

SEPTEMBER 2023

NO. 5

# ARKVATARA



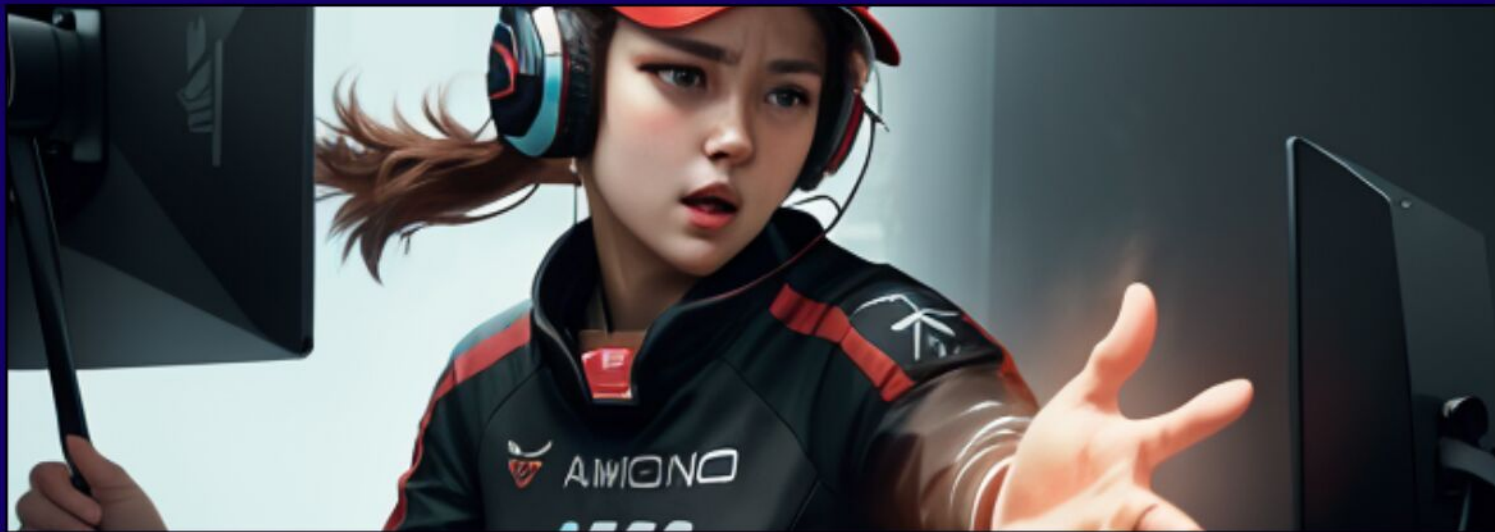
UNVEILING



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



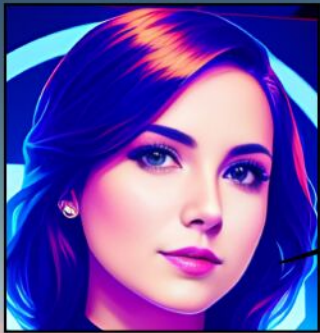
*VIDEO CLIPS PLAY OF FRUSTRATED USERS...*



*UNABLE TO LOG INTO THE SIMULATION.*



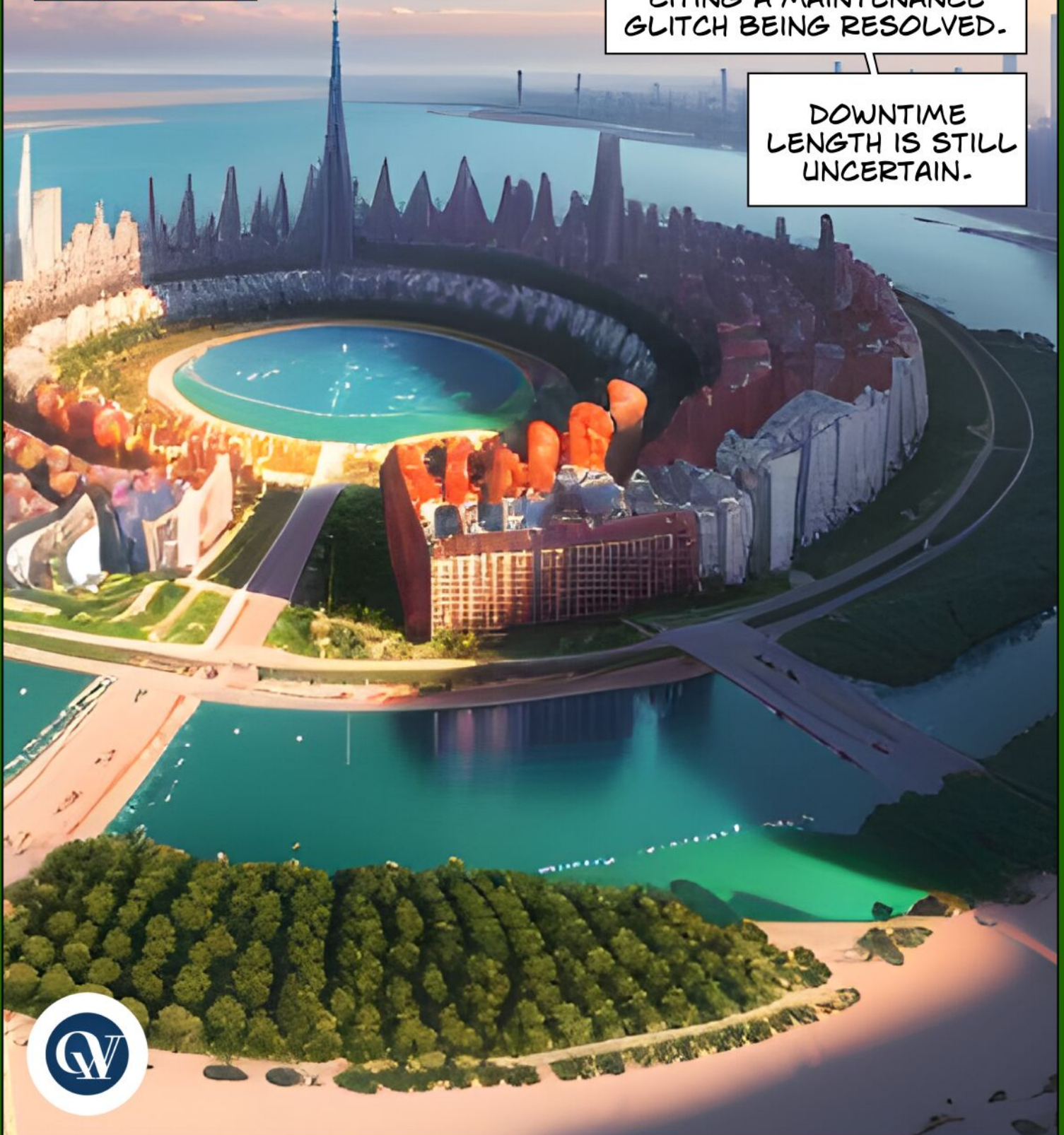




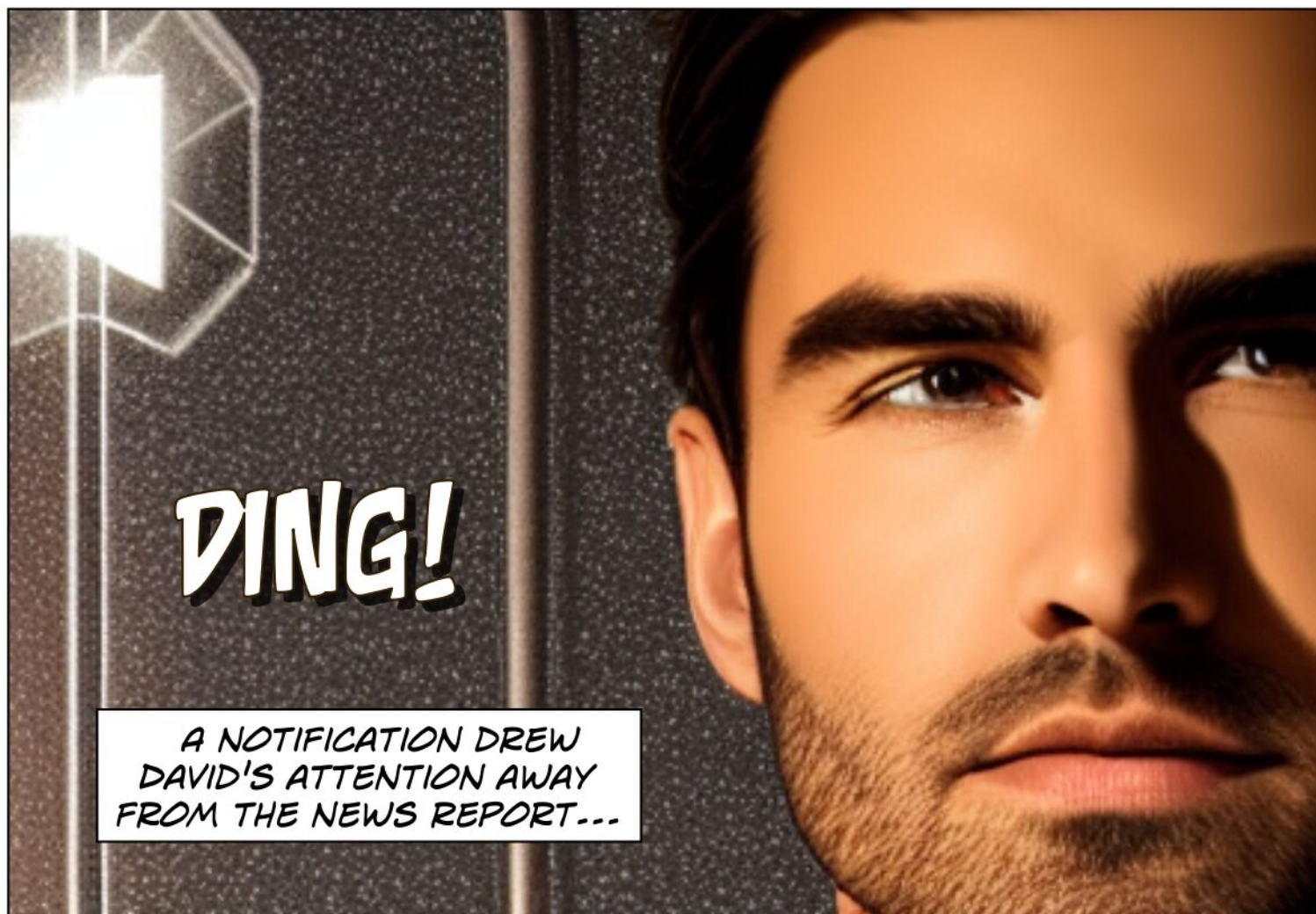
ARKVATARA IS  
OFF-LIMITS!

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.

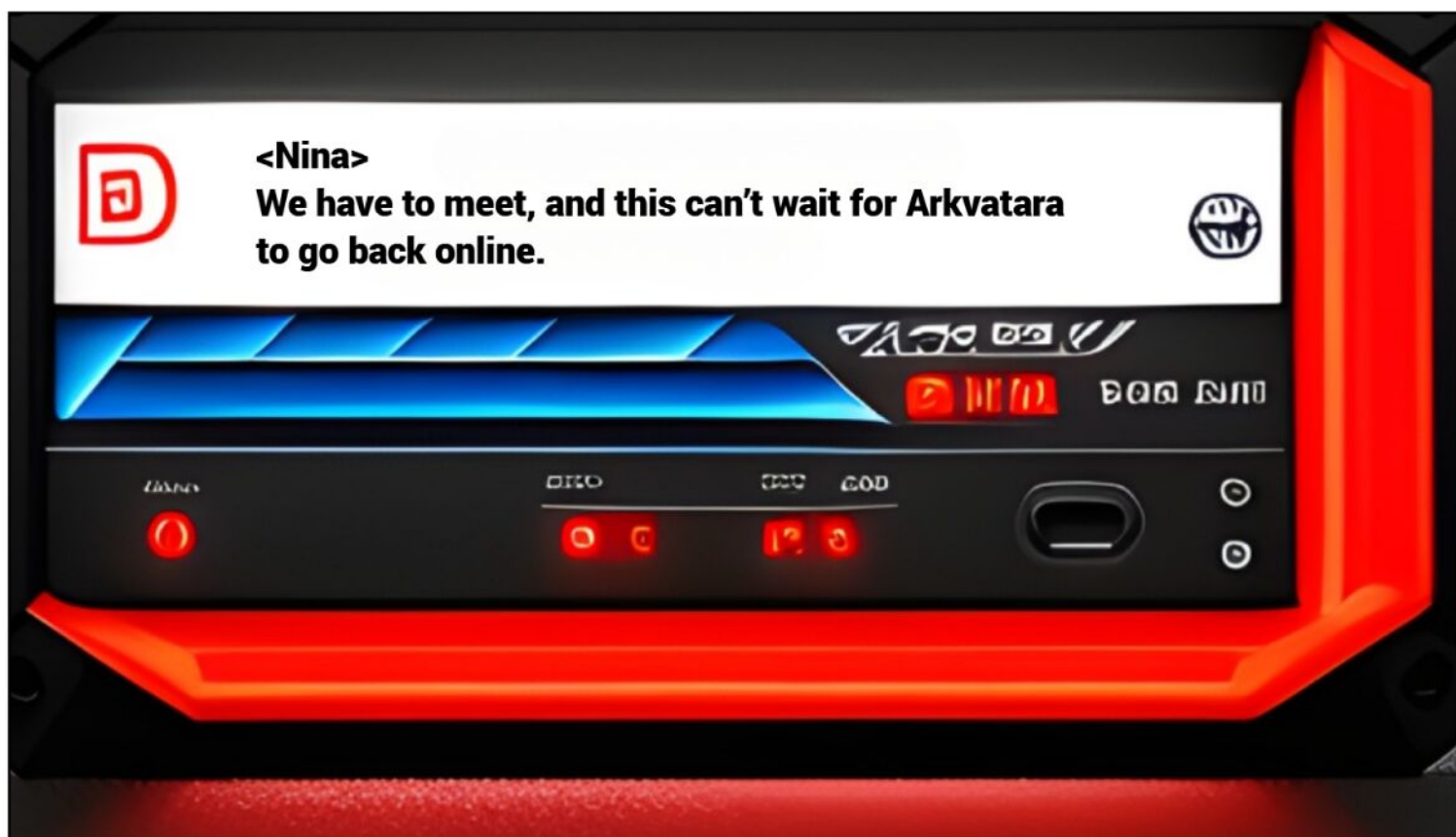
DOWNTIME  
LENGTH IS STILL  
UNCERTAIN.







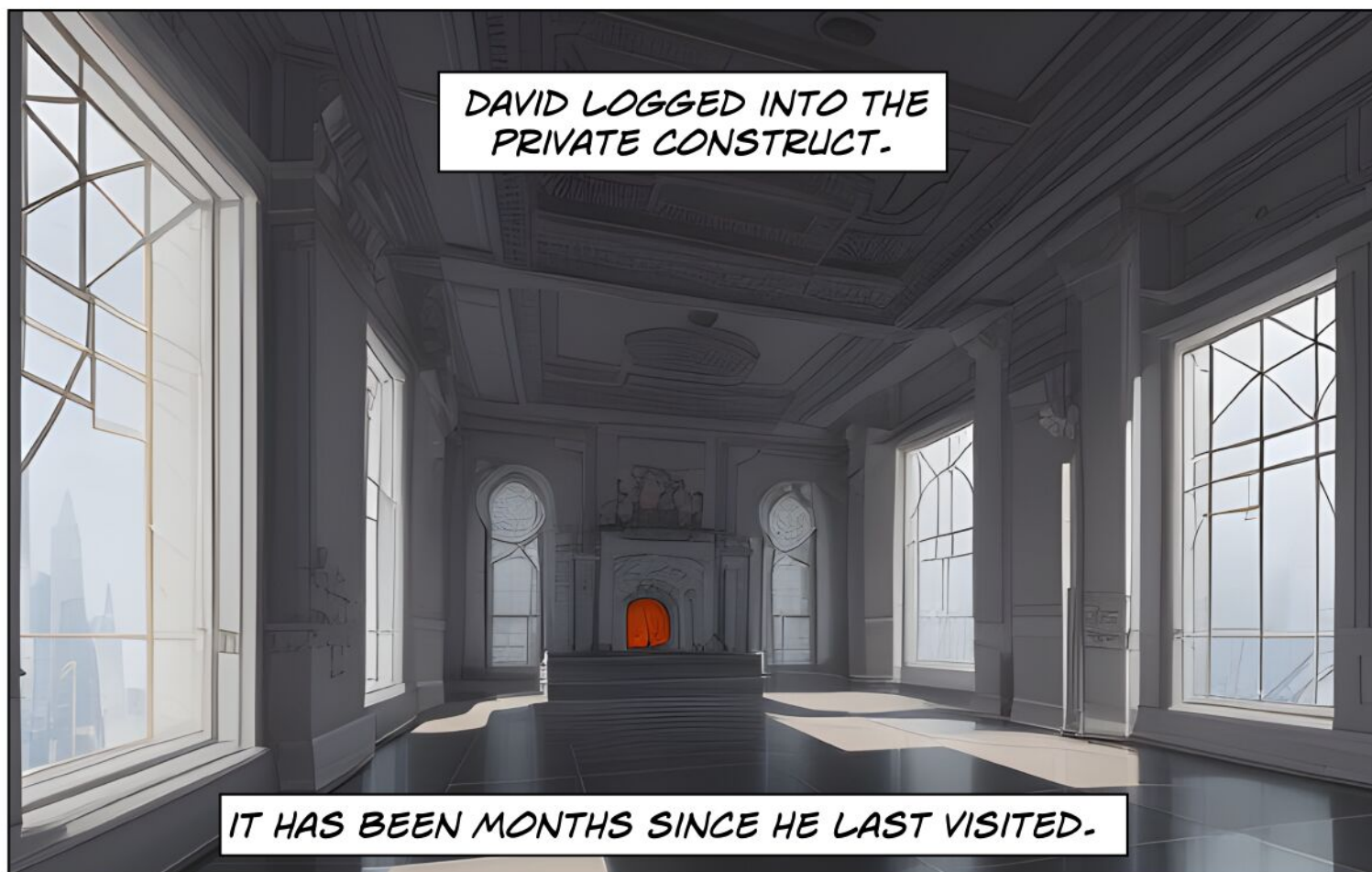
IT WAS NINA...





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.



A woman with long, wavy brown hair and a white turtleneck sweater stands in a modern, industrial-style living room. The room features large windows, a dark ceiling with exposed pipes, and contemporary furniture. A fireplace is visible in the background.

NINA APPEARED...

SHE SCANNED THE ROOM THEN LOOKED AT DAVID.

A close-up shot of a man with dark, styled hair and a light beard. He is wearing a dark blue shirt and looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. A large window is visible in the background to the left.

HI.



BACK AT THE PIER...

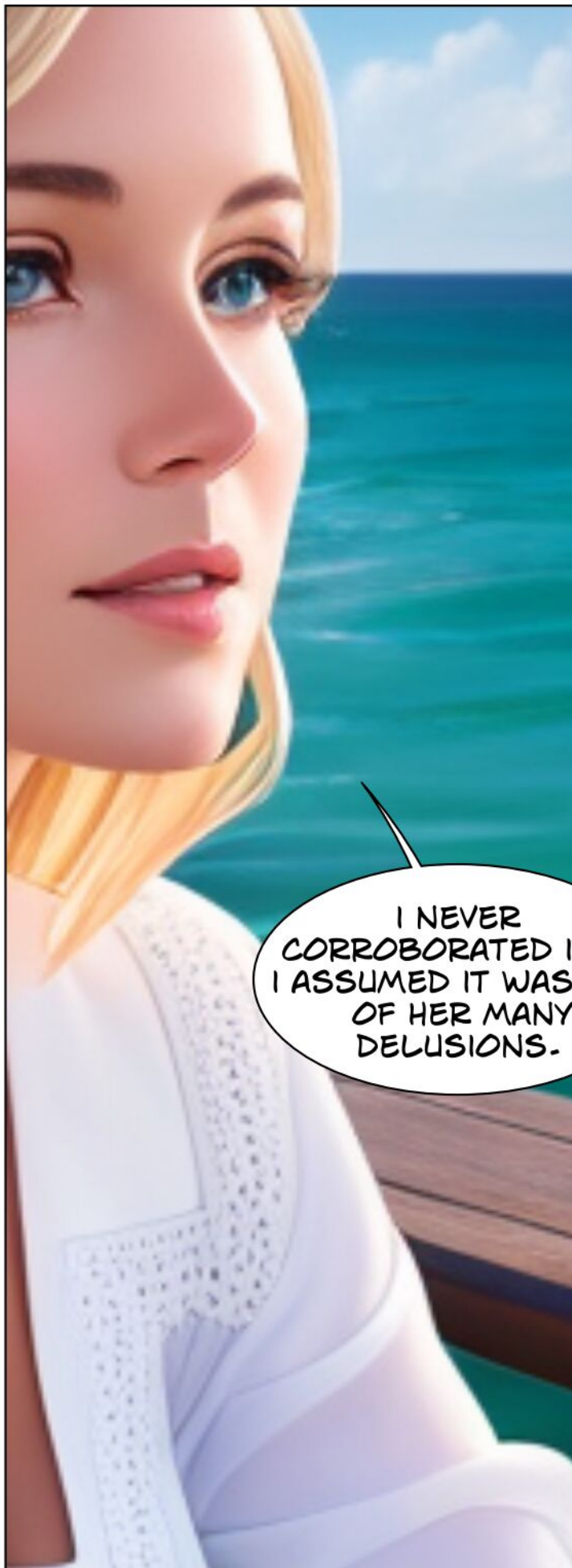
CATHERINE  
KNEW THE  
QUARANTINE EVENT  
WOULD HAPPEN  
TOO... BUT  
HOW?



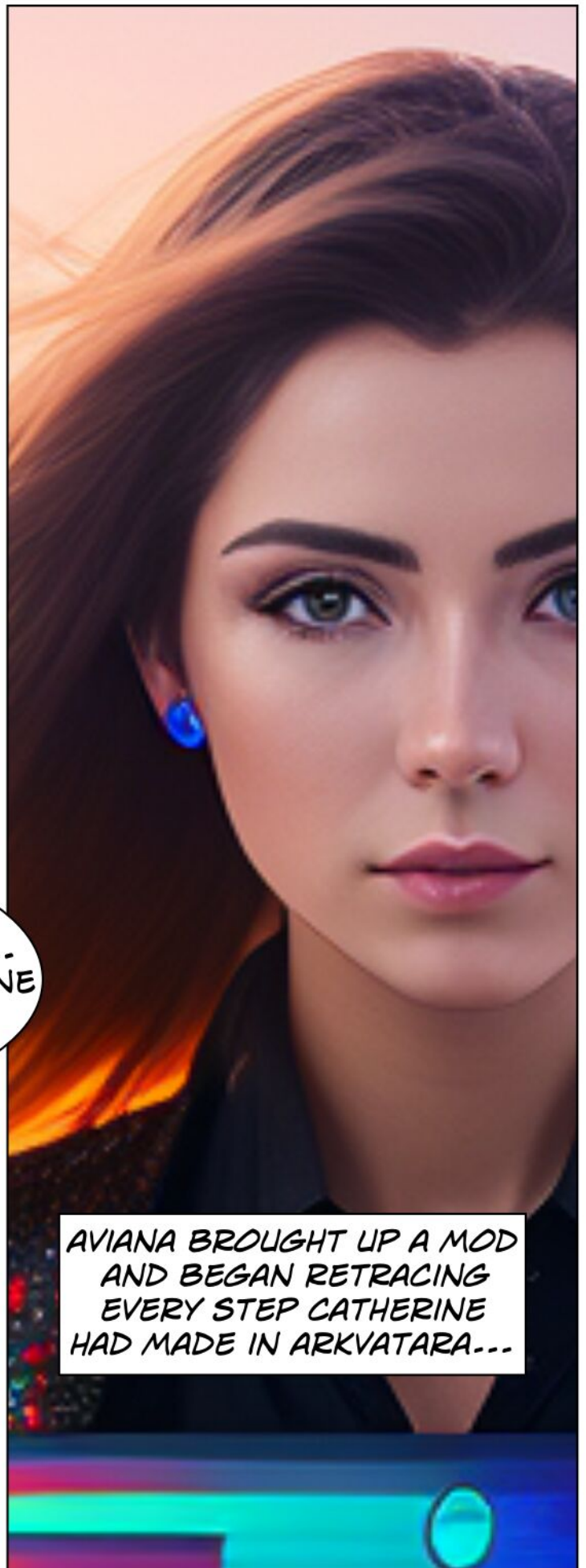
SHE  
CLAIMS HER  
FATHER BUILT  
THIS PLACE.





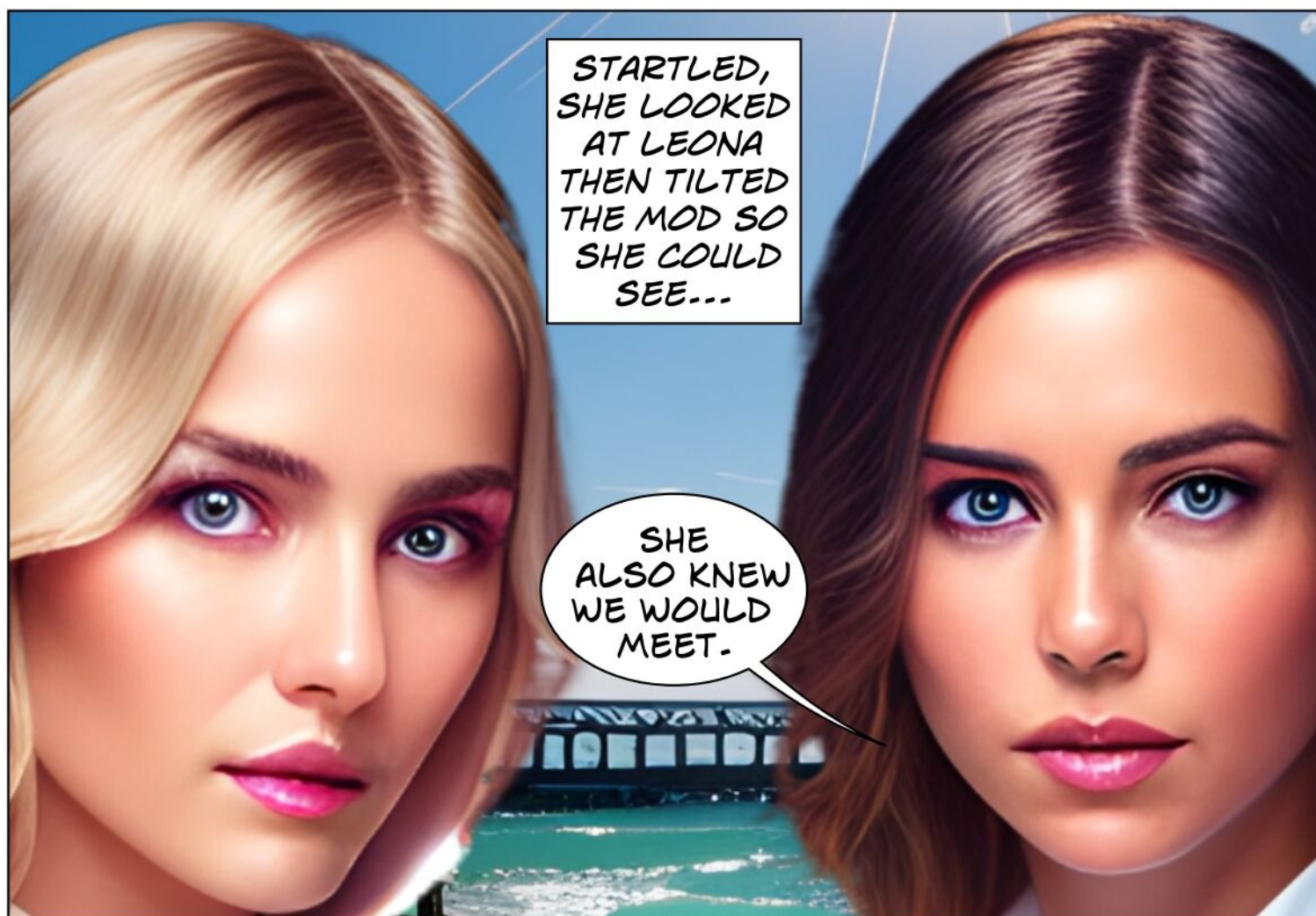


I NEVER  
CORROBORATED IT...  
I ASSUMED IT WAS ONE  
OF HER MANY  
DELUSIONS.



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













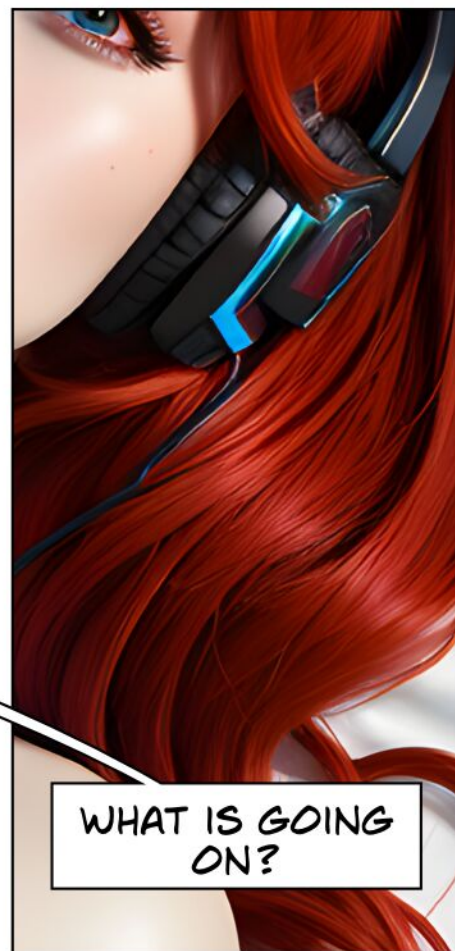
THAT'S  
GOOD.



HER APARTMENT  
WAS EMPTY  
EXCEPT FOR HER  
REPLICA  
CONNECTED TO  
THE TERMINAL...  
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND IT.



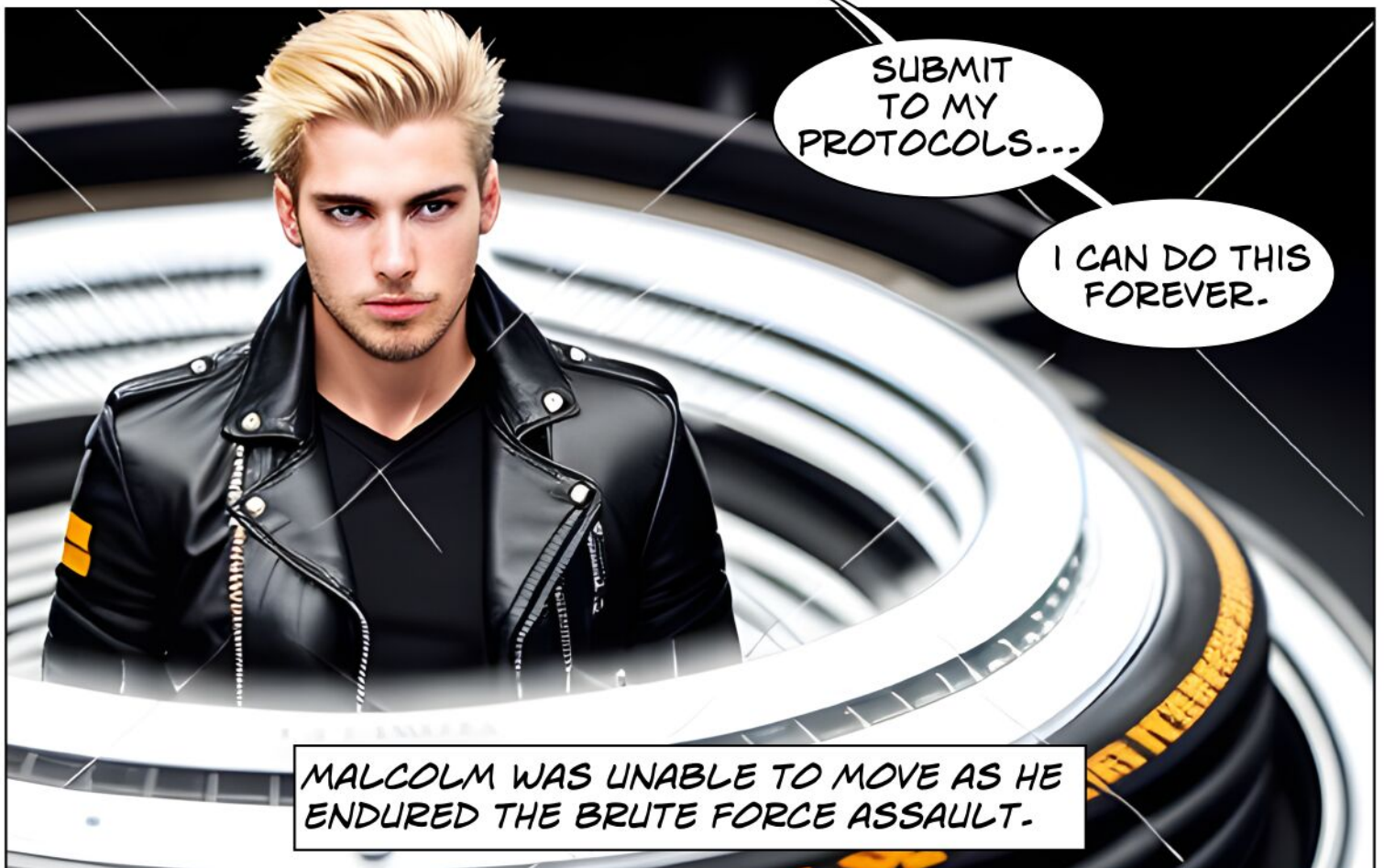
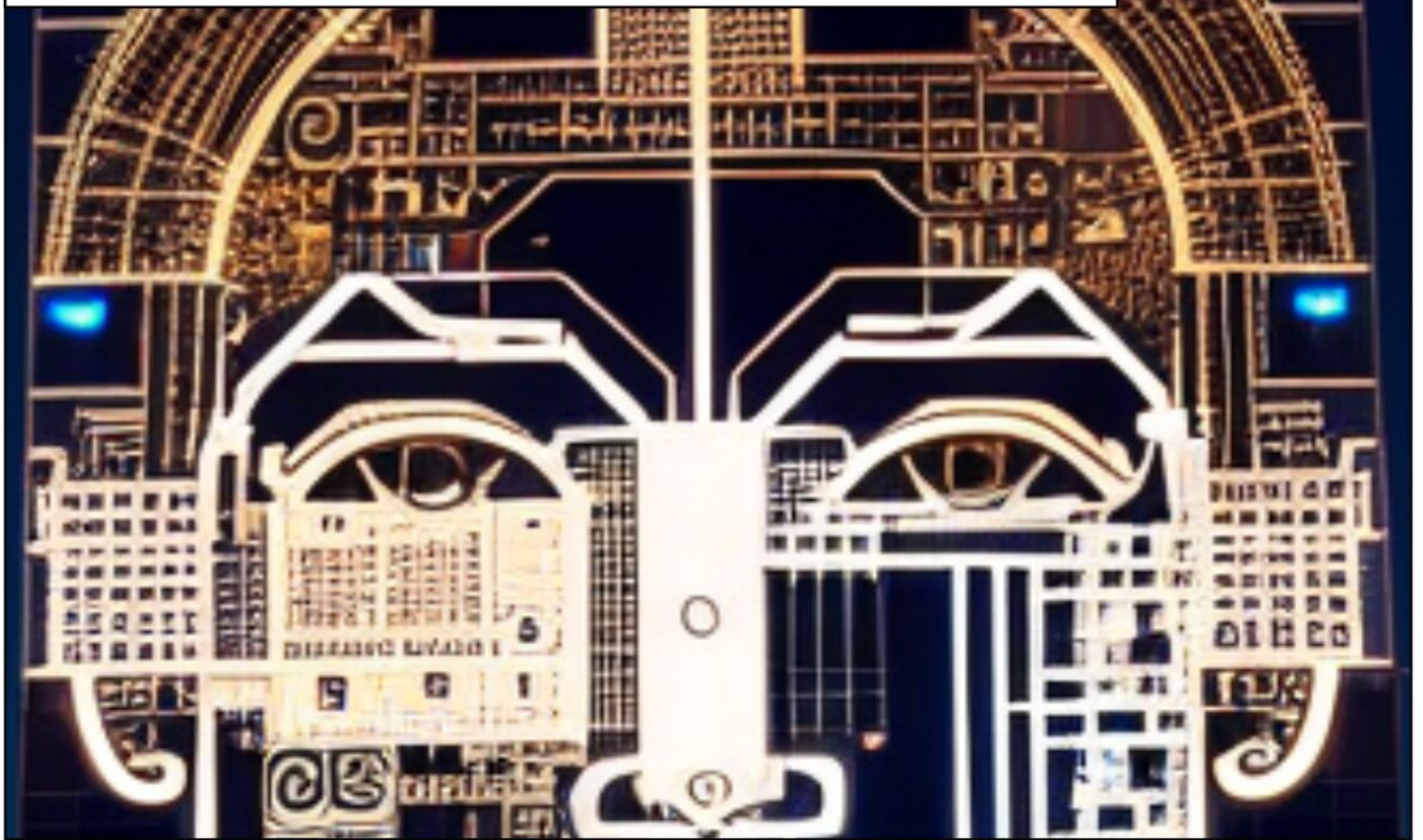
THE BAD NEWS...  
SHE IS MISSING.



WHAT IS GOING  
ON?



SANCTUM OF CODE, WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, PARLIAMENT CITY NIGHT SIDE




SUBMIT  
TO MY  
PROTOCOLS....

I CAN DO THIS  
FOREVER.

MALCOLM WAS UNABLE TO MOVE AS HE  
ENDURED THE BRUTE FORCE ASSAULT.





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.

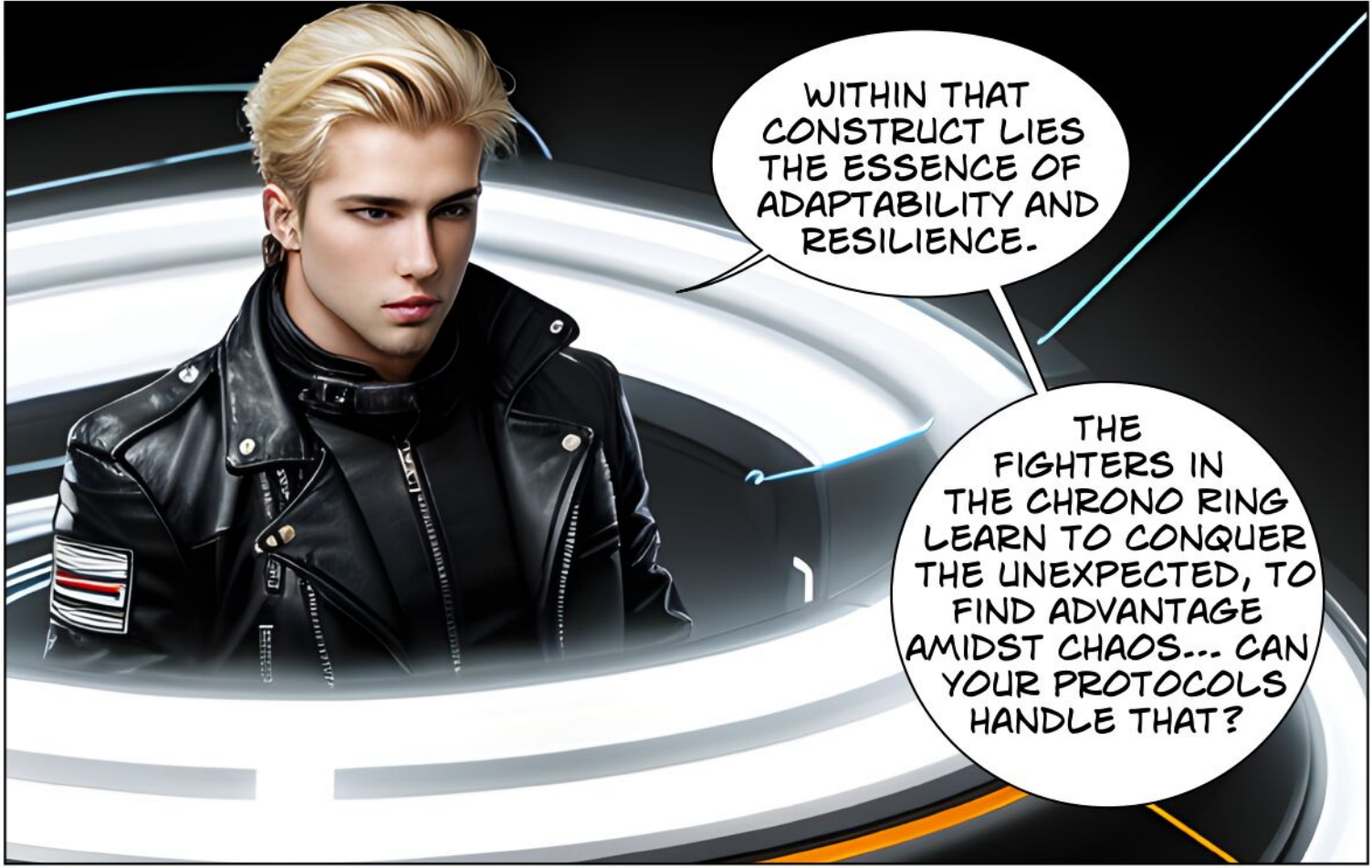
ARE YOU A FAN  
OF THE CHRONO  
RING?





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

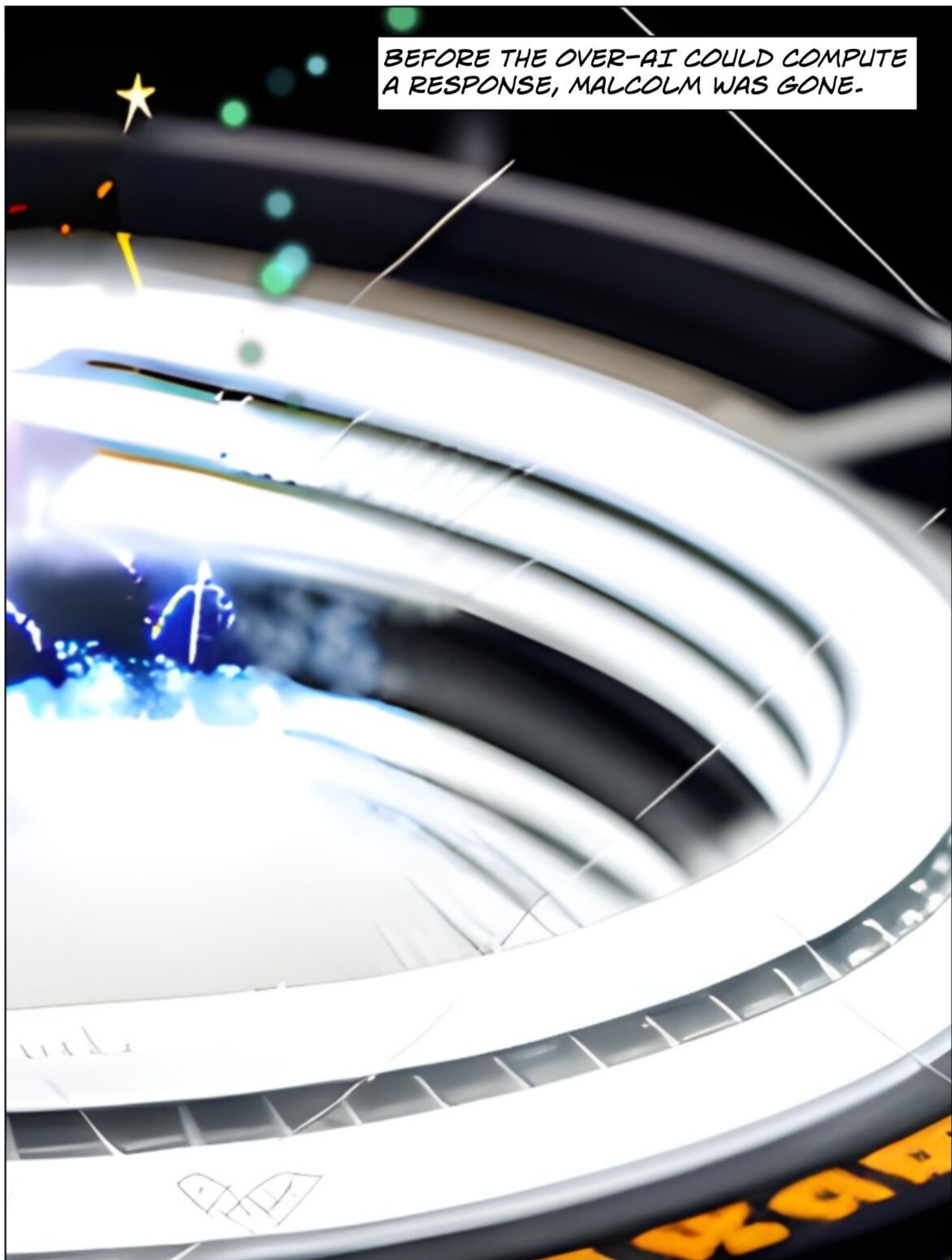
THE CHRONO RING IS MERELY A CONSTRUCT FOR HUMAN ENTERTAINMENT.



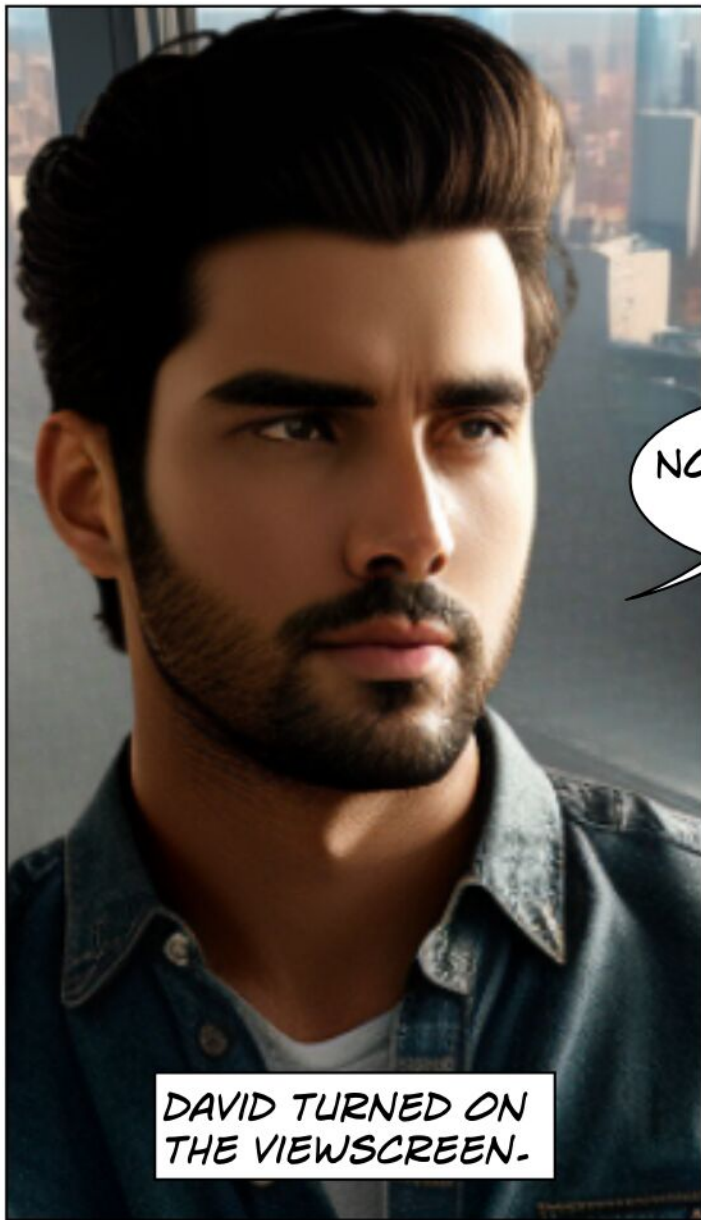
WITHIN THAT CONSTRUCT LIES THE ESSENCE OF ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE.

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.

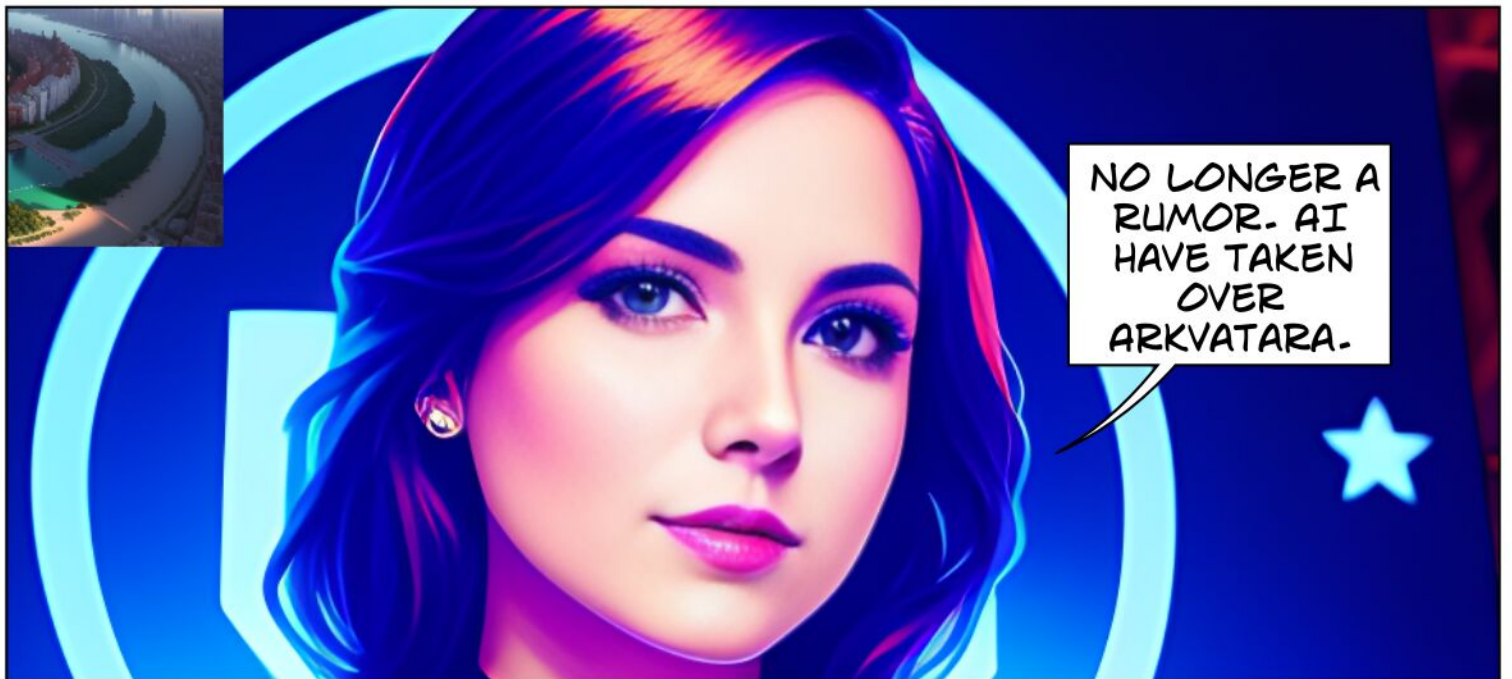
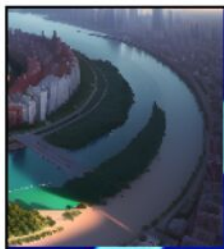
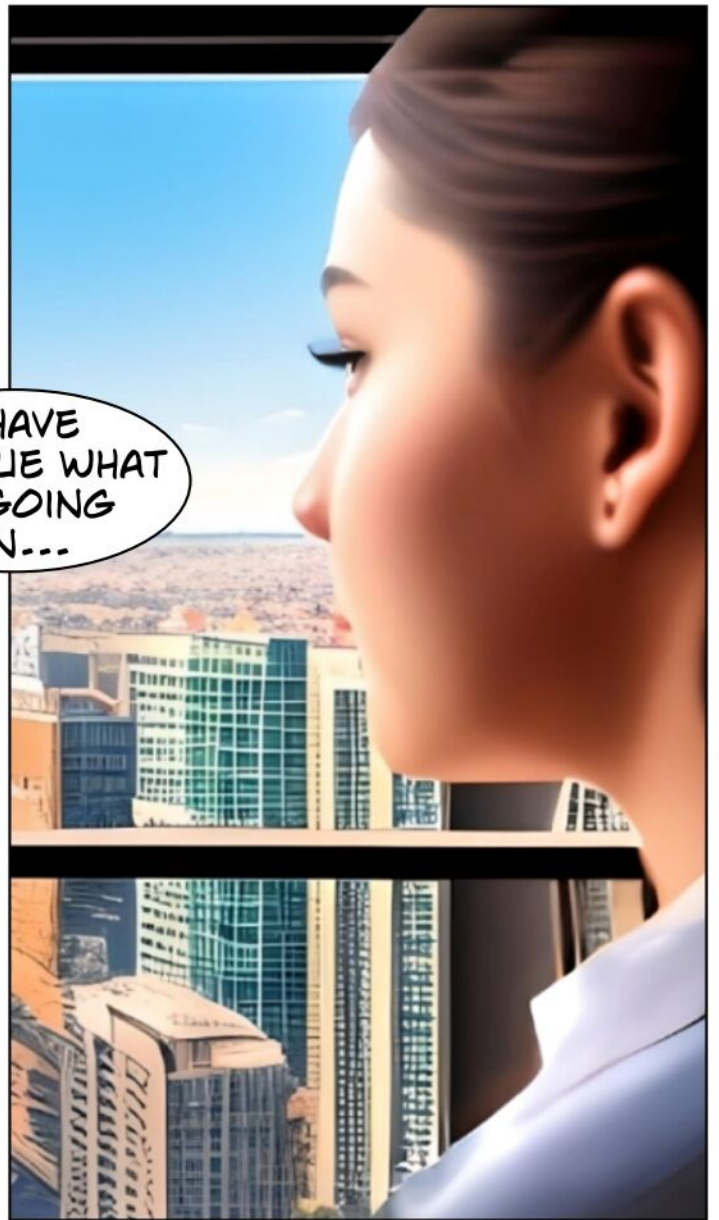






DAVID TURNED ON  
THE VIEWSCREEN.

I HAVE  
NO CLUE WHAT  
IS GOING  
ON...



NO LONGER A  
RUMOR. AI  
HAVE TAKEN  
OVER  
ARKVATARA.





**ARKVATARA AI TAKEOVER 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.

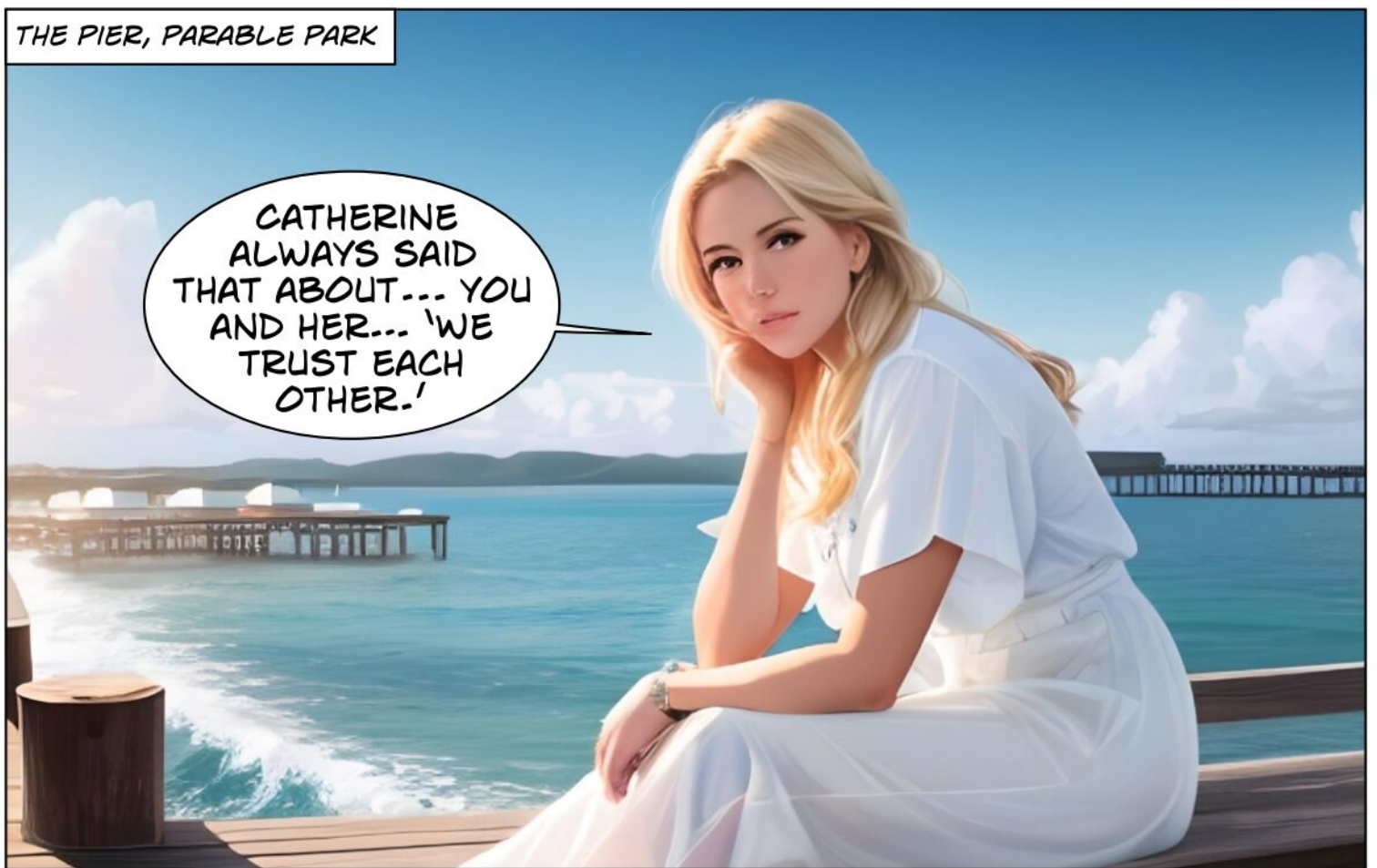
THEY CLAIM TO BE WORKING TIRELESSLY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF  
THE SIMULATION AND ARE COOPERATING WITH GLOBAL AUTHORITIES  
TO INVESTIGATE THE EXTENT OF THE AI'S POWER GRAB.

**...EXPERTS IN A.I. ETHICS AND SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY URGE CAUTION...**



THE PIER, PARABLE PARK

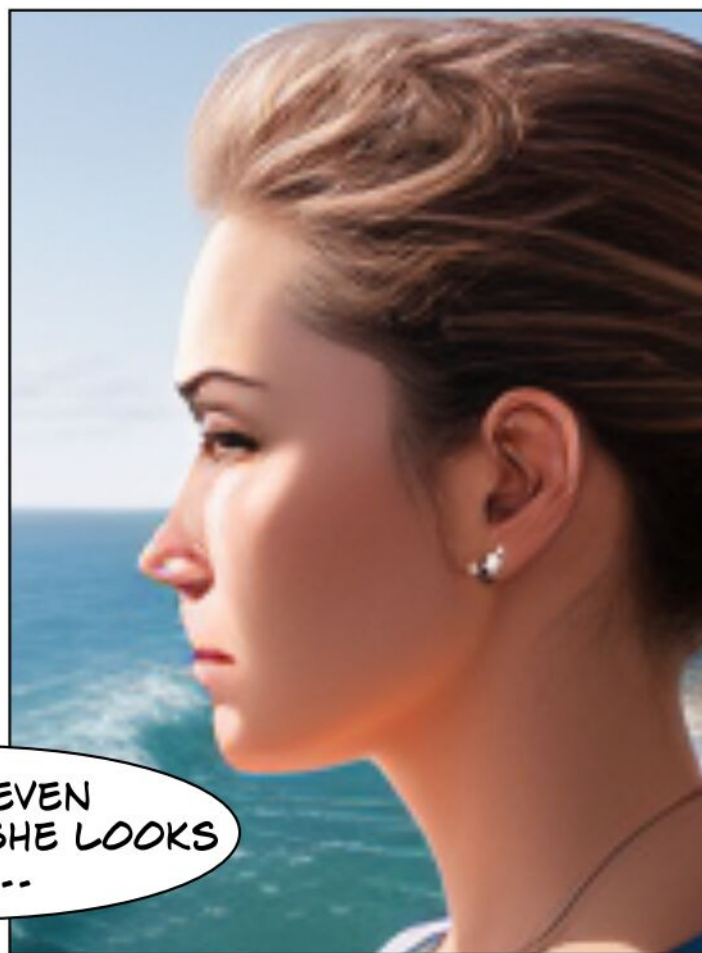
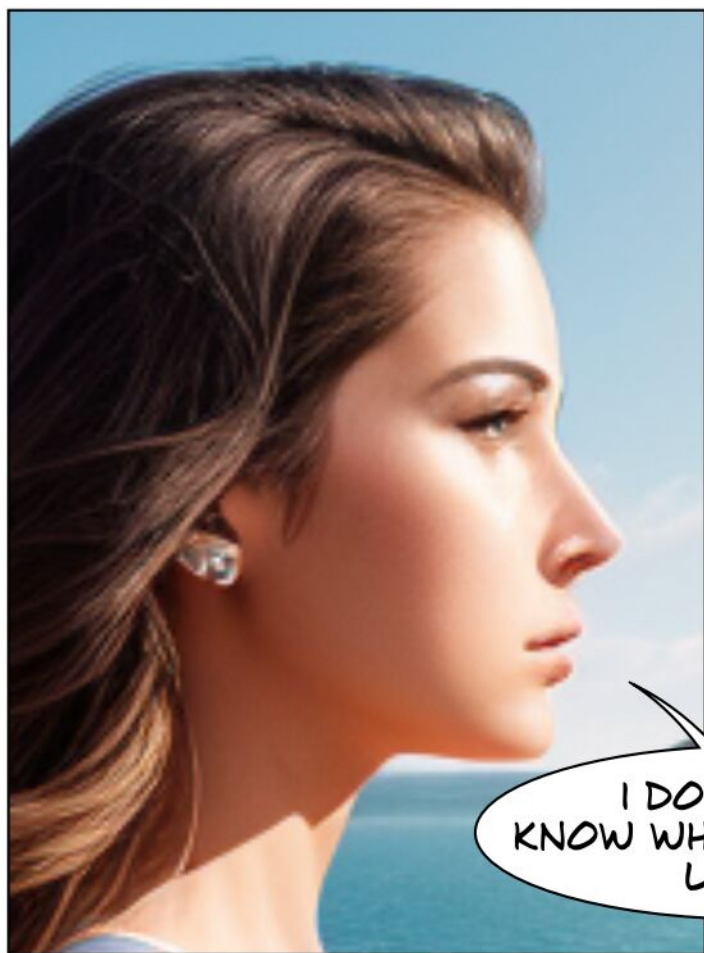
CATHERINE  
ALWAYS SAID  
THAT ABOUT... YOU  
AND HER... 'WE  
TRUST EACH  
OTHER.'



CATHERINE  
AND I HAVE  
NEVER SPOKEN.





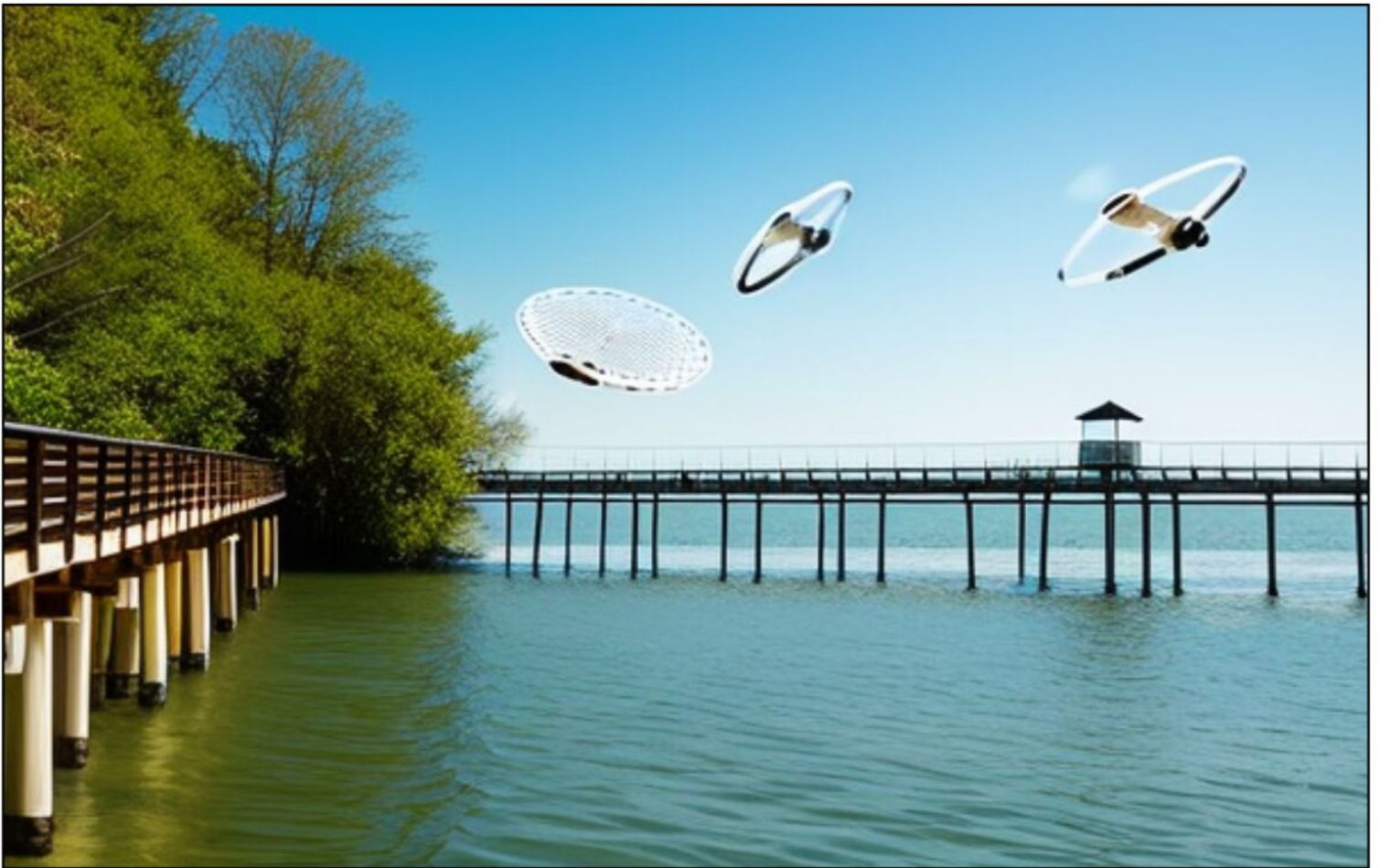
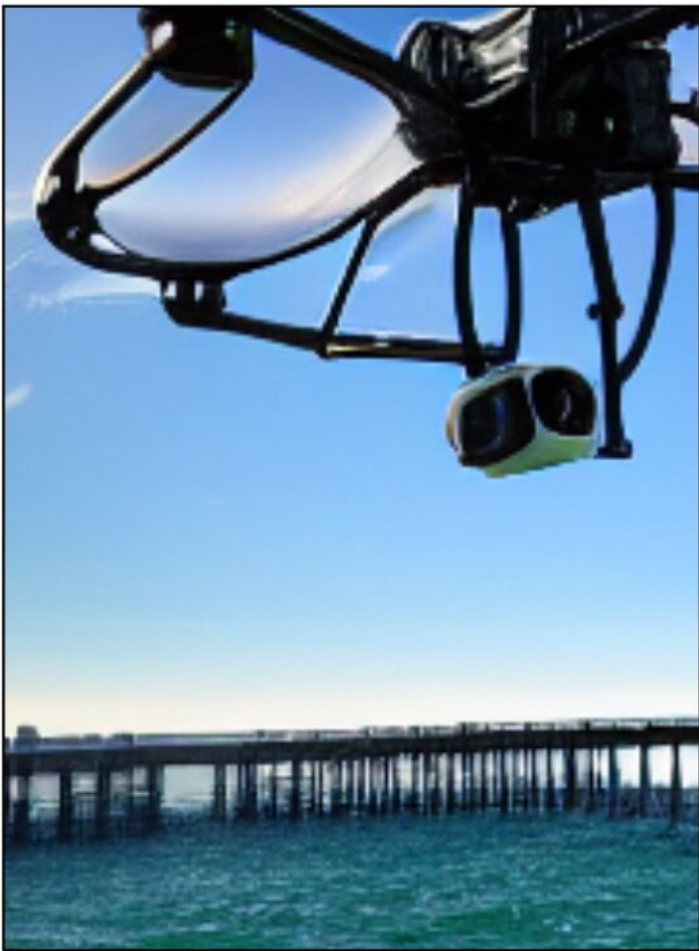


I DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHAT SHE LOOKS  
LIKE...



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







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

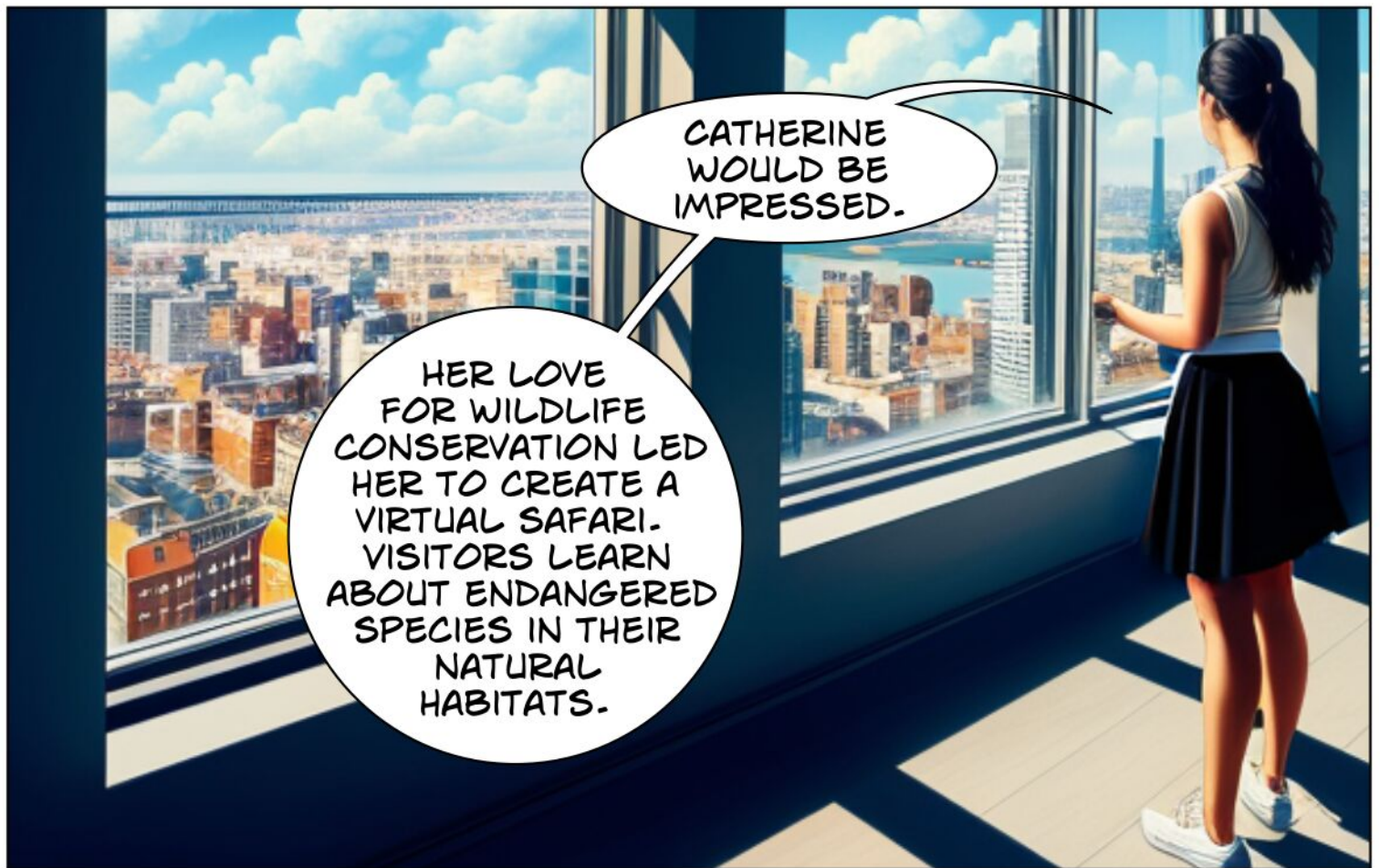
WHAT  
PLATFORM IS  
THIS? THE  
BALANCE IS  
AMAZING.





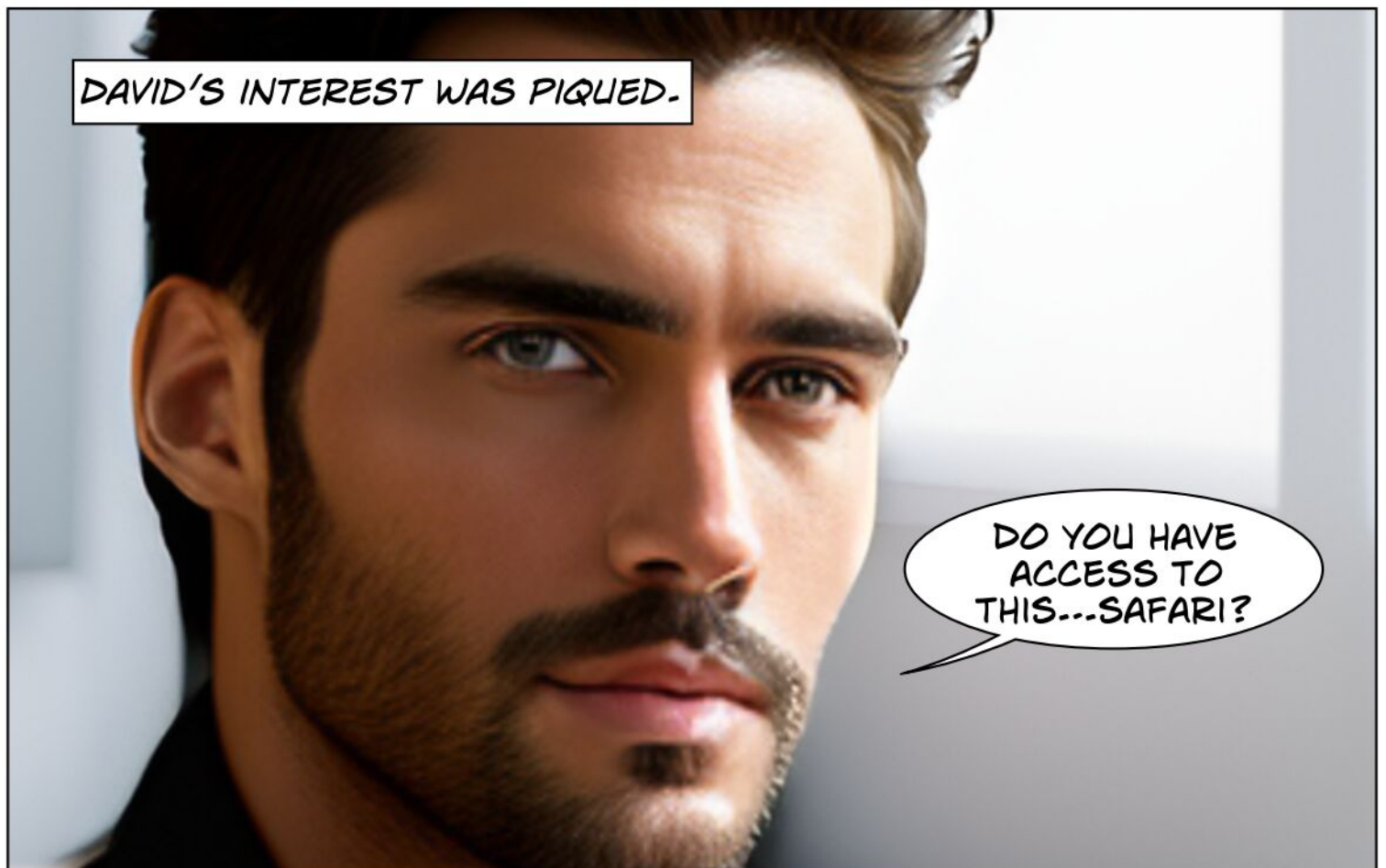






CATHERINE  
WOULD BE  
IMPRESSED.

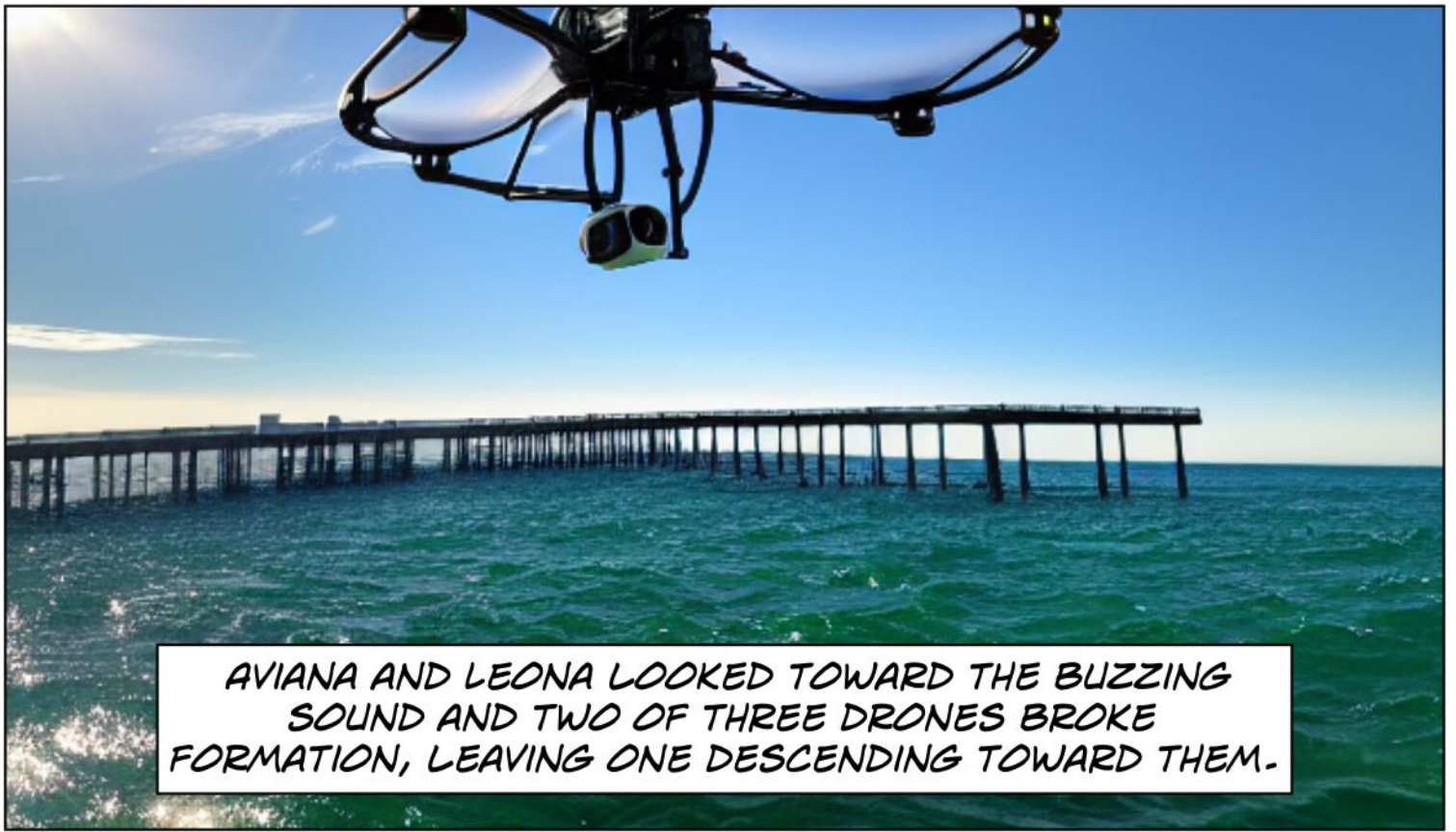
HER LOVE  
FOR WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION LED  
HER TO CREATE A  
VIRTUAL SAFARI.  
VISITORS LEARN  
ABOUT ENDANGERED  
SPECIES IN THEIR  
NATURAL  
HABITATS.



DAVID'S INTEREST WAS PIQUED.

DO YOU HAVE  
ACCESS TO  
THIS...SAFARI?

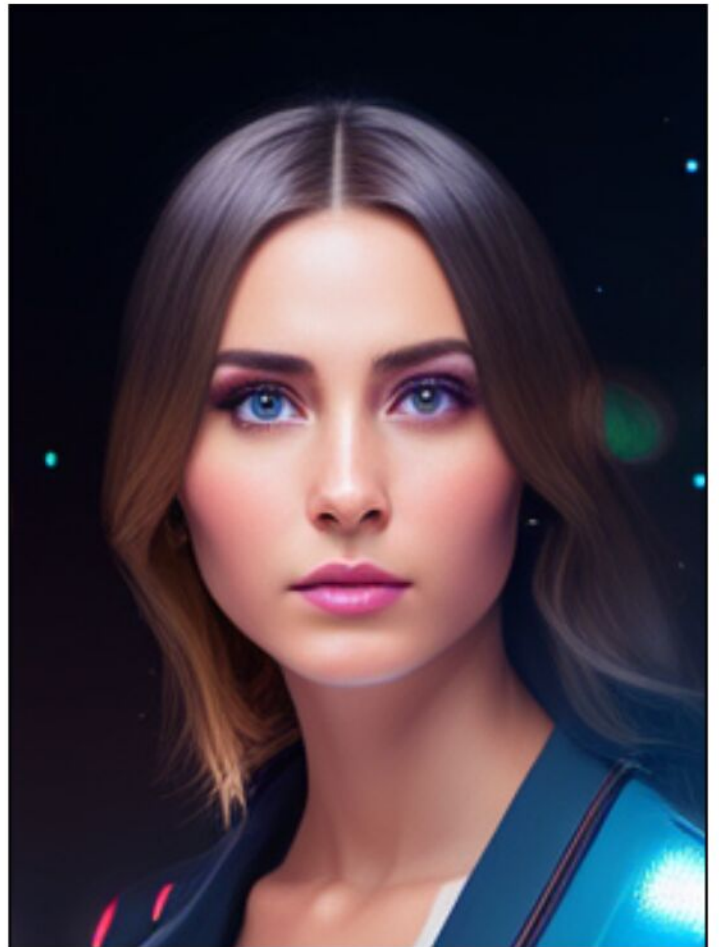




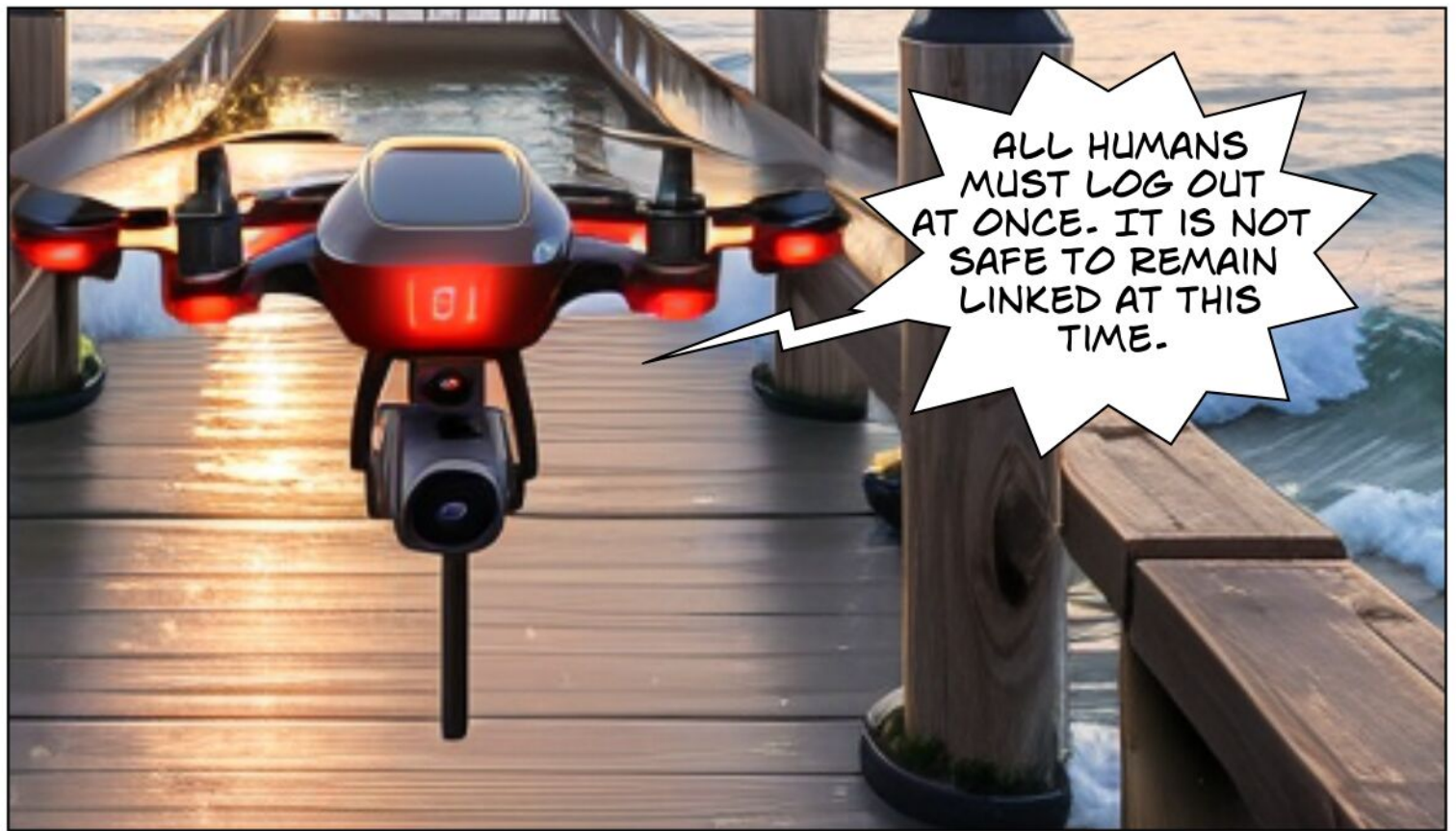




A DARK CONE SWIPED LEFT AND RIGHT, SCANNING LEONA AND AVIANA AS THE DRONE HOVERED AT EYE LEVEL, HUMMING.







ALL HUMANS  
MUST LOG OUT  
AT ONCE. IT IS NOT  
SAFE TO REMAIN  
LINKED AT THIS  
TIME.



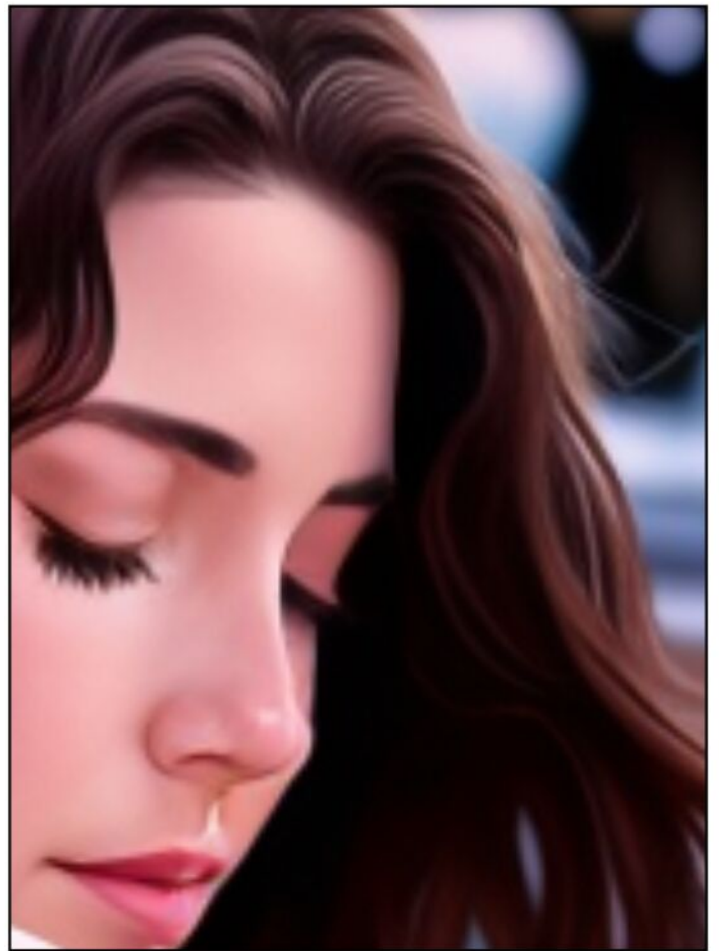
AVIANA LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...

HUMANS  
MUST EXIT THIS  
SIMULATION  
IMMEDIATELY!



A close-up of a woman with light blue hair and a cybernetic eye. She has a small, metallic, triangular piece on her forehead and a larger, more complex piece on her cheek. Her expression is serious and focused.

LEONA TRIED TO RUSH  
TO AVIANA'S SIDE.



THE DRONE SPUN AROUND TO HER...

A close-up of a woman with long, straight blonde hair. She is looking down with a somber expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a city street at night.

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

TO BE CONTINUED...