THE Tamara CHRONICLES

SERIES 9

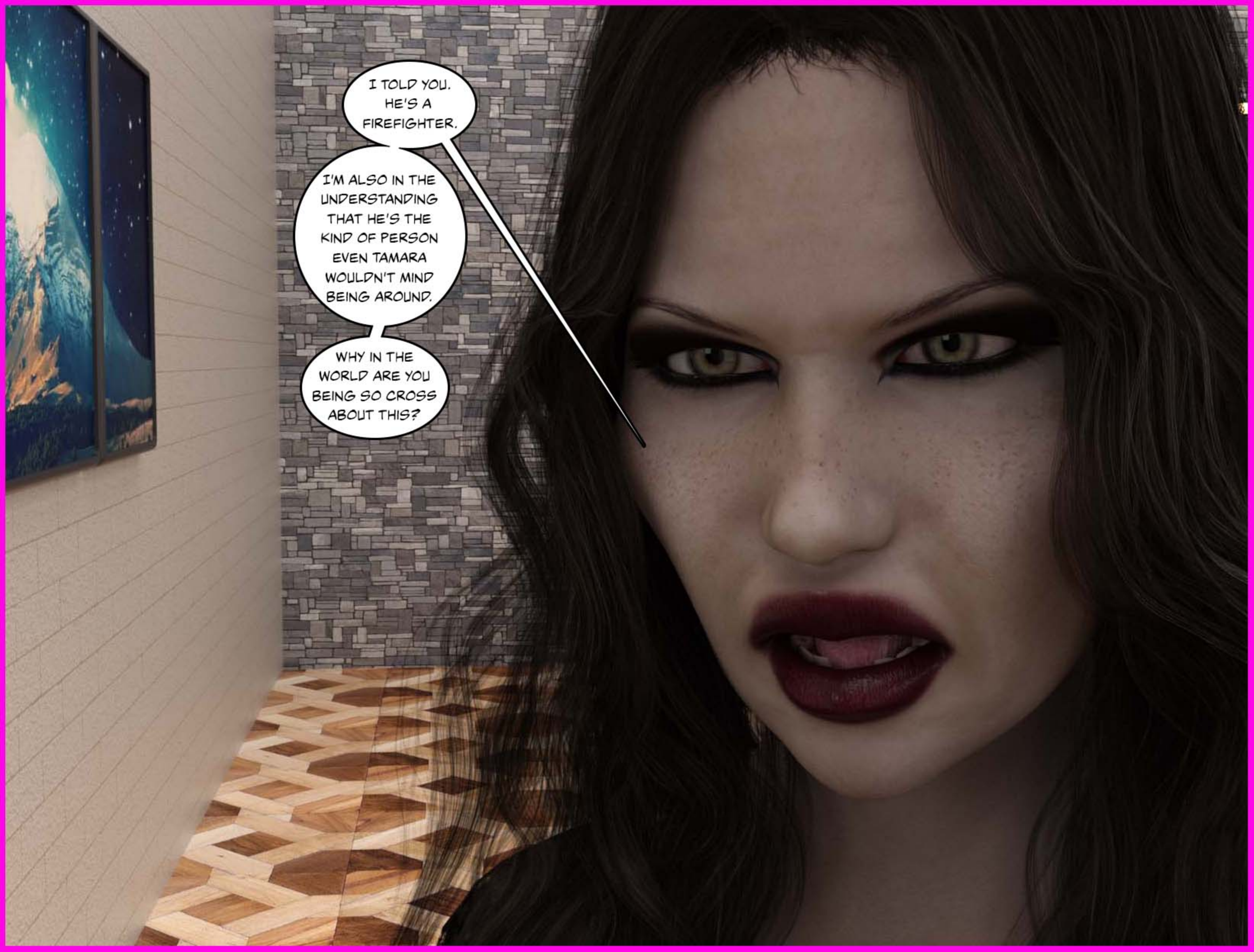
Written and Illustrated by
The Wandering Talespinner

Based on characters and situations created by
Keshara Narme

chiiiime
WHOEVER COULD BE CALLING UPON ME AT THIS LATE HOUR?

AHH. GOOD EVENING, MADAME GRACE.
DO COME IN. I CAN MAKE US BOTH SOME TEA.
ER...MADAME GRACE? IS THERE A REASON WHY YOU'RE STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
GRACE?

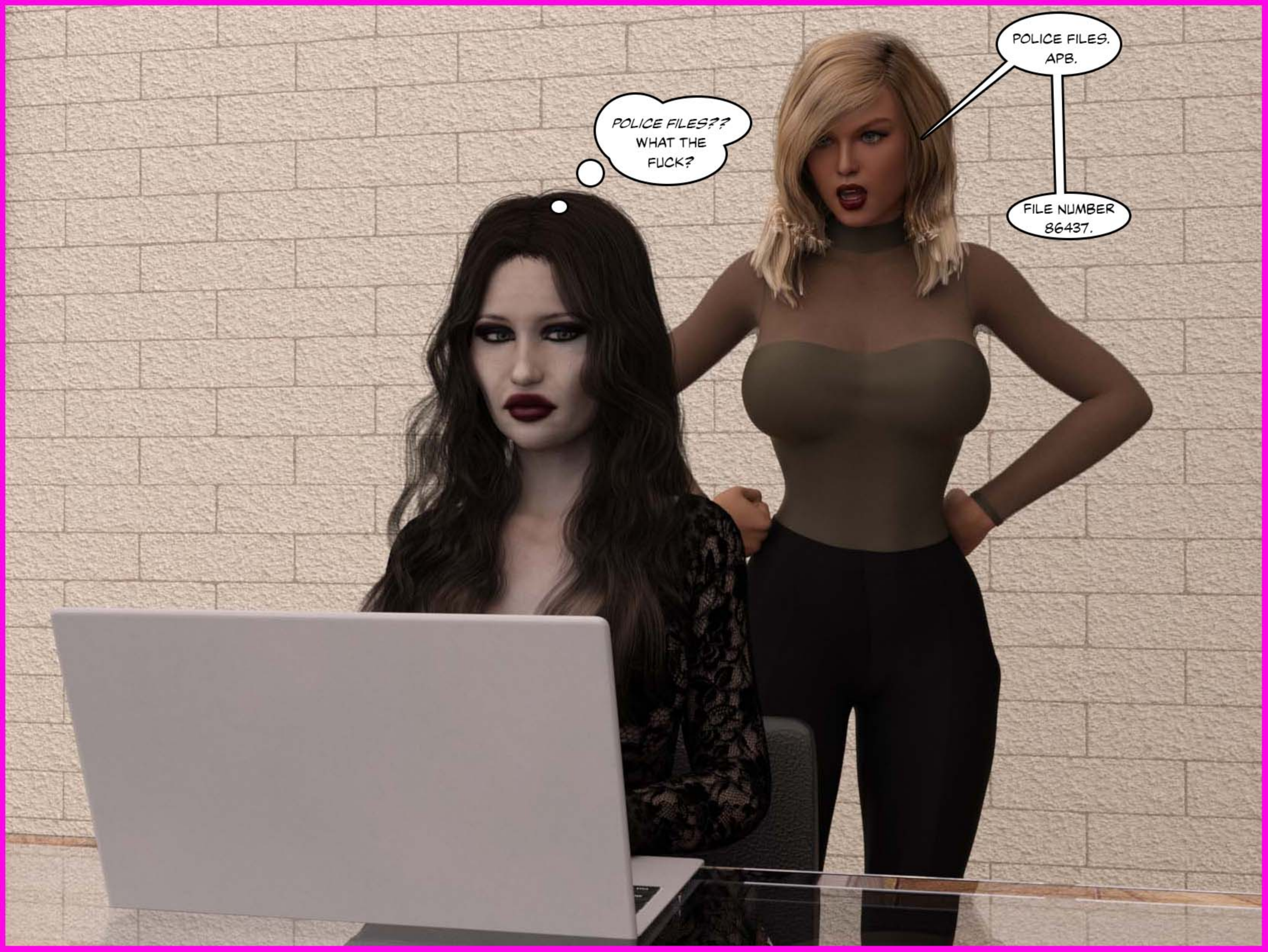
DO YOU KNOW WHO FRANK VIGLIONE IS, RITA?
THE FIREFIGHTER? YES! HE'S MOVED IN ACROSS FROM WHERE...
SHUT IT.
DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS MAN REALLY IS?


I TOLD YOU. HE'S A FIREFIGHTER.
I'M ALSO IN THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON EVEN TAMARA WOULDN'T MIND BEING AROUND.
WHY IN THE WORLD ARE YOU BEING SO CROSS ABOUT THIS?

I'M STARTING TO GET *VERY* CROSS OVER THESE LITTLE SCHEMES OF YOURS, RITA!
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, EITHER! I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR WANT TO PUT A DICK BACK BETWEEN TAMARA PORTNOY'S LEGS, AND HAVE HER CRAWLING AROUND BEHIND YOU!
I'M NOT TOO HAPPY ABOUT THIS TO BEGIN WITH...
...BUT THIS LATEST TACTIC OF YOURS HAS *SERIOUSLY* PISSED ME OFF!

YES, WELL...
...I RECENTLY HAD A LITTLE TALK WITH GWYNN WELSH AND THAT KATERINA GIRL. IT WAS...WELL... REVELATORY.
I WILL ADMIT THAT SETTING HER UP WITH THAT FIREMAN *WAS* ONE OF MY SCHEMES, BUT...CAN YOU GIVE ME ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS A MISTAKE? I'M TOLD HE'S A PLEASANT MAN!

MAY I ASK WHY?
IT'S EASIER IF YOU JUST PARK YOUR BUBBLE BUTT IN FRONT OF THAT LAPTOP.
JUST DO IT.


POLICE FILES??
WHAT THE FUCK?
POLICE FILES.
APB.
FILE NUMBER 86437.

HUH? WHO IS THIS BRIAN KAST...
...WAIT. THAT'S FRANK'S FACE??
OH, GODDESS... HOLY SHIT...
...DESTINY! YOU STUPID FUCKING TWAT!!
HE'S A DAMNED PEDO?? NO WONDER GRACE IS PISSED!
GODDESS...!

GRACE...
...I-I GIVE YOU MY WORD OF HONOR THAT I HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS MAN WAS A PEDOPHILE!
I WASN'T EVEN THE ONE WHO SET TAMARA UP WITH HIM!
YOU JUST...LET ME DEAL WITH HER, GRACE. I'M JUST AS UPSET AS YOU ARE ABOUT THIS!
SIGH CAN YOU NOT TRUST ME TO MAKE AMENDS?
THEN WHO DID??
NAMES, RITA!

NOW YOU TALK OF AMENDS? AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO...
IT'S OVER, GRACE. I REALLY MEAN IT THIS TIME.
THIS ISN'T ANY KIND OF A DECEPTION, EITHER. I'M FINALLY THROWING IN THE TOWEL HERE WITH TAMARA.
I ADMIT IT. I TRIED TO WRECK HER LIFE. I STUBBORNLY THOUGHT THAT I COULD BREAK HER...
...BUT I THINK YOU AND I CAN AT LEAST AGREE THAT SUPPLANTING AGATHA AS THE CITY'S QUEEN BEE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO PUT SO MUCH MORE OF MY FOCUS INTO?

RITA...IS TAMARA AWARE OF THIS... REAWAKENING OF YOURS?
NOT YET.
THEN YOU'D BETTER DAMN WELL COME UP WITH A MEANS OF MAKING HER AWARE, RITA, BECAUSE I'VE FALLEN IN REAL LOVE WITH THAT WOMAN AND I DON'T WANT ANY MORE OF THIS REVENGE BULLSHIT FROM YOU!
GRACE, IT'S OVER. I REALLY MEAN THAT!

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS, RITA.
MAKE AMENDS WITH *HER*, NOT ME!

YOUR SHORT RED HAIR REALLY DOES MAKE YOU LOOK BOYISH.
IT WOULD NOT TAKE TOO MUCH EFFORT TO MAKE IT LOOK JUST LIKE THE WAY I WEAR MINE.
MMM...YOU'VE BEEN QUIET EVER SINCE YOU GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH YOUR FRIEND GRACE. PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?

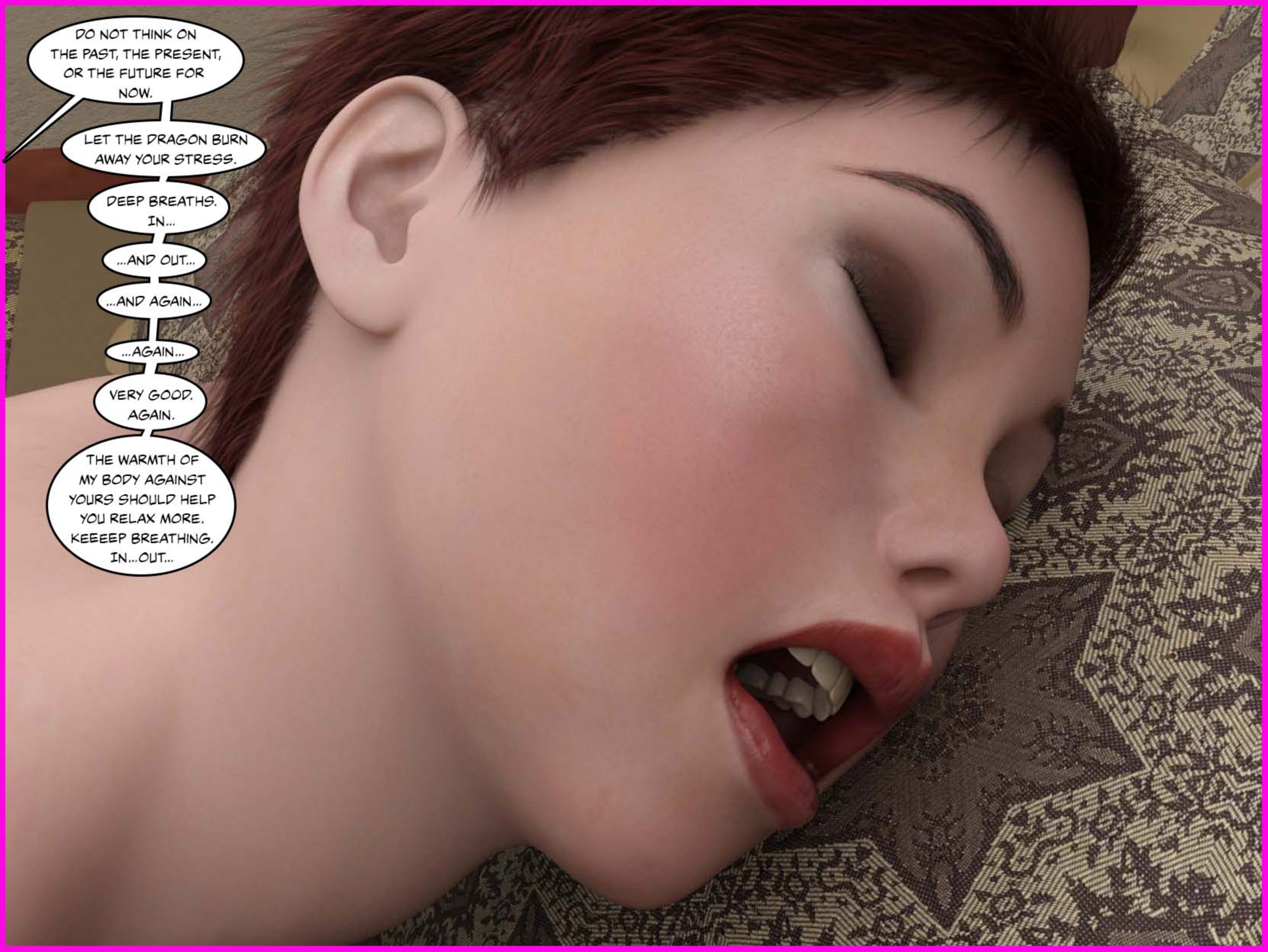
IT JUST GETS SO TIRING, LUNG. ALL OF THIS.
FIGHTING WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME, WARNING OTHERS ABOUT THE SISTERHOOD, FENDING OFF MISOGUNIA THUGS, DEALING WITH MADAME NOBLE'S WARPED VIGILANTE URGES...
...NOT TO MENTION ALL THOSE REPORTERS AFTER WORK SHOVING MIKES IN MY FACE, WONDERING IF I WANT TO BECOME THE NEXT JULIA STROUD.
VERY.
IN SHORT, YOU ARE STRESSED OUT.

HOW IS IT THAT YOU BECAME THIS... 'DRAGON'?
PFFT. I'M NO WOLF.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET A DRAGON BURN AWAY SOME OF THAT STRESS, YES?
WILL OF THE XENSHI MOTHER. THAT IS ALL I WILL SAY.
I HAVE GROWN TO ENJOY WHAT I AM NOW. I LIKE BEING...UNIQUE.
YOU ARE UNIQUE TOO. YOU ARE WHAT THEY CALL 'WOLF-IN-SHEEP-CLOTHES', YES?
MAYBE NOT AN ALPHA, BUT YOU ARE STILL A WOLF.

YOU HAVE THE FEROCITY OF A DEN MOTHER PROTECTING HER CUBS WHEN YOU STAND UP FOR YOUR BELIEFS.
IF YOU WERE OTHERWISE, YOU WOULD BE AT THE FEET OF RITA NOBLE RIGHT NOW.
LILY HAS TOLD ME THAT CHANGES ARE IN PLACE IN THIS CITY. A NEW QUEEN BEE...WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE YOUR FRIEND, RITA... NOW SHARES CONTROL OF THE CITY WITH ONE CALLED OLIVIA.
RITA MAY EVEN USE THIS STATUS AS LEVERAGE TO FINALLY PUT YOU BENEATH HER HEEL...

...BUT LILY AND I BOTH AGREE THAT THIS STATUS MAY RUIN RITA IN THE END.
SHI DE. FOR YOU TO KNOW THIS MAKES YOU MORE THAN WHAT RITA BELIEVES YOU TO BE.
MOST IN POSITIONS OF POWER DO NOT BELIEVE THE SUBMISSIVE ONES TO BE A THREAT...
...BUT IT IS THE ONES WITH MORE ACTIVE MINDS...LIKE YOURS... THAT ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL.
'POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT, AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY'.

IT SHOULD NOT SURPRISE YOU THAT ONCE THE FIRES OF CONFLICT HAVE COOLED...
...YOU COULD BE AMONG THE FEW THAT ARE LEFT STANDING, PERHAPS TO CARVE A NEW BULLCHESTER FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD.
YOU MAY NOT BE THE ONE TO STEP FORWARD AND CLAIM THE CITY...
...BUT YOU MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO HELP CHANGE THINGS. IS THAT NOT THE SAME THING?
THIS IS THE BETTER APPROACH, I THINK. THIS IS WHY I LIKE YOU, TAMARA.
MMMMH...BUT WHAT IF I DON'T WANT THAT?
MERRHHHHH... MMMMFFF..


DO NOT THINK ON THE PAST, THE PRESENT, OR THE FUTURE FOR NOW.
LET THE DRAGON BURN AWAY YOUR STRESS.
DEEP BREATHS. IN...
...AND OUT...
...AND AGAIN...
...AGAIN...
VERY GOOD. AGAIN.
THE WARMTH OF MY BODY AGAINST YOURS SHOULD HELP YOU RELAX MORE. KEEEEP BREATHING. IN...OUT...

...IN...
...OUT...
...FEEEEEL MY BODY AGAINST YOURS...
...SLEEEEEEP... MMMMM....

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T SLAP THE SHIT OUT OF YOU, DESTINY!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??
YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT THE MAN YOU ARE SETTING TAMARA UP WITH IS A FUCKING PEDOPHILE!!

HE IS?
I...I DIDN'T... KNOW...
OH? AND YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT THERE'S A NATIONWIDE APB OUT ON HIM??
RITA...IF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE, HE SWORE THAT HE HASN'T BEEN ANYWHERE NEAR A CHILD SINCE THE LAST INCIDENT, AND THAT WAS LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO!

HE'S ALSO BEEN HIDING BEHIND A HANDFUL OF ALTERNATE IDENTITIES TO EVADE BEING APPREHENDED!
JUST YOU REMEMBER WHO IT IS THAT'S BUTTERING YOUR BREAD IN THIS CITY, DESTINY!
YOU ARE CUTTING YOURSELF OFF FROM THAT KASTNER MONSTER *COMPLETELY*. THIS IS ***NOT*** NEGOTIABLE!
ARE WE CLEAR??

SO MUCH FOR KEEPING HIS CRIMINAL RECORD A SECRET...WHO THE HECK WAS ABLE TO FIND IT??
TOTALLY CLEAR, RITA.
WHAT IN THE *WORLD* MADE YOU THINK THAT SETTING TAMARA UP WITH A PEDO WAS WORTH CONSIDERING??
UMM...BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WANTED HER TO BECOME MORE OF A SLUT?
I JUST...FIGURED THAT THIS WOULD HELP HIM AS MUCH AS YOU WANTED TO SEE PORTNOY DEVOLVE INTO MORE OF THE HUSSY YOU WANT HER TO BE!

YOU TOLD ME TO GIVE TAMMY A BOYISH HAIRSTYLE BASED ON THE PICTURES YOU HAD OF HIM...
...AND YOU FIGURED SINCE TAMARA IS LOOKING MORE... BOY-ISH, KASTNER COULD INDULGE HIS LESS SAVORY URGES, SO TO SPEAK.
NO, DESTINY. NOT IF HE'S A PEDOPHILE.
WE TRIED SETTING TAMARA'S MOTHER UP WITH A WELL-BUILT GREEK MAN, BUT WE LATER DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS THE LEADER OF A HUMAN TRAFFICKING RING THAT OPERATED WITHIN THE CITY.
WE CAN'T MAKE POTENTIALLY COSTLY MISTAKES LIKE THAT AGAIN! I'M TOLD THIS CITY IS UNDER CIA SCRUTINY!

YES, BUT...DIDN'T YOU BLOW THE COVER ON ONE OF THEIR SILLY AGENTS? LELAND HALL?
WHAT'S HER NAME NOWADAYS? HMM?
YES, THAT'S THE ONE. SO MEEK AND WILLOWY! PRACTICALLY A WALLFLOWER!
DID HE HAVE A FAMILY?
LEIGH KRYSTAL.
HER NIPS ARE REALLY SENSITIVE, TOO.
HE DID, BUT... I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY. I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO TIE UP THAT LOOSE END.

WHY DON'T YOU LET ME DO IT, HMM?
GIVE ME ALL THE DETAILS. I'LL LURE THEM IN AND TAKE CARE OF THEM *PERSONALLY.*
I AM SOOO, SOOO SORRY THAT I BROUGHT SO MUCH HEAT DOWN ON YOU, RITA. IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN. I PROMISE!

YOU OUGHT TO BE SPANKED FOR THIS.
OH? SHOULD I BEND OVER?
OR WOULD YOU RATHER JUST... SHUT MY MOUTH?

MMMMMMMMMMMMMFF...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, 'FRANK'!

MMM, THAT TAMARA BABE'S HAIR REMINDS ME OF LITTLE JOEY BACK IN SCHENECTADY...
...WHAT NAME DID I USE THEN? OH YEAH, IT WAS 'ROCCO'!
JOEY HAD SUCH A CUTE FACE...
BOM *BOM* *BOM*

BOM
BOM
BOM
BOM
OK! OK! I'M COMING! RELAX!
I BET IT'S MY SEX-HUNGRY LITTLE KITTEN...

DEDICATED TO YOUR SAFETY
GOOD MORNING, MR. KASTNER.
VERY FUNNY, MR. KASTNER, AKA FRANK VIGLIONE, AKA ROCCO LUCCIONI.
THERE IS A WARRANT OUT FOR YOUR ARREST. YOU'LL NEED TO COME WITH US.
PLEASE DON'T RESIST! YOU'LL GET FAIR TREATMENT IF YOU DO!
KASTNER? UH... WH-WHO'S HE?
WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK??
SHIT! SOMEONE RATTED ME OUT!
22
22

I'M NOT LETTING SOME BUSTY COP TAKE ME IN!
GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN WHERE YOU BITCHES BELONG!
KRAK!
OH DEAR! PLEASE STOP! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THIS WORSE FOR YOURSELF!

SHUT UP, YA BALD BIMB... UUHHFF!!
YOU ARE IN SERIOUSLY DEEP SHIT NOW, YOU DISGUSTING PEDOPHILE!!

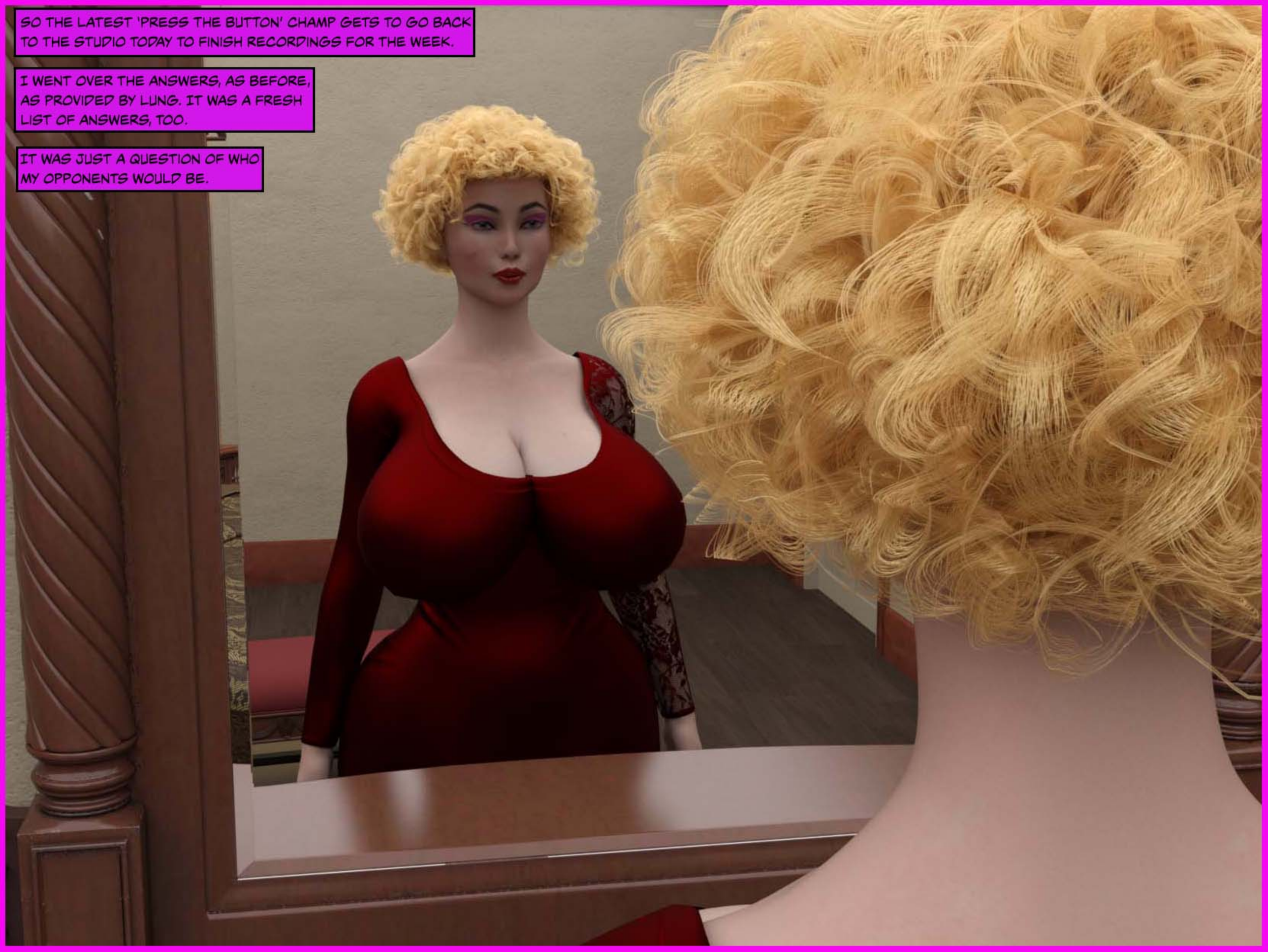
YOU ARE OFFICIALLY DONE, YOU SICK BASTARD!
ON TOP OF THE PEDOPHILIA, NOW WE CAN HAVE VANNA ADD 'ASSAULTING AN OFFICER', AND 'RESISTING ARREST' TO THE LIST OF CHARGES!
WHATEVER YOU GET TURNED INTO, I HOPE YOU SUFFER, YOU MONSTER!
VANNA, READ THIS PIECE OF SHIT HIS RIGHTS!
UMM...Y-YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN...SILENT...

MUCH AS I WANTED TO STEP OVER THERE AND GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND AS THEY DRAGGED HIM AWAY TO GODDESS KNOWS WHATEVER FEMININE FATE IS IN STORE FOR HIM...
...I JUST WASN'T SURE IF WHATEVER CONDITIONING MADE ME GET HORNY WHENEVER I WAS NEAR THAT SLICK PEDO FUCKHEAD WOULD COMPEL ME TO HELP HIM FIGHT OFF THE COPS.
NAAH. I'M GOOD WITH WATCHING HIM FROM A DISTANCE.
I HOPE I NEVER SEE THAT MONSTER AGAIN. HE MAKES MADAME NOBLE LOOK LIKE A SWEET OLD LADY!
THOT H

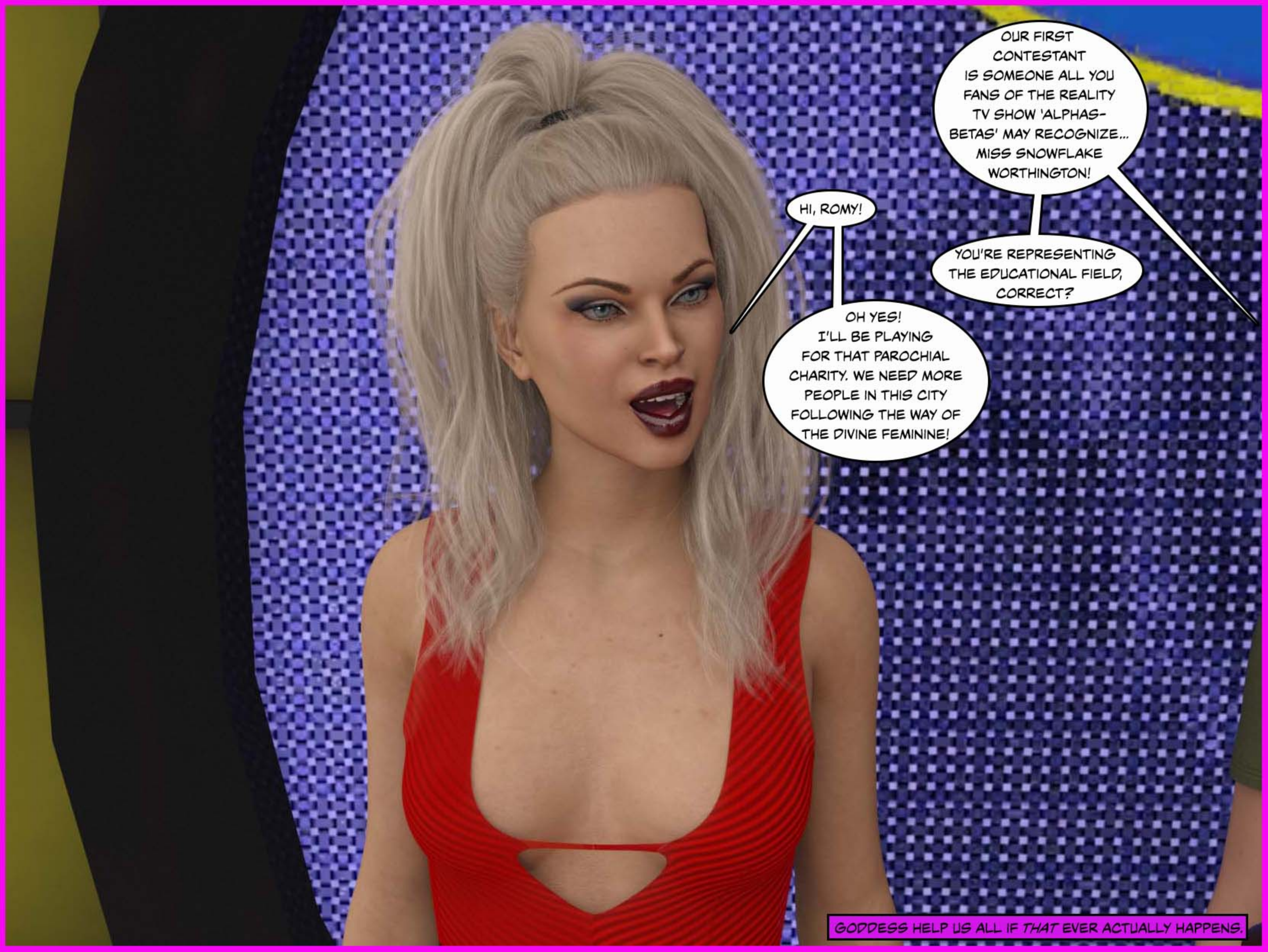
THE ARREST EVEN MADE THE NEWS. NOW, EVERYONE KNOWS TO STAY CLEAR OF THIS SCUMBAG.
BING-BOOONG
UH-OH...

HI! ASHLEY DOBSON, BCN NEWS.
OH, HEY THERE.
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING ACROSS THE STREET FROM YOU?
YEAH, THE PEDO. I'M THE ONE WHO OUTED THAT MONSTER, IN FACT!
REALLY? WOULD YOU MIND IF I SHARED THIS WITH OUR VIEWERS? MAYBE ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS?
FINE BY ME.
HOT HOT

BCN
8:47 a.m.
I WAS... TIPPED OFF BY AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE AS TO WHAT THIS GUY WAS ALL ABOUT. HE HAD JUST MOVED IN TO THE CITY AND HE SEEMED LIKE A NICE GUY, BUT ISN'T THAT ALWAYS HOW THEY ARE WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO HIDE THE SKELETONS IN THEIR CLOSETS?
MISS PORTNOY SURMISED THAT IT WAS HER BOYISH HAIRSTYLE THAT ATTRACTED KASTNER TO THE SECRETARY. ACCORDING TO COLLECTED FILES ON KASTNER, HE HAD A FASCINATION FOR YOUNG BOYS CROSSDRESSED AS GIRLS. THE INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING. REPORTING FOR BCN NEWS, I'M ASHLEY DOBSON.
HOT HO
BCN
TAMARA PORTNOY
Secretary to the Mayoress
OH YEAH...ONE THING I PURPOSELY LEFT OUT OF THIS INTERVIEW: AFTER I GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH MADAME GRACE, I ALSO CALLED TAYLOR LA RUE, AND I EVEN SENT A PHOTO OF THAT FUCKER.
I WANTED TO BE SURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PLACE FOR THAT BASTARD TO HIDE IF HE DID TRY TO ESCAPE THE CITY.


SO THE LATEST 'PRESS THE BUTTON' CHAMP GETS TO GO BACK TO THE STUDIO TODAY TO FINISH RECORDINGS FOR THE WEEK.
I WENT OVER THE ANSWERS, AS BEFORE, AS PROVIDED BY LUNG. IT WAS A FRESH LIST OF ANSWERS, TOO.
IT WAS JUST A QUESTION OF WHO MY OPPONENTS WOULD BE.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE, AND WELCOME BACK TO MUNICIPALS WEEK!
WE HAVE A FRESH NEW BATCH OF CONTESTANTS TODAY, ALL OF THEM HOPING TO WIN SOME MONEY FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE CHARITIES!
LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN UNSEAT OUR REIGNING CHAMPION FROM HER HIGH PERCH!


OUR FIRST CONTESTANT IS SOMEONE ALL YOU FANS OF THE REALITY TV SHOW 'ALPHAS-BETAS' MAY RECOGNIZE... MISS SNOWFLAKE WORTHINGTON!
HI, ROMY!
YOU'RE REPRESENTING THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD, CORRECT?
OH YES! I'LL BE PLAYING FOR THAT PAROCHIAL CHARITY. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY FOLLOWING THE WAY OF THE DIVINE FEMININE!
GODDESS HELP US ALL IF *THAT* EVER ACTUALLY HAPPENS.

OUR NEXT CONTESTANT REPRESENTS NOT ONLY THE MANAGERIAL FIELD, BUT ALSO THE WAR VETERANS OF THE CITY! PLEASE WELCOME MISS GLENDA HEMINGFORTH!
THE CHARITY YOU'RE PLAYING FOR IS ALSO RELATED TO WAR VETERANS?
IT IS! IN FACT, MY HUSBAND WAS WITH THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION WHEN THEY TOOK THE GRAVE BRIDGE IN HOLLAND DURING OPERATION MARKET GARDEN IN 1944!
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HUSBAND'S SERVICE, MISS HEMINGFORTH!
WE BRIEFLY TALKED BEFORE WE WENT LIVE AND SHE SHARED HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHARITY WITH ME. I'M TEMPTED TO PURPOSELY BLOW A QUESTION JUST TO PUT GLENNIE AT THE TOP SPOT...
...BUT *ONLY* IF SNOWFLAKE GETS KNOCKED OUT OF THE GAME EARLY!

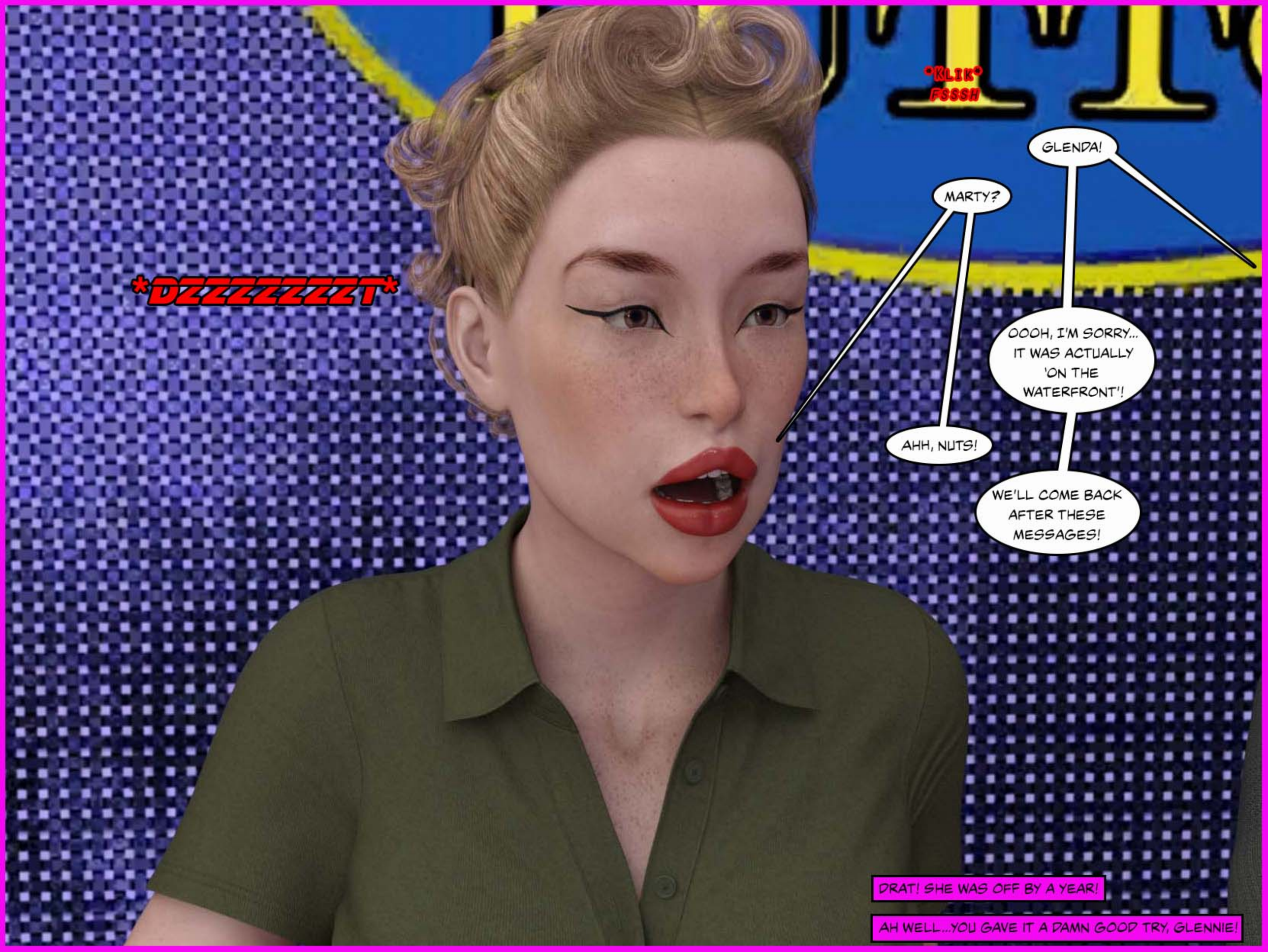
AT THE THIRD SPOT, REPRESENTING EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT, IS THE CEO OF THE LORIS INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE KNOWN AS RONKONVESTMENTS, MISS VIRGINIA HARTFORD!
AND WHAT CHARITY ARE WE PLAYING FOR, MISS HARTFORD?
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS, ROMY.
OOOH! SOUNDS LIKE A MORALLY WORTHY CHARITY! VERY NICE!
IF THAT 'CHARITY' IS LEGIT, WHICH I DOUBT.
BUT IF IT ISN'T, HEY! AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT STINKY LESLIE BETANCOURT HOBO TO ACTUALLY HAVE A ROOF OVER HER HEAD!

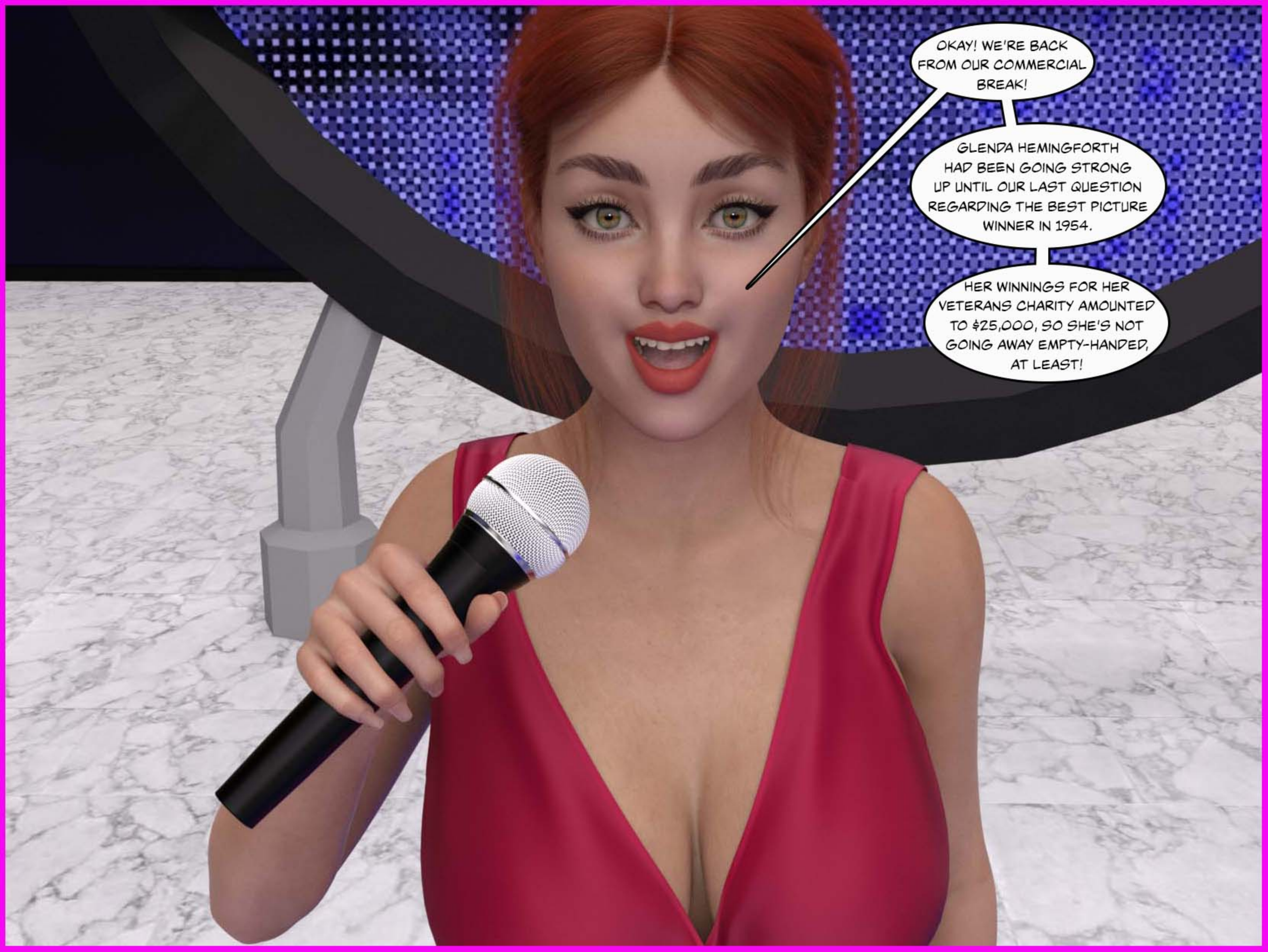
I'M JUST THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT THERE'S MORE TO ME THAN...WELL, WHAT YOU SEE!
AAAAAND I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW WHO *THIS* IS...REPRESENTING CITY MANAGEMENT IS OUR REIGNING CHAMPION, MISS TAMARA PORTNOY!
YOU COULD BE UP AGAINST SOME SERIOUS COMPETITION THIS MORNING, TAMARA! HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR A REAL CHALLENGE!
HEY! NOT LIKE OUR *SPONSORS* ARE COMPLAINING! *GIGGLE!*
OK, CONTESTANTS... ONCE AGAIN, IT'S TIME TO ***PRESS THE BUTTON!***

THE BUTTON
WHAT BREAKFAST DISH DO I HAVE WHEN IT IS MADE OF TOASTED BREAD AND WARM MILK?
SNOWFLAKE!
KLIK FSSSH
MILK TOAST.
RIGHT! NAME THE CARTOON CREATOR WHO MADE A CONTROVERSIAL CAT AND DOG SERIES FOR NICKEL...
KLIK FSSSH
VIRGINIA!
JOHN KRICFALUSI.
CORRECT! I AM RATED BELOW INVESTMENT GRADES. WHAT AM I?
PRESS THE

KLIK
FSSSH
A JUNK BOND.
TAMARA!
YUPPERS! NAME THE CANADIAN CIRCUS GROUP THAT PERFORMS WITHOUT ANIMALS.
GLENDA!
RIGHTY-RIGHT!
KLIK
FSSSH
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL!
WOOOH! ON THE BOARD AT LAST, GLENNIE! YOU'VE GOT THIS!

DID YOU WANT THE MIND MELT ON PODIUM FOUR? IT'S READY TO GO.
HUH?
DID YOU WANT ME TO GAS PODIUM FOUR?
NO.
BUT...YOU TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT...
DID I STUTTER? I SAID NO GAS.
ER...YES, MADAME NOBLE.
SHEESH...IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THIS KID IS THE BROTHER OF THAT 'CORKY' BIMBO!


KLIK
FSSSH
DZZZZZZZZT
GLENDA!
MARTY?
OOOH, I'M SORRY... IT WAS ACTUALLY 'ON THE WATERFRONT'!
AHH, NUTS!
WE'LL COME BACK AFTER THESE MESSAGES!
DRAT! SHE WAS OFF BY A YEAR!
AH WELL...YOU GAVE IT A DAMN GOOD TRY, GLENNIE!


OKAY! WE'RE BACK FROM OUR COMMERCIAL BREAK!
GLENDA HEMINGFORTH HAD BEEN GOING STRONG UP UNTIL OUR LAST QUESTION REGARDING THE BEST PICTURE WINNER IN 1954.
HER WINNINGS FOR HER VETERANS CHARITY AMOUNTED TO $25,000, SO SHE'S NOT GOING AWAY EMPTY-HANDED, AT LEAST!

SO NOW I'M UP AGAINST A SISTERHOOD HARDLINER FROM A REALITY TV SHOW, AND A HARD-NOSED EXECUTIVE, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE PROVEN THEMSELVES TO BE WHIP-SMART.
VIRGINIA MAY BE THE NEXT TO BE SABOTAGED, SEEING AS HOW HER CHARITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SISTERHOOD GOALS.
I'M JUST THANKFUL THAT THEY DIDN'T SCREW WITH GLENDA. THAT WOULD HAVE *SERIOUSLY* PISSED ME OFF!

I DOUBT THAT MY EFFORTS TO MAKE TAMARA THE WEEK'S CHAMPION WILL BE ENOUGH TO ATONE FOR ALL THOSE TORMENTS.
GODDESS...IT'S NOT EVEN CHRISTMAS, AND I'M FEELING LIKE EBENEZER SCROOGE *AFTER* BEING VISITED BY THE GHOSTS!
I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES TAMARA BOB CRATCHIT, DOESN'T IT?
chiiimmmmme

I CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER IF YOU ARE DECEIVING YOUR QUARRY.
I'M NOT. I NO LONGER CONSIDER TAMARA AS A 'QUARRY', EITHER.
WISE MOVE.
THIS VOICE SOUNDS ASIAN. IS THIS THAT WOMAN FROM THE MEETING WITH GWYNN WELSH AT THE HOTEL?
YOU ARE TAKING ADMIRABLE STEPS IN CLEANSING YOUR SOUL, RITA NOBLE.
DO NOT RELAPSE.

BUTTON
KLIK
FSSSH
TAMARA!
THOMAS HARRIS.
CORRECT! THIS GENERAL BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH TREASON DURING THE REVOLU...
KLIK
FSSSH
SNOWFLAKE?
BENEDICT ARNOLD.
RIGHT! WHICH TREATY CAME FIRST? SALT, OR START?
WE'LL LET YOU READERS BUZZ IN ON THIS ONE!

VIRGINIA WASN'T GASSED, BUT SHE BLEW TWO QUESTIONS. ONE OF THEM WAS ABOUT BULLCHESTER HISTORY. AS PER THE RULES, THEY DEDUCT IN INCREMENTS OF $100.00 FOR EVERY WRONG ANSWER.
IT WAS NOW JUST ME AND SNOW.
SHE HAD AMASSED $2,750.00 FOR THE SISTERHOOD CHARITY. MY BEAN COUNTER DID NOT GO UP AS RADICALLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT I WAS UP AGAINST SERIOUS COMPETITION.
WE'RE ON ROUND 3. IF SNOW WINS $300.00 MORE IN THIS TEN-SECOND SEGMENT, SHE'LL BE THE NEW CHAMPION.

IN THE BOOK 'THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ', THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST HAD A FLYING BROOM. TRUE OR...
KLIK
FSSSH
SNOW!
TRUE!
DZZZZZZZZT
OOOH...I'M SORRY, SNOW, BUT...

I'M WRONG??
I'M NOT WRONG! I'VE SEEN THAT MOVIE A HUNDRED AND ONE TIMES!
BUT...AREN'T THEY ONE AND THE SAME??
SHIT... MISS SCHULTZ WON'T BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE BOOK VERSION, NOT THE MOVIE!
GIGGLE NOT ALWAYS!
THE BUZZER SIGNALED THE END OF THE ROUND, HOWEVER...BUT YOU WALK AWAY WITH $2,900.00 FOR YOUR PAROCHIAL CHARITY!

HEEEEY! QUITE A BIT OF DRAMA, EH?
SO, TAMMY-TAM... I'VE BEEN ORDAINED THE GO-BETWEEN FOR THE CONTESTANTS AND THE SPONSORS, SO I NEED TO ASK YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING, 'K?
YOU DIDN'T PAY OFF NOSY ASIAN FRIENDS TO INFLUENCE OUR PRINCIPAL SPONSOR, DID YOU?
SHOOT.
EXCUSE ME?

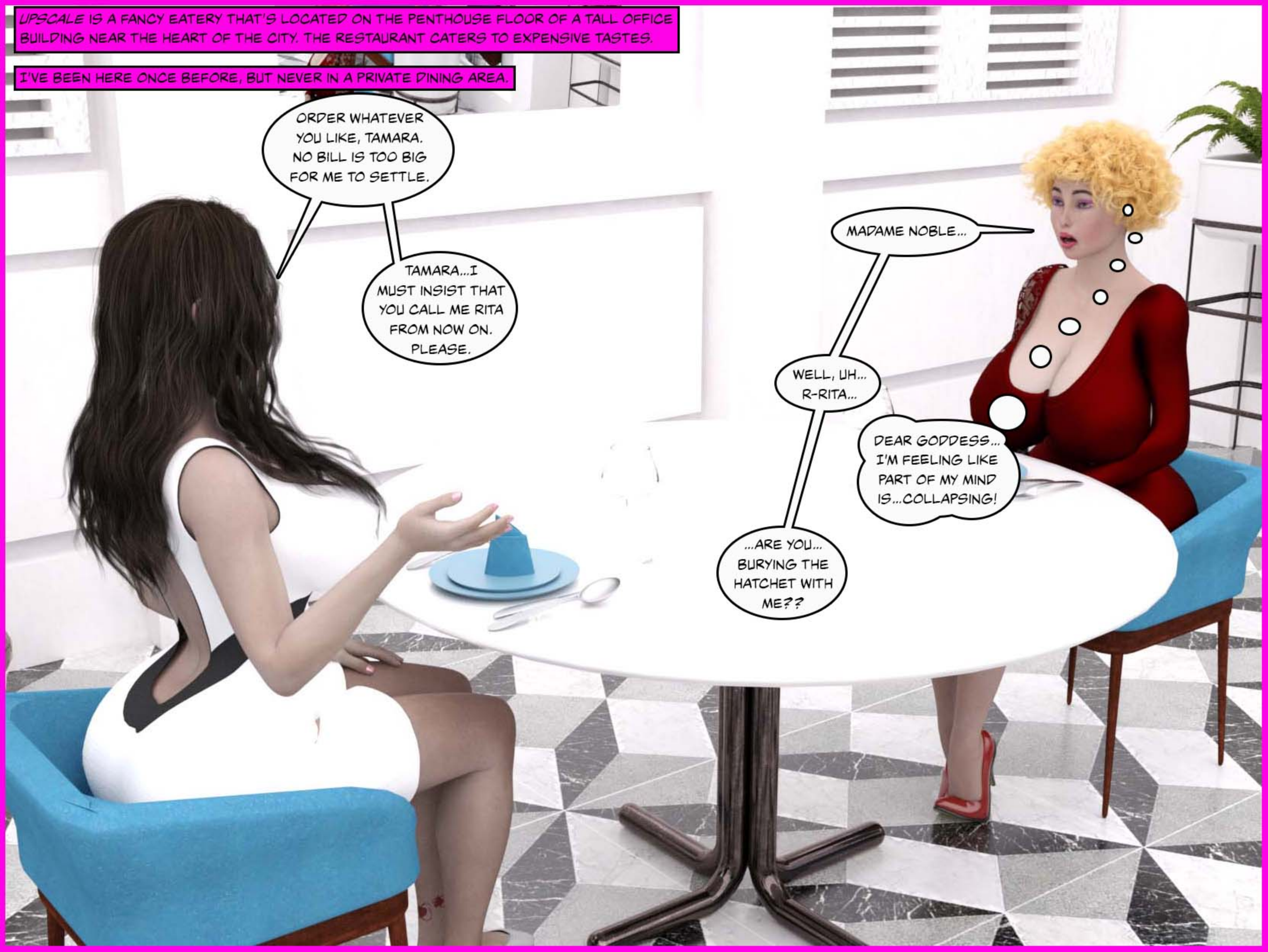
SHELLY, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I DIDN'T HIRE ANYONE TO DO ANYTHING!
I'M JUST HERE TO PLAY THE GAME!
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, MISS PORTNOY.
AND YOU'VE LASTED LONGER THAN WE'VE WANTED YOU TO!
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR TITS AND ASS, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE BEFORE THE SECOND ROUND OF THE FIRST FUCKING SHOW!
BLAME YOUR SPONSOR FOR THAT LITTLE PERK, MISS PIPER!
NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, WE'RE ON LUNCH BREAK!

INDEED, WE ARE.
RUN ALONG, SHELLY. I'D LIKE TO SHARE MY LUNCH BREAK WITH OUR CURRENT CHAMPION.
OH, UHH...A-AS YOU WISH, MADAME NOBLE!
PRESS THE BUTTON
PRESS THE BUTTON
I SUPPOSE THIS WAS INEVITABLE. I'M ABOUT TO GO FROM THE STEW POT TO THE FIRE.

ARE YOU ENJOYING THE GAME?
MMM. I'M NOT THE BIGGEST FAN OF MATH, EITHER...
COULD BE WORSE. COULD BE A MATH QUIZ.
PRESS THE BUTTO

...AND I'M SURE THAT I'M THE LAST PERSON THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO SHARE A LUNCH BREAK WITH RIGHT NOW, AND I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU.
THAT SOUNDED... SURPRISINGLY REGRETFUL!
I LIED, BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE CHARITY I WAS PLAYING FOR. MY WINNINGS ARE GOING TO THE CHARITY YOU'RE REPRESENTING.
HUH??
IS THIS SOME... REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY STUNT, MADAME NOBLE?

HOTEL
WELL...YEAH, BUT...
SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
NO, TAMARA. IT ISN'T.
I'VE BEEN A COMPLETE BITCH TO YOU FOR THE MOST RIDICULOUS REASONS. I KNOW THAT NOW, AND IT'S RIGHTFULLY MAKING ME FEEL LIKE SHIT. I MEAN... WE'RE BOTH TEAM GRACE, AREN'T WE?
I SHOULD ALSO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ABOUT THE BRIAN KASTNER THING. YOU MUST HAVE IMAGINED THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT, AND YOU WERE...HALF RIGHT.
I HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A PEDOPHILE, THOUGH!


UPSCALE IS A FANCY EATERY THAT'S LOCATED ON THE PENTHOUSE FLOOR OF A TALL OFFICE BUILDING NEAR THE HEART OF THE CITY. THE RESTAURANT CATERS TO EXPENSIVE TASTES.
I'VE BEEN HERE ONCE BEFORE, BUT NEVER IN A PRIVATE DINING AREA.
ORDER WHATEVER YOU LIKE, TAMARA. NO BILL IS TOO BIG FOR ME TO SETTLE.
TAMARA...I MUST INSIST THAT YOU CALL ME RITA FROM NOW ON. PLEASE.
MADAME NOBLE...
WELL, UH... R-RITA...
...ARE YOU... BURYING THE HATCHET WITH ME??
DEAR GODDESS... I'M FEELING LIKE PART OF MY MIND IS...COLLAPSING!

YES, TAMARA. I AM.
AND IT'S NOT A TRICK, EITHER. I'M COMPLETELY SERIOUS HERE.
I'VE BEEN A SELFISH, NARCISSISTIC AND MERCILESS BITCH TO THE WRONG PERSON, AND ALL BECAUSE THE LADY AGATHA HAD BEEN FEEDING ME ALL THAT 'LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON' HORSESHIT.
RITA...IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BRING BROCK BACK FROM THE DEAD SO YOU COULD GET YOUR REVENGE...
I'D RATHER JUST LET IT GO, TAMARA...BUT I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.

BESIDES...YOU'VE MADE A CLEAR MOCKERY OF MY INTENTIONS ANYWAY.
I DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO TURN YOU INTO A WANTON SEX SLUT, AND WHAT DO YOU DO? YOU BECOME MAYORESS STROUD'S SECRETARY.
I OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T ADMIT IT BACK THEN, BUT THAT'S WHERE MY INTENTIONS CLEARLY DIED.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE WISHING THAT I HAD NEVER TRIED TO DESTROY YOUR LIFE, TAMARA.
WELL...*GIGGLE* ...YOU DID TURN ME INTO MY OWN WET DREAM, SO...

OH, YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT, TAMARA, AND YOU KNOW IT.
CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING THAT AWARD, BY THE WAY.
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, THOUGH. IF IT REALLY WERE POSSIBLE TO MAKE YOU A MAN AGAIN, WOULD YOU WANT ME TO ARRANGE IT?
GODDESS...THIS IS SOOOO WEIRD. AM I DREAMING THIS??
ERR...THANK YOU.

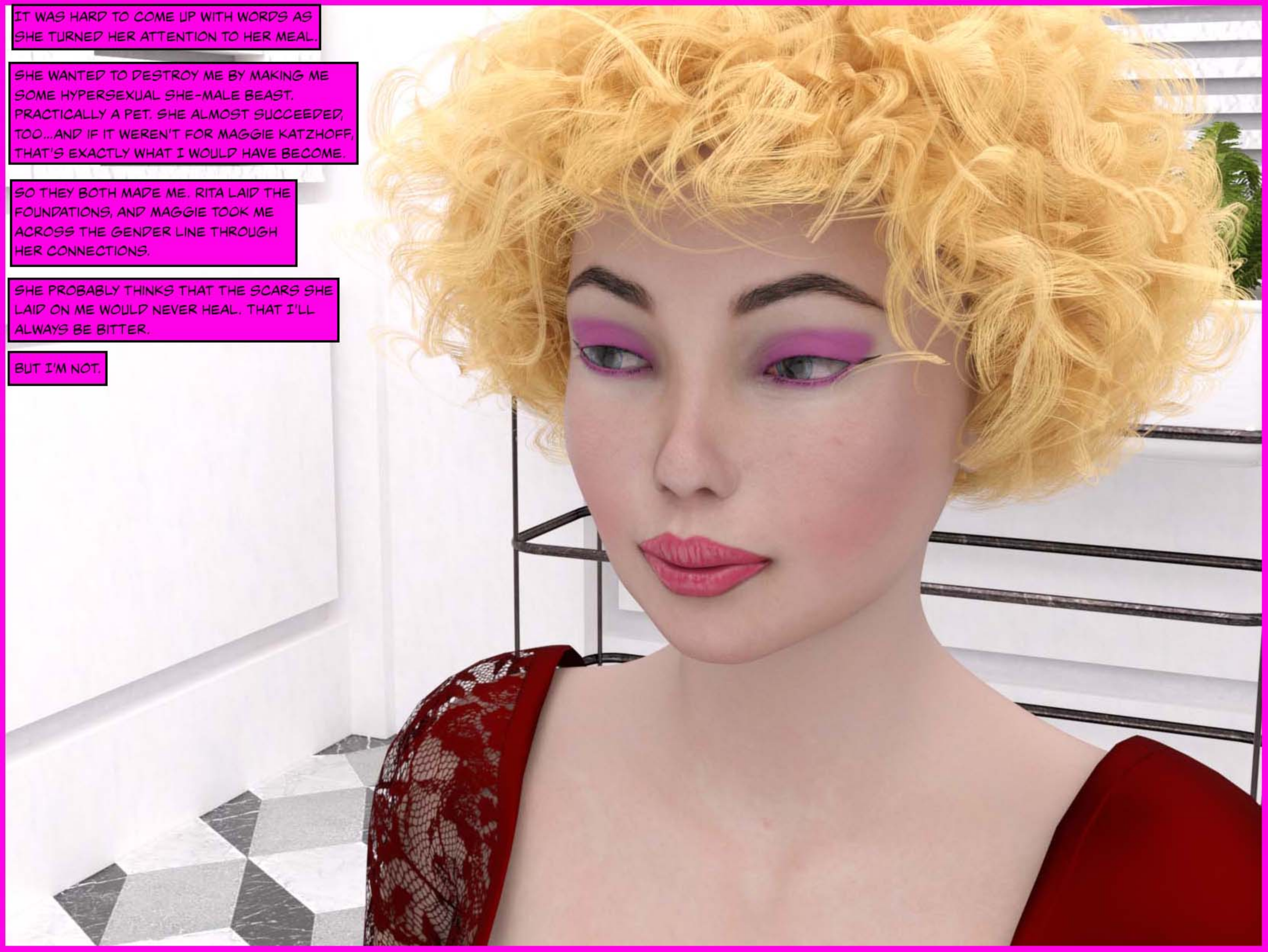
NO.
GRANTED, YOU MADE ME WHAT I AM NOW, AGAINST MY WILL...
...AND IN TRYING TO FIGHT WHAT I KNEW YOU WANTED...
...YOU BECAME ONE OF THE STRONGEST OF WOMEN IN BULLCHESTER.
YOU TURNED YOUR SUBMISSIVENESS INTO A STRENGTH, AND YOU'VE DEVELOPED THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME THE KIND OF PERSON THAT I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE.
A MADAME.
YES.

WE WERE SILENT AS WE WAITED FOR OUR FOOD. I GUESS WE WERE BOTH TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK OF RITA OPENLY...AND GENUINELY...BECOMING SO REGRETFUL OVER WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING TO ME SINCE SHE FIRST LAID EYES ON TIMOTHY PORTNOY.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW MUCH DIFFERENT MY LIFE WOULD BECOME NOW THAT RITA NOBLE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN VISITED BY THE THREE SPIRITS THAT CHANGED THE LIFE OF EBENEZER SCROOGE.
I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT A PROTÉGÉ OF MINE MAY STILL HAVE AN UNSAVORY INTEREST IN YOU. SHE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU THAT HAIRCUT.
SHE'S ALSO THE ONE WHO TRIED TO FORCE BRIAN KASTNER INTO YOUR LIFE.
HER NAME IS DESTINY PENDLETON. SHE, UH... FANCIES ME...
...BUT AFTER THIS LITTLE STUNT SHE TRIED TO PULL, I'D RATHER HAVE HER FLOGGED.

SHE EVEN TOLD ME THAT SHE PLAYED A ROLE IN THE WHOLE SORDID SITUATION THAT LED TO YOUR FATHER VIOLATING ME.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT. THINKING THAT THERE IS MORE TO WHAT HAPPENED THAN THE RAW BASICS.
IF YOU'RE A BULLCHESTER MADAME, RITA, I WOULD THINK THAT YOU COULD CAPABLY DIG AROUND FOR THE TRUTH.
MMM. MAYBE.
OR I COULD JUST... LET IT GO. I MEAN, THAT CRAP HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A KID, AND BROCK IS DEAD ANYWAY.
YOU SHOULDN'T.

RAPE IS A SERIOUS THING, RITA. IF THERE WAS MORE TO WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT CAMP, YOU REALLY SHOULD LOOK INTO IT.
YOU COULD START WITH DESTINY. YOU JUST TOLD ME SHE FANCIES YOU.
IF YOU PLAYED IT SMART, YOU COULD USE THAT TO GET MORE INFORMATION OUT OF HER.
THAT SEEMS STRANGE, THOUGH...WHY WOULD DESTINY HAVE ANY INTEREST AT ALL IN A WOMAN WHO WAS THE VICTIM OF A RAPE THAT DESTINY HELPED MY FATHER PULL OFF?
UNLESS THERE'S MORE TO DESTINY THAN EITHER OF US KNOW?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
TAMARA...I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU AT ALL IF YOU NEVER WANTED TO SEE ME AGAIN AFTER THIS...
...BUT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU ANY FURTHER. IF ANYONE MESSES WITH YOU FROM HERE ON IN, I WANTED YOU TO FEEL ASSURED THAT I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.
I KNOW IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT...
...I'LL CONTINUE TO SEND YOU THE ANSWERS TO THE GAME SHOW QUESTIONS, BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO COME OUT OF THERE A WINNER.
OR YOU COULD JUST... THROW 'EM OUT, BUT... THE CHARITY YOU'RE PLAYING FOR NEEDS ALL THE FUNDING IT CAN GET, YES?


IT WAS HARD TO COME UP WITH WORDS AS SHE TURNED HER ATTENTION TO HER MEAL.
SHE WANTED TO DESTROY ME BY MAKING ME SOME HYPERSEXUAL SHE-MALE BEAST. PRACTICALLY A PET. SHE ALMOST SUCCEEDED, TOO...AND IF IT WEREN'T FOR MAGGIE KATZHOFF, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD HAVE BECOME.
SO THEY BOTH MADE ME. RITA LAID THE FOUNDATIONS, AND MAGGIE TOOK ME ACROSS THE GENDER LINE THROUGH HER CONNECTIONS.
SHE PROBABLY THINKS THAT THE SCARS SHE LAID ON ME WOULD NEVER HEAL. THAT I'LL ALWAYS BE BITTER.
BUT I'M NOT.

AND I GUESS THAT'S WHEN I FELT THAT I COULD START LETTING TIMOTHY PORTNOY GO.
I HAD TO HOLD ON BECAUSE RITA WANTED TO COMPLETELY DESTROY HIM. MAKE ME SOMEONE...SOMETHING...ELSE.
HOW IS YOUR MEAL, TAMARA?
I SHOULD HOPE SO. THEY'VE GOT THE BEST CHEFS IN THE CITY WORKING HERE.
HONESTLY? DELICIOUS.
REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT I WAS WILLING TO LET RITA WIN SOMEDAY? I WASN'T KIDDING.
BUT NOW THAT SHE'S THROWN IN HER TOWEL, DOES THIS MEAN MY LIFE BECOMES MUCH LESS COMPLICATED? THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE CAT & MOUSE GAMES?

WELL, FRET NOT, HORNDOGS, BECAUSE AS FAR AS I KNOW, CORAZON GARCIA HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH RITA, AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHO I'LL RUN INTO AT THE RECEPTION DESK AT WORK.
MAYBE I'LL MEET SOMEONE FAR WORSE THAN RITA... IF NOT LEANNE WALSH, OR GIA DESTRIER...AND SHE'LL WANT TO LITERALLY TURN ME INTO A COW. OR HAVE SOMEONE DO IT FOR HER.
HAVE FUN OUT THERE, TAMARA. GO KICK SOME ASS.
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL, RITA.
GODDESS...THE VERY THOUGHT OF RITA AND I SUDDENLY BECOMING BEST BUDDIES. BET YOU HORNDOGS DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!

AS RITA HAD HINTED, I DID KICK ASS, AND CAME OUT OF TAPINGS AS THE WEEK'S BIG WINNER.
MY ONLY OTHER OPPONENT OF NOTE FOR THE LATTER HALF OF MY FINAL DAY AT SHOW TAPINGS WAS ONE OF THOSE NAMELESS RUSSIAN BODYGUARDS VIJE NASTASSJE EMPLOYS...
...BUT HE DIDN'T LAST PAST THE FIRST ROUND BECAUSE HE COULDN'T BUZZ IN ON ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED.
THE NUMBER YOU'RE SEEING HERE IS THE FINAL TALLY OF MONEY WINNINGS THAT WOULD GO TO MAYORESS STROUD'S CHARITY. NOT BAD, EH?
I NEVER SAW RITA AGAIN, THOUGH. I GUESS SHE WANTED TO BE ALONE FOR AWHILE.
$15,780.00!

AFTER THE SHOW WRAPPED AND THE STUDIO AUDIENCE WAS GONE...
GREAT JOB, CHAMP!
IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, IT SEEMS! SHOULD I ASK HOW YOU GOT THE ANSWERS BEYOND THAT WHICH YOU WERE INITIALLY SENT?
AHH. INTRIGUING!
THANKS!
I COULD, BUT I DON'T WANT TO ENDANGER YOUR LIFE. OR MINE.

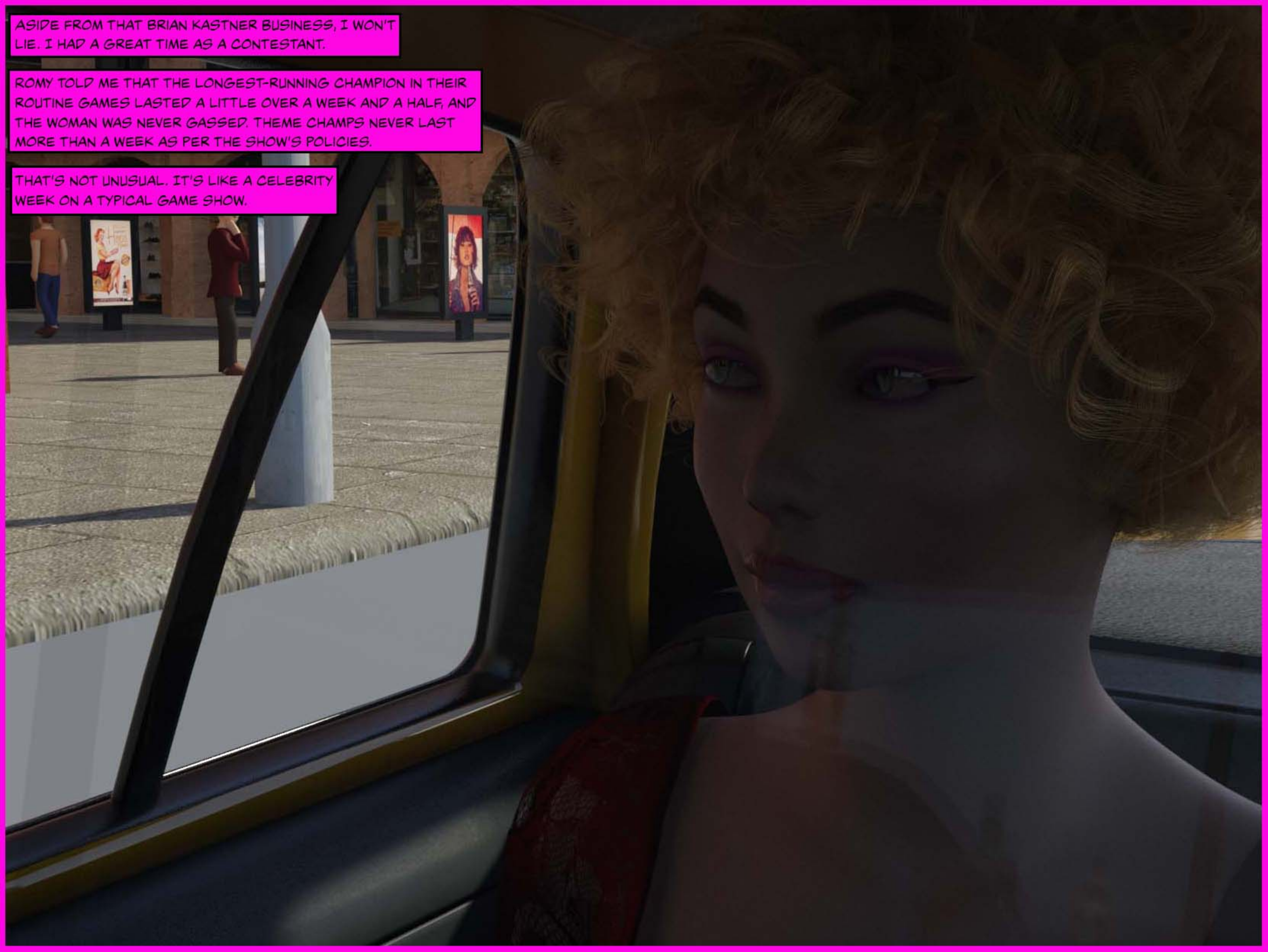
ACTUALLY, JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...
...I DON'T REALLY GIVE A SHIT WHETHER YOU GOT THE ANSWERS IN ADVANCE OR NOT.
IN FACT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY CAME UP WITH A REASON TO BRING YOU BACK HERE!
GIGGLE! BINGO!
BECAUSE...EYE CANDY RAISES RATINGS, RIGHT?

CAN I ASK...WHO YOU USED TO BE?
YOU LOOKED A LITTLE NERVOUS IN FRONT OF MADAME IRENE.
RYAN O'MALLEY.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARRASS IRENE, BUT SHE PROMISED ME I'D SUFFER FOR IT!
SHE MADE ME A TOTAL SISSY GIRL BEFORE MADAME NOBLE PULLED A STRING OR TWO TO GET ME THIS HOSTING GIG!
THANKS. I... REALLY APPRECIATE THAT.
AGAIN, THANK YOU.
I WON'T JUDGE! I THINK YOU LOOK GREAT!
LET ME GIVE YOU MY CARD. IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, CALL ME.

AFTER GETTING MY CHECK, IT WAS TIME TO HEAD BACK HOME.
NEXT WEEK, ALL OF BULLCHESTER WOULD SEE ME LOCK HORNS WITH MUNICIPAL REPS AND SISTERHOOD MADAMES WHILE I RETURN TO THE FRONT DESK AT THE OFFICE OF THE MAYORESS.
ALL THROUGH THE MAGIC OF TELEVISION.
$3.00 INITIA

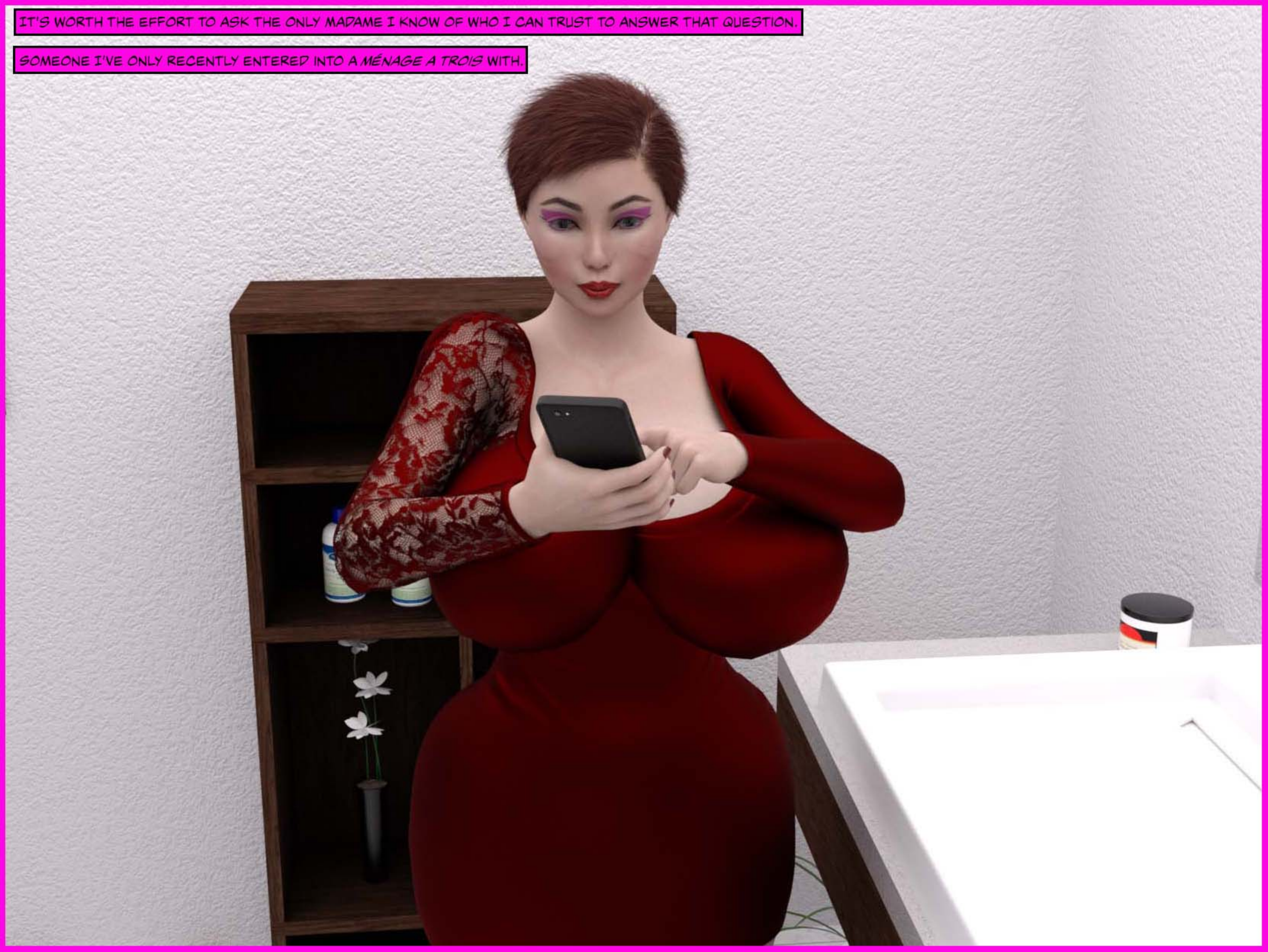
FOLLOW THAT CAB, SILAS.
I SAID FOLLOW HER! MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T SPOT US!
HUH? HEY... ISN'T THAT THE CHAMP...


ASIDE FROM THAT BRIAN KASTNER BUSINESS, I WON'T LIE. I HAD A GREAT TIME AS A CONTESTANT.
ROMY TOLD ME THAT THE LONGEST-RUNNING CHAMPION IN THEIR ROUTINE GAMES LASTED A LITTLE OVER A WEEK AND A HALF, AND THE WOMAN WAS NEVER GASSED. THEME CHAMPS NEVER LAST MORE THAN A WEEK AS PER THE SHOW'S POLICIES.
THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL. IT'S LIKE A CELEBRITY WEEK ON A TYPICAL GAME SHOW.

CONFIRMING WHERE SHE LIVES.
klik
I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO CONFRONT HER NOW, BUT I WILL BE PAYING HER A VISIT IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO!
NOT JUST THAT.
OKAY, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
21001
SNOW...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OVER A SILLY GAME SHOW??

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT RITA ENDED HER LITTLE VENDETTA AGAINST ME.
I GOT CURIOUS FROM TIME TO TIME AS TO HOW MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS HER MENTALLY BROKEN LITTLE PET...BUT I PROBABLY, IRONICALLY, WOULD HAVE DEVOLVED INTO SOMETHING RESEMBLING THE KIND OF MONSTER MY FATHER WAS.
I WONDER WHAT THE CATALYST WAS FOR RITA WANTING TO MAKE AMENDS WITH ME? DID IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER EFFORTS TO BECOME THE NEW QUEEN BEE OF THE CITY?

WELL...IF THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT FOR ME NOW, I SHOULD FIND OUT IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO UNDO THIS LITTLE COIF I WAS FORCED TO WEAR.
HMM...THE SALON IS ALL ABOUT RADICAL MAKEOVERS. I WONDER IF I CAN ARRANGE A QUICK FIX?


IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT TO ASK THE ONLY MADAME I KNOW OF WHO I CAN TRUST TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.
SOMEONE I'VE ONLY RECENTLY ENTERED INTO A *MÉNAGE A TROIS* WITH.

GOOD EVENING, DEAR. HOW WAS YOUR TIME WITH THE GAME SHOW?
MADAME GRACE?
REWARDING, BUT... THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED.
I...DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S A WAY I CAN LENGTHEN HAIR IN A PINCH? I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE A CRAZY REQUEST, BUT...
BUT I'D HAVE TO SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE SALON AGAIN, RIGHT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE IS!
WRONG! YOU STAY PUT. I'LL SEND SOMEONE TO YOU. SHE'LL HAVE YOU IN LONG LOCKS BEFORE BEDTIME, SWEETIE. DON'T WORRY!

OOOH! HI, GLENDA! ARE YOU OKAY?
ACTUALLY, THIS WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S INITIATIVE, AND A LOOOONG STORY AT THAT.
HEY THERE, SOLDIER GIRL!
TOTALLY 1A, AND READY TO APPLY YOUR HAIR FIX!
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD YOUR HAIR CUT THAT SHORT! I HAD A FEELING YOU WERE WEARING A WIG AT THE GAME SHOW!
SPILL THE BEANS AS I WORK, THEN!

SO APPARENTLY, THE QUICK FIX TOOK THE FORM OF HAIR EXTENSIONS, WHICH SHE APPLIED AFTER MAKING MY HAIR BLOND AGAIN.
THESE EXTENSIONS APPARENTLY MELDED WITH THE REAL HAIR AND MATCHED UP. GLENDA CALLED IT...MICROBIOLOGICAL GENETICS. THE LOGISTICS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE THREE ELEMENTS OF A HAIR STRAND.
GLENDA FELT THE SAME WAY I DID. IF IT WORKS, USE IT. LEAVE THE SEMANTICS TO THE SCIENTISTS.

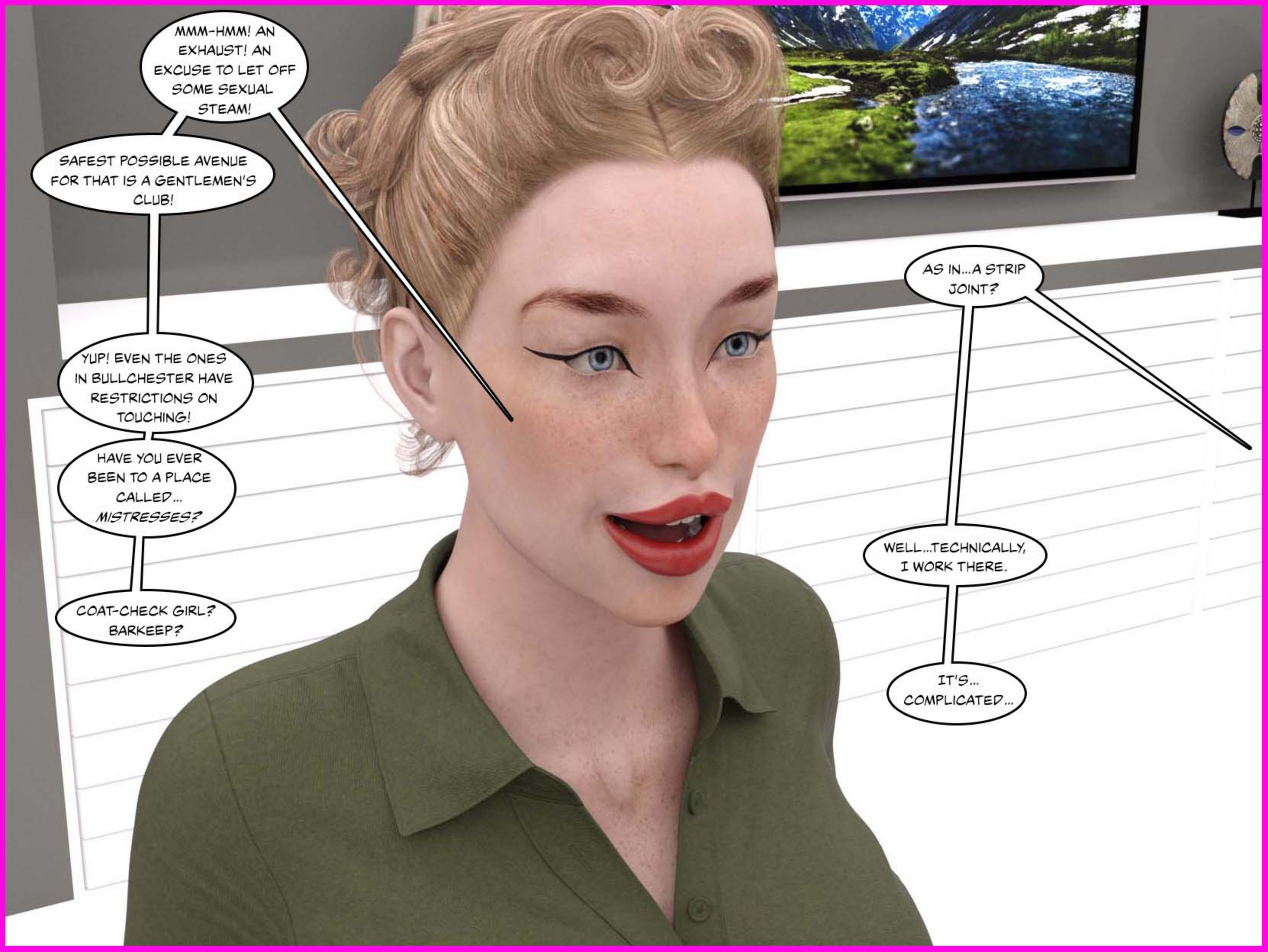
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IT TAKES A FEW HOURS FOR THIS STUFF TO SET IN?
AWESOME.
THERE! NOW YOU CAN BE GIRLISH AGAIN.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT RESHAPING IT RIGHT AWAY! COME BY IN THE MORNING BEFORE WORK LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO, AND WE'LL GIVE IT OUR RETRO ROSIE TOUCH, JUST LIKE LAST TIME!

I REALLY FELT BAD WHEN YOU LOST ON THAT QUESTION AT THE GAME SHOW, GLENNIE!
TRUE THAT!
'1A'?
HUH? OH, THE OSCAR WINNER QUESTION. EHH... THE IRONY WAS THAT I'VE SEEN BOTH OF THOSE FILMS. STILL... I DIDN'T LEAVE EMPTY-HANDED!
DON'T YOU WORRY... THIS OL' BATTLESHIP IS STILL 100 PERCENT 1A!
YEAH! IT'S DRAFT BOARD TALK FOR AN APPLICANT THAT'S PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF BECOMING A SOLDIER! THE OPPOSITE IS 4F!

SO HOW IS YOUR HUSBAND DOING?
HARVE? WHEN HE'S NOT AT THE GOLDEN SUNSHINE'S GYM, HE'S EARNING A FEW EXTRA BUCKS AS A PERSONAL TRAINER!
HE'S DOING A BETTER JOB THESE DAYS AT RESISTING COUGARS MAKING PASSES AT HIM, TOO. HE KNOWS I'LL COME AT HIM LIKE A SHERMAN TANK OTHERWISE!
HOW 'BOUT YOU? I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FRONT LINE BATTLES. GOT ANY SIT-REPS TO SHARE WITH THE OL' GLENNIE DOLL?
COME ON UP OUTTA THAT CHAIR AND SPILL SOME MORE BEANS!

TO BE HONEST? I FEEL LIKE A HUGE WEIGHT WAS JUST TAKEN OFF OF MY SHOULDERS.
SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO TURN ME INTO AN OVERSEXED SHE-MALE SLUT NOW WANTS TO MAKE AMENDS.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED BEHIND MY BACK THAT GAVE HER A WAKE-UP CALL.
THAT BEING...?
MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH A POWER PLAY SHE'S ATTEMPTING.
MAYBE, IN AN EFFORT TO DRUM UP SUPPORT, THE CATCH WAS FOR HER TO STOP TORMENTING ME?
AND I OFTEN THOUGHT WHAT RITA WANTED ME TO BE WAS INEVITABLE.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU *WANTED*, WAS IT?
HMM. DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE YOU NEED A TAILPIPE?
I COULDN'T EVEN ANSWER *THAT* QUESTION!
MY MIND TOLD ME THAT I NEEDED TO RESIST ALL THOSE COMPULSIONS THEY WANTED ME TO SURRENDER TO...
...BUT THAT JUST STARVED MY NEEDY BODY OF THE VERY PLEASURES I WAS RESISTING!
TAILPIPE?


MMM-HMM! AN EXHAUST! AN EXCUSE TO LET OFF SOME SEXUAL STEAM!
SAFEST POSSIBLE AVENUE FOR THAT IS A GENTLEMEN'S CLUB!
YUP! EVEN THE ONES IN BULLCHESTER HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON TOUCHING!
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A PLACE CALLED... MISTRESSES?
COAT-CHECK GIRL? BARKEEP?
AS IN...A STRIP JOINT?
WELL...TECHNICALLY, I WORK THERE.
IT'S... COMPLICATED...

...BUT I WAS ACTUALLY OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A DANCER THERE.
TAKE THAT JOB!
SERIOUSLY! IT'S THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY YOU CAN SATIATE YOUR INNER SEXUAL BEAST WHILE KEEPING YOUR SANITY!
GODDESS...THE IRONY! GLENNIE HAS A POINT!
IF IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME TO JUST WORK WEEKENDS...
...HMM. IT LOOKS LIKE MADAME OLIVIA'S ABOUT TO GET ME ON A STRIPPER POLE AFTER ALL!

AND EVEN IF SECURITY'S TOO SLOW TO GET TO A TROUBLEMAKER QUICKLY...
...YOU'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF HANDLING YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?
I'VE GOT THE TRAINING AND THE EXPERIENCE TO PROVE IT.
HEH...JUST ASK XAVIER.
I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I CAPITULATED, THAT WOULD GIVE MY... OTHER TORMENTORS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TWIST THE KNIFE...
...BUT IF IT'S IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT...
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND THIS IF IT WASN'T!

IT'S WORTH THE RISK, SLUT... DO IT!
MMM... COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR TOMORROW MORNING, IN THAT CASE?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIT ME UP WITH A HAIRSTYLE TOMORROW MORNING THAT'S... A BIT LESS RETRO?
LET'S HEAR IT!
YOU WANT A STYLE TO GO WITH THAT DELICIOUSLY CURVY BODY?
I'M ALWAYS GAME FOR A CHALLENGE, SOLDIER GIRL! HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR IT!

THE NEXT DAY, EAGER TO SEE WHAT MANNER OF HAIRSTYLE GLENDA WOULD GIVE ME, I WAS QUICK TO OCCUPY A CHAIR SO SHE COULD GET BUSY IN THE HOUR BEFORE I NEEDED TO CHECK IN FOR WORK.

JUDGING BY THE REACTIONS I WAS GETTING IN THE APPROACH TO THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, SHE OUTDID HERSELF. IF IT WASN'T FOR THE FACT THAT I NEEDED TO GET BACK TO WORK, I'D PROBABLY STILL BE STARING AT MY REFLECTION.

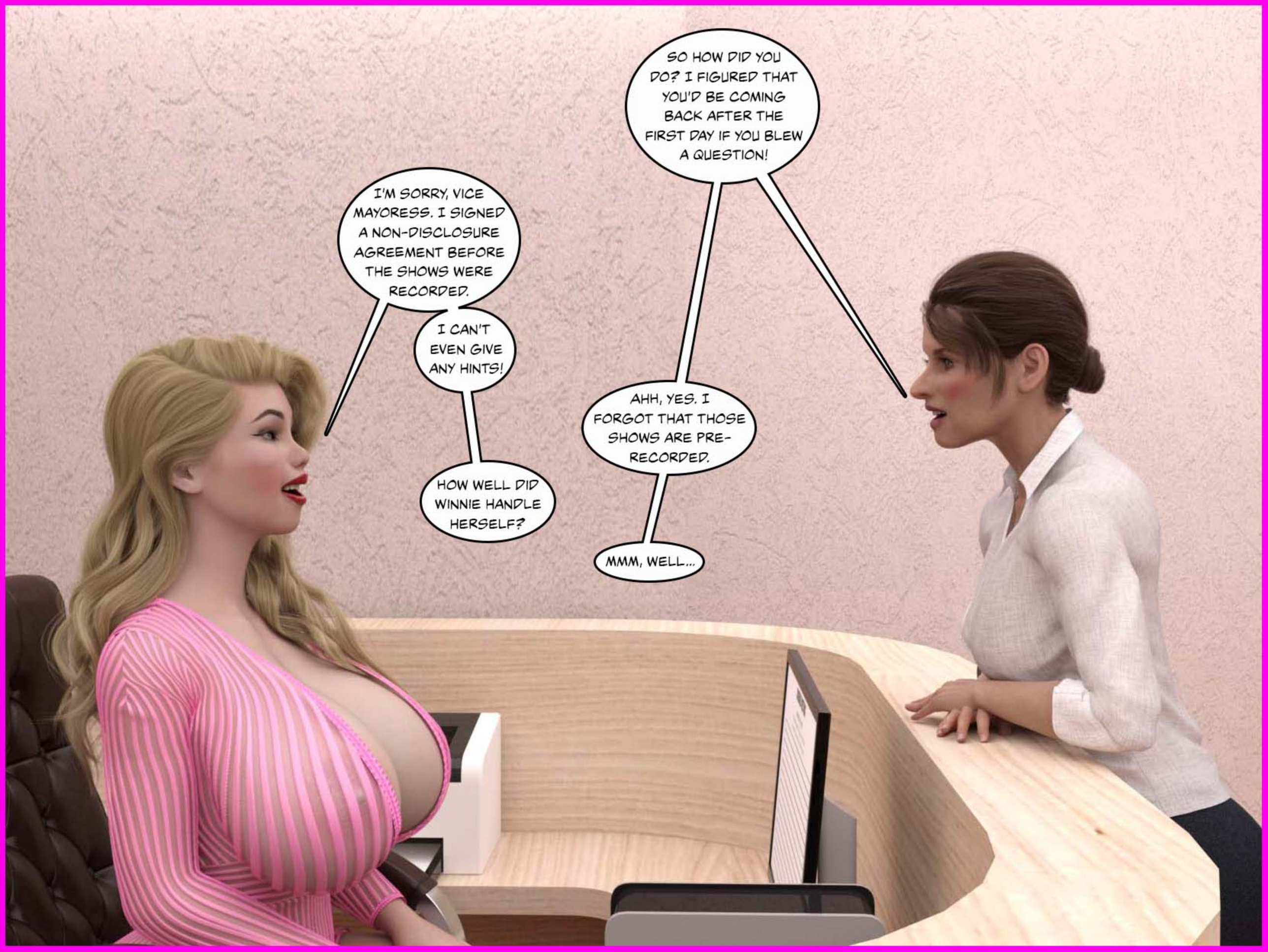
IT'S BOUNCING AS I MOVE, TOO!

IT WENT WELL WITH MY LATEST 'WEAPON DRESS', TOO.
I WONDER HOW MAYORESS STROUD WILL REACT? OR CASSIE? OR...LUTHER?
MAYBE THIS LOOK WILL EARN ME ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLOSE TO HIM...CLOSE ENOUGH TO FEEL HIS ROCK-HARD BODY AGAINST MINE...

I WAS ABLE TO SETTLE IN AT MY DESK BEFORE JULIA AND CASSIE ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE.
WELL, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE TEMPLE REMNANT STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB WITHIN A CITY PARK ENVIRONMENT!
WE'D NEED TO REMOVE A LOT OF THE NATURAL FOLIAGE TO BE ABLE TO BUILD ANYTHING AROUND IT THOUGH, CASSIE. I'M NOT TOO SURE THAT...

WHOA! IS THAT... IS THAT YOU, TAMARA?
GODDESS!

ACTUALLY, I'M HER EVIL TWIN. I HAVE THE REAL TAMARA CHAINED UP IN MY BASEMENT.
KIDDING! IT IS ME, VICE MAYORESS.
SO...DOUGHNUTS, YOUR HONOR?
OF COURSE, YOUR HONOR.
HUH??
HUH? OH...UH, SURE, TAMARA. JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT TO GET SETTLED IN!


I'M SORRY, VICE MAYORESS. I SIGNED A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE SHOWS WERE RECORDED.
I CAN'T EVEN GIVE ANY HINTS!
HOW WELL DID WINNIE HANDLE HERSELF?
SO HOW DID YOU DO? I FIGURED THAT YOU'D BE COMING BACK AFTER THE FIRST DAY IF YOU BLEW A QUESTION!
AHH, YES. I FORGOT THAT THOSE SHOWS ARE PRE-RECORDED.
MMM, WELL...

...WE HAD ANOTHER INCIDENT MONDAY MORNING WITH A CLOUT-CHASER.
ALTON BRAY. CALLS HIMSELF 'A.B. SEE' ON SOCIAL MEDIA. HE'S GOT A NEW VV CHANNEL CALLED 'BIG BULL AUDITS'.
JULIA HAD TO TAKE A VERY IMPORTANT CALL, SO SHE COULDN'T INTERVENE.
BRAY WAS RELENTLESS. WINNIE DID CALL THE COPS AND THEY DID HAVE HIM TRESPASSED, BUT HE JUST WAITED OUTSIDE UNTIL AFTER WORK AND WHEN SHE EMERGED FROM THE BUILDING, ALTON KEPT HARASSING HER ALL THE WAY HOME!
I LOOKED UP THAT JERK'S V.V. PAGE. APPARENTLY, HE WANTS TO MAKE IT HIS LIFE'S WORK TO GET CITY WORKERS FIRED!

V. V. REALLY NEEDS TO CRACK DOWN ON THESE MENTAL MIDGETS.
JULIA AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THAT SINCE MONDAY. SHE HAD WINNIE PUT RITA NOBLE DOWN FOR A 9:30 APPOINTMENT TOMORROW MORNING.
WELL, I CERTAINLY HOPE THEY CAN WORK OUT A WAY TO DE-MONETIZE THESE CLOUT-CHASING MONKEYS.
TIME TO MAKE THE DOUGHNUTS, TAMARA.
ON MY WAY, YOUR HONOR!

NEW RULE, COW.
ONCE YOU CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU, I WANT YOU TO EXPOSE YOUR TEATS TO ME.
COVER THEM UP ONLY WHEN YOU'RE DONE HERE, OR WHEN I TELL YOU TO.
YES, YOUR HONOR.

DO YOU HAVE THE CHECK WITH YOU, COW?
YES, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE NDA, AND I KNOW THE CHECK WON'T BE USABLE UNTIL AFTER NEXT FRIDAY.
GIVE IT TO ME ANYWAY. I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL YOU DID.
YES, YOUR HONOR, BUT I...

I HAD TO KEEP FROM CRACKING A SMILE WHEN SHE REACTED TO THE NUMBER FIGURE ON THE CHECK I HANDED HER.
GODDESS...!
AND THAT'S NOT COUNTING RITA'S WINNINGS. SHE TOLD ME THEY'D GO TO OUR CHARITY AS WELL.
FOR HER TO HAVE WON THIS MUCH AFTER TWO DAYS, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN THE WEEK'S CHAMPION!
I WAS EXPECTING HER TO LAST NO MORE THAN A DAY! WHY WOULD RITA MAKE THE SON OF THE MAN WHO RAPED HER A CHAMPION ON A GAME SHOW SHE'S FINANCING?
AND...WE'RE GETTING WHAT *RITA* WON AS WELL?? HOW THE HELL DID *THAT* HAPPEN?

IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, YOUR HONOR...
...THEY DID GIVE ME THE ANSWERS IN ADVANCE.
I HAD THOUGHT ABOUT DESTROYING THEM AND TAKING MY CHANCES, BUT...
...YOU HAD ME FIGHTING FOR A GOOD CAUSE, YOUR HONOR. I FELT A NEED TO TAKE IT AS FAR AS I COULD GO!

HONESTLY, COW...
...I HATE THOSE MOMENTS WHERE I FEEL A NEED TO KISS YOU RIGHT ON THOSE WOMANLY LIPS OF YOURS.
IT'S EVEN WORSE WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE PUMPING MY COCK INTO YOU.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS FUNDING IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH THE CITY'S ENABLEMENT SOCIETY.
WE WON'T PUBLICIZE IT, OF COURSE, UNTIL AFTER THE MUNICIPAL WEEK SHOWS ARE DONE!

PANT MMMMMMMMHHHH... *PANT* *PANT* OOOOOOOOOOHHHH...
THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FUNDING TO SPLIT BETWEEN THE ENABLEMENT SOCIETY PROPOSAL...
...AND THE ALL-IMPORTANT HOUSEWIFE PROGRAM.
TRULY, YOU ARE AN ASSET TO OUR CITY, COW...
...EVEN IF YOU DISPUTE YOUR SUPERIORS FROM TIME TO TIME, YOU REMAIN A MODEL CITIZEN, AND A VERY USEFUL SLUT!

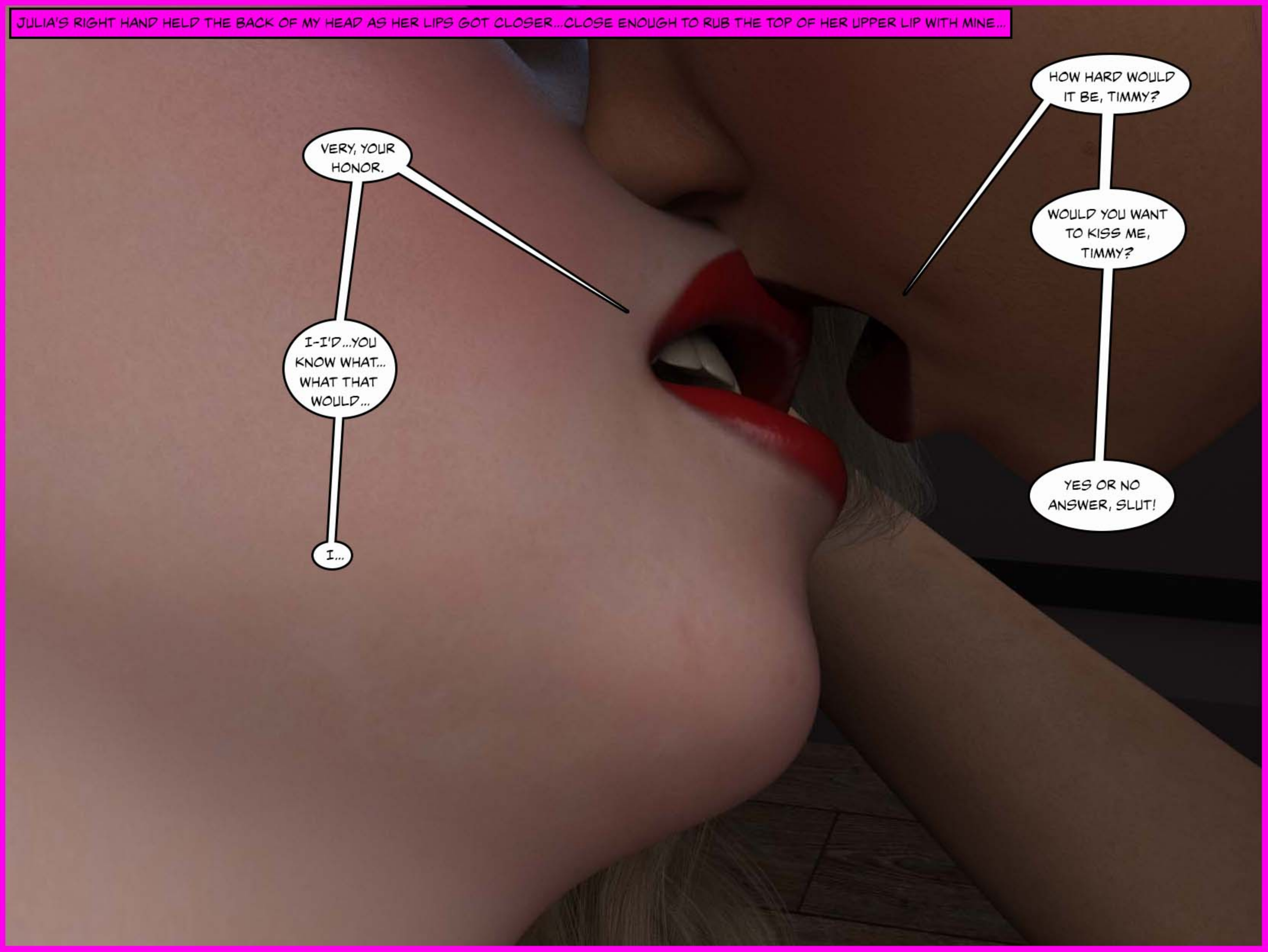
RUMOR HAS IT AMONG THE SISTERHOOD THAT THEY THINK YOU SHOULD BECOME ONE OF THE MADAMES.
THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE KIND OF BUSTY BITCH BARRY WALSH BECAME.
I THINK YOU HAVE *TREMENDOUS* POTENTIAL TO BECOME A MADAME, COW.
HMPH. NOT SURPRISED.
IT AMAZES ME HOW YOU CAN ENJOY BEING BENEATH OUR FEET RATHER THAN STAND TALL, AND GLARE DOWN AT LESSER MEN.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, COW!
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

SO GO ON, TIMOTHY PORTNOY...
MMMMMMMMMHHHH...
...WORSHIP THE FEET OF YOUR MAYORESS.
I SHOULD HAVE HAD YOU WEAR A COLLAR DURING THAT AWARD CEREMONY, SO EVERYONE WOULD KNOW YOU'RE JUST A LOWLY SUBMISSIVE!
STRIP OUT OF THAT DRESS, SLUT!

YOU REALLY SHOULD RECONSIDER. THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT HATES TREATING YOU LIKE THIS.
YOU'VE SHOWN ME SUCH PROFOUND LOYALTY, AND YOU'VE EVEN PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR ME!
MMF...I...I'LL ALWAYS BE...THE LOWLY SON OF A RAPIST, YOUR HONOR...
THAT'S A PITIFUL EXCUSE, COW!
YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE BROCK PORTNOY!
SHE HAD ME TURN AROUND...HAD ME LYING ON THE FLOOR FACE-UP...

...SO SHE COULD HOVER OVER ME ONCE SHE STRIPPED OUT OF HER OWN CLOTHES.
I SWALLOWED HARD. THIS COULD GO BADLY FOR ME...

I HAD A CRUSH ON YOU ONCE, TAMARA...
...A PART OF ME STILL DOES. IT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY WHEN YOU WORK FOR ME.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FORCE SOMEONE TO LIKE ME. I WANT OUR FRIENDSHIP TO BE A NATURAL ONE.
IF YOU STILL HAD A COCK, WOULD IT BE HARD NOW, TIMOTHY?
YES, WHAT?
YES...
YES, YOUR HONOR.


JULIA'S RIGHT HAND HELD THE BACK OF MY HEAD AS HER LIPS GOT CLOSER...CLOSE ENOUGH TO RUB THE TOP OF HER UPPER LIP WITH MINE...
HOW HARD WOULD IT BE, TIMMY?
WOULD YOU WANT TO KISS ME, TIMMY?
YES OR NO ANSWER, SLUT!
VERY, YOUR HONOR.
I-I'D...YOU KNOW WHAT... WHAT THAT WOULD...
I...

OH, FUCK...!
SHE SAID...BUT...NO...MY MIND...

...WAIT...I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT...
...BUT...A KISS ON THE LIPS FROM HER IS SUPPOSED TO...
...BUT...
...SHE LIED?

SURPRISE, COW.
YOU'RE IMMUNE TO MY FLUIDS, WHICH MEANS YOUR MIND IS STILL YOUR OWN.
I COULD HAVE KISSED YOU SO MANY TIMES...
...AND IF YOU DON'T HATE ME FOR KEEPING THAT LITTLE SECRET FROM YOU...
I DON'T.

HOW COULD I HATE HER? SHE'S THE MAYORESS OF BULLCHESTER, AND A FRIEND.
I ALSO IMAGINE THAT SHE'S FEELING KIND OF LONELY THESE DAYS.
BUT THEN, I SUSPECT THAT THE MAYORESS OF BULLCHESTER WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH TIME FOR ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF CITY ADMINISTRATION.

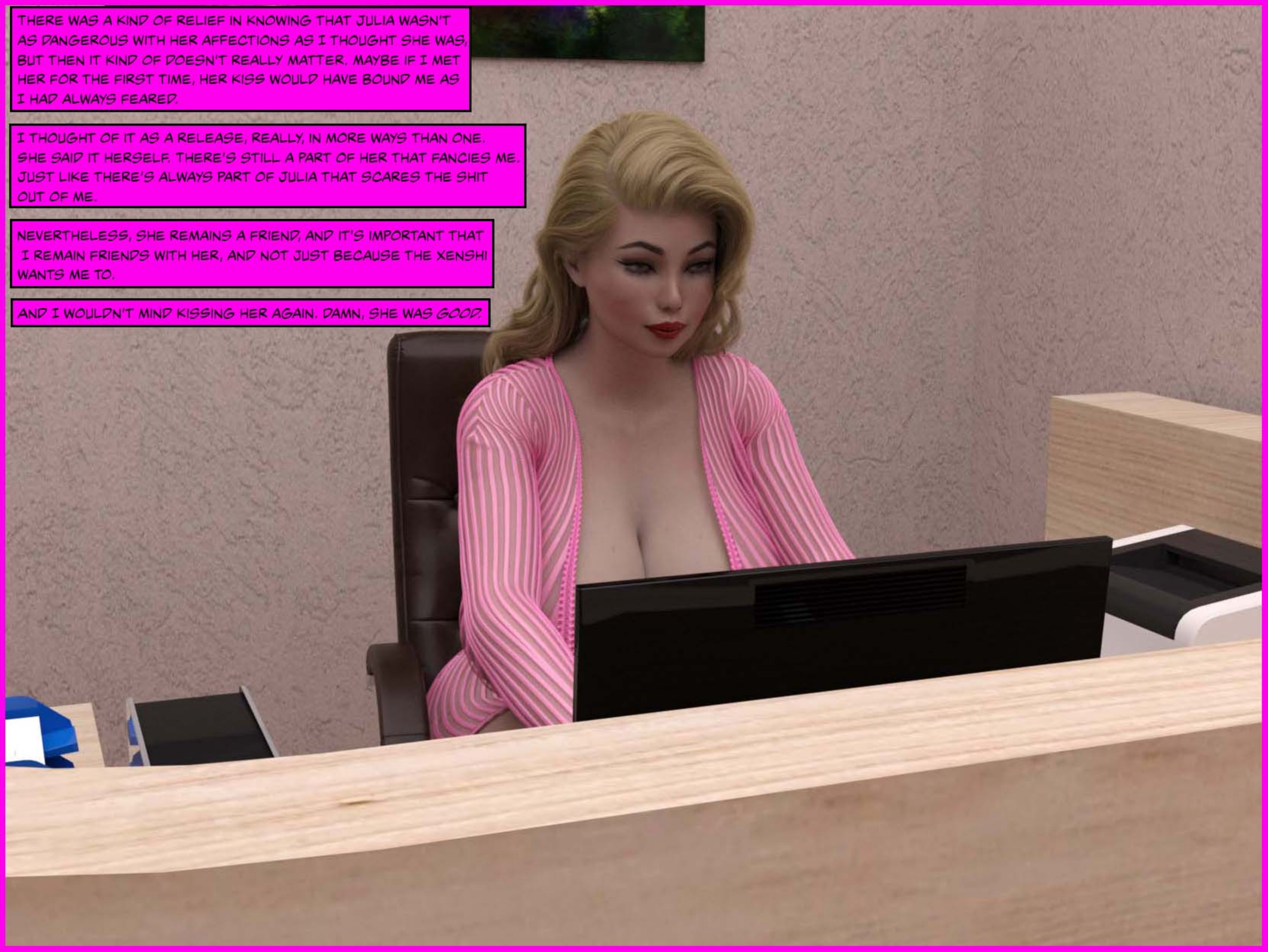
WOULD YOU BE PREPARED FOR THE ADDED RESPONSIBILITIES?
SO HOW WOULD YOU FEEL, COW, IF YOUR MAYORESS BECAME A FULL-BLOWN SENATOR?
I'M ALWAYS GAME FOR CHALLENGES, COW.
THE REAL QUESTION IS WHAT I'M GONNA DO WITH MY BEST SECRETARY ONCE I DO EARN A PLACE IN THE U.S. SENATE.
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO PONDER THAT LITTLE MYSTERY FOR THE TIME BEING. NOW GET DRESSED AND GET BACK TO YOUR DESK, SOLDIER GIRL!

YOU DODGED A BULLET TONIGHT, MY FEISTY LITTLE COW. I WAS GOING TO COVER YOU WITH MY SEED.
BUT...TAKING ADVANTAGE OF TAMARA LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE MADE YOU NO DIFFERENT FROM BOB AND LUKE, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DID TO YOU!
IT'S IRONIC. TAMARA HAS TO DEAL WITH THE LEGACY OF HER OWN DEMON, AND I HAVE TO DEAL WITH TWO SIMILAR ONES...
...ONLY I HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING THAT MY SON IS REGRETTING WHAT HE DID TO ME TO THIS VERY DAY!

OH! THERE YOU ARE!
IT'S BEEN QUIET SO FAR! NO APPOINTMENTS MADE.
THANKS FOR WATCHING MY POST, WINNIE. YOU CAN STEP OUT OF THERE NOW.
GOOD, GOOD.

SO WHAT'S THIS I HEARD ABOUT YOU BEING HARASSED AFTER WORK?
HUH? OH...
...THAT FUCKING ASSHOLE HAD ME IN TEARS! I TRIED IGNORING HIM, BUT...
THOSE APES ARE JUST FISHING FOR NEGATIVE REACTIONS SO THEY CAN GET CLICKS AND VIEWS ON THEIR LAME V. V. PAGES.
I HEARD YOU HAD HIM TRESPASSED! THAT'S THE BEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE, WINNIE. IF HE COMES BACK HERE, HE COULD BE ARRESTED!
STILL...I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN. I WANT HIM TO LEAVE ME ALONE!

WHAT WAS THIS TURD'S NAME?
A.B. SEE.
AH, RIGHT. ALTON BRAY.
WELL, NO ONE MESSES WITH MY FRIENDS AND GETS AWAY WITH IT.
NO PROMISES, BUT I'LL TRY AND THINK OF SOMETHING, OKAY?
IF IT MEANS HE NEVER BOTHERS ME AGAIN...
OH, TRUST ME. WHATEVER IDEA I THINK OF IS GONNA MAKE HIM REGRET HE EVER PUT A SMARTPHONE CAMERA IN YOUR FACE!


THERE WAS A KIND OF RELIEF IN KNOWING THAT JULIA WASN'T AS DANGEROUS WITH HER AFFECTIONS AS I THOUGHT SHE WAS, BUT THEN IT KIND OF DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. MAYBE IF I MET HER FOR THE FIRST TIME, HER KISS WOULD HAVE BOUND ME AS I HAD ALWAYS FEARED.
I THOUGHT OF IT AS A RELEASE, REALLY, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. SHE SAID IT HERSELF. THERE'S STILL A PART OF HER THAT FANCIES ME. JUST LIKE THERE'S ALWAYS PART OF JULIA THAT SCARES THE SHIT OUT OF ME.
NEVERTHELESS, SHE REMAINS A FRIEND, AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I REMAIN FRIENDS WITH HER, AND NOT JUST BECAUSE THE XENSHI WANTS ME TO.
AND I WOULDN'T MIND KISSING HER AGAIN. DAMN, SHE WAS GOOD.

GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING. MAY I HELP YOU?
MY NAME IS KATERINA RUBINOV. I'D LIKE TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MAYORESS.
CERTAINLY. MAY I INQUIRE AS TO THE REASON FOR THE MEETING, OR IS IT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T OPENLY SHARE?
IT'S...COMPLICATED.
FAIR ENOUGH. I JUST NEED A MOMENT.
SCHEDULED MEETINGS
IMPORTANT NOTE
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SO YOU'RE THE 'COW' I'VE HEARD SISTERHOOD CRONIES TALK ABOUT.
DOESN'T THAT *BOTHER* YOU? TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH A DUMB, DOCILE ANIMAL? YOU DON'T SOUND VERY DUMB!
I TRY NOT TO LET IT GET TO ME. BESIDES...
...LADY AGATHA NEVER LIKED ME VERY MUCH. STILL DOESN'T.
I'VE NO LOVE FOR THAT BITCH EITHER. GOOD TO KNOW WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE THERE.

AH-HAH, SO THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HER A COW.
SHE'S GOT SOME RADICAL FORMULA IN HER THAT CAUSES HER BREASTS TO PRODUCE EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF MILK! NO WONDER THOSE FUN BAGS ARE THAT BIG!
MMM...SON OF A DECEASED RAPIST... IS THAT RITA NOBLE AMONG HIS VICTIMS?
MAYBE THAT'S WHY RITA HAD THIS ONE CHANGED! SHE COULDN'T GO AFTER THE FATHER, SO SHE TARGETED HIS SON!

SO HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE A WOMAN'S BODY, TIMOTHY?
YOU USED TO BE A YOUNG MAN, YES?
DON'T SULK. NO ONE CAN KEEP SECRETS FROM ME. NOT EVEN THE SISTERHOOD.
IF I WANTED TO ERASE RITA NOBLE'S CREDIT CARDS? CHILD'S PLAY.
GUILTY AS CHARGED.
EXCUSE ME?
SIGH YES.
SO YOU'RE A HACKER.

NOW WHY WOULD I DO THAT? HACKING IS ILLEGAL, SILLY COW!
I HAVE NO REASON TO ROCK THE BOAT OF THE MAYORESS...
...BUT I COULD FILL HER DATABASE WITH AS MANY PICTURES OF BOB AND LUKE AS I COULD GATHER UP FROM THE 'NET IF I WANTED TO!
MORNINGS ARE FINE.
I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T HACK IN TO MY MACHINE AND PUT YOURSELF IN.
DO YOU HAVE A TIME-OF-DAY PREFERENCE, MISS RUBINOV?

SO WHAT ARE YOUR SISTERS LIKE, TAMARA?
BITCHES. BOTH OF THEM.
DID YOU KNOW ONE OF THEM IS NOW A SENIOR EXECUTIVE AT LORIS INTERNATIONAL?
SHE OPERATES UNDER AN ALIAS THESE DAYS. 'VIVIENNE SHARPTON'. SHE EVEN MADE AN OVERSEXED WHORE OUT OF A STOCKBROKER IN RONKONKOMA.
THEY'RE STILL FIGURING WHAT TO DO WITH THE OTHER ONE. I THINK THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE A WAIF MODEL OUT OF HER.
I HONESTLY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM, MISS RUBINOV. THEY HAVE THEIR LIVES, AND I HAVE MINE.

YEAH, YOU'VE HAD ONE HELL OF A LIFE SO FAR, TOO.
EVER SINCE YOU GREW BREASTS, YOU'VE LET ALMOST EVERY SINGLE SISTERHOOD MADAME WALK ALL OVER YOU.
YOUR BANK ACCOUNT IS CLOSE TO BURSTING IN SAVINGS, YOU'RE NEXT WEEK'S CHAMPION ON 'PRESS THE BUTTON', THE MAYORESS PUBLICLY GIVES YOU AN AWARD FOR SAVING HER LIFE MORE THAN ONCE...
...AND YOU EVIDENTLY HAVE A PROFOUND SENSE OF MODESTY.
I DON'T READ INTO ANY OF MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MISS RUBINOV.

YES, YES. SHE CAN CANCEL IT DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT IN THIS CASE, SHE WON'T.
ARE YOU ON TIME CONSTRAINTS? I DON'T SEE ANYONE ELSE HERE, MR. PORTNOY!
I HAVE YOU DOWN FOR 7:30 A.M. TOMORROW MORNING, MISS RUBINOV.
YOU'LL RECEIVE AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION TONIGHT. NOTE THAT THERE IS A CHANCE THAT...
WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEEDED, MISS RUBINOV?

DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY BETTER AS A MAN, TIMOTHY?
MY TRANSFORMATION WAS NOT BY CHOICE, MISS RUBINOV.
WHY ARE YOU DODGING THE QUESTION?
I'M NOT. I WOULD JUST PREFER TO TAKE LIFE AS IT COMES. EVEN IF IT MEANS BEING TORMENTED BY SISTERHOOD MADAMES FROM TIME TO TIME.
SO YOU DON'T MISS BEING A MAN?
I'M NOTHING LIKE MY FATHER, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT, TIMOTHY?
YOU HAVEN'T LIVED ENOUGH OF A LIFE AS A MAN TO KNOW THAT YOU WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED YOUR DAD'S BAD HABITS AS YOU GOT OLDER!
OR I WOULD HAVE LEARNED AT A YOUNG AGE HOW BAD TOXIC MASCULINITY IS *BECAUSE* OF MY FATHER'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS WOMEN.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GRILL ANYONE IN MY FAMILY, MISS RUBINOV, YOU SHOULD BE GRILLING MY SISTERS. I CONTINUE TO WONDER WHY THEY WOULD EVER DOTE ON A MISOGYNISTIC MONSTER LIKE MY FATHER.
MMM...A NOTION WORTH EXPLORING...

IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THEY DID.
DID THEY KNOW YOUR FATHER WAS A RAPIST?
AND ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY BELIEVABLE REASON WHY YOUR SISTERS LOVED THEIR FATHER MORE THAN YOU DID?
ARE YOU A THERAPIST, MISS RUBINOV?
JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION, TIMMY.
WHY? YOU KEEP CALLING ME BY MY BIRTH NAME, WHICH DOES NOT FIT MY CURRENT GENDER.
WHY WOULD YOU DISRESPECT ME LIKE THAT WHEN I HARDLY KNOW YOU?
SCHEDULED MEETINGS
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K. Rubinov
Citizen
7:30 a.m.

NOW RESPECTFULLY, I AM ON THE CLOCK HERE, AND WE DO HAVE INCOMING APPOINTMENTS.
YOURS HAS BEEN ENTERED, SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS...
AND THAT MIGHT PUT YOU IN A FRYING PAN IF YOU'RE DOING IT WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION. HAVE A NICE DAY, MISS RUBINOV.
YOU'D BETTER BE *VERY* CAREFUL AROUND SOMEONE LIKE ME, TIMOTHY.
IF I WANTED TO, I COULD RADICALLY CHANGE YOUR GOOD FORTUNE, GIVEN MY TALENTS!

DON'T GIVE ME AN EXCUSE TO MESS WITH YOUR LIFE, COW.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE SANDBOX, MISS RUBINOV! BYEEEEE!
I GUESS I CAN'T ALWAYS MAKE NEW FRIENDS, CAN I?
A SHAME, SEEING AS HOW WE BOTH HAVE A MUTUAL ENEMY IN THE QUEEN BEE.

PLEASE...I VISH TO SPEAK MIT DE VICE MAYORESS!
MY NAME EEZ CHAIM ZIEGFELD! PLEASE HURRY!
CASSIE? HMM... LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO...HANG ON A MOMENT, MISTER...?
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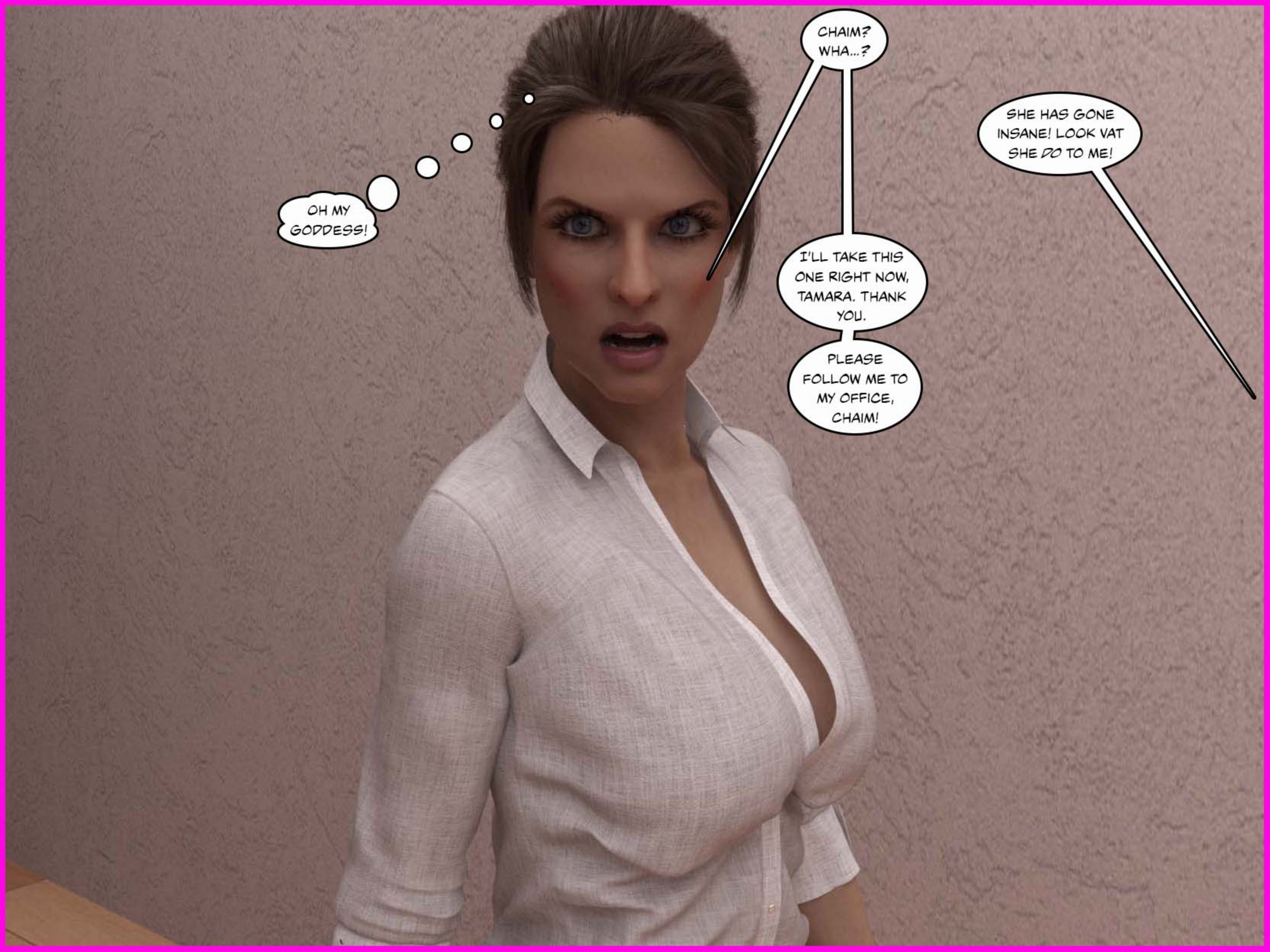
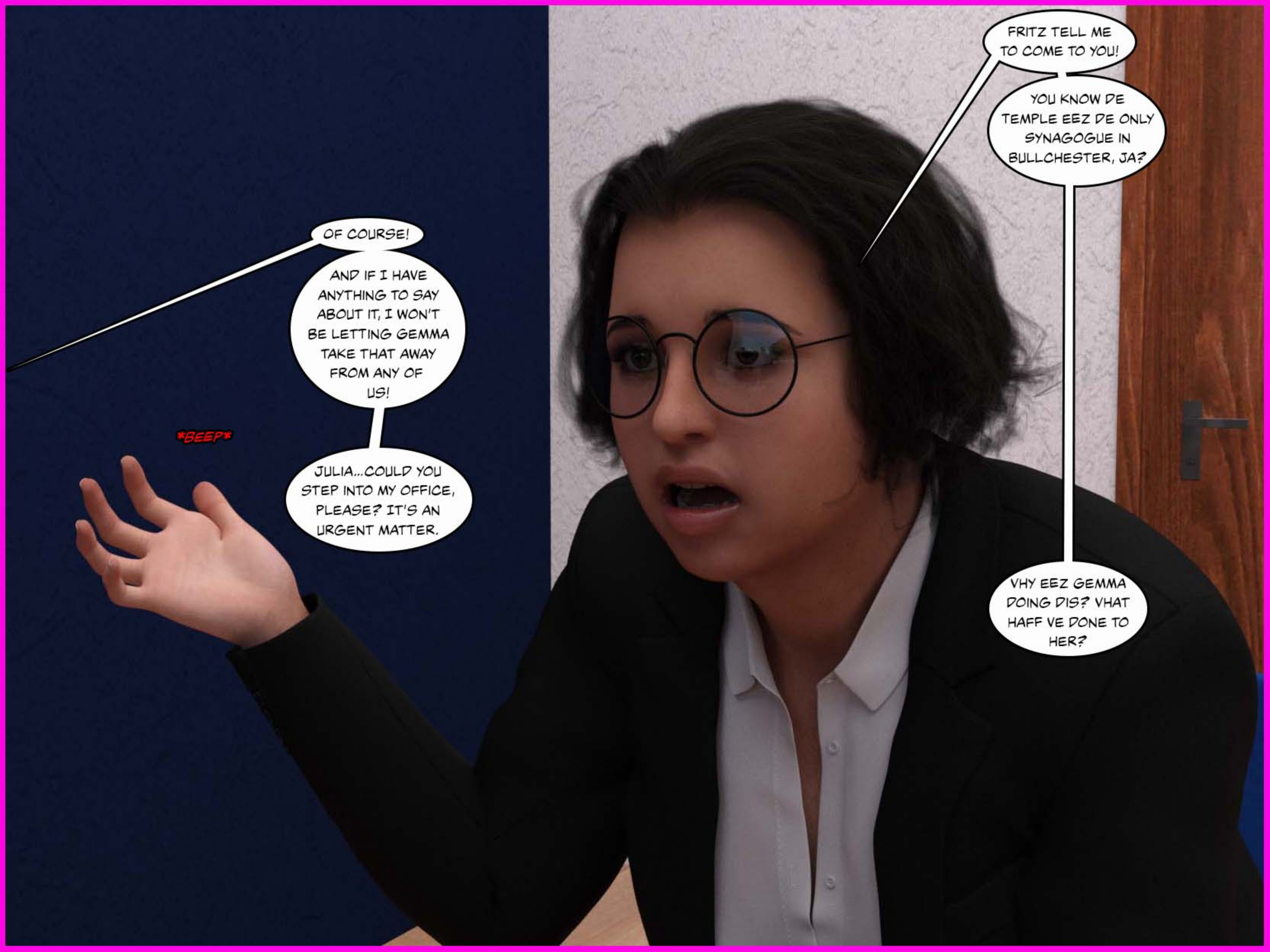

OH MY GODDESS!
CHAIM? WHA...?
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE RIGHT NOW, TAMARA. THANK YOU.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME TO MY OFFICE, CHAIM!
SHE HAS GONE INSANE! LOOK VAT SHE DO TO ME!

OKAY, CHAIM... START FROM THE BEGINNING, TELL ME EVERYTHING!
ZAT VOMAN EEZ MAD! RABBI MEYERHEIM'S TEMPLE EEZ UNDER SIEGE!
WHICH WOMAN ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW ALREADY...
EEZ...EEZ... SCHULTZ! JA! GEMMA SCHULTZ!
YUP, I CALLED IT!


OF COURSE!
AND IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, I WON'T BE LETTING GEMMA TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ANY OF US!
BEEP
JULIA...COULD YOU STEP INTO MY OFFICE, PLEASE? IT'S AN URGENT MATTER.
FRITZ TELL ME TO COME TO YOU!
YOU KNOW DE TEMPLE EEZ DE ONLY SYNAGOGUE IN BULLCHESTER, JA?
VHY EEZ GEMMA DOING DIS? VHAT HAFF VE DONE TO HER?

I'M AFRAID ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO MUCH OF ANYTHING TO EARN GEMMA'S WRATH, IT SEEMS.
I'M VENTURING A GUESS THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH JULIA'S RECENT REFUSAL TO SHUT DOWN A PLACE AT THE MALL CALLED THE BIMPORIUM.
THIS MAY BE GEMMA'S RESPONSE. WHEN DID YOU SEE HER LAST?
YESTERDAY! SHE PINCH ME IN ZE NECK BEFORE SHE VALK AVAY!
SIGH GODDESS...SHE REALLY IS ON THE WARPATH WITH HER GOSPEL!
OKAY...LISTEN TO ME VERY CAREFULLY, CHAIM...
...I'M AFRAID YOU'RE BECOMING MORE FEMALE THAN MALE.

I-I'M...GOING TO BECOME...A VHAT??
I KNOW IT SOUNDS INCREDIBLE, BUT...
...I'M AFRAID IT'S ALSO IRREVERSIBLE.
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU MIGHT THINK! DO ME A FAVOR, THOUGH...
...DON'T USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO GIVE UP THE FIGHT! IF ANYTHING, YOU'LL HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE VICE MAYORESS HERSELF...
...AND, I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN, THAT OF THE WOMAN WHO IS ABOUT TO JOIN US!

SIGH HONESTLY, CASSIE... THAT GEMMA IS IN DIRE NEED OF A LEASH!
HEH...'IN MY OWN WAY'.
WELL...I DID WARN GEMMA THAT I'D GET HANDS-ON WITH HER IF SHE STARTED PUSHING HER GOSPEL AROUND TOO HARD!
I'LL GO AND GIVE GEMMA A CALL, THEN I'LL TEXT YOU THE TIME SO YOU CAN ADVISE TAMARA ACCORDINGLY.
WE SHOULD GET HER BACK IN HERE, JULIA. IF IT'S POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO IMPRESS UPON GEMMA IN YOUR OWN WAY THAT THE SYNAGOGUE NEEDS TO BE LEFT ALONE...
UNDERSTOOD.

ADANK, MAYORESS STROUD. TSU GEZUNT.
ALL I CAN TELL YOU, MR. ZIEGFELD, IS THAT YOU SHOULD FIND YOUR LIFE BECOMING...A BIT MORE INTERESTING...
...BUT IN NO WAY, HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU LET THIS COMPROMISE YOUR BELIEFS!
YOUR CHOICE OF RELIGIOUS DEVOTION IS JUST THAT. A CHOICE! DON'T LET GEMMA'S ACTIONS CHANGE THAT!
IN FACT, I GIVE YOU MY WORD OF HONOR, AS YOUR MAYORESS, THAT NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THAT SYNAGOGUE!
YOU TELL FRITZ MEYERHEIM THAT HE HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO WORRY ABOUT.

VHA...YOU ASKING ...EEF I VISH I VERE YOUNG AGAIN?
DO YOU MISS YOUR YOUNGER YEARS, CHAIM?
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I CAN MAKE A LITTLE ARRANGEMENT THAT YOU'LL FIND VERY... REJUVENATING!
YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE! IT'LL BE AS SIMPLE AS TAKING A BATH IN YOUR OWN HOME!

WILL HE BE OKAY, VICE MAYORESS?
I DO BELIEVE SO, TAMARA. THANK YOU FOR ALERTING ME TO THIS.
OF COURSE, VICE MAYORESS.
ADANKE, MISS TAMARA!
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ONCE CASSIE HAD RETURNED TO THE OFFICE FLOOR...
SIGH FIGURES...AND WAS HE...?
PFFT. INCREDIBLE.
GEMMA.
YES, AND HE EVEN FOUND THE NOTION OF BECOMING...A LITTLE YOUNGER AGAIN APPEALING...
...BUT I NEED YOU TO PUT GEMMA DOWN FOR 1PM TODAY. JULIA AND I NEED TO CONFRONT HER ABOUT A LITTLE STUNT SHE APPARENTLY WANTS TO PULL ON THE CITY'S ONLY SYNAGOGUE.
SHE'S ALSO THE ONE WHO DOSED MR. ZIEGFELD.

BY THE WAY...I OFFERED UP A SUGGESTION TO DO A 'BRING YOUR KIDS TO WORK' DAY. JULIA LIKED IT...
...ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS I'M THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE WHO ACTUALLY HAS ANY KIDS.
I COULDN'T HELP BUT TO SEE HER FACE DARKEN AT THE MENTION OF KIDS, THOUGH. LIKE I BROUGHT SOMETHING UP THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE?
MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER SON, WHO SHE WANTS NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH.
AHH. OOPS ON ME, THEN!
GOTTA GET BACK TO THE OFFICE. THANKS AGAIN, TAMARA.

IN MY IDLENESS AFTER CASSIE WENT BACK TO HER OFFICE, I SUDDENLY REMEMBER THAT I NEEDED TO TALK TO JULIA ABOUT...
...WELL, WHAT GLENDA AND I SPOKE OF.
SEEMS ONLY FAIR THAT THE BOSS OF YOUR PRIMARY JOB SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF WHATEVER ADDITIONAL WORK YOU CAN PICK UP, RIGHT?

IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO BLOW OFF SOME SEXUAL STEAM AND FEEL SAFE DOING IT, YOUR HONOR.
YOUR HONOR... RESPECTFULLY, YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE WHO STOOD IN FRONT OF A NUT WITH A LOADED SHOTGUN WITHOUT FLINCHING.
FROM MADAME OLIVIA'S SATURDAY EVENING BUTTSLUT TO FULL-ON WEEKEND DANCER, EH?
AND YOU'RE AWARE THAT SOME OF THOSE PATRONS CAN GET REALLY ORNERY, RIGHT?

THERE WAS ALSO THAT TIME WHEN I KICKED A SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDO IN HIS FAMILY JEWELS...
NATURALLY.
OKAY, OKAY, I STAND CORRECTED. YOU CAN CLEARLY HANDLE YOURSELF.
THE WAY I SEE IT, THIS WOULD ONLY BE A CONCERN IF IT BECAME A WEEKDAY THING, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A REASON TO EXTEND YOUR TENURE WITH ME INTO WEEKENDS...
...ALTHOUGH YOU RUN THE RISK OF SEEING ME IN THERE, WANTING YOU TO GIVE ME A PRIVATE LAPDANCE.

IF IT'S MAYORESS BLESSINGS YOU WANT? DONE.
JUST DO ME A FAVOR, AND HAVE FUN WITH IT, WILL YA?
SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD! THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
NOW GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE YOU SOFTEN ME UP ANYMORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE, COW!

GOOD MORNING. SORRY FOR THE WAIT. I NEEDED TO SEE THE MAYORESS ON AN IMPORTANT MATTER.
AH, YES. YOUR, UH... YOUR DAUGHTER CAME BY TO HAVE THE APPOINTMENT MADE IN YOUR NAME.
GOOD MORNING. I'M HERE FOR MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE MAYORESS.
THE NAME IS LOUISE VANDERVELDE.

I HAD TO RE-SCHEDULE THAT TO TODAY. I NEEDED TO FINISH A SCULPTURE THAT I'M WORKING ON.
BY THE GODDESS... THIS ONE'S CURVES ARE IMMACULATE!
YOUR NAME IS... TAMARA, YES?
YOU WERE ON TV, WEREN'T YOU? YOU WERE INTERVIEWED ABOUT THAT PEDOPHILE.
YUP, THAT'S ME.
YEAH. REAL CHARMER, THAT ONE. IF I'D HAVE KNOWN WHAT HE WAS IN ADVANCE, I WOULD HAVE CRUSHED HIS FAMILY JEWELS BEFORE HE EVEN SAID A WORD.

MAY I ASK WHY?
SURE.
COULD YOU STEP OUT HERE FROM BEHIND THE DESK FOR A MOMENT, TAMARA?
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TOUCH YOU... UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO...
...BUT BEING AN ARTIST, I FIND MYSELF FASCINATED BY THE FIGURES OF WOMEN LIKE YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE PARTICULARLY WELL-DEFINED FEMININE CURVATURE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT UP CLOSE. WOULD YOU PLEASE INDULGE ME?

GOOD THING I ALWAYS WEAR SKIN-TIGHT STUFF...
MMM, YES... VERY NICE...
...VERY NICE INDEED...YOU'RE TRULY BLESSED...

NOPE. IT'S ALL ME, BREAST MILK AND ALL.
NO.
YOU DIDN'T...PAY FOR A SHAPE LIKE YOURS, DID YOU?
THIS WASN'T... MANUFACTURED?
WERE YOU BORN A WOMAN, DEAR?

OH, REALLY?
SO YOU HAVE A LIL' DINKY BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
AND HOW DID YOU EARN YOURSELF THIS...ALLURINGLY SHAPELY FATE?
NOPE. GOT A VAG.
HOW DID I GET ONE? LONG STORY.
MY DECEASED MONSTROSITY OF A FATHER RAPED THE CURRENT CEO OF LORIS INTERNATIONAL WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER.
SHE...TURNED ME INTO THIS BECAUSE OF THAT. HER VERSION OF A REPRISAL.

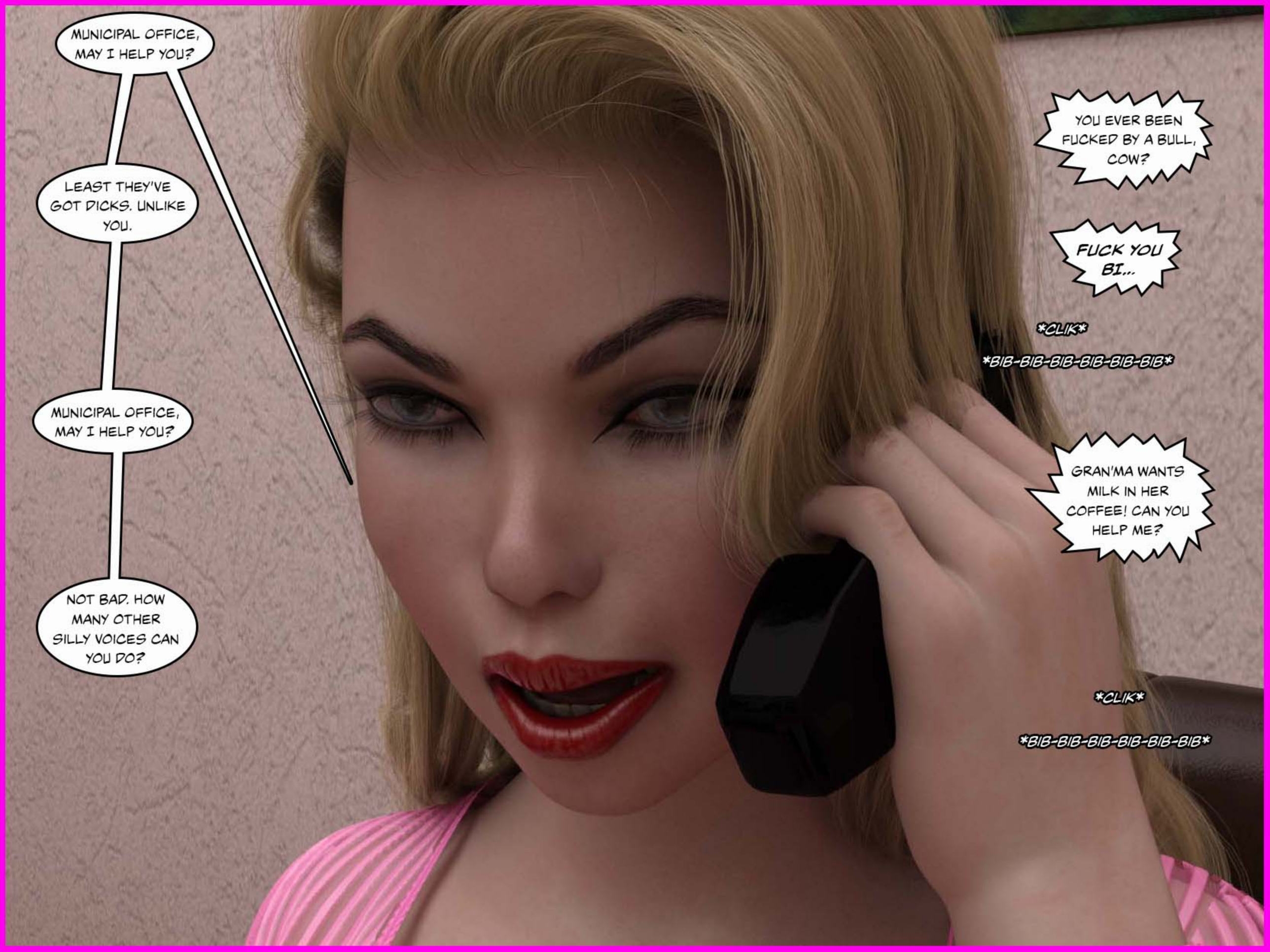
AND YOU NO LONGER HAVE YOUR... YOUR HMMM?
GOOD! YOU ARE LIVING, BREATHING ART AS YOU ARE NOW! A BULGE BETWEEN YOUR LEGS WOULD HAVE RUINED IT!
I AM TEMPTED TO ASK YOU TO MODEL FOR A SCULPTURE SOMETIME SOON!
TRULY, ALMIGHTY SAPPHO HAS CLEANSED YOU OF THE IMPURITIES OF MALENESS!
NOPE. NO MORE 'HMMM'.

AS IN THE DIVINE ESSENCE OF TRUE FEMININITY!
DO NOT BELITTLE HER GOOD NAME WITH MUNDANE INTERPRETATION! EVEN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH'S SON OF GOD WAS A MORTAL!
SAPPHO? AS IN... THE GREEK POET OF LESBOS?
TRUE...
HER SAPPHO AND AGGIE'S JOHN THE BAPTIST OUGHT TO START DATING!

GOOD MORNING, MISS VANDERVELDE.
I'M READY FOR YOU NOW. PLEASE FOLLOW ME INTO MY OFFICE.
YES, MADAME MAYORESS!
IS THAT A *BULGE* I SEE BETWEEN HER LEGS??

HMM...AN E-MAIL FROM CORAZON TO...EVERYONE?
As you are all aware, we were visited a couple of days ago by another of those self-styled 'auditors', and he managed to get a few phone numbers, including the one at our front desk.
These fraudulent auditors have been uniformly identified to be yet another wave of agitators affiliated with the radical extremist group called 'Misogunia'. The Sisterhood was able to confirm this. Among the threats they have leveled against us was a tactic used by similar clout-chasers outside of our city, a practice dubbed 'call-flooding'.
I am afraid we will need to bear through these calls for a while until we figure out a way to deal with them. If the calls do not sound like they're official business, just hang up on them.
And no matter what they say, always remember that there's only one thing these clowns truly care about, no matter how much they babble about fighting for first amendment rights.
Money.
WELL SAID, CORA.
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB
UH-OH...

MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
I WANNA TALK TO THE MAYORESS!
FUCK YOU, SERVANT! GET ME THE MAYORESS, AND GET ME SOME MI...
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB
I WANNA SUCK YO' TITTIES, BI...
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB


MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
LEAST THEY'VE GOT DICKS. UNLIKE YOU.
MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
NOT BAD. HOW MANY OTHER SILLY VOICES CAN YOU DO?
YOU EVER BEEN FUCKED BY A BULL, COW?
FUCK YOU BI...
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB
GRAN'MA WANTS MILK IN HER COFFEE! CAN YOU HELP ME?
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB

MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
MUNICIPAL OFFICE, MAY I HELP YOU?
'GRAN'MA' NEEDS TO GET A FUCKING JOB AND STOP LIVING OFF OF SUBSCRIBER PENNIES.
DON'CHA MISS HAVIN' A DICK, BI...
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB
GRAN'MA WANTS MILK! I'LL FILE A COMPLAINT IF YOU DON'T!
CLIK
BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB-BIB
I HAD TO DEAL WITH THESE CLOWNS AND LOSERS FOR NEARLY AN HOUR BEFORE THEY STOPPED. I KEPT MY COOL THROUGHOUT. IF I DIDN'T JUST HANG UP ON 'EM, I SURE AS FUCK SASSED 'EM WITH A ONE-LINER.
THOSE SASSES PISSED A LOT OF THEM OFF, TOO.

OBVIOUSLY A DEGENERATE 'A.B. SEE' SUBSCRIBER ADDING HIMSELF TO THE THREAT COLLECTION.
FAR TOO MANY, YOUR HONOR.
WHAT IS UP WITH THIS 'GRAN'MA' ASSHOLE?
HOW MANY OF THESE CALLS HAVE YOU HAD TO ENDURE, TAMARA?
SCHEDULED MEETINGS
IMPORTANT NOTE
All scheduled meetings MUST be approved IN ADVANCE by the current Mayoress before being officially ordained.
K. Rubinov
Citizen
7:30 a.m.
IT WAS THEN THAT THE CHIMES ON OUR SMARTPHONES...MINE, AND JULIA'S...PLAYED AT THE SAME TIME, AND BOTH OF THEM WERE 'UNKNOWN NUMBER'.

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION NOW, LADIES?
ALL THOSE PHONE CALLS...AND TAMARA HUNG UP ON SO MANY OF THEM! THAT'S NOT VERY PROFESSIONAL!
NEITHER IS YOUR THREE-INCH PENIS.
MAYORESS STROUD, IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT MILKY BITCH FIRED, I AM FILING A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY!
I'D BE SURPRISED IF A BEARDED DEGENERATE LIKE YOU WOULD EVEN HAVE THE MONEY TO AFFORD LAWYER FEES, ALTON!
I HAVE THOUSANDS OF SUBSCRIBERS, MAYORESS. I'M RICHER THAN YOU THINK!

IS THAT... DENTON'S VOICE?
WHA...WHO THE FUCK IS THIS?
YOU ONLY HAVE 36 SUBSCRIBERS, ALTON.
NEVER MIND WHO THIS IS. JUST LISTEN. I HAVE THE NAMES OF ALL TEN OF THOSE JOBLESS MORONS THAT YOU HAVE HARASSING THE MAYORESS AND HER SECRETARY.
I JUST FORWARDED THEM TO THE MAYORESS IN AN E-MAIL. I'LL LET JULIA DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE YOU AND YOUR CLOWNS.
AND YES, ALTON...YOUR NAME IS ON THAT LIST, TOO.
WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU?? THIS IS ENTRAPMENT!
HOLY SHIT! IF THAT'S YOU, DENTON, I'LL HAVE YOUR BABIES!

LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY, MR. BRAY. YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW YOUR ABCS...
...BUT WHEN IT COMES TO TERRORIST RADICALS, I REGULARLY INVOKE THE LETTERS C.I.A. HAVE A NICE DAY, MR. BRAY.
YOU FUCKING TYRA...
CLIK
I HAVE A FEELING YOU AND YOUR SECRETARY WON'T BE CALL-FLOODED ANY FURTHER, MAYORESS STROUD.
UHH...MUCH APPRECIATED, MISTERRR...?
LET'S JUST SAY I'M SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO SEE BULLCHESTER RAIDED BY FEDS. HAVE A NICE DAY, MAYORESS STROUD.

WHO WAS THAT, TAMARA?
A FRIEND? YOU MADE FRIENDS WITH THE CIA??
WINNIE! GET OUT HERE AND WATCH THE DESK!
UHHH...I-I... I THINK IT WAZZZ... DENTON...CIA DI-DIRRRRECTOR...
HE...HHHEEE'S A FRIENNNND.... FRIENNNN...
THEY...THEY'RE... ON...OUR... SSSSIIIIDE...!
ZZZimm

SHE DIDN'T LET GO UNTIL SHE GAVE ME ENOUGH INSTRUCTIONS FOR ME TO TELL JULIA EVERYTHING ABOUT MY ENCOUNTER WITH DENTON LOWENTHAL.
IT OBVIOUSLY TOOK HER A MOMENT TO RESPOND AS I RECOVERED.
OK...SO LET ME GET THIS ALL CLEAR IN MY HEAD HERE.
DIRECTOR LOWENTHAL IS TRYING TO KEEP ALL THOSE MISSING PERSONS REPORTS UNDER WRAPS TO KEEP THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FROM GOING NUCLEAR ON US?
YES.
AND YOU BELIEVE HIM? I MEAN... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FUCKING FEDS HERE, COW!
DO I GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK MY MIND AND STILL HAVE A JOB, YOUR HONOR?
YOU MAY.

IF YOU THINK THAT DENTON IS GONNA BE A PROBLEM, YOU'RE VERY SADLY MISTAKEN!
THE LUNCHTIME DISCUSSION WAS A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT THING. AN AGENT SAW ME ON THE ELEVATOR, AND SHE TOOK ME TO A RESTAURANT WHERE I HAD MY CHAT WITH THE DIRECTOR.
AGATHA KNOWS ABOUT DENTON, JULIA! SHE'S EVEN TRYING TO FUCK WITH HIS MIND AND MAKE A HOUSEWIFE OUT OF HIM!
NOW I DON'T CARE WHETHER YOU TRUST FEDS OR NOT, BUT DENTON ACTUALLY *RESPECTS* THE CITY'S ABILITY TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS! DO YOU HONESTLY THINK IF THEY FELT OTHERWISE, THAT THEY'D CUT IN ON ALL THAT CALL FLOODING, AND *HELP* US??

IF YOU'RE SO DISTRUSTFUL OF DENTON, WHY DON'T YOU CHECK AND SEE IF HE SENT YOU THAT E-MAIL?
THAT SOUNDS FAIR...AND I HAVEN'T CHECKED MY INBOX YET, EITHER.
ALRIGHT, TAMARA. GIVE ME A MOMENT.

I'LL BE DAMNED.
LOOKS LIKE YOUR DENTON IS A MAN OF HIS WORD AFTER ALL.
CONSIDER YOURSELF EXONERATED, TAMARA. I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU...

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, I THINK HE WANTS TO TALK TO MADAME GRACE.
HE MANAGED TO BRING MAGGIE OUT OF HIDING, AND MAGGIE TRUSTED HIM ENOUGH TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT ME...
...AND I BROUGHT UP MADAME GRACE.
...BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WANTS NEXT?

OKAY, BUT...MADAME GRACE ISN'T THE MAYORESS, IS SHE?
WHEN WERE YOU GONNA ARRANGE FOR A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND ME, COW?
I'D BE WILLING, IF YOU COULD SWEAR ON THE CREST OF THE CITY THAT YOU'LL KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OF HIS SKIN!
DON'T WORRY, COW. I'LL BE A GOOD LITTLE MAYORESS. YOU CAN TRUST ME.
CAN YOU CONTACT HIM ON MY BEHALF AND SET THINGS UP?

I WOULD IF I COULD, BUT I CAN'T.
DENTON CONTACTED ME, NOT VICE VERSA.
BECAUSE, WELL, CIA.
HE'S PROBABLY LISTENING TO US RIGHT NOW, SO... MAYBE HE'LL CONTACT YOU SOMETIME SOON.
IF HE THINKS YOU CAN BE TRUSTED, OF COURSE...

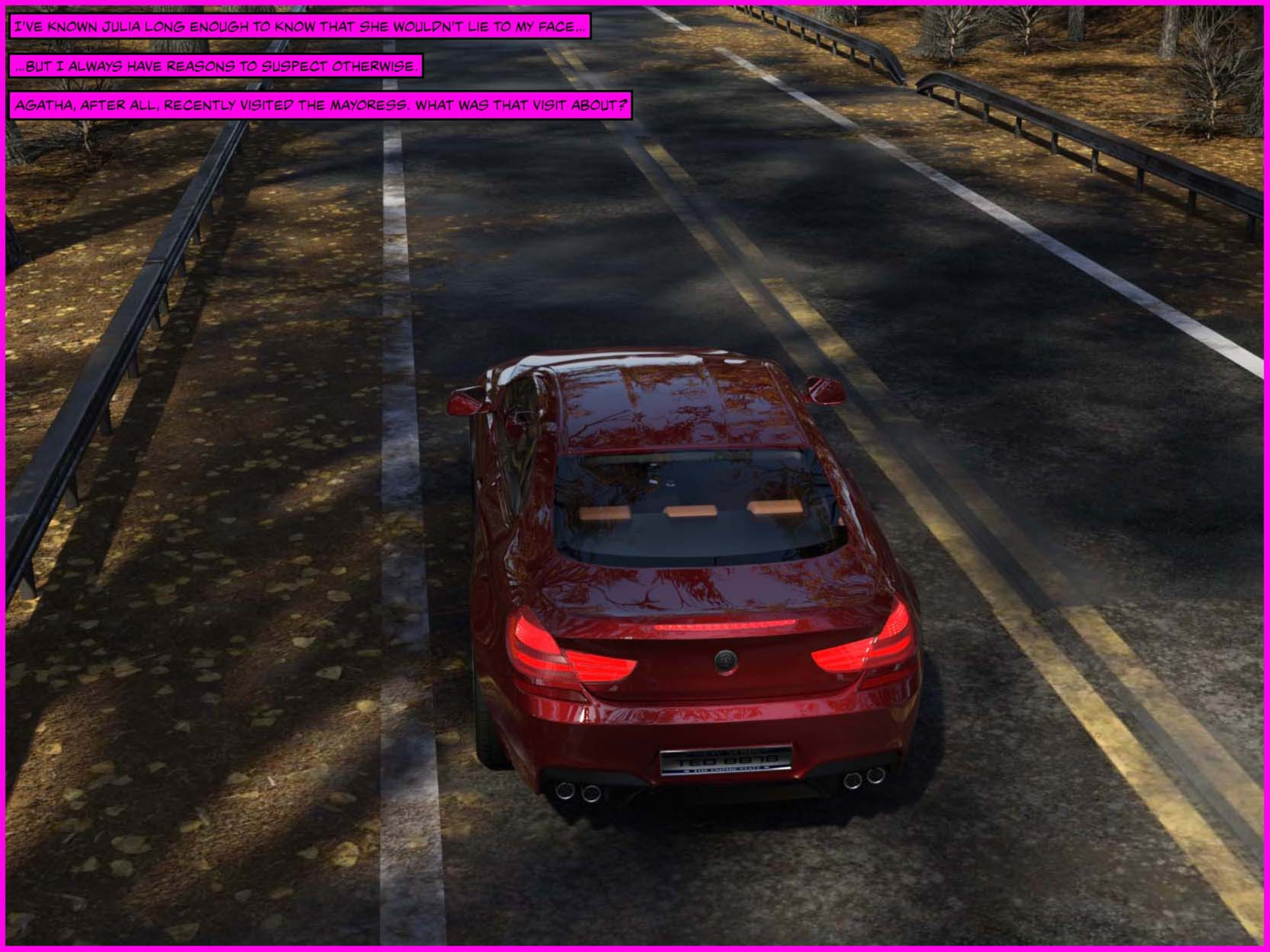
...BUT I THINK YOU'D HAVE A BETTER CHANCE AT MEETING HIM IF YOU KEPT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HIM A SECRET!
IF AGATHA FOUND OUT THAT YOU AND DEN HAD A CHAT, SHE MIGHT COMPROMISE YOUR FREE WILL, AND USE YOU TO GET TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY!
YOU CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
I WON'T.
IF YOU SAY HE CAN BE TRUSTED, THEN AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE DISCUSSION IS OVER.

UNDERSTOOD.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S OUTRAGEOUS, THOUGH, THAT THEYD EVEN CONSIDER DEPLOYING A WMD ON OUR CITY?
DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO CASSIE ABOUT HIM, EITHER!
FEAR MAKES PEOPLE DO HORRIBLE THINGS, YOUR HONOR!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO HAVE A VOICE LIKE MINE IN THE SENATE.
AFTER ALL...IF ANYONE GETS SO BENT OUT OF SHAPE IN THEIR JEALOUSY OVER A CITY THAT HAS A NEGLIGIBLE CRIME RATE THAT THEY FEEL COMPELLED TO WIPE IT OFF THE MAP...
...THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW THEM JUST HOW RADICALLY PERSUASIVE AN ANGEL LIKE MYSELF CAN BE!
NOT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PREVENT A NUCLEAR STRIKE, COW!
SCARY THOUGHT.

COME WITH ME, TAMARA.
IMPROMPTU FIELD TRIP.
BESIDES...WINNIE NEEDS MORE PRACTICE AT THE FRONT DESK.
I'LL EVEN THROW IN LUNCH. I'M STRUGGLING TO REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE'VE ACTUALLY EATEN TOGETHER.
I DO REMEMBER INTRODUCING YOU TO SALADS, THOUGH!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
MIGHT HAVE BEEN WHEN YOU FIRST OFFERED ME THIS JOB.

UM...DO I AT LEAST GET A *HINT* AS TO WHERE WE'RE GOING?
NO.
IN FACT, I WILL NEED TO BLINDFOLD YOU WHEN WE'RE HALFWAY THERE UNTIL WE'RE INSIDE.
YOU'LL BE IN NO DANGER THOUGH, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING, SO RELAX.
YOU'LL STILL BE YOU ONCE WE'RE DONE THERE.


I'VE KNOWN JULIA LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT SHE WOULDN'T LIE TO MY FACE...
...BUT I ALWAYS HAVE REASONS TO SUSPECT OTHERWISE.
AGATHA, AFTER ALL, RECENTLY VISITED THE MAYORESS. WHAT WAS THAT VISIT ABOUT?

SOMEONE WHO WE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE ONE LAST TIME BEFORE HIS LIFE CHANGES FOREVER.
I KNOW THAT VOICE...!
WHAT AM I ABOUT TO SEE?
YOU CAN TAKE THAT OFF NOW, TAMARA.

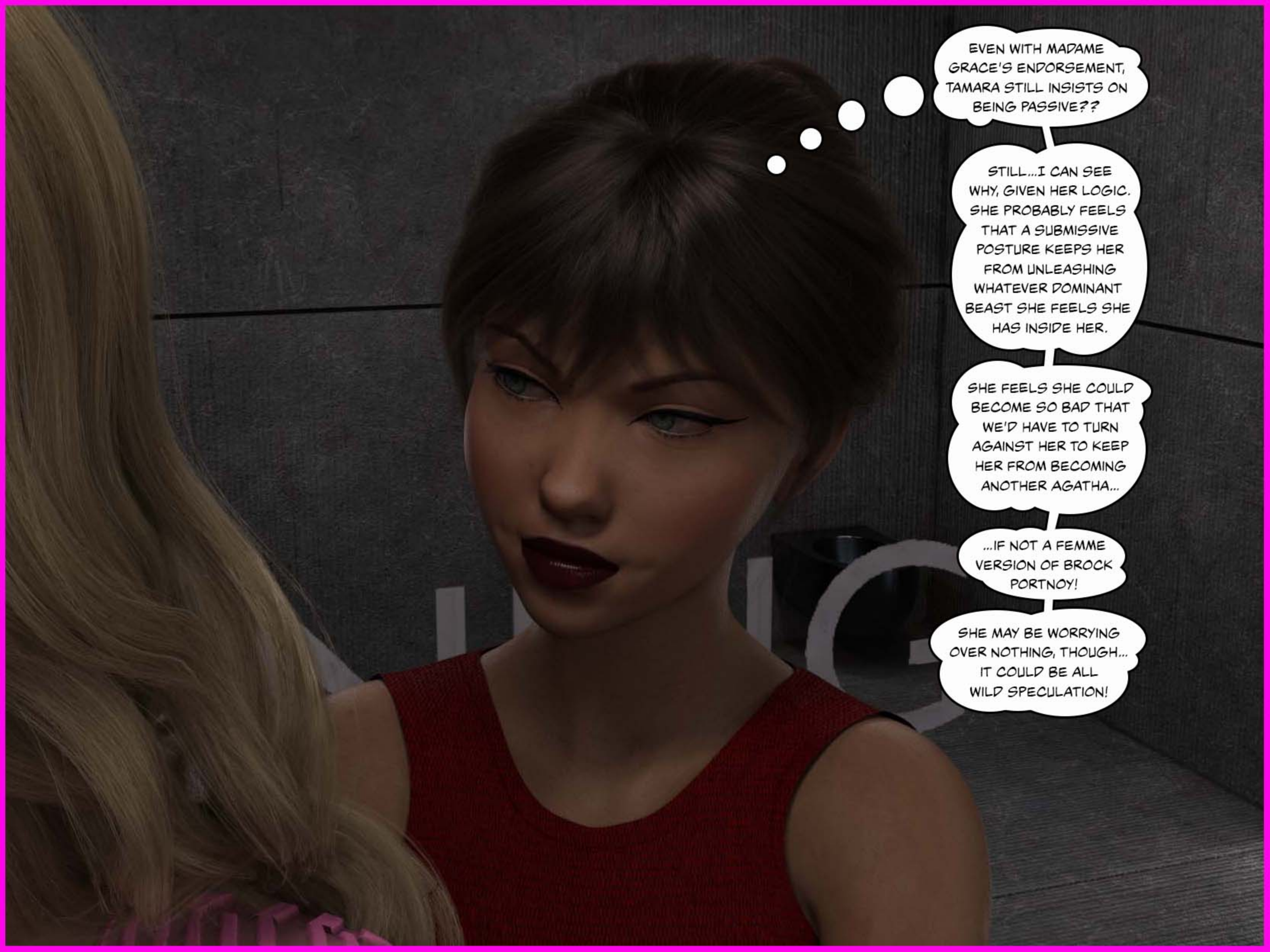
MADAME GRACE? WHERE AM I?
GOOD MORNING, TAMARA.
ONE OF OUR VIEWING BOOTHS FOR PARTICULARLY NASTY CRIMINALS.
NOW I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO CRAZY WHEN I TELL YOU WHERE WE ARE. THE MAYORESS AND MYSELF HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS SO THAT YOU WILL BE COMPLETELY SAFE WHILE YOU'RE HERE.
YOU'RE IN THE FARM, DEAR.
I WON'T LIE. I FELT A CHILL RUN THROUGH ME WHEN MADAME GRACE TOLD ME WHERE I WAS.
THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY BULLCHESTER'S SECRET PRISON FACILITY.

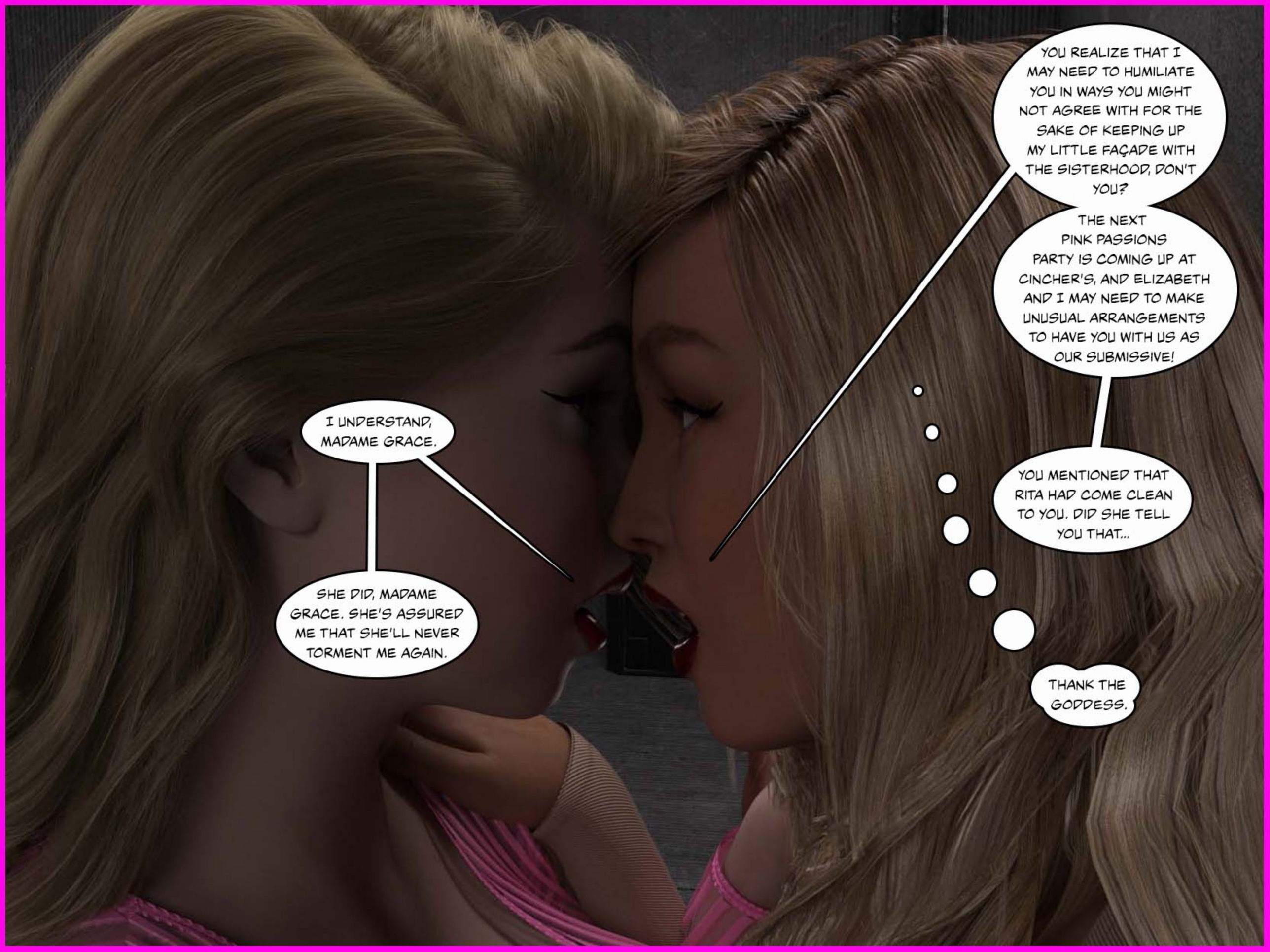
THE GLASS WAS BLACKENED. I COULDN'T SEE WHO WAS IN THIS CELL.
WHY AM I HERE, MADAME GRACE?
SOMEONE WAS RECENTLY BROUGHT HERE THAT YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH.
SOMEONE WITH A *VERY* UNSAVORY PAST WHO TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
KASTNER. IT'S GOTTA BE THAT SICK BASTARD.
GRACE MADE A GESTURE, WHICH SIGNALLED FOR THE DIGITAL VEIL LAID UPON THE GLASS TO BECOME TRANSPARENT...

...AND THERE HE WAS.
SHOULD BE AS GENTLE AS A LAMB, MENTALLY...
...WHICH IS CERTAINLY AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE CHILD-MOLESTING MONSTER HE USED TO BE...EH, TAMARA?
YEAH...RITA CAME CLEAN TO ME ABOUT IT AT *UPSCALE* DURING THE GAME SHOW TAPINGS.
HER ACCOMPLICE'S NAME WAS...
YUP, THAT'S HER.
AS YOU CAN SEE, HE'S ALREADY BEEN DOSED.
WE KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE SETUP, TOO.
DESTINY PENDLETON?

I REMEMBER YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU WANTED HIM TO BE SISSIFIED.
DID YOU STILL WANT THAT?
WELL, TAMARA? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
PERSONALLY, I THINK HE SHOULD BECOME ANOTHER LESLIE BETANCOURT. OLD. STINKY.
HE NEEDS TO *SUFFER* FOR WHAT HE PUT ALL THOSE KIDS THROUGH!

ARE YOU SURE, TAMARA?
HONEY, YOU HAVE SO MUCH POTENTIAL! THERE'S SO MUCH I COULD TEACH YOU! YOU'D BE SUCH A FANTASTIC STUDENT, TOO!
THIS IS A MADAME'S DECISION, ISN'T IT? I MEAN, NORMALLY?
DIDN'T THE MAYORESS TELL YOU? I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST AT ALL IN BECOMING A MADAME!
I'M SORRY, MADAME GRACE...BUT IF I ACCEPTED YOUR OFFER, I COULD BECOME JUST AS BAD AS MY FATHER WAS! MAYBE WORSE!
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE THAT CHANCE!


EVEN WITH MADAME GRACE'S ENDORSEMENT, TAMARA STILL INSISTS ON BEING PASSIVE??
STILL...I CAN SEE WHY, GIVEN HER LOGIC. SHE PROBABLY FEELS THAT A SUBMISSIVE POSTURE KEEPS HER FROM UNLEASHING WHATEVER DOMINANT BEAST SHE FEELS SHE HAS INSIDE HER.
SHE FEELS SHE COULD BECOME SO BAD THAT WE'D HAVE TO TURN AGAINST HER TO KEEP HER FROM BECOMING ANOTHER AGATHA...
...IF NOT A FEMME VERSION OF BROCK PORTNOY!
SHE MAY BE WORRYING OVER NOTHING, THOUGH... IT COULD BE ALL WILD SPECULATION!


YOU REALIZE THAT I MAY NEED TO HUMILIATE YOU IN WAYS YOU MIGHT NOT AGREE WITH FOR THE SAKE OF KEEPING UP MY LITTLE FAÇADE WITH THE SISTERHOOD, DON'T YOU?
THE NEXT PINK PASSIONS PARTY IS COMING UP AT CINCHER'S, AND ELIZABETH AND I MAY NEED TO MAKE UNUSUAL ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE YOU WITH US AS OUR SUBMISSIVE!
I UNDERSTAND, MADAME GRACE.
YOU MENTIONED THAT RITA HAD COME CLEAN TO YOU. DID SHE TELL YOU THAT...
SHE DID, MADAME GRACE. SHE'S ASSURED ME THAT SHE'LL NEVER TORMENT ME AGAIN.
THANK THE GODDESS.

MAJOR UNDERSTATEMENT.
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I'M ALSO SURPRISED TO HEAR ABOUT RITA'S CAPITULATION.
SHE CAN BE A VERY STUBBORN WOMAN!
KINDA HARD TO BELIEVE, EH? ABOUT RITA?
I WOULD HAVE MADE YOU WORTH ANY EFFORT TO GET YOU OUT OF RITA'S INFLUENCE, TAMARA PORTNOY... EVEN IF I NEEDED TO BE THE ONE TO MAKE THE SACRIFICES!
LIFE IN BULLCHESTER SHOULD BECOME A BIT MORE TOLERABLE WITHOUT YOU WORRYING ABOUT HER BARGING INTO YOUR HOME WANTING TO HUMILIATE YOU ANY FURTHER!

I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU, TAMARA.
IF YOU SHOULD EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT WANTING TO BECOME A MADAME... UNLIKELY AS IT IS... I WANT TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT IT, OKAY?
JULIA...
YES, MADAME GRACE.
YOU ARE ONE TOUGH COW, TAMARA.
IT'S OKAY, MADAME GRACE. I DON'T MIND WHEN SHE CALLS ME THAT.

CAN YOU AT LEAST TELL US WHAT YOU WANT US TO DO WITH THIS ONE?
ON THIS, I MUST INSIST.
YES.
DID HIS RECORDS CONFIRM, DESPITE HIS PEDOPHILIA, THAT HE WAS STILL A FIREFIGHTER?
WHO IS THE CITY'S CURRENT FIRE MARSHAL?
GOOD MAN?
FRANK MCMANUS.
YEAH, HE'S OKAY. HE'S REACHING RETIREMENT AGE, THOUGH.

ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT WHATEVER KIND OF WOMAN BRIAN BECOMES SHOULD BE THE CITY'S NEW FIRE MARSHAL?
IF NOT JUST A TYPICAL FIREWOMAN. SHE COULD EVEN HELP YOU ROOT OUT MISOGYNISTS AMONG THE CITY'S FIREMEN.
HMM. INTERESTING IDEA, THAT.
PERHAPS WE CAN CONSIDER THAT WHEN FRANK RETIRES. WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH THIS MONSTER *NOW*, THOUGH.
THINK YOU CAN SUM UP HIS FATE IN A SINGLE WORD, TAMARA?

IT SEEMED ONLY FAIR THAT I BRING UP HIS EXPERIENCE AS A FIREFIGHTER. THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY GOOD QUALITY IN THIS OTHERWISE REPULSIVE CHILD MOLESTER.
MADAME GRACE WAS ON POINT, THOUGH. THE NOTION OF MAKING THE WOMAN BRIAN BECOMES A FIREWOMAN IS A CONSIDERATION FOR ANOTHER DAY.
FOR NOW, MADAME GRACE WANTS HIM TO SUFFER A FITTING FEMININE FATE, SUMMED UP IN A SINGLE WORD, AND THAT WORD WAS ACADEMIC.

WE COULD EVEN MAKE HIM AS YOUNG AS BRIAN LIKED THEM.
SISSY.
YEAH. HE NEEDS TO BECOME THE KIND OF FEMININE BOY THAT HE'D WANT TO MOLEST.
OH, FUCK YEAH. GOOD CALL, COW.

I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, THEN.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU GO ON OUT OF HERE AND HAVE YOURSELVES A NICE LUNCH.
OH, AND JULIA...
...NO BLINDFOLD.
I TRUST TAMARA ENOUGH TO KEEP SECRETS. EVEN ONE AS SENSITIVE AS THE LOCATION OF THE FARM.
STAY SAFE OUT THERE, MY LOVE.
I'LL DO MY BEST, MADAME GRACE.
ARE YOU SURE, GRACE?

GETTING BACK TO JULIA'S CAR IN THE PARKING LOT WAS AN ADVENTURE IN ITSELF.
APPARENTLY, WHEN YOU'RE BLINDFOLDED COMING IN, IT MEANS THAT YOU'RE LITERALLY BEING GUIDED TO A CHAMBER WHERE YOUR LIFE WAS GOING TO CHANGE, BUT MADAME GRACE MADE THE CALL FOR ME TO LEAVE WITHOUT THE BLINDFOLD...
...WHICH MEANT MAYORESS STROUD HAD TO CAREFULLY EXTRACT ME FROM THE FARM WITHOUT ANY SCIENTIST OR A SECURITY CAMERA NOTICING US. I FELT LIKE I WAS IN AN ESPIONAGE THRILLER!

BEING ABLE TO BOUNCE, I GUESS.
YEAH. IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO DRAW ATTENTION, DOESN'T IT?
WELL, YOU DO ASK ME TO DRESS UP IN THESE SKIN-TIGHT WEAPONS, DON'T YOU?
SO WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST ABOUT BEING A WOMAN, TAMARA?
YOU MEAN... BOUNCE YOUR... ASSETS? LIKE A BIMBO?
TAMARA...IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ANY BETTER, I'D SAY YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO BE A BIMBO.

THE BIMPORIUM IS NEW. THIS ONE CAME FROM THAT 'NIGHT BEATZ' STORE.
I DID GET SOME TIGHT TUBE DRESSES AT THE BIMPORIUM, THOUGH.
HEH... YOU MUST BE PSYCHIC. SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
DO YOU GET THEM AT THE BIMPORIUM?
AHH, THE STORE WITH THE NEON LIGHTING. GOOD CHOICE.
DID YOU HAVE TO WADE THROUGH TAYLOR LA RUE'S ENTOURAGE TO GET TO IT?
UPSCALE.

HER SMARTPHONE CHIMED WHEN WE REACHED A RED LIGHT AND WHEN SHE SAW THE MESSAGE, HER EXPRESSION DARKENED.
IS EVERYTHING OKAY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHIT!
TAMARA...I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE EATING ALONE AT UPSCALE. JUST LET THE MAITRE'D KNOW I HAD TO BAIL.
CASSIE'S CALLING ME BACK IN OVER SOME URGENT MUNICIPAL MATTER. I'LL MAKE THIS LUNCH DATE UP TO YOU, COW. I PROMISE.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ONE, BUT DO ME A FAVOR AND DINE LIKE A MADAME FOR ME ANYWAY! I'LL PICK UP THE TAB REMOTELY!

MAN, THIS FOOD IS REALLY GOOD. PERFECTLY COOKED.
WONDER WHAT WORLD-RENOWNED CHEFS THEY FEMINIZED, AND STUCK IN THE KITCHEN HERE?
THIS MEAL WOULD GO GREAT WITH A BIG, VEINY COCK...

...WOULD HAVE BEEN A...GREAT APPETIZER...

MMMM, YOU'RE LOOKIN' HUNGRY...

...SPORT.
CAN I HAVE WHAT YOU'RE HAVIN'? *GIGGLE*
L-LARRY??
NOT ANYMORE, HONEYSUCKLE...

...THAT THERE GOOD OL' BOY IS MAH BITCH NOW! HEH, HEH...
...YEAH, I KNOW. MY SOUTHERN ACCENT SUCKS, BUT I WAS NEVER MUCH OF AN ACTOR.
MY SAUCY LITTLE HUSSY HERE IS CERTAINLY WILLING TO SUCK, THOUGH!
NOW...WHAT SHALL WE HAVE FOR LUNCH, HMM?
HOW ABOUT...A TAMARA SANDWICH?
WELL? DON'T KEEP YOUR MISTRESS JEMIMA WAITING, SLUT!
To Be Continued!