



BAD!!

Bad, bad, bad!!

Everybody has been bad this year!

They're all getting coal in their stockings!



Boss! You're spooking the reindeer. And everybody else.

And you know it's not true. Not everybody has been bad.

I admit, a few people have been really extra-super-bad, but ...

Fascists, Tinseltop! Again! All over the place!

Did I send Hitler a hundred pounds of reindeer dung every year for a decade for nothing?

It makes me so mad I could spit!



Consequences, that's the problem! Nobody thinks there are any anymore!

It's enough to make me want to dust off my Krampus costume and go old-school on everybody ...

Boss ... Maybe you just need a little break.

We're way ahead on production this year ... you could take a couple of days off. Do something fun.

Fun, eh?

What a good idea! I know exactly what we'll do.

I've been itching for weeks to try out my new gadget.



Now hang on, boss ...

Remember what Mrs. C said she was going to do if she caught you trying out one of your gadgets on people again ...

And you made a promise ...



And I don't intend to break it. I have a plan.

No time to lose! Get your coat!

Oh, no, no, no. You're not dragging me into your schemes again ...

Tinseltop.



Go with him.

He needs to let off some steam, or none of us will make it to Christmas without losing our minds.

And I need somebody there to make sure it doesn't get out of hand.

... OK, Mrs. C, if you say so.

But you know I can't usually get him to listen to me.

Don't worry. I won't hold you responsible. Just do your best.



On, Dasher!

At least we're back to the reindeer after he nearly wiped out on that bike ...

TINSELTOP'S TRUE TALES OF TRANSFORMATION BOXING DAY

WORDS AND IMAGES BY TRILBY



A mall, really?

Where else? It's one of the only places people expect to talk to Santa.



Who are you?

We're your relief, Frank. They sent us so you and Ms. Turner could go take a break.

Uh ... OK. Sure.



But you already know who wants what Por Christmas ... I mean, we don't have to sit here and do it the hard way ...

That's not what we're here Por, Tinseltop ...
Young woman!

You look like you've got a lot on your mind. Come over here and tell Santa what you really want Por Christmas.



Is this some kind of pervy thing?

No, no, he's Por real.

I mean, he is a perv, but not while he's on the job.



I'd like to help you out, Hailey. Seems to me you could use some Christmas spirit.

I didn't tell you my name ...

I'm the actual Santa. I know every boy and girl, and I know if they've been bad or good ... but I don't know what's bothering you. Is life going badly?

Not really, I guess. I mean, it'd be fine, if horrible people didn't keep trying to make it horrible ...

Ah!
I have just the gift Por you.



A genuine vintage Captain Video transmogrifier gun! With special modifications.

Who's "Captain Video"?

It was a long time ago.

All you have to do is fire this at all the people who are making life a worse place.

I don't want to kill anybody!

Oh, it won't kill them ... what is it people call it now when children are bad and you send them to their rooms?

You mean a timeout?

That's it!
It'll just give them a timeout.

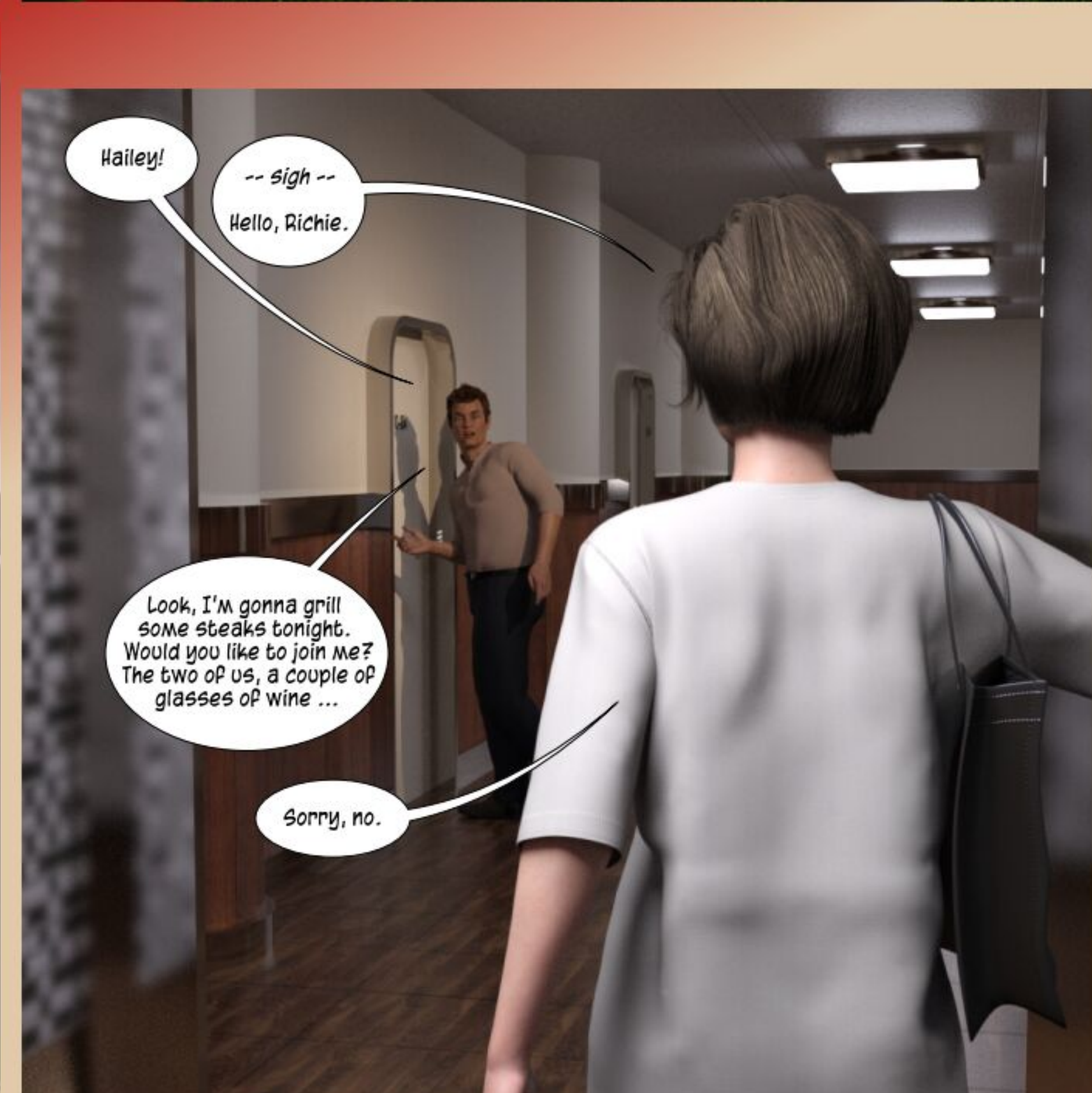


All right, so now what?

Now we spy on her, of course!

Not sure about this ... but I guess if you can't trust Santa ...

-- sigh --
Of course.



Hailey!

-- sigh --
Hello, Richie.

Look, I'm gonna grill some steaks tonight. Would you like to join me? The two of us, a couple of glasses of wine ...

Sorry, no.



Ah, come on ... you're just gonna sit in there and watch some old movie. I can hear your TV, you know.

Some company would do you a lot of good ... Might even have Pun ...

We've talked about this before, Richie.

Not tonight, and not any other night, either.



So you just wanna be alone the rest of your life and not get any, huh?

Oh, what the hell. If it doesn't work I'll say I got it Por my nephew and I'm just having a little joke.



AAAAIGH!

TOYNT



What is this?
Some kind of ... box?
Hailey?
What did you do?

Hailey, let me out!
This isn't Punny!



Huh.



Oh, it's got a tag. "Joanie."

Who's Joanie?

Joanie!

The elevator is not a toy!



Richard!

I know you're in there!

Richard!!

Damn it, how does he always manage to ...?



Ah, excuse me ... Are you Joanie?

Richie asked me to give this to you.

Richard did ...?

You don't know where he is, do you?

Not a clue.

For me?

Can I open it?

I don't see why not.



A new Bestie doll! Yay!!

Well, at least he remembered to get you something ...

Doesn't get him off the hook though.

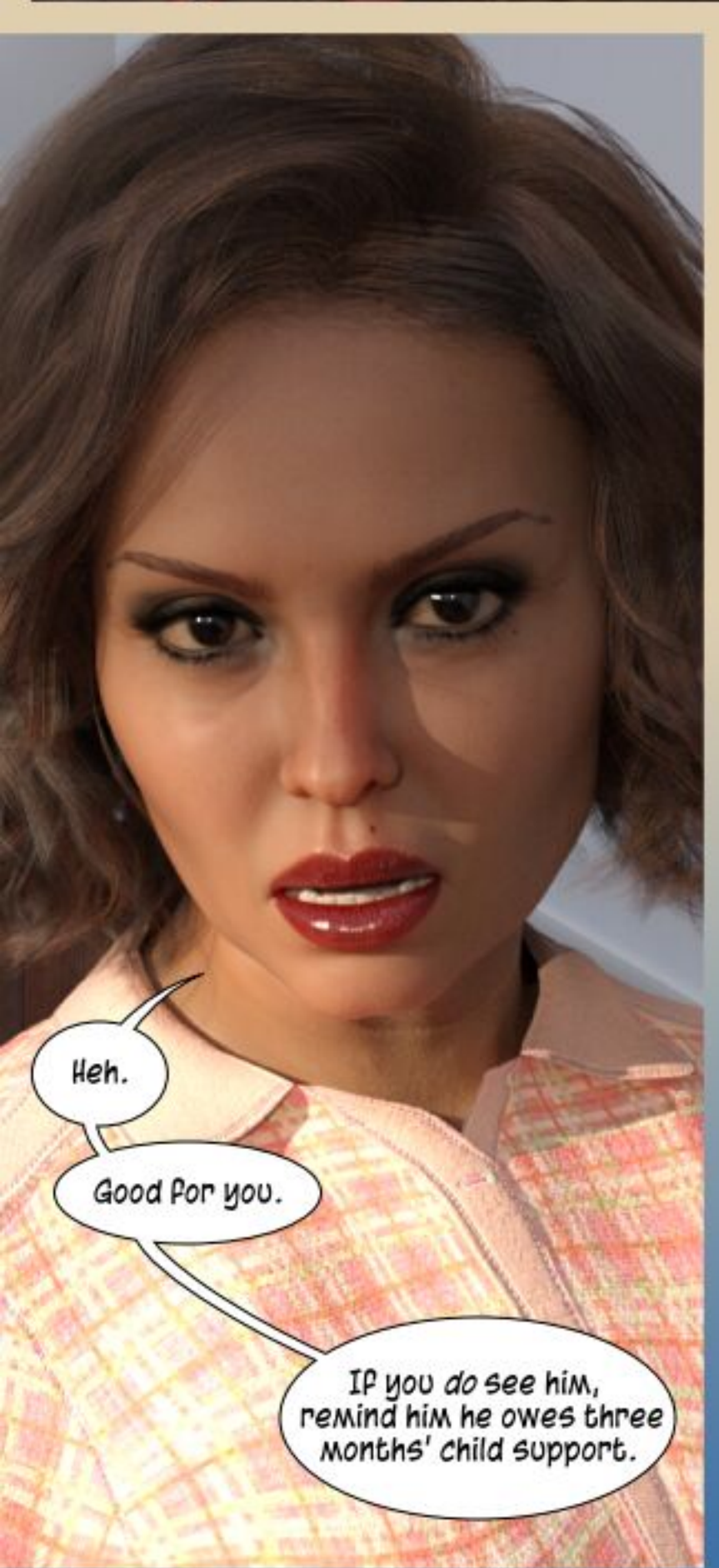
You're sure you don't know where he is?

Honestly, I don't ask.

We're not actually Friends.

Oh! So, you're not ... ah ... seeing him?

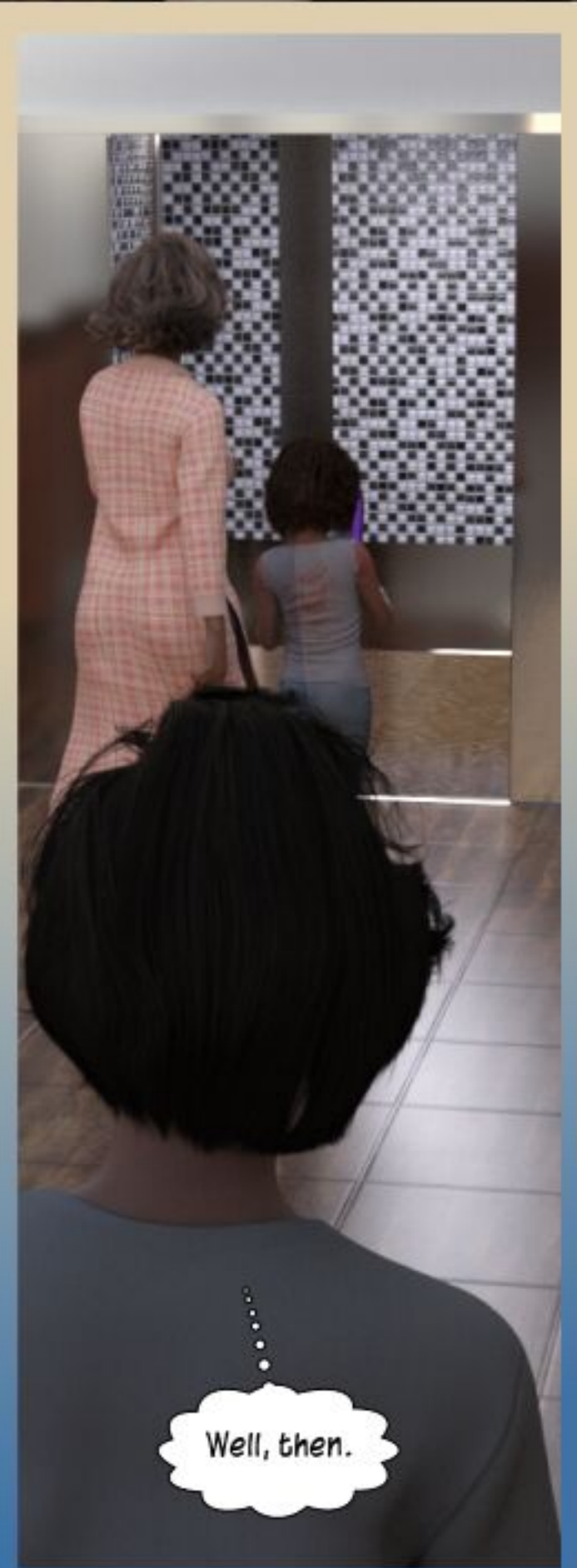
God, no.



Heh.

Good For you.

If you do see him, remind him he owes three months' child support.



Well, then.



Did it really turn him into a doll? Is he going to stay like that?

Santa didn't give me an instruction manual ...

I think I'll bring it to work tomorrow.



So is he going to be a Bestie doll forever, or what?

No, now that he's been unwrapped, he'll change back once he learns something.

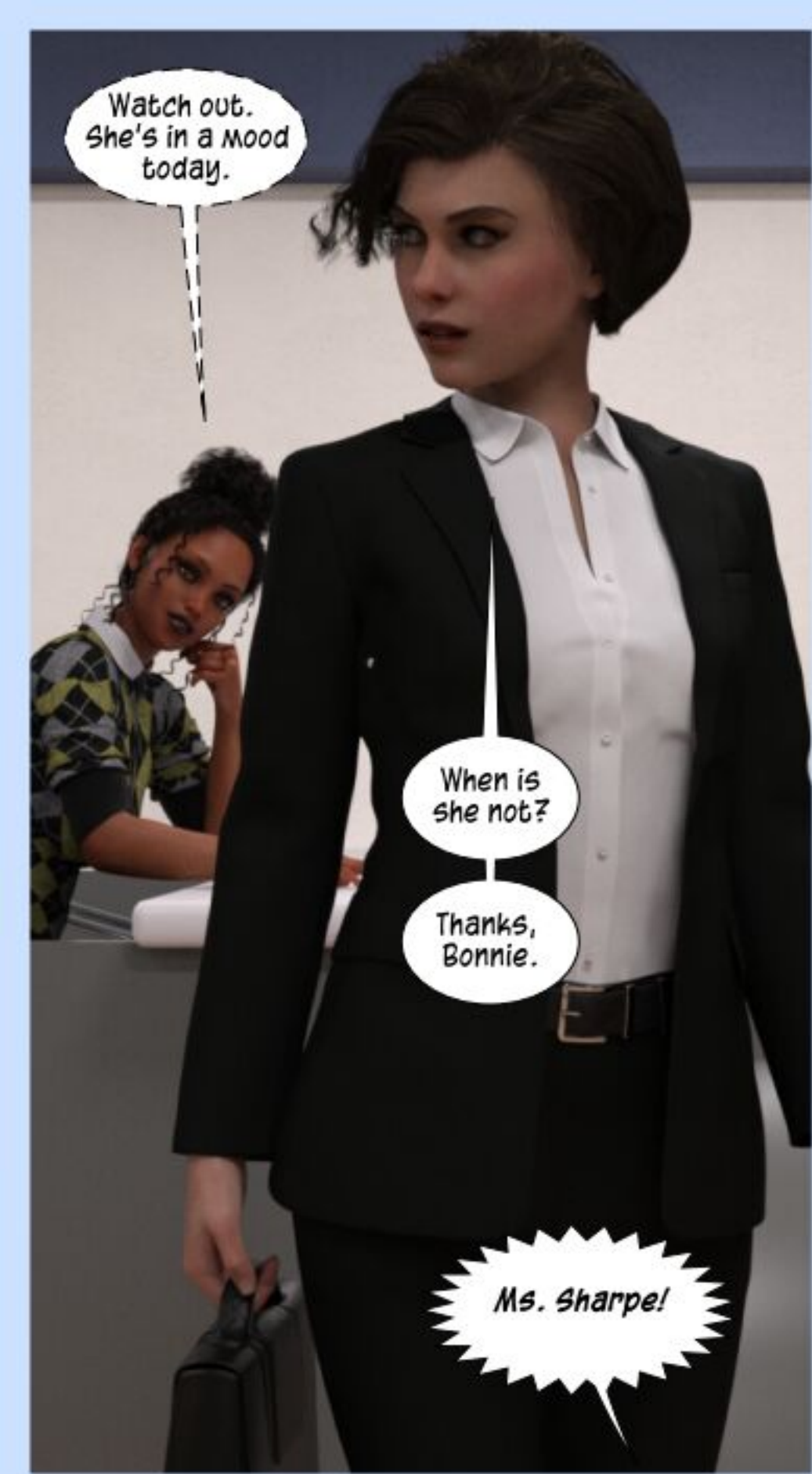
I give him a year.

That Past?

And technically you didn't use the gadget, so maybe Mrs. C won't murder you.

What next?

We come back tomorrow. I imagine she'll take the gun to work.



Watch out. She's in a mood today.

When is she not?
Thanks, Bonnie.

Ms. Sharpe!



It is 9:08, Ms. Sharpe.

Ah ... good morning, Ms. Rooney.

We pay you to be on time! Not eight minutes late!

Honestly, if you were the least bit dedicated ... if you were interested in career advancement ... you'd be getting here early every day instead of dragging your ass in whenever you feel like it ...



I try to set an example for you but you refuse to follow my advice ...

I'd like to remind you that your next performance review is in less than a month ...

Yes, ma'am, I'm aware ...

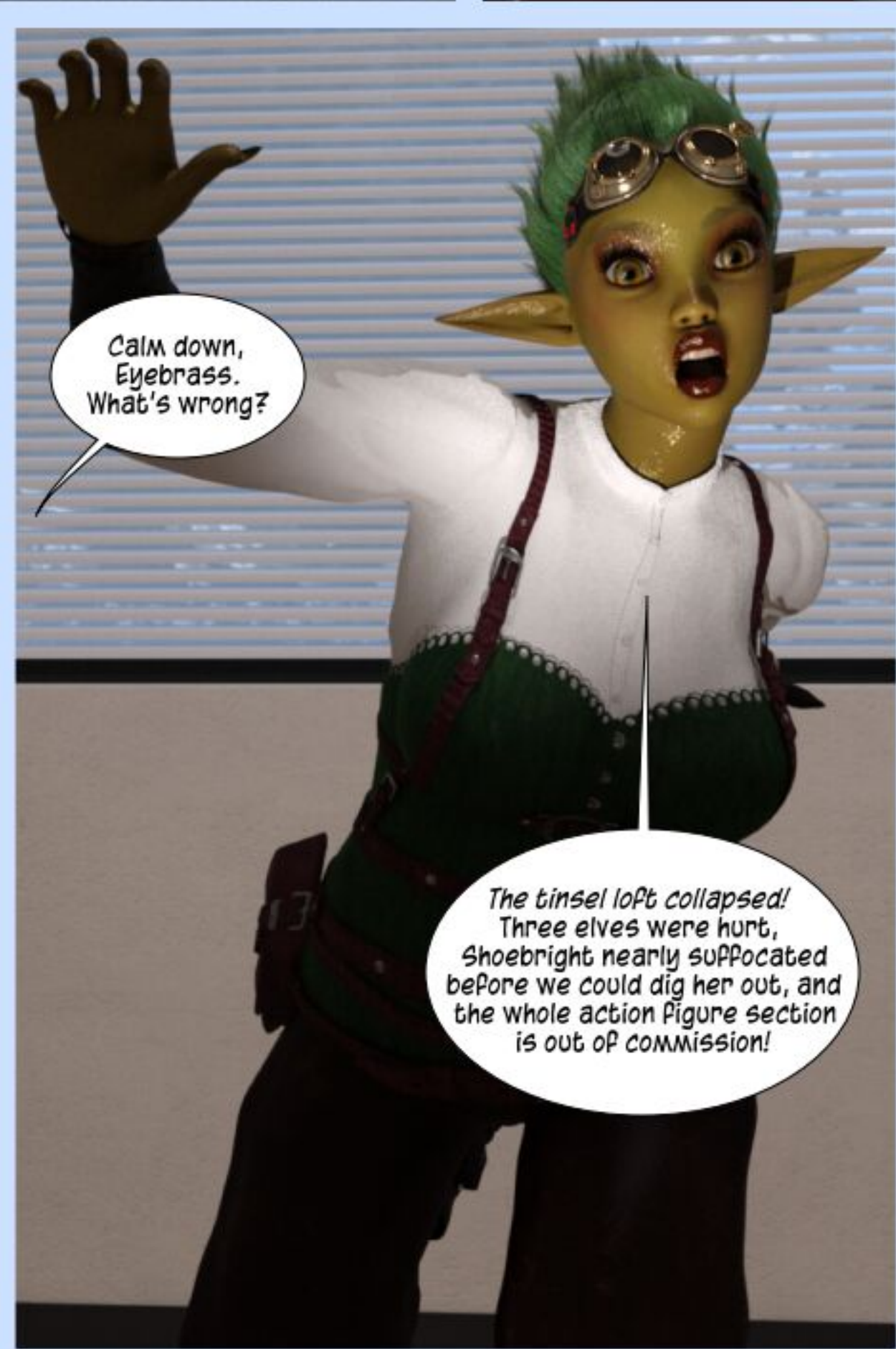
Two Christmas crackers says she's the next one to get it.

No bet.



She won't do it while there might be witnesses. I picked a clever one. We may have to come back--

**Boss!
Boss!!**



Calm down, Eyebrass. What's wrong?

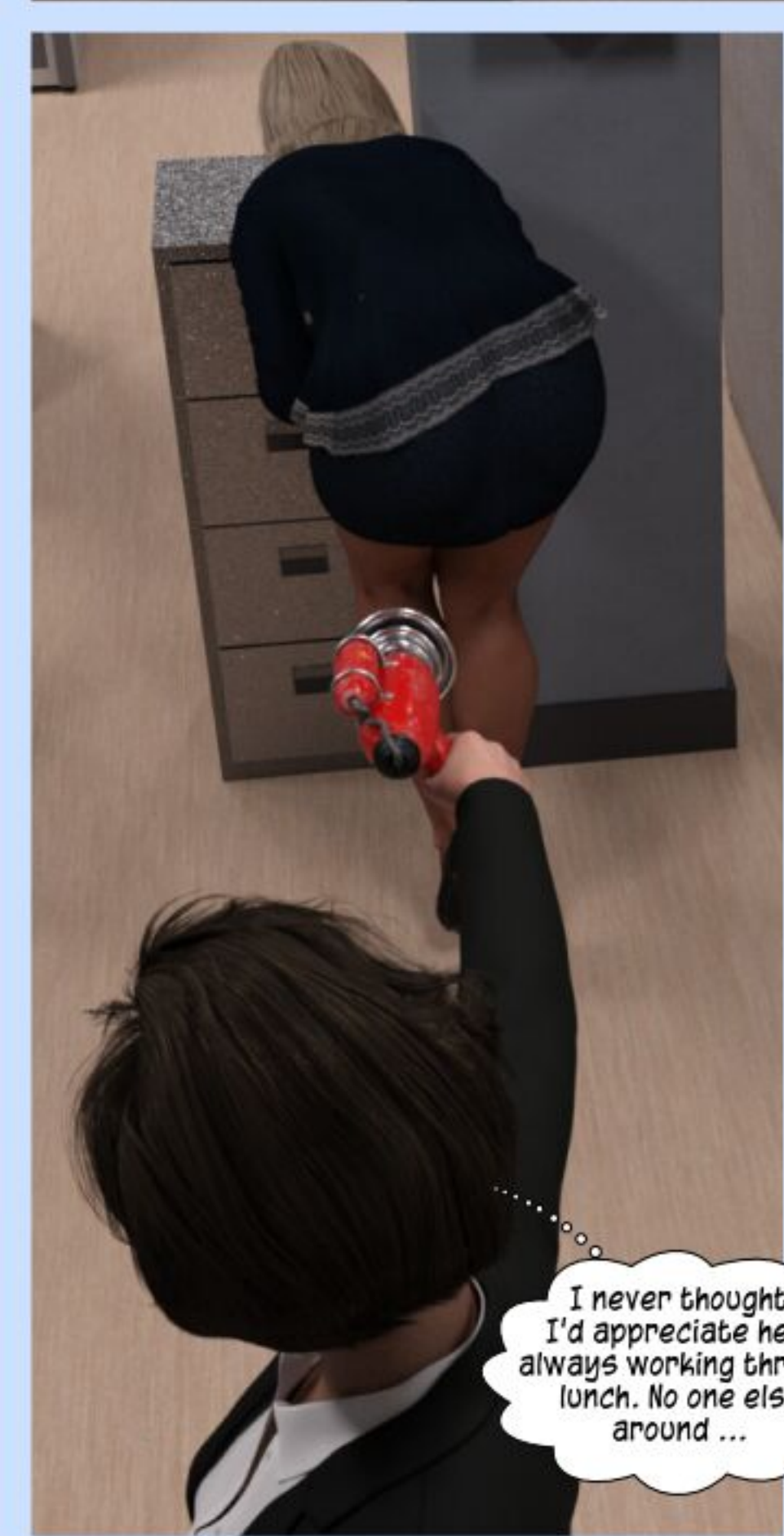
The tinsel loft collapsed! Three elves were hurt, Shoebright nearly suffocated before we could dig her out, and the whole action figure section is out of commission!



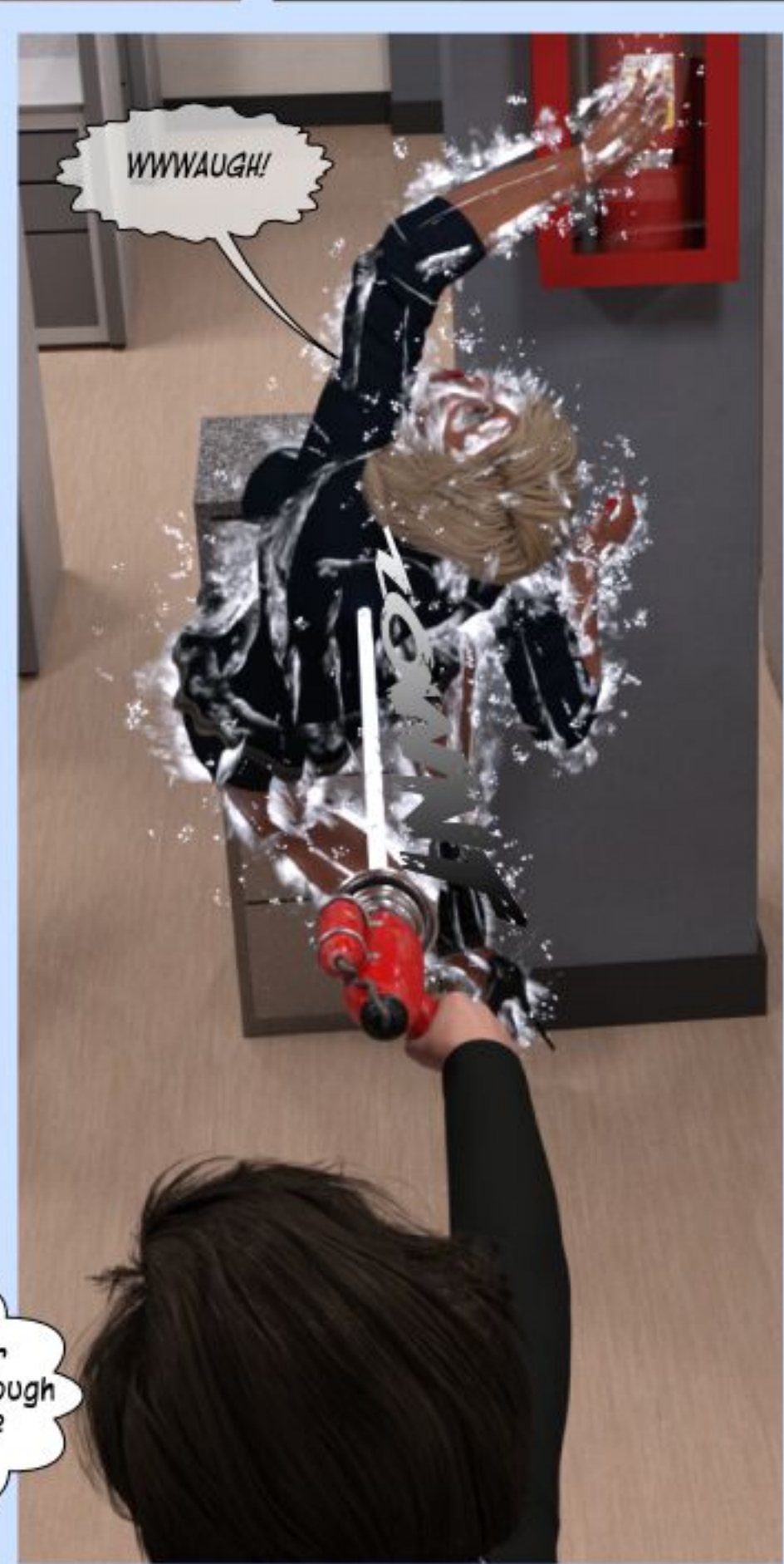
Bother! I can't leave for a minute. Tinseltop, stay here and keep an eye on things.

But --

I'll be back as soon as I can.



I never thought I'd appreciate her always working through lunch. No one else around ...



WWWAUGH!



AIII!

What's happening?

I feel strange ... I think I'm ...

Help!

Somebody help me!



Sharpe? Is that you? Why are you so ... big?

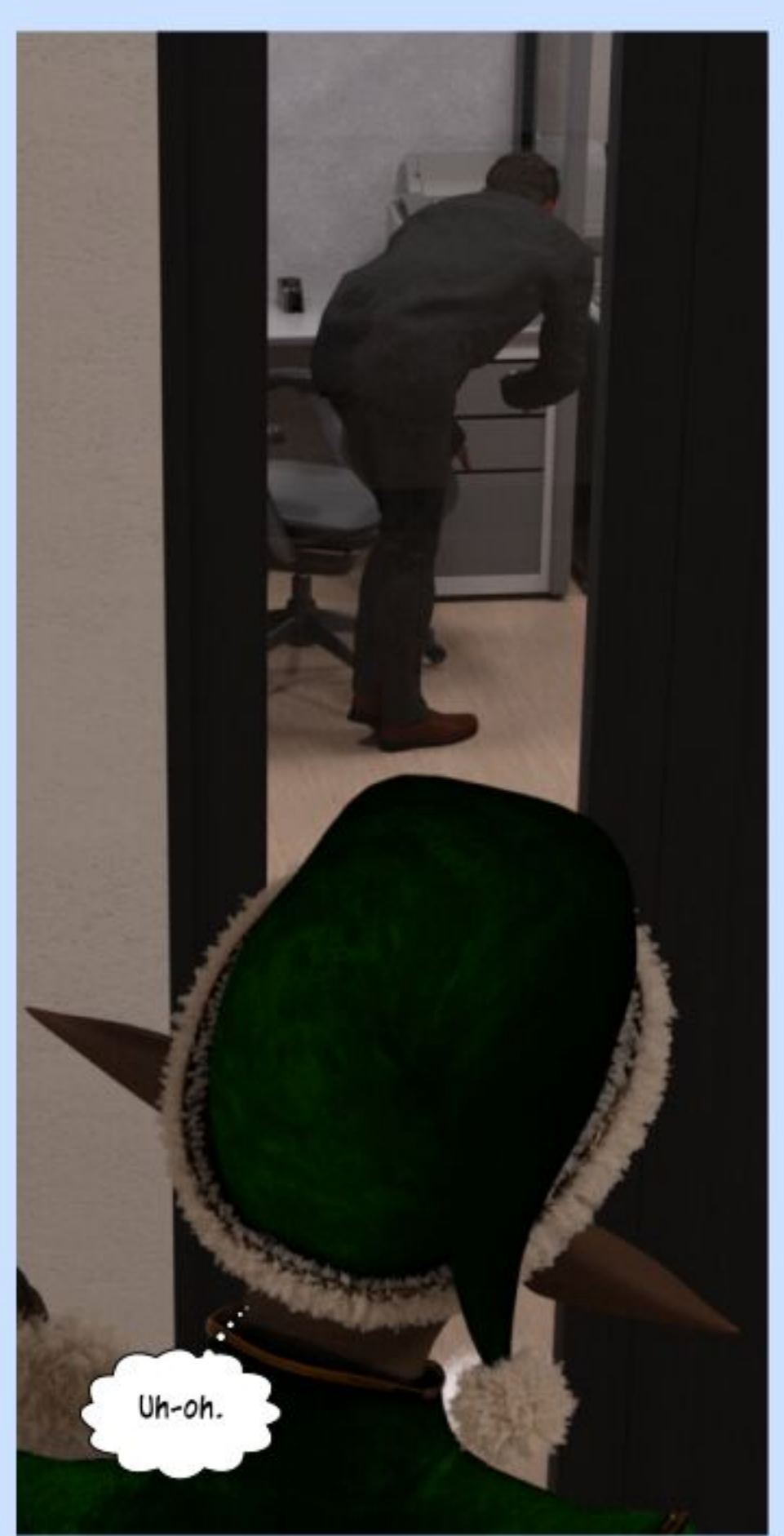
Get me out of this!



Sorry, Rooney. I know you're just taking out your own frustrations with this place, but I can't stand it anymore.



"Shonda."
Well, that's easy ...



Uh-oh.







Who's that?
... Oh, Furth, isn't it? Downtown office?
What's all that commotion out in the hall?

That's me doing a hostile takeover, Purcell.



Hmm, a handgun ... shooting your way to the top, eh?

You're not even ready to be promoted to the executive committee ... What makes you think you've got the ability to run this company?

Ah, well.
Do whatever you think you need to do. Just don't be surprised when you don't like what you get.



urrrgggh



I'd like to call this meeting of the executive committee to order.

First item of business: Whether I should be named the new director.



Under the circumstances, I don't see much point in a voice vote.
Motion carries.



Hailey?

Where did you go?



Mr. Furth!
You've got to stop!

That's not what it's for!



Hailey!



Aaaagh!



Hey!



Right past me ... either he's running off to clear out any witnesses or he's realized he needs to lie low for a while ...

Oh, Hailey ... I told you to stay out of trouble ...

Now how am I going to Pix this?

It'll be all right, Tinseltop, don't worry.



Mrs. C!

He broke the rules. That thing wasn't supposed to be used on someone who didn't deserve it.

That makes him fair game.

Come on. Bring the box and all those toy soldiers. We're going to Pix everything and give him a little surprise.



I can't believe I did that.
I'm ruined ... they're going to come after me ...



No ... no, I can't think like that. It'll work out.

If Denise or anyone else who saw tries to tell anyone what happened, no one will believe them, and I'll just say they're trying to smear me ...

In a day or two everyone will realize I have to take over the company, there's no one else now to do it ... I just have to be patient and keep calm ...



MARTIN FURTH!

I AM THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT!



I don't need to see my lip! I already know it! And I don't even do Christmas!

NO, NO, NOT LIKE THAT.

I'M THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

YOU HAVE ONE YOU HAVEN'T OPENED.



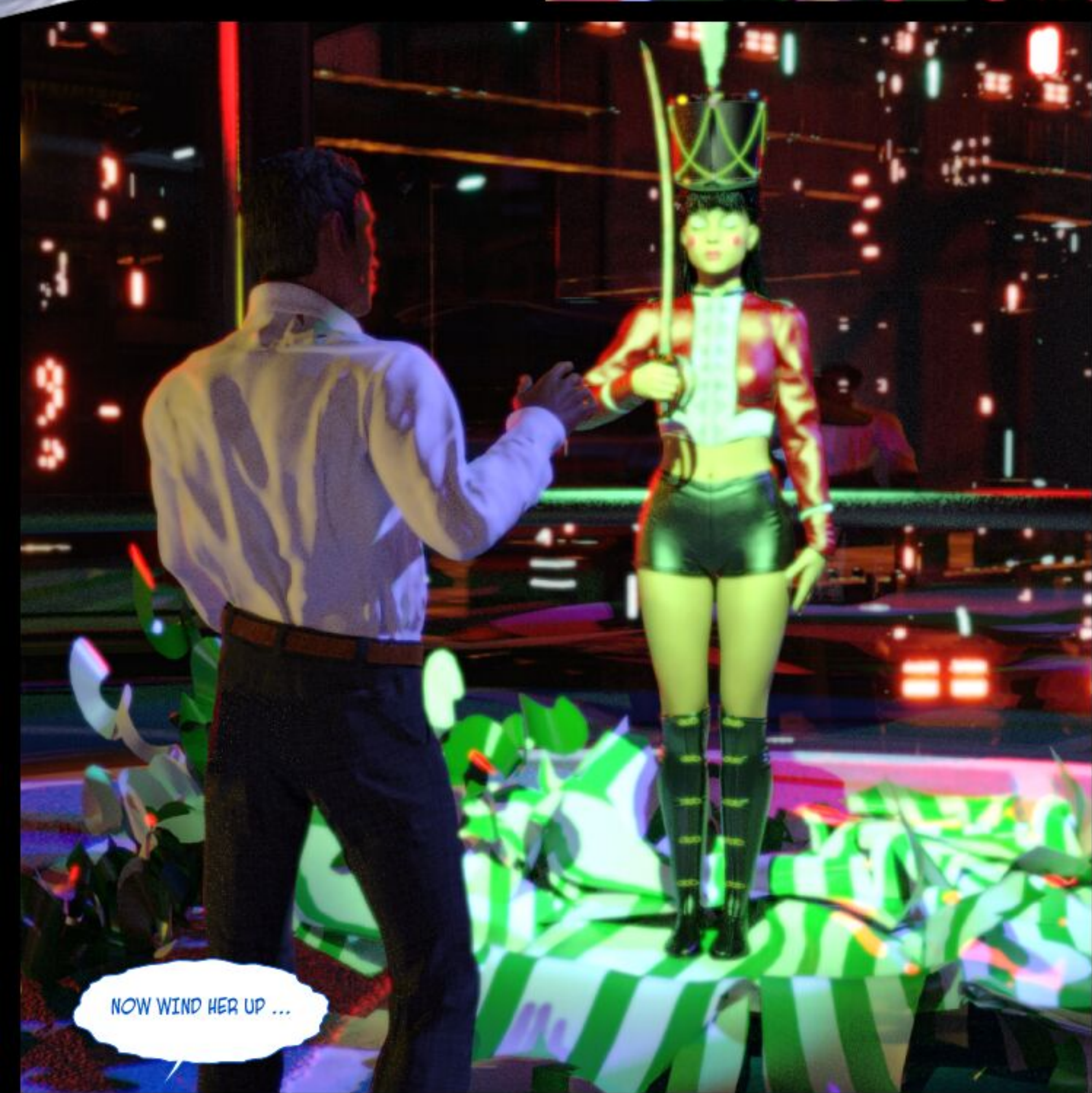
No ... I left that ...

YOU DON'T WANT TO OPEN IT?



I don't think ... no, I don't want to ...

OPEN IT, YOU COWARD!



NOW WIND HER UP ...





Am I your boy now?

You must really like boys. You made so many today!

You know, when you have boys, you have to play with them. It's the rule.



I know a Pun game to play ...

NO!!



YIII!

Move! Get out of my--



AAIEEE!

Oh, don't be such a whiner.

You had it coming and you know it.



So that really happened.



There's no tag.

Then I guess nobody will open it.



We'll take the gun back with us too, Hailey. I assume you've had all you want of it.

Uh ... yes, Ma'am.

We'll take him up and put him in the storehouse until we figure out what to do with him.

Kris is a good man, but he does have his faults, and one of them is a very peculiar sense of humor.

CHRISTMAS EVE ...



-- sigh --

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK



Tinseltop?

I ... didn't expect to see you again. Is something wrong?

I got to thinking how you didn't really get anything good out of that little adventure.

Didn't seem fair. So I came down to be your Christmas present!



Oh! But ... ah ... isn't this a busy night for you?

Nope! Big night for the boss, but by the time we get to the Big Ride, the rest of us are done for the season. Now we get some time off.



Well, I'm not going to say no ...

Oh, good!

I should warn you, though, it'll take a while to get the glitter out of your sheets.



Oohhhaaaaa!

Best Christmas present ever!!

Like the man says:

Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!