

A FEW MONTHS LATER,
AROUND CHRISTMAS EVE



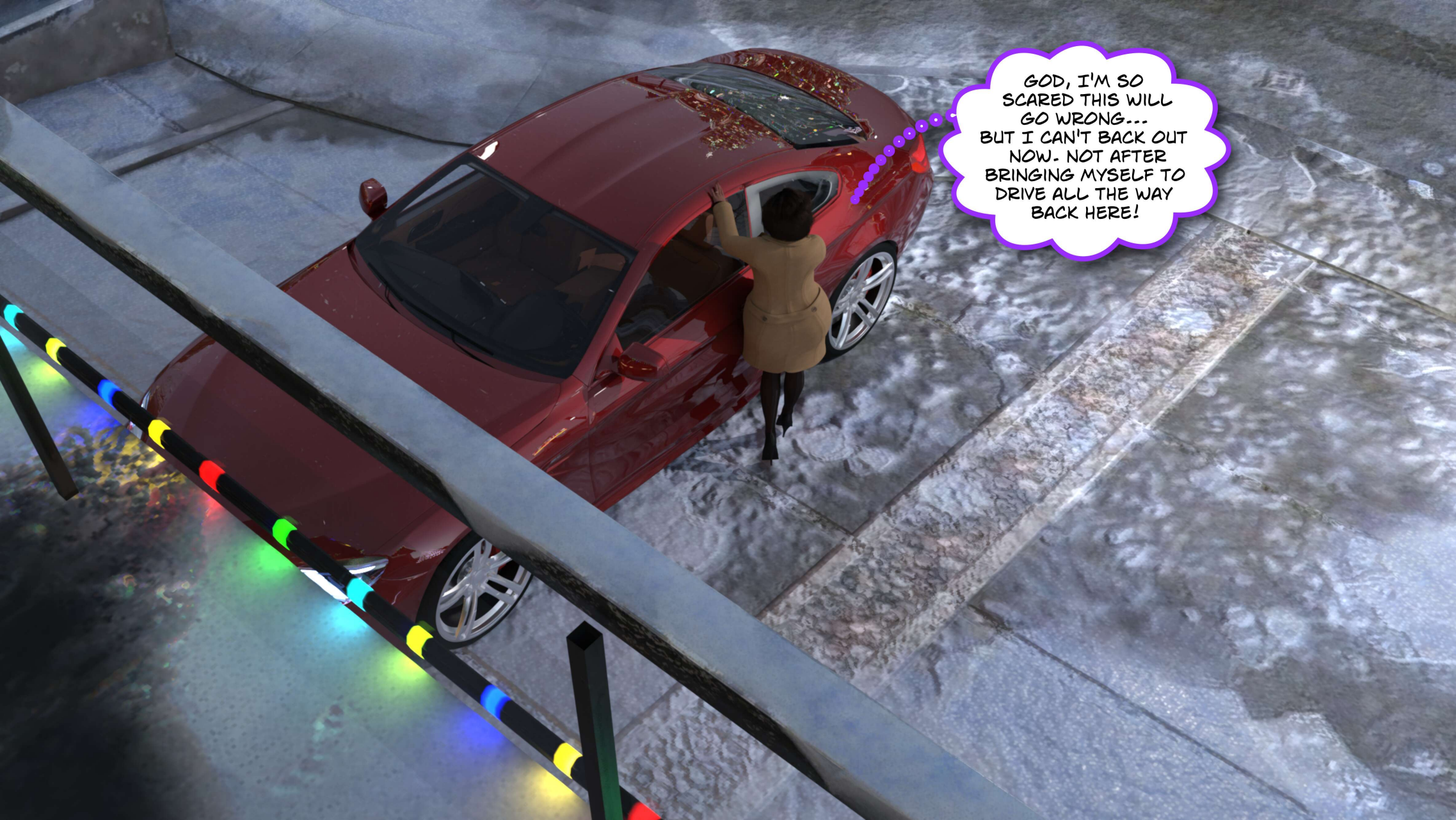


A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing black, shiny, form-fitting stockings and black high-heeled pumps. The legs are positioned next to the open rear door of a dark red car. The car's body is highly reflective. The ground is covered in a layer of snow or ice, with some footprints visible. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a cold, possibly nighttime or overcast environment.

HOLY SHIT, IT'S
COLD OUT HERE!
I HOPE I DON'T GET
THE DOOR SLAMMED
IN MY FACE!

A woman with dark, wavy hair is sitting in the driver's seat of a red car. She is wearing a tan coat over a black turtleneck. The car is parked on a wet, reflective surface. In the background, there is a large, decorated Christmas tree with lights and ornaments, and a building with festive decorations. The scene is set during the Christmas season.

I HOPE THEY
BELIEVE ME MORE
THAN MICHELLE DID!
WELL, WORST CASE I'LL
JUST RUIN THEIR MOOD
RIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS...



GOD, I'M SO
SCARED THIS WILL
GO WRONG...
BUT I CAN'T BACK OUT
NOW. NOT AFTER
BRINGING MYSELF TO
DRIVE ALL THE WAY
BACK HERE!

A penguin wearing a red Santa hat with white trim and a green scarf is leaning over a kitchen counter. In the foreground, a wooden tray holds three white bowls filled with red, green, and yellow cherry tomatoes. The kitchen has a brick wall, a built-in oven, and a window with colorful string lights. A dining table with a green cloche is visible in the background.

COMING!
JUST GIVE ME ONE
MINUTE!

UGH, THE DOUGH
DIDN'T GO AS
PLANNED, BUT IT
SHOULD STILL
TASTE GOOD... I
HOPE.

DING!
DONG!



WHO COULD IT
BE AT THIS HOUR?
THE REST OF THE
FAMILY SHOULDN'T
BE HERE UNTIL THE
EVENING.

HMM?
SHE LOOKS
FAMILIAR. I FEEL
LIKE I'VE SEEN
HER
SOMEWHERE.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS, MA'AM!
CAN I HELP YOU
WITH SOME...
THING...?



HI, M...!!
OH UHM HELLO, I
MEAN... YES YOU CAN.
I'D NEED A FEW
MINUTES OF YOUR TIME
IF POSSIBLE. YOU
SEE IT'S ME...

WAIT, NO, LET ME
START OVER. MRS.
HOFFMAN, IT'S ABOUT
YOUR SON, UHM
JASON!
HE WAS.. IS...

GASP!



SHIT!
I SHOULD HAVE
WRITTEN DOWN WHAT I
WANTED TO SAY.
WHY IS IT SO HARD TO
SAY THE TRUTH.

PLEASE GIVE ME A
MINUTE TO GATHER MY
THOUGHTS, MOM, THEN
IT WILL ALL MAKE SENSE.
UGH FUCK, WHERE DO I
START?!

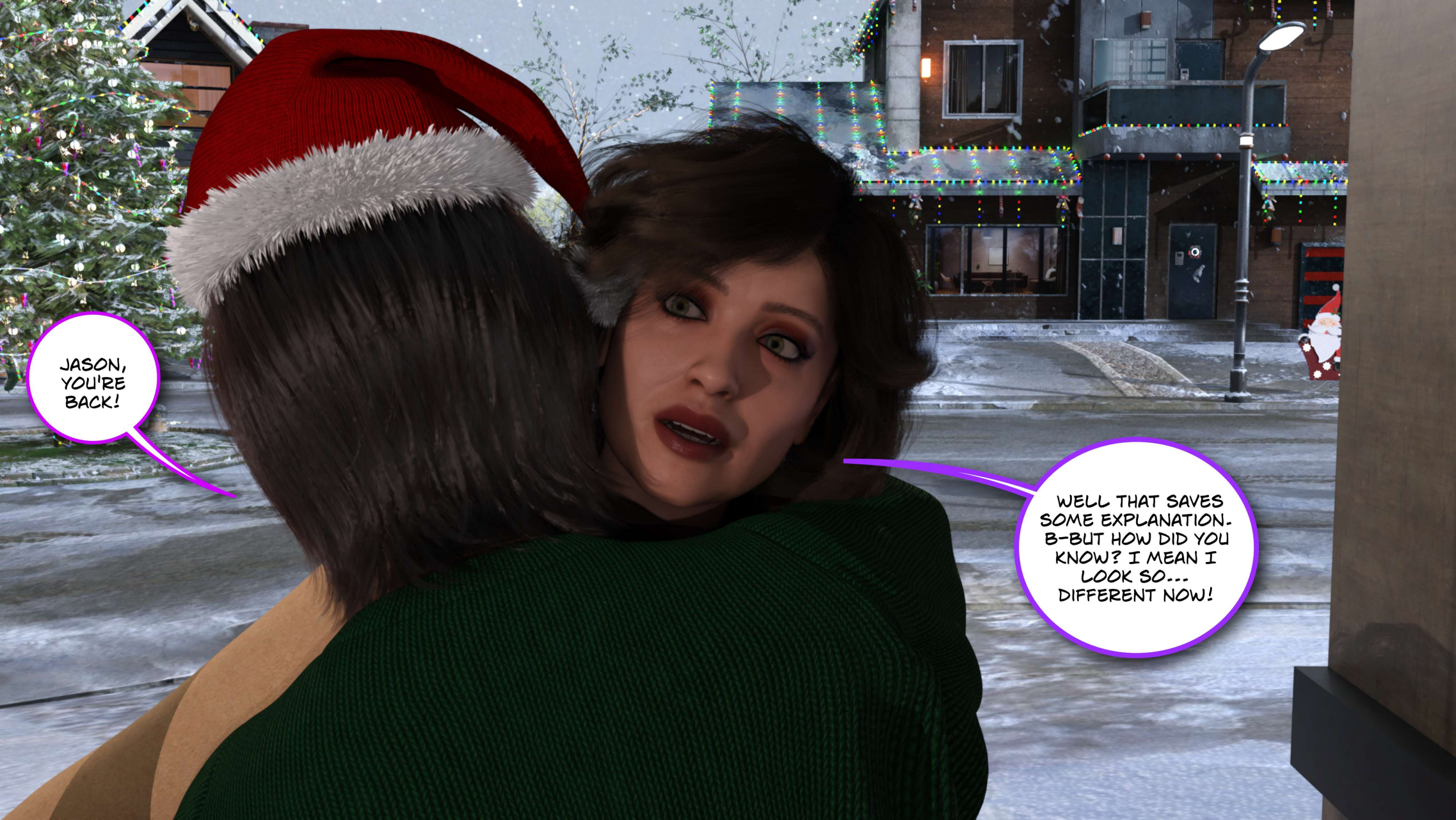


HUH?
WOAH, YOUR
HANDS ARE SO
WARM---



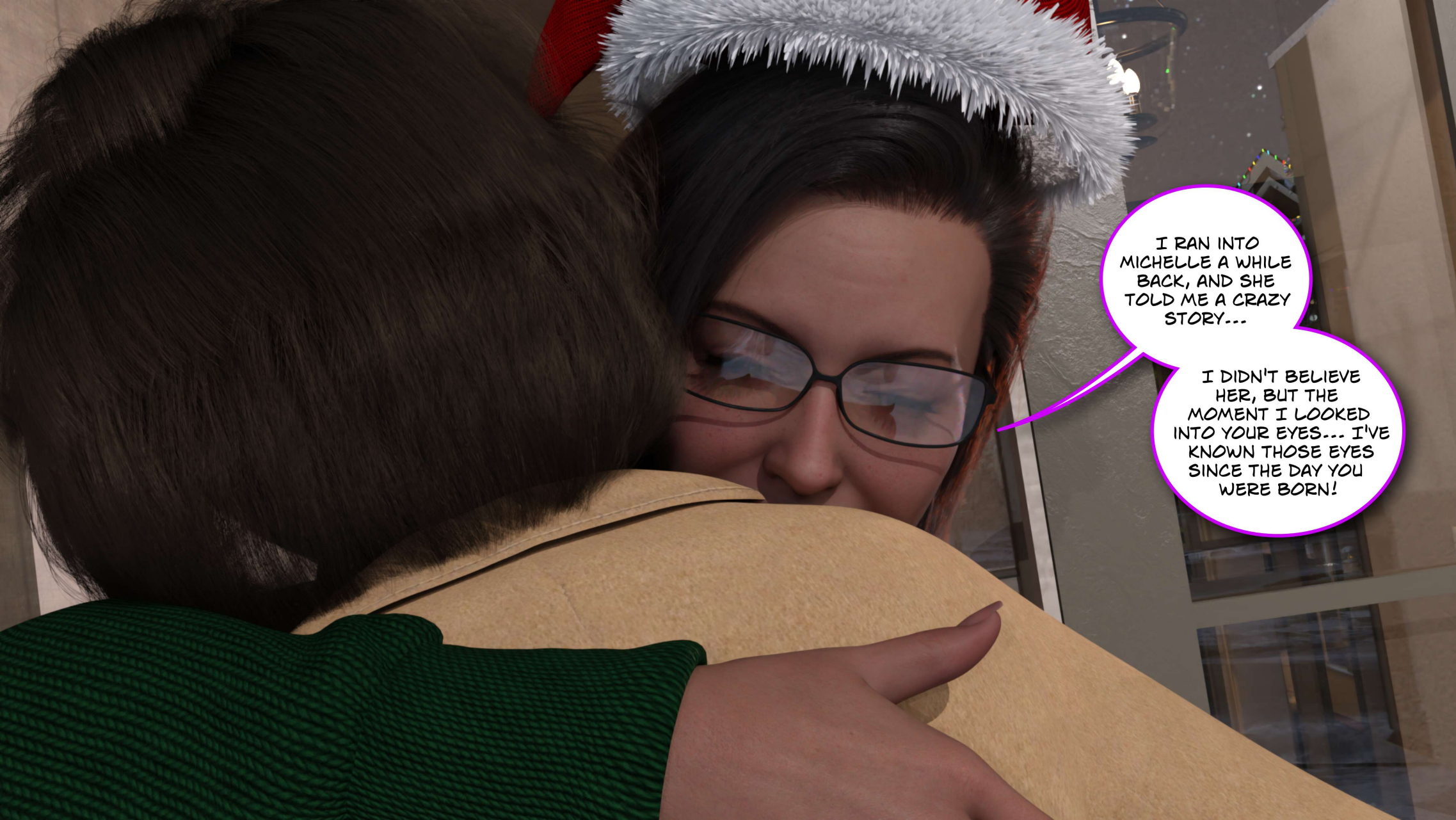
HMM...



A woman with dark hair, wearing a green sweater, is hugging a person from behind. The person being hugged is wearing a red Santa hat with a white fur trim. They are in a snowy town square at night. In the background, there is a large Christmas tree on the left, a building with colorful lights on the right, and a street lamp. A small Santa Claus figure is visible on the right side of the street. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image.

JASON,
YOU'RE
BACK!

WELL THAT SAVES
SOME EXPLANATION.
B-BUT HOW DID YOU
KNOW? I MEAN I
LOOK SO...
DIFFERENT NOW!



I RAN INTO
MICHELLE A WHILE
BACK, AND SHE
TOLD ME A CRAZY
STORY...

I DIDN'T BELIEVE
HER, BUT THE
MOMENT I LOOKED
INTO YOUR EYES... I'VE
KNOWN THOSE EYES
SINCE THE DAY YOU
WERE BORN!



SORRY IF I'M SHOCKED BY HOW MUCH YOU'VE CHANGED. YOU REALLY TAKE AFTER YOUR GRANDMOTHER WHEN SHE WAS MY AGE. HOW DID YOU DO IT?

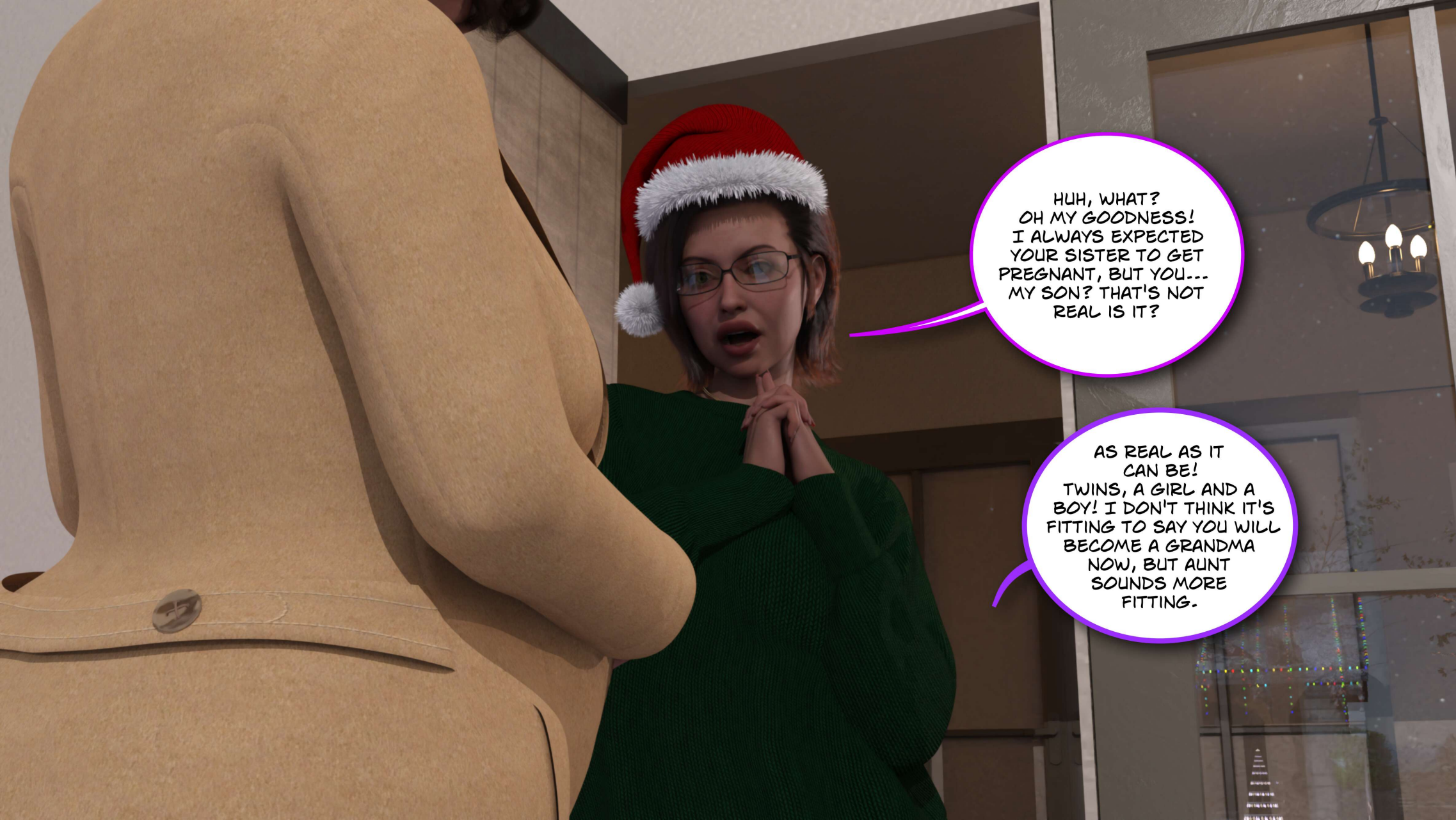
I... DIDN'T DO MUCH TO BE HONEST. WHATEVER MICHELLE TOLD YOU WAS PROBABLY THE TRUTH, HOWEVER OUTLANDISH IT SOUNDED!

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE STORY IS. I'M JUST HAPPY TO HAVE YOU BACK! GOSH, WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY? WE WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU AS BEST AS WE COULD! EVERYTHING IS BETTER THAN LOSING YOU!

I REALIZED THAT A BIT TOO LATE. BUT I'M BACK NOW, MOM!



OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!
MOM!!!
NOT SO TIGHT! YOU'LL
SQUEEZE THE BABIES
OUT OF ME!



HUH, WHAT?
OH MY GOODNESS!
I ALWAYS EXPECTED
YOUR SISTER TO GET
PREGNANT, BUT YOU...
MY SON? THAT'S NOT
REAL IS IT?

AS REAL AS IT
CAN BE!
TWINS, A GIRL AND A
BOY! I DON'T THINK IT'S
FITTING TO SAY YOU WILL
BECOME A GRANDMA
NOW, BUT AUNT
SOUNDS MORE
FITTING.



THERE IS SO MUCH I
HAVE TO TELL YOU, BUT
COULD WE PERHAPS DO IT
INSIDE?

I'M LITERALLY
FREEZING MY TITS OFF
OUT HERE!

Y-YES OF COURSE!
LET ME HANG UP YOUR
COAT AND MAKE
YOURSELF AT HOME
AGAIN, HONEY!



DEAR GOD!
JASON, YOUR ASS
IS MASSIVE!
I MEAN.. I'M SORRY.
I THINK I'M STILL A
BIT OVERWHELMED
WITH EVERYTHING.
BUT...

OH, THE STORIES
I'VE GOT TO TELL
YOU! AND ADVICE AND
TIPS! THERE ARE SO
MANY THINGS WE CAN
TALK ABOUT NOW!

IT'S FINE. I
DO FEEL
MASSIVE! WAS IT THE
SAME FOR YOU
DURING YOUR
PREGNANCIES?

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

