

*Elevation*


*Part 6*

*Preview*

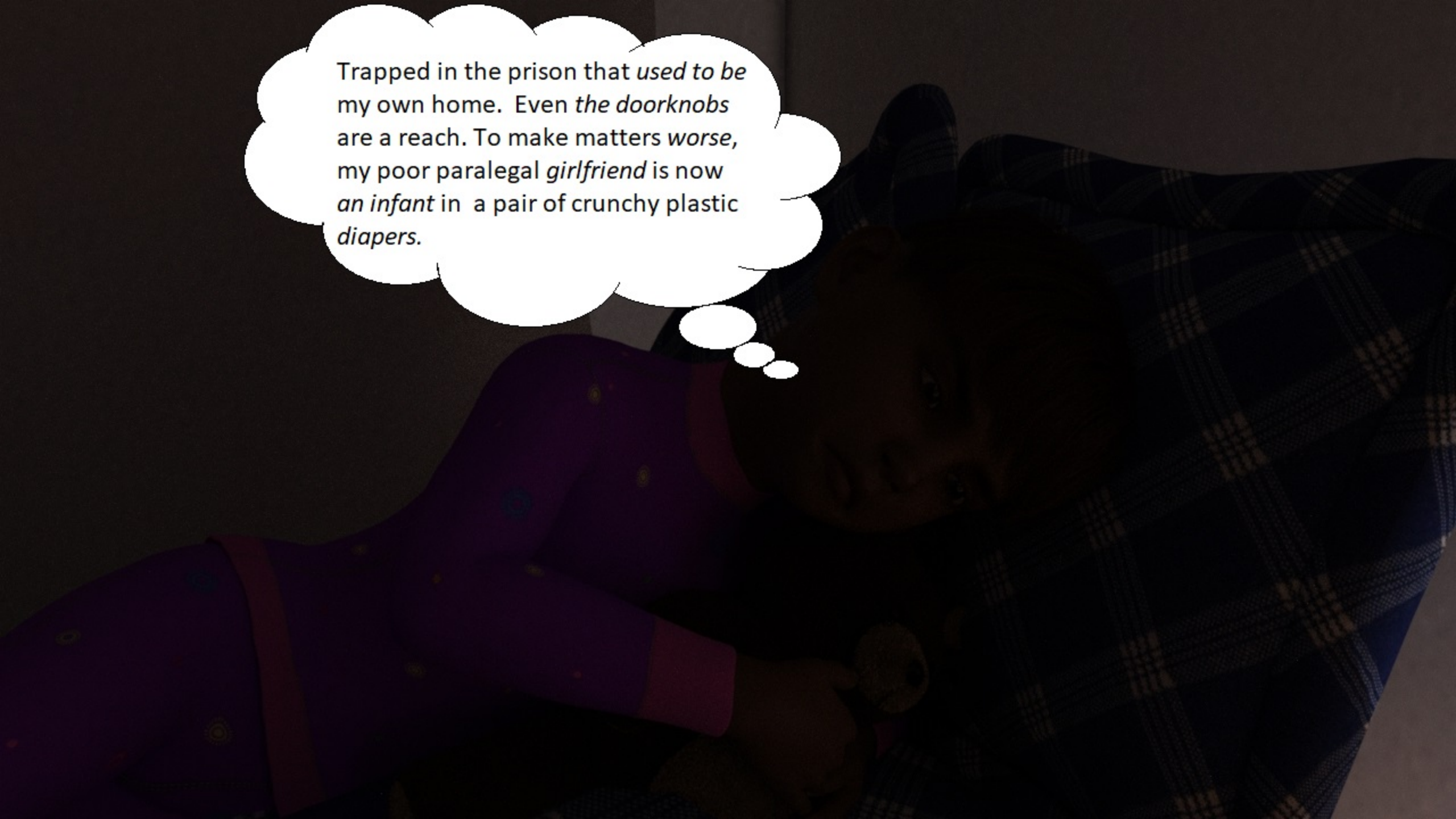
*By Sumner*

*Illustrated and edited by Areg5*




A man is lying in bed, covered with a blue and white plaid blanket. He is wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt. A thought bubble is positioned above his head, containing text. To the right of the bed is a dark wooden dresser with a large arched mirror on top. The room is dimly lit, suggesting it is nighttime.

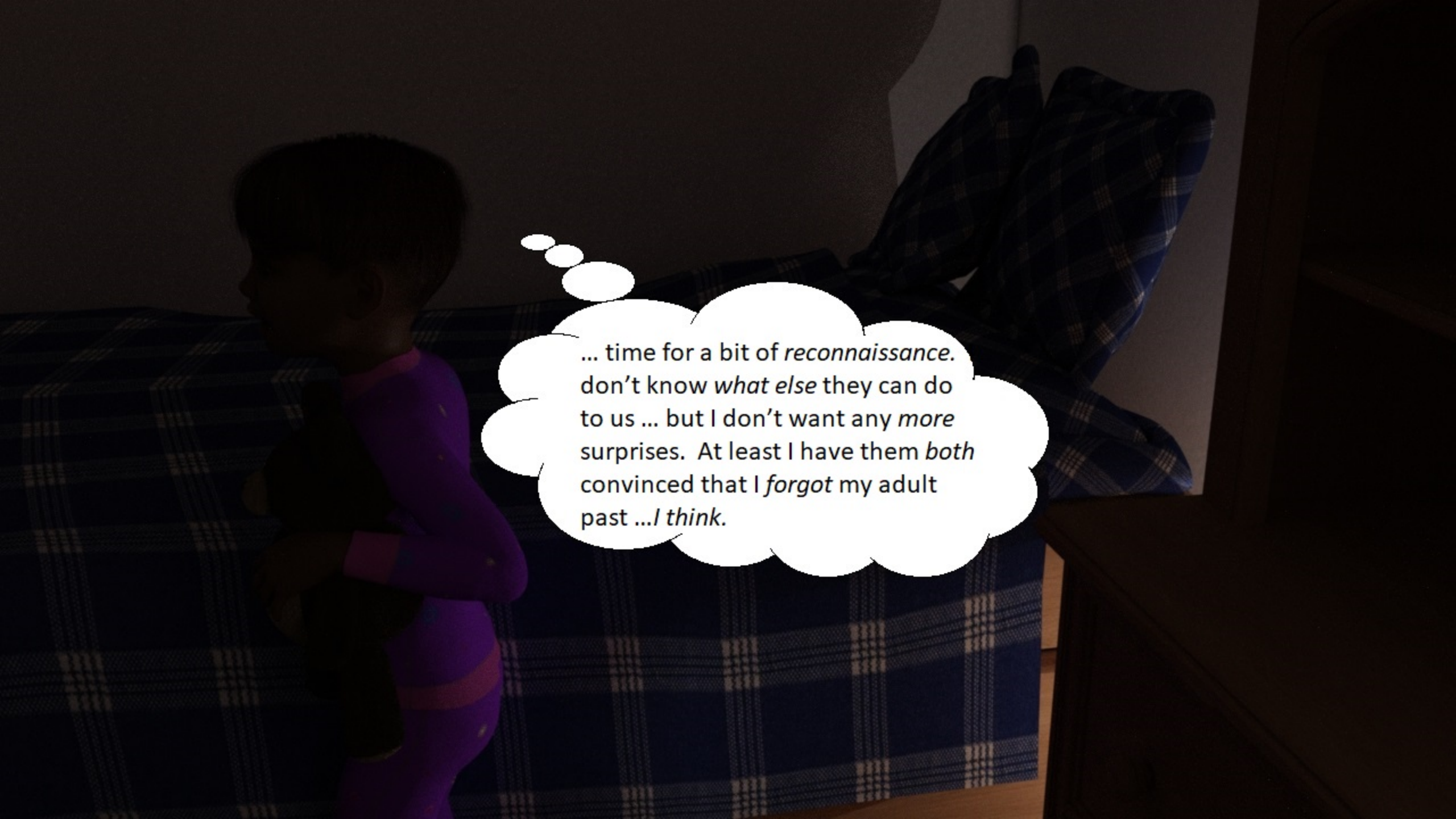
I still *can't believe* it. I was a *law partner* on my way up the *social ladder*. Now I come up to my wife's waist.

A person is lying in bed, covered with a dark plaid blanket. They are wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. A large white thought bubble is positioned above their head, containing text. The background is dark and indistinct.

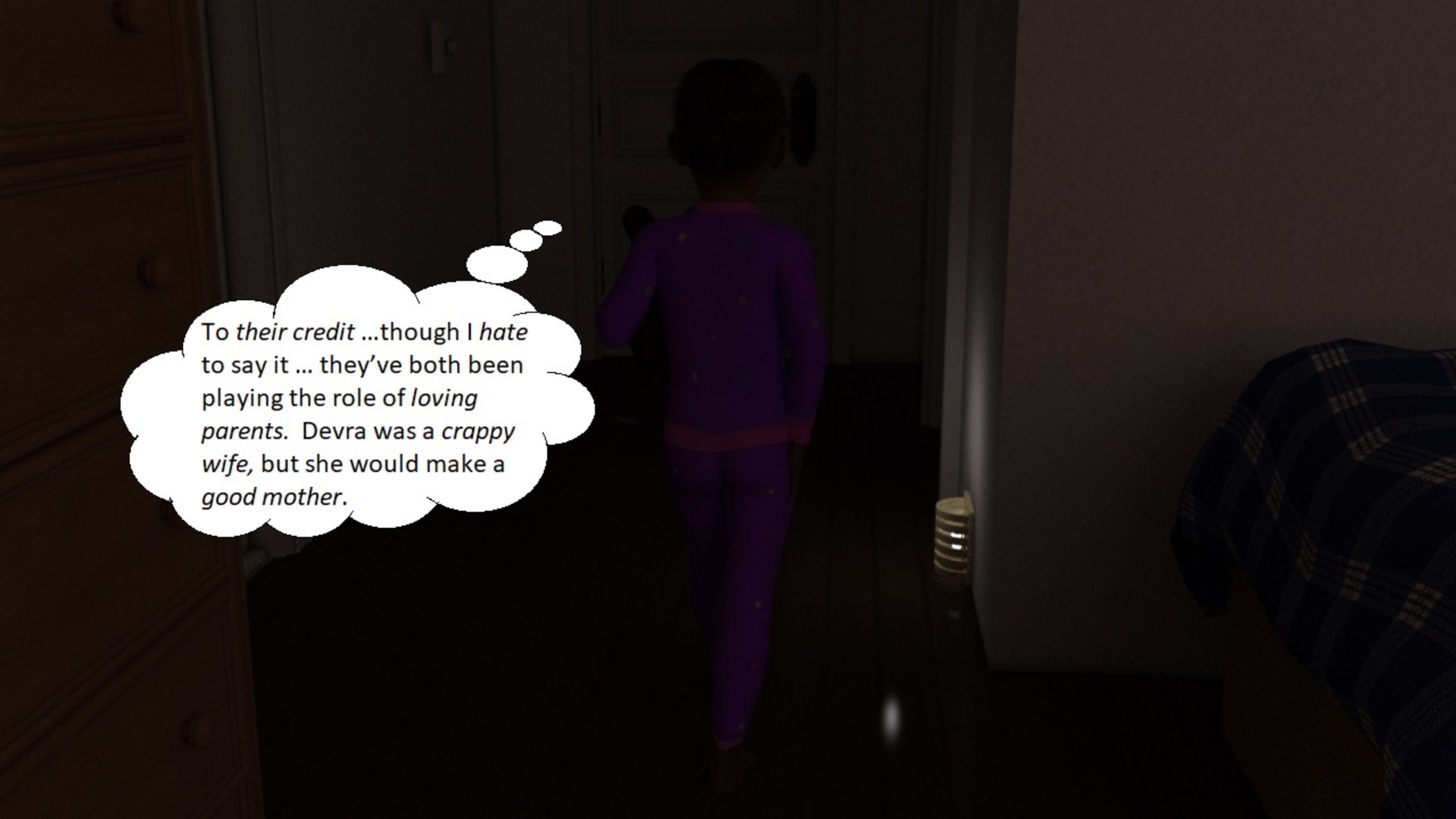
Trapped in the prison that *used to be* my own home. Even *the doorknobs* are a reach. To make matters *worse*, my poor paralegal *girlfriend* is now *an infant* in a pair of crunchy plastic *diapers*.

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved onesie, is sitting on a bed with a blue and white plaid blanket. She is holding a brown teddy bear. A white thought bubble is positioned above her, containing text. The background is dark, suggesting a dimly lit room.


I'm sure Devra and  
Stephen are *hatching their  
plans* in the *next room ...*

A young child with dark hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, stands on a blue and white plaid sofa. The child is looking towards the left. A large white thought bubble is positioned in the center of the image, containing text. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor setting at night or in low light. The sofa has a blue and white plaid pattern. The child's shirt has a small yellow star on the sleeve.


... time for a bit of *reconnaissance*.  
don't know *what else* they can do  
to us ... but I don't want any *more*  
surprises. At least I have them *both*  
convinced that I *forgot* my adult  
past ...*I think*.

A person wearing a purple long-sleeved top and matching pants stands with their back to the camera in a dark room. They are positioned in front of a dark wooden door. To the right, a portion of a plaid blanket is visible on a bed. A white thought bubble is superimposed on the left side of the image, containing text.

To *their credit* ...though I *hate* to say it ... they've both been playing the role of *loving parents*. Devra was a *crappy wife*, but she would make a *good mother*.




*Hmmm ... wonder if they went to bed.*




I don't see them.

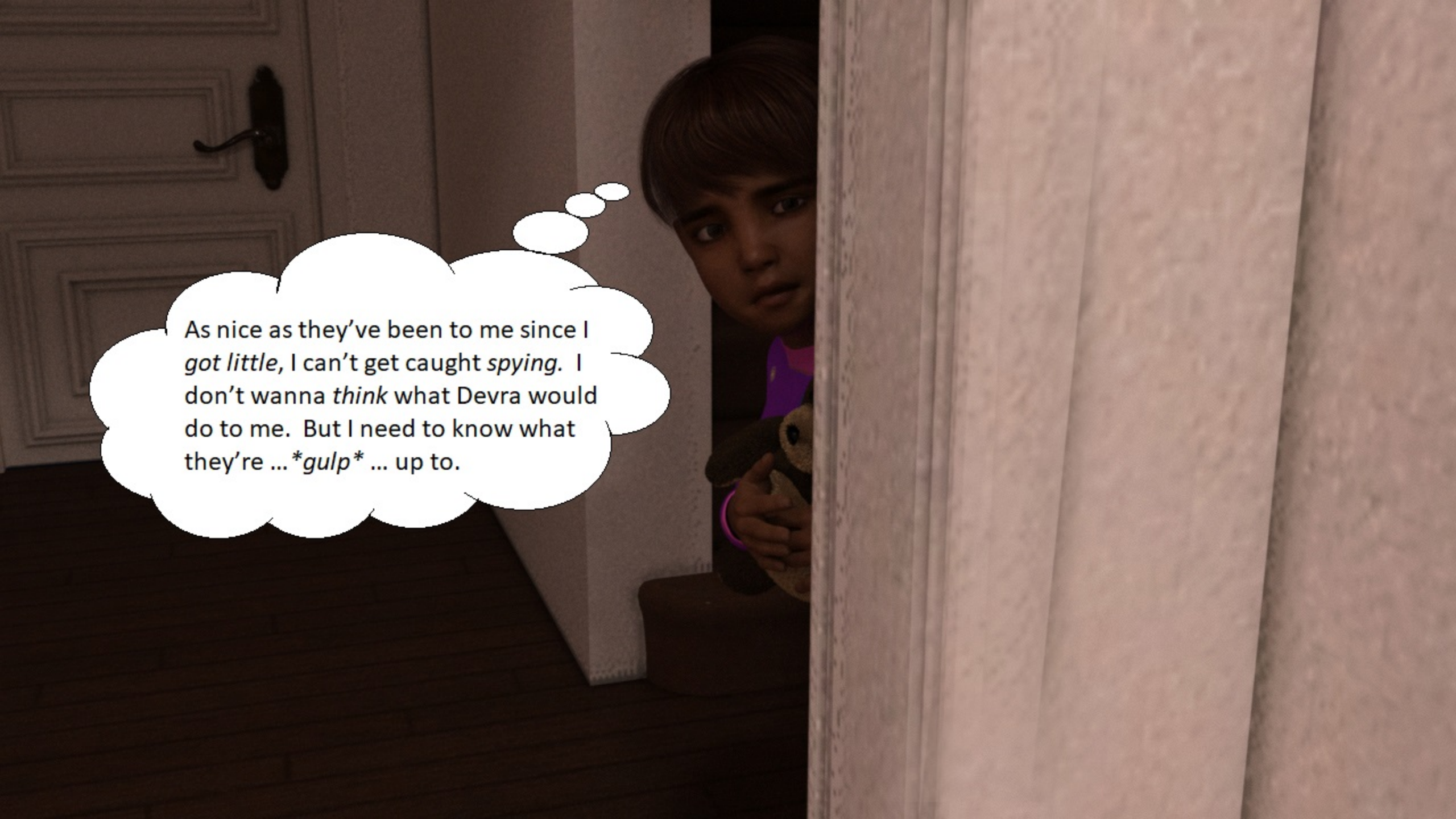


A young girl with dark hair, wearing purple pajamas with a pink collar and cuffs, stands in a hallway. She is holding a brown teddy bear. The hallway has white paneled doors on both sides and a dark wooden floor. A thought bubble is positioned to her left.


I think I hear them  
in the *living room*.

A child with dark hair, wearing purple pajamas with small colorful patterns, stands in a doorway. The child is holding a black teddy bear. The room is dimly lit, with light coming from the doorway. A thought bubble is positioned to the right of the child, containing the text "And there they are." The floor is made of dark wood planks. On the left wall, there is a white light switch and a power outlet.


*And there they are.*



As nice as they've been to me since I *got little*, I can't get caught *spying*. I don't wanna *think* what Devra would do to me. But I need to know what they're ... *\*gulp\** ... up to.




I *still* can't believe it!

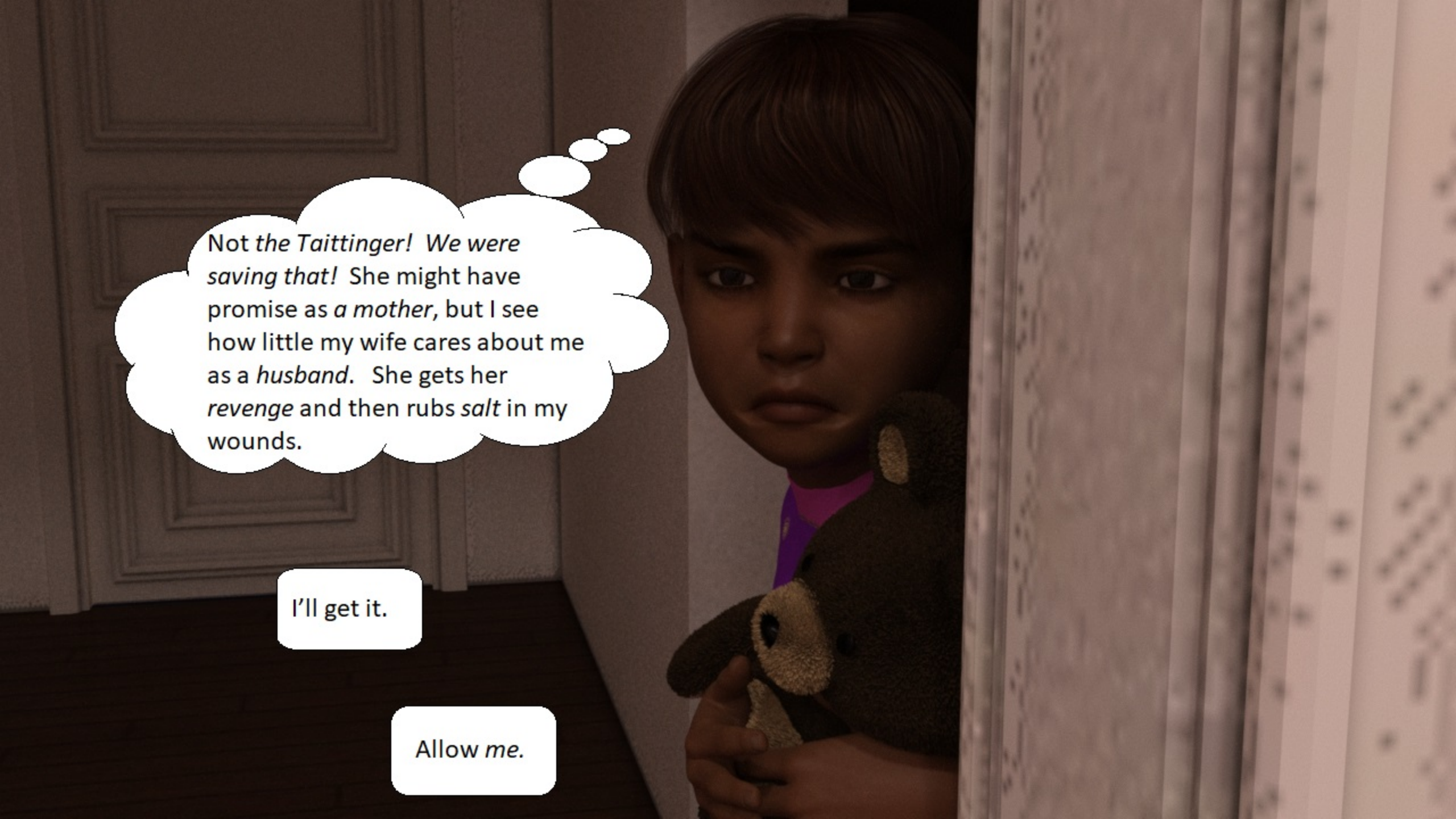


Now that they're *little*,  
what exactly should we  
*do* with them?

The old crone  
wasn't *lying*.




Raise them as *our own*. We'll work out the *specifics* later. Right now we should *celebrate*. I have *champagne on ice* in the kitchen.



Not *the Taittinger!* We were saving that! She might have promise as *a mother*, but I see how little my wife cares about me as a *husband*. She gets her *revenge* and then rubs *salt* in my wounds.

I'll get it.

Allow *me*.



Well aren't you a gentleman?!

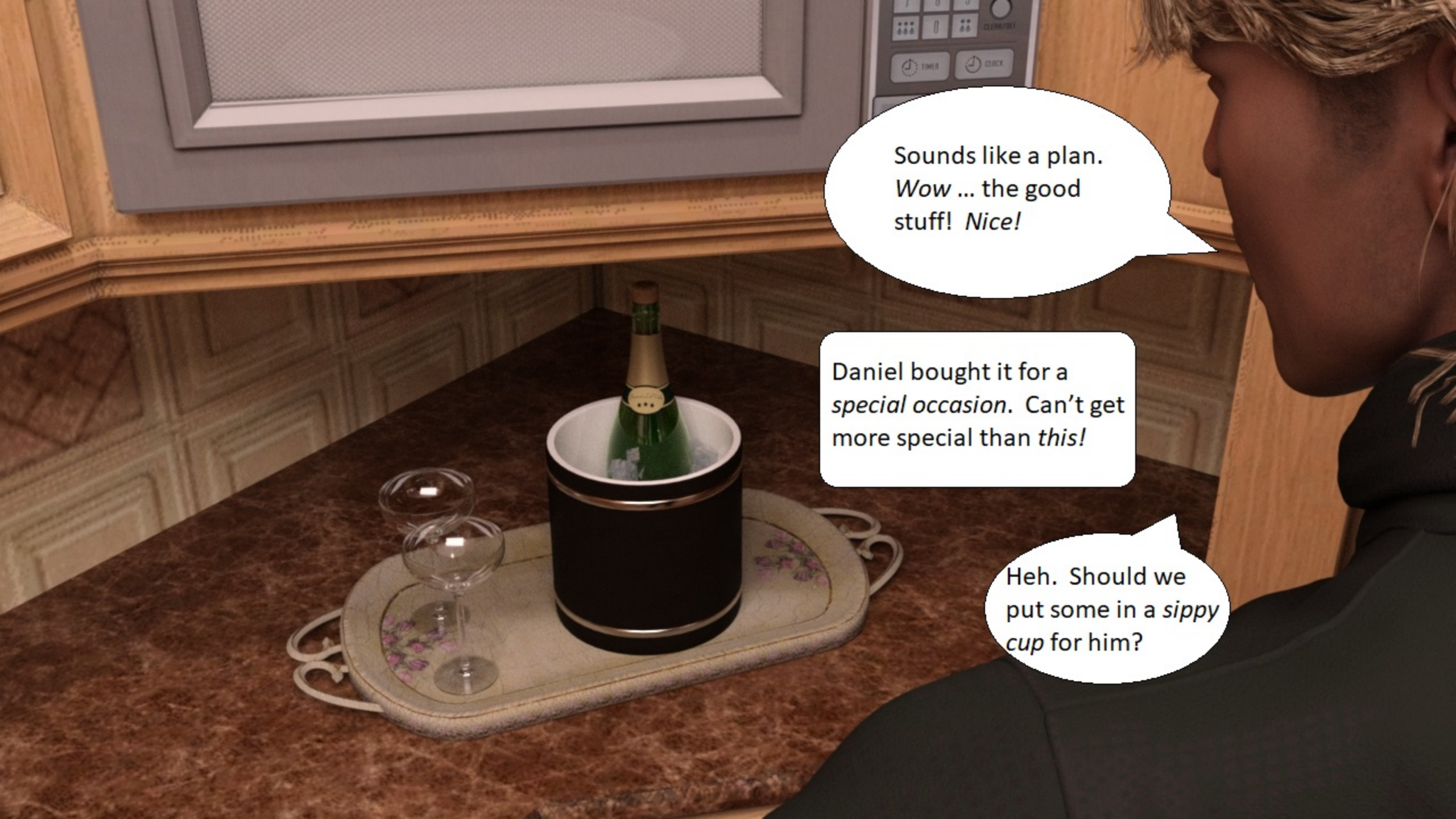
I'm *full* of surprises.





...and apparently *so are you!* *Already* have the champagne *chilled?*

*Sure!* If our plan didn't work, I could have *at least* tied one on.

A woman with blonde hair is shown in profile, looking towards a kitchen counter. On the counter, a green champagne bottle is chilling in a black bucket filled with ice. The bucket sits on a light-colored tray with a floral pattern, which also holds two champagne flutes. The background features wooden kitchen cabinets and a control panel with buttons for 'TIMER' and 'CLOCK'.

Sounds like a plan.  
Wow ... the good  
stuff! *Nice!*


Daniel bought it for a  
*special occasion*. Can't get  
more special than *this!*

Heh. Should we  
put some in a *sippy*  
*cup* for him?

*Haha ...he's a bit too young to drink, father of the year.*

*Haha ...yeah. That's ok, more for us!*





I need to hear what they're saying! I'll get closer.



They're so *chummy*.  
Bet they've been  
*having sex* behind  
my back!



I'm sure they've gotten *close* during their *conspiracy*. Some *new family!* Those *hypocrites* are the parents ... I'm *the child*, Sara's the *baby*. An entire *lifetime* lies ahead of us, maybe more than *one* if Devra finds new ways of shrinking us *back down*.

Did you...  
ummmm...?


Yes, of course. You  
seem *tense*. Have  
some bubbly.





\*clink\*






I mean, Ms. Madhat ... she said it was *important*.

Yeah, I told you ... I got it. Something bothering you?

No, no. Not *really*. I just want to make sure we're in *the clear*.


Of course we are. Relax. *\*chuckle\** ... we've got *kids!*

A young girl with dark hair and a purple shirt is looking down with a thoughtful expression. She is standing in front of a wooden door. Three thought bubbles are connected to her head, containing text about her search for a watch.

Got it? Got *what*? Is she talking about my watch?! That *has to be* it! A piece of the puzzle is still in play! I need to redouble my efforts to get back my watch! Only ... where *the hell* might she have *stashed* it?

She usually hides *Christmas presents* in a dusty corner of the attic, while her *jewelry* always went inside the box in her *underwear drawer*.

Searching is going to be tough at this size ... but she sounds cocky. Maybe *cocky enough* to assume I won't even be *looking* for it.



Maybe I should hold onto it.

Haha ... what, you don't trust me?

It's not *that*. I just... want to make sure *nothing happens*. I know it's a *long shot*, but *what if*...




I know, I know ...

Stephen ... *forgive me*, but you sound a little *paranoid*. Look, Danny is *three* and Sara can't even walk. It's not like we're dealing with *adults* here.

*\*gulp\** ... then *calm down*. As long as we've got a *grip* on matters, there's *nothing* they can do. They're *little kids*. We... on the *other hand*...






Oooh ... I like the sound  
of *that*! Y'know ...  
liquor gets me *horny* ...

...can do *whatever*  
we want.

Do tell ...

A 3D-rendered scene showing a man and a woman in a domestic setting. The man, on the left, has short, light-colored hair and is wearing a black turtleneck sweater. He is leaning in to kiss the woman on the cheek. The woman, on the right, has blonde hair and is wearing a bright red, short-sleeved top. She is also wearing a thin necklace with a small circular pendant. They are seated on a large, plush sofa with a complex, colorful pattern in shades of red, orange, and yellow. In the background, there are wooden chairs with similar patterned seats and a glimpse of a kitchen area with light-colored cabinets. The overall lighting is soft and indoor.


*Mmmmm ...*

Minutes  
later ...

Sure got *quiet*. I can guess what they're doing ...exactly what Devra condemned *me* for, only she hit *the jackpot* while I got another round of *pre-school*.


Danny?





What are you *doing*,  
Honey? Listening in on  
Mommy and Daddy?

*I...I...*

A close-up shot of a woman with short brown hair, wearing a bright red short-sleeved top and a thin necklace with a circular pendant. She has a slightly open mouth and a concerned or disapproving expression. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to her left, containing the text "That's a *no-no*." The background shows a corner of a room with light-colored walls and decorative woodwork.

That's a *no-no*.