









RECEPTION

CENTRAL DEPOT
ALL VISITORS
REPORT
TO RECEPTION
KEEP DOOR CLOSED



...YOU
SHOULD
REALLY
TRY IT.

YOU JUST
BUILD AND
MANAGE YOUR
FARM AND BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
THE PEOPLE
THERE.

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
SOMETHING I
COULD TRY.

I THINK
YOU'D LOVE
IT.



MAYBE...
YOU'D LIKE TO
COME OVER
AND TRY IT?

AT MY
PLACE?

OH.



LIKE... A
DATE?

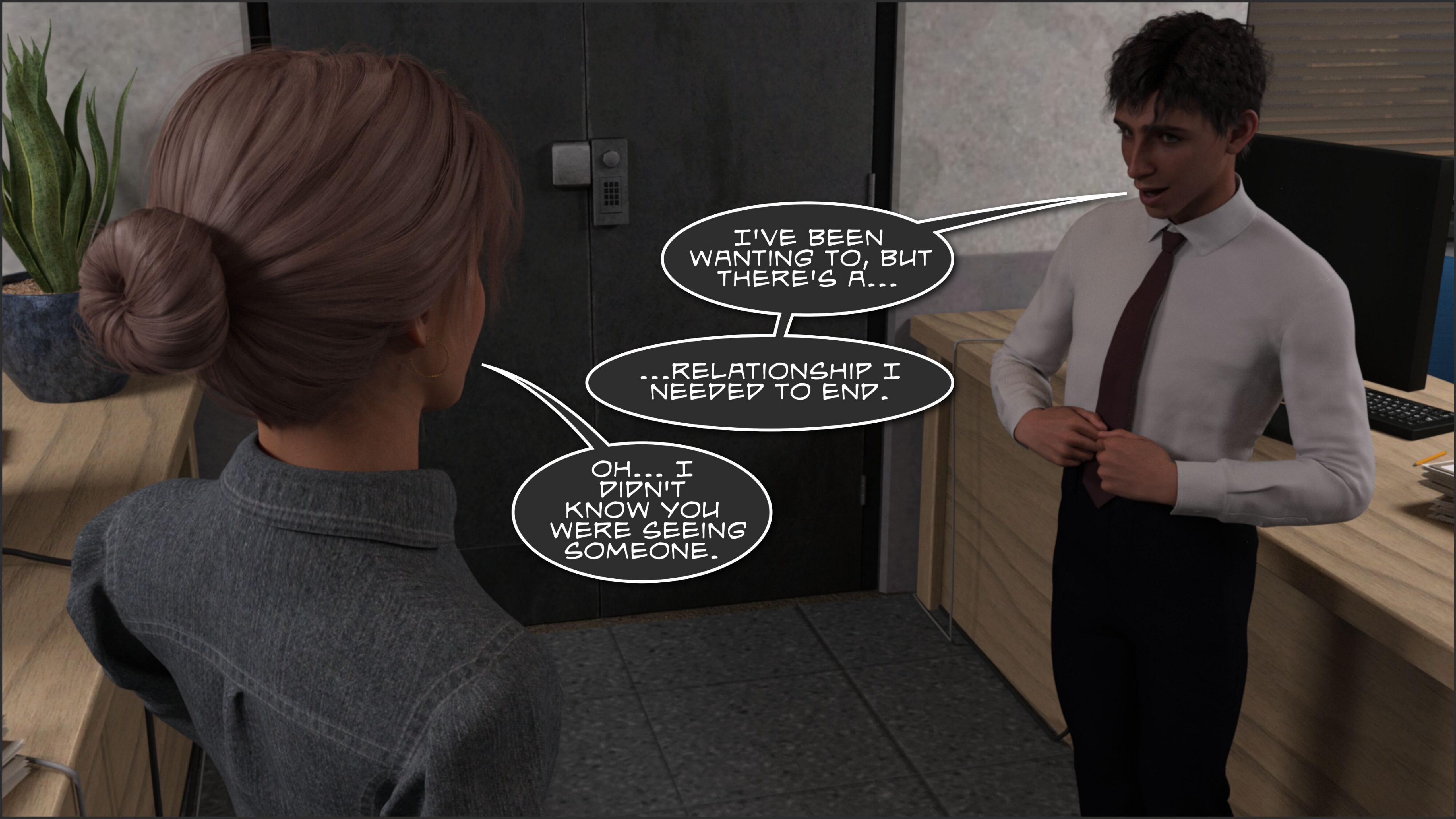
OR JUST
HANGING OUT
AS FRIENDS IF
THAT'S-



I'M
OKAY WITH
CALLING IT A
DATE,
JONES.

REALLY?

YEAH,
I'VE BEEN
HOPING YOU'D
ASK FOR A
WHILE.

A man with dark, curly hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark red tie, stands in an office. He is looking towards a woman whose back is to the camera. The woman has brown hair styled in a bun and is wearing a grey sweater. They are in a modern office setting with a wooden desk, a potted plant, and a computer monitor visible. The man is holding his tie with both hands. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing dialogue between the two characters.

I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO, BUT
THERE'S A...

...RELATIONSHIP I
NEEDED TO END.

OH... I
DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
WERE SEEING
SOMEONE.



IT WASN'T
THAT KIND OF
RELATIONSHIP.

BUT I'VE
DECIDED TO
END... WHATEVER
IT WAS.



ATR
ELECTRONICS
HAND
WITH CA

I TOTALLY
UNDERSTAND.

I'VE HAD MY
SHARE OF TOXIC
RELATIONSHIPS.

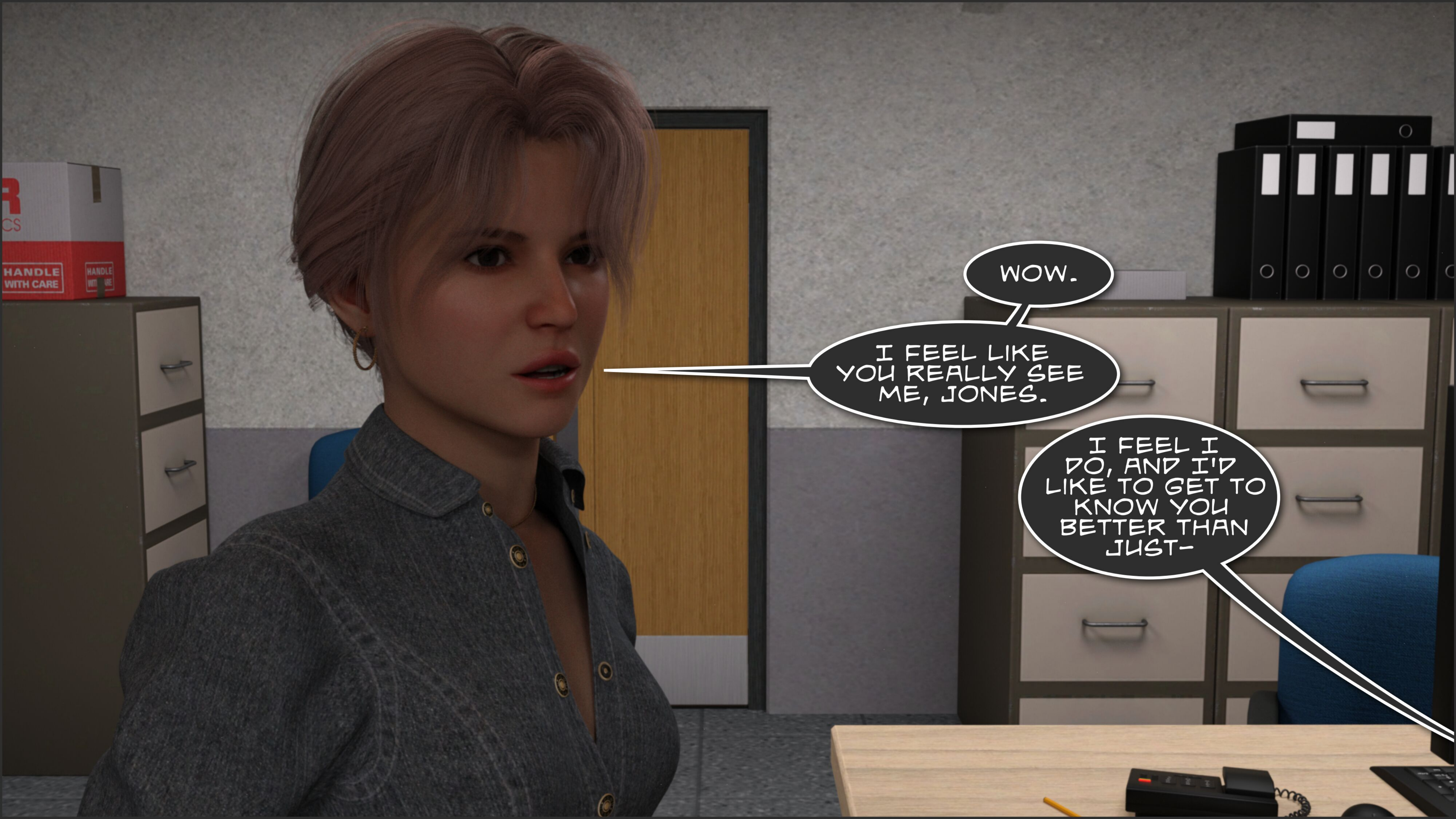
I'M
SORRY TO
HEAR THAT,
JEN.

A woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a grey button-down dress, stands in an office. She is looking towards a man who is seated at a desk, seen from the back. The man has dark curly hair and is wearing a light blue shirt. The office environment includes a wooden door, filing cabinets, and a desk with a computer monitor, keyboard, and mouse. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text from the woman.

OH, IT WASN'T
PHYSICAL ABUSE
OR ANYTHING LIKE
THAT, JUST-

EMOTIONAL
MANIPULATION?

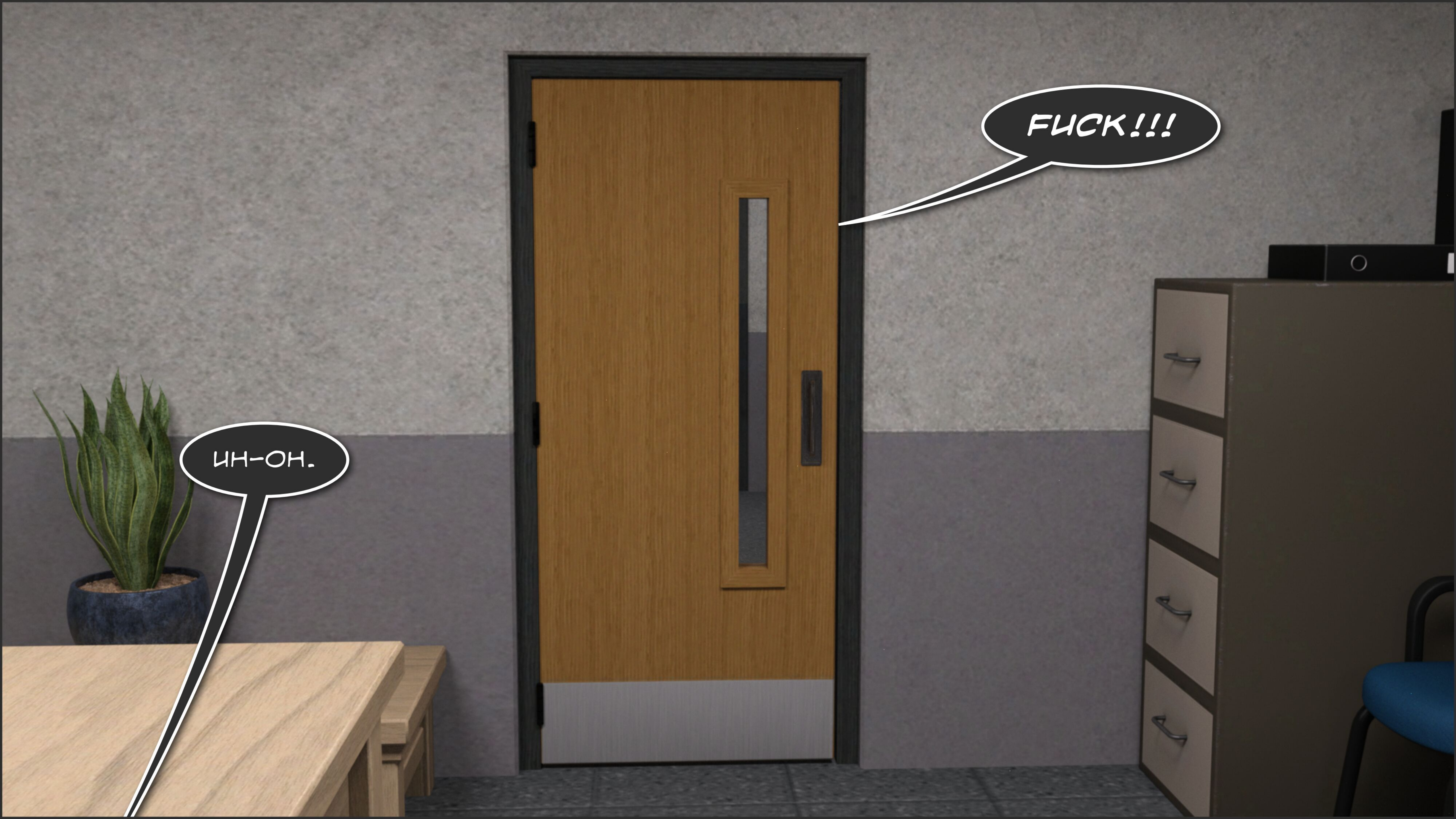
EXACTLY.



WOW.

I FEEL LIKE
YOU REALLY SEE
ME, JONES.

I FEEL I
DO, AND I'D
LIKE TO GET TO
KNOW YOU
BETTER THAN
JUST-



UH-OH.

FUCK!!!



NOT AT ALL.

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.

A woman with voluminous, curly red hair and blue eyes stands in a doorway. She is wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved, ribbed turtleneck sweater and tan-colored trousers with a black belt. The background shows a grey wall and a wooden door frame. To her right is a grey filing cabinet with three drawers. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image.

EVERYTHING
OKAY, SAM?

WAS
THERE ANOTHER
INCIDENT?



QUICK STOP
GROCERIES ON
ADAMS BURNED DOWN
LAST NIGHT.

WELL, THAT
DOESN'T MEET
THE M.O. OF—

TWO
WOMEN ARE
MISSING...

...AND
THE CHIEF
HAS NO IDEA
HOW THE FIRE
STARTED.



TWO
WOMEN?

A BUILDING
BURNING DOWN?

THAT STILL
DOESN'T MATCH
THE M.O. OF OUR
UNSUB...

UNLESS
YOU THINK
THIS IS AN-



AN *ESCALATION*?

THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I THINK,
JONES.

YEAH... IT'S
TOO MUCH OF A
COINCIDENCE NOT
TO BE OUR
UNSUB.

A woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a grey button-down shirt, stands in an office. She has a surprised or concerned expression. The office background includes a wooden door on the left, a filing cabinet behind her, and a desk with a computer monitor and keyboard to her right. There are four speech bubbles containing text.

DOES
KNOWING
THAT HELP
US?

DOES IT
GET US ANY
CLOSER TO
FINDING
OUT—

NOT—

I THINK WE
CAN DEFINITELY
SAY OUR UNSUB IS
NOT HUMAN.



NO!
YOU SAID
THAT STUFF
WASN'T
REAL!

YOU
SAID AGENT
AUGUST WAS
LOSING HIS
MIND!

YOUR
MARRIAGE
ENDED
BECAUSE
YOU—



YOU
ENDED
THINGS WITH
HIM?

JENNIFER!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark red tie, stands in an office. He is looking slightly to his left with a concerned expression. The office has a wooden desk with a stack of papers and a potted plant. In the background, there are dark office cabinets and a window with blinds. Four speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, indicating a conversation.

YOU SAID
HE FELL OUT
OF LOVE WITH
YOU.

WHAT?
THAT'S NOT
WHAT-

JENNIFER,
PLEASE.

WHAT
THE FUCK IS
GOING ON,
SAM?

SIGH I'M
SORRY FOR YELLING,
JENNIFER...

...AND
JONES?

YES?

ED



I BROKE
THINGS OFF
WITH MY HUSBAND
THREE YEARS
AGO.

WHY DID
YOU TELL
ME—

AGENT
AUGUST HAD
VERY STRONG
BELIEFS THAT...
SIGH

A woman with voluminous, wavy red hair is shown from the chest up, leaning forward over a light-colored wooden table. She is wearing a dark navy blue, long-sleeved sweater. Her right hand is raised, with her fingers resting near her ear. She has a serious, focused expression, looking down towards the table. The background features a grey wall with horizontal wooden slats and a green plant in a dark blue pot. A speech bubble originates from her mouth area.

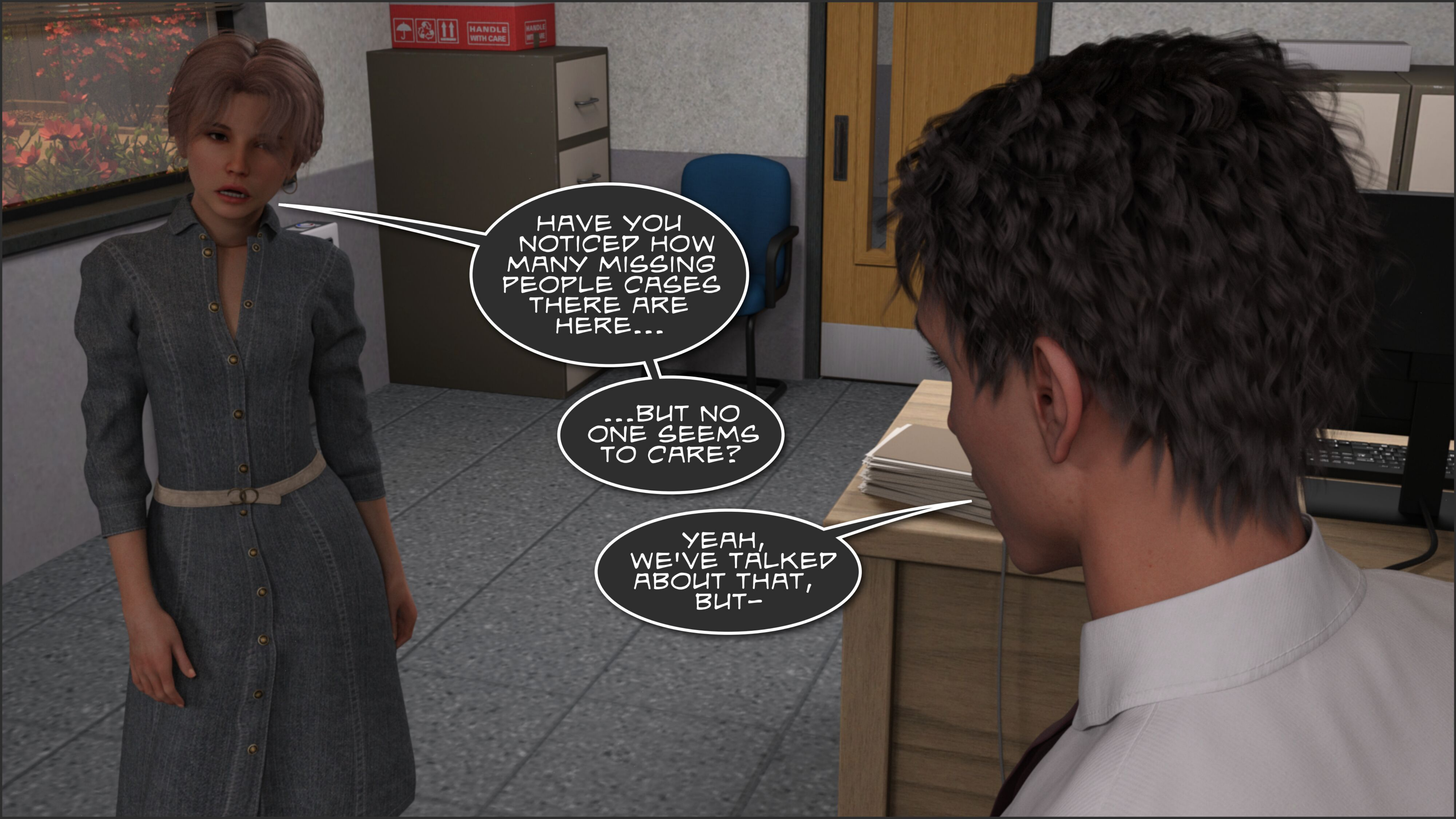
THAT *TIMBER GROVE* WAS A
HOTBED OF
PARANORMAL
ACTIVITY.



PARANORMAL
ACTIVITY!?

THAT'S WHAT
HE BELIEVED.

BUT
YOU'RE
SAYING-

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a grey button-down dress with a tan belt, stands in an office. She is looking at a man with dark curly hair who is sitting at a desk, seen from the side. The office has a grey carpet, a blue office chair, and a filing cabinet with a red box on top that says 'HANDLE WITH CARE'.

HAVE YOU
NOTICED HOW
MANY MISSING
PEOPLE CASES
THERE ARE
HERE...

...BUT NO
ONE SEEMS
TO CARE?

YEAH,
WE'VE TALKED
ABOUT THAT,
BUT—

A woman with voluminous, curly red hair is shown from the chest up, looking down and slightly to her right. She is wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved, textured sweater. The background consists of dark horizontal blinds. To her right, a green plant in a blue pot is visible. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the left side of the image, connected by lines to the woman's head area.

TIM BELIEVED
THERE WAS A CULT
HERE MANIPULATING
THE POPULACE.

THE
CRIMSON
FLEET.

THE
CRIMSON
FLEET?



IT'S AN OLD
LEGEND.

APPARENTLY, A
FLEET OF PIRATE
SHIPS FLED TO THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
IN 1710...

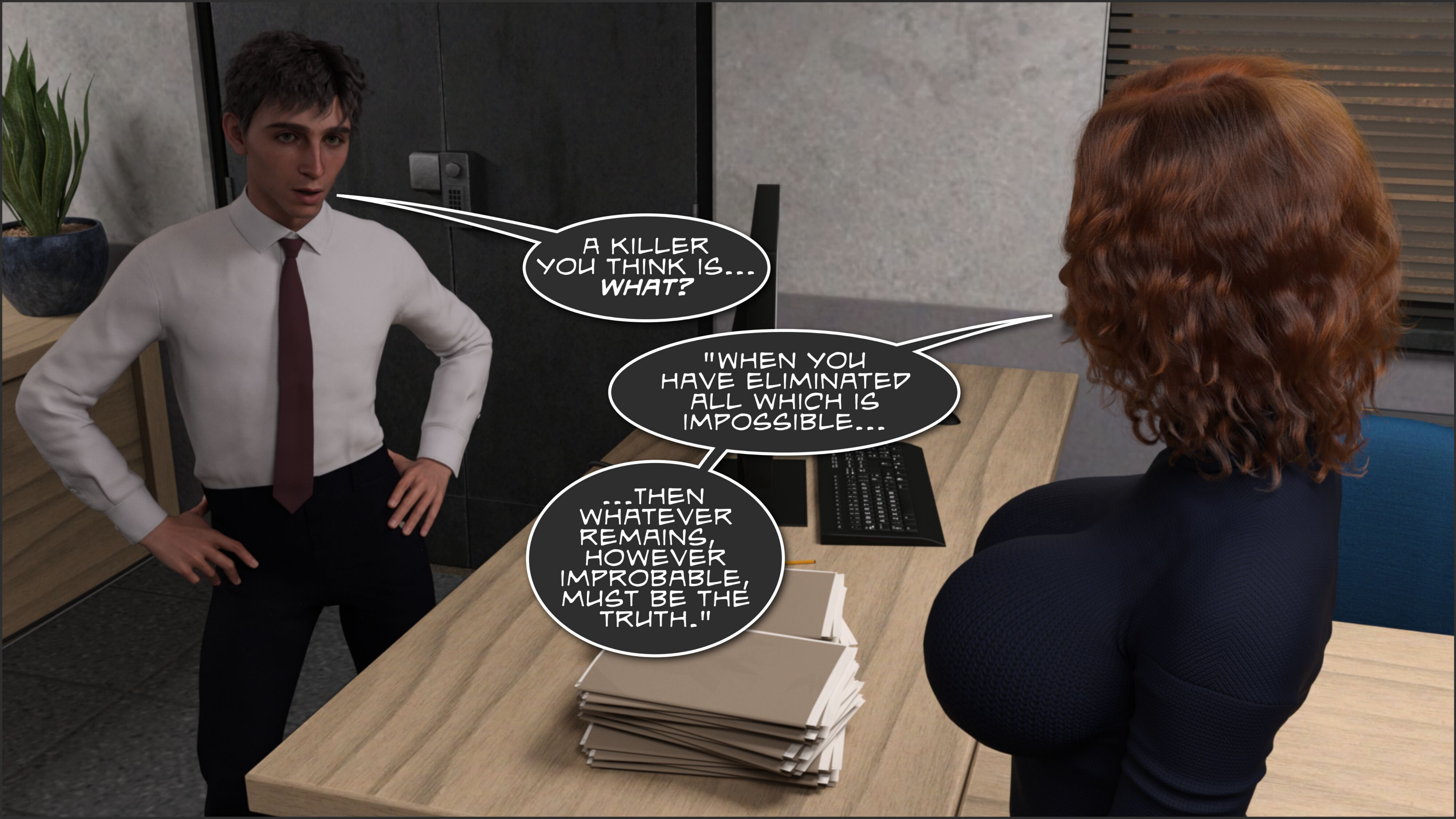
...WITH
MOUNDS OF
CURSED TREASURE
AND MAGICAL
ARTIFACTS.

PIRATES?
REALLY?



WE CAN
SHARE GHOST
STORIES
LATER...

...BECAUSE
WE STILL HAVE A
VERY REAL KILLER
TO STOP.



A KILLER
YOU THINK IS...
WHAT?

"WHEN YOU
HAVE ELIMINATED
ALL WHICH IS
IMPOSSIBLE..."

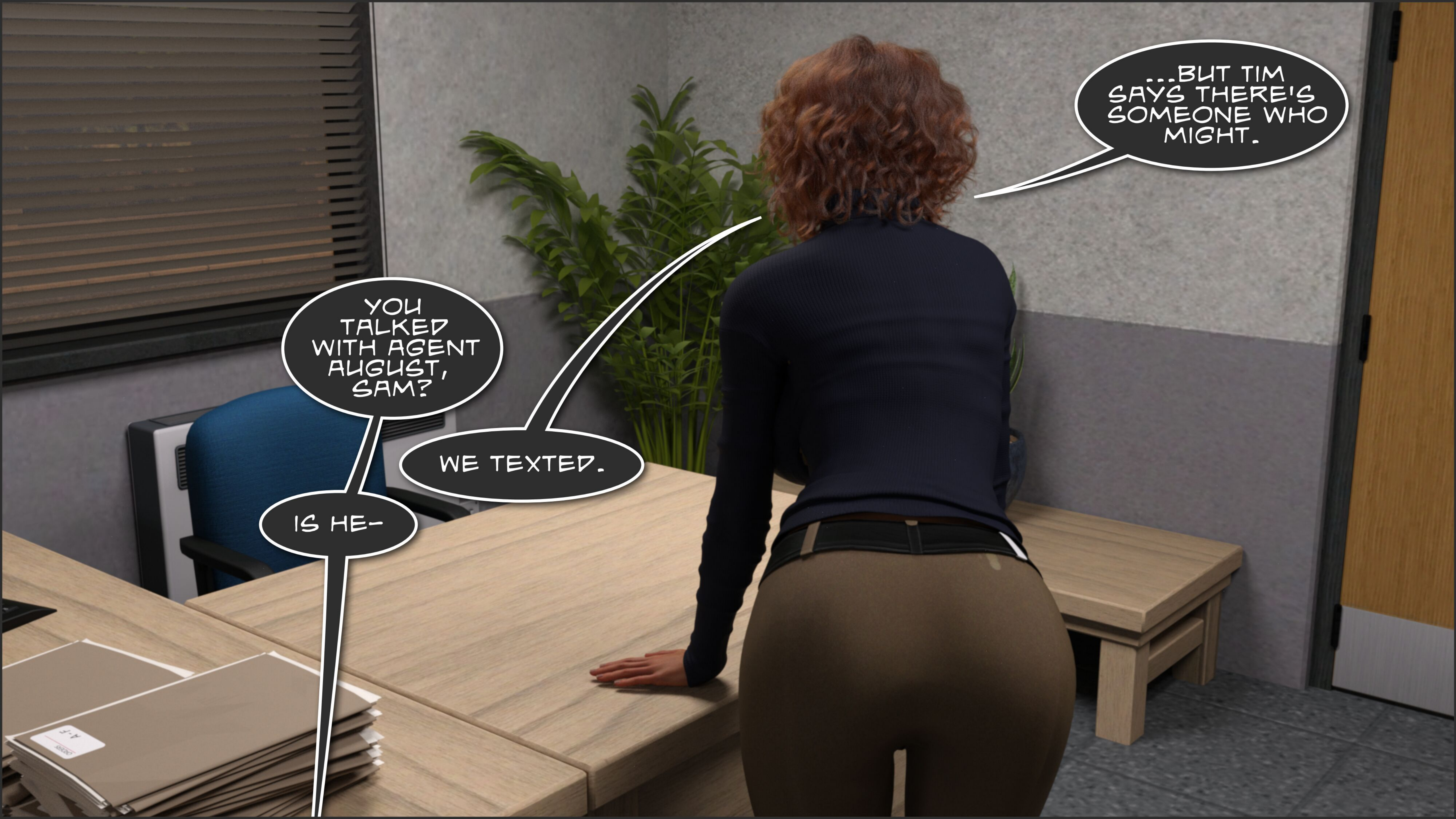
...THEN
WHATEVER
REMAINS,
HOWEVER
IMPROBABLE,
MUST BE THE
TRUTH."



YOU'RE
SERIOUS?

YOU
GENUINELY THINK
OUR UNSUB IS...
A MONSTER?

I DON'T
KNOW...

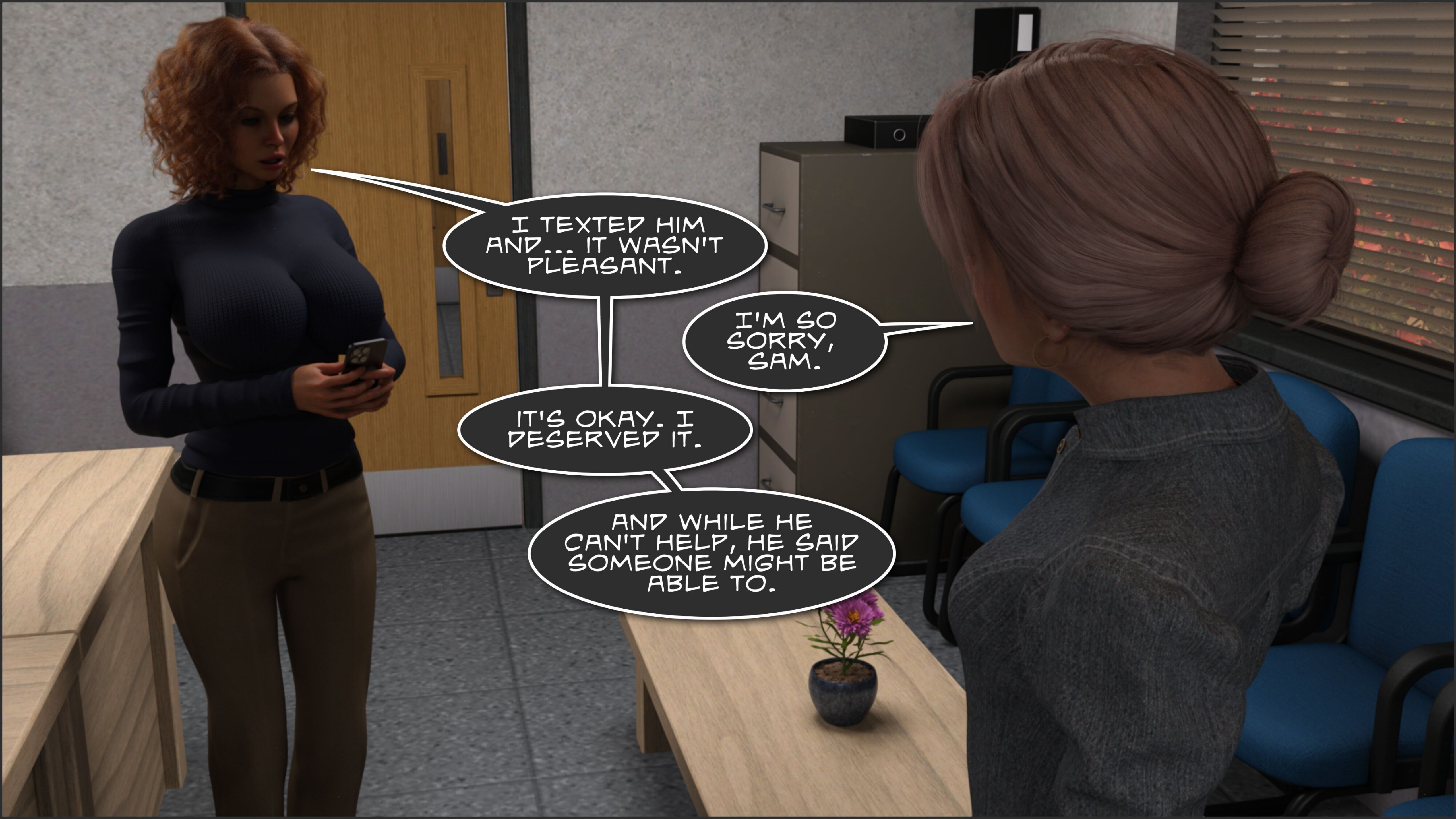


YOU
TALKED
WITH AGENT
AUGUST,
SAM?

WE TEXTED.

IS HE-

...BUT TIM
SAYS THERE'S
SOMEONE WHO
MIGHT.



I TEXTED HIM
AND... IT WASN'T
PLEASANT.

I'M SO
SORRY,
SAM.

IT'S OKAY. I
DESERVED IT.

AND WHILE HE
CAN'T HELP, HE SAID
SOMEONE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO.



AND
WHO IS
THAT?

HE'S A... A
PODCASTER.

A PODCASTER
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
HELP US?

THEY'RE
AN EXPERT
ON... WHATEVER
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR.



THEY
HAVEN'T
RESPONDED TO
MY TEXTS...

...SO I'M
GOING TO
CALL THEM
DIRECTLY.



AND IF THEY
CAN'T HELP US,
THEN WE'RE IN
DEEPER SHIT THAN
I'D LIKE TO
ADMIT.

WHY CAN'T
AGENT AUGUST-

JENNIFER.
YOU KNOW
WHY.



THEN
WHO'S THIS
PODCASTER TIM
BELIEVES IS GOOD
ENOUGH TO HELP
US INSTEAD OF
HIM?

HELLO? YES,
THIS IS SAMANTHA
BROWN WITH THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INFORMATION...



...AND I'M
HOPING TO SPEAK
WITH MAX
POWERS?

to be continued...

THANKS FOR READING!

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, BUSINESSES, PLACES, EVENTS AND INCIDENTS ARE EITHER THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR USED IN A FICTITIOUS MANNER. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, OR ACTUAL EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL. ANY DEPICTION OF A SEXUAL NATURE INVOLVES CONSENTING ADULTS OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO LEGALLY PURCHASE MY WORK AND MY AMAZING PATRONS WHO ALLOW ME TO HAVE THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD!

©SPIRALINGSHAPECOMICS 2026
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
SUPPORT MY WORK BY VISITING
[PATREON.COM/SPIRALINGSHAPE](https://patreon.com/spiralingshape)

