





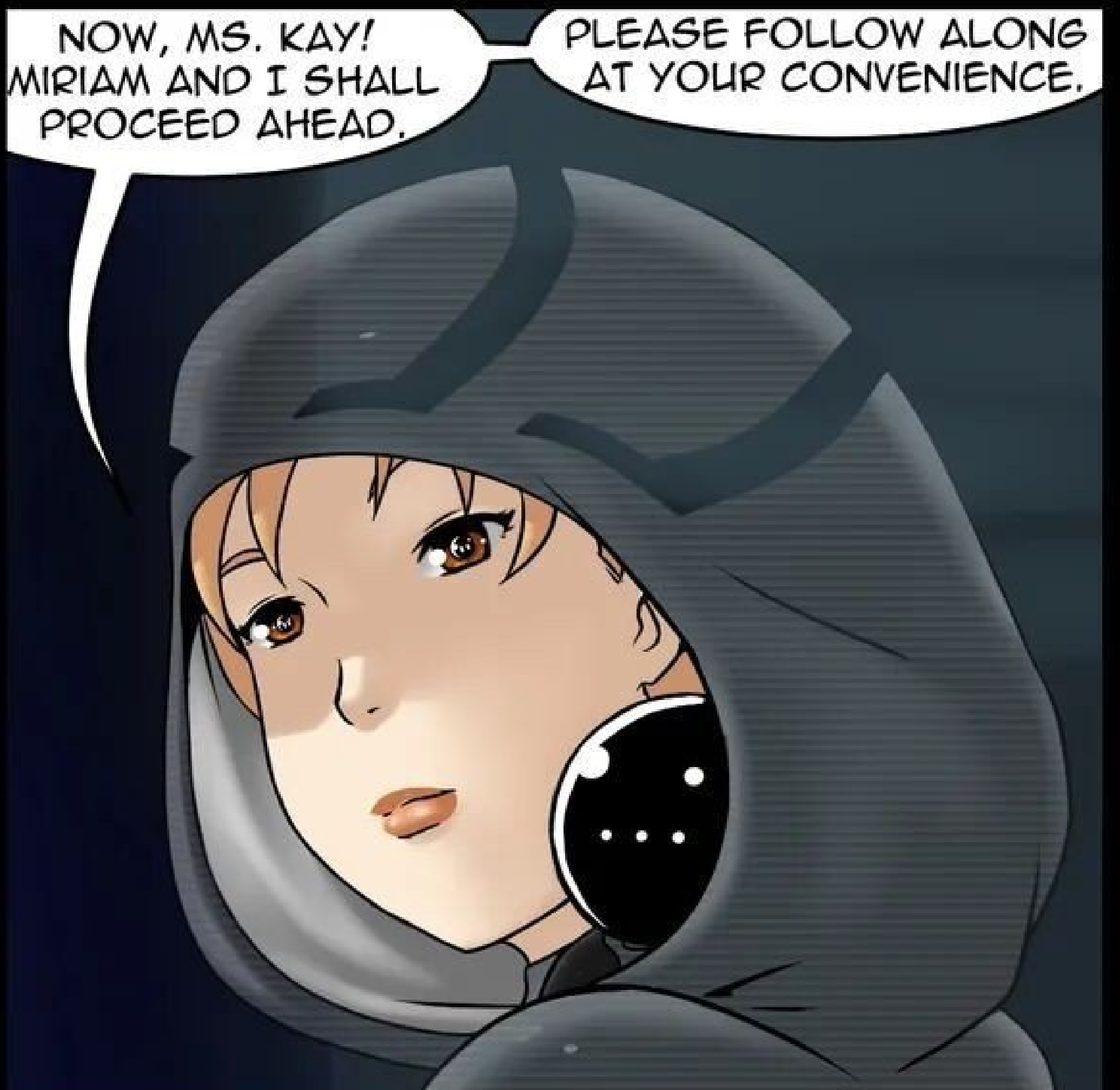


THAT'S C.A.P.I.
HE HELPS ME OUT
WHEN I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO!











THERE IS A TAOIST STORY OF AN OLD MAN WHO HAD WORKED HIS CROPS FOR MANY YEARS. ONE DAY HIS HORSE RAN AWAY. UPON HEARING THE NEWS, HIS NEIGHBORS CAME TO VISIT. "SUCH BAD LUCK," THEY SAID SYMPATHETICALLY. "MAY BE," REPLIED THE FARMER.

THE NEXT DAY THE HORSE RETURNED, AND BROUGHT THREE WILD HORSES WITH IT. THE NEIGHBORS CONGRATULATED THE FARMER, WHO REPLIED AGAIN "MAY BE."

THE NEXT DAY, THE FARMER'S SON TRIED TO RIDE ONE OF THE WILD HORSES, WAS THROWN AND BROKE HIS LEG. ONCE AGAIN, THE NEIGHBORS GAVE THEIR SYMPATHIES, AND THE FARMER ANSWERED, "MAY BE."

THE DAY AFTER, MILITARY OFFICIALS CAME BY THE VILLAGE, DRAFTING YOUNG MEN INTO THE ARMY. SEEING THE SON HAD A BROKEN LEG, THEY PASSED HIM BY. THE NEIGHBORS CONGRATULATED THE FARMER ON HOW WELL THINGS HAD TURNED OUT FOR HIM.



"MAY BE," SAID THE FARMER.

SO THINGS MAY NOT BE AS GOOD OR AS BAD AS THEY APPEAR?

MAYBE.



OR, PERHAPS YOU OUGHT TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.



ALEXIS, IT'S GOOD TO SEE
YOU FACE TO FACE.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME; I APOLOGIZE FOR THE AWKWARD SEATING ARRANGEMENTS, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S UNAVOIDABLE CONSIDERING OUR MUTUAL AFFLICTIONS.

HUH... I'D THOUGHT THAT SHOWING YOU MY REAL FACE WOULD MAKE YOU A BIT MORE TALKATIVE.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HOLDING ME PRISONER.

AND, FOR APPARENTLY NO REASON, YOU'VE TOLD ME BEFORE YOU'D GET WHAT YOU WANT WITH OR WITHOUT MY COOPERATION.

FAIR ENOUGH. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU INTEREST ME.

YOU'RE A LOT LIKE MYSELF, EVEN BEYOND THE SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITIES.

YOU'VE CARVED A NICHE FOR YOURSELF, UPON WHICH YOU'VE BUILT A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS.

I'M SURE YOU CAN SYMPATHIZE; BUT I DON'T GET OUT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE VERY OFTEN...

SO... WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY CAME, I TOOK ADVANTAGE.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE MANY FRIENDS THROUGH KIDNAPPING.

MAYBE NOT.

GUESS I'M HOPING THAT STOCKHOLM SYNDROME WILL HELP ME OUT.

HEHE...

SEE! WORKING ALREADY!

ANYWAY... MY SELFISH ACTIONS MIGHT WORK OUT TO YOUR BENEFIT.

HOW DO YOU FIGURE?

FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU AND YOUR COMPANY HAVE BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SOME TIME, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE READY TO START MAKING ARRESTS.

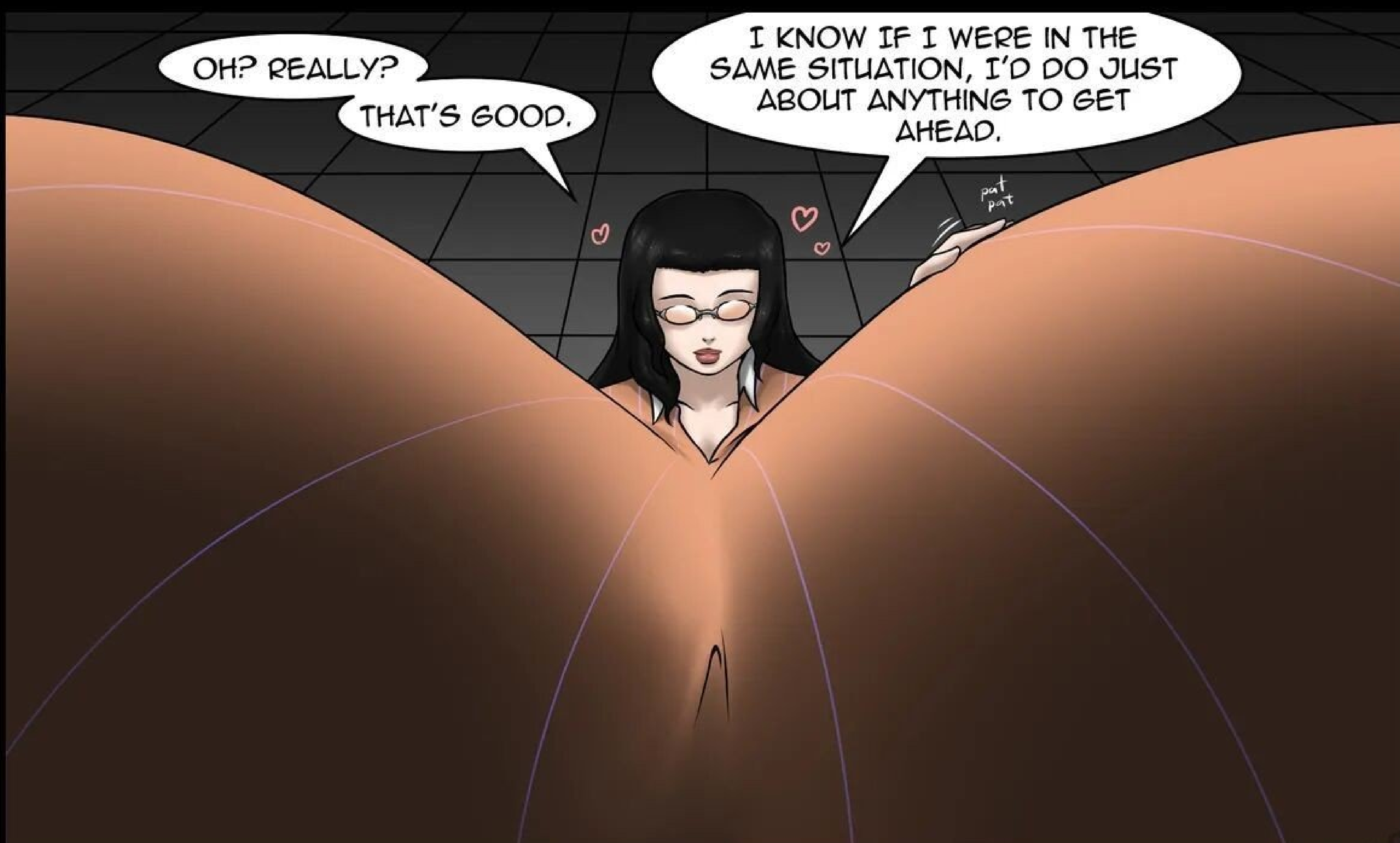
WHAT!?

...AND INTENTIONALLY LACING YOUR PRODUCTS, WITH NOT ONLY DRUGS, BUT ALSO A BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE SUBSTANCE...

...OPENS UP THE POSSIBILITY OF REALLY HARSH CHARGES UNDER ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS.

FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I CAN KEEP YOU HIDDEN AND PROTECTED HERE.







HEY!

A. YOU'RE LOOKING AS
BOLYANT AS EVER.

DR. LIN, GOOD
TO SEE YOU.

SHE'S BEEN
KIND ENOUGH
TO REPRODUCE
HER EXPERIMENT
FOR ME.

YSABEL...

YOU'RE
HELPING
HER?

CONSIDERING
THE CURRENT
SITUATION, IT
SEEMS THE BEST
COURSE IS TO
COOPERATE.

WERE YOU ABLE TO
MAKE A SAMPLE?



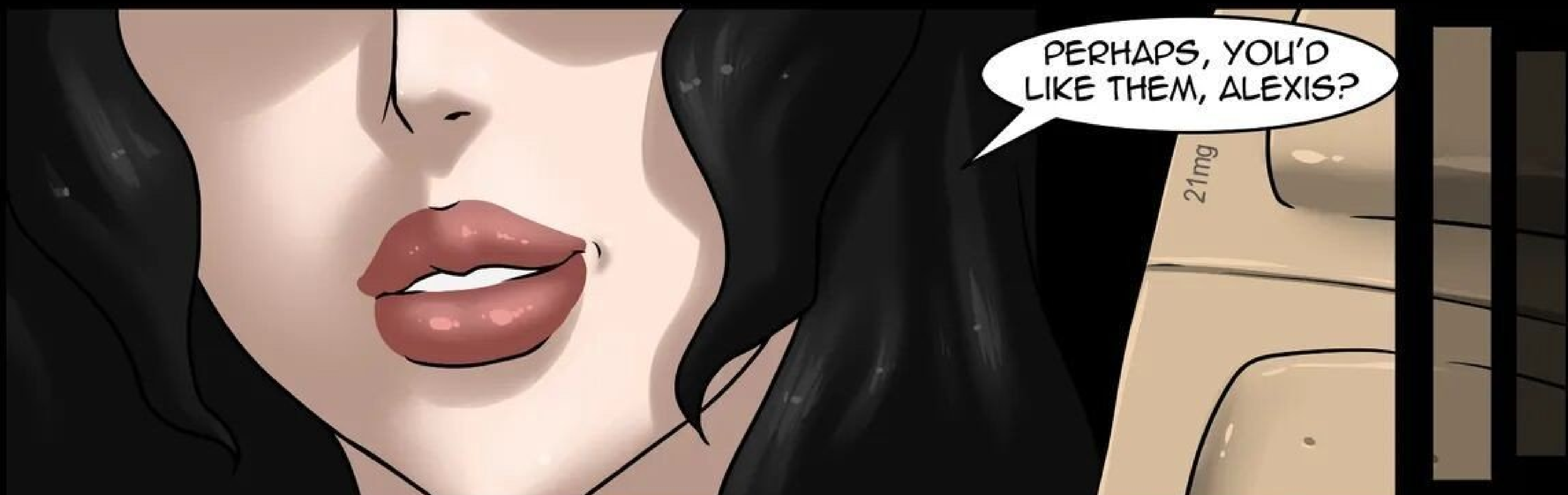
I WAS. THOUGH,
IF YOU WANT TO
MAKE IT IN BULK,
YOU'LL NEED
NEW EQUIPMENT.



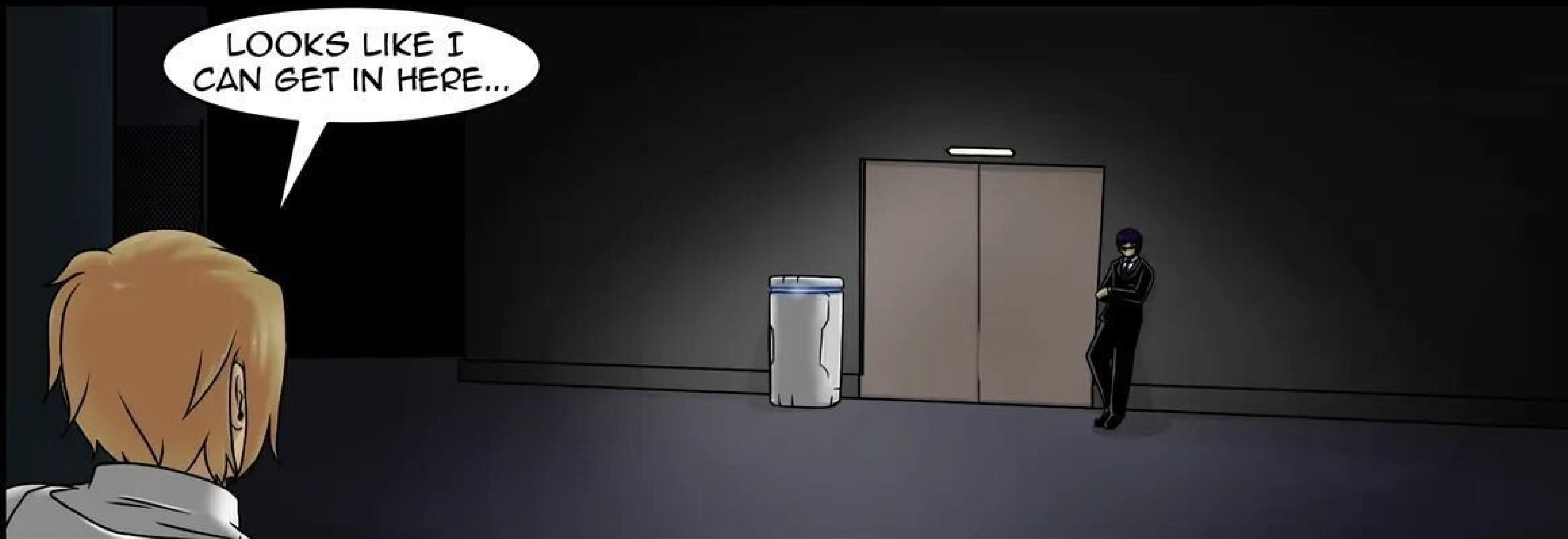
VERY NICE. I'M TEMPTED
TO TRY IT MYSELF...

BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN
HANDLE MUCH MORE
QUITE YET.

SEEMS LIKE
A WASTE NOT
USING THEM,
THOUGH...



PERHAPS, YOU'D
LIKE THEM, ALEXIS?



LOOKS LIKE I
CAN GET IN HERE...



TIME FOR SOME SUPER STEALTH ACTION!

HEHE!



THAT'S CERTAINLY AN
INTERESTING OUTFIT.
IT SUITS YOU WELL...
WOULD YOU CARE TO
ACCOMPANY ME INSIDE?

I-INSIDE?

I ASSUMED
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE
HEADED...

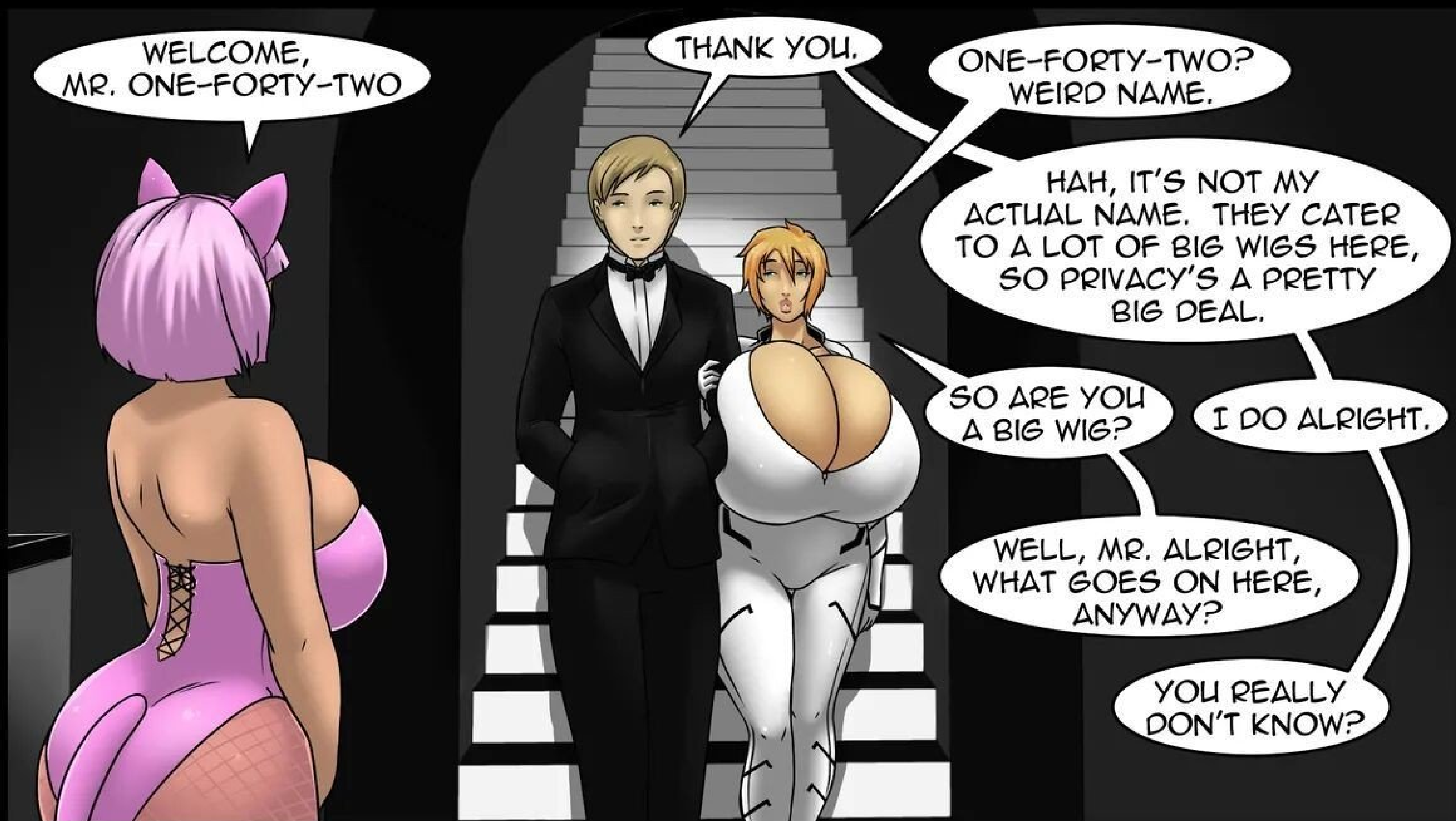
CAN'T IMAGINE THERE'S
MUCH OTHER REASON
TO BE HERE.

HA! RIGHT!
OF COURSE.

BUSTED!



WELL THEN, SHALL WE?



WELCOME,
MR. ONE-FORTY-TWO

THANK YOU.

ONE-FORTY-TWO?
WEIRD NAME.

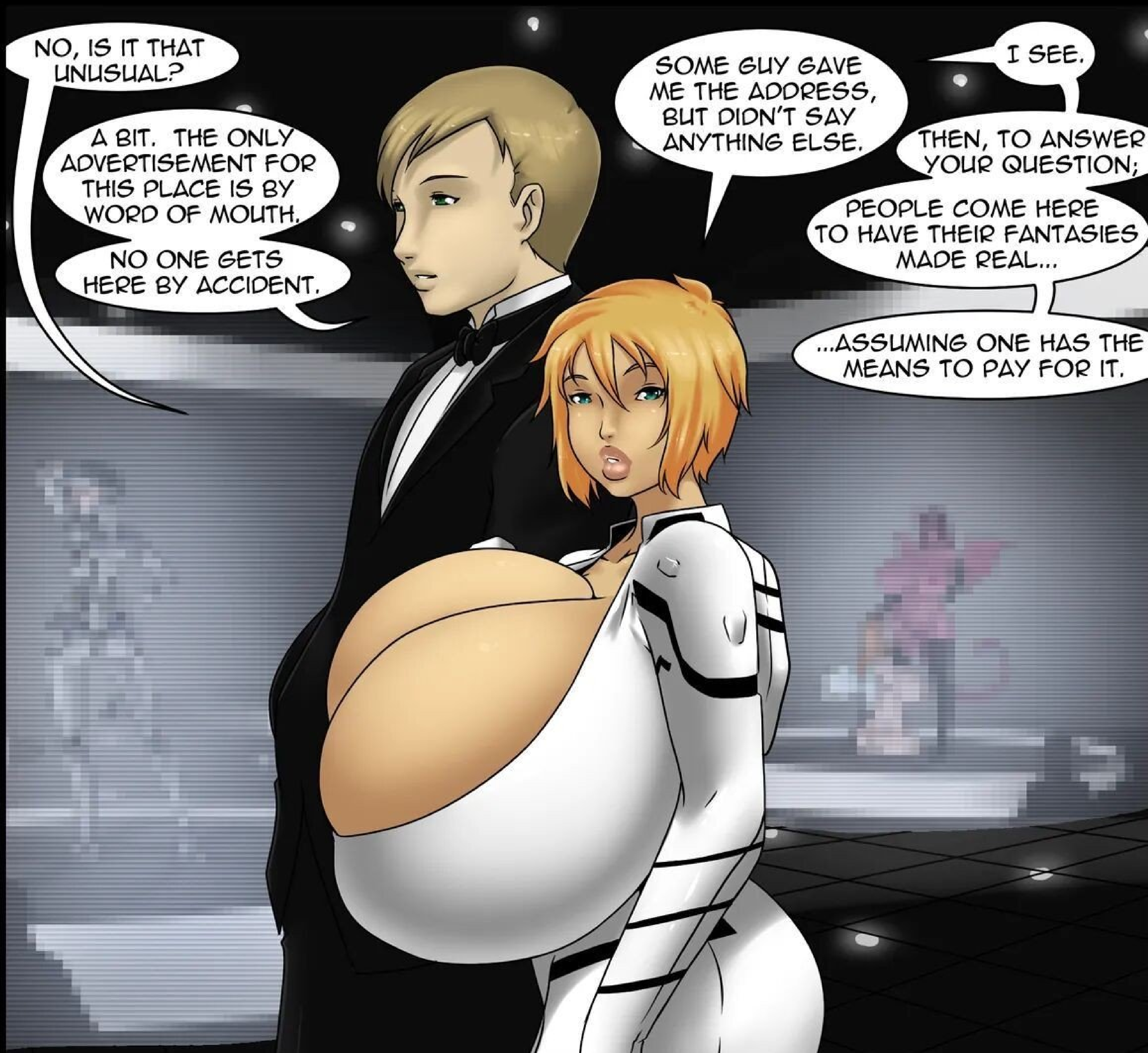
HAH, IT'S NOT MY
ACTUAL NAME. THEY CATER
TO A LOT OF BIG WIGS HERE,
SO PRIVACY'S A PRETTY
BIG DEAL.

SO ARE YOU
A BIG WIG?

I DO ALRIGHT.

WELL, MR. ALRIGHT,
WHAT GOES ON HERE,
ANYWAY?

YOU REALLY
DON'T KNOW?



NO, IS IT THAT
UNUSUAL?

A BIT. THE ONLY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
THIS PLACE IS BY
WORD OF MOUTH.

NO ONE GETS
HERE BY ACCIDENT.

SOME GUY GAVE
ME THE ADDRESS,
BUT DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING ELSE.

I SEE.

THEN, TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION;

PEOPLE COME HERE
TO HAVE THEIR FANTASIES
MADE REAL...

...ASSUMING ONE HAS THE
MEANS TO PAY FOR IT.

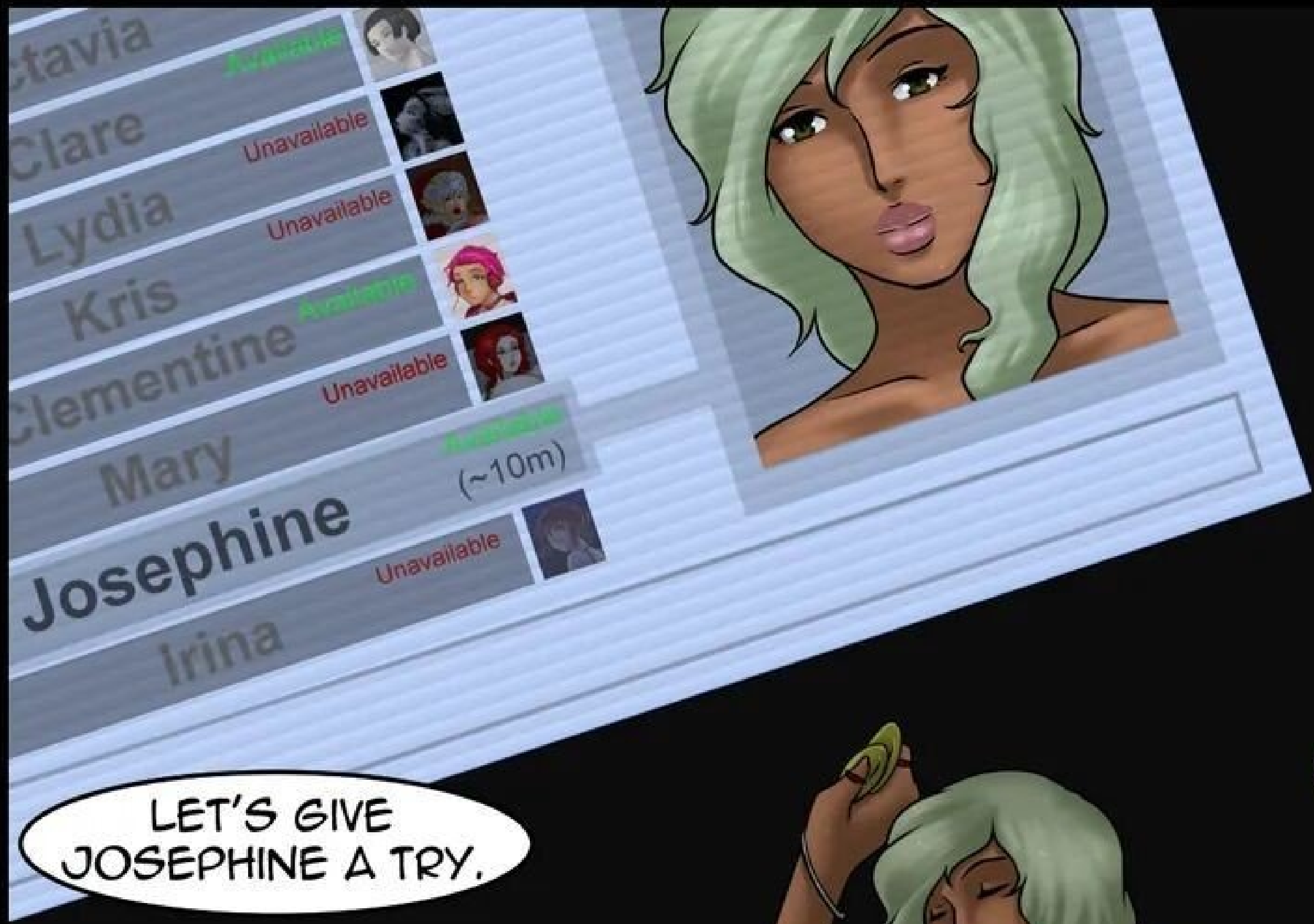


WHAT'S YOUR FANTASY?

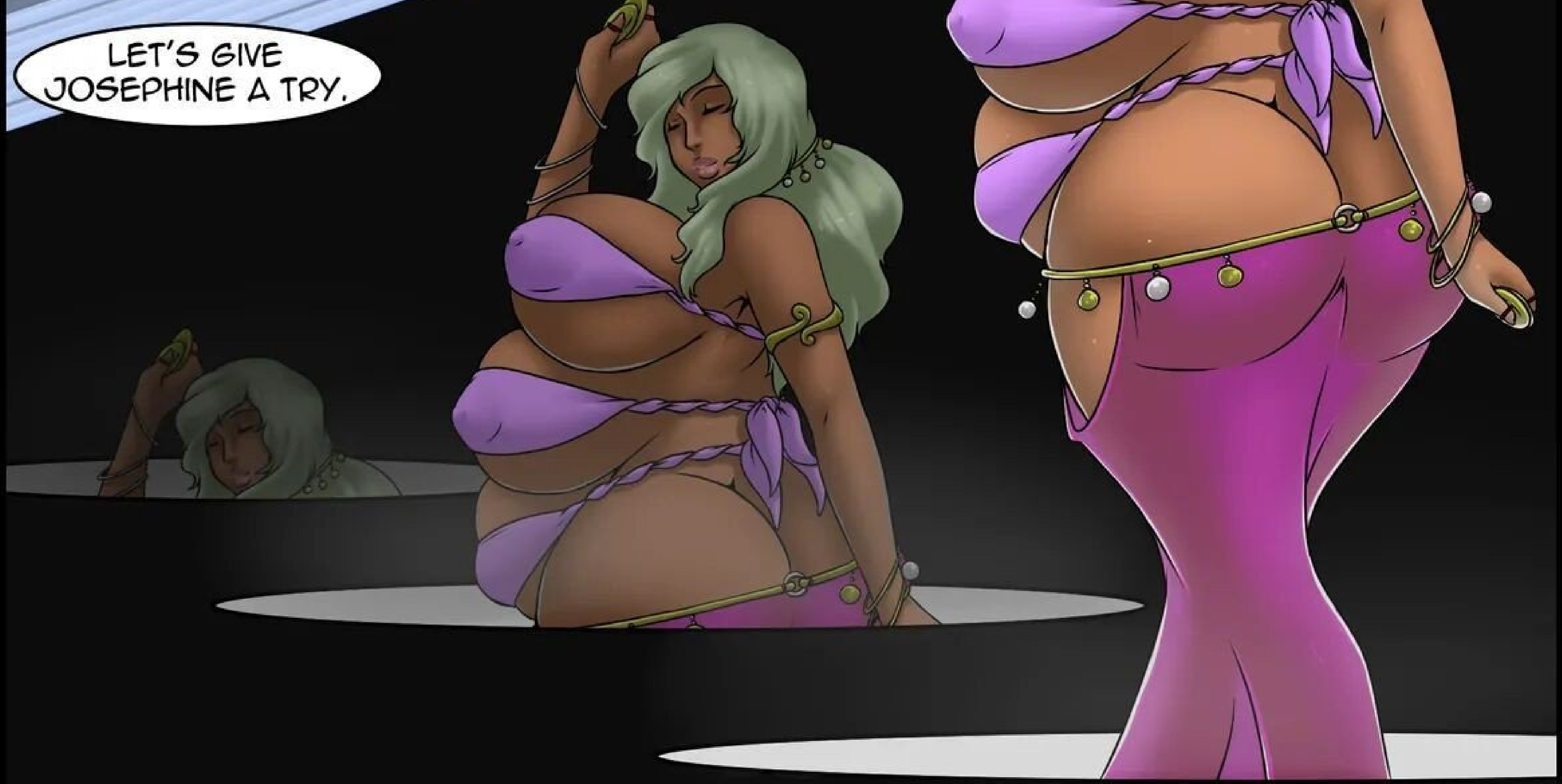
I HAVEN'T SETTLED ON ONE YET.

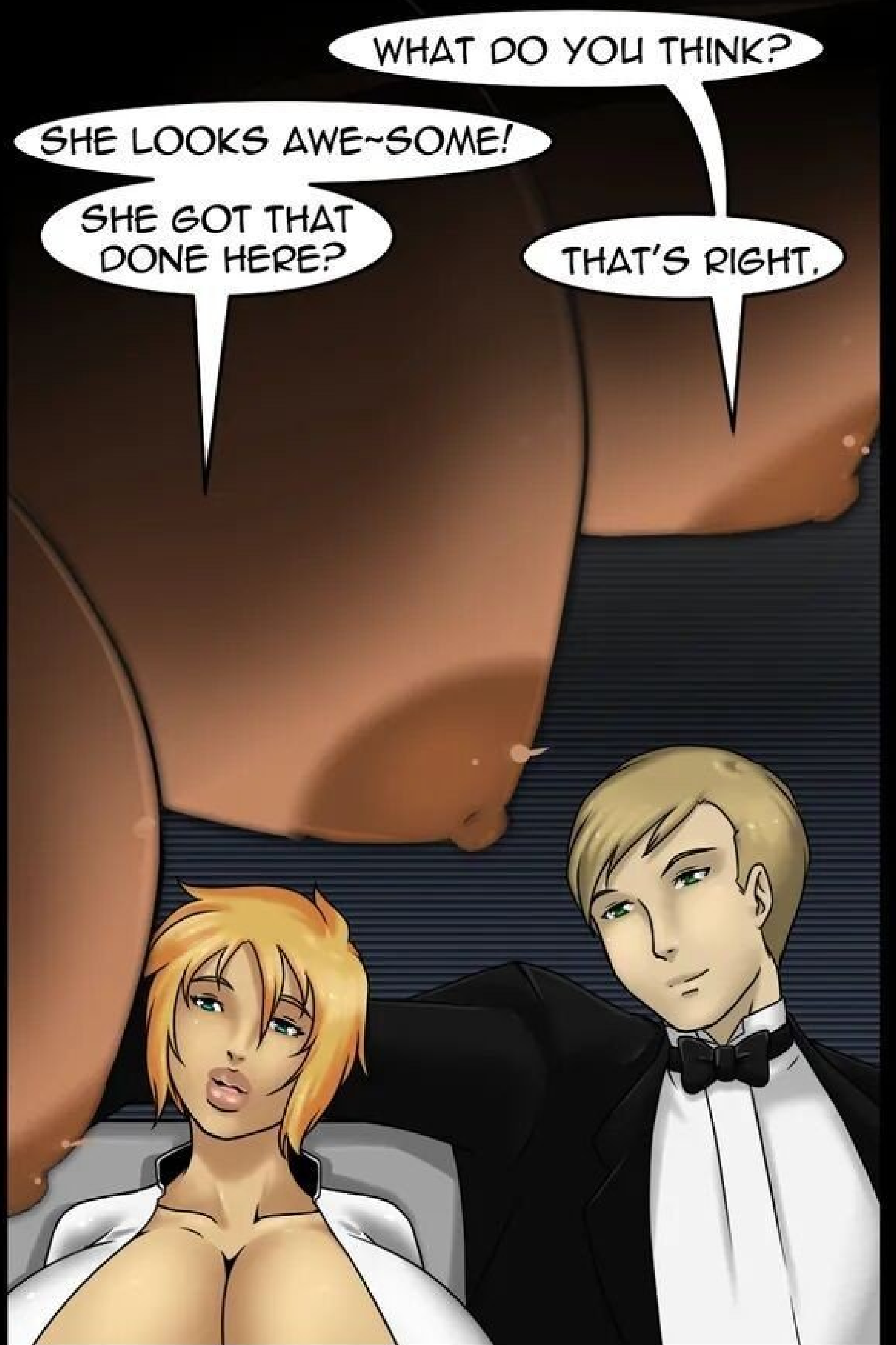
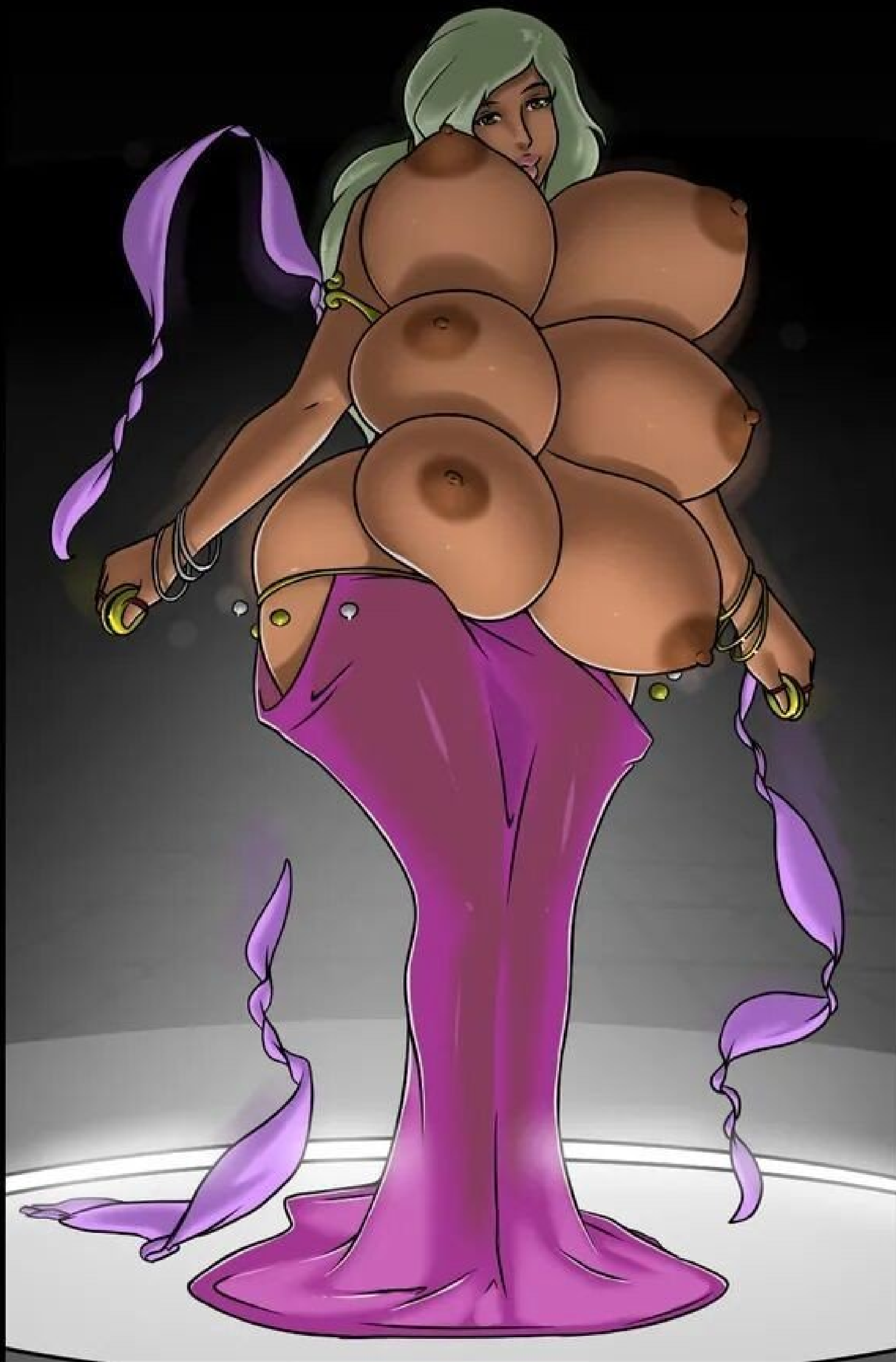
SO, I MAKE DO WITH OTHERS' FOR NOW.

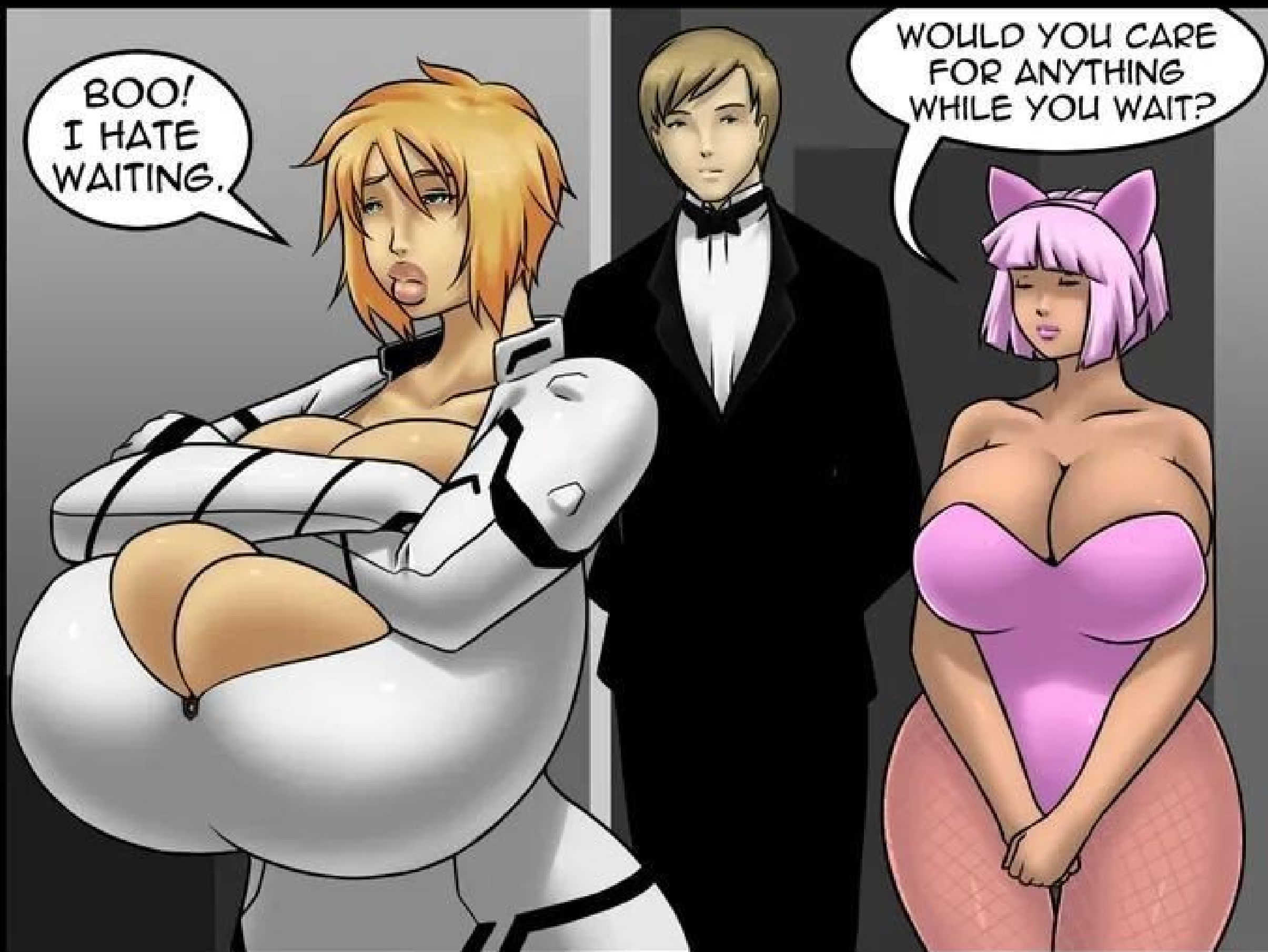
WE'LL SEE WHO'S AROUND.



LET'S GIVE JOSEPHINE A TRY.













WE DON'T GET MANY
PEOPLE TRYING TO
SNEAK IN HERE.

WHO ARE YOU AND
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I'M HERE FOR
MISS PROIS.

TAKE ME TO HER,
NOW.



HA!!

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN
ANY POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS.

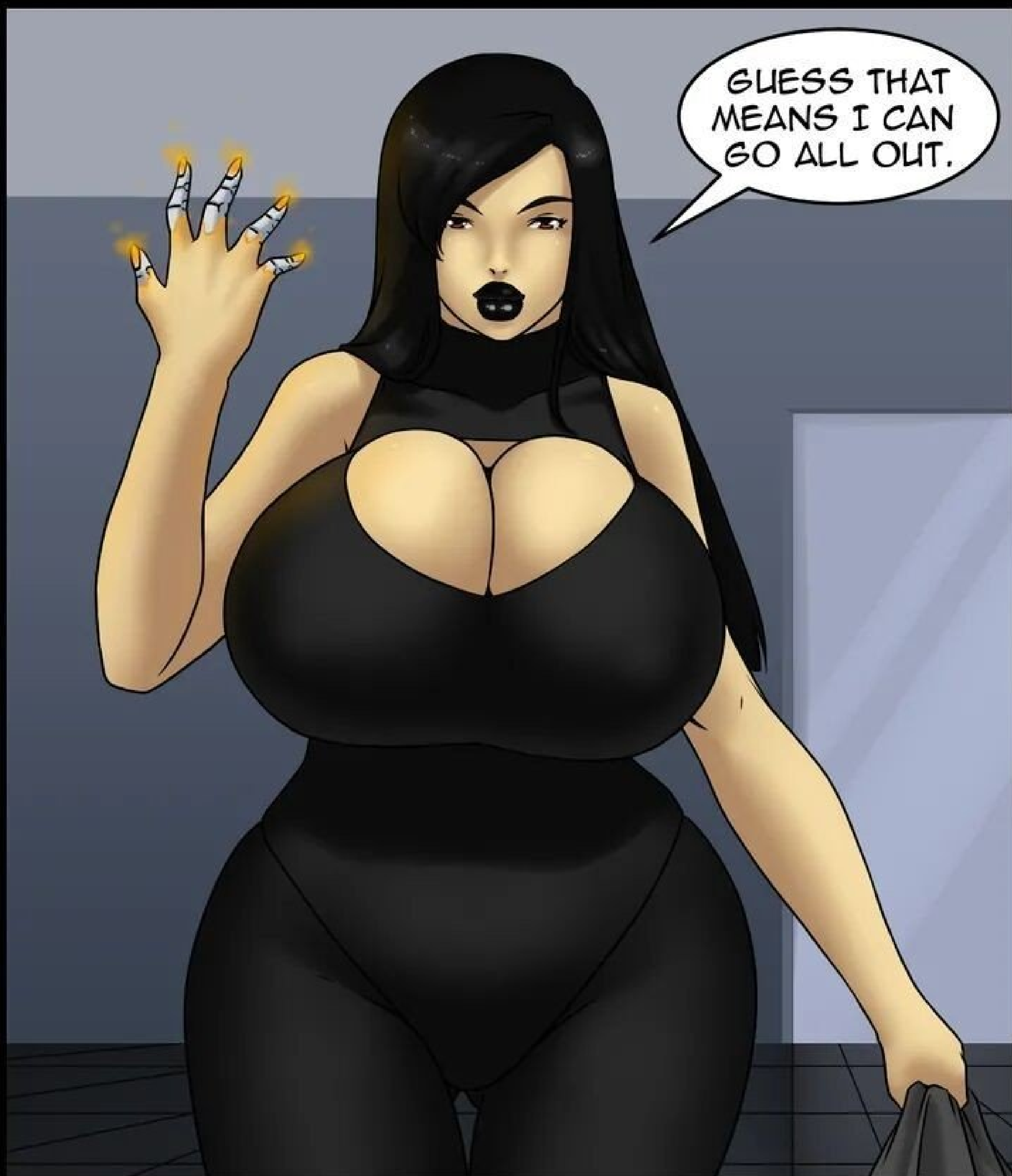
BUT...

SINCE WE SO RARELY GET
VISITORS LIKE YOURSELF;
I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO
CONTINUE YOUR LITTLE
ADVENTURE.

IF YOU CAN BEAT ME
ONE-ON-ONE, YOU'RE
FREE TO GO ON.



VERY WELL.





SHIT.

ERROR.

