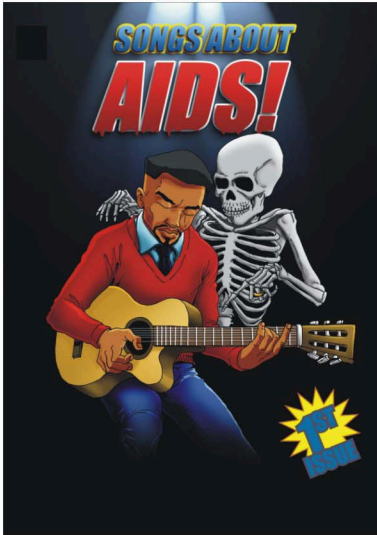


SONGS ABOUT AIDS!





SONGS ABOUT AIDS

Written & Lettered by Seun Odukoya
 Art by Samuel Achema & Solomon Osafire
 Colors by Wale Edu & Samuel Achema
 Songs About AIDS created by Samuel Achema & Seun Odukoya

Songs About Aids is a story of several people who have AIDS and how it affects them/the people around them. This episode is the first; a pilot of what is meant to be an ongoing series. Please read, share, enjoy and give feedback.

World's AIDS Day 2013:

Shared Responsibility: Strengthening Results for an AIDS-Free Generation
 “December 1st is World's Aids Day; a continued intervention for an AIDS-Free Generation. As we know, it starts with you and me. As we continue to show love and care for people living with AIDS, we must also spread knowledge and awareness by sharing information, resources whatever we have at our disposal. It is important we all know our HIV statuses awareness is key. **Love is key. Spread the message. Not the virus.**”

- **Seun Odukoya & Samuel Achema**

DISCLAIMER

Though this publication is in no way affiliated with The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), proper help and advice can be gotten through the following help-lines.

6222/08027192780 (Airtel Subscribers Only)
 Or text 38120 (Airtel, MTN & GLO only)



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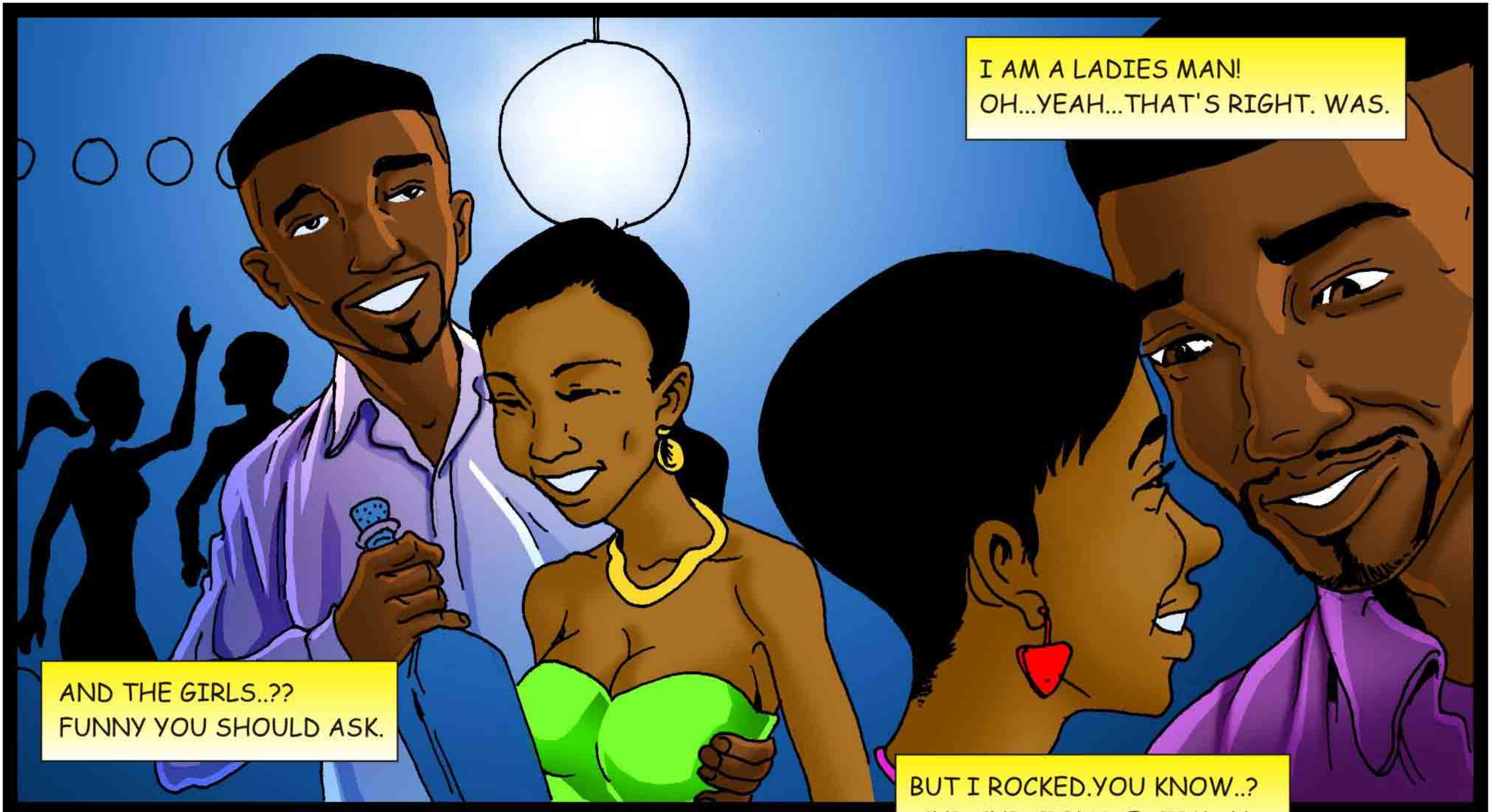
LIFE.
ONE DAY YOU'RE ON TOP...
EVERYTHING'S FINE...



YOU'RE THE TOAST OF YOUR
FRIENDS/COLLEAGUES...



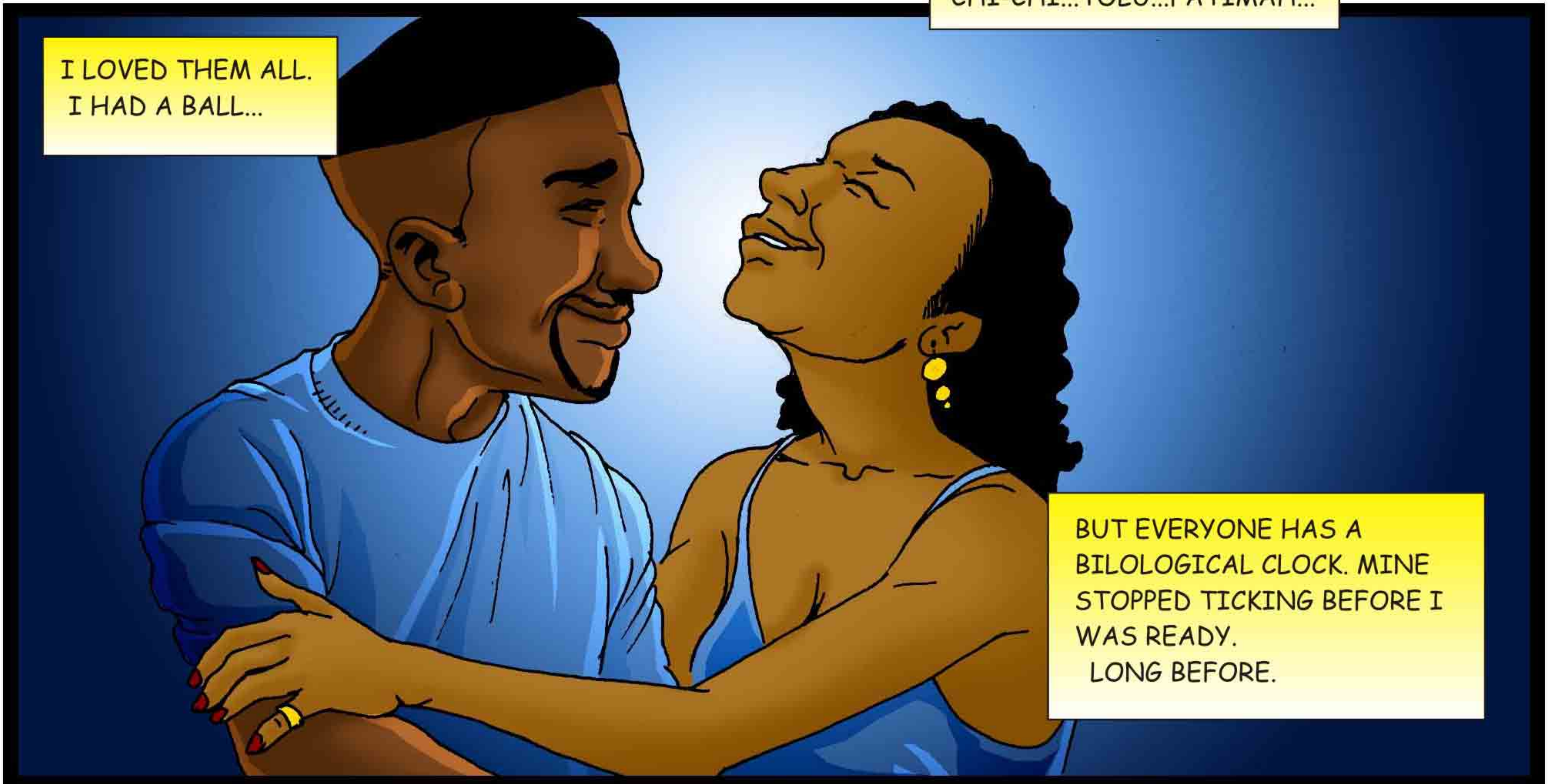
YOU LOVE YOUR JOB...



I AM A LADIES MAN!
OH...YEAH...THAT'S RIGHT. WAS.

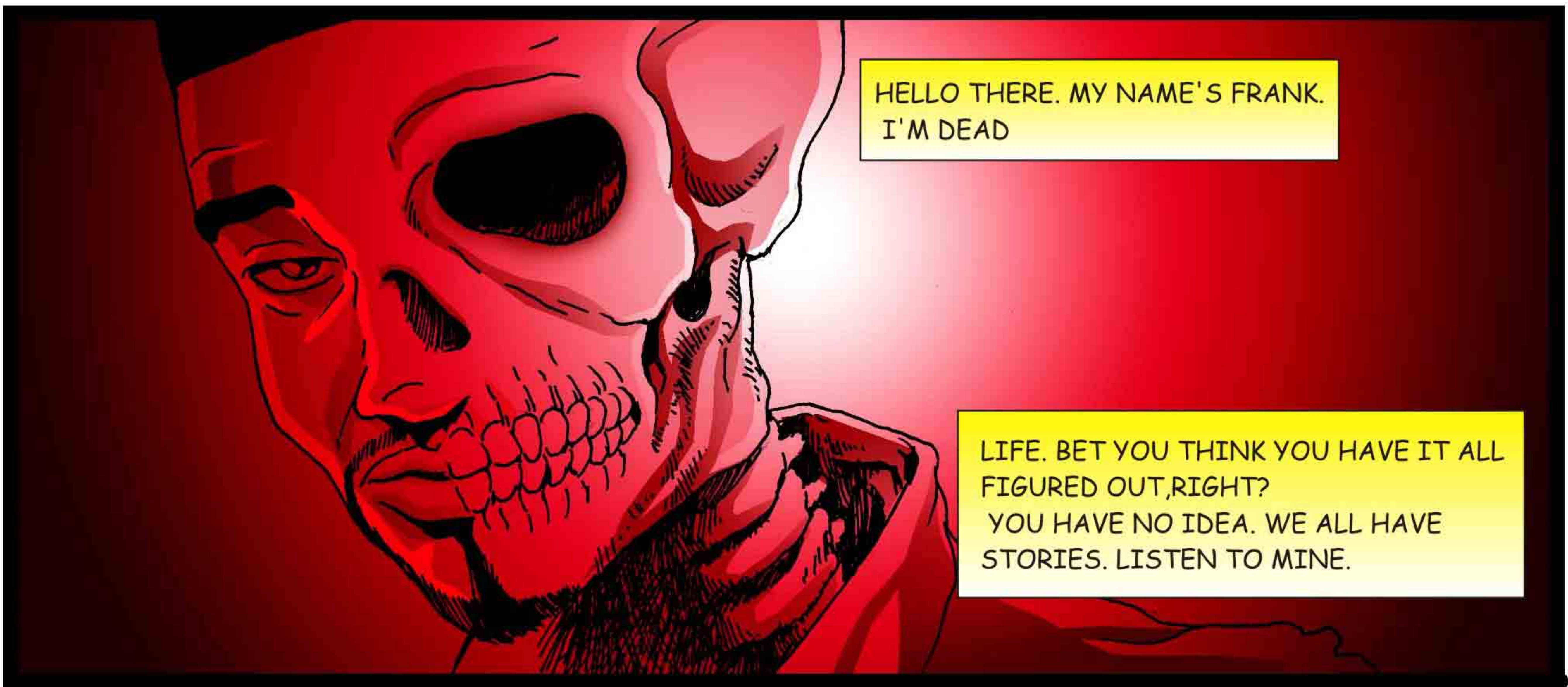
AND THE GIRLS...??
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK.

BUT I ROCKED.YOU KNOW...?
CHI-CHI...TOLU...FATIMAH...



I LOVED THEM ALL.
I HAD A BALL...

BUT EVERYONE HAS A
BIOLOGICAL CLOCK. MINE
STOPPED TICKING BEFORE I
WAS READY.
LONG BEFORE.



HELLO THERE. MY NAME'S FRANK.
I'M DEAD

LIFE. BET YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT ALL
FIGURED OUT,RIGHT?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA. WE ALL HAVE
STORIES. LISTEN TO MINE.

I REMEMBER COMING HOME FROM CAMP... SO EAGER.



FEELING LIKE I HAD THE WORLD AT MY FINGERTIPS...

READY TO CONQUER THE WORLD! I WAS SO READY.

AND IT WAS SO EASY. MY FIRST MAJOR INTERVIEW...

...WAS ALSO MY LAST.



THE PANEL WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH AND BY ME...

...I GOT THE JOB IMMEDIATELY. I WAS ON MY WAY. I KNEW I WAS GOOD, BUT I NEVER LET IT GET INTO MY HEAD.



AT NO TIME IN MY LIFE DID I FEEL A NEED TO PROVE SOMETHING TO ANYONE ASIDES FROM MYSELF.

I LOVED MY JOB.

AND THEN THE MONEY STARTED COMING IN...



AND THEN I BOUGHT THE FIRST CAR...
IT FELT LIKE A DREAM AT FIRST.

ME...DRIVING MY OWN CAR AT
TWENTY-EIGHT...

BOUGHT WITH MY OWN MONEY...
AND EVERY NAIRA OF IT LEGITIMATE.
INCREDIBLE, RIGHT?

THEN CAME THE HOUSE. YOU MAY NOT
BELIEVE THIS, BUT AT THAT TIME...

RM 33

...I WAS DETERMINED TO WORK HARDER
THAN BEFORE. IT WAS NOT LIKE I HAD COME
FROM AN IMPOVERISHED BACKGROUND.
IN FACT, GROWING UP FOR ME WAS
RELATIVELY...FUN.

MAYBE I WANTED TO HAVE MORE. SO I KEPT
WORKING AS HARD. BUT NO FUN. OR AT
LEAST NO FUN UNTIL...

BEST EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!
NA WA O.
YOU WAN SLEEP HERE?

...JIDE.



I JUST NEED TO BALANCE THIS LAST SET OF FIGURES...

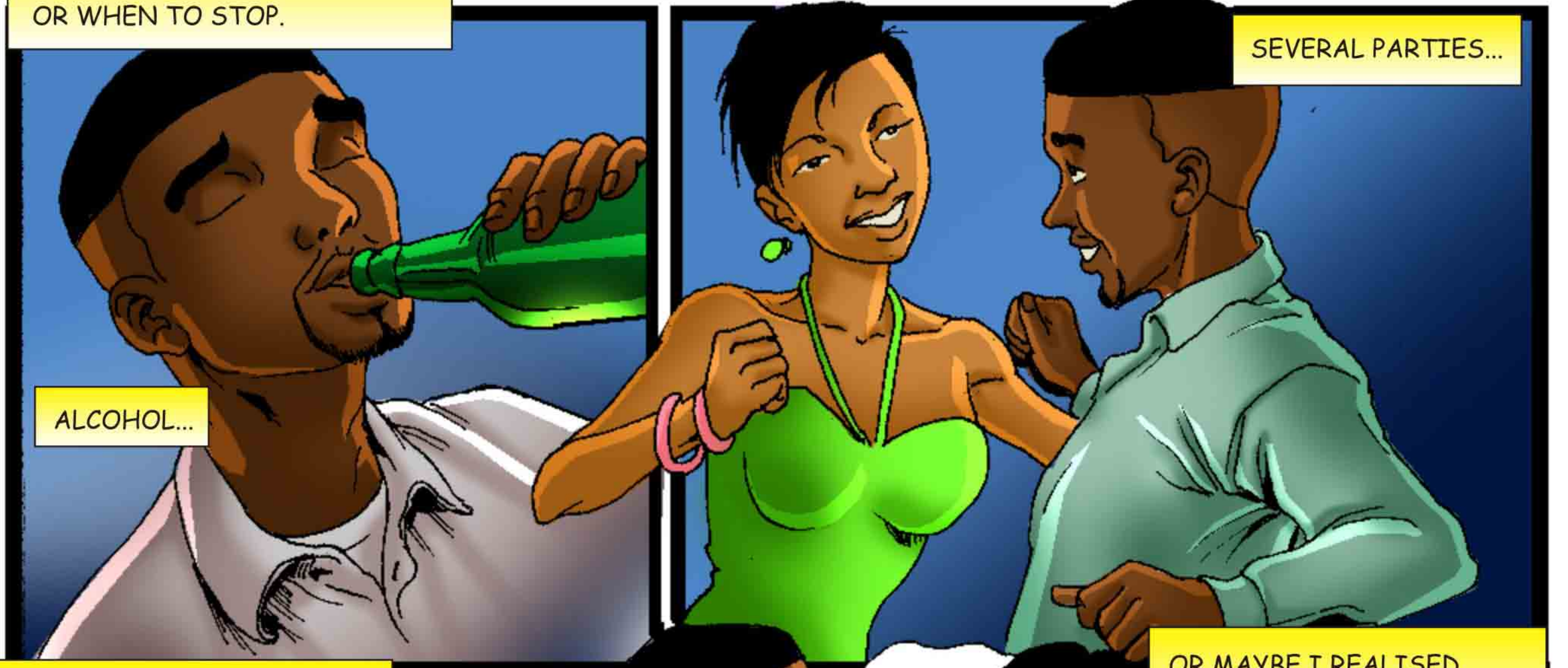
DO YOU EVEN RELAX? WE GOING CLUBBING, MAN. COME ALONG.

MAYBE NEXT T...

COME ON. JUST THIS ONCE. IT'S FRIDAY!

BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHERE... OR WHEN TO STOP.

"LIVE NOW" ...RIGHT? THAT WAS ALL I WANTED TO DO.



ALCOHOL...

SEVERAL PARTIES...

AND GIRLS...IT WAS AS IF I JUST DISCOVERED THEM.

OR MAYBE I REALISED THEY LIKED A GUY LIKE ME.



WHATEVER THE REASON WAS...

THEY COULD NOT HAVE ENOUGH OF ME. AND ME? I WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

THEN CAME THIS INVITE TO THIS PARTY...

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECT. IF NOT FOR THIS GIRL WHO WAS HANDING OUT TRACTS.



AT A PARTY?! WHAT SORT OF GIRL WENT TO A PARTY TO SHARE TRACTS?!?

I WAS FEELING OBNOXIOUS. BRACING MYSELF TO GIVE HER A PIECE OF MY MIND...

I TURNED AROUND... AND THERE SHE WAS. 'THE GIRL.'



BEFORE I HAD EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT, MY FEET HAD STARTED MOVING ME IN HER DIRECTION.

HA! PLAYER'S WAY, YOU SAY? WELL...

OH!

MAYBE...

BUT THEN...I LOOKED CLOSER... AND IT WAS SOMEONE I HAD KNOWN BACK IN SCHOOL...



SUDDENLY I BUMPED INTO SOMEONE... IT WAS THE 'TRACT' GIRL.



SORRY...I'M SORRY... DO I KNOW... LARA?!?

SOMEONE I HAD BEEN CLOSE TO, ACTUALLY.

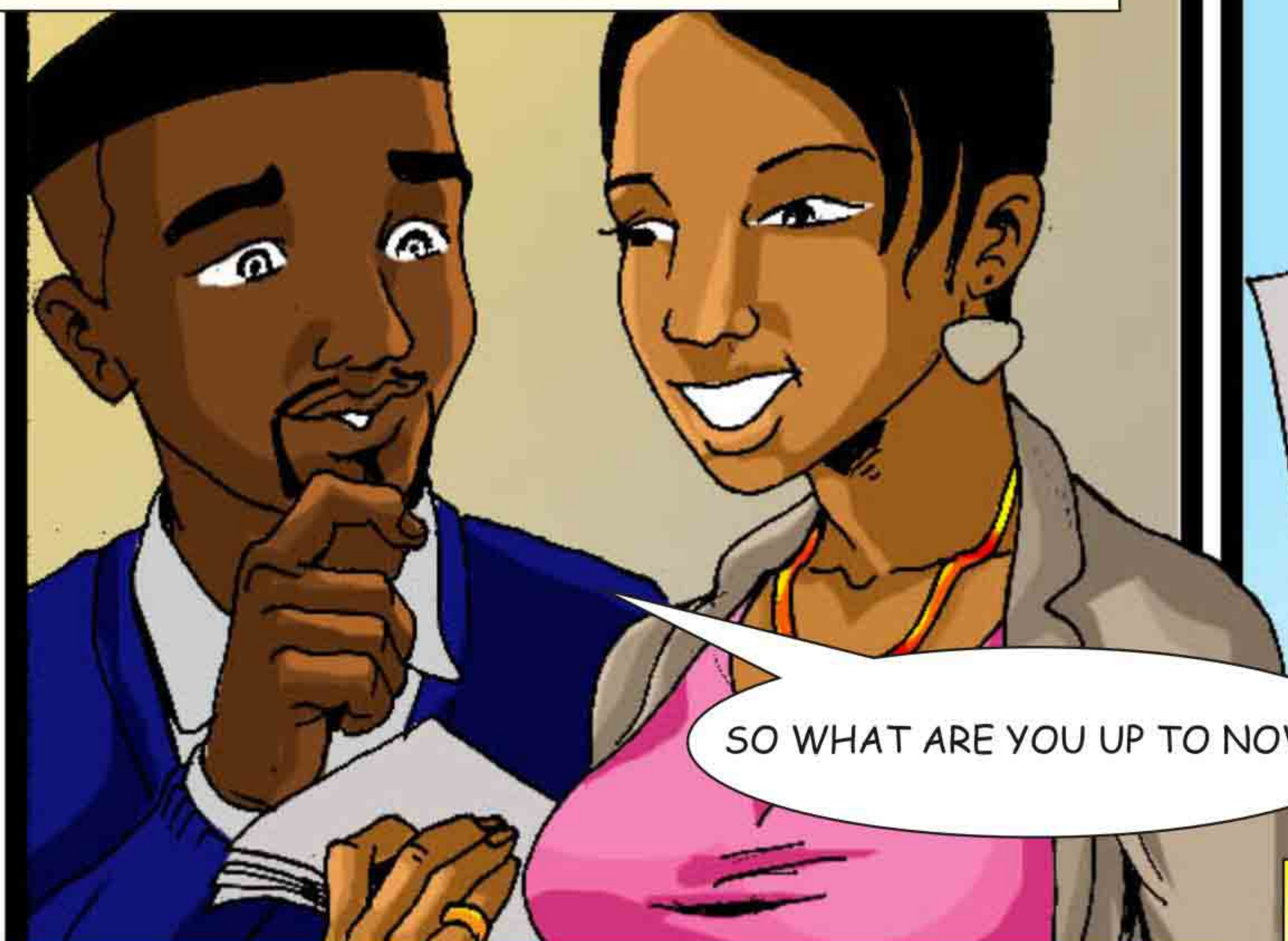
FRANK?!

WELL. WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

SMALL WORLD.

WE USED TO CALL HER 'STRAIGHT LARI' BACK THEN, BECAUSE SHE WAS SO PRIM AND PROPER. SO MANY 'RULES'.

A GIRL LIKE THAT-YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE BORING. YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN SO WRONG.



SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW..?



...WHEN SHE PULLS OUT ONE OF THE THINGS I THOUGHT WERE TRACTS THEY WERE MUCH WORSE.

ANYWAY, SO THERE WE WERE, CATCHING UP ON OLD TIMES..

'NO TO AIDS'?!'



NO WAY.

I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED.

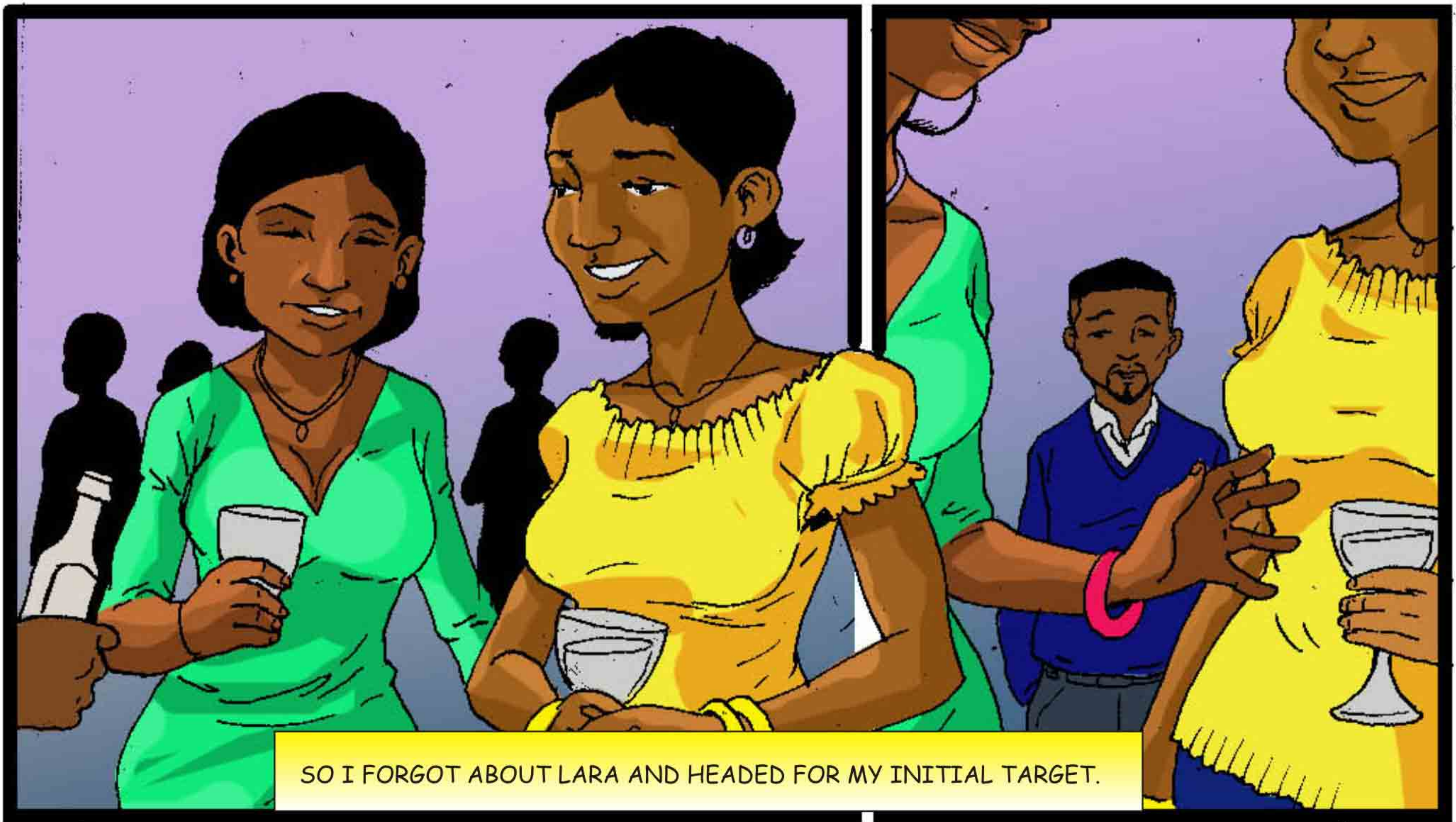


I KNOW. ITS TOO LATE AND ALL THAT. I JUST WISH...



I TURNED IT DOWN AND WALKED AWAY.

I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN.



SO I FORGOT ABOUT LARA AND HEADED FOR MY INITIAL TARGET.



I WAS; MAYBE FIVE OR SIX STEPS AWAY FROM HER WHEN SHE TURNED TOWARDS ME.

HEY.
CAN I CHECK YOU OUT SOME MORE,
BUT THIS TIME UP CLOSE?

HER EYES WERE SO ARRESTING...SO INTENSE, I JUST SAID THE FIRST THING THAT CAME TO MIND...



WHAT'S THE MATTER PLAYER...
THE BABE GIVING YOU A HARD TIME?



HAHAHA...

WELL...I GUESS YOU CAN SAY THAT.

HER NAME WAS BONIKE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE...
I SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT WITH THE SAME WOMAN.



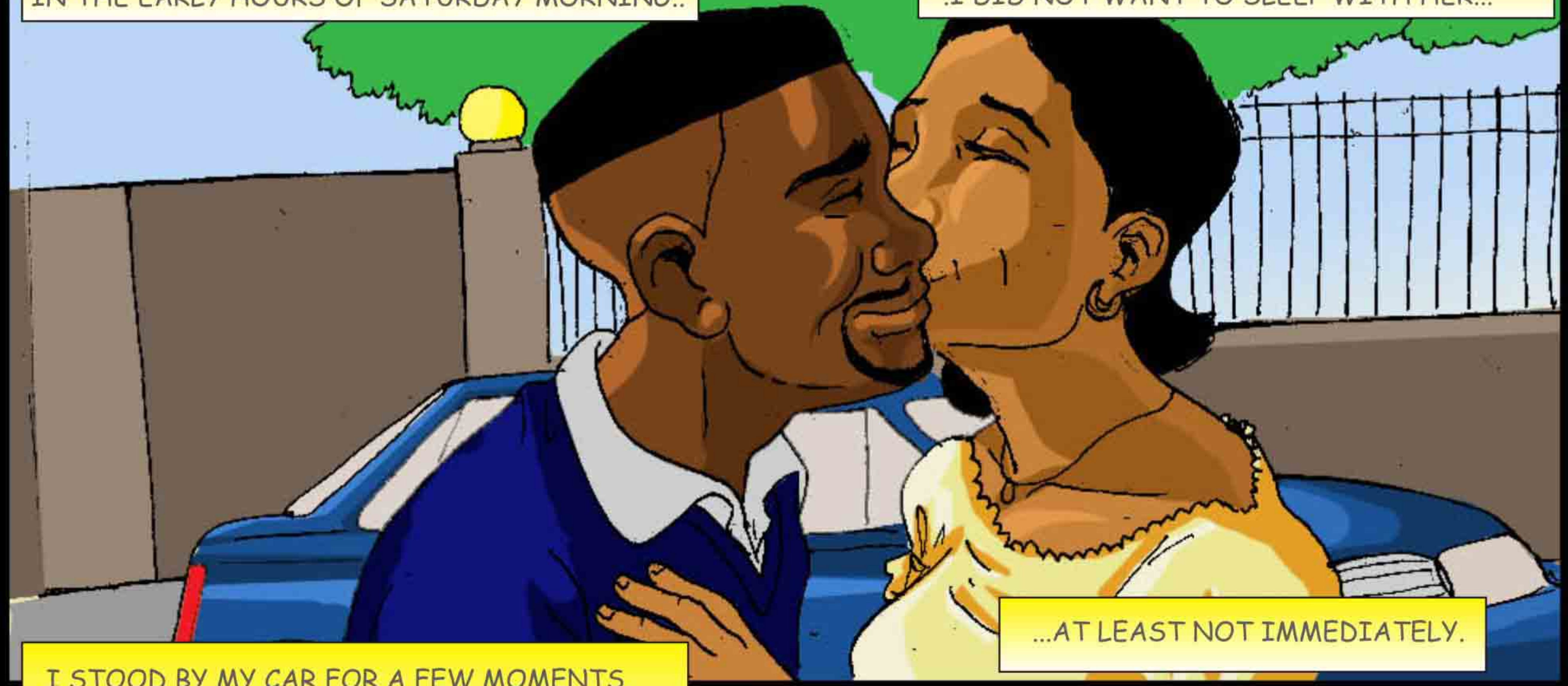
TALKING...

DANCING...

I DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE HER.
AND SHE OBVIOUSLY FELT THE SAME WAY.

WHEN I EVENTUALLY DROPPED HER OFF...
IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SATURDAY MORNING..

...I FELT SOMETHING I'D RARELY EVER FELT
.I DID NOT WANT TO SLEEP WITH HER...



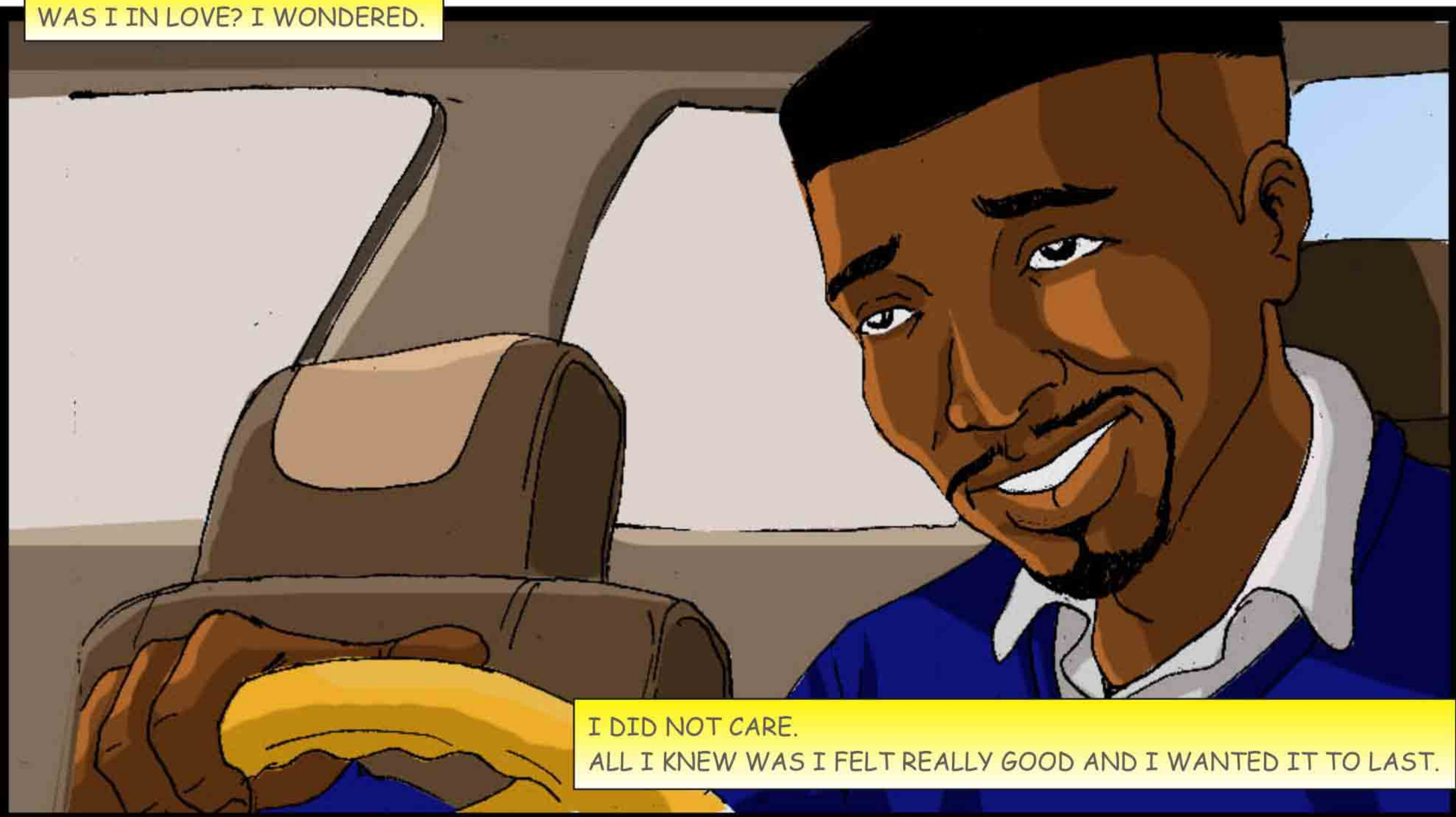
...AT LEAST NOT IMMEDIATELY.

I STOOD BY MY CAR FOR A FEW MOMENTS,
WATCHING HER DISAPPEAR INTO HER HOUSE.
I ALMOST CALLED HER BACK.



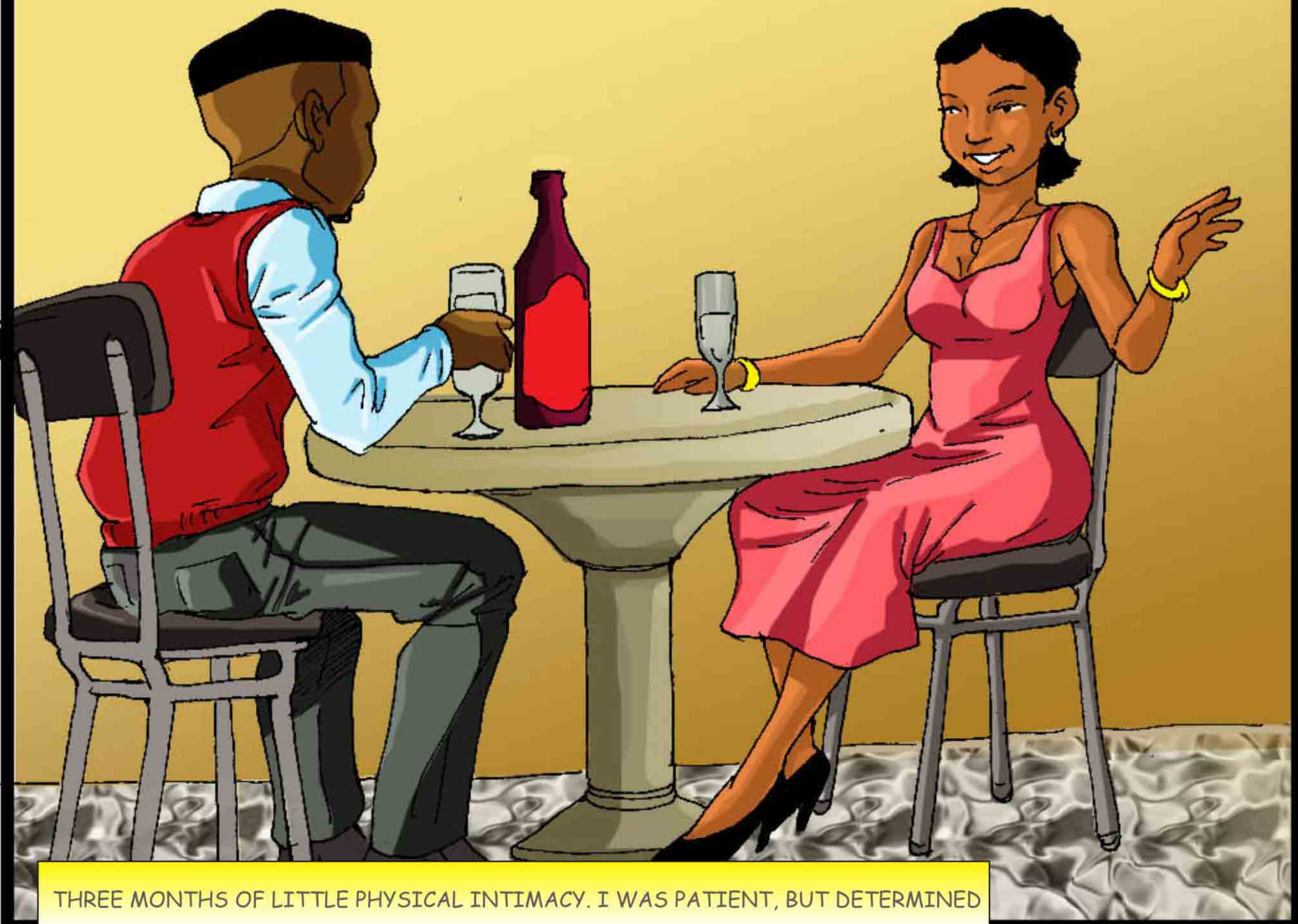
I DID NOT ANYWAY.

WAS I IN LOVE? I WONDERED.



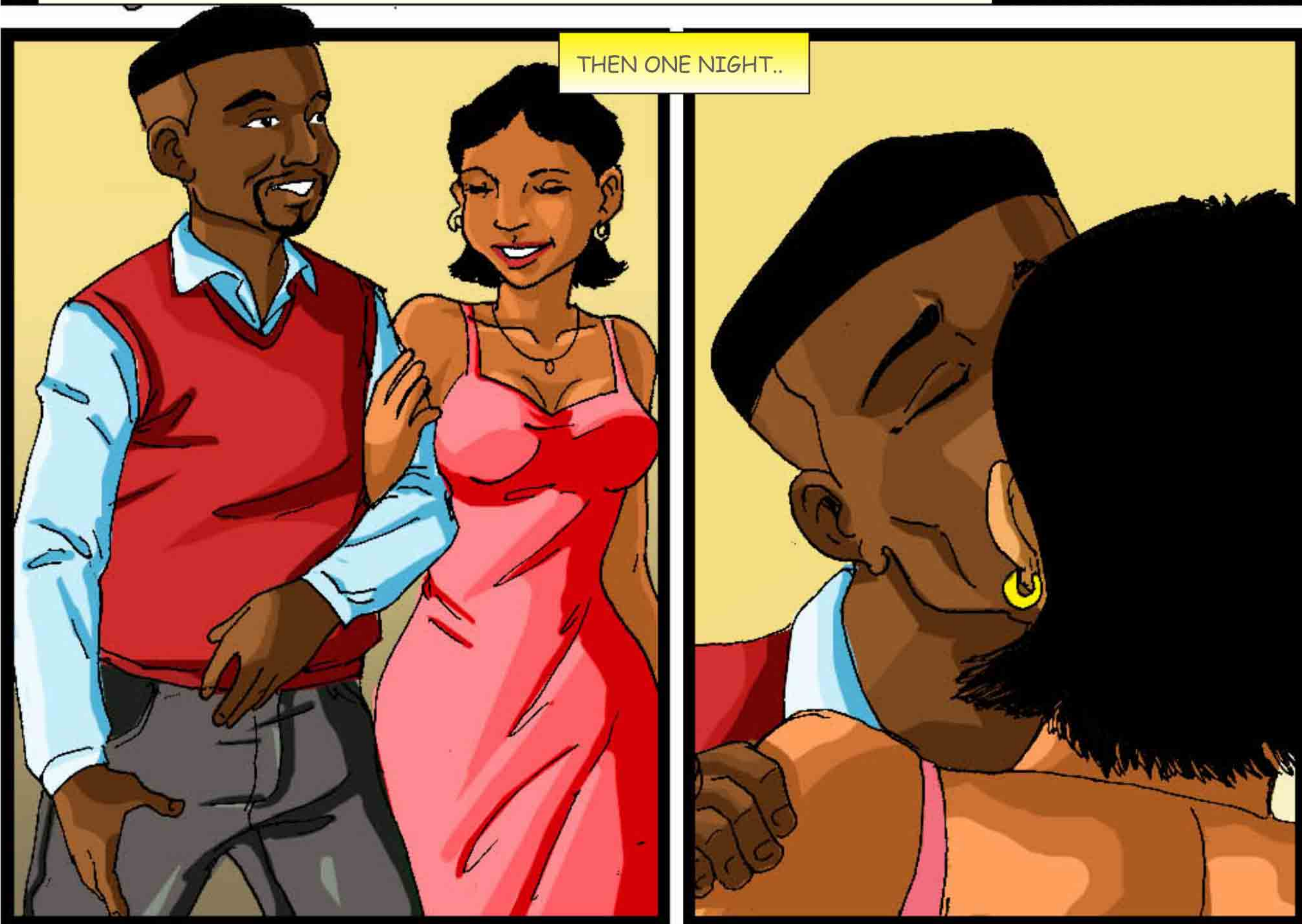
I DID NOT CARE.
ALL I KNEW WAS I FELT REALLY GOOD AND I WANTED IT TO LAST.

I SAW HER A LOT OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS.



THREE MONTHS OF LITTLE PHYSICAL INTIMACY. I WAS PATIENT, BUT DETERMINED

THEN ONE NIGHT..



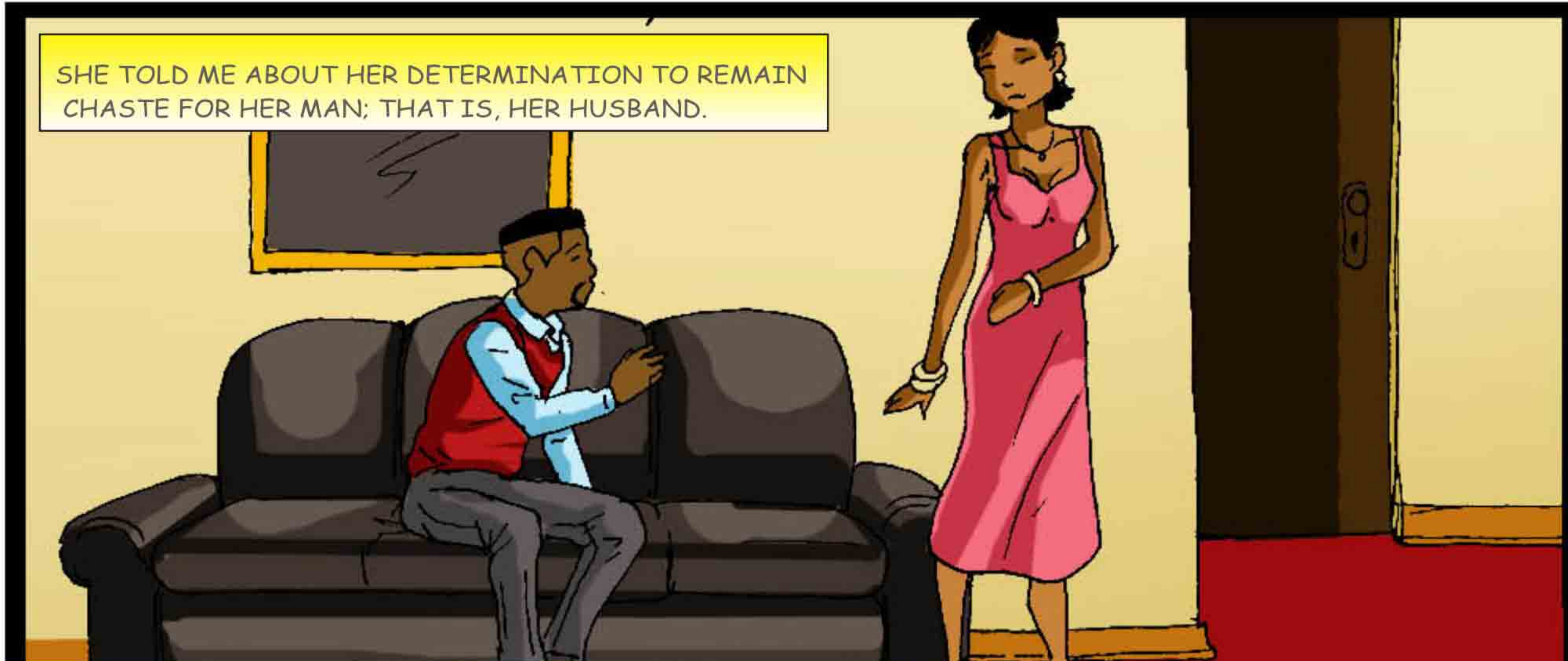
...SHE SUDDENLY PUSHED ME AWAY. I WAS SHOCKED. I WAS HURT, ANGRY AND INDIGNANT.

BUT STILL, I WANTED TO KNOW.



WHY?

SHE TOLD ME ABOUT HER DETERMINATION TO REMAIN CHASTE FOR HER MAN; THAT IS, HER HUSBAND.



SHE TOLD ME SHE LIKED ME AND ALL THAT, BUT...BUT AT THAT POINT I'D STOPPED LISTENING. CHASTE FOR WHO?! HUSBAND?!?

IT SOUNDED TO ME LIKE A BAD JOKE.

I ASKED HER IF SHE KNEW WHO SHE WAS KEEPING CHASTE FOR.

I ASKED HER IF SHE KNEW WHAT THE GUY WAS DOING WITH HIMSELF AT THE MOMENT.



THAT MADE ME EVEN MADDER.

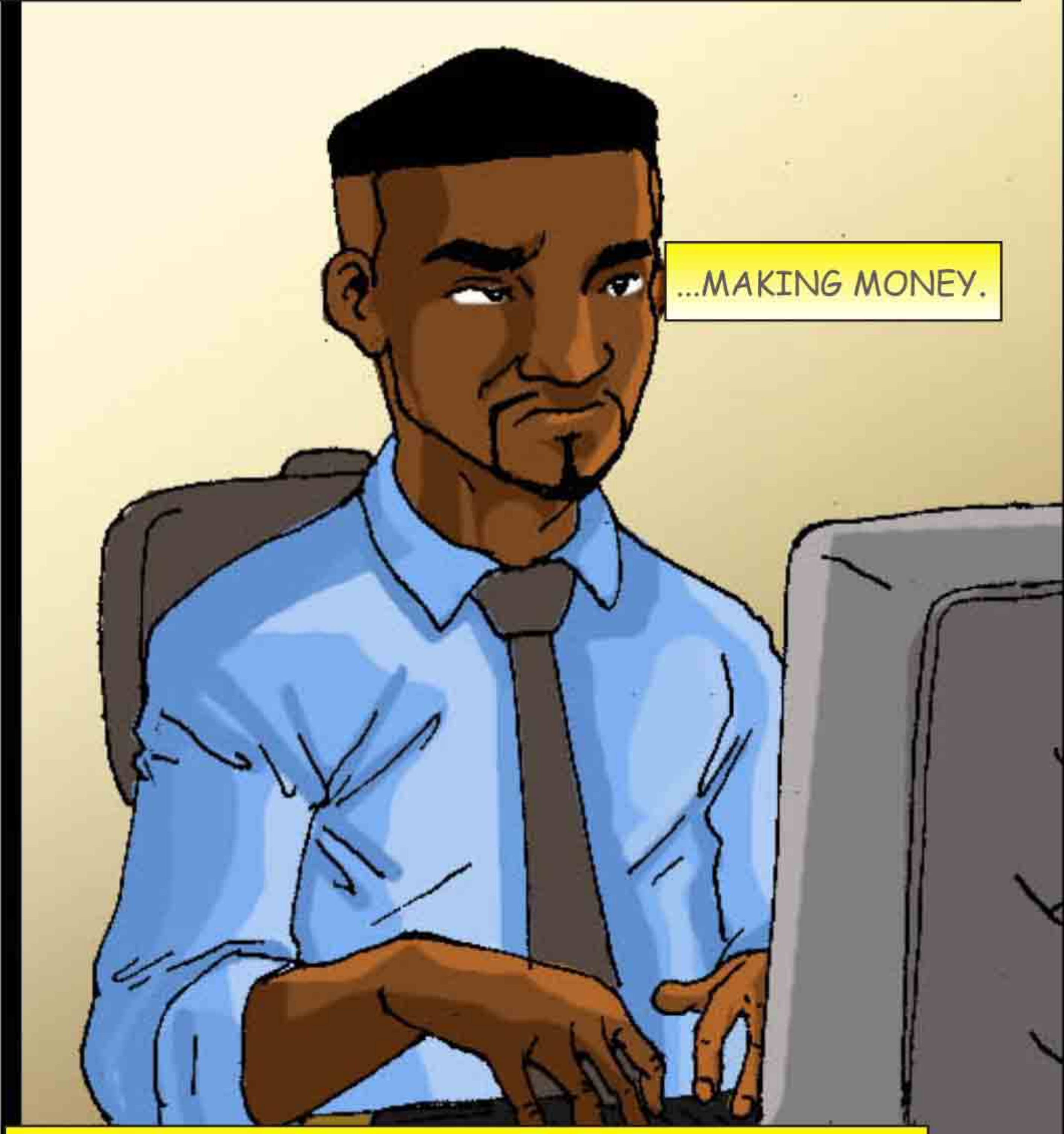
SHE SAID IT DID NOT MATTER.

I STORMED OFF, TELLING HER TO CALL ME WHEN SHE GREW UP.

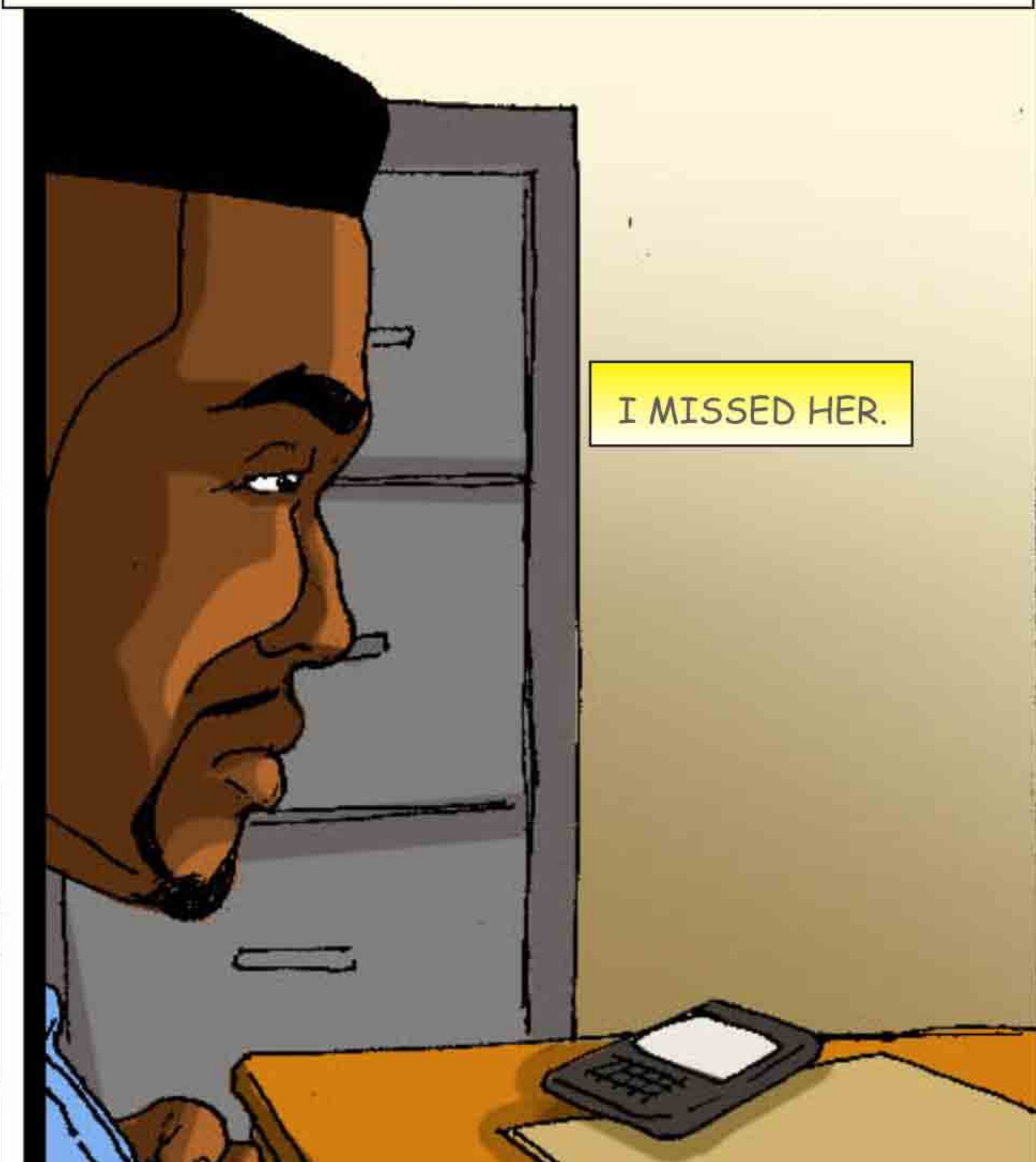
SHE PLEADED WITH ME TO STAY. I DID NOT CARE. I LEFT.

I THREW MYSELF BACK INTO MY WORK WITH NEW PASSION... THINKING THE FRUSTRATION I FELT WAS AS A RESULT OF ME ALLOWING HER DISTRACT ME FROM MY LIFE'S MISSION...

BUT IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN THERE BEFORE.. .YOU WOULD KNOW THAT KIND OF SELF-DECEPTION COULD ONLY LAST FOR SO LONG.



...MAKING MONEY.



I MISSED HER.

MY HEARTBEAT BECAME FRANTIC. WHY WOULD SHE WANT TO PICK THE PHONE ANYWAY?

SUDDENLY, I COULD NOT DIAL HER NUMBER FAST ENOUGH.



BUT SHE DID.

HELLO, NIKE?

HER HAPPY LAUGHTER WAS ALL I NEEDED. SHE HAD MISSED ME TOO.

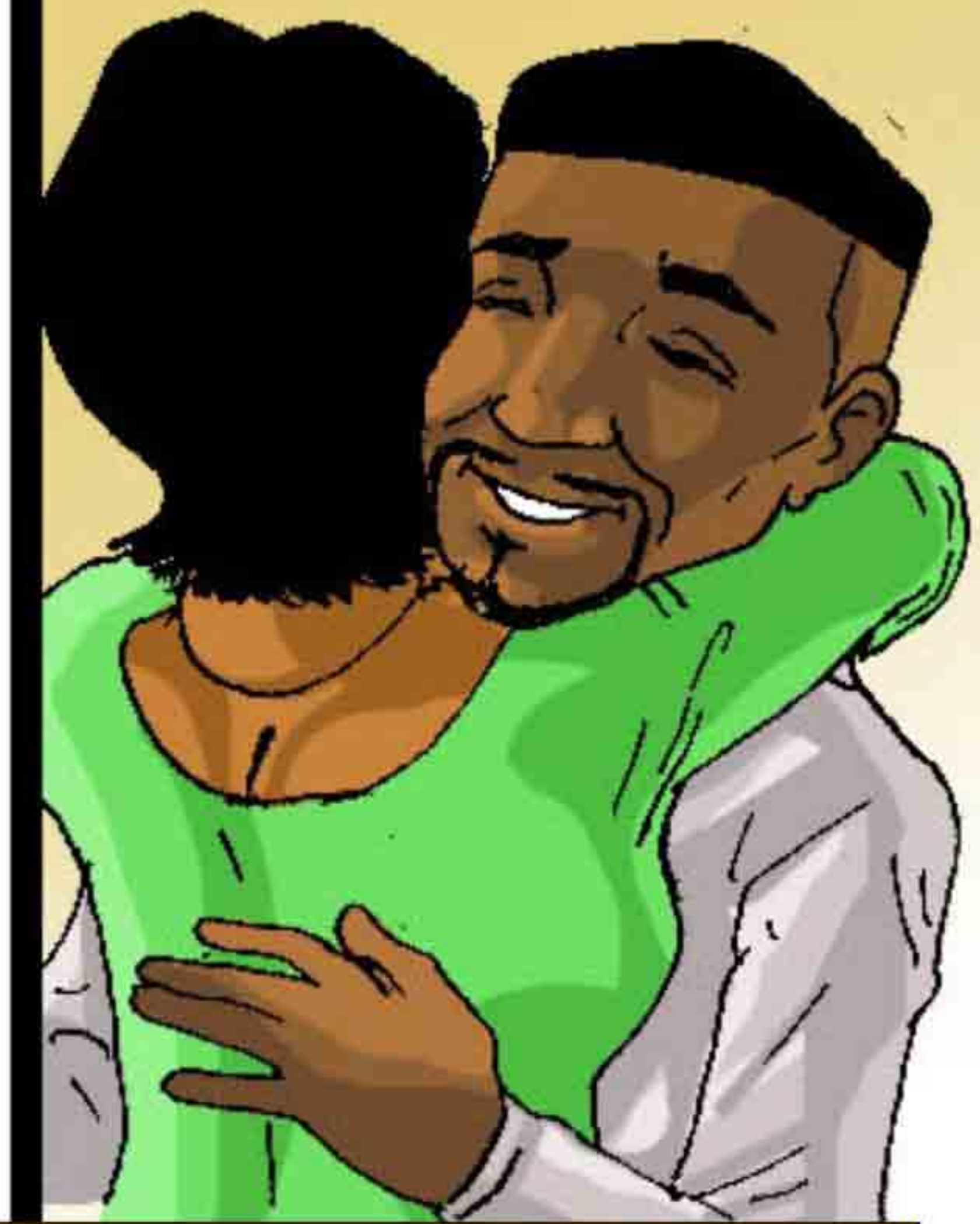
BY THE TIME WE MET AGAIN, AT ABOUT 7:15 THAT NIGHT, I HAD MADE UP MY MIND. I KNEW WHAT I WANTED, WHAT I NEEDED TO HAVE.



WHAT I NEEDED TO DO, SO THAT WHAT HAPPENED WOULD NOT REPEAT ITSELF.

AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF MEETING AND KNOWING BONIKE..
...I DECIDED TO MAKE HER MY WIFE..

AND I WAS RIGHT.



SHE WAS INCREDIBLY HAPPY. I WAS TOO.
I THOUGHT I WAS SET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

THE ONLY THING I DID NOT KNOW...

...WAS THAT 'THE REST OF MY LIFE' WAS
ONLY ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AWAY.



TWO MONTHS LATER, TWO MONTHS DURING WHICH
BONIKE AND I HAD DONE SOME RUNNING AROUND
FOR THE TYPE OF WEDDING I WANTED...

I WAS FEELING WEAK, EXHAUSTED AND DEHYDRATED
.I THOUGHT IT WAS A MERE FEVER.



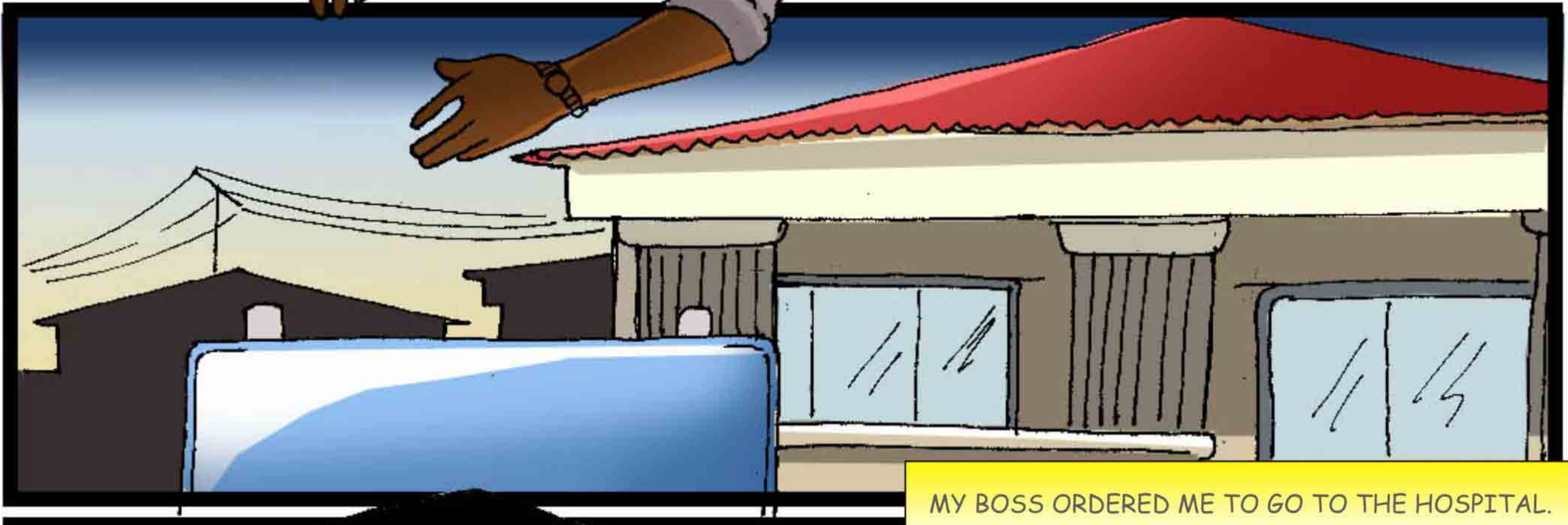
IT GOT STEADILY WORSE UNTIL...

BUT I NEEDED TO WORK MORE, NOW MORE THAN EVER,
SO I TOOK A FEW PILLS AND IGNORED IT.

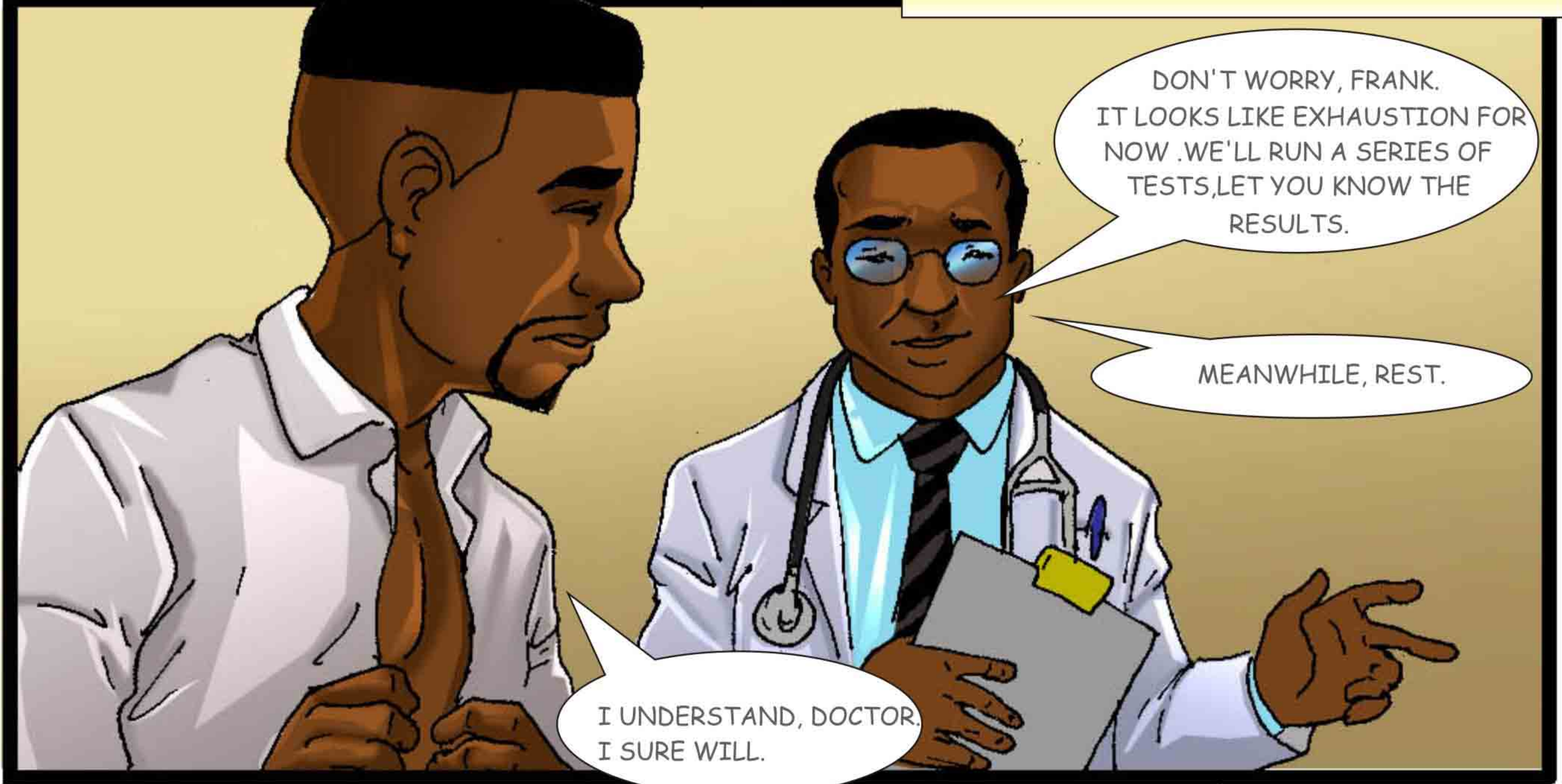


...UNTIL...

I COLLAPSED.



MY BOSS ORDERED ME TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.



DON'T WORRY, FRANK. IT LOOKS LIKE EXHAUSTION FOR NOW. WE'LL RUN A SERIES OF TESTS, LET YOU KNOW THE RESULTS.

MEANWHILE, REST.

I UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR. I SURE WILL.

I WAS GIVEN SOME TIME OFF WORK. BONIKE WAS REALLY HAPPY.



I THINK...NO; THAT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN THE WHOLE THING. THINKING BACK NOW, I REALISE I WAS JUST ALLOWED THAT TIME TO SAY GOODBYE TO HER.

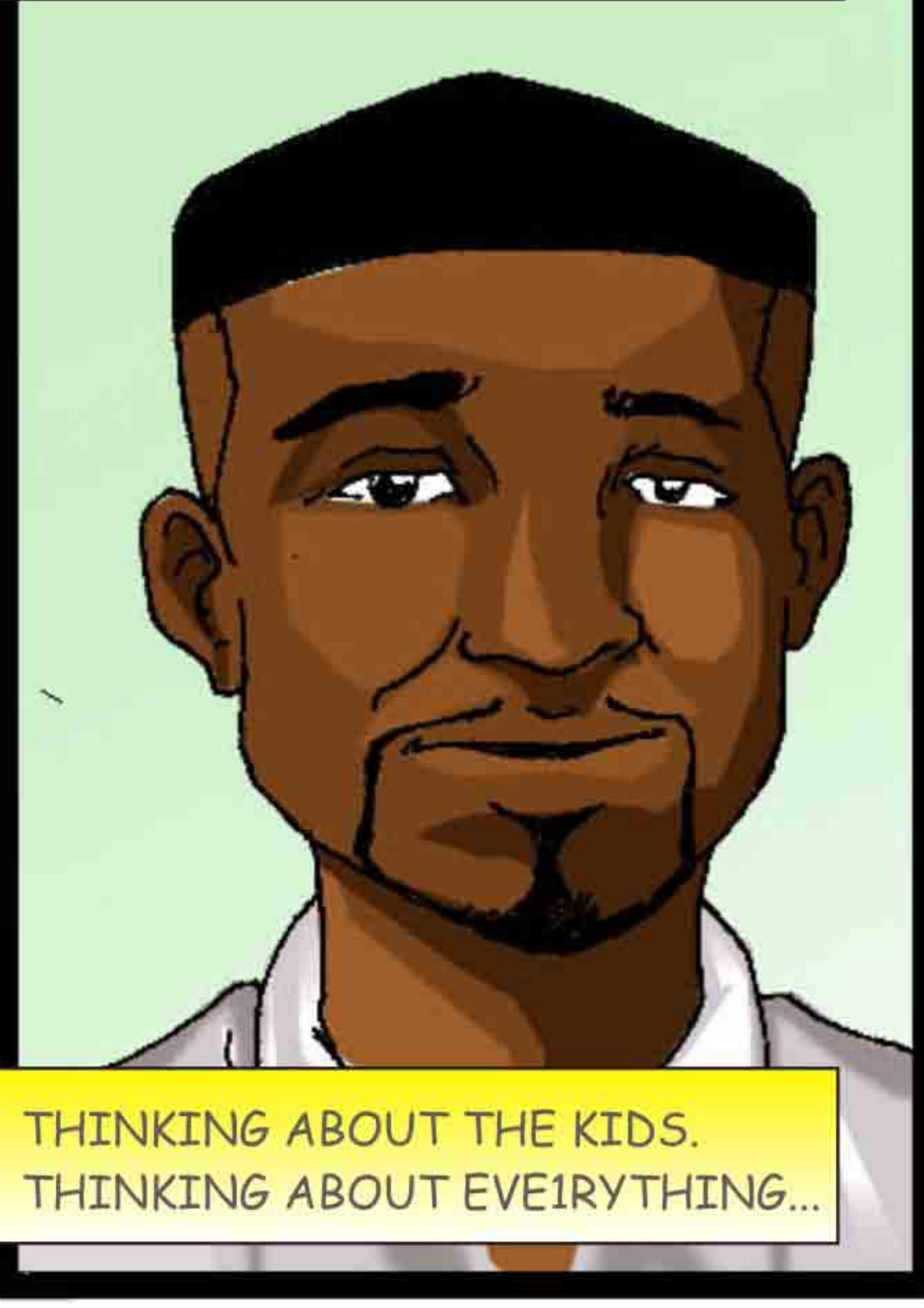
BONIKE. MY ONE TRUE LOVE.

THINKING ABOUT THE KIND OF LIFE WE WOULD HAVE TOGETHER.

A FEW DAYS LATER, I WAS CALLED TO THE HOSPITAL. THE RESULTS WERE OUT.



I SAT IN THE RECEPTION, THINKING ABOUT MY FORTHCOMING WEDDING.

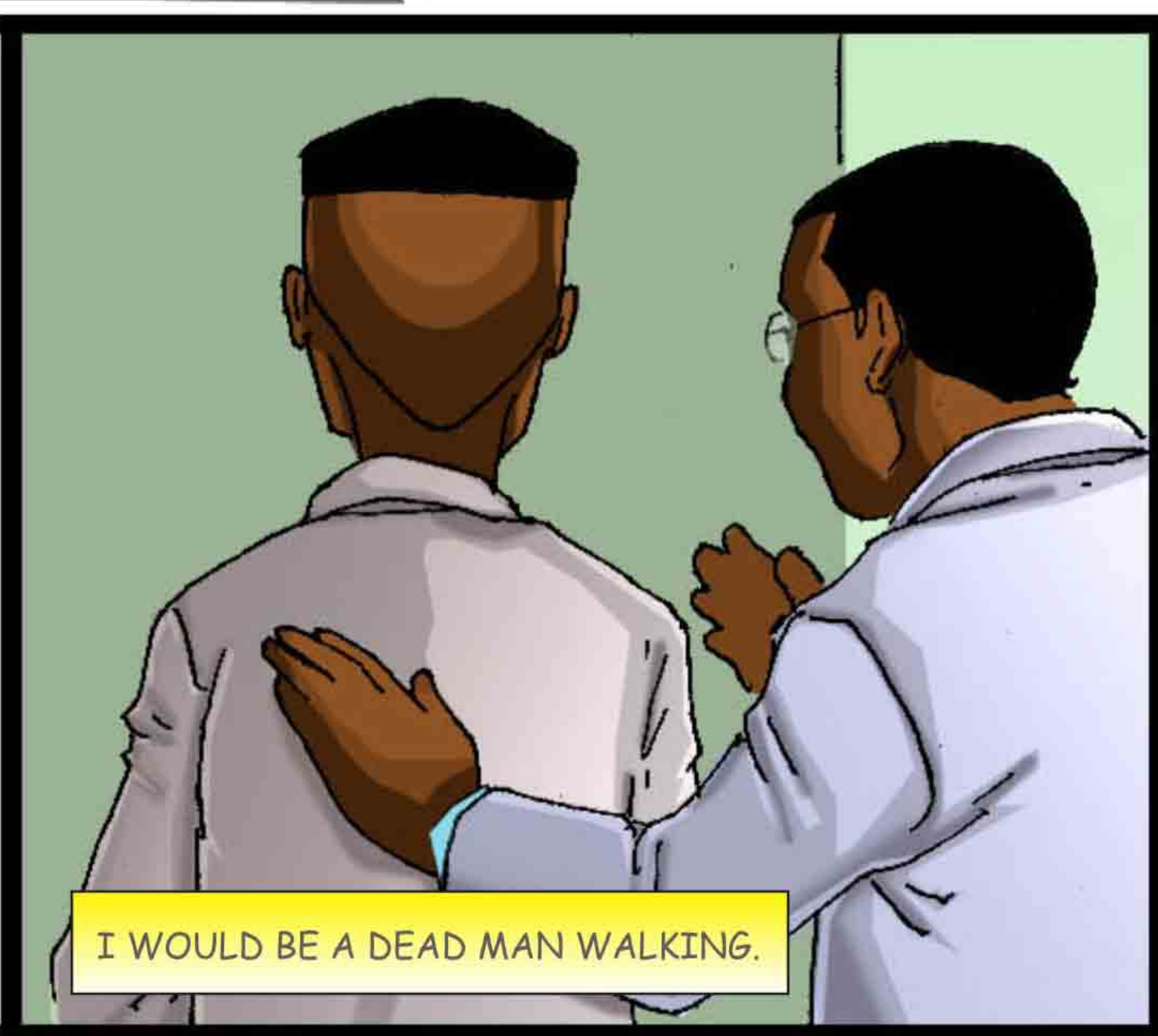


THINKING ABOUT THE KIDS. THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING...

...BUT THAT IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES..



...IN LESS THAN TWO SMALL MINUTES...



I WOULD BE A DEAD MAN WALKING.