



ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
PROFESSOR USMAN! ALL YOUR HELP
OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS
BEEN INVALUABLE FOR MY
MASTERS PROJECT.

OH, BUT WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING
HERE IS SIMPLY FASCINATING, PROFESSOR
USMAN... I MEAN, ZAINAB. AN AFRICAN
COUNTRY SO OPPRESSED IN THE COLONIAL
PERIOD... AND WHERE WOMEN WERE
TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS
FOR SO LONG... LOOK HOW FAR YOU'VE
COME! ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING
ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD, AND A WOMAN
ELECTED PRESIDENT! JUST IRRESISTIBLE
FOR A SOCIOLOGIST LIKE ME!

YOU'RE WELCOME, AARON! AS I ALREADY
TOLD YOU, YOU CAN CALL ME ZAINAB.
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SO FORMAL.
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HELPING YOU.
AS A WOMAN BORN AND RAISED IN
THEMBA, I FIND IT FLATTERING THAT
A HARVARD ACADEMIC HAS TAKEN
AN INTEREST IN DOING A PROJECT
ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN
IN OUR COUNTRY.



ANYWAY, AS IF IT WASN'T ENOUGH HELPING ME
FIND ALL DOCUMENTS AND PEOPLE I NEED
TO INTERVIEW FOR MY PROJECT, YOU EVER
WELCOMED ME INTO YOUR OWN HOME.
I'LL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL
FOR ALL OF THIS!

THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SAYING.
I REALLY APPRECIATE
THE CULTURE OF YOUR
PEOPLE, ZAINAB.

THERE IS AN OLD THEMBANIAN SAYING
THAT GOES: "THE TRAVELER MUST BE
TREATED LIKE THE FIRST FLOWER ON THE
SONDAG VALLEY'S PATH." MOREOVER,
YOU'VE BEEN A FABULOUS GUEST.
I HAVEN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE
HOSTING YOU.

OH, SPEAKING OF CULTURE,
I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.

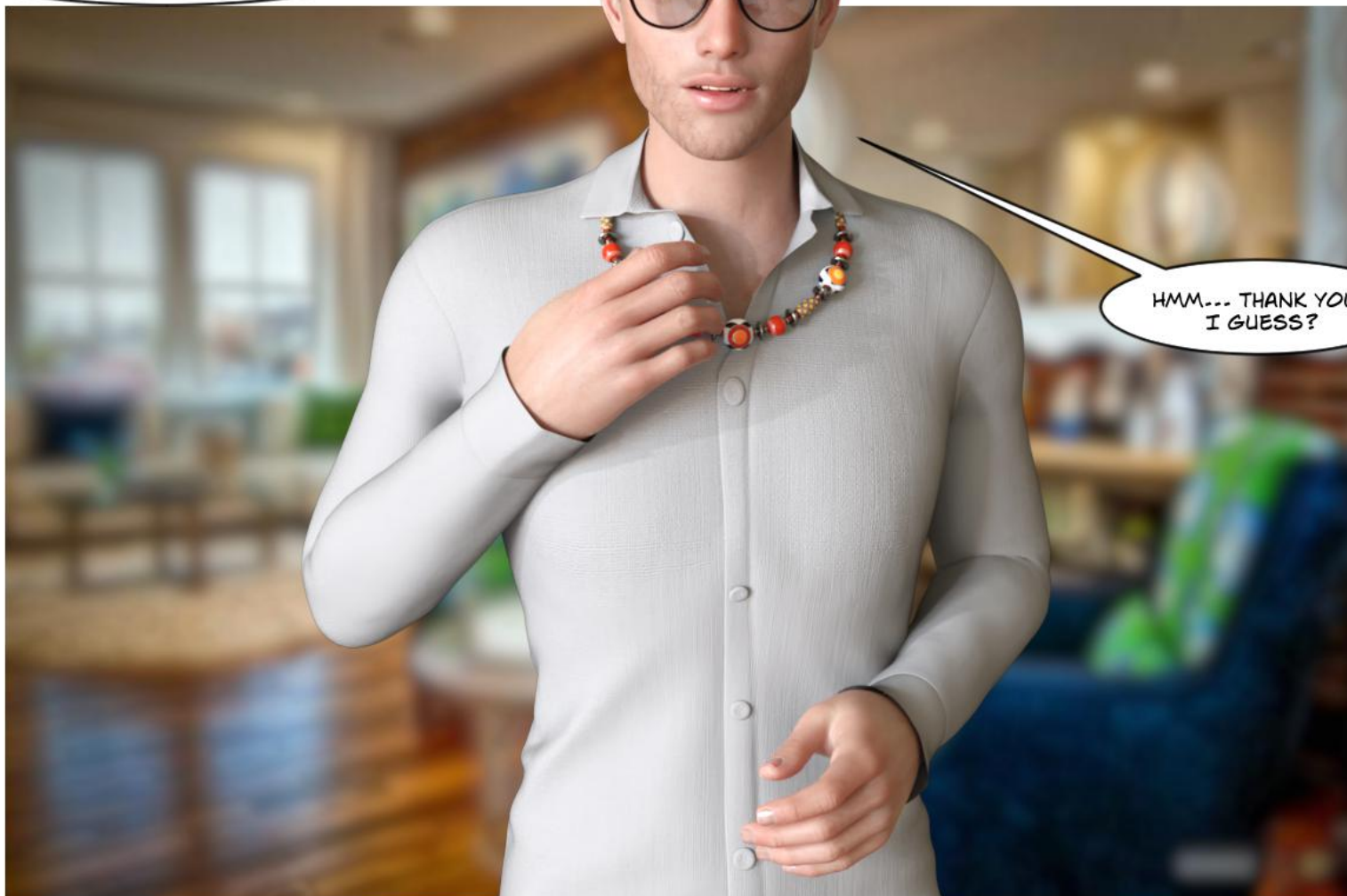


WOW, THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE
AND... WAIT A MINUTE... ISN'T IT A
NUWEMAAN KETTING?

B-BUT A NUWEMAAN KETTING IS ONLY
GIVEN TO WOMEN, ISN'T IT? WHEN
THEY REACH ADULTHOOD AND ARE
TREATED AS EQUALS BY
THEIR PEERS.

EXACTLY, AARON. I'M GLAD
YOU NOTICED IT.

OH, YOU REALLY DID YOUR HOMEWORK.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING ABOUT OUR
CULTURE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW! IN ANY CASE,
FOR YOUR SERVICE ON OUR BEHALF, I THINK
YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERED
AN HONORARY THEMBANIAN WOMAN.



HMM... THANK YOU,
I GUESS?

A FEW DAYS LATER...



WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,
I'M NOT SURE THIS IS
A GOOD IDEA, ZAINAB.



I MEAN... I'M NOT USED
TO THIS STYLE.



AND WAS IT REALLY NECESSARY
TO PIERCE MY EAR?

I ALREADY EXPLAINED IT TO YOU, AARON,
WE'RE GOING TO AN INFORMAL GATHERING TODAY.
IT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE TO WEAR FORMAL
CLOTHES. REMEMBER, YOU CAN'T LEARN
EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR COUNTRY
FROM BOOKS.



YOU NEED TO GET OUT AND SEE THE REAL WORLD.
I MAY BE AN OLDER WOMAN BUT I STILL KNOW
A BIT ABOUT FASHION. TRUST ME, YOU LOOK
QUITE STYLISH!

AFTER PARTY...

IT WAS WEIRD... PEOPLE
JUST COULDN'T STOP
STARING AT ME.

HAIWA? OH, I THINK I KNOW WHO
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YES, SHE
WAS... NICE, I THINK. PERHAPS JUST
A LITTLE TOO CURIOUS.

NONSENSE, I THINK EVERYONE
APPROVED OF YOUR LOOK. HAIWA
IN PARTICULAR SEEMED VERY
INTERESTED IN YOU... YOU GUYS
TALKED FOR A LONG TIME, RIGHT?

SEE? YOU'RE ALREADY MAKING
FRIENDS AND... OH, AARON, I HAVE
BAD NEWS...



WHAT IS IT?

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO WASH MY CLOTHES. SERIOUSLY, YOU'VE BEEN HELPING ME A LOT AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU EVEN MORE TROUBLE. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SLEEP IN THESE CLOTHES THEN?

I DID THE LAUNDRY BEFORE THE PARTY BUT YOUR CLOTHES AREN'T DRY YET.

ACTUALLY, I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.



I DON'T KNOW, ZAINAB...
I DON'T THINK IT'S RIGHT
FOR ME TO SLEEP IN
YOUR PAJAMAS.



THIS IS JUST CLOTHING,
AARON. DON'T BE SILLY.

OK, THEN...

IN FACT, IT GAVE ME AN IDEA...
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT
TOMORROW. GOOD NIGHT,
AARON.



THE NEXT MORNING...



I ASSUME MY CLOTHES AREN'T
DRY YET. THAT'S ALL YOU LEFT
FOR ME TO WEAR.

AARON, DEAR, WE
HAVE A GUEST.



HMM... HEY,
HAUWA.

HELLO, AARON, YOU LOOK
LOVELY THIS MORNING!

DO YOU REMEMBER YESTERDAY
WHEN I SAID I HAD AN IDEA,
AARON?

Y-YEAH.



VERY WELL.... HAUWA IS HERE TO
HELP US MAKE THIS HAPPEN. DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE IDEA IS?



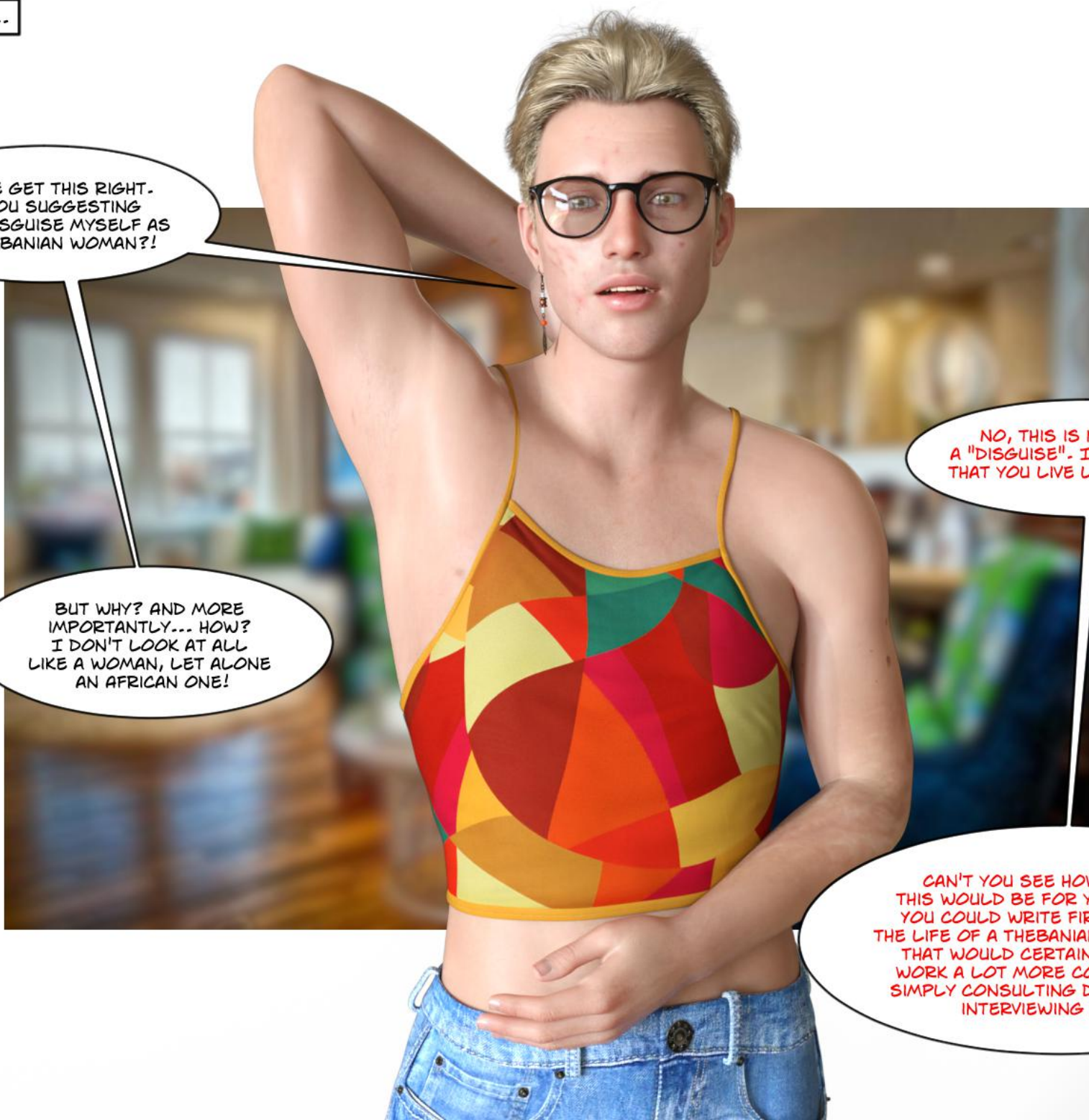
SOME TIME LATER...

LET ME GET THIS RIGHT.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING
THAT I DISGUISE MYSELF AS
A THEMBANIAN WOMAN?!

BUT WHY? AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY... HOW?
I DON'T LOOK AT ALL
LIKE A WOMAN, LET ALONE
AN AFRICAN ONE!

NO, THIS IS NOT ABOUT
A "DISGUISE". I'M PROPOSING
THAT YOU LIVE LIKE ONE OF US.

CAN'T YOU SEE HOW FANTASTIC
THIS WOULD BE FOR YOUR PROJECT?
YOU COULD WRITE FIRSTHAND WHAT
THE LIFE OF A THEBANIAN WOMAN IS LIKE.
THAT WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE YOUR
WORK A LOT MORE CONVINCING THAN
SIMPLY CONSULTING DOCUMENTS AND
INTERVIEWING PEOPLE.





OKAY, THAT'S A GOOD POINT.
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW
THAT WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

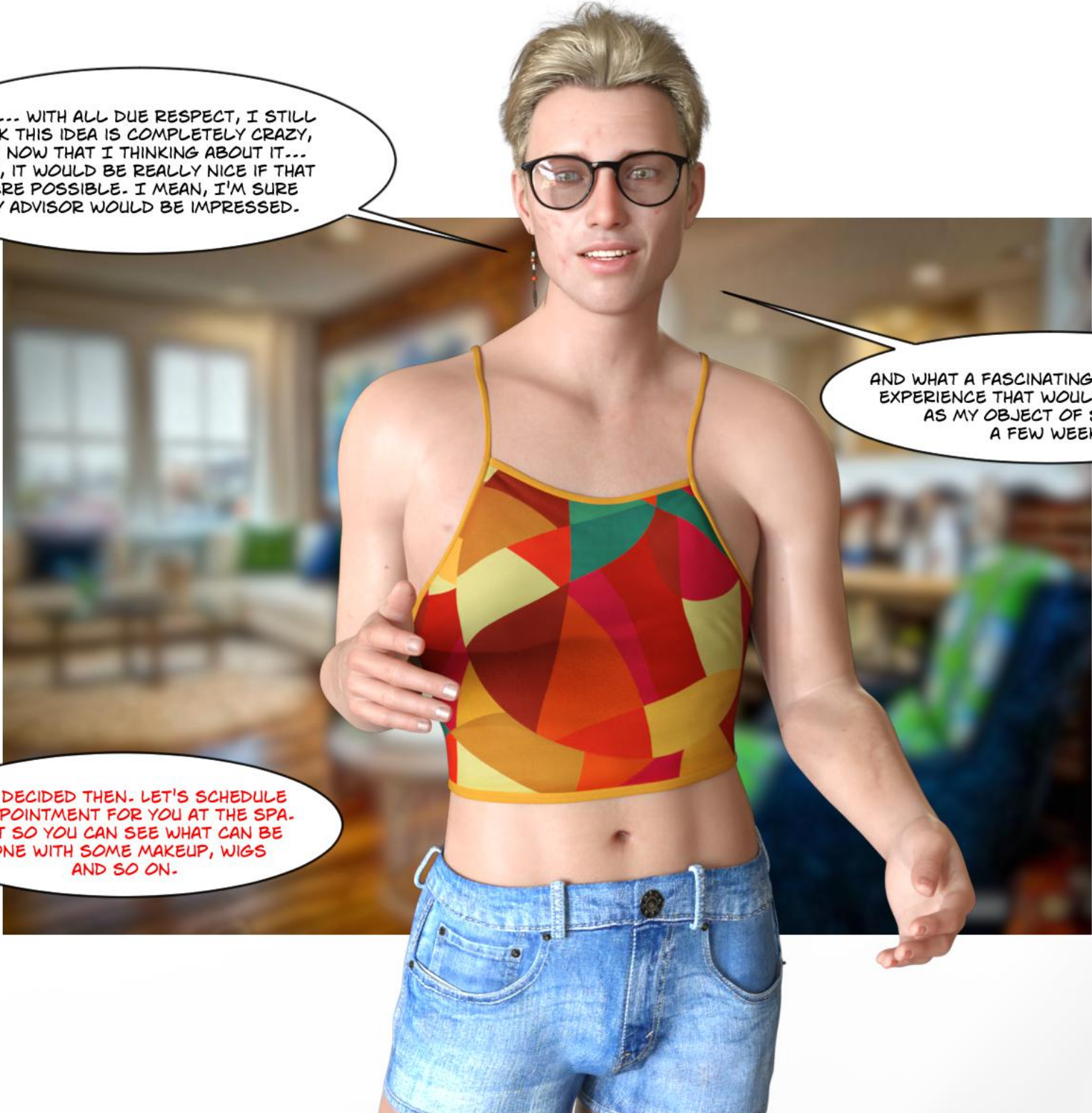
R-REALLY?

THAT'S WHY HAUWA IS HERE.
SHE WORKS AT A VERY EXCLUSIVE
SPA FACILITY. I'M SURE SHE COULD
HELP TRANSFORMING YOU INTO
A FEMALE.

WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T BE
SIMPLE. IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME
AND WOULD REQUIRE FULL COOPERATION.
BUT YES, I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE.



WHAT DO YOU SAY, AARON? ARE YOU
WILLING TO AT LEAST TRY IT?



HMM... WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I STILL THINK THIS IDEA IS COMPLETELY CRAZY, BUT NOW THAT I THINKING ABOUT IT... YEAH, IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE. I MEAN, I'M SURE MY ADVISOR WOULD BE IMPRESSED.

AND WHAT A FASCINATING SOCIOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE... TO LIVE AS MY OBJECT OF STUDY FOR A FEW WEEKS.

IT'S DECIDED THEN. LET'S SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU AT THE SPA. JUST SO YOU CAN SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH SOME MAKEUP, WIGS AND SO ON.

A FEW DAYS LATER...

ARE YOU READY TO BEGIN YOUR TRANSFORMATION, AARON? PLEASE DON'T BE SHY. WE'RE ALL GIRLS HERE. YOU WERE EVEN WEARING A NUWEMAAN KETTING THE OTHER DAY, AREN'T YOU? IT OFFICIALLY MAKES YOU A WOMAN.

...



SO, THIS ASSHOLE THINKS HE CAN
JUST PLAY AT BEING A THEMBANIAN
WOMAN AND THEN RETURN TO HIS
PRIVILEGED LIFE WHENEVER
HE WANTS TO?



HE'S IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE,
THAT'S FOR SURE!





DOES HE WANT TO BE ONE OF US?
HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHAT
HE WISHES FOR...



IS ALL THIS REALLY NECESSARY?
I CAN BARELY BREATHE IN THIS
CORSET! AND MY PARTS DOWN
THERE ARE GETTING CRUSHED BY
THIS "GAFF THING"!

ALL THE TIME?!

BEING A WOMAN REQUIRES
SACRIFICES.... YOU'LL GET USED
TO THE CORSET, GAFF, AND BRA
INSERTS IN NO TIME. TO SPEED UP
THE PROCESS, YOU'LL WEAR THEM
ALL THE TIME FROM NOW ON.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT
I SAID BEFORE? FOR THIS
TO WORK, I NEED YOUR FULL
COOPERATION. NOW SIT DOWN,
PLEASE.

A man with short, light blonde hair and green eyes is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing black-rimmed glasses and a purple, low-cut top with a lace-like pattern around the neckline. He has a small earring in his left ear. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting and arched doorways. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text in a comic book style.

LET'S START WITH A GIFT FROM
ZAINAB. WEARING GLASSES
REALLY DOESN'T SUIT YOUR
NEW PERSONA.

WAIT, ARE THOSE CONTACT
LENSES? I NEVER LIKED
LENSES! THEY ANNOY ME!

IT'LL BE ANOTHER THING
YOU'LL HAVE TO ADAPT TO.
GETTING OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE IS A GOOD
THING, DON'T YOU THINK?

A man with short, light blonde hair and a fair complexion with some redness on his cheeks is looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a purple, low-cut top with a lace-like pattern. A speech bubble originates from the top left, pointing towards his face. The background is a blurred indoor setting with arches.

B-BUT THE LENSES
ARE BLACK!

OF COURSE THEY ARE BLACK!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOU ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE A THEMBANIAN
WOMAN? NOW HOLD ON TIGHT...
I NEED TO PIERCE YOUR OTHER
EAR. I THINK I HAVE HERE A PAIR
OF EARRINGS SIMILAR TO THE
STYLE YOU'VE BEEN WEARING.



OUCH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PIERCE MY EAR ONCE!

OKAY, MAYBE I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY, BUT THIS WILL BE PERFECT FOR THE STYLE I HAVE IN MIND FOR YOU. JUST TRUST ME!



THERE, THERE... THE OTHER EAR
IS ALSO DONE. NOW LET ME
TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR LASHES.



MUCH BETTER WITH
EXTENSIONS...



EVERYTHING IS GOING GREAT
SO FAR, RIGHT?

BUT WE STILL HAVE A LOT
OF WORK TO DO. NEXT...
YOUR HAIR.



M-MY HAIR LOOKS SO
DIFFERENT! HOW DID YOU
DO IT?



OH, IT WASN'T THAT HARD...
JUST DYEING AND PERMING IT
DID THE TRICK. I THINK IT'S GOOD
ENOUGH... FOR THE TIME BEING.
NOW, LET ME CHECK YOUR NAILS.

THIS IS TOO MUCH, HAUWA!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO
ANYTHING WITH NAILS
THIS LONG!

NONSENSE, DEAR. YOU ARE
THE KIND OF GIRL WHO CAN'T LIVE
WITHOUT LONG, BEAUTIFUL NAILS!
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN VERY
GOOD CARE OF YOUR SKIN. WHAT
A SHAME! BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M HERE
TO GUIDE YOU, AFTER ALL. IT'S ALSO TIME
FOR YOUR FIRST TANNING SESSION. LET ME
HELP YOU TAKE OFF YOUR CORSET.
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO
THIS ON YOUR OWN, AT LEAST
UNTIL YOU GET USED TO YOUR
PRETTY NAILS.



AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER...



THAT'S IT... YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER
ALREADY! OF COURSE, YOU'LL NEED
MANY MORE TANNING SESSIONS, AS WELL
AS A FEW OTHER PROCEDURES, BUT WE'RE
MAKING PROGRESS FOR SURE!



T-THIS IS CRAZY...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT
TO SAY!

JUST RELAX AND ENJOY, DEAR.
LET ME DO YOUR MAKEUP.





I JUST COULDN'T RESIST IT...
YOUR LIPS WERE BEGGING
FOR SOME FILLING!



AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT YOUR
MAKEUP TURNED OUT FABULOUS!
NOTHING TOO FANCY, SURE, BUT
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO FEEL
PRETTY AND FEMININE.

DON'T YOU LOVE WHAT
YOU SEE?



WHAT THE FUCK! I'M STILL NOT
SURE I CAN PASS AS A WOMAN,
BUT I'VE DEFINITELY CHANGED
A LOT!

HAUWA, I'M GETTING SCARED!
MAYBE THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA,
AFTER ALL.



CALM DOWN, GIRL. YOU'LL GET USED TO
YOUR NEW LOOK. YOU WERE THE ONE WHO
SAID YOU WANTED TO EXPERIENCE THE
LIFE OF A THEM BANIAN WOMAN, RIGHT?
NOW LET'S GET YOU DRESSED!



YEAH, THIS PAIR OF MULES
DEFINITELY SUITS THE
NEW YOU!

AND WHAT ABOUT
THOSE LEGGINGS...



THEY ARE SO LOVELY,
AREN'T THEY?



OF COURSE, YOU ALSO NEED
SOME PRETTY ACCESSORIES...

I'M S-SORRY, HAUWA, BUT I THINK
THESE CLOTHES ARE A BIT TOO FANCY
FOR MY TASTES. DON'T YOU HAVE
SOMETHING MORE CASUAL FOR ME?

B-BUT...

THIS IS A CASUAL OUTFIT, HONEY!
DO YOU THINK THIS IS TOO FANCY?
HA, JUST WAIT TO SEE WHAT I HAVE
IN MIND FOR YOU IN THE FUTURE!

WHY DON'T YOU WALK AROUND
THE ROOM FOR A BIT? I NEED
TO SEE HOW YOU MANAGE
YOUR HEELS.

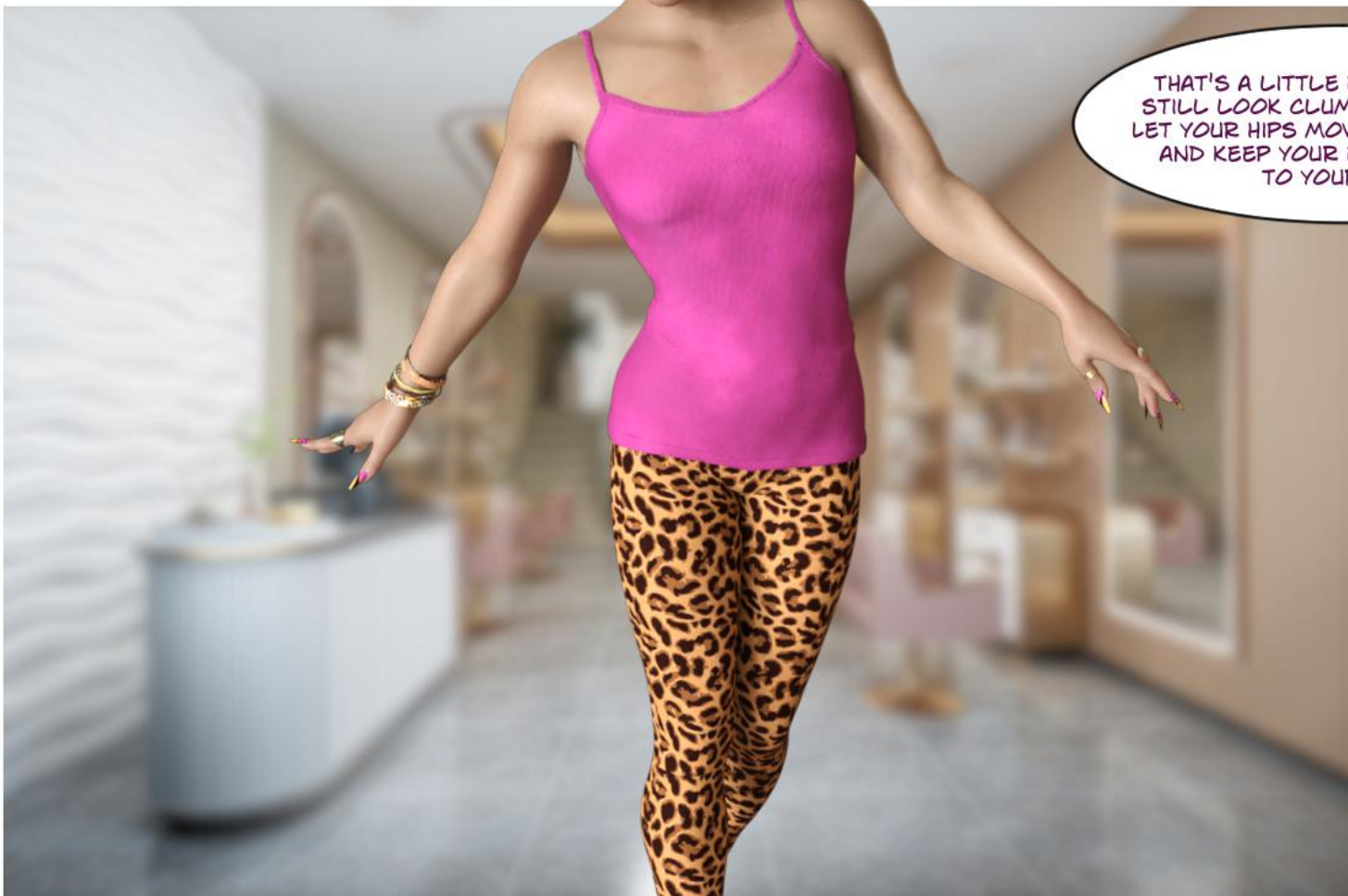


I... I DON'T THINK I CAN!
THESE SHOES ARE WAY
TOO HIGH!



DON'T BE SILLY, GIRL! THOSE ARE
ONLY 2 AND A HALF INCH HEELS!
JUST PUT ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF
THE OTHER, TAKE SHORT STEPS.

L-LIKE THIS?



THAT'S A LITTLE BETTER, BUT YOU
STILL LOOK CLUMSY AND HESITANT.
LET YOUR HIPS MOVE WITH EACH STEP
AND KEEP YOUR ELBOWS CLOSE
TO YOUR BODY!



GOD, THIS IS HARDER THAN
WRITING A PAPER IN JUST
ONE WEEKEND!



DON'T YOU WORRY, SWEETIE.
WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU,
YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO LIVE WITHOUT HEELS
ANYMORE. AND I DON'T THINK
THE IDEA OF WRITING PAPERS
WILL EVEN CROSS YOUR
MIND AGAIN...

A FEW DAYS LATER....



I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY DEAR.
YOU'RE HANDLING THE HEELS
SO MUCH BETTER!

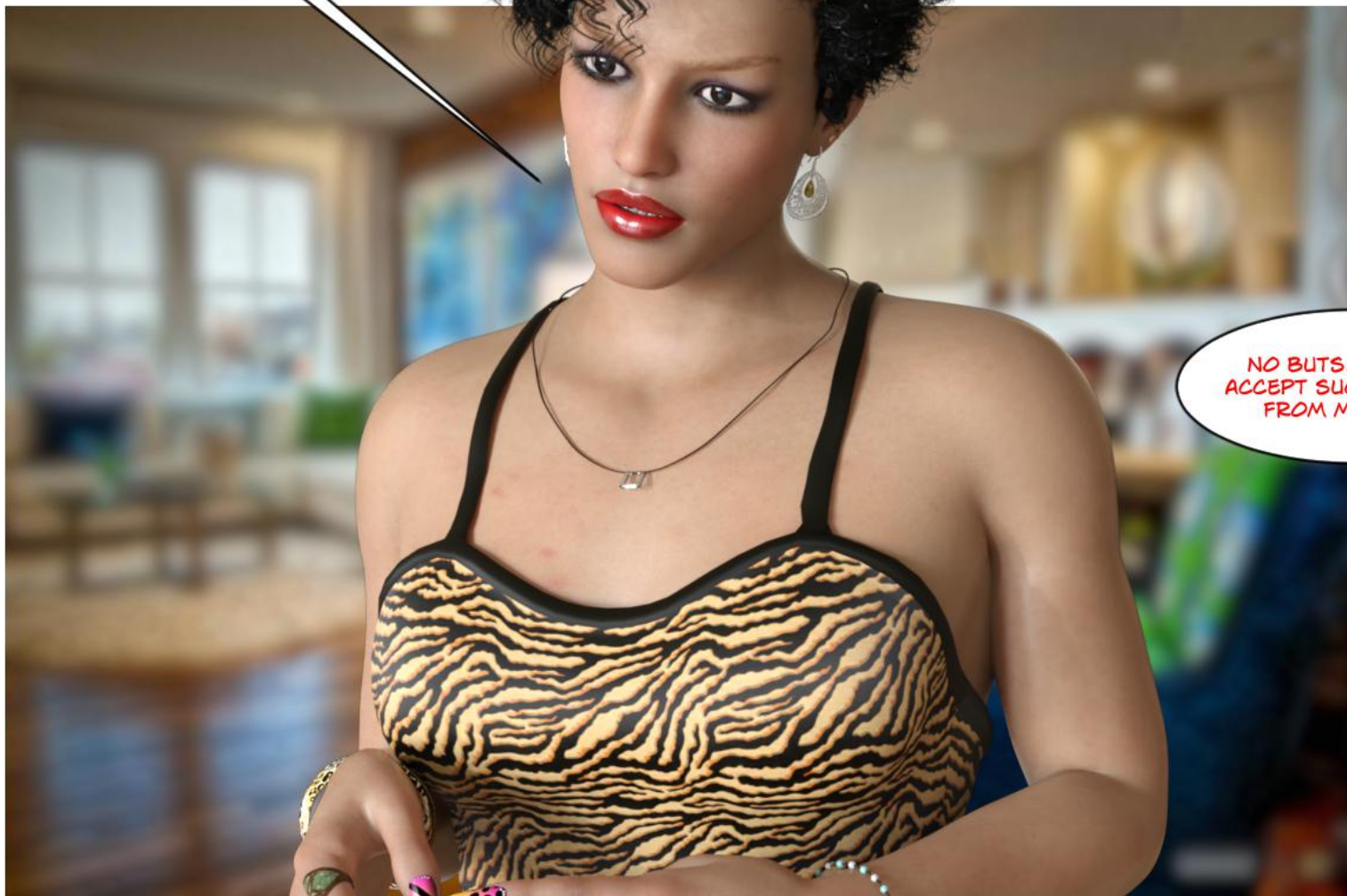
AND YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL
IN YOUR FIRST DRESS,
ALTHOUGH THERE'S STILL
ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

NOW DON'T BE UNGRATEFUL,
SWEETIE. HAUWA IS DOING
EVERYTHING SHE CAN TO HELP
YOU IN YOUR TRANSITION.

ZAINAB, IS ALL THIS REALLY
NECESSARY? WITH ALL DUE
RESPECT, I THINK YOU, AND
ESPECIALLY HAUWA, MAY BE
PUSHING ME A LITTLE
TOO HARD.



B-BUT...



NO BUTS! I WON'T
ACCEPT SUCH BEHAVIOR
FROM MY NIECE!



NIECE?!

THAT'S RIGHT, MY DEAR. SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE AS A THEMBANIAN WOMAN, YOU NEED A NEW IDENTITY. YOU'LL BE MY NIECE WHO HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE. IT MEANS I CAN'T KEEP CALLING YOU AARON, RIGHT? ARE YOU EXCITED TO HEAR YOUR NEW NAME?

THE NEXT WEEK...



OH, AISHA, HONEY, IT'S
AMAZING HOW YOU LOOK
BETTER AND BETTER
EVERY DAY!



ZAINAB, I THINK...



WHAT HAVE WE ALREADY DISCUSSED,
YOUNG LADY? YOU CAN'T JUST CALL ME
BY MY FIRST NAME. THEMBANIAN GIRLS
KNOW HOW TO RESPECT AND REVERE
OLDER FEMALES. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES, AUNT ZAINAB.
'M SORRY, MA'AM!

GOOD, SWEETIE. HAUWA IS
REALLY DOING A GREAT JOB
ON YOU. DID YOU REMEMBER
TO THANK HER FOR HER HELP
LIKE I TOLD YOU TO?

FABULOUS! SHE IS ONE OF YOUR
MENTORS, AND MUST BE TREATED
WITH DUE RESPECT. NOW, MY DEAR
NIECE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR
ABOUT THE NEXT STEP IN OUR
LITTLE EXPERIMENT?

Y-YES, AUNT ZAINAB!
B-BUT I STILL THINK...



A FEW DAYS LATER...



SO, YOUR AUNT TOLD YOU
THE NEWS, RIGHT, AISHA?

Y-YES, HAIWA.





I'M SORRY,
MS. SANI!

IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU
SHOULD REFER TO ME,
YOUNG LADY?

THAT'S BETTER, MISSY.
YOU BETTER KNOW
YOUR PLACE!

FROM NOW ON, AS ZAINAB TOLD YOU,
YOU'LL BE MY ASSISTANT HERE IN THE SALON.
YOU'RE JUST A 19-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO JUST
ARRIVED FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE WITHOUT ANY
QUALIFICATIONS, SO YOU MUST BE VERY
GRATEFUL TO ME FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY,
IS THAT CLEAR?

GOOD. SO LET'S START YOUR TRAINING.
I EXPECT YOU TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION
TO EVERYTHING I SAY!

Y-YES, MA'AM.



MS. SANI, BEFORE THAT, I'D LIKE
TO DISCUSS SOMETHING ELSE,
IF YOU DON'T MIND, MA'AM.

WELL, I THINK IT'S
EASIER TO JUST
SHOW YOU.

WHAT IS IT,
GIRL?



YOU SEE, MA'AM... MY CHEST
IS A LITTLE SWOLLEN THESE
DAYS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON.

INTERESTING... LET ME
TOUCH YOUR "GIRLS".





GASP

IT FEELS GOOD,
DOESN'T IT?

YEAH, I CAN SEE
YOU'RE ENJOYING IT,
YOU NAUGHTY GIRL.



B-BUT I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO HAVE...

ALL RIGHT, AISHA, I DON'T
THINK THERE'S ANYTHING
WRONG WITH YOUR BOOBS.
THEY'RE DEVELOPING
JUST FINE.

HUSH, GIRL! WHAT DID I JUST TELL
YOU ABOUT SHOWING RESPECT?
IF I SAY THERE'S NOTHING WRONG
WITH YOUR BOOBS THEN THERE'S
NOTHING MORE TO ARGUE ABOUT.
THE REAL ISSUE HERE IS THIS
LITTLE THING SNEAKING OUT OF
YOUR PRETTY PANTIES DOWN THERE.
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE A SOLUTION
FOR THAT...

TWO MONTHS LATER...





LOOK HOW FAR YOU'VE
COME, AISHA, DARLING...



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU
USED TO PRETEND TO BE A GUY,
LET ALONE A CAUCASIAN ONE!
NOW YOU ALMOST LOOK LIKE
AN AUTHENTIC THEMBANIAN GIRL.

A-ALMOST,
MS. SANI?!



YES, DEAR, I STILL THINK WE
CAN IMPROVE AN ASPECT OR TWO
OF YOUR APPEARANCE, BUT IT'S
UNDENIABLE THAT WE'VE MADE
A LOT OF PROGRESS.



YOUR AUNT RETURNS TOMORROW
FROM AMERICA. I'M SURE SHE WILL
BE DELIGHTED WHEN SHE SEES YOU!
SHE DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE INVITED
TO A STUDY GROUP THIS SEMESTER,
BUT I ASSURED HER THAT IT WAS
FINE BECAUSE I WOULD TAKE CARE
OF HER NIECE WHILE SHE WAS AWAY.



YOU'RE WELCOME, YOUNG LADY.
I WON'T DENY THAT I'M GOING TO
MISS HAVING YOU AROUND AT HOME.
BUT AT LEAST WE'LL STILL MEET
AT THE SALON EVERY DAY,
WON'T WE?

T-THANK YOU FOR HOSTING ME
DURING THIS TIME, MS. SANI!

O-OF COURSE,
MA'AM!

C-CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING, MS. SANI?

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT MY SKIN
HAS CHANGED SO MUCH IN THE LAST
FEW MONTHS? I KNOW I'M TANNING
EVERY DAY, BUT STILL...

WHAT IS IT,
GIRL?



THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT. I'M YOUR TUTOR AND
I KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND,
MISSY?

GOOD. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT
I WOULD HAVE TO PUNISH YOU.
NOW OPEN YOUR MOUTH.

B-BUT...

YES, MS. SANI.





WHAT'S GOING ON, MS. SANI?
WHY DO I NEED TO KEEP MY
MOUTH OPEN?

JUST DO AS I SAY.



OUCH! D-DID YOU PIERCE
MY TONGUE?

BUT I NEVER
SAID---

THAT'S RIGHT, SWEETIE. I
KNEW HOW MUCH YOU WANTED
A TONGUE PIERCING.

STOP TALKING, SILLY! WE'RE
NOT DONE YET. TRY NOT TO MOVE
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT.



OUFH! WHAF WAS FHAF NOW?
MA FONGUE FEELL WEIF...

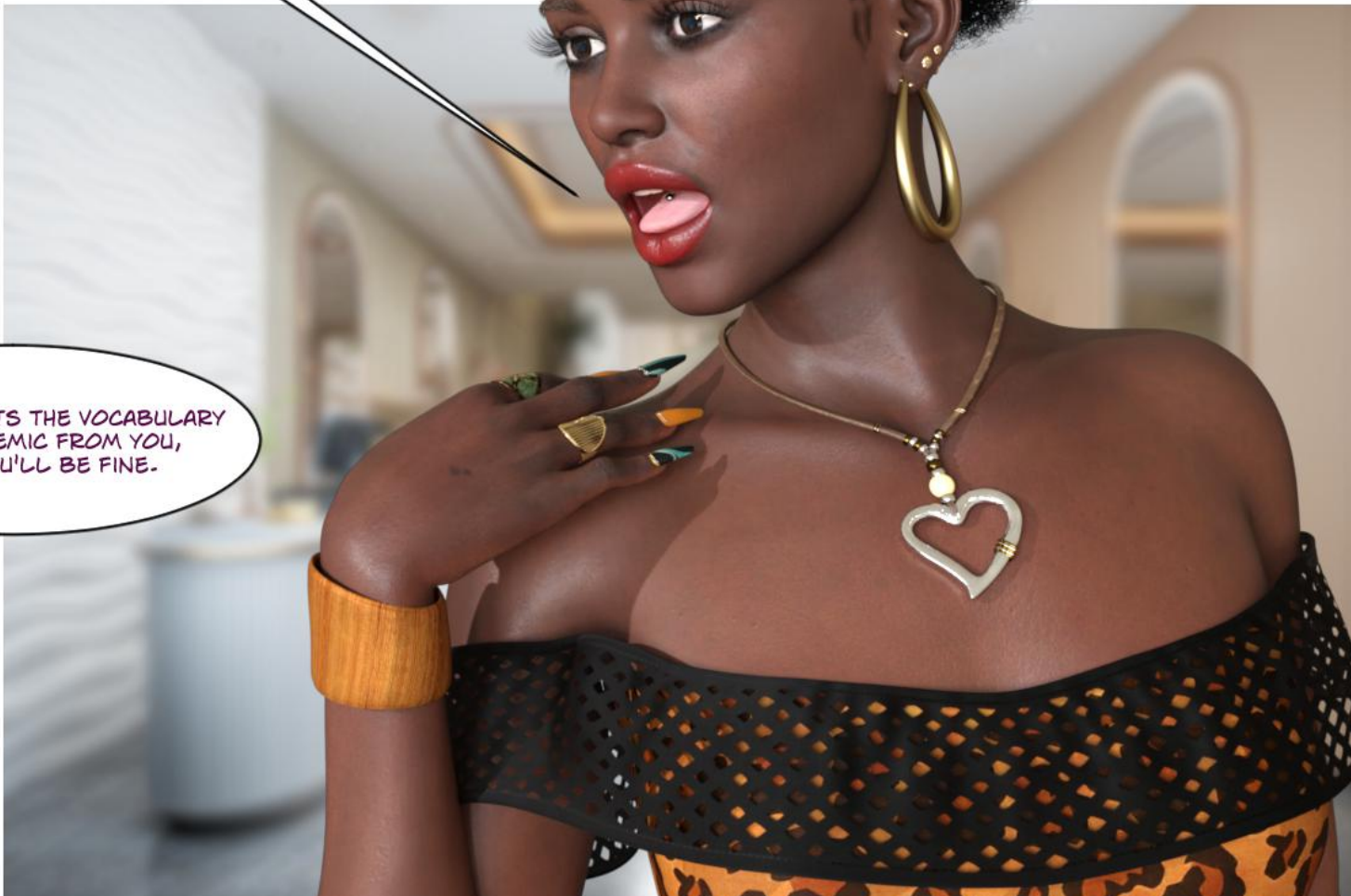
I PUT SOME BOTOX ON
THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE
AND MADE A SMALL CUT IN
YOUR LINGUAL FRENULUM,
DARLING.

WHAF?! WHY?

TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU
TO SPEAK ENGLISH PROPERLY.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR
A GIRL LIKE YOU, WITH NO FORMAL
EDUCATION, TO BE BILINGUAL,
DOES IT? FROM NOW ON, I WANT YOU
TO SPEAK ONLY IN YOUR MOTHER
TONGUE, AND, BY MOTHER TONGUE,
I MEAN THENBANIAN, OF COURSE.

BUT, MS. SANI, MY HUSBAND'S
VOCABULARY IS VERY LIMITED.
I DON'T THINK I WILL BE ABLE
TO EXPRESS MYSELF COMPLETELY.

NOBODY EXPECTS THE VOCABULARY
OF AN ACADEMIC FROM YOU,
AISHA. YOU'LL BE FINE.





BUF, MA'A...

N-NA FAB DALA, D. SANI.
NA... MALO DAIO.*

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST TOLD
YOU, YOUR AIRHEAD? DO YOU
WANT TO BE PUNISHED?

THAT'S BETTER, GIRL. I HOPE YOU
BEHAVE FROM NOW ON. I HAVE ONE
LAST GIFT FOR YOU. WHY DON'T YOU SIT
DOWN? YOU MIGHT GET A LITTLE DIZZY.
OPEN YOUR MOUTH AGAIN.

*I'M SORRY, MS. SANI. I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.



COUGH *COUGH* WHAT'S
GOING ON? OUCH I CAN'T
SPEAK, IT HURTS SO MUCH!*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE... OUCH!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE BEING WEIRD,
AISHA, HONEY. LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE
SUCH A GIRLY, SEXY GIRL WHO
WEARS MINI SKIRTS AND HEELS ON
DAILY BASIS. SOMEONE LIKE YOU
SHOULD DEFINITELY USE A HIGHER,
FLIRTY VOICE, DON'T YOU THINK?

WE CAN GO ON LIKE THIS ALL DAY, AISHA,
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SUFFERING
HERE. I IMPORTED THIS SPRAY FROM THE
USA. IT'S BEEN A BIG HIT THERE WITH
GIRLS LIKE YOU. YOU'LL FEEL AN INTENSE
PAIN WHENEVER YOU SPEAK UNLESS YOU
USE THE RIGHT TONE.

*AISHA WILL BE TALKING IN THENBANIAN FROM NOW ON, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.



YOU JUST NEED TO BE YOURSELF. YOU'RE A GIRL WHO NEVER HAD MANY OPPORTUNITIES, BUT YOU ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE PRETTY, DIDN'T YOU? AND YOU ALWAYS USED THAT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE. YOU'RE NOT ASHAMED OF IT, QUITE THE OPPOSITE. YOU'RE PROUD OF HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE, AND PROUD OF YOUR ABILITY TO SEDUCE EVERYONE AROUND YOU, LIKE THE FLIRTY, NAUGHTY GIRL YOU ARE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND? NOW TRY AGAIN.

I... I DON'T THINK I KNOW HOW.

HMM... L-LIKE THIS? IS THIS HOW I SHOULD SPEAK?

THAT'S BETTER. I BET YOU FELT LESS PAIN. THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PRACTICE UNTIL YOU REACH PERFECTION. THE SPRAY IS LONG LASTING, AND I SPRAYED A GENEROUS AMOUNT. I THINK THE EFFECT WILL LAST FOR A FEW WEEKS, MAYBE EVEN LONGER.



YOU SEE, DARLING, WE'VE MADE
A LOT OF PROGRESS TODAY.
NOW YOU NOT ONLY LOOK LIKE
A THEBANIAN GIRL, BUT ALSO SOUND
LIKE ONE. THE NEXT STEP IS TO MAKE
YOU FEEL AND THINK LIKE AISHA 24/7,
NO EXCEPTION. THAT'S WHY YOU'LL TELL
YOUR AUNT WHEN SHE ARRIVES THAT
YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR NEW LIFE SO
MUCH THAT YOU WANT THE EXPERIMENT
TO CONTINUE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR.

W-WEEKS?!

WHAT?! WHY
WOULD I...

DON'T INTERRUPT ME, YOUR INSOLENT GIRL.
YOU'LL ALSO TELL HER THAT YOU WISH TO BE
TREATED AS AISHA ALL THE TIME. SHE CAN NO
LONGER REFER TO YOU AARON, THE AMERICAN
MASTER'S STUDENT. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY
SENSE. WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT A FLIRTY,
SASSY GIRL LIKE YOU, WHO LIVES FOR YOUR
PRECIOUS HEELS AND SKIRTS AND CAN'T SAY
A WORD IN ENGLISH IS AN AMERICAN MAN,
LET ALONE A NERD ONE? CONGRATS, AISHA,
DOLL, YOU GOT THE LIFE YOU WANTED
SO BADLY!

AT NIGHT...

MS. SANI IS OUT OF HER MIND
IF SHE REALLY THINKS I'M GOING
TO TELL AUNT ZAINAB THAT I WANT
TO STAY LIVING AS AISHA FOR
A WHOLE YEAR!





WHY WOULD I WANT SOMETHING
LIKE THAT? THINGS ALREADY GOT
TOTALLY OUT OF HAND. I NEVER
ACCEPTED TO GO THIS FAR
IN THE EXPERIMENT!

SIGH TIME TO MOISTURIZE
MY BODY BEFORE BED. LIVING
AS A FEMALE IS SO DEMANDING.
I NEVER CARED SO MUCH ABOUT
HOW I LOOKED WHEN I WAS A GUY.
AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT THIS CREAM
MS. SANI GAVE ME DO WITH MY SKIN.
IT FEELS SO SOFT AND SILKY
NOWADAYS... IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M
TOUCHING SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY.





ARGH WHATEVER! I THINK I'M JUST SO CONFUSED I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT. LET ME JUST FINISH MY CUP OF TEA BEFORE SLEEPING. I CAN'T DENY THIS TRADITIONAL THEMBANIAN TEA MS. SANI INSISTED SO MUCH FOR ME TO START DRINKING IS REALLY GOOD. I'M KINDA ADDICTED TO IT.

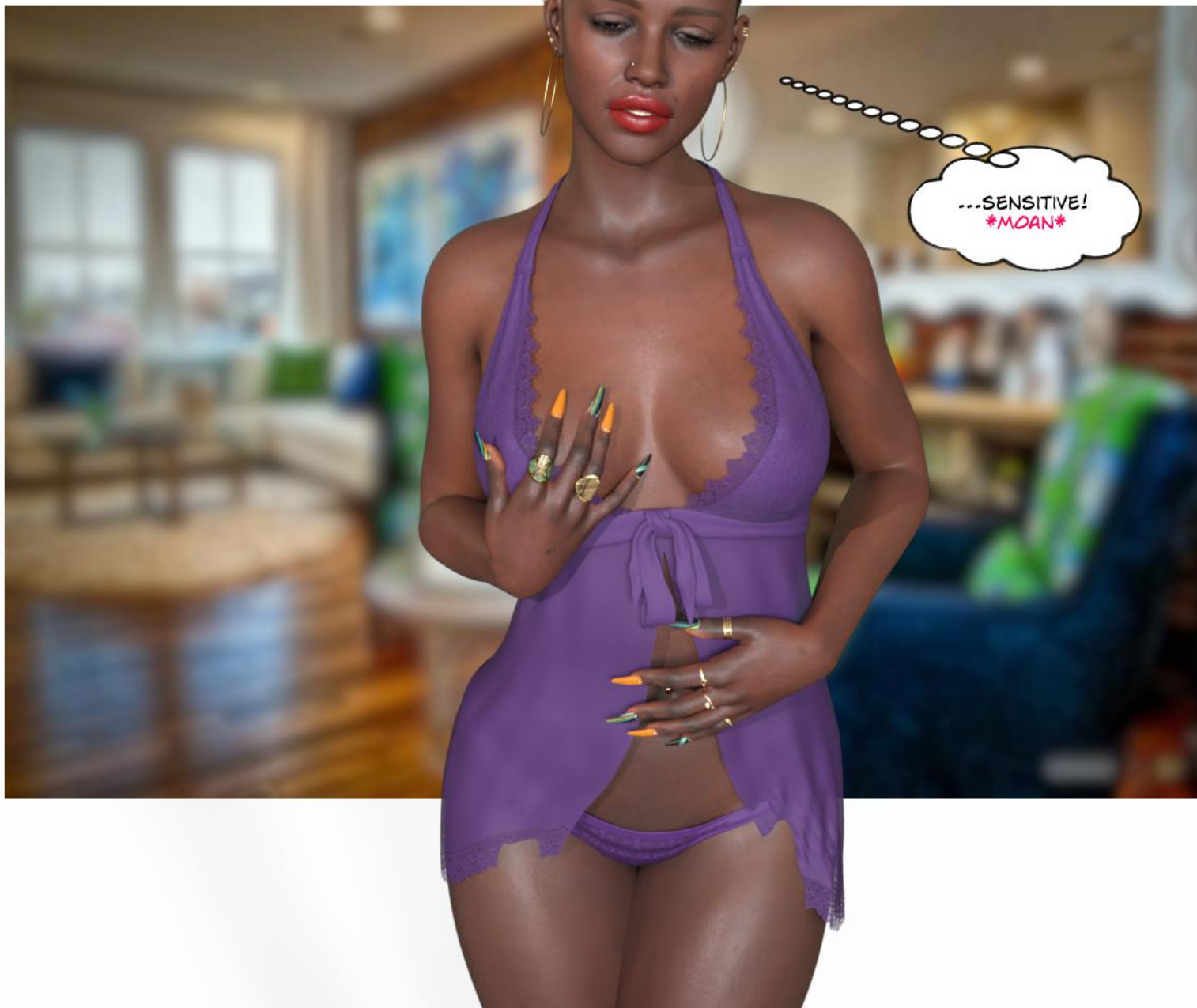
WAIT... IF I REALLY WANT TO PUT AN END TO THIS NONSENSE AS SOON AS AUNT ZAINAB ARRIVES TOMORROW, WHY DO I STILL KEEP DOING THIS SILLY NIGHTTIME BEAUTY ROUTINE? AND WHY DO I KEEP REFERRING TO MS. USMAN AS AUNT ZAINAB?

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW
MUCH I'VE CHANGED IN SUCH
A SHORT TIME. THIS IS SO
MIND BLOWING!

IF ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES COULD
SEE ME RIGHT NOW, WHO WOULD
BELIEVE THAT I ACTUALLY AM
AARON WALKER?



GOD, I EVEN HAVE BOOBS!
AND THEY ARE SO DAMN...



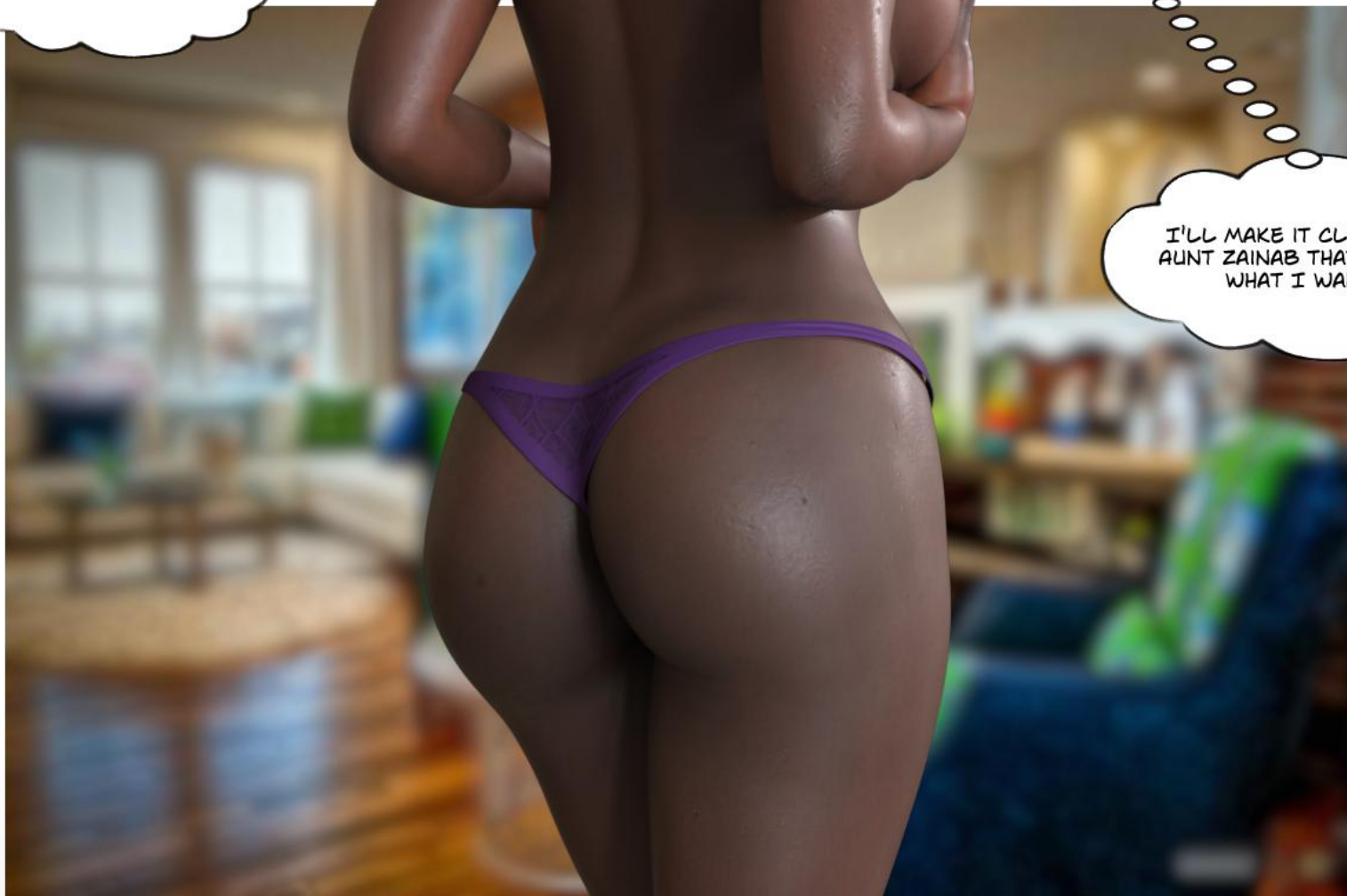
...SENSITIVE!
MOAN



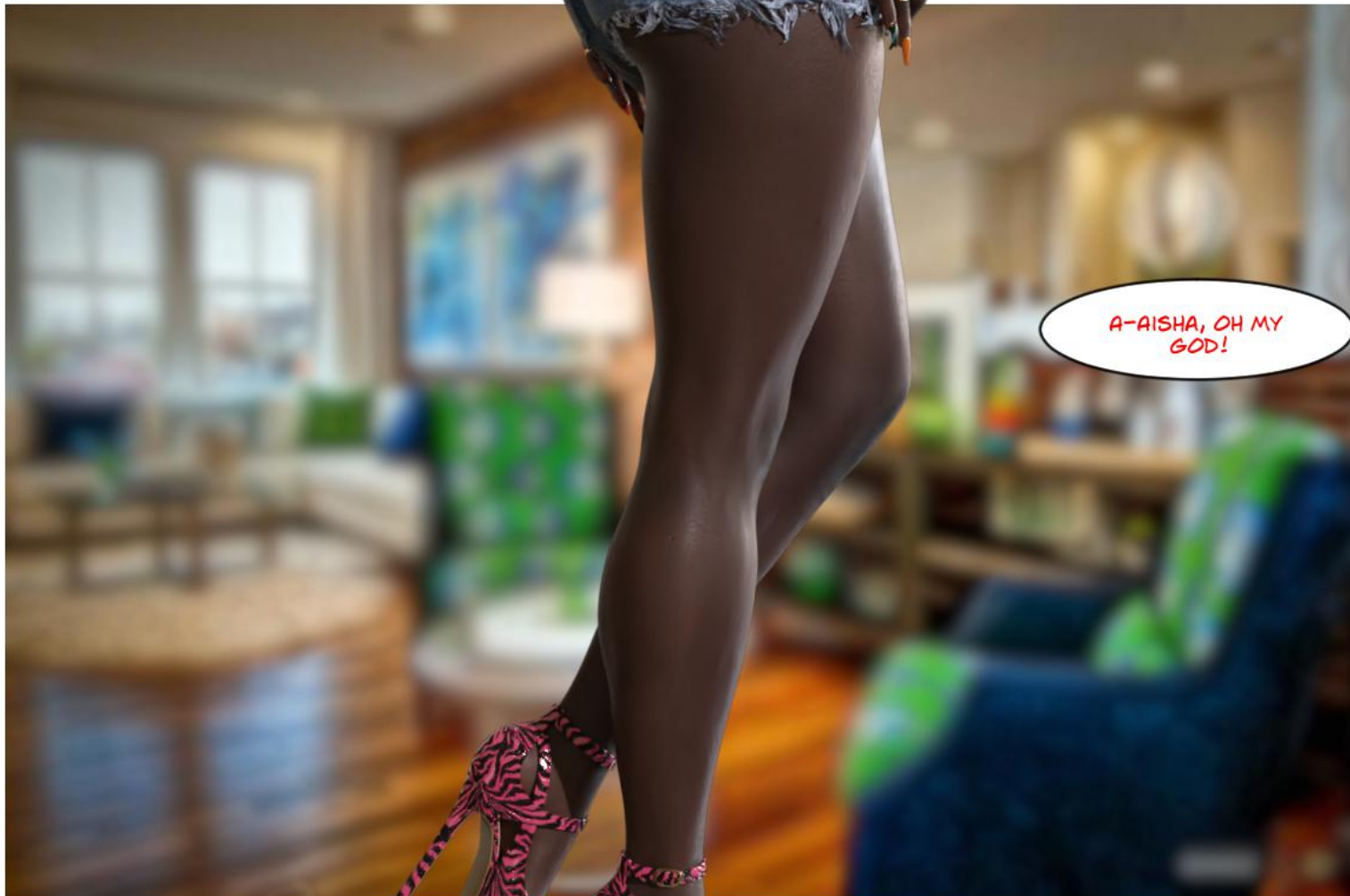
I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW
THAT CRAZY WOMAN, MS. SANI,
WAS ABLE TO TRANSFORM ME
LIKE THIS---

...BUT SHE'LL HAVE
TO UNDO IT ALL!

I'LL MAKE IT CLEAR TO
AUNT ZAINAB THAT THIS IS
WHAT I WANT!



THE NEXT DAY...



A-AISHA, OH MY
GOD!



IS THAT REALLY
YOU?

YES, THIS IS ME,
AUNT ZAINAB.

I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
MS. SANI DID THIS TO ME.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU CHANGED SO MUCH!

DID YOU AGREE WITH THAT?
I MEAN, YOU LOOK STUNNING
BUT THIS IS SO SHOCKING!





IT'S NOW OR NEVER! I'M GOING
TO TELL AUNT ZAINAB THAT MS. SANI
DID ALL THIS AGAINST MY WILL AND THAT
I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY OLD SELF
RIGHT NOW!



OH, AUNT ZAINAB, I COULDN'T BE
HAPPIER! I'M SOO GRATEFUL TO
MS. SANI FOR BEING SO NICE
TO ME, AND HELPING ME
IN MY TRANSFORMATION!

WHAT THE HELL?! WHY DID I SAY
THAT? WHY CAN'T I TELL HER
THE TRUTH? IT'S LIKE
I'M POSSESSED!



A woman with dark skin and curly hair is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a bright pink, long-sleeved, ribbed crop top with a V-neckline. She has large gold hoop earrings, a nose ring, and several rings on her fingers. She is holding a small object near her face with her right hand. The background is a blurred indoor setting. Four speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text in red and pink. The speech bubbles are connected to the woman by thin lines.

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE
ABOUT THIS? LISTEN TO ME,
AISHA... NO, LISTEN TO
ME AARON...

VERY FUNNY, YOUNG MAN! I'M
TRYING TO HAVE A SERIOUS
CONVERSATION HERE, AND
I WANT YOU TO SPEAK
TO ME IN ENGLISH!

WHO IS AARON, AUNT ZAINAB?
AN AMERICAN MEN YOU MET
ON YOUR TRIP?

SORRY, MA'AM. YOU KNOW
I CAN'T. I NEVER HAD THE
CHANGE TO LEARN ENGLISH.



ARE YOU MOCKING ME?
I THINK...

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU
WISH FOR... VERY WELL THEN, MISSY.
FROM THIS POINT ON, THERE IS NO
TURNING BACK UNTIL I SAY OTHERWISE.
YOU'RE AISHA USAMAN. IF YOU REFER
TO YOURSELF AS ANYONE ELSE YOU'LL
BE PUNISHED. BEING A THEMBANIAN
WOMAN IS NOT A JOKE. YOU'VE MADE
YOUR DECISION AND YOU'LL HAVE TO
LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

PLEASE, AUNT ZAINAB, LET ME SPEAK.
I LOVE LIVING AS A THEMBANIAN GIRL,
AND I'D LIKE TO KEEP DOING SO FOR
AT LEAST A YEAR. CAN YOU TO TREAT
ME LIKE AISHA AT ALL TIMES, PRETTY
PLEASE? I THINK THIS IS THE ONLY WAY
TO MAKE THIS HMM... SORRY, I DON'T
KNOW THE WORD... TO MAKE THIS THING
WORK OUT!

THANK YOU SO MUCH,
AUNT ZAINAB!

NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE THING
LEFT TO DO... I'LL HAVE TO INFORM
HARVARD THAT AARON WALKER SADLY
DIED IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DURING
AN EXPEDITION TO THE COUNTRYSIDE.





H-HE DIED?!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, AISHA, HONEY?
YOU'VE NEVER MET ANYONE CALLED
AARON, HAVE YOU? THERE'S NOTHING
FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT. NOW GO
MAKE DINNER. I AM STARVING,
MY DEAR NIECE!

TWO MONTHS LATER...





EVERYTHING IS SO, SO WEIRD...
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I
COULDN'T TELL AUNT ZAINAB
THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW I FEEL
THE DAY SHE GOT BACK HOME.

EVEN NOW, EVERY TIME I TRY
TO SAY I WANT TO GO BACK
TO BEING A MAN, I FEEL AN
EXTREME AGONY THAT ONLY
GOES AWAY WHEN I SAY
I LOVE BEING AISHA.



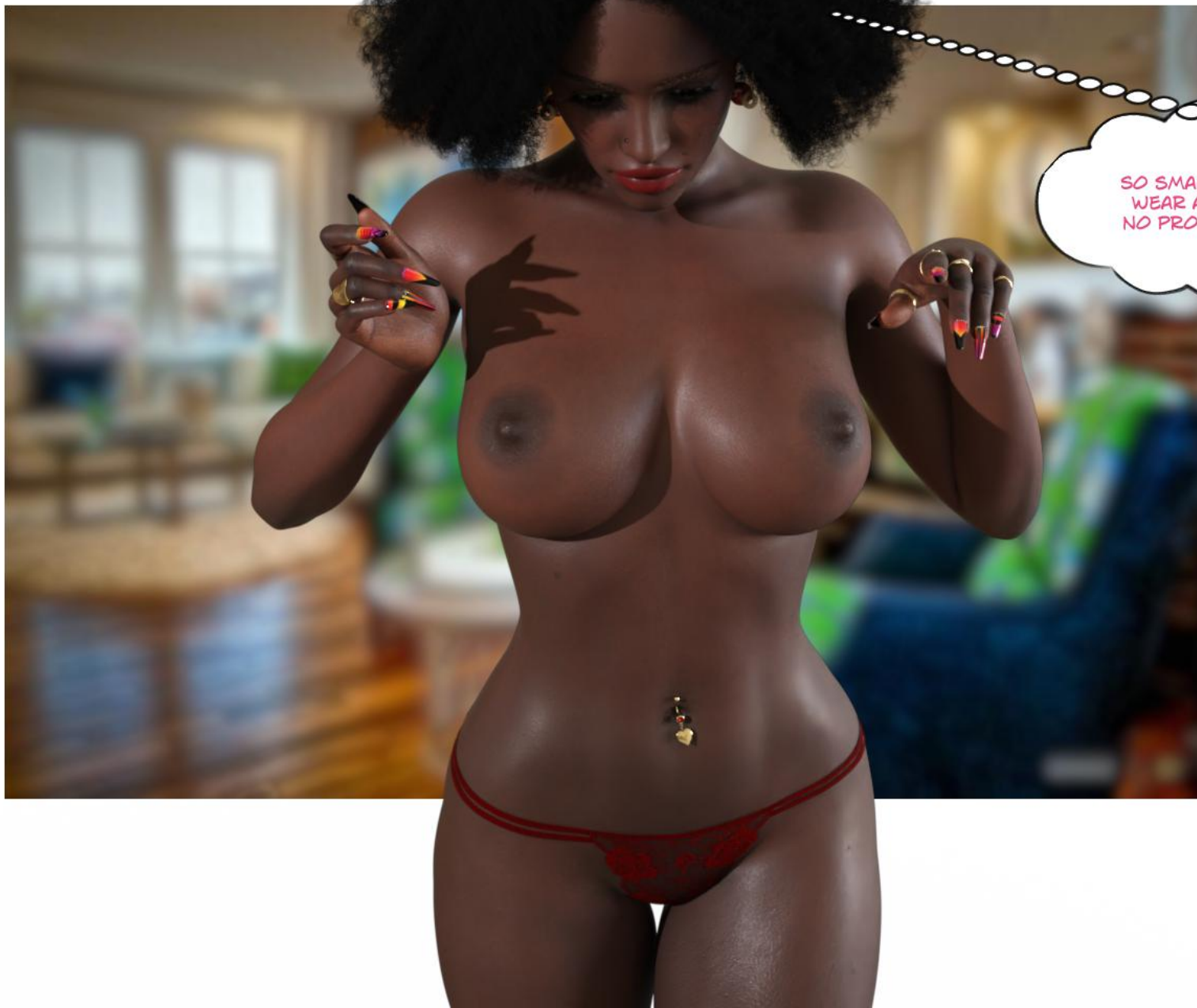


THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER IS THAT
MS. SANI MESSED UP WITH MY HEAD
THE SAME WAY SHE MESSED UP WITH
MY BODY. AND GOD, SHE REALLY DID
A BIG NUMBER ON ME...

IF NOT FOR ONE SMALL DETAIL,
EVEN I MYSELF WOULD DOUBT
THAT I USED TO BE A GUY.







SO SMALL THAT I CAN
WEAR A THONG WITH
NO PROBLEM AT ALL.



MS. SANI REPLACES MY CAGE
WITH A SMALLER ONE EVERY WEEK.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN I GOT
A BONER AFTER SHE TOUCHED
MY BOOBS...



GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING
"MY BOOBS"... BUT WHAT CHOICE
DO I HAVE, RIGHT? LIKING IT OR NOT,
I DO HAVE BOOBS NOW!