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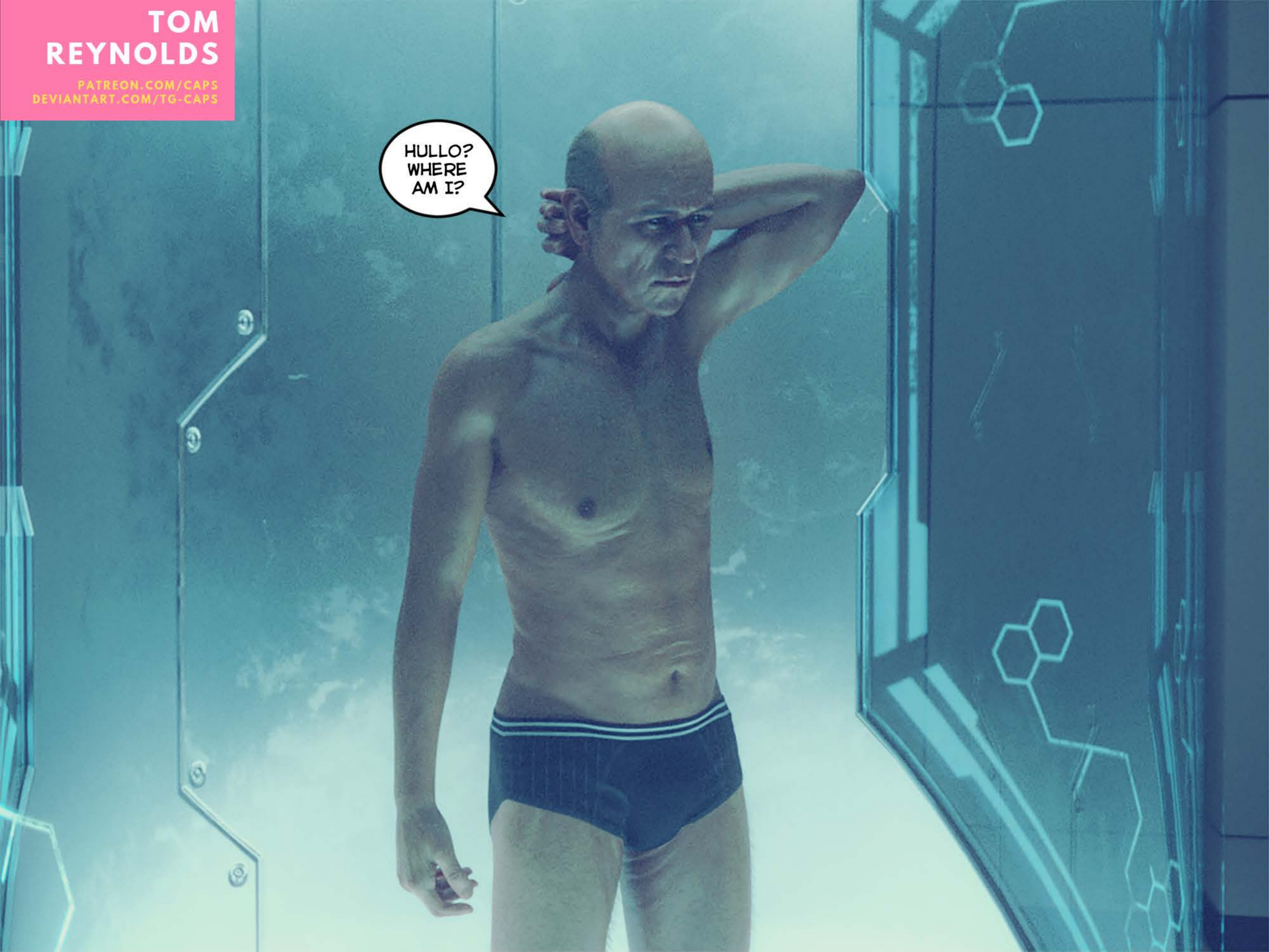


HMM?

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HULLO?
WHERE
AM I?



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A man with short, light-colored hair is shown from the back, with his hands clasped behind his head. He is in a futuristic, metallic environment with blue lighting and hexagonal patterns on the walls. A speech bubble is positioned above his head.

WHERE IN
BLAZES
AM I?

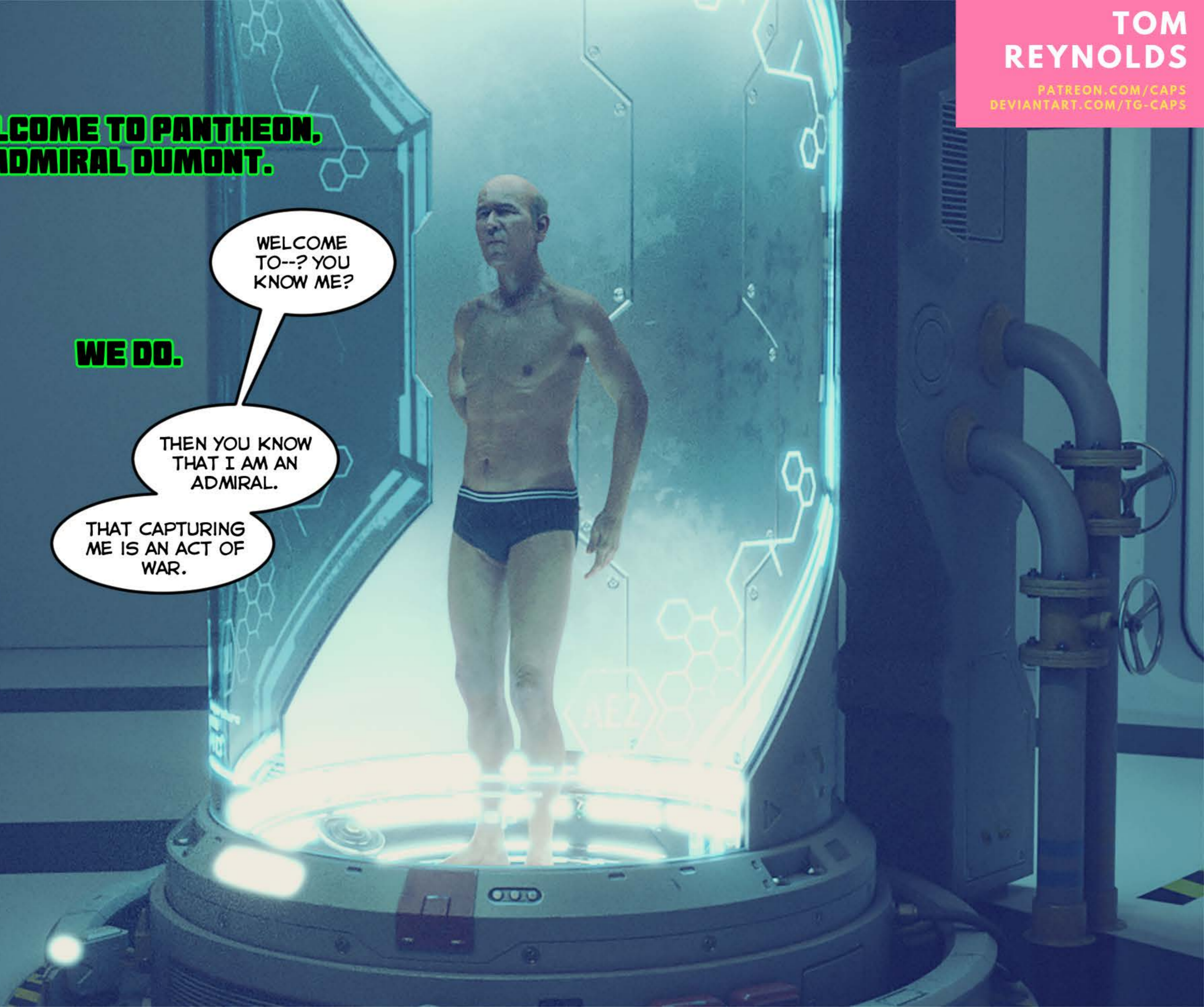
**WELCOME TO PANTHEON,
ADMIRAL DUMONT.**

WELCOME
TO--? YOU
KNOW ME?

WE DO.

THEN YOU KNOW
THAT I AM AN
ADMIRAL.

THAT CAPTURING
ME IS AN ACT OF
WAR.



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WAR IS SUCH A SMALL WORD.

WAIT. THE
EXPLOSION.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE SHIP?

THE CREW?

**THE GSS DESTINY WAS
LOST, WITH ALL HANDS.**

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LOST.

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FOR A CIVILISATION
THAT CONSIDERS WAR
TO BE A SMALL WORD,
YOU WIELD IT THE SAME
AS ANY BACKWARD
RACE.

I DEMAND TO
BE SET FREE.

I DEMAND
COMMUNICATIONS
WITH THE ALLIANCE,
AND I DEMAND LIFEBOATS
AND A SEARCH AND
RESCUE TO BE
DISPATCHED FOR
THE LIVES OF MY
CREW.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

YOUR LOYALTIES LIE ELSEWHERE NOW.

OR... WILL SOON.

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TO WHOM AM
I SPEAKING?

OUR NAME IS EVERCHOSEN.

**A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
TEEMING TRILLIONS THAT
MAKE UP THE PANTHEON.**

THE PANTHEON?

IF YOU ARE AS
ADVANCED AS YOU ASSERT,
THEN YOU MUST UNDERSTAND
THE RAMIFICATIONS OF
THESE ACTIONS.

**THEY ARE UNDERSTOOD. WE
REQUIRE YOU, ADMIRAL DUMONT.**

THEN WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST ASK ME.

**THE COLLECTIVE DOES NOT ASK,
NOR DOES IT DEMAND.**

**WITH EACH ENTITY WE ABSORB, WE
GROW AND BECOME EVEN MORE
PERFECT.**

**THE PANTHEON ONLY TAKES
THAT WHICH WE REQUIRE.**

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THEN YOU ARE
LOCUSTS, CONSUMING
WITH NO CONCEPTION
OF THE MISERY YOU
SPREAD.

PERHAPS.

**YOU CERTAINLY LIVE UP
TO YOUR REPUTATION,
ADMIRAL.**

**WE DID NOT EXPECT AN
ETHICS DISCUSSION WITH
OUR PRISONER.**

I DID NOT EXPECT
TO HAVE MY SHIP
DESTROYED!

NOR MY CREW
SLAUGHTERED!

NOR TO BE
CAPTURED!

THIS IS WRONG.
THIS IS...

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ONLY THE BEGINNING.



**COMMENCE
ASSIMILATION
SEQUENCE...**

ASSIMILATION?
THIS IS MADNESS.



**THE PANTHEON REQUIRES THE
CONSUMPTION OF HIGHER INTELLECTS
TO EXPONENTIALLY INCREASE OUR
CAPACITY FOR THOUGHT.**

**WE HAVE DETERMINED
THAT YOU WOULD MAKE
A FINE ADDITION TO THE
COLLECTIVE.**

A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

IN A COLLECTIVE?

**WHAT ARE WE ALL,
IF NOT A MAZE OF
CONTRADICTIONS?**

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WHAT? YOU WISH
TO MAKE ME
YOUR LEADER?

PRECISELY.

I WON'T DO
IT. I WON'T
CONSENT.

YOU WILL.

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I WILL NOT BE
YOUR SLAVE, NOR
YOUR KING!

YOU WILL BE NEITHER.



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AAAHHH!!!

THE PAIN WILL PASS.



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WHATEVER TORTURE
YOU INFLICT ON ME,
I WILL FIGHT, TO
MY LAST.

I WILL FIGHT TO PREVENT
YOU FROM USING MY
KNOWLEDGE AGAINST
THE IDEALS I HAVE SPENT
MY LIFETIME DEFENDING,
PROTECTING.

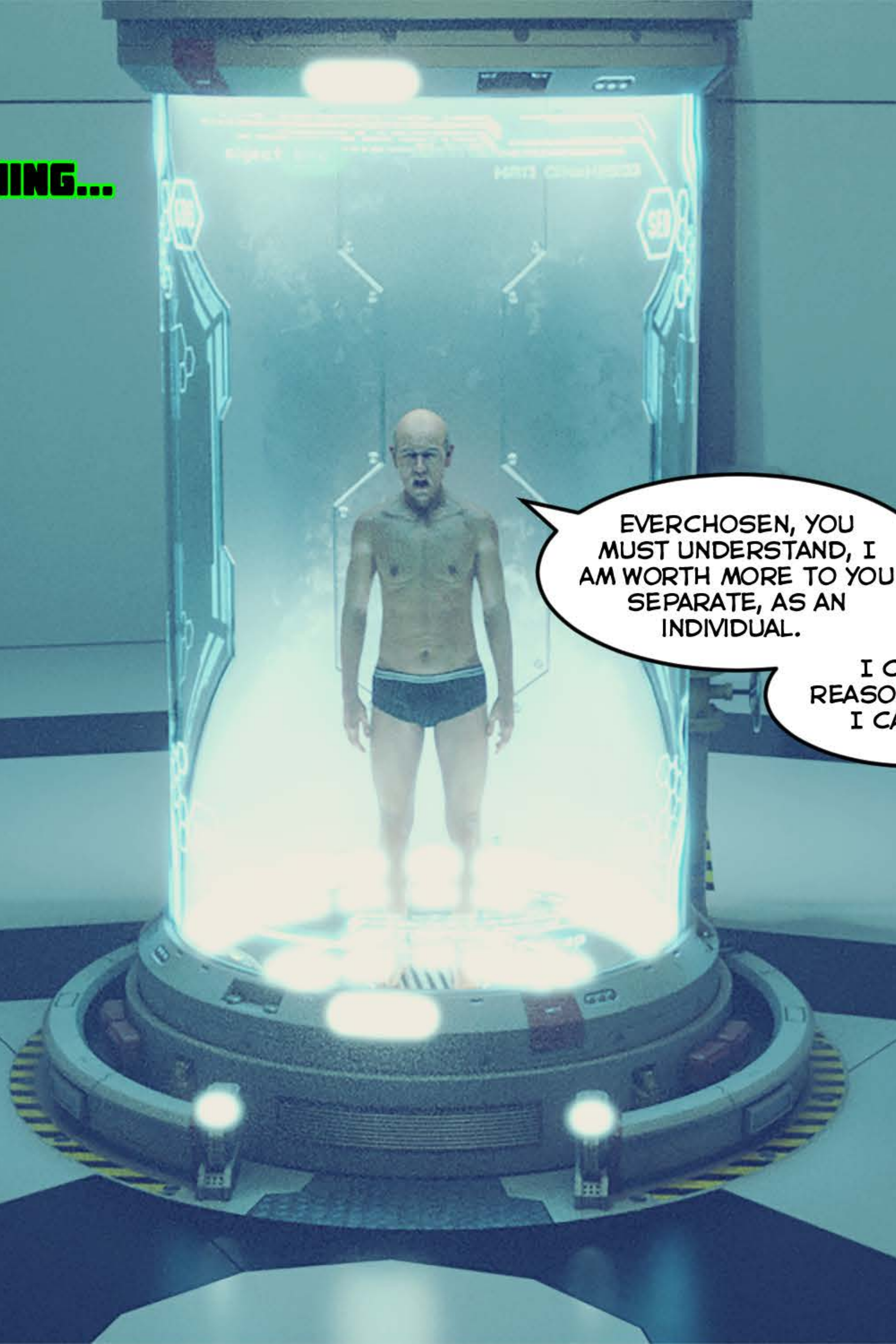
YOU WILL SUBMIT.

**COMMENCE BODY MODIFICATION.
DELAY UPLOAD UNTIL 100% COMPLETION.**

THIS IS
BARBARIY.
THIS IS..!



DIAGNOSTICS RUNNING...

A man with a shaved head and a mustache, wearing dark briefs, stands inside a cylindrical diagnostic chamber. The chamber is illuminated with a bright blue light and has various technical readouts and symbols on its inner walls. The man has a determined expression.

EVERCHOSEN, YOU
MUST UNDERSTAND, I
AM WORTH MORE TO YOU
SEPARATE, AS AN
INDIVIDUAL.

I CAN BE
REASONED WITH!
I CAN BE--

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COMMENCING. 12%.

I CAN'T SEE
WHAT YOU'RE...

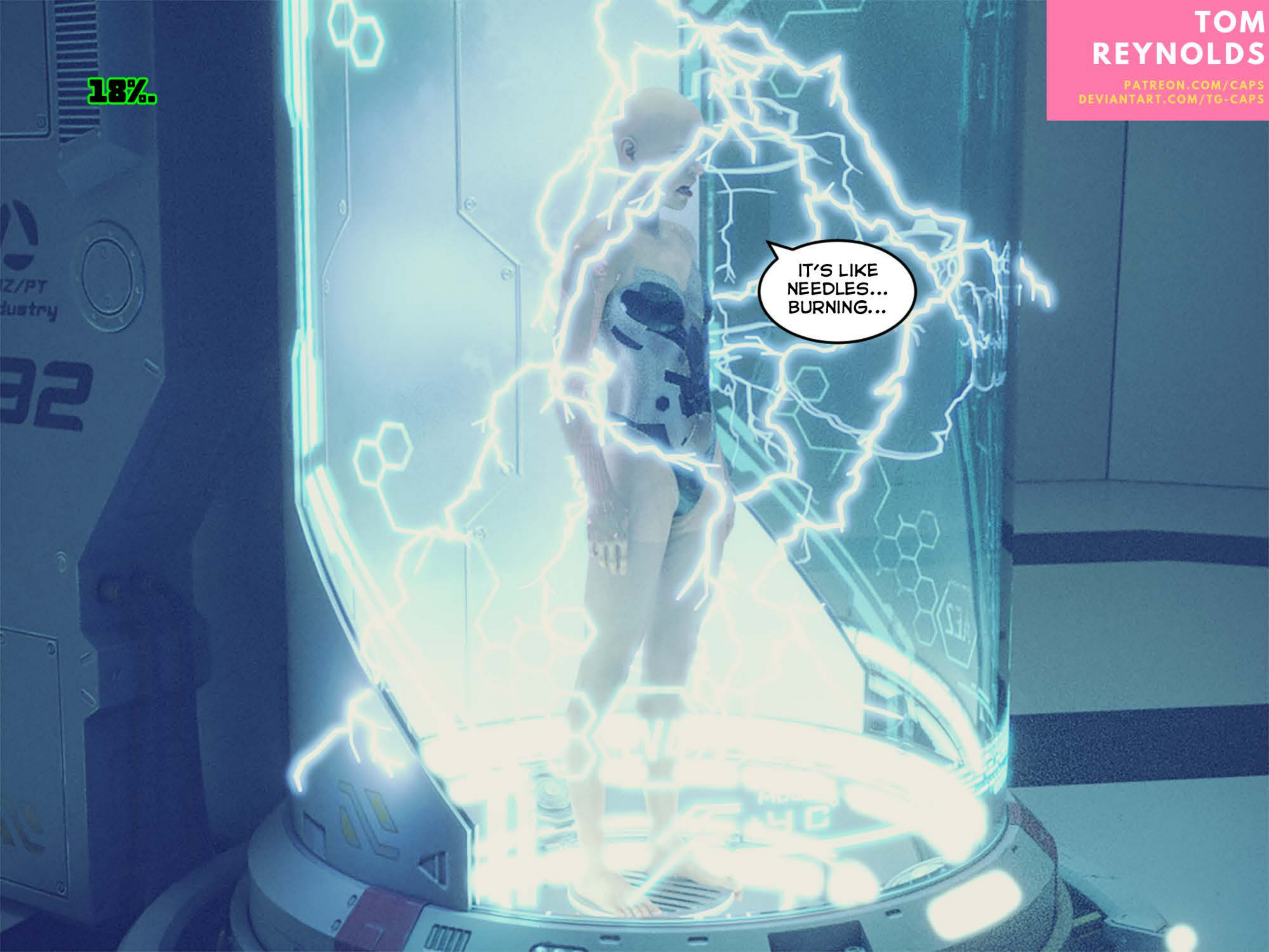


18%

Z/PT
dustry

32

IT'S LIKE
NEEDLES...
BURNING...



32%

IF ANYONE OUT
THERE CAN
HEAR ME...!

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48%... CHARGING...

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I AM
UNDERGOING
SOME KIND OF
INVASIVE
SURGERY...

58%.

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BIO-ELECTRICALS...

LIKELY MORPHANTS
AND ACCELERATED
CHARGED ATOMS...

65%

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ANY ALLIANCE
LISTENING ON
CHANNEL...

AE2

**70%. YOUR INTERNAL
COMMUNICATOR
HAS BEEN DISABLED.**

THEN... IT'S
USELESS.

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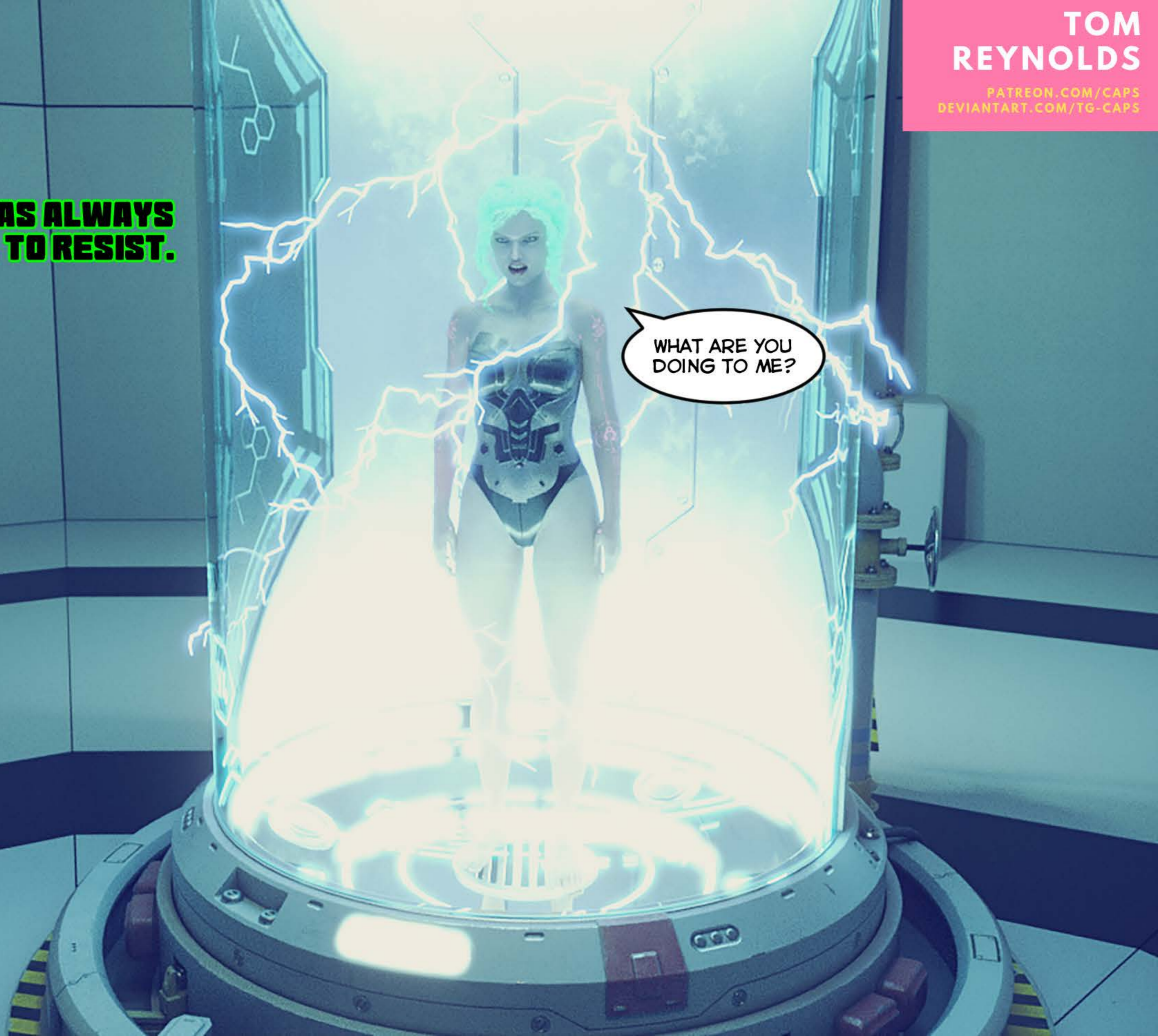
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**79%. IT WAS ALWAYS
USELESS, TO RESIST.**

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TO ME?



**93%. ONLY WHAT IS
NECESSARY, ADMIRAL.**

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**100%. ONLY WHAT IS
NECESSARY.**



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**ALLOW MOVEMENT.
DO NOT PROCEED WITH
UPLOAD. WE WANT TO
SEE HER REACTION.**

HER? REACTION?



WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE
TO ME?

YOU'VE TURNED
ME INTO A...

**WE DO NOT REQUIRE A
KING, ADMIRAL.**

WE REQUIRE...

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A QUEEN.

PRECISELY.

**TELL US, ADMIRAL,
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO
BE PERFECT?**



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A LOT LIKE AN
INSECT DOES.

STEPED ON.

SO DRAMATIC.

**WE WILL ENJOY
PARTAKING OF
YOUR EMOTION.**



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CAN WE JUST
SKIP THIS
CHARADE?

IT'S LIKE
TALKING TO
A BRICK
WALL.

**VERY WELL...
COMMENCE...**



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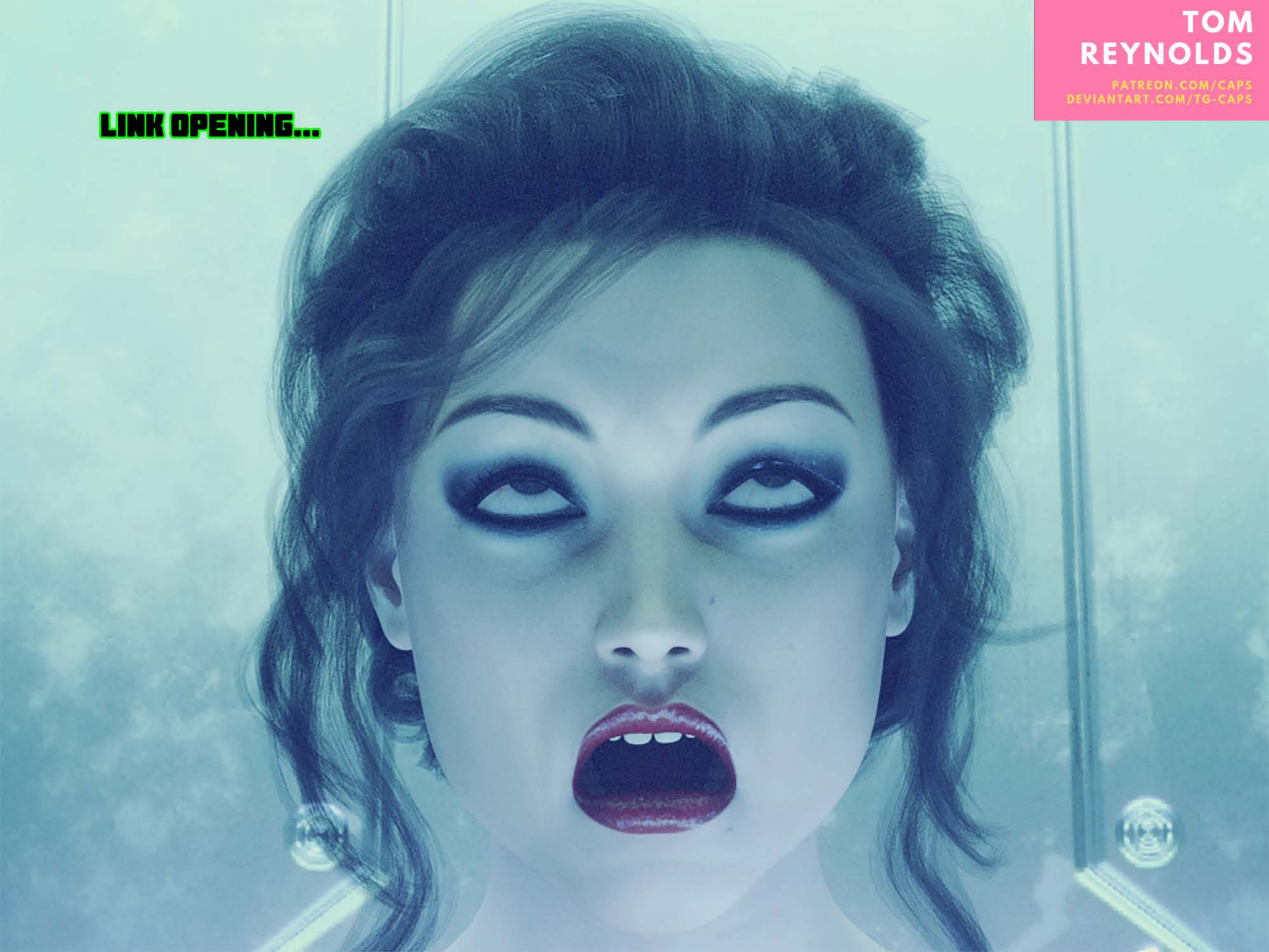
OOOH!



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LINK OPENING...



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IS IT DONE?

IS SHE OURS?

IS SHE FINISHED?

SHE IS. PANTHEON.



REACTIVATE.

SO MUCH
KNOWLEDGE...



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SO MUCH...

*IT'S TOO
MUCH!*

I'M INSIDE OF...

**I CAN FEEL MY
THOUGHTS ECHOING
OFF...**

EVERYTHING.

I FEEL THE PAIN...

THE HUNGER...



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**WELCOME TO
THE PANTHEON,
YOUR MAJESTY.**

*THIS... THESE
LIES IN MY HEAD...*

FEELS JUST LIKE--

**COMING HOME.
THERE'S SOMETHING
INTOXICATING...**

I CAN'T...

THE PERFECTION.

THE PANTHEON.

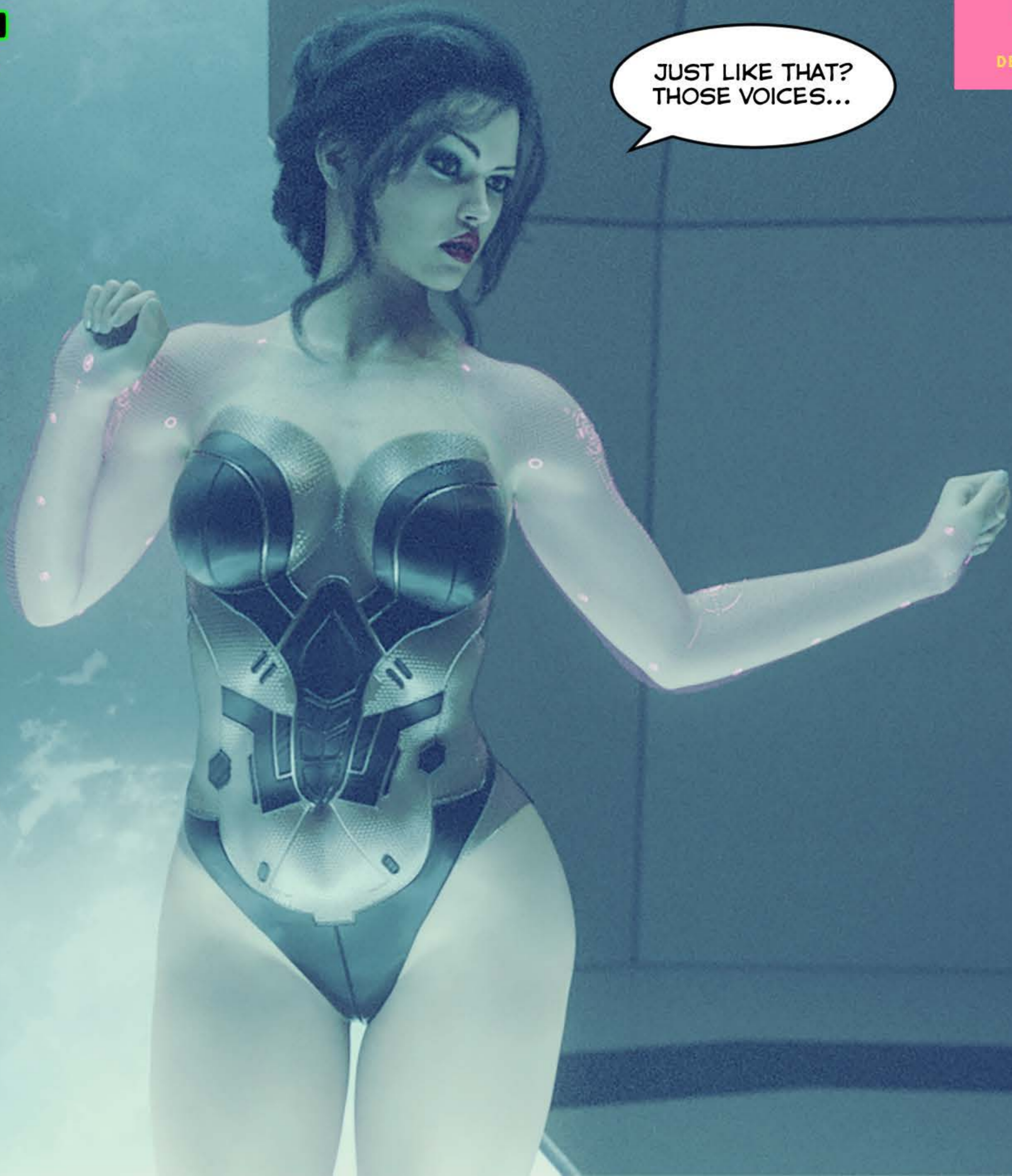


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**YOU ARE FREE TO
JOIN US ON THE
BRIDGE.**

JUST LIKE THAT?
THOSE VOICES...



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**ROME WASN'T DESTROYED
IN A DAY. SOON YOU WILL
COME TO SEE YOUR ROLE IN
ALL OF THIS.**

I WILL FIGHT YOU.

THAT IS OUR GOAL.



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I WILL FIGHT.



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I WILL FIGHT
THE ALLIANCE.



GOT TO...

GET OUT
OF HERE...

MUST FIND THE
ALLIANCE...



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**MUST FIGHT...
THE ALLIANCE.**



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OKAY PEOPLE,
WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK.

I NEED US
AT RED ALERT
YESTERDAY!

ON IT,
SIR.



WHAT ARE
WE LOOKING
AT HERE?

IT APPEARS TO BE
THE SAME SHIP DESIGN
WE ENCOUNTERED DURING
THE ADMIRAL'S
DISAPPEARANCE.

I'M NOT
GETTING ANY
LIFE READ-
INGS.

STEP



KEEP
LOOKING!

WE'RE
MOVING INTO
ATTACK POSITION,
ALL HANDS ON
DECK.

A character with long, dark, wavy hair and glowing red eyes is shown from the chest up, sitting in a brown leather cockpit seat. He is wearing a dark green, textured zip-up jacket with grey mesh panels on the shoulders and upper arms. The background is a dimly lit cockpit with various control panels and lights. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his head.

SIR, WE HAVE A
COMMUNICATION
COMING THROUGH,
ON AN ALLIANCE
BAND.

A character with long, dark, wavy hair and glowing red eyes is shown from the chest up, sitting in a brown leather cockpit seat. He is wearing a dark green, textured zip-up jacket with grey mesh panels on the shoulders and upper arms. The background is a dimly lit cockpit with various control panels and lights. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his head.

ONSCREEN,
COMMANDER.



HELLO
DARLINGS!

WELCOME TO
THE INVASION, I'M
GLAD YOU COULD
ALL BE HERE TO
SEE THIS.

WHO ARE
YOU?

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO
ACCOMPLISH BY
ATTACKING
US?

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EVERYTHING.
YOU WILL ALL
JOIN US IN THE
PANTHEON.

CAPTAIN, I'M
GETTING SOME ODD
READINGS...



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I BELIEVE...

NO. I KNOW...

THAT'S THE
ADMIRAL.

ACCESS 858 003



WATCH YOU'RE S

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IT CAN'T BE.

ACCESS 659 003 A X

AUTOMATIC
CAUTION
DOOR



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