

# After All This Time



STORY/ART  
KAL



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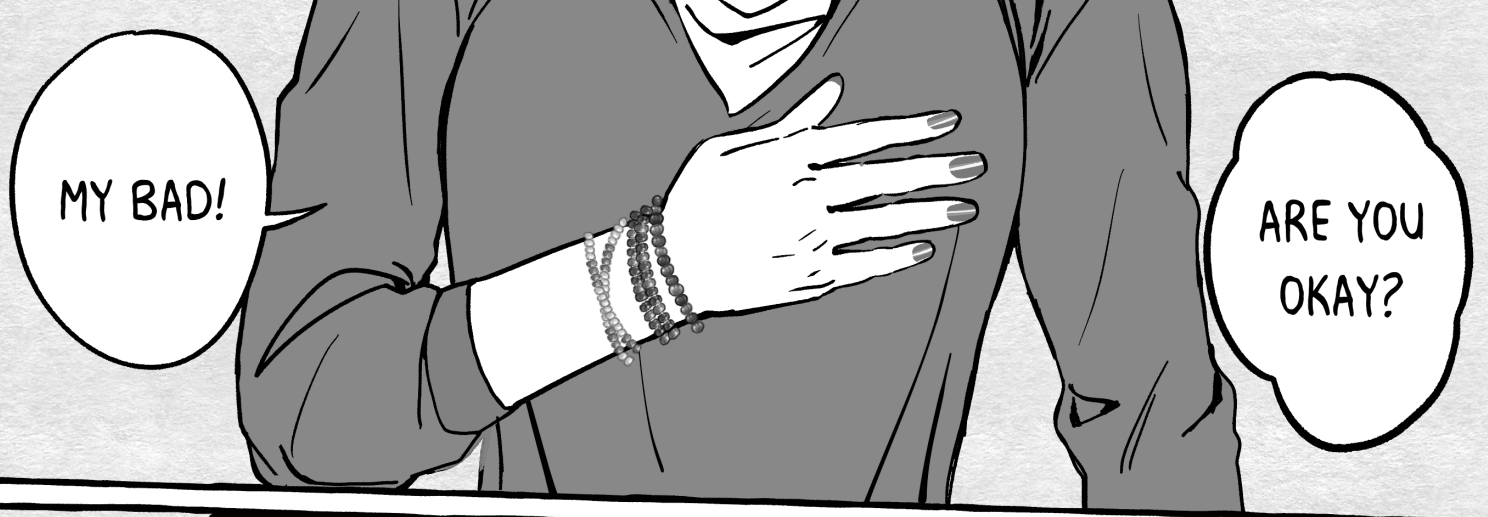
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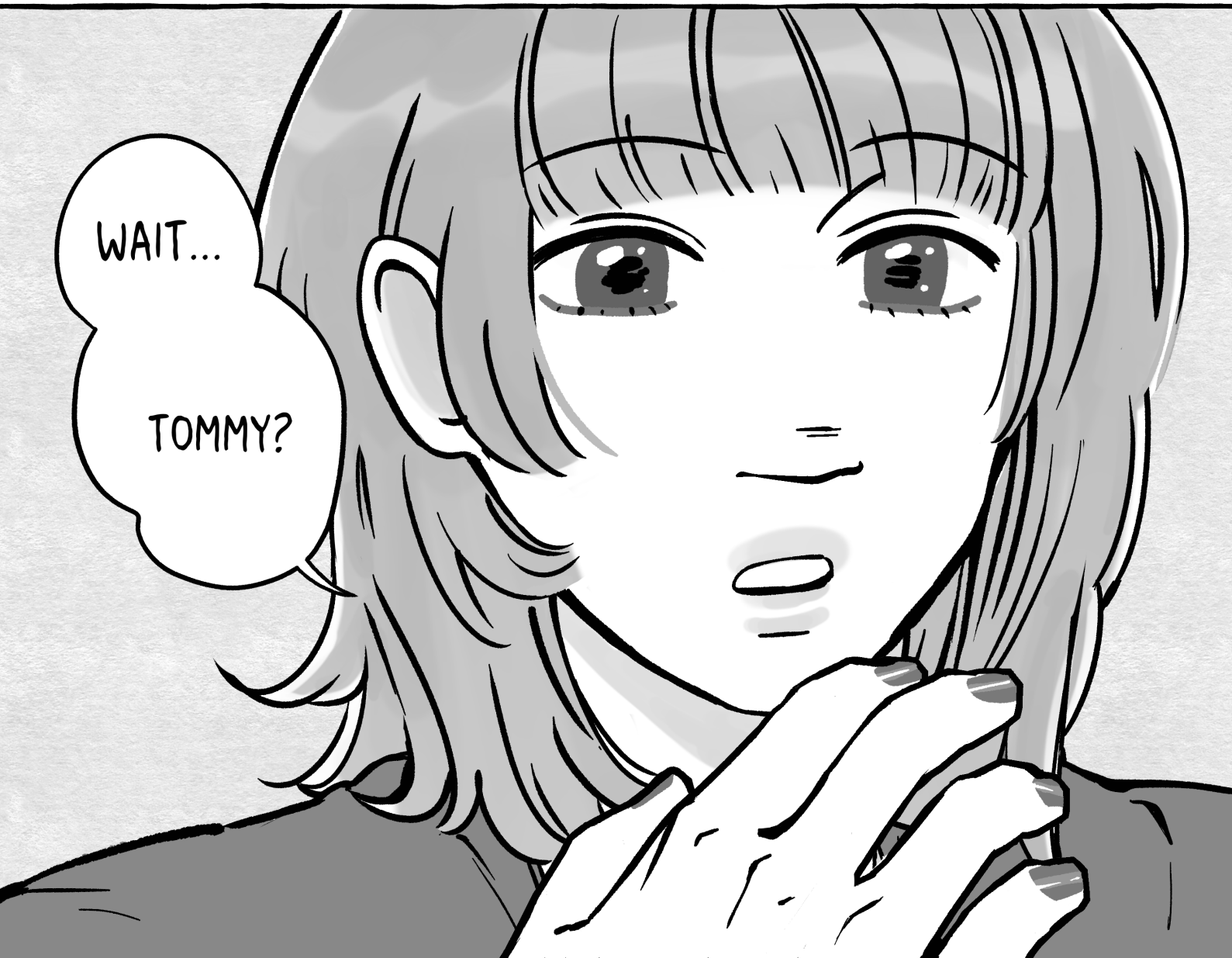


MY BAD!

ARE YOU  
OKAY?

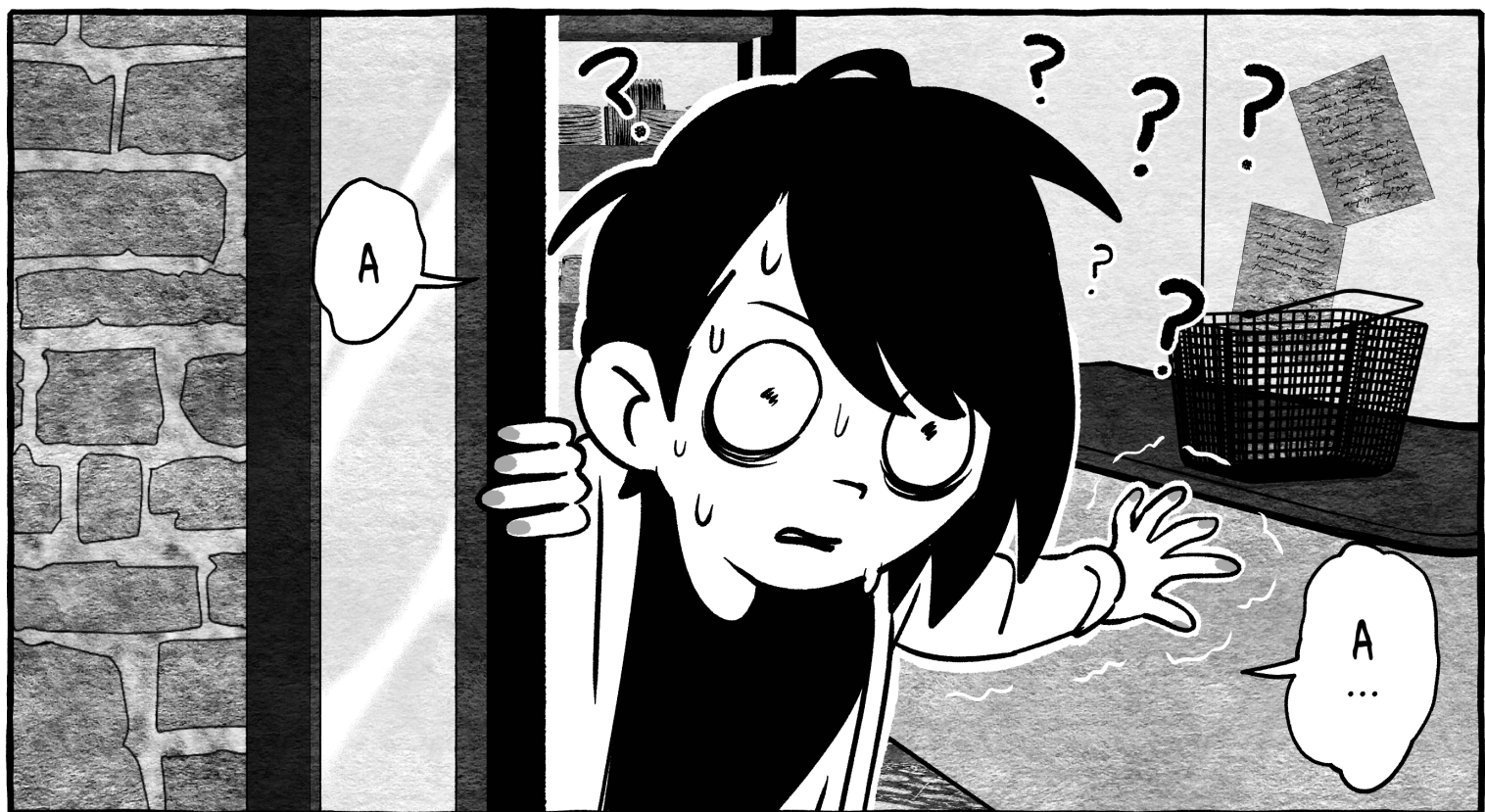
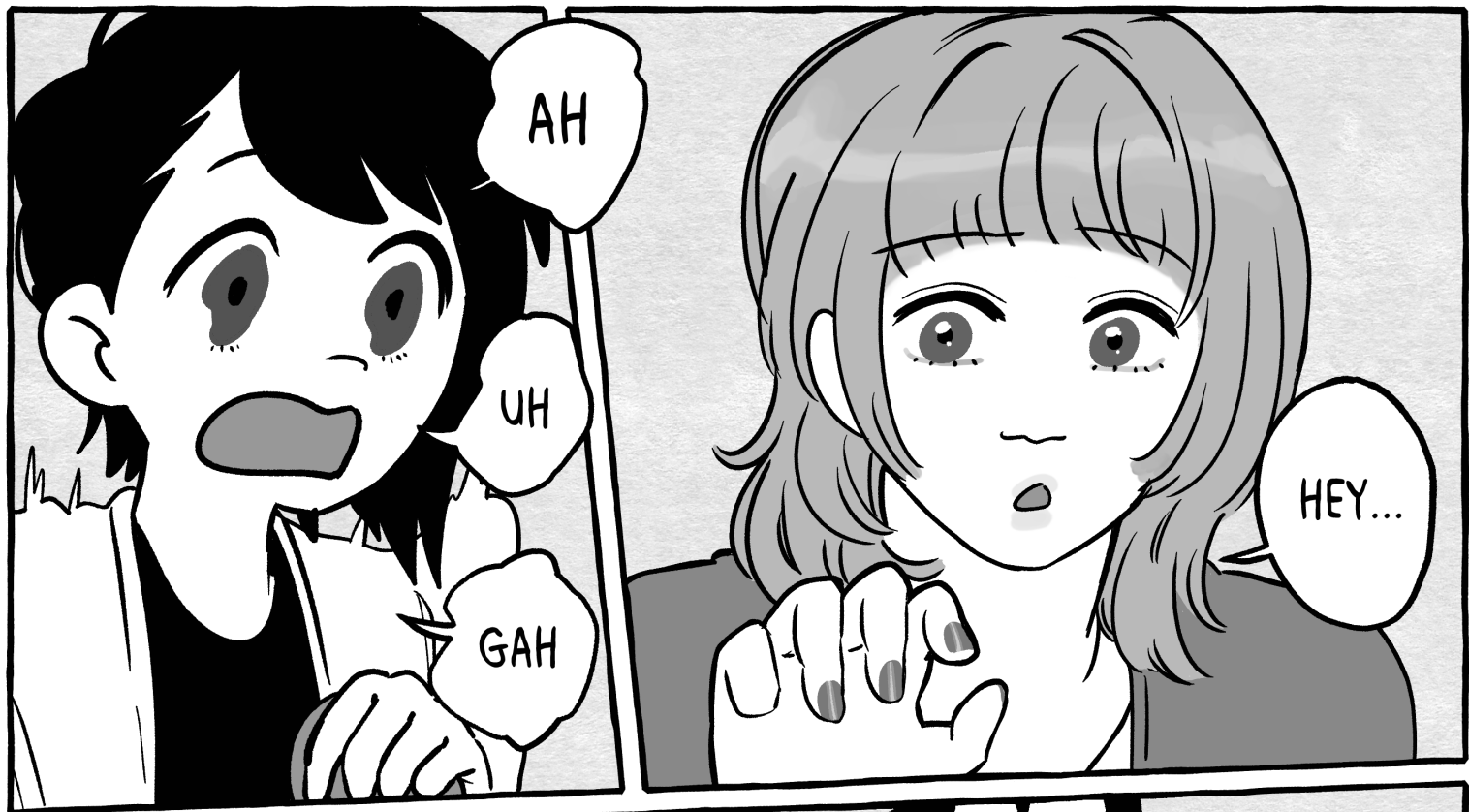


AH—IT'S  
OKAY! I'M  
SORR..  
...Y.

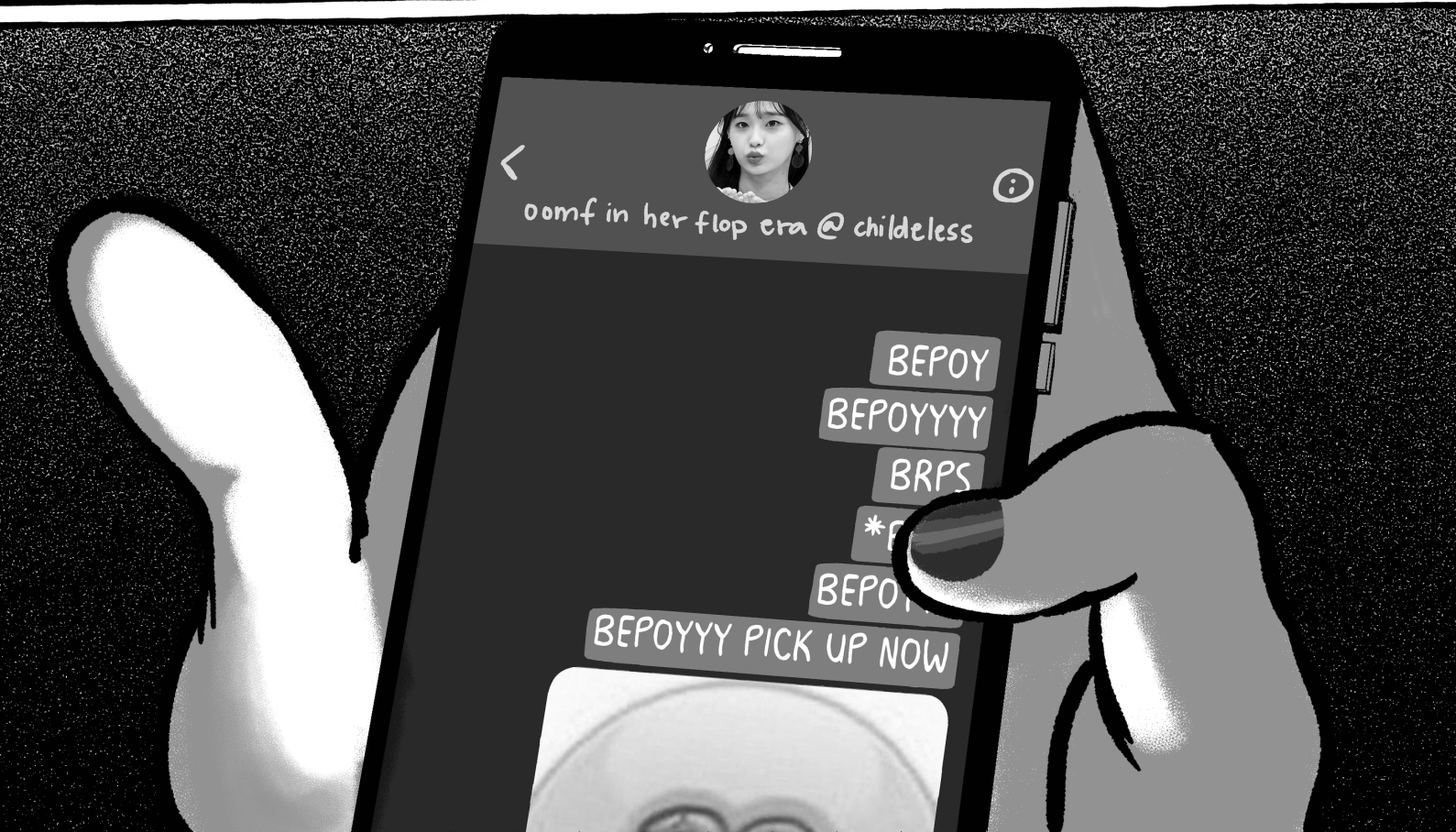


WAIT...  
TOMMY?







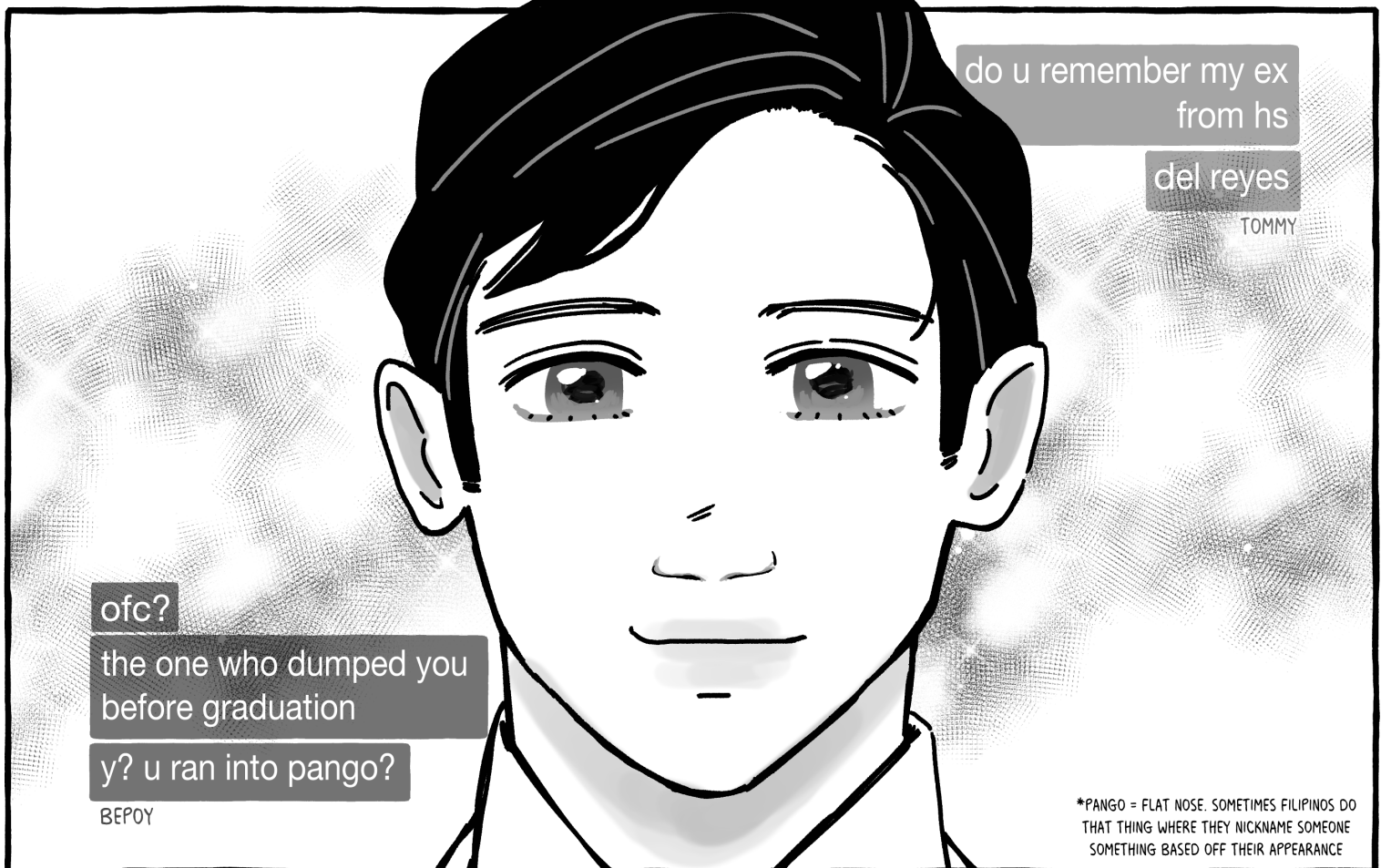




ur foul for this

what do u want :/

BEPOY



do u remember my ex  
from hs

del reyes

TOMMY

ofc?

the one who dumped you  
before graduation

y? u ran into pango?

BEPOY

\*PANGO = FLAT NOSE. SOMETIMES FILIPINOS DO  
THAT THING WHERE THEY NICKNAME SOMEONE  
SOMETHING BASED OFF THEIR APPEARANCE





i saw pango earlier  
when i was shopping

TOMMY

mhm

BEPOY

and  
100% srs  
btw

TOMMY

YA I GET IT  
get on w it

BEPOY

i think  
that uhh  
she's a girl  
now?????

??????????????

TOMMY

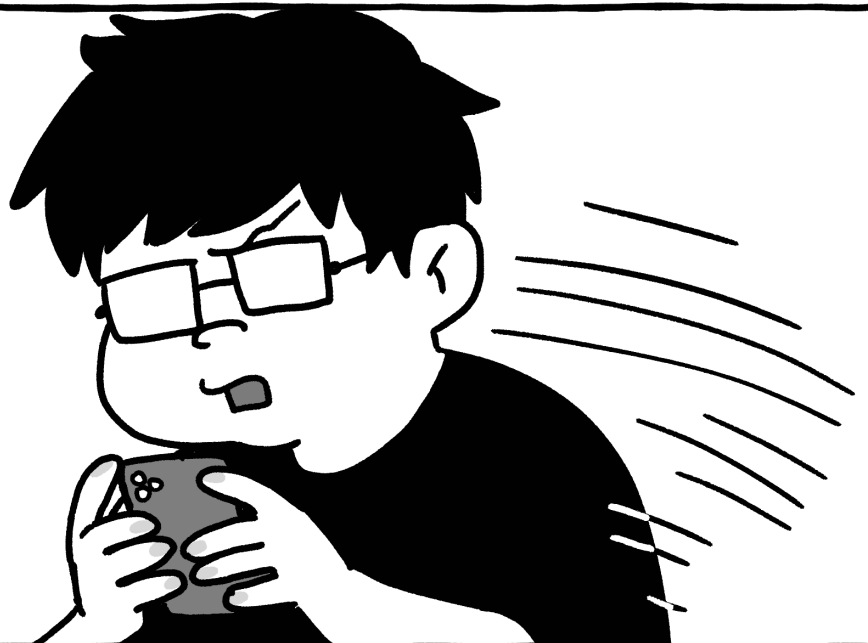
WHAT????

()&(\*&&(\*&\*&&\*(+  
OHHH MYYYYY GODDD

DONT GET ME WRONG  
I MEAN GOOD 4 HER BUT  
OH MY GODDDDDDD

WHERE..WHERE DID  
U SEE HER

BEPOY





d\*iso...

small world no

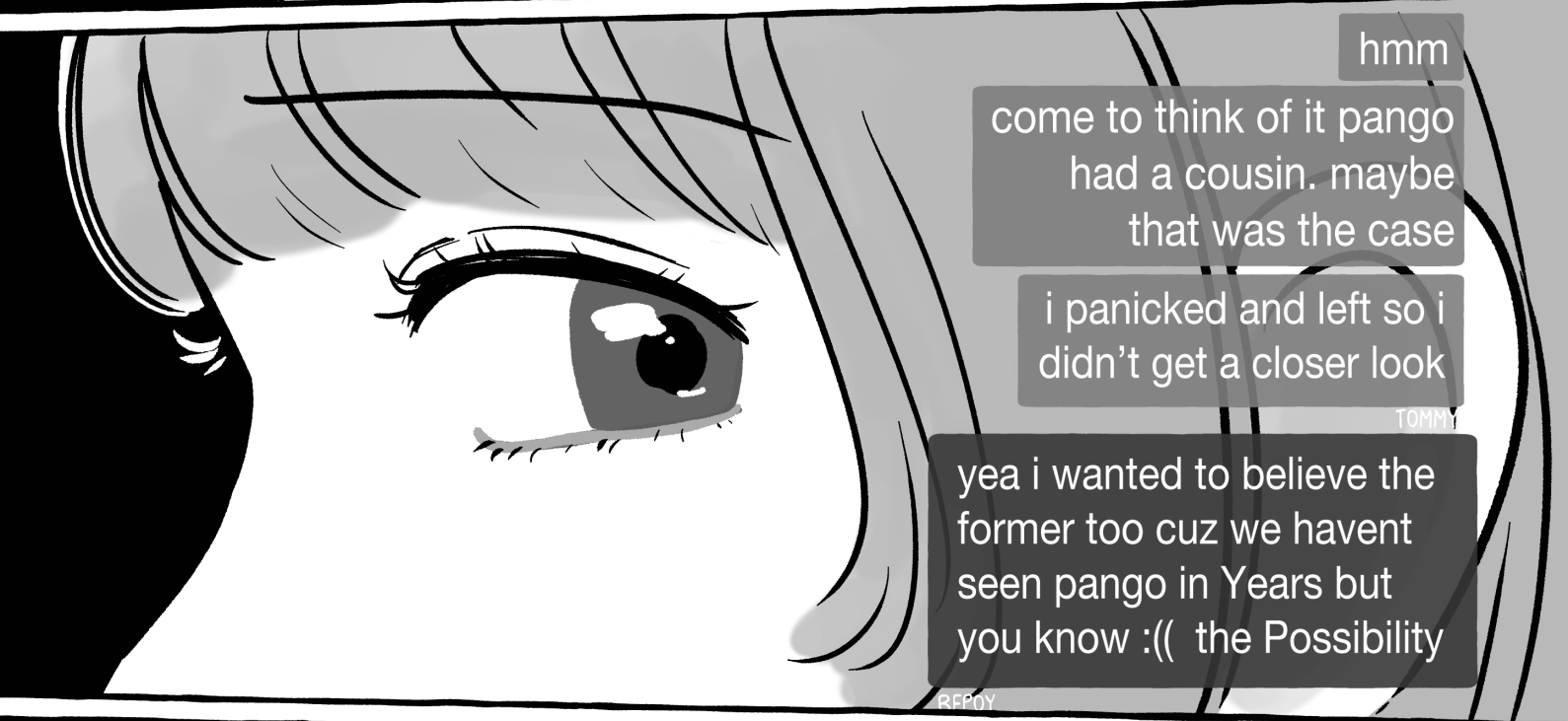
she recognized me so  
no way it was a strabger

stranger\*

TOMMY

i thought she took her  
US citizenship tho?  
sure that was her?

REF0Y



hmm

come to think of it pango  
had a cousin. maybe  
that was the case

i panicked and left so i  
didn't get a closer look

TOMMY

yea i wanted to believe the  
former too cuz we havent  
seen pango in Years but  
you know :( the Possibility

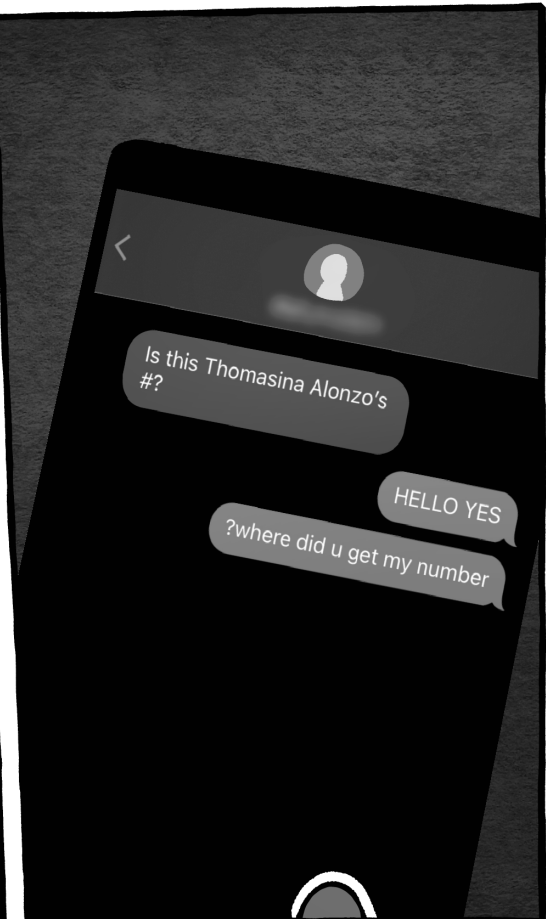
REF0Y



HOW LONG HAD IT BEEN?







?where did

You left your wallet in the basket 😊

Donut worry I'm not a thief



DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT THAT MUCH, BUT SHE'S DYING OF EMBARRASSMENT

HUH...  
SO I DID LEAVE MY STUPID WALLET AT THE STORE.



THE STAFF MUST'VE FOUND IT. THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING ...

IT'S FINE  
I ONLY HAD PHP100 IN THERE...

oh!!!thank you so much!! i'll go pick it up at the store tomorrow

GOOSEBUMPS



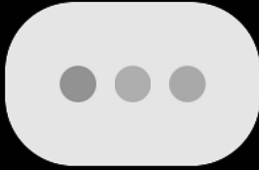
You still live with your brother right? I can just drop it off tomorrow

I DON'T REMEMBER PUTTING MY ADDRESS  
IN THAT WALLET...OR MY BROTHER'S NUMBER...



th your  
can just drop

??? who is this.....

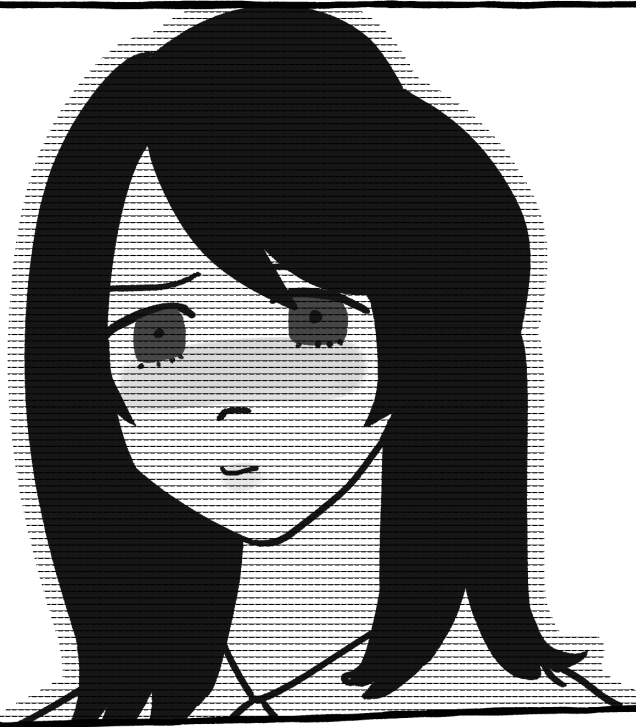


Oh no!! My bad! I forgot to  
introduce myself 😊 This is  
pango!! We saw each other  
earlier! But you left in a  
hurry:(

I understand you don't  
want to see me, though.  
That's why I'll just drop it off







THAT  
REALLY  
WAS YOU,  
HUH?



THIS WORLD  
IS MUCH  
SMALLER  
THAN I  
IMAGINED...

NO OMG ITS OK 🥺🥺 id love to catch up with you!! pls! i dont hate u or anything were all so worried abt you!

Ah!! That's really good to hear! I was asked to follow up with some government stuff tomorrow so... would you like to meet around the same place?

government stuff?wym

ALSO OF COURSE!! i'll come around lunch 🥰

Okay! Also DW about it! I'll tell you more tomorrow. BTW!! I go by Alyssa now

omg!! ok! see u there alyssa!!!!



iMessage



THE NEXT DAY

I SLEPT FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS... I WAS TOO NERVOUS.

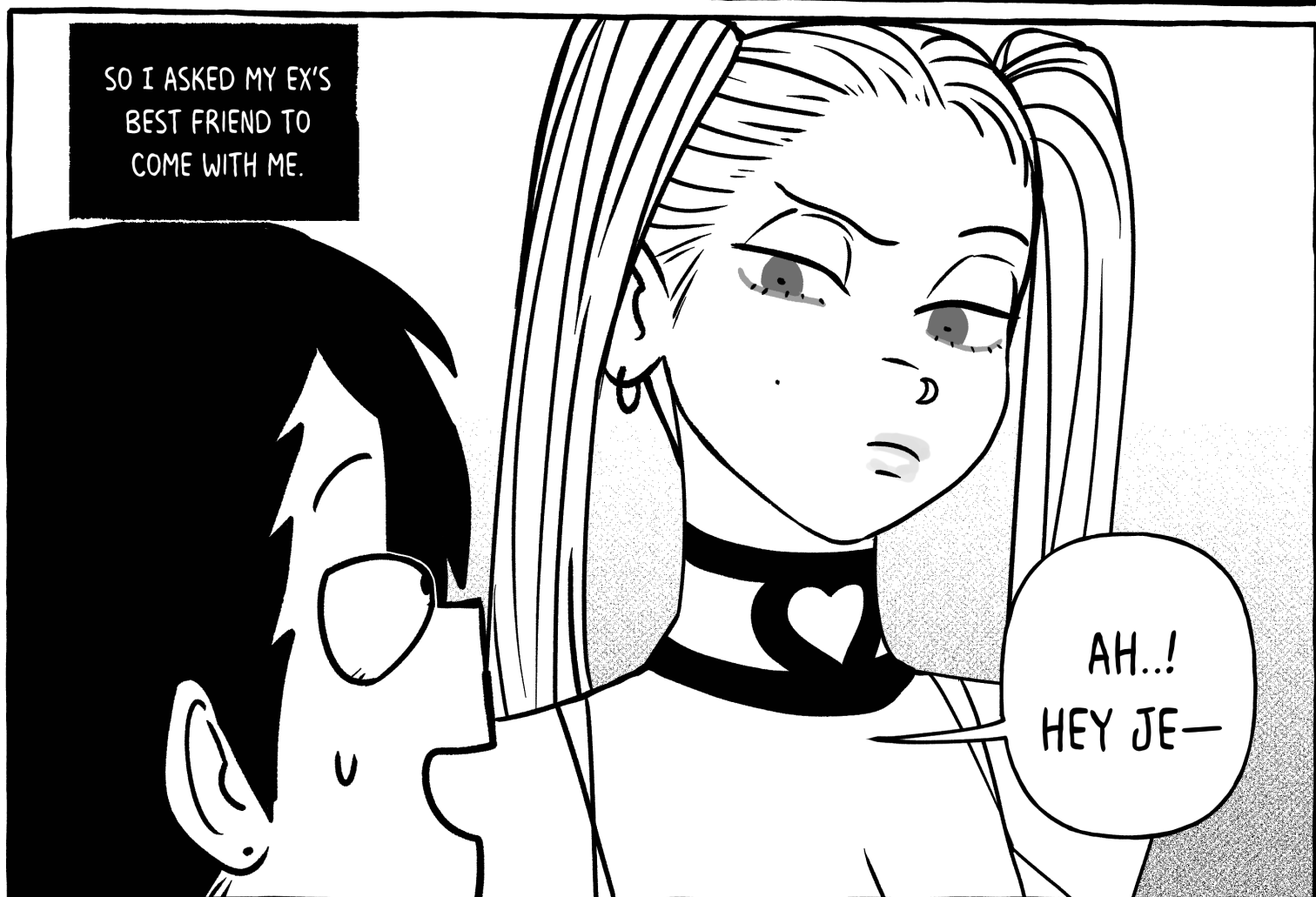
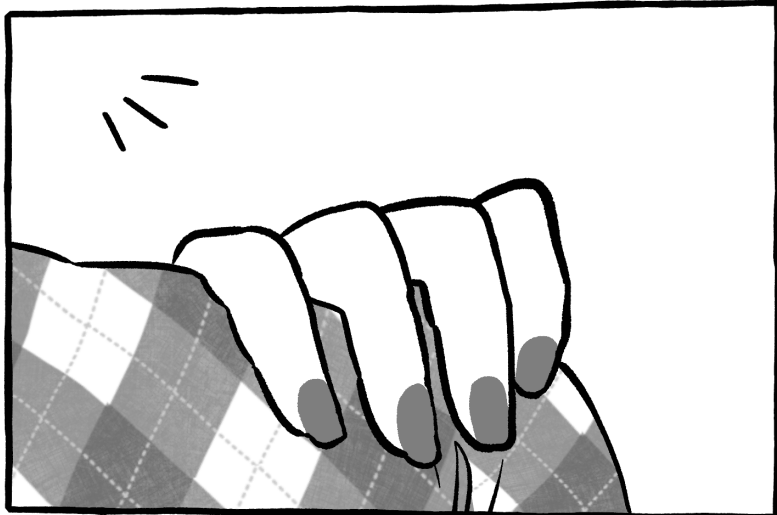
ALSO I ENDED UP BINGING LESBIAN ANIME THE REST OF THE NIGHT BUT SHH...

T'S JUST LIKE MEETING AN OLD FRIEND, RIGHT? EXCEPT SAID FRIEND IS AN EX YOU LOST IN TOUCH WITH FOR YEARS.

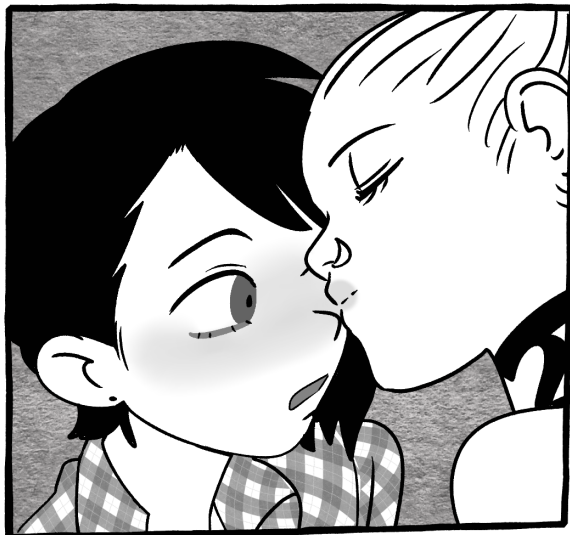
MALL? DIDN'T YOU JUST GO YESTERDAY?

UHH... I FORGOT SOMETHING!

THE WHOLE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WAS KIND OF AWKWARD, AND I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD HANDLE MEETING HER BY MYSELF...

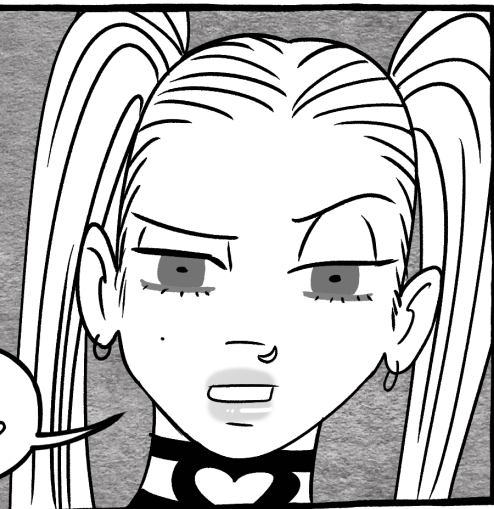






IT WAS ORIGINALLY  
GONNA BE A SURPRISE,  
BUT HE METAPHORICALLY  
POKED ME WITH A STICK  
UNTIL I SPILLED ALL  
THE DETAILS.

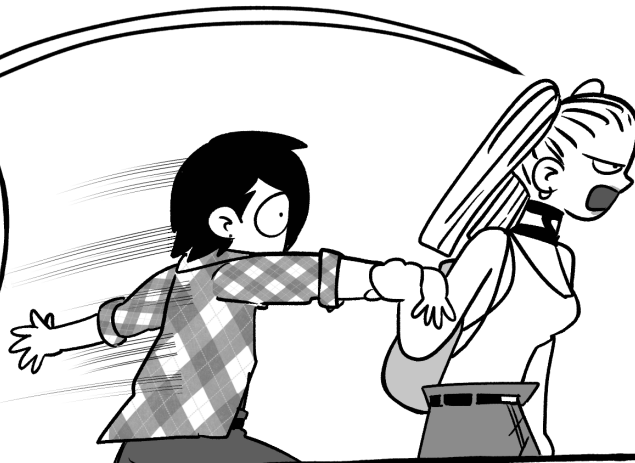
HEY, BIG HEAD.  
SO, WHERE IS SHE?



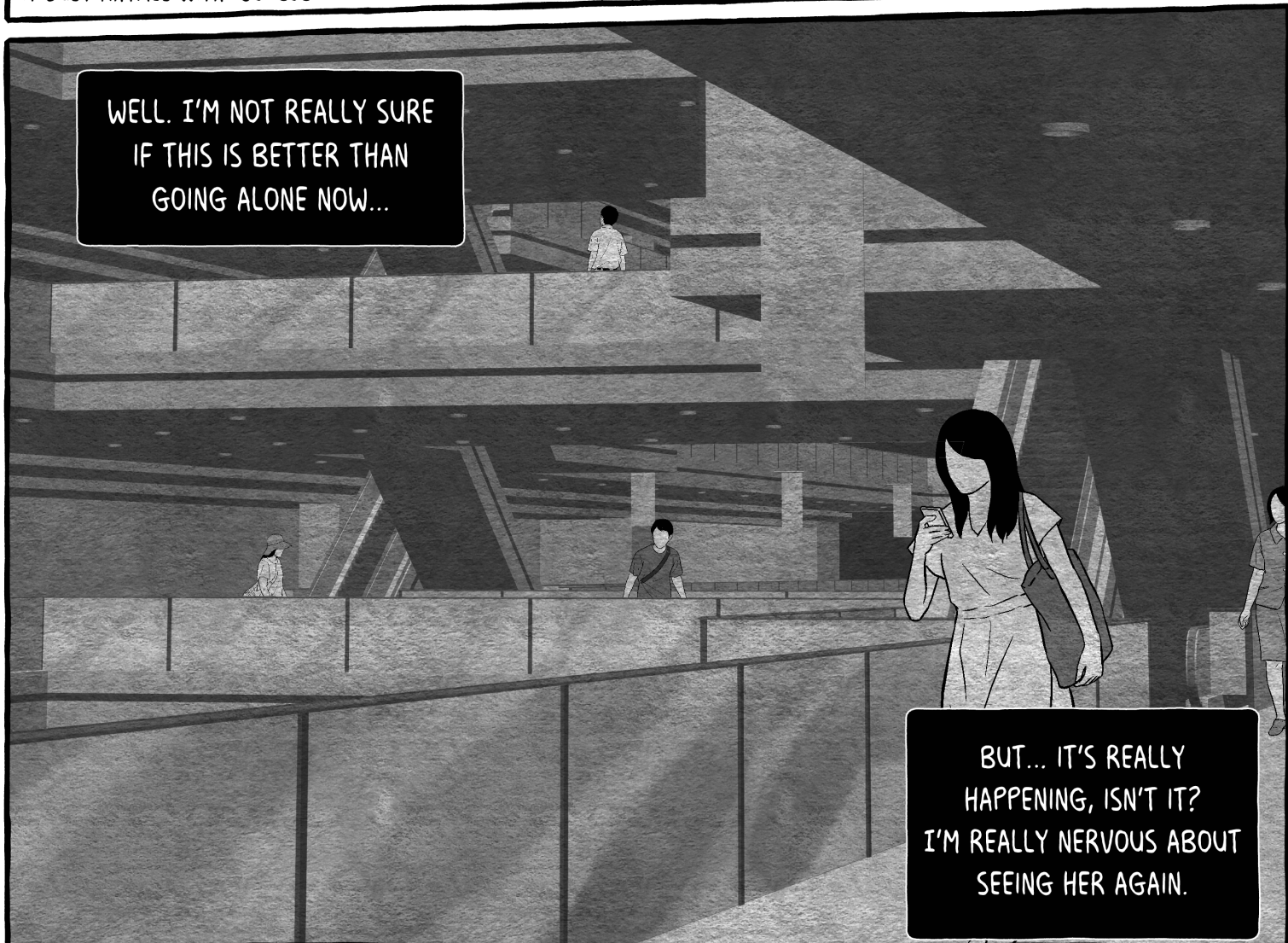
SHE SAID  
SHE'D BE  
NEAR DAI—

SO LET'S  
GO SAGO!!

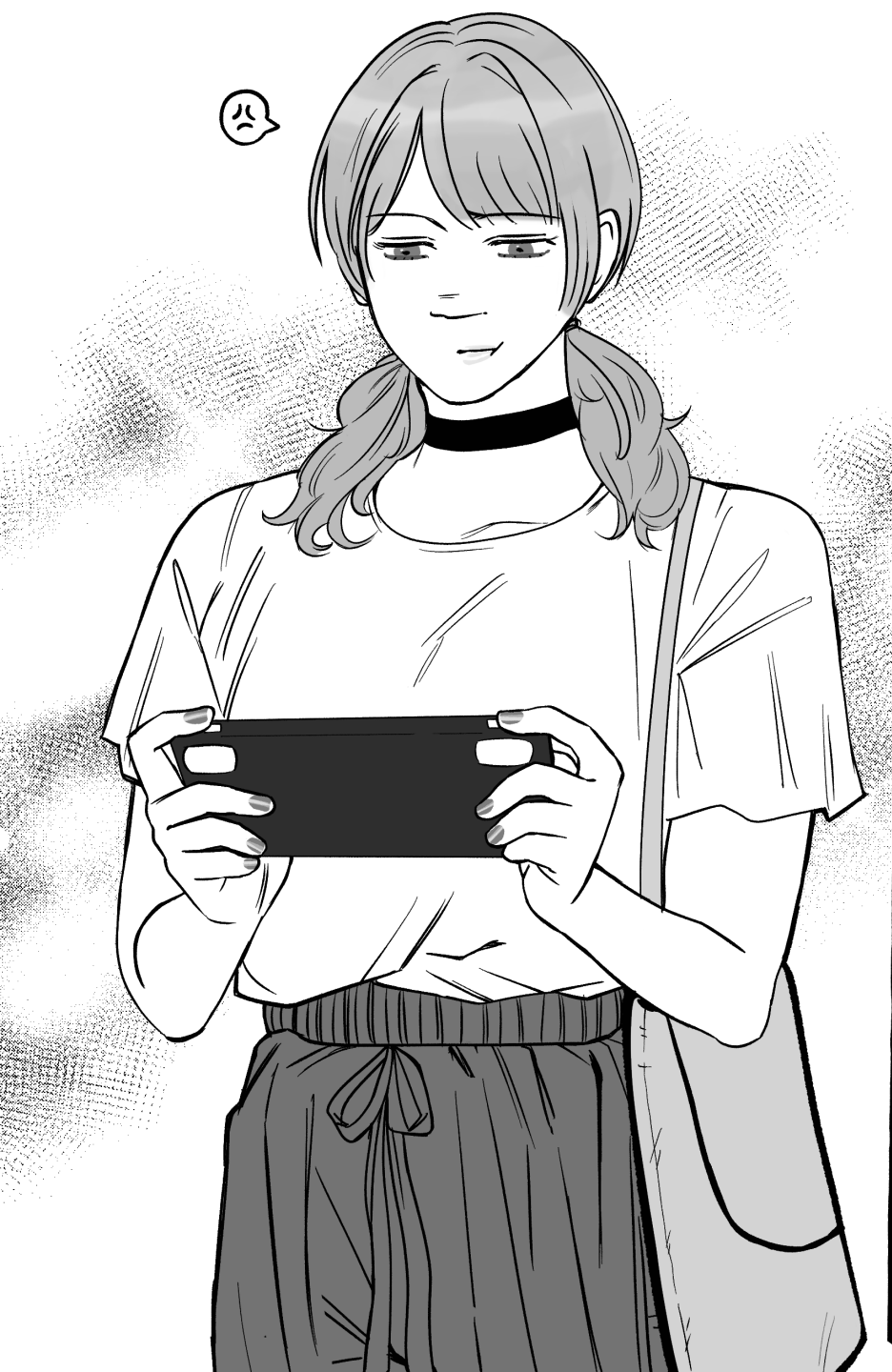
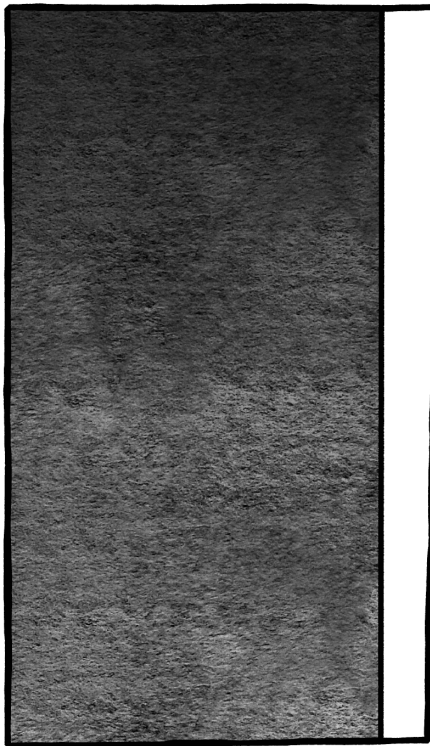
\*SAGO = SAGO PEARLS,  
IT JUST RHYMES WITH 'GO' LOL



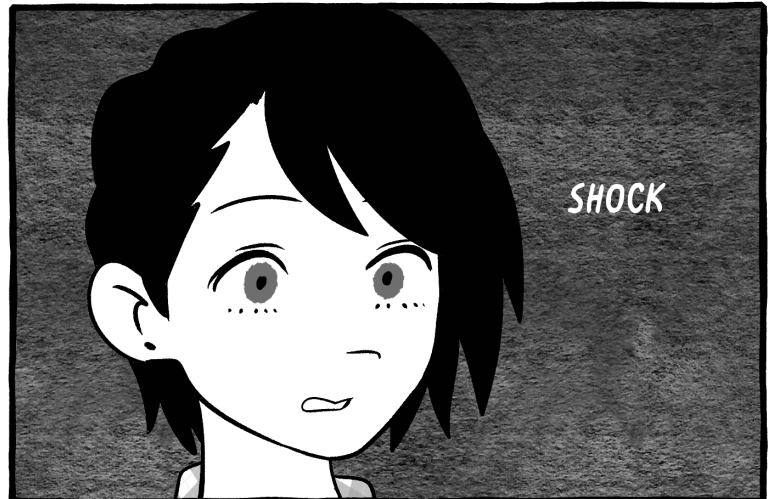
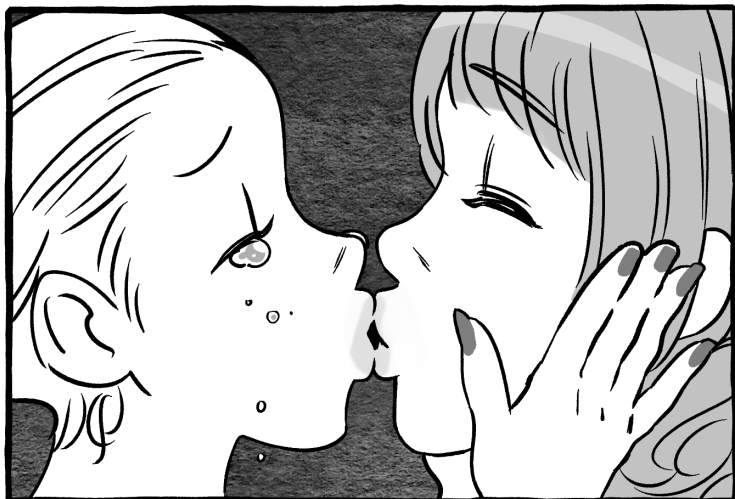
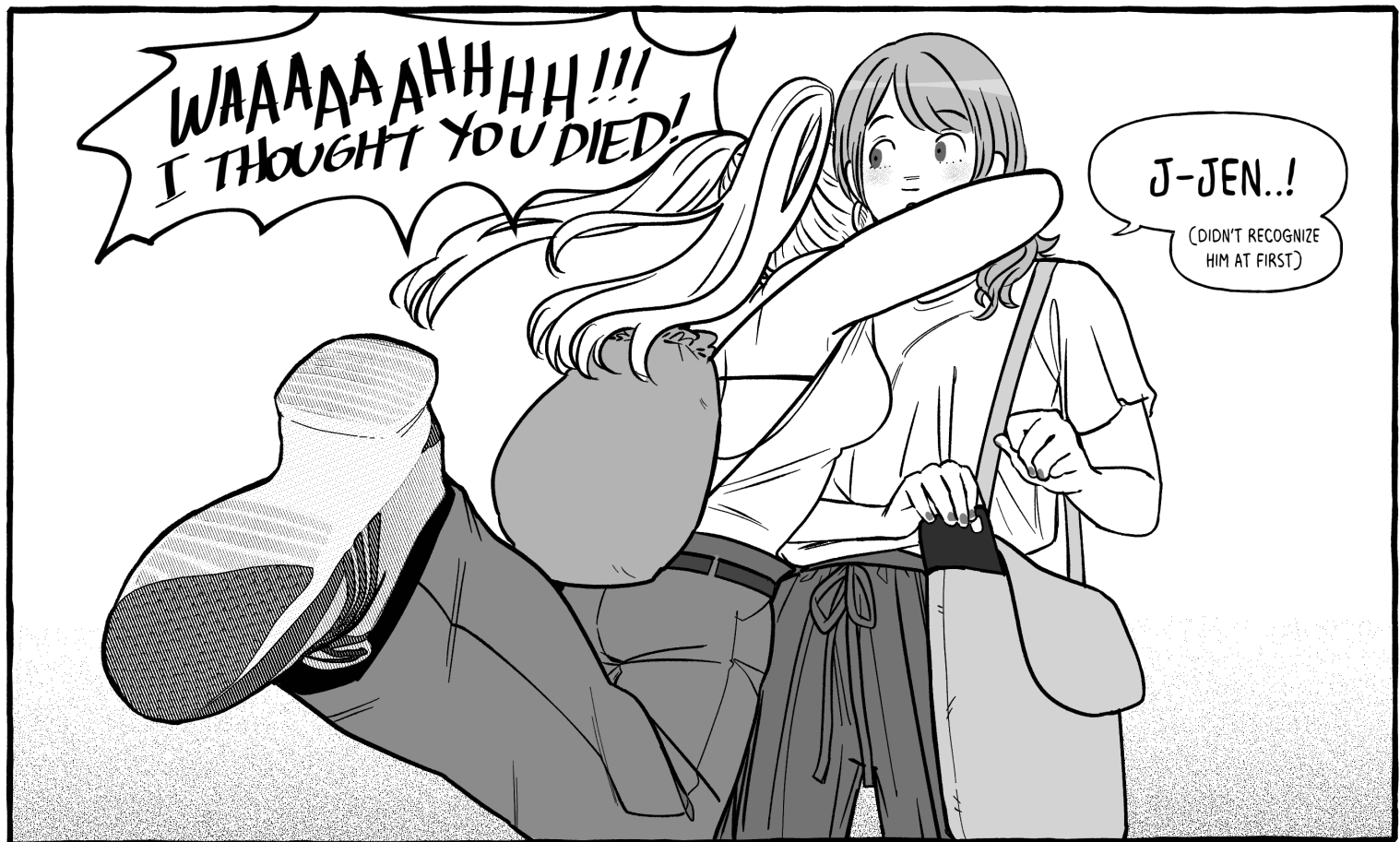
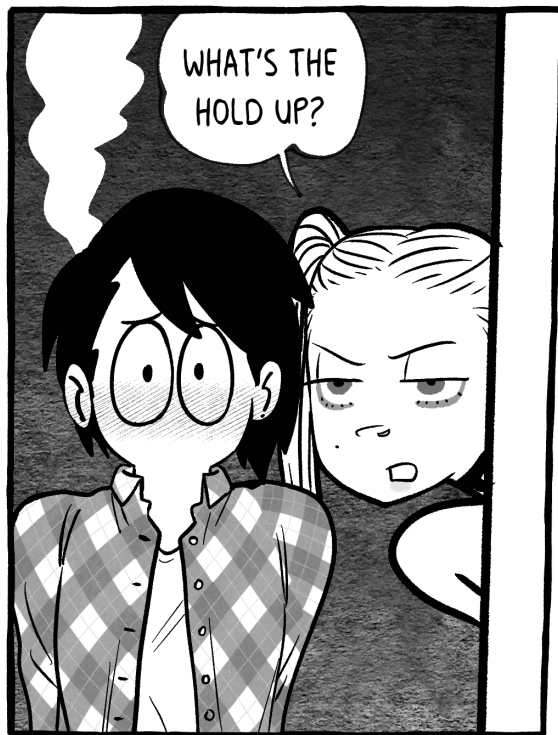
WELL. I'M NOT REALLY SURE  
IF THIS IS BETTER THAN  
GOING ALONE NOW...



BUT... IT'S REALLY  
HAPPENING, ISN'T IT?  
I'M REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT  
SEEING HER AGAIN.

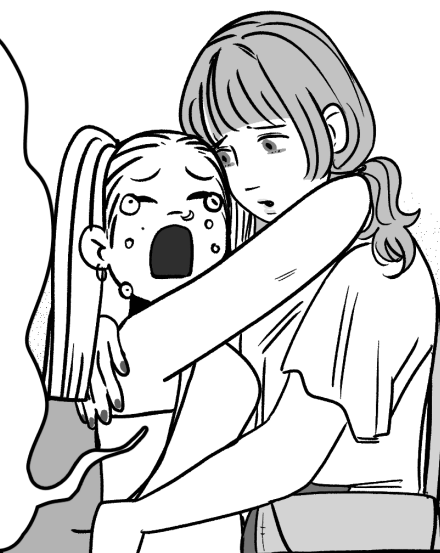




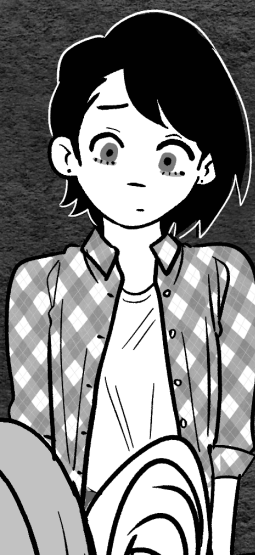


I'M SORRY,  
JEN—

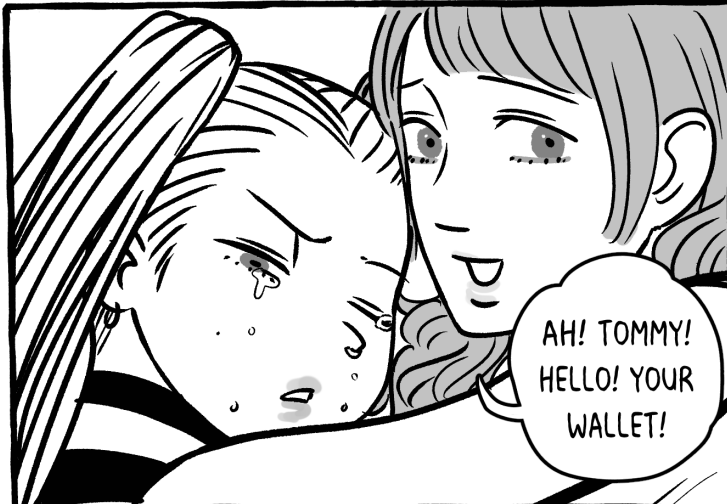
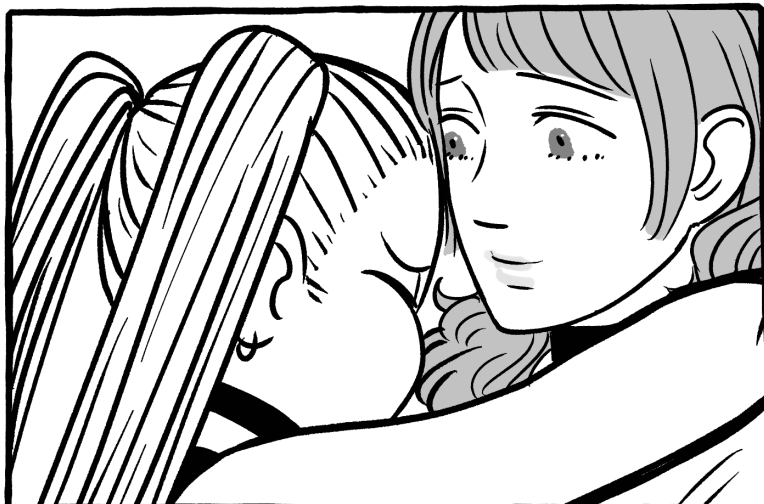
ALYSSAAAAAAA!! MY BABY!! I CAN  
CALL YOU YSSA RIGHT OH MY GOD  
I'M SO SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU  
I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY I DON'T CARE  
THAT YOU GHOSTED ALL OF US  
FOR YEARS YOU GREW UP SO PRETTY  
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN  
WE ALL MISS YOU SO MUCH  
ME AND TOM AND BEPOY AND LAURA  
AND MOMMY AND PRINCESS AND—



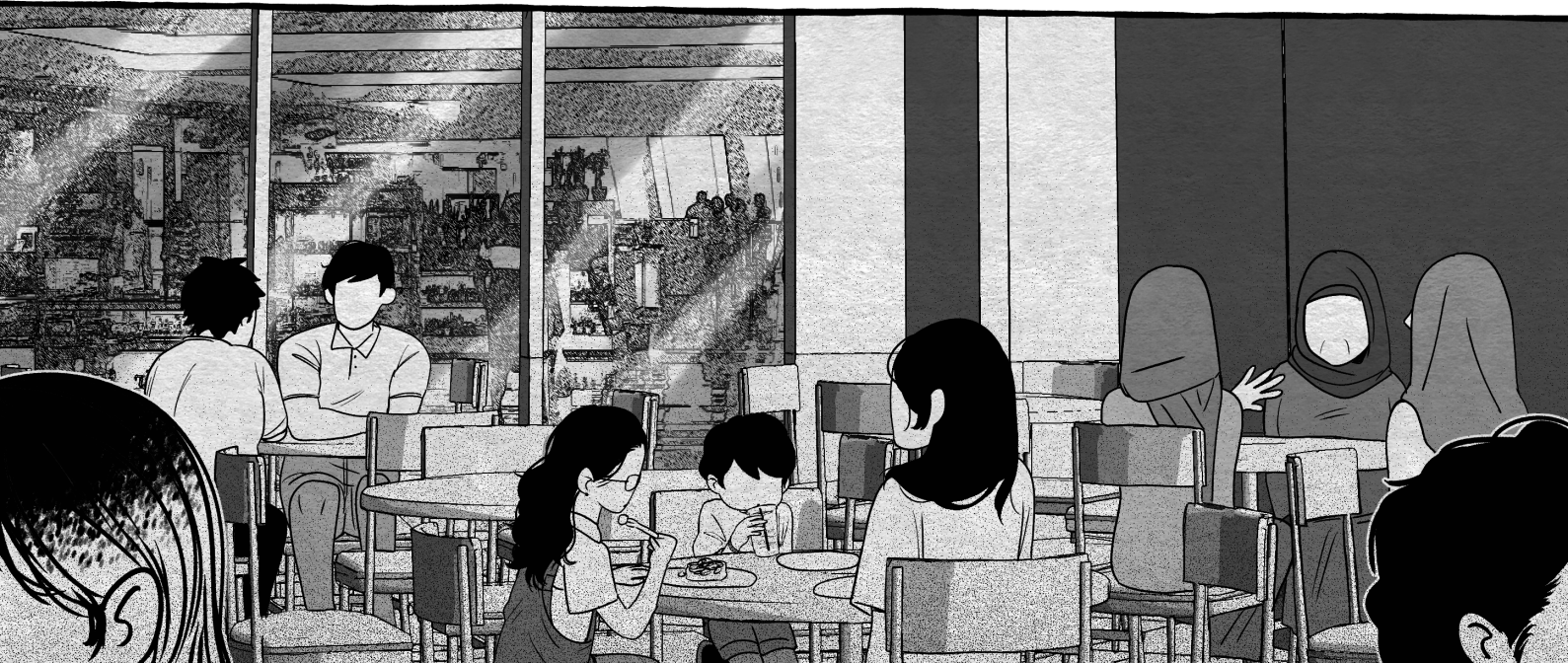
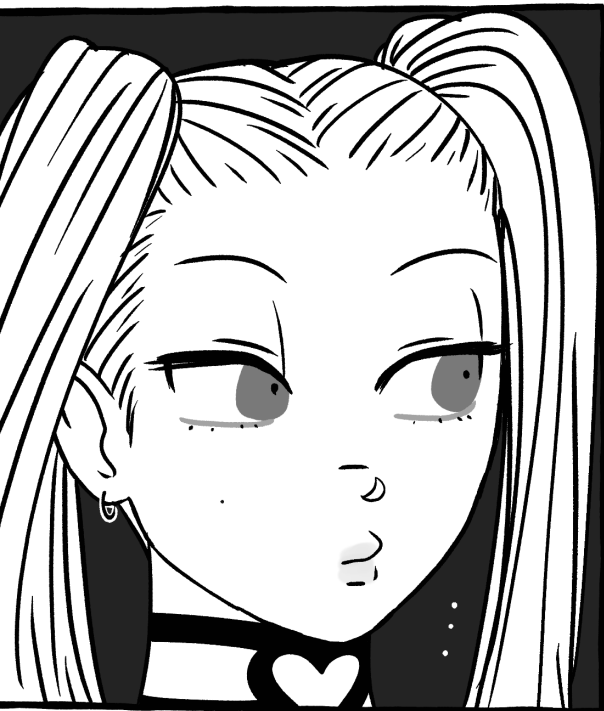
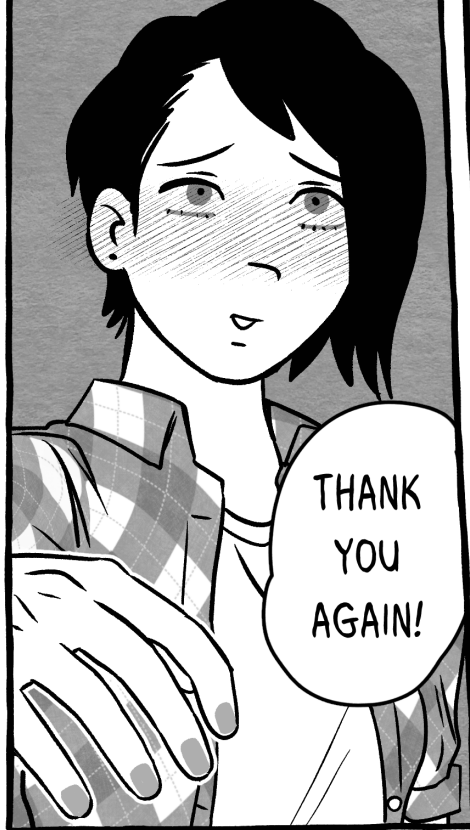
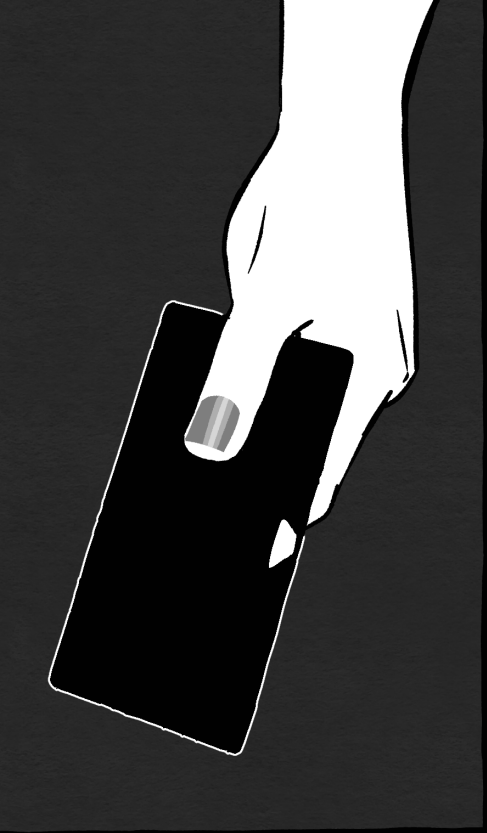
HMM... I KNOW  
JEN KISSES ALL  
HIS FRIENDS. HELL,  
HE EVEN KISSED  
ME EARLIER. BUT...

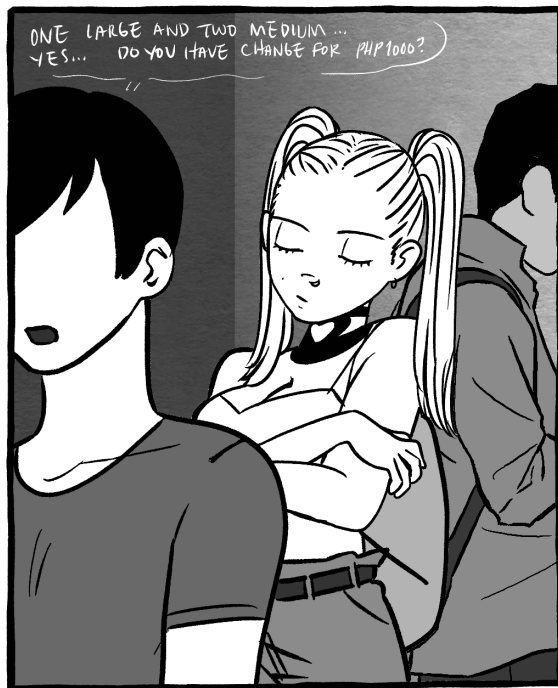


I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND...  
WHY DO I FEEL  
SO WEIRDLY  
JEALOUS?

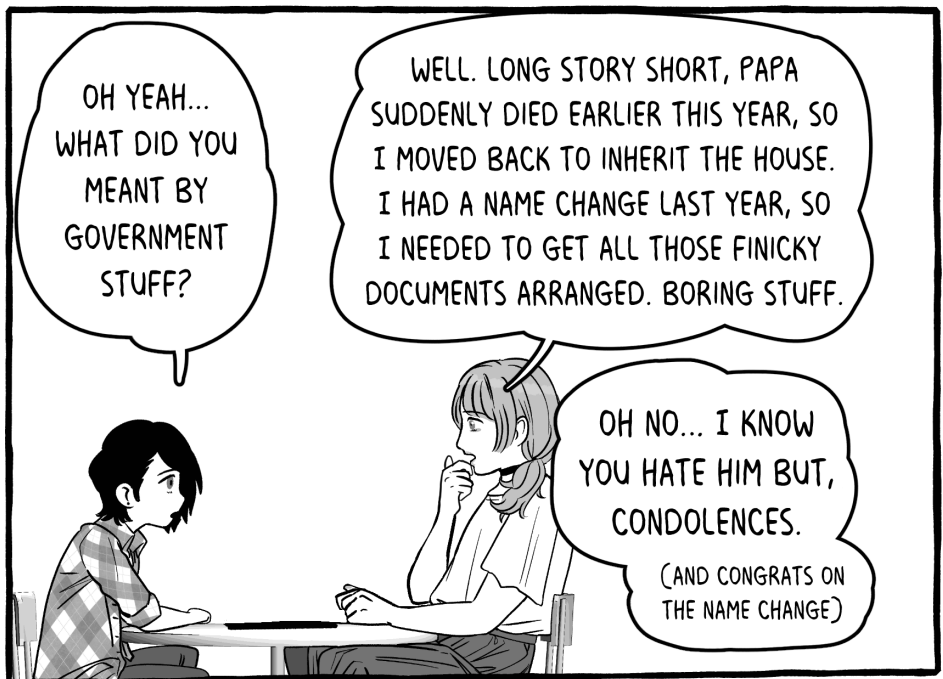








ONE LARGE AND TWO MEDIUM ...  
YES... DO YOU HAVE CHANGE FOR PHP1000?

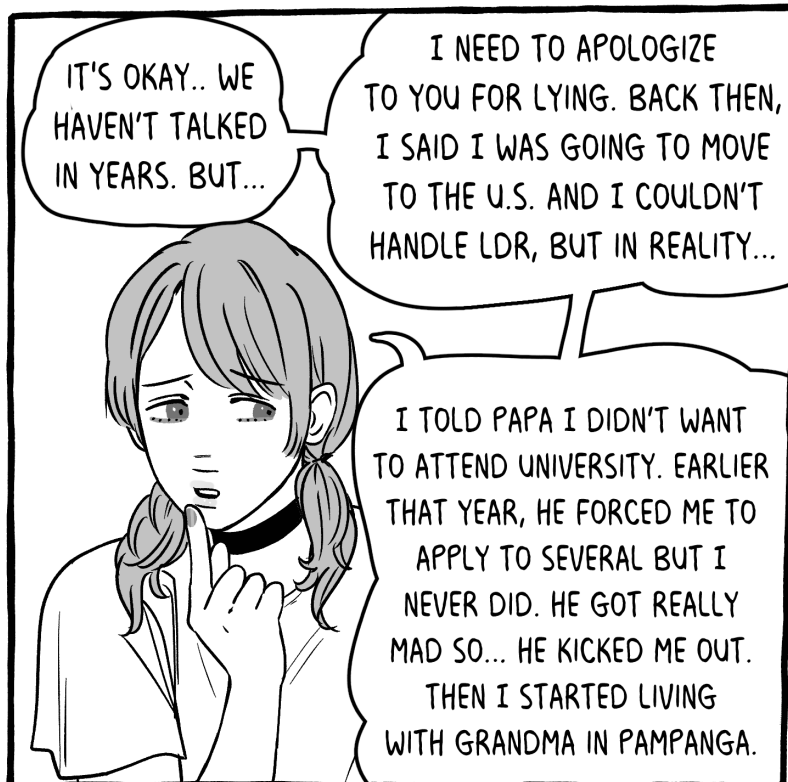


OH YEAH...  
WHAT DID YOU  
MEANT BY  
GOVERNMENT  
STUFF?

WELL. LONG STORY SHORT, PAPA  
SUDDENLY DIED EARLIER THIS YEAR, SO  
I MOVED BACK TO INHERIT THE HOUSE.  
I HAD A NAME CHANGE LAST YEAR, SO  
I NEEDED TO GET ALL THOSE FINICKY  
DOCUMENTS ARRANGED. BORING STUFF.

OH NO... I KNOW  
YOU HATE HIM BUT,  
CONDOLENCES.

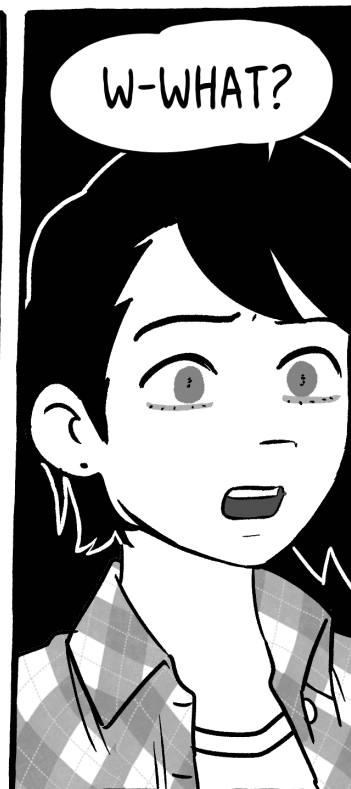
(AND CONGRATS ON  
THE NAME CHANGE)



IT'S OKAY.. WE  
HAVEN'T TALKED  
IN YEARS. BUT...

I NEED TO APOLOGIZE  
TO YOU FOR LYING. BACK THEN,  
I SAID I WAS GOING TO MOVE  
TO THE U.S. AND I COULDN'T  
HANDLE LDR, BUT IN REALITY...

I TOLD PAPA I DIDN'T WANT  
TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY. EARLIER  
THAT YEAR, HE FORCED ME TO  
APPLY TO SEVERAL BUT I  
NEVER DID. HE GOT REALLY  
MAD SO... HE KICKED ME OUT.  
THEN I STARTED LIVING  
WITH GRANDMA IN PAMPANGA.



W-WHAT?




OH YSSA...  
I'M SO SORRY...



I COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE  
WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH.  
I... I HOPE I DON'T  
SOUND DISMISSIVE OR  
ANYTHING, BUT WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL ME? OR ANY  
OF US? YOU COULD  
LIVE WITH ME AND  
KUYA RICH.  
OR, OR, JEN! JEN'S  
MOM LOVES YOU.

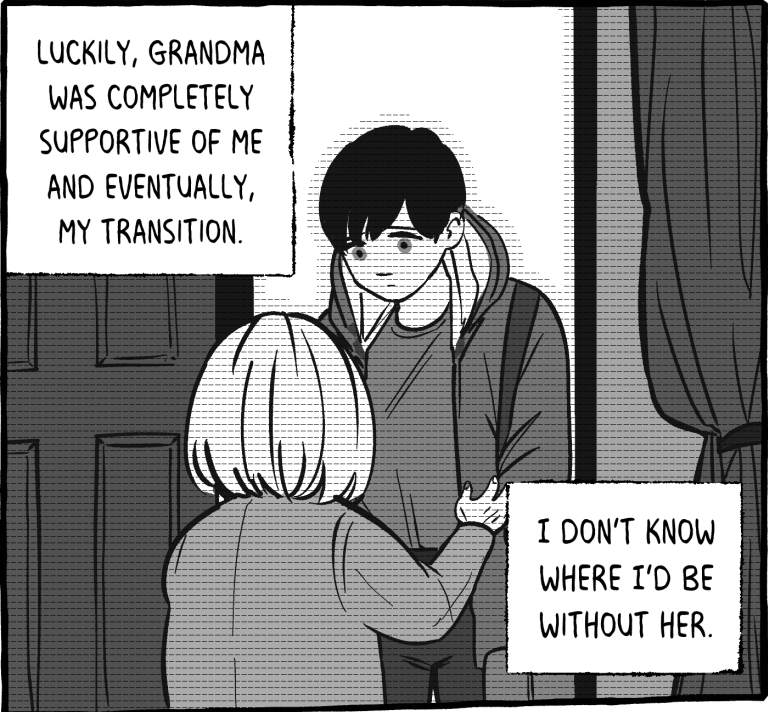


SORRY. I DON'T  
KNOW, I THINK  
I WAS TOO SCARED.  
I DIDN'T WANT  
TO BE A BURDEN,  
LIKE WHAT PAPA  
SAID I WAS.




NO, NO YOU'RE NOT  
A BURDEN! I'M SORRY HE  
MADE YOU FEEL THAT WAY,  
I WISH THINGS COULD'VE  
TURNED OUT DIFFERENT...

WE DON'T HATE YOU  
FOR GHOSTING US  
OR ANYTHING. WE'RE  
JUST SUPER WORRIED.  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
YOU AFTER? HOW DID  
YOU HOLD UP?



LUCKILY, GRANDMA  
WAS COMPLETELY  
SUPPORTIVE OF ME  
AND EVENTUALLY,  
MY TRANSITION.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE I'D BE  
WITHOUT HER.



THOUGH, IT WAS A BIT OF A STRUGGLE  
FOR HER TO UNDERSTAND THAT  
I'M A GIRL WHO LIKES GIRLS...



IS HE YOUR  
TYPE?


SHE CAME THROUGH,  
EVENTUALLY.



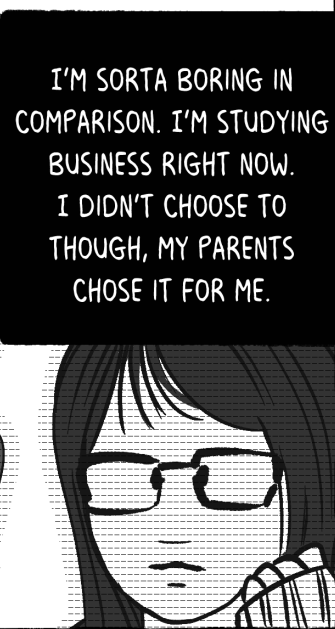
I DIDN'T ATTEND COLLEGE,  
JUST VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.  
NOTHING EVENTFUL REALLY  
HAPPENED. NOW I'M DOING  
FREELANCE CODING, THOUGH.  
SCORED A GIG WITH AN  
UP-AND-COMING INDIE GAME  
COMPANY A FEW MONTHS AGO.

WOW! CONGRATS!  
WHAT GAME ARE  
YOU WORKING ON?

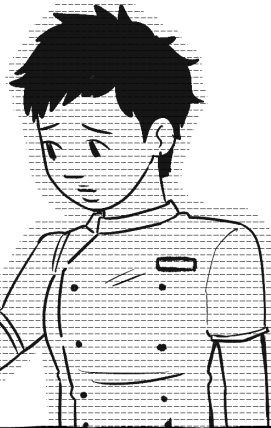
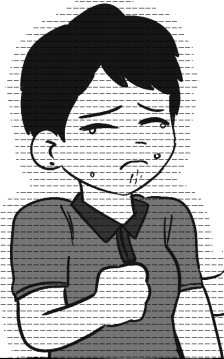
THANK YOU! I'D LOVE  
TO SHARE ABOUT  
THE PROJECT BUT...  
I RESPECT THE NDA.



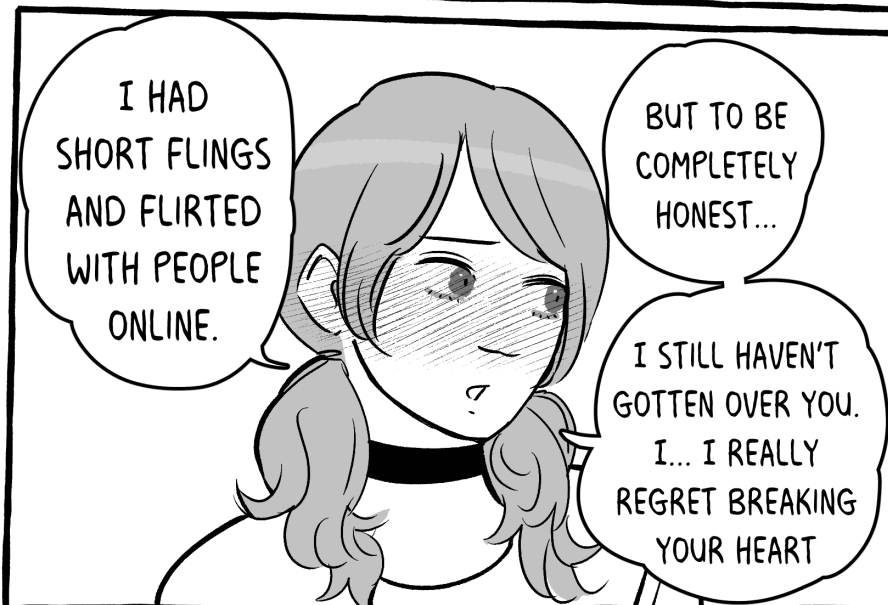
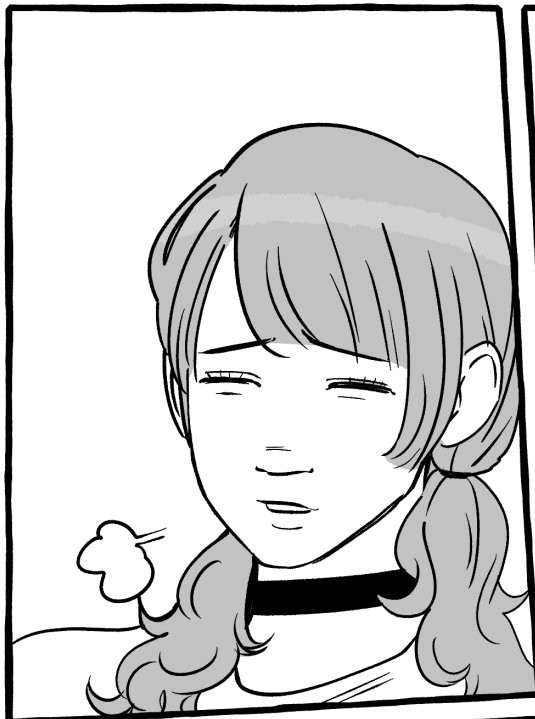
WHAT ABOUT YOU,  
TOMMY? WHAT WERE  
YOU UP TO?



I'M SORTA BORING IN  
COMPARISON. I'M STUDYING  
BUSINESS RIGHT NOW.  
I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO  
THOUGH, MY PARENTS  
CHOSE IT FOR ME.

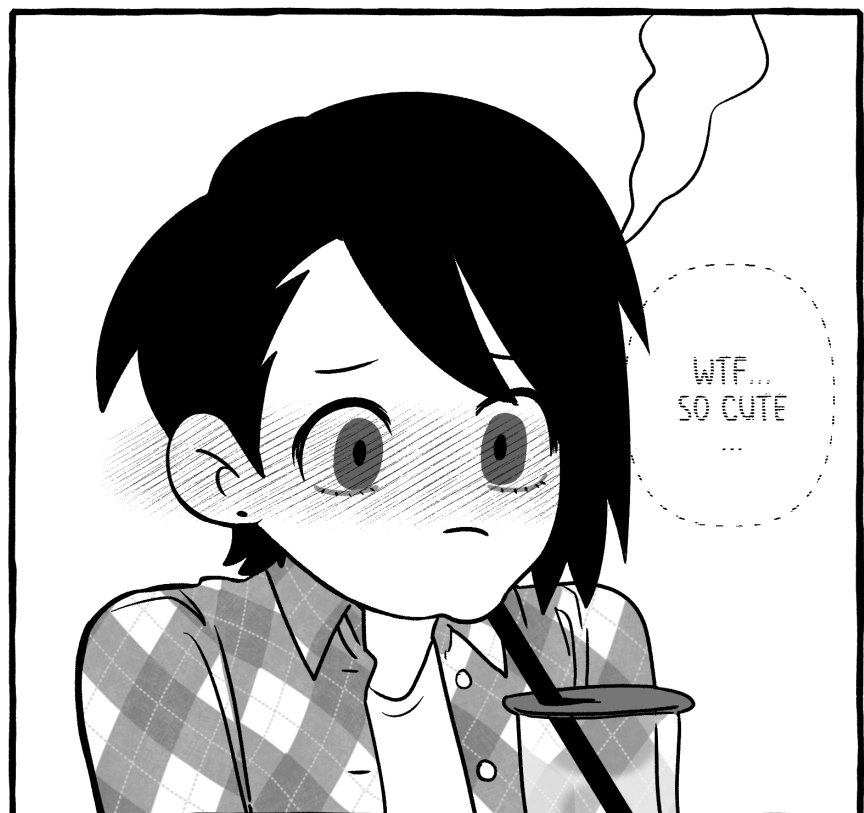
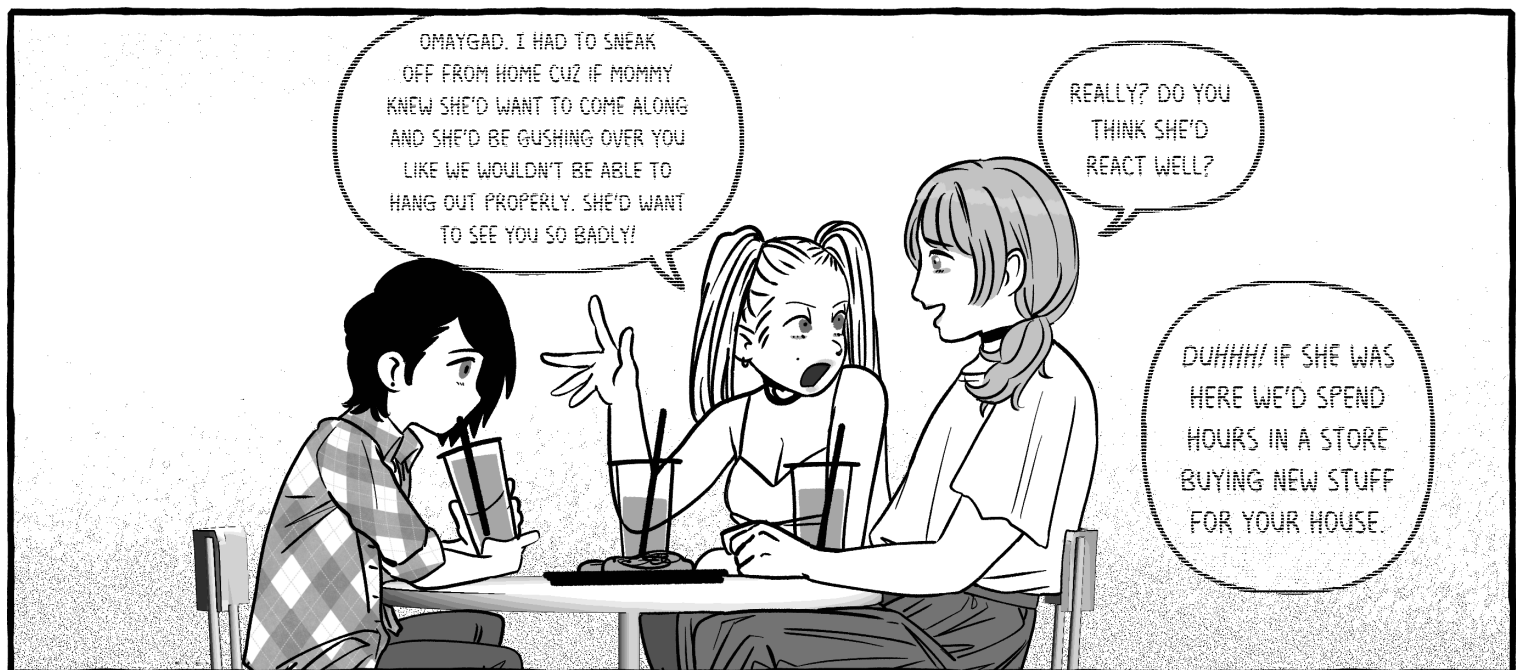
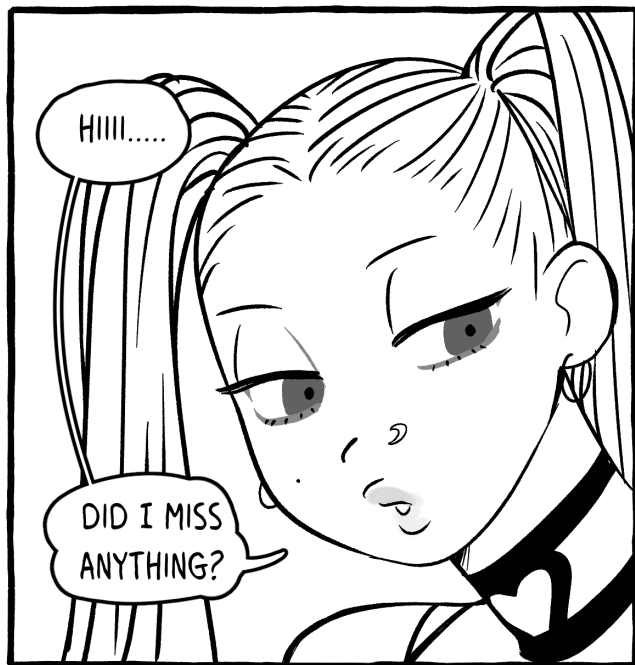


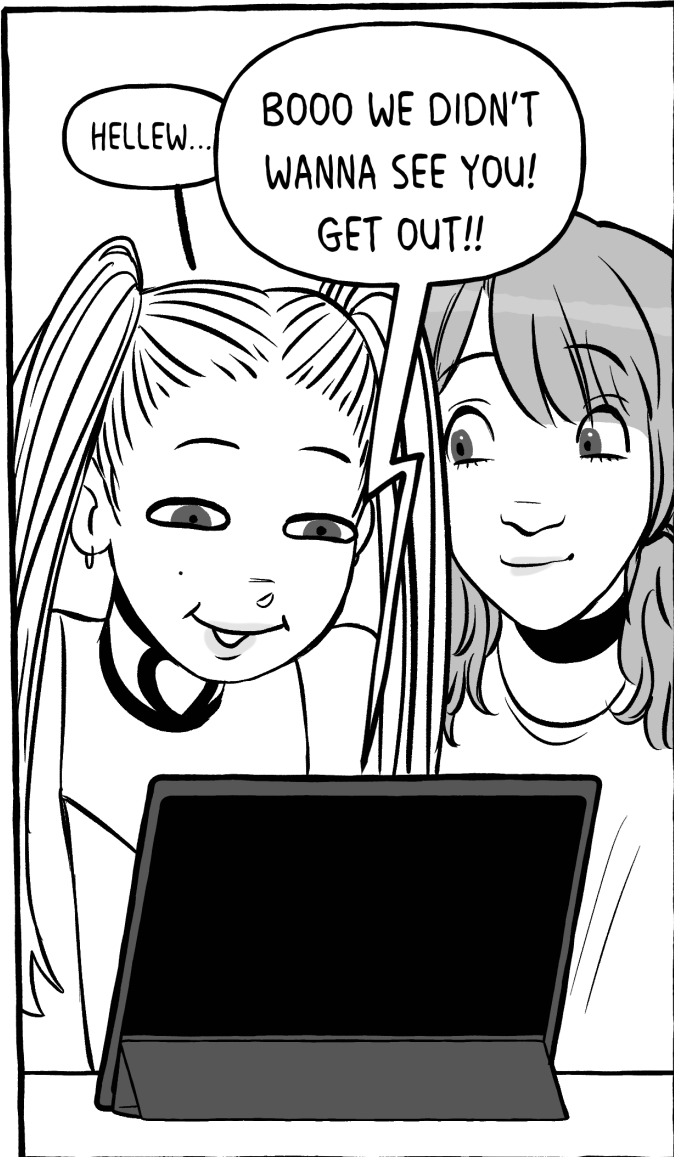
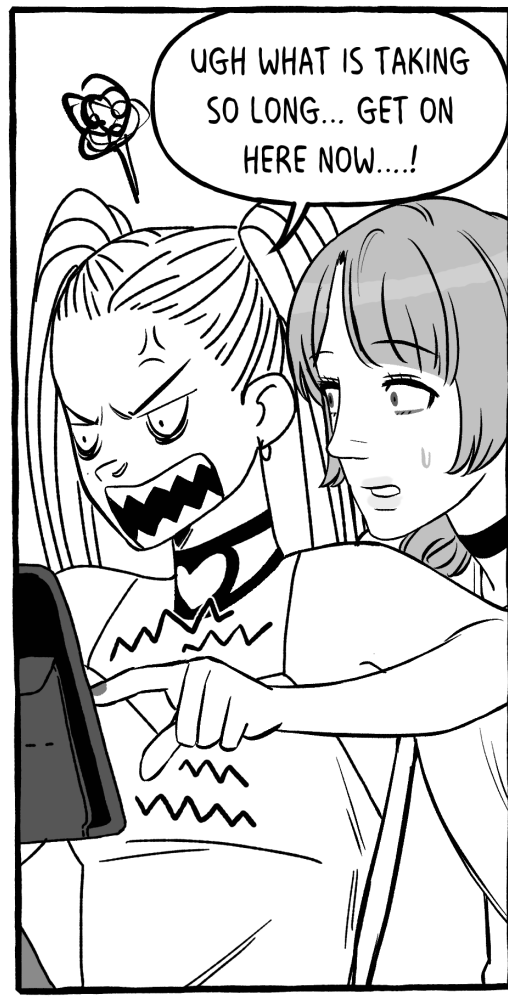
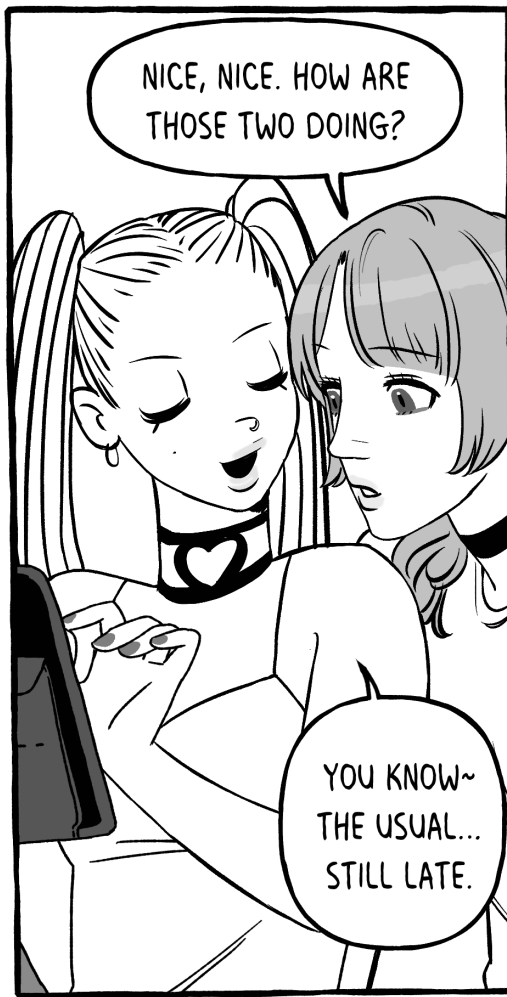
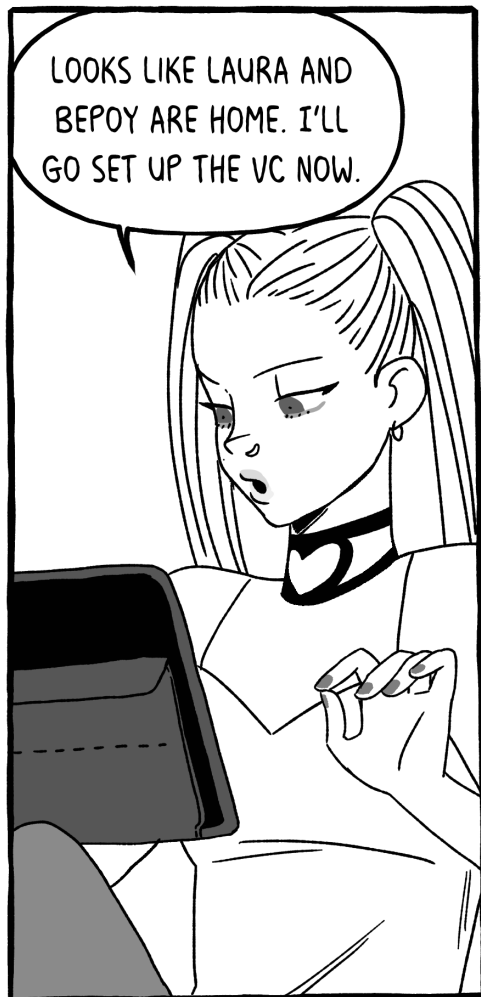
I GOT A GIRLFRIEND TWO YEARS AGO, BUT WE BROKE  
UP THE SAME YEAR BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO FOCUS  
ON STUDIES. SHE'S A DENTISTRY STUDENT. WE'RE  
STILL FRIENDS, BUT WE DON'T REALLY TALK AS MUCH.





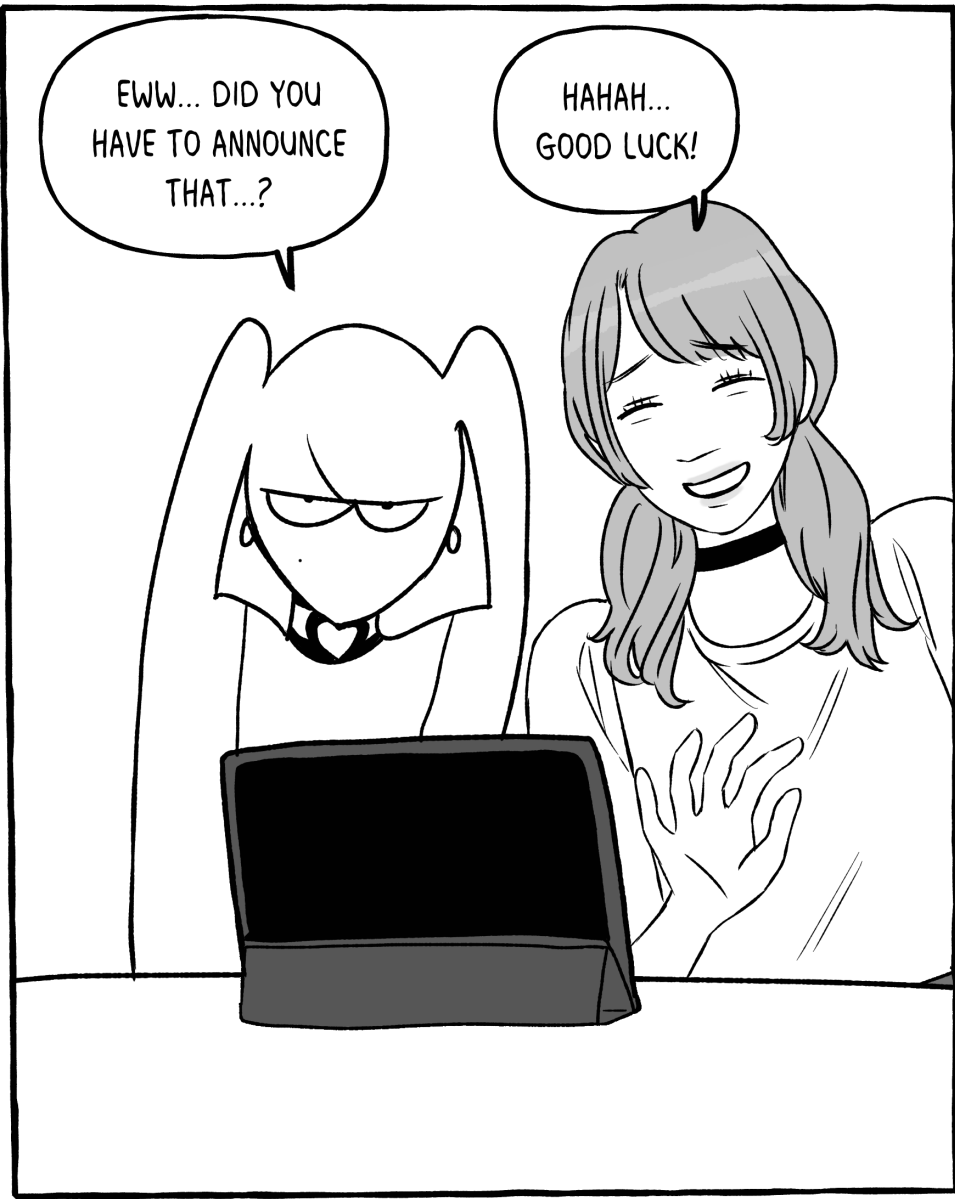








I'M GONNA GO  
UM... JINGLE.  
HEHE...



EW... DID YOU  
HAVE TO ANNOUNCE  
THAT...?

HAHAH...  
GOOD LUCK!




HEH...

...  
GOOD  
LUCK?

WHAT WAS THAT  
RESPONSE...

WELL, AT LEAST SHE'S  
STILL AN ODDBALL.





I KNEW SHE WAS JUST  
JOKING, BUT...

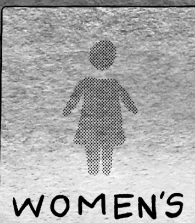
UGH... THAT KINDA  
HIT A NERVE.



*\*SIGH\**  
I GUESS I  
DO KINDA  
NEED THAT  
'GOOD LUCK'.



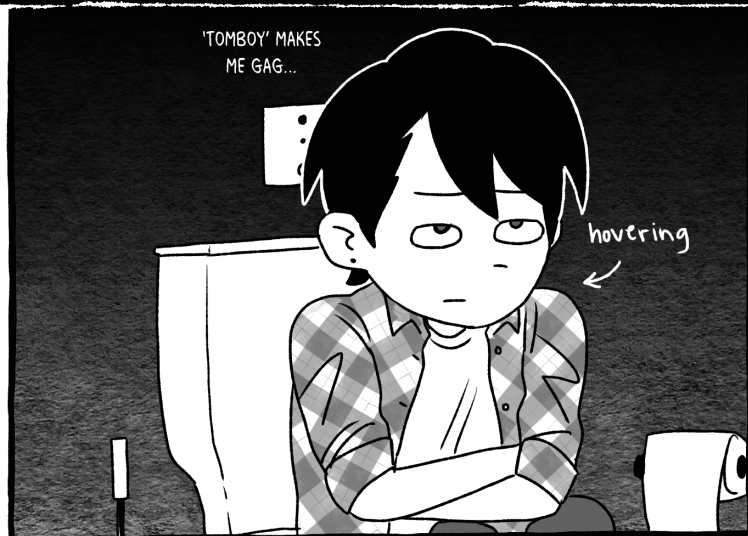
I'M NOT A  
TRANS GUY OR  
ANYTHING, YET...



WHEN I GO TO THE  
WOMEN'S BATHROOM,  
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT  
FEELS WEIRD ABOUT IT.

LIKE I'M  
'INVADING'  
OR SOMETHING.

I KNOW OTHER GAYS HAVE A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR GENDER BUT I STILL FEEL SO WEIRD... LIKE, I ALWAYS FELT OUT OF PLACE SOMEHOW? SOMETHING STILL FEELS CLOUDY AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.



THE FIRST TIME I FELT HAPPY AFTER MY BREAKUP WITH YSSA WAS RIGHT AFTER I GOT THE BIG CHOP. WHEN PEOPLE SAID I LOOKED LIKE A GUY.... I FELT EUPHORIC!



AND EVEN BEFORE THAT...

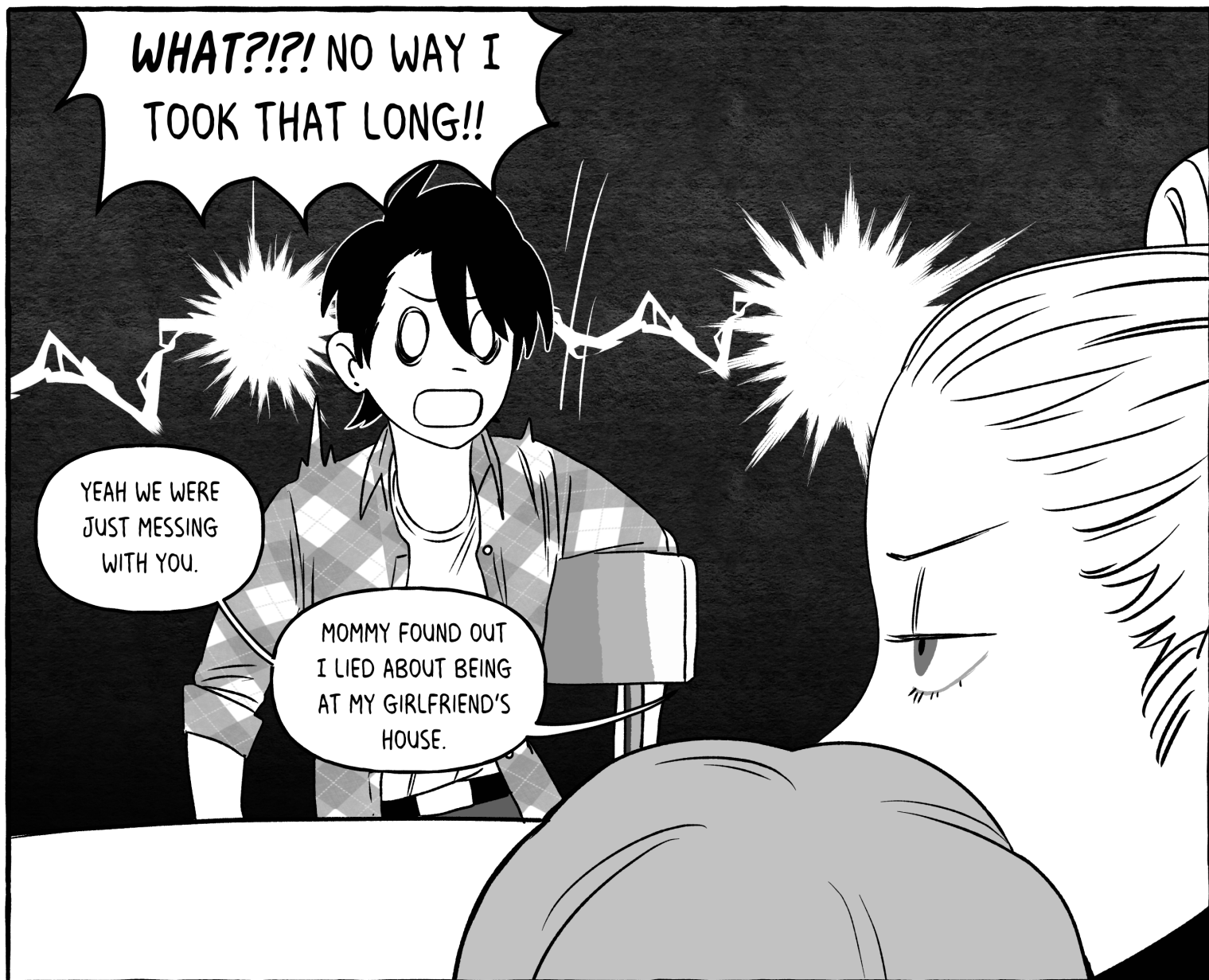
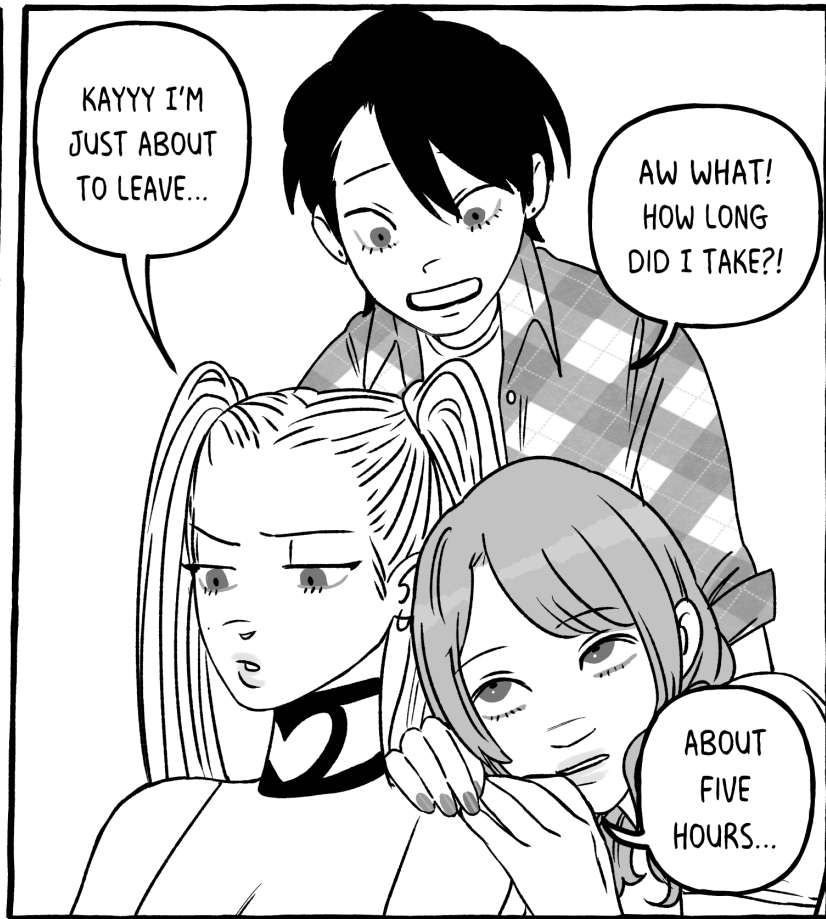


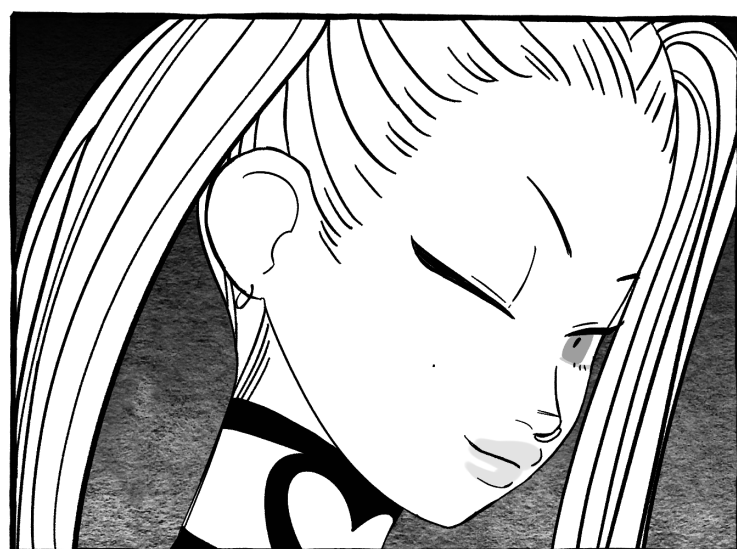
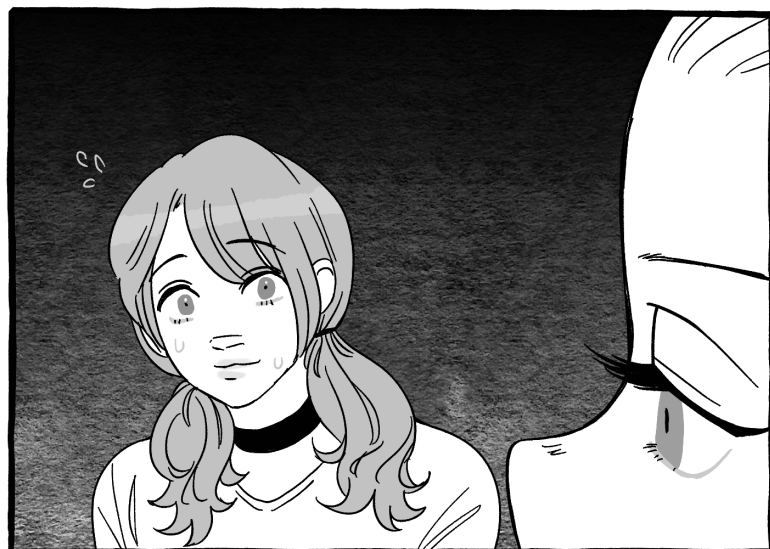
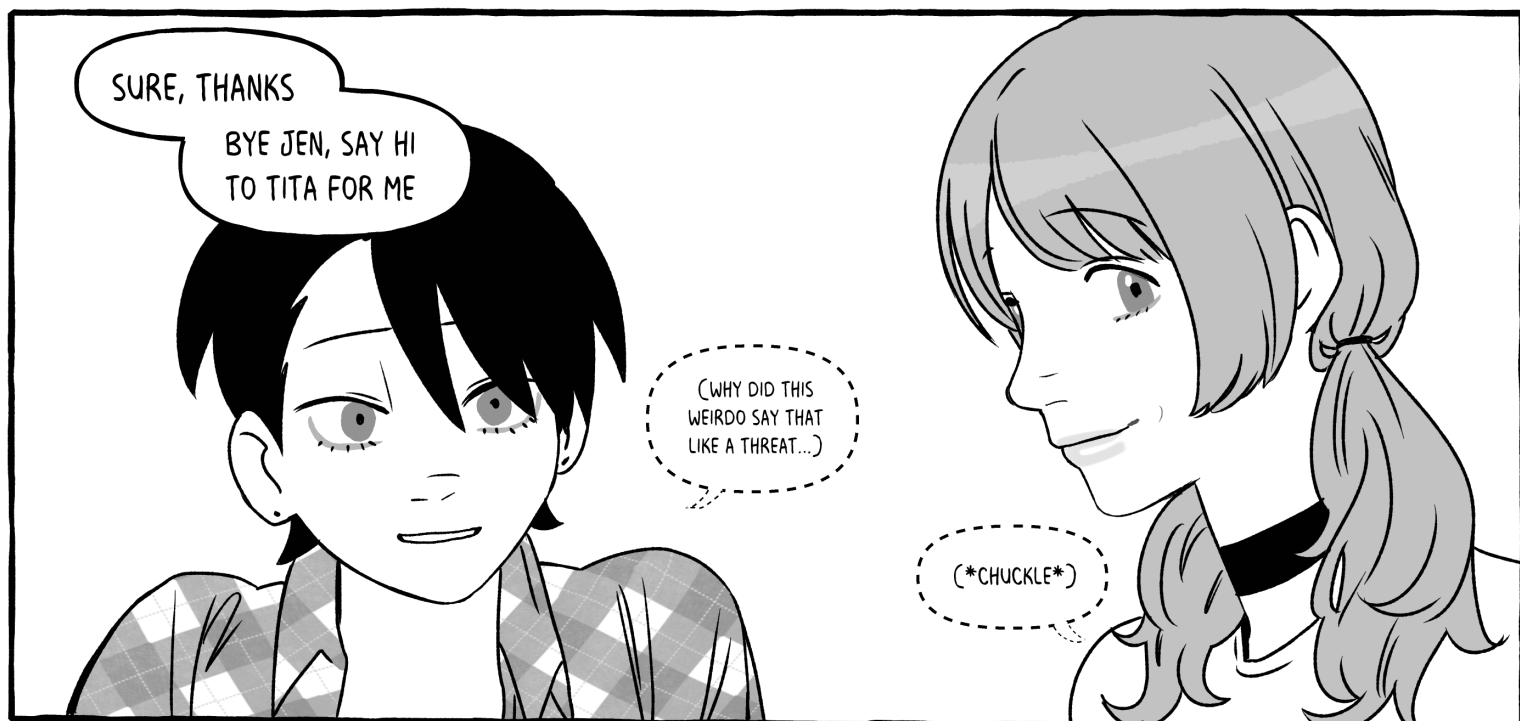
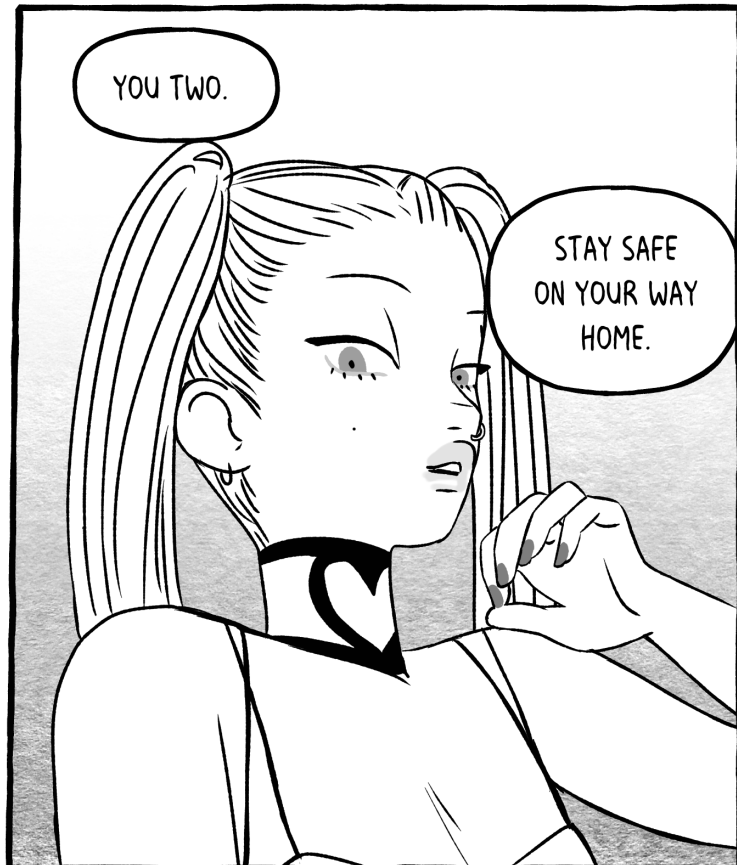
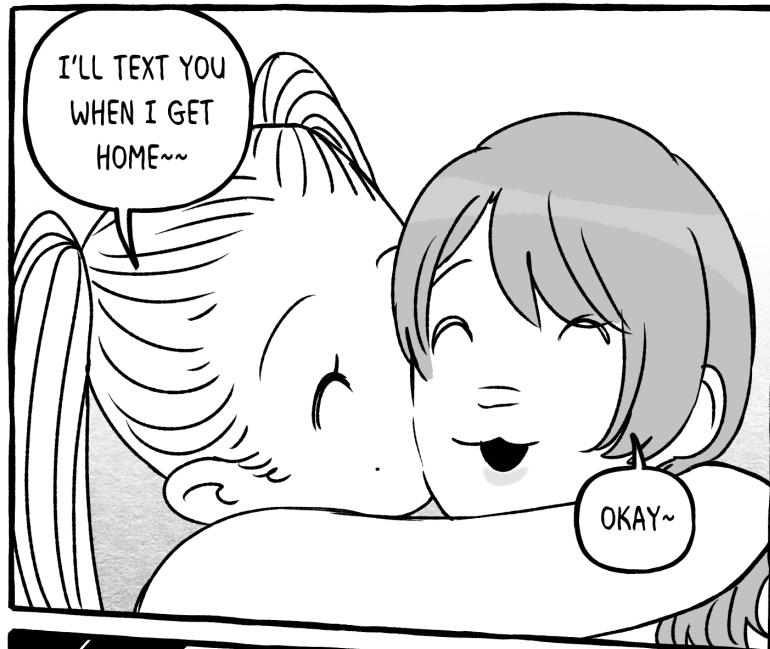
BUT... WHY AM I GETTING INTROSPECTIVE ABOUT THIS PART OF ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?

IS IT BECAUSE SOMEONE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN SO LONG HAS EMBRACED HER IDENTITY NOW AND STILL LIKES ME? AND IN A WAY... IT KIND OF MAKES ME WANNA THINK ABOUT GENDER STUFF TOO...

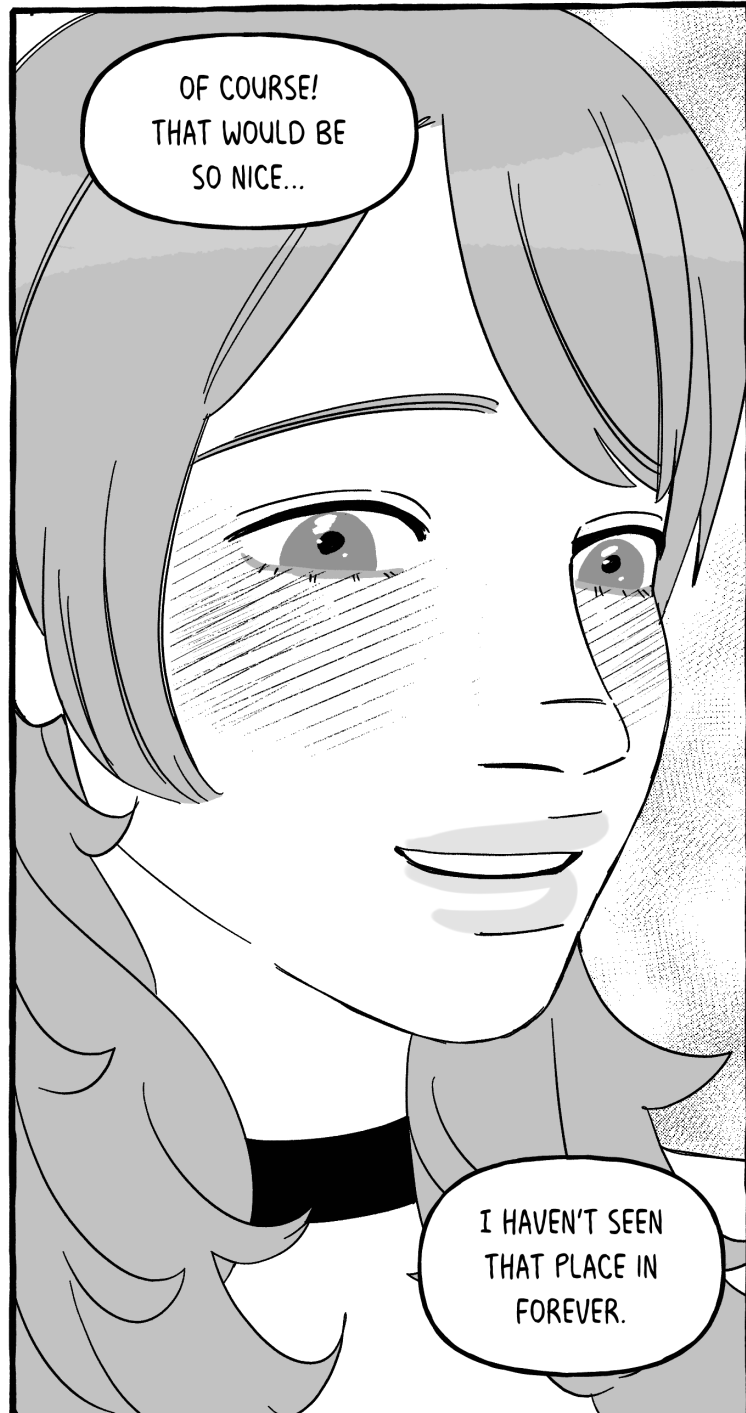
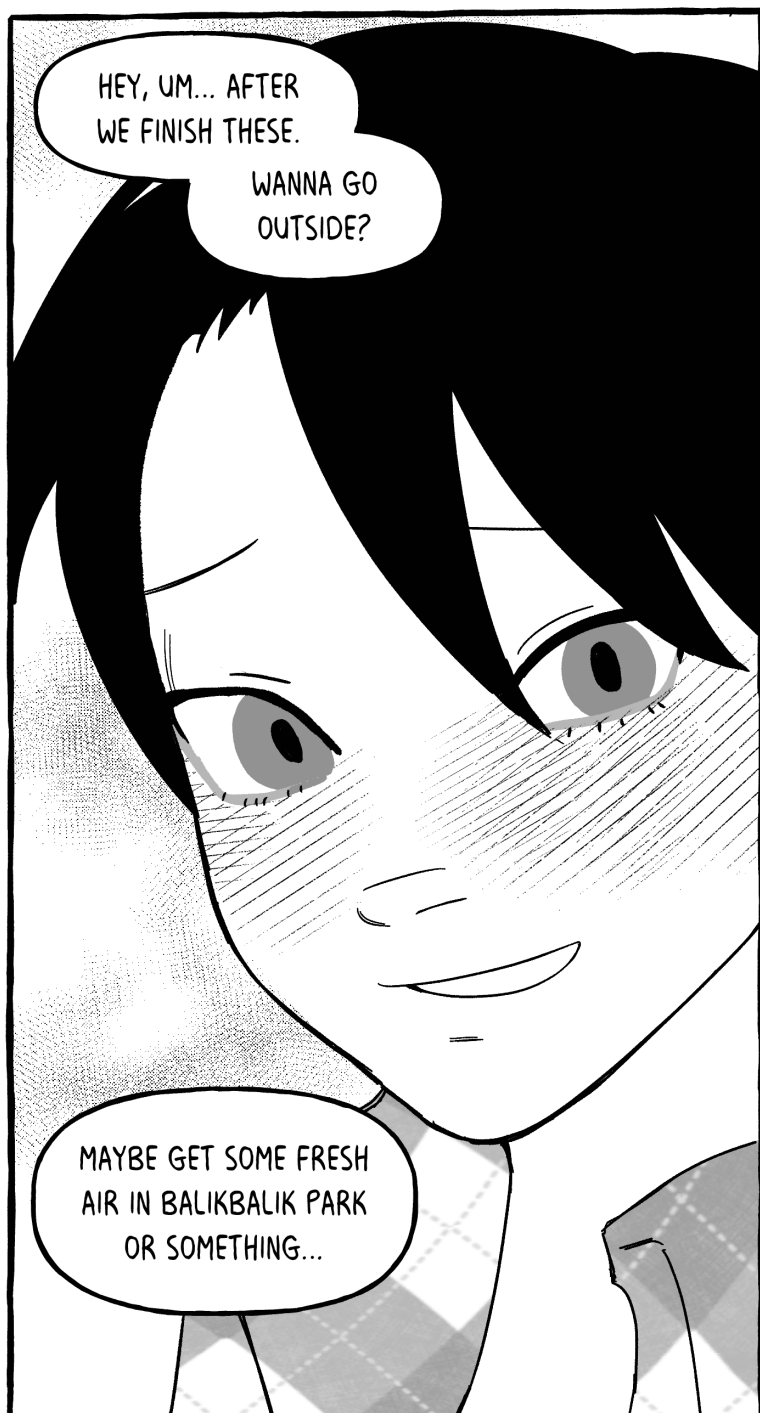
UGH. ALYSSA... ONLY YOU WOULD MAKE ME OVERTHINK THIS.

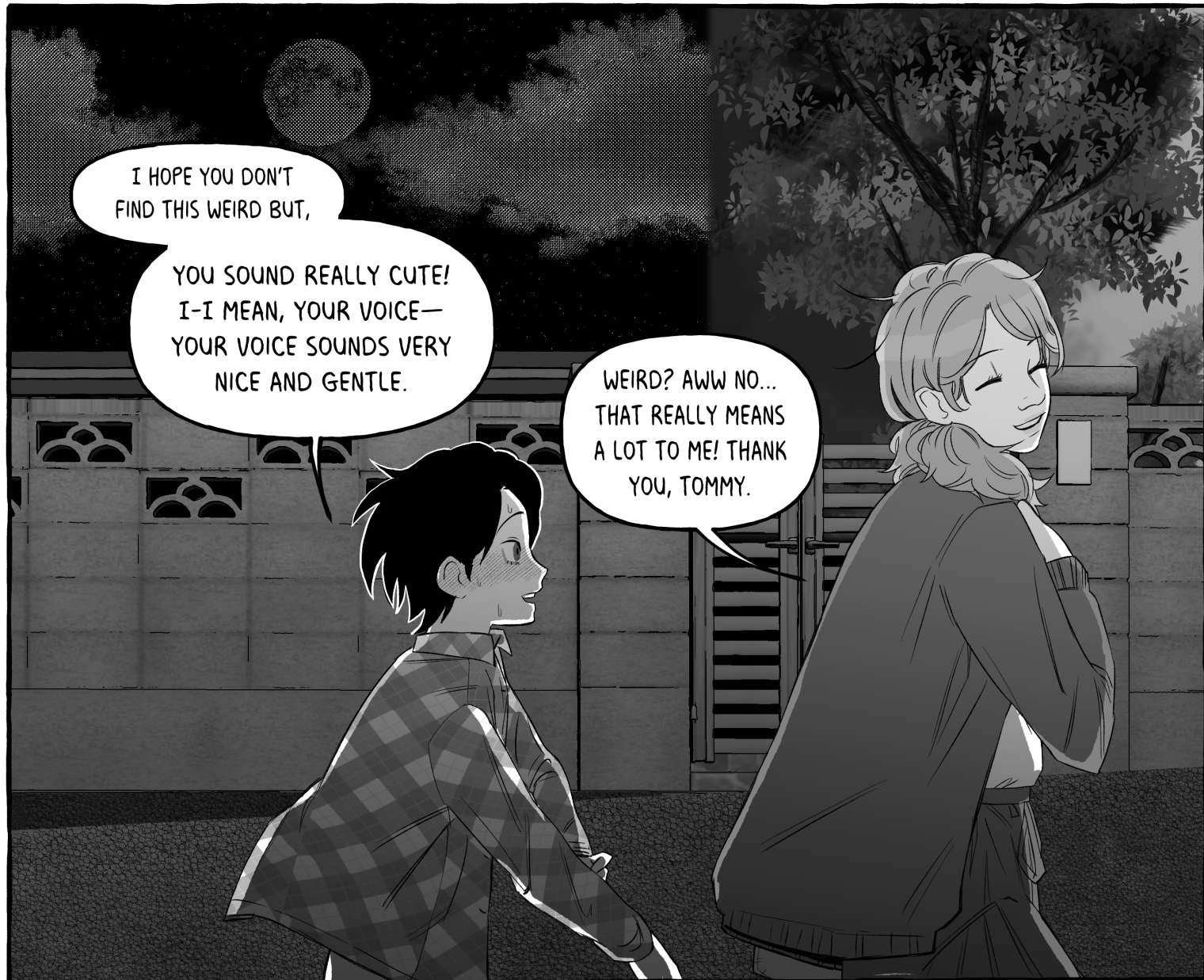




















YEAHH FUNNY, NO?

KINDA IRONIC THAT  
I JOINED THE GLEE CLUB  
'CAUSE YOU WERE A  
SACRISTAN THEN.



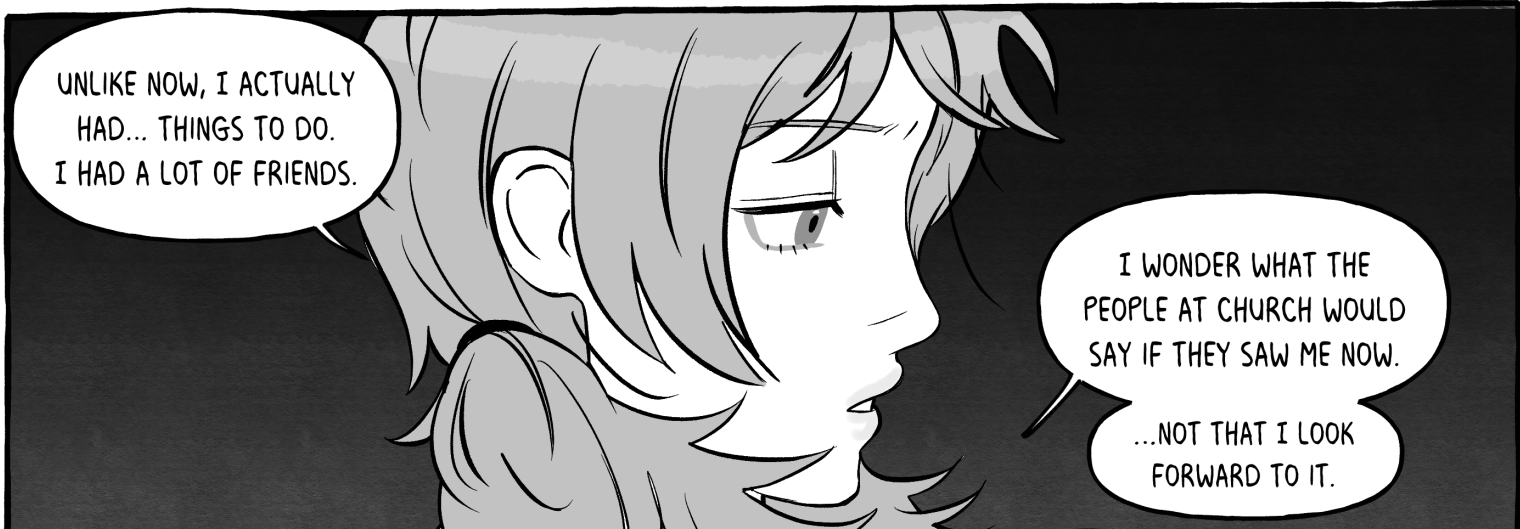
REALLY...?  
I KNOW YOU  
AREN'T RELIGIOUS,  
BUT THAT'S REALLY  
WHY YOU JOINED?

HEH, YEAH. IT'S SO  
EMBARRASSING SAYING  
THIS NOW, BUT I  
HAD A REALLY GOOD  
VIEW OF YOU WALKING  
DOWN THE AISLE.



I DON'T MISS  
HIGH SCHOOL OR MASS  
AT ALL, BUT THAT  
WAS SO MUCH FUN.

YEAH... LIFE  
WAS SIMPLER.



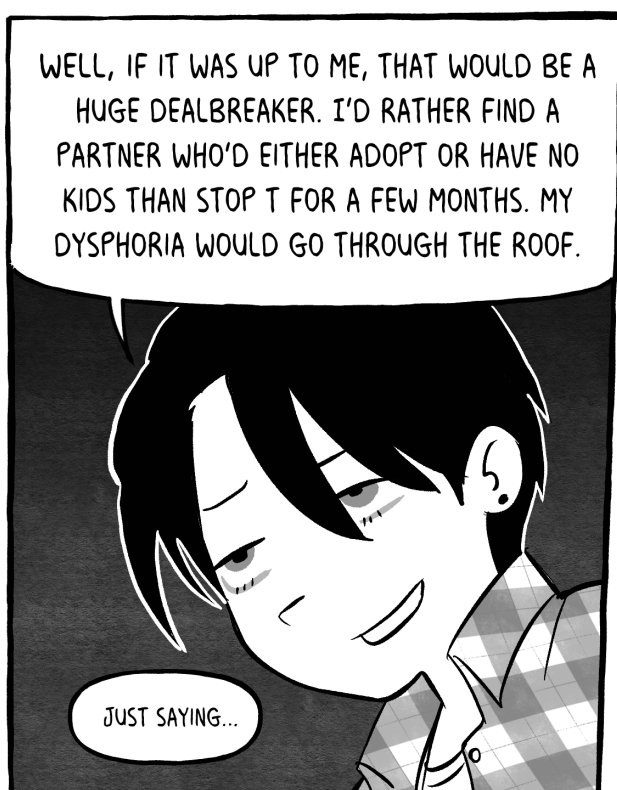
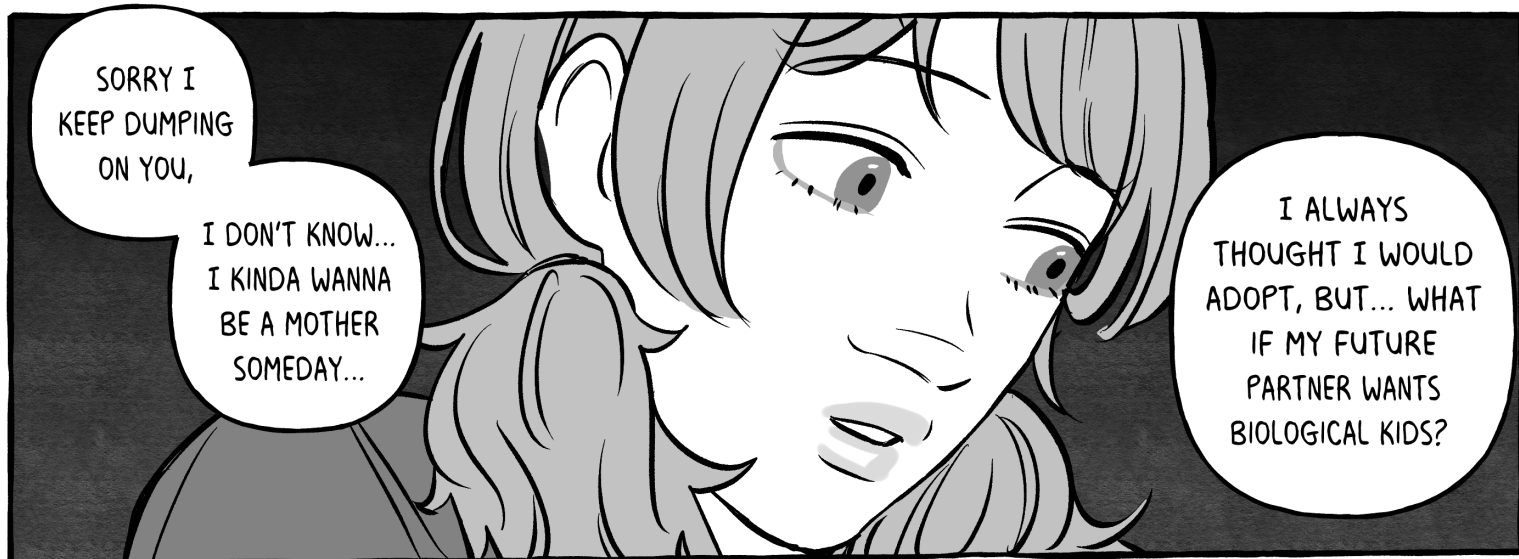
UNLIKE NOW, I ACTUALLY  
HAD... THINGS TO DO.  
I HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS.

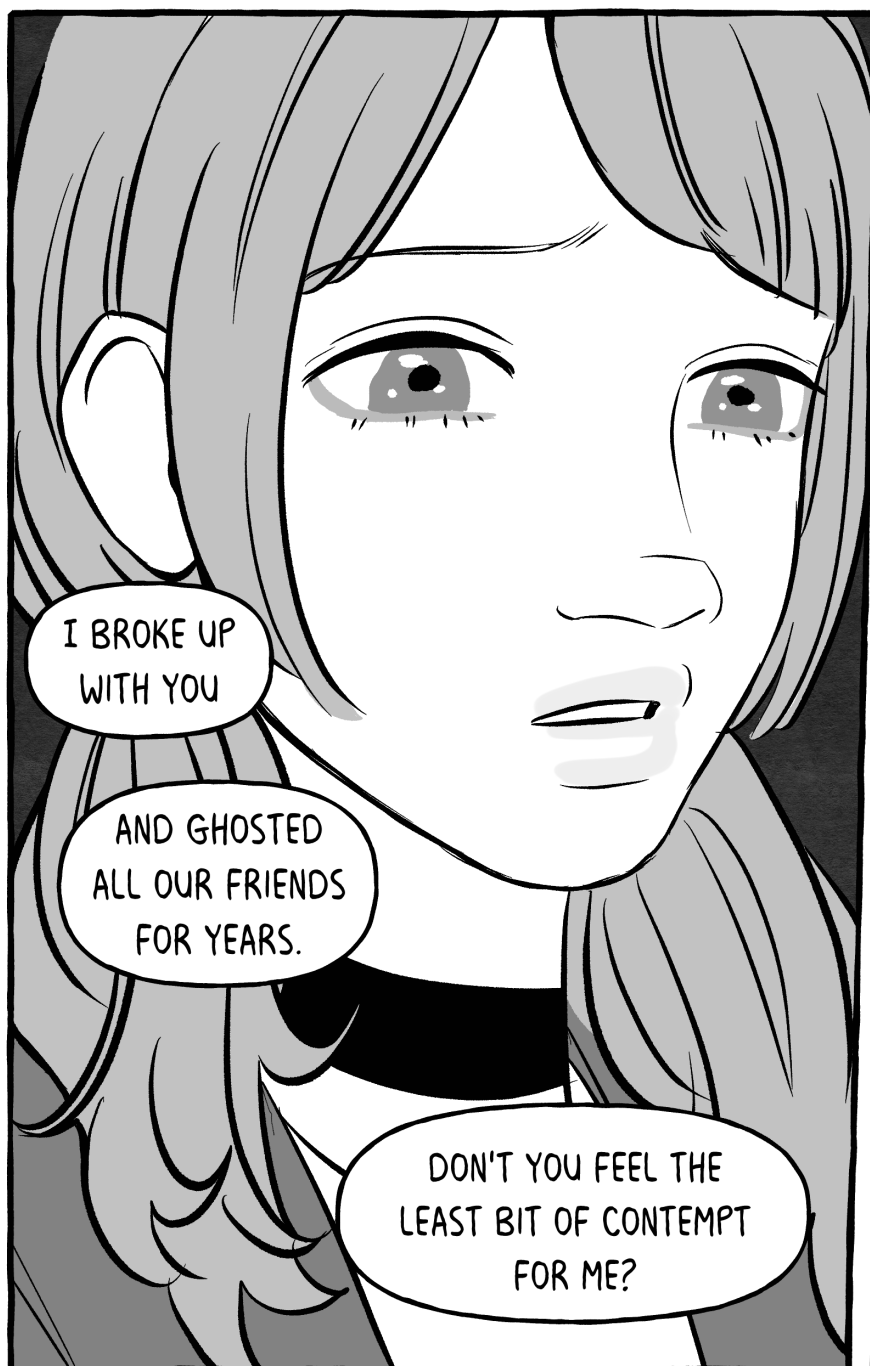
I WONDER WHAT THE  
PEOPLE AT CHURCH WOULD  
SAY IF THEY SAW ME NOW.

...NOT THAT I LOOK  
FORWARD TO IT.











I'M SORRY,  
TOMMY.

I JUST. DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.




ALYSSA...

ALL WE THOUGHT  
WAS, 'WE LOST A FRIEND,  
BUT NOW SHE'S BACK.'


I WANT YOU TO  
KNOW THAT YOU NEVER  
BETRAYED US, OKAY?

I WAS HEARTBROKEN YEAH, BUT  
WE'RE ADULTS NOW. IN THE END,  
I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS ANYMORE.

ALL THAT MATTERS IS  
THAT YOU'RE OKAY AND ALIVE  
AND HOPEFULLY HAPPIER NOW  
THAN ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.



T-THANK  
YOU...

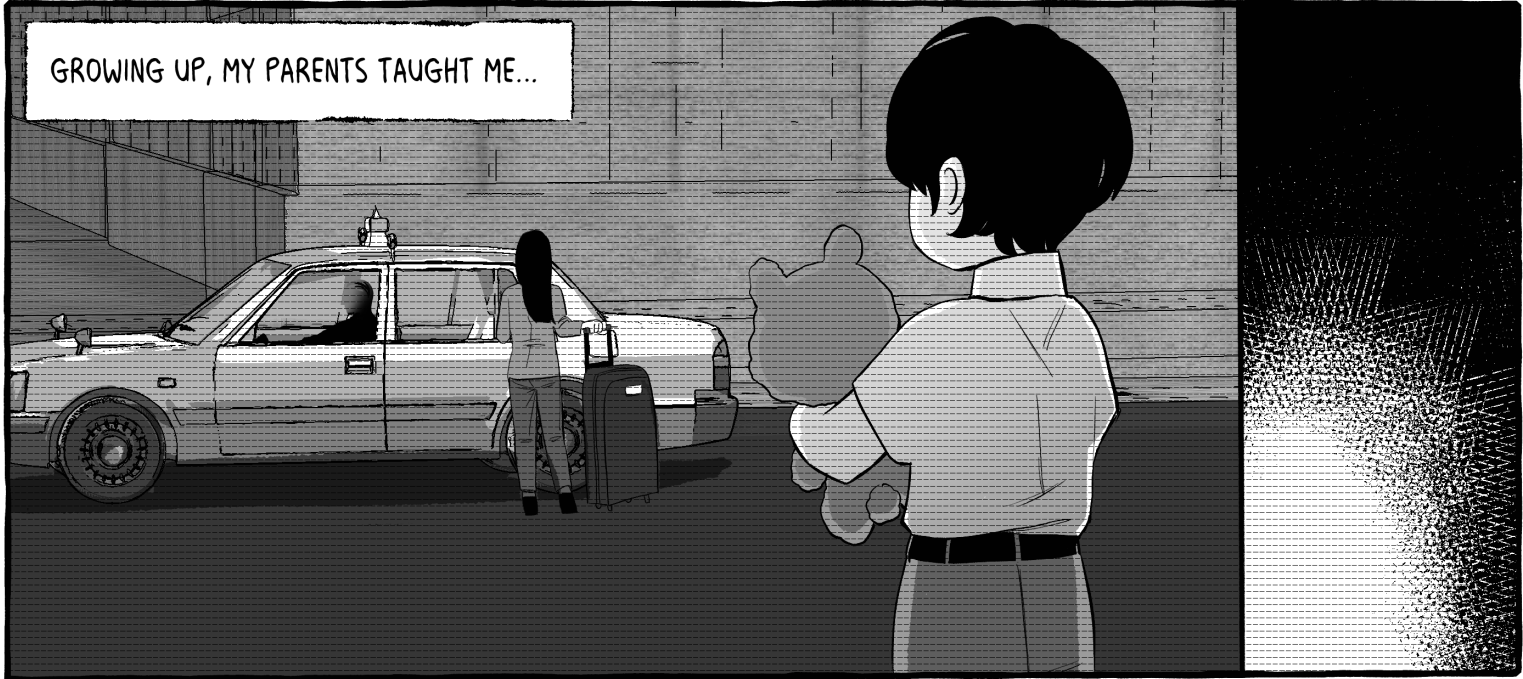


I'M NOT...  
USED TO THIS.

I'M A LITTLE  
OVERWHELMED.



GROWING UP, MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME...



...THAT I SHOULD BE  
PUNISHED FOR MY FAULTS...

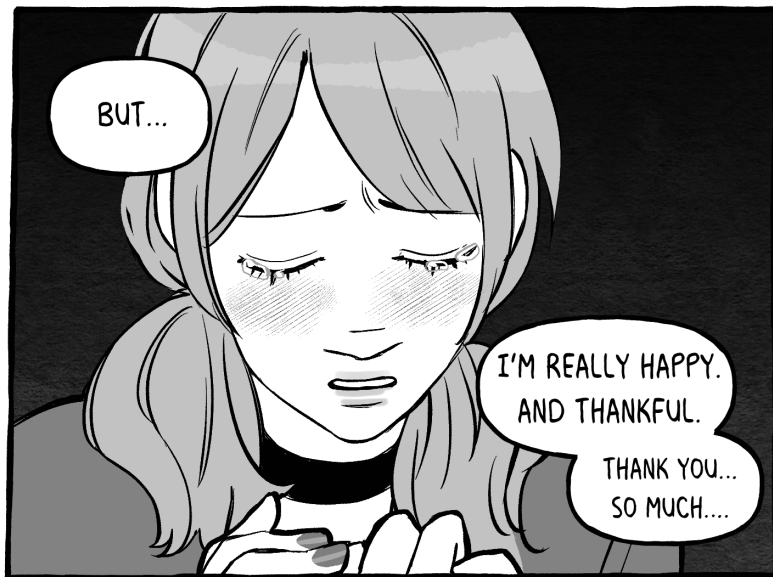


...THAT I'M NOTHING BUT A BURDEN...



...AND THAT I'M FORGETTABLE.





# SCHOOL FAIR 2011

## JAIL BOOTH

ANAK NG TOKWA  
OH! HOOOOOOOY!!  
MY KUYA'S PICKING ME  
UP AT 5! HEY!!



UM...  
HI.



H..HI...



ALFONSO FROM  
MAKILING\*, RIGHT?

I'M FROM  
NEXT DOOR.

AH! IT'S ALONZO!  
TOMMY ALONZO.



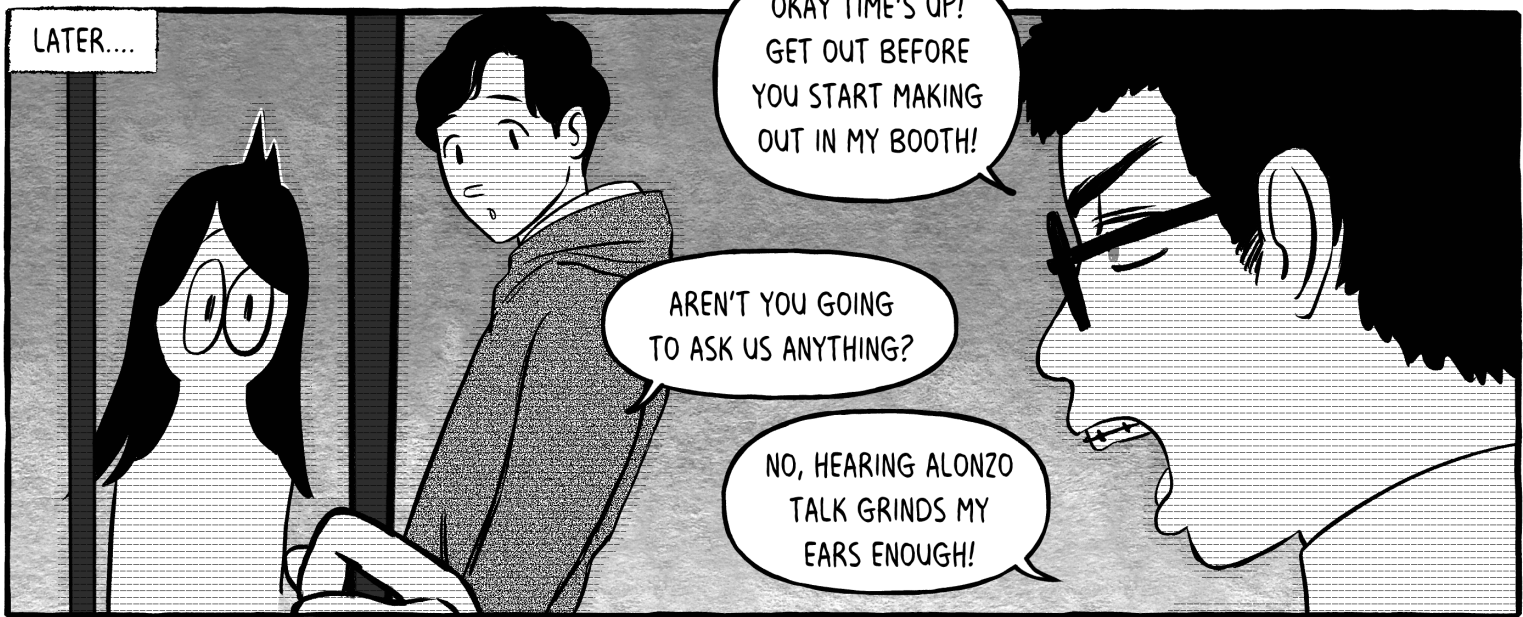




THEY SAID WE  
NEED TO GET  
TO KNOW EACH  
OTHER BEFORE  
THEY CAN LET  
US OUT.



OHH... O-O-KAY!



OKAY TIME'S UP!  
GET OUT BEFORE  
YOU START MAKING  
OUT IN MY BOOTH!

AREN'T YOU GOING  
TO ASK US ANYTHING?

NO, HEARING ALONZO  
TALK GRINDS MY  
EARS ENOUGH!

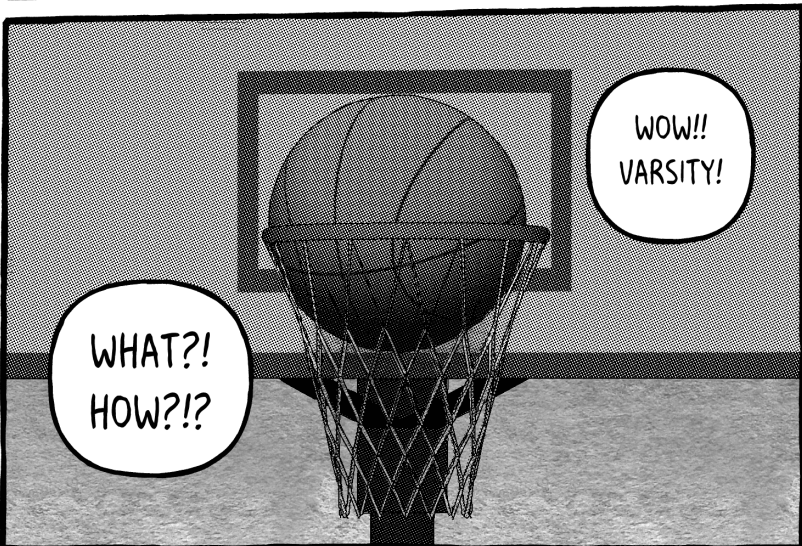
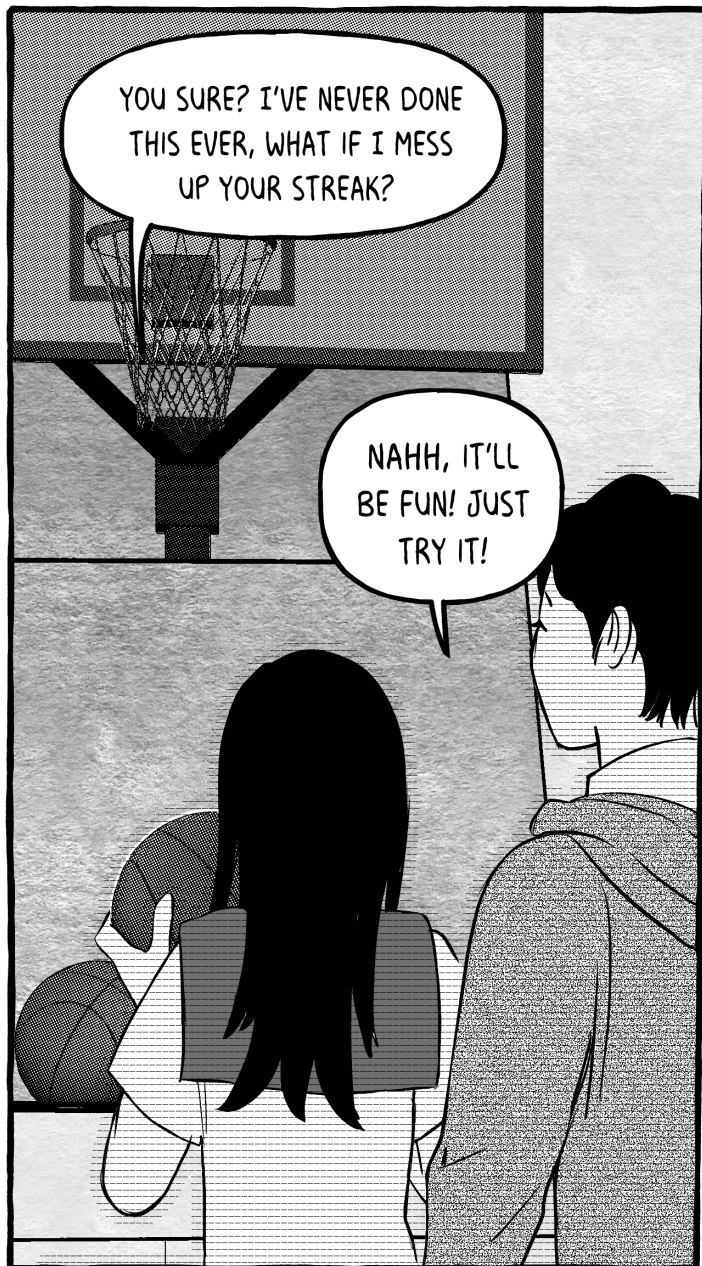


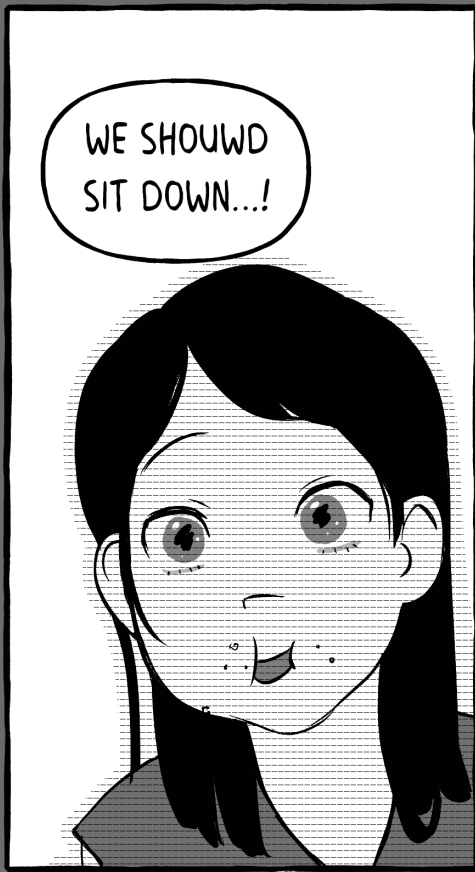
WHERE DO YOU  
WANNA GO NOW?

WHAT WAS THAT  
GUY SO RUDE FOR?!  
I WASN'T THAT  
ANNOYING!!

HEHEH... WANNA  
TAKE IT OUT ON  
BASKETBALLS?







### **A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PATRONS THAT MADE THIS POSSIBLE!**

ALEJANDRA QUIROZ, ALEXEI!, ARCOS, ARMANDO MONTES, ATHANASIA, AUREL H., BD DESU, BEATRIS DEL VILLAR, BOCADILLO, CAMAREN TATEM-WYATT, CELESTE, CHITOSEP, CHLOE, CHRIS MEMEDOZA, DENNY, DIMITRI, EDEN, ELENOR ARLESS, ELISA ASP, EMILY, EVA, EVRENVIE, FROGGGLADYTE, GENERAL.MUFFINS, HANNAH LAMNECK, HIYA, HOHO HOH!!, HYPERIONROBIT, JADA MOSLEY, JADEN JACK, JAMMIE, JASMINE SONDEHI, JOHN ANDREW SMITH, JIM B., JOSEPH, KAI LI, KATY KOOP, KENZIE, KIRA, KOU\_SEIYA, KOZYQUEEN, KRISTIN, KUMU, LAUREN, LEO, LEOMINIMUS, LEXY VARGAS, LUIZA LISBOA, LUZZY, LYN, M, MAIA BAILEY, MALAKAI, MARCY, MARIA, MIMI HOANG, MINA, MOTHRA, NEI HRAFNIRIUS, NOEL, NOELLE, PARKER, PHROGEYE, PODOSTROMACORNU-DAMAE, PUKAPI, PUSS\_IN\_BOOZE, RAMYEON GUKSU, RANDY SHEIN, RILEY MCDANIEL, RINGMAN, ROBIN, ROOKIE, RORY ZAYAS, ROSIE ELPHICK, ROWENA 'MIM', SAM LONG, SARAH, SCOOBERT, SHOHRA ADEL, SHUDI, SKYSHOUJO, SNOOP, SOPHIE L, STARRED, SUMSUM, SUNBEEN JI, TAZATOUILLE, THEBLINDTRIO, TIIMCHAN, TIREDBLCKGAL, TJ HURT, TOADIE, UBEBABYBOY, VICTORIA, WEST WITCH, WICKERBOTTER, ZALAKBIAN, ZERIXANNE,

