

ORDINARY



SHORT

LAOURDEKIS

WAYSHORE COMICS PRESENTS

ORDINARY

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ART BY THODORIS LAOURDEKIS

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LATE SUMMER, 1978





PRESENT DAY

PEOPLE SAY THAT SMALL TOWNS
HAVE A CERTAIN CHARM.



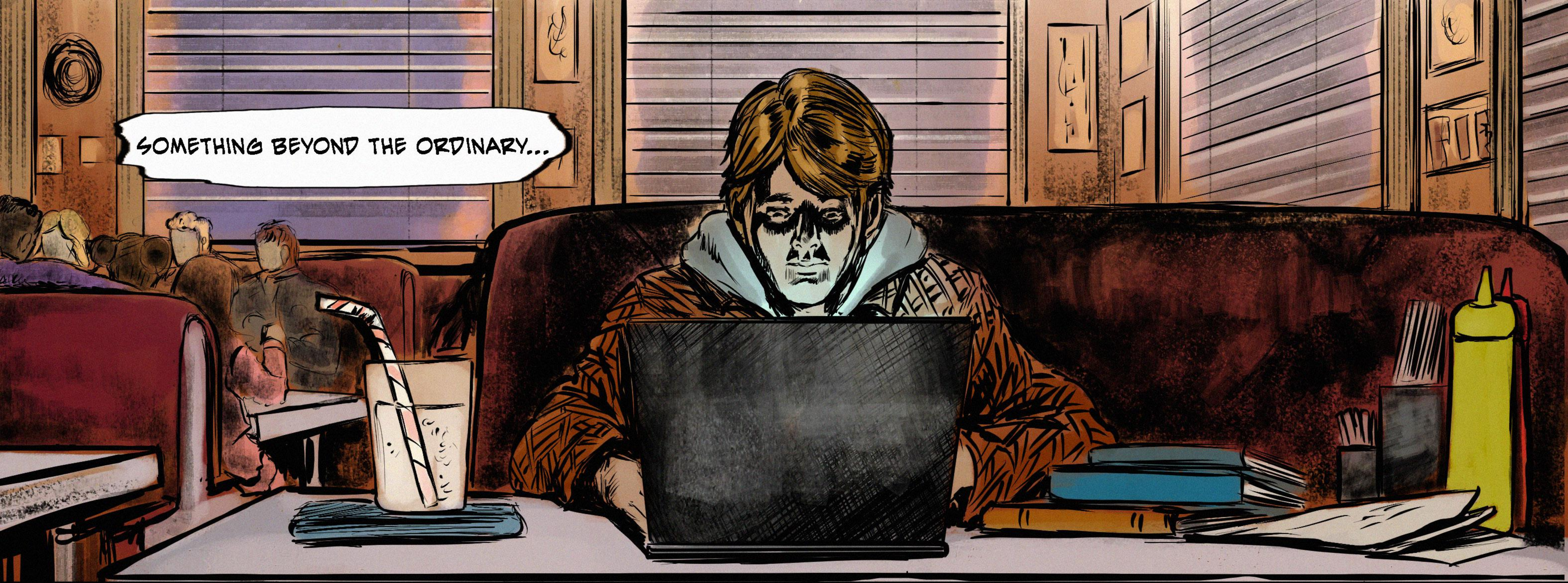
IT COULD BE THE FAMILIARITY...



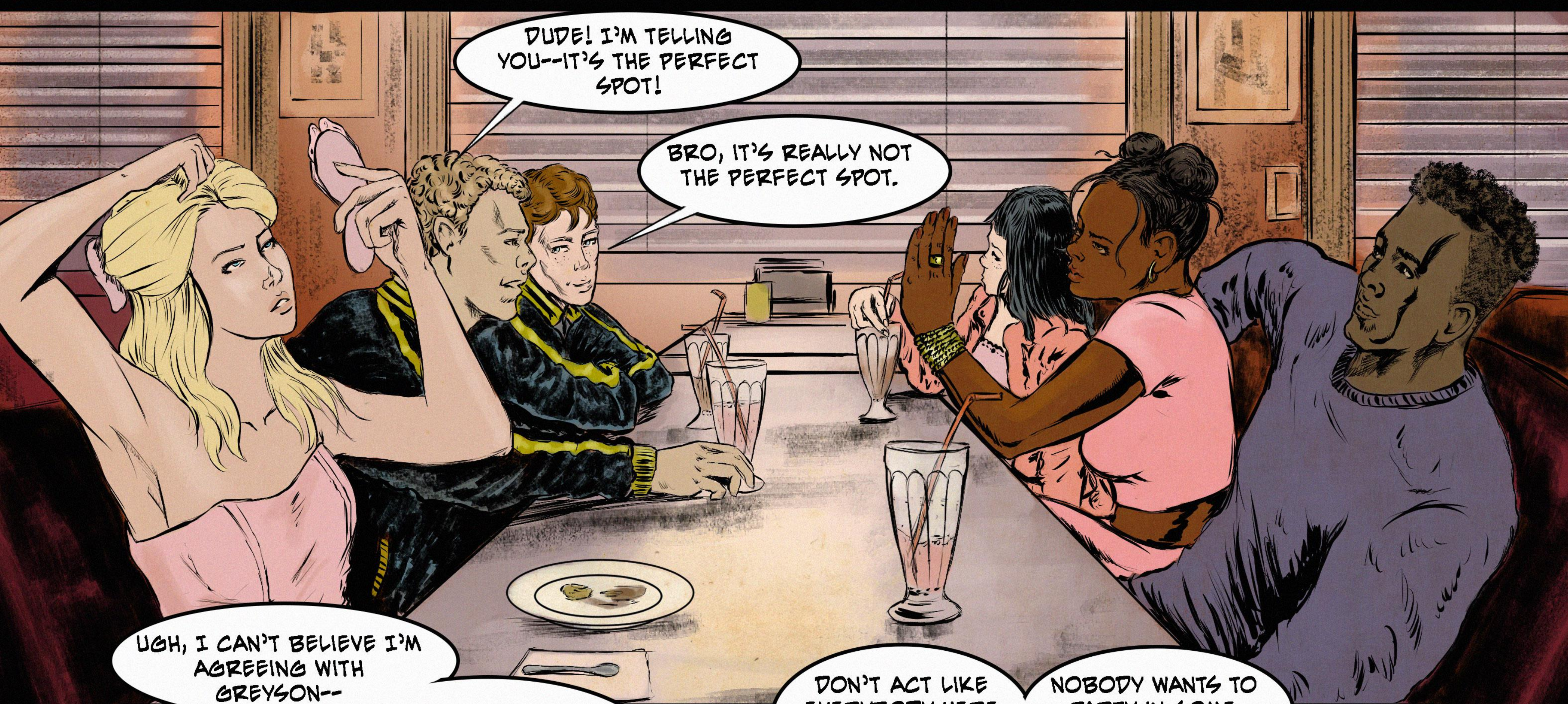
THE COMFORT OF THE KNOWN...



BUT IF YOU LOOK BENEATH THE
SURFACE THERE'S MORE...



SOMETHING BEYOND THE ORDINARY...



DUDE! I'M TELLING YOU--IT'S THE PERFECT SPOT!

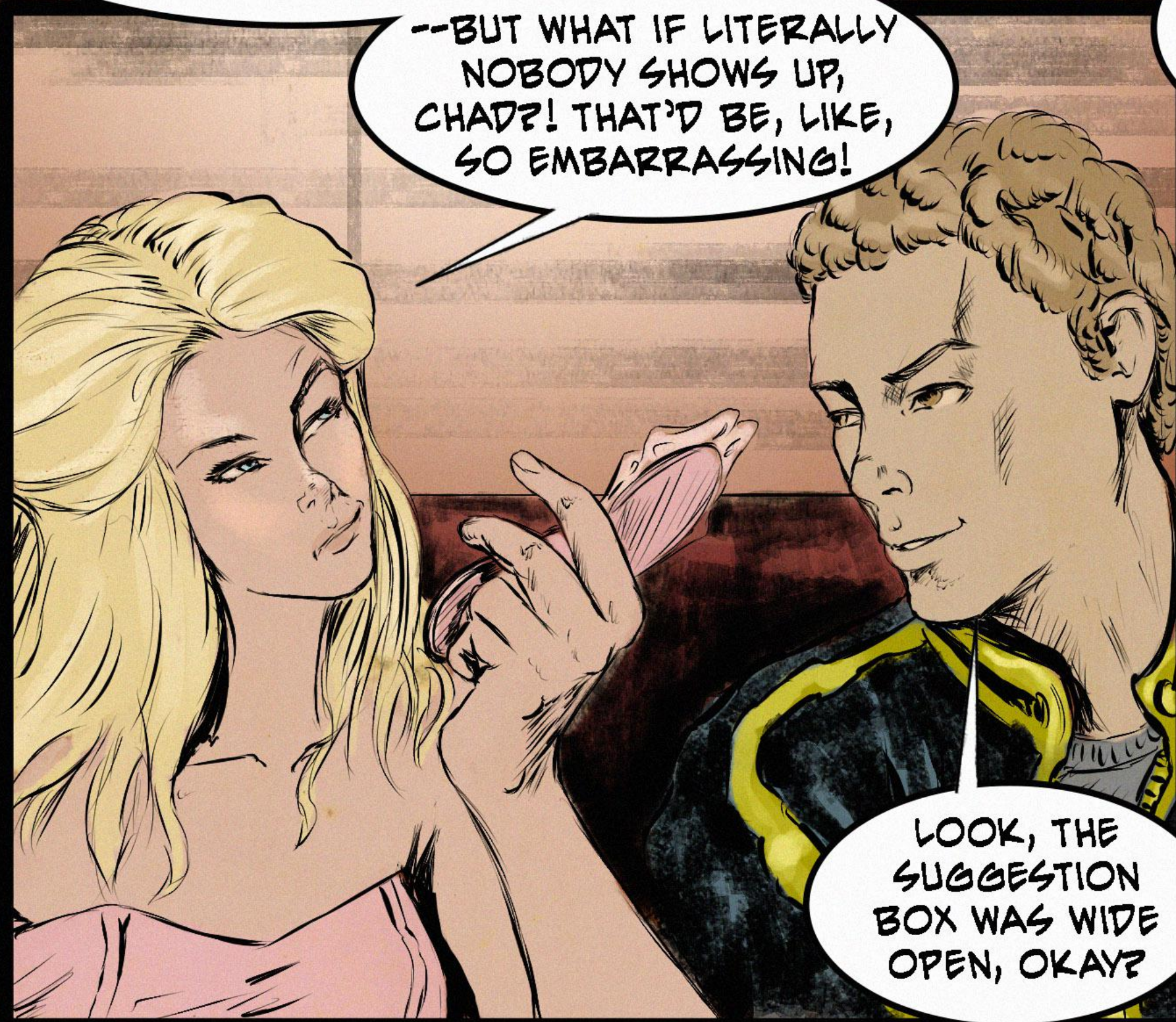
BRO, IT'S REALLY NOT THE PERFECT SPOT.

UGH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M AGREEING WITH GREYSON--

--BUT WHAT IF LITERALLY NOBODY SHOWS UP, CHAD? THAT'D BE, LIKE, SO EMBARRASSING!

DON'T ACT LIKE EVERYBODY HERE AIN'T BEEN SAYING THAT!

NOBODY WANTS TO PARTY IN SOME CREEPY-ASS PARK!



LOOK, THE SUGGESTION BOX WAS WIDE OPEN, OKAY?



RELAX, JANELLE--ANYTHING BEATS LAST YEAR.

WE BARELY STARTED BEFORE SHIT WENT SIDWAYS.



SEEE KOLLIN GETS IT. BESIDES--WE'RE NOT JUST GOING TO THE PARTY...

WE ARE THE PARTY!



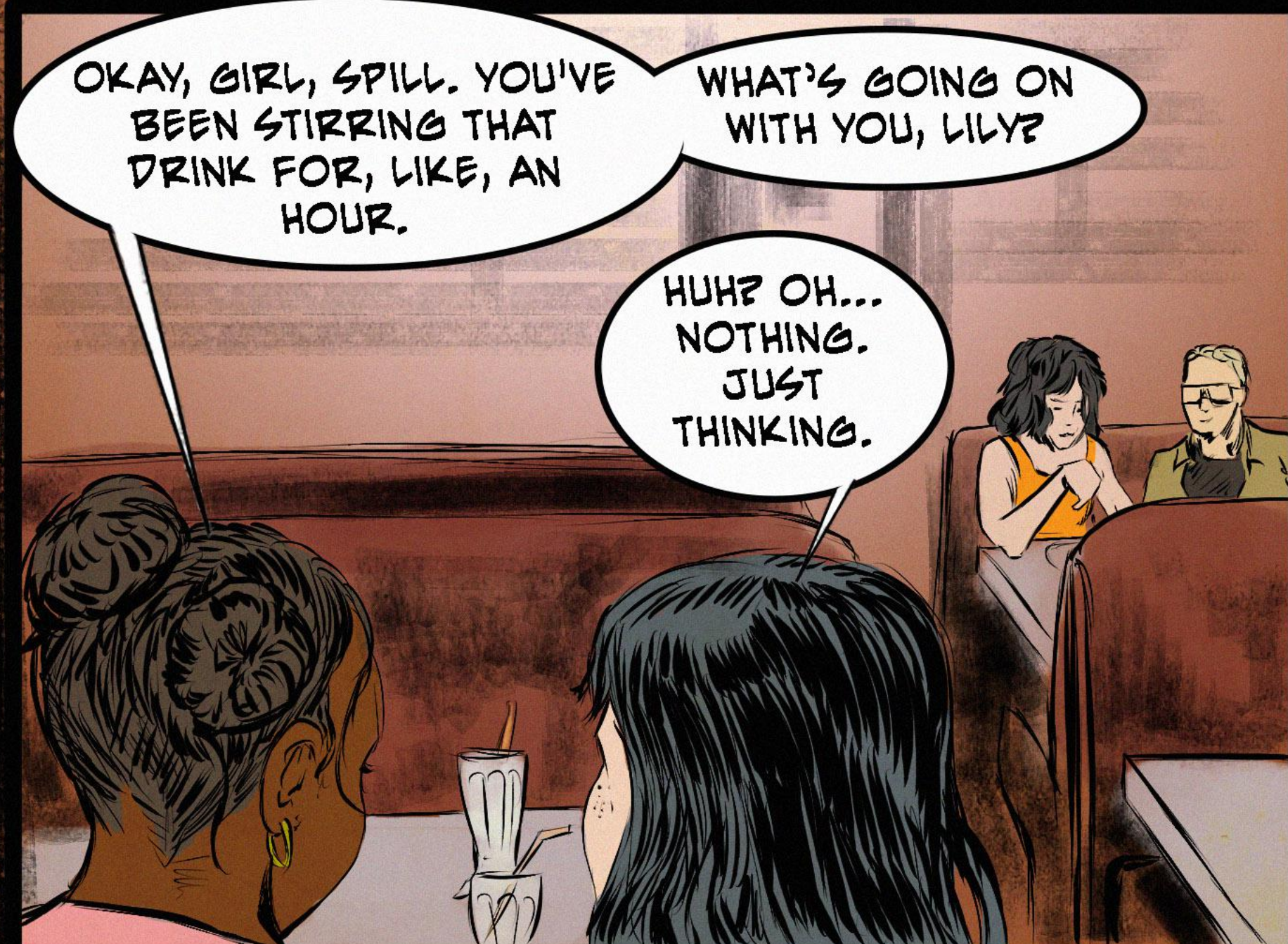
YOU BOYS KEEP POUNDING YOUR CHEST--I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM ALL THIS TESTOSTERONE.

THINK ABOUT IT--WE'VE GOT THE PLACE TO OURSELVES.

NO COPS, NO CURFEW, NO PARENTS. JUST US AND THE WOODS.

OH, ABOUT TONIGHT!

CLAIRE, I ALMOST FORGOT TO MENTION--



OKAY, GIRL, SPILL. YOU'VE BEEN STIRRING THAT DRINK FOR, LIKE, AN HOUR.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU, LILY?

HUH? OH... NOTHING. JUST THINKING.



YOU EVER TAKE A BREAK FROM THAT THING?

NOT REALLY. STUFF DOESN'T LEAVE ME ALONE.



BRO, YOU GOTTA GIVE IT A REST AND COME TO THE PARTY TONIGHT!

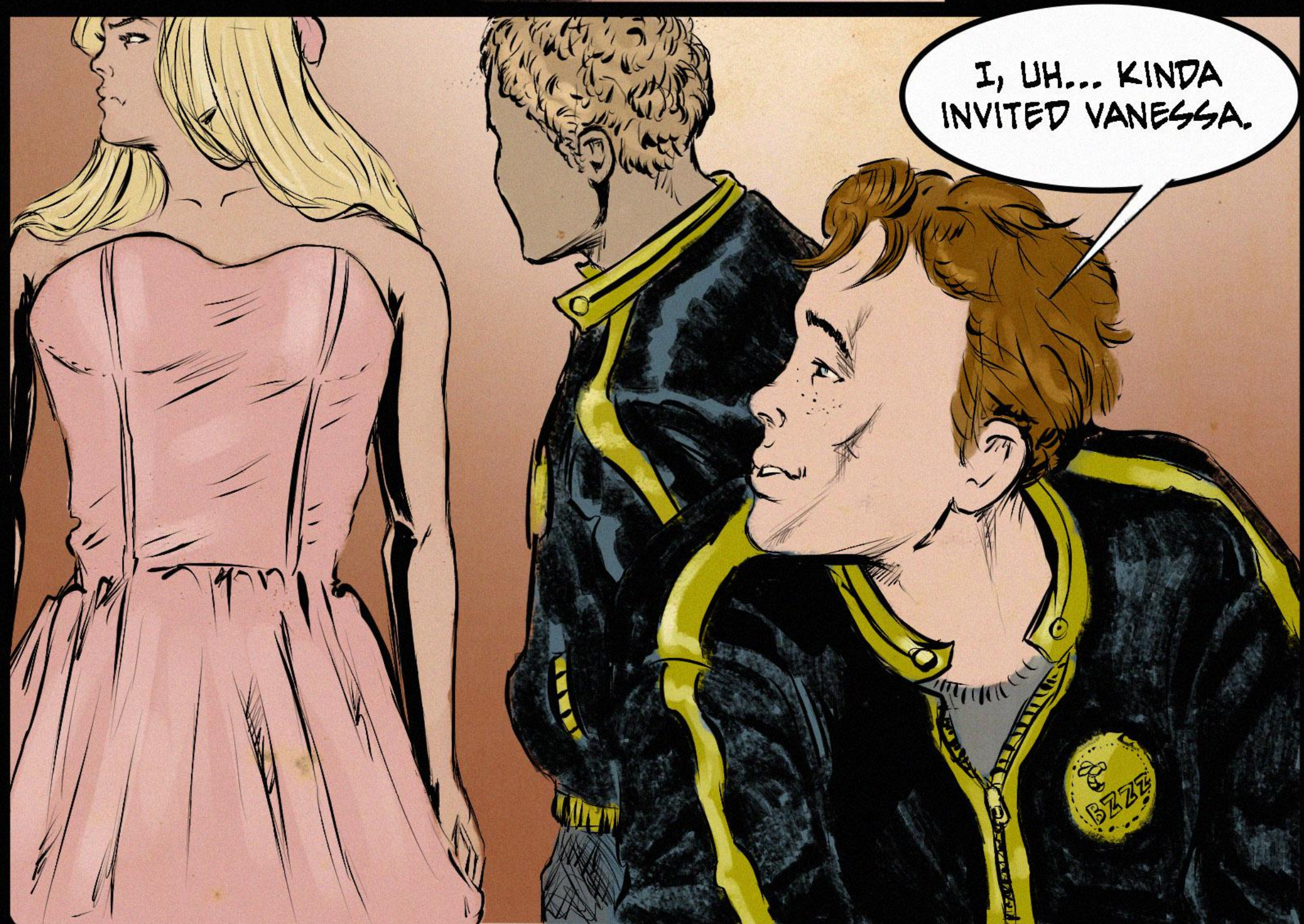
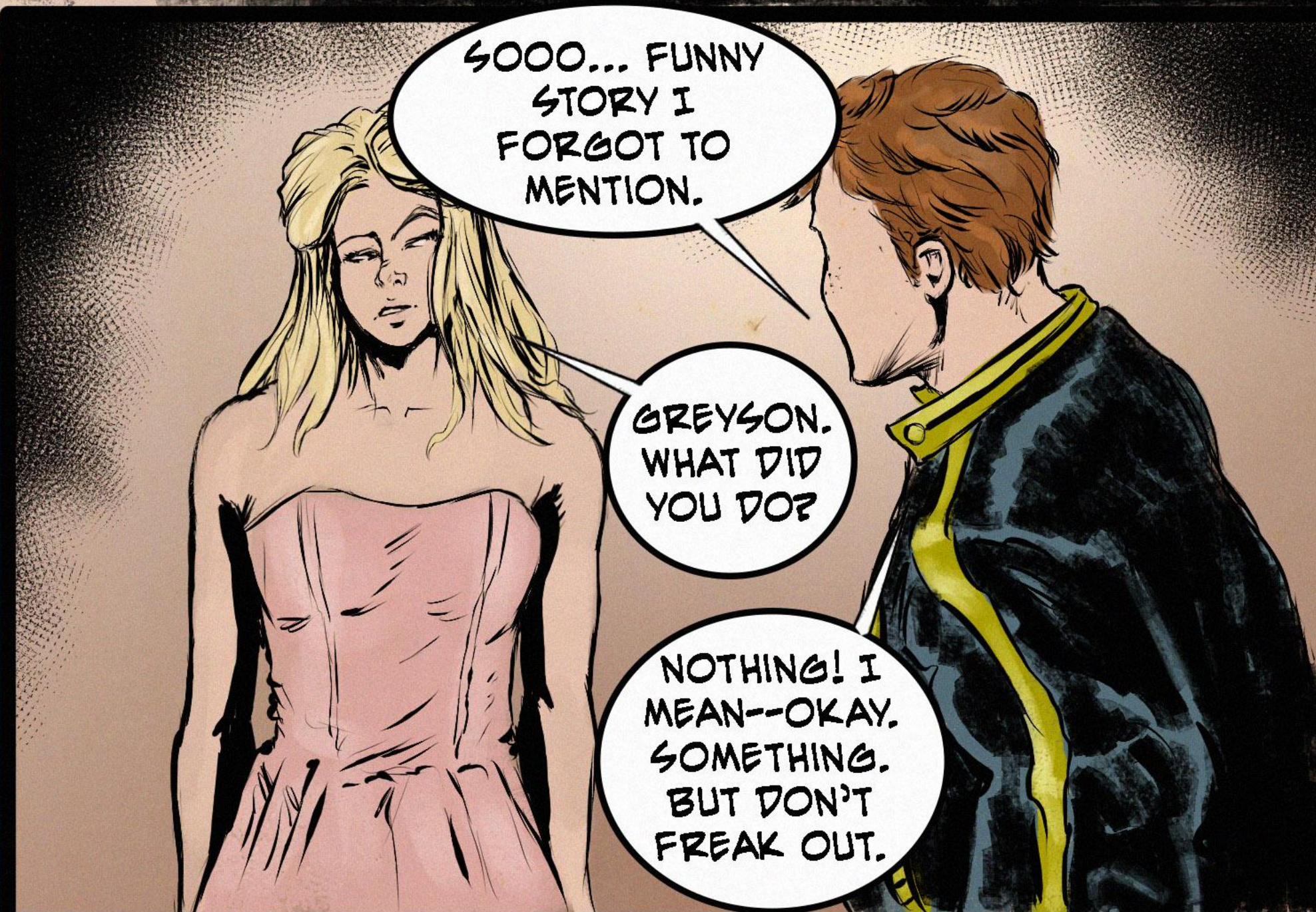
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME WE CHOPPED IT UP?

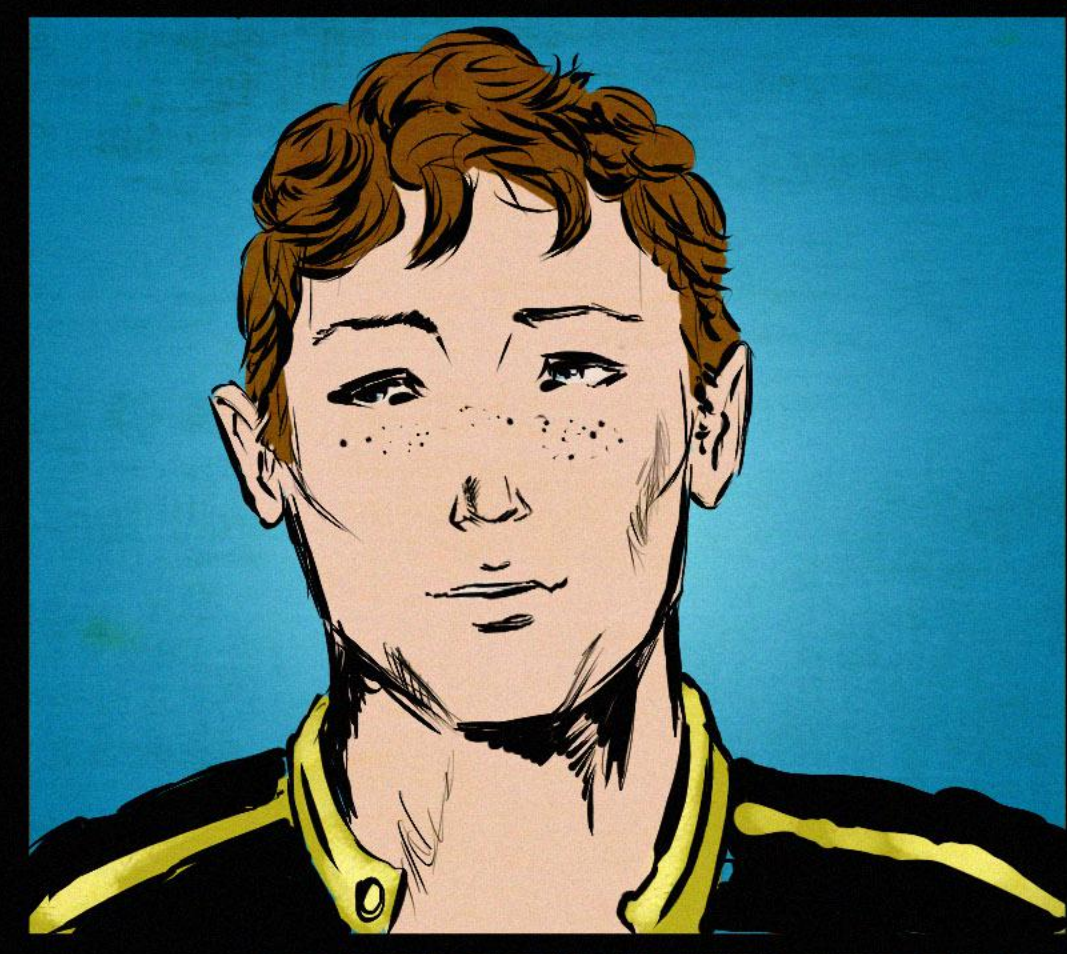
HMM... WAS IT BEFORE OR AFTER YOU JOINED THE HIVE MIND?



THEY'RE NOT ALL BAD, MAN. JUST CONSIDER IT, ALRIGHT?

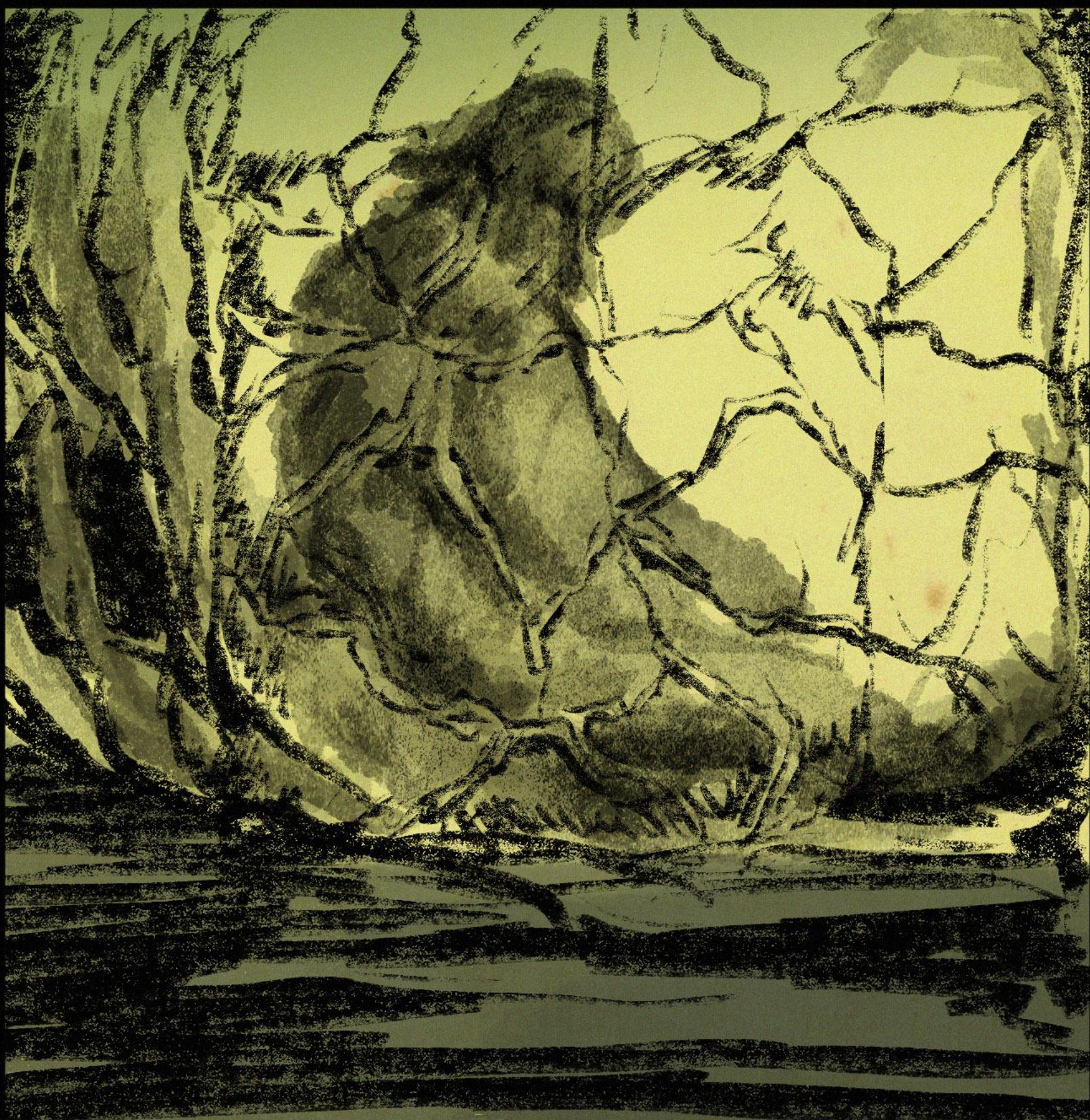
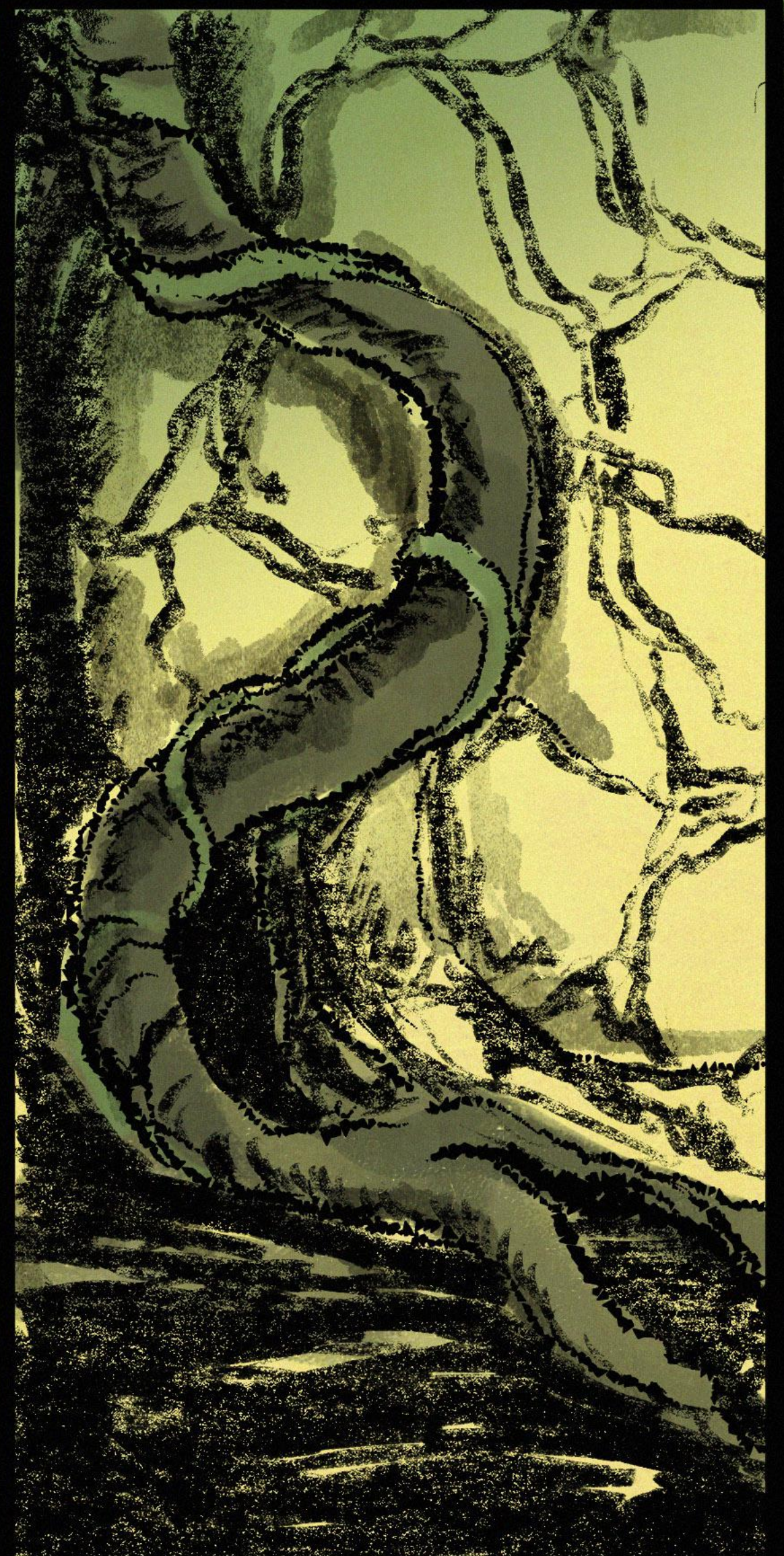
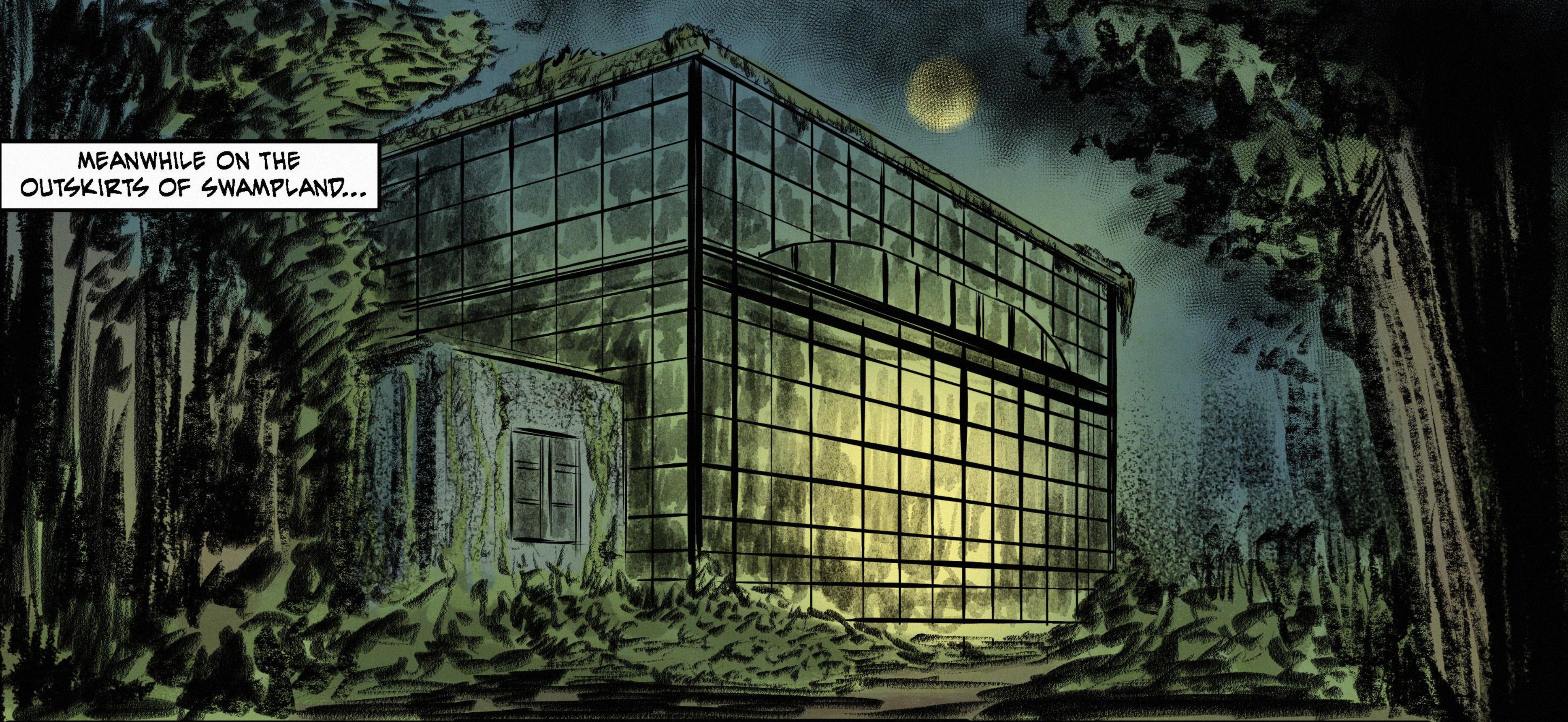
YEAH, MAN. WE'LL SEE.







MEANWHILE ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF SWAMPLAND...







I DON'T KNOW, STEPHANIE... YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?



YES I'M SURE, PAULY! TONIGHT IS THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR!

WELL, GEE, STEPH... WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT--

I HAVE TO HAVE MY BEST CAMERA MAN WITH ME!



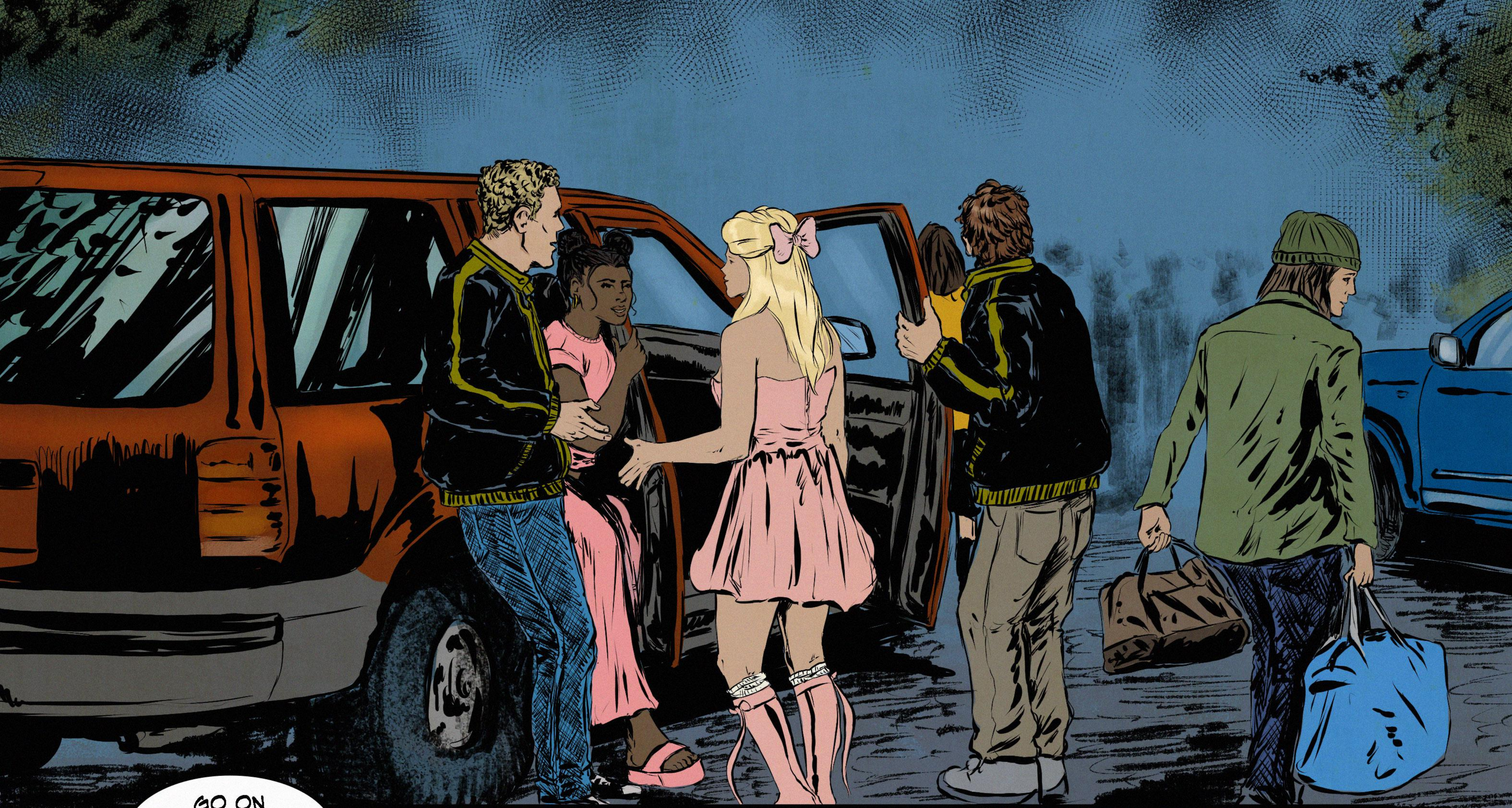
BESIDES... SAFE DOESN'T GET VIEWS. DANGEROUS DOES.



YEAH, WELL... PLACES LIKE THIS DON'T GET SHUT DOWN FOR NOTHING, YOU KNOW...



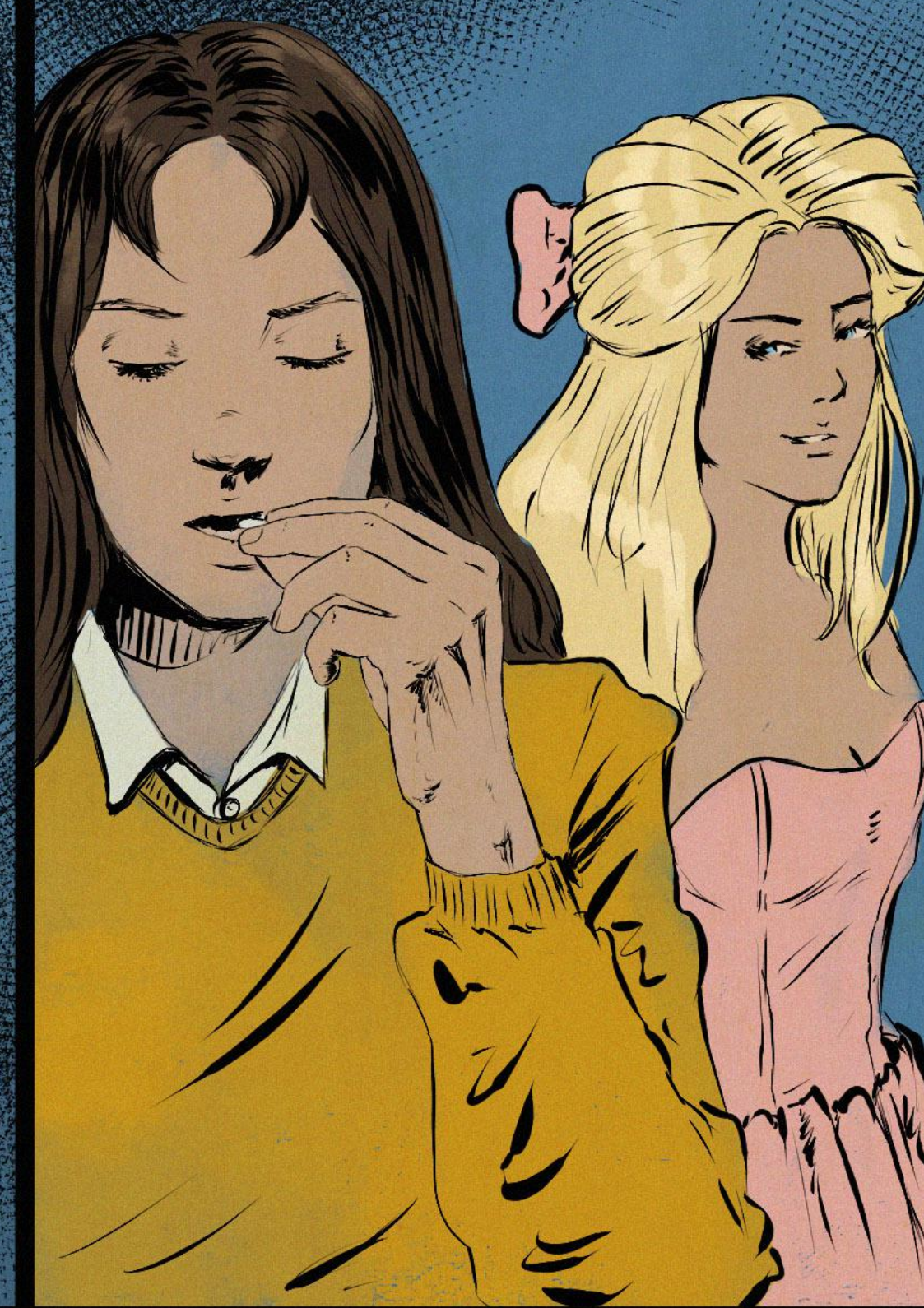
SHOWTIME.



GO ON
AHEAD--JUST
NEED A SECOND.



RIGHT... DON'T GET
WEIRD TONIGHT...





WHY WOULDN'T I BE?

YOU GOOD, V?



IT'S NOT LIKE SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL MISS PERFECT I'D BE HERE TONIGHT...

I TRIED, OKAY?



YOU KNOW HOW CLAIRE IS--SHE WASN'T EXACTLY LISTENING.



SHE HIT ME WITH THAT CLAIRE GLARE--

AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.



THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET.

YEAH, WELL I THOUGHT WE WERE GOOD THIS TIME...

YOU TWO ARE BESTIES ONE MINUTE, AND IT'S WAR THE NEXT.

GUESS I WAS WRONG.



IT'S BAD ENOUGH I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE GIRLS. NOW WE GOTTA WATCH OUT FOR YOUR CHARITY CASE TOO?

C'MON, J. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

WE USED TO BE TIGHT--I JUST DON'T WANT HIM THINKING I FORGOT THAT.

BRO! YOU ACTUALLY MADE IT!

YEAH, WELL... STILL DECIDING IF THAT WAS A MISTAKE.



OKAY, REAL QUESTION--WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND STEPHANIE?

I JUST THINK SHE'S COOL, OKAY?

AND I LIKE HER VLOG. ALOT.

MMM-HM. SO WHEN ARE YOU GONNA TELL HER ALL THAT?



COME ON PAULY, I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE UP!



STEPH--WAIT! I'M NOT EVEN ROLLING YET--





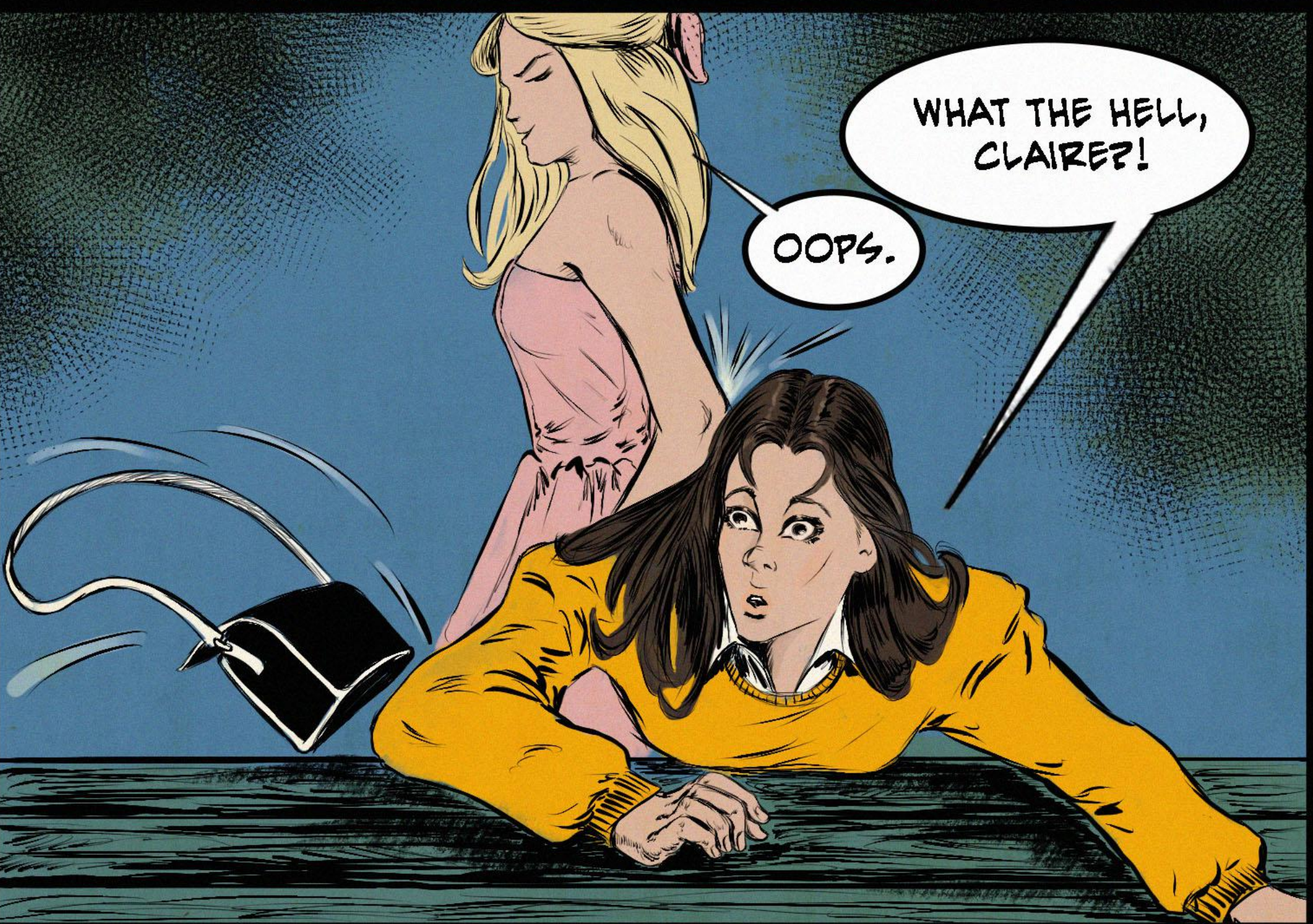
I DON'T GET IT. WHY DID SHE EVEN BOTHER TO SHOW UP?

SHE PROBABLY MISSES US...

CAN'T BLAME THE GIRL. SHIT, I'D MISS US TOO!

IF SHE WANTED ATTENTION, ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS ASK.

I'M HAPPY TO PROVIDE IT.

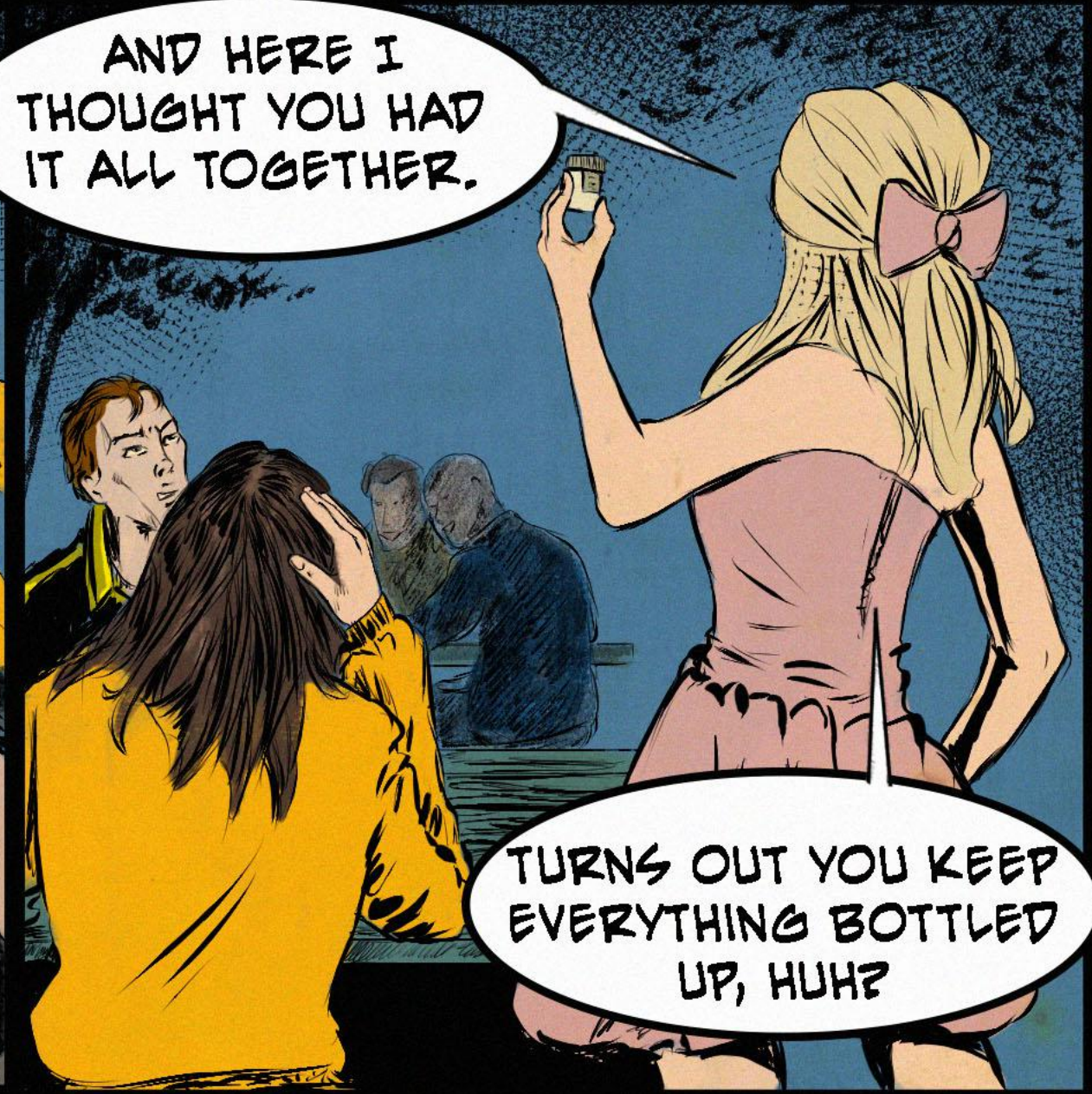


WHAT THE HELL, CLAIRE?!

OOPS.

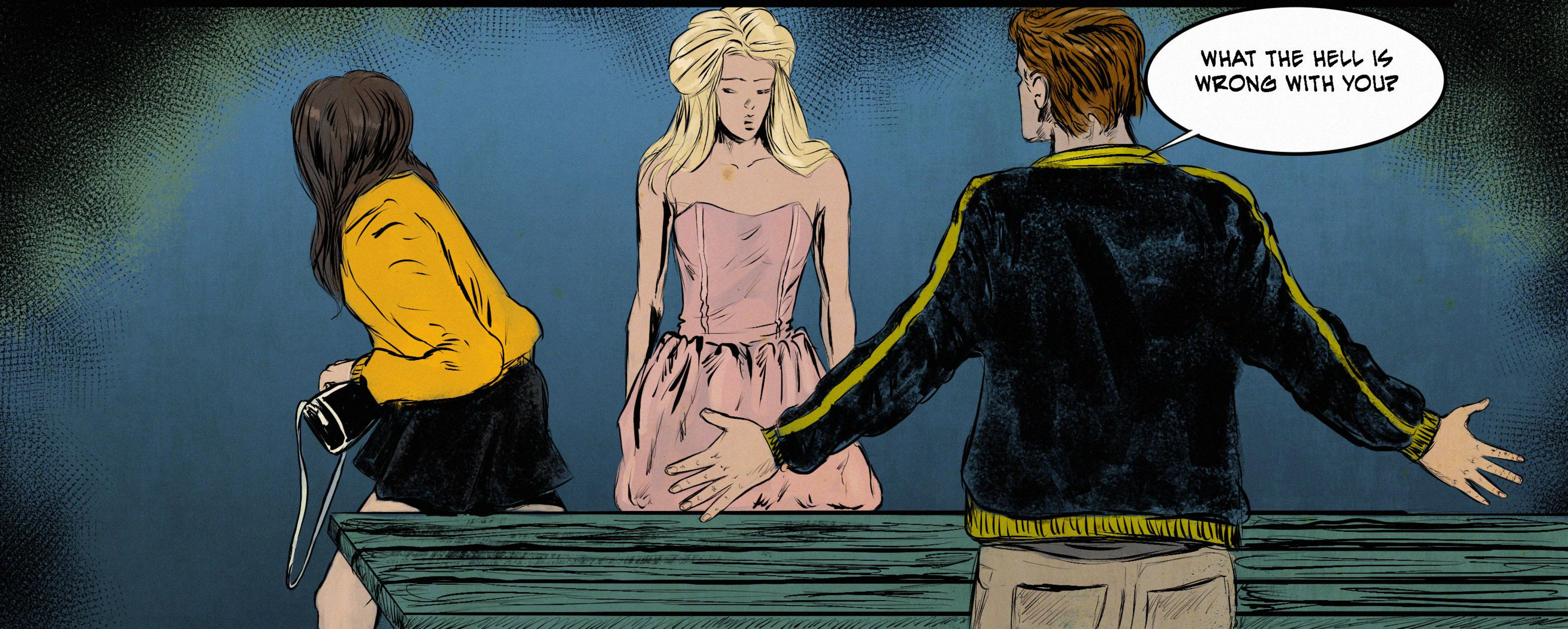


WHOA, WHAT'S THIS?



AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU HAD IT ALL TOGETHER.

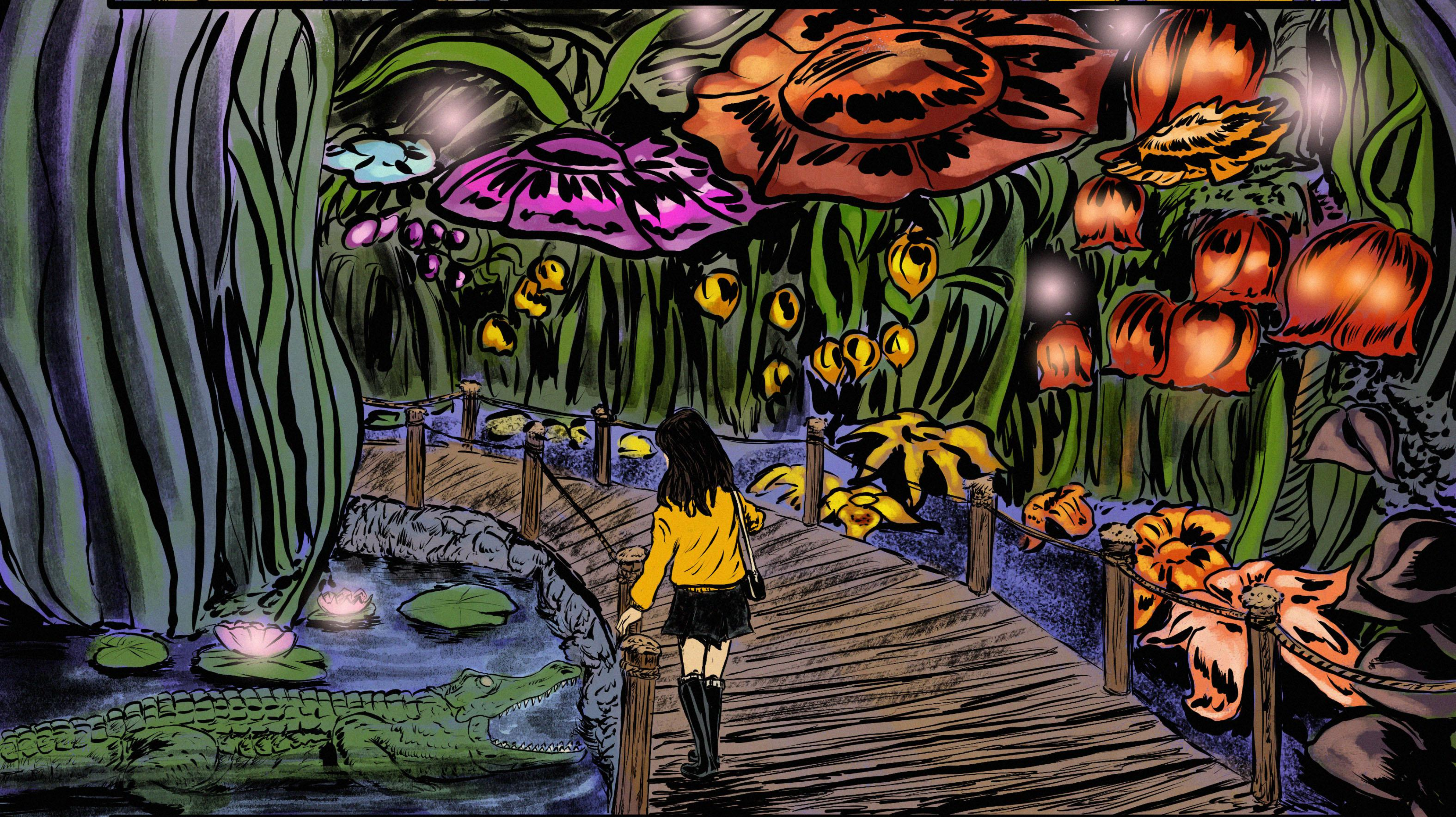
TURNS OUT YOU KEEP EVERYTHING BOTTLED UP, HUH?

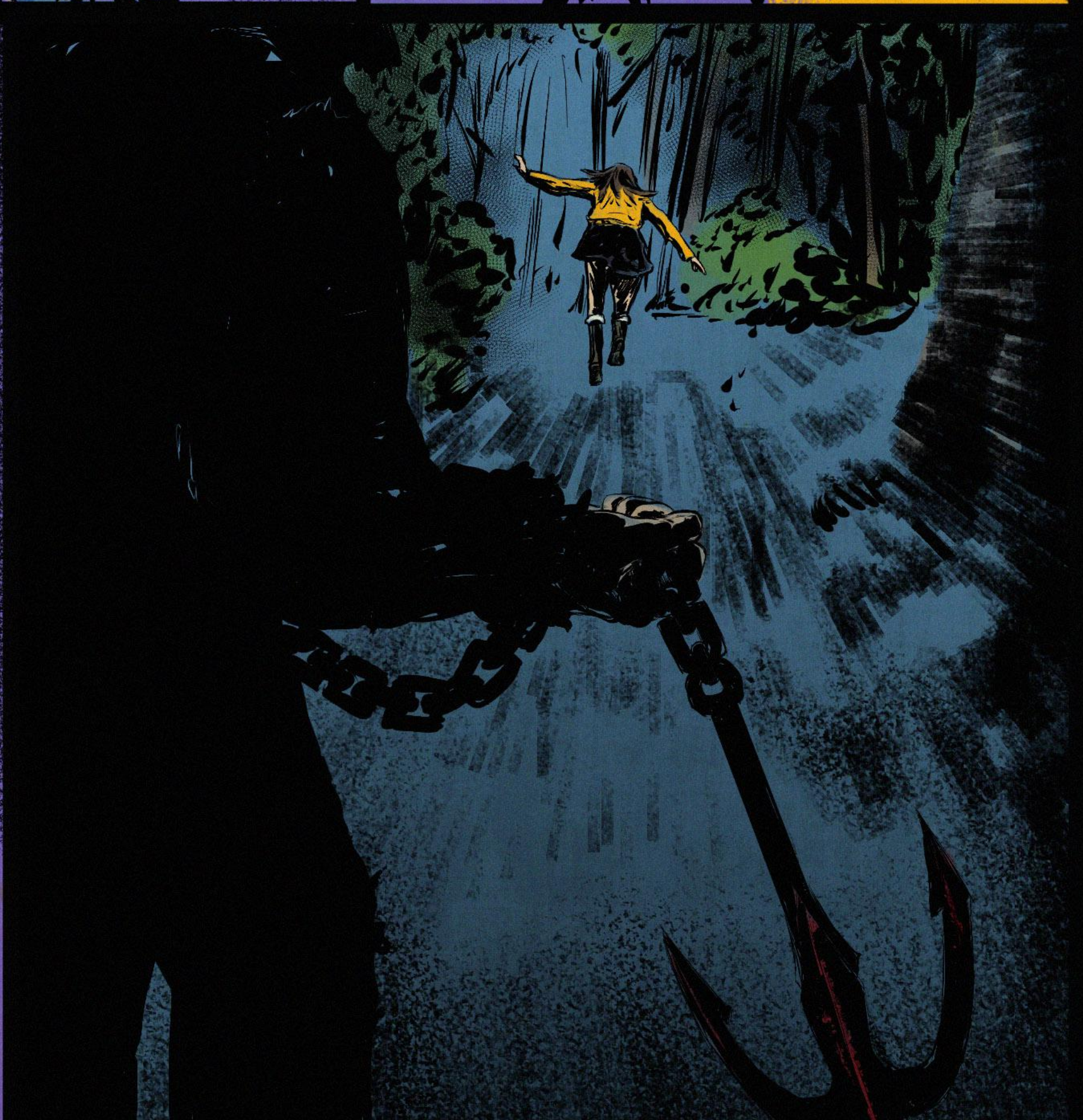
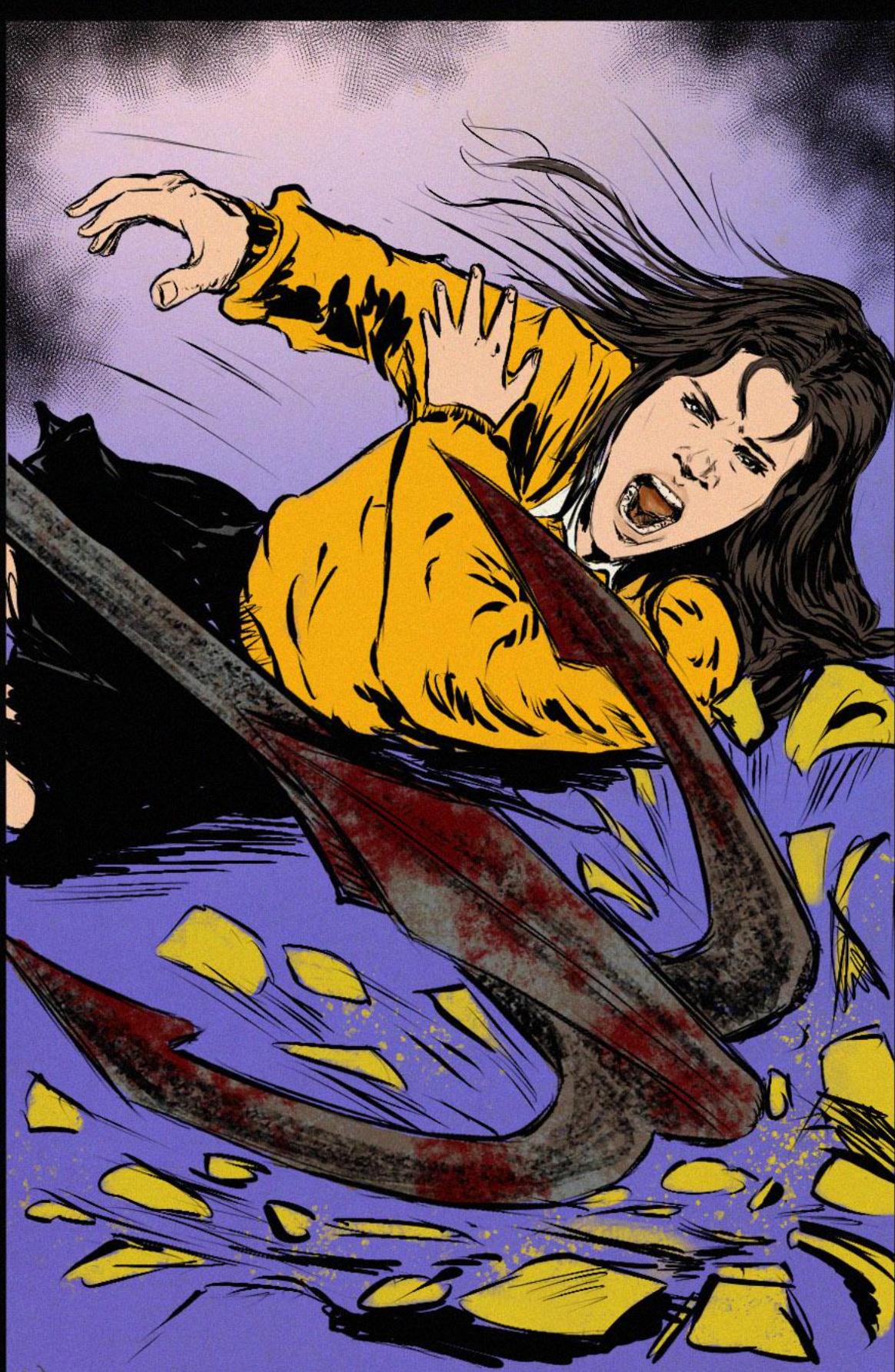
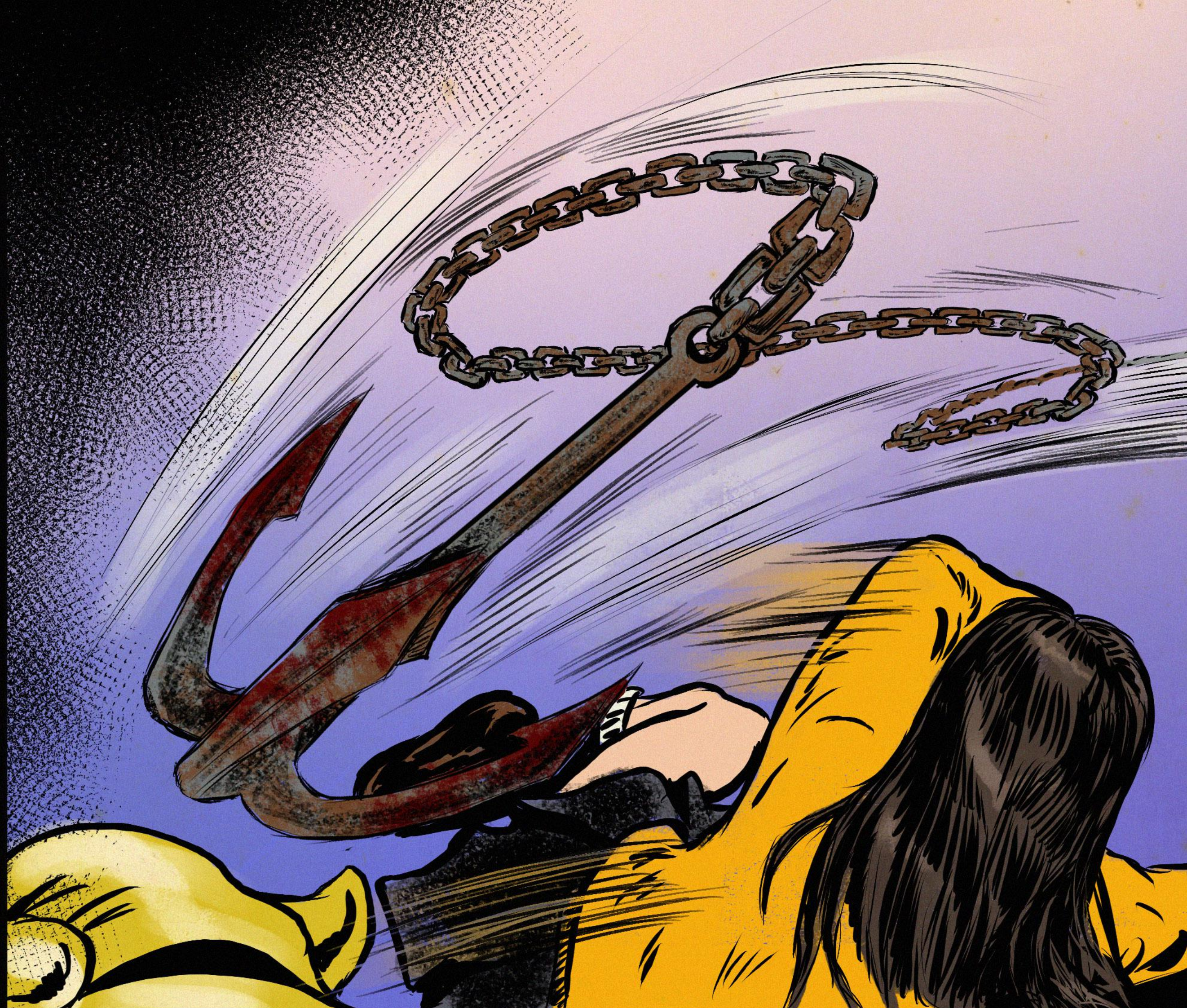
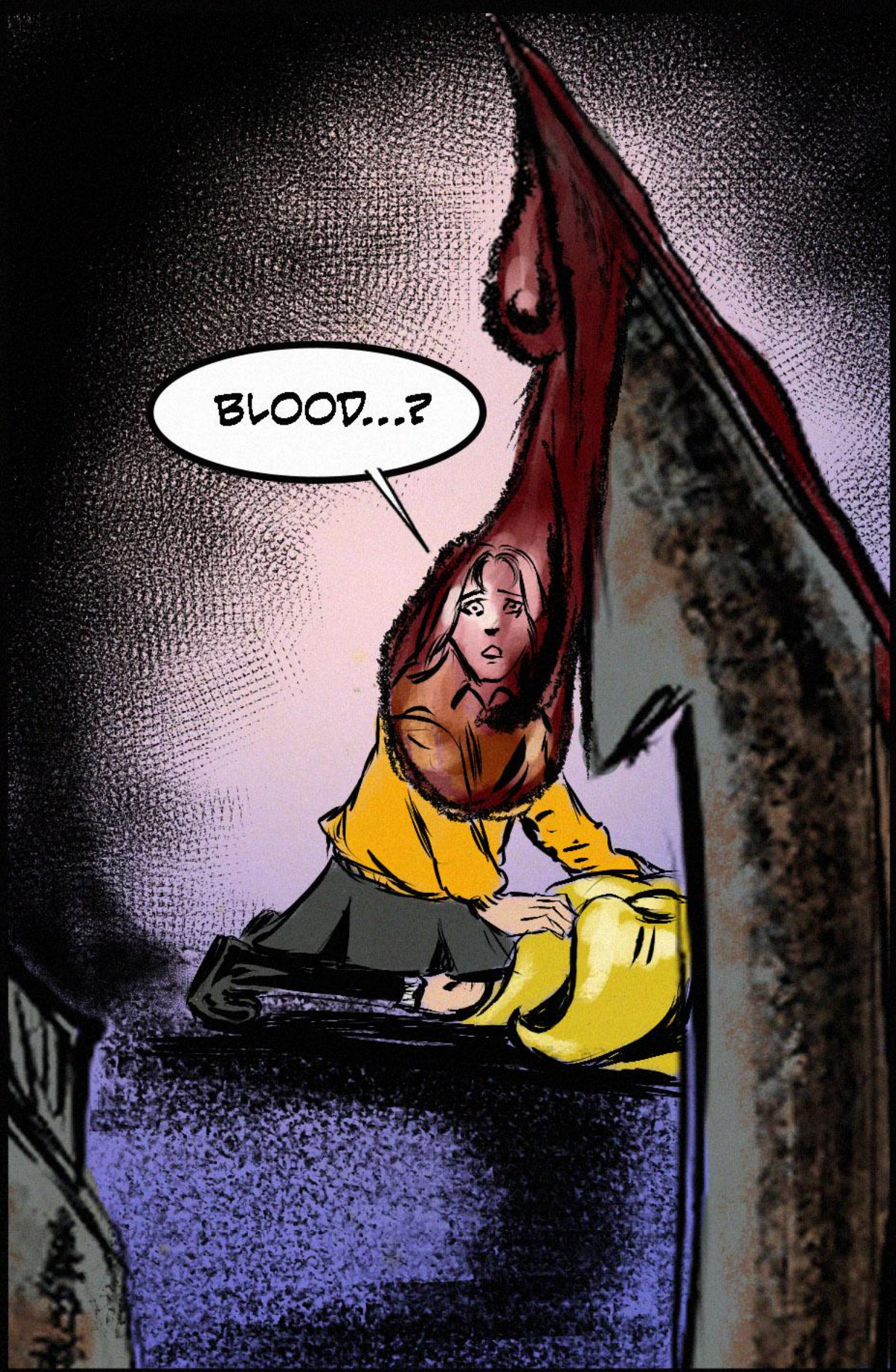


WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?











GREYSON!
SOMEONE IS OUT
THERE! I SAW
HIM! HE TRIED
TO--



WHOA, SLOW
DOWN, VANESSA...

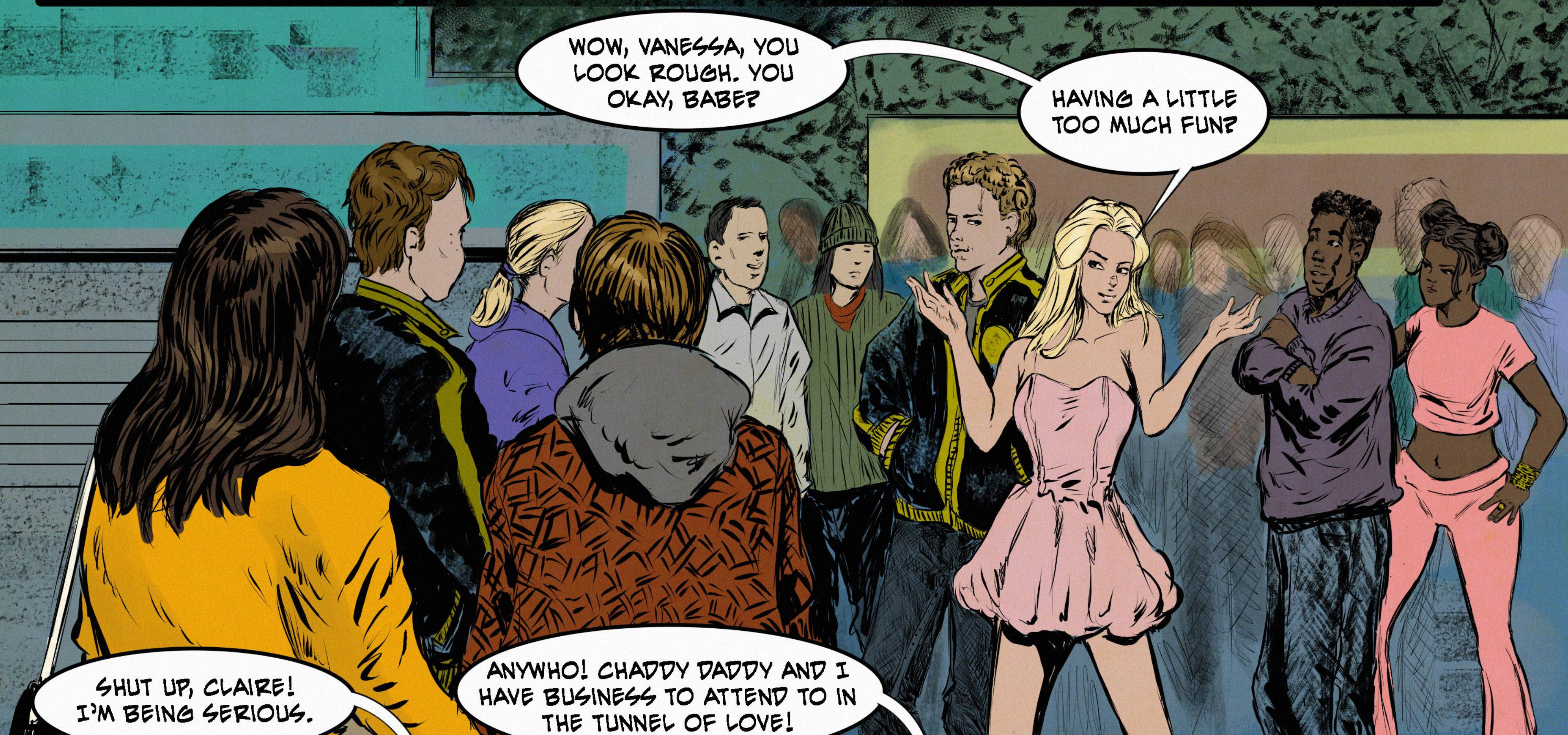
YOU'RE LOOKING
KIND OF CRAZY
RIGHT NOW.

I'M NOT CRAZY!
SOMEBODY IS
AFTER ME!



THIS GUY--WHAT EXACTLY DID
HE LOOK LIKE?

I DON'T KNOW...
HE HAD THIS
BLOODY HOOK!
HE WAS WEARING
SOME KIND OF
MAINTENANCE
UNIFORM, AND
HIS FACE--



WOW, VANESSA, YOU
LOOK ROUGH. YOU
OKAY, BABE?

HAVING A LITTLE
TOO MUCH FUN?

SHUT UP, CLAIRE!
I'M BEING SERIOUS.

ANYWHO! CHADDY DADDY AND I
HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO IN
THE TUNNEL OF LOVE!



THERE'S SOMEONE
OUT THERE AND HE'S
TRYING TO KILL US!

WOW,
YEAH, SUPER
INTENSE!



DON'T
GOTTA TELL
ME TWICE.

YOU ALL HAVE
FUN WITH THAT!
COME ON,
BABE!



OKAY, BUT FOR REAL--WHERE'S
LILY ATE? HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN
A MINUTE.



WE HAVE TO FIND HER AND GET OUT OF HERE. SOMETHING BAD IS GOING ON...



OKAY, I DON'T WANNA BE THAT GUY--BUT WE SHOULD SPLIT UP.

OH, HELL NO! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A SCARY MOVIE BEFORE--?

NAH, BABE. HE'S RIGHT. THIS PLACE IS HUGE. IT COULD TAKE HOURS TO FIND LILY IF WE'RE ALL LOOKING IN THE SAME SPOT.



IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'LL COVER ENOUGH GROUND.



SEEP MACK GETS IT. LET'S ROLL, JANELLE.



YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, GREYSON... HE WASN'T HUMAN.

WE'RE GOING TO BE ALRIGHT, OKAY?



LOOKS LIKE I'M WITH YOU TWO.

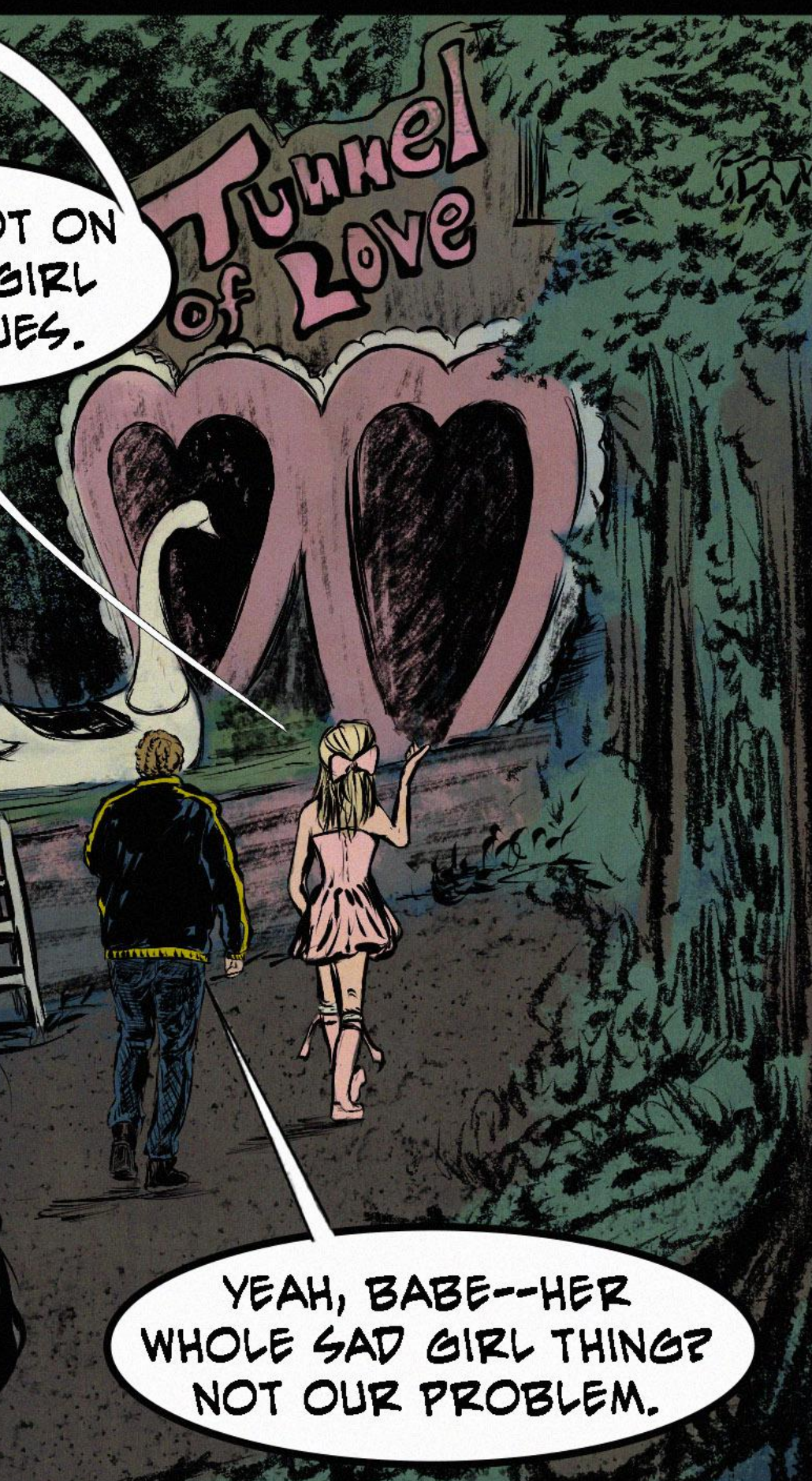


TWENTY FIVE MINUTES! WE MEET BACK HERE!

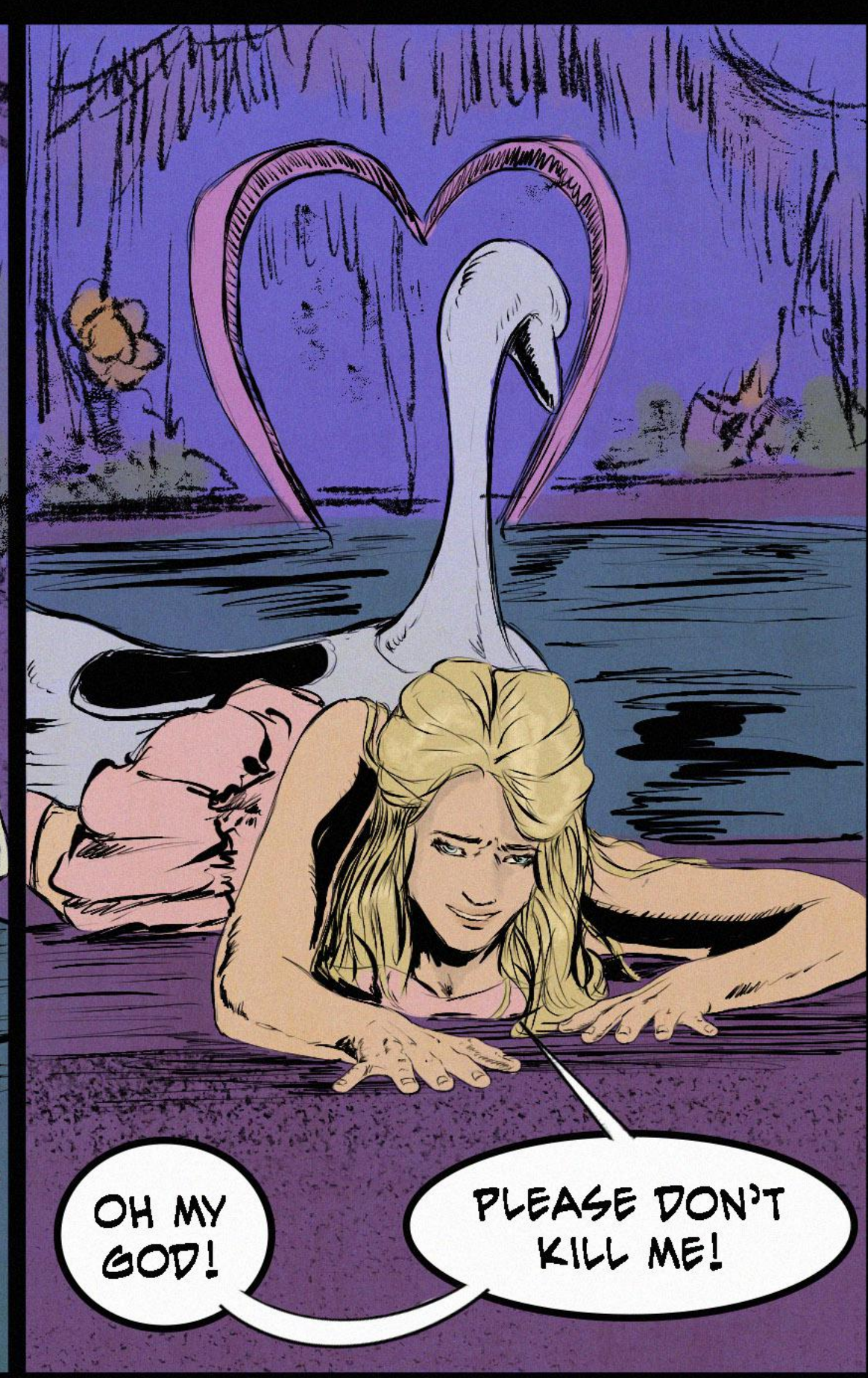
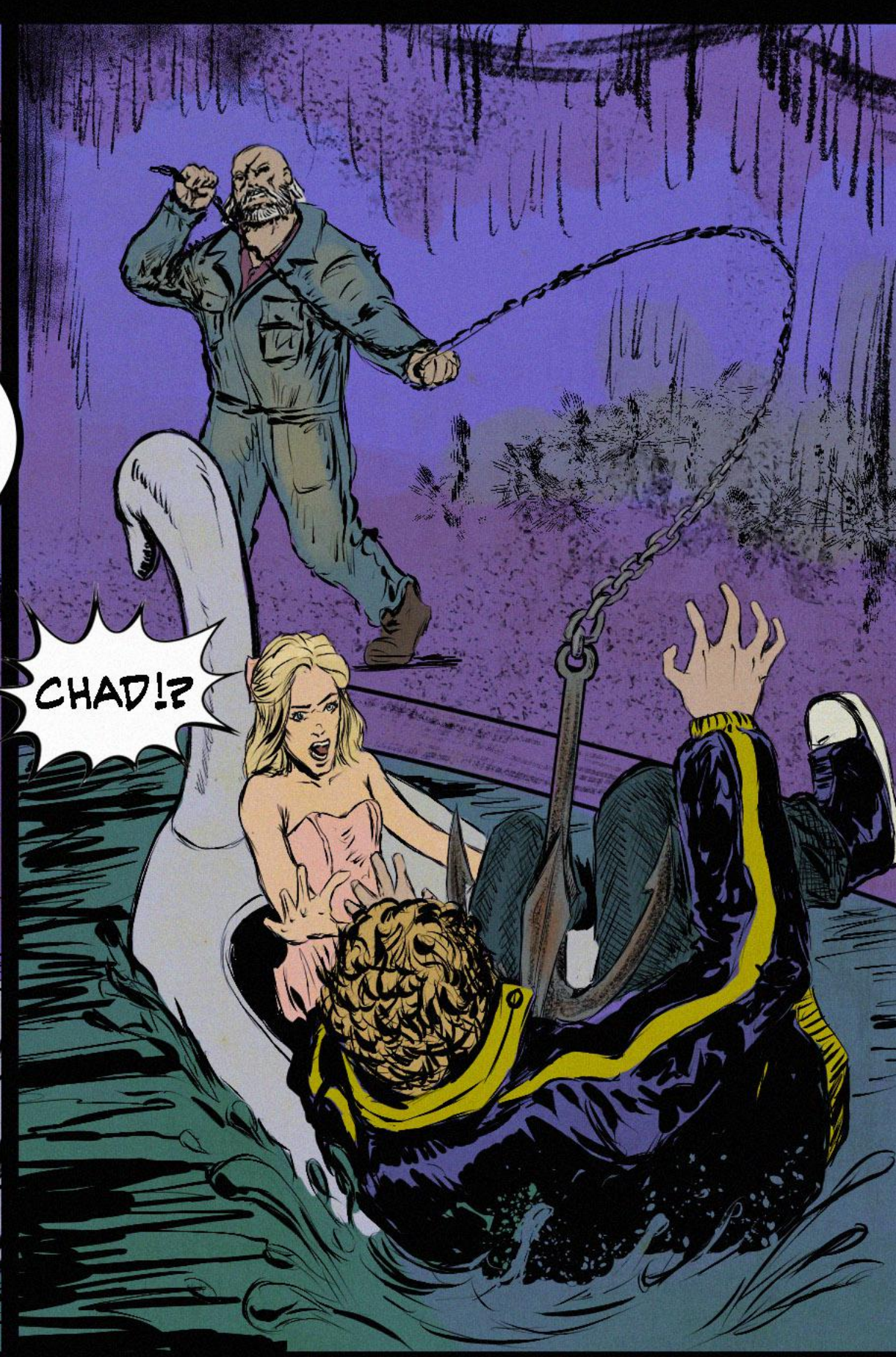
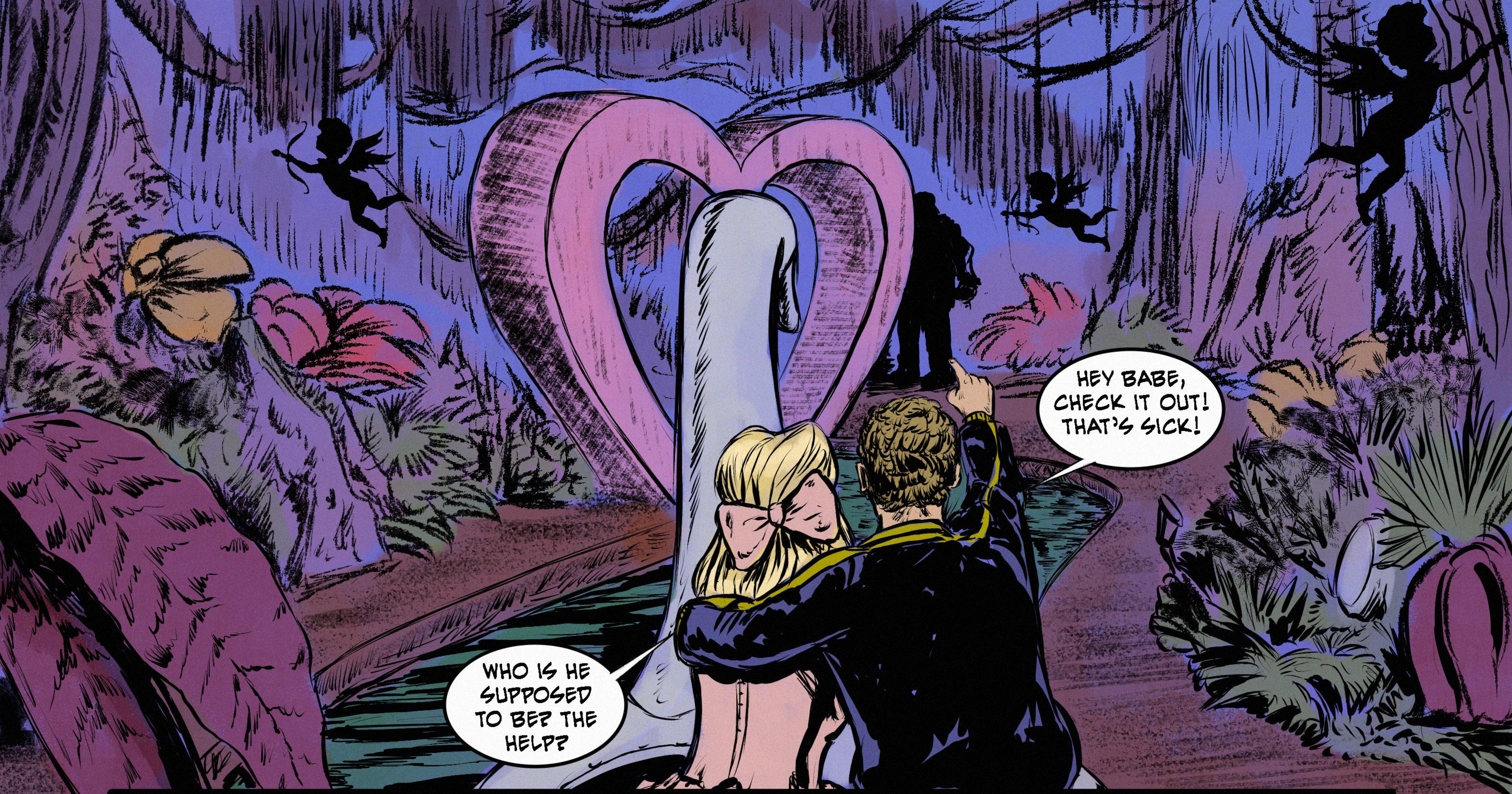
I WAS GONNA BE THE BIGGER PERSON... BUT HER MELTDOWN?

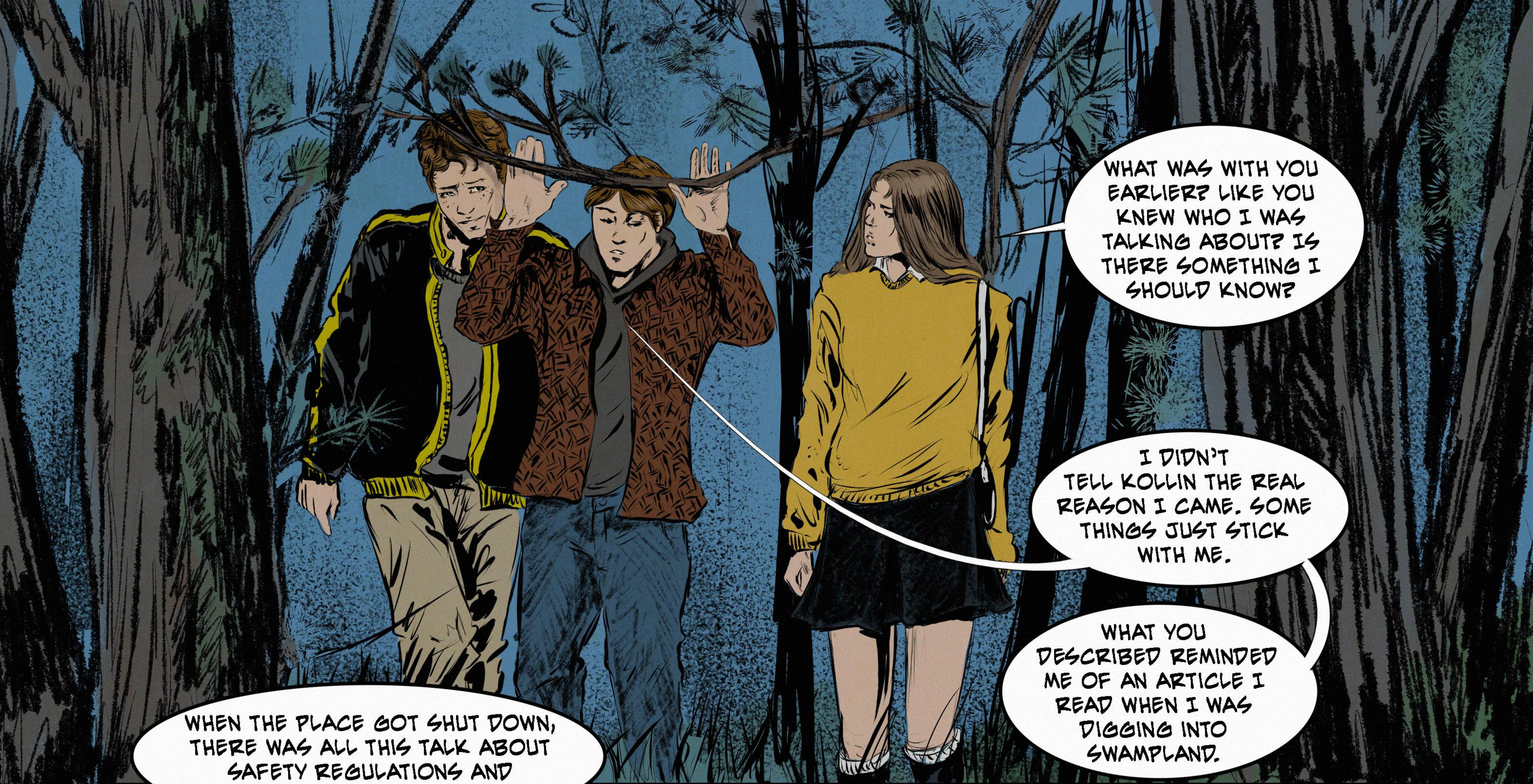


THAT'S NOT ON ME. THE GIRL HAS ISSUES.



YEAH, BABE--HER WHOLE SAD GIRL THING? NOT OUR PROBLEM.





WHAT WAS WITH YOU EARLIER? LIKE YOU KNEW WHO I WAS TALKING ABOUT? IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW?

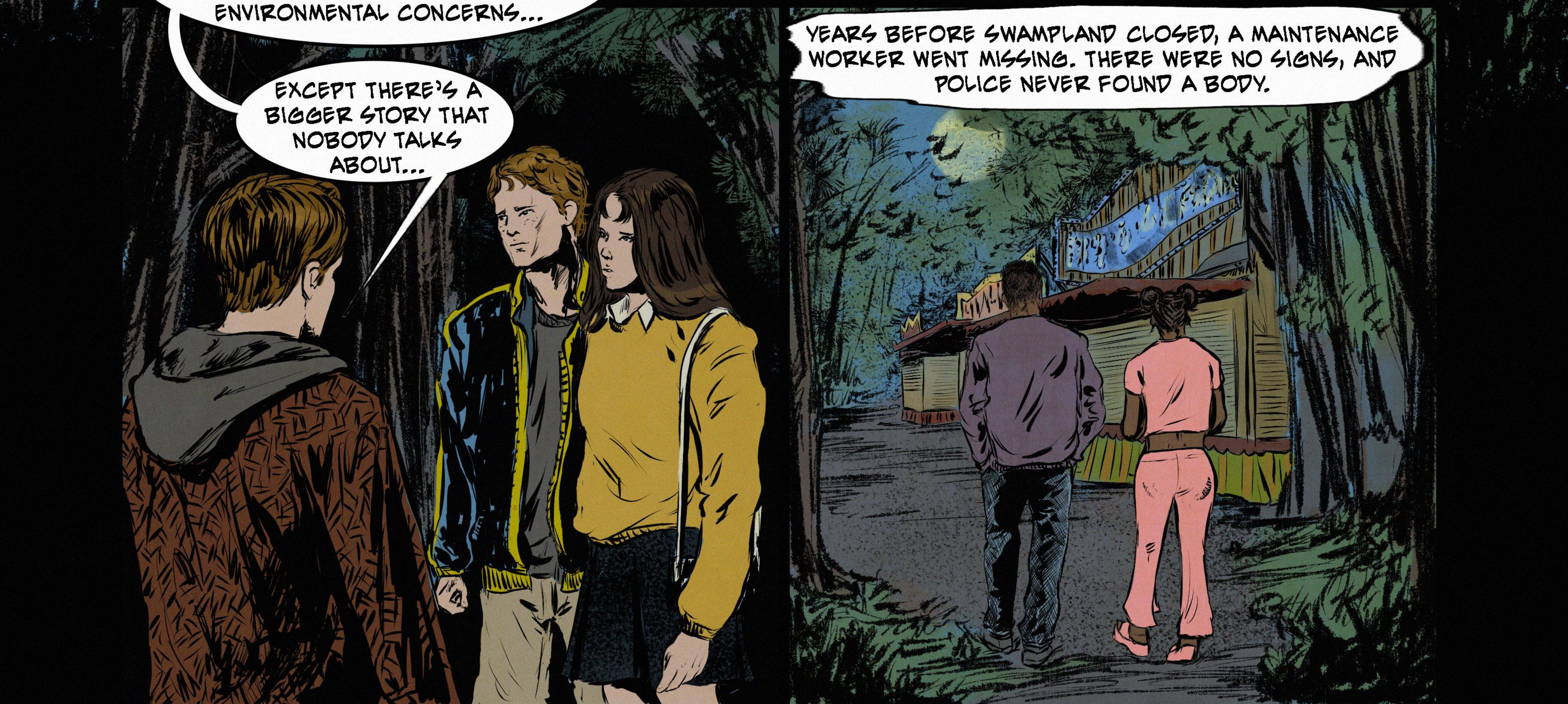
I DIDN'T TELL KOLLIN THE REAL REASON I CAME. SOME THINGS JUST STICK WITH ME.

WHAT YOU DESCRIBED REMINDED ME OF AN ARTICLE I READ WHEN I WAS DIGGING INTO SWAMPLAND.

WHEN THE PLACE GOT SHUT DOWN, THERE WAS ALL THIS TALK ABOUT SAFETY REGULATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS...

EXCEPT THERE'S A BIGGER STORY THAT NOBODY TALKS ABOUT...

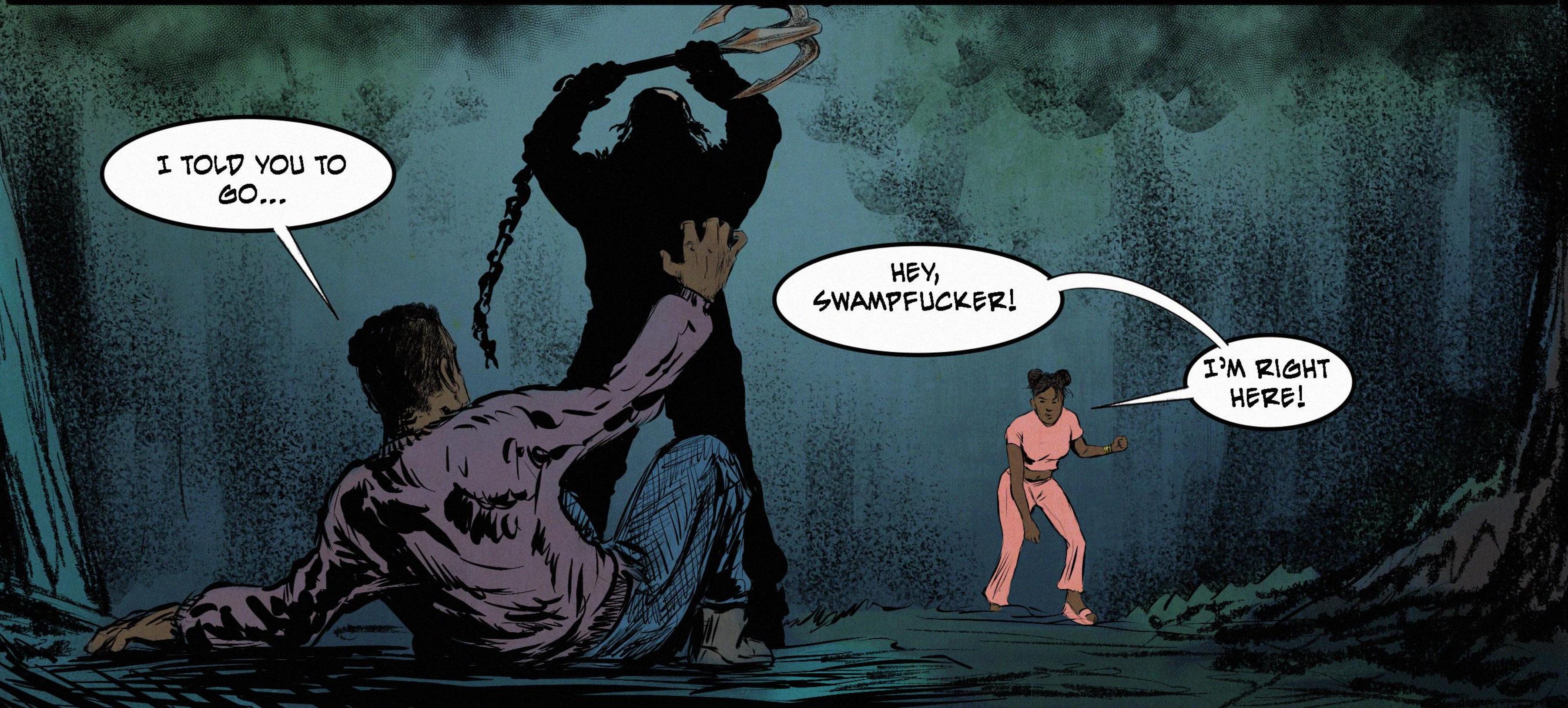
YEARS BEFORE SWAMPLAND CLOSED, A MAINTENANCE WORKER WENT MISSING. THERE WERE NO SIGNS, AND POLICE NEVER FOUND A BODY.

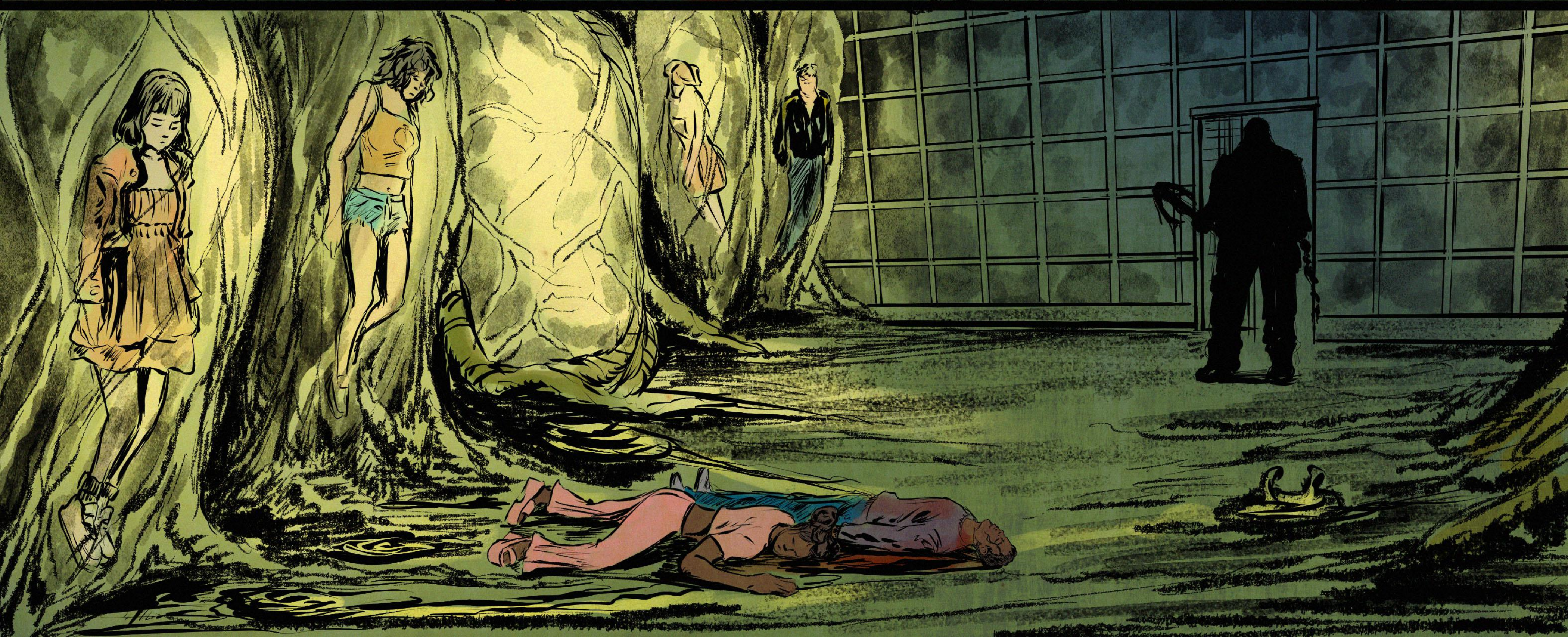
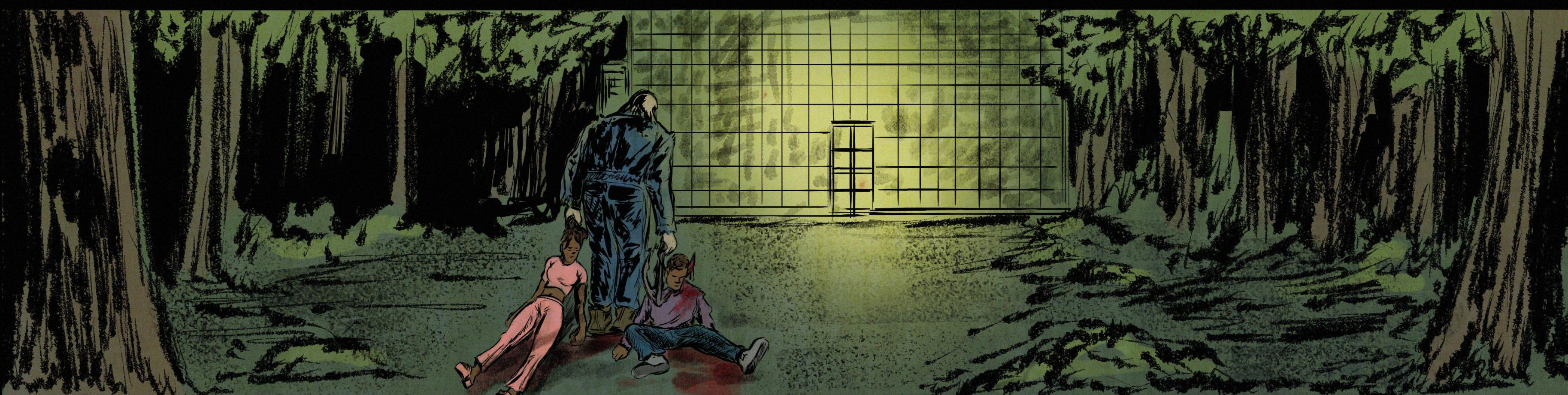
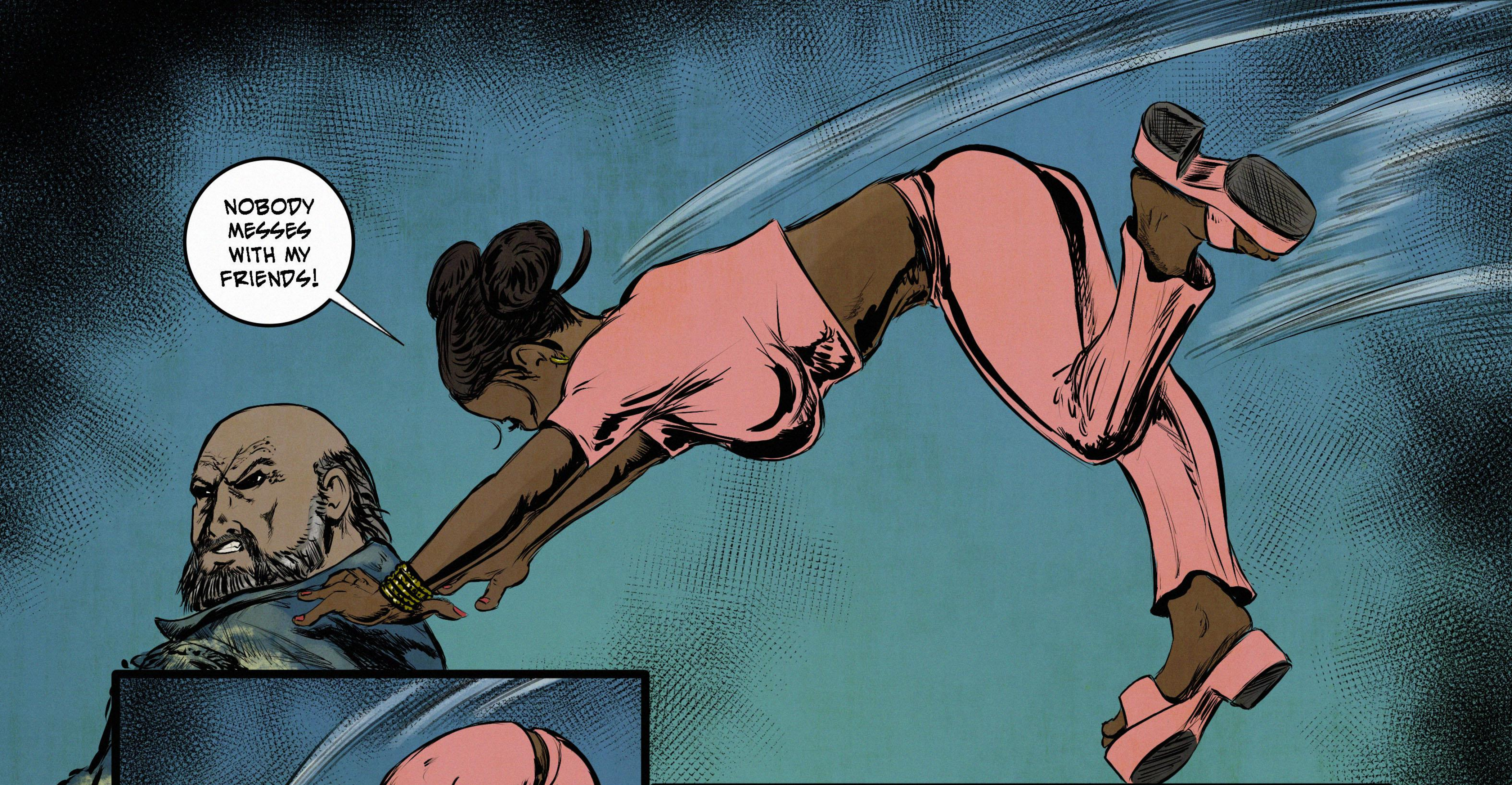


THE CASE WENT COLD, BUT THE STORY WAS ALWAYS THE SAME... HIS NAME WAS...

LENNARD CROWE.









SO... THIS LENNARD
CROWE THING--YOU
REALLY BUY IT?

GUY GOES MISSING
THIRTY YEARS AGO AND
SUDDENLY HE'S OUR
LOCAL SLASHER
VILLAIN?



PEOPLE DON'T JUST
VANISH OUT HERE.
SOMEONE KNEW
SOMETHING.



IT'S REAL. I SAW SOMETHING
EARLIER... THIS ISN'T JUST AN
URBAN LEGEND.



I DUNNO,
IT JUST SOUNDS LIKE A
HORROR FLICK SETUP.
WAYSHORE'S NOT EXACTLY
CAMP CRYSTAL LAKE.



WHAT THE HELL IS
THAT...?





MARCH 3RD, 1978...
THE SUBJECT--LENNARD CROWE
WAS DIRECTLY EXPOSED TO THE
SPORES...



IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
BUT THE ORGANISM ASSIMILATED
WITH LENNARD. HE'S NOT JUST A
HOST. HE'S PART OF IT NOW...



HE DOESN'T KILL OUTRIGHT...
IT PRESERVES ITS VICTIMS...
SAVING THEM TO FEED DURING
PERIODS OF DORMANCY.



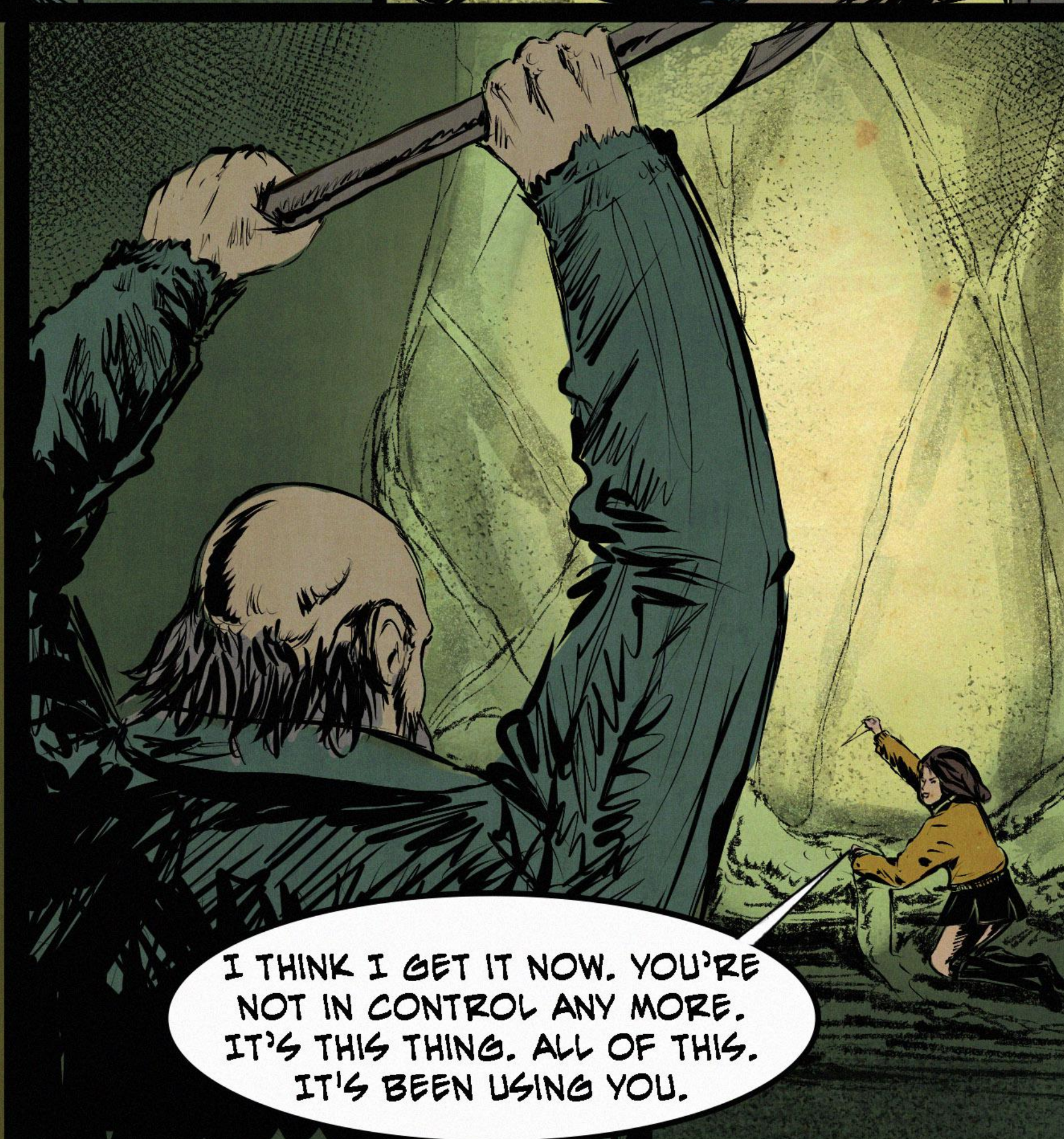
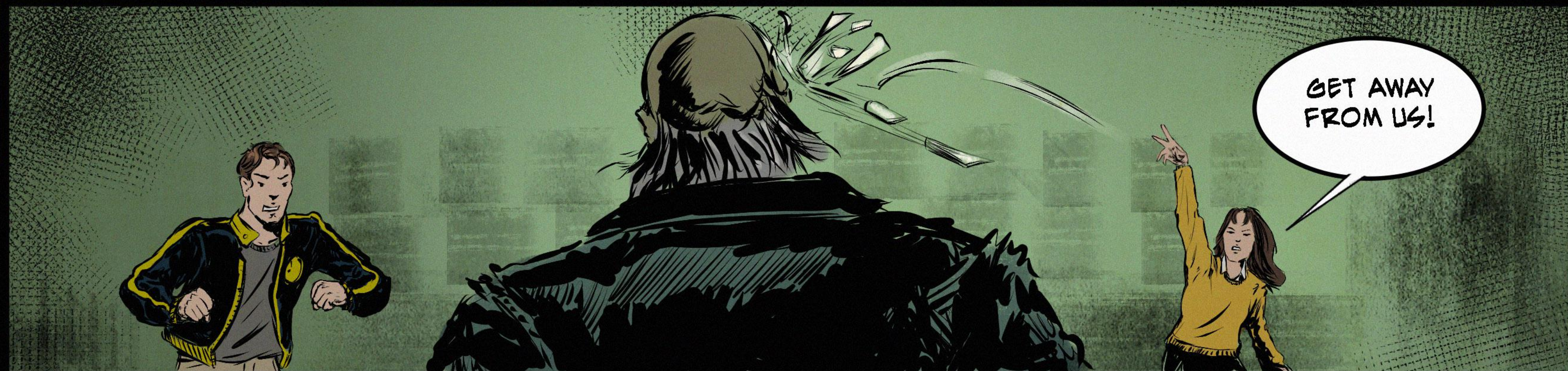
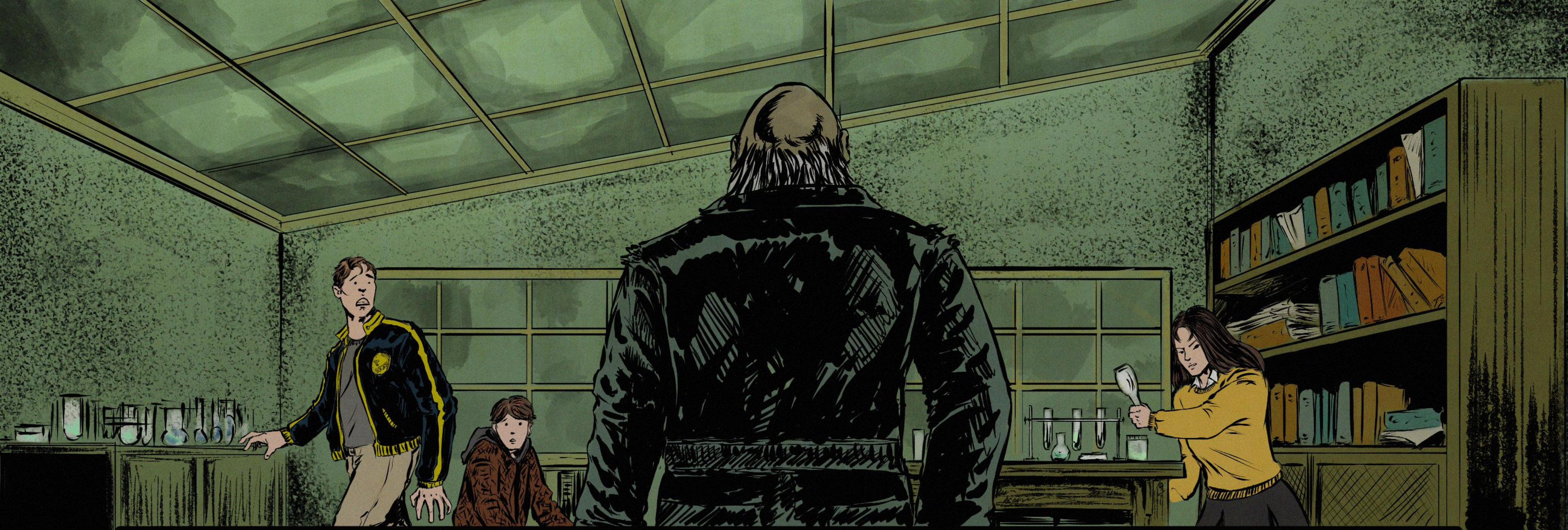
THE SUBSTANCE KEEPS
THEM ALIVE.
LIKE A REGENERATIVE
STASIS...

IT'S BEEN GETTING LARGER THE MORE
IT FEEDS. ITS APPETITE SHOWS NO
SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN. A GLUTTON
FOR ANYTHING LIVING...



I SHOULD HAVE NEVER
BROUGHT IT HERE.
I SHOULD HAVE NEVER
STUDIED IT.

IF ANYONE FINDS THIS...
DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES I DID.
BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND.



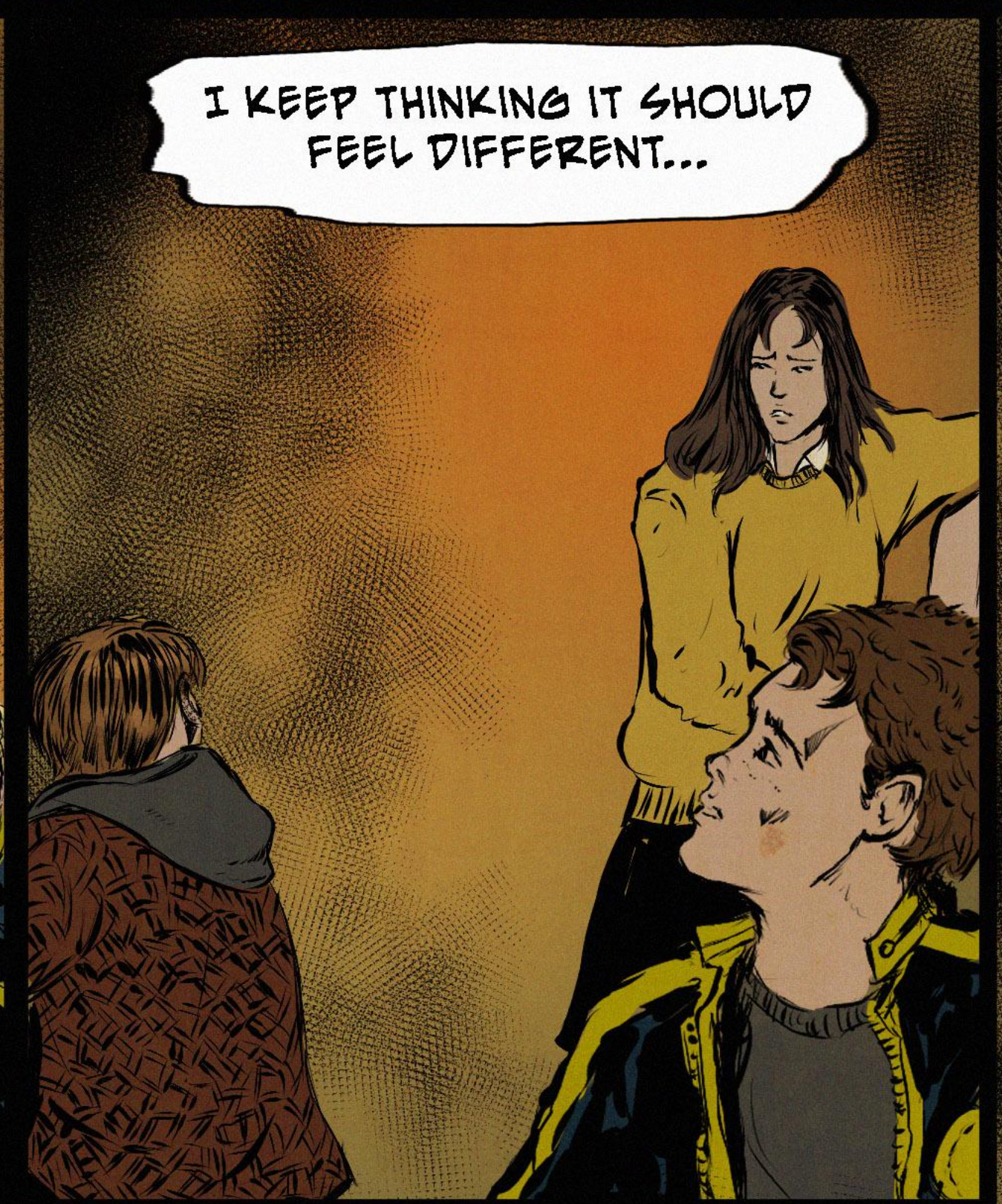
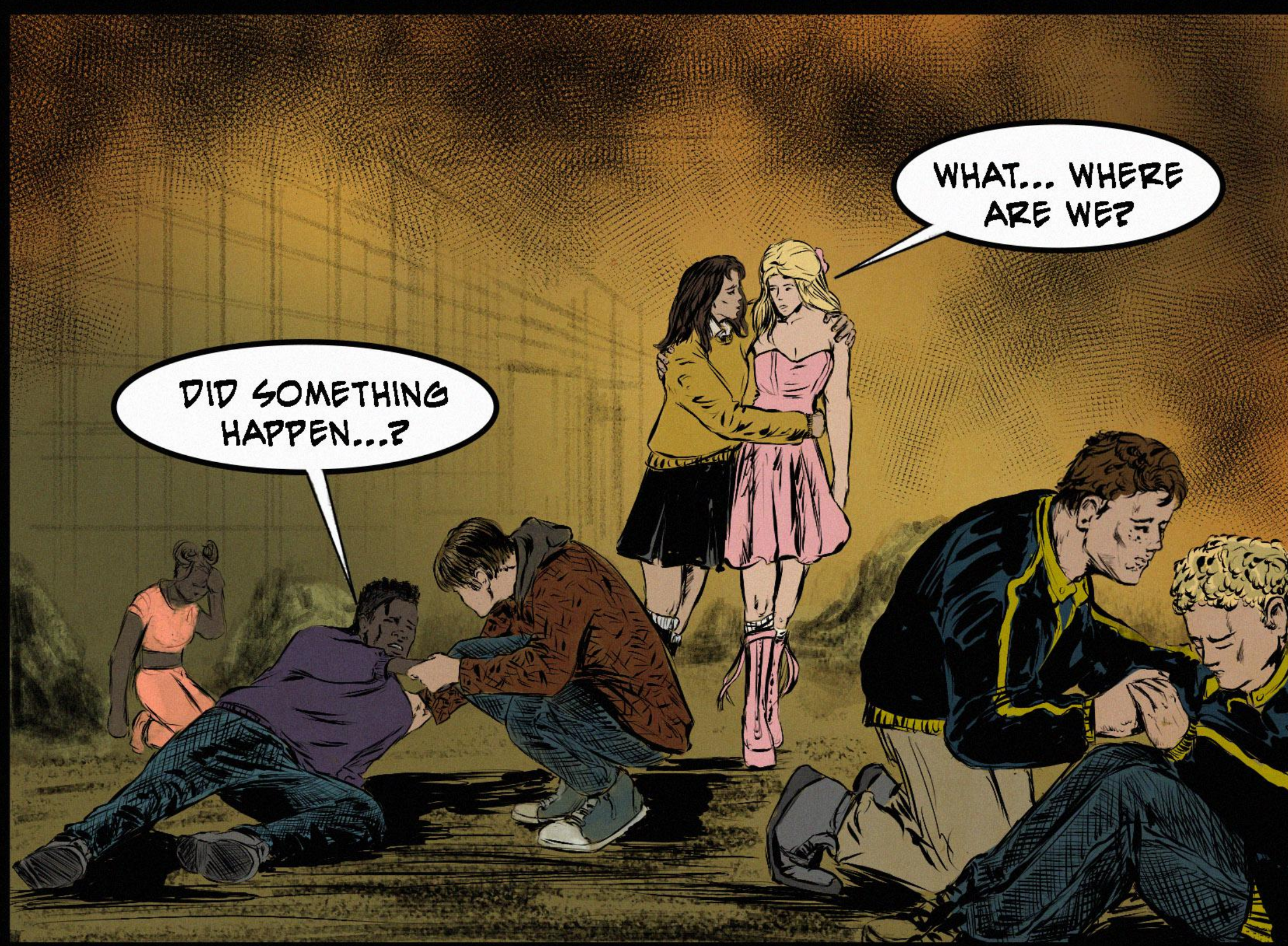








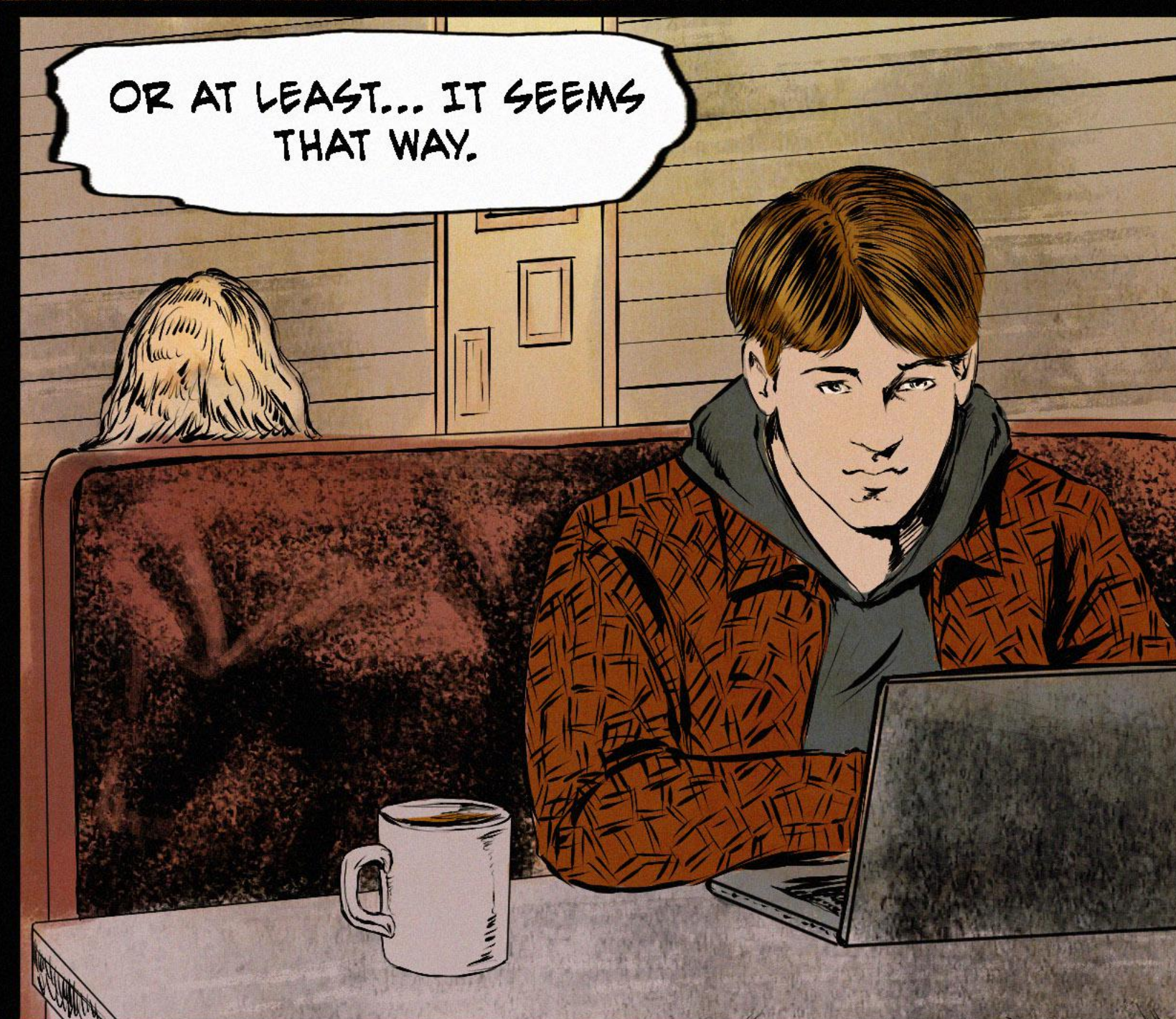




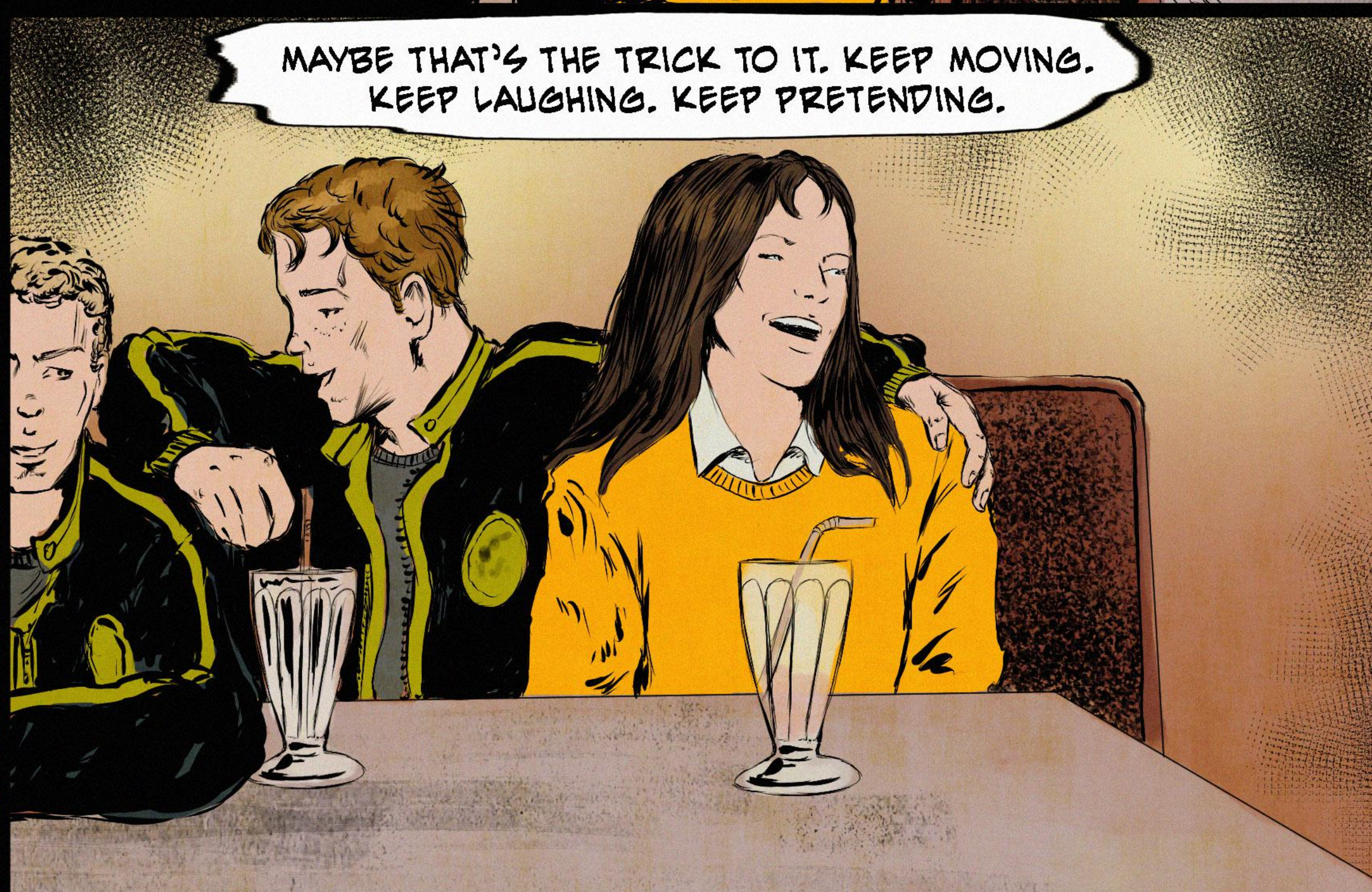


TWO WEEKS LATER...

BUT THINGS GO BACK TO NORMAL. THEY ALWAYS DO.



OR AT LEAST... IT SEEMS THAT WAY.



MAYBE THAT'S THE TRICK TO IT. KEEP MOVING. KEEP LAUGHING. KEEP PRETENDING.



BUT SOME THINGS...



SOME THINGS DON'T STAY BURIED FOREVER.

THE END...?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK HAVEN BRITT
FOR PROOFREADING AND FEEDBACK.
AND TO MY TTRPG GROUP, WHOSE
CREATIVITY AT THE TABLE HELPED BRING
THE STRANGE LITTLE TOWN OF
WAYSHORE TO LIFE.



