


At the mall...

IT'S BEEN
TWO DAYS
NOW... YOU'RE
NOT TRYING
HARD ENOUGH,
ARE YOU?!

I'M AFRAID SHE
DID NOT RETURN
HERE, MADAME
TRISHA... WHAT
MORE CAN I ADD
TO THAT?






FOR THE
GODDESS,
SHE WAS A
NURSE AT YOUR
CLINIC... DO YOU
NOT KEEP
RECORDS OF
YOUR STAFF,
HUH?

NURSE
BARTLETT LIVED
WITHIN THE CLINIC'S
COMPOUND, AS DO
ALL OUR NURSES...
YOU WERE THE ONE
WHO SIGNED HER
OUT, MADAME
TRISHA!

BEEP
ANOTHER CALL
HAS COME
THROUGH...
BEEP

I'LL DEAL
WITH YOU
LATER... I HAVE
ANOTHER
CALL!



YES, CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M RATHER HOPING YOU CAN, TRISHA!

ERRR... WHO IS THIS?

ARE YOU SO BUSY CHASING YOUR MISSING NURSE AND PATIENT THAT YOU FORGOT TO INFORM THE SISTERHOOD?

I AM *QUITE* HIGH UP IN THE HIERARCHY OF THE SISTERHOOD, MY DEAR, SO WHY WOULD I WANT TO INFORM THEM, IF I AM ONE?

IT DOES NOT GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO SANCTION YOUR OWN QUESTS FOR PERSONAL GAIN, TRISHA...

HOW *DARE* YOU MAKE FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A MADAME OF THE SISTERHOOD!... WHO IS THIS, ANYWAY?

DIANE, MY DEAR!

DIANE
FULLERTON?

OF COURSE I
KNOW WHO YOU
ARE! YOU ARE THE
Matriarch of
AGATHA'S FORMER
LADIES SOCIETY!

I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO WASTE
ON YOU! I'M TOO
BUSY WITH MORE
IMPORTANT
SISTERHOOD
STUFF...

I DON'T KNOW
WHERE YOU GET
YOUR
INFORMATION
FROM, DIANE!

YES,
TRISHA! YOU
KNOW WHO I
AM, DON'T
YOU, MY
DEAR?

YES, I
AM, AND
IT'S TIME WE
MET, MY
DEAR!

RUNNING A
PROJECT NOT
SANCTIONED BY THE
SISTERHOOD...
TUT-TUT, MY DEAR!

YOU MAY WANT
TO DISMISS ME
AND US ELDER
LADIES OF THE
ORDER... BUT I THINK IT
WILL BE IN YOUR
INTEREST TO LISTEN
TO OUR OFFER!

YOU'RE IN
NO POSITION
TO OFFER ME
ANY DEALS!
NOW, IF YOU
DON'T
MIND...

I'M
SORRY, BUT
YOU DO KNOW
I WAS PLACED
HERE BY
MELISSA...

IF I FIND YOU ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
MRS. BUTTERWORTH
AND THE NURSE'S
DISAPPEARANCE...

I'M WARNING
YOU, YOU'D
BETTER NOT BE
BEHIND THIS!

OHOO,
TRISHA,
ONCE YOU'VE
HEARD MY
OFFER YOU'LL
WISH YOU NEVER
DOUBTED
ME...

MELISSA IS
GONE, MY DEAR,
AND WE ARE NOW
MORE VOCAL
AMONGST THE
HIERARCHY, SINCE
SHE RELINQUISHED
HER POSITION OF
MTRIARCH!

LET'S STOP
PLAYING GAMES
NOW, TRISHA! YOU'RE
IN QUITE A FIX AFTER
LOSING MRS.
BUTTERWORTH!

JUST MEET ME AT LUCK BEA'S IN FIVE MINUTES... WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, MY DEAR!

OH, NO, SWEETIE, BUT I AM IN A POSITION TO MAKE SURE YOU GET WHAT YOU WANT!

THAT'S GOOD, TRISHA... OH, AND PLEASE BRING THAT DELIGHTFUL ANGEL OF YOURS, TOO! SHE'LL ALSO BE PART OF THE DEAL WE MAKE TODAY!

NOT IF YOU RELINQUISH YOUR MADAME STATUS OVER HER!

SEE YOU SOON, SWEETIE!

SO YOU DO HAVE HER?

I'LL BE THERE IN FIVE MINUTES...
PFFT

SHE WAS PUT IN MY CHARGE BY CELESTE AND IS FULLY UNDER MY COMMAND!

THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN, DIANE!

VICTORIA!

Miss Meghan Beru

to have pas
and veg
a sh
custo

The

YES,
TRISHA?

STOP
WORKING ON
THAT DRESS,
PLEASE... I HAVE
MORE URGENT
THINGS TO
ATTEND TO!

I SEE,
BUT I'M
NEARLY...?

SHE
LOOKS
WORRIED! I DO
HOPE SHE IS
OKAY...

WHOEVER IT'S
FOR, IT CAN WAIT...
HONESTLY...
PFFFT

UHMMM,
ERRR...

VICTORIA...
NOW!

IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY,
TRISHA?

ERRR,
YEAH... YES,
OF COURSE IT
IS... COME!

SHE'S VERY
ANGRY, AND
THAT CAN ONLY
MEAN THE
MOMENT I'VE
BEEN DREADING
HAS ARRIVED...
GULP

YES, TRISHA!

WE HAVE TO LEAVE FOR TEN MINUTES OR SO, NICOLA, SO YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE UNTIL I GET BACK!

HUH?

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THE STORE UNTIL WE RETURN!

...

I FEEL AWFUL DOING THIS TO TRISHA... SHE'S BEEN SO GOOD TO ME!



OHH...?

I, ERR,
GUESS...
YEAH...

ERRR, YES,
I WRITE THE
ORDER DOWN
IN THE DIARY
WITH A
DEPOSIT...

I'M SORRY,
NICOLA, BUT
MADAME HAS
BEEN CALLED
AWAY ON AN
IMPORTANT
ISSUE!

YOU'VE BEEN
HERE OVER A
WEEK AND KNOW
ENOUGH TO HELP
OUR CUSTOMERS...
I KNOW YOU CAN
COPE!

I'M SURE
YOU KNOW
WHAT TO DO
IF SOMEONE
COMES IN
FOR AN
ORDER...

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, VICKY?

OHHH, BY THE LOOK ON HER FACE, SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG...
GULP

KINDA...

I'LL EXPLAIN WHEN I RETURN...
SIGH

COME ALONG, VICTORIA!

COMING, TRISHA!

10 minutes earlier...

Wick Bead's

YOU SEEM
A LITTLE WORRIED,
MOTHER...

HAS SHE
UNCOVERED
YOUR PLANS,
THEN,
MOTHER?

I KNOW I
SHOULD NOT SAY,
BUT YOU SEEM
VERY UNSURE
ABOUT MEETING
HER!

THIS WOMAN WE
ARE MEETING IS
KIND OF POWERFUL,
POPPY...

NO,
SUGAR!

I WAS
INDEBTED TO
HER ONCE, AND
NOW I WILL SEE
WHETHER SHE IS
TRUE TO HER
WORD AS I
HAVE BEEN
TO MINE...



SO THIS IS
TO BE OUR
NEW HOME,
MISTRESS?

YES,
LILLY, MY
SWEET,
IT IS!

MMM...
MELODY WILL
BE MOST
PLEASED THIS
IS NOW WITHIN
OUR GRASP!

HYACINTH
CAN MOVE
HER HAIR
SALON TO
THERE!

WILL THE
PEOPLE WHO
SHOP HERE WANT
TO SEE SHOPS
CATERING FOR THE
MORE MATURE
WOMAN,
MISTRESS?

TRISHA HAS
RUN THIS WHOLE
MALL DOWN, SO WE
WILL INJECT A LITTLE
MORE *PANACHE*
INTO IT!

PLUS, IT
WILL ANNOY
THE HELL OUT
OF AGATHA...
GRIN

IS THAT
HER?

YESSIREE!

SHE'S
KINDA OLD,
MOTHER...

YUP,
SHE
IS...

SHE'S
BROUGHT HER
SISSY WITH HER!
HMM, I GUESS THE
RUMORS WERE
TRUE ABOUT
HER...



POPPY,
STAY HERE,
SUGAR!

YES,
MOTHER,
AS YOU
SAY...



IS THIS THE ANGEL, MISTRESS?

YES... BUT I WILL NOT NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE... YET!

AS YOU WISH, MISTRESS...

LET'S JUST PRAY TO THE GODDESS THAT GYWNN HAS DONE AS I ASKED...

STAY HERE, SWEETIE!

AS YOU WISH, MISTRESS!

GYWNN, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO SEXY!

YES, I FORGOT YOU HAD YOURS CUT BACK IN THE '80S!

SAME OLD SWEET SOUTHERN BELLE I RESCUED FROM THAT CAT HOUSE, AIN'T YA, HON?

I SEE YOUR SON HAS BLOSSOMED SINCE I LAST SAW HIM...

AND YOU'VE BEEN REAL BUSY MAKING UP FOR THAT LOSS, FROM WHAT I HEAR...

HUH... CUT THE BULL, DARLIN', AND LETS GET DOWN TO SOME GOOD OL' BUSINESS, SHALL WE...

'90S, ACTUALLY, BUT TIME SURE AS HELL FLIES BY WHEN YOU HAVE YOUTH ON YOUR SIDE... HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

I PRIDE MY LI'L OL' SELF ON BEING A TRUE TEXAS GAL, DARLIN'! NOW CAN WE BEGIN?

I KNEW SHE WAS GONNA DO THAT!
GRRRR

YOU GOT ALL MY DADDY'S ESTATES FOR THAT PAYMENT, SO, PLEASE...

SIR THEO IS ALL SWEET ON ME, DARLIN', SO DON'T THINK YER SISSY OVER THERE CAN CHANGE IT!



THE LAST TIME YER HAND WAS HELD OUT LIKE THAT TO ME, MY **BALLS** WERE IN IT, SO EXCUSE MY TEXAN SUSPICION, DARLIN...

GYWNN, HON, I COME IN PEACE, NO STRINGS ATTACHED... THAT IS, UNLESS YOU HAVE NOT OPENED THE DOOR FOR ME TO OWN THIS WONDERFUL MALL...

ALL WATER UNDER A LONG-FORGOTTEN BRIDGE, GWYNN!

YOU TOOK MY GIFT AWAY FROM ME, SO THAT LI'L OL' BRIDGE SURE AIN'T TOO FAR AWAY FOR LI'L OL' ME TO CROSS, DARLIN!

OHhh, COME NOW, GWYNN! YOU KNOW WHAT THE AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE DONE WITH YOU IF I HAD NOT!

HUH, SO SHE MAINTAINS... *PFFFT*

ARE WE HERE TO DEAL OR NOT, DARLIN'?

YES, WE ARE, SWEETS, AND YOU'LL BEGIN BY GIVING ME BACK LISBETH!

SHE IS MY INSURANCE, SO, NO!

WELL, HOW CAN I PUT THIS... HOW WILL AGATHA RESPOND TO THAT OLD BITCH BEING LOST, HMMM?

NOT MY PROBLEM!

TRUE... BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK TRISHA DESERVES TO BE THROWN TO THE LIONS?

SHE'S NOT EVEN OF CIRCLE BLOOD! WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?


TRUE, SHE IS ONE OF CELESTE'S PAWNS AND IS OF NO REAL INTEREST TO ME, EITHER, BUT SHE *IS* THE OWNER OF THIS MALL, AND THIS COULD EASILY DRAW ATTENTION TO THE SISTERHOOD FROM THAT FBI AGENT!



WAS
GYWNN
REALLY LIKE
ME?

BUT WHAT
DID THAT
WOMAN MEAN,
I WAS GWYNN'S
SON?

BUT IF I
WAS HER SON,
DOES THAT
MEAN SHE'S
MY... FOR
REAL?



I ALREADY
HAVE WHAT I
WANT... MY
REVENGE ON ALL
OF THOSE
BITCHES!

YOU, ERRR,
MIGHT WANNA
RETHINK PUTTING
LISBETH BACK
WHERE SHE
BELONGS,
DARLIN'...

WELL, LET'S
JUST SAY SHE'S
QUITE A WAYS INTO
BEING A LITTLE YOUNGER
THAN SHE ONCE WAS
AND, WELL, KIND OF A
DIFFERENT PERSON,
TOO... *GRIN*

TRISHA GOT THIS
IDEA IN HER PURTY LI'L
HEAD THAT LISBETH'S
BUTLER SHOULD GET BACK A
YOUNGER AND MORE LOVING
LISBETH, AND SHE'S WELL ON
HER WAY TO BEING A
SPRIGHTLY 25- YEAR-
OLD!

IT SURE DOES,
HONEYBEE!

I'LL ENJOY
WATCHING TRISHA'S
TRIAL UNFOLD! THE
CLINIC ALREADY
KNOWS SHE'S LOST
LISBETH...

SEE, YOU
ALREADY HAVE A
LI'L OL'
CONTINGENCY
PLAN IN PLACE,
DON'T YA?

YES, YOU
DO, BUT YOU
KNOW LISBETH
HAS TO BE
RETURNED...

WHAT'S
THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?


YOU PUT
HER
THROUGH THE
DERMIS
MACHINE?

HMM, SO SHE
GOT THE BUTLER
INVOLVED! THAT
CERTAINLY CHANGES
THINGS...

WELL, I
GUESS THAT
GIVES ME MORE
LEVERAGE OVER
TRISHA!

OHhh, IT WILL
NOT COME TO
THAT! AGATHA WILL
NOT WANT THE
PUBLICITY... NO?

NOW I KNOW
WHY I LOVED
HAVING YOU
AROUND BACK IN
THE OLD DAYS...
YOU ALWAYS DID
THINGS OUT OF
THE BLUE!



I HAD TO!
BEING FORCED
TO WORK IN A
WHOREHOUSE FOR
THOSE RICH
BASTARDS MADE
ME WHAT I AM
TODAY!

WELL, YOU
CERTAINLY
MADE MY WORTH
TO THEM DIMINISH
WHEN YOU
CASTRATED
ME!

OH, I'VE NEVER
FORGOTTEN WHO PUT
ME ON THAT ROAD...
FELICIA MAY BE OUT OF
REACH, BUT I HAVE HER
GRANDDAUGHTER LAP
DANCING FOR ME,
STONEBRIDGE STRIPPING,
AND LISBETH TUCKED
AWAY NICELY TO BEGIN
A LIFE OF MEAGER
LIVING!

TILDA
IS IN
HAND!

TRISHA IS SO
EASY TO
DEFLECT IN THE
DIRECTION YOU WANT
HER TO GO... YOU
KNOW, PERHAPS I
SHOULD BE DOING
THIS DEAL WITH
HER!

SOMEONE
HAD TO...
GRIN

YES, YOU
WERE TOP
BILLING, AS I
RECALL!

IT'S WHAT
SAVED YOUR
LIFE MY SWEET,
OR HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
THAT?

AND WHAT
OF TILDA,
HMMM?

OHH... OH,
YES, THE
BALLERINA!

TRISHA WOULD
THROW YOU TO THE
LIONS INSTEAD,
SWEETS... BUT I MUST
SAY, YOU'VE CERTAINLY
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF
MELISSA'S DOWNGRADE
AND CELESTE'S
DEMOTION BACK TO
THE CLINIC!

ONLY IF I
GET LISBETH
BACK!

SO, DARLIN'...
FROM WHAT I CAN
SEE, YOU ARE IN
NEED OF MY LI'L OL'
ASSISTANCE...

YOU'RE
TRYING MY
PATIENCE,
GYWNN,
LOVE...

I'M AFRAID
SHE BELONGS
TO *ME!*

SIGH
OKAY, SO
WHAT DO I
HAVE TO DO
TO GET
LISBETH?

YOU'LL
NEVER FIND
HER, AND YER
PURTY LI'L SISSY
OVER THERE AIN'T
NEVER GONNA
BREAK INTO MY
THOUGHTS!

NOW THAT'S
MUCH BETTER,
DARLIN'!

WHAT IS IT
YOU WANT?

I LIKE IT
WHEN WE'RE
ON THE SAME
LI'L OL' PAGE,
DON'T YOU?

HOW IS
THAT *MY*
DECISION?

IRENE MOORE
REMAINS PRINCIPAL
OF FEETHAMS, AND
YOU'LL CONFIRM WITH
HER THAT IT WILL CHANGE
OVER TO AN ALL-GIRLS
SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
ONCE YOU AND YOUR
MENOPAUSE SOCIETY
TAKE OVER!

AND WHERE
DOES THAT
LEAVE YOU, IF I
DON'T KNOW THE
ANSWER
ALREADY...

THIS MALL IS A
LOT MORE THAN
JUST SHOPPING,
DARLIN'... FEETHAMS IS
A MASSIVE PROGRESSION
FORWARD FOR IT!
CELESTE WAS *VERY*
INSTRUMENTAL IN TAKING
OVER FEETHAMS FOR
THE FUTURE OF THE
SISTERHOOD!

TRISHA IS HEAD
OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS FOR
FEETHAMS... THAT TITLE
WILL BE MINE, AS WELL
AS HER BRIDAL
STORE!



YOU WANT TO RUN FEETHAMS AND THE BRIDAL STORE AS WELL AS THIS NIGHTCLUB?

I'LL BE FAR TOO BUSY WITH MY FUTURE HUSBAND'S EMPIRE TO WORRY ABOUT FEETHAMS, SO I'LL LEAVE THE RUNNING TO IRENE! DARLIN', YOU SEE, I HAVE GREAT FAITH IN WHAT CELESTE WAS BUILDING HERE, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT CONTINUES, AND WITH YOU IN CHARGE, IT WILL ONLY GET BETTER!

CAREFUL, SWEETS, THAT WAS NEARLY A COMPLIMENT!

AS WEIRD AS IT SOUNDS, DIANE, I TRUST YA, SUGAR, AND DEAR AUNTIE AGATHA... I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER FACE WHEN SHE SEES YOU SITTING PURTY HERE!

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ALL PAST OUR MENOPAUSE, HMMM?


COME ON, DARLIN', I KNOW FULL WELL YOU MENOPAUSED KITTENS ARE ALL ENHANCED IN THE CLITTY DEPARTMENT, AND THAT'S WHY NONE OF YOU WANT TO BECOME YOUNGER!

HMMM... AGATHA CERTAINLY UNDERESTIMATED YOU WHEN SHE BOOTED YOUR BUTT OFF THE HIERARCHICAL LADDER!

OH, AND ONE LAST THING, SUGAR... YOU'LL BE NEEDING SOMEONE TO RUN THIS LI'L OL' MALL FOR YA, AND THAT'LL BE WENDY ROBINSON! SHE'S GOT MADAME STATUS 'CAUSE OF THAT NICE BIG DICK CELESTE STUCK ON HER, AND THIS'LL BE A DONE DEAL, SUGAR, 'CAUSE THAT WAS MY DEAL WITH HER DAUGHTER!

YOU SURE HAVE IT ALL WORKED OUT, DON'T YOU?

YUP, I SURE DO, SUGAR, AND, ERRR, BEFORE I LEAVE YOU TO YOUR MEETING WITH TRISHA...



VICKY WILL BE ASSIGNED TO WENDY AND MANAGE THE BRIDAL STORE FOR ME... THE FEETHAMS BOY NICHOLAS WILL STAY WITH HER... SHE'LL DO A BETTER JOB THAN TRISHA AT SELLING THE DRESSES!

SO IT WAS VICTORIA! THAT'S HOW YOU MANAGED TO WORM YOUR WAY INTO HERE, HMMM?

IT WAS A DEAL I MADE WITH HER MOTHER, TOO... CELESTE'S DEMOTION LEFT THEM HIGH AND DRY, AND I RESCUED LAURA FROM FEMMERTON, SO SHE ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER HER SON!

YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR VICTOR TURNING INTO VICTORIA! I HAD A FEELING YOU WERE INVOLVED...

YOUNG BOYS WHO GO ON CRIME SPREES ONLY DO IT 'CAUSE THEY HAVE ISSUES, AND VICTOR'S WAS THAT HE WANTED TO BE A GIRL! LAURA FEARED FOR HIM, SO I HELPED HIM WITH HIS FIRST FOOTSTEPS IN STILETTOS!

MELODY AND I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW YOU GOT TO BE IN CHARGE OF THIS CLUB! AND TO THINK YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING TRISHA ALL THIS TIME... GODDESS, YOU ARE ONE SNEAKY CAT!

AND NOW THE MALL IS YOURS!

YES, IT IS... BUT I TRUST I HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT VICTORIA, THEN...

SHE WILL CONVINCE TRISHA TO SELL UP HER SHARES AND MAKE SURE SHE TAKES UP THE LI'L OL' DRESS SHOP YOU HAVE FOR HER IN HARTINGDON!

WELL, WE'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER NOW, MY DEAR, WON'T WE?

WE SURE WILL, DARLIN'! OH, AND ONE LAST LI'L THING, AS YOU NEEDLESSLY PUSHED THE SUBJECT ALREADY... THE DOLL'S NAME?

YES, SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT IT IS, DON'T YOU HON?

As Trisha's ownership of the mall and her bridal store were signed away...

SO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET MY TOMBOY TO LOOK ALL PRETTY THEN, HMMMM?

YES, WE HAVE ONE OF THE GREATEST SEAMSTRESSES IN BULLCHESTER! ALL YOU NEED IS TO LOOK AROUND AT HER CREATIONS ON DISPLAY, MRS. PHELPS!

I'VE GOT TO ADMIT YOU HAVE OPTIMISM! THE OTHER, OLDER LADY NEVER BOTHERED TO POINT OUT ANYTHING FOR US TO LOOK AT... SHE JUST GAVE ME A MAGAZINE TO PERUSE!

I'M NOT WEARING A FREAKING DRESS, GRAN!






MAY I INQUIRE AS TO WHY YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER DOES NOT LIKE TO LOOK LIKE THE GIRL THE GODDESS GIFTED UPON HER?

WHAT'S SHE GOING ON ABOUT, GRAN?

HMM, THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION...

THE YOUNG LADY CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO HIDE YOUR FEMININITY UNDER BOYS' CLOTHES!



I DON'T WANT TO BEHAVE LIKE ALL THE OTHER GIRLS IN MY SORORITY! I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE A GIRLY GIRL!

HOW OLD ARE YOU, MISS?

SHE'S 20 NEXT WEEK, AND SHE'S GOING TO BE THE ONLY GIRL AT THE FRATERNITY DANCE IN JEANS AND A T-SHIRT!

I'VE TOLD YOU, GRAN, I'M NOT GOING TO THE SILLY DANCE...
PFFFT

SEE, SHE'S SO STUBBORN!

I WISH I COULD HELP, BUT...

PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SOME HELP...



MOTHER?

AND HELLO TO YOU, TOO, MY DEAREST DAUGHTER!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE SOMEWHERE ELSE?

I WAS JUST PASSING BY AND WANTED TO SEE MY ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER! IS THAT A CRIME, NICOLA?

OHhh, GREAT, SHE'S GONNA EMBARRASS ME NOW...
SIGH

AND AS I JUST SAID, I CAN BE OF HELP WITH THIS YOUNG LADY'S DILEMMA!

HMMM, A TOMBOY IF EVER I SAW ONE!

YES, WE'RE TRYING TO GET HER INTO A DRESS FOR ONCE...

YOU KNOW, MY GORGEOUS DAUGHTER HERE, SHE WAS A TOMBOY, TOO!

MOTHER, PLEASE, NOT HERE!

SHE WAS?

OH, YES, SHE MOST CERTAINLY WAS, AND SHE WOULD HAVE REMAINED ONE IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR A TINY BOOST!

A BOOST?

TELL ME, YOUNG LADY, ARE THE OTHER GIRLS IN YOUR SORORITY AS FLAT-CHESTED AS YOU?


UHM... NO. NOT REALLY.



AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM RATHER BLESSED WITH BOOBIES, AND BEING A GLAMOUR MODEL, MY DAUGHTER FELT OVERSHADOWED BY MY LOOKS AND DRESSED AS A BOY LIKE YOU DO!

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MY GRANDDAUGHTER?

SHE RESIGNED HERSELF TO BEING A TOMBOY UNTIL SHE WAS GIVEN A DRESS THAT BOLSTERED THAT PROBLEM... NICOLA WILL EXPLAIN!



OHHH, GODDESS,
THIS IS
EMBARRASSING...

SHE WAS RIGHT! I
WAS A TOMBOY UNTIL
I WAS GIVEN A DRESS
FROM HERE THAT
BOLSTERED MY,
ERR... CHEST!

WHAT'S YOUR
MOTHER
GOING ON
ABOUT?

NO WAY!

YES, I USED
TO WEAR SHORT
TROUSERS ALL
THE TIME, AND... MY
BFF WAS ALREADY
GROWING BOOBS,
BUT THAT DRESS
CHANGED IT ALL
FOR ME!

NO! THIS
IS SOME
TRICK...

NO TRICK...
I'M STILL NOT
THAT BIG, AS YOU
CAN SEE, BUT
WHEN I WEAR
DRESSES WITH
PADDING, I CAN
BE AS BIG AS
MY BFF!

CAN I HAVE
A DRESS LIKE
THE WOMAN
SAYS, GRAN,
PLEASE?


IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT, MY
ANGEL...

CAN IT
REALLY MAKE
ME LOOK LIKE
THE OTHER GIRLS
IN THE SORORITY...
EVEN THOUGH I'M
SO DARN
SHORT?

I DON'T
KNOW...
UHMM,
I MEAN...

YES, MISS, WE
WILL ENDEAVOR TO
MAKE SURE YOU ARE
THE BELLE OF THE
BALL!

OHH, PLEASE,
GRAN! WHO
KNOWS, I COULD
EVEN GET OTHER
DRESSES THAT WILL
STOP ME FEELING SO
BAD ABOUT MYSELF... I
HATE LOOKING LIKE
I'M STILL A LITTLE
KID!



OKAY, WE'LL
BOOK MY
GRANDDAUGHTER IN
FOR A FITTING! IS
THIS WHAT YOU
WANT, ANGEL?

YEAH,
IT IS!

OKAY, I'LL
TAKE SOME
DETAILS AND A
DEPOSIT... YOU'LL
BE IMPRESSED BY
THE SEAMSTRESS
HERE... SHE'S
AWESOME!



LUCKY I
CAME ALONG,
NICOLA!

I
GUESS...

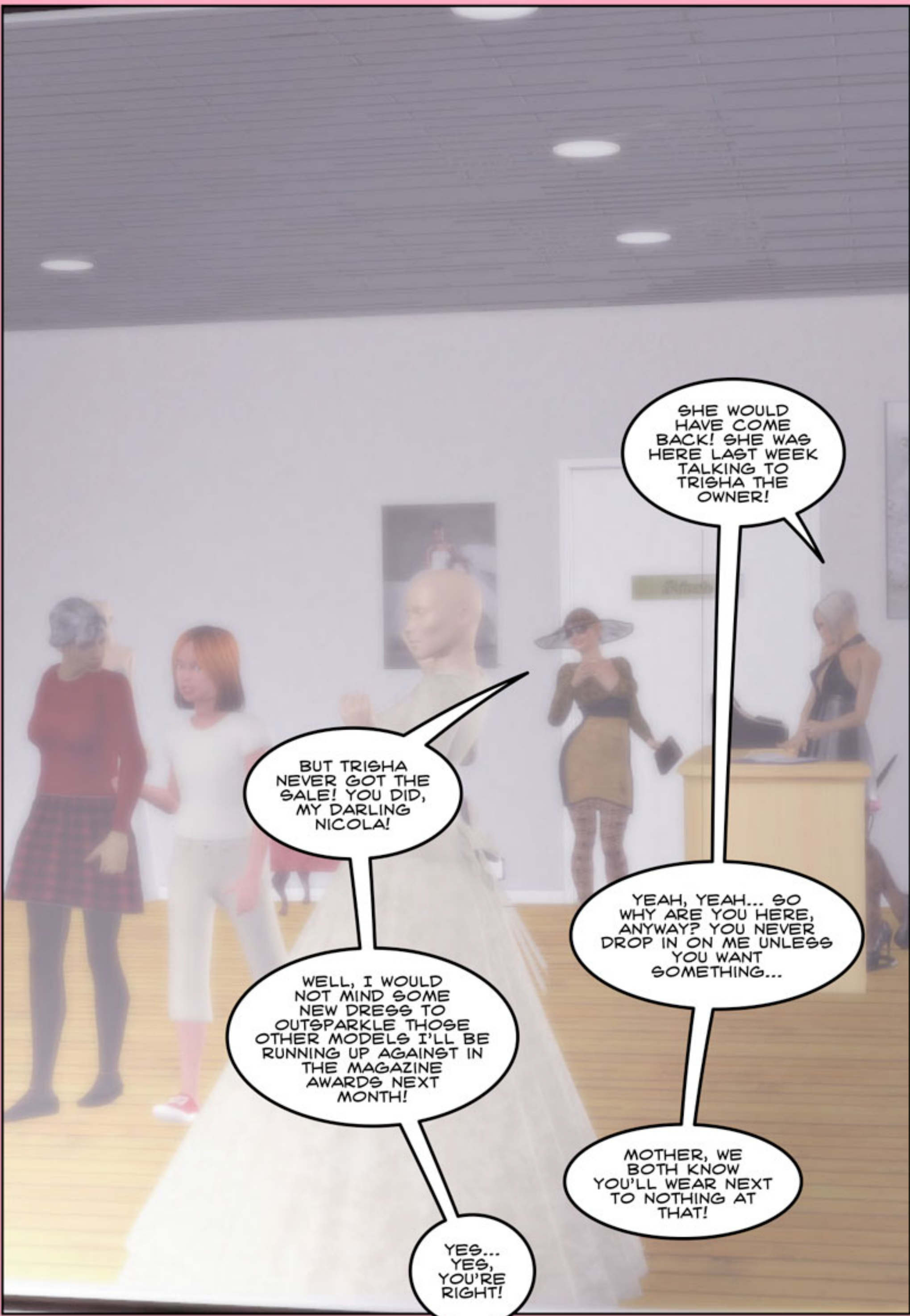
IT WAS
OBVIOUS THAT
POOR GIRL WAS
HIDING THE TRUTH
BEHIND HER
REFUSAL TO
WEAR
DRESSES!

YEAH, BUT
YOU DIDN'T HAVE
TO MAKE **ME** THE
EXAMPLE, DID
YOU?

I'M YOUR
MOTHER,
DARLING!

STILL DOES
NOT MEAN YOU
HAVE TO USE **MY**
LACK OF BREASTS
TO HIGHLIGHT THE
YOUNG WOMAN'S
PROBLEM...?
PFFFT
HONESTLY!

WELL, IT
HELPED YOU
GET A SALE,
AND A VERY
AWKWARD
ONE, TOO!



SHE WOULD HAVE COME BACK! SHE WAS HERE LAST WEEK TALKING TO TRISHA THE OWNER!

BUT TRISHA NEVER GOT THE SALE! YOU DID, MY DARLING NICOLA!

YEAH, YEAH... SO WHY ARE YOU HERE, ANYWAY? YOU NEVER DROP IN ON ME UNLESS YOU WANT SOMETHING...

WELL, I WOULD NOT MIND SOME NEW DRESS TO OUTSPARKLE THOSE OTHER MODELS I'LL BE RUNNING UP AGAINST IN THE MAGAZINE AWARDS NEXT MONTH!

MOTHER, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'LL WEAR NEXT TO NOTHING AT THAT!

YES... YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!



WELL, I DID
COME OVER,
FUNNILY ENOUGH,
TO DISCUSS YOU
AND TORIANNA,
DARLING...

WHAT
ABOUT
HER?

I HAVE THE
BLASTED GIRL
LIVING WITH ME,
AND SHE'S
DEFINITELY MORE
PRONOUNCED IN
THE BOOB AREA
THAN MY
DAUGHTER!




SO? I DON'T CARE... I CAN WEAR DRESSES LIKE THIS!

AND SHE ATTRACTS THE MEN MORE THAN YOU DO, NICOLA!

JUST 'CAUSE SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND... I'LL HAVE ONE SOON!

YES, BUT WITH TORI'S BREASTS VERY MUCH PROMINENT, SHE'LL DISCOVER BRAS, AND YOU'LL BE LEFT WAY BEHIND, NICOLA!

I'M QUITE HAPPY TO WEAR DRESSES AND TOPS THAT DON'T NEED A BRA, THANK YOU, MOTHER!



I'VE BOOKED YOU AT THE CLINIC FOR BREAST AUGMENTATION ON MONDAY MORNING... I'VE ALREADY ORDERED SOME GORGEOUS BRAS FOR YOU TO SHOW THEM OFF IN, TOO!

I'VE ALREADY TALKED WITH YOUR NEW BOSS REGARDING YOUR OPERATION, AND SHE'S OKAY WITH YOU TAKING TIME OFF!

YES, IN FACT, IT WAS SHE THAT RECOMMENDED THE SURGEON FOR YOU...

OH, DARLING, TRISHA IS NO LONGER THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE! THE NEW OWNER IS GWYNN... A VERY ATTRACTIVE TEXAN LADY!

I CAN'T GO THERE! I HAVE A JOB HERE!

NEW BOSS?

TRISHA IS MY BOSS, AND SHE ONLY JUST GAVE ME THIS JOB, AND NEVER ONCE HAS SHE MENTIONED ME HAVING MY BREASTS ENHANCED!

As Trisha was being removed from her position of mall owner and Diane finalized her takeover...

CLOSE THE DOOR, POPPY... I DON'T WANT ANYONE OVERHEARING US!

WHY ARE WE IN HERE?

THIS PLACE HAS NO CAMERAS OR LISTENING DEVICES INSTALLED!

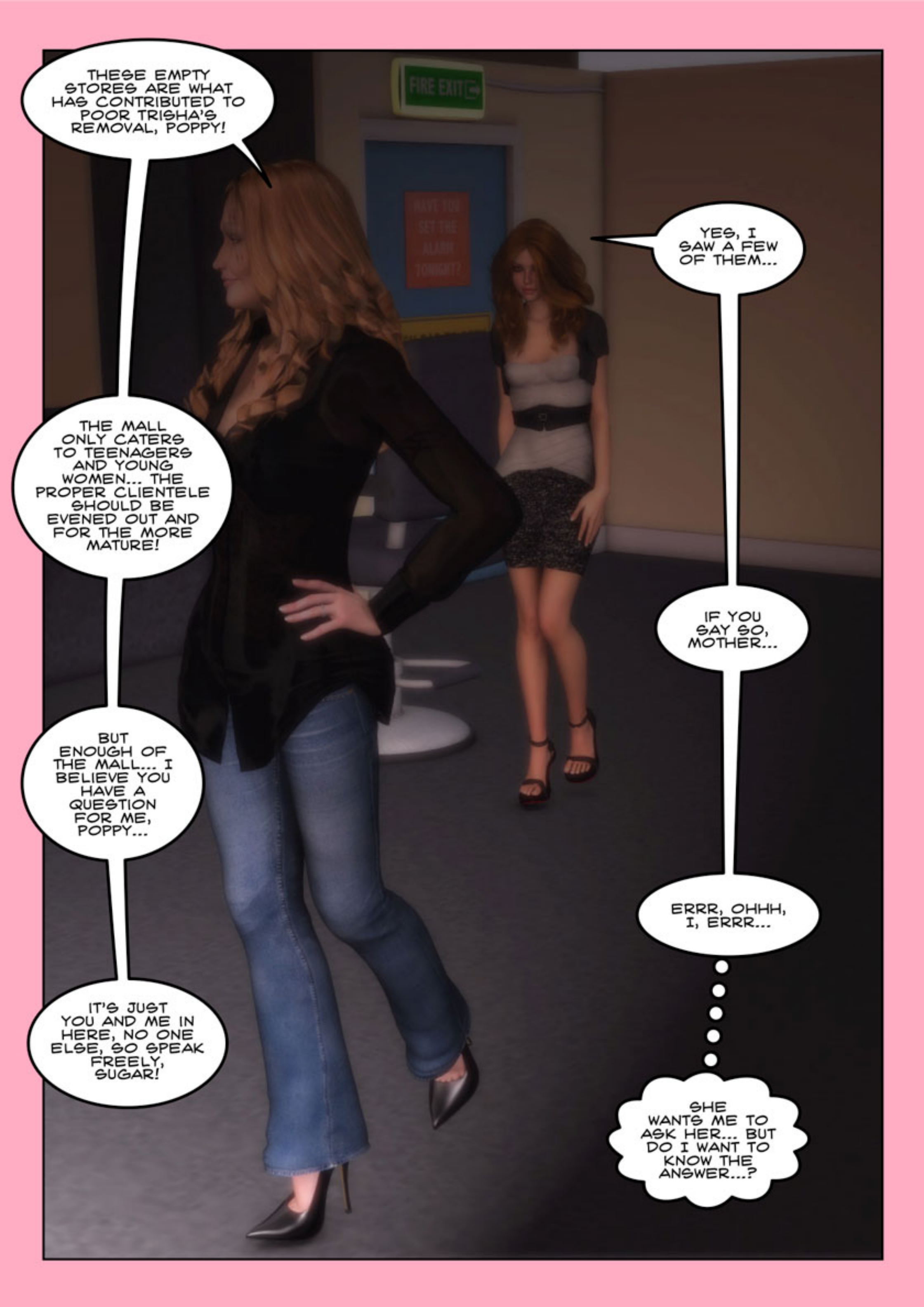


It was time for Poppy to finally face the truth about herself...

SHE'S BEEN ACTING REALLY STRANGE SINCE SHE SPOKE WITH THAT OLDER WOMAN...

OVERHEAR US, MOTHER?





THESE EMPTY STORES ARE WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO POOR TRISHA'S REMOVAL, POPPY!

THE MALL ONLY CATERS TO TEENAGERS AND YOUNG WOMEN... THE PROPER CLIENTELE SHOULD BE EVENED OUT AND FOR THE MORE MATURE!

BUT ENOUGH OF THE MALL... I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR ME, POPPY...

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME IN HERE, NO ONE ELSE, SO SPEAK FREELY, SUGAR!

YES, I SAW A FEW OF THEM...

IF YOU SAY SO, MOTHER...

ERRR, OHHH, I, ERRR...

SHE WANTS ME TO ASK HER... BUT DO I WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWER...?



THAT, UHMMM,
LADY SAID I
WAS YOUR
SON...

YESSIREE,
SHE SURE
DID, POPPY!

THEN... I
AM YOUR
SON?

YUP!

ARE YOU MY
FATHER?

I AM YOUR MOTHER, POPPY, AND I KNOW YOU MAY WELL WONDER WHY I NEVER TOLD YOU, BUT IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A SECRET THAT I WAS FORCED TO KEEP HIDDEN AWAY!

I WAS BORN WITH BOTH SEXES, POPPY... WELL, I HAD A WOMB, BUT MY VAGINA WAS NOT DEVELOPED ENOUGH FOR CHILDBIRTH, BUT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO HANDLE INTERCOURSE!

I HAD TO HAVE YOU BY CESAREAN, AND WHEN THEY DELIVERED YOU, DIANE HAD THE SURGEON REMOVE MY WOMB... AND SHE WAS FORCED TO GIVE YOU TO YOUR FATHER!

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HE WAS NOT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HE WAS VERY REAL...
SIGH

YOU'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER, LAUREN SUFFERED BADLY FROM YEARS OF ABUSE AT YOUR FATHER'S HAND, AND WHEN DIANE GOT YOU AWAY FROM HIM, SHE GAVE YOU TO HER...

NO, HE'S STILL ALIVE...

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HE'S LONG DEAD, BUT I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU...

HE'S NOT REALLY SOMEONE YOU'D RECOGNIZE AS YOUR FATHER THESE DAYS...

BUT HOW CAN YOU BE MY MOTHER? YOU, ERR, HAD...

SO YOU GAVE BIRTH TO ME?

THEN MY FATHER WAS REAL?

AND LAUREN?

SO I WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY FATHER'S DEATH?


HE IS?

CAN I SEE HIM?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

FOR LEASE:
555-1414

FOR LEASE:
555-1414



HE WAS
CASTRATED AND
SENT TO LIVE OUT HIS
DAYS AT A NUNNERY
IN THE PERUVIAN
MOUNTAINS!

WELL,
YEAH, SHE
HAD ME
CASTRATED, AN'
WITH IT WENT MY
GIFT, BUT YOU,
SUGAR, WERE THE
RESULT OF ME
LOSING MY
GIFT!

CUTTING A
LONG STORY
SHORT, POPPY, IF
DIANE HADN'T
CASTRATED ME, YOU
'N' ME WOULD NOT BE
HAVING THIS
CONVERSATION,
SUGAR!

BACK IN THOSE
MEN-INFESTED
DAYS, POPPY, WE
WERE JUST BRED FOR
SEX! I WAS JUST A SEX
TOY FOR YOUR
FATHER, AND THAT IS
HOW YOU CAME
ALONG!

YOU WAS
ALWAYS GONNA
BE BROUGHT UP A
GIRL, POPPY...

IN A WAY,
YEAH, IT WAS
ME... BUT, POPPY,
YOU HAVE TO
REALIZE THAT YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
THE GIFTS YOU
HAVE NOW...

I CAN
UNDERSTAND YOUR
ANGER, POPPY, BUT
THIS WORLD IS GOING
TO COLLAPSE IN THE
HANDS OF MEN! THAT'S
WHY GIRLS LIKE YOU
EXIST, TO BALANCE
THE SCALES!

YOU WERE
CASTRATED,
TOO?

THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO
MAKE ME FEEL
BETTER, IS IT?

PERHAPS I
MIGHT HAVE
WANTED TO
STAY A BOY!

BUT WHO MADE
THE DECISION THAT
I WOULD NOT BE
BROUGHT UP A
BOY?

SO IT WAS
YOU?

WELL,
THAT'S NICE
OF YOU TO
DECIDE THAT FOR
ME... GODDESS,
YOU'RE NO BETTER
THAN THE PICTURE
YOU'RE TRYING TO
PAINT OF MY
FATHER!
SIGH

I'VE BEEN DREADING THIS MOMENT... BUT I'LL KEEP MY FINGERS CROSSED AND HOPE SHE DOES NOT REBEL...
SIGH

WHAT MAKES HER ANY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE MEN? SHE EAGERLY WATCHED ME HAVE SEX WITH LAUREN... AND ALL THOSE MEN, WHY DID LAUREN MAKE ME HAVE SEX WITH THEM?

I MIGHT HAVE EVEN BEEN HAPPY BEING A BOY!

I KNOW THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH FOR YA, SUGAR, BUT IT'S SAFE FOR US TO BE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER NOW... THERE ARE NO PSYCHOTIC FIRST-GENERATION MALES TO DOMINATE US ANYMORE!

IS THIS WHAT SHE HAS PLANNED FOR THAT HECTOR BOY?

THE HECTOR BOY?

HOW MANY OF US ARE THERE?

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

I DID NOT EXPECT THAT QUESTION...

WILL HE HAVE A CHOICE, OR WILL HE BE FOOLED INTO BECOMING A GIRL SO YOU CAN HAVE HIS INTENDED GIFT AT YOUR DISPOSAL?

ALL TURNED INTO GIRLS TO KEEP THEIR FEMALE DOMINATION DREAM ALIVE!

IF I HAD MY WAY, NO, BUT ANNABELLE WAS VERY DIRECT IN HER WISHES FOR HIM TO DECIDE FOR HIMSELF!

ANNABELLE HAS NO GIFT?

ANNABELLE IS A CRESSWELL CREATION! HER MOTHER IS A SUPER FEMALE LIKE IRENE...

THEN SHE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE WAY YOU FEMINIZE US BOYS?

AND WHAT IF I DON'T AGREE WITH HER?

I CAN'T SAY I KNOW, POPPY...



THAT'S A TRIFLE O.T.T., SUGAR...

I AM SHOCKED YA THINK OF ME THAT WAY, POPPY!

WE DON'T KILL, POPPY!

I UNDERSTAND, POPPY... THIS IS ALL TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO DIGEST!

AND IT APPEARS I'M TALKING TO THE COCK NOW, HMMM?

SO I'M GUESSING THAT IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE ANSWER I GIVE, I'LL JOIN MY FATHER IN SOME NUNNERY?

OR DO I FIND DIANE AND HER ANGEL WAITING FOR ME ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR? AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHY SHE BROUGHT HER ALONG, FOR THIS MOMENT, ISN'T IT?

EVER SINCE YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE I THOUGHT YOU WERE GREAT... GODDESS, I EVEN WANTED TO BE LIKE YOU... BUT YOU'RE JUST AS BAD AS THOSE MEN YOU SO AVIDLY CALL EVIL!

NO, NOT IN A PHYSICAL WAY, BUT YOU KILL THE PERSON THEY ONCE WERE!

NO, YOU DON'T... I STILL HAVE MY COCK, AND THAT'S WHERE WE DIFFER, MOTHER!

YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T CARE... I'M NOT GONNA BE YOUR PUPPET! I'M OUTTA HERE!



I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU IF YOU GO OUT THAT DOOR...

WELL, IF IT MEANS MY MIND WILL BE WIPED, THEN I GUESS I WON'T CARE EITHER WAY, AND YOUR PLANS FOR A MOTHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP WILL BE GONE WITH ME!

I KNOW YOU ARE MUCH STRONGER THAN THIS, POPPY! STAY AND WE'LL FIND A SOLUTION!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE ME THE LIFE YOU, LAUREN, AND THAT DIANE TOOK AWAY FROM ME, YOU MEAN?

YOU KNOW I CANNOT DO THAT! NOW STOP AND COME BACK HERE... DO AS YOUR MOTHER ASKS!

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN MY MOTHER FOR FIVE MINUTES... LAUREN WAS MY MOTHER... AND IS MY MOTHER, CONSIDERING SHE BROUGHT ME UP!



LISTEN HERE,
YOU PETULANT
CHILD... IF YOU WALK
OUT THE DOOR AND OUT
ON ME, YOU'LL BE MAKING
THE SAME MISTAKE I
MADE! YOU ARE SPECIAL TO
ME NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF
YOUR GIFT, BUT BECAUSE I
CARRIED YOU FOR NINE
MONTHS AND GAVE BIRTH
TO YOU! YOU'RE MY
DAUGHTER, AND
THAT'S WHAT
MATTERS...

YOU HAD A
SON, NOT A
DAUGHTER,
MOTHER!

OKAY, POINT
MADE... BUT IF YOU
WALK OUT, YOU'LL BE
REPEATING THE SAME
MISTAKE I MADE,
WHICH LED TO YOU
BEING TAKEN AWAY
FROM ME...

AND DO
YOU KNOW
WHY?

With Gwynn's calm demeanor finally crumbling, Poppy's confused thoughts were at a crossroads...

WHY...?
HUFFF

BECAUSE
LIKE YOU ARE
NOW, I WAS
REACTING JUST
AS A WOMAN
WOULD!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

NO, I
DON'T HAVE
TO LISTEN TO
THIS... I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
IS THE TRUTH
AND WHAT IS
NOT!

While for Gwynn,
it was time to play
her last card...

EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU, SUGAR, IS GIRL... EVEN YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT!

A GIRL I WAS TRICKED INTO BECOMING!

IF YOU'D REALLY WANTED TO HAVE STAYED A BOY, YOU WOULD HAVE PUT UP A FIGHT!

WHEN WOULD I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT, WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU DECIDING MY LIFE OUTCOME?

AND IF YOU HAD... THE SISTERHOOD WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT YOU!

SO YOU PROGRAMMED ME TO STAY QUIET... HOW WONDERFUL A MOTHER YOU WERE!

I NEVER SAW YOU AGAIN UNTIL THAT DAY AT LAURA'S STUDIO!

WELL, SOMEONE ELSE YOU OR DIANE HIRED COULD HAVE RETURNED AND RUN PROGRAMS ON ME...

COME ON, POPPY, USE THAT INTELLIGENT TRANSGENDERED BRAIN OF YOURS!

HUH?

GODDESS, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I SWORE I'D NEVER DO...

YOU RECALL BEING FOUR YEARS OLD, YES?

VAGUELY, BUT, YEAH...?

IF SHE ANSWERS, IT WILL UNLOCK ALL THOSE HORRIBLE MEMORIES OF THAT BASTARD DIANE KEPT HIDDEN AWAY IN HER MIND...
SIGH

AND WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE DOLL?

IT WAS AN ANNNN...

THAT WAS YOUR CHOICE, POPPY! NOBODY FORCED YOU INTO PLAYING WITH DOLLS...

I LOVED THAT DOLL! THAT HORRID HUSBAND OF LAUREN'S USED... USED TO...?

...NGIE... AN ANGIE DOLL!

And just as Gwynn knew would happen, Poppy's traumatic hidden childhood erupted in her thoughts...

AWFUL MAN?

YOUR FATHER, YOU MEAN?

AND IF YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE EIGHT, HE BEAT YOU TO WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE!

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO RECALL MUCH OF YOUR CHILDHOOD BECAUSE DIANE HYPNOTIZED YOU TO FORGET IT... WE KNEW ONE DAY WE WOULD HAVE TO RELEASE THOSE MEMORIES, BUT ONLY WHEN YOUR ABILITIES WERE AT FULL CAPACITY... I'M AFRAID DIANE ALSO IMPLANTED LAUREN'S CONTROL OVER YOU AFTER THE INCIDENT!

AND, GODDESS, WHEN I SAW WHAT HE HAD DONE TO YOU, I WANTED TO KILL THAT BASTARD!

SHE WAS YOUR NANNY! WE SENT HER TO PROTECT YOU... YOUR FATHER AGREED BECAUSE IT MEANT HE COULD HAVE HER WHENEVER HE WANTED!

OH, MY GODDESS, THAT MAN...

THAT AWFUL MAN...

HE USED TO BEAT LAUREN IN FRONT OF ME!

DID SHE JUST TRIGGER MY PAST?

SHE DID IT TO STOP HIM BEATING ME FOR PLAYING WITH DOLLS!

IT'S SO VIVID, AND, LAUREN, OHHH, MY GODDESS...

HE CAUGHT ME IN LAUREN'S HEELS AND DRESS!

I REMEMBER HIS FACE! I WAS SO SCARED OF HIM, AND POOR LAUREN...

I EVEN KNOW WHAT FALSE MEMORIES WERE IMPLANTED IN ME! HOW CAN THIS BE SO?

ERRR, LAUREN WAS THE NANNY?

I NEVER WORE DRESSES OR PLAYED WITH GIRLS' STUFF AGAIN...

With the release of her hidden traumas as a child, Poppy soon realized that her gift was also one of interpretation...

OHHH, GODDESS, I REMEMBER IT ALL...

POOR LAUREN! SHE PUT UP WITH ALL THAT BEATING AND CONSTANT SEX TO LOOK AFTER ME...

WHEN YOU TURNED 14, THAT'S WHEN THAT LI'L OL' MAN IN YOU STARTED TO SURFACE... YOU STARTED TO DISPLAY THE SAME TRAITS AS YOUR DADDY... THE TESTOSTERONE NOT ONLY BLOCKED YOUR ABILITIES, BUT 'CHA WAS IN DANGER OF LOSING YER ABILITIES ALTOGETHER, SUGAR... ALSO, DARE I SAY IT, YOU BECAME PRETTY TROUBLESOME FOR POOR LAUREN!

SHE CAUGHT YOU STEALING MONEY FROM HER PURSE, AND YOU...

THAT'S WHEN SHE CALLED DIANE AND TOLD HER SHE COULDN'T TRUST YOU ANYMORE...

YES, YOU WERE TAKEN THERE AND TAUGHT HOW TO BE A GIRL...

THEY ONLY COERCED YOU INTO BECOMING THE GIRL YOU ARE NOW! THEY NEVER PROGRAMMED YOU... FOR ONE THING, NOBODY CAN!

THAT'S WHY SHE HATED ME SO MUCH...

I HIT HER...
SIGH

I REMEMBER A BUILDING OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE...

I RECALL IT NOW, YES... OHHH, GODDESS, DID I ENJOY FINALLY WEARING SKIRTS AND GIRLS' STUFF!

HAVE YOU SET THE ALARM TONIGHT?
PUSH BAR TO



I WAS GIVEN
TO LAUREN
AFTERWARD AND
WAS TOLD SHE WAS
MY MISTRESS...

YES,
POPPY, YOU
WAS, BUT
LAUREN TOOK
HER NEW
MADAME
STATUS A BIT
TOO FAR...

SHE WAS
TAKING ALL
THOSE YEARS
OF ABUSE MY
FATHER DEALT
HER OUT ON
ME!

YES, SHE DID,
UNFORTUNATELY,
BUT I VISITED HER
AND WARNED HER IF
SHE EVER HURT YA,
SHE WOULD LOSE
HER STATUS!

AND THAT'S
WHEN YOU SET
OUT MY PATH
TO GAIN MY
GIFT...

YOU LIKE
MEN, SUGAR,
JUST LIKE YER
OL' MOMMA
DOES!

YEAH, I DO!
THAT'S WHY I
DID NOT WANT
THAT LAP
DANCER!

HAD TO
BE SURE,
SUGAR!

BUT YOU...
HOW DID YOU
MANAGE TO
NOT WANT TO
SEE ME?

OH HH, POPPY,
SUGAR, I NEVER
STOPPED ASKING
ABOUT YA, BUT SEEING
YA WAS KIND OF A
REMINDER THAT BEING
A WOMAN HAD ITS
DOWNFALLS...

IN
WHAT
WAY?

I TOLD YOU
ABOUT WALKING
OUT THAT DOOR...
WELL, YER OL'
MOMMA, SHE DID
JUST THAT SAME
THING!



MA DADDY... HE WAS NONE TOO PLEASED THAT HIS BOY WAS BORN WITH A PUSSY, TOO! HE WOULD'VE STRANGL'D ME AT BIRTH, BUT MY MOMMA STOOD UP TO HIM AND BROUGHT ME UP ON THE FARMSTEAD ACROSS THE WAY FROM MA DADDY'S RANCH...

HE WAS, YES... HE TOOK MY MOMMA AS A LOVER, AND SHE WAS OF FIRST CIRCLE BLOOD, TOO... THEY WERE LOVERS RIGHT UP UNTIL I WAS BORN!

WELL, IN THOSE DAYS, WOMEN OF CIRCLE BLOOD WERE JUST PROPERTY TO PRODUCE HEIRS FOR MORE ASSHOLE MEN! LIKE A CONVEYOR BELT, IF YA LIKE...

NO, HE ALWAYS THOUGHT I WOULD TURN OUT TO BE HIS GOOD OL' JUNIOR... AFTER ALL, I HAD A COCK AND BALLS, TOO!

IT WAS AT SCHOOL... I HAD TO BE A BOY, AND I HATED EVERY MINUTE OF IT! MA OL' MOMMA USED TO STORE MA DRESSES 'N' UNDERWEAR IN THE BASEMENT, AND SHE SET UP A DRESSING ROOM FOR ME TO BECOME HER DAUGHTER WHEN I WAS AT HOME!

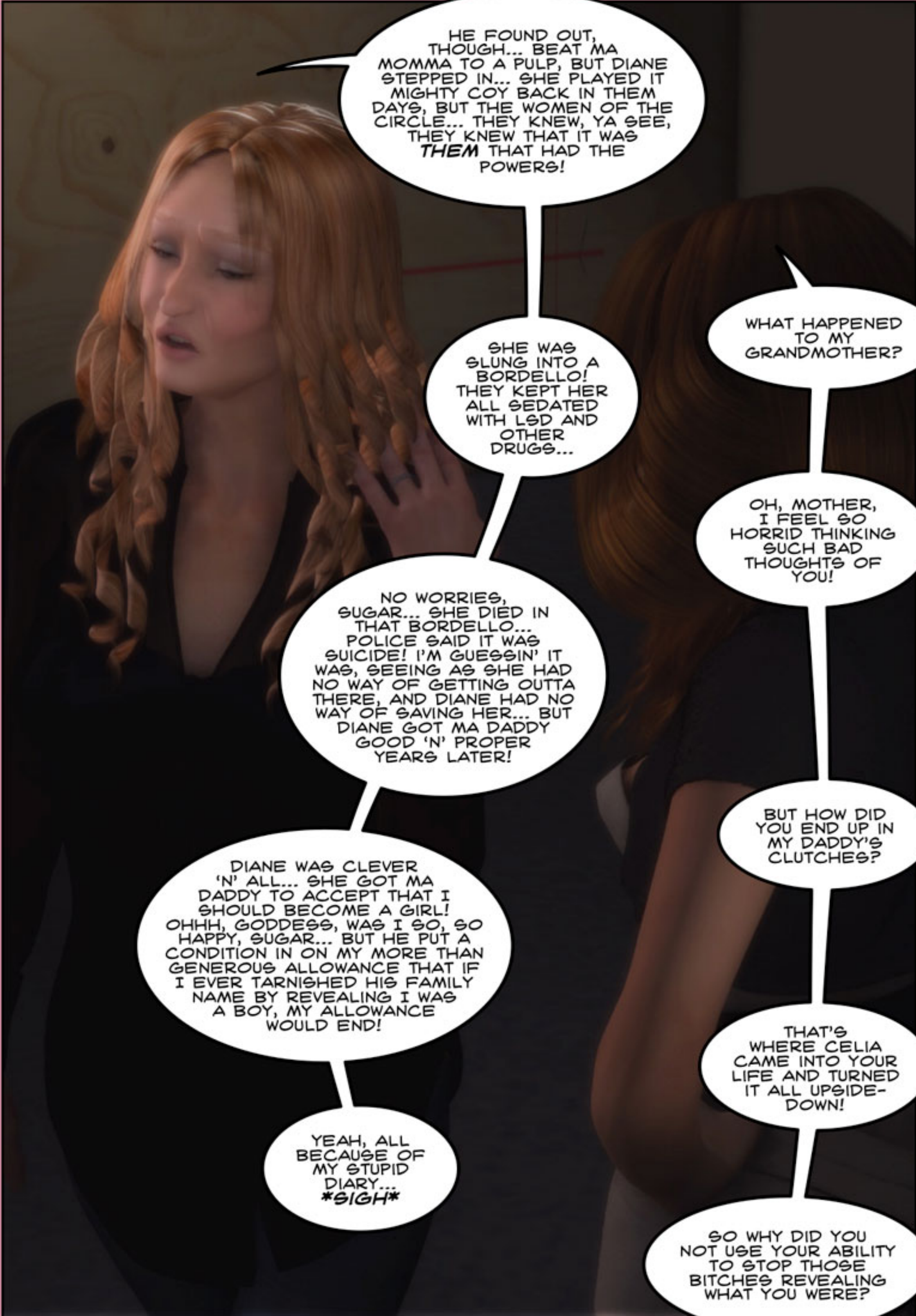
BUT YOUR DADDY, MY GRANDDADDY, WAS ONE OF THESE EVIL MEN, TOO...

HE DITCHED BOTH OF YOU?

BUT HE NEVER BEAT YOU?

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN STRANGE, TO HAVE THE FEELINGS OF BOTH SEXES...

YOU DRESSED AS A BOY ALL THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL YEARS? WOW!



HE FOUND OUT, THOUGH... BEAT MA MOMMA TO A PULP, BUT DIANE STEPPED IN... SHE PLAYED IT MIGHTY COY BACK IN THEM DAYS, BUT THE WOMEN OF THE CIRCLE... THEY KNEW, YA SEE, THEY KNEW THAT IT WAS **THEM** THAT HAD THE POWERS!

SHE WAS SLUNG INTO A BORDELLO! THEY KEPT HER ALL SEDATED WITH LSD AND OTHER DRUGS...

NO WORRIES, SUGAR... SHE DIED IN THAT BORDELLO... POLICE SAID IT WAS SUICIDE! I'M GUESSIN' IT WAS, SEEING AS SHE HAD NO WAY OF GETTING OUTTA THERE, AND DIANE HAD NO WAY OF SAVING HER... BUT DIANE GOT MA DADDY GOOD 'N' PROPER YEARS LATER!

DIANE WAS CLEVER 'N' ALL... SHE GOT MA DADDY TO ACCEPT THAT I SHOULD BECOME A GIRL! OHHH, GODDESS, WAS I SO, SO HAPPY, SUGAR... BUT HE PUT A CONDITION IN ON MY MORE THAN GENEROUS ALLOWANCE THAT IF I EVER TARNISHED HIS FAMILY NAME BY REVEALING I WAS A BOY, MY ALLOWANCE WOULD END!

YEAH, ALL BECAUSE OF MY STUPID DIARY...
SIGH

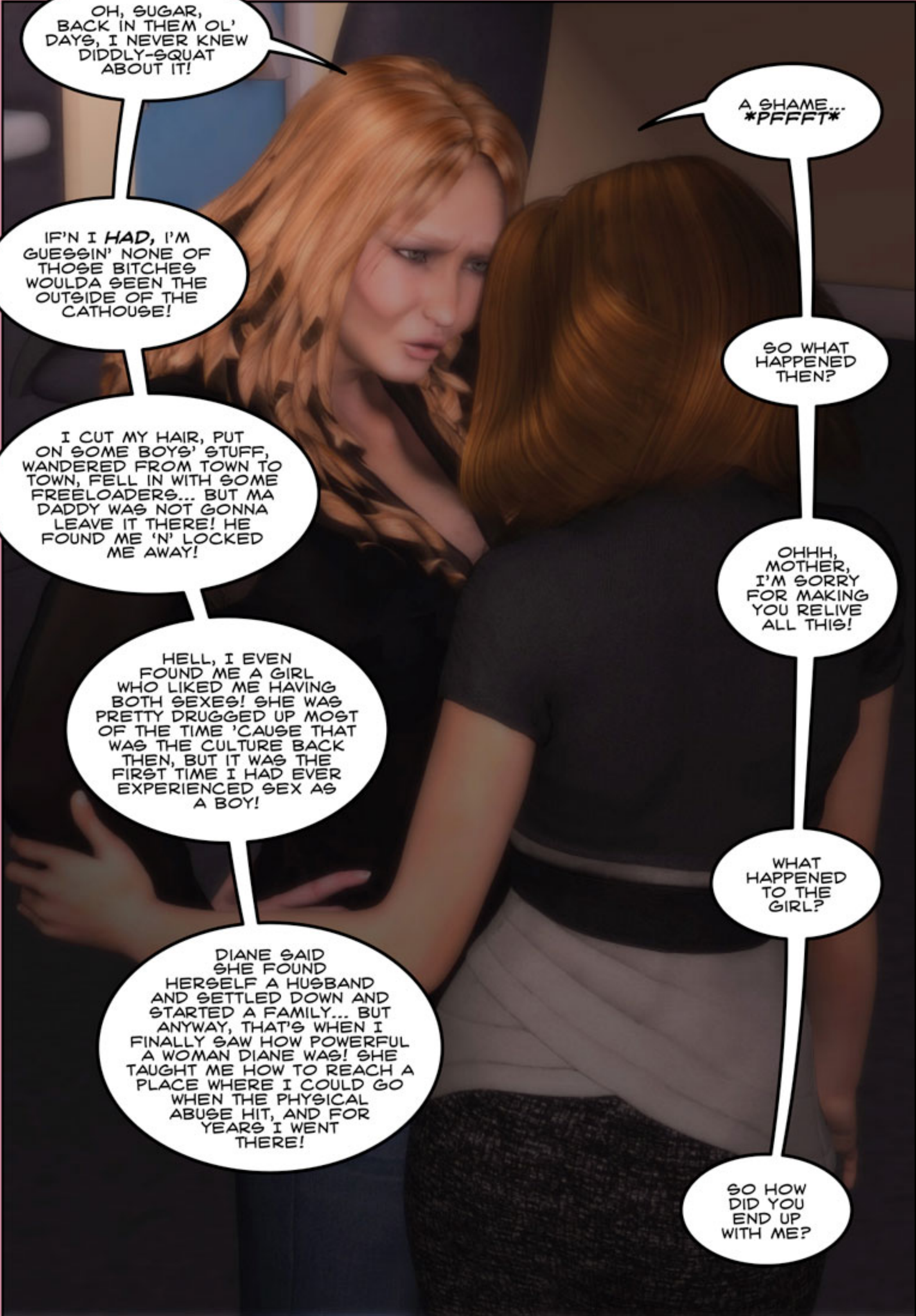
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY GRANDMOTHER?

OH, MOTHER, I FEEL SO HORRID THINKING SUCH BAD THOUGHTS OF YOU!

BUT HOW DID YOU END UP IN MY DADDY'S CLUTCHES?

THAT'S WHERE CELIA CAME INTO YOUR LIFE AND TURNED IT ALL UPSIDE-DOWN!

SO WHY DID YOU NOT USE YOUR ABILITY TO STOP THOSE BITCHES REVEALING WHAT YOU WERE?



OH, SUGAR,
BACK IN THEM OL'
DAYS, I NEVER KNEW
DIDDLY-SQUAT
ABOUT IT!

IF'N I *HAD*, I'M
GUESSIN' NONE OF
THOSE BITCHES
WOULDA SEEN THE
OUTSIDE OF THE
CATHOUSE!

I CUT MY HAIR, PUT
ON SOME BOYS' STUFF,
WANDERED FROM TOWN TO
TOWN, FELL IN WITH SOME
FREELOADERS... BUT MA
DADDY WAS NOT GONNA
LEAVE IT THERE! HE
FOUND ME 'N' LOCKED
ME AWAY!

HELL, I EVEN
FOUND ME A GIRL
WHO LIKED ME HAVING
BOTH SEXES! SHE WAS
PRETTY DRUGGED UP MOST
OF THE TIME 'CAUSE THAT
WAS THE CULTURE BACK
THEN, BUT IT WAS THE
FIRST TIME I HAD EVER
EXPERIENCED SEX AS
A BOY!

DIANE SAID
SHE FOUND
HERSELF A HUSBAND
AND SETTLED DOWN AND
STARTED A FAMILY... BUT
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHEN I
FINALLY SAW HOW POWERFUL
A WOMAN DIANE WAS! SHE
TAUGHT ME HOW TO REACH A
PLACE WHERE I COULD GO
WHEN THE PHYSICAL
ABUSE HIT, AND FOR
YEARS I WENT
THERE!

A SHAME...
PFFFT

SO WHAT
HAPPENED
THEN?

OHHH,
MOTHER,
I'M SORRY
FOR MAKING
YOU RELIVE
ALL THIS!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
GIRL?

SO HOW
DID YOU
END UP
WITH ME?

HE BOUGHT YOU?

I'M GUESSING YOU NEVER HAD SEX AS A WOMAN BEFORE THAT...

SO DIANE WAS FORCED TO SAVE YOU AGAIN?

YOU WERE PREGNANT?

WHAT DID MY DADDY SAY?

YOU CONTROLLED HIM?

YER DADDY FOUND ME BY ACCIDENT... HE WAS PRETTY TWISTED IN THE HEAD, AS WERE ALL THE CIRCLE MEN! I WAS DANCING AS A SIDESHOW FREAK FOR ONE OF THEIR AWFUL SEX ORGY CEREMONIES... HE SPOTTED ME AND BOUGHT ME!

I TOLD YOU, WOMEN WERE WORTHLESS IN THEIR EYES... EVERY CIRCLE WOMAN HAD A PRICE, AND MA DADDY SOLD ME TO YOURS!

NOPE, HE HAD CONSTANT SEX WITH ME FOR TWO DAYS... ENJOYED THE FACT THAT I COULD GET ERECT WHEN HE WAS FUCKING MY PUSSY!

NO, THIS IS WHERE ME AND HER FELL OUT, SUGAR...

I SURE WAS, BUT I REALIZED SOMETHING WONDERFUL WAS HAPPENING TO ME... A FEELING OF PURENESS AND CLEAR THOUGHT, JUST AS YOU DISCOVERED WHEN I RELEASED YOUR MEMORIES!

I KINDA MADE HIM DO THINGS HE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE...

OH, SUGAR, I WAS IN MY ELEMENT! YOU IN MY BELLY HAD RELEASED ALL MY DORMANT ABILITY WITH A RUSH!



YOU SEE, BY THE TIME YOUR FATHER BOUGHT ME AND GAVE ME YOU, I WAS KINDA INTO MA FIFTIES, AND I SURE WERE NO PURTY PICTURE, BUT MY SKIN STARTED TO SOFTEN AND MY BREASTS... OHHH, GODDESS, DID THEY GROW...
HA HA

WHERE D'YA THINK CELESTE GOT ALL THE GENES AND DNA BLUEPRINTS FROM TO CREATE HER YOUTH SERUMS AND SUPER FEMALES, HUH?

NOW YER STARTIN' TA GET THE PICTURE ON YER LI'L OL' MOMMA 'N' DIANE, HUH?

I WAS VERY MUCH A WOMAN AFTER GIVING BIRTH... SHE TOOK MY COCK ABOUT MID-TERM, SAID I WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES AND HANDED OVER TO THE MILITARY AND TESTED ON... SOME CRAP I STILL DOUBT TODAY... BUT MY BIGGEST MISTAKE WAS DOING WHAT YOU NEARLY DID!

YESSIREE, AND WITH IT YOU, POPPY... SHE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE YOU BACK TO YOUR FATHER... YOU WAS BORN A BOY, AND BACK THEN THEY HAD NO IDEA WHAT YOU WOULD BECOME!

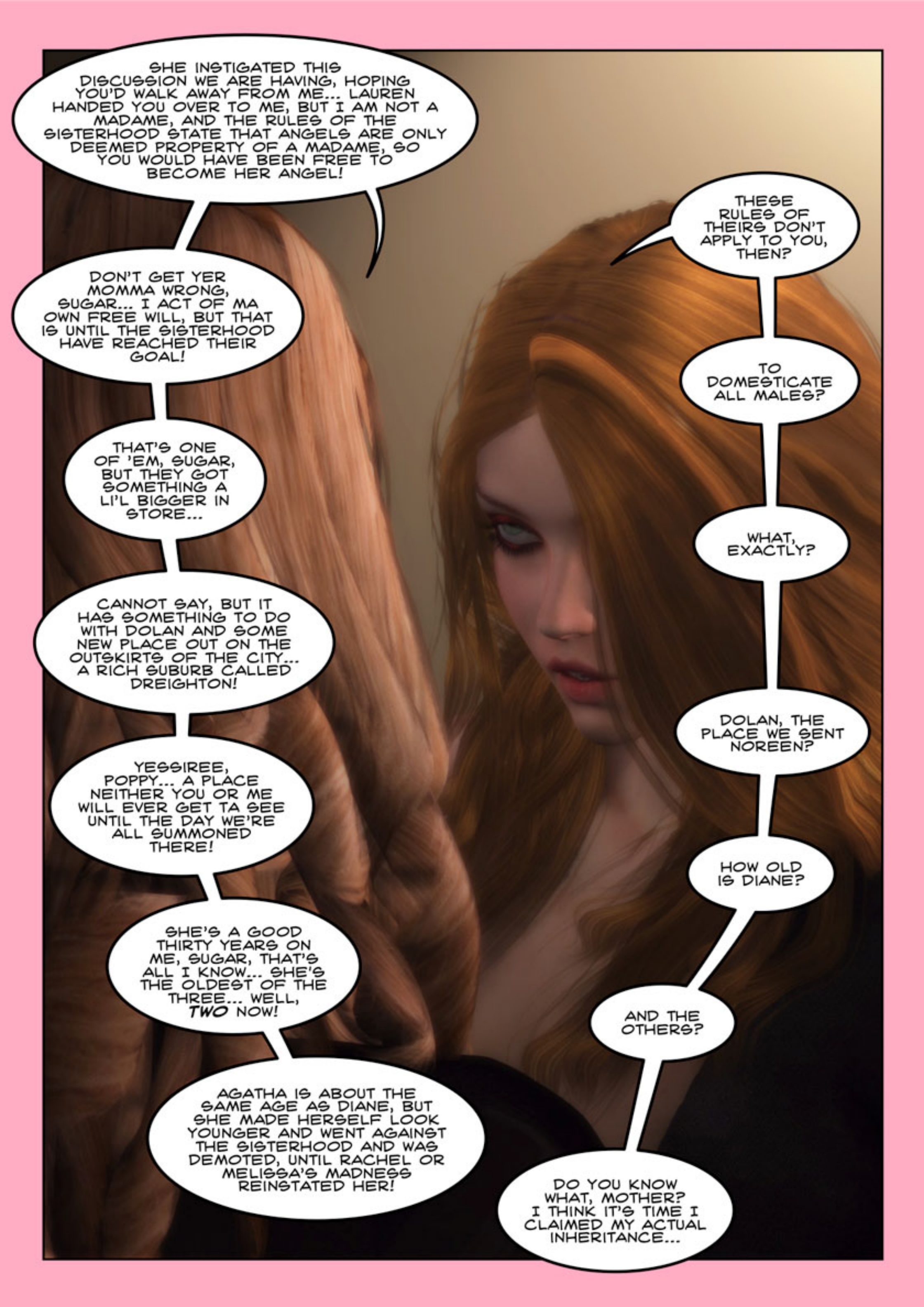
THEN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THROUGH...

YOUR WOMB?

SHE TOOK IT ALL AWAY FROM YOU? EVERYTHING?

YOU WALKED OUT ON DIANE?

I WAS RIGHT ABOUT WHAT WAITED FOR ME ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR... I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THAT ANGEL OF A HUSBAND SHE HAD WITH HER...



SHE INSTIGATED THIS DISCUSSION WE ARE HAVING, HOPING YOU'D WALK AWAY FROM ME... LAUREN HANDED YOU OVER TO ME, BUT I AM NOT A MADAME, AND THE RULES OF THE SISTERHOOD STATE THAT ANGELS ARE ONLY DEEMED PROPERTY OF A MADAME, SO YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN FREE TO BECOME HER ANGEL!

DON'T GET YER MOMMA WRONG, SUGAR... I ACT OF MA OWN FREE WILL, BUT THAT IS UNTIL THE SISTERHOOD HAVE REACHED THEIR GOAL!

THAT'S ONE OF 'EM, SUGAR, BUT THEY GOT SOMETHING A LI'L BIGGER IN STORE...

CANNOT SAY, BUT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH DOLAN AND SOME NEW PLACE OUT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY... A RICH SUBURB CALLED DREIGHTON!

YESSIREE, POPPY... A PLACE NEITHER YOU OR ME WILL EVER GET TA SEE UNTIL THE DAY WE'RE ALL SUMMONED THERE!

SHE'S A GOOD THIRTY YEARS ON ME, SUGAR, THAT'S ALL I KNOW... SHE'S THE OLDEST OF THE THREE... WELL, TWO NOW!

AGATHA IS ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS DIANE, BUT SHE MADE HERSELF LOOK YOUNGER AND WENT AGAINST THE SISTERHOOD AND WAS DEMOTED, UNTIL RACHEL OR MELISSA'S MADNESS REINSTATED HER!

THESE RULES OF THEIRS DON'T APPLY TO YOU, THEN?

TO DOMESTICATE ALL MALES?

WHAT, EXACTLY?

DOLAN, THE PLACE WE SENT NOREEN?

HOW OLD IS DIANE?

AND THE OTHERS?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT, MOTHER? I THINK IT'S TIME I CLAIMED MY ACTUAL INHERITANCE...



OH, POPPY, DARLIN'... THAT'S SOMETHING I AM ALREADY WORKING ON!

SIR THEOBALD OWNS YER DADDY'S LANDS AND MINE!

NOW, BEFORE WE GET THAT FAR, I GOT A WEDDIN' DRESS WAITING FOR ME TO TRY ON, AND YOU, POPPY, HAVE A SWIMSUIT PARTY TO ATTEND!

I NEED THE HECTOR BOY TO BE SHOWN JUST WHAT SHE WILL ENJOY FROM BEING LIKE YOU...

SEDUCE HER!

SIR THEO OR HIS SON ARE NOT CIRCLE BLOOD... I JUST HAD TO FIND OUT IF SHE LIKED MEN, AND SHE DOES... YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE, AND SHE IS, TOO!

YOU'RE MY BLOOD, AND THAT IS THE MOST POTENT WEAPON WE HAVE IF WE ARE GOING TO STAKE OUR CLAIM IN THIS FEMALE-DOMINANT SISTERHOOD!

YOU ARE?

HE DOES? WOW!

A SWIMSUIT PARTY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HER VIRGINITY?

BUT I'M A GIRL, NOT A LORD OR IMPORTANT CIRCLE MALE...


With Gywnn's plans all unfolding, the final jigsaw piece in her revenge against the four girls from her past was about to be placed on the table...

HOW DO YOU FEEL, JACQUELINE?

EXCITED, MISS MIAH!

YOU HAVE THREE PEOPLE TO IMPRESS TODAY, SO GAINING CONTROL OF YOUR NERVES IS ESSENTIAL!





I DON'T FEEL ANY NERVES AT ALL... I'VE BEEN STUDYING TALINA'S VERSION OF "NUTCRACKER" ALL WEEK LONG, AND I KNOW EVERY MOVE!

YES, MIKAIL SAID YOU LOOK LIKE TALINA WHEN YOU DANCE!

HE'S A GOOD TEACHER, MISS MIAH...

AND SUPER HOT, TOO!



YOUR DIET HAS GONE WELL, TOO...

YES, AND THE LIGHT WEIGHT TRAINING!

GODDESS, SHE IS PERFECT! HOW THEY EVER MANAGED TO CREATE SOMETHING SO PRETTY AND AGILE OUT OF THAT HORRID YOUNG MAN, I'LL NEVER KNOW...

OKAY, LIMBER UP A LITTLE, SHAKE OUT THOSE COBWEBS OF TRAVEL!


EXQUISITE,
JACQUELINE!



NOW REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU... IF YOU ARE ASKED TO PERFORM FIRST, NO OVER-ELABORATION... YOUR PERFORMANCE WILL FORCE YOUR COMPETITOR TO DO THAT, AND SHE WILL MAKE A MISTAKE!

AHH
HAA!

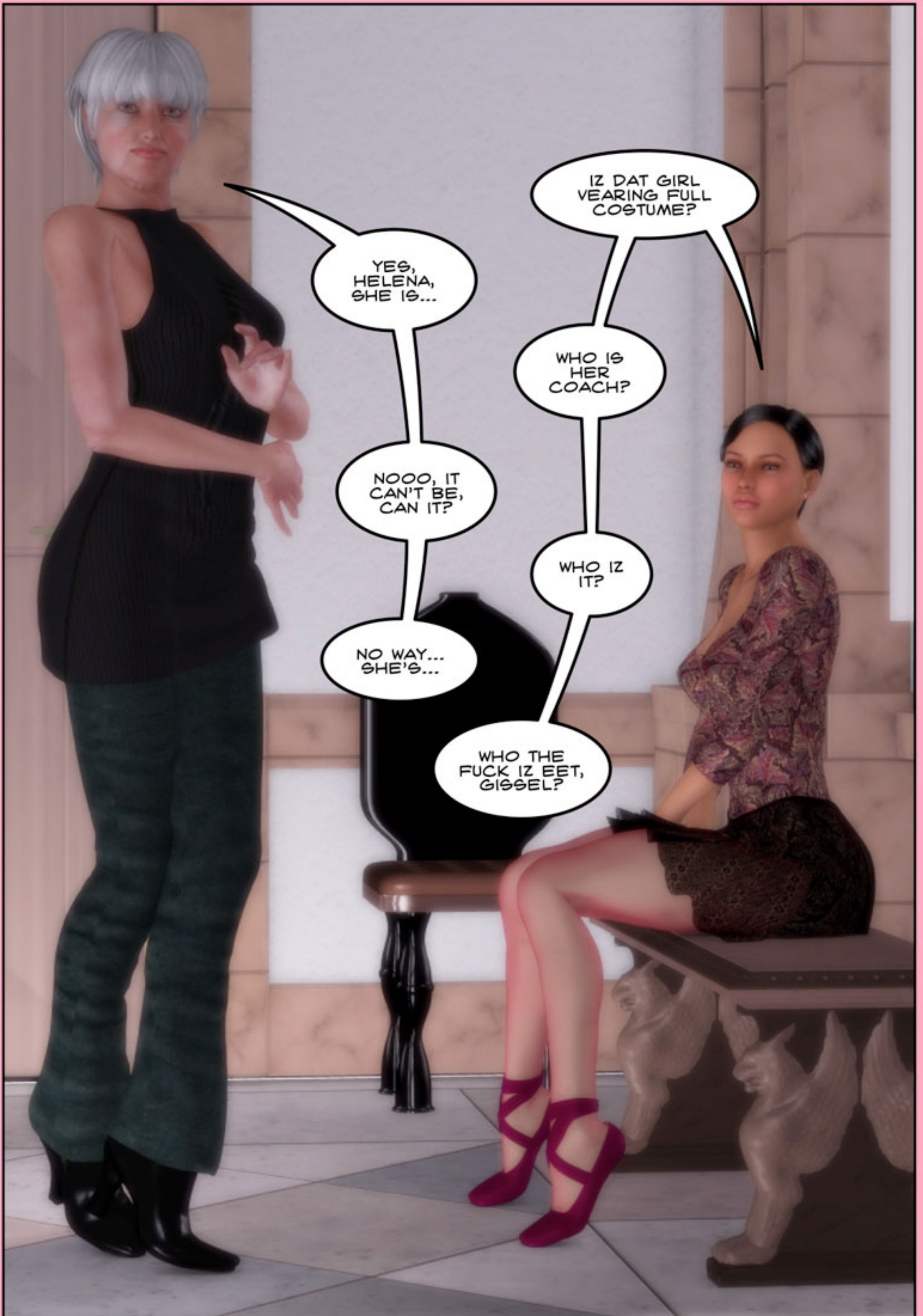
OHhh,
GODDESS, I
CANNOT BELIEVE IT...
ONE OF MY PUPILS
BECOMING THE SWAN
PRINCESS FOR THE
RUSSIAN BALLET OF
BULLCHESTER!



I SEE YOUR
COMPETITOR'S
TRAINER HAS THE
BELIEF HER GIRL IS
ALREADY THE SWAN
PRINCESS...

HMMM,
HELENA
MULLER... SHE IS
GOOD, BUT HER
OVER-CONFIDENCE
WILL BE HER
UNDOING...
GRIN

YES, MISS
MIAH... SHE IS
DRESSED FOR
REHEARSAL, IS
SHE NOT?



YES,
HELENA,
SHE IS...

IZ DAT GIRL
VEARING FULL
COSTUME?

WHO IS
HER
COACH?

NOOO, IT
CAN'T BE,
CAN IT?

WHO IZ
IT?

NO WAY...
SHE'S...

WHO THE
FUCK IZ EET,
GISSEL?

YOU HAD BETTER MAKE SURE YOU GET TO DANCE FIRST, HELENA!

THE LAST TIME I SAW A GIRL WALK LIKE THAT DOWN THIS HALL WAS... OHH, GOD, SHE'S UNEARTHED ANOTHER TALINA...

WHY? I AM ACCOMPLISHED BALLERINA!

THE TEACHER IS MIAH TORMOLI!

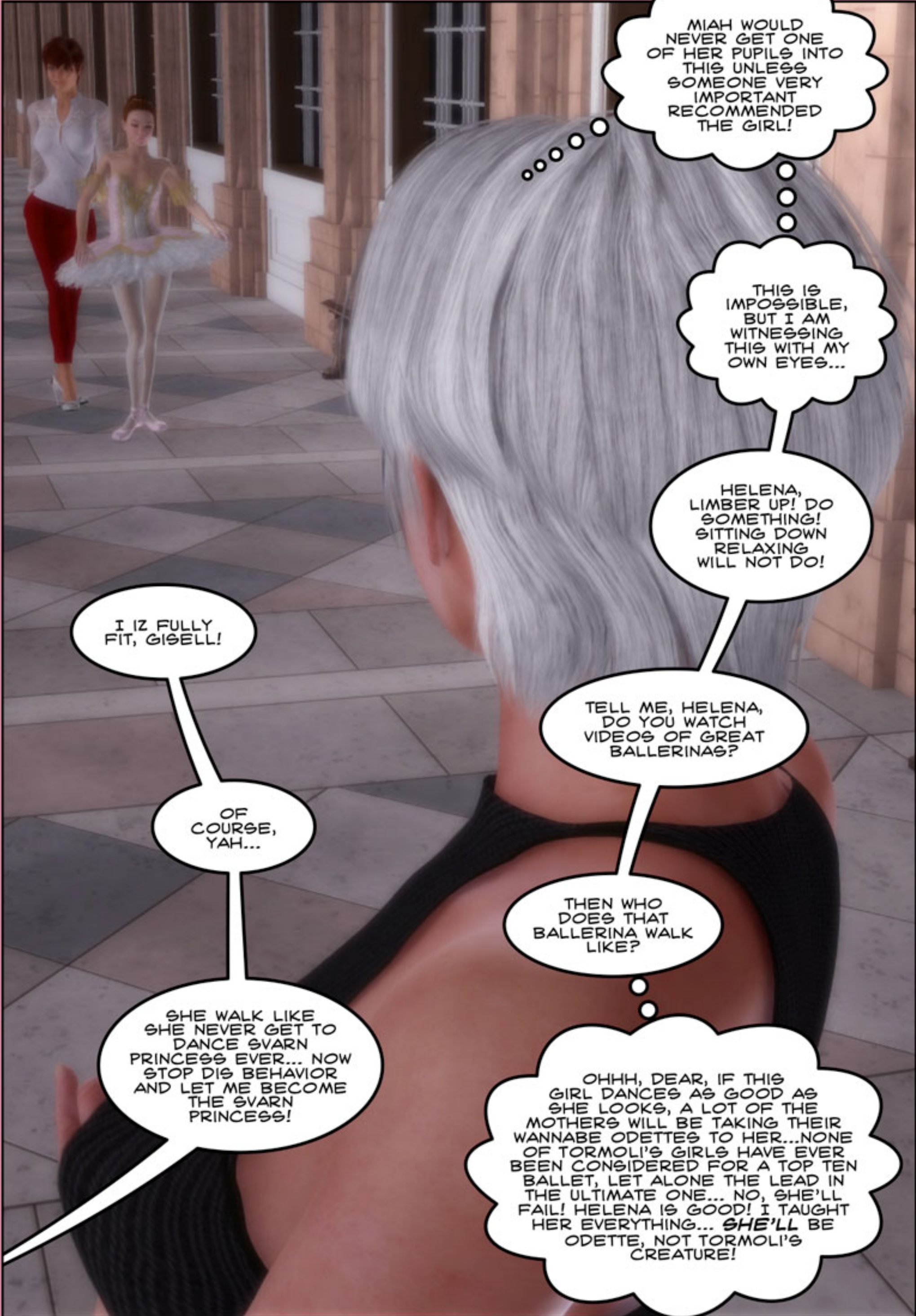
SHE WAS, YES, BUT FOR A BOY, SHE COULD DANCE "SWAN LAKE" EXCEPTIONALLY...

SHE WAS DA BALLERINA WHO TURNED OUT TO BE BOY, YAH?

YOU MAY HAVE FIVE LEAD DANCES BEHIND YOU, BUT THIS BALLET PRODUCTION IS THE CROWN JEWEL! ONLY THE BEST GET TO BE ODETTE!

I AM BETTER DAN HER, YAH?

SO I VILL VIN! NO PROBLEM!



MIAH WOULD NEVER GET ONE OF HER PUPILS INTO THIS UNLESS SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT RECOMMENDED THE GIRL!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT I AM WITNESSING THIS WITH MY OWN EYES...

HELENA, LIMBER UP! DO SOMETHING! SITTING DOWN RELAXING WILL NOT DO!

TELL ME, HELENA, DO YOU WATCH VIDEOS OF GREAT BALLERINAS?

THEN WHO DOES THAT BALLERINA WALK LIKE?

OHhh, DEAR, IF THIS GIRL DANCES AS GOOD AS SHE LOOKS, A LOT OF THE MOTHERS WILL BE TAKING THEIR WANNABE ODETTES TO HER...NONE OF TORMOLI'S GIRLS HAVE EVER BEEN CONSIDERED FOR A TOP TEN BALLET, LET ALONE THE LEAD IN THE ULTIMATE ONE... NO, SHE'LL FAIL! HELENA IS GOOD! I TAUGHT HER EVERYTHING... **SHE'LL BE ODETTE, NOT TORMOLI'S CREATURE!**

I IZ FULLY FIT, GISELL!

OF COURSE, YAH...

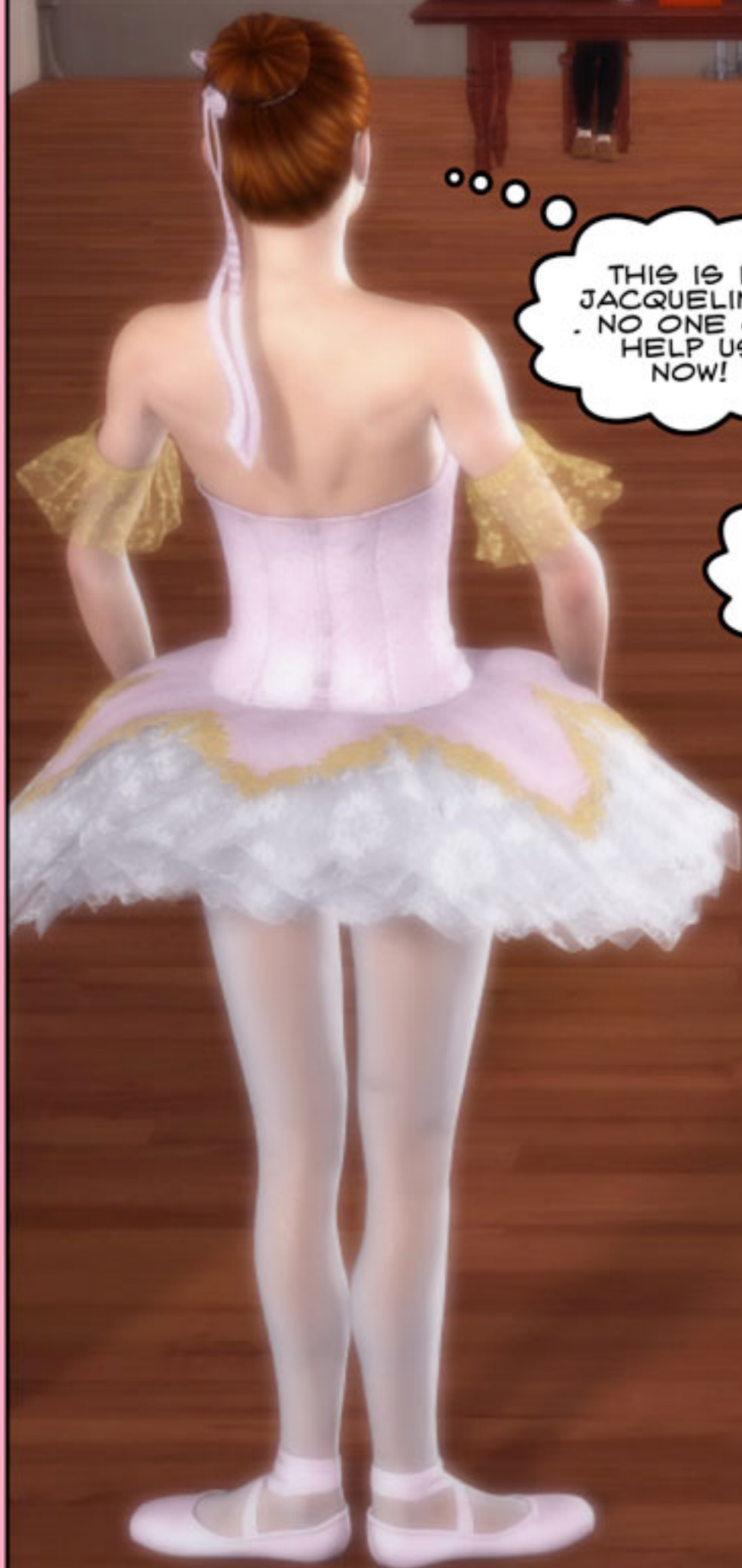
SHE WALK LIKE SHE NEVER GET TO DANCE SVARN PRINCESS EVER... NOW STOP DIS BEHAVIOR AND LET ME BECOME THE SVARN PRINCESS!

And with a slight nod of acknowledgement between both tutors, silence fell until the doors opened and neither ballerina could be helped anymore...

PLEASE STEP FORWARD TEN PACES AND WAIT TO BE CALLED!

THIS IS IT, JACQUELINE... NO ONE CAN HELP US NOW!

PHILLIPE KNOWS ME VELL... I AM ODETTE, YAH!



WHO DO WE
HAVE TODAY,
PHILLIPE?

HELENA...

STABLE,
PHILLIPE?

YES, OF
COURSE, TILDA...
MISS MULLER IS
FROM GISELLE
BOULDER'S
STABLE!

HMMM,
A GOOD
STABLE!

MRS.
BOULDER HAS
PRODUCED OVER
FIVE TOP FEMALE
BALLET DANCERS,
AND THIS ONE IS
HER MOST
FAVORED!

ONE OF
GISELLE'S
GIRLS, I SEE?

YAH,
MADAME!

AND YOU
HAVE DANCED
ODETTE
BEFORE?

YES, MISS
MULLER HAS
BEEN A SWAN IN
A PRODUCTION I
RAN OVER IN
PARIS!

LET THE
GIRL ANSWER,
PHILLIPE...
WELL, GIRL?

YAH, MADAME, I
VAS A SVAN IN A
PRODUCTION FOR
HERR PHILLIPE...

WHAT WAS
YOUR LAST
DANCE, IF WE
MAY ASK, MISS
MULLER?

"LA
BAYADERE,"
MADAME!

SHE WAS
CHOSEN TO
PLAY NIKIYA!

SO YOU HAVE
HAD FIVE LEAD
PERFORMANCES
BEHIND YOU... THAT
WILL FARE WELL IN
OUR FINAL
ASSESSMENT...

YAH, MADAME, I
HAY PERFORMED
LAST FIVE BALLETS,
"CINDERELLA,"
"SLEEPING
BEAUTY"...

YES, YES, IF YOU
HAD NOT, PHILLIPE
WOULD HAVE TOLD
ME... AND DO YOU
UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU
ARE CHOSEN, YOU WILL
SIGN A CONTRACT TYING
YOU TO THIS BALLETT
FOR THE NEXT
YEAR?

YAH,
MADAME!

OKAY, WHO'S
NEXT?

WE HAVE
MISS ROSS!



STEP FORWARD
TWENTY PACES,
MY DEAR!

MISS
ROSS...

SHE IS
FROM THE
TORMOLI
ACADEMY,
TILDA?


SHE HAS
GREAT
POISE...



YES, YES IT IS, BUT WHAT IS THIS TORMOLI ACADEMY? I'VE NEVER, ERHHH...

OH HH, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL MOVEMENT, DON'T YOU THINK, TILDA?

I HAVE NO IDEA, TILDA, SORRY!



PHILLIPE,
THE ONLY
TORMOLI
I KNOW OF
IS THAT...

THIS IS QUITE
PREPOSTEROUS!
HOW IN THE HELL DID
WE GET A DANCER
FROM HER
RECOMMENDED, HUH?
TELL ME, PHILLIPE...
I WANT ANSWERS!

MY MAID IS A
RESPECTABLE
PERSON, BUT I'D
NEVER LET HER
DAUGHTER ANYWHERE
NEAR OUR
CHARTER... WHO
GAVE HER THE
CREDITS?

PHILLIPE!

IS HE MAD?
WHAT BALLETS
HAS THIS GIRL
DONE?

OHhh, DEAR,
I'M SORRY,
TILDA, BUT, YES,
IT IS, MIAH!

THE PERSON
WHO GAVE HER
THE CREDITS TO
BE ON OUR
CHARTER IS A VERY
RESPECTABLE
PERSON,
TILDA...

TILDA IS
NOT GONNA
LIKE THIS...
GULP

IT WAS MIKEL
KRYZAK, TILDA!

IT DOES NOT SAY
ANYTHING ABOUT
WHERE SHE HAS OR
HAS NOT PERFORMED...
MIKEL PASSED HER ON
ALL FOUR MERITS
REQUIRED FOR HER
TO BE UP FOR
ACCEPTANCE!

MY GOD, TILDA,
LOOK AT THE
THING... THE LAST
TIME I SAW GRACE
AND PANACHE LIKE
THIS WAS YOU-
KNOW-WHO!

WHAT?

LOOK AT
THE GIRL!

SHE SHOULD
NOT BE HERE...
SHE'S FROM
TORMOLI'S
ACADEMY!


JUST LOOK
AT HER,
PLEASE!



THIS IS
RIDICULO-

NO WONDER
MIKAL PASSED
HER...

THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!
THERE WAS
ONLY EVER
ONE...



IF TORMOLI HAS FOUND HER, WE CANNOT DENY HER STATUS OF AN ACADEMY ANYMORE!

I HARDLY THINK TORMOLI WOULD PUT FORWARD A BOY WHEN IT WAS WHAT CAUSED HER OWN REMOVAL FROM THE BALLET CIRCUIT!

RULES ARE RULES, TILDA... IF MIKEL HAS MERITED THE GIRL, THEN WE HAVE TO ACCEPT HER AND CLASS MIAH'S ACADEMY AS A VIABLE STABLE!

WE DO NOT HAVE TIME TO PUT THIS POOR GIRL THROUGH ALL THE EMBARRASSMENT OF ANY SUCH PROCEDURE, AND WE HAVE THREE JUDGES, NOT ONE!

IF THIS GIRL IS **ACTUALLY** A GIRL!

HMM, YOU HAVE A POINT! BUT I WOULD NOT PUT IT PAST HIM...

IF SHE IS A SHE! I WANT BIRTH CERTIFICATES AND A FULL MEDICAL!

IT CAN ALL BE FAKED... I WANT IT ALL CLARIFIED BEFORE I EVEN PUT MY CROSS TO THE PAPER!

WHAT?

THE YOUNG GIRL IN QUESTION HAS ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK... PASSPORT IDENTIFICATION, AND A FULL CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FROM A DR. DE'BOUCHER, WHO IS A TOP GYNECOLOGIST!

WE SEEM TO HAVE A DISCREPANCY IN WHO YOUR BENEFACTOR IS, CHILD...

SHE IS NOT OF MONEY!
I WIN...
HEE HEE

BENEFACTOR, MADAME?

A DANCER IN OUR MENAGERIE DOES NOT GET PAID UNTIL SHE HAS COMPLETED TEN MONTHS OF A TOUR... YOU WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT YOURSELF FINANCIALLY DURING THIS TOUR... MISS MULLER, IF SHE WERE TO BECOME OUR LEAD, HAS AN UNCLE WHO IS A RICH MERCHANT BANKER AND WILL SET UP A FUND FOR HER TO LIVE ON UNTIL SHE IS PAID!

OH, MY GRANDMOTHER SET UP A TRUST FUND FOR ME, AND IT WILL GIVE ME THE ALLOWANCE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN MYSELF DURING A TOUR, MADAME!

AND WHO IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

LISBETH BUTTERWORTH, MADAME!

ELIZABETH BUTTERWORTH IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

YES, SHE WAS A FASHION ICON AND OWNS A MASSIVE COSMETIC-

YES, YES, YES, I KNOW WHO SHE IS... I NEVER KNEW SHE HAD A DAUGHTER!

I HAVE, IN FACT, IF YOU ALLOW ME TO ADD, BEEN MADE BENEFICIARY OF HER ESTATES AND HER BUSINESSES, MADAME!

STEP FORWARD AND LET ME SEE YOU UP CLOSE, CHILD!

