TRILBY'S TRUE* TALES of TRANSFORMATION

Salutations! It's time for the second serving of our seasonal shenanigans ...

[* Has been determined by the FDA to contain less than five percent truth]

See this glum Gloria on my left? She's the subject of today's tale.

Her name's not actually Gloria. What *is* her name? Well, she'd be the first to tell you it's not important and you didn't really want to know it anyway.

And that tells you everything you need to know about her personality, right there.

But who knows? Things could change. You know, Samhain was the new year in the Celtic mystic tradition. It was a time to cull weaknesses; to find the faults in yourself and improve them.

That's right, folks, we get the idea of new year's resolutions from the original version of Hallowe'en. It's not just ghosts, costumes, and candy.

Now that is one of the most morose faces I've seen in a while.

... Huh? Are you talking about me?

Do you see anyone else here?

Seriously, though, are you OK? Can I help you with whatever's eating you?

I solve people's problems, you know. It's what I do.

I ... uh ... what makes you think I have a problem?
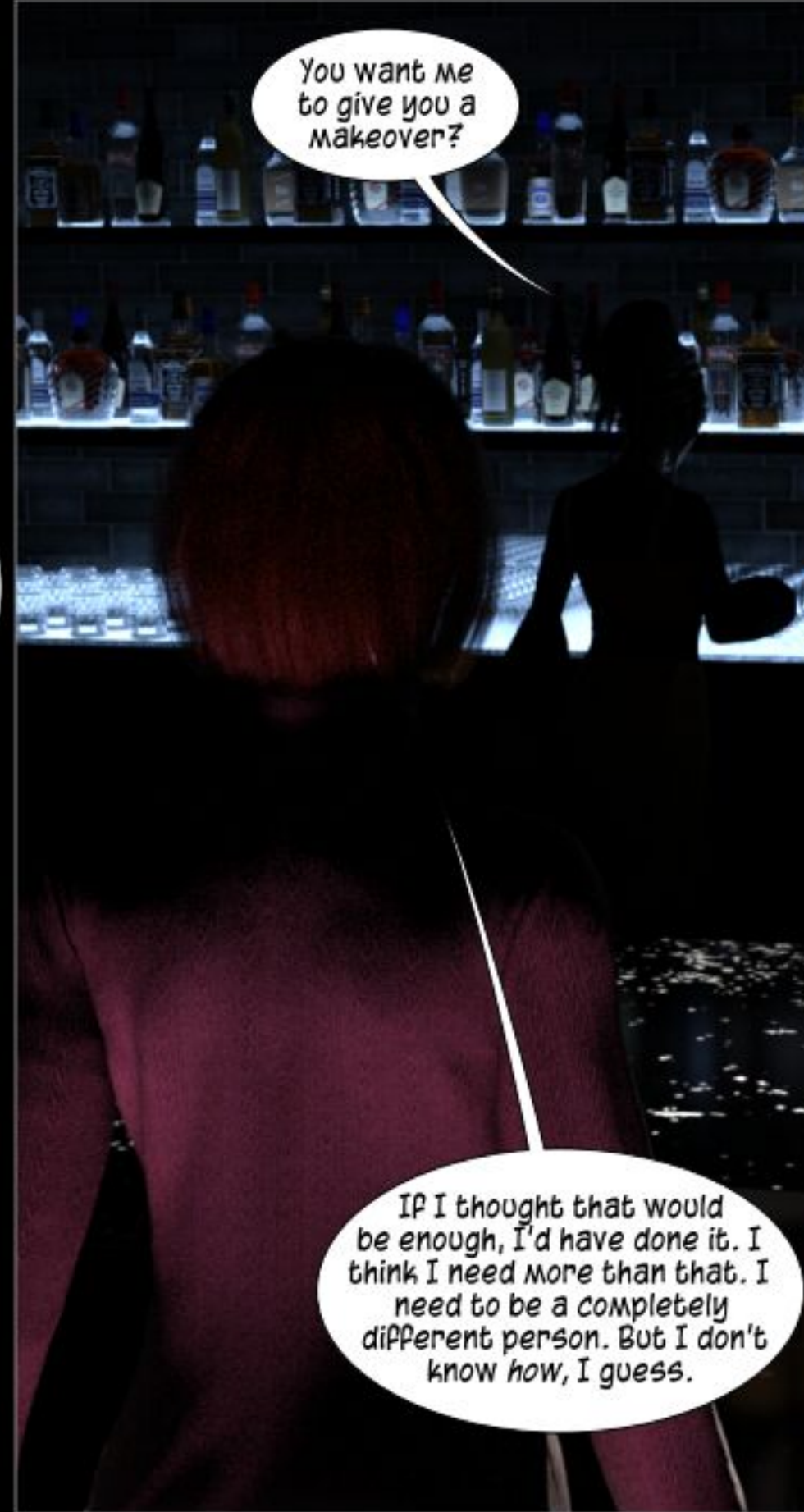
Well, you do, don't you?

Um. Kind of. I guess.

I'm invited to three Hallowe'en parties, tonight and tomorrow.

I admit, that doesn't sound like much of a problem.

No, the problem is, I'm going to go to them and be ignored by everyone else there. Even my friends will say hi and then not speak to me for the rest of the night. It happens every time. I might as well be invisible.

You want me to give you a makeover?

If I thought that would be enough, I'd have done it. I think I need more than that. I need to be a completely different person. But I don't know how, I guess.

Pretty drastic stuff ...

... definitely going to start the mix with some assertiveness ...

I don't have anything else but drastic left. You know, I'd like to have a relationship -- just one good, real, loving, intimate relationship with another human -- before I die.

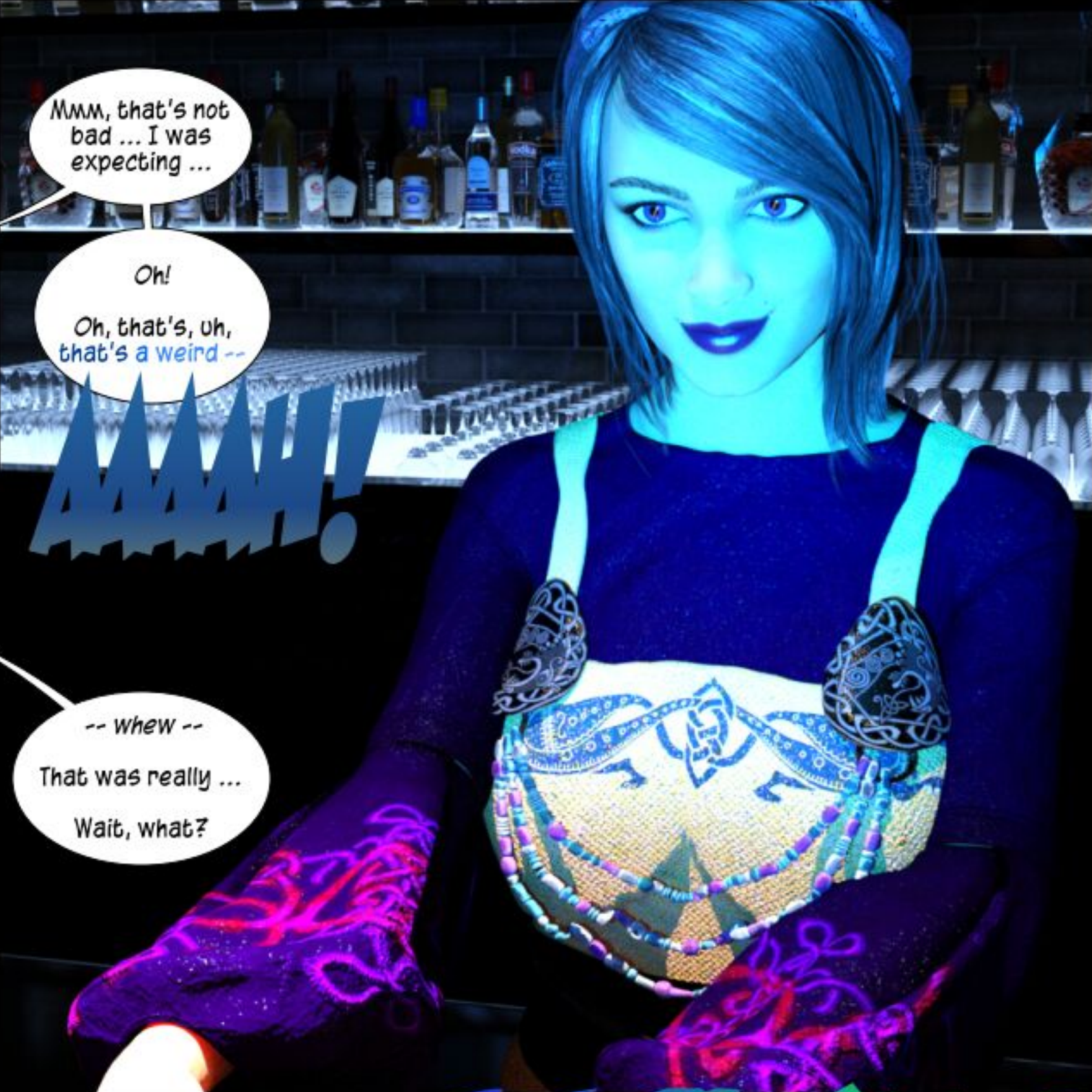Couple of ounces of self-worth wouldn't be a bad idea either ...

Well, I can make you into a completely different person. If that's what you want.

Down the hatch.

If this, uh -- if it goes badly -- can you undo it?

I can't return you to the same person you were before. However, if it goes badly, come back and we'll try a different cocktail.

But! The instant it turns November, I close up shop for the year. So you don't have too long to figure out if it's a dud.

Mmm, that's not bad ... I was expecting ...

Oh!

Oh, that's, uh, that's a weird --

AAAAH!

-- whew -- That was really ... Wait, what?

Oh my god.

Isn't that amazing? Have a good time tonight.

YOUR PEOPLE PERSON

Words and Images by Trilby

Didn't work out, huh?

I think maybe there was too much assertive in that drink.

All the women in the room were resentful and suspicious and all the men were scared to death.

Shame, too, because I really loved feeling confident for a change ... it ... well, it made me excited.

I mean, that kind of excited.

Hmm. How much of this is about sex? Just so I know where to steer.

Well ...

I want a relationship. I want to love someone who loves me back.

But I also want to love that someone, if you get my meaning.

Um. It's not more than forty percent of it.

OK, fifty.

Heh. Give this a try.

Oh, this one's a lot sweeter than the other was ... it's ... what's that flavor? It's kind of ... kind of ...

OOOOOOOOOOH!

Oh, gosh, I look so cute!

-- giggle -- This is gonna be great!

Dude, you were supposed to dress as something you wore when you were a kid!

This is what I wore when I was a kid.

I don't think we've met ... I'm Fred.

Hi! I'm Kristi.

What, you don't think it's glamorous?

I think you like the attention, for sure.

Guilty as charged -- but the truth is, I couldn't find what I actually wore in school in my size. So I thought I'd wear this and see who noticed.

My real school uniform looked like Fred's. Come to think of it, I think Fred's still wearing his original. The sweater, anyway. That thing has more holes in it than an Emmenthaler.

So what's your flavor? Men or women?

Uh, men please!

I don't think I've ever been to a party in the daytime before.

Well, Eleanor wanted to have a party, and she knew a lot of people already were doing something else later tonight, so ...
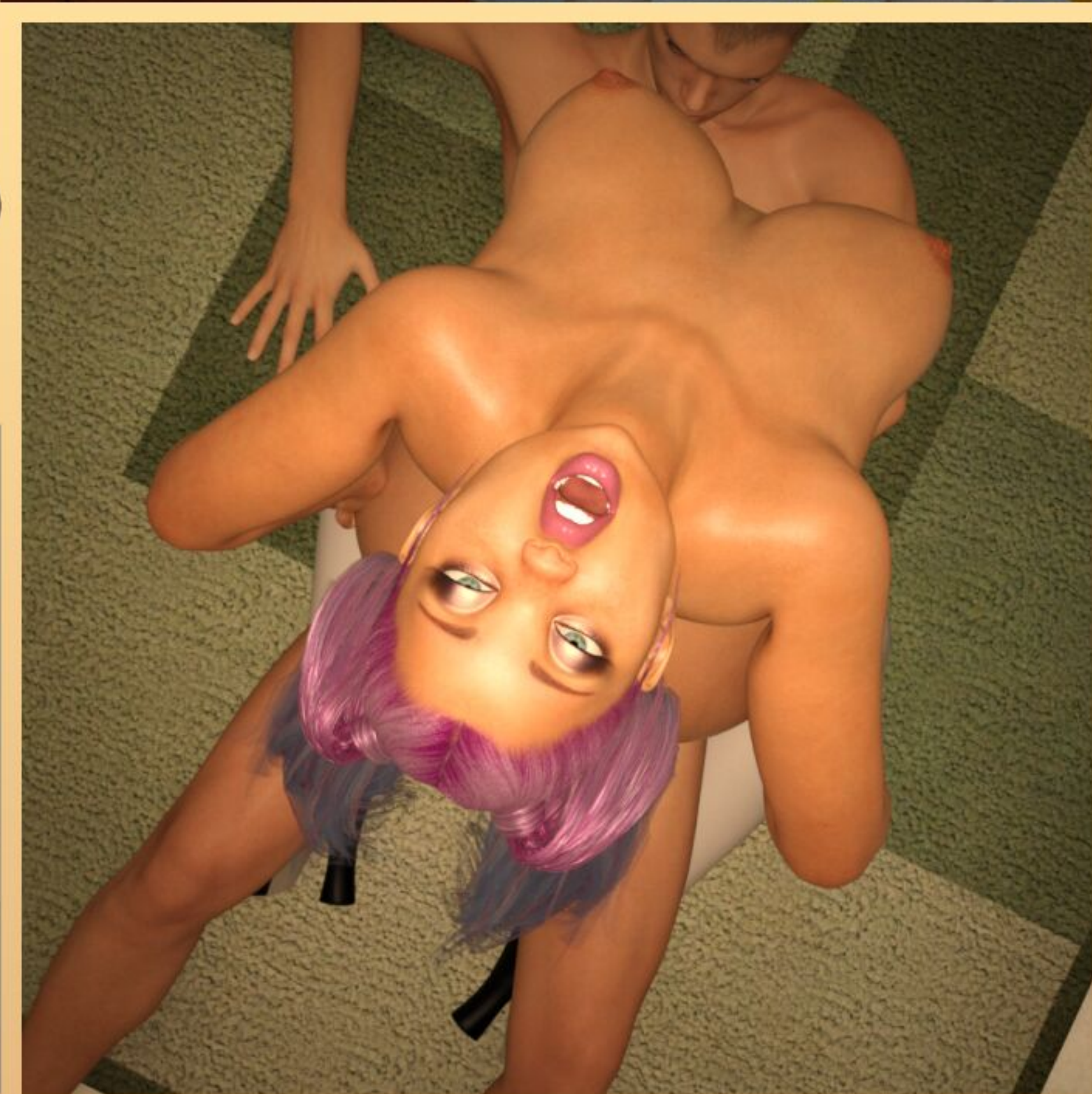
-- giggle -- We're twins!

Don't I wish. And you are?

Kristi. Hi!

I am Lor. From Laurence. Please do not call me Larry.

You're clearly new here, so let me show you the cast of characters.

I feel the same way. Unfortunately, all of them here are tragically straight. You may have better luck.

You ought to try Zach over there. He's been whining for weeks about how he can't find anybody. And he'll like your style.
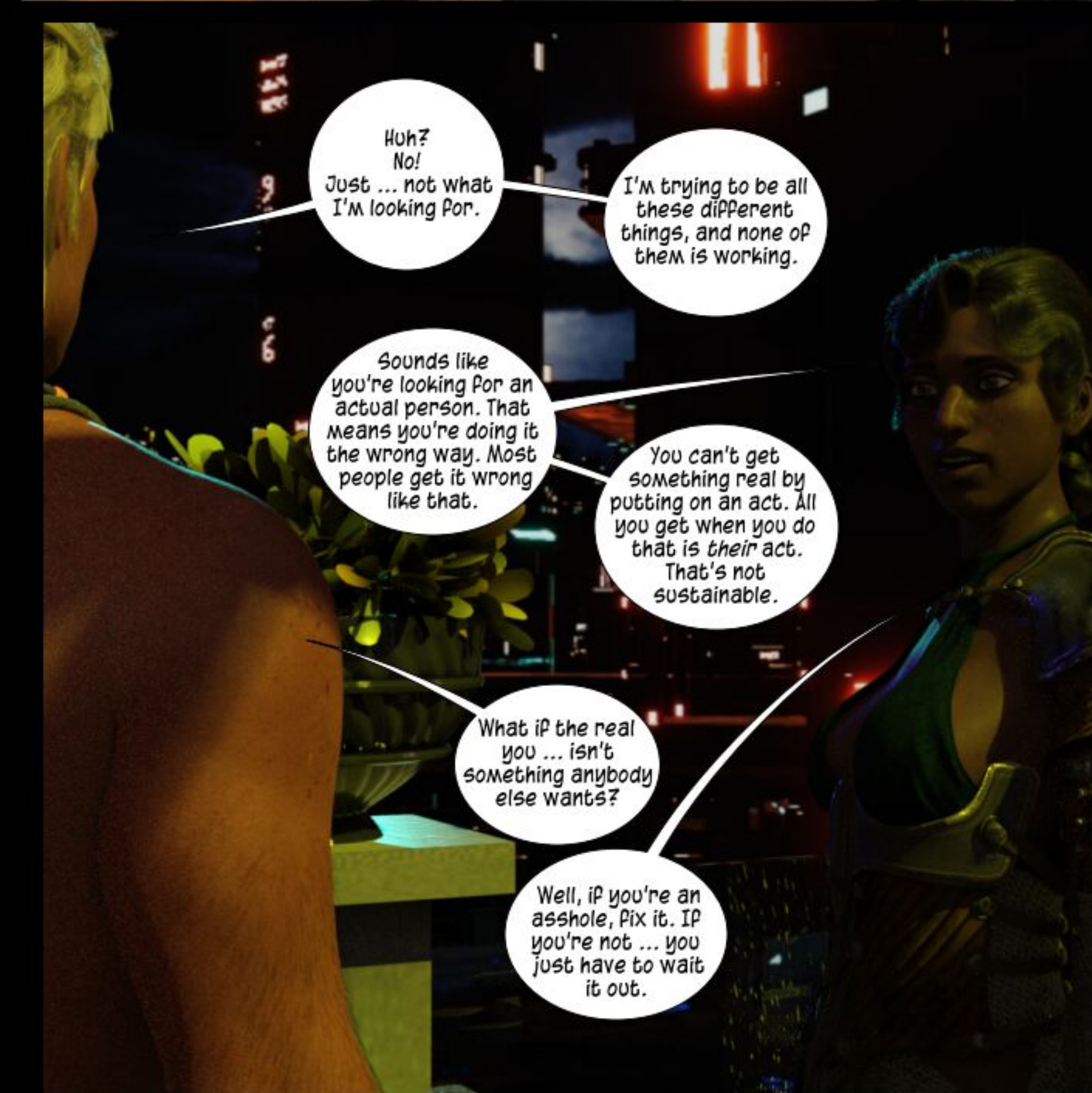
Thanks! That was a lot of fun!

-- sigh --

Aw. Was she that bad?

Huh? No! Just ... not what I'm looking for.

I'm trying to be all these different things, and none of them is working.

Sounds like you're looking for an actual person. That means you're doing it the wrong way. Most people get it wrong like that.

You can't get something real by putting on an act. All you get when you do that is their act. That's not sustainable.

What if the real you ... isn't something anybody else wants?

Well, if you're an asshole, fix it. If you're not ... you just have to wait it out.

It's frustrating as hell and it takes a long time, usually.

But sooner or later, if you keep putting yourself -- your real self -- out there, you find someone who likes that thing.

And is a thing that you like. Has to work both ways.

Uh .. do you --

I know where you're going, and I'm flattered. But I'm not into men. Sorry.

... Don't be too late ...

... please don't be too late ...

Come on!

THUMP THUMP

It can't be midnight yet!

You've got to be in there!

... crap.

Look, I know you can't put me back to what I was. Just ... just get me as close as you can. Anything reasonable. I never should have tried any of this. Everything made it worse. I can't get what I want being someone else, I --

Ssh.

Drink that.

-- choke --

Blagh!
What was *in* that? That was --

AAAAAAAAAAAA!

I'M ... I'm me again!
But you said you couldn't --

That's right. I can't.
You're not the same person you were. You *can't* be the same person you were, because everything you do, everything you experience, no matter how small, affects you.
You change.
You learn things.

You have learned things --

-- mmm --

-- haven't you?

... I sure have.

So what do you do the rest of the year?

Come with me and find out.

Closed for the Season
reopening October 2022