

JAMES S.A. COREY

LAMBERT • LEE • DANLAN • FARRELL

THE
EXPANSETM
ORIGINS: NAOMI NAGATA

BOOM!TM NO. 2
STUDIOS [OF 4]

THE EXPANSE™

ORIGINS: NAOMI NAGATA

BASED ON THE BOOKS BY **JAMES S.A. COREY**

STORY BY **JAMES S.A. COREY,**
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The story of *THE EXPANSE* unfolds across a colonized solar system 200 years in the future. The crew of **The Rocinante** finds themselves at the center of an interplanetary conflict that threatens to destroy all of human civilization. But before our team were heroes, and before there was The Rocinante, our crew were just a bunch of ice-haulers on a third-rate ice trawler called **The Canterbury**. And these are the stories of the winding roads that led to The Cant...

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR **CAMERON CHITTOCK**
EDITOR **ERIC HARBURN**

SPECIAL THANKS TO **BEN ROBERTS,**
JOHN SANDERSON, AND THE ENTIRE TEAM AT
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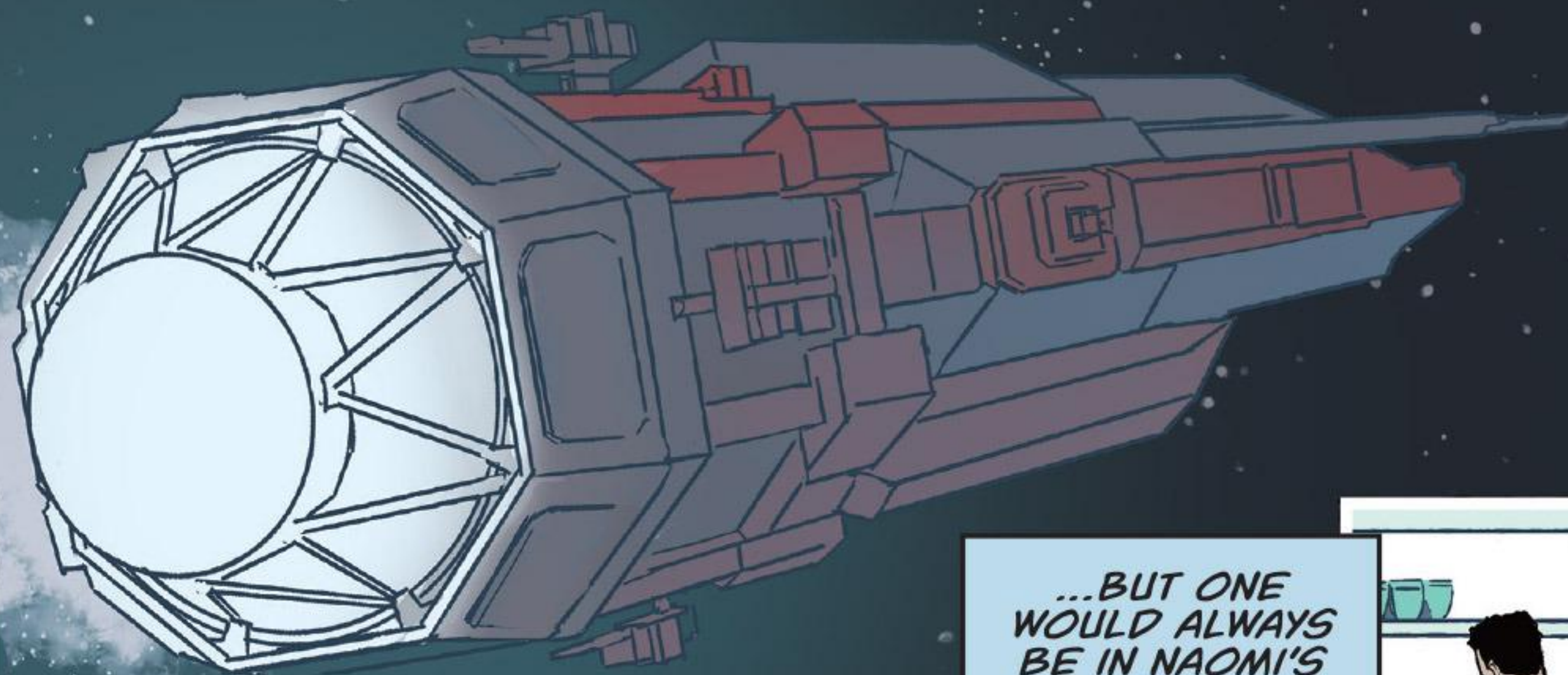
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THERE WOULD BE NEWER, SHINIER SHIPS AFTER...



...BUT ONE WOULD ALWAYS BE IN NAOMI'S HEART.



BECAUSE SHE FIXED IT...

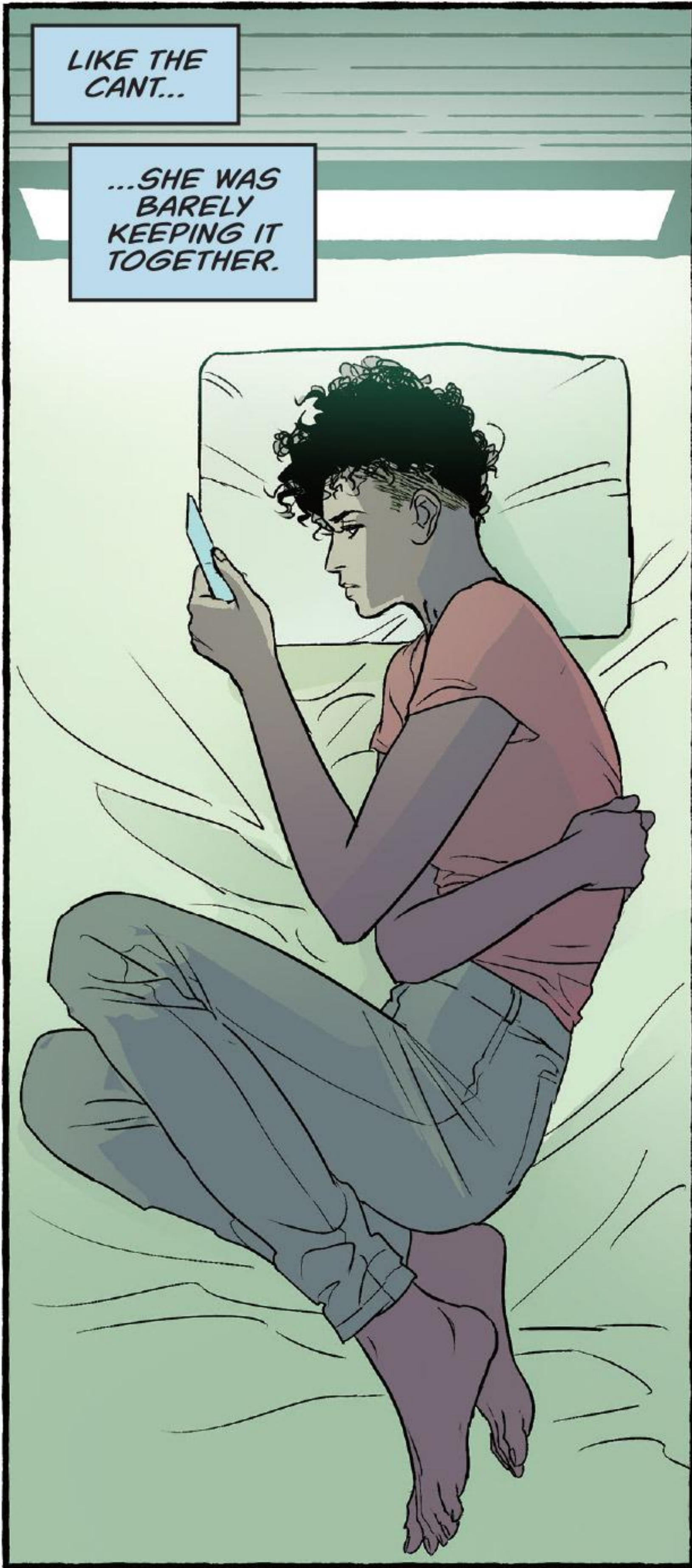


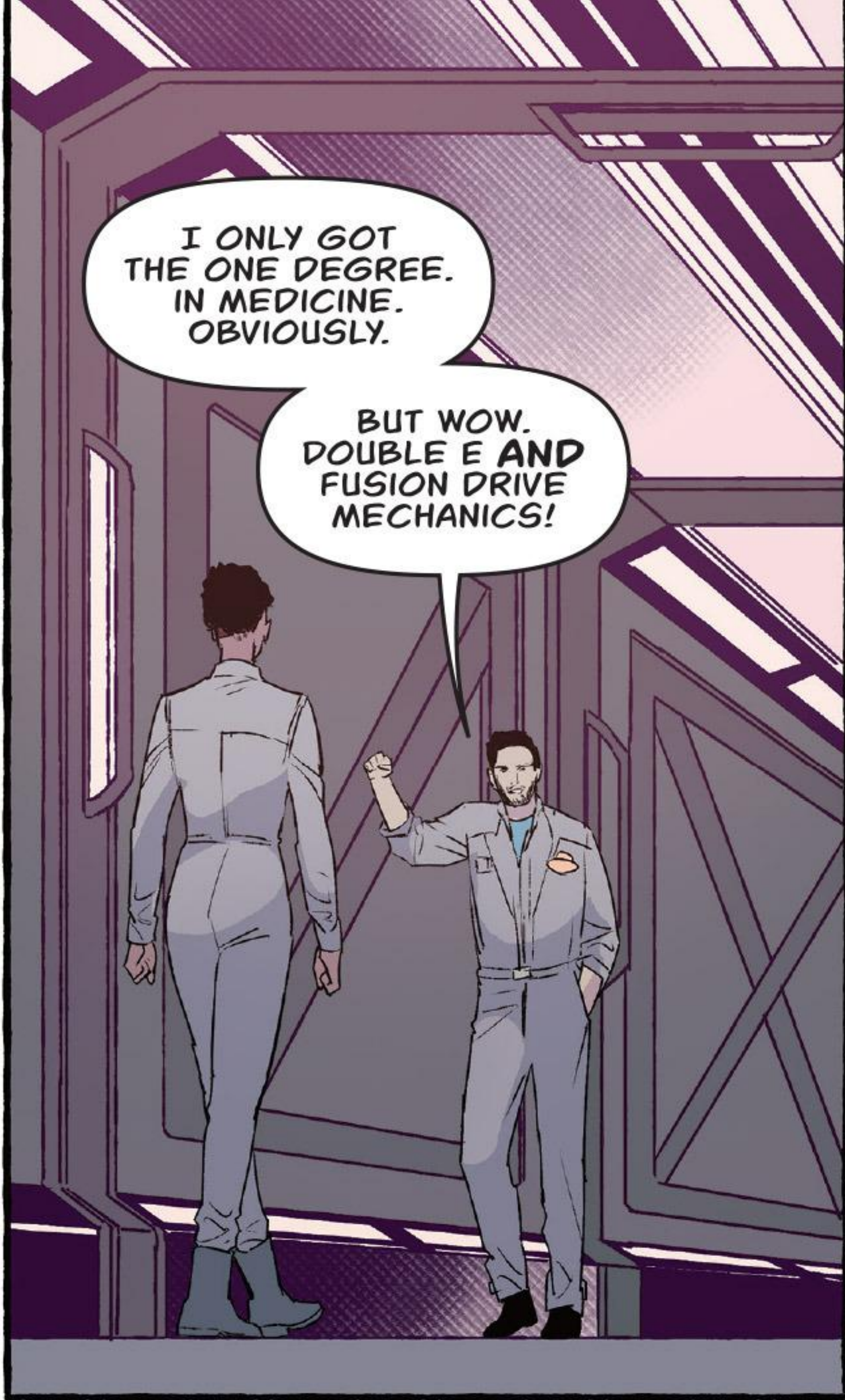
REMEMBER THE CANT.



...AND IT HELPED FIX HER.

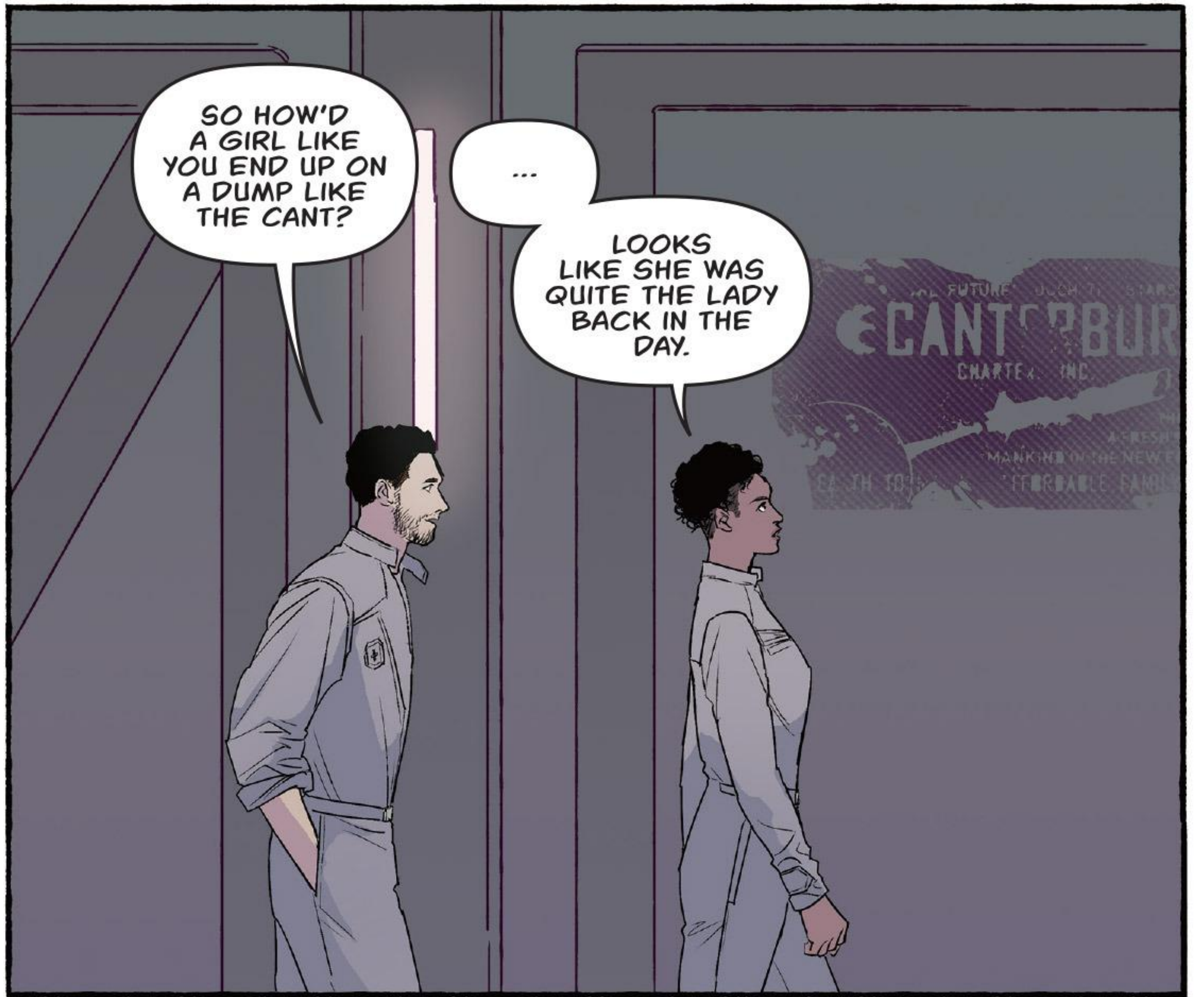
Eight years earlier.





I ONLY GOT THE ONE DEGREE. IN MEDICINE. OBVIOUSLY.

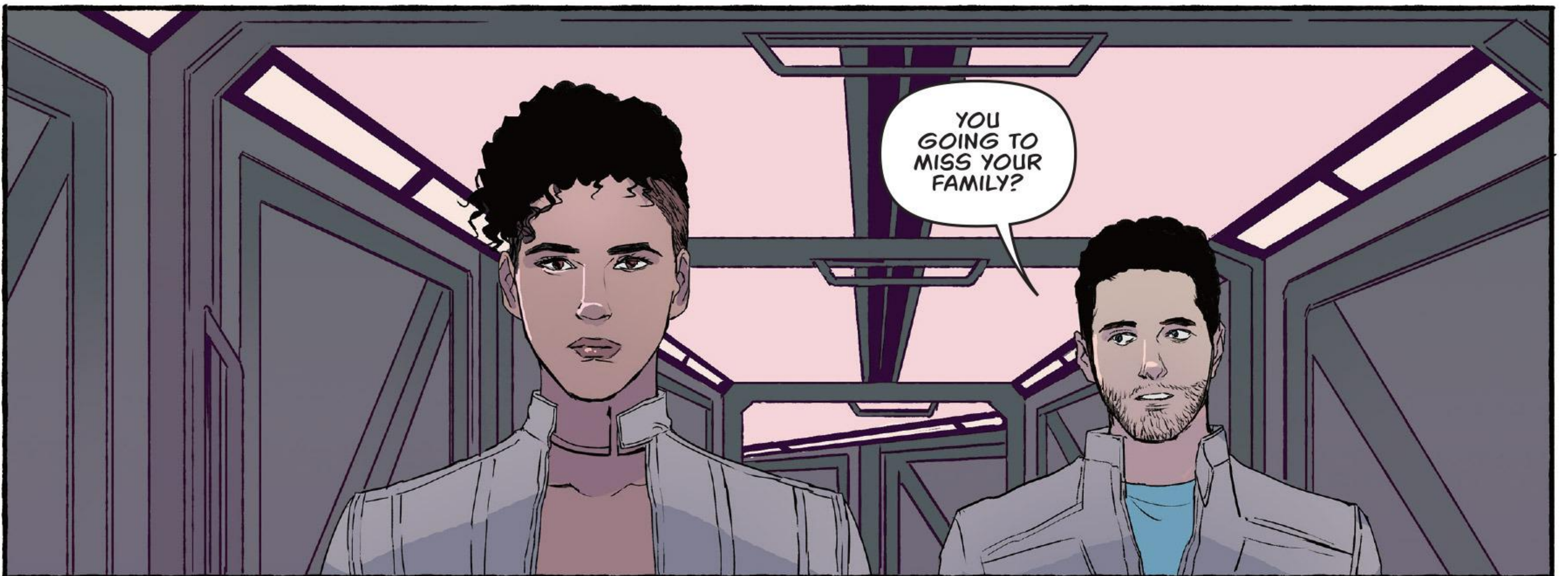
BUT WOW. DOUBLE E AND FUSION DRIVE MECHANICS!



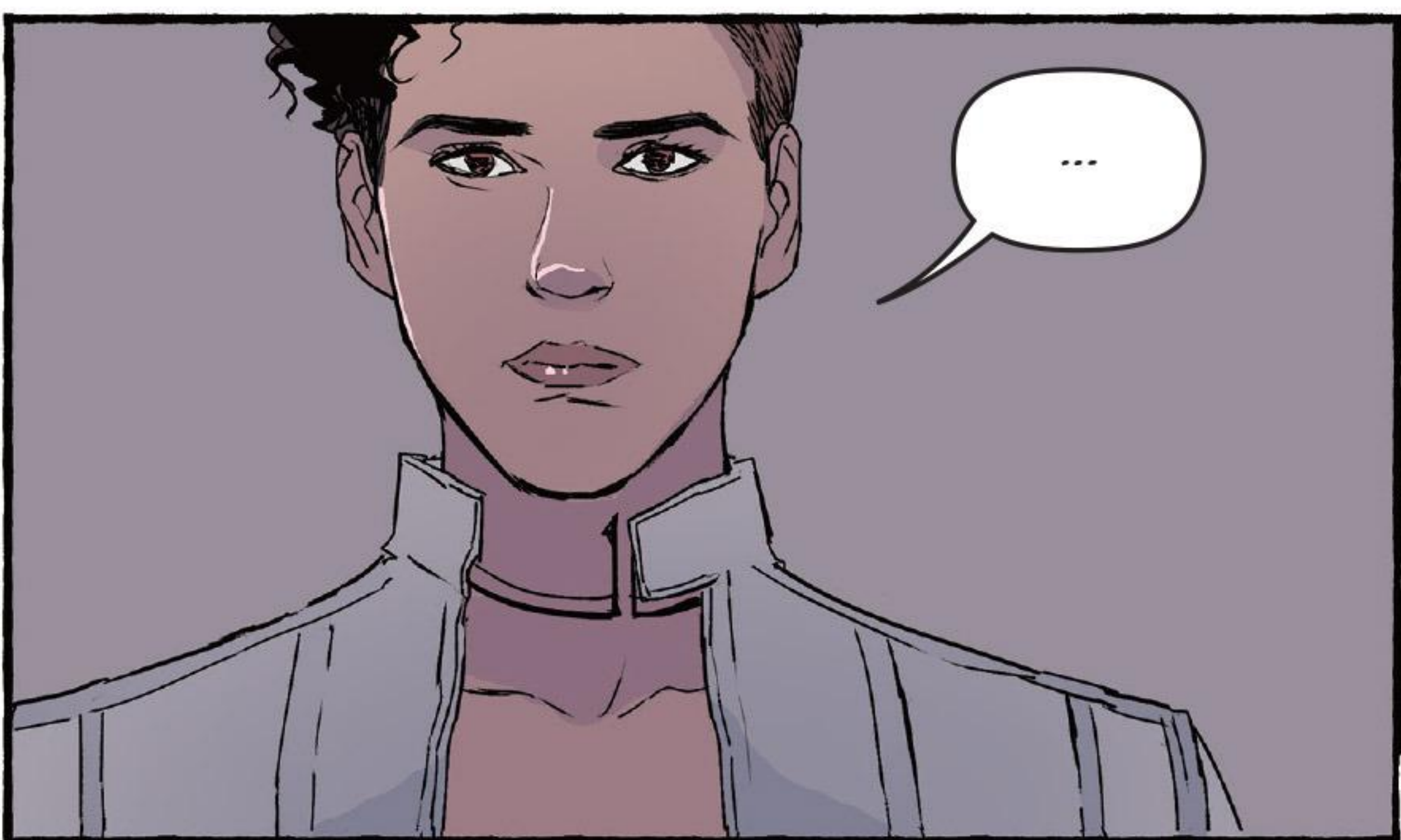
SO HOW'D A GIRL LIKE YOU END UP ON A DUMP LIKE THE CANT?

...

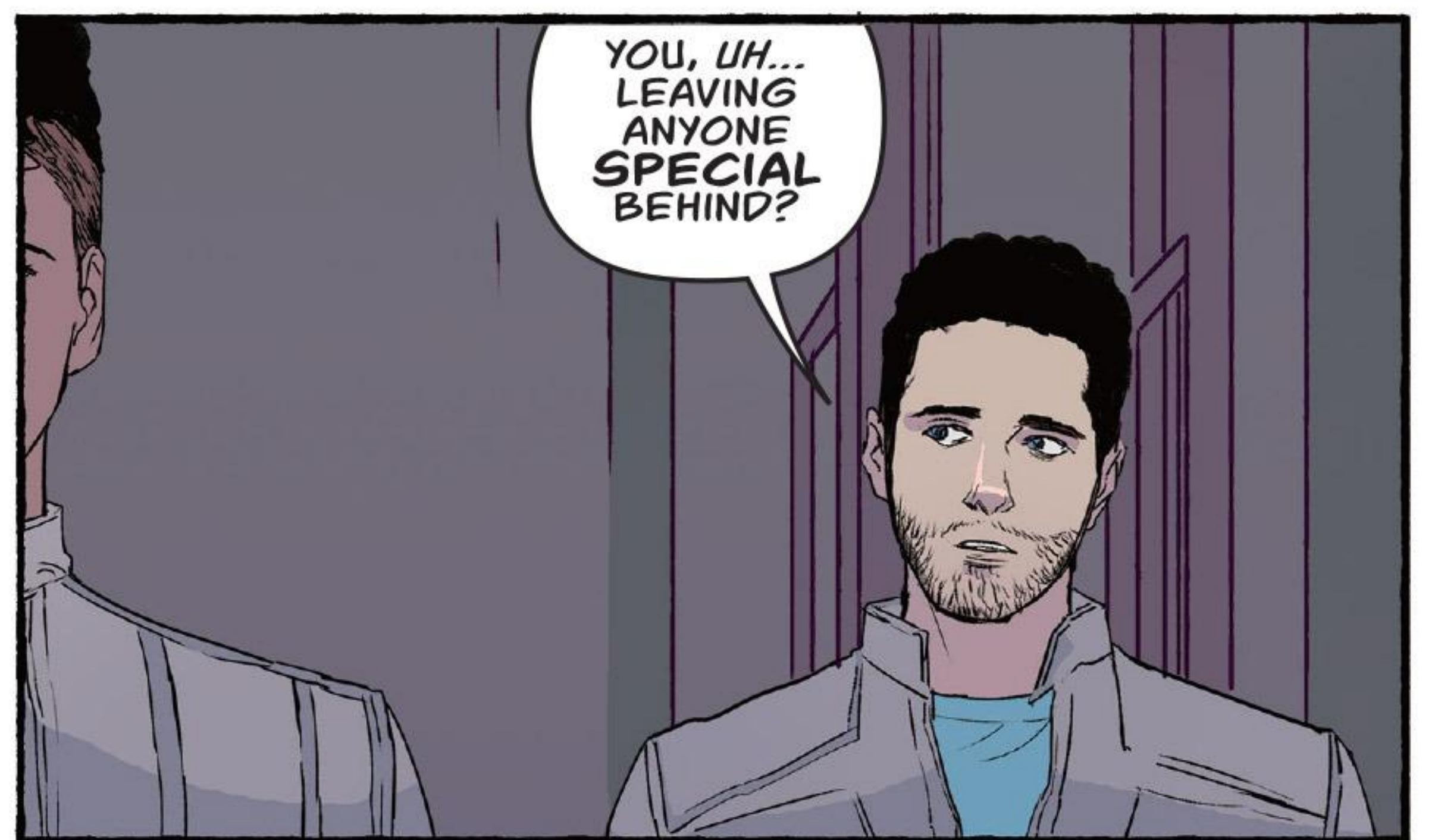
LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS QUITE THE LADY BACK IN THE DAY.



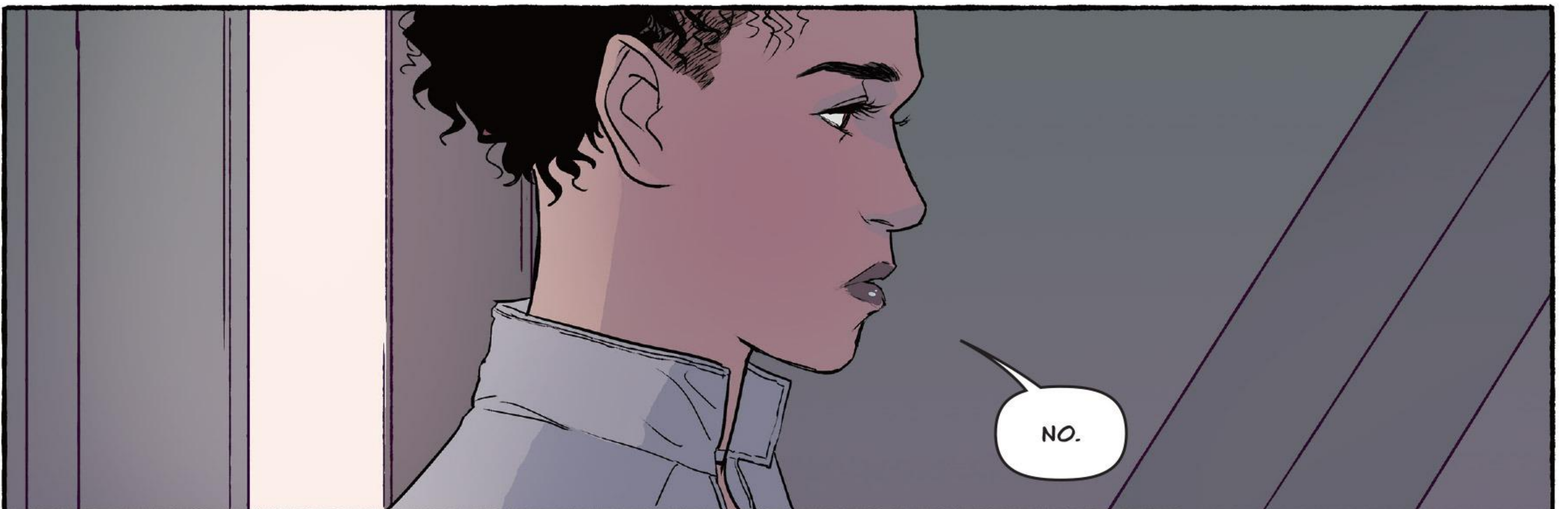
YOU GOING TO MISS YOUR FAMILY?



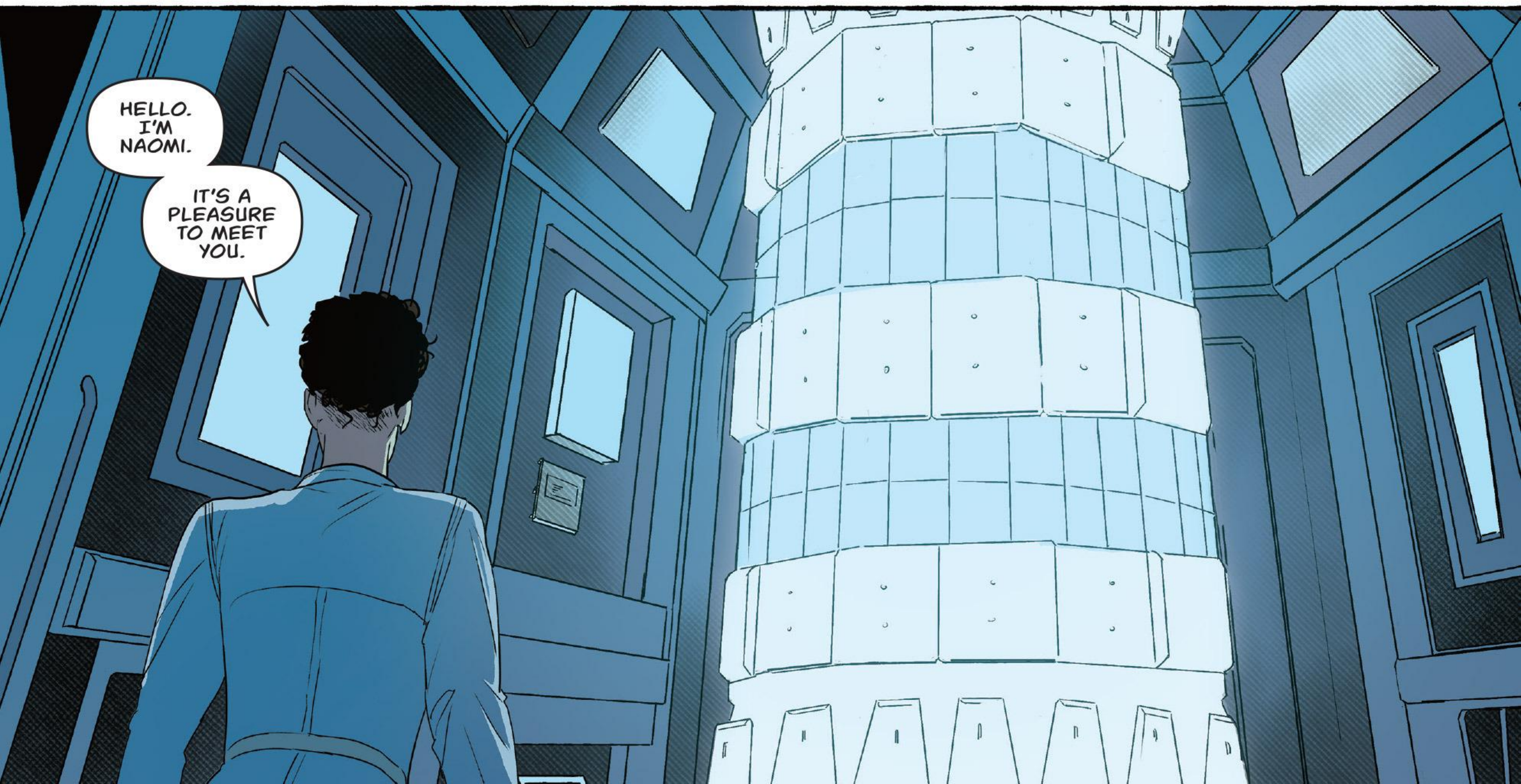
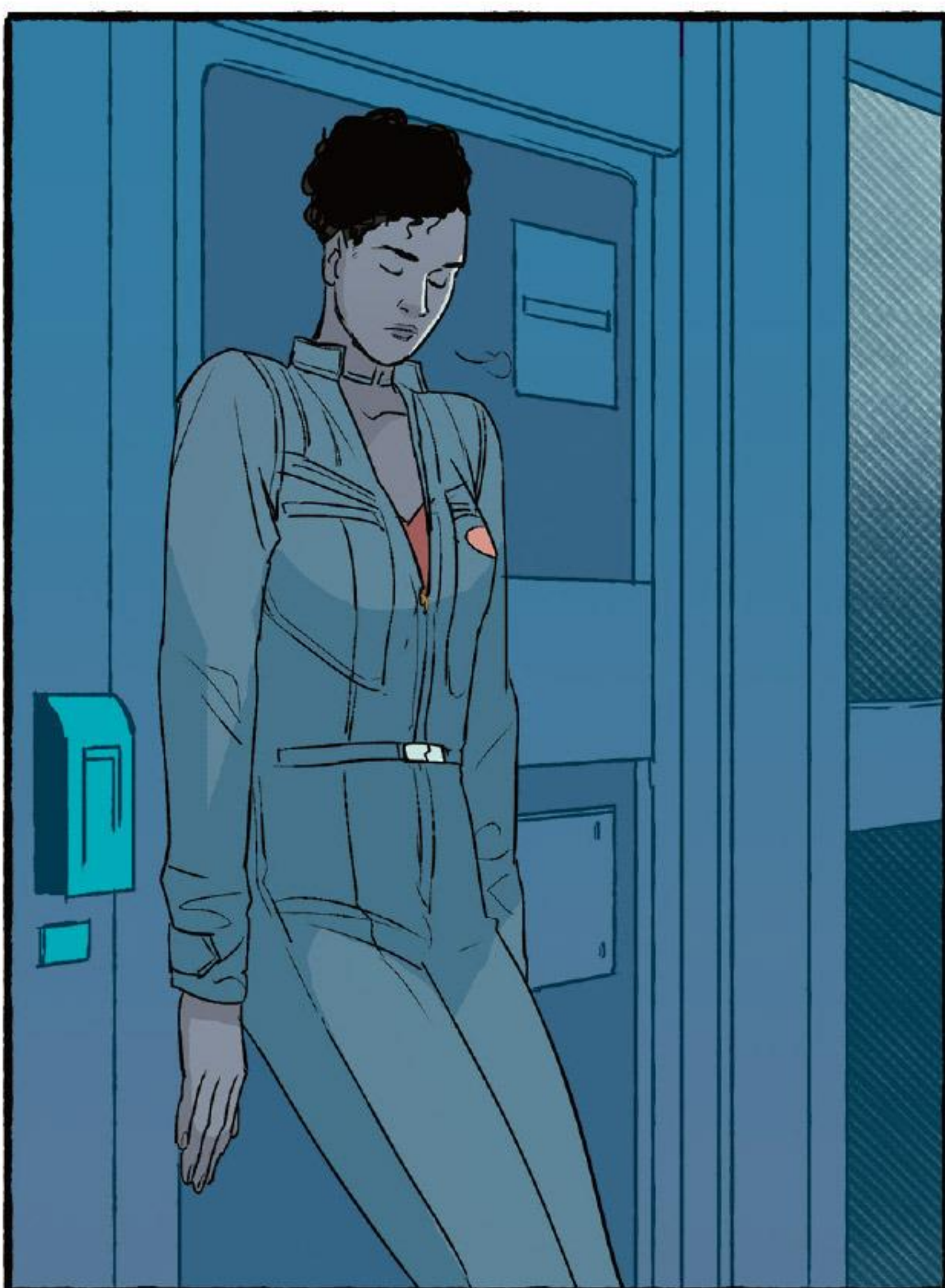
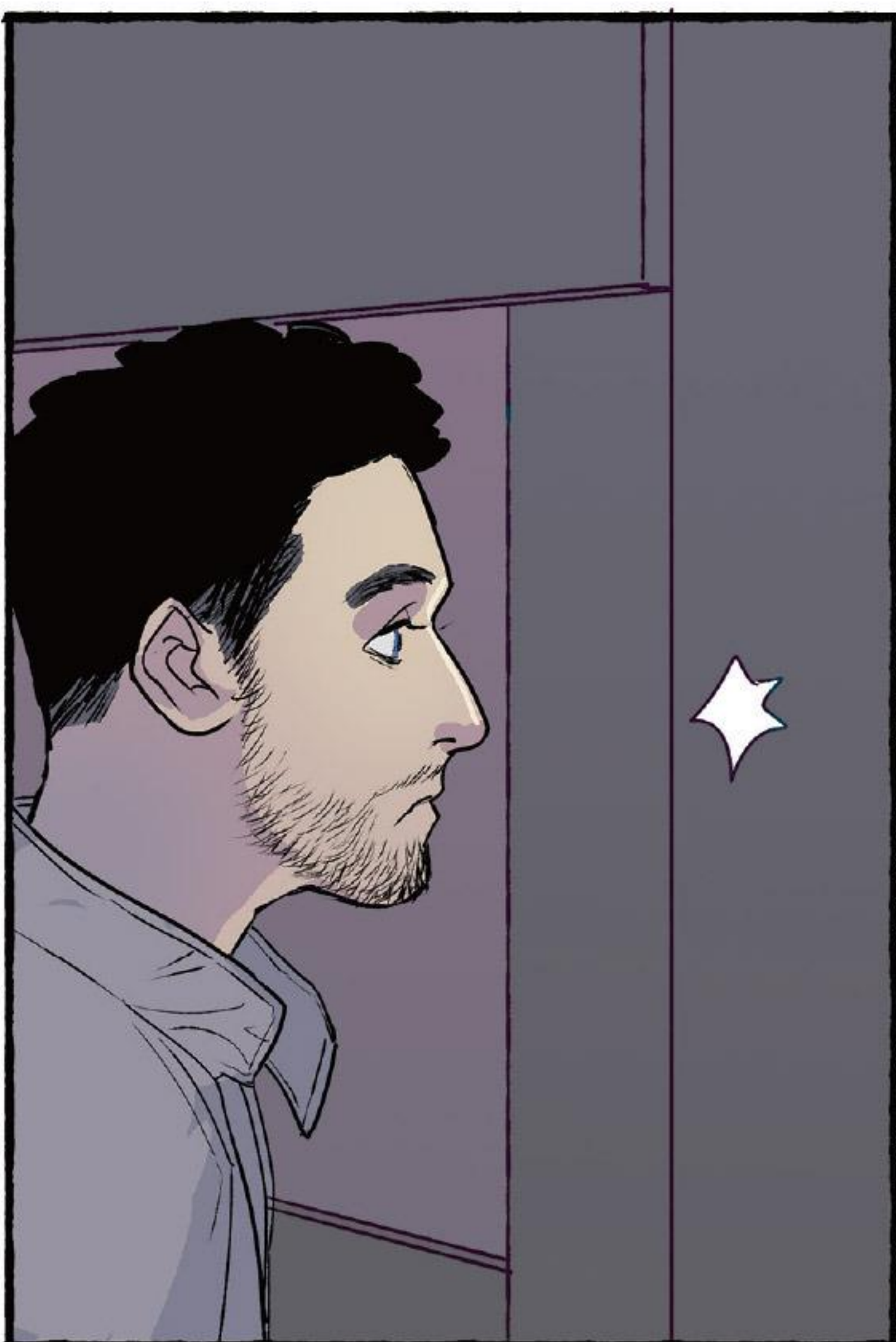
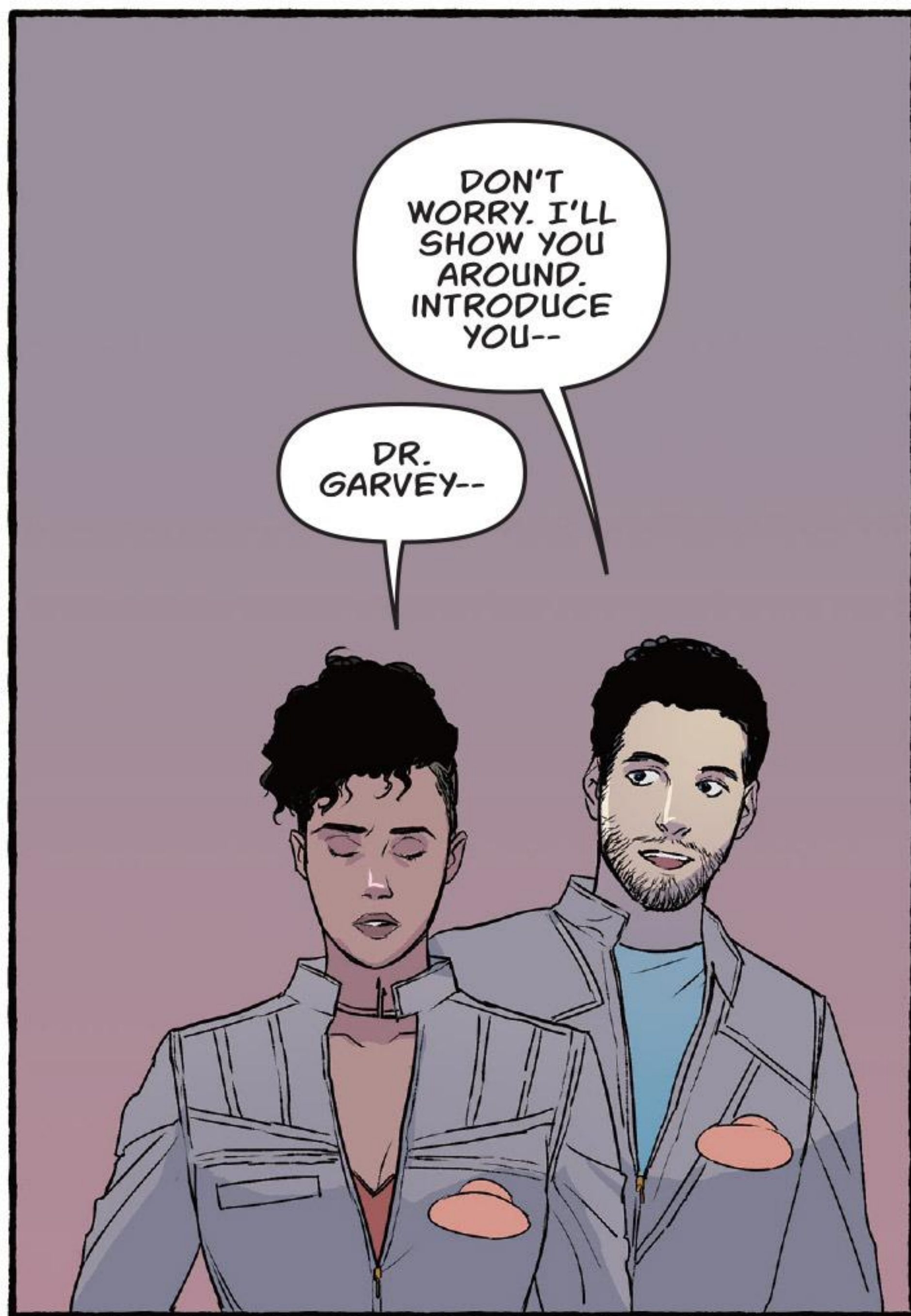
...



YOU, UH... LEAVING ANYONE SPECIAL BEHIND?



NO.

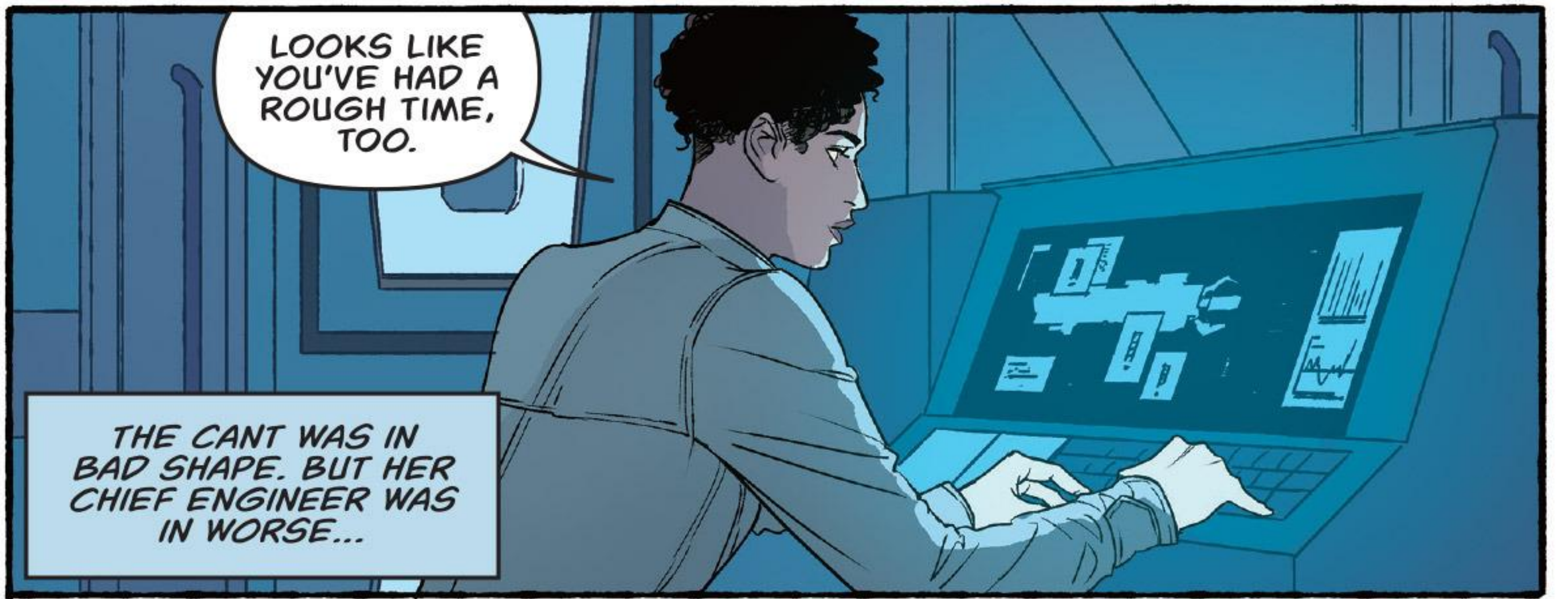




SHIPS ARE EASY TO TALK TO.

...SO I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS THE PLAN. BUT IT WAS STILL MY FAULT.

SHIPS DON'T JUDGE.

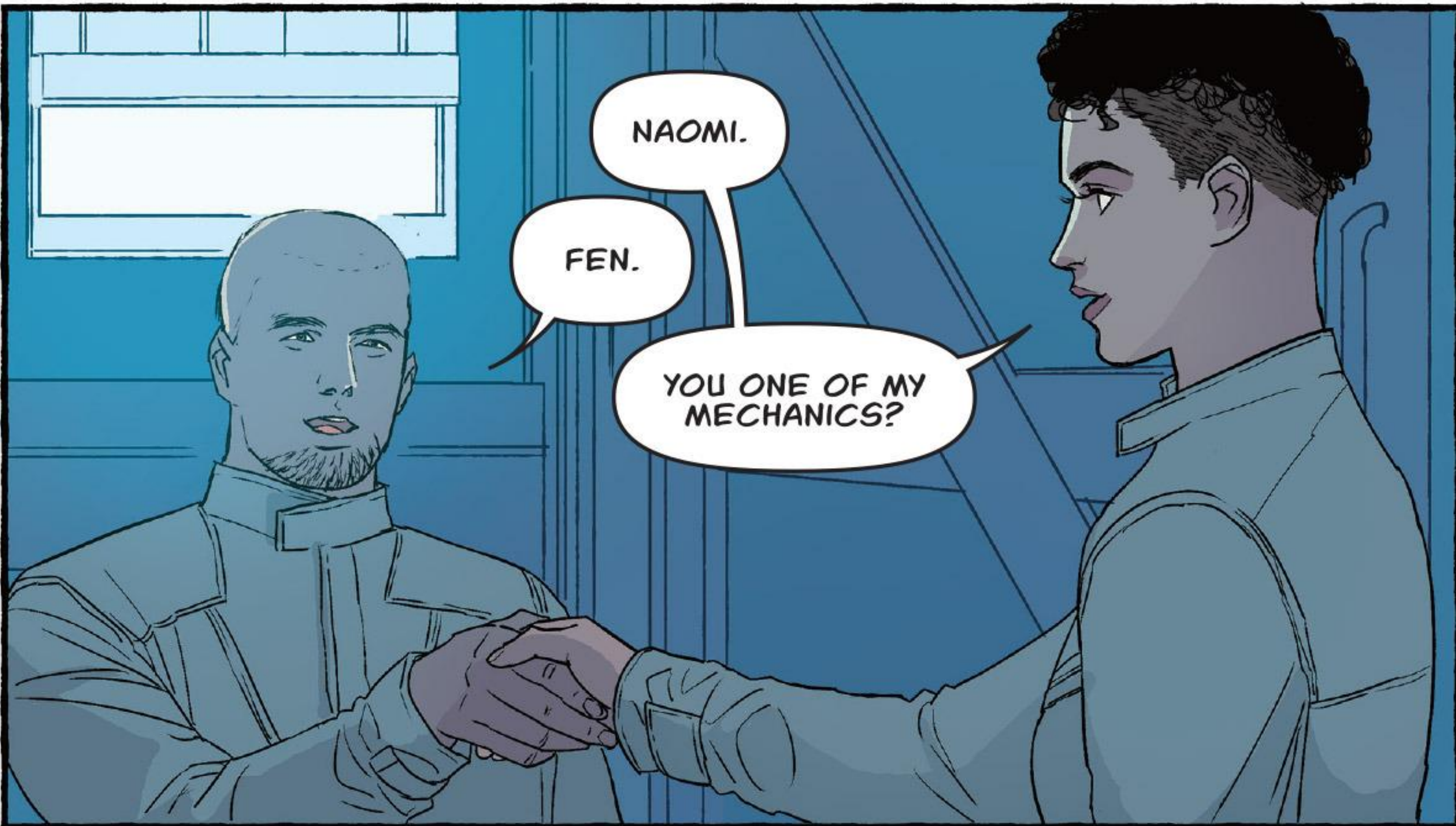


LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME, TOO.

THE CANT WAS IN BAD SHAPE. BUT HER CHIEF ENGINEER WAS IN WORSE...



YOU THE NEW CHIEF?



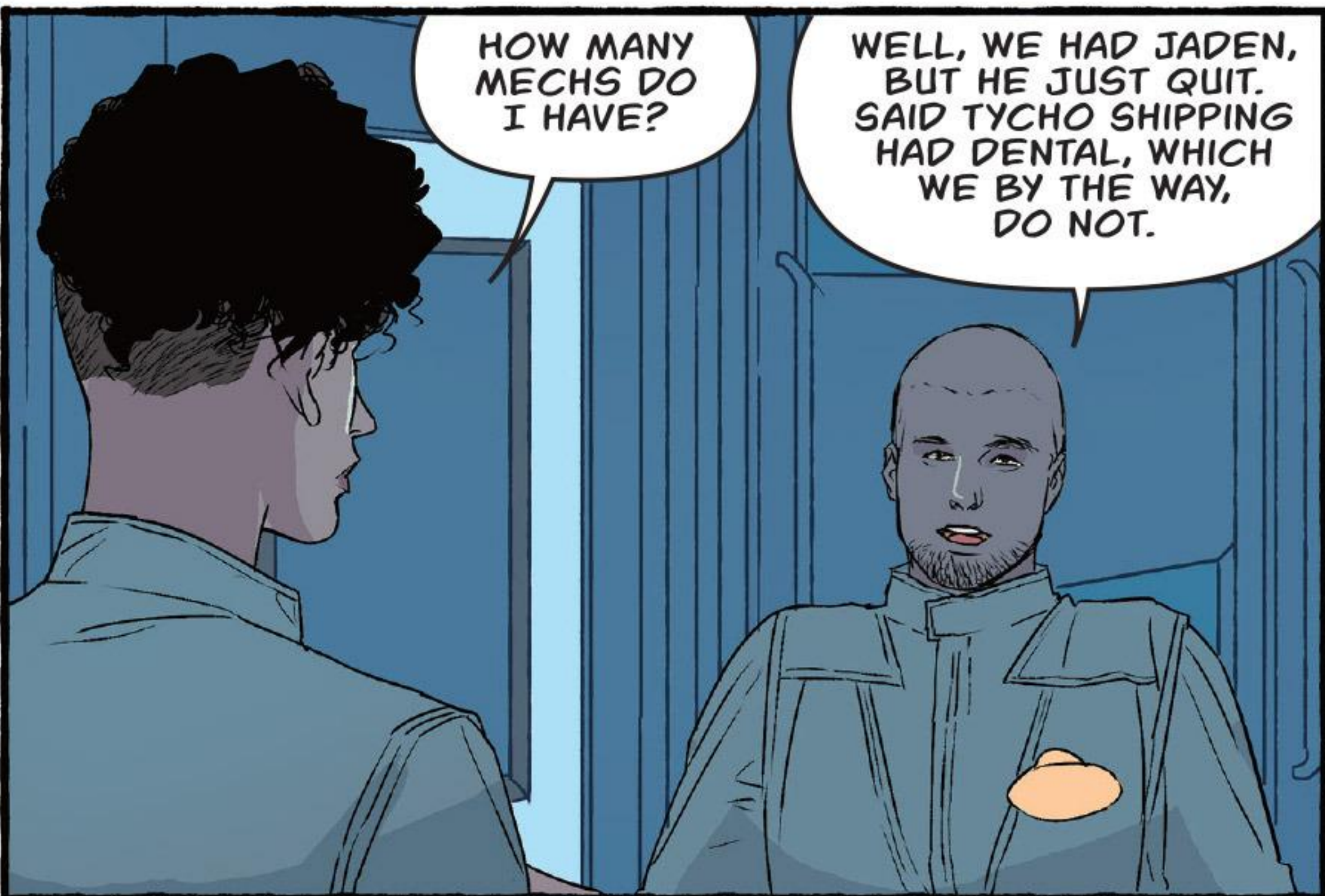
NAOMI.

FEN.

YOU ONE OF MY MECHANICS?

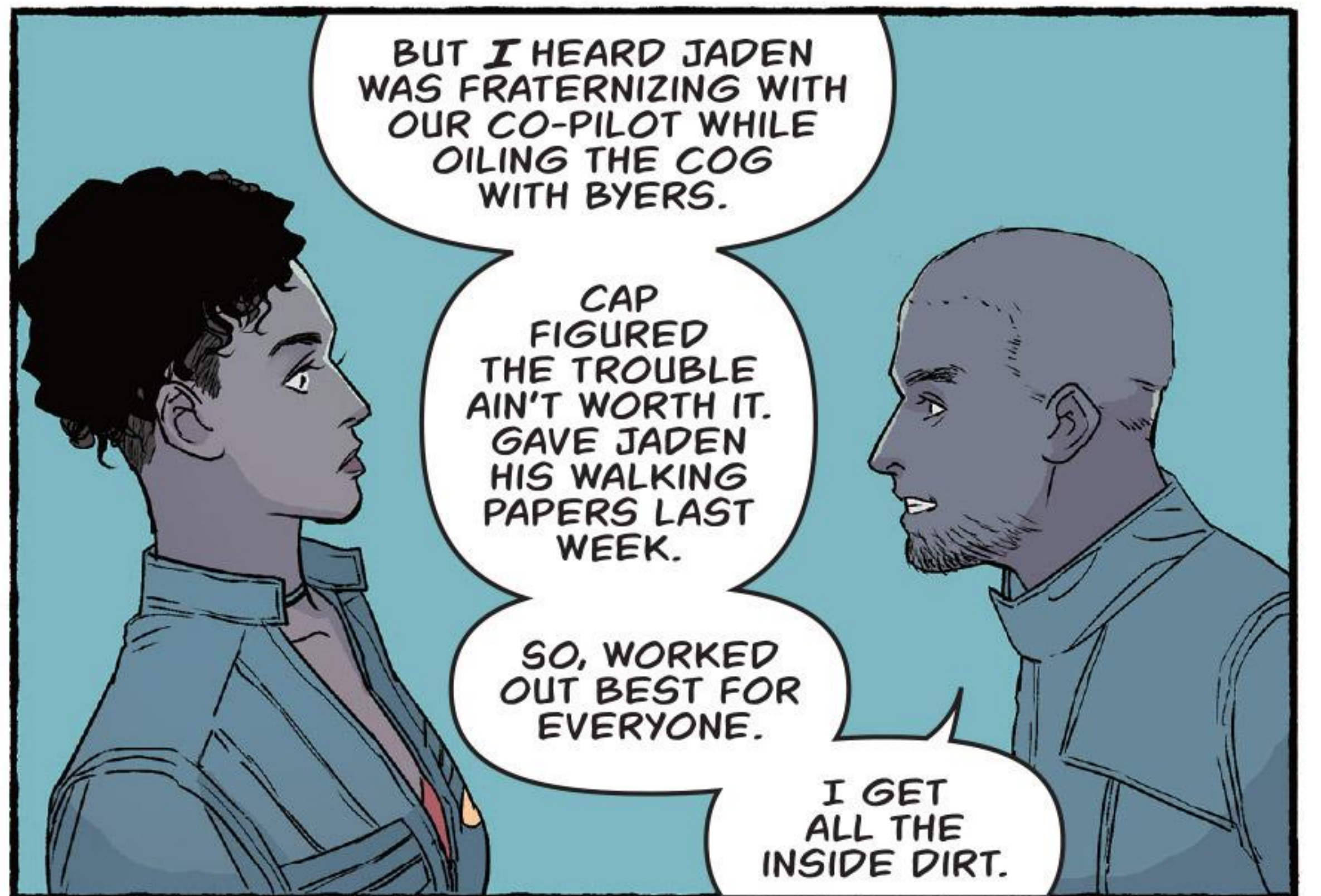


I WANT TO BE USED TO BE A HULL WELDER. NOW I'M THE SHIP REPAIRMAN. BUT I'M RARING TO LEARN.



HOW MANY MECHS DO I HAVE?

WELL, WE HAD JADEN, BUT HE JUST QUIT. SAID TYCHO SHIPPING HAD DENTAL, WHICH WE BY THE WAY, DO NOT.

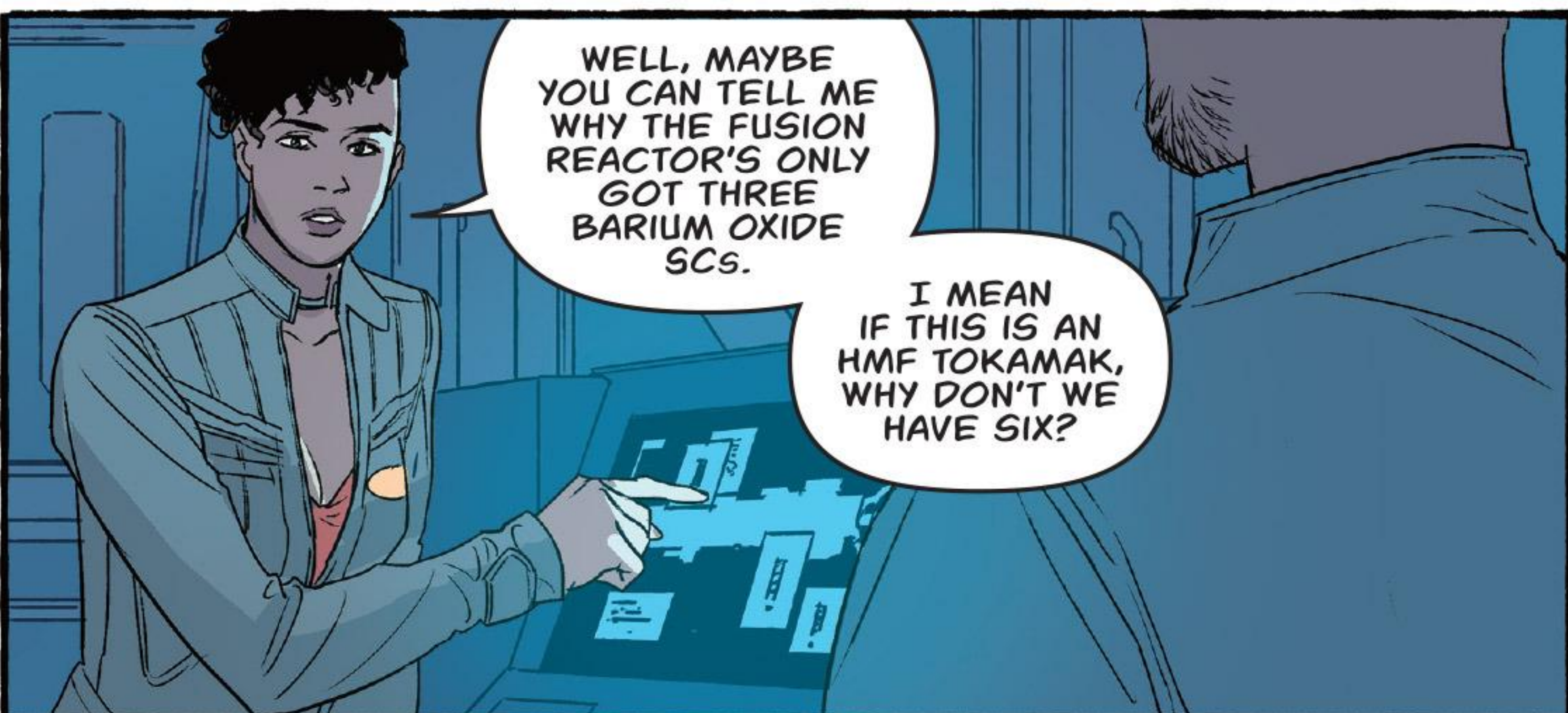


BUT I HEARD JADEN WAS FRATERNIZING WITH OUR CO-PILOT WHILE OILING THE COG WITH BYERS.

CAP FIGURED THE TROUBLE AIN'T WORTH IT. GAVE JADEN HIS WALKING PAPERS LAST WEEK.

SO, WORKED OUT BEST FOR EVERYONE.

I GET ALL THE INSIDE DIRT.



WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME WHY THE FUSION REACTOR'S ONLY GOT THREE BARIUM OXIDE SCs.

I MEAN IF THIS IS AN HMF TOKAMAK, WHY DON'T WE HAVE SIX?



...
...UH...LIKE I SAID...I'M RARING TO LEARN.



HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A TOKAMAK WAS.



THE CANT'S A GRAND OLD LADY, BUT SHE'S READY TO FALL APART IN FIVE DIFFERENT PLACES.

I CAN FIX HER IF YOU GIVE ME A P.O. FOR A NEW K-MOD AND TWO REAL MECHANICS.



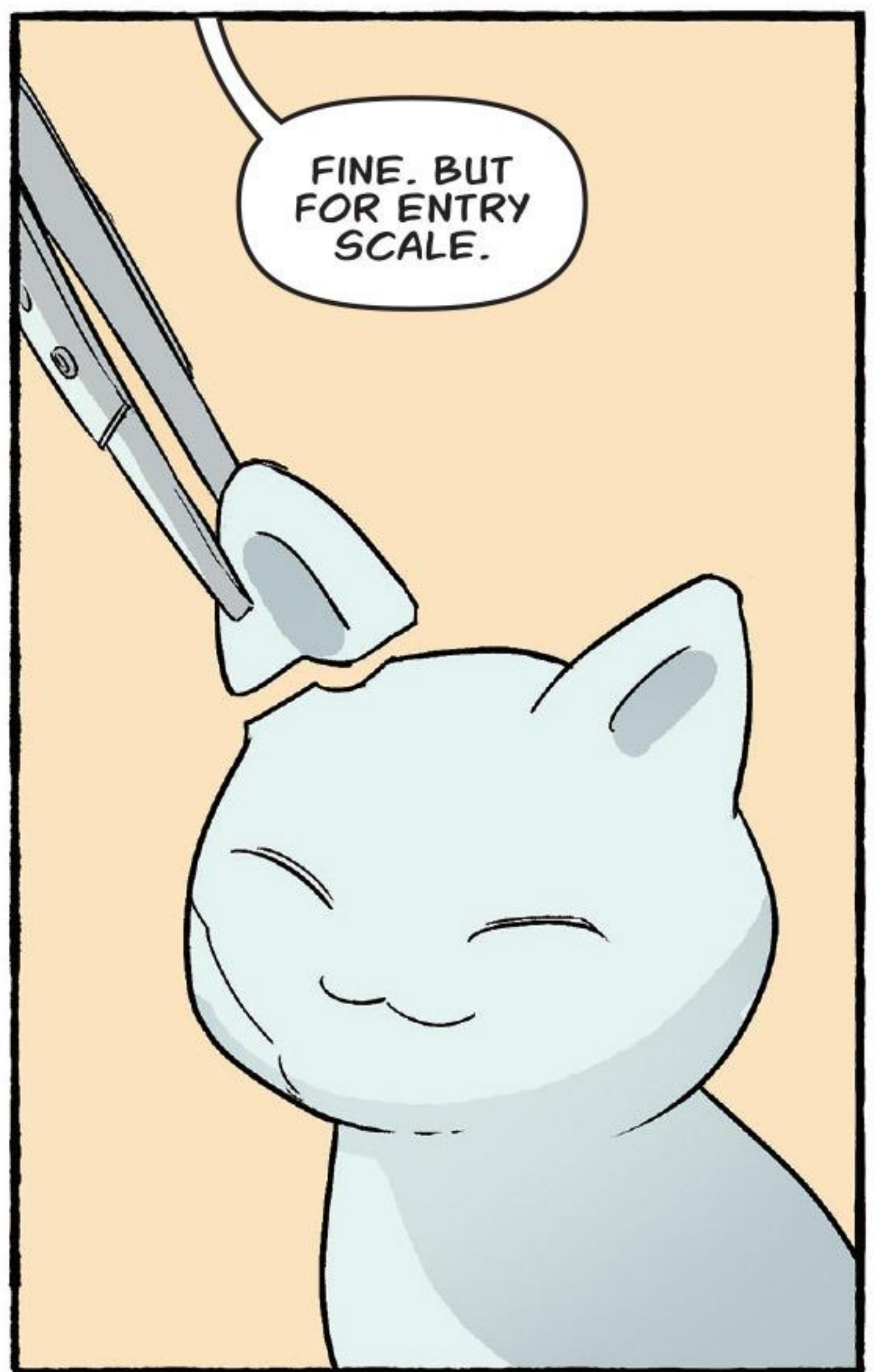
SURE. AND HOW 'BOUT I THROW IN A VACATION TO LUNA?

LISTEN, WE'RE BAREBONES HERE. WE WORK WITH WHAT WE GOT.

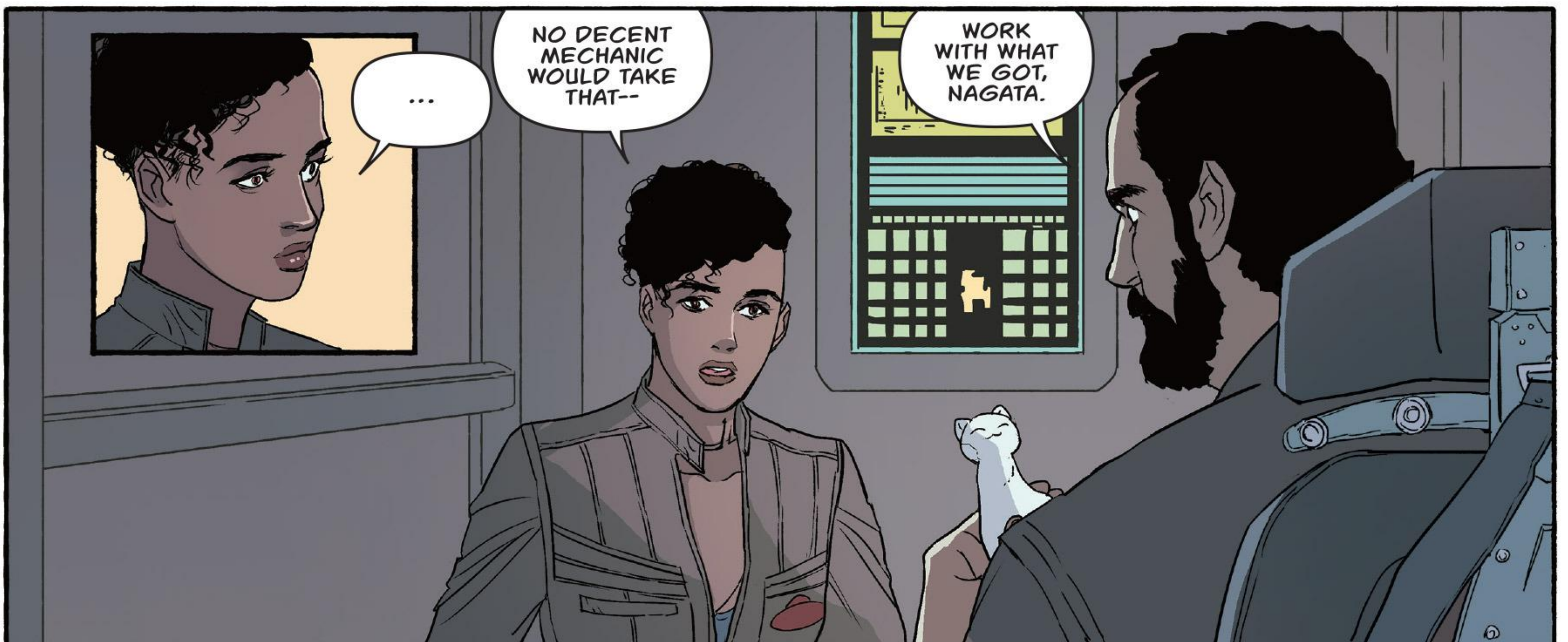


WHAT I GOT IS A GLORIFIED HANDYMAN WHO'LL END UP COSTING YOU BIG.

I NEED A PROPER MECHANIC.



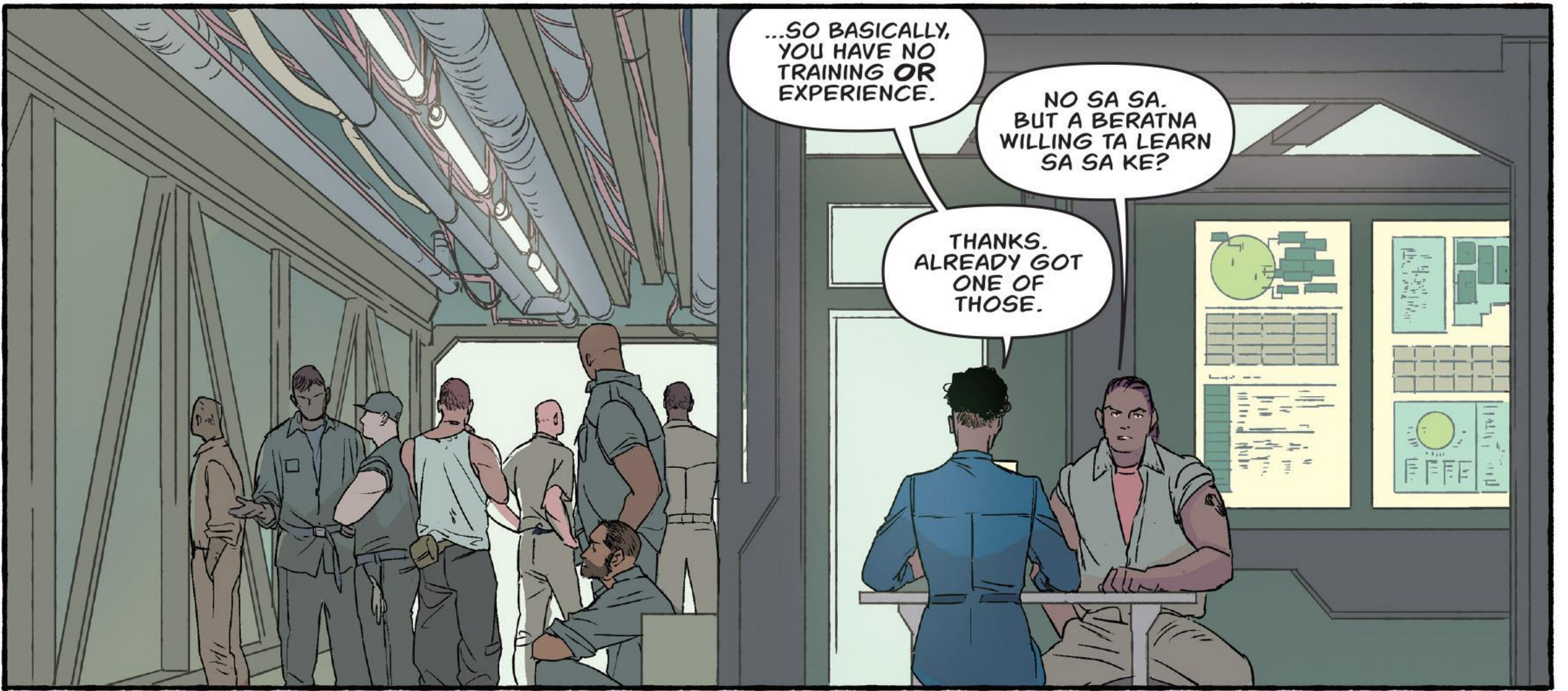
FINE. BUT FOR ENTRY SCALE.



...

NO DECENT MECHANIC WOULD TAKE THAT--

WORK WITH WHAT WE GOT, NAGATA.



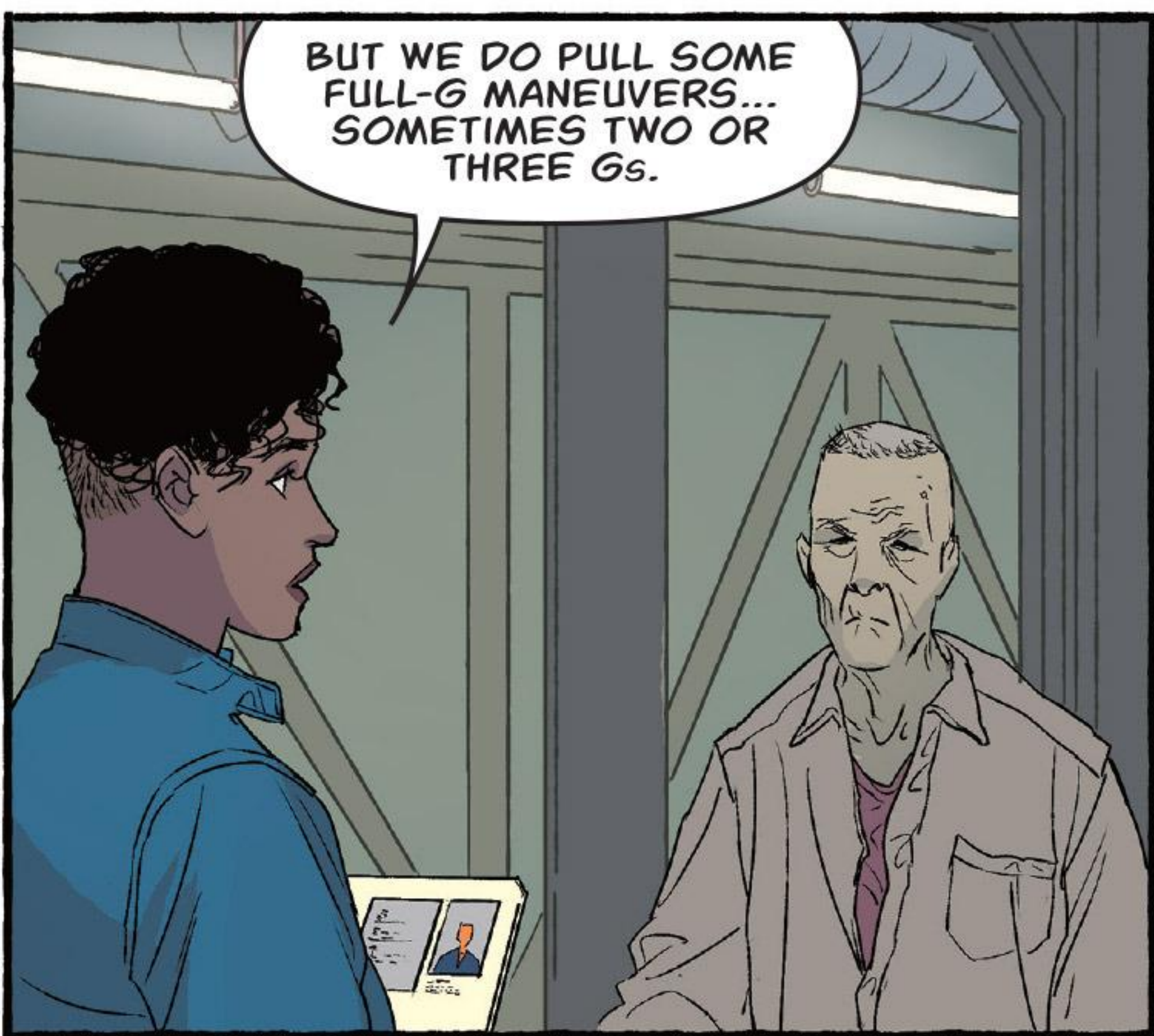
...SO BASICALLY, YOU HAVE NO TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE.

NO SA SA. BUT A BERATNA WILLING TA LEARN SA SA KE?

THANKS. ALREADY GOT ONE OF THOSE.



...TWENTY-TWO YEARS IN THE ICE-TRAWLING BIZ. IMPRESSIVE.



BUT WE DO PULL SOME FULL-G MANEUVERS... SOMETIMES TWO OR THREE Gs.



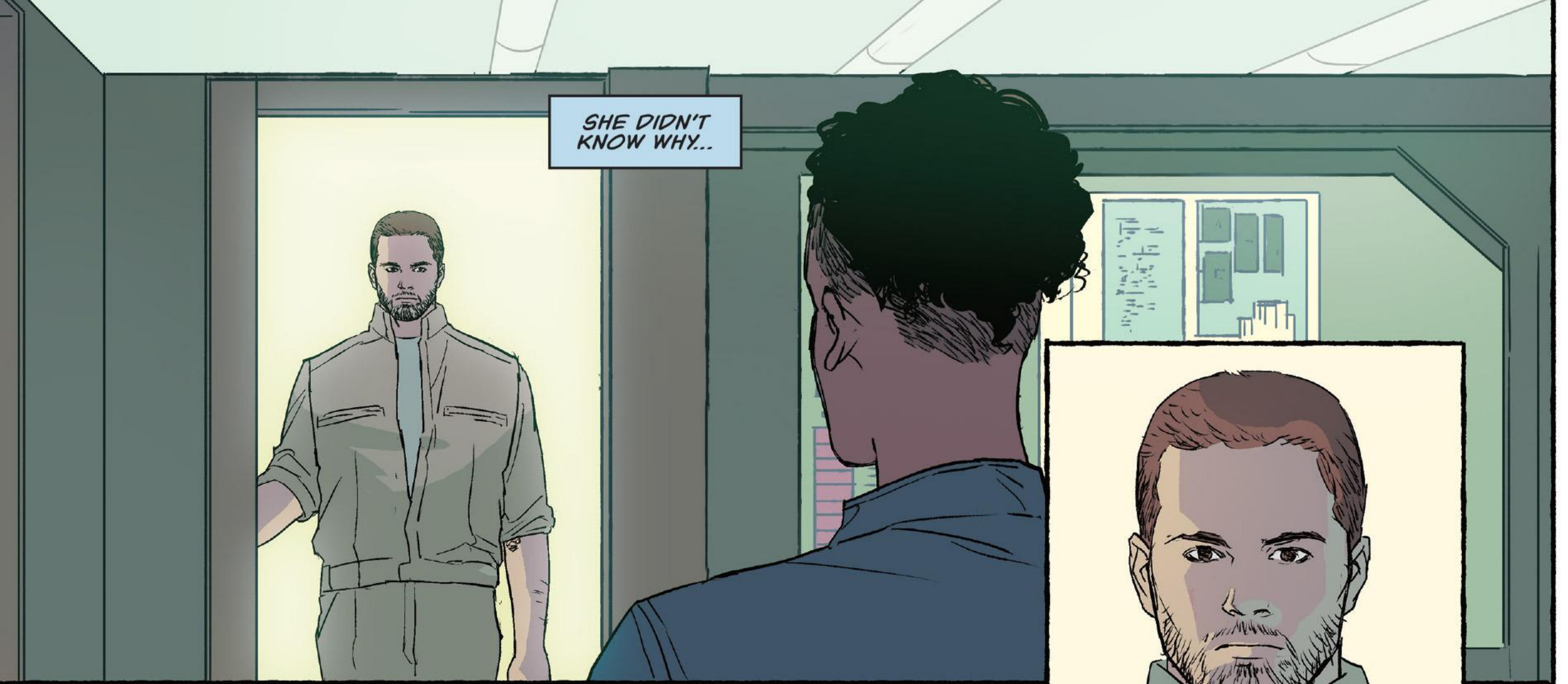
HIT ME WITH THE JUICE, AND I CAN BURN LIKE THE REST OF 'EM!



I'M SORRY.



NEXT.



SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHY...



BUT FROM THE FIRST MOMENT...

...SHE TRUSTED HIM.



...WELL, YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR AVIONICS, PROPULSION, NANOTECH...

YUP.



MAY I ASK WHY YOU WANT THIS JOB?

...

TIME FOR ME TO MOVE ON.



WELL...DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME?

ABOUT THE JOB? THE SHIP? ME?



NOPE.

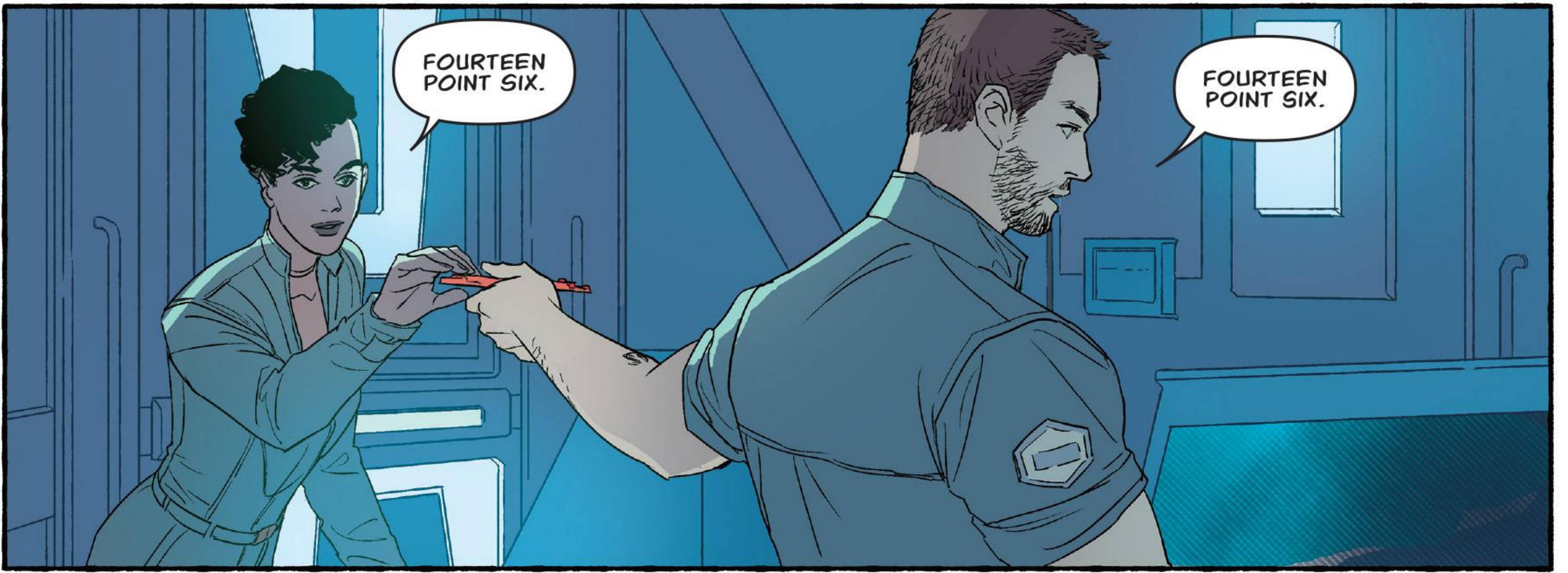


HE KNEW HIS STUFF.

AND HE'D LEAVE HER ALONE.



WHEN CAN YOU START?



FOURTEEN POINT SIX.

FOURTEEN POINT SIX.



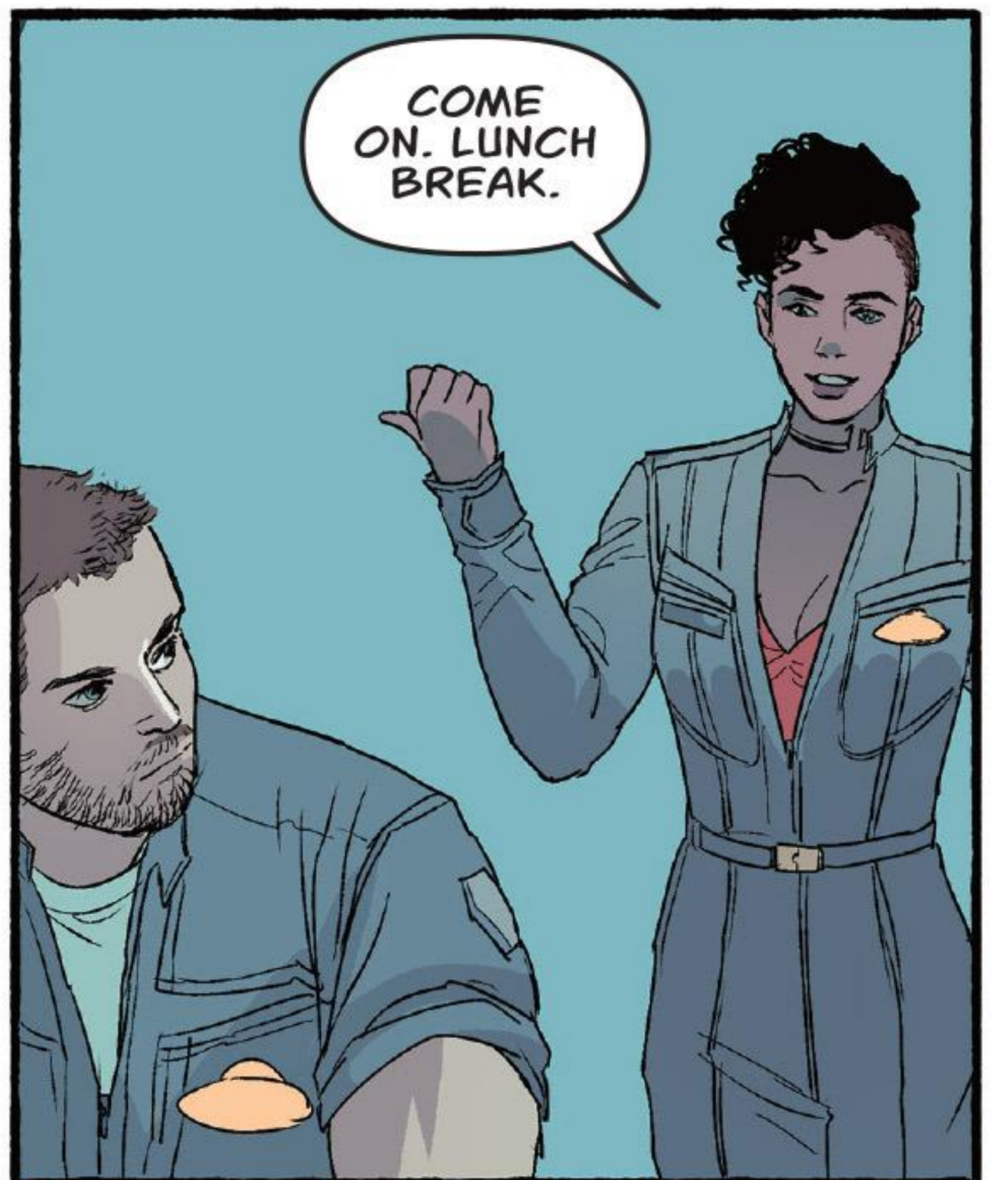
HAMMER DRILL.

TWELVE OR EIGHTEEN VOLT?

EIGHTEEN.



LIKE THE CANT, HE DIDN'T JUDGE.



COME ON. LUNCH BREAK.

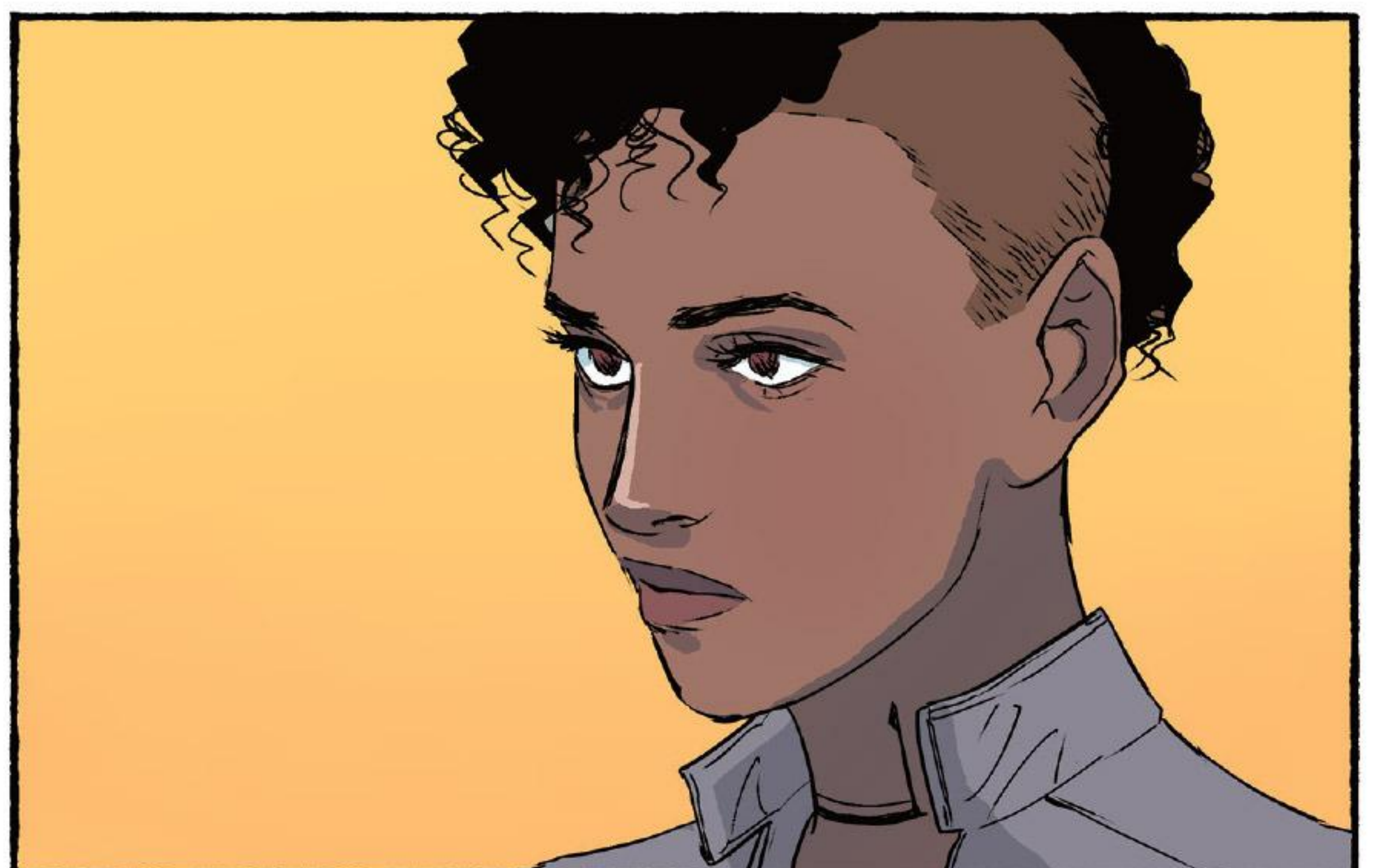
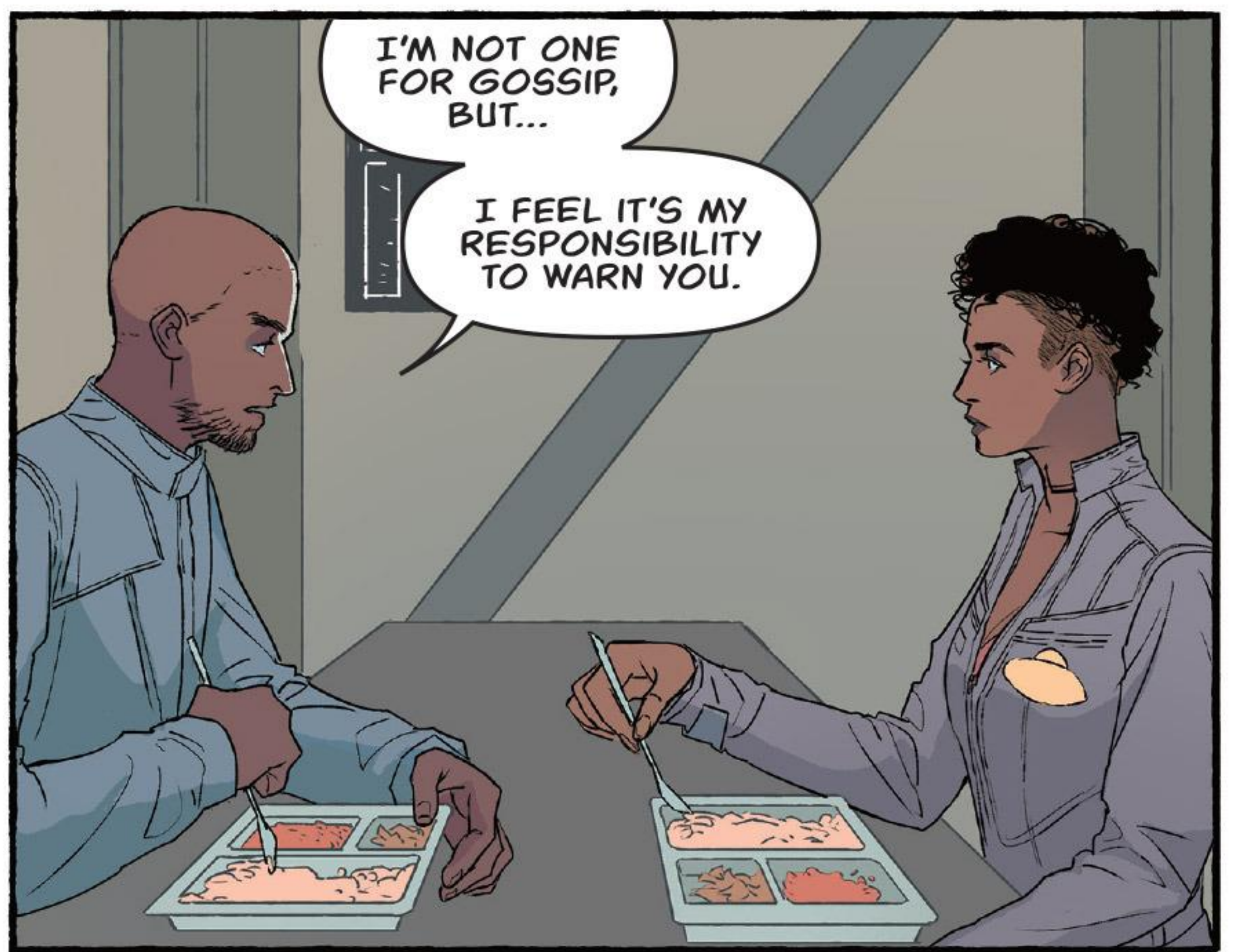


YOU WANNA SIT TOGETHER?

I'D RATHER SIT BY MYSELF.



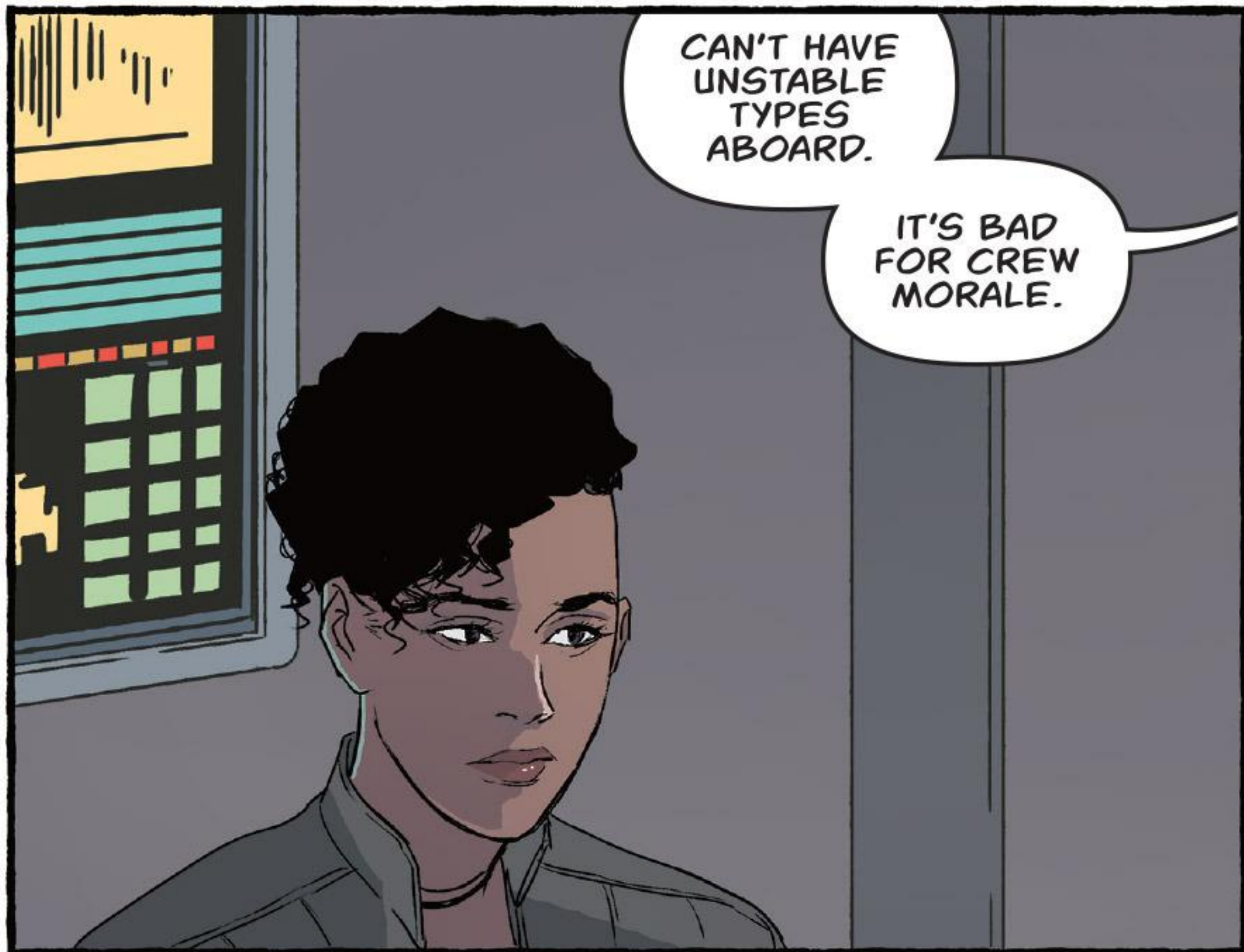
SOMEONE WHO WANTED FRIENDS EVEN LESS THAN SHE DID.







I HEARD BURTON WOULD'VE KILLED HIM IF OUR BOYS HADN'T PULLED HIM OFF.



CAN'T HAVE UNSTABLE TYPES ABOARD.

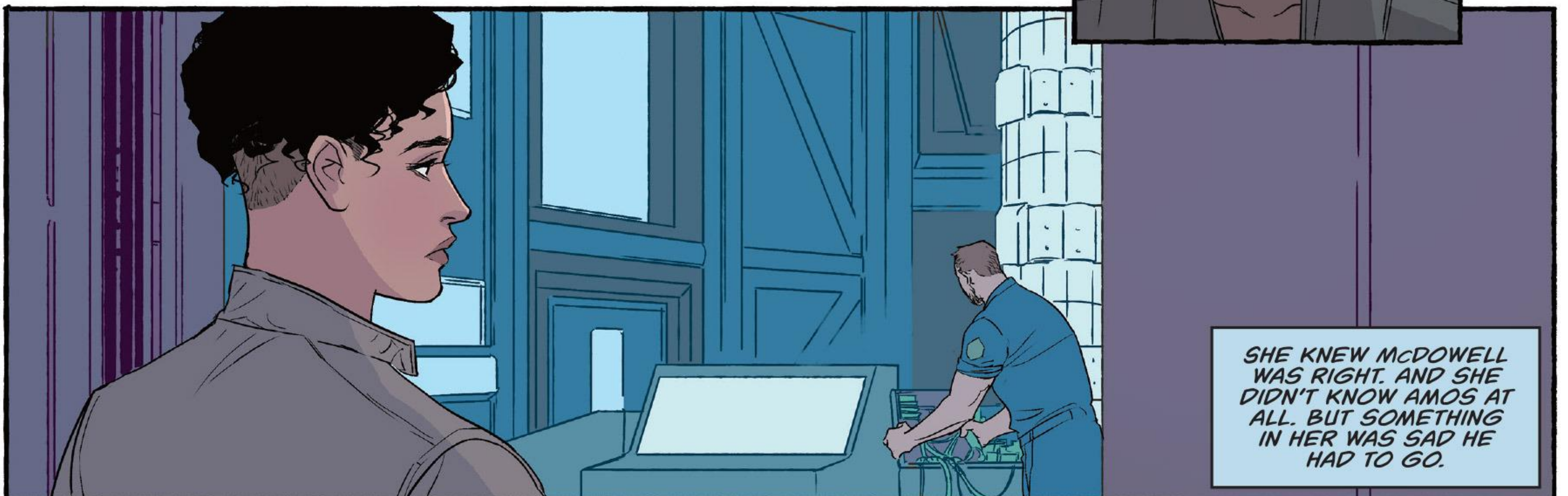
IT'S BAD FOR CREW MORALE.



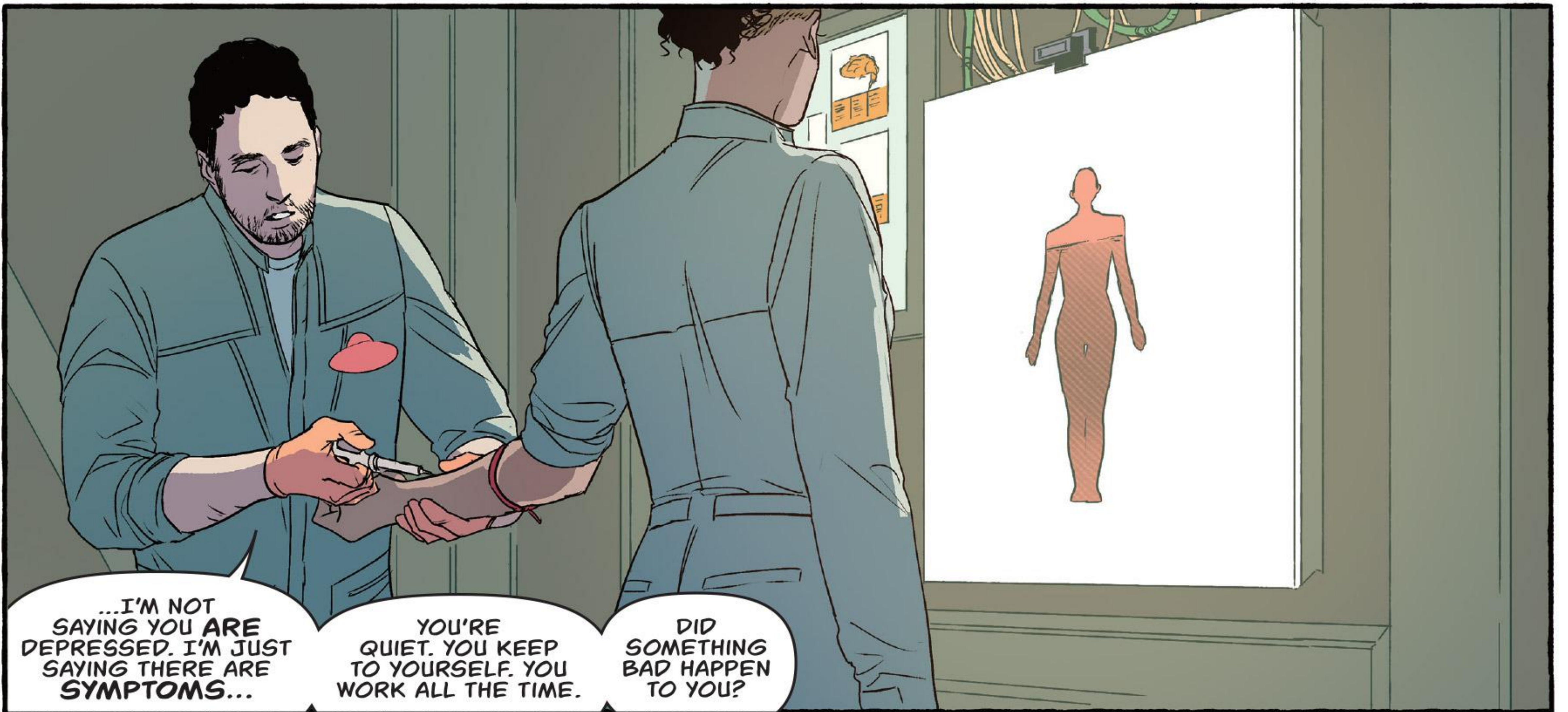
IT'S BAD FOR BUSINESS.



AFTER THIS ROTATION, FIND ANOTHER MECHANIC. I WANT YOUR PSYCHOPATH OUTTA HERE.



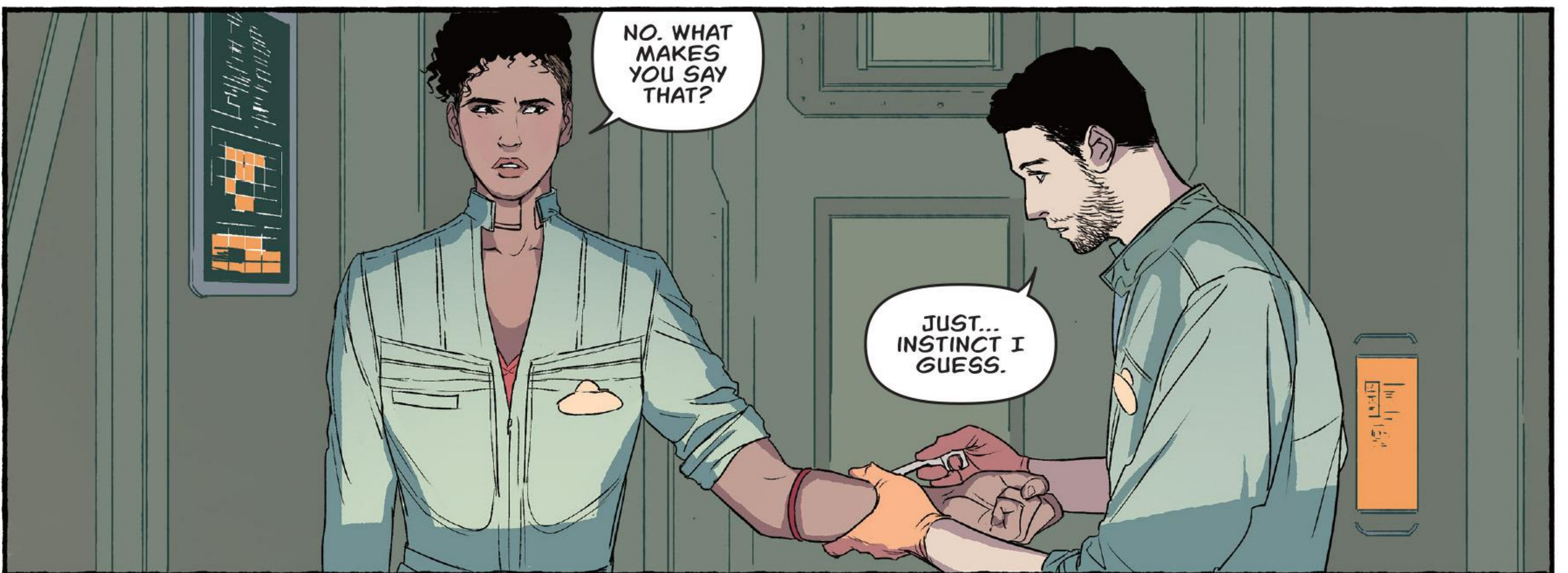
SHE KNEW MCDOWELL WAS RIGHT. AND SHE DIDN'T KNOW AMOS AT ALL. BUT SOMETHING IN HER WAS SAD HE HAD TO GO.



...I'M NOT SAYING YOU ARE DEPRESSED. I'M JUST SAYING THERE ARE SYMPTOMS...

YOU'RE QUIET. YOU KEEP TO YOURSELF. YOU WORK ALL THE TIME.

DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU?



NO. WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

JUST... INSTINCT I GUESS.



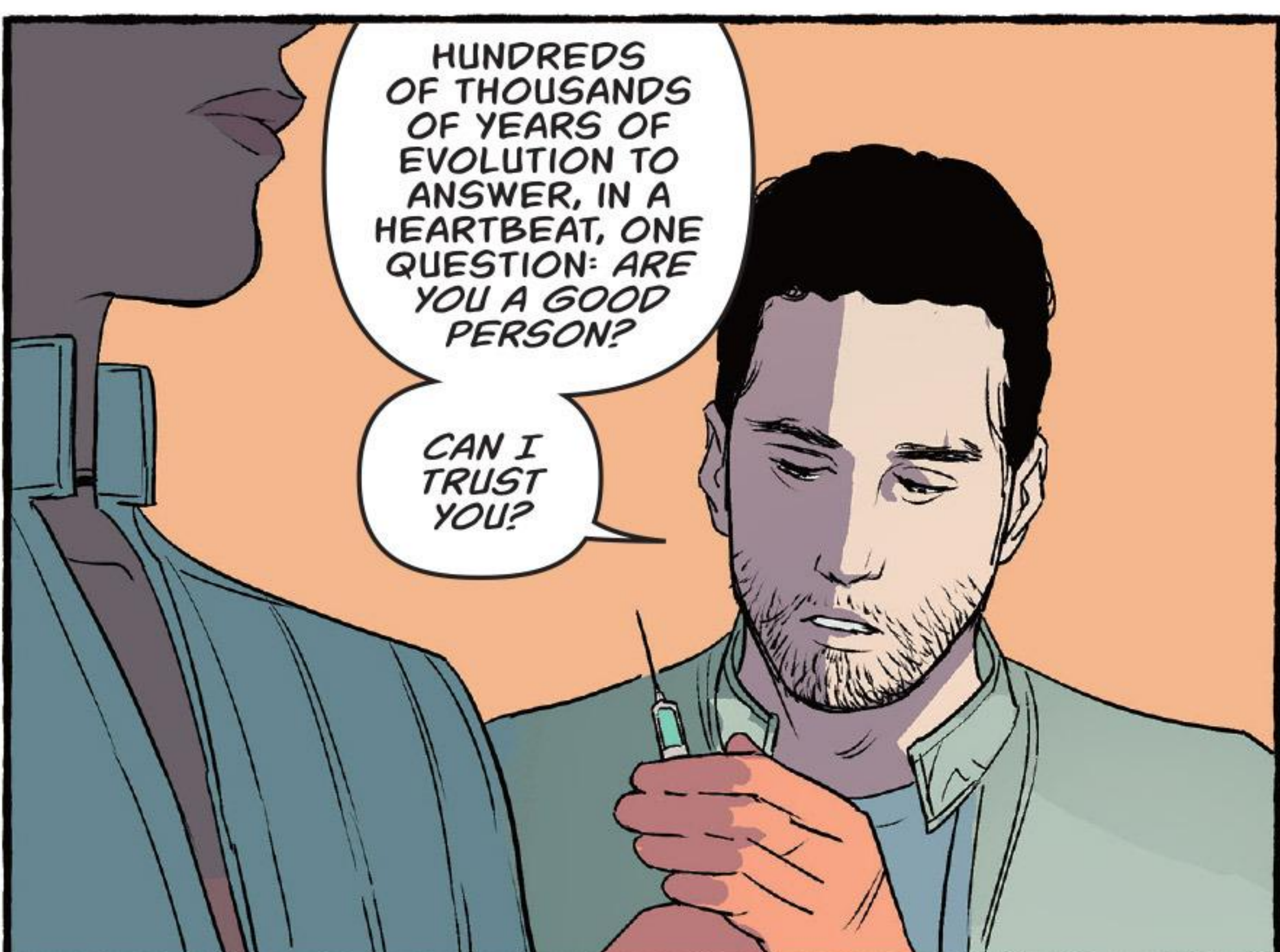
INSTINCT.

IT'LL GET YOU INTO TROUBLE MORE THAN ANYTHING.



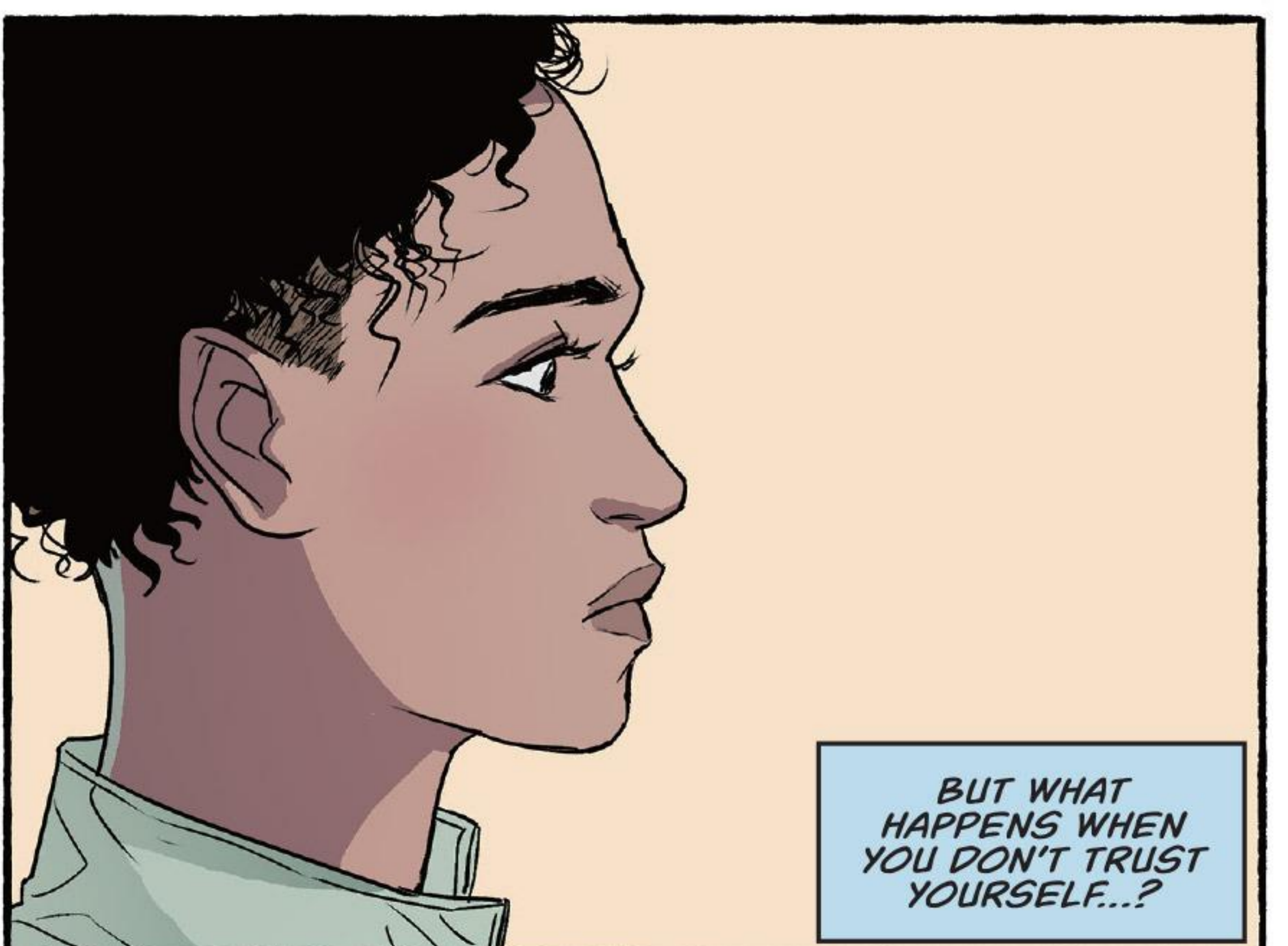
THERE'S MORE TO INSTINCT THAN WE UNDERSTAND.

WHEN WE MEET SOMEONE NEW, WE KNOW WITHIN SECONDS WHETHER WE LIKE THEM OR NOT.



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION TO ANSWER, IN A HEARTBEAT, ONE QUESTION: ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?

CAN I TRUST YOU?



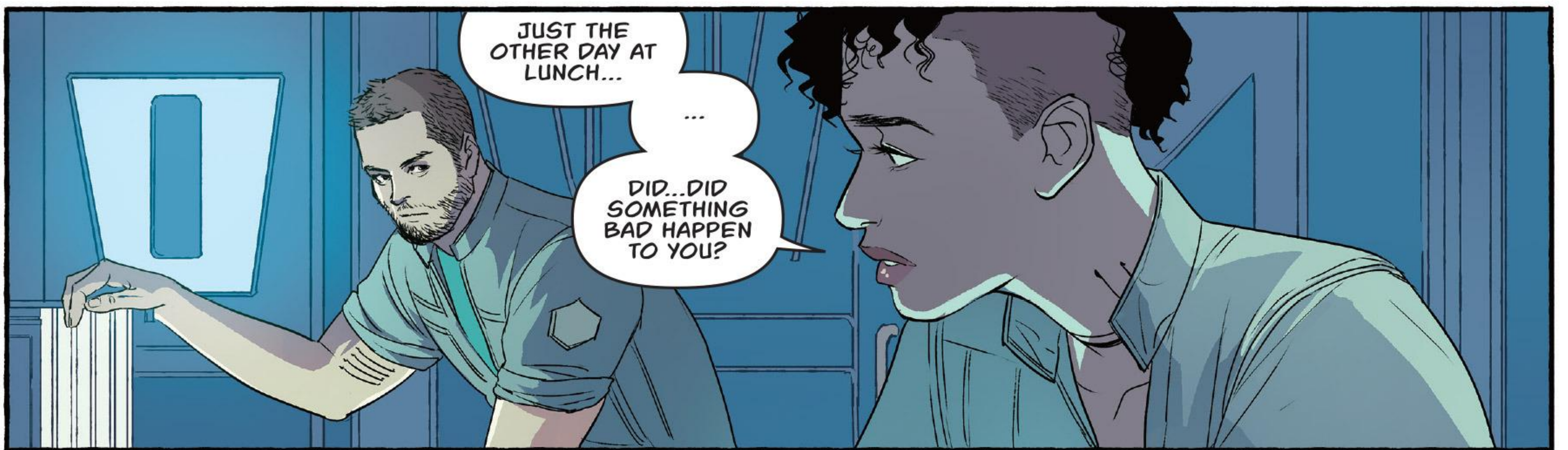
BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T TRUST YOURSELF...?



SO, UH... HOW'RE YOU DOING?

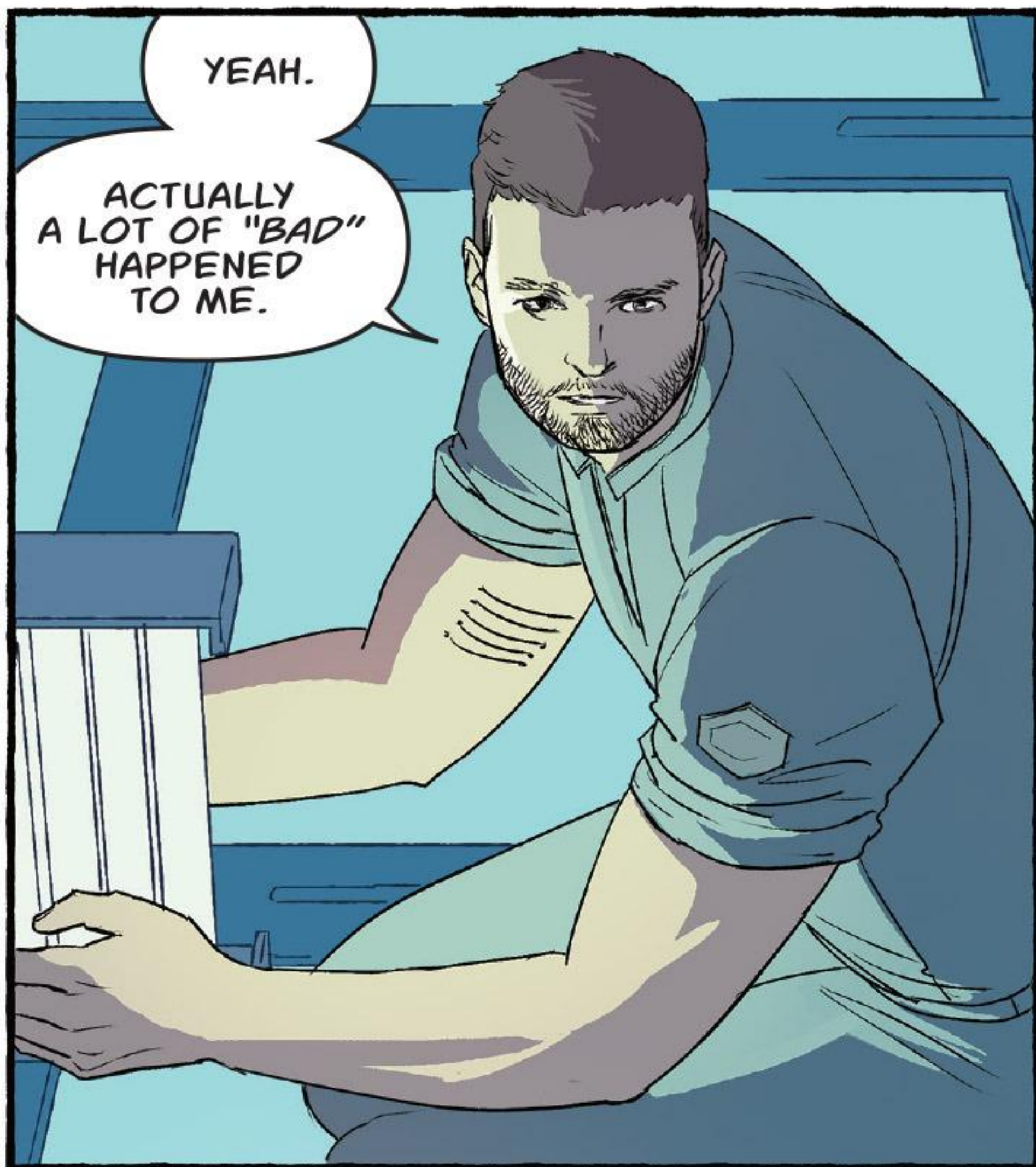


GREAT.



JUST THE OTHER DAY AT LUNCH...

... DID...DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU?



YEAH. ACTUALLY A LOT OF "BAD" HAPPENED TO ME.



I'M SO SORRY.

WELL, A LOT OF "BAD" HAPPENED BY ME, TOO.

CAN'T BE THAT... BAD...



I'VE KILLED PEOPLE.

I'D SAY THAT'S PRETTY "BAD".



SHE WASN'T SHOCKED THAT HE'D KILLED. SHE WAS SHOCKED HE ADMITTED IT.

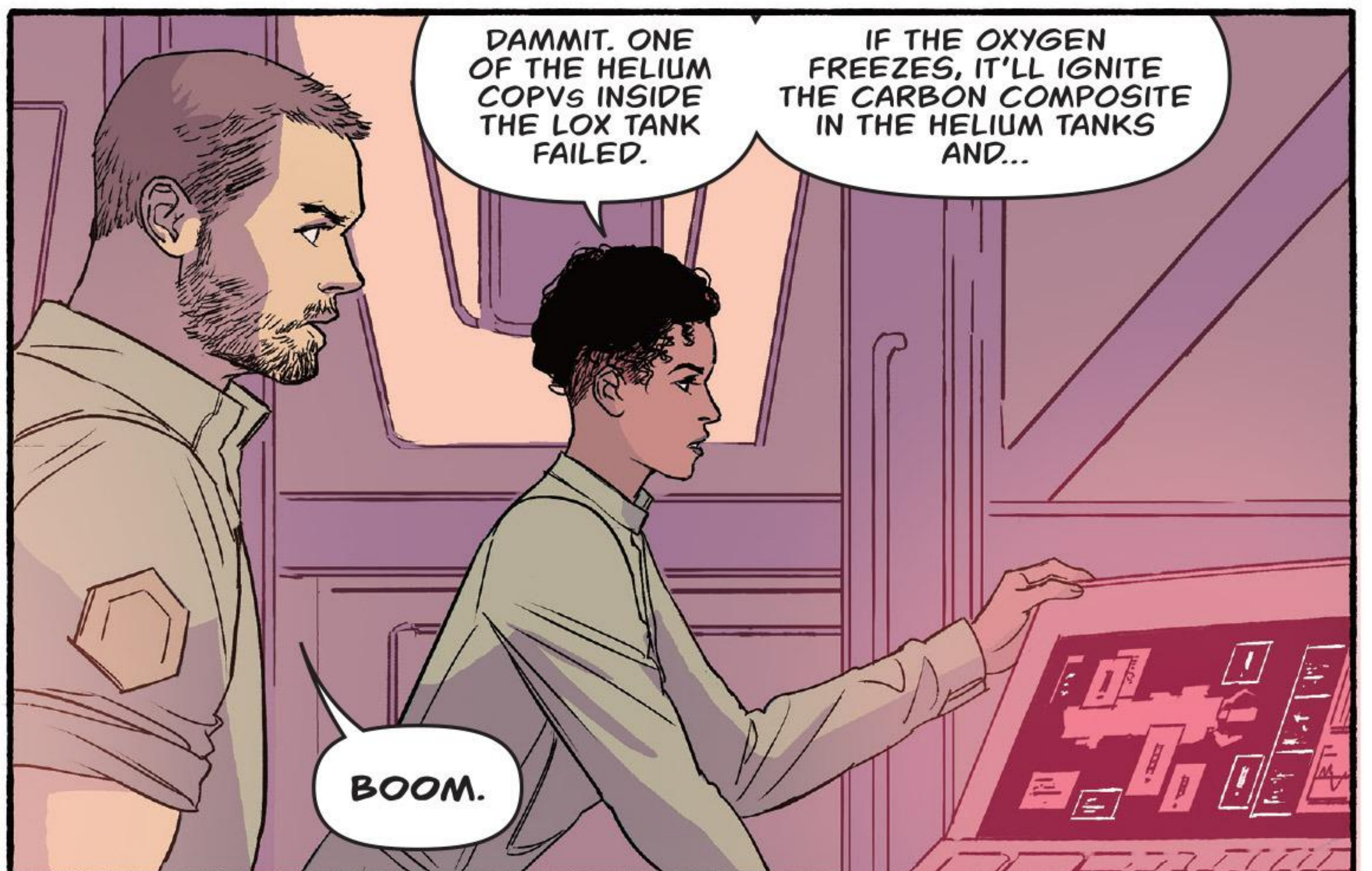
IF HE WAS A MONSTER, HE WAS AN HONEST ONE.

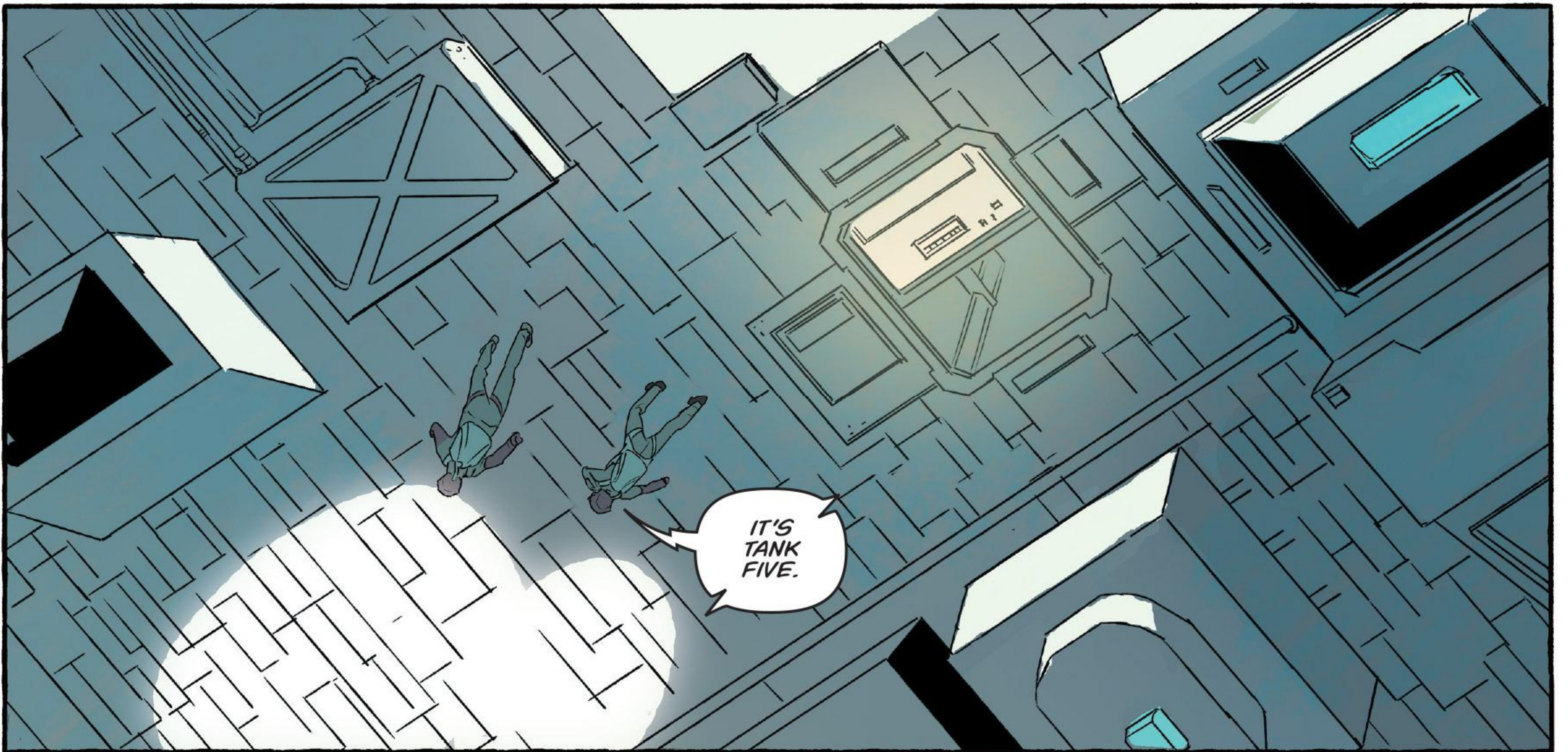


YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY KILLER HERE.

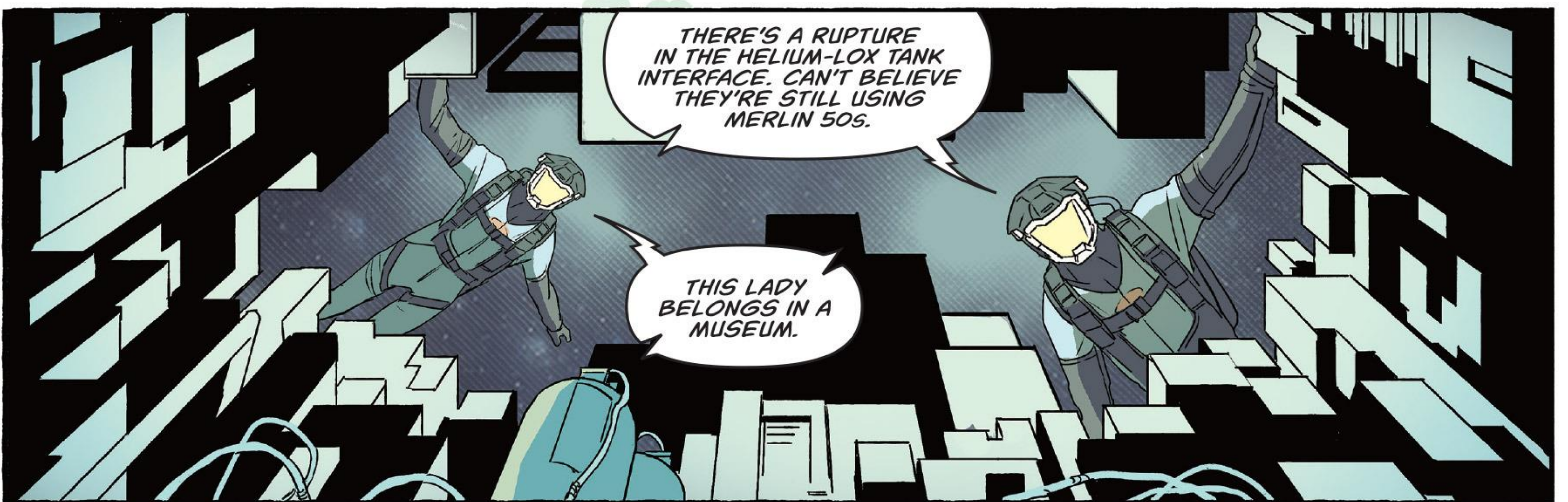


BUT YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL THEM, RIGHT?





IT'S TANK FIVE.



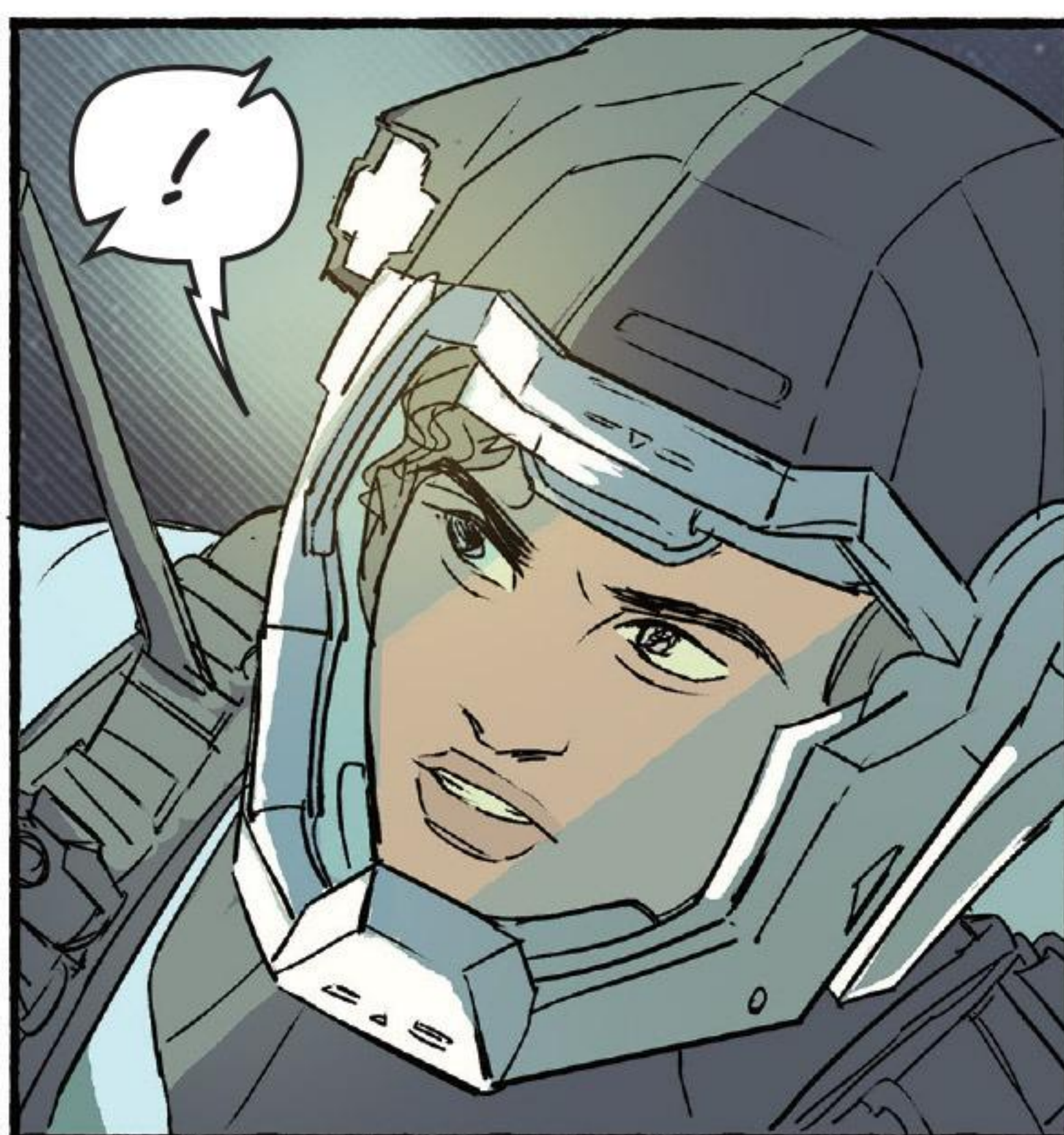
THERE'S A RUPTURE IN THE HELIUM-LOX TANK INTERFACE. CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE STILL USING MERLIN 50s.

THIS LADY BELONGS IN A MUSEUM.



DAMNIT.

YOU GOTTA DITCH THE JETPACK.



!



OR...I CAN DITCH MINE AND GO IN. IF THINGS GO SOUTH... YOU COME AND RESCUE ME.



...

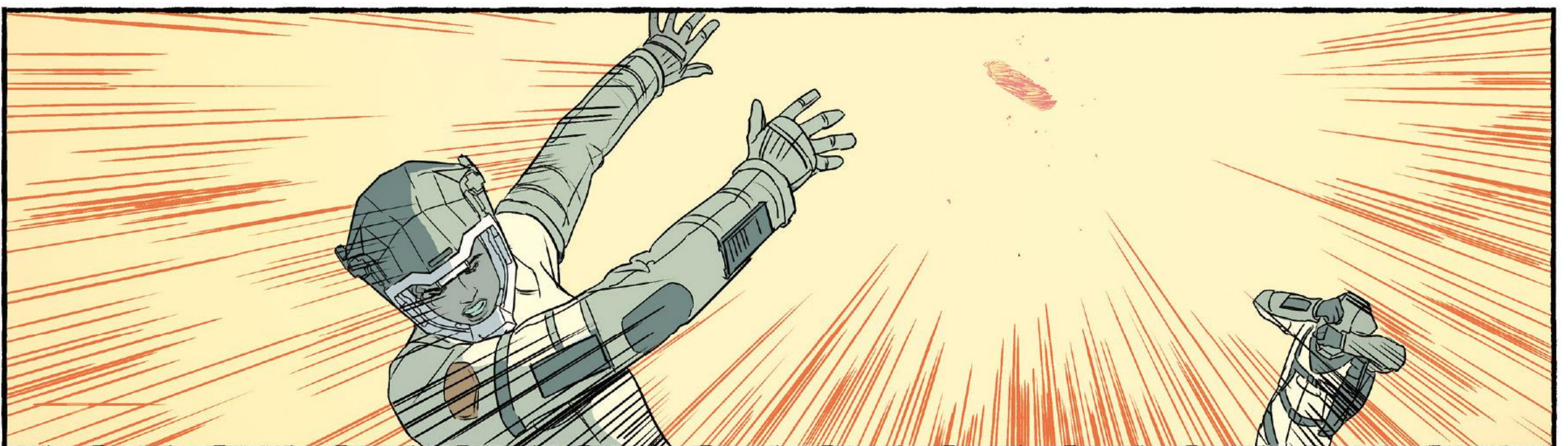
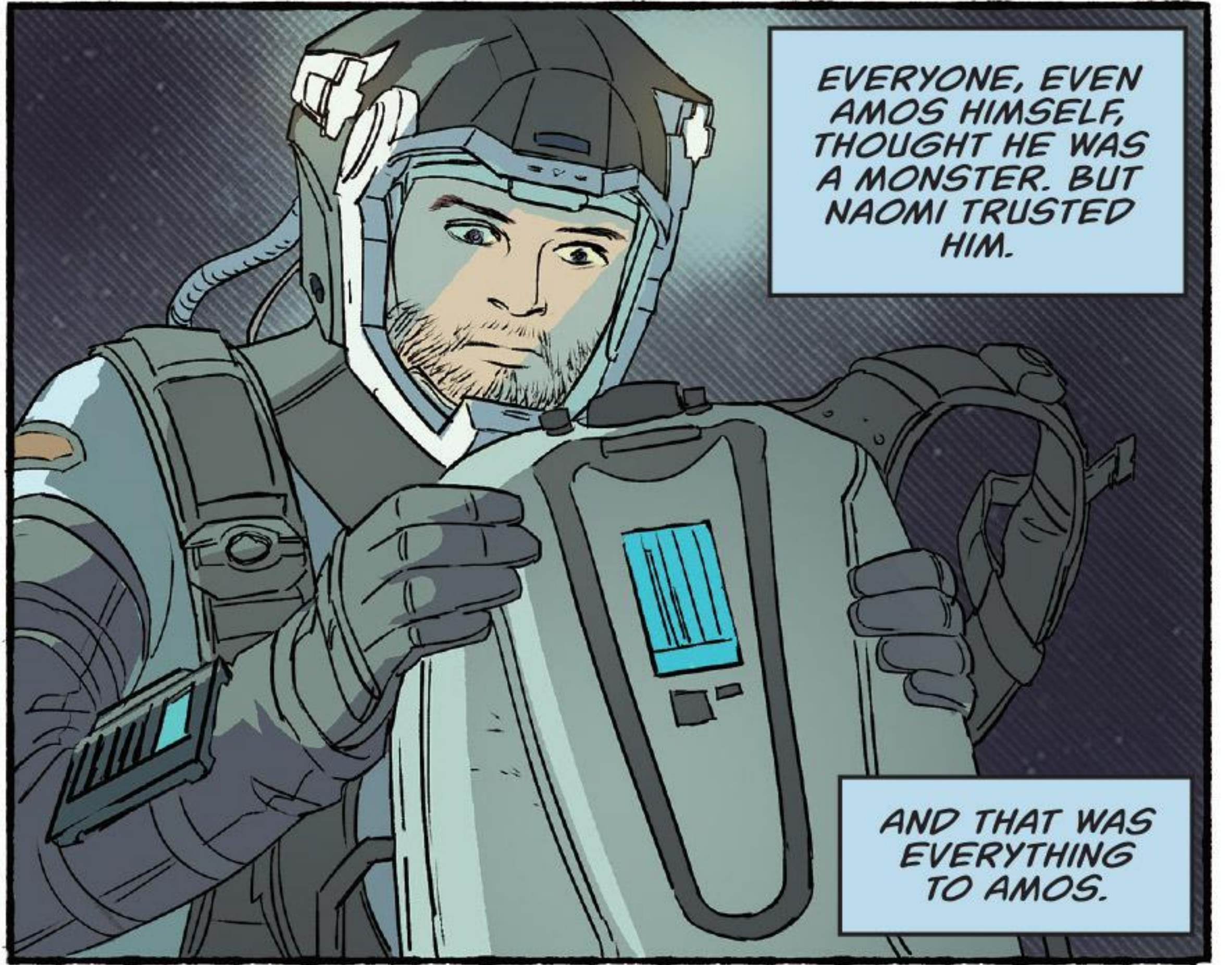
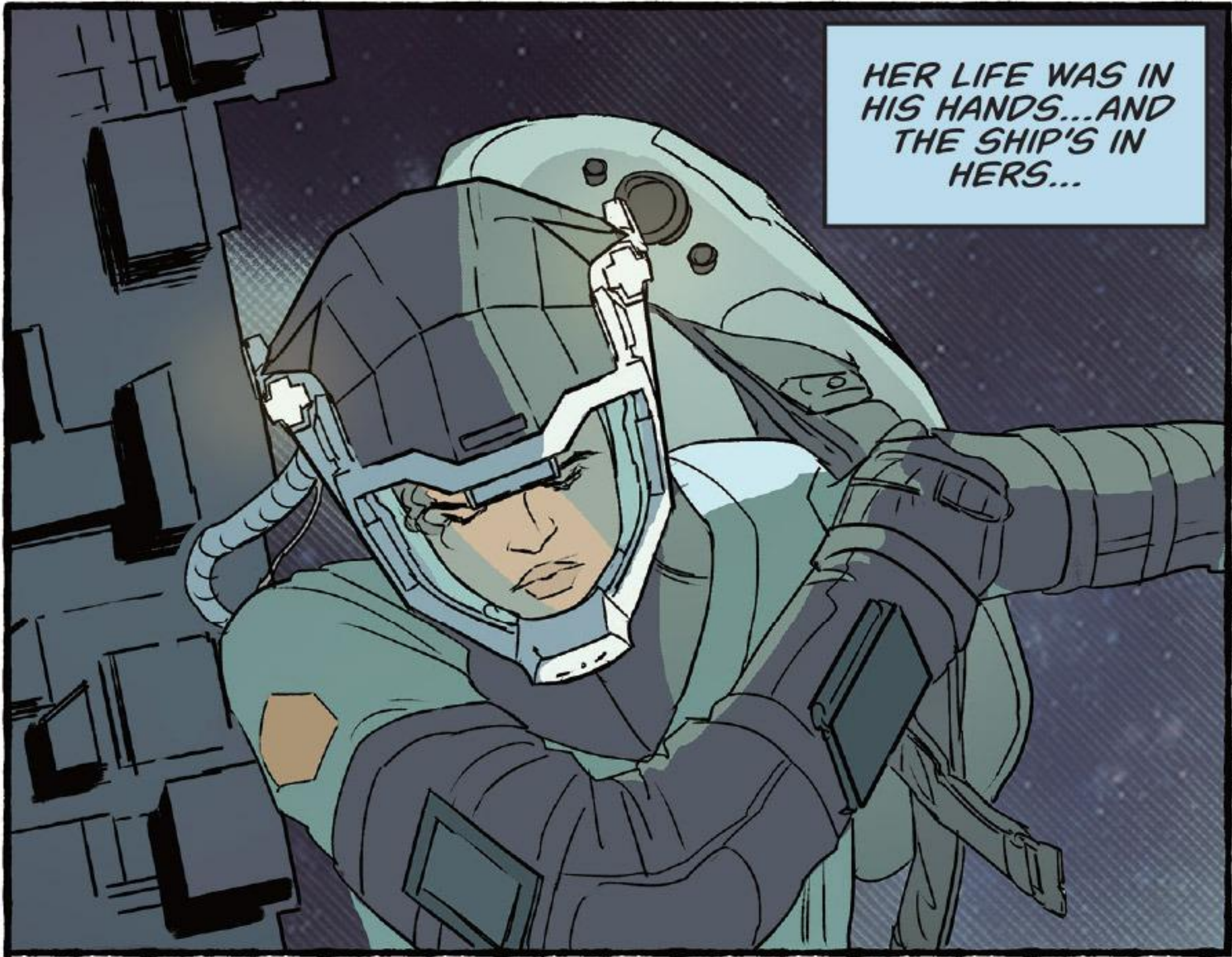


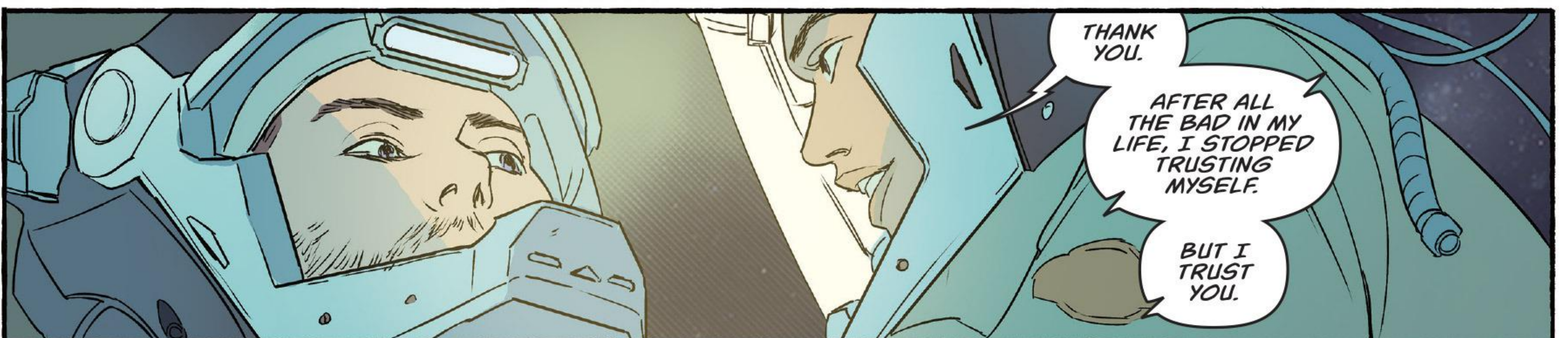
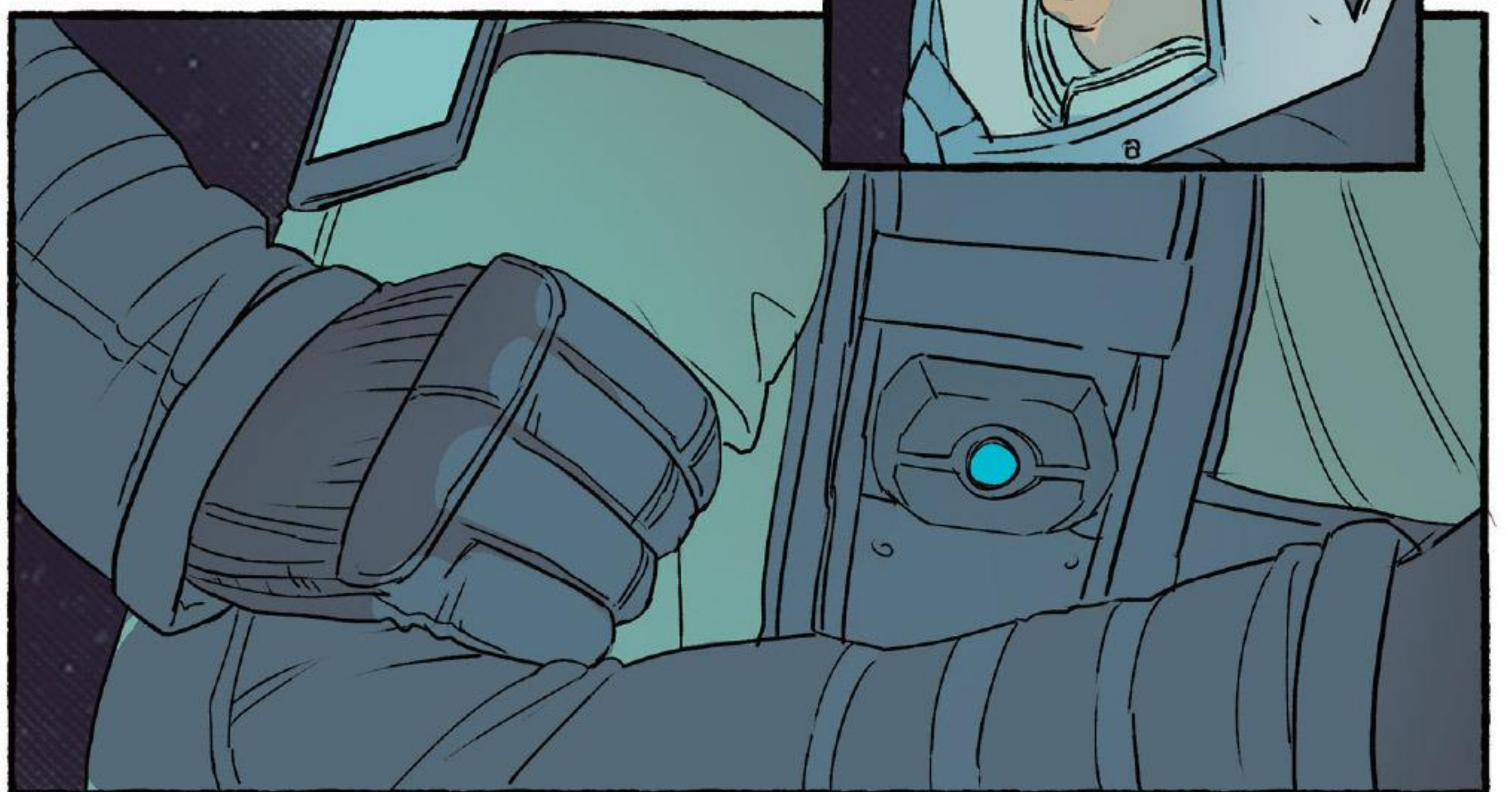
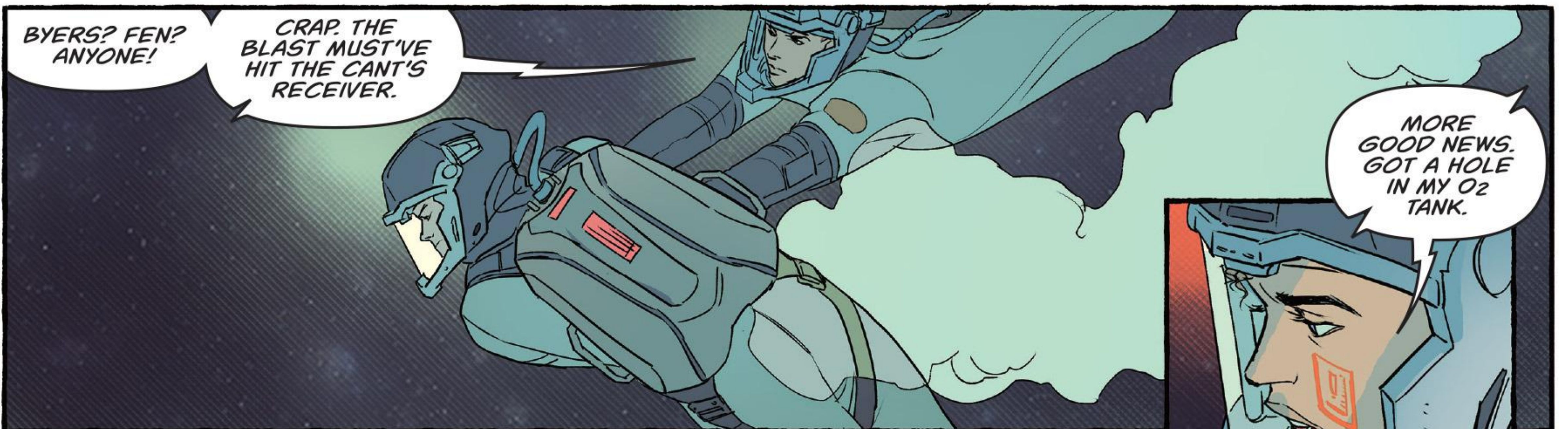
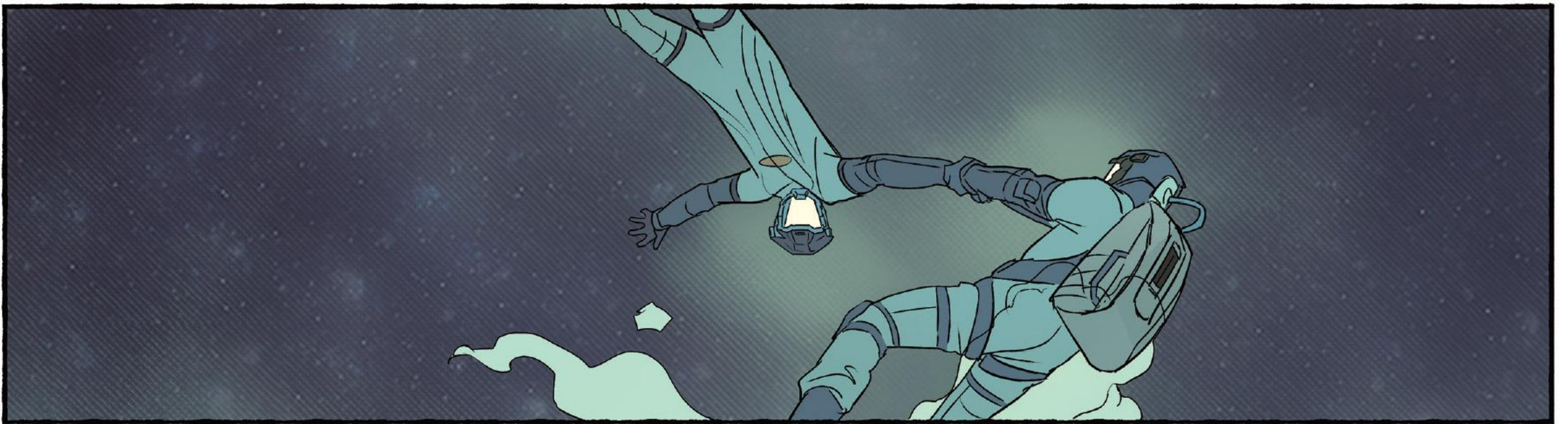
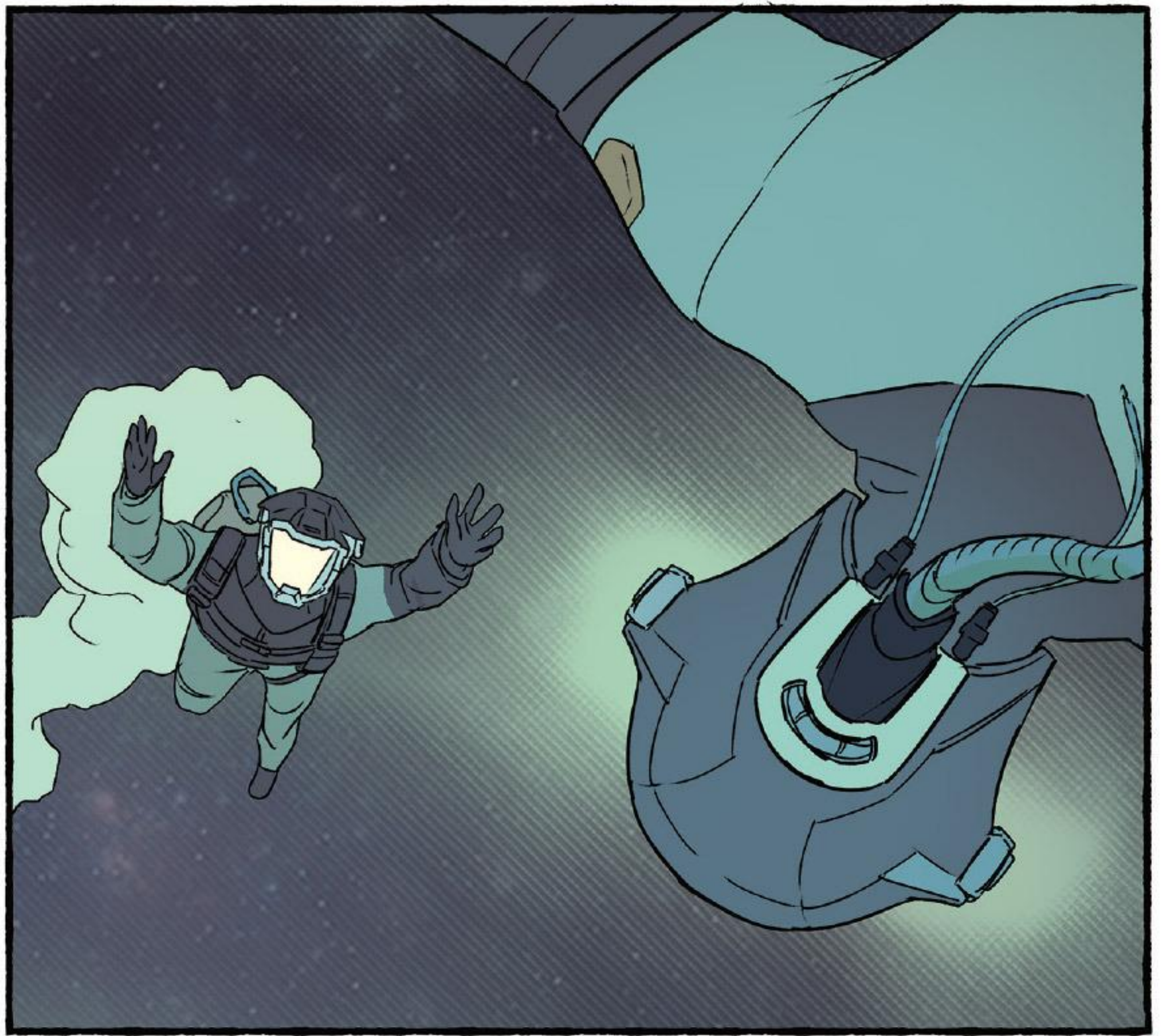
IT'S OKAY. I WOULDN'T TRUST ME EITHER.



YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T.

BUT I DO.

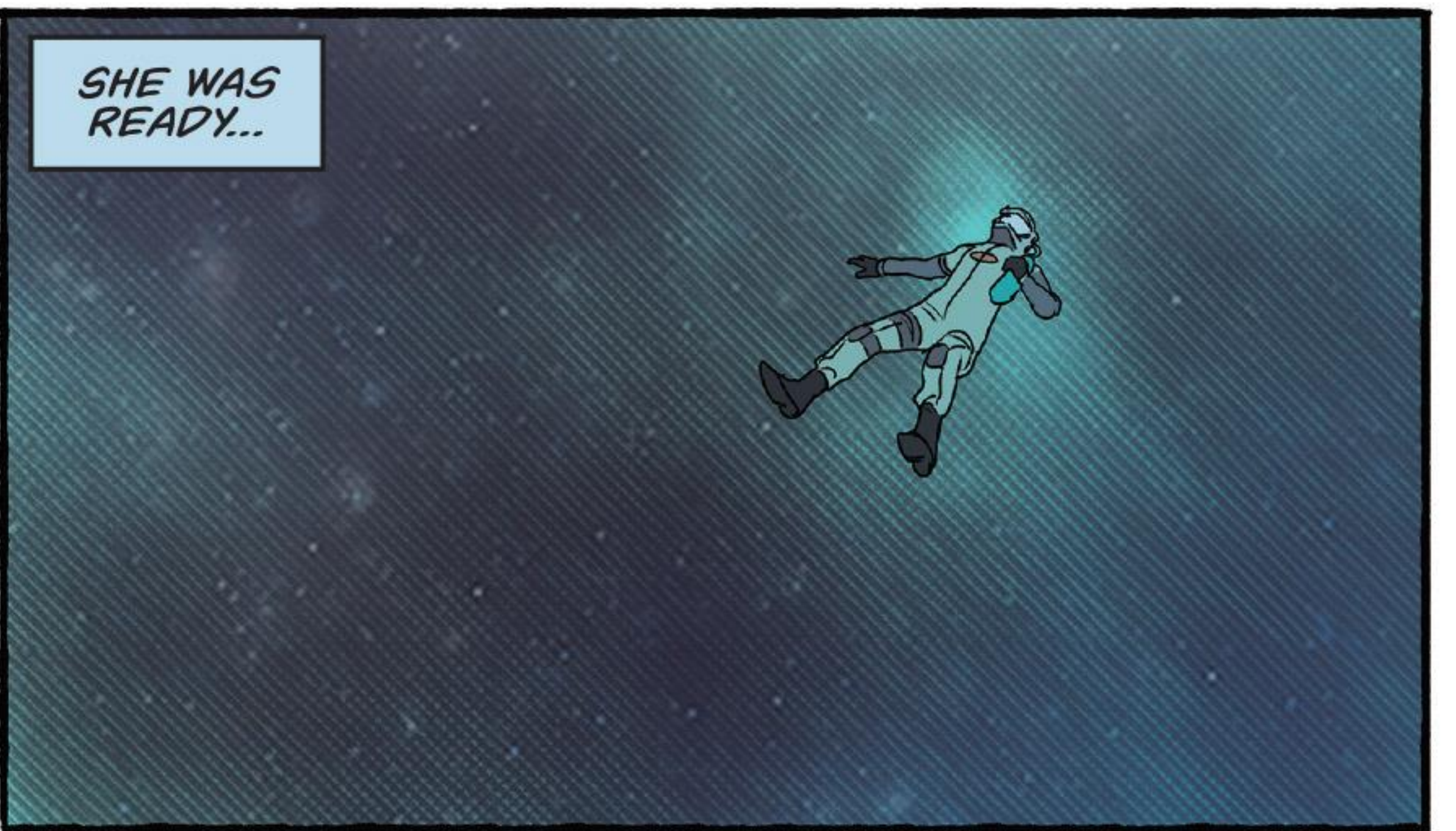
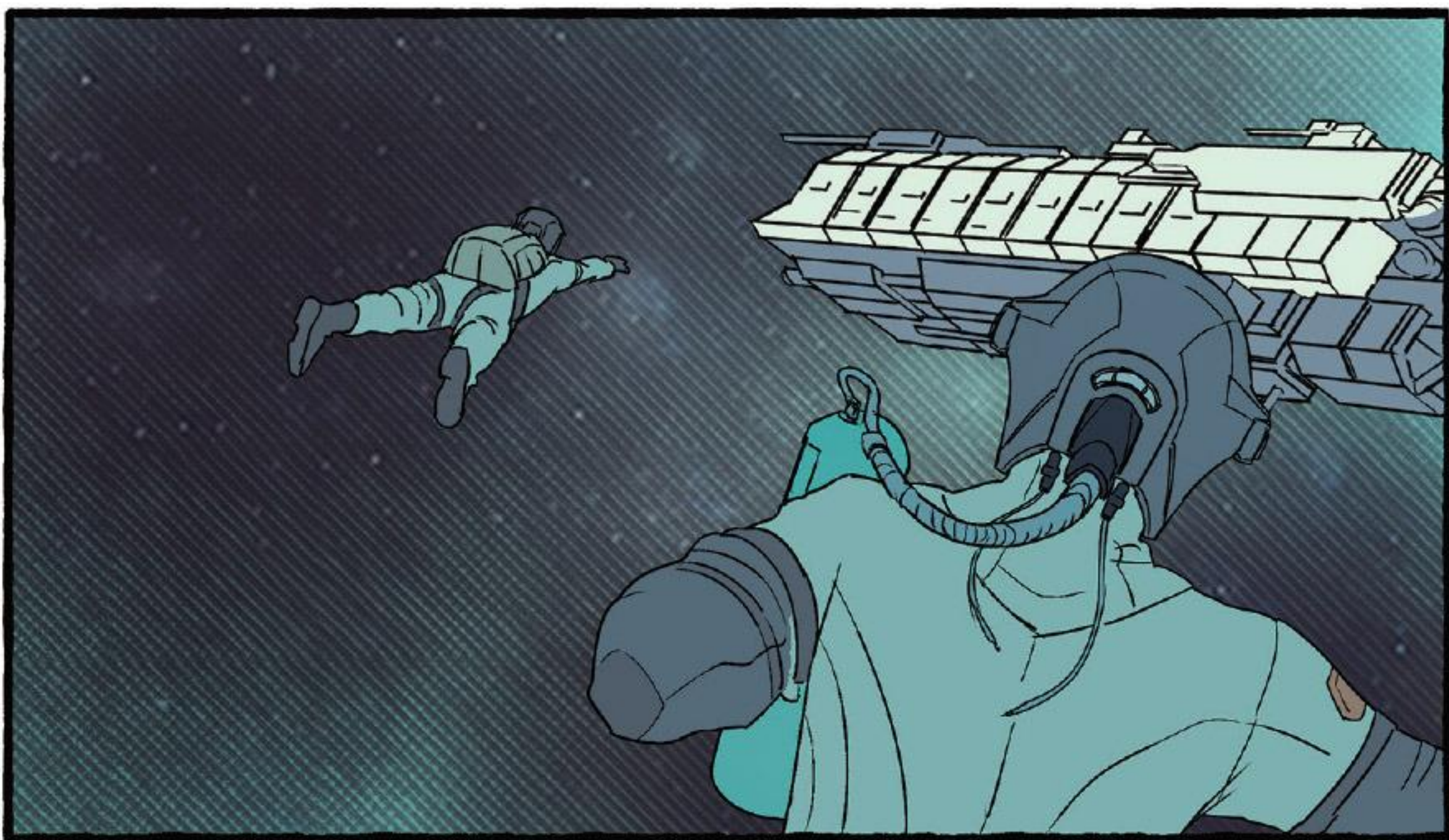
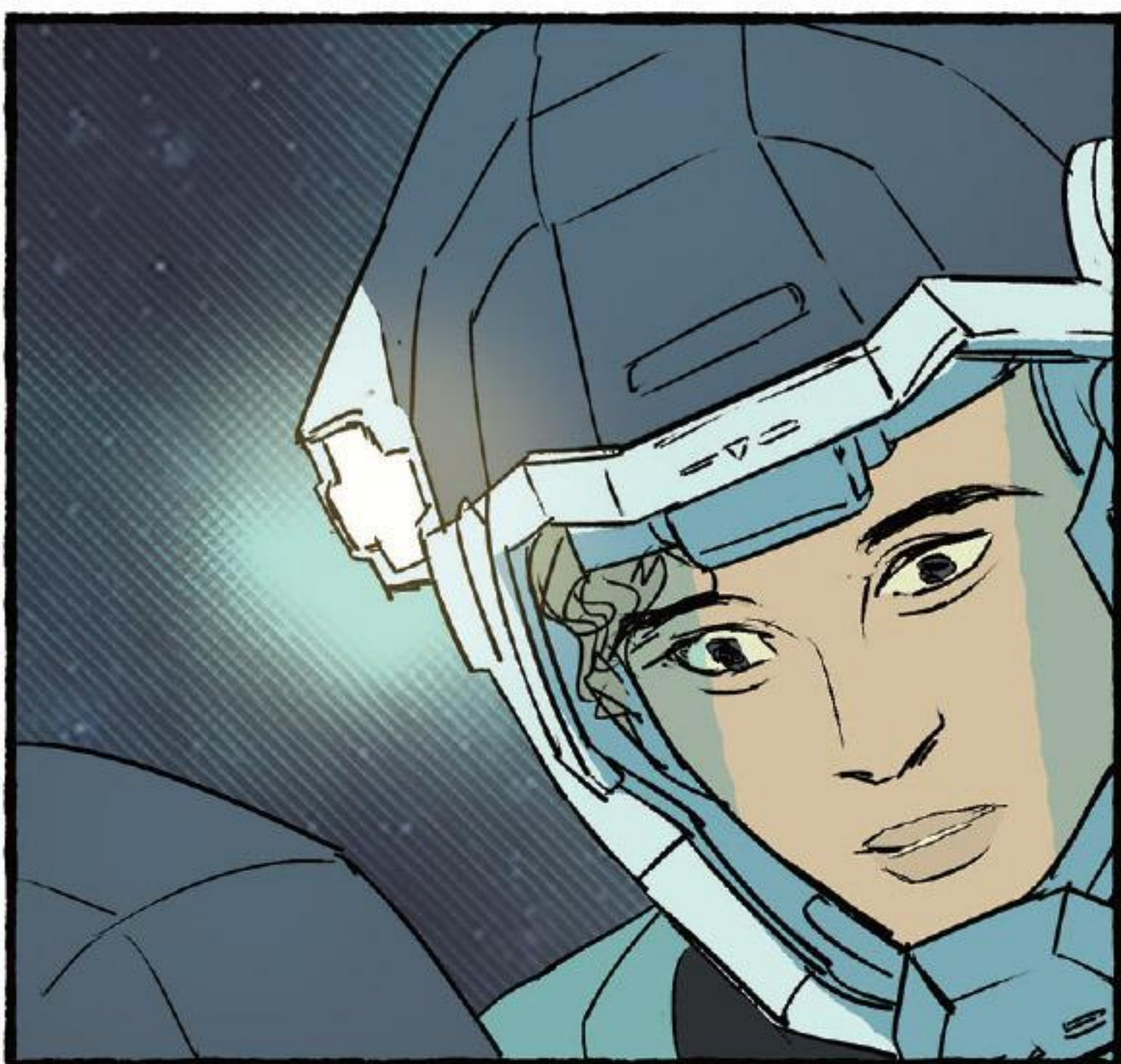




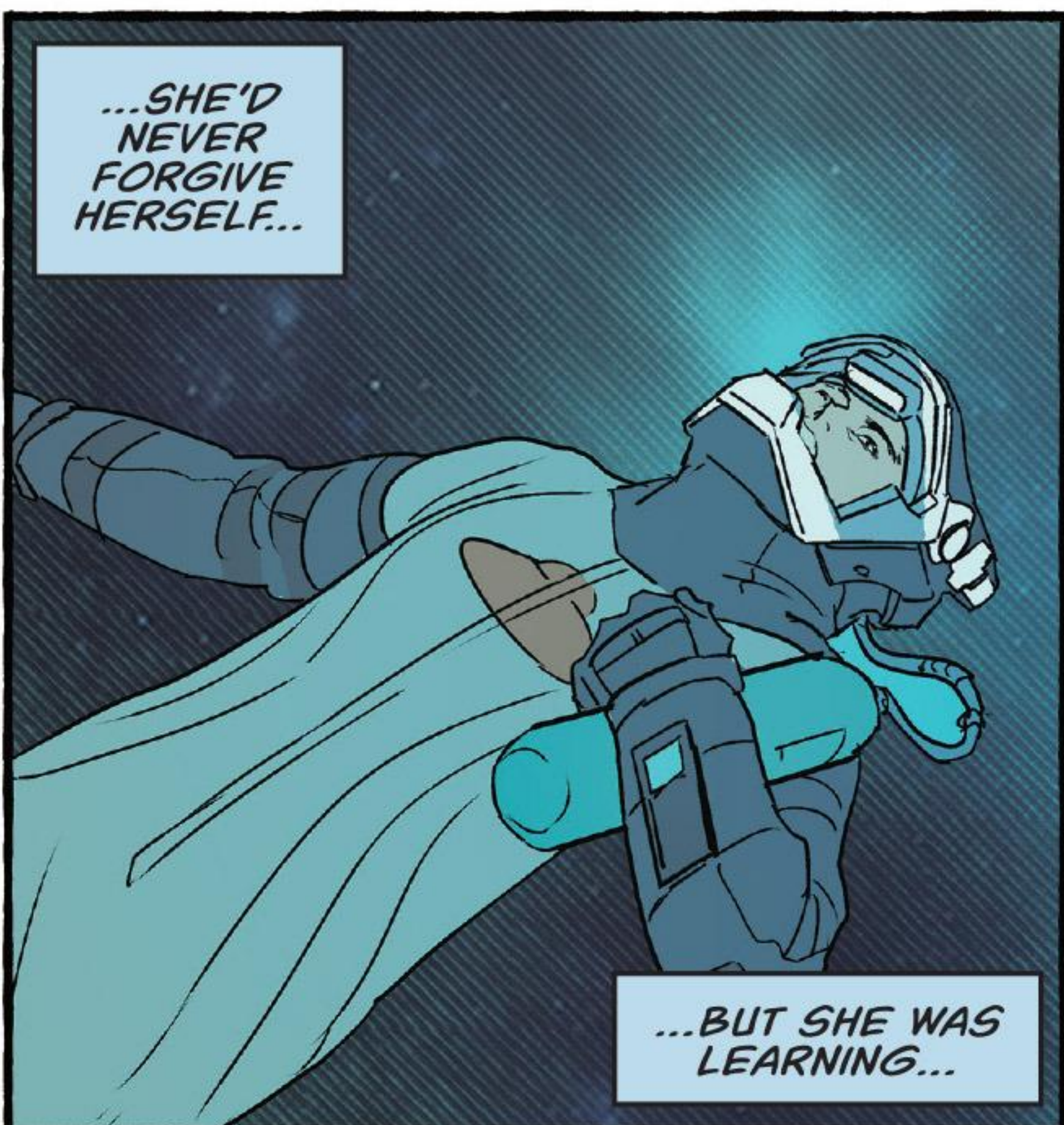


MY O₂ TANK DON'T GOT MUCH EITHER BUT SHOULD HOLD YA OVER 'TIL I GET HELP.

COURSE, IF YOU DIE, THEY'D PROBABLY KEEP ME ON.



SHE WAS READY...



...SHE'D NEVER FORGIVE HERSELF...

...BUT SHE WAS LEARNING...



...TO ACCEPT.

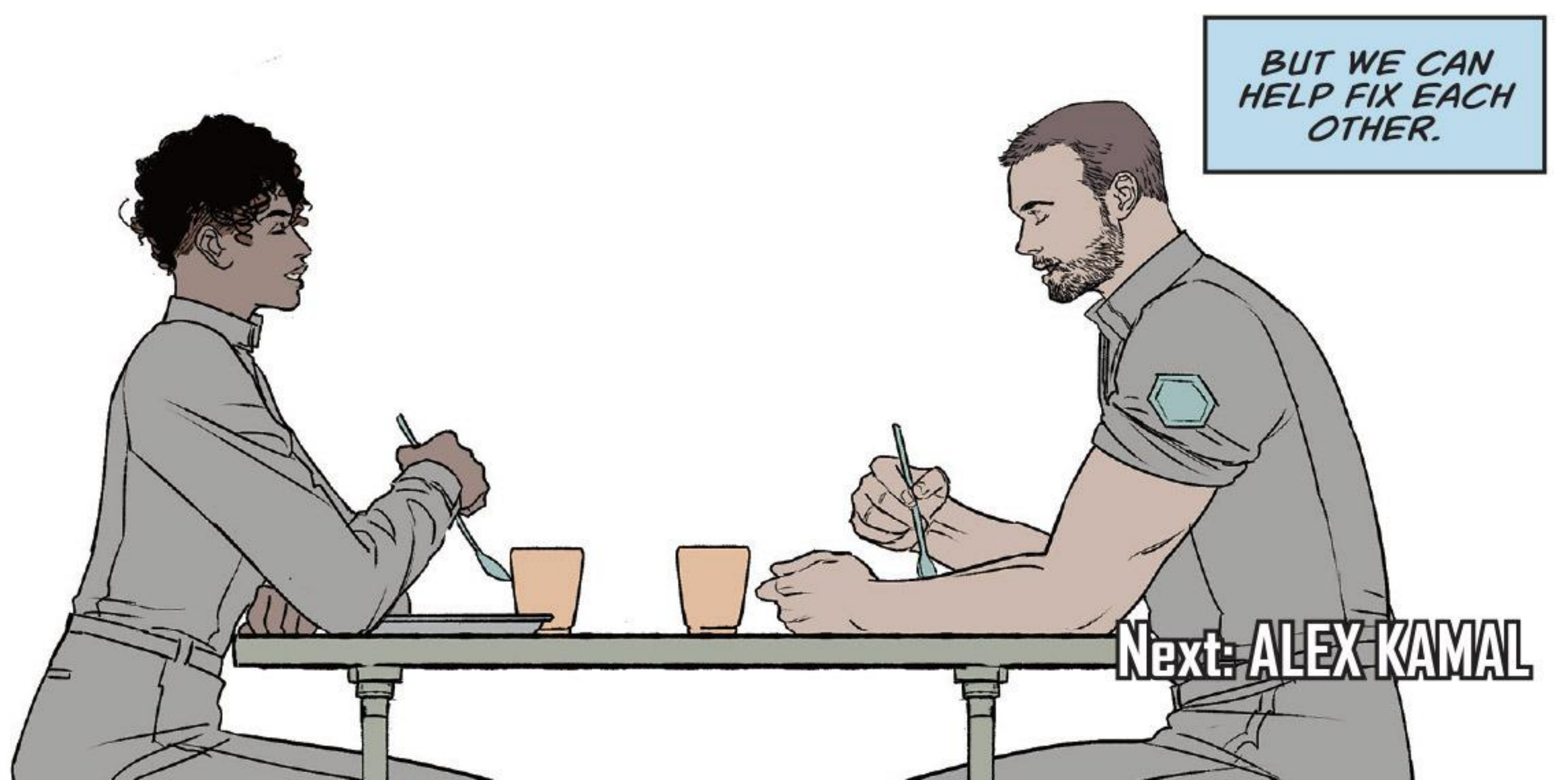


O₂ LEVELS LOW

FILIP...



WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BROKEN INSIDE...



Next: ALEX KAMAL