





I told you a thousand times already, stupid little girl scouts, I won't buy your crappy biscuits!

Saw at first sight that words won't reach this man. That skull looked too thick for anything to get through.

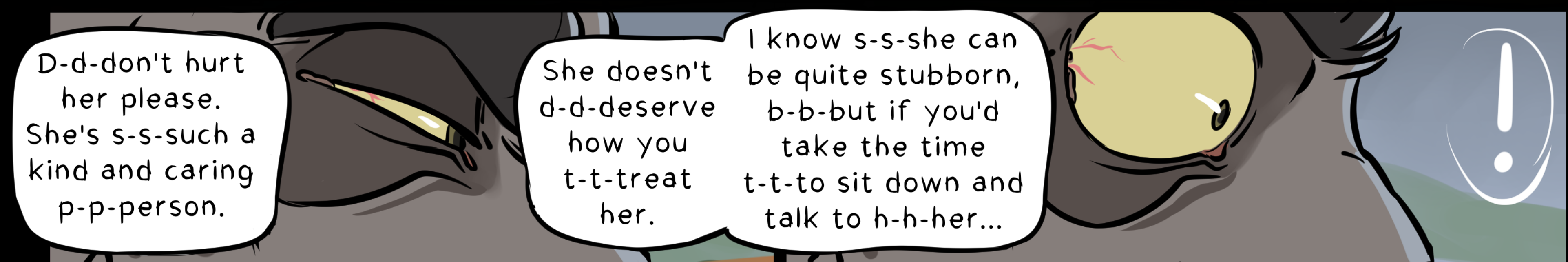
But I still had to try.

For her.

For us.



G-g-good day s-s-sir... I-I-I would like t-t-to talk about E-e-estella...



D-d-don't hurt her please. She's s-s-such a kind and caring p-p-person.

She doesn't d-d-deserve how you t-t-treat her.

I know s-s-she can be quite stubborn, b-b-but if you'd take the time t-t-to sit down and talk to h-h-her...



You... YOU!

SHE'S MESSING AROUND WITH YOU, ISN'T SHE?



That was the third scariest moment of my life.



And I thought she's just a stupid whore, fucking boys for pocket money or some shit!



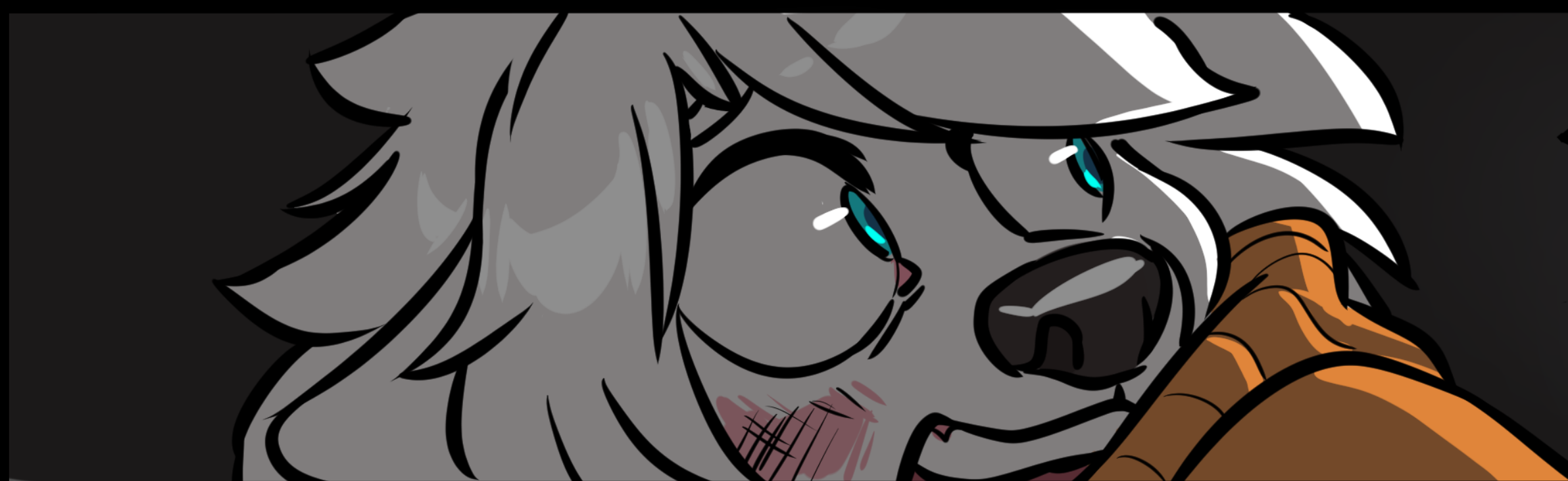
Did you two **REALLY** think I won't notice how many times she's messing around in the city, instead of working at home?



I don't know if she's that fucking retarded, or you're stuffing her head with bullshit...



But this ends right **HERE**, right **NOW!**

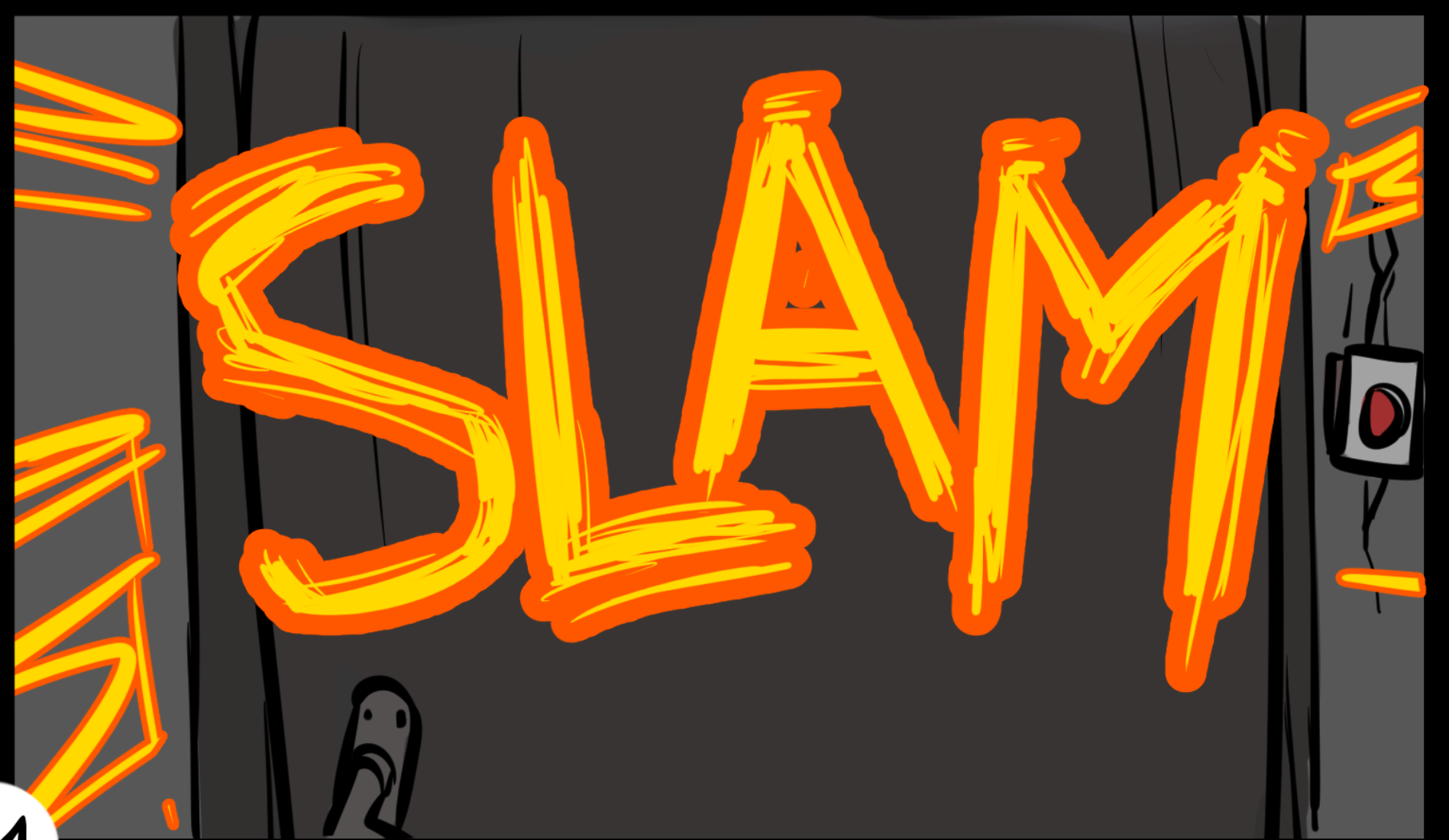


She belongs to **ME!**

YOU HEAR ME?

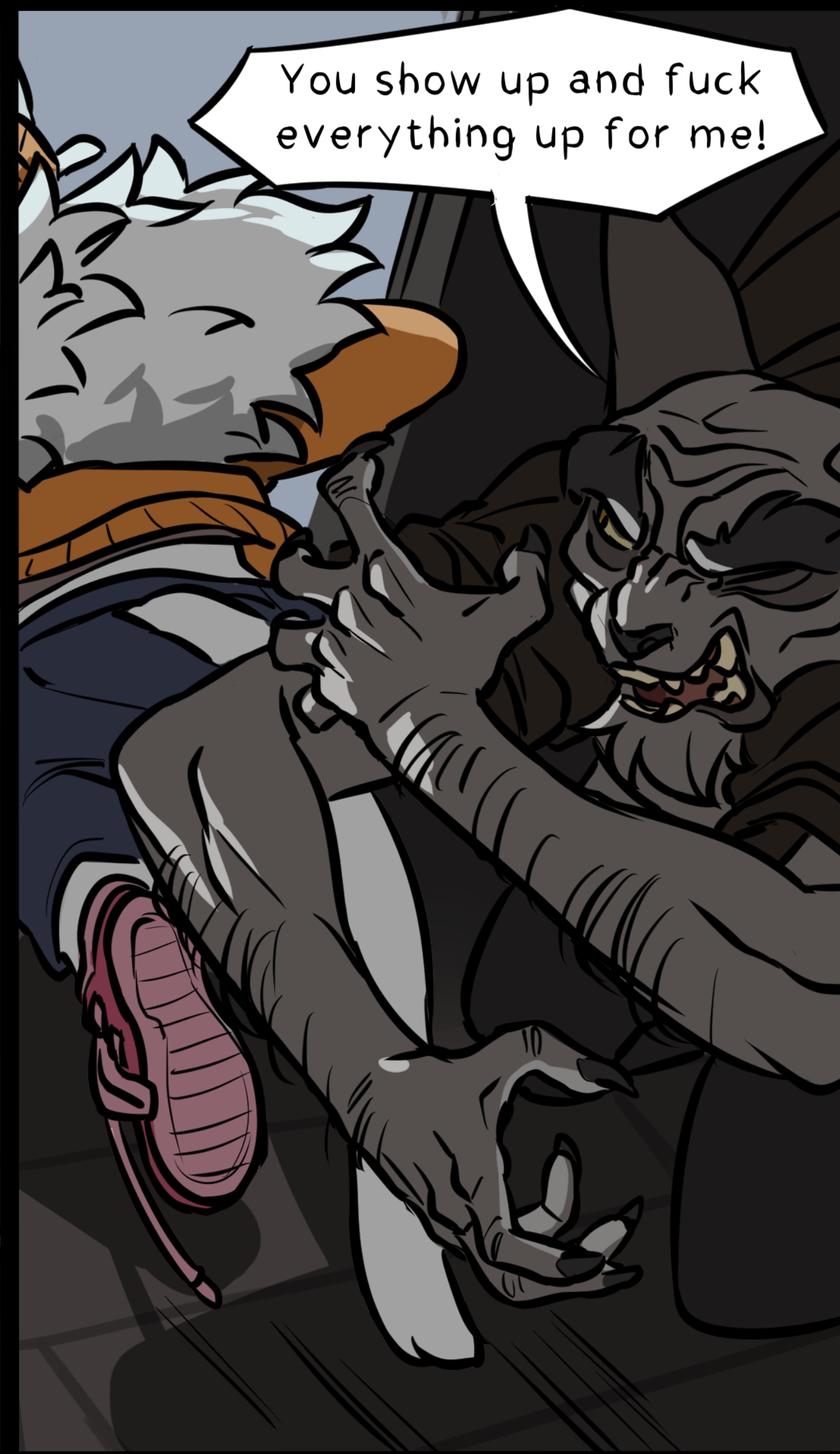


And she oughta do whatever **I JUST TELL HER!**





Like it wasn't hard enough to break her in, and beat some sense into her in the first place!



You show up and fuck everything up for me!



Do you have **ANY** idea how much time and work I wasted to bridle her rebellious nature?

AND I WON'T LET YOU RUIN ALL THAT WORK!



She's mine!



She belongs to me!

Do you hear me, you stupid little whore?



SHE ONLY BELONGS TO ME!



You c-c-can't talk like that a-a-about her! She's not an o-o-object, but a living feeling p-p-person!

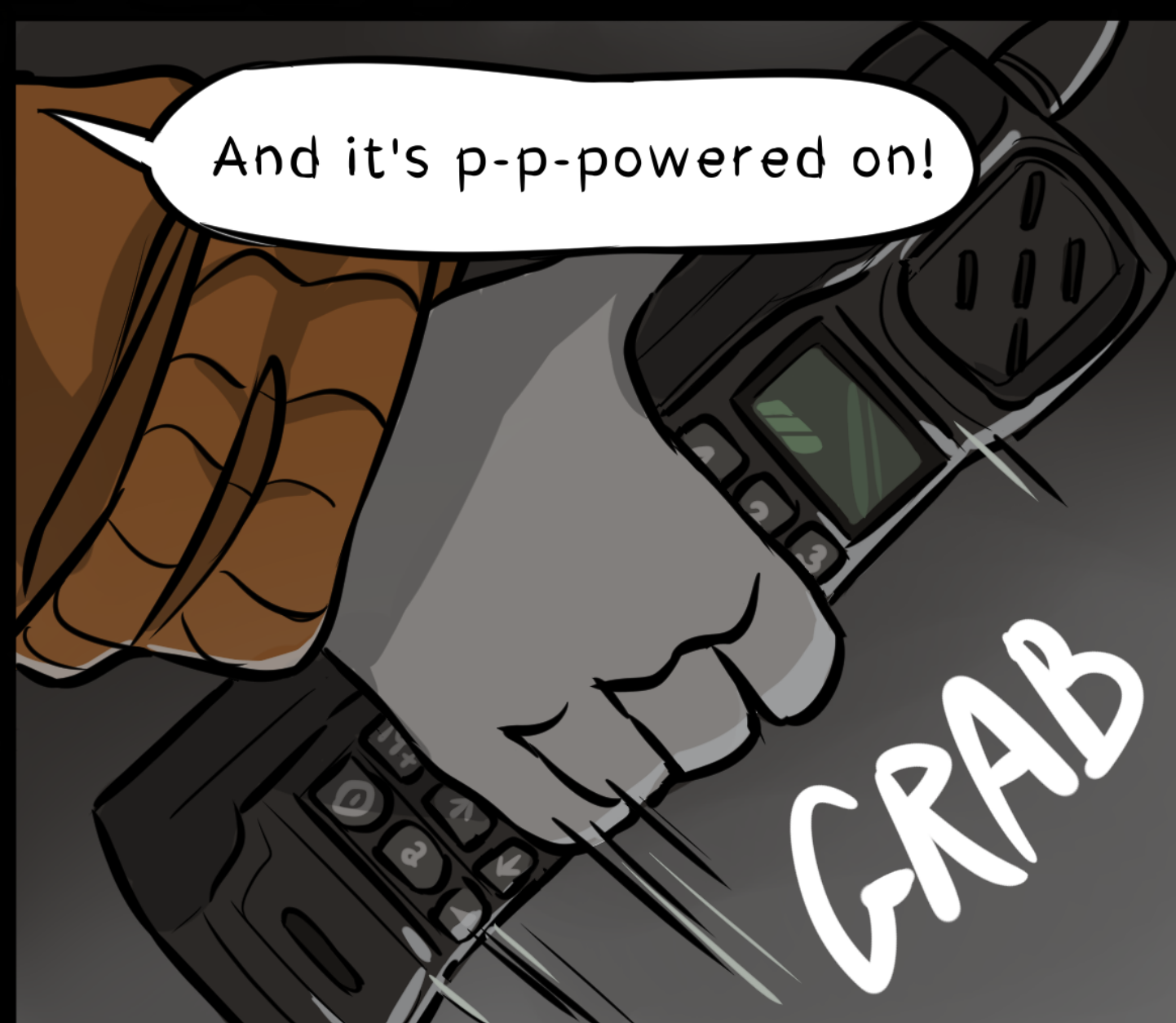


DON'T LECTURE ME YOU LITTLE CRE TIN!



How dare you butt into our lives, you white little rat!







You a-a-are an evil p-p-person!

You can't run forever!

This isn't a big house after all.

SLAM



And you don't d-d-deserve such loving daughter I-I-like her!

THUNK



DAMMIT!
I'll get you, you white little rat, just you wait!

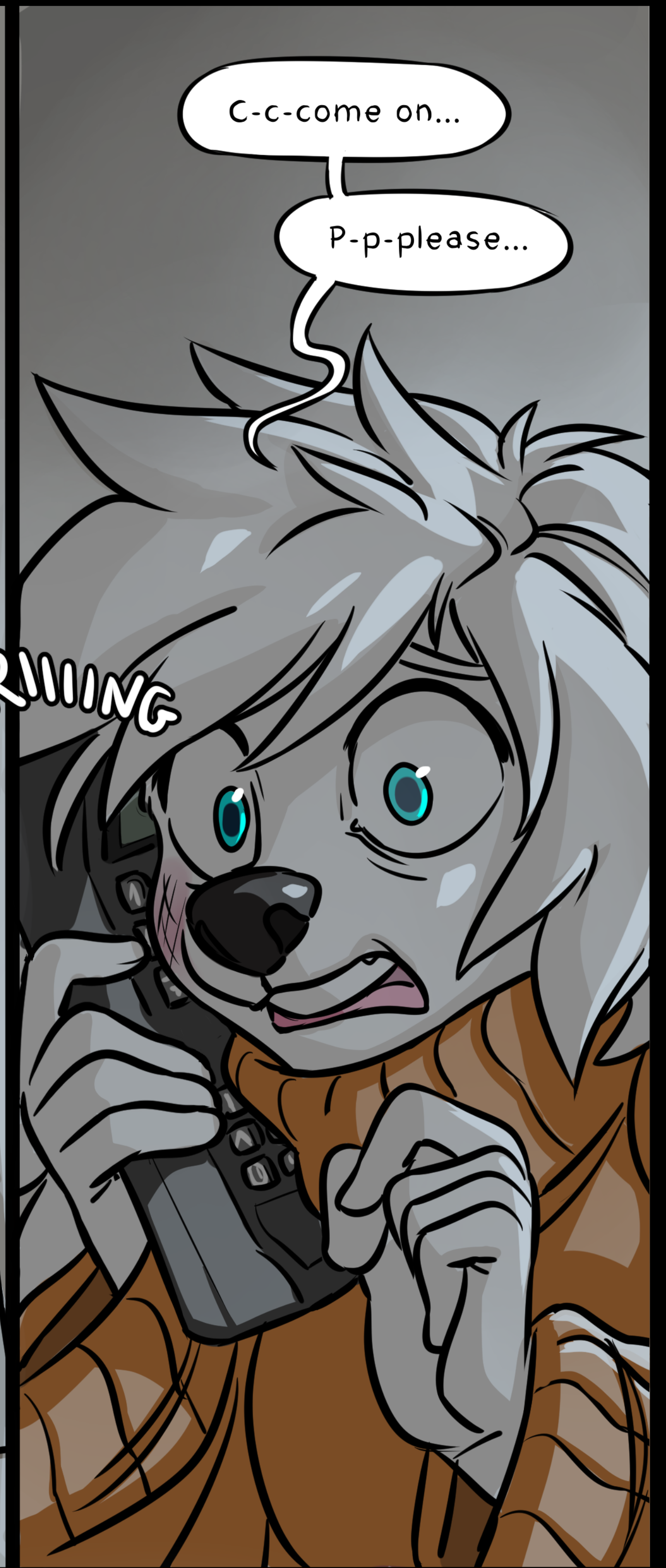
CLINK

CLINK

CLINK



BEEP
BOOP
BEEP



C-c-come on...

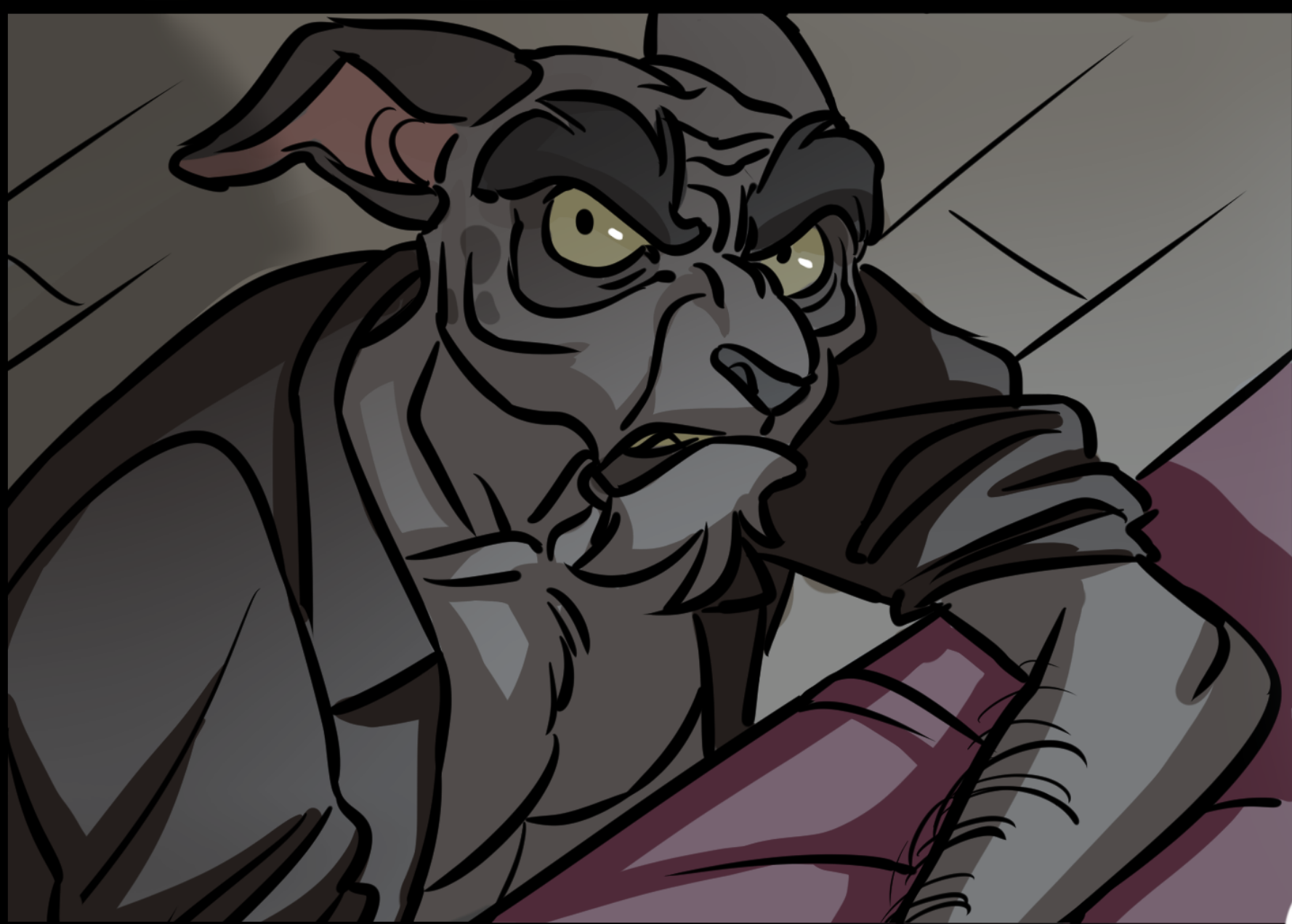
P-p-please...

RIIIING



New Dawn Police Station speaking.

What can I help you with?





P-p-police?

P-p-please help,
I believe s-s-someone is
t-t-trying to murder
m-m-me!



Damn it...

Like I had no
better things
to do today
than running
errands for
the old
fucker...



At least I
get home
before
the rain...



T-t-thank God!

Stella!



E... EVIE?

**WHAT THE FUCK ARE
YOU DOING UP THERE?**

What is your
a-a-address?

I forgot it in
the r-r-rush.

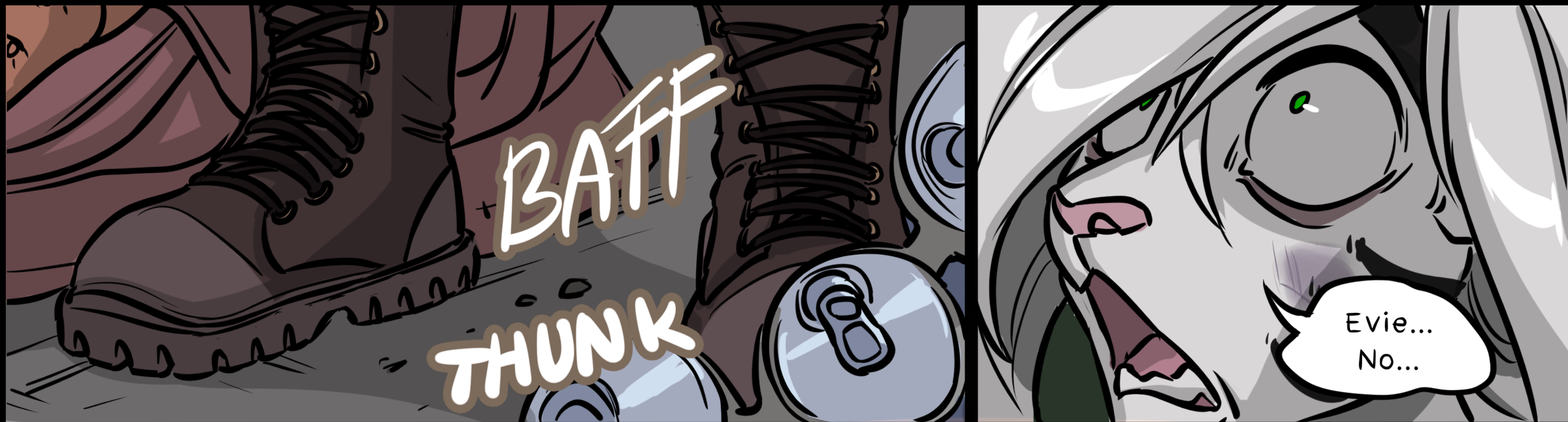
RUSH?

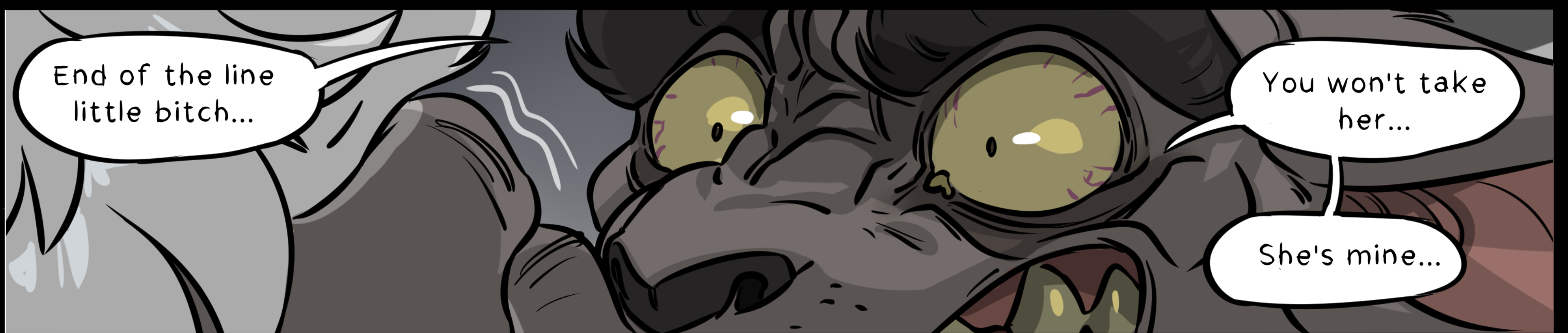
**WHAT
RUSH?**

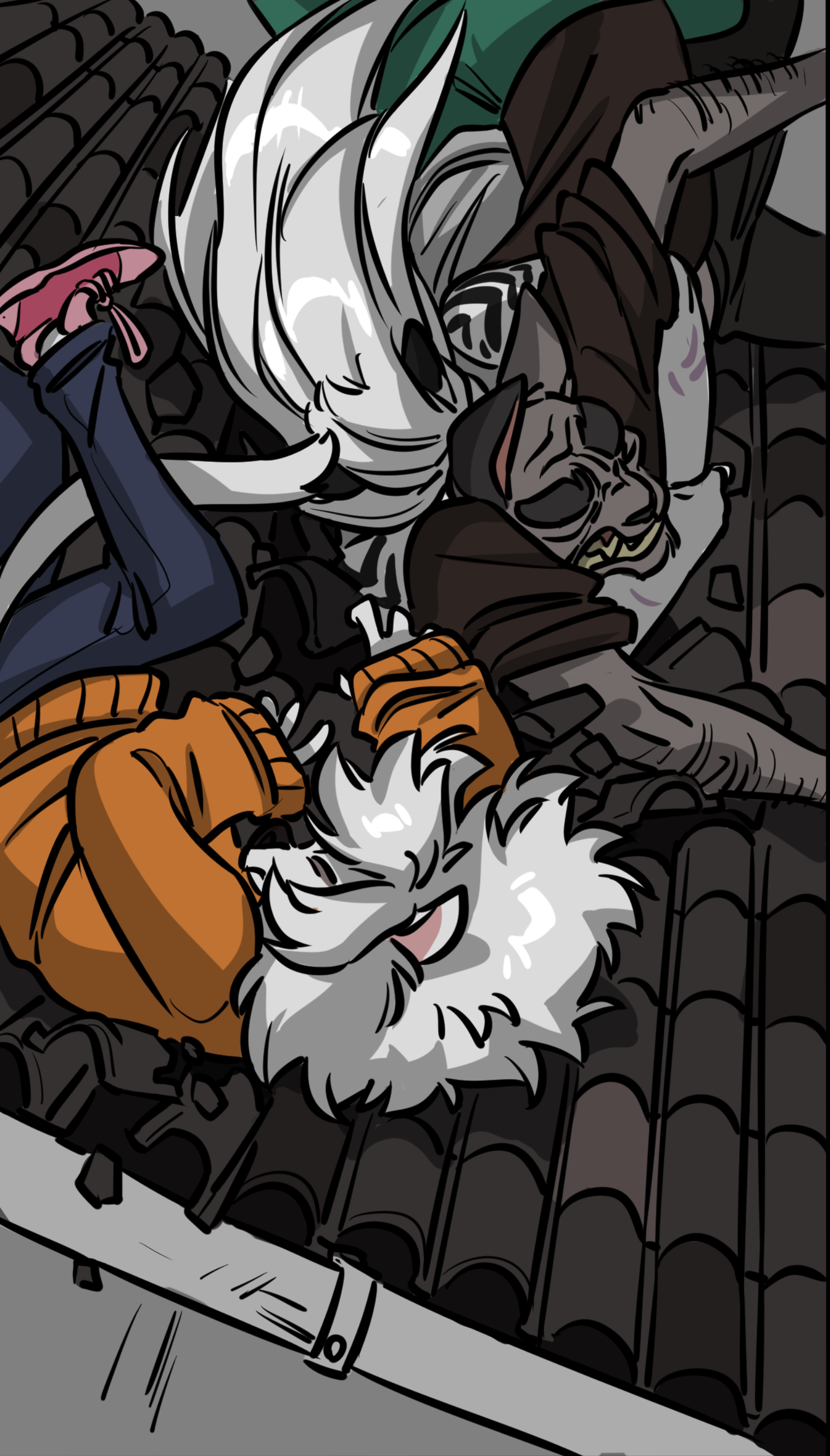
**WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?**














Never...

Never **EVER** dare to touch her again you sick asshole, or I'll rip your balls off!


GOT IT?



You filthy little whore...




This is why I raised and fed you? To stab me in the back? To grow into such an ungrateful stinkin' bitch?



If it wasn't for me, you'd already sleep on the streets! Every single kid is an ungrateful little monster. Looks like the usual education just doesn't cut it anymore, and I have to break you in even more.

I promise I'll work harder from now on to make you into the obedient little girl you always should have been. You'll be a purring little kitty, I swear. And you'll be only mine. For your own good.



At this point, something broke in Stella.

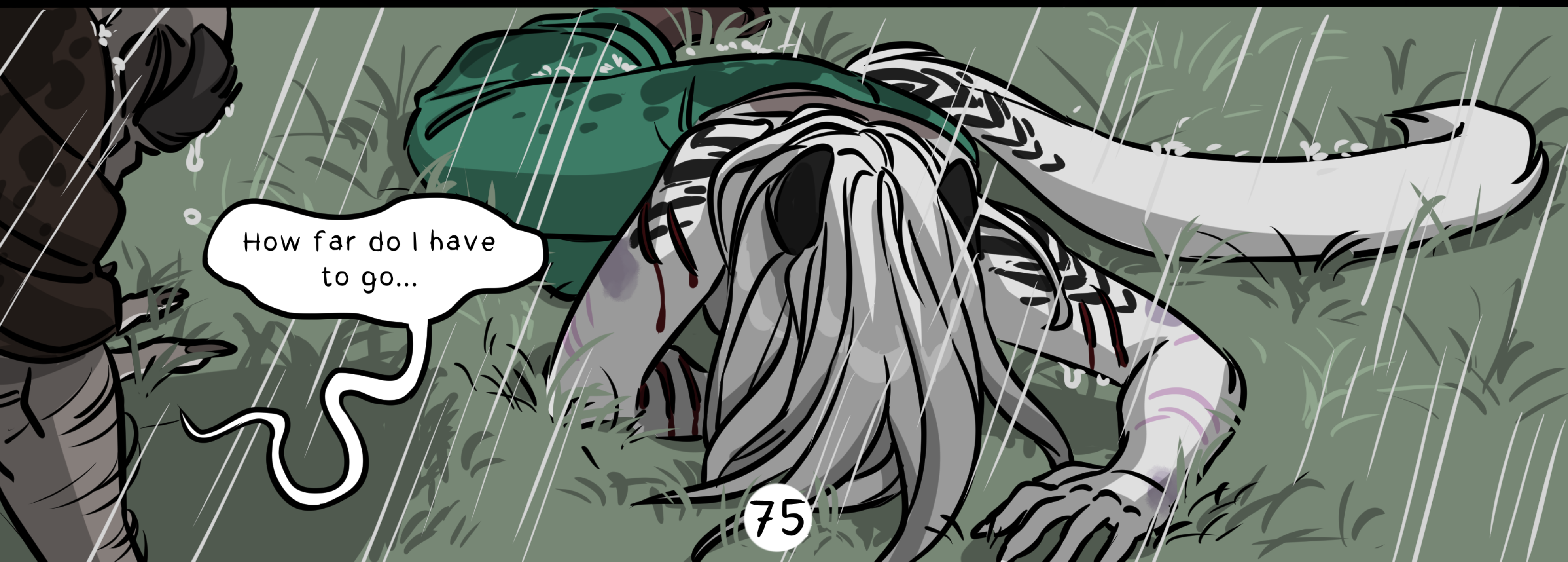
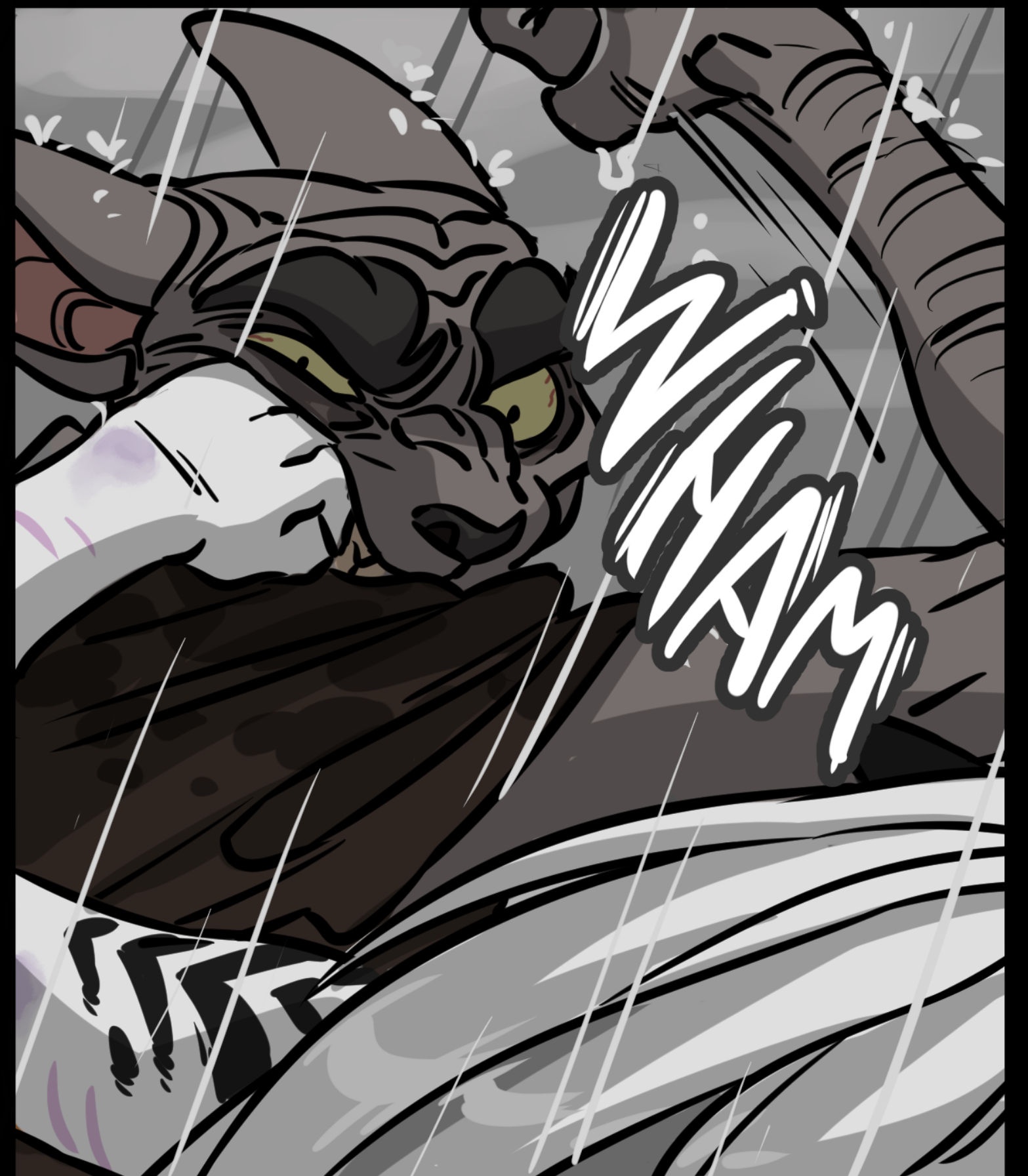
A whole life worth of rage, fear and humiliation exploded.

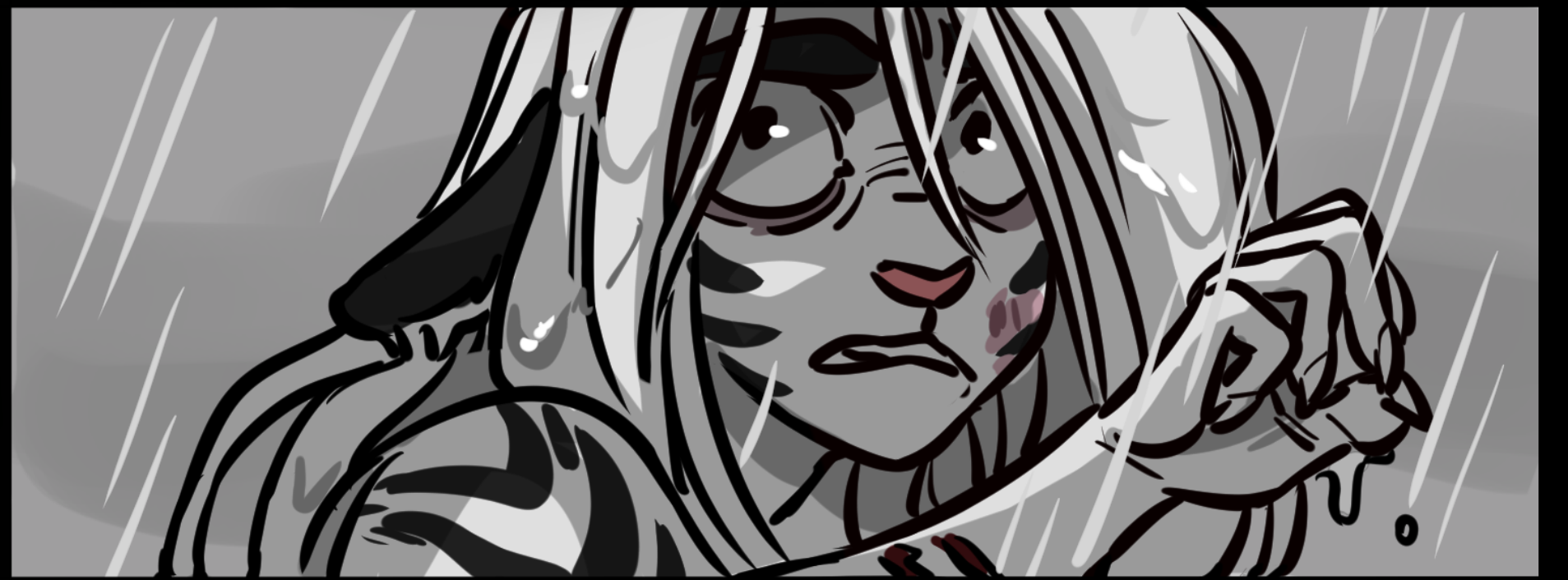
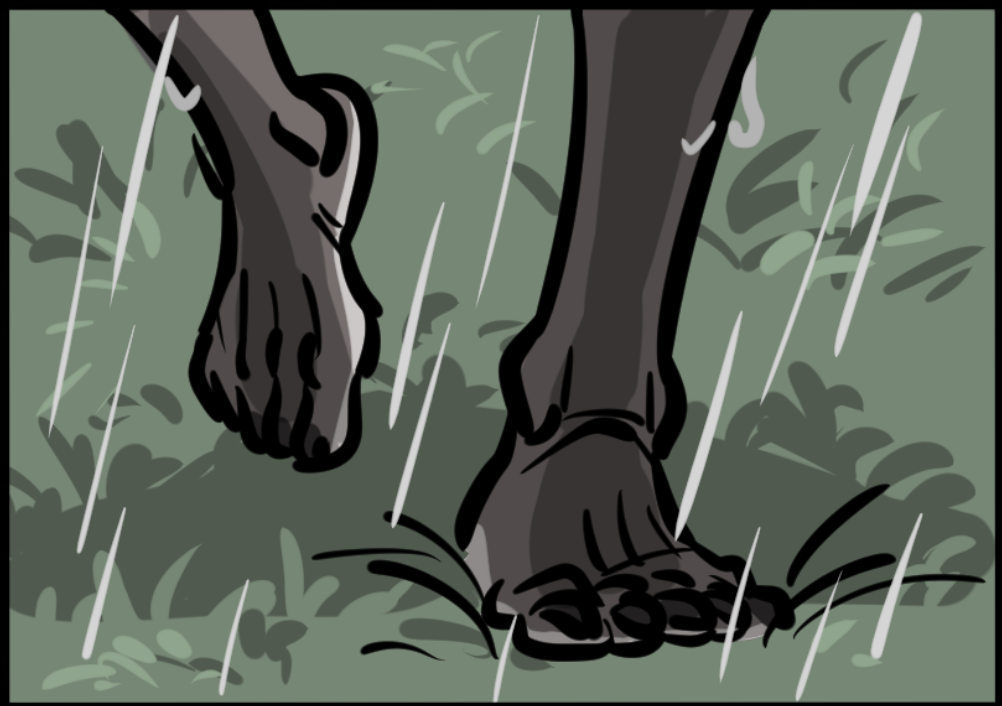
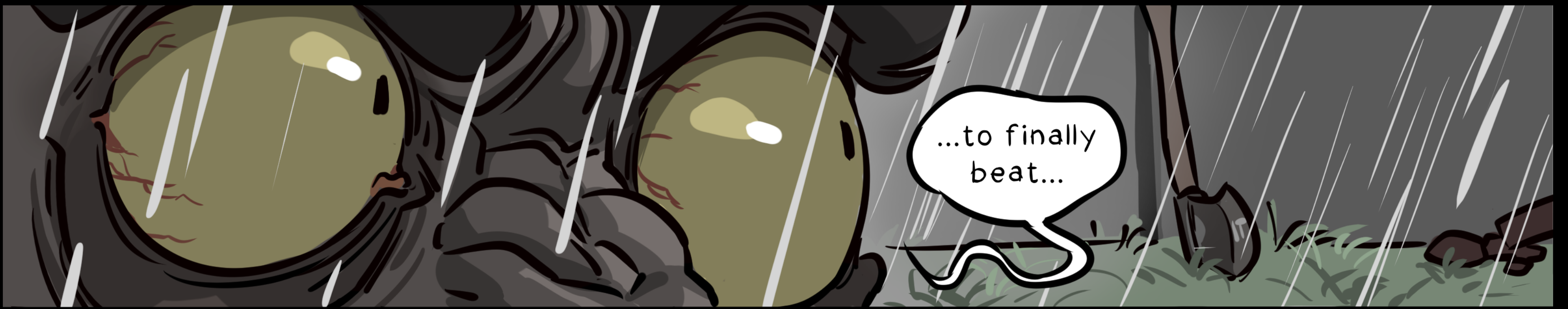
And there was no way back.

You fed me you sick fuck? **YOU?**

There was only one reason I haven't just left you to die! Because I pitied you! Because you are a miserable, rotten piece of human waste, absolutely incapable of living on it's own! You wouldn't survive a single day without me!

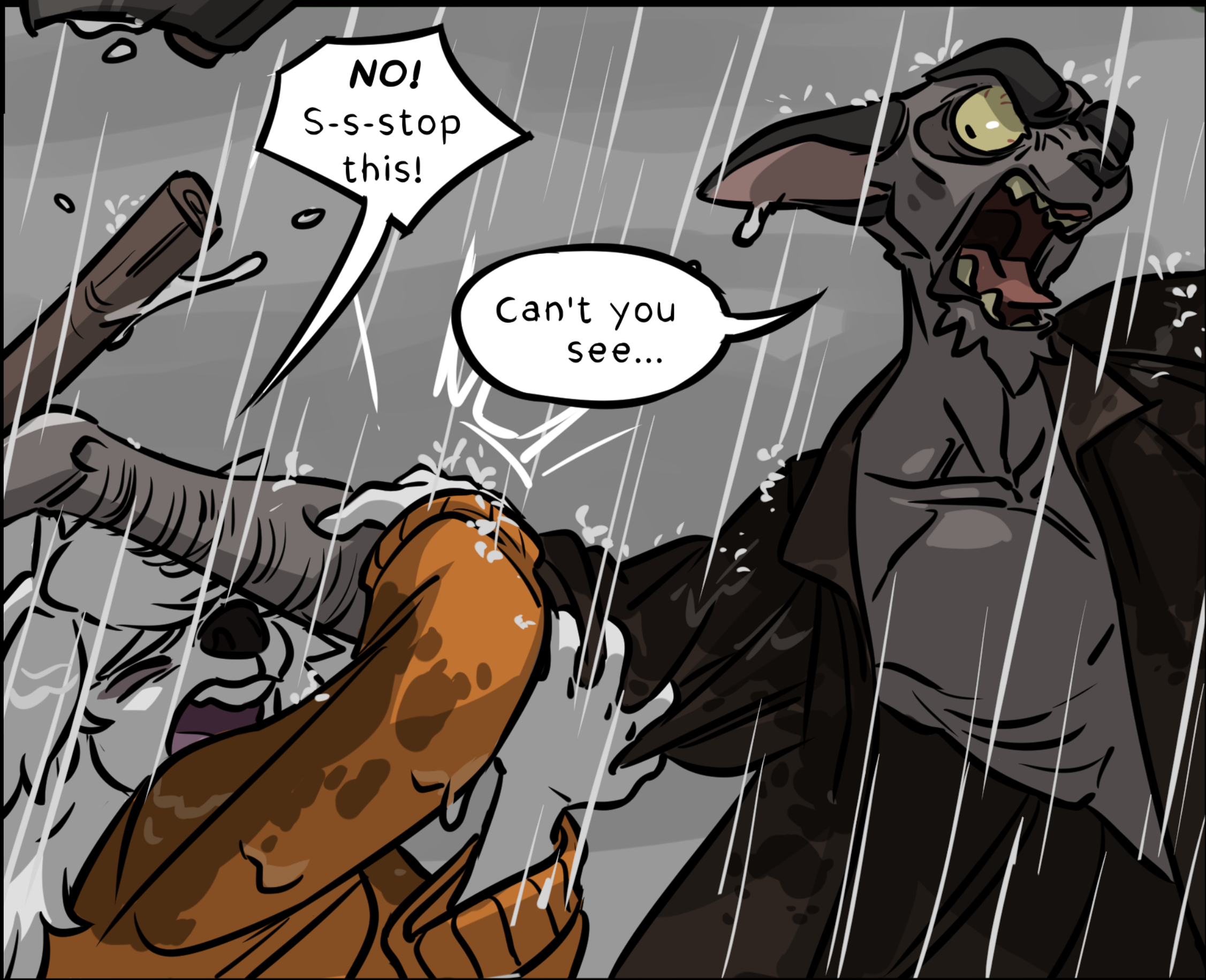
Since I know my mind, I'm the one working all day and night, cook, and clean up your puke every time you pass out. And that's because the only thing you know is how to wreck yourself! And all I got for this was humiliation and beating!





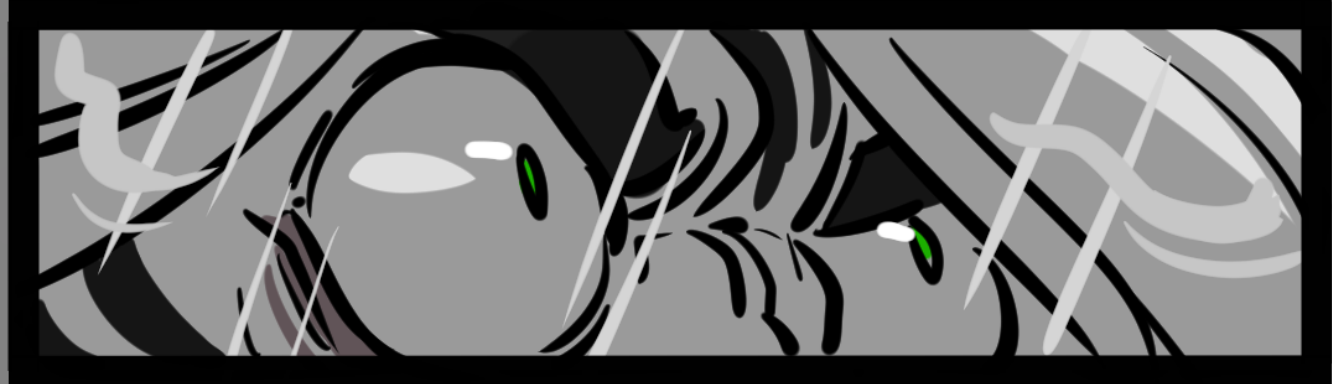


But this will be your final lesson...



NO!
S-s-stop
this!

Can't you
see...

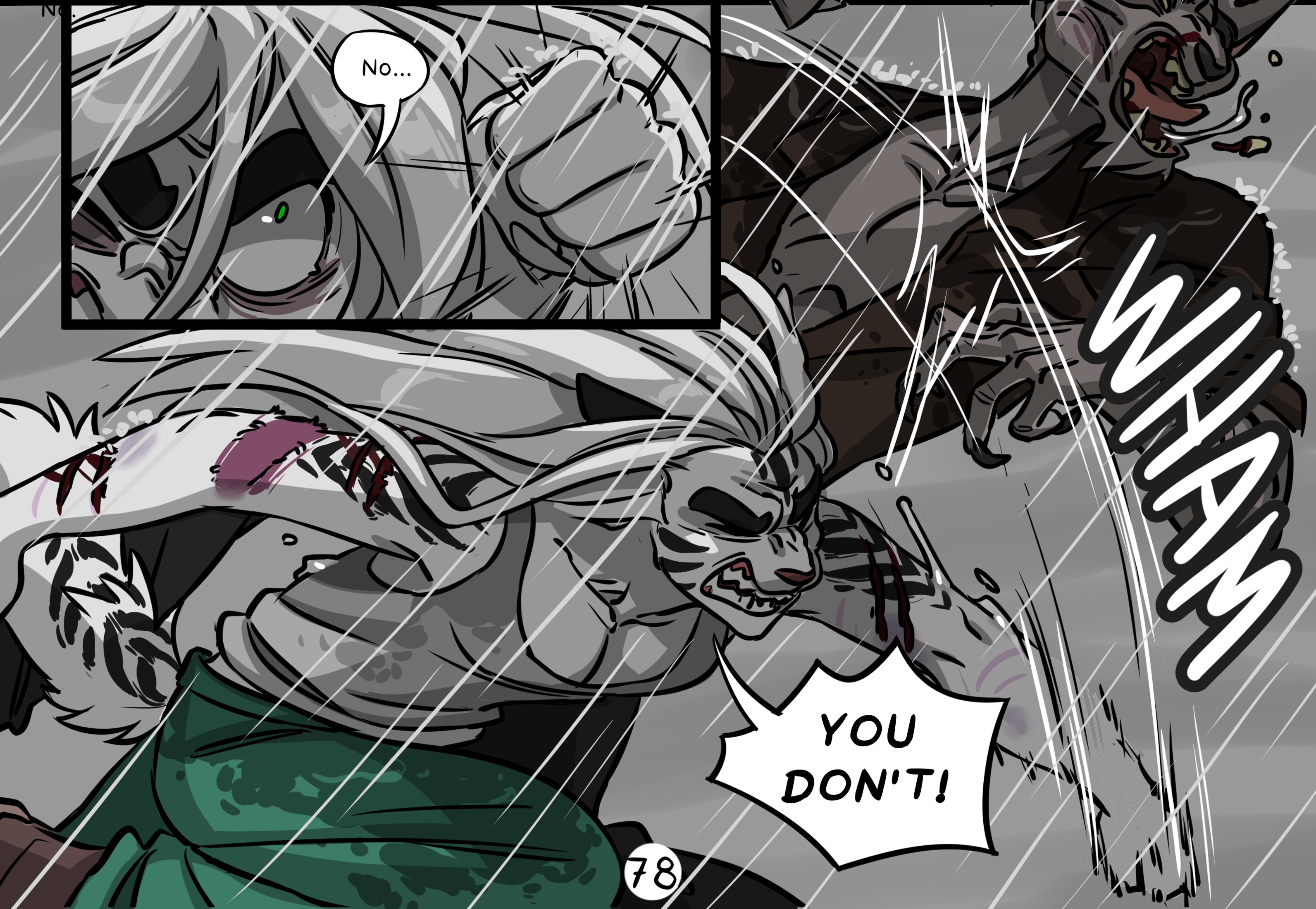


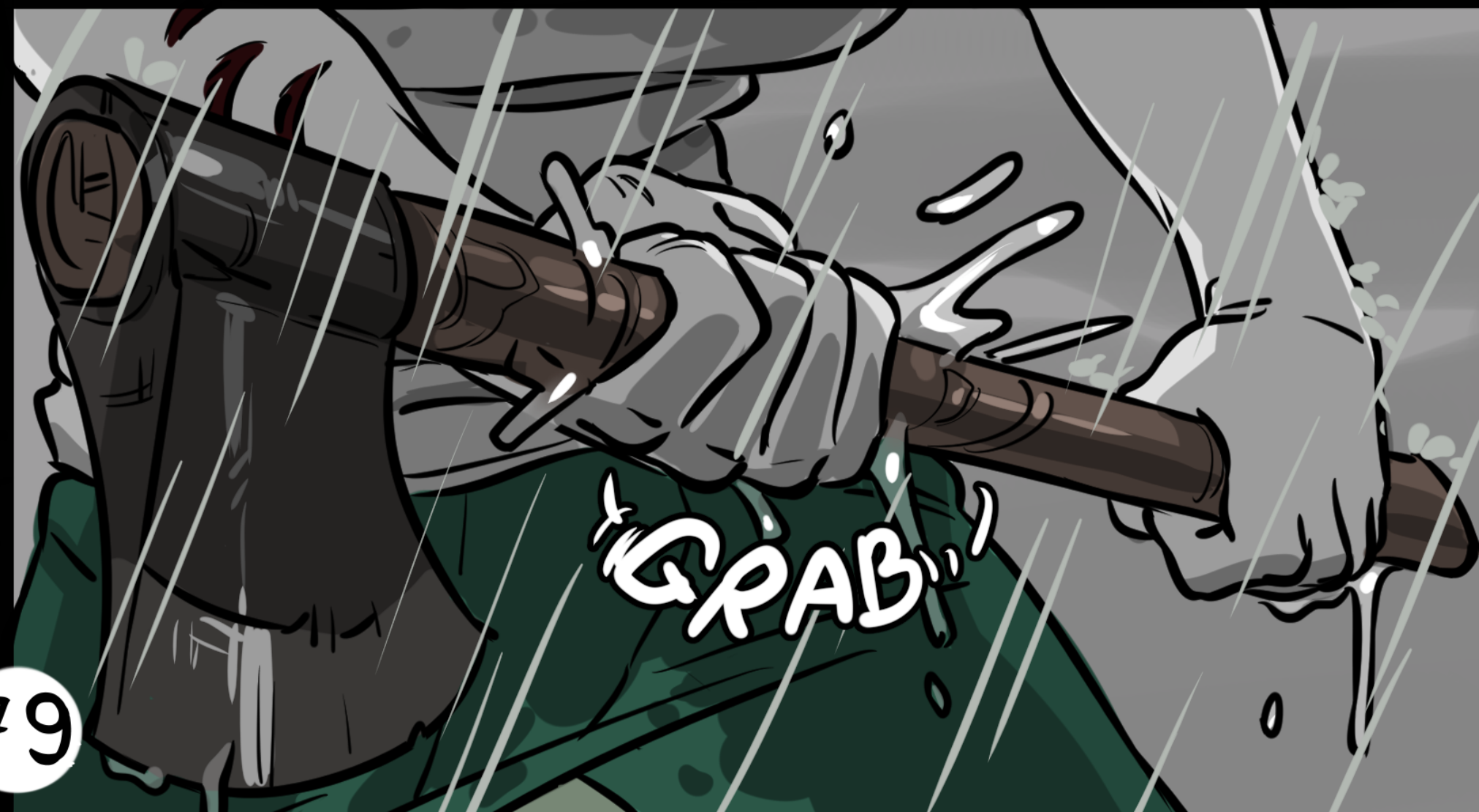
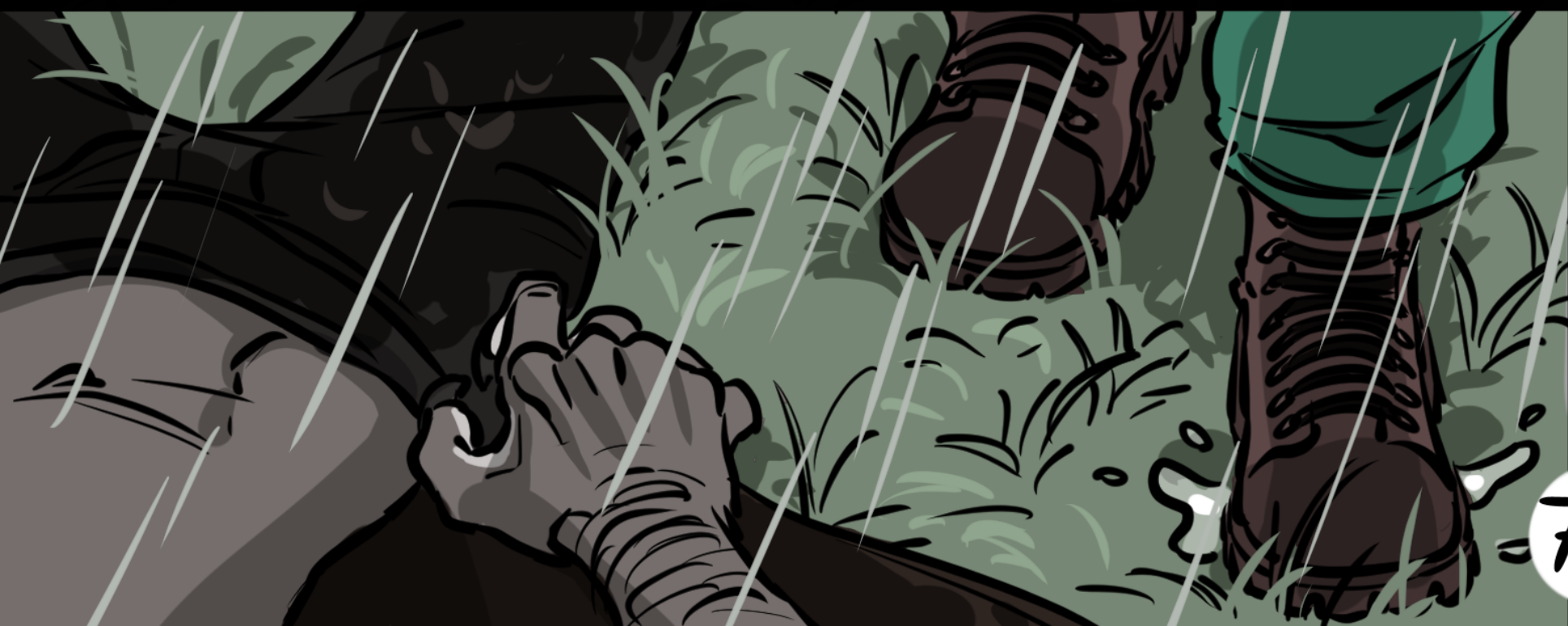
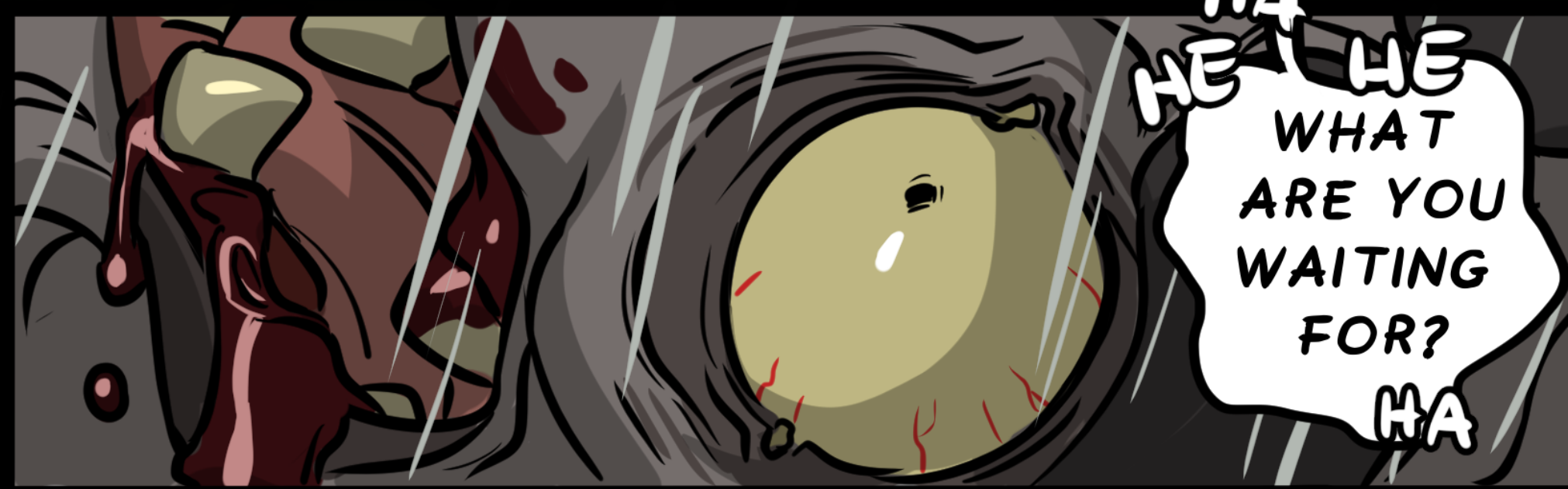
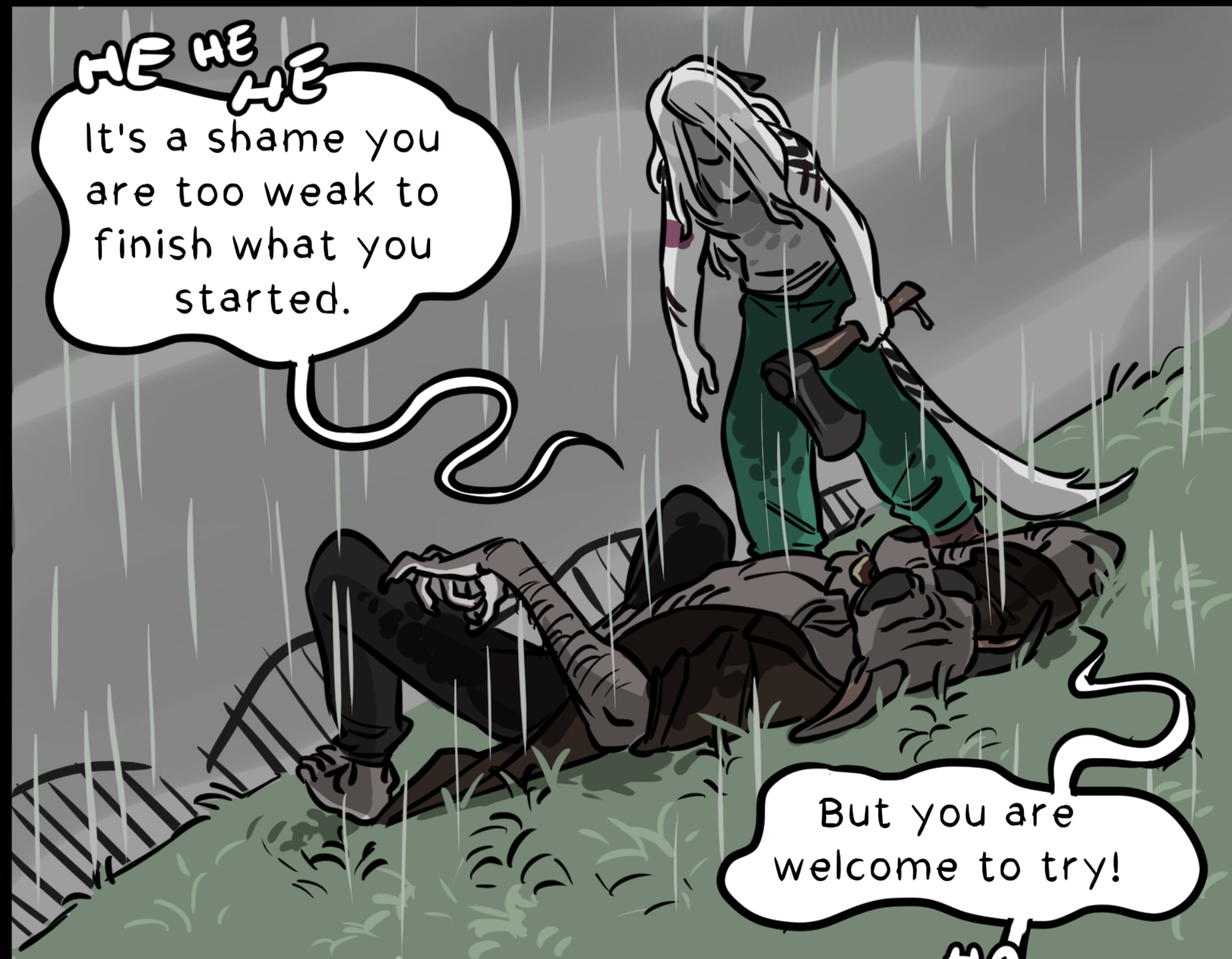
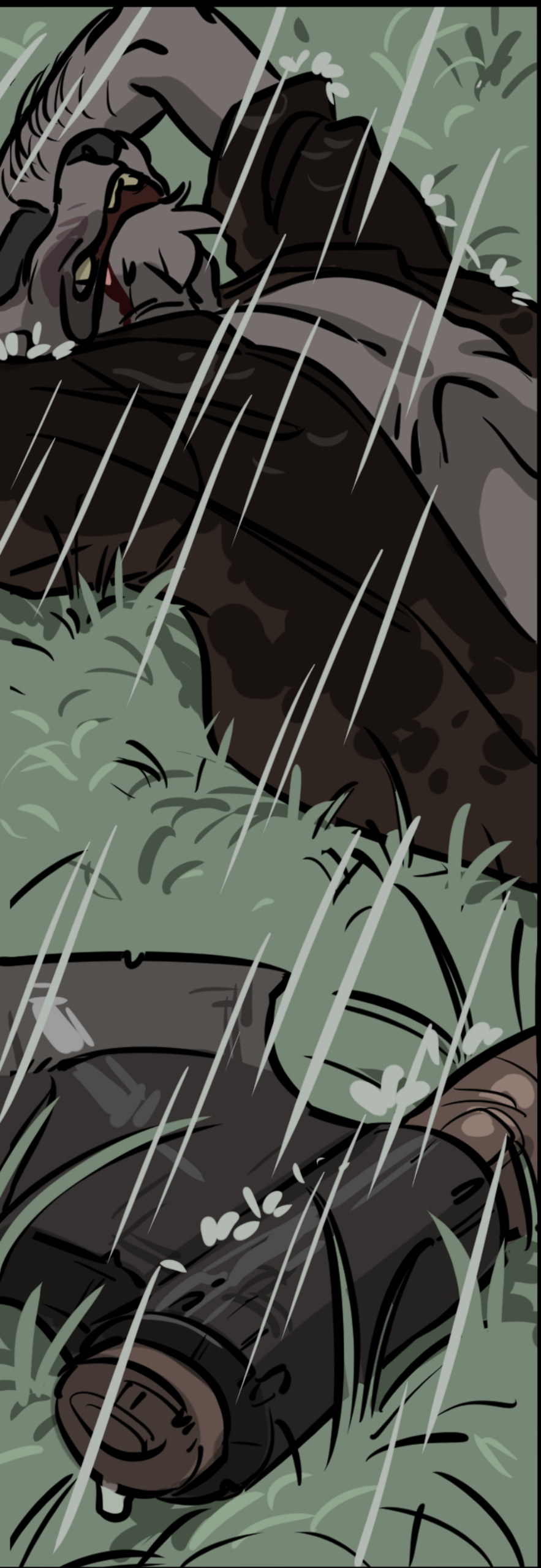
And
stay
down!




KICK

...that I'm in
the middle of
something?







Say your last
prayer you
rotten piece
of shit...

HE
Oh, I regret
nothing!

HE HE
And I'm
not going
anywhere.

You'll see.

SWUNG
This time
old man...

You'll get what
you truly
deserve!

I should've done this
a long time ago...

And **THAT** was the
scariest moment of
my life.

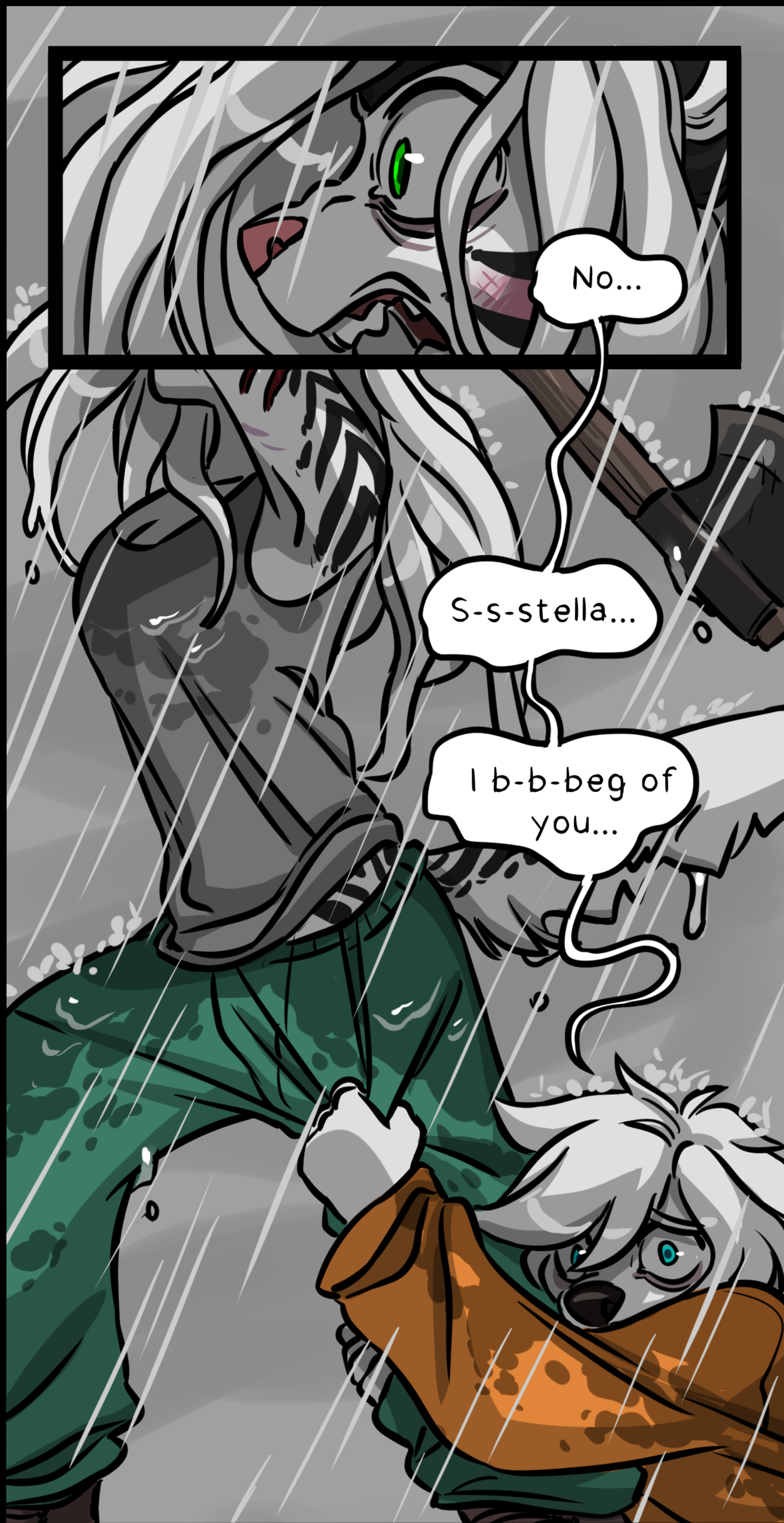
HA

HA

HA

HA

HA



No...

S-s-stella...

I b-b-beg of
you...



D-d-don't do
t-t-this...

Please...



But he
deserves it...

**THE SICK BASTARD
DESEVES IT!**



Yes, he
d-d-deserves it...
I know...

I k-k-know that the world m-m-might
be a better place w-w-without him.



But not w-w-without
you...

Don't b-b-be like
him. You are no
m-m-monster.

You are t-t-the most
caring a-a-and loving
girl on the w-w-world,
even if you can't see
t-t-that yet.

You don't d-d-deserve
to live your whole
l-l-life in the shadow
of a m-m-murder.

Don't do it.

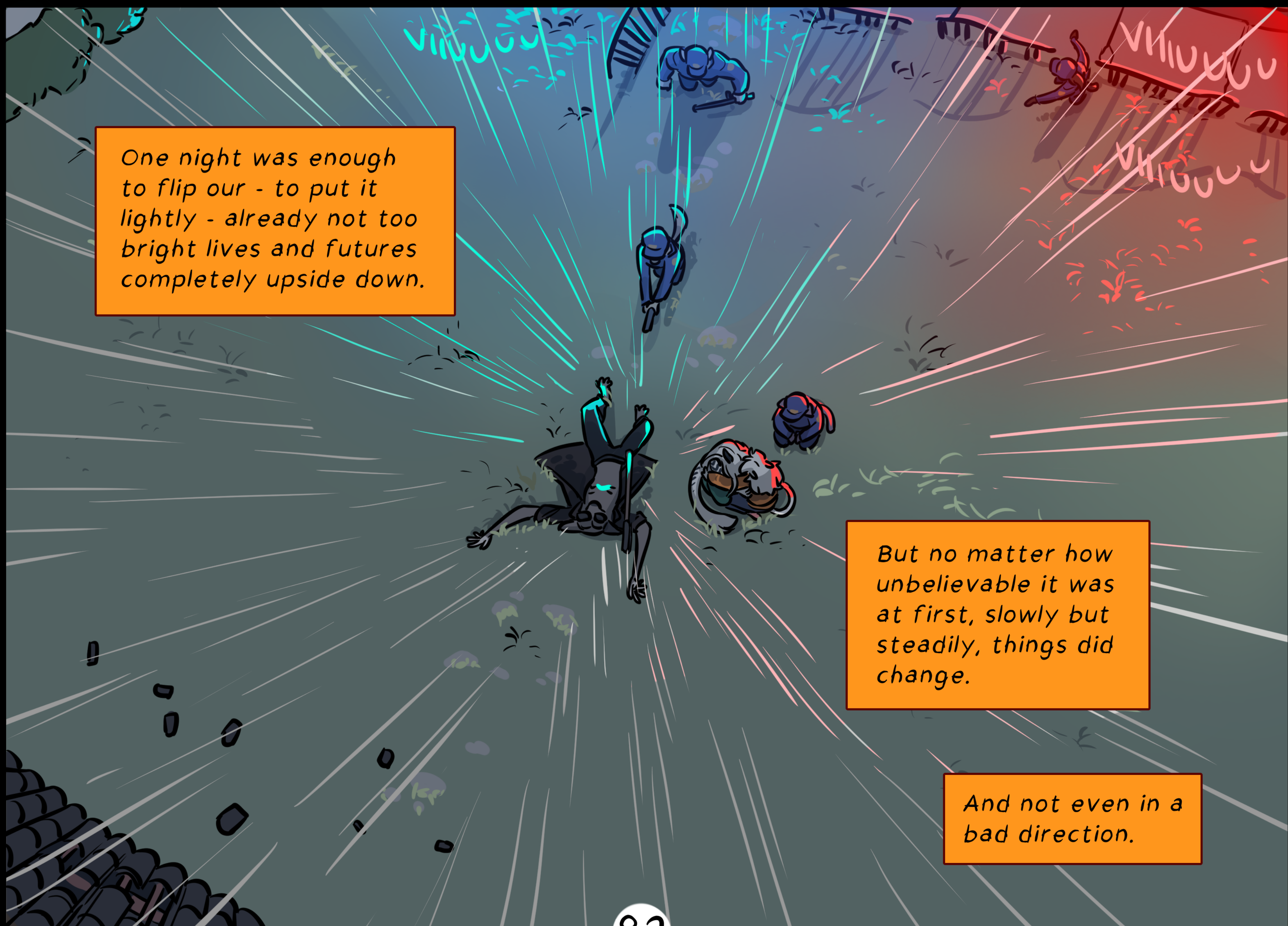
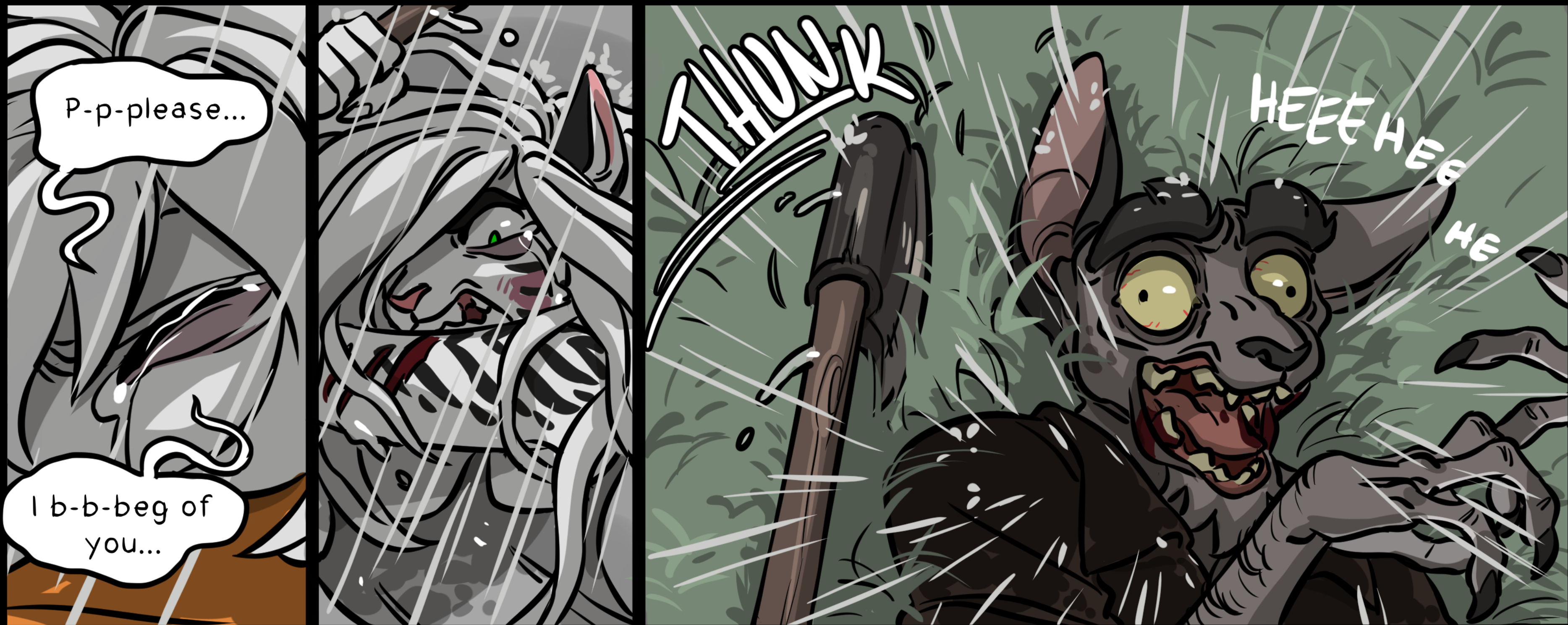
Think a-a-about
yourself.

Think about...
m-m-me...



Please...

I l-l-love you...



One night was enough
to flip our - to put it
lightly - already not too
bright lives and futures
completely upside down.

But no matter how
unbelievable it was
at first, slowly but
steadily, things did
change.

And not even in a
bad direction.



It wasn't your fault Sunshine, ...

...but mine.



W-what? Why are you saying that? No! That's not true!

Yes, it is. Everything happened because I didn't do anything against them.

My life was a living hell, but I didn't bother to change anything. I thought it could only get worse. I didn't even try to look around and see how others lived. I had **SO MANY** chances to change things. I could call the cops, run away, or just crack his damn skull open with a hammer in his sleep.

But I didn't.
I didn't do anything.

My father beat me every single day. Yet I returned home every single day. It wasn't my father who locked me in a cage. It was me.



No. You clinged to a tiny piece of hope. That drove you forward, and helped not do anything reckless. I know you well enough to say that. You might not see that, but it's true, believe me.



And the fact that with your current mind you'd do a lot of things differently shows how much you really changed since then.

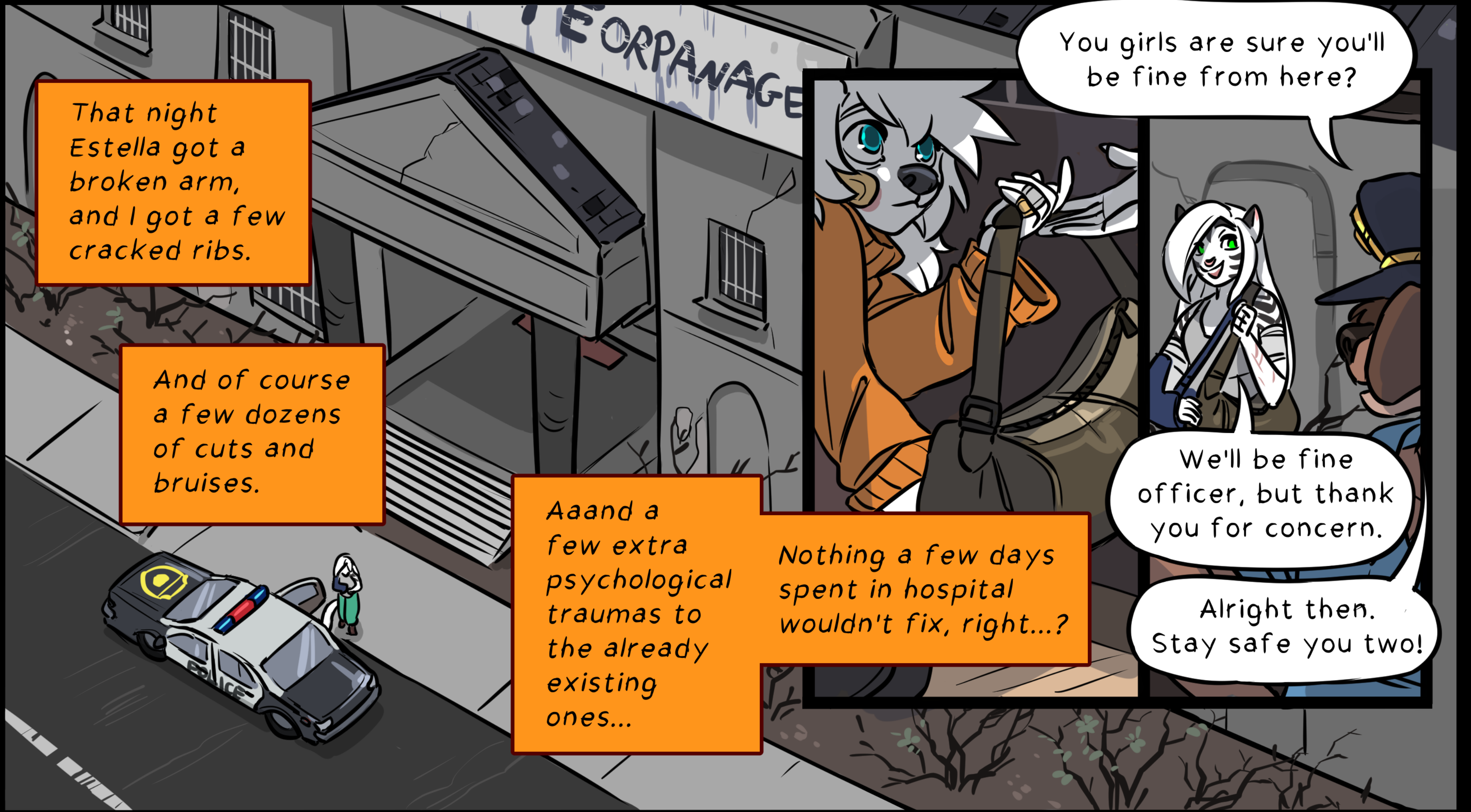
You know, maybe you are right. You wiseass, you.

And you've done so much for us. For me. I'll... I'll never be able to match your strength.

Don't be silly Sunshine. I'd be nothing without you. You taught me so much.

Eh... I did... what?





That night
Estella got a
broken arm,
and I got a few
cracked ribs.

And of course
a few dozens
of cuts and
bruises.

Aaand a
few extra
psychological
traumas to
the already
existing
ones...

Nothing a few days
spent in hospital
wouldn't fix, right...?

You girls are sure you'll
be fine from here?

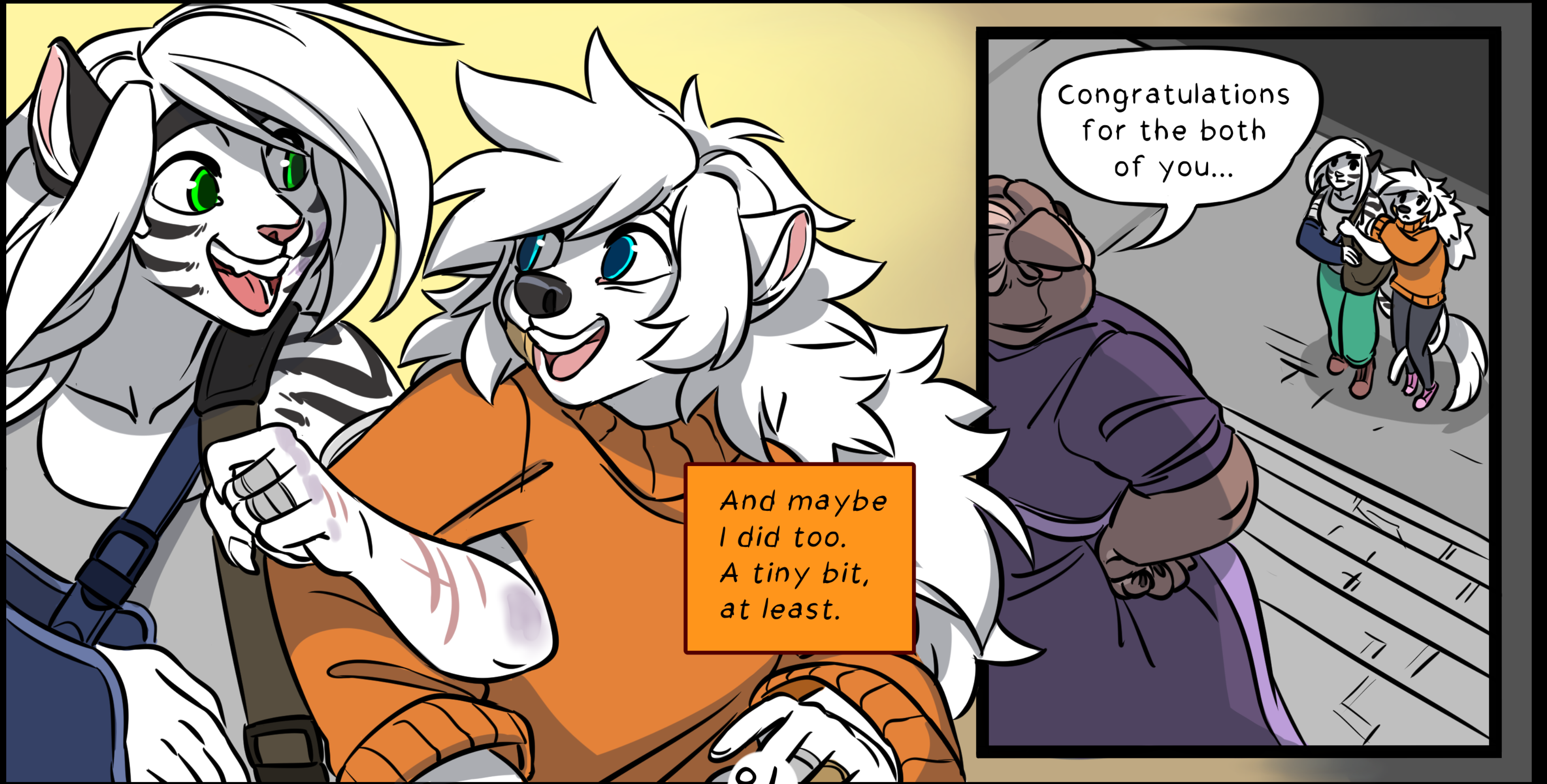
We'll be fine
officer, but thank
you for concern.

Alright then.
Stay safe you two!



But still,
Estella
just got
even
stronger.

C'mon. Let's go, my dear
roommate.



And maybe
I did too.
A tiny bit,
at least.



Congratulations
for the both
of you...

Like there wasn't already enough problem with you, you little rat, you turned into an even bigger troublemaker.

Don't worry ma'am, we won't stay too long anyway.

And of course you brought another pest with you...

Lucky me.

I'm still going to keep my eyes on you.

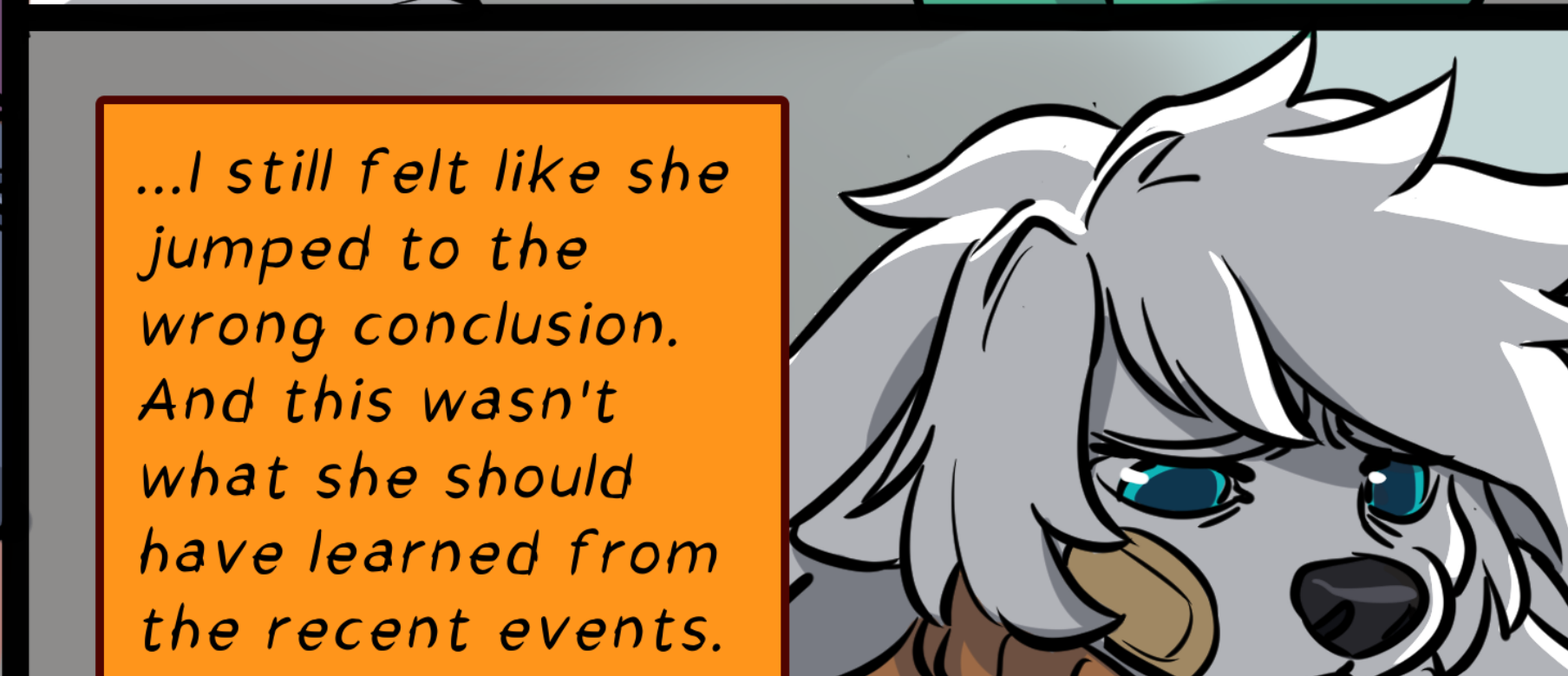
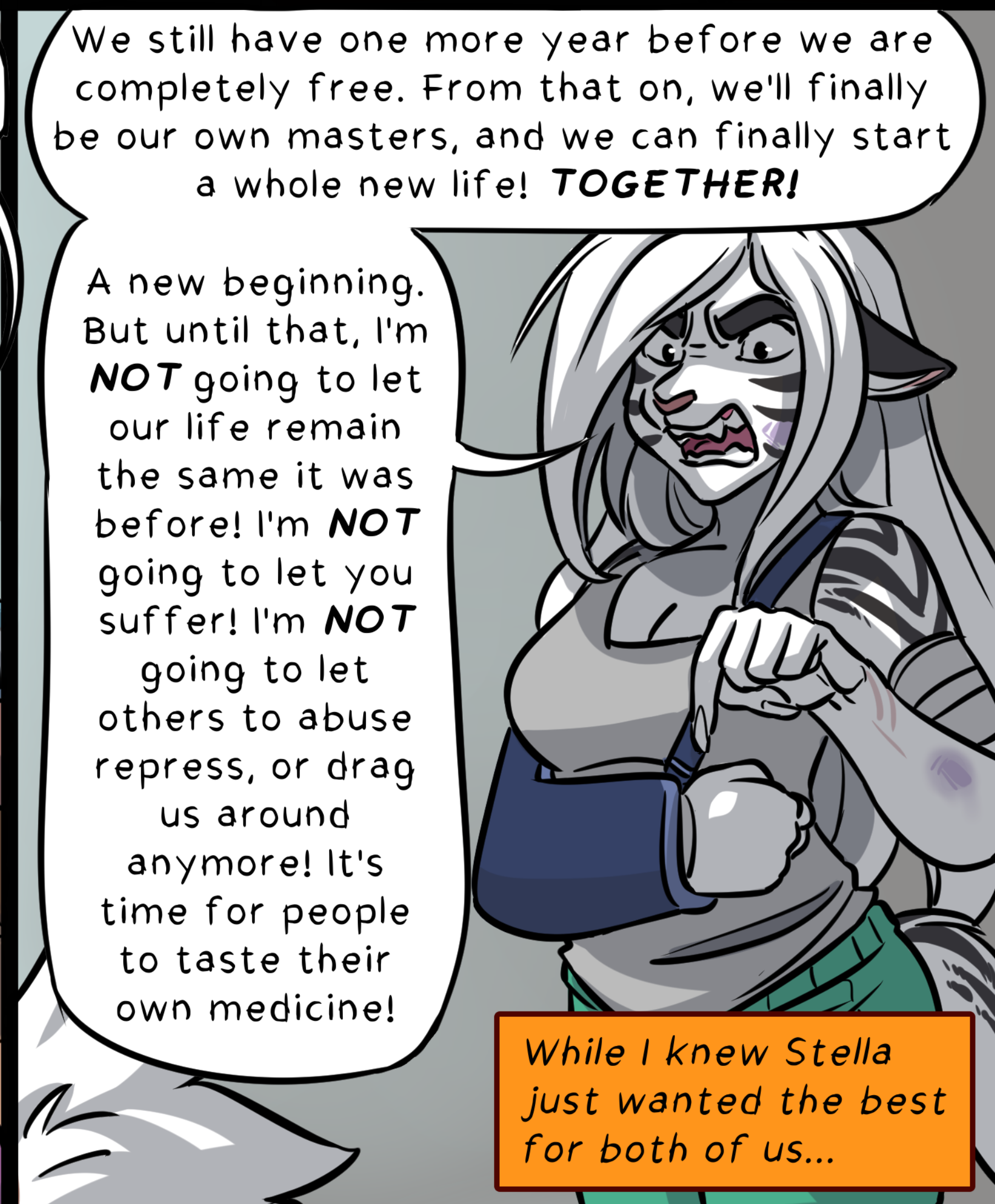
Evie, from today on, everything will be different. I swear!

From now on we won't be the ones stepped on!

But on that day, there was something else beside strength and hope that took root in Stella's heart.

Yeah, and you should.

And you better lock your door at night too. If you want to avoid getting gutted like a fish in your sleep.



And in the next few weeks it felt like she was a completely different person.



What if we'd sit there?

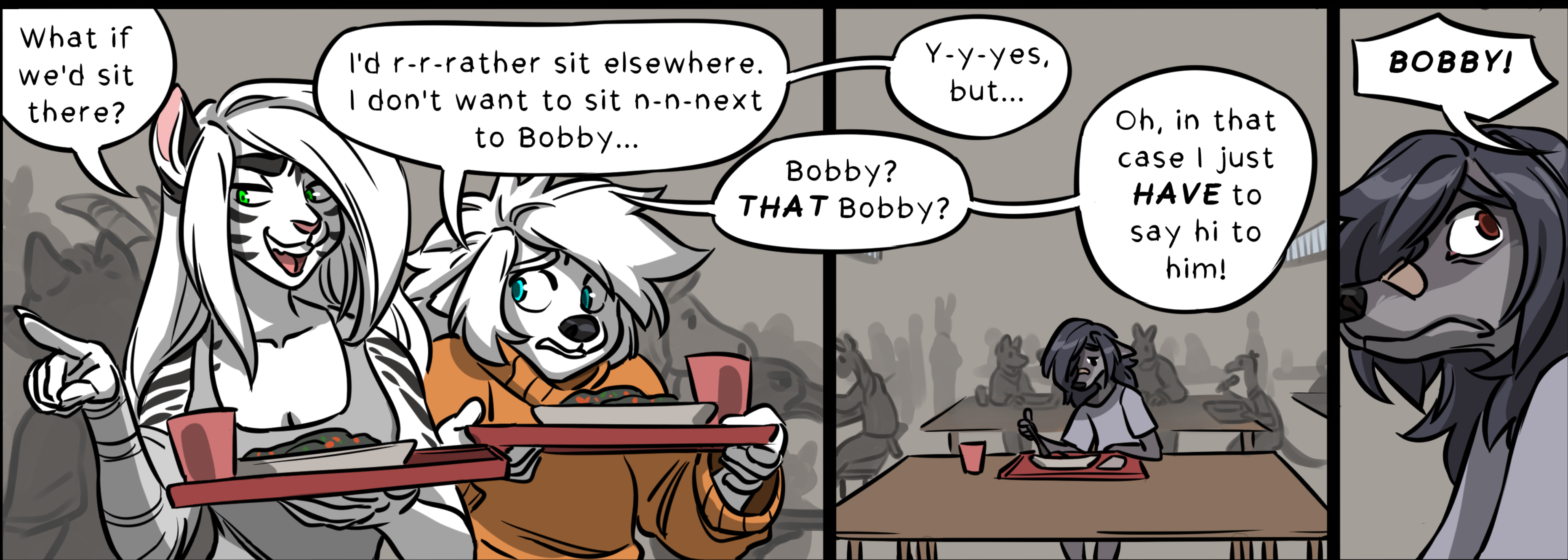
I'd r-r-rather sit elsewhere. I don't want to sit n-n-next to Bobby...

Y-y-yes, but...

Bobby? **THAT** Bobby?

Oh, in that case I just **HAVE** to say hi to him!

BOBBY!



Hey! Dude!

H-hey... ~gulp~

But Bobby, look at you! You have such an ugly fat head.

I-I'm not even fat...

Then let's keep it that way!

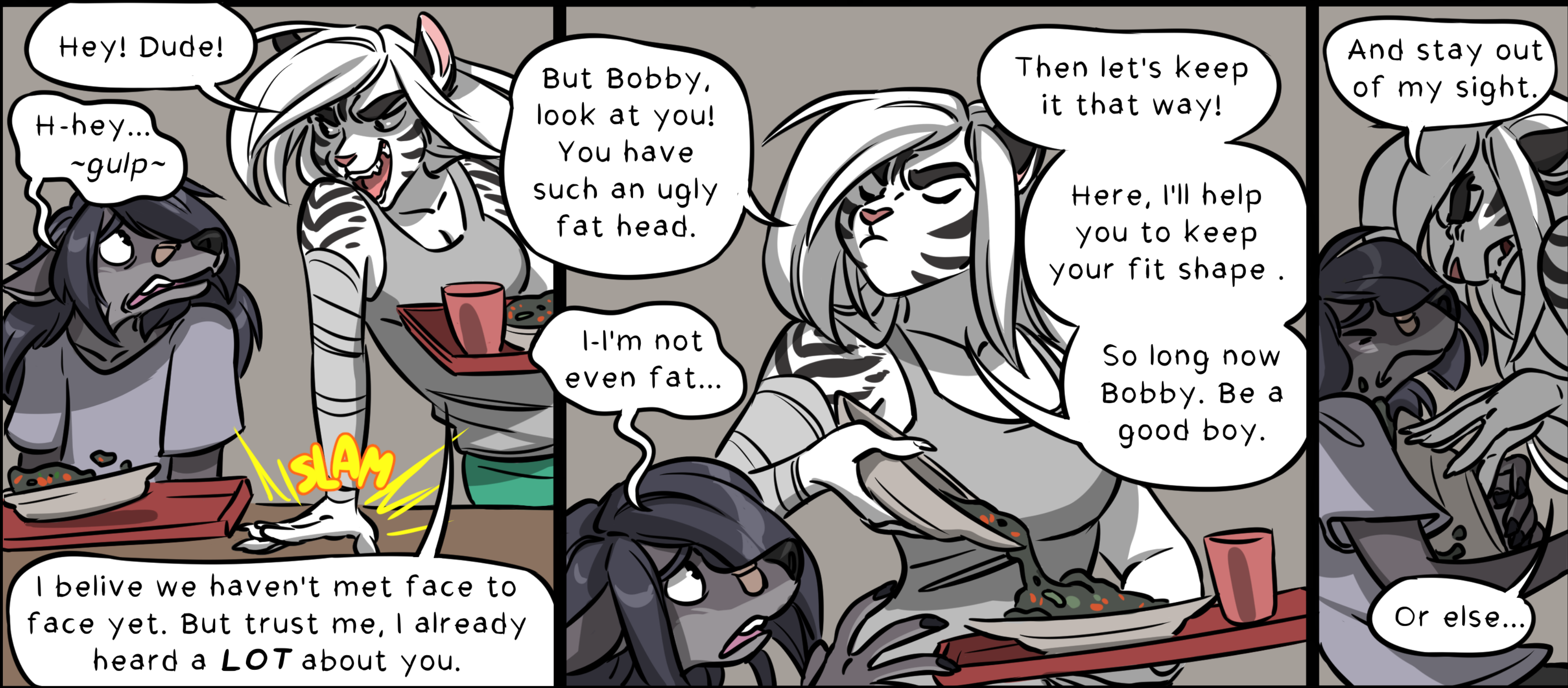
Here, I'll help you to keep your fit shape .

So long now Bobby. Be a good boy.

And stay out of my sight.

Or else...

I belive we haven't met face to face yet. But trust me, I already heard a **LOT** about you.

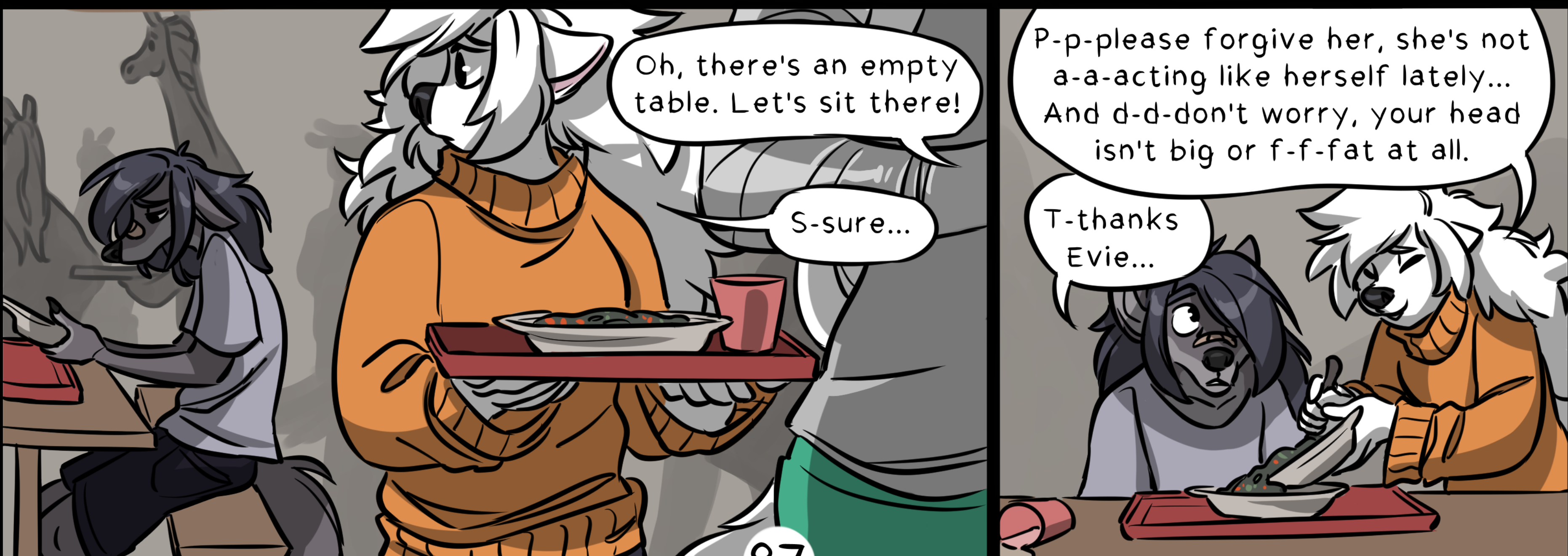


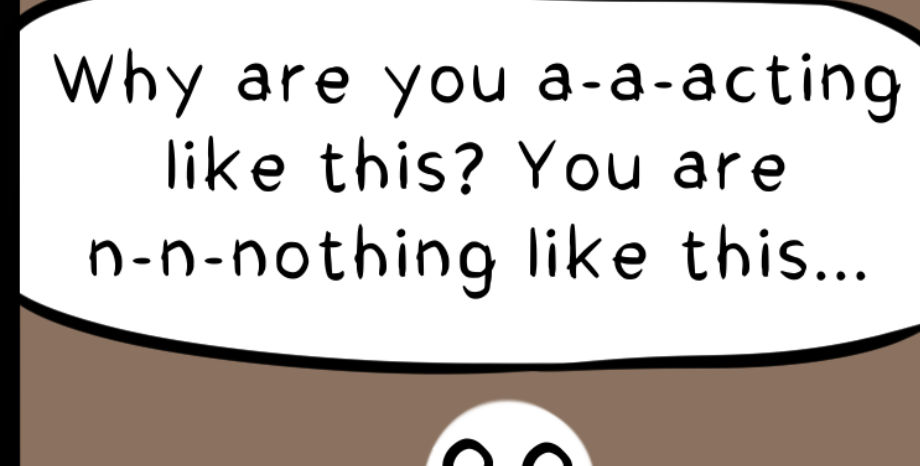
Oh, there's an empty table. Let's sit there!

S-sure...

P-p-please forgive her, she's not a-a-acting like herself lately... And d-d-don't worry, your head isn't big or f-f-fat at all.

T-thanks Evie...







Please, Stella...

No! Who knows... Who knows what would have happened if I've done things differently? If I had the courage to stand up against him, or just call the cops, or just run away or...

Stella...

I will **NEVER** let anyone ruin our lives! Never! Never... I just **HAVE** to be stronger than ever before!

Stella... You w-w-won't be stronger just because you step on everyone who g-g-gets in your way.

I'll never let anyone to treat me... you... us like shit ever again...



Stella, you keep asking yourself "what would have happened if you'd have done this, or that".

But we'll never know. And that's fine. Because maybe if you, or me would have acted differently in the past, maybe we would have never even met. And we wouldn't be here together now.

You can't change the past. But you can always do something for the future.

So I say we should just move forward and see what tomorrow holds for us.

You say you want a new life together. So let's do that! Let's make a brand new, and beautiful life for ourselves!

But let's be different than the people who controlled our lives until now. Let's build a life with love instead of hate.



Let's be **BETTER** than them!

Together!

Oh, you...

I don't deserve you...

You read that in one of your stupid books, didn't you?

Yes. A-a-and it was a **VERY** good b-b-book.

You are right.
Thank you
Sunshine,
I love you.

I love
you too.

Come now, let's
apologize to
Bobby.

Look, I
understood
all that shit,
but is that
REALLY
necessary?
I mean, he's
still just an
asshole.

Please
god no...

I decided that instead
of just looking, judging
and hiding, like I usually
do, I'll try to look at her
from a different
perspective.

From a perspective I'd
like to be looked at
too. And at the end,
that small change of
perspective changed
my **ENTIRE** life.

Ugh! Are
you done
yet?

And would
you believe
who that
person was?

You know, one day I
decided to step up
to a complete
stranger on the
metro, even though
she looked scary,
and completely
different from me.

Okay, you win,
just shut up
already! I had
more than enough
touchy-feely
bullshit for at
least a week...

T-t-thank you Stella. I'm really
p-p-proud of you!

Yeah, whatever...
And of course you stop
stuttering when you act
all wise and shit...

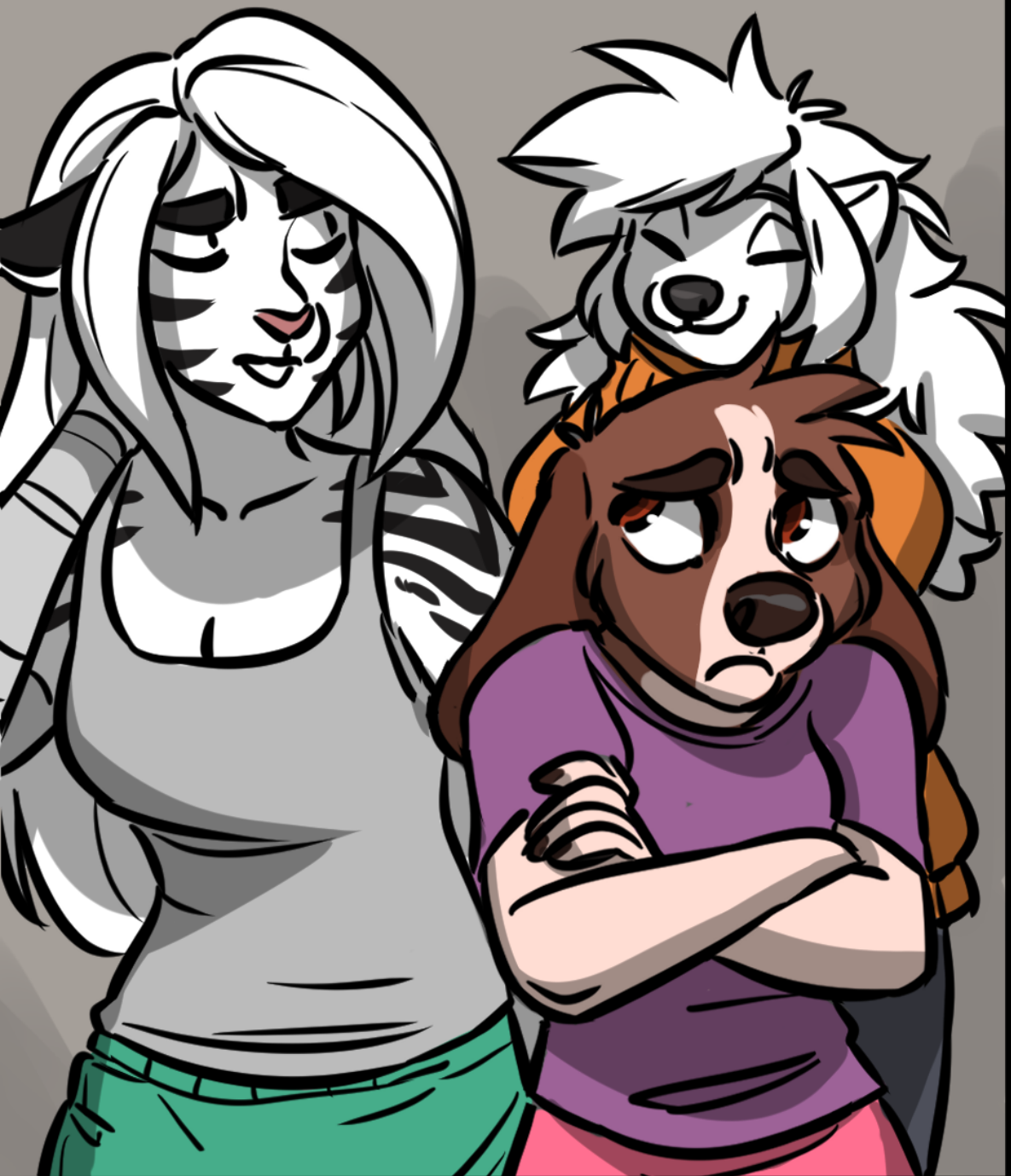
Hi again
Bobby...

I-I'll
behave,
I swear!

Yeah,
about
that...



Eventually, I could convince Stella that we should start our new life together with my, as she put it, "stupid naive method" instead of her "rational" one.



I know this was a good decision, and I know Stella thinks the same. Even if she would rather die than admit it.



And that last year we spent in the orphanage flew so fast, we barely even noticed.



Phew, it's done!

Wow, that was fast!

Well I sold that house for almost nothing. So that stupid piece of psychological graveyard is officially some other miserable idiot's problem from now on.

So are we going home now? That was all? The end?

That's right, **THE** frickin' end.



Could we visit Bobby and Betty someday? We haven't seen them for a while.

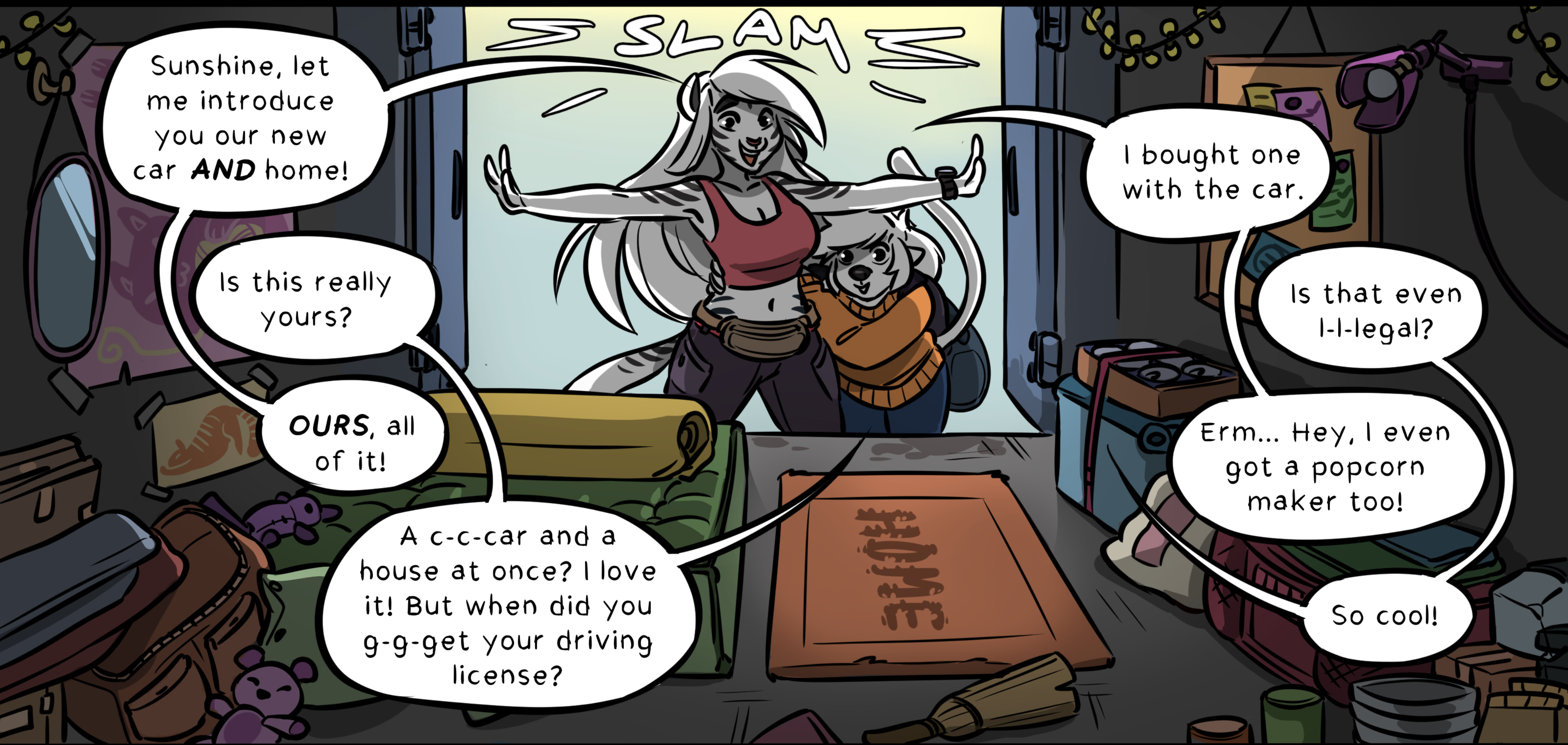
God, you are right. We haven't seen them for ages.

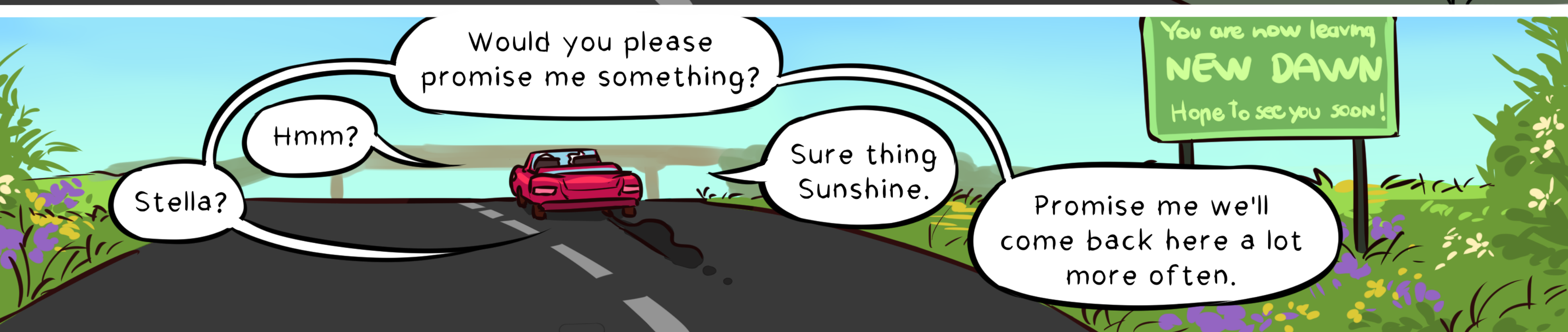
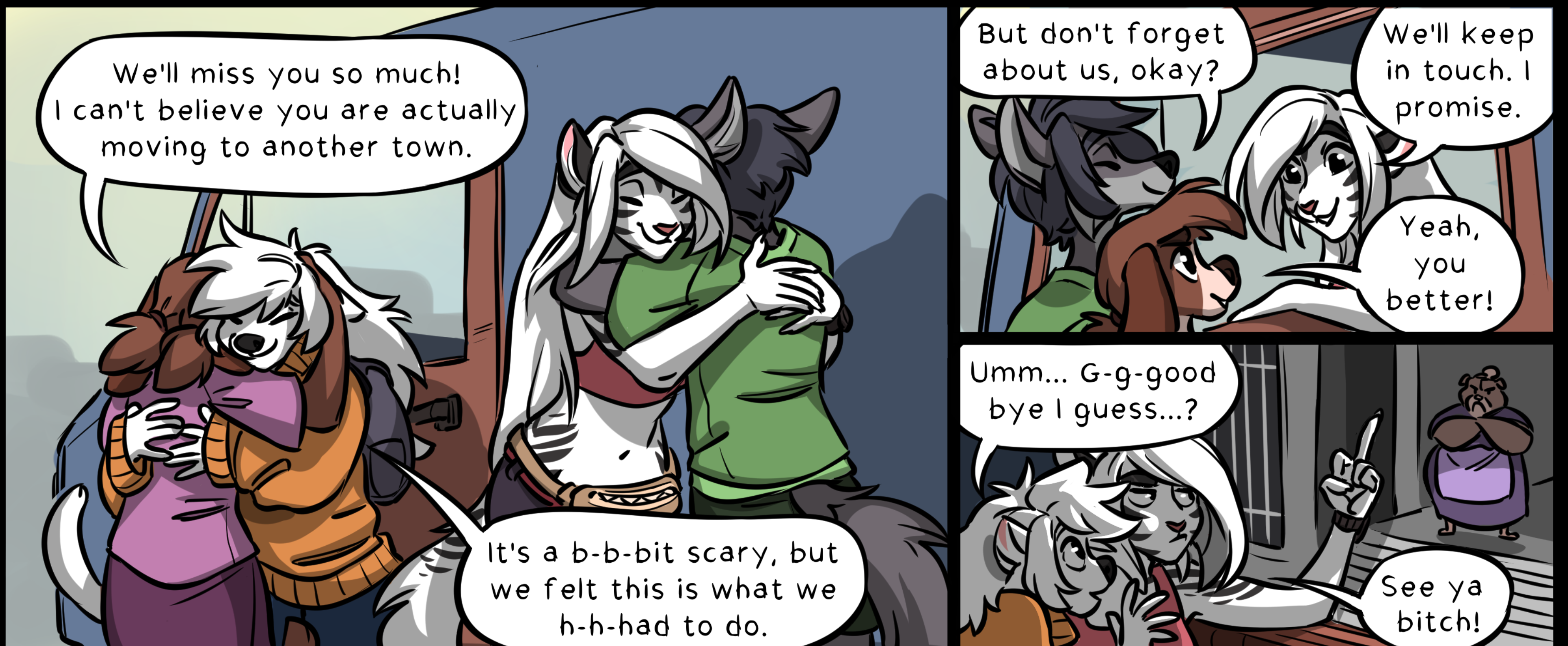
I'm sure the orphanage is a lot better place now with them in charge.

I would bet on that.

By the way Stella, I've been meaning to ask something.

I'm all ears Sunshine.





HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY NUTS?

Like, we can **FINALLY** leave this fuckin' shithole of a city, with all of it's gut-churning memories behind our backs, and you just casually say you want to come back? What the hell?

You know, I've been thinking a lot today.

Oh, believe me, I've noticed...

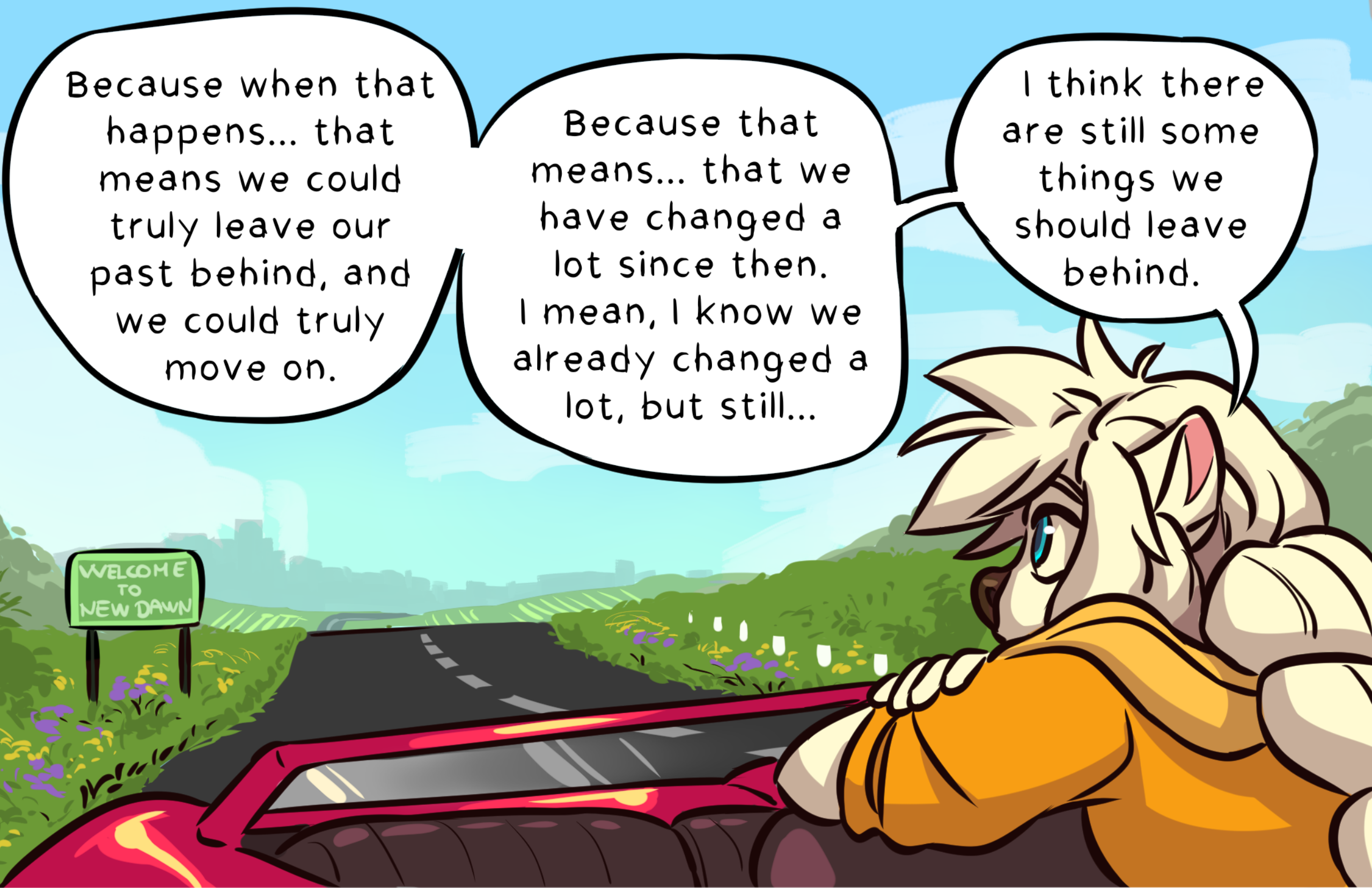
And I came to the conclusion that this city is no hell, or any kind of vile place. It's just an ordinary city, just like any other one.

There is nothing wrong with the place itself, only with our past. Only with the things that happened here with us. It's not the city we should leave behind, but our past.

So I want to come back here. I want to come back again and again.

I want to come back until we start seeing the streets, the benches and the parks for what they are, and not just like the scars of our past.

I want to come back until everything I look at will be nothing but ordinary places and objects.



Because when that happens... that means we could truly leave our past behind, and we could truly move on.

Because that means... that we have changed a lot since then. I mean, I know we already changed a lot, but still...

I think there are still some things we should leave behind.



I don't know... Did any of my babbling... make sense to you...?



I swear to God, even after so many years, you are still able to shock me.

Are you always this wise in your head, or is it because...

So? What do you say?



Alright.



Really? Oh, Stella, I'm so proud of you!

We can come back, but only with one condition!

And what is that?

You have to swear to your **LIFE** that we will **NEVER EVER** buy another horrible hot-dog from that guy again!

Hihi! Okay!

I think that sounds like a fair deal.



Saying good bye to a project is always hard, but to be honest, I'm more happy than sad right now. "Welcome to New Dawn" was one of the most important projects I've ever done in many ways.

With almost 100 pages, running for two years, it was a gigantic mountain to climb. It wasn't always easy to work on this project. It needed a lot more work and dedication than I could ever imagine. But I clenched my teeth, and kept working as hard as I just could. And at the end, I couldn't be happier. Because all that work payed off.

I've learned an incredible amount about comic making, and drawing in general. And I'm sure it's not hard to see how the whole look and style of the comic changed half way. That time I started using everything I learned with New Dawn, and started using a new, much more comfortable drawing program. And that was the point I think I really found my style. And even though I was kinda afraid how the whole comic will turn out if I just change the art in the very middle of it, but I had to realize that it's not worth keeping the old if the new could be so much better.

"Welcome to New Dawn" was the very first real adventure comic me and my hubby made. I know it had a lot of "slice of life" elements, but I still think there were plenty of action and horror packed scenes as well. I want to make a lot of adventure comics in the future, and New Dawn taught us a lot of things what works and what doesn't in an adventure comics. Because we both learn comic making in an autodidact way, we always have something new to learn from every comic. But we love learning things that could make our future projects even better!



There is one more thing I just feel I have to tell you about this comic, and why it was so important for me and my husband. I'm not sure if you knew this, but Estella and Evie were our very first, and most loved characters we came up with. I came up with Estella like 15 years ago, and my hubby created Evie I think 10 years ago. They existed before we even knew each other. (So the fact that we both made them cat/female/white without knowing each other is still an absolute baffling coincidence for me.) But even though they were our most loved characters, we could never come up with proper stories for them. And the idea, that we should put them together as a family, almost came from nowhere. But still to this day, it was one of our best ideas both story and character wise. Two characters, so different from each other, so broken in their own way, creating something whole together. Kinda like us I guess. And the fact that we could properly present them and their story for you, and you guys loved them... It brings tears to our eyes.

A lot of you were already asking for a sequel. A lot of you want to see more of them, more from their past and future. And we have plenty of ideas and stories for them, don't worry. If everything goes well in the future, it will be only a matter of time until you can see how their life progressed further. So the kittens' story is far from over, but we'll let them rest for a bit. Because we have a lot of other characters and worlds to share with you. And a lot of stories to tell as well.

And for closure we want to thank you all the money, all the comments, all the encouragement, and all the kind words you guys supported us throughout the years. Without you, we wouldn't be anywhere. You are our motivation.

Thank you guys!

