

The lost Temple
Chapter 32
Camp Connections II



Vasta
Mens!



Hexxet's Magic Comics

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Previously on „The lost Temple“:

Mikael – a young archeology student – learned of the world of magic by meeting the demon girl Kassandra Elaquoi. In exchange for his help, she has taught him magic. In the beginning, he was not very skilled at it due to his low Ether Force. But by combining some key spells, he is slowly ramping up power.

After playing a key part in the camp's last mission, Mika is now a full member of the magic camp and has access to the library and is even in charge of interrogating/turning the thief girl who is currently in a prison cell at camp! Also, after accidentally spying on Yara, he found a hidden room in the library, stacked to the brim with books not meant for his eyes...

It's another busy day at the camp, and I find myself helping Vadim with his barrier Spell training.





Are you ready?

Hit me!



Gotta admit, my
contribution was
not all too epic...



throw



...seeing as I was throwing
rocks at him....

But he was
working on his
reaction and
incantation
time...



And Lucy's lightning magic was out of the question, as it basically hit instantly.

Scutum!



So, we went with me throwing
stones... to give him a fighting
chance.



It was still very impressive. He activates his magic only once I throw the stone, but the barrier materializes in time before it can hit him... That should be useful in a battle!





If it does not redirect the projectile towards your allies...



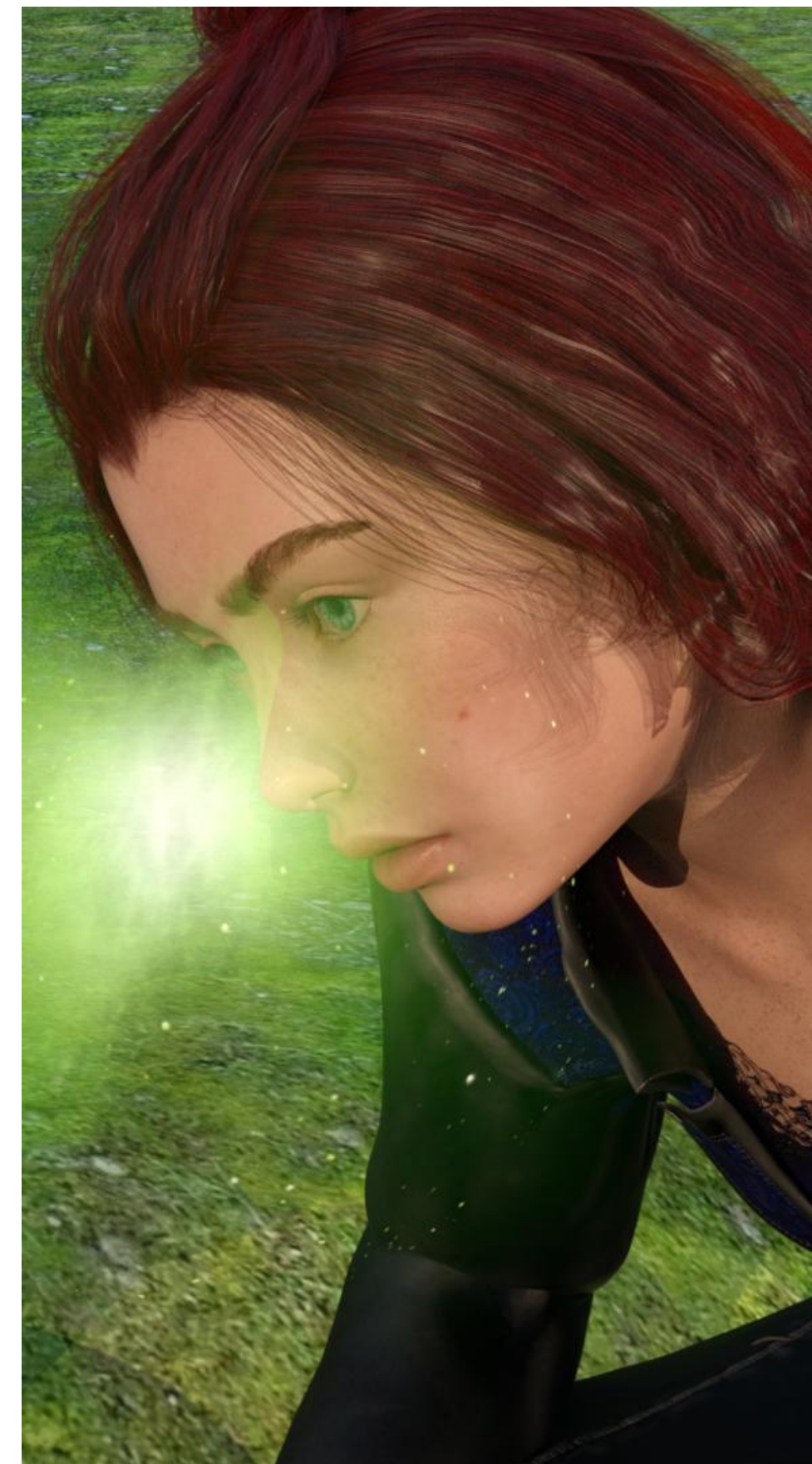




Phew!
It's just a
scratch.

wimper







All back to normal.

Thanks!
It doesn't hurt anymore!

You got hurt because of me.



I'm so sorry, Lucy!

No, no. It's okay! I should have been more careful. This is battle training after all!



Anyway, training was over after that, and I used the time with Vadim and Lucy to question them about what Velia told me... about her parents having died on a demon hunt...





It happened
before our
time at camp.

And for obvious
reasons, we don't
talk about it.

But since
Velia told you
herself...



That basically cut the
camp's fighting power in
half back then, leaving
only Stella and Yara as
active members!

So yeah, Velia's
parents were hunting
some vile demon who
was killing people all
over town. At least so
we heard.

They managed to
take it down, but
both succumbed to
their wounds
shortly after.

Velia was still
in training
back then...



Must have
been really
traumatizing...



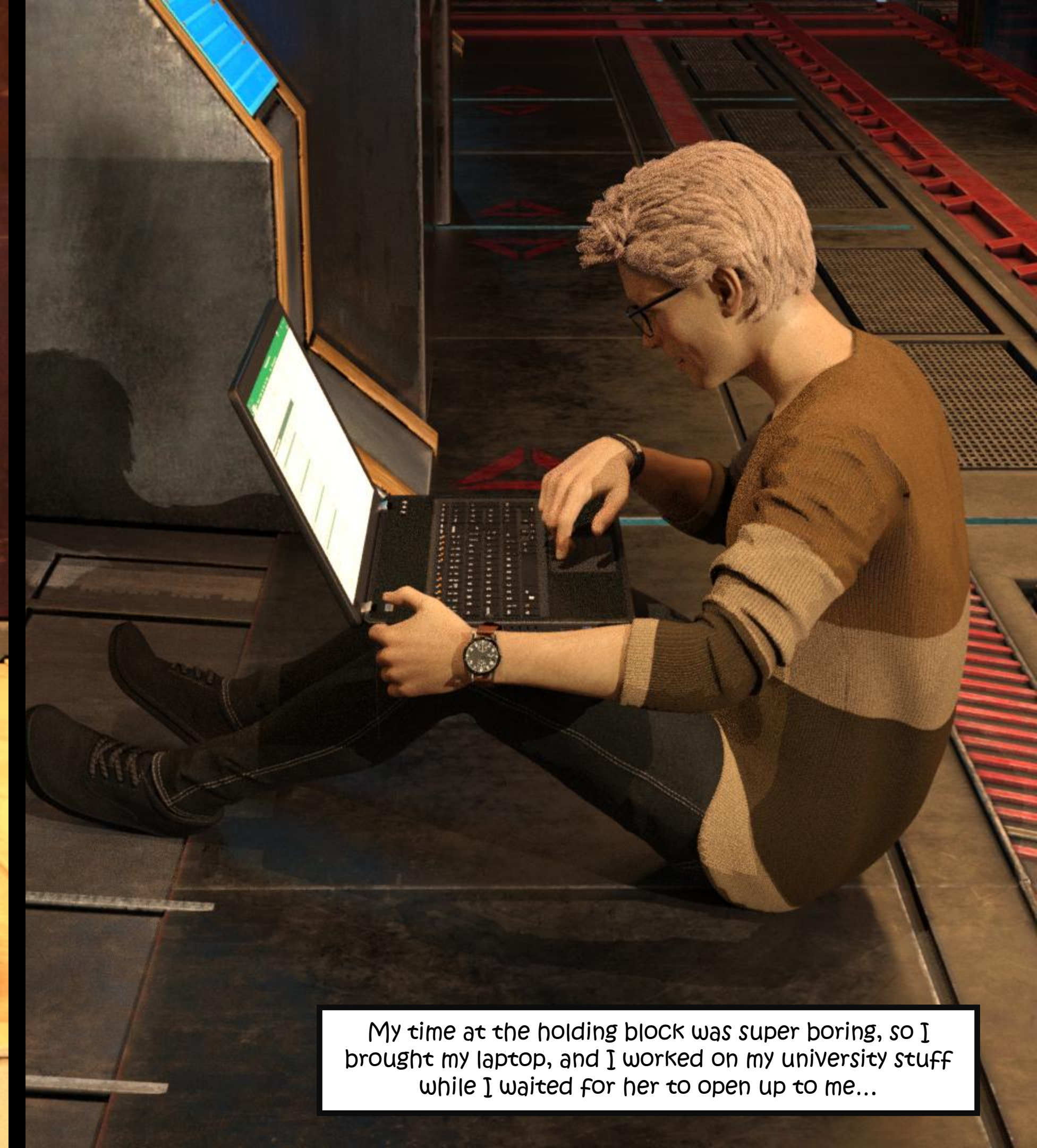
So, she's been
shouldering all
that...



And ever since
Velia's been
caring for her
little sister...



Next to my daily training at camp my task was to convince the thief girl Serenity to join up with us... That was proving as hard as anticipated. **We barely talked.**



My time at the holding block was super boring, so I brought my laptop, and I worked on my university stuff while I waited for her to open up to me...

The only thing more boring than that was probably actually being in that cell...



At least I could leave whenever I wanted, and I only spent a few hours a week there...

Anyway, it was boring. And when I was done with all I had done for university...

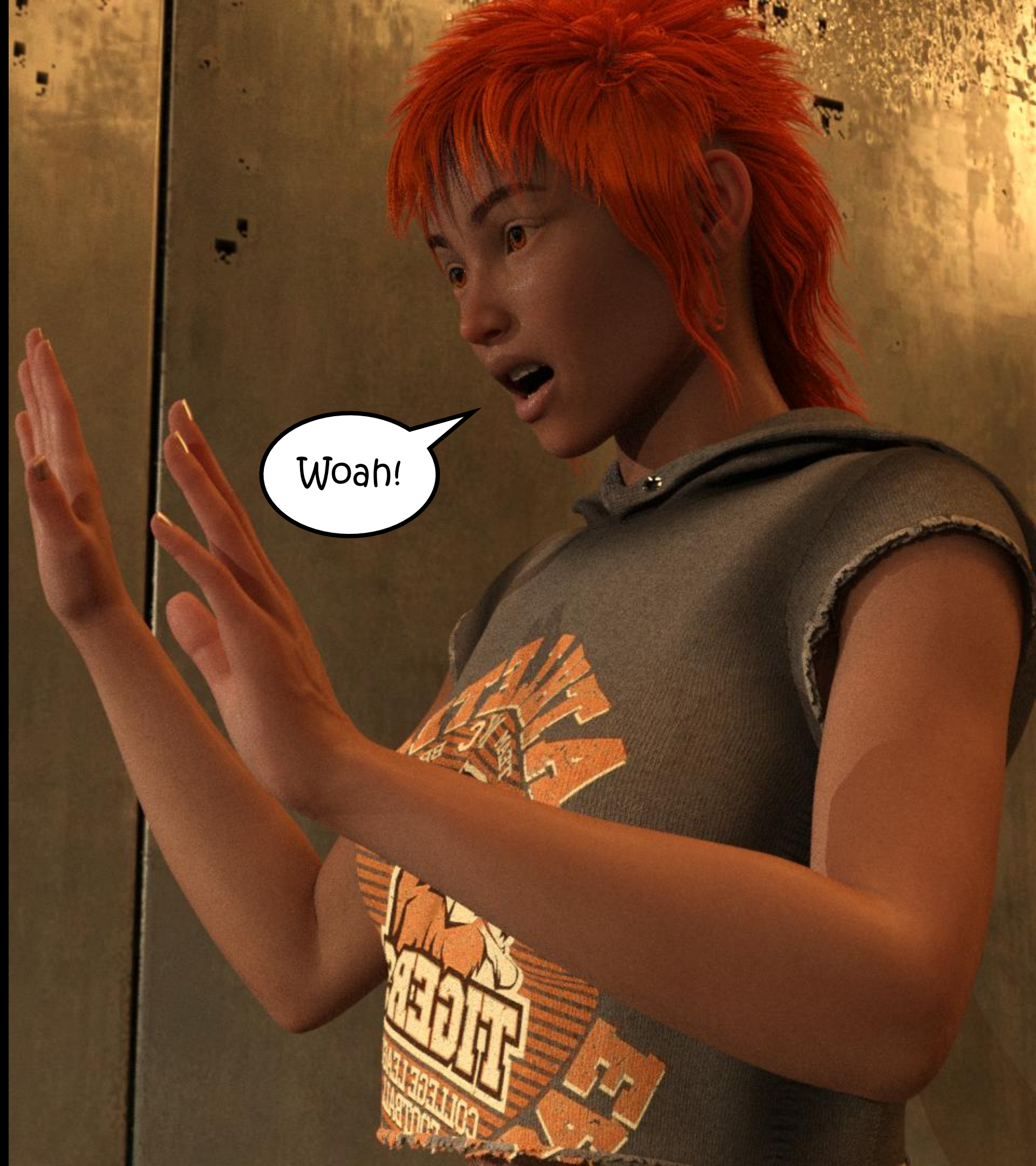


I worked on honing the magic skill
that did not fit me the least...



A small spark manifests hovering
over my hand... **sigh**...





And there it happened: Thief girl broke the silence...

Err, yeah.

That's magic too?





It's the
ignis spell.

Can do all the
fiery stuff... but I
can only manifest
a flame...

I think that's
already pretty
cool!



I've never heard of any
other magic than the
invisibility incantation I
found in my deceased
grandfather's attic.

Thanks...
I guess.





Well... we can
always go back
to silence...

Haha!
You're a tough
negotiator.

Well, alright. I
guess there is
no harm in a
little magic...

Actually, we
assumed she
was skilled in
more magic...



Weee!
Thanks!

My real name's
Alice, by the way.
But you can keep
calling me Serenity
if you prefer. It
sounds way cooler!

Well, she told
me her name.
That's a start, I
guess.

Mikael... but
everyone just
calls me Mika.

And so, it came that I thought
the orange-haired prison girl a
little magic...

So, for the
ignis spell, you
gotta focus
on...

And the
incantation to
manifest is...





*Ignis
Scin!*

That's way more complicated... and structured than what I do with my grandfather's spell... But also kinda easy...



Well... that
does not sound
too hard!

Focus...



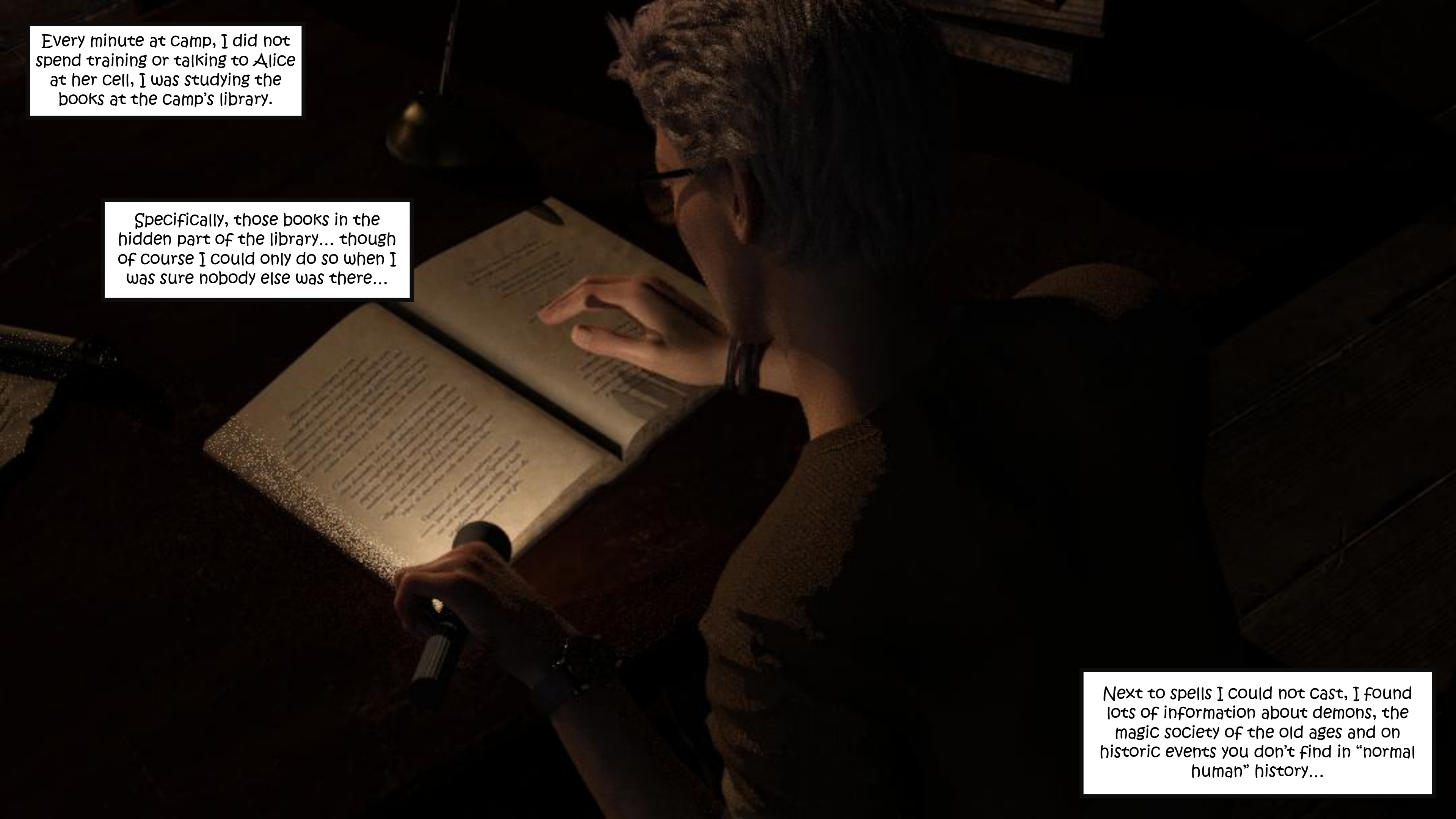
Manifest...



And release!





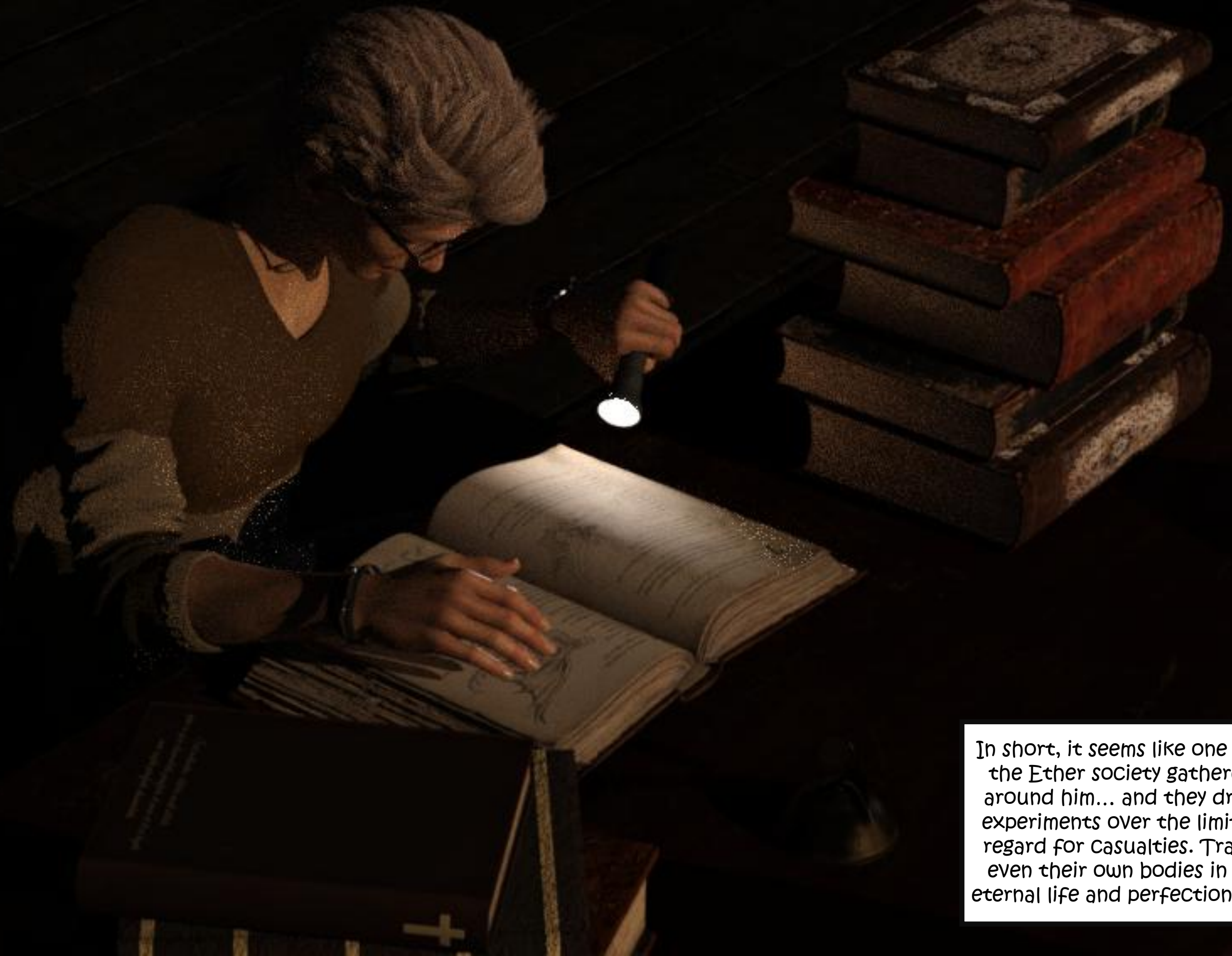


Every minute at camp, I did not spend training or talking to Alice at her cell, I was studying the books at the Camp's library.

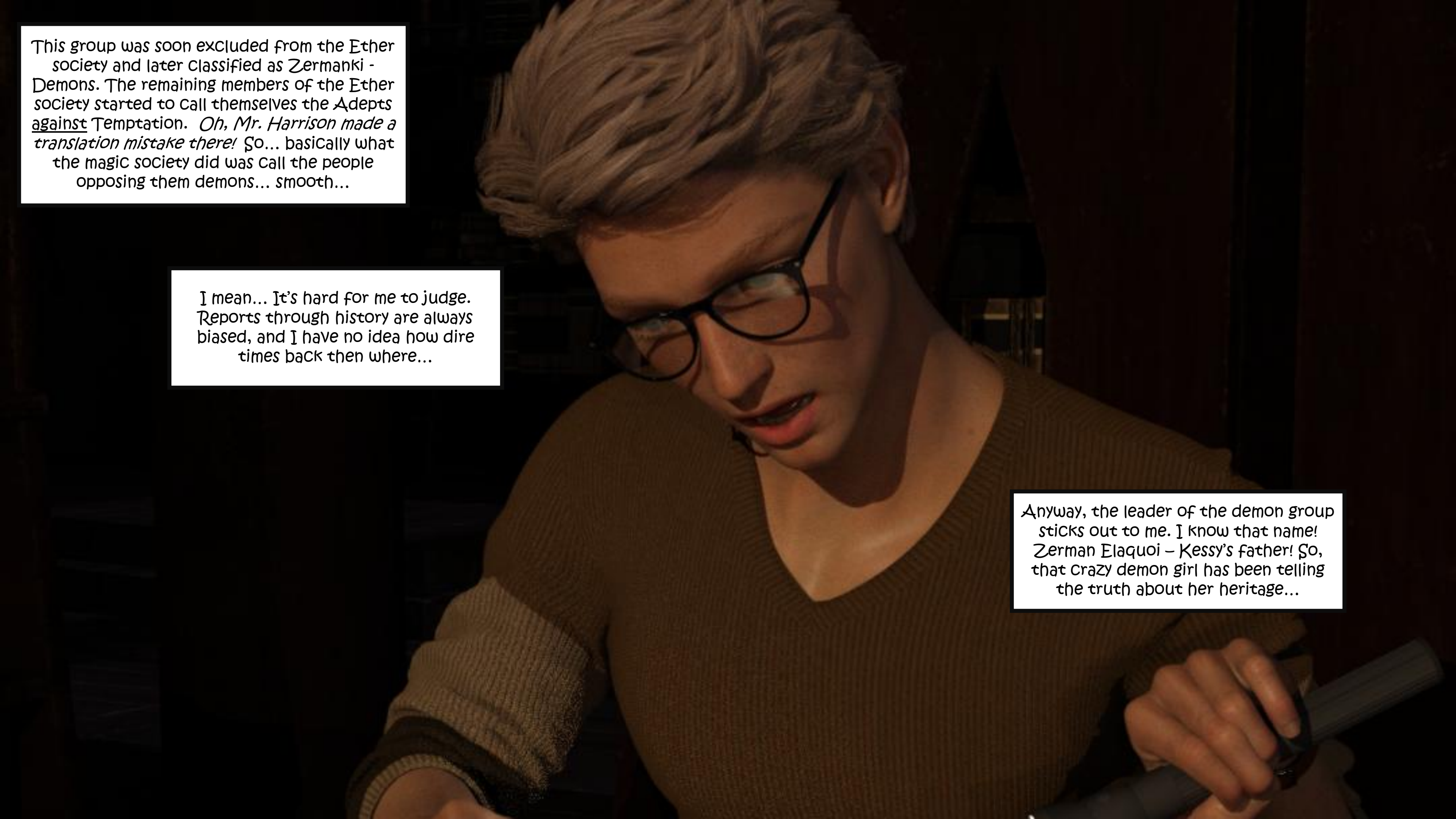
Specifically, those books in the hidden part of the library... though of course I could only do so when I was sure nobody else was there...

Next to spells I could not cast, I found lots of information about demons, the magic society of the old ages and on historic events you don't find in "normal human" history...

There was a lot about the happenings preceding the event that was later known as “The great conflict” – The war between the Zermankai and the Tadepts.



In short, it seems like one member of the Ether society gathered people around him... and they drove magic experiments over the limits without regard for casualties. Transforming even their own bodies in search of eternal life and perfection of magic...



This group was soon excluded from the Ether society and later classified as Zermanki - Demons. The remaining members of the Ether society started to call themselves the Adepts against Temptation. *Oh, Mr. Harrison made a translation mistake there!* So... basically what the magic society did was call the people opposing them demons... smooth...

I mean... It's hard for me to judge. Reports through history are always biased, and I have no idea how dire times back then where...

Anyway, the leader of the demon group sticks out to me. I know that name! Zerman Elaquoi - Kessy's father! So, that crazy demon girl has been telling the truth about her heritage...

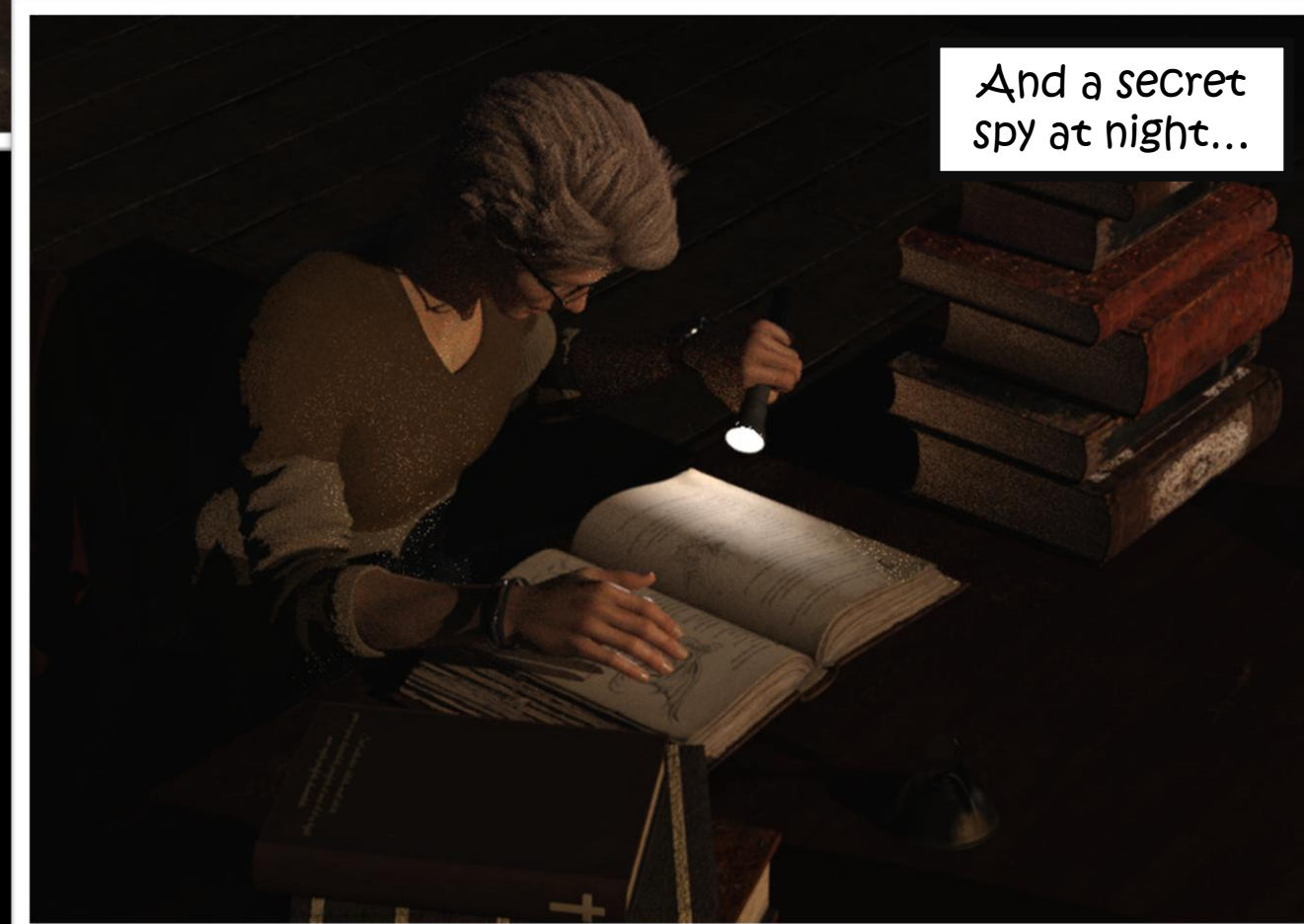
And that's basically how my days
went by... Student by day...



Jailor in the evening...



And a secret
spy at night...



And all of these endeavors yielded interesting results pretty quickly... all except for my studies at university, I guess... Anyway, for example, the next day after showing Alice the spell, I visit her cell again and...

Last time was progress. Let's see how she fairs today...





giggle
I've been waiting to show you.

Well, look at you. Somebody is cheerful today.





Looksie!



*Ignis
Scin!*



giggle
Now let's
ramp up the
heat.



Nice!



See?
I got the
knack out of
that spell.

Guess I
was pretty
bored...



Woah!

Her flame's
bigger than
mine... after
one day...



I'm impressed!
You learned that
spell so fast!

You are really
talented!

Thanks!

Teach me
more!



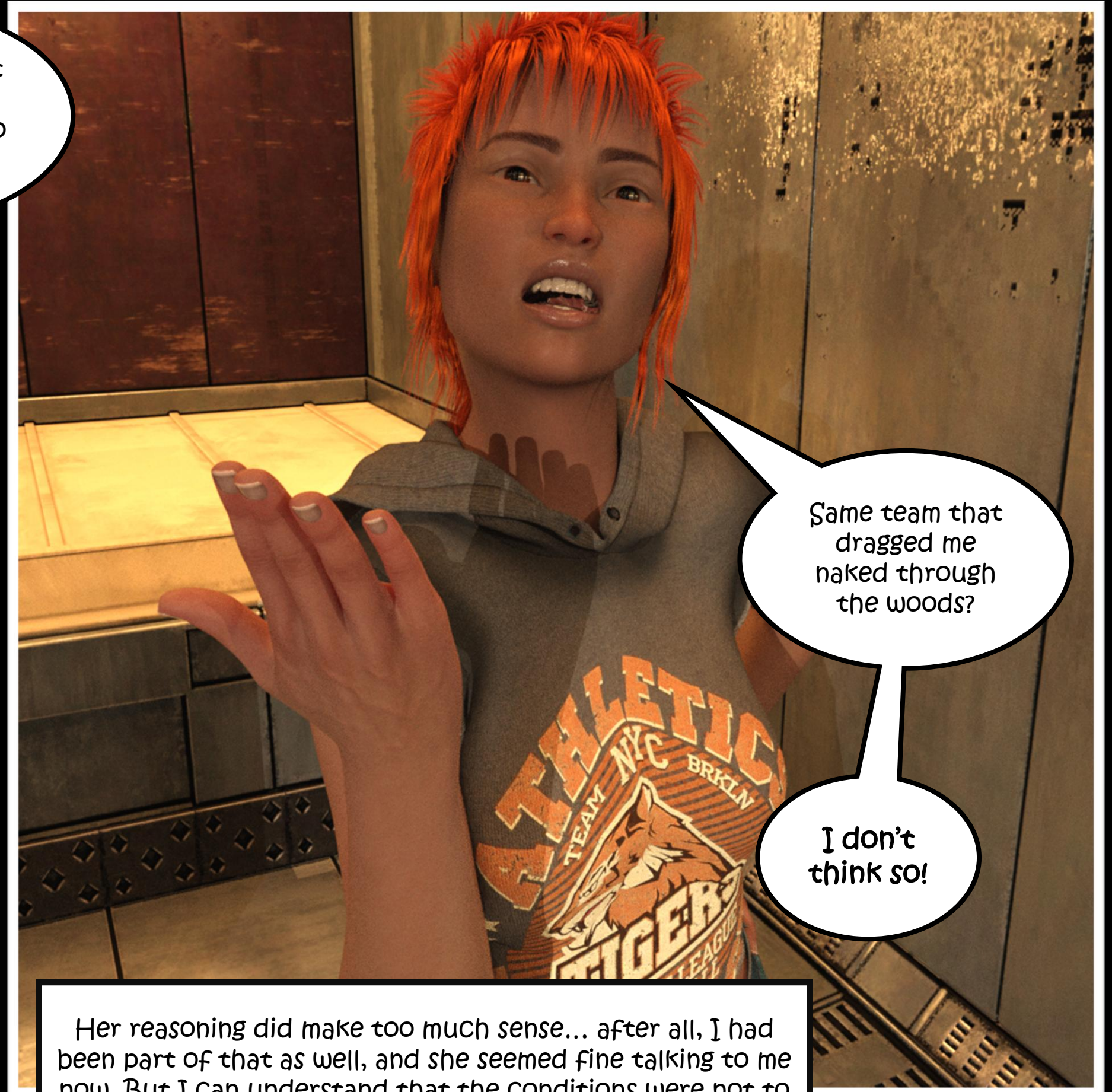
Ha-ha.
You know,
I'm really no
teacher.

I can barely
cast anything
else.

But... you
know... if you
joined the team,
you could learn
so much from
the others...



Same team as that
stupid redhead
who threatened to
fry me in my cell?



Same team that
dragged me
naked through
the woods?

I don't
think so!

Her reasoning did make too much sense... after all, I had
been part of that as well, and she seemed fine talking to me
now. But I can understand that the conditions were not to
great for her to trust us... or... at least the others?



I learned a lot about her.

She still was not warming up to the idea of joining us at the camp here...

But she seemed to really open up to me there...

And when the newspapers gave me that nickname "Serenity the phantom thief"...

Oh, that was a real thrill.
giggle



And that opened up an opportunity for me...



*Vasta
Mens!*



During our discussions, I weaved in my magic...

And intensified that feeling that she could trust me. That I was her friend.



I have no secrets from you.



I can trust you completely...



giggle



You know... I almost
feel glad for having
been caught... for
otherwise we would
not have met...

And I really do
enjoy talking...
sharing with
you.

Even through a
magically enforced
cell door. *giggle*

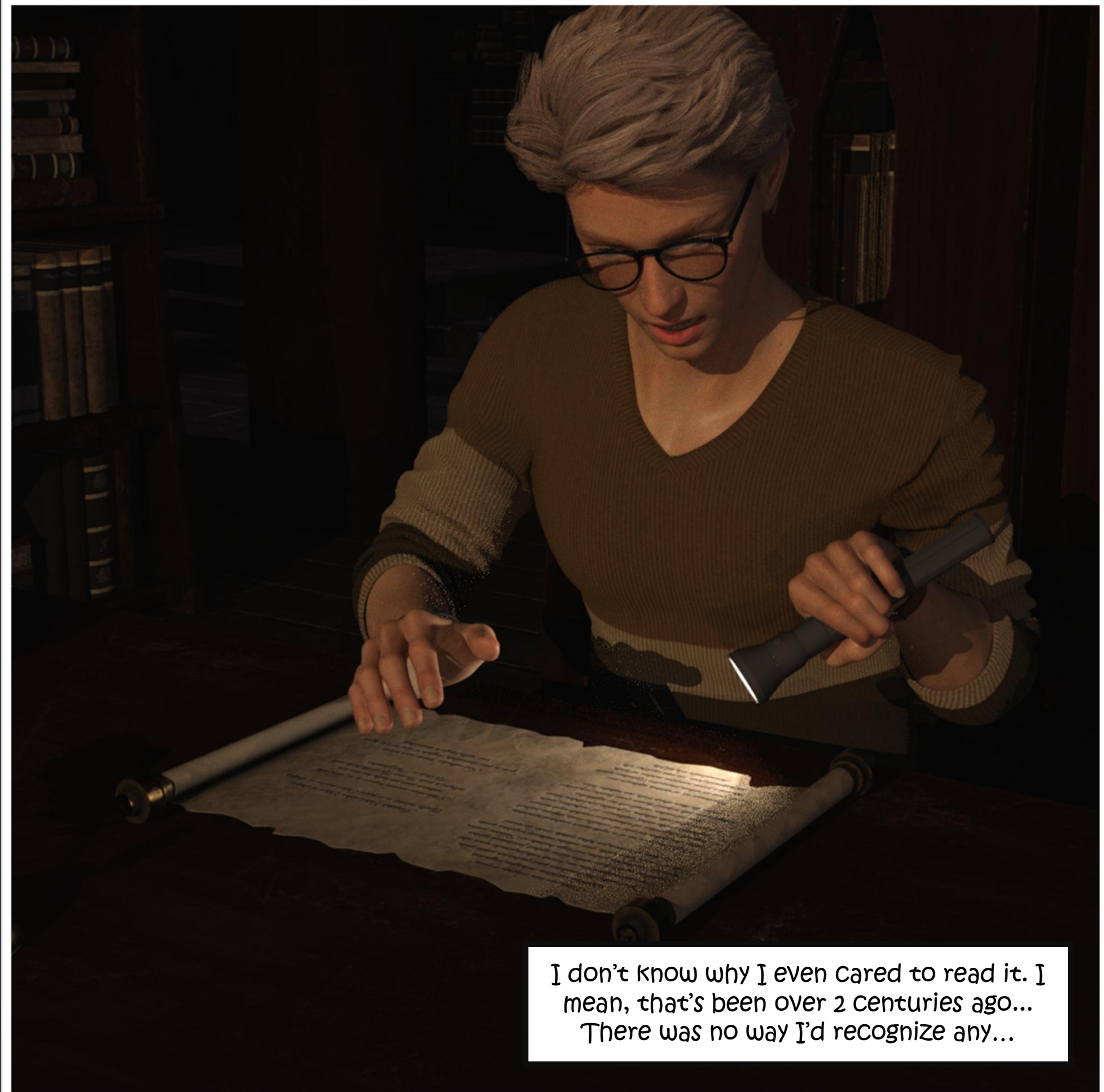
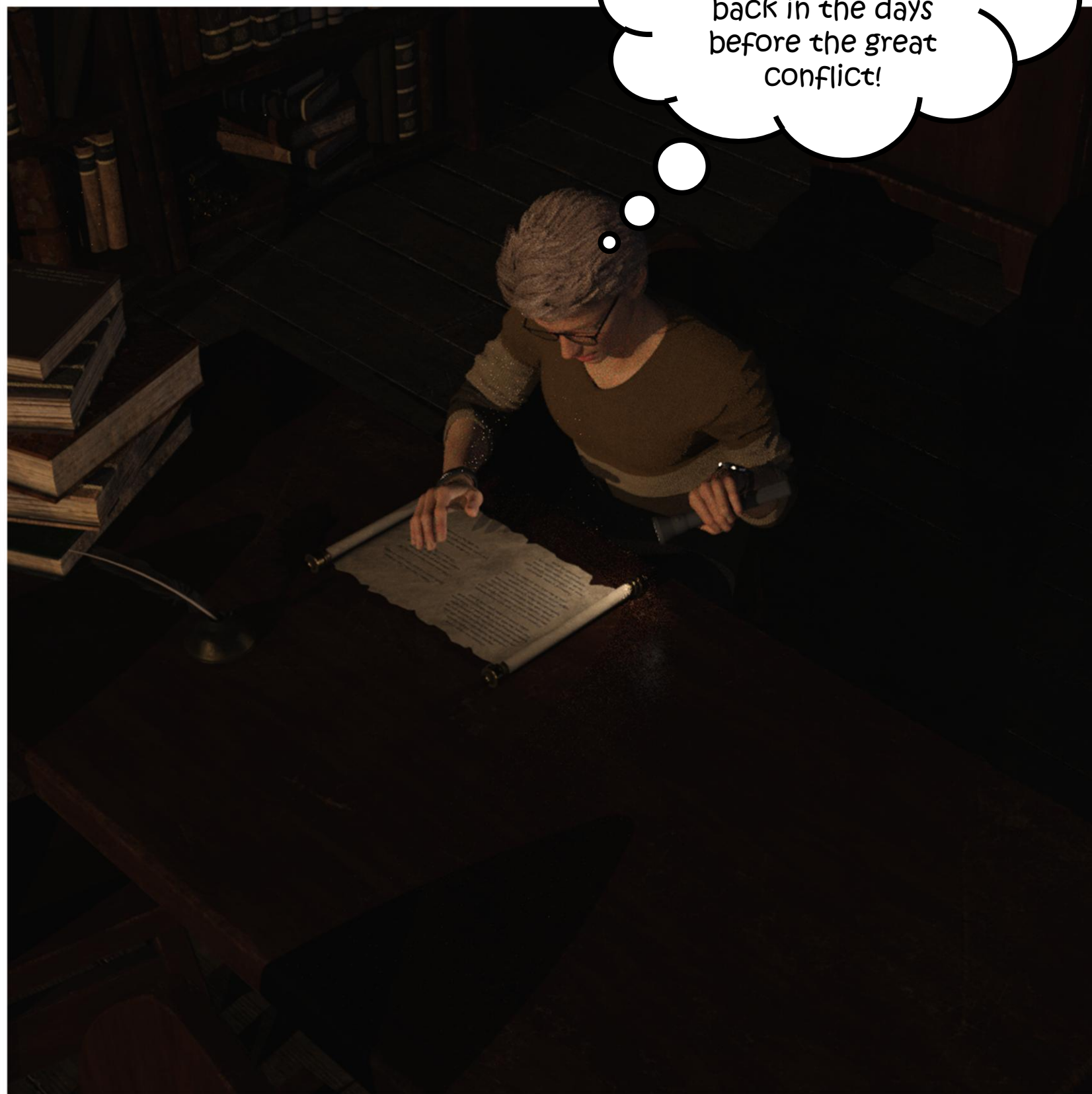
I, too,
enjoy our
conversations.

But I fear
I've got to
leave now.



That night, while looking through
the records of old... I stumbled
upon this...

That's...
A member roster of
the Ether Society
back in the days
before the great
conflict!



I don't know why I even cared to read it. I
mean, that's been over 2 centuries ago...
There was no way I'd recognize any...

Wait!
What the
actual fuck?



Another name I seem to know pops up!
Asher... Asher Yates...

Is... that the
same Asher...
I know?

Either it's
not... or he's
like 200+ years
old?



I mean, I knew he was older than he looked as
everyone was looking up to him as a leader... even
though he's really short. Something about a curse...
But I did not realize he was that old... do the others
know? Or am I making things up here?

The information I found got me even more confused, and I was still looking for an opportunity to ask the others, but my step was light as I enter the cell block. Probably because I had just “fixed” my relationship problems with Lana and Liz the other day.



Note: This storyline is explored in Bonus Chapter 32b.



After a short shock finding Alice's cell empty, I remember her skillset and call her out.

Really?
This again?

giggle





gulp
Err... you know, you are naked?



Hm... now that you say it...

Well... Nothing you haven't seen before...



I don't feel like keeping my body a secret from you.

Now... that's an interesting byproduct of increasing her trust...



From that day on,
when no one else
was around, we
continued our
sessions with
Alice in the
nude...

We talk about her
adventures so far...

About magic...

And I do drive the topic back
to her joining the camp...



Mika... I don't have
a good feeling about
these people...

I'm only part of
the gang for a
short time. A truly
can't tell if you
can trust them.



*Vasta
Mens!*



But you
can trust
me.

Just pretend
to play along
and have a
look yourself.

You'll get
stronger and out
of this cell.

And if push
comes to shove,
I'm with you.



And that's how I gained another ally – this time inside the camp!

You know...
you are
right!!

I'll take a
look and get
stronger.

And if they
turn out to be
total fuck-ups,
we just blaze
our way outa
here, Mika!

Sign me
on!



I mean, hopefully it never comes
down to it, but if they ever
discover my connection to Kessy...
It's better to have an ally who can
turn me invisible...

End of Chapter.

Thank you for reading!

Hello, Hexxet here,

Serenity is ready to join the camp, but secretly is only putting her trust in Mika thanks to the Vasta spell. Has Mika found a new, valuable ally? Also, what's up with Asher? Why are there ancient reports in the archive about him?

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