

NSUKKA, ENUGU, NIGERIA.

KENNETH OKAFOR NEVER EMBRACED HIS DAUGHTER'S PASSION FOR CREATIVE ART, HE HAD HIS SENTIMENTS AND NEVER HESITATED TO EXPRESS IT...

WHY WON'T YOU JUST ACCEPT MY VIEW! I'VE TOLD YOU SEVERAL TIMES THAT CREATIVE ART IS NOT A GIRL'S THING AND THAT YOU'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU INVESTED YOUR TIME IN MORE IMPORTANT THINGS... YET, YOU KEEP ASKING ME FOR MONEY TO REGISTER FOR THE LDV INT. ART COMPETITION.

PLEASE, GO AND HELP OUT IN THE KITCHEN, AND STOP WASTING TIME ON ART! IT'S NOT EVEN A LUCRATIVE VENTURE.

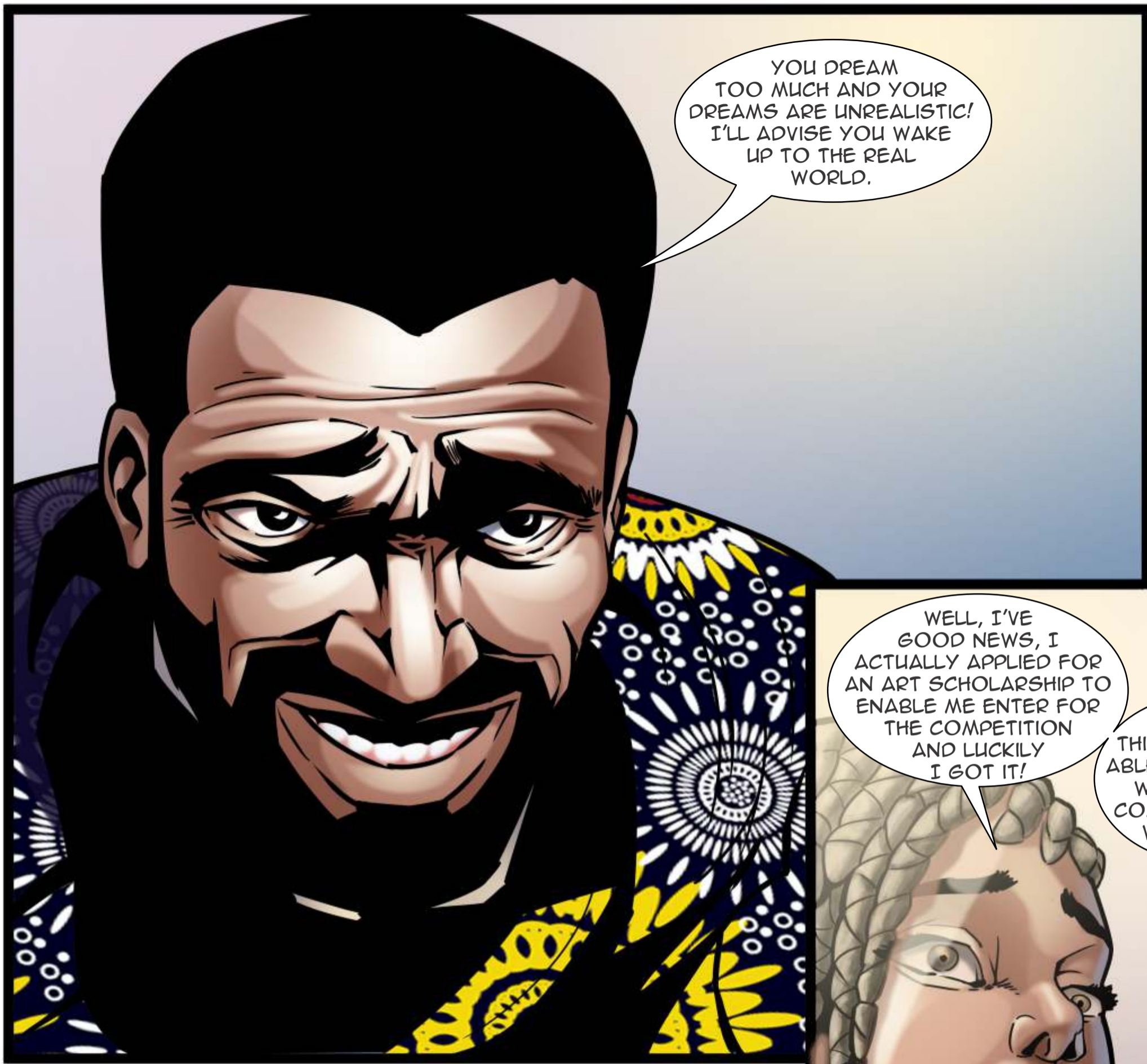
BUT DAD, CREATIVITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GENDER! I JUST LOVE TO EXPRESS MYSELF THROUGH MY DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS AND ART GENERALLY! I REALLY BELIEVE I CAN MAKE A MASSIVE IMPACT THROUGH MY CREATIVE ART!

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE, YOUNG LADY! EVEN THE COMPETITION YOU ARE ENTERING FOR IS NAMED AFTER A MAN "LEONARDO DA VINCI!" THAT ALONE SHOULD TELL YOU CREATIVE ART IS NOT REALLY A SPACE FOR LADIES.

BUT DAD, I COULD CHANGE THAT, MY WORKS CAN BECOME SO PHENOMENAL THAT SOMETIME IN FUTURE WE CAN HAVE A HUGE ART COMPETITION LIKE THIS IN MY NAME "IJEOMA OKAFOR ART COMPETITION."

ACCELERATE!
(Women in IP)





YOU DREAM TOO MUCH AND YOUR DREAMS ARE UNREALISTIC! I'LL ADVISE YOU WAKE UP TO THE REAL WORLD.



WELL, I'VE GOOD NEWS, I ACTUALLY APPLIED FOR AN ART SCHOLARSHIP TO ENABLE ME ENTER FOR THE COMPETITION AND LUCKILY I GOT IT!

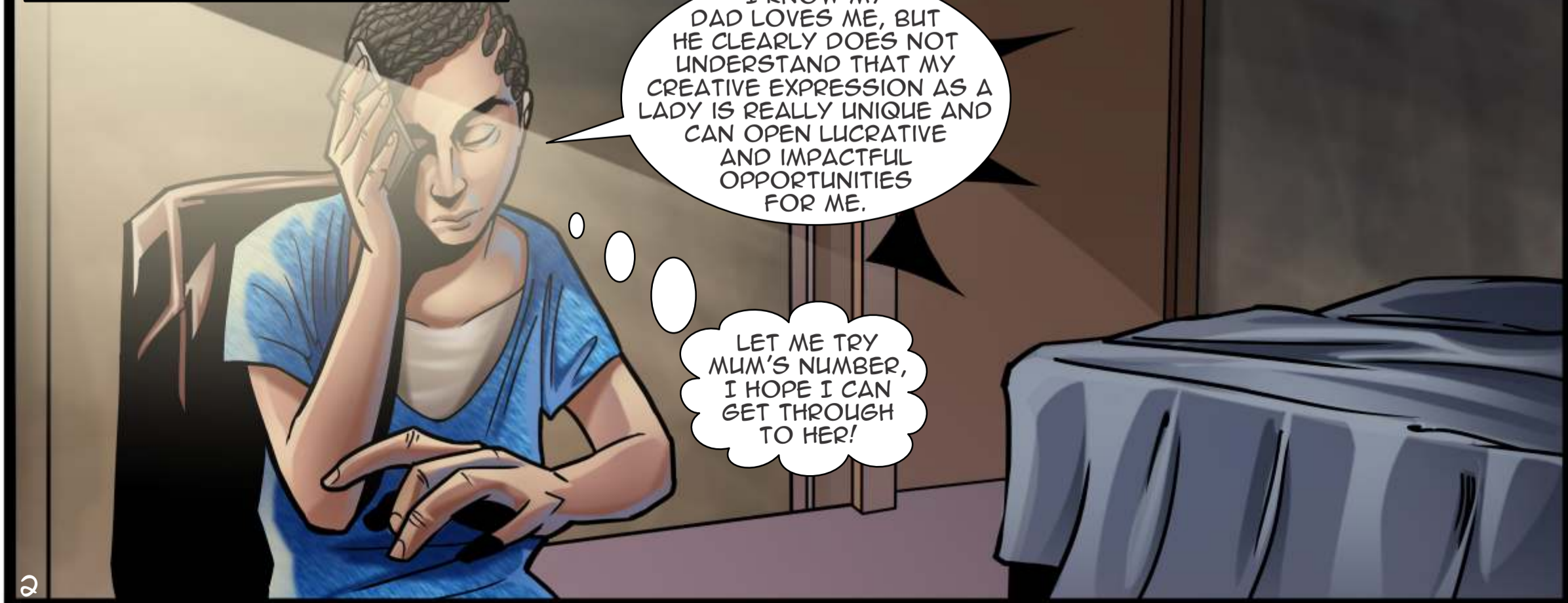
FOLLOWING THIS, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUBMIT MY WORK FOR THE COMPETITION TWO WEEKS AGO...



IJEOMA, HAVE IT YOUR WAY THEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE DECISIONS YOURSELF. I'M PRETTY CERTAIN THAT SOON ENOUGH YOU WILL HOWEVER UNDERSTAND ALL I'VE BEEN SAYING TO YOU...

AT LEAST AT THE END OF THE DAY, MY MAKING AN ATTEMPT AT THE COMPETITION WILL BE A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN SITTING BACK AND GIVING A MILLION EXCUSES ON WHY I CANNOT!

KENNETH LEAVES THE ROOM QUIETLY.



I KNOW MY DAD LOVES ME, BUT HE CLEARLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THAT MY CREATIVE EXPRESSION AS A LADY IS REALLY UNIQUE AND CAN OPEN LUCRATIVE AND IMPACTFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME.

LET ME TRY MUM'S NUMBER, I HOPE I CAN GET THROUGH TO HER!

VINTEC HEADQUARTERS, MINNA, NIGER STATE, NIGERIA.

NKIRU OKAFOR, CAREER WOMAN, FOREMOST NIGERIAN A.I. SCIENTIST, COMPUTER PROGRAMMER.

RETURNING A VOICE MESSAGE...

"HELLO IJ, IT'S GREAT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, AND I'M SORRY I MISSED YOUR CALLS. DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE DADDY WILL EVENTUALLY UNDERSTAND. WHEN I GET HOME WE CAN TALK MORE ABOUT IT, BUT KNOW THAT I SUPPORT YOU COMPLETELY! I HAVE TO RUN NOW, I LOVE YOU SWEETHEART!"

GOSH! IJEOMA HAS CALLED TWO TIMES TODAY AND LEFT A VOICE NOTE ABOUT HER ART COMPETITION- I REALLY HOPE SHE IS ALRIGHT!

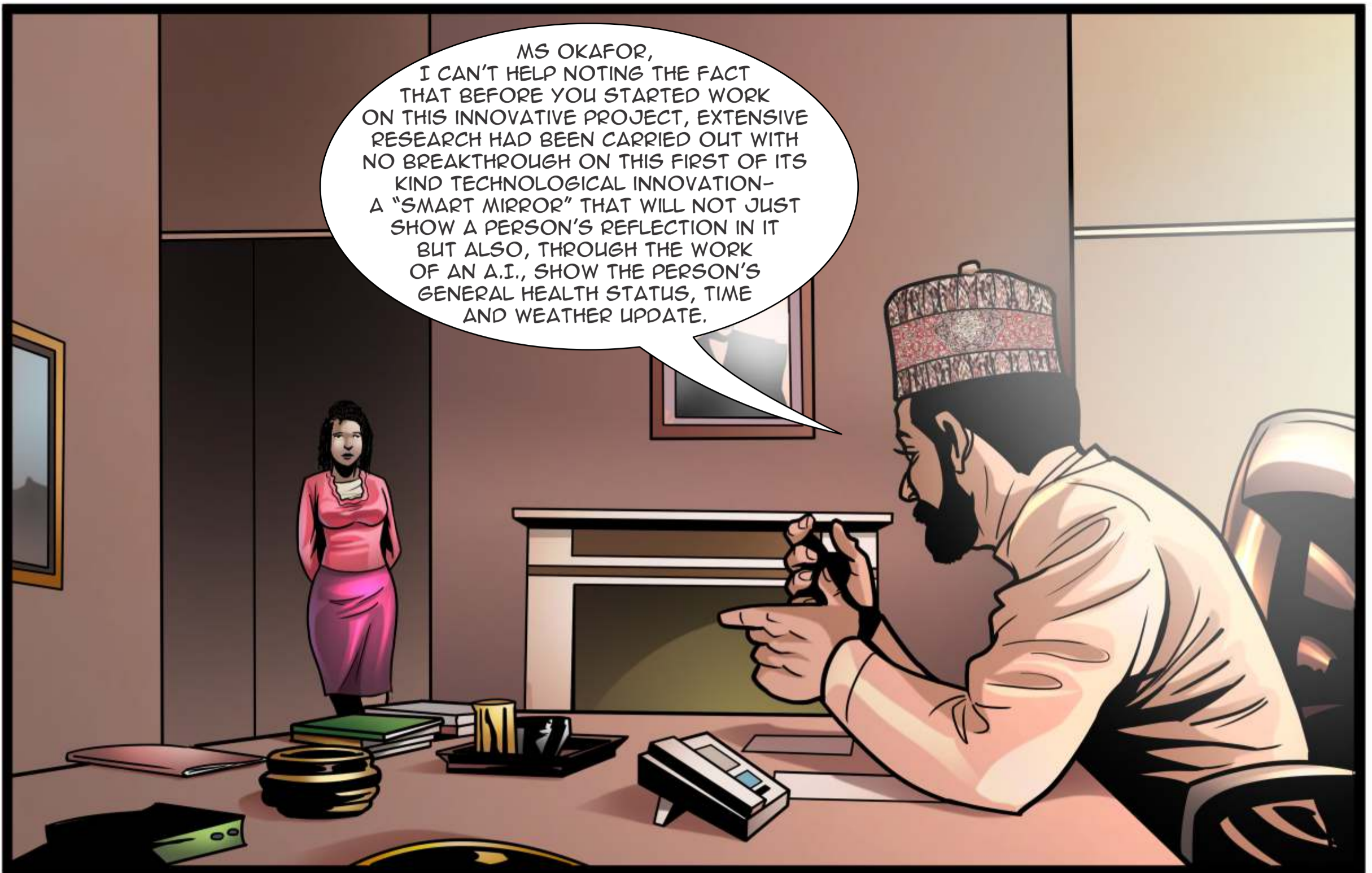
THIS RESEARCH I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IN VINTEC IS GRADUALLY EATING ME UP. I HOPE WE GET A BREAKTHROUGH SOON.

THE INTERCOM BEAMS...

MS OKAFOR, KINDLY SEE ME IN MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

OKAY, MD.

YOU REQUESTED I COME OVER.



MS OKAFOR,
I CAN'T HELP NOTING THE FACT
THAT BEFORE YOU STARTED WORK
ON THIS INNOVATIVE PROJECT, EXTENSIVE
RESEARCH HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH
NO BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS FIRST OF ITS
KIND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION-
A "SMART MIRROR" THAT WILL NOT JUST
SHOW A PERSON'S REFLECTION IN IT
BUT ALSO, THROUGH THE WORK
OF AN A.I., SHOW THE PERSON'S
GENERAL HEALTH STATUS, TIME
AND WEATHER UPDATE.



SO, WHEN THE
ENTIRE PROJECT
WAS HANDED OVER
TO YOU, I DID NOT
EXPECT MUCH.

I'M SO
SORRY MD, I
TRIED AS MUCH
AS I COULD.

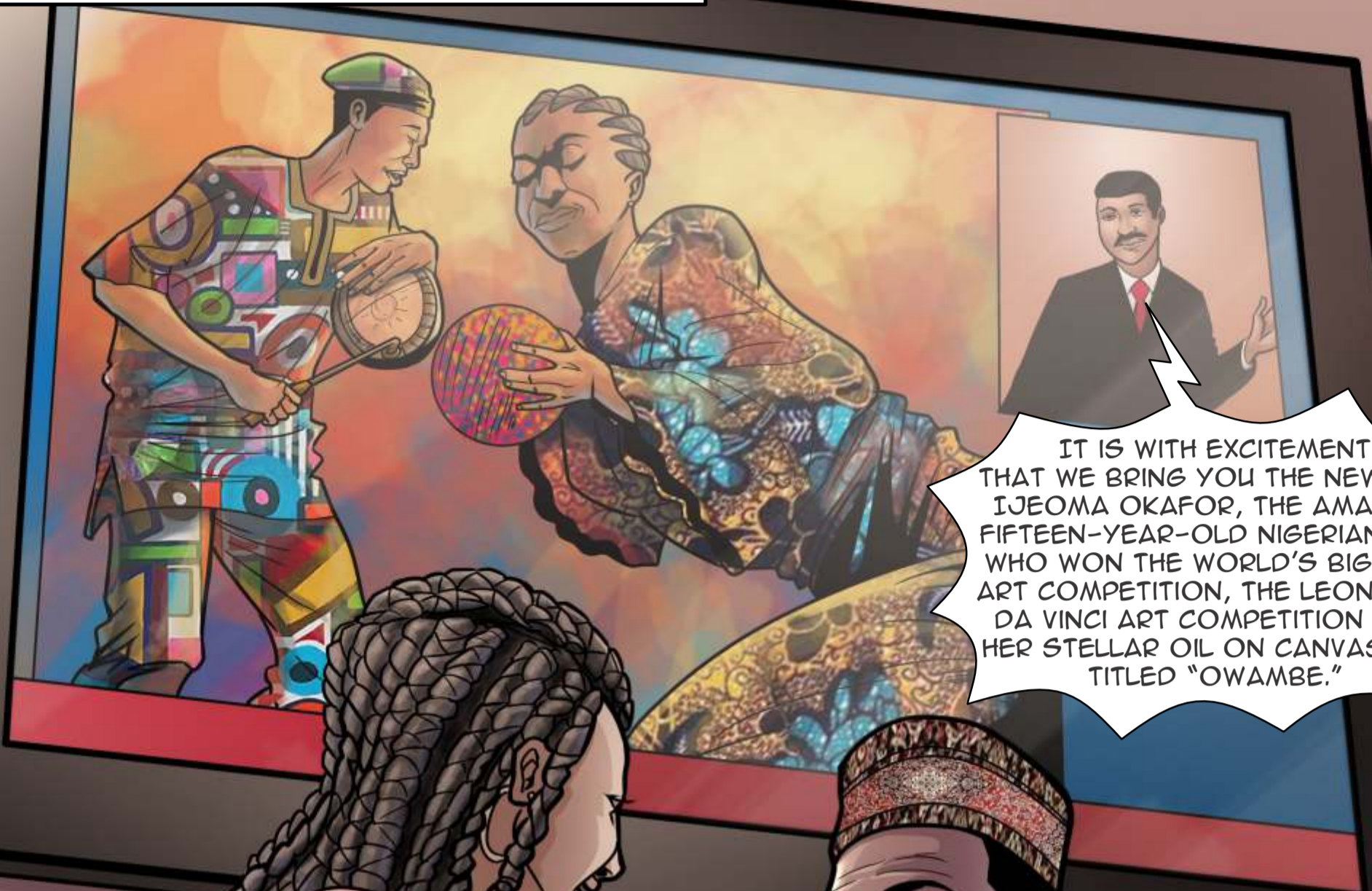


BUT I
WAS WRONG.



DOES THIS
MEAN MY LAST
ALGORITHM AND
EXPERIMENT ON
THE PROJECT
WORKED?

WHEN WOMEN STEP INTO THE SPHERE OF INNOVATION, THE UNIQUE WAY THEY ARE WIRED HELP TO INSPIRE INNOVATIONS THAT SHAPE A BRIGHTER AND BETTER FUTURE!



IT IS WITH EXCITEMENT THAT WE BRING YOU THE NEWS OF IJEOMA OKAFOR, THE AMAZING FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD NIGERIAN GIRL WHO WON THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ART COMPETITION, THE LEONARDO DA VINCI ART COMPETITION WITH HER STELLAR OIL ON CANVAS SHE TITLED "OWAMBE."



YES IT DID, MS OKAFOR. YOUR UNIQUE APPROACH TO THIS MUST HAVE WORKED WONDERS. CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE!

HER EXCEPTIONAL WORK HAS SPARKED OFF A GLOBAL DISCUSSION ON WHY MORE WOMEN NEED TO VENTURE INTO CREATIVITY.



GISSSS, MY BABY GIRL WON!!!!

BACK IN NSUKKA, ENUGU...



AM I DREAMING OR HAVE I WOKEN UP? I WON!!!!

DADDY COME AND SEE, I WON!!!



WOMEN IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD ARE SHAPING THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR IMAGINATION, INGENUITY AND HARD WORK, BUT OFTEN FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO THRIVE.

WOMEN ARE DRIVING SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS, SETTING NEW CREATIVE TRENDS, BUILDING BUSINESSES AND TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD.

WOMEN BRING NEW PERSPECTIVES AND TALENTS TO THE TABLE BUT, THE PROBLEM IS, TOO FEW WOMEN ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) SYSTEM. THAT MEANS TOO FEW WOMEN ARE BENEFITTING FROM IP. WE ALL GAIN FROM ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING WOMEN TO USE THE IP SYSTEM.

WHEN WOMEN THEREFORE LOSE OUT, WE ALL LOSE OUT.

WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO USE THE IP SYSTEM TO PROTECT AND ADD VALUE TO THEIR WORK. THAT WAY, WE CAN DEVELOP MORE AND BETTER TECHNOLOGIES THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE, ESTABLISH MORE THRIVING WOMAN-LED BUSINESSES, SUPPORT ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND BUILD BACK BETTER.

WHEN INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND BUSINESS ARE INCLUSIVE AND EMBRACE NEW IDEAS AND PERSPECTIVES, WE ALL BENEFIT.

LET'S WORK TOWARDS GENDER PARITY IN IP AND UNLEASH THE INGENUITY AND CREATIVITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS EVERYWHERE. TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BETTER TOMORROW.