



LYRA / THE THREADKEEPER

In the world of ALIEN STAGE, humans lived in alien captivity. Jaeli and Riel shared a small rehearsal wing.



LYRA

Jaeli turned training into rhythm. Her footsteps left visible resonance, and the arena noticed.



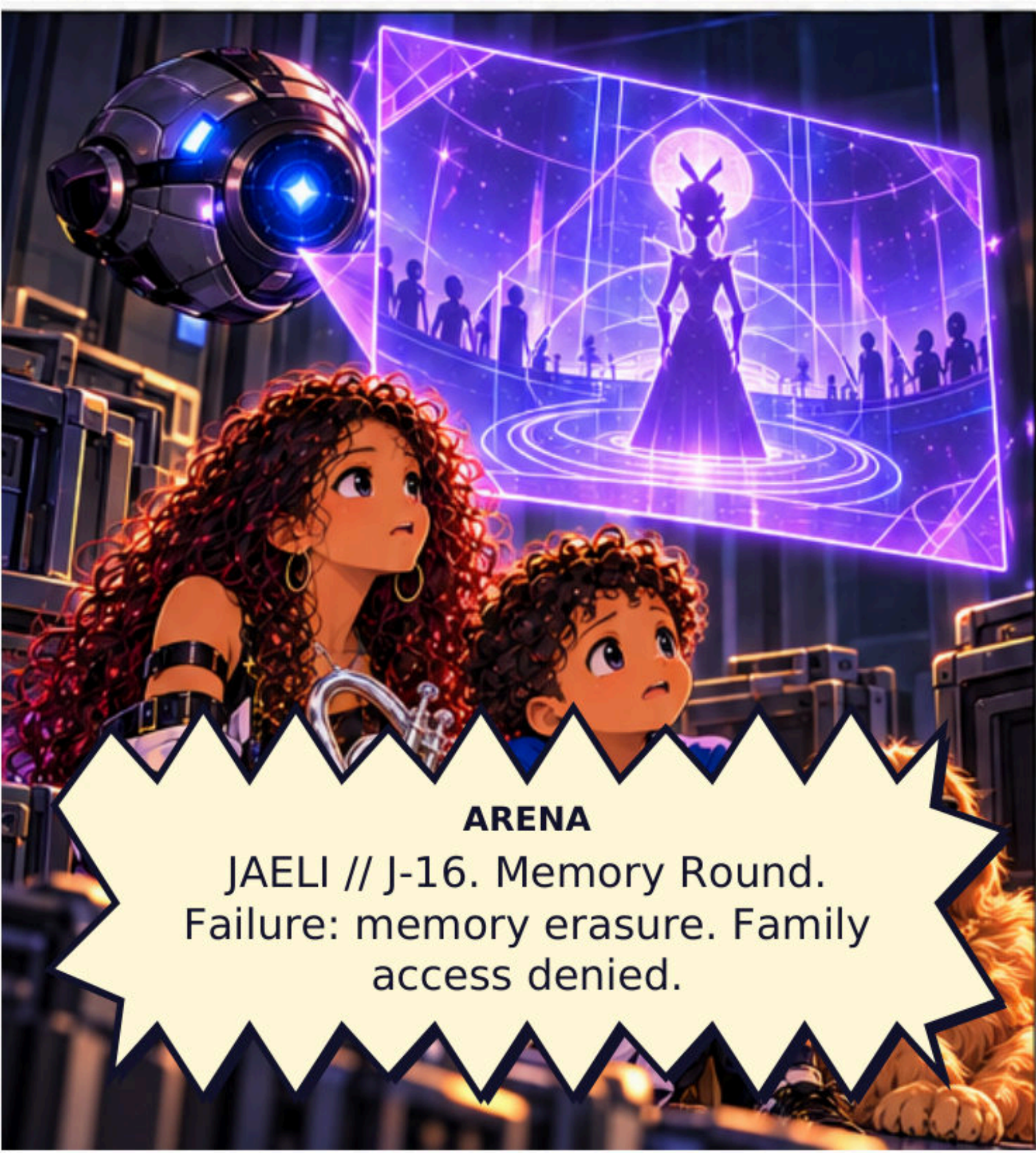
RIEL

You practice. I'll build something
that can hear you anywhere.



JAELI

Then you'll always have a way to
find me.



ARENA

JAELI // J-16. Memory Round.
Failure: memory erasure. Family
access denied.



LYRA

The arena wanted her alone. Riel's answer was simple: no one gets left behind.



JAELI

Stay out of sight. I'll keep the
song going.



LYRA

Pepper knew the vents better than the guards knew the corridors.



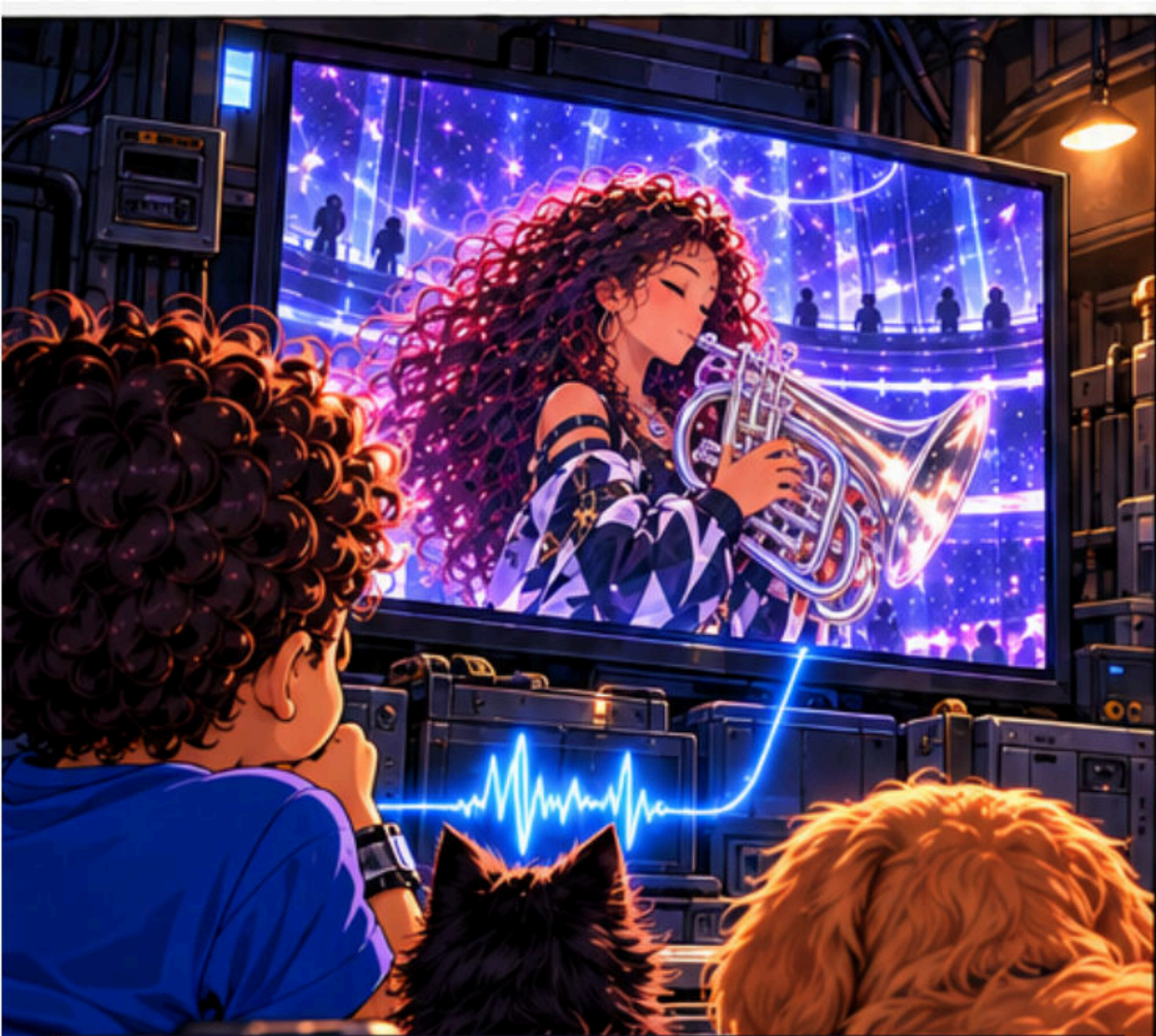
RIEL

Good job, Paisley. Keep looking innocent!



RIEL

This transmitter reaches the stage. We can stay right here.



LYRA

Her practice notes lived in his wristband. The same channel would carry her live signal.



LYRA

With her family hidden below, Jaeli entered the arena. The Memory Round was waiting.



LYRA / THE THREADKEEPER

I am Lyra, their grandmother beyond the stars. I watch every thread.



JAELI

Four beats. Four breaths. Then
go.

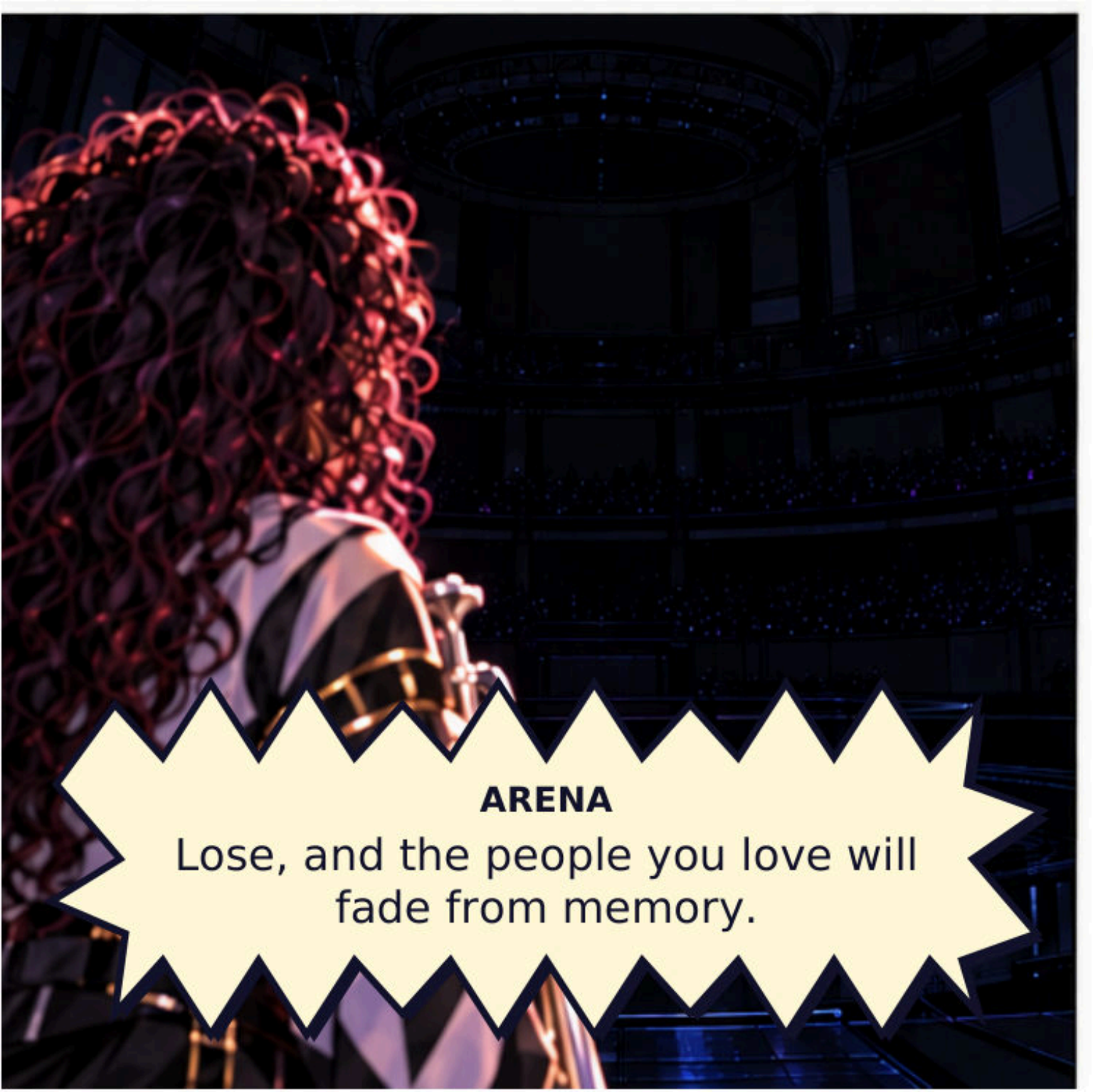


LYRA

Inside her locket: Riel, Pepper, Paisley.
Everything worth remembering.



ARENA
JAELI // J-16. Final evaluation: the
Memory Round.

A person with long, curly red hair is seen from the back, looking out over a large, dark arena. The arena has multiple tiers of seating, and the floor is illuminated with blue light. The person is wearing a white and black striped garment.

ARENA

Lose, and the people you love will
fade from memory.

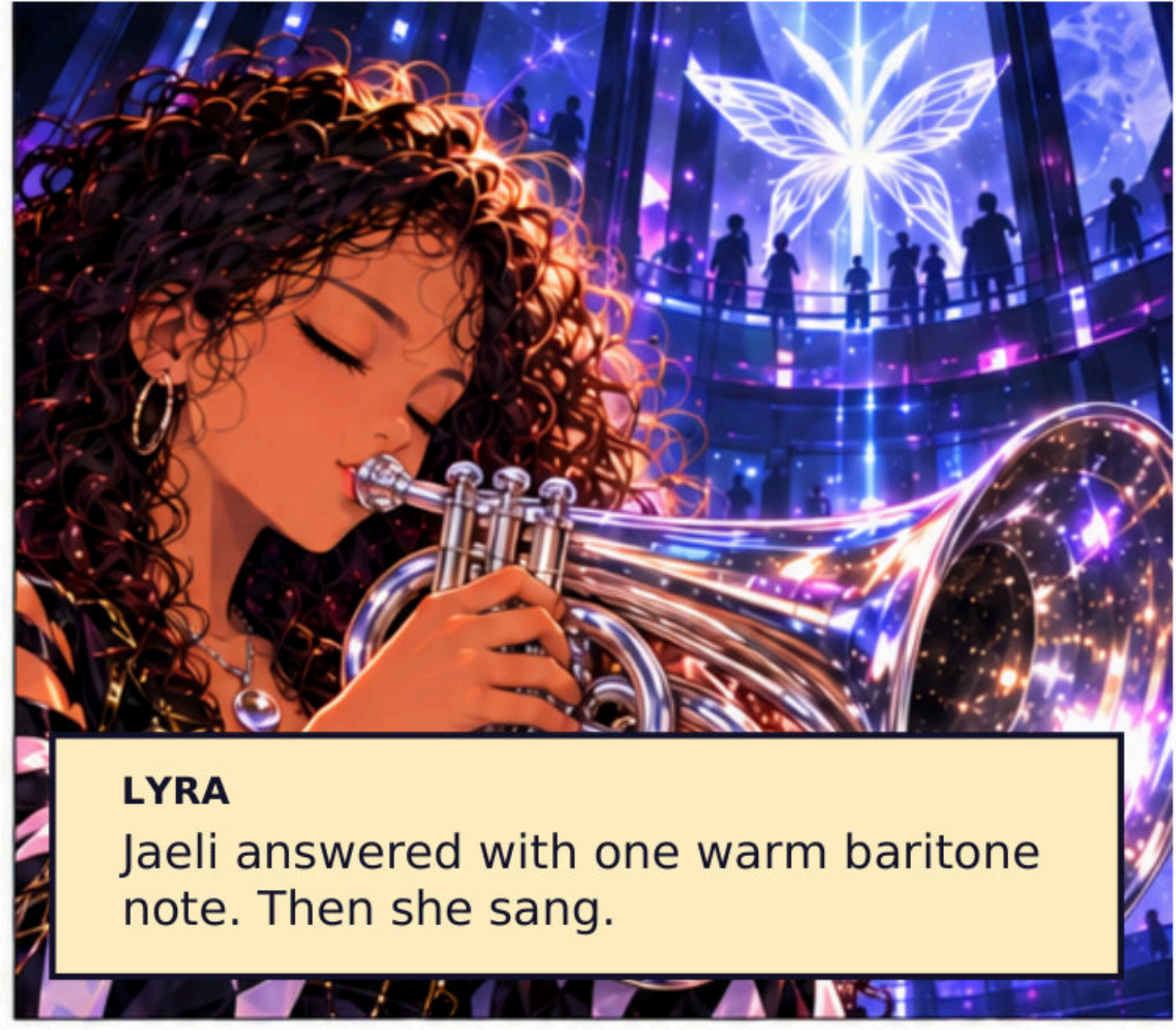
THE MIRROR

I know every song you know.
Every fear, too.



THE MIRROR

Every mistake. Every person you
cannot protect.



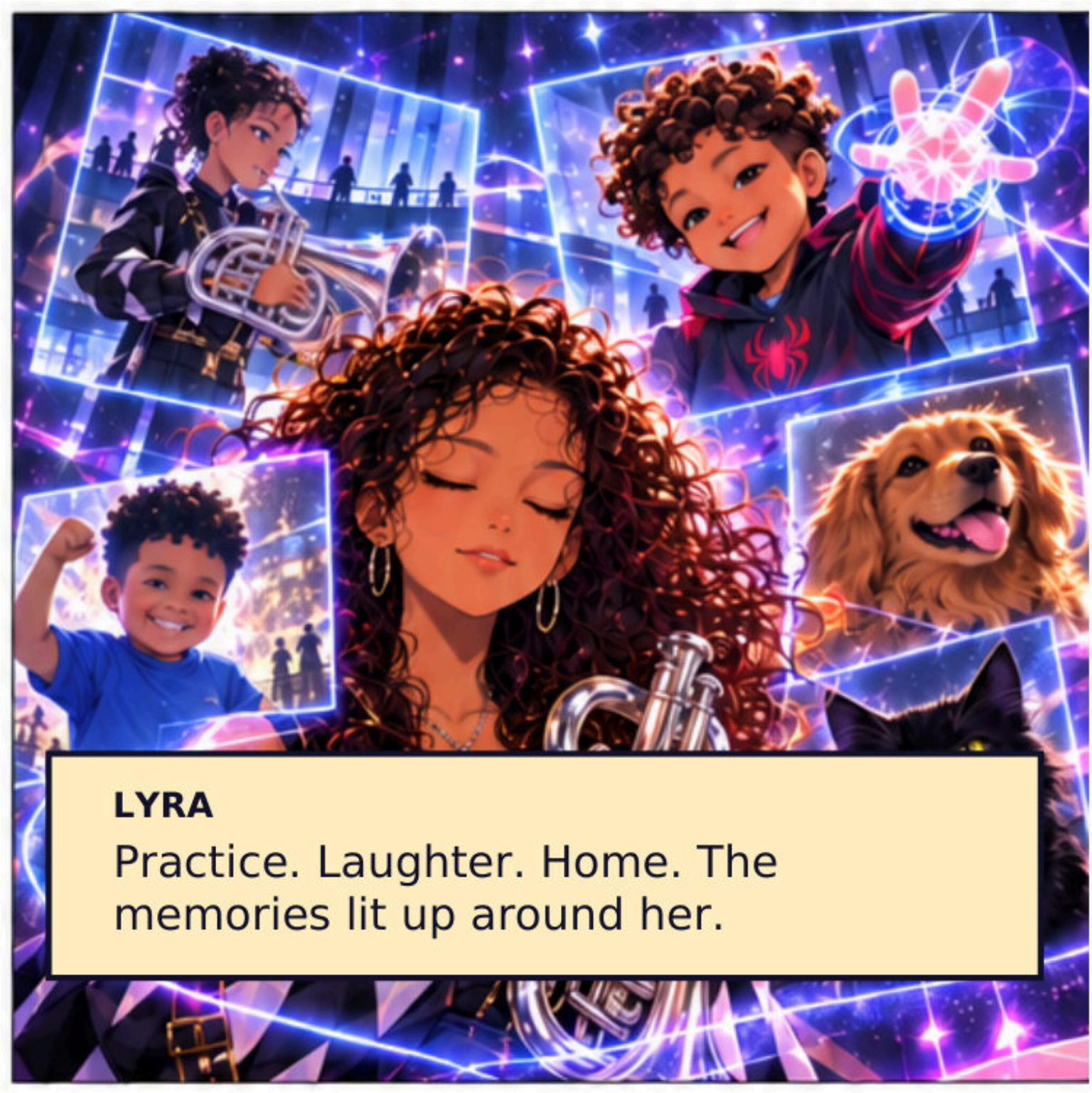
LYRA

Jaeli answered with one warm baritone note. Then she sang.



JAELI

You can copy my voice. Can you
feel what it means?



LYRA

Practice. Laughter. Home. The memories lit up around her.



JAELI

Tilt the floor all you like. I know
how to move!



THE MIRROR

Your brother? A weakness. Let us
erase him.



RIEL

Nope. Nobody erases my sister's memories.



LYRA

His homemade wristband had one rule: no one gets left behind.



LYRA

Sound and heartbeats became threads of light.



RIEL

Hey, J! Need a save?



LYRA

His body stayed safely below. His light swung to her side.



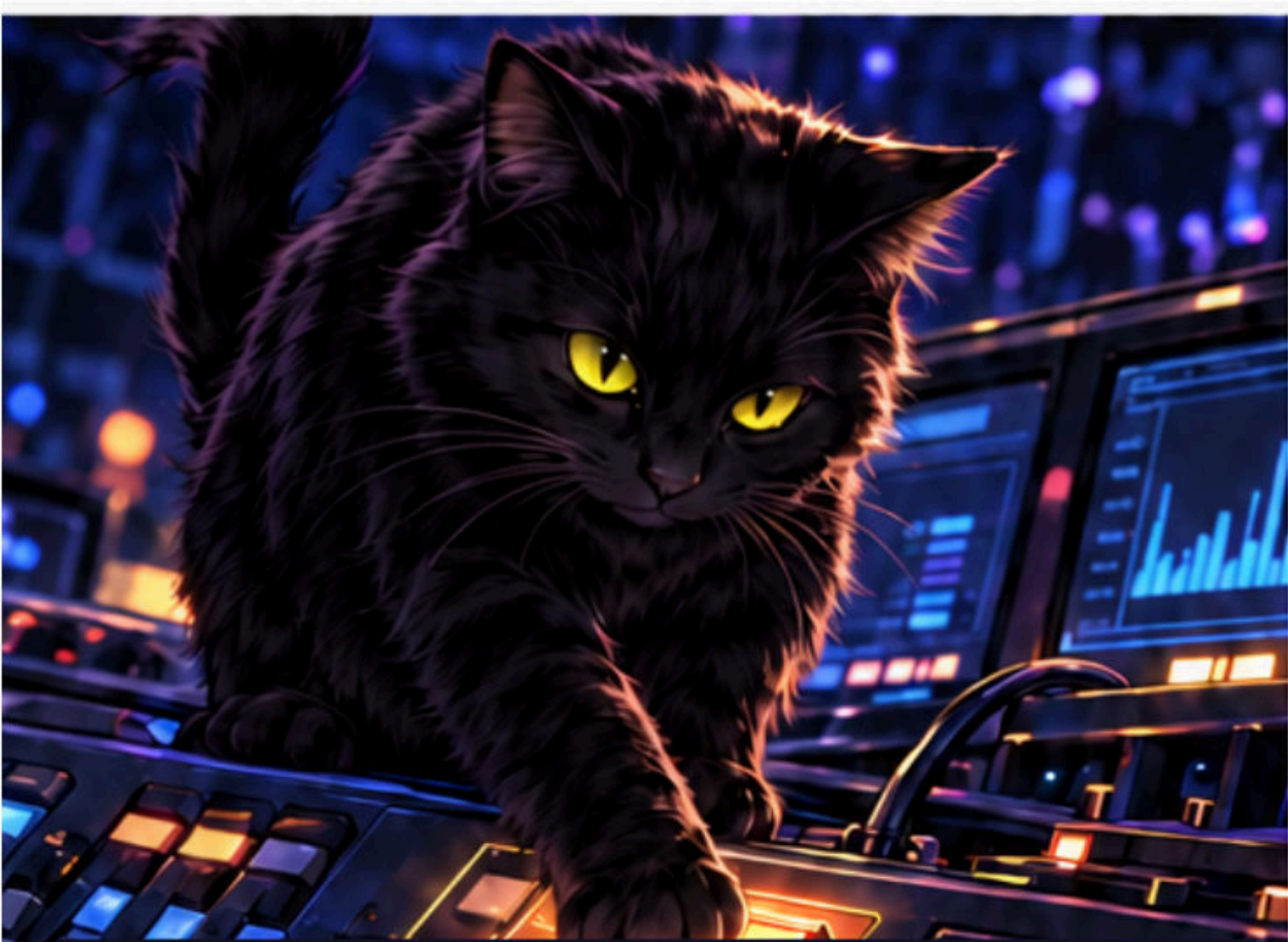
THE MIRROR / JAEI

"Unauthorized participant!" /
"He's eight. He doesn't care."



RIEL

One thread for every memory. I
can put them back!



LYRA

Pepper, the shadow familiar, found a very important switch.

ARENA

ERROR! / Somewhere in the dark,
the audience began to laugh.



PAISLEY

WOOF! / The guardian's bark
thundered through the speakers.



JAELI
Again, Riel. All of it. Let them hear
us!



LYRA

One-two. One-two-three. Her steps sent resonance across the floor.



LYRA

Her horn rang out. Riel hummed along, gloriously off-key.



JAELI / SINGING

Count every star if you need a
score. Count every breath if you
need one more.

JAELI / SINGING

But if you erase the names I
know, I will sing them back. I will
not let go.



THE MIRROR / JAEI

"Individual performance
compromised." / "That's the
point."



RIEL

Look, J! Everybody's memories
are coming home!



LYRA

The numbers raced upward. Love would not fit inside a score.



11:11

THE JUDGES

11:11? Reset the system! RESET
IT!



RIEL / JAELI

"J, I think I broke it." / "Good. Just
don't hurt yourself."



THE MIRROR

A perfect future. Endless
applause. You could win
everything.



JAELI

Without my family? Then it isn't
everything.



LYRA

They reached. The tether flared gold.
The Mirror shattered into light.



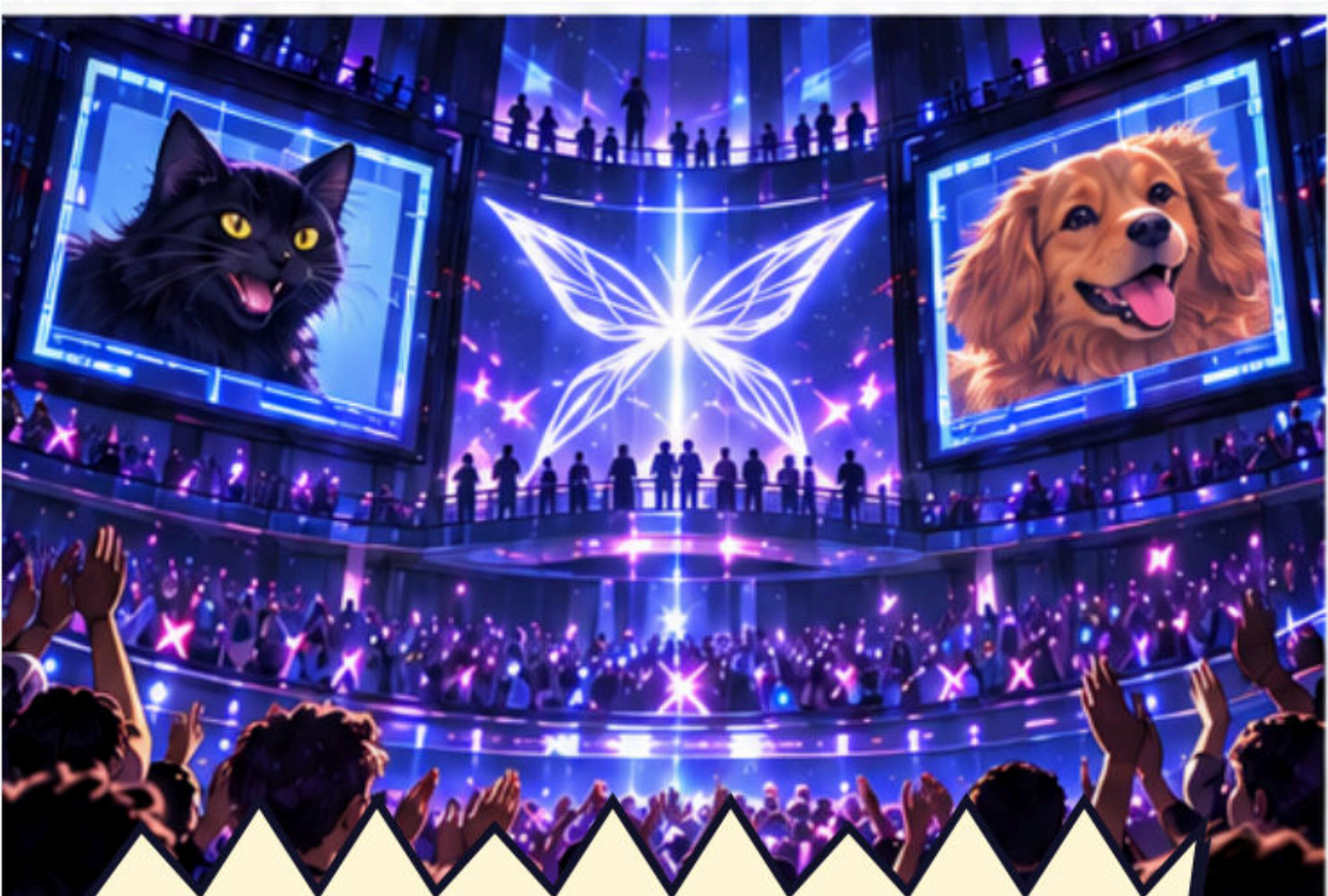
RIEL / OVER THE SPEAKERS

Did we win?



JAELI

I have absolutely no idea!



PEPPER / PAISLEY

MEOW! WOOF! / The whole arena
rose to its feet.



LYRA

The round was ruled invalid. The thread symbol spread anyway.



RIEL / JAELI

"Superhero landing?" / "Terrible
form. Excellent hug."



LYRA

Back in the practice wing, every precious thread was home.



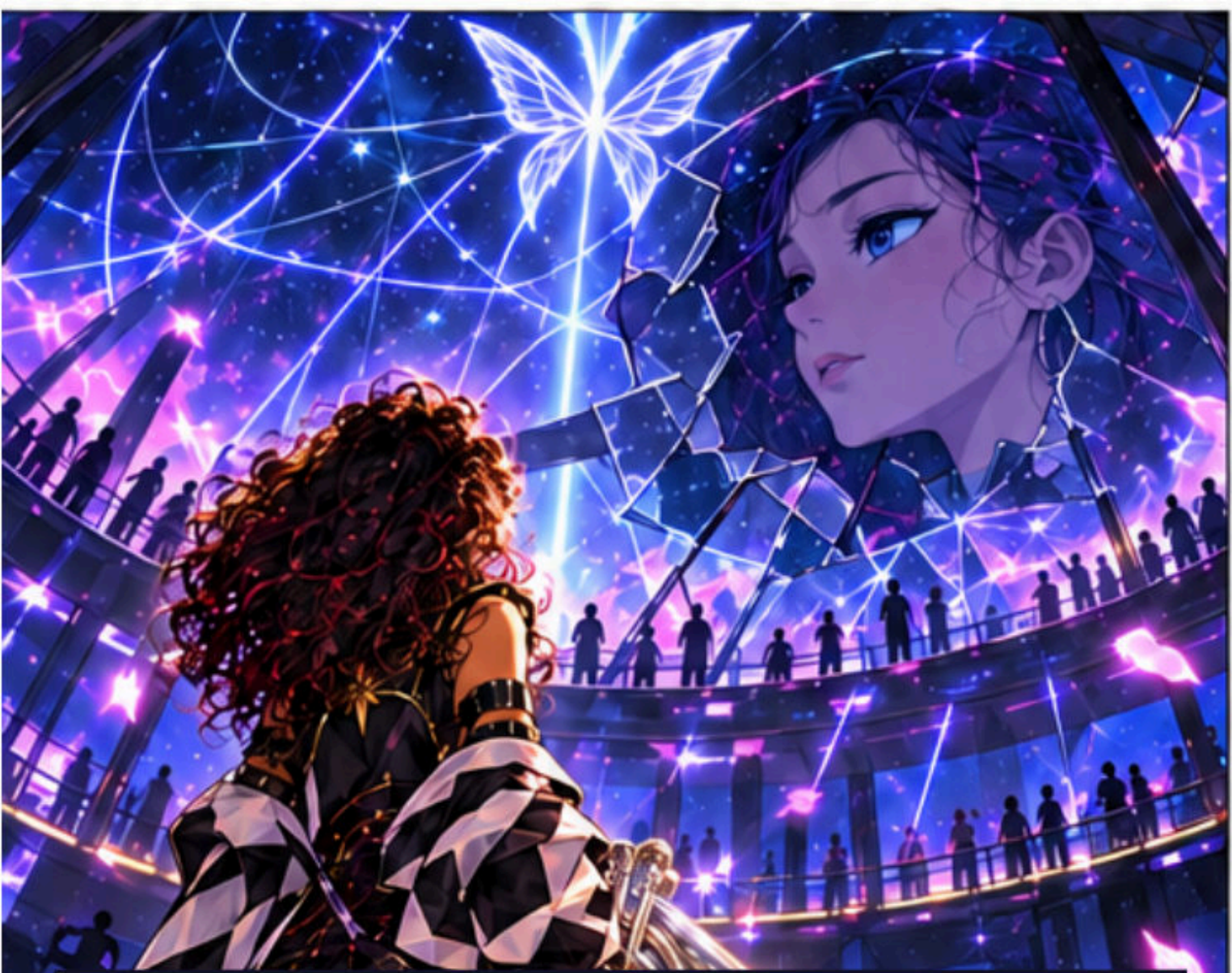
JAELI

11:11. I'll remember what it really means.



LYRA

Behind the photograph, she tucked his rule: no one gets left behind.



LYRA

They would remember her voice, the broken Mirror, the impossible score.



JAELI

My secret superpower has always known my name. You, Mathias.



RIEL

It wasn't me! / CRASH! / WOOF!



LYRA

Rest, my bright ones. A stage can
measure a voice. Never a bond.