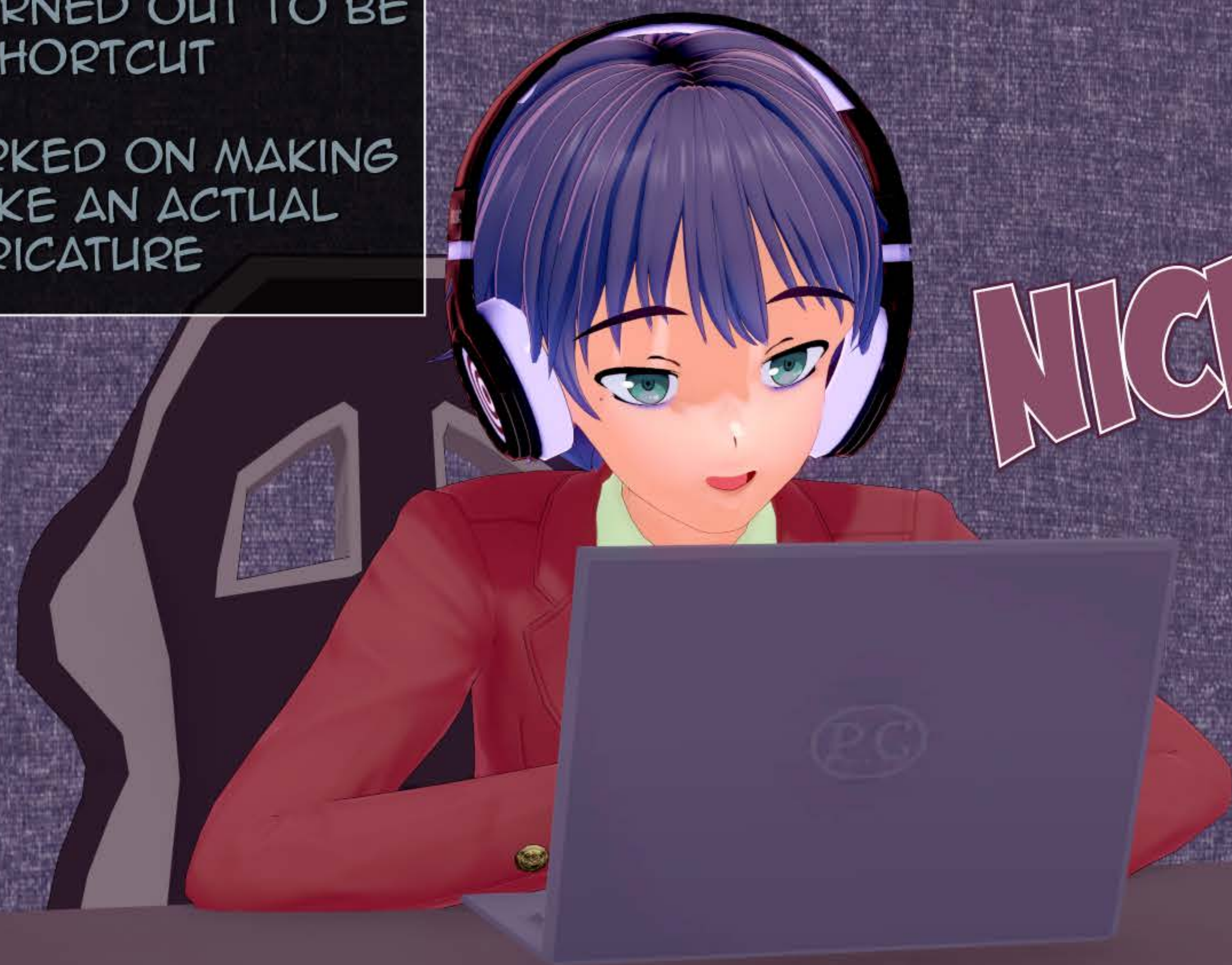


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, WITH TIME RUNNING OUT, I THREW MYSELF COMPLETELY INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING A LADY



I PRACTICED MY SPEECH. I DIDN'T SOUND FEMININE, BUT AT LEAST I DIDN'T SOUND LIKE A GUY. GROWING UP, I USED TO IMITATE MY MOM'S WAY OF SPEAKING JUST TO TEASE HER, THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A PRETTY USEFUL SHORTCUT

FROM THERE, I WORKED ON MAKING MY VOICE SOUND LIKE AN ACTUAL PERSON, NOT A CARICATURE



NICE TO MEET YOU



I PRACTICED HOW TO SIT KNEES TOGETHER OR LEGS CROSSED... A LADY NEVER SLOUCHES



AND THEN THERE'S THE TEDIOUS
PROCESS OF PUTTING ON AND
TAKING OFF MAKEUP
I'M NO MAKEUP ARTIST, BUT AT
LEAST NOW I'VE GOT THE BASICS
DOWN



I WALKED, WALKED, AND WALKED IN HEELS...
IT FELT LIKE SELF-INFLICTED TORTURE
WHY DO WOMEN WEAR THESE THINGS?
AT LEAST ONCE YOU BREAK THEM IN, THEY FEEL KIND OF COMFORTABLE



I EVEN DID HOUSEWORK IN HEELS TRYING TO BETTER COPE WITH MY SELF-IMPOSED MARTYRDOM





IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW HANNA WEARS
HEELS ALL DAY WITH A SMILE ON
HER FACE
HER FEET MUST BE SCREAMING TOO

I BOUGHT CHEAP PANTYHOSE AT THE MARKET TO PRACTICE WITH, BUT THEY'RE JUST NOT THE SAME... MY LEGS ARE ITCHING LIKE CRAZY! WHEN I HAD MY LEGS WAXED AND WORE THE PANTYHOSE HANNA GAVE ME, IT FELT LIKE HEAVEN BUT NOW? I WANT TO RIP THESE OFF!



WAIT!
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO WEAR THIS STUFF
IN PUBLIC?

REALIZED



WHAT WAS I
EVEN THINKING WHEN I
SIGNED MYSELF UP FOR
THIS?




SHOCKED



OH!

PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO SEE
ME...I'LL BE OUT
THERE, IN THE
OPEN!



WHAT DO
I EVEN DO...? ACT
"NATURAL" AND HOPE NO
ONE NOTICES BECAUSE I'M
UNDERCOVER?
GOD, I'M SUCH AN
IDIOT!

IT'S
NOT TOO LATE
TO FOLD THIS
PLAN...

I
STILL POSSESS
THE NOT-SO-RARE
CARD: CANCEL EVENT.
IT READS: "WHILE THIS CARD
IS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, YOU
CAN CANCEL ALL YOUR
COMMITMENTS WITH A
CREATURE, CLAIMING AN
UNEXPECTED EVENT
OCCURRED"





BZZZ
BZZZ

?

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK



HELLO, MABEL! HOW ARE YOU DOING?

GOOD NEWS, I BOOKED A STUDIO TO INTERVIEW YOU



I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOUR COMPANY WITH THE MESS AND UNWANTED ATTENTION AN INTERVIEW MIGHT BRING

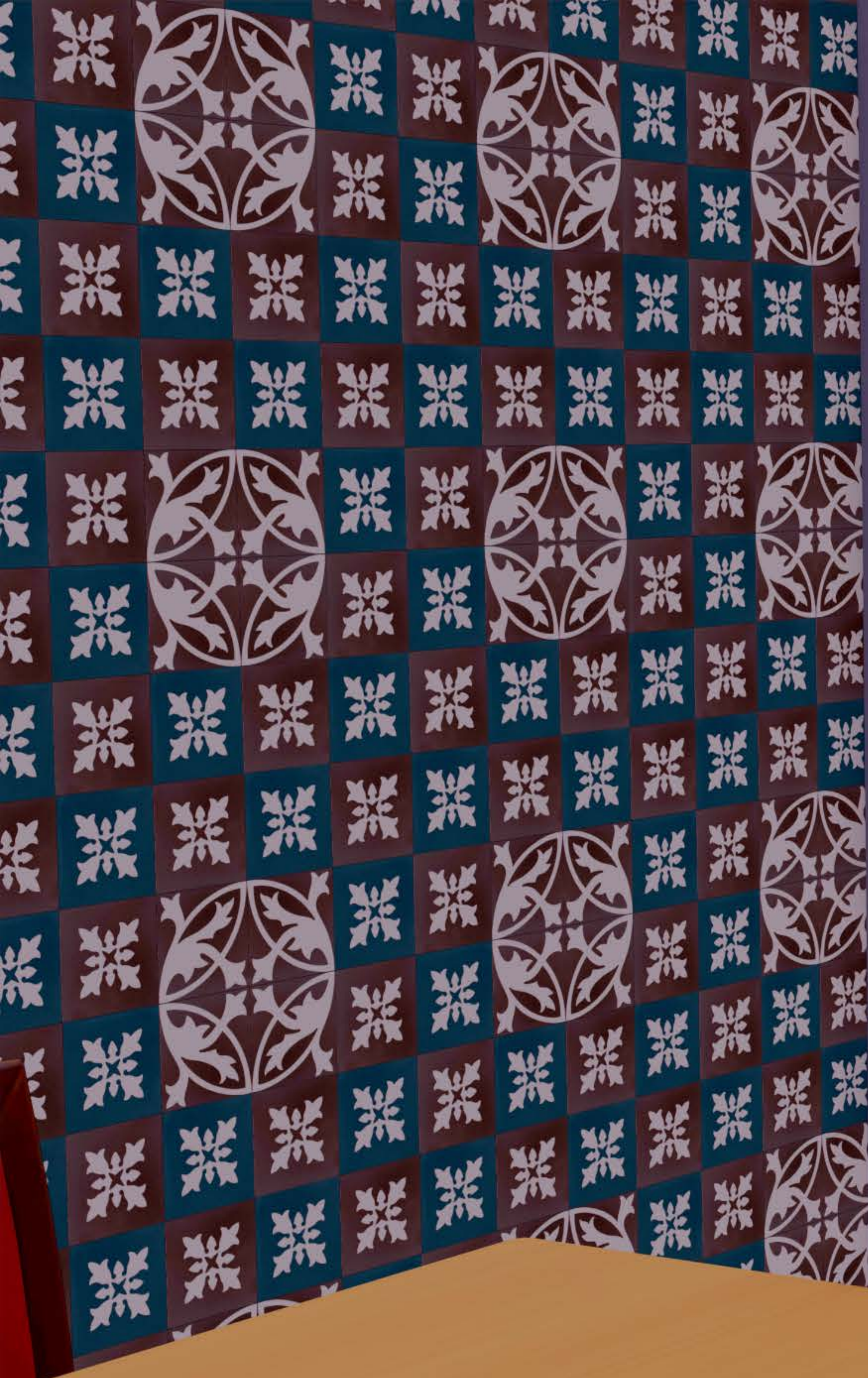
THAT'S GREAT!



DESPAIR

I'M
FLUCKED!





SHE WAS
FASTER THAN ME...
I DIDN'T EVEN GET THE
CHANCE TO PLAY MY CARD...

SOME DAYS LATER...

HELLO, MABEL!
HOW ARE YOU
DOING?

I'M
FINE,
HANNA...





YOU SAID YOU WERE PRACTICING

COULD YOU PLEASE USE YOUR FEMALE VOICE?

FINE...

BLUSHING

HELLO, HANNA.
HOW ARE YOU
DOING?

INTERESTING...
SPEAK A
LITTLE MORE

THAT'S IT,
MUCH BETTER

WHAT
SHOULD I
SAY?

I
DON'T
KNOW... IT'S
ON YOU



I'M
MABEL. I
LIKE CATS AND
CUPCAKES!

I
DON'T ALWAYS
TRAVEL TO YOUR
COUNTRY, BUT I
LOVE THE PEOPLE
HERE ❤️

VERY
GOOD! I
CLOSED MY EYES
AND YOU DEFINITELY
DON'T SOUND LIKE A
MAN

MAYBE A
SLIGHTLY
AMBIGUOUS
BEING...

GROWING UP
EMULATING YOUR
MOTHER'S SPEECH
CAN DO WONDERS...

MHMM!

TODAY YOU'RE LEAVING HERE LOOKING LIKE A BUSINESSWOMAN!

ARE YOU EXCITED?

SCRITCH

SCRITCH

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU... I'M NOT BUT IF I PUT MYSELF IN THIS SITUATION, I'LL WALK THROUGH IT ON MY OWN

HMMMM



SURE!

YOU
TOLD ME YOU
BEGAN YOUR
TRANSITION SOME
YEARS AGO, HANNA...
CAN YOU TELL ME MORE
ABOUT YOUR STORY?





BUT MY FAMILY WAS VERY STRICT, AND I WAS FORCED TO BELIEVE I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS WRONG...

I ALWAYS KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME FROM A YOUNG AGE...

TIME PASSED, PUBERTY KICKED IN, AND I WAS HORRIFIED...GROWING A BEARD, MY VOICE GETTING DEEPER

I KEPT WONDERING WHY I COULDN'T JUST BE "NORMAL" LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...



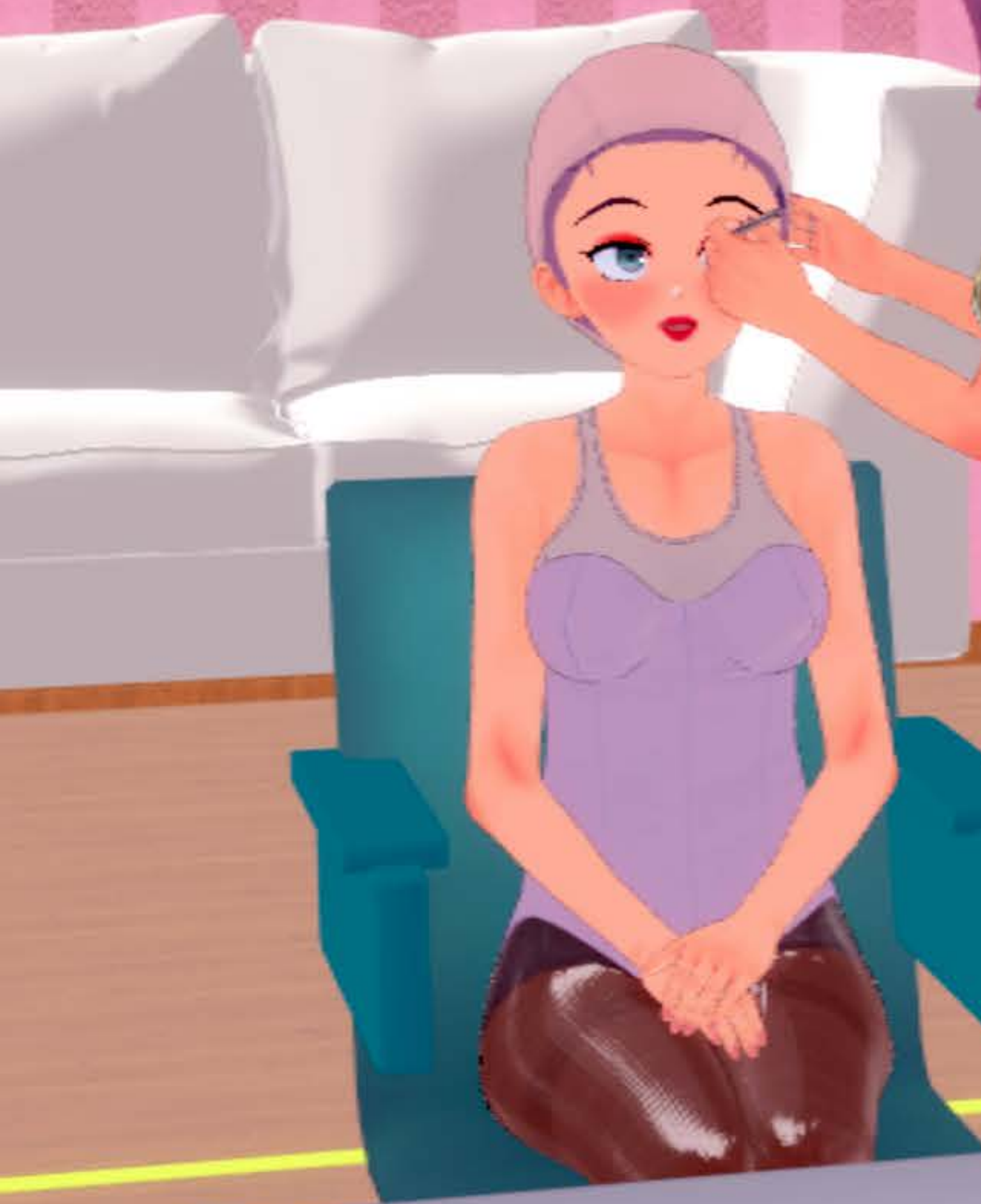


IT
BECAME
UNBEARABLE,
SO I CAME OUT
AS GAY

THAT
PART WAS
EASIER FOR
PEOPLE TO
ACCEPT...BUT I
WAS NEVER GAY

DON'T GET ME
WRONG,I WANTED
TO BE WITH A MAN,
BUT IN A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT SETUP

SO,
DID YOU
TAKE THE NEXT
STEP?



AND
WHAT DID
YOUR FAMILY
THINK?

I SEE...



EVENTUALLY... A
FEW YEARS LATER,
I KNEW I HAD TO
AT
FIRST, I DID IT
THE WRONG WAY,
TAKING HORMONES
ON MY OWN... BUT I
FELT I HAD NO
OTHER CHOICE

I
HAD ALREADY
DISTANCED
MYSELF FROM
THEM... I WAS
LIVING MY OWN
LIFE



WHY?

THAT
CLOSED A LOT
OF DOORS
FOR ME

A FEW
MONTHS AFTER
STARTING
HORMONES, I
FINALLY CAME OUT AS
HANNA

BECAUSE TO
MANY PEOPLE,
TRANS FOLKS ARE
TREATED AS
SECOND-CLASS
CITIZENS

THEY
DON'T BELIEVE
WE DESERVE THE
SAME RIGHTS OR
RESPECT AS CIS
MEN AND WOMEN



MOST OF MY
LIFE BEFORE
THAT WAS PURE
MISERY!

BUT IT
DIDN'T STOP
ME FROM
BECOMING WHO I
WANTED TO BE

THAT'S AWFUL...



THANKS,
I APPRECIATE
THAT... BUT I JUST
DID WHAT I HAD TO
DO

SO
MANY PEOPLE
DON'T HAVE
YOUR COURAGE

HANNA, I
THINK YOU'RE
TRULY BRAVE



BUT
FIRST...ONE
MORE THING,
YOU'LL ONLY FEEL
A TINY STING

NOW, LET'S
GET YOU
DRESSED, OKAY,
MABEL?

FINE...

SNAP!

OWCH!

WHY
ARE YOU
PIERCING MY
EARS?!

I'VE
NEVER SEEN A
WOMAN YOUR
AGE WITHOUT
PIERCED EARS

AND
YES, YOU'RE
GOING TO WEAR
EARRINGS...
NOWADAYS, MOST
WOMEN HAVE TWO OR
EVEN THREE PIERCINGS
IN EACH EAR

SOME MINLITES LATER...

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WOOOWW!





GASP

GASP

I DON'T FEEL LIKE MYSELF... THIS SKIRT IS SO TIGHT, AND THESE HEELS ARE CRUSHING MY FEET

BUT... I LOOK LIKE A LADY!

SURPRISED



THAT'S
CALLED A POWER
SUIT! IT'S MADE TO
MAKE YOU FEEL
CONFIDENT AND IN
CONTROL

WHEN
PEOPLE SEE YOU
IN THIS, THEY'LL
KNOW YOU MEAN
BUSINESS

AND ABOUT THE HEELS, SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD STUDENT, YOU'VE BEEN PROMOTED

AS YOUR STYLIST, THIS SHOE MODEL IS NOW YOUR TRADEMARK

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A DECENT WALK IN THEM, AND WITH MORE PRACTICE, YOU'LL SOON FIND IT HARD TO WALK LIKE A MAN AGAIN

THESE SHOES WILL BECOME YOUR COMFORT ZONE, YOU'LL FEEL EMPOWERED IN THEM...AND OVER TIME, YOU'LL COME TO ACCEPT ANY DISCOMFORT OR DIFFICULTY THEY BRING ALONG



DO YOU REALLY THINK MABEL IS GOING TO GIVE ONE INTERVIEW AND DISAPPEAR?

CHANCES ARE, MORE PEOPLE WILL WANT TO MEET MABEL

BUT THIS IS JUST A ONE-TIME EVENT



SO,
MABEL IS
PROBABLY HERE
TO STAY

WHICH IS
GREAT FOR MY
BUSINESS,
RIGHT?