

JAMES S.A. COREY

LAMBERT • LEE • DANLAN • USECHE

THE
EXPANSE™

ORIGINS: ALEX KAMAL

THE EXPANSE™

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

STORY BY **JAMES S.A. COREY,**
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LETTERED BY **JIM CAMPBELL**

COVER DESIGNED BY **SCOTT NEWMAN**



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
ALCON TELEVISION GROUP.

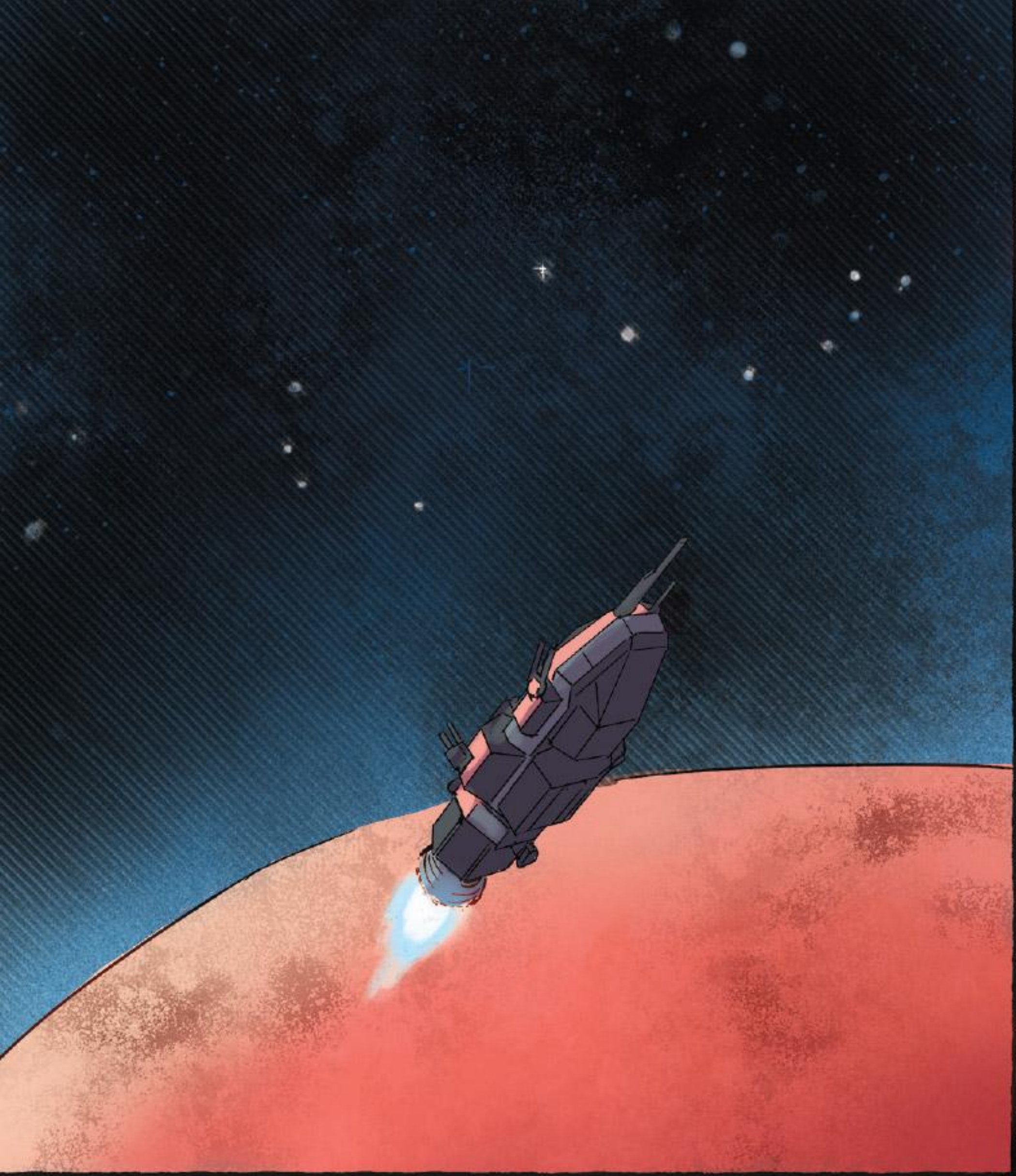


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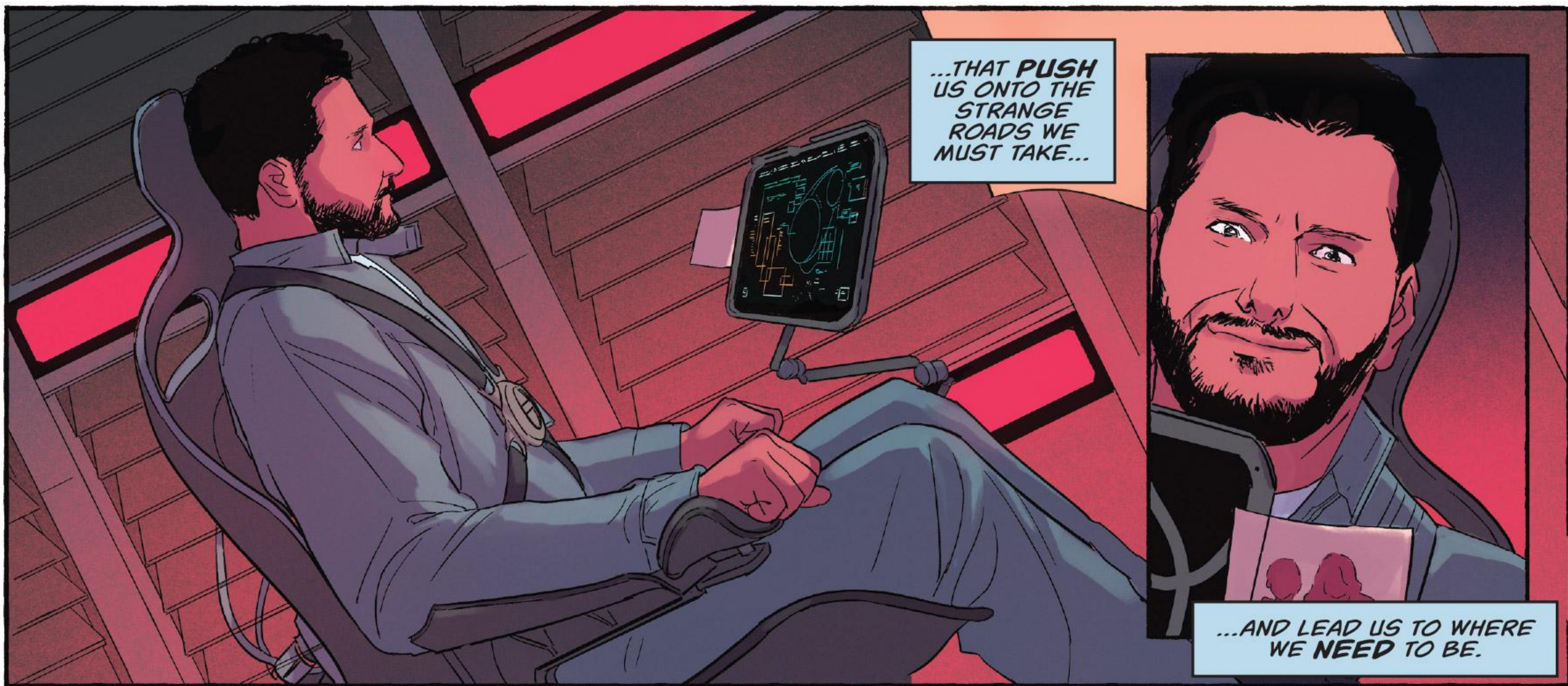
COMING TO CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT THE DISCOVERY OF SOME NEW THING...



BUT RATHER A LONG AND PAINFUL RETURN TO THAT WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN.



...AND OFTEN IT IS THOSE DARK AND TRAGIC THINGS OF ALL MAGNITUDE...



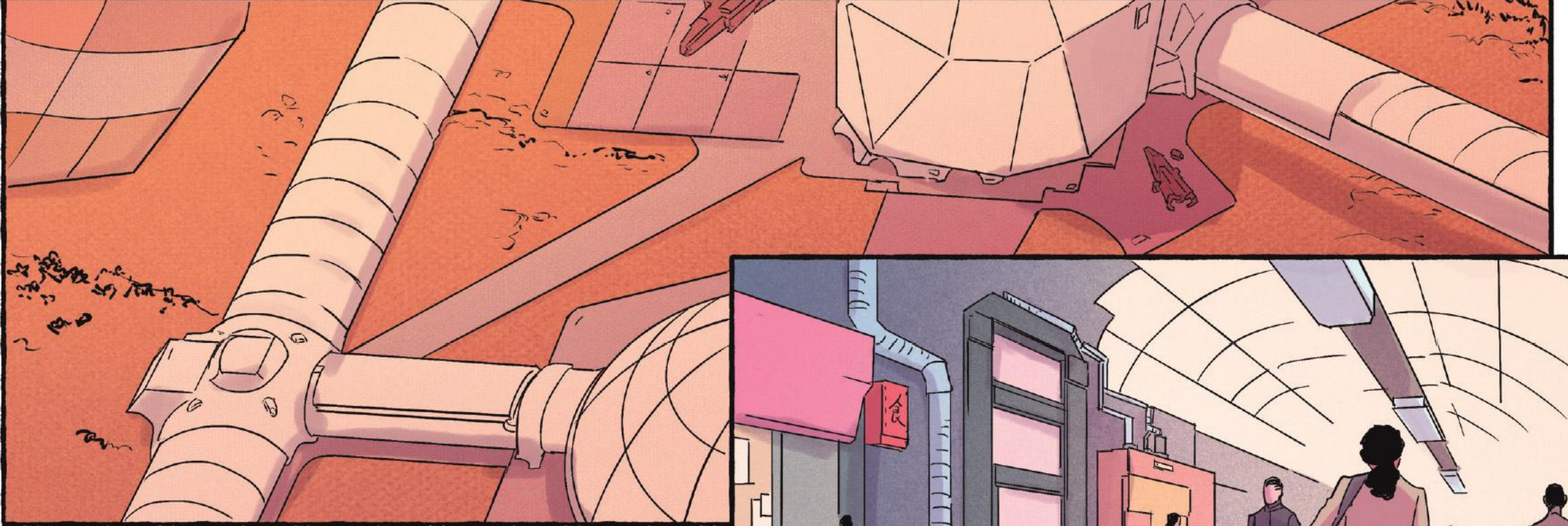
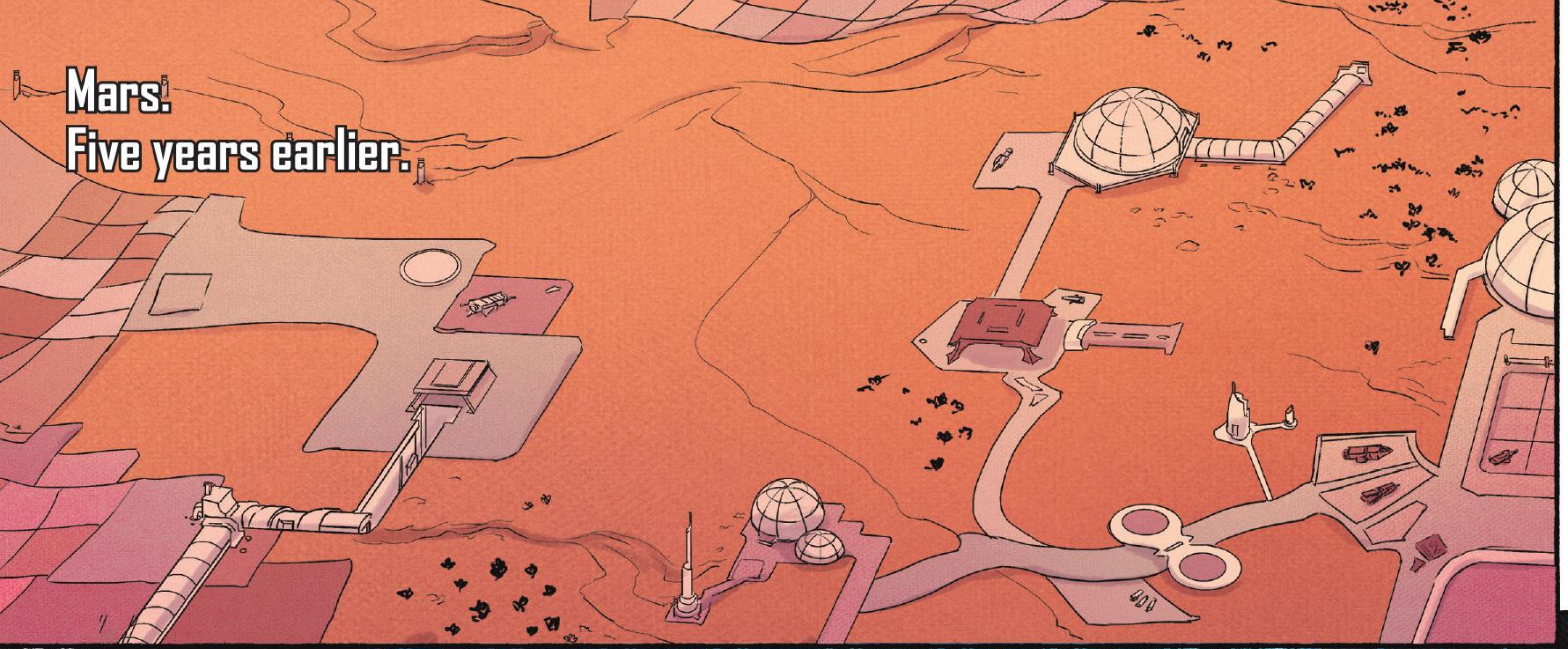
...THAT PUSH US ONTO THE STRANGE ROADS WE MUST TAKE...

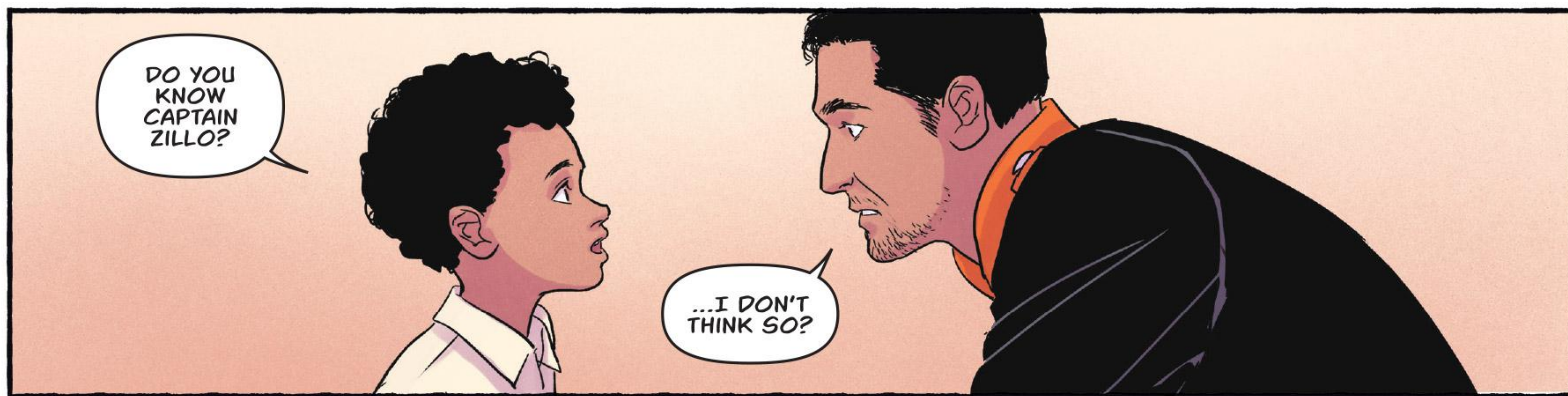
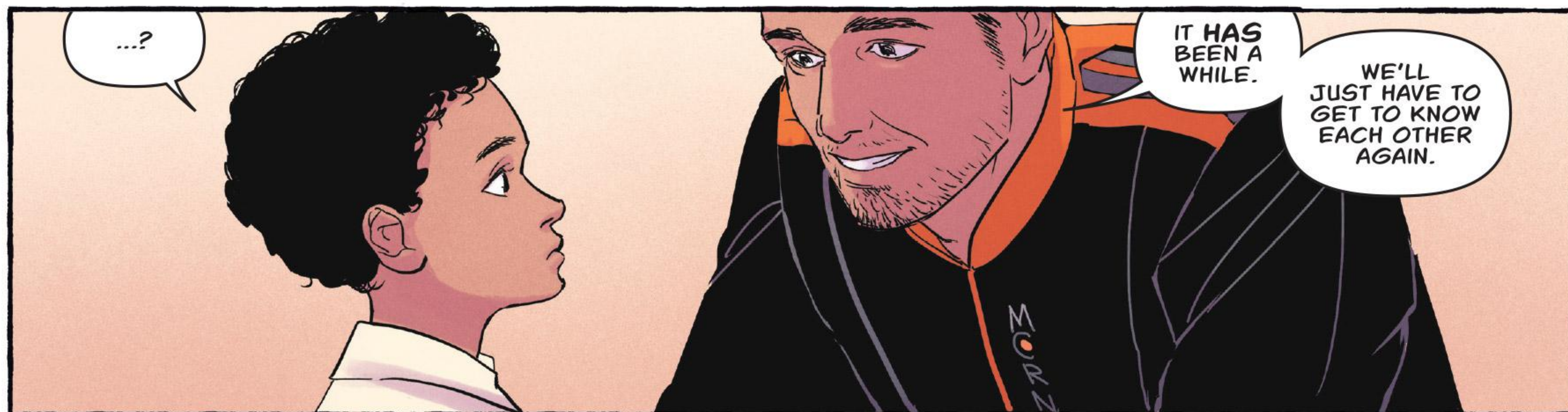
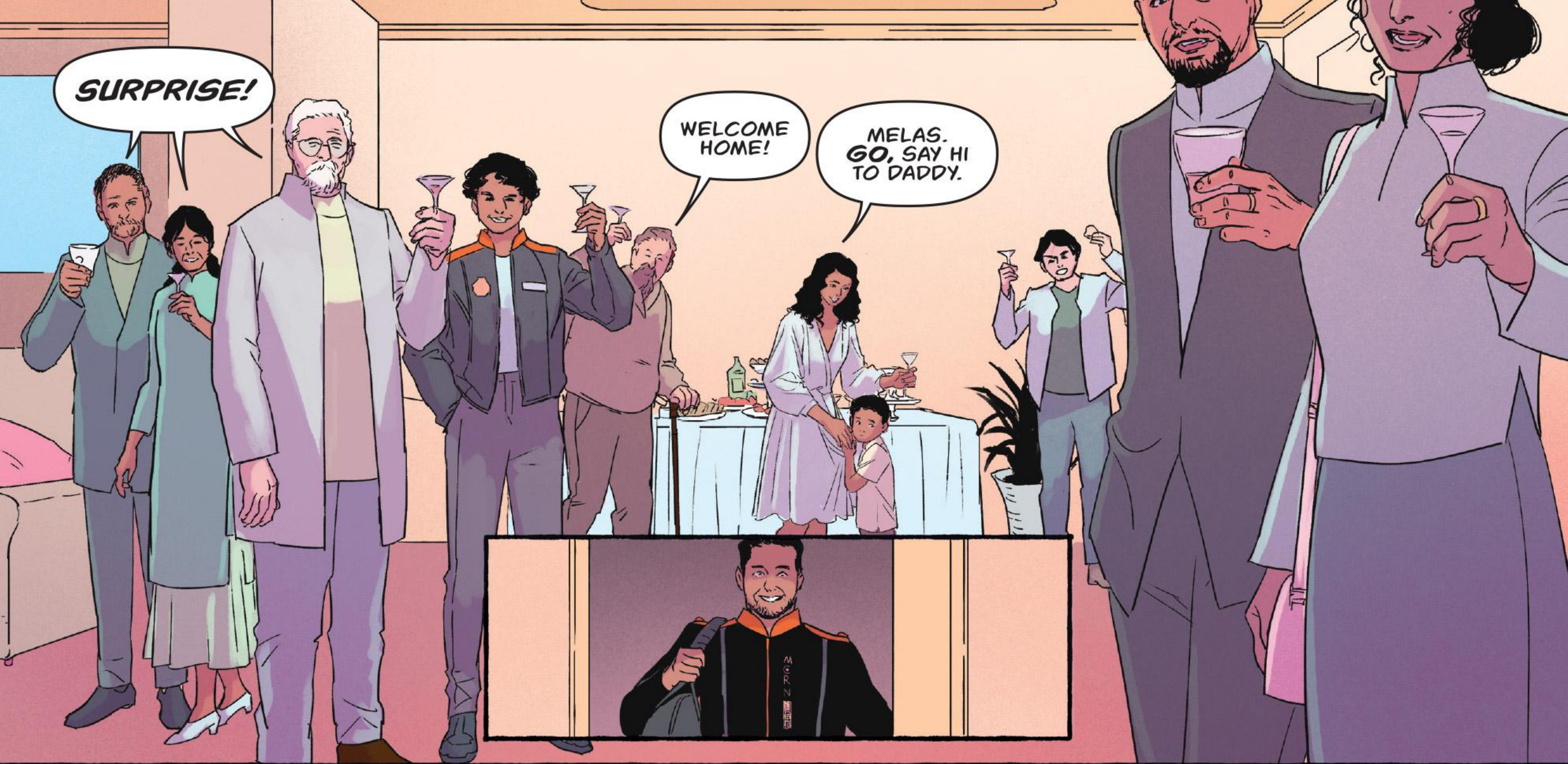


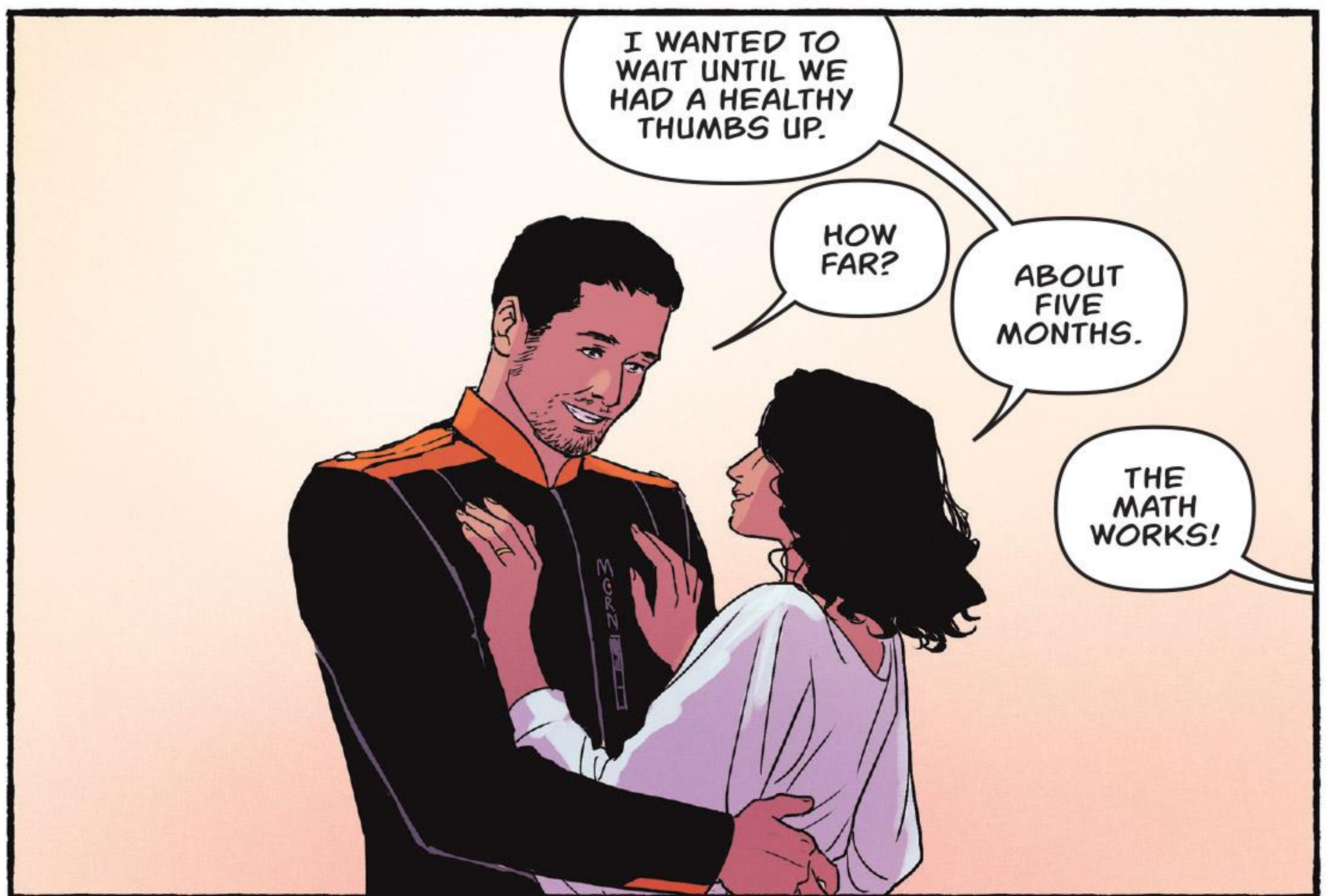
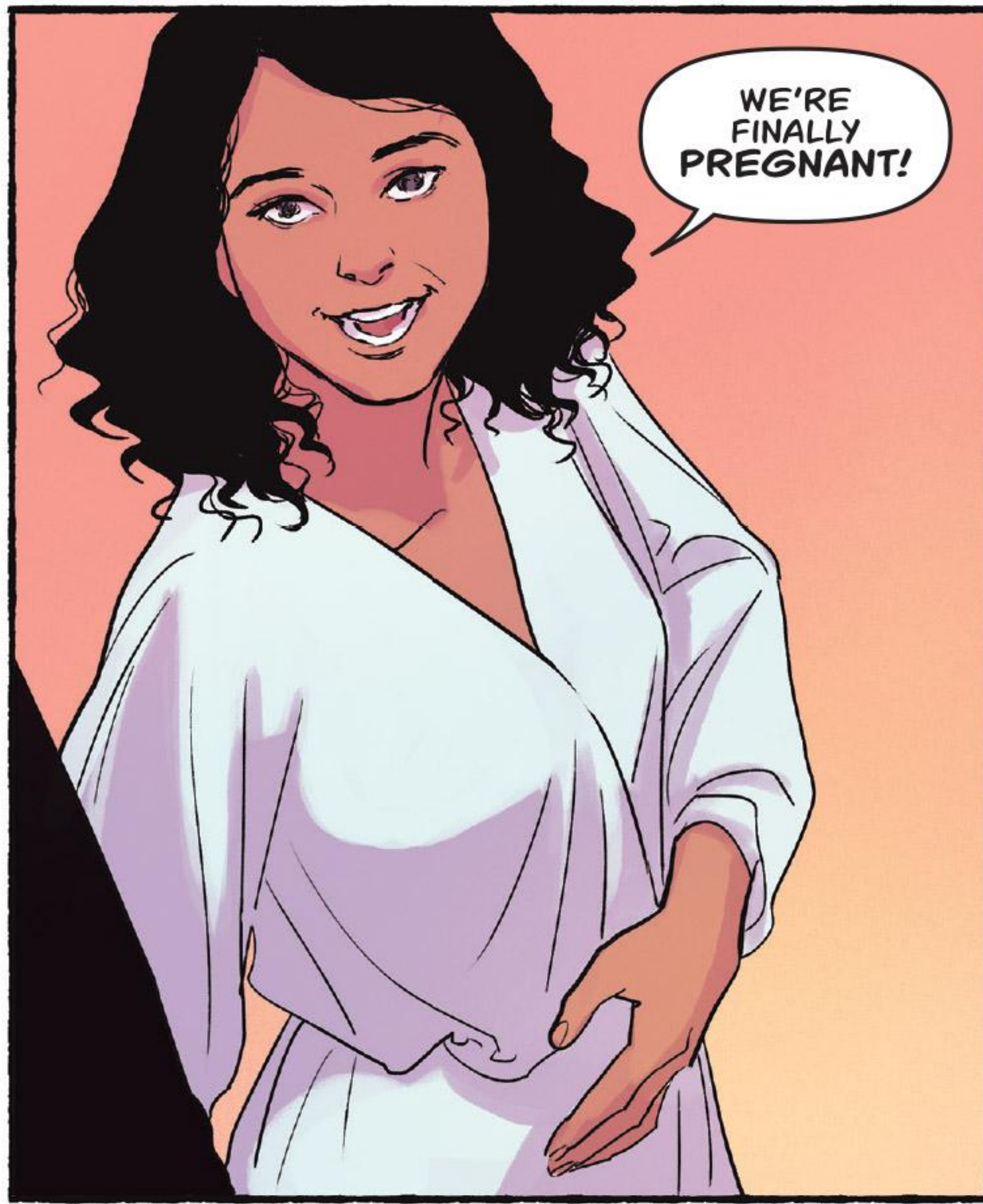
...AND LEAD US TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE.



Mars:
Five years earlier.









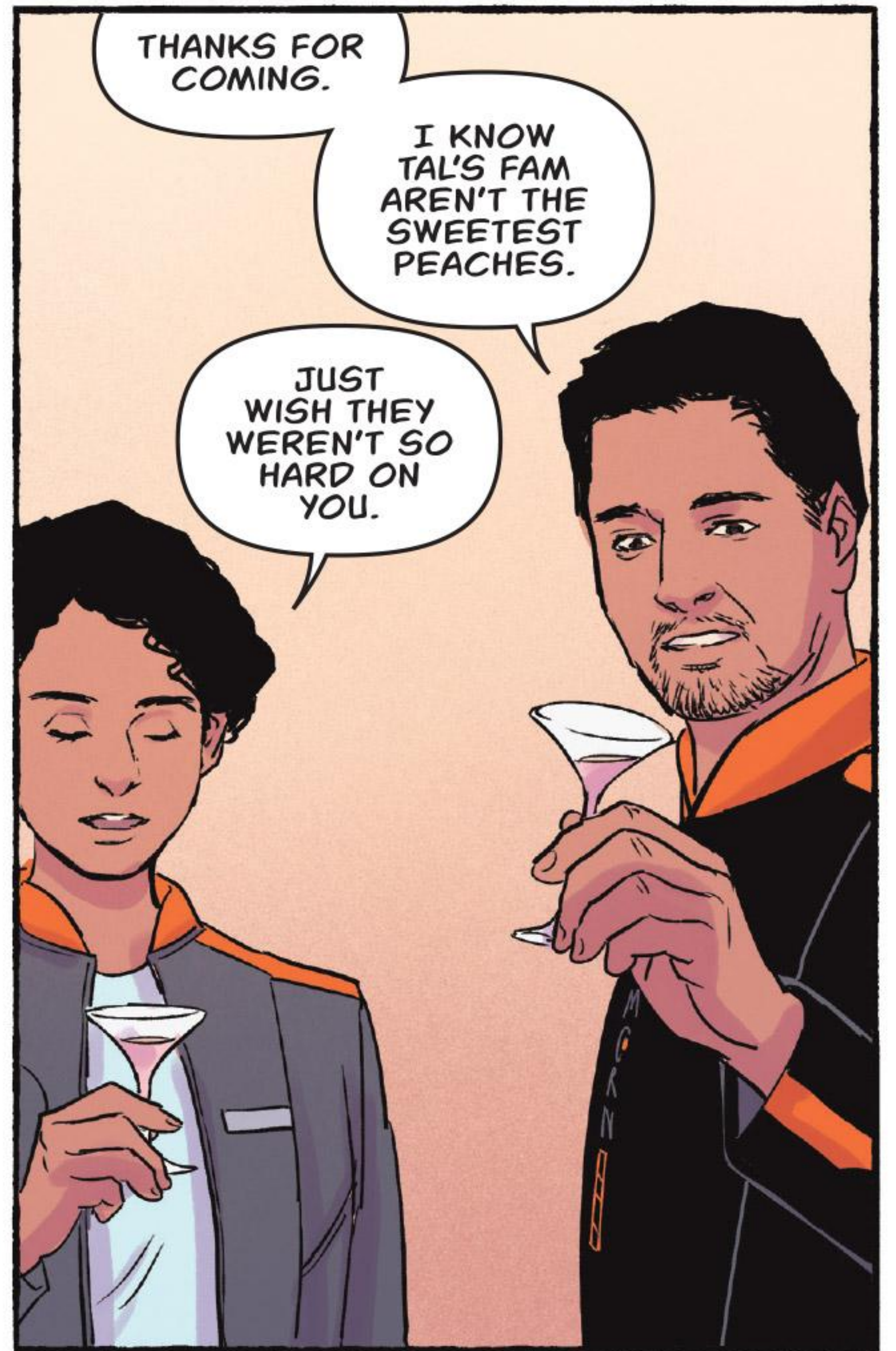
CONGRATS, BABY BRO.

THANKS, CASEY. I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE.

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM...



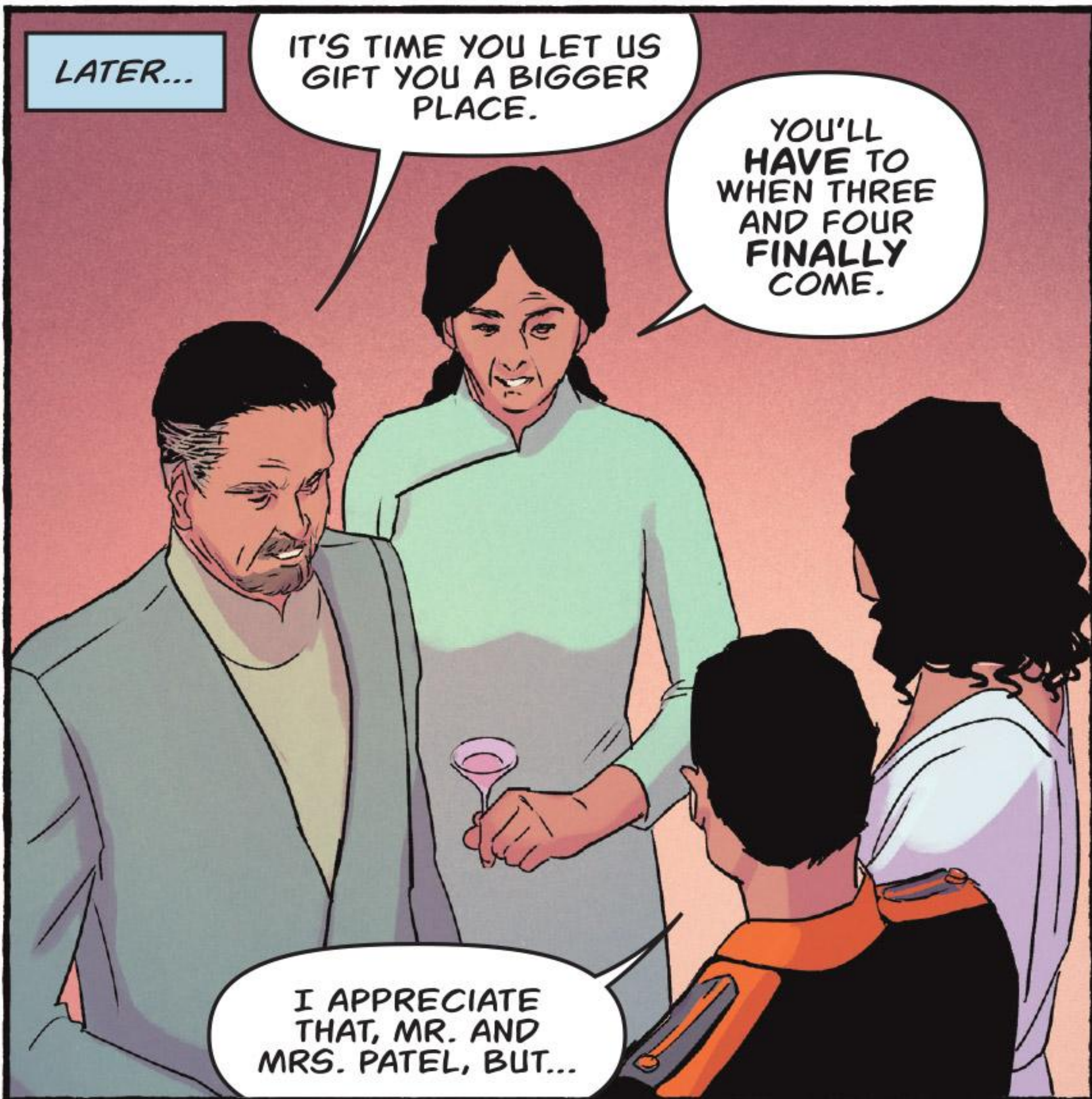
RIGHT?



THANKS FOR COMING.

I KNOW TAL'S FAM AREN'T THE SWEETEST PEACHES.

JUST WISH THEY WEREN'T SO HARD ON YOU.

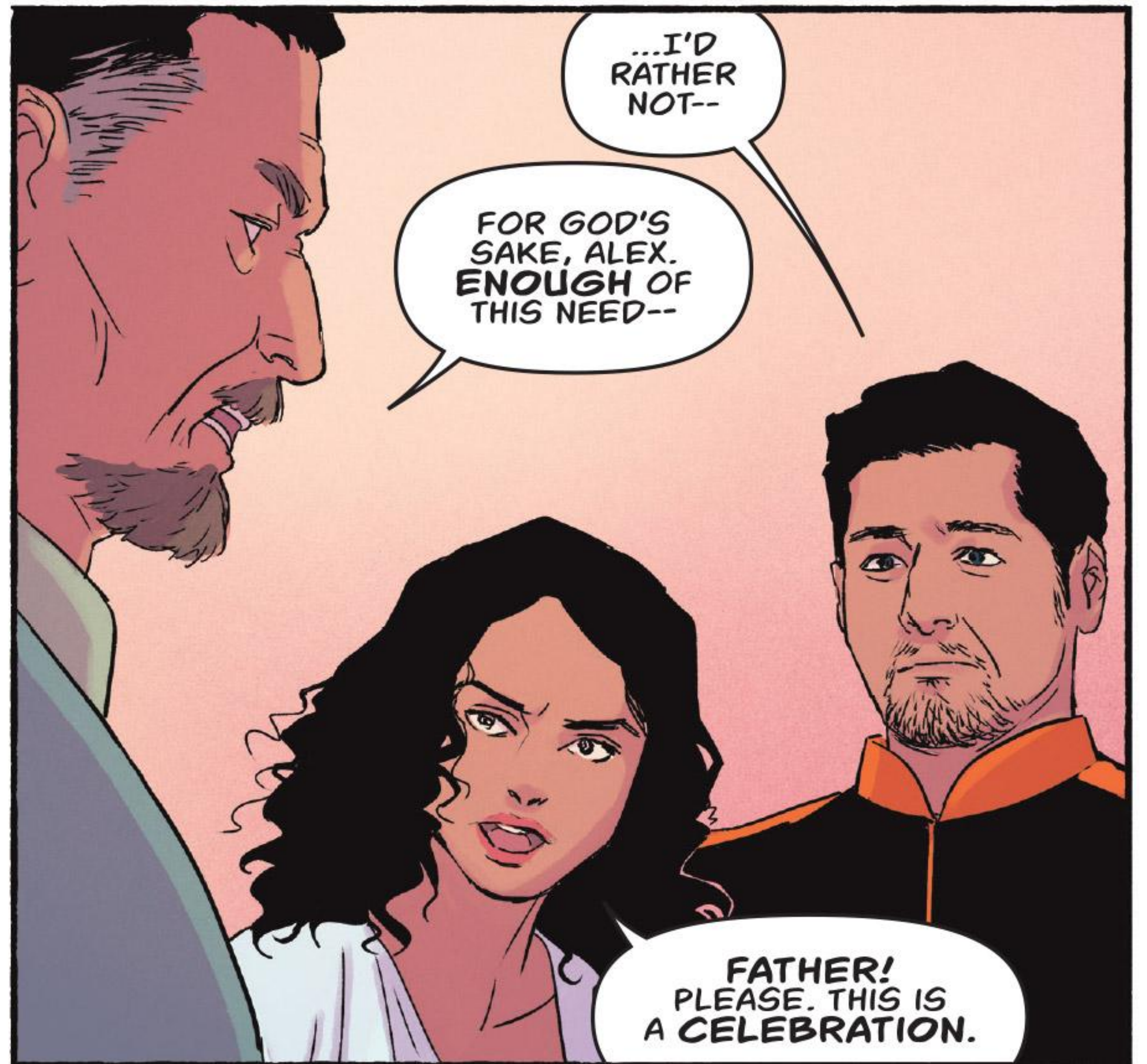


LATER...

IT'S TIME YOU LET US GIFT YOU A BIGGER PLACE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WHEN THREE AND FOUR FINALLY COME.

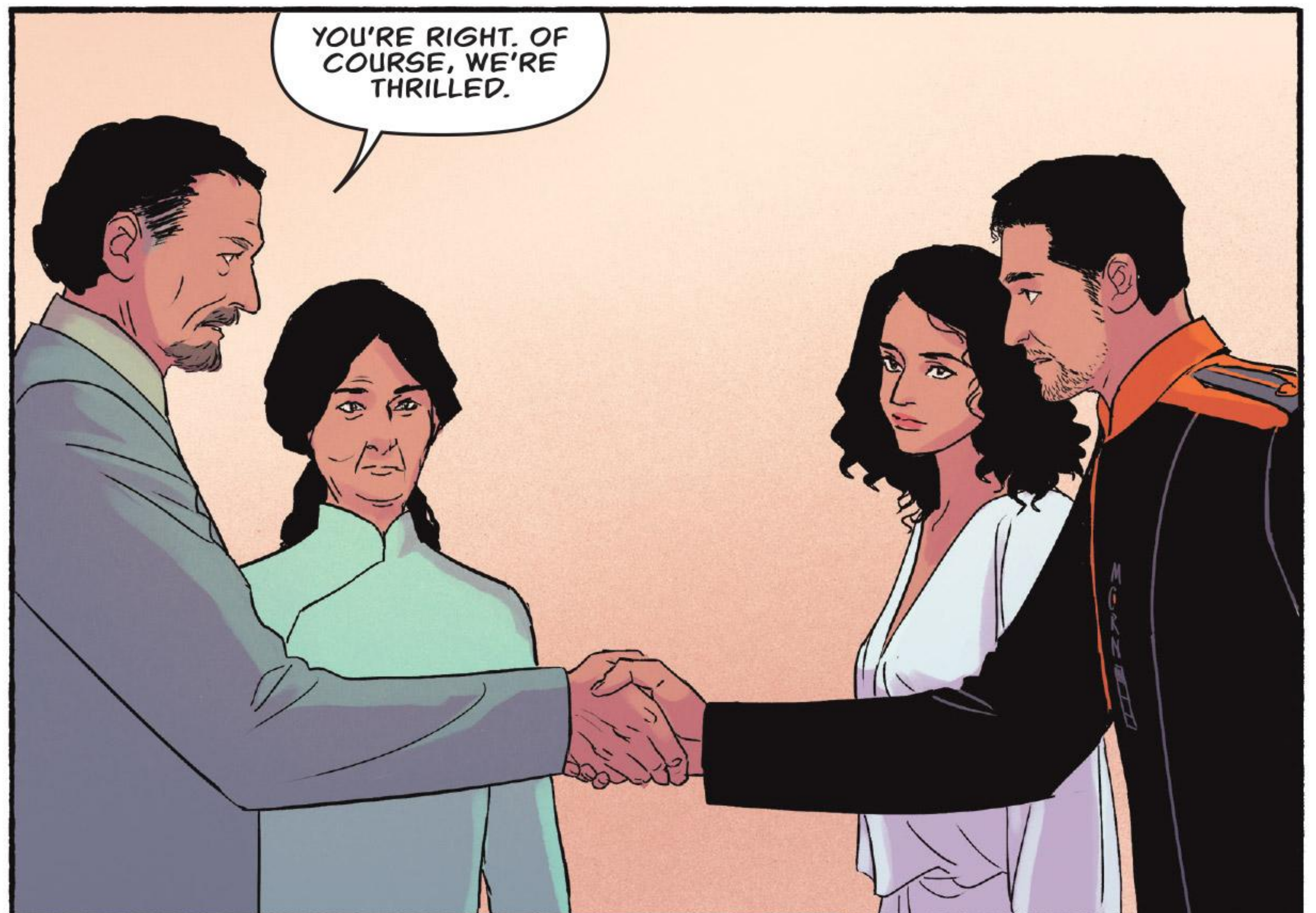
I APPRECIATE THAT, MR. AND MRS. PATEL, BUT...



...I'D RATHER NOT--

FOR GOD'S SAKE, ALEX. ENOUGH OF THIS NEED--

FATHER! PLEASE. THIS IS A CELEBRATION.



YOU'RE RIGHT. OF COURSE, WE'RE THRILLED.



SORRY ABOUT MY PARENTS.

JUST WISH THEY'D STOP BLAMING...

THEY'RE JUST ANXIOUS. ALL THEIR FRIENDS HAVE ARMIES OF GRANDCHILDREN ALREADY.



I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.

OH, IT'S OKAY.

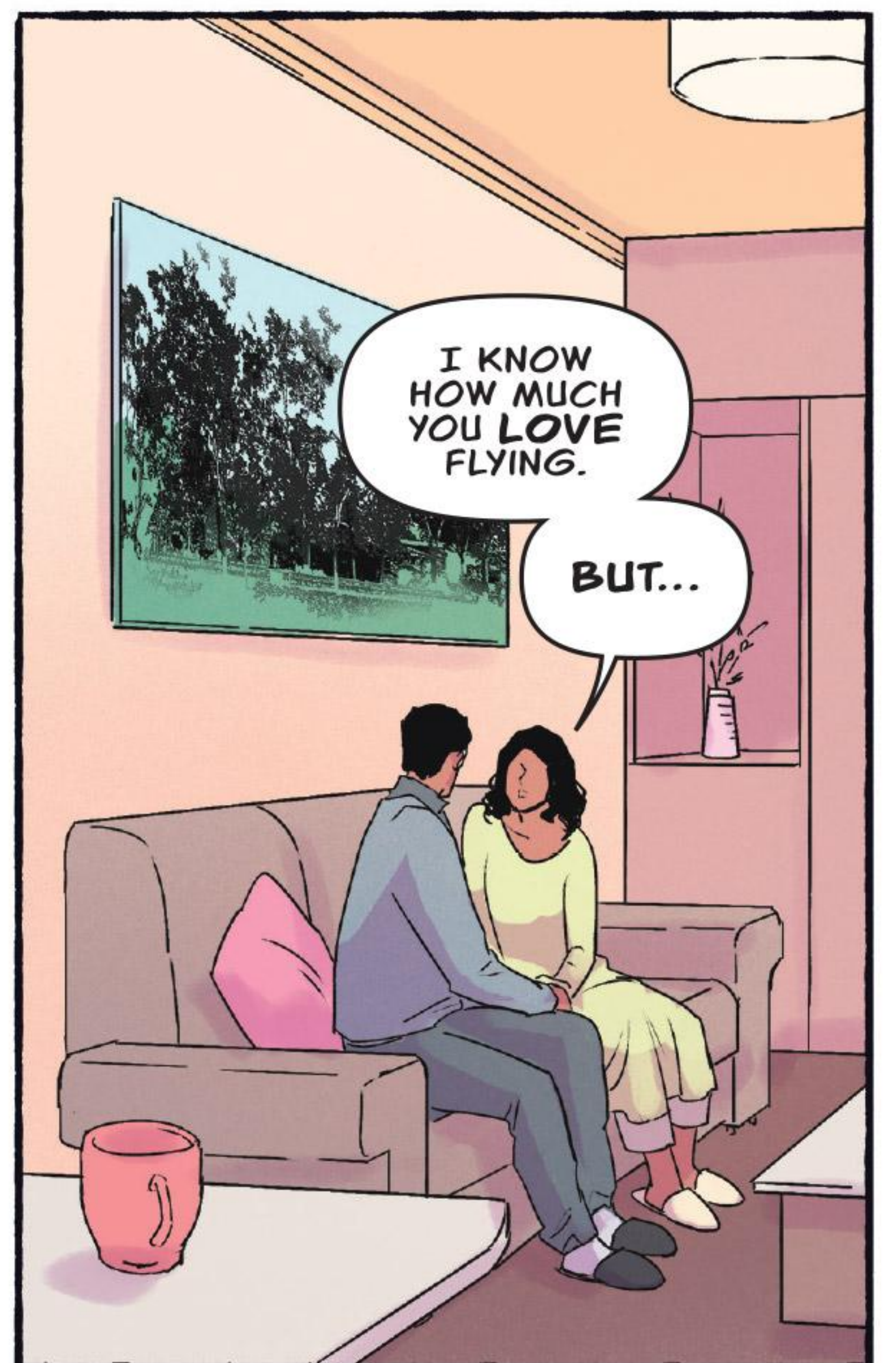
IT'S WONDERFUL NEWS.



A VERY HAPPY HOMECOMING.



GOOD. BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...



I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE FLYING.

BUT...



DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU FINALLY RETIRE THE WINGS? TAKE A JOB ON PLANET.



YOUR DUTY IS HERE NOW, WITH US...



UM, WOW. OK, YEAH...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...?

Two weeks later.



YOU'RE A PILOT TO THE CORE, KAMAL. SURE YOU WANNA DO THIS?

TIME FOR MORE FATHERLY THINGS, XO.



ALWAYS HATE WHEN ONE OF THE FAMILY MOVES ON.

THAT SEAT'S GONNA MISS YOU...

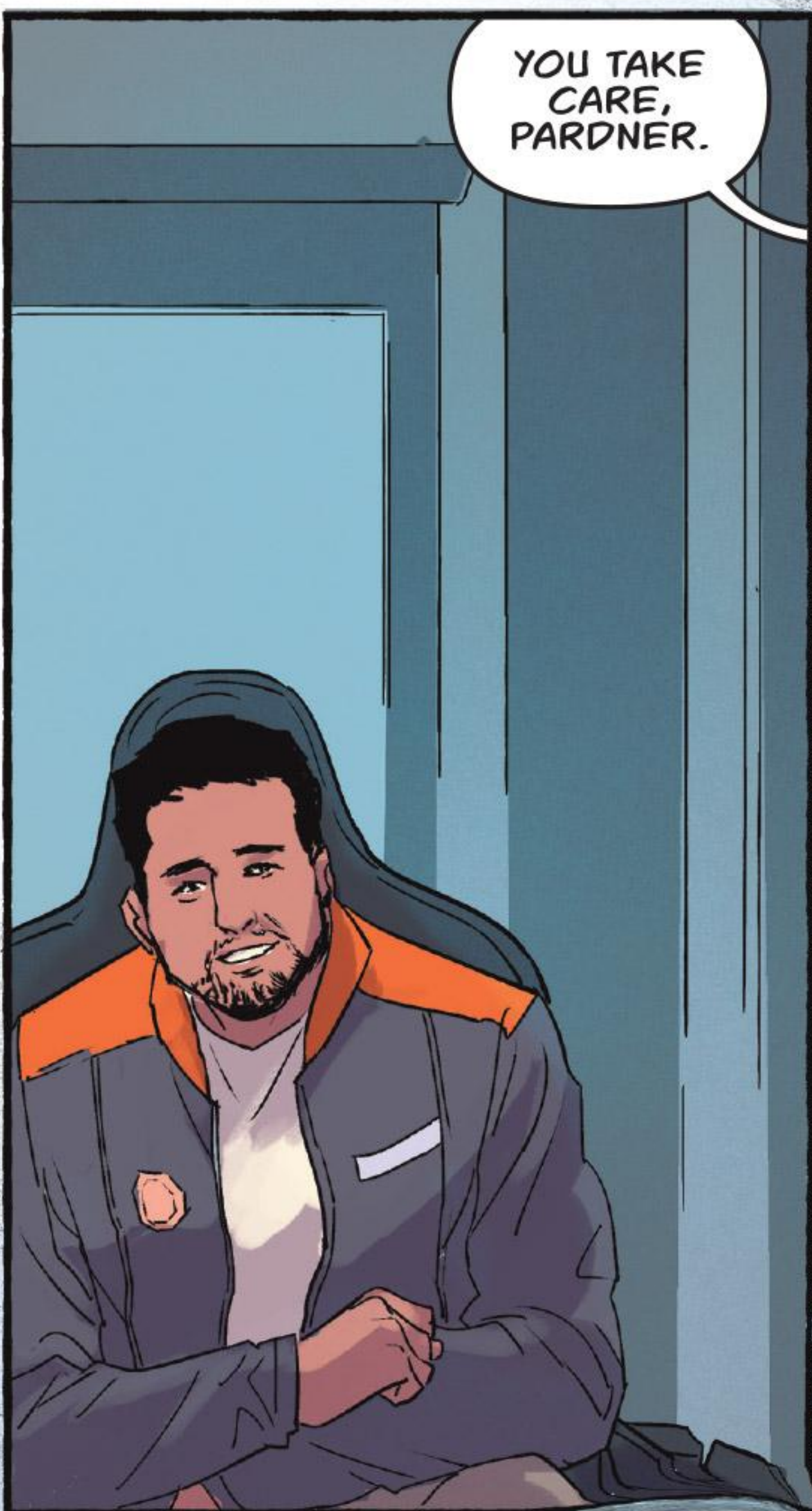
YEAH.



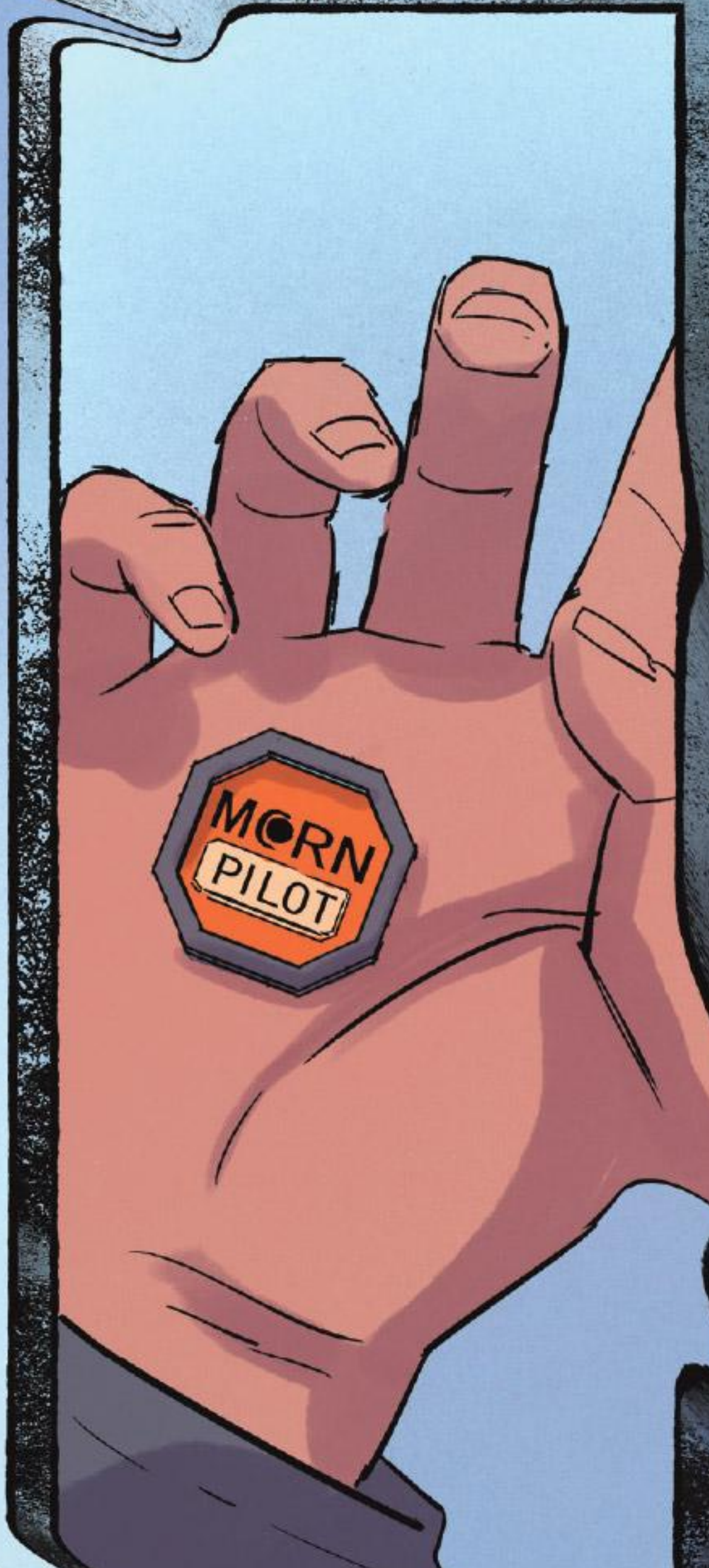
YEAH, ME TOO.

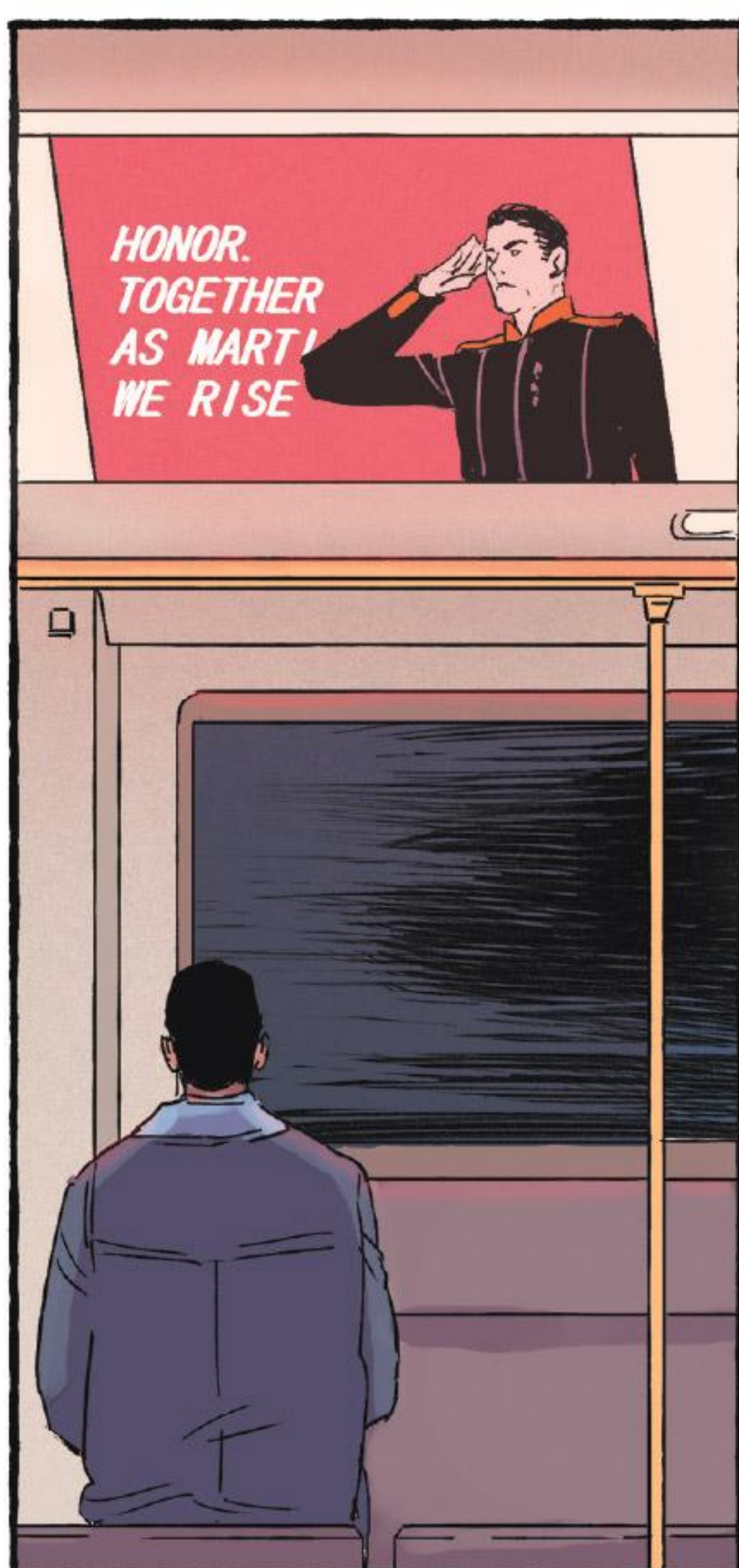
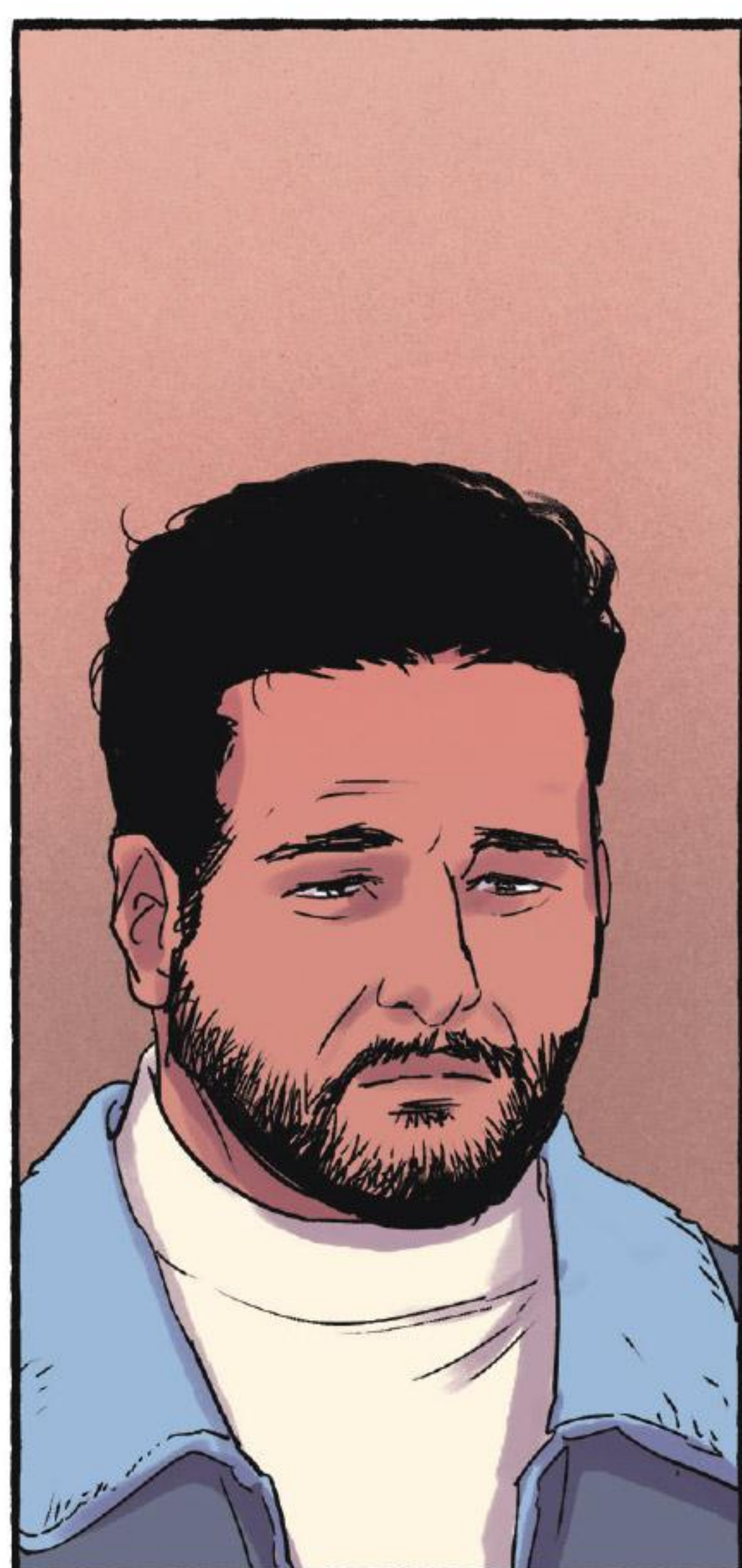
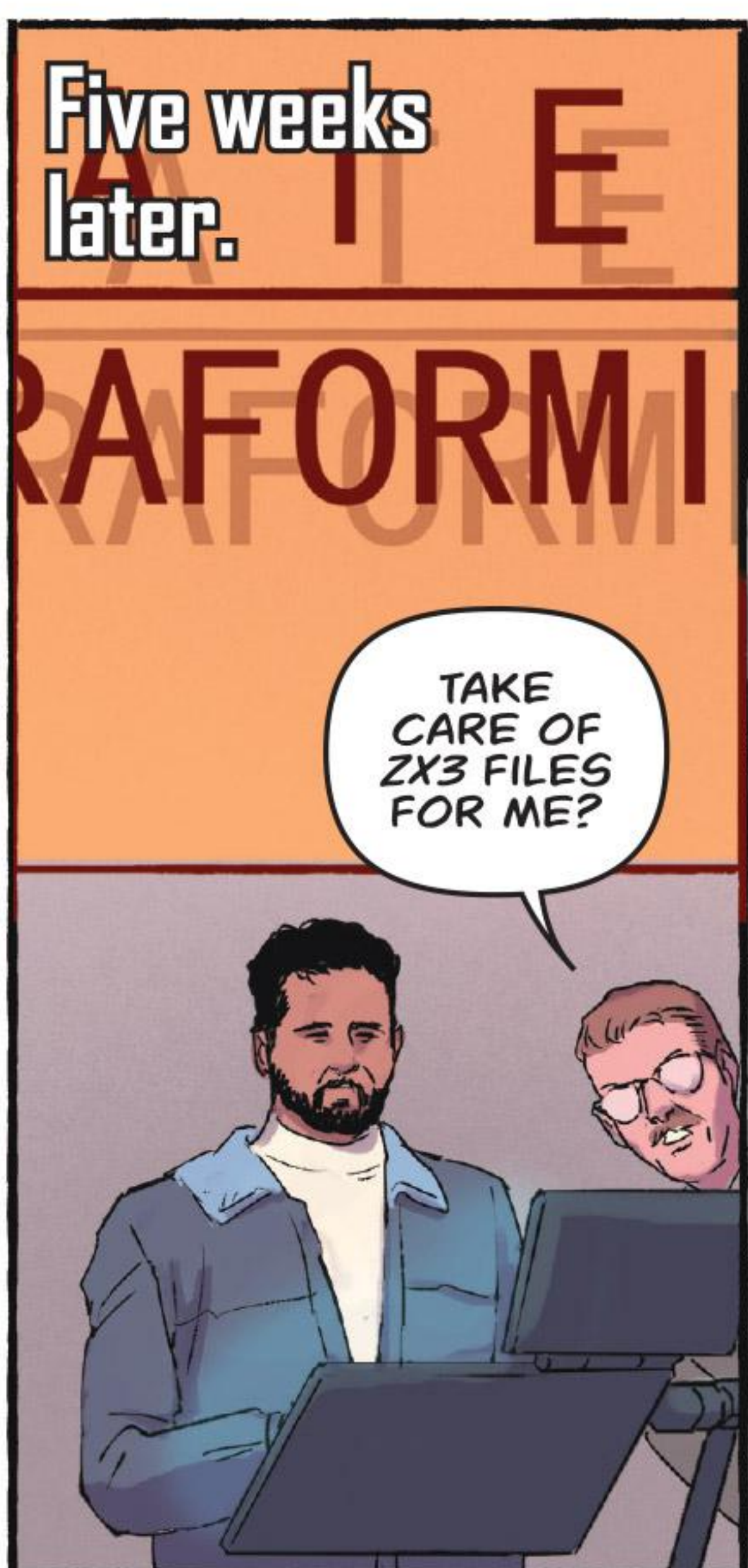
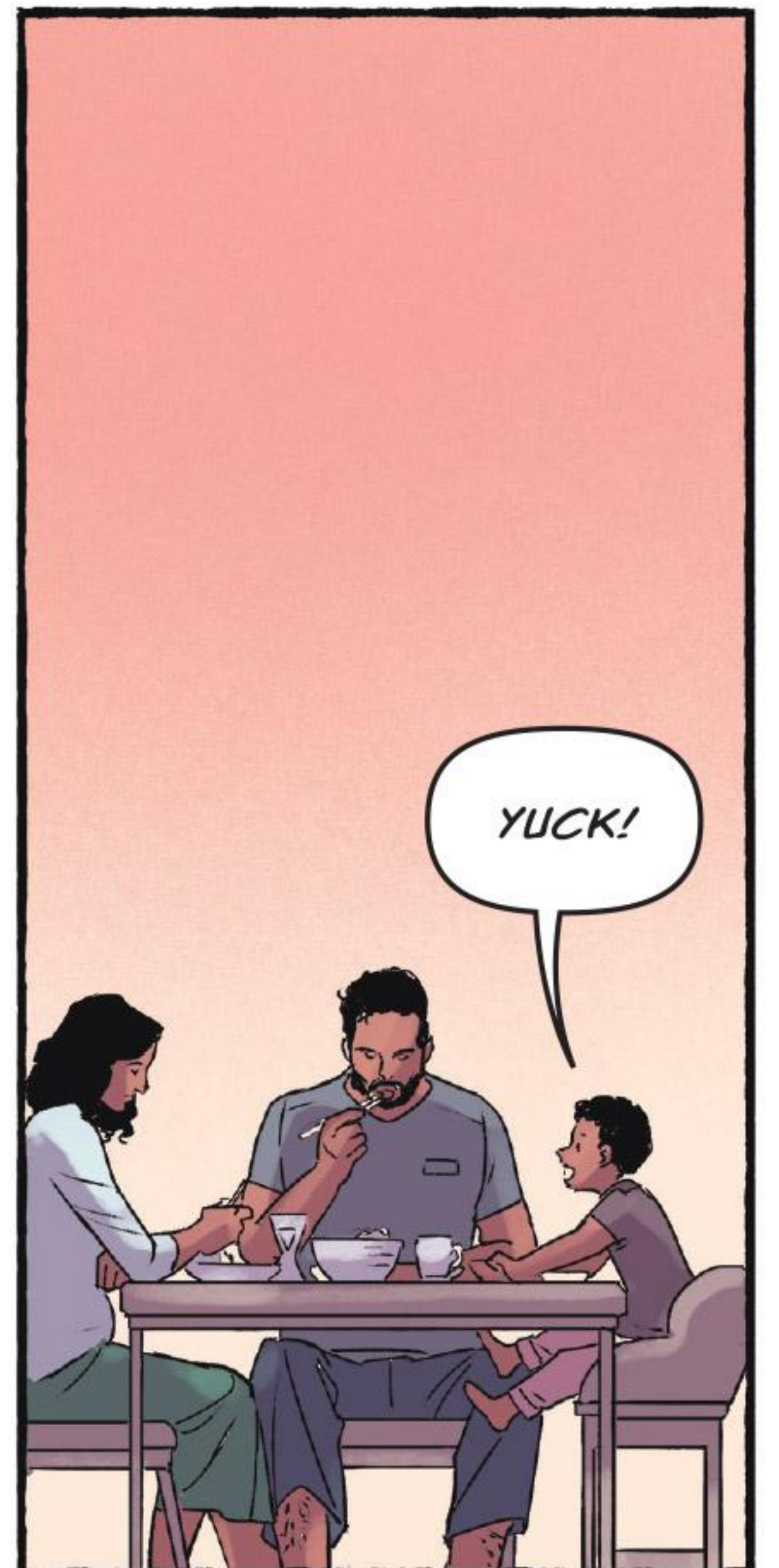
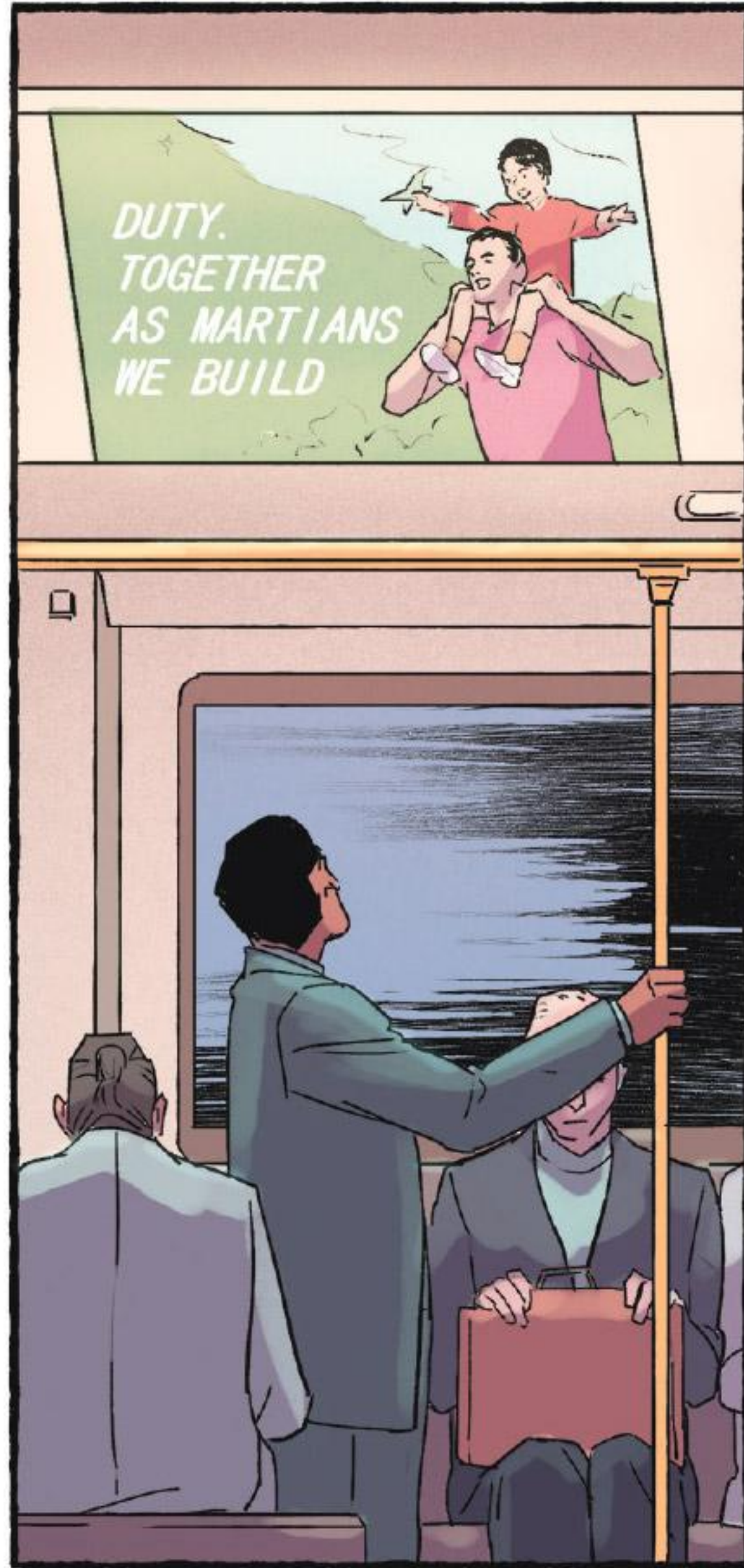


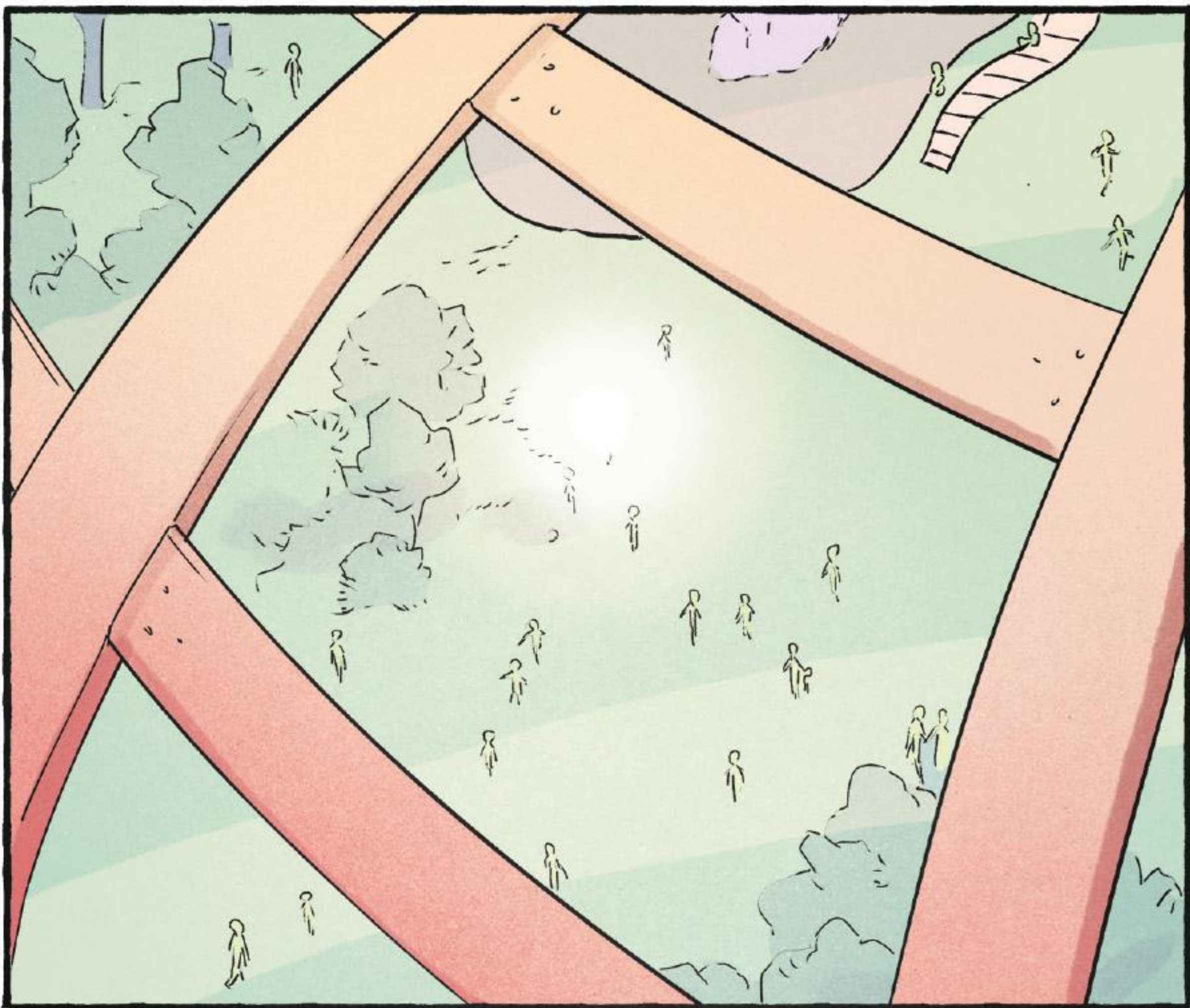
AND I'LL MISS YOUR LASAGNA.



YOU TAKE CARE, PARDNER.









SO HOW'S DESK JOCKEYING?

GOOD...

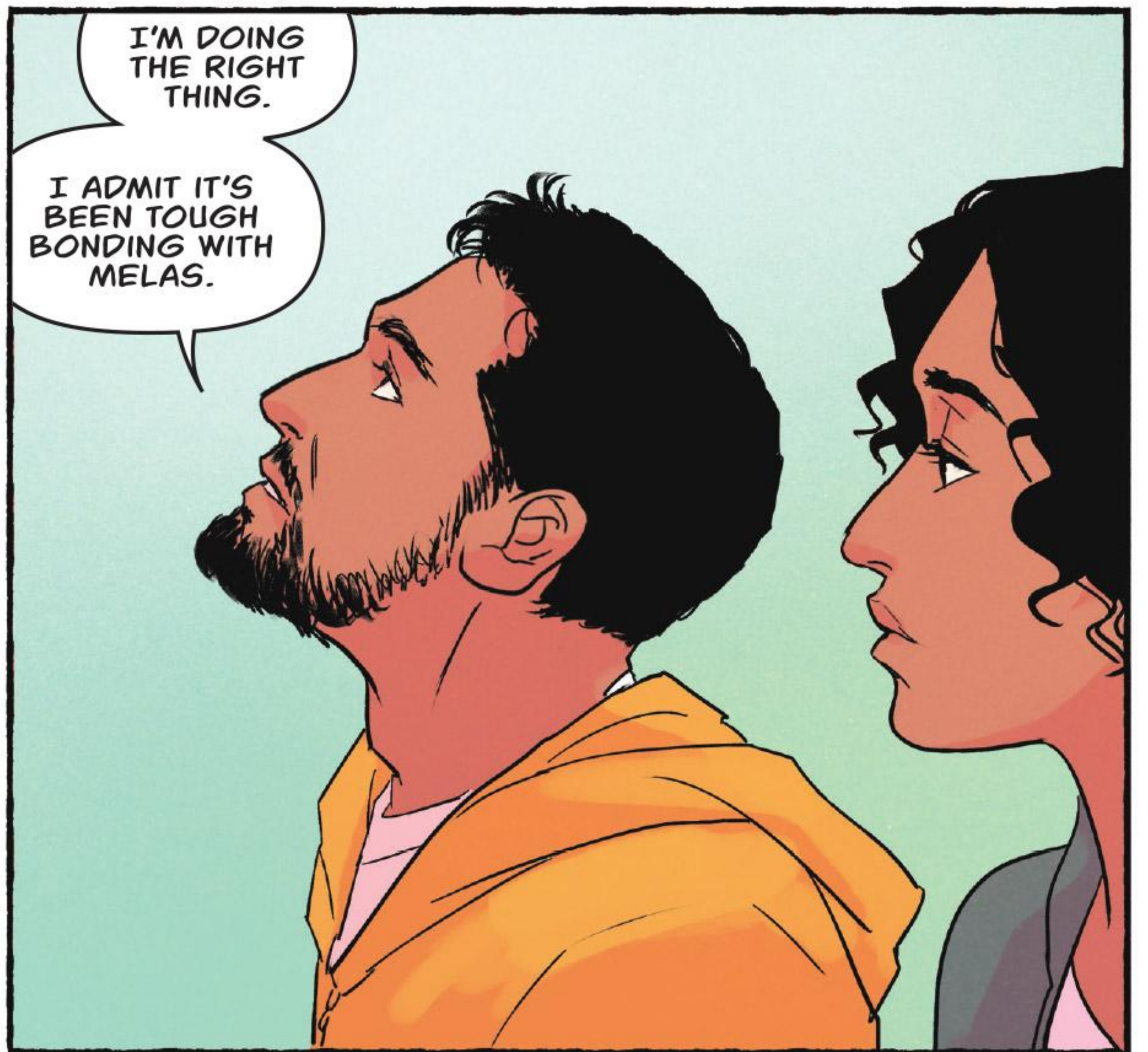


OKAY. I'M BARELY HOLDING IT TOGETHER.



BARELY? HA! HAVE YOU SEEN YOURSELF?

FLYING'S THE ONLY PLACE I FELT ANYT--NO, NO.



I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING.

I ADMIT IT'S BEEN TOUGH BONDING WITH MELAS.



BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT.

AND SOON, I'LL HAVE A FRESH START WITH ASHIA.

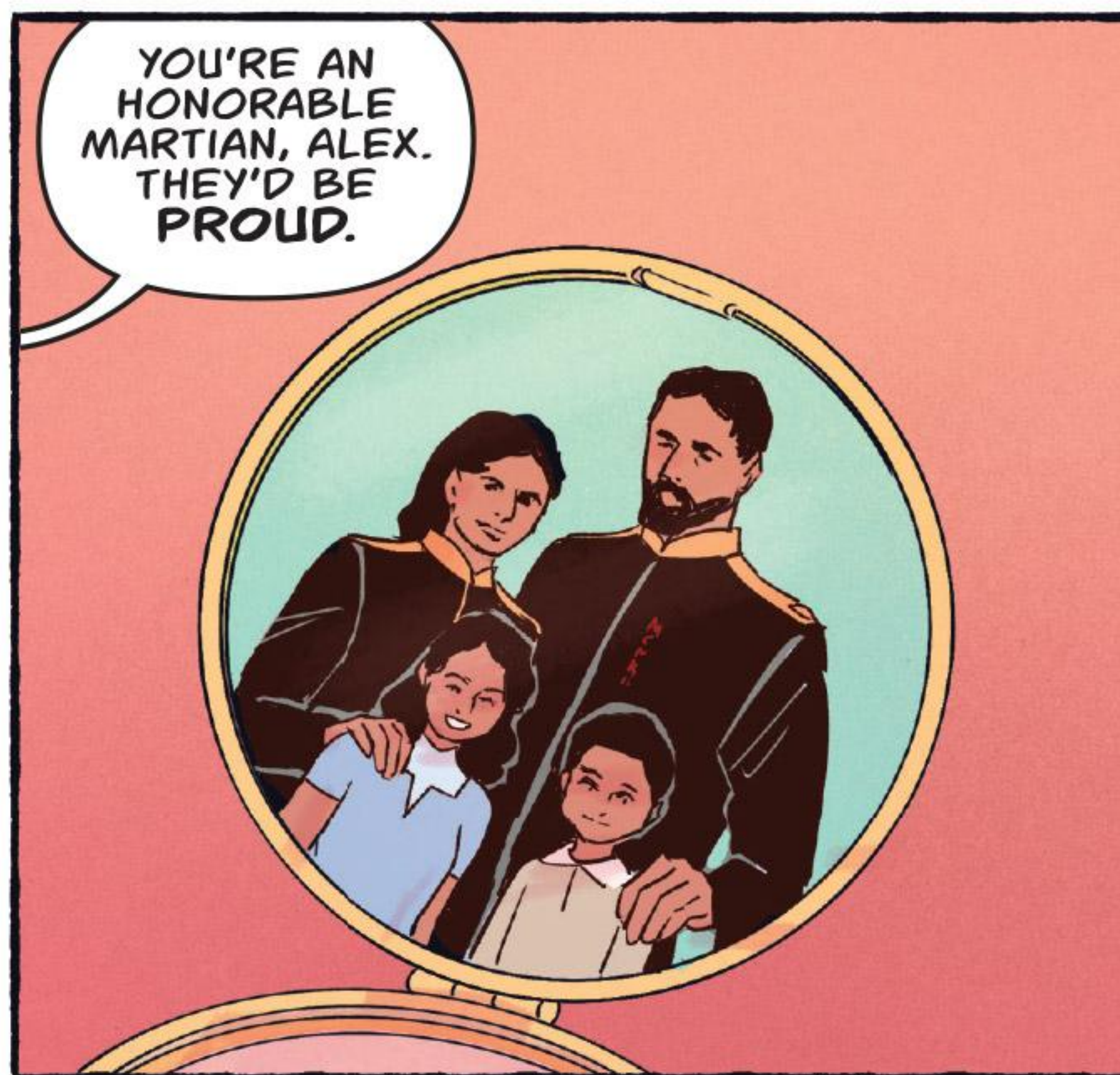
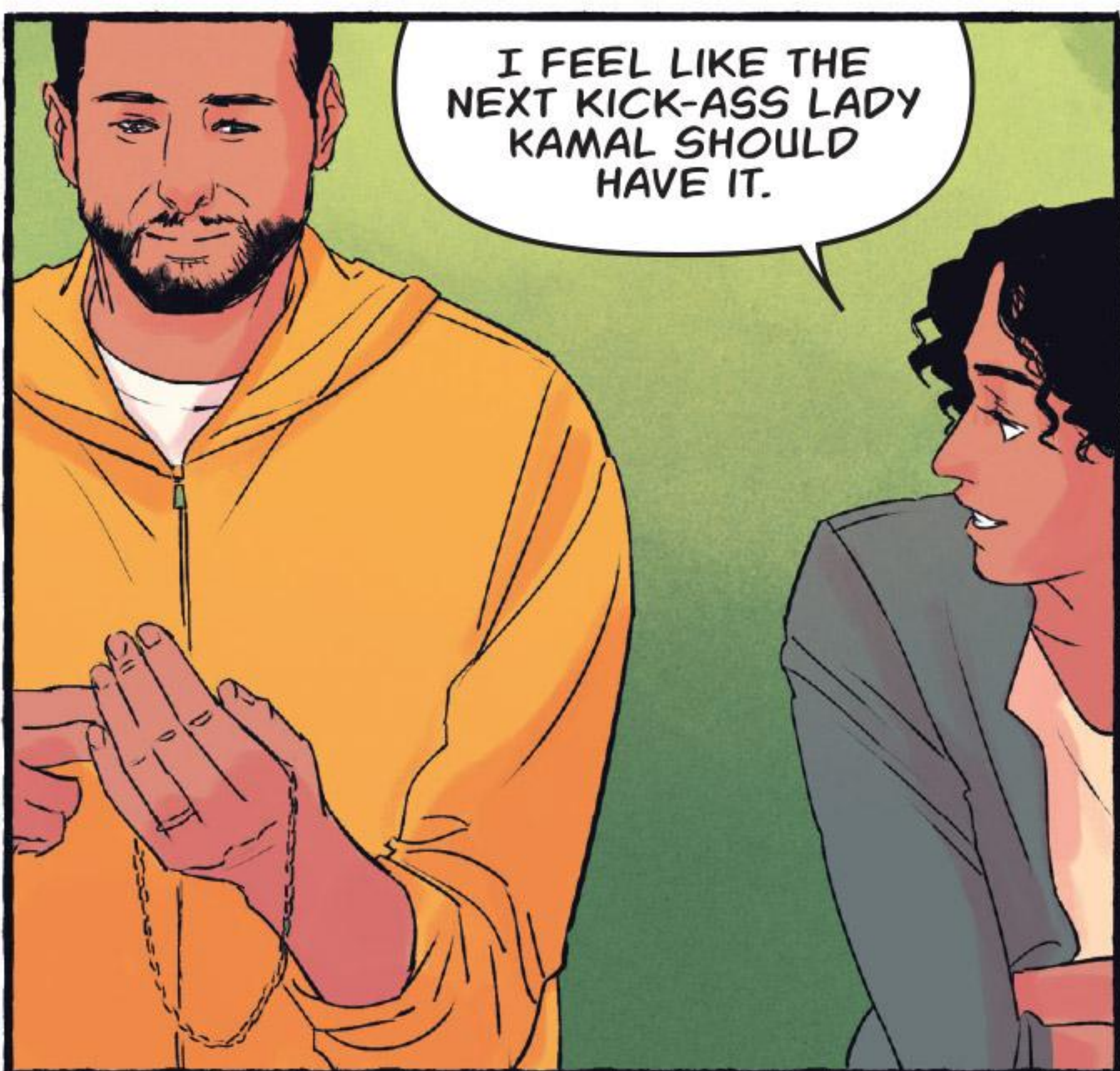
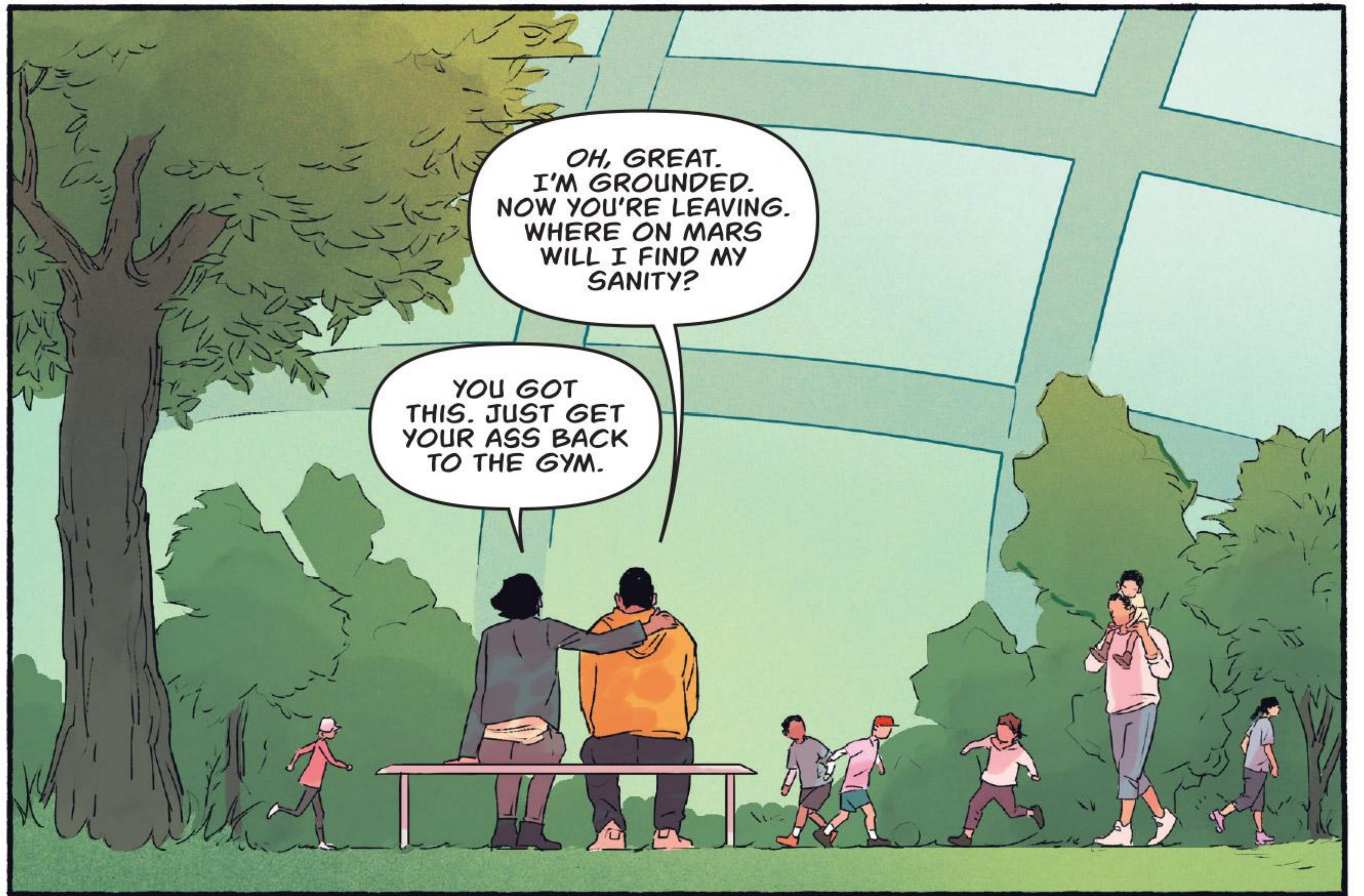


"LIFE AND HOPE." PERFECT NAME.

JUST WISH I WAS GOING TO BE HERE TO MEET HER.

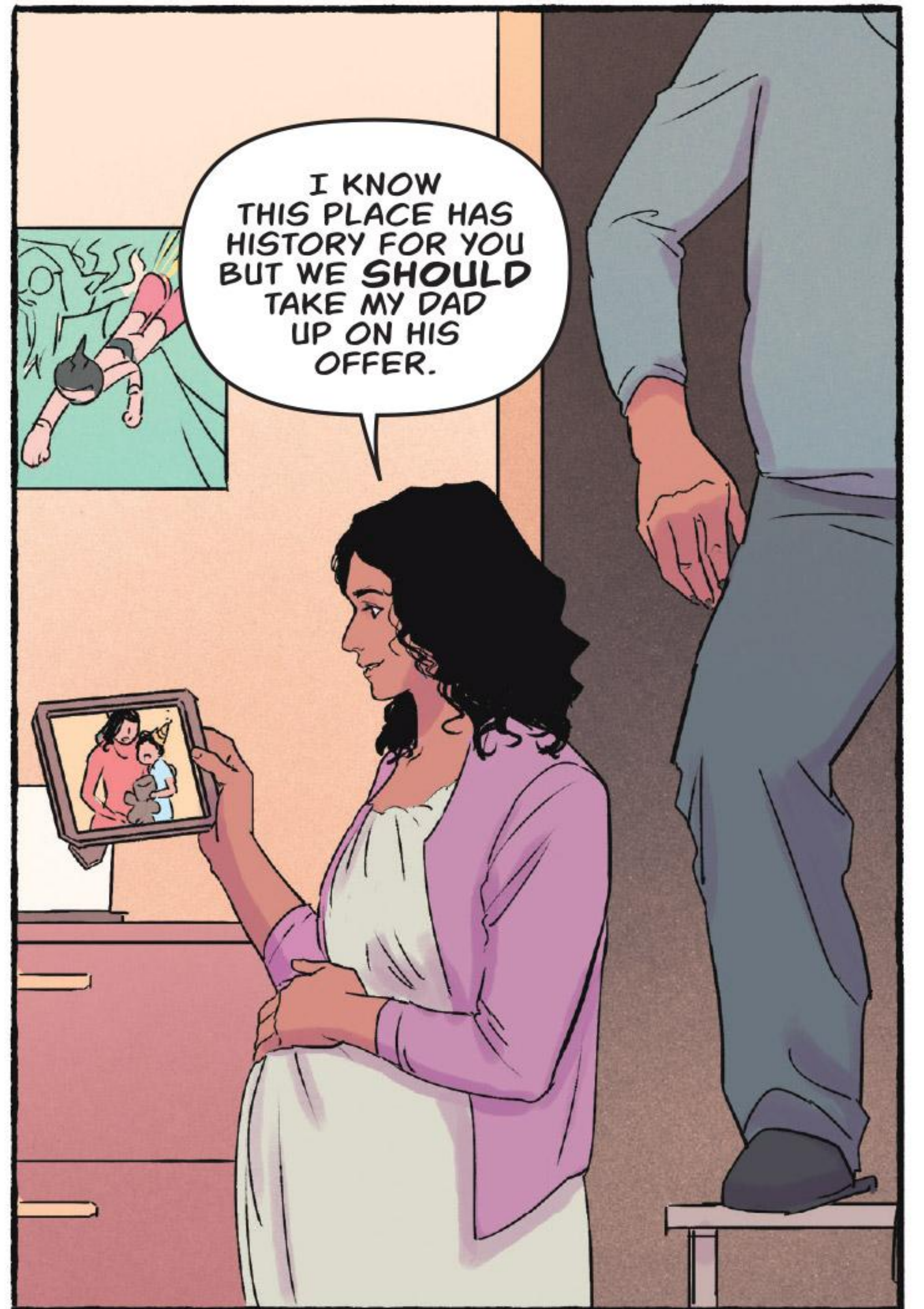


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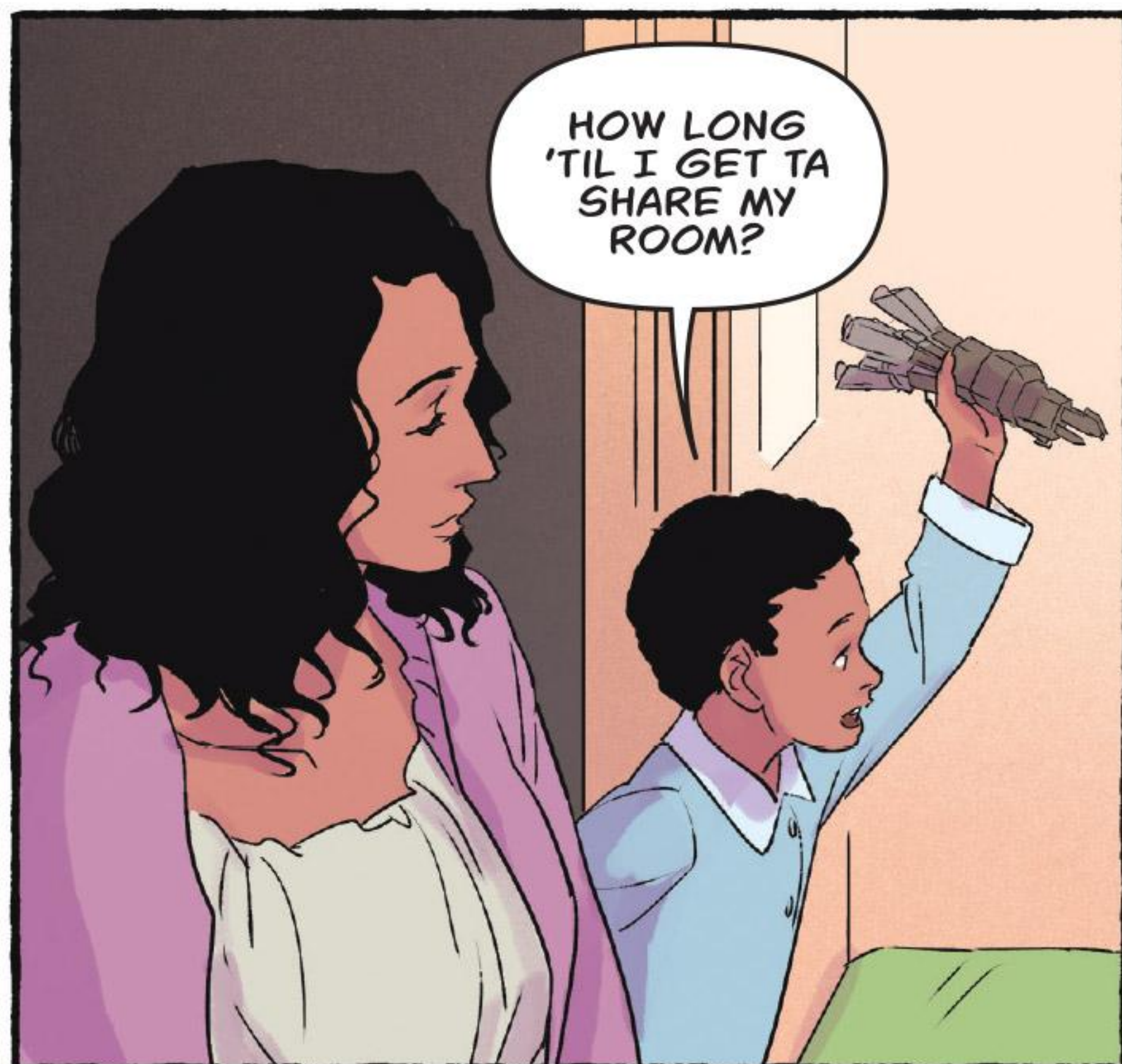




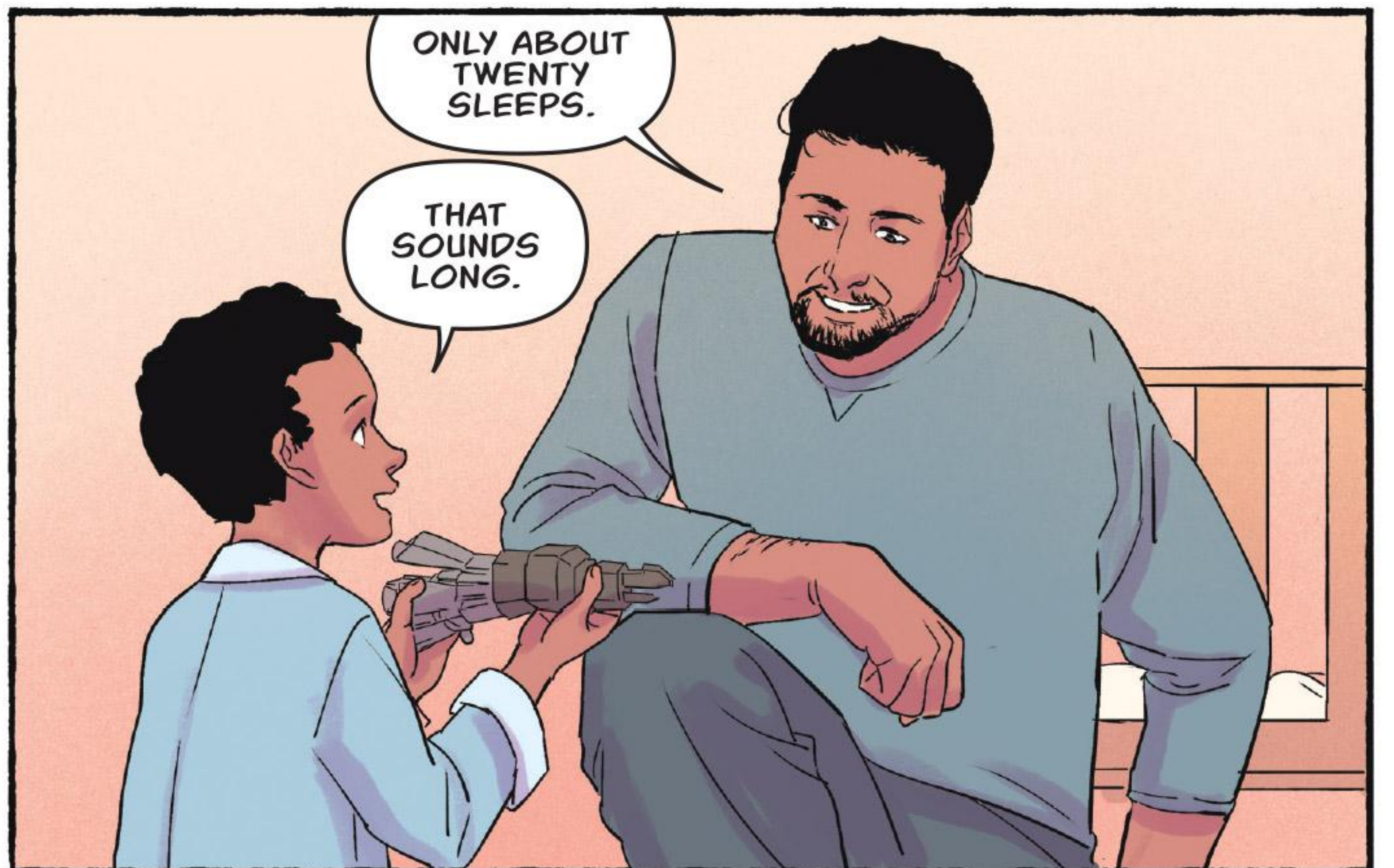
LOOKS GREAT IN HERE.



I KNOW THIS PLACE HAS HISTORY FOR YOU BUT WE SHOULD TAKE MY DAD UP ON HIS OFFER.



HOW LONG 'TIL I GET TA SHARE MY ROOM?



ONLY ABOUT TWENTY SLEEPS.

THAT SOUNDS LONG.



IT'LL GO BY IN A JIFF.

I CAN SHOW HER MY SHIP!

LIKE I'LL FLY SOMEDAY!

WHY DOESN'T YOUR DAD TELL YOU A BEDTIME STORY?



TELL A BATTLE STORY!

WELL, LET'S SEE.

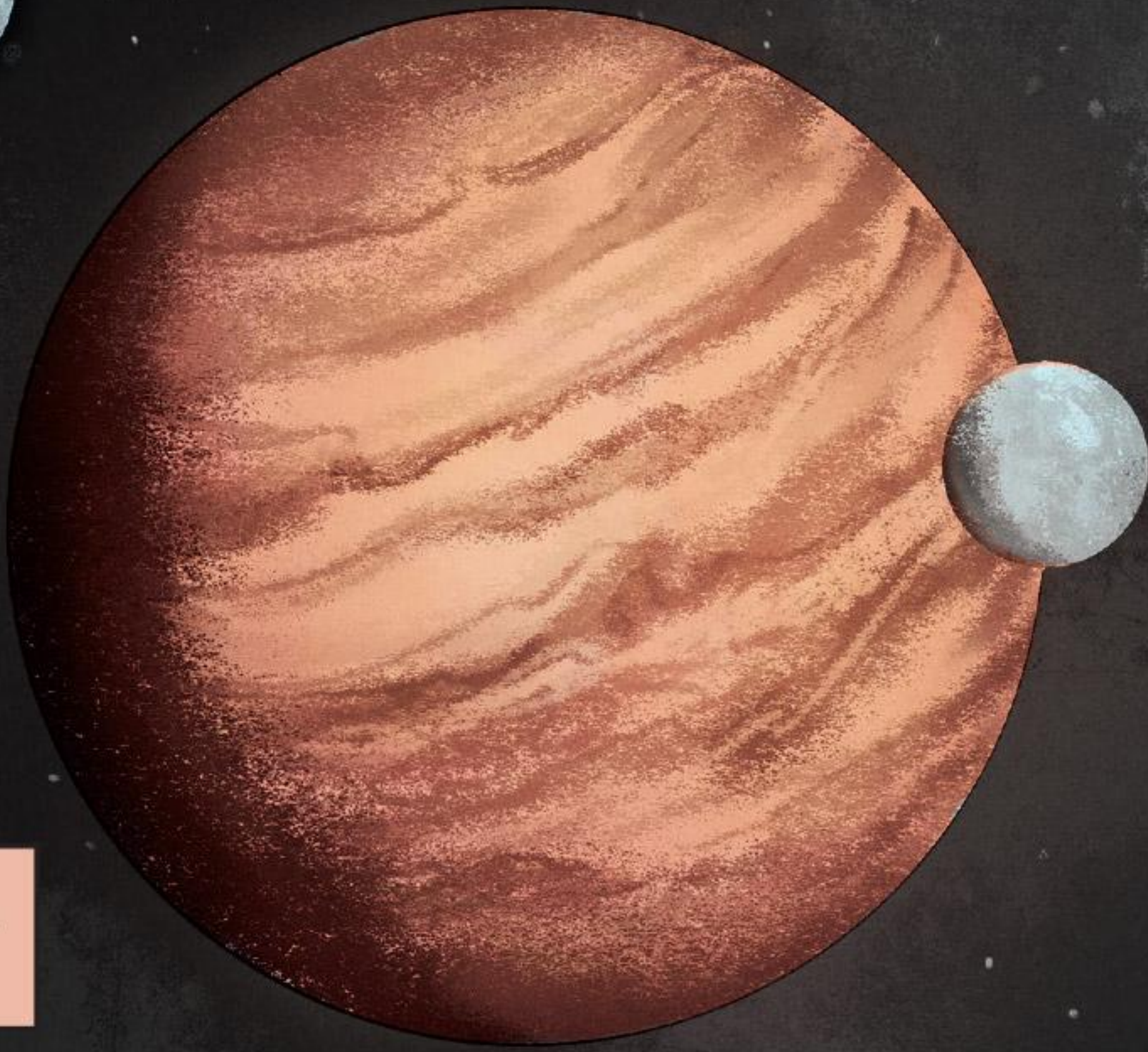
ONCE UPON A TIME...

"WE WERE ON PATROL AROUND JUPITER..."

"YOU KNOW... JUPITER IS **SO** BIG MARS COULD FIT INSIDE IT 8,750 TIMES."

"HUH?"

"AND IT HAS OVER SIXTY-SEVEN MOONS!"



NOOO. TELL ME A STORY.

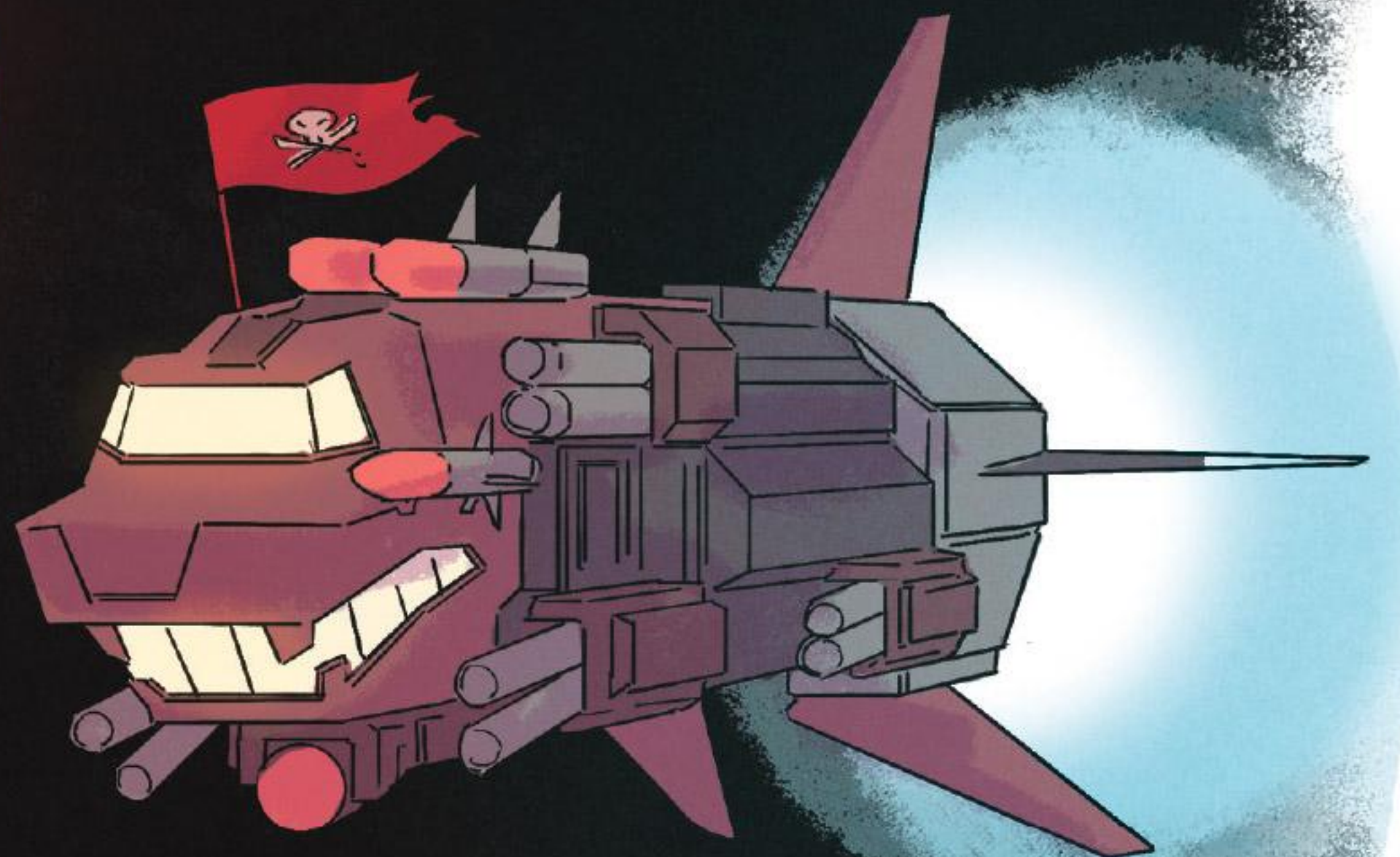
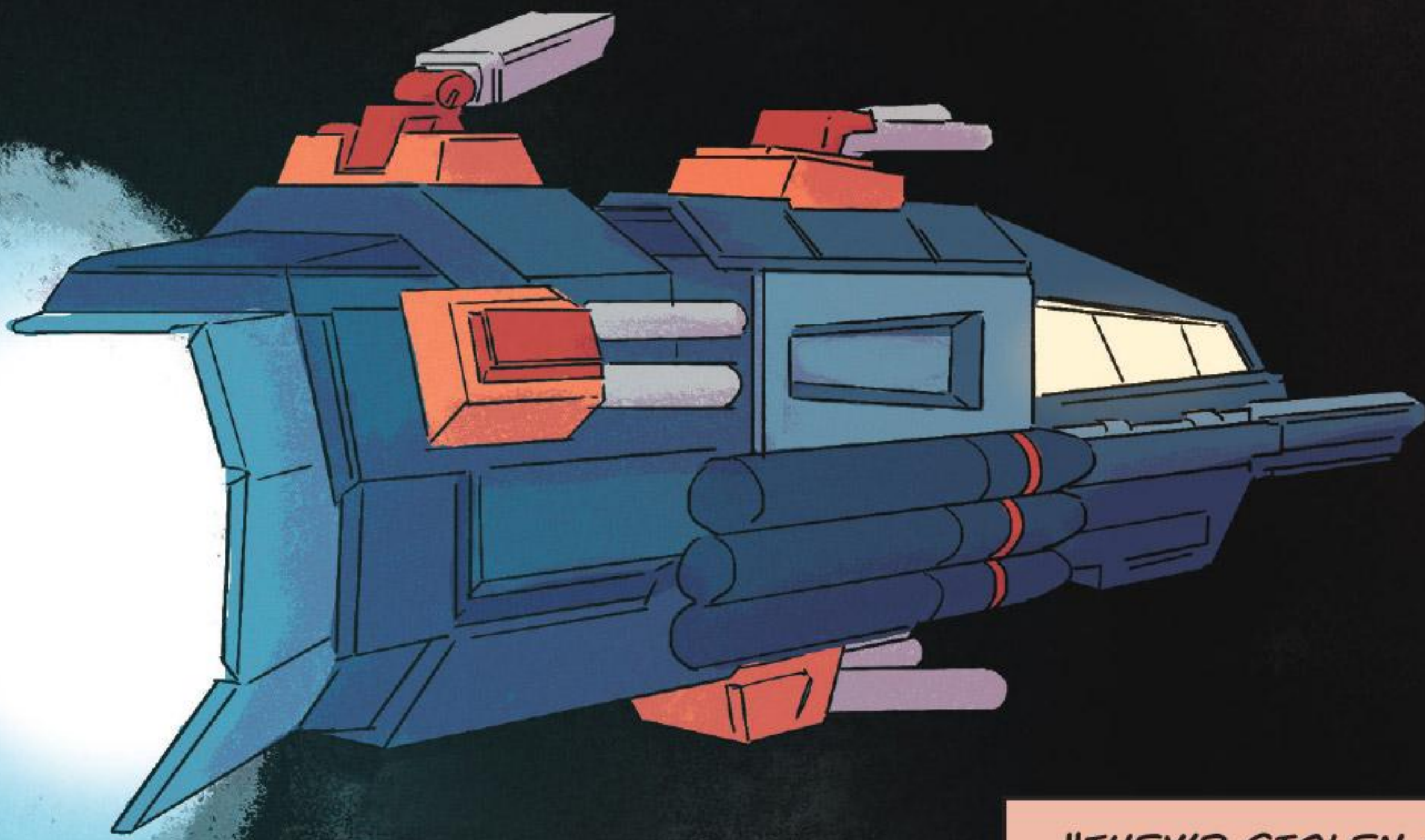
RIGHT. OKAY.



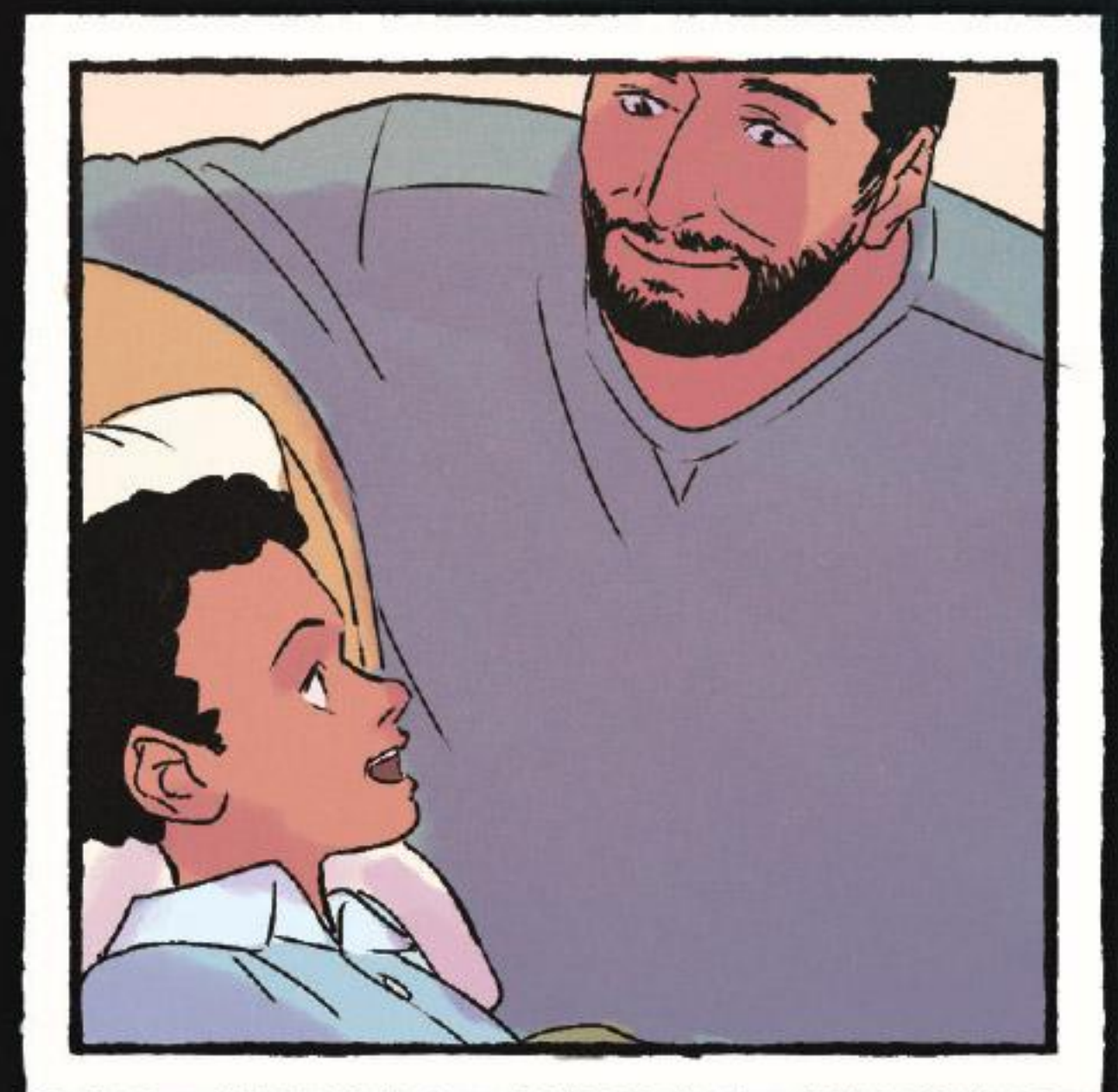
"I WAS FLYING THE MCRN FERDOWSI ON PATROL."

"SUDDENLY WE INTERCEPTED THE DREADED PIRATE SHIP CTHULHU!"

"REALLY?"

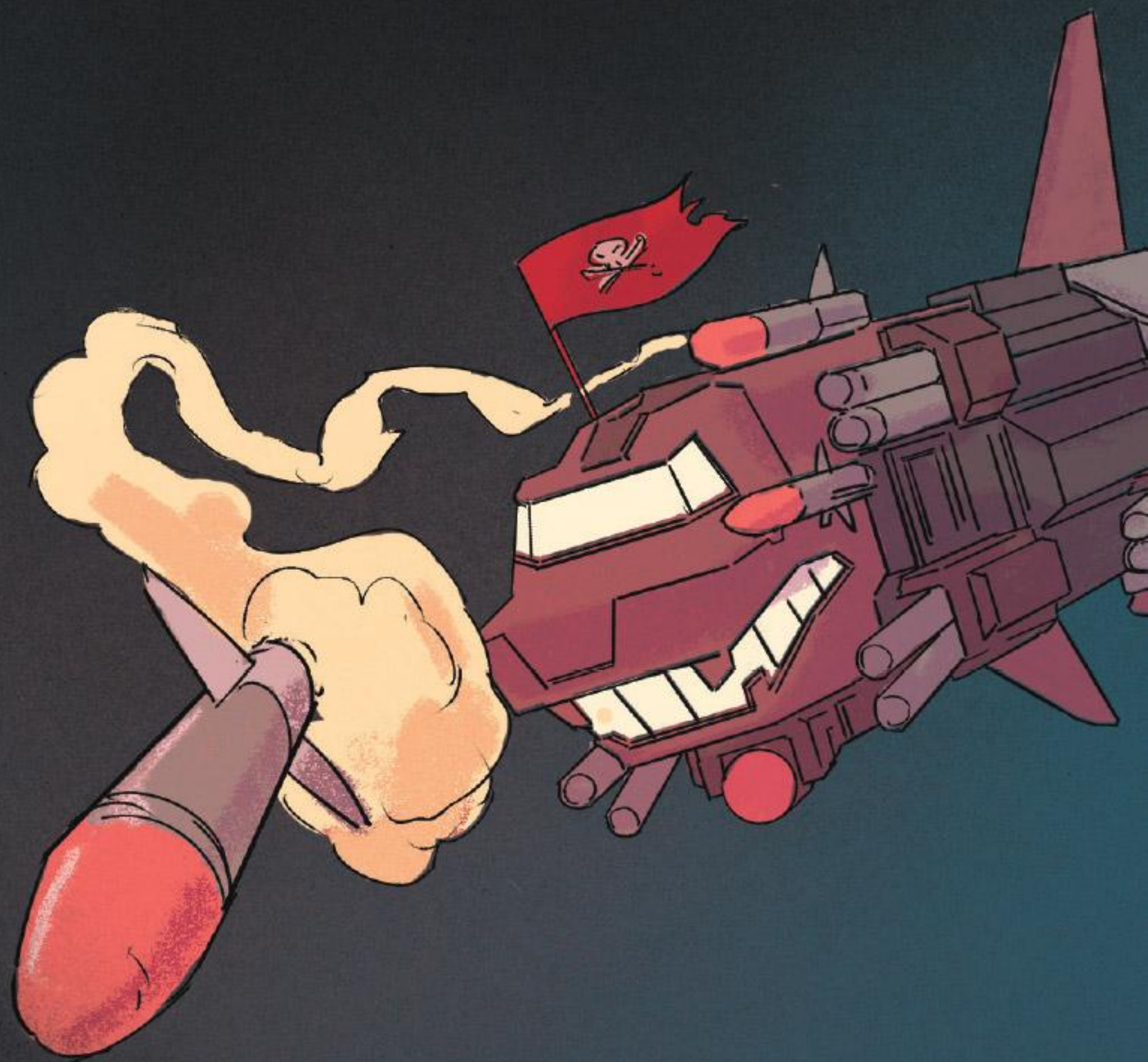


"THEY'D STOLEN A BUNCH OF SECRET MARTIAN INTEL. OUR MISSION WAS TO GET IT BACK."





"WHEN THEY
CAUGHT WIND
WE WERE ON
THEIR TAIL THEY
FIRED THEIR
MASSIVE
RAIL-GUNS
AT US..."



"THAT TOOK OUT ONE
OF MY BROADSIDE
THRUSTERS..."



"BUT I WENT AFTER
THEM WITH NO TIME
TO LOSE!"

"THEY WERE IN
MY SIGHTS WHEN
KLAXONS STARTED
BLARING..."

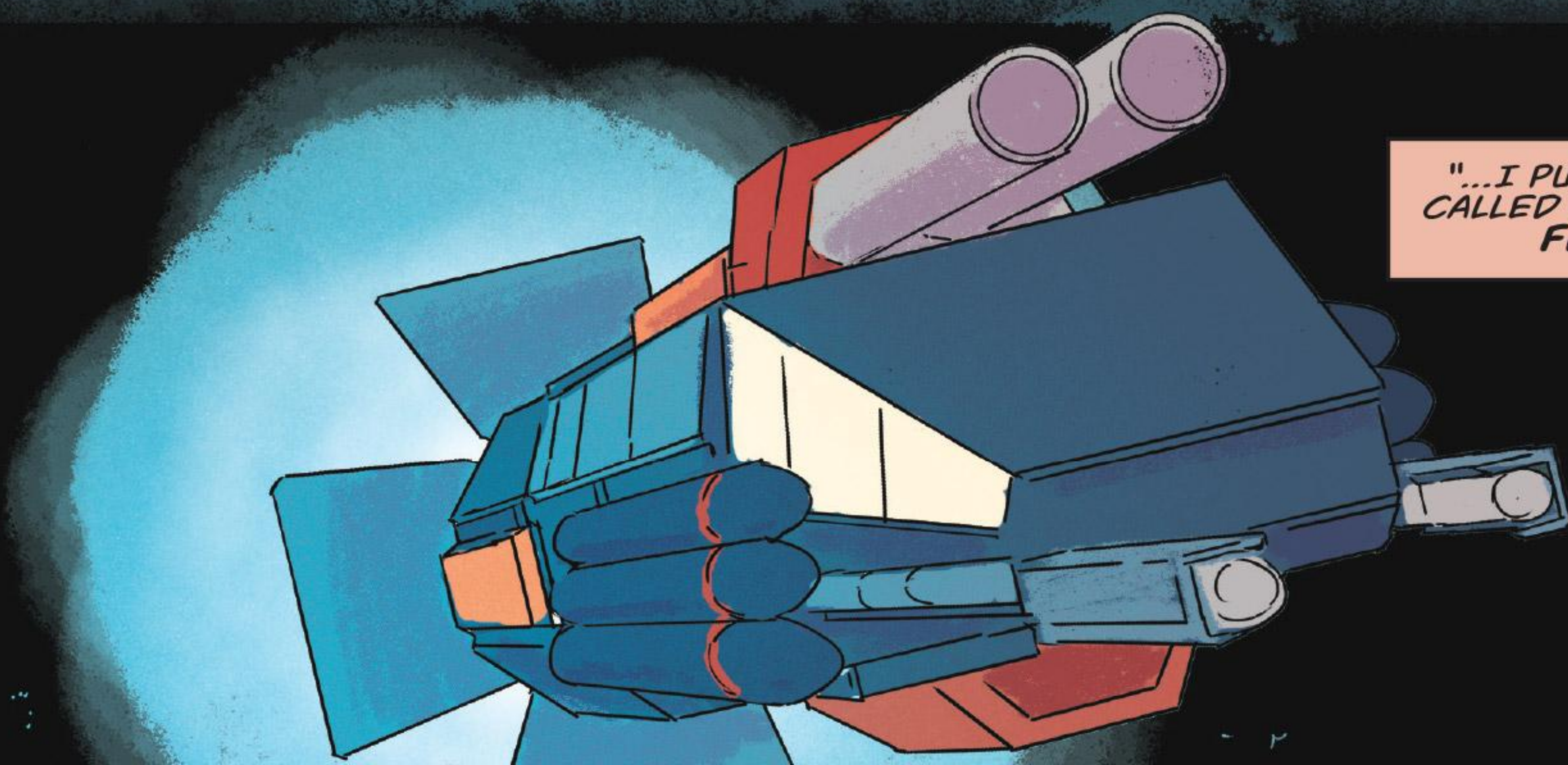
"SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A
MASSIVE DEBRIS FIELD
HEADED RIGHT FOR US!"



"WHAT'D
YOU DO?!"

"...I PULLED A MANEUVER
CALLED THE SCREAMING
FIREHAWK!"

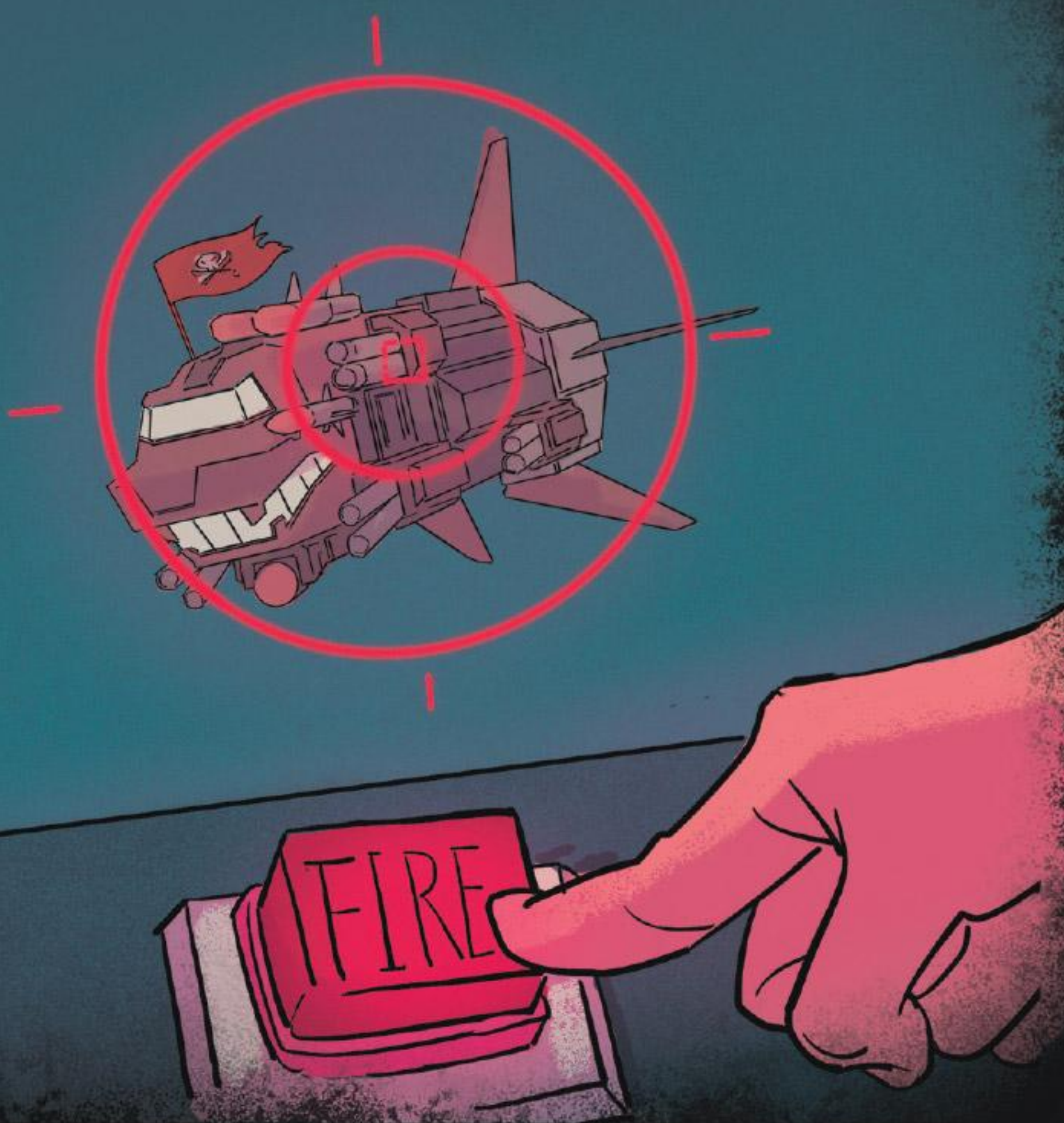
"SCREAMING
FIREHAWK?!"



"YEAH! I DOUBLE FLIPPED US OUTTA THE FIELD BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH..."



"...THAT BROUGHT THE FERDOWSI RIGHT UP ON THEM. THE CTHULU HAD NOWHERE TO HIDE!"



"I GOT A LOCK AND FIRED!"

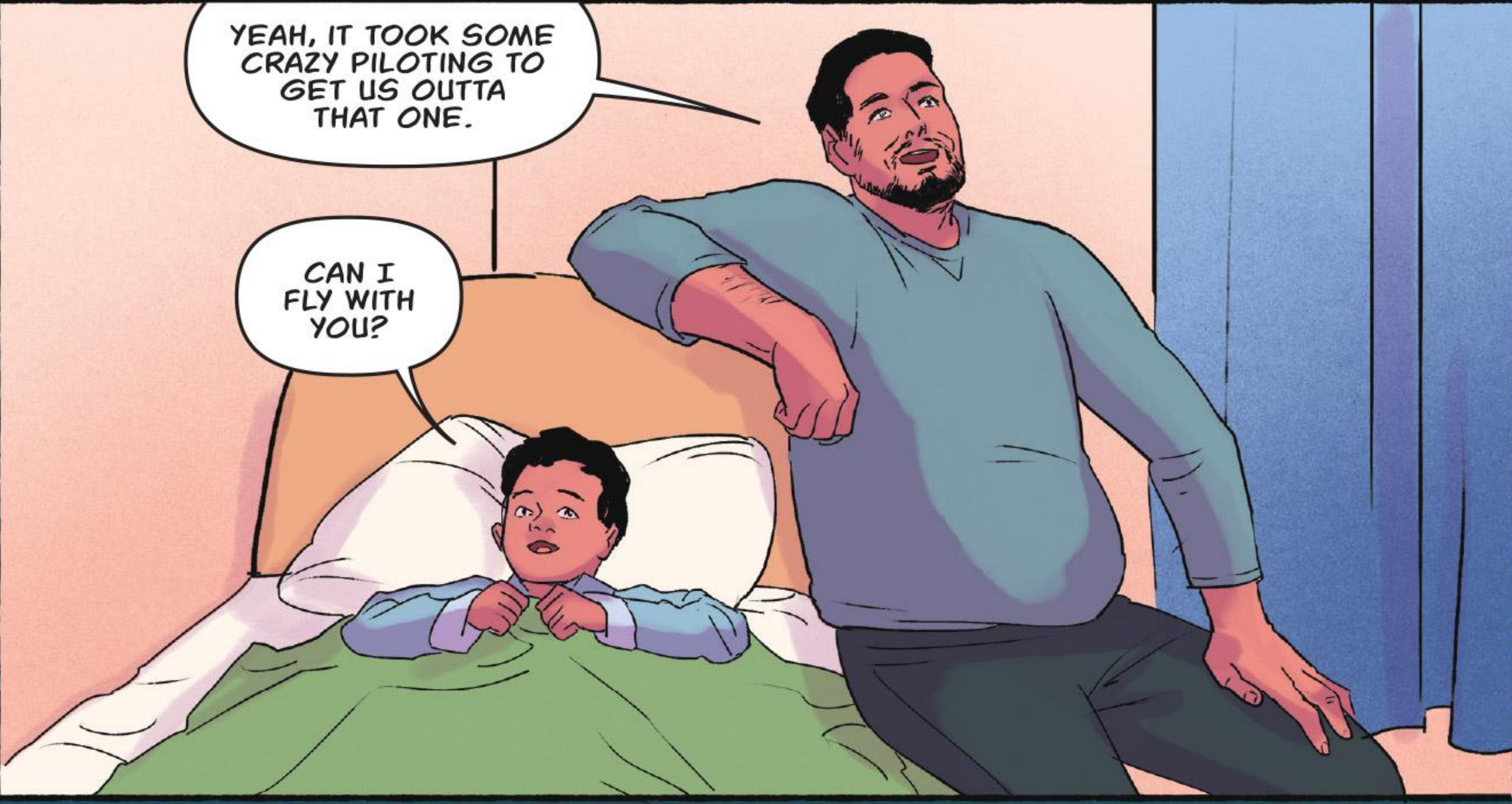
"WE CAPTURED THE PIRATES AND GOT THE INTEL BACK."

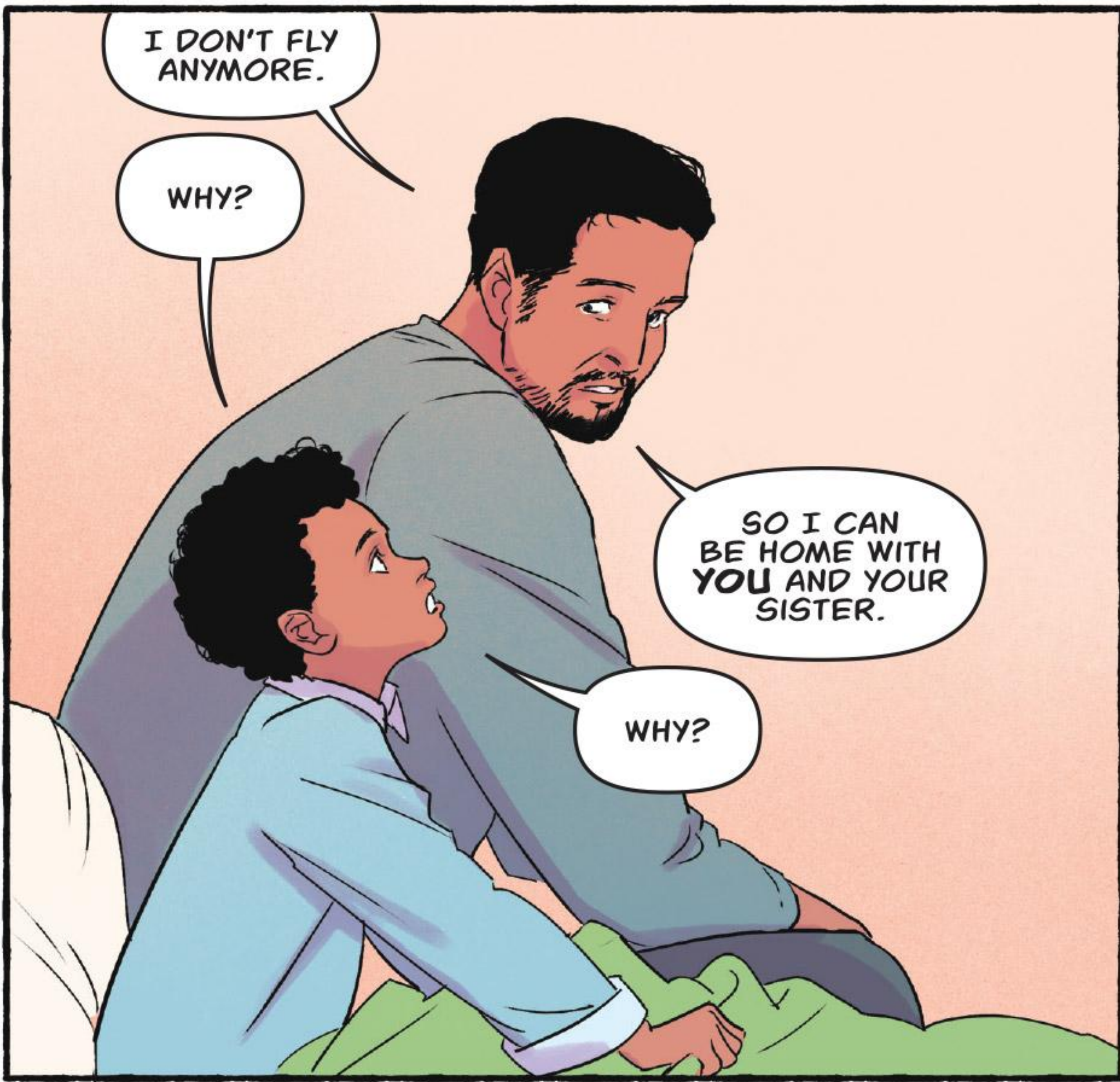
"WOW!"



YEAH, IT TOOK SOME CRAZY PILOTING TO GET US OUTTA THAT ONE.

CAN I FLY WITH YOU?





I DON'T FLY ANYMORE.

WHY?

SO I CAN BE HOME WITH YOU AND YOUR SISTER.

WHY?



YOU DON'T LIKE TO FLY ANYMORE?

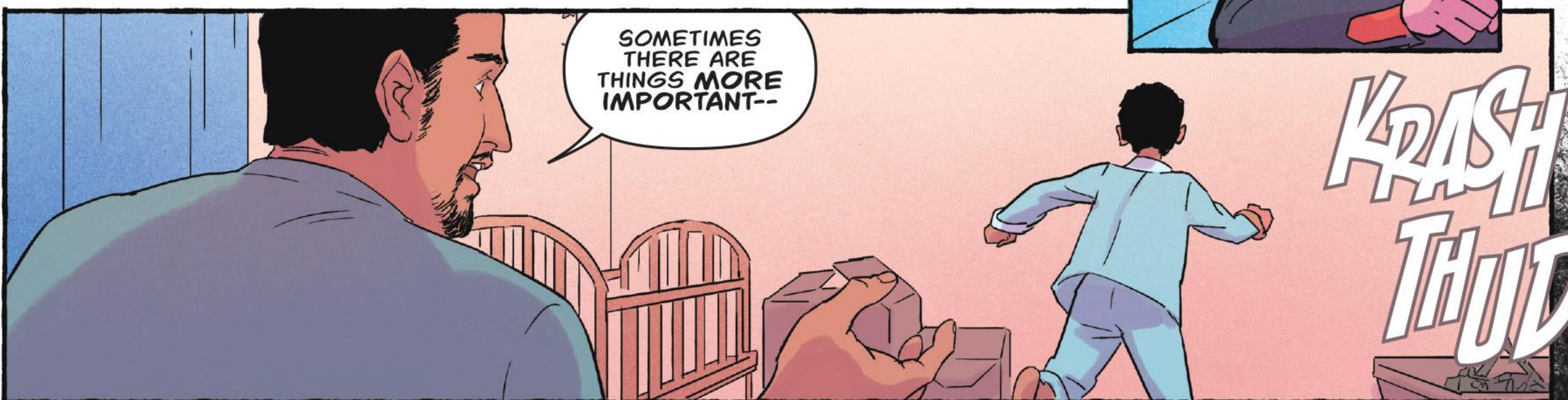
NO, I LOVE... LOVED--



I'D NEVER QUIT FLYING!

HE'D NEVER QUIT FOR NO ONE.

I'M GONNA BE A FIGHTER PILOT JUST LIKE ZILLO!



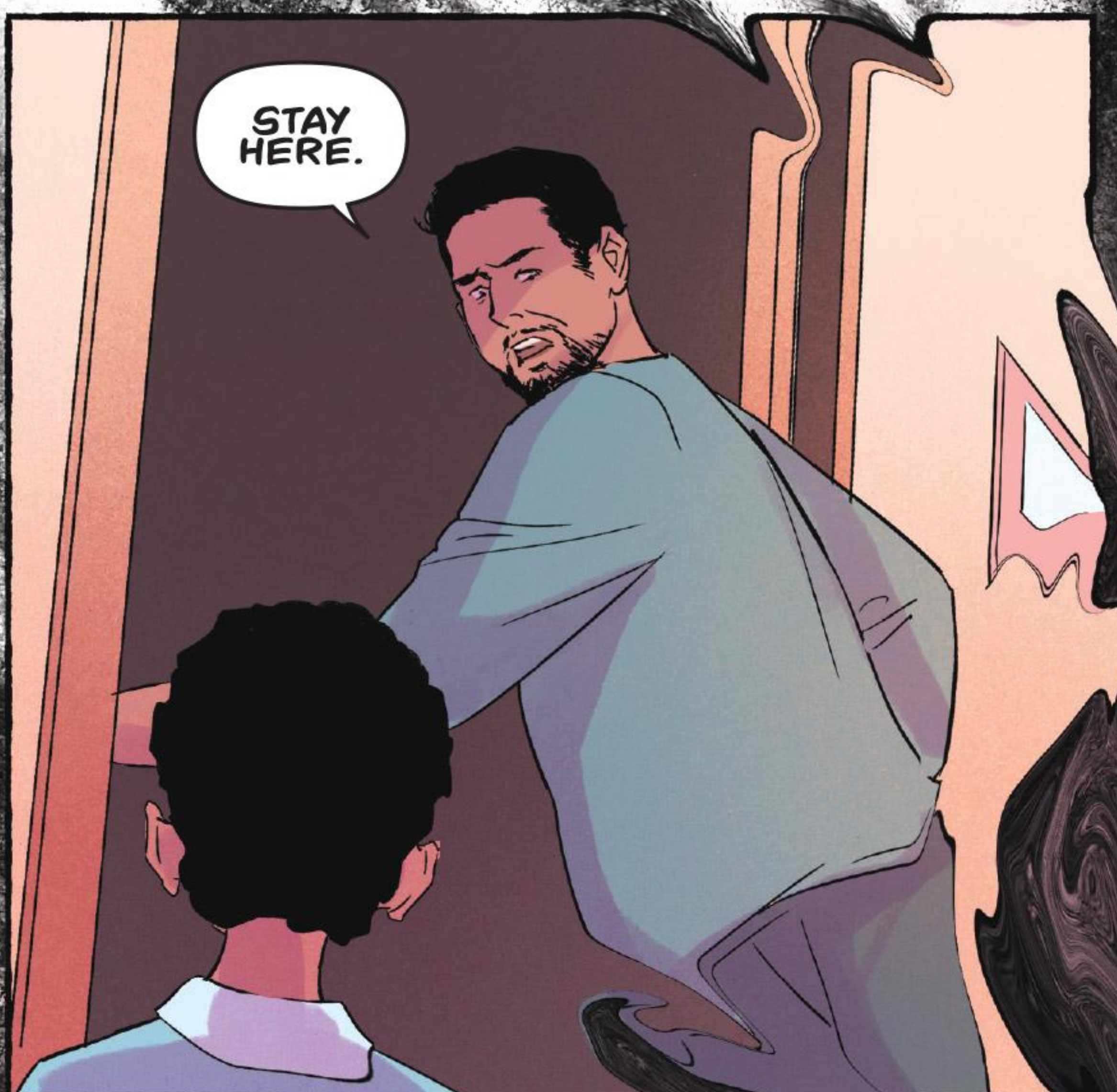
SOMETIMES THERE ARE THINGS MORE IMPORTANT--

KRASH
THUD



ALEX...

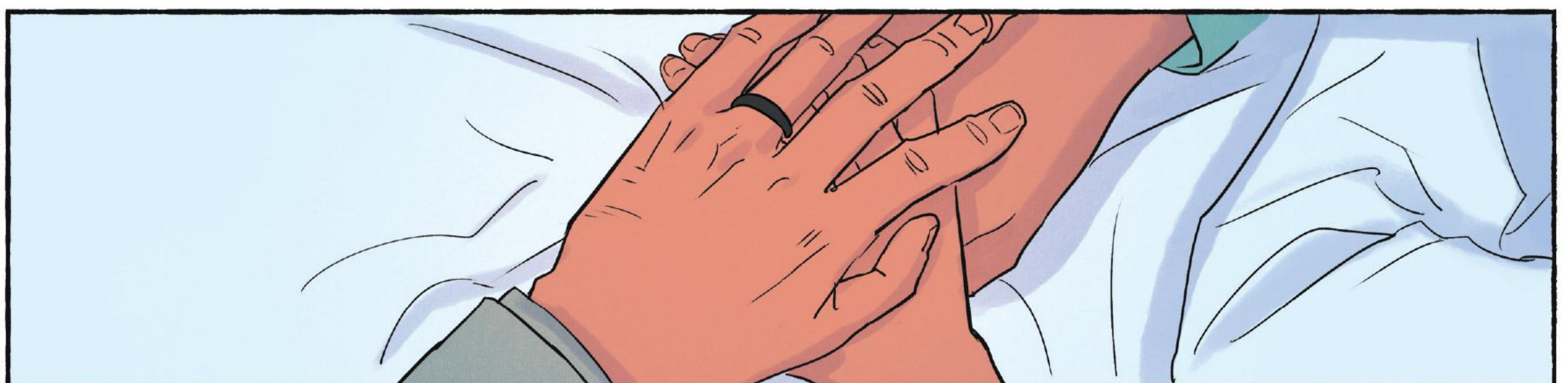
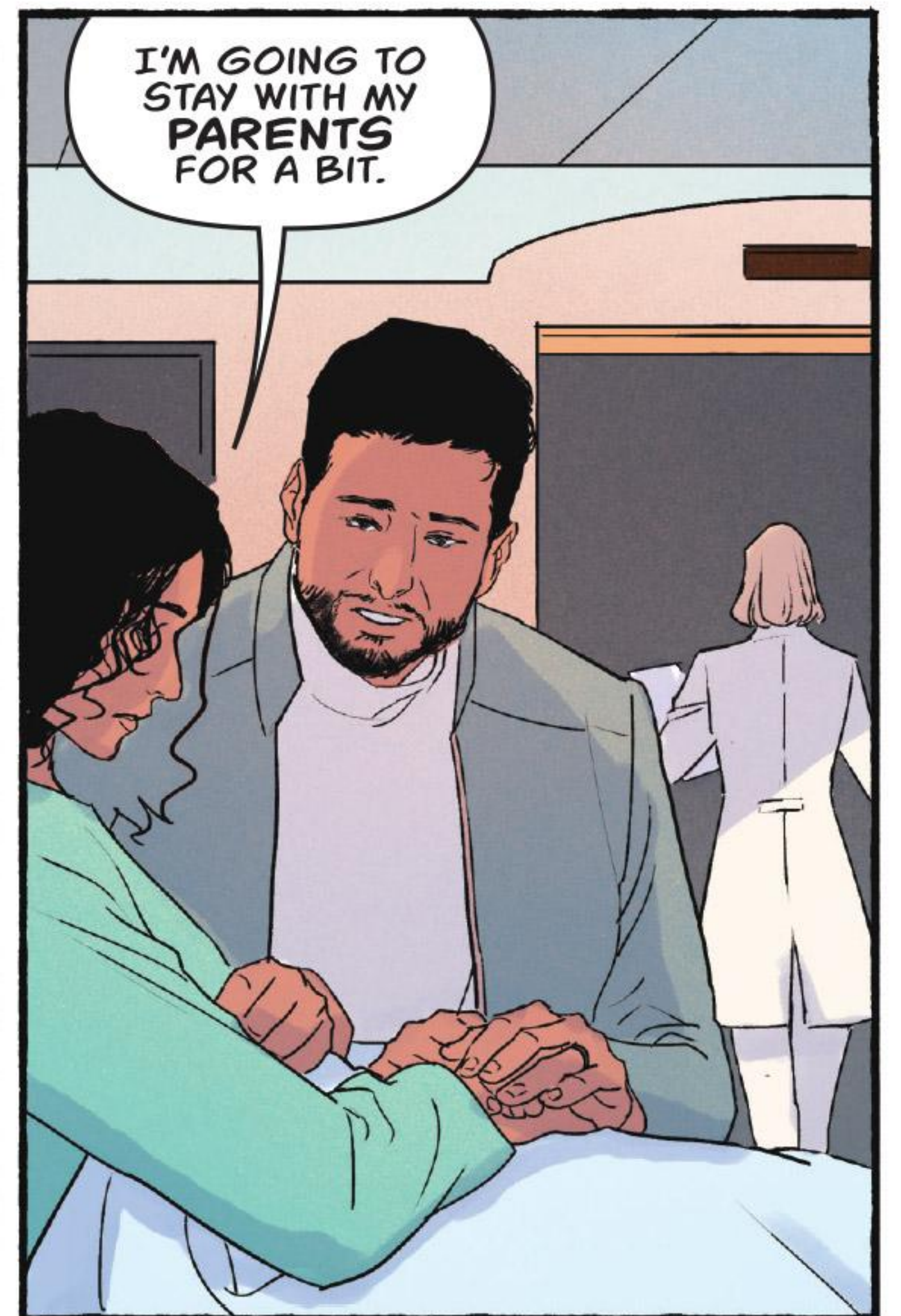
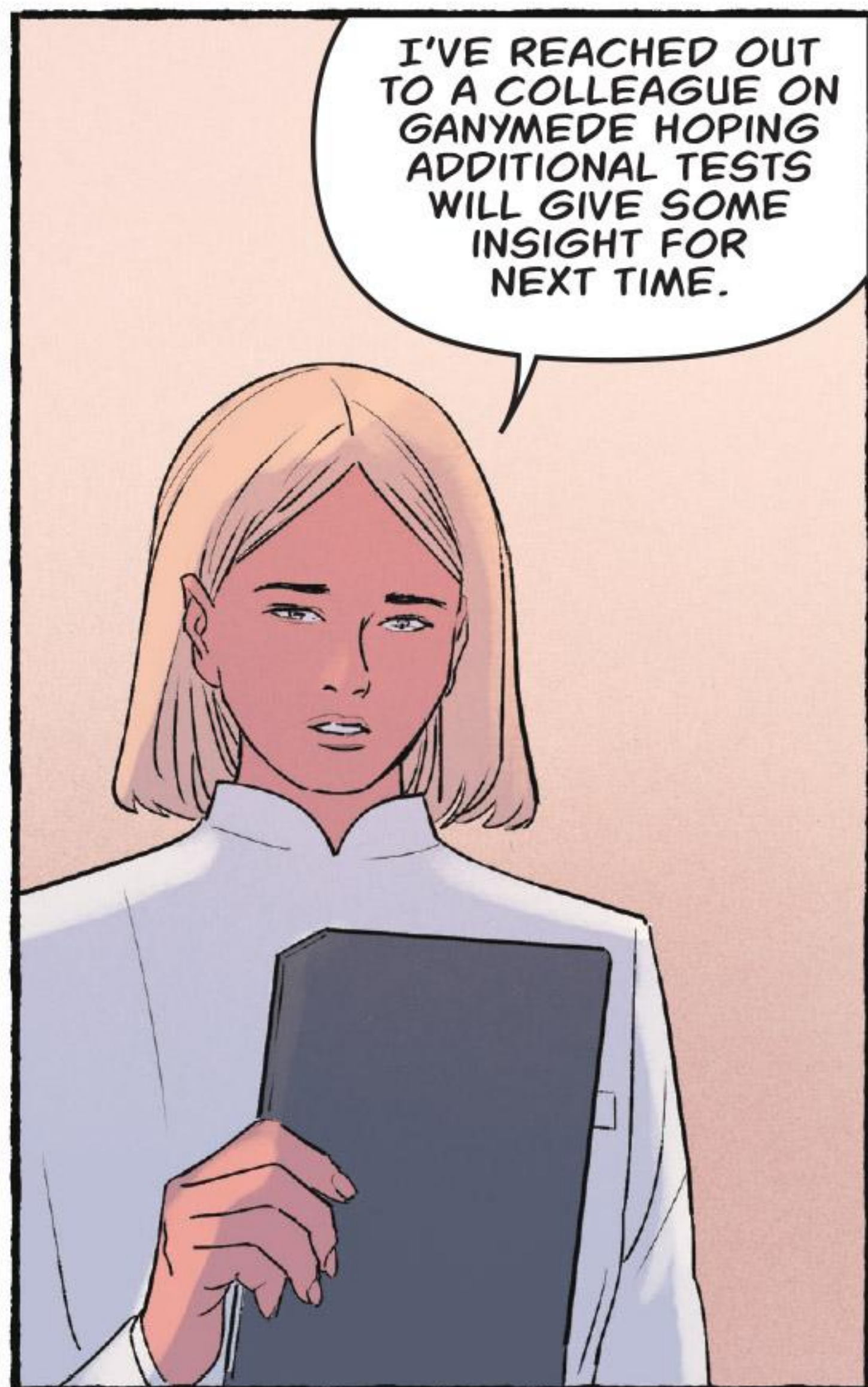
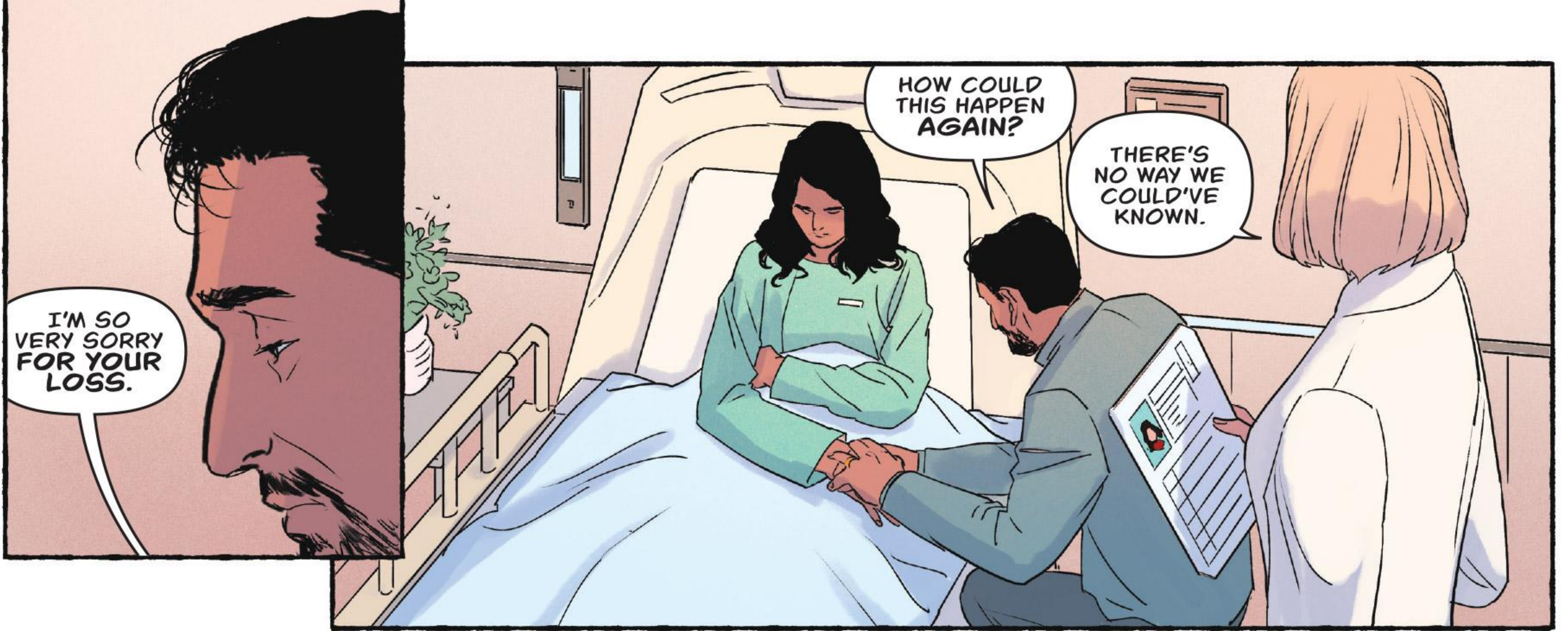
ALEX!



STAY HERE.



...Sometimes it is those
dark and tragic things of all
magnitude, that push us
onto the roads we must
take...



One week later.

WHY ISN'T SHE COMING?

DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?



OF COURSE NOT, PARDNER.

SHE JUST HAS A FEW THINGS TO FINISH AMONGST THE STARS FIRST.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

DUTY. TOGETHER WE BUILD.

HONOR. TOGETHER WE RISE.



Ping Ping

ALEX?

YEAH.

CTO COULD REALLY USE AN ACE PILOT FOR A CLEARANCE RUN TO TITAN.

I RECOMMENDED YOU.



ALEX?



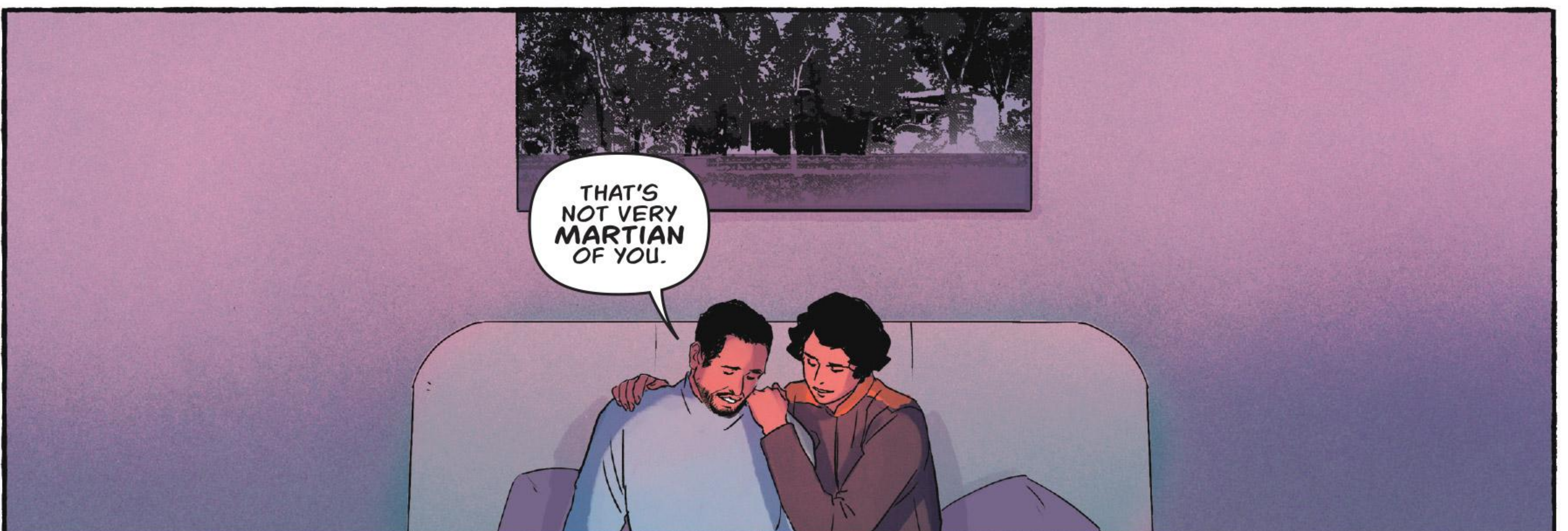
I CAN'T.

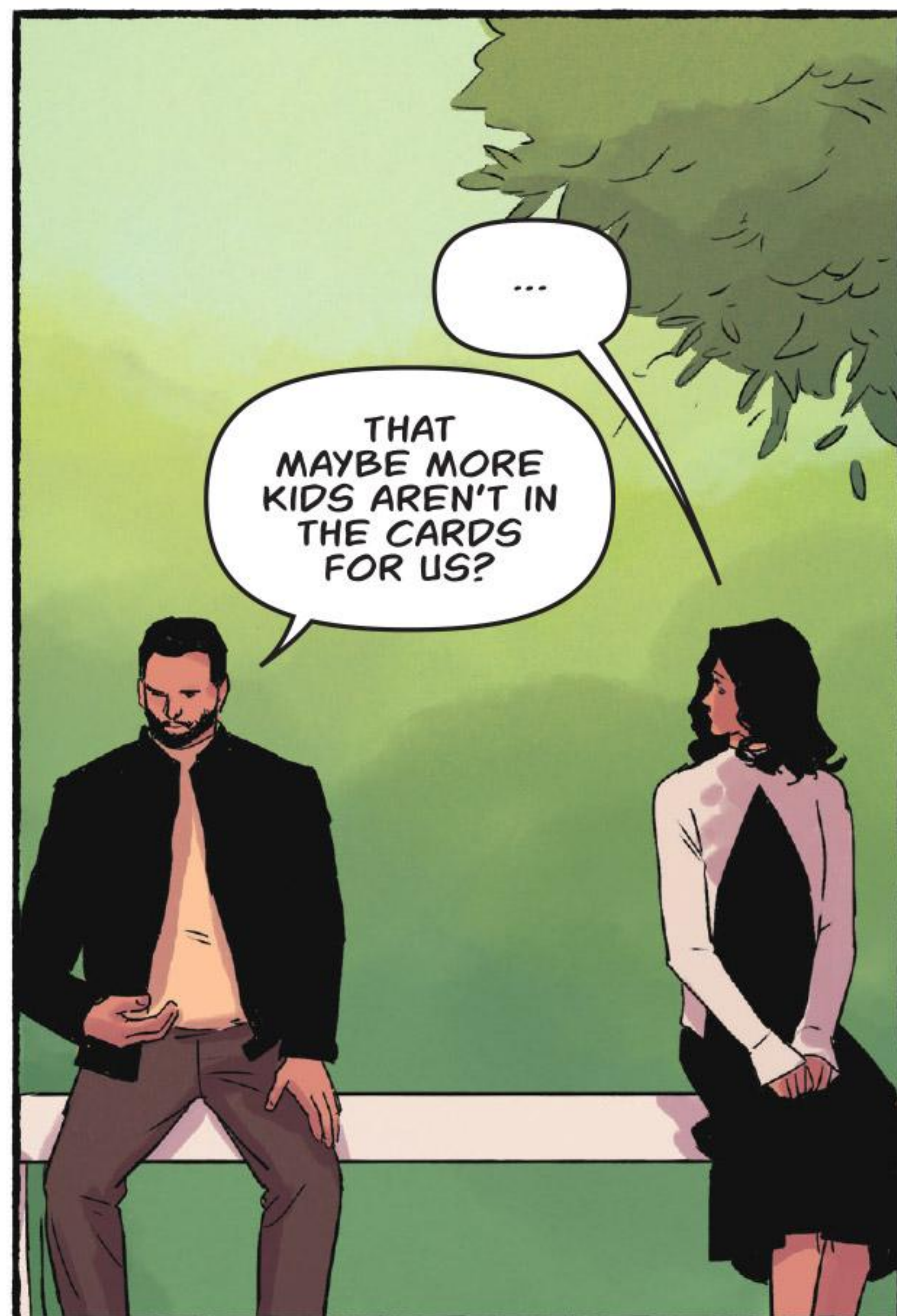
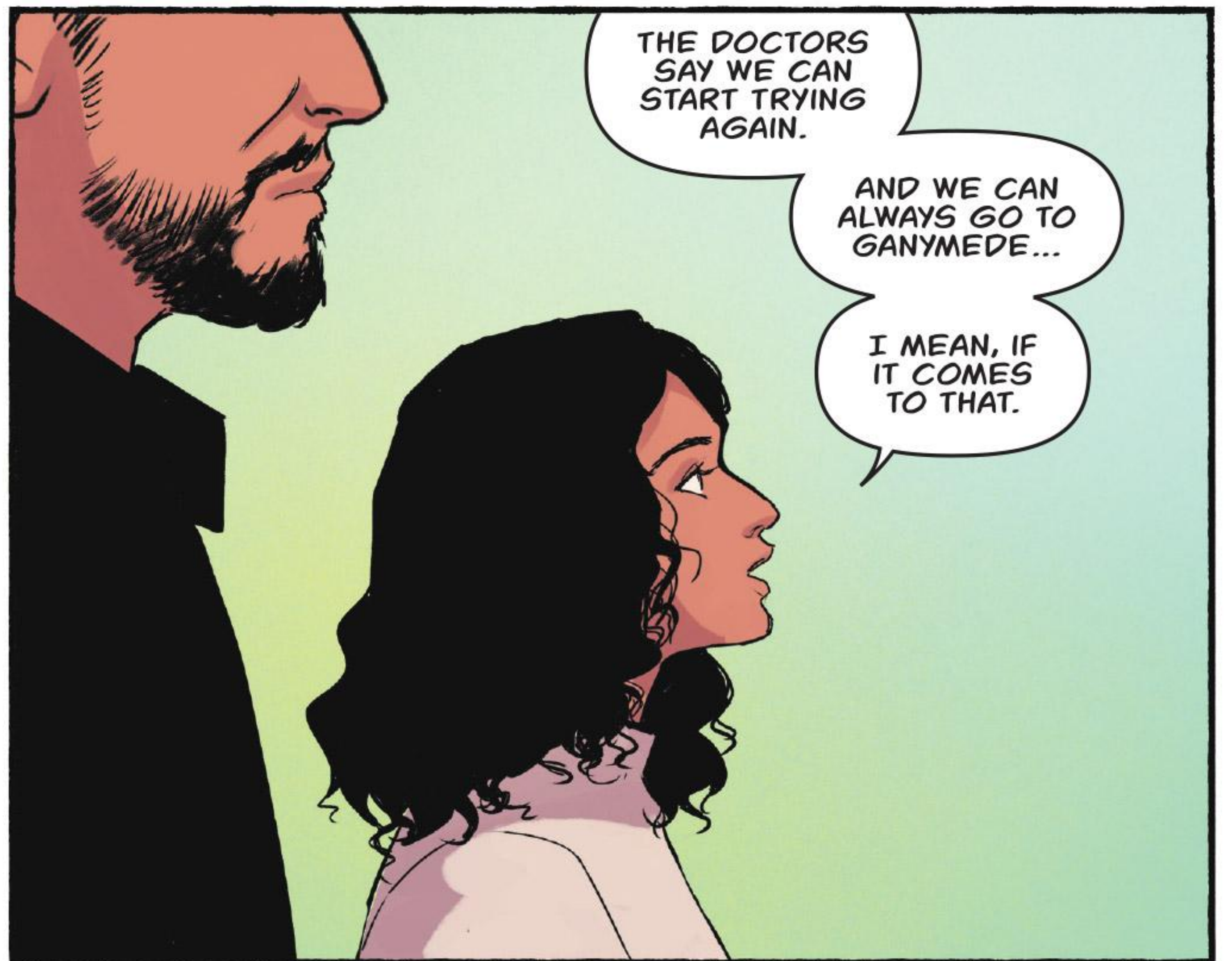
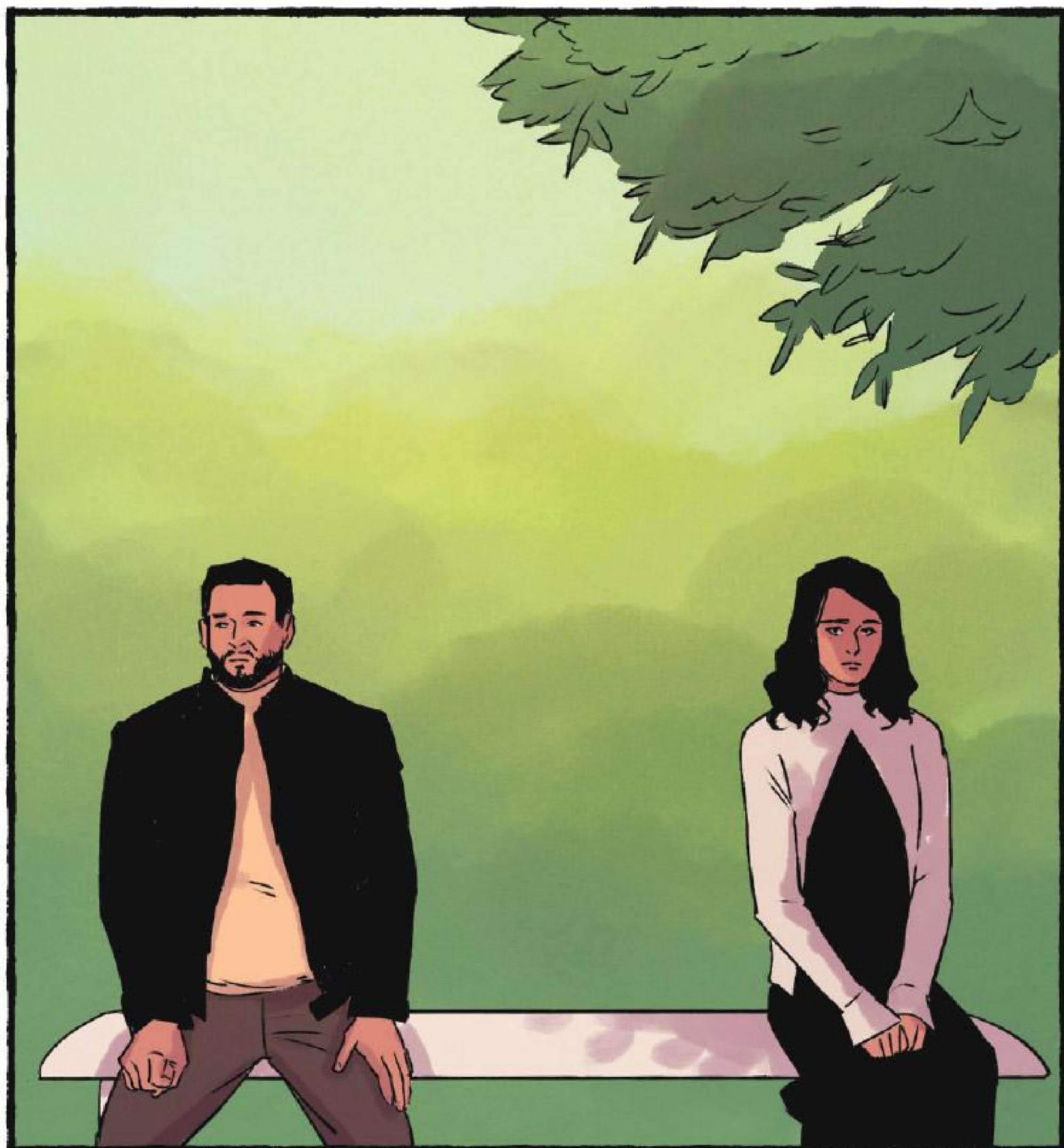
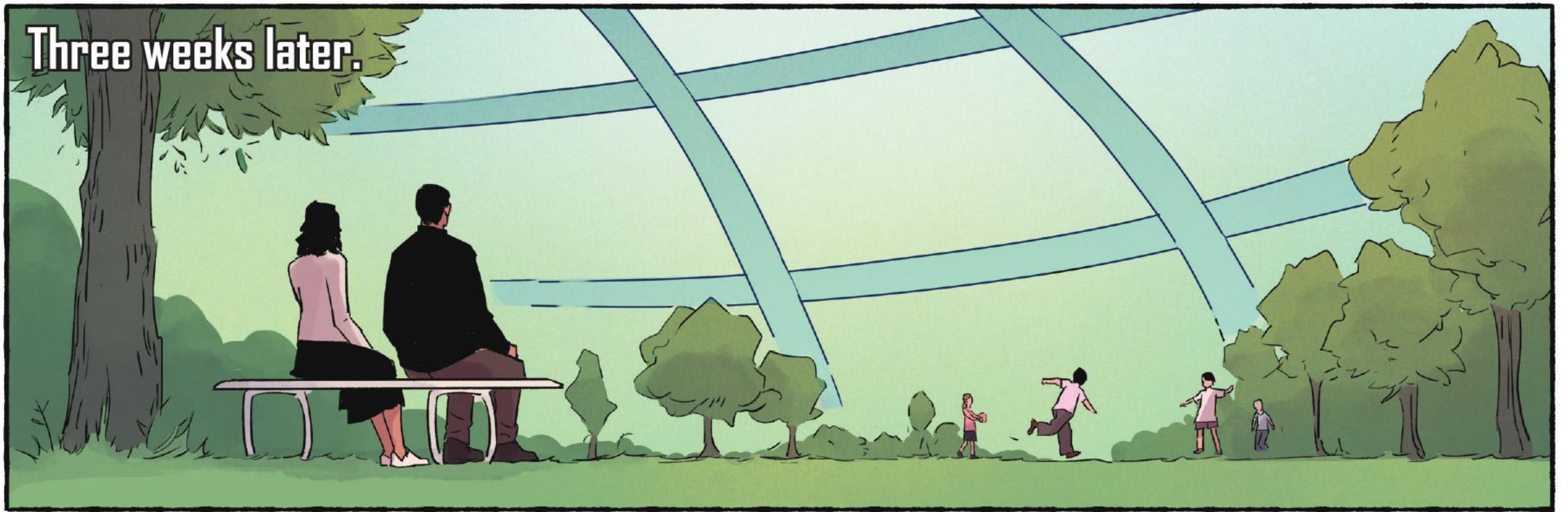


ALEX, YOU HOME?



OH, ALEX...







I CAN'T. I'M SORRY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T?

I MEAN. I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN.



THIS LOSS... I GAVE UP THE ONLY IDENTITY...



I DON'T WANT TO KEEP FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING I DON'T WANT.



I JUST DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT TO BE A FATHER. I MEAN YOU'VE SEEN ME...

I LOVE YOU. AND I LOVE MELAS. BUT...



I NEED TO FLY.

AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THAT MEANS FOR US...



IT MEANS THERE'S NO POINT.

NO POINT IN US.



THE END