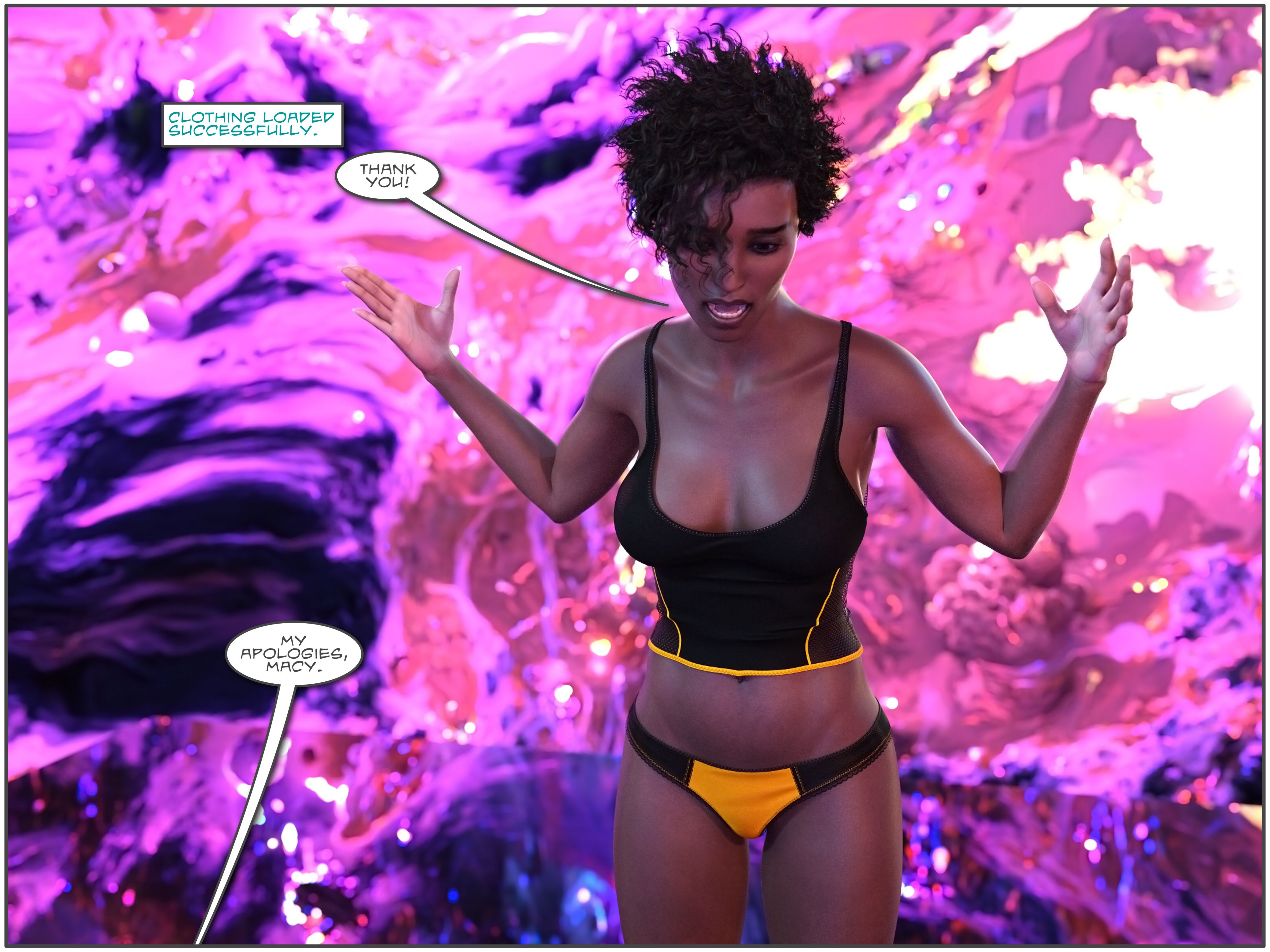


CLOTHING LOADED
SUCCESSFULLY.

THANK
YOU!

MY
APOLOGIES,
MACY.





JUST WHAT
KIND OF SERVER
IS THIS, SIR!?

IT'S
COMPLICATED.

WELL, IF YOU
DON'T MIND MY
CANDOR...

...PLEASE
UNCOMPLICATE
IT.

I PROMISE
I WILL...



...BUT
FIRST, I
HAVE TO GET
USED TO YOU
WITH *HAIR*,
MACY.

HUH?

I'VE
ONLY EVER
SEEN YOU
CLEAN-
SHAVEN.



GASP

MY
HAIR!

YOU SEEM
SURPRISED.

I... I GUESS I
HAVEN'T BEEN ON
TRANSNET SINCE I
SHAVED IT.

MAY I
ASK WHY
YOU CUT IT
OFF?



I JUST...
NEEDED A NEW
LOOK.

YOU CAN
HAVE ARIEL
TAKE IT IF YOU
WANT.

ARIEL,
PLEASE REMOVE
HAIR... FROM
HEAD?

HAIR REMOVED
SUCCESSFULLY.

ARE YOU
OKAY,
OFFICER?

I...
AHEM





WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS?

YOU SEEM LIKE A VERY OPEN-MINDED PERSON, MACY.

I'D LIKE TO THINK SO.

THEN I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU...



AND
PLEASE,
KEEP THAT
MIND OPEN,
OKAY?

I'LL DO
MY BEST,
SIR.

PLEASE,
CALL ME **TANK**,
OR RATHER...

ARIEL,
LOAD
TANDY.



WHAT
THE-

SIR!?

THIS IS
WHAT I
WANTED TO
TALK TO YOU
ABOUT,
MACY.






YOU! YOU TOO!?

LIKE I SAID, IT'S COMPLICATED.

I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A MAN LIKE YOU WOULD-



DOCTOR
HORACE WAS
LOOKING FOR A
WAY TO HELP MEN
WHO WERE DUPED
BY POISON AND
THEIR MEN.

I VOLUNTEERED
TO HELP AFTER BREAKING
UP A BAD NETHOUSE ON
THIRD.

I TOOK ON
THIS FORM IN
THE HOPES OF
HELPING HILLARY
FIND A WAY TO
CURE THE
ADDICTION-

BUT SHE
COULDN'T,
AND...

A close-up shot of a bald woman with a neutral expression, looking directly at the camera. Her eyes are a striking, glowing blue with a fiery, multi-colored pattern inside. She has dark, well-defined eyebrows and is wearing a black, textured halter top. The background is a vibrant, out-of-focus scene of neon lights in shades of purple, pink, and blue, creating a bokeh effect. Three comic book-style speech bubbles are overlaid on the left side of the image. The top bubble contains the text "...NOW YOU'RE ADDICTED JUST LIKE THEY ARE.", the middle bubble says "YES.", and the bottom bubble asks "WHO ELSE KNOWS ABOUT THIS?".

...NOW
YOU'RE
ADDICTED
JUST LIKE
THEY
ARE.

YES.

WHO
ELSE
KNOWS
ABOUT
THIS?



YOU,
HILLARY...

...AND AN
OFFICER WHO
SHALL REMAIN
NAMELESS.

THAT'S
IT? NOT
EVEN
THE-

THE *CAPTAIN*
FEELS THE SAME
AS GORAN AND
MANY OTHERS,
SO...

MY
GOD.

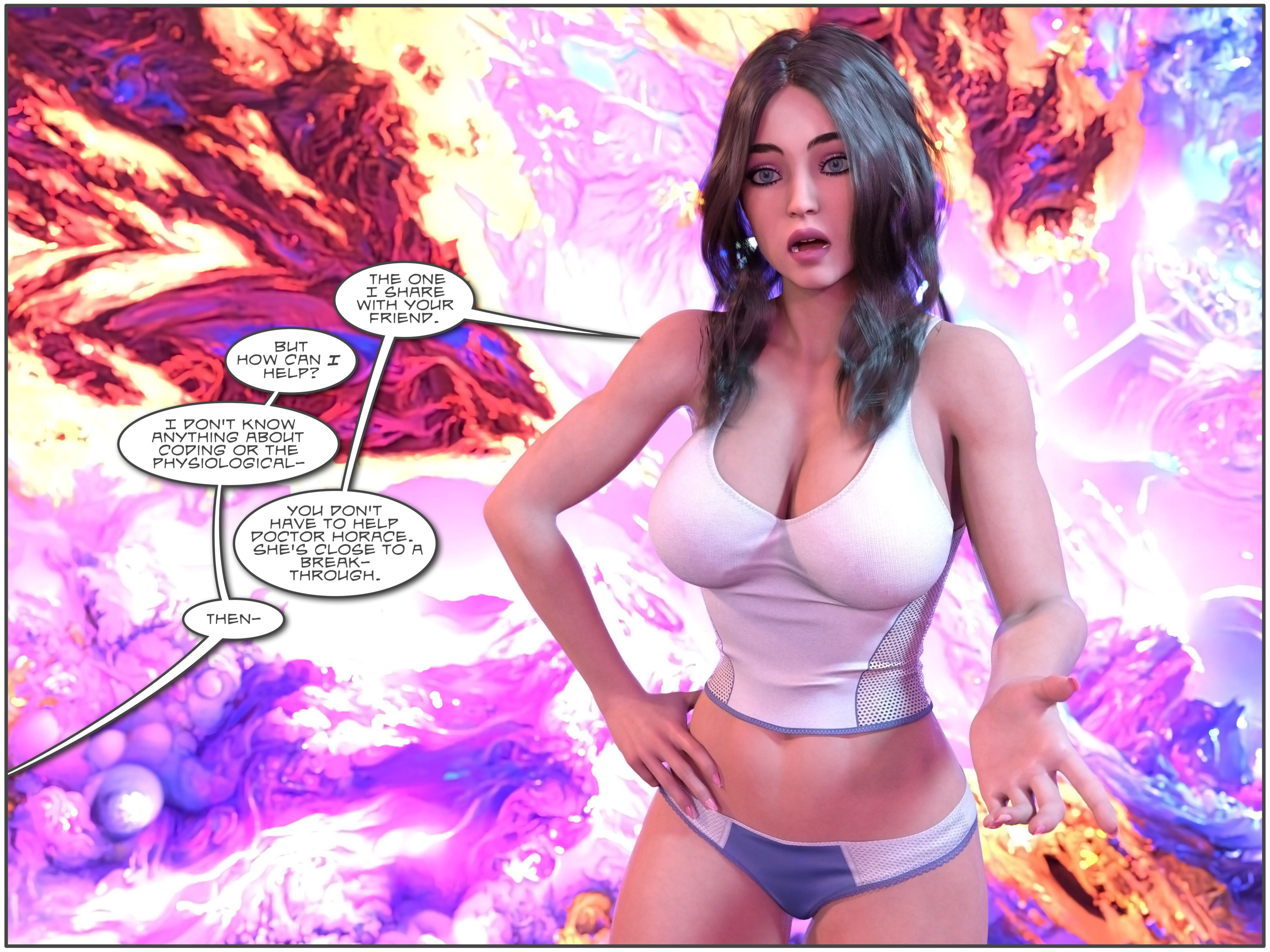


WHY
TELL ME,
SIR?

I JUST
JOINED THE
EIGHT-NINE-

BECAUSE WE
FAILED ONCE, BUT
THAT *DOESN'T* MEAN
WE STOPPED
TRYING.

WE'LL
FIGURE OUT HOW
TO CURE THIS
ADDICTION...



THE ONE
I SHARE
WITH YOUR
FRIEND.

BUT
HOW CAN I
HELP?

I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
CODING OR THE
PHYSIOLOGICAL-

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO HELP
DOCTOR HORACE.
SHE'S CLOSE TO A
BREAK-
THROUGH.

THEN-



I NEED THE HELP.

I NEED SOMEONE TO HELP ME COPE WITH THIS ADDICTION, MACY.

YOU MEAN-

THE OFFICER HELPING ME NEEDED TO MOVE TO THE SOUTH...

...AND HILLARY SAID IT WAS TOO RISKY TO DO THIS OUTSIDE OUR PRIVATE NETWORK.



SIR, I'M A
WOMAN!

AND,
I'M...

DOCTOR HORACE
DISCOVERED CODE
THAT ALLOWS WOMEN TO
BECOME MEN ON THE
NET...

...WITHOUT
DEVELOPING THE
SAME ADDICTION MEN
WOULD BY BECOMING
WOMEN.



I CAN'T-

IT'S NOT JUST *SEX*, MACY.

THE DATA WILL HELP HER CRACK THE CODE FOR MEN.

FREEING YOUR FRIEND AND ME.

AND YOUR RECORD SHOWS YOU'RE *SINGLE*, SO UNLESS YOU'RE DATING-



HE'S MY
HUSBAND,
SIR.

I LIED. MY
HUSBAND IS THE
ONE WHO'S
ADDICTED.

WHAT?

OH,
MACY...



YOUR FILE
SHOWS-

MY FORMER
CAPTAIN SAID IT
WOULD BE BEST TO
DISSOLVE THE
MARRIAGE TO SAVE
MY CAREER.

I CAN'T HELP
HIM IF I DON'T
HAVE A JOB AND
PEOPLE-

ARE THE
FUCKING
WORST. I
KNOW.

SO WE
MOVED OUT
HERE TO START A
NEW LIFE, HOPING
TO BREAK HIS
ADDICTION.



IT'S THE REASON I CUT MY HAIR.

SO... YOU WOULD LOOK MORE MASCULINE?

THAT WAS MY HOPE, BUT IT DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

HE *NEEDS* INTERCOURSE ON TRANSNET, OR HE-

TRUST ME. I KNOW.



AND WE
CAN END
THINGS
HERE.

I TRUST YOU
TO KEEP MY
SECRET, AND I'LL
CERTAINLY KEEP
YOU IN THE LOOP
IF-

WERE YOU
SERIOUS?

YES, I
TRUST YOU
TO-

NO, IS
DOCTOR
HORACE
REALLY CLOSE
TO A BREAK-
THROUGH?



I PROBABLY
KNOW *LESS*
ABOUT COPING
THAN YOU...

...BUT I
TRUST HILLARY
HORACE WITH MY
LIFE.

AND
SHE SAYS
SHE'S
CLOSE,
SO-

AND IF I
WERE TO...
HELP YOU IN
HERE, IT WOULD
ALSO HELP MY
HUSBAND?

THAT'S
OUR HOPE,
BUT-



I'LL DO IT!
GIVE ME THE
BODY, AND I'LL
DO WHAT I
CAN!

BUT
YOU'RE-

I'M DOING
THIS FOR HIM...
AND YOU.

NO ONE
SHOULD SUFFER
LIKE HIM.

TO BE CONTINUED...