

## Chapter 34

Patrick had been very busy these days. Christina heard he went to New York on business.

Christina enjoyed the big bed when Patrick was abroad. However, Mr. Hopkins wanted her not to be so lazy. He also specifically told Patrick that no matter how busy he was, he had to come back on Sunday to 'teach'.

She thought Patrick would ignore Old Master, but she didn't expect him to agree to return before Sunday.

"Maybe he wants to come back to see Miss Jones."

Christina flipped through the  
entertainment magazines



expressionlessly, her tone a little sour.

Cecilia was so popular now that she could see her advertisement everywhere. It was all thanks to Patrick.

"Cecilia, you've been on the popular search list ever since the kiss mark thing. Today, your fans are over ten million, and the advertisers are making an appointment..."

Anne, the manager, walked into the dressing room excitedly. Halfway through, she asked, "Cecilia, what's wrong? Are you in a bad mood?"

The woman in front of the dressing table had completely lost her delicate demeanor. She looked angry and turned around to scold the makeup



artist behind her. "Get out!"

There were only the two of them left in the dressing room. The manager, Anne, thought for a while and asked, "Has Mr. Hopkins not come to see you since you jumped into the lake last time?"

Hearing this, Cecilia's face became increasingly sullen.

Anne guessed suspiciously, "Could it be that Mr. Hopkins didn't stay with you that day? Mr. Shepherd and I saw you two lying in bed..."

"Stop saying!" Cecilia looked angry.

"Don't be so angry. Even if Mr. Hopkins didn't stay for the night, at least he came over immediately when he heard the news that you jumped into the





lake. He was still attentive to you..." The manager comforted her slowly.

"Anne, do you know that I'm especially worried about that Christina in the Hopkins Family..." Cecilia said through clenched teeth.

"Christina? The woman who got pregnant and married into Hopkins Family?" The manager was stunned for a moment and then smiled disdainfully.

"Cecilia, you don't have to worry at all. That woman is just your substitute. Think about it. You've disappeared for three years, and there are no other women around Mr. Hopkins. He only thought of her as you that night because he missed you so much. To be honest, I think that Christina is rather pitiful."



"No!" Cecilia quickly retorted with suppressed uneasiness in her eyes, "Anne, you don't know..."

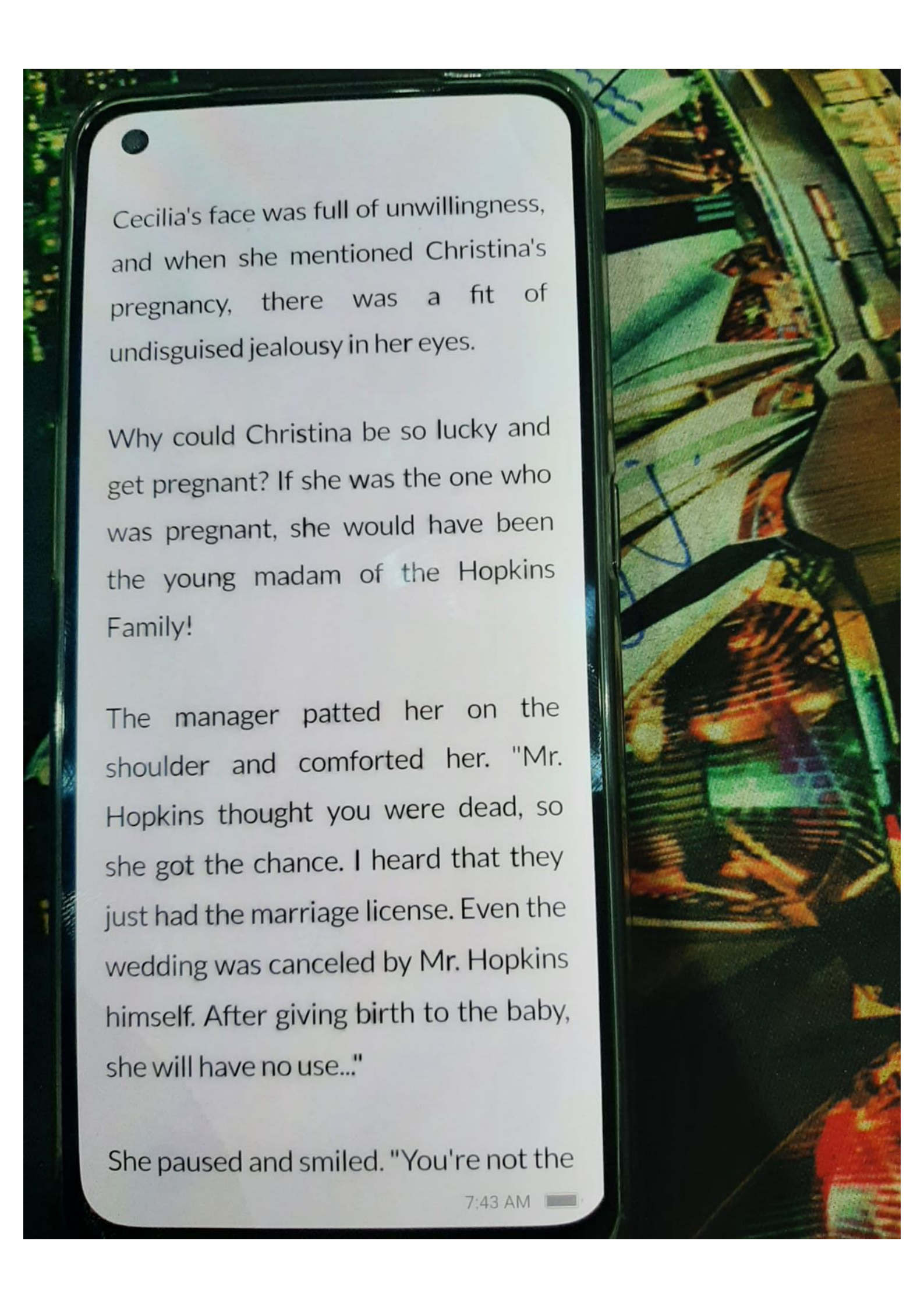
As she spoke, Cecilia's expression became a little complicated and she hesitated to say, "I, I used to be with Patrick, but we, we never slept together."

"What?! You never...Have sex!"

How could this be possible? The manager was shocked.

"I'm especially worried right now. This Christina is pregnant. If they fall in love with each other in the Hopkins Family, Patrick will forget about me. Without Patrick, how am I going to continue my career..."





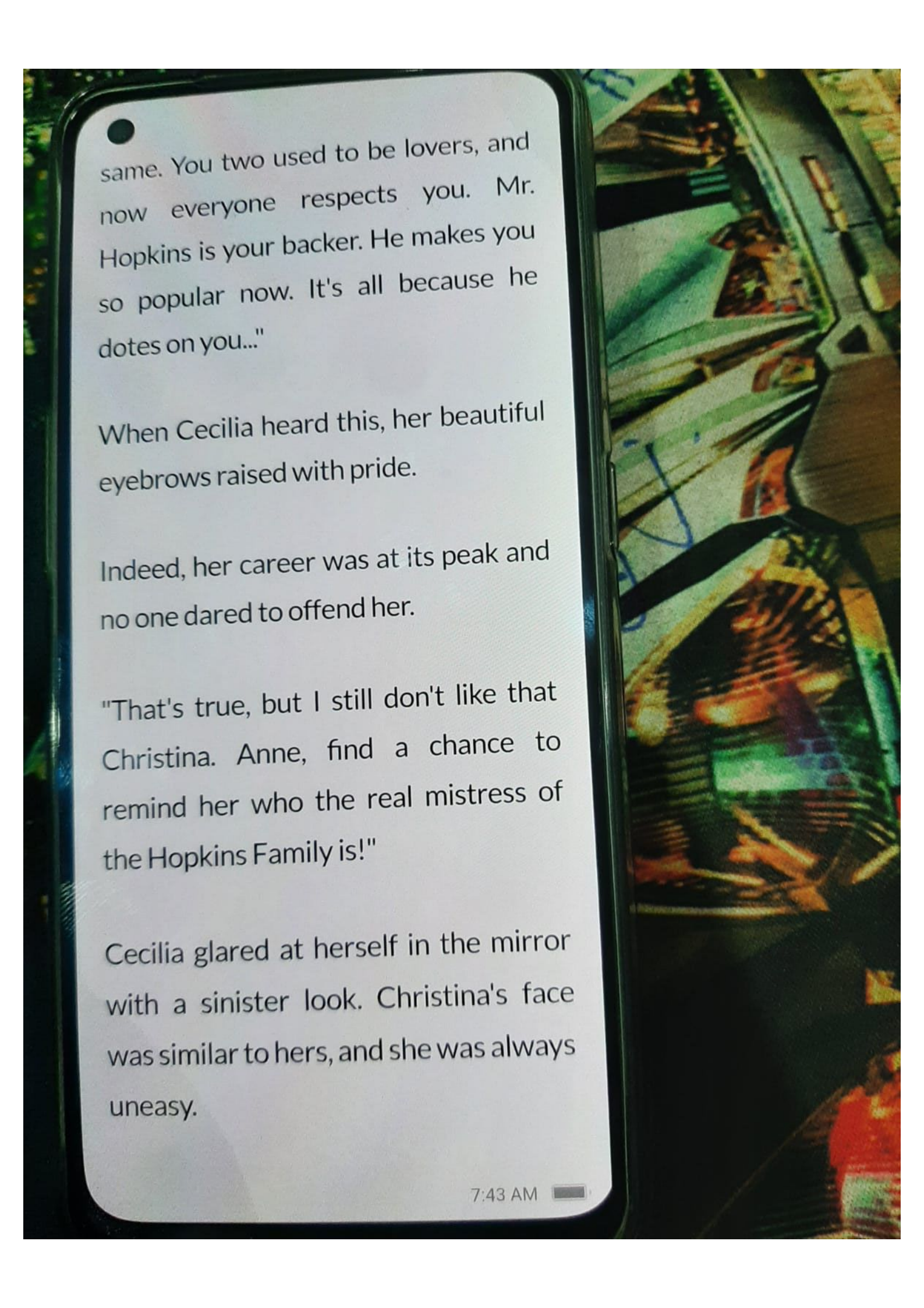
Cecilia's face was full of unwillingness, and when she mentioned Christina's pregnancy, there was a fit of undisguised jealousy in her eyes.

Why could Christina be so lucky and get pregnant? If she was the one who was pregnant, she would have been the young madam of the Hopkins Family!

The manager patted her on the shoulder and comforted her. "Mr. Hopkins thought you were dead, so she got the chance. I heard that they just had the marriage license. Even the wedding was canceled by Mr. Hopkins himself. After giving birth to the baby, she will have no use..."

She paused and smiled. "You're not the





same. You two used to be lovers, and now everyone respects you. Mr. Hopkins is your backer. He makes you so popular now. It's all because he dotes on you..."

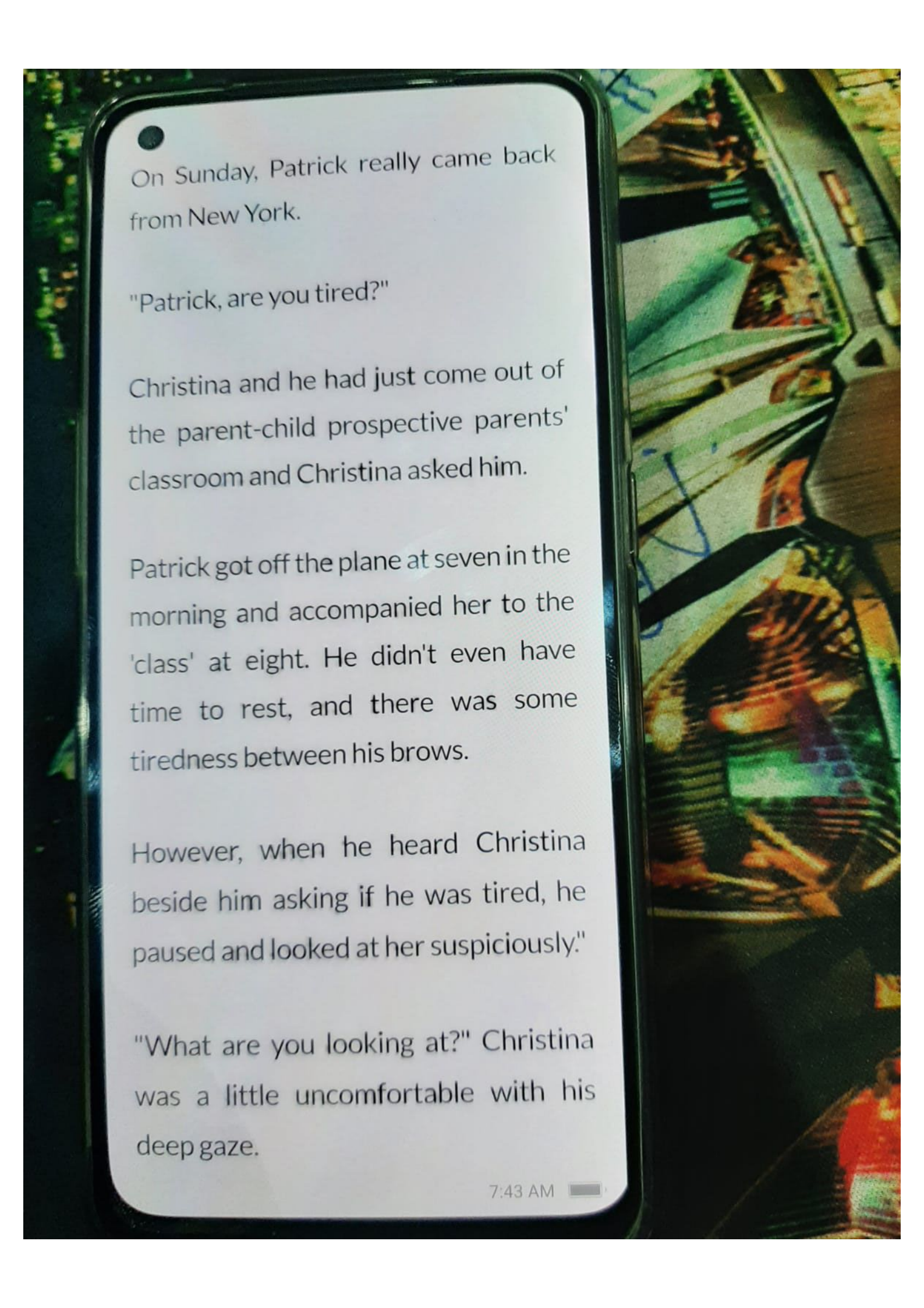
When Cecilia heard this, her beautiful eyebrows raised with pride.

Indeed, her career was at its peak and no one dared to offend her.

"That's true, but I still don't like that Christina. Anne, find a chance to remind her who the real mistress of the Hopkins Family is!"

Cecilia glared at herself in the mirror with a sinister look. Christina's face was similar to hers, and she was always uneasy.





On Sunday, Patrick really came back from New York.

"Patrick, are you tired?"

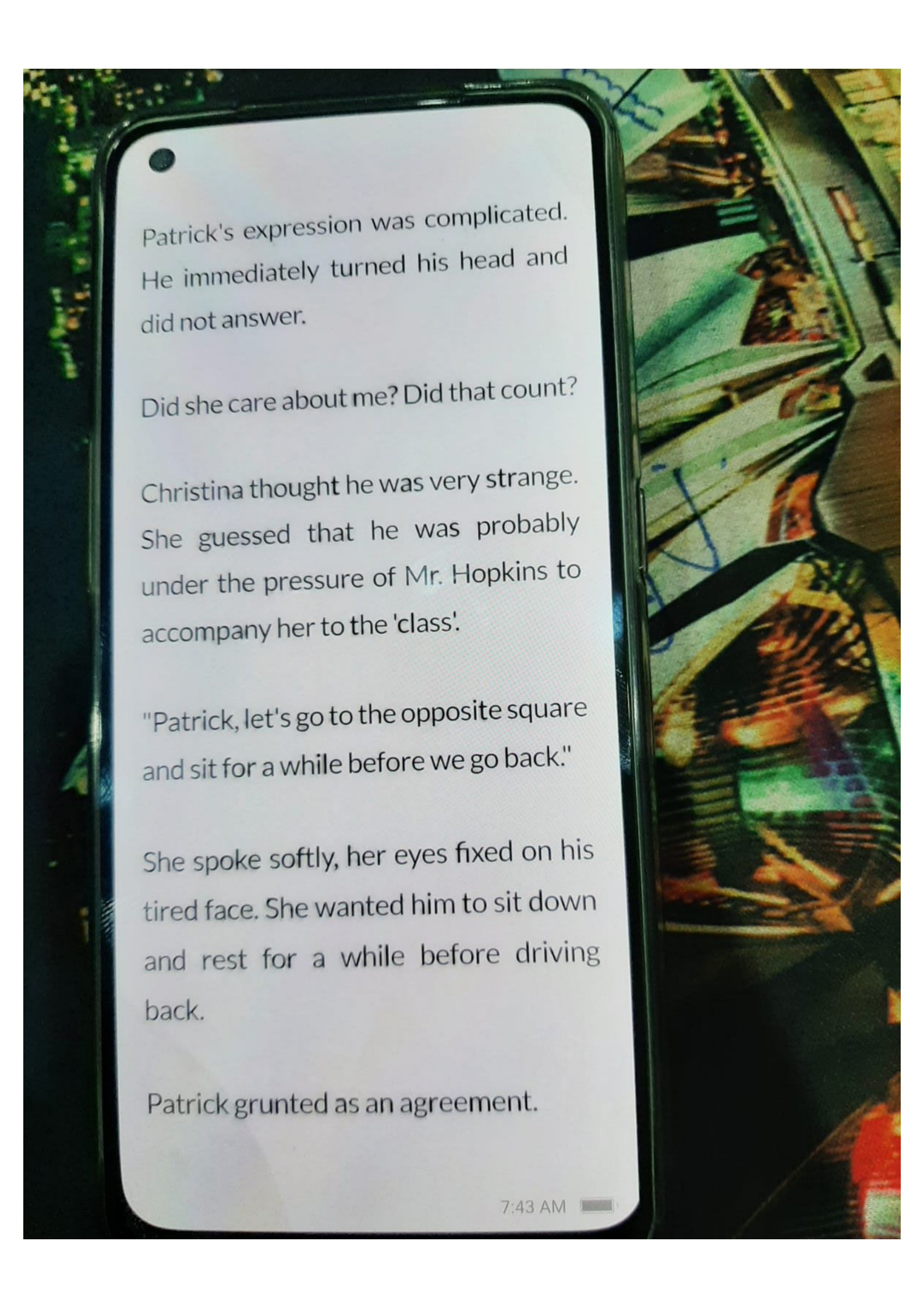
Christina and he had just come out of the parent-child prospective parents' classroom and Christina asked him.

Patrick got off the plane at seven in the morning and accompanied her to the 'class' at eight. He didn't even have time to rest, and there was some tiredness between his brows.

However, when he heard Christina beside him asking if he was tired, he paused and looked at her suspiciously."

"What are you looking at?" Christina was a little uncomfortable with his deep gaze.



A smartphone screen is shown at an angle, displaying a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and red, and some blue scribbles. The text on the screen is in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The phone's notch is visible at the top left.

Patrick's expression was complicated. He immediately turned his head and did not answer.

Did she care about me? Did that count?

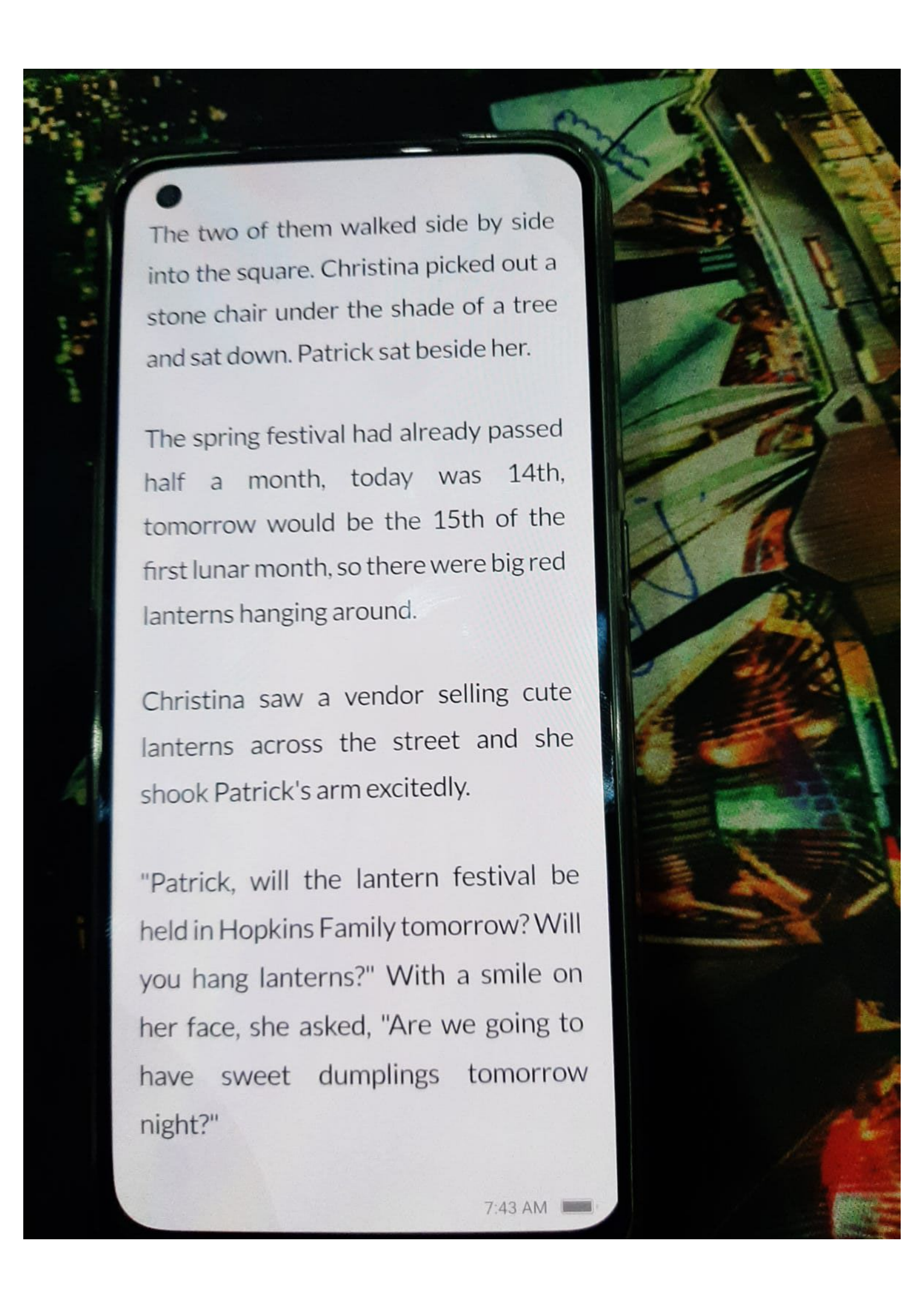
Christina thought he was very strange. She guessed that he was probably under the pressure of Mr. Hopkins to accompany her to the 'class'.

"Patrick, let's go to the opposite square and sit for a while before we go back."

She spoke softly, her eyes fixed on his tired face. She wanted him to sit down and rest for a while before driving back.

Patrick grunted as an agreement.



The image shows a smartphone screen with text displayed on it. The background of the entire image is a photograph of a lantern festival at night, with various colorful lanterns hanging from the ceiling. The lanterns have different shapes and colors, including green, orange, and red. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the lanterns themselves. The smartphone screen is in the foreground, showing a white background with black text. The text is arranged in four paragraphs. At the bottom of the screen, there is a status bar showing the time as 7:43 AM and a battery icon.

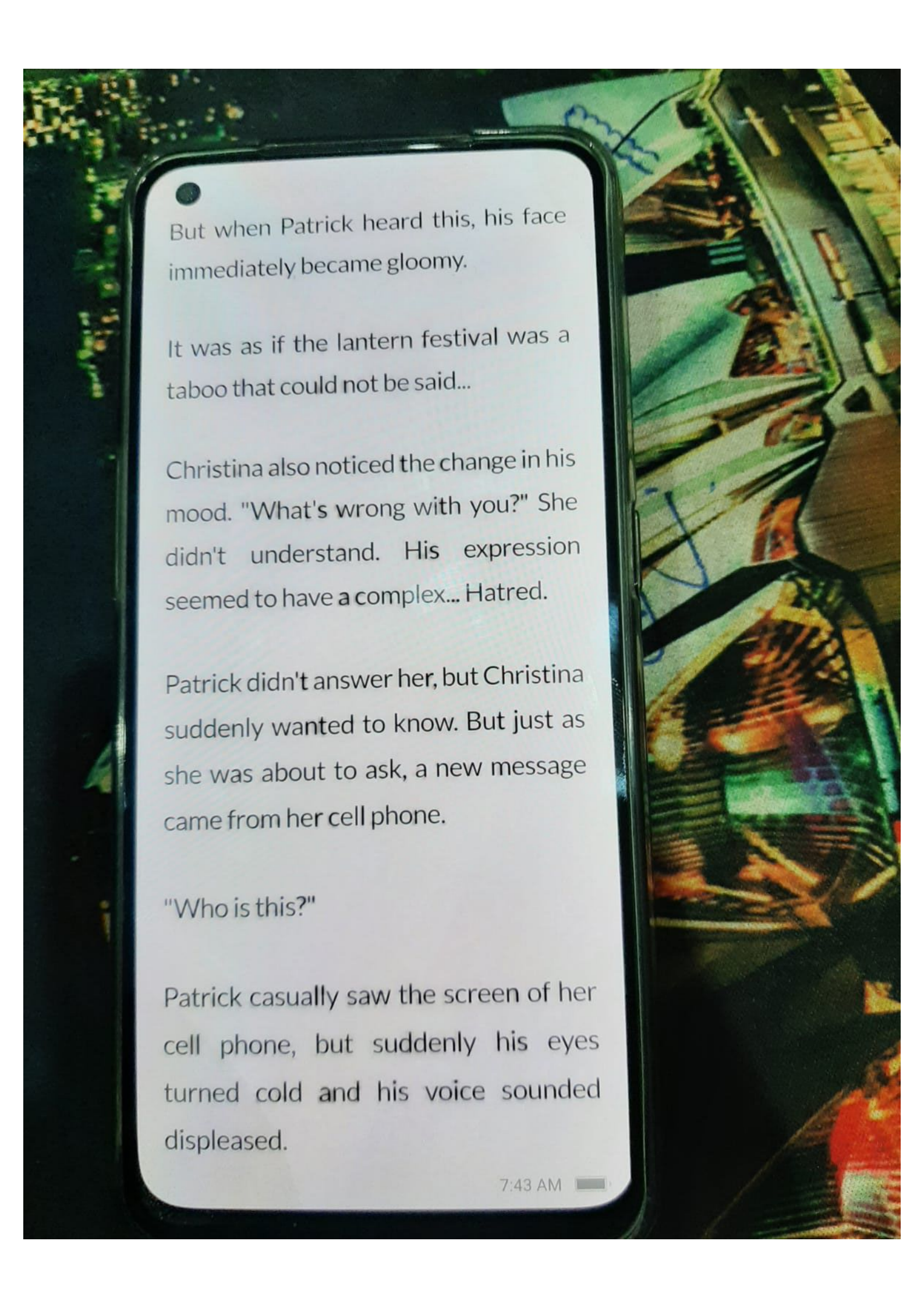
The two of them walked side by side into the square. Christina picked out a stone chair under the shade of a tree and sat down. Patrick sat beside her.

The spring festival had already passed half a month, today was 14th, tomorrow would be the 15th of the first lunar month, so there were big red lanterns hanging around.

Christina saw a vendor selling cute lanterns across the street and she shook Patrick's arm excitedly.

"Patrick, will the lantern festival be held in Hopkins Family tomorrow? Will you hang lanterns?" With a smile on her face, she asked, "Are we going to have sweet dumplings tomorrow night?"



A smartphone screen is shown at an angle, displaying text from a story. The background of the phone's display is a photograph of a lantern festival at night, with various colorful lanterns and structures visible. The text on the screen is as follows:

But when Patrick heard this, his face immediately became gloomy.

It was as if the lantern festival was a taboo that could not be said...

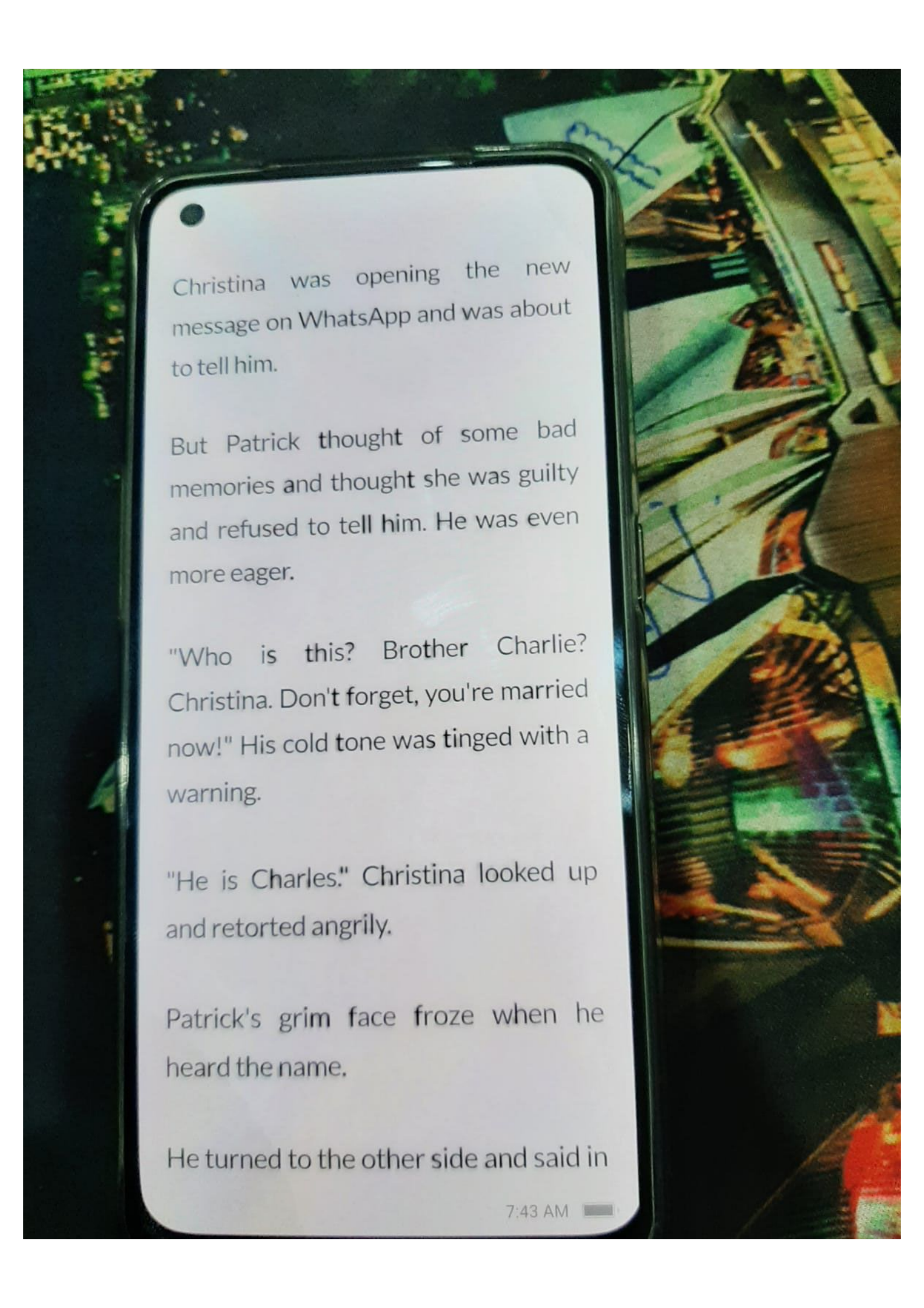
Christina also noticed the change in his mood. "What's wrong with you?" She didn't understand. His expression seemed to have a complex... Hatred.

Patrick didn't answer her, but Christina suddenly wanted to know. But just as she was about to ask, a new message came from her cell phone.

"Who is this?"

Patrick casually saw the screen of her cell phone, but suddenly his eyes turned cold and his voice sounded displeased.



A photograph of a smartphone screen displaying a text message. The screen is the central focus, showing a white background with black text. The background of the entire image is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and red, and some geometric shapes. The phone's camera notch is visible at the top left of the screen.

Christina was opening the new message on WhatsApp and was about to tell him.

But Patrick thought of some bad memories and thought she was guilty and refused to tell him. He was even more eager.

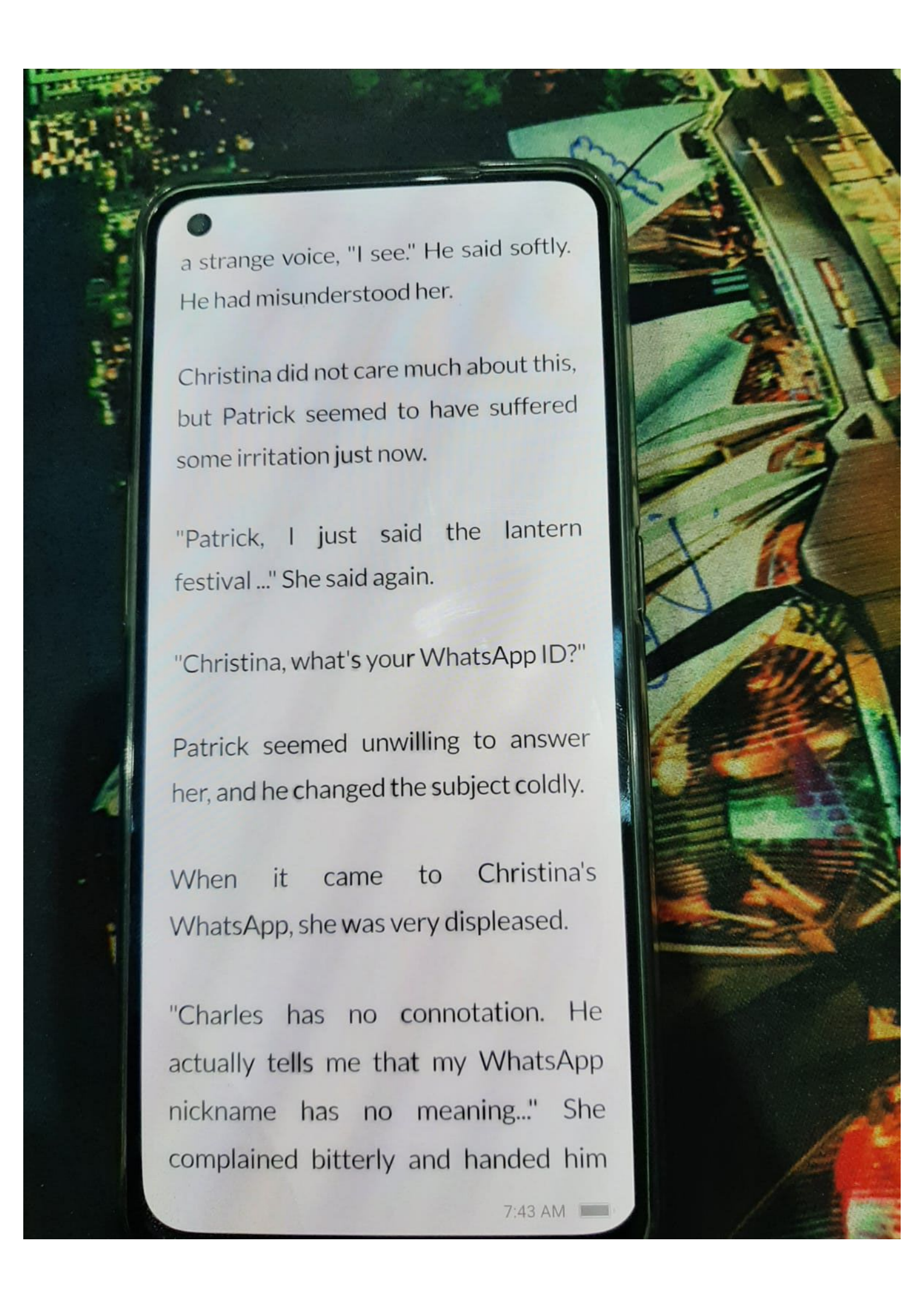
"Who is this? Brother Charlie? Christina. Don't forget, you're married now!" His cold tone was tinged with a warning.

"He is Charles." Christina looked up and retorted angrily.

Patrick's grim face froze when he heard the name.

He turned to the other side and said in





a strange voice, "I see." He said softly.  
He had misunderstood her.

Christina did not care much about this,  
but Patrick seemed to have suffered  
some irritation just now.

"Patrick, I just said the lantern  
festival..." She said again.

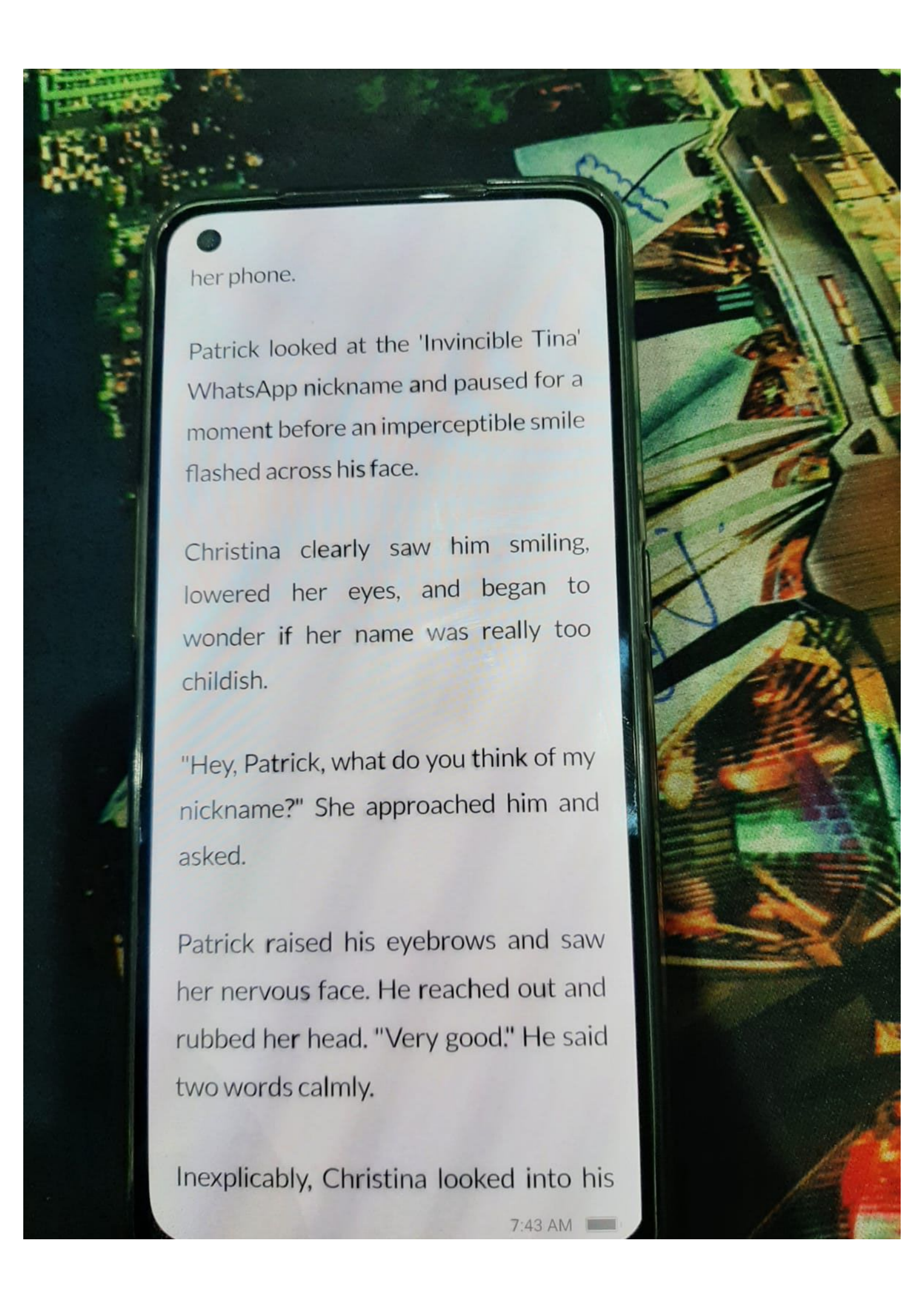
"Christina, what's your WhatsApp ID?"

Patrick seemed unwilling to answer  
her, and he changed the subject coldly.

When it came to Christina's  
WhatsApp, she was very displeased.

"Charles has no connotation. He  
actually tells me that my WhatsApp  
nickname has no meaning..." She  
complained bitterly and handed him





her phone.

Patrick looked at the 'Invincible Tina' WhatsApp nickname and paused for a moment before an imperceptible smile flashed across his face.

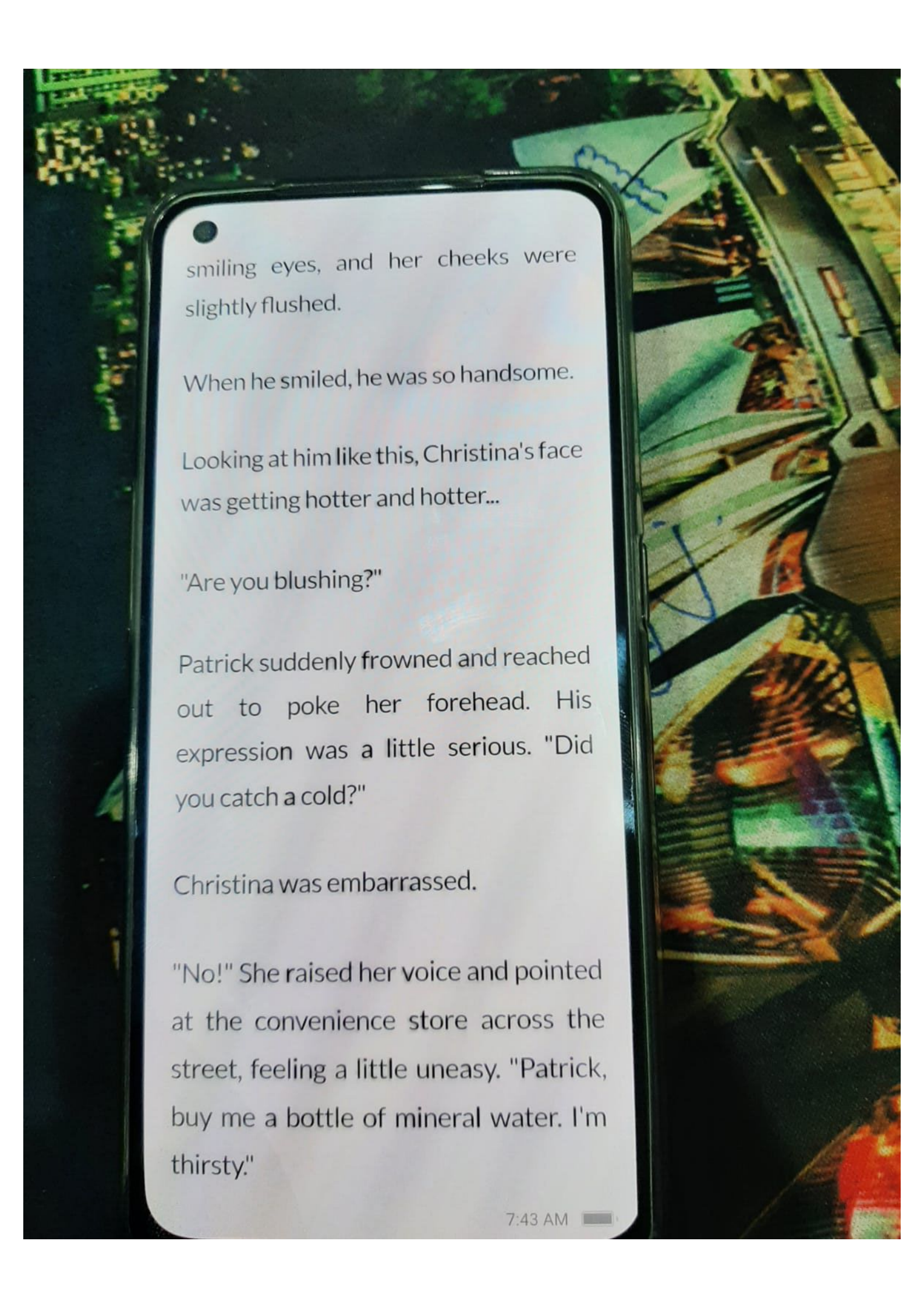
Christina clearly saw him smiling, lowered her eyes, and began to wonder if her name was really too childish.

"Hey, Patrick, what do you think of my nickname?" She approached him and asked.

Patrick raised his eyebrows and saw her nervous face. He reached out and rubbed her head. "Very good." He said two words calmly.

Inexplicably, Christina looked into his





smiling eyes, and her cheeks were slightly flushed.

When he smiled, he was so handsome.

Looking at him like this, Christina's face was getting hotter and hotter...

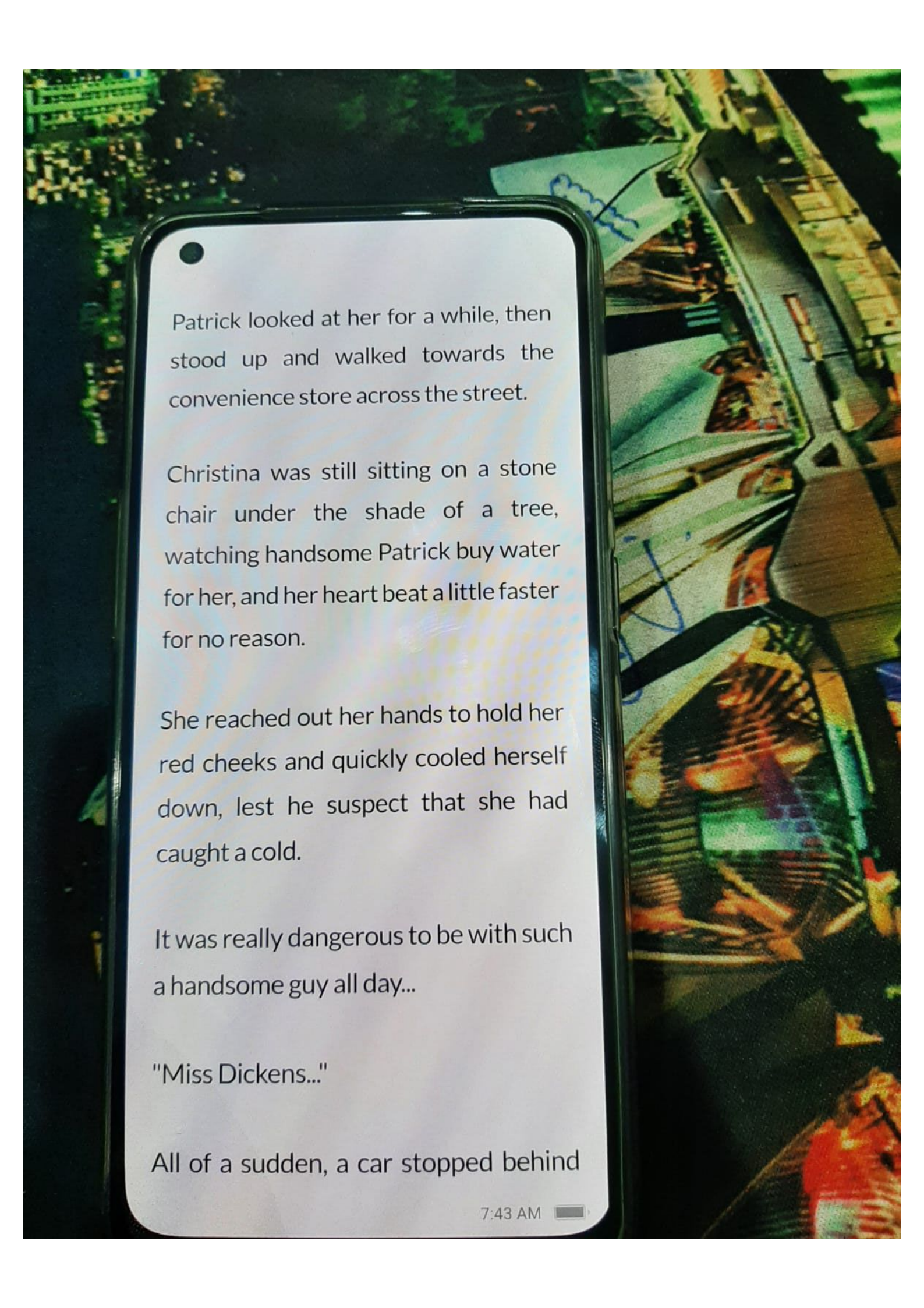
"Are you blushing?"

Patrick suddenly frowned and reached out to poke her forehead. His expression was a little serious. "Did you catch a cold?"

Christina was embarrassed.

"No!" She raised her voice and pointed at the convenience store across the street, feeling a little uneasy. "Patrick, buy me a bottle of mineral water. I'm thirsty."



A smartphone screen is the central focus, displaying a story snippet. The background of the entire image is a vibrant, abstract painting with a mix of colors including reds, oranges, yellows, and blues, suggesting a scene with people or objects. The smartphone screen has a white background with black text. At the top of the screen, there is a small black circle representing a camera lens. The text is arranged in several paragraphs, with the first paragraph at the top, followed by two more paragraphs, and a single line of text at the bottom. The time and battery status are visible at the very bottom of the screen.

Patrick looked at her for a while, then stood up and walked towards the convenience store across the street.

Christina was still sitting on a stone chair under the shade of a tree, watching handsome Patrick buy water for her, and her heart beat a little faster for no reason.

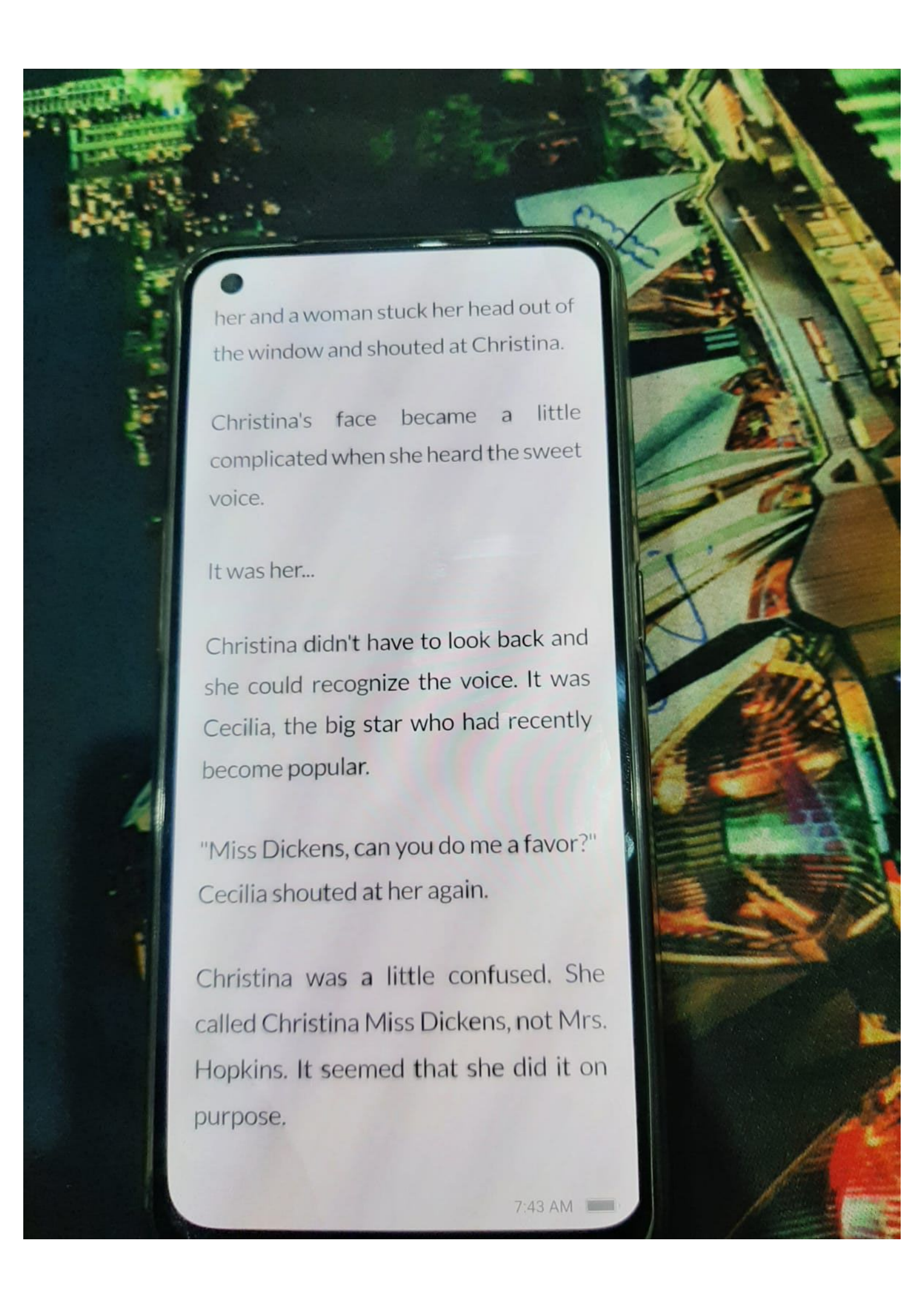
She reached out her hands to hold her red cheeks and quickly cooled herself down, lest he suspect that she had caught a cold.

It was really dangerous to be with such a handsome guy all day...

"Miss Dickens..."

All of a sudden, a car stopped behind



A smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying a story snippet. The background behind the phone is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, and red, and some geometric shapes. The phone's screen is white with black text. At the bottom of the screen, the time '7:43 AM' and a battery icon are visible.

her and a woman stuck her head out of the window and shouted at Christina.

Christina's face became a little complicated when she heard the sweet voice.

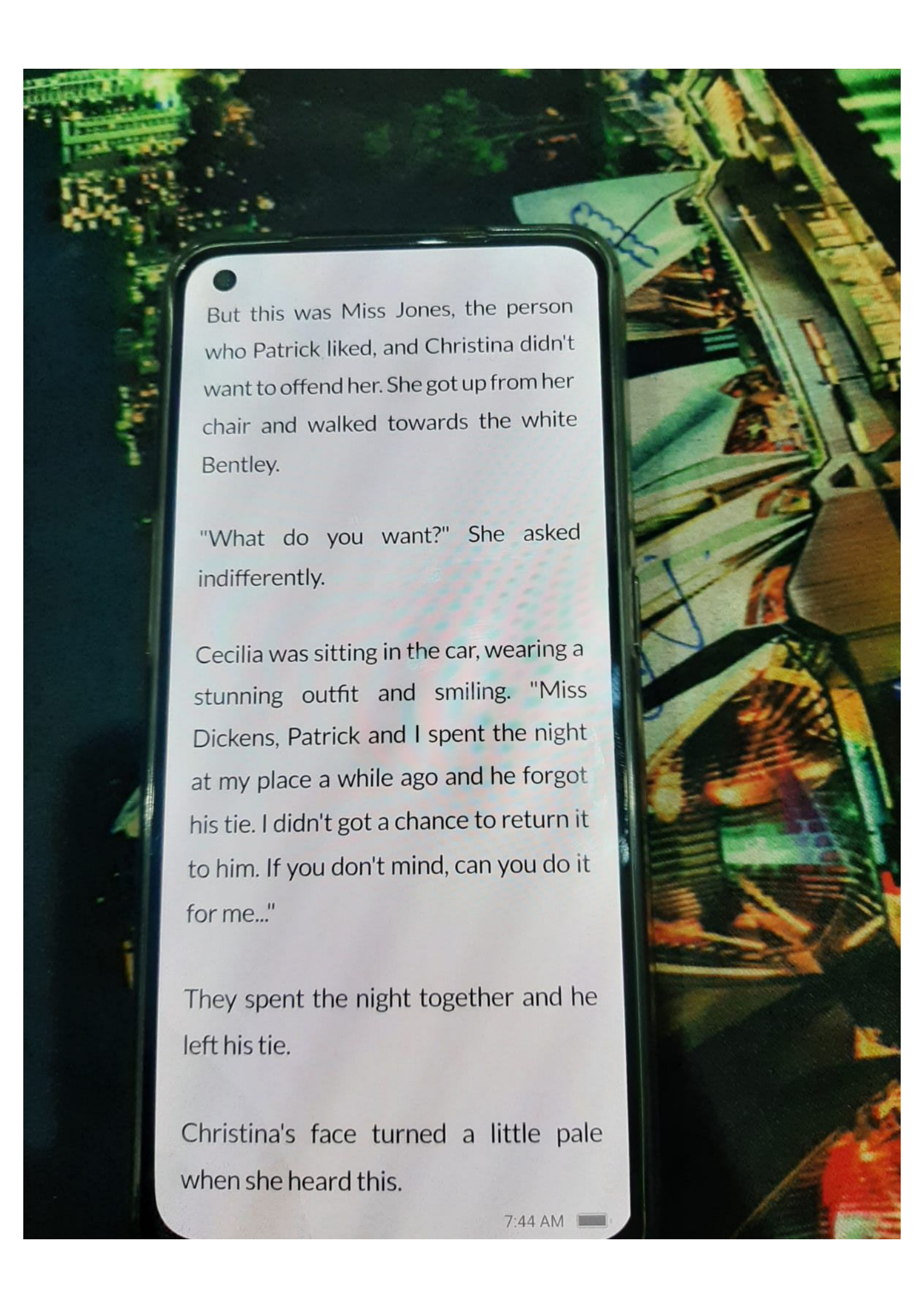
It was her...

Christina didn't have to look back and she could recognize the voice. It was Cecilia, the big star who had recently become popular.

"Miss Dickens, can you do me a favor?" Cecilia shouted at her again.

Christina was a little confused. She called Christina Miss Dickens, not Mrs. Hopkins. It seemed that she did it on purpose.



The image shows a smartphone screen with a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and red, and some geometric shapes. The text on the screen is as follows:

But this was Miss Jones, the person who Patrick liked, and Christina didn't want to offend her. She got up from her chair and walked towards the white Bentley.

"What do you want?" She asked indifferently.

Cecilia was sitting in the car, wearing a stunning outfit and smiling. "Miss Dickens, Patrick and I spent the night at my place a while ago and he forgot his tie. I didn't get a chance to return it to him. If you don't mind, can you do it for me..."

They spent the night together and he left his tie.

Christina's face turned a little pale when she heard this.



"Ah, Okay."

Christina looked at Cecilia in the car, inexplicably feeling a sense of inferiority.

Cecilia saw Christina's lowly appearance, her lips curled up in arrogance, and pretended to look around in the car. She looked up and said embarrassingly, "Oh, I've been so busy lately, and the tie seems to have been left in the lounge again..."

"In that case, I'll return it to Patrick myself next time. Miss Dickens, sorry." The smile on Cecilia's face deepened with a hint of pride.

Christina stood by the side of the road and watched Cecilia's car away...



"What are you doing standing here?"  
Patrick bought some water and walked  
up to her and asked.

Christina unconsciously took a step  
back and took the mineral water from  
his hand. "Thank you."

Patrick narrowed his eyes and sensed  
her cold and distant attitude towards  
him.



## Chapter 35

It was Lantern Festival today.

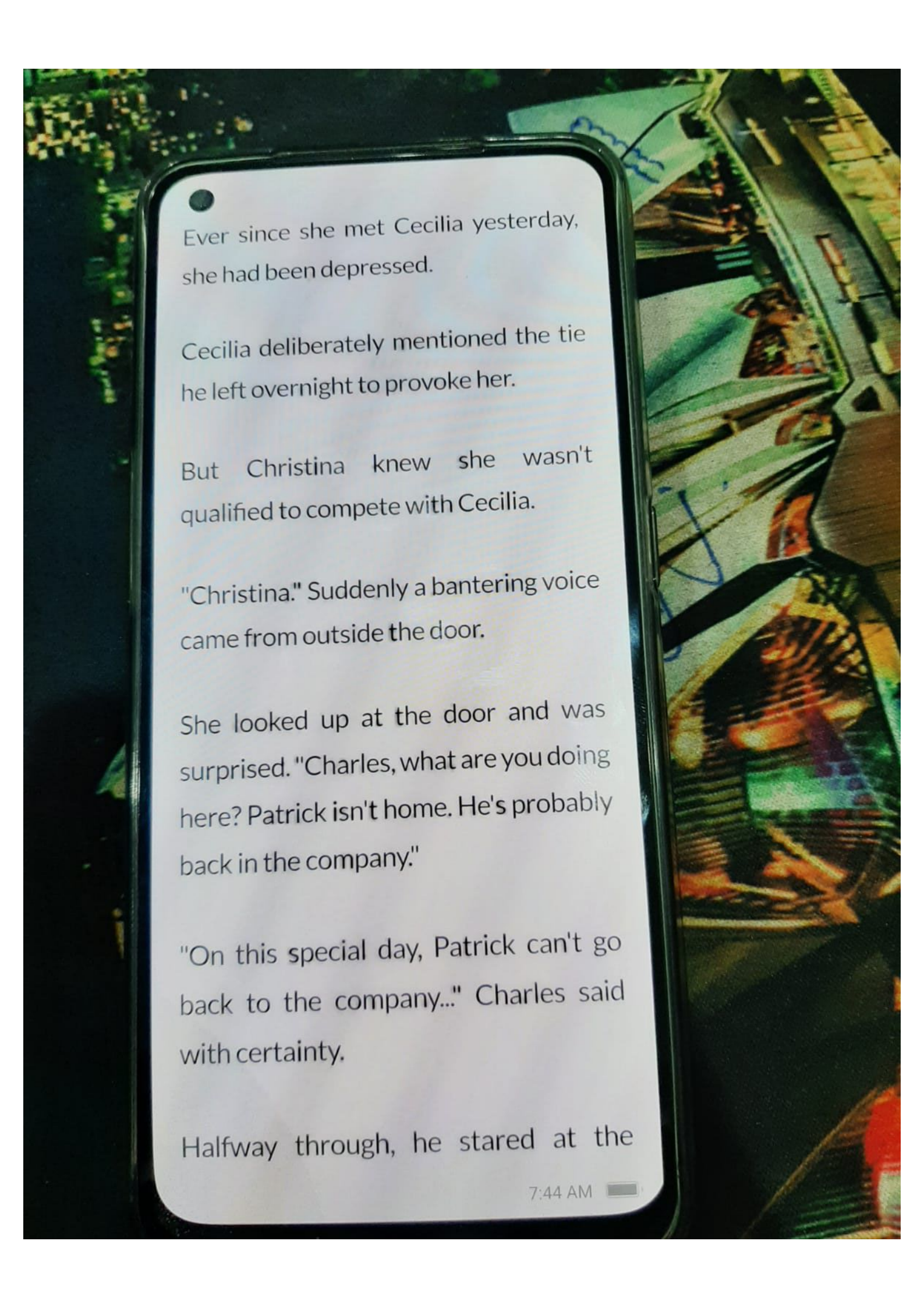
After breakfast with grandpa, Christina returned to the villa and sat on the sofa of the living room, looking a little depressed.

"So today is Patrick's birthday..."

Yesterday, they went to the parent-child prospective parents' classroom to attend a class. At that time, she noticed that Patrick had some complicated feelings about Lantern Festival and he didn't want to mention it.

"He didn't want me to know his birthday." Was he afraid that I would bother him?





Ever since she met Cecilia yesterday, she had been depressed.

Cecilia deliberately mentioned the tie he left overnight to provoke her.

But Christina knew she wasn't qualified to compete with Cecilia.

"Christina." Suddenly a bantering voice came from outside the door.

She looked up at the door and was surprised. "Charles, what are you doing here? Patrick isn't home. He's probably back in the company."

"On this special day, Patrick can't go back to the company..." Charles said with certainty.

Halfway through, he stared at the



living room table with wide eyes.  
"Christina, this is the birthday cake you bought, right?" He sounded frightened.

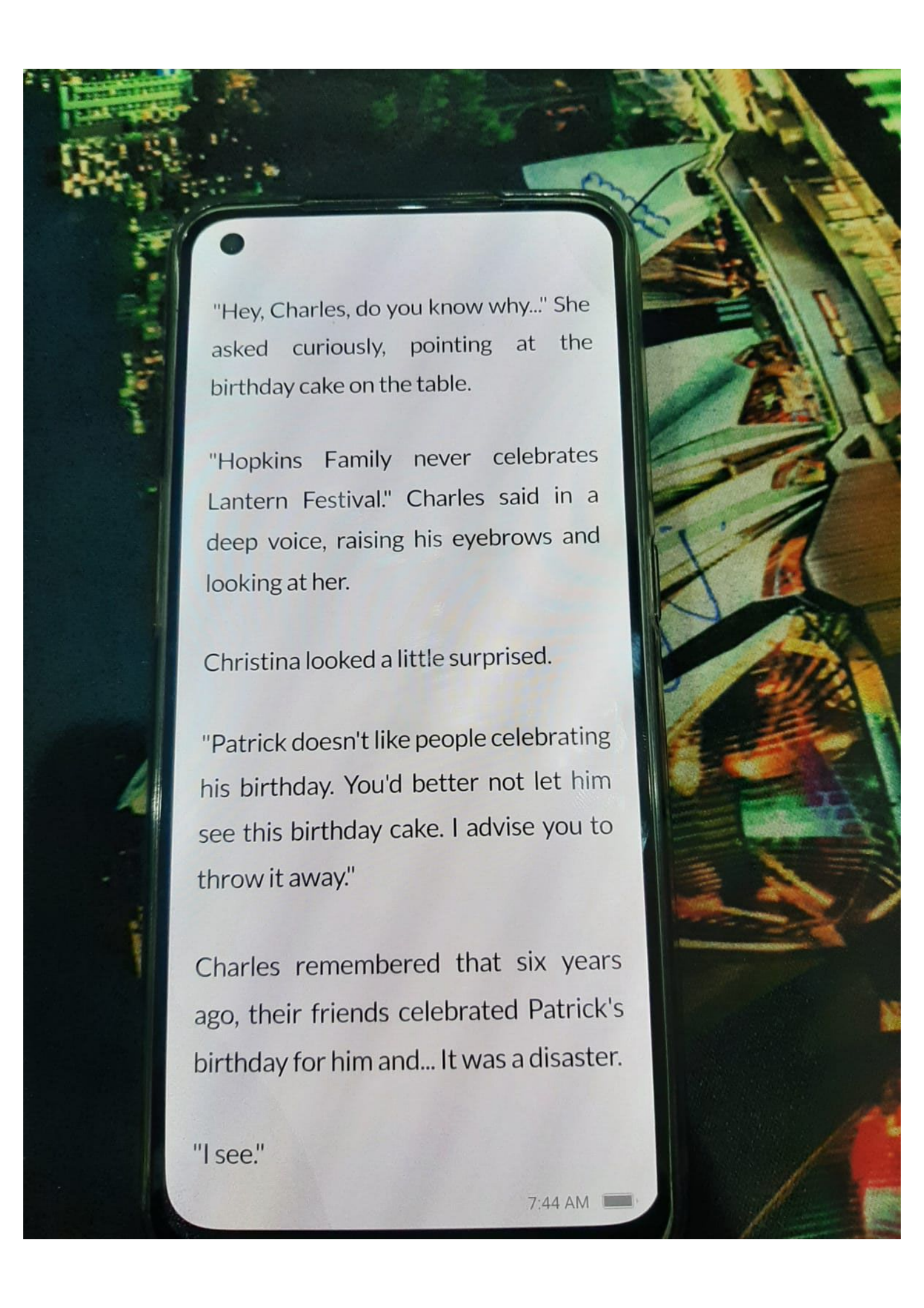
Christina looked down at the birthday cake on the table and sighed.

Charles frowned and sat down across from her, he asked seriously. "Christina, do you know today is Patrick's birthday?"

"Yes." She replied sullenly.

In fact, she only overheard the housekeeper talking about Patrick's birthday this morning, so she picked up her phone and ordered a cake. But when she came back with a cake in her hand, the housekeeper and the Hopkins Family maids both looked terrible.



A photograph of a smartphone screen displaying text. The phone is held in a hand, and the background is a colorful, abstract, and somewhat blurry image. The text on the screen is as follows:

"Hey, Charles, do you know why..." She asked curiously, pointing at the birthday cake on the table.

"Hopkins Family never celebrates Lantern Festival." Charles said in a deep voice, raising his eyebrows and looking at her.

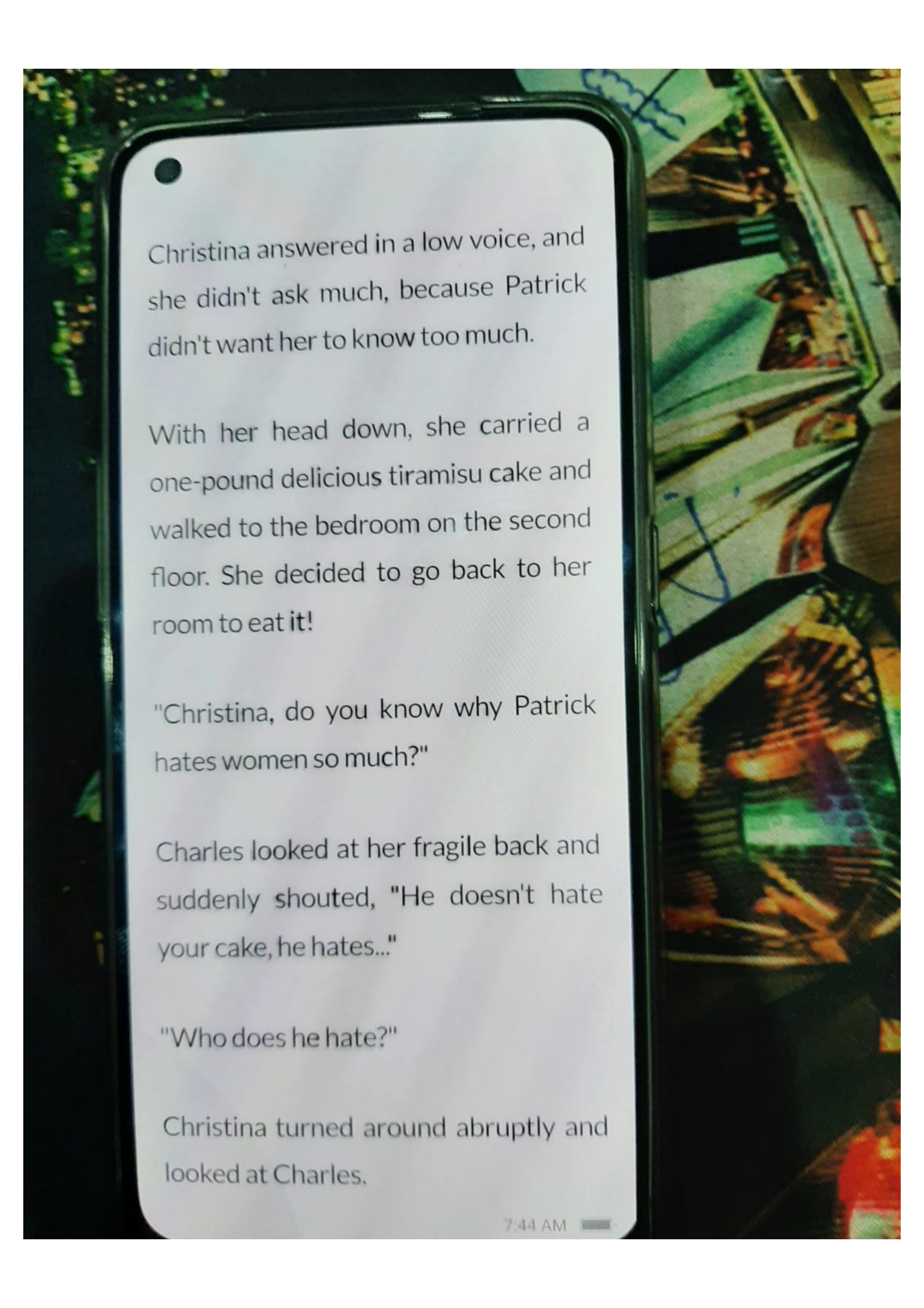
Christina looked a little surprised.

"Patrick doesn't like people celebrating his birthday. You'd better not let him see this birthday cake. I advise you to throw it away."

Charles remembered that six years ago, their friends celebrated Patrick's birthday for him and... It was a disaster.

"I see."





Christina answered in a low voice, and she didn't ask much, because Patrick didn't want her to know too much.

With her head down, she carried a one-pound delicious tiramisu cake and walked to the bedroom on the second floor. She decided to go back to her room to eat it!

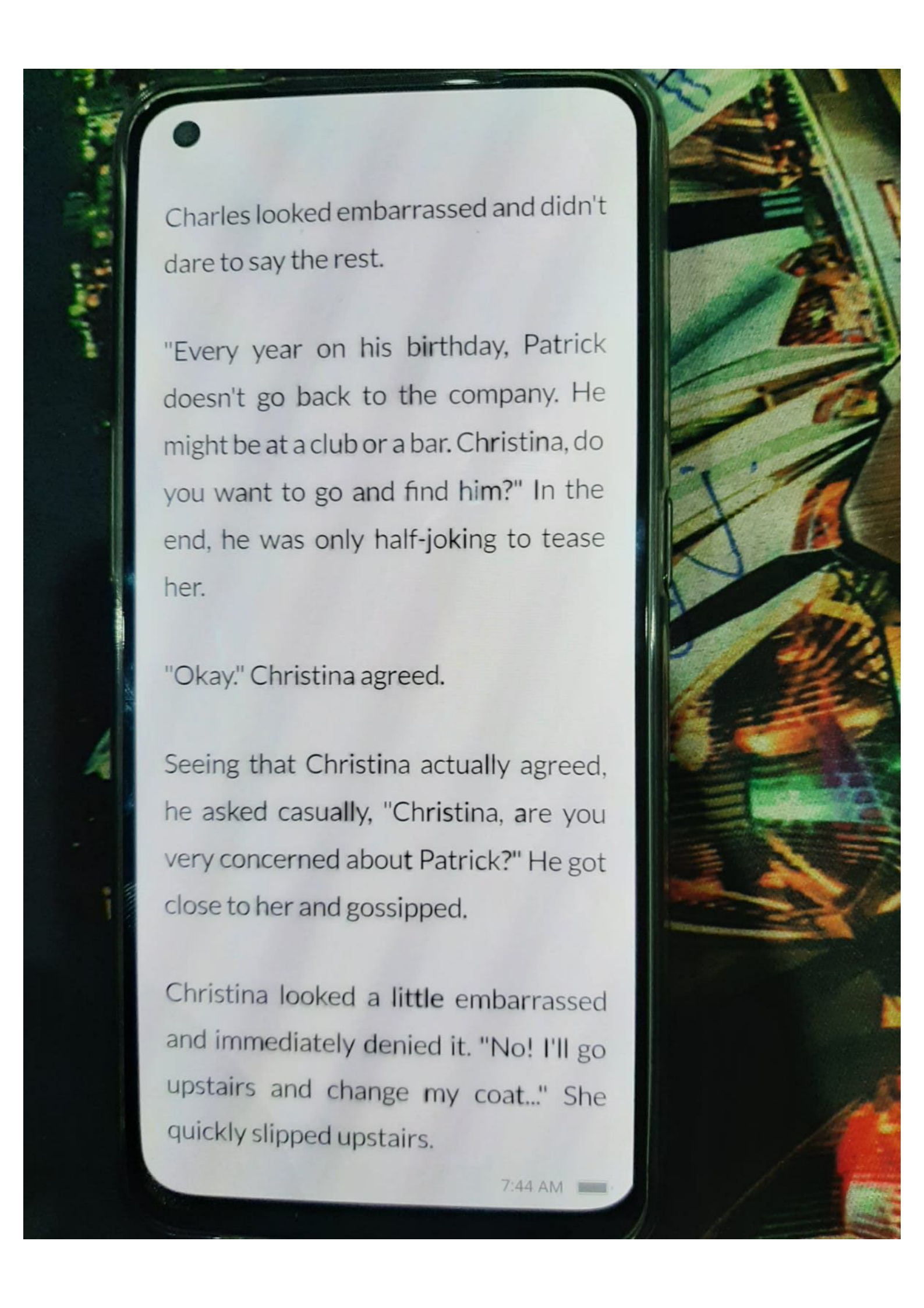
"Christina, do you know why Patrick hates women so much?"

Charles looked at her fragile back and suddenly shouted, "He doesn't hate your cake, he hates..."

"Who does he hate?"

Christina turned around abruptly and looked at Charles.





Charles looked embarrassed and didn't dare to say the rest.

"Every year on his birthday, Patrick doesn't go back to the company. He might be at a club or a bar. Christina, do you want to go and find him?" In the end, he was only half-joking to tease her.

"Okay." Christina agreed.

Seeing that Christina actually agreed, he asked casually, "Christina, are you very concerned about Patrick?" He got close to her and gossiped.

Christina looked a little embarrassed and immediately denied it. "No! I'll go upstairs and change my coat..." She quickly slipped upstairs.



When Charles saw her coming downstairs, Christina was wearing a light pink Korean coat, white tights. Her long hair was tied up in a ball. She wore light makeup and she looked young and beautiful with delicate features. However, she was still wearing a scarf around her neck...

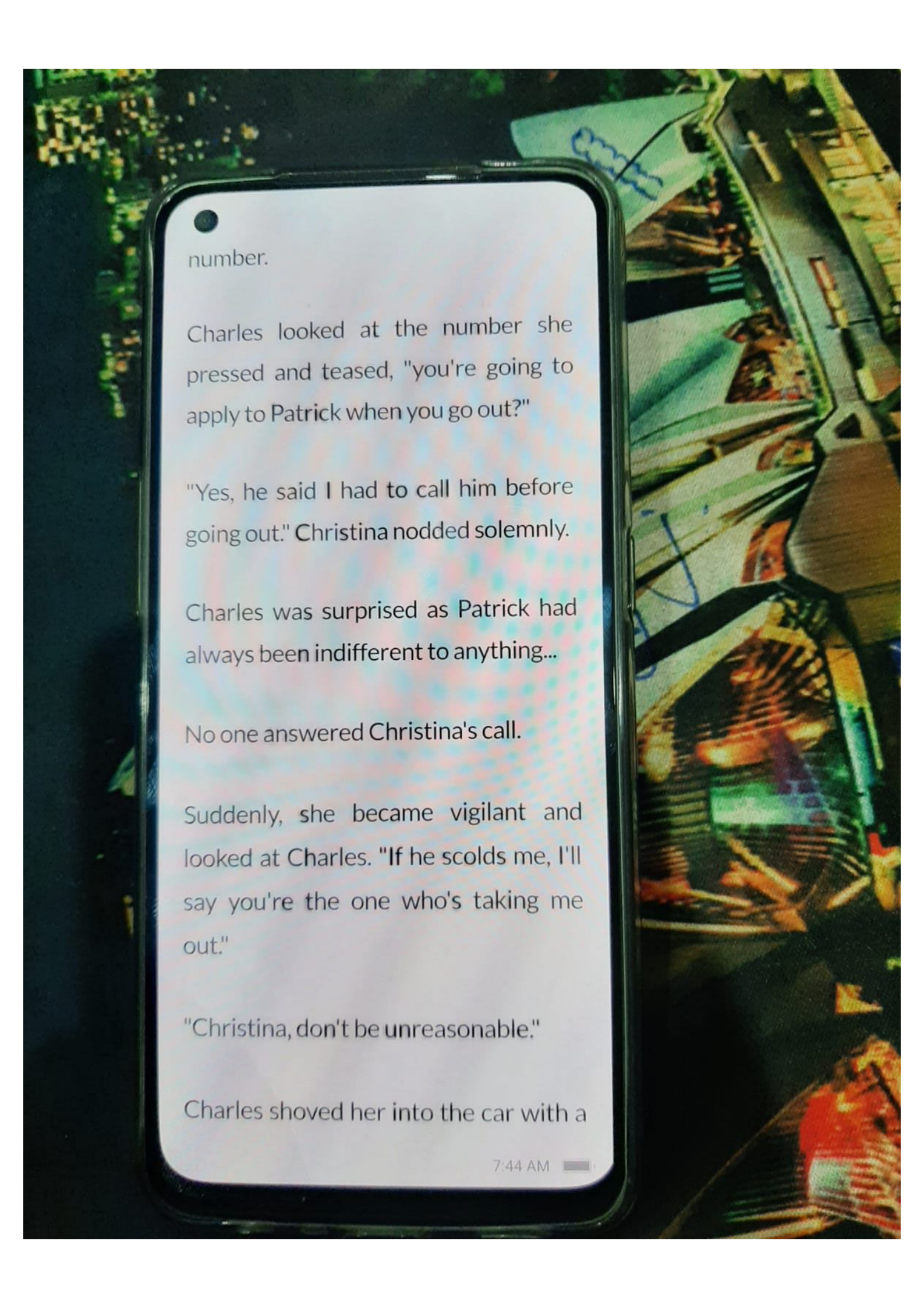
"Christina, you don't have to dress like a mummy."

The two walked out the door side by side. Seeing that she dressed so much, Charles complained.

"I'm going to dress tight. I'll get scolded if I catch a cold!"

Christina took out her cell phone from her pocket and dialed a familiar



The image shows a smartphone screen with a white background and rounded corners. The screen displays several paragraphs of text in a black, sans-serif font. The text is a narrative snippet. At the bottom of the screen, there is a status bar showing the time '7:44 AM' and a battery icon. The phone is held in front of a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and red, and some blue scribbles. The background is slightly out of focus.

number.

Charles looked at the number she pressed and teased, "you're going to apply to Patrick when you go out?"

"Yes, he said I had to call him before going out." Christina nodded solemnly.


Charles was surprised as Patrick had always been indifferent to anything...

No one answered Christina's call.

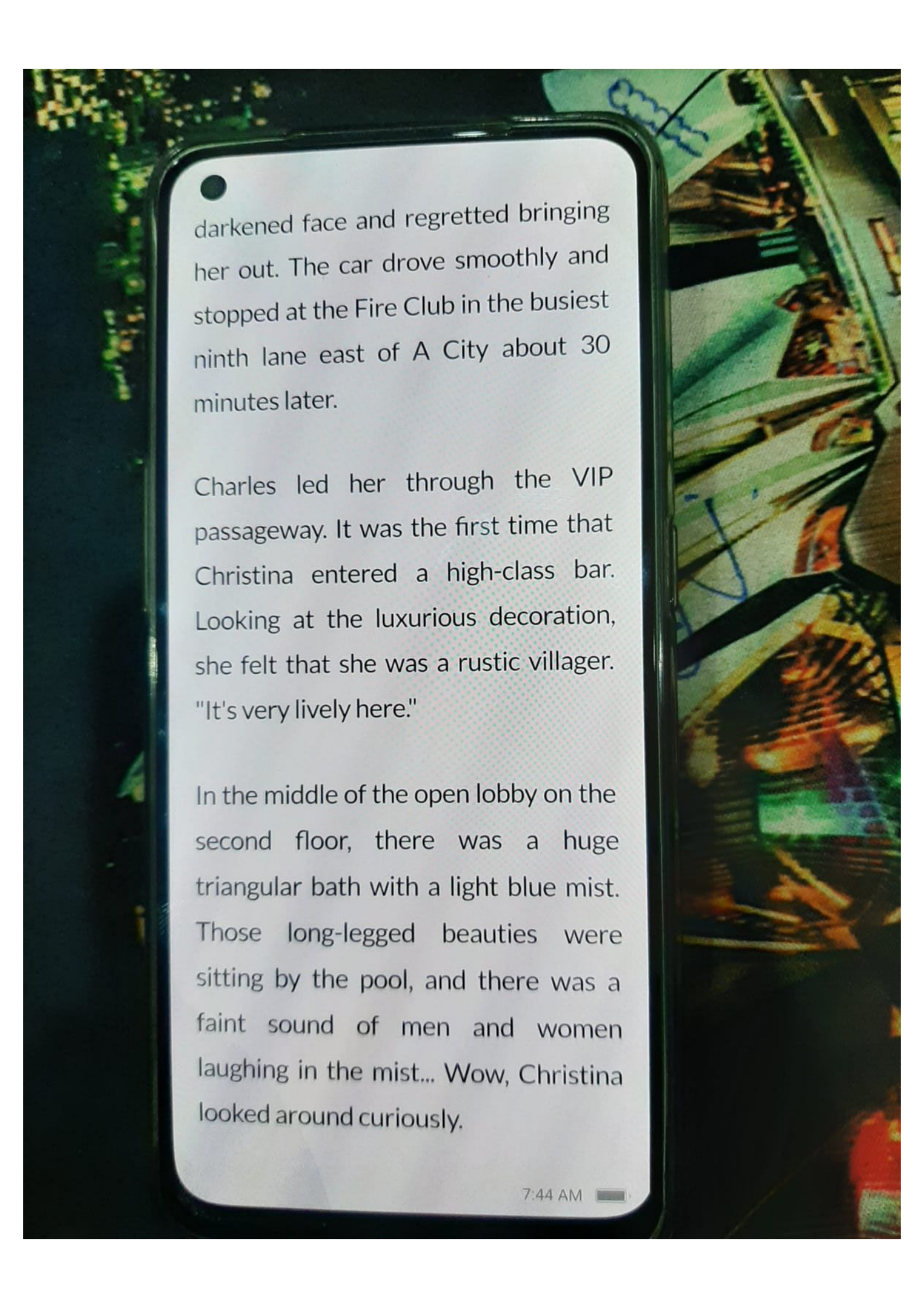
Suddenly, she became vigilant and looked at Charles. "If he scolds me, I'll say you're the one who's taking me out."

"Christina, don't be unreasonable."

Charles shoved her into the car with a

7:44 AM 



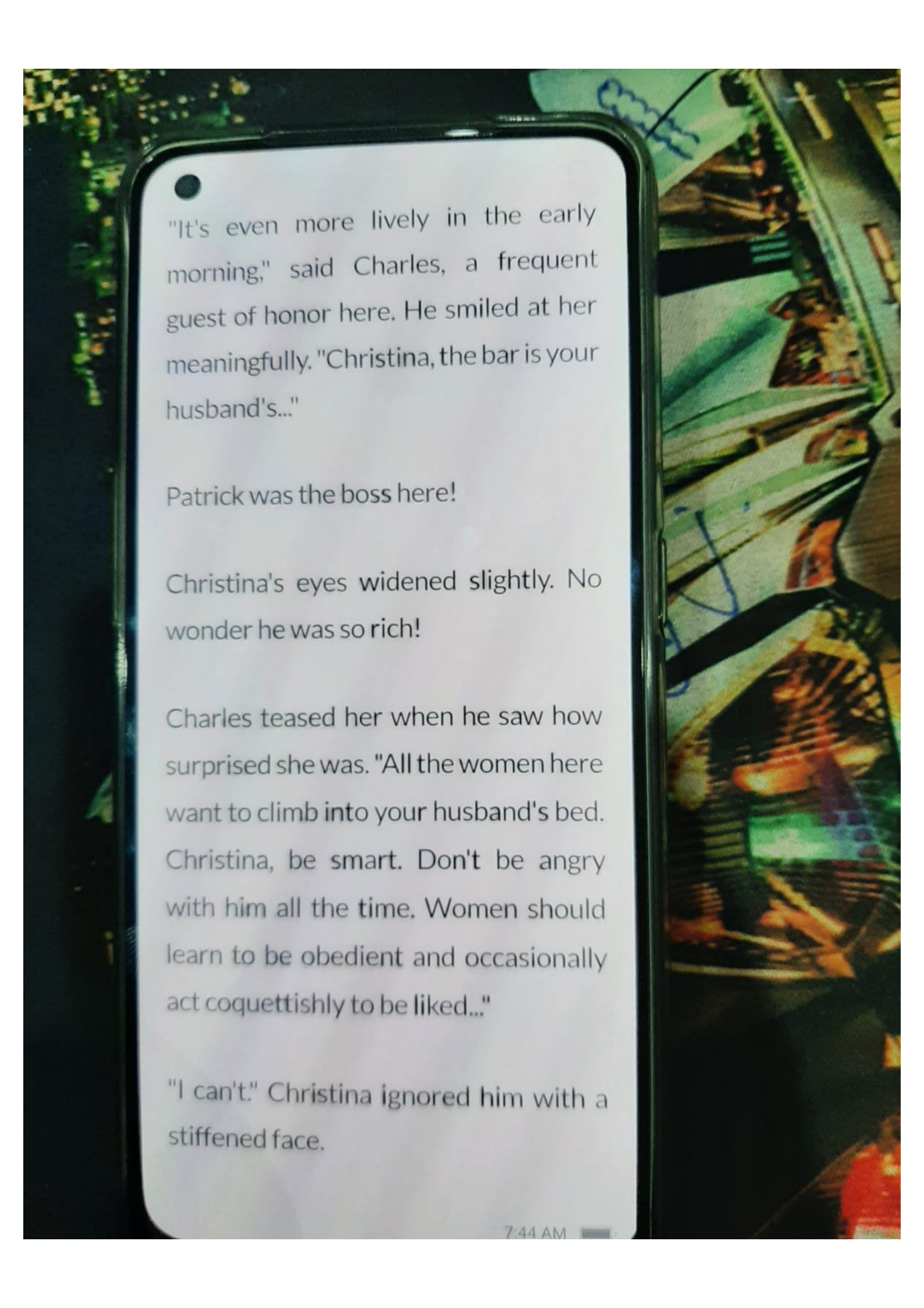
A smartphone screen is shown, displaying a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and purple, and some geometric shapes. The text message is in a clean, black font on a white background. At the top left of the screen, there is a small black dot, likely representing a notification or a UI element. The time and battery status are visible at the bottom right of the screen.

darkened face and regretted bringing her out. The car drove smoothly and stopped at the Fire Club in the busiest ninth lane east of A City about 30 minutes later.

Charles led her through the VIP passageway. It was the first time that Christina entered a high-class bar. Looking at the luxurious decoration, she felt that she was a rustic villager. "It's very lively here."

In the middle of the open lobby on the second floor, there was a huge triangular bath with a light blue mist. Those long-legged beauties were sitting by the pool, and there was a faint sound of men and women laughing in the mist... Wow, Christina looked around curiously.



A smartphone screen is shown, displaying a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and purple, and some blue scribbles. The text message is in a clean, black font on a white background. The phone's status bar at the bottom shows the time as 7:44 AM and a battery icon.

"It's even more lively in the early morning," said Charles, a frequent guest of honor here. He smiled at her meaningfully. "Christina, the bar is your husband's..."

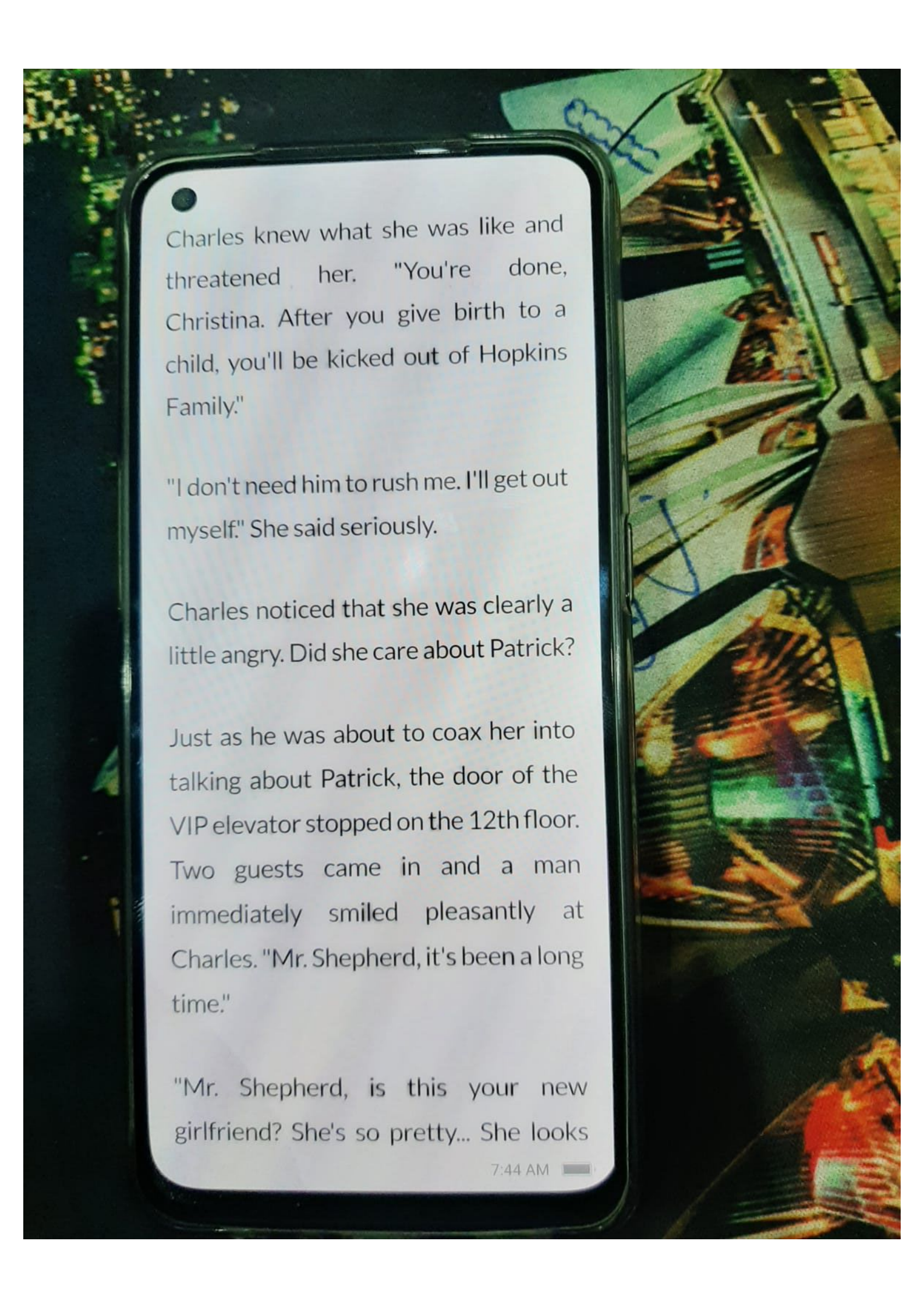
Patrick was the boss here!

Christina's eyes widened slightly. No wonder he was so rich!

Charles teased her when he saw how surprised she was. "All the women here want to climb into your husband's bed. Christina, be smart. Don't be angry with him all the time. Women should learn to be obedient and occasionally act coquettishly to be liked..."

"I can't." Christina ignored him with a stiffened face.



A smartphone screen is shown, displaying text from a book. The background of the phone's home screen is a colorful, abstract, and somewhat blurry image, possibly of a city street or a large structure. The text on the screen is in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The phone's status bar at the bottom shows the time as 7:44 AM and a battery icon.

Charles knew what she was like and threatened her. "You're done, Christina. After you give birth to a child, you'll be kicked out of Hopkins Family."

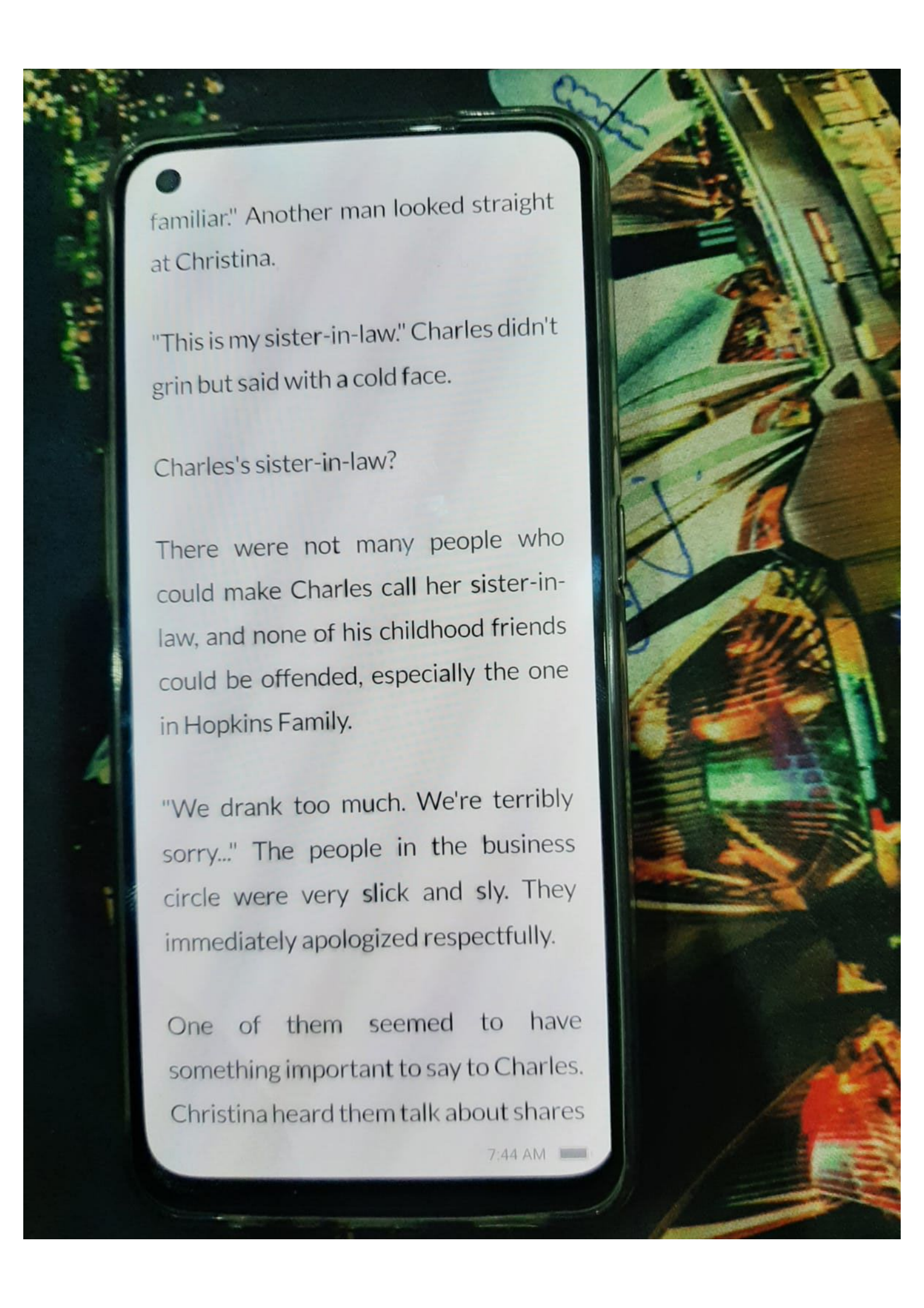
"I don't need him to rush me. I'll get out myself." She said seriously.

Charles noticed that she was clearly a little angry. Did she care about Patrick?

Just as he was about to coax her into talking about Patrick, the door of the VIP elevator stopped on the 12th floor. Two guests came in and a man immediately smiled pleasantly at Charles. "Mr. Shepherd, it's been a long time."

"Mr. Shepherd, is this your new girlfriend? She's so pretty... She looks



A photograph of a smartphone screen displaying text. The screen is the central focus, showing several paragraphs of text. The background of the entire image is a colorful, abstract, and somewhat blurry pattern with shades of green, blue, orange, and red. The smartphone is held in a dark environment, possibly at night, as indicated by the dark background around the phone's edges.

familiar." Another man looked straight at Christina.

"This is my sister-in-law." Charles didn't grin but said with a cold face.

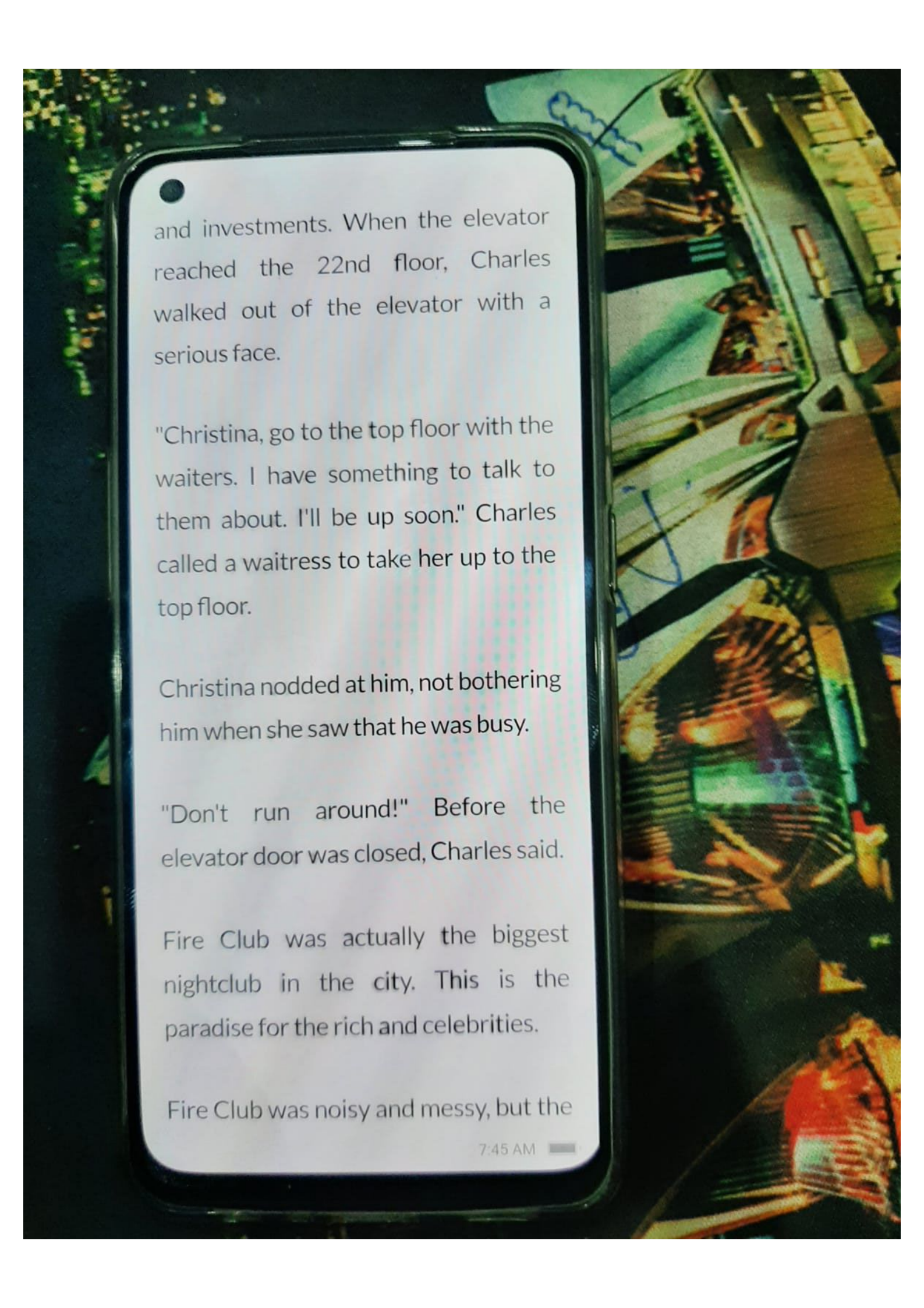
Charles's sister-in-law?

There were not many people who could make Charles call her sister-in-law, and none of his childhood friends could be offended, especially the one in Hopkins Family.

"We drank too much. We're terribly sorry..." The people in the business circle were very slick and sly. They immediately apologized respectfully.

One of them seemed to have something important to say to Charles. Christina heard them talk about shares





and investments. When the elevator reached the 22nd floor, Charles walked out of the elevator with a serious face.

"Christina, go to the top floor with the waiters. I have something to talk to them about. I'll be up soon." Charles called a waitress to take her up to the top floor.

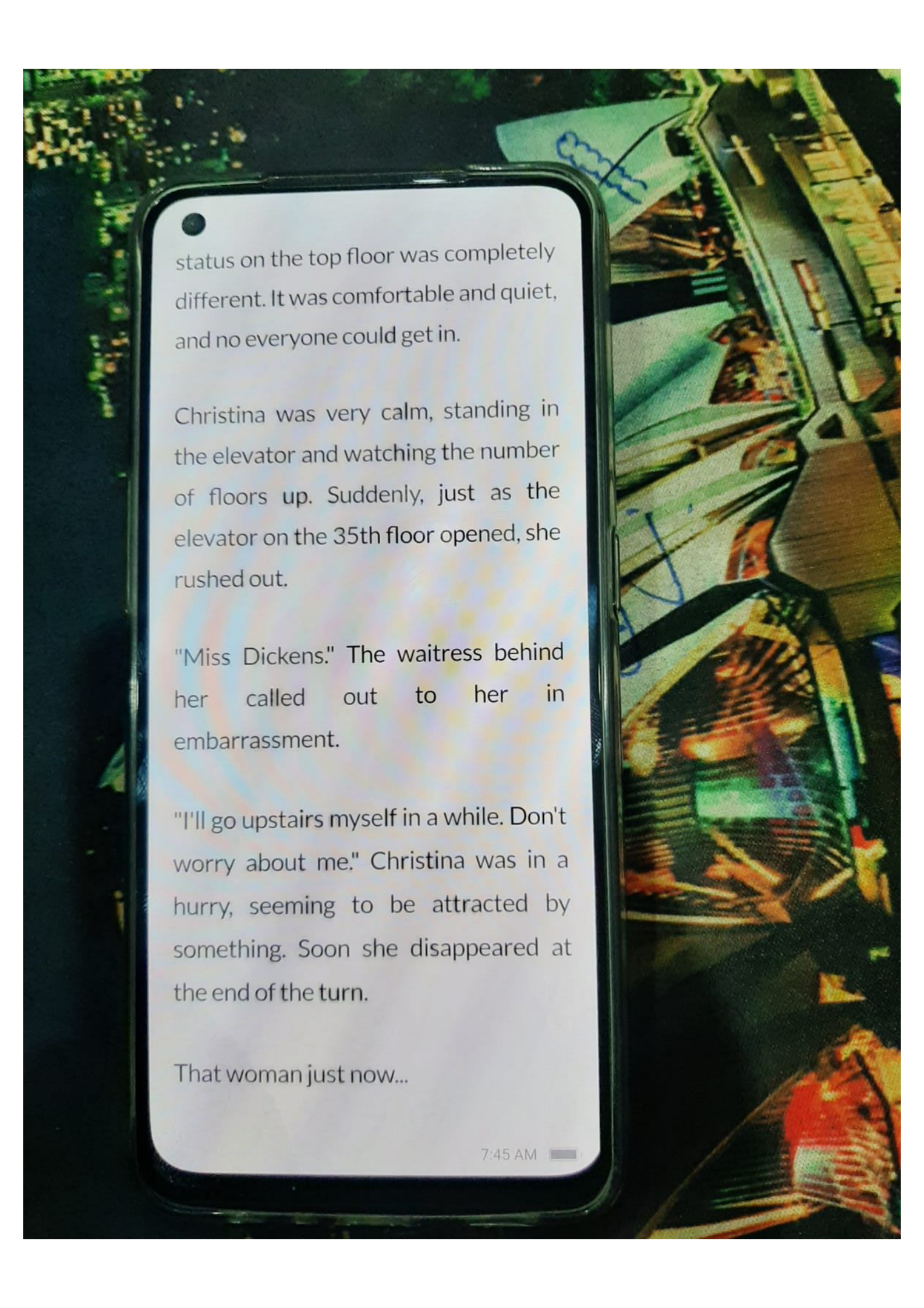
Christina nodded at him, not bothering him when she saw that he was busy.

"Don't run around!" Before the elevator door was closed, Charles said.

Fire Club was actually the biggest nightclub in the city. This is the paradise for the rich and celebrities.

Fire Club was noisy and messy, but the



The image shows a smartphone screen with a white background and rounded corners. The screen displays a text message. The background of the entire image is a photograph of a city street at night, with buildings and streetlights visible. The text on the screen is as follows:

status on the top floor was completely different. It was comfortable and quiet, and no everyone could get in.

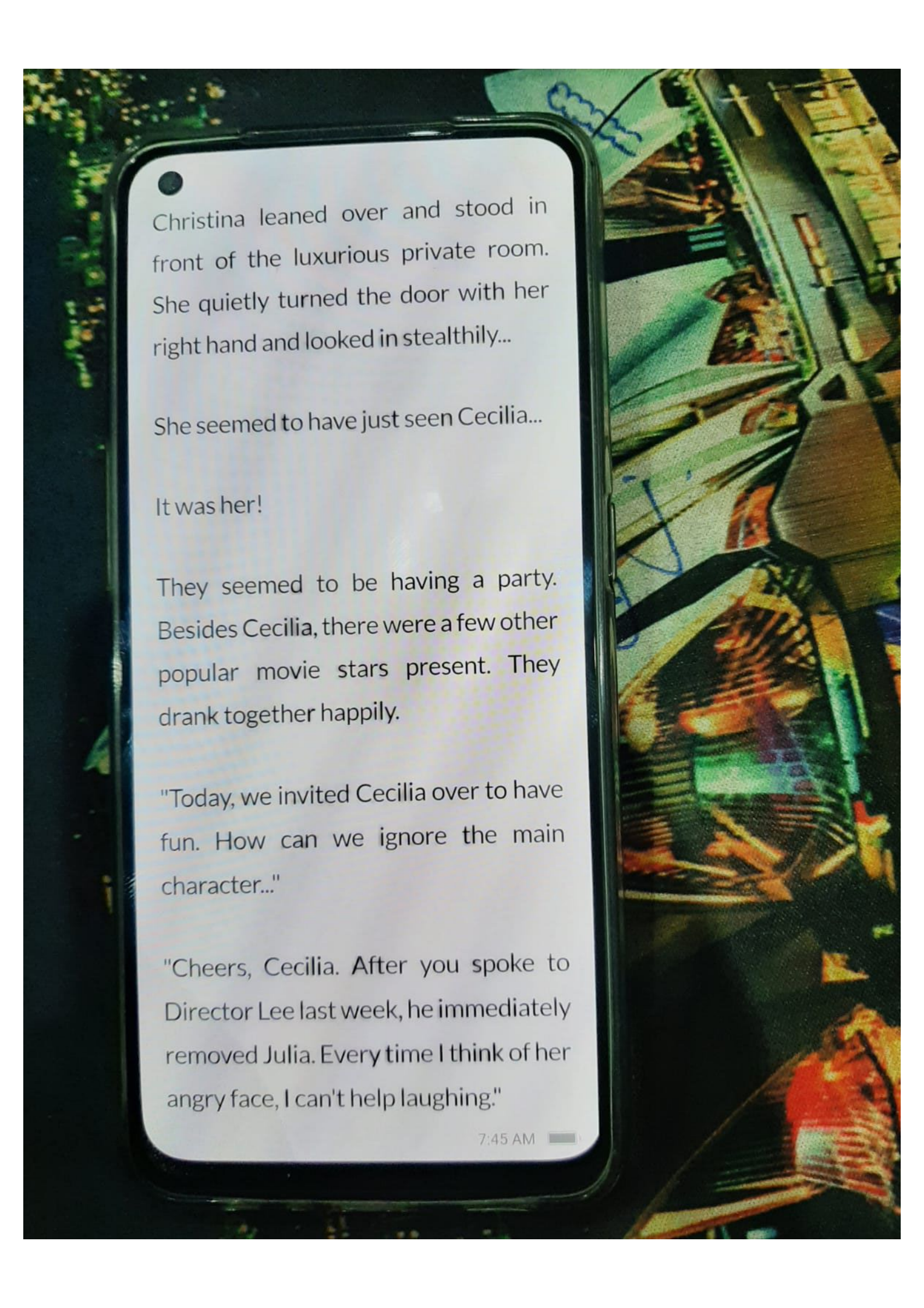
Christina was very calm, standing in the elevator and watching the number of floors up. Suddenly, just as the elevator on the 35th floor opened, she rushed out.

"Miss Dickens." The waitress behind her called out to her in embarrassment.

"I'll go upstairs myself in a while. Don't worry about me." Christina was in a hurry, seeming to be attracted by something. Soon she disappeared at the end of the turn.

That woman just now...



A smartphone screen is shown, displaying a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract collage of colors and patterns, including green, blue, orange, and red. The text message is centered on the screen and is written in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The message is divided into several paragraphs. At the bottom of the screen, the time '7:45 AM' and a battery icon are visible.

Christina leaned over and stood in front of the luxurious private room. She quietly turned the door with her right hand and looked in stealthily...


She seemed to have just seen Cecilia...

It was her!

They seemed to be having a party. Besides Cecilia, there were a few other popular movie stars present. They drank together happily.

"Today, we invited Cecilia over to have fun. How can we ignore the main character..."

"Cheers, Cecilia. After you spoke to Director Lee last week, he immediately removed Julia. Every time I think of her angry face, I can't help laughing."

7:45 AM 



Christina saw Cecilia sitting in the middle of the sofa with her legs crossed. She held a cigarette in her right hand, looking cold and arrogant. The rest of the people kept flattering her.

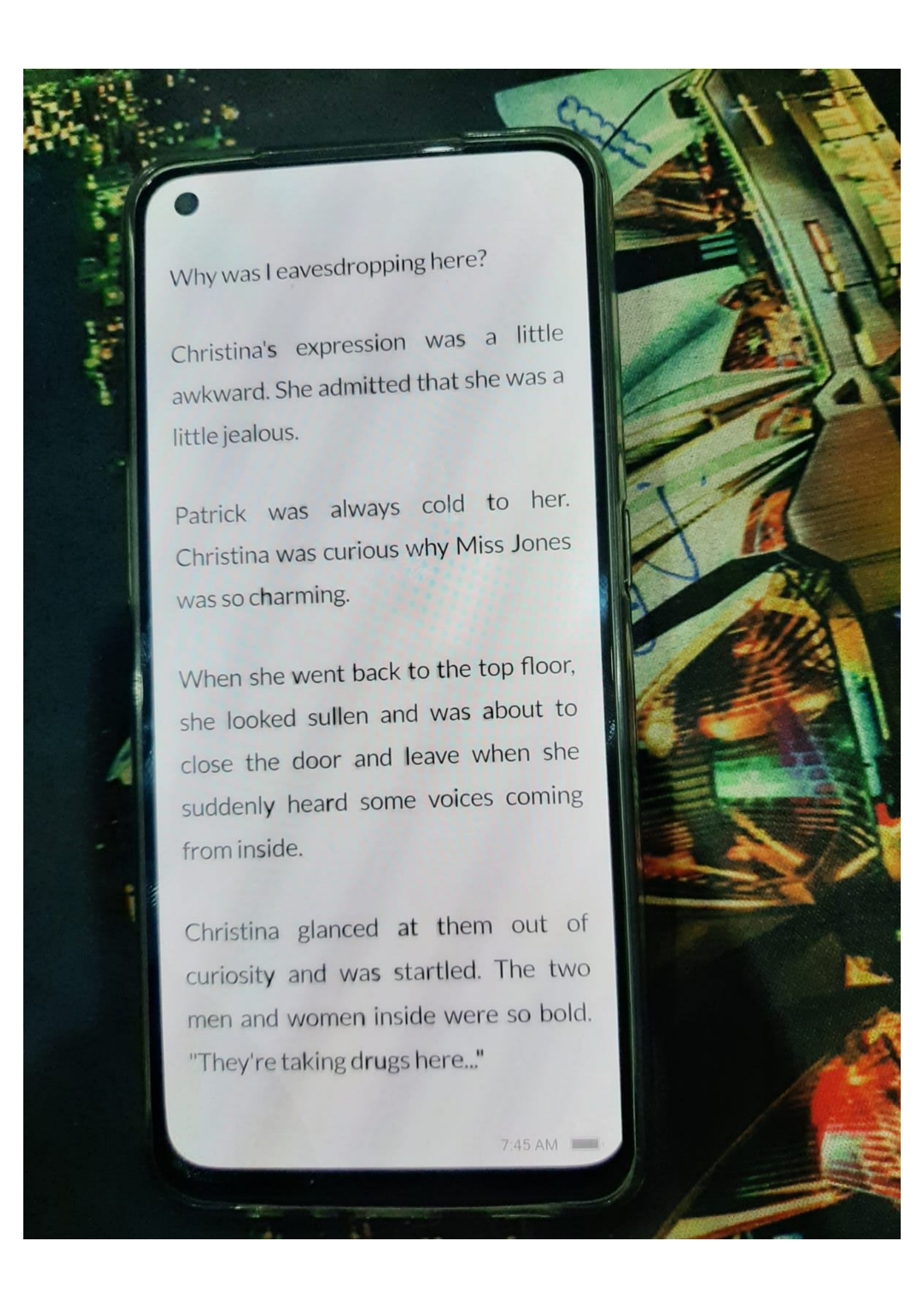
Cecilia looked arrogant. "It's nothing." She said coldly, then puffed out a cigarette.

"I can't believe that Patrick actually likes this kind of woman." Christina shrank back and muttered to herself.

How many women in the entertainment circle were innocent? They just pretended to be innocent. Christina knew that her stepmother, Connie, was also good at playing the role of victims in front of her father.

7:45 AM



A smartphone screen is the central focus, displaying a story. The background of the entire image is a vibrant, abstract collage of colors and patterns, including what looks like a map or architectural drawing in shades of green, blue, and yellow, and some red and orange elements. The smartphone screen is white with black text. At the top left of the screen is a small black circle representing a camera lens. The text is arranged in five paragraphs. At the bottom right of the screen, the time '7:45 AM' and a battery icon are visible.


Why was I eavesdropping here?

Christina's expression was a little awkward. She admitted that she was a little jealous.

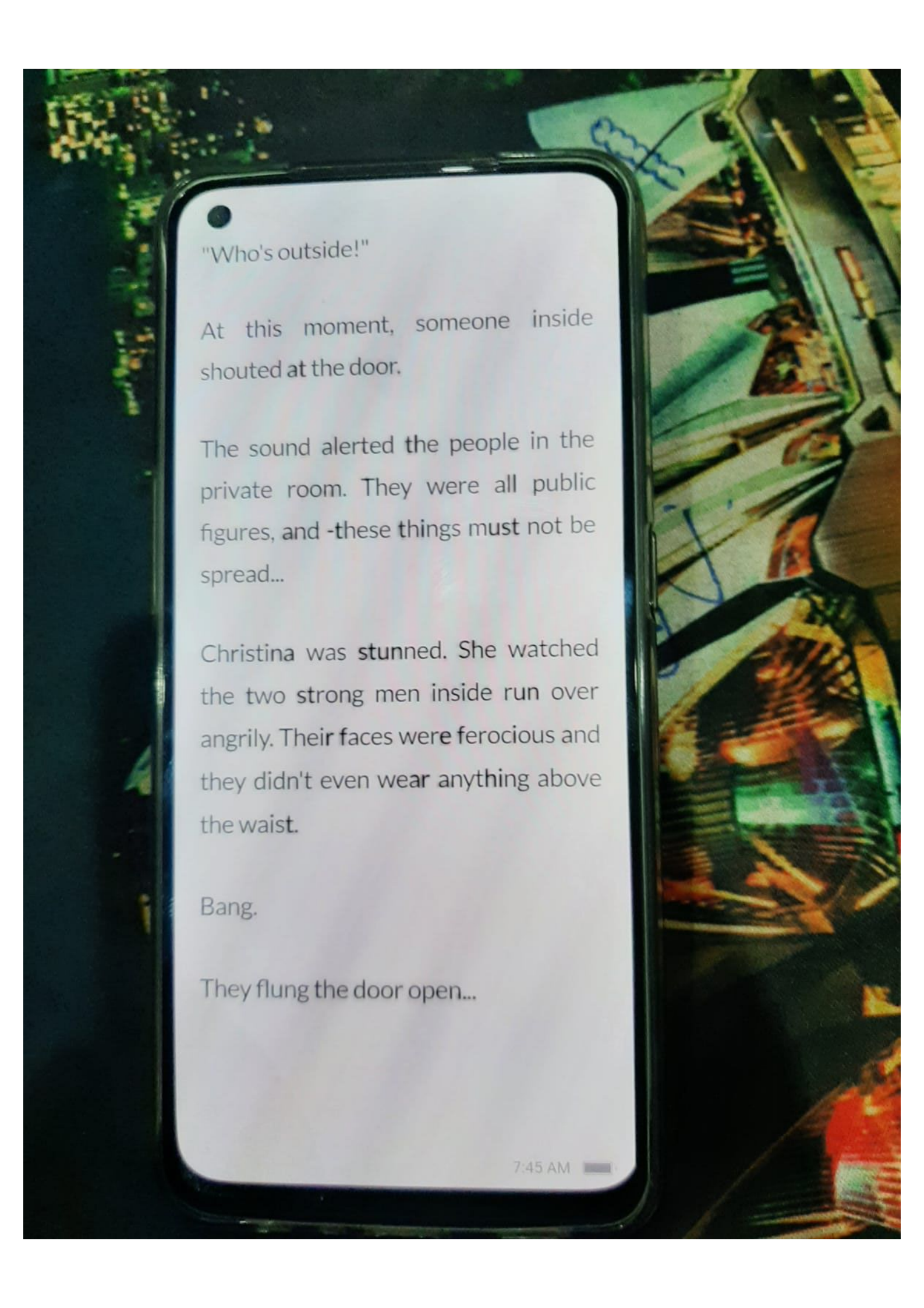
Patrick was always cold to her. Christina was curious why Miss Jones was so charming.

When she went back to the top floor, she looked sullen and was about to close the door and leave when she suddenly heard some voices coming from inside.

Christina glanced at them out of curiosity and was startled. The two men and women inside were so bold. "They're taking drugs here..."

7:45 AM 



A smartphone screen is shown, displaying a text message. The background of the phone's home screen is a vibrant, abstract painting with various colors like green, blue, orange, and red, and some blue scribbles. The text message is in a clean, black font on a white background. At the top left of the screen, there is a small black circle representing the camera lens. The time and battery status are visible at the bottom right of the screen.

"Who's outside!"

At this moment, someone inside shouted at the door.

The sound alerted the people in the private room. They were all public figures, and -these things must not be spread...

Christina was stunned. She watched the two strong men inside run over angrily. Their faces were ferocious and they didn't even wear anything above the waist.

Bang.

They flung the door open...