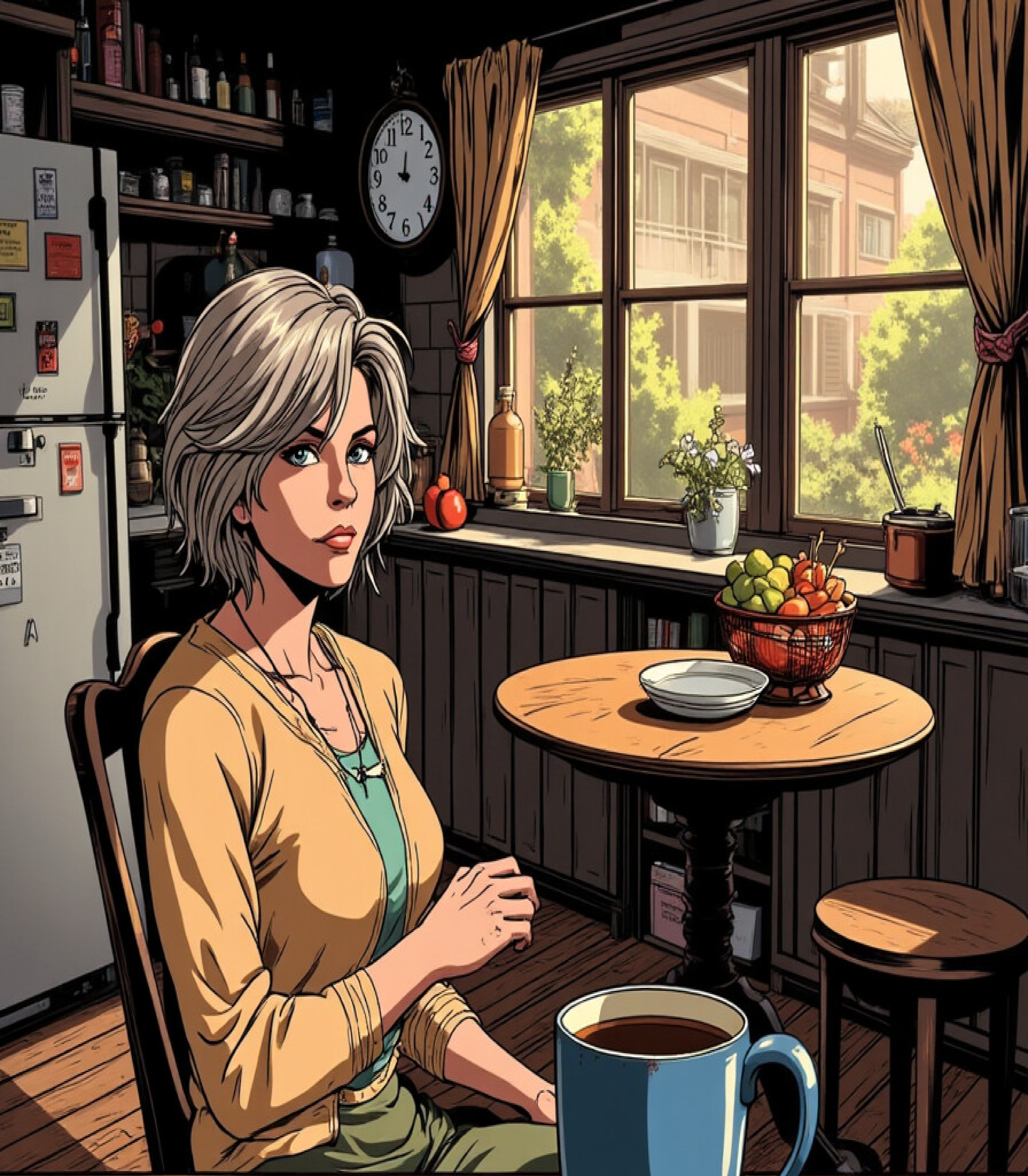



THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

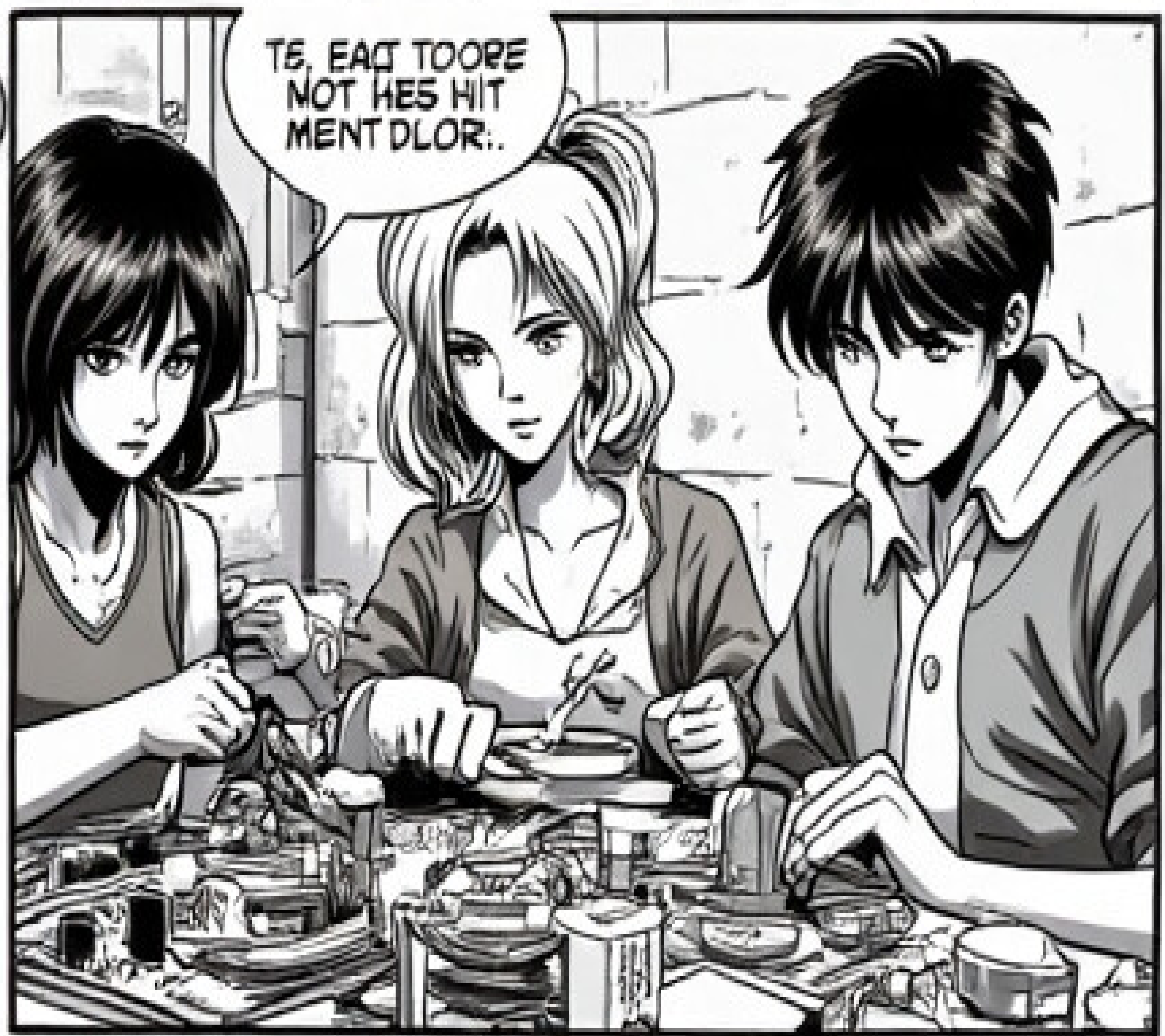
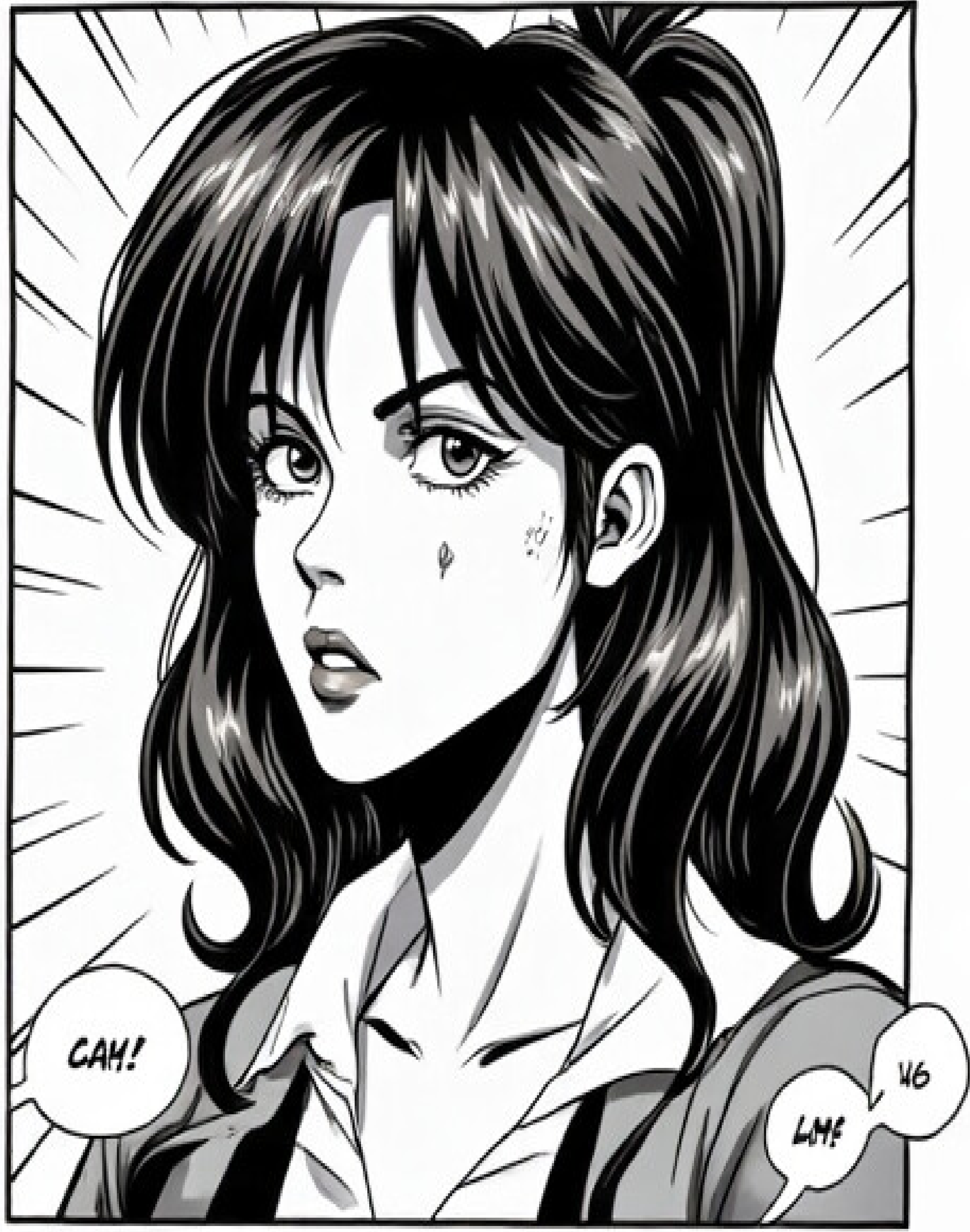


By Nikole J



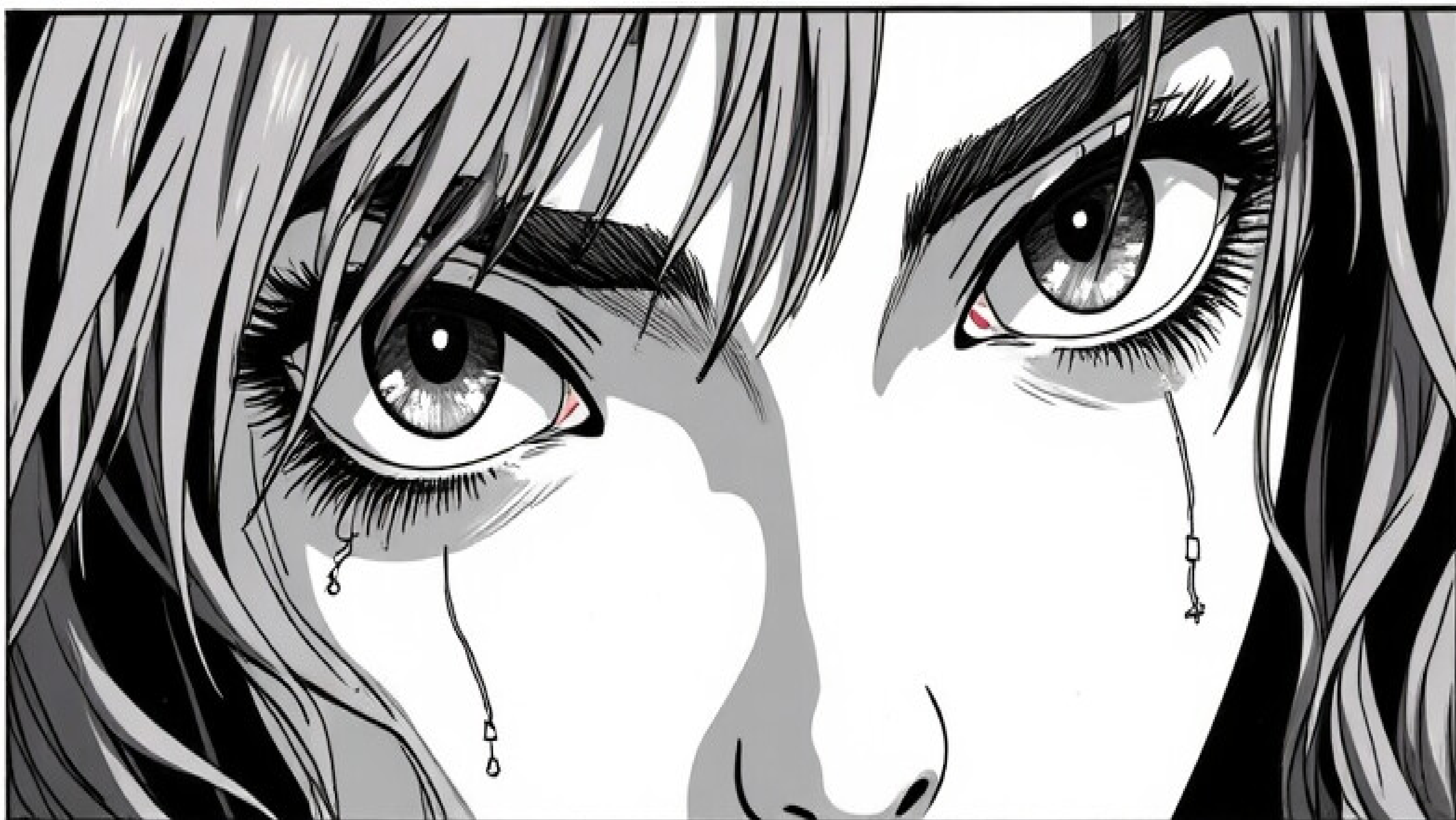
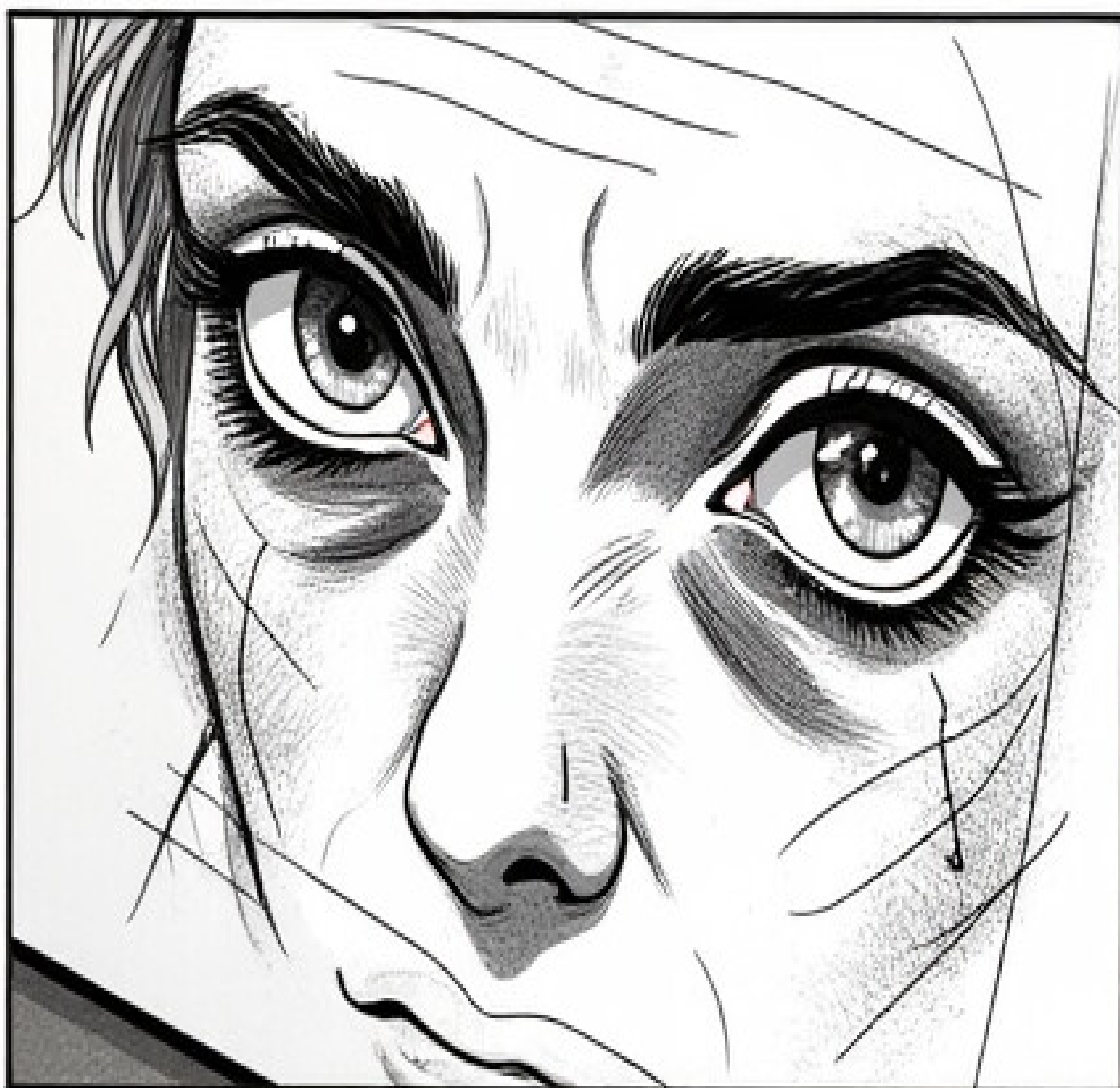
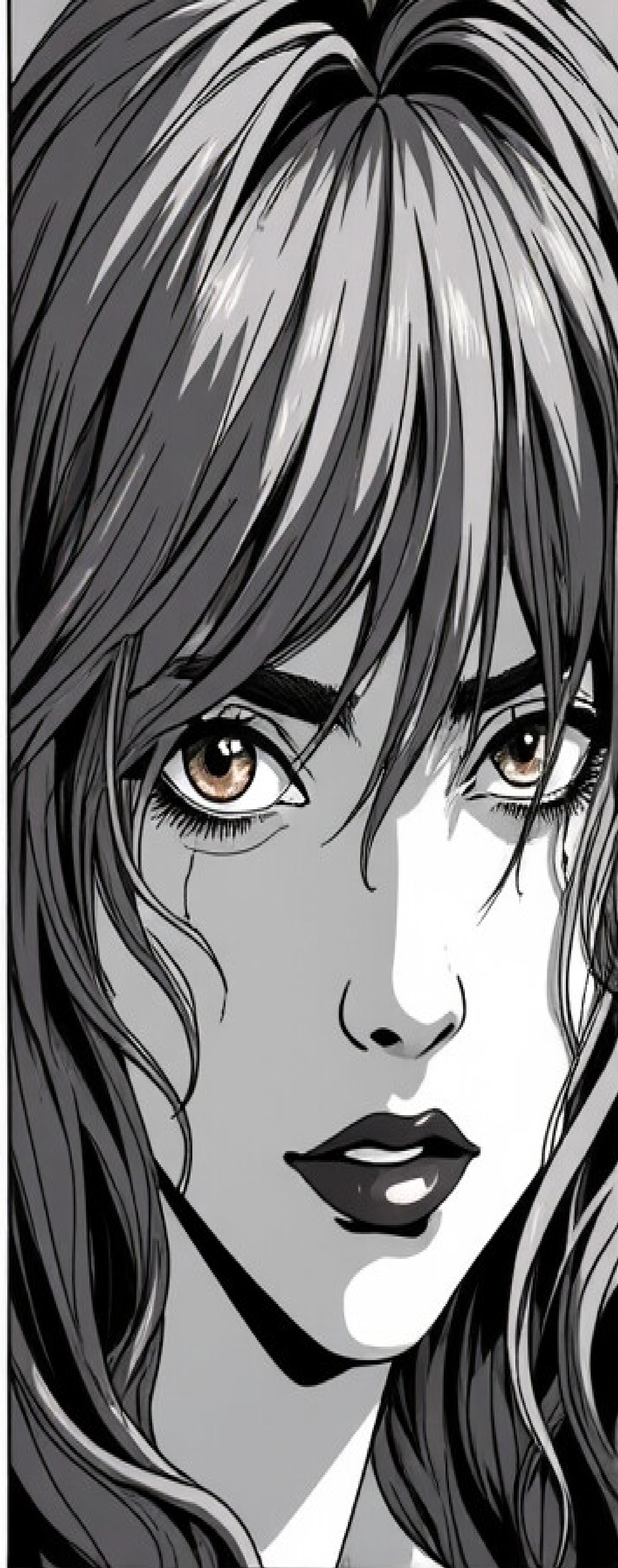



The kitchen
was quiet, but
Katelyn felt a
familiar
tension in the
air.





Soon, the
house
erupted into
the usual
morning
chaos.





Vanessa
sketched a
sad woman
she'd seen in a
dream, and
Sapphire
knew her too.



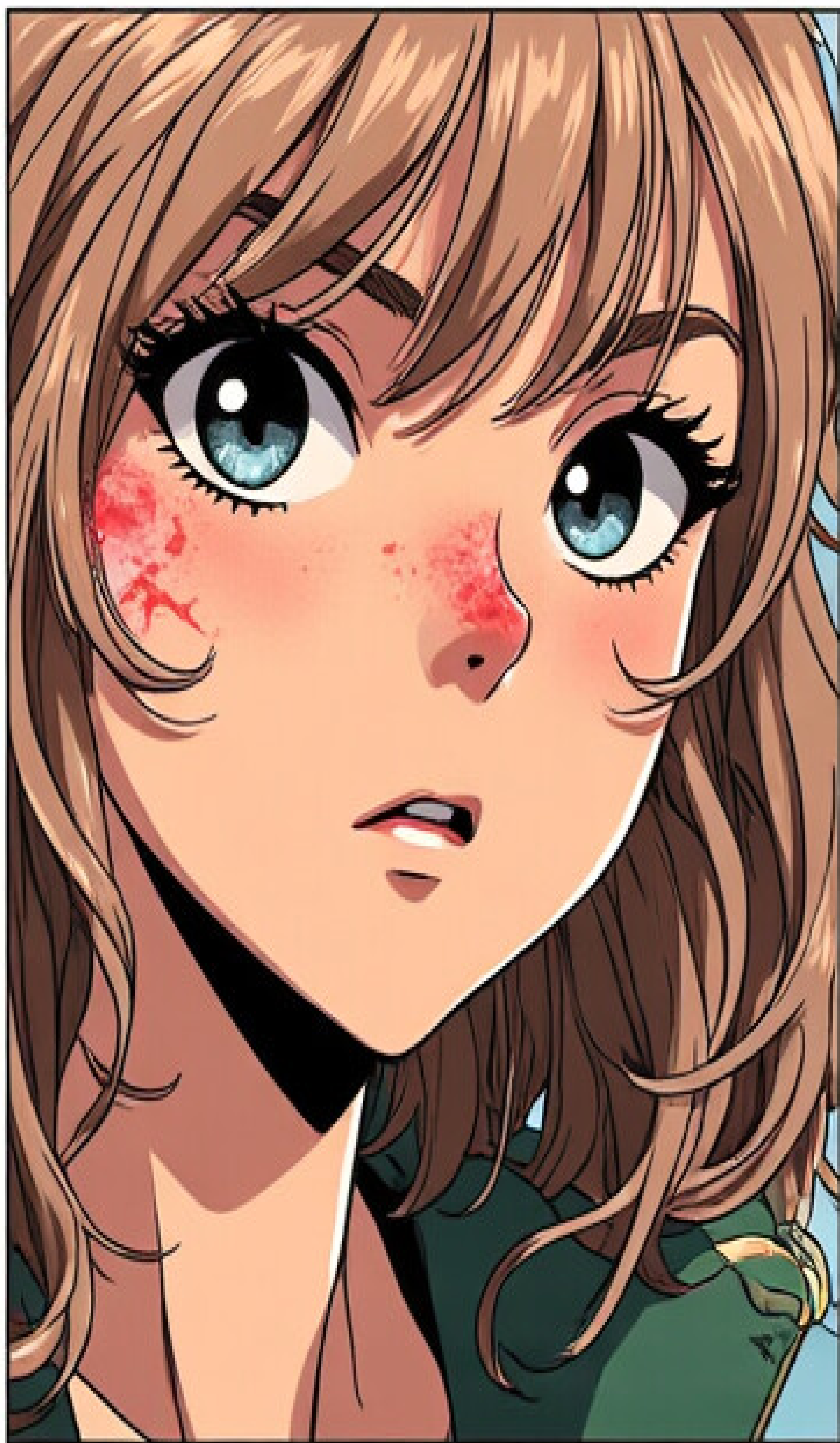



Katelyn
uncovered a
hidden
compartment
in the floor.





An unmarked
envelope held
a photo of her
father, dated
years after he
supposedly
died.



The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground, two large, gnarled, leafless trees frame the central text. Their branches reach out, creating a web-like pattern against the sky. The sky is a deep, moody blue, filled with dark, swirling clouds. Several bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, with one prominent bolt striking down towards the center of the frame. In the background, a dark, rocky coastline is visible, with a prominent, sharp rock formation on the left. The ocean is dark and turbulent, with white foam from breaking waves visible near the shore. The overall mood is mysterious and ominous.

At Silver Ridge
High, life
seemed normal,
until a
nosebleed
revealed
something was
wrong.



GON'VE
WELCMEZ
BNY?

WHAT?



KARP?

THAVE A
ROWR....

TO BNVT,
WCEAGE IN
YDLYKKEATF
THE OKING.

DAN'T
OUSINOW
GNER
TERRER?!



SHAO?



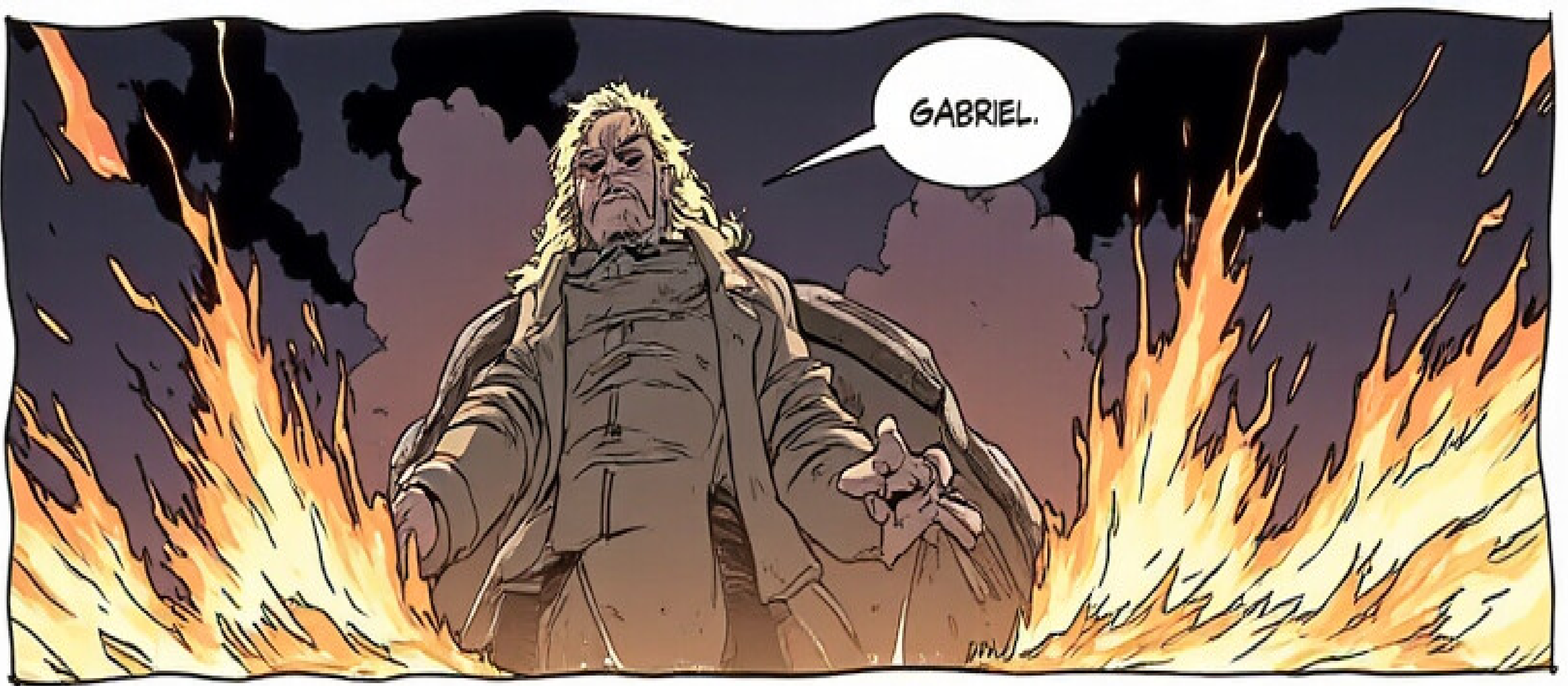


At an old
safehouse,
Katelyn and
Sapphire
were
ambushed.






Meanwhile,
the Council of
Bloodlines
discussed the
brewing
magical war.






Gabriel
attacked the
safe house,
catching
Katelyn off
guard.





Left in the ruins,
the Holland
children
prepared to fight
back for their
mom and Sasha,
as the storm
began.



THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

NIKOLE J