

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

TRILBY'S TRUE* TALES OF TRANSFORMATION

[* 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,
Polks, 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?

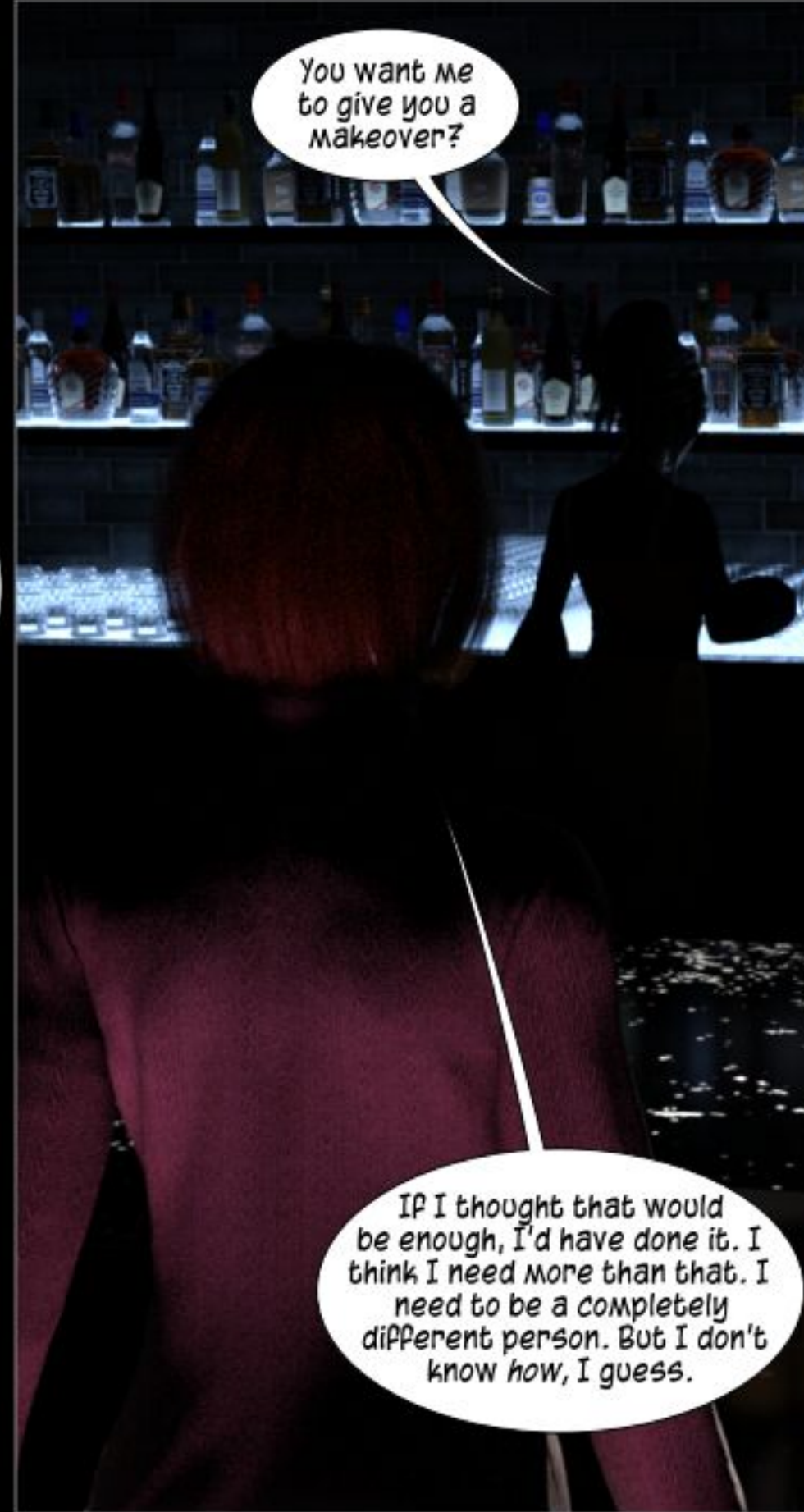
Um. Kind of.
I guess.



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 ...

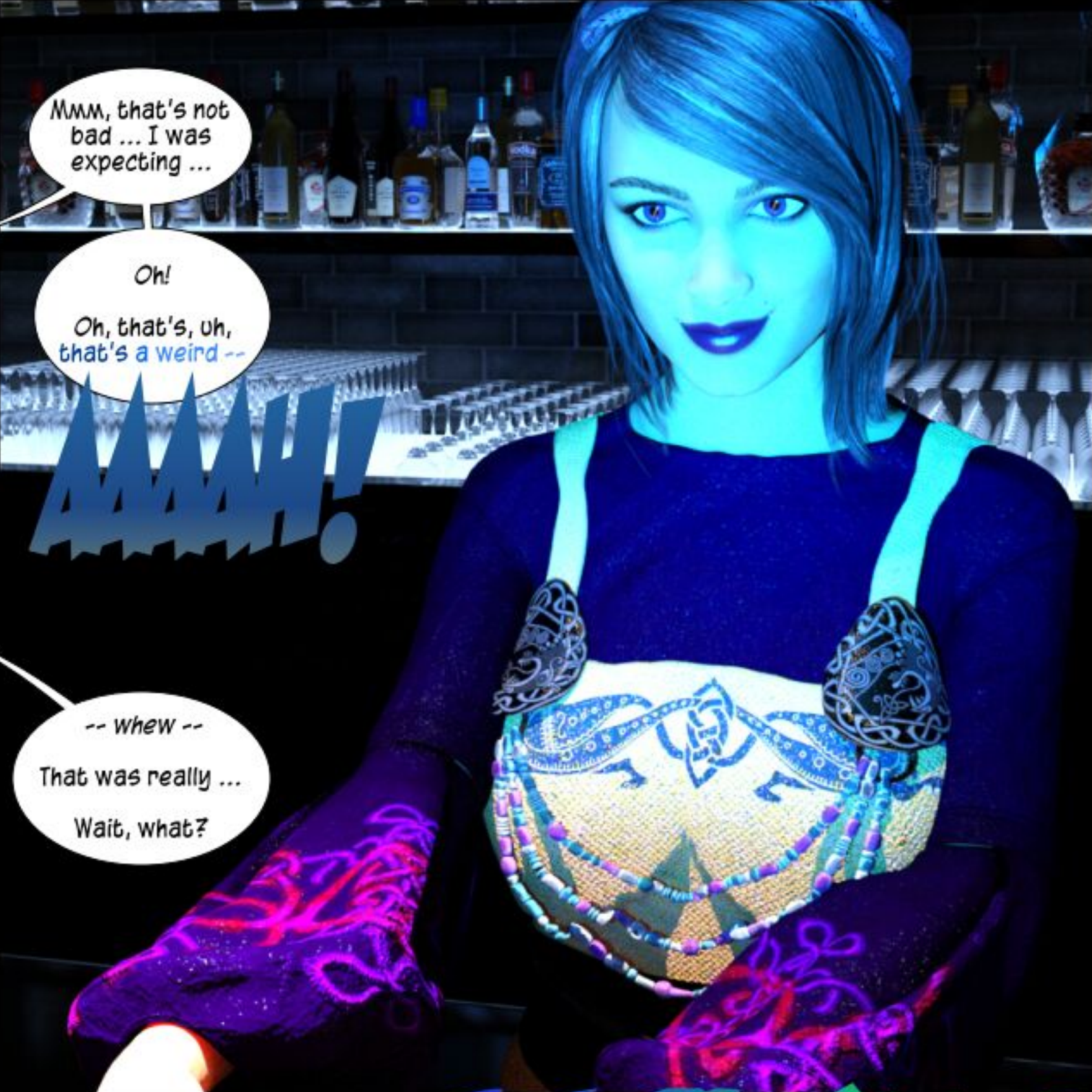
Well, I can make you
into a completely
different person. If
that's what you want.

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.



This is amazing! I've never walked into anywhere Peeling this confident before.

... I think it's getting me hot!

Do you know her?

Uh-uh. I don't think she was invited.

You gonna tell her to leave?

Do I look crazy?



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

My name's Donna.



THE PARTY WINDS ON ...

... See, investment banking at that level is really all about risk assessment, that's what they don't tell you ...



Uh ... I'm really not a very good dancer ...

Oh, come on! Nobody is paying attention, and anyway, everybody else is just as bad.



You think she's trying to get every guy in the room, or what?

Kinda Pun to watch, though. Anyway, she can't take them all home.

You don't think so?



Aw, I just want you to give me a kiss -- is that so bad?

I, uh, I just don't think it's a good idea, OK?



Hell, Greg, I figured you'd be halfway to her place by now ...

Naw, man, she's scary. She just about jumped me a while ago. Makes me nervous, y'know? Maybe I just don't like the ones who have to be in charge ...



EXIT

-- Sigh --



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 Peeling 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, PiPiTy.



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 ...

OOOOOOOOOH!



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 ...

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.



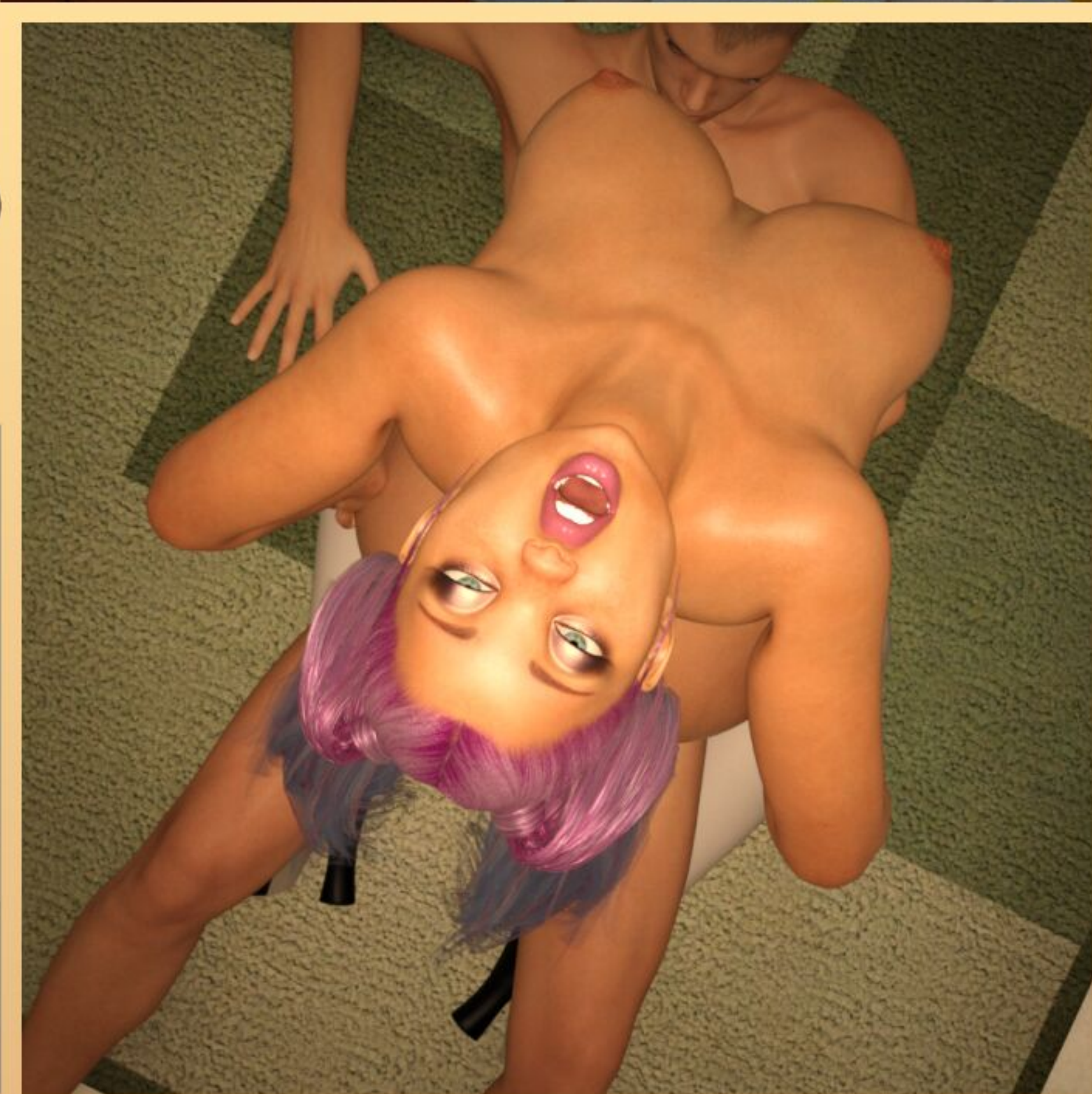
-- giggle -- We're twins!

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.





No?

The sex was great!

But the guys figured I didn't want anything but sex.

And everybody assumed I was really dumb.



I don't get it. If I give the men what they obviously want, they don't take me seriously. But if I try to get them to take me seriously, they get scared.

Maybe the problem's not you.



Well, if the problem's the men, I don't know what I can do about that ...

Hmm.

Have you considered trying out the other side?

What, be a man? You can do that?

I don't know ... I mean, it would be kind of strange ... I don't even know how their stuff works ...

I guess it could be worth a try ...



Drink this one carefully.



Whoa! -- cough --

That's, uh, a lot stronger than the other drinks ...

I warned you.

Oh, this feels really strange, I don't know, I --

WUUUUUGH!



Holy shit.

I may have a little problem; I've never thought my own reflection was hot before ...

What if I'm still into guys?

What if you are? Go find out.

But I'd like to remind you: At midnight I close up. And when I say closed, I mean really closed.

I don't mind another redo, but figure it out fast.



Oh, hello.

Any idea who that is?

No ... but I'm sure gonna find out.



Hey, Name's Fred.

Marcus. Are you the --

Excuse me, Fred. Sorry to interrupt, but this one's mine. I'll show him around.

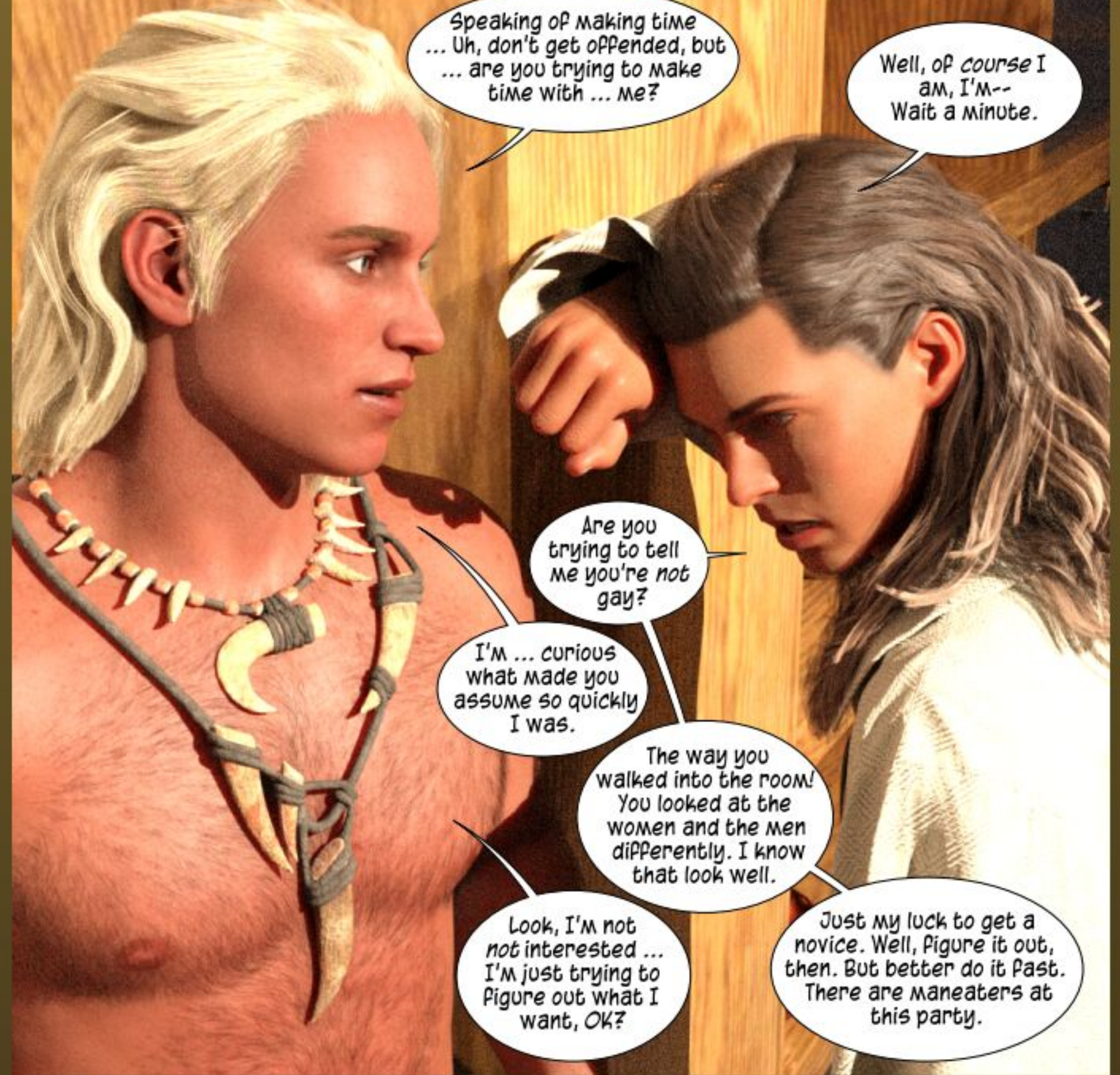


Most of these refugees from a role-playing game aren't brilliant company. The three in the Hollywood Fantasy Armor can hold a conversation, if you can pull them away from whoever they're chasing. Greg is utterly wasted on Mallory, but ...

She-Legolas over there keeps trying to make time with the Pirate Queen and it never happens. Avoid the plague doctor, he's a sociopath.

He's not subtle. The problem is ... I just ... I can't bring myself to, and I don't know why. Normally I'd think he was pretty good ... but everything feels so different right now.

I think maybe playing naive is the way to go here ...



Speaking of making time ... Uh, don't get offended, but ... are you trying to make time with ... me?

Well, of course I am, I'm-- Wait a minute.

Are you trying to tell me you're not gay?

I'm ... curious what made you assume so quickly I was.

The way you walked into the room! You looked at the women and the men differently. I know that look well.

Look, I'm not not interested ... I'm just trying to figure out what I want, OK?

Just my luck to get a novice. Well, figure it out, then. But better do it fast. There are maneaters at this party.



"Figure it out," he says. Right.

I think this was a mistake. I've never felt this out of my depth before ...

MMM!

You know you sit like a woman?



Is that a problem--

-- oof! --

Uh, hi?

-- giggle --

I just mean, you sit the right way in that skirt thingie, with your knees together. Fred sat down in his kilt with his legs a mile apart like he always does, and we had to tell him he was flashing the room.

I can flash the room if you want ...

Oh, no! I'd rather get a private showing.



Let's go find a place where we can play "barbarian warrior captures wood elf princess."



I sure hope I can figure out how to do this ...



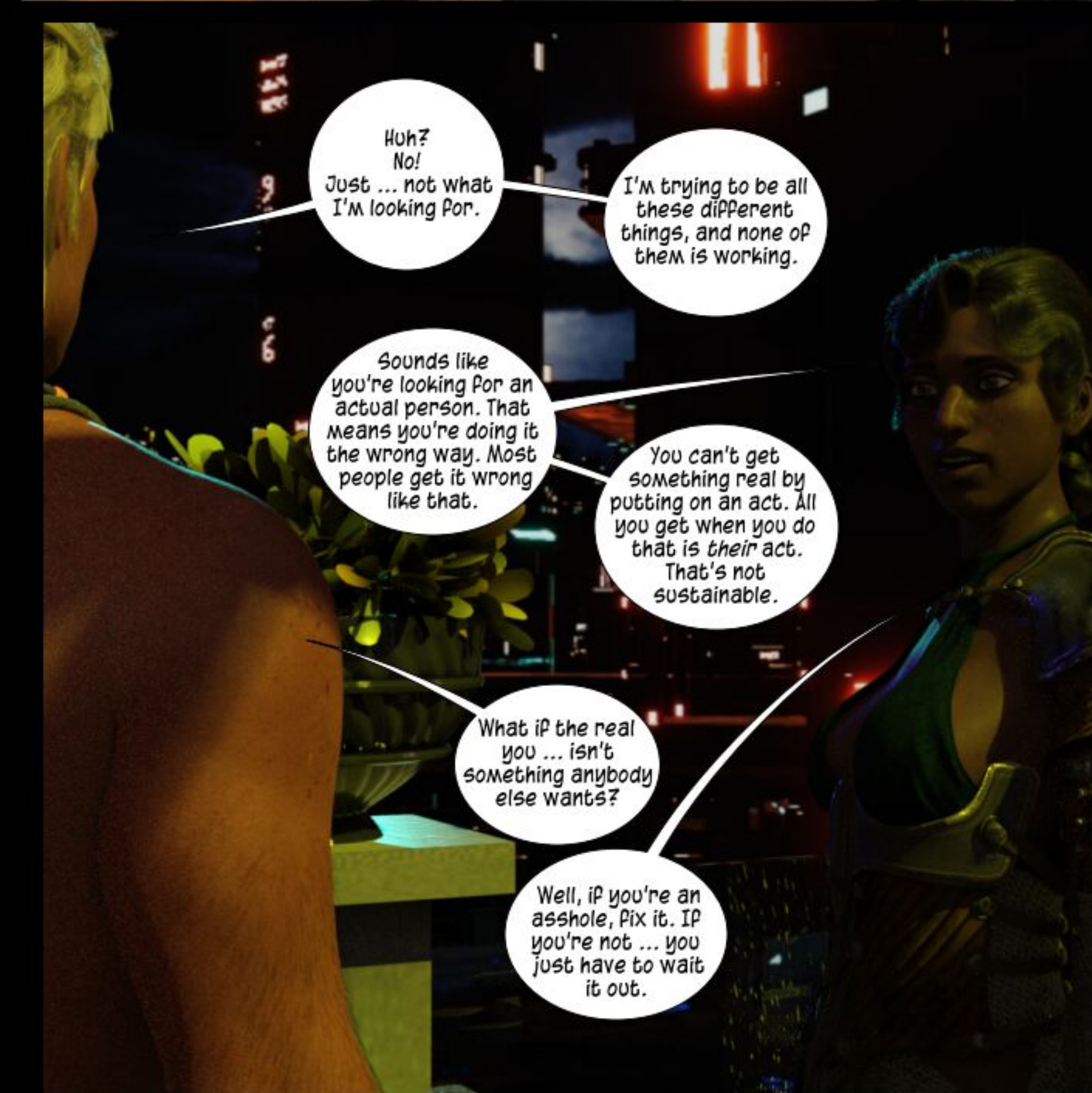


Thanks! That was a lot of fun!



-- 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!

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 --

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

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