

# DEFIANT GROWTH

## CHAPTER 6

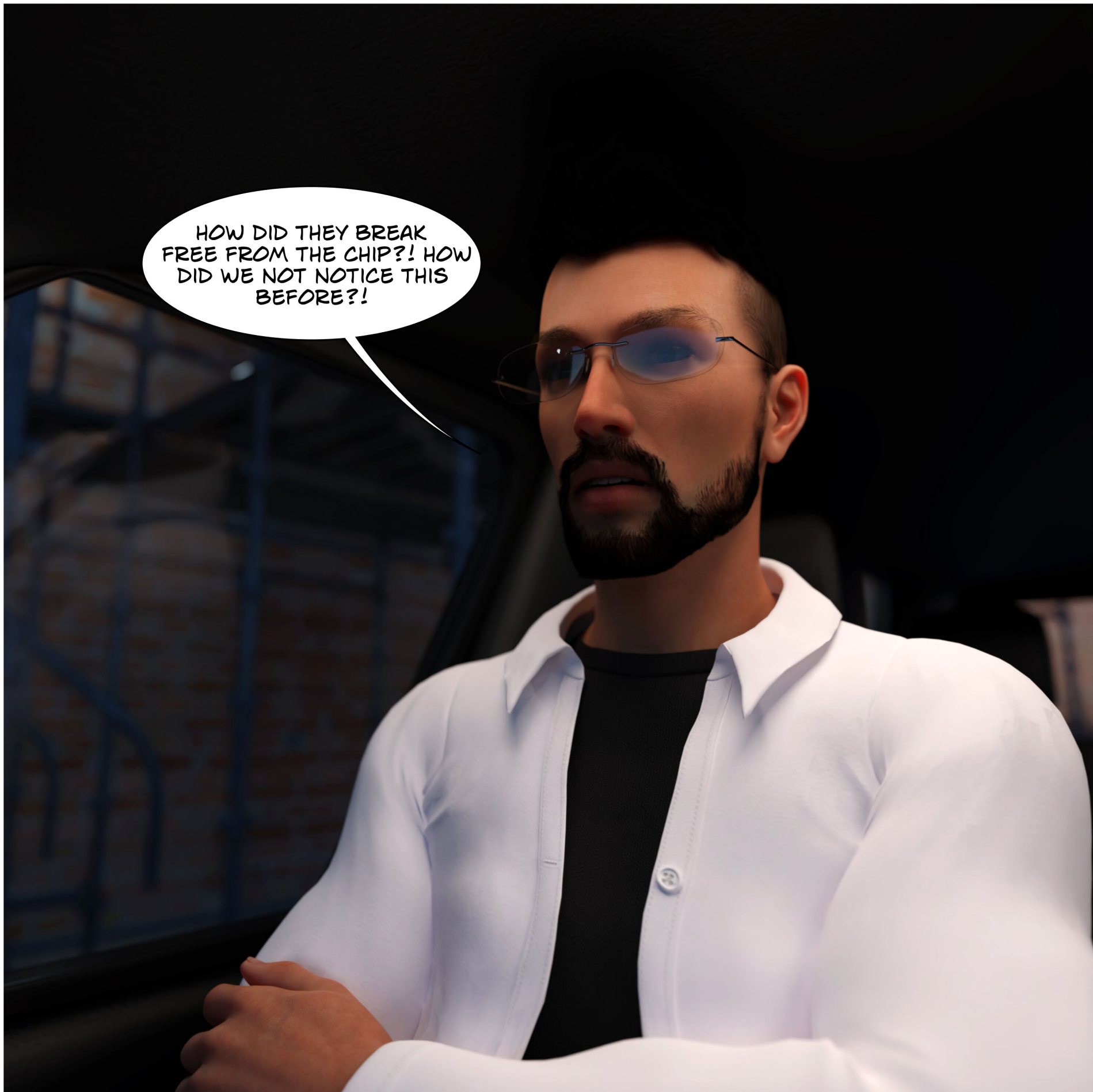
STORY BY ROBOLORD



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white button-down shirt over a black t-shirt, is driving a car. He has a frustrated expression. A speech bubble above him contains the text "COME ON, MAN! DRIVE FASTER!". The background is dark and blurry, suggesting a night drive. The car's interior and a blurred view of the road are visible.

COME ON,  
MAN! DRIVE  
FASTER!

HOW DID THEY BREAK  
FREE FROM THE CHIP?! HOW  
DID WE NOT NOTICE THIS  
BEFORE?!





HE'S TOO FAST,  
MACY!

A scene from a video game showing three highly muscular women in black tactical suits running across a paved courtyard. They are in front of a large red brick wall. The woman on the left is slightly ahead, followed by the woman in the middle, and the woman on the right is slightly behind. A speech bubble above the woman in the middle contains the text "THERE'S NO WAY WE'RE CATCHING UP!". The background includes a concrete building with a rusted metal tank on top, a metal staircase on the right, and a clear blue sky.

THERE'S NO WAY  
WE'RE CATCHING  
UP!

A scene from a video game or comic book featuring three highly muscular women in black tactical gear. They are standing in an alleyway with a brick wall in the background. The woman in the center is facing forward, while the two women on either side are seen from behind. A speech bubble is positioned above the central character.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT,  
BUT THIS PLACE IS A  
MAZE.




AND I DID TAKE THIS  
PHONE FROM ONE OF  
THOSE GUARDS.

A female character with short black hair, wearing a black tactical vest and gloves, is looking at a smartphone. She is standing in front of a brick wall. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left and one on the right.

LET'S OPEN  
GOOGLE MAPS AND  
SEE.

THERE'S ONLY A FEW  
ROADS OUT OF HERE, AND I  
THINK WE CAN CUT HIM OFF IF  
WE'RE QUICK!



BUT IF YOU HAVE A  
PHONE, CAN'T YOU JUST  
CALL THE COPS?

AND TELL THEM WHAT? "HEY,  
WE VOLUNTARILY WENT TO A  
MILITARY BLACKSITE FOR A PROJECT TO  
CREATE SUPERSOLDIERS, BUT THEY WENT  
ROGUE AND WE JUST ESCAPED AND  
NEED YOU TO COME AND ARREST  
THEM, PLEASE?"

OK, THAT DOES  
SOUND A LITTLE  
CRAZY.

LET ALONE THAT  
IT'LL TAKE THEM AGES  
TO GET HERE!

OK, BUT THEN  
GIVE ME THE PHONE.  
I'M CALLING MY  
FATHER!

ARE YOU  
ABSOLUTELY  
SURE HE CAN BE  
TRUSTED?


YES! THERE'S NO  
WAY MY DAD IS  
INVOLVED IN THIS!



A scene from a video game showing three female characters in tactical gear running through an alleyway. The character on the left has blonde hair and is looking back. The two characters in the center and right have dark hair and are looking forward. The character on the right is holding a handgun. The background features a brick wall, a blue tarp, and scaffolding.

YOU GIRLS GET FRANCIS! I'LL GET SOME HELP DOWN HERE!

LET'S GO, NORAH! WE HAVE TO BE QUICK!

A man in a white dress shirt and black tie is shown in profile, looking towards a soldier. The soldier is wearing a full black tactical uniform, including a helmet with a visor and a microphone. They are inside a car, with the driver's side window visible. The background shows a blurred city street scene.

FRANCIS, THE BOSS IS NOT  
GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS.  
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE  
DISLIKES FAILURE.

OOH, SHUT UP! IT'S NOT AS IF YOU GUYS MANAGED TO CONTROL THE SITUATION! WE'RE BOTH IN THE SAME SHIT HERE! LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE FIRST AND FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM LATER!



I THINK WE'RE CLEAR  
THOUGH. THEY'RE NO  
LONGER CHASING US.



GARAGE



CRACK!



**THUMP!**

**RUMBLE!**





FUCK!

SHE JUST  
SLAMMED THROUGH  
THAT WALL!

YEAH, NO SHIT! WHAT DID  
YOU THINK "SUPERSOLDIER"  
MEANT?! GET OUT OF HERE!  
BACK UP!





GO! GO! BACK  
UP!

I'M TRYING!

SCREECH!

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark green tactical vest and pants, is kneeling on a dark asphalt surface. She is positioned to the left of a dark blue SUV, with her hands near the rear bumper. The SUV is a Range Rover model, with 'RANGROVER' visible on the rear wheel. In the background, there is a large, multi-story brick building with several windows. A speech bubble is located in the upper right quadrant of the image, containing the text 'SOMETHING IS STOPPING US!'.

SOMETHING IS  
STOPPING US!



WHAT THE  
FUCK?!

A man in a white shirt and tie is leaning into the open door of a car. A soldier in full black tactical gear, including a helmet and goggles, is sitting in the driver's seat. The soldier is looking towards the man. A speech bubble is positioned above the soldier's head.

D-DON'T WORRY!  
THIS CAR IS  
BULLETPROOF!



UHH, I  
HOPE.

**CRACK!**

OOF! SEE!

JEEZ! MACY, YOU  
OKAY? THAT SOUNDED  
LIKE IT HURT!

BE CAREFUL!

STRONGER  
GLASS THAN I  
THOUGHT, DON'T  
WORRY.



**CRASH!**

EEK!

A character wearing a dark, tactical suit with various pouches and straps is shown from a low angle, looking out of a window. The character's right arm is extended towards the window frame. The background outside the window shows a brick building with several windows. A speech bubble is positioned above the character's head.

NO! WAIT, WAIT,  
WAIT!



COME HERE,  
YOU!

OUCH!



I'LL GIVE YOU  
TWO OPTIONS.

EITHER YOU START  
RUNNING...




OR I START  
SQUEEZING.

RUN! RUN! I'LL  
RUN!




AND DON'T STOP  
UNTIL I CAN'T SEE YOU  
ANYMORE.

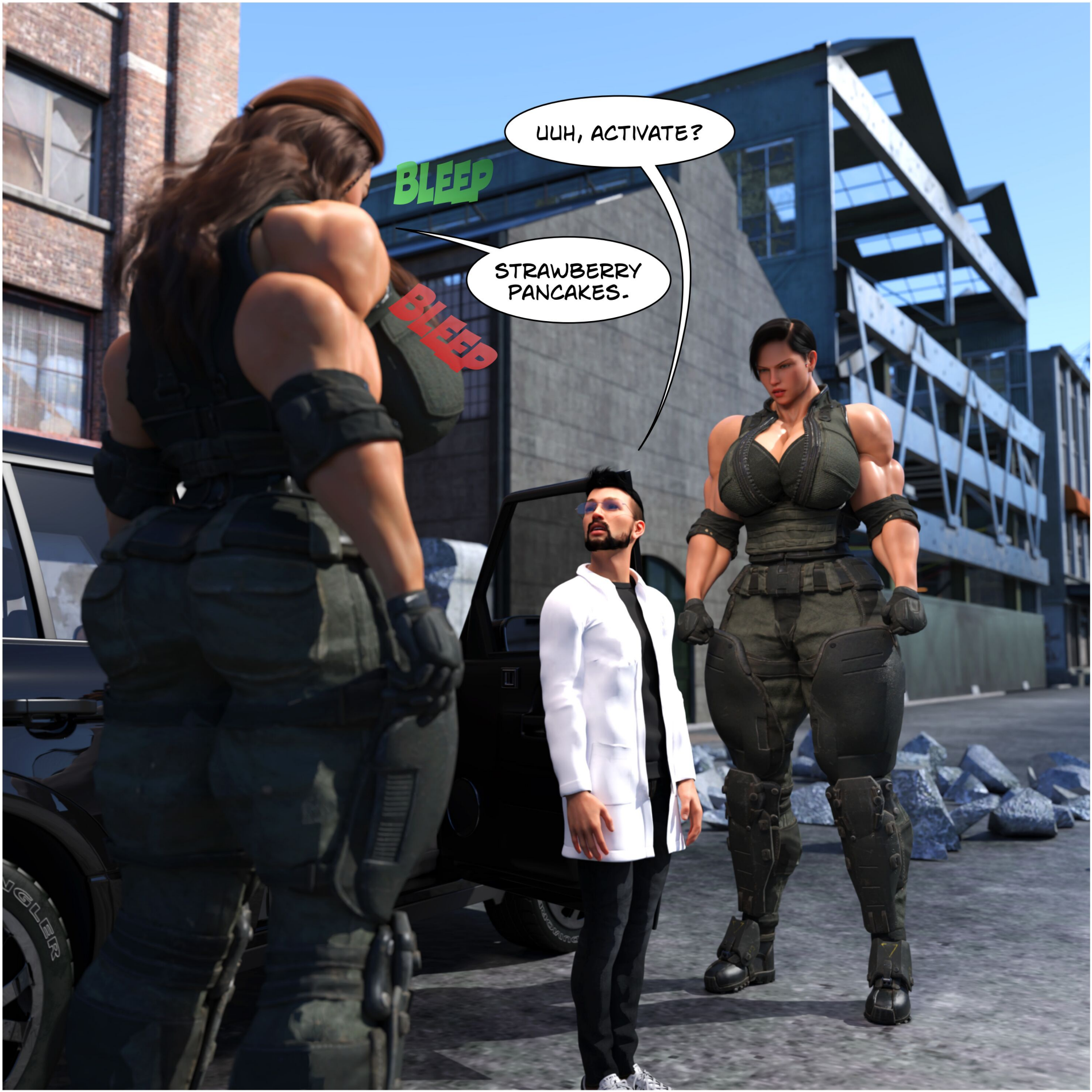
YES MA'AM!  
SORRY MA'AM! I'M  
RUNNING!



AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



LUH, WELL-  
NOWHERE?




UUH, ACTIVATE?

**BLEEP**

STRAWBERRY  
PANCAKES.

**BLEEP**



WHAT EVEN IS THAT  
NONSENSE?! WHY WOULD YOU  
MAKE AN OVERRIDE COMMAND OUT  
OF 'STRAWBERRY PANCAKES'?!  
ARE YOU TWO MAD?!

WHY IS IT ACTUALLY  
'STRAWBERRY PANCAKES',  
MACY?

WHEN I WAS  
SICK, MY MOM  
USED TO MAKE  
PANCAKES WITH  
STRAWBERRIES  
FOR ME.



BUT THAT'S  
NOT RELEVANT, IS  
IT? WHY DID YOU DO  
THIS TO US,  
FRANCIS?!

WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN?



I HAVE IMPROVED  
YOU GIRLS BEYOND  
HUMAN LIMITS! LOOK AT  
YOU! WHY WOULD YOU  
EVEN BE ANGRY AT  
THAT?!

WE DON'T  
MIND THAT! IT'S  
WHAT WE SIGNED  
UP FOR!



YOU PUT CHIPS IN  
US TO MIND CONTROL  
US! THAT'S THE  
PROBLEM!

OOH, SHUT  
UP!

YOU GIRLS COULDN'T  
EVEN STAY IN YOUR ROOM  
WHEN ORDERED TO! IT WAS  
SO RELY NEEDED!

MY LAST EXPERIMENT  
FAILED BECAUSE OF THAT  
NONSENSE! AND YOU THREE  
ARE JUST AS BAD!


YOU MEAN  
EVELYN? OR  
ELISABETH? HOW  
MANY LIVES HAVE  
YOU RUINED?!






I DIDN'T RUIN THEIR LIVES, I IMPROVED THEM! BUT YOU'RE ALL JUST TOO DENSE TO SEE... WHOA!

YOU'RE MESSED UP, FRANCIS!



YOU CAN'T JUST  
DUPE GIRLS INTO  
LOSING THEIR FREE  
WILL!

NO ONE WOULD  
DO THAT  
VOLUNTARILY!



HOW ABOUT YOU TELL  
US WHO YOUR BOSS IS?!  
CAUSE YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY  
ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THIS!

YOU WISH!



WAIT, I HEAR A  
HELICOPTER.


HUH?



MAYBE IT'S  
LIBERTY'S  
FATHER!

I CAN'T TELL IF  
IT'S MILITARY.

ME NEITHER.



NO, IT  
DOESN'T LOOK  
MILITARY.

I DON'T LIKE THIS,  
NORAH. STAY ON  
YOUR TOES.



I DON'T  
LIKE THIS AT  
ALL!

IT'S NOT  
LANDING?!






NORAH! RUN!  
FIND COVER!

STAY DOWN,  
NORAH!

BANG!

BANG!



A man in a black tactical vest is seen from behind, looking towards a tall apartment building. A white and yellow helicopter is perched on the roof of the building. The man is standing next to a dark SUV. In the foreground, there are several large, grey rocks scattered on the ground. A chain-link fence is visible in the middle ground, with a yellow sign that reads "DO NOT PARK" and "NO ALCOHOL INTO THE CUP". The sky is clear and blue.

WAIT, IT'S  
LEAVING?

A woman in a dark, tactical, form-fitting outfit with a high collar and shoulder pads is looking towards a dark SUV. She has a speech bubble above her head. In the background, another woman in similar gear is sitting on the ground. The scene is set on a city street with brick buildings and a clear blue sky. A speech bubble from the woman in the foreground says "DAMN! FRANCIS!". A speech bubble from the woman in the background says "HUH?!".

DAMN!  
FRANCIS!

HUH?!



FUCK!

\*COUGH\*

A woman with short black hair, wearing a dark tactical vest and pants, leans over a man sitting on the ground. The man is wearing a white lab coat over a black t-shirt and dark pants. He has a blood splatter on his chest and a red splatter on his head. The woman is looking at him with a serious expression. The background shows a brick building and a blue sky.

NORAH! COME  
OVER HERE!

THE \*COUGH\*  
FUCKING ASSHOLE. I  
NEVER SHOULD'VE  
TRUSTED HIM.



HIS NAME IS...  
MA... MAT...



OH MY  
GOD!



HE'S GONE,  
MACY.

WH-WHAT  
HAPPENED?! DID YOU  
GIRLS...



OF COURSE  
NOT! HIS BOSS DID  
THIS!

WHAT?!  
WHY?!

I THINK HE'S  
CLEANING  
HOUSE.




WELL, DON'T  
EXPECT ME TO WEEP  
FOR HIM!

THAT'S COLD,  
LIBERTY. HE DIDN'T  
DESERVE THIS.

WELL, IT'S  
HIS OWN  
FAULT!





DID YOU  
REACH YOUR  
FATHER?

YES, I'VE NEVER HEARD  
HIM SO WORRIED. HE'S  
ON HIS WAY.



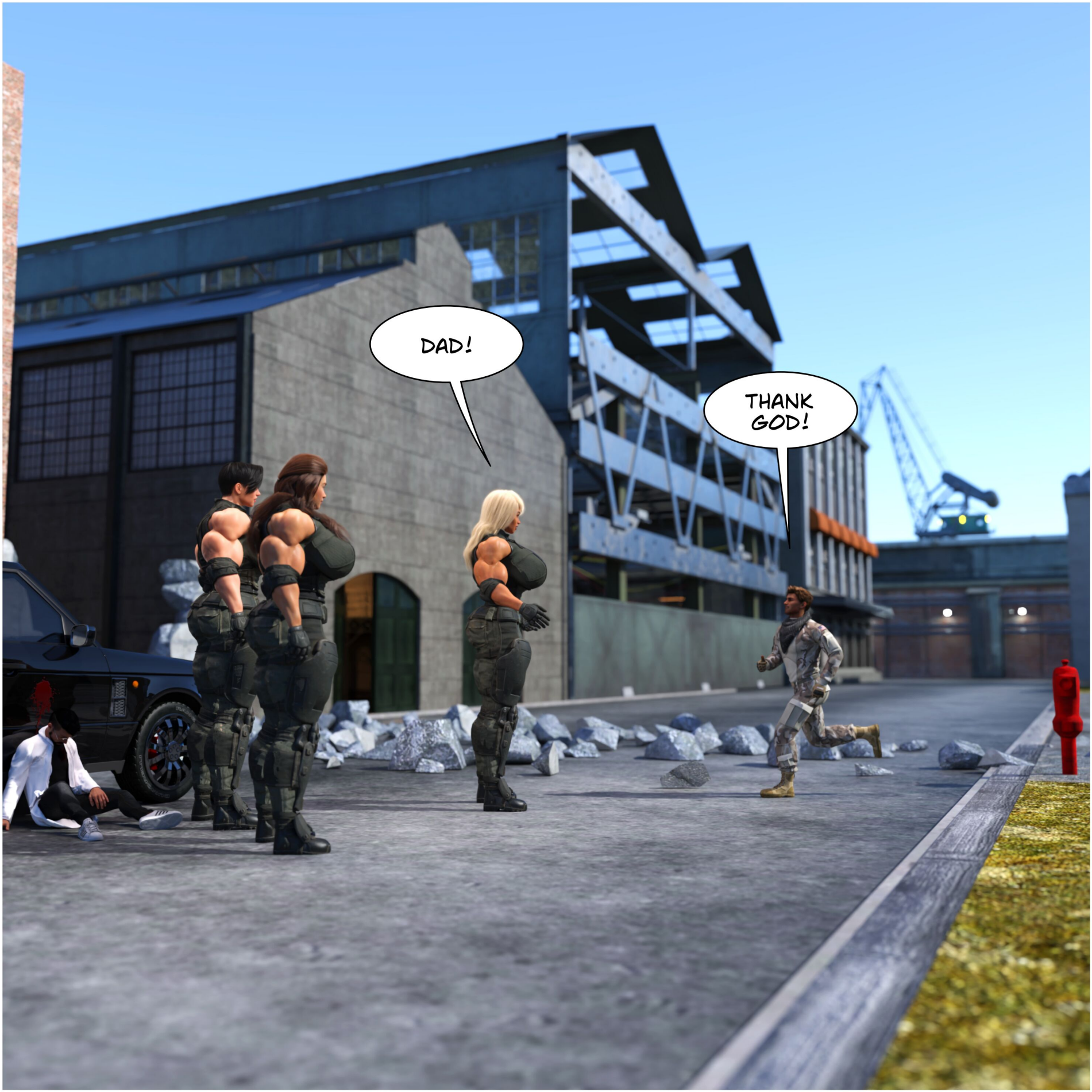
OR... IS  
ALREADY  
HERE!



PFF!



LIBERTY!



DAD!

THANK  
GOD!



YOU'RE  
SAFE!



I MEAN, \*AHUM\*,  
YOUR MOTHER WAS  
VERY WORRIED.

OF COURSE,  
DAD.



THIS IS MACY  
AND NORAH,  
DAD.

HELLO.

HELLO,  
SIR.

THEY WERE IN  
THIS MESS AS  
WELL.

YES, I'VE HEARD  
ABOUT YOU TWO IN  
THE BRIEFINGS.



I'M REALLY GLAD WE FOUND YOU, GIRLS. WE ENTERED THE BLACKSITE ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO BUT COULDN'T FIND ANY CLUES AS TO WHERE THEY BROUGHT YOU.


THERE IS A LOT HAPPENING RIGHT NOW, BUT HONESTLY, MY GOAL HERE IS TO FIRST GET YOU GIRLS TO SAFETY. PLEASE FOLLOW ME TO THE CHOPPER.



I'M SO GLAD  
YOU GIRLS ARE  
OKAY.

CONNOR!

HOW DID YOU  
GET HERE?



WELL, IT SEEMED THAT "REMINDING ME OF MY NDA" MEANT DRIVING ME INTO THE DESERT AND PUTTING A BULLET IN MY HEAD.

AS YOU CAN GUESS, THEY DIDN'T SUCCEED.

LOCAL POLICE PICKED CONNOR UP AFTER WALKING THROUGH THE DESERT FOR THREE DAYS, HE'S BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FINDING THE BLACKSITE.

THANKS, CONNOR. WE OWE YOU!

BUT GIRLS, WE NEED TO GET MOVING.



NOW I'M GOING TO BE HONEST, GIRLS. THERE WILL NOT BE A LOT OF REST FOR YOU IN THE COMING DAYS. WE HAVE A LOT OF STUFF TO SORT OUT.

BUT I PROMISE I'LL BE WITH YOU GIRLS ALL THE WAY.

LIBERTY'S FATHER WAS NOT LYING WHEN HE SAID THOSE WORDS.



OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS THEY WERE THOROUGHLY QUESTIONED BY EVERY GOVERNMENT AGENCY IMAGINABLE.




THOUGH LIBERTY'S FATHER DID A GOOD JOB OF SHIELDING THEM FROM THE MORE RIDICULOUS TAKES.

OBVIOUSLY I FEEL FOR YOU GIRLS. YOU'VE GONE THROUGH AN ORDEAL NO ONE SHOULD GO THROUGH.

BUT LOOK AT YOU GIRLS! I DON'T MEAN TO DISTRACT FROM THE... UNWELCOME PARTS OF THIS PROJECT, OF COURSE.



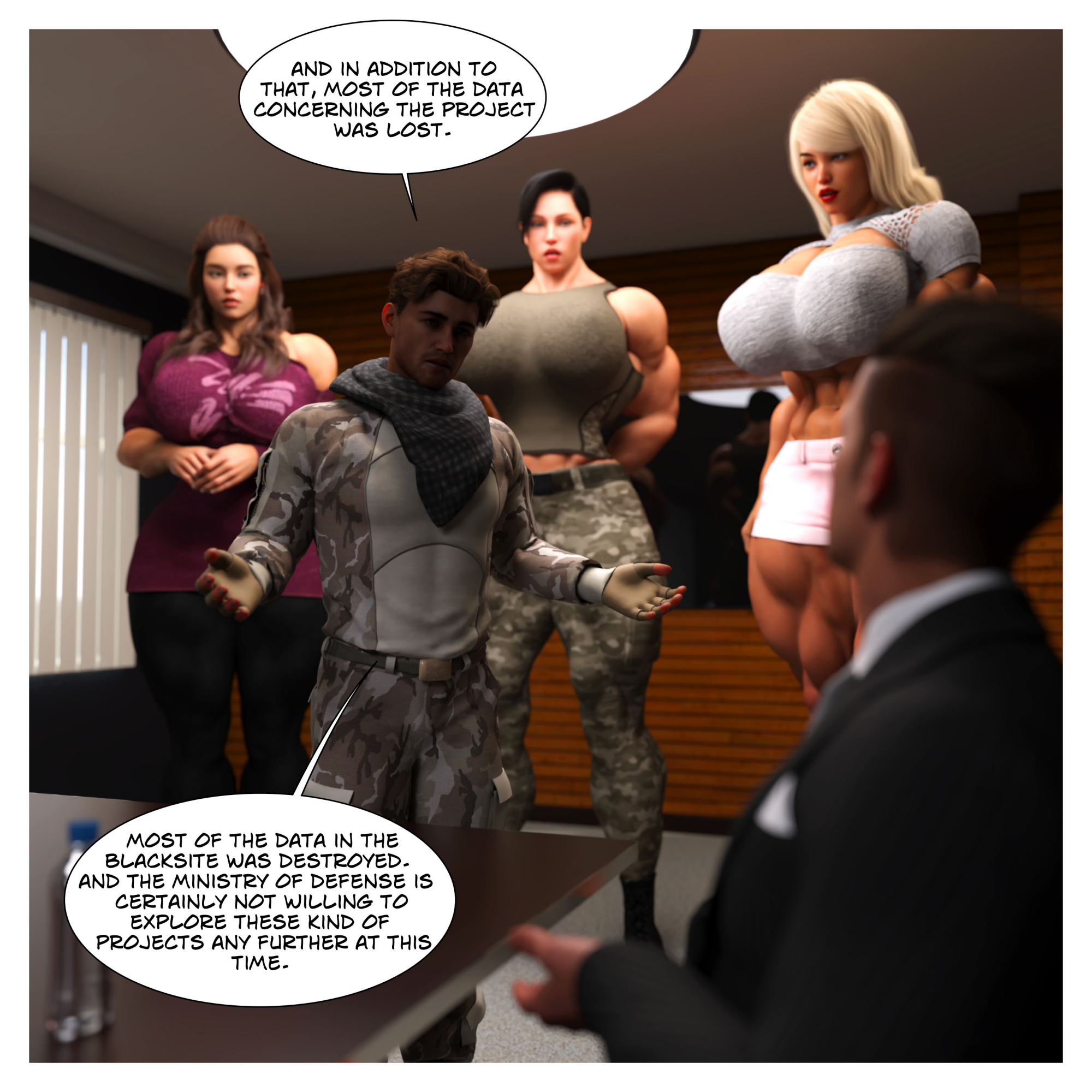


BUT FROM WHAT I SEE HERE,  
CAN WE NOT STATE THERE IS SOME  
MERIT TO THE PROGRAM? THE  
RESULTS ARE WHAT THEY ARE.

ALLOW ME TO  
INTERRUPT YOU,  
SENATOR.

OF COURSE, THE  
RESULTS ARE  
THERE.

BUT THE MEANS  
USED TO GET THEM ARE  
UNACCEPTABLE.



AND IN ADDITION TO  
THAT, MOST OF THE DATA  
CONCERNING THE PROJECT  
WAS LOST.

MOST OF THE DATA IN THE  
BLACKSITE WAS DESTROYED.  
AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS  
CERTAINLY NOT WILLING TO  
EXPLORE THESE KIND OF  
PROJECTS ANY FURTHER AT THIS  
TIME.

TO WHAT EXTENT HIS STATEMENTS WERE TRUE THE GIRLS THEMSELVES DIDN'T EVEN KNOW. BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT WERE IN FULL ON DAMAGE CONTROL MODE. THE WHOLE ORDEAL WAS A MASSIVE EMBARRASSEMENT WHICH THEY WERE VERY EAGER TO SWEEP UNDER THE RUG. TO THAT END THE GIRLS WERE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO SIGN A RATHER STRICT NDA ABOUT THE EVENTS.



THOUGH THE GIRLS THEMSELVES WERE ALSO EAGER TO MOVE PAST THESE EVENTS, AND THEY WERE HANDSOMLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR SILENCE.

01234

DATE 15 September 2024  
Day Month Year

TO THE ORDER OF Liberty Danew \$ 2,500.000

million five hundred thousand only ----- DOLLARS

BANK NAME | 123, Lorem Str., Ipsum City  
Phone 123 456 789-00

MEMO \_\_\_\_\_

⑈0123456789⑈ ⑆0123789789⑆ ⑆12345⑆

THEY ALSO KEPT A CLOSE EYE ON THE GIRLS' HEALTH.

HMM...

LIBERTY! STOP  
LOOKING AT ME LIKE  
THAT!

CUTE.

OPEN  
WIDE.



OKAY. LOOKS GREAT. YOU  
GIRLS ARE IN PERFECT HEALTH.  
WELL, SAVE FOR YOUR BMI. THAT'D  
INDICATE YOU'RE MORBIDLY OBESE,  
BUT LET'S NOT CONSIDER THAT  
GOSPEL!



THOUGH NOT ALL THE NEWS WAS GOOD.

THERE IS ONE THING  
THOUGH. THE CHIPS IMPLANTED IN  
YOUR HEADS HAVE PROVEN FAR MORE  
COMPLICATED TO REMOVE THAN WE  
INITIALLY THOUGHT. UNLESS WE HAVE  
THE BLUEPRINTS OF THE DEVICE IT'D  
BE AN INCREDIBLY RISKY  
OPERATION.



BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE CHIPS ARE DE-ACTIVATED, AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAD VOICE CONTROLLED ACCESS TO THEM IS... WELL, YOU KNOW.

SO OUR ADVICE IS TO JUST LEAVE THEM RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE. UNLESS WE GET SOME NEW INSIGHTS.



AND SO THE GIRLS RETURNED TO THEIR OLD LIVES.





DAMN! THE DOOR  
IS STUCK!

GET THE SPREADER  
SO WE CAN GET THIS  
OPEN!

THOUGH NORAH MADE A SLIGHT CAREER CHANGE TO SOMEWHERE SHE FELT SHE COULD BE OF MORE HELP.

STEP ASIDE!





LET ME  
JUST...



OH, MY!

CLANG!

YOU'RE A  
LIFESAVER,  
NORAH!

THANKS!



MACY WENT BACK TO WHERE SHE STARTED.

COME ON,  
TWENTY MORE!


AARGH...





NO MOANING! I COULD  
DO THIS WITH A HUMVEE  
ON MY BACK!

PFF, YEAH,  
RIGHT.



RUNNING YOUR MOUTH? HOW ABOUT WE BET? A HUNDRED?

DEAL! THERE'S NO WAY!

BRO, SHE'S  
ALREADY LIFTING HALF  
OF IT FROM JUST LYING  
UNDER IT.

A man in a tank top is supporting a Humvee in a garage. The Humvee is suspended in the air, and the man is crouching underneath it, holding up the chassis. Two other men in military uniforms are standing nearby, one of whom is cheering. The scene is set in a large, dimly lit garage with several Humvees parked in the background.

HELL YEAH,  
MACY!

THERE GO MY  
HUNDRED BUCKS..

HNNGG...

LIBERTY JUST FULLY EMBRACED HER NEW FORM.


BEAUTIFUL!





YOU KNOW, WE  
COULD TAKE  
PICTURES THAT SHOW  
OFF MY STRENGTH  
MUCH BETTER!

PUT A TIMER ON  
THAT THING AND GET  
OVER HERE!

A woman bodybuilder with blonde hair, wearing a red mesh bikini, is posing in a studio. She is standing next to a man in a dark blue and grey striped sweater and blue jeans. The man is looking up at her. The background is a white backdrop with studio lighting equipment visible. A speech bubble is positioned above the man's head.

HMM, YEAH,  
THIS SHOULD  
WORK!

WHOA!

JUST LIKE THIS!

THE GIRLS ALSO REMAINED CLOSE FRIENDS.



HEY!

TOLD YOU SHE'D BE ON TIME.

THERE SHE IS!



HOW ABOUT YOU  
GO GRAB HER A  
DRINK?

I'M ALREADY  
LYING DOWN!

WHY ME? YOU  
DO THAT!

THOUGH SOME OF THEM GOT EVEN CLOSER THAN CLOSE.

I WILL GIVE  
YOU A KISS.

THEN I  
WILL GO AND  
CHANGE.

AND IN THE  
MEANTIME YOU  
CAN GET UP AND  
GET A DRINK FOR  
NORAH!



YOU KNOW, FOR A  
SOLDIER, SHE'S REALLY  
BAD AT FOLLOWING  
ORDERS.

LOVE YOU TOO,  
LIBERTY!

MAYBE IT'S JUST  
YOUR ORDERS THAT  
SHE HAS TROUBLE  
WITH?

IMPOSSIBLE!  
THOSE ARE THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
ORDERS!

AND SO THE STORY OF NORAH, MACY AND LIBERTY ENDED.



BUT THEN AGAIN, LOOSE ENDS REMAINED.

HUP!

HUH?




AND LOOSE ENDS TEND TO CATCH UP WITH YOU AT SOME POINT.

UHH... HELLO?

NORAH, MACY  
AND LIBERTY, I  
PRESUME?

WAIT, NOW HOLD UP!  
WHO ARE YOU?! WHY ARE  
YOU JUST CLIMBING IN  
HERE?!






I'M ELISABETH. WE  
HAVE, OR, WELL, HAD A  
MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE  
NAMED FRANCIS.

WAIT,  
ELISABETH?

WE FOUND YOUR  
NAME IN THOSE  
FILES! AT THE  
BLACKSITE!



BUT LET'S NOT  
WASTE ANY TIME. I'M  
AFTER THE MAN WHO'S  
BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT  
HAS HAPPENED TO YOU  
AND ME.

AND I COULD  
REALLY USE YOUR  
HELP.

**THE END?**