

Vampire Killer



'I am a vampire killer . . . and now I need help,' says Professor Fletcher to Colin. Colin needs a job and he needs money - but do vampires exist, or is the professor crazy? [Word count 1,160]

- ◀ STAGE 6
- ◀ STAGE 5
- ◀ STAGE 4
- ◀ STAGE 3
- ◀ STAGE 2
- ◀ STAGE 1
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FANTASY & HORROR

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Vampire Killer

PAUL SHIPTON



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VAMPIRE KILLER

'Why do you want this job?' Professor Fletcher asks.

'I need money,' Colin answers.

'Do you believe in vampires?' Fletcher asks.

'Vampires? Are you talking about Dracula?' asks Colin.

'Dracula is a book, but this is true,' says Fletcher. 'There is a vampire here in your town. I must find it and kill it tonight or . . .'

'What is this job?' Colin thinks. He needs a job and he needs money, but this is crazy. Then Colin sees the money in Fletcher's hand – it's a lot of money . . . maybe he *can* do this job. Then he meets Claudia – she is also looking for a job with Professor Fletcher. 'She has a nice smile. She has beautiful eyes too,' Colin thinks.

Is Fletcher crazy? Are there vampires in town? And who is the beautiful Claudia?

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PAUL SHIPTON

Vampire Killer

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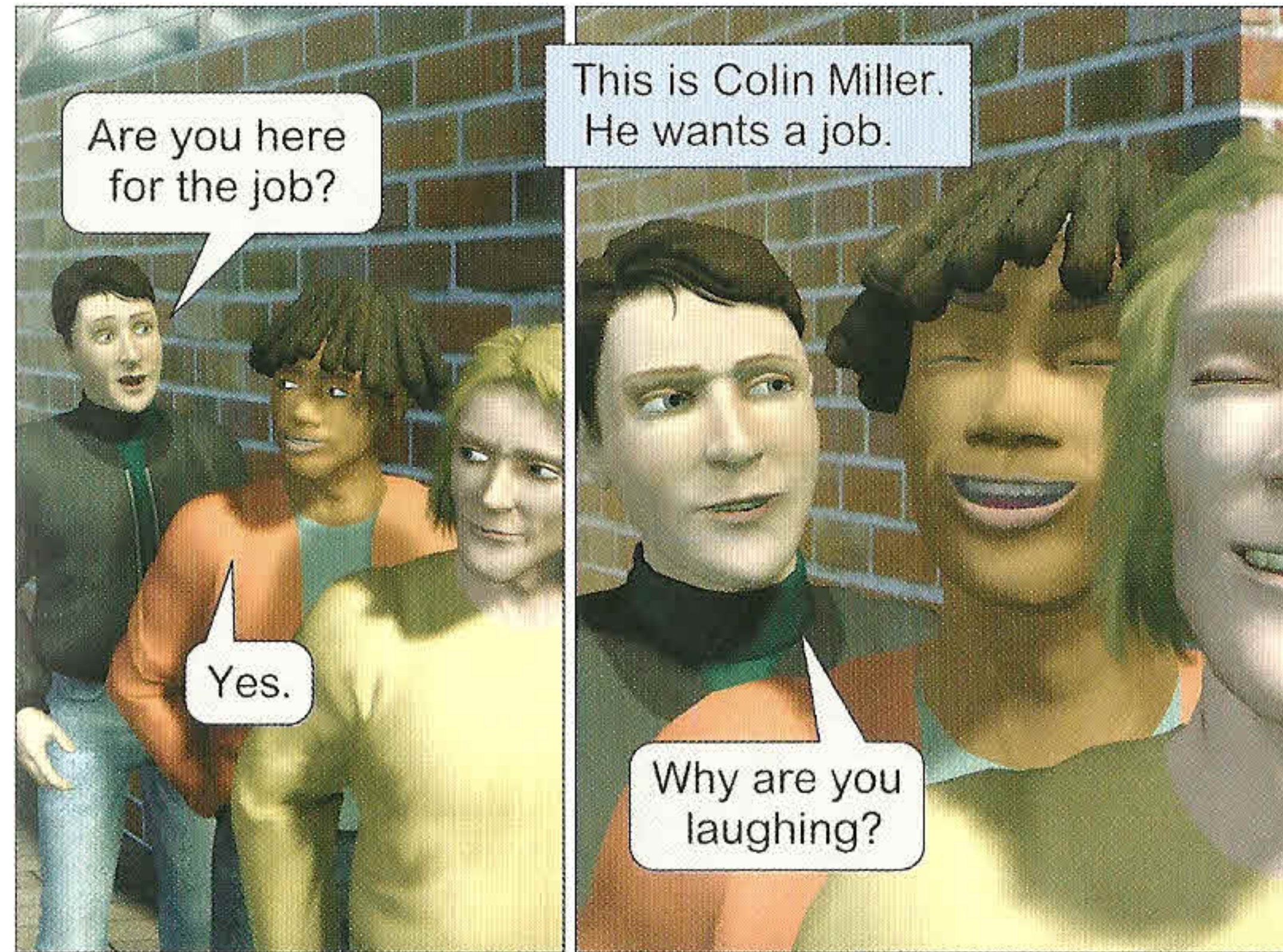
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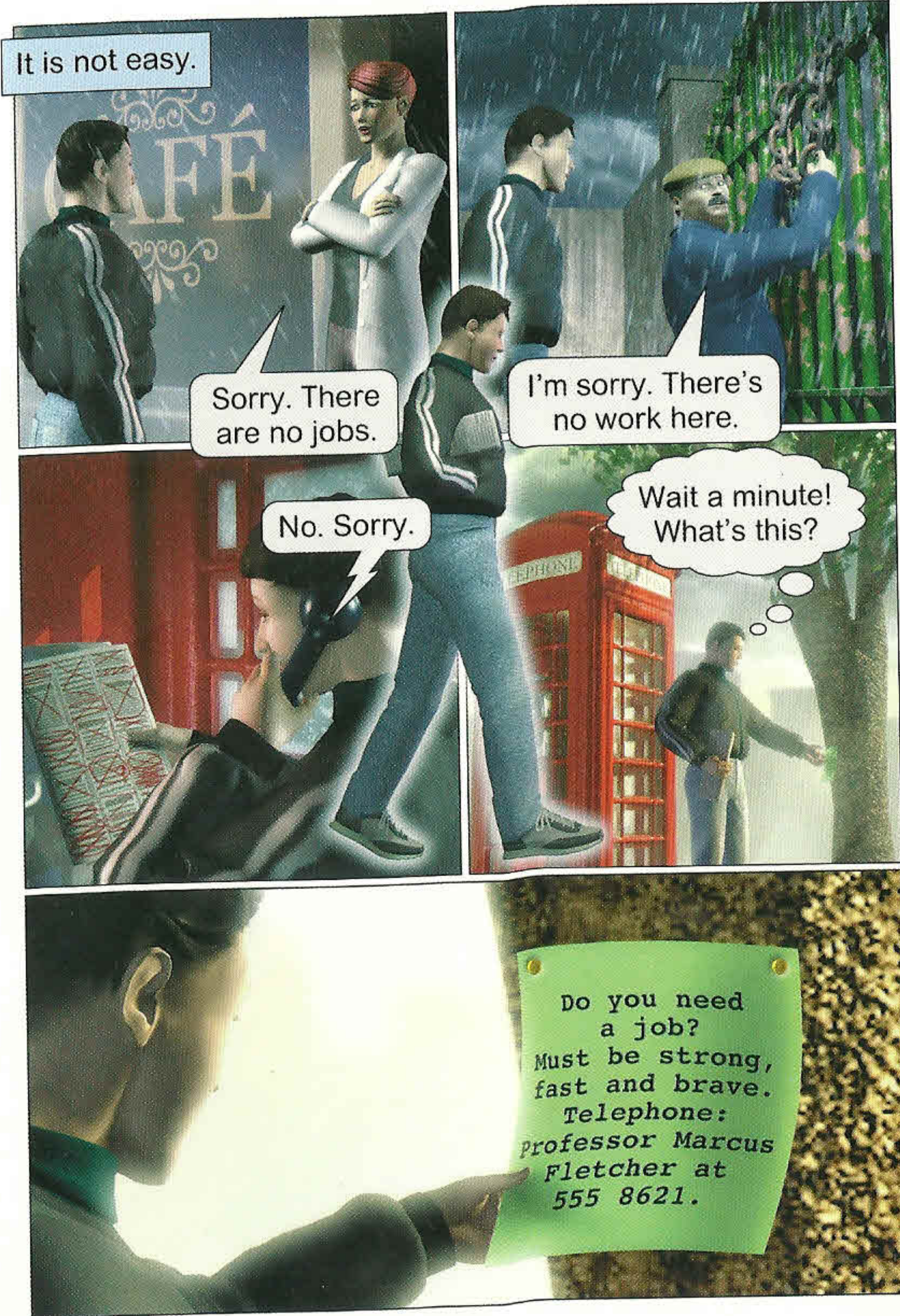
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VAMPIRE KILLER







Sit down.
Why do you
want this job?

The professor asks
lots of questions.

How old are you?

Eighteen.

Are you a fast runner?

Well, I play football
every week.

Are you strong and brave?

Well, yes. I think I am.

Do you like horror films?

They're OK. Why?
Are you making
a horror film?

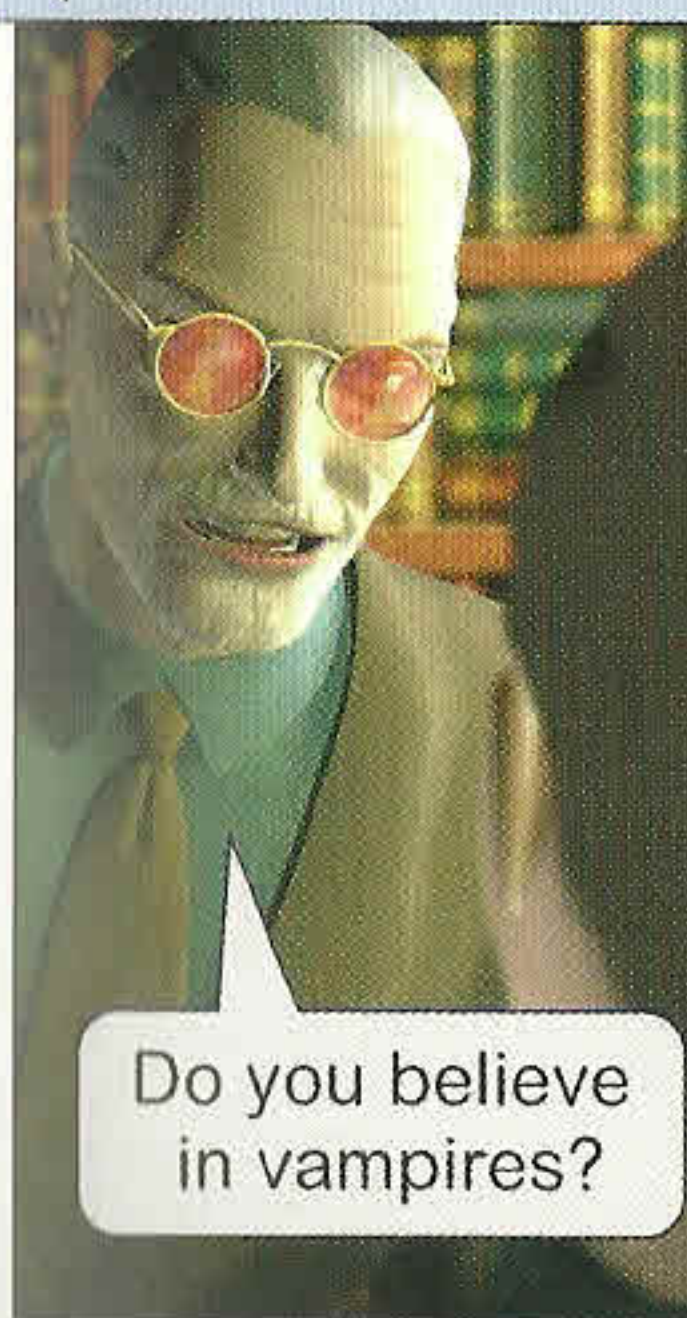
Do you believe in ghosts?

What?

I need money.
There aren't
any jobs in
this town.

What is
this job?

Then Fletcher
asks the important
question.



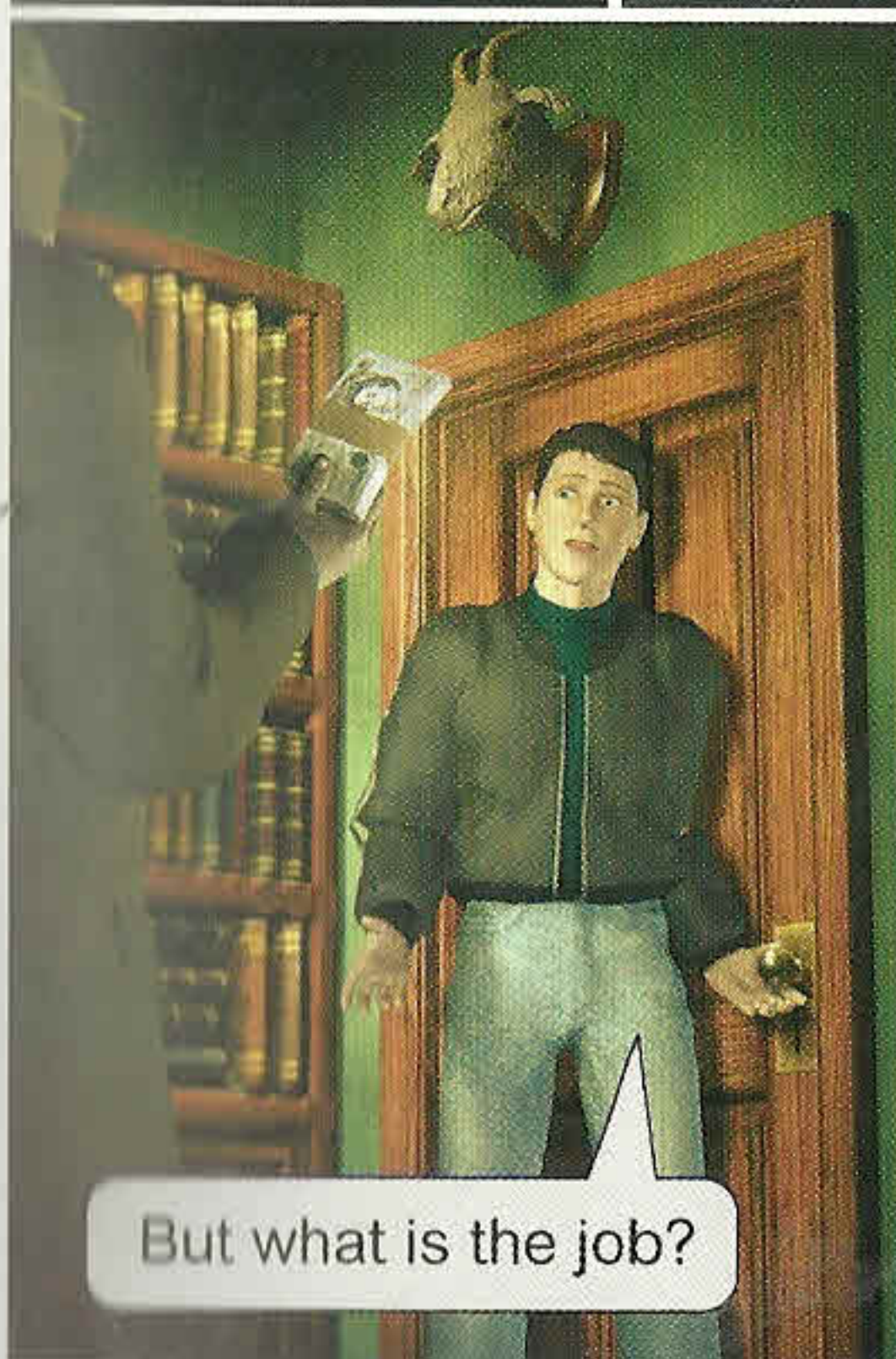
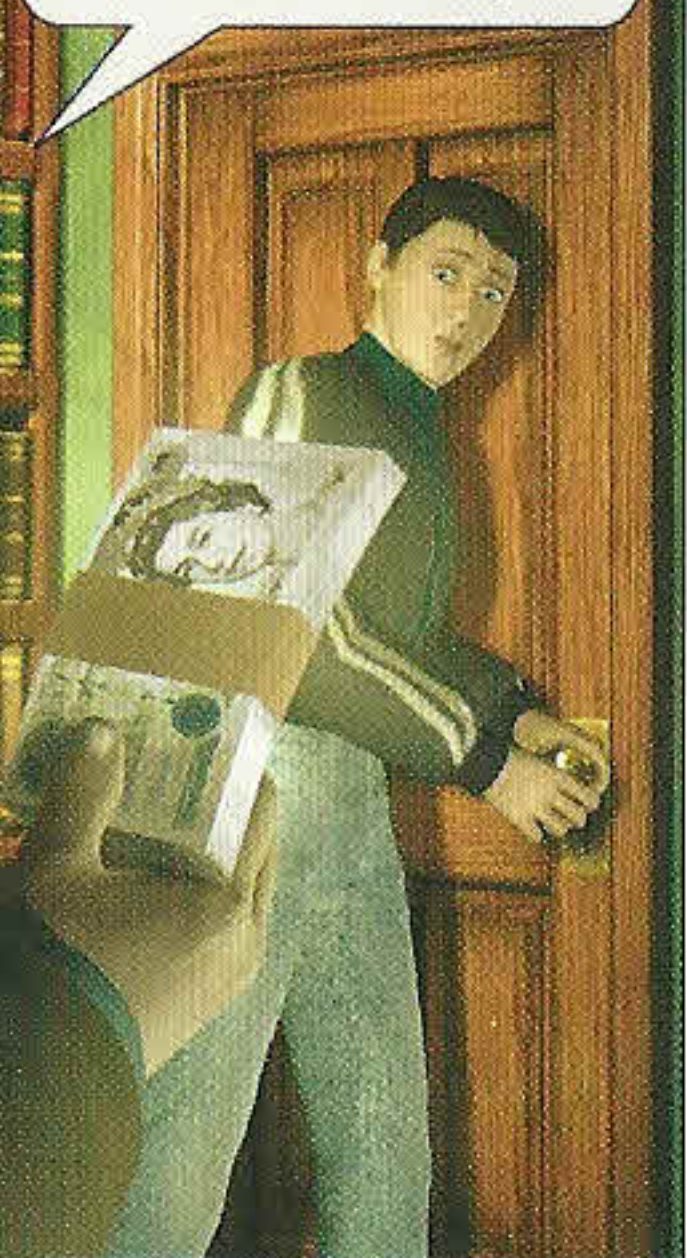
Do you believe
in vampires?

Vampires!
Oh dear - this
is no good!



It's late! Sorry!
I must go now. I -

Wait! You need
a job and you
need money!

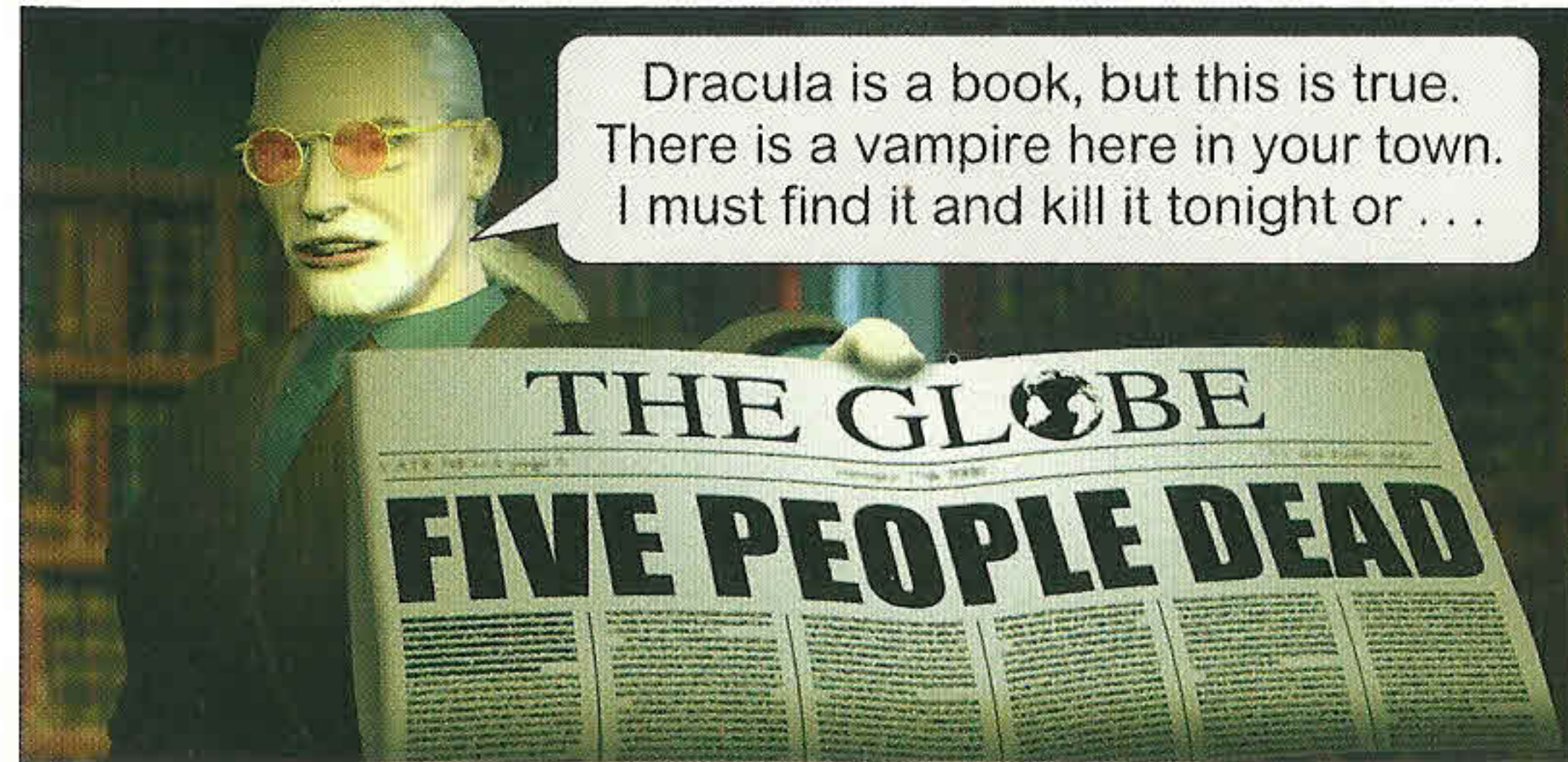


But what is the job?

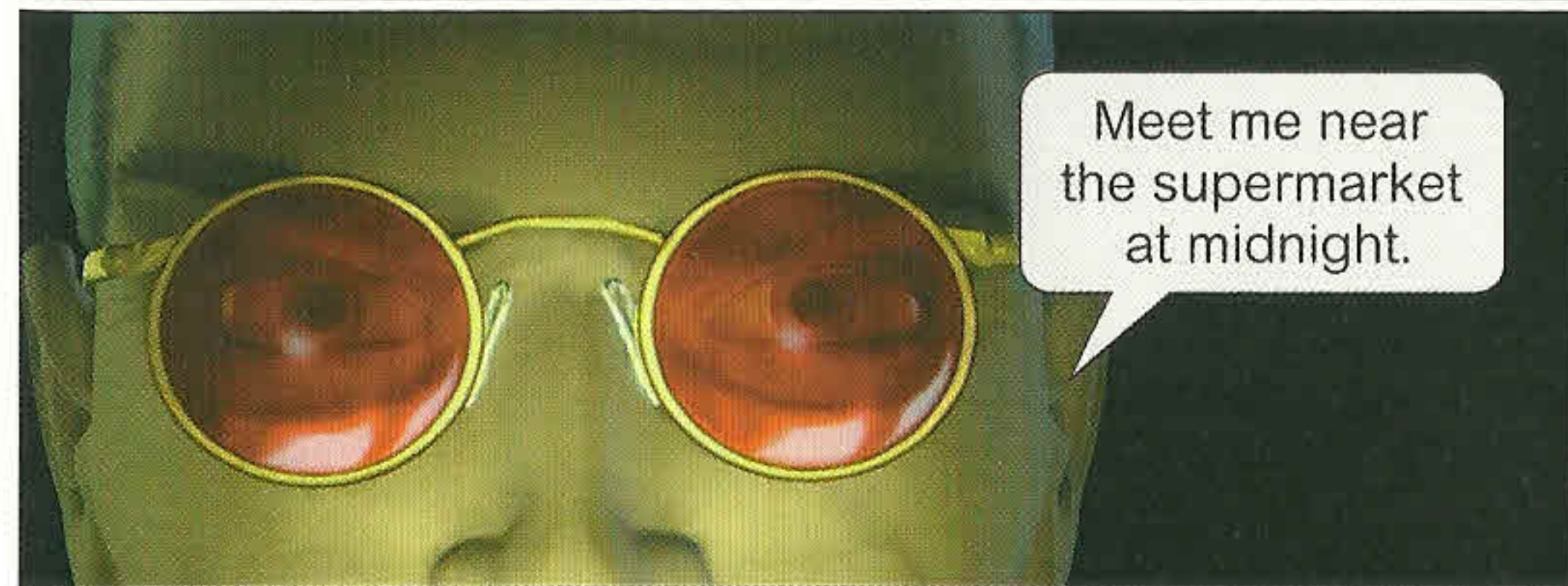
I am a vampire killer.
I find vampires and
I kill them . . . And
now I need help.



Vampires? Are you talking
about Dracula?



Dracula is a book, but this is true. There is a vampire here in your town. I must find it and kill it tonight or . . .



Meet me near the supermarket at midnight.



Colin looks at the money in Fletcher's hand for a long time.

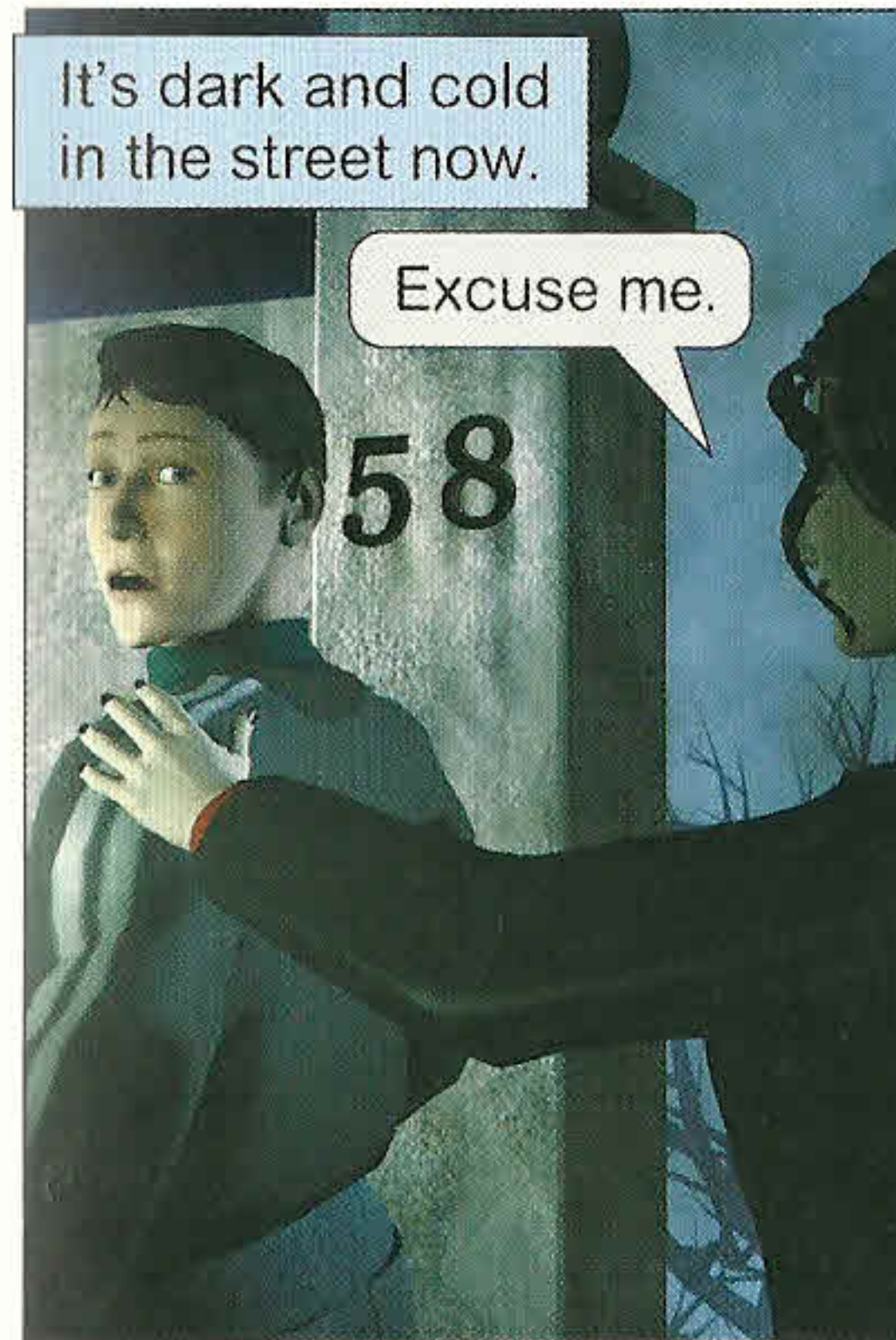
It is a lot of money, but . . .



Then . . .

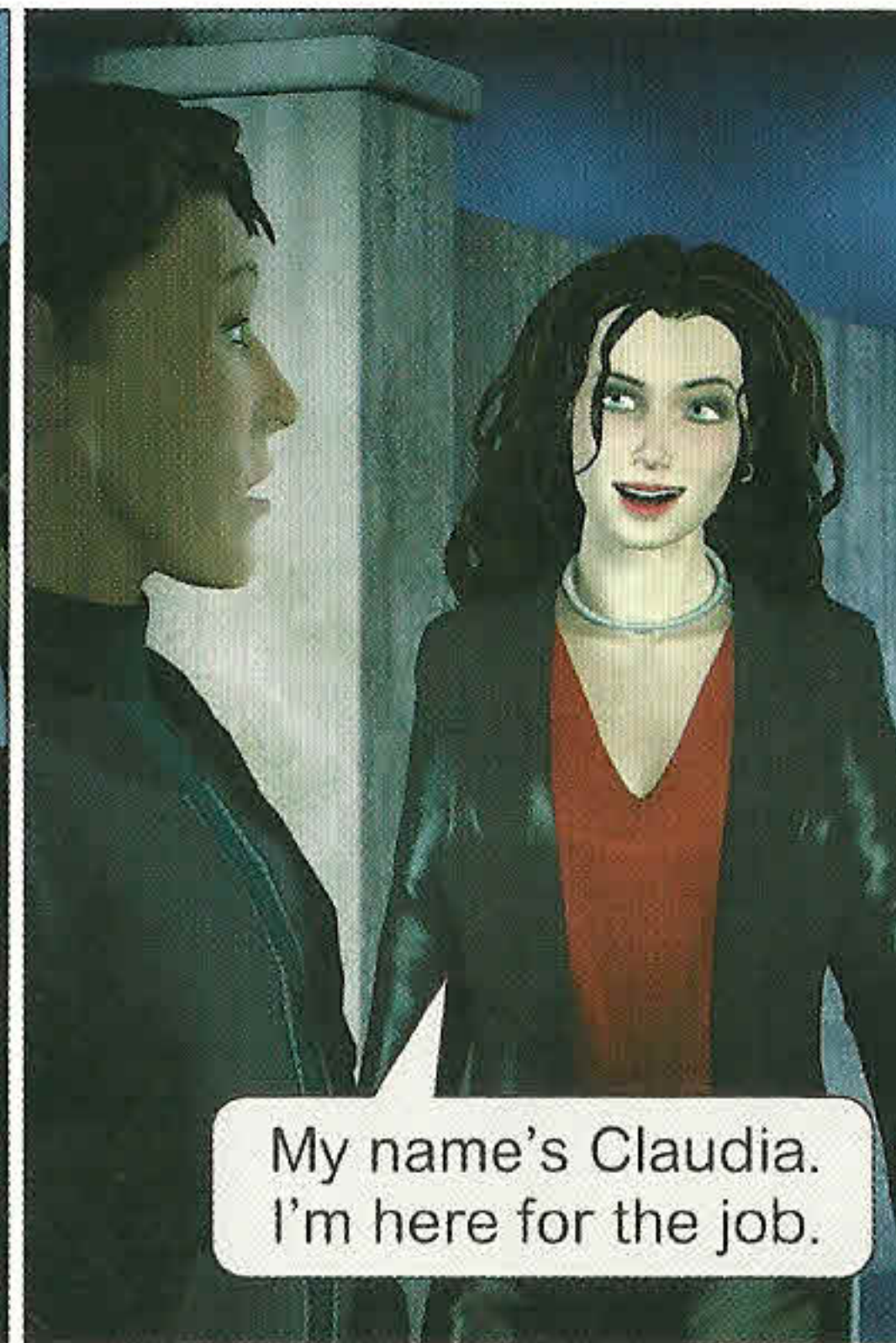
OK.

Good! See you at midnight!



It's dark and cold in the street now.

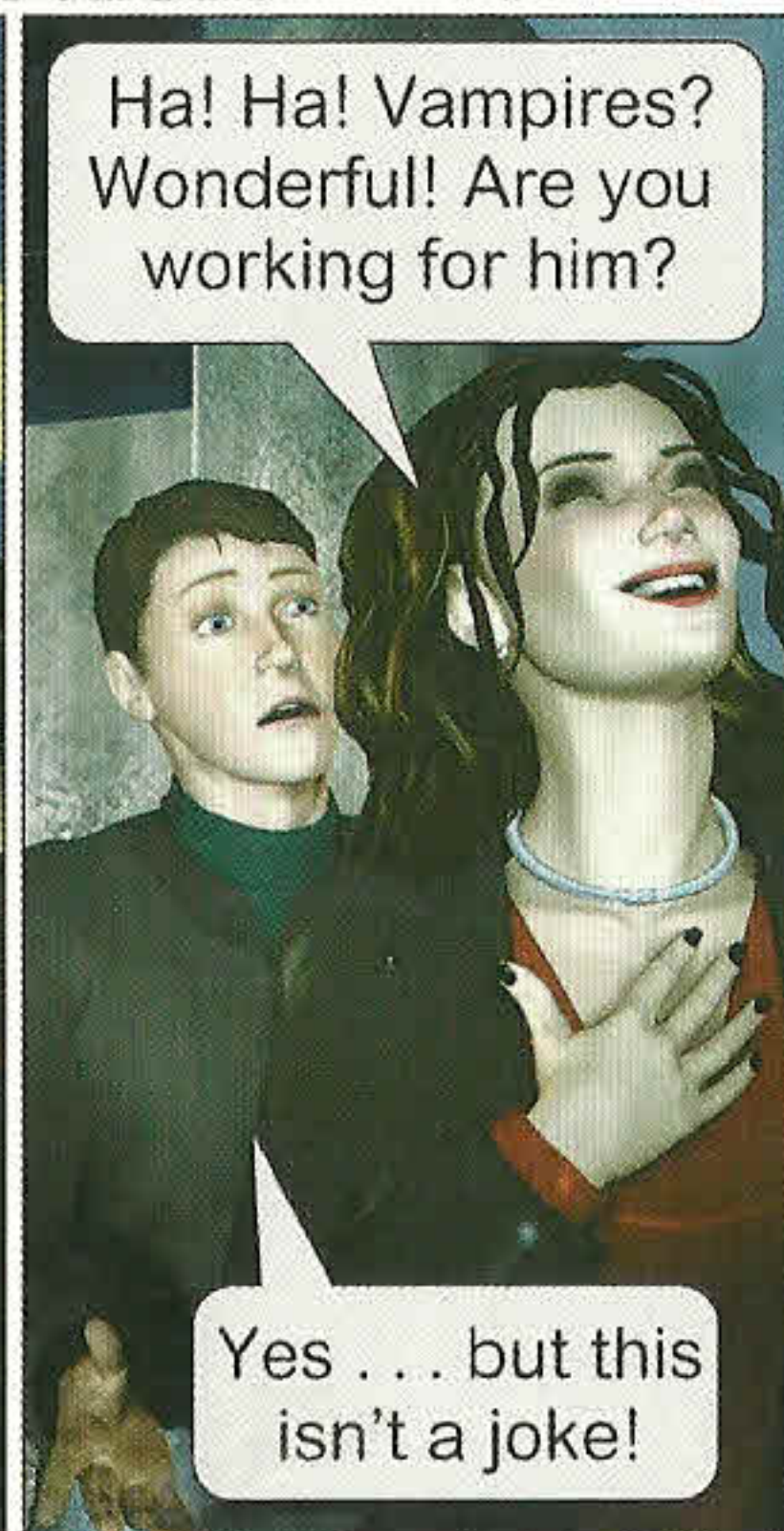
Excuse me.



My name's Claudia. I'm here for the job.



Be careful. He's crazy. He's a vampire killer.



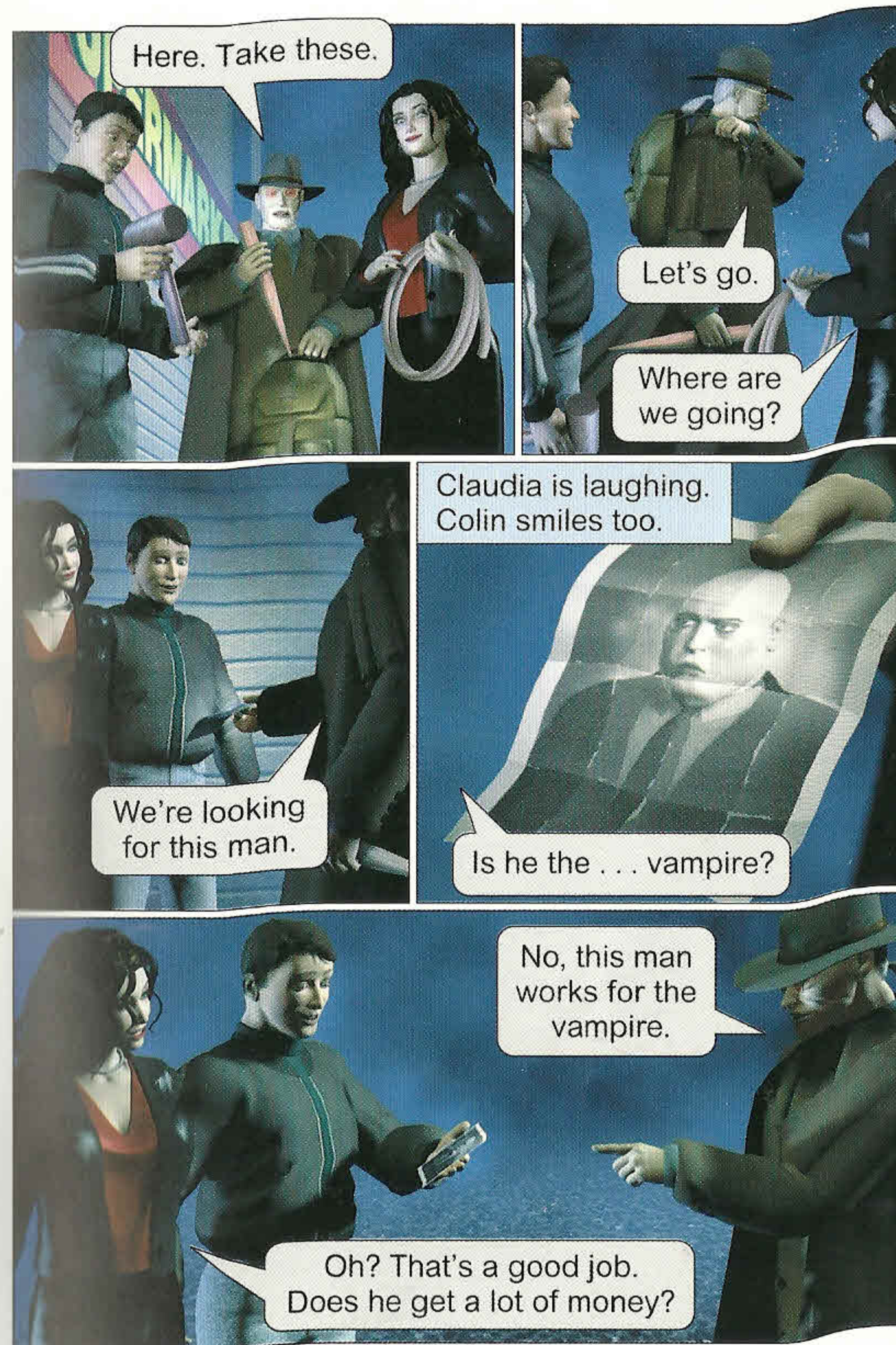
Ha! Ha! Vampires? Wonderful! Are you working for him?

Yes . . . but this isn't a joke!



OK, but I'm interested. Perhaps he wants another helper?





The professor does not answer Claudia's question.

They run through the dark streets.

His name's Renfield . . . and I know where he lives!

This is the street. We can wait here.

So they wait . . .

. . . and wait.

Claudia and Colin talk quietly.

Tell me about yourself, Colin. How old are you?

I'm eighteen. And you?

I'm older than you!

She has a nice smile. She has beautiful eyes too. Don't be stupid, Colin - ask her!

Claudia, would you like to go out with me tomorrow afternoon?

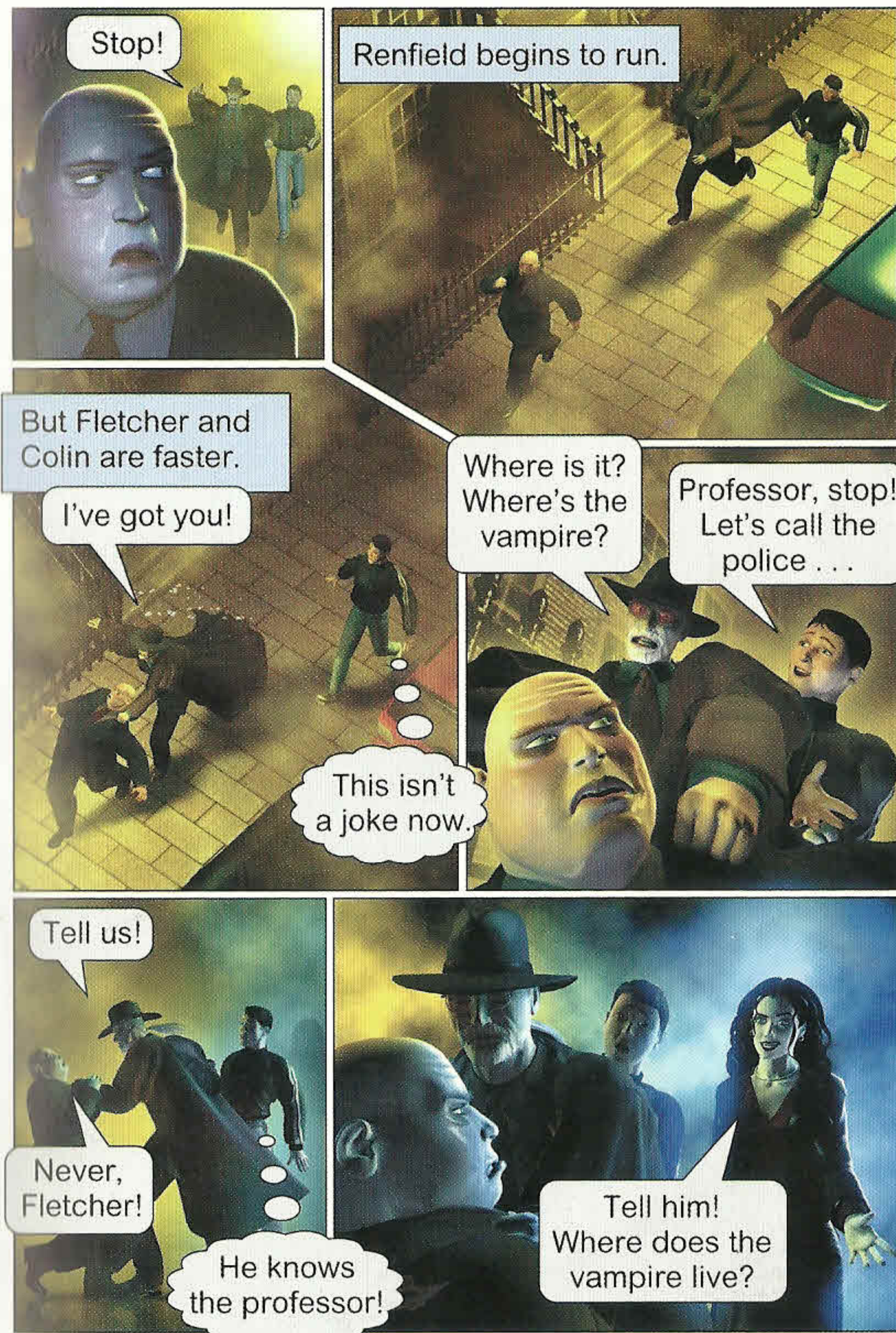
Thanks, Colin, but I can't.

Oh, that's OK. It doesn't matter . . . sorry.

I can't meet you in the afternoon . . . but I can meet you tomorrow night.

Wonderful! Where do you live?

That's OK, Colin. I can find you.



Renfield is quiet for a minute. Then . . .

Do you know that street?

I do.

Twenty-six, Moon Street. Number sixteen.

Quick! There isn't much time.

What about Renfield? Shall I call the police?

No. Leave him. We must be quick! We can go in my car. It's near here.

Renfield begins to laugh.

Good luck, Fletcher! You need it! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Five minutes later.

Claudia, listen. I'm afraid. Fletcher's crazy. Renfield is crazy too, I think. Let's run away now!

No, Colin. I want to know. Is the professor's story true?

I can't leave her with the professor.

She gets in the car.

Colin gets in, too.

The professor drives fast.

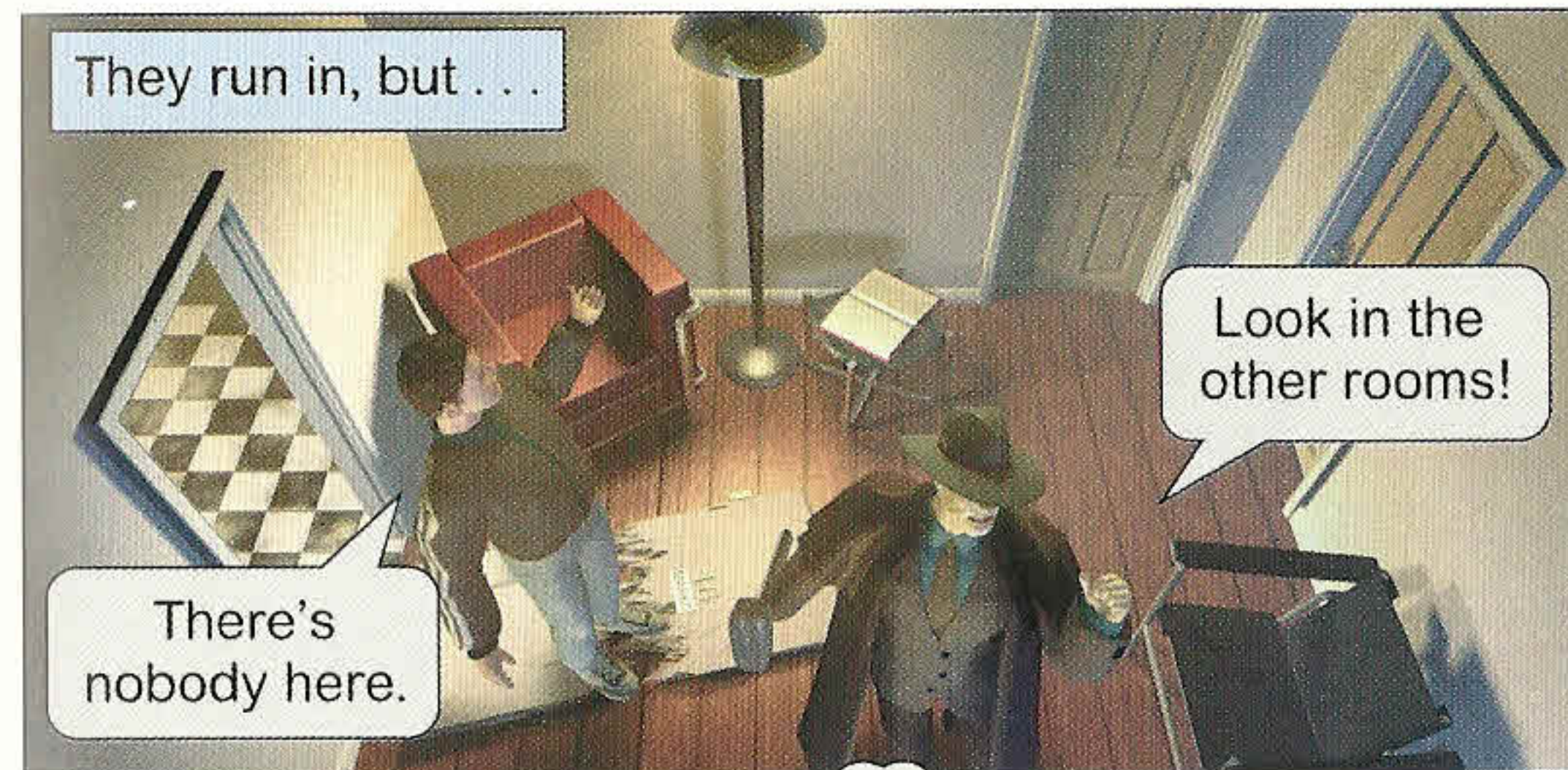
What time is it?

Five o'clock, I think. But my watch is slow.

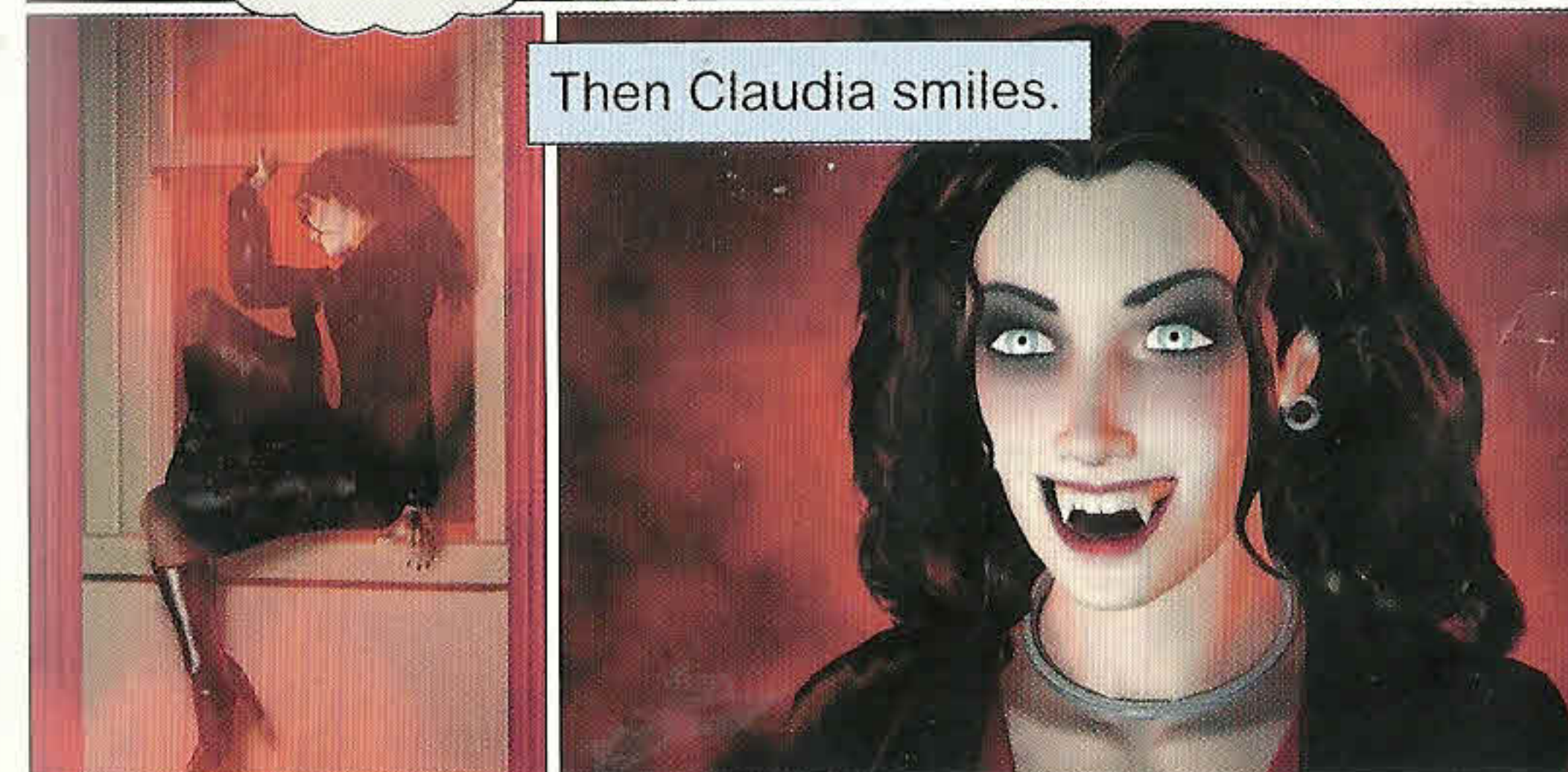
Left here.



Colin goes upstairs with Fletcher.



Colin goes to the bedroom.





Take those joke teeth out, Claudia. This isn't the time for jokes.

It isn't a joke, Colin.

Claudia's office
Number 16
24 West Street
London



You? You live here?

That's right. I do.

And Renfield?

Renfield works for me.

Suddenly Colin remembers.

Where is Professor Fletcher?



Professor! Help!

THUD!

Ouch!



Professor Fletcher! Get up!

Oh dear, oh dear.

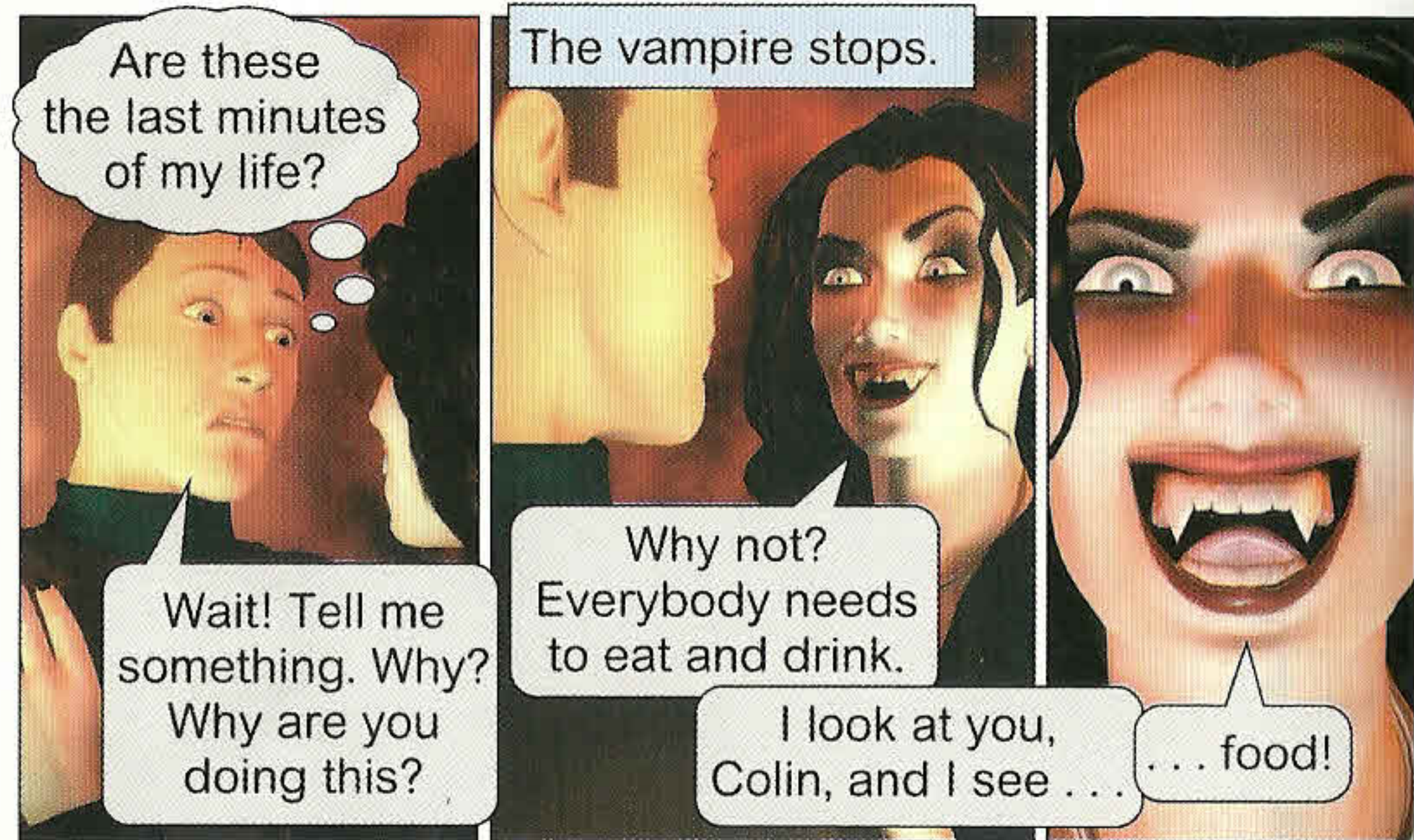


She is looking at his neck.

That's OK, Colin. You don't need to be afraid.

Are you hungry now, Colin? I am. I'm hungry for ...

... blood!



Are these the last minutes of my life?

The vampire stops.

Wait! Tell me something. Why? Why are you doing this?

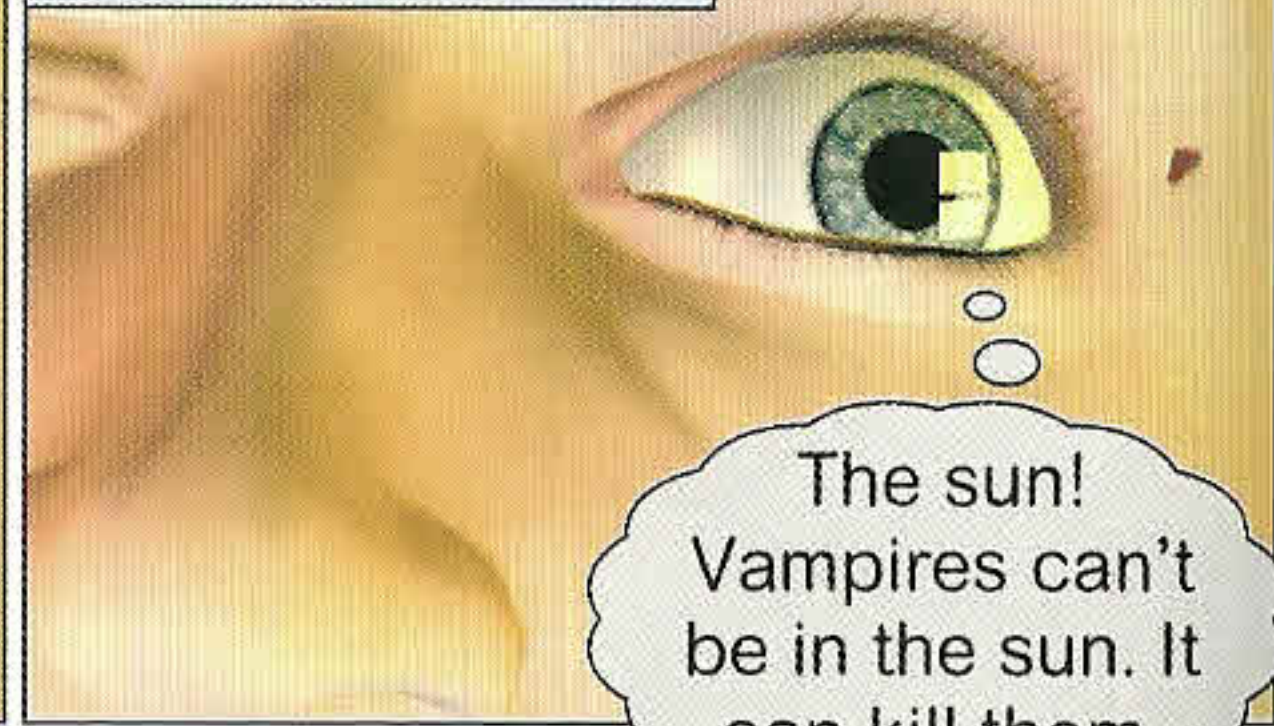
Why not? Everybody needs to eat and drink.

I look at you, Colin, and I see ...

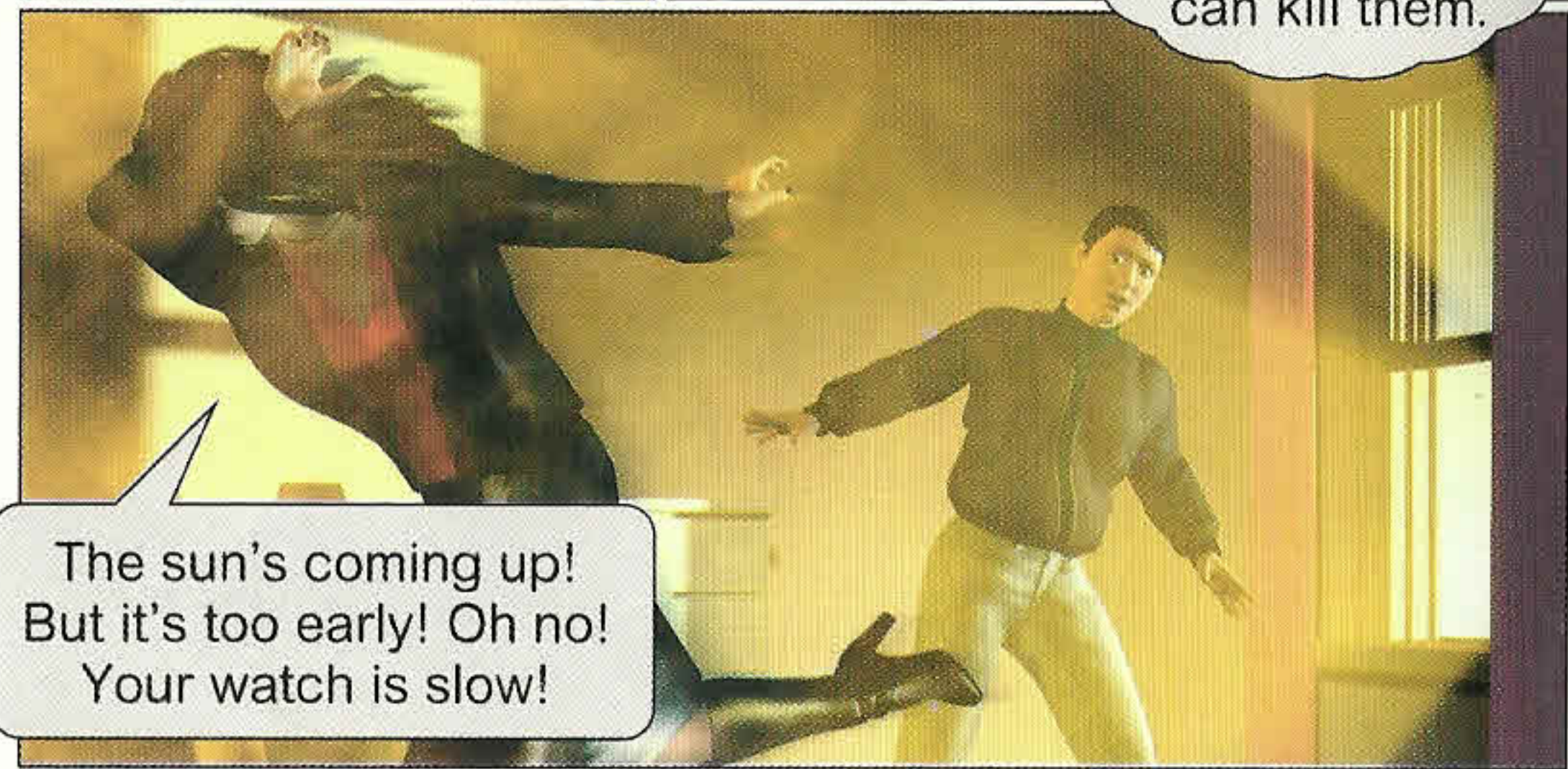
... food!

Colin closes his eyes and waits to die.

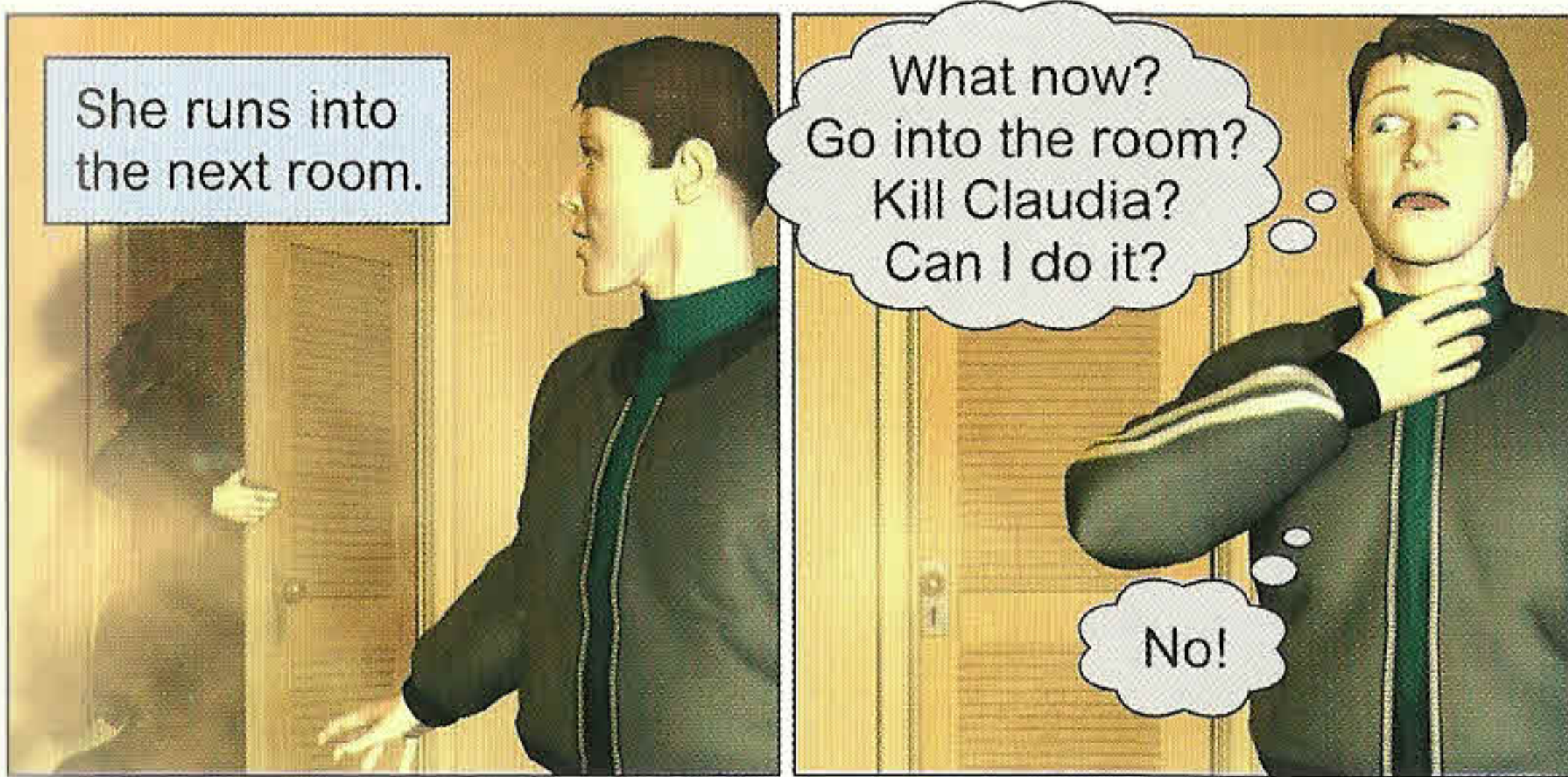
Nothing happens.



The sun! Vampires can't be in the sun. It can kill them.



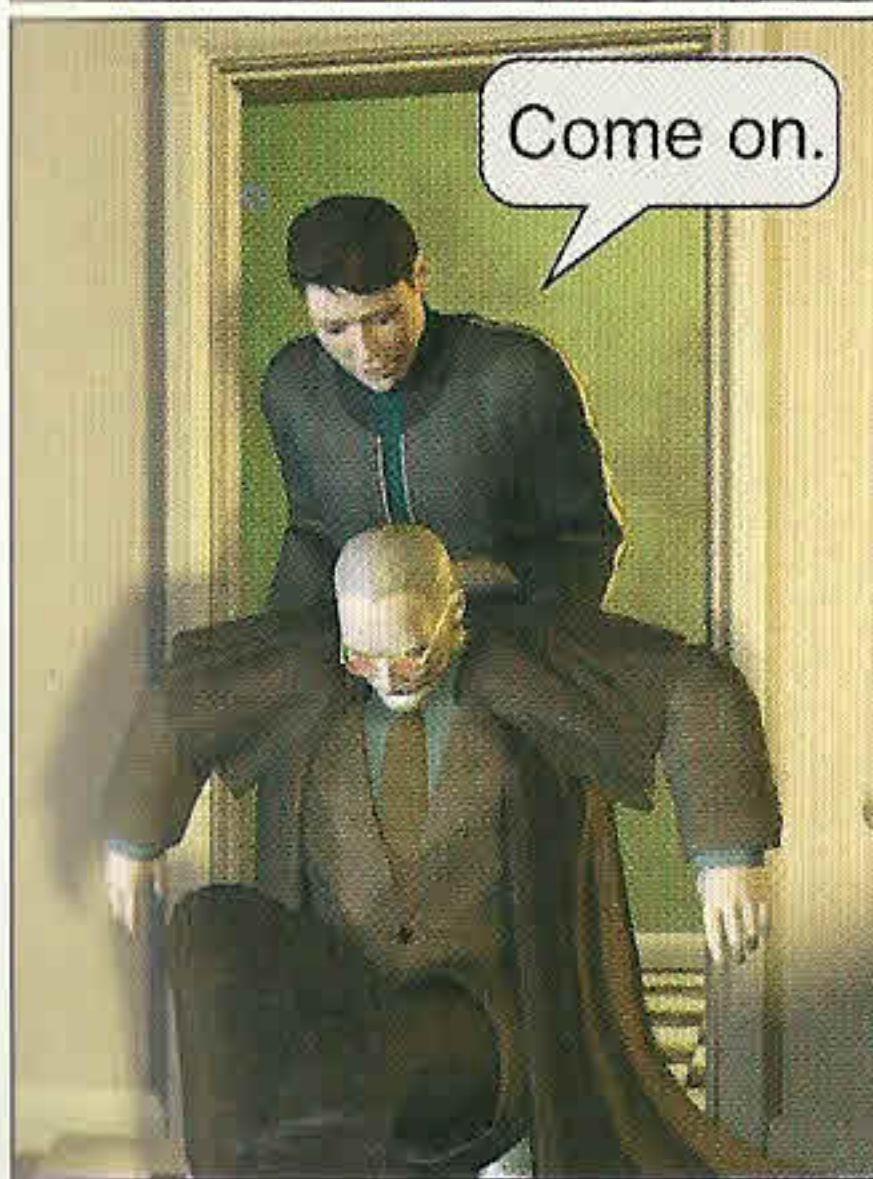
The sun's coming up! But it's too early! Oh no! Your watch is slow!



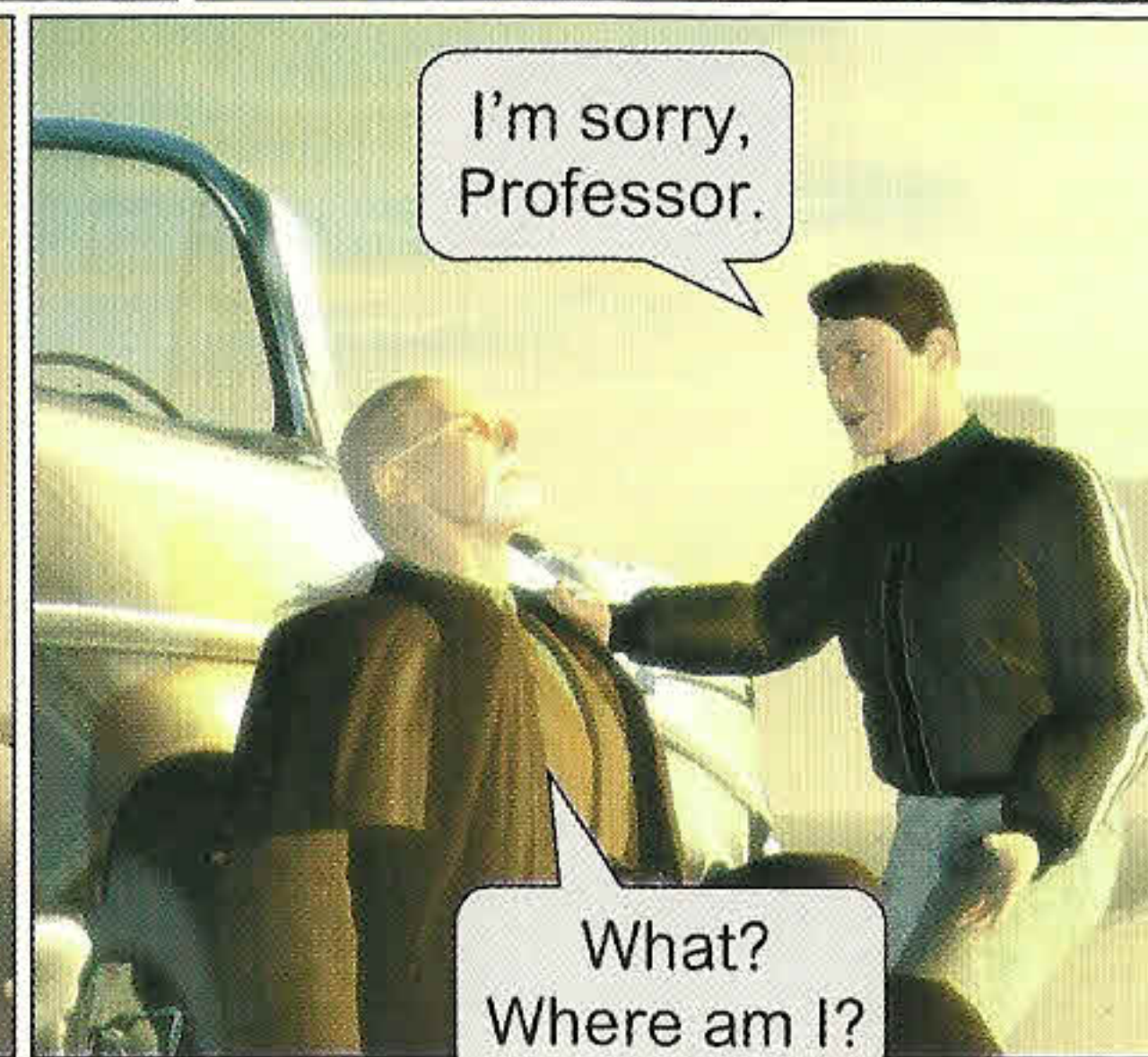
She runs into the next room.

What now? Go into the room? Kill Claudia? Can I do it?

No!

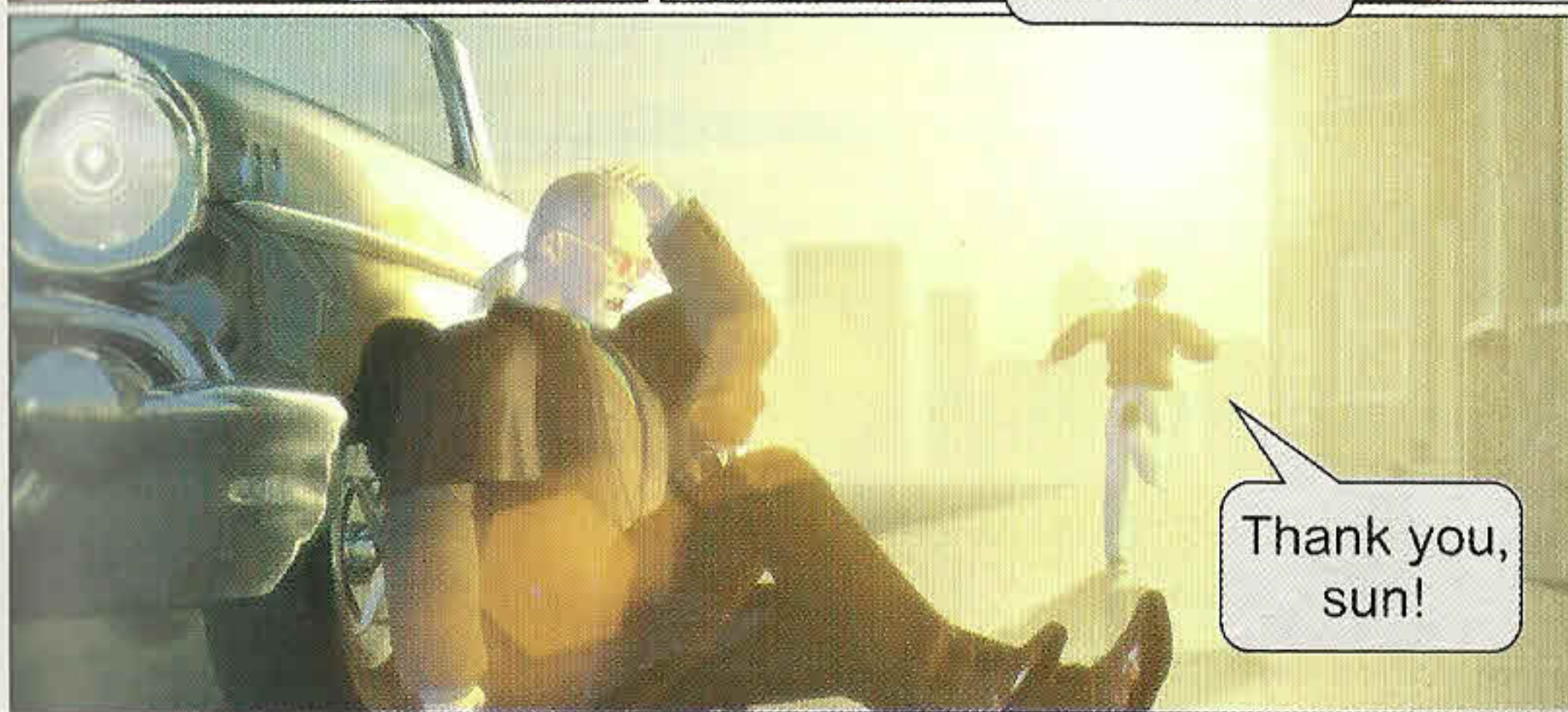


Come on.



I'm sorry, Professor.

What? Where am I?



Thank you, sun!

Colin is at home all day.



I can't call the police. The professor is in hospital, I think.



What can I do?



Everything needs to eat and drink. I understand. But is the fly very happy about that?



Claudia can always find me, she says. Perhaps next week. Perhaps tonight...

GLOSSARY

believe think that something or someone exists

blood a red liquid in the body

brave (*adj*) not showing or feeling fear

crazy (*adj*) mad or insane

dangerous something that can hurt you is dangerous

doctor a medical person who treats sick people

film a moving picture you see at the cinema

fly a small flying insect

food what people and animals eat

ghost a dead person who appears again

horror the kind of books and films about ghosts and vampires

job work people do to earn money

joke something you say or do to make people laugh

kiss touch with the lips

ouch what you say when you are in pain

professor a teacher at a university

strong (*adj*) having a powerful body

vampire a supernatural creature which drinks the blood of living people

Vampire Killer

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

- 1 Look at the front cover of the book and guess the answers to these questions.
 - 1 The story happens . . .
 - a today.
 - b 200 years ago.
 - c not in a or b.
 - 2 The story happens . . .
 - a in a city.
 - b in the country.
 - c not in a or b.

- 2 Read the back cover of the book and choose the correct ending for these sentences.
 - 1 Professor Fletcher is . . .
 - a a vampire.
 - b a vampire killer.
 - c a doctor.
 - 2 At the end of the story I think Colin . . .
 - a finds a vampire.
 - b fights Professor Fletcher.
 - c runs away from the professor.

ACTIVITIES

While Reading

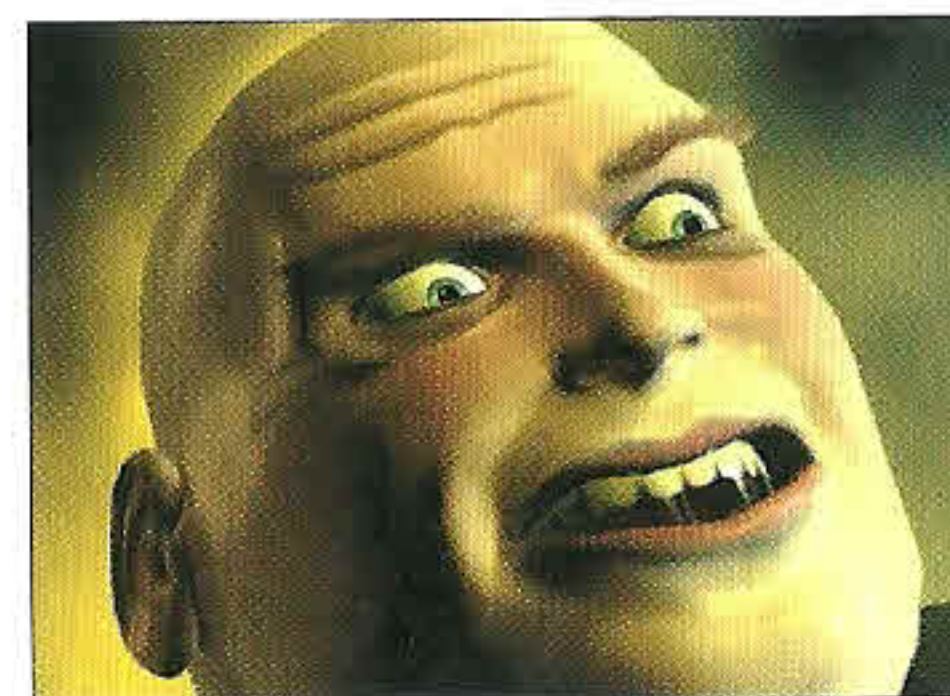
1 Read pages 1–6 then answer these questions.

- 1 Where does Colin find out about the job?
- 2 When does the Professor want to see Colin?
- 3 Is Colin a fast runner?
- 4 Does Colin believe in vampires?
- 5 Why does Colin take the job?

2 Read pages 7–12. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Claudia is not interested in the job.
- 2 Colin's friends laugh at his new job.
- 3 Colin arrives at the supermarket at midnight.
- 4 Colin does not believe in vampires.
- 5 Professor Fletcher is waiting at the supermarket.
- 6 Claudia is working for the professor too.
- 7 Professor Fletcher shows a photograph of the vampire.
- 8 Colin likes Claudia.

3 Read pages 13–18. Match the words with the pictures.



- a Renfield begins to laugh.
- b Just then, they hear a noise.
- c The professor drives fast.
- d Renfield begins to run.

4 Read pages 19–24 and answer these questions.

- 1 Where is Colin when he sees the vampire?
- 2 Who is the vampire?
- 3 Why can't Professor Fletcher help?
- 4 Why does Claudia run into the next room?
- 5 What does Colin do with the Professor?
- 6 What does Colin want to do at the end of the story?

ACTIVITIES

After Reading

1 Match the sentence following sentence halves to make five complete sentences.

- 1 Colin takes the job . . .
 - 2 His friends laugh . . .
 - 3 Colin is late . . .
 - 4 Claudia runs away . . .
 - 5 Colin wants to leave this town . . .
- a because Colin is a vampire killer.
 - b because his watch is slow.
 - c because he is afraid of Claudia.
 - d because he needs money.
 - e because she is afraid of the sun.

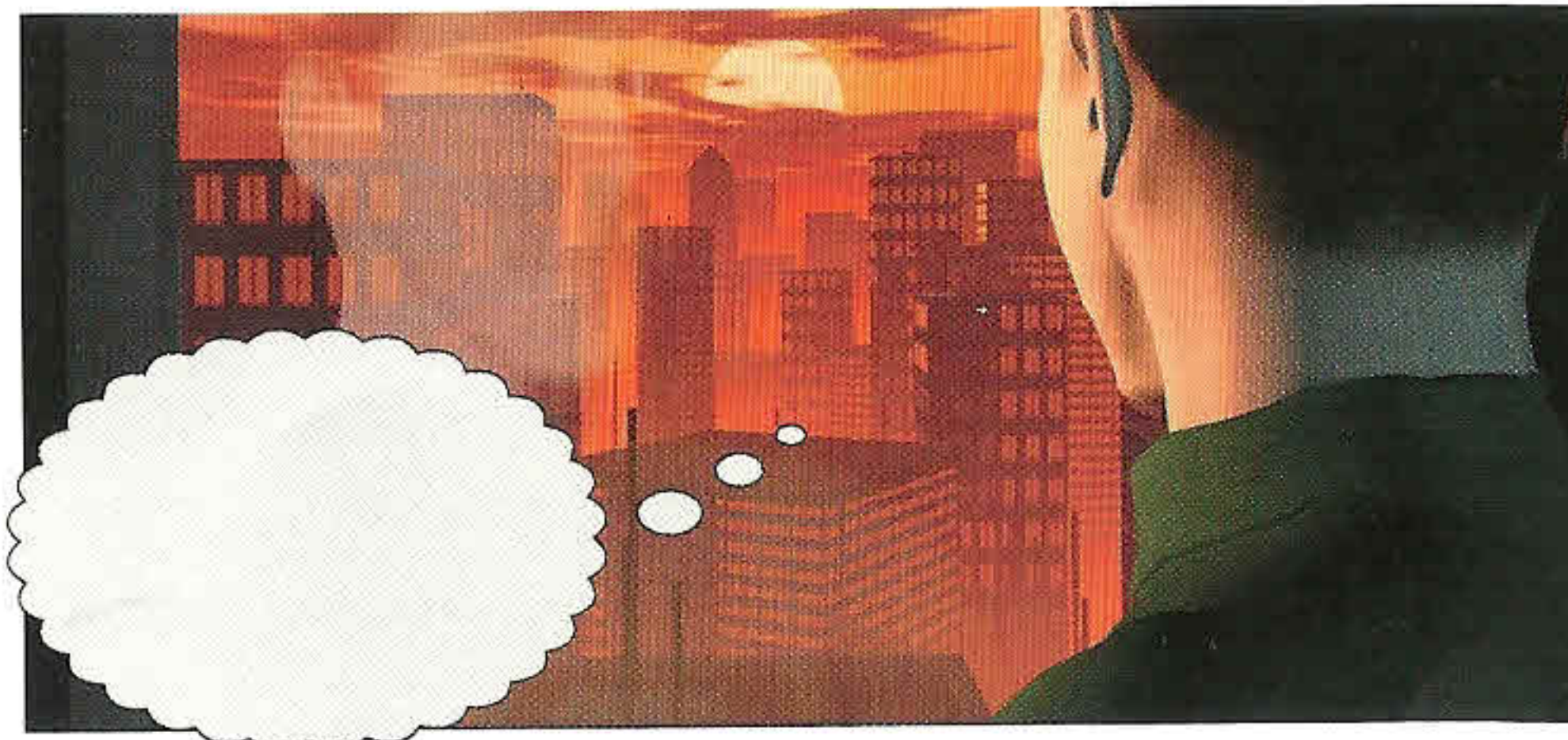
2 Complete this summary of the story. Use these words:

believe blood brave job joke lives midnight money runs sun vampire

Colin calls Professor Fletcher about a Fletcher says he is a vampire killer and he needs a helper. The helper must be strong, fast and Colin does not in vampires, but he takes the job because he needs His friends laugh about the job. One of them buys some vampire teeth from the shop. At Colin meets the professor outside the

supermarket. Claudia is there too. They find a man called Renfield. Renfield tells them where the vampire At the flat, Colin learns something – Claudia is the ! She wants to drink Colin’s But suddenly the comes up. Colin away.

3 Write a different ending by filling in the speech bubbles.



4 What happens when Claudia and Colin meet again? Write and draw a new ending for the story.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Shipton taught English in Turkey and the UK for several years, and then he became an editor of school books in the UK and the US. He lived in the US for ten years in Chicago and then Wisconsin. He has recently returned to England and now lives in Cambridge with his wife and two daughters. He is now a full-time writer and has written almost one hundred books, most of them fiction for children. One of his books, *Bug Muldoon and the Garden of Fear*, received the Austrian Children's Book Award in 2002. Paul wrote *Vampire Killer* because he wanted to write a modern version of a good, old-fashioned scary story.

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