

Blood Train™

VOLUME 



LINDA SEJIC

Top Cow Productions Presents...

Blood & Guts™

VOLUME TWO

created by Linda Sejic



Published by Top Cow Productions, Inc.
Los Angeles



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Top Cow Productions Presents...

Blood Stain™

VOLUME TWO

LINDA SEJIC

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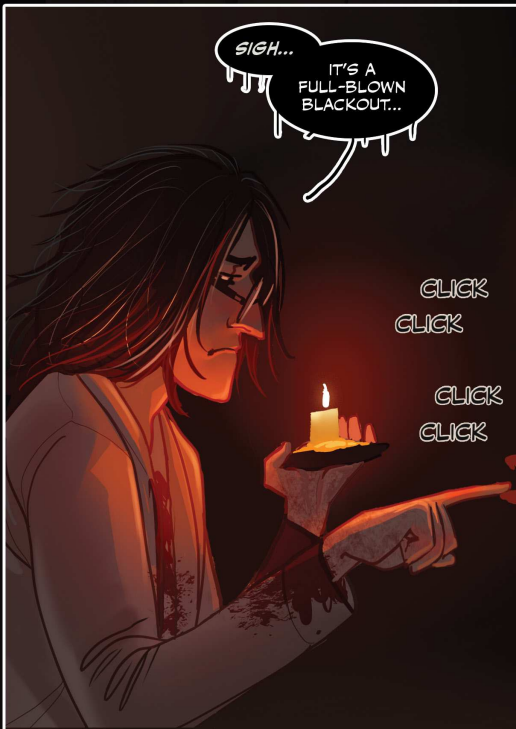
Book Design & Layout

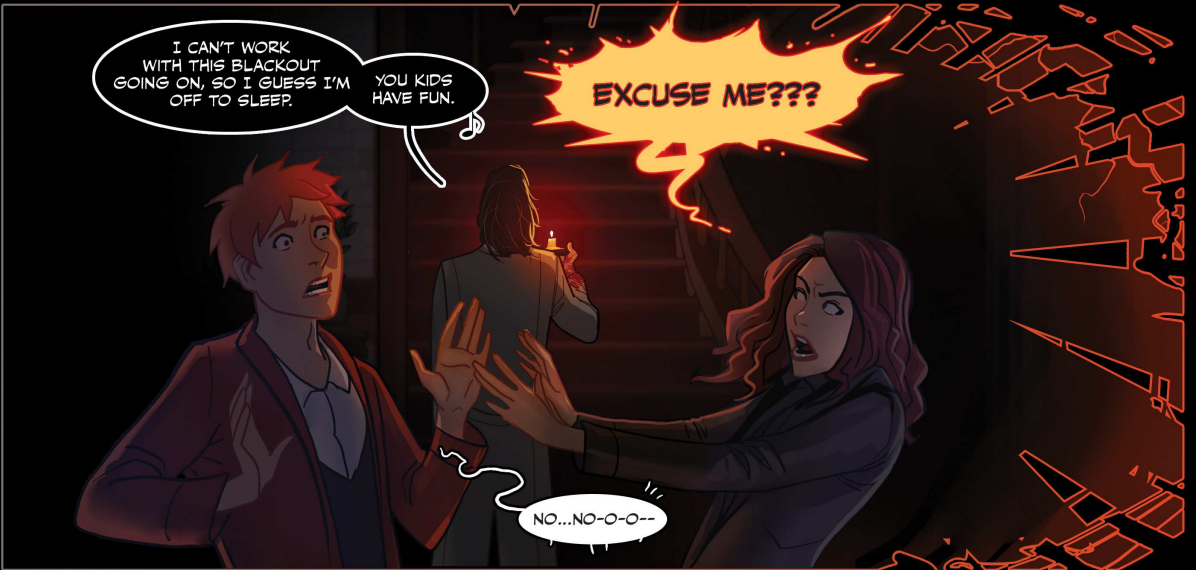
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DAMN WEATHER!

EMPLOYEES
ONLY









HMMM...
INTERESTING.

EFP!

BUMP!

TAP
TAP
TAP

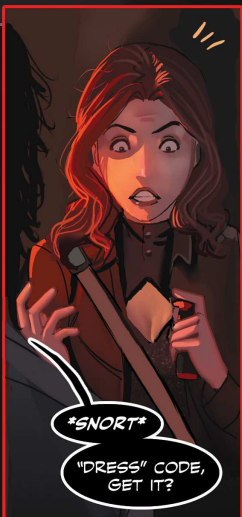
DEAR
GOD...
HE COULD
DISARM AN ARMY
WITH THAT
VOICE...



YOU KNOW, DEAR...
I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE,
BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU ARE A LITTLE
BIT OVERDRESSED FOR THIS JOB?

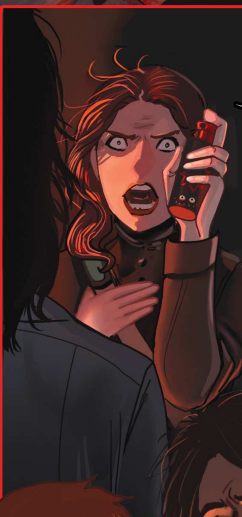
PERSONALLY,
I DON'T MIND...

BUT THERE IS A CERTAIN
DRESS CODE PREFERRED WHEN
WORKING AS A LAB
ASSISTANT.



SNORT

"DRESS" CODE,
GET IT?



DON'T COME
ANY CLOSER!

SERGE?
ARE YOU SURE
SHE IS HERE...
VOLUNTARILY?
SHE
SEEMS A LITTLE
PARANOID.

OH...
I WONDER WHY?
WE JUST WENT THROUGH
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE
EVENTS...
YOU WERE
ONE OF THEM.





WELL... EITHER WAY...
I'M OFF.



WAIT! AREN'T YOU AT LEAST GOING TO PROPERLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF???

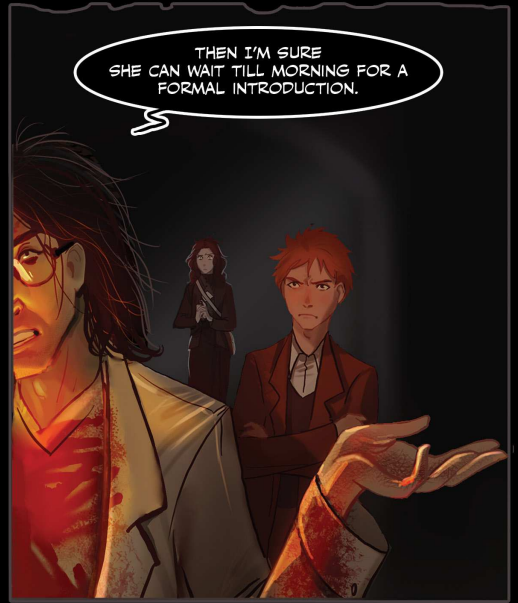
SHE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE TO MAKE IT HERE --



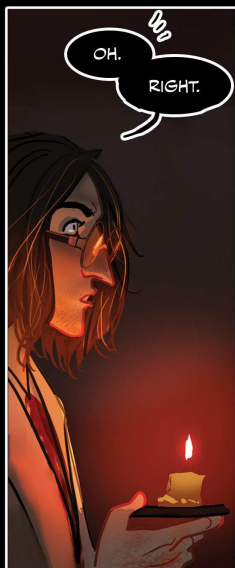
o o o



IF SHE IS REALLY HERE FOR THE ASSISTANT POSITION...



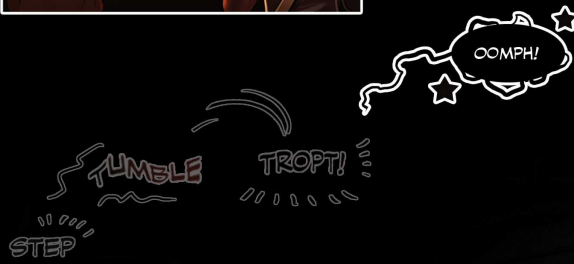
THEN I'M SURE SHE CAN WAIT TILL MORNING FOR A FORMAL INTRODUCTION.

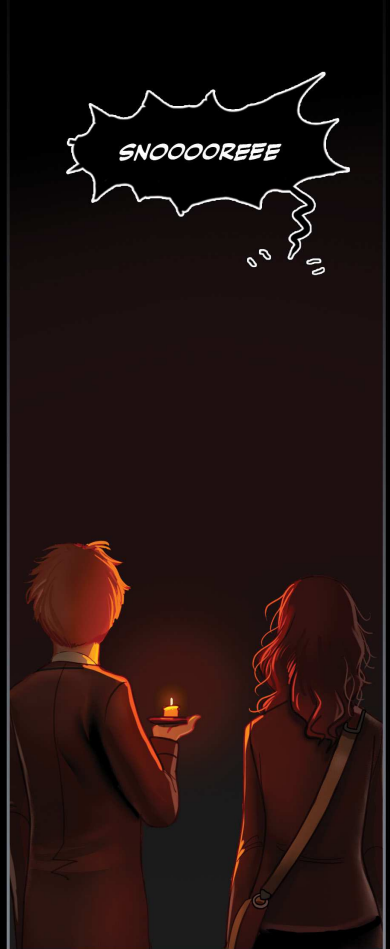
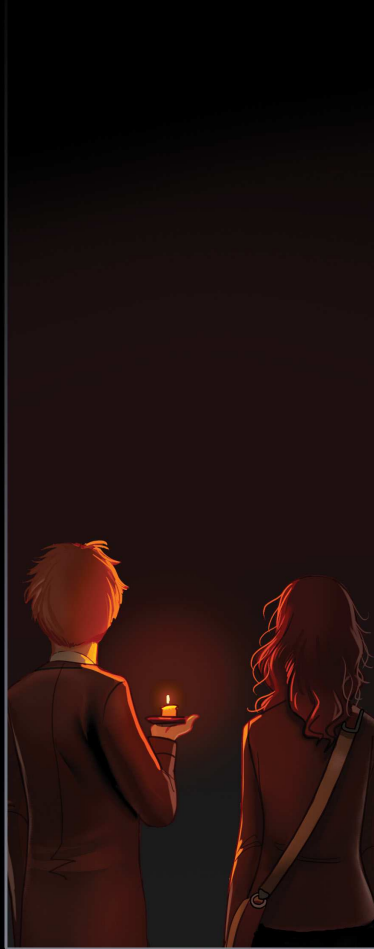
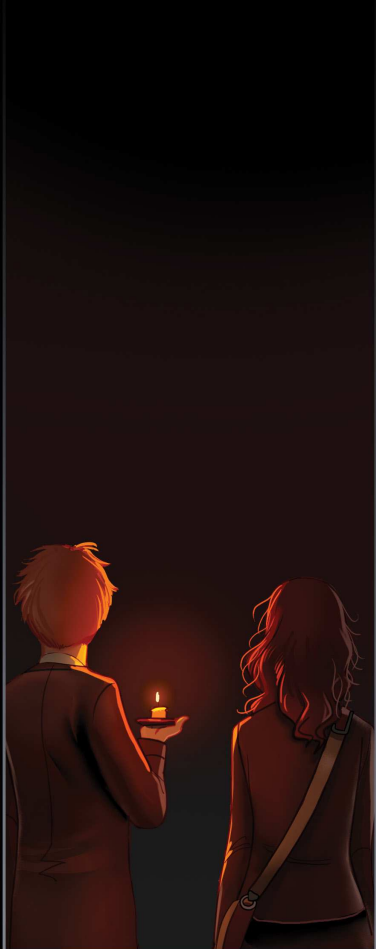


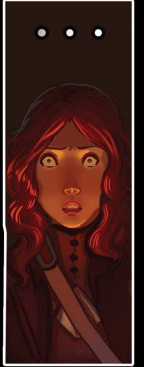
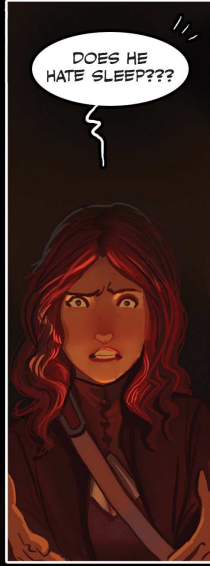
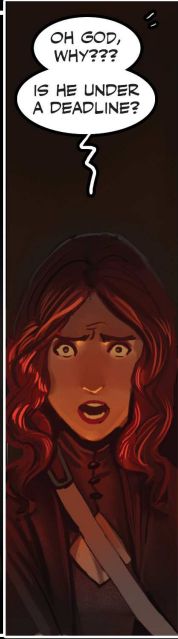
OH.
RIGHT.



HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.









WELL... THIS IS YOUR ROOM.

SO...

GOOD NIGHT.

HOLD ON A MINUTE.

I HAVE A QUESTION.



YES...?

SIGH

WHAT IS IT?



EARLIER TODAY, WHEN I CALLED...

THE DOCTOR SEEMED IN A REAL RUSH TO GET ME HERE.

AND NOW THAT I'M HERE, IT SEEMS LIKE IT WASN'T URGENT AT ALL...



I MEAN, IF I ARRIVED HERE ANY OTHER DAY...IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE AT ALL, WOULD IT?

SO... WAS THIS WHOLE CHARADE REALLY NECESSARY?



I... DON'T KNOW...

HIS BRAIN WAS PROBABLY ON AUTOPILOT AT THAT POINT.

I DON'T THINK HE IS EVEN AWARE OF WHAT HE DID.



BUT HEY! AT LEAST YOU GOT A FREE TICKET HERE.



AND I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING --

IF HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF HIS ACTIONS, HE NEVER WOULD'VE PAID FOR YOUR TRAVEL

I CAN GUARANTEE IT.



HE IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN EARNING YOUR PLACE HERE WITH YOUR OWN HARD WORK.

FINDING YOUR OWN WAY HERE IS JUST A FIRST STEP.

HMPH...

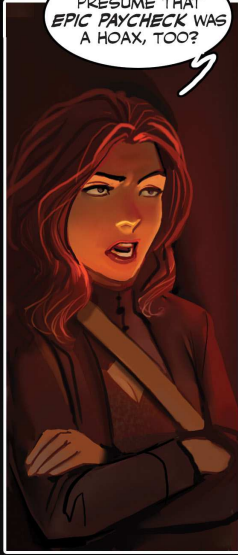
SO IF I WAITED... I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT HERE AT ALL, THEN...

WHO CAN AFFORD TO TRAVEL IN TIMES LIKE THESE...

TALK ABOUT DUMB LUCK.



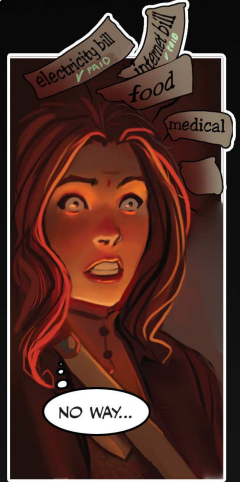
SO I PRESUME THAT EPIC PAYCHECK WAS A HOAX, TOO?



OH, NO.

DOC HAS YOU COVERED THERE. WELL...

...IF YOU GET THE JOB.



NO WAY...

I'M SORRY, ELLIOT, I KNOW YOU MUST BE EXCITED TO BE HERE, AND FULL OF QUESTIONS...

BUT IT'S LATE, AND I'M REALLY EXHAUSTED FROM DRIVING...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I PULLED UP THE ENERGY TO ARGUE WITH HIM...

"EXCITED."



OH...N-NO... I GET IT...

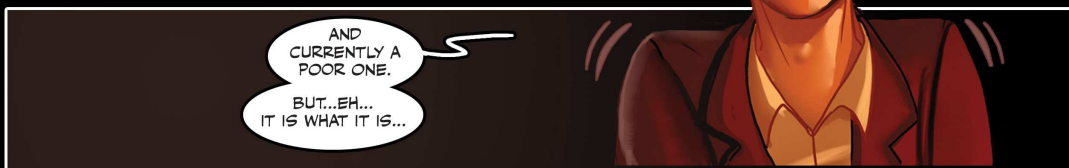
SORRY FOR RAMBLING ON...



NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.

I JUST REGRET THAT I'M NOT IN BETTER SHAPE.

THIS MAY BE THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE, AND HE IS THE BOSS HERE, BUT I AM THE HOST.



AND CURRENTLY A POOR ONE.

BUT..EH... IT IS WHAT IT IS...



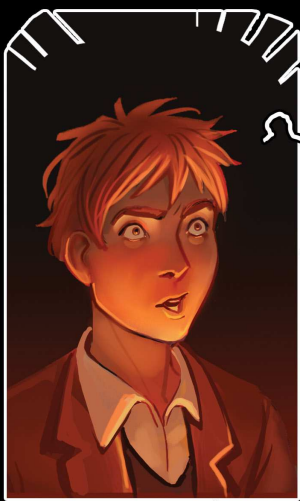
SO, LET'S SAVE QUESTIONS FOR TOMORROW WHEN WE ARE BOTH PROPERLY RESTED, ALRIGHT?

YEAH...



GREAT. SEE YOU IN THE MORNING, THEN. SLEEP TIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.

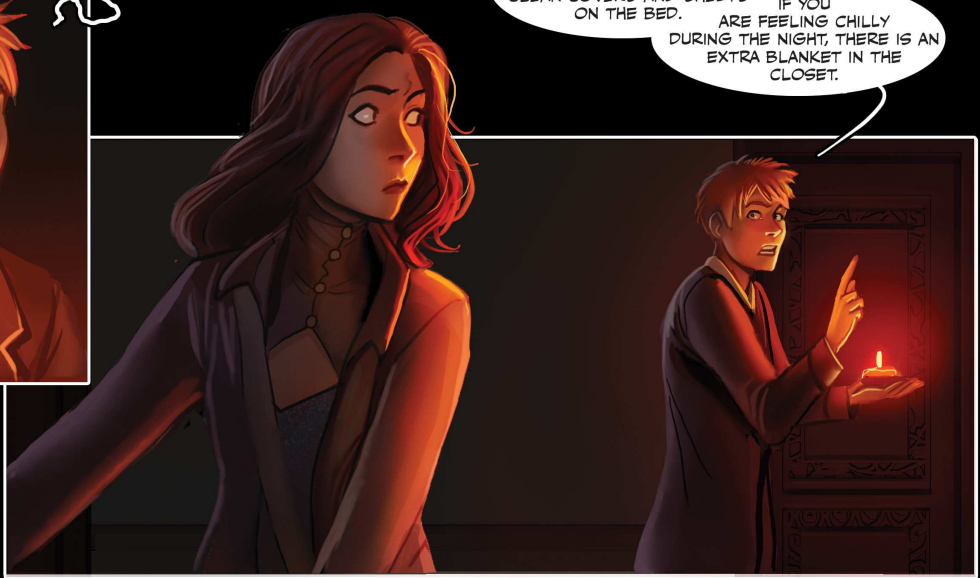


OH!

ONE MORE THING.

I WAS IN A RUSH, SO I JUST DUMPED CLEAN COVERS AND SHEETS ON THE BED.

IF YOU ARE FEELING CHILLY DURING THE NIGHT, THERE IS AN EXTRA BLANKET IN THE CLOSET.



OK, THANKS!

WELCOME.
GOOD NIGHT.

CREEAK



CLACK



'NITE!



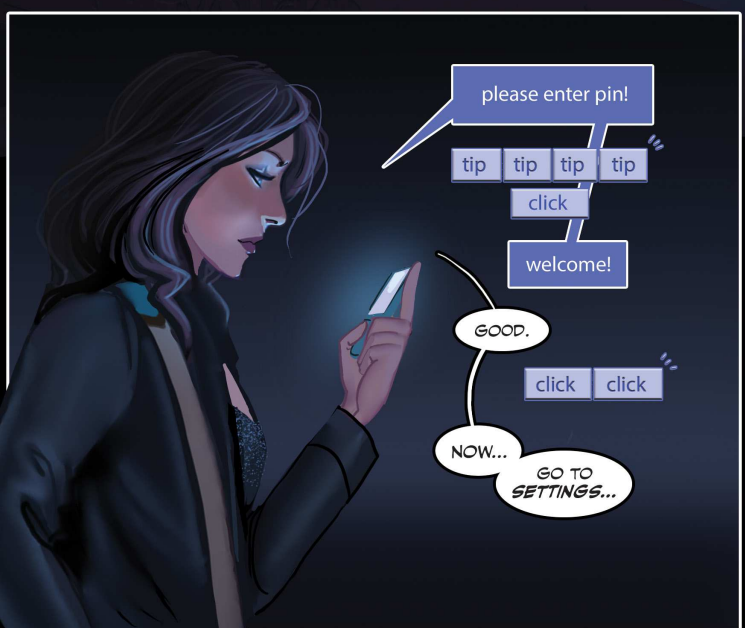
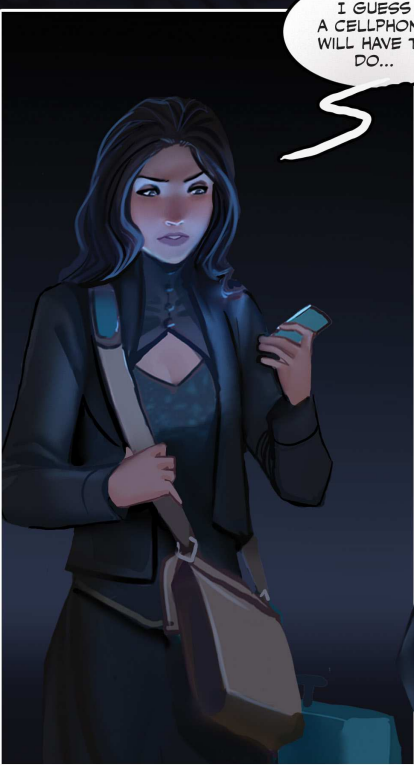
WOW, THIS ROOM!

LOOKS HUGE...

IT'S PROBABLY BIGGER THAN OUR LIVING ROOM BACK HOME...

I WISH I HAD A FLASHLIGHT TO SEE IT BETTER.

I GUESS A CELLPHONE WILL HAVE TO DO...



please enter pin!

tip tip tip tip

click

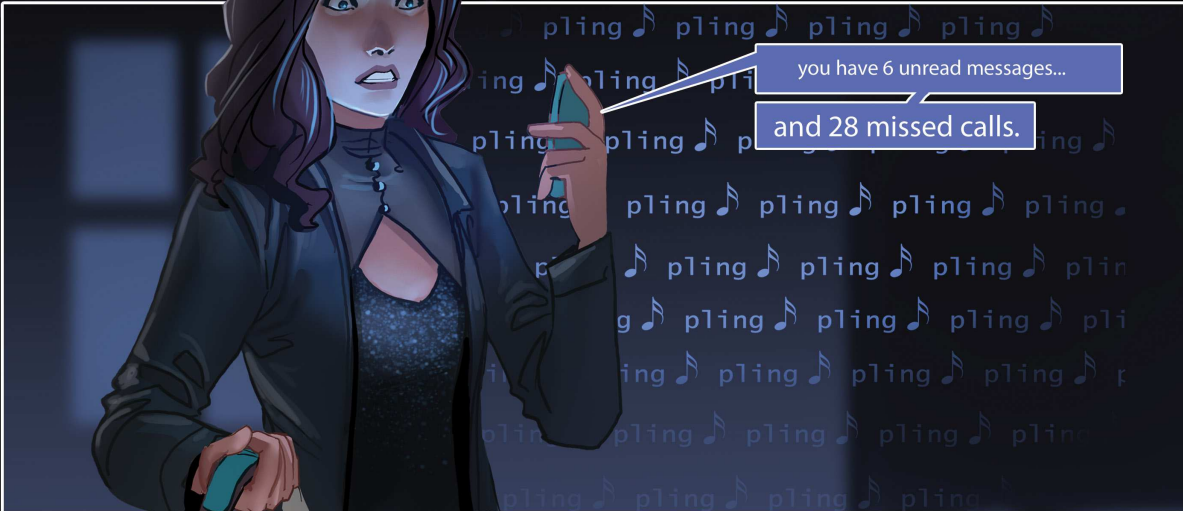
welcome!

GOOD.

click click

NOW...

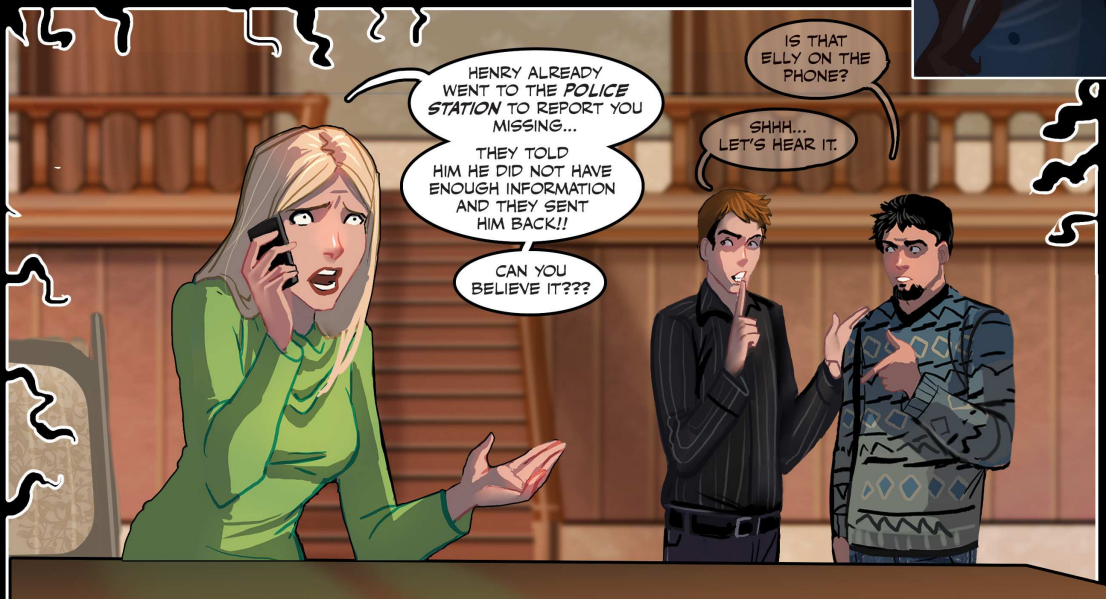
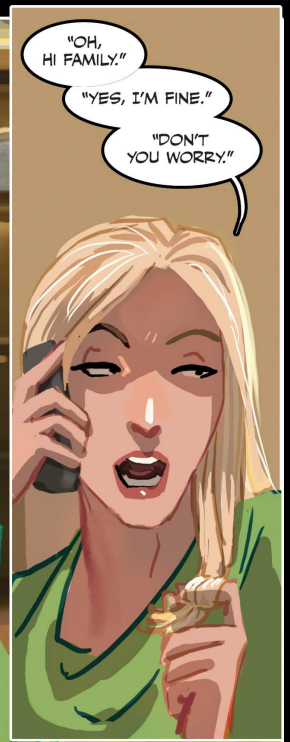
GO TO SETTINGS...



you have 6 unread messages...

and 28 missed calls.

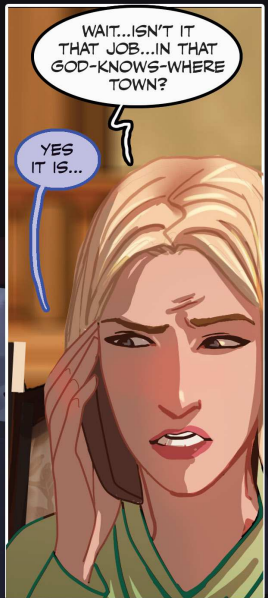






I WAS GETTING READY FOR IT, YES... BUT THAT JOB BUGGED ME, AND I DECIDED TO CALL TO AT LEAST SEE IF THE POSITION WAS STILL AVAILABLE.

AND... GOOD THING I DID. APPARENTLY THE DOCTOR NEEDED AN ASSISTANT URGENTLY, SO I RUSHED TO GET INTERVIEWED.



WAIT...ISN'T IT THAT JOB...IN THAT GOD-KNOWS-WHERE TOWN?

YES IT IS...



THAT'S ALMOST A 10-HOUR RIDE BY A CAR!

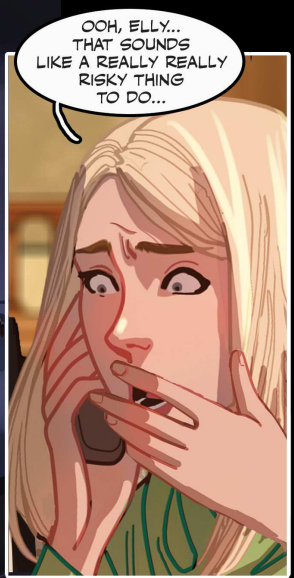
HOW DID YOU EVEN GET THERE???

SHE'S WHERE???



HE... SPONSORED A PLANE TICKET FOR ME. IN EXCHANGE, I MADE IT HERE TODAY, WHICH WAS WHY I RUSHED LIKE CRAZY...

TURNS OUT THE GUY IS WORKING UNDER SOME EXTREME DEADLINE.



OOH, ELLY... THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY REALLY RISKY THING TO DO...

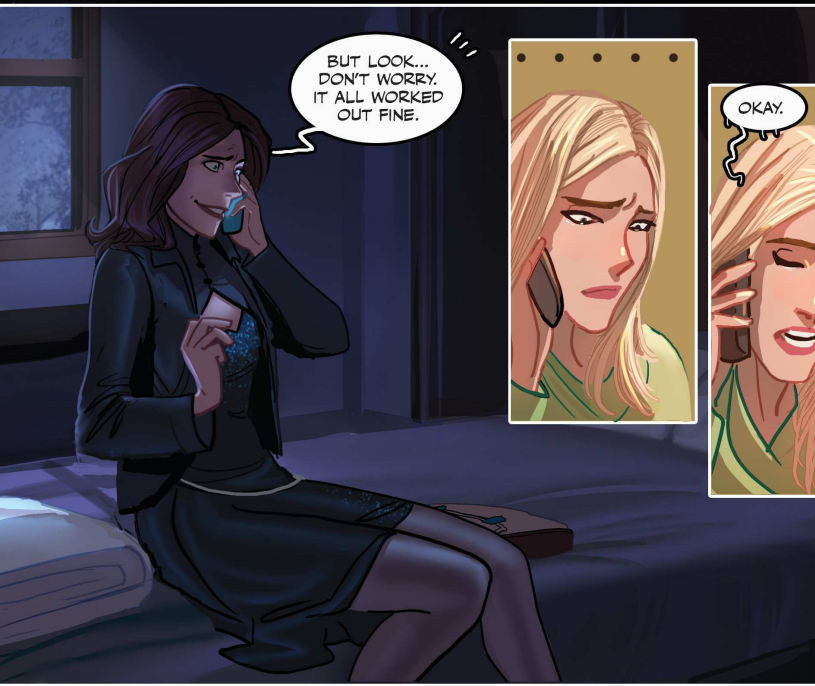


I KNOW... BUT I HAD TO TAKE A CHANCE.

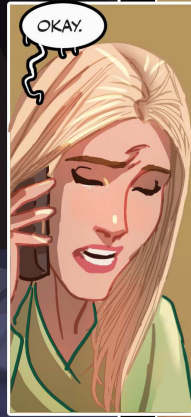
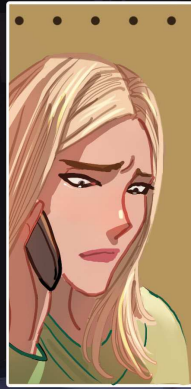


I HAD TO DO... SOMETHING.

I'M SICK OF SITTING AROUND USELESS AT HOME.



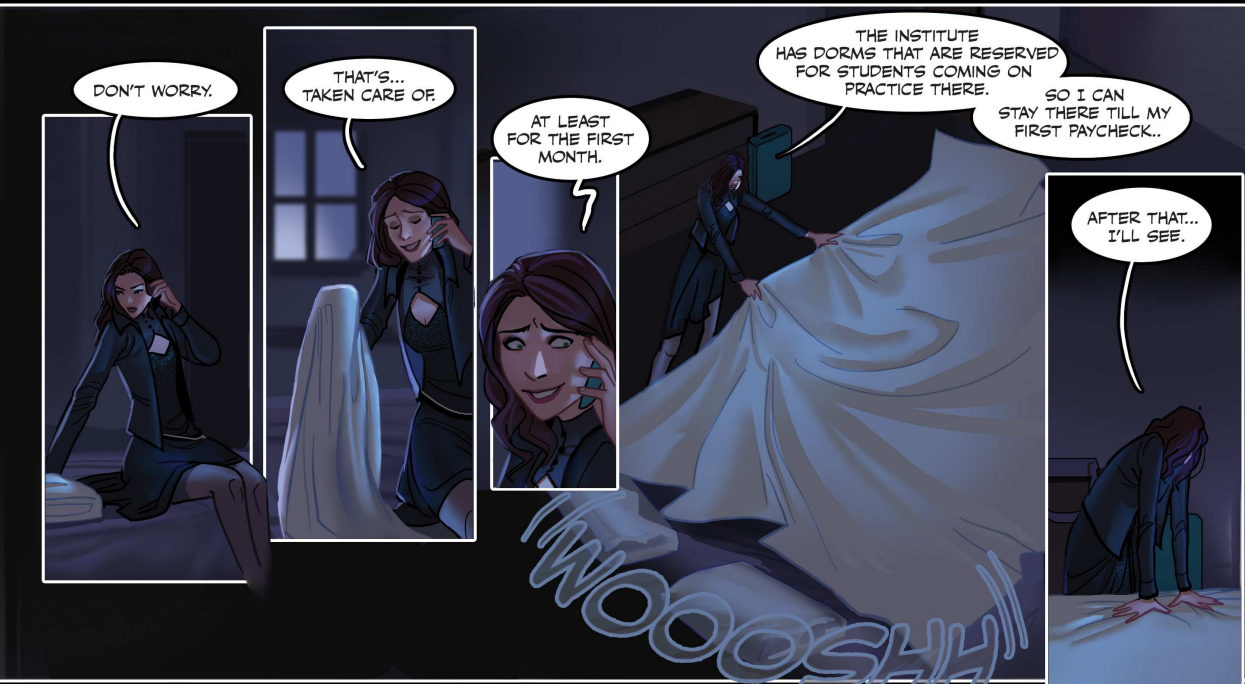
BUT LOOK... DON'T WORRY. IT ALL WORKED OUT FINE.



OKAY.



WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT THERE?
WHERE WILL YOU SLEEP?



DON'T WORRY.

THAT'S... TAKEN CARE OF.

AT LEAST FOR THE FIRST MONTH.

THE INSTITUTE HAS DORMS THAT ARE RESERVED FOR STUDENTS COMING ON PRACTICE THERE.

SO I CAN STAY THERE TILL MY FIRST PAYCHECK...

AFTER THAT... I'LL SEE.

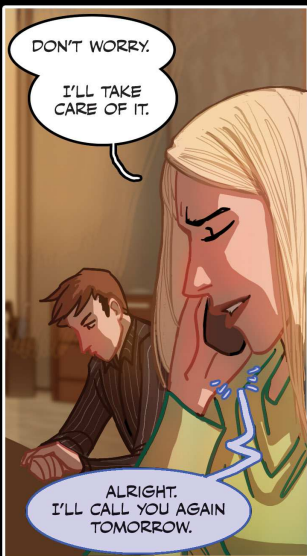
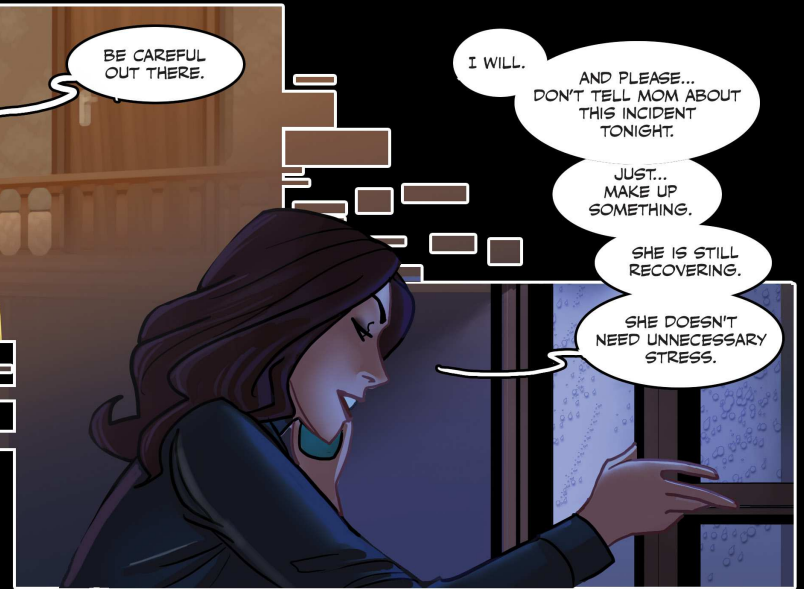
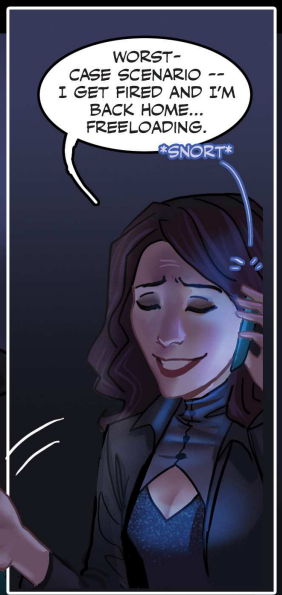
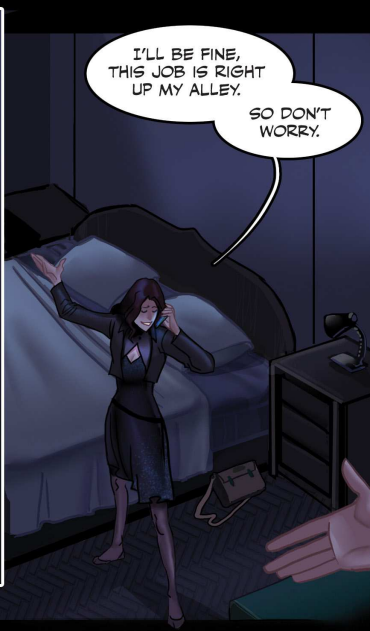
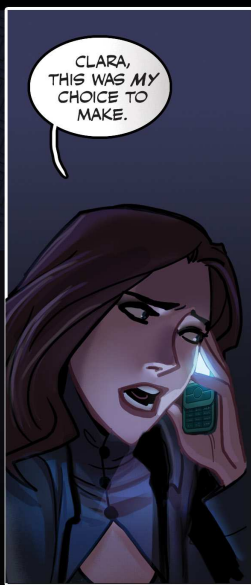
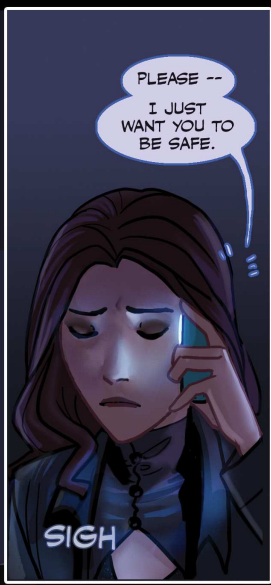
WOOSH

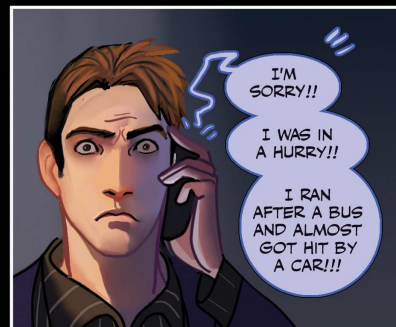
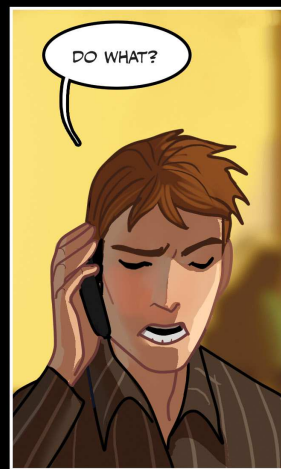


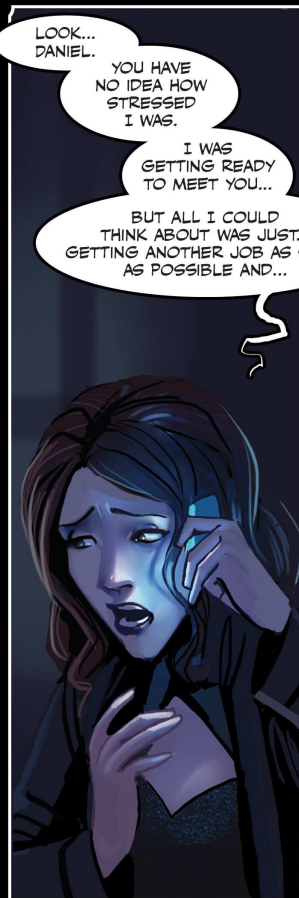
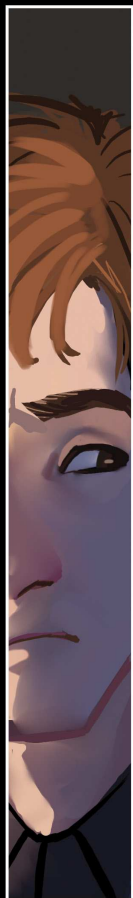
I'LL TRY TO FIND A SMALL, CHEAP APARTMENT.

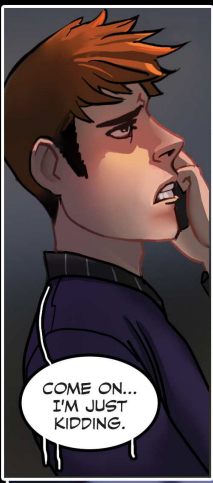
OH, ELLY... YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR. I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID BEFORE!

WE ARE IN A CRISIS, YES. BUT WE WOULD'VE MANAGED SOMEHOW... WE ALWAYS DO!

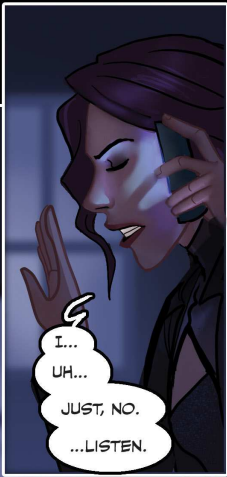




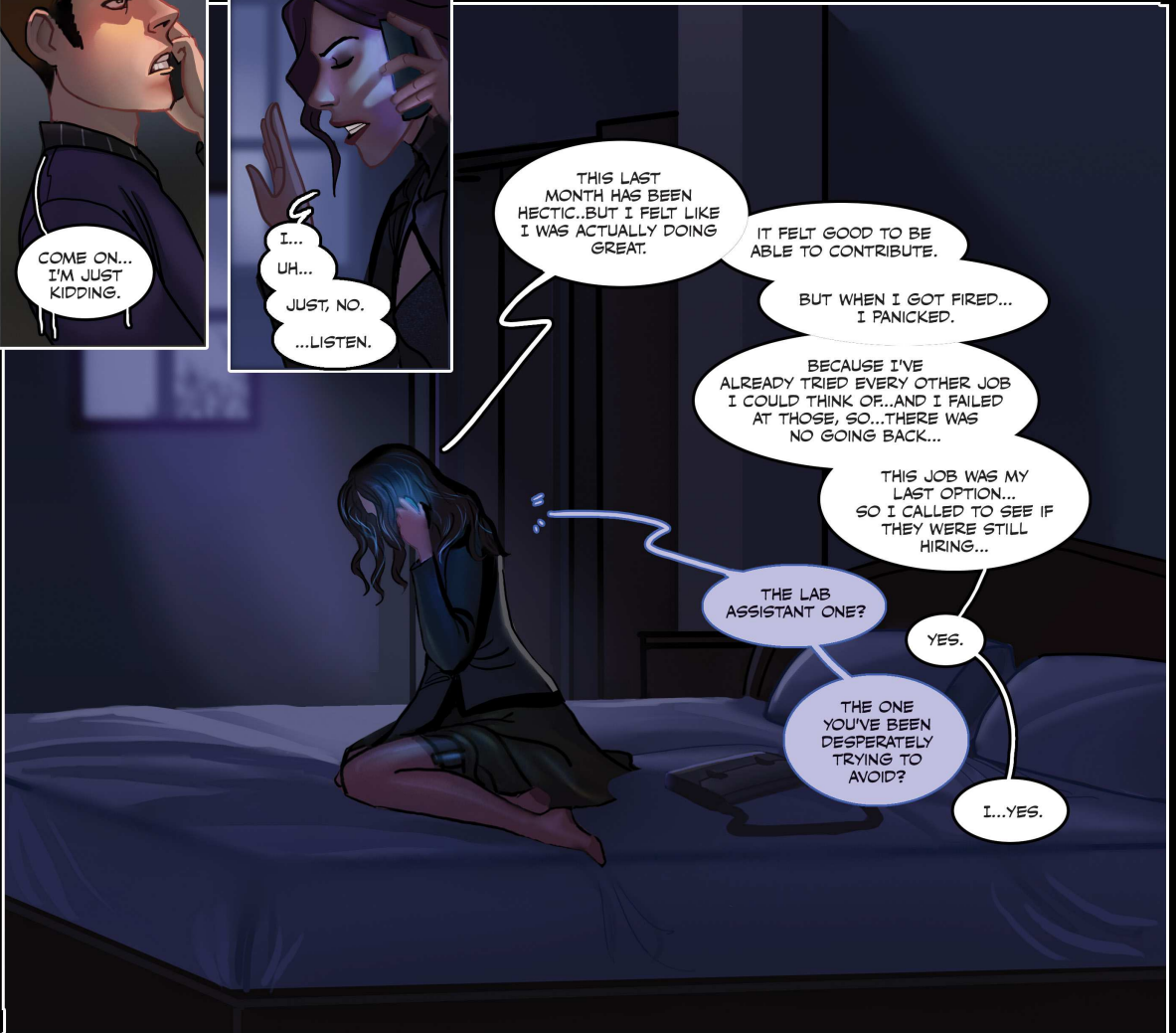




COME ON...
I'M JUST
KIDDING.



I...
UH...
JUST, NO.
...LISTEN.



THIS LAST
MONTH HAS BEEN
HECTIC..BUT I FELT LIKE
I WAS ACTUALLY DOING
GREAT.

IT FELT GOOD TO BE
ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE.

BUT WHEN I GOT FIRED...
I PANICKED.

BECAUSE I'VE
ALREADY TRIED EVERY OTHER JOB
I COULD THINK OF..AND I FAILED
AT THOSE, SO..THERE WAS
NO GOING BACK...

THIS JOB WAS MY
LAST OPTION...
SO I CALLED TO SEE IF
THEY WERE STILL
HIRING...

THE LAB
ASSISTANT ONE?

YES.

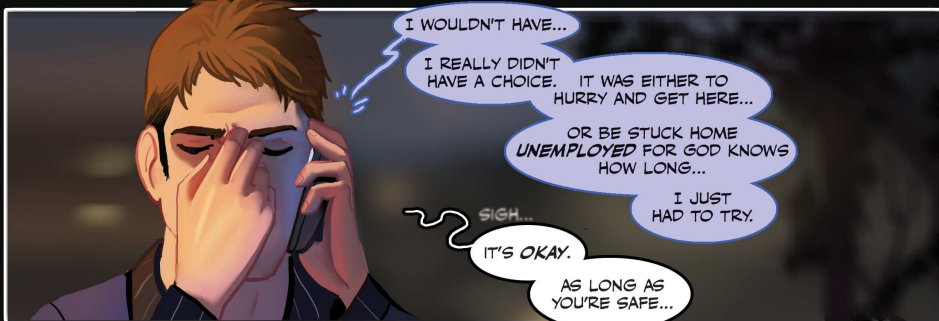
THE ONE
YOU'VE BEEN
DESPERATELY
TRYING TO
AVOID?

I...YES.



I...DIDN'T THINK
I WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL HERE
RIGHT AWAY...

AND I DIDN'T THINK
YOU WOULD RANDOMLY
RUN OFF LIKE THAT.



I WOULDN'T HAVE...
I REALLY DIDN'T
HAVE A CHOICE. IT WAS EITHER TO
HURRY AND GET HERE...
OR BE STUCK HOME
UNEMPLOYED FOR GOD KNOWS
HOW LONG...
I JUST
HAD TO TRY.
SIGH...
IT'S OKAY.
AS LONG AS
YOU'RE SAFE...



SOOO...

TELL ME.



DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?

WHAT'S IT LIKE?



OH!

YEAH...I DO.

AND IT'S... FINE.

NOTHING SPECIAL.

Y'KNOW...

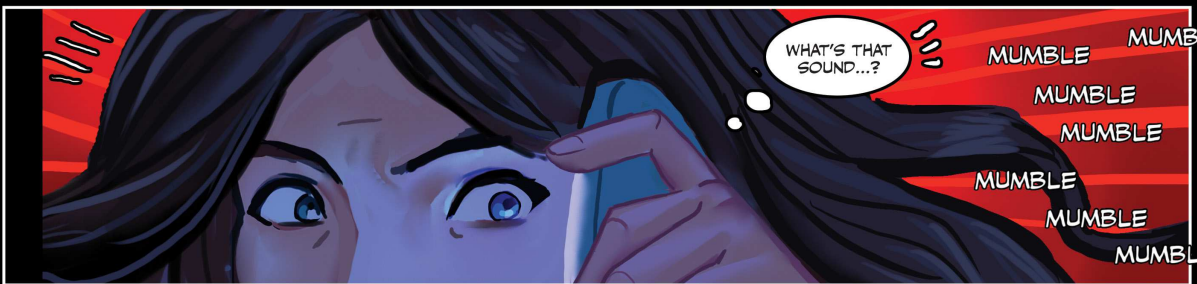
JUST A SIMPLE DORM ROOM.



A ONE-SIDED BED...

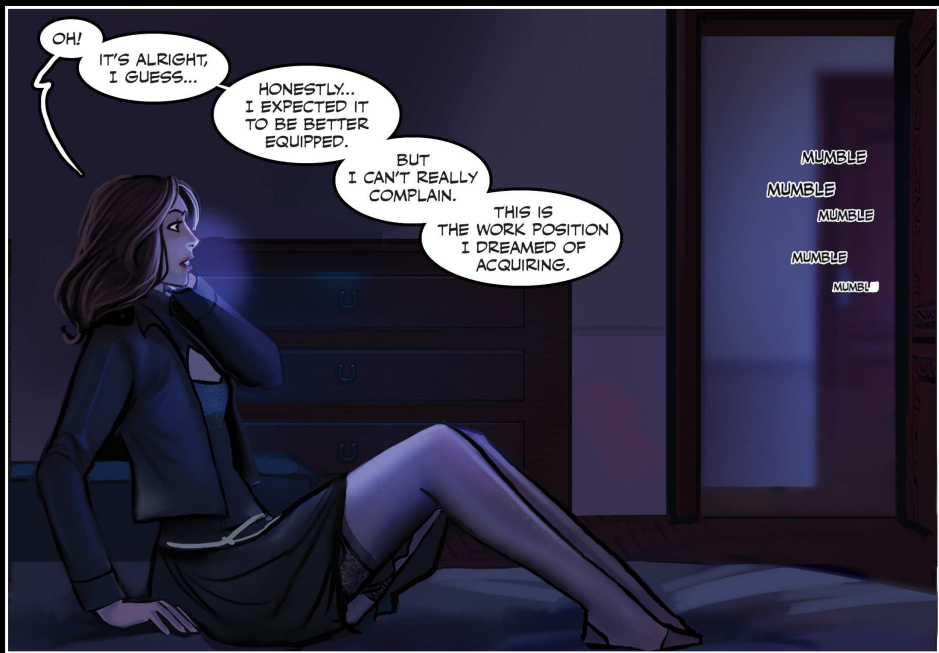
A WARDROBE... A TABLE WITH A LAMP.

...AND YOUR WORKPLACE?



WHAT'S THAT SOUND...?

MUMBLE MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE



OH!

IT'S ALRIGHT, I GUESS...

HONESTLY... I EXPECTED IT TO BE BETTER EQUIPPED.

BUT I CAN'T REALLY COMPLAIN.

THIS IS THE WORK POSITION I DREAMED OF ACQUIRING.

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE



BUT AS A WORKPLACE...

ACK!!

YEAH... IT'S JUST YOUR USUAL...

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE



BORING.



LAB.

HEH, YOU SOUND CONFIDENT.

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR IT.



AND YOUR COLLEAGUES?

HAVE YOU MET THEM YET?

WHO IS HE TALKING TO?

MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
...CANNOT BE REANIMATED.
MUMBLE



THUD

WHAT THE HELL?



SNOOOOOOREEE

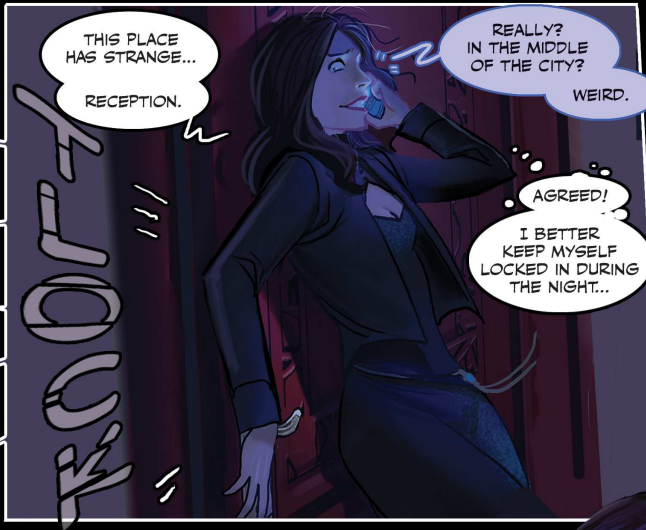
OH!
GOOD...
HE FELL ASLEEP
AGAIN...

ELLY??
ARE YOU
THERE?

OH!
THEY ARE...
ALRIGHT.

YOU KNOW...
JUST YOUR...
REGULAR...SCIENCE...
PEOPLE.

THAT WAS
QUITE A PAUSE.
ARE YOU OK?



THIS PLACE
HAS STRANGE...
RECEPTION.

REALLY?
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE CITY?
WEIRD.

AGREED!
I BETTER
KEEP MYSELF
LOCKED IN DURING
THE NIGHT...



ANYWAY...
LISTEN.
I SHOULD
REALLY GET
GOING NOW.

IT'S LATE
AND I NEED TO
GET UP EARLY
TOMORROW.

MAYBE
THERE'S
A KEY IN THE
LOCK.

TAP
TAP
TAP



YEAH, ALRIGHT.
REST UP.
AND TAKE CARE.

I WILL.

WHERE IS IT?

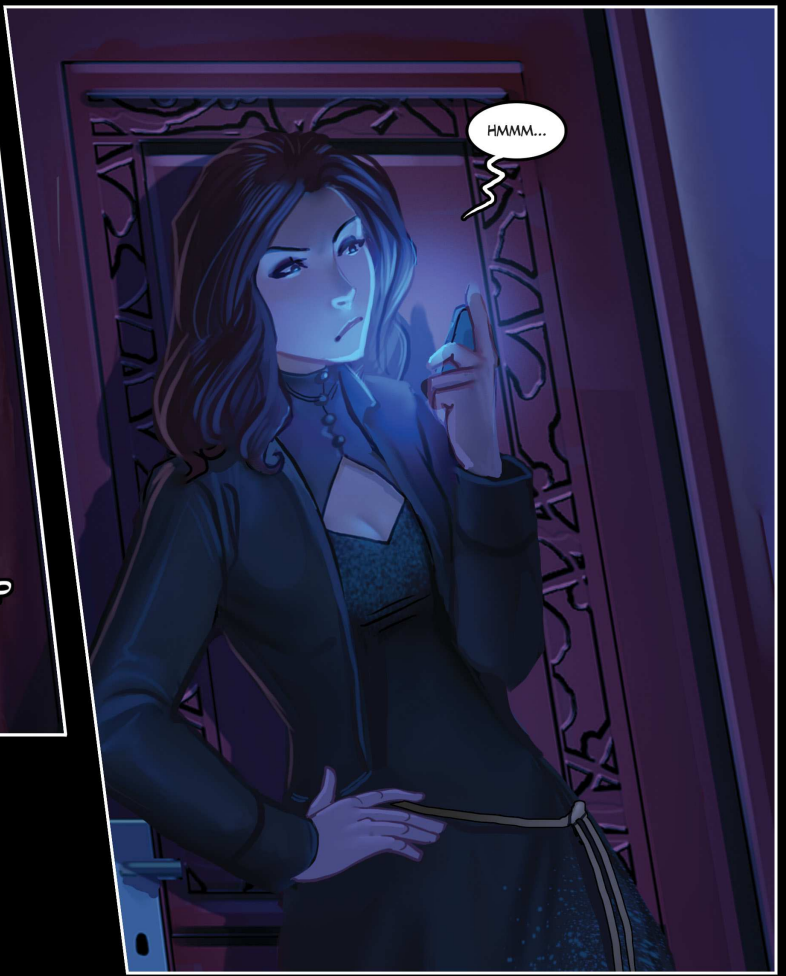
I CAN'T
FEEL IT.

GOOD NIGHT,
DANNY.

NITE-NITE,
BIRDIE.

CLICK

TAP
TAP
TAP





THERE'S NO KEY.

NO KEY!!!

I'M IN AN OPEN ROOM WITH WEIRDOS ROAMING AROUND.



OH, GOD...WHAT TO DO...

I SURE AS HELL AIN'T LETTING THAT *THING* IN HERE...

EVEN IF IT *IS* HIS HOUSE.



HMMM.



MAYBE THE KEY IS INSIDE ONE OF THOSE BED CABINETS...



EMPTY?

PARTIALLY.

KRRRR



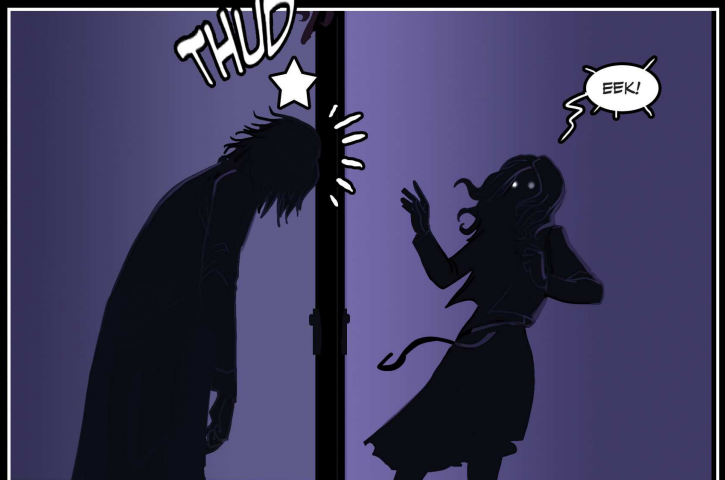
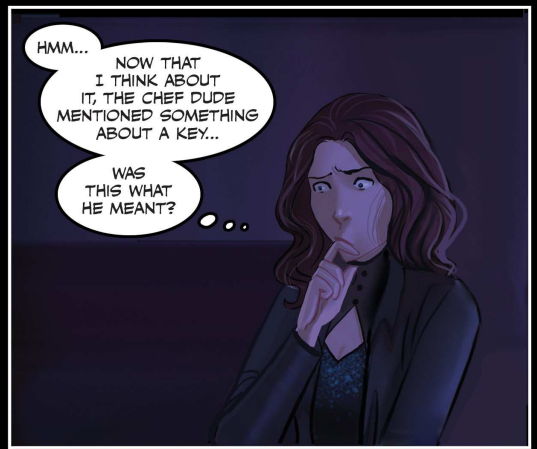
ERM... SOMETHING...?

PENCILS?

SCISSORS?

MAYBE...?

KRRRR



SCREW
THE KEY!!!





TRY AND BREAK THIS BARRICADE!
I DARE YOU!

PUFF...
PANT...
WHEW...



SNORE



GOD, WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?



SNORE!

SIGH



SNOOREEE

I AGREE, DOCTOR.

I SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP, TOO.



AT LEAST THE BED IS COMFY.
AND GIVEN THE CHAOS I WENT THROUGH TODAY, I THINK I DESERVE A GOOD NIGHT'S REST...

I GOT FIRED...

APPLIED FOR A NEW JOB...



RAN AFTER A BUS...



GOT SOAKING WET...

DRIED MYSELF IN AN AIRPORT BATHROOM...



A SMART PERSON ALWAYS CARRIES AN UMBRELLA IN THEIR BAG...

THAT SAYS A THING OR TWO ABOUT ME...



ACOM AIRBUS IS DEPARTING TO GOD-KNOWS-WHERE IN 30 MINUTES.

ALL PASSENGERS PREPARE FOR BOARDING.

AND STILL MANAGED TO GET ON THAT PLANE ON TIME!

CRAP!! I HAVE TO HURRY!!

ARRIVED HERE...

LIED TO MY FAMILY...

I'M NOT PROUD OF IT...

BUT IF I TOLD THEM THE TRUTH...

YOU'RE RESIDING WHERE???

SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...

YOU ARE LIVING IN A HOUSE WITH TWO STRANGERS.

ONE OF THEM IS A CREEPY OLDER GUY, WHO YOU SUSPECT MIGHT BE DOING SOME SHADY BUSINESS GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU WILL BE RECEIVING FOR PERFORMING SOME SIMPLE LAB TASKS.

AND THE OTHER ONE IS SUSPICIOUSLY TOO FRIENDLY WITH YOU...

.....

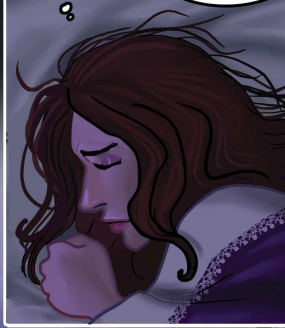
NOPE!

THAT WOULD COMPLICATE THINGS SO MUCH MORE.

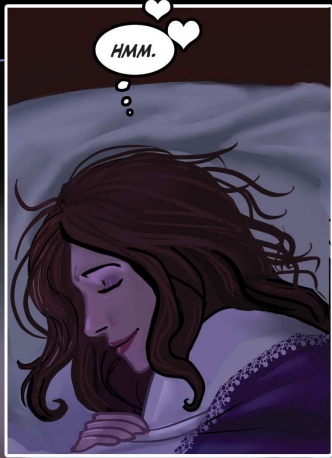
NO!
THIS IS MY MESS,
AND I HAVE TO TAKE
CARE OF IT
ALONE.
THERE IS
NO OTHER
WAY AROUND
IT.



SIGH
I WISH
I DIDN'T HAVE
TO, THOUGH...
I WISH HE
WAS HERE
WITH ME...



HMM.



HEY, ELLY!

DANNY!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



I AM HERE
TO TAKE YOU AWAY
FROM THIS HORRIBLE
PLACE!



OK, WAIT.

SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT.

POOF!

SNORREEE

I AM HERE
TO CLAIM WHAT
IS MINE!!

YESSS!

THAT IS SOOO BADASS!!

WHAT IS THAT?
DRAGONS?





NOW THAT YOU HAVE FOUND THIS PLACE...

YOU SHALL NEVER LEAVE ALIVE!!!!

I'M VERY SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR LOVELY GETAWAY --

BUT THE **BILLS** JUST ARRIVED!

HEY!

DO YOU MIND?

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SPEECH.

IT TURNS OUT WE ARE ALL GOING TO LIVE IN A CARDBOARD BOX FROM NOW ON.

CRITICAL HIT!

LET ME TELL YOU.

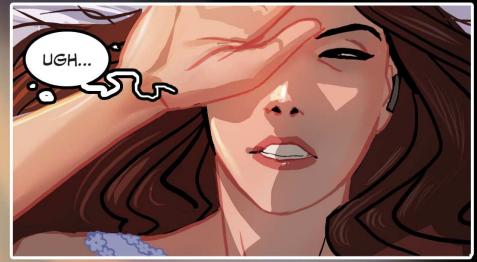
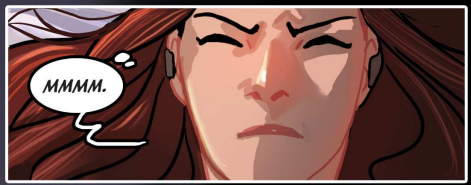
SHE HAS ONE HELL OF AN IMAGINATION.

QUITE.

AAAAAAAARGH!!!

DIE, BRAIN!!!

LET ME SLEEP!





THE JOB.

WELCOME!

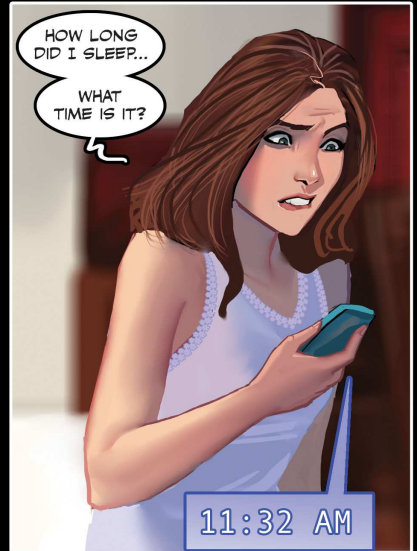


HE...LOOKS EXACTLY AS HE SOUNDS...

TALK ABOUT A HORRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION...



SPEAKING OF WHICH...



HOW LONG DID I SLEEP...

WHAT TIME IS IT?

11:32 AM



OH, CRAP!
IT'S SUPER LATE!!!





SERGE... WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS TIME AND TIME AGAIN. AND YET I STILL FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THIS OBSESSION OF YOURS.

FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, I AM IN MY OWN HOME! AND BESIDES...

RRR
KZZZ
R



KHM...
ANYWAY!
AS I WAS SAYING...



...ARE NOT...

...EXPECTING...

...ANY GUESTS.



ARE WE??



..

ULST LEEEE



OK...

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT??

DO YOU HEAR IT, TOO?

YEAH...





TAK

TAK

TAK



OH, CRAP, THAT'S HIM!!

GOTTASTOP!
GOTTASTOP!
GOTTASTOP!



EH???



GRAB!



SCREE!



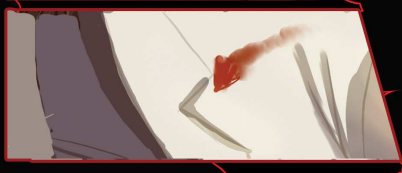
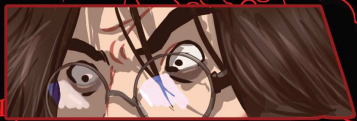
UH...

Hi...

HELLO.



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?



I -- I'M--
I'M --- I ---



"...I AM ELLIOT..."



I AM ELLIOT.

"AND I AM HERE FOR THE ASSISTANT POSITION --"

A...A...AND I AM HERE FOR THE ASSISTANT POSITION!

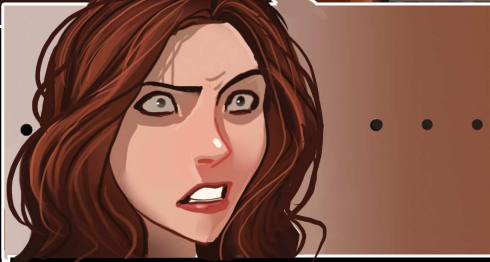
"AND I THINK **SERGE** IS SMOKING HOT!"



AND I THINK...



...





ARE YOU F***** KIDDING ME???

THIS MORNING...

I HAVE SPENT...

AT LEAST AN HOUR DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE...



ALRIGHT... CALM DOWN.



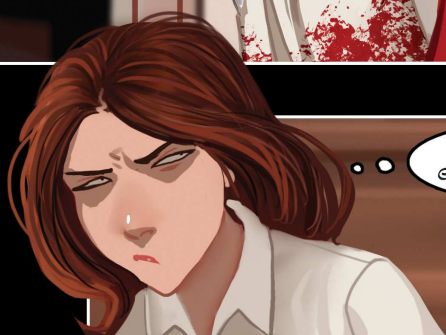
OF COURSE I'M KIDDING.

I KNOW WHY SHE'S HERE.

AFTER ALL, IT WAS ME WHO ORCHESTRATED THIS WHOLE THING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

REALLY, MAN...

WORK ON THAT TEMPER...



HMMM -- NOT SURE IF HE'S GENUINELY CLUELESS...

OR JUST DAMN GOOD AT BLUFFING.

EITHER WAY... IF I'M GOING TO WORK HERE, I BETTER KEEP MY EYES OPEN.



WELL THEN, MISS ELLIOT...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US OVER THERE?

...OR DO YOU PREFER JUST...ERM... CROUCHING HERE..?

WE DO HAVE CHAIRS FOR SITTING.

SWISH



WHAT HE ACTUALLY MEANS TO SAY IS...

"HERE, SERGE! YOU MAY HAVE THIS KNIFE BACK, TO STORE IT AS FAR AWAY FROM ME AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN.

"LEST MY NEW ASSOCIATE MIGHT BE UNDER THE FALSE IMPRESSION THAT I AM A *PSYCHOPATH* OF SORTS..."

ALRIGHT...

GATHER CONFIDENCE!

THAT'S THE BOSS.

IF I TAKE THE INITIATIVE, MAYBE I CAN FIX THAT BAD FIRST IMPRESSION!

...YES.

THOSE WERE MY EXACT THOUGHTS.

THANK YOU, SERGE.



THOUGH HIS APPEARANCE IS NOT VERY ENCOURAGING --

AT LEAST THE KNIFE IS OUT OF THE WAY...



I--IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, SIR...

I -- LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING HERE.



AH, YES. IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.

FORGIVE ME.

I GOT SLIGHTLY SIDETRACKED DURING OUR INTRODUCTION.

I AM DOCTOR VLAD STEIN, AND AS MASTER OF THIS HOUSE, I WELCOME YOU TO MY HOME.

YOU HAVE ALREADY MET SERGE, WHO IS MY CHEF.

HE IS A FRIEND OF MINE... TYPE SO I'M SURE TWO WILL GET JUST

I GUESS I'M IN THE CLEAR.

THOUGH... HE CHANGED HIS MOOD RATHER QUICKLY.

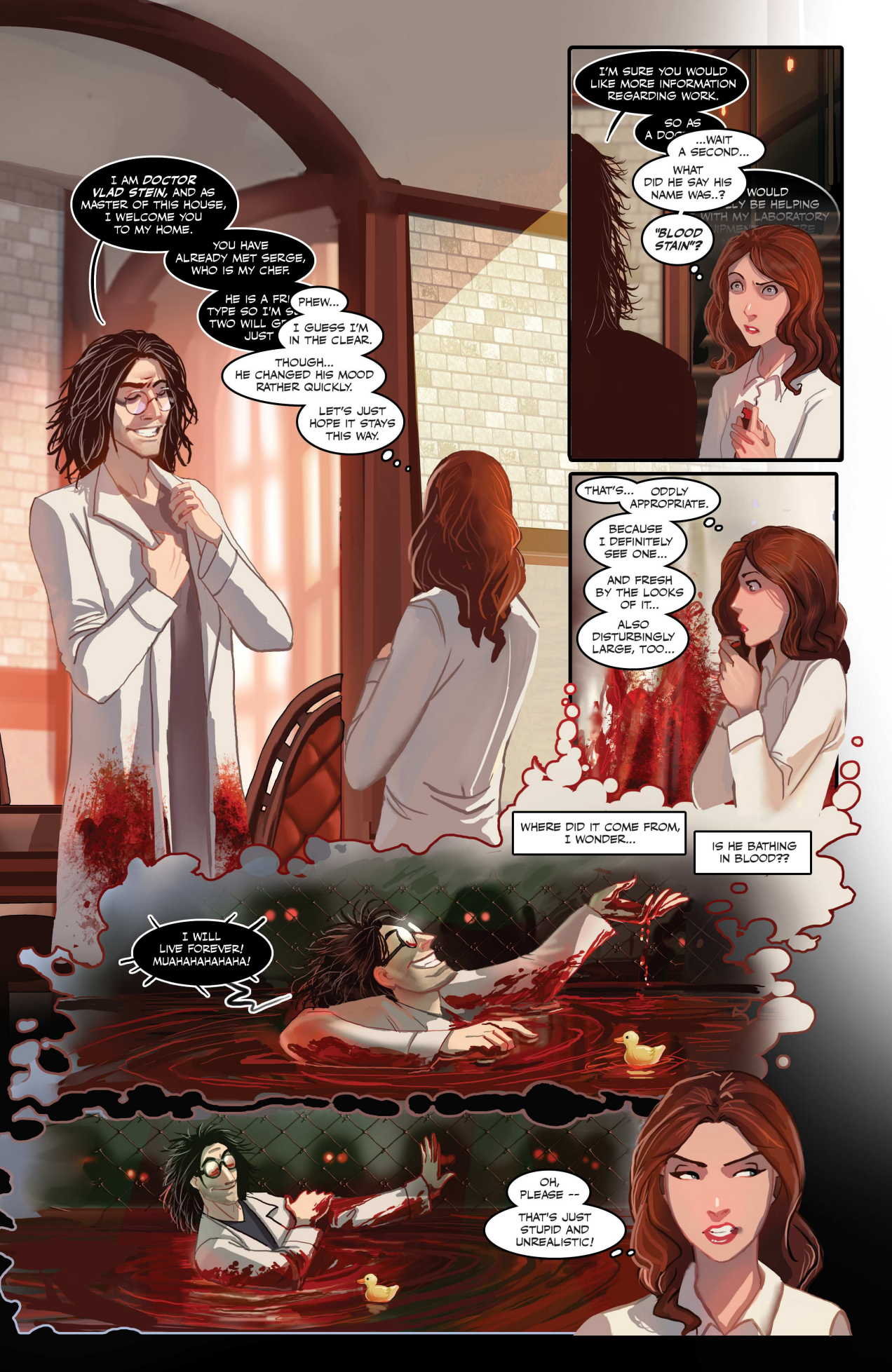
LET'S JUST HOPE IT STAYS THIS WAY.

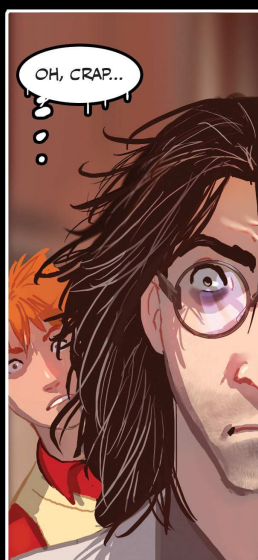
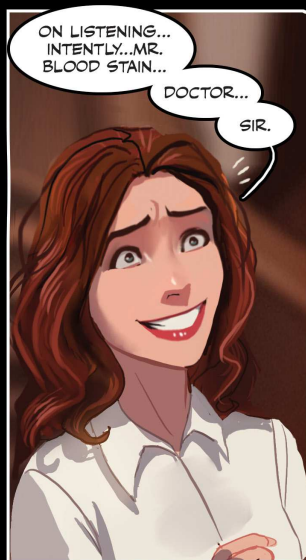
I'M SURE YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION REGARDING WORK.
SO AS A DOCTOR...
...WAIT A SECOND...
WHAT DID HE SAY HIS NAME WAS...?
...WOULD BE HELPING WITH MY LABORATORY...
...IMPLEMENT...
"BLOOD STAIN"?

THAT'S... ODDLY APPROPRIATE.
BECAUSE I DEFINITELY SEE ONE...
AND FRESH BY THE LOOKS OF IT...
ALSO DISTURBINGLY LARGE, TOO...
WHERE DID IT COME FROM, I WONDER...
IS HE BATHING IN BLOOD??

I WILL LIVE FOREVER! MUAHAHAHAHA!

OH, PLEASE -- THAT'S JUST STUPID AND UNREALISTIC!





WHAT DID YOU SAY???

BLOOD STAIN BLOOD STAIN
BLOOD STAIN



I
BEG YOUR
PARDON??

ABORT!!
ABORT!!

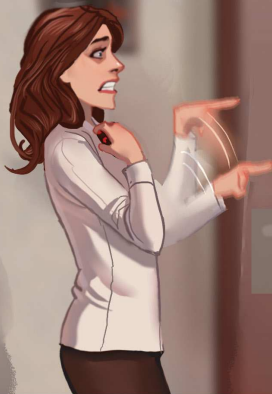


N-NO,
I MEANT...

DOCTOR,
DID YOU
KNOW YOU HAVE
A STAIN...?

UH...RIGHT
HERE...AND...
THERE...

UM...



STOOOP!

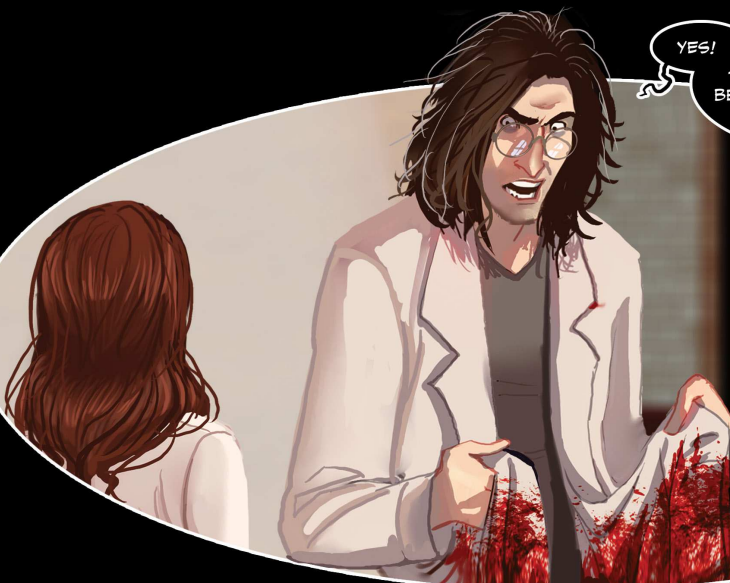


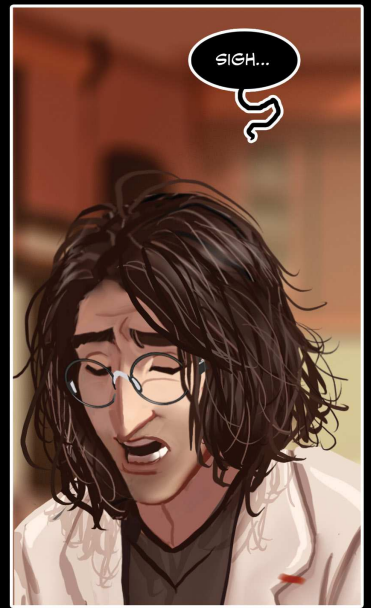
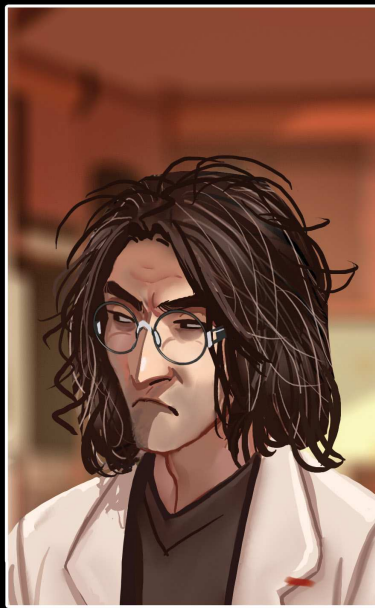
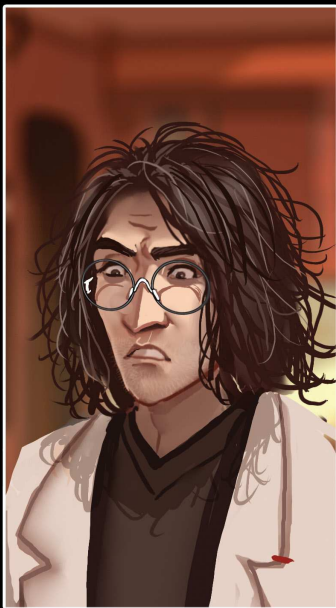
YES!

I'M SURE
IT'S VERY AMUSING
TO CONNECT PARALLELS
BETWEEN MY NAME AND MY
APPEARANCE.

VERY ORIGINAL
AND CLEVER. HARDLY
ANYONE EVER
DOES THAT...

SLAP!

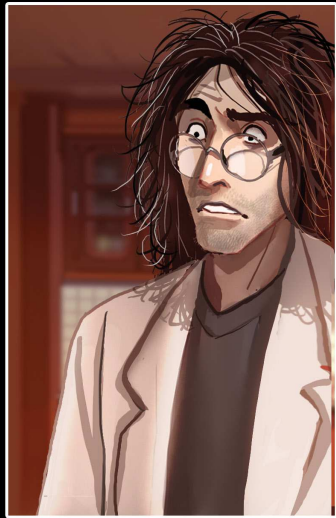






WOULD YOU LIKE SOME BREAKFAST?

MAY I USE THE BATHROOM FIRST... SIR...? PLEASE?

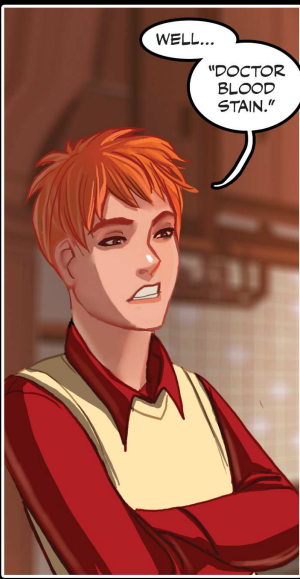


WHAT? UH... YEAH. GO AHEAD.



...AND IT'S "DOCTOR."

TAK
TAK
TAK





I AM SERIOUSLY NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS RIGHT NOW..



LOOK, SERGE.

I HAVE OTHER PRIORITIES THAN TO STRESS WHETHER OR NOT MY APPEARANCE IS PLEASING TO THE EYE.

I REFUSE TO GIVE MY TIME OF THE DAY TO STRANGERS THAT COME AND GO...



SURE.

BUT DON'T FORGET --

I WAS A STRANGER ONCE, TOO.

THAT'S DIFFERENT...



I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING WHEN I HIRED YOU.

GOOD FOOD...

AWFUL COFFEE.



AS FOR THE GIRL, TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST --

-- I HAVE ZERO EXPECTATIONS FOR HER.

YOU SAW HER.

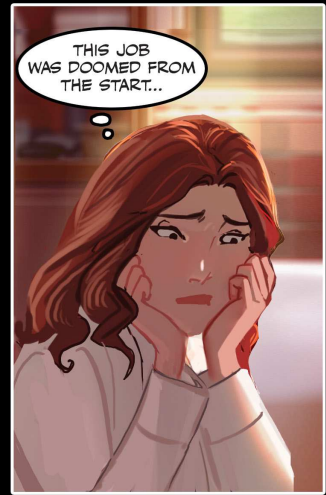
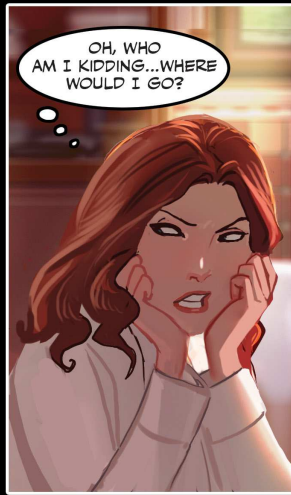
SHE IS A CLOT OF NERVES.

I'M GIVING HER 2 DAYS, TOPS...

"HELL... I BET SHE IS PLANNING TO CRAWL OUT THROUGH THAT TINY BATHROOM WINDOW RIGHT NOW..."

"AND IF YOU ARE WRONG?"

"SERGE, I HAVE SEEN THAT LOOK MANY TIMES."



"IT ALWAYS BRINGS ABOUT THE SAME RESULT IN THE END."

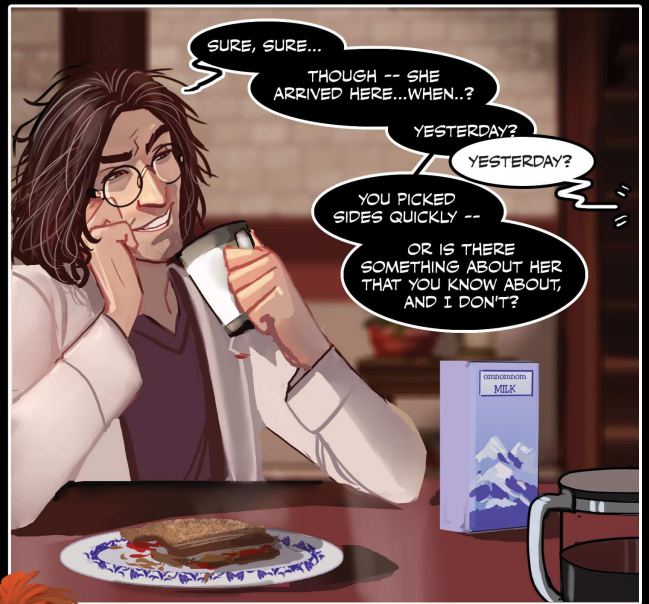
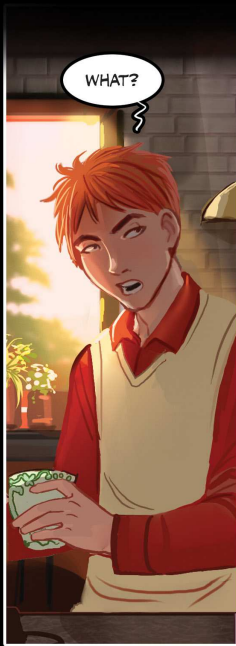


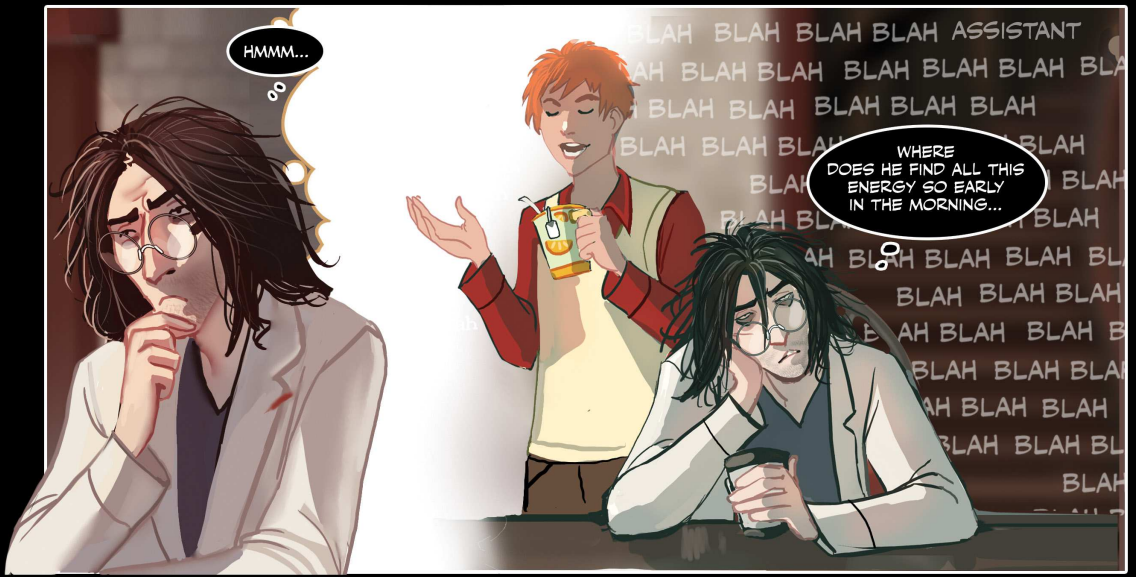
"YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT! THIS ONE COULD BE DIFFERENT."

"I AM RARELY WRONG."



"BUT WE WILL SEE."





HMMM...

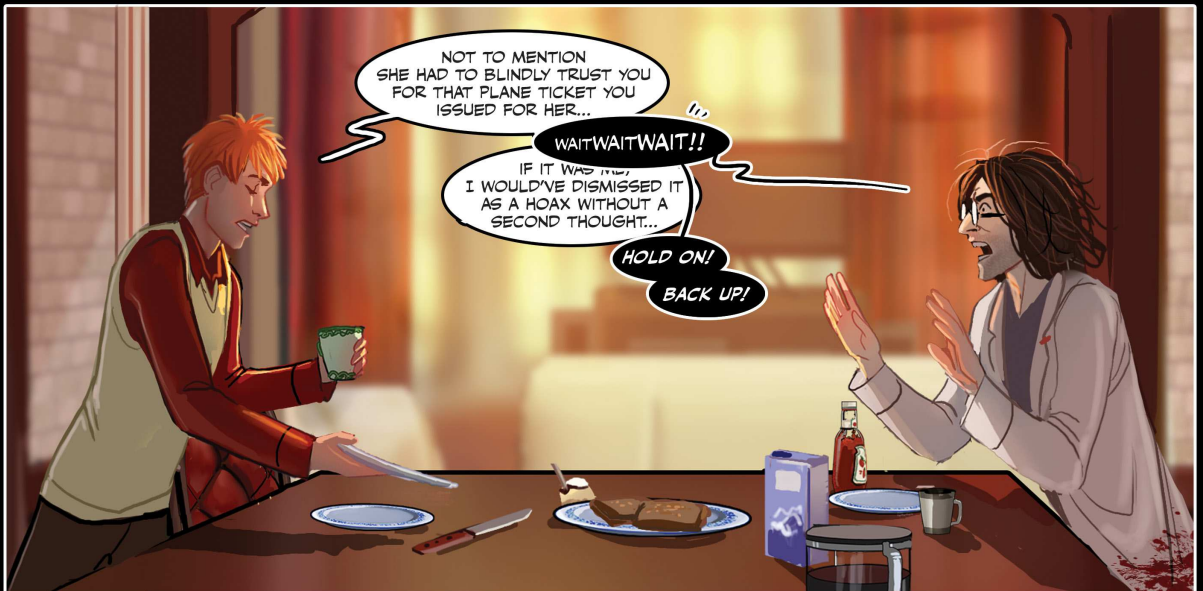
WHERE DOES HE FIND ALL THIS ENERGY SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...



HERE IS THE THING.
I WAS TAKING HER SIDE BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS QUITE IMPRESSIVE THAT SHE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO GET HERE IN SUCH A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.



IF NOTHING ELSE, IT SHOWS HOW DETERMINED SHE WAS TO GET THIS JOB.



NOT TO MENTION SHE HAD TO BLINDLY TRUST YOU FOR THAT PLANE TICKET YOU ISSUED FOR HER...

WAITWAITWAIT!!

IF IT WAS ~~TRULY~~ I WOULD'VE DISMISSED IT AS A HOAX WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...

HOLD ON!

BACK UP!





OH...
DON'T WORRY...
THAT HAPPENS
A LOT!

YOU'LL GET
USED TO IT...

TAP
TAP
TAP

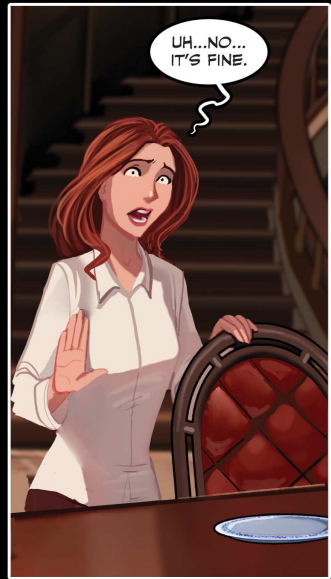


NOW...
WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE A SEAT
AND HAVE SOME
BREAKFAST.



SORRY...
I'VE SET A PLACE
FOR YOU HERE...
I HOPE YOU
DONT MIND.

YOU
CAN SIT
WHEREVER
YOU WANT,
THOUGH...



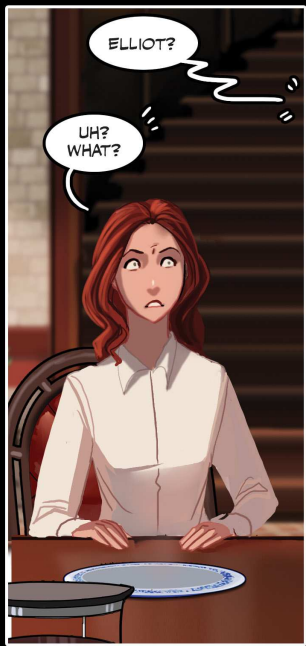
UH...NO...
IT'S FINE.



HERE IS FINE.



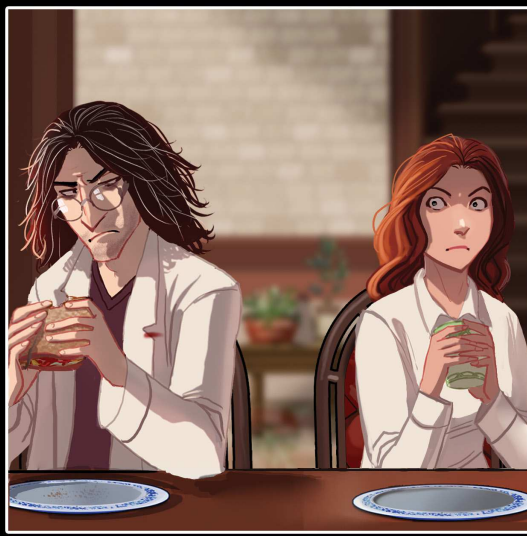
SO...
WHAT DO YOU
USUALLY DRINK IN
THE MORNING?

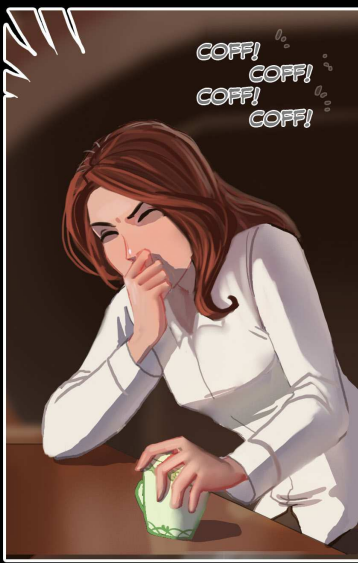


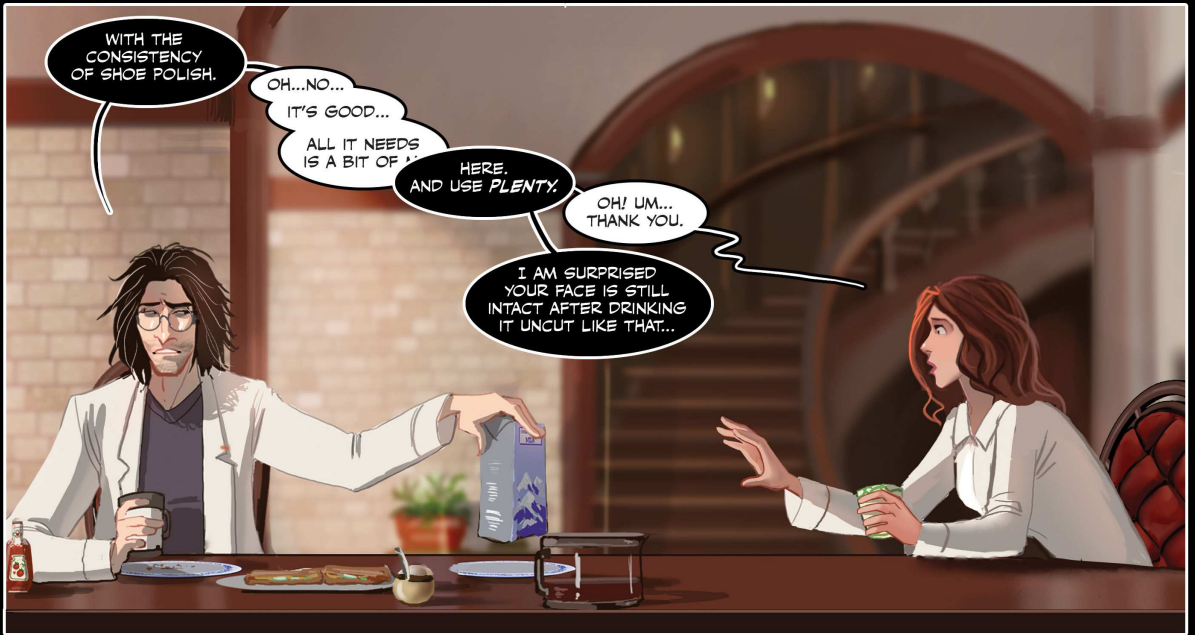
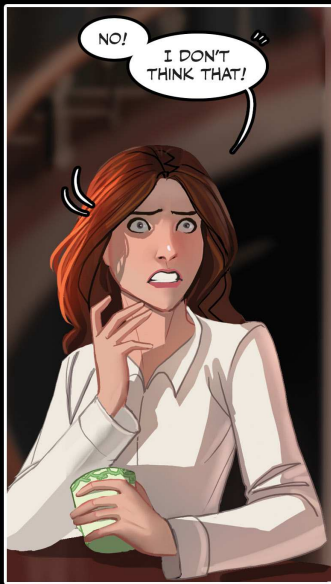
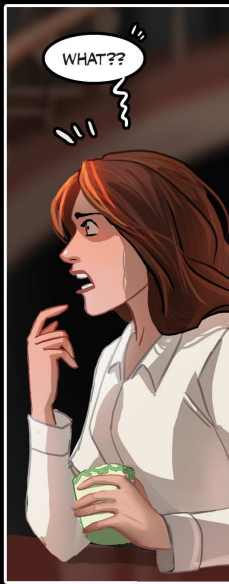
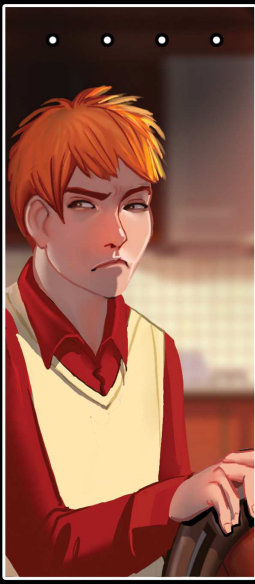
ELLIOT?

UH?
WHAT?









WITH THE CONSISTENCY OF SHOE POLISH.

OH...NO... IT'S GOOD...

ALL IT NEEDS IS A BIT OF...

HERE, AND USE PLENTY.

OH! UM... THANK YOU.

I AM SURPRISED YOUR FACE IS STILL INTACT AFTER DRINKING IT UN-CUT LIKE THAT...



AND SOME SUGAR...?

SO ENORT!

YOU HEARD THE LADY, SERGE... WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HER SOME SUGAR!

BOOO...



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME KETCHUP WITH IT, TOO?

IT MIGHT *IMPROVE* THE TASTE...

HI-LARIOUS!



I SEE HOW IT IS.

IT'S FUN TO COMPLAIN, BUT I DON'T SEE EITHER OF YOU VOLUNTEERING TO REMEDY THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION.



SO THE JOKE'S ON YOU TWO, BECAUSE AS LONG AS I'M A CHEF HERE, YOU TWO ARE STUCK WITH MY CRAPPY COFFEE AS WELL.



UNLESS, OF COURSE... *SOMEONE ELSE* RELIEVES ME OF THAT DREADFUL RESPONSIBILITY.



HOW ABOUT *YOU*, ELLIOT?

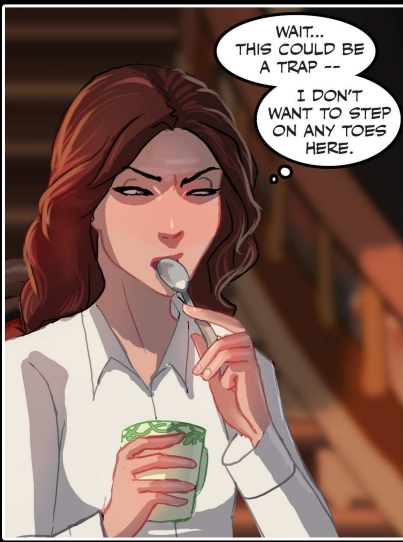
DO YOU THINK *YOU* COULD DO IT *BETTER*?

TAP



I COULD!

I *REALLY*, *REALLY* COULD!



WAIT... THIS COULD BE A TRAP --

I DON'T WANT TO STEP ON ANY TOES HERE.



I WAS HIRED AS A LAB ASSISTANT.

...AND IT IS MY FIRST DAY HERE.

I DON'T WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE I'M TRYING TO TAKE AWAY SOMEONE'S JOB...

I SHOULD STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.



SO?



HUH??

N-NO...

OF COURSE NOT!

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR COFFEE.



IT'S FINE.

REALLY.

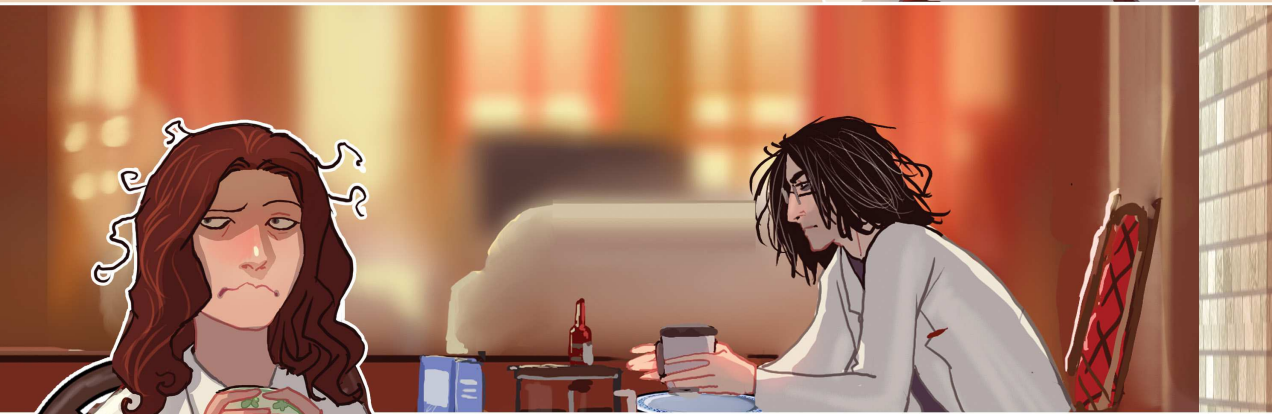




WELL -- TO SUM IT ALL UP...
THIS WAS ONE AWKWARD BREAKFAST.

FOLLOWED BY HORRIBLE COFFEE.

YES, EVEN WITH LARGE QUANTITIES
OF THAT YUMMY MILK MIXED IN IT.



I MANAGED TO PULL OFF THE WORST FIRST IMPRESSION
A PERSON CAN ACHIEVE.....EVER.



BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...THE HOUSE DOESN'T LOOK AS SCARY
AS IT DID LAST NIGHT...

QUITE THE CONTRARY -- IT FEELS COMFORTING.

PERFECT FOR A NAP..





IS SHE...
ALRIGHT?



WAAAIT...
I'VE
SEEN THIS LOOK
BEFORE...
COULD IT BE...

DID SHE FART?



YES,
I UNDERSTAND
YOU MUST FEEL
EMBARRASSED...

AND ARE DOING YOUR
BEST TO LOOK ALL
PROFOUND IN TRYING
TO CONCEAL IT...

BUT TRUST ME, WE'VE
ALL BEEN THERE...

SO, DON'T WORRY...

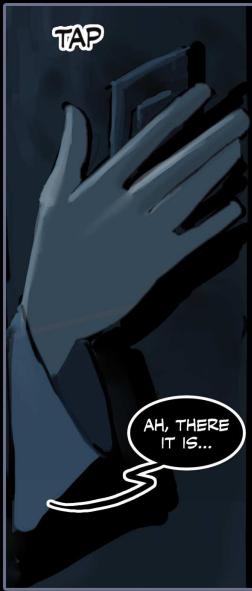
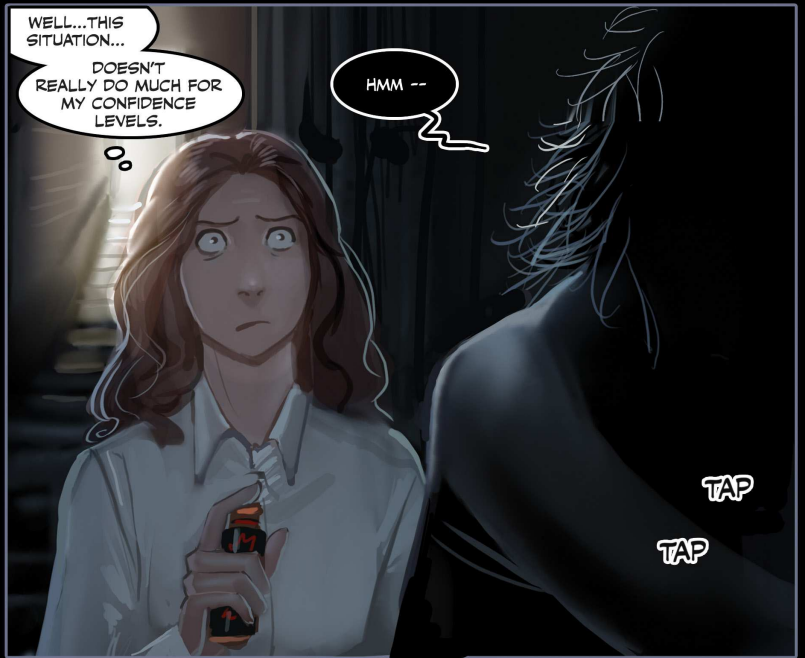


NOBODY
WILL JUDGE YOU
FOR IT HERE!
LET IT RIP,
GIRL!



WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?







CLICK



WELL...THIS COULD'VE GONE BETTER --

BUT APPARENTLY THIS DAY IS STILL NOT DONE GETTING WORSE.

HE IS ONE CREEPY-LOOKING DUDE...

PEPPER SPRAY ON STANDBY.

ALRIGHT. FIRST THINGS FIRST...

WHEN DID YOU SAY YOU ARRIVED HERE?

YESTERDAY EVENING...

AROUND WHAT TIME?

I'M NOT SURE WHEN EXACTLY... BUT IT WAS PRETTY LATE... PROBABLY AROUND MIDNIGHT.

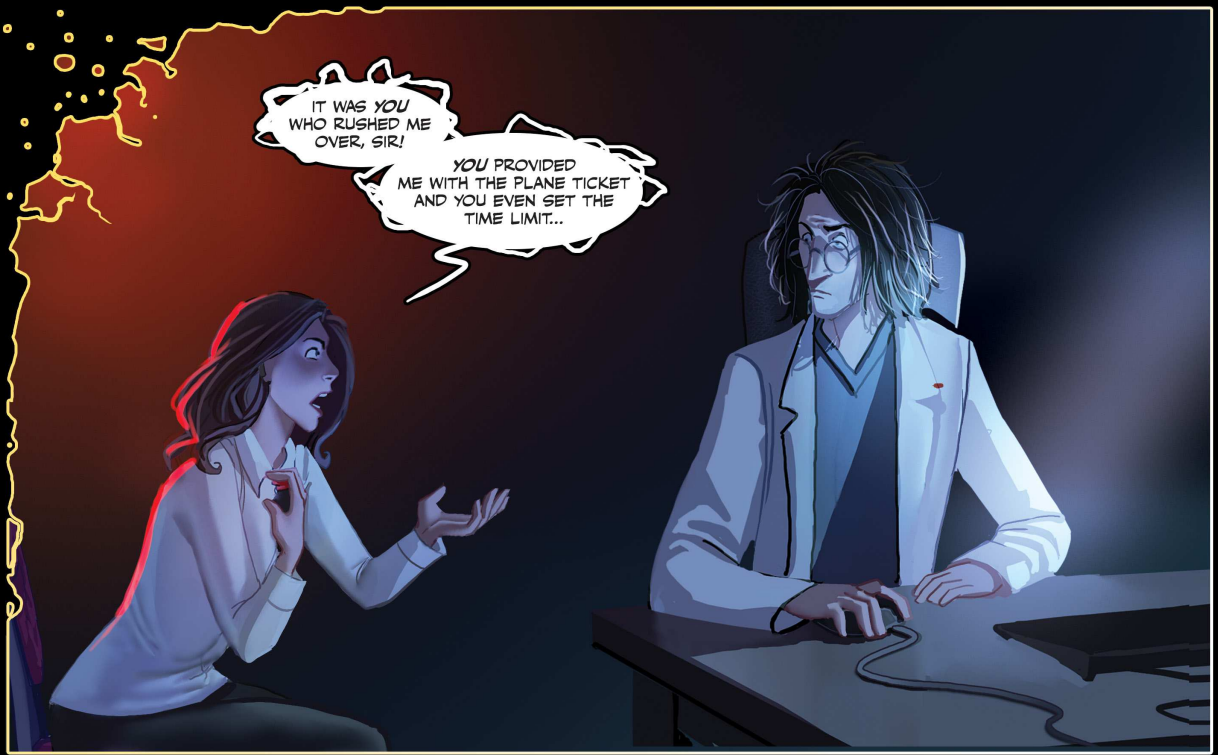
SEE...

THAT'S RATHER ODD TIMING...

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO COME HERE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE?

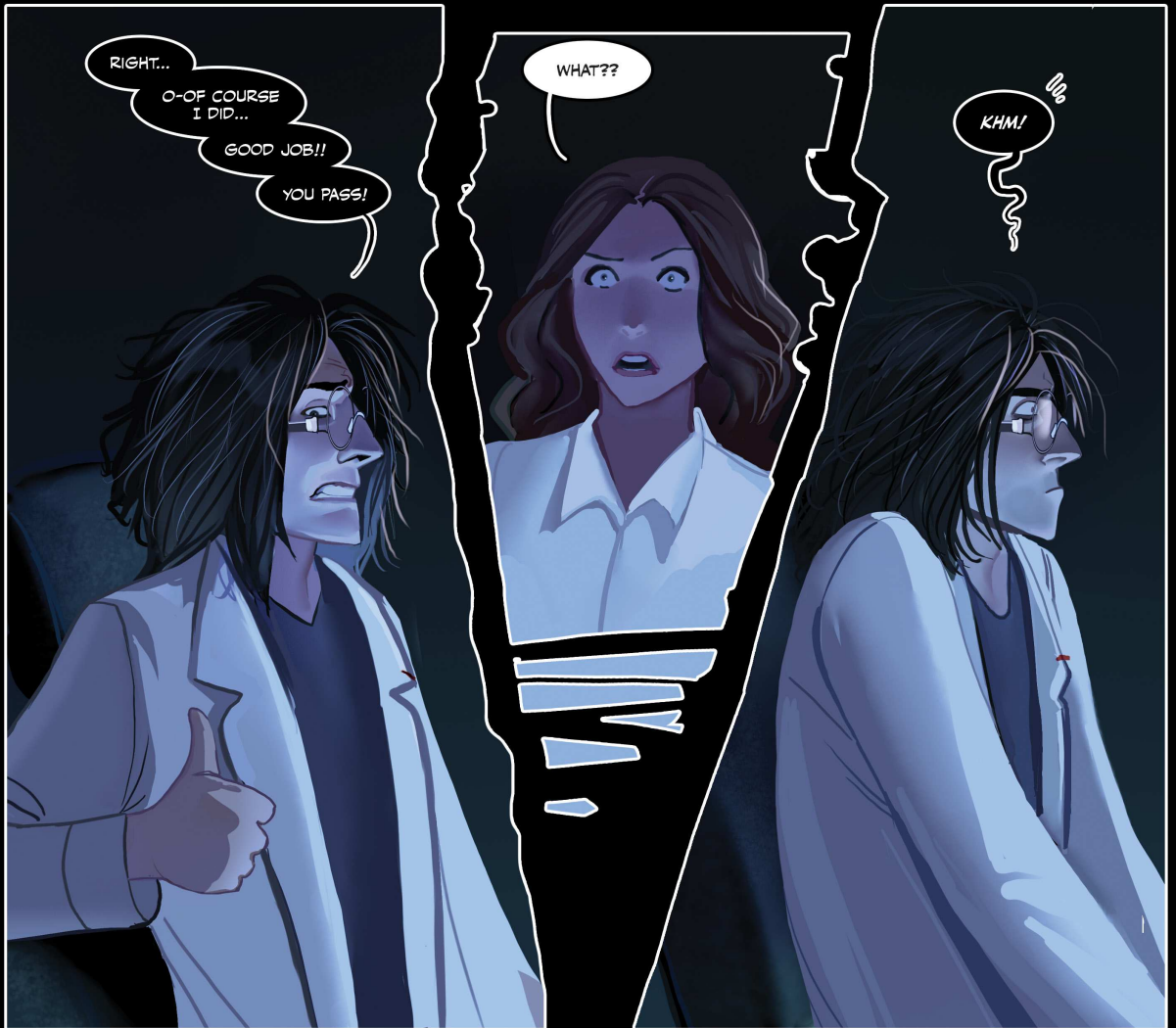
WERE YOU IN A HURRY?

WAS I... IN A HURRY...?



IT WAS YOU WHO RUSHED ME OVER, SIR!

YOU PROVIDED ME WITH THE PLANE TICKET AND YOU EVEN SET THE TIME LIMIT...



RIGHT...

O-OF COURSE I DID...

GOOD JOB!!

YOU PASS!

WHAT??

KHM!

ALRIGHT,
HERE IS THE
DEAL --

JUST BECAUSE YOU
MANAGED TO ARRIVE HERE
ON TIME DOESN'T MEAN I AM
LETTING YOU OFF EASY.

AND IT DOESN'T
GUARANTEE YOU'VE GOT
THE JOB JUST YET.



I EXPECT
YOU TO BE USEFUL
AROUND HERE.

OTHERWISE,
I WILL DEMAND A FULL
REFUND FOR THE TICKET.
IS THAT CLEAR?



...UM YES,
ABSOLUTELY.



ERR...WAIT...

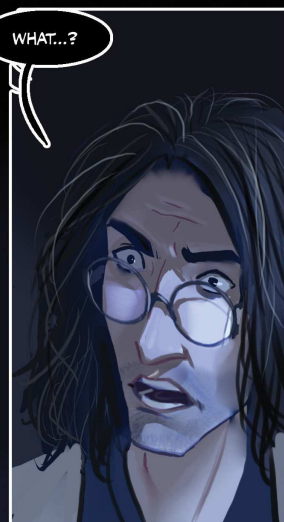
ARE YOU SAYING
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS
PLACE UNTIL I REPAY YOU
FOR THE TICKET THAT
YOU SPONSORED
FOR ME?

YOU DO
REALIZE THAT THIS
SOUNDS SUSPICIOUSLY
SIMILAR TO ONE
OF THOSE **HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**
DEALS...



o o o o o





OH, PLEASE!

DROP THE ACT.

DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T HEAR YOU ROAMING OUTSIDE MY ROOM LAST NIGHT??

I WASN'T.

AND TODAY YOU GREET ME WITH A KNIFE IN YOUR HANDS...

THEN DRAG ME TO A DARK BASEMENT OFFERING ME SOME SHADY ULTIMATUMS.

THAT WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING!





LET ME TELL YOU
SOMETHING RIGHT NOW,
"DOCTOR"!

YOU PICKED THE
WRONG GIRL TO CHOP
UP FOR ORGANS!



I HAVE A
HUGE FAMILY, WITH WHOM
I AM IN CONTACT ON AN
HOURLY BASIS!

THEY ALL KNOW OF MY
WHEREABOUTS.

SO...IF ANYTHING
WAS TO HAPPEN TO ME..
THEY WOULD KNOW!

...AND THEY
WILL FIND YOU!

AND MAKE
YOUR LIFE
A LIVING
HELL!



SIGH...



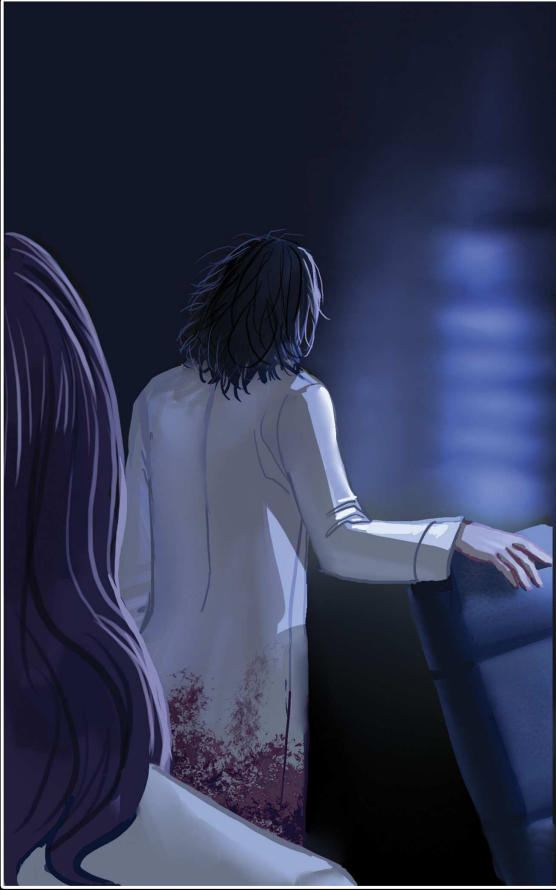
I'LL ADMIT...
MY PREVIOUS
COMMENT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN A LITTLE OUT
OF PLACE...

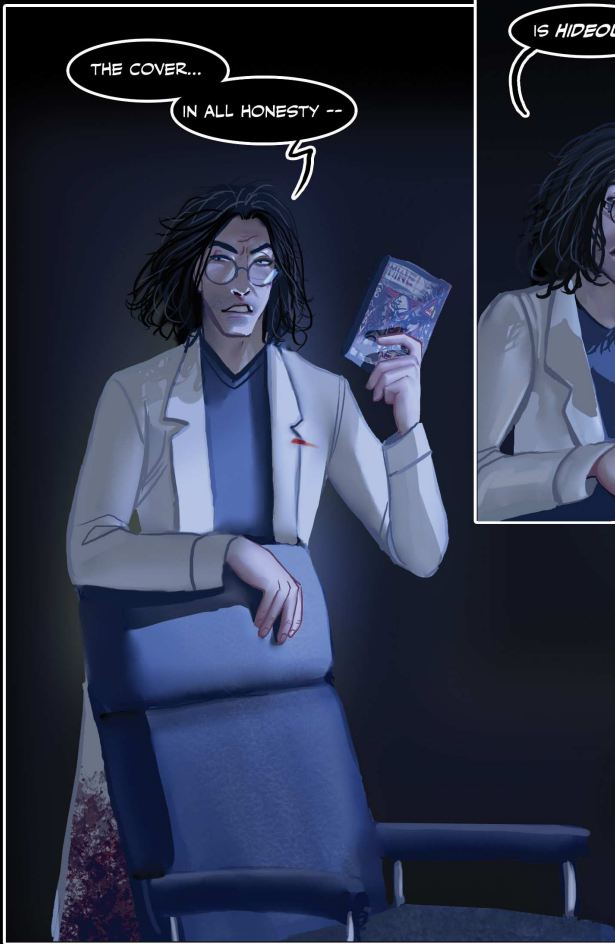


BUT THIS RANT
OF YOURS RIGHT NOW...
WAS THE BIGGEST PILE OF
NONSENSE I'VE HEARD IN A
LONG TIME.

AND KEEP IN MIND --

I WORK WITH STUDENTS...





THE COVER...

IN ALL HONESTY --



IS **HIDEOUS**.

IT IS OFF-
PUTTING.

IT WANTS
TO BE LEFT
ALONE.



BUT
LOOKING ON
THE INSIDE... YOU'LL
FIND
MEMORIES.

YOU'LL
FIND A
PERSON.

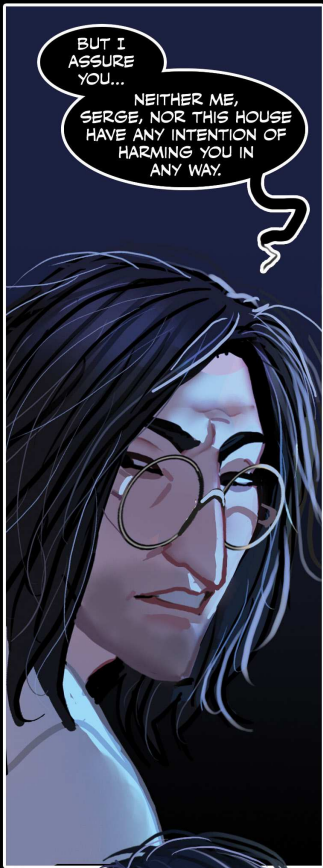


MINE MAY BE
A **BLOODSTAINED** COVER,
BUT IT'S STILL MERELY
A COVER.

YOU SEE,
MISS TORRES,
I AM AWARE OF THE FACT
THAT THIS PLACE MAY LOOK
INTIMIDATING
TO YOU...

AND CERTAIN EVENTS
OF THE PAST 24 HOURS
MOST LIKELY DIDN'T LEAVE
THE BEST IMPRESSION...

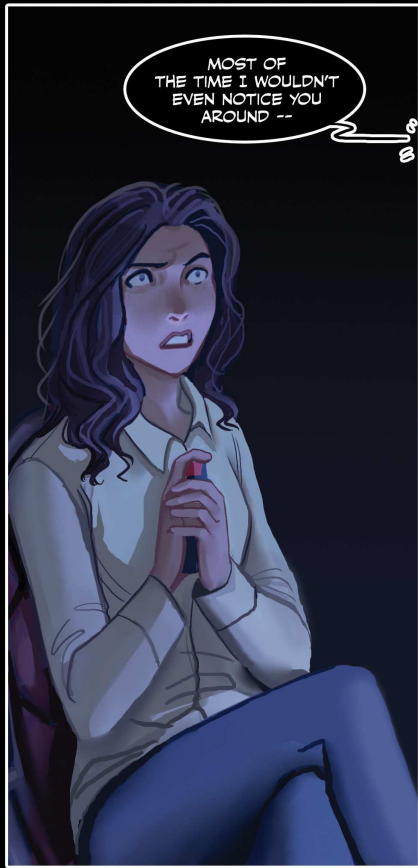




BUT I ASSURE YOU...
NEITHER ME, SERGE, NOR THIS HOUSE HAVE ANY INTENTION OF HARMING YOU IN ANY WAY.



IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION...



MOST OF THE TIME I WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU AROUND --



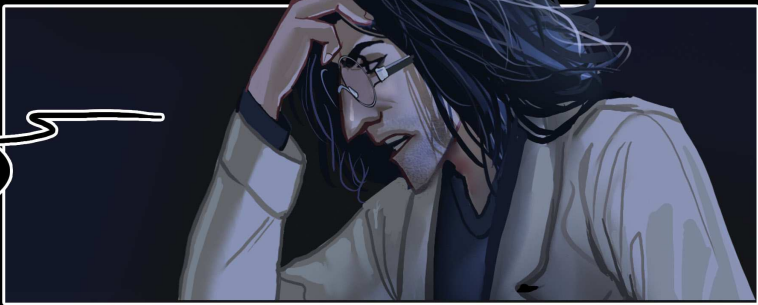
I AM A VERY BUSY MAN.

SOMETIMES THE AMOUNT OF WORK PRESSURES ME TO PULL ALL-NIGHTERS.



THOSE NATURALLY CAUSE ME TO HAVE IRREGULAR SLEEP PATTERNS...

WHICH, I'VE BEEN TOLD, SOMETIMES EVEN LEAD TO SLEEPWALKING...



AND WHEN YOU HAVE THIS MUCH ON YOUR PLATE, YOU TEND TO FORGET EVEN THE MOST BASIC OF THINGS.



I DON'T HAVE THE KEY TO YOUR ROOM.

AT BEST, WHAT I RECALL IS WHEN I BOUGHT THE HOUSE, THERE WAS NO KEY TO BEGIN WITH.

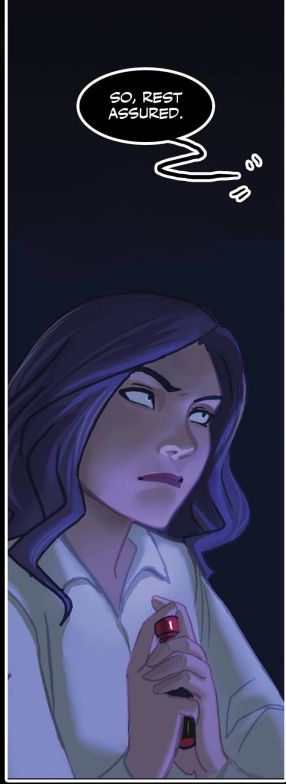


IT'S AN OLD HOUSE.

I DID SOME RENOVATIONS IN THE KITCHEN AND THE LAB AS FAR AS MY FUNDING ALLOWED ME.

THE REST IS WHAT IT IS.

PERHAPS IT GOT MISPLACED, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW...



SO, REST ASSURED.



NOBODY WILL ENTER YOUR ROOM, UNLESS YOU YOURSELF ALLOW IT.



IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME... YOU ARE FREE TO USE WHATEVER MEANS TO BARRICADE THOSE DOORS. AND IF YOU LACK ANY CHAIRS, JUST TAKE ONE FROM THE DINING ROOM.



I'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE HERE FOR YEARS, SO I AM NOT TOO CONSCIOUS OF HOW MUCH NOISE I MAKE.

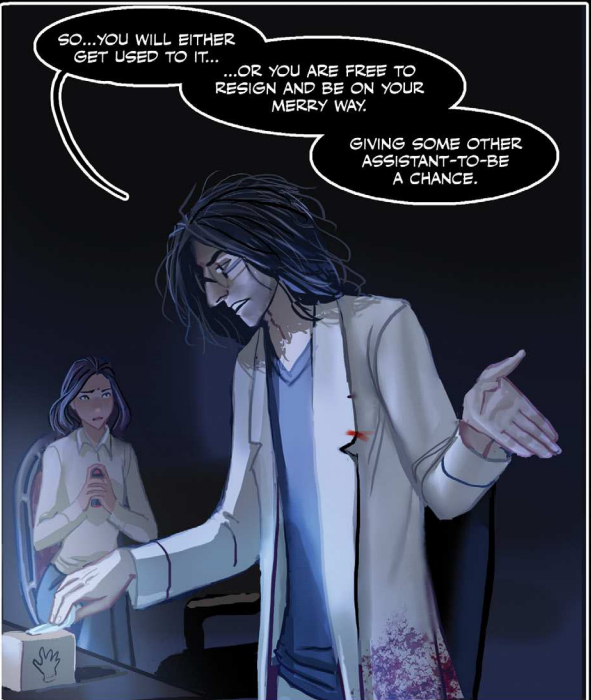


AS FOR MY SLEEPWALKING... OR OTHER UNUSUAL HABITS...

THEY WILL NOT CHANGE.



AND THIS... HOUSE... THIS "BASEMENT" IS MY WORKPLACE. AS IT WOULD BE YOURS.



SO...YOU WILL EITHER GET USED TO IT... ..OR YOU ARE FREE TO RESIGN AND BE ON YOUR MERRY WAY.

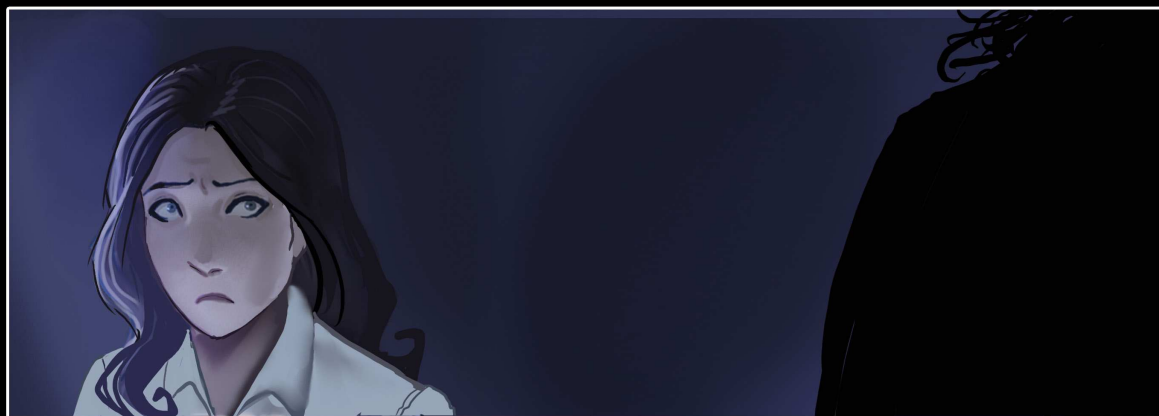
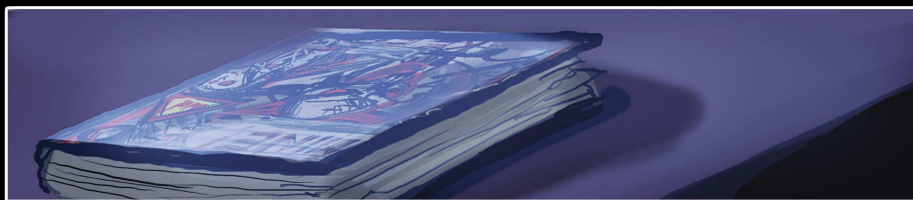
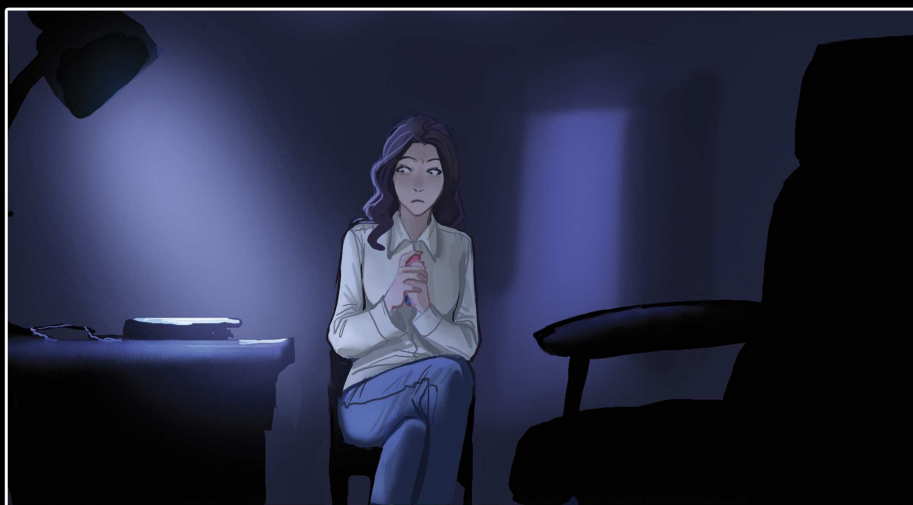
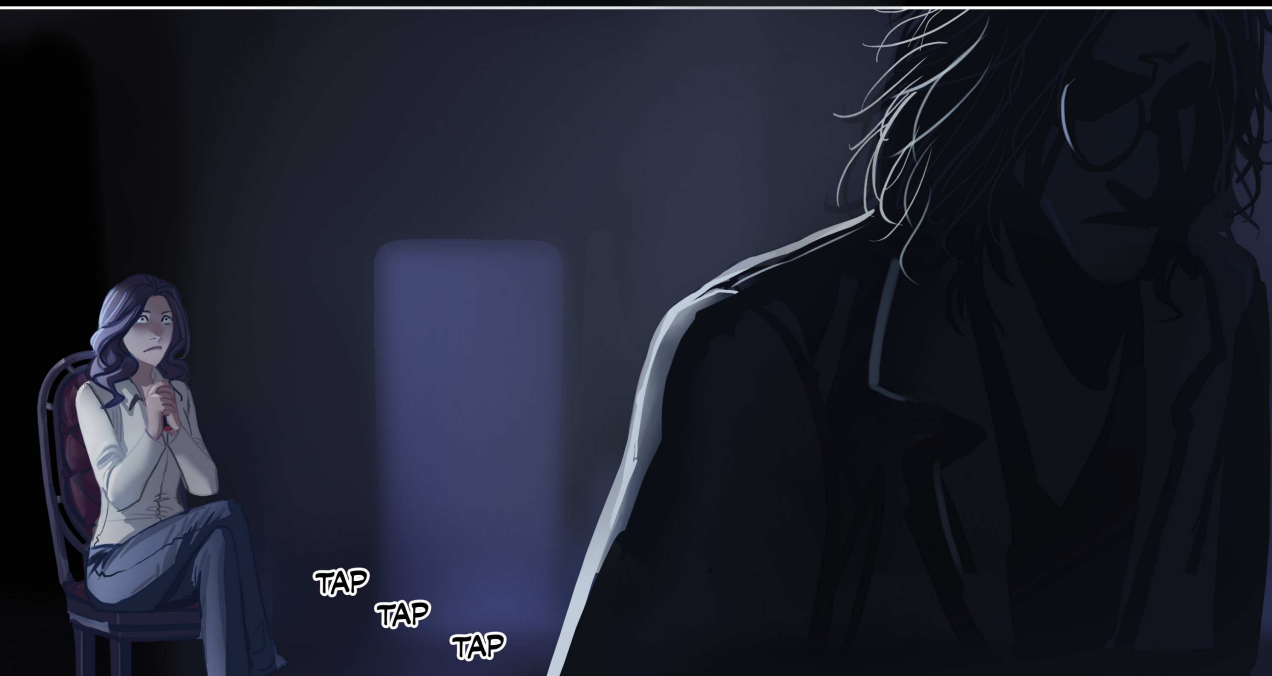
GIVING SOME OTHER ASSISTANT-TO-BE A CHANCE.

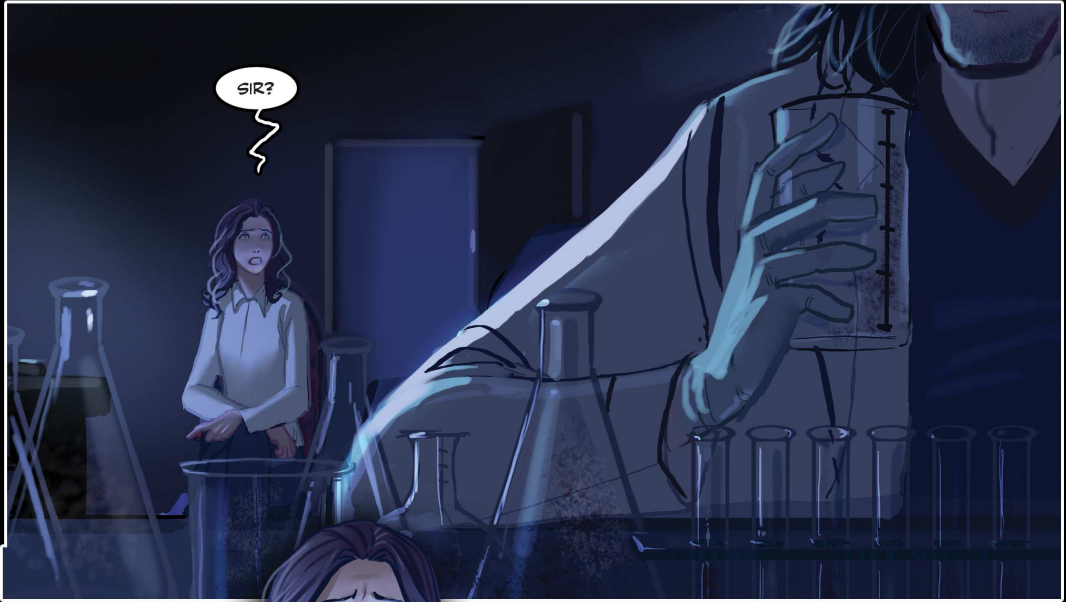
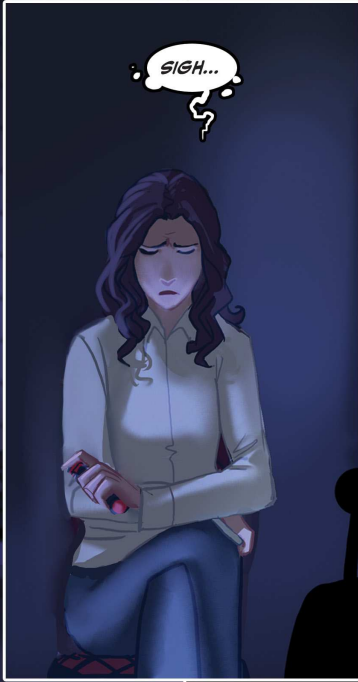


I KNOW CONDITIONS ARE NOT PERFECT HERE. BUT NO JOB HAS THOSE.



NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME, AND HAVE WORK TO DO. AND IF YOU STILL WANT THIS JOB... SO DO YOU!





HOURS LATER...

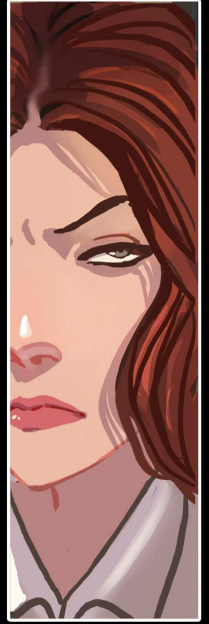
SO...



BASICALLY...



I'M HIS LAB MAID.



WHAT WILL BE MY JOB...?

I WILL NEED ALL OF THESE STERILIZED.

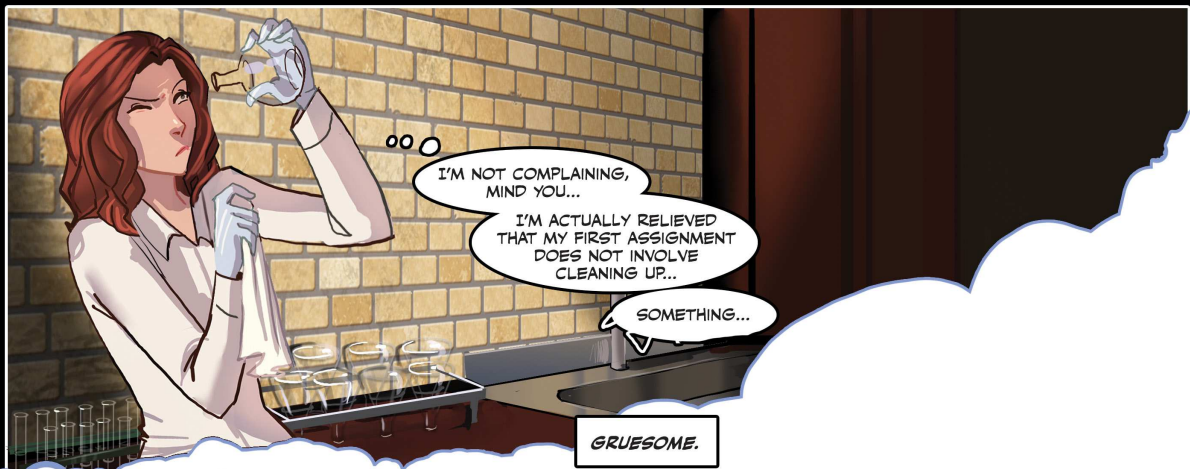
IS THAT...ALL?



OH! RIGHT... YES. LET'S SEE...



CORRECTION...I AM THE DISHWASHING LADY...



I'M NOT COMPLAINING, MIND YOU...

I'M ACTUALLY RELIEVED THAT MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT DOES NOT INVOLVE CLEANING UP...

SOMETHING...

GRUESOME.



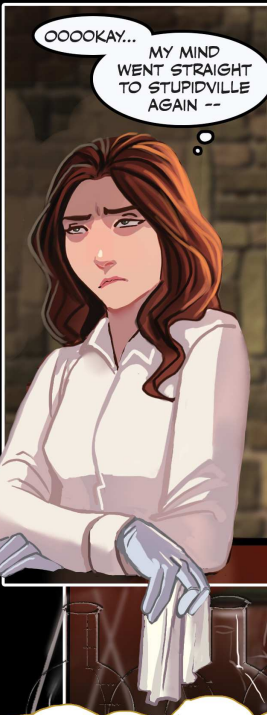
AS YOU CAN SEE...

THE TEST INVOLVING A T-REX THAT I MANAGED TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW FROM A SMALL DNA SAMPLE, JUST THE OTHER DAY...

...DID NOT GO ALL THAT WELL AFTER I TRIED TO GENETICALLY ALTER IT WITH A CENTIPEDE...

DISPOSE OF IT, WILL YOU?

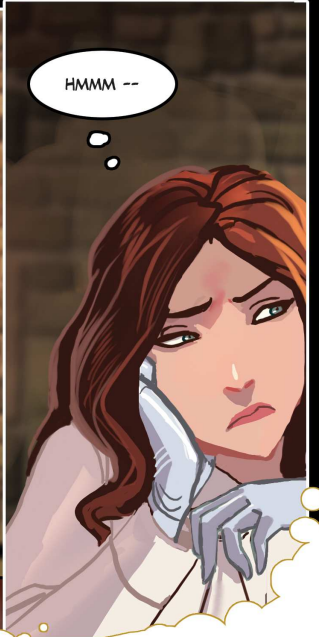




OOOOKAY...
MY MIND
WENT STRAIGHT
TO STUPIDVILLE
AGAIN --



BUT HONESTLY --
FOR THE SUM
HE OFFERED ME, THE
WORK SEEMS FAR TOO
SIMPLE...



HMMM --



I WONDER IF THAT
AMOUNT OF MONEY IS
EVEN TRUE...

JUDGING FROM
WHAT HE TOLD ME
EARLIER ABOUT HIS ODD
SLEEPING
HABITS...

I MEAN...CAN HE EVEN
DISTINGUISH A DREAM
FROM REALITY...?



TO BE HONEST,
HE DOESN'T SEEM VERY
RELIABLE...



I MEAN, LOOK
AT THAT...

THOSE FLASKS RELIED ON HIM,
AND HE LET THEM DOWN --



SIGH...

THIS WAY...



THIS WILL BE YOUR WORKSPACE.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED IS IN THE CABINETS AROUND YOU, SO FEEL FREE TO EXPLORE.

AT LEAST IT'S CLOSE TO THE EXIT...



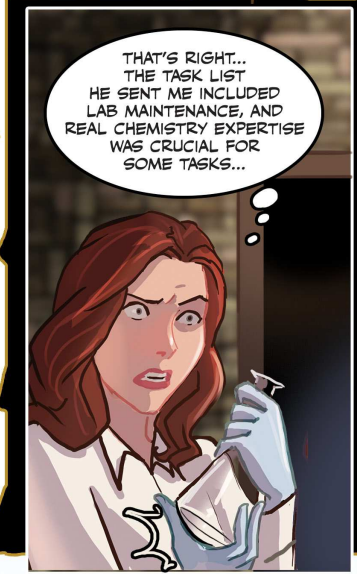
BUT...IS THIS REALLY WHAT HE NEEDED AN "ASSISTANT" FOR..?

IF YES... THAT'S A BIT UNDER-WHELMING...

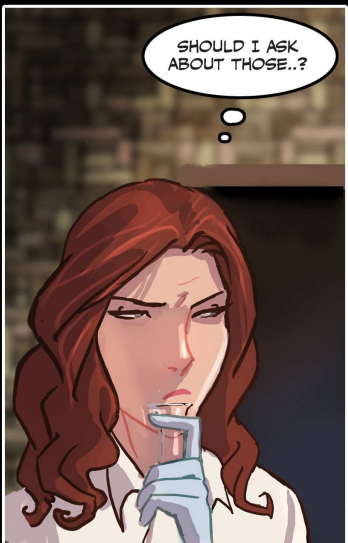


I WILL EMAIL YOU A LIST OF TASKS...

pling!



THAT'S RIGHT... THE TASK LIST HE SENT ME INCLUDED LAB MAINTENANCE, AND REAL CHEMISTRY EXPERTISE WAS CRUCIAL FOR SOME TASKS...



SHOULD I ASK ABOUT THOSE...?

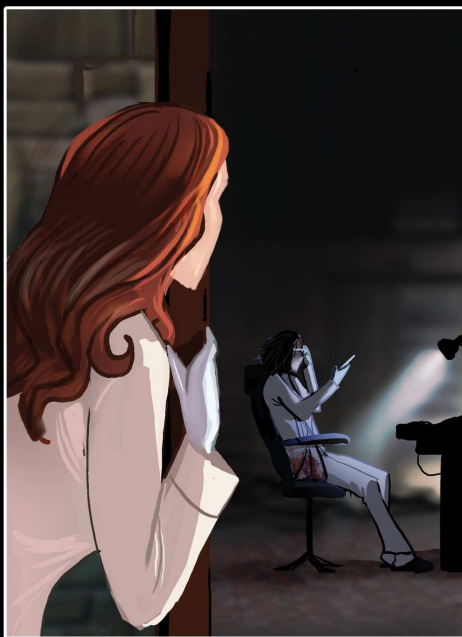
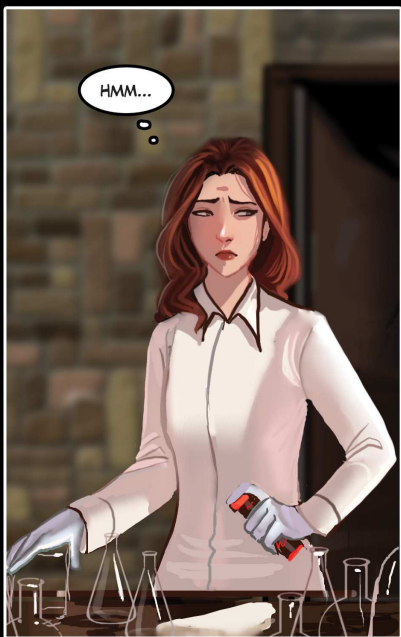


I PREFER NOT TO BE DISTURBED WHILE WORKING.

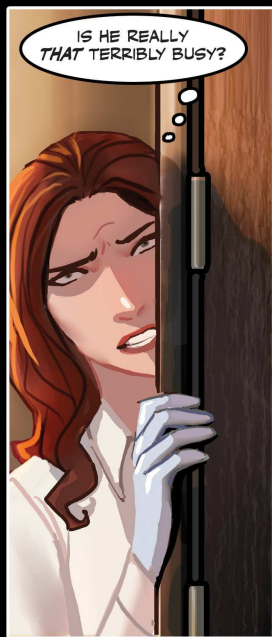
...BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THAT ARE WORK-RELATED, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.
I'LL BE HERE.

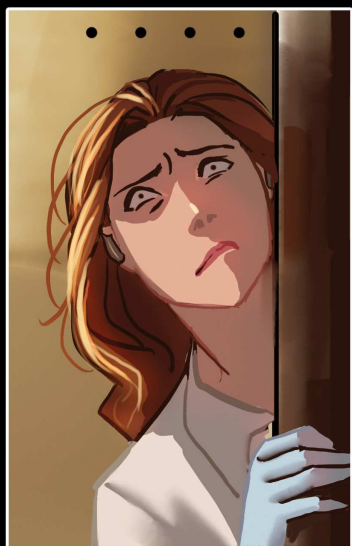


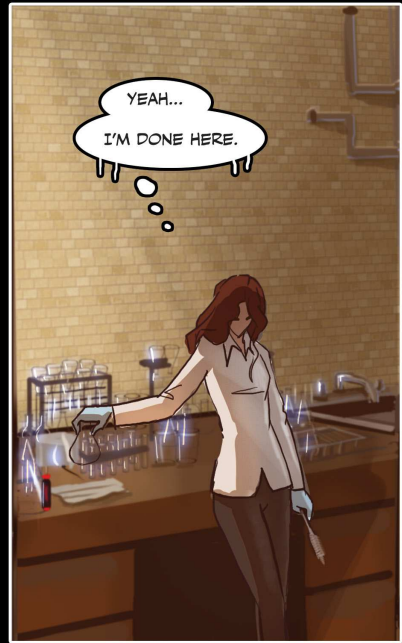
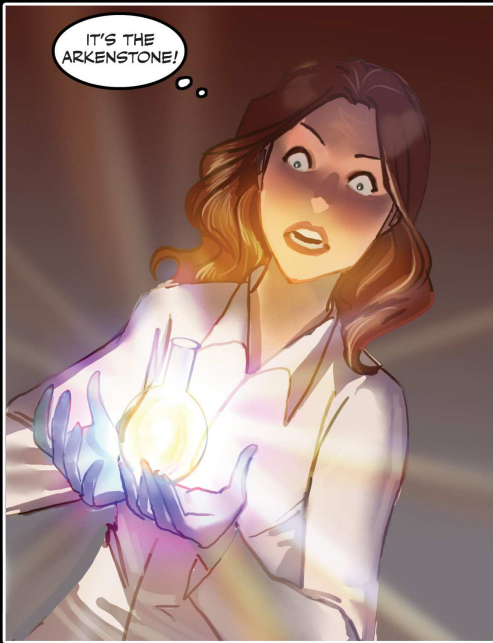
HMM...



IS HE REALLY THAT TERRIBLY BUSY?













IT LOOKS BUSY.

MAYBE I CAN TRY AND FIND IT MYSELF?

YES.

THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.

TIP TIP



IF I SNEAK BY QUIETLY, IT WON'T NOTICE I WAS EVER HERE...

TIP TIP

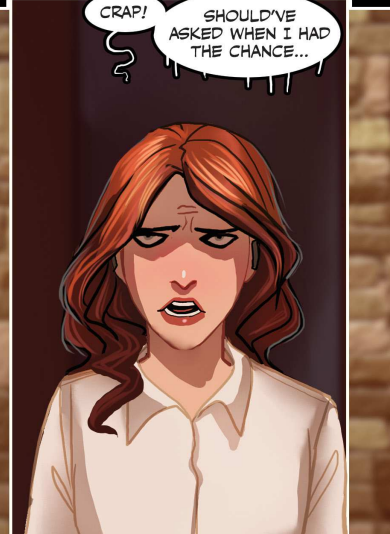
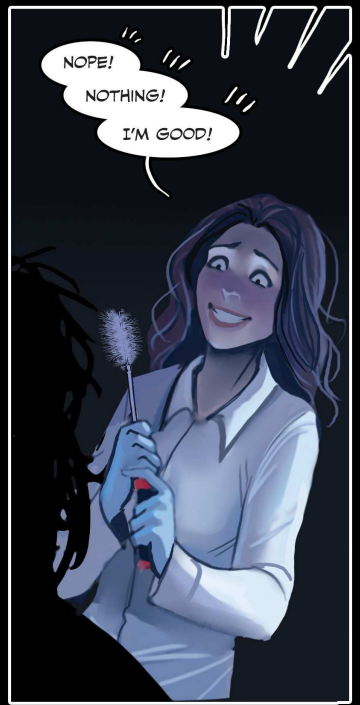


SIGH...

I WISH I KNEW WHERE TO START LOOKING...

TIP





I JUST...

...CAN'T.

IF I DO...

I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN...



IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE...

BECAUSE I SPACED OUT --

AND MISSED OUT ON SOME CRUCIAL INFORMATION...





YOU KNOW, I'M NOT PAYING YOU FOR THIS.

THIS IS NOT A "JOB WELL DONE!"

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH ONLY 7 SURVEYS.

IT WAS MY FAULT...



IS THIS A JOKE TO YOU??



WHY IS IT SO HARD TO GET **PROFESSIONAL HELP** THESE DAYS?



ALL OF IT...

LOOK -- DON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY... BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES FOR THIS KIND OF JOB.



YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THE BASICS, LIKE CLEANING THE GLASSWARE!

YOU REALLY ARE USELESS, AREN'T YOU?

I KNOW I CAN'T ASK HIM NOW...

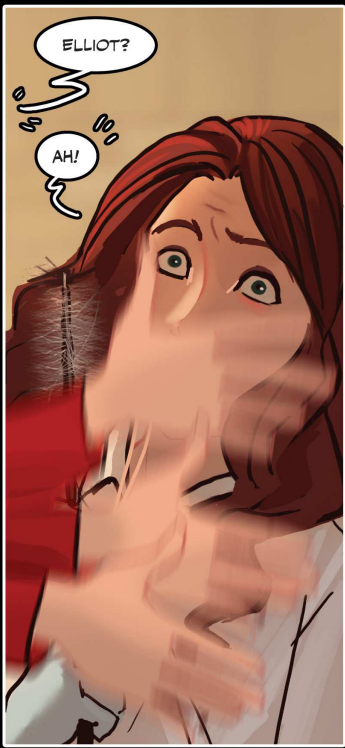
I JUST...CAN'T...

IF I DO...I WILL SURELY GET...

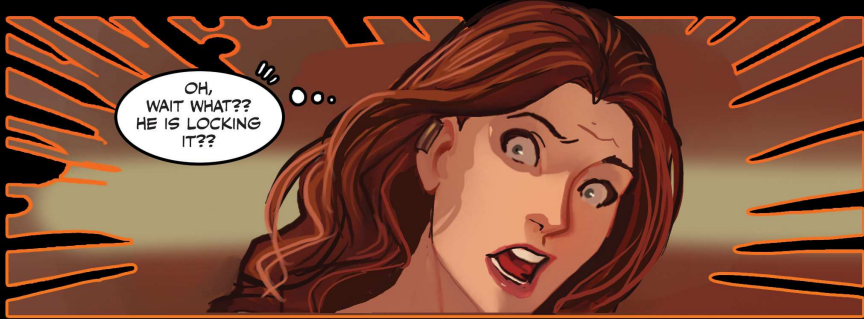
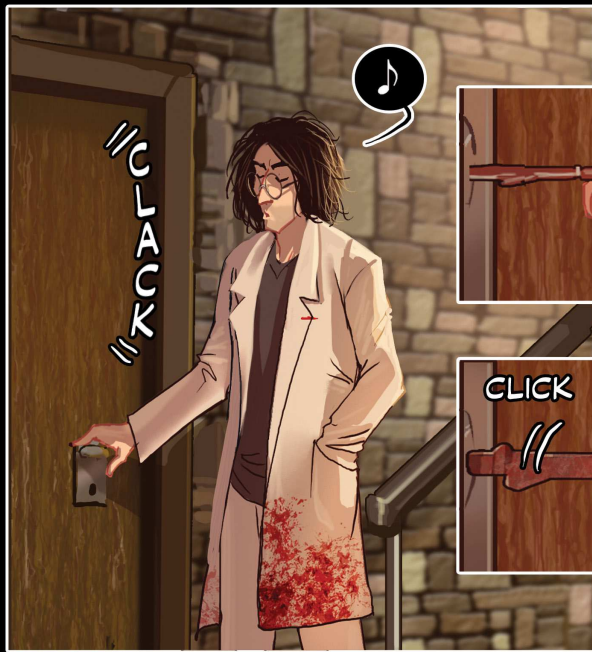
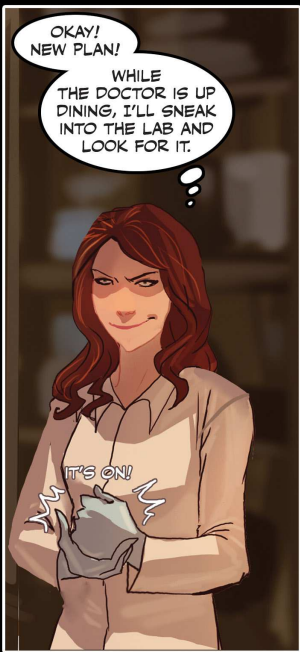


FIRED!

NO!









UH...
BOSS,
WAIT!

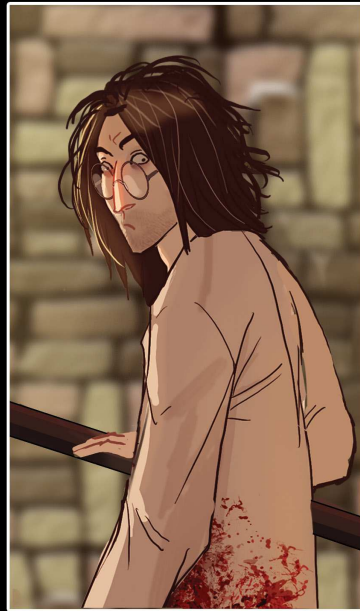
?



UHM...
YOU SEE...
THESE
THINGS ARE
ALL AROUND
US...
AND THEY
ARE...
CLEAN.



AND
THEY ARE
ALL HERE...
I MEAN...
I FOUND BLEACH...
...A-AND
THE BOILER
IS RIGHT
THERE!



HAH!

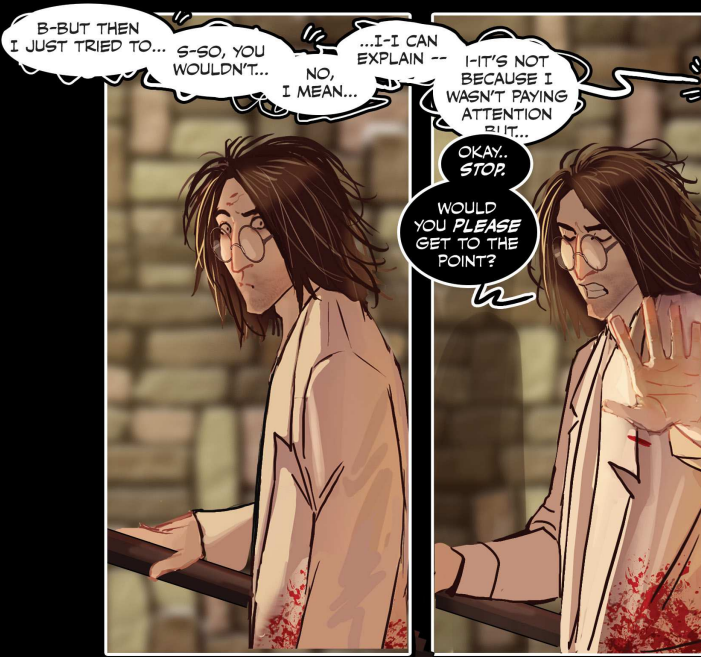
B-BUT...
OF COURSE...
...YOU KNOW
THAT.
IT'S YOUR
BOILER.
YOU PUT
IT THERE.



UM...
WHAT?



I MEAN...
WHAT I MEANT
TO ASK IS -- THE...
THE...THING FOR...
D-DISINFECTING...



B-BUT THEN I JUST TRIED TO...

S-SO, YOU WOULDN'T...

...I-I CAN EXPLAIN --

NO, I MEAN...

OKAY.. STOP.

WOULD YOU PLEASE GET TO THE POINT?

I-IT'S NOT BECAUSE I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION BUT...



I...

CAN'T FIND THE AUTOCLAVE --



THE AUTOCLAVE?

IT'S NOT HERE.

IT'S IN THE LAB.



HMM.

DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU THAT?



OH WELL!

IT HAPPENS.



I'LL SHOW YOU WHEN WE GET BACK...



THIS WAS DEFINITELY NOT HOW I IMAGINED WORKING AS AN ASSISTANT WOULD BE.
I CAN'T COMPLAIN, THOUGH...BECAUSE IT WASN'T ALL THAT BAD EITHER...
IT WAS AN AWKWARD INTRODUCTION AT FIRST, SURE...BUT THAT'S HOPEFULLY BEHIND ME NOW...

SIGH...

OKAY, TO BE FAIR...THERE *IS ONE* POSITIVE THING I EXPERIENCED TODAY...

THE FOOD HERE...IS TO *DIE FOR*.

...I CAN'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT.



OH, AND ALSO...

I FACED MY FEARS.

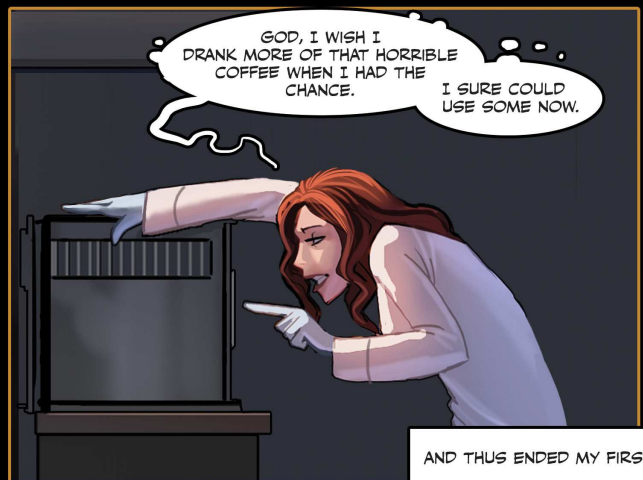
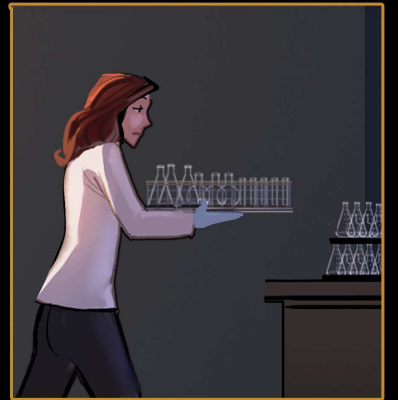
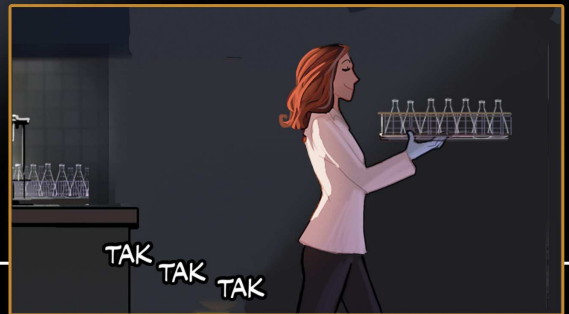
...AND ASKED...



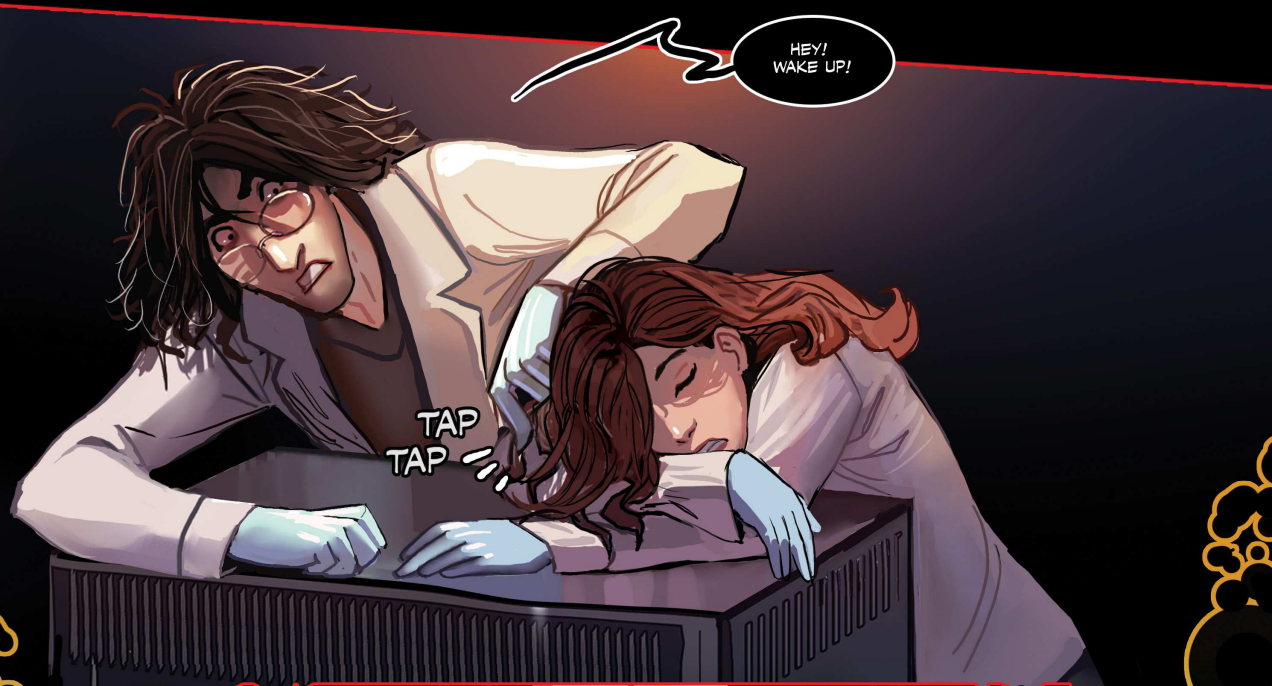
...AND GOT THE ANSWER!



IT WAS A SMALL WIN, BUT A WIN NONETHELESS!

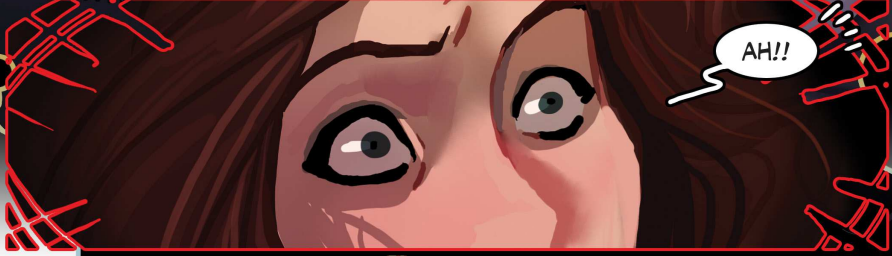


AND THUS ENDED MY FIRST DAY.

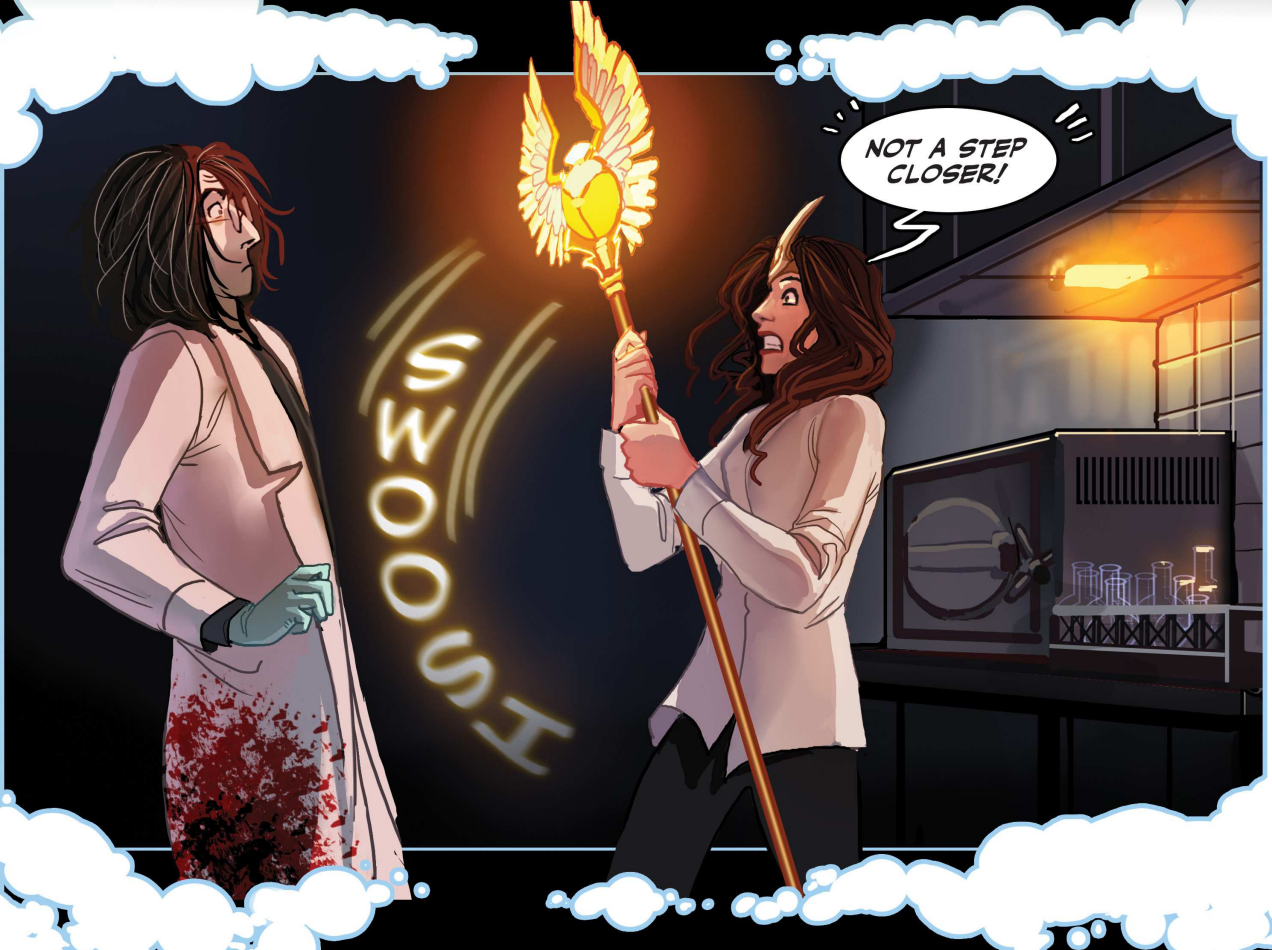


HEY!
WAKE UP!

TAP
TAP

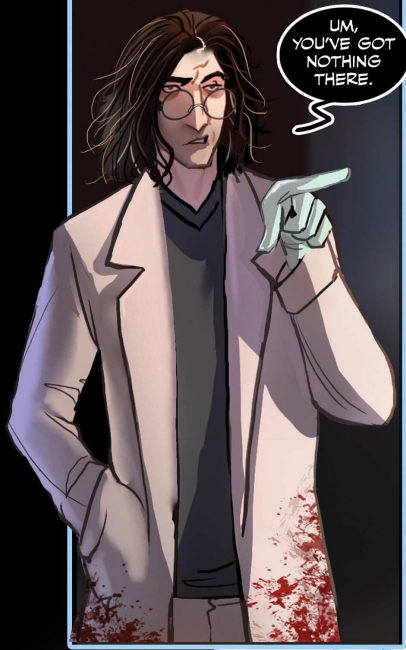


AH!!

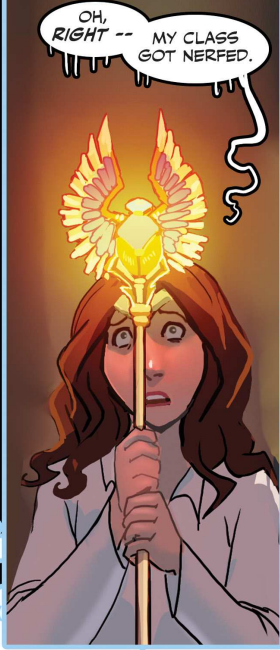


NOT A STEP
CLOSER!

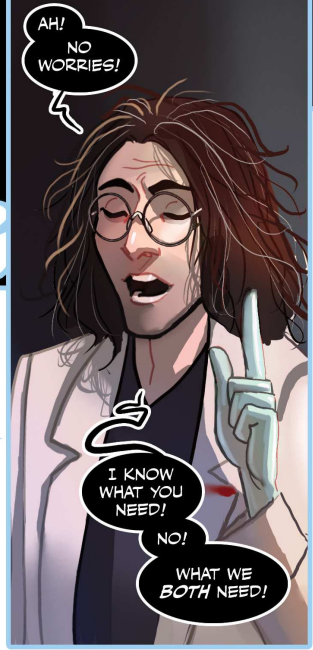
FUS



UM,
YOU'VE GOT
NOTHING
THERE.



OH,
RIGHT --
MY CLASS
GOT NERFED.



AH!
NO
WORRIES!

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
NEED!

NO!

WHAT WE
BOTH
NEED!



THIS!



OOH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!!

PLEASE
REFILL MY MANA POOL,
COFFEE GOD!



YOU KNOW,
THERE WAS POISON
PREVIOUSLY IN
THAT --

domestic
science

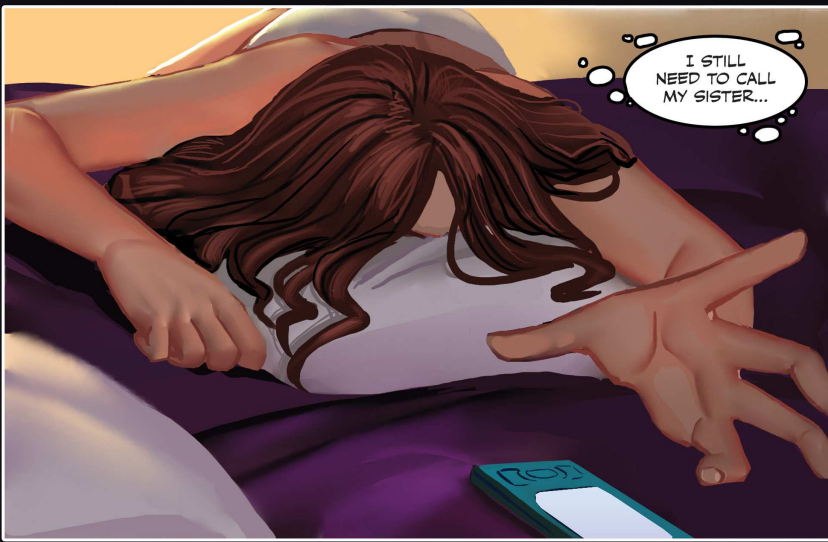


POISON

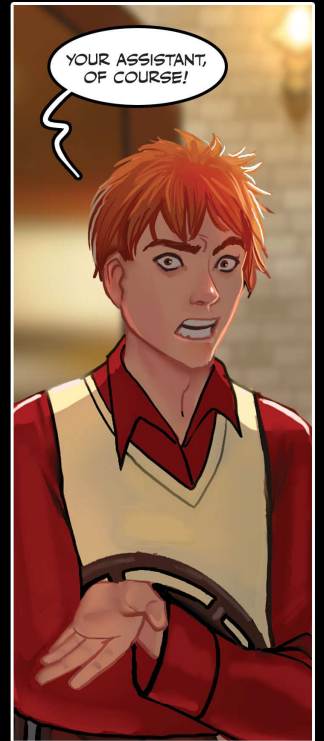
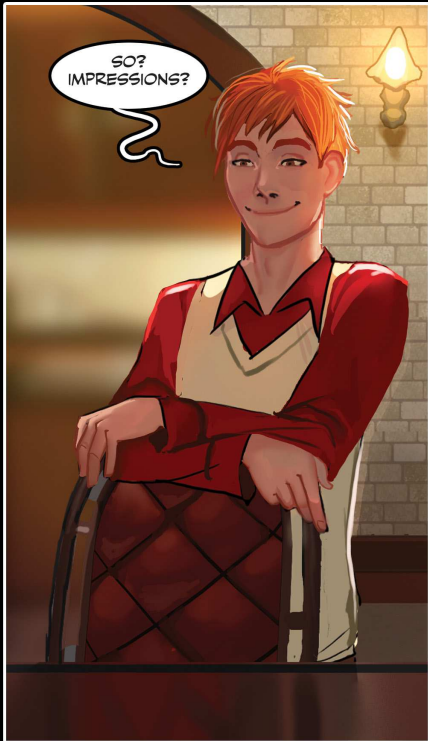
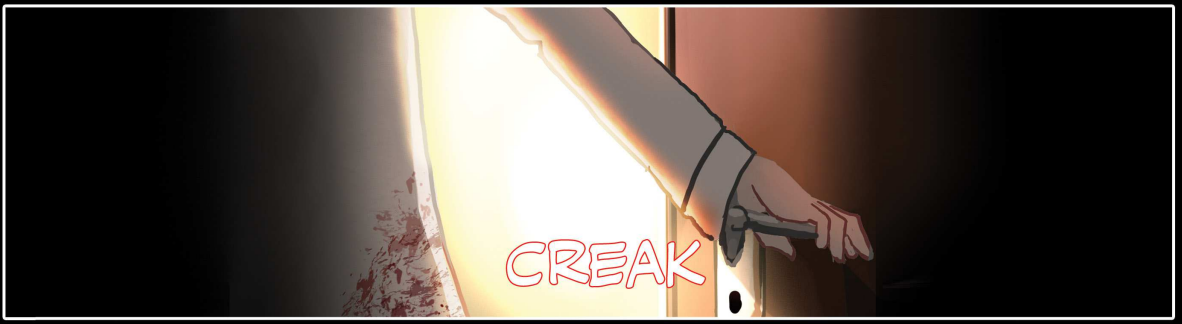
POOF

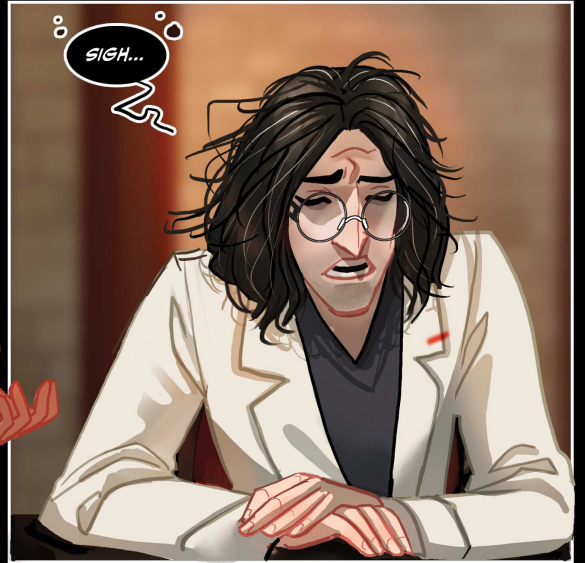


AH! NO!
I MUSTN'T FALL
ASLEEP!



MESSAGE SENT!



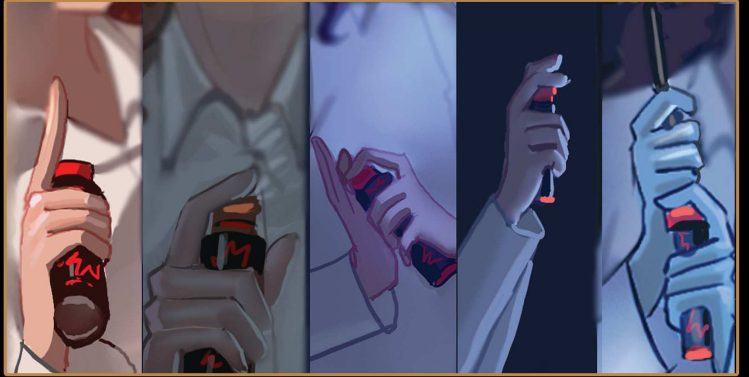


SO FAR...

...SHE PRACTICALLY CALLED ME A MURDERER AND A CRIMINAL...



THEN SHE THREATENED ME WITH PEPPER SPRAY. ON MORE THAN A FEW OCCASIONS.



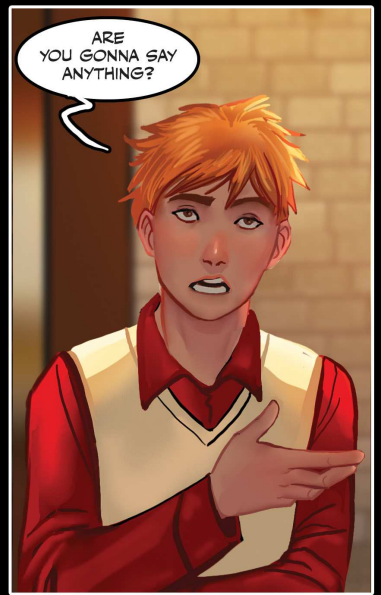
SHE ALSO CREEPED BEHIND ME SEVERAL TIMES, IN A RATHER DISTURBING MANNER.



AND LATER FELL ASLEEP ON THE AUTOCLAVE, AFTER WHICH, WHEN I WOKE HER UP...



...SHE THREATENED ME WITH EMPTY HANDS.



To be continued...

Blood Skin

BONUS MATERIALS









Happy

Holidays!

LOOK
OUT...

IT'S A
MINEFIELD.





TA-DAAAAAH!
LOOK, ELLY.
I HAVE A
FESTIVE COAT
TOO, NOW!



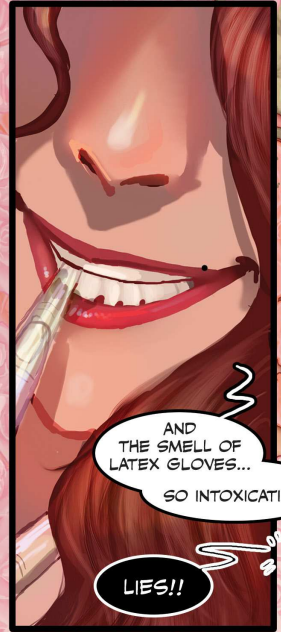
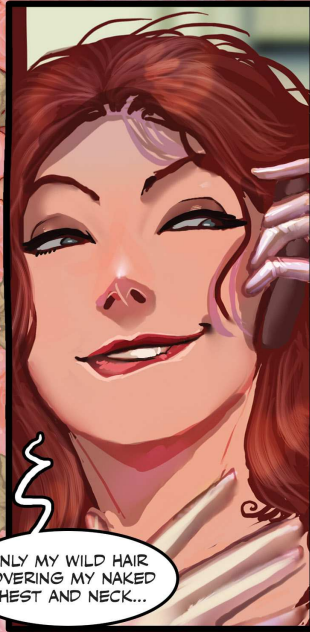
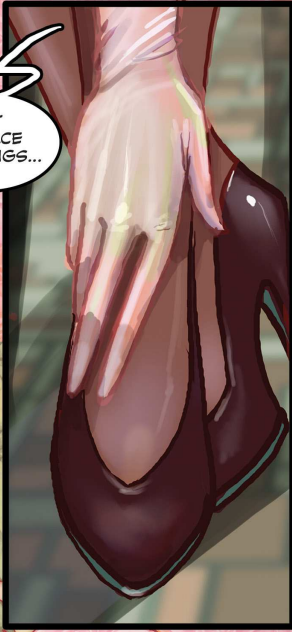
AND WHAT
DOES MY
COAT TELL
YOU?



NOT TO CARRY
VIALS OF BLOOD
WHILE DRUNK?



TO
"B POSITIVE"!



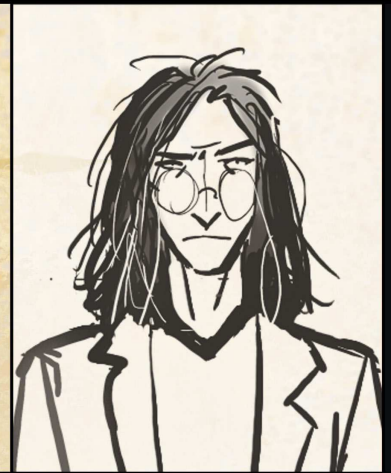
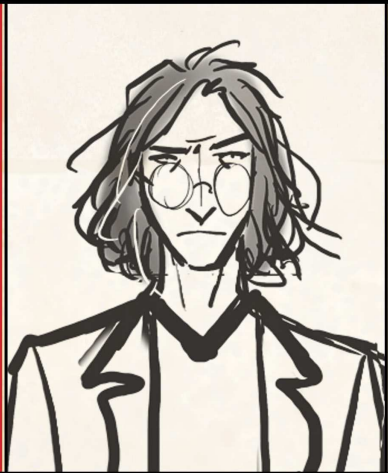


FEBRUARY



APRIL

OCTOBER



JANUARY



ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED!
FULLMETAL
CHEMIST

THANK YOU ALL FOR READING! :)

Blood Fairy

VOLUME 



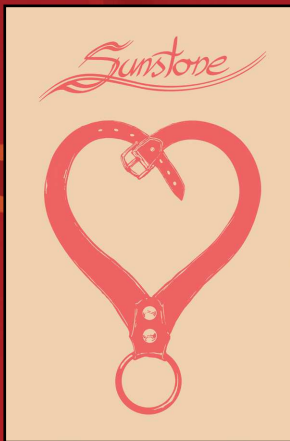
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