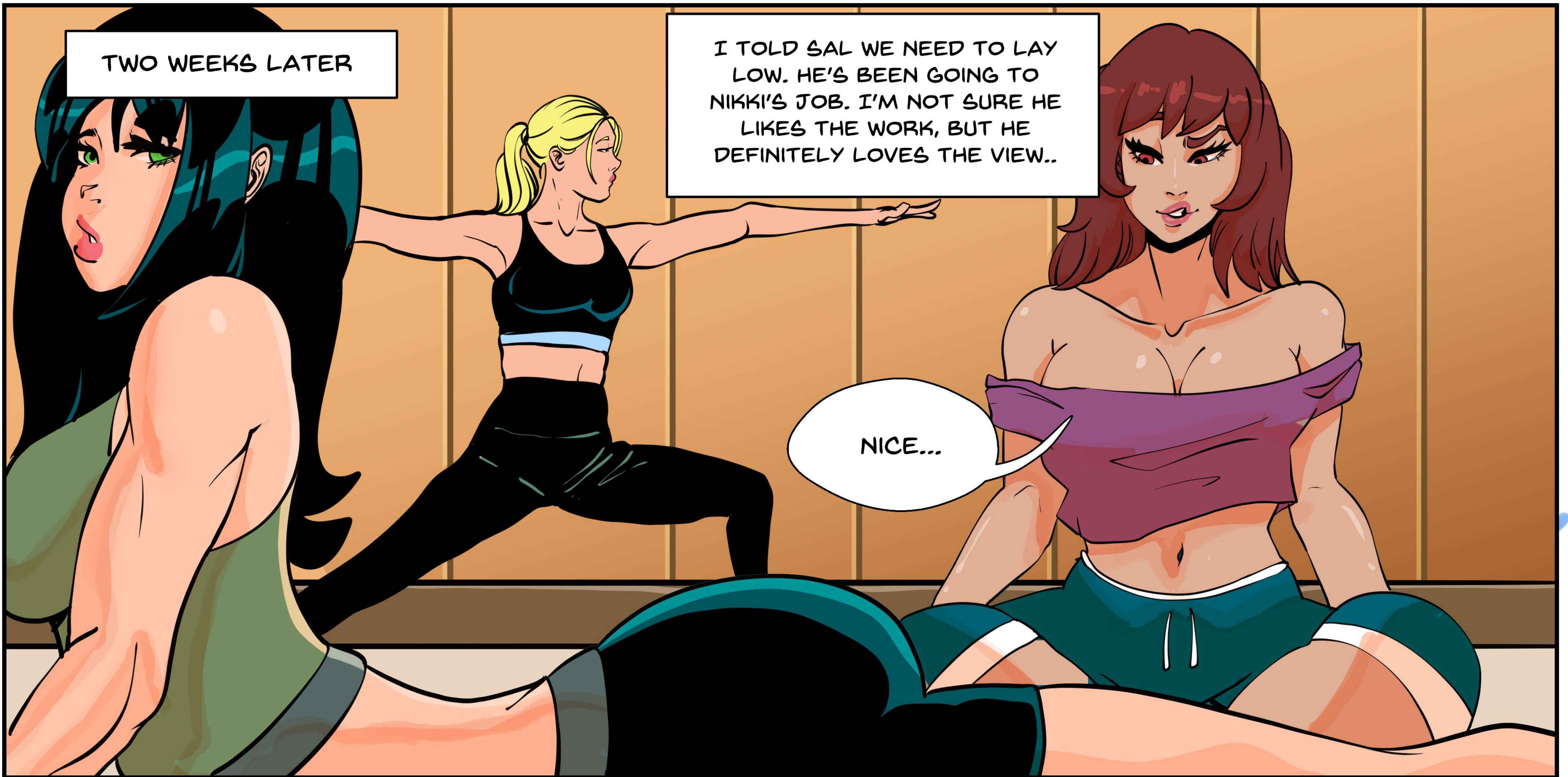


F O S E

AN INTERNAL AFFAIR

CHAPTER 5

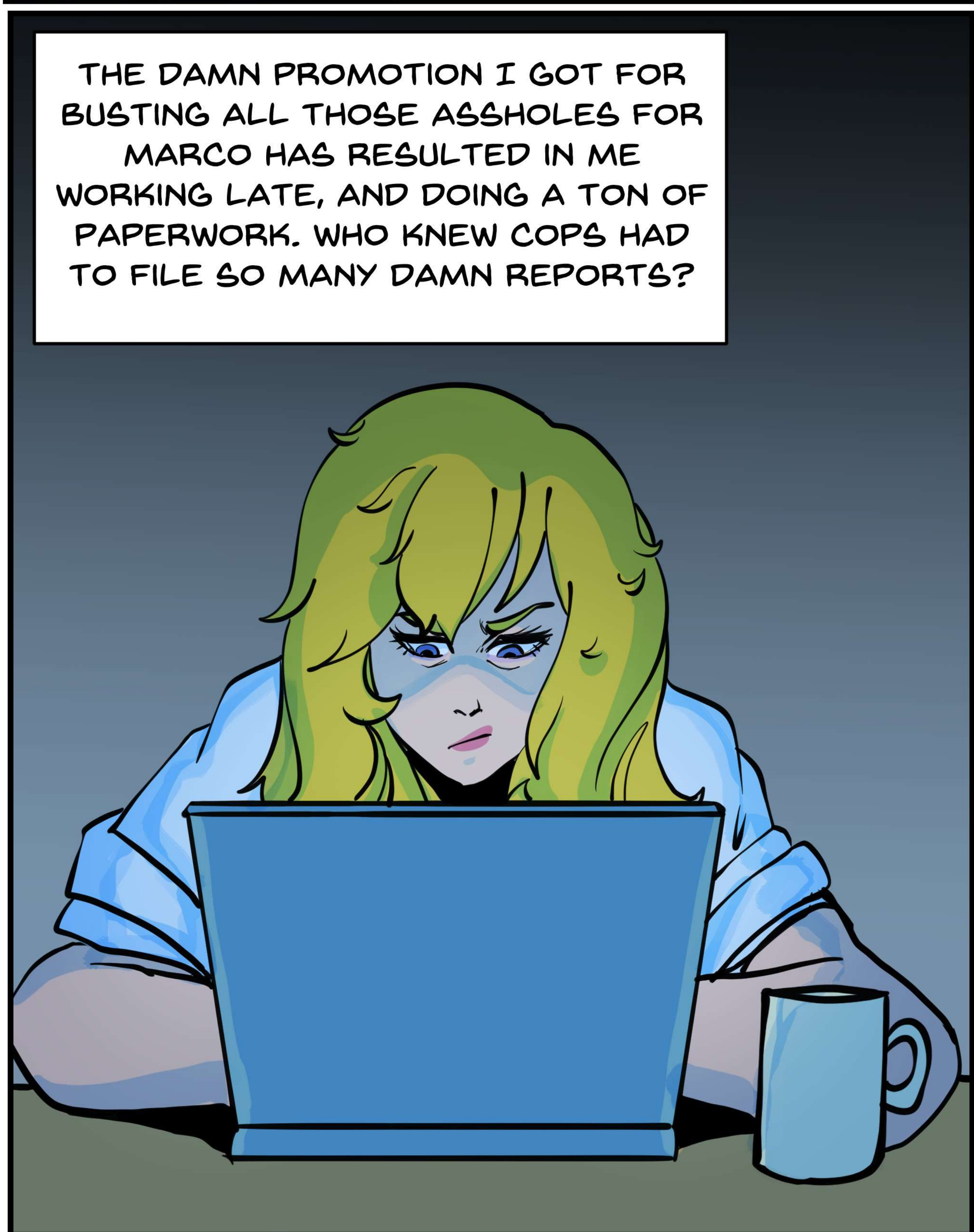




TWO WEEKS LATER

I TOLD SAL WE NEED TO LAY LOW. HE'S BEEN GOING TO NIKKI'S JOB. I'M NOT SURE HE LIKES THE WORK, BUT HE DEFINITELY LOVES THE VIEW..

NICE...



THE DAMN PROMOTION I GOT FOR BUSTING ALL THOSE ASSHOLES FOR MARCO HAS RESULTED IN ME WORKING LATE, AND DOING A TON OF PAPERWORK. WHO KNEW COPS HAD TO FILE SO MANY DAMN REPORTS?



I'M HERE FOR THE GAME.

PASSWORD?

NOXIOUS FERRETS.



A NEW FACE AT THE TABLE. AND SUCH A PRETTY FACE!

YOU KNOW SAL, EH? SHAME ABOUT THE COMA, *REAL SHAME*, HOPE HE SNAPS OUT OF IT. WE'VE BEEN MISSING TAKING HIS CASH!

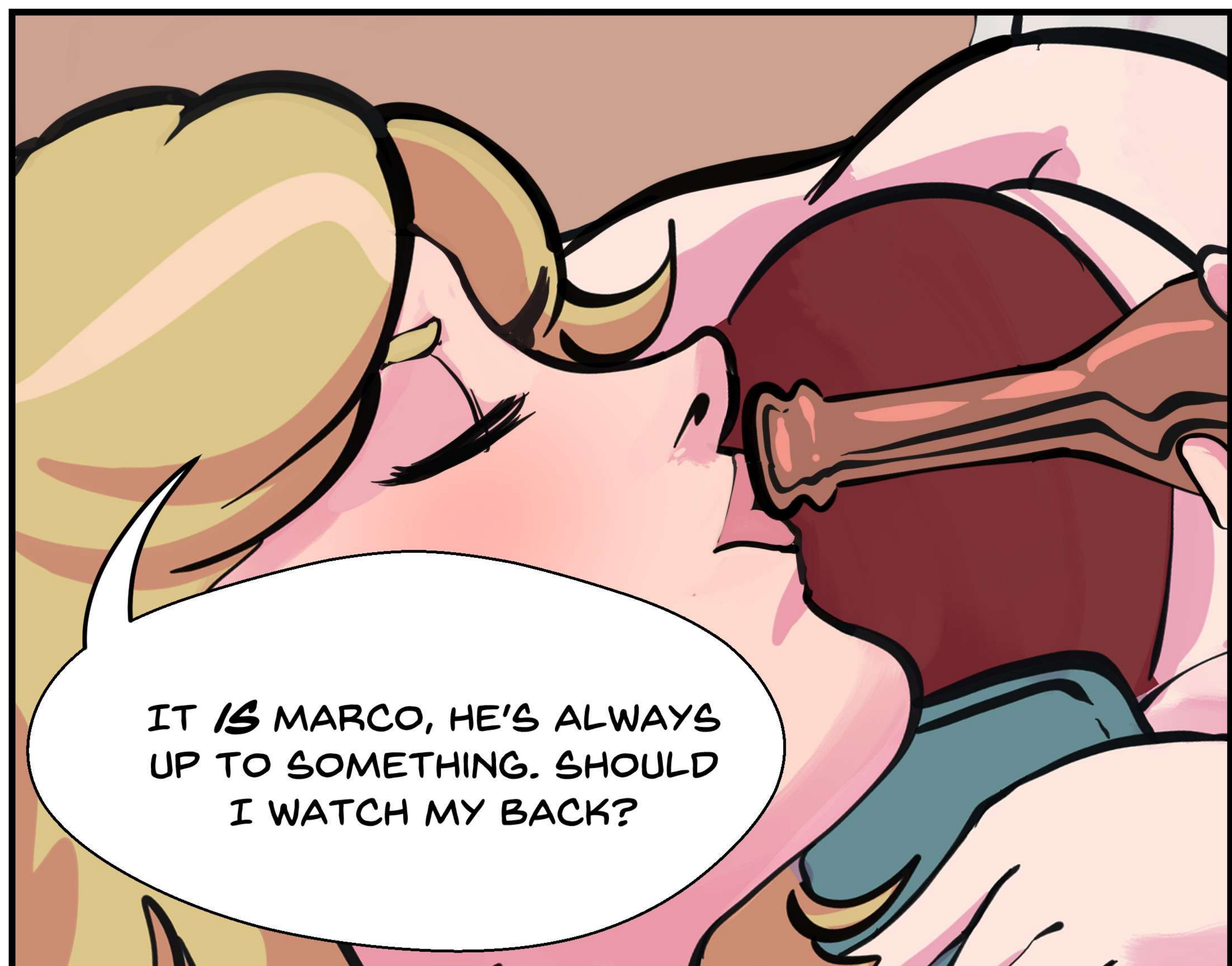
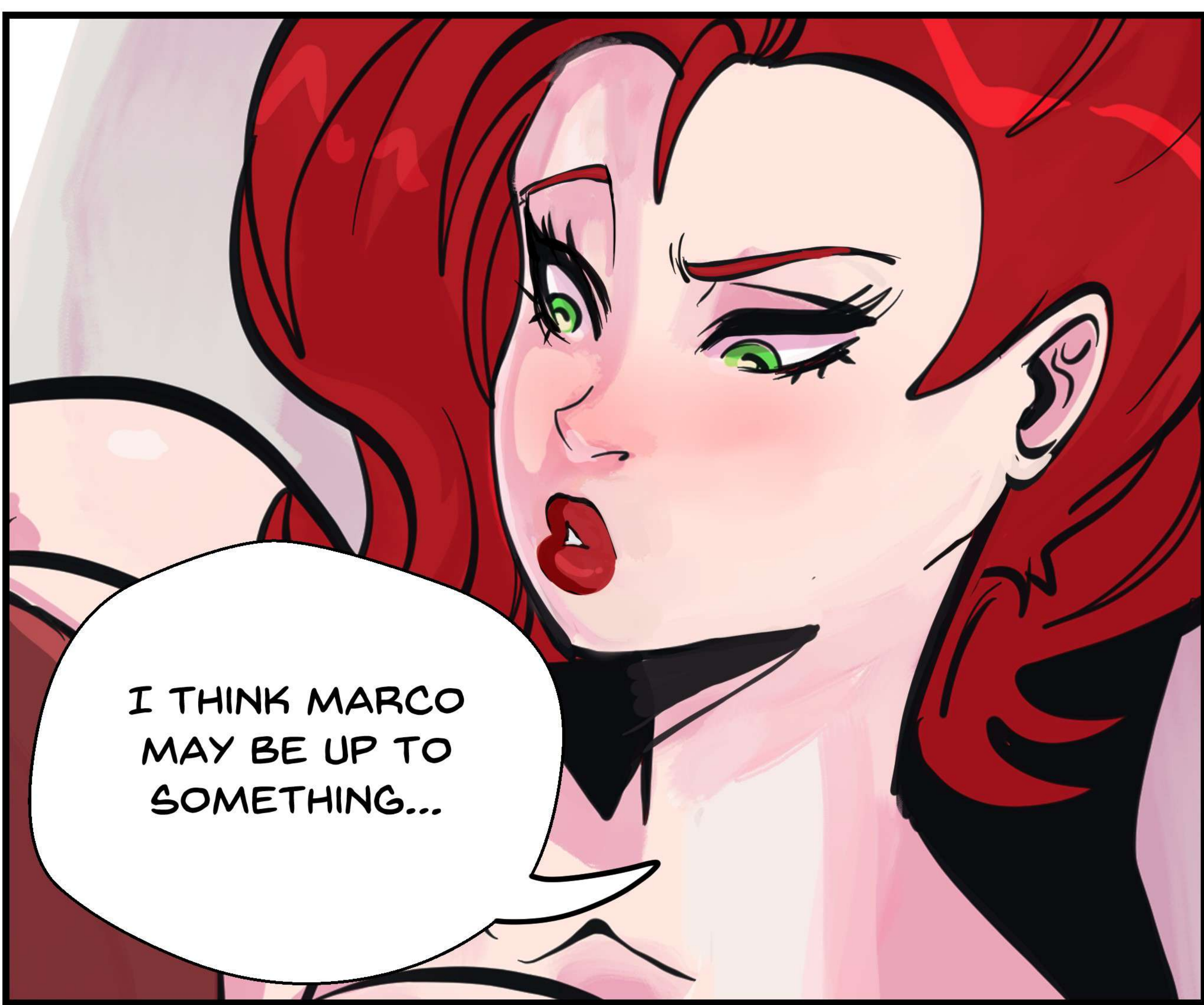
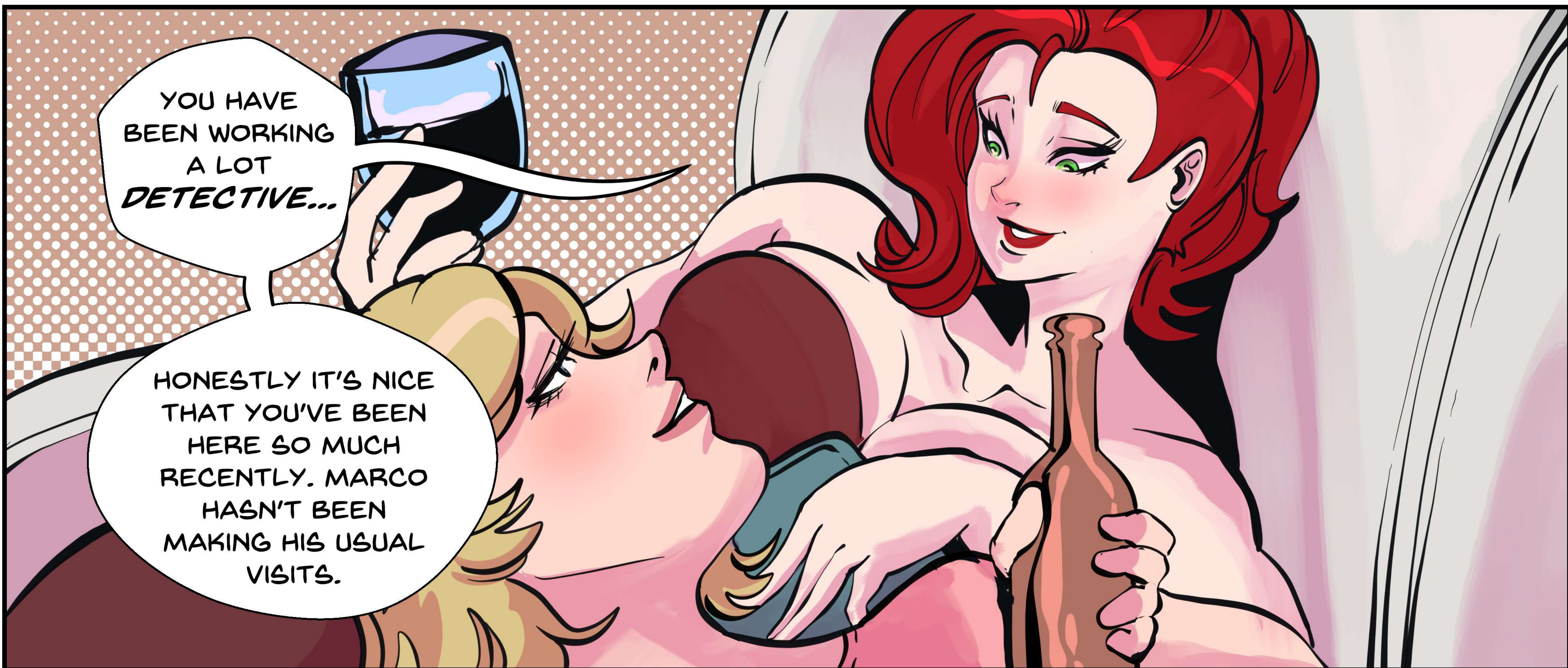
AH, THANKS GINO! SAL TOLD ME YOU WERE A CHARMER. DEAL ME IN FOR THE NEXT HAND, WILL YA.

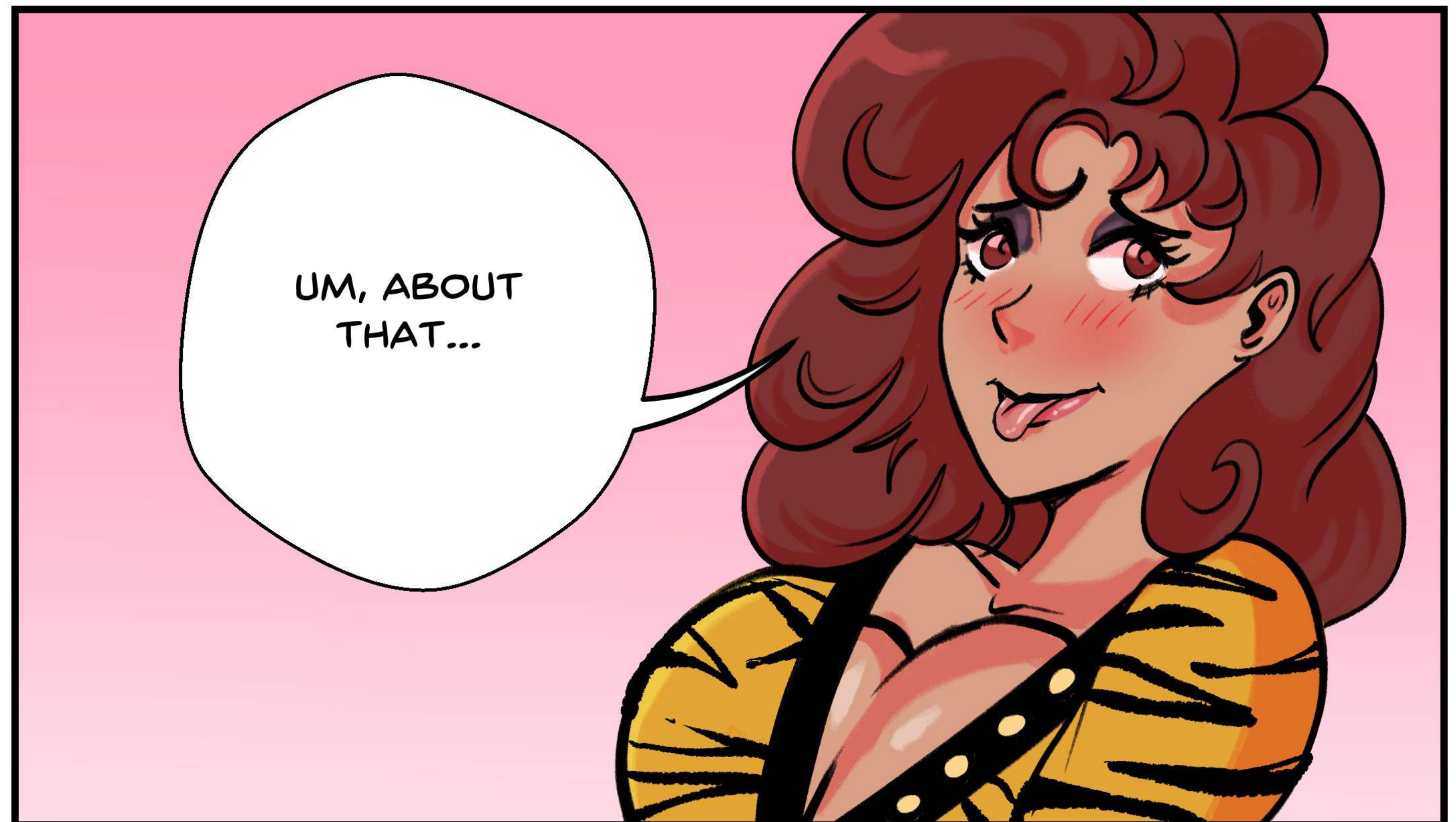
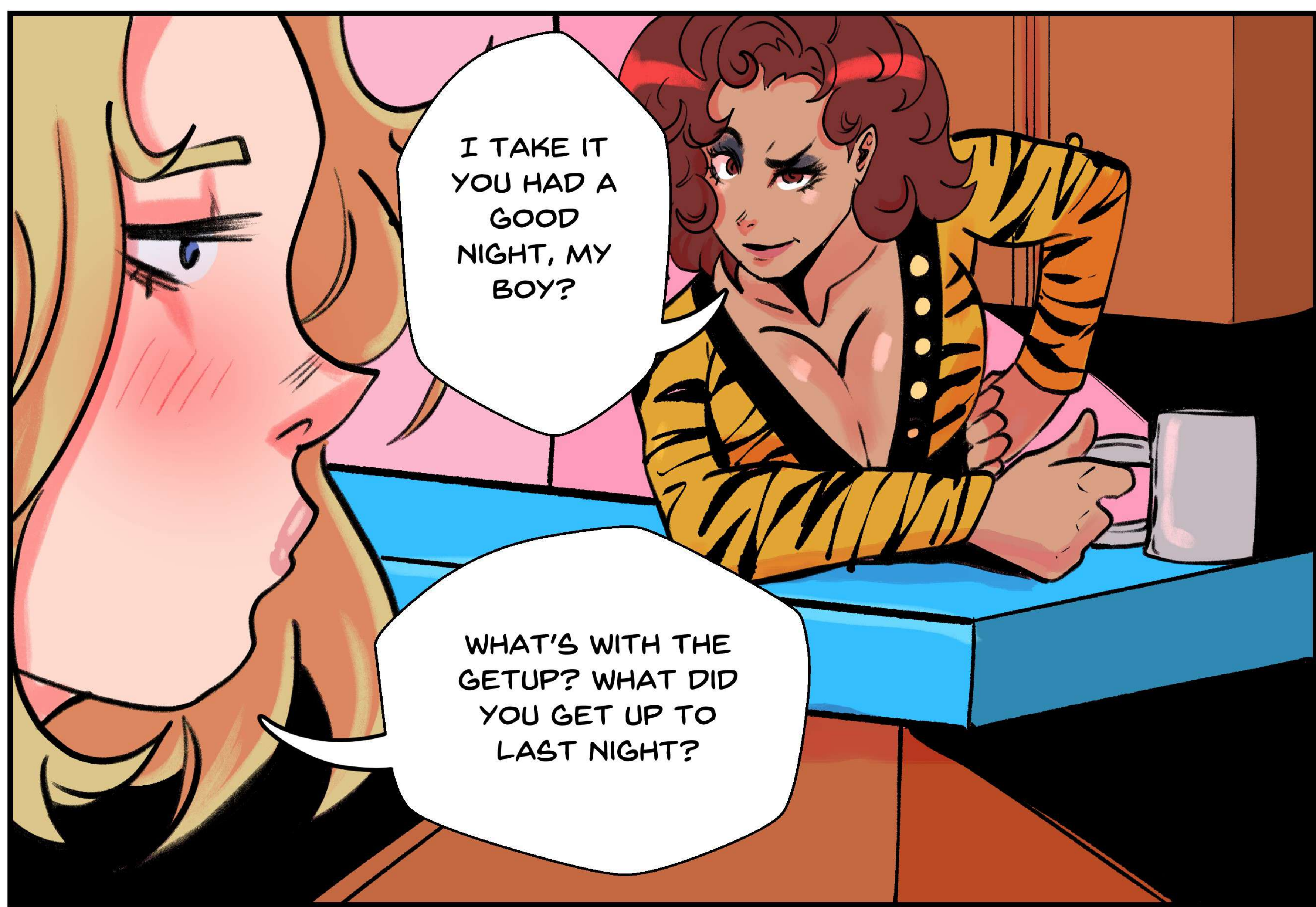
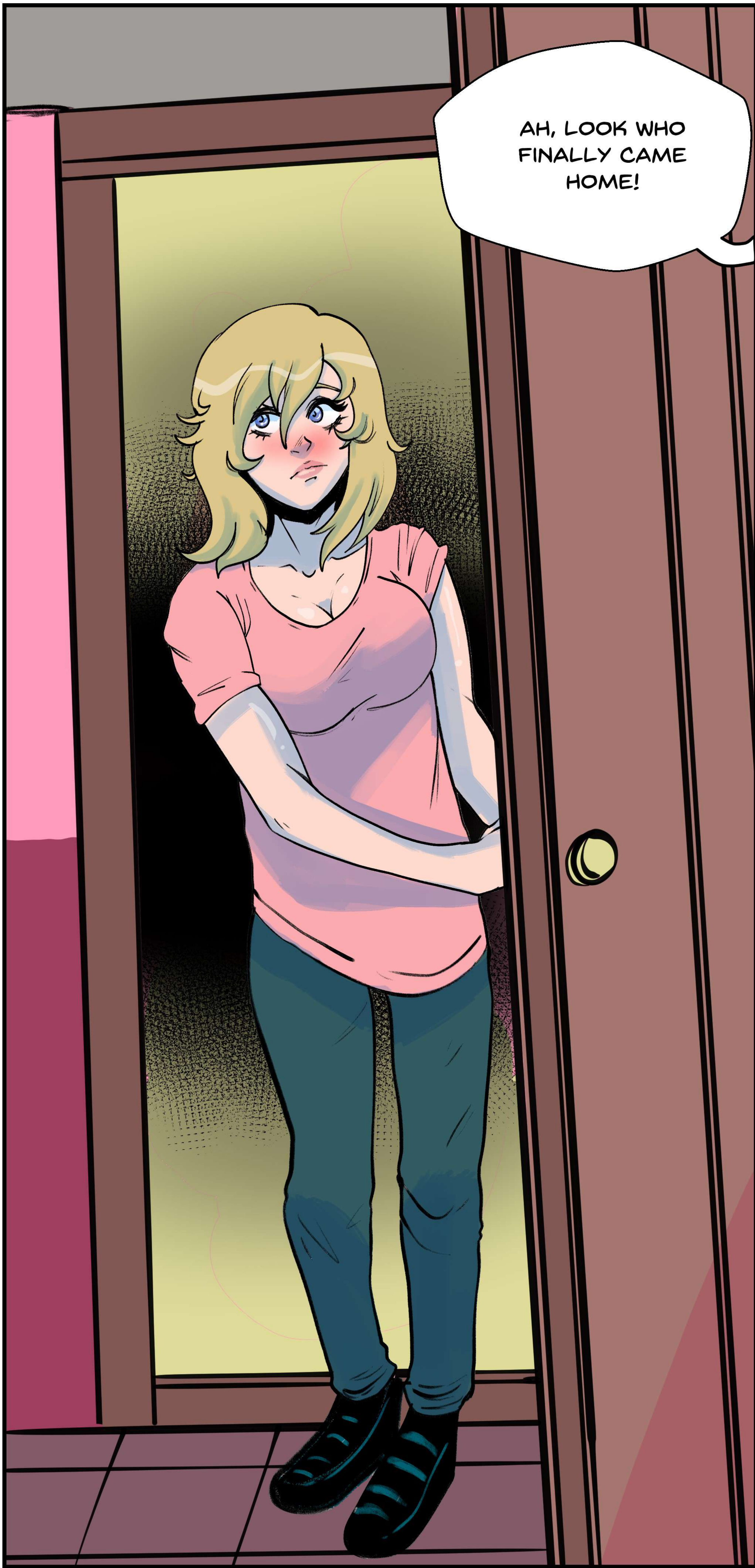
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME DARLING?

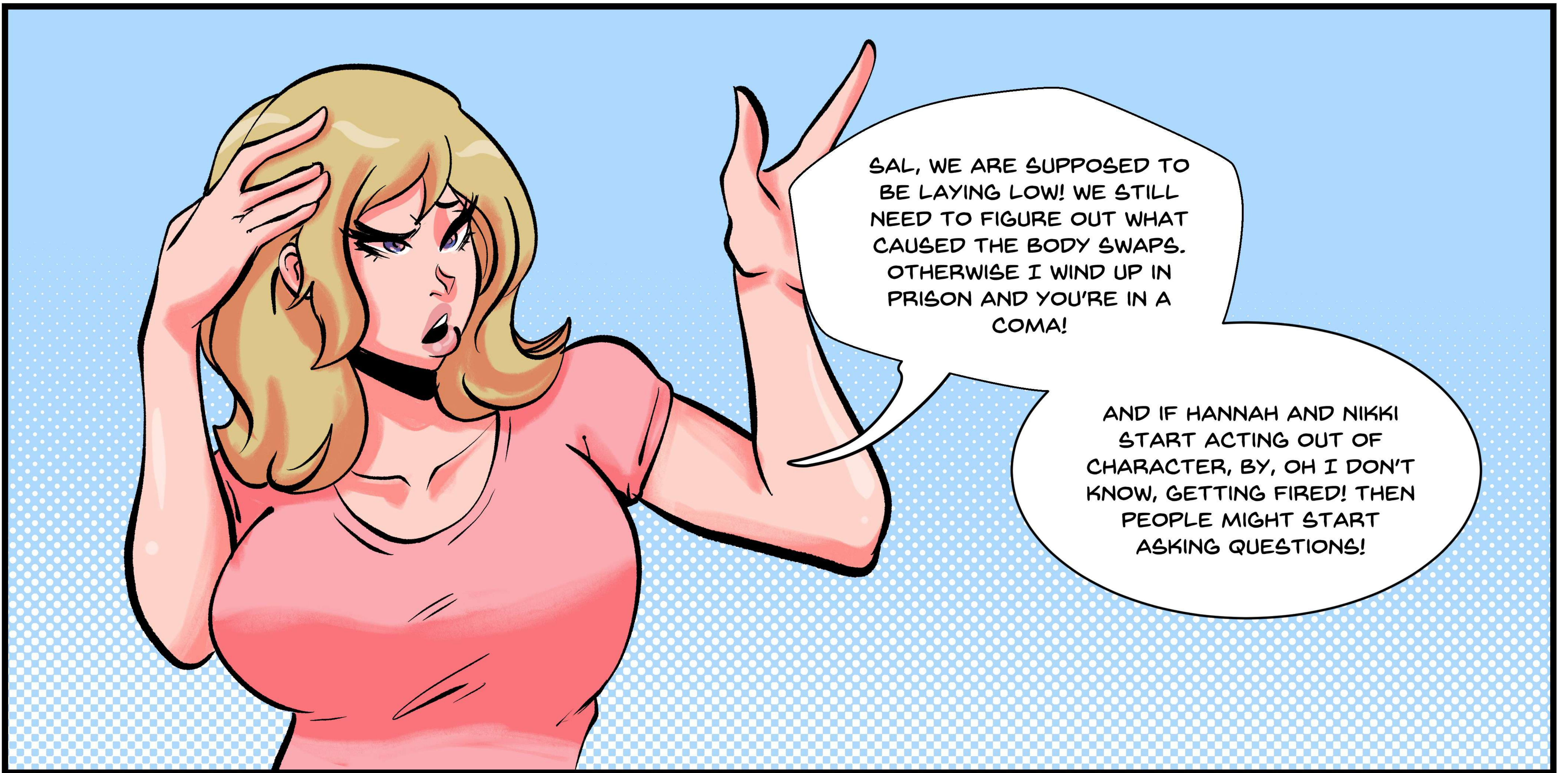
A woman with voluminous, wavy red hair and blue eyes is the central figure. She wears a tiger-print corset with black trim and buttons down the center, and a matching tiger-print skirt. She is standing in a casino, with several roulette wheels visible in the background, some blurred to indicate motion. The background is a solid red color. Two speech bubbles are positioned to her left, containing text.

NIKKI. AND SAL
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT YOU
FELLAS.

I FIGURED I'D GIVE YOU
ALL SOMETHING NICE TO
LOOK AT WHILE I WIN ALL
YOUR MONEY!







SAL, WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE LAYING LOW! WE STILL NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT CAUSED THE BODY SWAPS. OTHERWISE I WIND UP IN PRISON AND YOU'RE IN A COMA!

AND IF HANNAH AND NIKKI START ACTING OUT OF CHARACTER, BY, OH I DON'T KNOW, GETTING FIRED! THEN PEOPLE MIGHT START ASKING QUESTIONS!



EASY, EASY! IT'LL BE FINE! WHO EVER HEARD OF PEOPLE SWAPPING BODIES! YOU'RE BEING PARANOID FRANCIS. BESIDES, I **ALWAYS** HAVE A **PLAN!**

SAL... WHAT DID YOU DO?

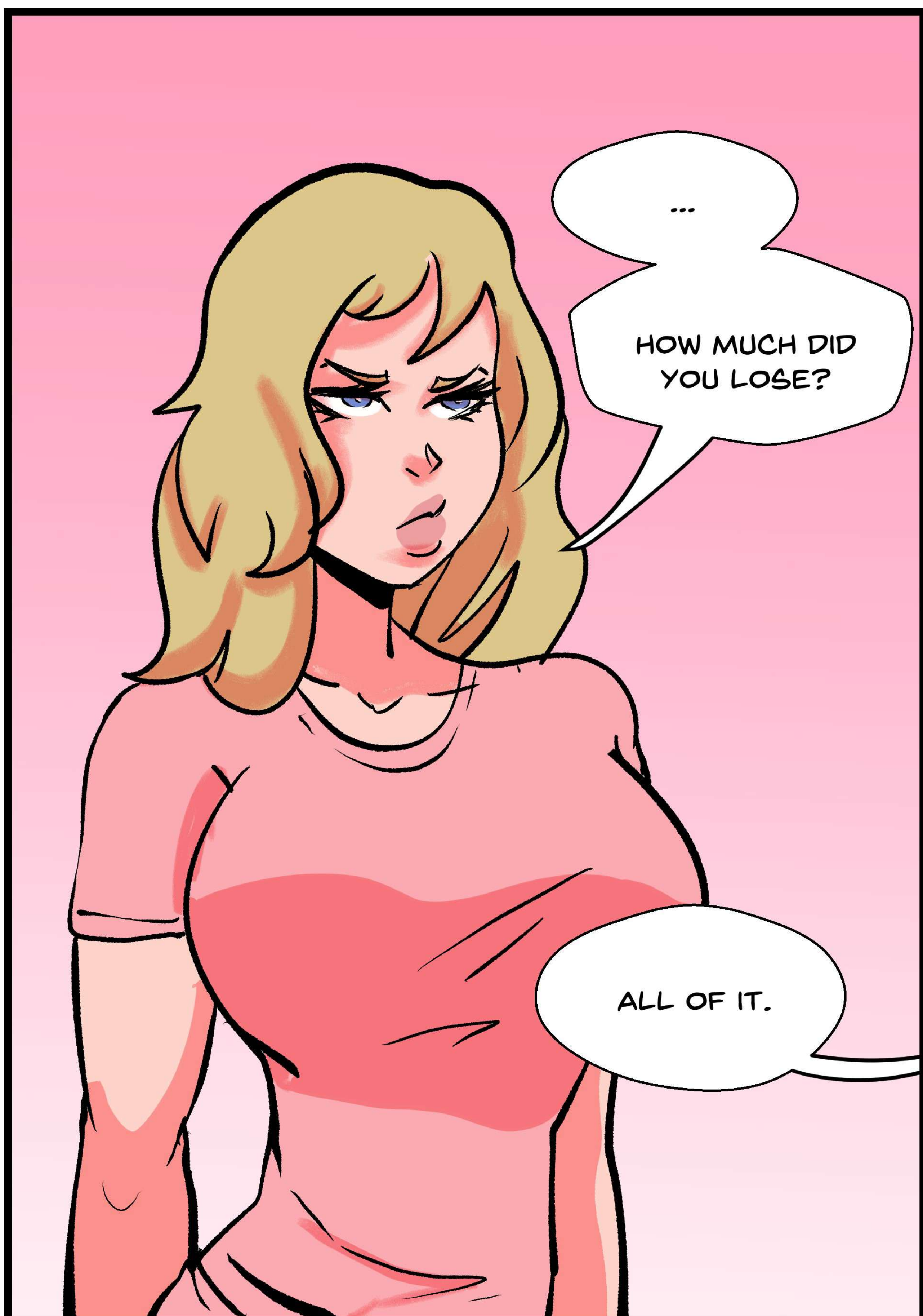
I FIGURED I'D TAKE NIKKI'S SAVINGS AND DOUBLE IT. THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE WHOLE "NOT HAVING A JOB" THING FOR A BIT.



SO, I SWING BY JENNY'S, GET HER TO DOLL ME UP, GIVE ME AN ADVANTAGE YOU SEE. THEN I HIT UP GINO'S GAME LAST NIGHT --

WHAT?!? SAL, YOU NEVER WIN AGAINST THOSE GUYS!

BUT THIS TIME IT WAS A SURE THING! THEY'D BE STARING AT ME, NOT THEIR CARDS!



...
HOW MUCH DID YOU LOSE?

ALL OF IT.



BUT YOU KNOW ME... I'VE **ALWAYS** GOT A **BACKUP PLAN!**