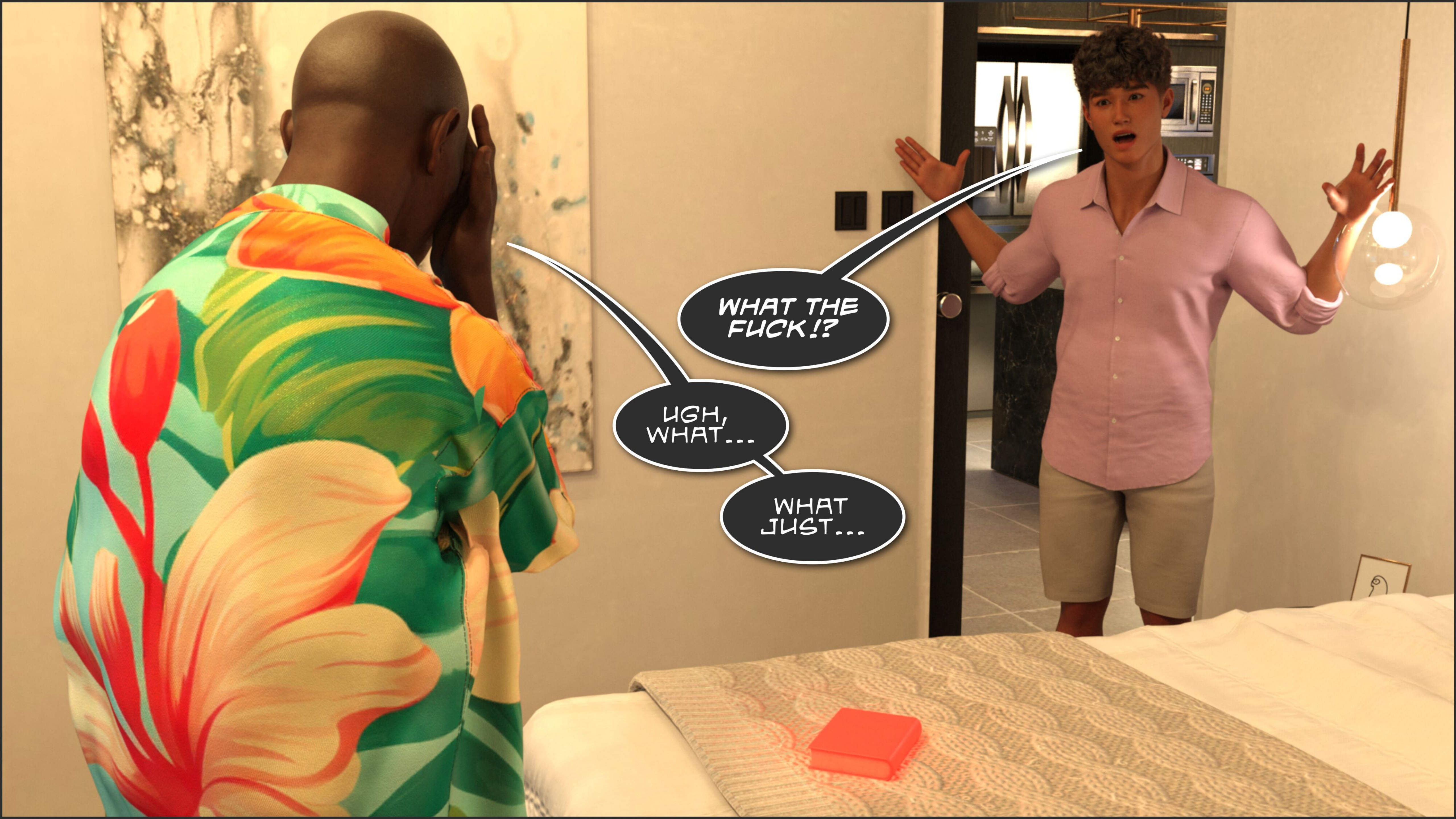


DON'T LISTEN TO ME!!!

NO! DON'T READ IT!!!





WHAT THE
FUCK!?

UGH,
WHAT...

WHAT
JUST...



WHAT THE FUCK, JAKE!?

SORRY, I PROMISED PEARL I'D SPOOK YOU.

HA! YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR FACE!

GOT YA, SON!



FUCK
YOU,
JAKE.

THAT
WASN'T
FUNNY,
MAN.

HEY, YOU
KNOW THAT'S
WHAT PEARL
LIVED FOR.


YEAH,
BUT IT...
FUCK.



I'M
SORRY IF I
WENT A
LITTLE TOO
HARD.

NO, IT...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

GRAN
LOVED
ALL THAT
SPOOKY
SHIT...

A brown book is centered on a woven, light-brown mat. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image. The one on the left points towards the top left, and the one on the right points towards the bottom right.

...WHICH
MEANS THAT'S
MOST LIKELY A
HORROR
STORY.

BELIEVE IT OR
NOT, SHE SAID IT
AS A **LOVE**
STORY.

A young man with curly brown hair and a pink shirt is shown in a close-up shot. He has a surprised or concerned expression. The background is a modern kitchen with dark wood cabinets, a stainless steel refrigerator, and a countertop with a sink and stove. Four comic-style speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text. The lighting is warm and indoor.

A LOVE
STORY?

THAT'S NOT LIKE
GRAN AT ALL... SHE
HATED MY
GRANDFATHER.

AND
MOST MEN,
BESIDES ME
AND YOU, OF
COURSE.

WELL...
THANKS FOR
TELLING ME
ABOUT IT.

AS I SAID, KEEP AN OPEN MIND AND GIVE IT A READ TONIGHT.

I KNOW IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO HER IF YOU DID.

YEAH, I'LL DO THAT.

GOOD... THAT'S GOOD.







WE STILL ON
FOR TONIGHT?

ABSOLUTELY. I COULD
USE THE COMPANY.

SORRY I HAVEN'T SEEN
YOU SINCE THE FUNERAL.

HOW ARE YOU
HOLDING UP?

I'M OKAY.



IT'S WEIRD TO BE
LIVING IN HER HOUSE.

I CAN IMAGINE.

BUT SHE ALWAYS
TALKED ABOUT HOW IT'D
BE YOURS ONE DAY.

I JUST NEVER DREAMED
IT WOULD BE THIS SOON.

NONE OF US DID, BUDD.

A hot tub is shown in a backyard at night. The hot tub is white with a black deck and is filled with water. The water is illuminated from below, creating a blue glow. The hot tub has several jets and a control panel on the right side. The background shows a lawn and some plants.

NOTHING CAN MAKE THE
LOSS OF HER EASIER, BUT
THAT HOT TUB CAN HELP!

DON'T WORRY. IT'S
ALREADY HEATED UP
AND READY FOR YOU.

YOU KNOW ME
TOO WELL, BUD.

THAT I DO.

A young man with curly brown hair, wearing a light pink polo shirt, is sitting on a grey armchair in a hotel room. He is looking down at a black smartphone in his hands. The room has wood-paneled walls, a sink with toiletries, and a lit lamp on a table to the right.

I'LL BE OVER IN THIRTY, K?

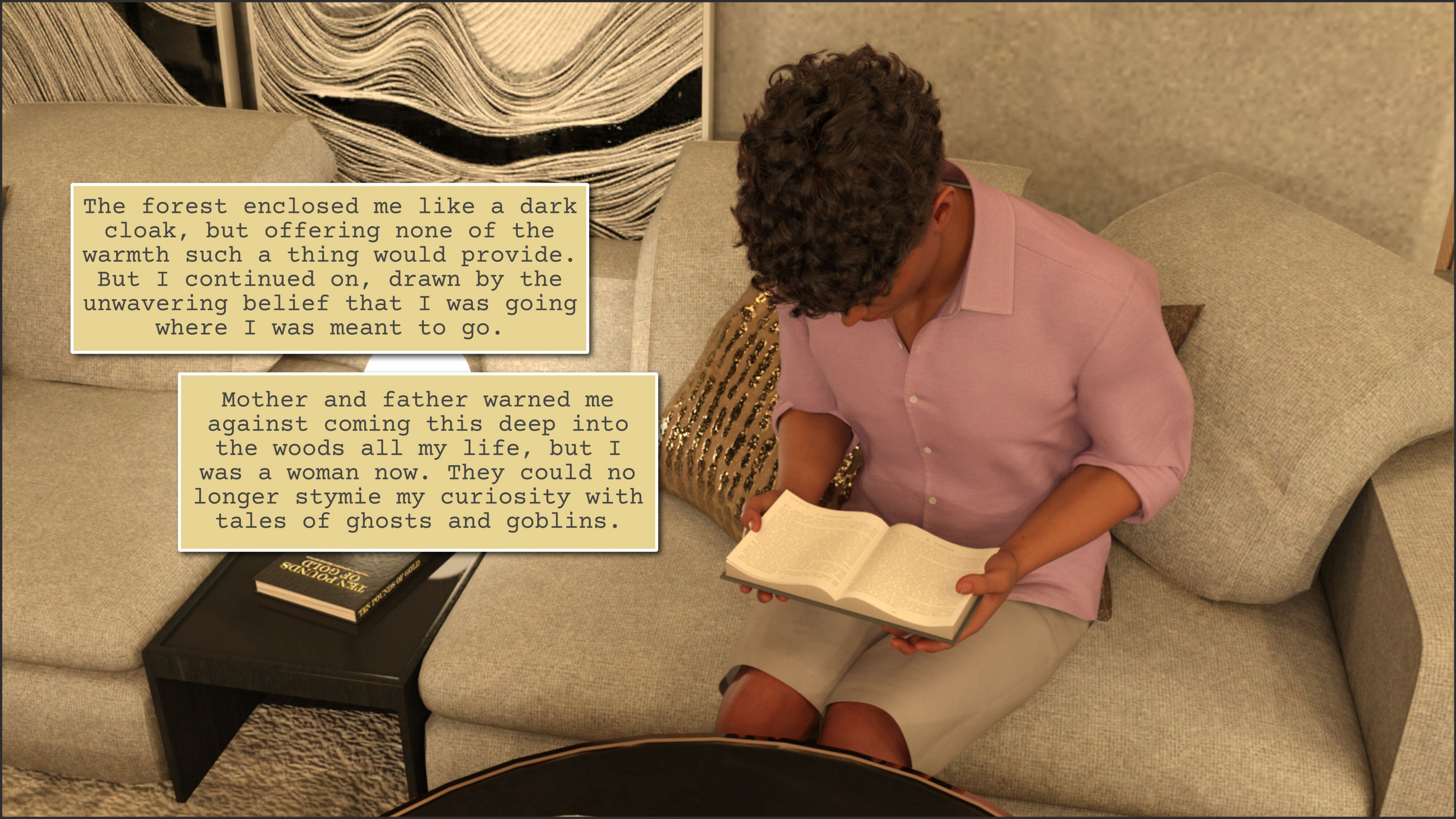
WORKS FOR ME.

THEN I'LL SEE YOU SOON.



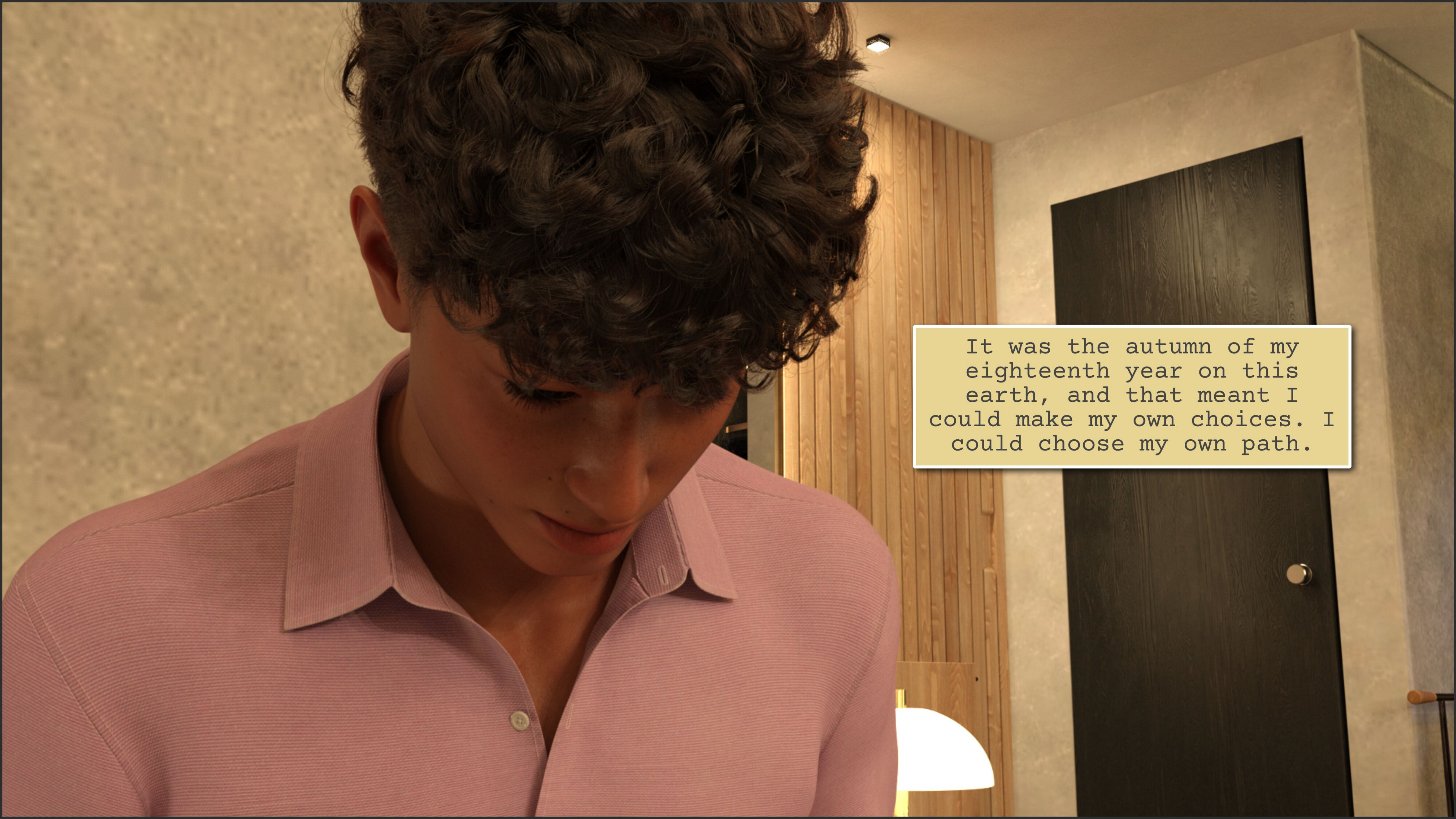




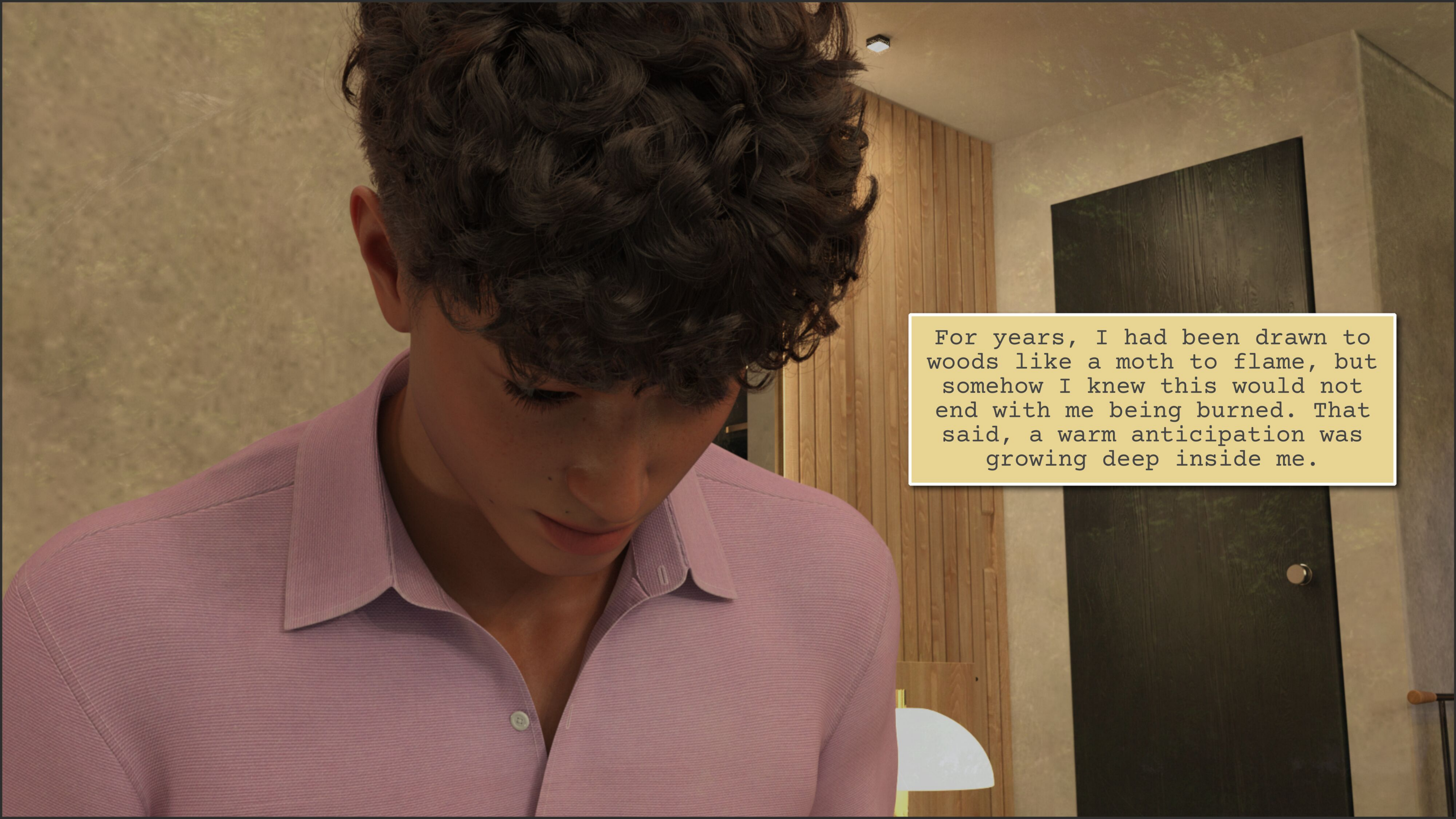


The forest enclosed me like a dark cloak, but offering none of the warmth such a thing would provide. But I continued on, drawn by the unwavering belief that I was going where I was meant to go.

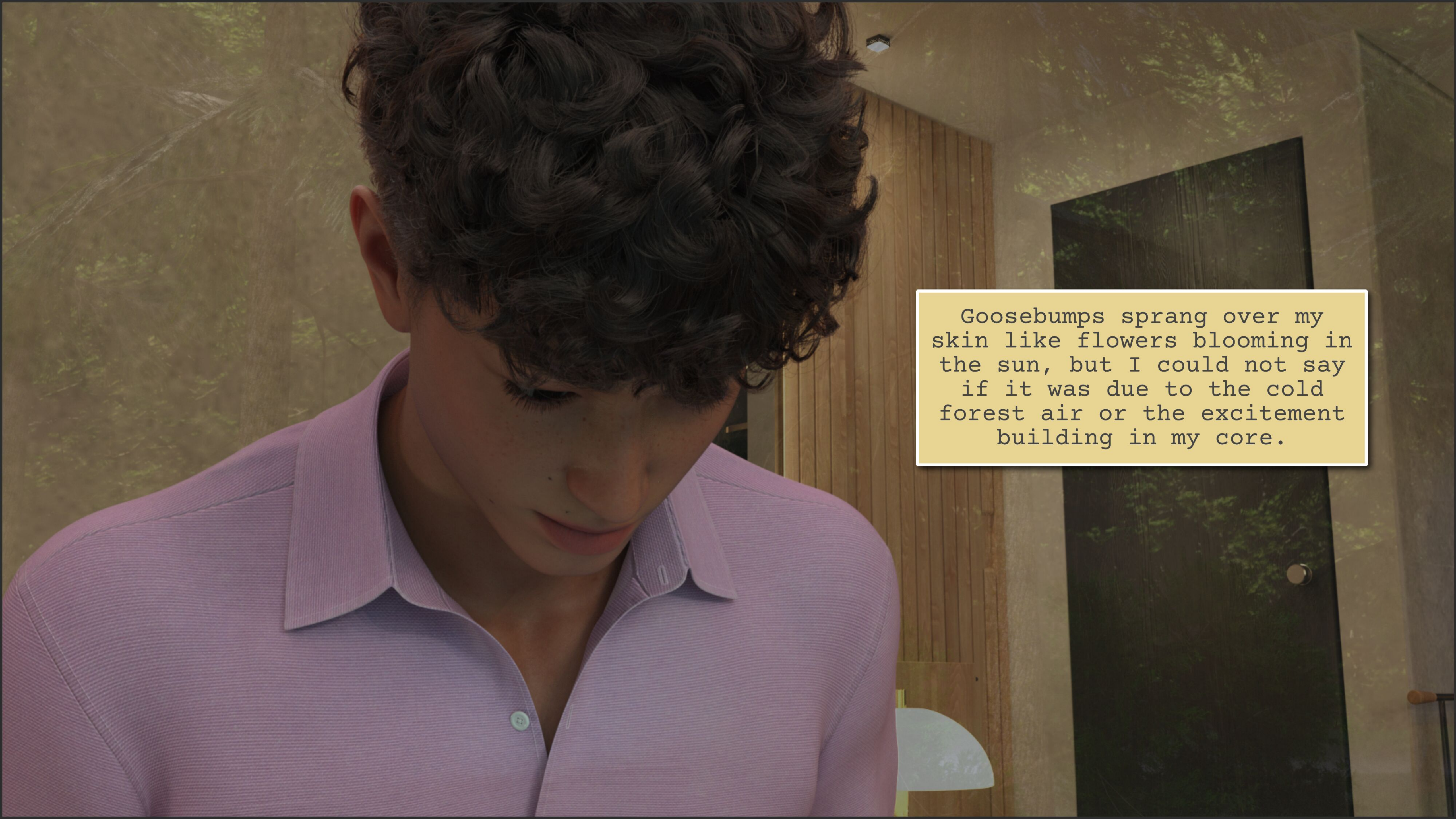
Mother and father warned me against coming this deep into the woods all my life, but I was a woman now. They could no longer stymie my curiosity with tales of ghosts and goblins.

A young man with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, looking down and to the right. He is wearing a light pink polo shirt. The background features a wall with vertical wood paneling, a dark door, and a recessed ceiling light. A yellow text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

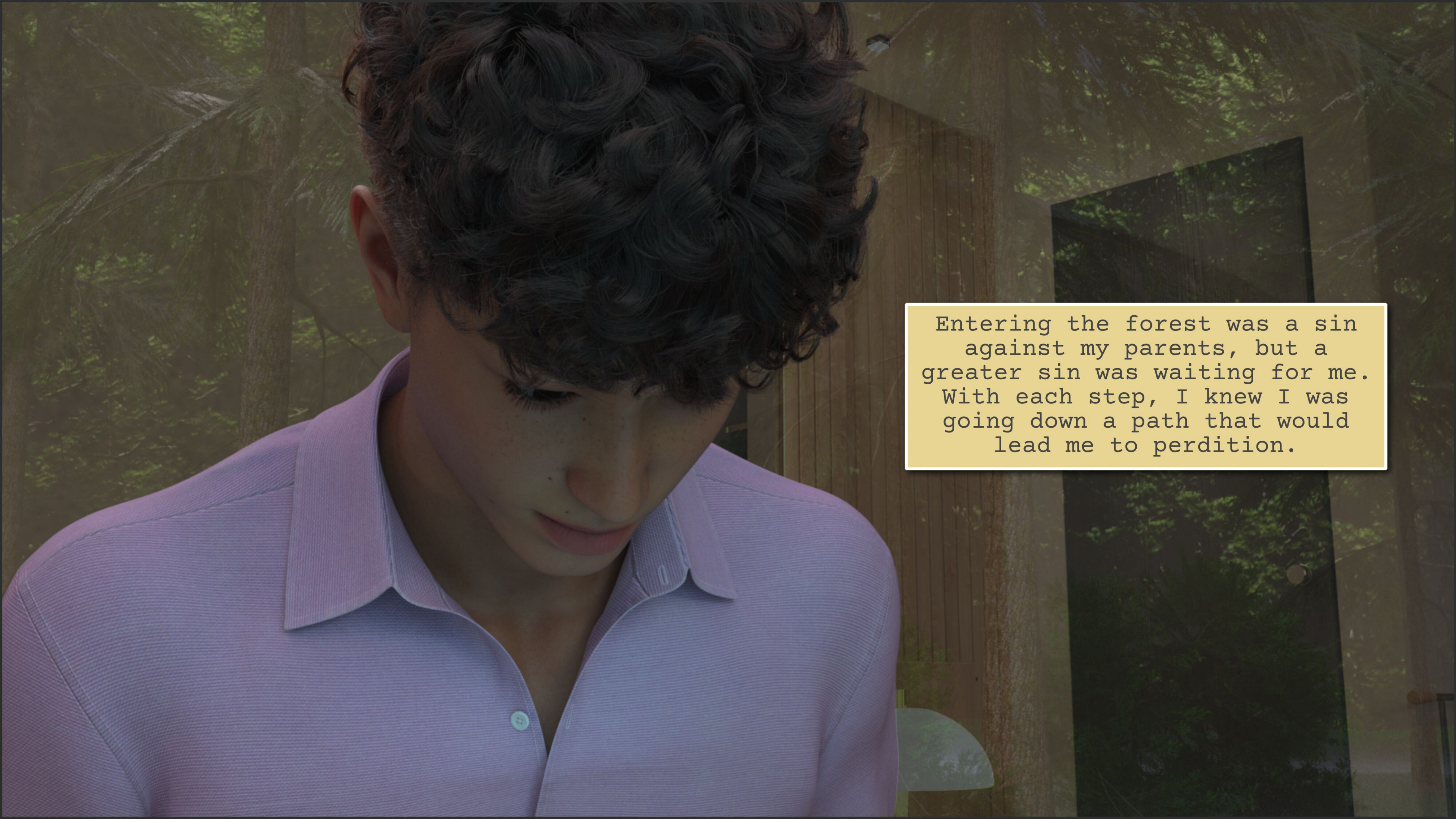
It was the autumn of my
eighteenth year on this
earth, and that meant I
could make my own choices. I
could choose my own path.

A young man with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, looking down and to the right. He is wearing a light pink polo shirt. The background consists of a wall with vertical wood paneling and a dark, possibly black, door. A small, white, semi-circular object is visible on the wall to the right. The lighting is soft and indoor.

For years, I had been drawn to woods like a moth to flame, but somehow I knew this would not end with me being burned. That said, a warm anticipation was growing deep inside me.

A young man with dark, curly hair is looking down, his face partially obscured by his hair. He is wearing a light purple polo shirt. The background shows a room with wood-paneled walls and a window with a dark view outside. A yellow text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

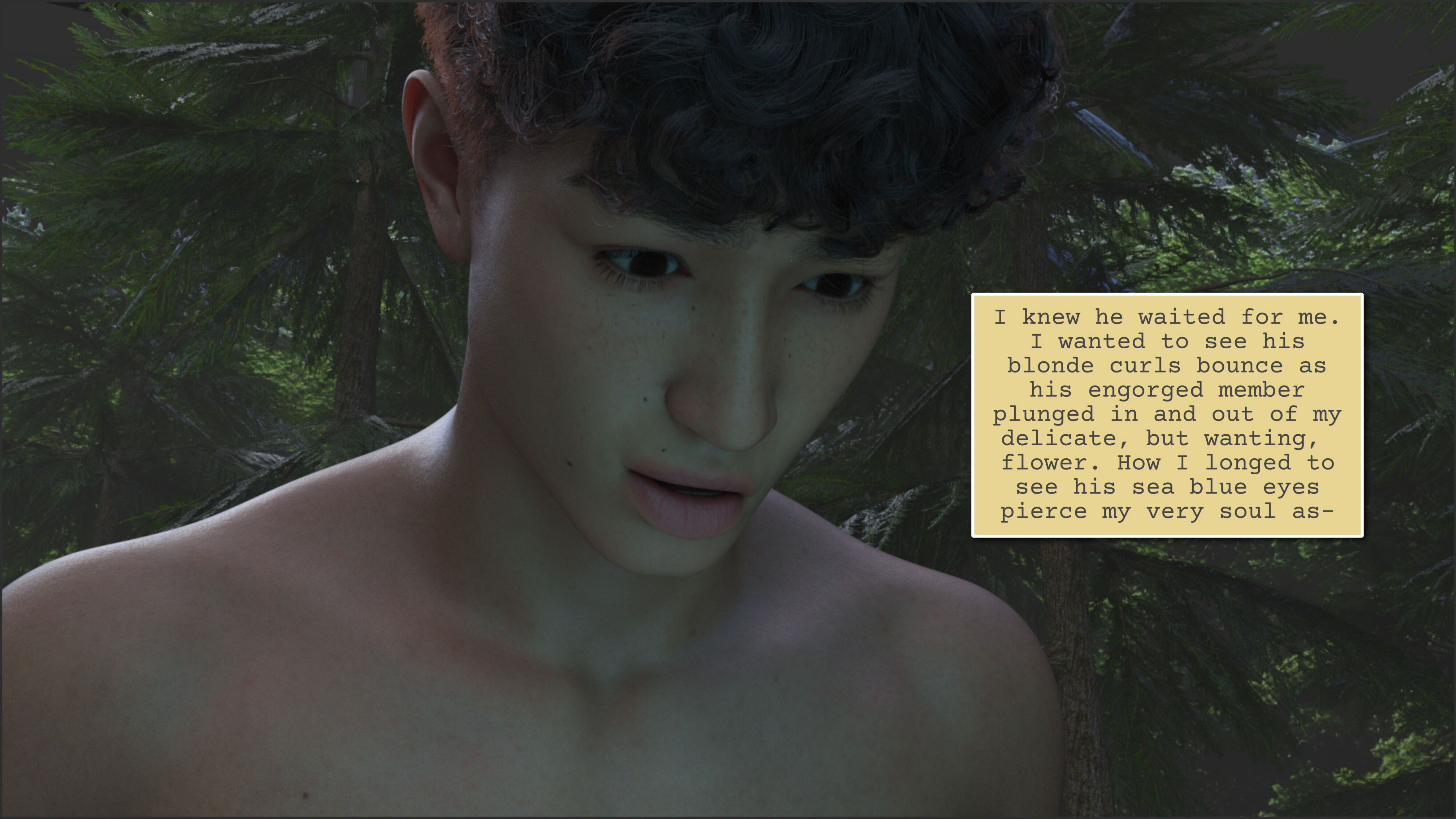
Goosebumps sprang over my skin like flowers blooming in the sun, but I could not say if it was due to the cold forest air or the excitement building in my core.

A young man with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, looking down with a somber expression. He is wearing a light purple polo shirt. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and dappled sunlight. A yellow text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Entering the forest was a sin
against my parents, but a
greater sin was waiting for me.
With each step, I knew I was
going down a path that would
lead me to perdition.



The thought both scared and delighted me in equal measure. As a good Christian woman, I had kept myself pure, but I was ready to allow Christian to deflower me in a way that would make God weep.



I knew he waited for me.
I wanted to see his
blonde curls bounce as
his engorged member
plunged in and out of my
delicate, but wanting,
flower. How I longed to
see his sea blue eyes
pierce my very soul as-

