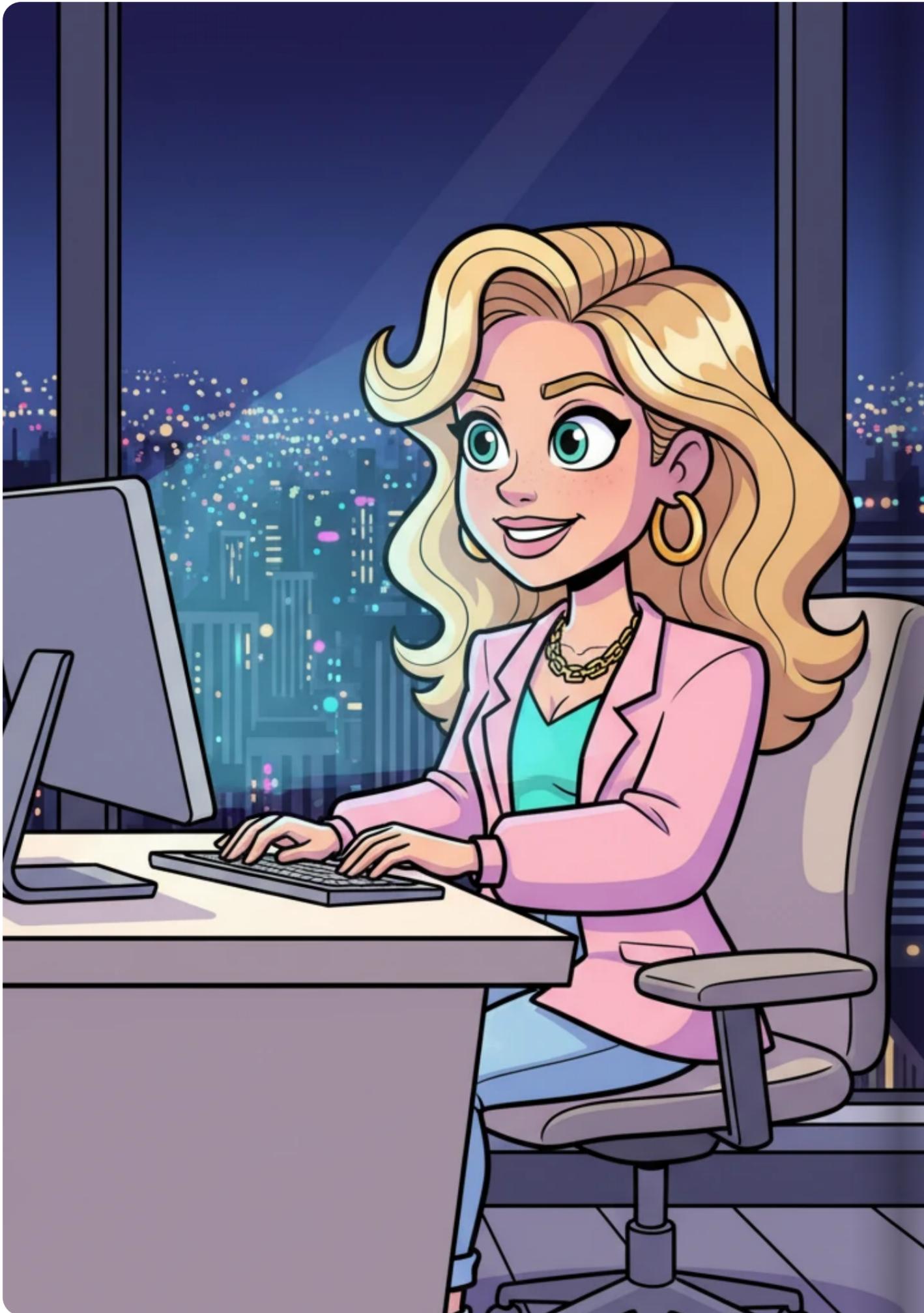


# The Midnight Mist Mystery

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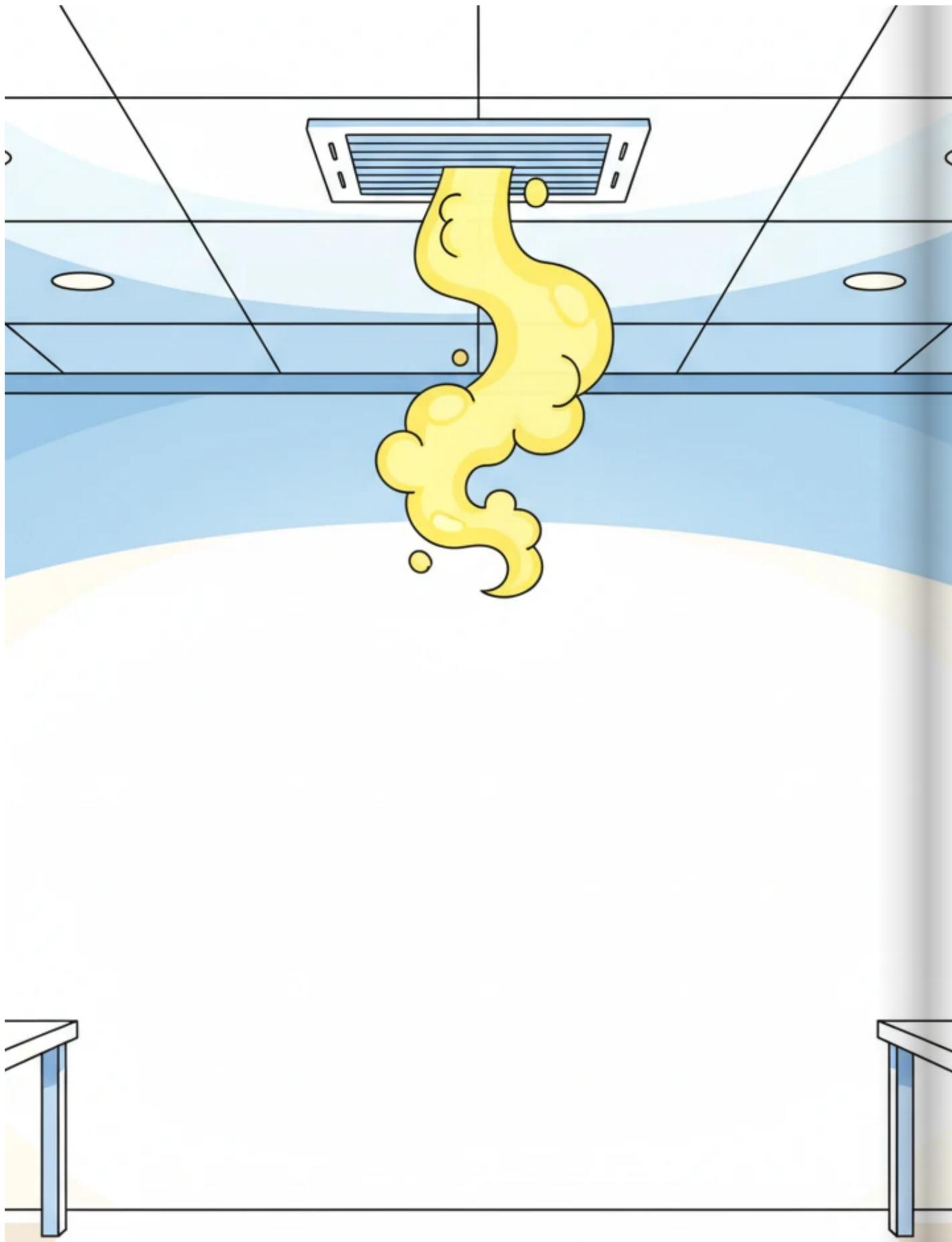
The city lights twinkled outside the towering skyscraper as Victoria Vance, a vision of 80s sophistication, sat focused at her computer. Her shoulder-length light brown hair framed a striking face, illuminated by the glow of the screen in her brightly lit, modern office.



Victoria, elegant in her grey pencil skirt, crisp white blouse, and sleek black leather boots, tapped busily on her keyboard. Papers were neatly stacked on her spacious desk, reflecting her dedication to her late-night work.



A faint, almost imperceptible hiss emanated from the air conditioner duct high on the wall. Victoria, deep in concentration, barely registered the subtle sound, her fingers dancing across the keys.



Suddenly, a thin wisp of fine yellow mist began to spray gently from the AC duct, curling playfully into the sterile office air. It looked harmless at first, like a curious puff of colored smoke.



The yellow mist grew thicker, swirling and spreading across the ceiling, slowly descending towards Victoria's desk. Her brow furrowed slightly as she finally looked up, a puzzled expression crossing her face.



Victoria's eyes widened in disbelief and alarm as the strange, sweet-smelling mist enveloped her workstation. A gasp escaped her lips, her expressive face contorting in pure shock at the unexpected intrusion.



The room quickly filled with the thick, glowing yellow haze, making it difficult to see beyond a few feet. Victoria felt a sudden wave of dizziness, her vision blurring as she tried to stand up, her movements becoming sluggish.



Overwhelmed by the mysterious vapor, Victoria slumped back into her plush office chair, her head lolling to the side. Her usually vibrant posture completely relaxed as unconsciousness claimed her.



The heavy office door swung open silently, revealing two hulking masculine figures. They wore dark blue coveralls, their faces obscured by menacing black gasmasks, adding an eerie silence to their entrance.



Without a word, the two men moved swiftly. They carefully lifted Victoria from her chair, one supporting her torso, the other her legs, and carried her gently but determinedly out of the now completely misty office and into the unknown.