


CHARYSA LILIS

CHAPTER 5: TRUST

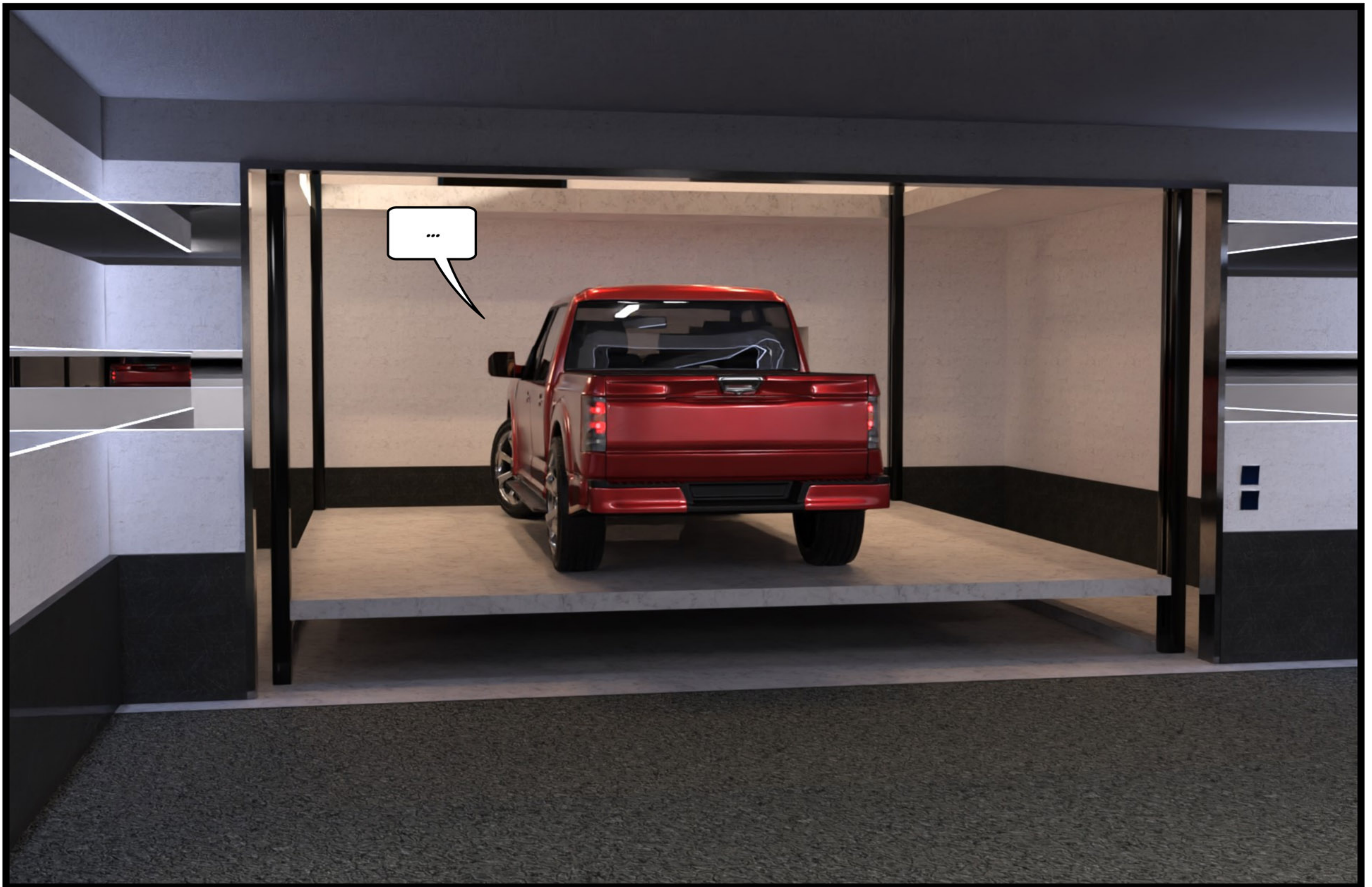


YOU'LL HAVE TO THANK ANDREW FOR LETTING ME BORROW HIS TRUCK. NONE OF MY CARS WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY COMFORTABLE FOR YOU IN YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.

YES, MS. B. HONESTLY, I'M KIND OF SURPRISED YOU'RE PICKING ME UP AND NOT STEPHAN.







...



OKAY, OLI... OUT OF THE TRUCK. WE NEED TO CHAT BEFORE YOU GO TO YOUR ROOM.

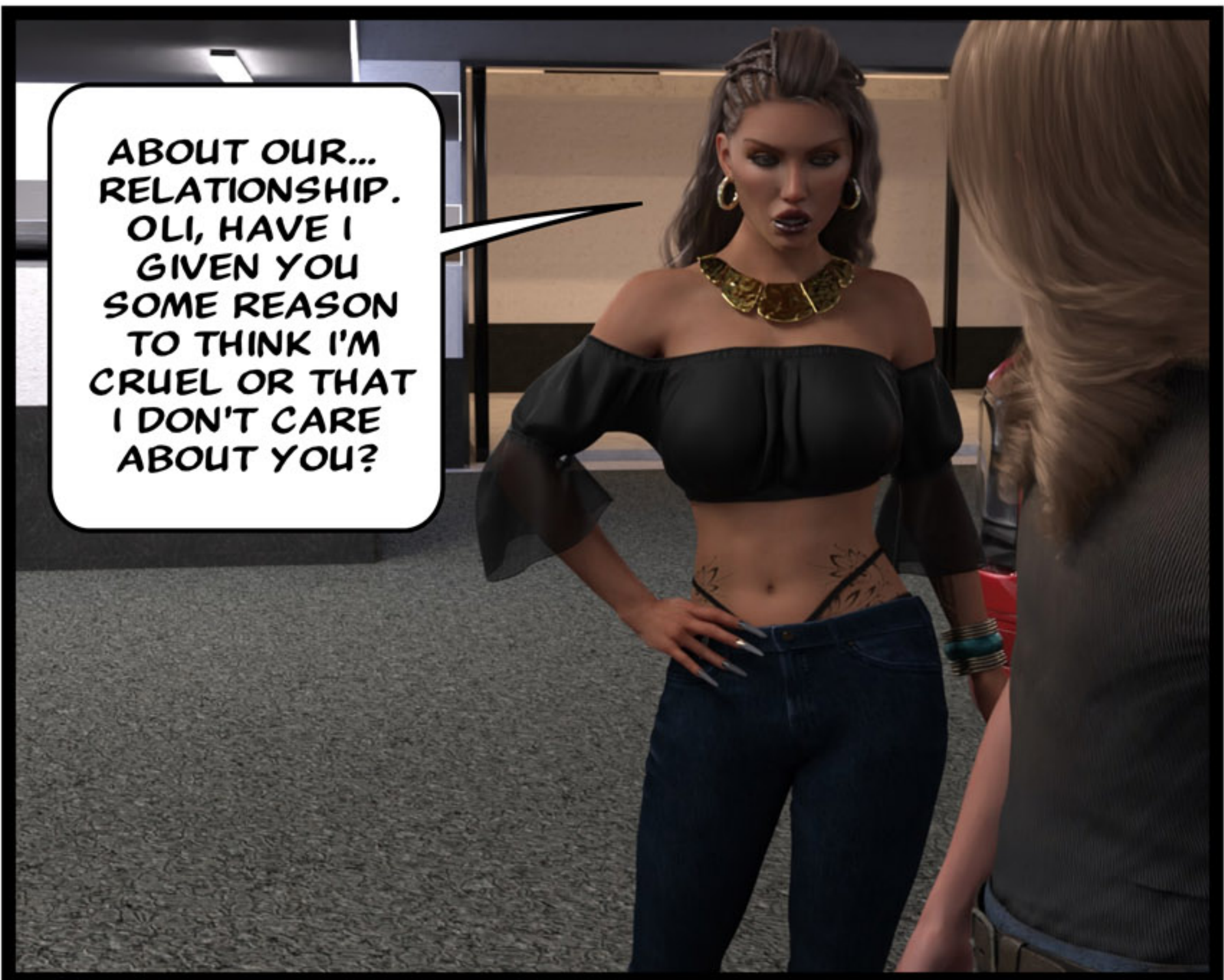




YOU LIKE CARS, OLI? WELL, WHEN YOU'RE ABLE TO SIT, WE'LL GO OUT FOR SOME RIDES... BUT FOR NOW, WE NEED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK.



ABOUT WHAT?

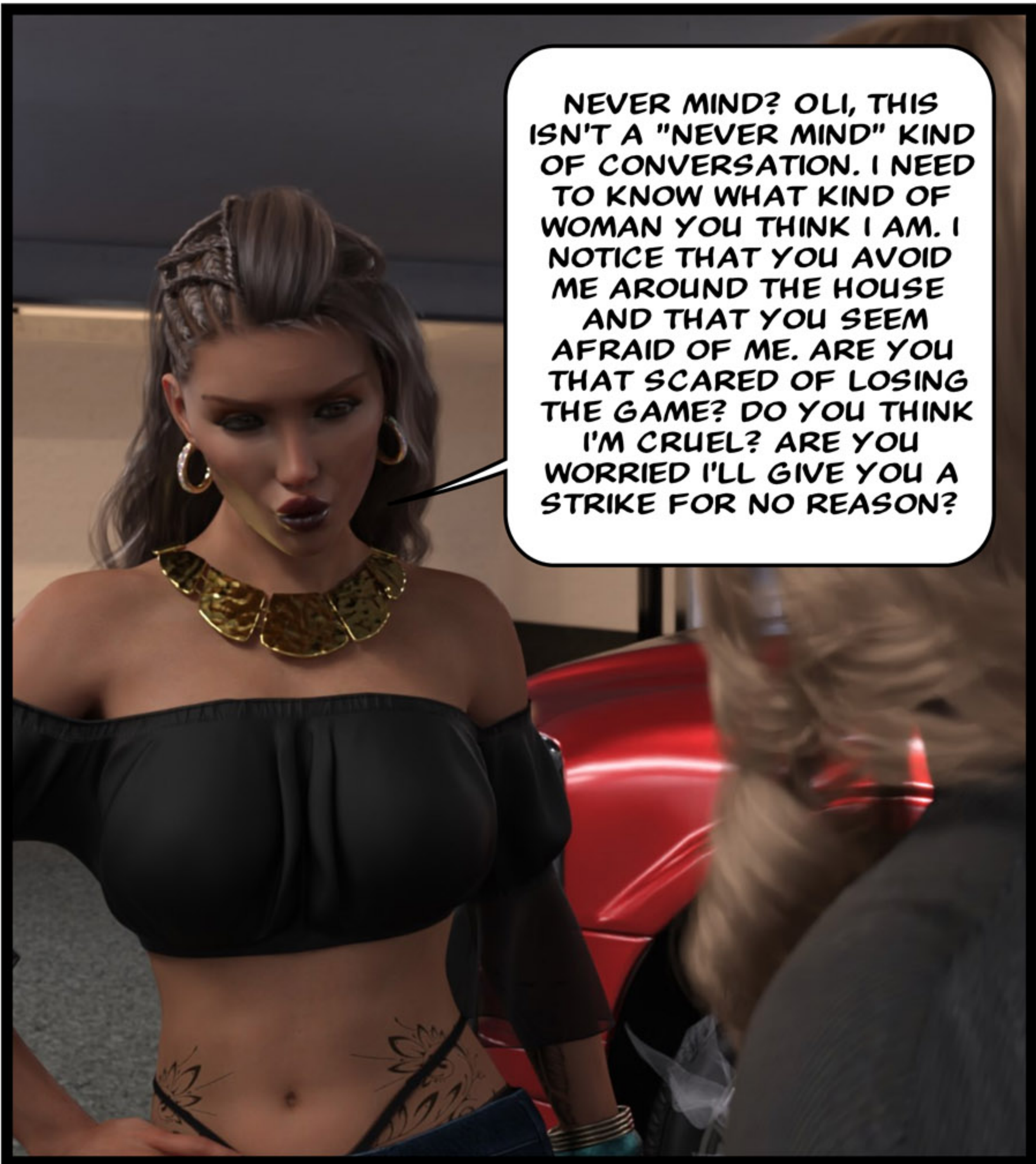


ABOUT OUR... RELATIONSHIP. OLI, HAVE I GIVEN YOU SOME REASON TO THINK I'M CRUEL OR THAT I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU?



NO... NOT REALLY. OR, I DON'T THINK SO.


I JUST... NEVER MIND...



NEVER MIND? OLI, THIS ISN'T A "NEVER MIND" KIND OF CONVERSATION. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF WOMAN YOU THINK I AM. I NOTICE THAT YOU AVOID ME AROUND THE HOUSE AND THAT YOU SEEM AFRAID OF ME. ARE YOU THAT SCARED OF LOSING THE GAME? DO YOU THINK I'M CRUEL? ARE YOU WORRIED I'LL GIVE YOU A STRIKE FOR NO REASON?



WELL, WOULDN'T YOU? WHAT IF WE'RE WATCHING A SHOW ON TV AND I MAKE A COMMENT YOU DON'T LIKE, OR I SIT WRONG? OR... I DON'T KNOW.




WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT? I'VE ONLY GIVEN YOU STRIKES WHEN YOU'VE DIRECTLY MESSED UP MY ORDERS. I EXPECT YOU TO ACTIVELY DO YOUR DUTIES TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES. THAT'S ALL. I'M NOT GOING TO PUNISH YOU BECAUSE I DISAGREE WITH A COMMENT YOU MAKE ABOUT A TV SHOW. I'M NOT LIKE THAT.




I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I JUST DON'T GET IT!



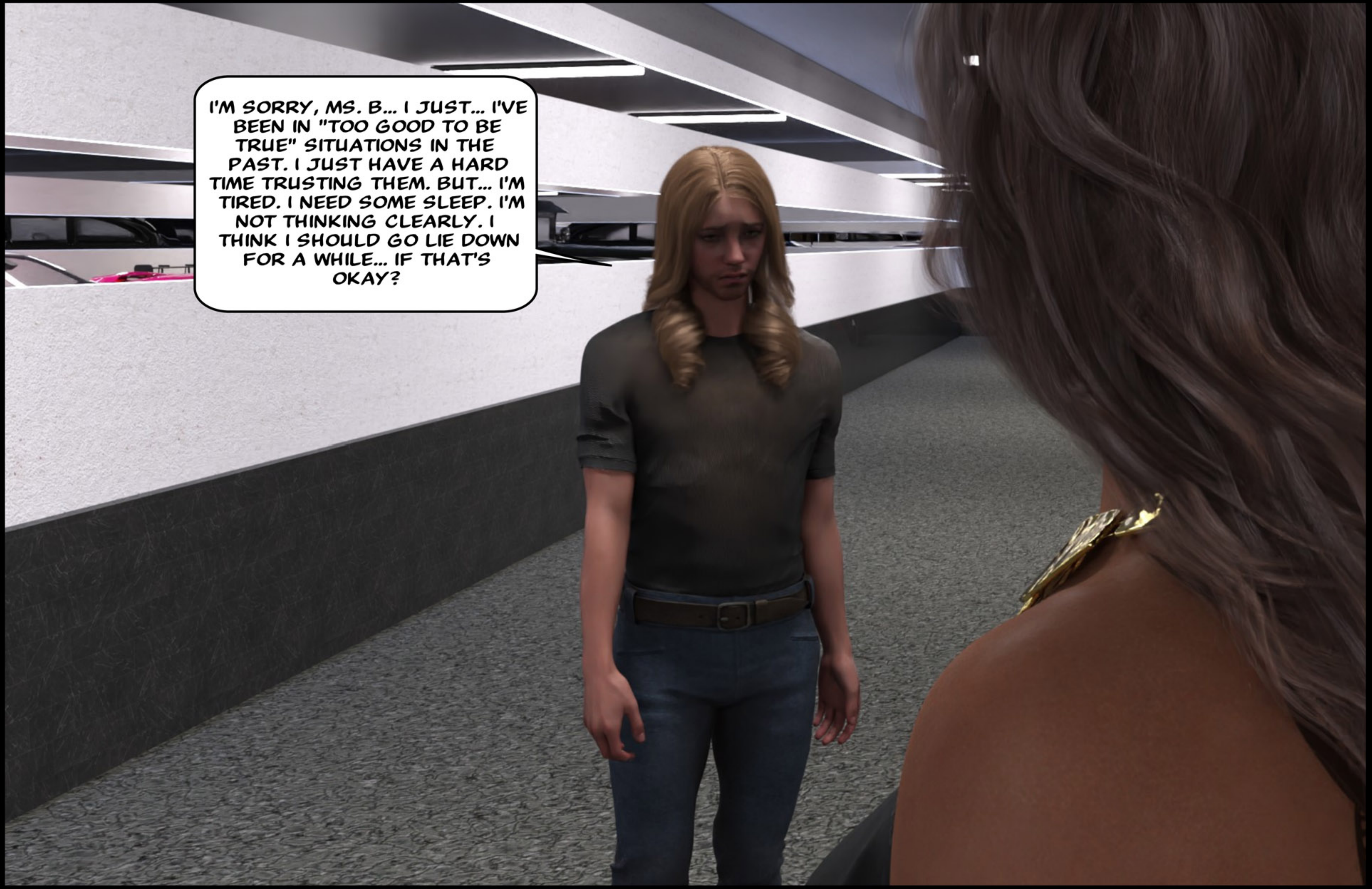
GET WHAT?!



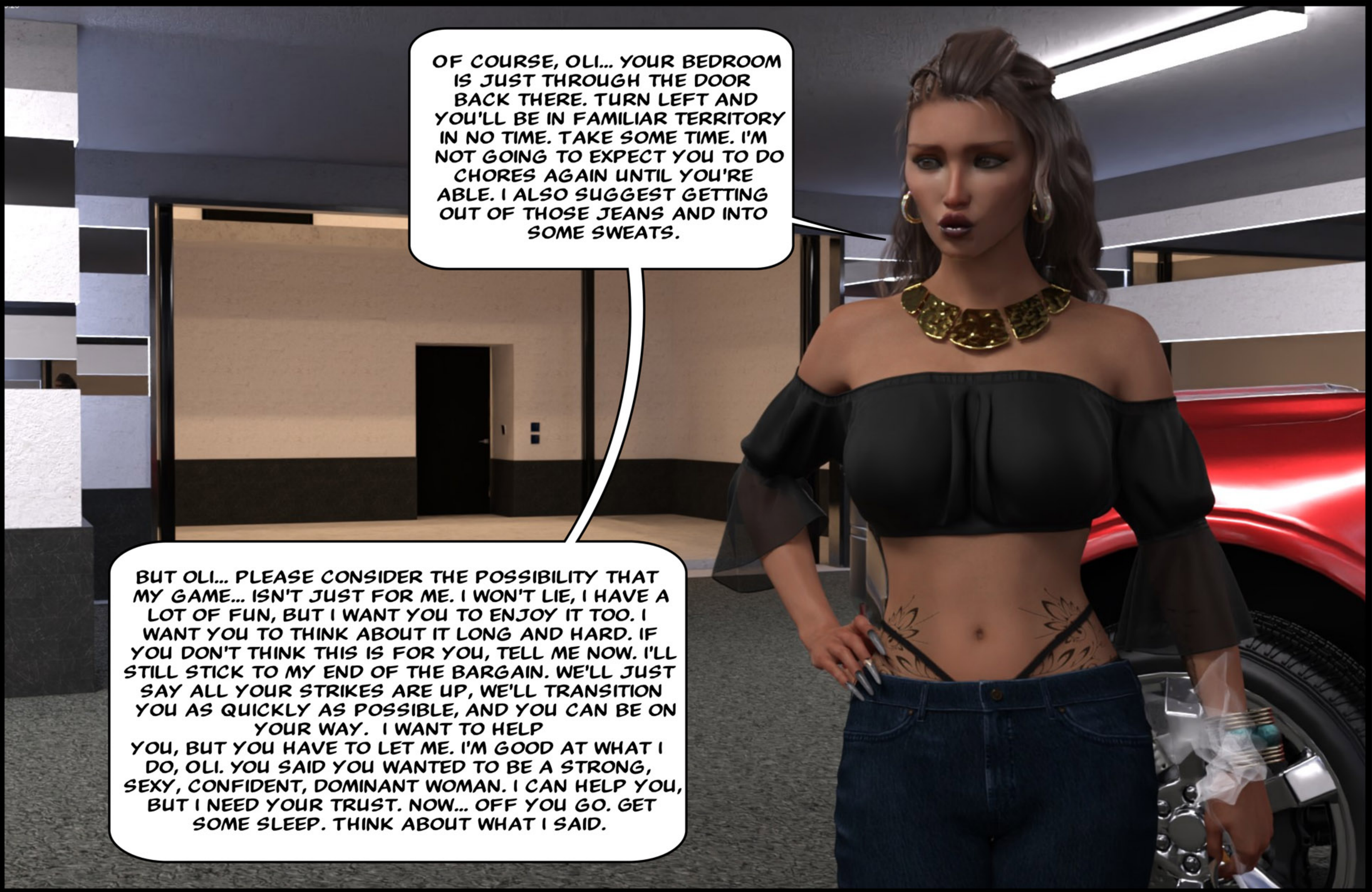
THIS! ALL OF THIS! I GREW UP HOPPING FROM ONE FOSTER HOME TO THE NEXT! I'M NO STRANGER TO LIVING UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S ROOF, BUT... I DON'T GET YOU. YOU'RE STRICT BUT NOT... MEAN. YOU'RE RICH, BUT NOT STUCK UP... I GUESS I'M JUST WAITING FOR THE HAMMER TO DROP. AND YEAH, I STAY OUT OF THE WAY BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT GOT ME THIS FAR. DON'T LET ANYONE NOTICE YOU, AND THEY CAN'T HURT YOU. AVOID THE HAMMER, AND IT CAN'T KNOCK YOU OUT.



OLI, THERE'S NO HAMMER. I'M NOT OUT TO GET YOU. I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU. I PICKED YOU **BECAUSE** YOU COME FROM NOTHING. ALL MY PREVIOUS PETS WERE IN THE SAME POSITION. I WANT TO HELP TRANS PEOPLE. I INVEST IN THEIR BUSINESSES, I GIVE TO THEIR CHARITIES, AND I TAKE THEM INTO MY HOME... I'VE ASKED YOU AT EVERY TURN WHAT YOU WANTED OUT OF THIS. I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU AS MUCH AS I'M DOING IT FOR ME. I'M NOT GOING TO B.S. YOU AND SAY I DON'T GET PLEASURE OUT OF IT, BUT I GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE COMFORTABLE, TOO.



I'M SORRY, MS. B... I JUST... I'VE BEEN IN "TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE" SITUATIONS IN THE PAST. I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME TRUSTING THEM. BUT... I'M TIRED. I NEED SOME SLEEP. I'M NOT THINKING CLEARLY. I THINK I SHOULD GO LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE... IF THAT'S OKAY?



OF COURSE, OLI... YOUR BEDROOM IS JUST THROUGH THE DOOR BACK THERE. TURN LEFT AND YOU'LL BE IN FAMILIAR TERRITORY IN NO TIME. TAKE SOME TIME. I'M NOT GOING TO EXPECT YOU TO DO CHORES AGAIN UNTIL YOU'RE ABLE. I ALSO SUGGEST GETTING OUT OF THOSE JEANS AND INTO SOME SWEATS.

BUT OLI... PLEASE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT MY GAME... ISN'T JUST FOR ME. I WON'T LIE, I HAVE A LOT OF FUN, BUT I WANT YOU TO ENJOY IT TOO. I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT IT LONG AND HARD. IF YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS FOR YOU, TELL ME NOW. I'LL STILL STICK TO MY END OF THE BARGAIN. WE'LL JUST SAY ALL YOUR STRIKES ARE UP, AND YOU CAN BE ON YOUR WAY. I WANT TO HELP YOU, BUT YOU HAVE TO LET ME. I'M GOOD AT WHAT I DO, OLI. YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE A STRONG, SEXY, CONFIDENT, DOMINANT WOMAN. I CAN HELP YOU, BUT I NEED YOUR TRUST. NOW... OFF YOU GO. GET SOME SLEEP. THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID.



HEY, TYLER, DO YOU GET THE LITTLE RED GUY? IS HE THE DEVIL? OR JUST A MASCOT? BOTH? AND WHY DOES THE WOMAN HAVE SCALES ON ONE ARM?

I THINK THE DEVIL GUY REPRESENTS OUR DEVIOUS NATURE, AND THE WOMAN... IS JUST WEIRD? MAYBE... I CAN'T REALLY TELL.

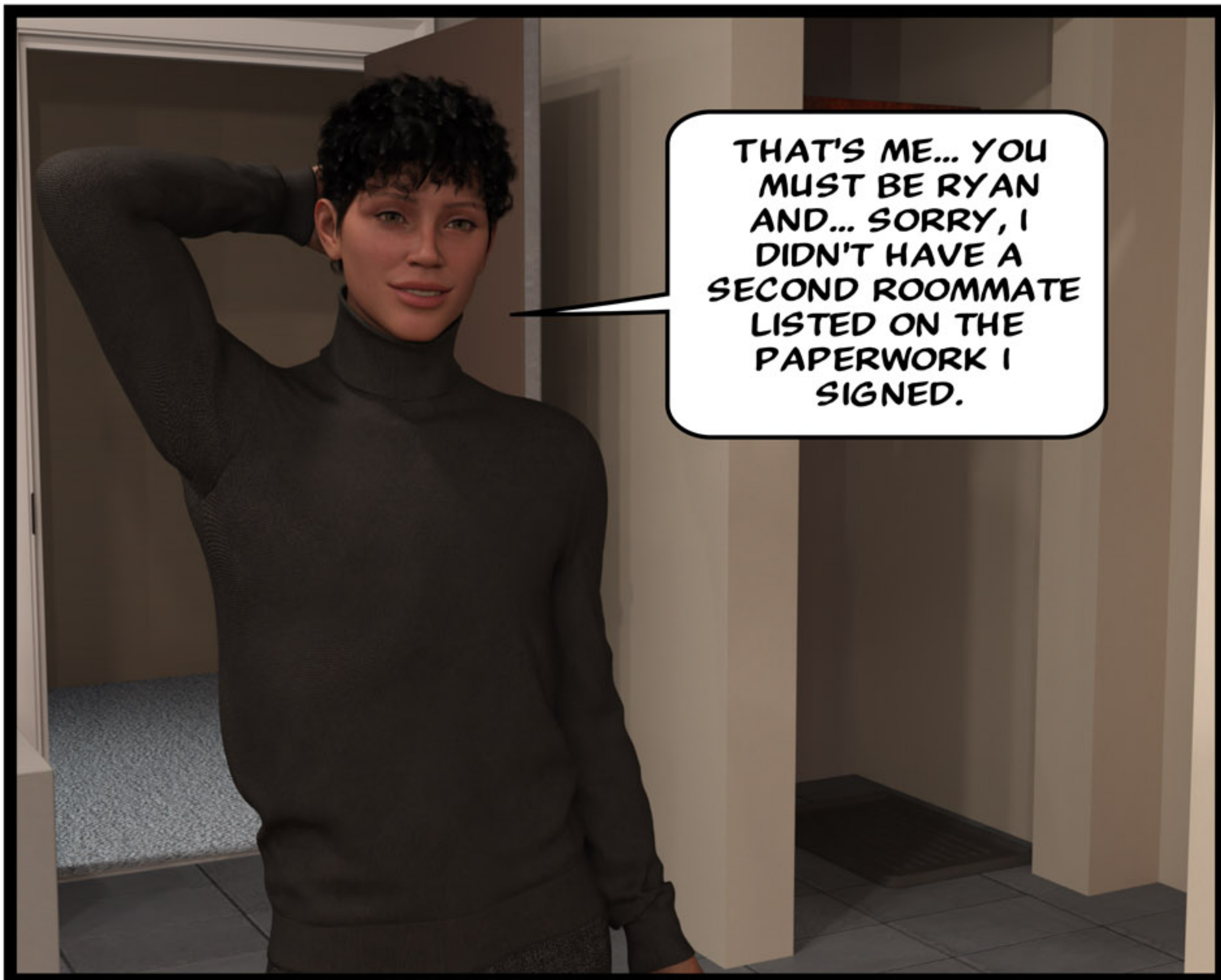


I LIKE THEM, THOUGH...



KNOCK KNOCK!

HEY! YOU MUST BE LIAM!



THAT'S ME... YOU MUST BE RYAN AND... SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE A SECOND ROOMMATE LISTED ON THE PAPERWORK I SIGNED.



OH! I'M NOT YOUR ROOMMATE. I'M GOING TO LIVE ACROSS THE HALL. RYAN AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS, THOUGH. I'M TYLER.



WELL, RYAN, TYLER, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU BOTH... I'M ASSUMING YOU'RE BOTH JUST STARTING?



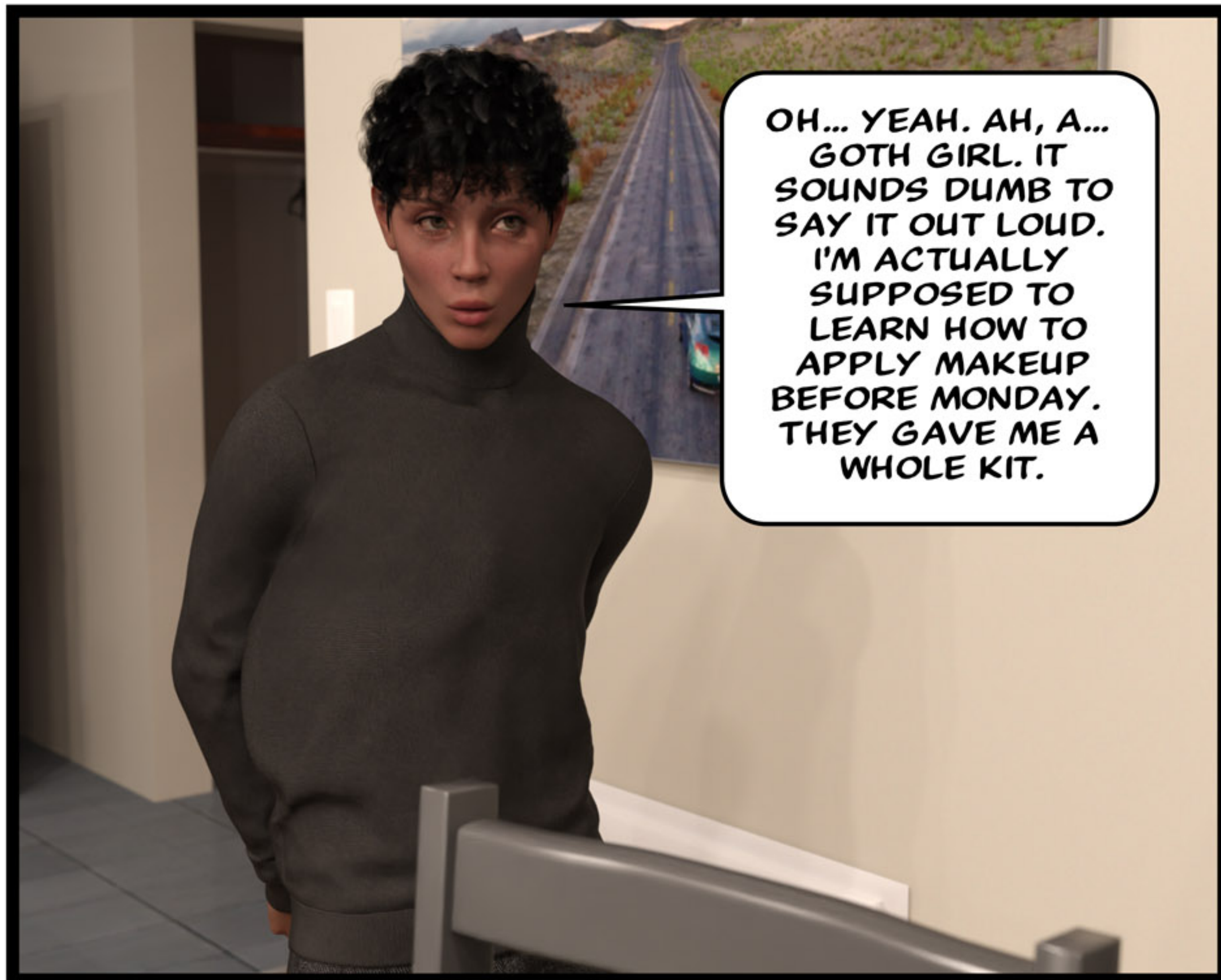
NEXT WEEK.



IT'S HOW THIS PLACE WORKS. EVERY FOUR MONTHS THEY INDUCT A FEW NEW PETS. WE'RE PART OF THE "CLASS" THAT STARTS NEXT WEEK. I THINK THERE ARE 13 OF US IN TOTAL.

AND I'M GOING TO BE IN THE VERY FIRST ANTHRO-MOD CLASS AVAILABLE. I'M GOING TO BE ONE FOXY LADY... LITERALLY!

IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO YOU HERE?







IT SURE LOOKS NICE, THOUGH. NOT THE KIND OF BUM I EVER IMAGINED I'D HAVE. STILL SORE TO THE TOUCH, THOUGH.





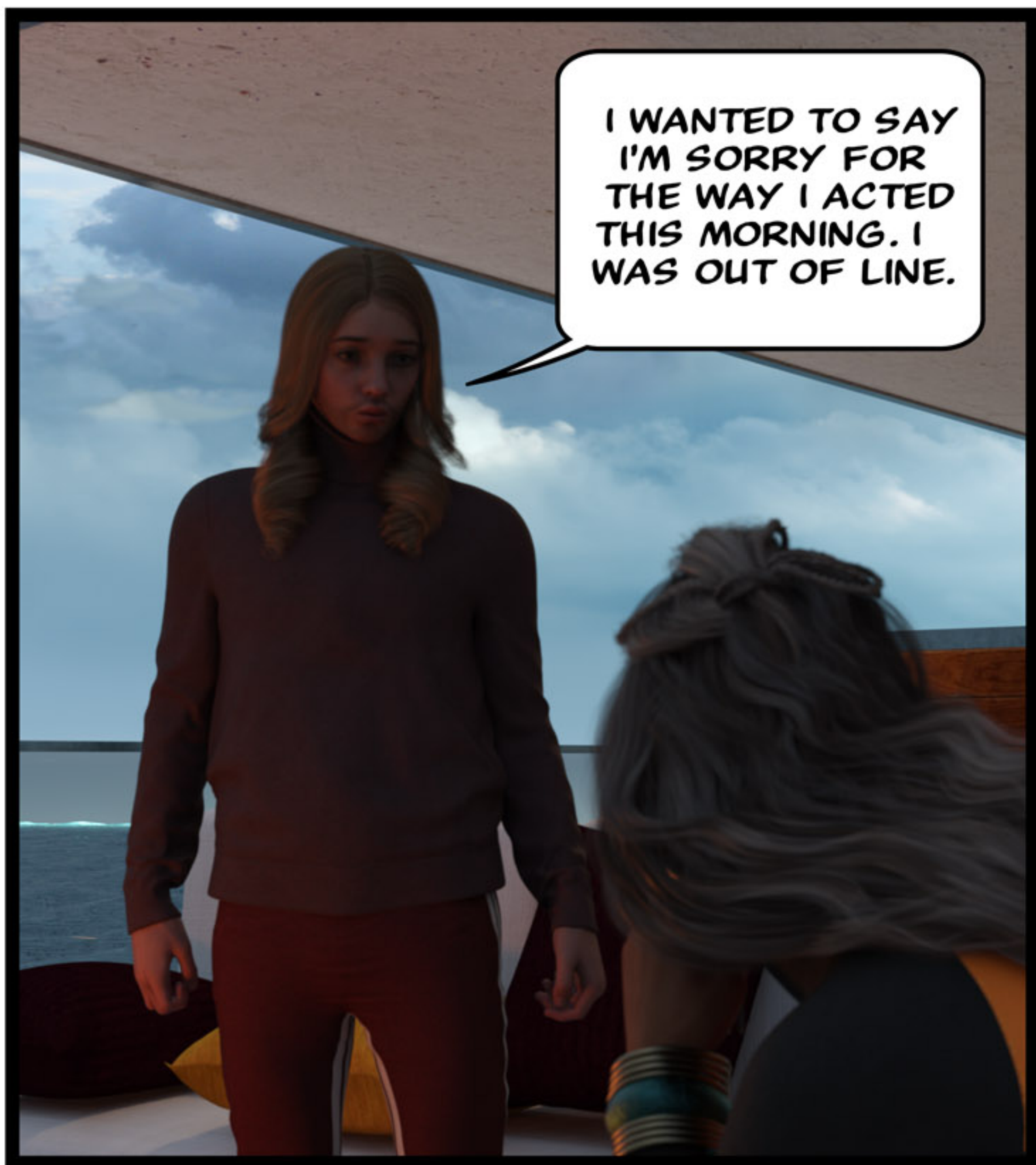


I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HIM FOR NOT TRUSTING ME... IF I WERE IN HIS POSITION, WOULD I? WE COME FROM IMPOSSIBLY DIFFERENT LIVES...

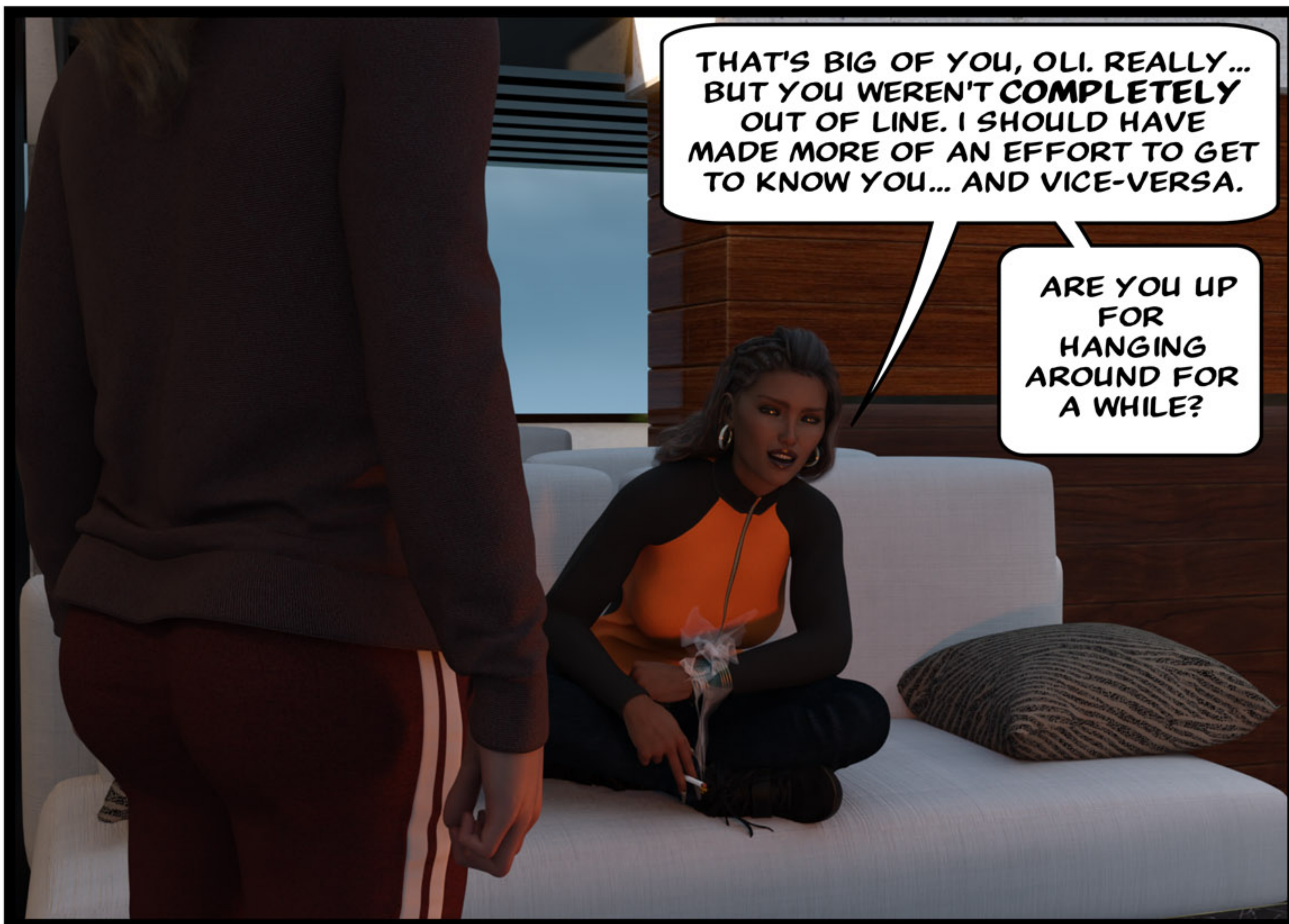


CAN I TALK TO YOU, MS. B?

SURE, OLI. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?



I WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I ACTED THIS MORNING. I WAS OUT OF LINE.



THAT'S BIG OF YOU, OLI. REALLY... BUT YOU WEREN'T COMPLETELY OUT OF LINE. I SHOULD HAVE MADE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO GET TO KNOW YOU... AND VICE-VERSA.

ARE YOU UP FOR HANGING AROUND FOR A WHILE?



SURE... I GUESS SO. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I LIE DOWN THOUGH...



SURE, GO FOR IT. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME... NOT REALLY. I WANT TO CHANGE THAT. FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS CONVERSATION I WANT TO DROP THE WHOLE IDEA OF OUR GAME. I JUST WANT TO CHAT... IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME? ANYTHING AT ALL?



UMM... OKAY, WERE YOU EVER MARRIED?



NO. ALMOST MARRIED A GIRL I DATED IN COLLEGE, AND I TURNED DOWN A GUY WHO PROPOSED ONCE...



WHEN DID YOU
START
TRANSITIONING?



WHEN I WAS
23... I'M 35
NOW, FOR
PERSPECTIVE.



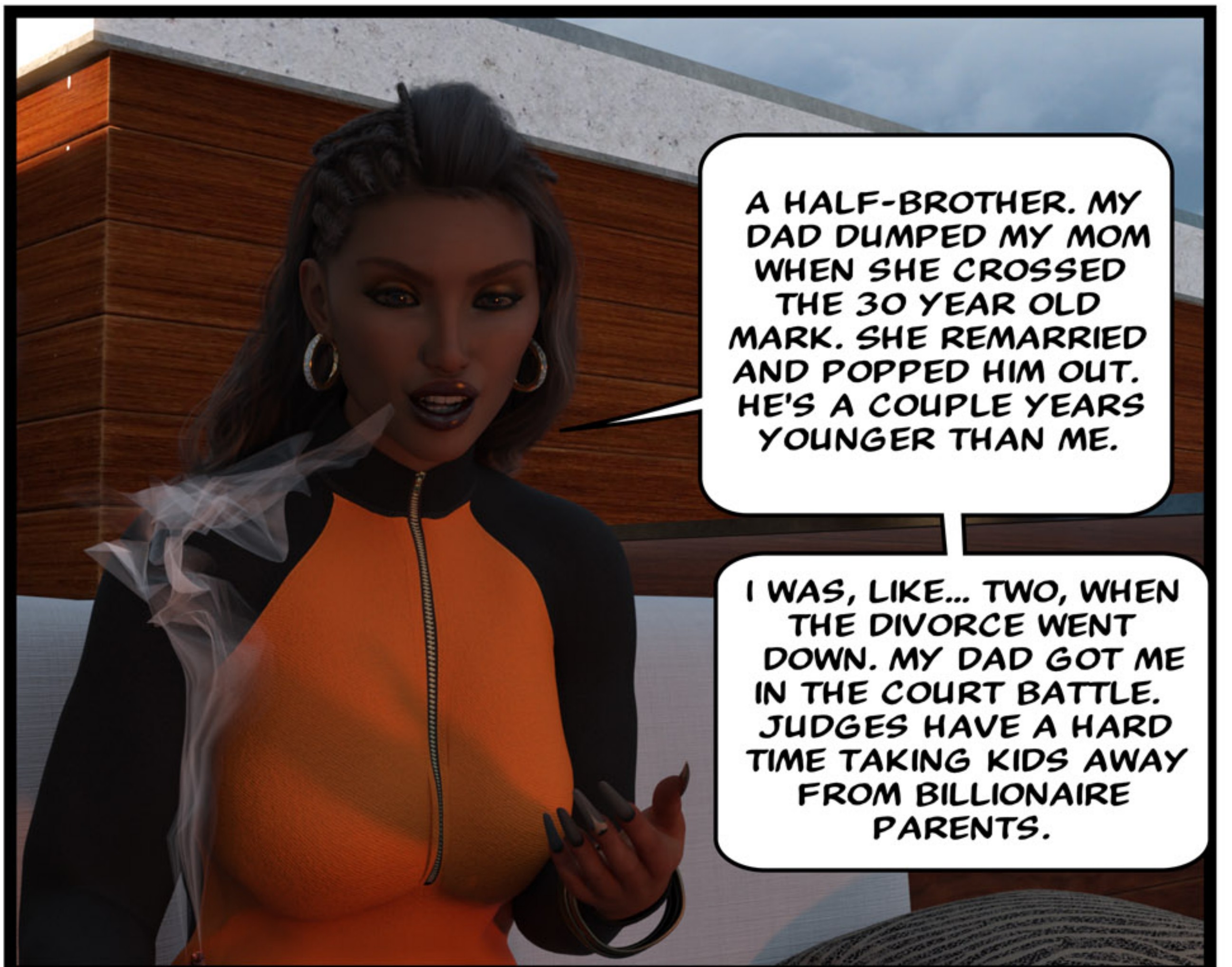
HOW DID YOU GET
ALL YOUR
MONEY?



NEPOTISM AND HARD WORK...
MY DAD OWNED A LOT OF REAL
ESTATE... NOW I DO. HE PASSED
AWAY WHEN I WAS 20... HE WAS
AN ASSHOLE AND THE REASON I
DIDN'T START TRANSITIONING
EARLIER. HE WAS A BIGOTED,
MANIPULATIVE MONSTER. NOW, I
SPEND A LOT OF "HIS" FORTUNE
ON CAUSES THAT WOULD UPSET
HIM, WHICH GIVES ME
IMMENSE PLEASURE.



ANY
SIBLINGS?



A HALF-BROTHER. MY
DAD DUMPED MY MOM
WHEN SHE CROSSED
THE 30 YEAR OLD
MARK. SHE REMARRIED
AND POPPED HIM OUT.
HE'S A COUPLE YEARS
YOUNGER THAN ME.

I WAS, LIKE... TWO, WHEN
THE DIVORCE WENT
DOWN. MY DAD GOT ME
IN THE COURT BATTLE.
JUDGES HAVE A HARD
TIME TAKING KIDS AWAY
FROM BILLIONAIRE
PARENTS.



OKAY...
SOMETHING A
LITTLE MORE
PERSONAL... DO
YOU AND
STEPHAN EVER...



ALL THE TIME, BUT
IT'S CASUAL. WE
BOTH HAVE NEEDS,
AND WE'RE BOTH
HOT AS FUCK. HE'S
GOOD AT SUCKING
COCK TOO.



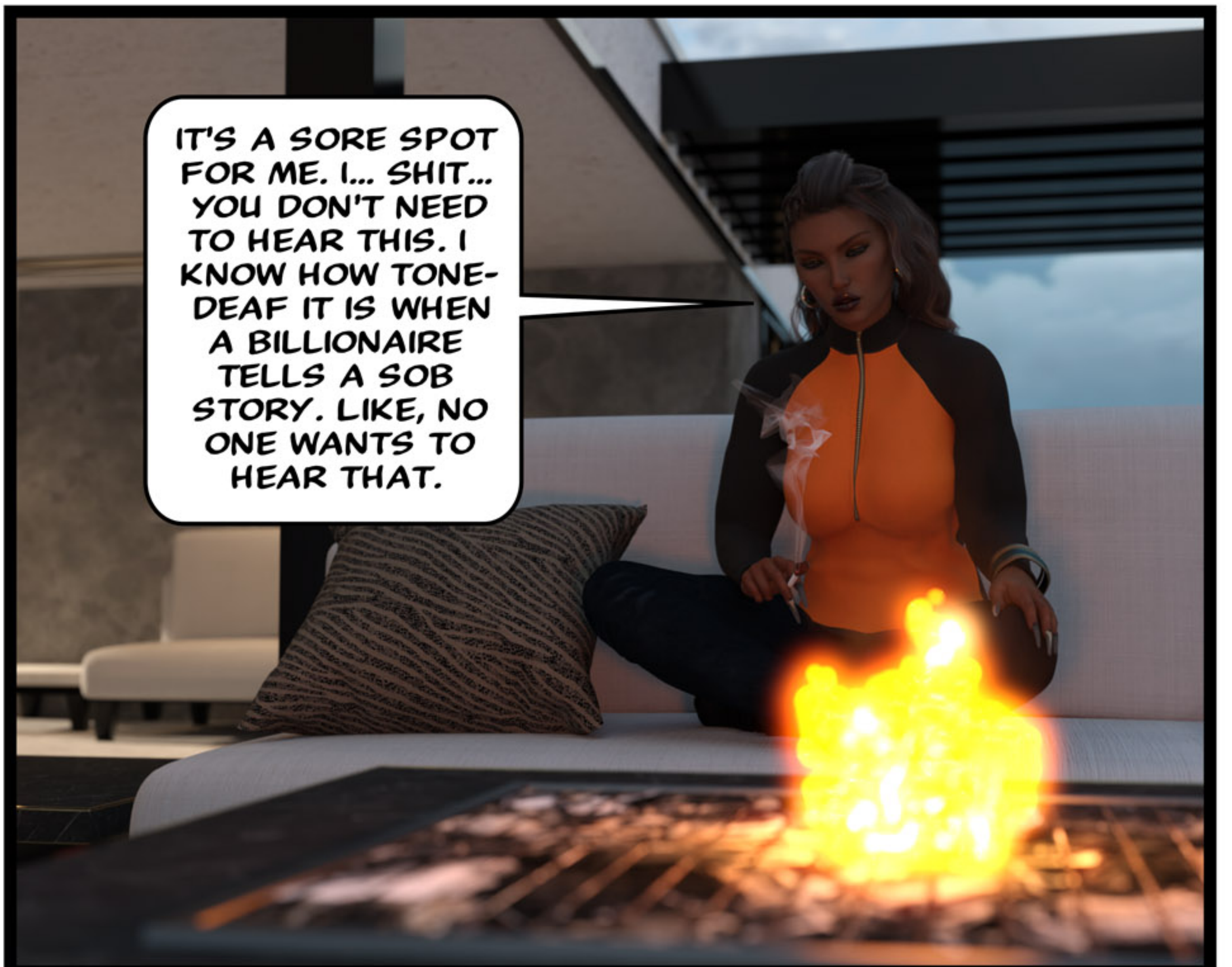
WHY HAVEN'T YOU
EVER GOTTEN
GENDER
CONFIRMATION
SURGERY?



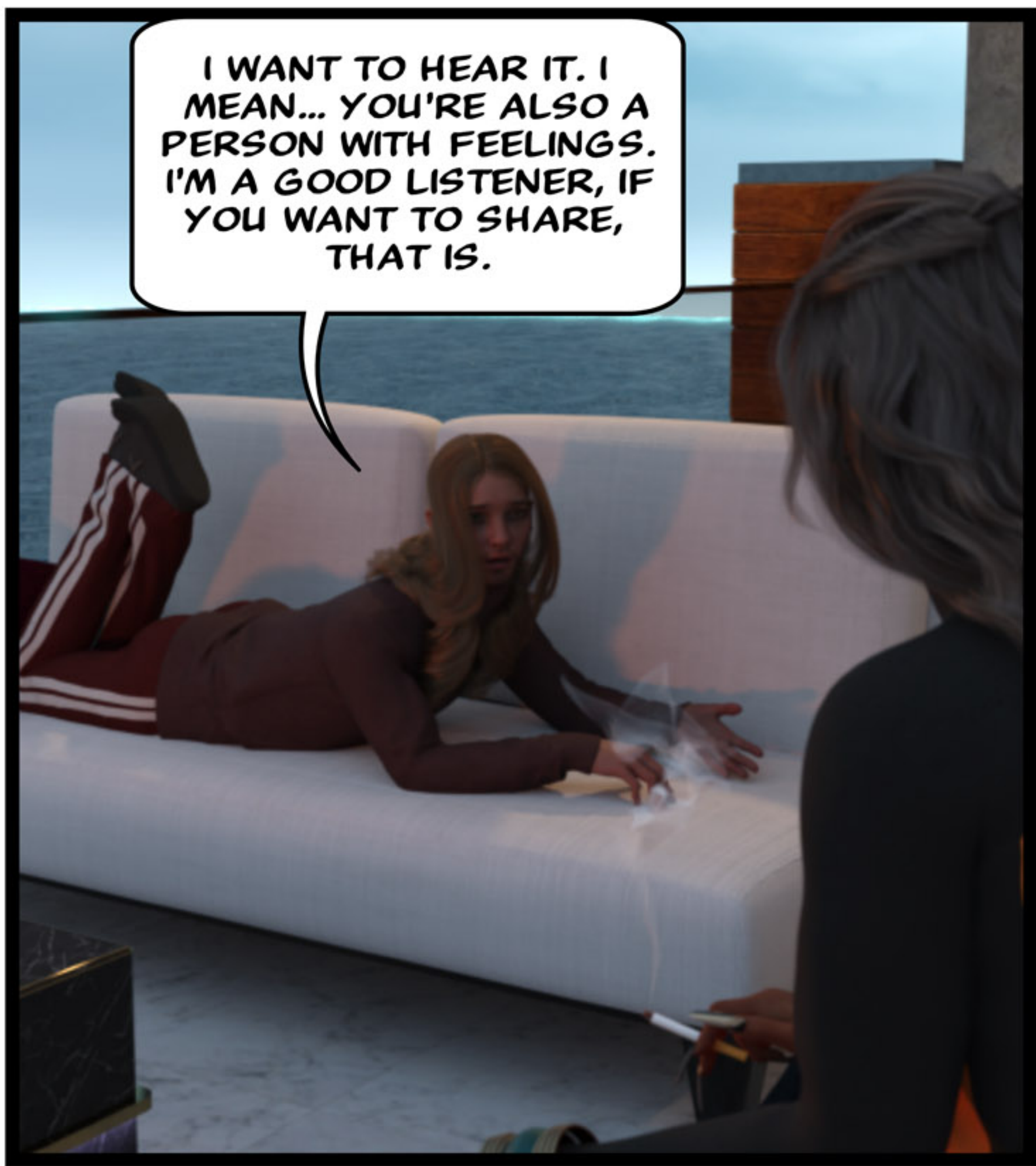
I... DON'T
WANT TO.



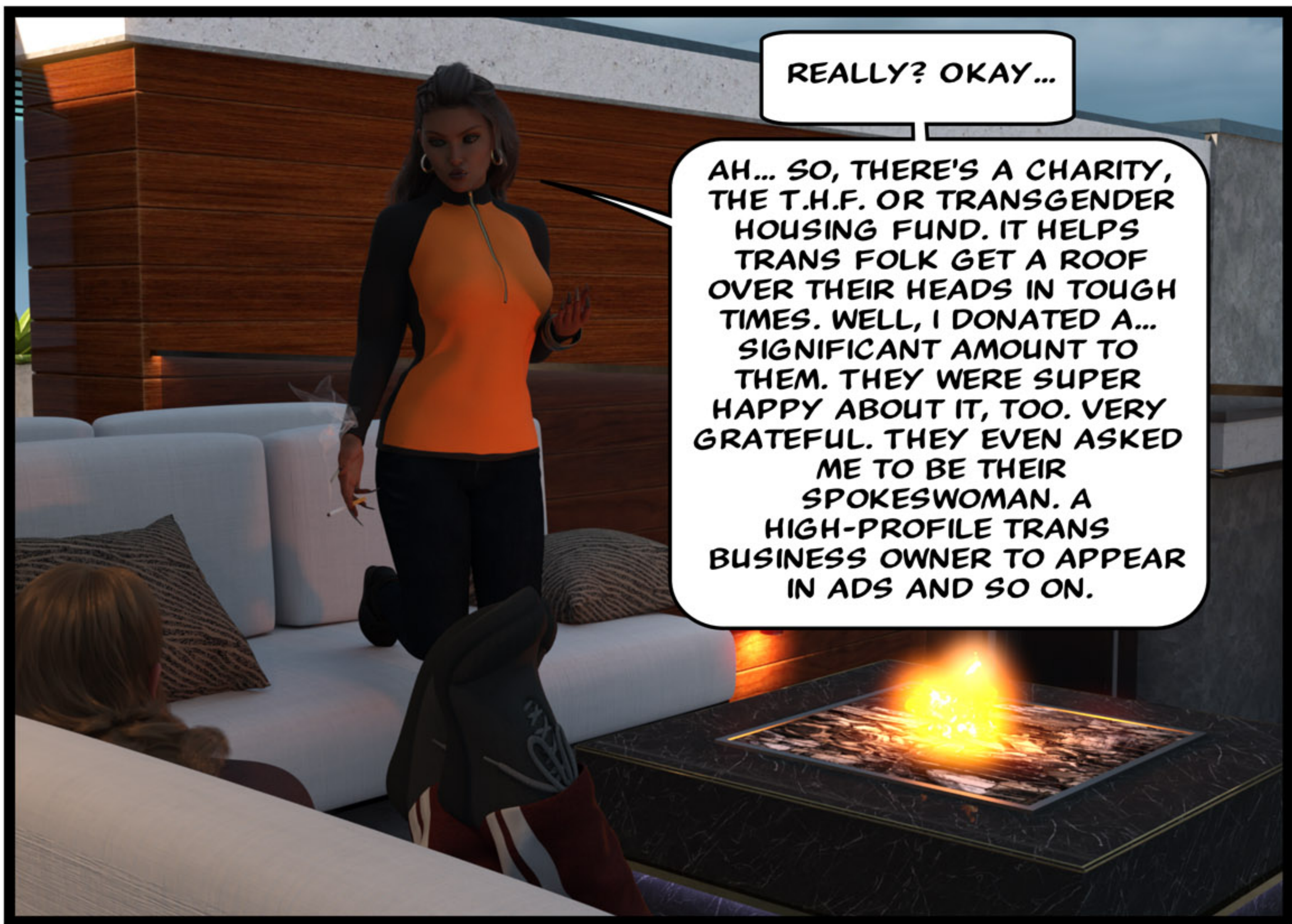
OH... I'M
SORRY... I
CROSSED THE
LINE...



IT'S A SORE SPOT
FOR ME. I... SHIT...
YOU DON'T NEED
TO HEAR THIS. I
KNOW HOW TONE-
DEAF IT IS WHEN
A BILLIONAIRE
TELLS A SOB
STORY. LIKE, NO
ONE WANTS TO
HEAR THAT.



I WANT TO HEAR IT. I MEAN... YOU'RE ALSO A PERSON WITH FEELINGS. I'M A GOOD LISTENER, IF YOU WANT TO SHARE, THAT IS.

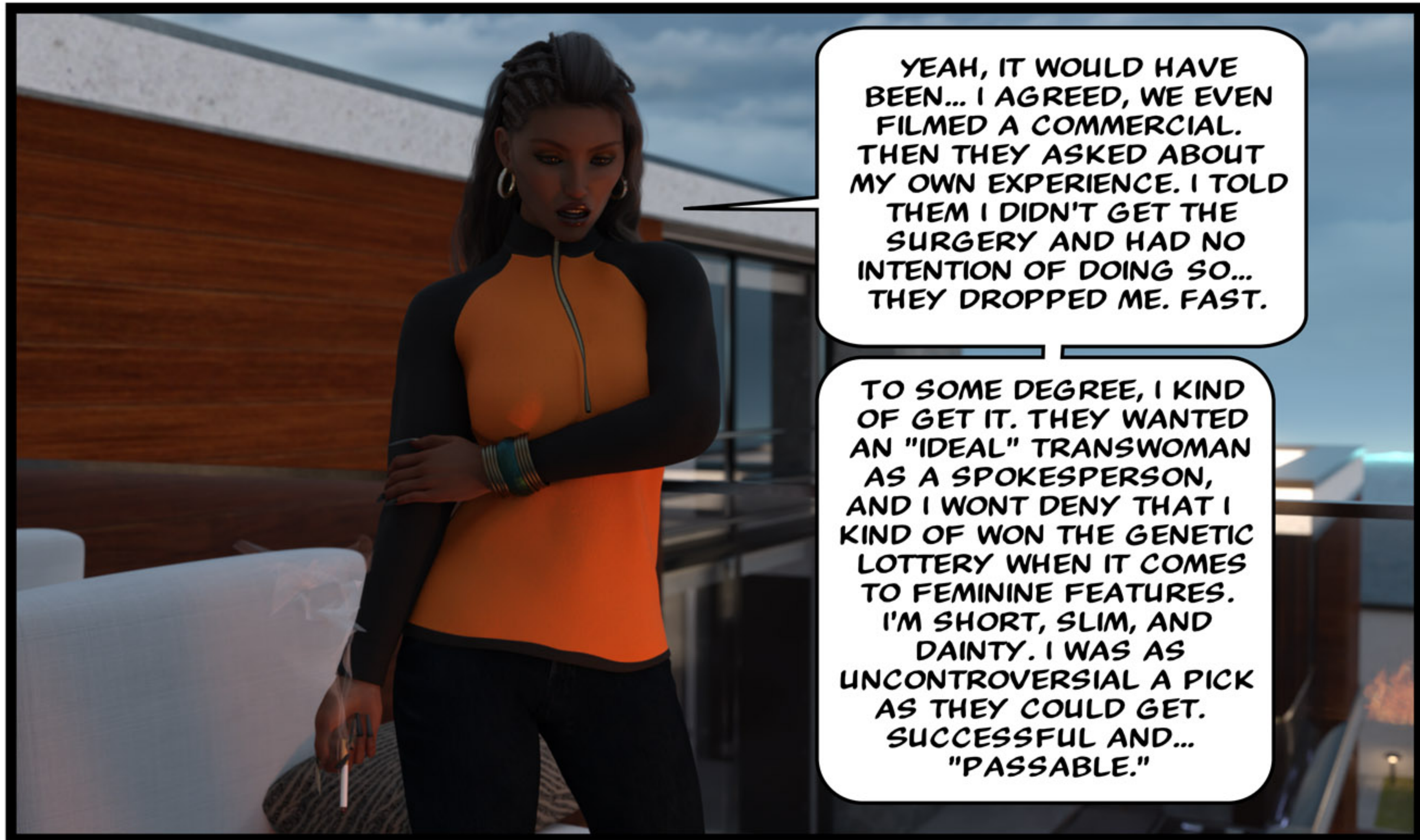


REALLY? OKAY...

AH... SO, THERE'S A CHARITY, THE T.H.F. OR TRANSGENDER HOUSING FUND. IT HELPS TRANS FOLK GET A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS IN TOUGH TIMES. WELL, I DONATED A... SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT TO THEM. THEY WERE SUPER HAPPY ABOUT IT, TOO. VERY GRATEFUL. THEY EVEN ASKED ME TO BE THEIR SPOKESWOMAN. A HIGH-PROFILE TRANS BUSINESS OWNER TO APPEAR IN ADS AND SO ON.



OKAY, THAT SOUNDS GOOD, RIGHT?



YEAH, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN... I AGREED, WE EVEN FILMED A COMMERCIAL. THEN THEY ASKED ABOUT MY OWN EXPERIENCE. I TOLD THEM I DIDN'T GET THE SURGERY AND HAD NO INTENTION OF DOING SO... THEY DROPPED ME. FAST.


TO SOME DEGREE, I KIND OF GET IT. THEY WANTED AN "IDEAL" TRANSWOMAN AS A SPOKESPERSON, AND I WONT DENY THAT I KIND OF WON THE GENETIC LOTTERY WHEN IT COMES TO FEMININE FEATURES. I'M SHORT, SLIM, AND DAINTY. I WAS AS UNCONTROVERSIAL A PICK AS THEY COULD GET. SUCCESSFUL AND... "PASSABLE."



AND THEY STILL DROPPED YOU?



YUP...



THEY DIDN'T WANT SOMEONE WHO HADN'T "FULLY TRANSITIONED" TO REPRESENT THEM. I GUESS THEY WANTED A "PURE" TRANS PERSON TO BE THEIR SPOKESPERSON. I LOOKED INTO THEM SOME MORE... I COULDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE SAME DISCRIMINATION HELD TRUE FOR THE PEOPLE THEY HELPED, SO I LET THEM KEEP THE MONEY. BUT I MOVED ON TO OTHER CHARITIES THAT DID SIMILAR THINGS.

I WAS KIND OF SHOCKED, TO BE HONEST... IT HURT... LIKE, A WHOLE LOT. AND... AGAIN, I KNOW HOW THIS SOUNDS... "POOR RICH LADY DIDN'T GET TO BE A SPOKESWOMAN... SOME PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD A HOT MEAL... GET OVER IT." AND I HEAR THAT. I ALWAYS FEEL SHITTY COMPLAINING ABOUT SUCH THINGS, BUT THEY KIND OF ATTACKED THE CORE OF MY IDENTITY... THAT HURTS, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE. AND ALL I'D WANTED TO DO WAS HELP...



BELLA... I HAD A SHIT LIFE. I NEVER MET MY PARENTS. I GREW UP IN FOSTER HOMES, MOST OF THEM BAD. THE ONES THAT WERE GOOD NEVER SEEMED TO LAST LONG.

I'M NEAR THE OPPOSITE END OF THE WEALTH SPECTRUM FROM YOU, BUT... LIKE, I GET IT. I CAN RELATE TO THAT ON SOME LEVEL. NO ONE TOOK ME SERIOUSLY WHEN I TOLD THEM I WAS TRANS. I WAS DENIED ANY KIND OF CARE. YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON WHO JUST... ACCEPTED IT. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU GAVE ME A CLEAR... IF SOMEWHAT FUCKED UP, PATH TO TRANSITION. AND OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE WHOLE DAMN THING.

I SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR THAT... SO, THANK YOU, BELLA. HOPEFULLY WE CAN START OVER, AND CONTINUE OUR GAME IN THE MORNING. THIS WAS NICE, THOUGH... YOU SEEM LIKE A COOL PERSON... WHEN YOU'RE NOT BEING ALL SCARY AND CONTROLLING.

THANKS, OLI...
AND DON'T YOU
GO SPREADING
RUMORS THAT I
HAVE A SOFT
SIDE. IT COULD
RUIN ME.





THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING! I HOPE YOU ENJOYED MY COMIC AS MUCH AS I'VE ENJOYED MAKING IT.

THIS COMIC'S STORY AND CHARACTERS ARE FICTITIOUS. CERTAIN LONG-STANDING INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES, AND PUBLIC OFFICES ARE MENTIONED, BUT THE CHARACTERS INVOLVED ARE WHOLLY IMAGINARY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, OR ACTUAL EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.