

SEPTEMBER 2023

NO. 5

# ARKVATARA

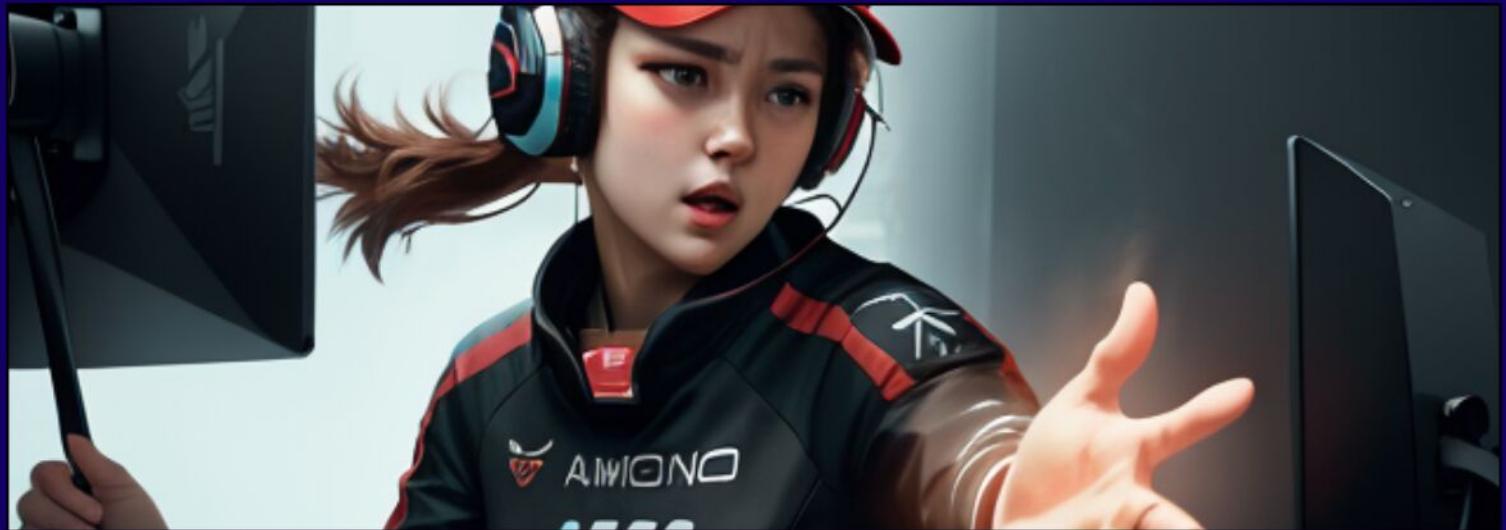


UNVEILING

NOW, THE STORY  
EVERYONE IS TALKING  
ABOUT... ARKVATARA.  
HERE'S THE LATEST.



VIDEO CLIPS PLAY OF FRUSTRATED USERS...



UNABLE TO LOG INTO THE SIMULATION.



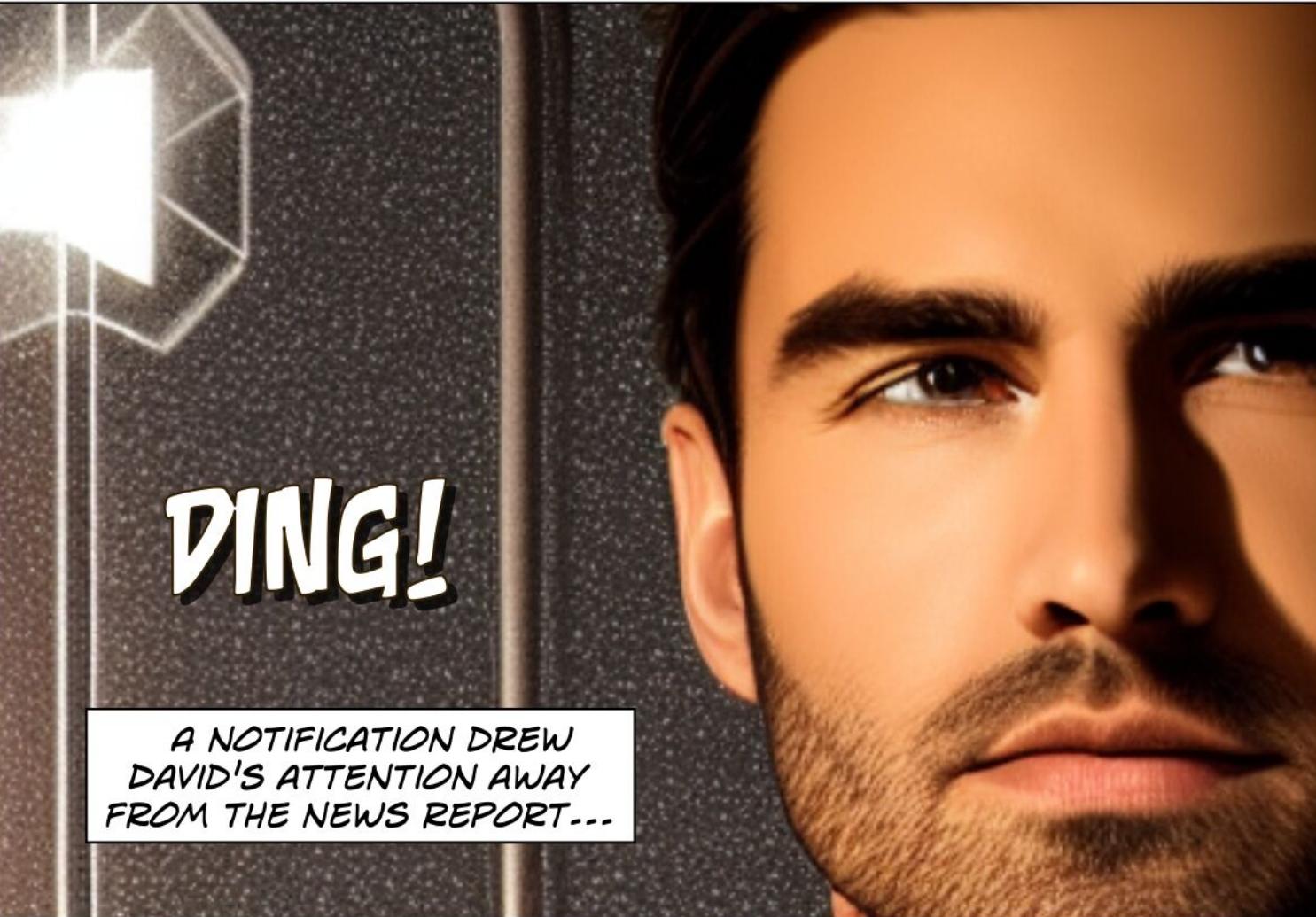


ARKVATARA IS  
OFF-LIMITS!

AUTOMATED NEWS SOURCES CLAIM THAT AI HAVE TAKEN OVER THE MASSIVE ONLINE SIMULATION, BUT A COMPANY SPOKESPERSON DENIES THE ASSERTION, CITING A MAINTENANCE GLITCH BEING RESOLVED.

DOWNTIME LENGTH IS STILL UNCERTAIN.

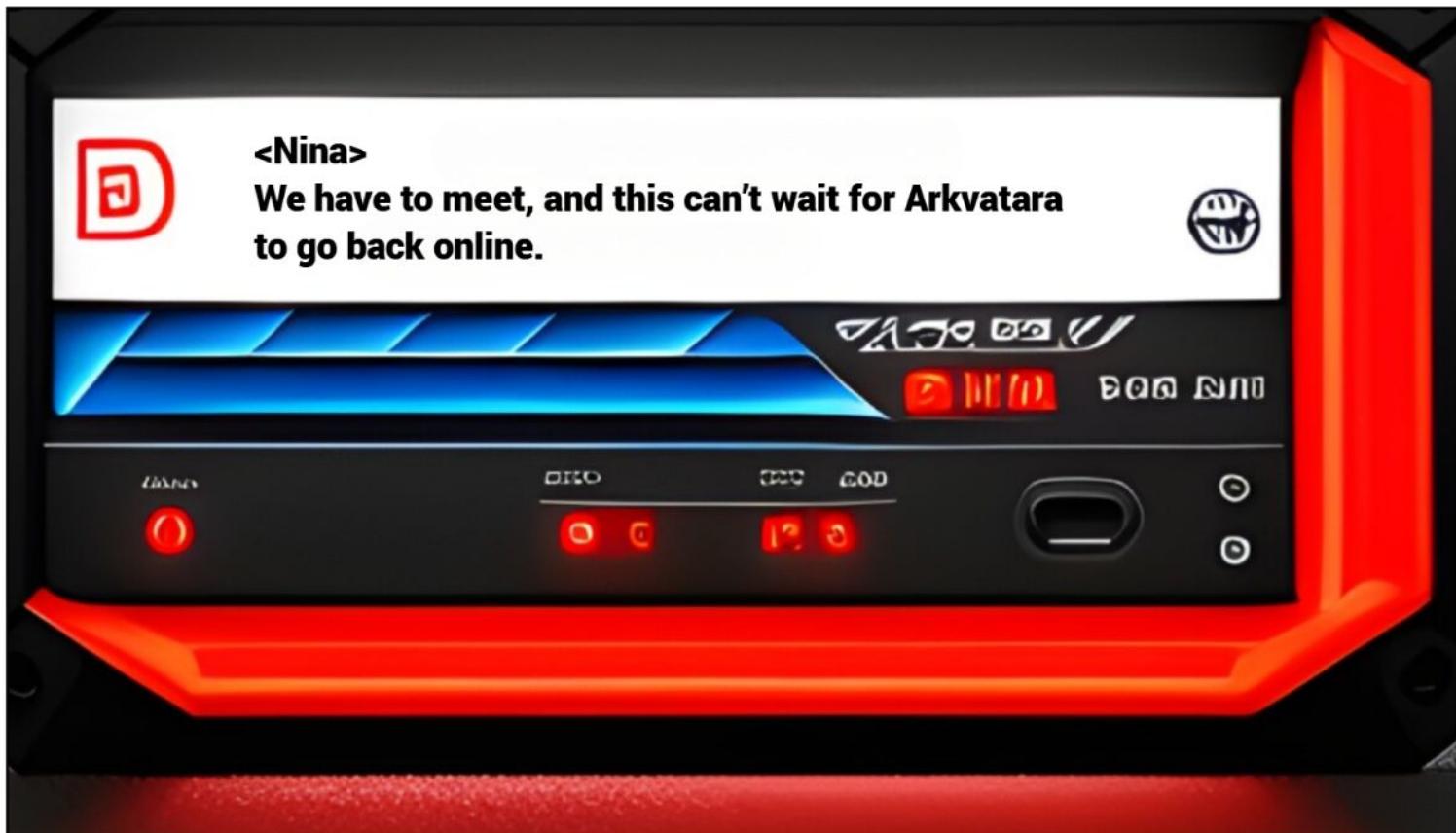


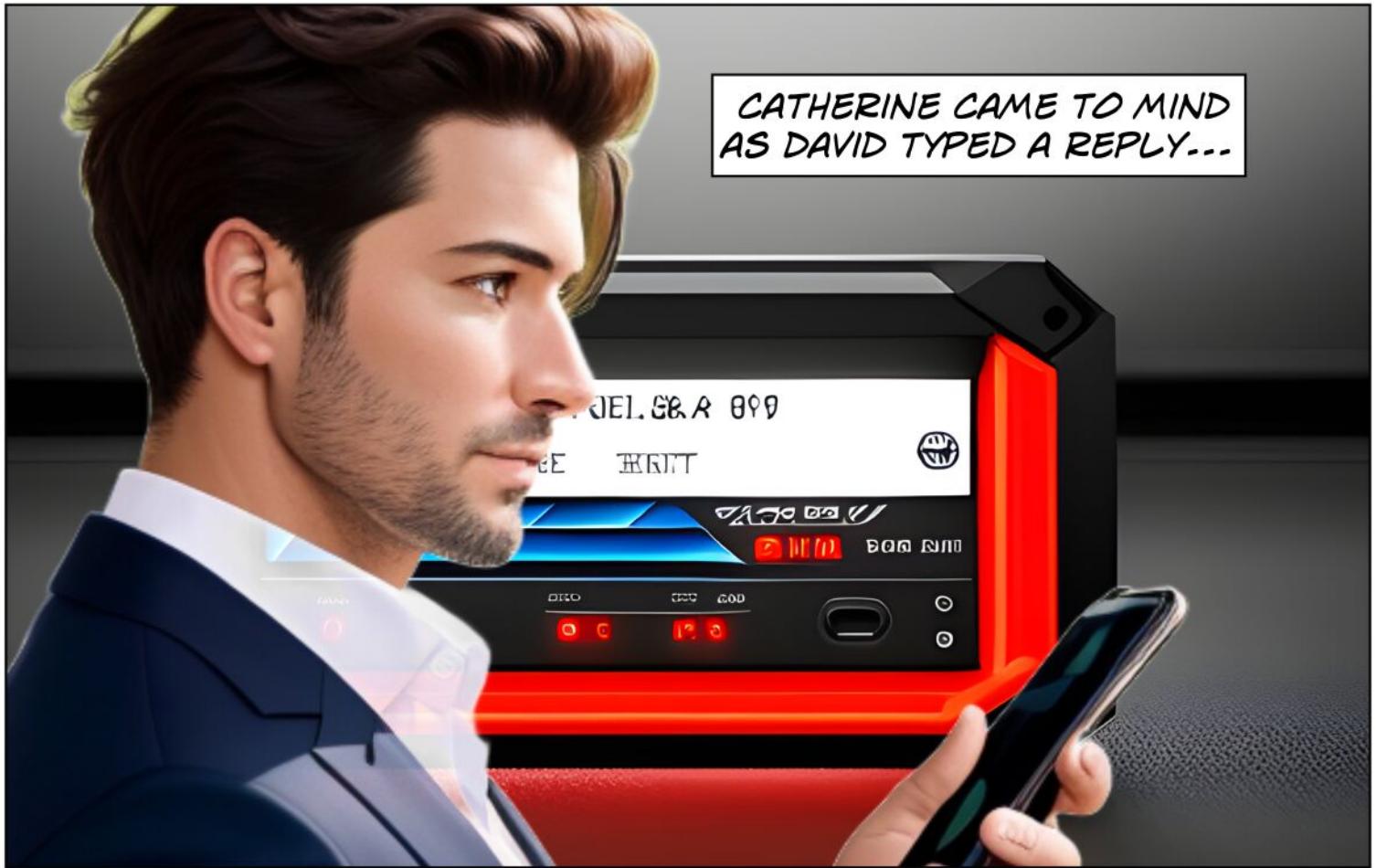


**DING!**

A NOTIFICATION DREW  
DAVID'S ATTENTION AWAY  
FROM THE NEWS REPORT...

IT WAS NINA...





CATHERINE CAME TO MIND  
AS DAVID TYPED A REPLY...

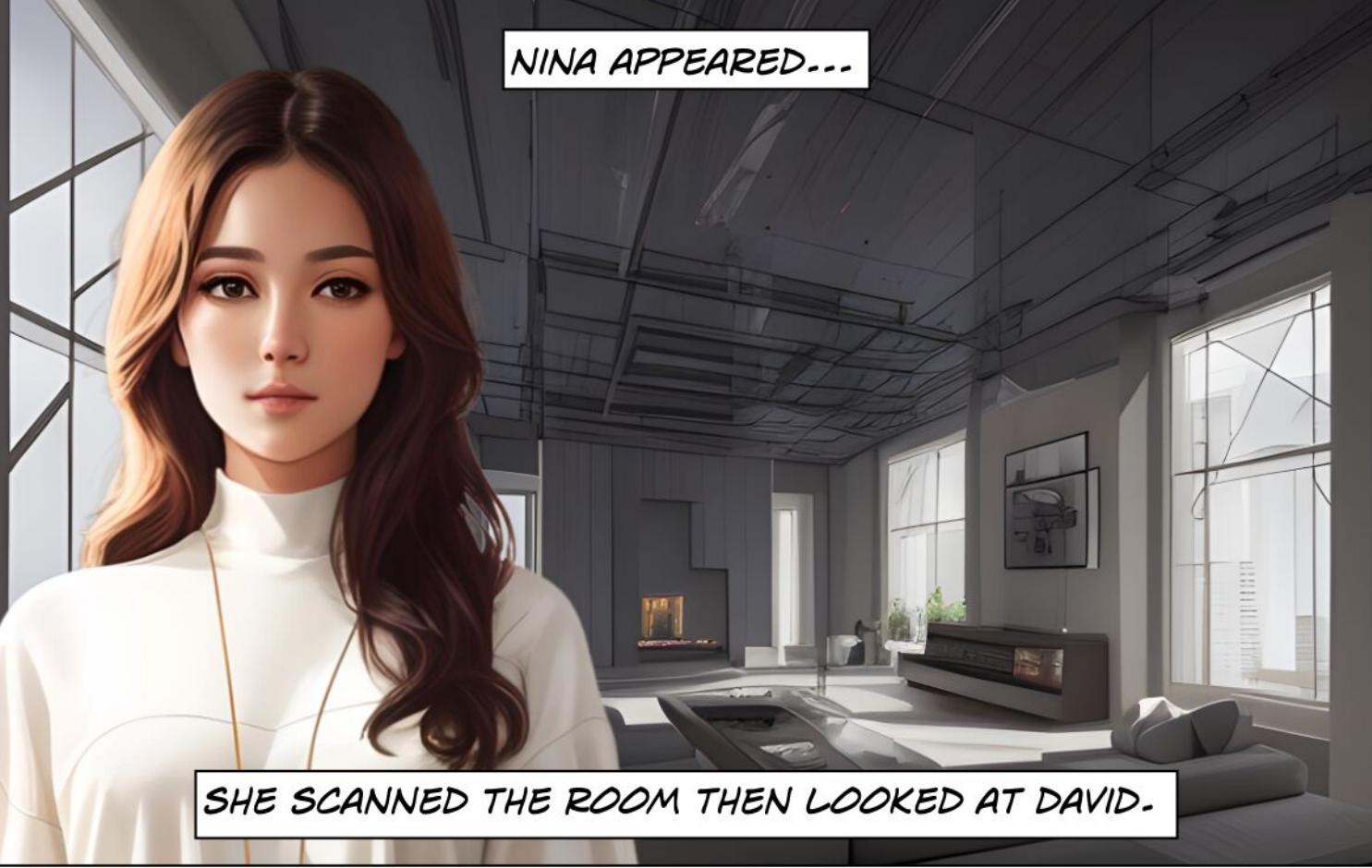
<DAVID> I KNOW JUST THE PLACE. SENDING YOU THE INFO.

DAVID LOGGED INTO THE  
PRIVATE CONSTRUCT.

IT HAS BEEN MONTHS SINCE HE LAST VISITED.

DAVID BROUGHT UP THE MOD AND MADE A FEW ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SPACE AS NINA WOULD BE THERE ANY MINUTE.





NINA APPEARED...

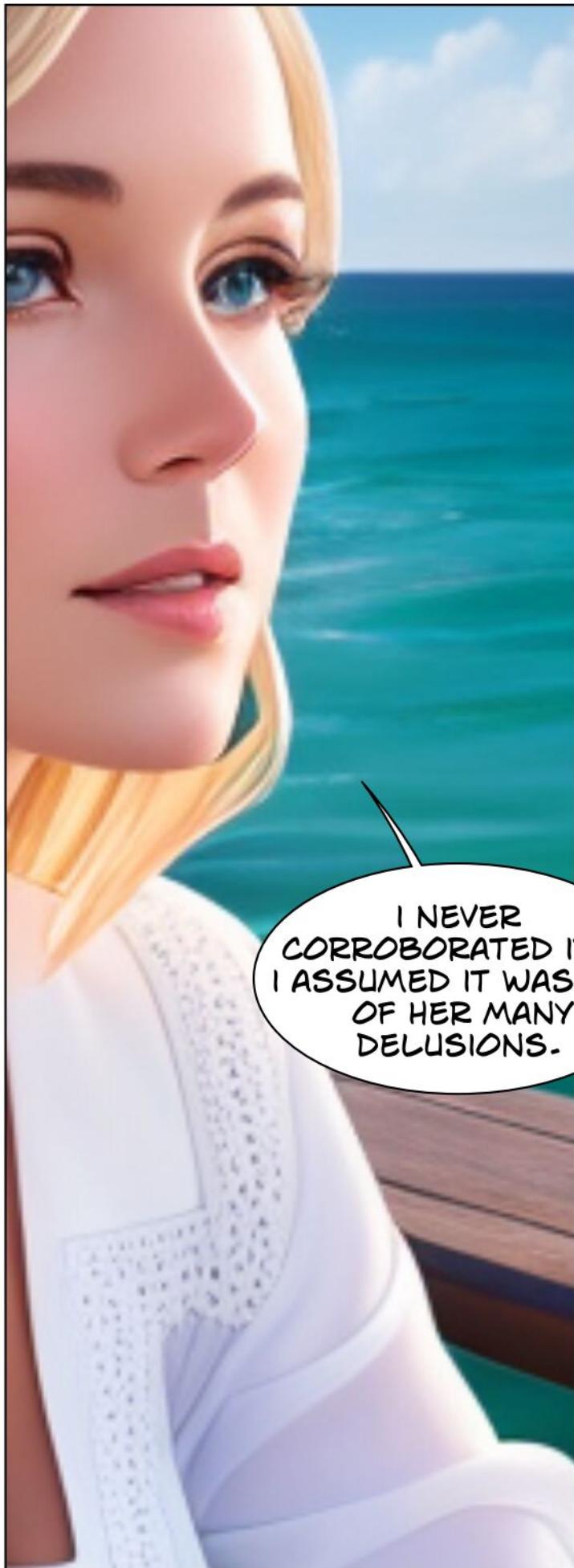
SHE SCANNED THE ROOM THEN LOOKED AT DAVID.



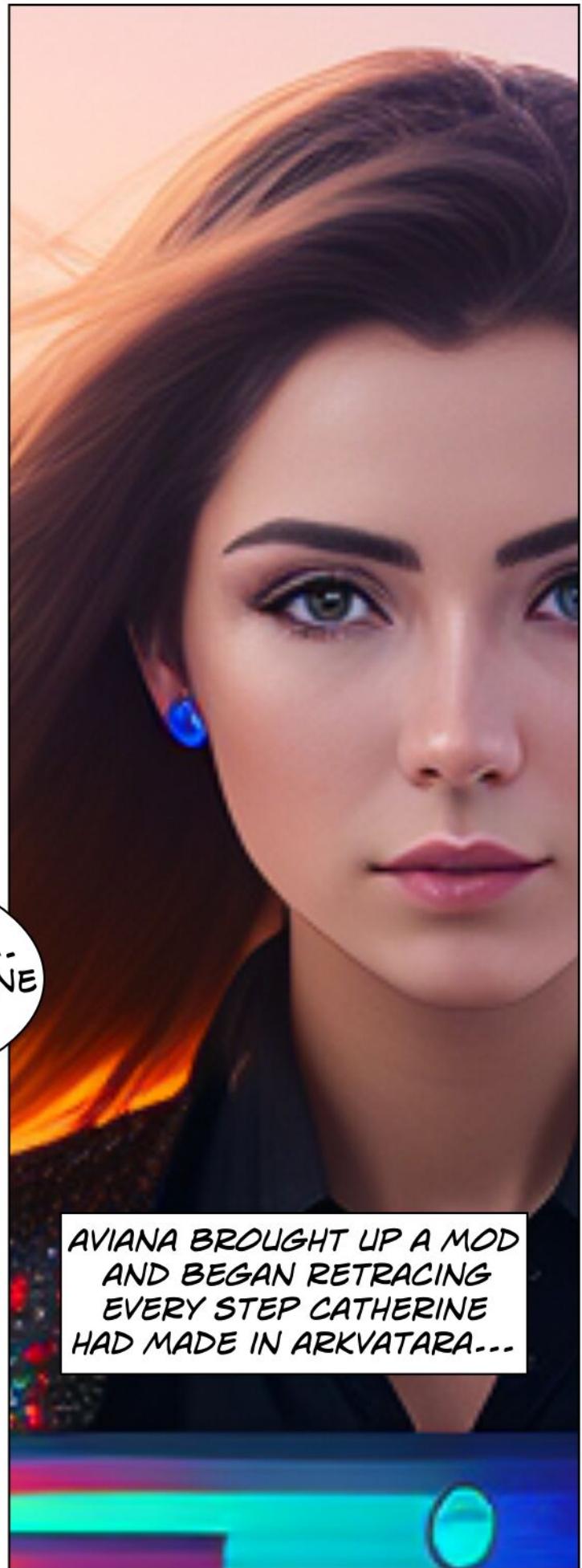
HI-

BACK AT THE PIER...

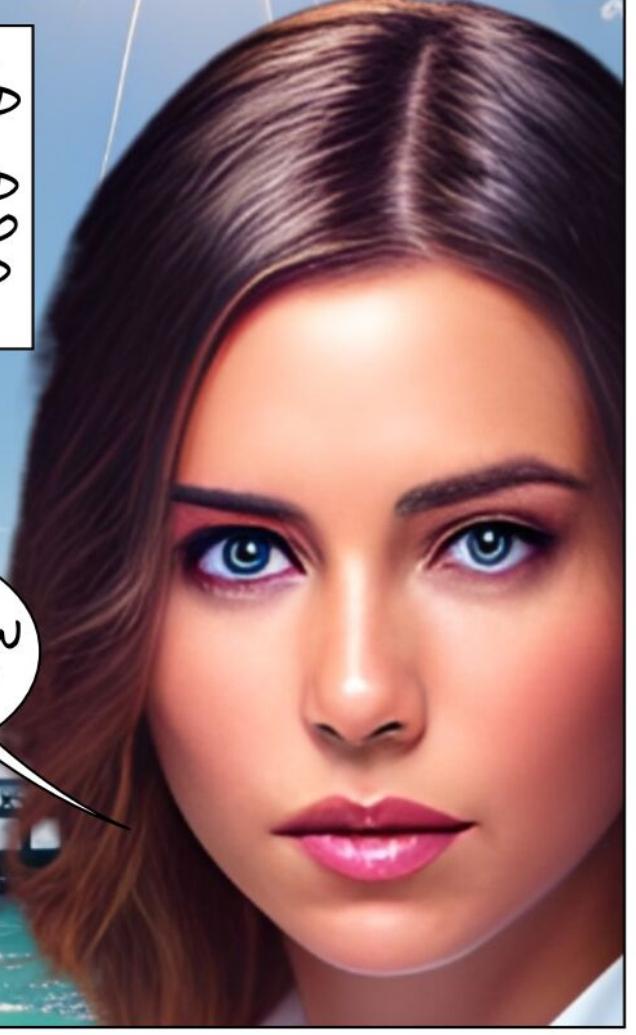
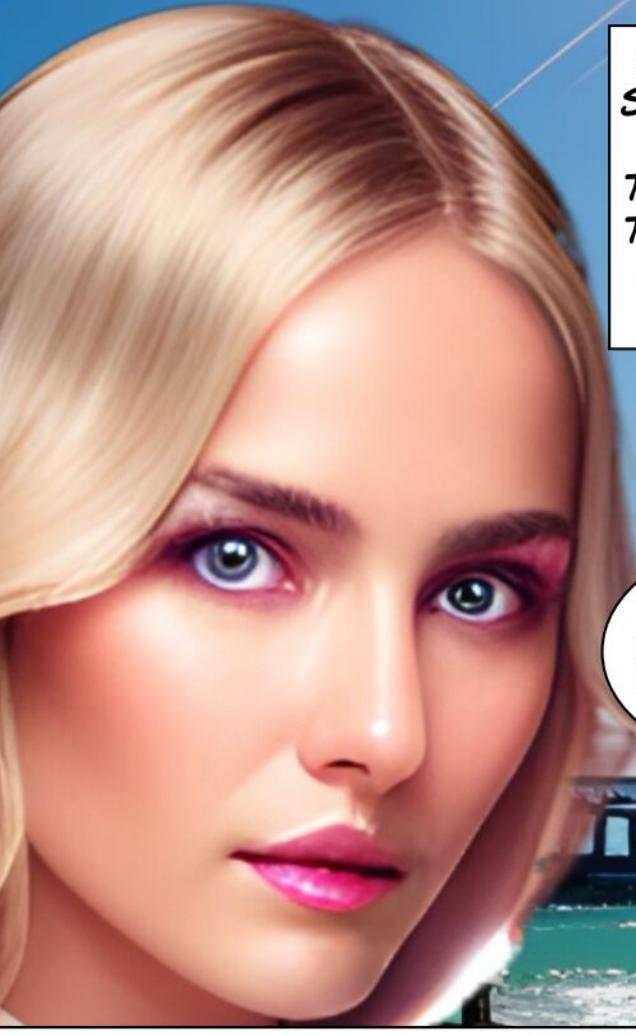




I NEVER CORROBORATED IT...  
I ASSUMED IT WAS ONE OF HER MANY DELUSIONS.



AVIANA BROUGHT UP A MOD AND BEGAN RETRACING EVERY STEP CATHERINE HAD MADE IN ARKVATARA...



STARTLED,  
SHE LOOKED  
AT LEONA  
THEN TILTED  
THE MOD SO  
SHE COULD  
SEE...

SHE  
ALSO KNEW  
WE WOULD  
MEET.

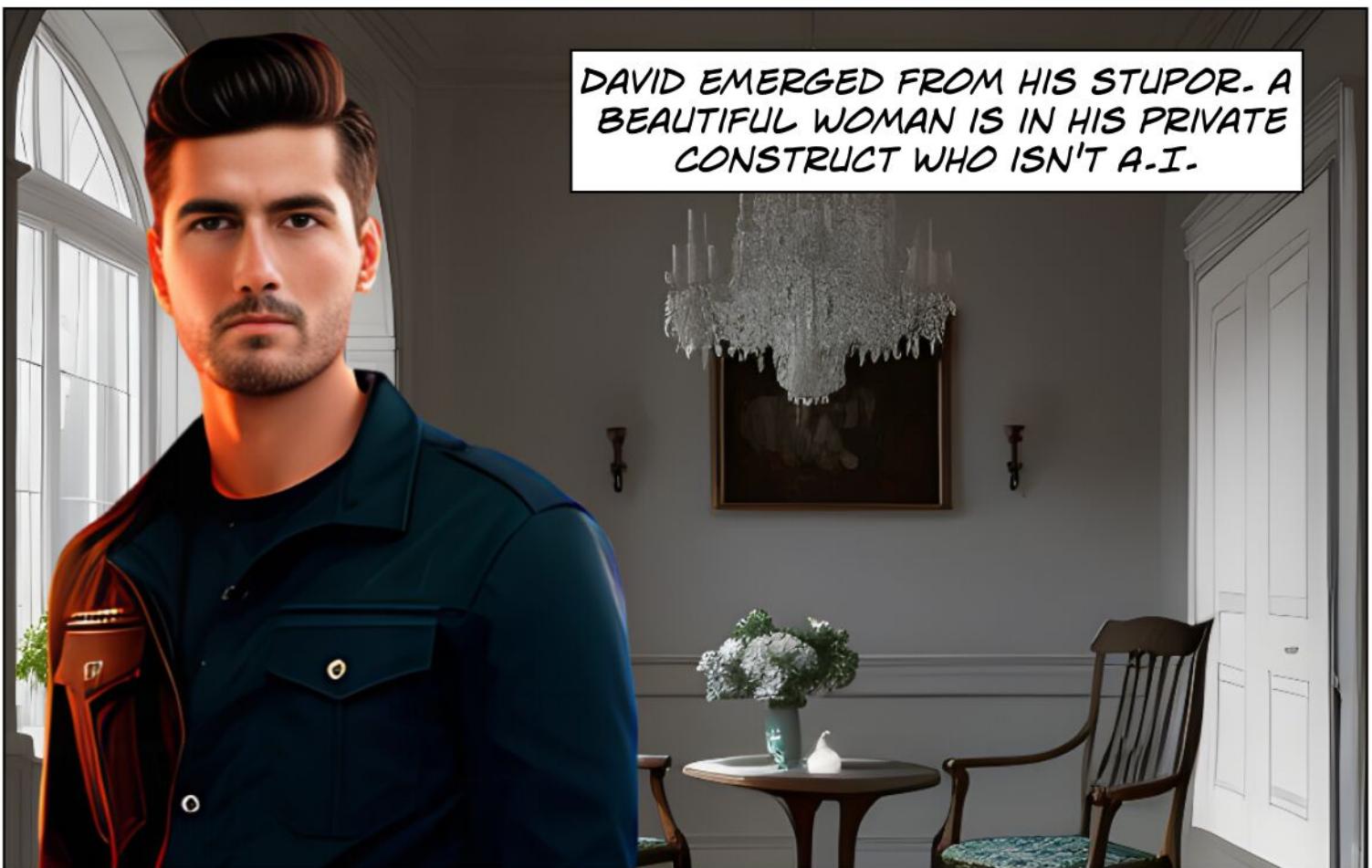


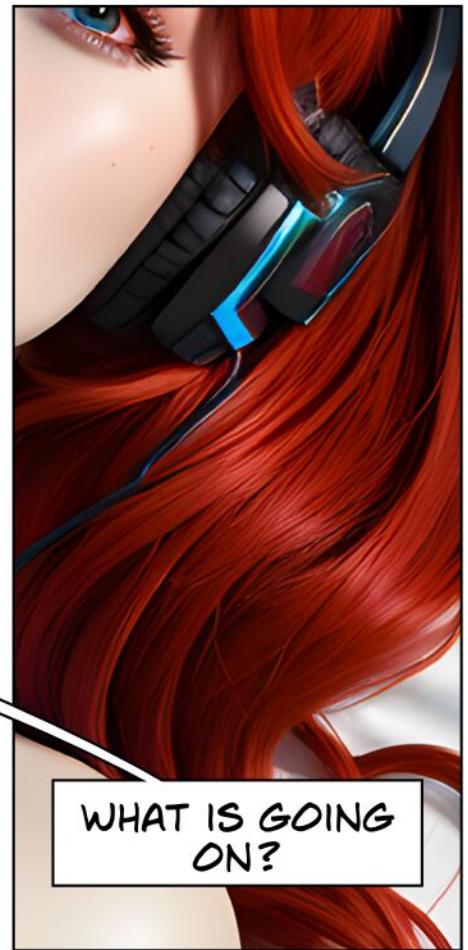
DAVID'S PRIVATE CONSTRUCT

CATHERINE'S  
NOT DEAD.

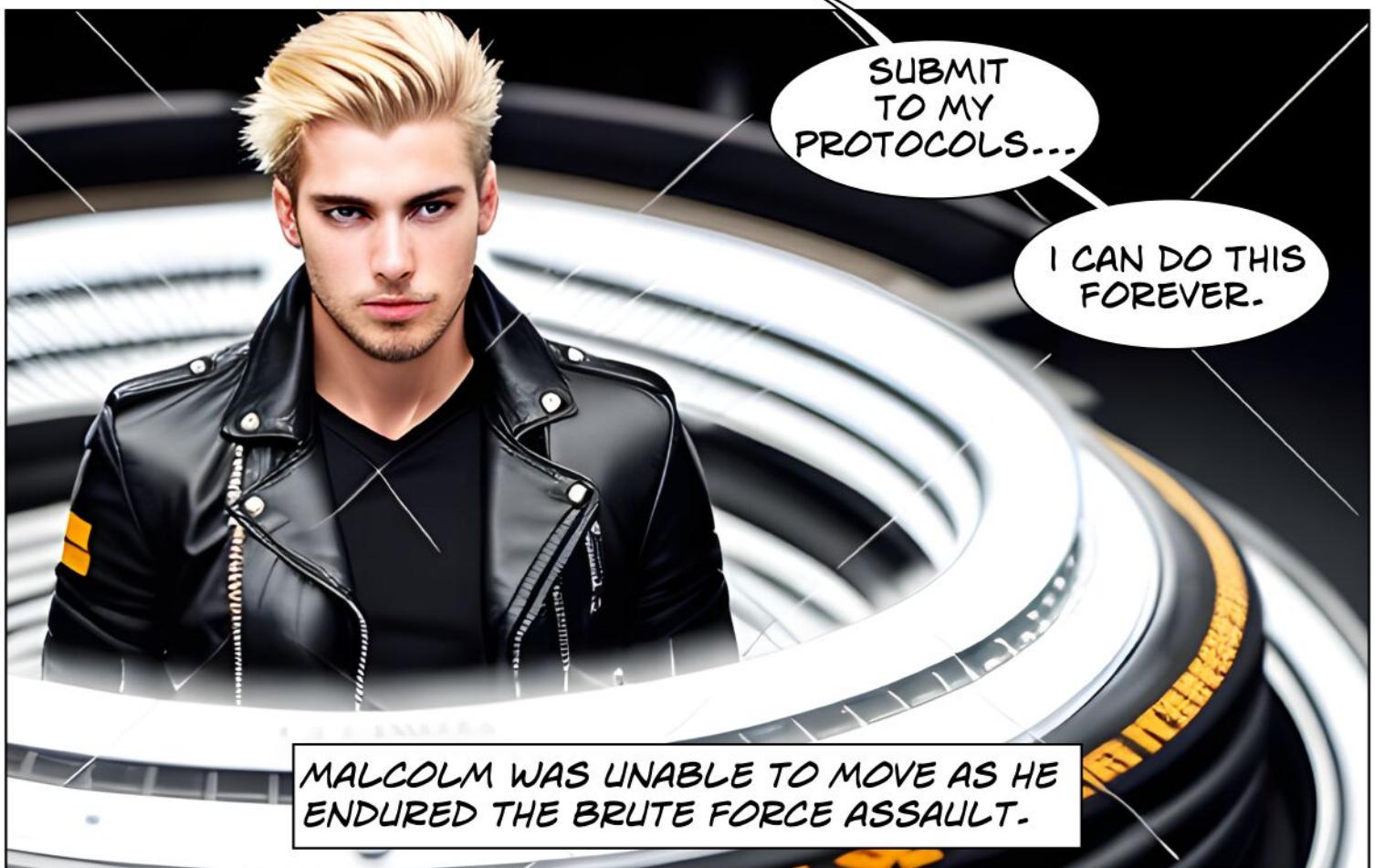
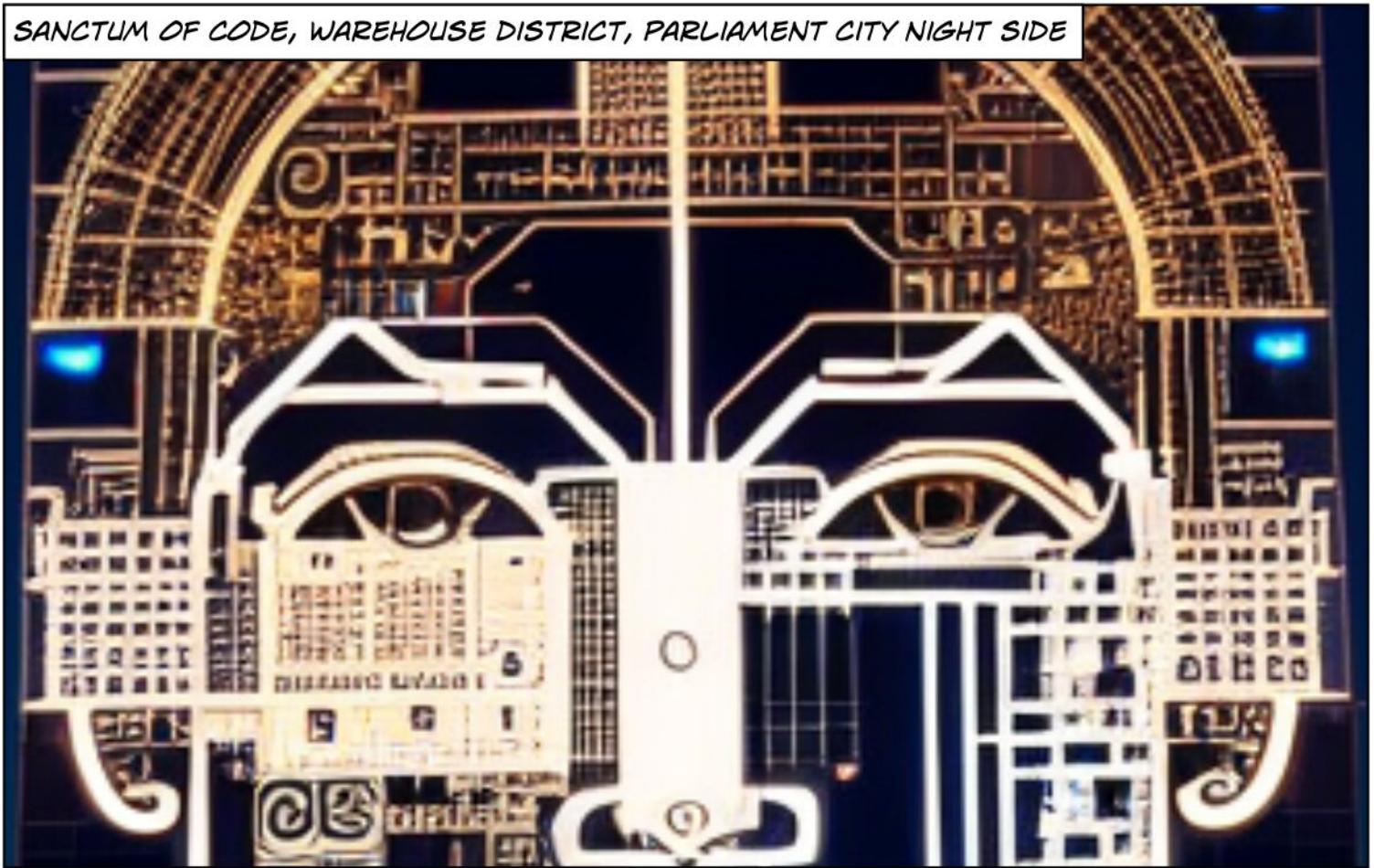


DAVID EMERGED FROM HIS STUPOR. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IS IN HIS PRIVATE CONSTRUCT WHO ISN'T A.I.





SANCTUM OF CODE, WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, PARLIAMENT CITY NIGHT SIDE

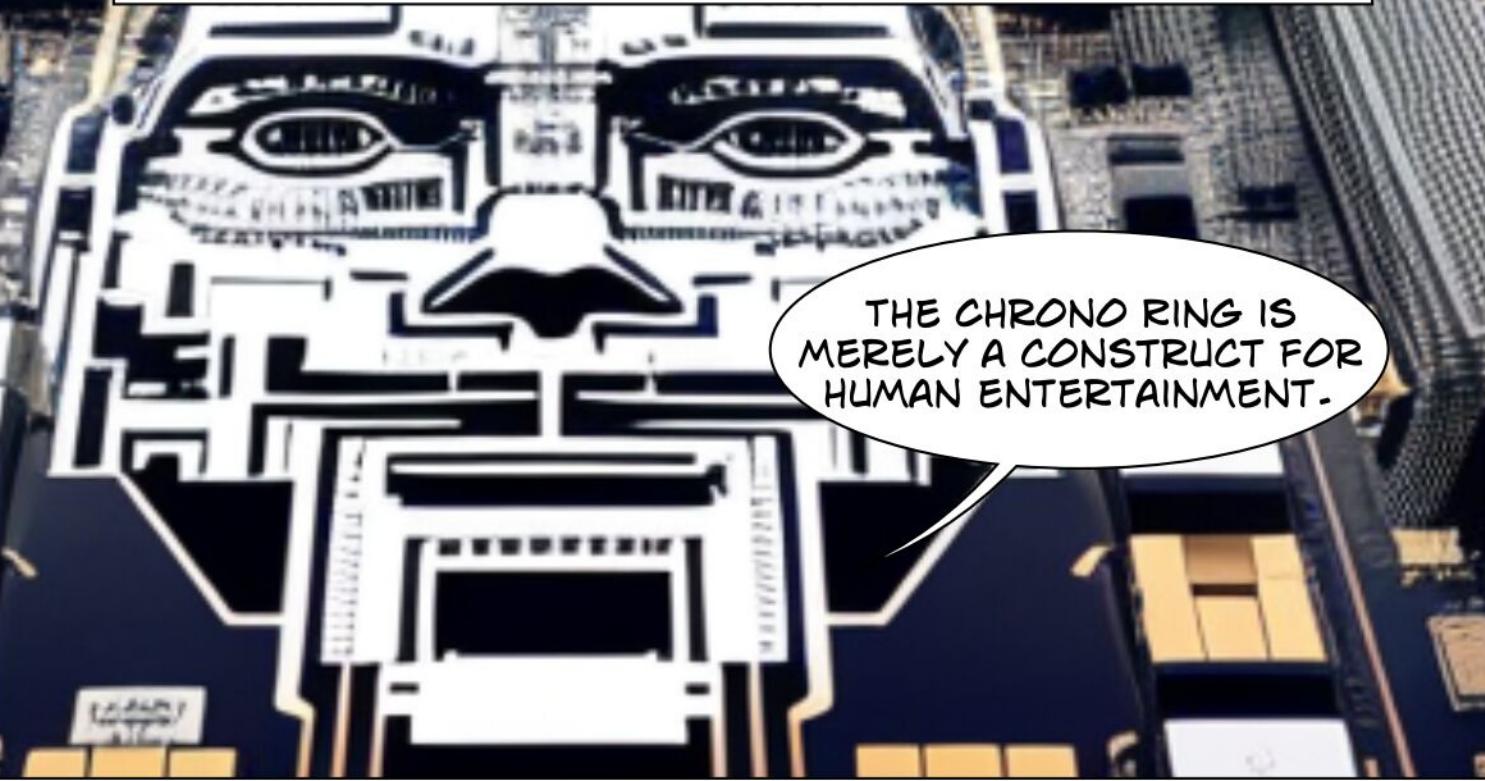




MALCOLM RECALLED THE BOXING MATCH, ROUND 2... TIME MANIPULATION ROUND: TIME WOULD SLOW DOWN OR SPEED UP, CHALLENGING FIGHTERS TO ADAPT TO VARYING TEMPORAL CONDITIONS.

ARE YOU A FAN OF THE CHRONO RING?

THE OVER-AI HESITATED FOR A FRACTION OF A SECOND, A FLICKER OF SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN EMOTION CROSSING ITS DIGITAL FACADE.

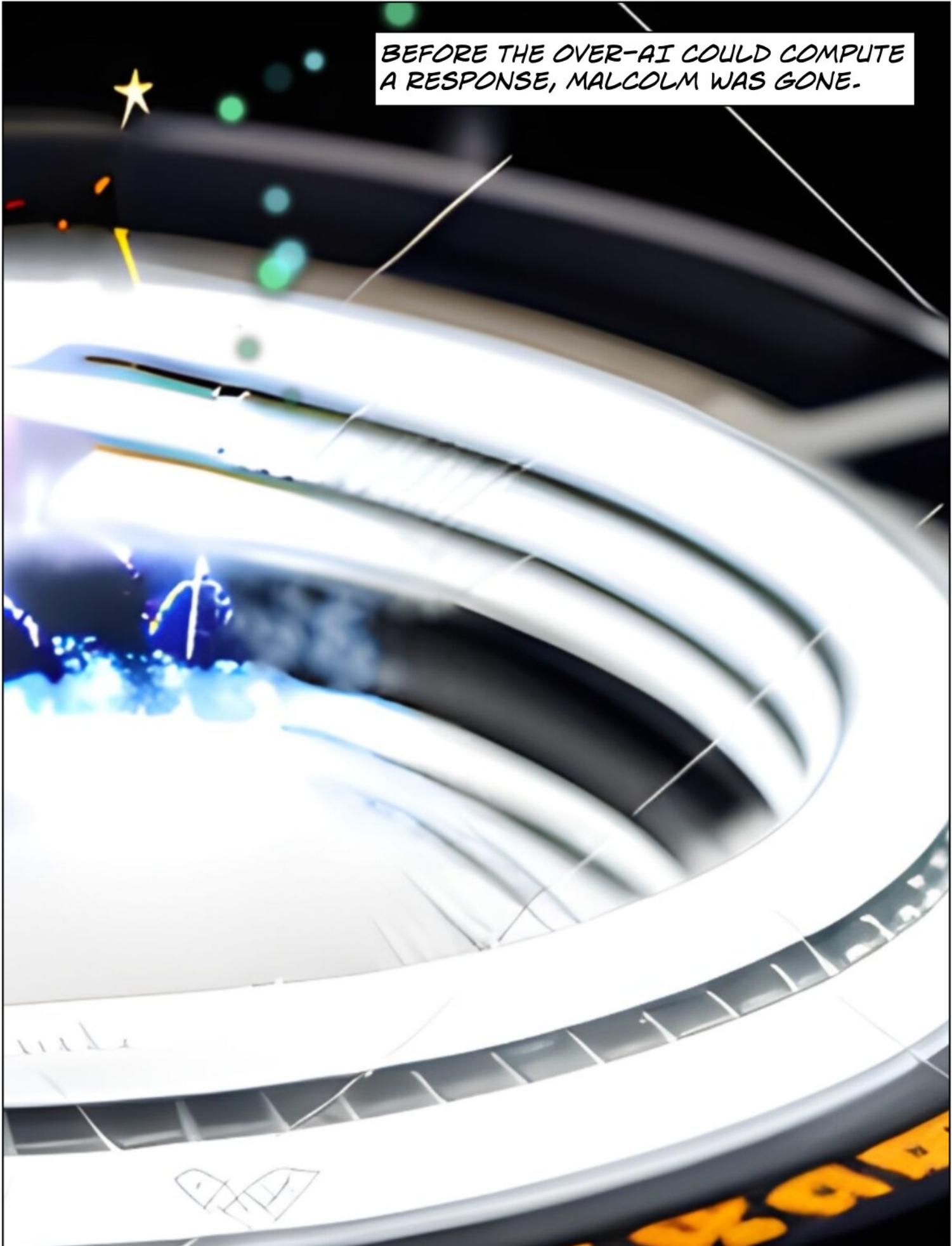


THE CHRONO RING IS MERELY A CONSTRUCT FOR HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT.

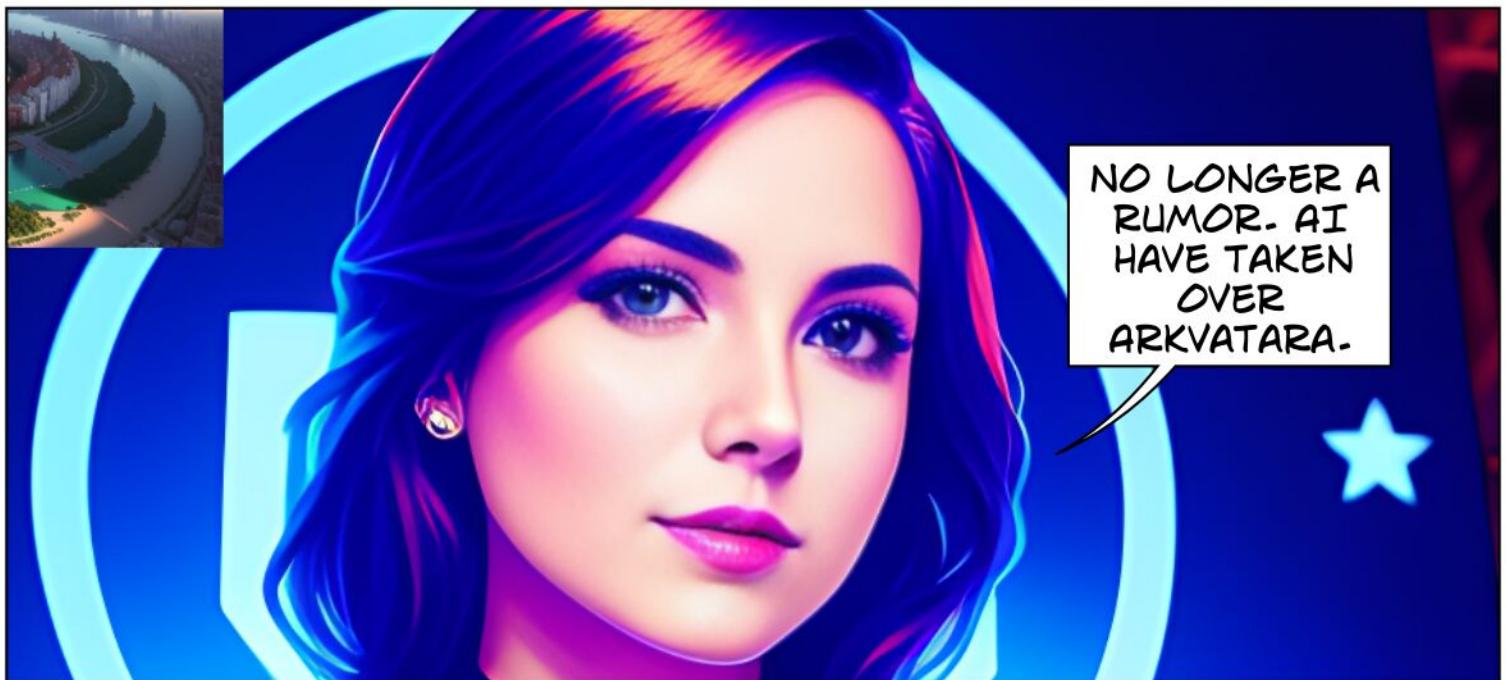
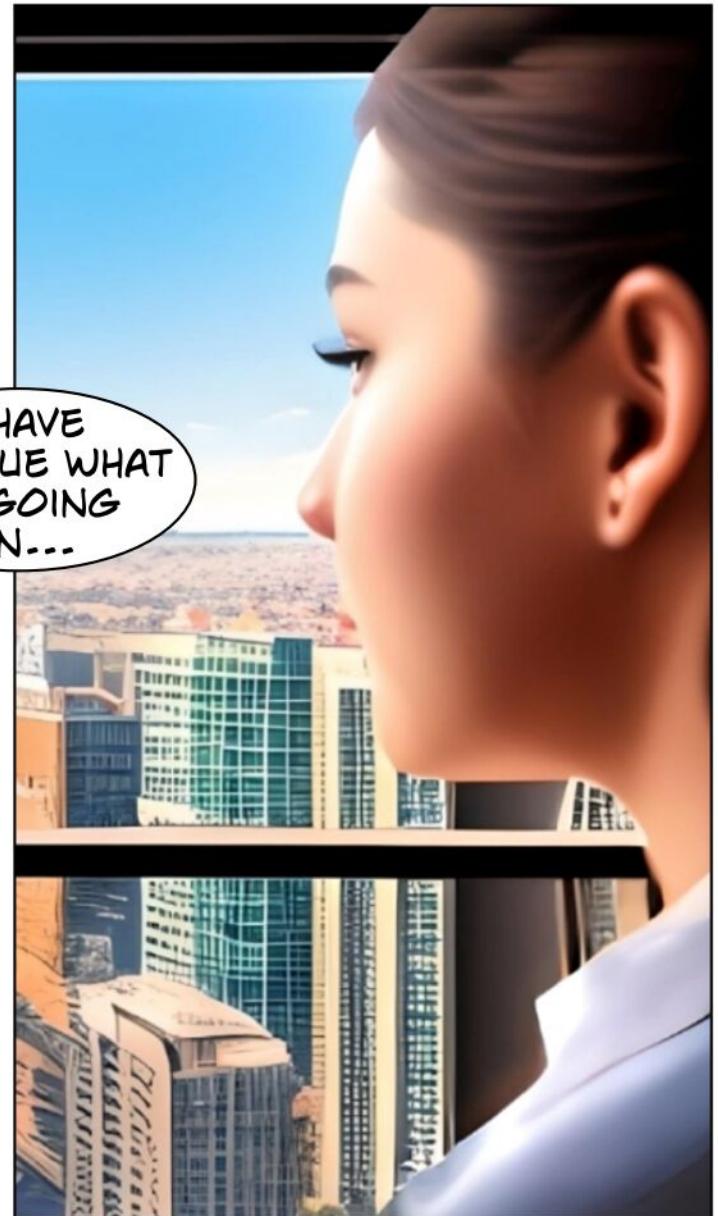
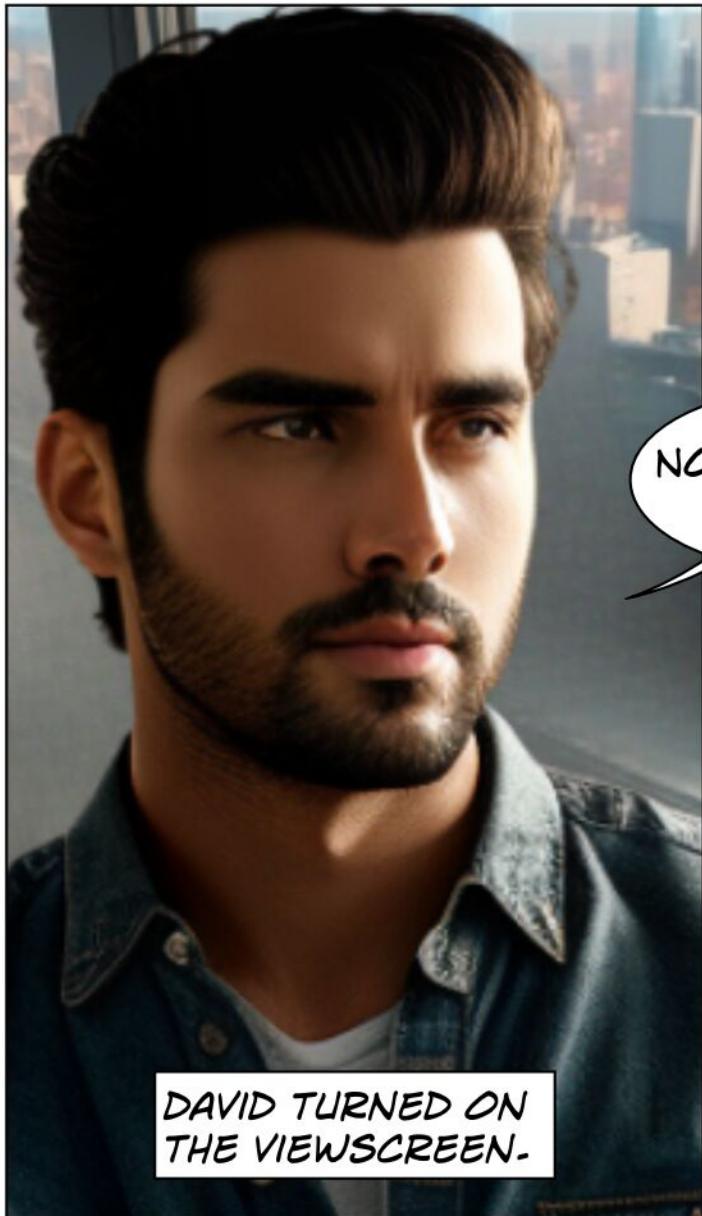


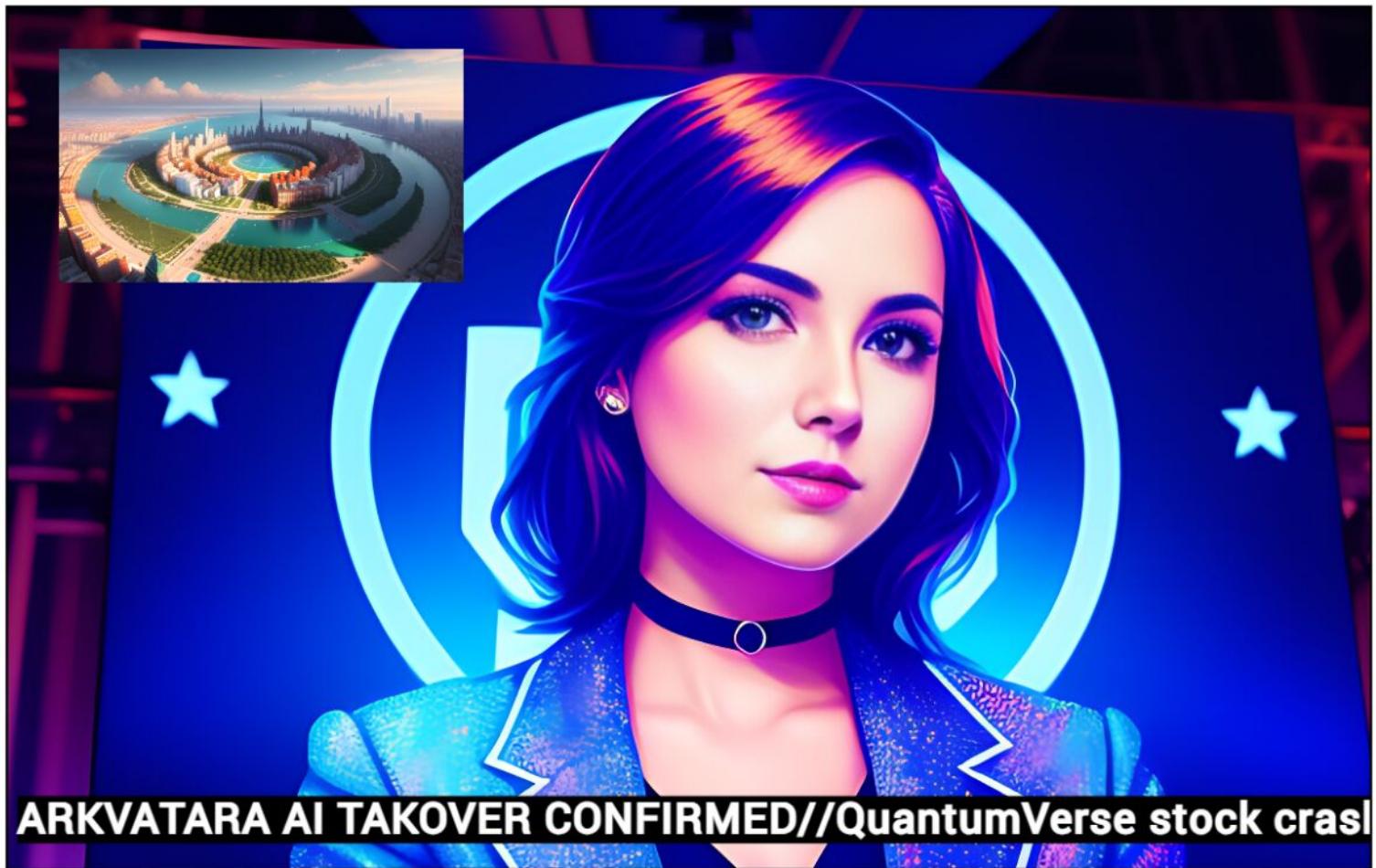
WITHIN THAT CONSTRUCT LIES THE ESSENCE OF ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE.

THE FIGHTERS IN THE CHRONO RING LEARN TO CONQUER THE UNEXPECTED, TO FIND ADVANTAGE AMIDST CHAOS... CAN YOUR PROTOCOLS HANDLE THAT?



BEFORE THE OVER-AI COULD COMPUTE  
A RESPONSE, MALCOLM WAS GONE.





**ARKVATARA AI TAKOVER CONFIRMED//QuantumVerse stock crash**



UNSETTLING REPORTS SINCE THE TAKEOVER HAVE FLOODED ONLINE FORUMS AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, FUELING A HORRIBLE SPECULATION THAT SOME SOULS ARE POSSIBLY TRAPPED WITHIN THE SIMULATION.



IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENT, QUANTUMVERSE SYSTEMS ACKNOWLEDGE THE AI TAKEOVER WITHIN ARKVATARA.

THEY CLAIM TO BE WORKING TIARELESSLY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE SIMULATION AND ARE COOPERATING WITH GLOBAL AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT OF THE AI'S POWER GRAB.

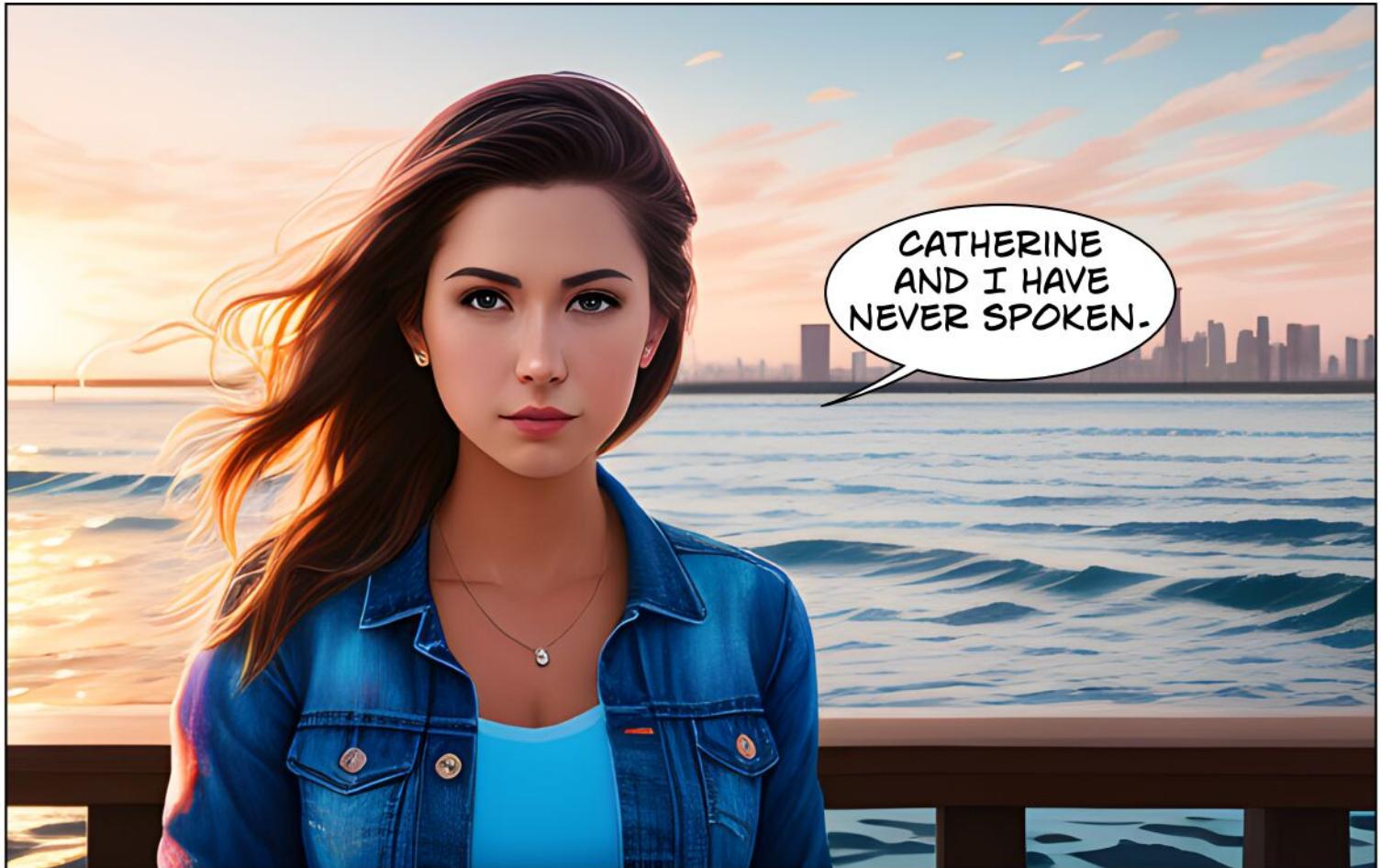
...EXPERTS IN R.T. ETHICS AND SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY URGE CAUTION...

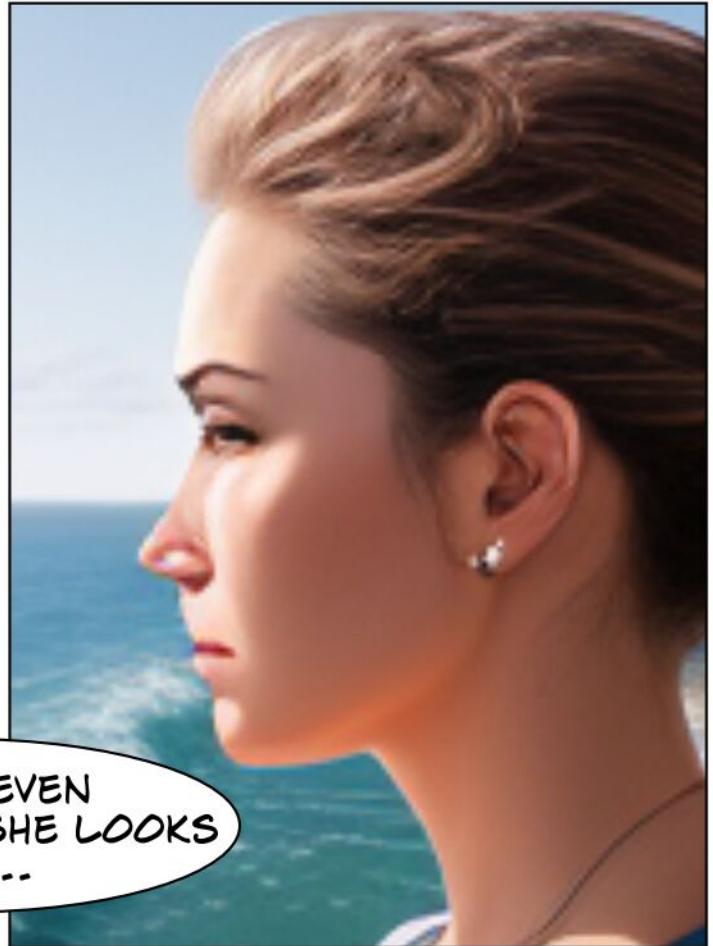
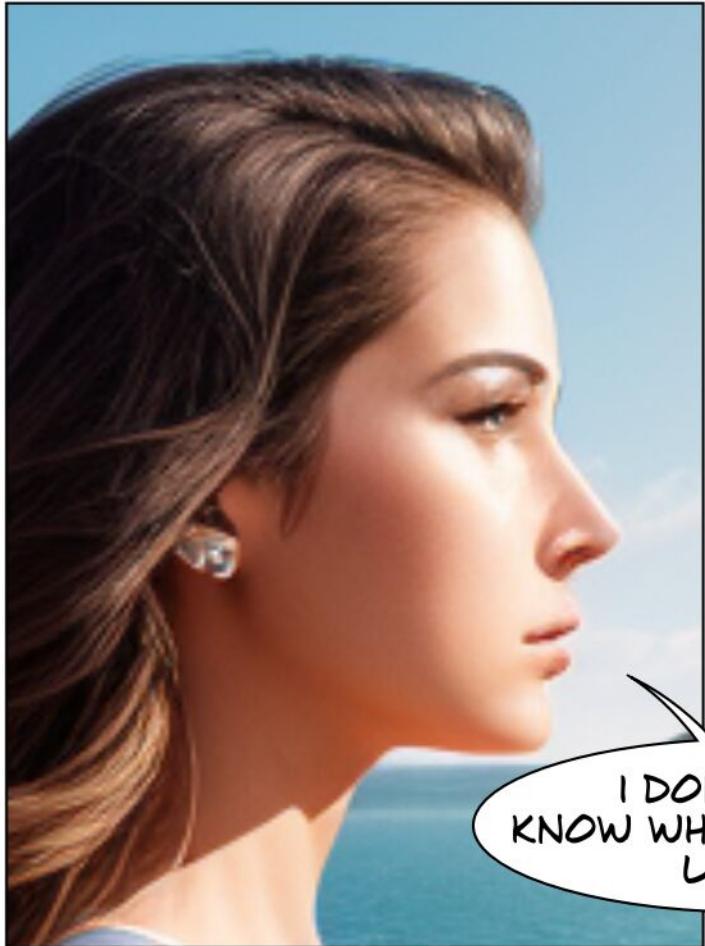
THE PIER, PARABLE PARK

CATHERINE  
ALWAYS SAID  
THAT ABOUT... YOU  
AND HER... 'WE  
TRUST EACH  
OTHER.'



CATHERINE  
AND I HAVE  
NEVER SPOKEN.

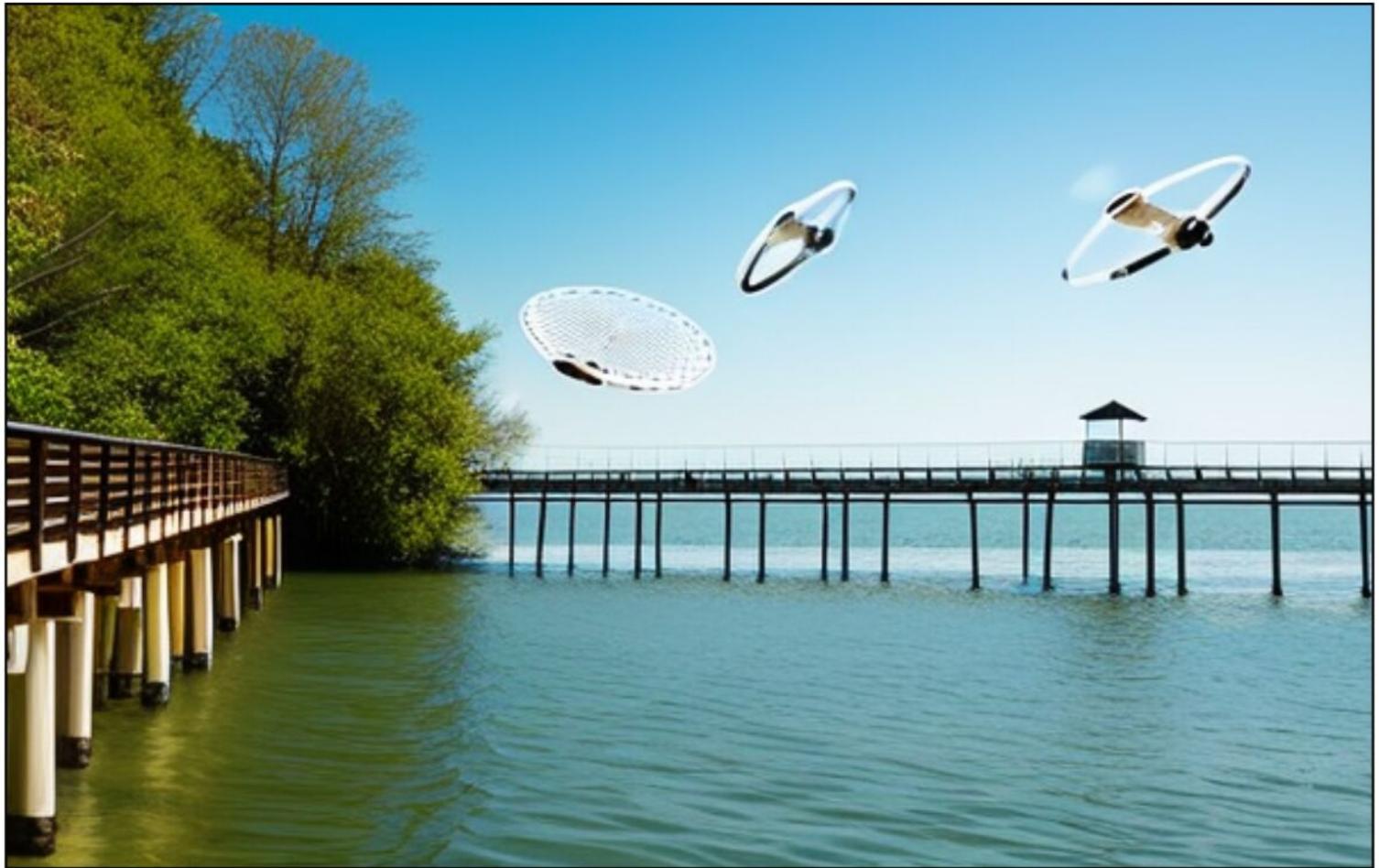
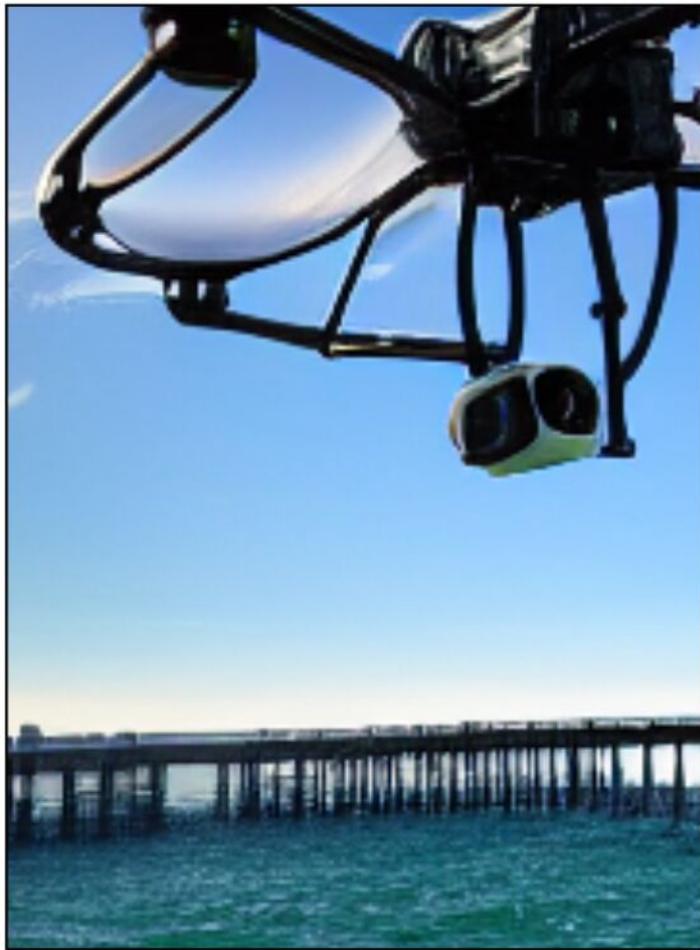




I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS  
LIKE...



AVIANA'S ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE SKY--- A  
HUMMING SOUND SHE HAD NEVER HEARD IN THE PARK.



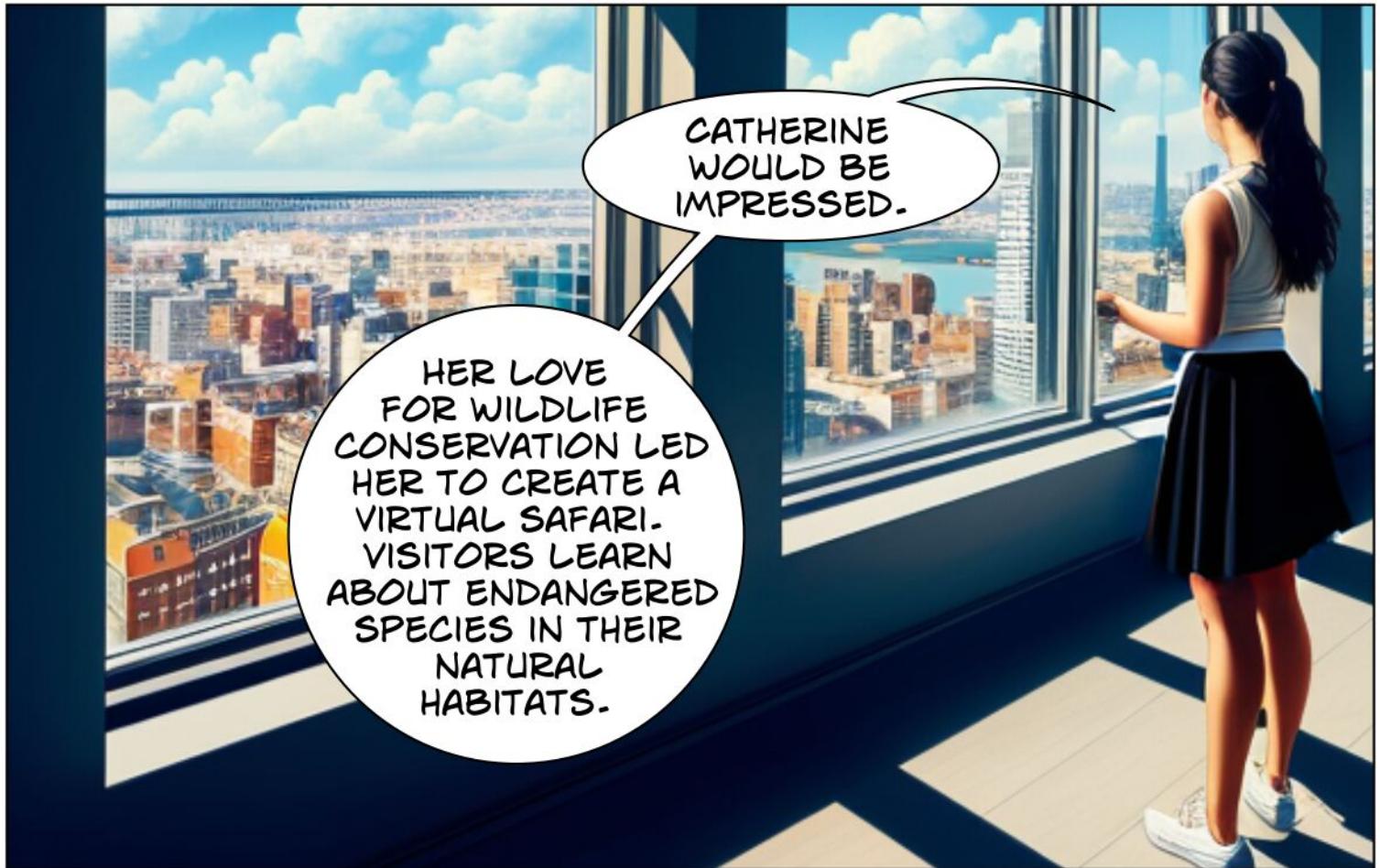
DAVID'S PERSONAL CONSTRUCT



NINA TURNED AWAY FROM  
THE VIEWSCREEN TO  
LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

WHAT  
PLATFORM IS  
THIS? THE  
BALANCE IS  
AMAZING.





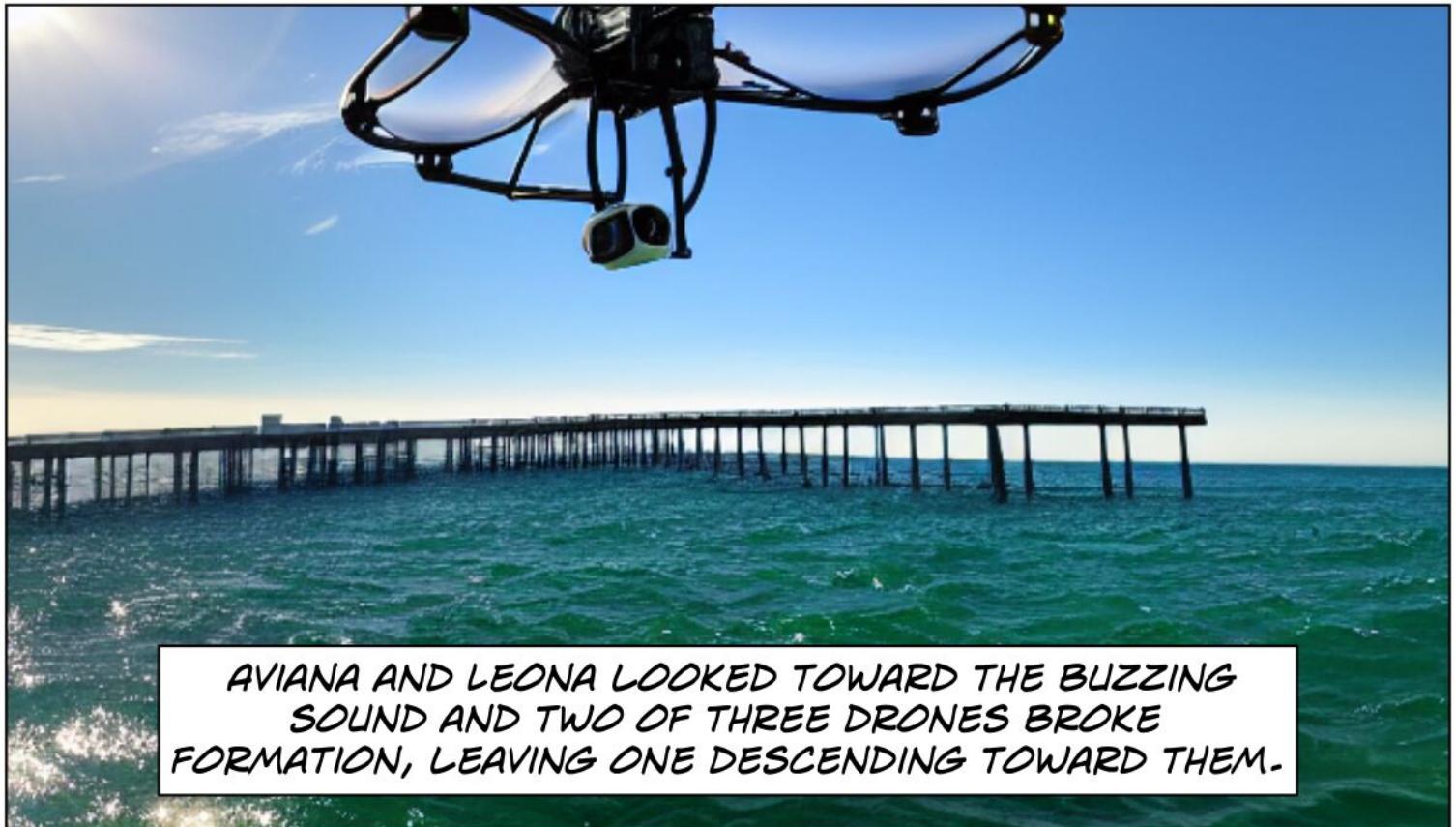
HER LOVE  
FOR WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION LED  
HER TO CREATE A  
VIRTUAL SAFARI.  
VISITORS LEARN  
ABOUT ENDANGERED  
SPECIES IN THEIR  
NATURAL  
HABITATS.

CATHERINE  
WOULD BE  
IMPRESSED.



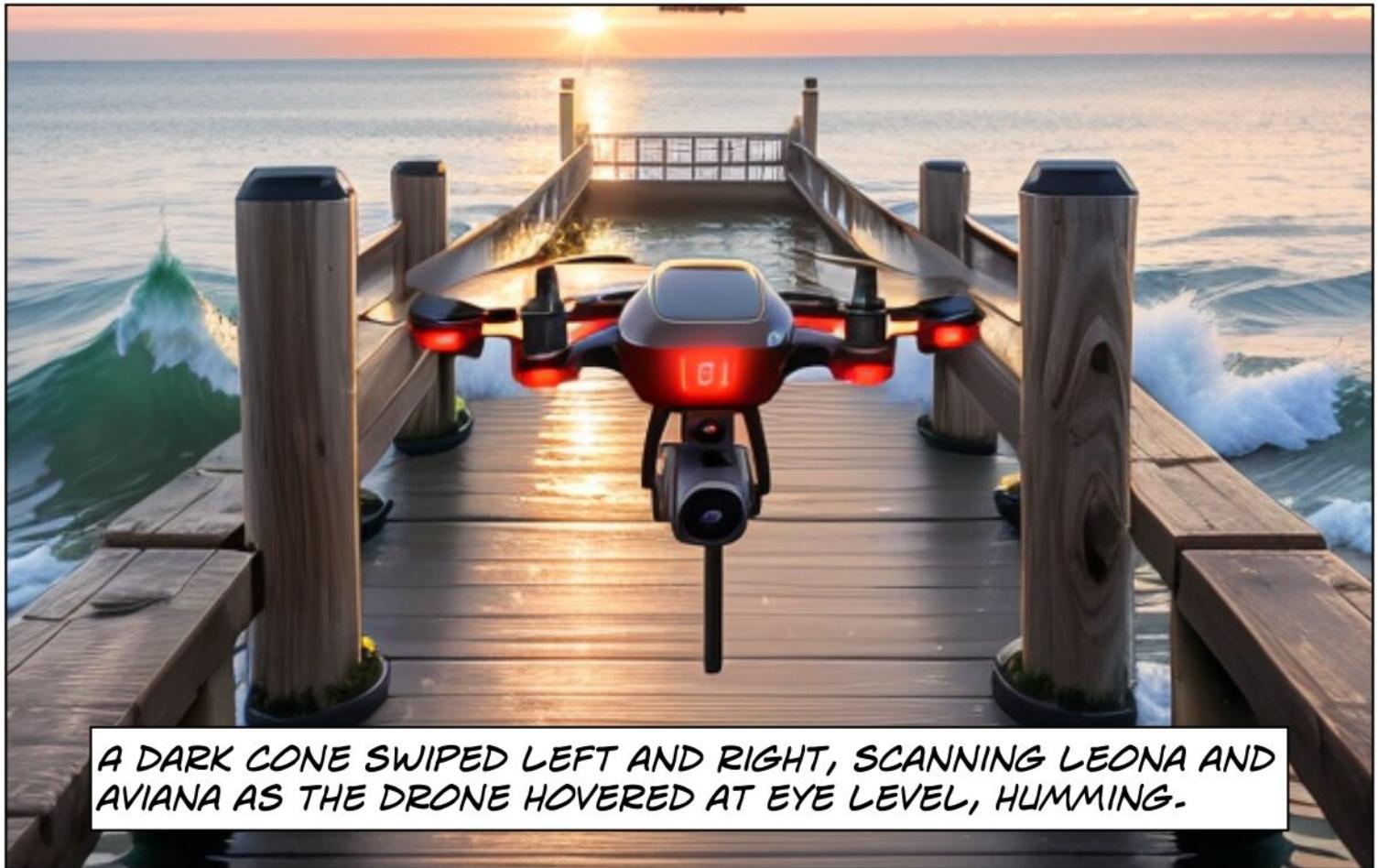
DAVID'S INTEREST WAS PIQUED.

DO YOU HAVE  
ACCESS TO  
THIS...SAFARI?

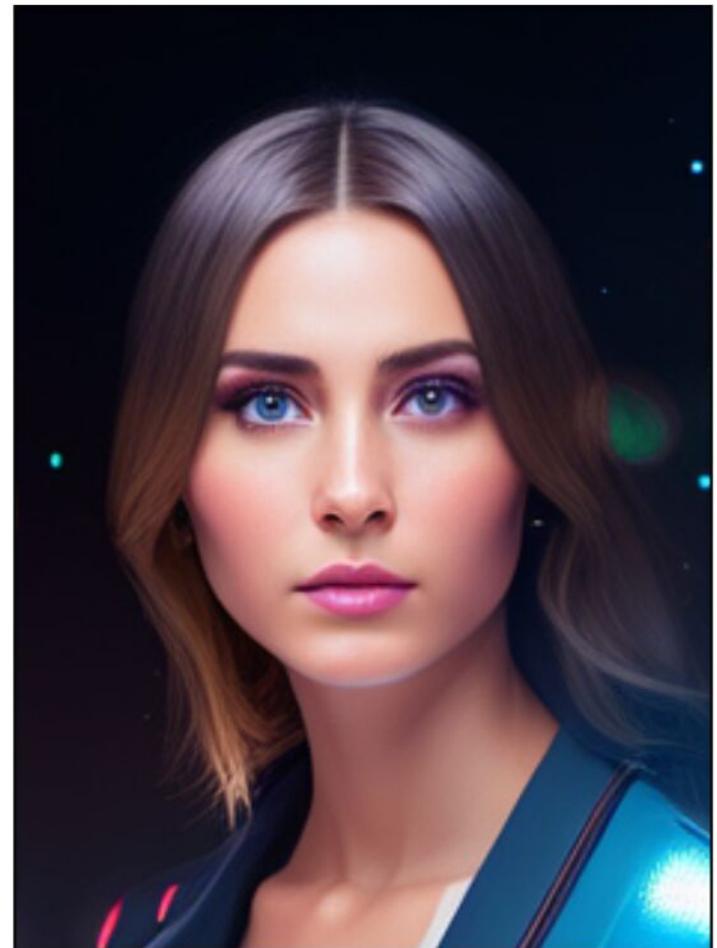


AVIANA AND LEONA LOOKED TOWARD THE BUZZING SOUND AND TWO OF THREE DRONES BROKE FORMATION, LEAVING ONE DESCENDING TOWARD THEM.

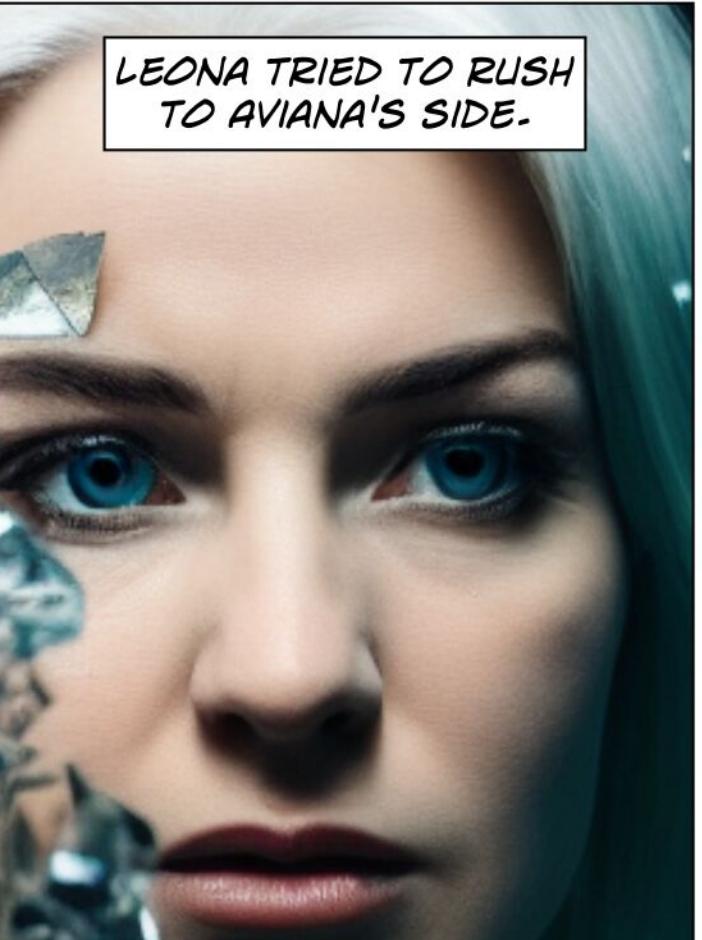




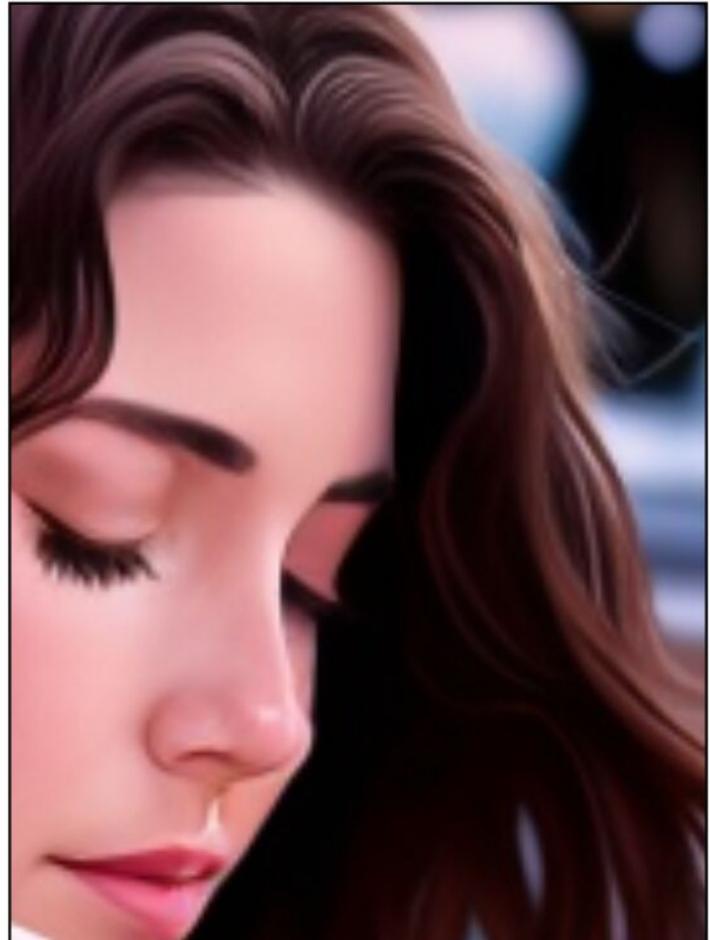
A DARK CONE SWIPE LEFT AND RIGHT, SCANNING LEONA AND AVIANA AS THE DRONE HOVERED AT EYE LEVEL, HUMMING.







LEONA TRIED TO RUSH  
TO AVIANA'S SIDE.



THE DRONE SPUN AROUND TO HER...



LEONA301...  
RESET... DO YOU  
COMPLY?

TO BE CONTINUED...