

AT A DOWNTOWN CAFE, SOME FRIENDS FIND THEMSELVES DISCUSSING THE HARMS OF CRIMINAL LAWS AROUND SEX WORK...



DID YOU KNOW THAT SEX WORK IS CRIMINALIZED IN CANADA? LIKE, WOW.



WELL, SEX WORKERS NEED TO BE PROTECTED!



AND I THOUGHT IT WAS ILLEGAL TO BUY SEX, NOT SELL IT.

ACTUALLY, THE LAW MAKES SEX WORK ILLEGAL!



IT'S ILLEGAL TO SELL SEXUAL SERVICES IN PUBLIC, AND CLIENTS AND THIRD PARTIES ARE CRIMINALIZED.

SO SEX WORKERS CAN'T COMMUNICATE OPENLY, THEY CAN'T ADVERTISE, THEY CAN'T HIRE SECURITY, THEY CAN'T EVEN WORK TOGETHER...

HMM...



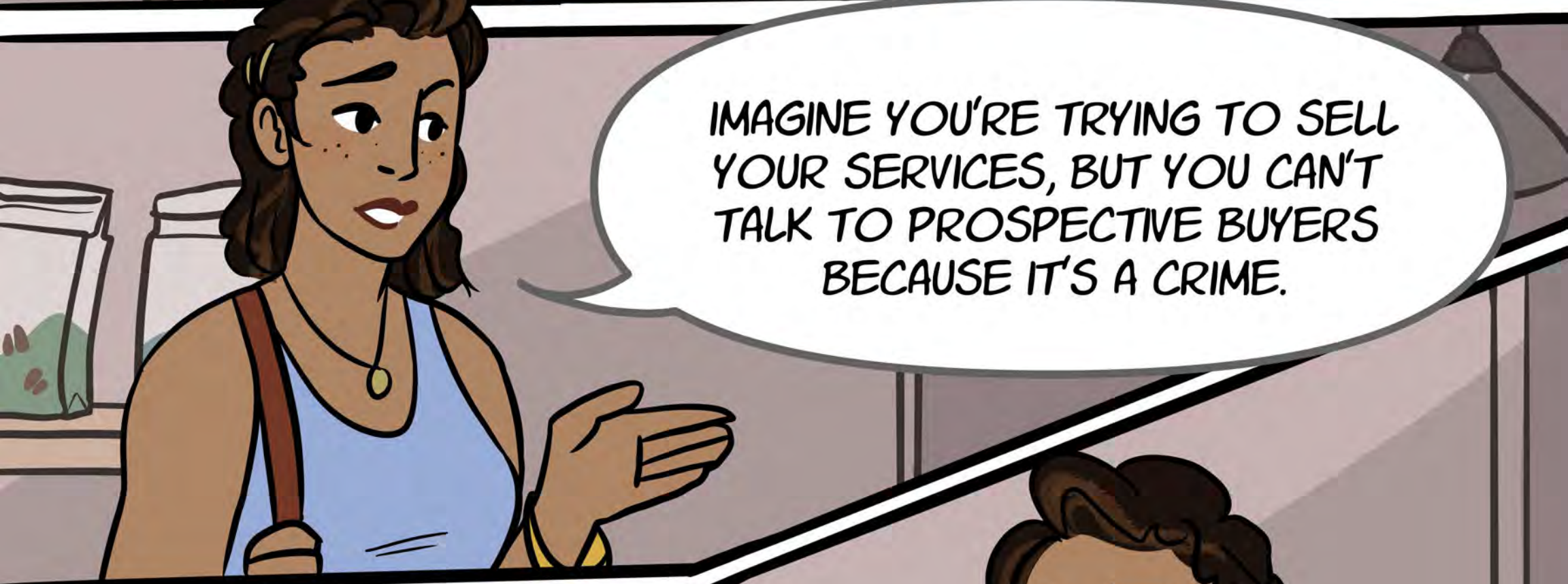
IF THEY CAN'T REALLY COMMUNICATE WITH BUYERS, HOW ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO ESTABLISH CONSENT?

RIGHT, HOW CAN ANYONE CONSENT...?



THESE LAWS MAKE
CONSENT IMPOSSIBLE.
AND THEY ACTUALLY
HARM SEX WORKERS.

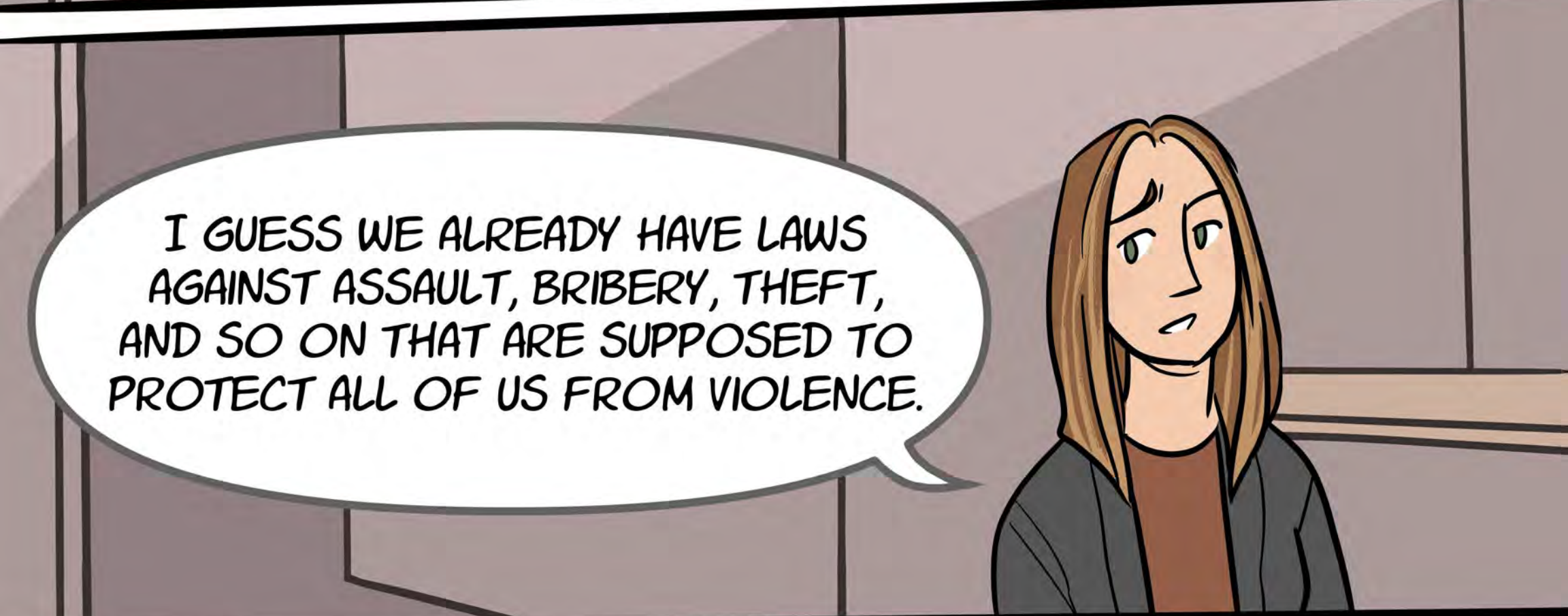
WHAT? HOW?



IMAGINE YOU'RE TRYING TO SELL
YOUR SERVICES, BUT YOU CAN'T
TALK TO PROSPECTIVE BUYERS
BECAUSE IT'S A CRIME.



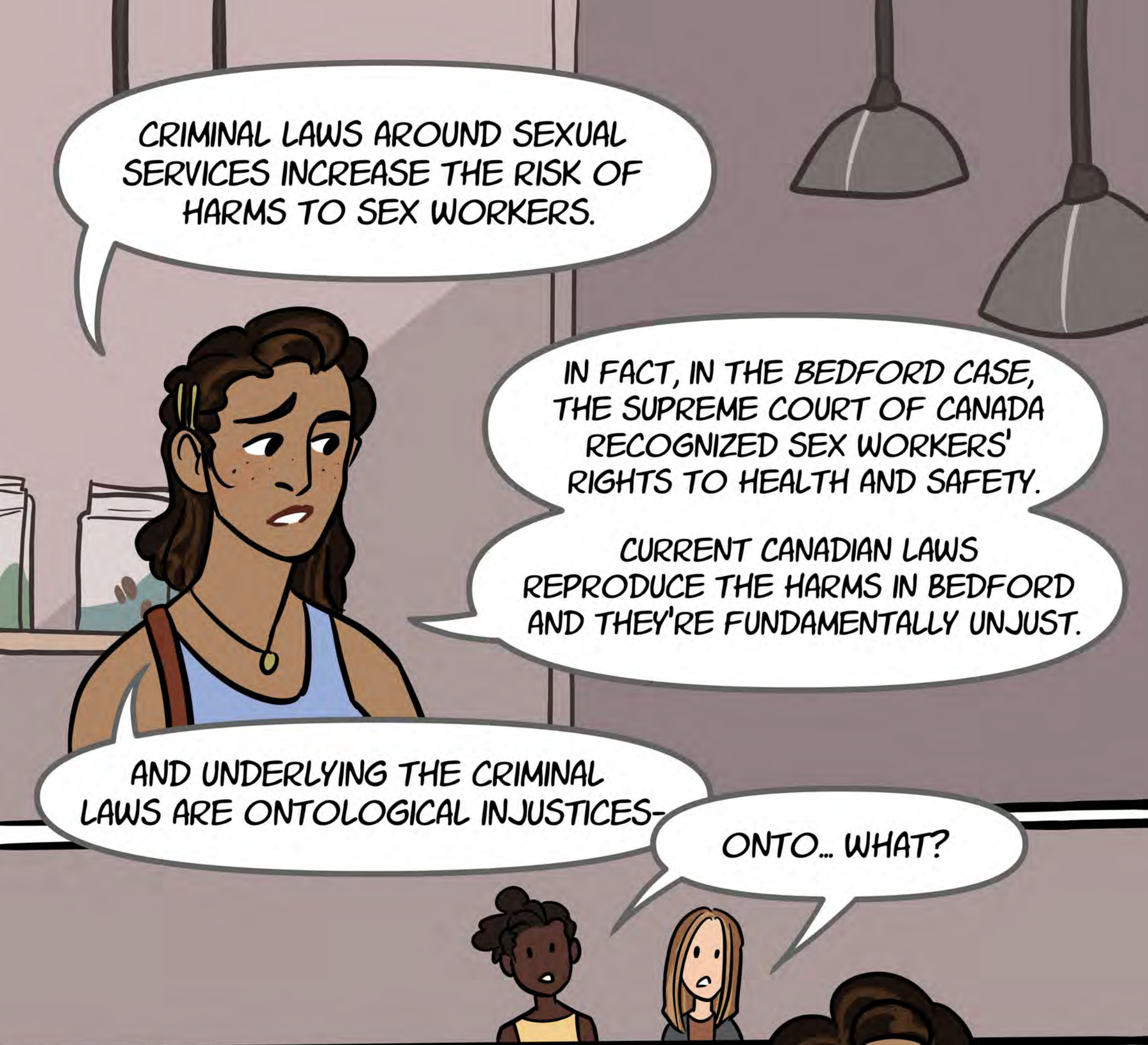
SO YOU CAN'T SCREEN THEM,
AND YOU END UP RUSHING INTO A
SITUATION THAT DOESN'T TOTALLY
WORK FOR YOU - OR WORSE,
THAT'S POTENTIALLY VIOLENT.



I GUESS WE ALREADY HAVE LAWS
AGAINST ASSAULT, BRIBERY, THEFT,
AND SO ON THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO
PROTECT ALL OF US FROM VIOLENCE.



EXACTLY... WHY SHOULD SEX
WORK BE A CRIME ANYWAY?



CRIMINAL LAWS AROUND SEXUAL SERVICES INCREASE THE RISK OF HARMS TO SEX WORKERS.

IN FACT, IN THE BEDFORD CASE, THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA RECOGNIZED SEX WORKERS' RIGHTS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY.

CURRENT CANADIAN LAWS REPRODUCE THE HARMS IN BEDFORD AND THEY'RE FUNDAMENTALLY UNJUST.

AND UNDERLYING THE CRIMINAL LAWS ARE ONTOLOGICAL INJUSTICES-

ONTO... WHAT?

ONTOLOGICAL INJUSTICES HAVE TO DO WITH HOW WE UNDERSTAND WHO SEX WORKERS REALLY ARE.

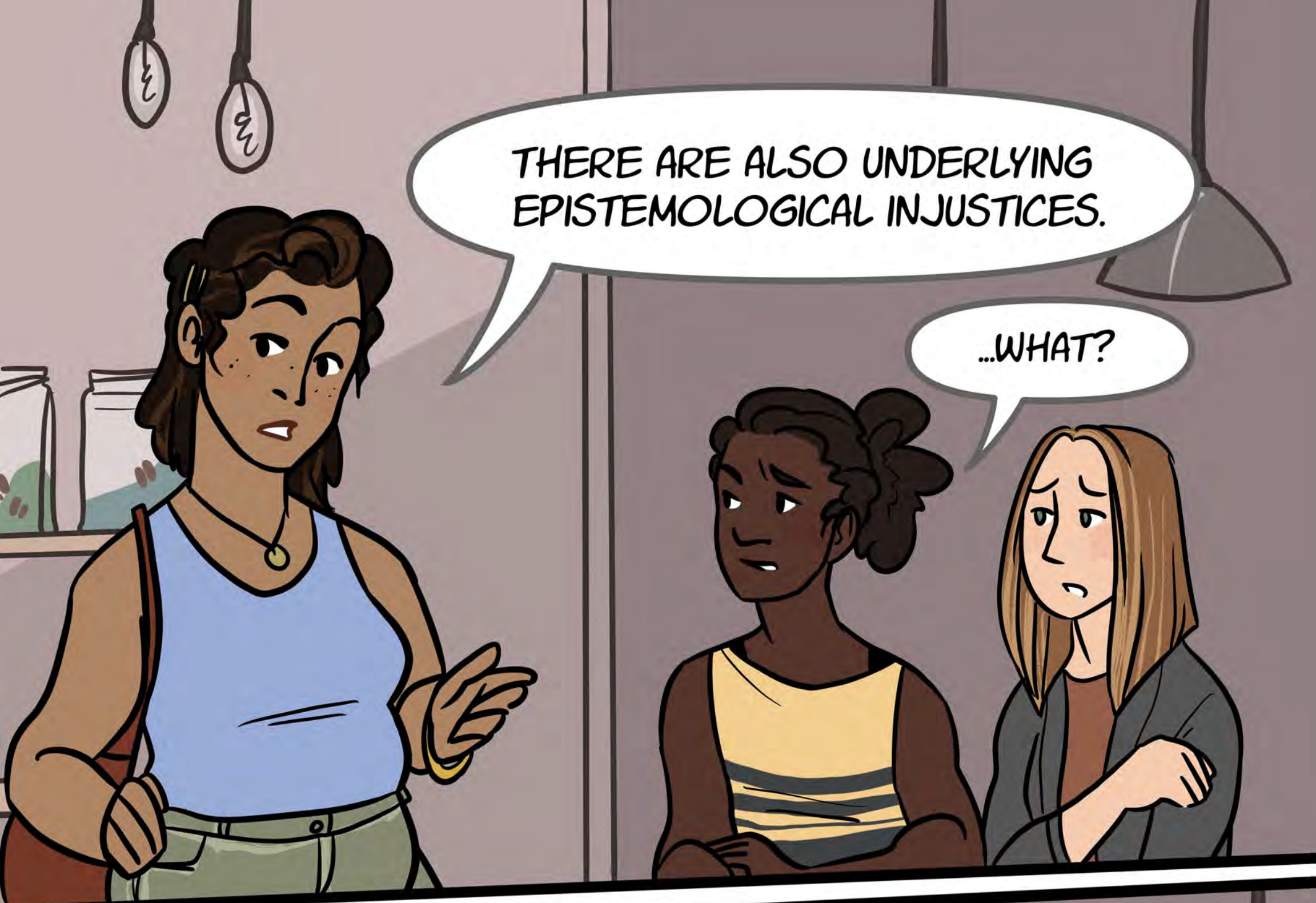
WHEN WE THINK THAT THEY'RE ALL VICTIMS WHO NEED PROTECTION, THAT'S A FORM OF ONTOLOGICAL INJUSTICE.

WE'RE DISMISSING THEIR HUMANITY, INCLUDING THEIR DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY WANT AND NEED.

IF WE DON'T RECOGNIZE THEIR FULL HUMANITY, THEN IT'S HARDER FOR US TO RECOGNIZE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

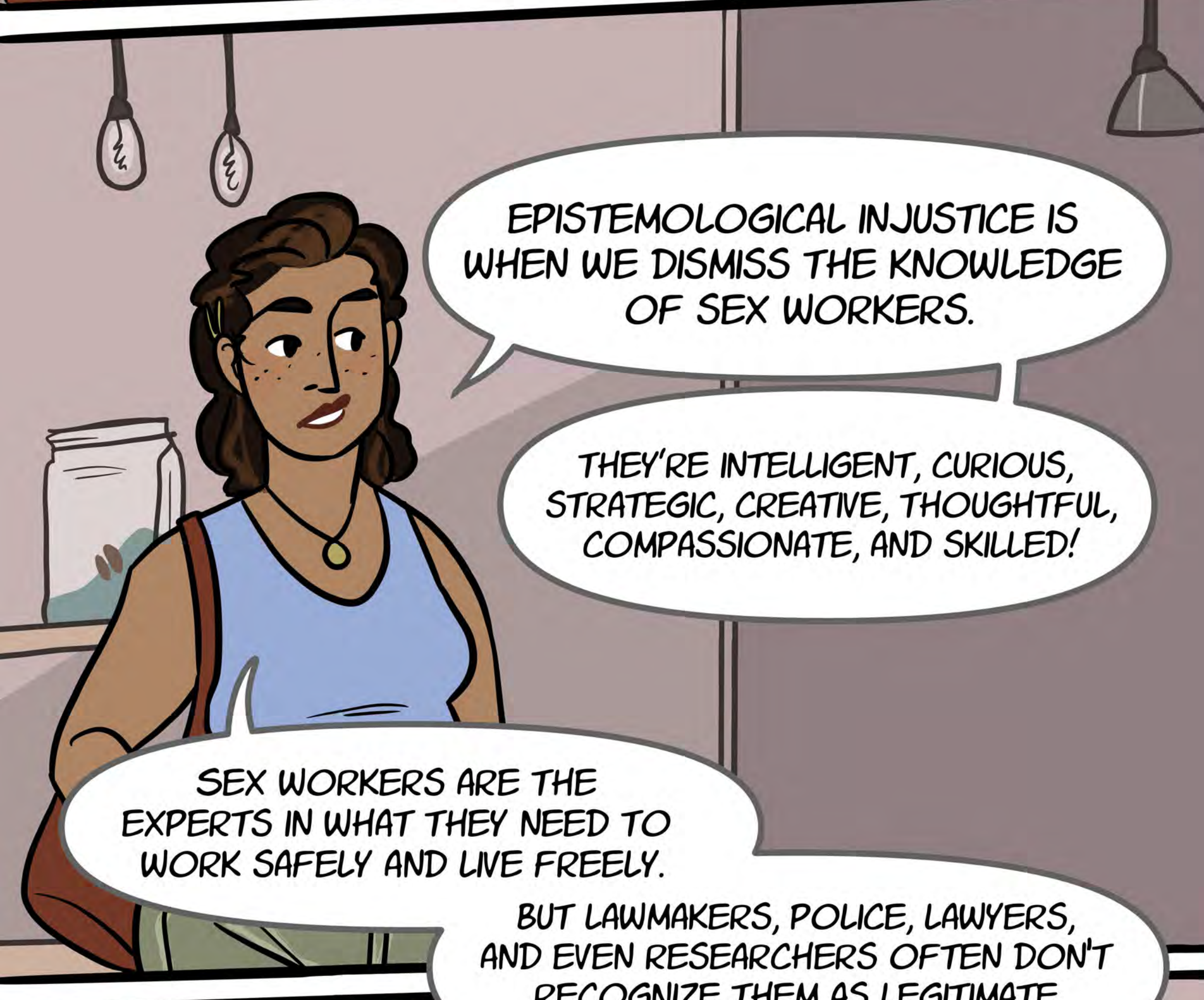
WOW... THAT'S INTENSE.

YEAH, I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT...



THERE ARE ALSO UNDERLYING
EPISTEMOLOGICAL INJUSTICES.

...WHAT?

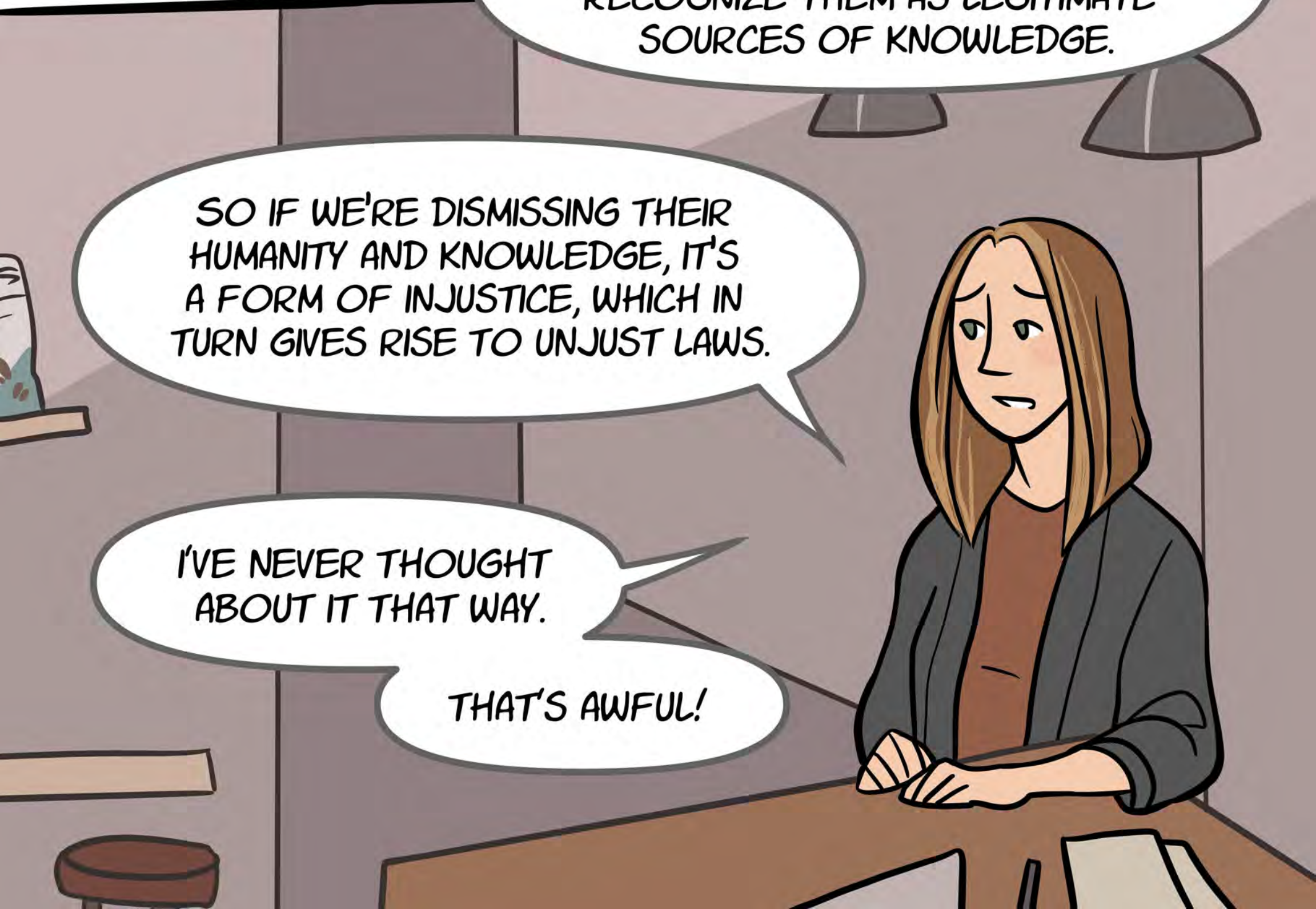


EPISTEMOLOGICAL INJUSTICE IS
WHEN WE DISMISS THE KNOWLEDGE
OF SEX WORKERS.

THEY'RE INTELLIGENT, CURIOUS,
STRATEGIC, CREATIVE, THOUGHTFUL,
COMPASSIONATE, AND SKILLED!

SEX WORKERS ARE THE
EXPERTS IN WHAT THEY NEED TO
WORK SAFELY AND LIVE FREELY.

BUT LAWMAKERS, POLICE, LAWYERS,
AND EVEN RESEARCHERS OFTEN DON'T
RECOGNIZE THEM AS LEGITIMATE
SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE.



SO IF WE'RE DISMISSING THEIR
HUMANITY AND KNOWLEDGE, IT'S
A FORM OF INJUSTICE, WHICH IN
TURN GIVES RISE TO UNJUST LAWS.

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT
ABOUT IT THAT WAY.

THAT'S AWFUL!

