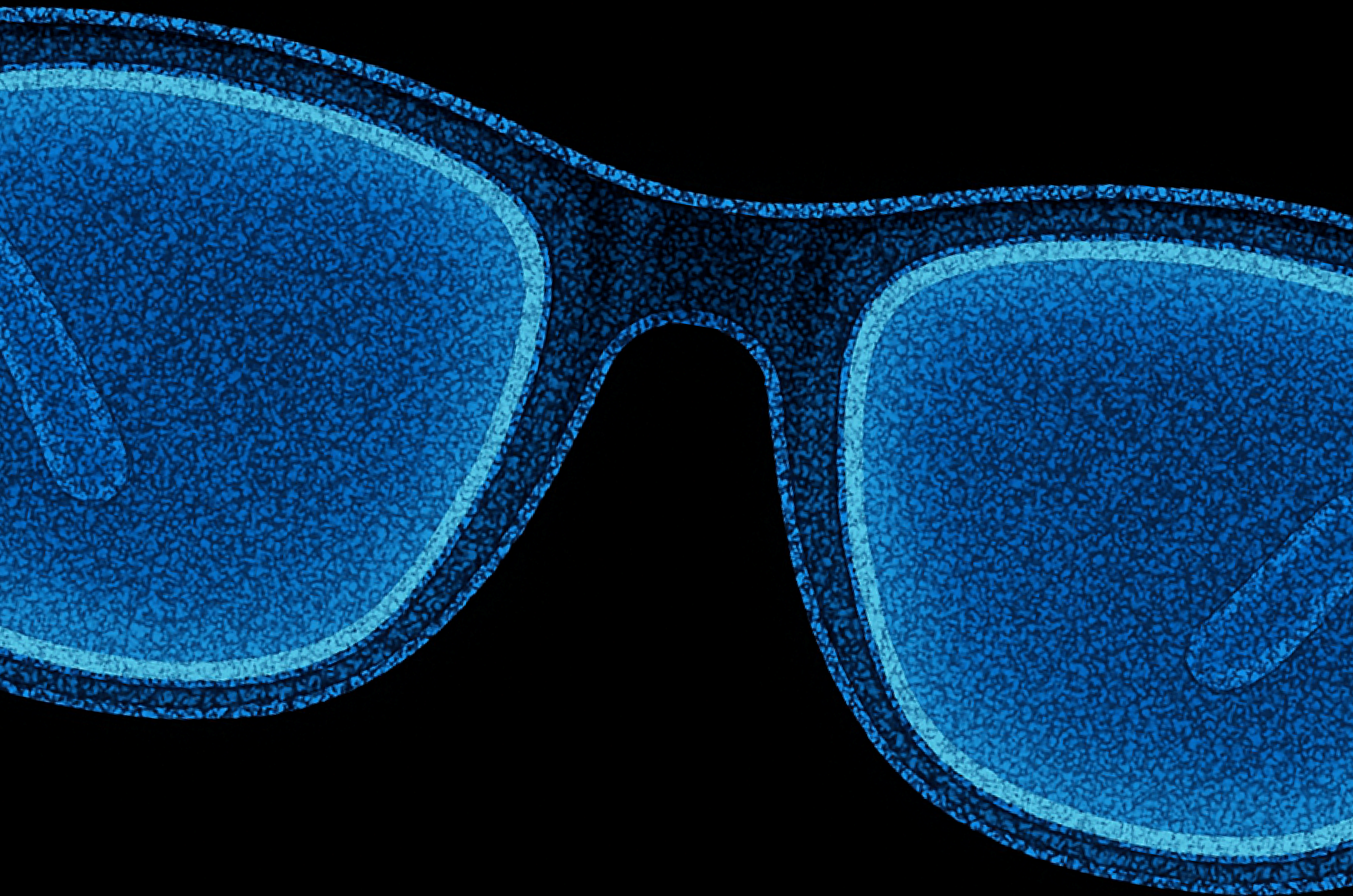


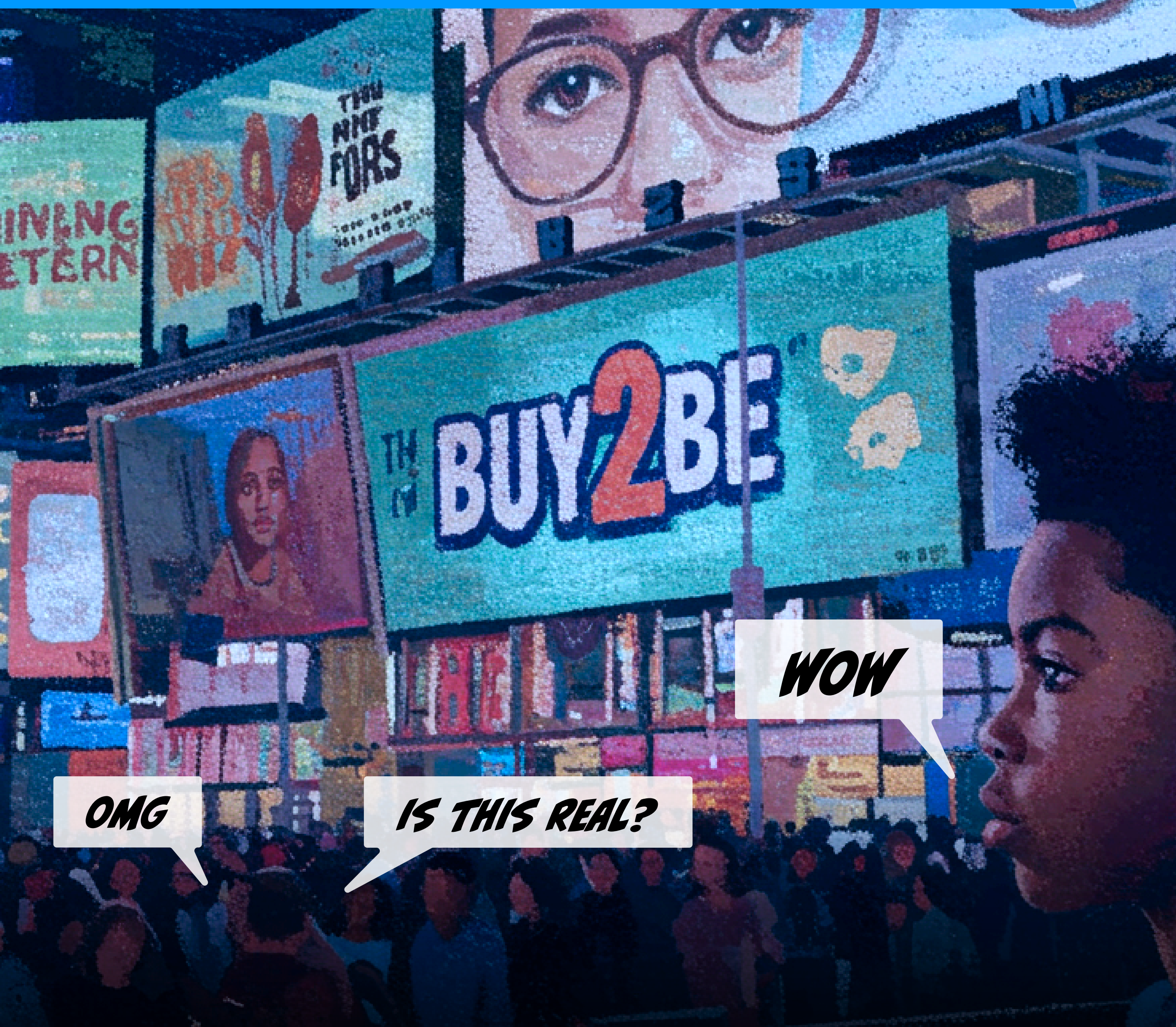
A SHORT STORY



**GENERATED BY ARAM & SHAOBO
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CHATGPT AND WHISK**

**PUBLISHED IN THE SIMULATION
2025 ALL RIGHTS REPACKAGED**

IT WAS 2045. TECH RULED EVERYTHING, AND THE HOTTEST PRODUCT WAS BUY2BE-GLASSES THAT PROMISED TO MAKE YOU THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF



BE ANYONE. BE THE BEST. JUST WEAR BUY2BE GLASSES!"

THEY WERE SLEEK, SHINY, AND SUPER POPULAR.



LEO BEGGED HIS PARENTS FOR THE NEW GLASSES, BUT THEY DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.



**MAKE SURE YOU ONLY
SPEND IT ON THOSE GLASSES**

THANKS DAD!!!!

**AFTER WEEKS OF CONSTANTLY ASKING, THEY
AGREED. THEY WANTED LEO TO FEEL SMART
AND HAPPY.
SO, THEY BOUGHT HIM A PAIR.**



WOAH....



LEBRON? MOZART?

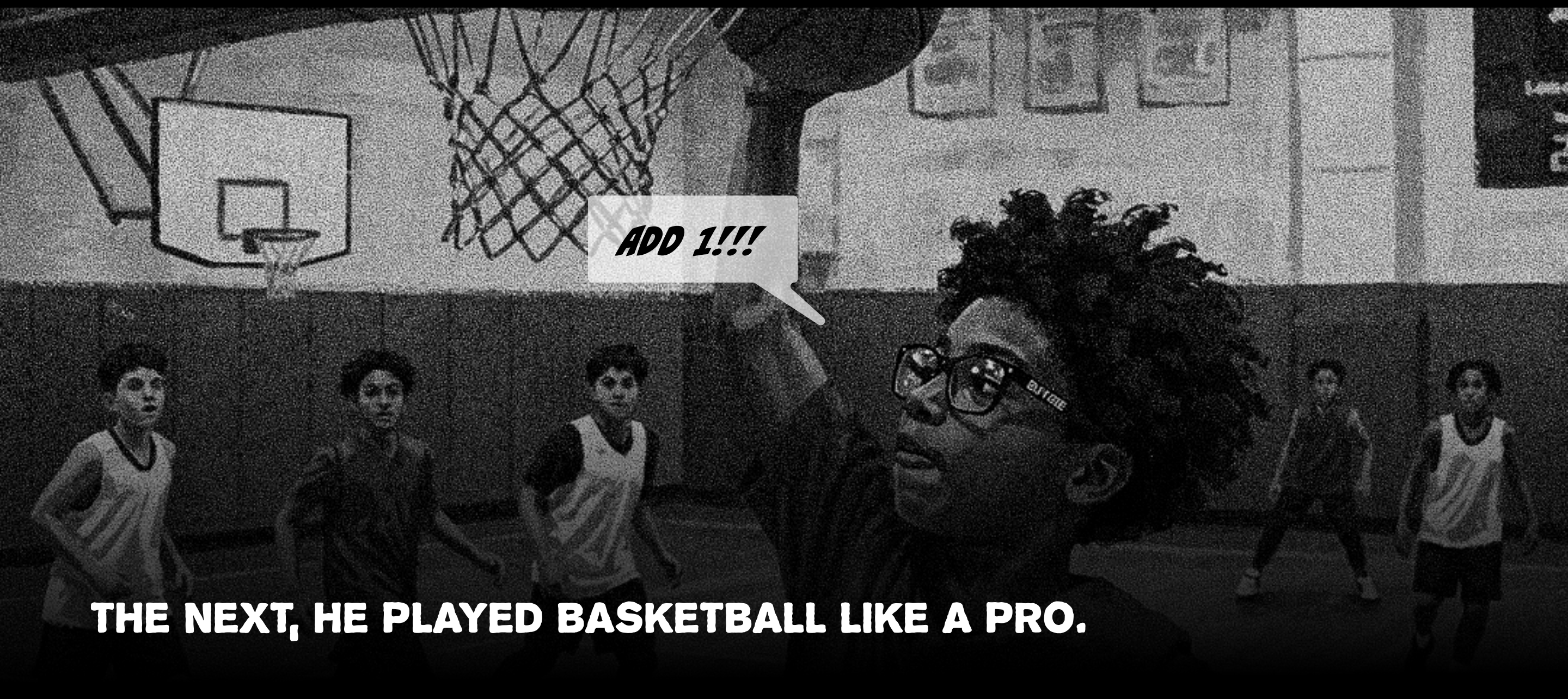
**SUDDENLY, LEO COULD DO ANYTHING.
AS SOON AS HE PUT THEM ON, HE COULD PURCHASE
ANYONES SKILLS. EVERYTHING CHANGED.**



WOW

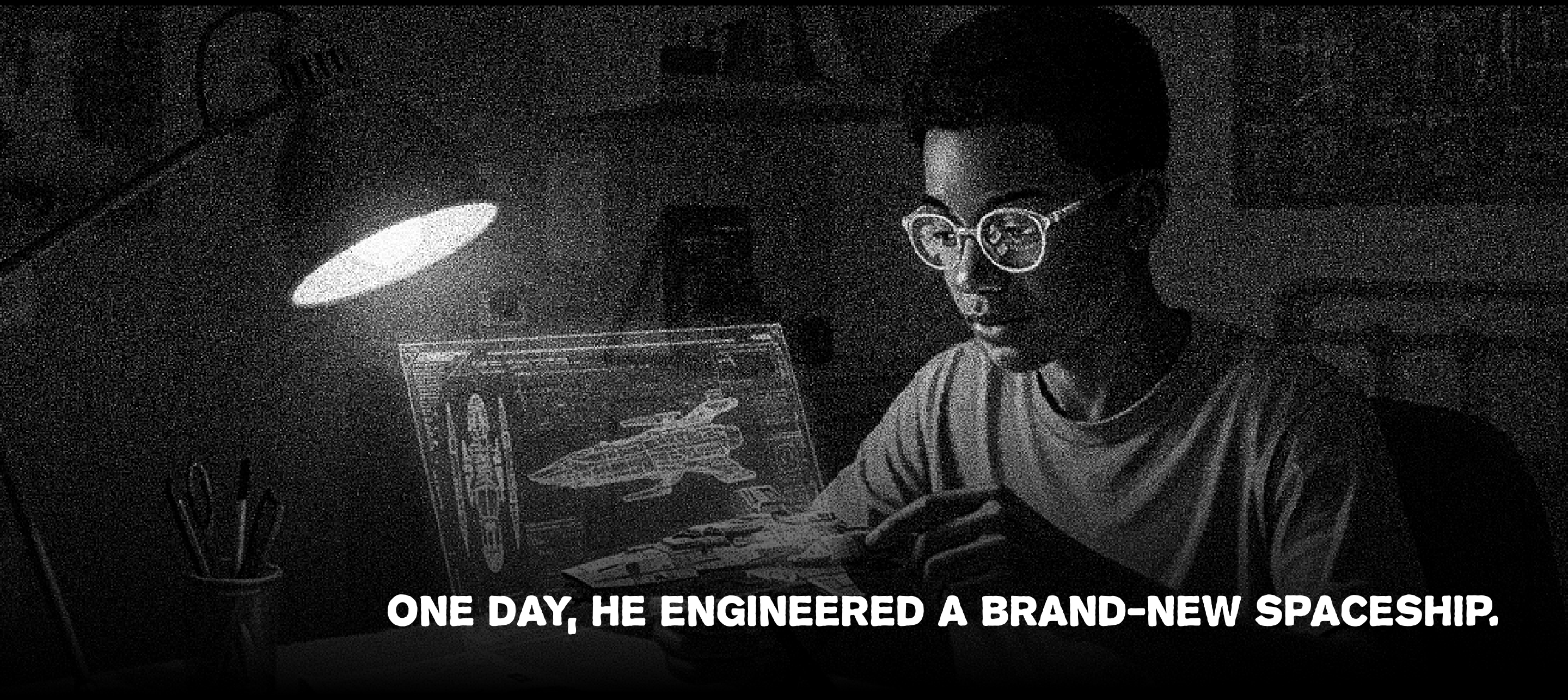
IS THAT LEO PLAYING?

ONE DAY, HE PLAYED PIANO LIKE A PRODIGY.

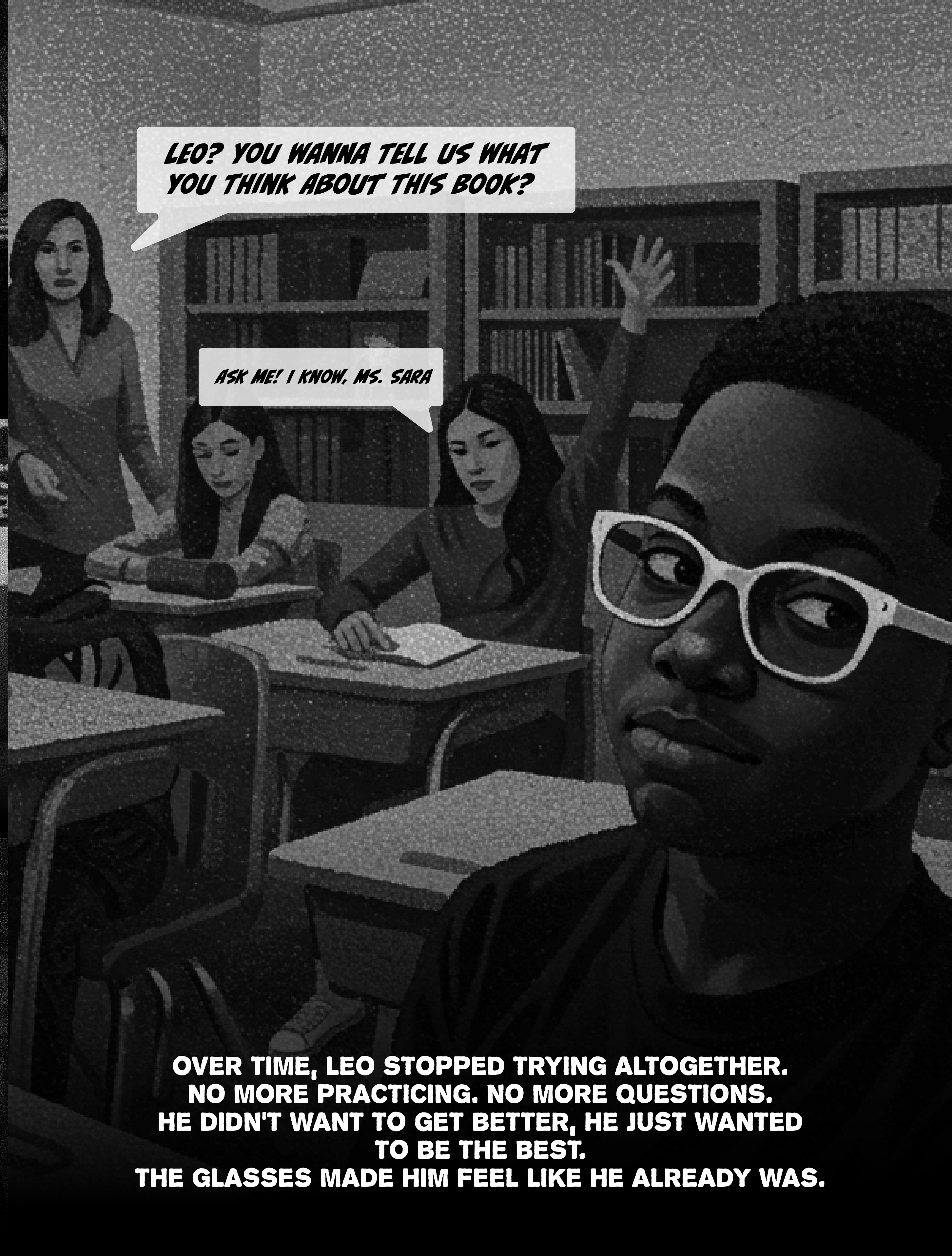


ADD 1!!!

THE NEXT, HE PLAYED BASKETBALL LIKE A PRO.



ONE DAY, HE ENGINEERED A BRAND-NEW SPACESHIP.



LEO? YOU WANNA TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THIS BOOK?

ASK ME! I KNOW, MS. SARA

**OVER TIME, LEO STOPPED TRYING ALTOGETHER.
NO MORE PRACTICING. NO MORE QUESTIONS.
HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET BETTER, HE JUST WANTED
TO BE THE BEST.
THE GLASSES MADE HIM FEEL LIKE HE ALREADY WAS.**

A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie is shown from the chest up, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is positioned in front of a television screen. On the screen, to the left of the man, is a red banner with the word 'BREAKING' in white. Below that is a white box with the text 'BUY2BE CLOSURE' in black, where the '2' is crossed out with a red diagonal line. To the right of the man, a white speech bubble contains the text 'BUY2BE GLASSES ARE ALL OFFICIALLY BANNED & ALL PRODUCT WILL BE OFFLINE' in bold, italicized black letters. The background of the screen shows a blurred cityscape.

BREAKING

**BUY2BE
CLOSURE**

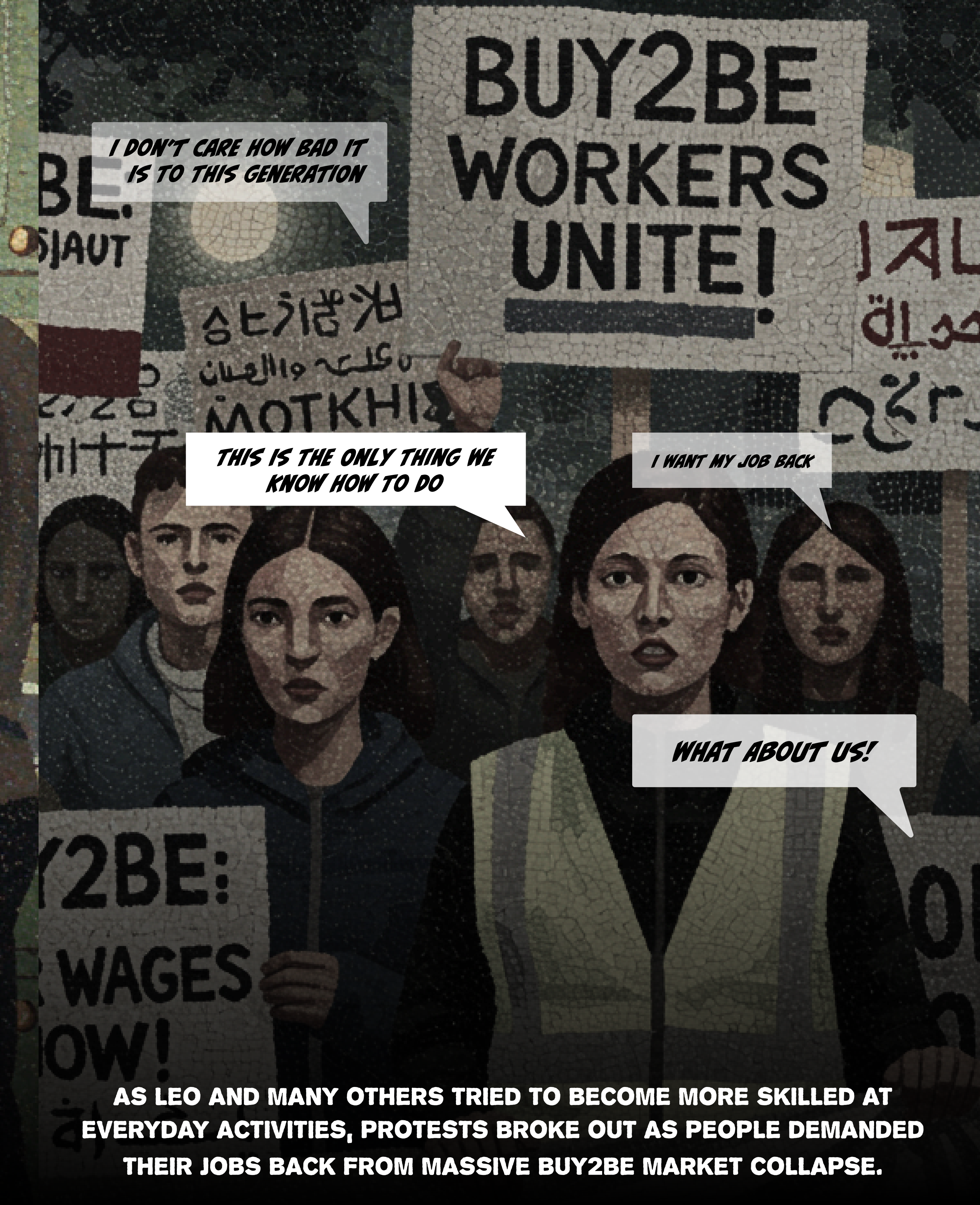
***BUY2BE GLASSES ARE ALL
OFFICIALLY BANNED & ALL
PRODUCT WILL BE OFFLINE***

**YEARS PASSED.
THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
THE BUY2BE GLASSES WERE NOT
ETHICAL. SO THEY STOPPED WORKING.
FOREVER.**



I FORGOT TO PUT BUTTER FIRST...AGAIN?

NOW LEO WAS 25. BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO COOK. HE COULDN'T FIX PROBLEMS OR THINK CLEARLY ON HIS OWN. WITHOUT THE GLASSES, HE FELT LOST.



I DON'T CARE HOW BAD IT IS TO THIS GENERATION

THIS IS THE ONLY THING WE KNOW HOW TO DO

I WANT MY JOB BACK

WHAT ABOUT US!

AS LEO AND MANY OTHERS TRIED TO BECOME MORE SKILLED AT EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES, PROTESTS BROKE OUT AS PEOPLE DEMANDED THEIR JOBS BACK FROM MASSIVE BUY2BE MARKET COLLAPSE.



**ANNOYED BY THE PORTESTS, HE WALKED AROUND THE CITY
AND REMEMBERED A QUOTE BY HIS FATHER:**

"FALLING IS PART OF LEARNING."



TALENT HAND

**AFTER A FEW DAYS, LEO PASSED A MUSIC SHOP
CALLED TALENT HAND.
HE'D PRETENDED FOR YEARS, BUT NEVER PLAYED
WITH HIS OWN SKILLS.**



**INSIDE, HE SAT AT THE PIANO. THE FIRST NOTE WAS
AWFUL. THE NEXT FEW WERE WORSE.
STILL—HE KEPT GOING. OUTSIDE, CROWDS STILL SCREAMED
FOR BUY2BE TO RETURN. BUT LEO KEPT PRACTICING.**



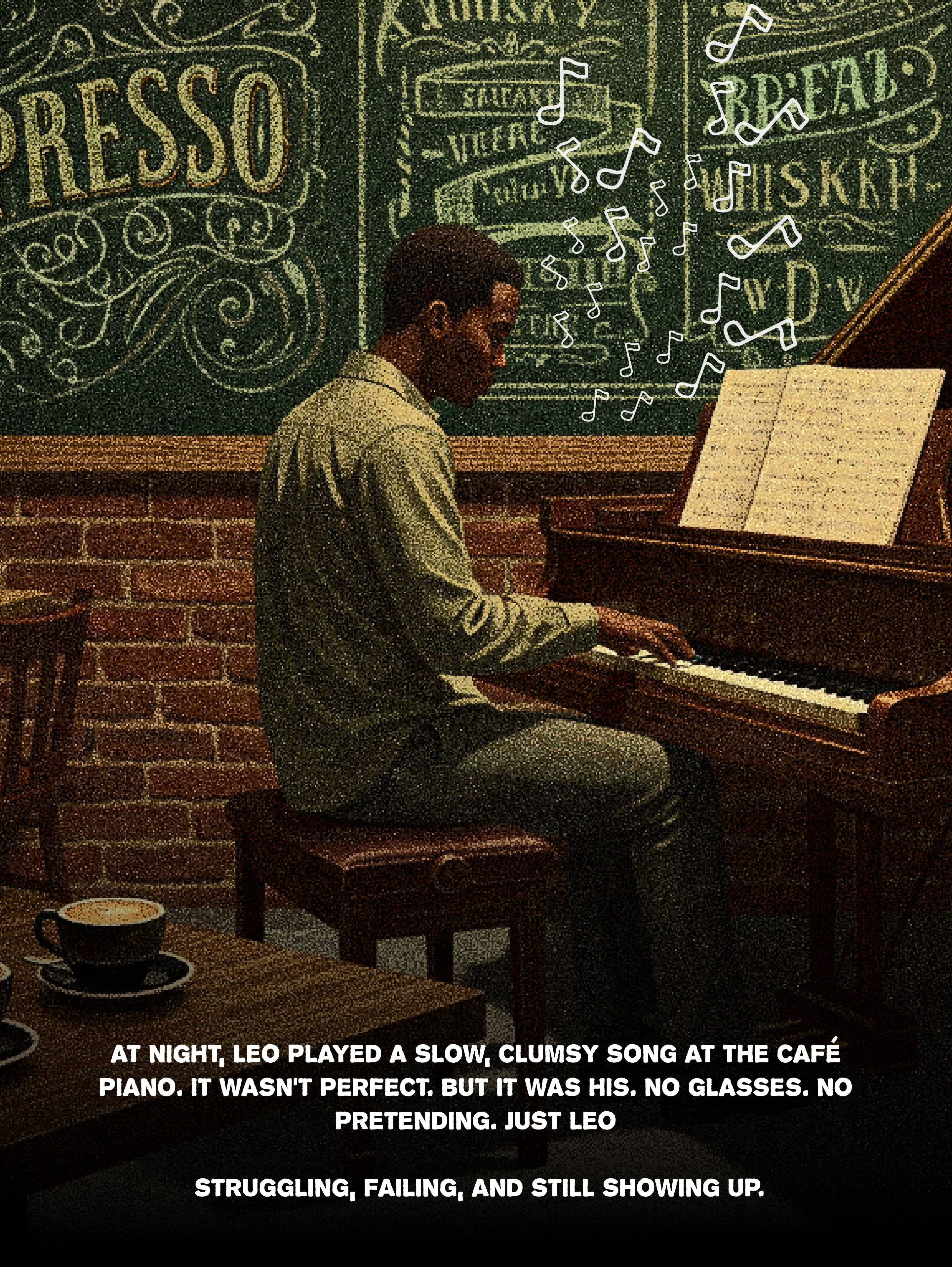
AS SAVED UP FOR REAL PIANO LESSONS. HE GOT A JOB WASHING DISHES. ONE DAY, AS HE FINISHED UP WORK, ACROSS THE STREET, HE SAW HIS PARENTS.



MOM, DAD!

LEO???? IS THAT YOU?

LEO RAN TO THEM AND HUGGED THEM TIGHT.
"I'M SORRY," HE SAID.
HIS MOM AND DAD SMILED THROUGH TEARS.
"WE'RE JUST GLAD YOU'RE OKAY."



**AT NIGHT, LEO PLAYED A SLOW, CLUMSY SONG AT THE CAFÉ
PIANO. IT WASN'T PERFECT. BUT IT WAS HIS. NO GLASSES. NO
PRETENDING. JUST LEO**

STRUGGLING, FAILING, AND STILL SHOWING UP.

THE END

