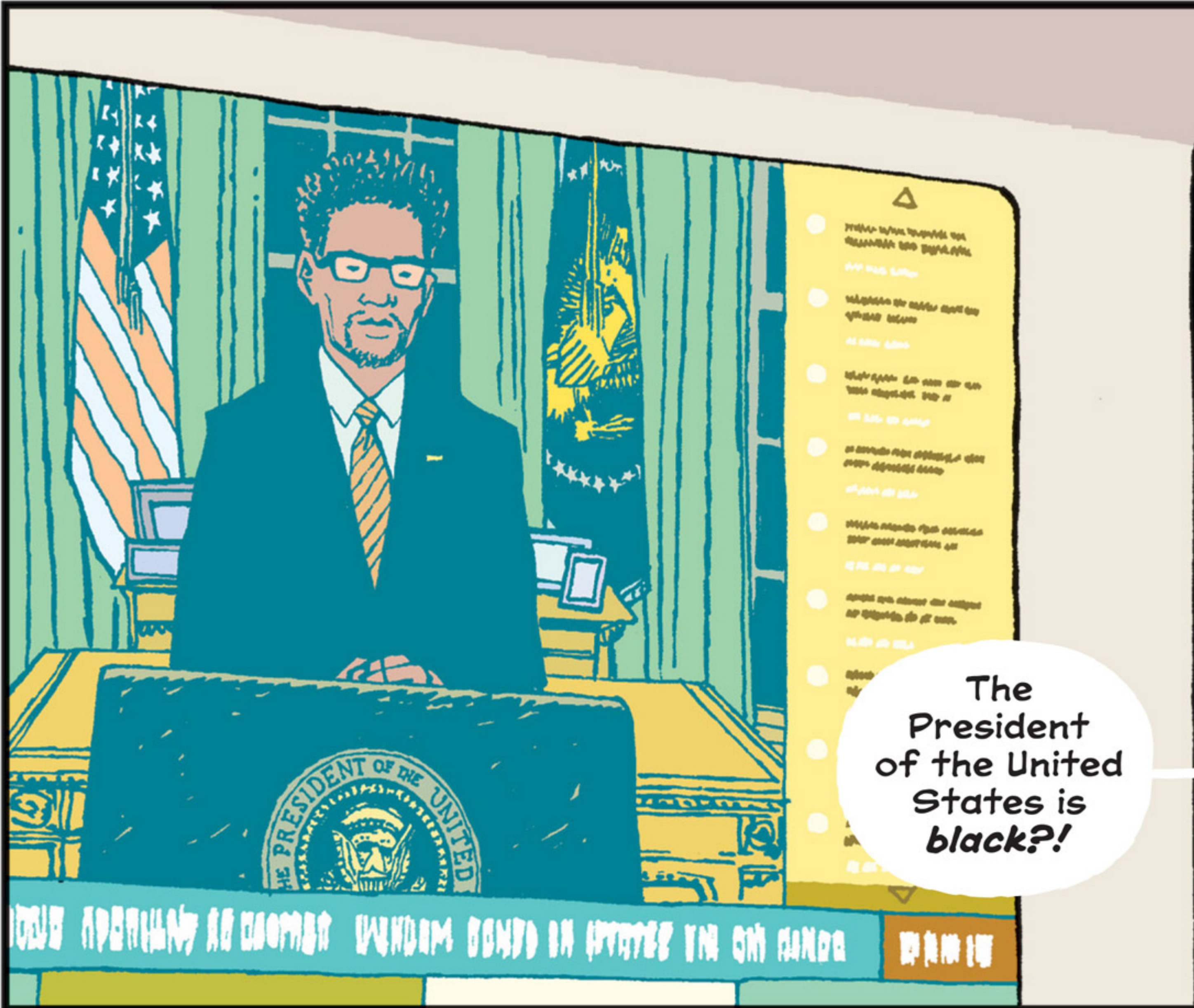
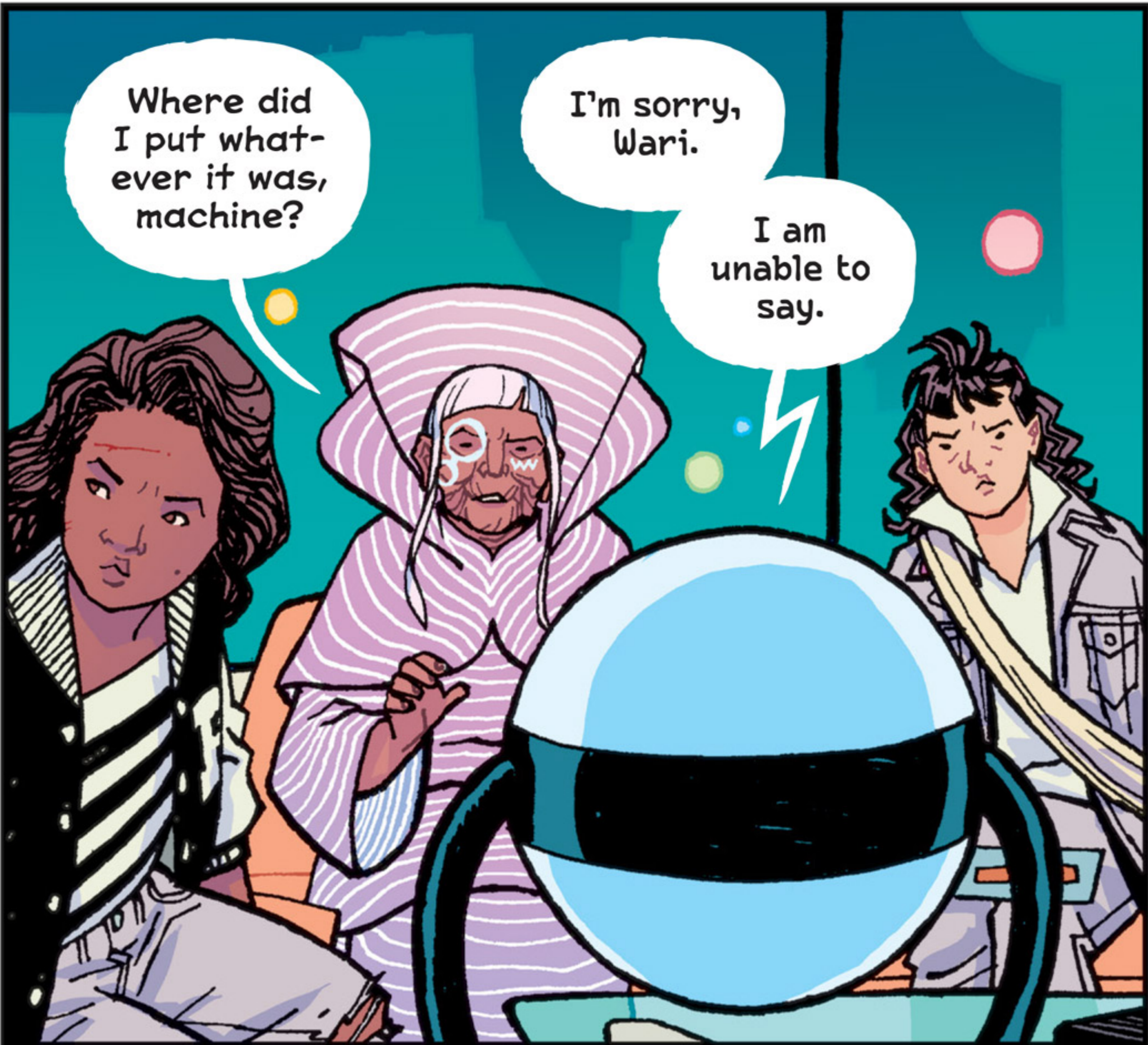
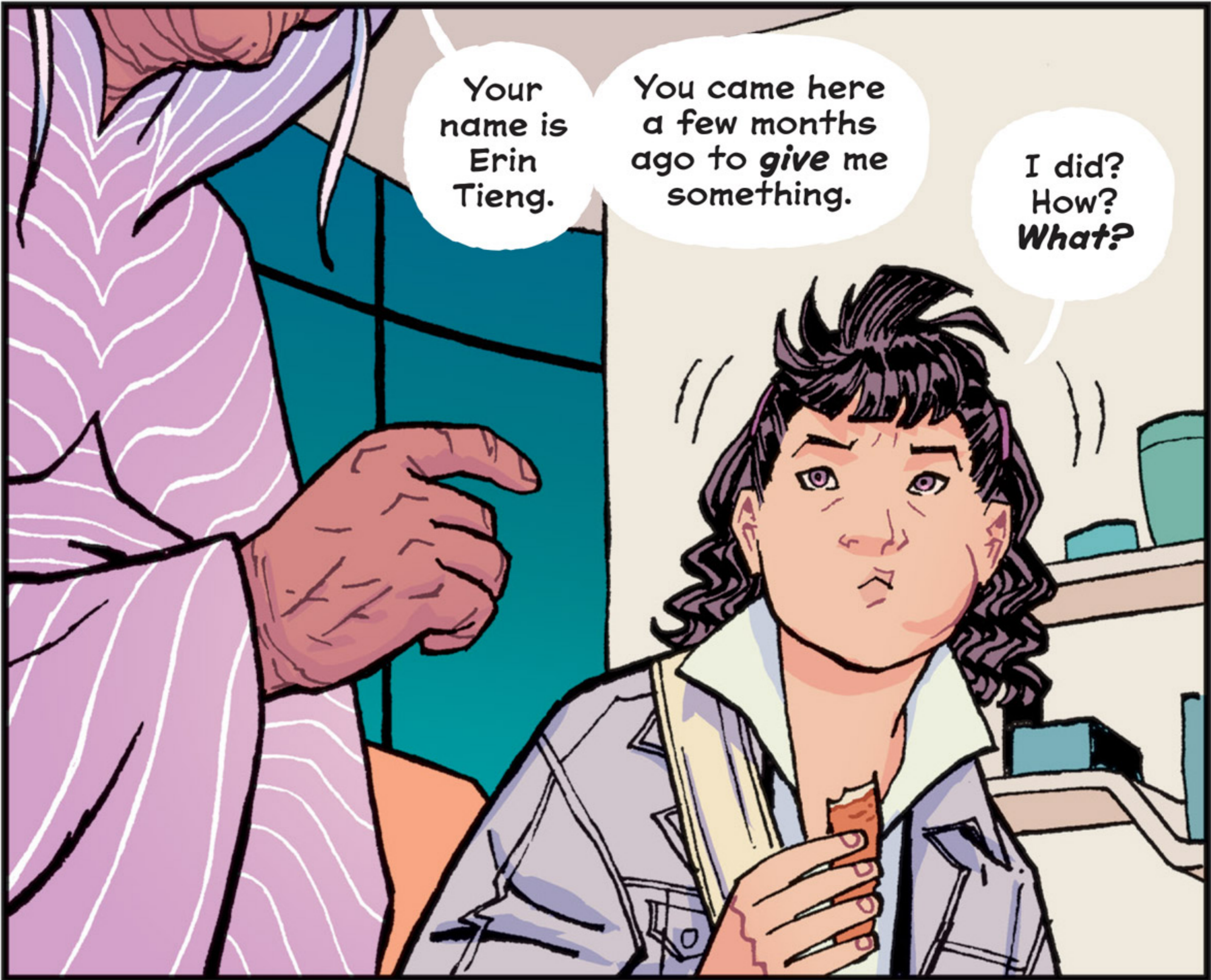
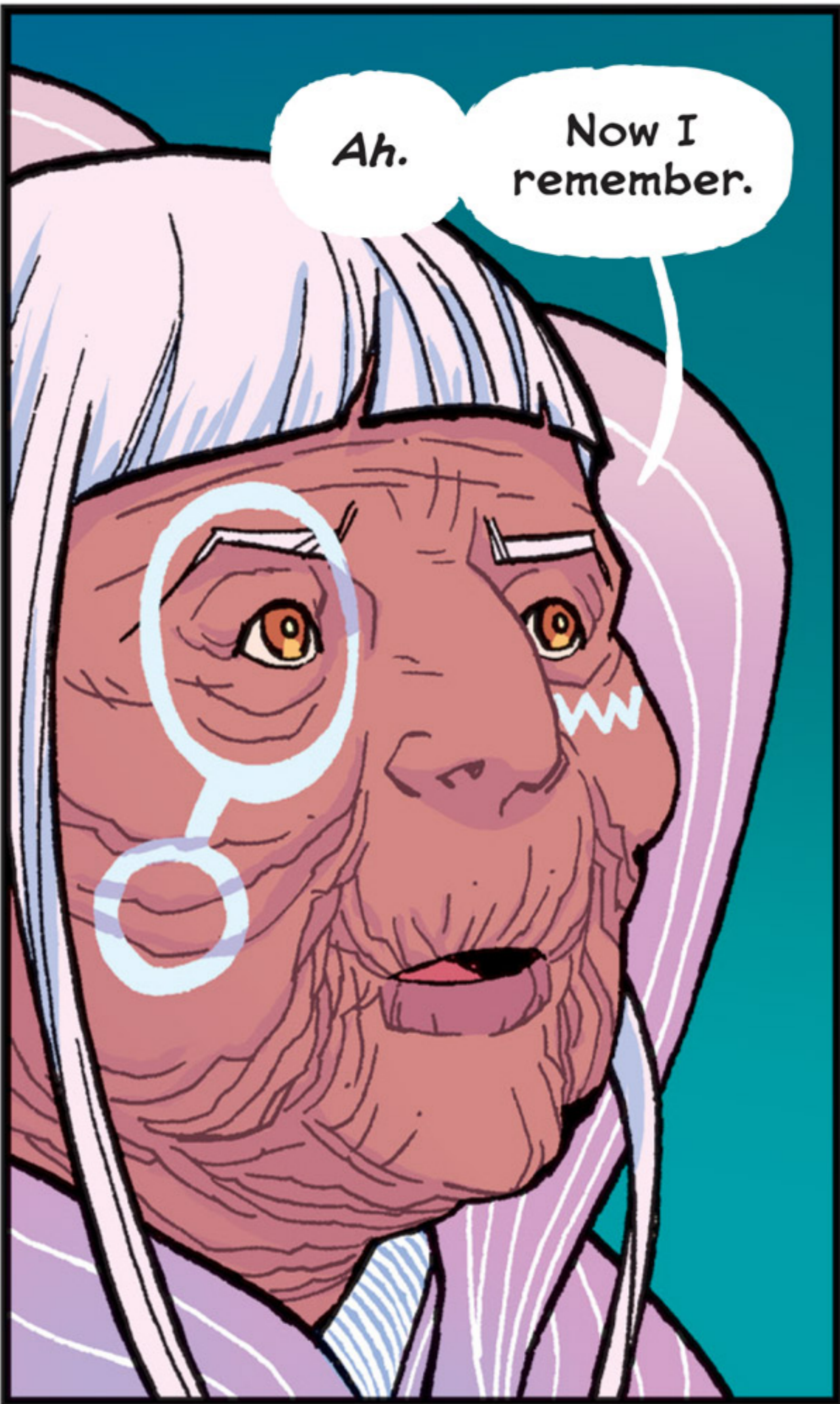
I'm going home!









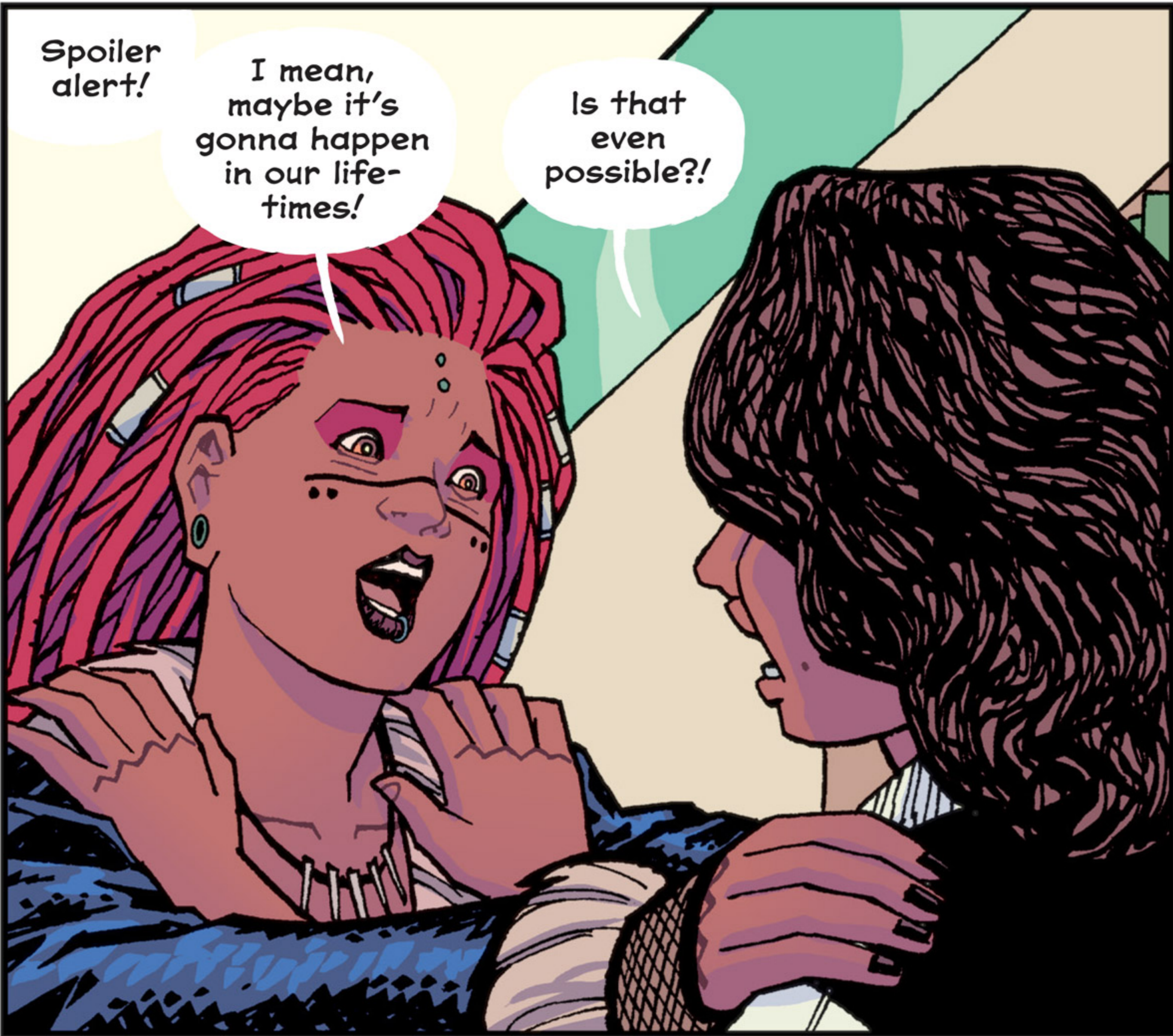




Sure,  
lots of  
'em have  
been.

Are you  
serious?!

Since  
when?!



Spoiler  
alert!

I mean,  
maybe it's  
gonna happen  
in our life-  
times!

Is that  
even  
possible?!



And what is  
a "spoiler  
alert"?!



I know it's  
around here  
somewhere...

≡kzzt≡  
Leonardo,  
come in.  
≡kzzt≡



You  
gotten us  
a ride home  
yet or  
what?

Uh, not  
exactly,  
Raphael.

How are  
you guys  
doing...?



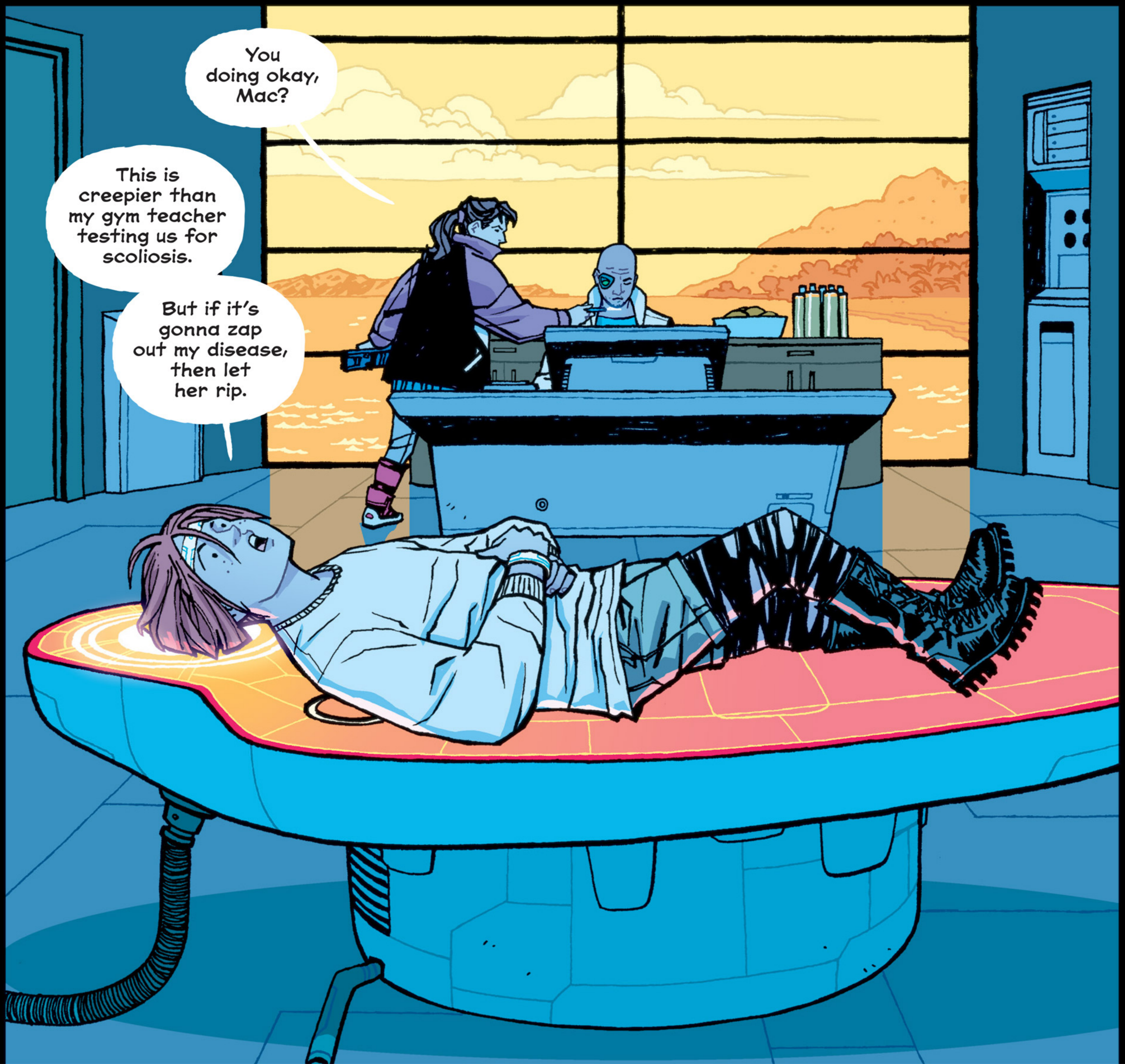
I think we're close to a breakthrough, so step on it.

Over and out.



The...the instruments are primed, miss.

Ready when you girls are.



You doing okay, Mac?

This is creepier than my gym teacher testing us for scoliosis.

But if it's gonna zap out my disease, then let her rip.



You sure this is safe, Doc?

Completely.

After I finish this scan, the Gene-E will eliminate any...



Hmm.



"Hmm?"

What the hell does "hmm" mean?!

This shouldn't be possible...



Is it good news or what?

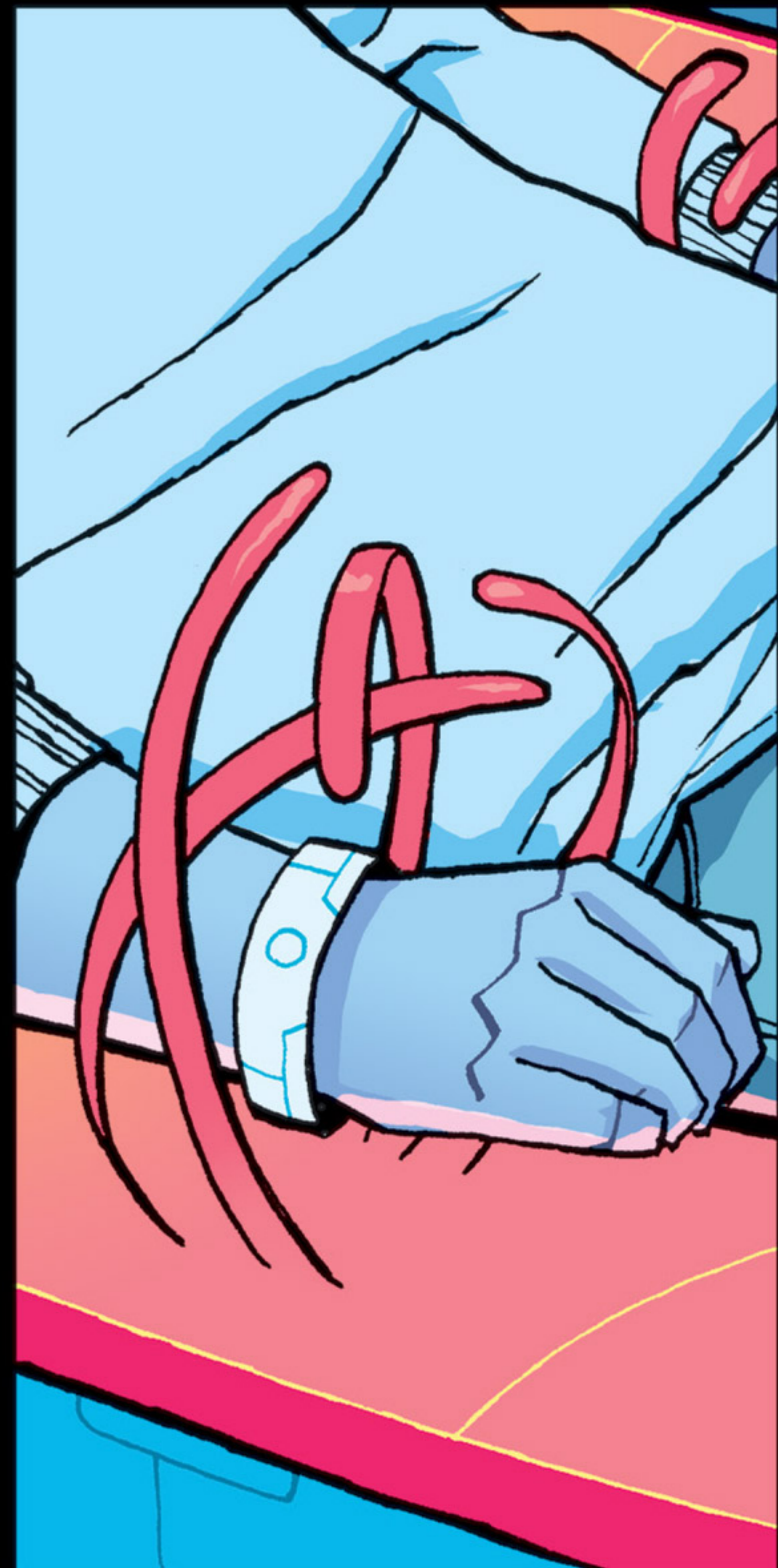
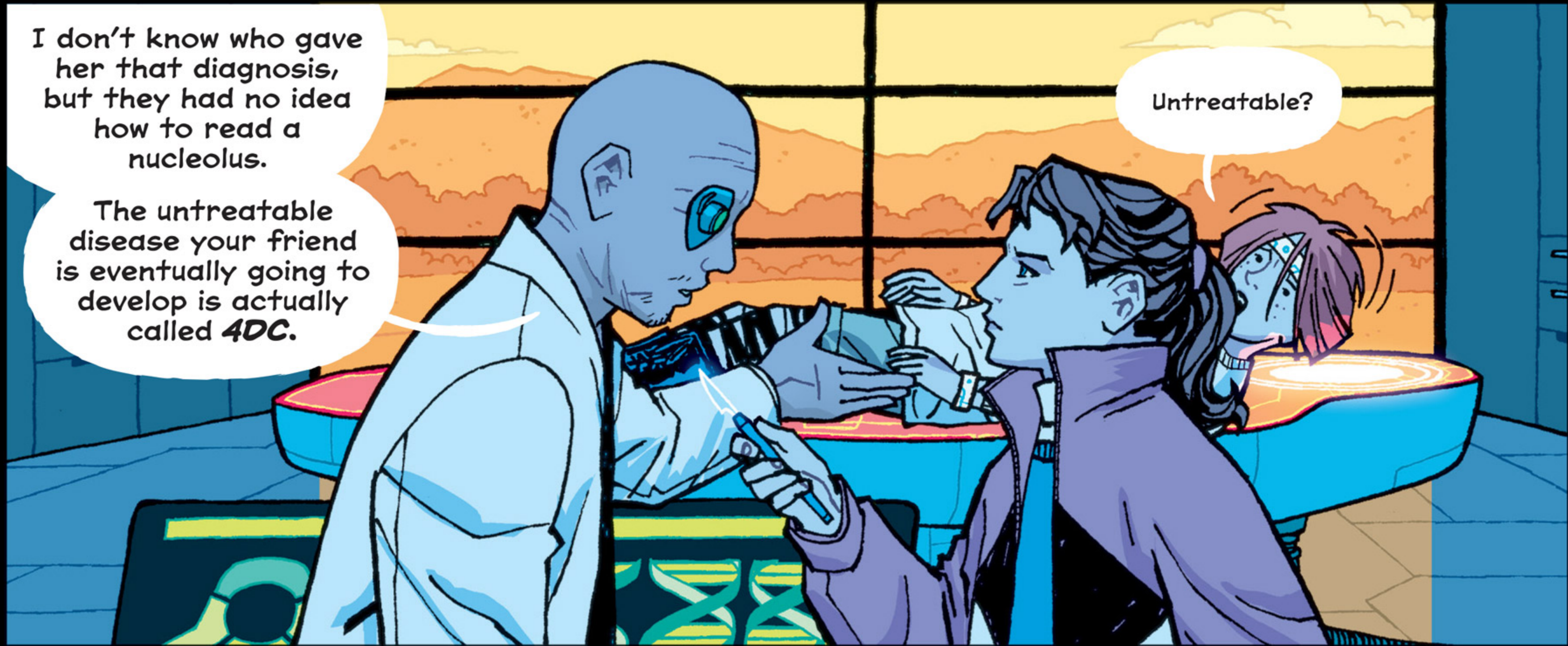
This young woman *doesn't* have leukemia.

She never did, and she never will.



That's... that's *amazing* news.

Right?





Let her go!

I thought you backwater btchz were just immigrants.

But you're *invaders*, aren't you?



Step away from there or you're a dead man!



I already am.

Do you have any idea what WATCH does to people who *help* you whores?

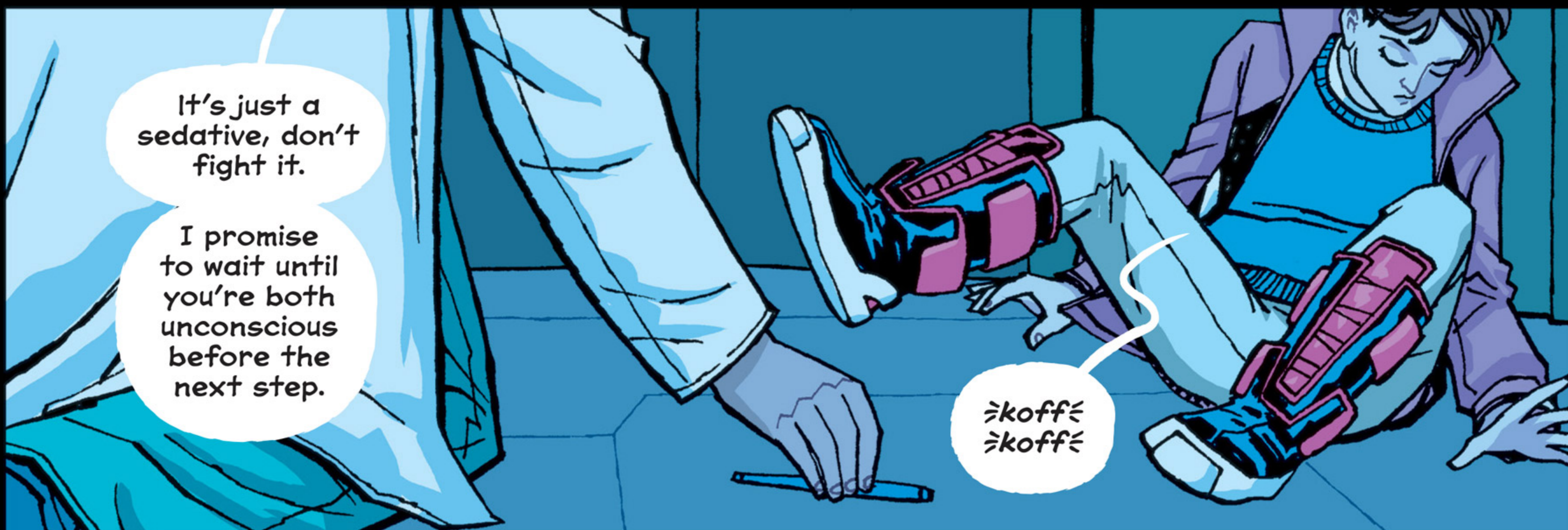


Killing you is my only shot at living.



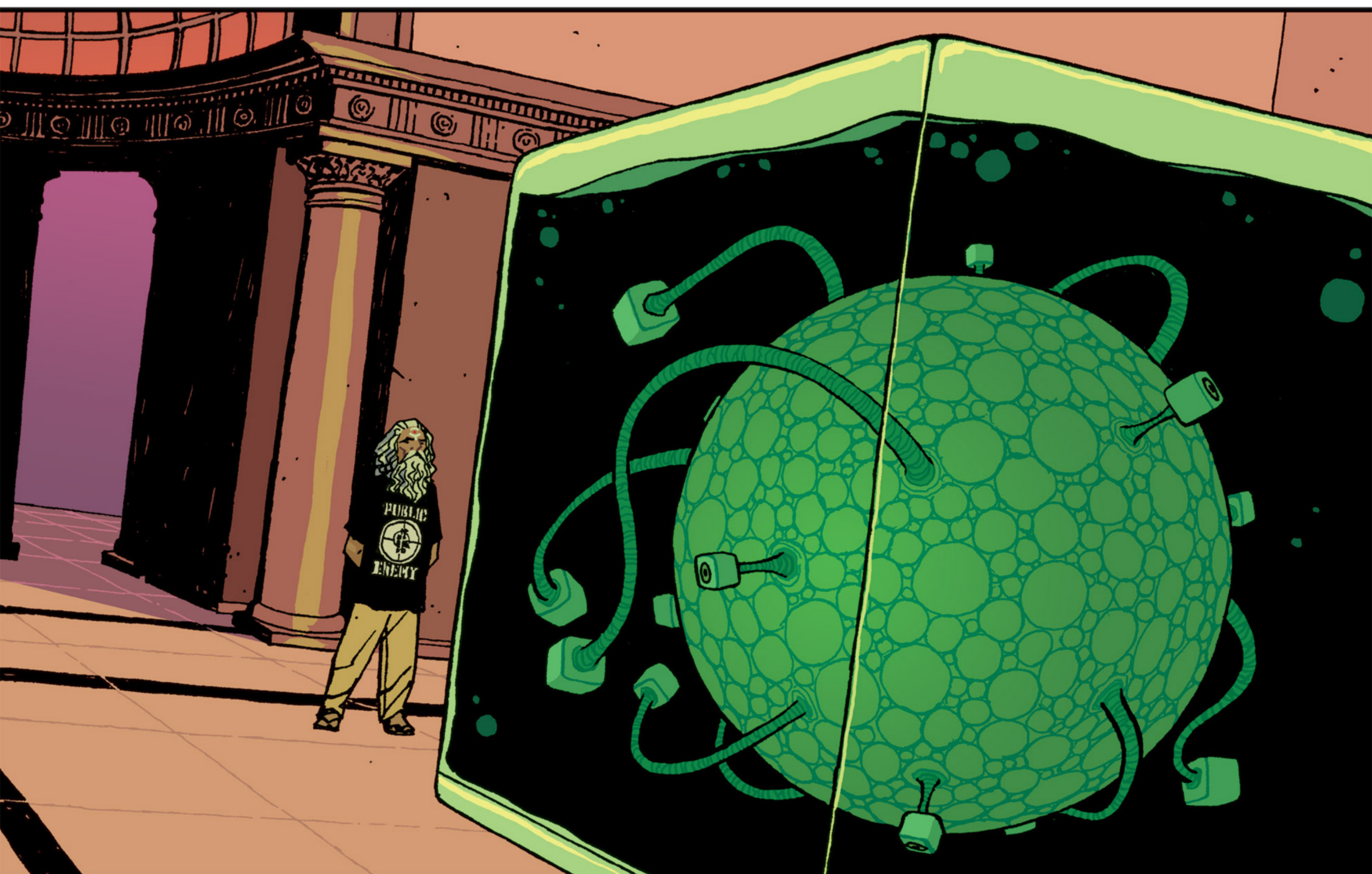
fssssss

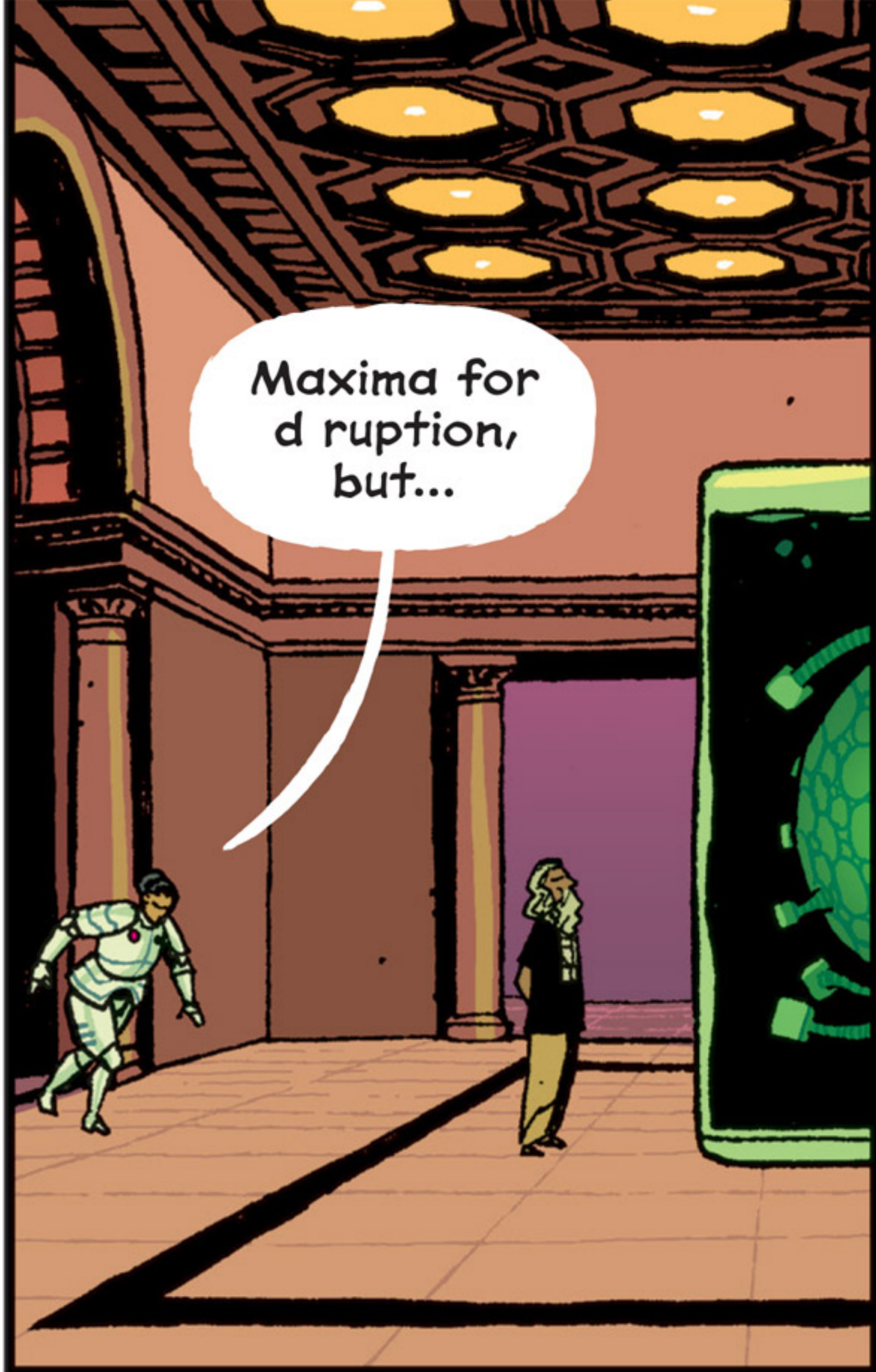
KJ!











Maxima for  
d ruption,  
but...



oh

She  
won't  
bite.

Just tell  
us what's  
happening,  
minus the  
slanguage,  
if you  
please.



Switchboard  
got a call from a  
local physician who  
says he encountered  
two juvenile enemy  
fighters.

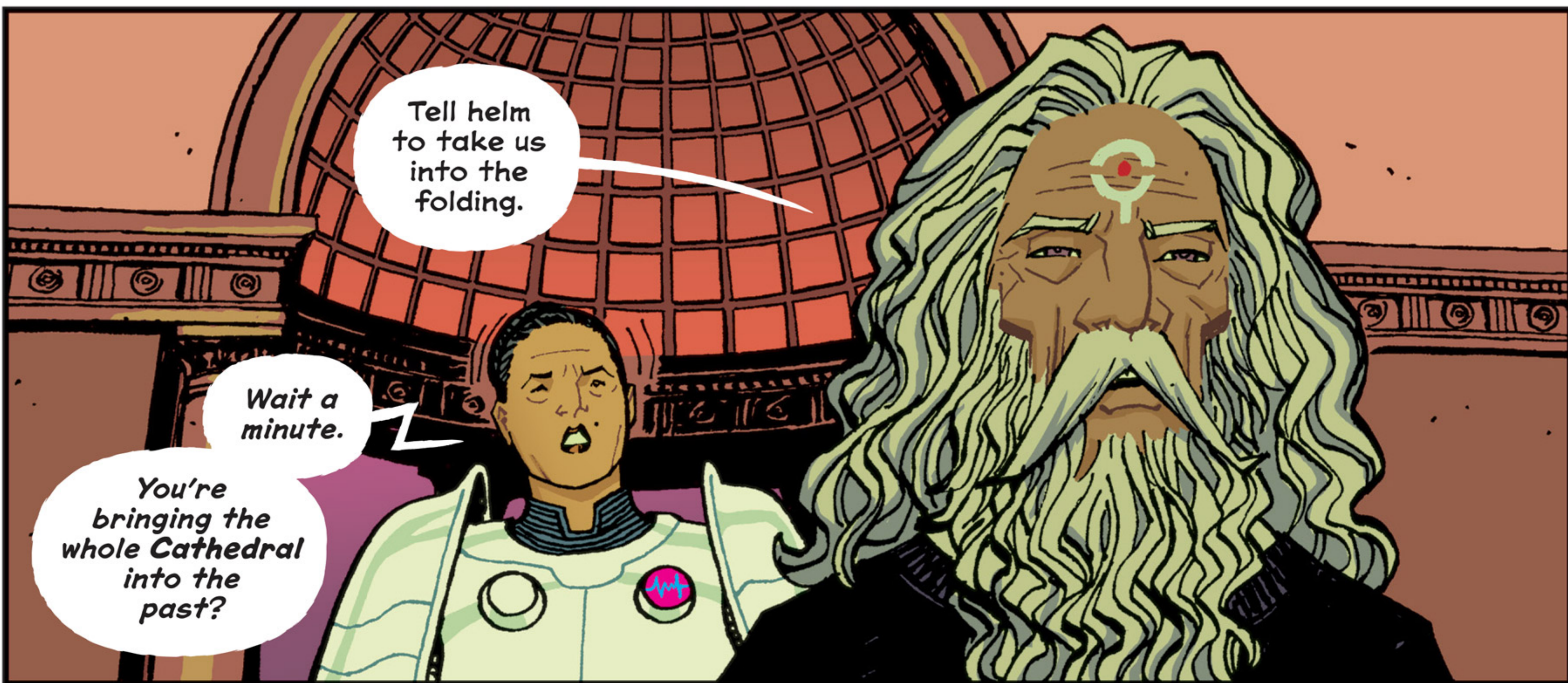
At a hospital?  
Cardinal, how many  
calls a day do we get  
about mentally ill patients  
who think they're  
lost in time?

And I know  
we'd normally kick  
this to the cops, but  
with those teenagers  
still on the loose--



Your best scout  
is confident  
they're all in  
1988.

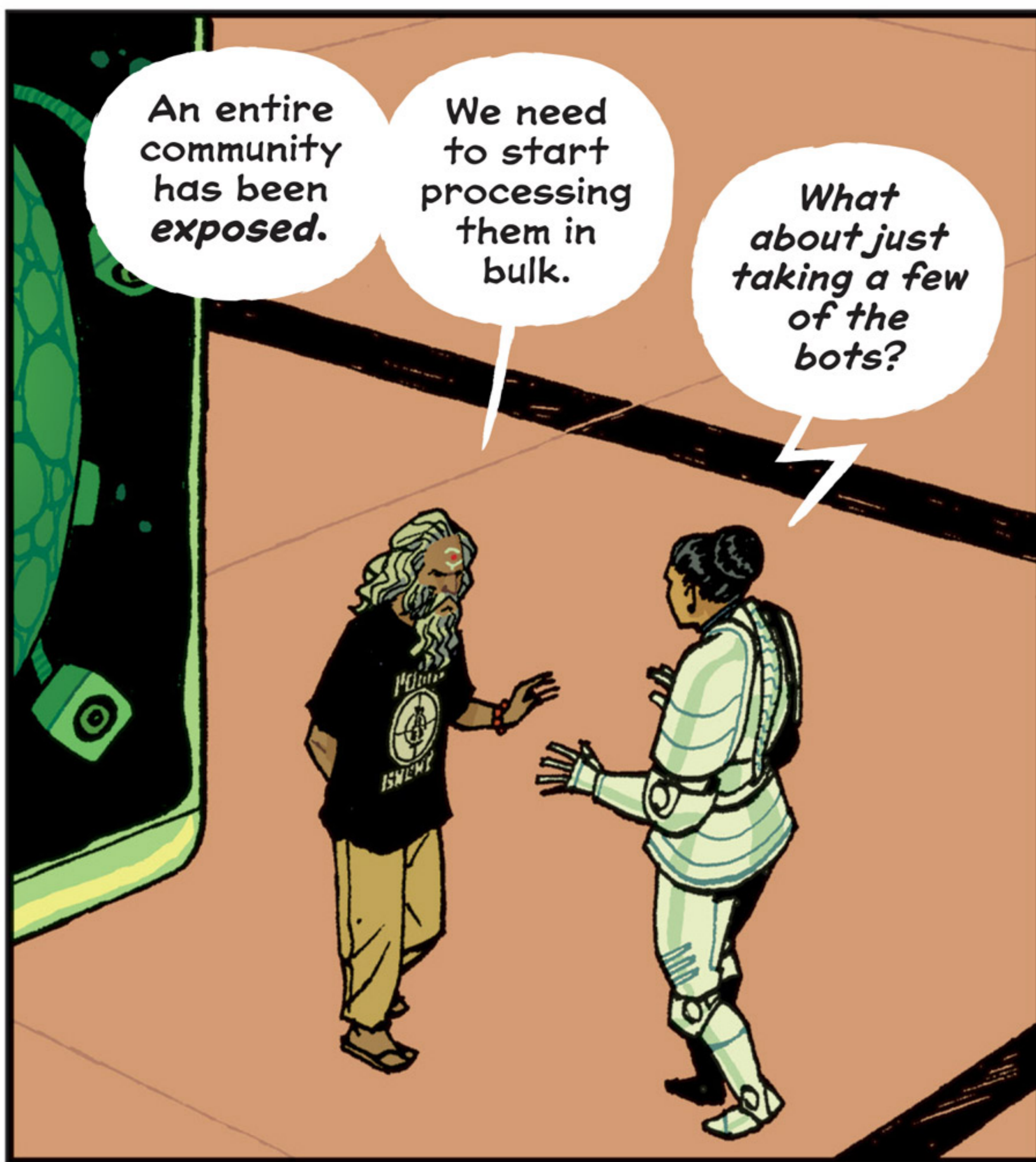
And I'm  
beginning to  
think we should  
join him  
there.



Tell helm  
to take us  
into the  
folding.

Wait a  
minute.

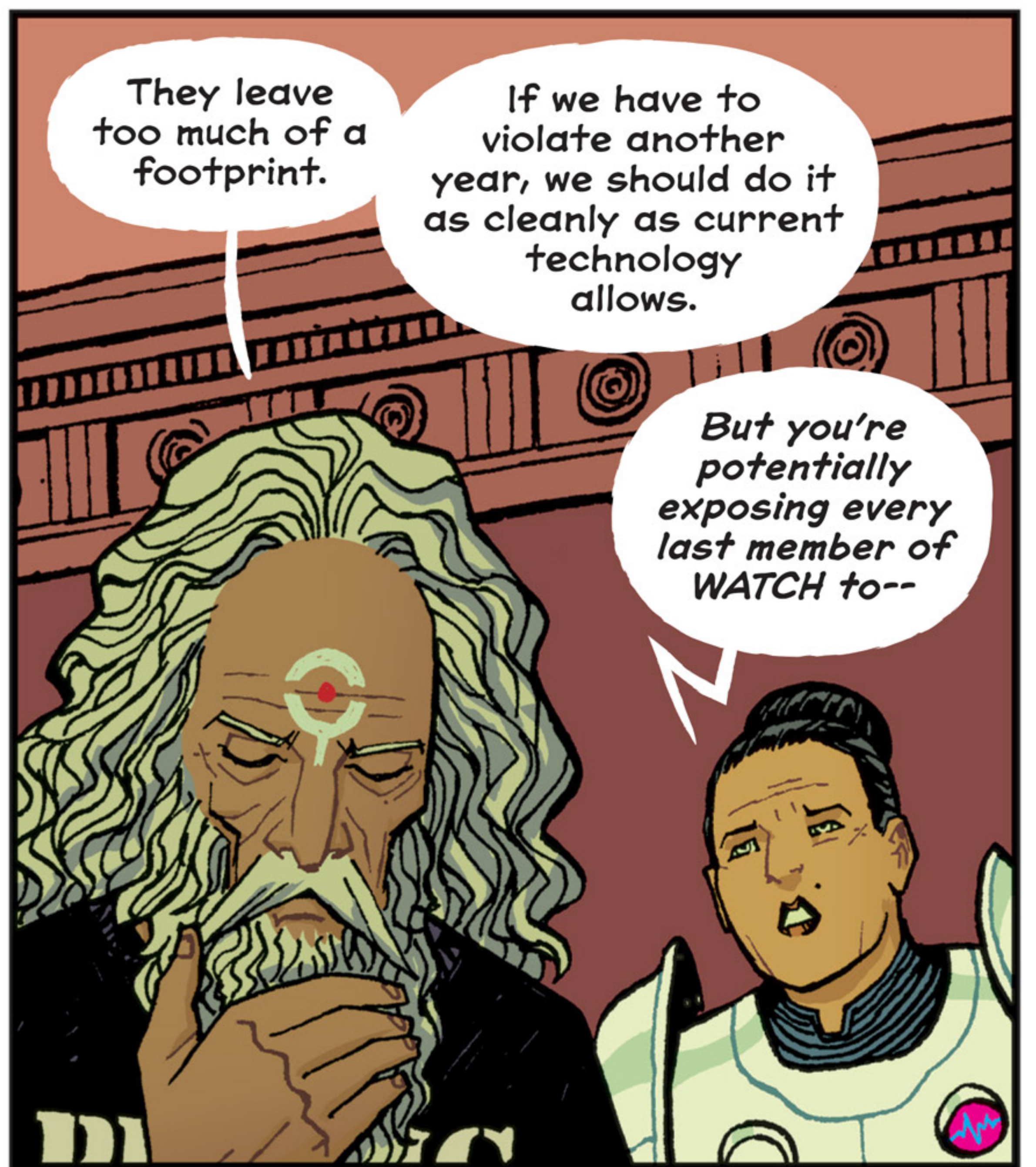
You're  
bringing the  
whole Cathedral  
into the  
past?



An entire community has been *exposed*.

We need to start processing them in bulk.

*What about just taking a few of the bots?*



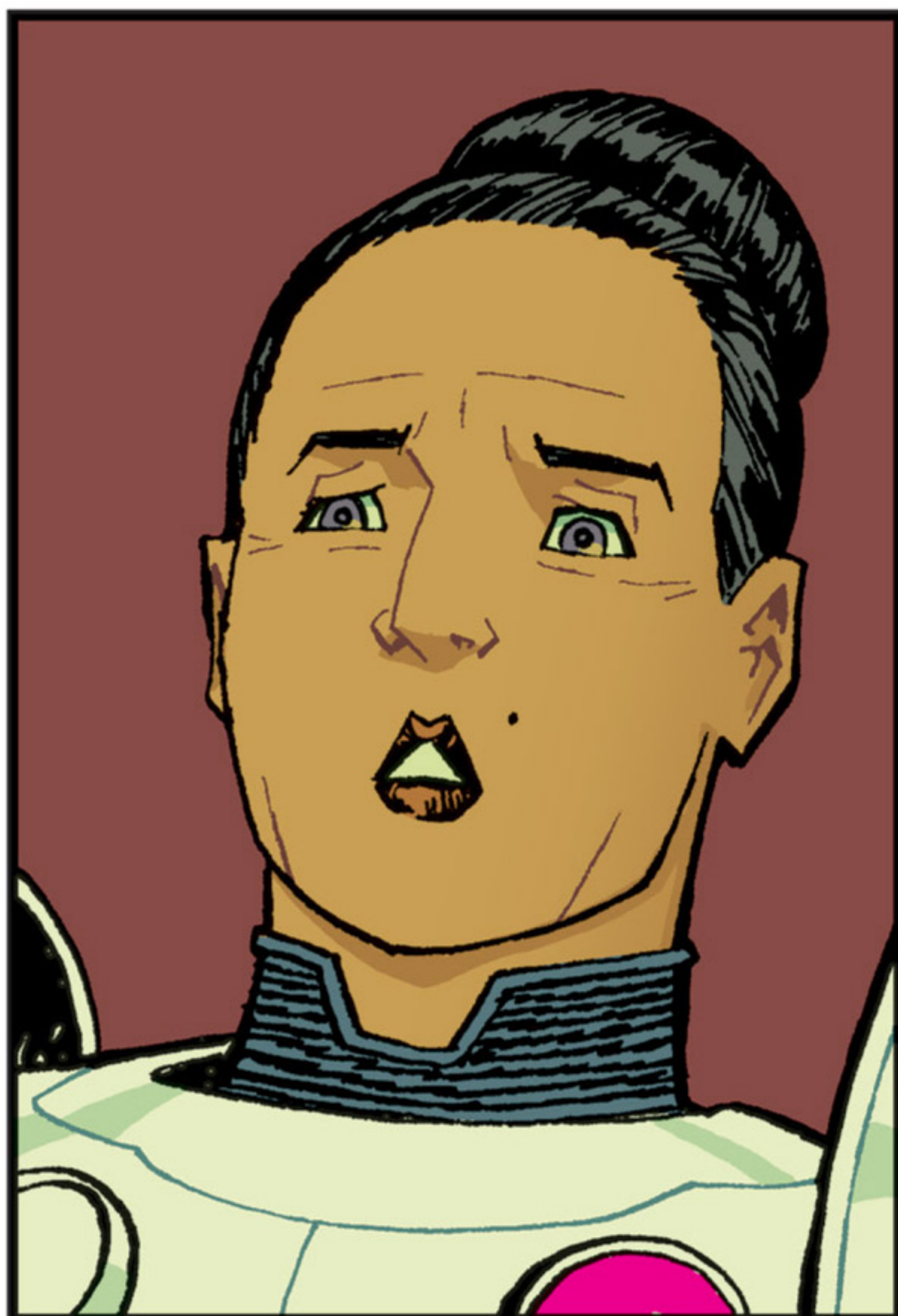
They leave too much of a footprint.

If we have to violate another year, we should do it as cleanly as current technology allows.

*But you're potentially exposing every last member of WATCH to--*



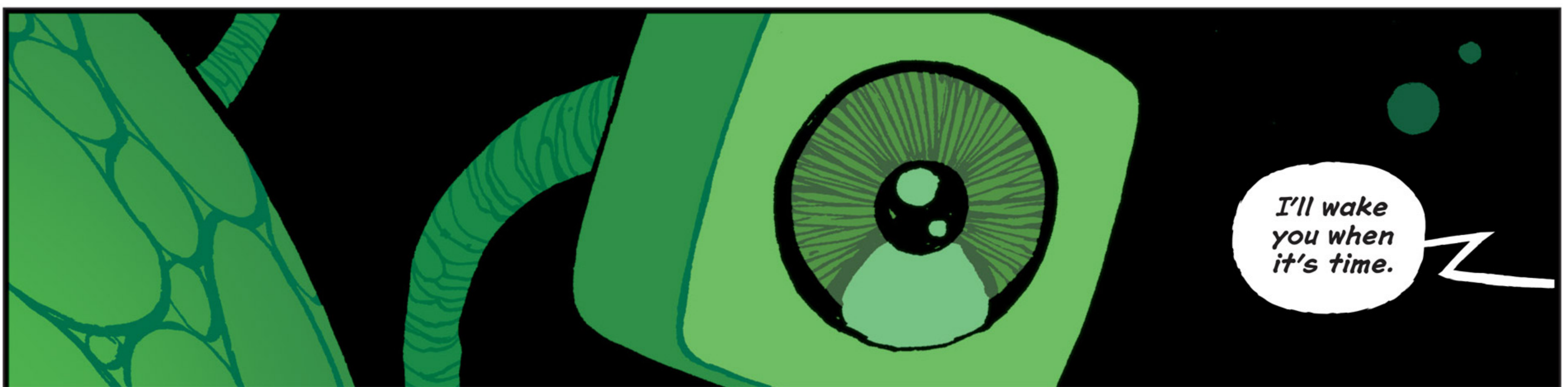
Do you think these things picked me to *listen*?!



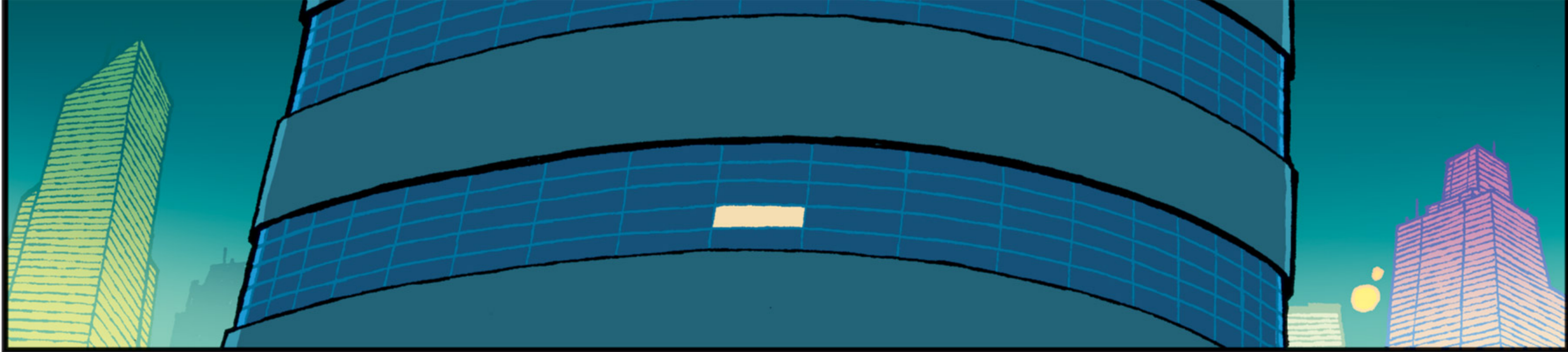
Sorry.

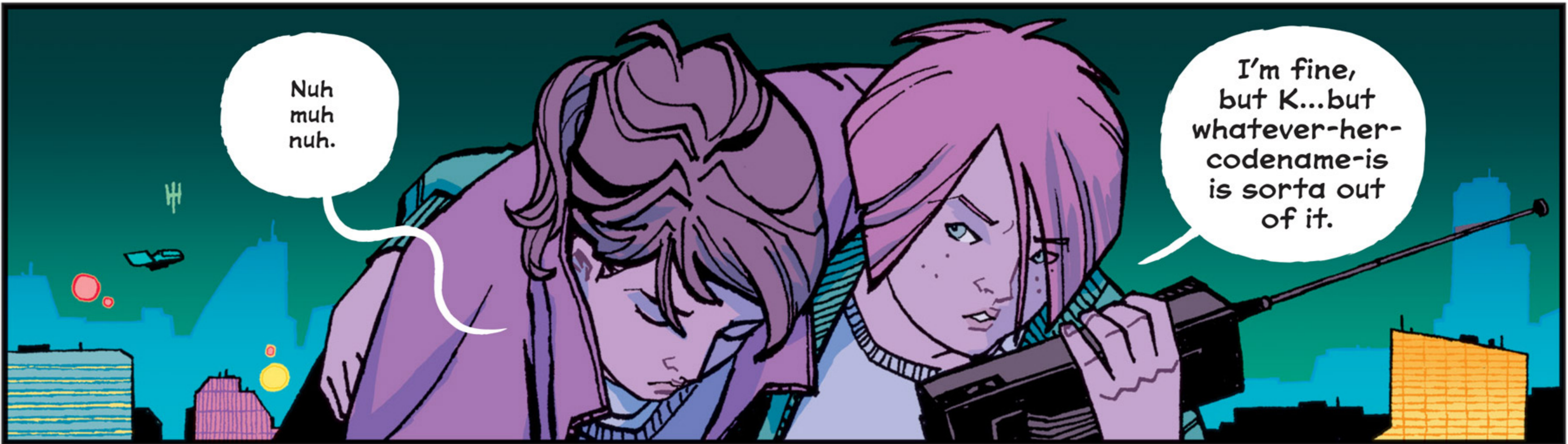
Long day.

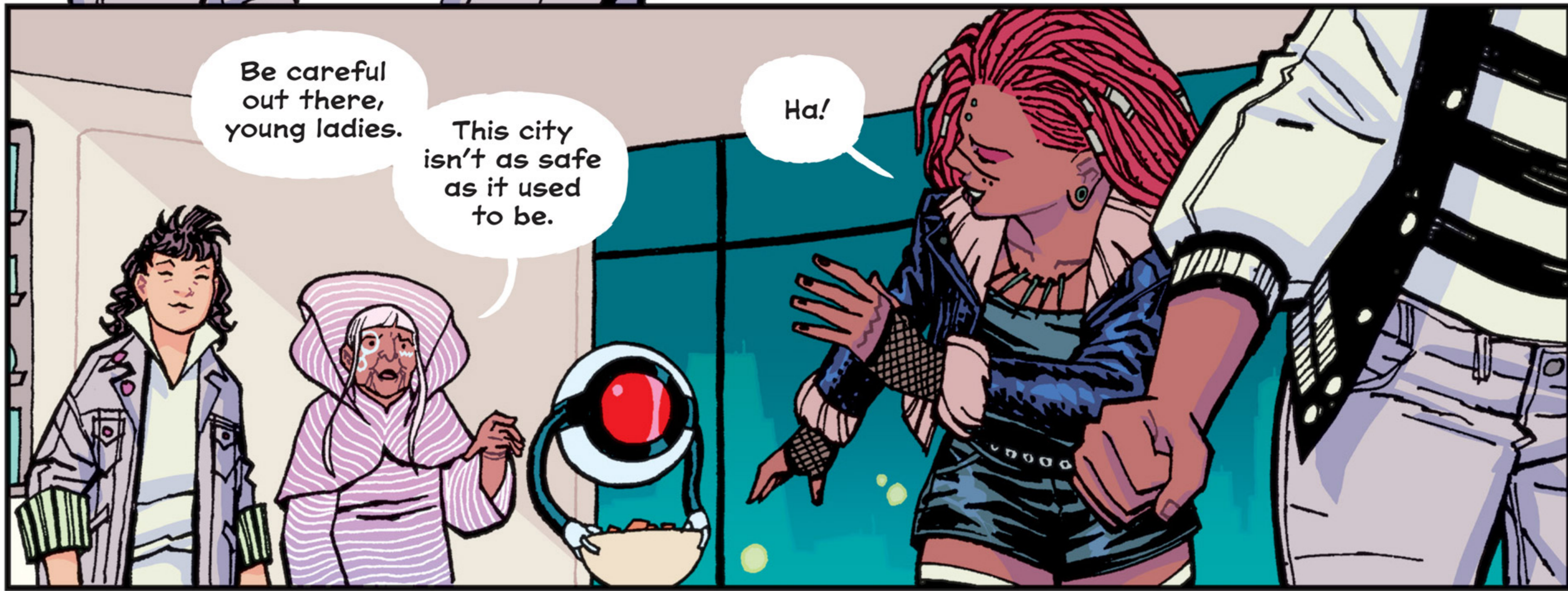
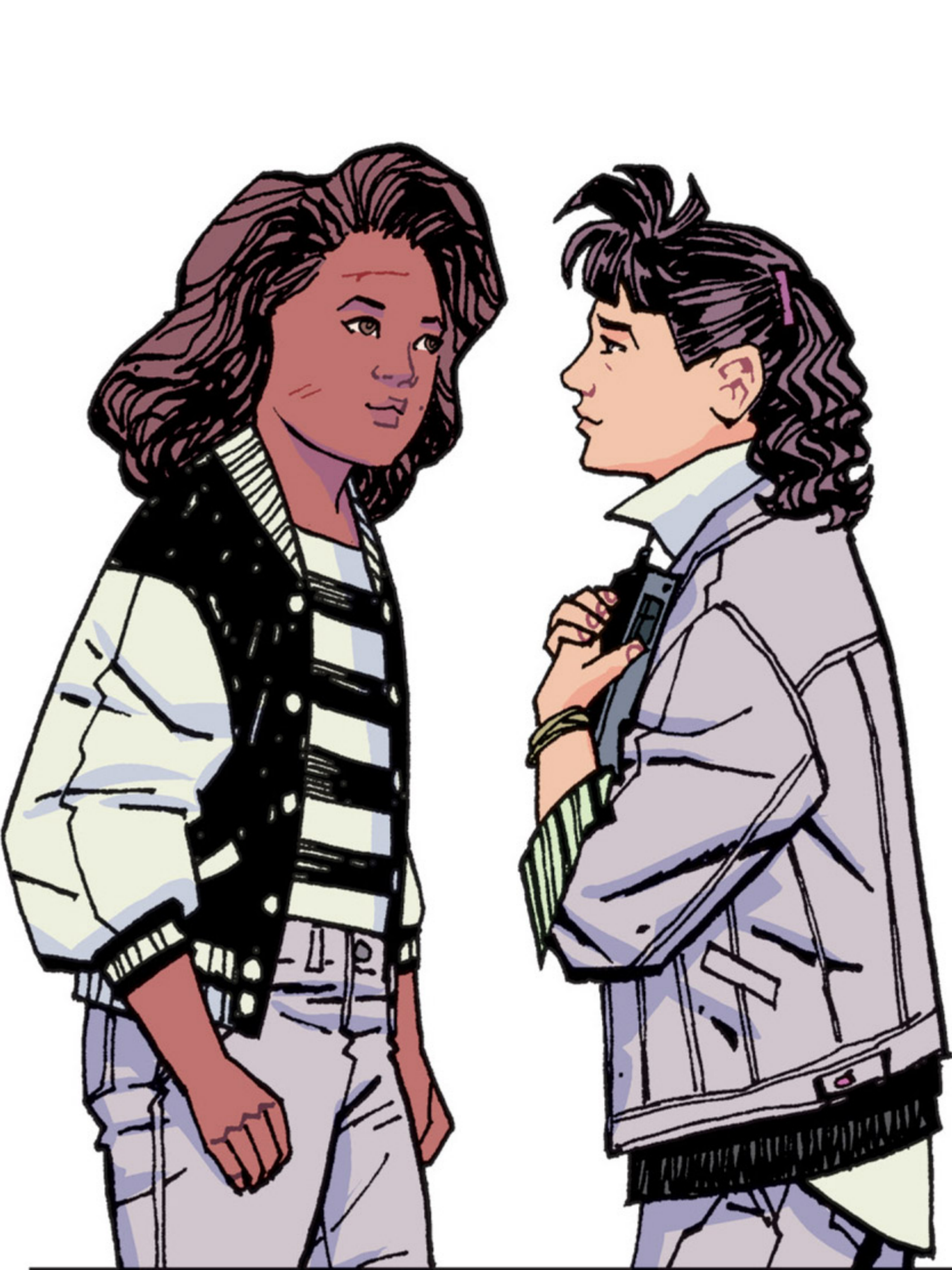
*Why... why don't you get some rest, sir?*

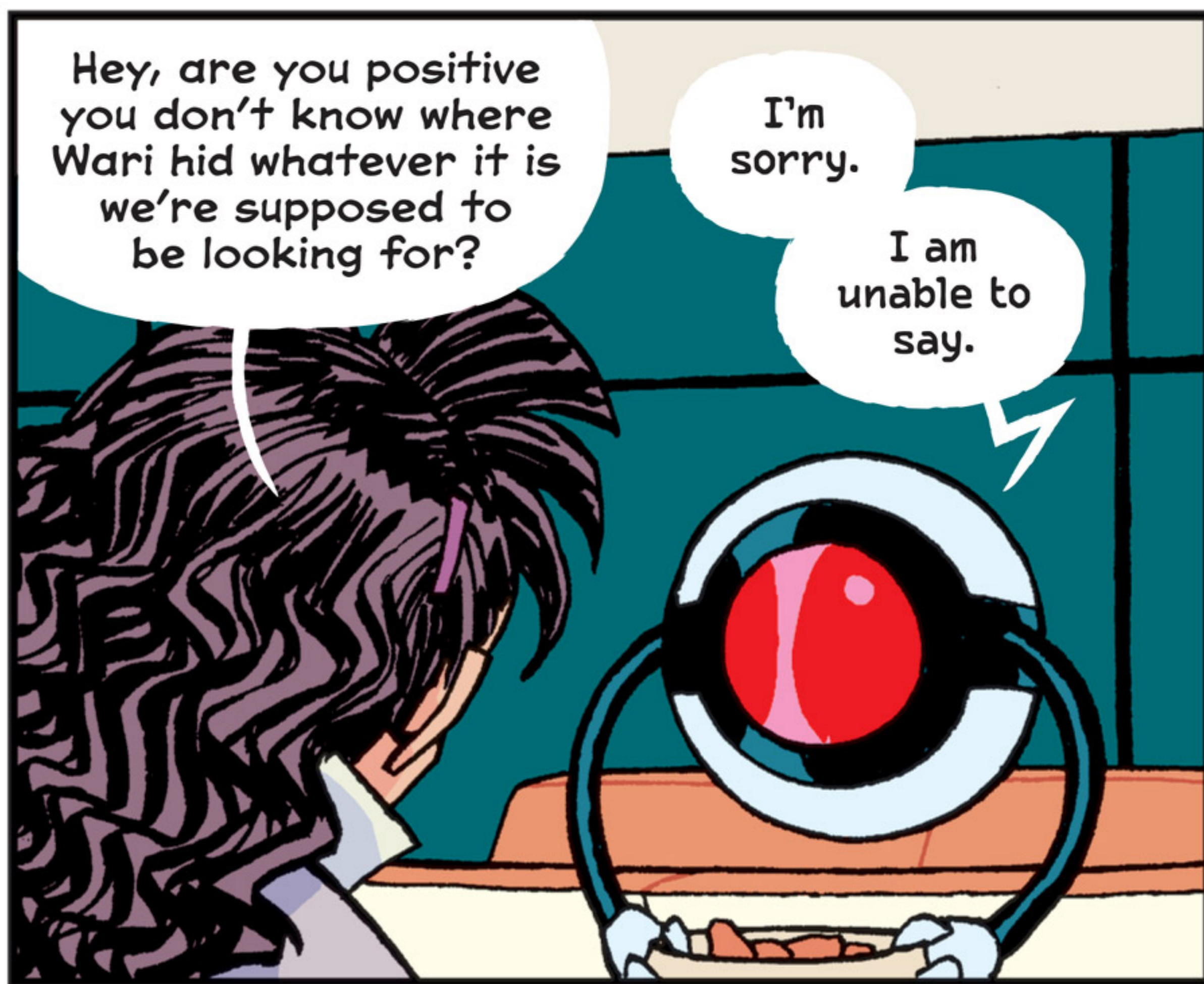
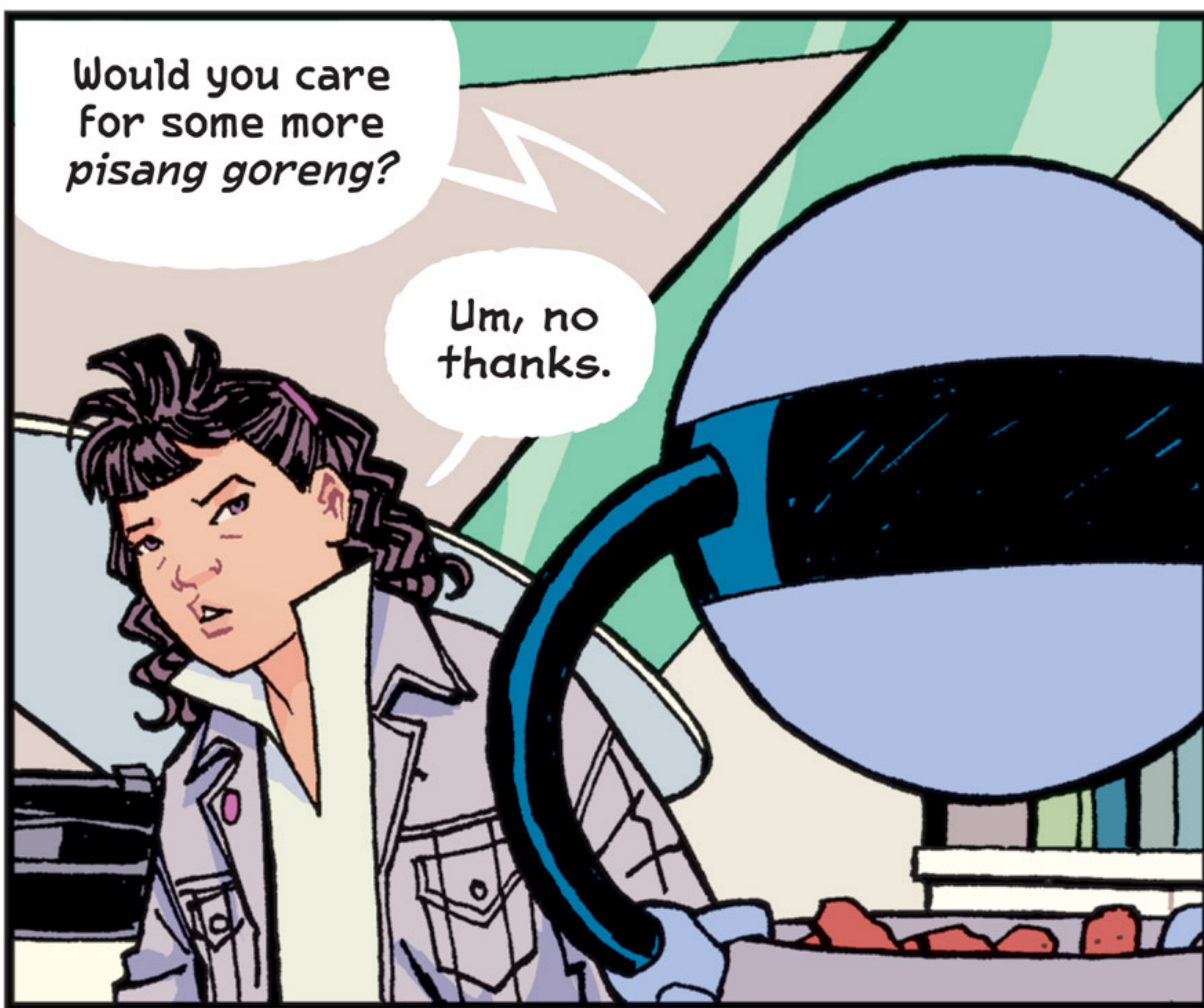


*I'll wake you when it's time.*









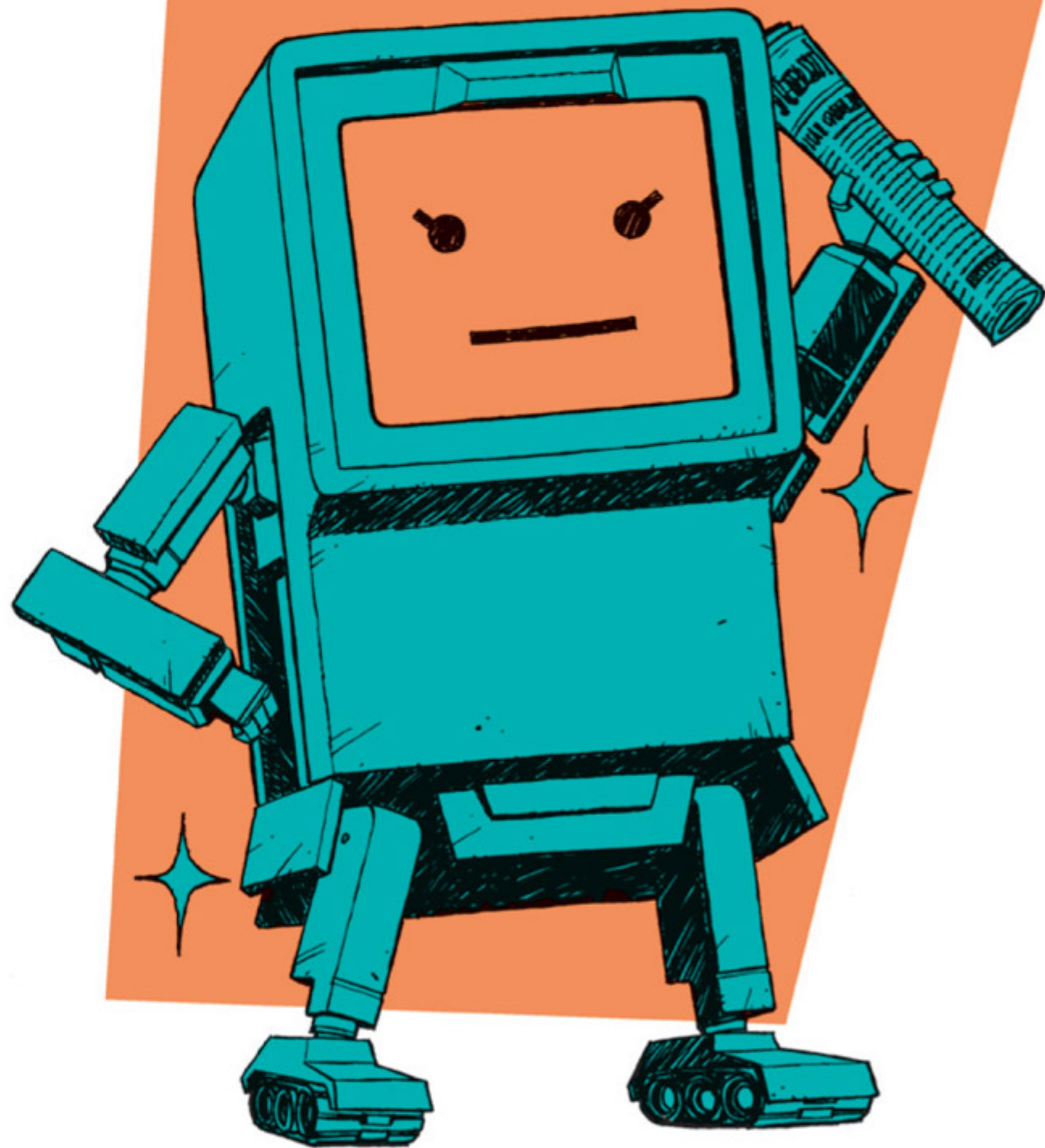


# THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DELIVERY GUILD

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

SINCE 1899!

*HeIIIIlloOoOoOo, fellOw ANDG archeOI OgiSts!*



**DASH-DASH DOT**, Paperbot

*DASH-DASH DOT THE PAPERBOT here, ultra-ULTRA-surprisED 2 learn that d 1st NEWSPAPER DELIVERERER who happened 2b FEMALE didnot Join D ANDG until 0001987?!*

*Cnn-uB-lieve?*

*Nhonor of dese---BZZZZT---PIONEERS, letus open r MONTHly x-PLoration f d PAST witha lookat afew ftheir old-sch00L LETtERs:*



Dear Rita Pearl,

I am loving *Paper Girls*! I so look forward to finding out what time-travelly twists and turns this story is going to take each month.

I was never actually a papergirl, but my first real job was in the periodicals section of a library. Is that close enough for the A.N.D.G.? I'd be honored to be a member!

Thanks!

**Hannah**

Indianapolis, IN

*WhOoooo, Dash-Dash cn only DREAM of 1day workIng in d PERIODICAL SECTION ofa real LIBRARY, allpraise.*

Dear A.N.D.G.,

I never delivered newspapers, but I subscribe to one!

Love *Paper Girls* and I can't wait to read more!

**Jill**

Ames, IA

*Hmm, bittofa STRETCH, Jill from Ames.*

Dear *Paper Girls* Team,

I've been a reader since issue one and have even triple-dipped into the series buying the issues, trade paperbacks and the hard cover volume. I'll admit the story was a bit confusing at the start, but I love how it's all coming together. Just wanted to express my appreciation of the story you are telling. You're probably the strongest creative team at Image right now, and that's saying a lot. Anyway, keep up the great work! I'm looking forward to how this crazy fun ride ends.

Sincerely,

**Cameron L.**

Columbia, SC

*"Triple-dipped"? Owmany TREES had2 DIE 4 dis strAnge-ole Comic SToRY?*

To Rita,

I totally relate to wasting hours of my life on *Arkanoid*.

From,

**Sara**  
La Mesa, CA

*Comeonow, SARA, r National Pasttime cn hardly b ConsiDERed a WASTE!*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very grateful to have finally received an official A.N.D.G. card inside of the S.A.S.E. I sent your organization, but mine was made out to a boy named "Aaron," and I am actually a girl named "Erin."

Even though my Dad says it's a waste of a stamp, I'm sending you a second envelope in the hopes that I could please receive a corrected replacement card. If so, I promise to destroy the first (incorrect) card that you sent.

Thank you, and I am proud to (hopefully) be part of your guild.

Sincerely,

**Erin T.** (Age 12)  
Stony Stream, OH

*Dash-Dash 1ders ifdis poor Girl ever got what shewas Looking 4?*

Dear Rita Pearl,

I'm probably a little old (not to mention, male) to be a papergirl, but I love your book. Thanks for the great stories and work you're creating.

Sincerely,

**birdpony**  
Chattanooga, TN

*NeverFear, r herStorical group someTimes enjoys learning about u PAsT BOIS, 2, especialwhen U have niceNames like BIRDPONY.*

Hello Rita!

While I'm sending an envelope to join the Guild, I figured I'd also fill

it with some thoughts—basically a freebie since the stamp is getting used anyway...

I've recently hung family pictures in our house, and had a chance to look at people who've been gone for some time, or versions of people I love from when we were all younger. *Paper Girls* uses that time displacement as a plot, but I've enjoyed the series most when it has given the girls glimpses of their future selves, such as Tiffany meeting her adult self. It alludes to the nostalgia of the past, but it also makes each version consider who they are and try to reconcile that with the other. I've thought about that myself at times, as I have so much more compassion for my teenage self than I ever had to give myself at the time. And while I also think teenage me would be glad with most of my current life, I'm sure there are some aspects that look alien and potentially impossible without the intervening decades.

Overall, I appreciate how in the genre of science fiction, both *Paper Girls* and *Saga* have such resonance with being human. That additional effort in writing makes these series stand out, and I'm sure it's what creates such devotion among their readers. Looking forward to all the versions of these characters to come!

**Brian W.**  
Colorado Springs, CO

*And boisLike BRIAN W. ere sure didseem NiCe, n0?*

Dear Rita,

I was really blown away by the final two panels of issue #21. I've loved the series from the start and Mac is my favorite character, so it was really great to see her get a theoretical win.

So in her honor, I ordered the official Mac shirt from Threadless. It came yesterday and it's perfect!

I don't have a paper delivery job

story to share, but I did stuff a lot of quarters into the old video game "Paperboy." I wonder what scores our girls would have gotten on that one?

Again, really enjoying the series,

**Mike A.**  
Richmond, VA

*AccoRding 2my Digi-Records, MIKE A. is d only writerEver 2b featured n past-rioticals SAGA, WE STAND ON GUARD n PAPER GIRLs. dSpite his own Cancer, r filEs show MIKE A. wiTha LONG n HAPPY LiFe.*

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

Keep up the good work! I should note that your new outfit looks fantastic. I didn't know you had two piercings per ear—hope it didn't hurt much.

I wanted to say I really enjoyed *Paper Girls* #20. It's the only book that I pick up monthly without fail. Issue #20 had a few pages of dialogue between time-travelers Heck and his friend, so it took longer to decipher what they were saying. Do you understand their language or do you decode it?

I've found myself more intrigued with the Grand Father and his history, especially with the death of Prioress. That first page with the photos really held my attention. Grand Father got to ride on a T-Rex! Who is that woman in the black hat? I hope to find out in future issues.

It brings me joy that I can share *Paper Girls* with my two boys – Ethan and Max. They thoroughly enjoy the art and story. They keep asking me all kinds of questions, which I can't always answer, but we always have fun talking about it. *Paper Girls* stimulates their curiosity while encouraging them to read—a double-win! I even explained to them what periods are, which totally impressed mom. Lastly, decoding the language is

always a blast with the boys.

I already have my A.N.D.G. membership, so I'm sending a request for my boys. Rita, they would love to be a part of the guild (as a bonus it gives them something to put in their Velcro wallets other than *Dragon Ball* stickers).

Mahalo and Aloha,

**Nathan Z.**  
Honolulu, HI

*NathAn, 4 discUssing d MenstuRal Cycle with ur Comic-reading jung1s, Dash-Dash retr0-Activiley names U FATHER OF CENTURY.*

Hi *Paper Girls*!

I love your comic, it is so well-executed and original. Even though I was never a paperboy, and had no peers, I can relate. The wonderful art and great colors support the story so nicely, and all the other things that help produce an affordable quality comic are amazing! Time travel usually confuses me, but I do think I understand most of the mechanics here. The idea of your placement in space when "time traveling" is not something I had thought of before. Cool!

Your letter section is far-out, too! I always enjoy the letters (especially those in old comics), and your section is no exception. From the super-sweet Rita, to Pessimistic Pete, and now you seem to have reached a calm in-between with your modern Rita. I squealed when I saw your story bleed into the letter area, so fun! You have confused me, and I've worked through my initial distress when you immortalized "XXXXX" in your dear book. The escapist in me wants nothing to do with a reality I would never choose. That being said, I am grateful to creative people like you all. I have never written a comic, although I have collected all my life. Thank-you for inspiring me with what

amounts to real storytelling!

**Tom W.**  
Indianapolis, IN

*4give d EDIT, butdis TOM W. letter named He Who Shall Not B.*

Shalom Rita Pearl, Petey Roy, and the whole PG Team,

Enclosed are two copies of my alma mater U of Pittsburgh's satire newspaper, *The Pittiful News*! For the better half of my undergrad I did exhaustive journalism about hot topics: a street couch's journey to a new, dirtier home; the pun-busting team of 5th year heroes, The Super Senior Justice League. But the best part was always distribution, 11am-1pm one Friday a month in front of the Cathedral of Learning, trying desperately to convince people that we weren't handing out propaganda or religious tracts—and later realizing that claiming we were doing just that generated far more attention!

The two editions here (clean issues, not salvaged from trash cans) include a two-part saga, all true, of how I entered into this nearly identical parallel universe. Check out the second one for an ad for our related support group. I thought they lined up with *Paper Girls* themes. I mean, our time travelers are experiencing A LOT of trauma, but their adult selves just seem to have forgotten everything... Hope they can afford a good trans-dimensional therapist! Send my love to BKV for the queer Jewish representation, and CC for representing everything else!

Fingers crossed for entry into the A.N.D.G,

Wahlberg in PA

*Hmmmmmm, dis 2-part stOry contAins ALL D ANSWERS...*

Dear Rita Pearl & Co,

Please accept the enclosed SASE as my humble wish to join the

prestigious ANDG. I have nothing fun to share in return, except this list of member preview hours to MOMA (my very sweet girlfriend got me a MOMA membership for Christmas).

Anyways, thanks for the fantastic comics—I look forward to *Paper Girls* and *Saga* the most every month, and always read them first off the top of my pull list stack.

Here's hoping your new year is filled with love, and joy, and lots and lots of art. We all need them now, more than ever.

All best and stay warm,

**Emma J.**  
New York, NY

*I have officia-lected this LETTER 4 "Deliverer of the Month," not bcuz it was wriTten bya Female, but bcuz itconTained my FavoRite thing: a List f Member PreviEw Hours.*

*4 dis niceBribe, we willSend "Prlzes" 2 Emma's d-scen-Dents.*

*MorE leTters fromAll Genders n SexEs n roBots n 1Month!*

*Luv,*

*- / - / .*

*Paperbot*

# THE WRITE-YOUR-OWN-OBIT CHALLENGE!

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



*DIS qUestiOnnaire Wasfound n d basement f d old AMERICAN NEWSPAPERY DELIVERY GUILD with a NOTEdat said: "TOO MORBID TO PRINT, RITA!!!"*

*Still dunno who's RITA, but Dash-Dash Dot is not afrAID f DEATH, so if u aren't either, fillout this form n sendback 2 us 4 chAncE 2 win PRIZES, bravers!*



- 1) When are you going to die?
- 2) And from what, or under what circumstances?
- 3) Who will you be survived by?
- 4) How did you impact the world?
- 5) What kind of funeral would you like?
- 6) What should be done with your body?
- 7) If you have a tombstone or other marker, what do you want inscribed on it?
- 8) What will you miss most about being alive?
- 9) Do you think you'll be part of any kind of afterlife?
- 10) You're not dead yet, lucky, so what do you want to do tonight?



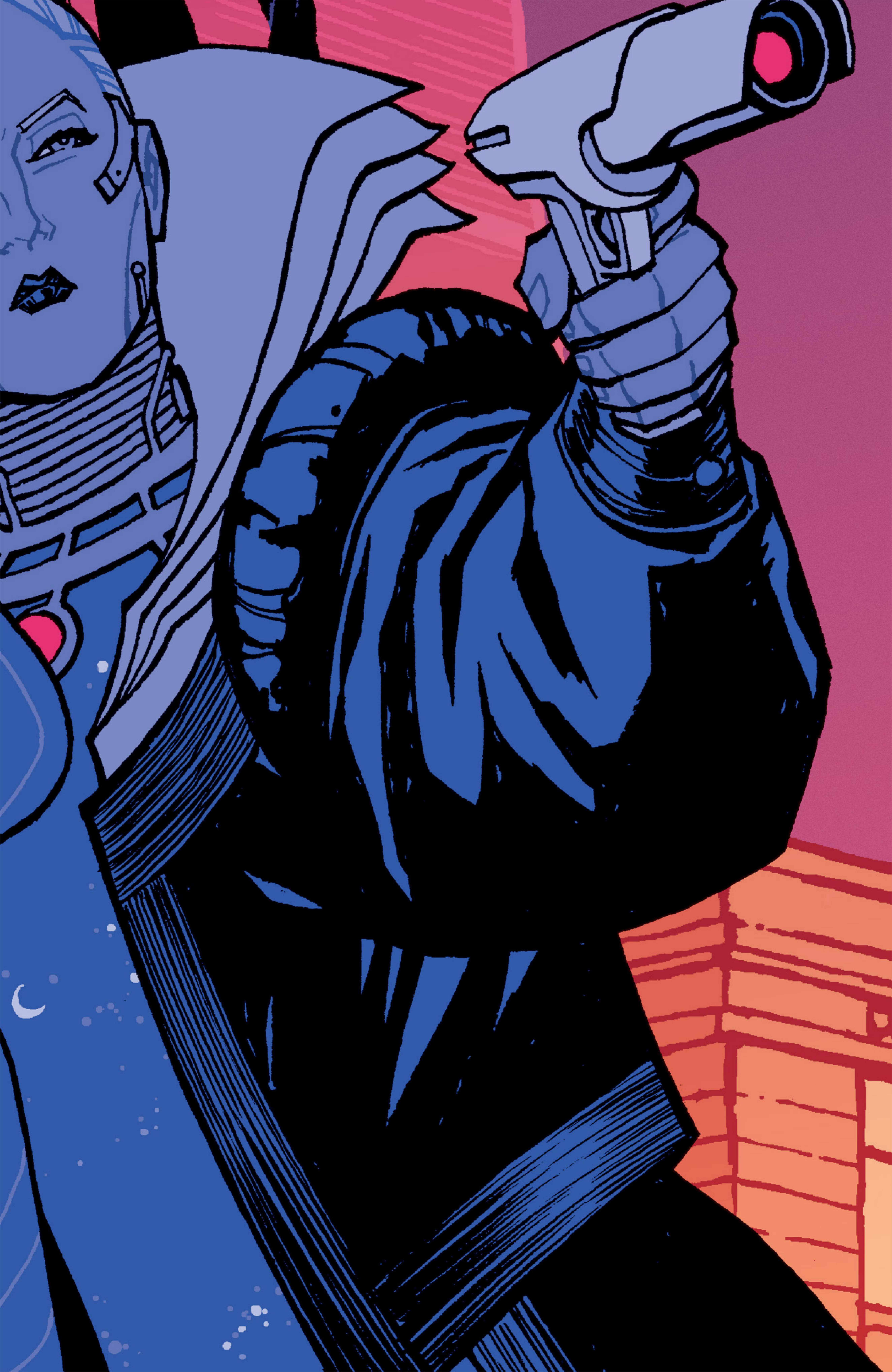
# CHIANG

O R I G I N A L   A R T   &   C O M M I S S I O N S



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1

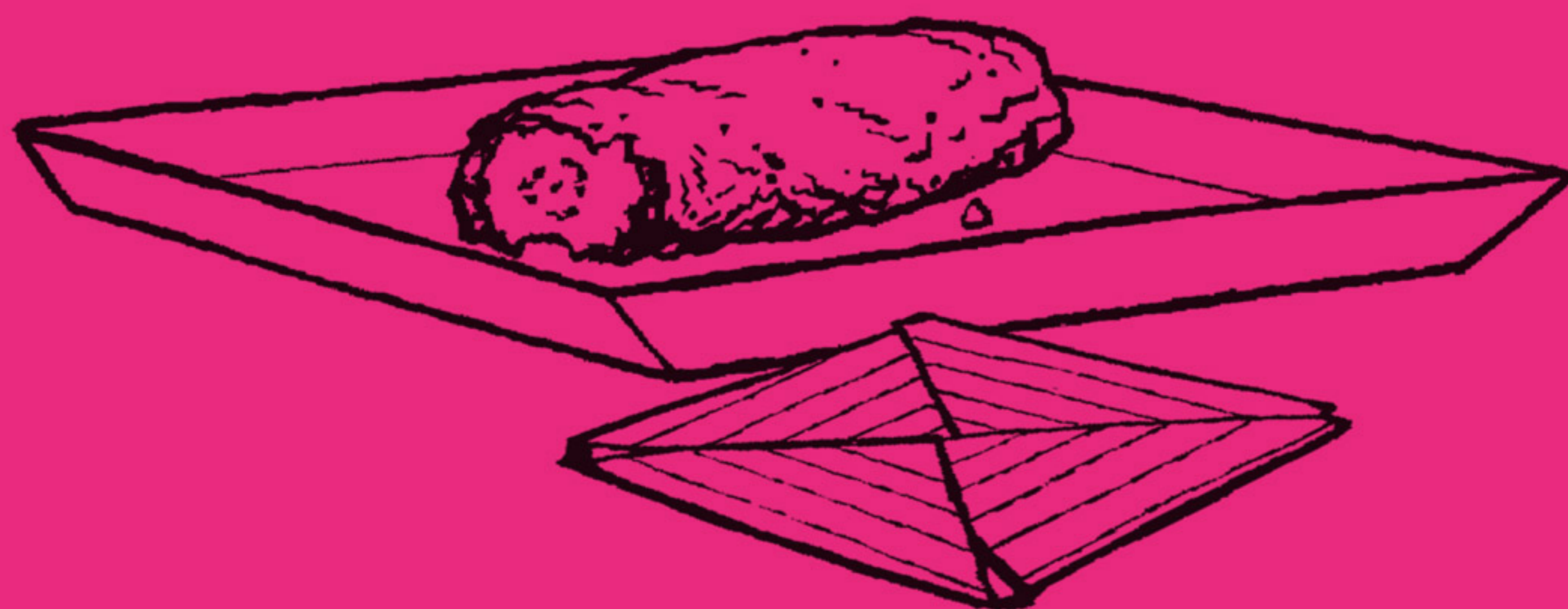
2

**3**

4

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





# Paper Girls

25

ON SALE 10.03.18

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





ISSUE **24**

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