

CREAK



HMM...

UGH



IT DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE AN
ESTABLISHMENT A
NOBLE WOULD
FREQUENT...

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

COME-NOW,

IT'S A PRETTY
WELL KNOWN FACT
THAT A RUNDOWN
ESTABLISHMENTS LIKE
THIS ACTUALLY MAKES
THE BEST MEALS
IN TOWN.





HOW DARE
YOU CALL THIS
PLACE A RUNDOWN
ESTABLISHMENT?



YOU LOOK
NO BETTER THAN
A BEGGAR ON THE
SIDE OF THE
ROAD.

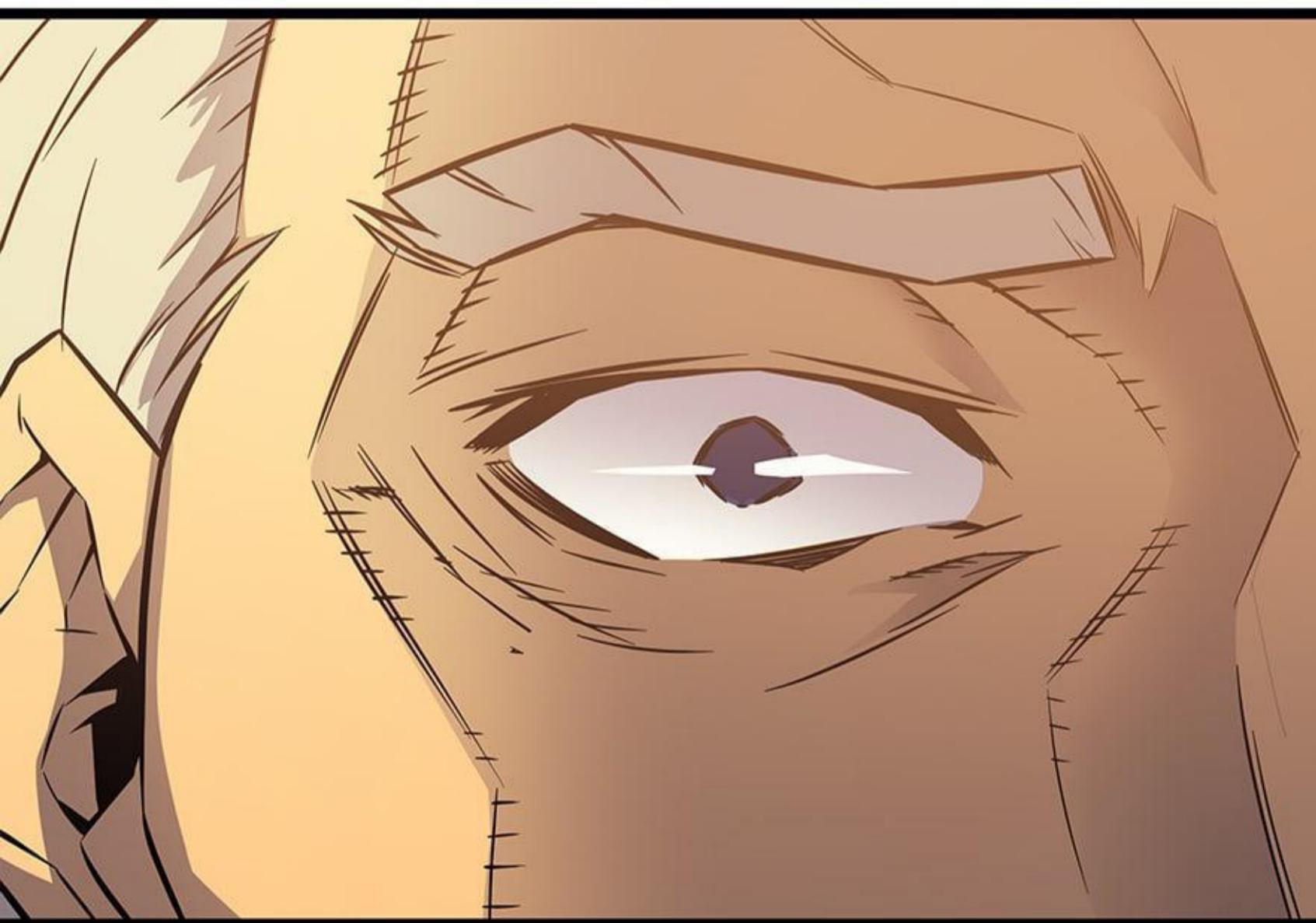
BUT AT
LEAST YOU
SEEM TO HAVE
MADE IT BACK IN
ONE PIECE.

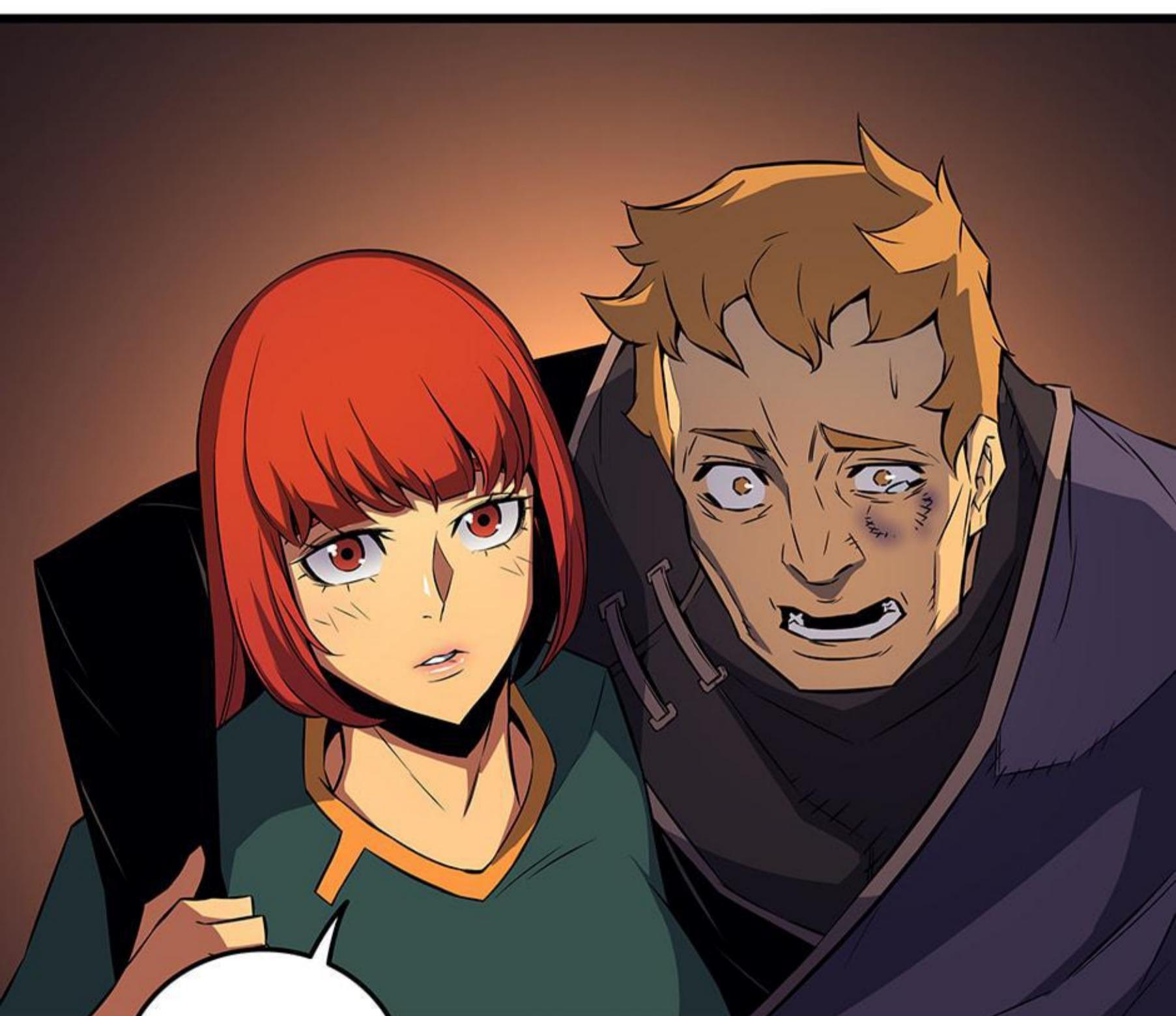
IT'S NICE
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN, LAD.



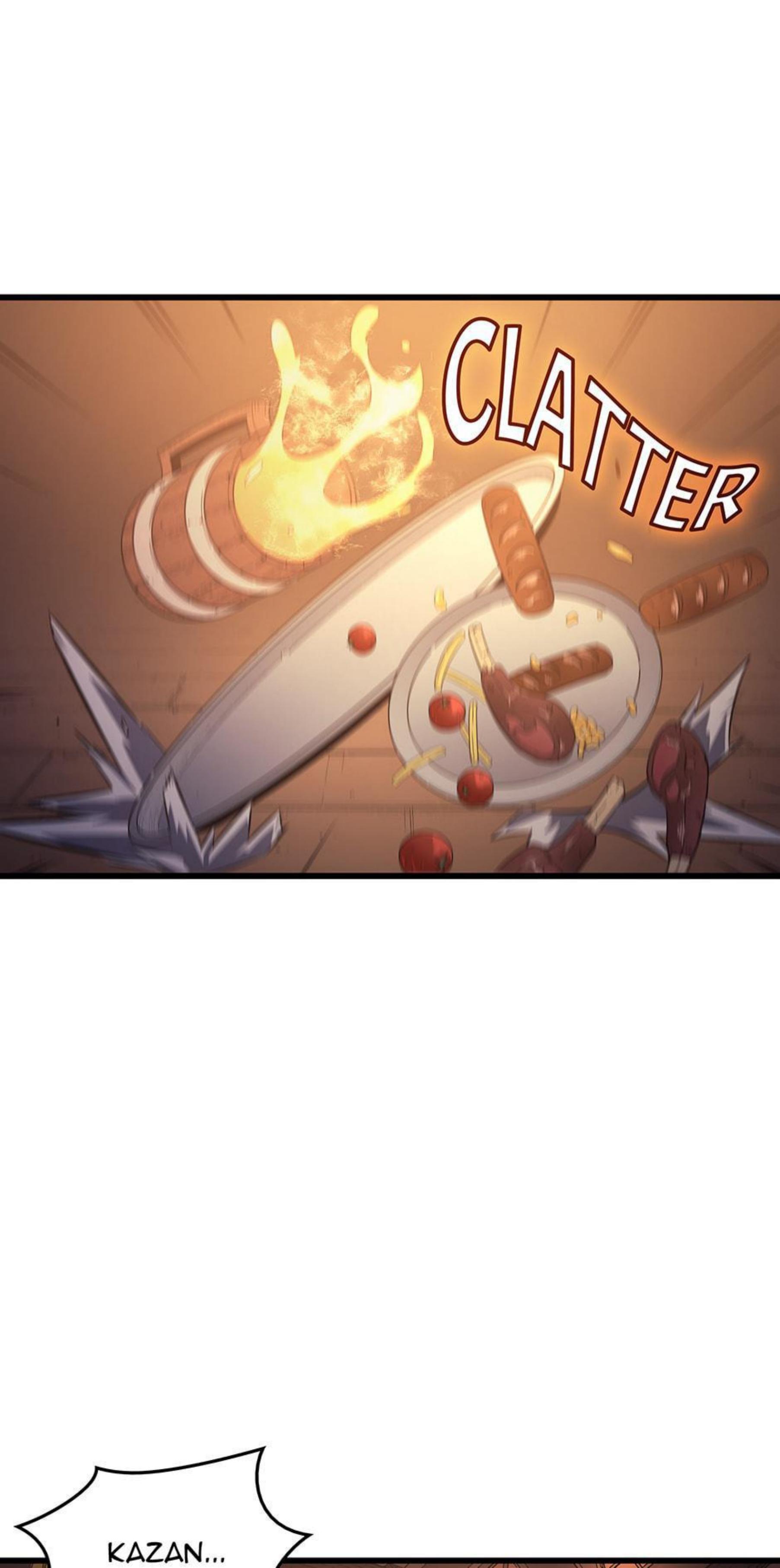
ACTUALLY,
THERE'S ONE
OTHER PERSON
WHO MADE IT
BACK DOWN THE
MOUNTAIN
WITH US.







?



CLATTER

KAZAN...

IS THAT
REALLY
YOU?!

HUH?!

F-FATHER...

THE ARCHMAGE

• RETURNS AFTER •

4000

• YEARS •

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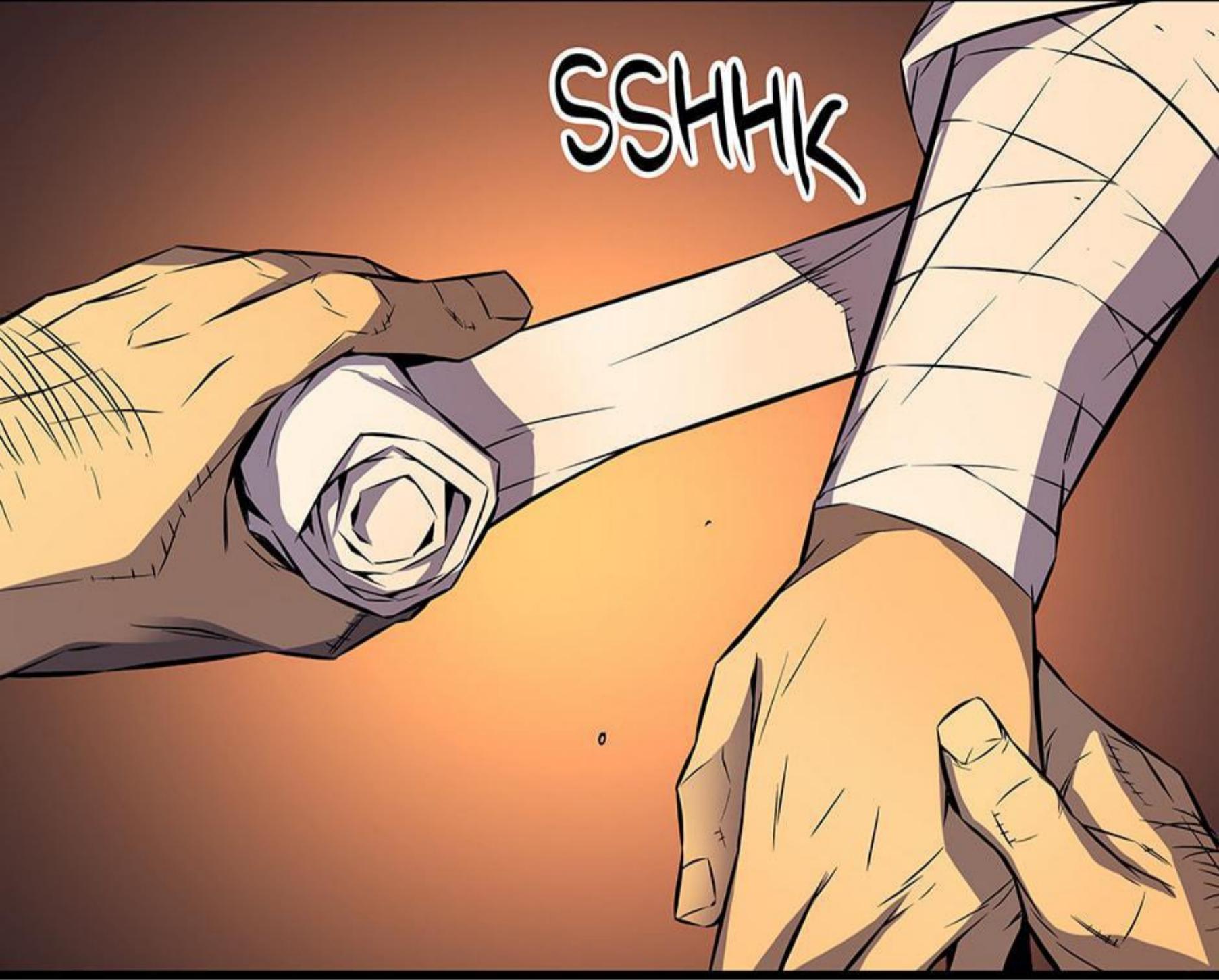
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≈ 29 ≈

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SSHHK

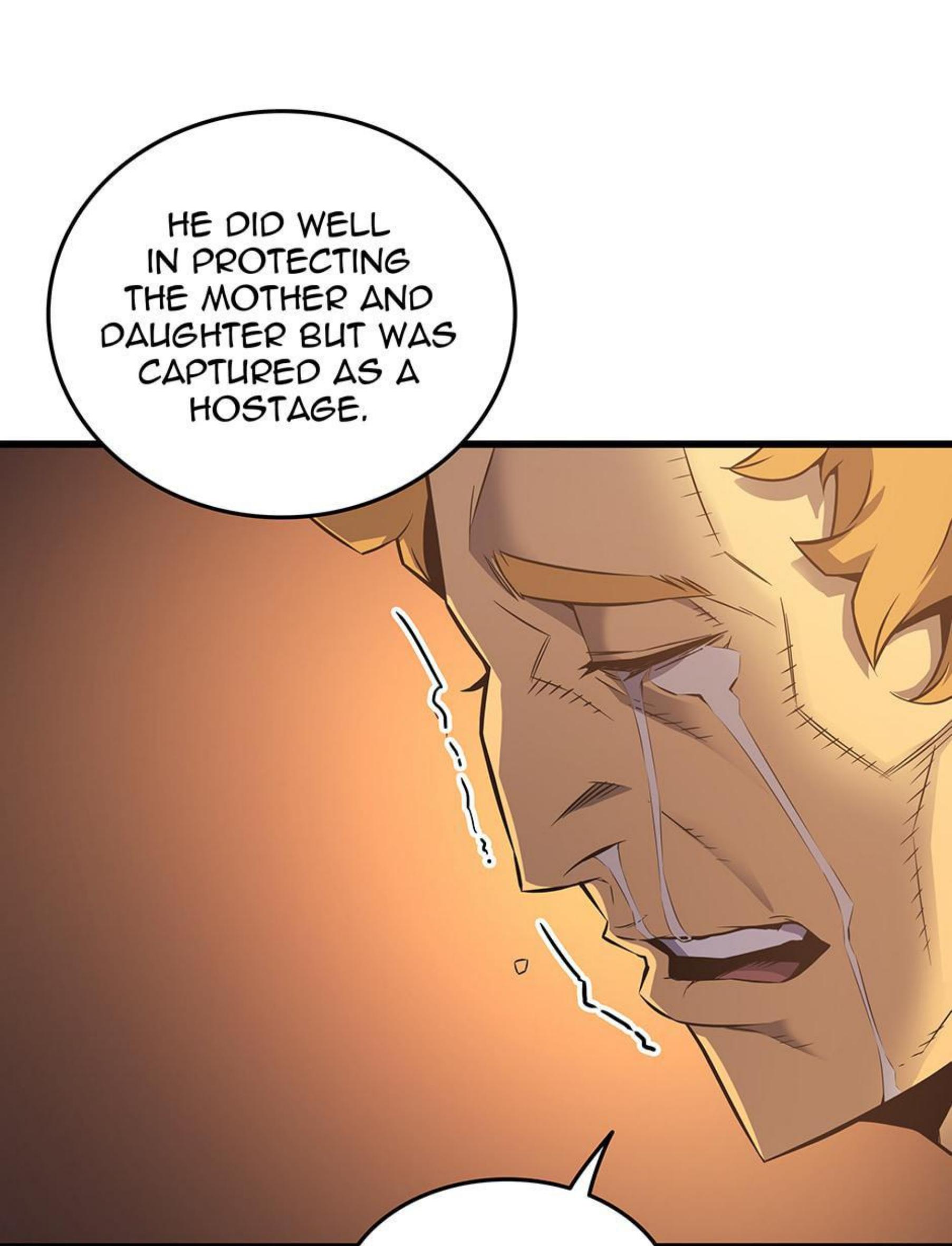
WE'VE
ALREADY
PERFORMED
FIRST AID
ON HIM.

HE'LL NEED
TO TAKE PLENTY

OF REST AND TAKE
IT EASY FOR A FEW
DAYS, BUT HE'LL
BE FINE.



HE DID WELL
IN PROTECTING
THE MOTHER AND
DAUGHTER BUT WAS
CAPTURED AS A
HOSTAGE.



FATHER...

I'M NOT
SURE IF HE'S
GOT THE TALENT
TO BECOME A
MERCENARY
BUT...

THANK
THE GODS...

HE'S NOT AS
BAD OF A GUY AS YOU
DESCRIBED, MASTER
BARTENDER.



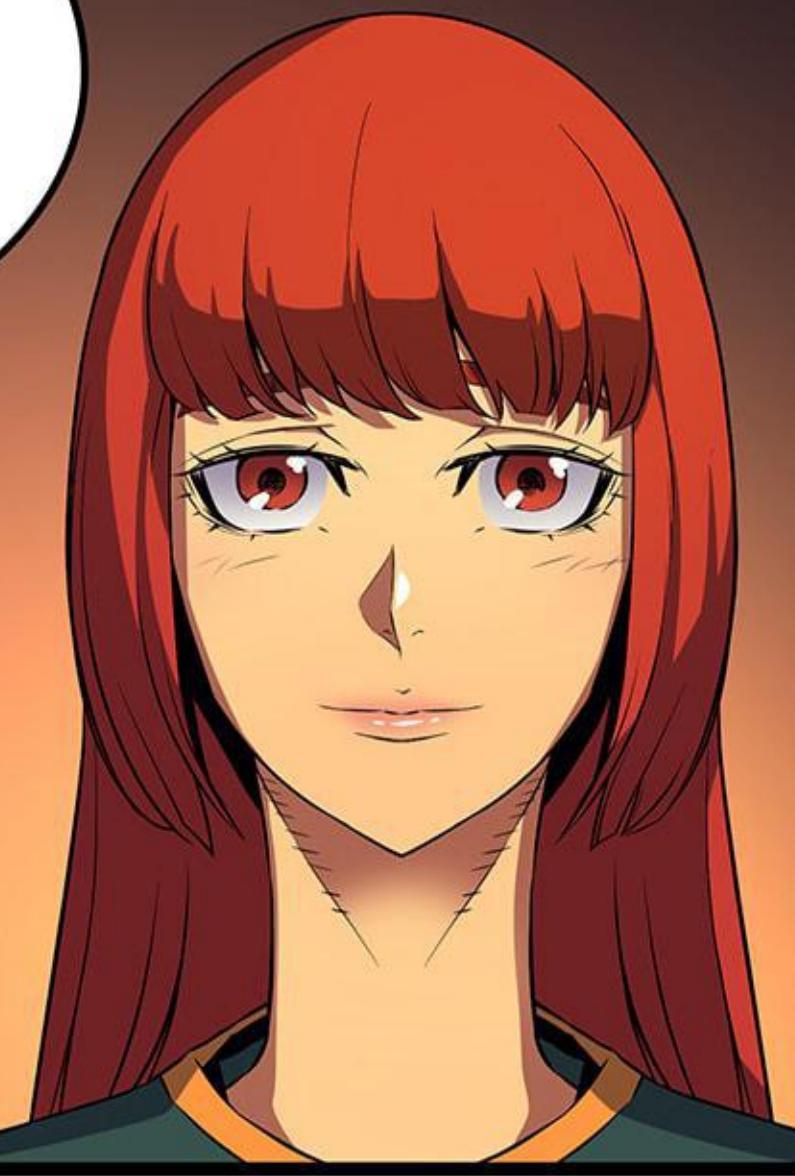
I... I WAS
REGRETTING
MY DECISIONS
ALL THIS TIME,
FATHER.

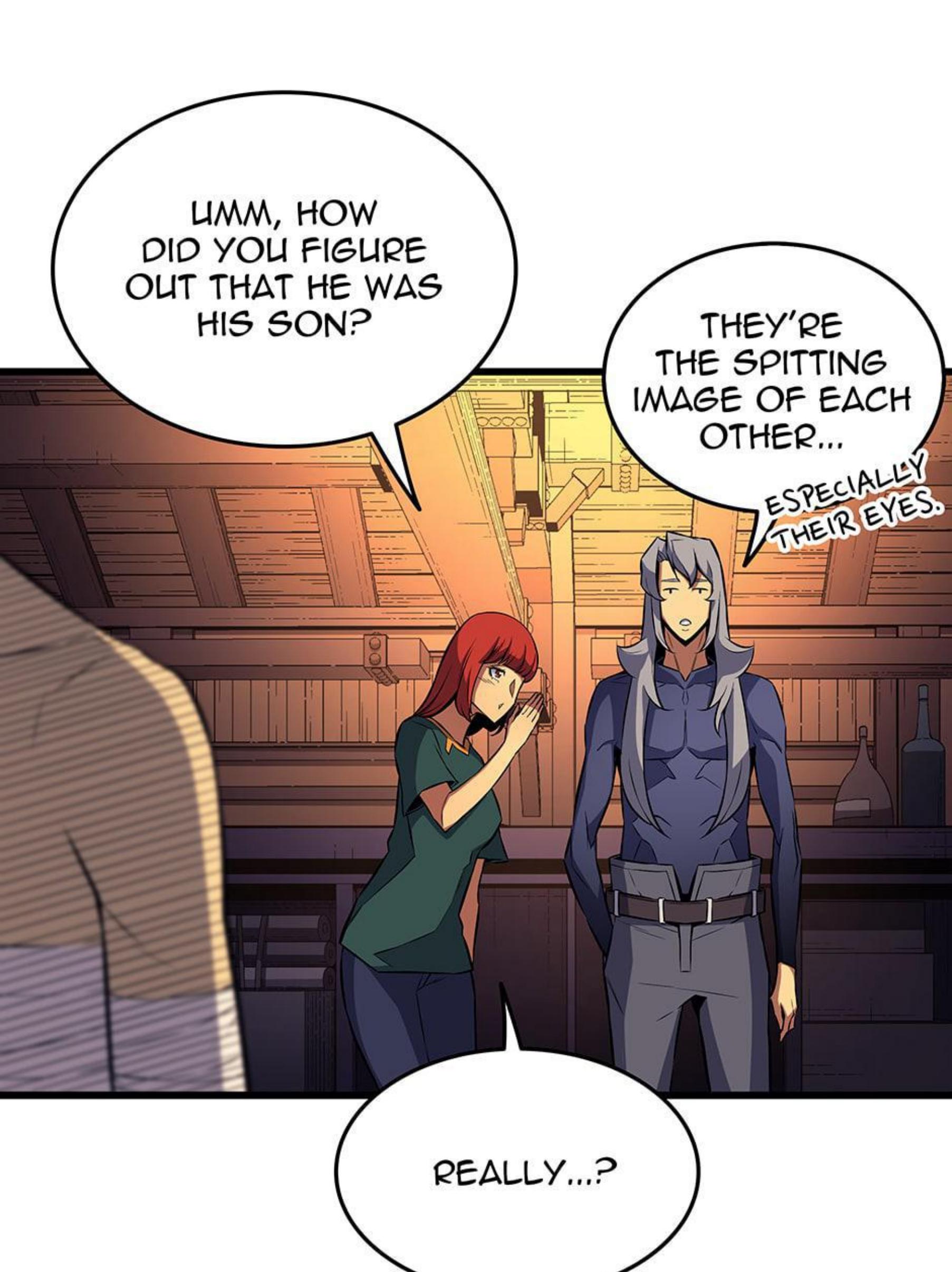
I'M SO
SORRY FOR
RUSHING OUT
LIKE THAT AFTER
YELLING AT

YELLING AT
YOU...

IT'S FINE.

WHAT
MATTERS
IS THAT YOU'VE
RETURNED ALIVE
AND WELL,
BOY.





UHM, HOW
DID YOU FIGURE
OUT THAT HE WAS
HIS SON?

THEY'RE
THE SPITTING
IMAGE OF EACH
OTHER...

ESPECIALLY
THEIR EYES.

REALLY...?



WHAT REALLY
SURPRISED ME WAS
HOW A CERTAIN TALENTLESS
MAGE SEEMED TO HAVE A
SURPRISING TALENT IN
HEALING MAGIC.



OKAY, I CAN'T
JUST LET THAT
ONE SLIDE. WHO
ARE YOU CALLING
A TALENTLESS?

A TALENTLESS
MAGE HERE?!

GRRRR

YOU.
WHO ELSE IS
THERE?

ANYWAY...

HMM



WE WERE HOPING
TO BOOK LODGING
HERE TONIGHT,



CHATTER

CHATTER

BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE A
FULL HOUSE...

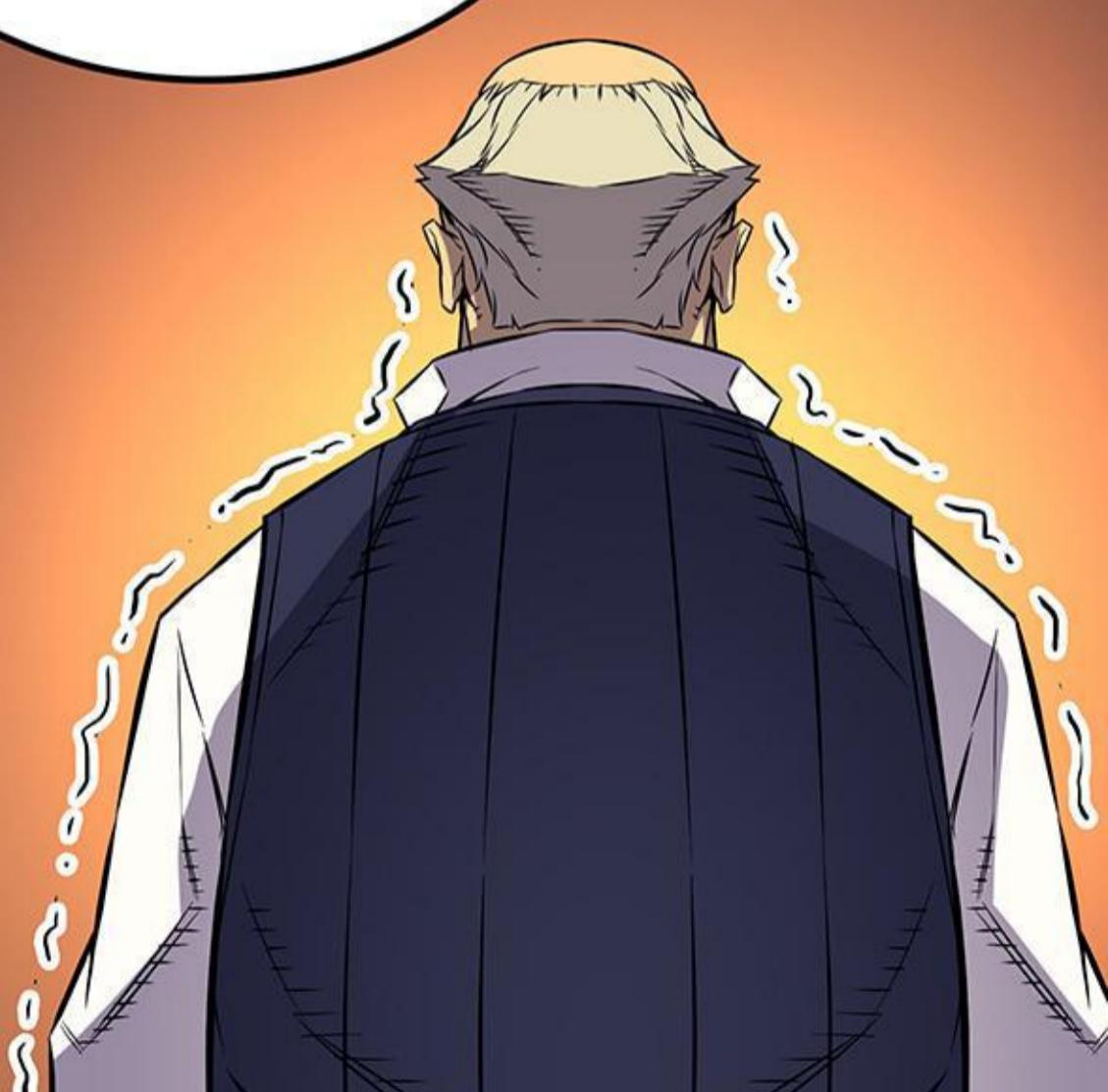
IT SEEMS
I WAS MISTAKEN.
THIS PLACE HAS MANY
CUSTOMERS SO IT
MUST BE A GREAT
PUB AS YOU
SAY.



'TIS
UNFORTUNATE,
BUT WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO LOOK
FOR ANOTHER
PLACE.

I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY FOR BRINGING
YOU GUYS HERE,
SIR LUTHER.

IT'S A PITY
CONSIDERING THE
SAUSAGES THEY
SERVE HERE ARE
TO DIE FOR.



YELL

HEY!
STOP EATING
AND FUCK OFF,
ALL OF YOU!

GASP

PFF,





DIDN'T Y'ALL
HEAR ME?! WE'RE
CLOSED FOR TODAY!
NOW SCRAM!

WH-WHAT?
BUT HOW CAN
YOU CLOSE
SHOP SO
EARLY?!

CLATTER



SHUT UP!
I'M THE ONE
WHO MAKES
THAT CALL. NOW
BUGGER OFF
AS I SAID!

M-MASTER!
THIS IS
UNFAIR!

SMACK

I WON'T
ASK YOU TO
PAY, SO GET
LOST!!

CAUTER

CLACK



CSK



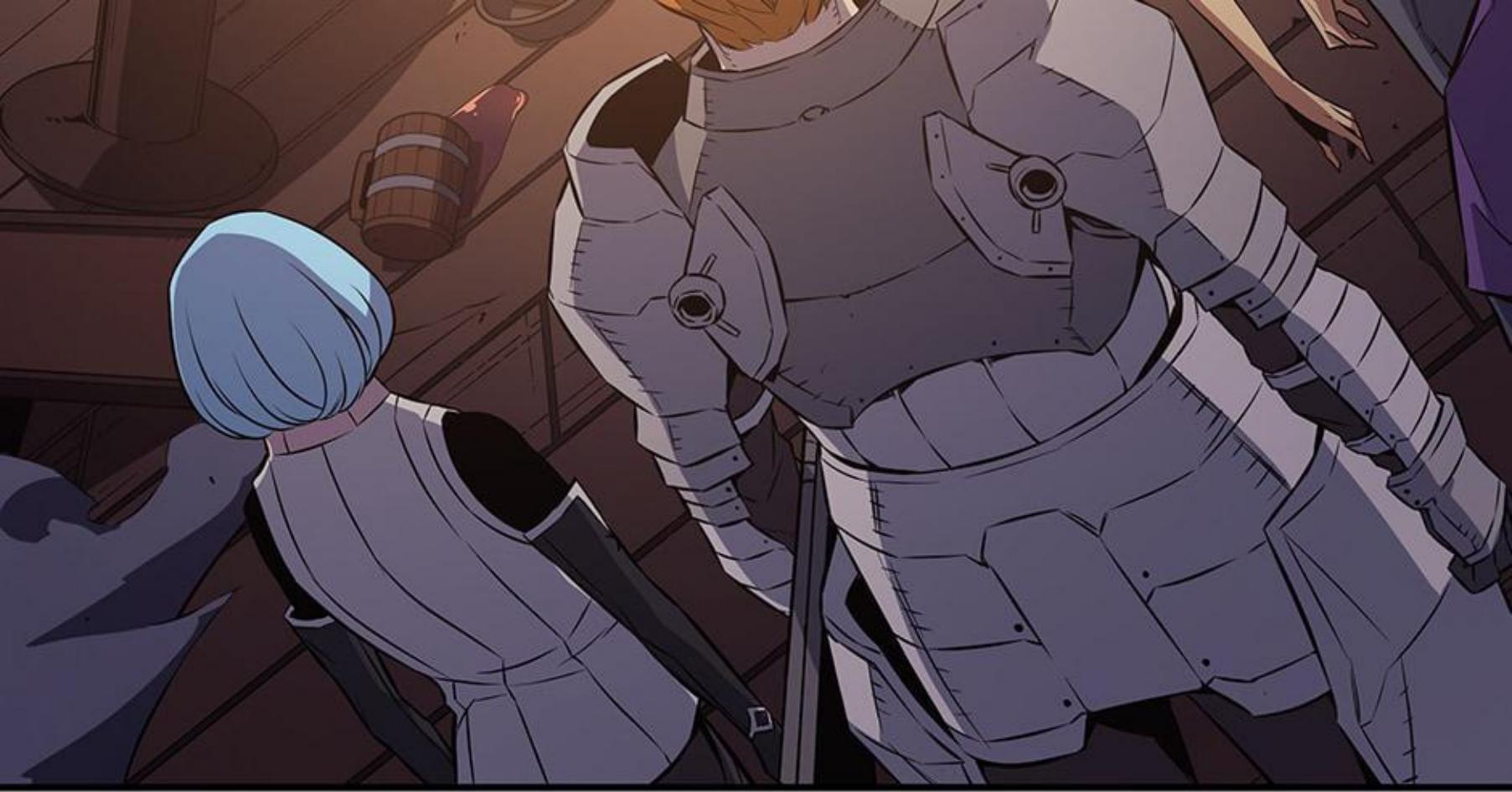
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN A
FULL HOUSE?

FAR FROM IT,
WE'RE OPEN FOR
BUSINESS.

HAA

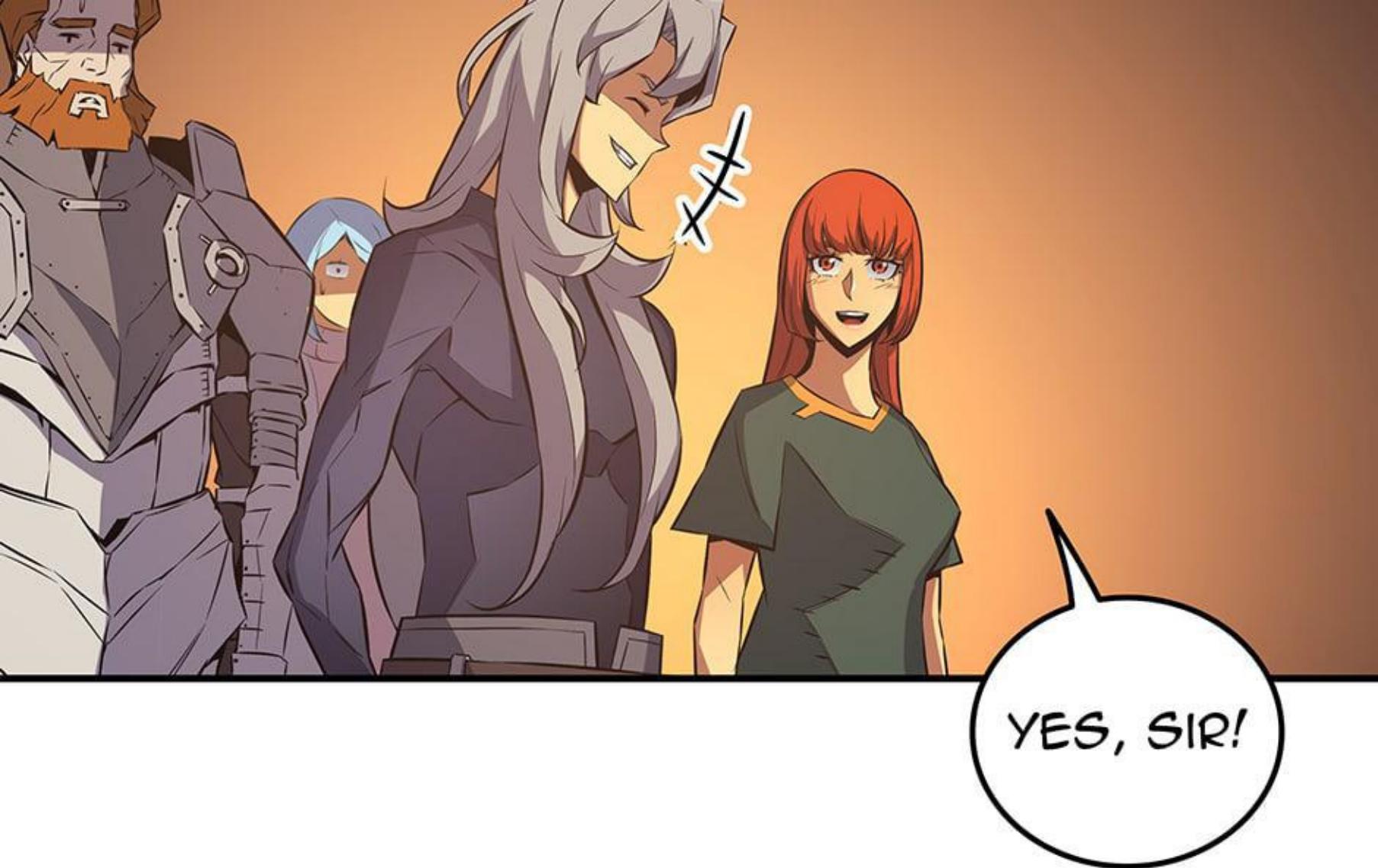
HAA

...



LOOKS LIKE
I'LL NEED TO WHIP
OUT MY GREAT SKILLS
AND PUT THEM TO
GOOD USE FOR
A CHANGE!

I'LL GET
THINGS PREPARED
SO TAKE YOUR TIME
TO WASH UP!



YES, SIR!



SPLASH

SPLASH



SPLASH

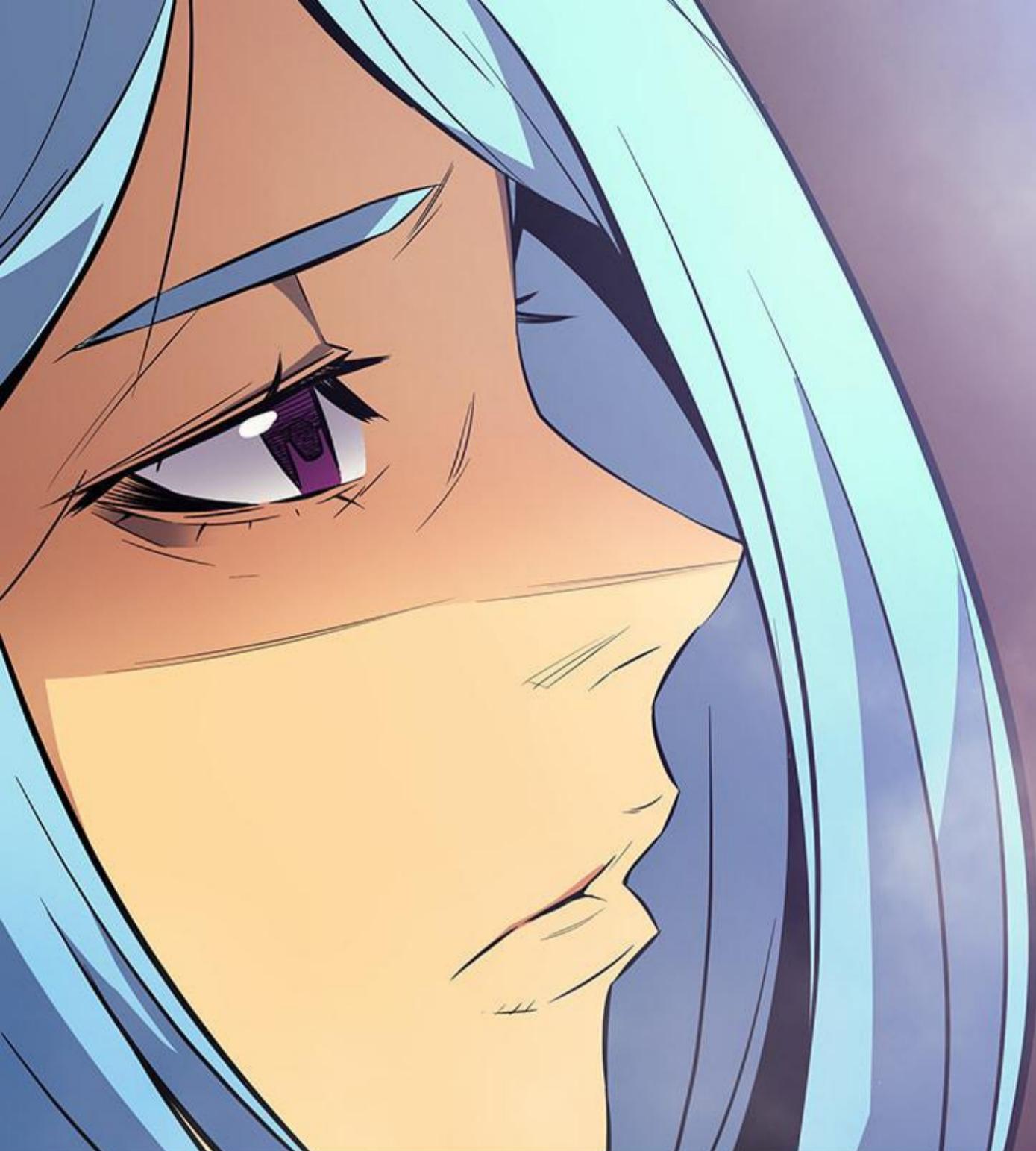
SPLASH





SSK







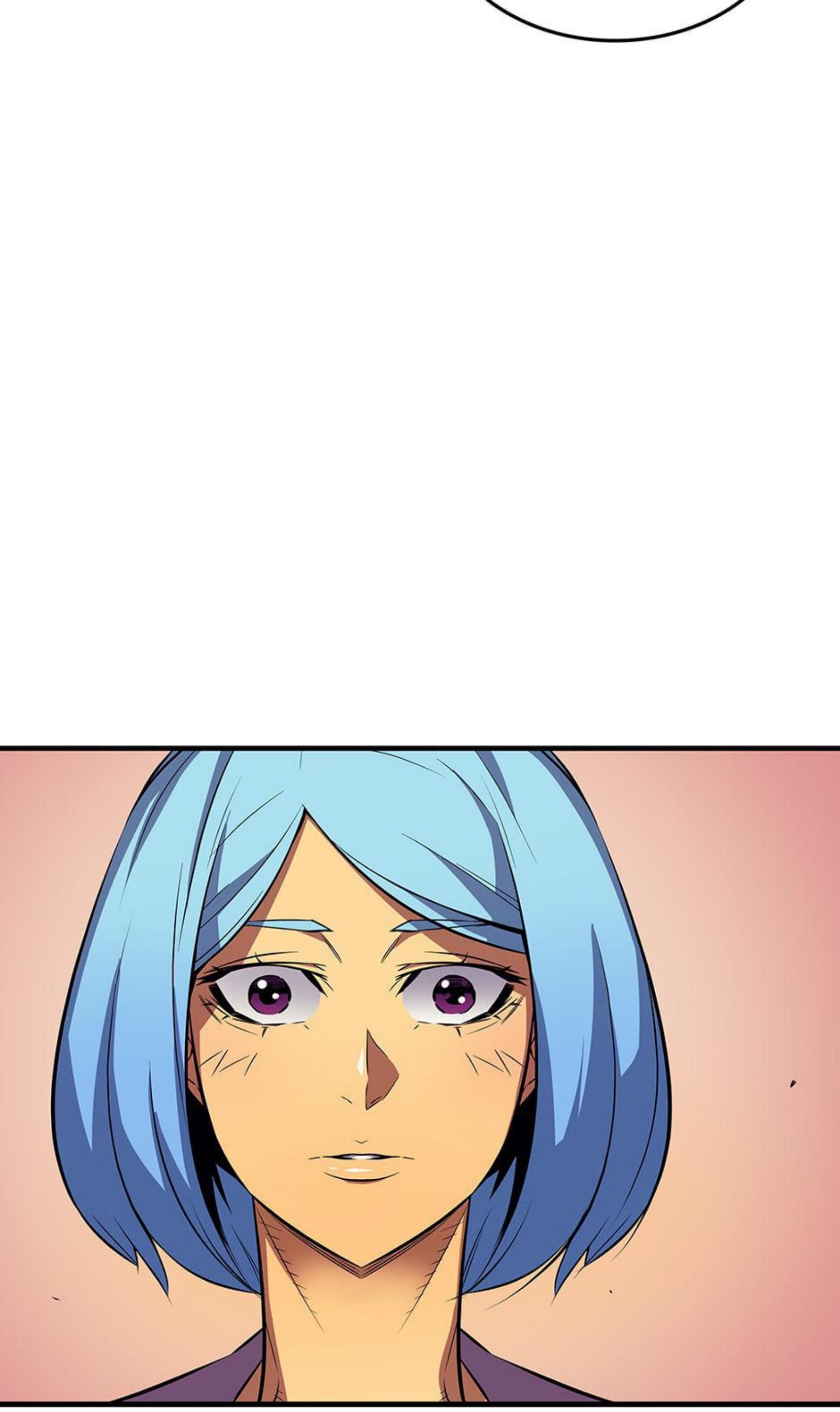












FREI...?

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
SIT.

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR FACE IS
FLUSHED RED.



HMPH!
I'M JUST
SURPRISED THAT
YOU ACTUALLY LOOK
DECENT NOW THAT
YOU'VE CLEANED
UP...

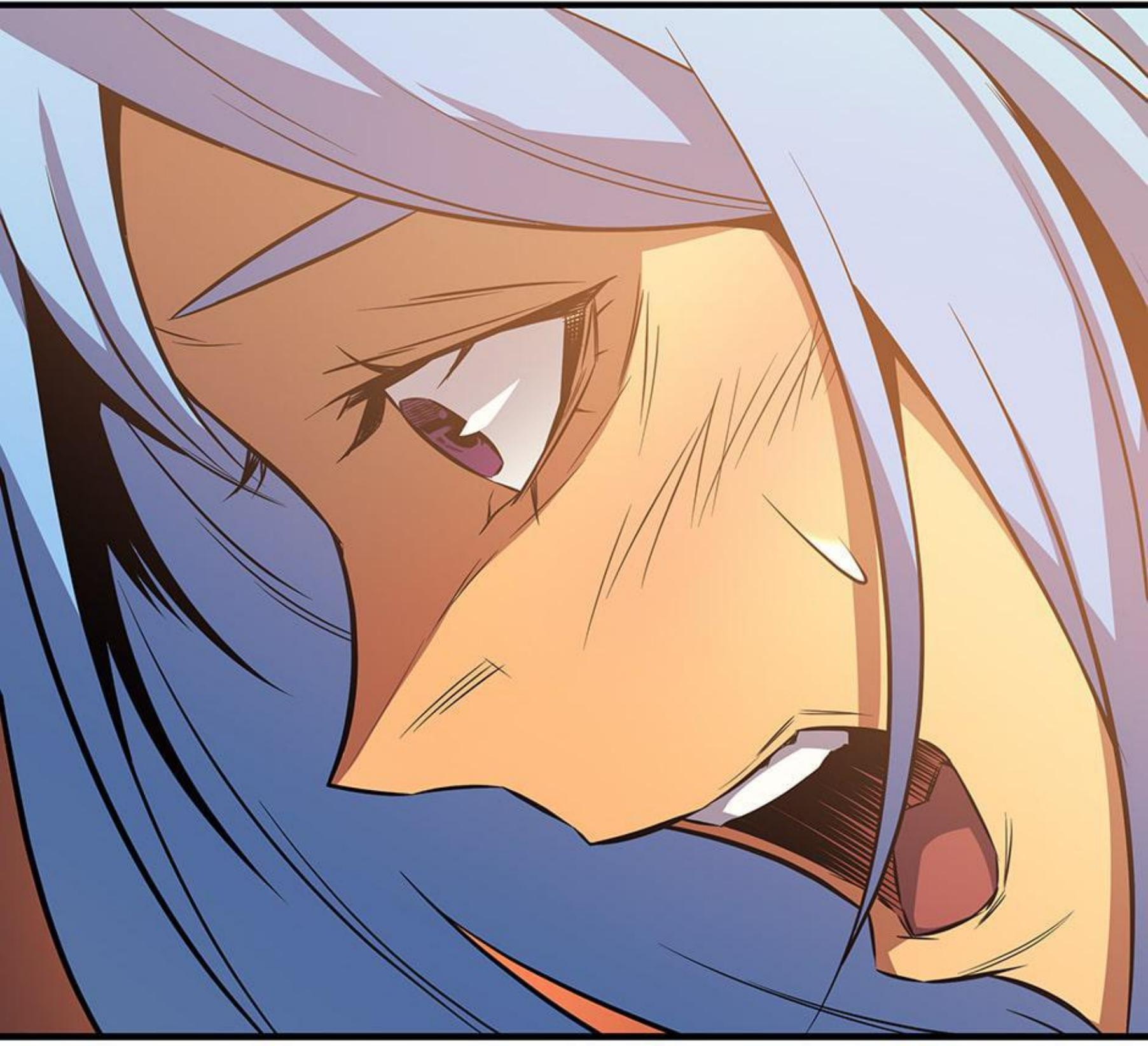




STAGGER

FWIP









HEY...

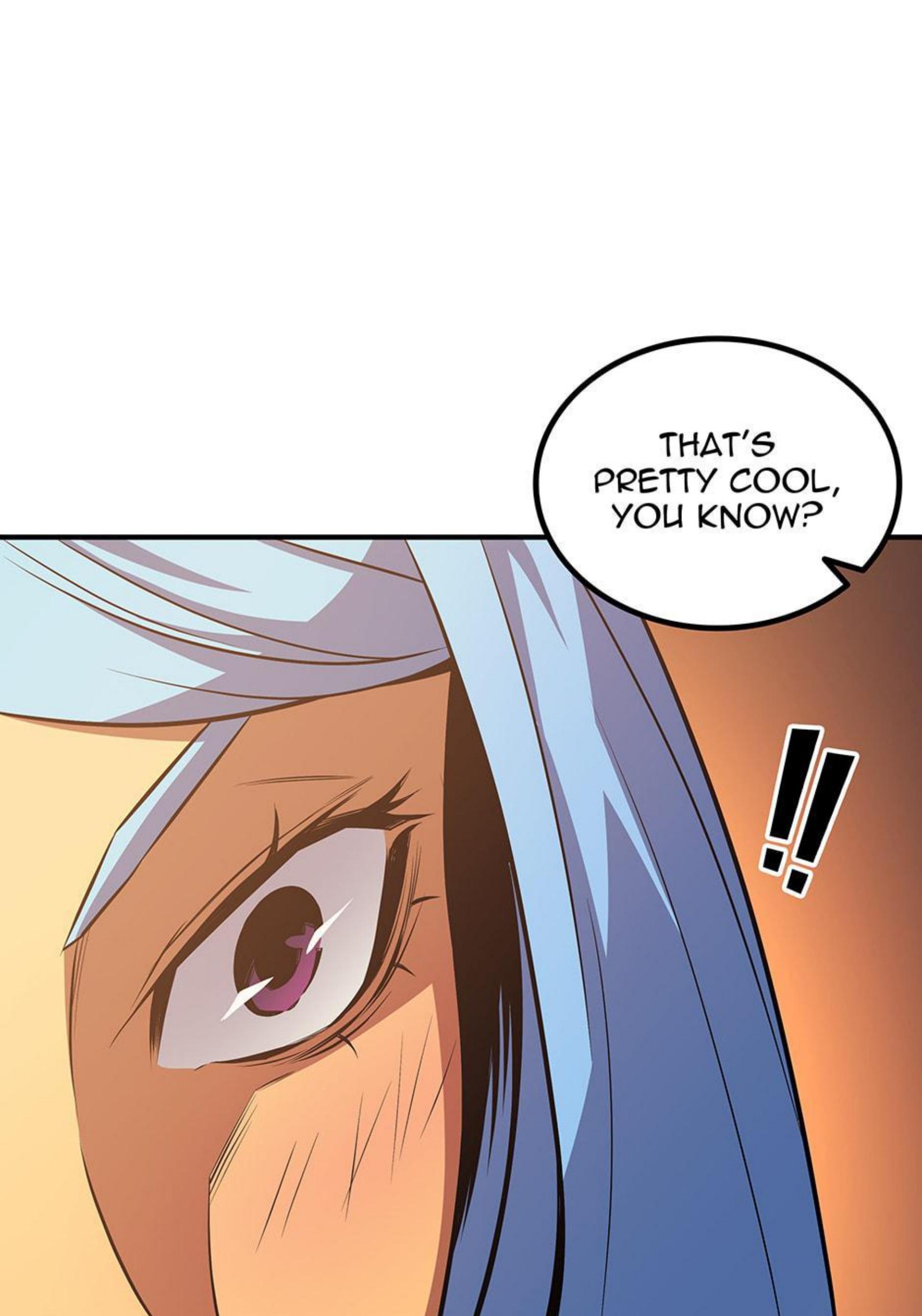
WHAT'S

WITH ALL THESE
SCARS...?



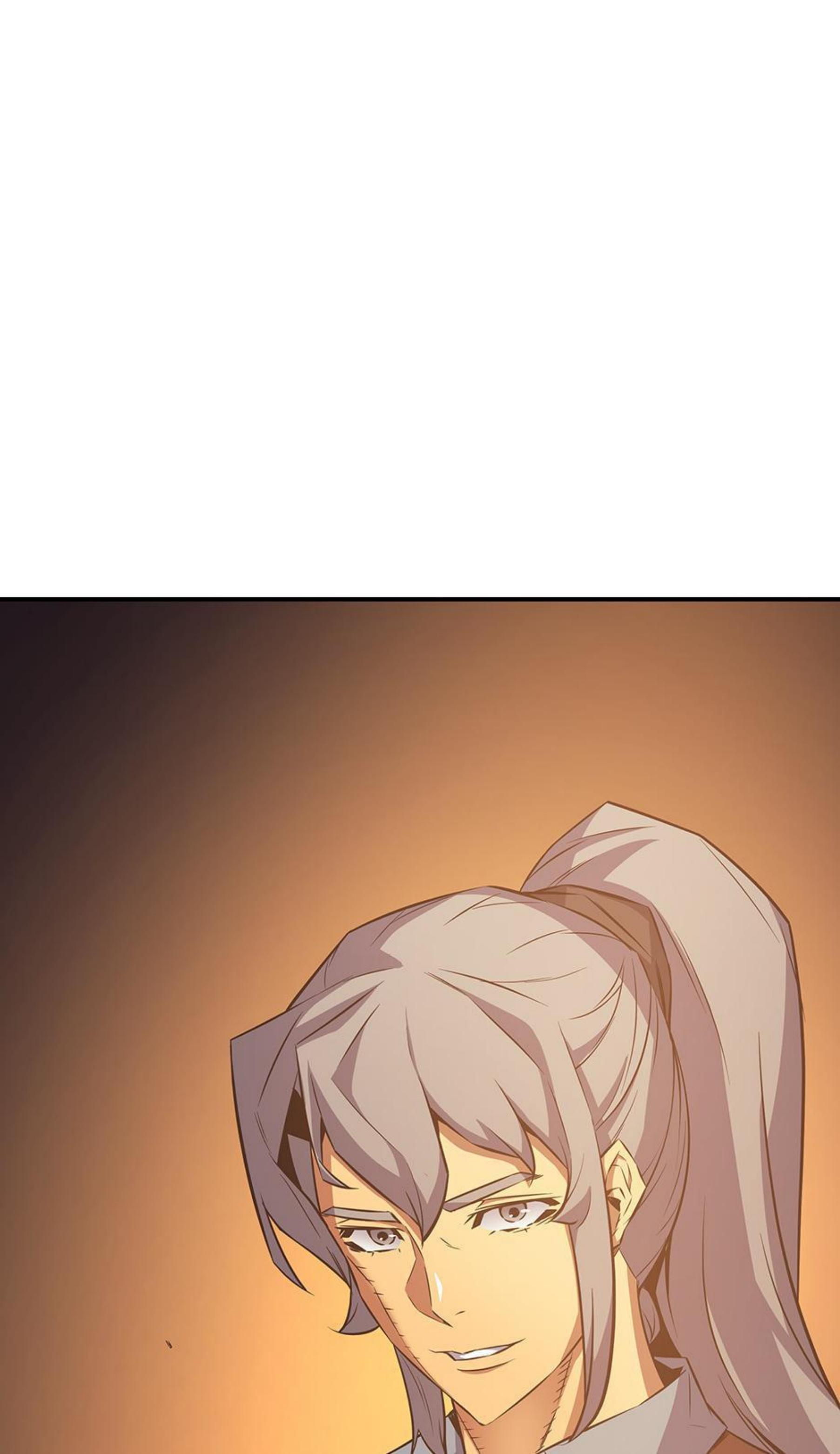
SQUEEZE





THAT'S
PRETTY COOL,
YOU KNOW?

!!





**THEY'RE
EVIDENCE OF
YOUR GREAT
EFFORTS!**





OH... NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT...!

WE HEARD YOUR
DESTINATION WAS
CASTKALI, BUT WHAT IS
YOUR FINAL DESTINATION
AFTER REACHING
THERE?

WE WERE ON
OUR WAY TO THE
JUN ESTATE.

THE JUN
ESTATE?





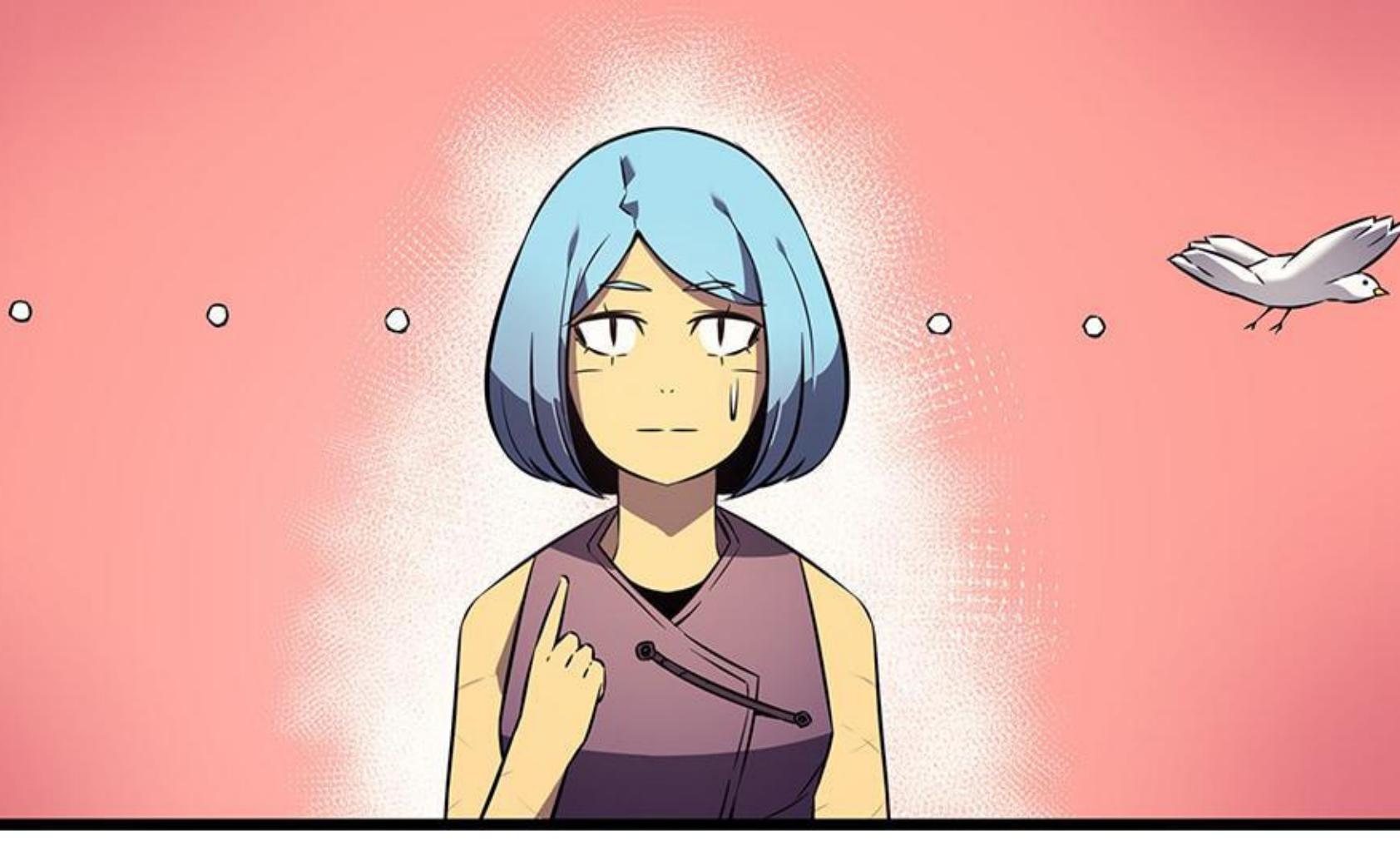
SHE'S THE
DAUGHTER OF
THE AQUAREED
HOUSE...



THE VERY SAME
THAT BIRTHED COUNTLESS
SKILLED KNIGHTS. FRANKLY
SPEAKING, I'M NOT SURE
IF WE'LL GET ALONG.

AHH!
YOU'RE THE
FIANCEE!!

THE DAUGHTER
OF A QUARREED
HOUSE!!



YOU WERE
ACQUAINTANCES OF

WE HEARD ABOUT THE
MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENT FROM
LORD FERRAN?



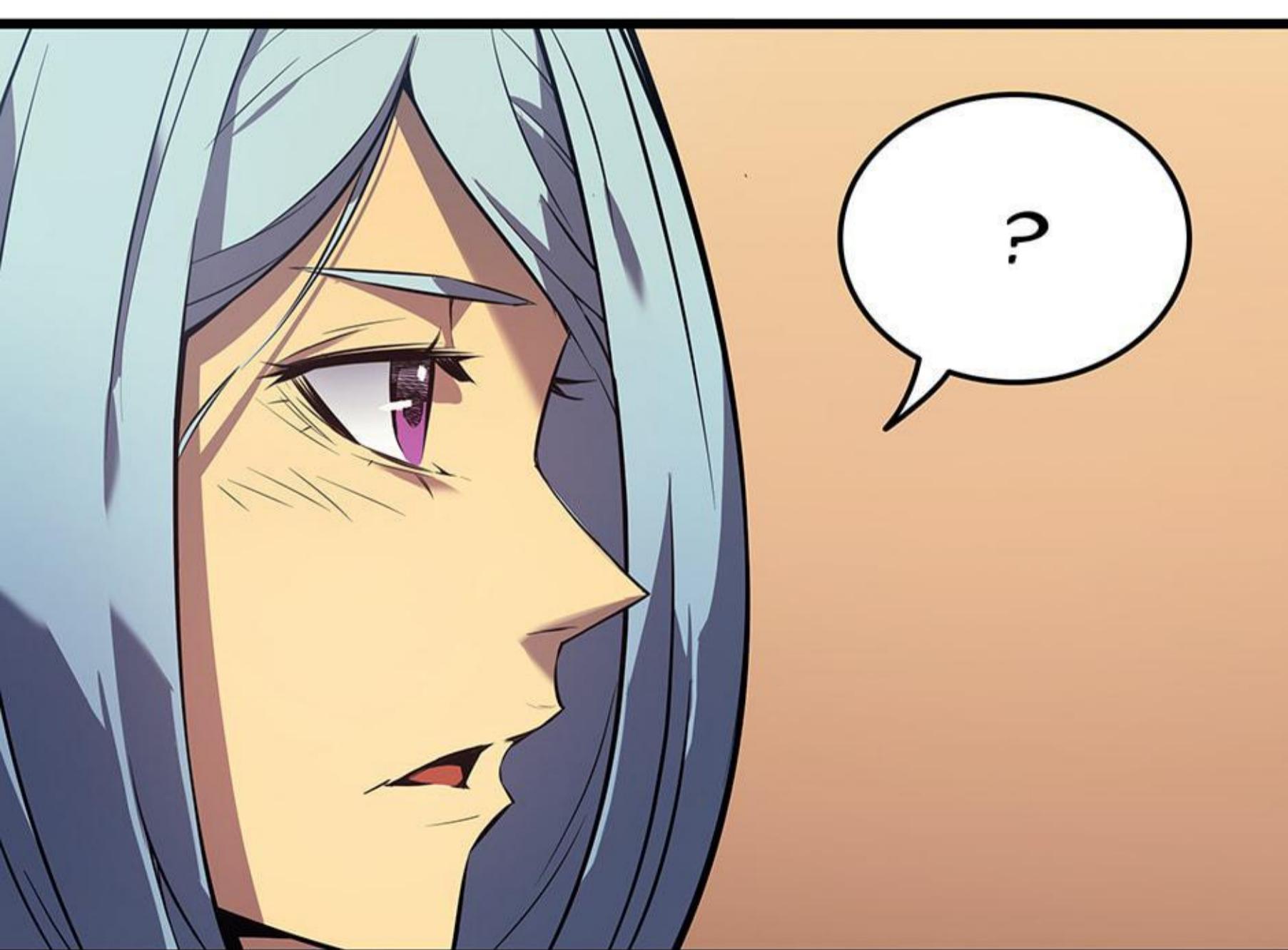
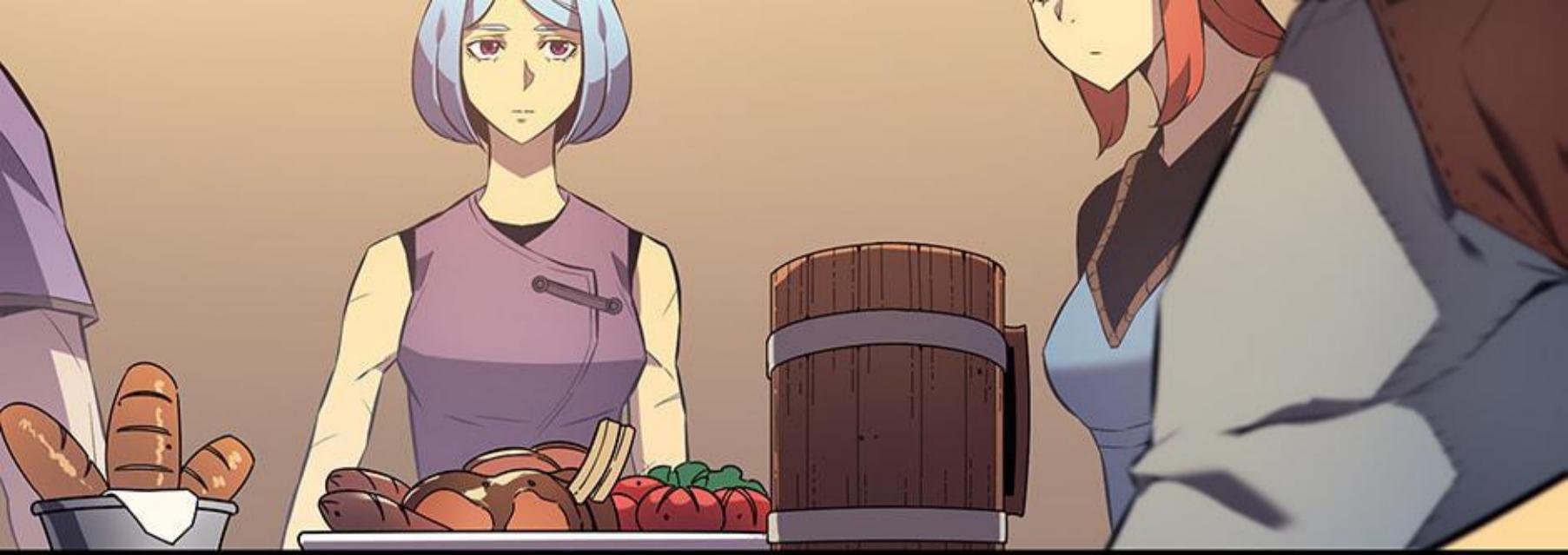
THE TWO
OF THEM ARE
FRIENDS FROM THE
SAME ACADEMY...



WE HEARD
ABOUT THE MARRIAGE
ARRANGEMENT FROM
LORD FERRAN
HIMSELF.



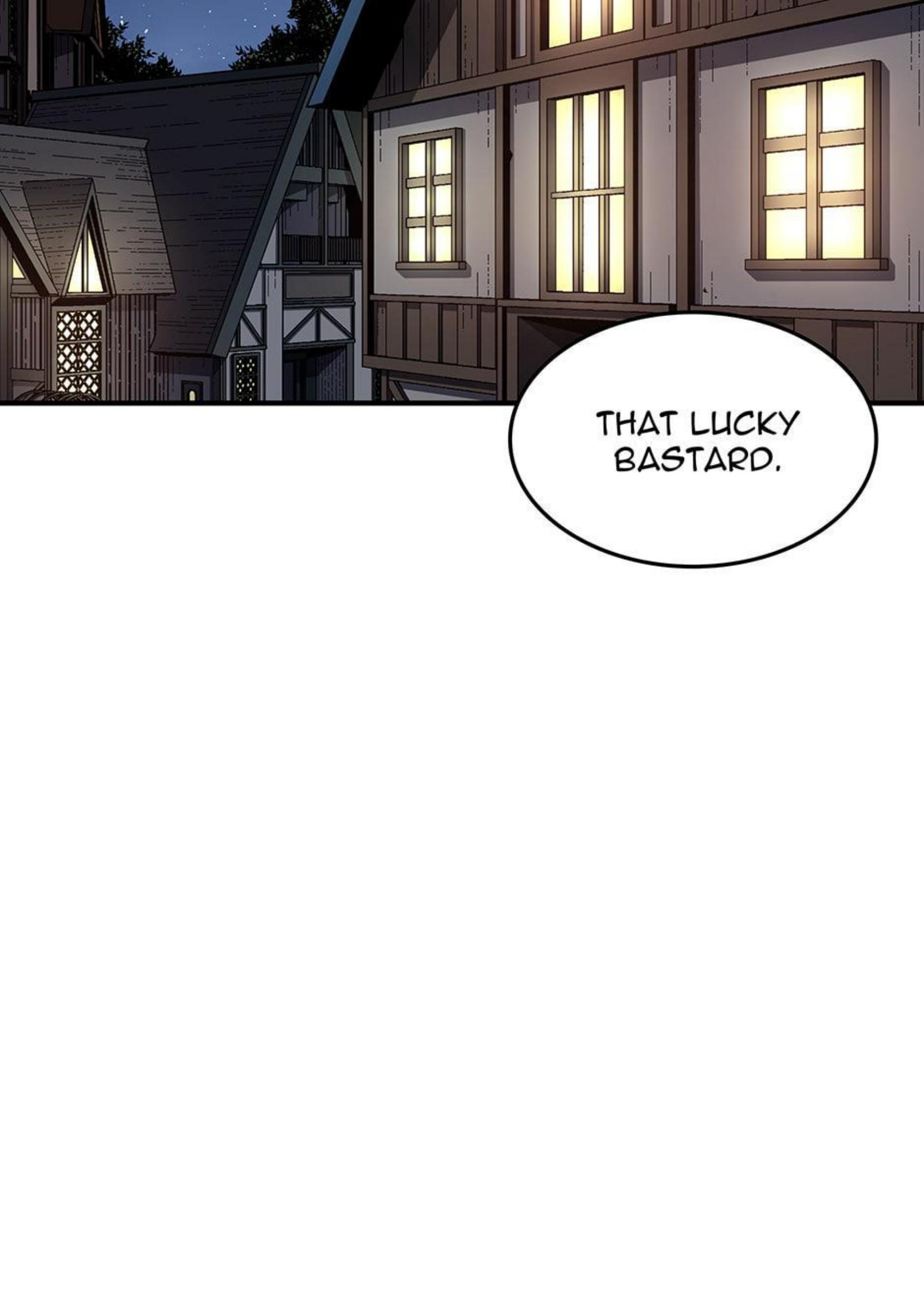
AH, SO SONYA'S
FERRAN'S FIANCEE,
HUH...?





The background shows a dark blue night sky filled with small white stars. A large, bright, yellowish-orange full moon is positioned in the upper left quadrant. In the lower right foreground, the roofline and side of a wooden building are visible. The building has several windows, all of which are brightly lit from within, casting a warm glow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and slightly melancholic.

FERRAN,



A night scene of a town with several houses. The house on the right has three windows with light glowing from inside. A large, white, rounded speech bubble is positioned in front of the house, containing the text.

THAT LUCKY
BASTARD.