

HEARTSTOPPER

VOLUME 1

ALICE OSEMAN

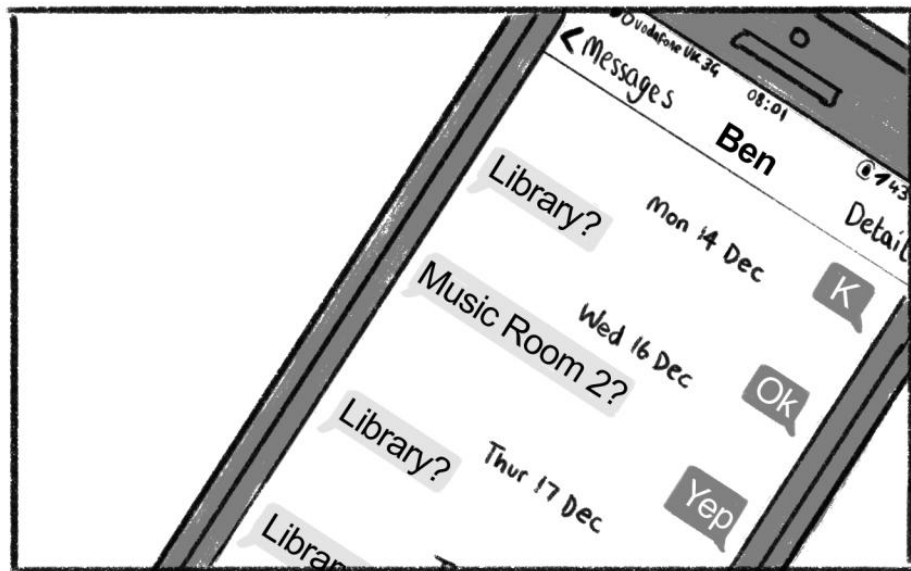


1. MEET



1

January



TICK



TICK



TICK



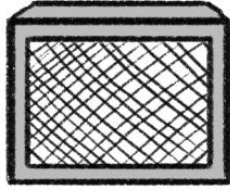
TICK



TICK

TICK





beep beep
beep

Charlie, that was only the first bell-

Yeah... I've gotta go

Why???

Sorry



BEN

CHARLIE



Truham Grammar School for Boys

NEW FORM GROUPS!

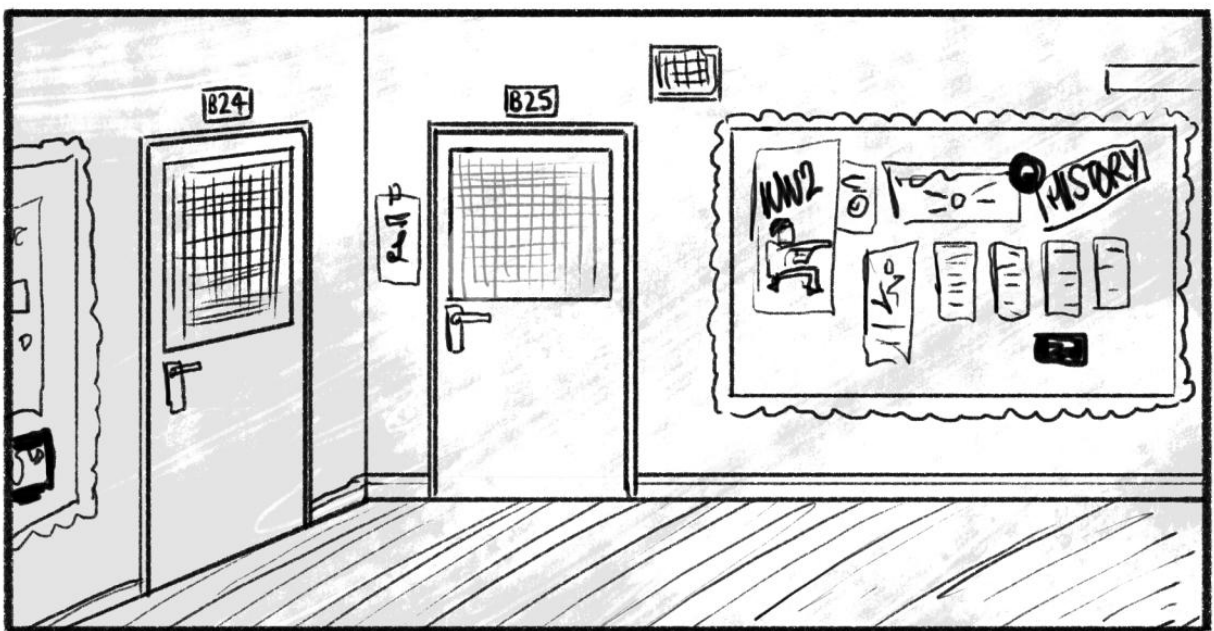
Dear Charles Spring,

From the beginning of January, all students at Truham will be placed in new 'vertical form groups' for registration at 8:30am and 2:05pm every day. Each vertical form will contain 5-6 students from each year group.

New form: **Hamlet 5**
Form room: **B25**

Please attend registration in your new vertical form group from the start of the new term in January.









Well,
if it
isn't
Charlie
Spring!

Happy
New Year!



Hi Mr
Lange



Let's see...
Where did
I put you
on the
seating
plan...

Ah yes!
You're over there-

-next to
Nicholas
Nelson

He's in
Year 11, so
only a year
older than
you!







A COMIC BY
ALICE
OSEMAN









Er...
Charlie?







It's fine

Sorry about this...



Hopefully I'll miss some of first period... I have double science

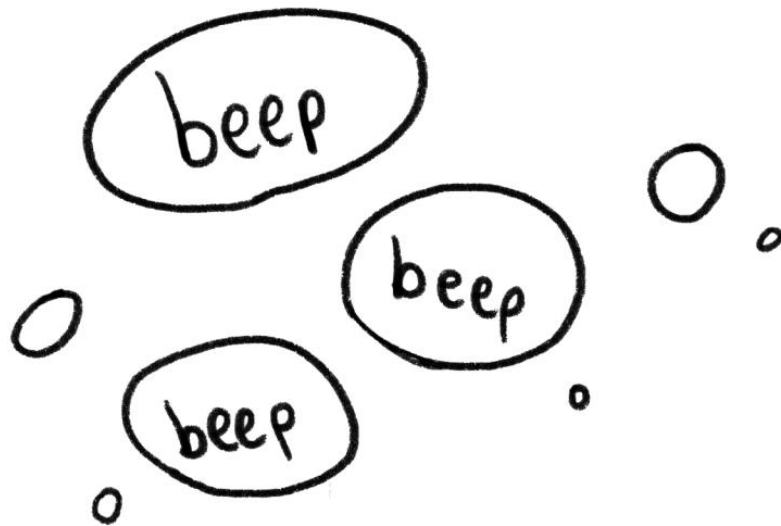


Ugh! Who d'you have?



17













Er... yeah?

TAO XU (FRIEND)



But he's one of the rugby lads! He's friends with Harry Greene, for God's sake

So? Nick's really nice!



COME ON. He's a fucking chav. He calls everyone 'mate' and probably throws food at people on the bus.

...he doesn't call me 'mate', though





You have a crush on him

WHAT.



That's not- I'm- I don't just fall for any boy who's nice to me



..haha..

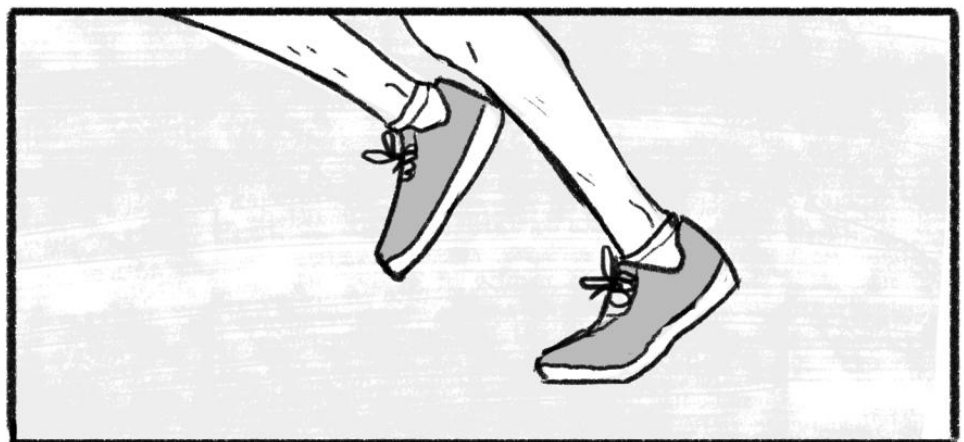








February



Monday 1st February. 10H/11H P.E. (Physical Education)



Come on,
Year 10s!



huff
huff

We've been
doing this
all year
and no
one's beaten
Charlie's
time yet!





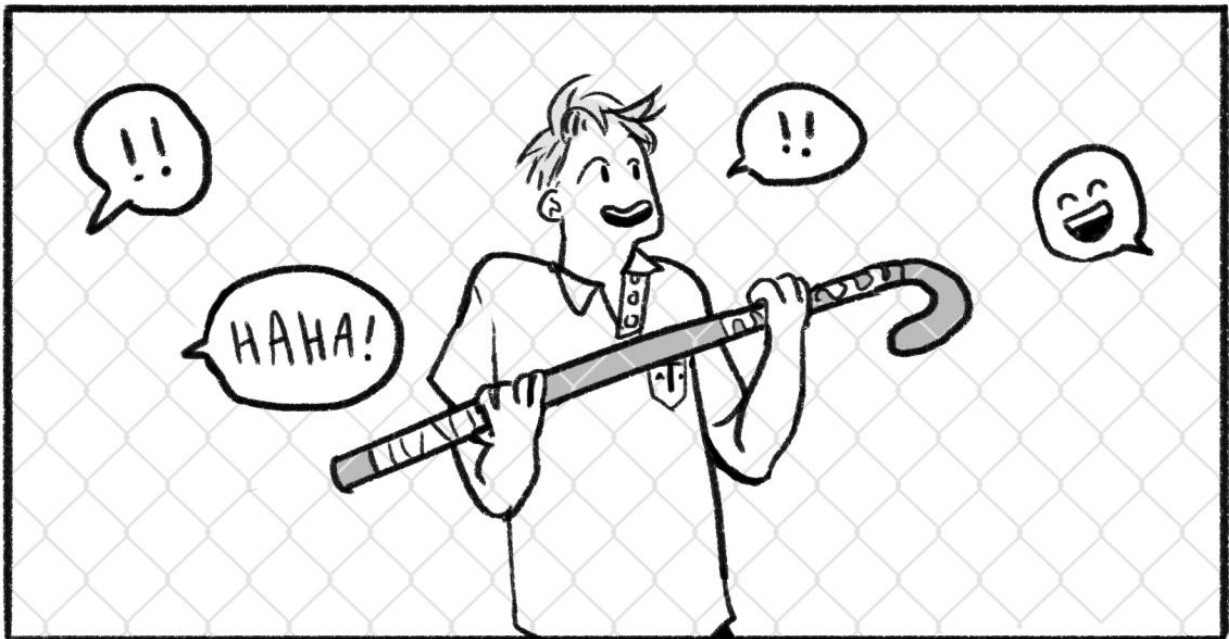
NICK!



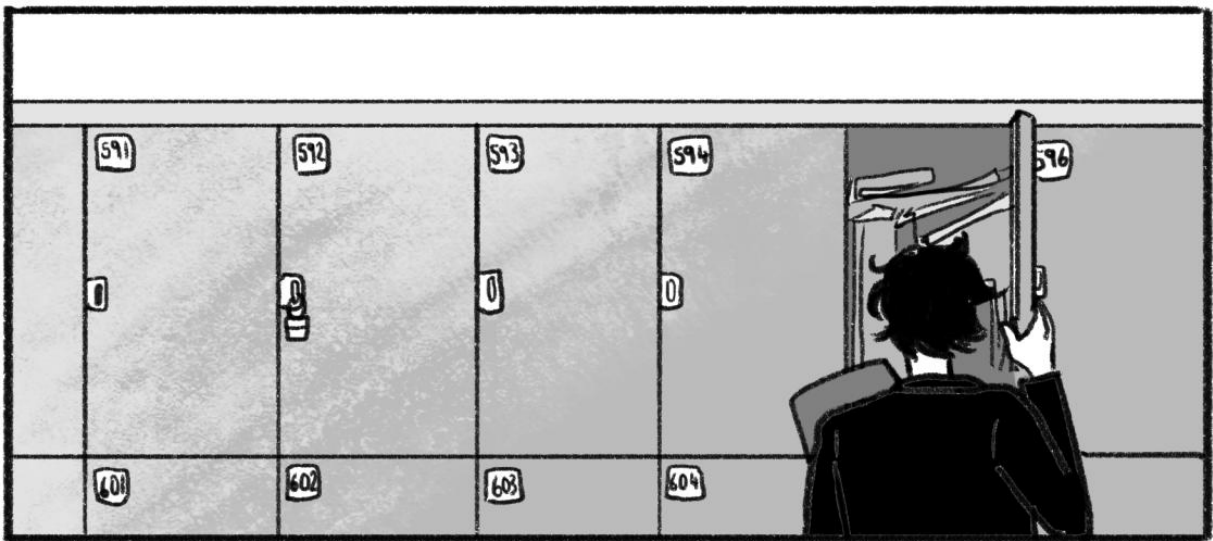
What are you staring at?



Nothing







Hey,
Charlie



I need
to talk
to you.



YEAR 10 AND 11
LOCKER ROOM

And that's
it, is it?
No
explanation.

Well..
yeah, I
guess
so-



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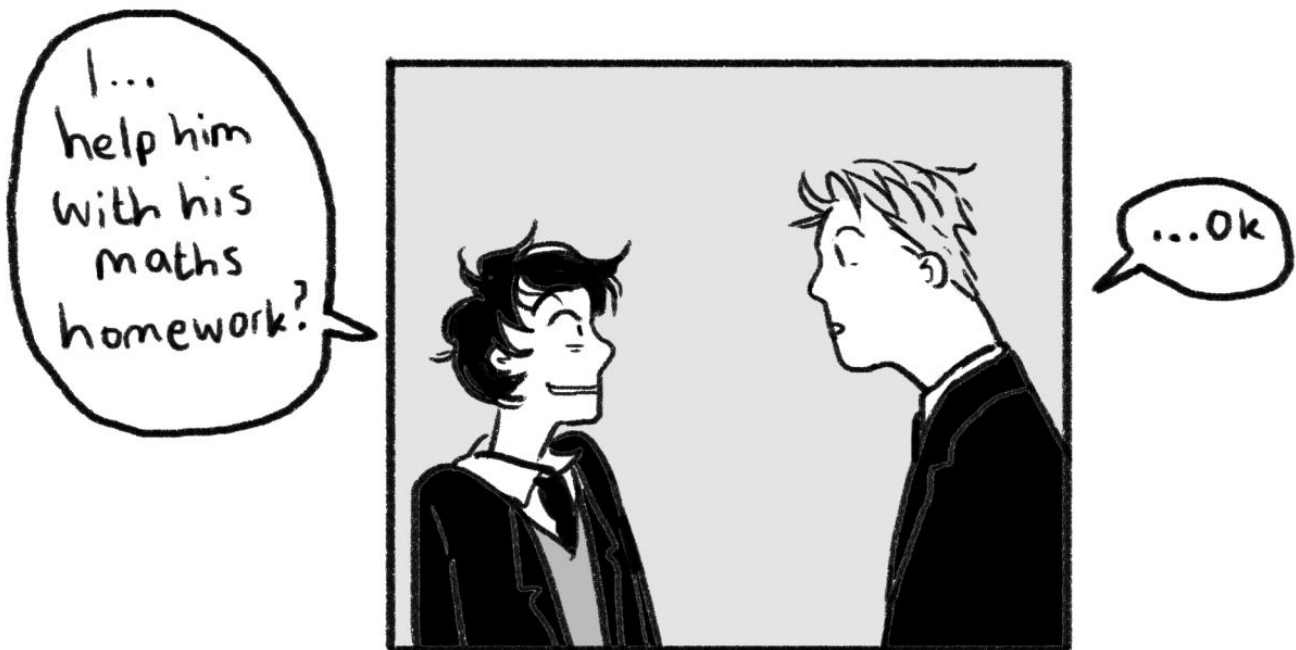
THAT'S
NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH-

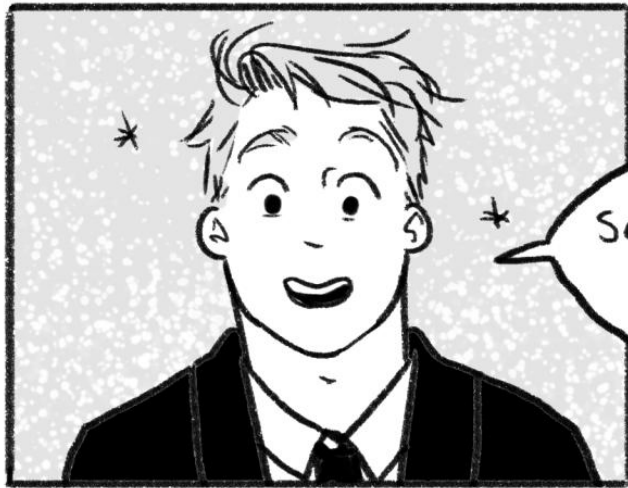


CHARLIE?









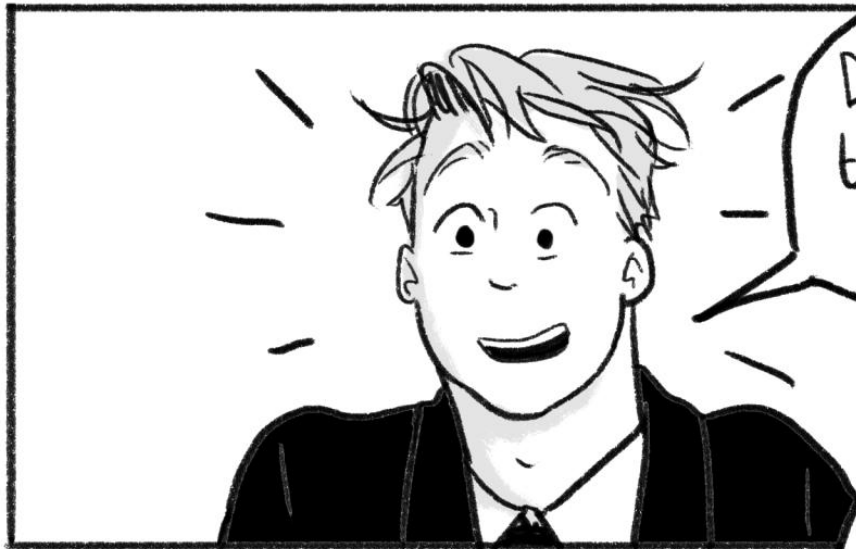
So...
anyway...



I have
something
to ask
you!



Charlie, you may not know this, but I'm gay too, and I'm in love with you. Will you go out with me?
I want to be with you forever



Do you want to join the rugby team?

We're short of a player! Everyone seems to prefer football...

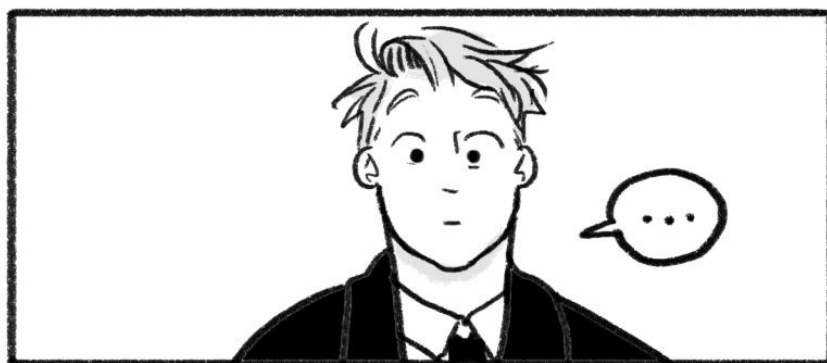


Er... well... I don't really know how to play. I don't even watch it on TV.

That's okay! I'll teach you!

But... why me?

I saw you run in P.E. You're really fast!

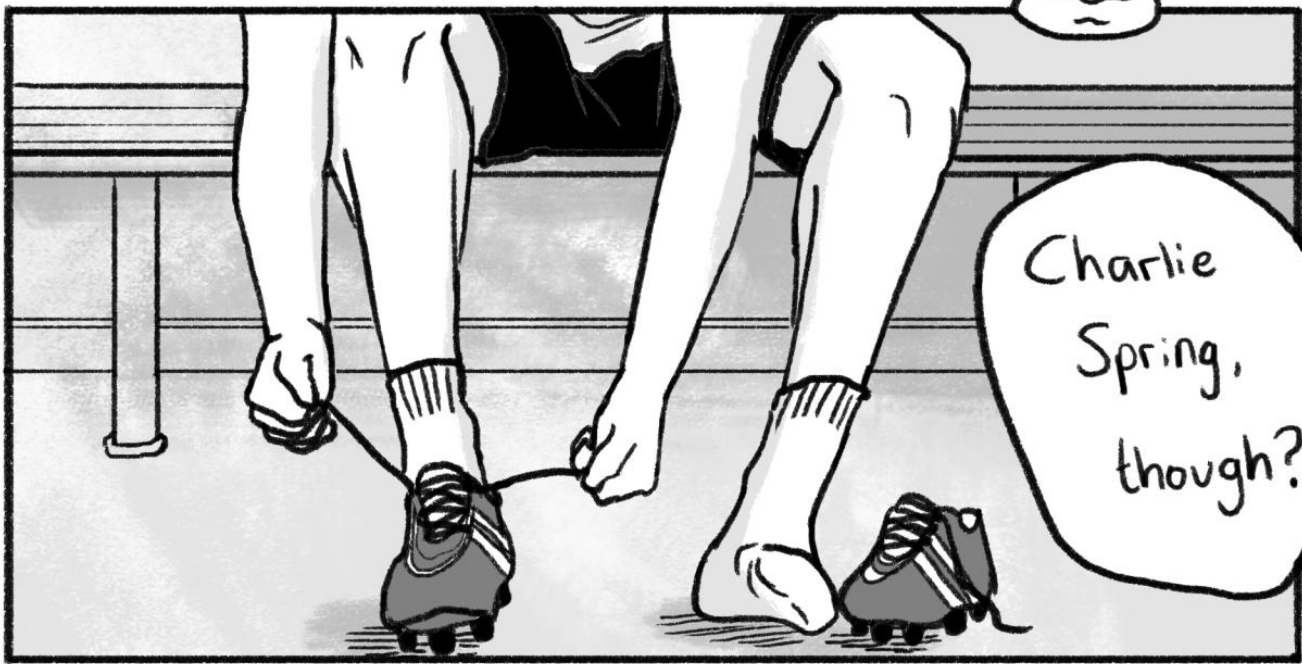
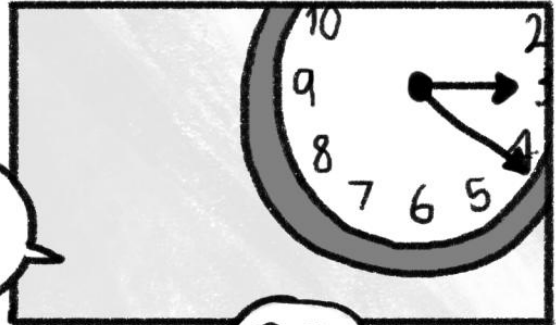
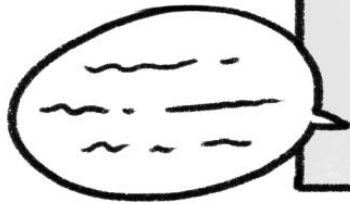


- beep -





ONE WEEK LATER...



Charlie Spring, though?



Why him, though?

?



!!

He's a fucking stick

Like, I know he's popular, everyone loves him, but can he even play?

!

I'm sure he's a nice guy, but we actually want to be good!



Does he even like sports? Everyone knows he's gay-

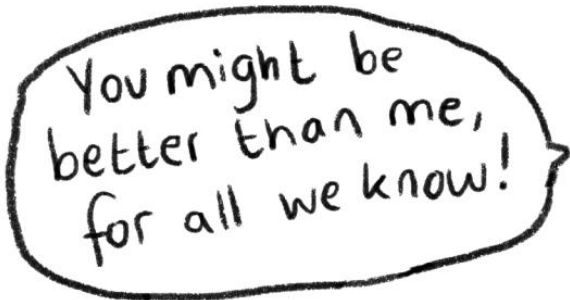
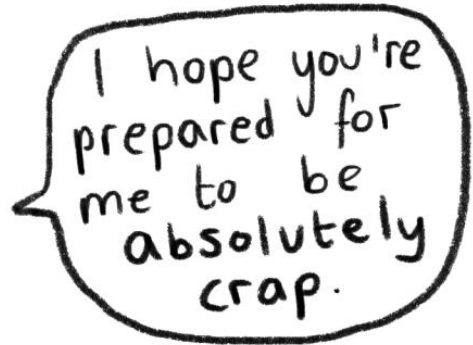
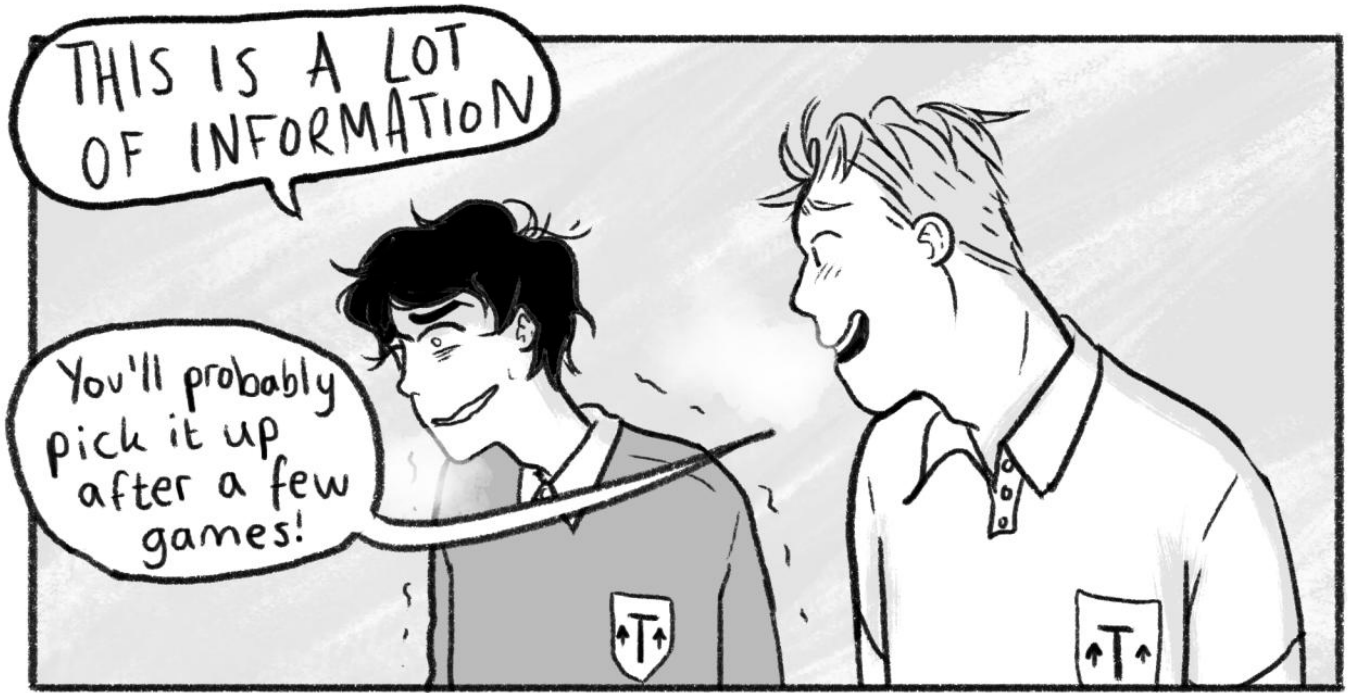
CREAK



Hey!







CHARLIE SPRING!!





Um





Twist your body a bit more!

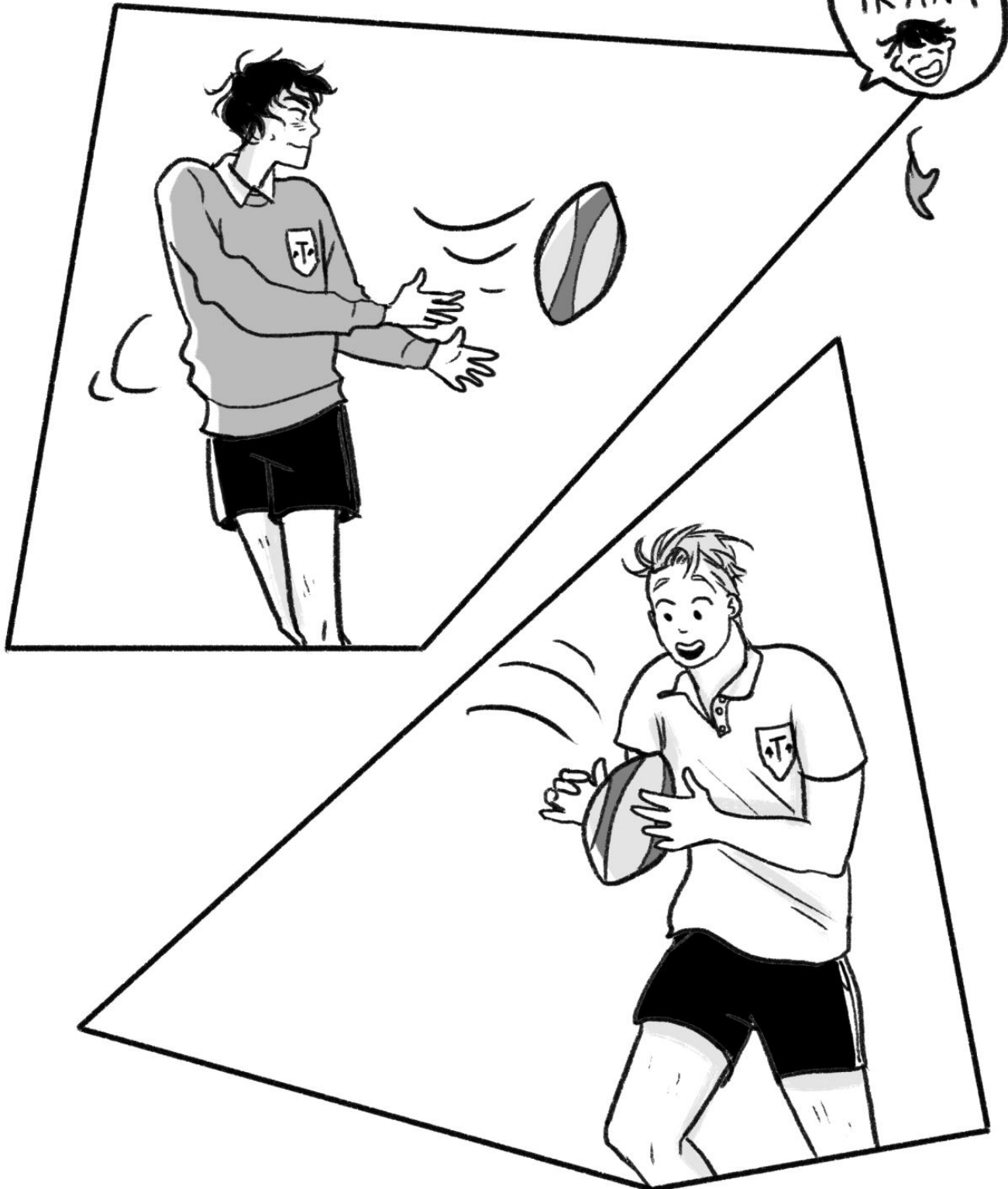
Like this?

Yeah! It's like more of an underthrow

So... like this?

Yeah... but aim it at me

I'M TRYING







... So we've covered passing and scoring...

We've got about 15 minutes left, so-

- do you want to give Tackling a go?

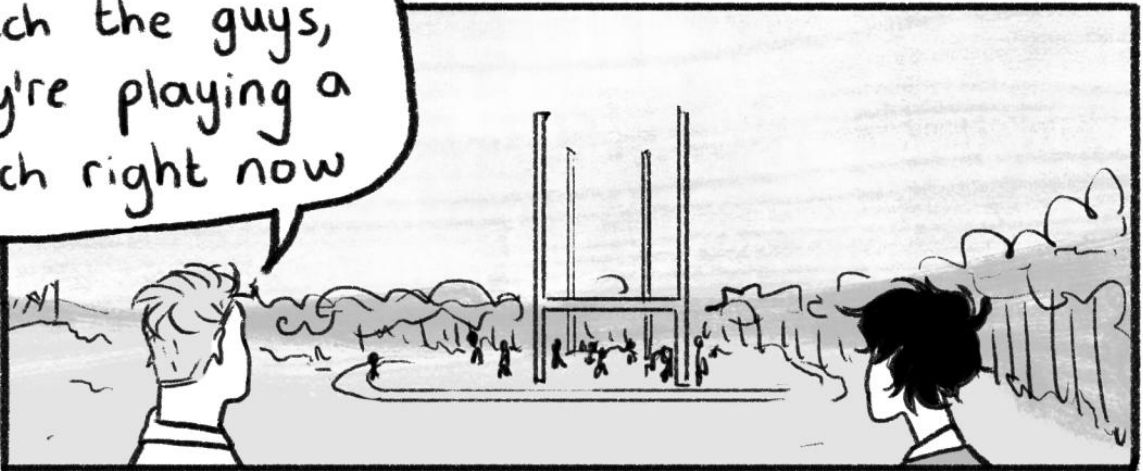


..Tackling?





It's not too hard
-watch the guys,
they're playing a
match right now



You just have to
take the player with
the ball down by
grabbing them
below their
shoulders



Want to
give it
a go?





I am definitely way too weak to do that



Excuse me - where is your 'can do' attitude?



Give it a go. Just run at me. I won't dodge!



Go onnnn. I bet you can do it.



..Fine



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That was perfect!

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Was it!?!

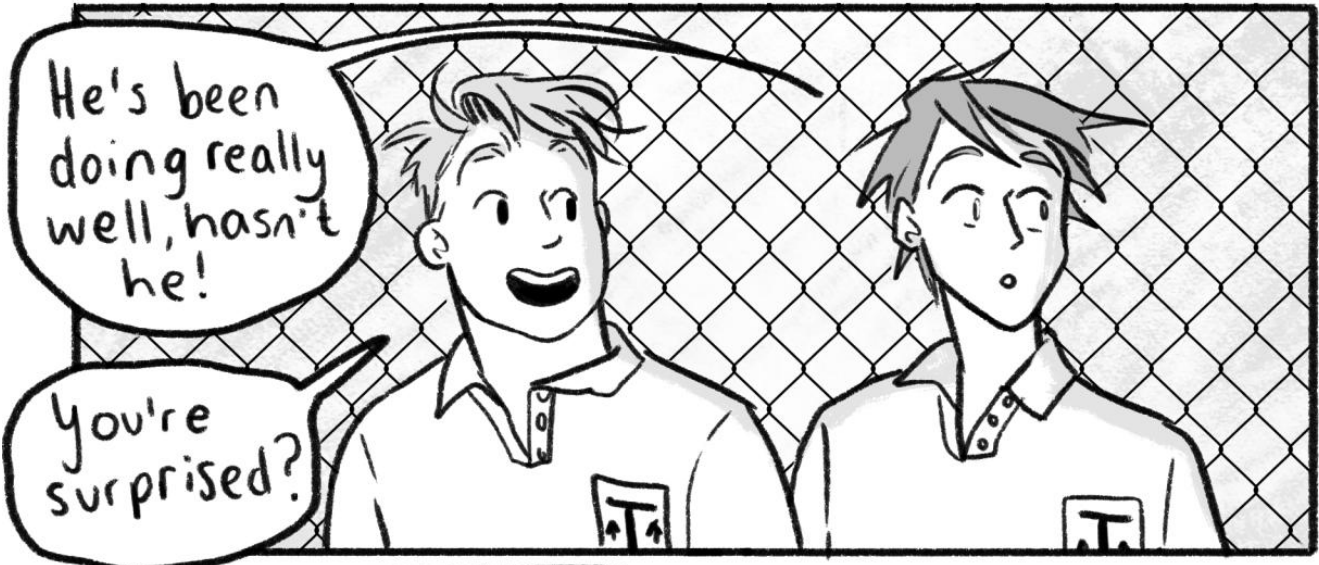


Let's try it again while running!





ONE WEEK LATER



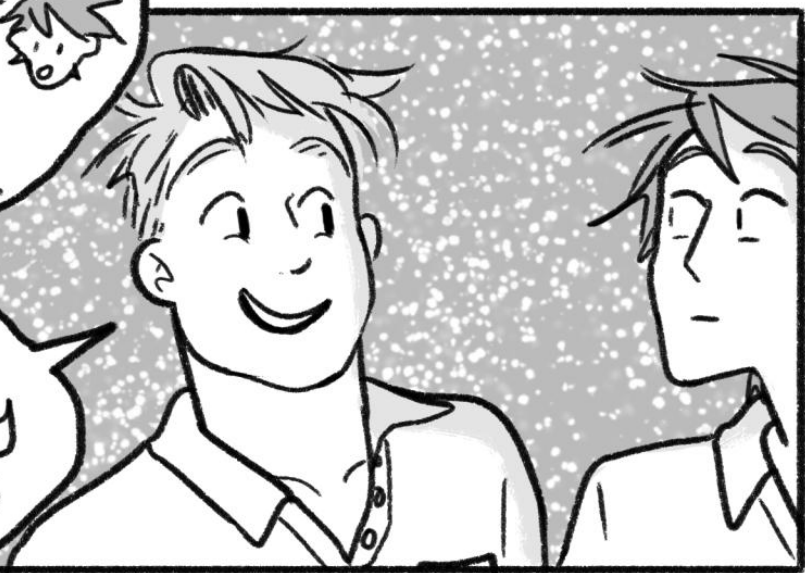
Well all I knew about him was that he's gay 

Mate, I don't actually think being gay makes you bad at sports. 



I never said that!! Anyway, I can see why he's popular. He's managed to fit in really well. 

Yeah... he's just a really cool guy! 😊





WHAT



I'M JUST A BIT SCARED OF LETTING EVERYONE DOWN AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER THEY LIKE ME OR WANT ME ON THE TEAM OR... yeah.

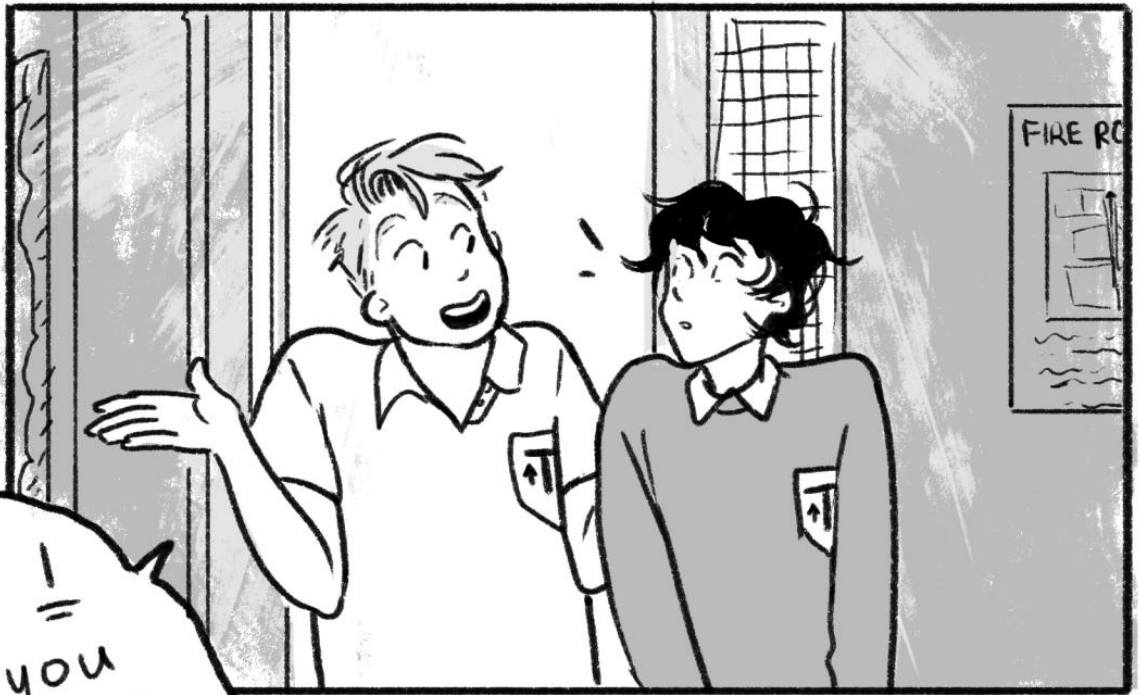


It's silly.



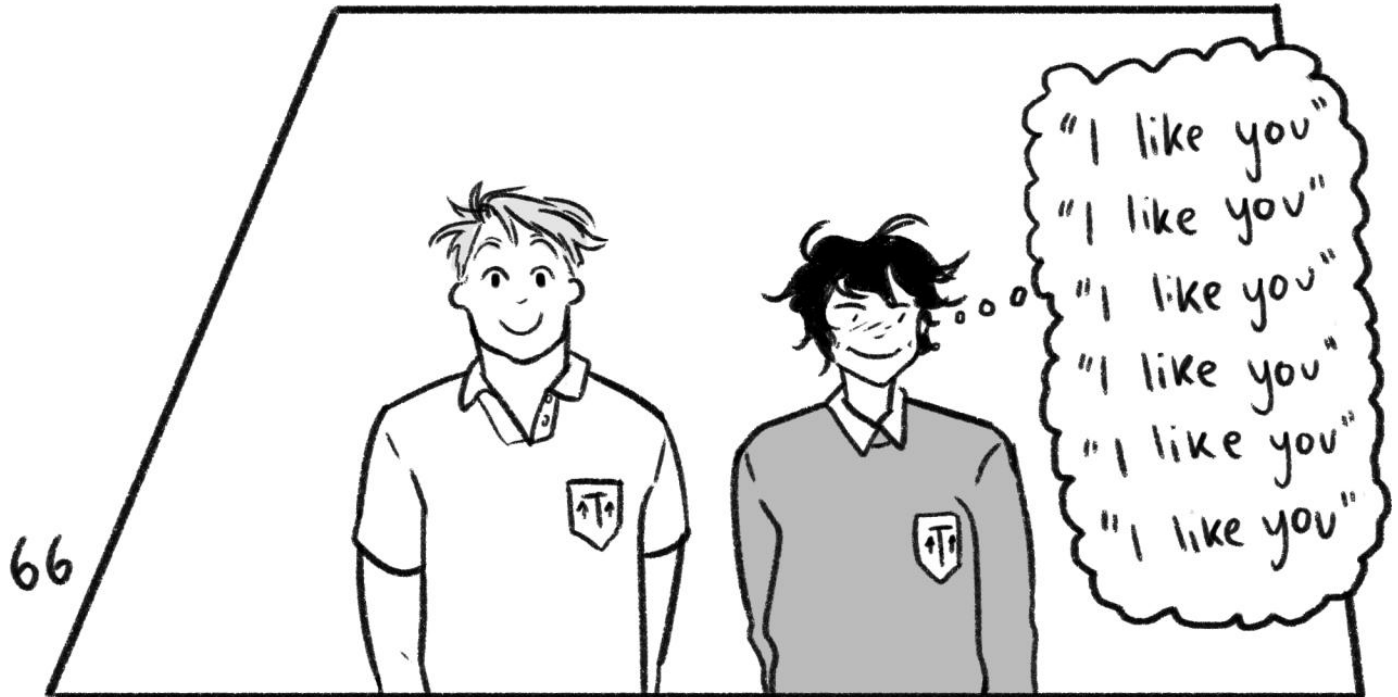
All of the older boys kinda remind me of the people who used to bully me.





Well I
like you
and want
you on
the team!

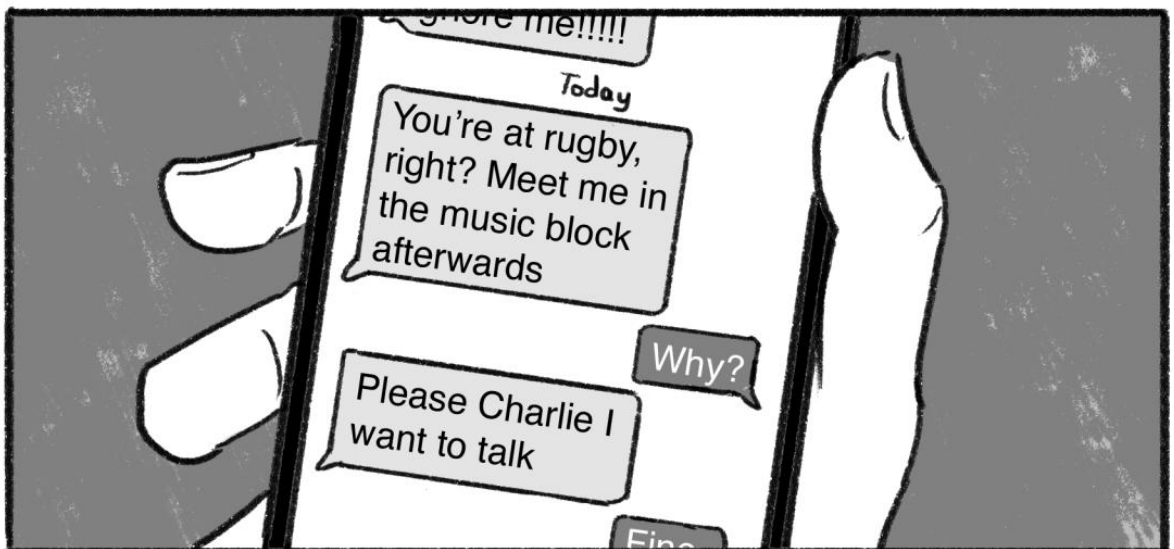
Haha!!
Good!



















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Don't touch me

GOD what is your problem? I'm trying to be nice



I said I don't want to meet up with you anymore -

Yeah, I don't believe you!

...what??

I think you're scared of us getting caught





Why would I be scared? Everyone in the school already knows I'm gay! YOU'RE the one who's scared of getting caught! You're not even my boyfriend! I've seen you with your girlfriend at the school gate!!



You don't give a SHIT about me. You just found the nearest guy who was willing to make out with you and went for it!

YOU went for it too. Don't be angry at me for not wanting to come out yet.





I'm not angry about that! I'm angry because you never even slightly cared about my feelings at all. We only ever meet up when you want, where you want-

When you feel like making out with a boy!



I could be ANYONE!
You don't give a shit!

That's obviously not true

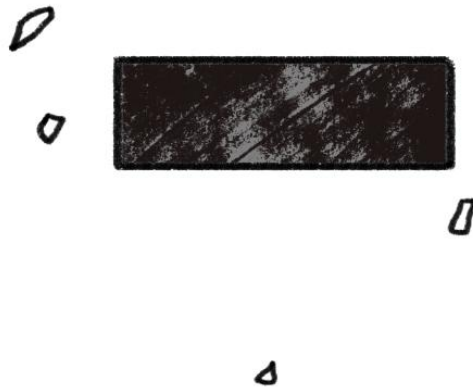
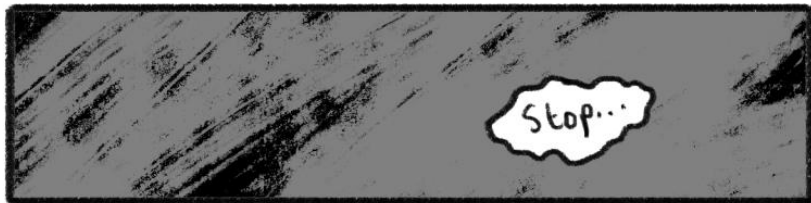


It is true!
You just heard
the rumours
about
me and
was like "Oh
good, there's
finally a gay
boy I can safely
get off with"!!





















I just... kind of followed you... You seemed really stressed out while we were getting changed.



I just started getting worried... er... so... yeah.

FIVE MINUTES EARLIER

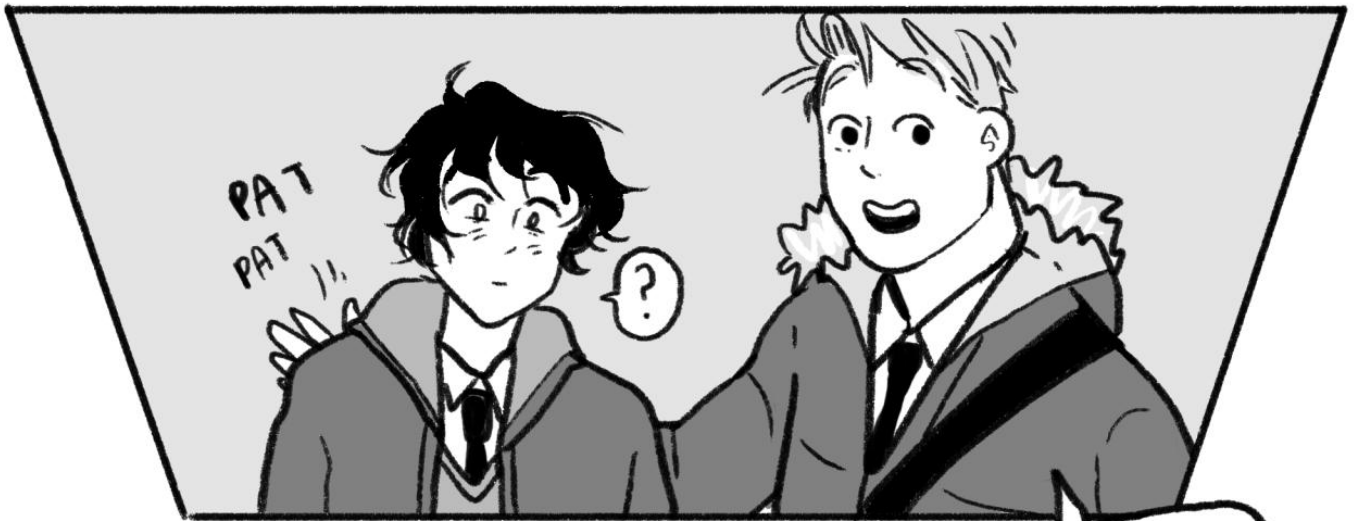


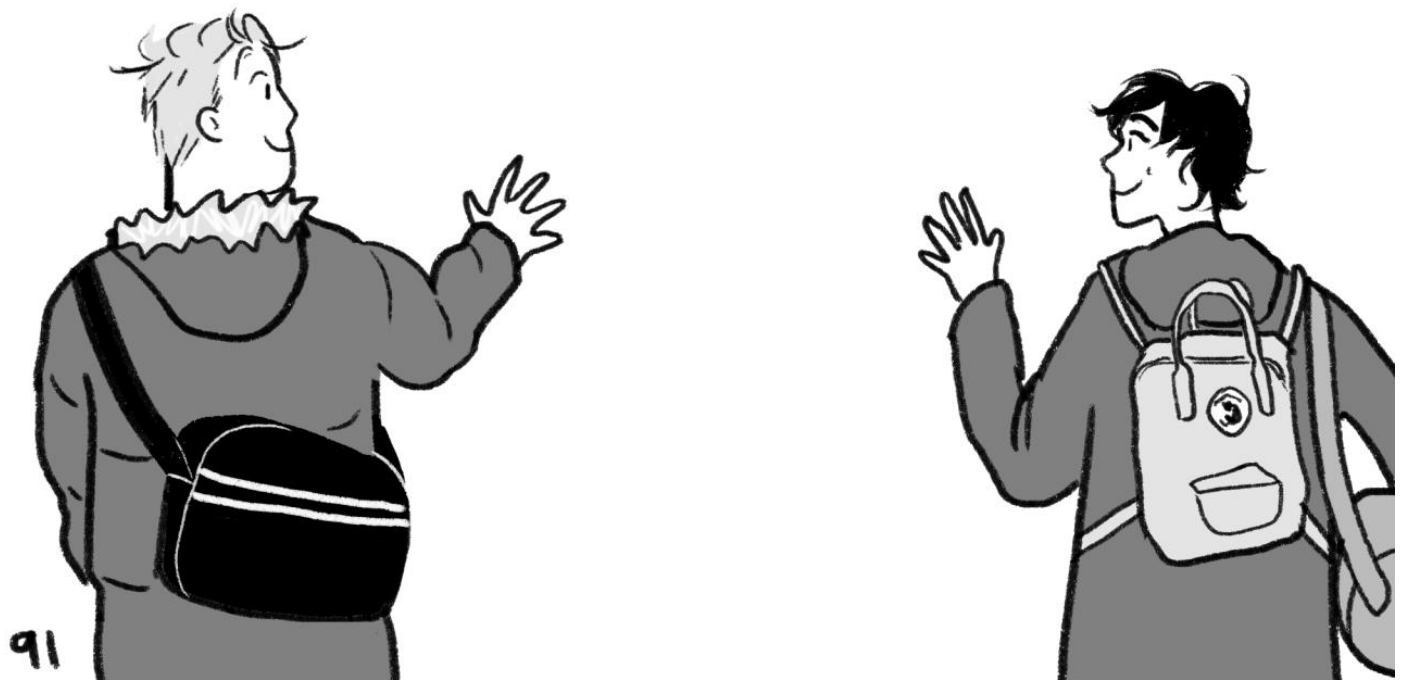
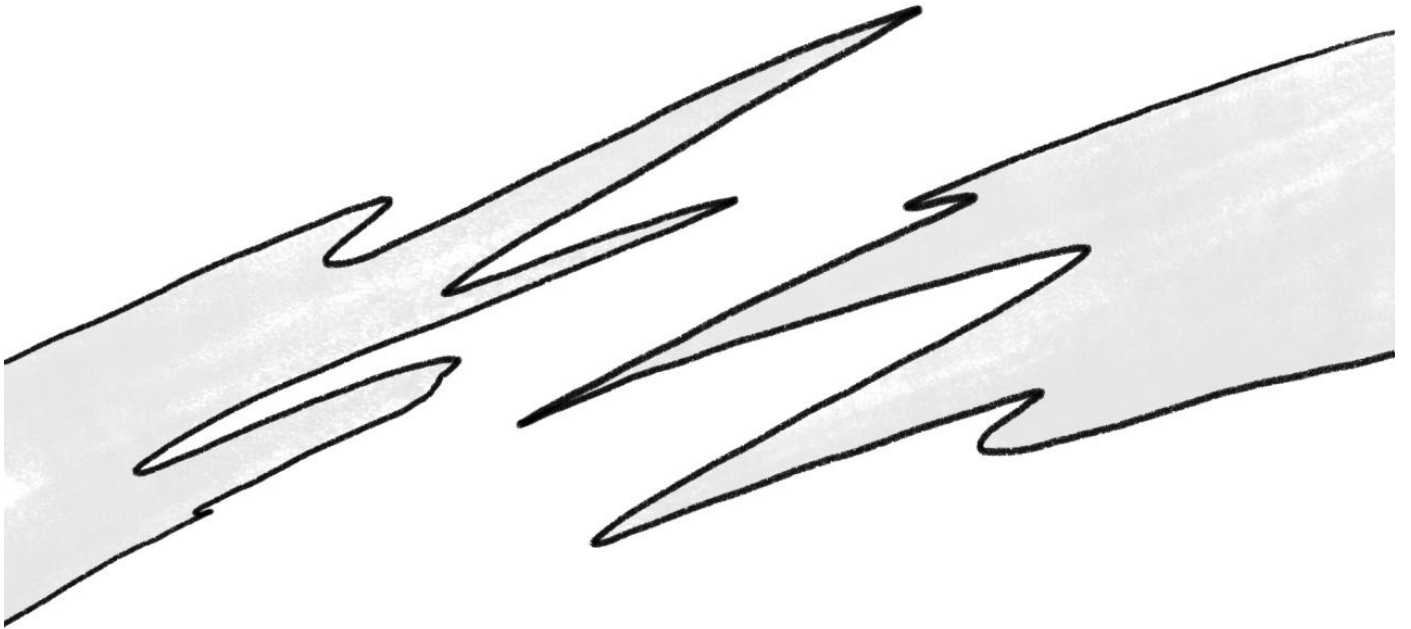




89









Good practise today, Nicky?



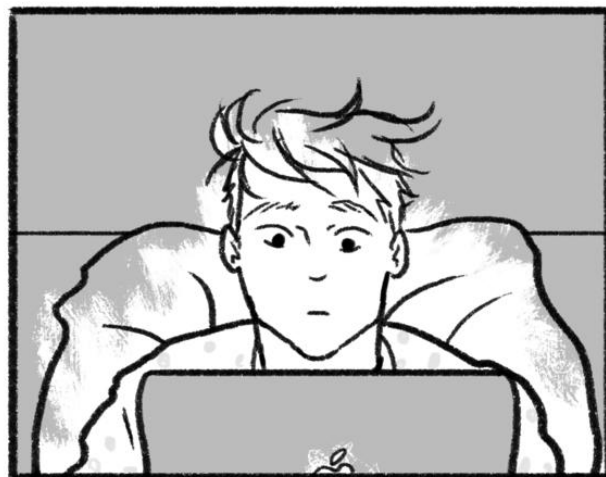


2. CRUSH

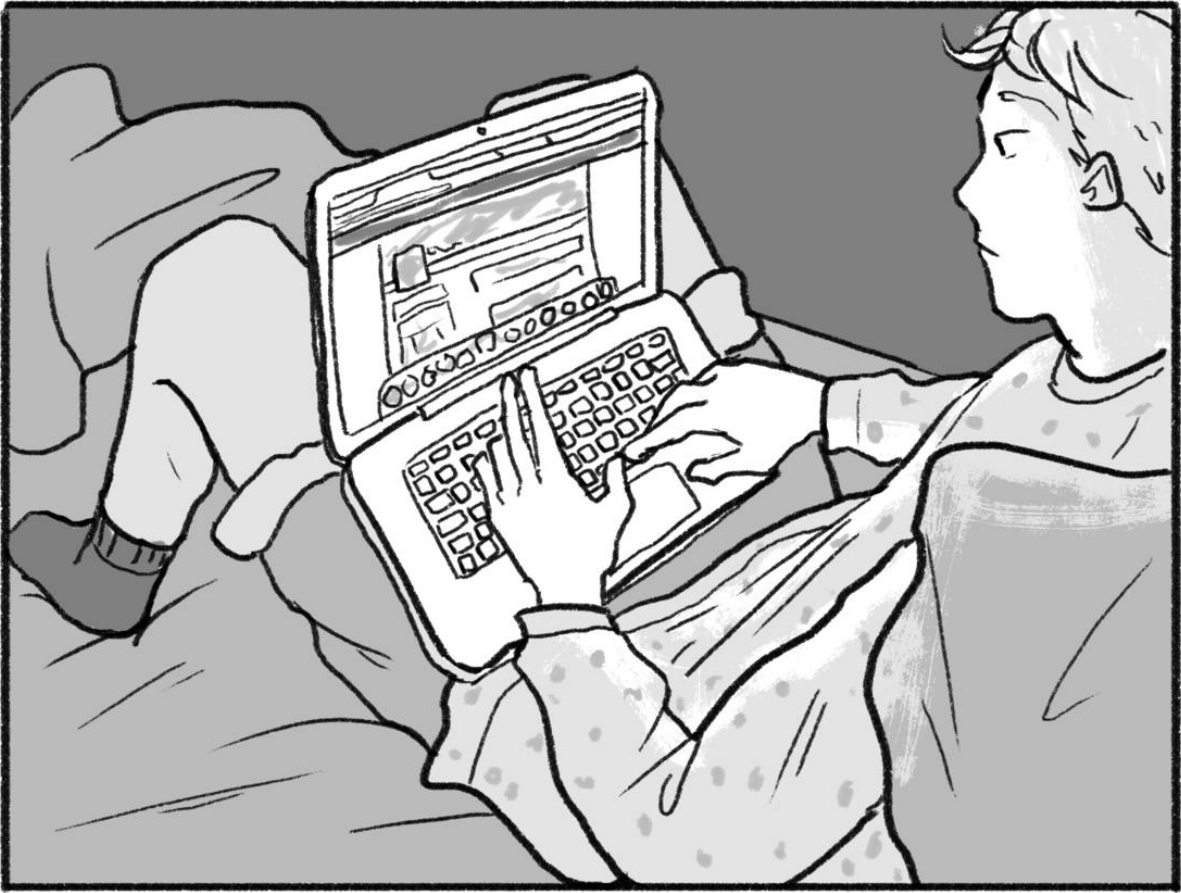




tap



tap tap



"Hey, did you hear
some Year 9 has
come out as gay?"



TEN MONTHS AGO...



"Yeah, d'you know Charlie Spring from 9H? Apparently he's gay."

"Where did you hear that?"

"It's going round the whole school."





"He's been getting a lot of shit for it, I think."



"I mean, this is an all-boys school! What did he expect?"

"What did he expect?"



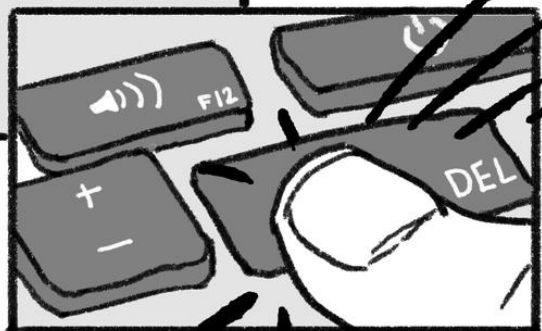
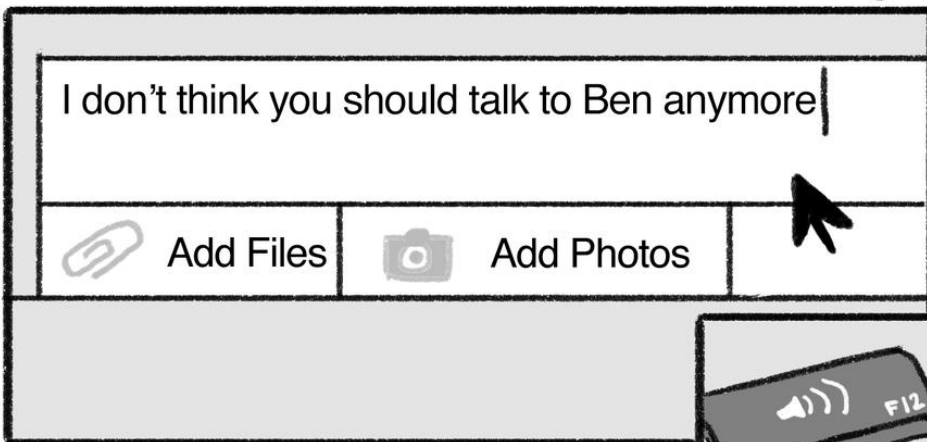
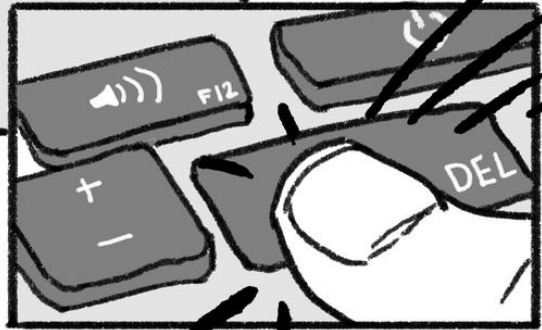


tap tap

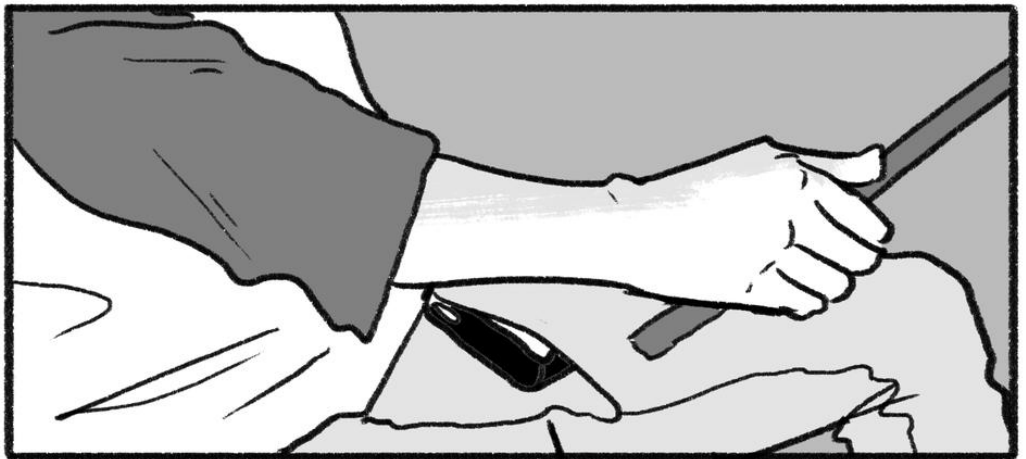


tap

tap tap tap

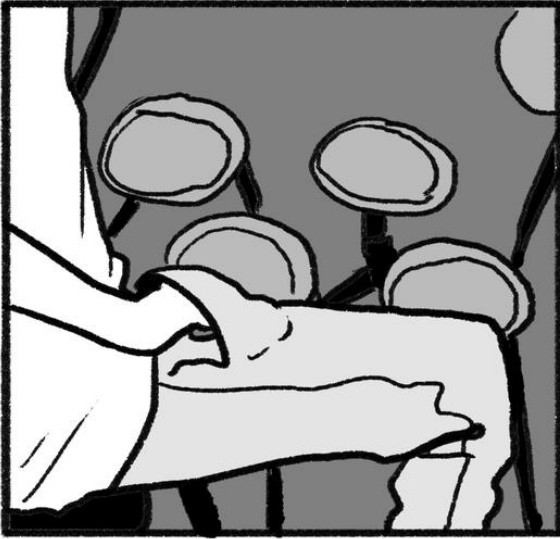




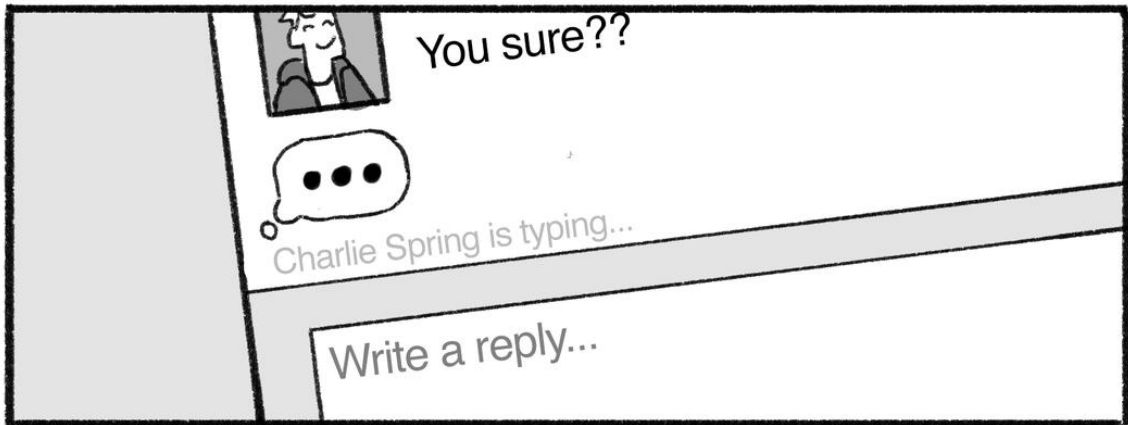


BUZZ

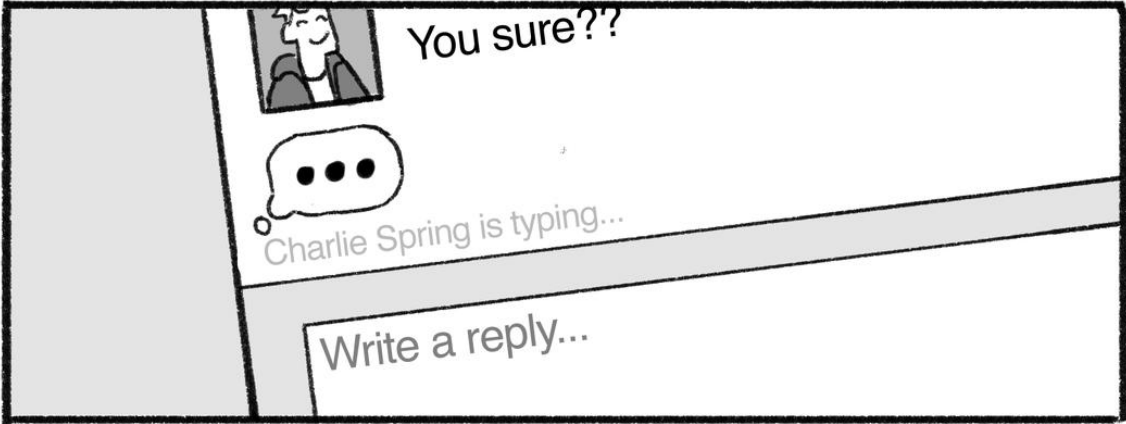
?

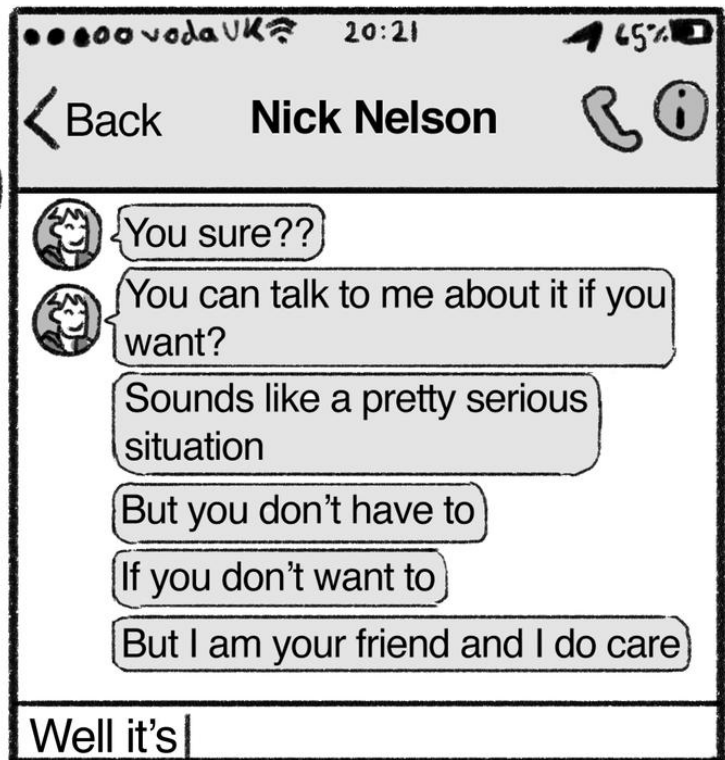
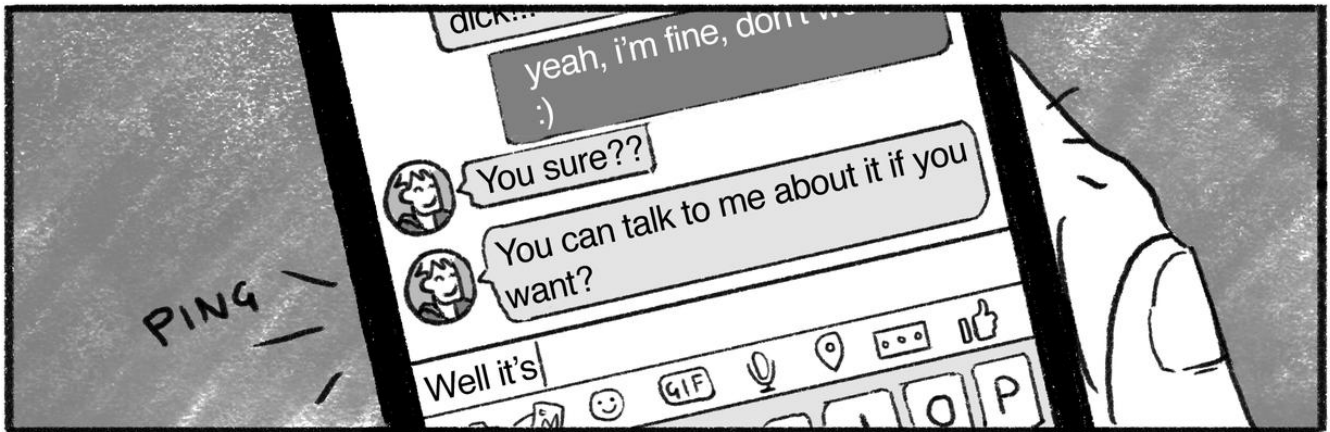
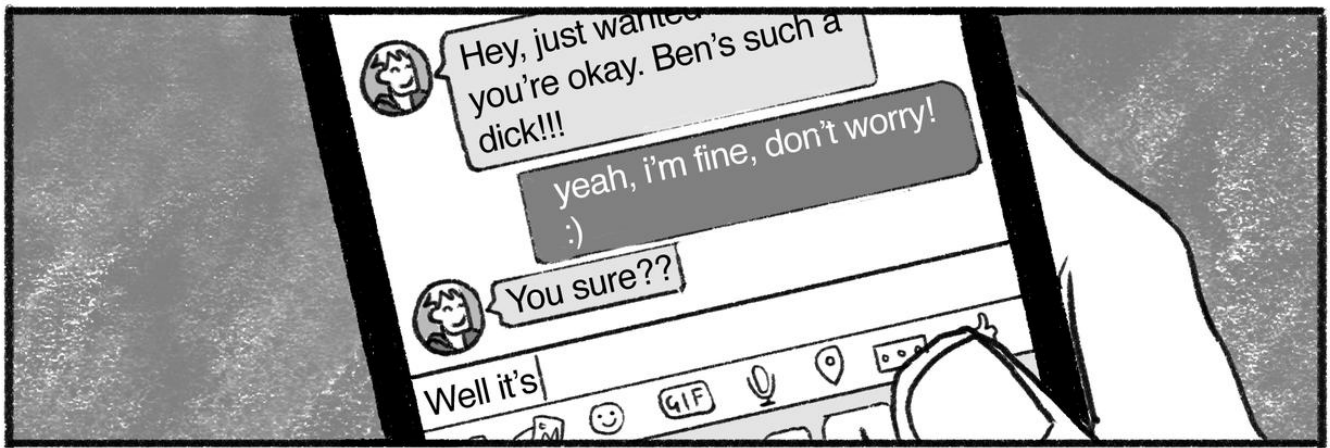






FIVE MINUTES LATER







But you don't have to
If you don't want to
But I am your friend and I do care



Charlie Spring

Okay

Might be a bit of a long story lol



Nick Nelson

I don't mind!!



●●●●● vodafoneUK 20:26 64%

< Back Nick Nelson

Well it started last September

Everyone at school had found out I was gay by then. the bullying had mostly stopped I guess and people had started to be nice to me (there was a group of Sixth Formers who stopped the bullies) but everyone in the school knew i was gay.

So I was practising my drums one morning before form in a practise room and I look up and see Ben looking in through the door window. He walks in and starts telling me how good I am at playing the drums, and I'm just sitting there like 'what the fuck' because I've never spoken to him before in my life... but also kind of freaking out because I thought he was really attractive...

Eventually he comes in and sits next to me and starts talking to me about me coming out at school, and like, how 'brave' I am and stuff... even though it's not like I came out myself or anything, it just got out because I told a couple of people...

And then next thing I know he's just kissing me



●●●● vodafone UK 20:28 45%
< Back Nick Nelson

And yeah, we just continued to meet up sometimes at school before form. And like... I was so excited about it. I thought I had a boyfriend, or, like, I was having some big romance... But I slowly started to realise he was just using me for someone to make out with... because I was the only gay boy he knew...

and then in January I found out he had a girlfriend as well. Some girl from Higgs school. I don't know if he's bisexual or gay or whatever but it doesn't really change anything. He was just using me.



I tried to end it but he just kept pestering me. I thought I'd just meet up with him one last time to tell him to leave me alone but... yeah. That didn't go well I guess haha



tap

Nick Nelson

FUCK I hate Ben so much. I knew he was a dick, but... jesus.

Please don't ever talk to him again

Charlie Spring

I definitely won't!!!!

Nick Nelson

I will kick his ass if he tries to come near you





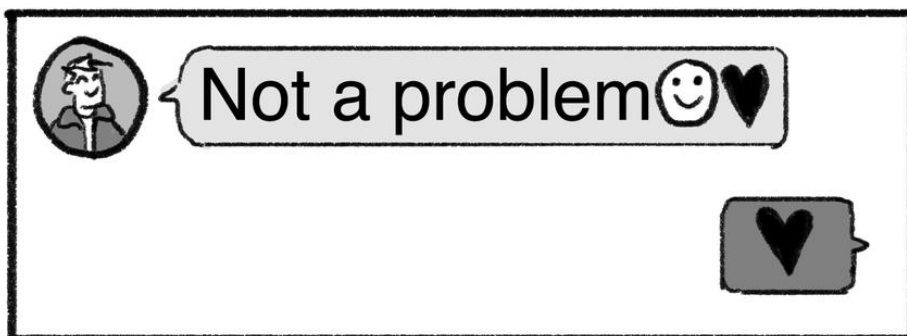
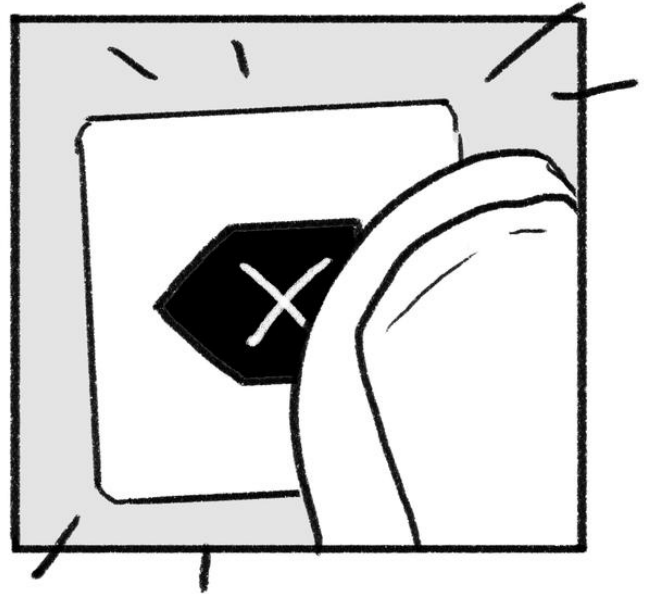
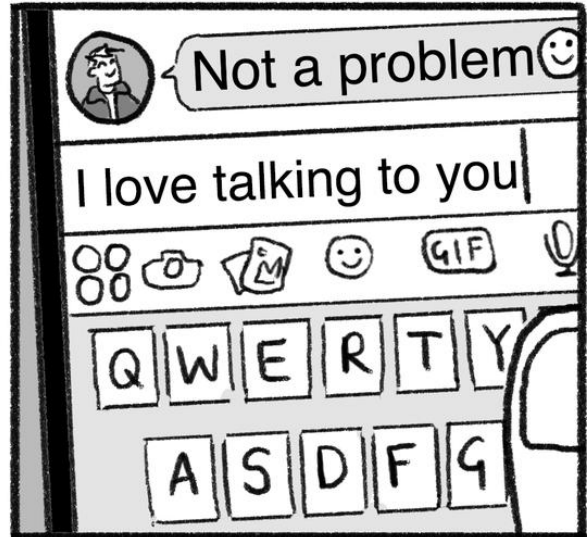
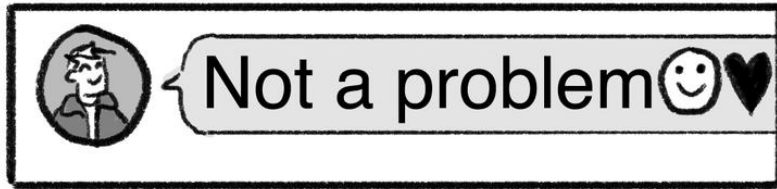
Thank you for being there

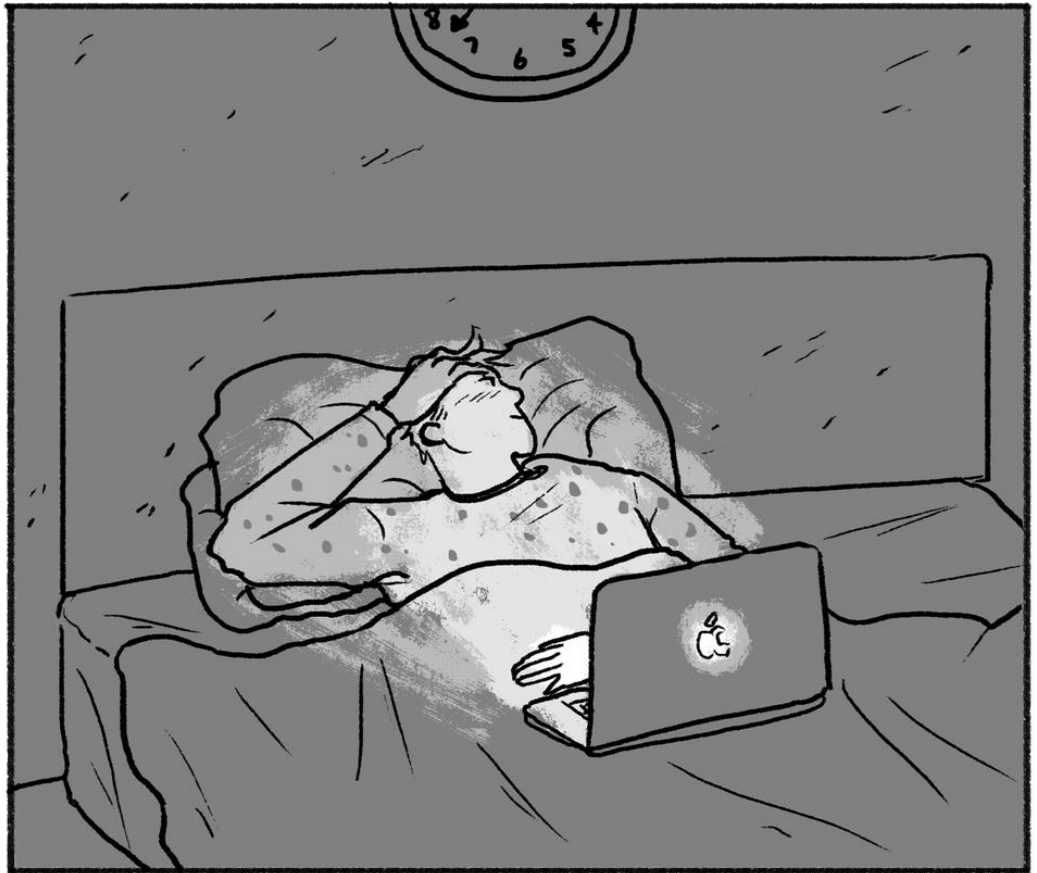
Generally or in the music block?



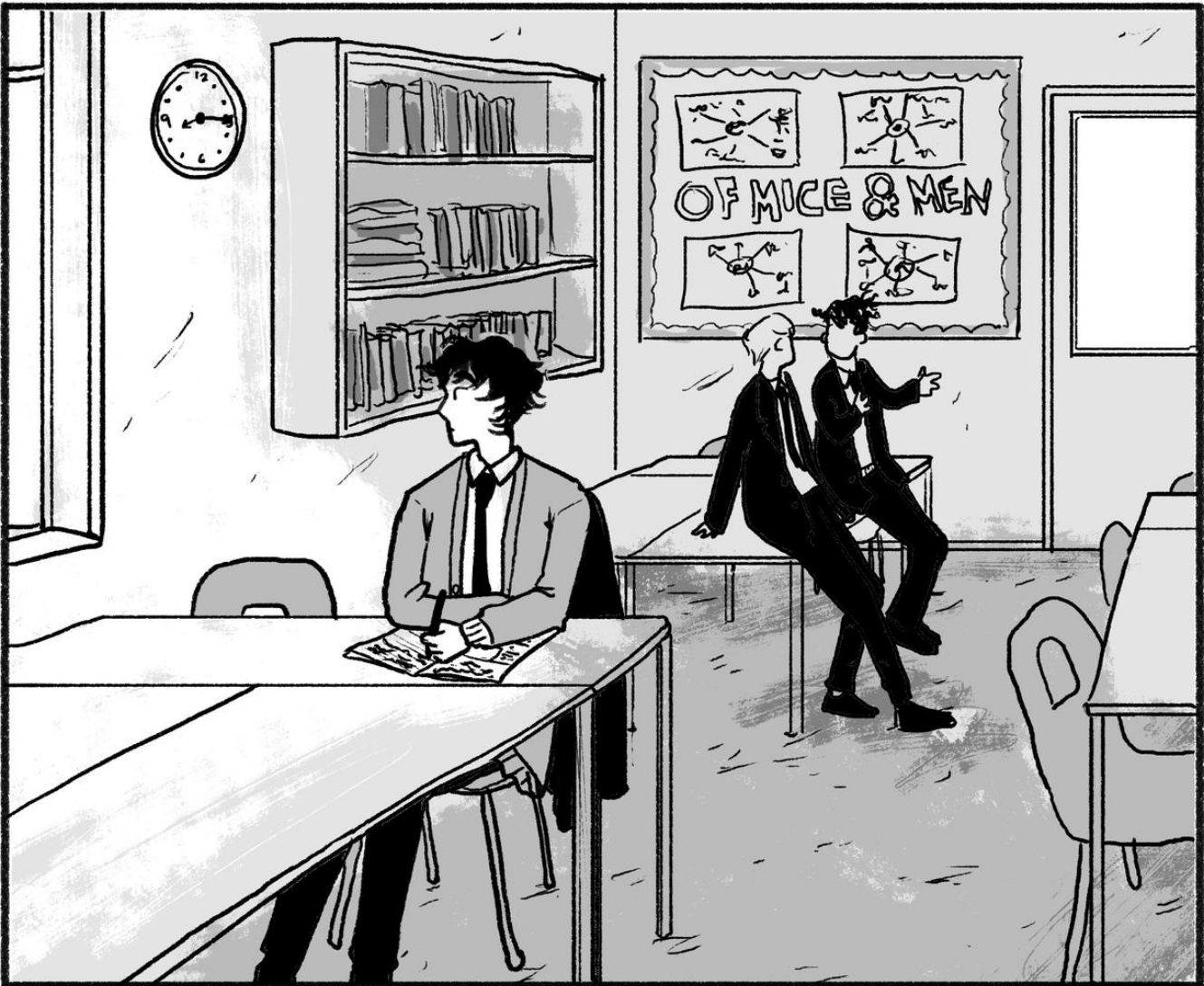
Well...

both





Should I
have told him
all that?





Maybe he
felt awkward

Maybe he
won't want
to be friends
anymore -



RUFFLE



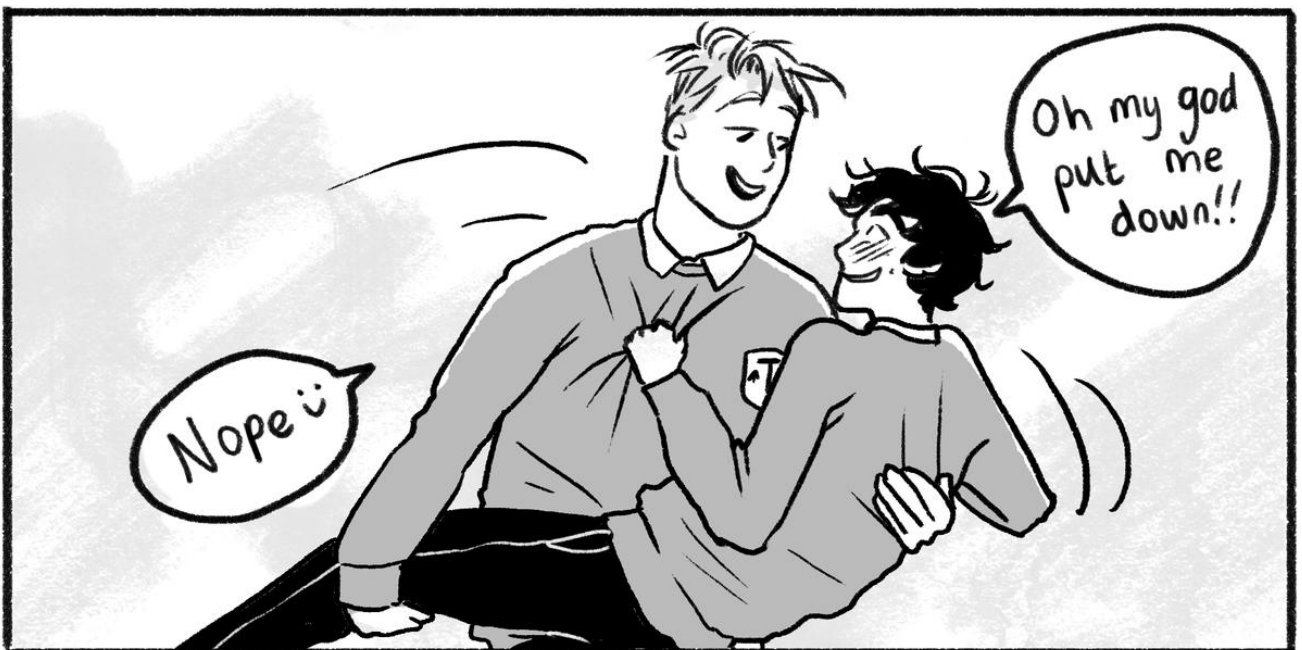
Hey!



Charlie, what
the FUCK is
going on!?

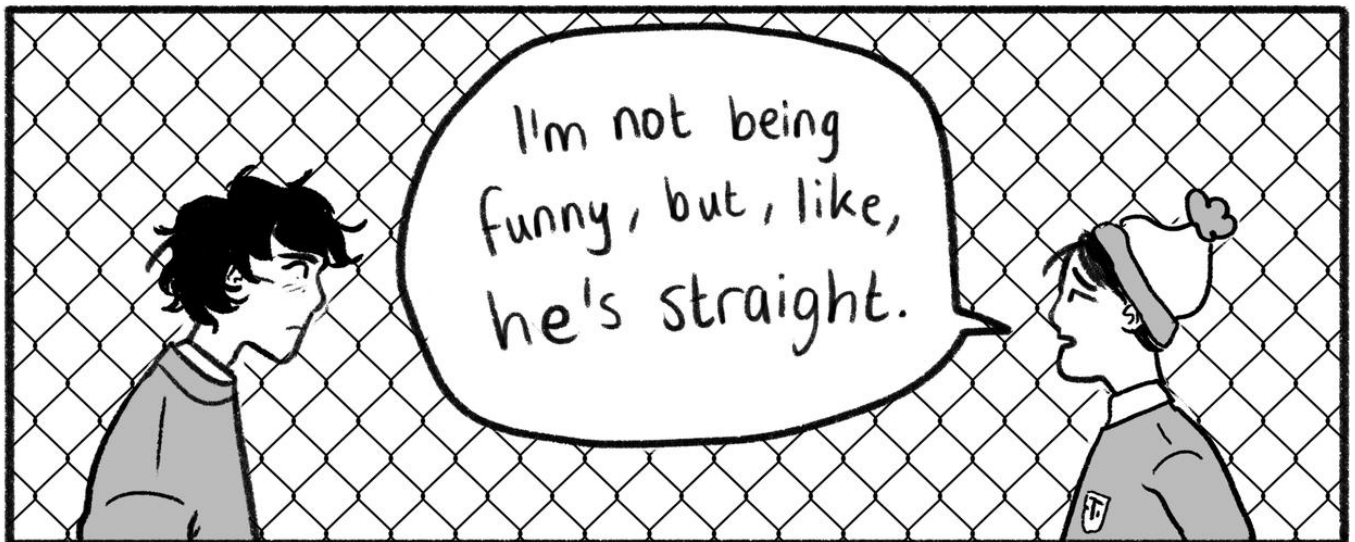








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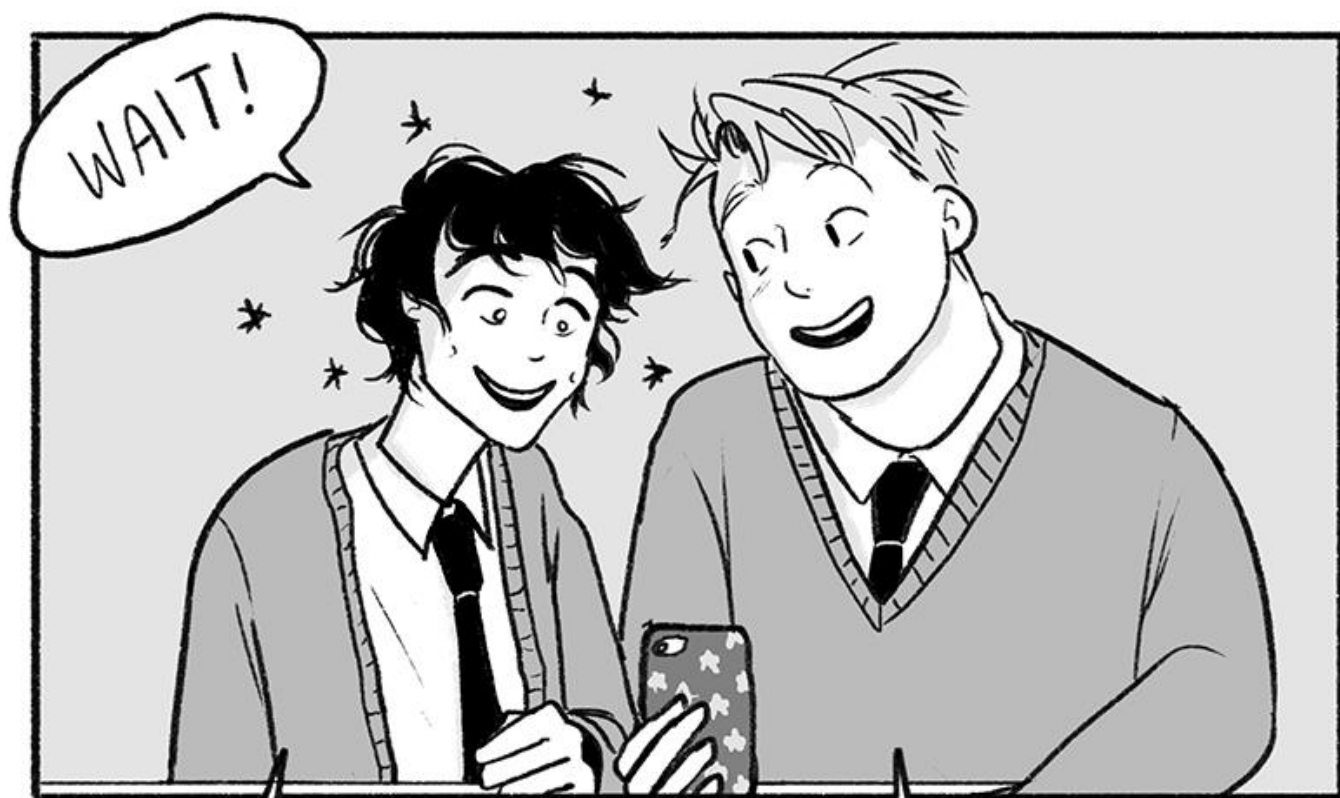
Yeah, it took me like 3 hours to bake it all but my nan loves Cheesecake, so...

Wait, I think I've got a picture of it-

Oh! That's just my dog, haha



MARCH



You have a dog?

Yeah! Her name's Nellie ♡



She's pretty old but I love her

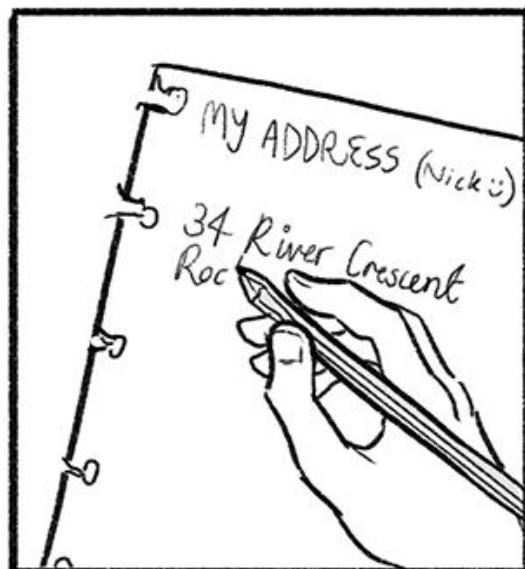
126



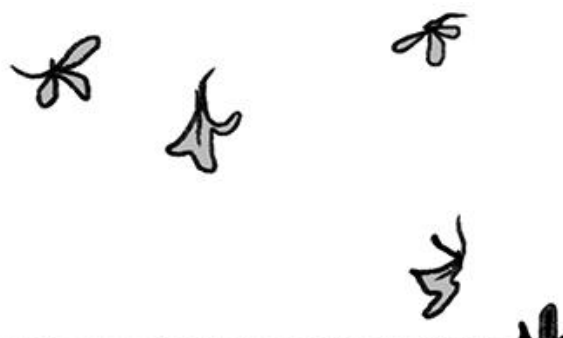
I wish I had a dog. My parents don't like animals.



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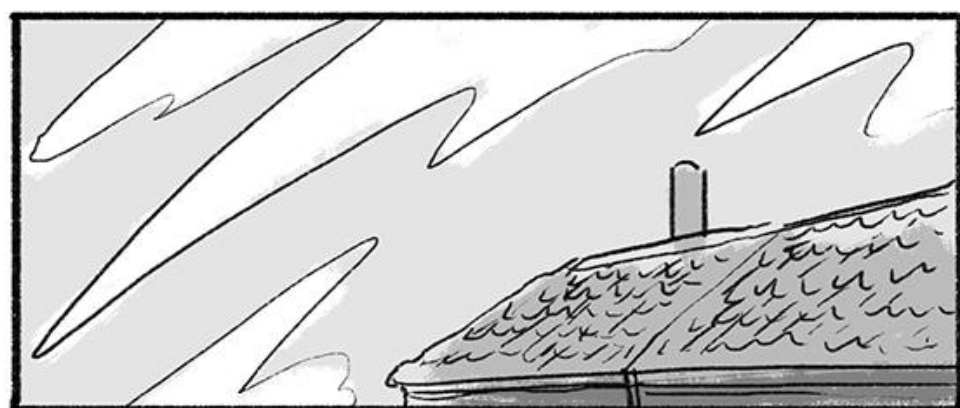


SATURDAY

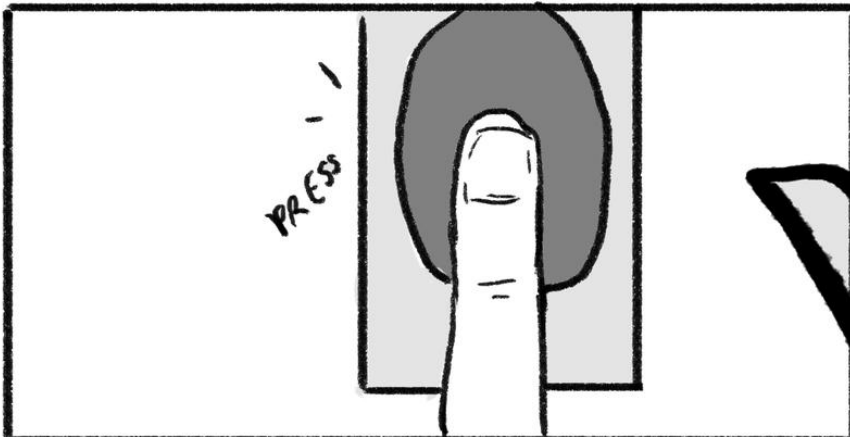
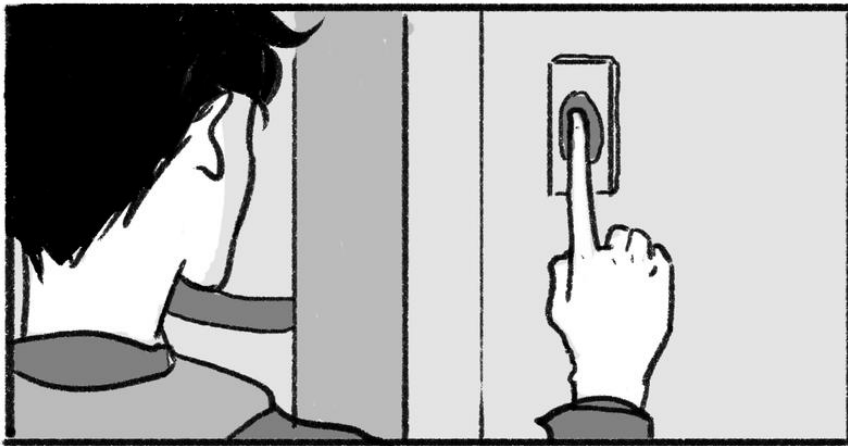




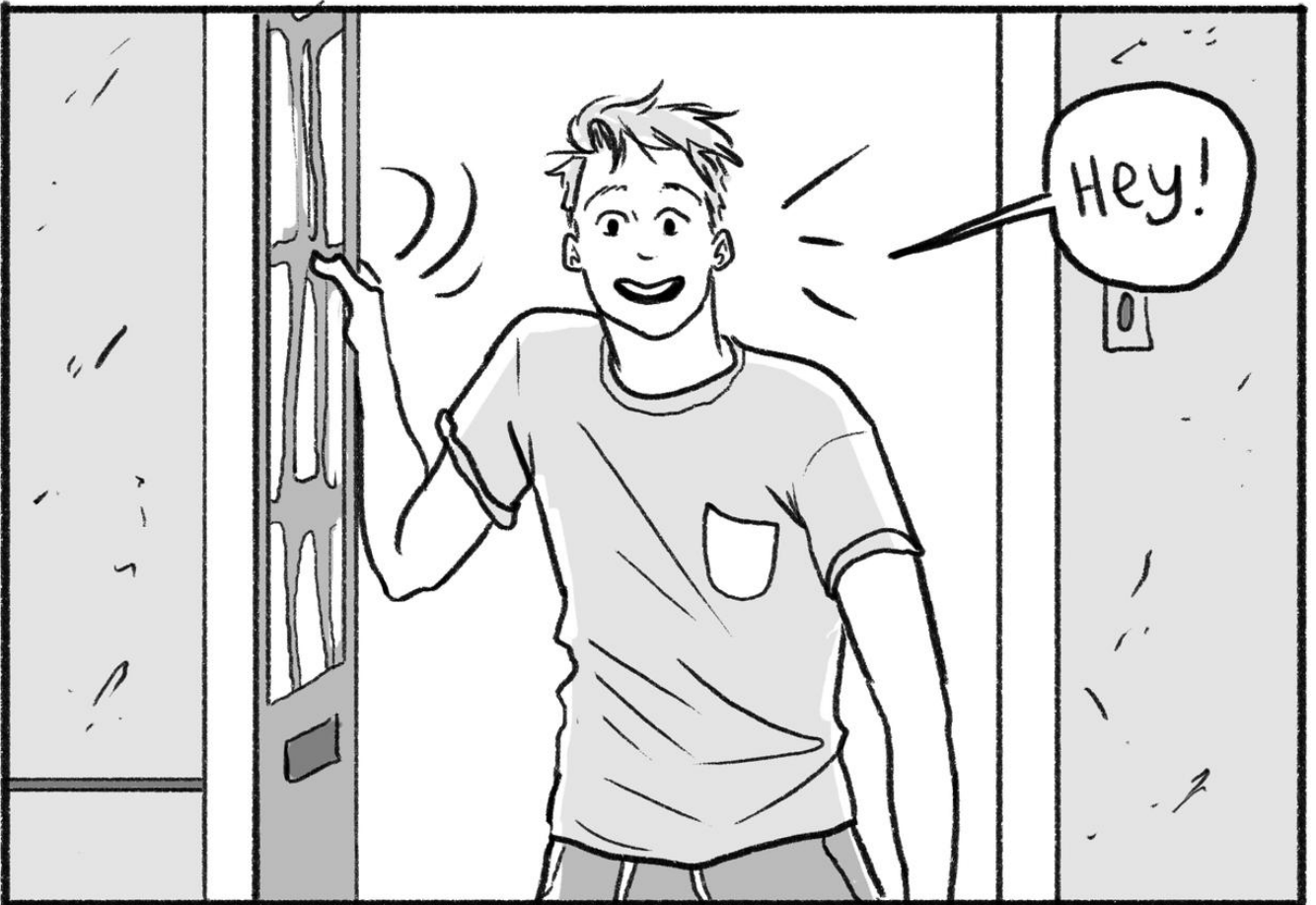


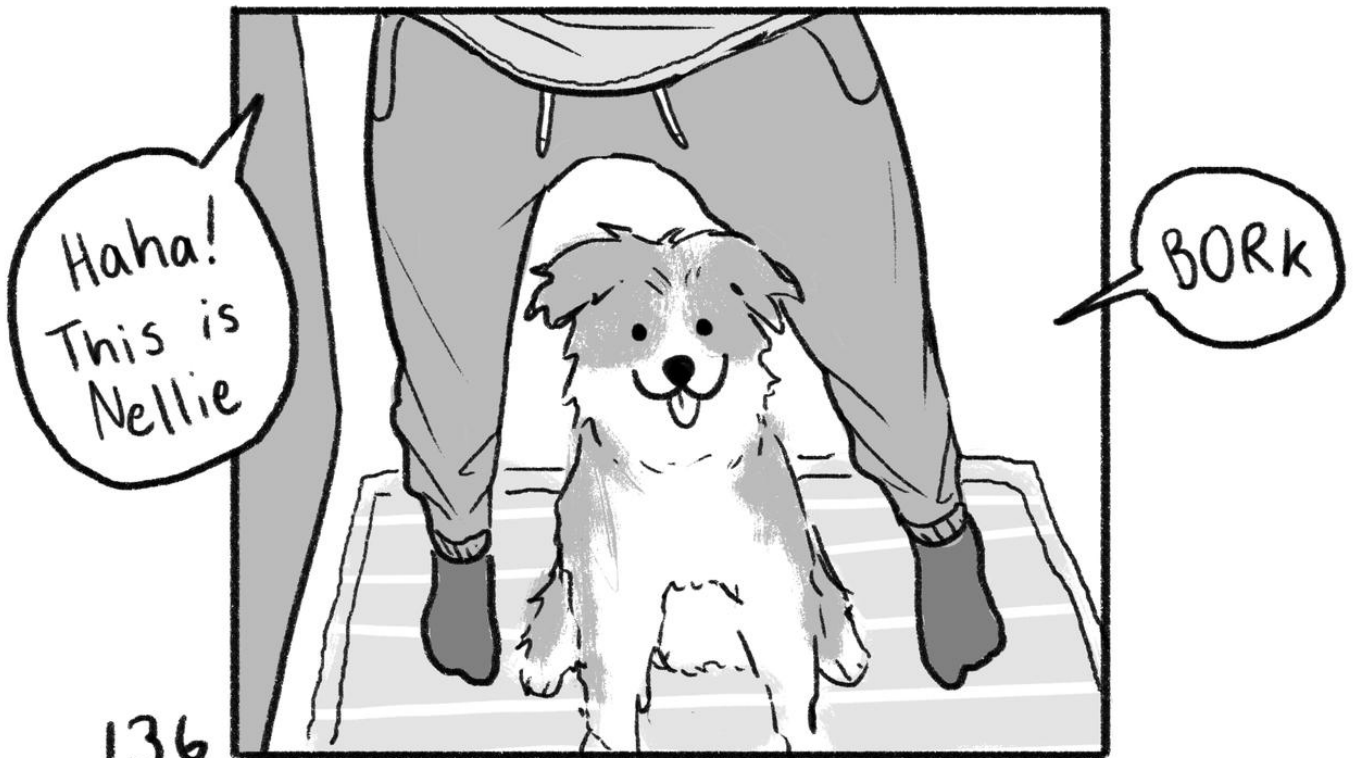
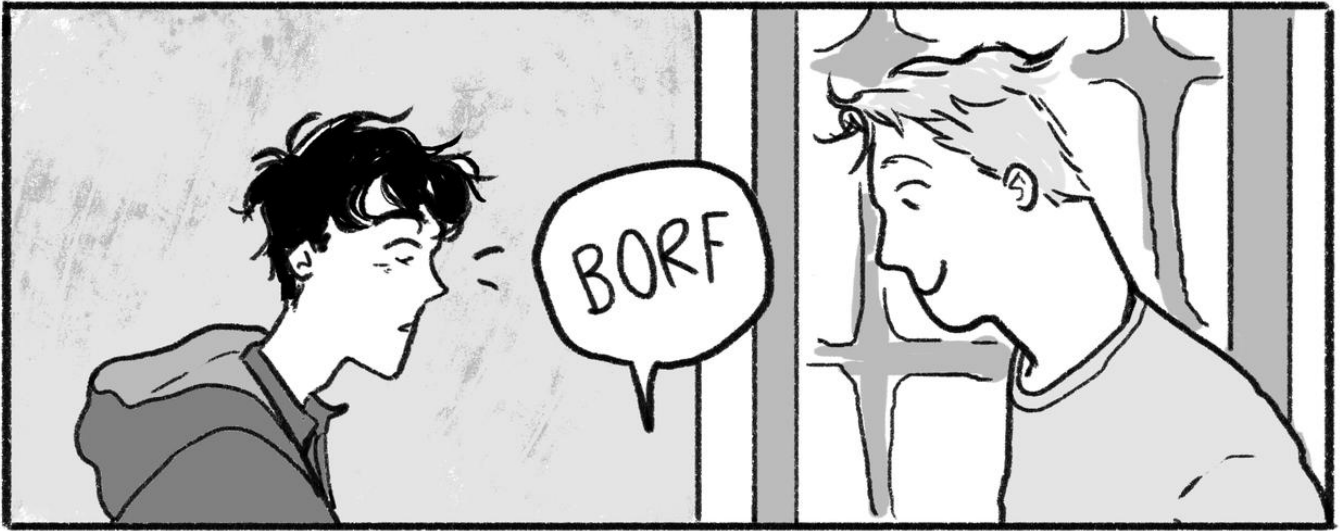






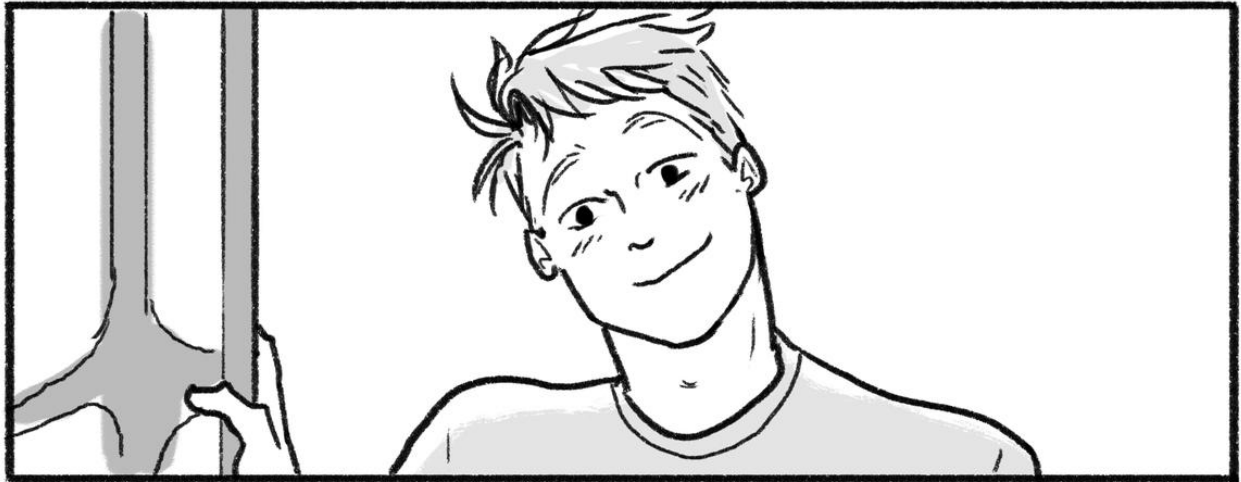
DRRRING





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I-is it bad?

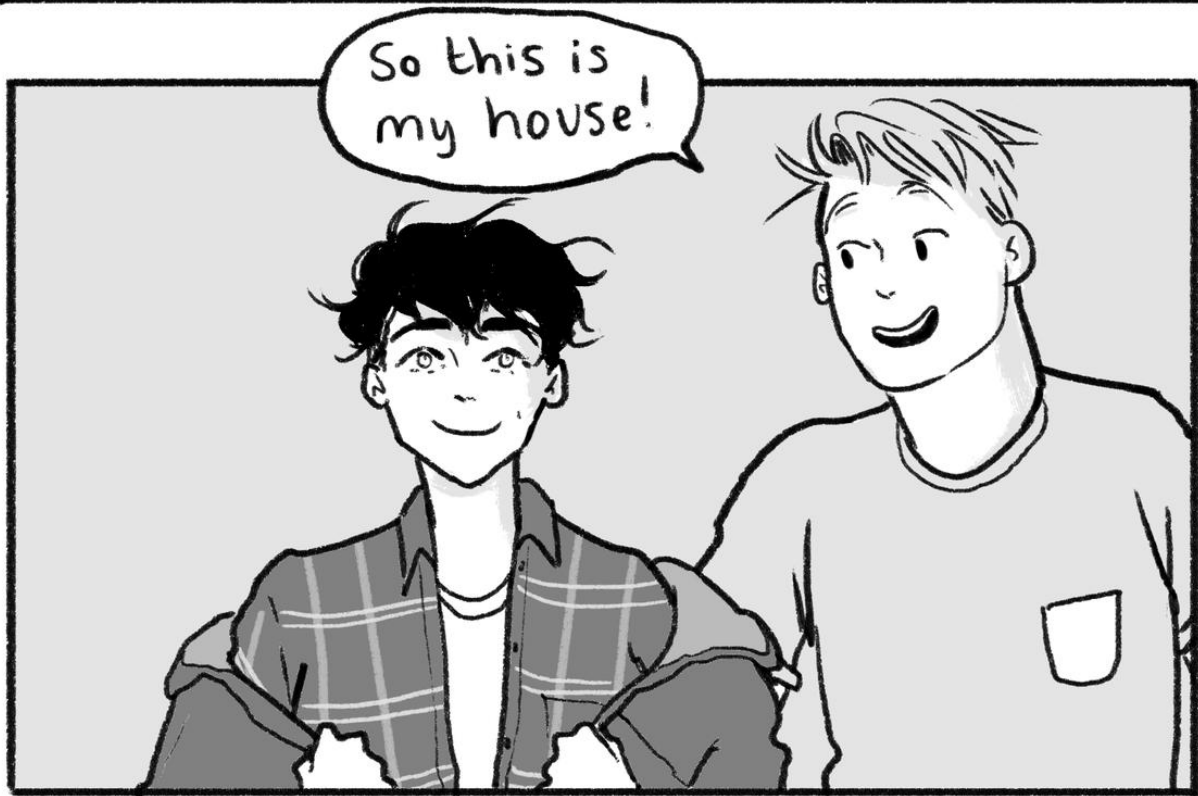


No no!
No! It- you
look- erm-
great



OKAY COME
IN OR NELLIE
WILL THINK
WE'RE GOING
FOR A WALK

Okay









Argh! Why are you so good at this!?

I have a six-year-old brother. Mario Kart is my life.

And you get to be good at real sports. I get to be good at fake ones.

You're just good at everything, you nerd!



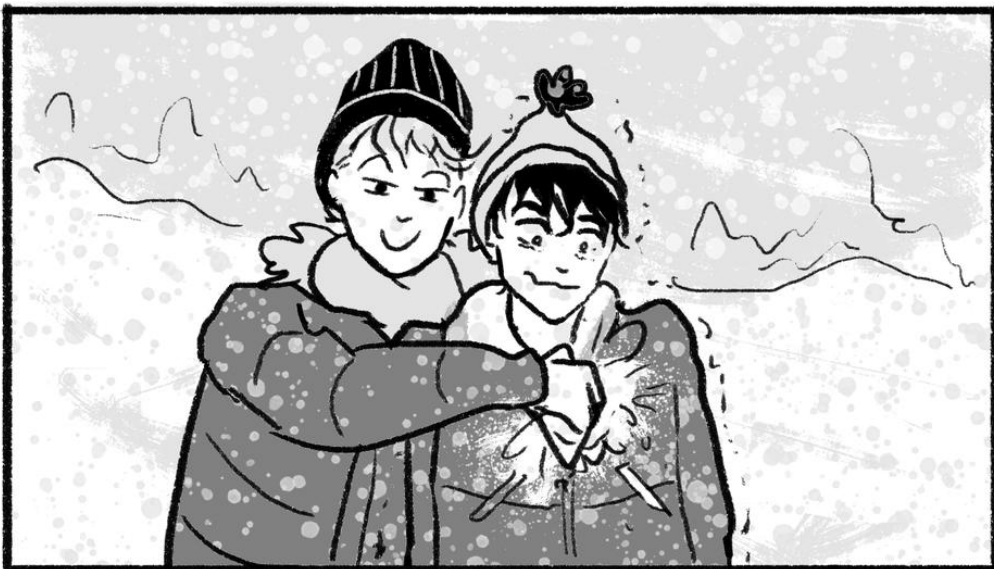


It's
snowing











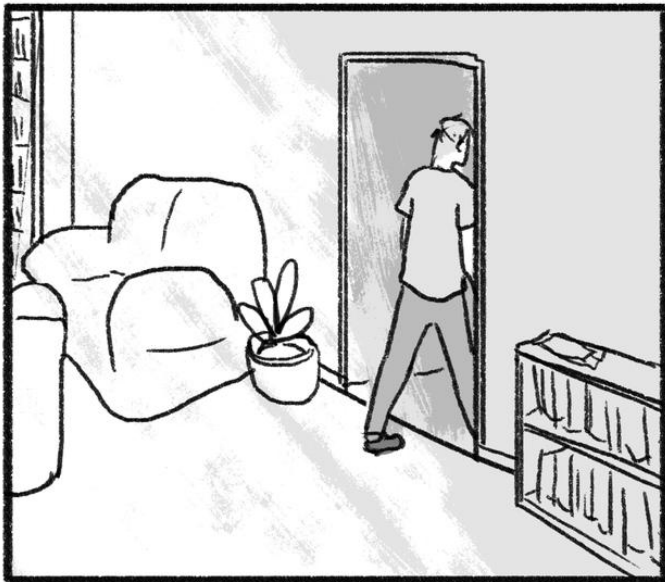
I. Am.
Freezing.



150







152

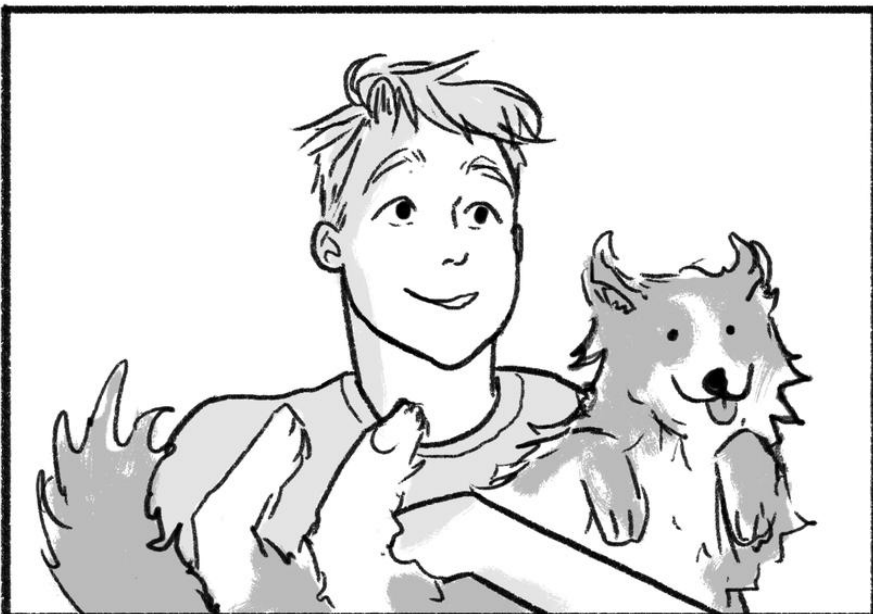




You really have to go home?



Yeah... My dad said I had to be home for dinner.



Well... Nellie will miss you

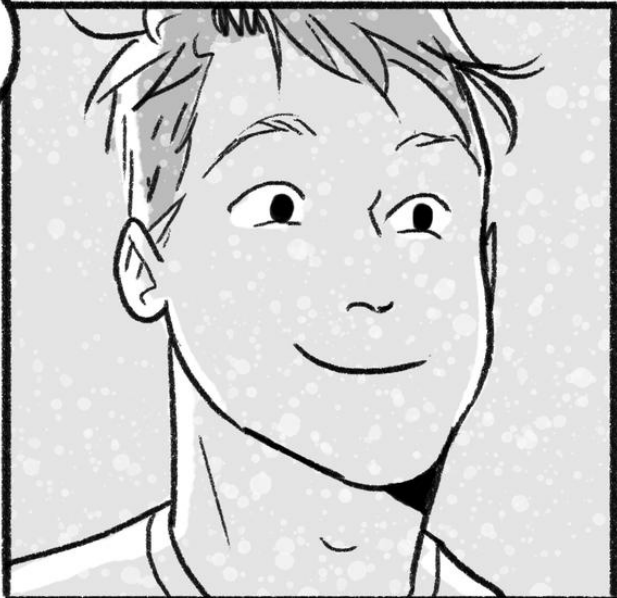
I'll miss
Nellie
too



155



I'll try
not to!





Charlie seems like a lovely boy. When did you meet him?

A couple of months ago. He's in my form group.











Are you
okay?





I fell for
a straight
boy...
haha...





THE NEXT
SATURDAY





boom



tss

boom
BOOM



Haha,
you're
terrible!

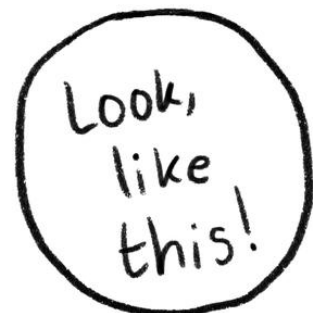
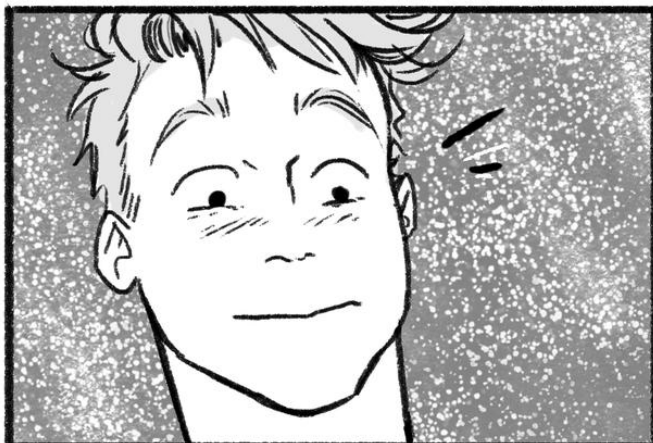


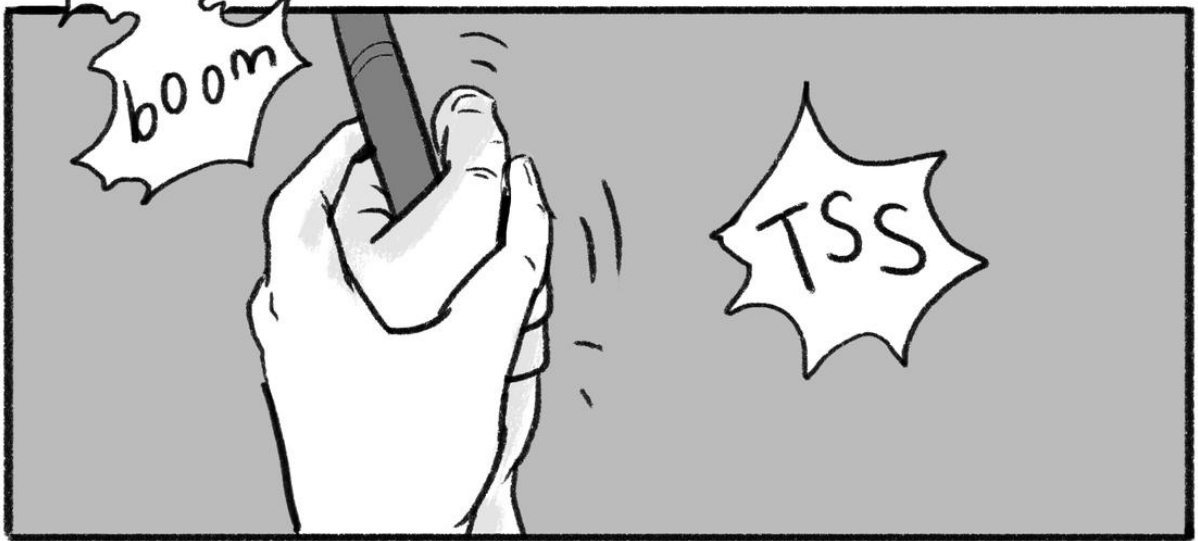
tss

164

I'm trying
my
BEST!









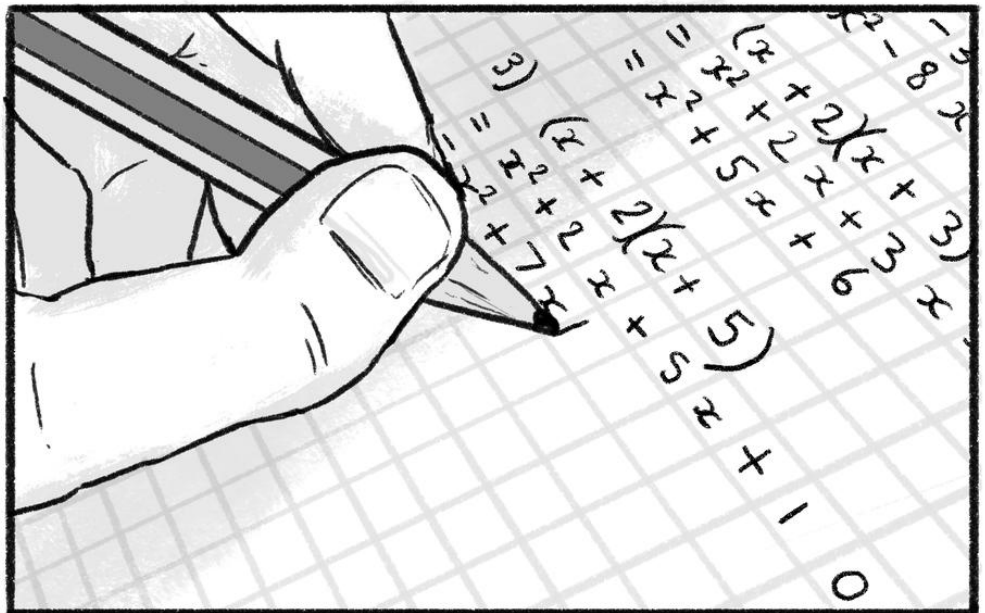
There, you're a pro now!





Charliiiiiie

Yeah?









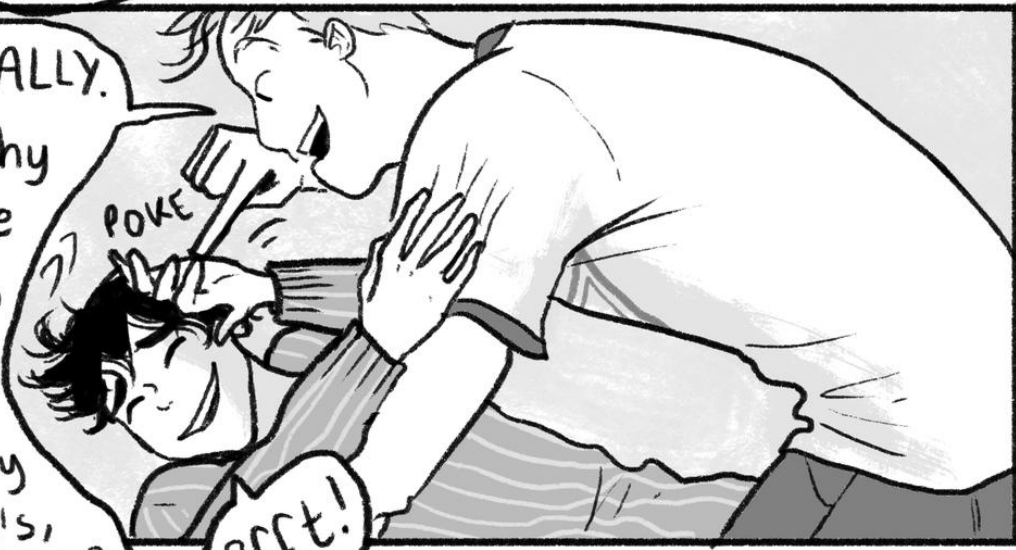
It's your fault
for being a
rugby lad

Excuse me?
A "rugby
lad"?

Yeah!!



Oh REALLY.
Well why
don't we
just pop
out for
a cheeky
Nando's,
then, mate?
Ayyy, LADS
LADS LADS



Pfft!

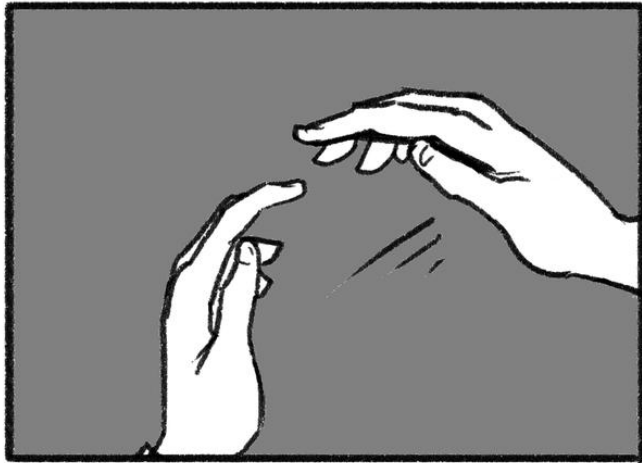
Ahaha!!

What? It's
just banter,
init mate,
init bruv-



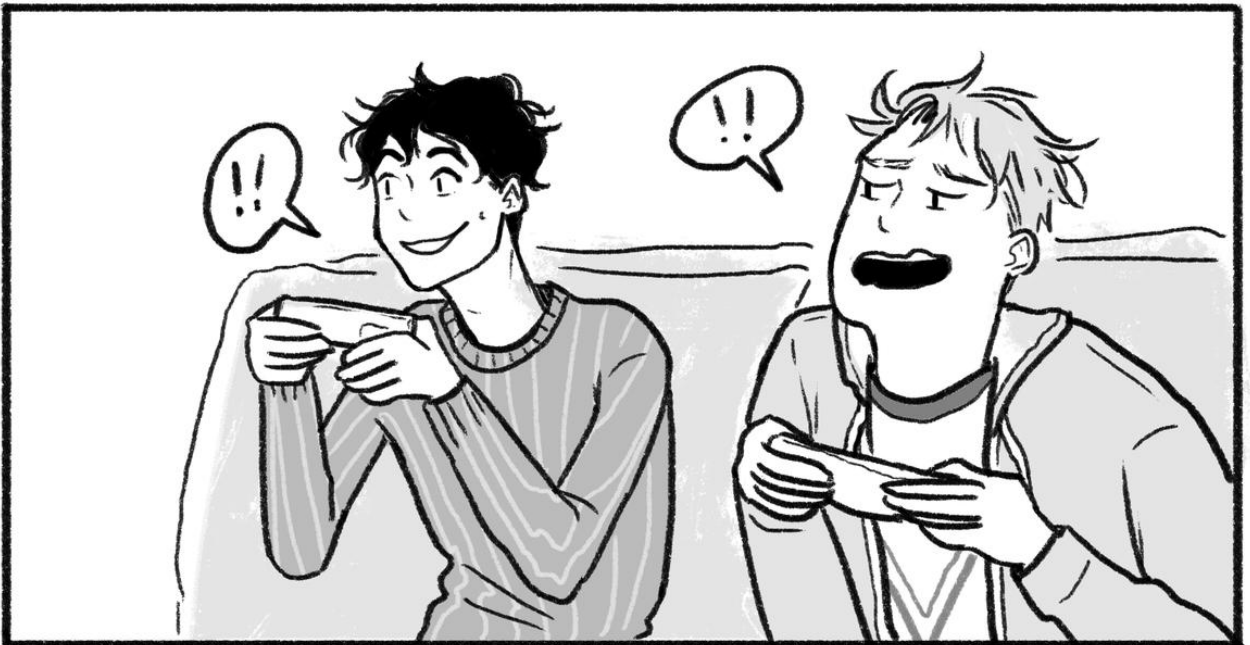
OKAY, okay, stop,
you win



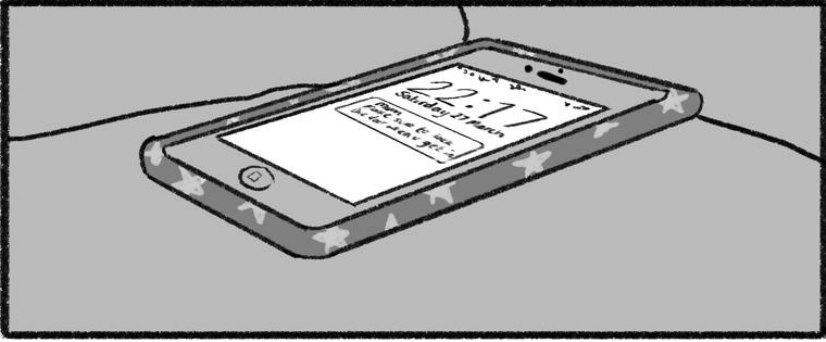


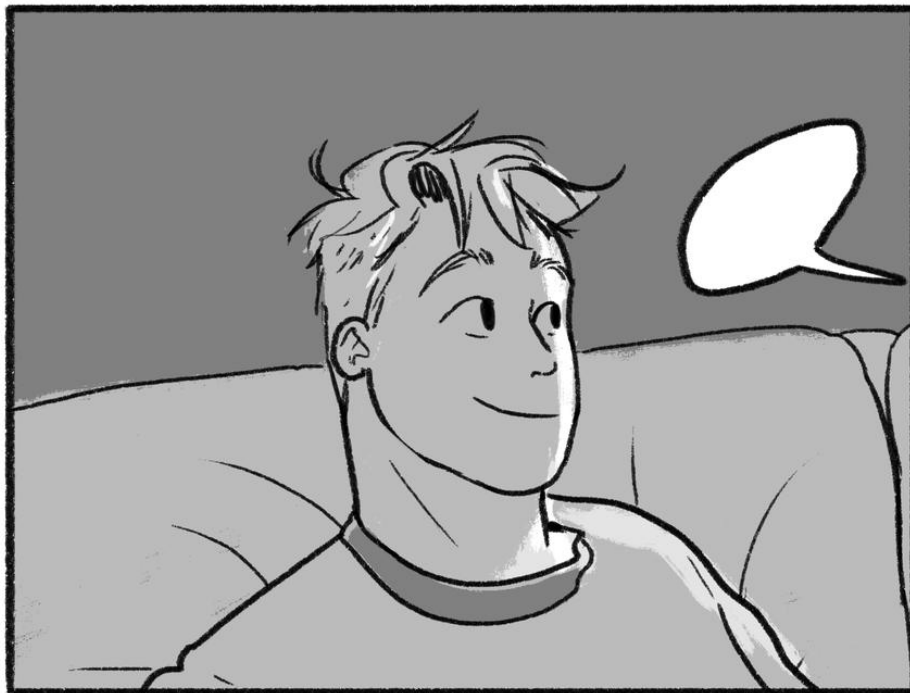
ROLL





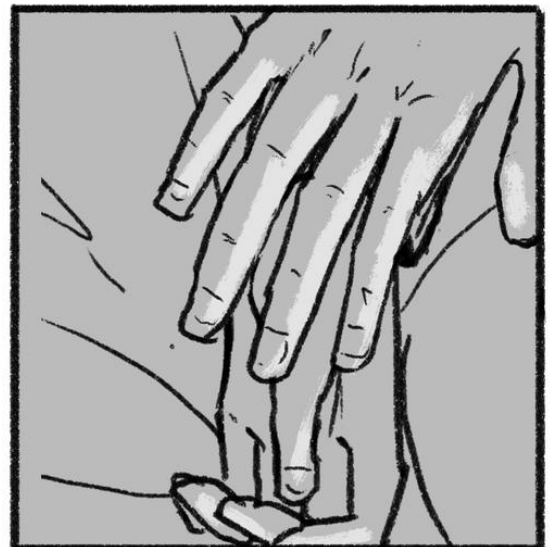
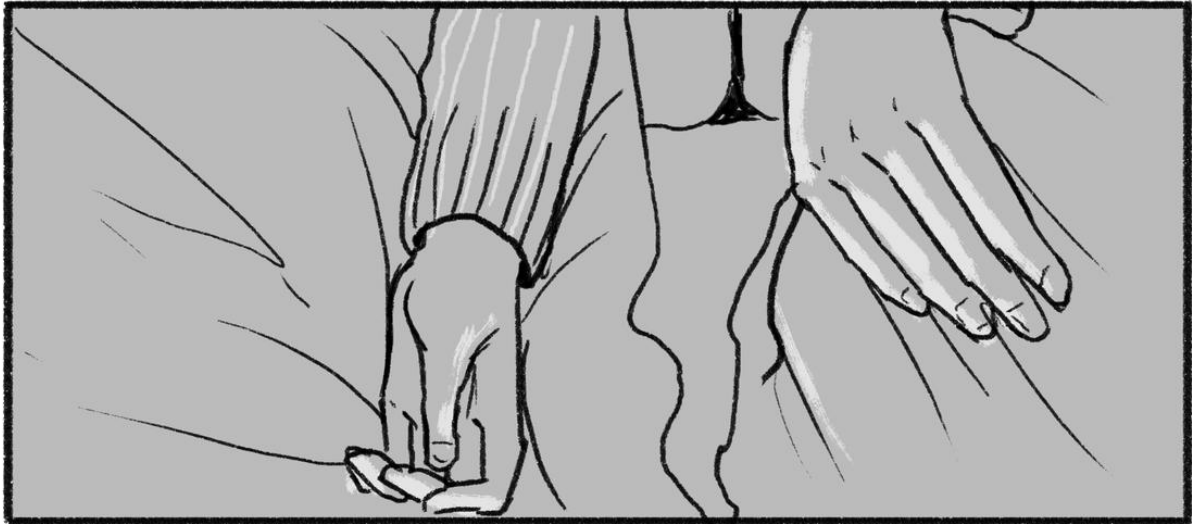


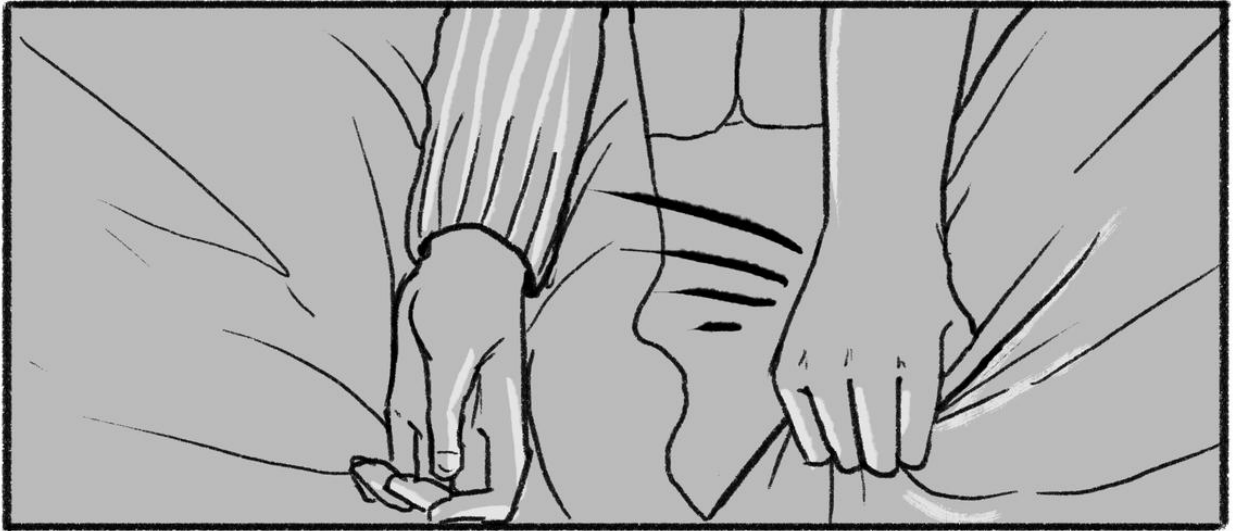
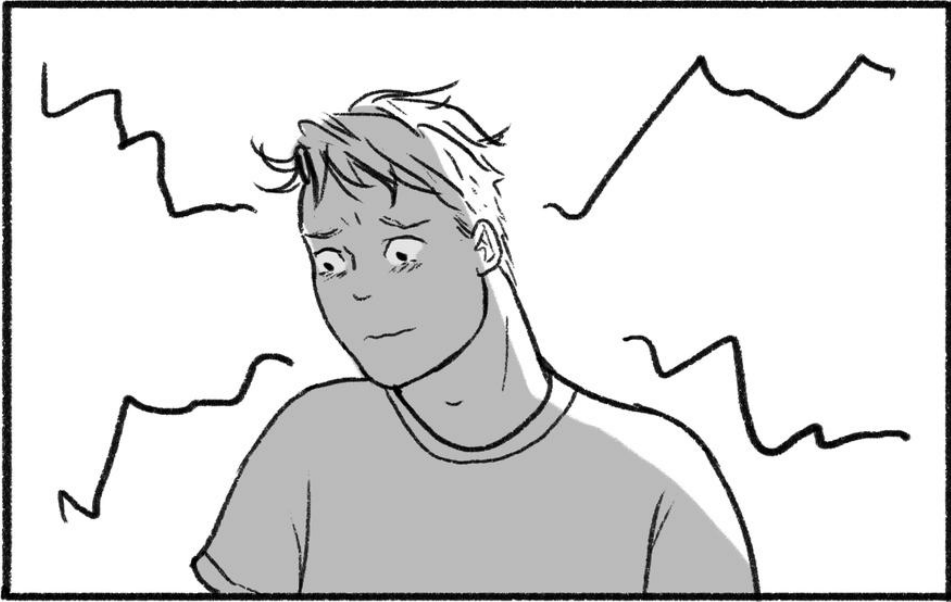


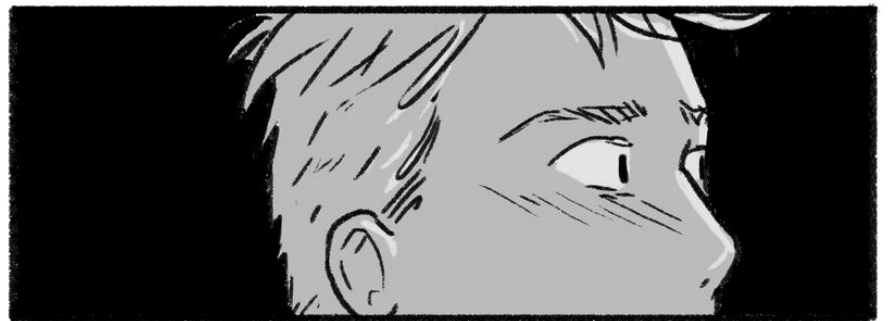


Zzz









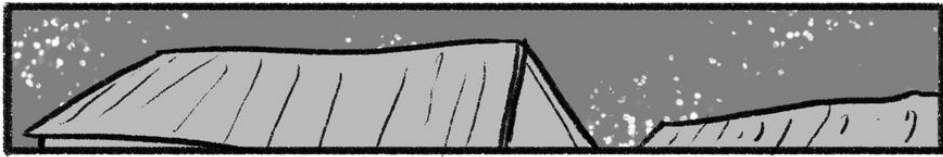
BLINK
BLINK













What is happening to me?

SHUT!



Nicky? Did you have a good day?

Yep.

...you okay?



Yep. Fine.

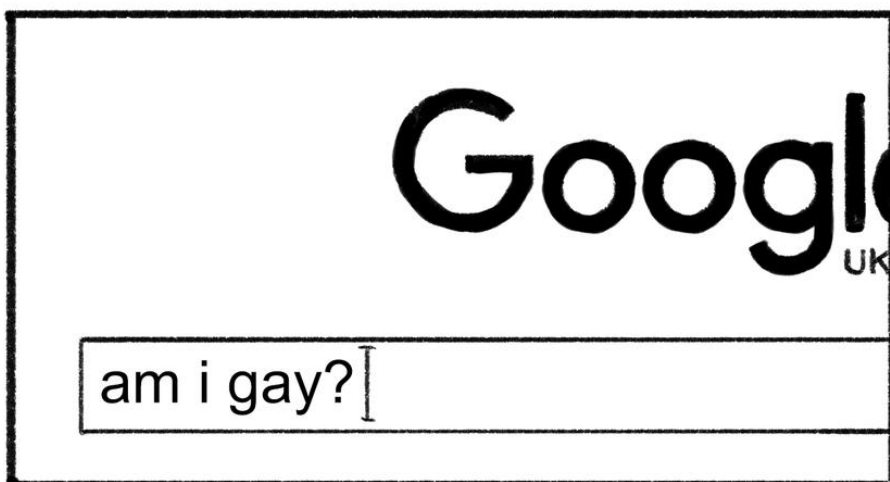
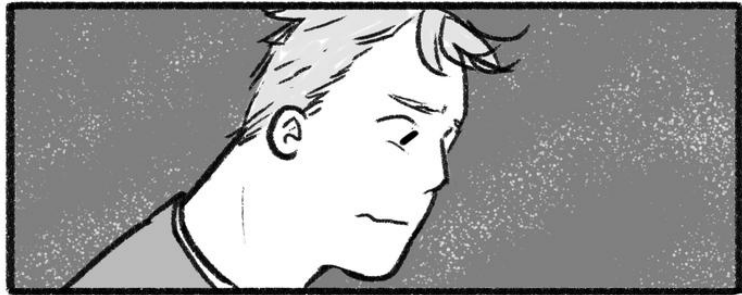
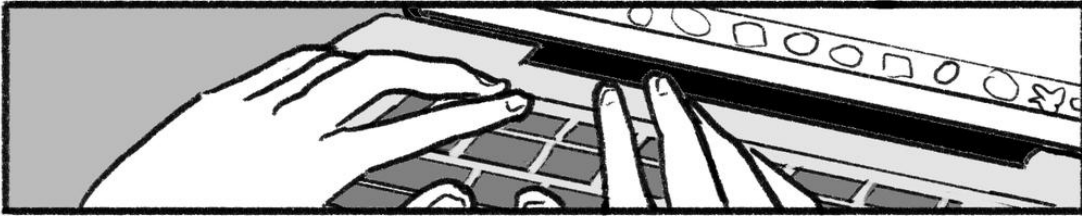






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The Gay Quiz -
www.quizrocket.com
his hilariously funny
many times at the gro

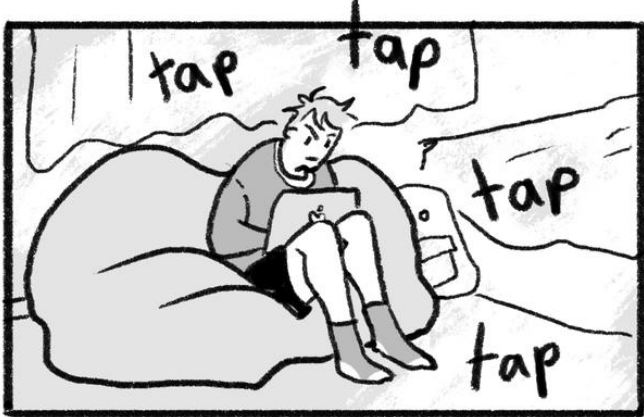
How Gay Are You? - BuzzFeed
https://www.buzzfeed.com/tomphilli
How Gay Are You? Finally, an answer



Am I Gay,
www.proprofs.com
Are you curious to

The Gay Test
www.gay-test.com/
Take the gay test to
Test.com - The

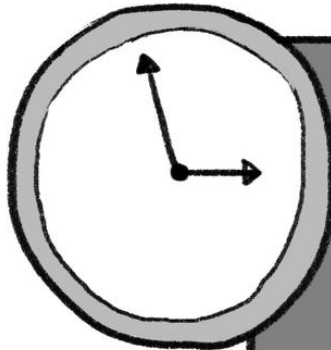
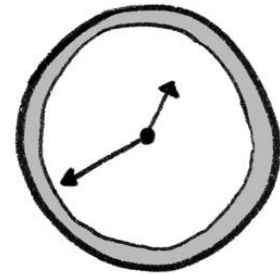
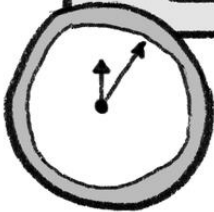
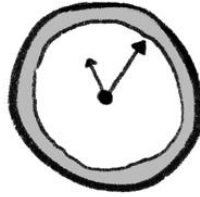
Am I gay? - All The T
www.allthetests.com > Love
es 1 - 10 of 113 - Are yo
actually get the cha

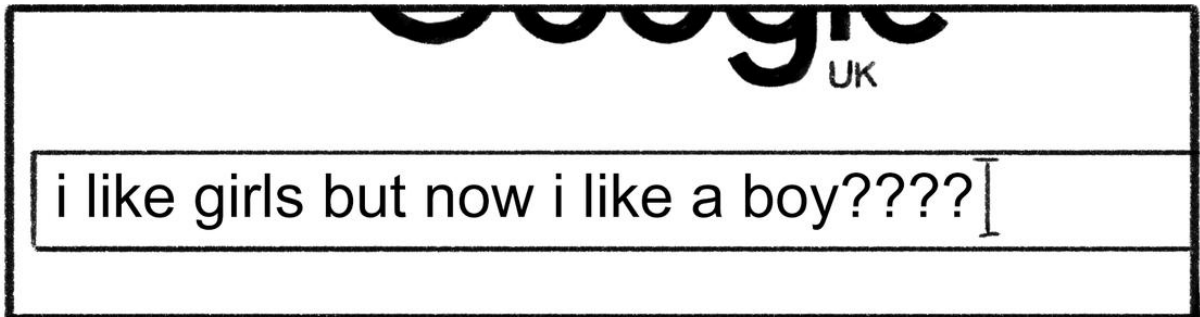


Google

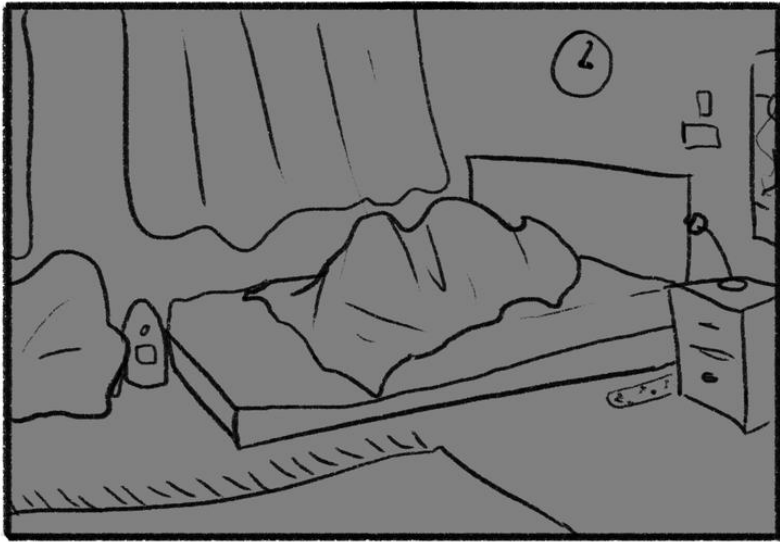
UK

how to tell if you're gay









help
me...



APRIL
(TWO WEEKS LATER)





Hey Tao... so... about Nick Nelson

What??? Has something happened???

Well... I think he might maybe like me back

EXPLAIN.



Over the past two weeks during the Easter holidays we've hung out like almost EVERY DAY



He's a lot more... idk... physical? We hug now?

197

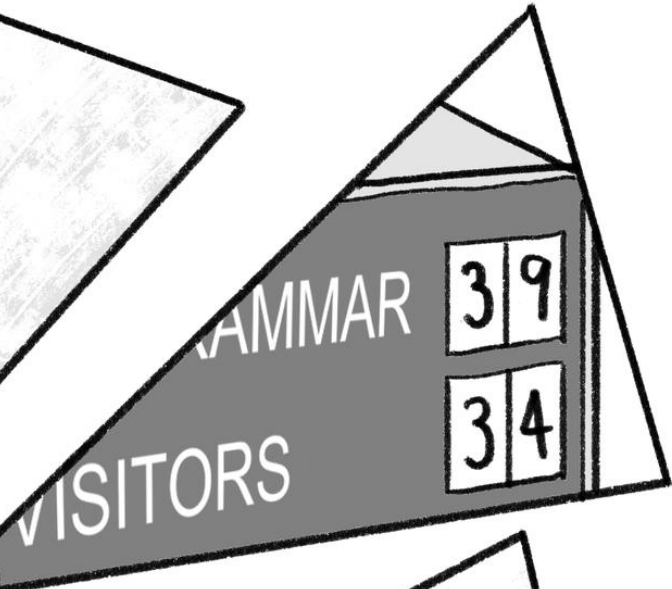


Sometimes I just catch him looking at me...

Look... Charlie... I didn't want to say anything but... I've asked around and I've heard Nick's had a crush on a girl called Tara Jones from Higgs school for, like, 3 years or something



PEEEEP!



CHARLIE!!



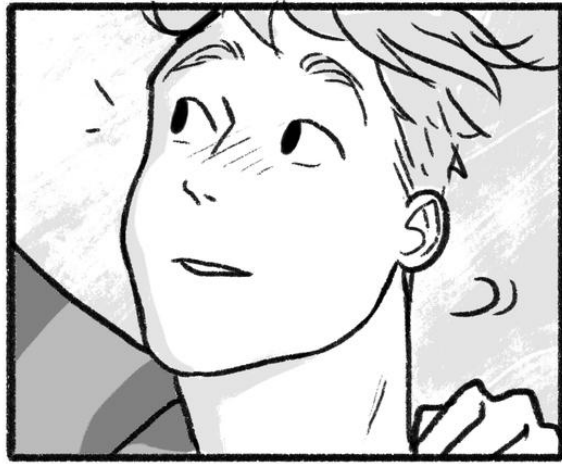






... Charlie... I didn't
I've asked around
a crush on a girl ca
ggs school for, like,





30 MINS LATER...





So Nick has a crush on Charlie, right?



We've all been thinking it!!

203



They do seem really close



But Nick's not gay, is he?

Well, I guess we don't know

He doesn't look gay. And didn't he have a crush on that girl Tara Jones?



MISS SINGH
(P.E. TEACHER AND COACH)

You can't tell whether people are gay by what they look like.

And gay or straight aren't the only two options.

Anyway, it's very rude to speculate about people's sexuality.



Go home, lads.

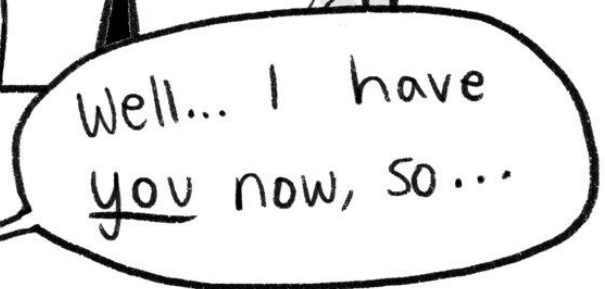


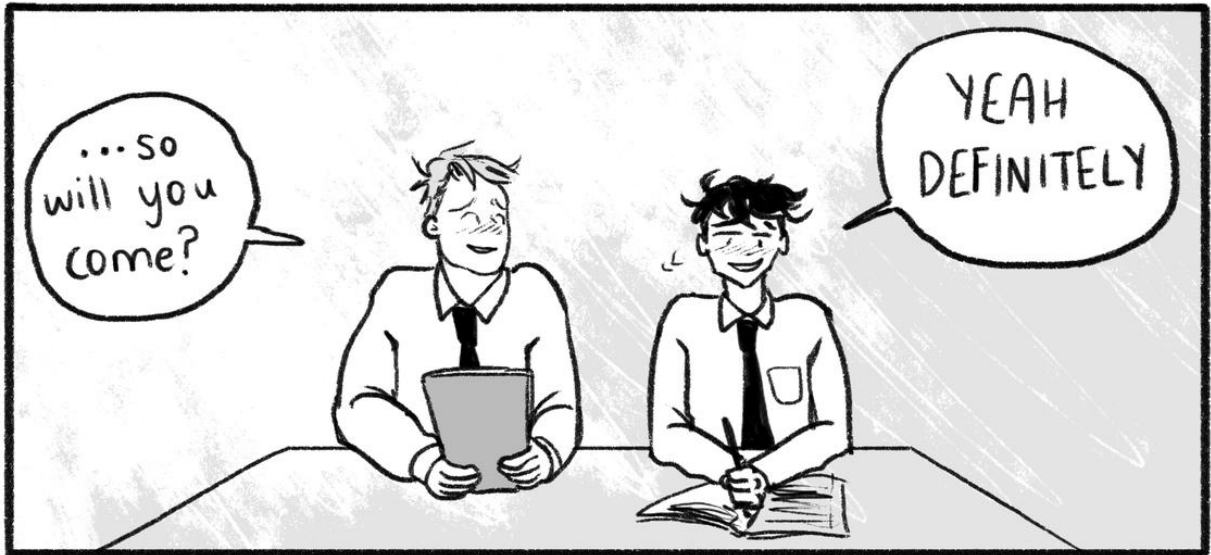


 I can kinda see it.
Nick and Charlie.

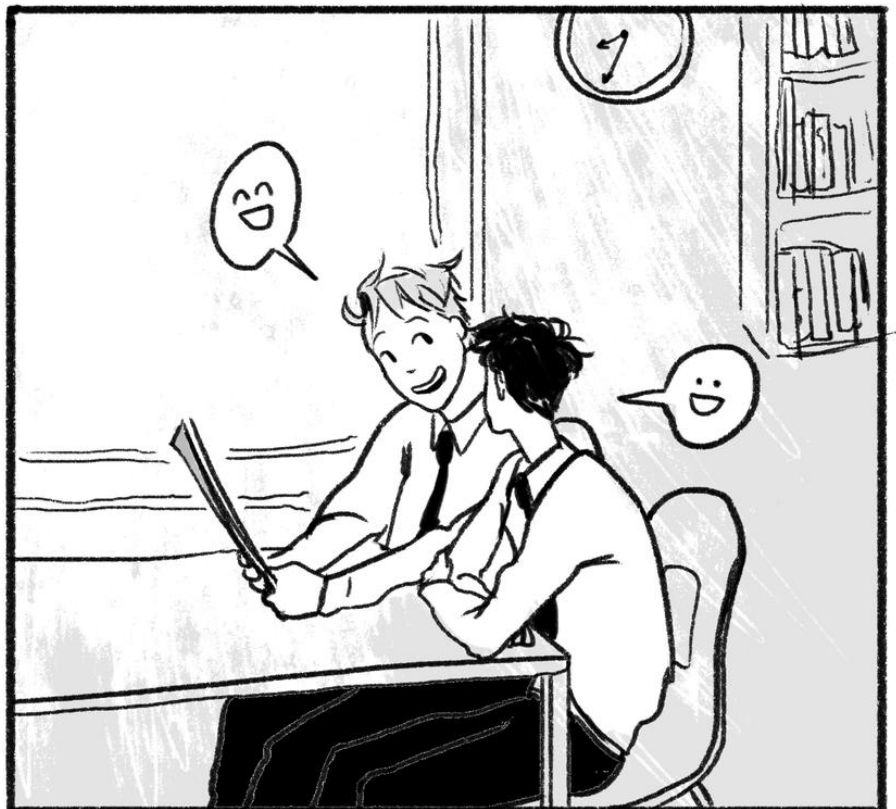
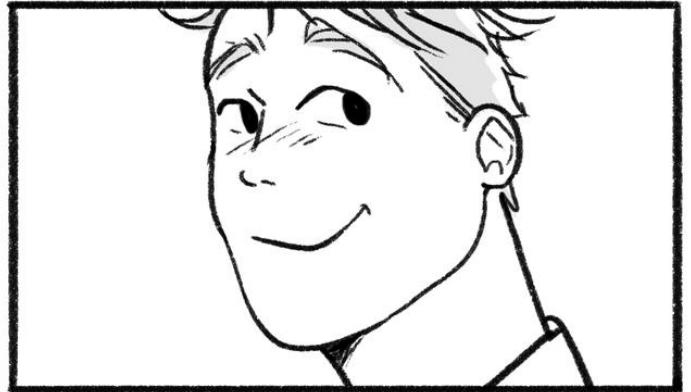


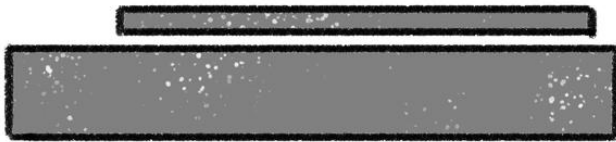
Are you going to Harry Greene's party on Saturday?

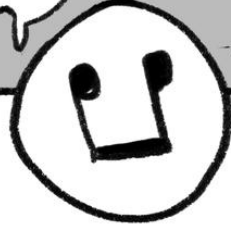




It'll be fun if you're there!

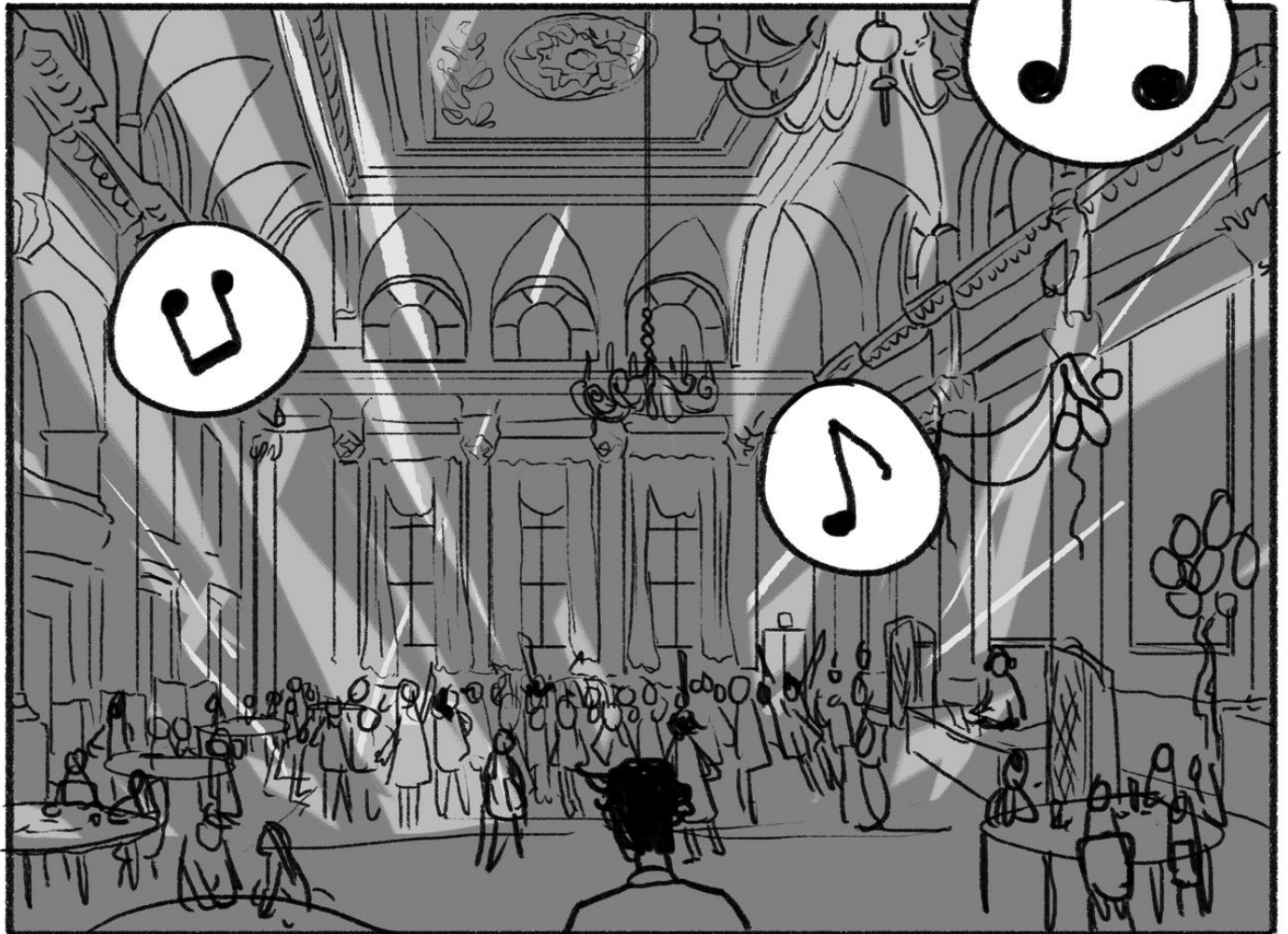








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I've been looking for you!







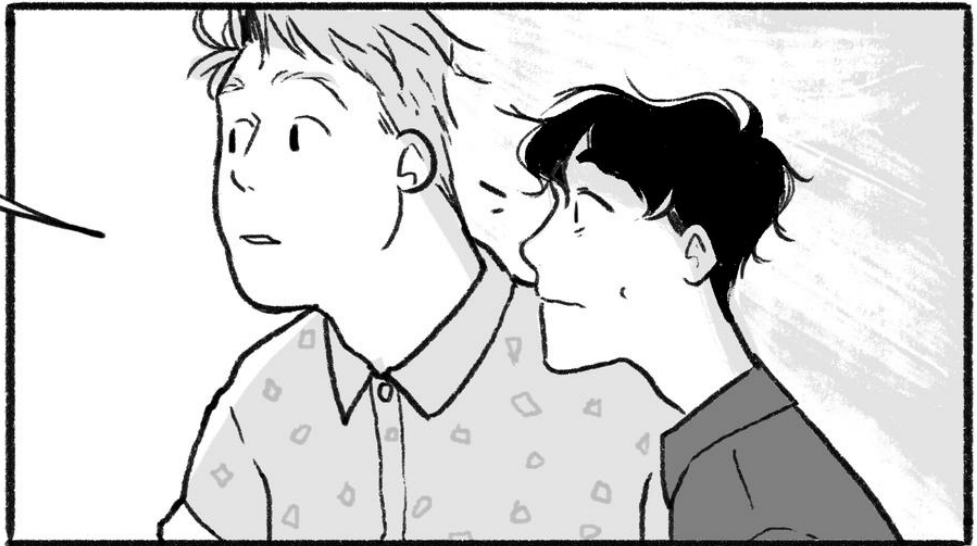
HARRY GREENE
(THE BIRTHDAY BOY)



TARA JONES
IS HERE.



Wh-
what?



Remember her?
The girl you had
a crush on all
through Year
7 and 8?



The one you
KISSED at
the Year 8
Higgs-Truham
disco?



Well, now's
your second
chance.

RIGHT,
CHARLIE?





Plus, she's really hot now



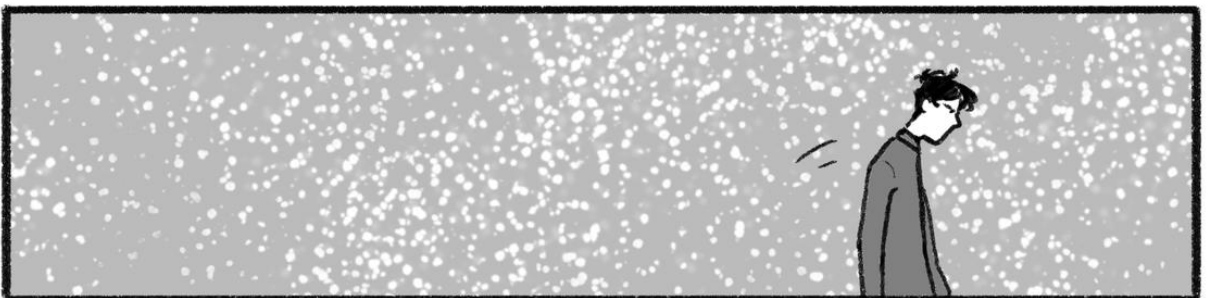
HEY, GIRLS!

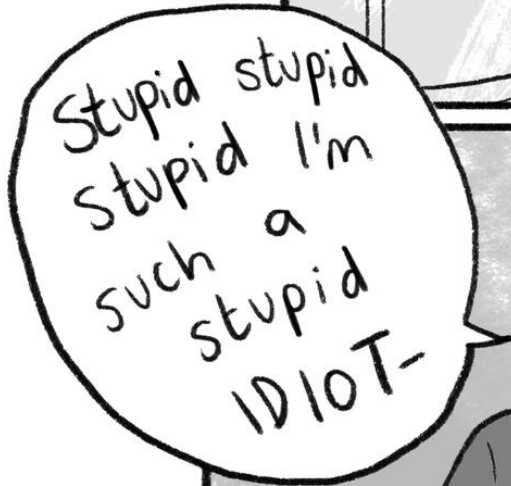




You remember Nick Nelson, right?







BUMP

219





Anyway,

Sorry about this...
Harry sort of dragged
me over here

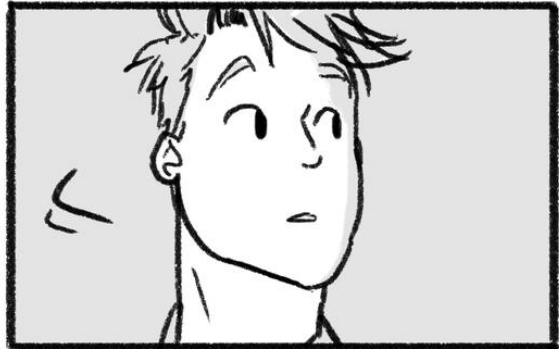
It's fine, I
know what
he's like!



And I think he must be one of the only people who doesn't know I'm gay



Haha, you didn't know either? That's my girlfriend over there.

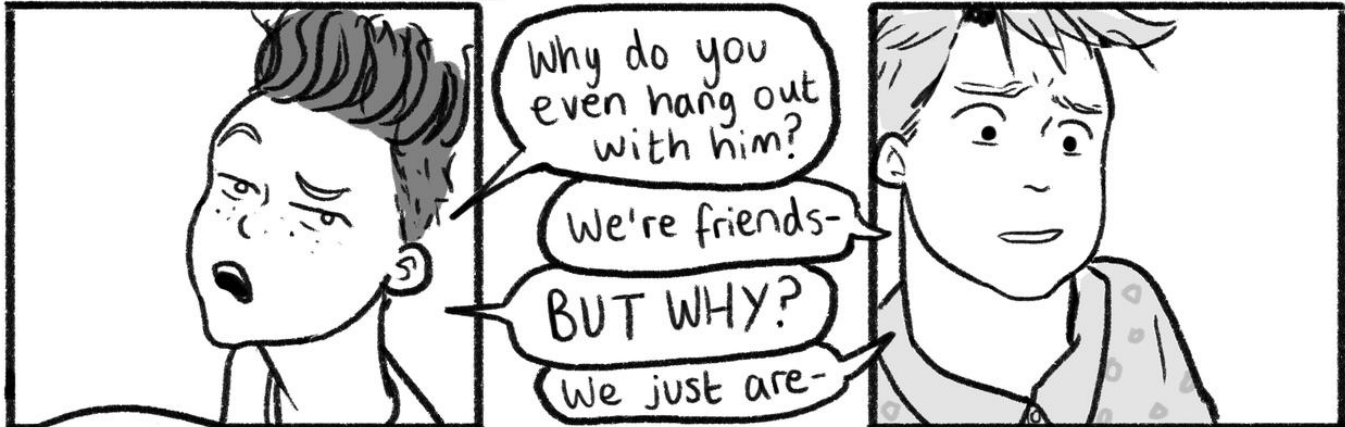


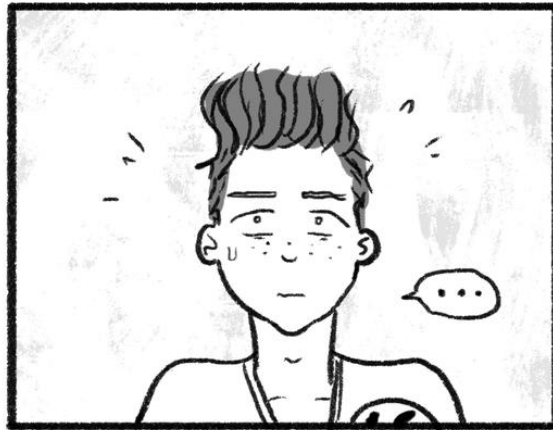
So... I heard you've been hanging out with Charlie Spring a lot recently...

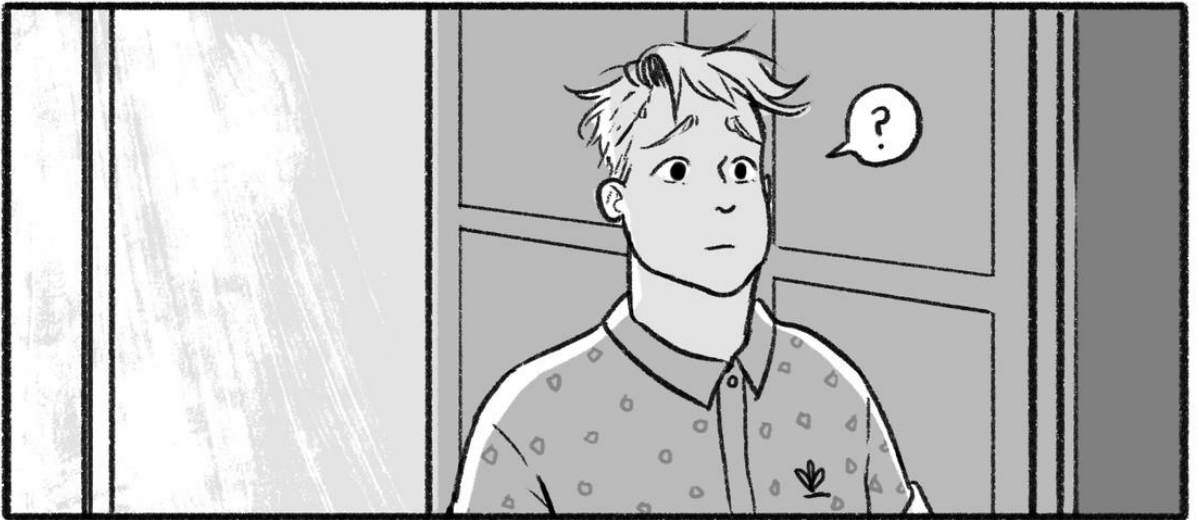
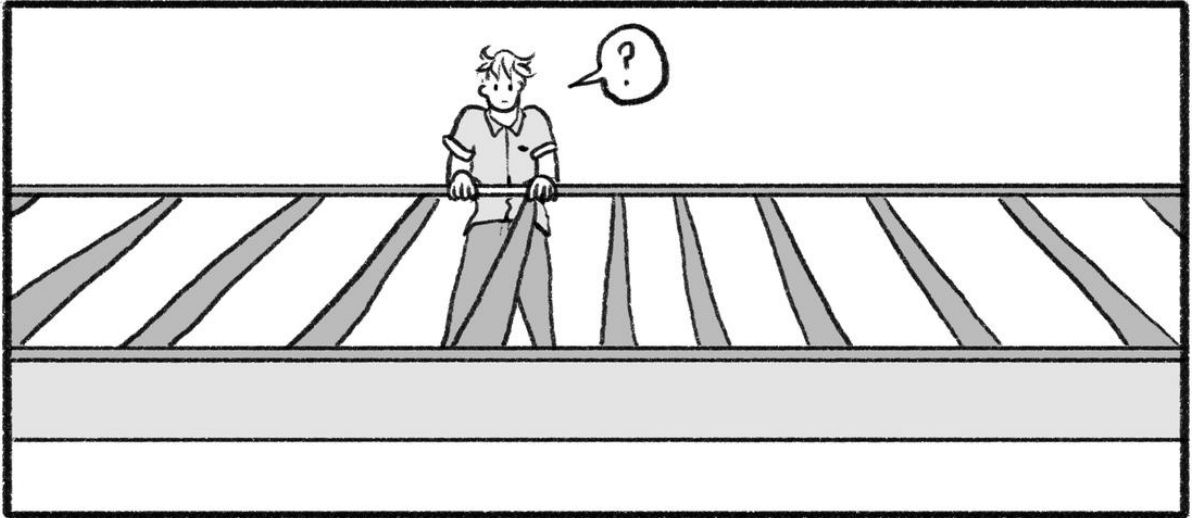
Is that... I mean... are you just friends, or... ?







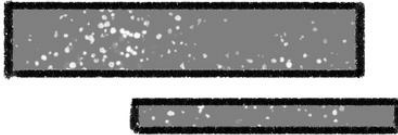
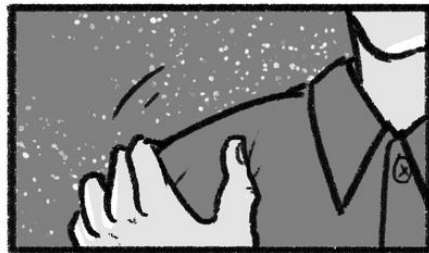
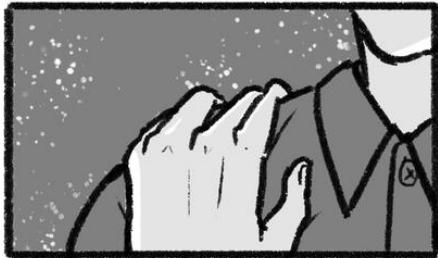












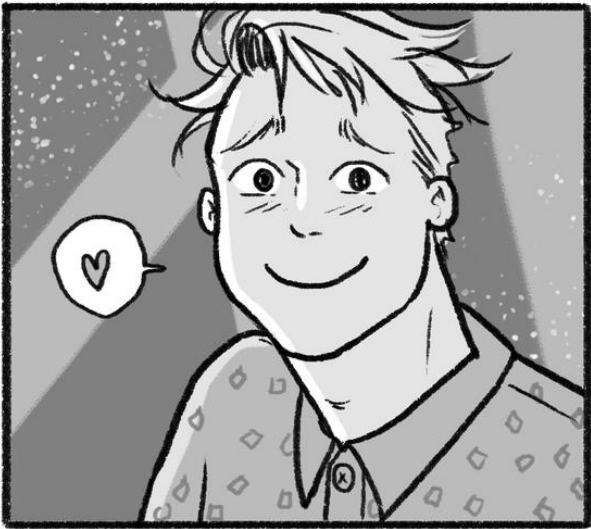


230



Then he just
walked off,
so...

Yeah, I think
he got the
message this
time

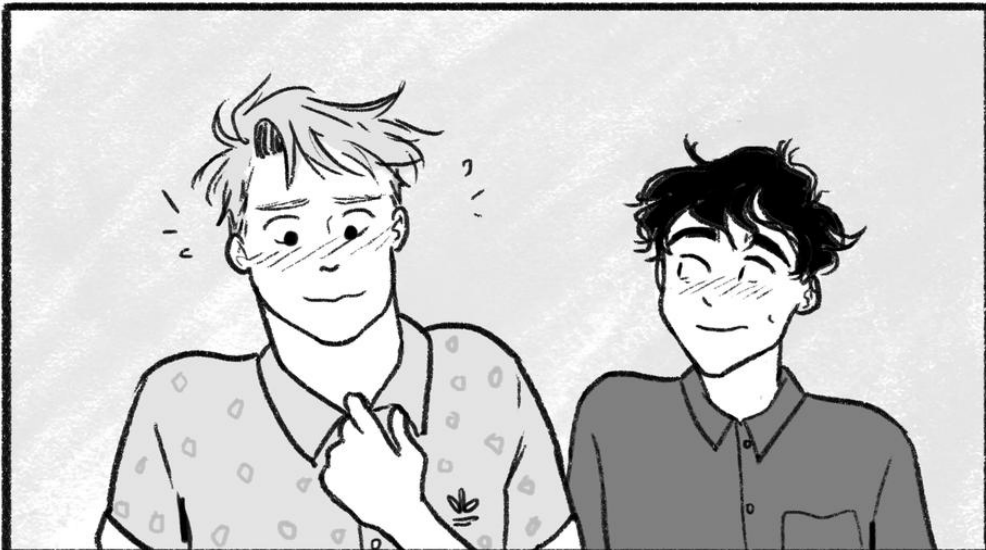






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I'll race you!



To where!?

Anywhere!

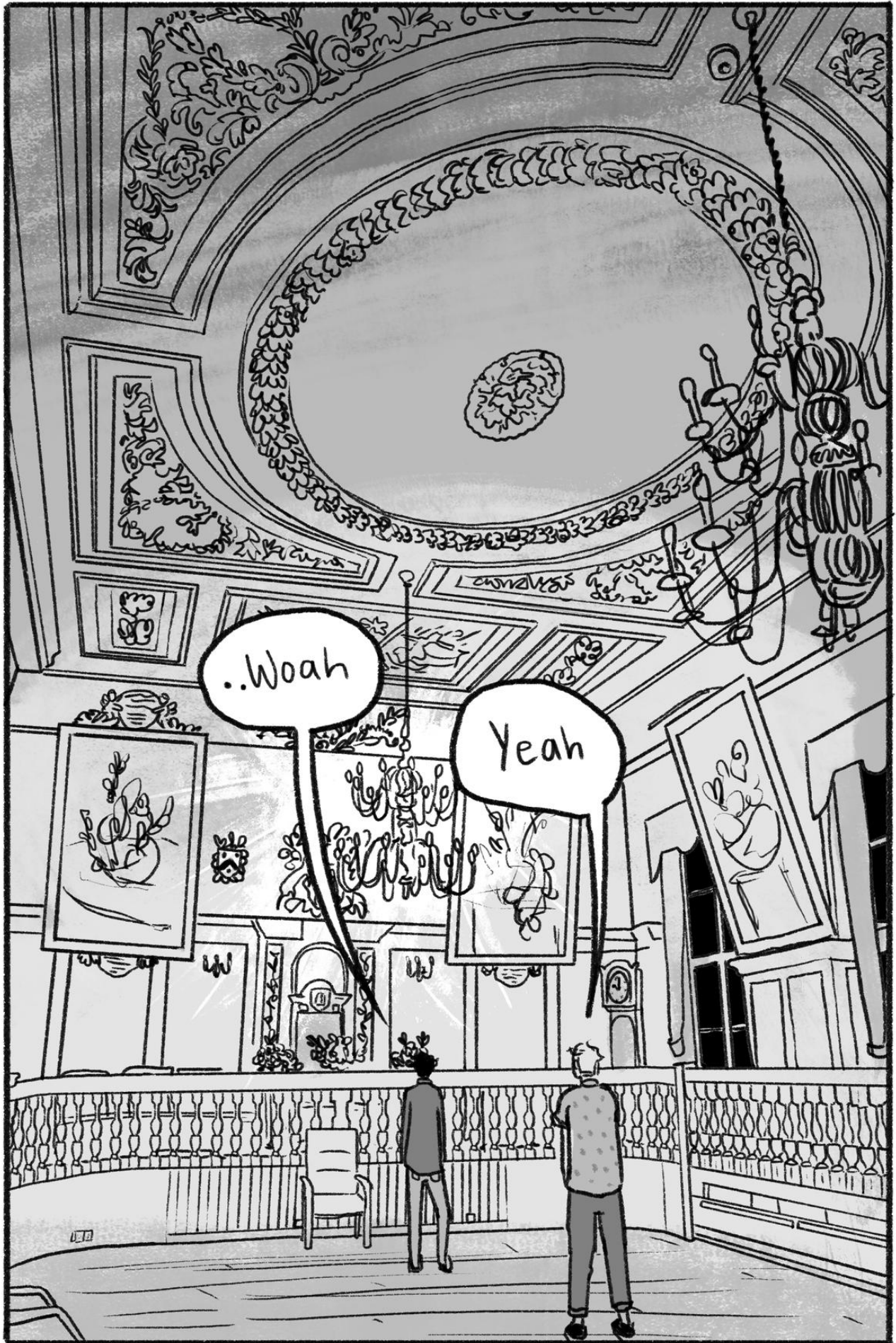


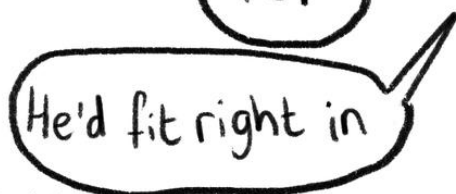
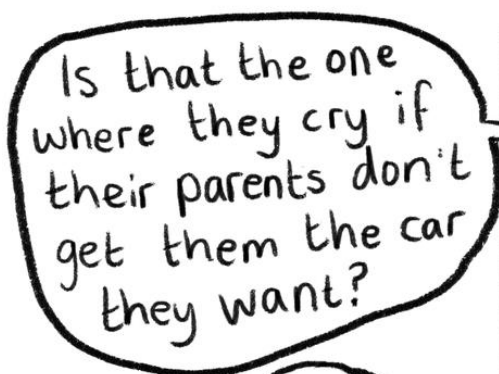
Unfair!

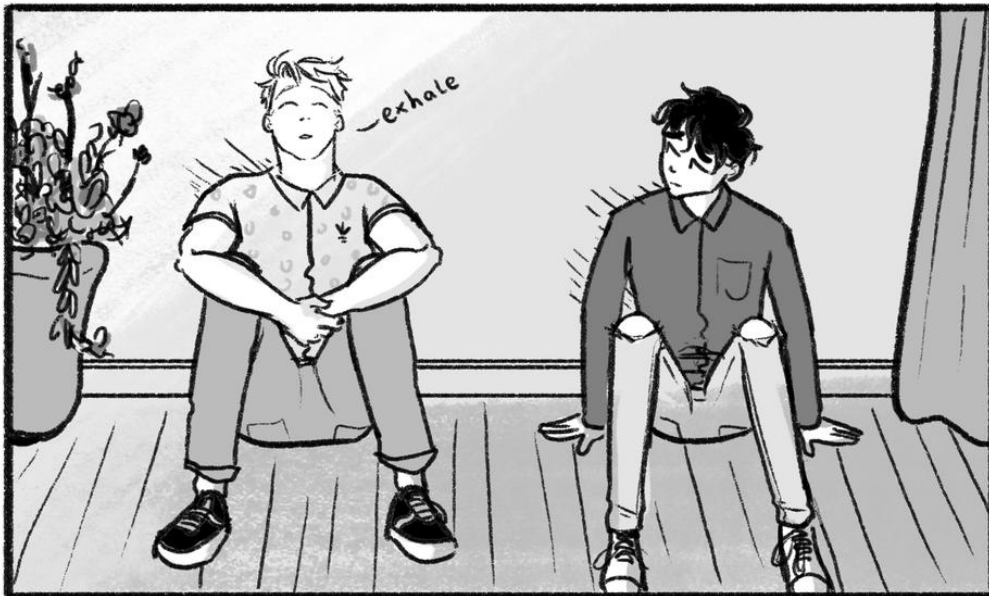
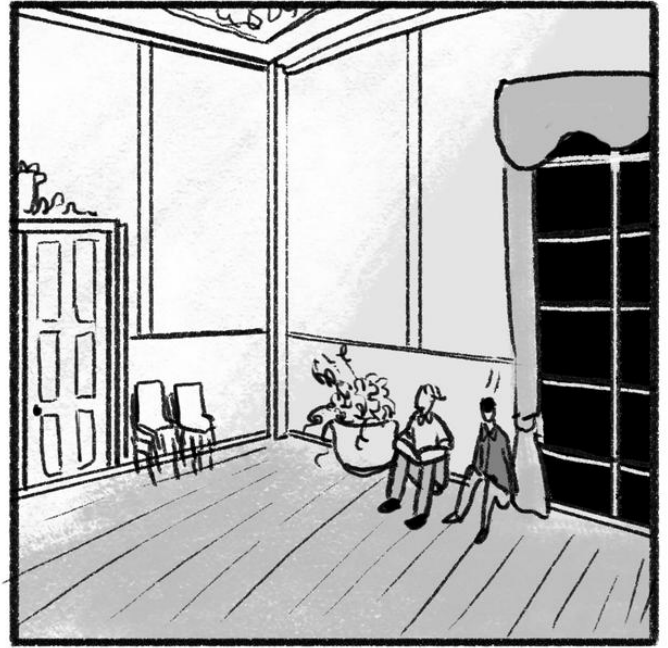
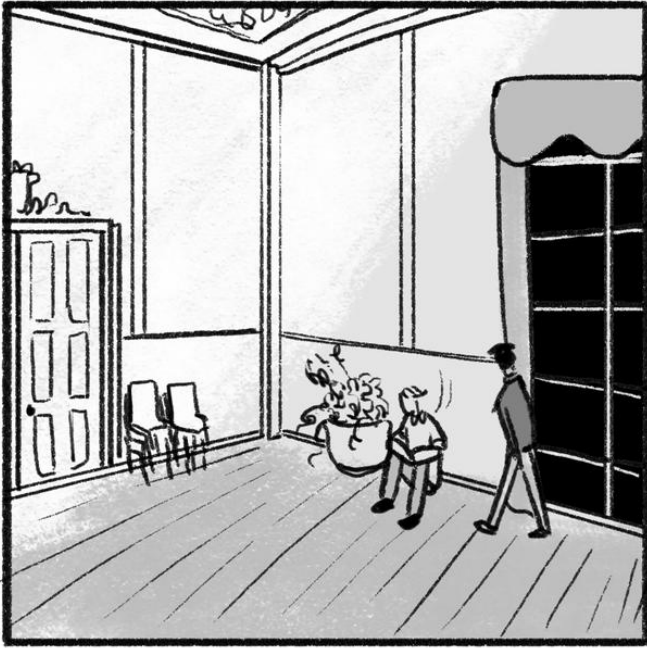
You're way faster than me!













NO! No, definitely not!

We... we kissed at a party when we were like 13 and I liked her at the time but I've honestly barely thought about her since then and I DEFINITELY don't like her that way anymore!



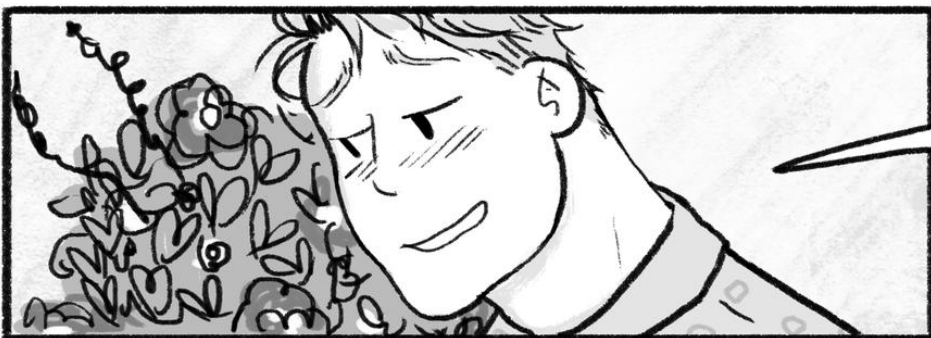
Ah...
Okay...



Um...
So...



... you don't
have a crush
on anyone
at the
moment?



Well... I
didn't say
THAT...



but... I've looked around
had a crush on a girl called
Higgs school for like 3 years

Haha...
what's
she
like,
then?



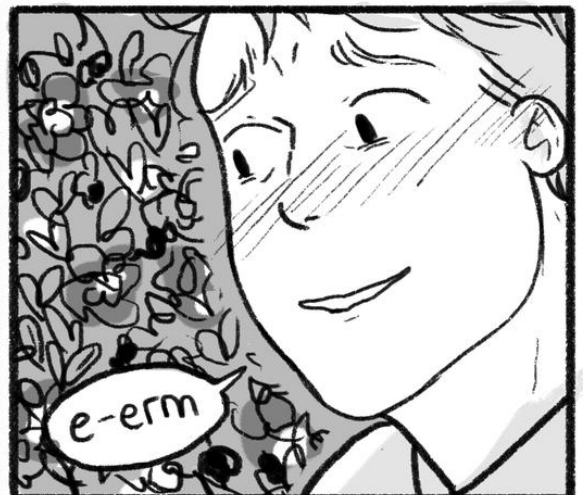
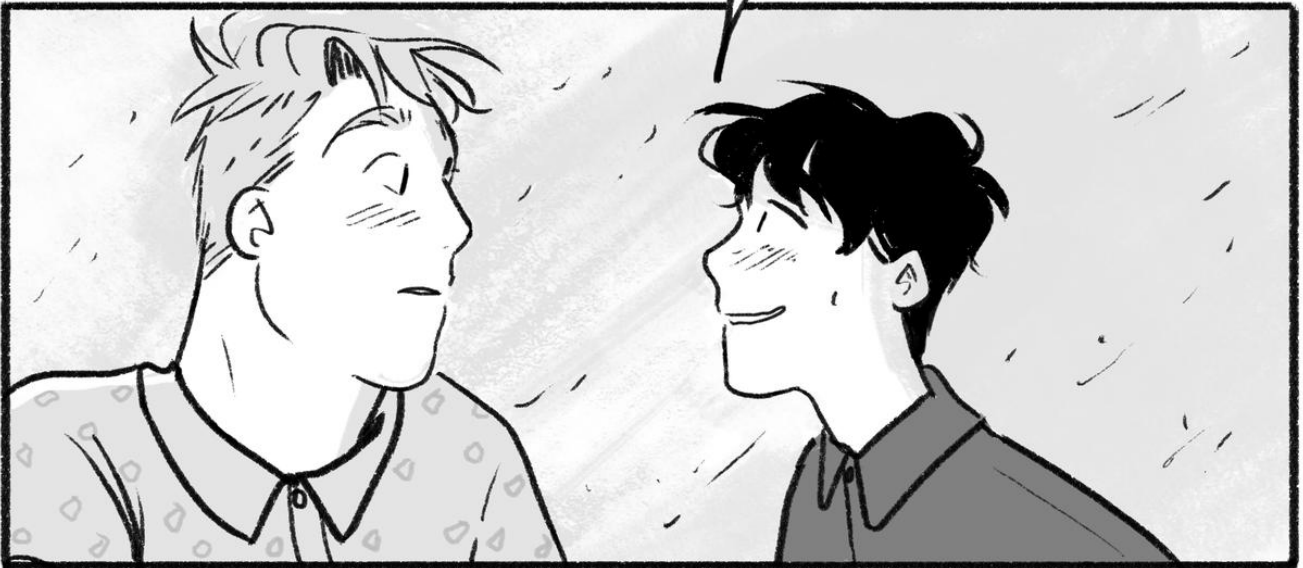
242



You're
just gonna
assume
they're
a she?



not a girl?



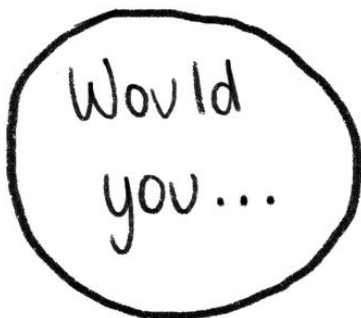
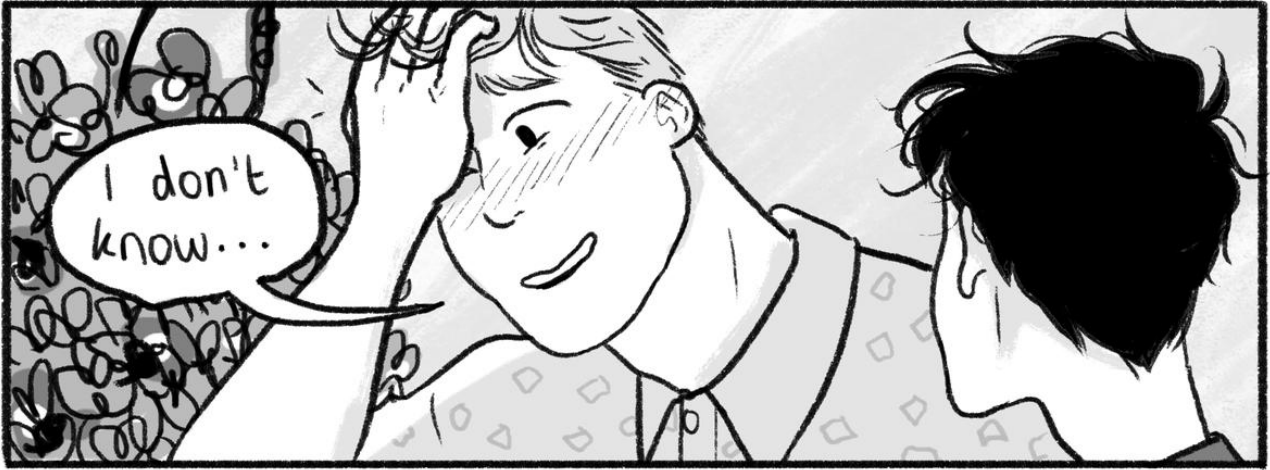


Would you...

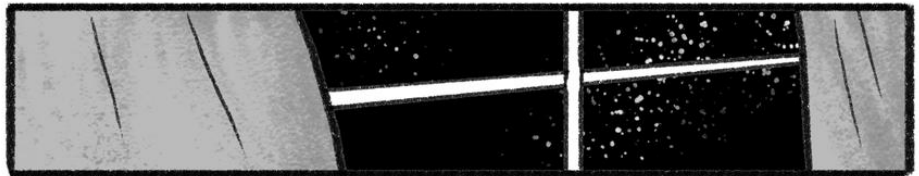
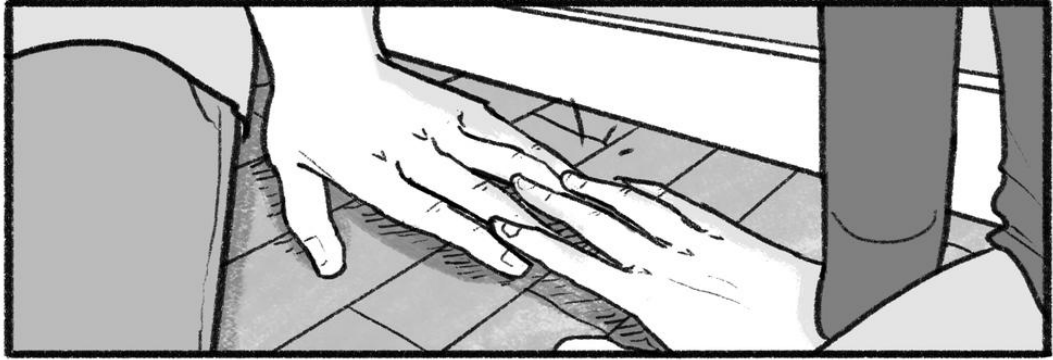


...go out with someone who wasn't a girl?



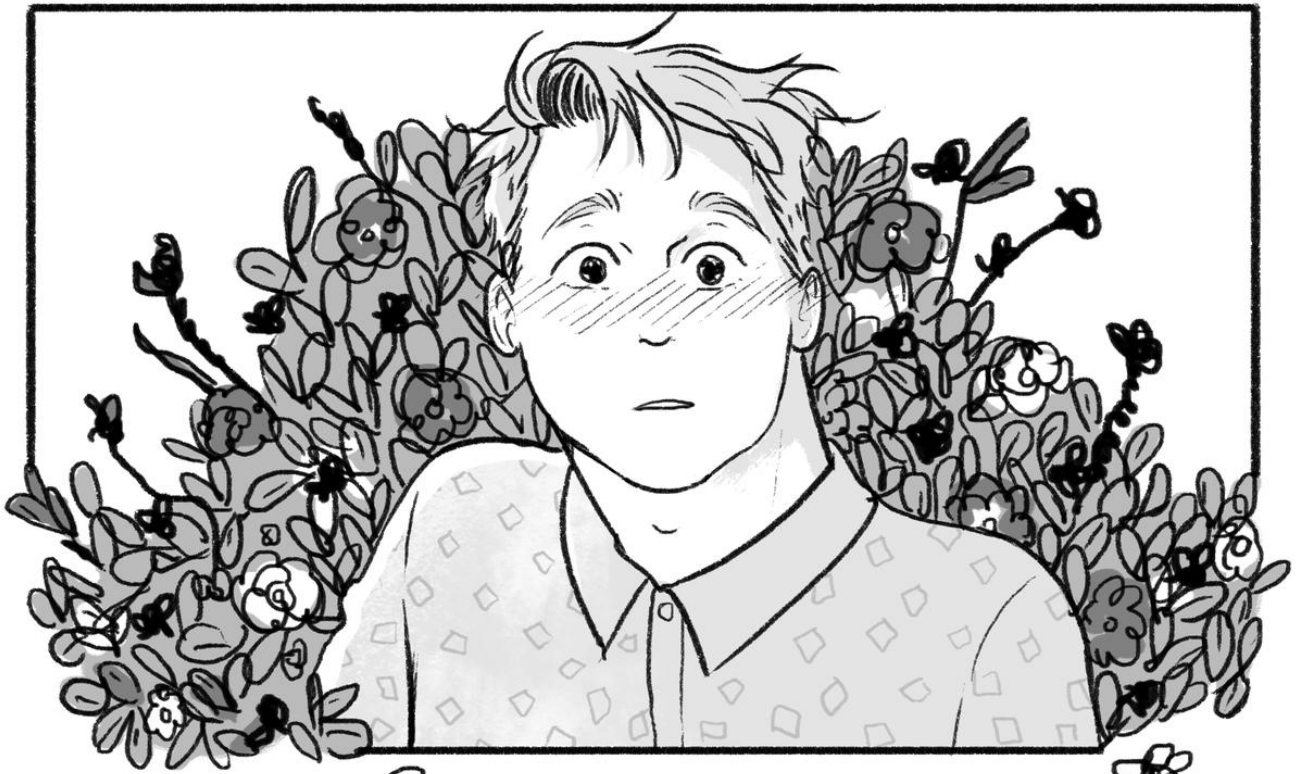




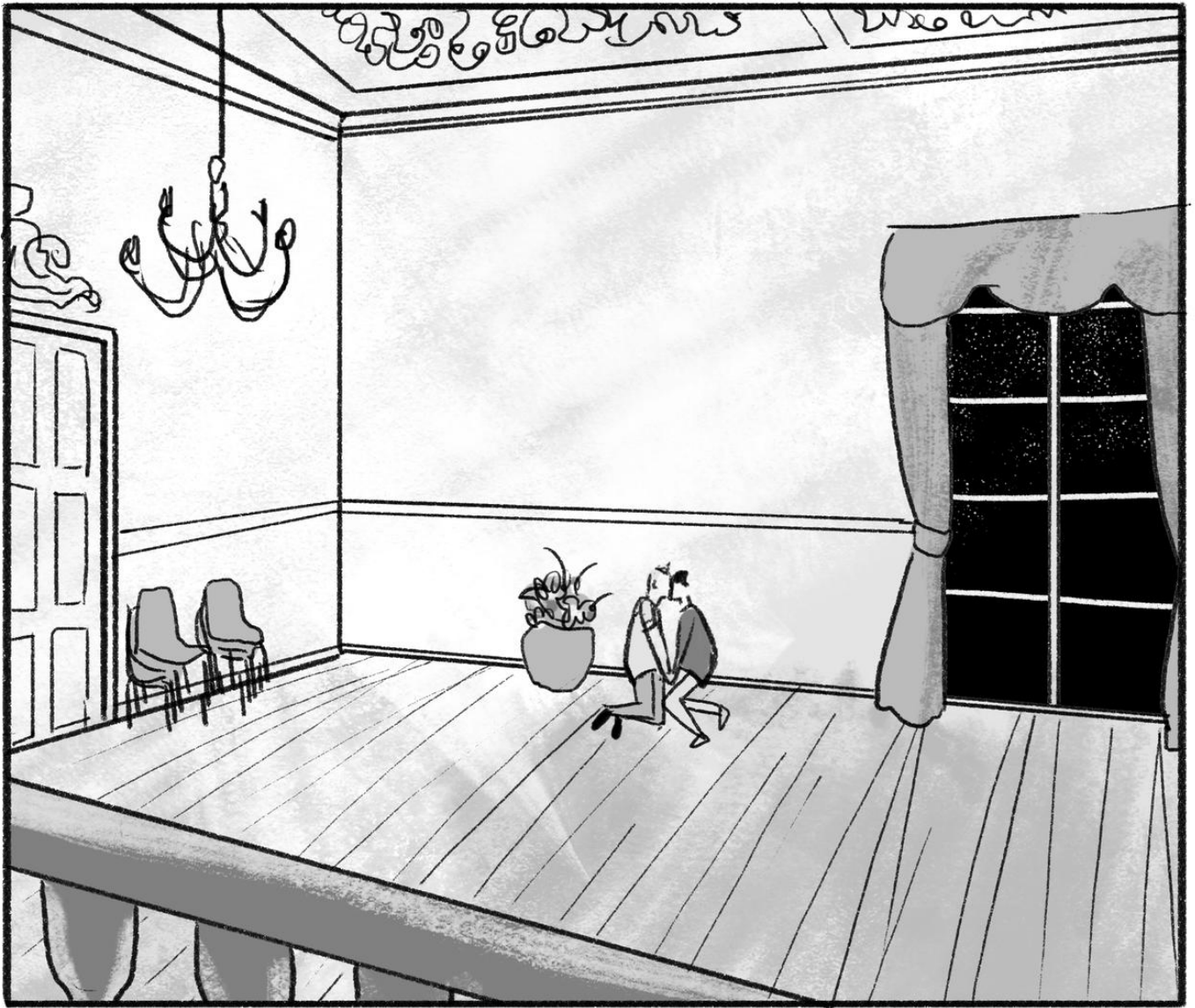


Would
you
kiss
me?









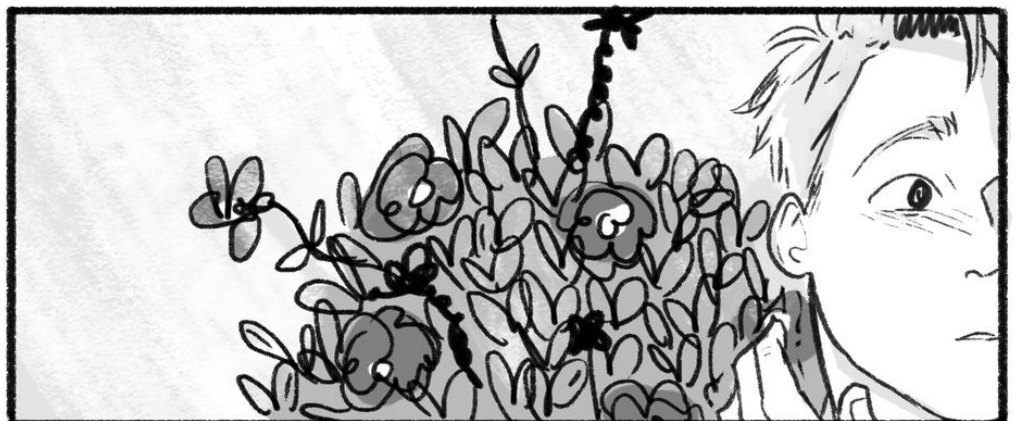












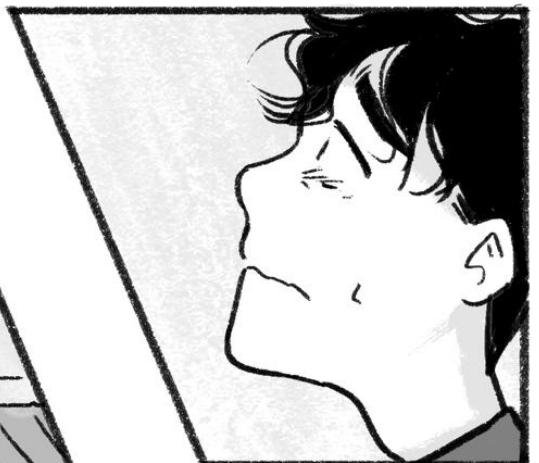
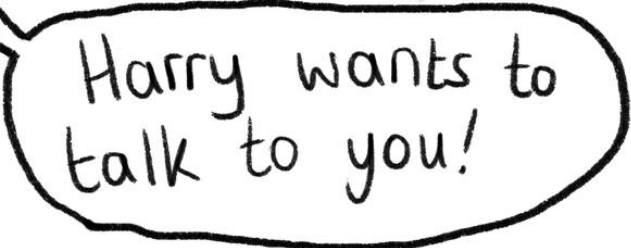


I-



Nick?
Are you
up here?





Come on,
Nick!!



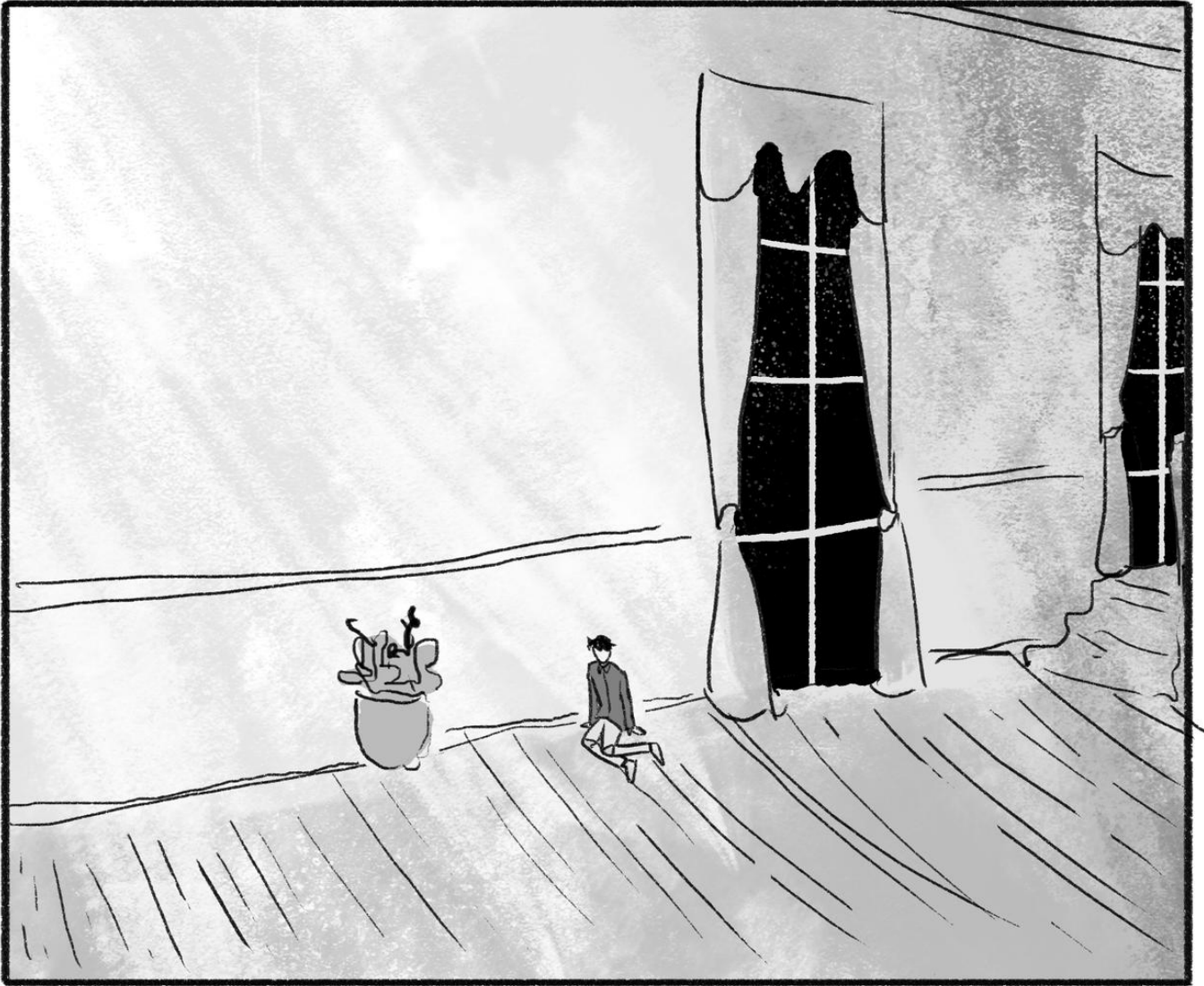
Why are
you
hiding?





SHUT





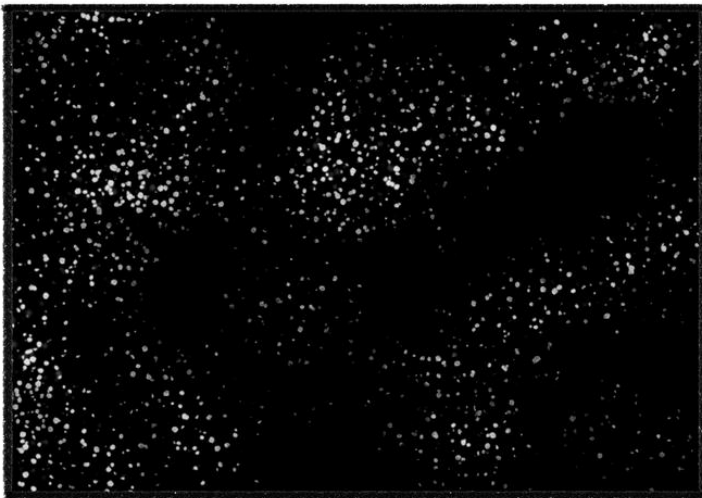


I'm
sorry





I'm
sorry



I'm
sorry