



Elevation Preview

By Sumner


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Part 1

In less than five hours, the Fairfax Towers would be nothing but a vacant office building, closed for the Christmas holiday.



Only a few more hours at
the old *salt mines*, and
then the *long weekend*.
Gotta love the holidays!

A man in a dark suit is seen from behind, standing in a hallway with wood-paneled walls and a tiled floor. He is looking at a closed grey door with a wooden frame. Above the door is a small sign with two triangles, one pointing down and one pointing up. A thought bubble is coming from the man's head.

And *nothing* improves
productivity *better* than
the magical unit of time
known as the *last minute*.




DING

Going up





click




Think I only have *one more* this afternoon.
Should be a *fast* one ...


click

Thirty-third floor

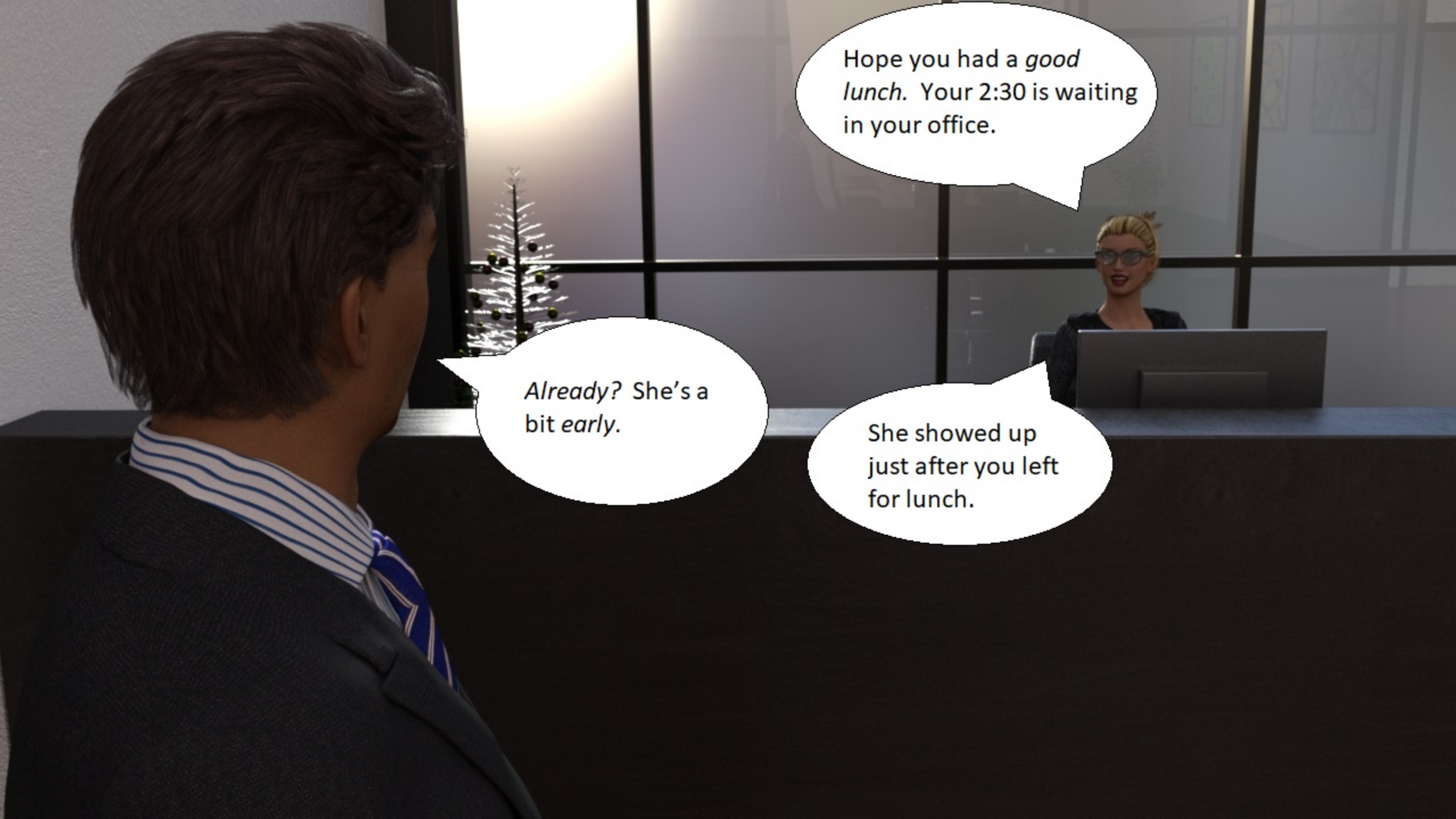


A man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard is standing in a hallway. He is wearing a dark grey double-breasted suit jacket over a light blue and white striped shirt and a blue and white striped tie. He is holding a black briefcase in his right hand. The background consists of a light grey wall on the left and a wooden wall with a horizontal grey band on the right. A small, rectangular, metallic object is mounted on the left wall.

Mr Savage?

A 3D rendered image of a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark grey double-breasted suit, a light blue and white striped shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is standing in a hallway with light grey walls and a dark wood floor. To his left is a red door with a silver handle and a small window. On the wall next to the door is a black rectangular sign with white text. In the background, there is a dark doorway and a yellow triangular warning sign on the wall. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to the right of the man's head, containing the text "Hey Carol. What's the good word?".

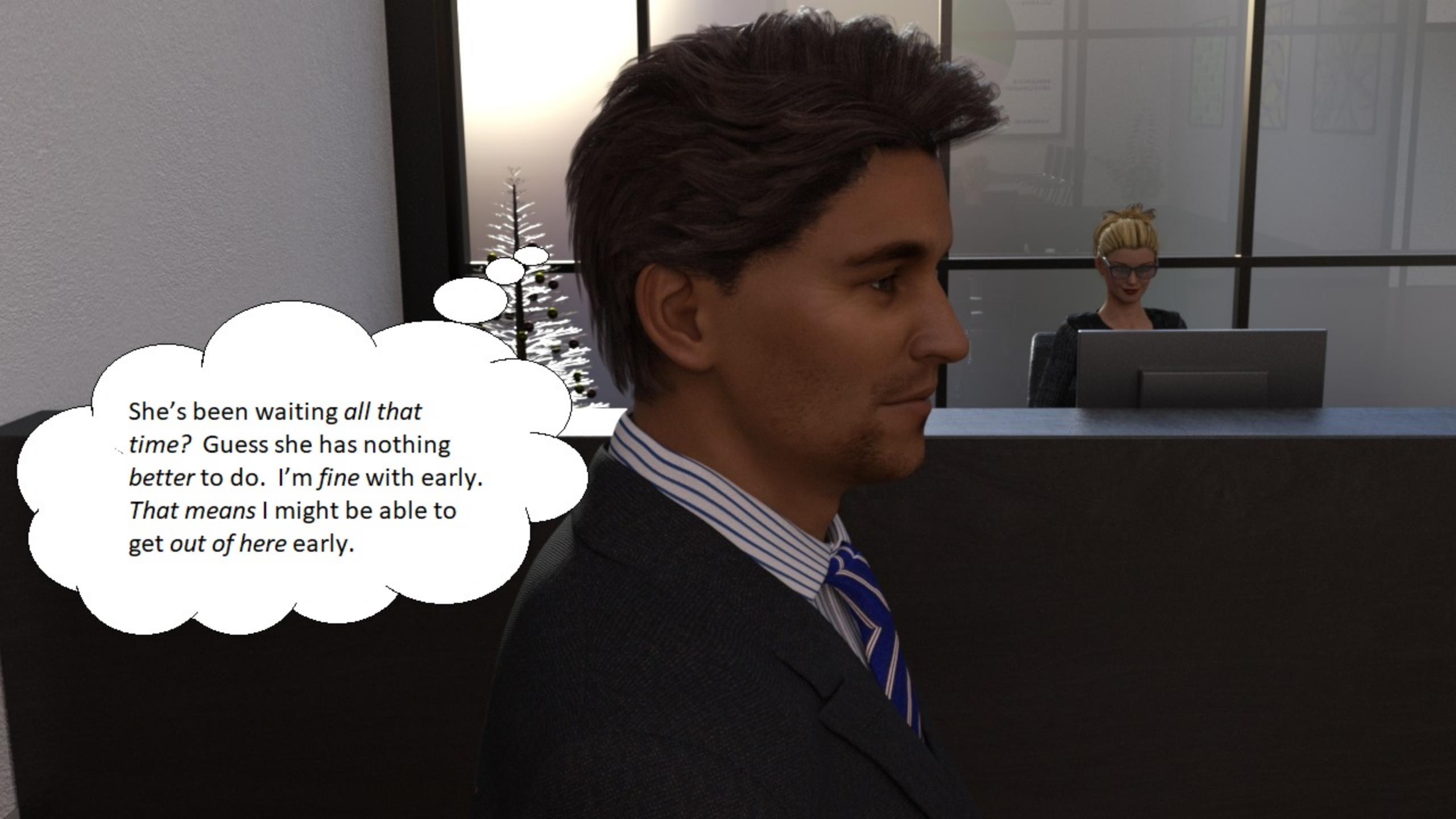
*Hey Carol. What's
the good word?*

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue and white striped shirt and a blue tie, is seen from the side, looking towards a woman. The woman has blonde hair tied up, wears glasses and a dark top, and is sitting at a desk with a computer monitor. In the background, there is a large window with a view of a city at dusk, and a small, decorated Christmas tree sits on a surface near the window.


Hope you had a *good lunch*. Your 2:30 is waiting in your office.

Already? She's a bit *early*.


She showed up just after you left for lunch.

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue and white striped shirt, and a blue and white striped tie, is shown in profile, looking towards the right. He has a thoughtful expression. In the background, a woman with blonde hair tied up, wearing glasses and a dark top, is sitting at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. The office has large windows with a view of a city skyline. A small, decorated Christmas tree is visible on a desk in the background. A thought bubble is superimposed on the left side of the image.

She's been waiting *all that time*? Guess she has nothing *better* to do. I'm *fine* with early. *That means* I might be able to get *out of here* early.



*So sorry to keep
you waiting.*




*Ms. Madhat, I
presume.*

*You presume
correctly.*


*How nice to finally meet
you. Daniel Savage, at
your service.*

*Please, call
me Magda.*

A man in a dark suit and blue tie is walking away from a woman who is sitting at a wooden desk. The man is carrying a black briefcase. The woman has short brown hair and is wearing a blue floral patterned top. The office has a white wall, a wooden floor, and an orange armchair in the background. There is a desk with some papers and a notebook on it.


Certainly, Magda. Thank you for allowing Robert & Savage to assist you with your situation.

Your firm came *highly* recommended.

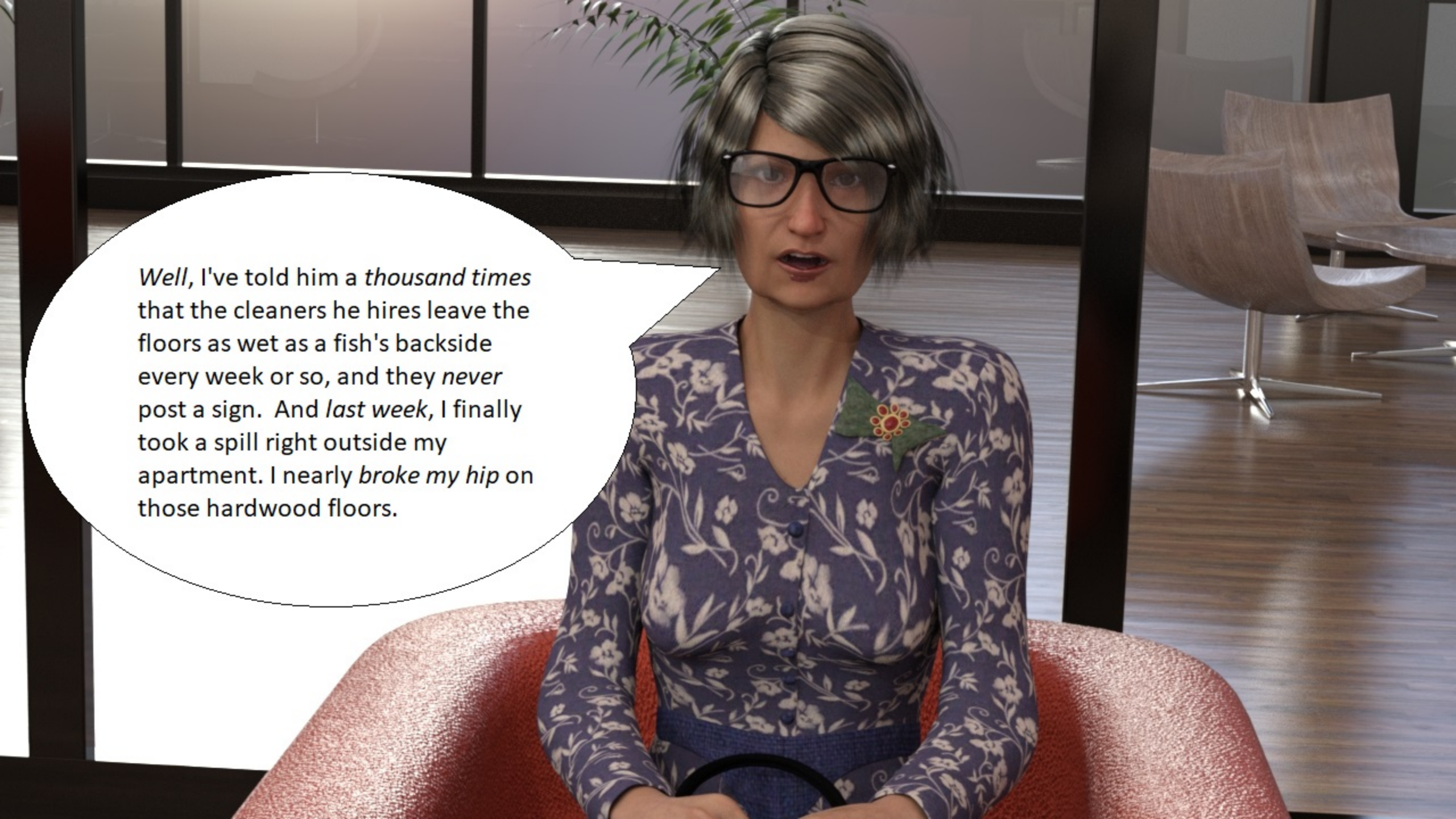
A 3D rendered office scene. A woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue floral dress, sits on a red sofa in the foreground, facing away from the camera. She is holding a black folder. In the background, a man in a dark suit and blue striped tie sits at a large wooden desk, working on a laptop. On the desk are a white envelope, a stack of papers, and a black binder. The room has light-colored walls and a wooden floor.

My landlord.


You are *too kind*. I appreciate your trust. Our firm *mainly* deals with auto accidents and the like, but I see here you intend to bring suit against ...

A man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard is seated in a black office chair. He is wearing a dark grey double-breasted suit jacket over a light blue and white striped dress shirt and a blue and white striped tie. A white pocket square is visible in his jacket's breast pocket. He holds a green pencil in his right hand, pointing it towards the left. A speech bubble originates from his mouth, containing text. The background features a light-colored wall and a wooden desk or shelf. A wooden cabinet with two drawers is visible behind him to the left.

Yes, *your landlord*. Now, bottom line: what is the *fundamental issue* behind your decision? And by *that* I mean, why do you think this warrants *litigation*?



Well, I've told him a *thousand times* that the cleaners he hires leave the floors as wet as a fish's backside every week or so, and they *never* post a sign. And *last week*, I finally took a spill right outside my apartment. I nearly *broke my hip* on those hardwood floors.




My *back* has been
sore *ever since*.

I'm so *sorry* to hear that.
Thank *God* you didn't
break your hip. What was
the extent of your injuries,
Magda?


Did you require
hospitalization?

No, nothing *that*
severe, but I
warned him ...

knock knock




Excuse me Daniel, those files are ready ... on the Jackson case. Sorry to disturb you.

A man with dark, wavy hair and a light beard is sitting in a black office chair at a wooden desk. He is wearing a dark grey double-breasted suit jacket over a light blue and white striped shirt and a blue and white striped tie. A white pocket square is visible in his jacket. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To his left is a wooden cabinet with three drawers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his head.

That's perfectly *all right*,
Ms. Rayne. *In fact*, step
inside. You may be able to
help me with Ms. Madhat.



Who is *this*?

A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark grey double-breasted suit, a light blue and white striped shirt, and a blue and white striped tie, is seated at a wooden desk. He is looking towards a woman standing on the right side of the frame. The woman has long, dark, wavy hair and is wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved, form-fitting dress with a white collar and cuffs. She is looking back over her shoulder at the man. In the background, there is a white wall and a wooden cabinet with three drawers. A portion of an orange armchair is visible on the right. A speech bubble originates from the man, containing the text: "Oh, *excuse me* Magda. This is Sara Rayne, one of our paralegals, or dare I say, *our best*." The scene is set in a modern office environment.


Oh, *excuse me* Magda.
This is Sara Rayne, one
of our paralegals, or
dare I say, *our best*.



wink

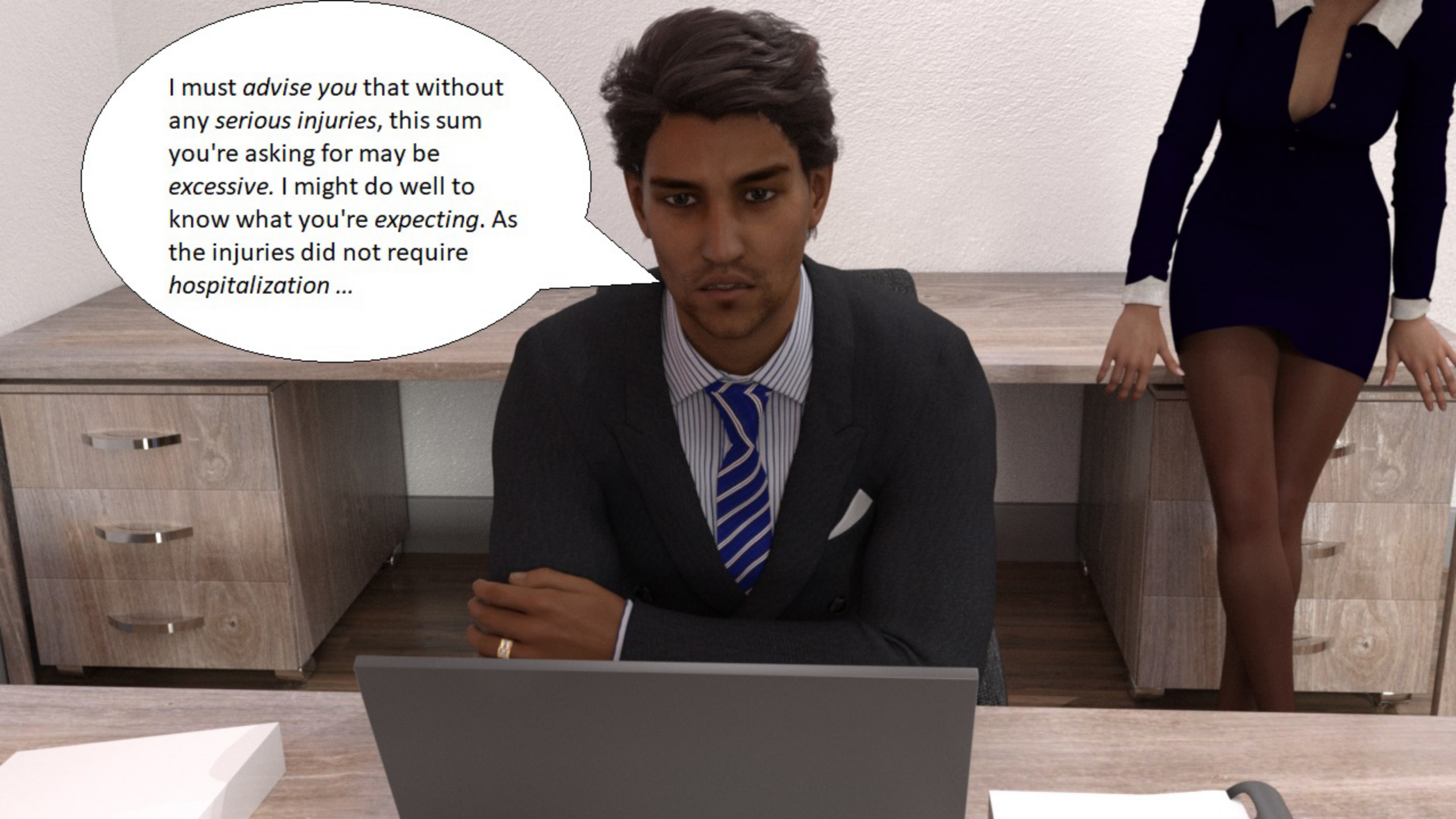
Anyway, back to the matters
at hand. I understand your
landlord has said *he'll fight*
the charges.






That is *correct*.

I must *advise you* that without any *serious injuries*, this sum you're asking for may be *excessive*. I might do well to know what you're *expecting*. As the injuries did not require *hospitalization* ...



What about *pain and suffering*?
Mental trauma? I can hardly
sleep, and when I do I have
nightmares! Does that count
for *nothing*? What about ...






Geez, Sara ... seriously?
What's wrong with you?!

Uh ...

rub rub



And just
what is *this*?

Er ...what do you
mean?

rub rub