

# AEF



3



AWELLENJE . EZEUGU . EZEUGU

# AFE



3



AWELENJE . EZE OGU . EZE OGU

# AJE

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# AJE

WHAT IS TRUTH? WHAT IS NOT? WHICH IS OUR HISTORY? WHICH IS NOT? WHAT IS THE AJE? WHAT IS A WITCH? ARE THEY ONE AND THE SAME? OR IS THAT WHAT WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT? WHAT IS TENI? QUEEN WITCH OR NOT? IN TIME WE SHALL SEE, THEN AGAIN, MAYBE NOT.

- JIDE MARTIN



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...BYE, ADA.

MY NAME IS TENI FALONI. I'M A LAW STUDENT AT THE NEW AJAH CAMPUS OF UNILAG.

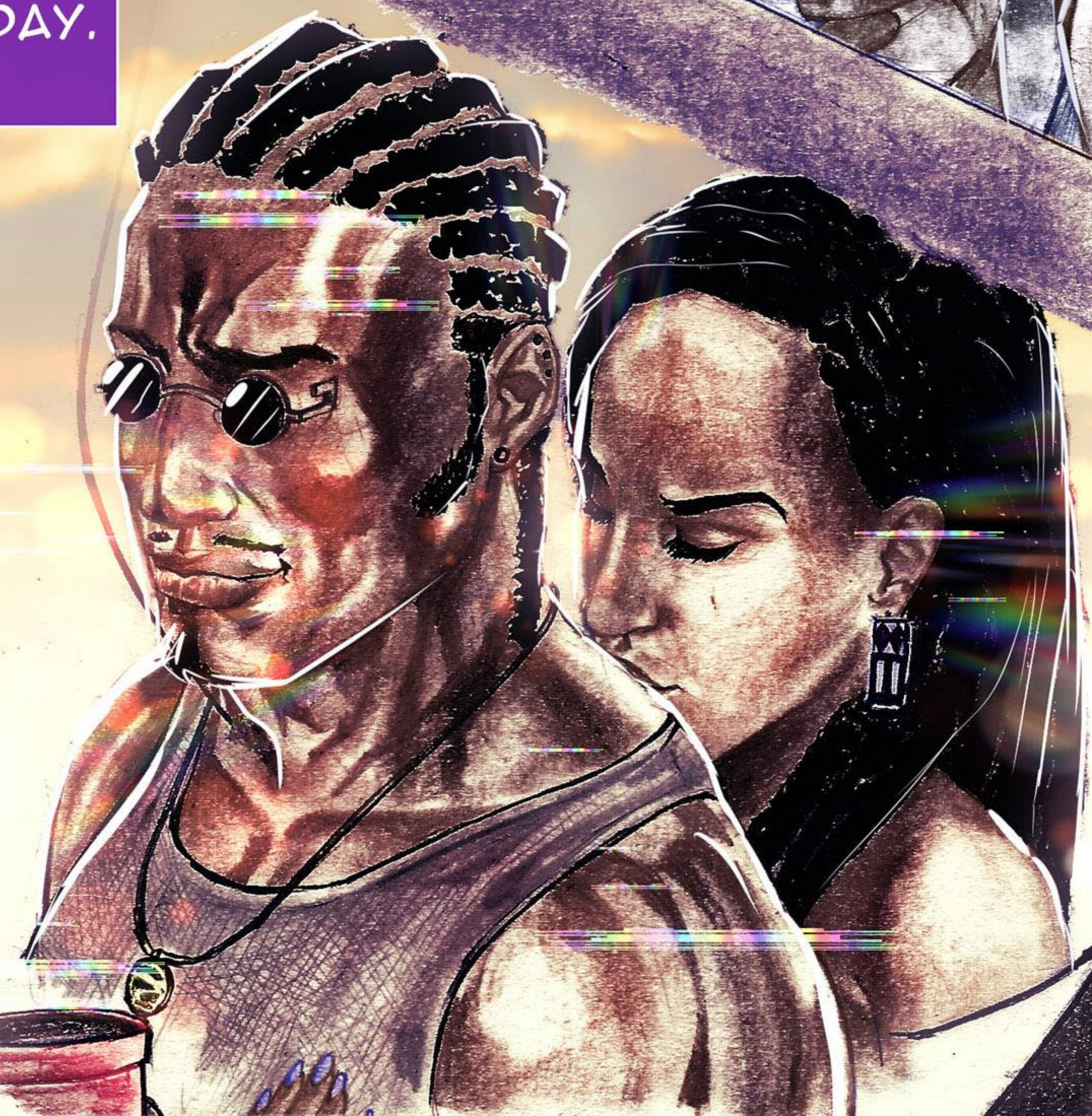
BYE, TENI.

THE GIRL IS ADA. FOR THE LAST HOUR OR SO, SHE'S BEEN TRYING TO CHEER ME UP, SHOWING ME PICTURES OF SENIORS SHE THINKS I SHOULD DATE.

I LIKE HER. SHE'S CHEERFUL, AND SHE DOESN'T MIND THE FACT THAT I'M QUIET, SHY OR THAT MY FATHER IS A FAMOUS MULTIMILLIONAIRE. ADA'S MY ONLY FRIEND.

SHE WASN'T ALWAYS THE ONLY ONE, THOUGH. I HAD A BOYFRIEND, YESTERDAY. AND A BEST FRIEND.

NOW, EDEM AND LARA ARE A COUPLE.



I CRIED A BIT YESTERDAY,  
BUT TODAY I FEEL...  
WORRIED.

NOT JUST BECAUSE,  
DESPITE IT ALL, I STILL  
LOVE EDEM, IN A WAY...

BUT BECAUSE I'VE  
GOTTEN OVER HIM  
ALREADY...

AM I NORMAL? JUST  
GULLIBLE? OR DO I  
HAVE NO EMOTIONS?

LIKE A--

HELLO, TENI.  
CAN I SEE YOU IN  
MY OFFICE?

YES,  
MA'AM.

SOFIAT KOLAWOLE,  
FACULTY HEAD,  
GENERAL AFRICAN  
STUDIES.

WHY DOES SHE  
WANT TO SEE ME?

AFTER  
YOU, MY  
DEAR.



# ONE DAY EARLIER

MY NAME IS EDEM AND I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN LAGOS!

I MEAN, JESUS! JUST LOOK AT THIS BABE. KAI!!

CONCENTRATE ON THE ROAD, THIS MAN. DEM NEVER SWEAR FOR ME FROM VILLAGE, NA MOTOR ACCIDENT YOU GO TAKE SPOIL MY HUSTLE ABI?

HAHA, RELAX, BABE. I'M JUST BLOWN AWAY... I MEAN YOU KNOW I'M WITH TENI, RIGHT?

TENI'S MY RICH GIRLFRIEND. LARA HERE IS HER HOT BEST FRIEND... AND I'M THE PLAYA THAT GETS TO HAVE THEM BOTH!

WHAT DID I SAY AGAIN ABOUT BEING THE LUCKIEST GUY?

MSHEWW! JAMB QUESTION. SO BECAUSE YOUR PAPA DON HAMMER, YOU DON DEY BEGIN TALK LIKE AJEBUTTER.

HAHAHA!

YEAH, MY DAD DID JUST LAND A MASSIVE GOVERNMENT CONTRACT. WHAT DID I SAY AGAIN ABOUT BEING THE LUCKIEST GUY?

ANYWAY, WITHOUT YOUR OMO OLOWO\* GIRLFRIEND, HOW WOULD YOU EVEN AFFORD THIS CAR?

\*RICH CHILD

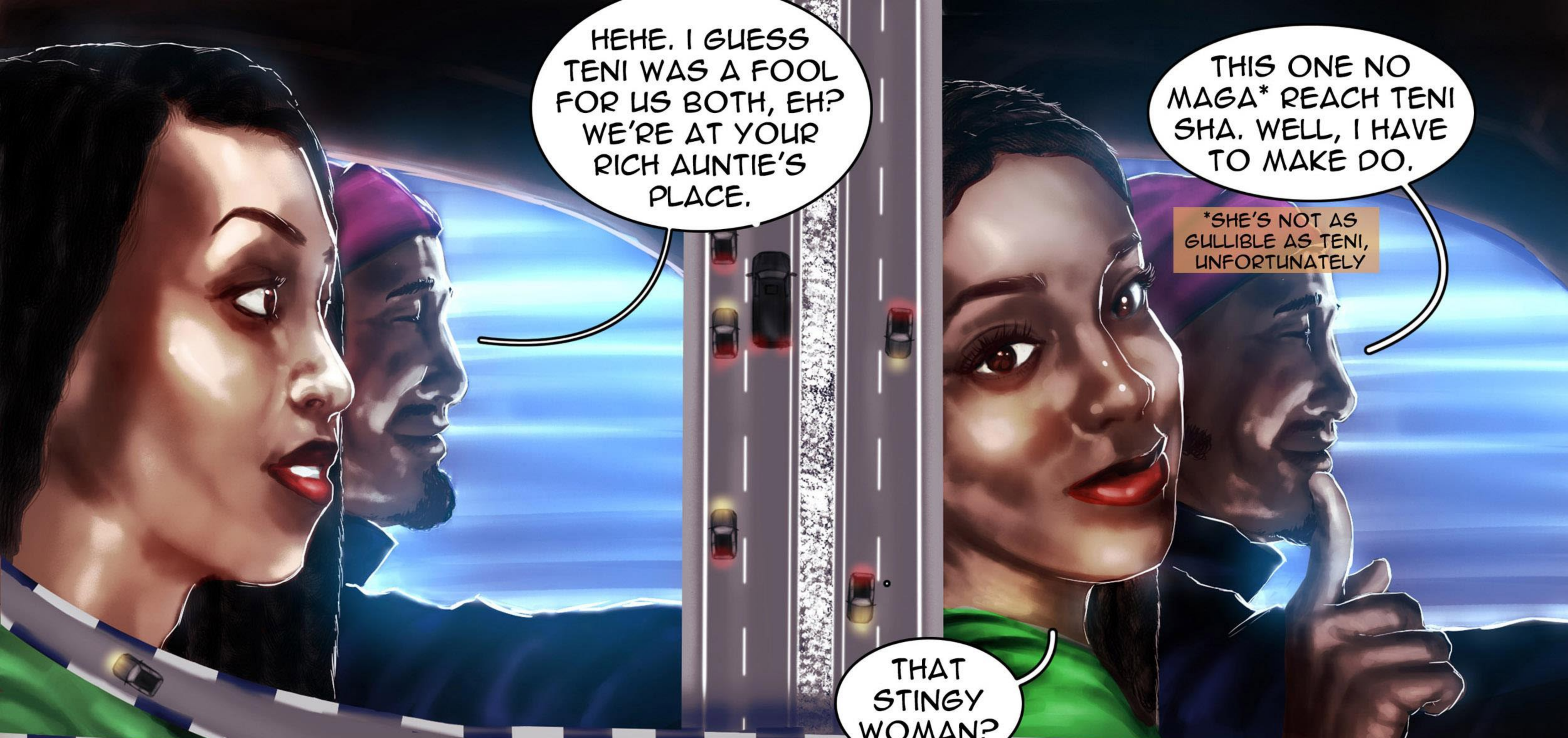
BABE, YOU'RE COLD! TENI'S YOUR BESTFRIEND!

THAT ONE? EDEM, IT'S NOT TODAY YOU AND ME WILL START TO DULL. YOU THINK IT'S CHEAP TO LOOK THIS SEXY?

WARRRR







HEHE. I GUESS TENI WAS A FOOL FOR US BOTH, EH? WE'RE AT YOUR RICH AUNTIE'S PLACE.

THIS ONE NO MAGA\* REACH TENI SHA. WELL, I HAVE TO MAKE DO.

\*SHE'S NOT AS GULLIBLE AS TENI, UNFORTUNATELY

THAT STINGY WOMAN?

ANYWAY, I KNOW YOU HAVE TO GO SEE HER AND DO AJEBUTTER BOYFRIEND THINGS TODAY, SO COME PICK ME UP IN THE EVENING, EH?



WELL, TENI DID CATCH LARA AND I TOGETHER, YESTERDAY. NOT THAT IT MATTERS MUCH. SOME SWEET, SWEET WORDS ARE ALL IT WILL TAKE...

LARA, LARA! OKAY NOW, SEE YOU LATER.

...BECAUSE I'M JUST LUCKY LIKE THAT!



LATER THAT EVENING...



AT LONG LAST. SO HOW WAS YOUR AJEBUTTER GIRLFRIE--



--JESUS,  
EDEM! WHAT  
HAPPENED?

TENI'S BROTHER  
WENT MENTAL! THAT  
THEIR FAMILY IS CRAZY!  
AND THAT TENI IS A WITCH,  
I TELL YOU... SHE PUT A  
CURSE ON ME!

EDEM OOO,  
SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE  
WORRYING ME! WHAT  
THE HELL?

# WARRAM

LOOK. I WENT TO  
TENI'S HOUSE AND HER  
BROTHER JUST ATTACKED  
ME. THEN SHE OPENED  
THE DOOR AND WAS  
DRESSED LIKE A RITUALIST!  
SHE SWORE  
FOR ME...\*

BLEEP!  
BLEEP!  
BLEEP!

# WARRAM

\*SEE ISSUE 1.  
--WALE

THERE'S A POLICE CHECKPOINT AHEAD, EDEM, YOU SHOULD STOP.

OK.

MUM'S CALLING. THANK GOD I'VE GOT MY HANDSFREE ON...I'LL TAKE THIS CALL, LET HER KNOW I'M AT A CHECKPOINT...

EDEM! THIS IS YOUR MAMA O! THEY HAVE ARRESTED YOUR DAD!

WHAT!

IF YOU SEE ANY CHECKPOINT, DON'T STOP O, EDEM!!!

OH SNAP, TOO LATE! WHAT BLOODY BAD LUCK! WHY DIDN'T SHE CALL ONE SECOND EARLIER?

THIS NUMBER PLATE IS WANTED, SIR. PLEASE PARK WELL.

THAT CONTRACT O! IT WAS FROM THE DEVIL O! THEY SAY HE IMPLICATED... YOUR FATHER. HAY! GOD!

OH MY GOD, DON'T TELL ME THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME TODAY...

BLEEP!

BLEEP!

BLEEP!

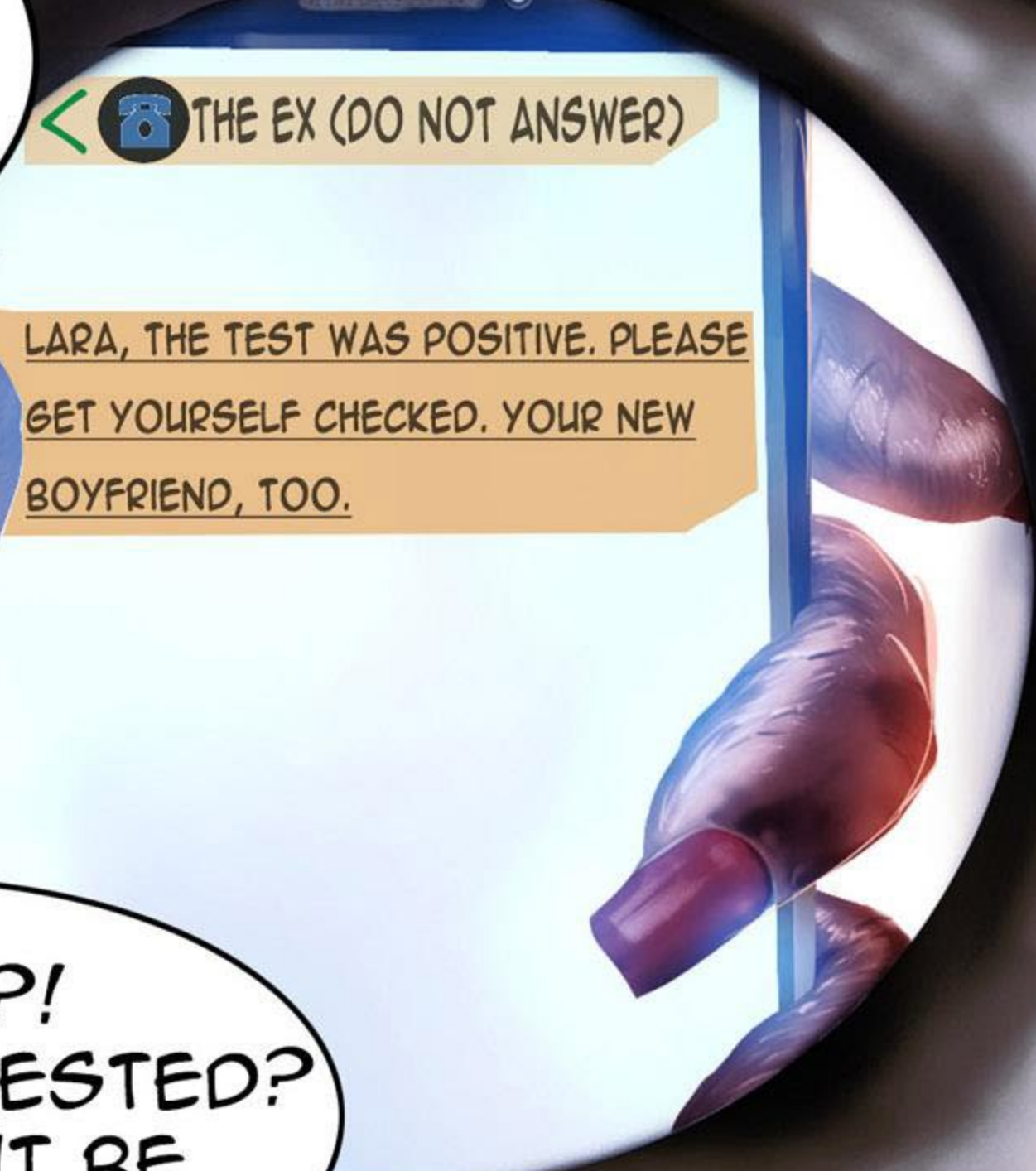


LA--LARA...  
WHAT DO I DO? IF  
I GET DOWN, THESE  
POLICEMEN WILL  
ARREST ME!

GOT TO LOCK THE DOORS,  
WIND UP THE WINDOWS,  
THINK...

WHAT THE HELL IS  
SHE LOOKING AT HER  
PHONE FOR AT A TIME  
LIKE THIS?

LARA, WHAT ARE  
YOU LOOKING AT  
ON THAT PHONE?  
WHY ARE YOU  
CRYING?



WHAT?!  
POSITIVE? TESTED?  
THIS CANT BE  
HAPPENING!!!

JESUS CHRIST! THAT  
TRUCK IS OUT OF  
CONTROL!



BRAKES O!  
MY BRAKEES!!!

HE'S HEADED FOR ME!  
CAN'T START IN TIME!!!

MY GOD...NEED TO OPEN  
THE DOOR...TOO LATE...  
TOO LATE...

WHAT DID I DO  
TO DESERVE  
THIS?!

CYNTHIA • ATUZIE

WARDEN





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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

**NEXT DAY  
OFFICE OF SOFIAT  
KOLAWOLE  
UNLAG, AJAH  
CAMPUS.**



WELCOME,  
TENI DEAR.



SOFIAT, WHY  
DID YOU BRING HER  
HERE? WE AREN'T  
SURE OF  
HER YET!

DID THAT  
CAT JUST  
SPEAK?!

MRS  
KOLAWOLE...  
YOUR CAT JUST  
SPOKE.



AND YOU  
AREN'T SCARED  
OR STARTLED?  
NOT SHOCKED?



IT IS THIS LACK OF EMOTION THAT SCARES ME.

SHOULD I BE? I JUST FEEL CURIOUS...LIKE I SHOULD KNOW THIS CAT.

HMMM! YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOMETHING, SOFIAT...

...BUT IF YOU'RE CORRECT, THAT MEANS THIS IS GOING TO GET BAD...

WELL, I AM CORRECT. TENI, \*KIYA MI AYABA, ÒLORI, È DAKUN. ÒLÓLUFÈ È, EDEM, SÈ È SÈ ÈPÈ FUN NI ANÀ NI?\*

\*TRANSLATED FROM YORUBA LANGUAGE: MY QUEEN, I GREET YOU. PLEASE, YOUR BOYFRIEND, EDEM, DID YOU CURSE HIM YESTERDAY?

EH?!

\*È KÒ GBÓ YORUBÀ RÀRÀ ÀBÍ?\*

\*YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND YORUBA DO YOU?\*

I AM SORRY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT EITHER OF YOU ARE SAYING.

THIS IS A COMPLICATION.

OH NO, THIS IS BAD! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY, SOFIAT, THIS IS GOING TO BE REALLY BAD!

I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS IS A PUZZLE. WHAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG?

I'M SORRY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOING ON ABOUT?

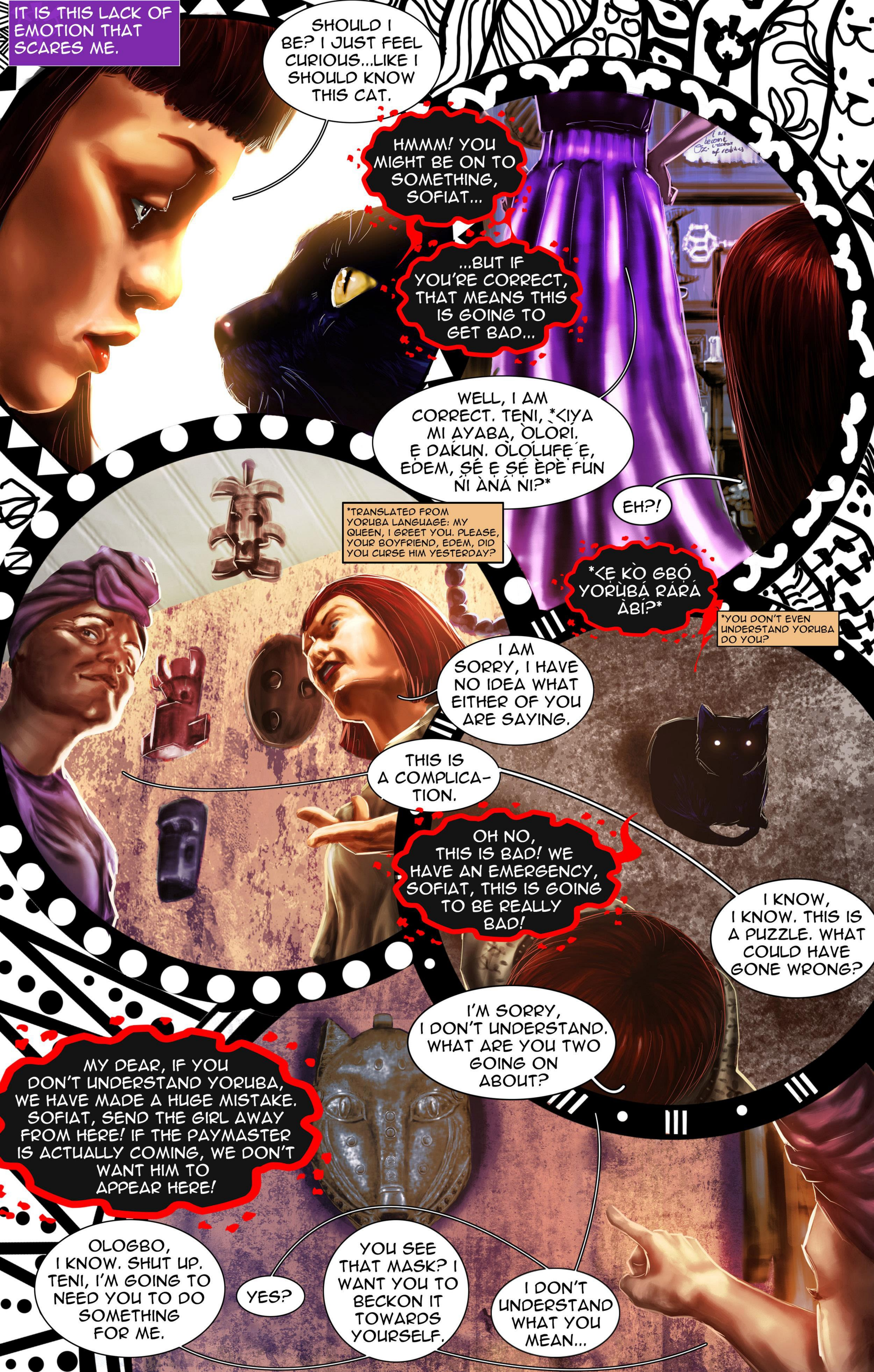
MY DEAR, IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YORUBA, WE HAVE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE. SOFIAT, SEND THE GIRL AWAY FROM HERE! IF THE PAYMASTER IS ACTUALLY COMING, WE DON'T WANT HIM TO APPEAR HERE!

OLOGBO, I KNOW. SHUT UP. TENI, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

YES?

YOU SEE THAT MASK? I WANT YOU TO BECKON IT TOWARDS YOURSELF.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN...





JUST ROLL WITH IT, TENI. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE TALKING CAT?

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY YOU'RE TRYING TO TEACH ME WITCHCRAFT.

AND HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

ODDLY, I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT AT ALL.

SO...DO I JUST BECKON OR IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD SAY?

OH MY GOD. SHE MIGHT JUST BE THE ONE...

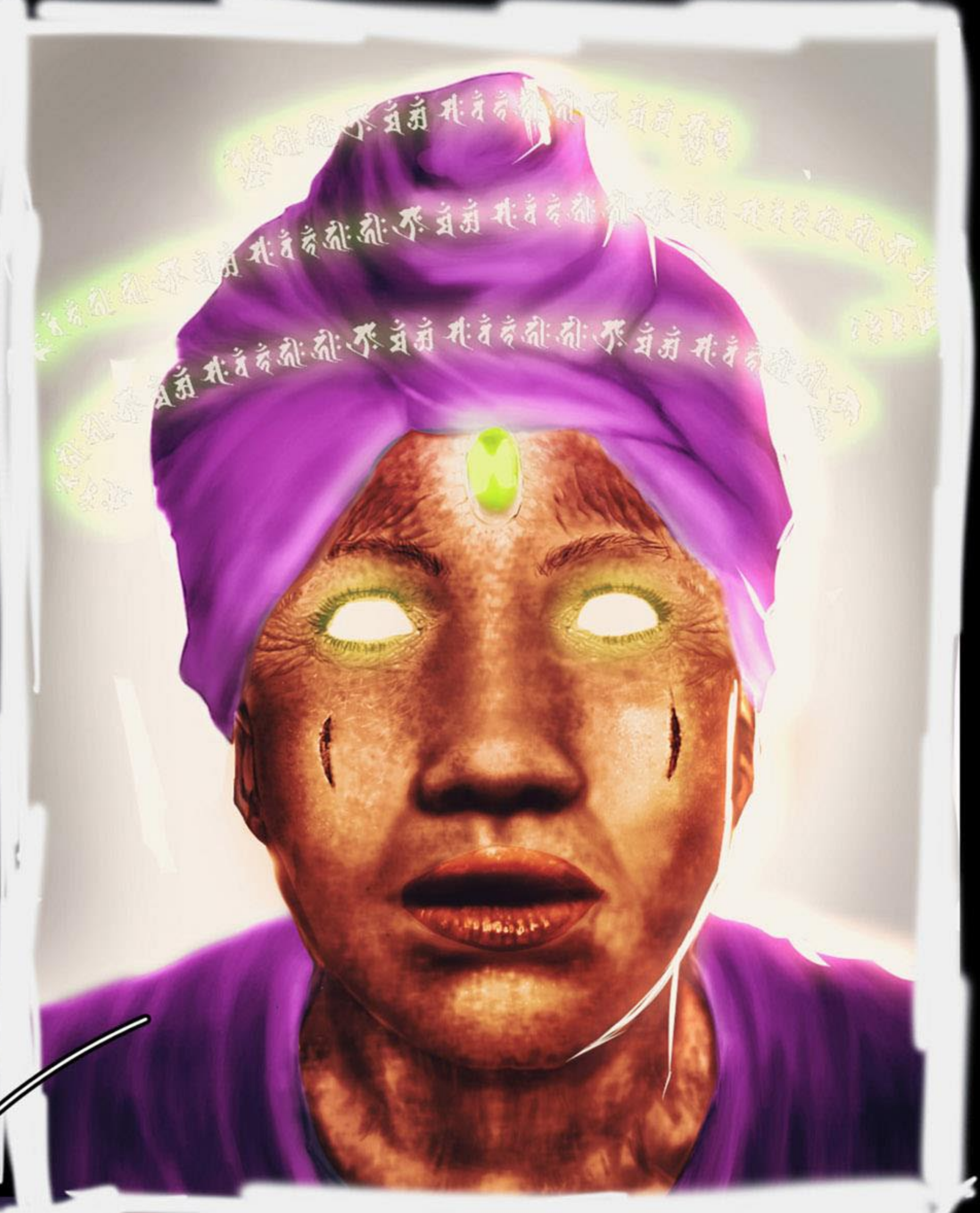
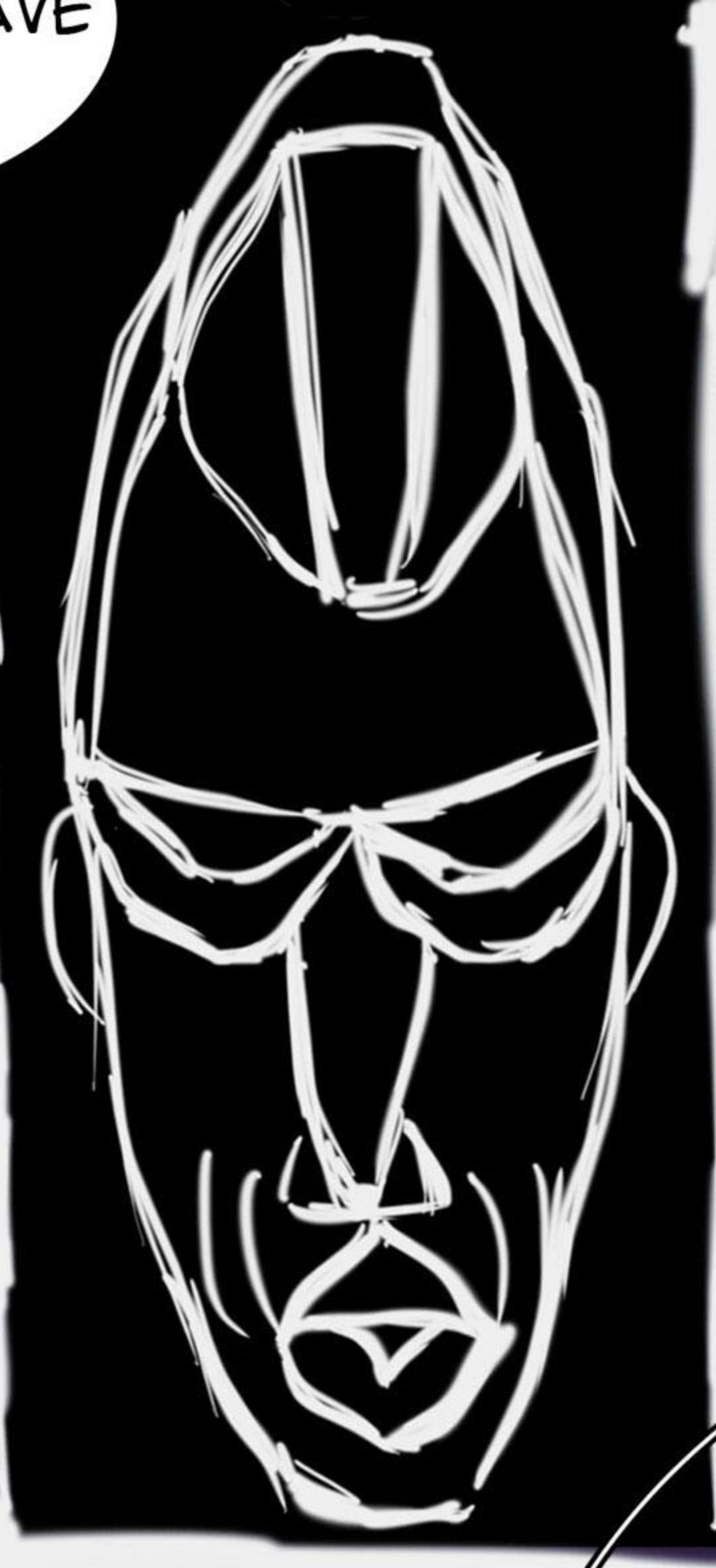
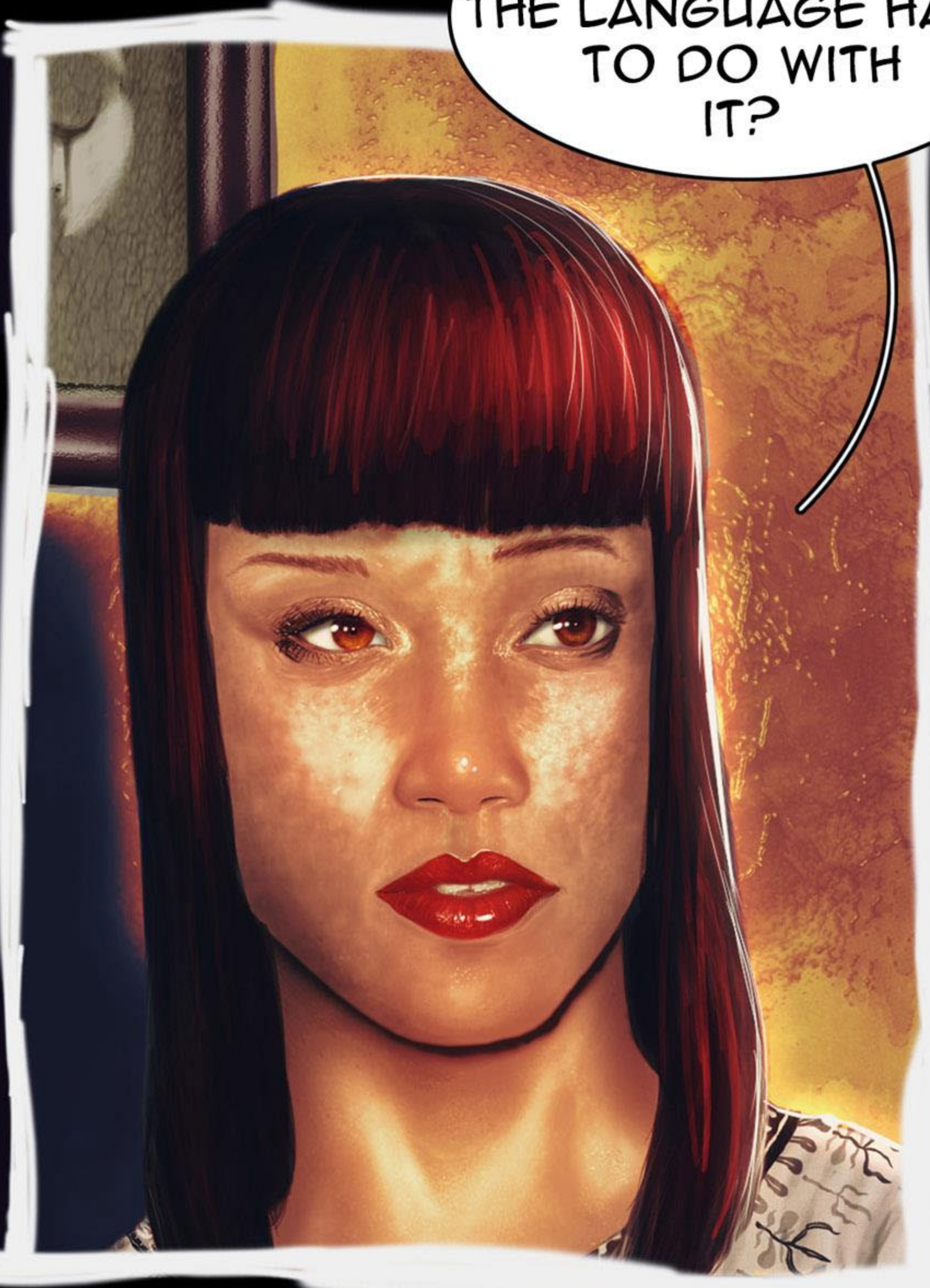
YES. WHILE BECKONING, REPEAT AFTER ME- "E DAKUN, WA MBIBAYI".

"EDDAYKUN... WAMBIBAT" IS SOMETHING SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN?

SHEGE! THIS IS GOING TO BE HARD.

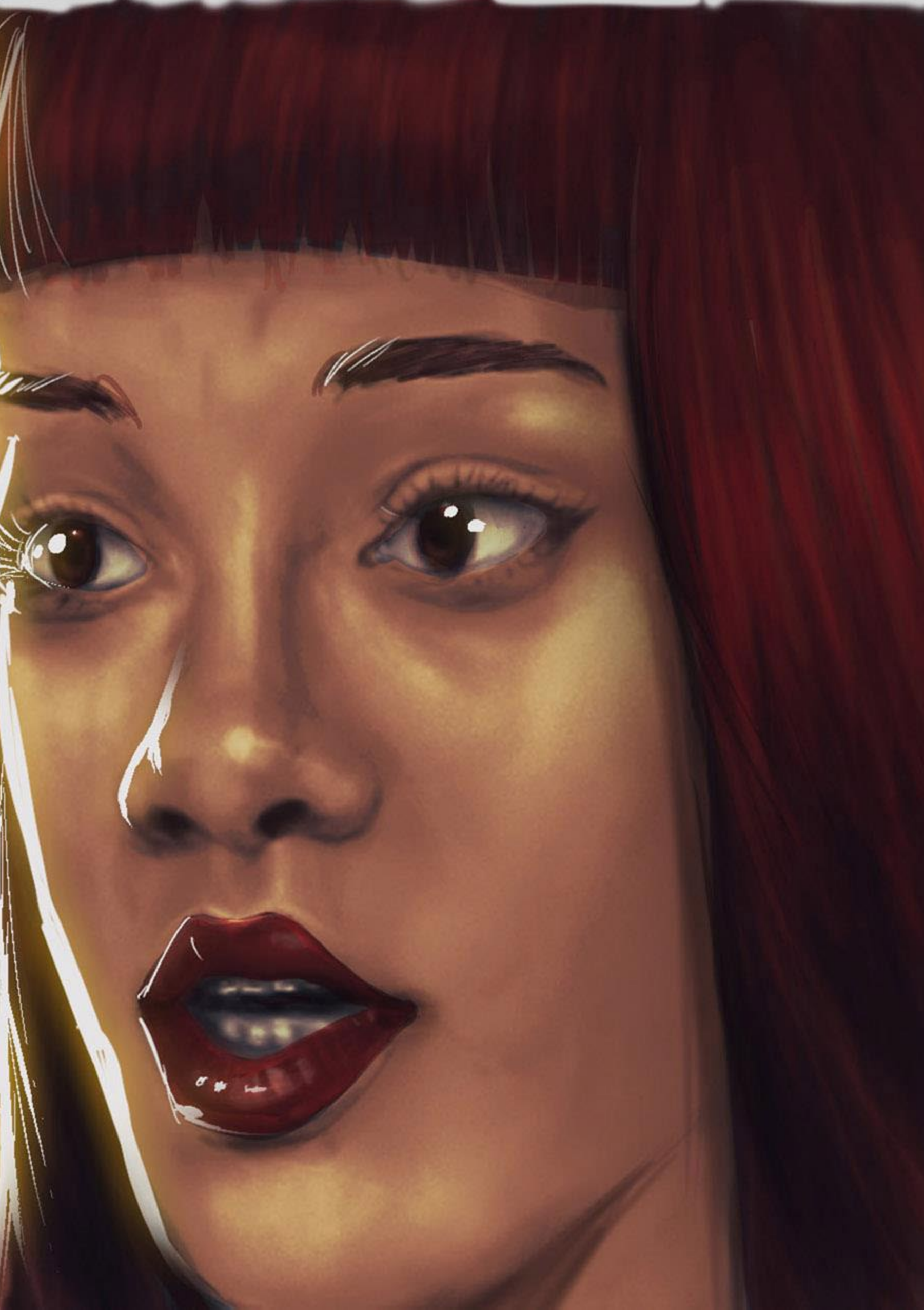
YOU'VE NEVER SPOKEN A WORD IN YORUBA IN YOUR LIFE, HAVE YOU AJE BUTTER GIRL?

WHAT DOES THE LANGUAGE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?



THIS...





SOFIAT, TIME IS RUNNING OUT! THIS IS CLEARLY NOT WORKING! IF THE PAYMASTER COMES HERE, HE WIL--

PLEASE OLOGBO TUTU- OBA, SHUT UP! TENI, PLEASE, IT'S YOUR TURN. YOU HAVE TO TRY.

AY... DAKKUN...

NO. YOUR PRONOUNCIATION MUST BE CORRECT. REPEAT AFTER ME... E DAKUN.

AY... DAKKUN DAKKUN?

STOP WASTING MY TIME, STUPID GIRL!

\*<DAKÉ!!! TA LÒN BÀ MÍ SORÒ? ÀBÌ... SÈ EGBE NÌ WÀ NÍ?

\*TRANSLATED FROM YORUBA: QUIET!!! AM I YOUR MATE?

\*<SÈ IWO YÍ KÒ LÈKÒÒ NÍ? ABI O MÒ ÈNÌ TÌ MO JÈ NÍ?

\*SO YOU HAVE NO RESPECT?! OR DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

MY-- MY QUEEN...

YE--YES, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE...



WHAT...  
WHAT JUST  
HAPPENED?

TENI, LISTEN  
TO ME. HAS THIS  
EVER HAPPENED  
BEFORE?



TIME'S ALMOST  
UP! WE'VE GOT TO  
GET HER TO CHANGE  
BACK INTO THE  
QUEEN! NOW!



I--I THINK  
SO... THERE WAS  
ONCE...

THINK!!! YOUR  
BOYFRIEND, EDEM.  
DID SOMETHING  
HAPPEN?

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER NOW, SOFIAT.  
WE WILL HAVE  
TO FIGHT...

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN  
FIGHT?



YOUR BOYFRIEND,  
THE ONE YOU CURSED. HE  
WAS IN AN ACCIDENT YESTERDAY  
AND HAS BEEN BATTLING FOR  
HIS DEAR LIFE. WE HOPED TO  
GET YOU TO LIFT THE CURSE IN  
TIME, BUT IT'S TOO  
LATE NOW.

THE  
PAYMASTER HAS  
COME.

WHERE  
IS THE ONE WHO  
MUST PAY FOR  
CASTING THE  
QUEEN'S  
CURSE?

I'M SORRY,  
PAYMASTER, BUT YOU  
WON'T BE COLLECTING  
TODAY. OLOGBO BECOME  
YOUR TRUE SELF.

WITH  
PLEASURE!!!



PAYMASTER,  
RETURN FROM  
WHENCE YOU  
CAME!

ÒLÒRÍ  
TENÍOLA FALÓNÍ,  
REINCARNATED FORM  
OF THE FINAL AYABA-ÀJÉ  
ÒRISHABUNMI...

...AND RIGHTFUL  
HEIR TO SOVEREIGN  
RULE OVER ALL WHO  
CALL THEMSELVES  
AJE...

...WILL NOT  
BE PAYING  
TODAY!



ONE WAY  
OR ANOTHER...  
THE SCALES WILL  
BE BALANCED!!!



**NEXT: BALANCING THE SCALES!**

# SPIRIT WALK

**W**HEN MOST OF US HEAR THIS WORD, WHAT COMES TO MIND IS QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD: "AJE" MEANS "WITCHCRAFT", AND THE WOMEN CALLED "AJE" ARE WITCHES.

HOWEVER, HAS IT EVER CROSSED OUR MINDS...THAT WITCHCRAFT IN THE CONTEMPORARY SENSE WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE ALIEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA?

GREAT POWER FROM THE GODS, ONLY ACCESSIBLE TO WOMEN, AND ASSOCIATED WITH CURSES AND THE SPOKEN WORD, DEFINITELY DOES DRAW PARALLELS WITH WITCHCRAFT IN THE NORMAL SENSE, BUT WHAT IF IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT? SOMETHING THAT COULD ACT AS A WINDOW INTO THE HISTORY OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA AS A REGION, AND TO THE IMMENSE POWER THAT THESE WOMEN COULD WIELD IN SOCIETY?

THIS IS THE BASIS OF AJE, ONE OF COMIC REPUBLIC'S LONGEST RUNNING SERIES. I INVITE YOU TO ENJOY THE GORGEOUS LINEWORK OF THE GREAT AND POWERFUL OZ, OUR FEATURED ARTIST FOR THIS ISSUE, AS WE TAKE YET ANOTHER JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF TENI FALONI, AT THE BEGINNING OF HER GRAND DESTINY AS PROTECTOR OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF US ALL.

THANKS, AND ENJOY THE BOOK!

**-WALE AWELENJE**  
HEAD SCRIPT AND STORY DEVELOPMENT/  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

**THE BEGINNING OF HER  
GRAND DESTINY AS  
PROTECTOR OF THE  
PAST, PRESENT, AND  
FUTURE OF US ALL.**



HERO CITY,  
THE CENTER OF  
OUR STORY...

# Hero Kekere

## THE GREAT HOLIDAY MYSTERY

...AND LIKE EVERY  
GOOD STORY, WE'LL  
NEED TO FIND A FEW  
KEY INGREDIENTS...

The School  
of  
Heroes & Villains

...A HERO TO SAVE  
THE DAY, OR A SMALL  
SCHOOL OF ONE...

...THE VILLAINS,  
ALWAYS RICH WITH  
THEIR PLOTS AND  
SCHEMES...

...AND TO MAKE IT  
INTERESTING, A SMALL  
TREASURE HUNT.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



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