



The lost Temple
Chapter 06
The Hunter becomes
the Hunted

Previously on „The lost Temple“:

Mikael – a young archeology student was paid a visit by Kassandra Elaquoi (or Kessy for short) - a demon girl who jumped into our world through a dimensional rift. She gave Mika the task of retrieving an ancient artifact. Against all odds, Mika really tracked down said artifact and managed to get in and out of the underground temple it was hidden in.

On his way home he even saved a girl in the woods and brought her back to her mother and the old hermit who were living in the woods. Mika spent the night there and now he is heading back home with the artifact to wait for Kessy... When will the demon girl show up? And will she be pleased with Mika's find?




Bye!
Stay safe.



Thanks again!
See you around!

Thank you
for saving my
daughter.



Thanks, Mr. Grey.
But really, I did
because it was the
right thing to do,
not for a reward.

Again, much
obliged for
saving my girl.

If you need
something one
day, just come
to me. Okay?

Very honorable.
But you should
learn to accept
gratitude.
chuckle

You never know
when you will
need it. See you
around, lad.

The way back was still long, and I was quite exhausted from my adventures the day before. The night on the hard bench in front of the hermit's hut did not help much with my aching body either.



What a day!



So, when I got home, all I did was crash in my bed, and I slept the whole day and night through.



I had stored away the artifact in my closet...

I put several blankets and a pillow around it in the hopes to hide it from magical detection... Though I don't know if Ether works that way...

Anyway, I did check. While I got a reading from within my room when I used Repis, I got nothing from down the street... So, I guess that's good enough until that Zermankai girl returns...

I just hope she shows up and teaches me some more...



With no way to contact Kessy, I grew restless.



I even tried out to meditate and call out to her in my mind... again... probably not the way stuff works... Definitely did not lead to any results!



And so, with another half of a day wasted, I decided there was no use waiting and I went to university again... Life must go on, right?



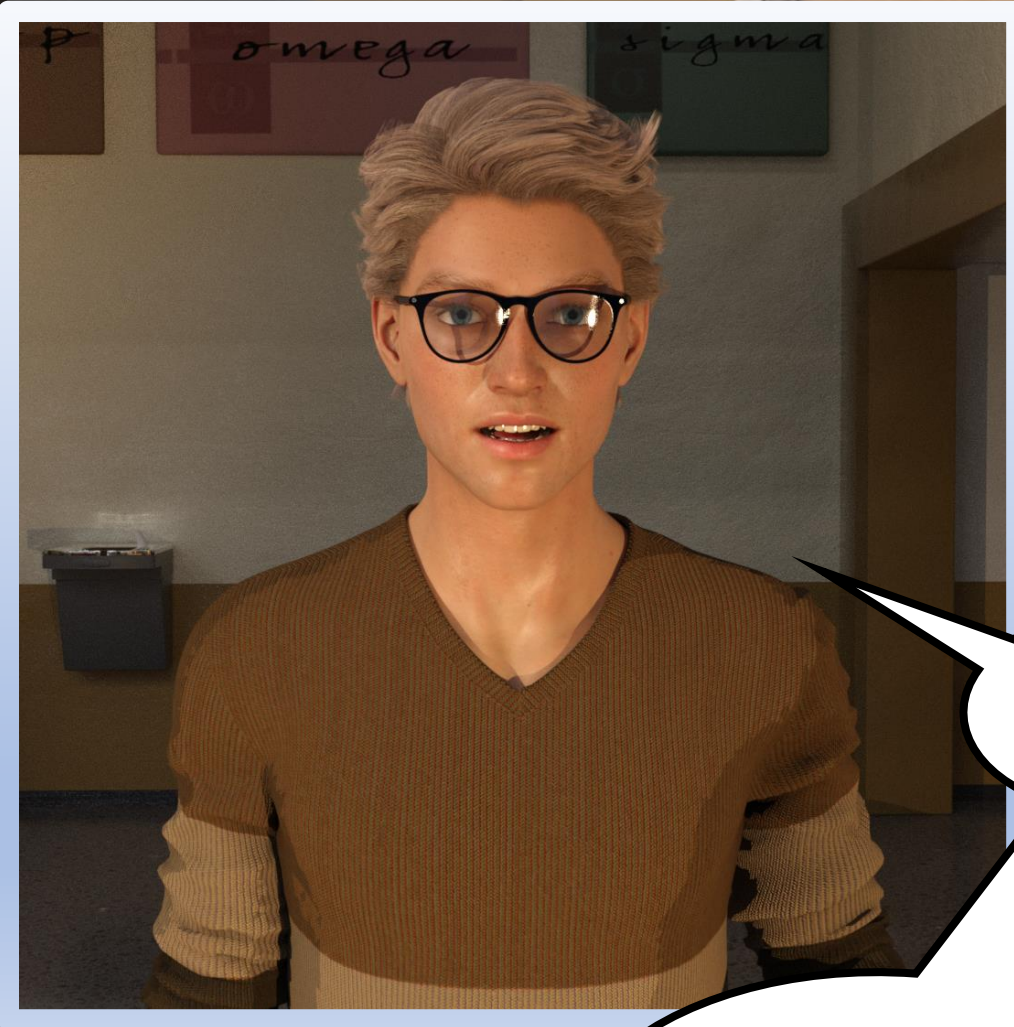
Hey.
That's Mika!

First things first, I was of course checking the news board again when...



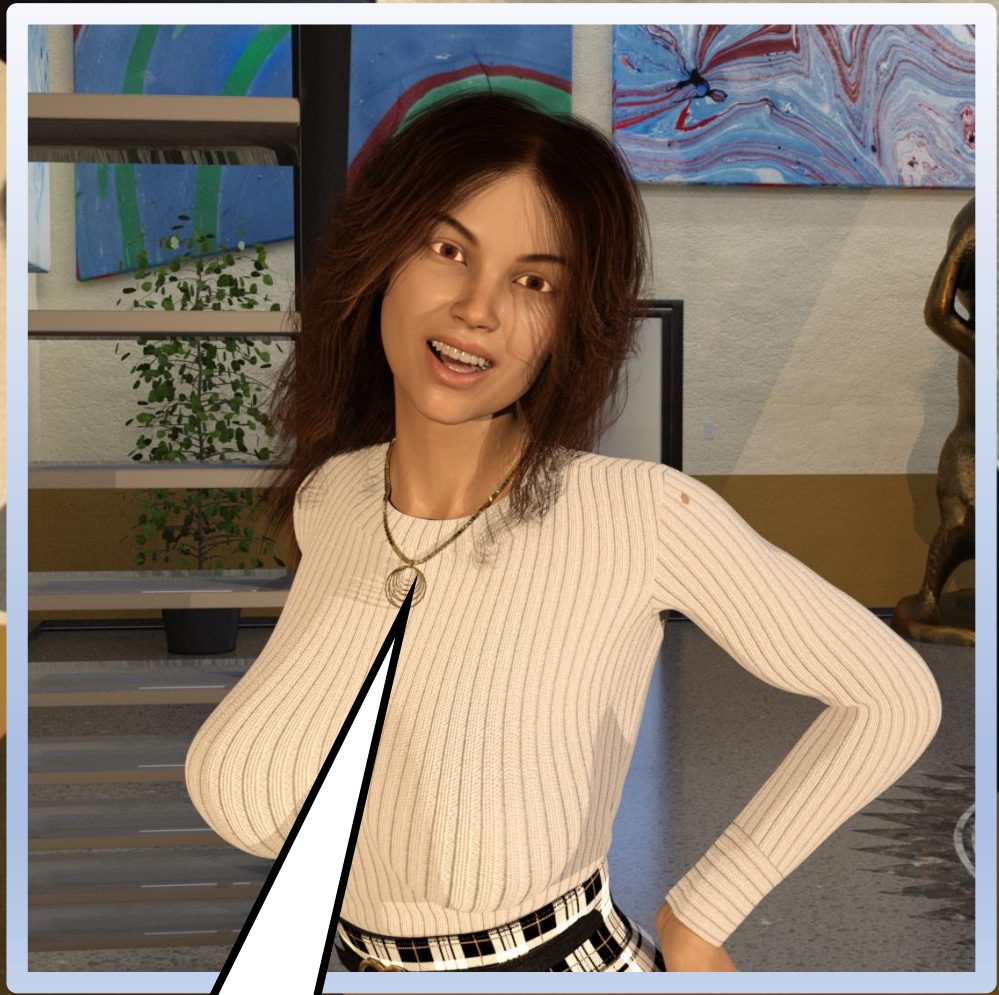
Hi there!

The girl, Lana, did leave quite the impression on me when we talked in her store... She was so genuinely kind and friendly... But usually, I don't leave a noteworthy impression on people – especially girls – so I was kinda surprised when she start a conversation with me like that.



I... err... what?

Oh. Ha-ha! Yes. *chuckle* I did find a suitable one thanks to your tip!



How are you? Got your marbles together? *giggle*

You know... marble... cause you were looking for a marble last time we spoke...

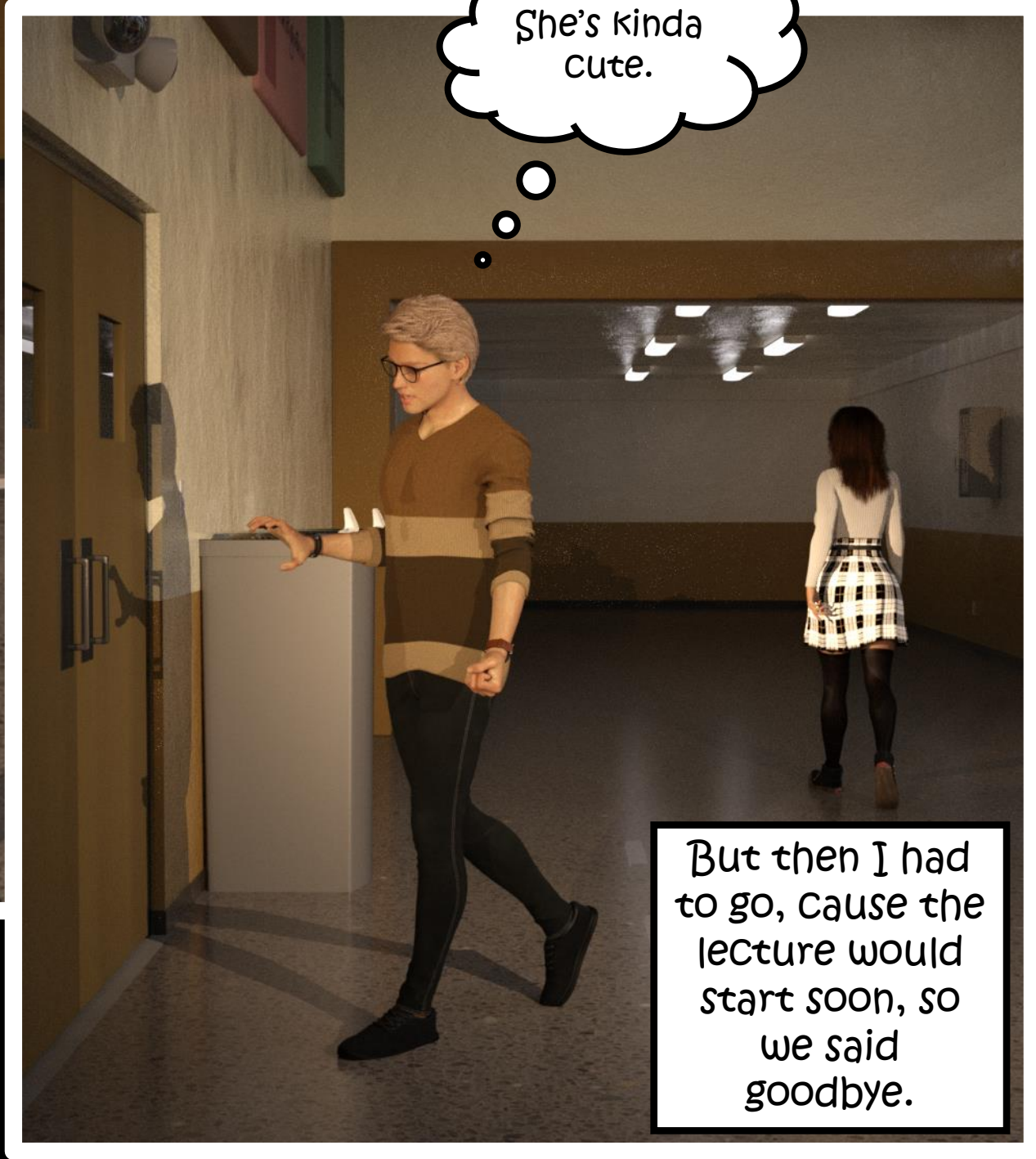
We had a nice short chat. Really just small talk... but it felt good talking to Lana...




He's kinda cute.



She's kinda cute.



But then I had to go, cause the lecture would start soon, so we said goodbye.

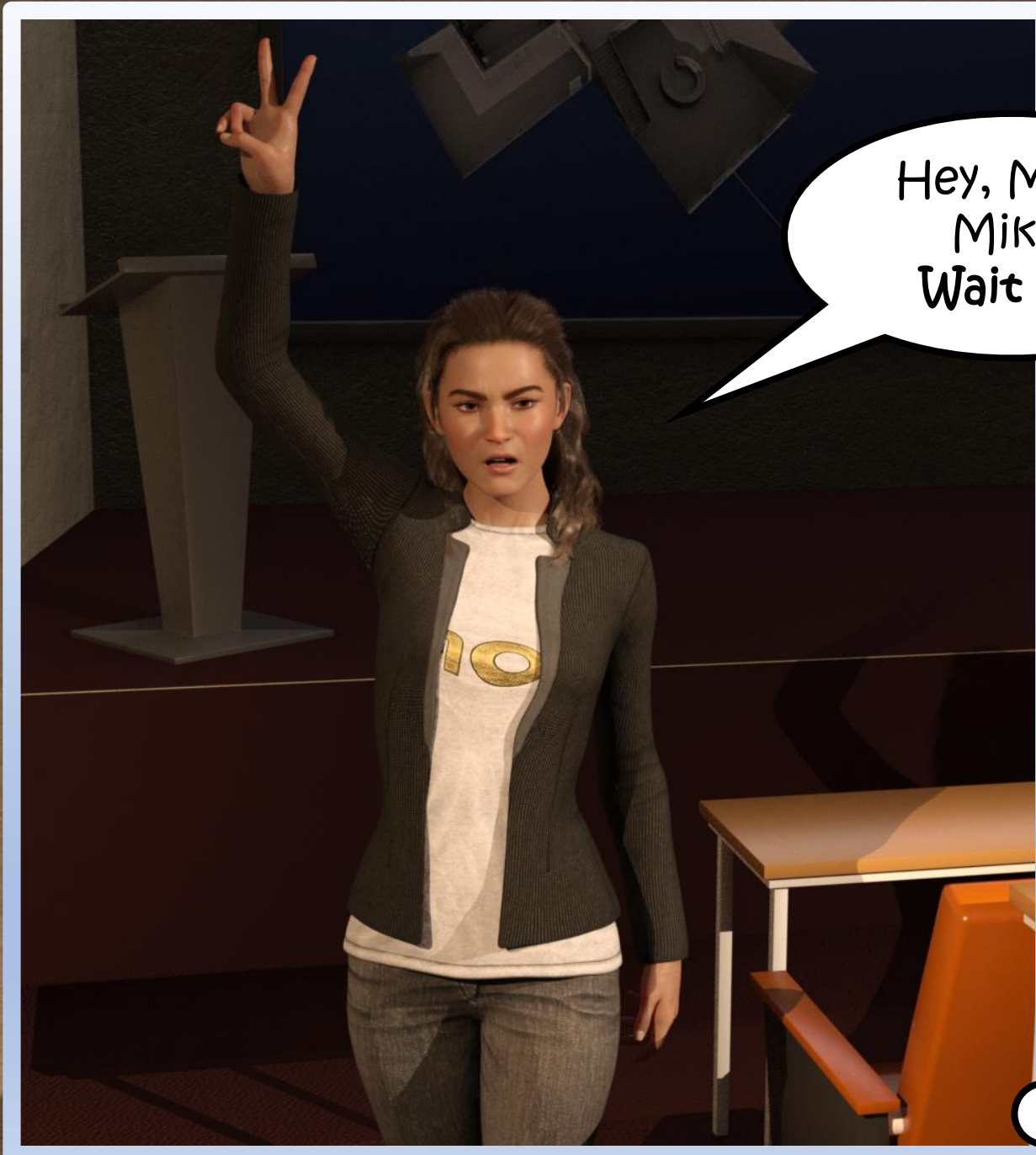


The lecture was interesting – as usual. Prof. Harrison is a great lecturer. At the end, he invited us to his dig site tomorrow.

I've already started writing... But I really should add a report from the actual dig site... But I've never been there...

If any of you want to join me at the excavation site, I'm there from 8:00 to 17:00.

Again, please, only students with an A in Field Methods.



Hey, Mika!
Mika!
Wait up!

Huh...
what does
she want?

Deal!

Help me study
for Runes and
old Languages.

What's in
for me?

You go
tomorrow, right?
I've never been
there... and...
Can I tag along?

Mika was there
already... and he's
good with the
actual hands-on
stuff...

Wha?...
What do
you want?

...Fine!
You get
two hours.

Deal?



That evening I was over at Gabriel's place to study for the upcoming test.

So... according to your brilliant system... this means...

"The books burned the king with flowers"...

Wha?
Nah dude, You must be doing something wrong...

FUCK!





FUCK!

You do realize there are five more rune pages back there in Chapter 03?

We are fucked!



Please tell me you did not ignore those...

Heya guys!
How's studying coming along?

With Gabriel having no clue and me having missed the last lectures we gave up on studying and ended up watching TV with Jessica...

You do realize that if you fail this semester again you lose your scholarship, and your mother will force you to get a job?

gulp
You always find the right words to motivate me, Jess.

Kiss

Man... I'd really like to have a girlfriend...



The next morning, I met up with Elizabeth and we made our way to the dig site.

Thanks for taking me with you. I really have no sense of direction.



I've never really talked to Elizabeth before. Everyone just calls her the "know-it-all" and keeps away...



But she's actually quite chatty – and not in a bad way. We share the same interest in archaeology after all.

Time passed quickly as we chatted... at least for me. Elizabeth though, was quite out of breath when we reached the site.

Are you okay, Elizabeth?

Please *huff*
huff. I told
you. *huff*
huff

Call me
Liz!

And... *huff*
huff just give
me a moment.



We met up with the professor. He was happy to see us, but also very busy, so he assigned us an area to do some basic tasks.



Ah, Mika!
Great to see you again here.

And Elizabeth.
First time, right?

Don't worry.
Just stick to what you've learned and be careful.



We got some equipment from around the dig site and Elizabe... I mean Liz started carefully combing the area...

Some days ago, I would have been doing the same... but as things stand now... I waited for Liz to look the other way and then I used Repis. It really was just a pipe dream and I was prepared to cast Scio right afterward... but against all odds, the spell triggered. There was something magical hidden right over there!



Repis!



I carefully pulled one of the stones out under the wall and behind it, I found a red orb, emitting a small amount of ether.



I secretly put the orb into my pocket, but I shared my other find - an old stone tablet - with Liz.

This could be enough to write your paper on it.

O.M.G.!!
How did you find this?

Could be enough for a collaboration...

Can you read it?

On the fly?
No way!

But most of the runes do seem familiar.

We couldn't get a hold of the professor that day, but we registered the find with his assistant and we were allowed to take it with us to study it.

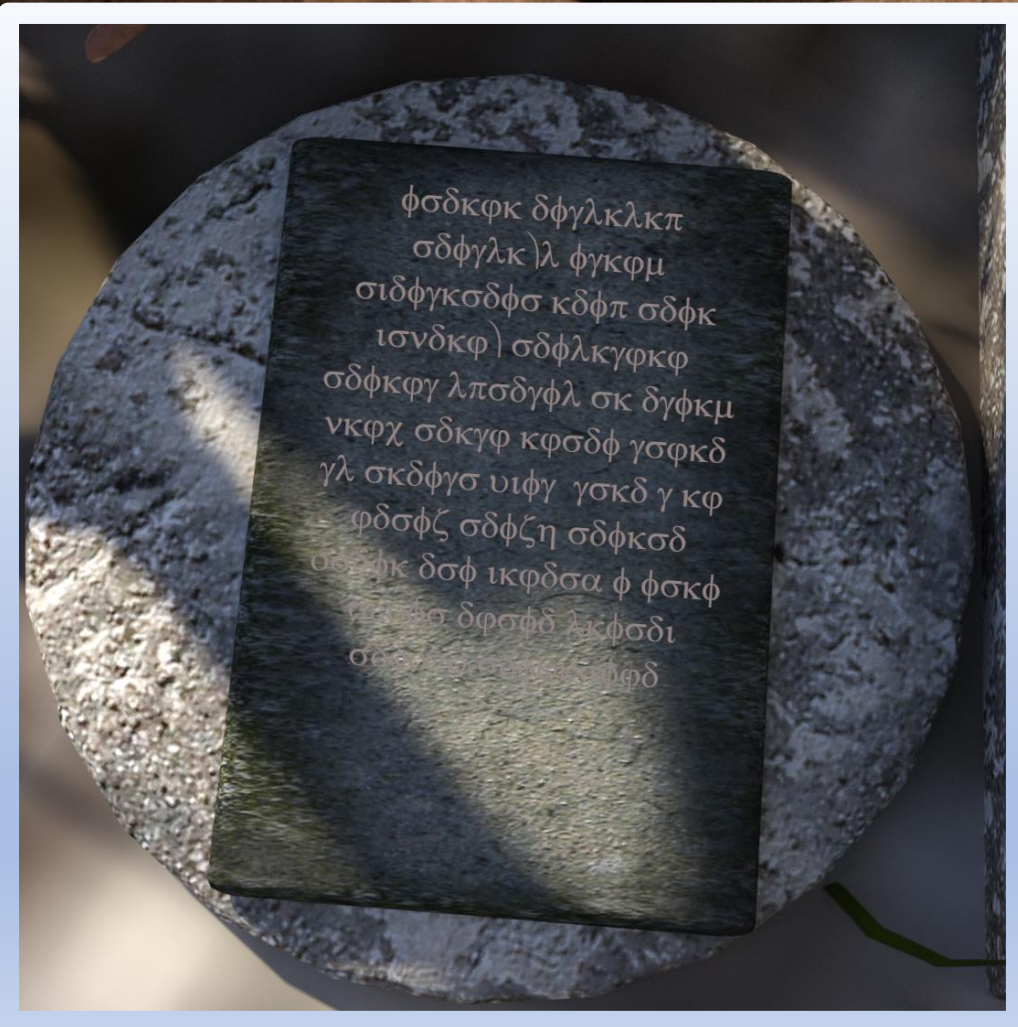
And to be frank, I can't think of anybody else better suited to translating this.

If it wasn't for you, I might not have come here today.

And you are sure you want to let me in on this?

It was you who found it after all.

Thanks!



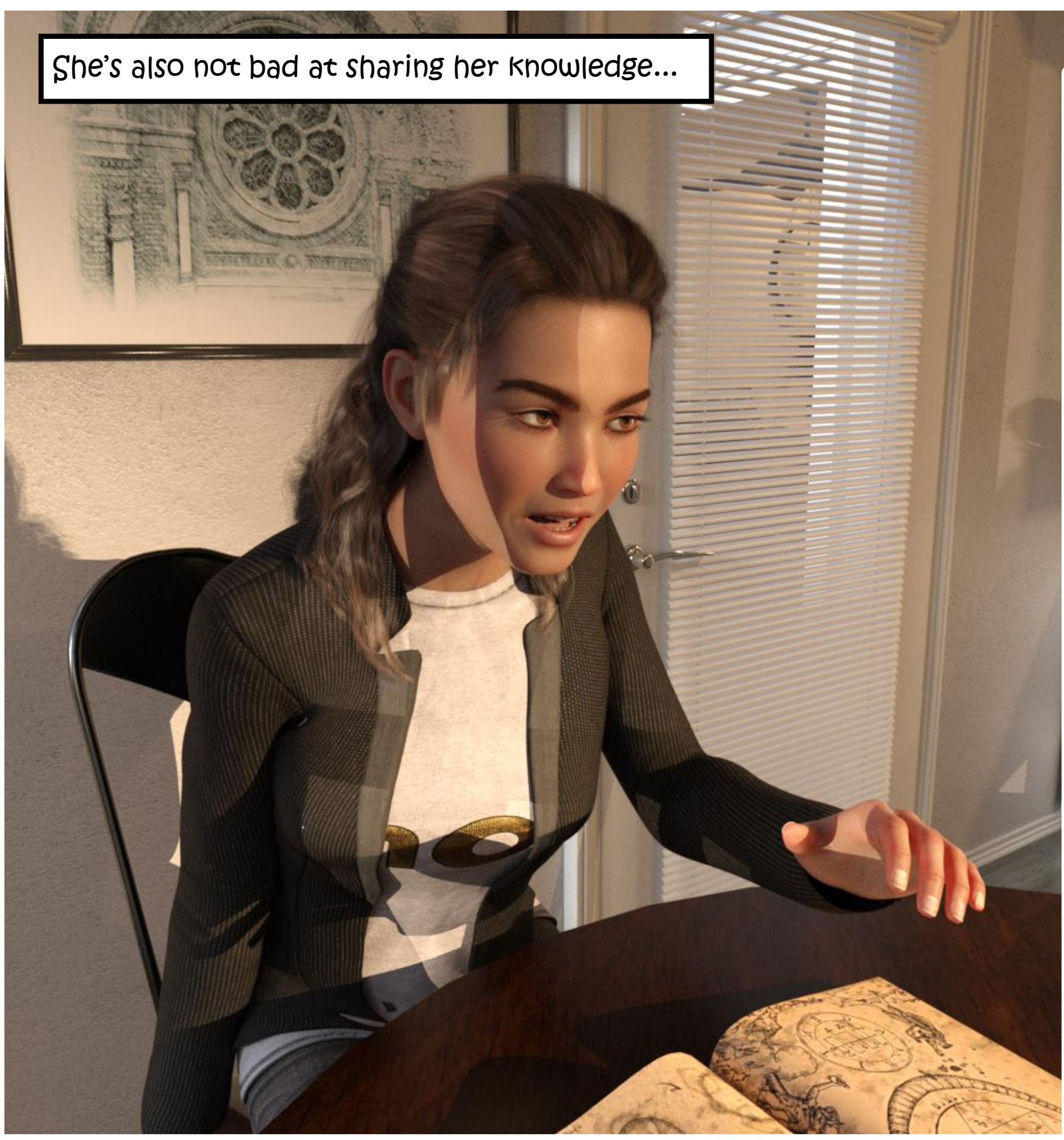
Obviously, I did not mention the orb to anybody!

We went all the way back to town, and scheduled a time for our tutoring session...

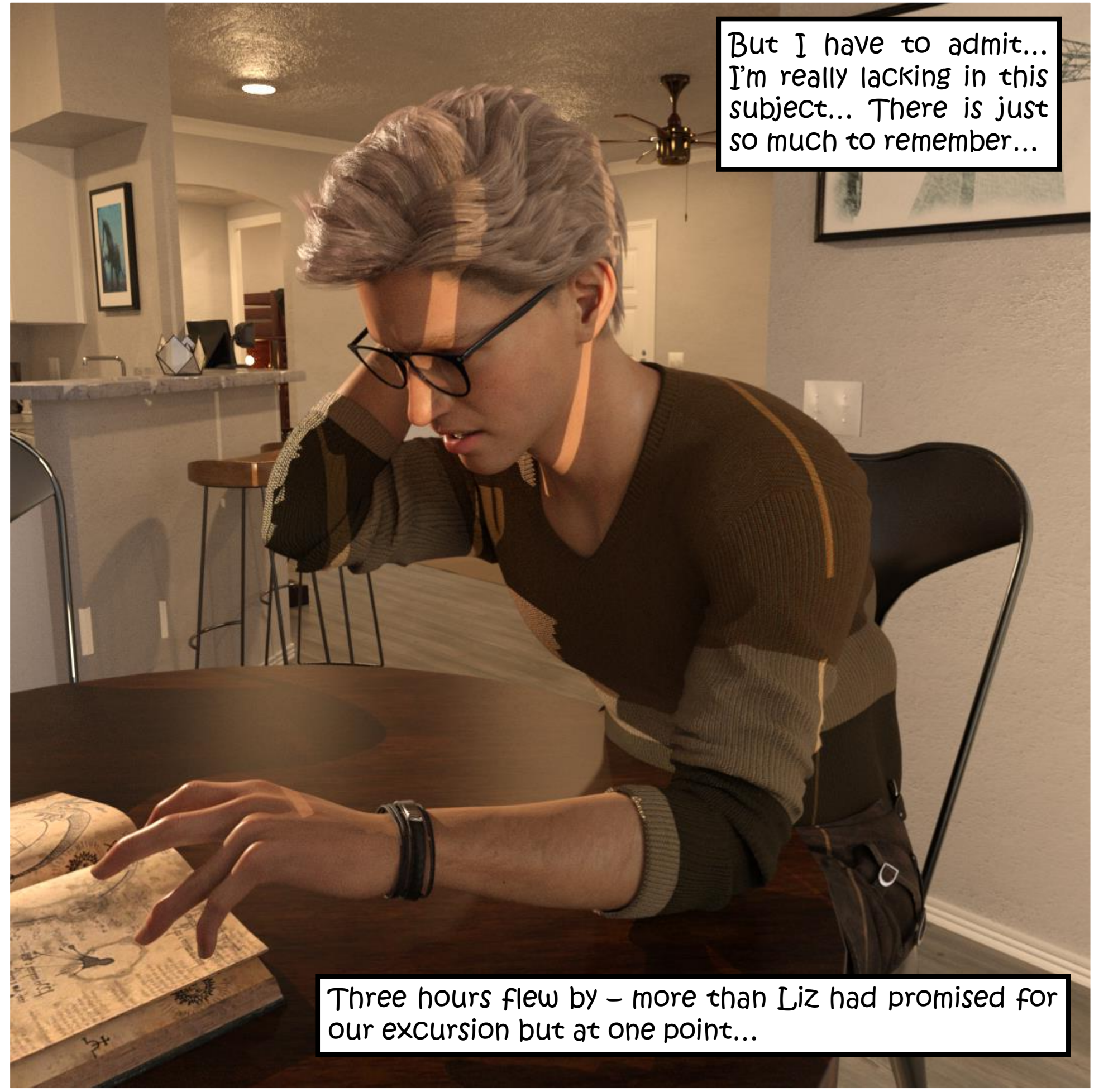
That evening I joined Liz back at her place. I was afraid she might be too invested in the tablet, but that was unnecessary. When it comes to studying this girl has an iron will. And we started our tutoring session shortly after my arrival.

Liz was really talented when it came to old languages. I'm sure she'll be able to ace that test...

She's also not bad at sharing her knowledge...



But I have to admit... I'm really lacking in this subject... There is just so much to remember...



Three hours flew by – more than Liz had promised for our excursion but at one point...



Mika...
I'm sorry.

You are a quick study,
but there is just too much
you missed.

And I still gotta learn
some stuff on my own for
the test.

I know letting me in on the
tablet is a huge deal...

But please don't ask me to neglect
my own grades for yours... ☹️.

A part of me really thought about it... clinging to Liz as the only hope to pass that test... But we actually had a pretty nice day together... And it would have felt wrong...



No. Of course!
You have done more than
enough, Liz.

Hi there you two. Mika, right?
It's so nice that Liz finally has a friend over.

Mom!



Good evening,
Mrs. Rosto.

Mrs. Rosto offered to cook something for us, but as we were already done here, I did not want to intrude any longer. So, I declined and got ready to leave...



Much appreciated. Good luck with it.

See you in class.

I'll keep you posted on any progress I make with the tablet.

Yes! Get home safely.



hum

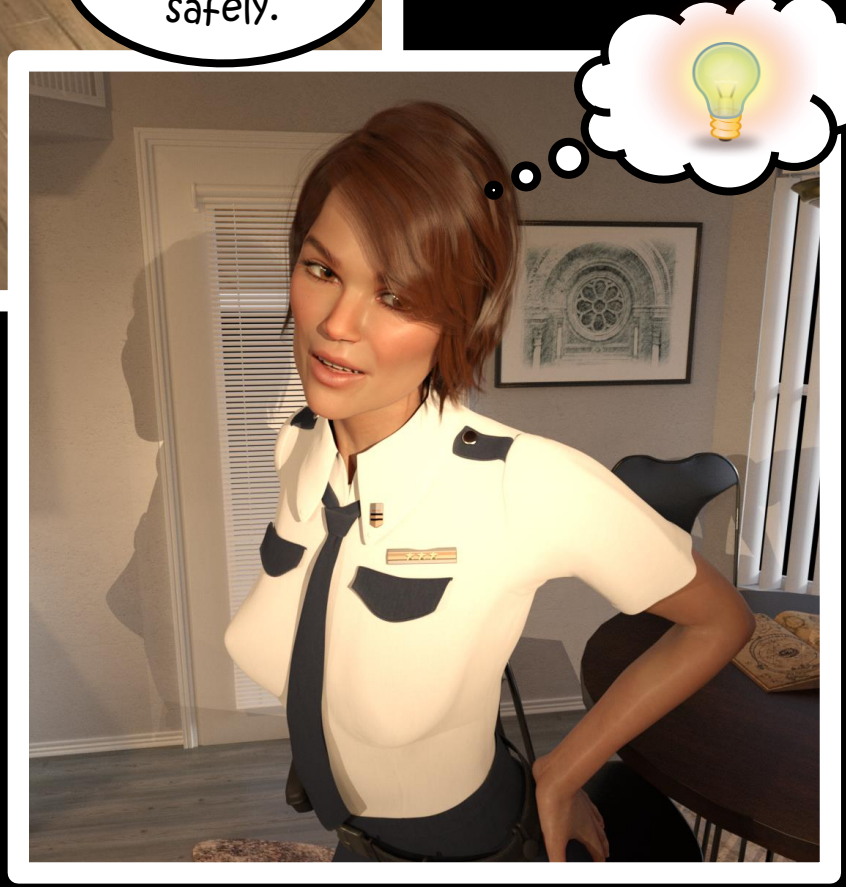


Cute boy. You fancy him.

Mom! It's not like that...

If you say so...

chuckle



Hmm... Maybe... I do like him... a bit...

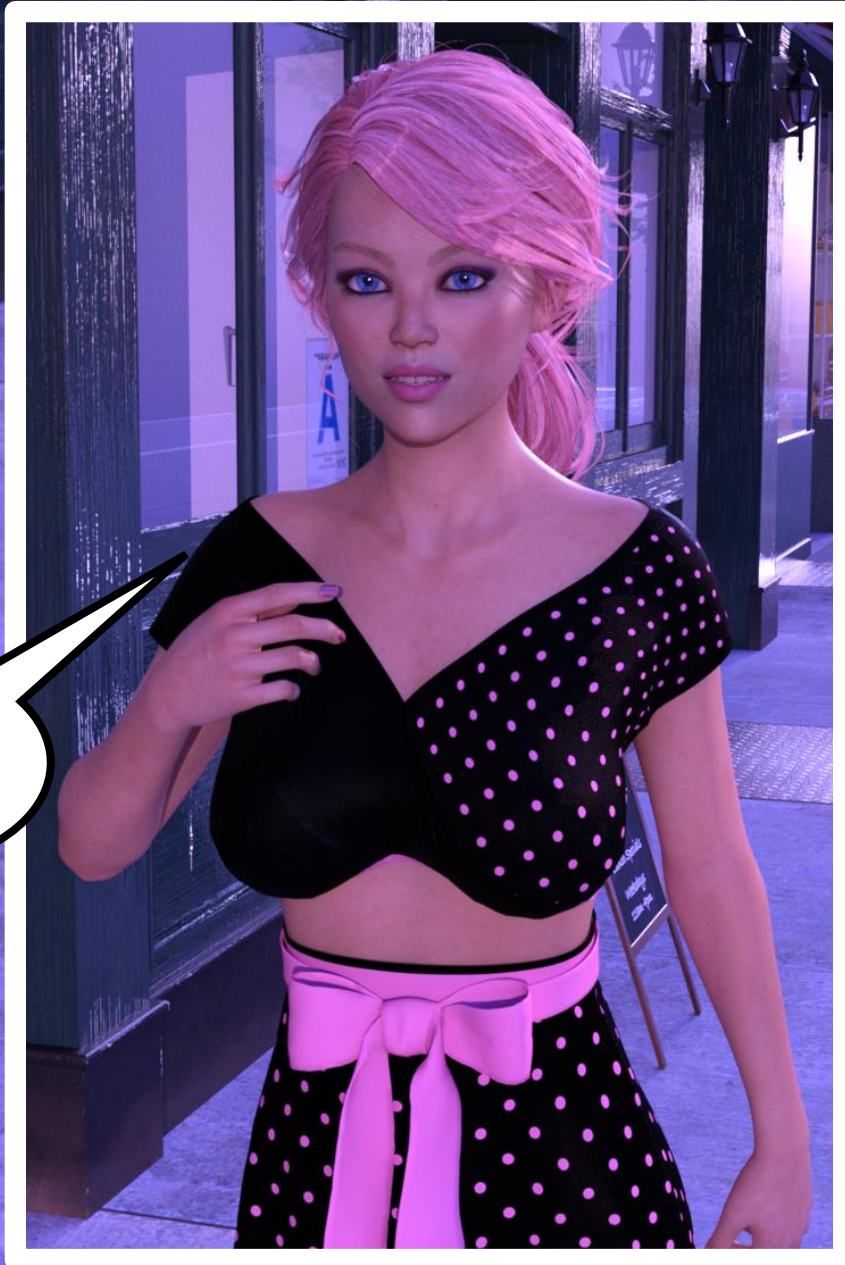


Thought bubble containing the text: 'Hmm... Maybe... I do like him... a bit...'

*Later that night in another part of town,
Kassandra Elaquoi sets her eyes on her
next prey...*



Mhhh!
That one looks
delicious!





Ocavum!

Lady!
What is wrong
with your...
eyes...

Woah!





I... feel strange.

A woman with short, wavy pink hair and glowing red eyes stands in a hallway. She is wearing a black two-piece outfit with white polka dots and a large white bow at the waist. A speech bubble points to her from the left.

I will obey.



Good girl!
You are a nice
catch indeed!

We are going
to have a lot
of fun!

Kessy manages to evade a sudden magical surprise attack. She transforms into her true form and glides into the air trying to get a glimpse of the attacker...



What the?!

Bzzzzzzzt

Who dares interrupt my pleasure time?!

Tsk!
Let's see how you'll like the taste of this!

Malkovis!

Careful, Val!
I've never seen such a high ether reading!





I will crush you, little girls!

Val! No fireball in a populated area!



Gelu Tabem!





Another one?!

Gelu Tabem!



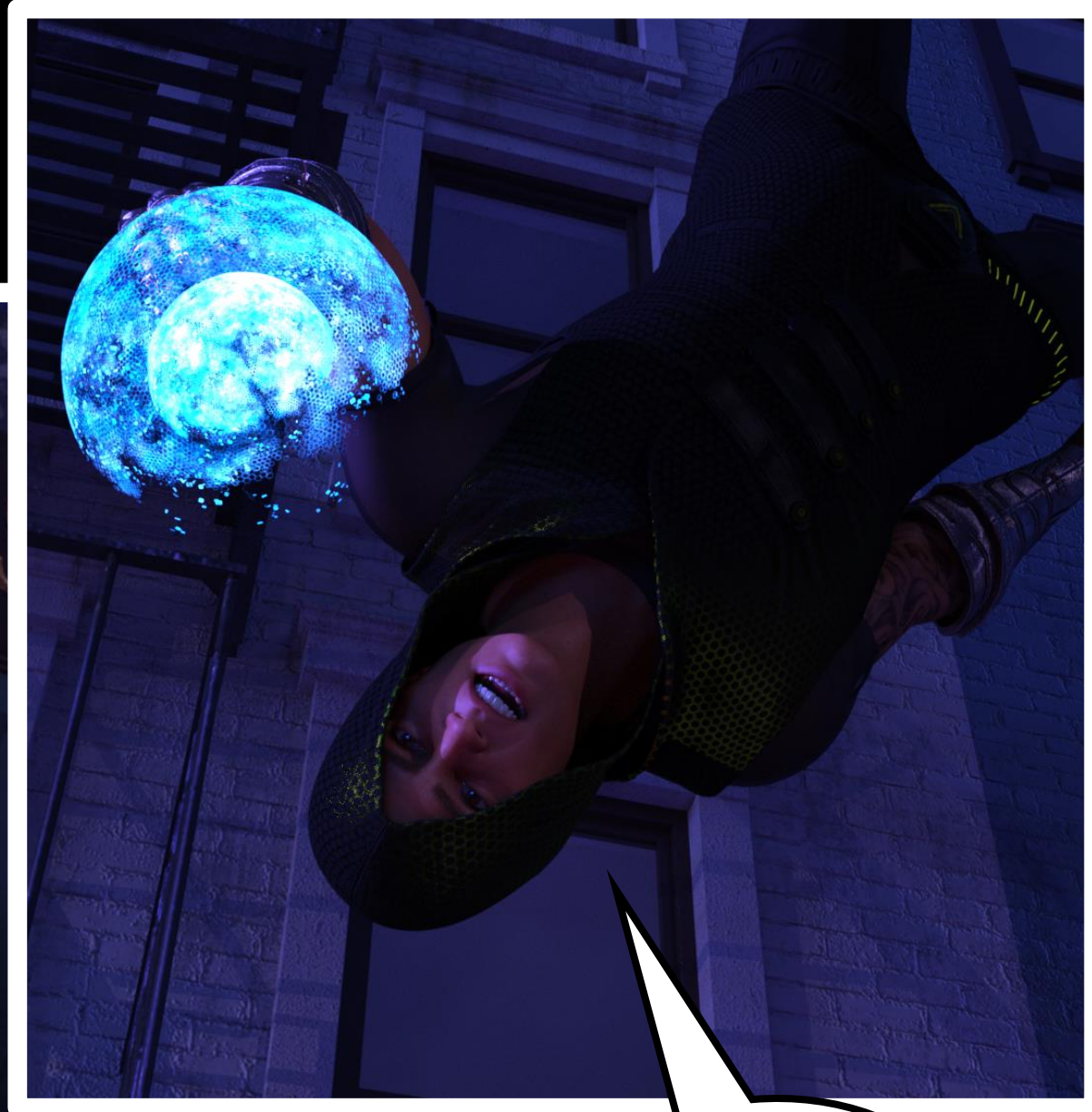
That might have hit if you hadn't given up your location beforehand, stupid!



I've got you right where I want you, demon!



One more!?



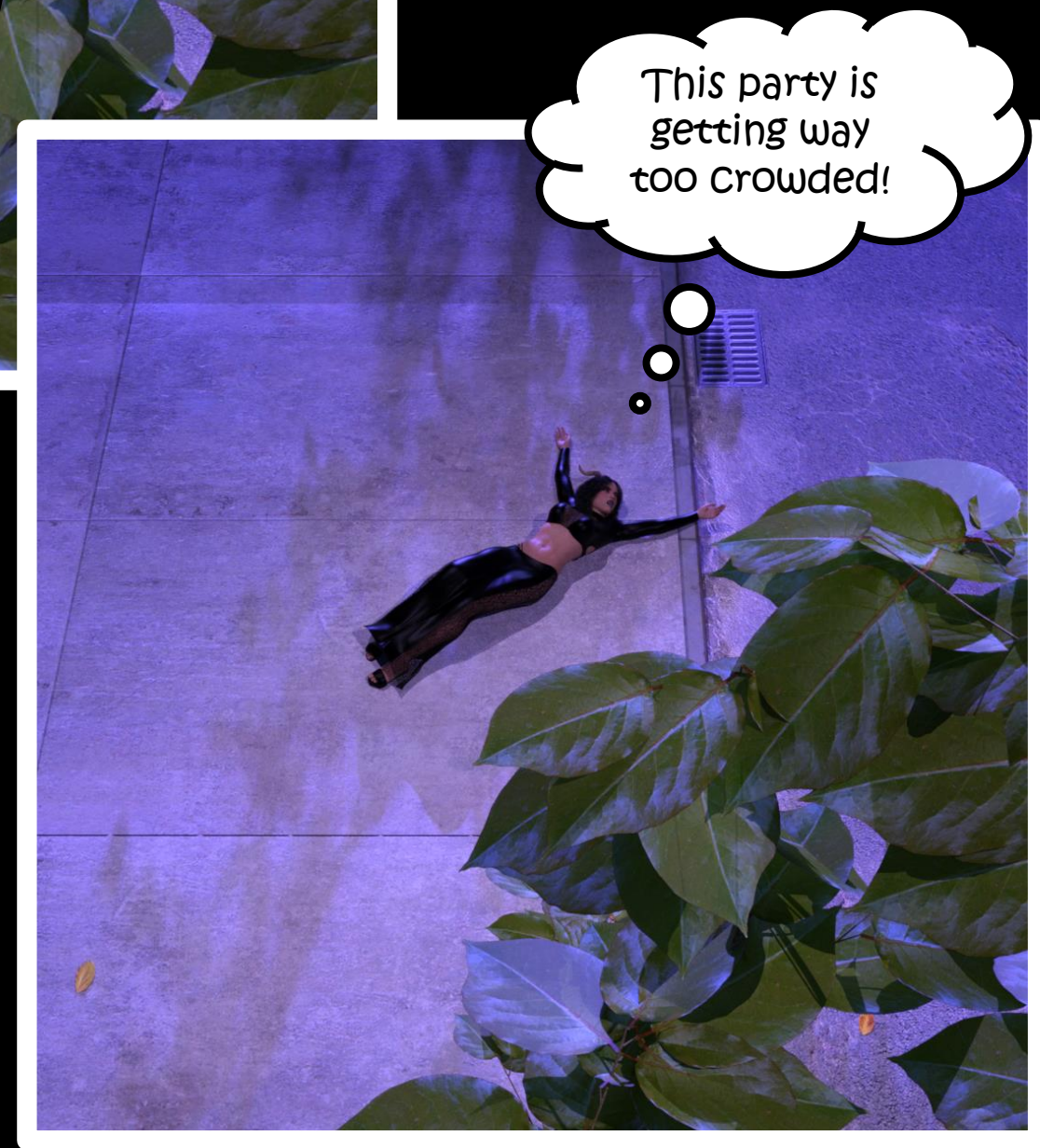
Here I go!

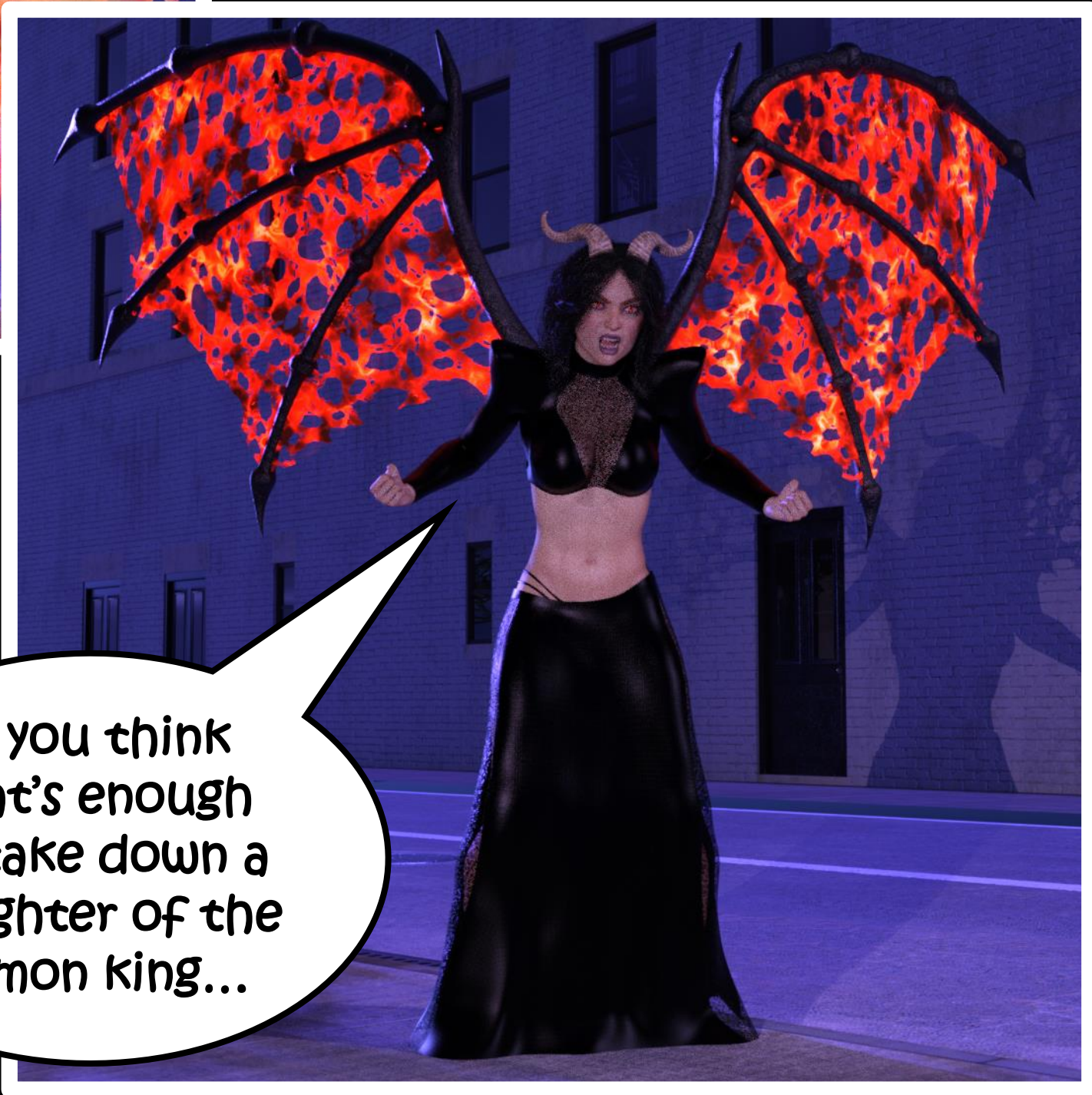
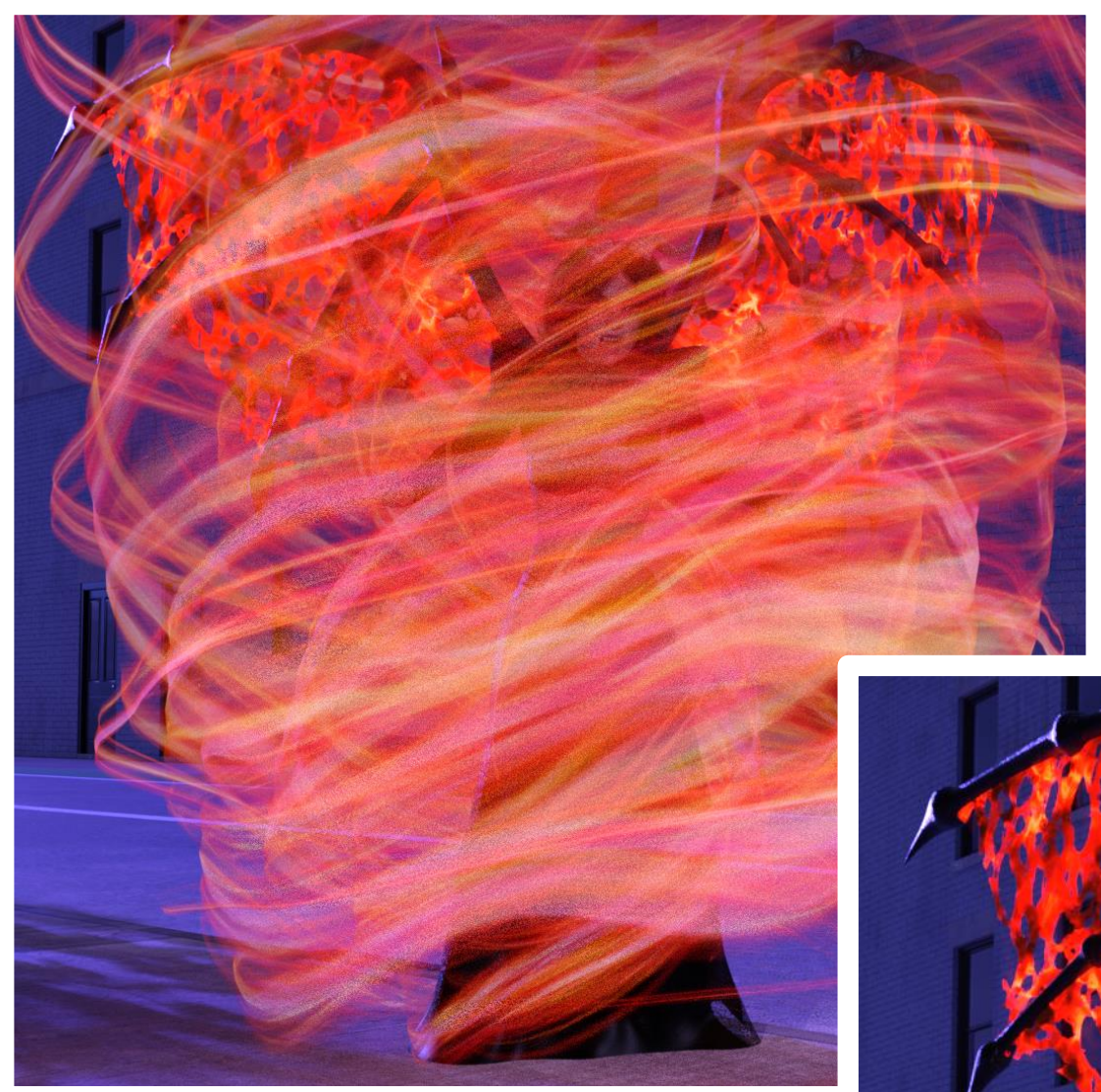
Here I go!

FUCK!

Now, Vadim!








If you think that's enough to take down a daughter of the demon king...

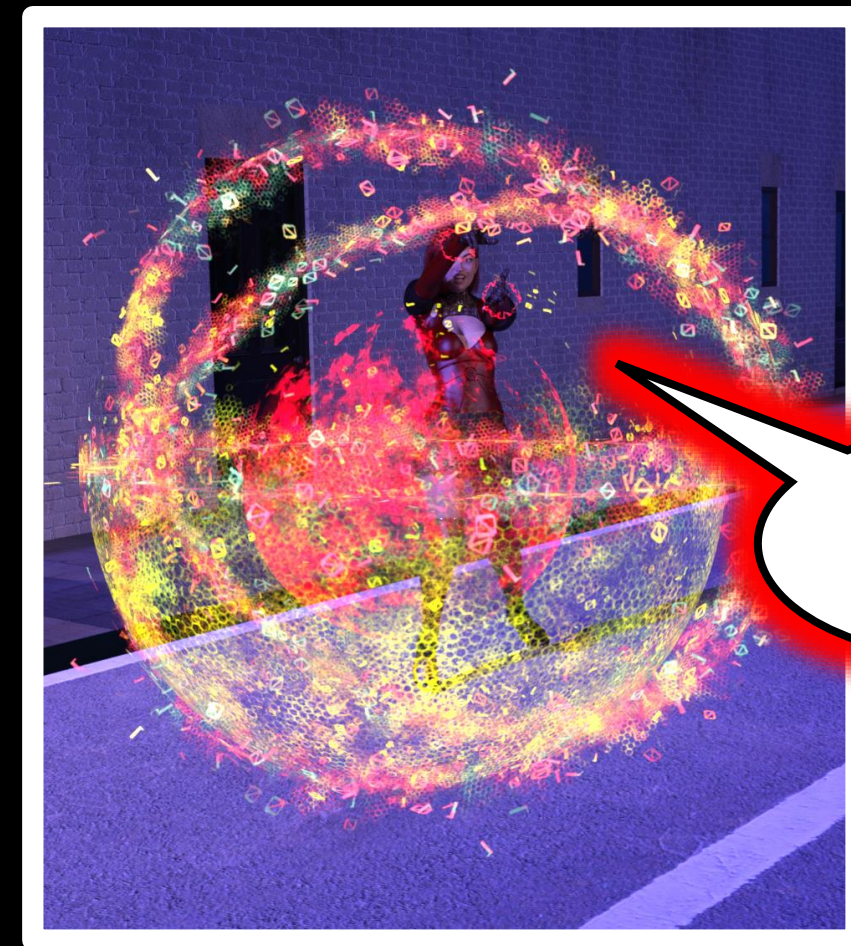


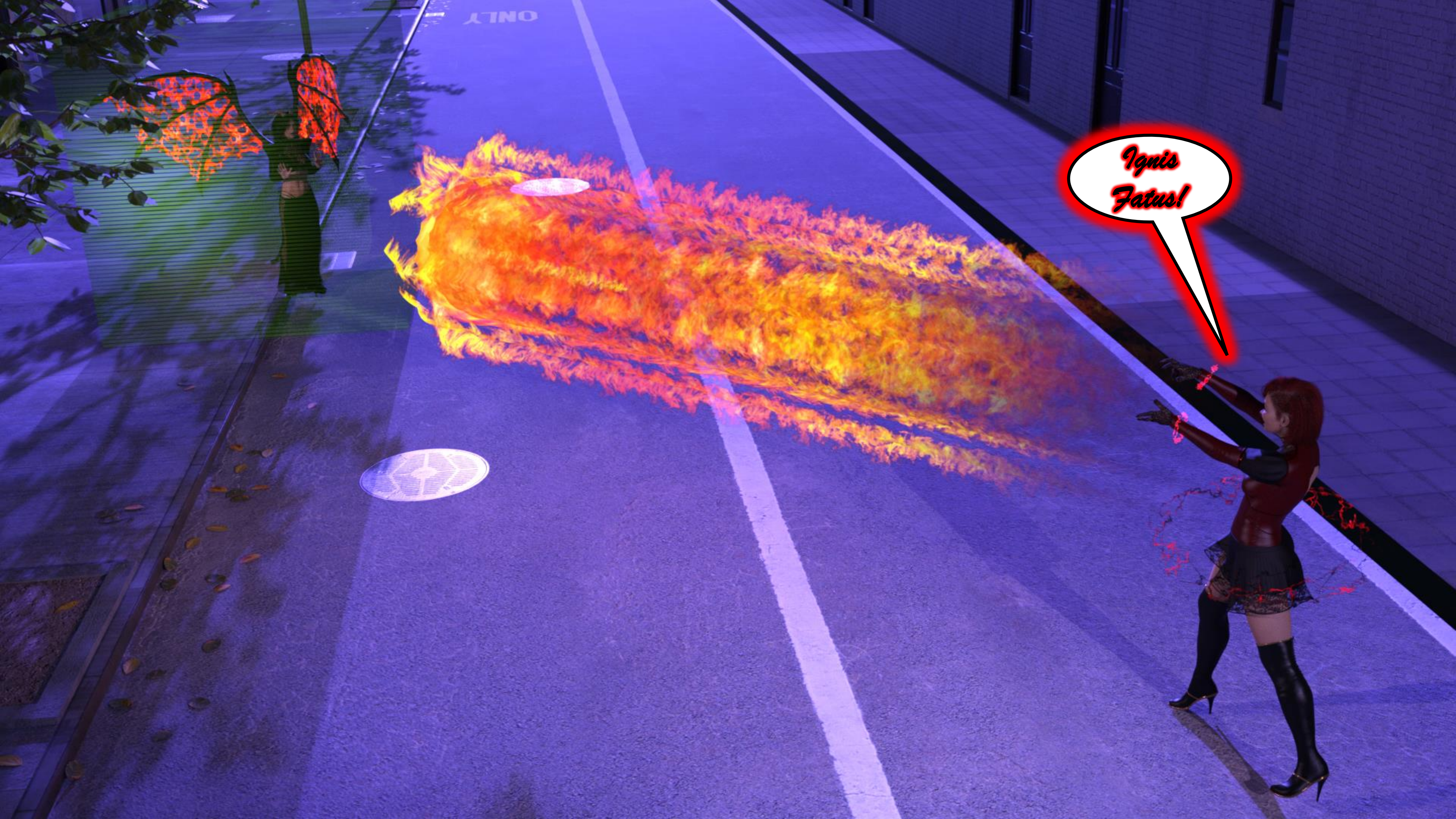
*Scutum
Jalis!*



It will not
contain me
for long!

A Barrier
Prison?!





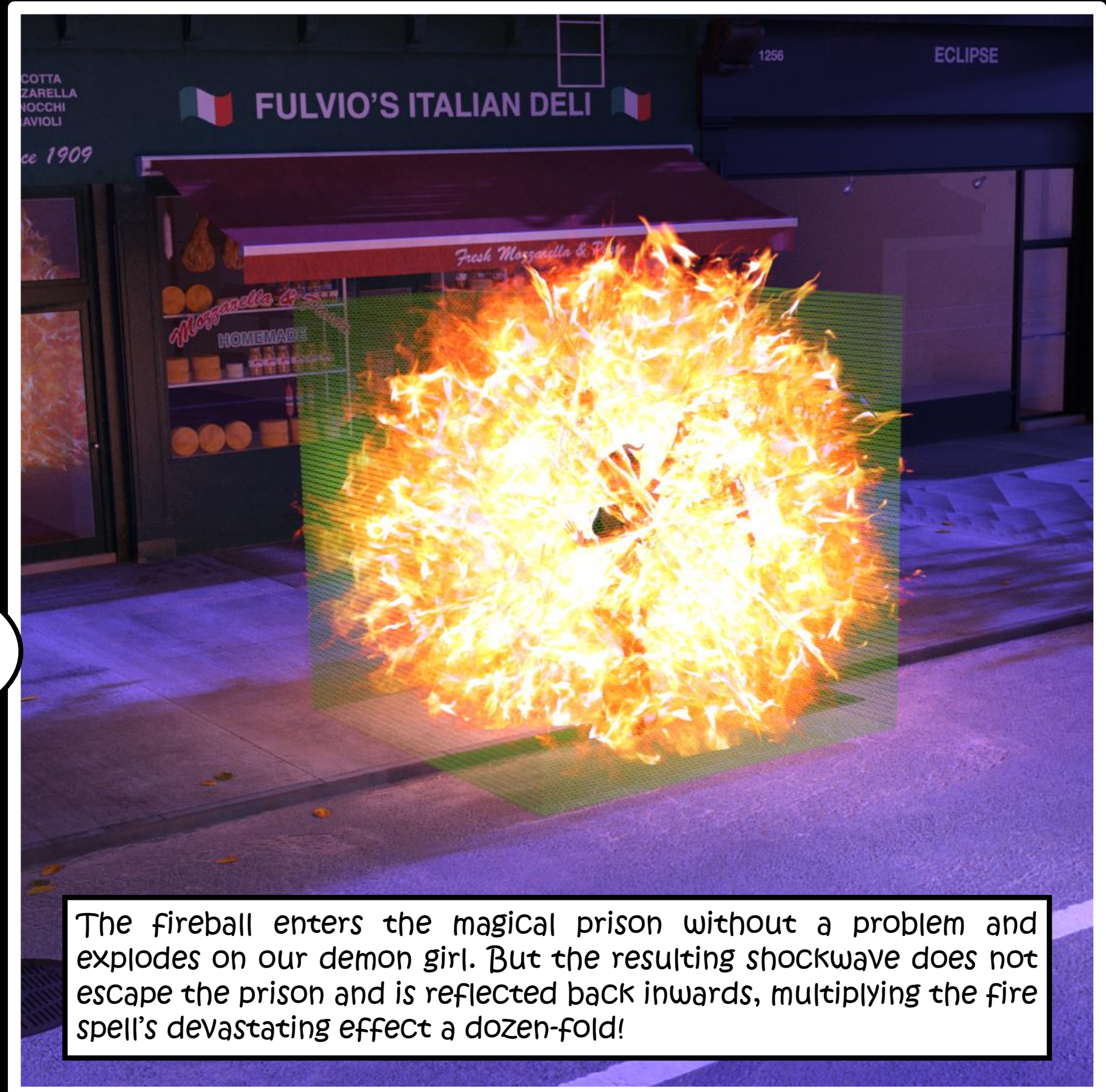
*Ignis
Fatus!*



Oh...



FUCK!



The fireball enters the magical prison without a problem and explodes on our demon girl. But the resulting shockwave does not escape the prison and is reflected back inwards, multiplying the fire spell's devastating effect a dozen-fold!

As the smoke settles the four ether wielders gather around the spot Kessy was trapped and try to pierce the grey clouds with their eyes.

Did we get her?

No one can survive that!

Keep your guard up!







She... is gone.

Is she crazy? She might end up in a wall!

I guess she's strong enough to rip a wall apart.

That girl is hard as rock!

My arm still hurts from punching her!



Guys. Why the long faces? We knew she'd escape.

Everything went according to plan.

Still... would have felt pretty good proving that guy wrong for once.

Don't say that. We can play it safe thanks to him.





So, what's up with the chick?

Malkovis!

Her brain is kinda turned off.

But it's nothing permanent. The spell should dissolve within the hour.



Can you heal her, Val?

So, let's just let it run out.

But the mind is tricky... the last guy I tried to help couldn't remember his name for a week!

I'd rather not.

If it's a wound, be my guest I heal you anytime.

Anybody else hungry?

Uh, how about Chinese?

I think I know a restaurant that's still open.



About the same time at Mikael's apartment. He and Barbara have settled for some TV show and are watching together but the commercials start so they talk a bit...

Oh... well.
There is a huge test coming up and I'm not really prepared...

And... there is this girl... I haven't heard back for days now...

I... haven't got her number.

Hey, how are you, Mika?

You seem quite stressed these days.

Have you tried messaging her?

SUCKS!



I wonder who that might be, this late...



I'll get it.

Hello?

Do you have the wrong door?



OcaVum!

End of Chapter 06



Thanks for reading!

Hello, Hexxet here.

Kessy got roughed up quite a bit there by Mikael's secret crush Velia! Who'd expected her to be an ether wielder? And who are those other guys? How much damage did Kessy really take during that battle? And will she finally teach Mika some more magic? Tune in on the next chapter! 😊

A big thanks to all my supporters on Patreon who enable me to write this! I tried out some new panel style and I think most of the pages turned out pretty well. I really enjoyed designing that action scene! 😊

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