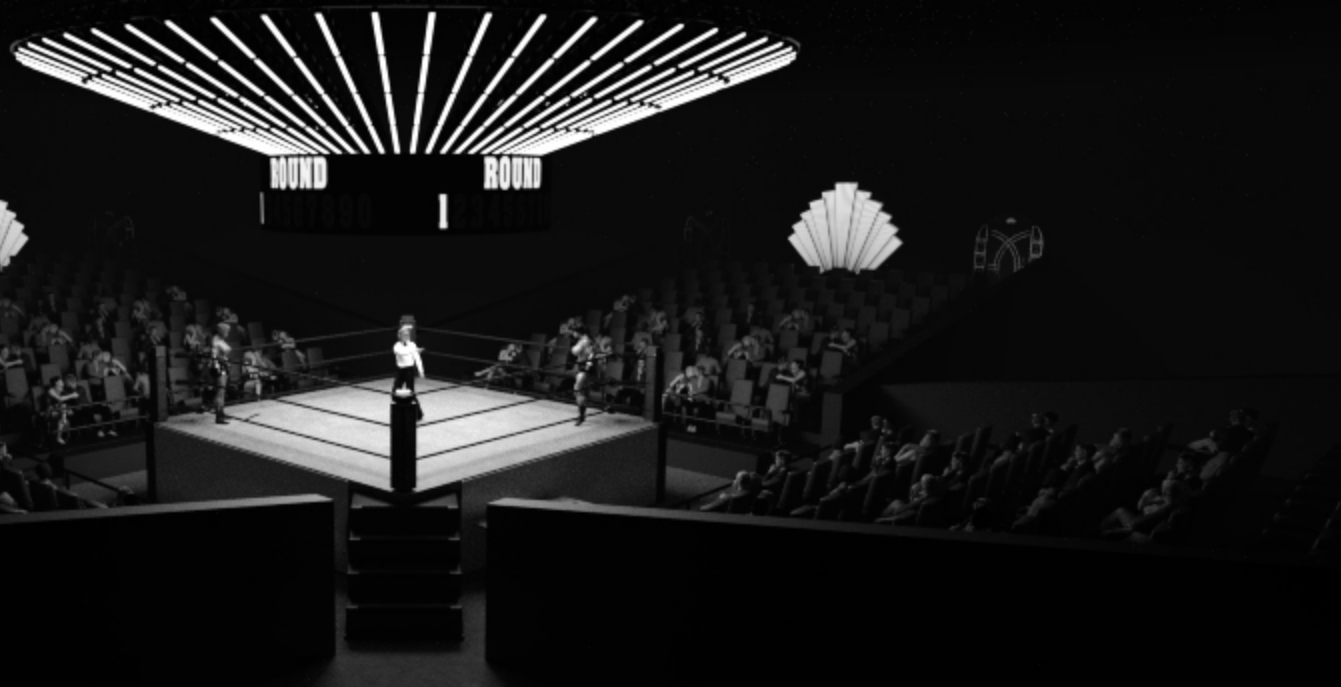


# "THE UNDERCARD"



**BY A. F. COMBAT**

NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE UNDERCARD FIGHTS ANYMORE.



THE AUDIENCE HAS BEEN TRAINED TO IGNORE THEM.



THEY'LL PAY FULL PRICE FOR A TICKET, BUT MOST WON'T EVEN SHOW UP UNTIL THE MAIN EVENT.



NNNH!

THE FIGHTERS SEE THEM AS A MEANS TO AN END.



THERE'S NO CHEERS FEEDING THEIR EGO, AND THE PAY IS LESS THAN MOST PEOPLE MAKE IN A WEEK-- FOR TWO MONTHS OR MORE OF TRAINING.

BUT THERE'S *HOPE*...

UGGHH!

...THAT *MAYBE*, IF THEY CAN STRING TOGETHER ENOUGH VICTORIES AGAINST THEIR FELLOW NOBODIES, THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THE GLORY-- AND THE *MONEY*-- OF BEING IN A MAIN EVENT.



UNTIL THEN, IT'S SLUG-AND-SUFFER IN RELATIVE SILENCE.

## "THE UNDERCARD"

ARLENE FRANCIS HAS NEVER BEEN IN A MAIN EVENT.



PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE.



30 FIGHTS.

ALMOST AS MANY WINS AS LOSSES.

STUPID...

WHATEVER PRIME SHE HAD HAS PROBABLY PASSED.



NEUTRAL CORNER. SULLIVAN!

YEAH! YOU LIKE THAT!?

ZELDA SULLIVAN WAS EXPECTED TO BE A MAIN EVENT FIGHTER WITHIN THE YEAR.



3!

UNDEFEATED IN TEN FIGHTS.

ALL WINS BY KNOCKOUT.

THE OTHER GYMS HAD STARTED COMING UP WITH NICKNAMES FOR HER.



THE BRUTE.

GOLIATH.

FRANKENSTEIN'S BOXER.

5!

6!



8!

YOU GOOD?

YUH...

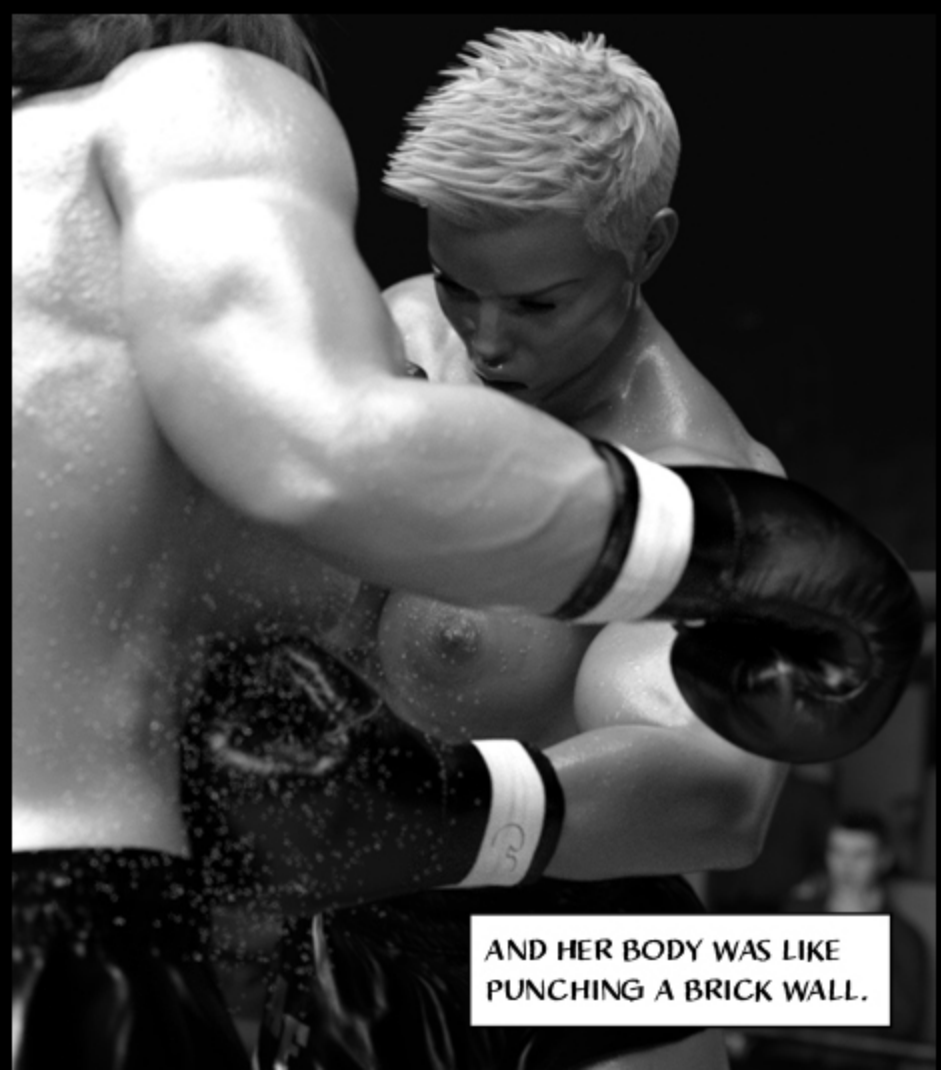
THE NICKNAMES  
SEEMED APPROPRIATE:



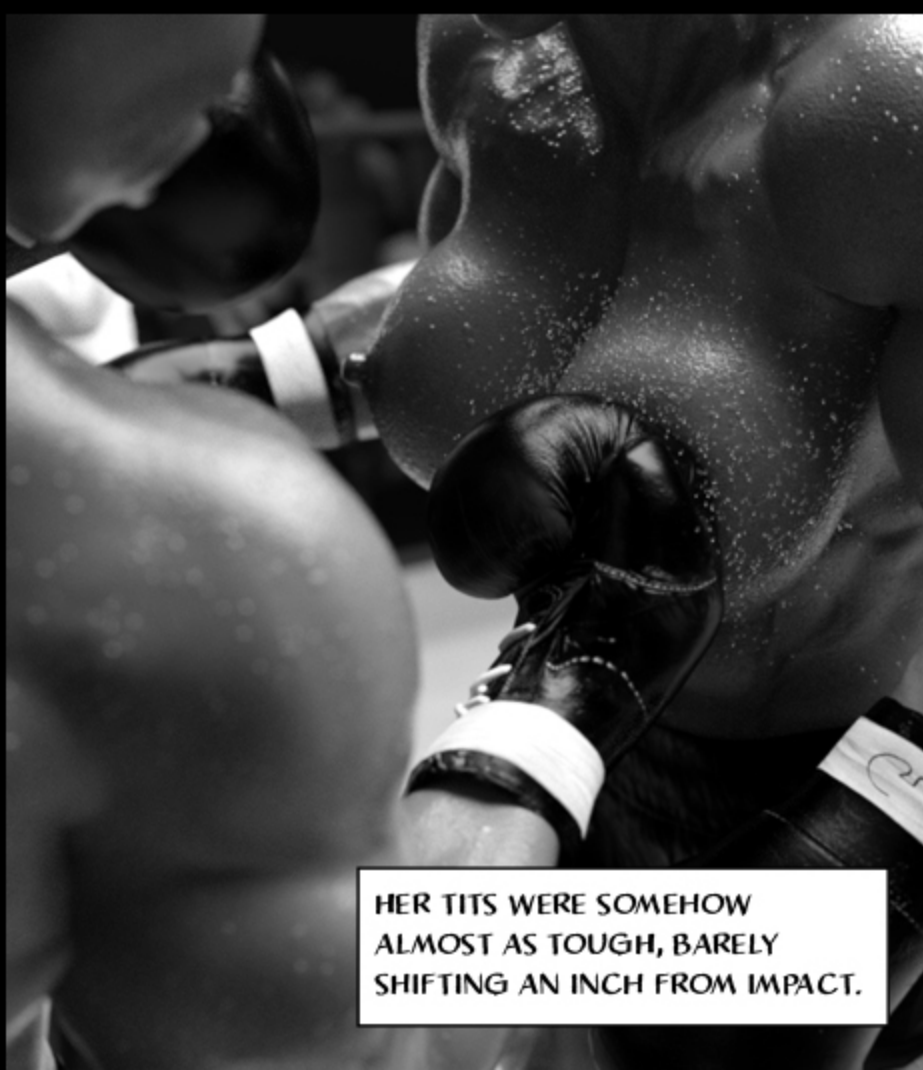
FIGHT!



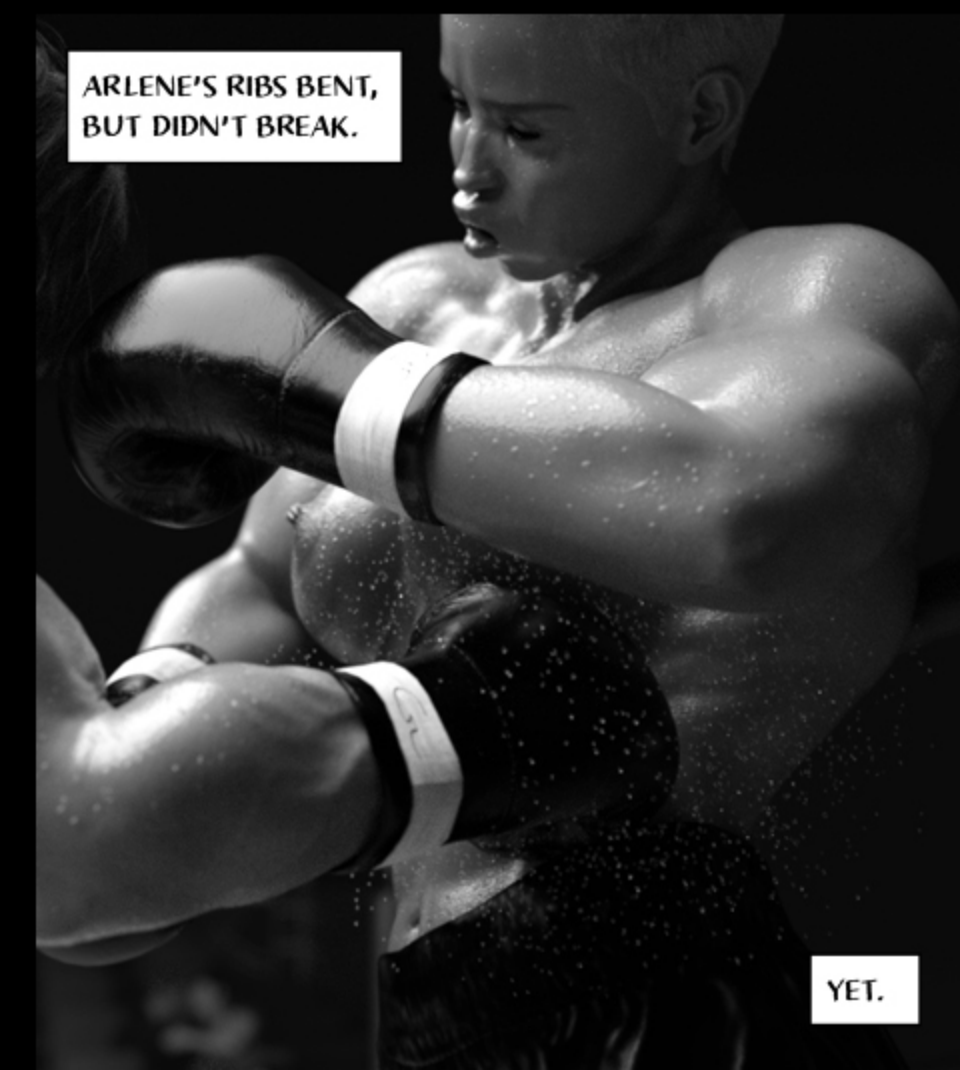
THE WOMAN HIT LIKE  
A FREIGHT-TRAIN.



AND HER BODY WAS LIKE  
PUNCHING A BRICK WALL.



HER TITS WERE SOMEHOW  
ALMOST AS TOUGH, BARELY  
SHIFTING AN INCH FROM IMPACT.



ARLENE'S RIBS BENT,  
BUT DIDN'T BREAK.

YET.



DING

TIME!  
TO YOUR  
CORNERS!

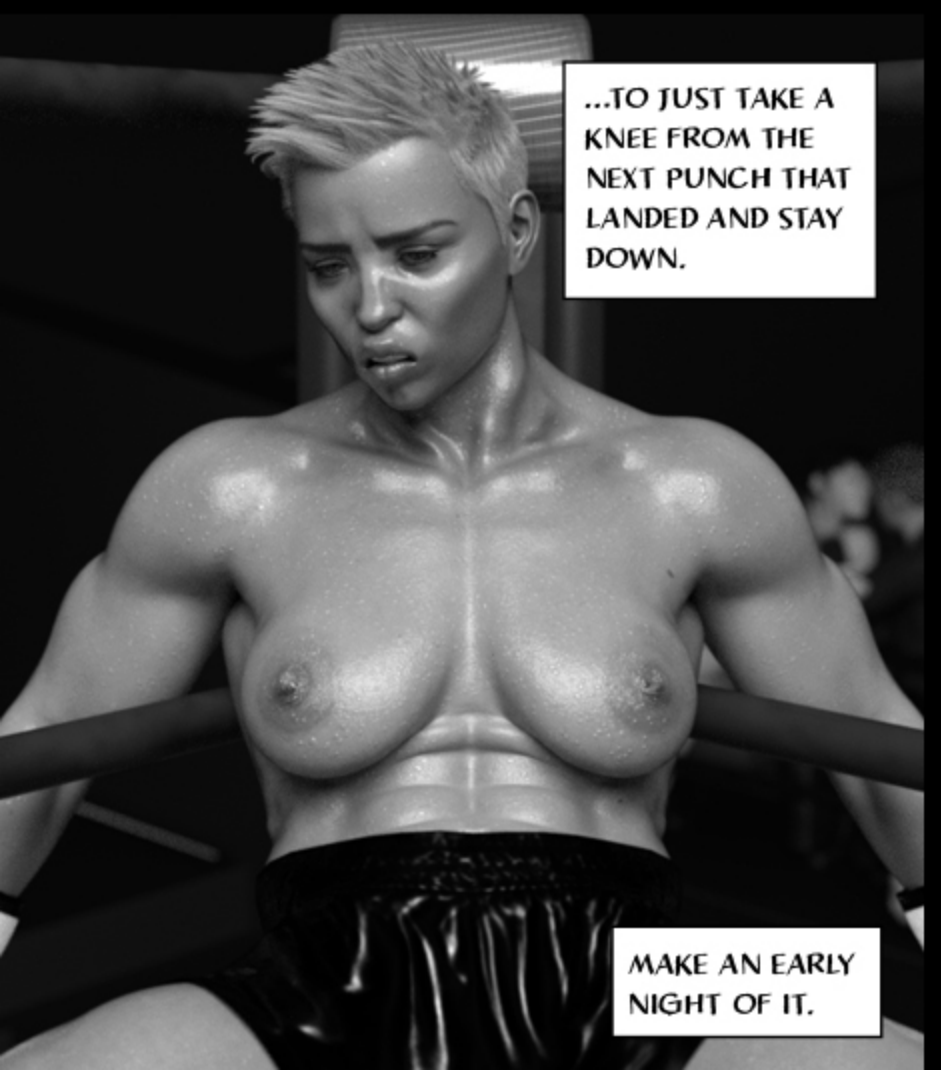


NEXT  
ROUND.



HMPH...

IT WAS  
TEMPTING...



...TO JUST TAKE A  
KNEE FROM THE  
NEXT PUNCH THAT  
LANDED AND STAY  
DOWN.

MAKE AN EARLY  
NIGHT OF IT.



NOBODY'D  
REALLY CARE.

HELL, MOST OF THE  
PEOPLE HERE WOULD  
BE HAPPY TO MOVE ON  
TO THE NEXT FIGHT.

ARLENE COULD  
PROBABLY SAVE HER-  
SELF A LOT OF PAIN...



...BUT SHE STILL  
HAD HER *PRIDE*.

ROUND  
2  
DING

ARLENE WONDERED  
IF PRIDE MIGHT GET  
HER KILLED.

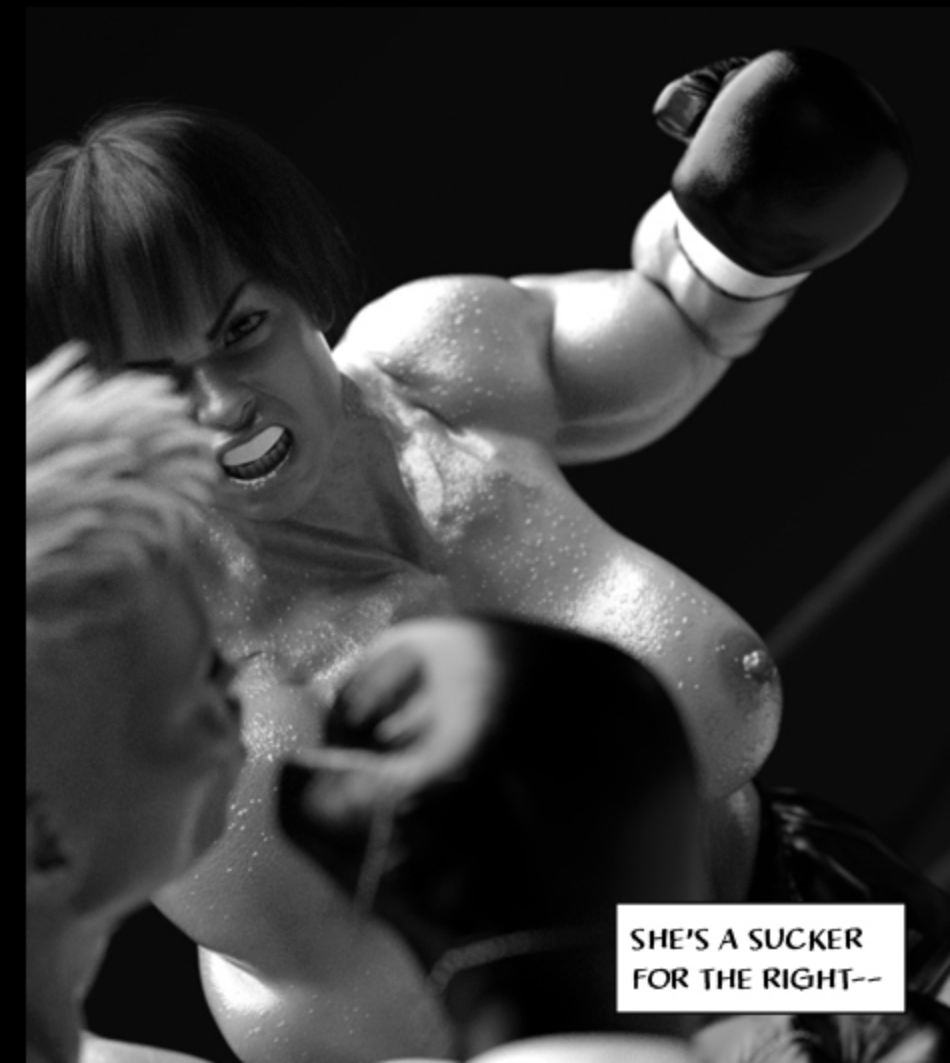
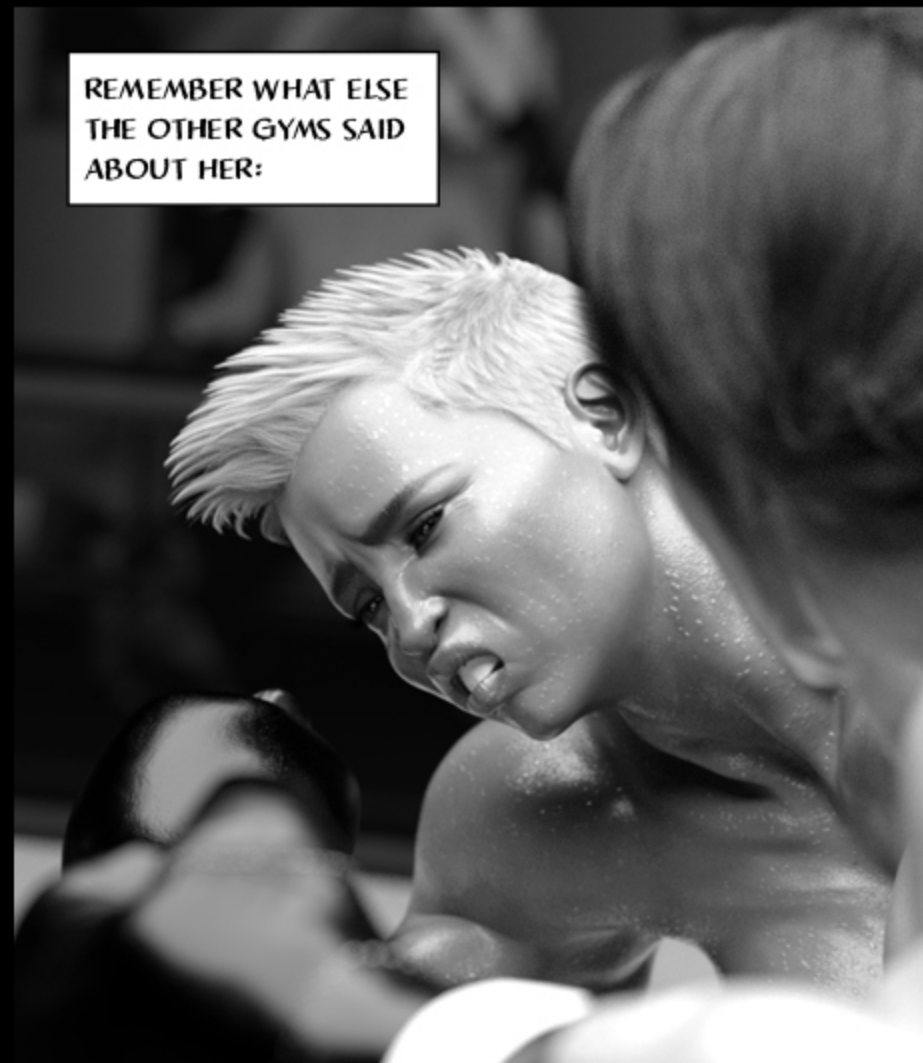


OH WELL.



RIDE IT OUT,  
SHE THOUGHT.

REMEMBER WHAT ELSE  
THE OTHER GYMS SAID  
ABOUT HER:

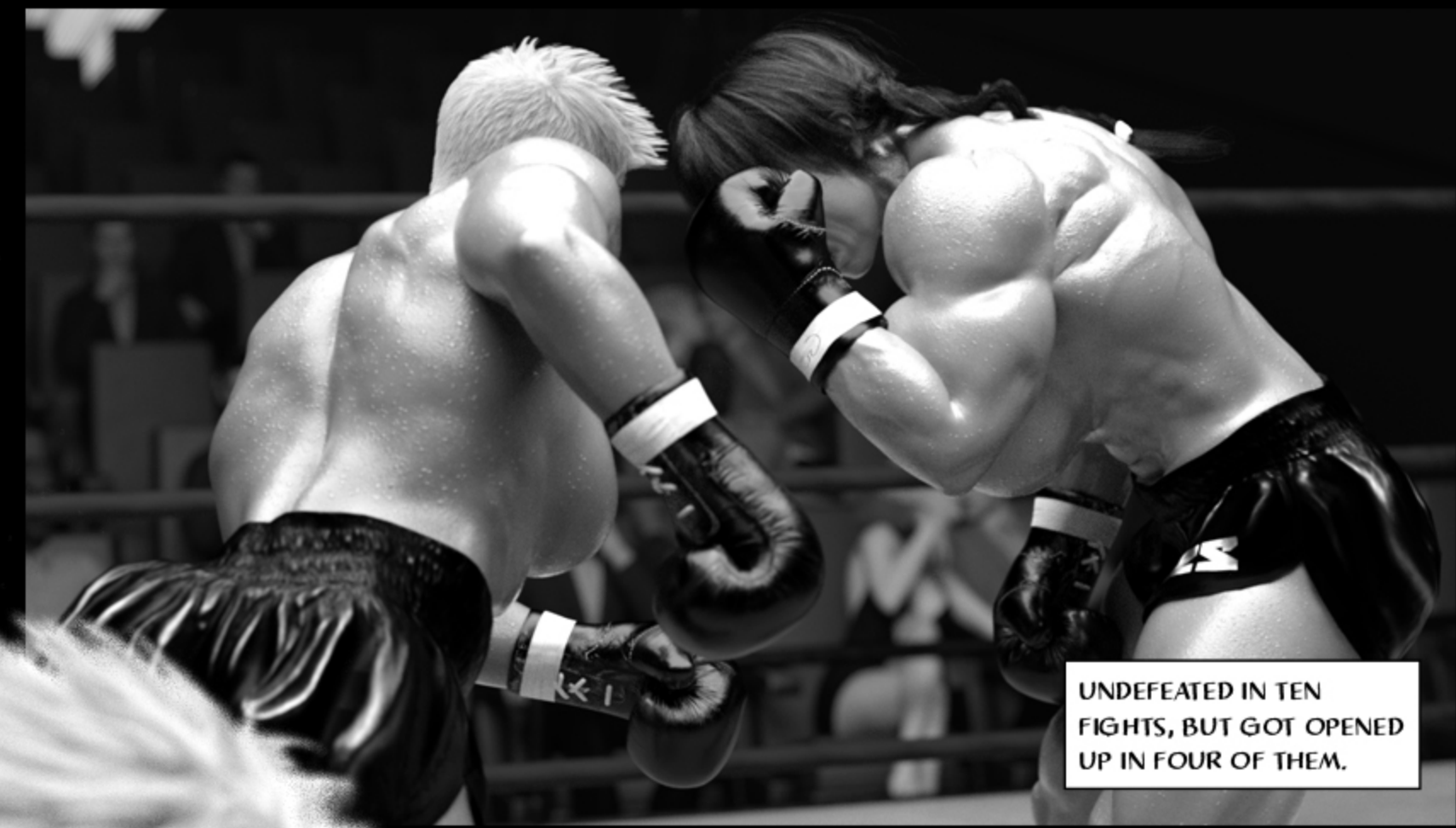


SHE'S A SUCKER  
FOR THE RIGHT--



--AND THE ONLY SOFT PART OF SULLIVAN IS HER EYEBROWS.

UGGHH!



UNDEFEATED IN TEN FIGHTS, BUT GOT OPENED UP IN FOUR OF THEM.



OUFFF!

"THIS IS IT,"  
ARLENE THOUGHT.



THIS WAS HER  
MOMENT.



SHE'D SHOW THEM.



SHE'D SHOW  
THEM ALL--







**YOUR  
WINNER...**

**...AND STILL  
UNDEFEATED...**

**...ZELDA  
SULLIVAN!**

SULLIVAN WENT ON TO BECOME A  
MAIN-EVENT ATTRACTION, THOUGH  
THOSE SOFT EYEBROWS ENDED UP  
COSTING HER AS TIME WENT ON.

FRANCIS STAYED ON  
THE UNDERCARDS...

...AND NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE  
UNDERCARD FIGHTS ANYMORE.

**"THE END"**