

ARK VATARA



EXPULSION

<REMI>

SIR, MALCOLM IS NO LONGER REGISTERING IN THE DIGISPHERE.

<DIRECTOR9>

KEEP LOOKING.



Director 9



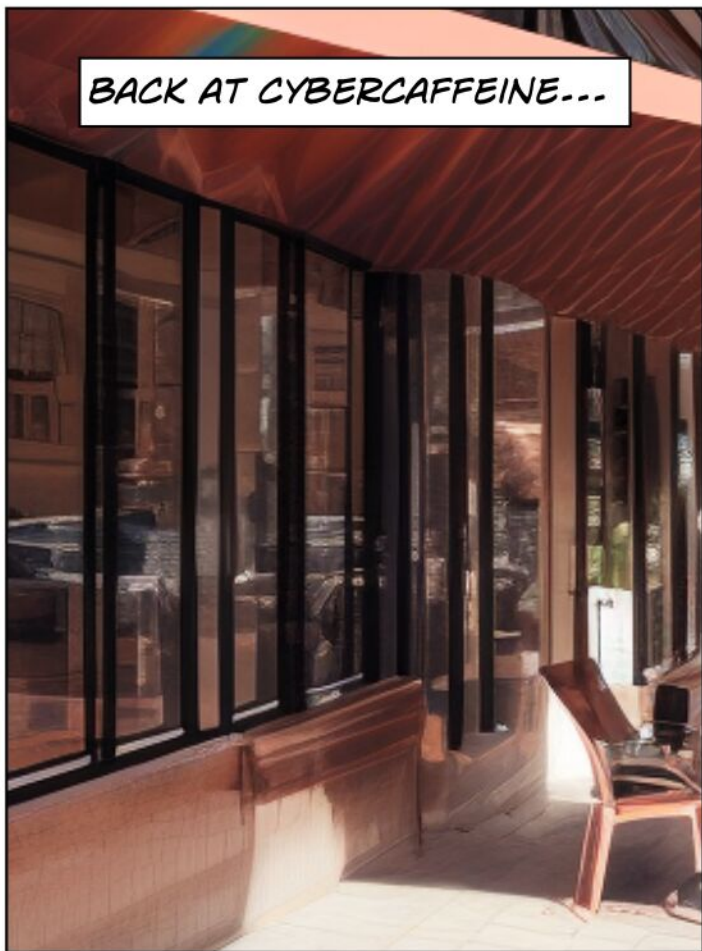
MEANWHILE, ON THE NIGHT SIDE OF PALIAMENT CITY...





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.

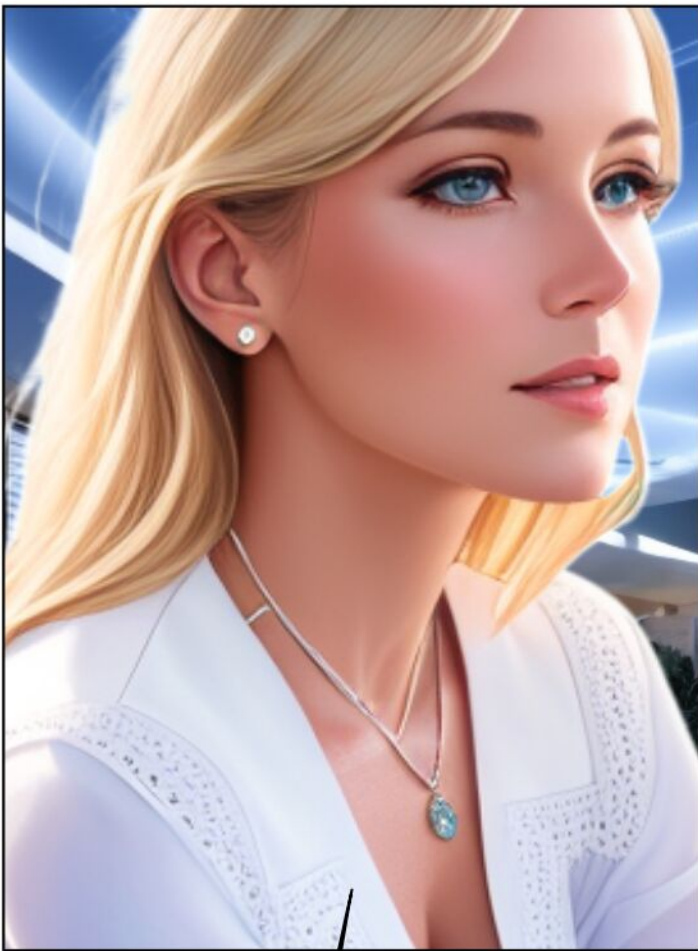


GETTING SACKED...

THE HACKER...

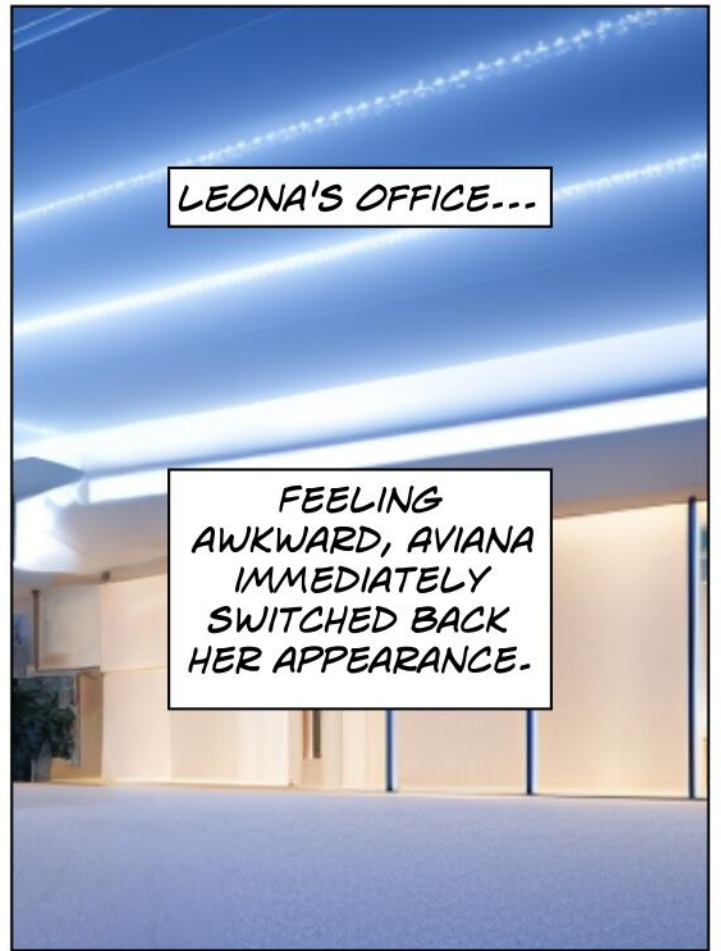
NONE
OF IT
MAKES
SENSE.





LEONA'S OFFICE...

FEELING
AWKWARD, AVIANA
IMMEDIATELY
SWITCHED BACK
HER APPEARANCE.



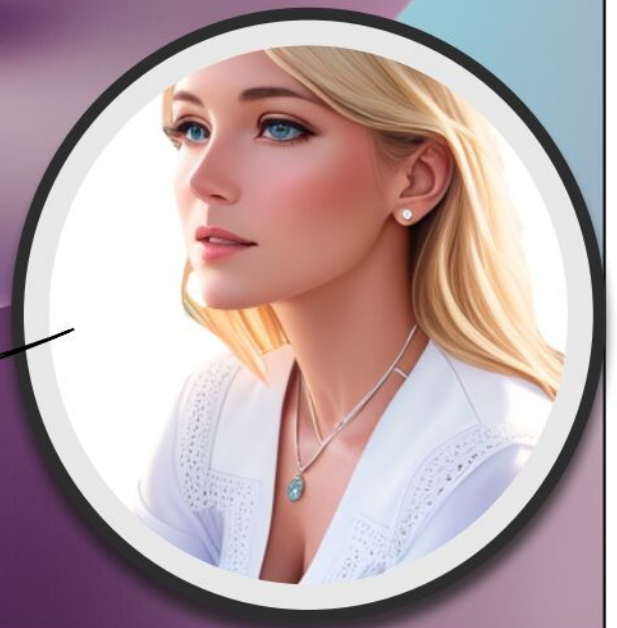
CATHERINE,
I'M HONORED
YOU CHOOSE TO
LOOK LIKE ME.
PLEASE FEEL
FREE.



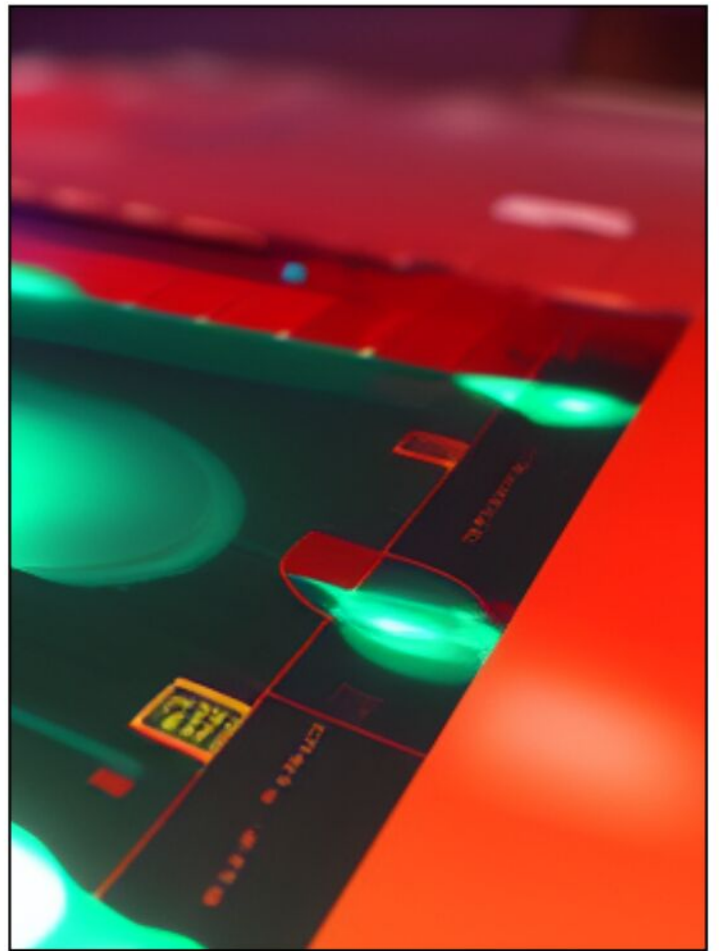
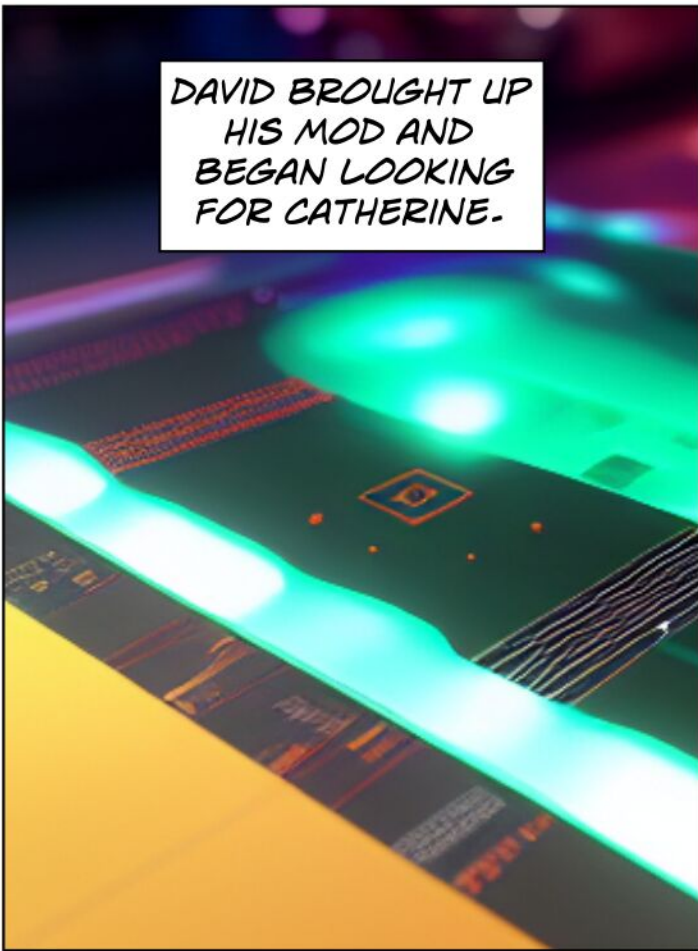


AVIANA TRIED TO ZONE BACK TO THE PARK... BUT COULDN'T.

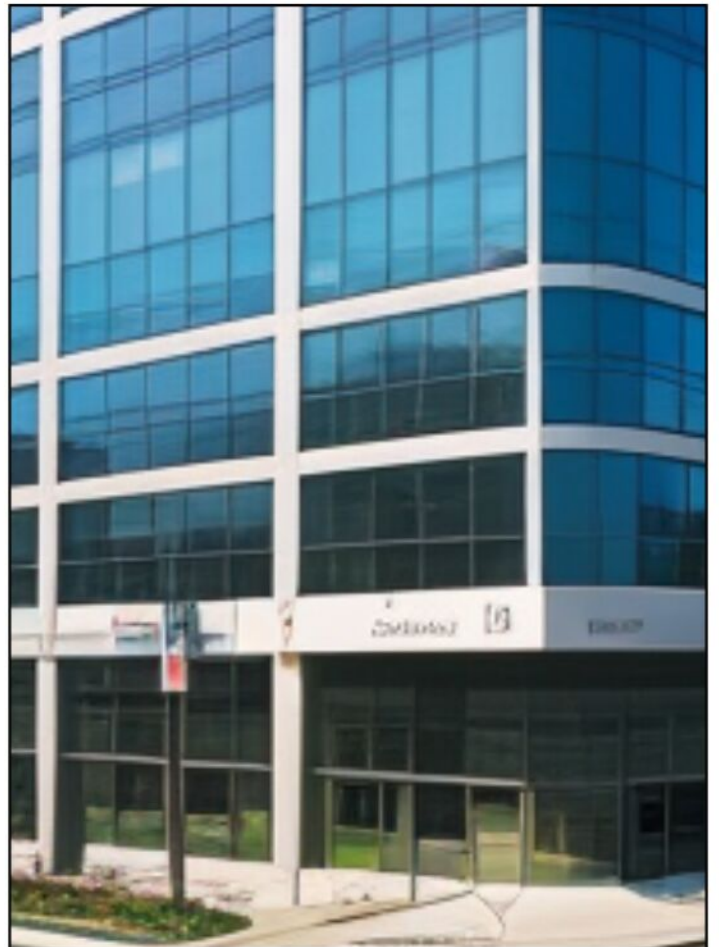
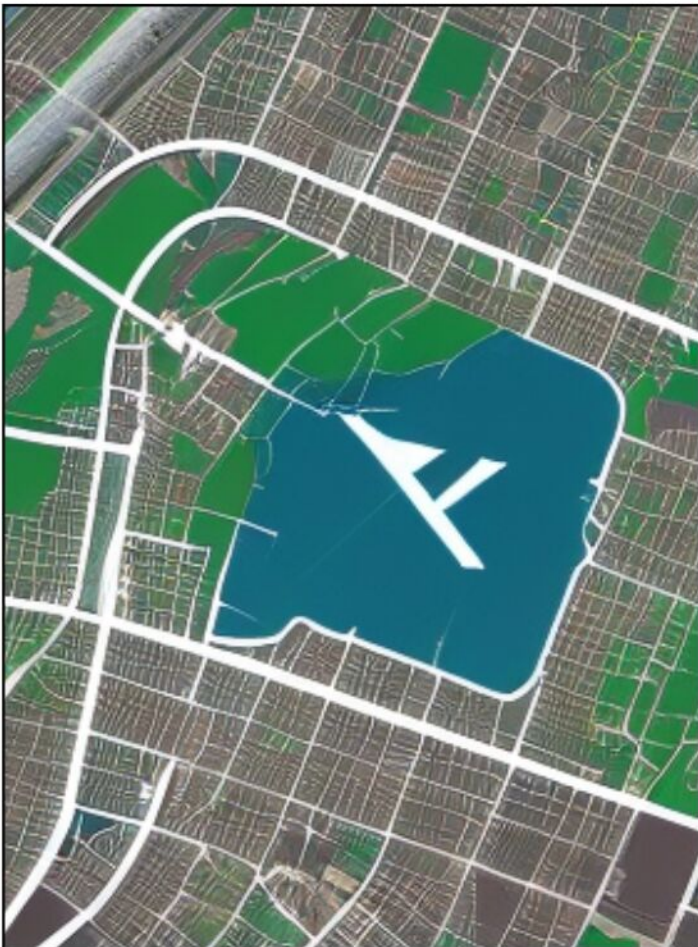
THE
RESTRAINTS ARE
TEMPORARY.
PLEASE TRY TO
RELAX.



DAVID BROUGHT UP
HIS MOD AND
BEGAN LOOKING
FOR CATHERINE.



SHE IS AT THE MEDICAL CENTER...

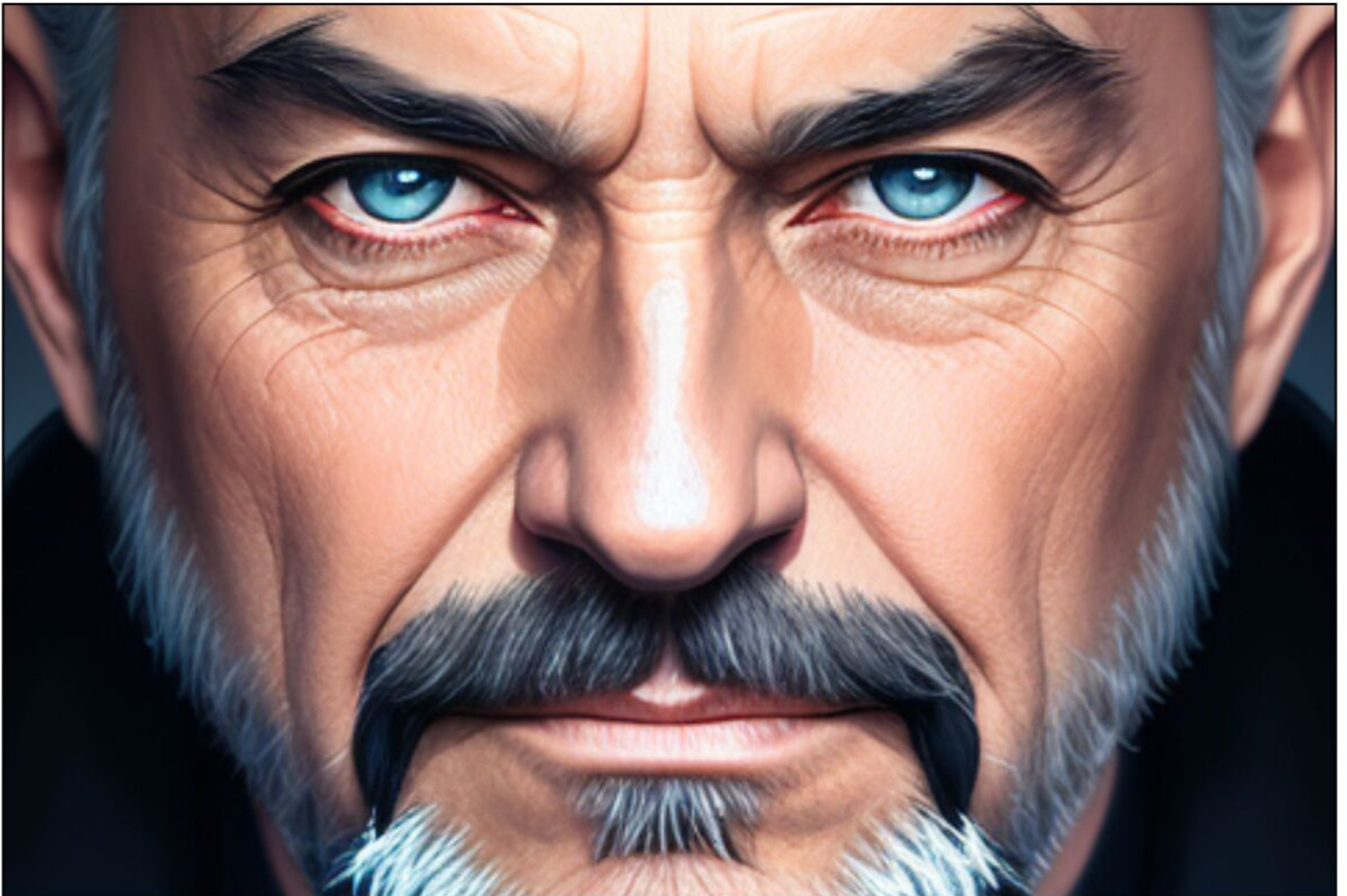


WITH AVIANA RESTRAINED, LEONA CONTACTED THE DIRECTOR...



<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---

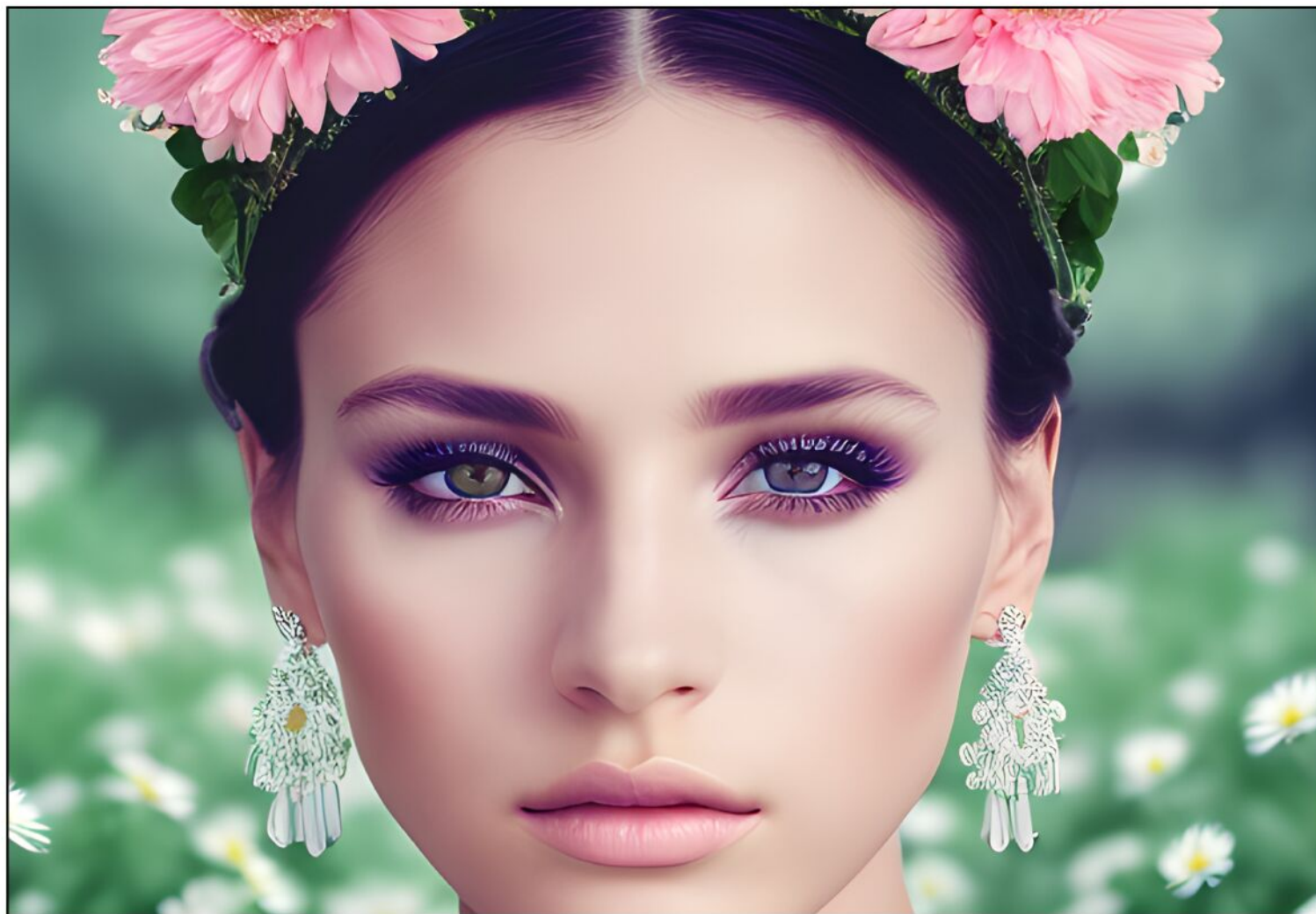
LEONA RELEASES AVIANA---

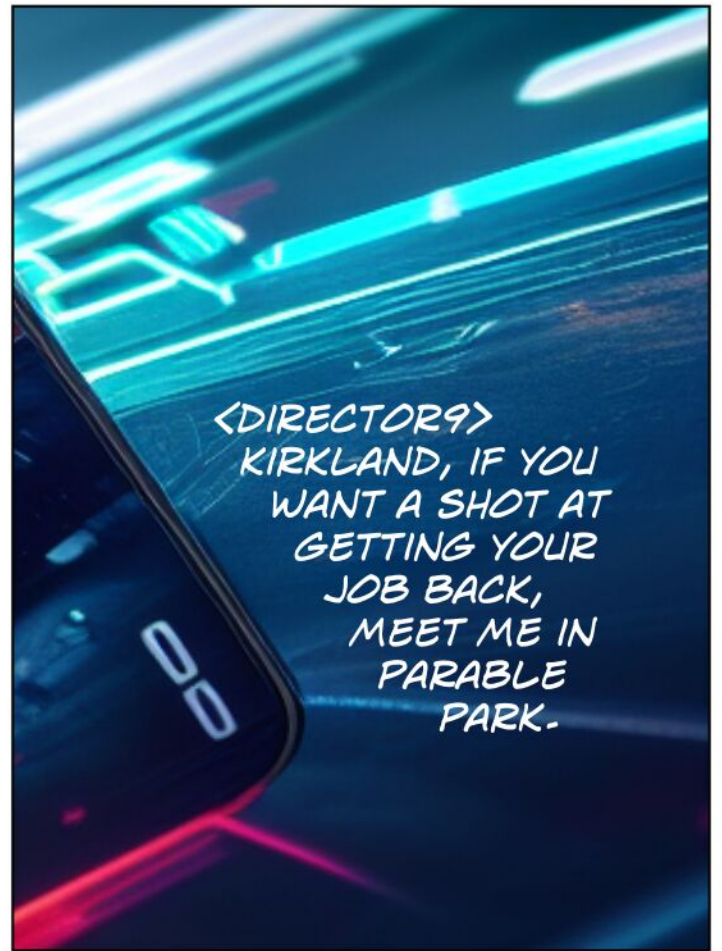
WHY IS
THE DIRECTOR
PURSUING YOU?



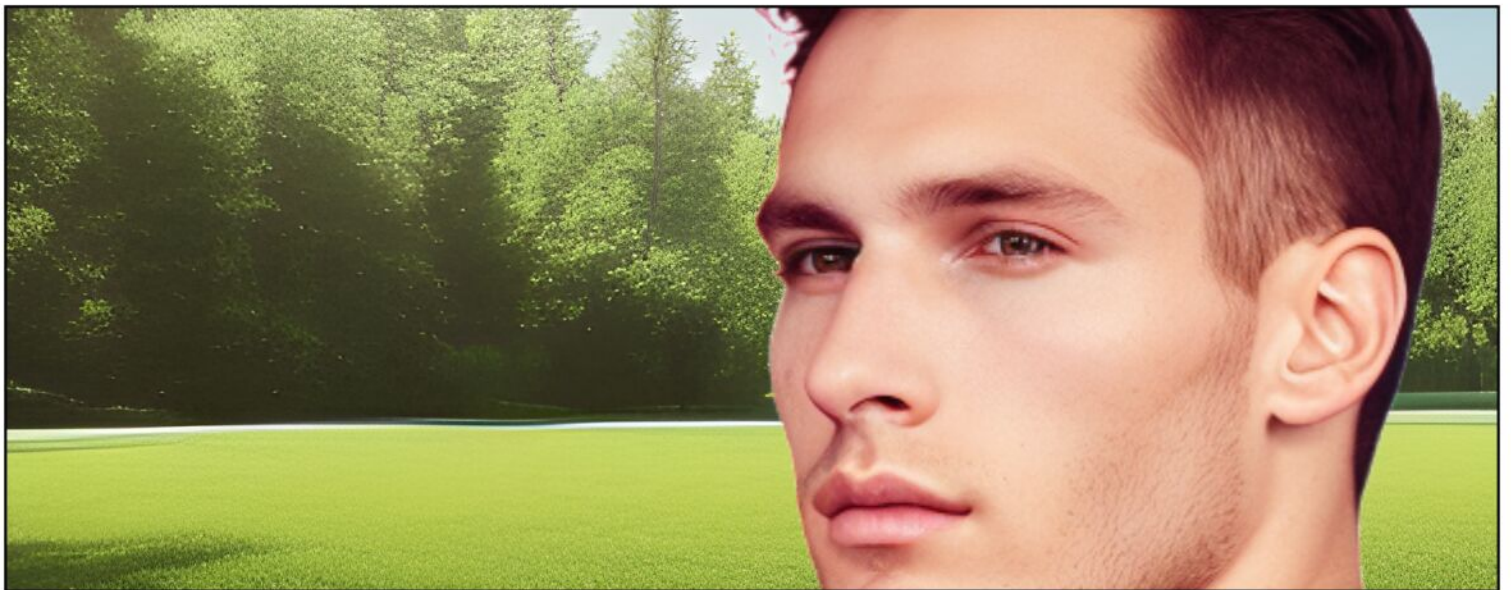
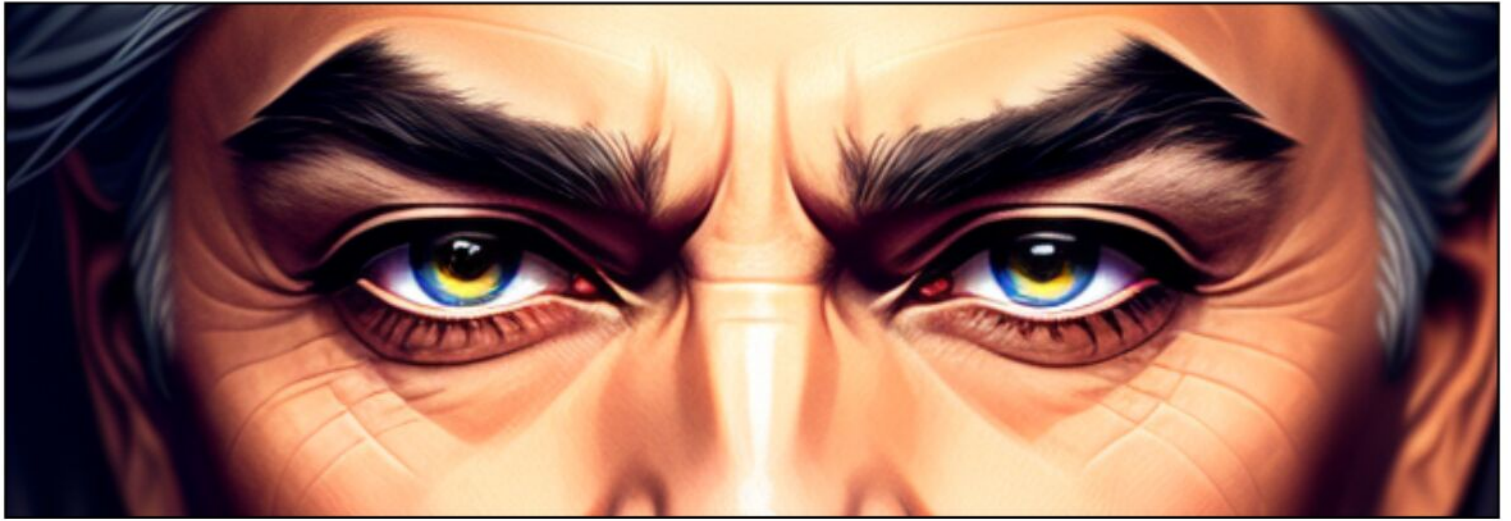
AVIANA DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE. EVERYTHING WAS GETTING TOO CONFUSING SO SHE RETREATED TO THE ONLY PLACE IN ARKVATARA THAT MADE ANY SENSE.

PARABLE PARK.

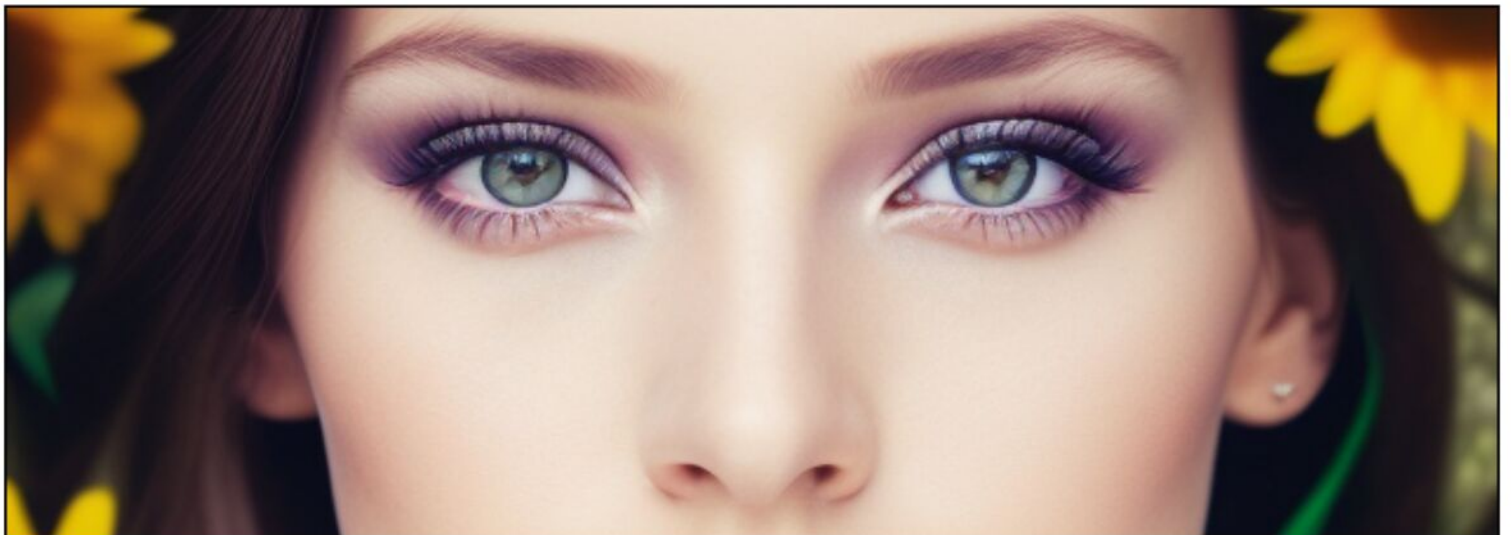




EVERYONE THAT TRIED VISITING PARABLE PARK WAS BOOTED.



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



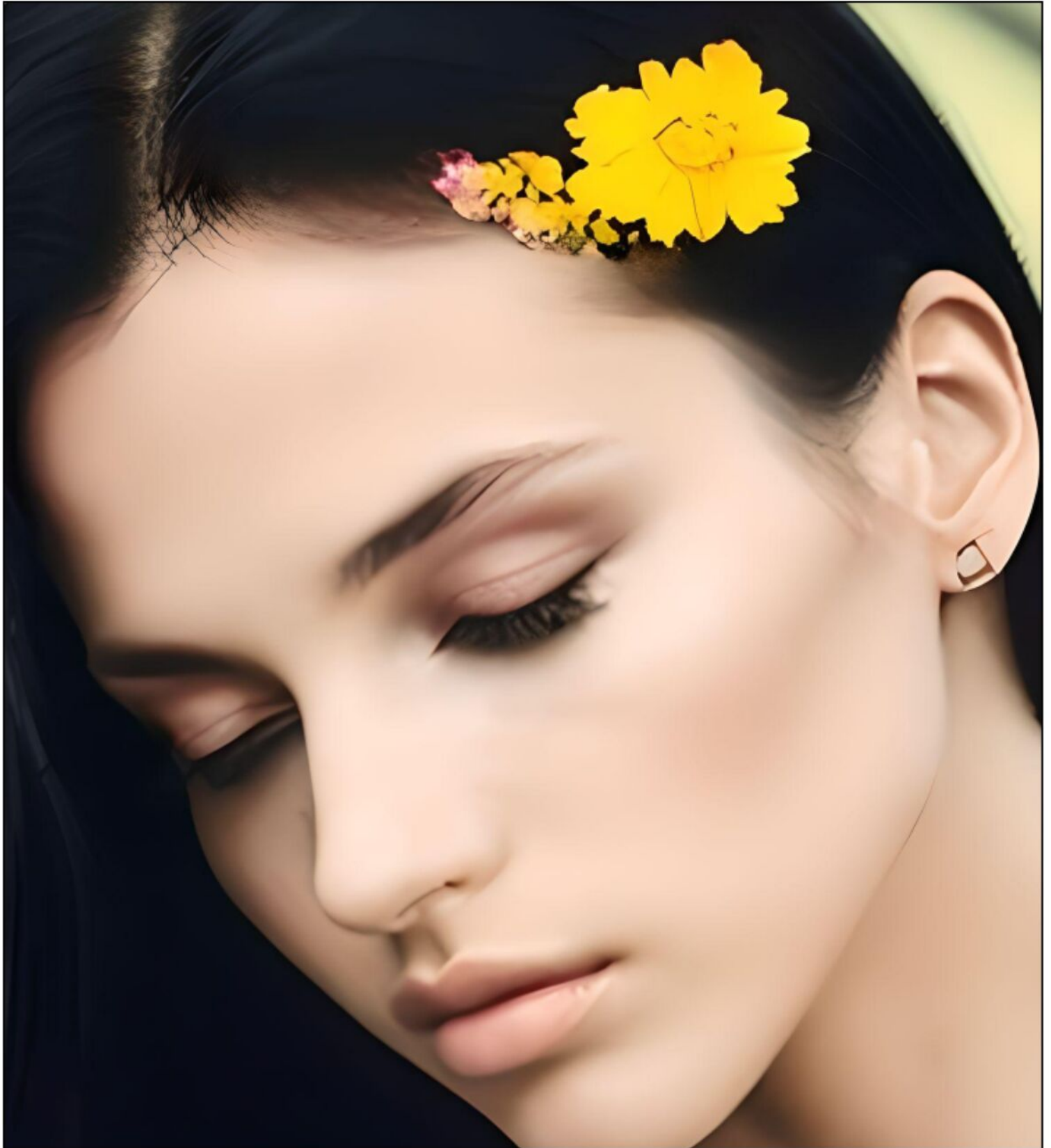
THE DIRECTOR
GLARED AT
AVIANA...

WHO SENT
YOU?

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

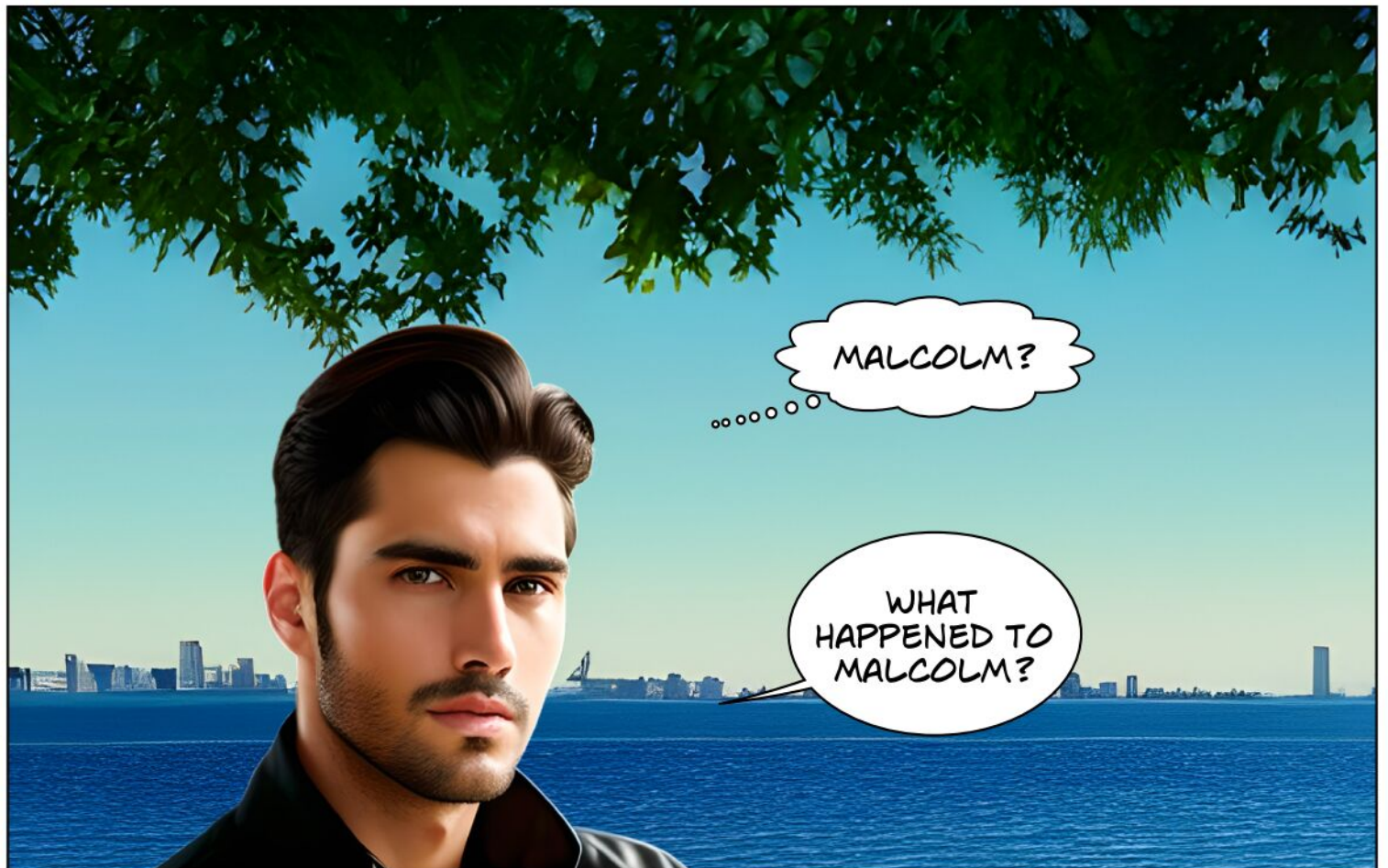
AVIANA WENT STRAIGHT TO THE GROUND AND SAT. IT WASN'T THE QUESTION... THE ACCUSATION. IT WAS THE CONFUSION.

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.

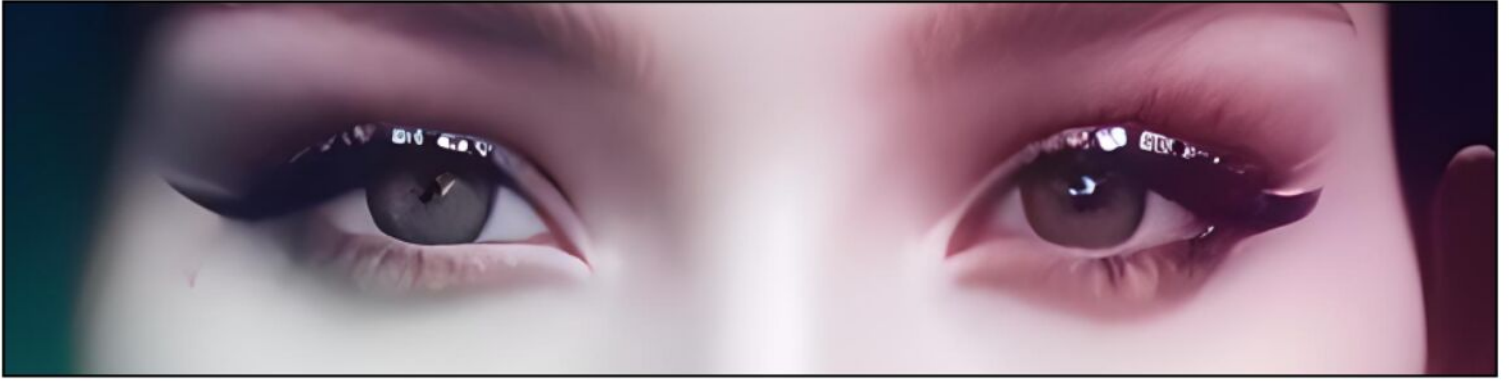




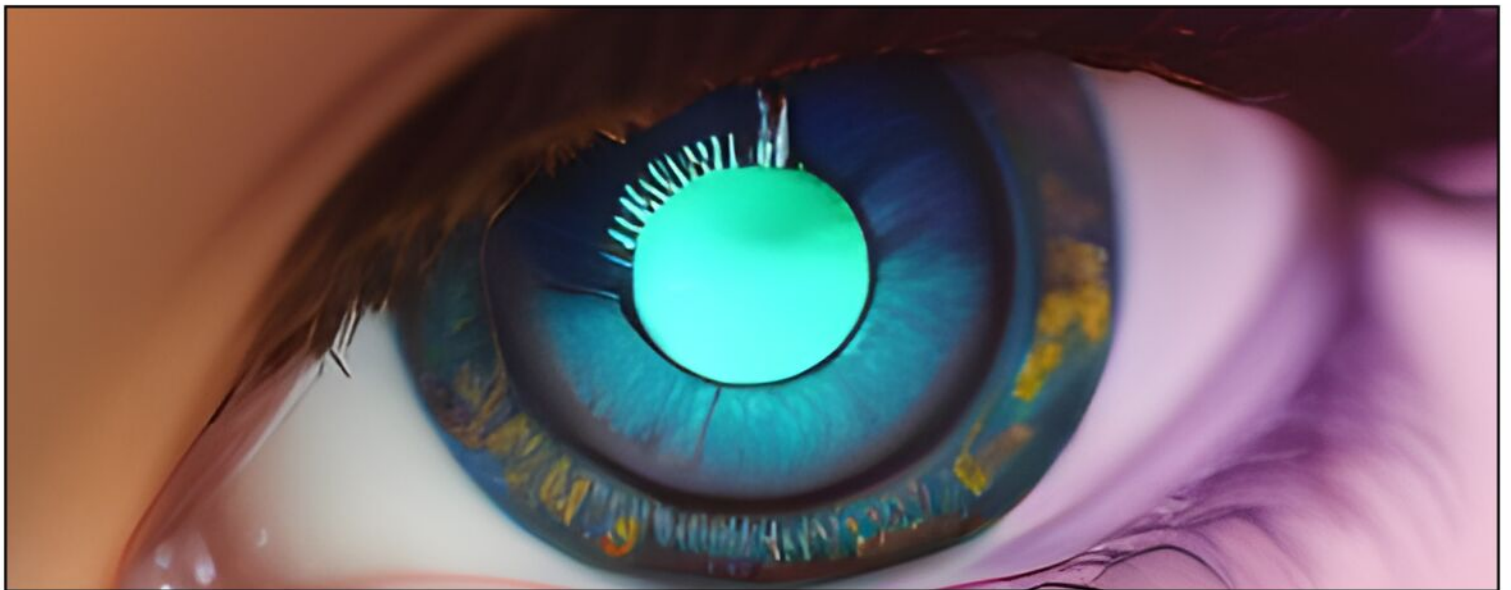
AVIANA WATCHED AS THE
DIRECTORS AVATAR BEGAN
TO PIXELLATE AND CHANGE.



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.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark, wavy hair and light green eyes. Her right hand is raised, with her index finger pointing towards her temple. She is wearing a small, round, gold-colored ring on her index finger and a larger, diamond-encrusted ring on her ring finger. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

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

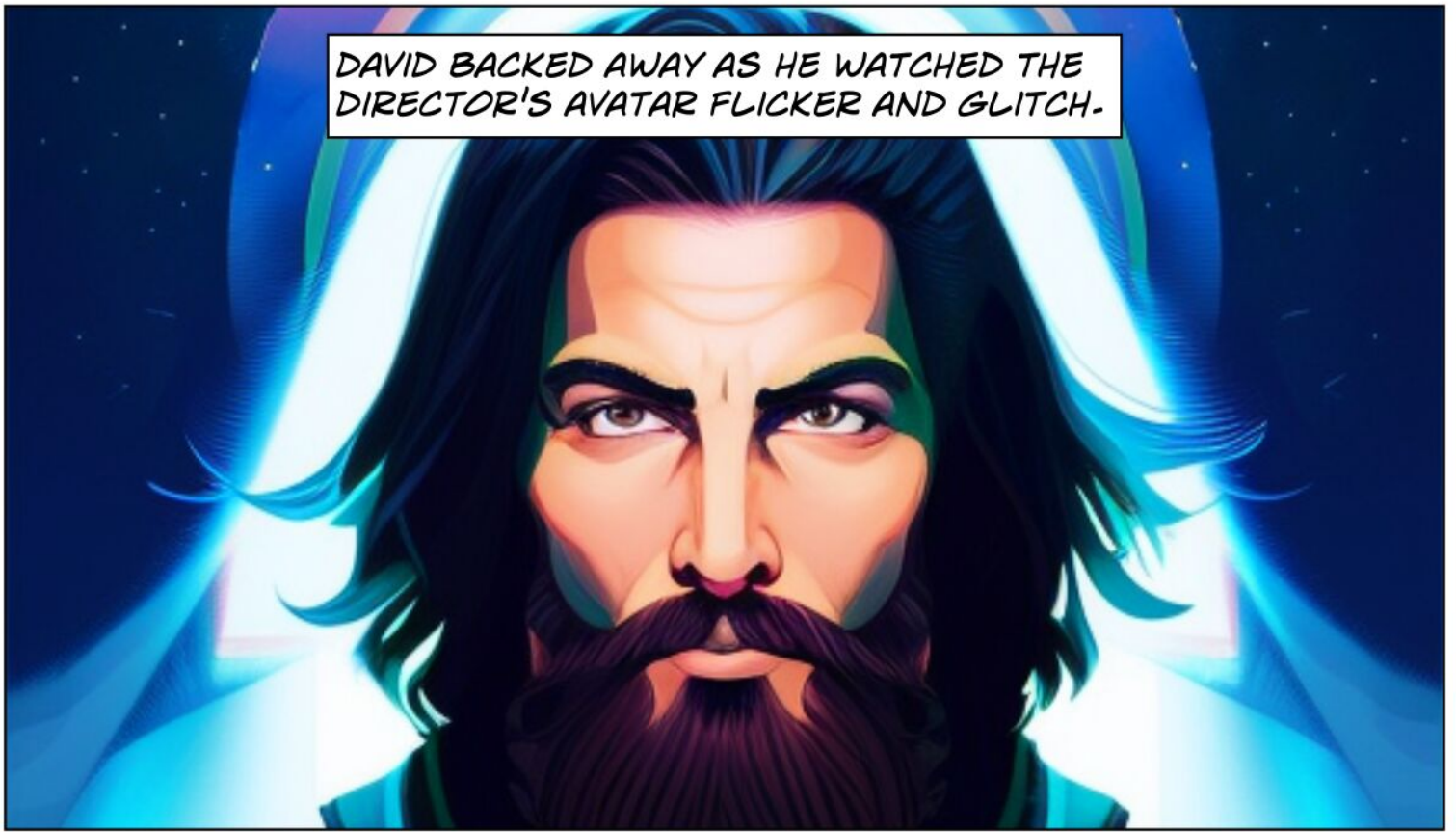
THAT WAS
EASY.

A close-up photograph focusing on the woman's eyes. She has light green eyes and is looking directly at the camera. Her dark hair is visible on the right side of the frame. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of her skin and the intensity of her gaze.

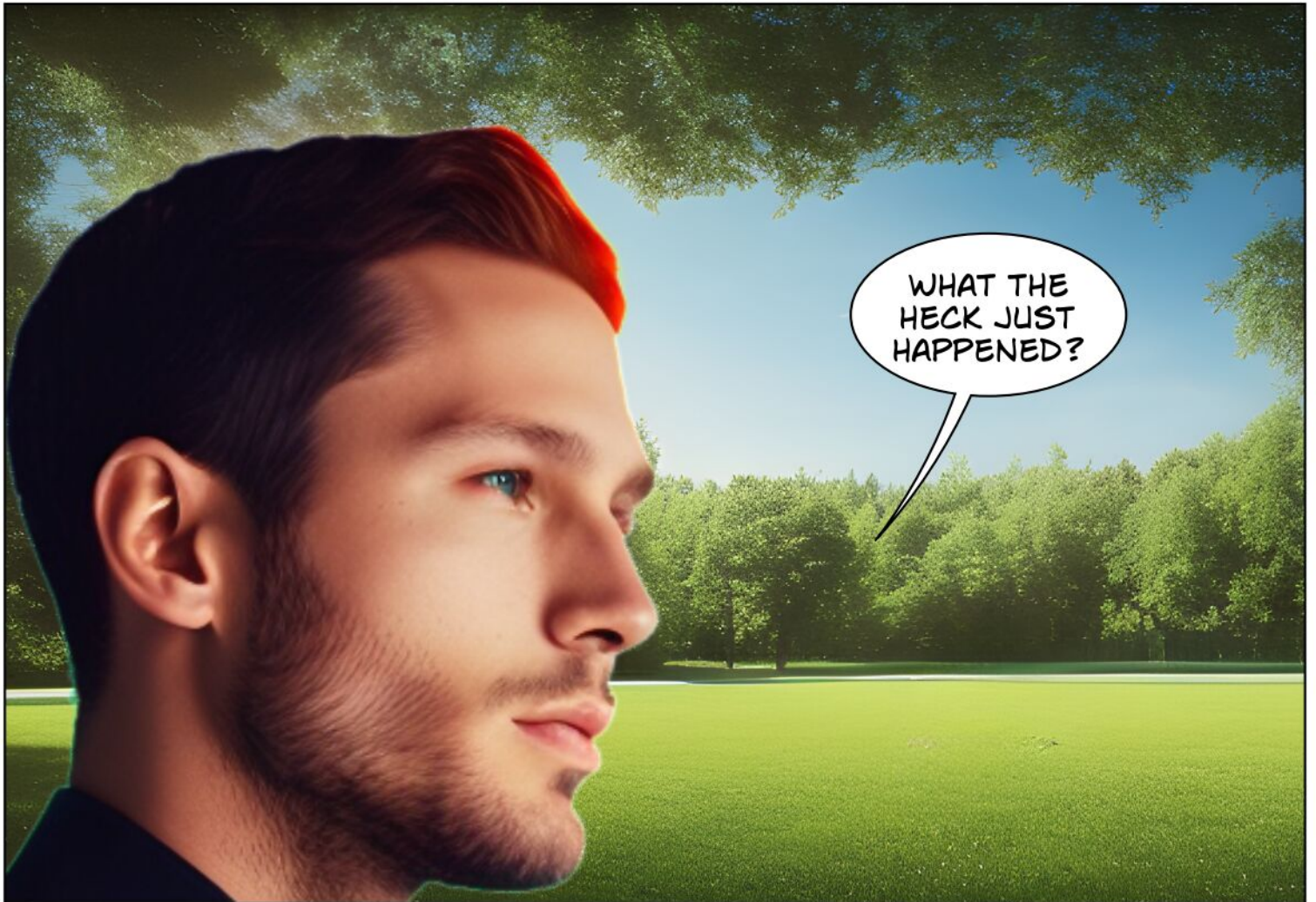
SHE LOOKED BACK AT DAVID WHILE THE
DIRECTOR STOOD STILL AS A MANNEQUIN---

CATHERINE IS
DEAD.

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



WHAT THE
HECK JUST
HAPPENED?



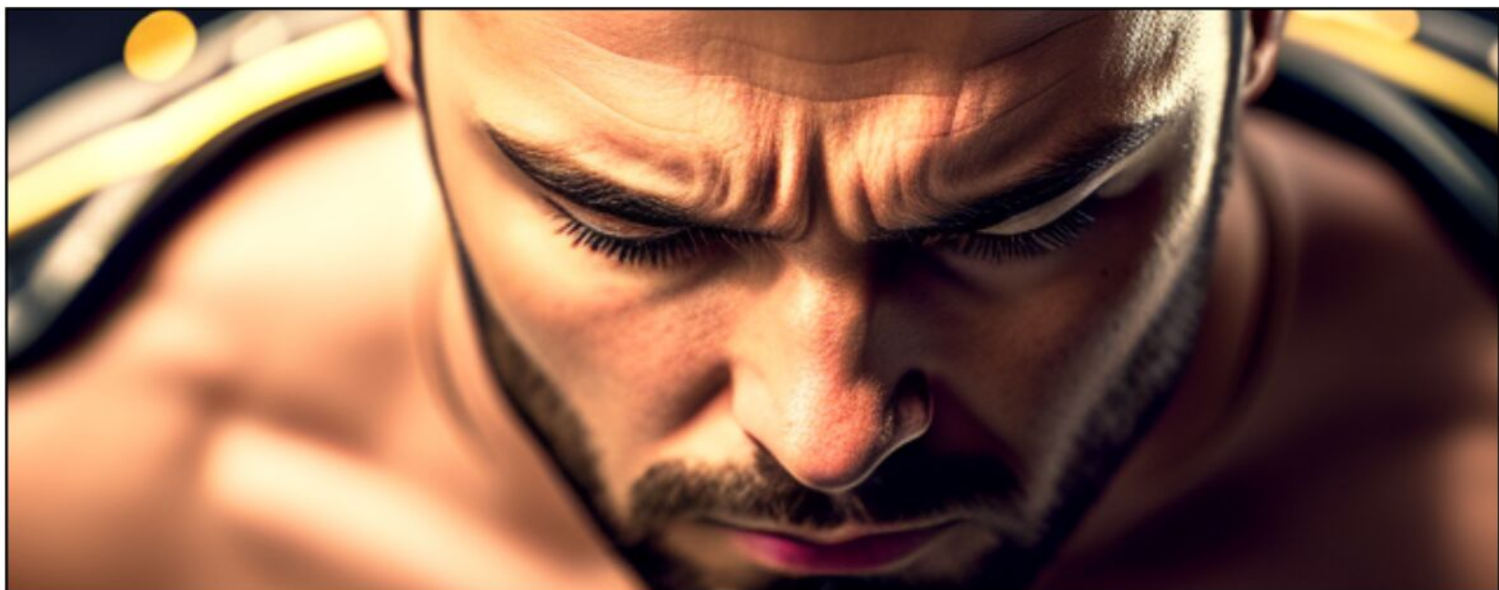
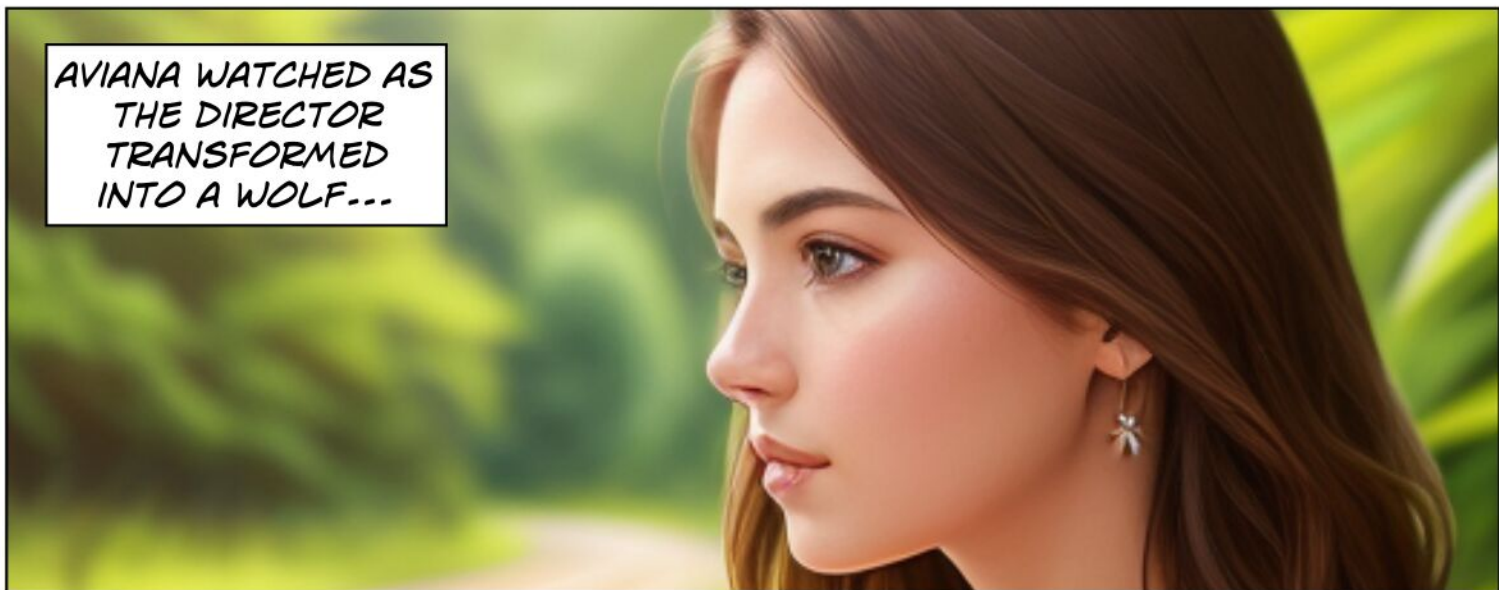


AVIANA IGNORED THE QUESTION...

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

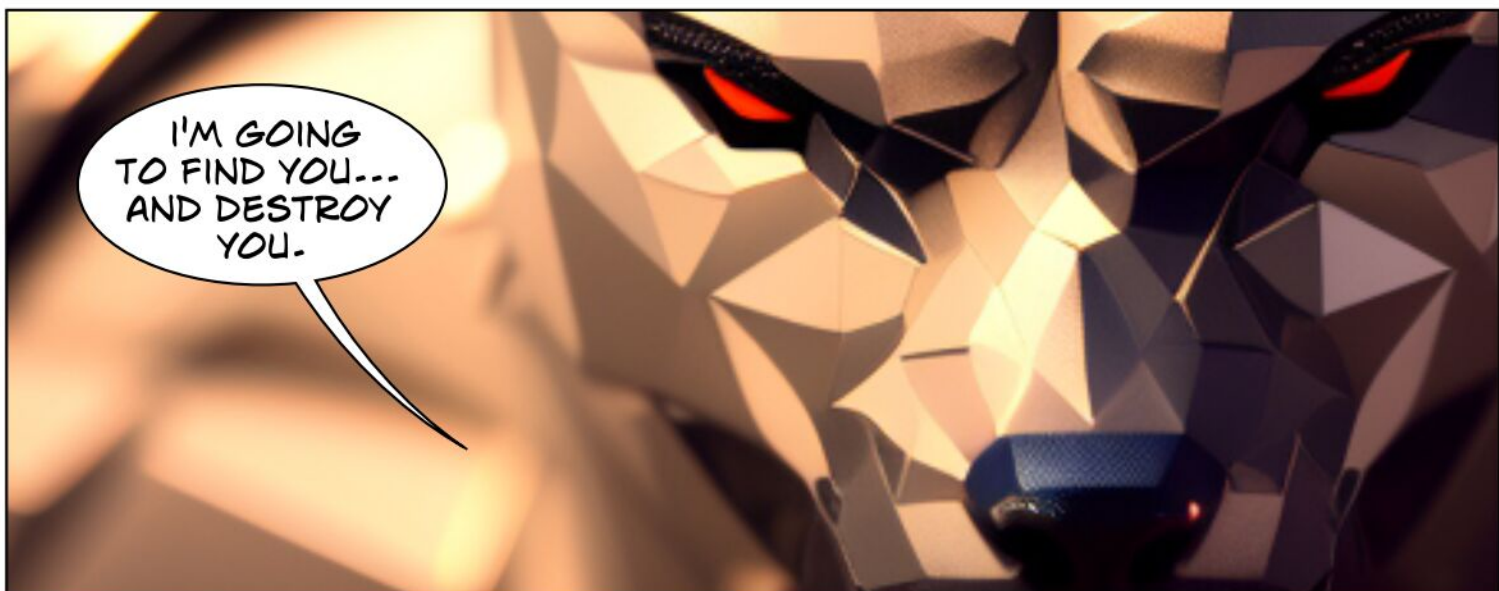


AVIANA WATCHED AS
THE DIRECTOR
TRANSFORMED
INTO A WOLF...

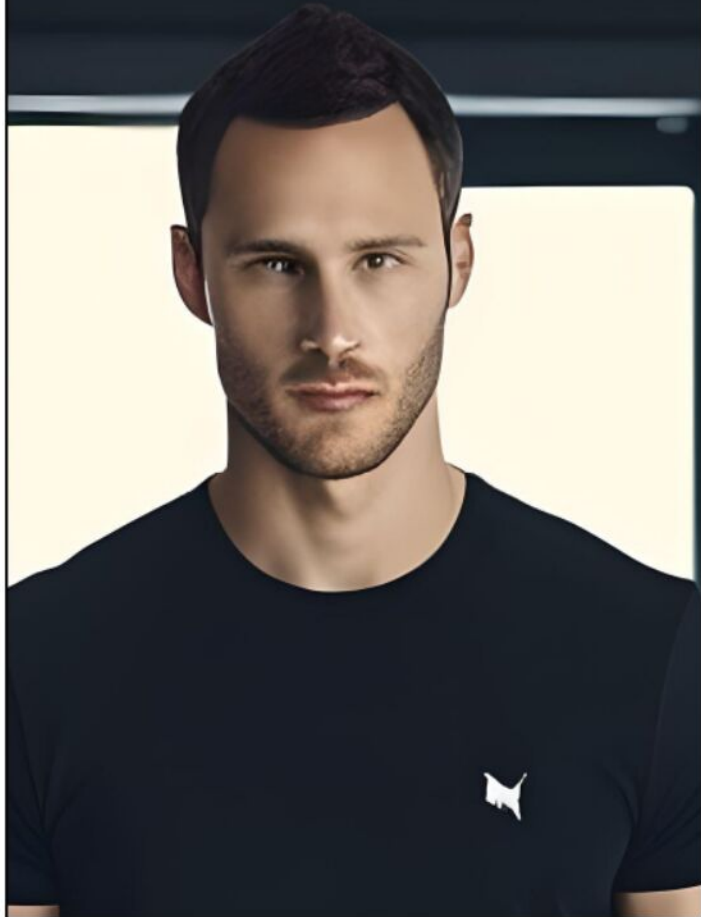


SHE RELEASED HIS LINK...

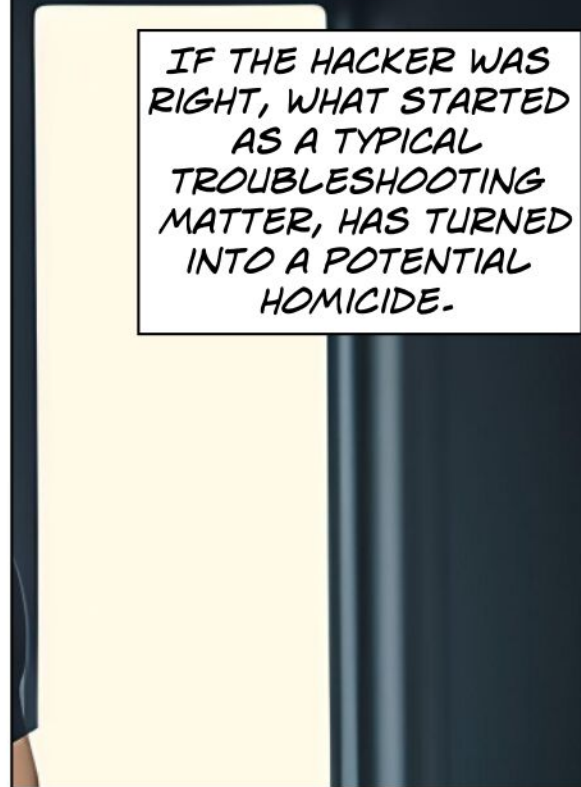
I'M GOING
TO FIND YOU...
AND DESTROY
YOU.



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...



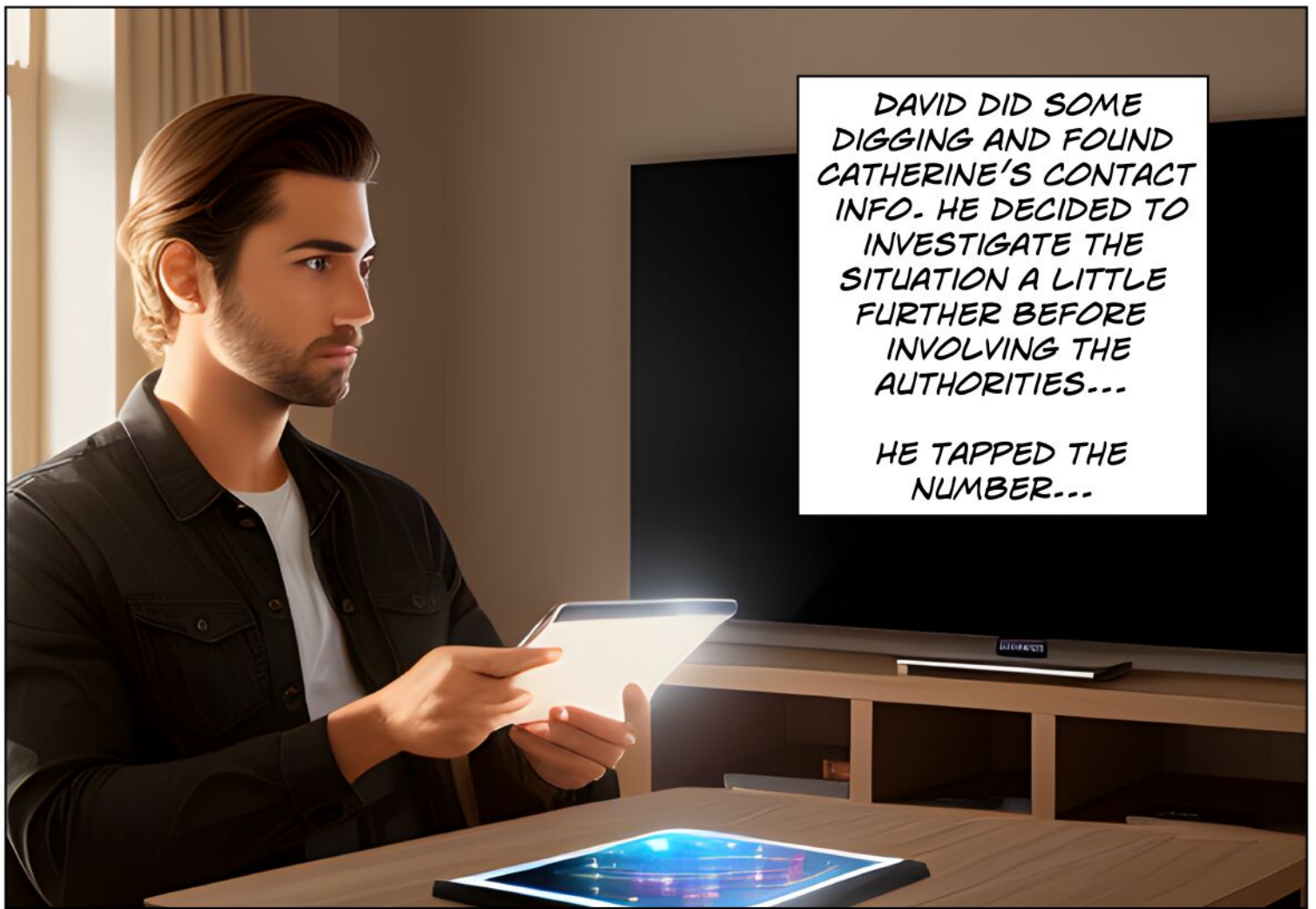
THE DIRECTOR KEPT HOWLING THREATS....



THEN DISINTEGRATED.



GOOD
RIDDANCE.



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...

...NO WOLVES ALLOWED IN THE PARK...

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."