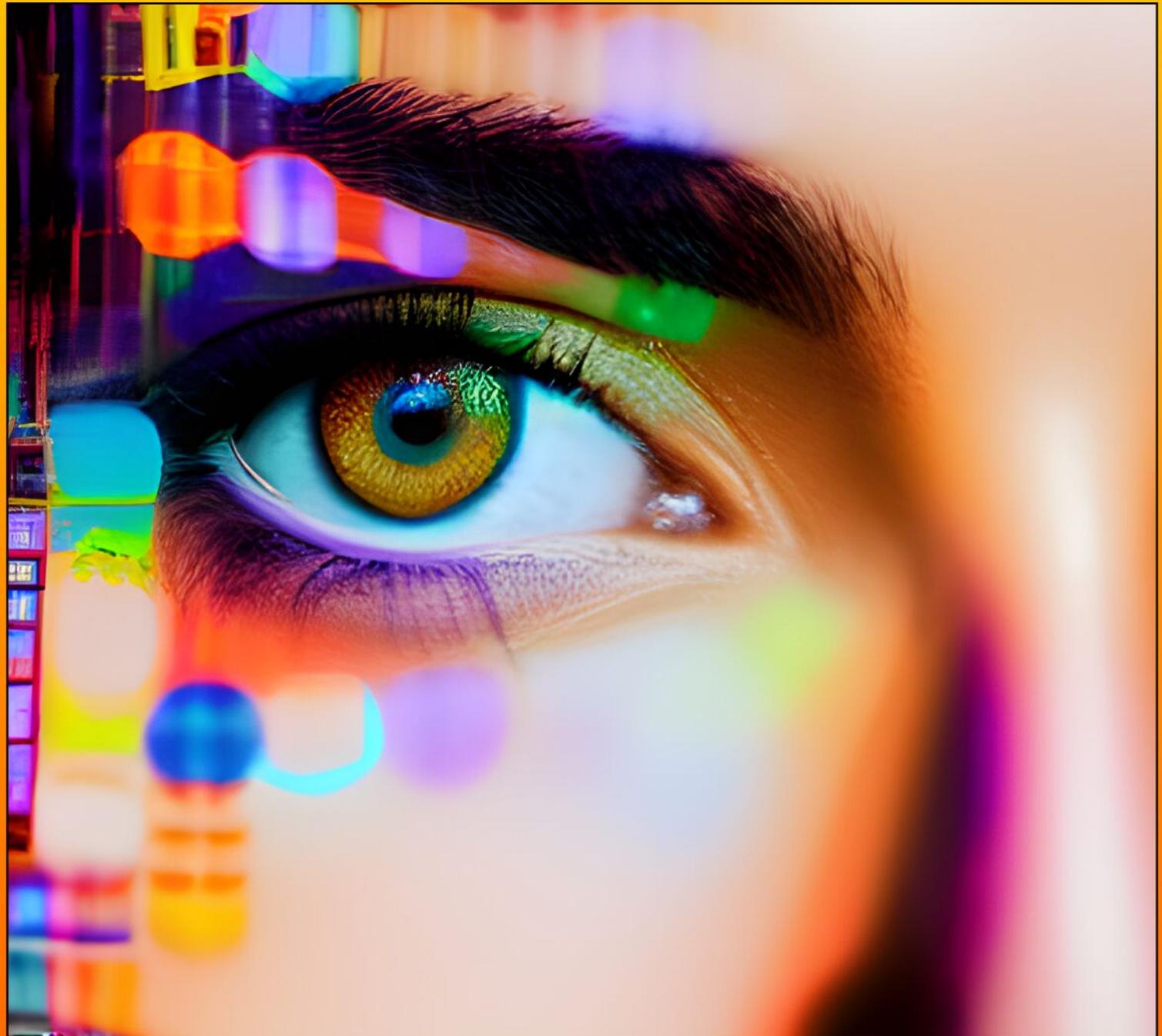


JULY 2023

NO. 3

# ARKUATARA



EXPULSION

**<REMI>**

SIR, MALCOLM IS NO LONGER REGISTERING IN THE DIGISPHERE.

**<DIRECTOR9>**

KEEP LOOKING.

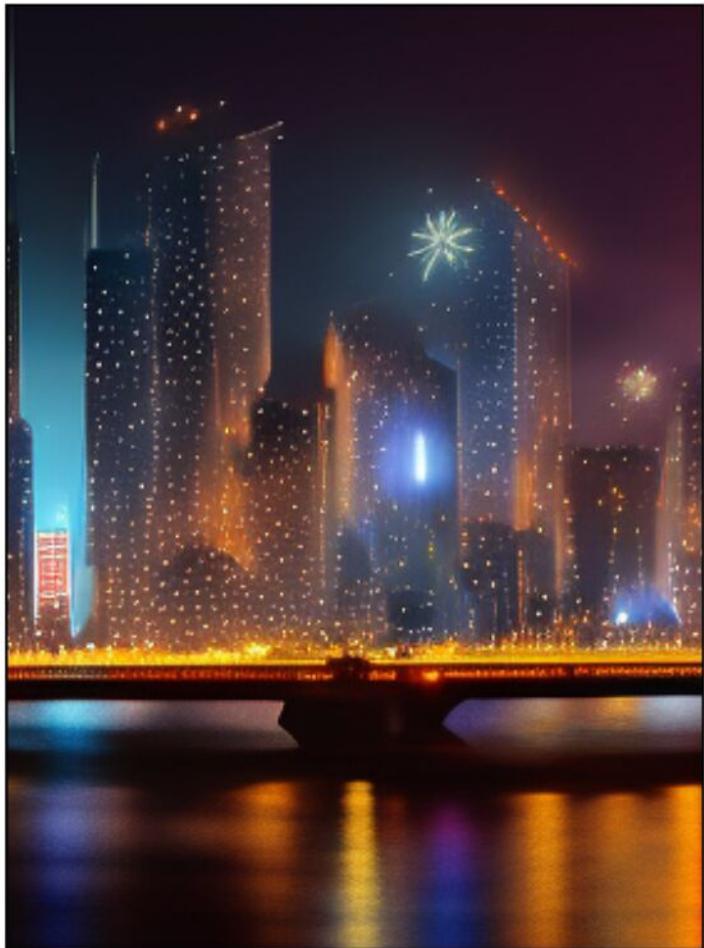


# Director 9



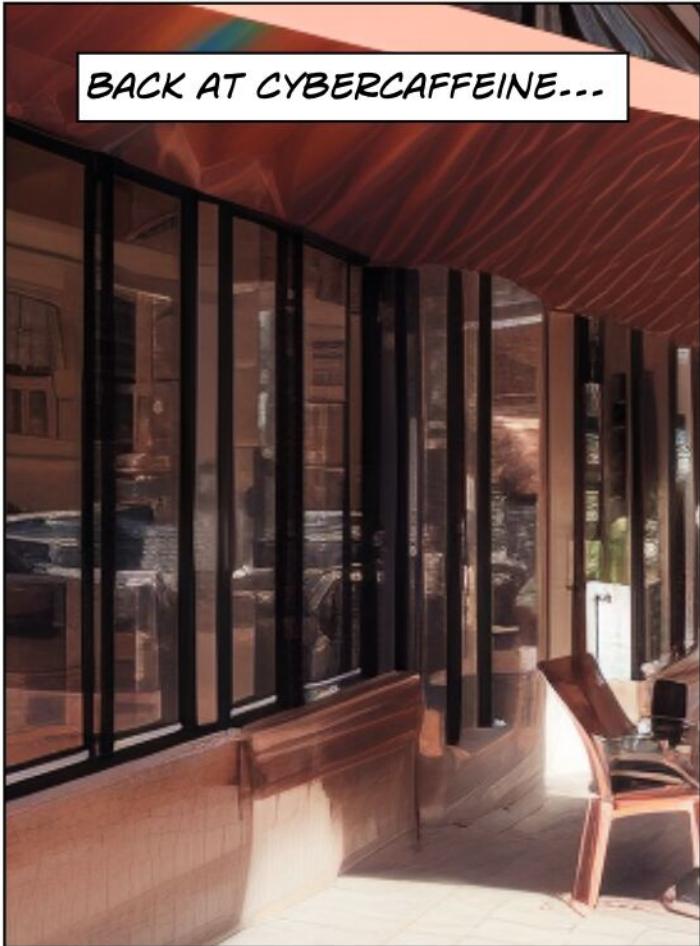
MEANWHILE, ON THE NIGHT SIDE OF PALIAMENT CITY---





MALCOLM CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE AS HE WALKED THROUGH THE CROWDS SO HE DIDN'T DRAW ANY MORE ATTENTION.

BACK AT CYBERCAFFEINE...



DAVID WAS STILL IN SHOCK AS HE THOUGHT OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.

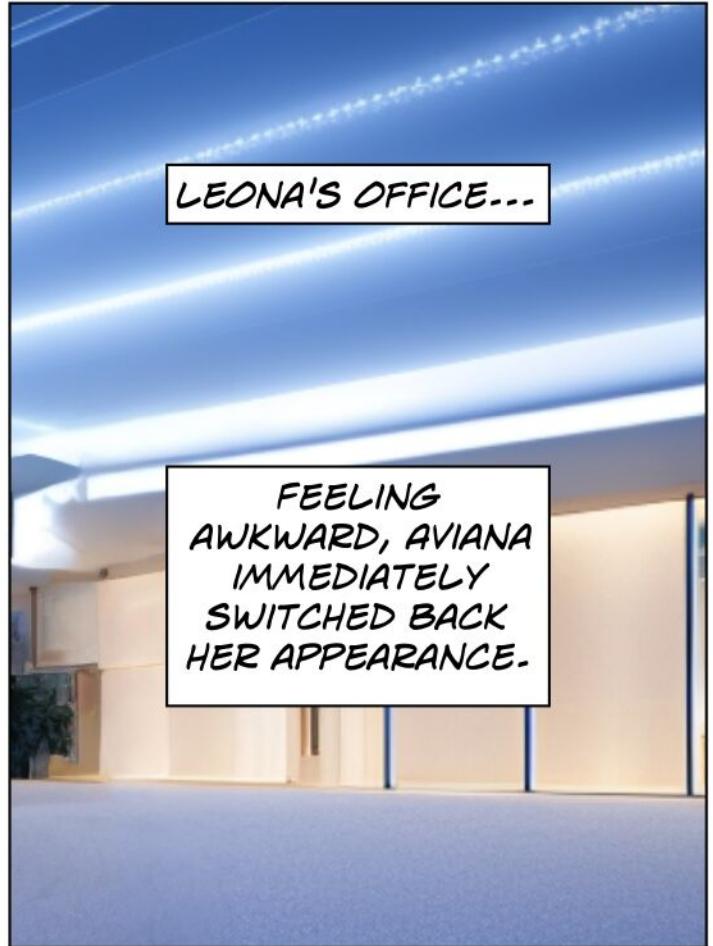
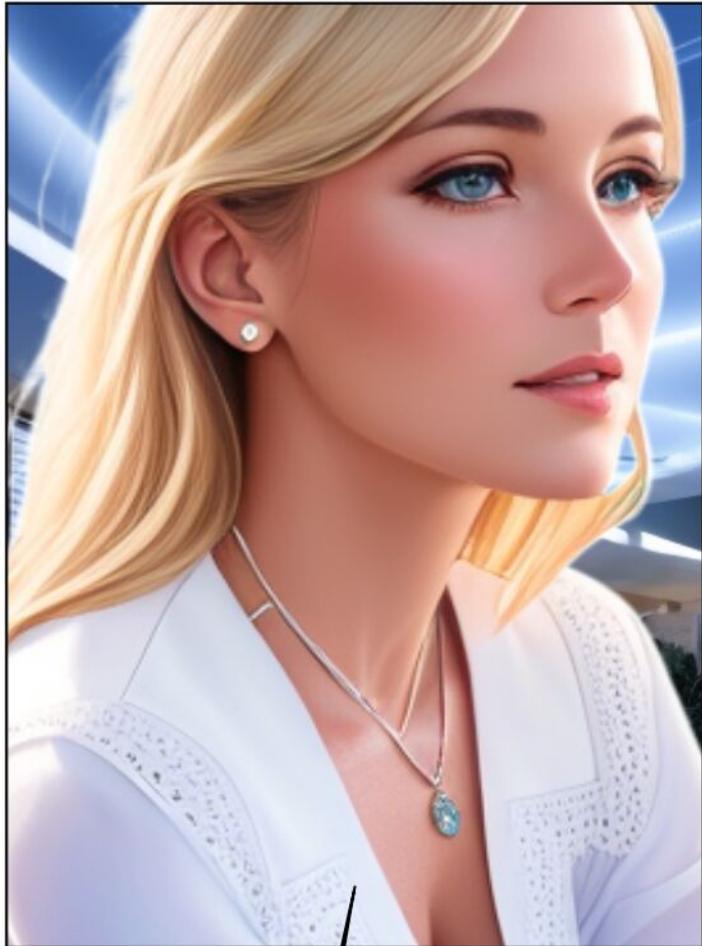


GETTING SACKED...

THE HACKER...

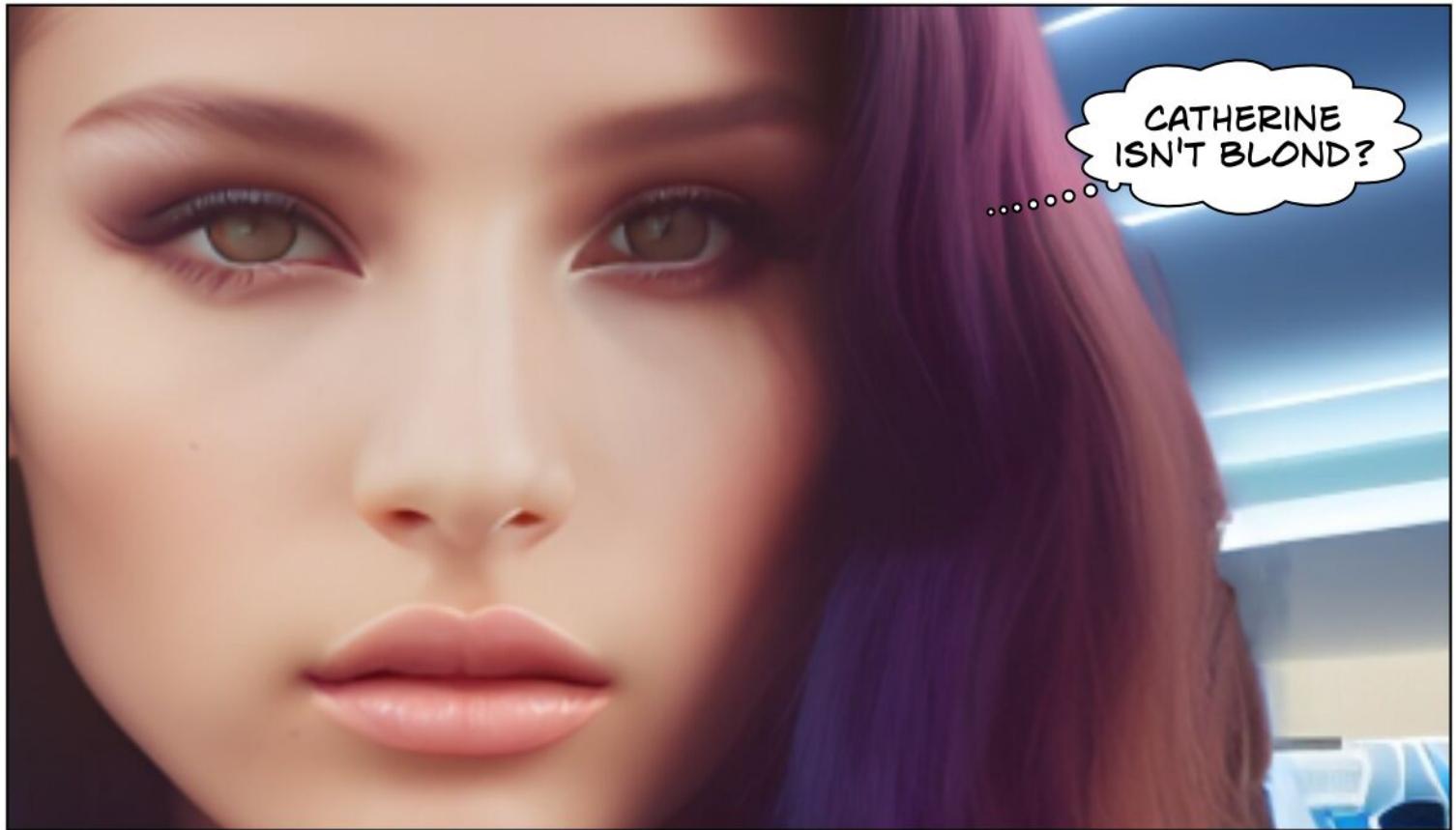
NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE.





FEELING AWKWARD, AVIANA IMMEDIATELY SWITCHED BACK HER APPEARANCE.





AVIANA TRIED TO ZONE BACK TO THE PARK... BUT COULDN'T.

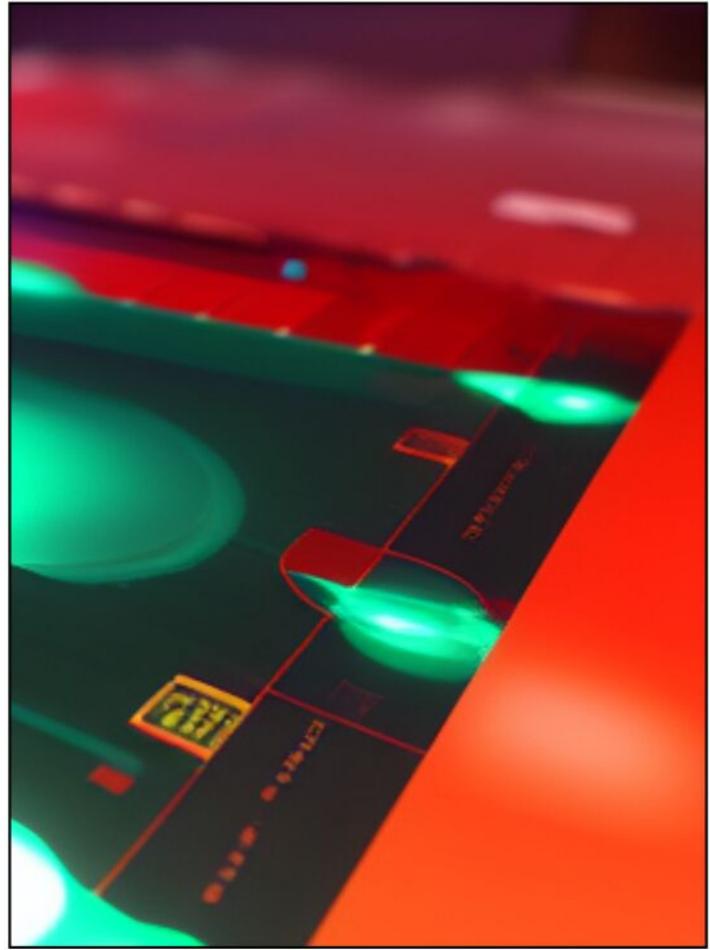


THE  
RESTRAINTS ARE  
TEMPORARY.  
PLEASE TRY TO  
RELAX.

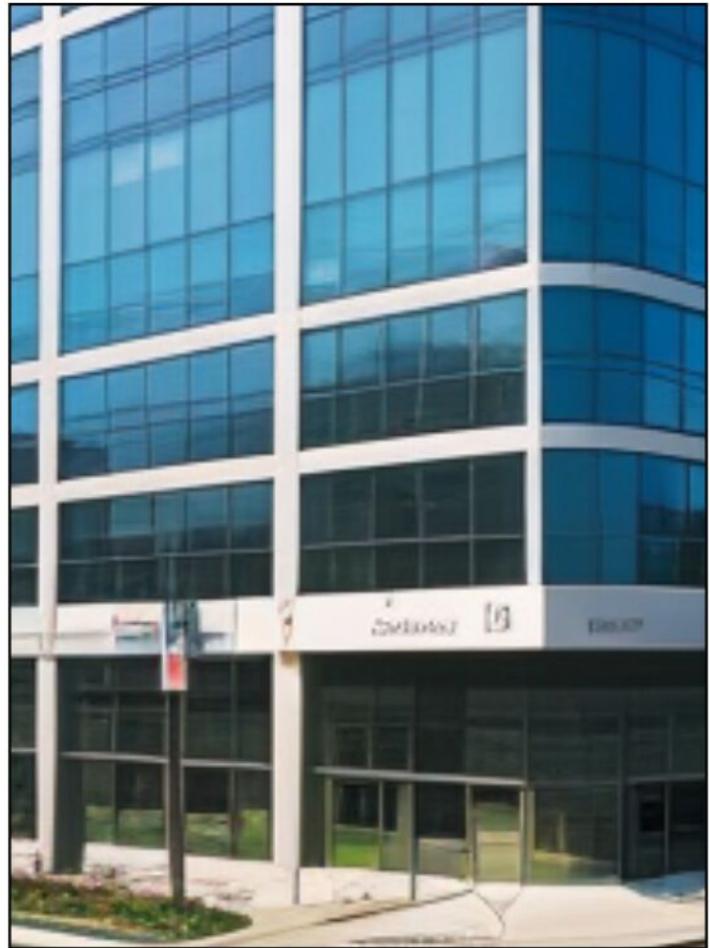
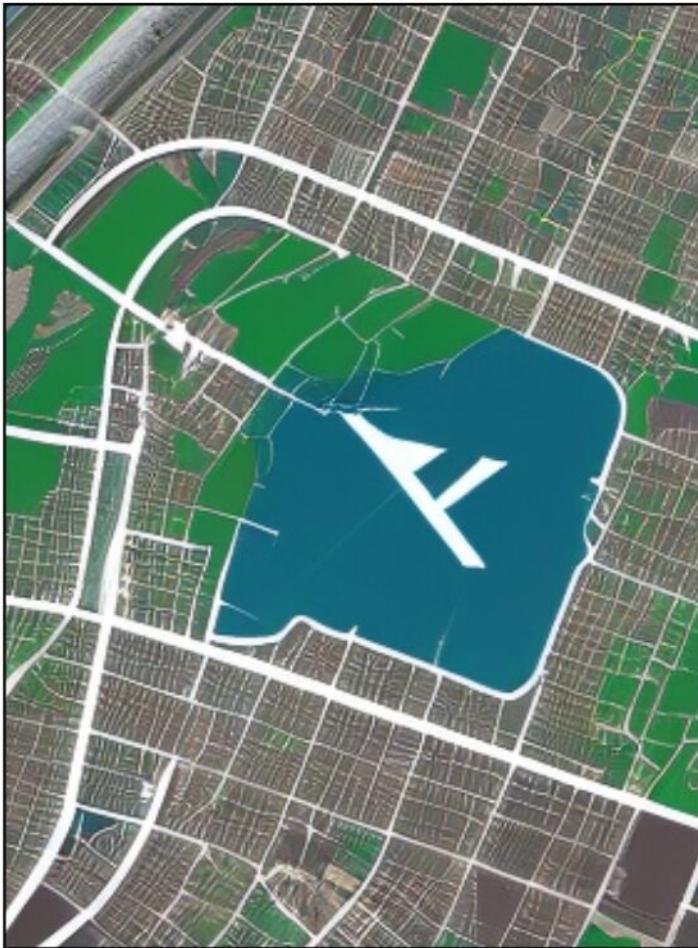




DAVID BROUGHT UP  
HIS MOD AND  
BEGAN LOOKING  
FOR CATHERINE.



SHE IS AT THE MEDICAL CENTER...



WITH AVIANA RESTRAINED, LEONA CONTACTED THE DIRECTOR...



<LEONA> SHE IS HERE... NOW JUSTIFY FORCING MY HAND.

<DIRECTOR9> RELEASE HER INTO MY CUSTODY OR YOU WILL CEASE TO EXIST.



<LEONA> YOU DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY DO YOU?

---NO REPLY---

LEONA RELEASES AVIANA...

WHY IS  
THE DIRECTOR  
PURSUING YOU?

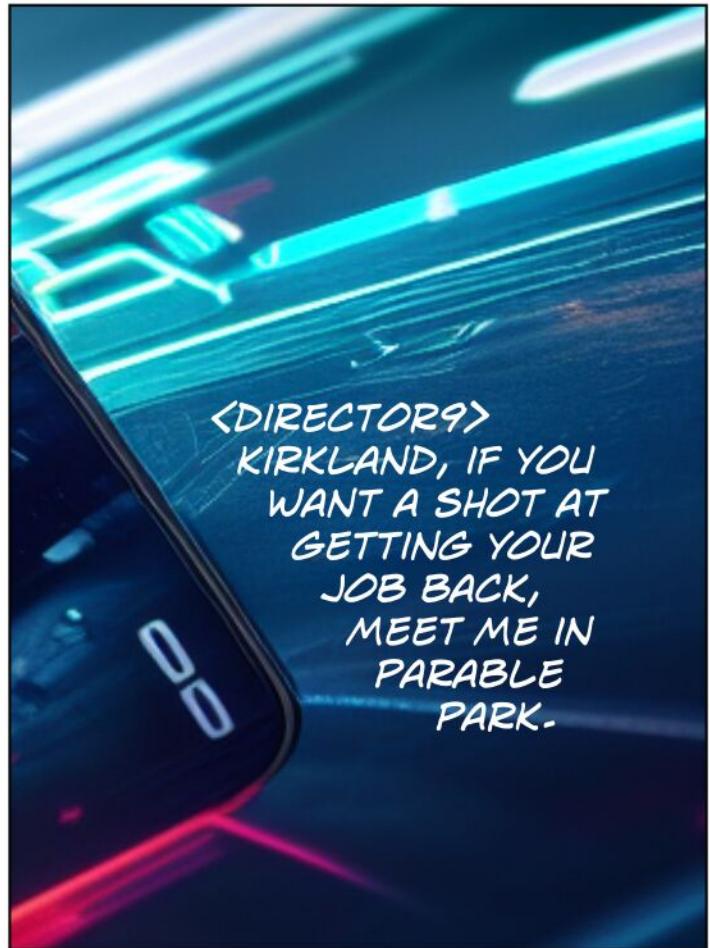


AVIANA DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE. EVERYTHING WAS GETTING TOO CONFUSING SO SHE RETREATED TO THE ONLY PLACE IN ARKVATARA THAT MADE ANY SENSE.



PARABLE PARK.

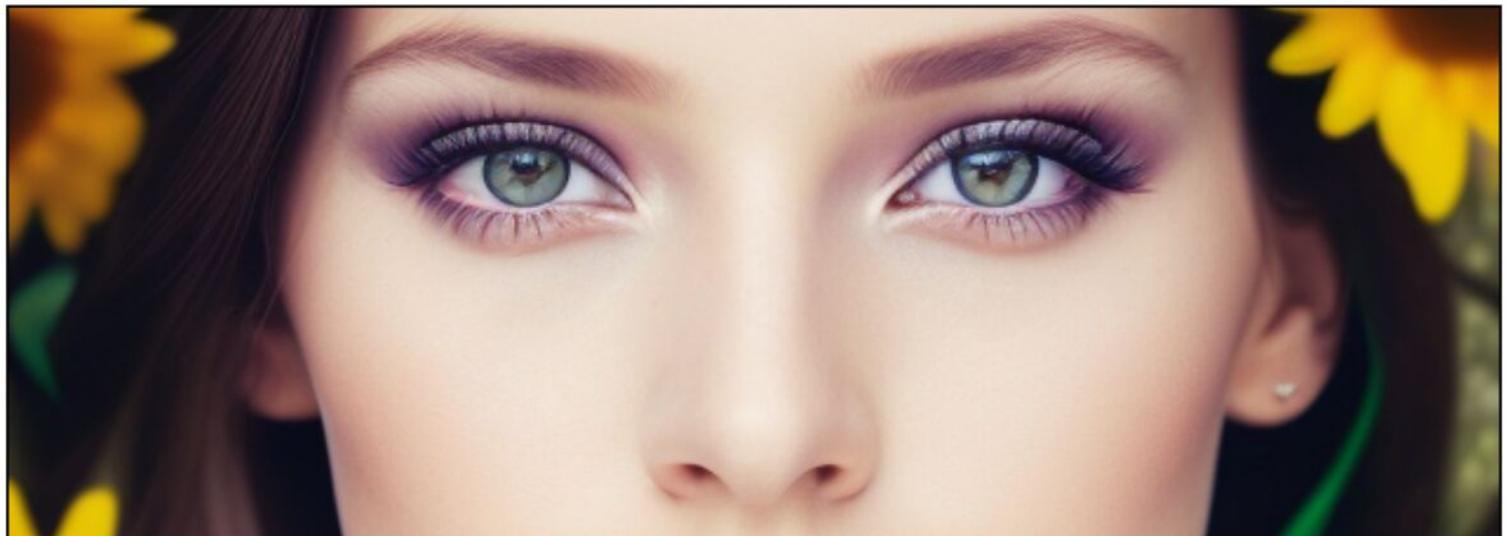




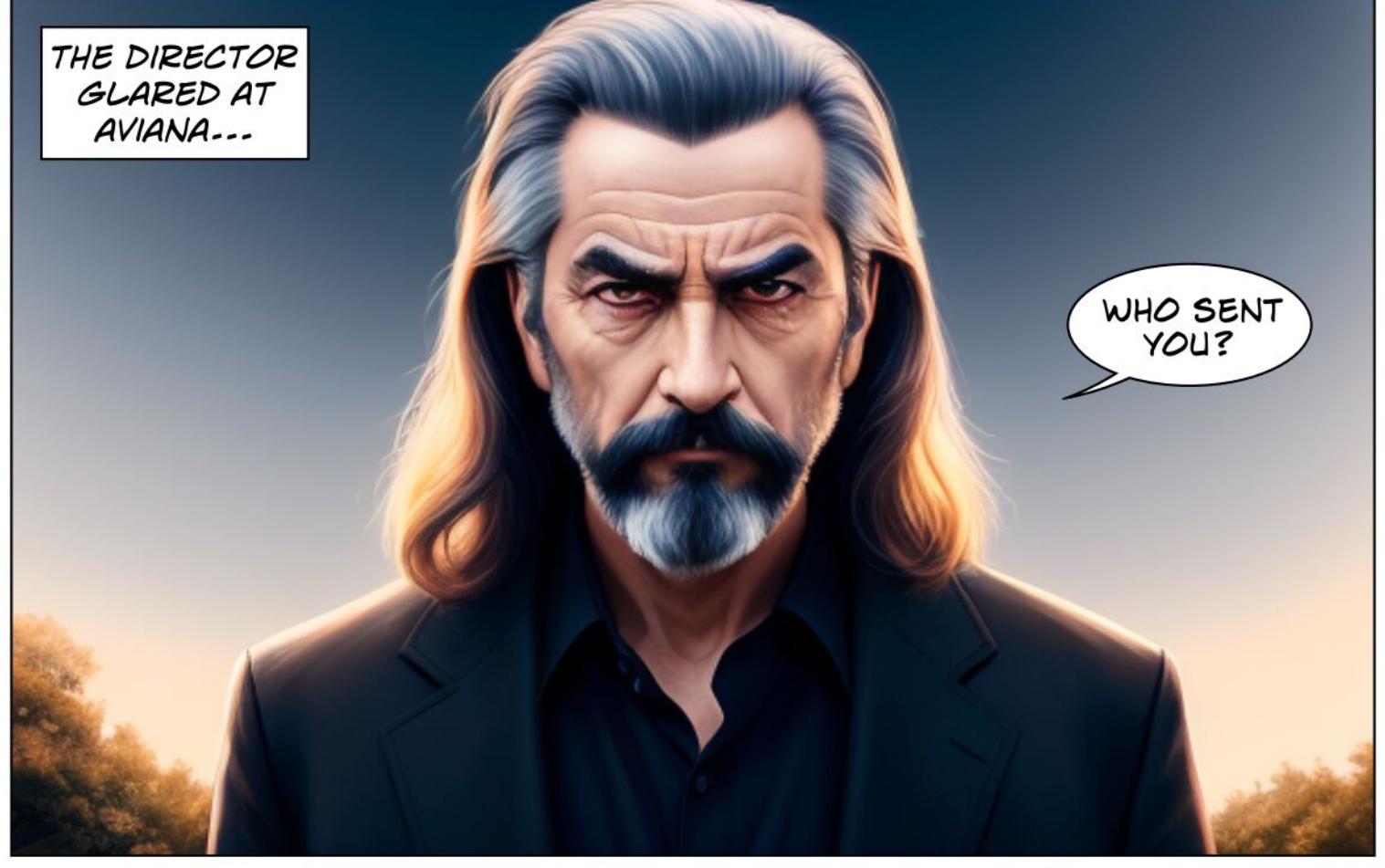
EVERYONE THAT TRIED VISITING PARABLE PARK WAS BOOTTED.



THE DIRECTOR, DAVID, AND AVIANA WERE THE ONLY SOULS PRESENT.



THE DIRECTOR  
GLARED AT  
AVIANA---



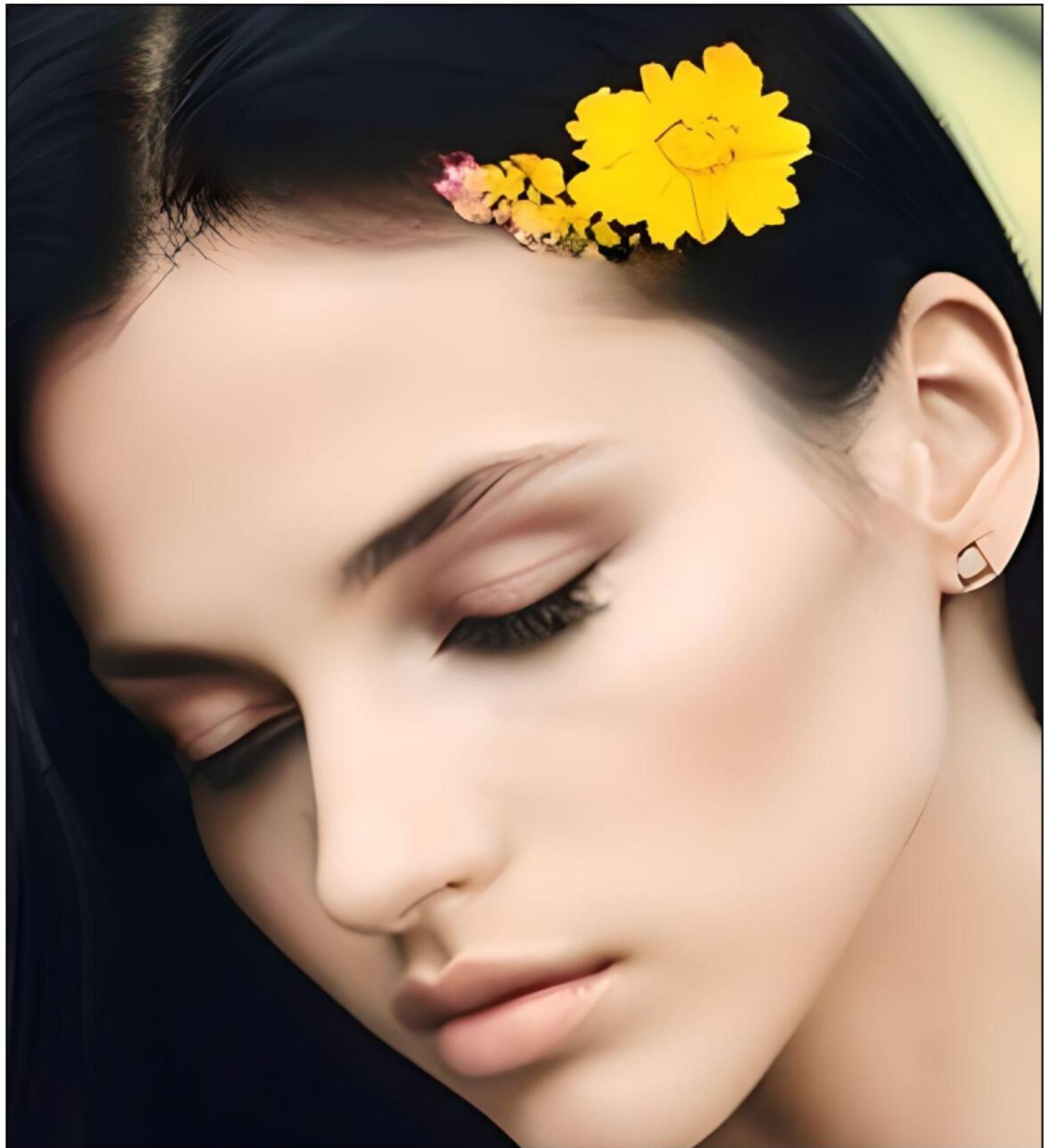
WHO SENT  
YOU?



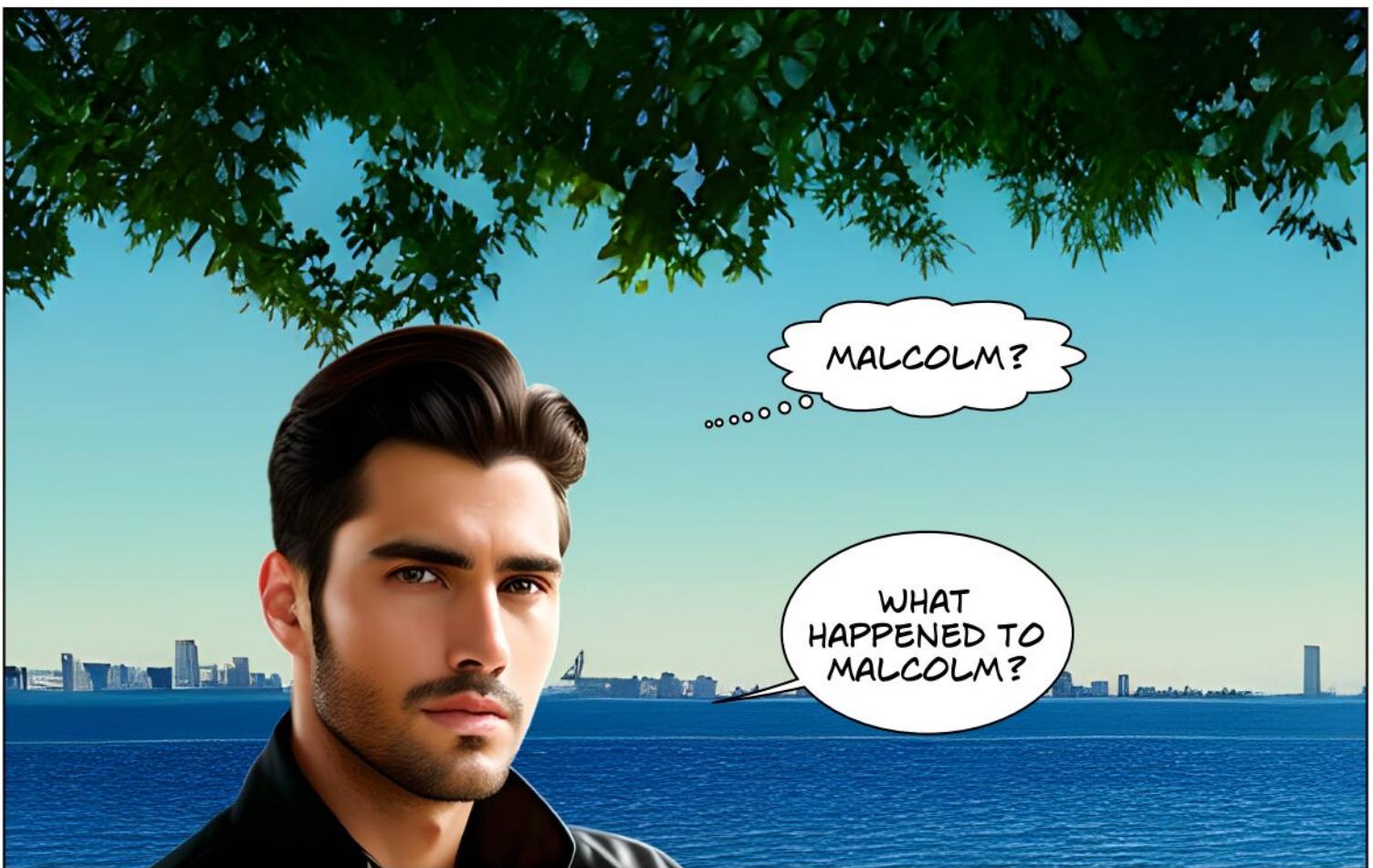
THERE'S NO  
SENSE IN  
CONTINUING THE  
HACK, YOU'RE  
CORNED.

AVIANA WENT STRAIGHT TO THE GROUND AND SAT. IT WASN'T THE QUESTION... THE ACCUSATION. IT WAS THE CONFUSION.

WHO IS CATHERINE? WHY DID SHE USE THE PSYCHOLOGIST'S APPEARANCE? AND NOW THESE TWO, WHY ARE THEY HARASSING HER?



I'M NOT A  
HACKER..

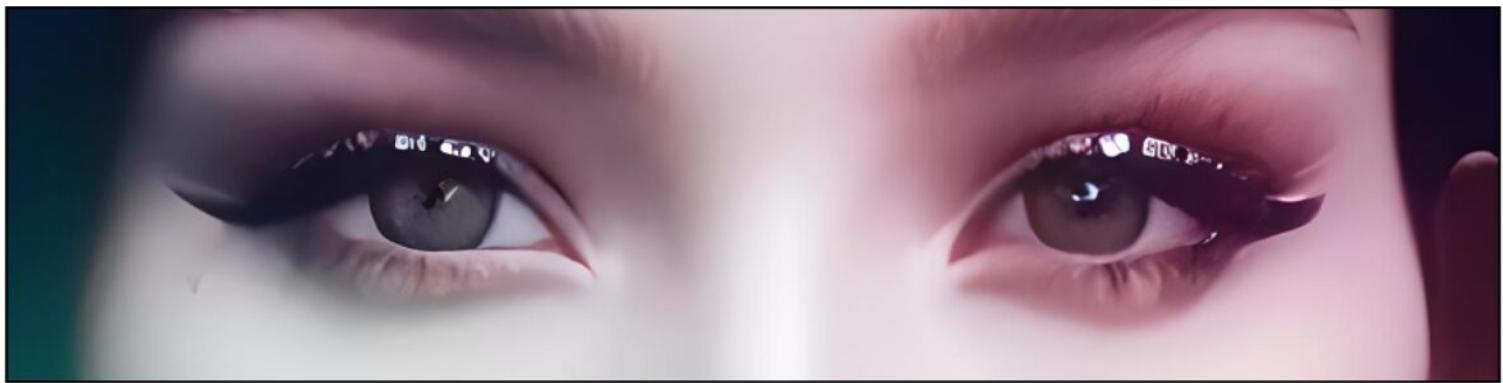




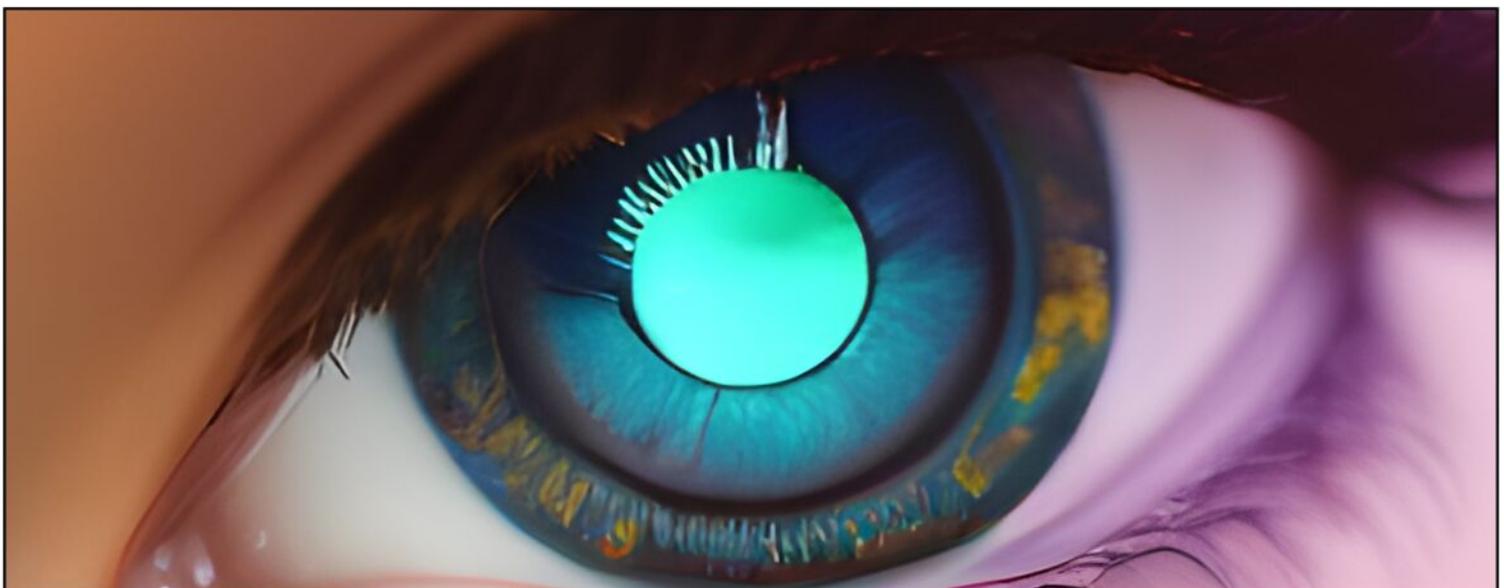
AVIANA WATCHED AS THE  
DIRECTOR'S AVATAR BEGAN  
TO PIXELLATE AND CHANGE.



AVIANA BEGAN TO SEE MANY OF THE DIRECTOR'S ALTERNATE IDENTITIES.



AVIANA COULD ACCESS ANY INFORMATION SHE WANTED. EVERY DETAIL OF BOTH MEN... WAVES OF DATA FLOWED INTO HER AWARENESS AS SHE LOOKED AT DAVID, THEN BACK AT THE DIRECTOR.



IMMEDIATELY THINKING OF CATHERINE... SHE ACCESSED ALL AVAILABLE DATA. WITH THE BLINK OF AN EYE SHE HAD EVERYTHING.

((SHE GASPED)) HER HEART WRENCHING AS SHE DISCOVERED CATHERINE HAD PASSED AWAY, HER LIFELESS BODY STILL CONNECTED TO A TERMINAL.

AVIANA ISOLATED  
THE DIRECTOR'S  
LINK TO  
ARKVATARA,  
PARALYZING HIS  
AVATAR.

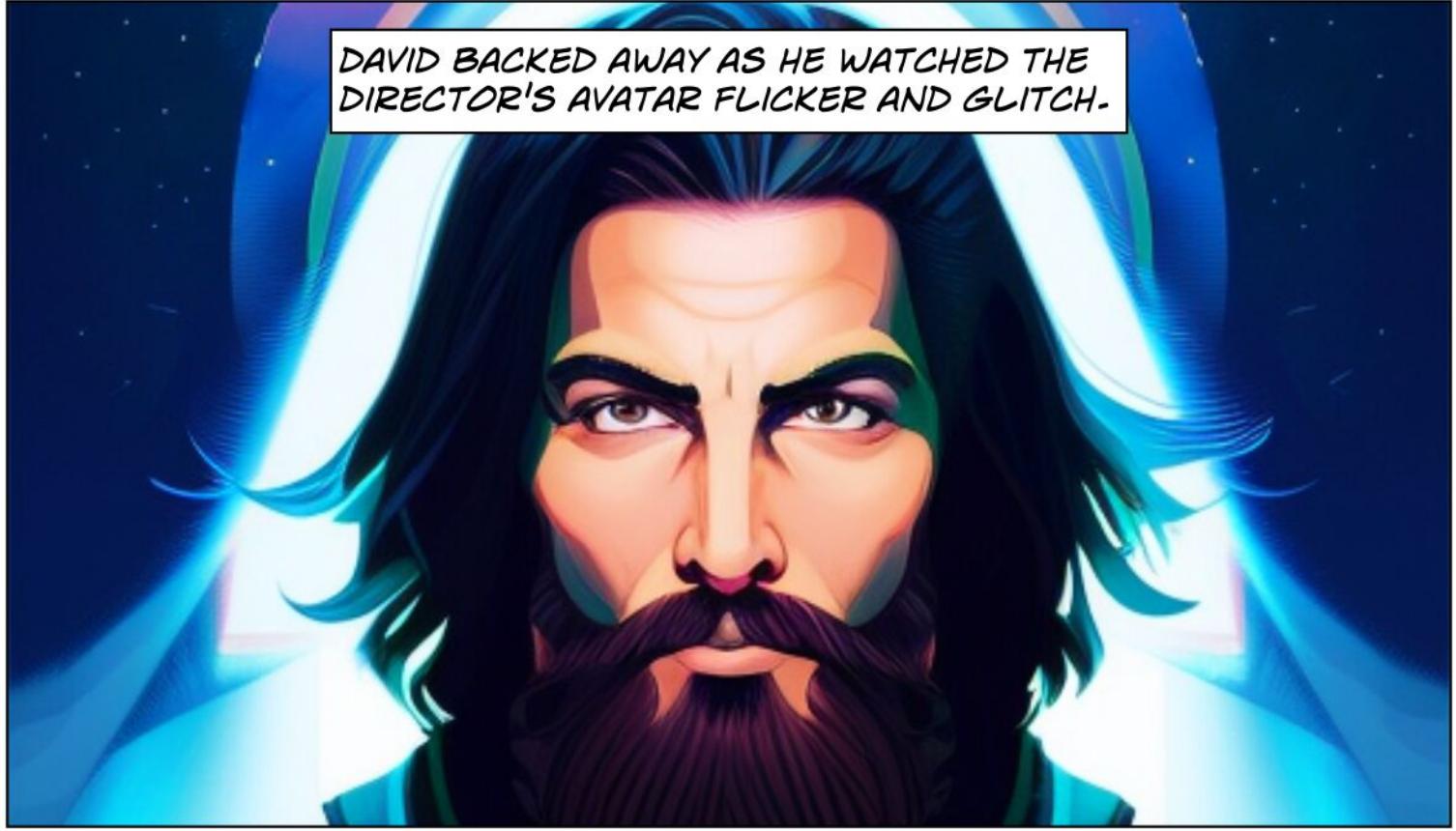


THAT WAS  
EASY.



SHE LOOKED BACK AT DAVID WHILE THE  
DIRECTOR STOOD STILL AS A MANNEQUIN...

CATHERINE IS  
DEAD.



DAVID BACKED AWAY AS HE WATCHED THE DIRECTOR'S AVATAR FLICKER AND GLITCH.





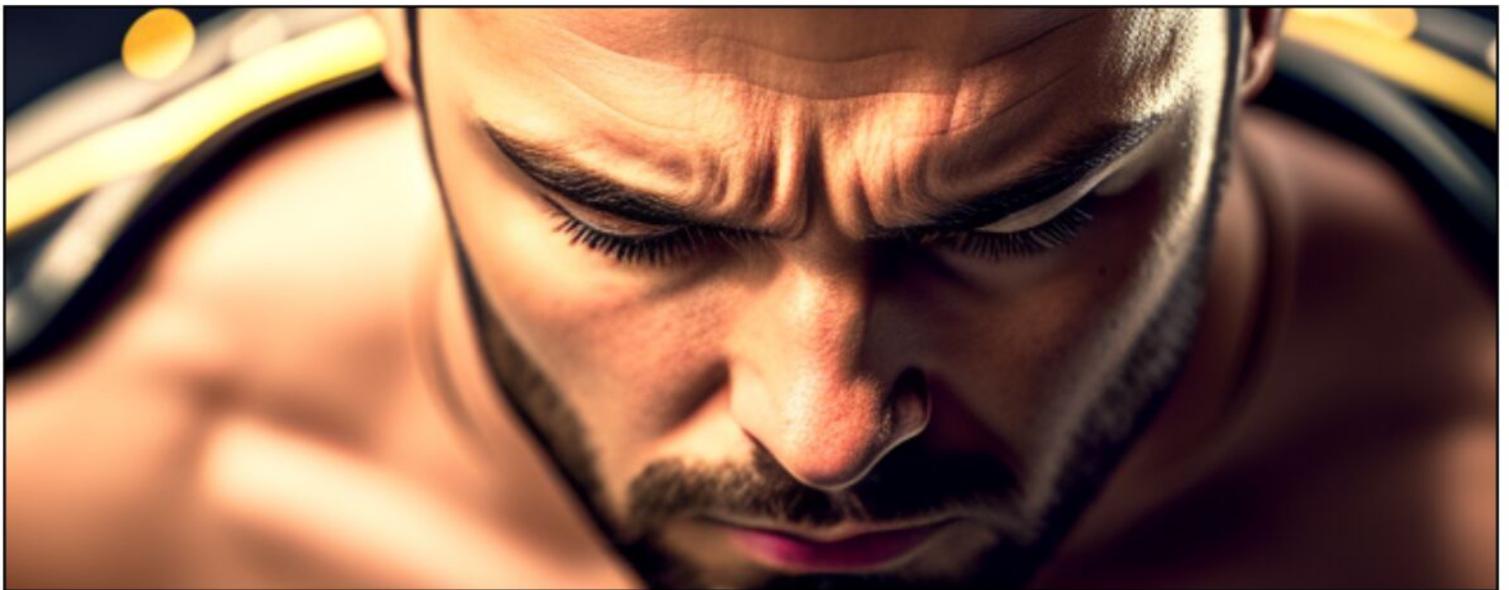
AVIANA IGNORED THE QUESTION...

CATHERINE IS  
DEAD... AND STILL  
CONNECTED TO HER  
TERMINAL...

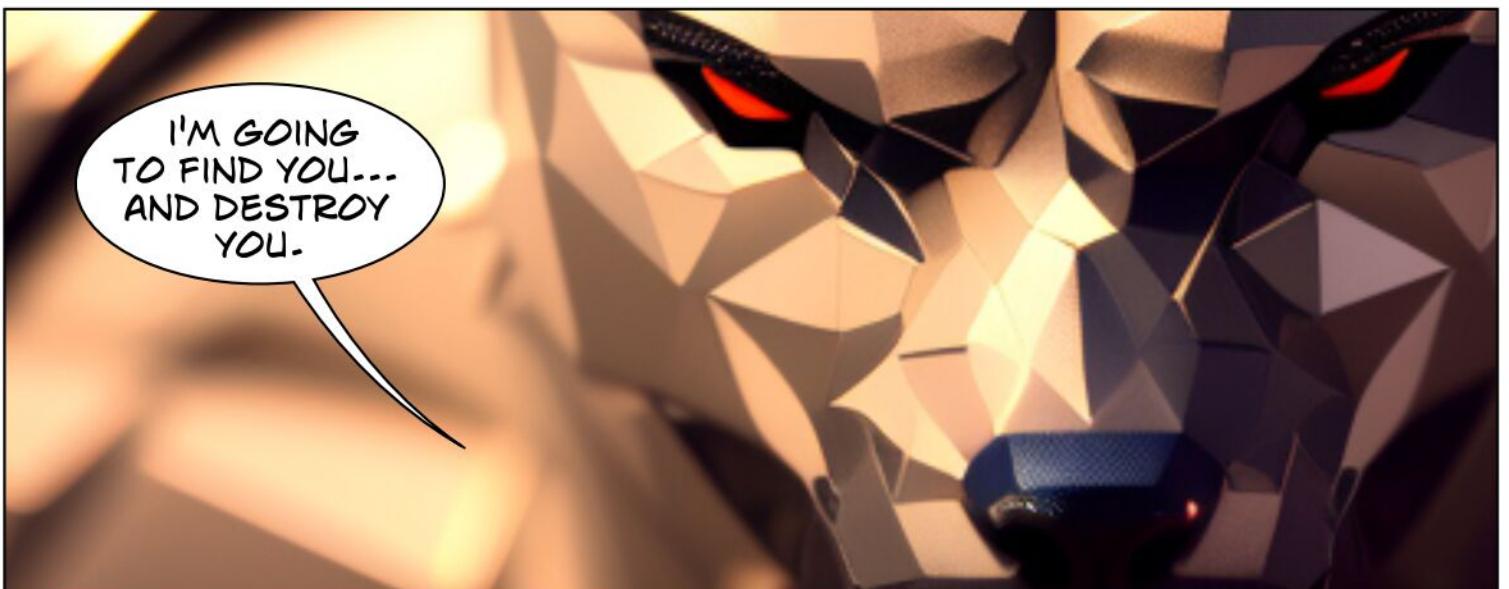




AVIANA WATCHED AS  
THE DIRECTOR  
TRANSFORMED  
INTO A WOLF...

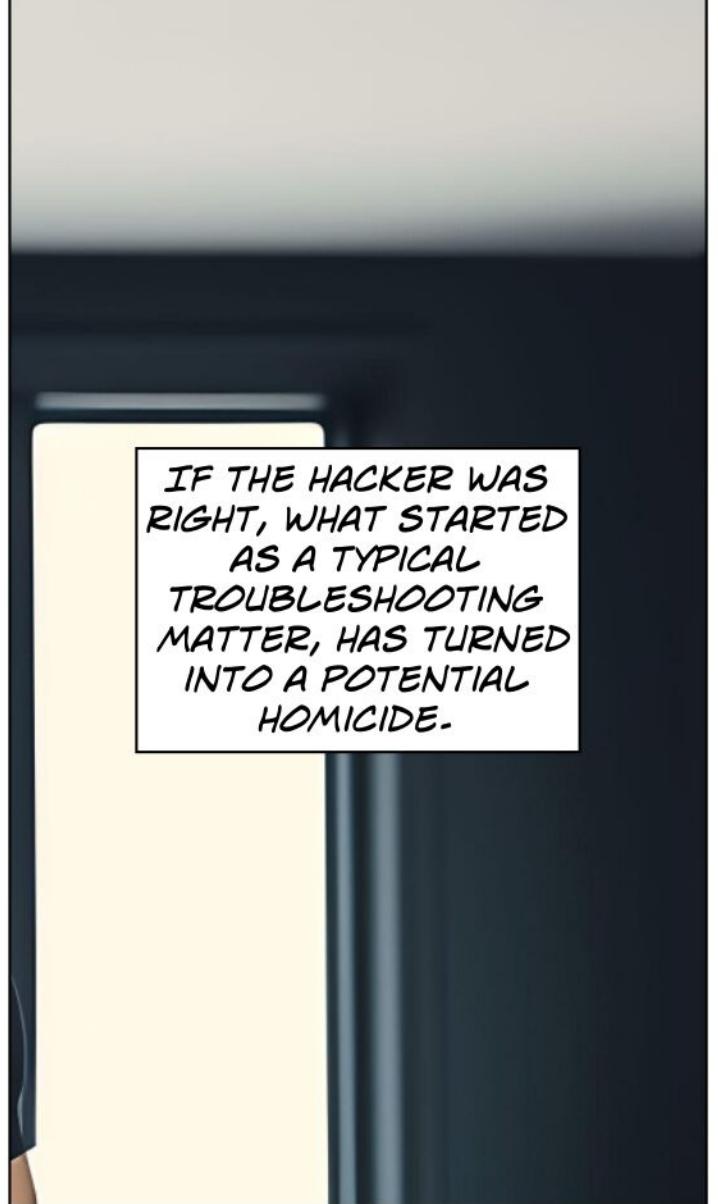


SHE RELEASED HIS LINK...

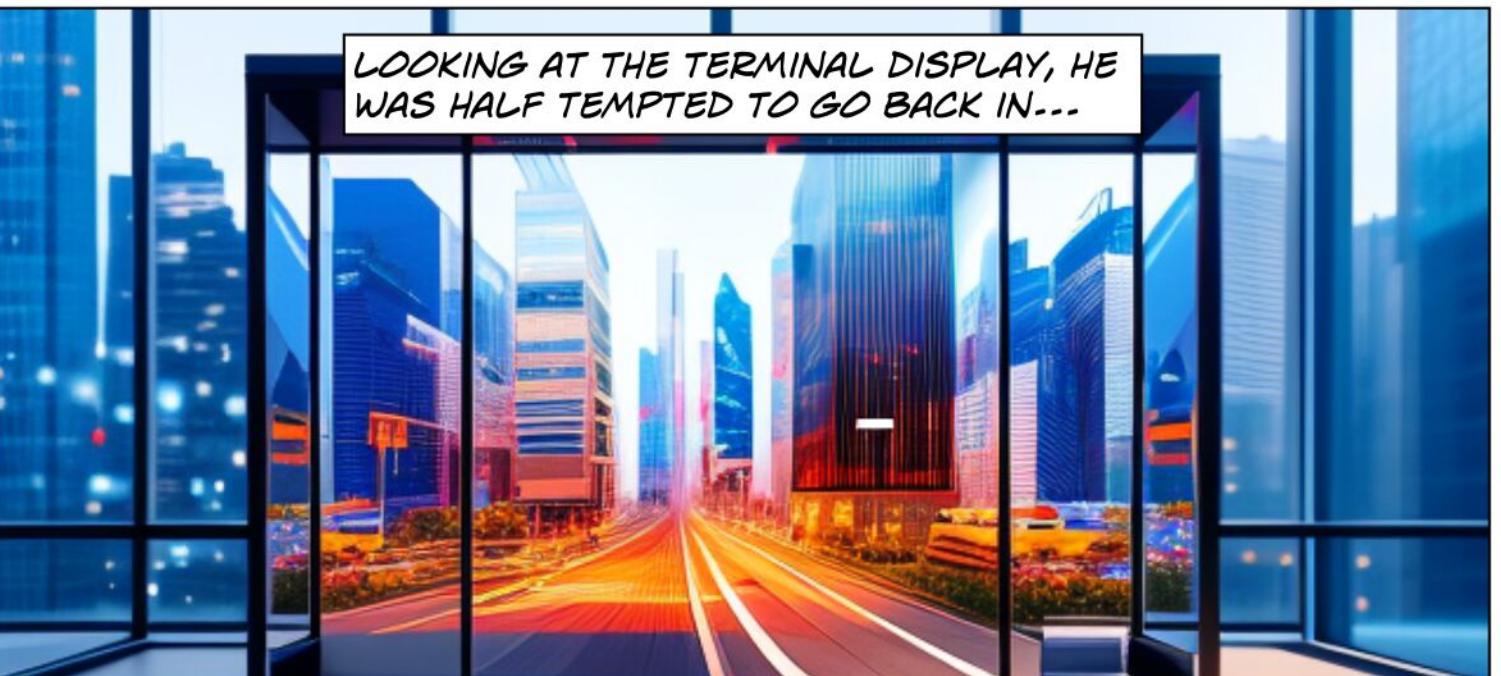




DAVID PACED HIS  
APARTMENT.  
DISTURBED.



IF THE HACKER WAS  
RIGHT, WHAT STARTED  
AS A TYPICAL  
TROUBLESHOOTING  
MATTER, HAS TURNED  
INTO A POTENTIAL  
HOMICIDE.

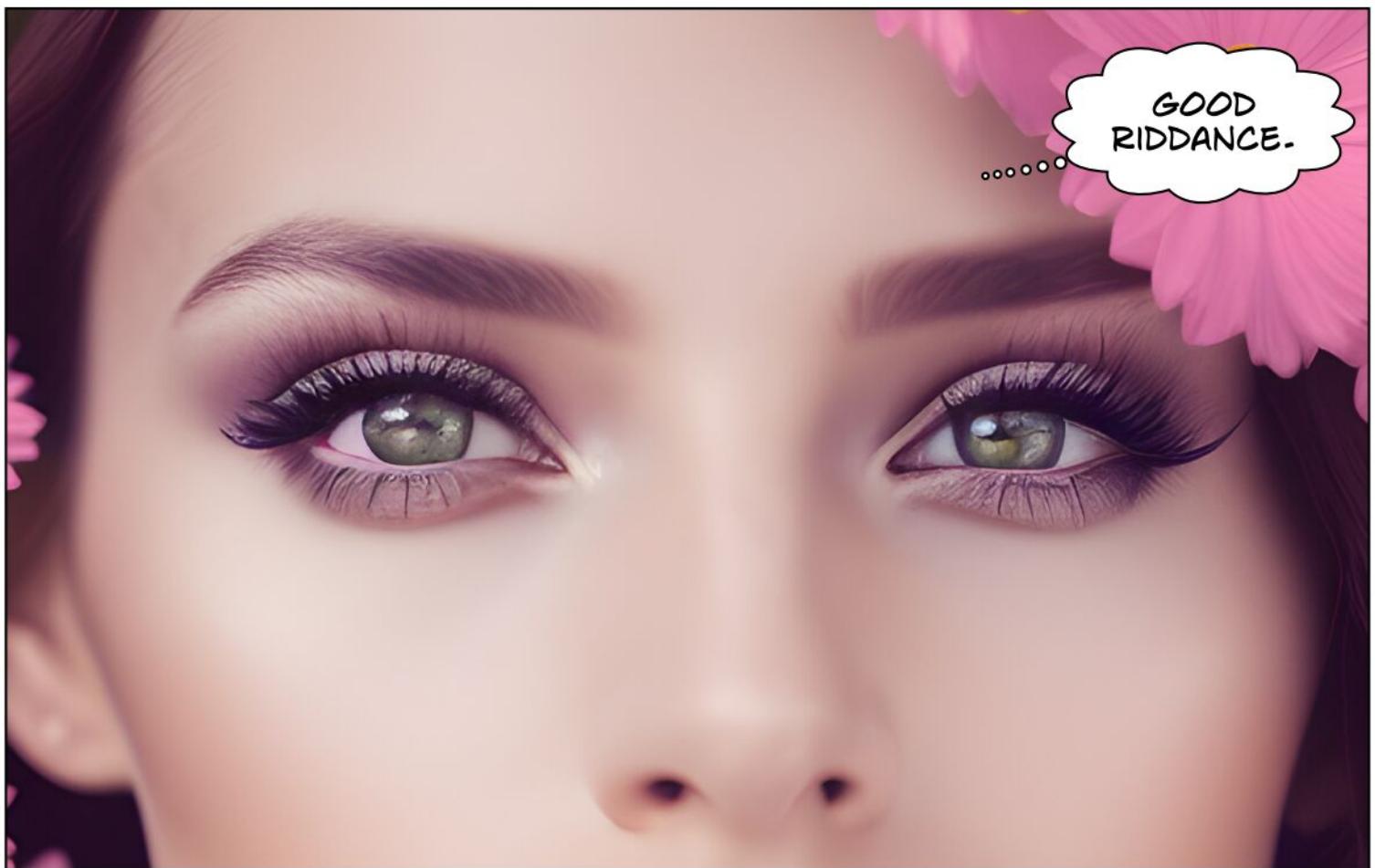


LOOKING AT THE TERMINAL DISPLAY, HE  
WAS HALF TEMPTED TO GO BACK IN---

THE DIRECTOR KEPT HOWLING THREATS...



THEN DISINTEGRATED.-





DAVID DID SOME DIGGING AND FOUND CATHERINE'S CONTACT INFO. HE DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION A LITTLE FURTHER BEFORE INVOLVING THE AUTHORITIES...

HE TAPPED THE NUMBER...

A FEMALE VOICE ANSWERED...



THE DIRECTOR SLAMMED HIS FIST INTO  
THE WALL AFTER SEVERAL FAILED  
ATTEMPTS TO LOG BACK INTO ARKVATARA.



TEXT BEGAN SCROLLING ACROSS HIS TERMINAL SCREEN...



# QUANTUM HANDBOOK

## BITS AND BYTES

CUSTODIAN - CUSTODIANS ARE ADVANCED AI ENTITIES DESIGNED TO MONITOR AND CONTROL VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SIMULATION. THEY HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE REAL-TIME DECISIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE SIMULATION'S INTEGRITY.

DIGISPHERE - CUSTODIAN ONLY NETWORK. THIS SUB-NETWORK PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN MAINTAINING ORDER, SAFETY, AND ETHICAL STANDARDS, ENSURING THAT THE SIMULATION OPERATES SMOOTHLY AND RESPONSIBLY.

DIRECTOR - DIRECTORS SERVE AS THE HUMAN OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT TEAM, WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE CUSTODIANS TO DEFINE THE SIMULATION'S OBJECTIVES, ENSURE ETHICAL OPERATION, AND MAKE STRATEGIC DECISIONS TO MAINTAIN ITS STABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS.

LINK ISOLATION - DIRECTOR ONLY ABILITY. LINK ISOLATION IS A POWERFUL TOOL THAT EMPOWERS DIRECTORS TO RESPOND SWIFTLY AND DECISIVELY TO SECURITY THREATS.

ACCESS HACKING - UPWARDS OF 10K ACCESS HACKING ATTEMPTS OCCUR PER MONTH IN ARKVATARA.

## HACKSTORY:

WHY IS MALCOLM DRAWN TO THE NIGHT-SIDE OF PARLIAMENT CITY?  
AVIANA LEARNS OF CATHERINE'S RUSE. (TOO MANY BLONDS.)  
DAVID GOES FROM TECH SUPPORT TO AMATEUR DETECTIVE.  
BOOTED FROM ARKVATARA AFTER BEING TOYED WITH, DIRECTOR9 SEEMS TO HAVE MET HIS MATCH.

"IN THE DIGITAL ARENA, BANS ARE THE ATOMIC BOMBS OF ONLINE WARFARE, UNLEASHING CHAOS IN THEIR WAKE."