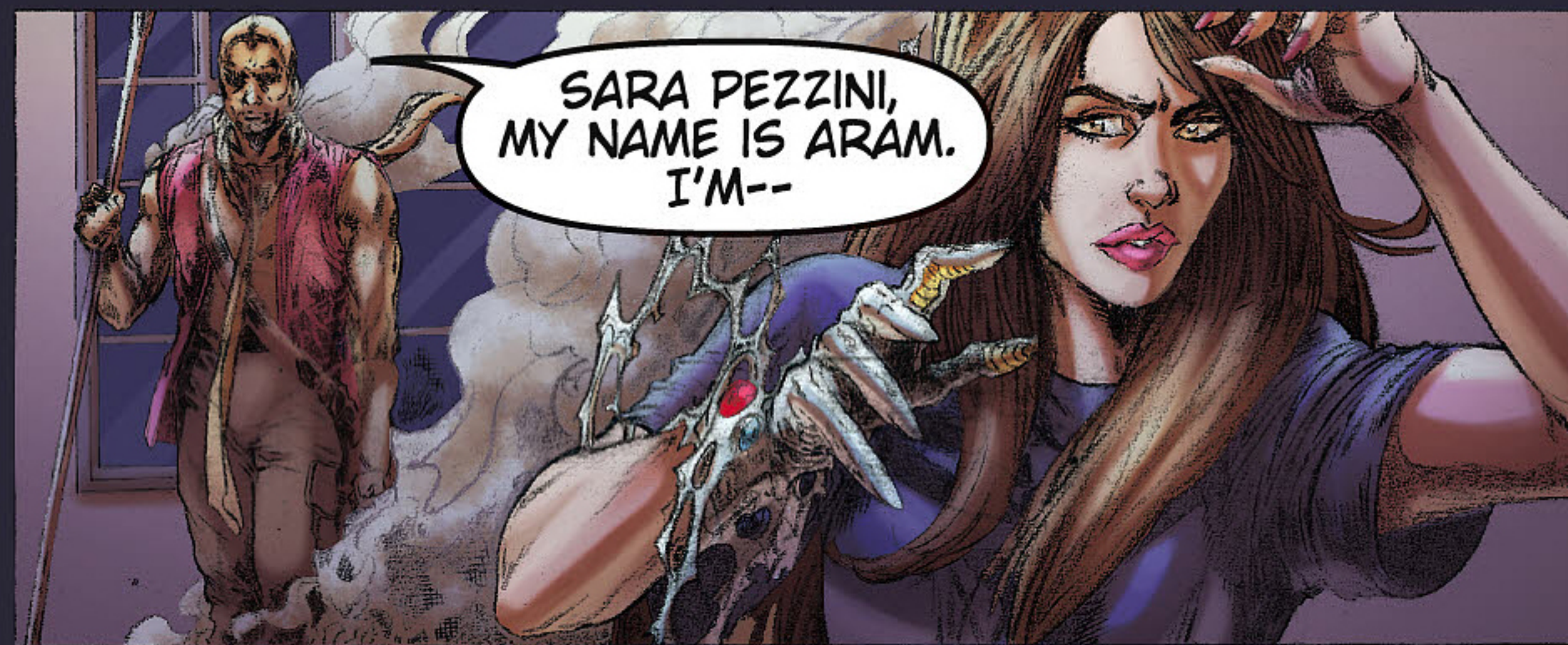


I DIDN'T
COME HERE
TO KILL YOU.
I SWEAR I
DIDN'T.

IT'S TRUE,
I HATED
YOU, BUT
NOT ENOUGH
TO KILL
YOU.

IT WAS ARAM
WHO BROUGHT
ME HERE. HE
SHOWED UP IN
MY APARTMENT.
LITERALLY
APPEARED OUT
OF NOWHERE.



SARA PEZZINI,
MY NAME IS ARAM.
I'M--



--I KNOW WHO YOU
ARE. **ARAM THE
WITCH-KING**, FORMER
WIELDER OF THE
DARKNESS.

YOU'VE SPENT
THE LAST FIVE
HUNDRED YEARS
WANDERING THE
EARTH, CAUSING
TROUBLE.



ACTUALLY, IT'S
MORE LIKE TEN
THOUSAND.

BUT WHO'S
COUNTING,
RIGHT?

YOU WANT TO
TELL ME WHY YOU
THINK IT'S OKAY TO
APPARATE INTO MY
BEDROOM WITHOUT
AN INVITATION?



YOU SAID YOU WERE READY
TO FIGHT THE **ANCIENT
ONES**, WHEREVER THEY
APPEARED.

JACKIE IS PLANNING
TO OPEN UP EVERY
PORTAL ON THE EARTH
AND BRING THEM BACK--
ALL OF THEM.

IF THAT
HAPPENS THE BATTLE IS
OVER. THERE WILL BE NO
MORE BALANCE BETWEEN
LIGHT AND DARK, NO
MORE ARTIFACTS, NO
WITCHBLADE.



ONLY THE
DARKNESS...

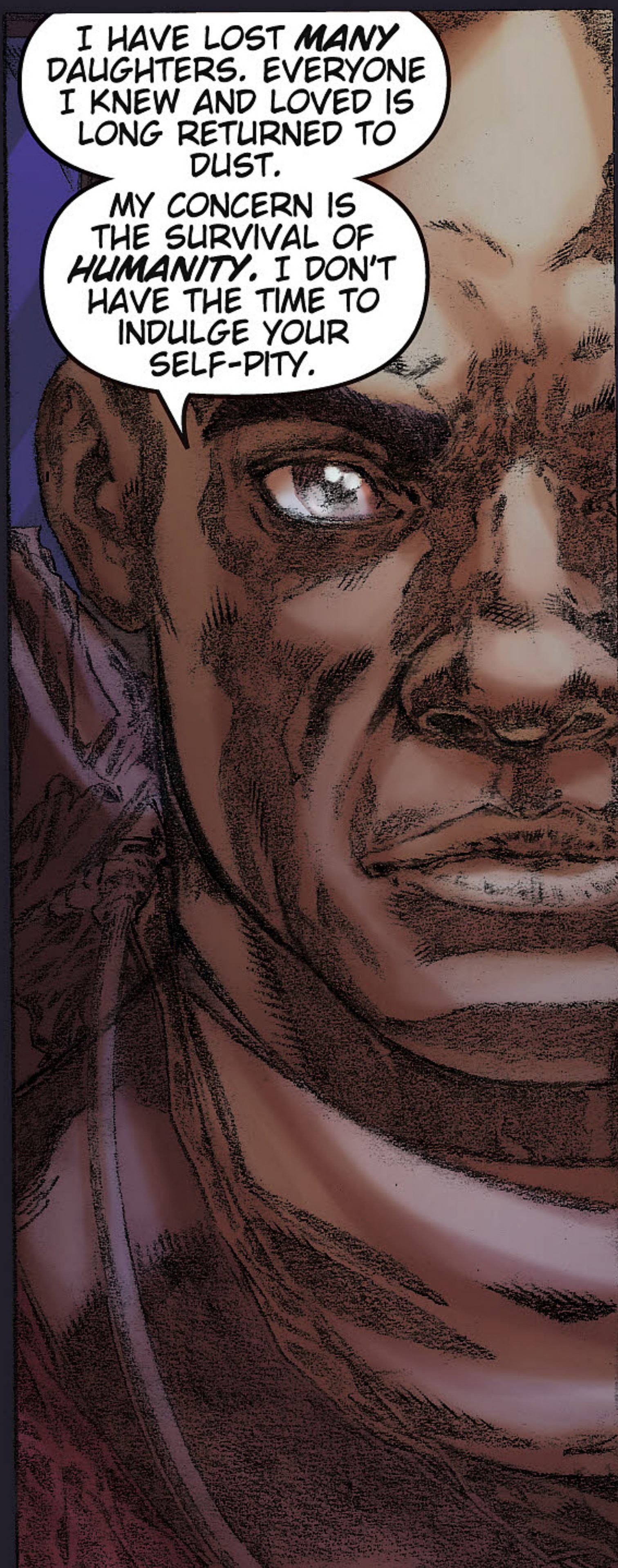
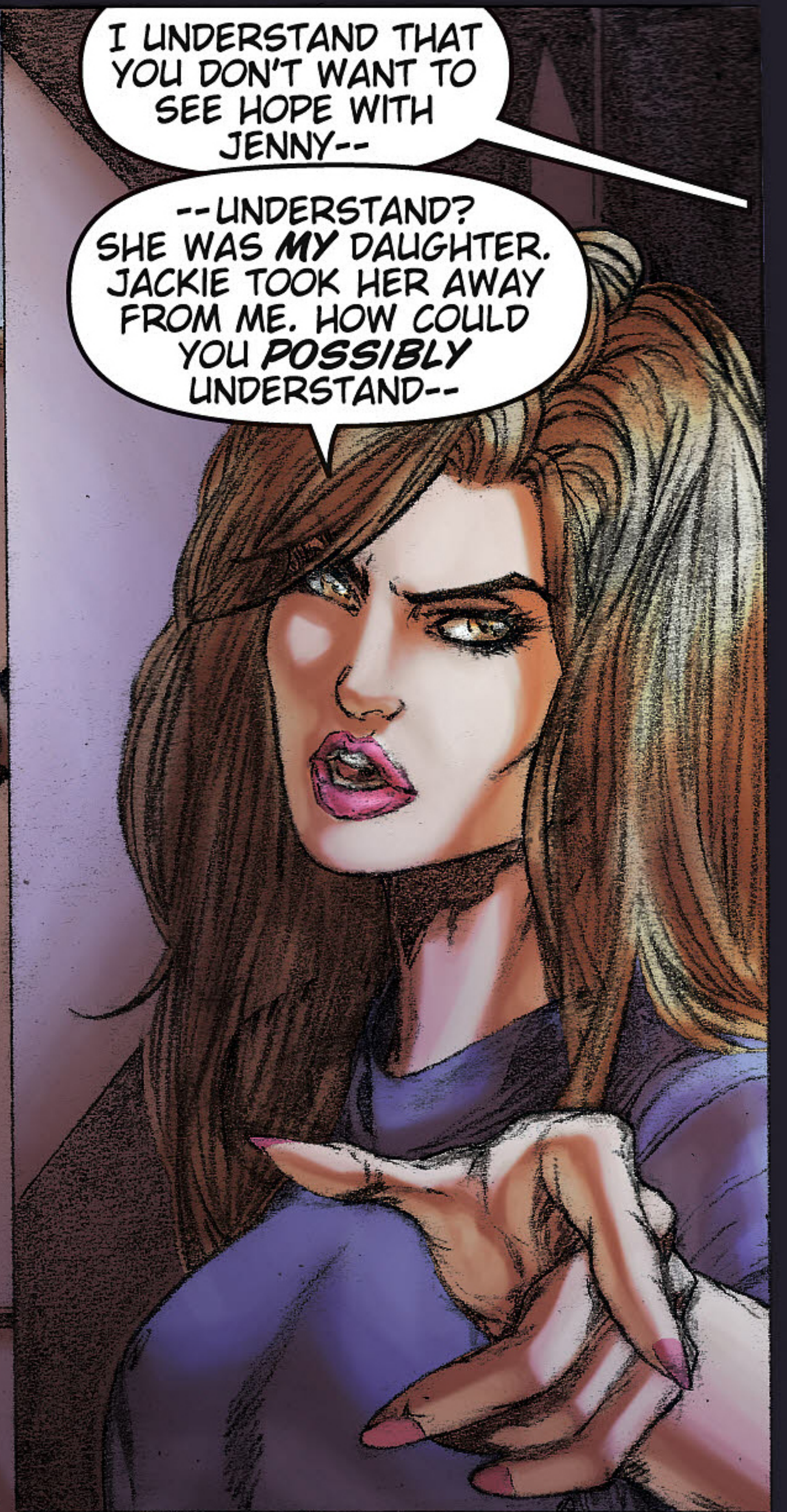


I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HOPE WITH JENNY--

--UNDERSTAND? SHE WAS *MY* DAUGHTER. JACKIE TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME. HOW COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* UNDERSTAND--

I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME TO *EREWHON* AND PERSUADE JACKIE TO ABANDON THIS INSANE PACT HE HAS MADE WITH THE ANCIENT ONES.

FIND SOMEONE ELSE. I'M NOT GOING TO EREWHON.



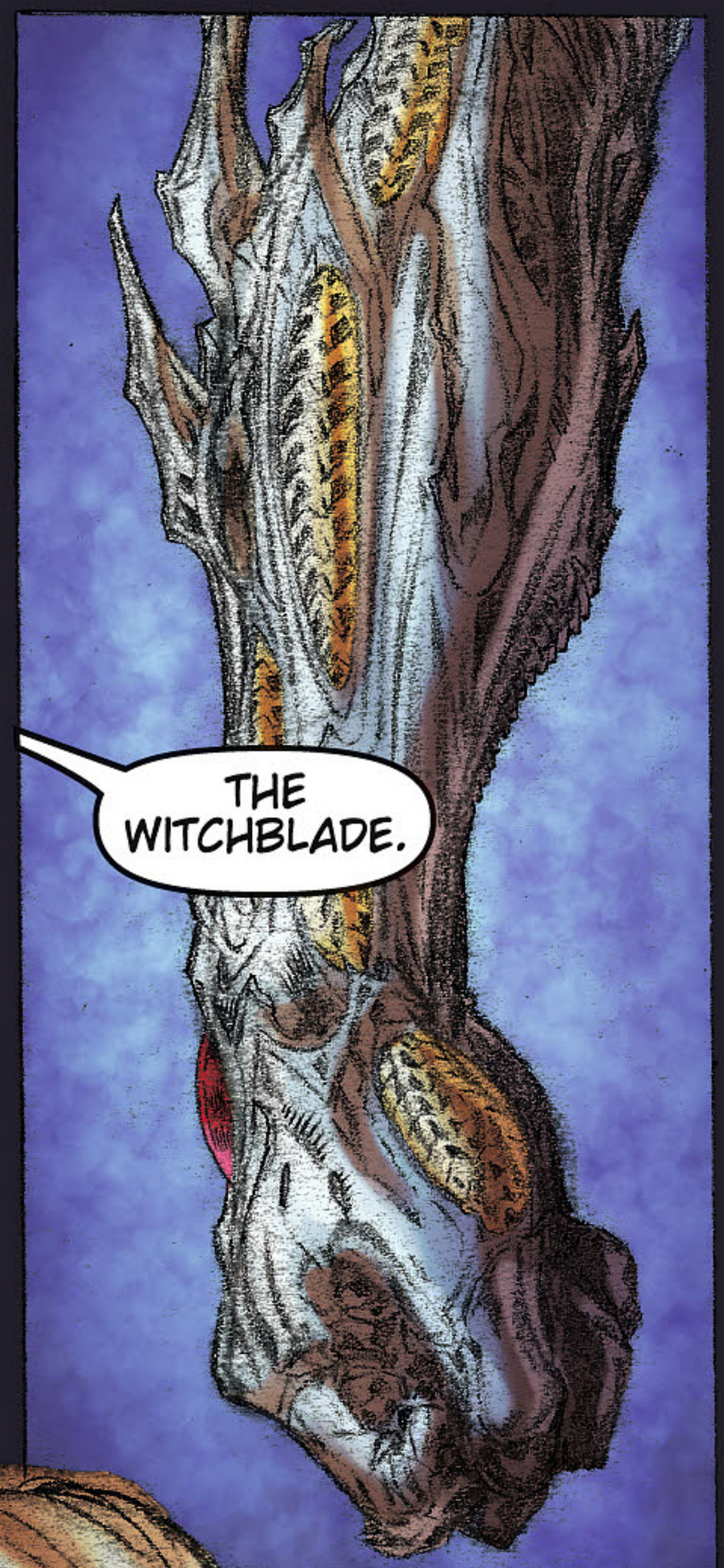
I HAVE LOST *MANY* DAUGHTERS. EVERYONE I KNEW AND LOVED IS LONG RETURNED TO DUST.

MY CONCERN IS THE SURVIVAL OF *HUMANITY*. I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO INDULGE YOUR SELF-PITY.

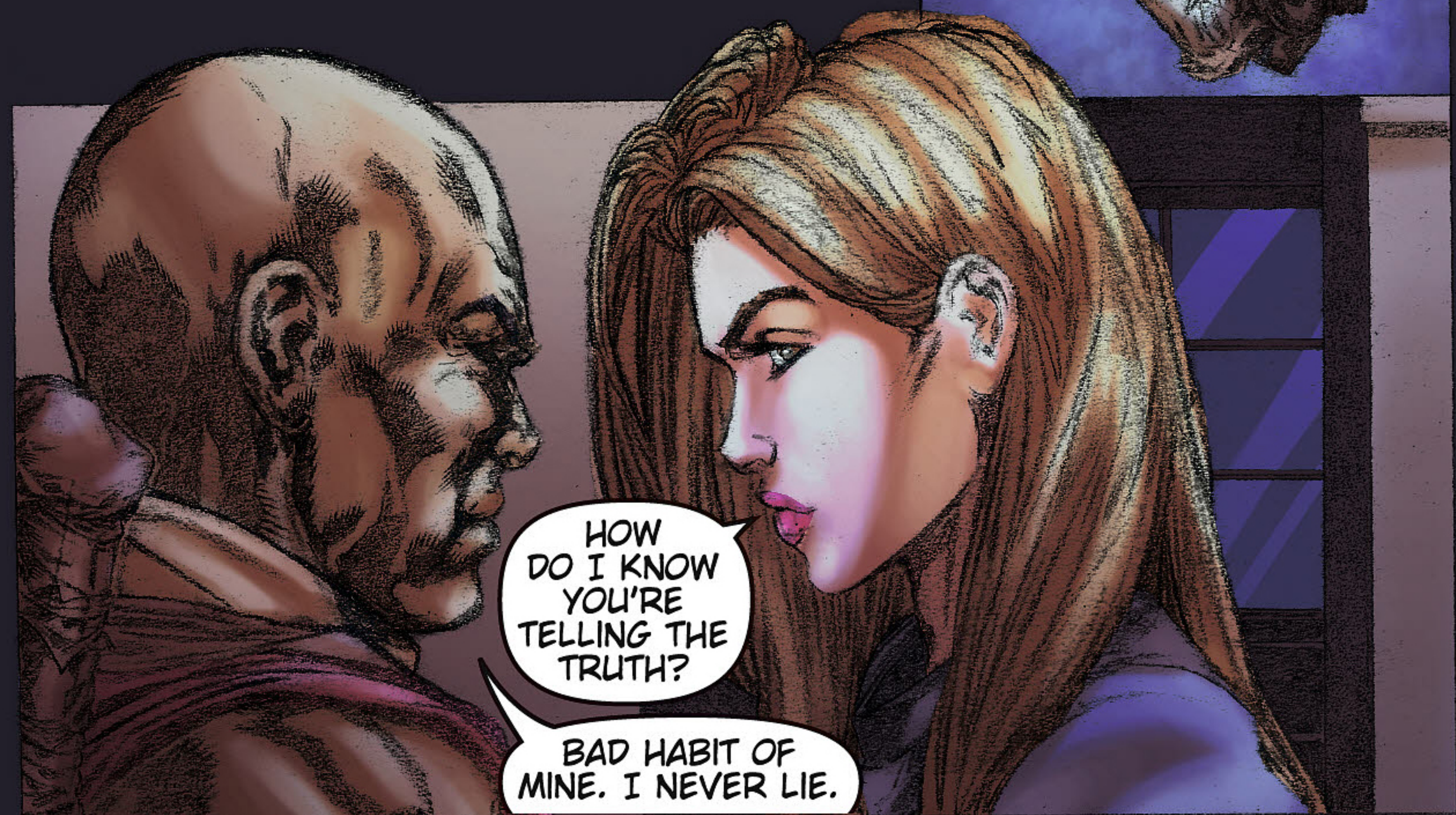


TALK TO JACKIE. IF HE DOESN'T LISTEN, I HAVE THE TALISMANS THAT WILL BIND HIM AND NEUTRALIZE HIS POWER.

BUT THEY WILL ONLY WORK IN UNION WITH THE ONE WEAPON THAT BALANCES THE LIGHT AND THE DARK.

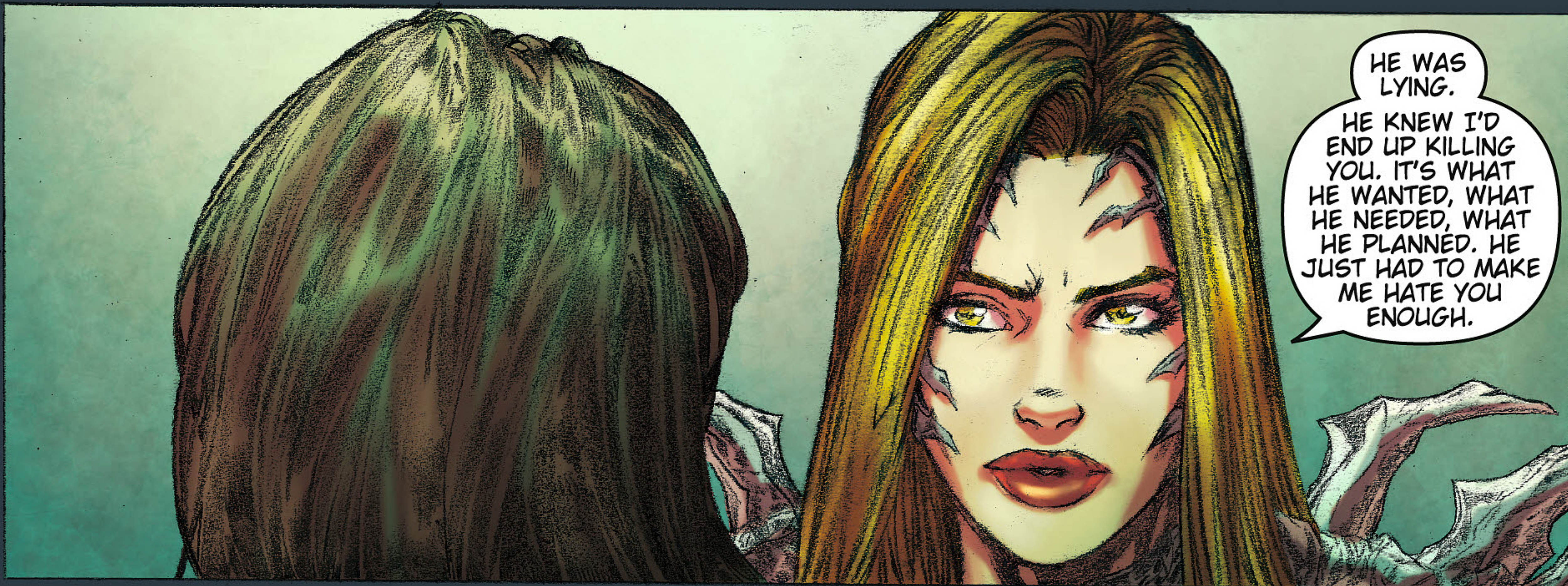


THE WITCHBLADE.



HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?

BAD HABIT OF MINE. I NEVER LIE.



HE WAS LYING.
HE KNEW I'D END UP KILLING YOU. IT'S WHAT HE WANTED, WHAT HE NEEDED, WHAT HE PLANNED. HE JUST HAD TO MAKE ME HATE YOU ENOUGH.



EREWHON.



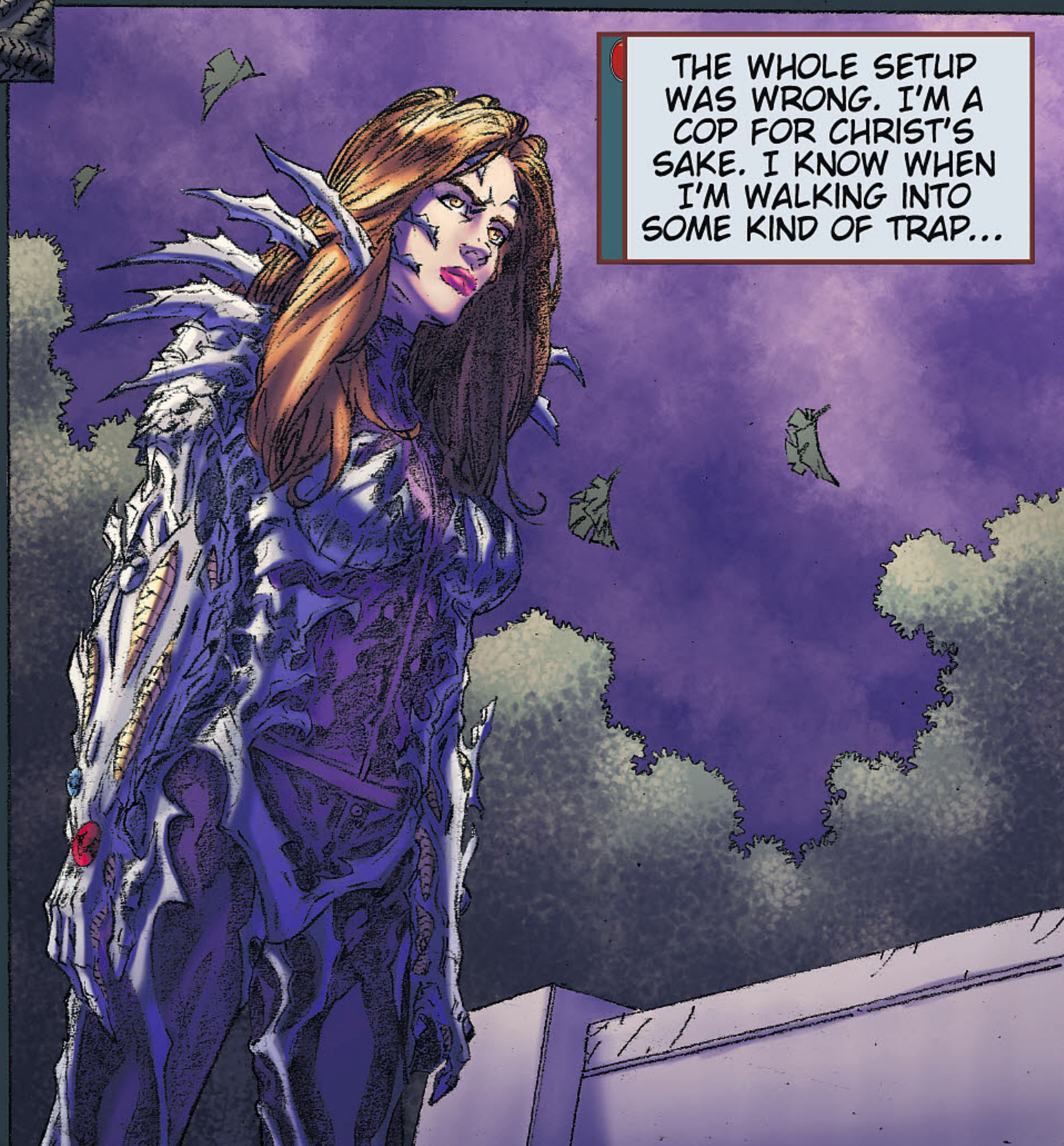
GO INSIDE. FIND JENNY AND HOPE. MAKE SURE THEY'RE SAFE.

WHAT ABOUT JACKIE?

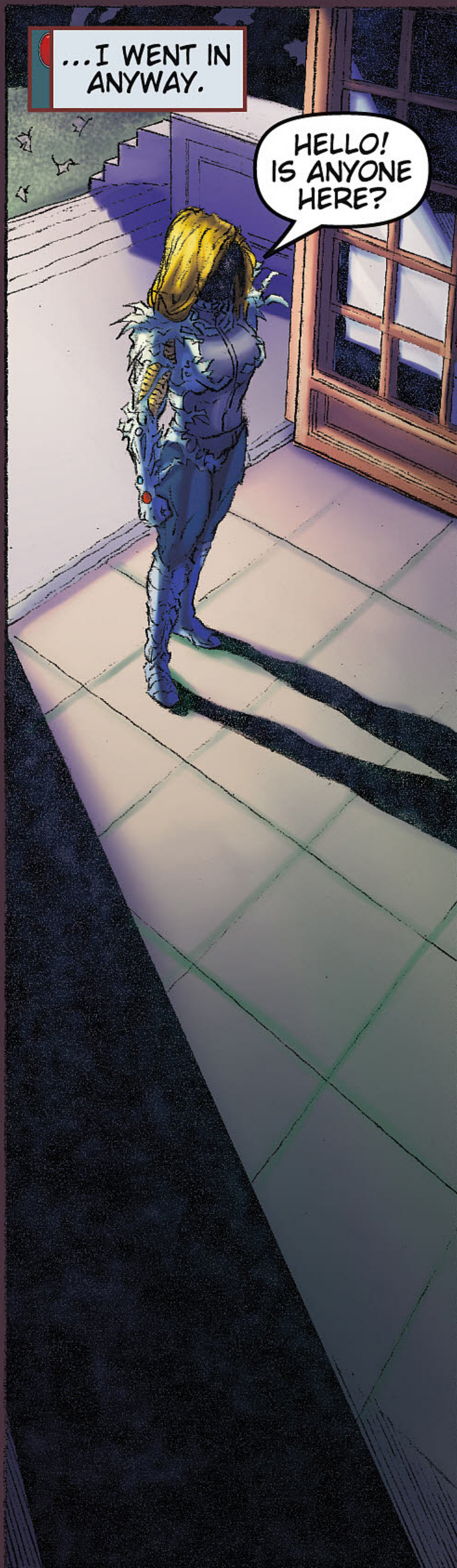
HE'S NOT HERE. I'LL FIND HIM AND BRING HIM TO YOU.



TRUST ME.



THE WHOLE SETUP WAS WRONG. I'M A COP FOR CHRIST'S SAKE. I KNOW WHEN I'M WALKING INTO SOME KIND OF TRAP...

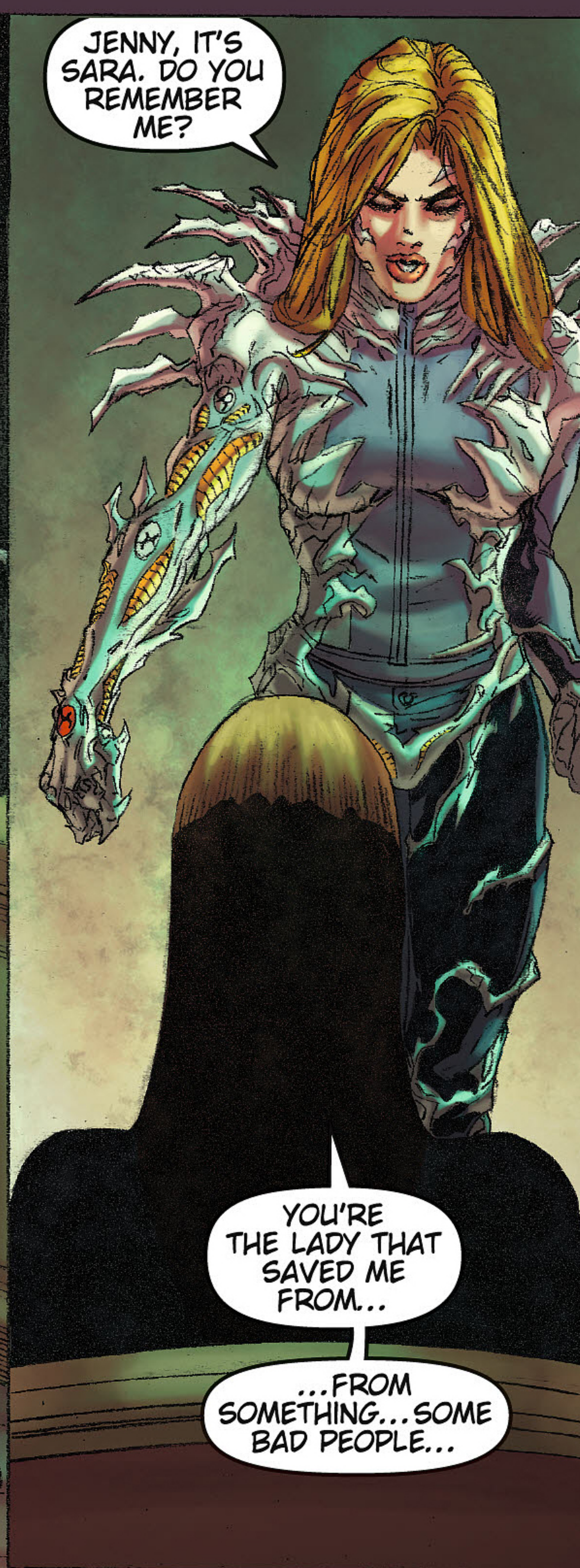


...I WENT IN ANYWAY.

HELLO!
IS ANYONE
HERE?



I AM.
I'M ALWAYS
HERE.



JENNY, IT'S
SARA. DO YOU
REMEMBER
ME?

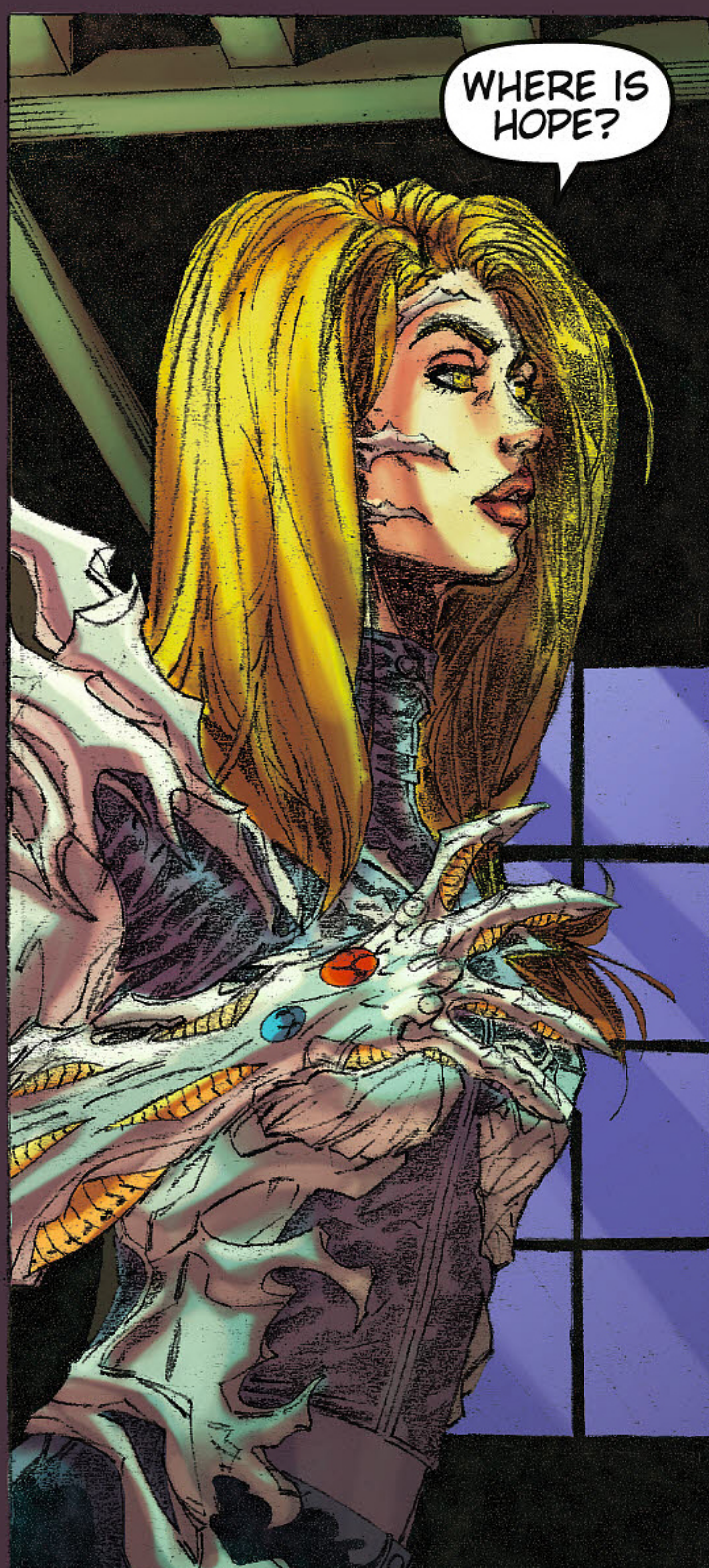
YOU'RE
THE LADY THAT
SAVED ME
FROM...

...FROM
SOMETHING... SOME
BAD PEOPLE...

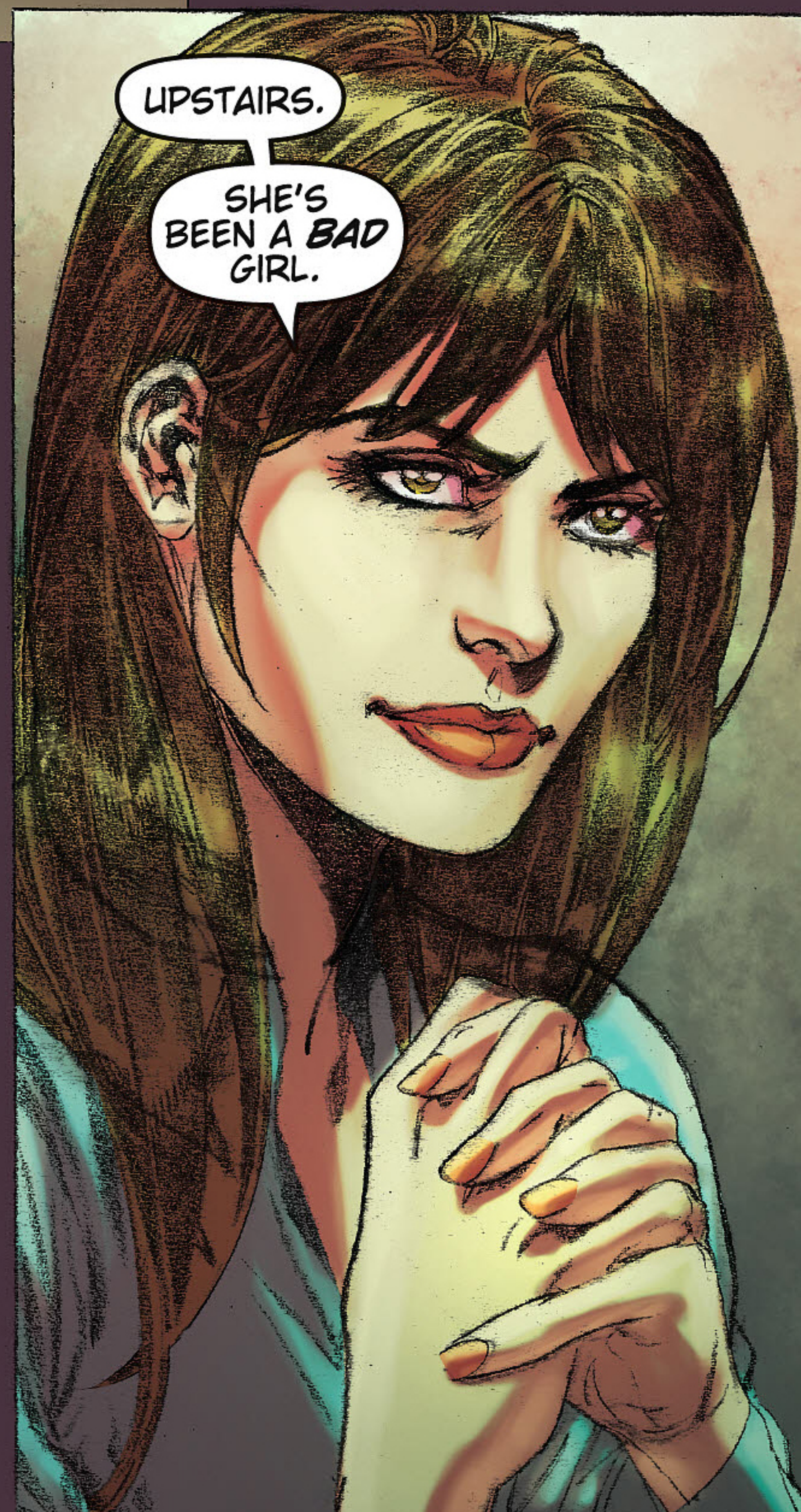


AND I'M HOPE'S
MOTHER. YES,
THAT'S IT.

I STILL FORGET
SOMETIMES, BUT
I'M GETTING
BETTER.



WHERE IS
HOPE?



UPSTAIRS.

SHE'S
BEEN A **BAD**
GIRL.