




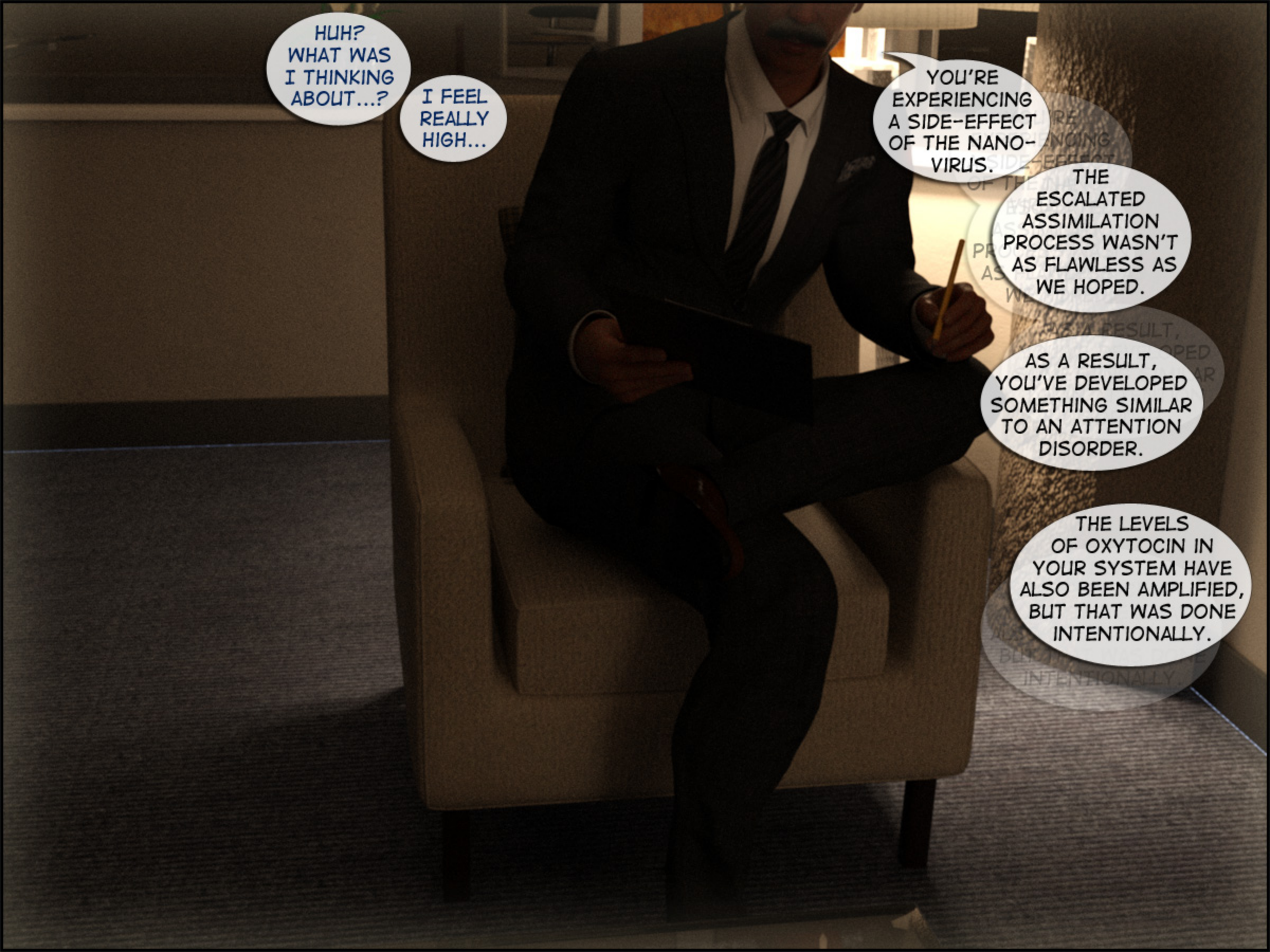
KaraComet Presents

The Search For Detective Batson

Chapter 4: Diversion



I KNOW
IT'S
I KNOW
IT'S DIFFICULT,
BUT TRY TO
FOCUS.



HUH?
WHAT WAS
I THINKING
ABOUT...?

I FEEL
REALLY
HIGH...

YOU'RE
EXPERIENCING
A SIDE-EFFECT
OF THE NANO-
VIRUS.

THE
ESCALATED
ASSIMILATION
PROCESS WASN'T
AS FLAWLESS AS
WE HOPED.

AS A RESULT,
YOU'VE DEVELOPED
SOMETHING SIMILAR
TO AN ATTENTION
DISORDER.

THE LEVELS
OF OXYTOCIN IN
YOUR SYSTEM HAVE
ALSO BEEN AMPLIFIED,
BUT THAT WAS DONE
INTENTIONALLY.

A man in a dark suit and white shirt is seen from the back, looking towards a woman sitting on a bed. The woman is wearing a blue head covering and is shirtless. The room is dimly lit with a lamp in the background. Several speech bubbles are overlaid on the scene, containing dialogue between the two characters.

I CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHAT THAT
IS...

BUT A
DISORDER IS
A BAD THING,
RIGHT...?

ACTUALLY ,
IT'S QUITE THE
BOON FOR WHAT
MY WIFE WISHES
TO ACCOMPLISH
WITH YOU.

BUT IT
IS SOMETHING
WE'LL NEED TO IRON
OUT WITH A DIFFERENT
TEST SUBJECT BEFORE
IT'S READY FOR
THE PUBLIC.

WHAT
DID SHE
DO TO MY
HEAD...?

LET'S
CONTINUE
WITH TODAY'S
SESSION.

I'M GOING TO ASK SIMPLE QUESTIONS, AND YOU'RE GOING TO ANSWER THEM TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.

CAN YOU RECALL YOUR FULL LEGAL NAME?

YES...

WHAT IS IT?

ALEXIS...
LEXI... AL...
ALEXIS...

WHY CAN'T I...?


MOVING ON. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT GENDER?

FEMALE.
FE... I MEAN
FEMALE...

GIRL...?
WOMAN...
FE... F...

WERE YOU ALWAYS FEMALE?

YES.
WHAT...?



WONDERFUL.
ONTO THE NEXT
QUESTION...

BUT...

WHAT IS THE
HIGHEST LEVEL OF
EDUCATION YOU'VE
COMPLETED,
LEXI?

TENTH
GRADE...
TEN...

YOUR APTITUDE
TESTS REFLECT A
MUCH LOWER LEVEL
OF EDUCATION. CAN
YOU EXPLAIN WHY
THAT IS?

BUT...
SOMETHING
IS... WHY AM
I...?

FOCUS ON
THE QUESTION.
WHY DO YOUR
TESTS REFLECT A
LOWER LEVEL OF
EDUCATION?

BUT IT'S...
IT'S BECAUSE,
I... I WASN'T...
I WASN'T GOOD
AT SCHOOL.

THAT IS...
MY WORDS...
I'M ALEXIS, LEXI,
A WOMAN. I DID
NOT FINISH HIGH
SCHOOL...

UNH

I THINK
THINGS, BUT
IT'S HARD TO
FOCUS...

AND THE
SEAT IS SO
WET...

CAN
WE TAKE A
BREAK...?




YOU WILL
BE ABLE TO
RELIEVE YOURSELF
ONCE I'M SATISFIED
WITH TODAY'S
SESSION.

THE GOOD
NEWS IS THAT
EVERYTHING DOES
APPEAR TO BE
WORKING AS
INTENDED.

MOST OF
YOUR MEMORIES
ARE INTACT AND
RENDERED IN-
ACCESSIBLE.


WHILE YOUR
PROGRAMMING
OVERRIDES ALL OF
YOUR COGNITIVE
FUNCTION.



DROP
OXYTOCIN LEVELS
BY FIFTY PERCENT
AND THEN LET'S
PROCEED.

WHILE
IT'S IMPORTANT
TO MY WIFE THAT
YOU RETAIN YOUR
SENSE OF SELF ON A
SEMI-CONSCIOUS
LEVEL...

I FEEL
THAT SOME
UNNECESSARY
MEMORIES SHOULD
BE ENTIRELY
OMITTED.



I'VE OPTED
TO PURGE YOUR
MILITARY BACKGROUND
AND ANY RELATED
SKILL SETS.

OTHER
SKILL SETS MORE
APPLICABLE TO YOUR
DESTINATION WILL BEGIN
TO OVERWRITE THEM
DURING YOUR NEXT
HIBERNATION.

YOU
CAN'T...

AND THAT
IS WHERE WE
WILL CONCLUDE
TODAY'S VISIT. WE
WILL SCHEDULE OUR
NEXT SESSION ONCE
YOU ARE OUT OF
RECOVERY.

RECOVERY...

RECOVERY...


RECOVERY...

RECOVERY...

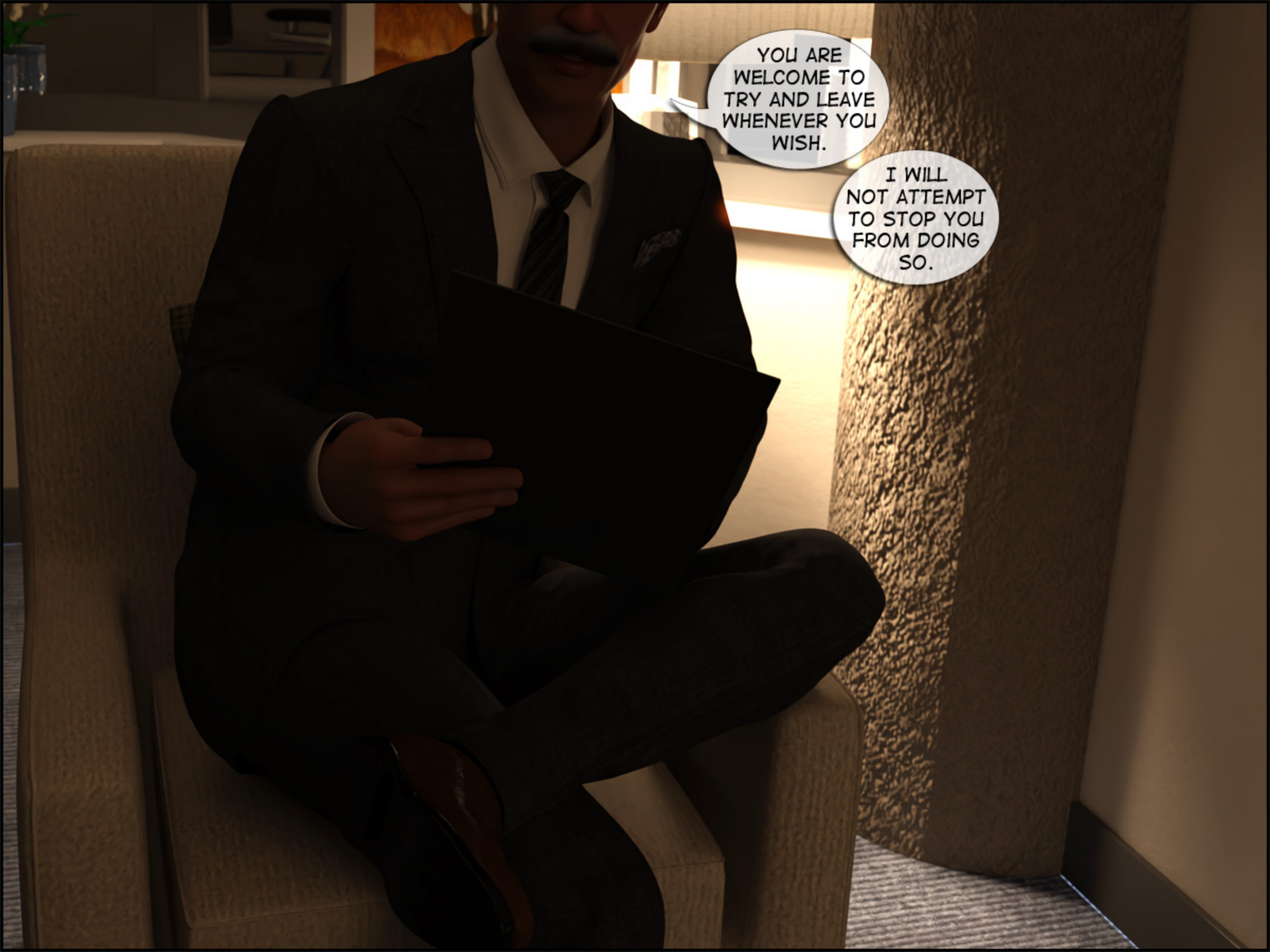


NO.



A 3D rendered character, possibly a woman, is shown from the waist up, sitting on a dark, textured couch. She is wearing a purple swim cap and purple briefs. Her expression is one of anger or determination. The room is dimly lit, with a lamp on the left side of the frame. The lamp has a white, cylindrical shade and a base with a textured, grid-like pattern. The background shows a wall with a framed picture or poster. The overall atmosphere is somber and tense.

NO MORE.
YOU CAN'T JUST
EXPERIMENT ON
ME LIKE SOME
ANIMAL.

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie, is sitting in a light-colored armchair. He is holding a dark folder or book. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm light source from the right casting a glow on a textured wall behind him. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text.

YOU ARE
WELCOME TO
TRY AND LEAVE
WHENEVER YOU
WISH.


I WILL
NOT ATTEMPT
TO STOP YOU
FROM DOING
SO.



YOU...
YOU KNOW
WHAT HAPPENS
TO ME WHEN
I TRY!

I REFUSE
TO HUMILIATE
MYSELF LIKE
THAT AGAIN!

LET ME
GO, OR I
SWEAR...!

A close-up, cinematic shot of a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is looking down at a woman's hand, which is holding a yellow pen over a document. The scene is dimly lit, with a textured wall in the background. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing dialogue.

WHAT IS
IT THAT YOU
BELIEVE YOU
WILL DO?

YOUR
STRENGTH
AND ALL COMBAT
EXPERIENCE HAVE
BEEN TAKEN
FROM YOU.

YOU ARE
NOTHING BUT
A WEAK LITTLE
GIRL, LEXI.

A 3D rendered character, possibly a young man, is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a purple beanie and has a determined, slightly angry expression. His fists are clenched, and he is looking towards the right. The background is a dimly lit room with a lamp on the left and a bed with a patterned blanket on the right. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of his head.

I'LL
FUCKING
KILL YOU, OLD
MAN!



I...
I...
I...

THUMP
THUMP

ONCE
MORE. REPEAT
WHAT YOU JUST
SAID...

BE YOUR
OWN
KIND OF
AMAZING



A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's face, focusing on their eyes and forehead. The person has light skin and bright green eyes. Their eyes are partially closed, and they have a slightly pouting or frustrated expression. A speech bubble is positioned above the bridge of their nose. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown color.

HUFF

I'LL...
I'M...




I'M A
WEAK LITTLE
GIRL...

A STUPID,
HORNY, WEAK
LITTLE GIRL...
I... I...

LEXI.

WEAK...
STUPID...
HORNY...

LITTLE
GIRL...



YOU WILL
NOT FORGET
YOUR PLACE
AGAIN.

IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD,
LEXI?

HUH...?
I DON'T...
I'M...

IT IS A
YES OR NO
QUESTION. DO
YOU UNDER-
STAND?

YES.

YES
WHAT?

YES
SIR...

GOOD.



A 3D rendered character with a purple beanie and green eyes, looking confused. The character is shirtless and has a slightly open mouth. The background is a simple, light-colored wall with a framed picture. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the character's face.


WAIT...
WHAT THE
FLUCK...?

LANGUAGE,
YOUNG LADY.

I'M
SORRY...
WHAT THE
HECK...?

I MEAN...
WHY DID I
JUST...?

AWARE Amazing
Happy **Healthy** Co
Able Authentic
Happy Upbeat
Ideal pas

A close-up, low-angle shot of a man with a grey mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark striped tie. He is looking down at a dark folder or book he is holding. The background is dimly lit, featuring a lamp with a textured shade that is glowing. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image.

ONE LAST
THING...

LET'S RAISE
YOUR OXYTOCIN
LEVELS BY TWENTY
FIVE PERCENT AND
AMPLIFY DOPAMINE
PRODUCTION.



GASP
WHAT DID
YOU JUST DO?
I FEEL SO...
SO...

A man in a dark suit is seen from the back, sitting in a chair and talking to a young girl. The girl is sitting on a brown sofa, wearing a blue swim cap and looking towards the man. The room is dimly lit with a lamp in the background. On the wall, there are framed certificates, one of which says "CERTIFICATE".

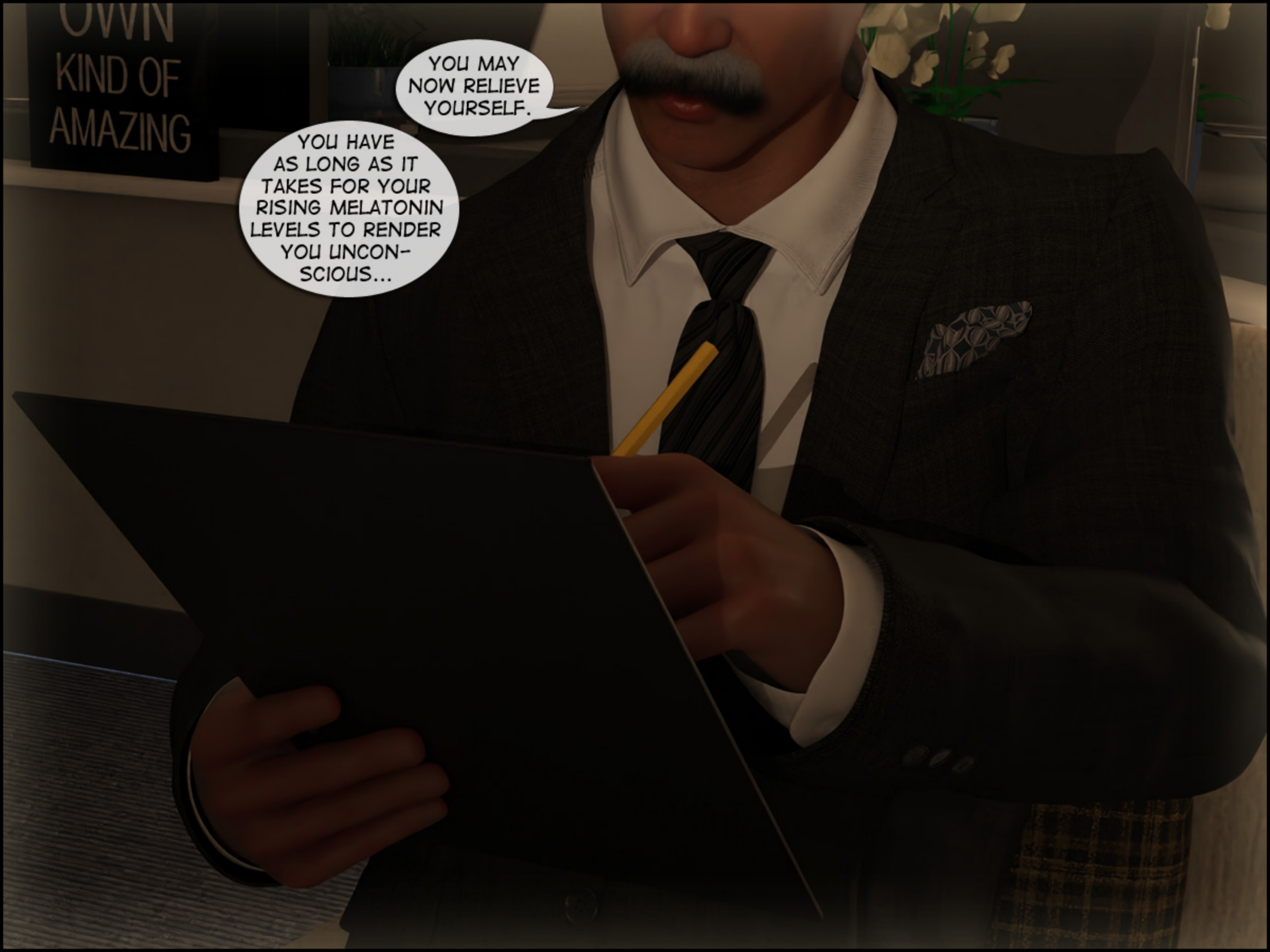
THIS IS
YOUR REWARD
FOR BEING SUCH
A GOOD LITTLE
GIRL.

HMM... ♥

OWN
KIND OF
AMAZING

YOU MAY
NOW RELIEVE
YOURSELF.

YOU HAVE
AS LONG AS IT
TAKES FOR YOUR
RISING MELATONIN
LEVELS TO RENDER
YOU UNCON-
SCIOUS...



OH
NO! OH.
OH...



A 3D rendered woman with a surprised expression is lying on a couch. She is wearing a purple hooded garment. Her mouth is open, and a speech bubble is positioned above her head. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source from the left. The couch has a textured, herringbone pattern. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

I CAN'T
STOP! AHH!
AHH! ♥



OH!
OH! ♥

IT FEELS
SO GOOD!



GOOD
GIRLS GET TO
FEEL GOOD.
WHAT ARE
YOU?



I'M
A GOOD
GIRL!

♥ I'M
A GOOD
GIRL! ♥



I'M
A... A...
GU...



GIR...

SLEEP SAVED ME FROM
MY HUMILIATION, FROM
THE OVERWHELMING
CONFUSION I FELT...

THE CHAOS THAT BARRAGED
MY MIND IN THAT STRANGE
ROOM WITH THAT STRANGE
MAN SLOWLY SUBSIDED IN
THE SWELLING DARKNESS...


IN MY DREAMS I LINGERED
UPON THE MEMORIES I TRIED
TO ACCESS DURING THE MAN'S
QUESTIONS... THE NAME ALEX
BATSON, MY MALE IDENTITY...

I COULD RECALL EVERYTHING,
YET SOMETHING PREVENTED
ME FROM SHARING ANY OF IT.
ANY ATTEMPT TO FOCUS WAS
FORCEFULLY REDIRECTED...

MOMENTS THAT WERE REFLECTED
WITHIN MY EVERCHANGING DREAMS.
IN SOME, I CHASED AFTER THOSE
ELLUSIVE MEMORIES IN FRUSTRATION.


SOMETIMES THEY REMAINED
CONSISTENTLY JUST OUT OF
REACH. OTHER TIMES I WAS
PHYSICALLY BLOCKED BY THE
MANIFESTED LIES THAT TOOK
THEIR PLACE WHEN I TRIED TO
CALL UPON THEM...

AND THEN OTHER DREAMS FLOWED
IN. LUCID MOMENTS THAT SERVED TO
REINFORCE THE LIES I SPOKE. AND
WITH THEM CAME NEW KNOWLEDGE...



SOMETIMES I'D MOMENTARILY
REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...

FINDING MYSELF IN THE BRIGHT
MEDICAL ROOM I'VE GROWN SO
FAMILIAR WITH. ONCE AGAIN IN
THE PRESENCE OF MY CAPTORS.

A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's face. The person has a prosthetic eye with a green and white iris. They are wearing a dark grey headband. The background is a light-colored wall with a diamond-plate metal texture. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the face.

MY BODY COMPLETELY
PARALYZED AND NUMB.

AFRAID AND UNAWARE OF
WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO
ME IN THAT MOMENT...

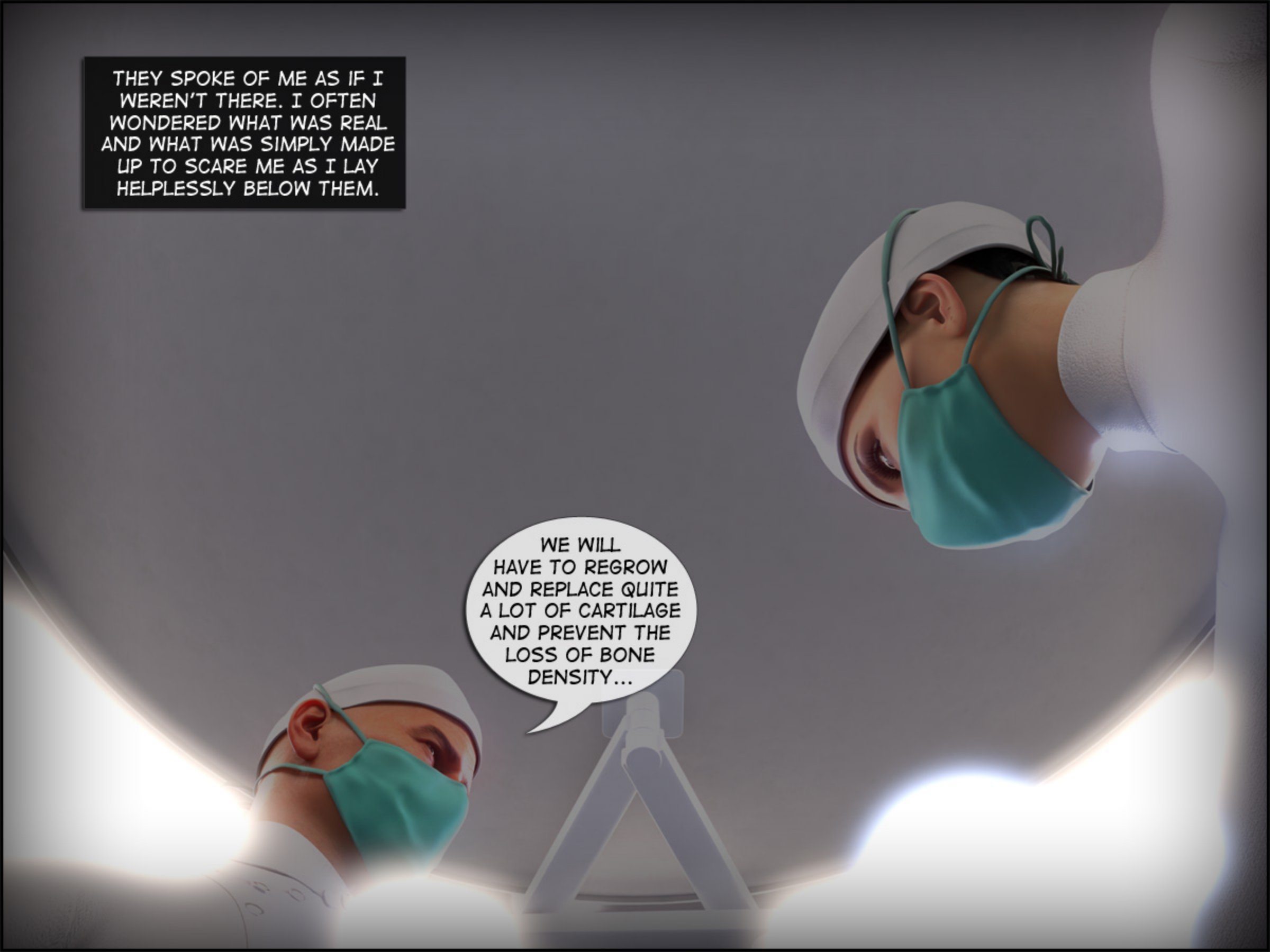
THEY NEVER SEEMED TO MIND
MY CONSCIOUS PRESENCE, AS
THEY CONTINUED WITH THEIR
WORK ON MY INERT BODY...

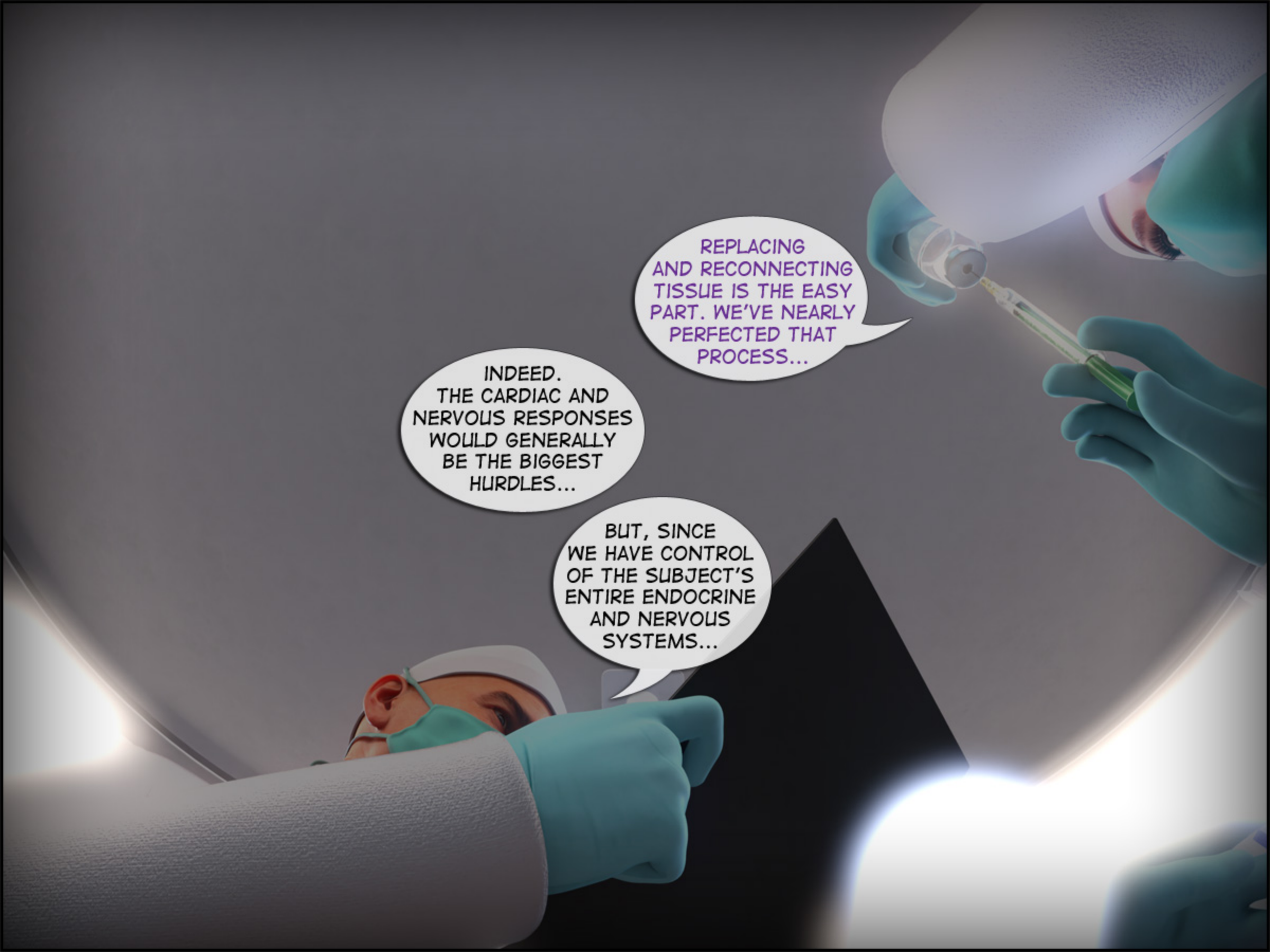
ARE YOU
CERTAIN THAT
WE WILL BE ABLE
TO ACHIEVE THAT
STATURE...?



THEY SPOKE OF ME AS IF I
WEREN'T THERE. I OFTEN
WONDERED WHAT WAS REAL
AND WHAT WAS SIMPLY MADE
UP TO SCARE ME AS I LAY
HELPLESSLY BELOW THEM.

WE WILL
HAVE TO REGROW
AND REPLACE QUITE
A LOT OF CARTILAGE
AND PREVENT THE
LOSS OF BONE
DENSITY...






REPLACING
AND RECONNECTING
TISSUE IS THE EASY
PART. WE'VE NEARLY
PERFECTED THAT
PROCESS...

INDEED.
THE CARDIAC AND
NERVOUS RESPONSES
WOULD GENERALLY
BE THE BIGGEST
HURDLES...

BUT, SINCE
WE HAVE CONTROL
OF THE SUBJECT'S
ENTIRE ENDOCRINE
AND NERVOUS
SYSTEMS...

IT'S LIKE
HER BODY WON'T
EVEN BE AWARE
OF WHAT WE'RE
DOING...






PRECISELY.
THE COMPUTERS
WILL BE ABLE TO
MAINTAIN...

IF I WEREN'T SO ANGRY, SO
CONFUSED, AND SO AFRAID...

I WOULD'VE BEEN THANKFUL
FOR THE LACK OF FEELING. THE
SINGLE MERCY THEY PROVIDED...

REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY
WERE DOING TO MY BODY, I
FELT ABSOLUTELY NO PAIN...

A bedroom scene featuring a window seat with a brown cushion and several pillows in shades of purple, yellow, and brown. A black sign with white text is placed on the seat. In the foreground, a bed with a purple sheet is visible, with a person's legs and feet sticking out from under the covers. The room has pink walls and a white window frame. A lamp is mounted on the wall to the left of the window.

UNTIL THE DAY I
FINALLY WOKE UP...



MMM...



GROAN
HUH...?



LNH...
EVERYTHING
HURTS...



GRUNT

CRUMPLE



GROAN
I'M SO WEAK
I CAN BARELY
MOVE...

IT ALL
FEELS AND
SOUNDS SO
WRONG...

A 3D rendered scene featuring a woman with vibrant red hair styled in large, pink curlers. She is wearing a grey blindfold and has her right hand wrapped in white medical bandages. She is looking down at her bandaged hand with a concerned expression. The background is a soft, pinkish-purple wall. In the top left corner, a portion of a white door frame and a carpeted floor is visible. A speech bubble is positioned above her head, containing text.

MY
HAND... IT'S
SMALLER...?
MY ARM,
TOO...

MY THROAT
HURTS SO MUCH,
AND MY FACE...
EVERYTHING IS
DIFFERENT.

UNH...



WHERE
AM I...?
WHOSE ROOM
IS THIS?

I NEED
TO GET OUT
OF HERE...

GRUNT



I...

HUFF...
HUFF...

FEEL SO
SMALL...



GROAN

COLLAPSE

SO WEAK...

BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP...



I JUST
NEED A...

HUFF...

MINUTE...

HUFF...



KSSSHT

GROAN

WHAT NOW...?

WELCOME...
TO YOUR NEW
LIFE...



To Be continued...