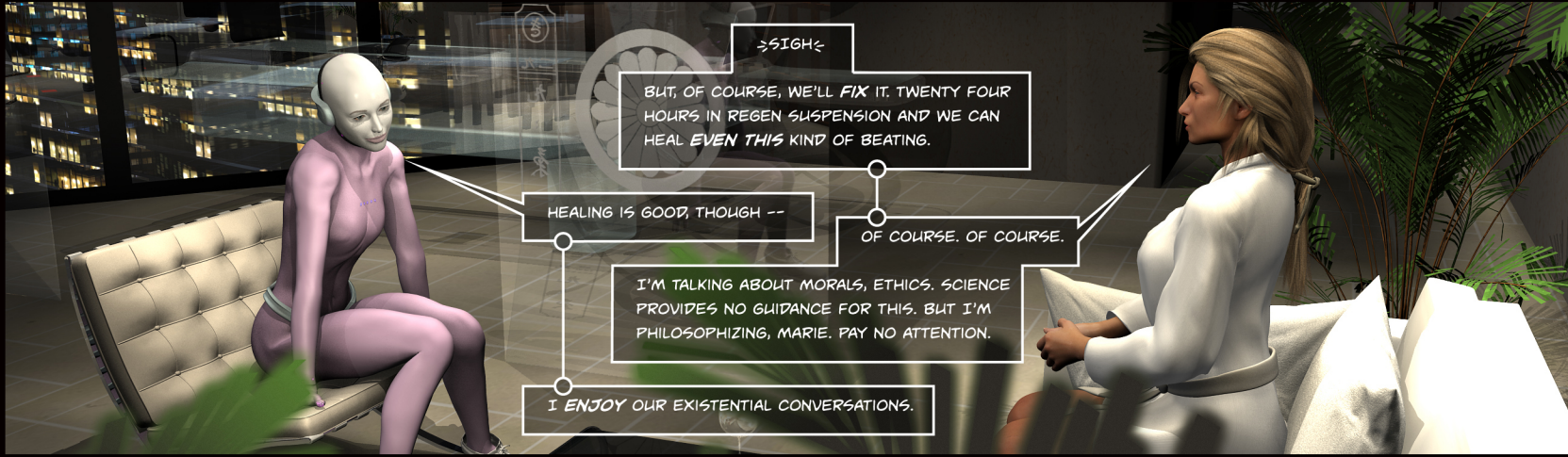




LATER

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR DAY, MISS?

⇒SIGH⇒ I DON'T KNOW--



⇒SIGH⇒

BUT, OF COURSE, WE'LL *FIX* IT. TWENTY FOUR HOURS IN REGEN SUSPENSION AND WE CAN HEAL *EVEN THIS* KIND OF BEATING.

HEALING IS GOOD, THOUGH --

OF COURSE. OF COURSE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT MORALS, ETHICS. SCIENCE PROVIDES NO GUIDANCE FOR THIS. BUT I'M PHILOSOPHIZING, MARIE. PAY NO ATTENTION.

I ENJOY OUR EXISTENTIAL CONVERSATIONS.



--WHAT HAVE WE COME TO, MARIE? I JUST CAME FROM THE HOSPITAL, A HANDSOME KID, GOOD FAMILY--NICE PEOPLE--GETS *RAPED* AND LEFT FOR DEAD.



WE THINK WE'VE ERADICATED DISEASE, AND DEATH BUT WE'RE STILL A *SICK* SOCIETY.

AND THE OPTIONS ARE ENDLESS. IN THE "V", IF WE *IMAGINE* IT, WE CAN *EXPERIENCE* IT -- NO MATTER HOW *TWISTED*. BUT *THAT'S* NOT ENOUGH. WE STILL HAVE TO MURDER AND RAPE AND GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE!

⇒GASP⇒



IT'S LIKE WE'VE LOST TOUCH WITH *TRUTH*--WITH WHAT'S *REAL*. WE'RE SO PROUD OF OURSELVES. IT'S ALL *ACCORDING TO DESIGN*. YOU CALL UP A '39 CAB OUT OF THIN AIR. I RUB MY FINGERTIPS-- AND I SPEAK TO A FACE IN BRITISH NEW ASIA--

--OR JUST, *THINK* TO THEM.

WE DON'T EVEN *HAVE* TO SPEAK ANYMORE.

