


Axel's Adventures

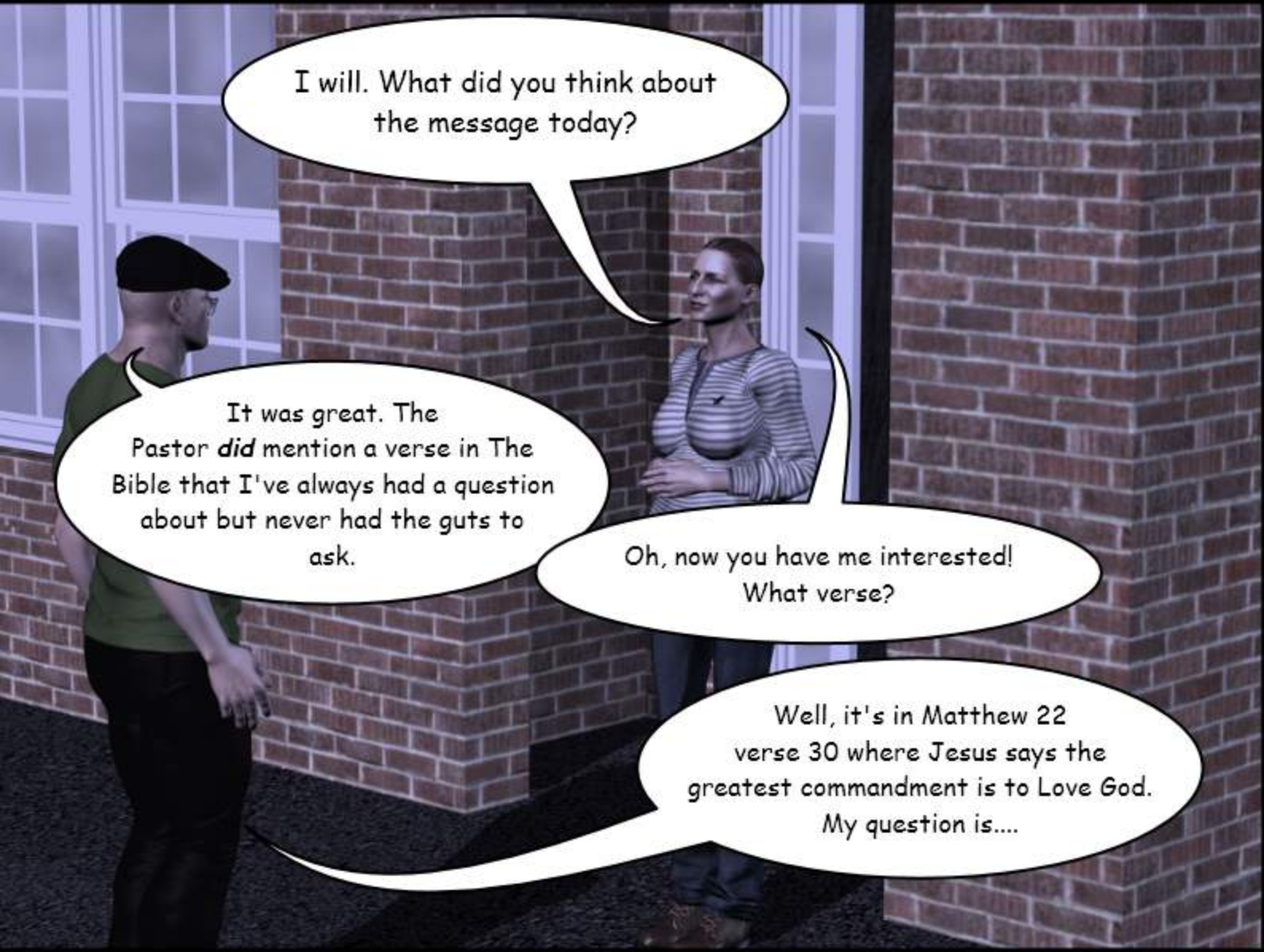
I COMMAND YOU...

...to love me



Thanks for helping me with that furniture Axel. Your Uncle and cousin are still away at the ministry conference.

No problem Aunt Jenna. Make sure to tell Uncle Jack and Barbara hello for me.




I will. What did you think about the message today?

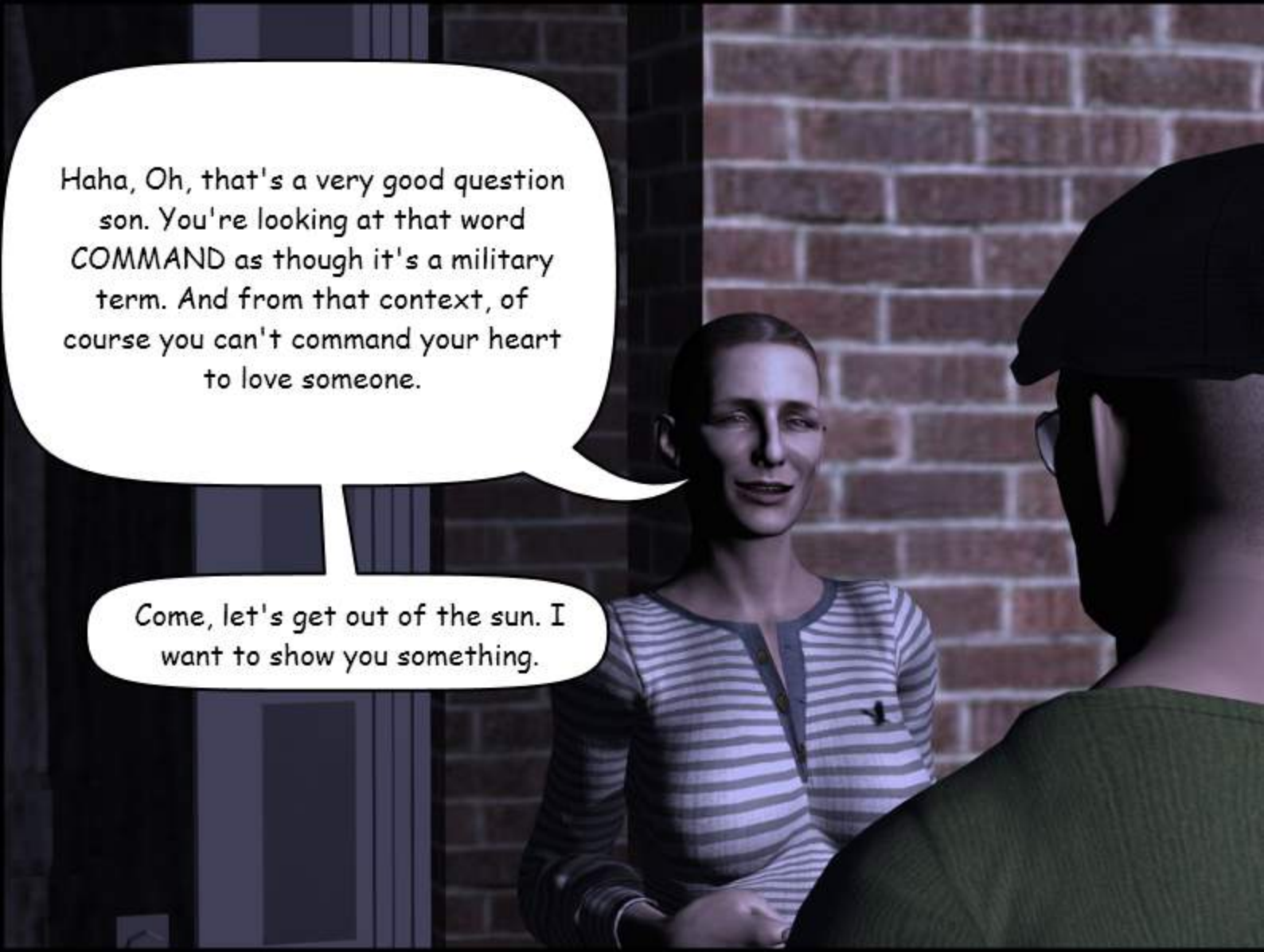
It was great. The Pastor *did* mention a verse in The Bible that I've always had a question about but never had the guts to ask.

Oh, now you have me interested! What verse?

Well, it's in Matthew 22 verse 30 where Jesus says the greatest commandment is to Love God. My question is....

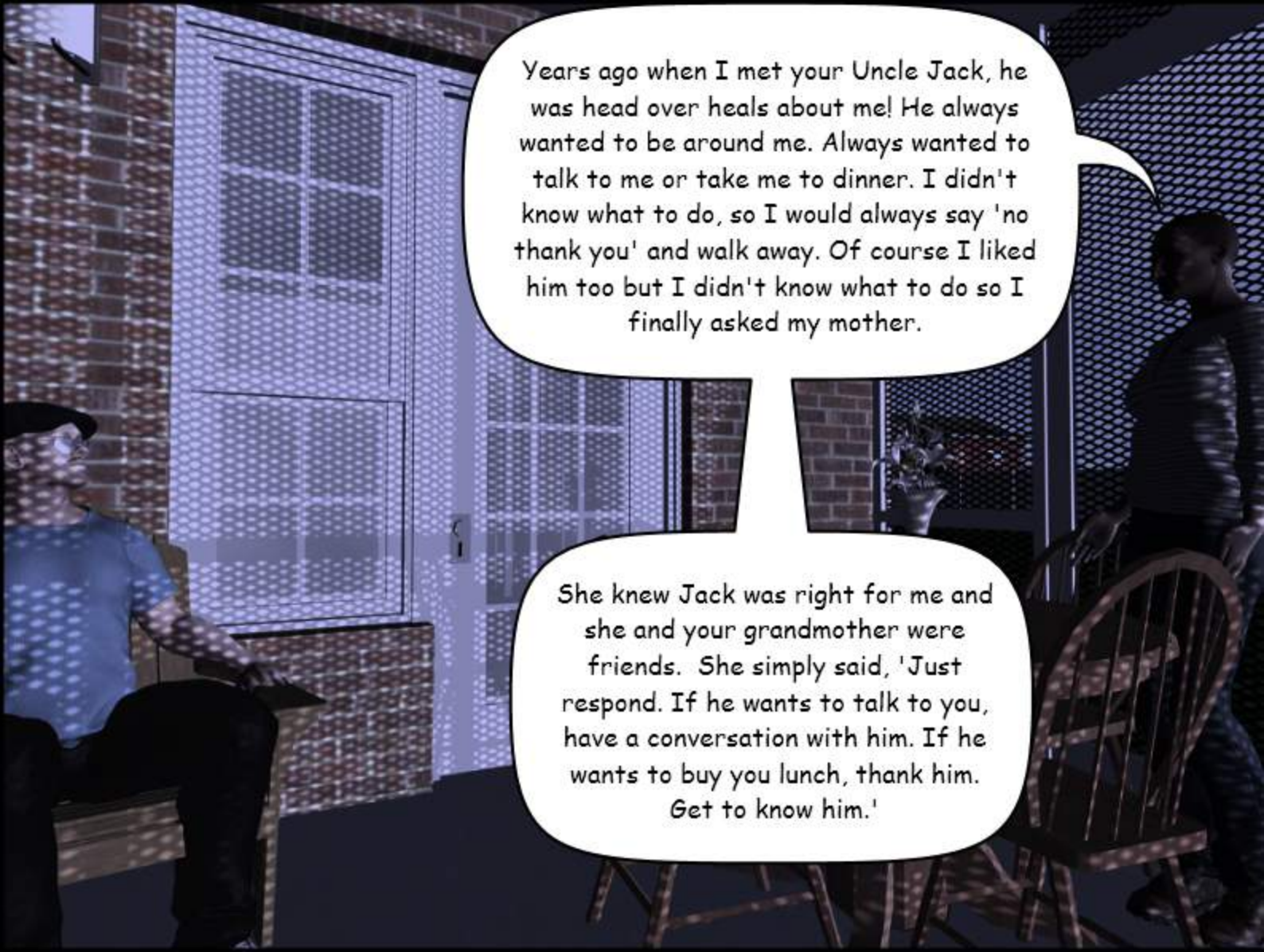
A man with a beard, glasses, and a black beanie is speaking to another man whose back is to the camera. The man speaking has his hands raised in a questioning gesture. A speech bubble above him contains the text. The background shows a suburban house with a porch, a blue car, and a white car parked nearby. The scene is set in a grassy area with trees in the distance.

How can you COMMAND someone to love you?

A woman with her hair pulled back, wearing a grey and white striped long-sleeved shirt, is looking towards a man. The man is seen from the back, wearing a dark cap and glasses. They are standing in front of a brick wall. A large white speech bubble is positioned to the left of the woman, and a smaller one is below it.

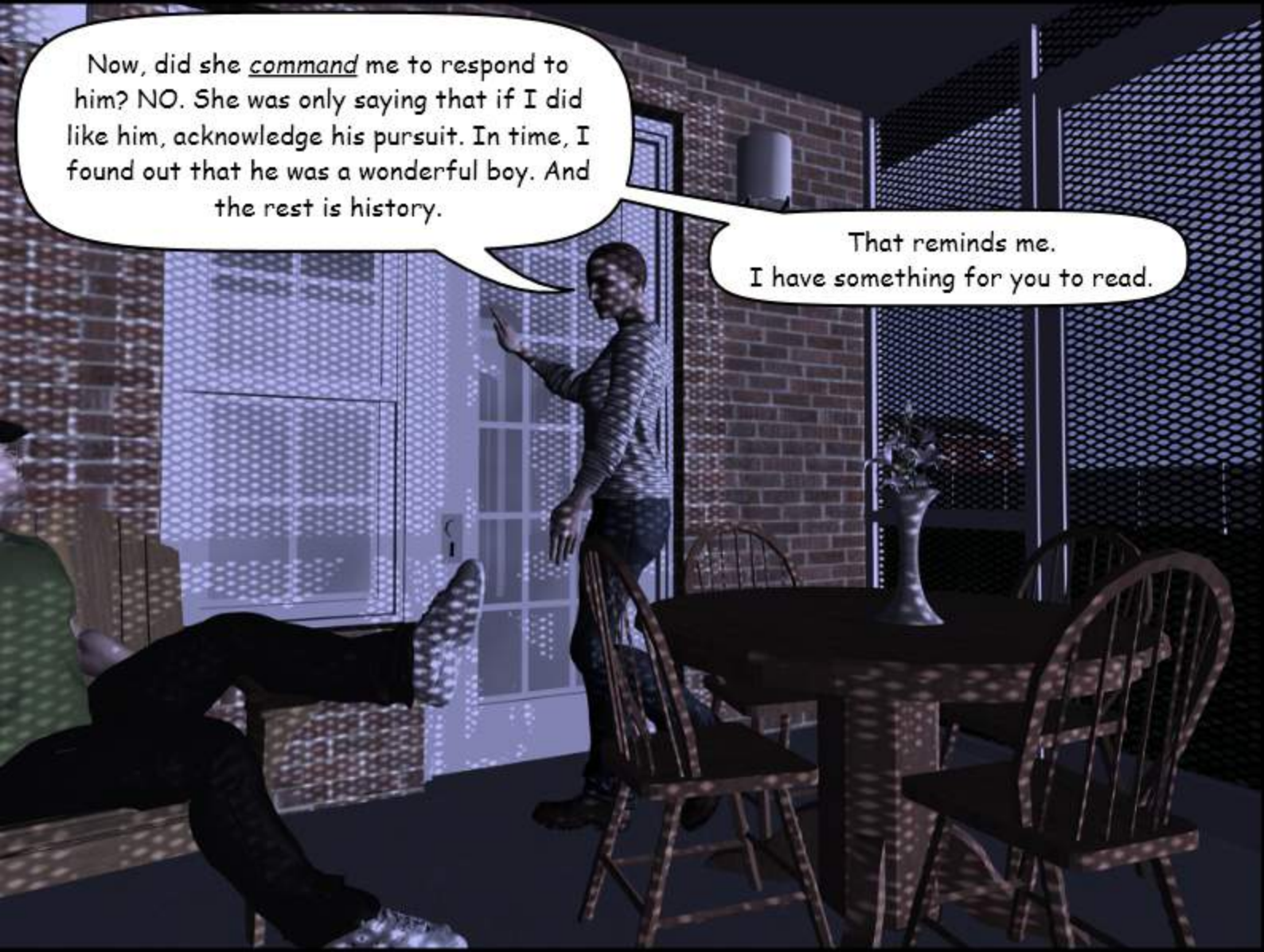
Haha, Oh, that's a very good question son. You're looking at that word **COMMAND** as though it's a military term. And from that context, of course you can't command your heart to love someone.

Come, let's get out of the sun. I want to show you something.




Years ago when I met your Uncle Jack, he was head over heels about me! He always wanted to be around me. Always wanted to talk to me or take me to dinner. I didn't know what to do, so I would always say 'no thank you' and walk away. Of course I liked him too but I didn't know what to do so I finally asked my mother.

She knew Jack was right for me and she and your grandmother were friends. She simply said, 'Just respond. If he wants to talk to you, have a conversation with him. If he wants to buy you lunch, thank him. Get to know him.'



Now, did she command me to respond to him? NO. She was only saying that if I did like him, acknowledge his pursuit. In time, I found out that he was a wonderful boy. And the rest is history.

That reminds me.
I have something for you to read.

A man wearing a green t-shirt and sunglasses is seated at a round wooden dining table. He is looking at a magazine titled "The Pursuit" which is being held out to him. The magazine cover features a woman in a kitchen and the headline "Crafting a relationship". In the background, there is a window with a mesh screen and a potted plant on the table. A speech bubble from an unseen person is positioned above the man.

Take a look at that while I
make lunch for you. Come on inside when
you're done.



The Pursuit

A man in a dark suit and a woman in a grey business suit are standing in a restaurant. The man is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. The woman has her arms crossed and is looking at him. In the background, there are tables and chairs. The scene is framed by a window or glass wall.

Oh no...
she wants me to read a love
story?!

Crafting a relationship

The Majestic Hotel.

The last place *Godfrey* would ever imagine
he would find the woman of his dreams.



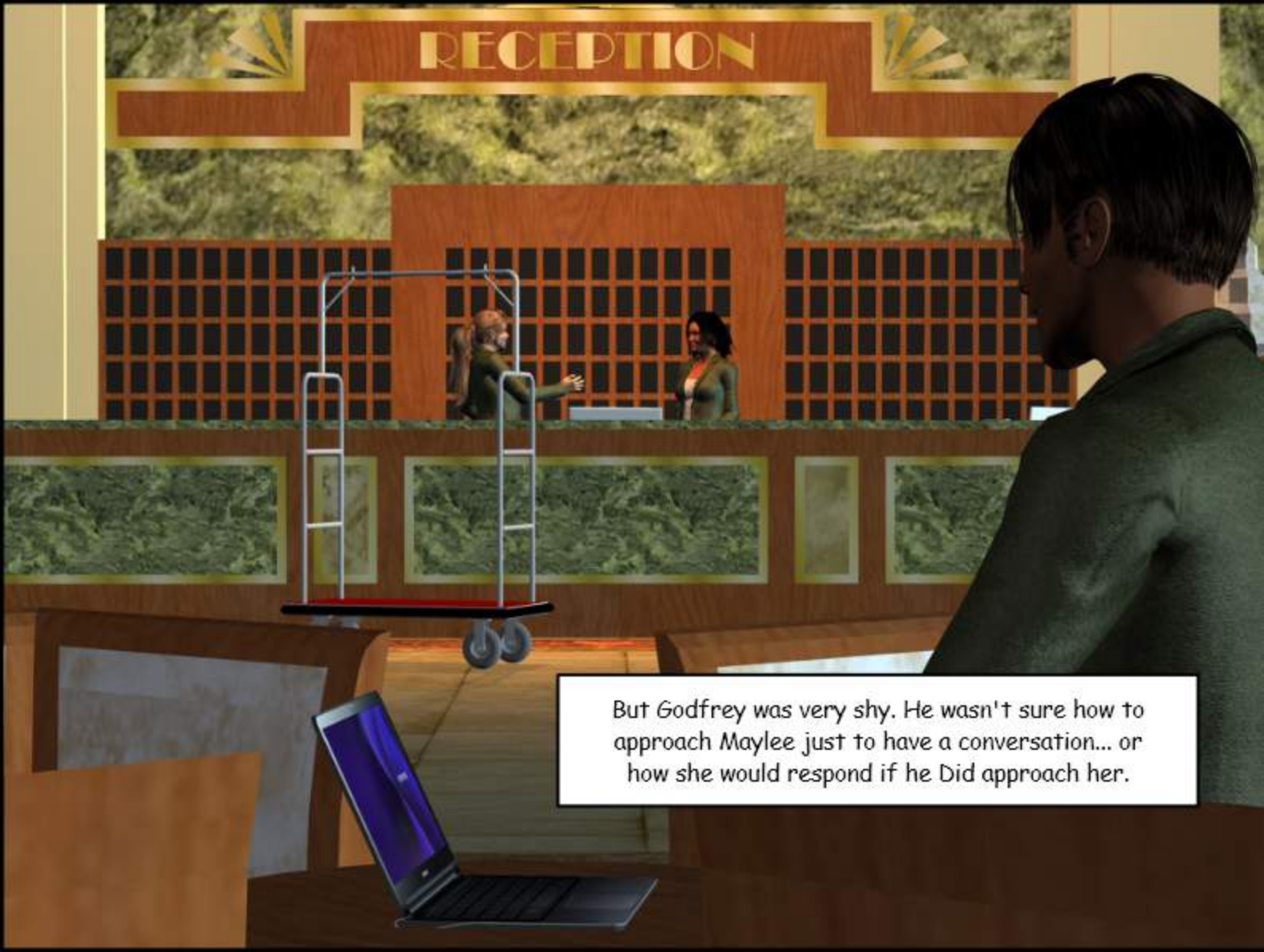


RECEPTION

But there she was! Maylee! The night receptionist with the raven black hair.

She had all the qualities Godfrey has been searching for. She was attractive, intelligent and nice.

RECEPTION



But Godfrey was very shy. He wasn't sure how to approach Maylee just to have a conversation... or how she would respond if he Did approach her.

DECEPTION

Maylee knew Godfrey only as a fellow worker.. but Godfrey wanted much more than just a casual 'fellow-employee' relationship.

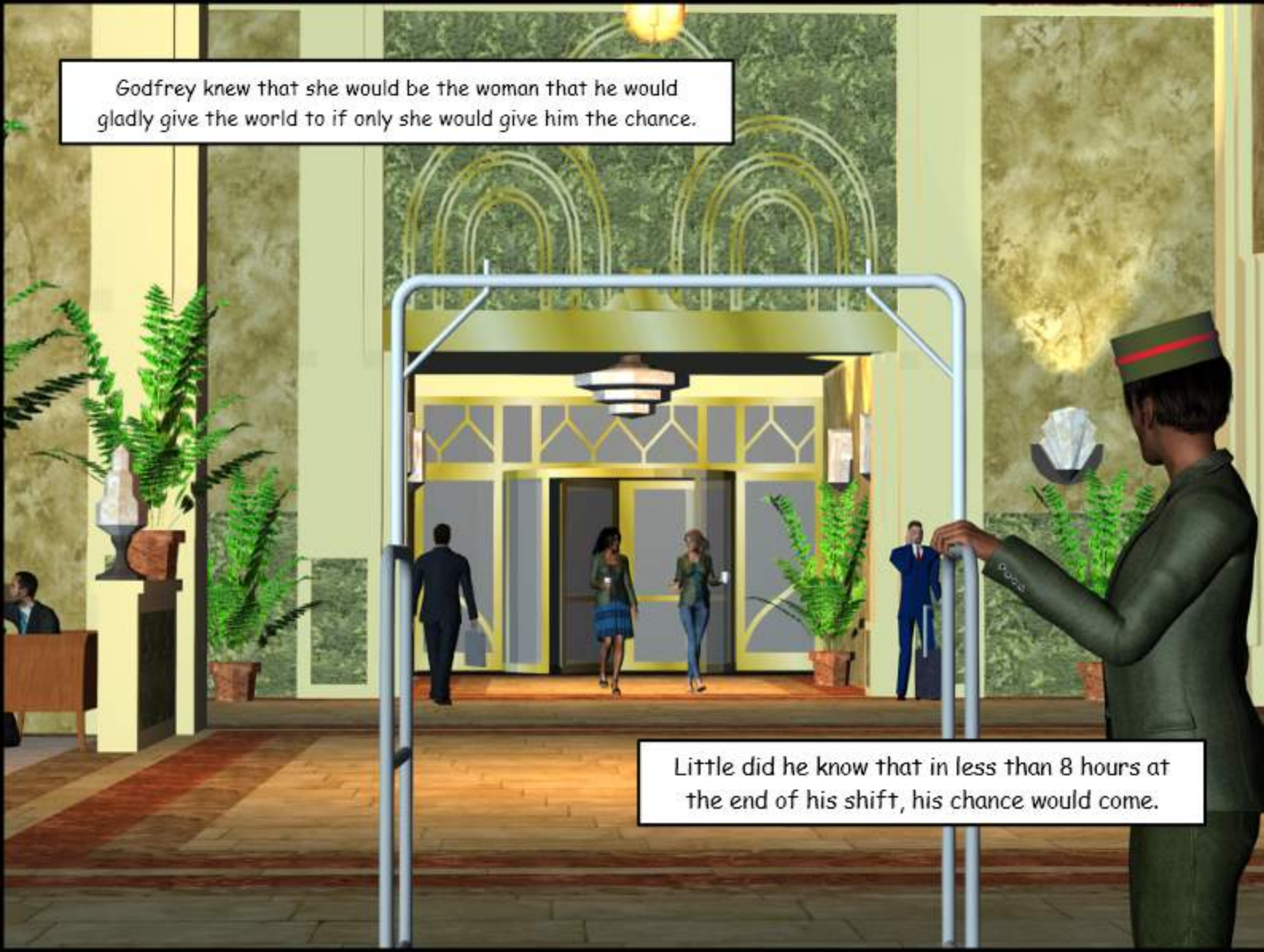
See you tomorrow G!


Goodnight Susan,
Goodnight Maylee.

sigh... I love when she calls me 'G'.


Godfrey knew that she would be the woman that he would gladly give the world to if only she would give him the chance.

Little did he know that in less than 8 hours at the end of his shift, his chance would come.






Oh! Maylee has a flat!
This is *wonderful!*



Godfrey was more than happy to change the tire for Maylee.

Thanks G. I was trying to get my brother but he must have turned off his cell.

No problem. It's a good thing you had a spare. I'll have you up and running in no time.



It only took *Godfrey* 20 minutes to replace the tire.

Godfrey, I don't know how to thank you.

No problem *Maylee*! I'll see you at work tomorrow. How about having lunch together?

Yeah, ok, I'll see you tomorrow.



Godfrey was overjoyed! Not only was he the 'night in shining armor' for the woman of his dreams, he was also able to ask her out to lunch! He was certain this would be the beginning of a wonderful relationship.



But it seemed that Maylee had forgotten the lunch engagement that Godfrey looked forward to having with her. But even though he was disappointed, he never lost hope.

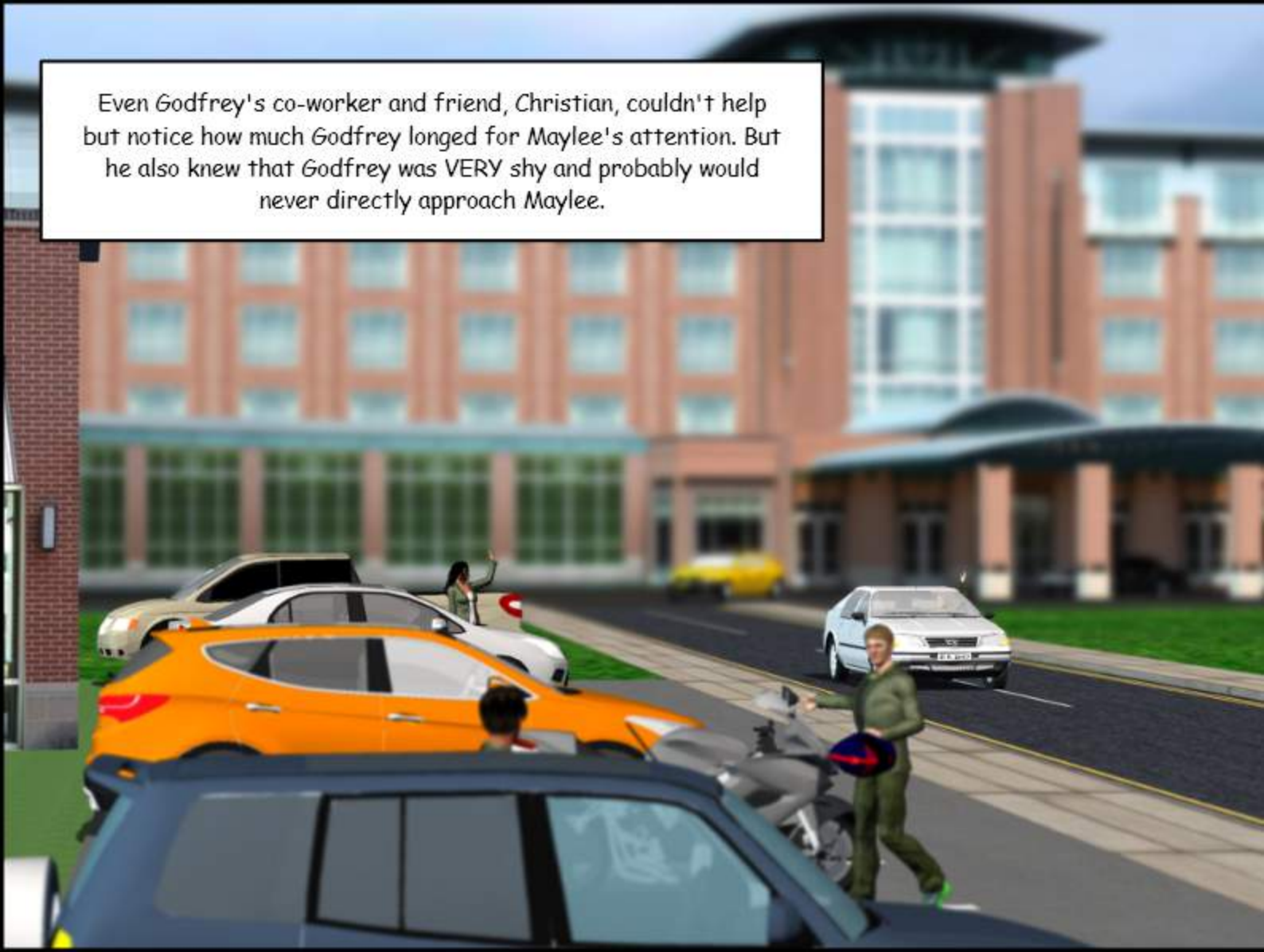
Days turned to weeks and weeks to months but Godfrey was always patiently waiting for another opportunity to get her attention and hopefully, her affection. He was willing to do anything from offering to hold her umbrella while she carried books to her car, right down to replacing the ink cartridge on the printer for her.... ANYTHING to prove to Maylee how much he cared for her.



But even though he continued to gently pursue Maylee's heart, she just didn't recognize his feelings for her.



Even *Godfrey's* co-worker and friend, *Christian*, couldn't help but notice how much *Godfrey* longed for *Maylee's* attention. But he also knew that *Godfrey* was VERY shy and probably would never directly approach *Maylee*.



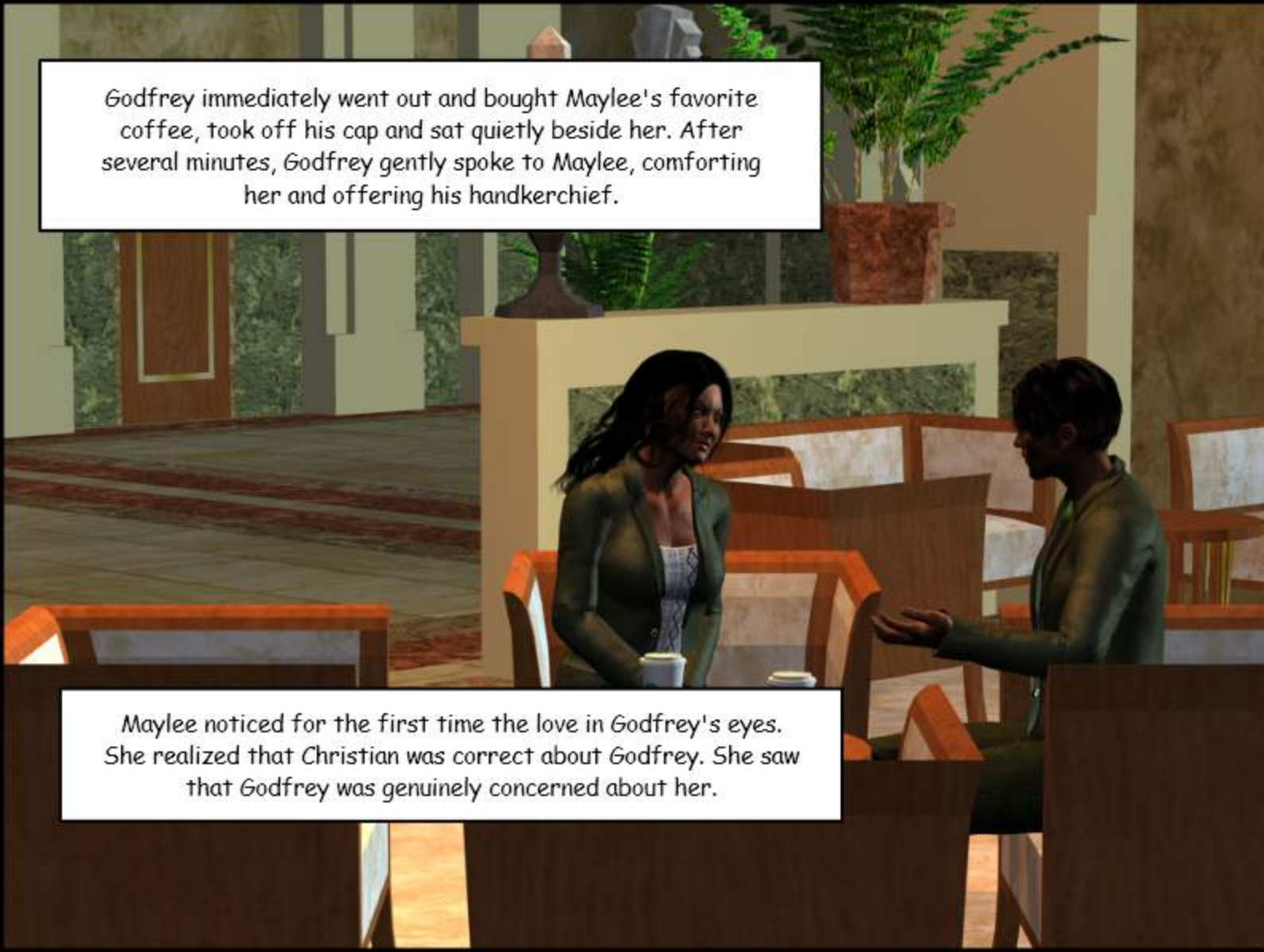
One day Christian decided to talk to Maylee just to let her know how much Godfrey wanted to get to know her.
But Maylee's reply was..

Oh, Godfrey is nice.. but just a friend.



A couple of weeks later, Maylee received some bad news in the mail. Her Grandmother living in Guam had quietly passed away over the weekend. Godfrey saw that Maylee was very upset and wanted desperately to comfort her in any way that he could.





Godfrey immediately went out and bought Maylee's favorite coffee, took off his cap and sat quietly beside her. After several minutes, Godfrey gently spoke to Maylee, comforting her and offering his handkerchief.

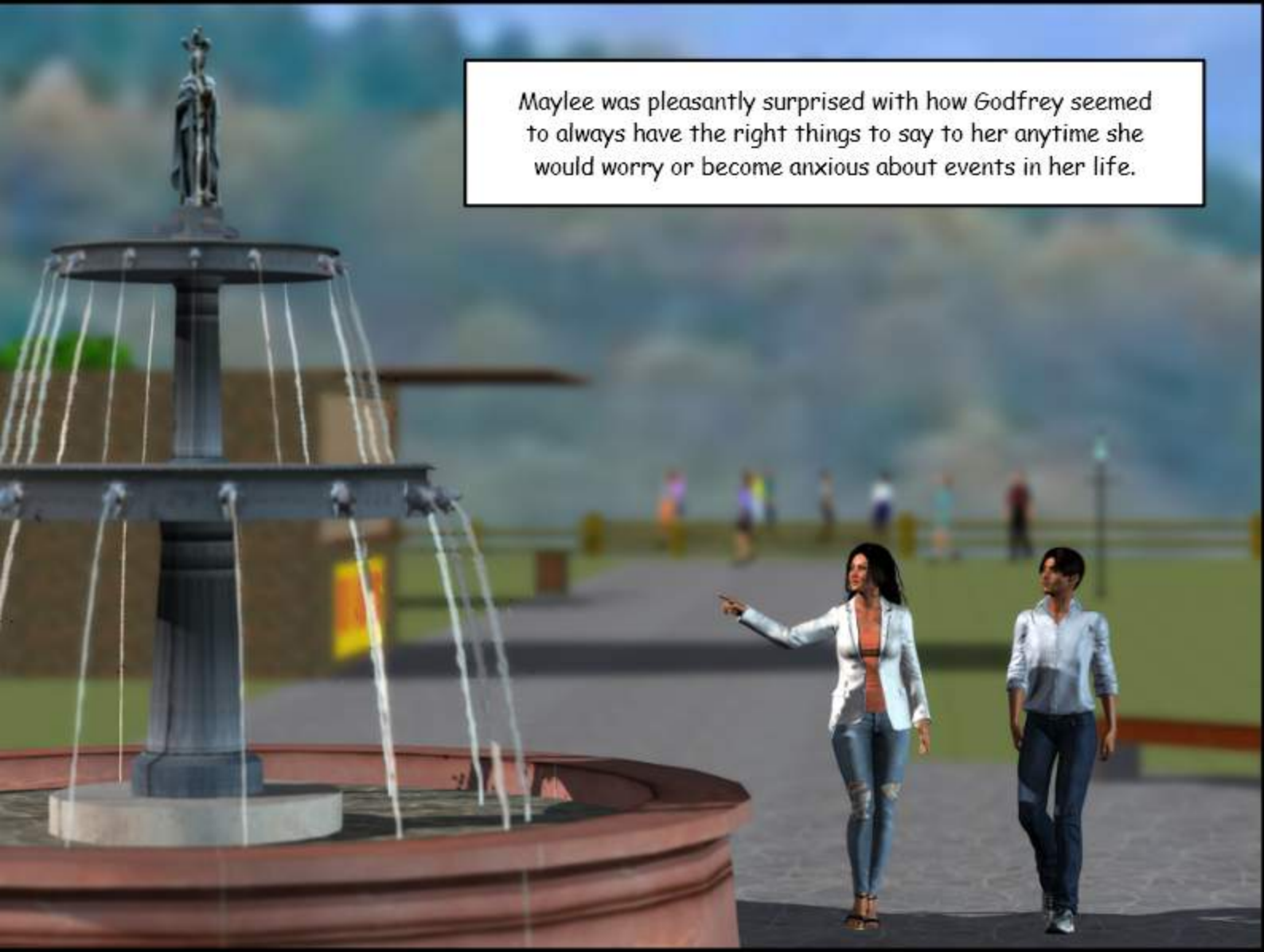
Maylee noticed for the first time the love in Godfrey's eyes. She realized that Christian was correct about Godfrey. She saw that Godfrey was genuinely concerned about her.



The next few days were wonderful for Godfrey. Maylee showed signs of responding to his pursuit. She called to ask him if he would like to walk with her in the park the next day.



Godfrey's reply was swift and enthusiastic. Then they continued talking for several hours.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white blazer and blue jeans, is pointing her right hand towards a large, ornate fountain. The fountain has a central column topped with a statue, and multiple tiers of water spraying outwards. A man in a light blue shirt and dark pants is walking alongside her, looking towards the fountain. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with other people and a building.

Maylee was pleasantly surprised with how Godfrey seemed to always have the right things to say to her anytime she would worry or become anxious about events in her life.

Godfrey was pleased to take Maylee to his favorite downtown restaurant. Maylee would always laugh when he spoke about his daily adventures at the hotel.

Pasta Jay's





Godfrey was extremely happy to learn that Maylee loved Sci-Fi and adventure movies.

It also became a nightly ritual for Maylee and Godfrey to sit together at break since the day that Godfrey comforted Maylee.



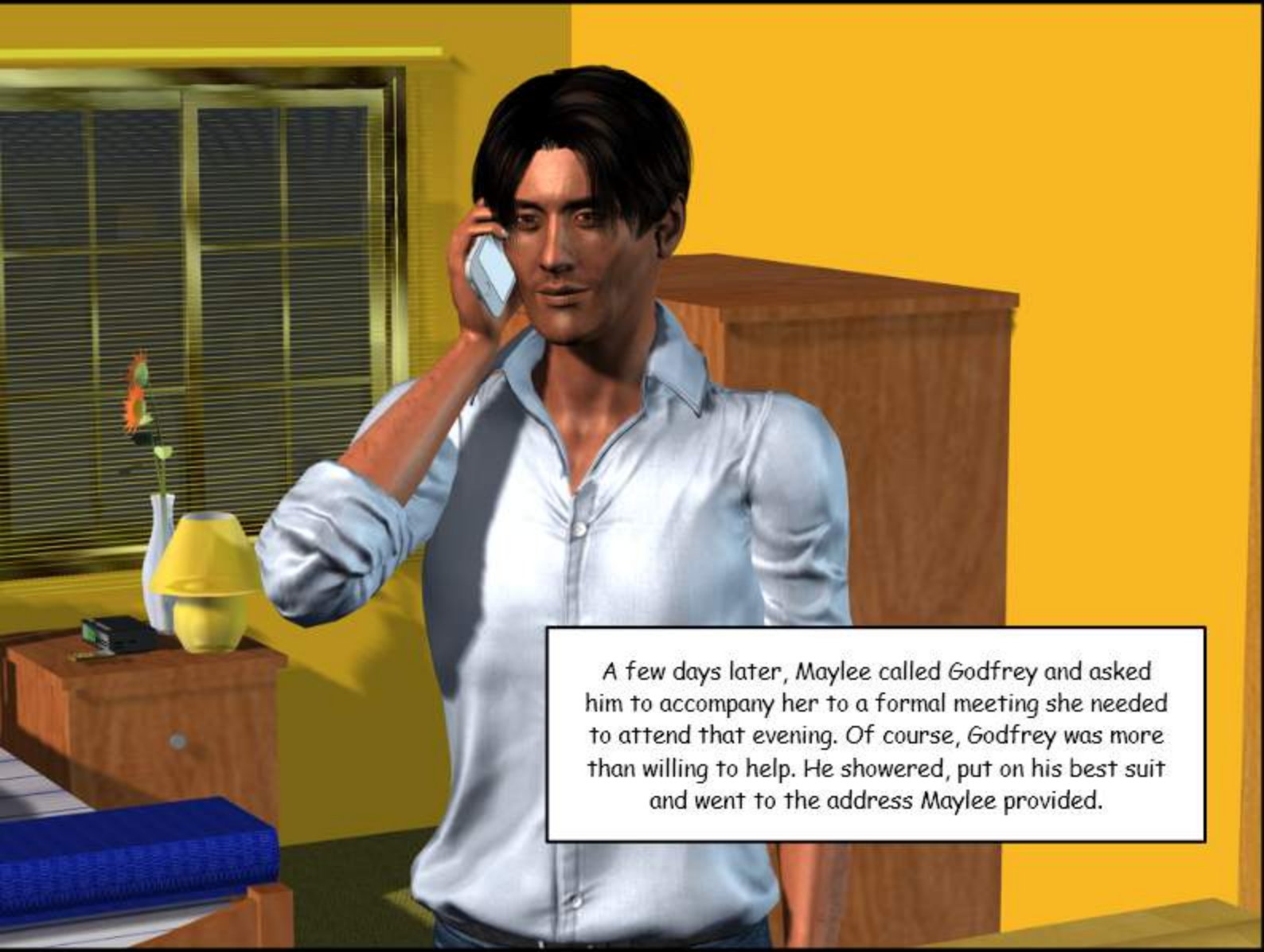
tenovus the cancer charity

Even though Godfrey enjoyed sharing Maylee's passions and looked forward to helping her fulfill her goals, he was still somewhat sad that she only considered him as just one of her many friends.




But Godfrey never gave up hope. He continued to be available for Maylee when she needed him. He was always faithful to help her when she called. But he never made any romantic advancements toward her. He was afraid that he would ruin the friendship if she would reject his advance.





A few days later, *Maylee* called *Godfrey* and asked him to accompany her to a formal meeting she needed to attend that evening. Of course, *Godfrey* was more than willing to help. He showered, put on his best suit and went to the address *Maylee* provided.

A man and a woman are seated at a table in a restaurant. The man is seen from the back, wearing a dark suit. The woman is facing him, wearing a light blue dress. They are in a room with a large window showing a sunset over a landscape with trees. On the wall behind them are three framed vertical paintings of African women in traditional attire. The floor has a grid pattern.

Godfrey walked into an expensive restaurant and found Maylee sitting at a small table quietly waiting.

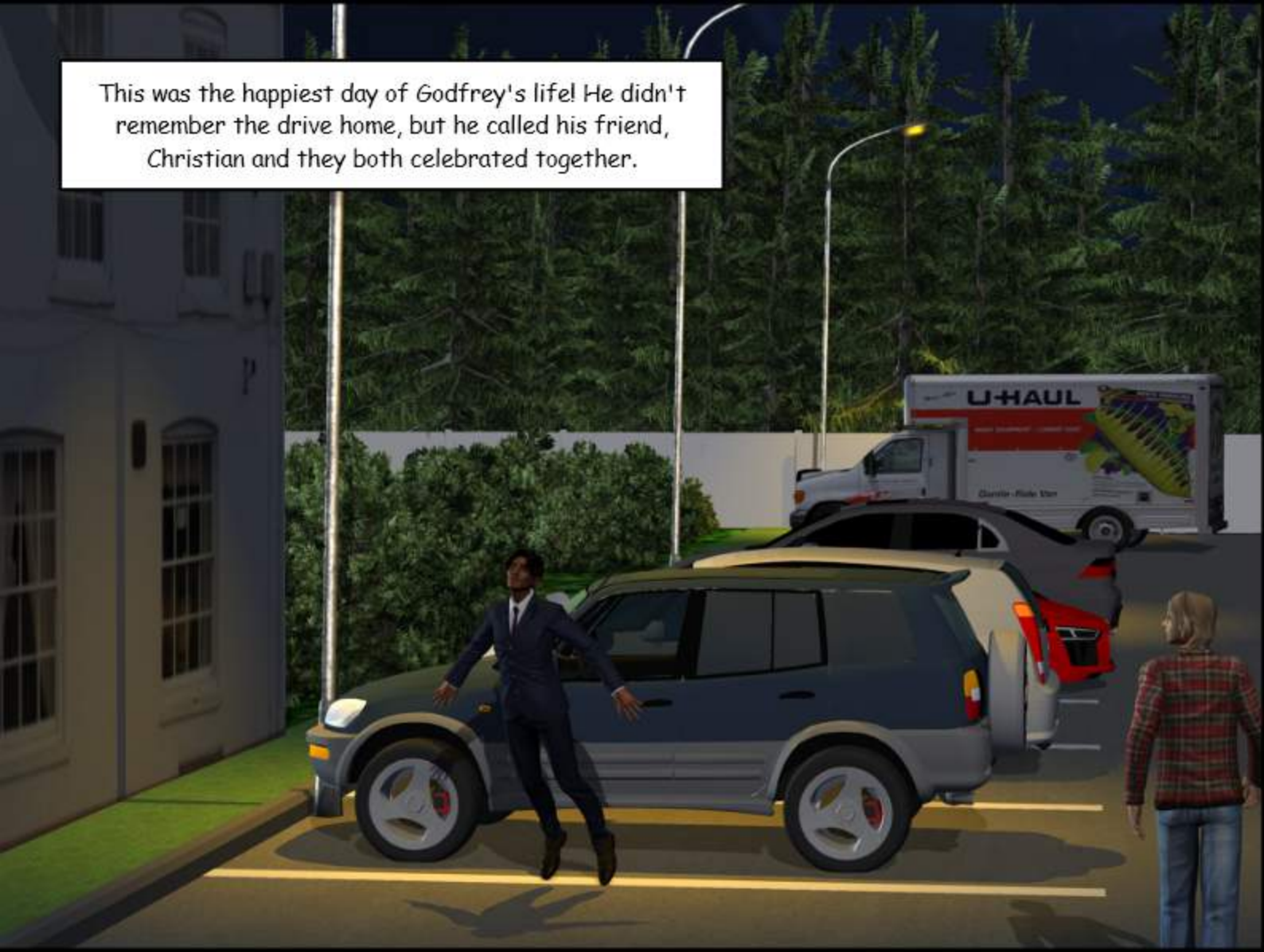
Well, it's just a meeting for two. I've been saving up to bring you here. I wanted to surprise you by buying you dinner because you've been so nice to me especially when I really needed a friend.

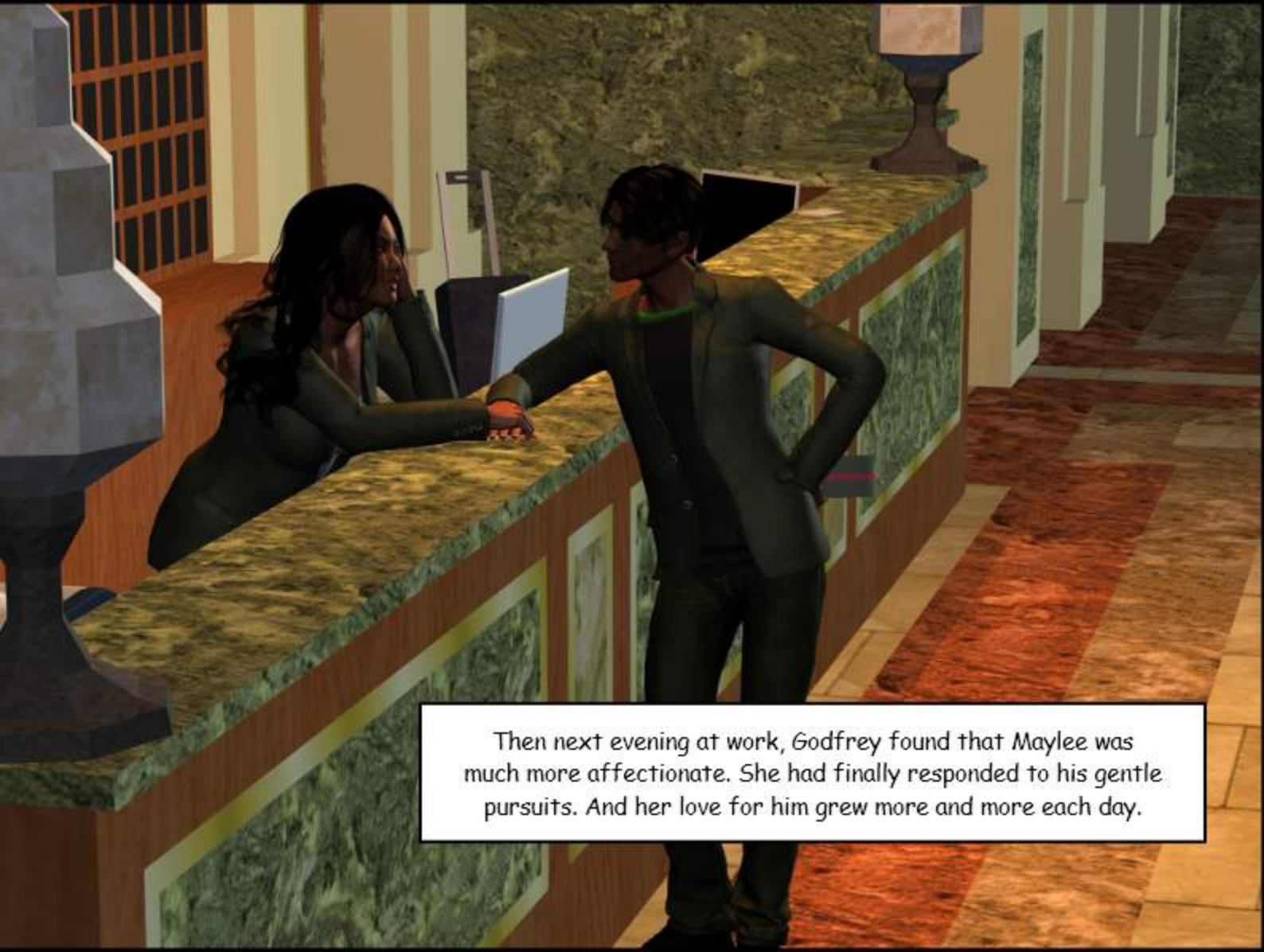
But, I think I need to tell you something...

Ever since you've helped me that night when I was really sad, I haven't stopped thinking about you. I have never met anyone as loving and caring as you and I can't bare to think of losing you to someone else. The truth is, I want more than just a friendship and I can't see myself being with anyone else but you.



This was the happiest day of Godfrey's life! He didn't remember the drive home, but he called his friend, Christian and they both celebrated together.





Then next evening at work, Godfrey found that Maylee was much more affectionate. She had finally responded to his gentle pursuits. And her love for him grew more and more each day.

Over the next few months, as Maylee's love grew stronger, so did the little things she wanted to do for Godfrey. She would write poetry about their love for one another, spend time doing some of the things he loved...

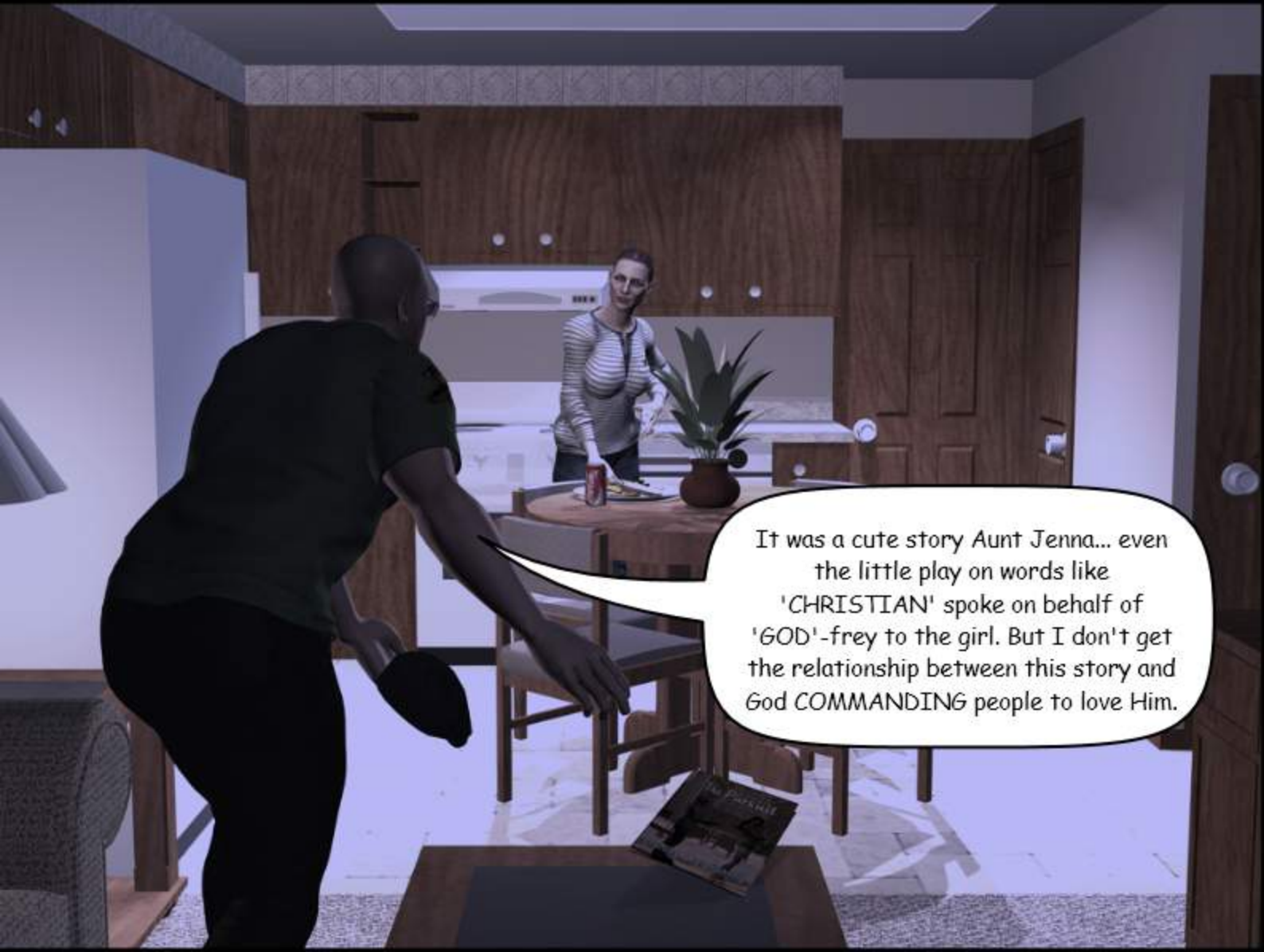
...and even purchased that 'Star Wars' key chain she saw him glance at while they walked by a gift shop. The things she did made Godfrey open his heart even more! Now, there's nothing he wouldn't do for her because she's caused him to be...



...THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH

A man and a woman are shown from behind, embracing on a wooden bench. The man is wearing a black t-shirt and the woman is wearing a black top. They are in an outdoor setting with a railing and a cloudy sky in the background. A large shadow of a hand is cast on the wall to the right. The scene is framed by a reddish-brown border.

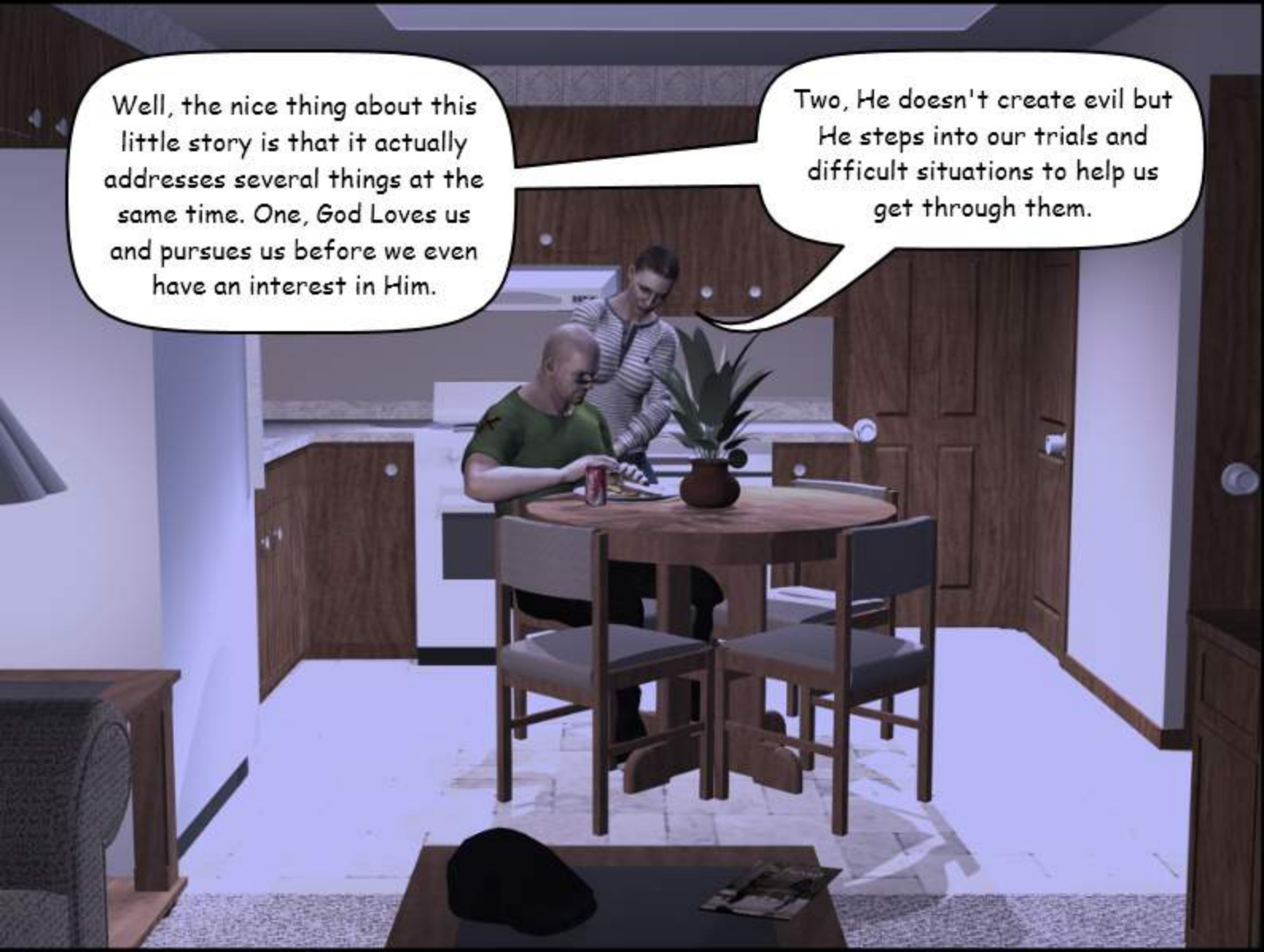
The End




It was a cute story Aunt Jenna... even the little play on words like 'CHRISTIAN' spoke on behalf of 'GOD'-frey to the girl. But I don't get the relationship between this story and God **COMMANDING** people to love Him.

Well, the nice thing about this little story is that it actually addresses several things at the same time. One, God Loves us and pursues us before we even have an interest in Him.

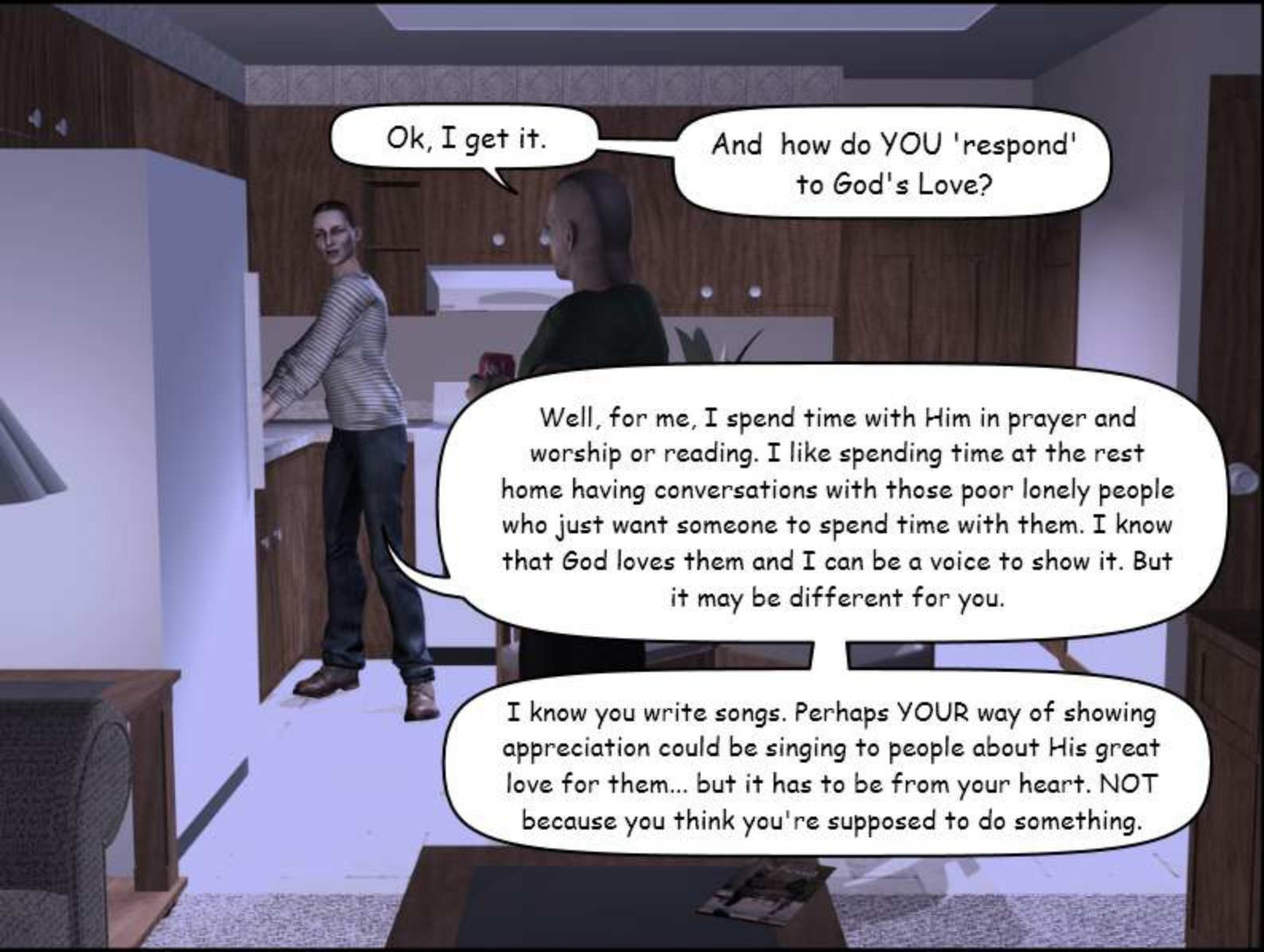
Two, He doesn't create evil but He steps into our trials and difficult situations to help us get through them.





And three. We do things for Him simply because we appreciate His Love for us... we DON'T do things for Him hoping for His Love and approval. He already loved us way before we even KNEW Him.

The only part we should play is how we RESPOND to His Love the way the girl eventually recognized and responded to the boy's love for her.

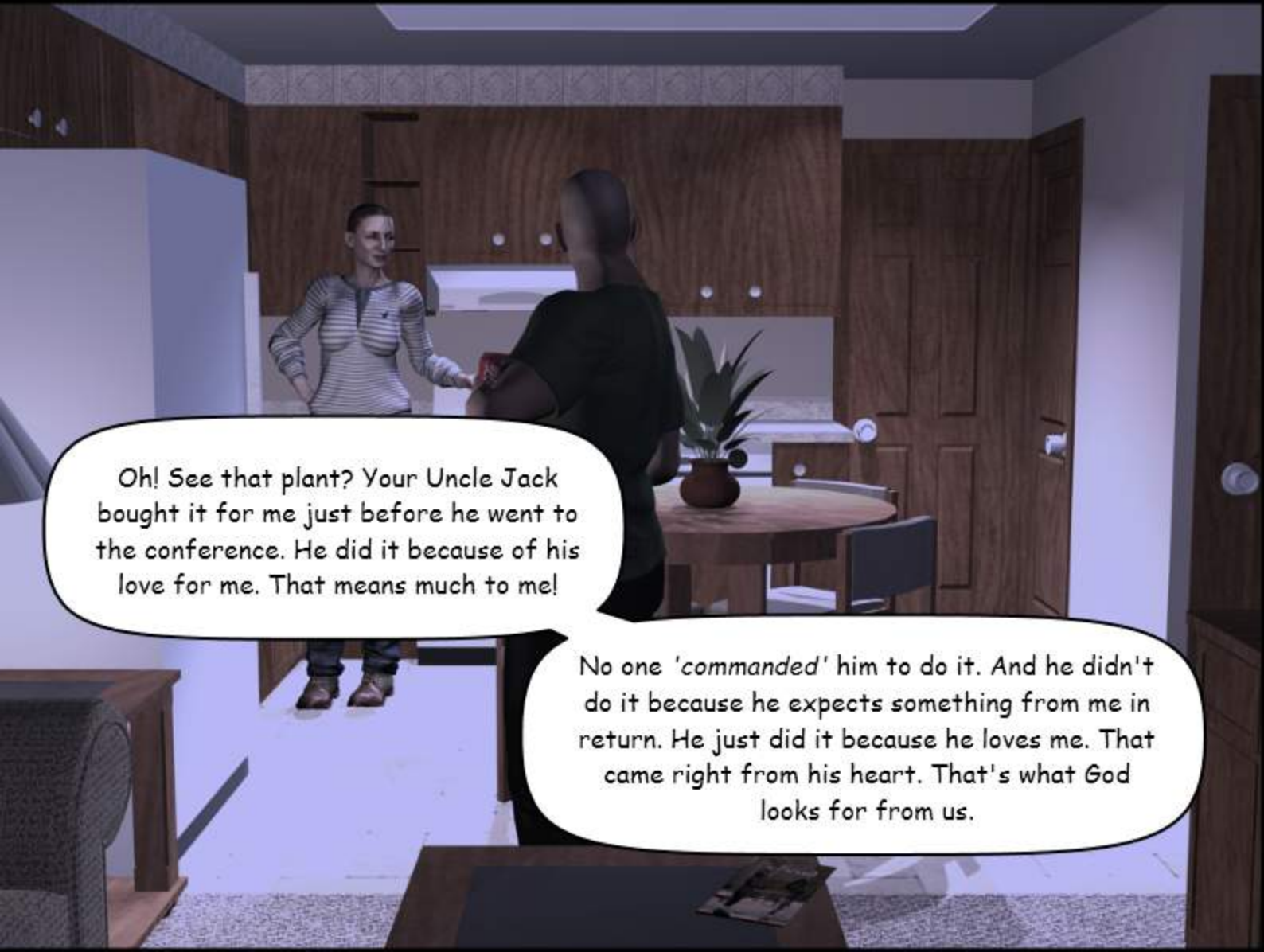


Ok, I get it.

And how do YOU 'respond' to God's Love?


Well, for me, I spend time with Him in prayer and worship or reading. I like spending time at the rest home having conversations with those poor lonely people who just want someone to spend time with them. I know that God loves them and I can be a voice to show it. But it may be different for you.

I know you write songs. Perhaps YOUR way of showing appreciation could be singing to people about His great love for them... but it has to be from your heart. NOT because you think you're supposed to do something.




Oh! See that plant? Your Uncle Jack bought it for me just before he went to the conference. He did it because of his love for me. That means much to me!

No one 'commanded' him to do it. And he didn't do it because he expects something from me in return. He just did it because he loves me. That came right from his heart. That's what God looks for from us.



God wants a genuine relationship with us. But if our relationship is based on 'give to get', then when things go wrong in our lives, we'll have a tendency to blame God for the problem instead of allowing Him to help us through the problem... like Godfrey helped Maylee through her difficult times.




Gosh, I hope I didn't
overwhelm you!
But thanks for everything Axel! Tell your
parents hello for me!

Will do Aunt Jenna...

And thank you for helping me understand. We
love God because He first Loved and pursued
us. He loved us so much that He allowed His
Son to die a terrible death for us. He paid a
very high price to win our hearts!

So, really, the 'command' is to respond to His
Love like Maylee responded to Godfrey's love.
Then as we respond to Him from our heart, He
reveals Himself even more... which causes us to
love and respond even more. I get it now!

A man wearing a black cap and a black t-shirt is driving a car. The scene is shown from a perspective through the windshield. In the background, there is a brick building with arched windows and a dark roof. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image.

...and one day, I'd like to
meet the people who write those
weird comics!

The End