

# DEFIANT GROWTH

## CHAPTER 2

STORY BY ROBOLOORD



**CLINK!**

**CHEERS!**



TO US!

FOR BEING SO  
AMAZING THAT WE  
BROKE THEIR ENTIRE  
PLANNING!

AND THAT  
WE'LL SOON BE  
ABSOLUTE SUPER  
SOLDIERS!

CHEERS!



BOTTOMS  
UP!




BLECH! THAT  
TASTES HORRIBLE!  
WHY WOULD YOU  
DRINK THIS?!

TOLD YOU  
SHE WOULDN'T  
LIKE IT!

A 3D-rendered scene of three women sitting on a pink leather booth in a diner. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a red bikini top and high heels. The woman in the middle has long brown hair and is wearing a striped sailor-style dress and black boots. The woman on the right has short dark hair and is wearing a black high-cut bodysuit and black boots. They are sitting at a wooden table with several glasses and a white container. The background features a brick wall with small square openings and modern pendant lights.

WELL I'M NOT  
DRINKING IT FOR  
THE TASTE!


SCOOT OVER  
MACY, I'M GETTING  
SOMETHING  
ELSE!



YOU'RE STILL  
DRINKING RIGHT MACY? I'D  
JUST LOVE TO FIND OUT IF  
YOU GET EVEN MORE  
SERIOUS WHEN YOU'RE  
DRUNK!

TSS..





THERE'S ONLY ONE  
WAY TO FIND OUT ISN'T  
THERE? ENTIRELY  
DEPENDS ON WHETHER  
YOU CAN KEEP UP..

HUH?

OOH YOU'RE ON!




A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped dress, stands at a wooden bar. She is looking towards a bald bartender who is wearing a pink tank top with 'LOS ANGELES' printed on it. The bar is well-stocked with various bottles and glasses. In the background, another woman in a red dress is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit bar with warm lighting.

HEY, WHAT CAN I  
GET YOU?

COMING  
RIGHT UP!

A COCKTAIL--  
SOMETHING WITH  
LOTS OF FRUIT!



HEY YOU, CAN  
I BUY YOU A  
DRINK?

OOH UUH, NO  
THANKS.  
SORRY.

OOH COME ON!

HERE YOU GO!

THANK YOU!





AT LEAST  
COME SIT WITH  
ME!

NO SORRY, I'M  
HERE WITH SOME  
FRIENDS.

A 3D rendered scene of a bar. In the foreground, a wooden bar counter is visible with a dark glass on it. In the background, several people are standing. A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped tank top, is looking towards a man with dark hair wearing a dark blue t-shirt. A speech bubble above the man says "HEY DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME!". To the right, a woman with blonde hair is wearing a blue and black top. In the background, a man in a white and green vest is holding a purple drink. The setting is a dimly lit bar with a brick wall and a menu board on the wall.

HEY DON'T  
WALK AWAY  
FROM ME!



HUH?

STOP!





PLEASE  
DON'T TOUCH  
ME!

OOH COME  
ON!



OH COME ON,  
JUST A LITTLE  
KISS.

YOU'RE  
DRUNK!

OOH FOR  
REAL?



DON'T BE SUCH  
A BITCH!

HEY! YOU..

**DON'T TOUCH ME!**

**JESUS!**

**WHACK!**



A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue tank top, looking upwards and to the left with a surprised expression. A speech bubble is positioned above his head, containing the text "LUHMPPF!". The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a gym or a similar indoor setting with wooden paneling and a brick wall. The lighting is warm and focused on the man's face.

LUHMPPF!



OOH JEEZ!

YOU FREAKING  
DECKED HIM!

IS HE  
OKAY?!



HE.. HE'S FINE,  
HE'S JUST KNOCKED  
OUT!


I'LL JUST PUT  
HIM IN THE  
COUCH!

NEED ANY  
HELP?

HE'S NOT  
TOO HEAVY!








THAT'S QUITE A  
RIGHT HOOK YOU  
HAVE THOUGH  
NORAH!

I DIDN'T MEAN  
TO HIT HIM THAT  
HARD!

WELL HOW DID  
YOU LEARN TO  
THROW A PUNCH  
LIKE THAT?

A 3D-rendered scene of three women sitting on a pink leather booth in a bar. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a blue and white striped tank top with a graphic. The woman in the middle has long blonde hair and is wearing a red halter-neck top. The woman on the right has short black hair and is wearing a black high-cut, high-necked top. They are sitting at a light-colored wooden table with several glasses and a candle. The background features a brick wall and hanging pendant lights.

WELL I UUH.. I GREW  
UP WITH FIVE OLDER  
BROTHERS. AND THEY'RE REAL  
ROWDY GUYS! THEY'D ALWAYS  
FIGHT AND TEST EACH  
OTHER.

AND WHILE THEY  
ALWAYS STOOD UP FOR  
ME WHEN I NEEDED IT  
THEY TEASED ME A  
LOT!



SO MY DAD TOLD ME, IF ANYONE TOUCHES YOU WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION YOU PUNCH AS HARD AS YOU CAN!


THOUGH USUALLY WHEN I DID THAT TO MY BROTHERS THEY LAUGHED AND SHRUGGED IT OFF! I GUESS I COULDN'T REALLY HIT THAT HARD..

BUT I SUPPOSE I'M A LITTLE STRONGER NOW!



NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT IT ALWAYS WAS A LOT OF FUN WITH MY BROTHERS THOUGH.

I ACTUALLY SPENT SO MUCH TIME FIXING UP THEIR BRUISES AND CUTS! I THINK IT'S THE THING THAT MADE ME BECOME A NURSE!

A 3D-rendered scene of three women sitting on a pink leather booth in a bar. The woman on the left has long brown hair and wears a blue and white striped halter top with a nautical anchor design and black boots. The woman in the middle has long blonde hair and wears a red halter top. The woman on the right has short black hair and wears a black high-cut, high-necked bodysuit. They are all holding small glasses of blue liquid. On the table in front of them are several glasses, a purple drink with a lemon slice, and two white candles. The background features a brick wall with small square openings and hanging Edison-style light bulbs.

WELL CHEERS TO  
NORAH THEN! THE GIRL  
WHO WILL KNOCK YOU  
OUT COLD!

AND FIX YOU UP  
RIGHT AFTER!



HA!  
CHEERS!

AND SO THE GIRLS  
CONTINUED DRINKING!



AND EVEN MORE DRINKING..






AND LATER IN THE EVENING..


Y-YOU KNOW, LITTLE  
NORAH GIRLIE GIRL, I'M  
REALLY HAPPY YOU'RE HERE AS  
WELL! I'D BE SO BORED ON  
MY OWN!





I'M EVEN HAPPY  
YOU'RE HERE MACY!  
DESPITE THAT FR- F--  
FROWN YOU ALWAYS  
HAVE ON YOUR FACE!

WELL  
THANK YOU  
LIBERTY.



T-THOUGH THAT  
FROWN WILL ONLY  
GROW BIGGER WHEN I  
GET STRONGER THAN  
YOU!

OOH WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU  
WILL?

CAUSE I'M  
AMAZING!

BUT-  
HMMPPFLL

SSSSH BE  
QUIET!

A comic book panel depicting three muscular women sitting at a restaurant table. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a blue and white striped dress. The woman in the middle has long blonde hair and is wearing a red dress. The woman on the right has short black hair and is wearing a black high-necked top with a large cutout. They are all looking towards the woman in the middle, who is pointing her finger. The table is set with several glasses of water and a lit candle. The background is a stone wall with small square openings.

I THINK IT'S  
TIME TO GO  
BACK.

AWW  
ALREADY?

BEFORE YOU  
START GETTING  
DIFFICULT!

A 3D rendered scene set in a bar or lounge. In the foreground, a woman with short black hair, wearing a black, form-fitting, high-cut dress, is walking towards the left. She has very muscular arms and legs. In the center, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red, form-fitting, high-cut dress and red high-heeled shoes, is walking towards the right. She also has very muscular legs. In the background, a man with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a pink leather booth, looking towards the women. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a striped dress, is sitting on the booth behind the blonde woman. The background wall is made of brown stone blocks with small, square, recessed openings. There are several pendant lights hanging from the ceiling. A speech bubble above the black-dressed woman says "LET'S GO!". A speech bubble above the blonde woman says "UURGGH.. WHAT HAPPENED?".

LET'S GO!

UURGGH..  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

YOU TOUCHED HER  
AND SHE KNOCKED  
YOU OUT!

WELL I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO!

W-WHA--?

OOH COME  
HERE YOU LITTLE  
BOY!

HUH--?





HERE'S A LITTLE  
SMOOCH TO MAKE IT  
UP!



SEE! ALL  
SETTLED! BYE!

LIBERTY  
WATCH OUT  
THERE'S A..



STEP..

WHOA!



UUHMPF!

YOU  
CAUGHT  
ME!

YOU'RE SO  
DRUNK YOU CAN'T  
EVEN WALK  
STRAIGHT.

YOU CAUGHT  
ME WITH YOUR  
BOOBIES!

RIGHT..



HMM?

YOU ALSO GET  
A SMOOCH!



I JUST KNOW  
YOU'RE NOT DRUNK  
ENOUGH TO DO THAT  
ON ACCIDENT..

HMM, I'M NOT? BUT  
I CAN BARELY WALK!  
YOU SHOULD CARRY  
ME!



SURE!  
LET'S GO!

WHOA!



ONE HALF HOUR AND A SHORT DRIVE LATER..


YOU KNOW YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO KEEP CARRYING  
ME RIGHT?

YOU WANTED TO  
BE CARRIED SO  
YOU'RE GETTING  
CARRIED.



HEY, I REALLY HAVE  
TO GO TO THE LADIES  
ROOM, I'LL BE THERE  
SOON!

AWW I'LL  
MISS YOU  
NORAH!



THAT WAS A  
NICE EVENING,  
LIBERTY CAN BE  
SUCH AN ODD GIRL  
THOUGH!

THE CHIP WORKS  
DOESN'T IT? I KNOW WE  
NEVER EXPECTED THEM TO  
PROGRESS THIS QUICKLY  
BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS!

HEY! THAT'S  
FRANCIS' VOICE!  
MAYBE I SHOULD THANK  
HIM FOR THE NICE  
NIGHT OUT!



OOH, SOUNDS LIKE  
A RATHER SERIOUS  
DISCUSSION!

WELL YES, IT WORKS.  
BUT WE HAVEN'T FULLY  
FINISHED THE TESTING YET.  
THERE MIGHT BE  
VULNERABILITIES WE'RE  
UNAWARE OF.

I DON'T THINK WE  
HAVE THE TIME TO  
COMPLETE ALL TESTS,  
JUST GET IT READY  
FOR DEPLOYMENT.

YOUR CALL  
FRANCIS, BUT  
WASN'T THERE SOME  
PUSHBACK FROM  
ABOVE? SOME  
ETHICAL  
CONCERNS?

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THAT, JUST GET  
THE CHIP READY FOR  
USAGE.



CHIP?  
ETHICAL  
CONCERNS? WHAT  
ARE THEY TALKING  
ABOUT?

I PROBABLY  
SHOULDN'T  
DISTURB THEM  
NOW..

I'LL JUST GET  
BACK TO OUR  
ROOM.



SO YOU'RE  
JUST GOING TO  
SLEEP ON THE  
COUCH?

I'M NAUSEOUS!

THAT'S  
CAUSE YOU  
DRANK TOO  
MUCH.

IT'S CAUSE  
YOU CARRIED  
ME! I'M SEA  
SICK!

HEY MACY,  
LIBERTY, HAVE ANY  
OF YOU HEARD  
ANYTHING ABOUT A  
CHIP IN THIS  
PROGRAM?



A CHIP?

YEAH I OVERHEARD FRANCIS AND ANOTHER SCIENTIST TALKING ABOUT A CHIP AND ETHICAL CONCERNS, I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE TO DO WITH US!

THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE CONTRACT ABOUT ANY CHIPS, THEY MUST'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

WE'RE IN A MILITARY BLACK SITE NORAH, THEY MUST BE DEVELOPING ALL KINDS OF CHIPS AND STUFF HERE.

NOW LET'S TURN YOU INTO A SLEEPING BEAUTY IN YOUR BED RATHER THAN THE SOFA LIBERTY.

AWW YOU THINK I'M BEAUTIFUL?

I THINK YOU'RE VERY DRUNK.





THE NEXT MORNING.


GOOD MORNING  
GIRLS! I HOPE YOU  
ALL HAD A GOOD  
TIME LAST NIGHT!

IT WAS  
FUN!

YES SIR.

DEFINITELY!




A 3D-rendered scene in a gym. On the left, three women in grey athletic wear stand with their backs to the camera, looking towards the center. In the center, a man in a white lab coat and black tie stands with his hands outstretched, gesturing towards the women. On the right, a man in a black tank top and grey pants stands looking towards the group. Three speech bubbles are present: a large one at the top from the man in the lab coat, and two smaller ones below it, one from the man in the tank top and one from the man in the lab coat. The background features a grey wall with blue structural beams and a large black number '51'.

NOW AS YOU CAN SEE  
WE'VE BEEN BUSY AS  
WELL! WE'RE BUILDING  
SOME MORE STURDY  
WORKOUT EQUIPMENT!

FOR US?  
ISN'T IT A LITTLE  
BIG?

FOR NOW  
PERHAPS! WE'RE  
JUST THINKING OF  
THE FUTURE  
HERE!



IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONNOR HAS ALSO UPDATED YOUR TRAINING SCHEDULE, IT'S QUITE A BIT MORE INTENSIVE! WE'RE EXPECTING INCREDIBLE RESULTS! MAKE SURE TO EAT AT LEAST TWO BARS AND THEN HE'LL GET STARTED!

IT MIGHT GET TOUGH GIRLS.


A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THEY HAD  
WORKED DOWN THEIR CALORIE BARS.

HEY LIBERTY,  
CAN I ASK YOU  
SOMETHING?

HMM?

LET'S GET  
STARTED  
GIRLS!





WHY DID YOU KISS  
MACY LIKE THAT  
YESTERDAY? YOU WEREN'T  
DRUNK ENOUGH TO NOT  
REMEMBER IT OR  
SOMETHING.. IT WAS  
ODD!

HMM? OOH VERY  
SIMPLE.




SAME REASON I GOT  
HER DRUNK! I WANTED  
TO PHASE HER! BUT  
NOTHING SEEMS TO  
THROW HER OFF!

THAT... SEEMS A  
LITTLE  
MANIPULATIVE.



PFF, I DON'T THINK SHE MINDED! AND NEITHER DID I! SHE'S A HOT GIRL!

H-HOT?!



AWW YOU'RE  
BLUSHING! ARE YOU A  
LITTLE JEALOUS  
NORAH?!

NO! I JUST  
THOUGHT IT WAS  
INAPPROPRIATE!

OOH LITTLE  
NORAH..



I AM  
INAPPROPRIATE!

HMM?!



LIBERTY Y-YOU  
CAN'T JUST DO  
THAT!

LOVE YOU TO  
NORAH!

OOH WHY ARE  
YOU LIKE THIS?!  
YOU'RE  
IMPOSSIBLE!

A 3D rendered scene in a gym. In the center, a man in a black tank top and grey pants stands looking towards the left. To his left, a blonde woman in a grey sports bra and shorts stands with her hands on her hips. Further left, a woman with dark hair in similar attire stands looking towards the center. In the foreground on the right, a man is bent over a black bench, performing a back extension exercise. The gym has various pieces of equipment like treadmills and weight machines in the background. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene.

COME ON  
GIRLS! NO  
SLACKING!

YES SIR!

TSS..

**EXIT**

KEEP YOUR  
BACK STRAIGHT  
NORAH!





COME ON GIRLS!  
I KNOW YOU WON'T TIRE  
OUT QUICKLY! KEEP IT  
UP!

AND SO..



THE GIRLS STARTED..



THE SECOND DAY OF WORKING OUT.





*WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF EXERCISES!*





HNNGG!





PFF..

THE GIRLS DEFINITELY DID NOT TIRE QUICKLY.



AND STEP BY STEP.



LITTLE BY LITTLE.



THEY WERE GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER!





NOT TIRED YET I  
PRESUME?


A LITTLE!

NOPE!

THEN LET'S  
GET TO THE  
NEXT ONE!

A STRONG CORE  
IS ESSENTIAL GIRLS!  
SO GET THOSE LEGS  
UP!

AREN'T MY LEGS  
SUPPOSED TO BE OFF  
THE FLOOR?

A 3D rendered scene in a gym. Three women are on treadmills, and a man is talking to them. The woman on the left has dark hair, the woman in the middle has blonde hair, and the woman on the right has brown hair. They are all wearing grey sports bras and shorts. The man is wearing a black tank top and grey pants. The gym has blue structural beams and various pieces of equipment in the background.

WELL UUH, I THINK  
YOU GIRLS ARE  
OUTGROWING THIS  
EQUIPMENT RATHER  
QUICKLY..

MINE ARE IN  
THE AIR!



WELL STILL  
WORKS FOR  
NOW.

A highly detailed 3D rendered image of a blonde woman with a very muscular physique, wearing a grey sports bra and shorts, using a leg press machine in a gym. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Her legs are extended, and her feet are on the machine's platform. The gym background features blue structural beams and other equipment.

BUT FOR HOW  
LONG?



PFF..


B-FORGE X

A WHILE LATER THE GIRLS HAD FINISHED THEIR FINAL SET.

I'M GETTING REALLY HUNGRY AGAIN THOUGH..

WELL I CAN IMAGINE! I FEEL LIKE YOU GIRLS GREW A LOT. IT'S STILL UNBELIEVABLE, YOU'RE EVEN GROWING TALLER! HOW DOES THAT EVEN WORK?! YOU'RE JUST WORKING OUT!





HMM, MAYBE YOU'RE  
ACTUALLY SHRINKING?!  
YOU SEEM QUITE  
SMALL!

SURE  
LIBERTY..



ALRIGHT, LET'S START FIGURING OUT HOW MANY TRUCKS WE NEED FOR ALL THIS EQUIPMENT, AND LET'S GET TO THE OFFICES TO FIND ALL DOCUMENTATION.

HUH?





WHAT IS GOING ON?!

THE PROJECT IS SHUT DOWN, WE'RE CONFISCATING EVERYTHING IN THIS PLACE, PLEASE HAND OVER ANY DOCUMENTS OR IMPORTANT OBJECTS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

BE AWARE THAT WITHHOLDING ANY EVIDENCE OR EQUIPMENT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND WE WILL PERSECUTE YOU TO THE FULLEST EXTEND OF THE LAW.

BUT, IT'S  
GOING FINE  
RIGHT?! WHY IS IT  
BEING SHUT  
DOWN?!

I CAN ASSURE YOU IT HAS  
NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU GIRLS, AND  
WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW WE PROCEED  
WITH THE THREE OF YOU. I CAN'T TELL  
YOU MUCH MORE UNTIL WE'VE  
COMPLETED OUR SEIZURE AND  
SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION.






WHAT IS THE MEANING  
OF THIS?! WHAT IS GOING  
ON?! STOP THIS AT ONCE! DO  
YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING?!

SIR, CALM  
DOWN.

DON'T  
TOUCH ME YOU  
APE!

A 3D rendered scene set in a gym. On the left, three muscular women in grey sports bras and shorts stand in a line. Next to them is a man in a black tank top and grey pants. In the center, three men in grey tactical suits stand in a line. On the right, a man in a white lab coat and black pants stands with his hand raised, gesturing towards the group. Another man in a grey tactical suit stands to his right. The background features a blue metal frame, a yellow staircase, and a grey wall with a large circular opening. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene, containing text.

WHAT IS THIS  
NONSENSE?! ON WHOSE  
ORDERS ARE YOU HERE?! DO  
YOU EVEN REALISE WHAT A  
MISTAKE YOU'RE MAKING?!  
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

YOU KNOW  
DAMNED WELL WHY  
WE'RE HERE!


YOU.. I..



OK, I'M SORRY, I GOT ANGRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE. CAN WE TALK ABOUT THIS?

WE'D DEFINITELY LIKE TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU YEAH.

OK, BUT THE GIRLS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, THEY CAN RETURN TO THEIR QUARTERS.



RETURN TO OUR  
QUARTERS? I'D LIKE  
TO KNOW WHAT'S  
GOING ON HERE!

YEAH!

GIRLS, I CAN ASSURE  
YOU IT'S NOTHING BUT A  
HUGE MISUNDERSTANDING. WE  
HAVE A GREAT MANY PROJECTS  
HERE AND SOME REPORTS  
HAVE BEEN  
MISINTERPETED.



WELL  
THEN TELL  
US!

I'M SORRY GIRLS BUT  
THESE ARE TOP SECRET, FAR  
BEYOND YOUR CLEARANCE.  
THERE'S NDA'S, HELL WE COULD  
ALL BE CHARGED WITH  
TREASON IF WE TALKED  
ABOUT IT!

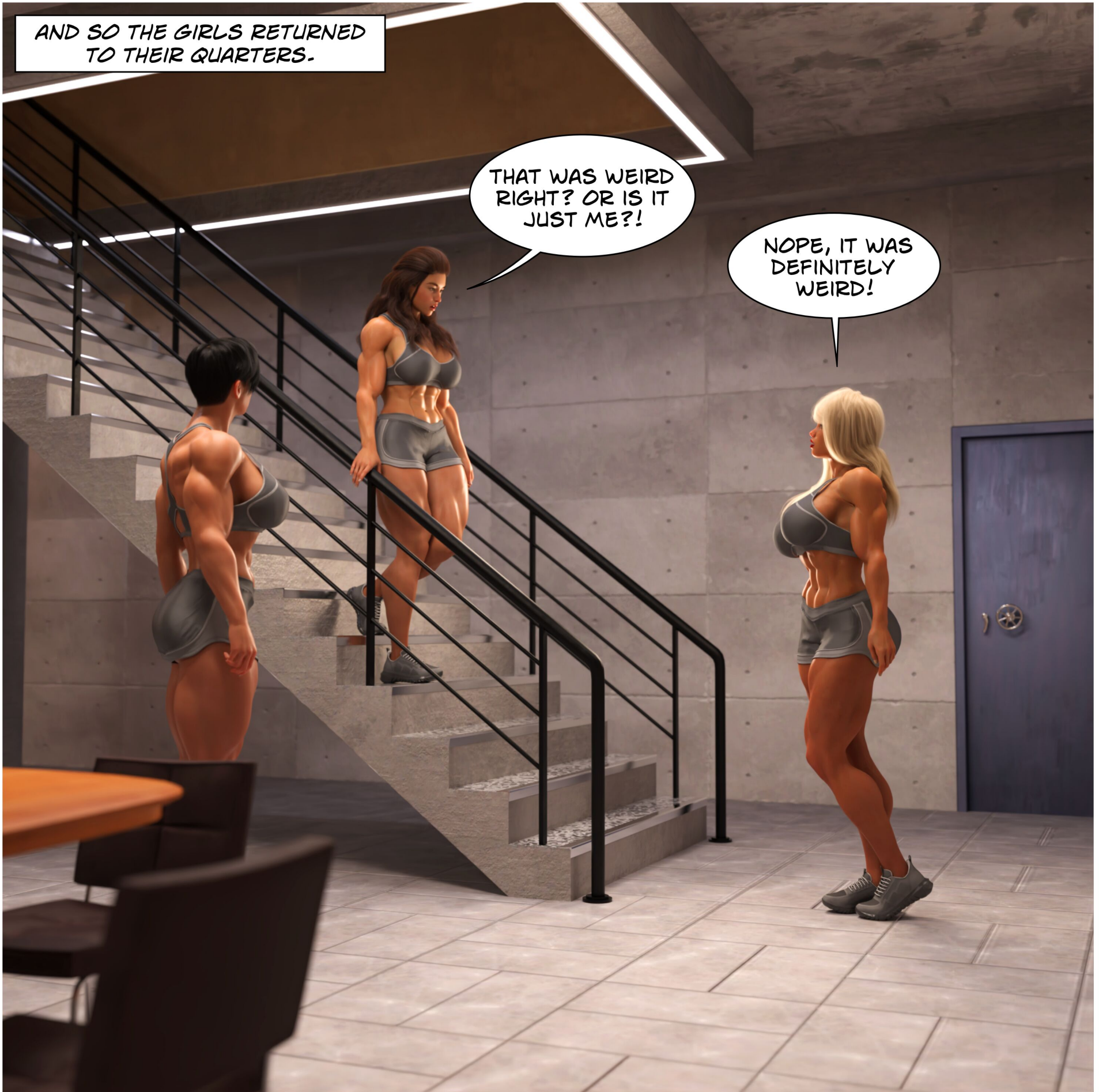
I ASSURE YOU I  
WILL TELL YOU WHAT  
I CAN WHEN THIS  
PROBLEM IS SORTED!  
TRUST ME!




AND SO THE GIRLS RETURNED  
TO THEIR QUARTERS.

THAT WAS WEIRD  
RIGHT? OR IS IT  
JUST ME?!


NOPE, IT WAS  
DEFINITELY  
WEIRD!





WELL I CAN SEE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN IN THE MILITARY BEFORE! THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN ALL THE TIME! SO MANY LAYERS OF COMMAND CAN CREATE A LOT OF CONFUSION!

WELL I STILL THINK IT'S ALL VERY ODD!



WELL WE'LL JUST  
SEE WHAT FRANCIS  
EXPLAINS TOMORROW! I'M  
SURE IT'LL BE CLEARED  
UP.

YEAH, I  
SUPPOSE.

BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO THE GIRLS..

THIS  
CASE, FOR YOU  
AND YOUR BUDDIES,  
ABSOLUTELY  
UNTRACABLE  
CASH.

PFF, WHAT DO  
YOU WANT IN  
RETURN?!



A man with dark hair, a beard, and glasses is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a white lab coat over a black t-shirt. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

ALL I NEED  
YOU TO DO IS TELL  
YOUR COMMANDER THAT  
YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU'VE  
BEEN ASKED TO DO. AS FAR  
AS HE KNOWS THIS  
BLACKSITE IS GONE AND  
THE PROJECT IS  
STOPPED.

AND DON'T EVER  
TALK ABOUT THIS  
EVER AGAIN.

**THE END!**