

VOLUME
2

HEARTSTOPPER

ALICE
OSEMAN



3. KISS

LATER THAT NIGHT...



sniff





ugh...
sniff



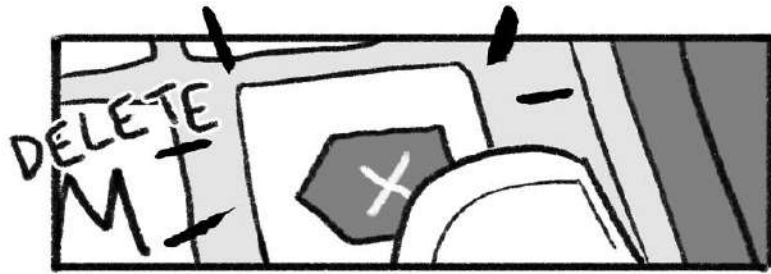




fuck







fuck

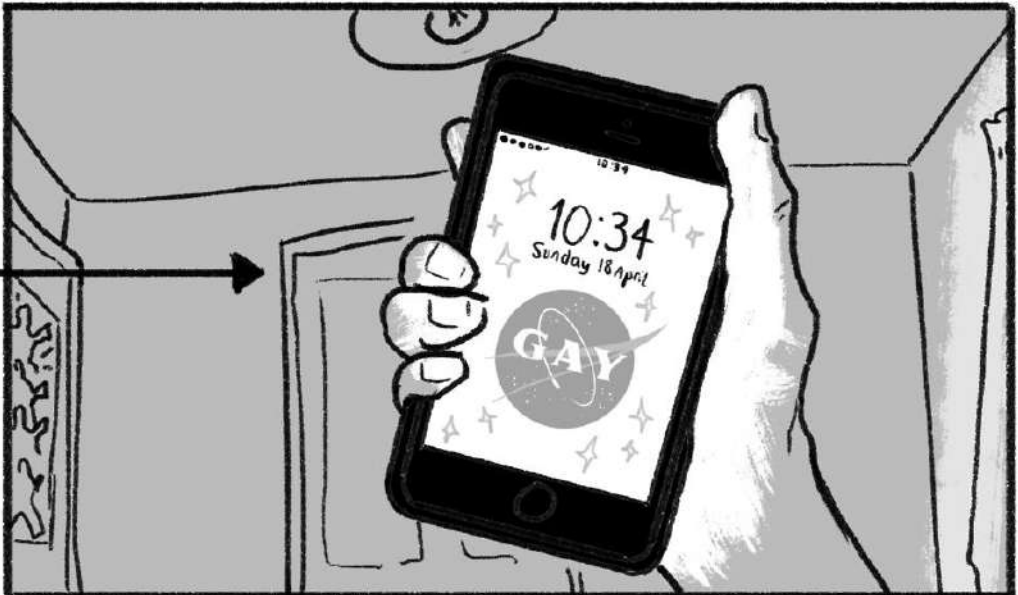


THE NEXT MORNING

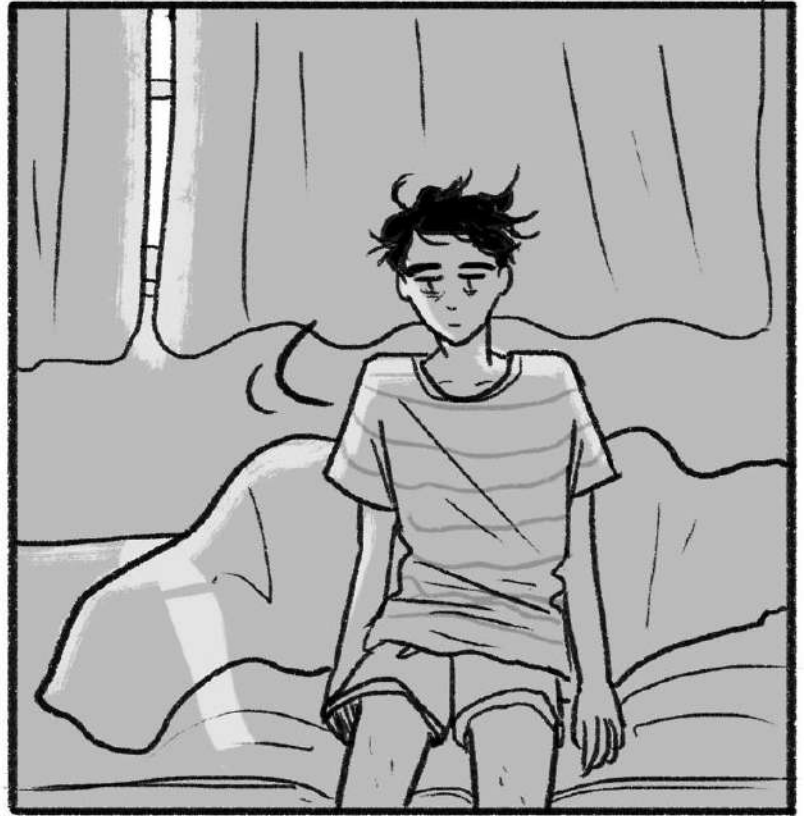
< 2
HOURS
OF
SLEEP



NO
NEW
MESSAGES



Sigh





! DING DONG !



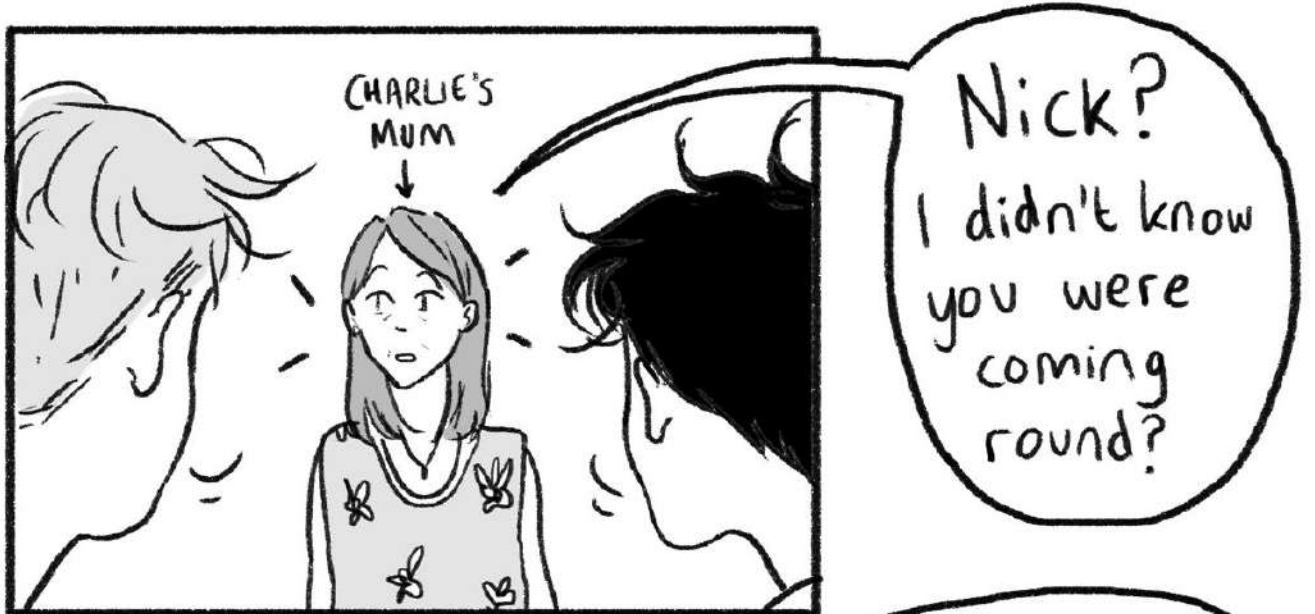






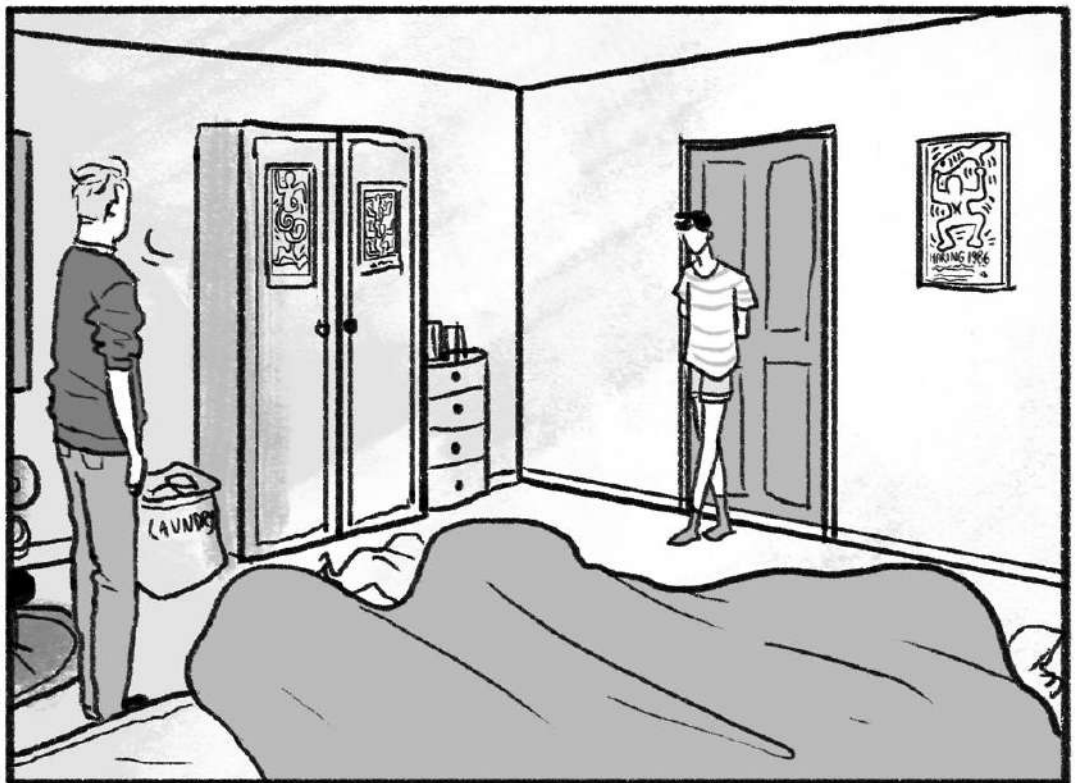
just- just
come in



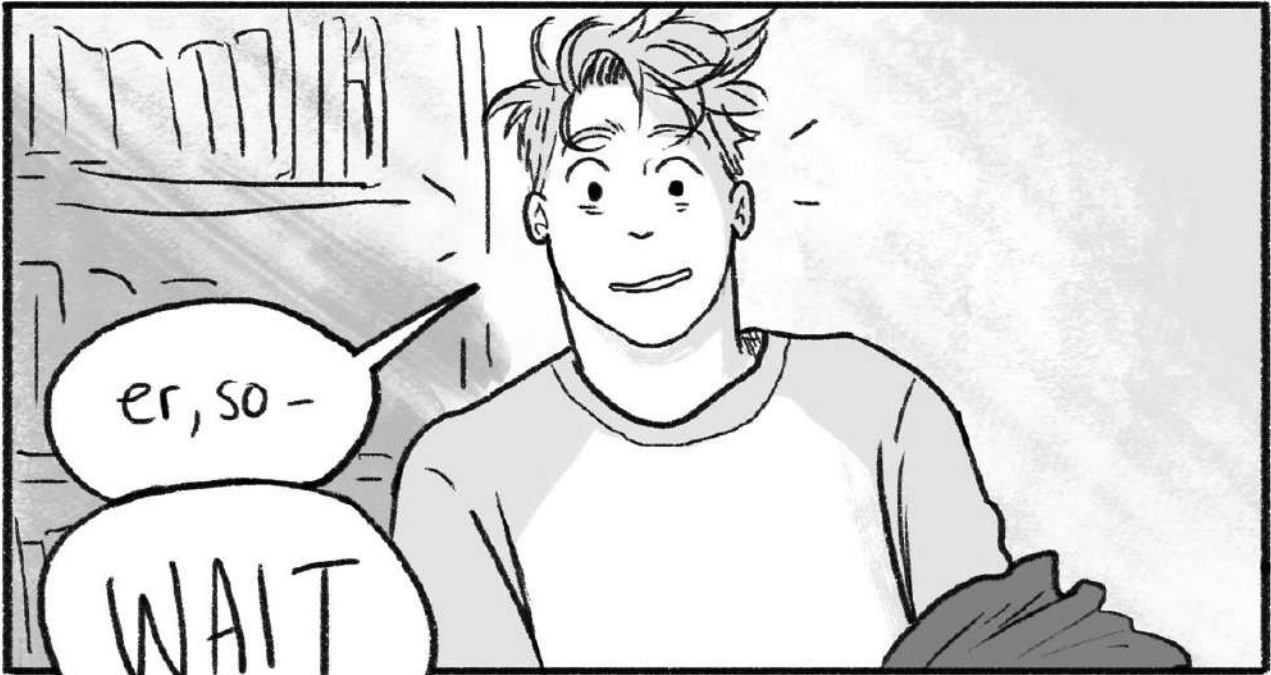




* deep
breath *







er, so -

WAIT

Can I speak first?

I'm just



SO SORRY





I'm so sorry, it was- I didn't think properly about what I was doing and it was a stupid thing to do and-



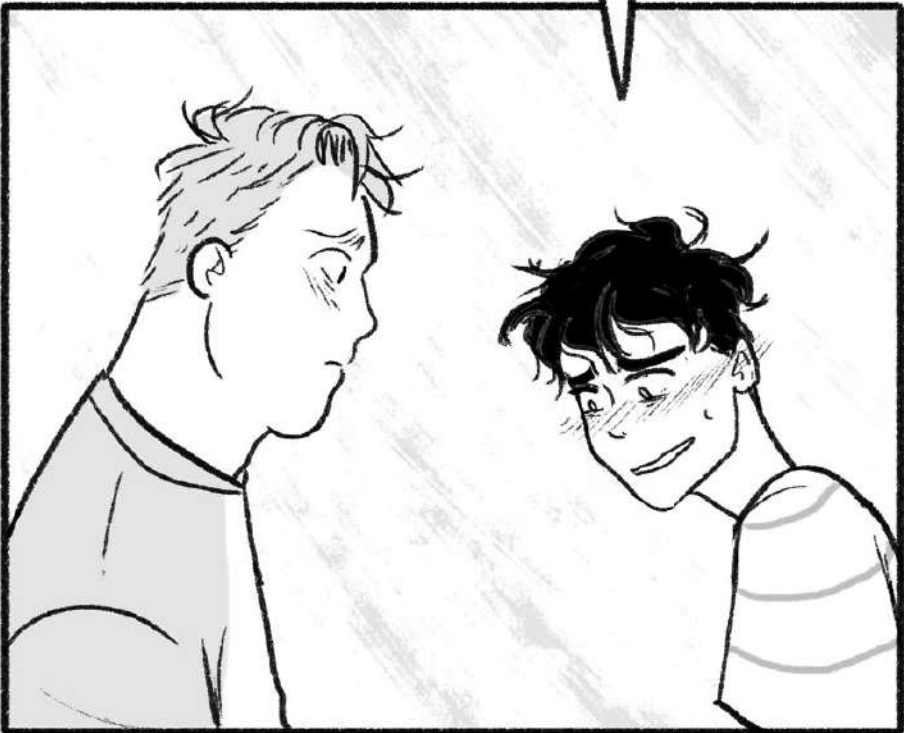
a-and I don't want you to feel awkward about it because it was all my fault







but I had to at least say sorry



a-and see if maybe-

Charlie-

-there's a chance we could still be friends









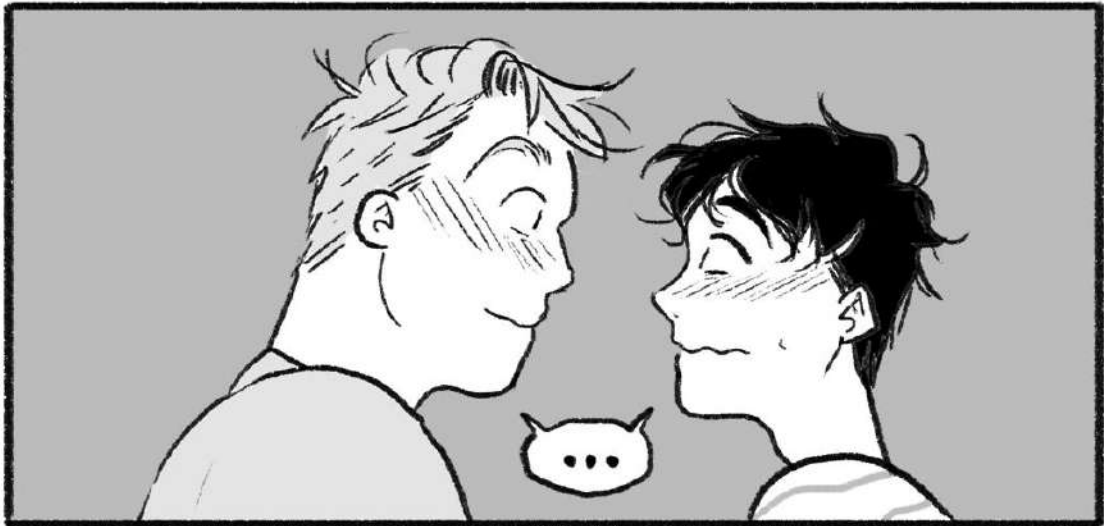




* exhale *







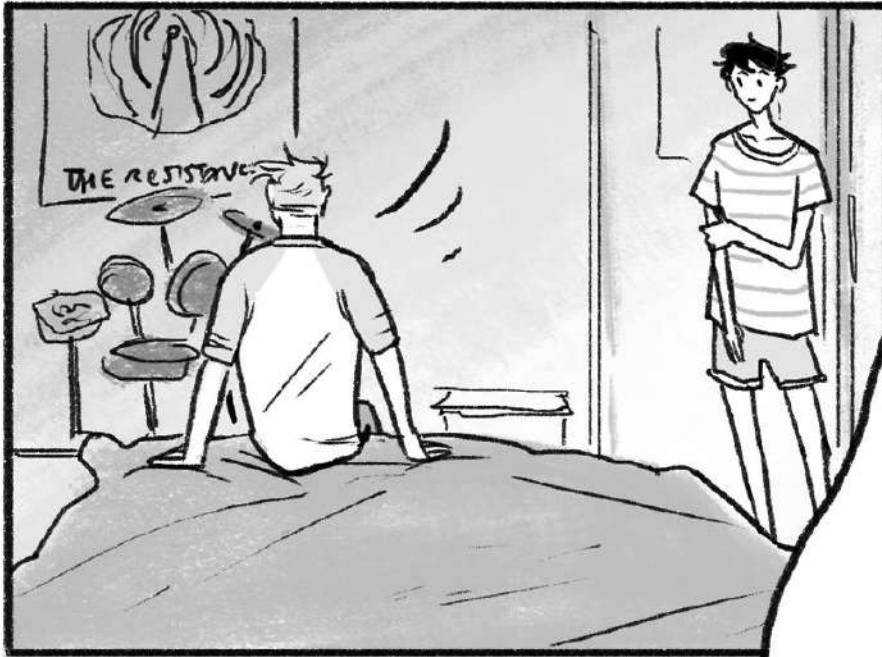




I'm just...



SO SORRY
I ran away was just
FREAKING OUT
like honestly
I am having
a proper
full-on
GAY CRISIS



It's not
that I
didn't
want to..

you know...





I was just
so confused..

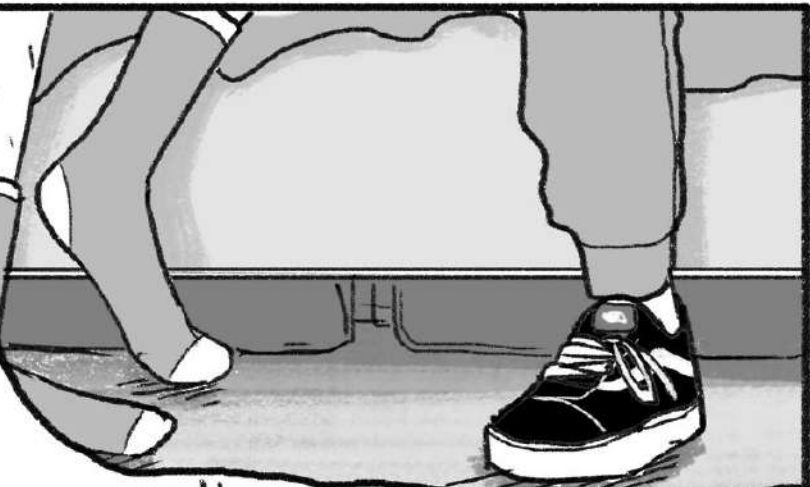


I've just
been
so, so
confused..

A-and I didn't expect that to happen yesterday



It's not like I didn't WANT to but I



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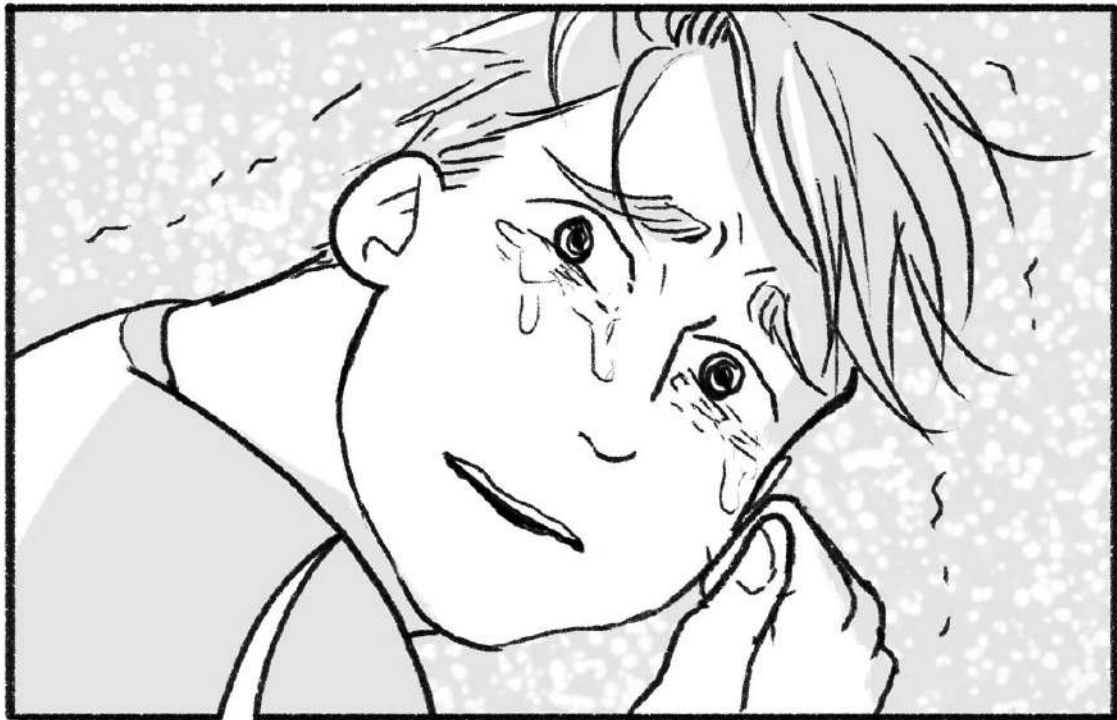
hadn't really psyched myself up and then bloody Sai turns up and I wanted to stay with you, but.. b-but...



but I didn't want
other people to- to
see us doing that



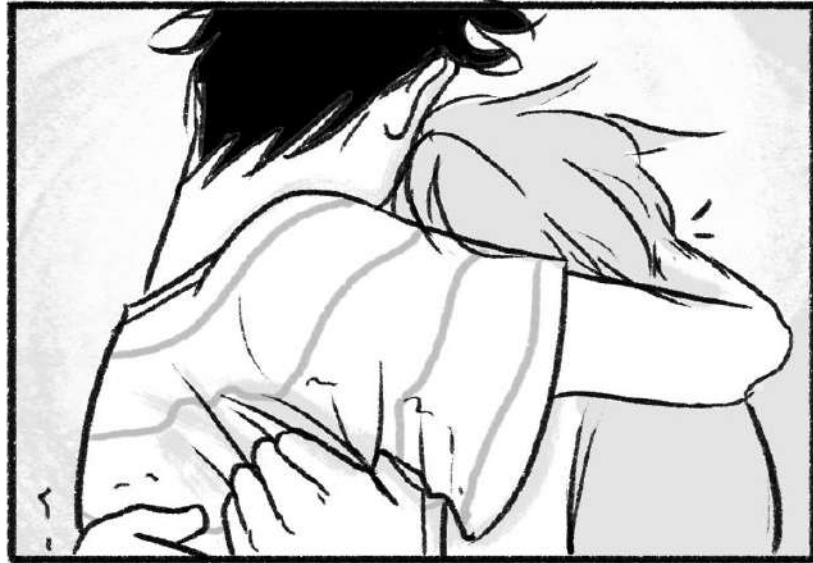
I mean, I'm not
ashamed, I'm just..
it was just...



I j-just need some
time to figure this out







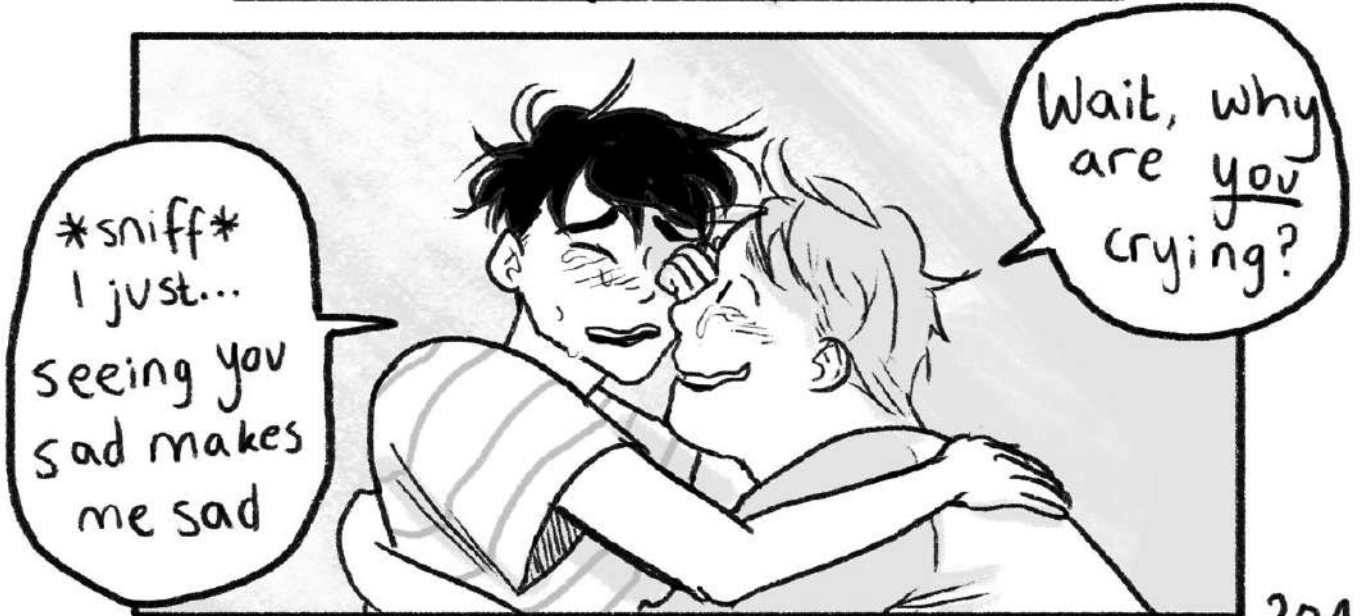
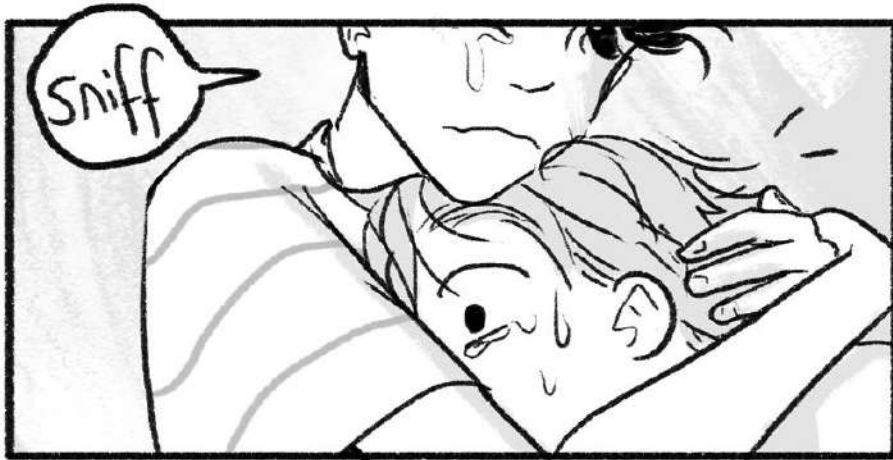
I'm sorry

It's okay



It's okay

- PLIP -



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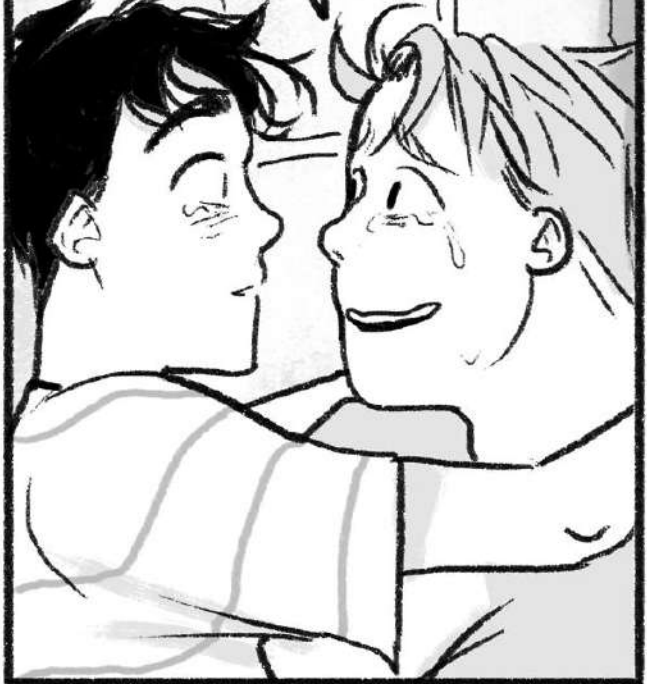




Now I've messed up
both times we've
kissed



Why can't
we just
kiss and
be happy?



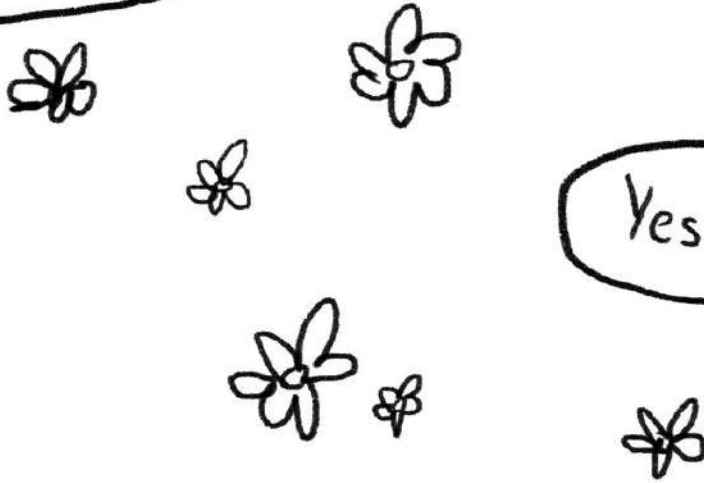
You haven't
messed
it up

And I'm
really
happy





Do you want
a cup of tea?

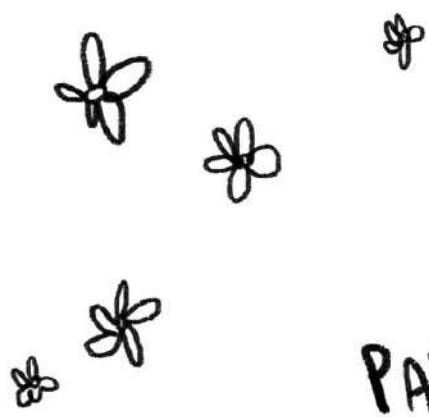


Yes please

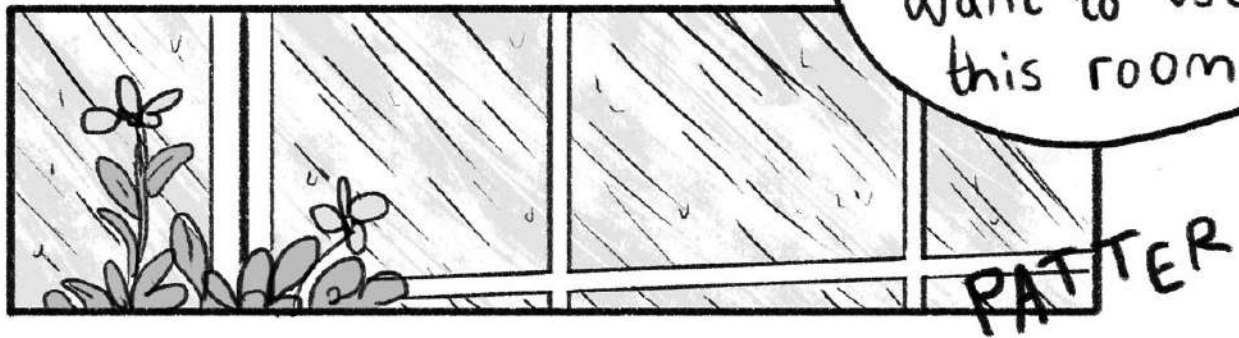








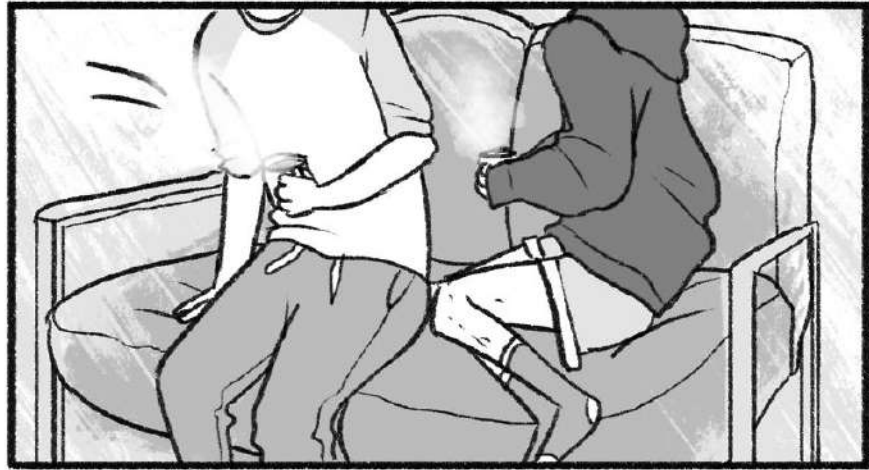
Are you sure your family won't... erm... want to use this room?



Nah, no one really sits in the conservatory in the mornings

Okay





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I guess I've always been sort of aware of it...



even when I was really young...



From my fictional crushes



to my real ones



I suppose I didn't understand it at the time, but...

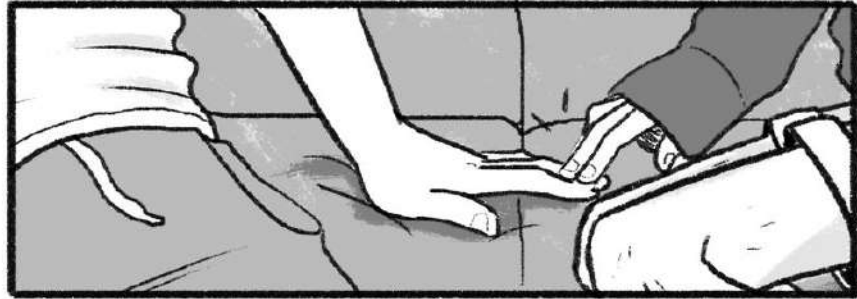
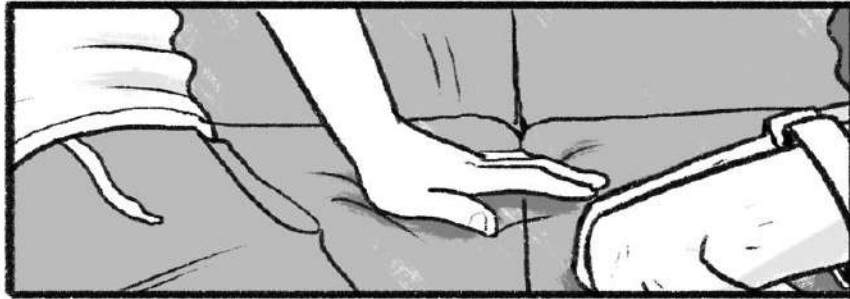


It's always been boys





I... don't know what I am...

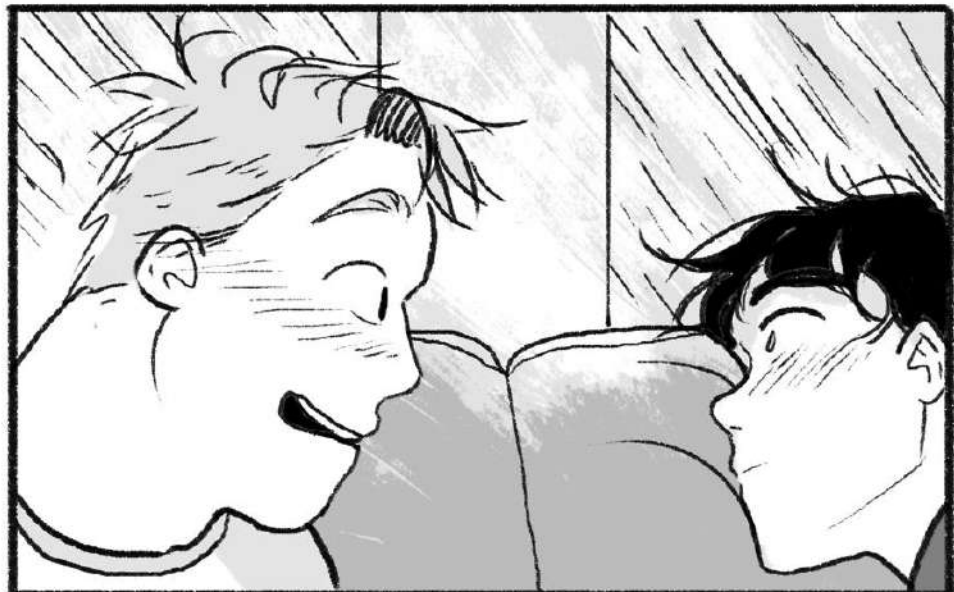


I've liked girls before ...

but now...



I like you





I'm an idiot





I thought... I just really liked you as a friend... a best friend... because, like, I want to hang out with you all the time and I just love everything about you...

but I kept wanting to... I don't know... hug you and hold your hand



and then yesterday, when you suggested it, I- I really wanted to kiss you



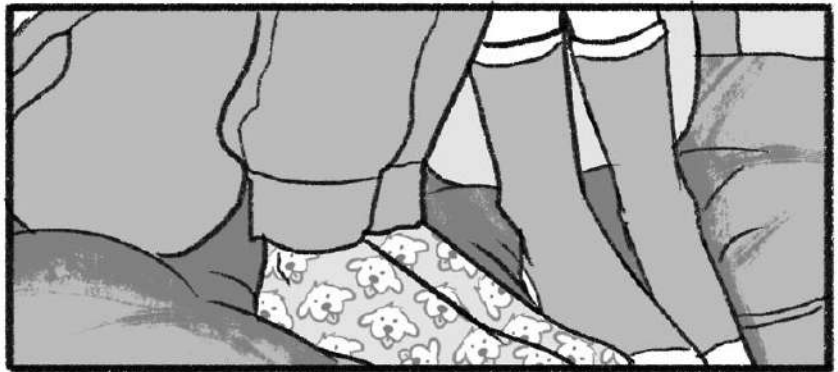
318



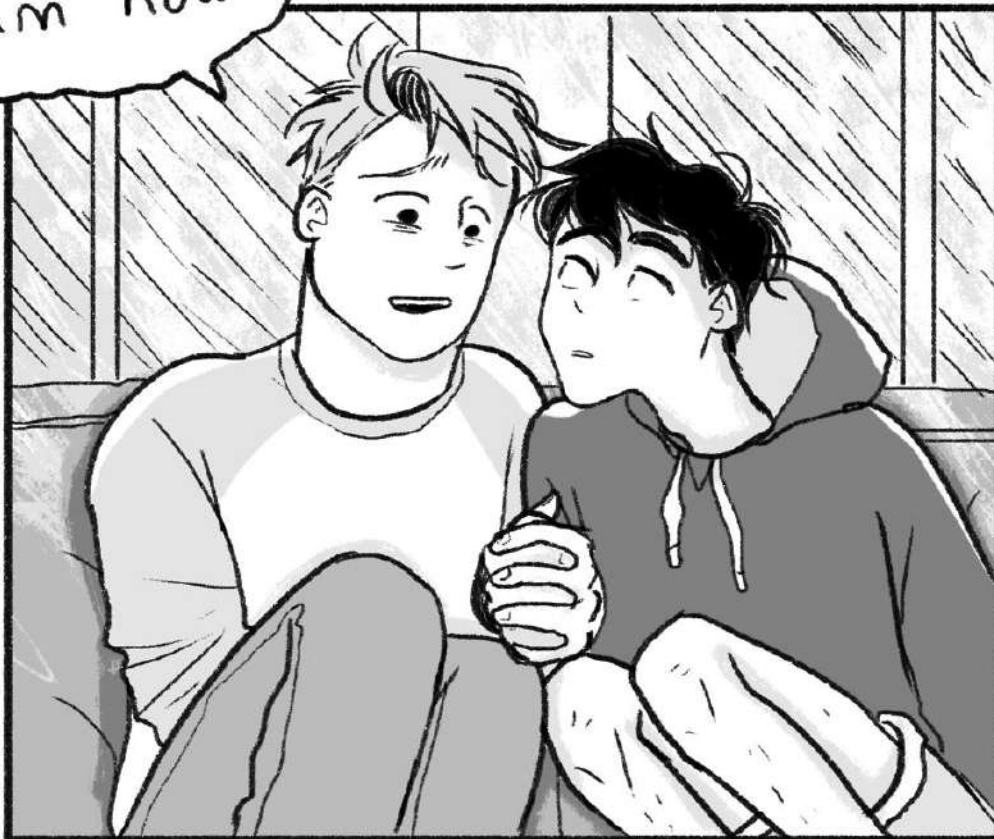


FSSSSH

I would have said something sooner, but I convinced myself you were straight.



I don't know what I am now





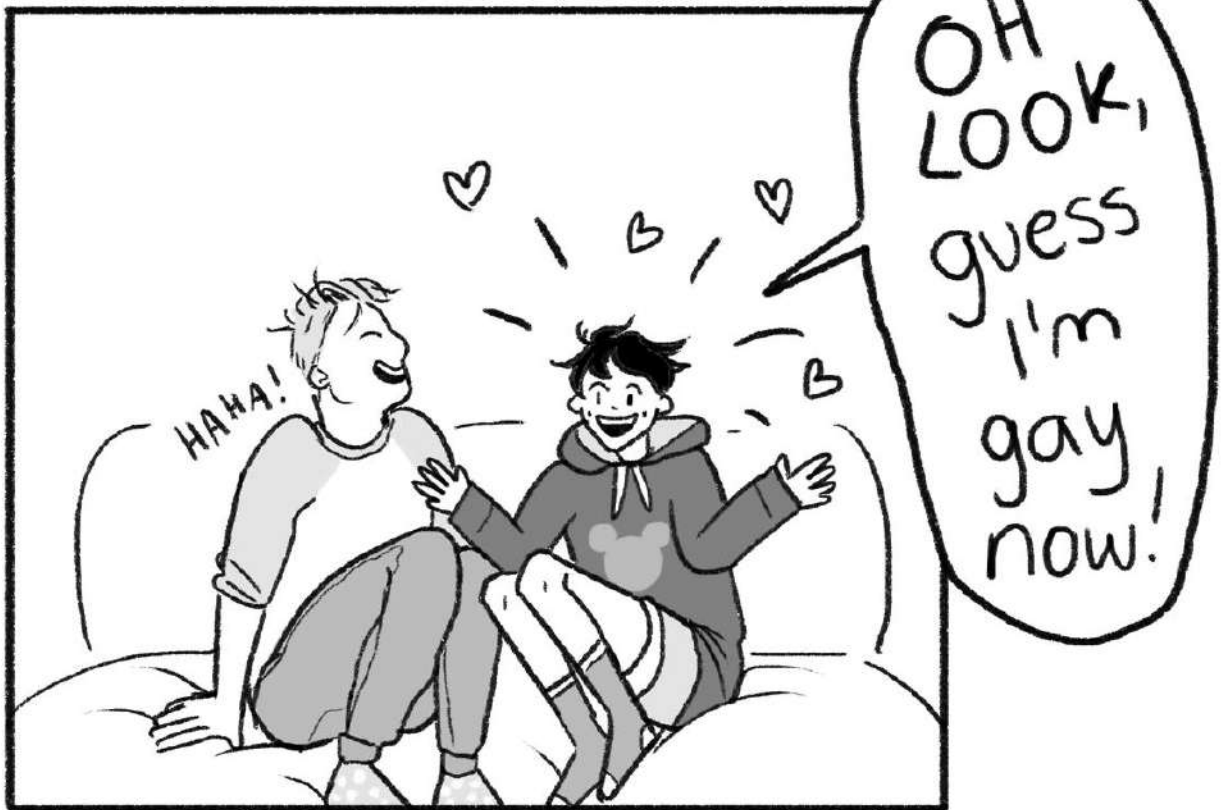
Well...
You could
be

bisexual?

o-or
something
else! There
are lots
of other
sexualities
other than
gay and
straight!



bisexual...





Well...

Sorry for being all confused



Now look who's saying sorry too much!





What do I do now?



You don't have to do anything



But I want to





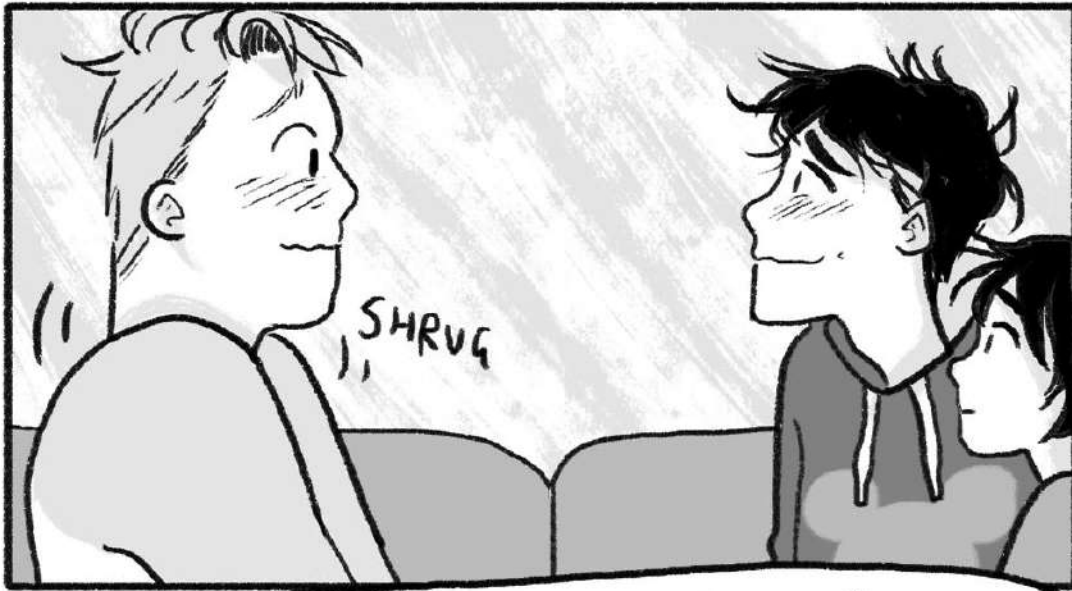












You've got to keep it a secret, okay? It can be a secret between us three!



Okay

And mum said we're leaving to go to Grandma's in five minutes





So... would it be okay if we kept us a secret? Just for a little while



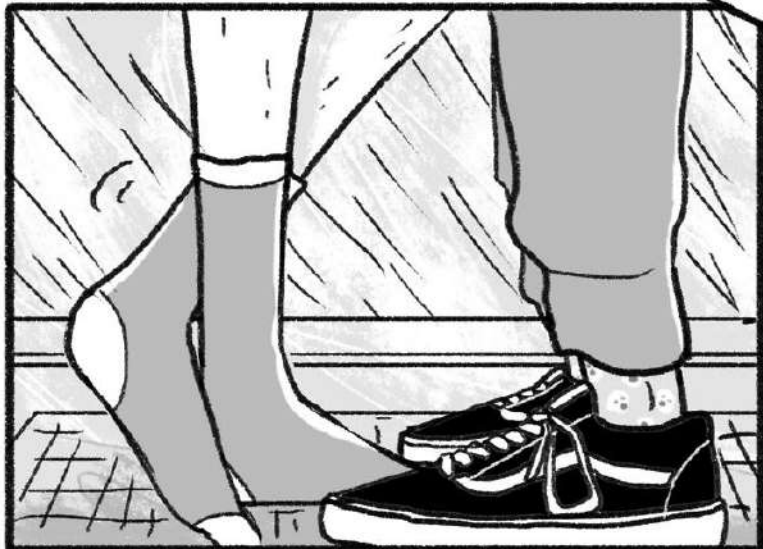


Although I wish I didn't look like an absolute MESS



You don't ...

You look.. really cute





You
always...



You always
look really
cute





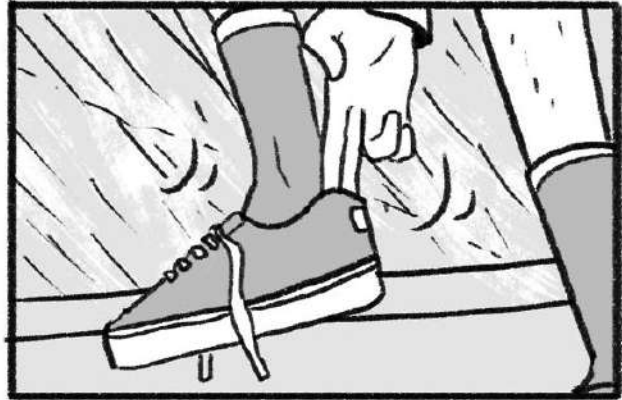


PATTER



PATTER











OKAY
BYE!

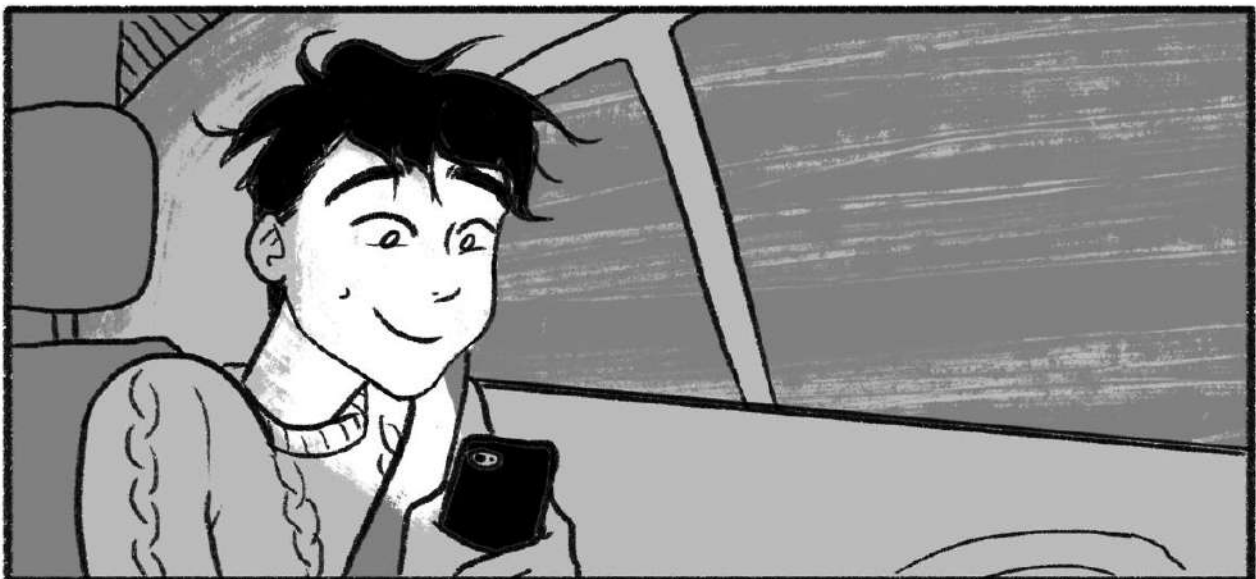


HA
HA
HA!

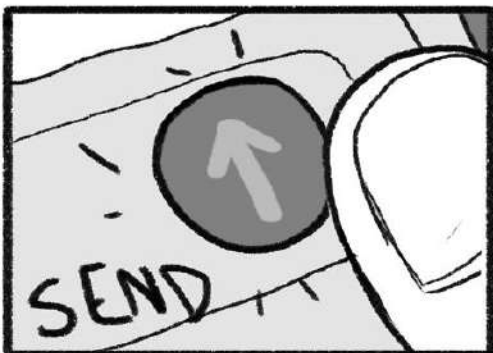


TAP
TAP
TAP

LATER...









TAP

TAP

TAP
TAP



alksjdfhajhdsf

i just died

you can't just send
me that without
warning!!!!!!

HA

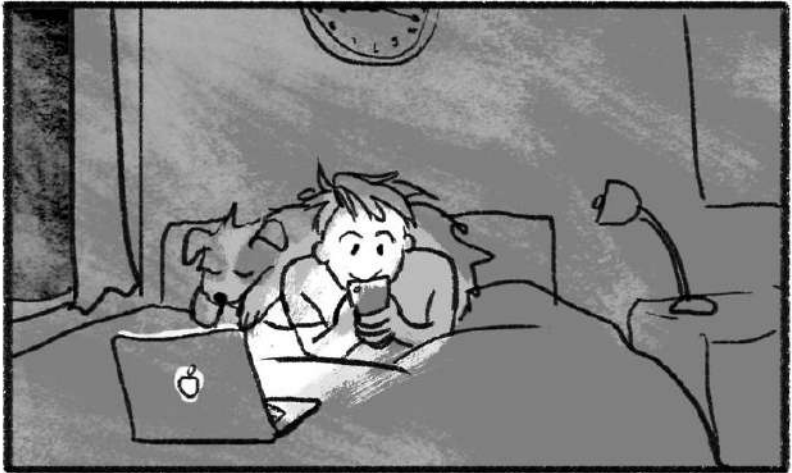
HA

HA



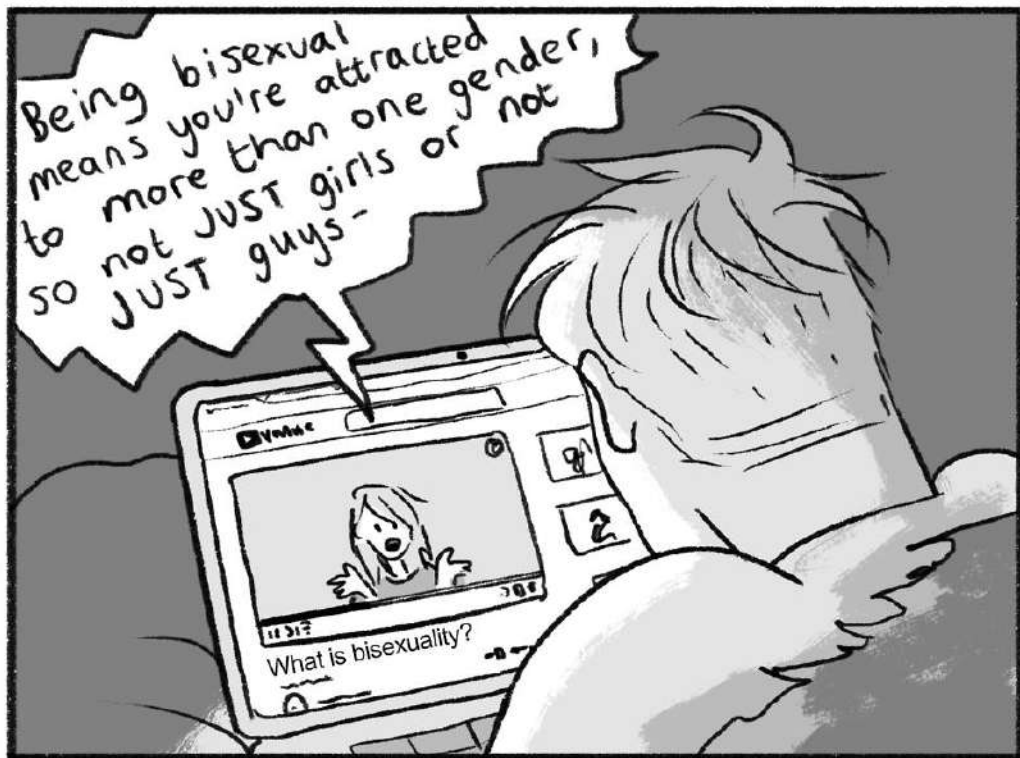
yeah you know i'm only getting with you so i can see Nellie right

I KNEW IT



Who are you texting?

NO ONE





MONDAY

hi

hi





TUESDAY



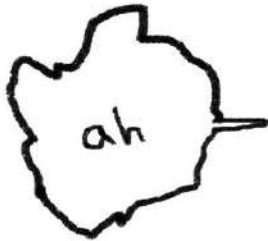
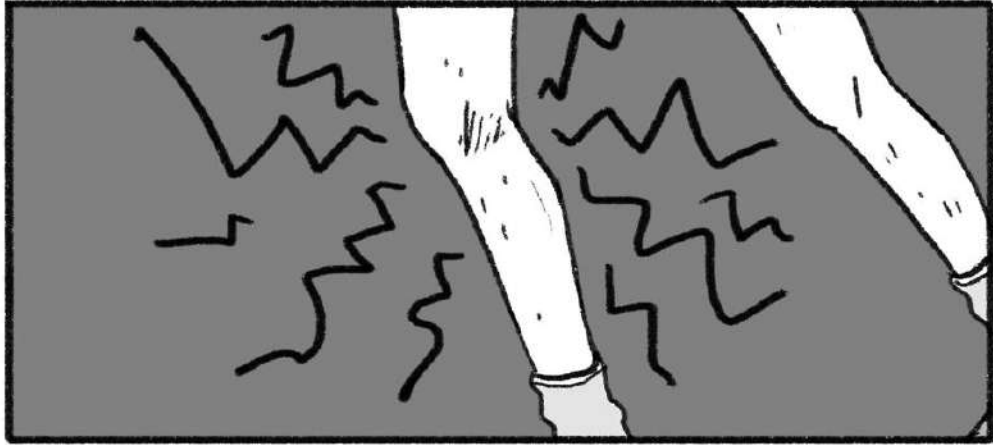
WEDNESDAY



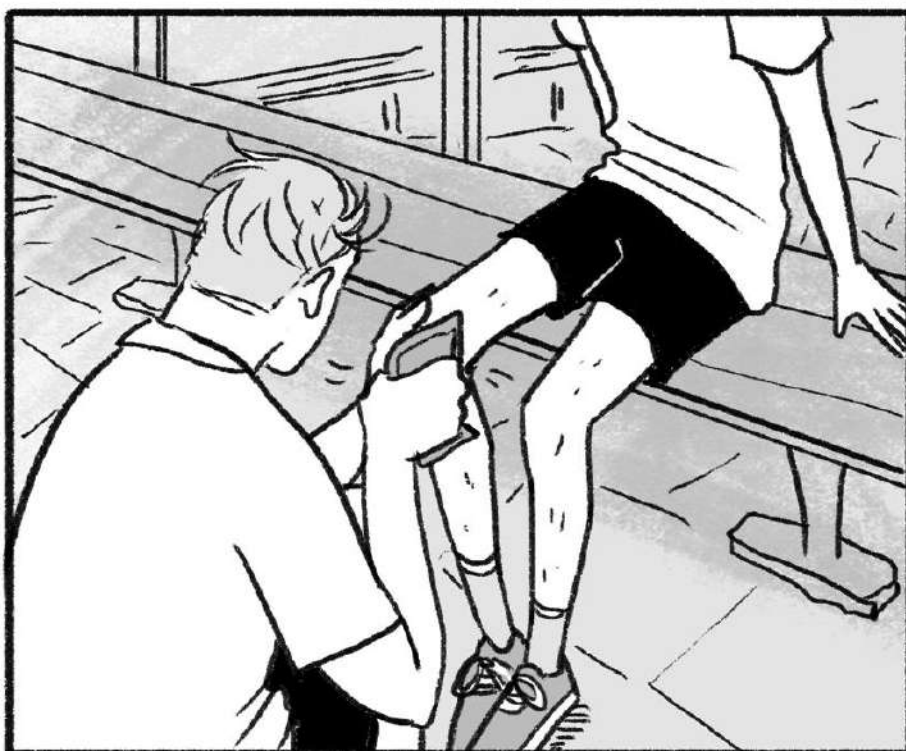


CHARLIE!!







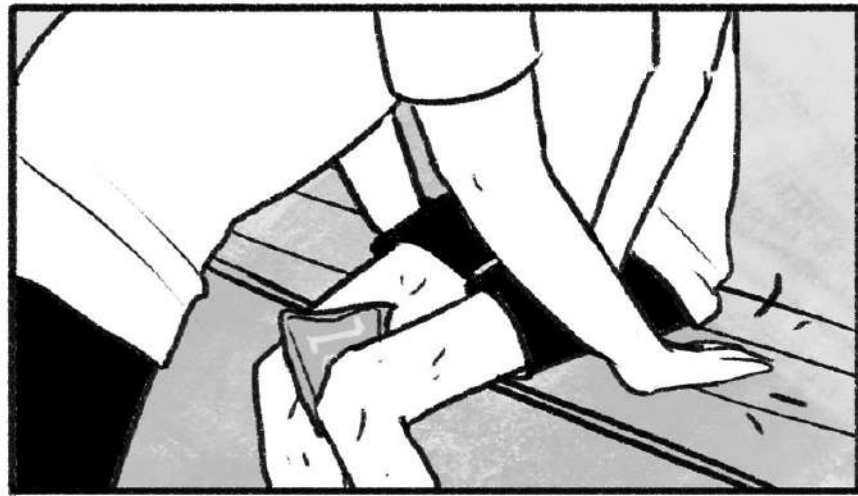






I promise I'm not doing anything I don't want to do

Just because I want to keep us a secret doesn't mean we have to start ignoring each other



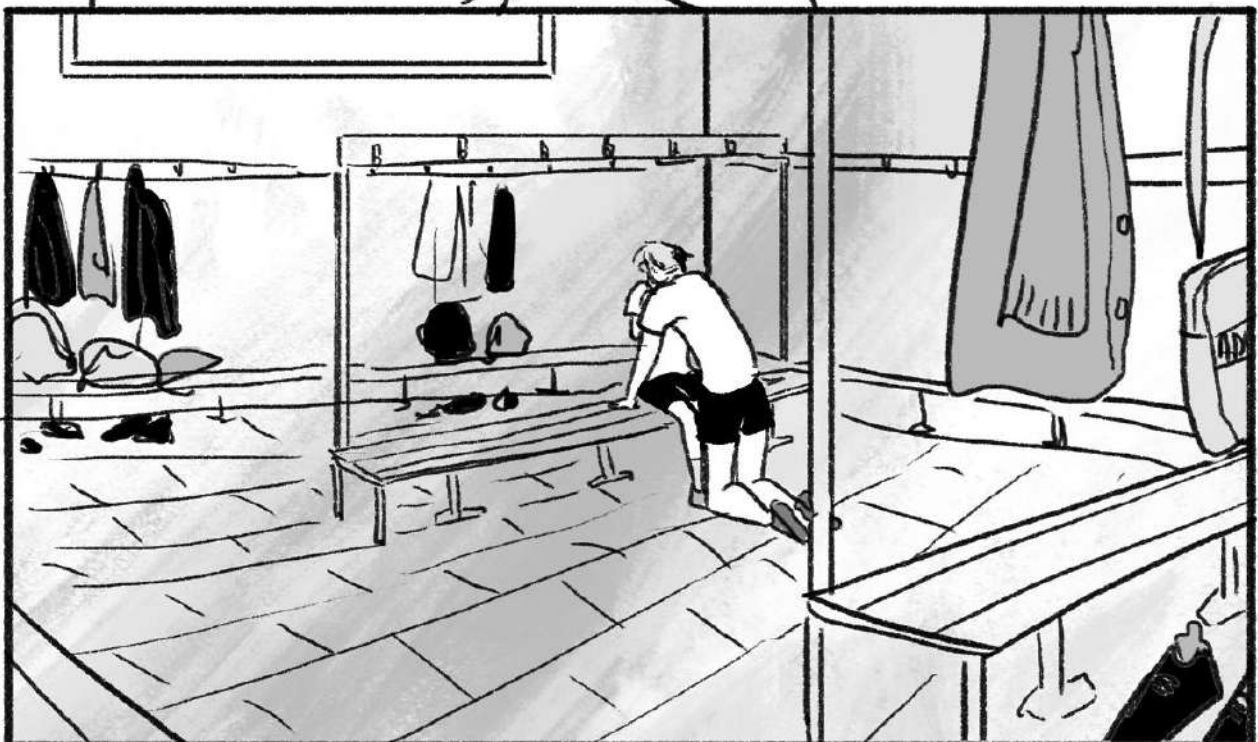
Also...

We're not really acting any different to before we kissed



apart from doing stuff like this

I... I guess so







THURSDAY



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I've been reading about it all week and..

.. I think that might be me

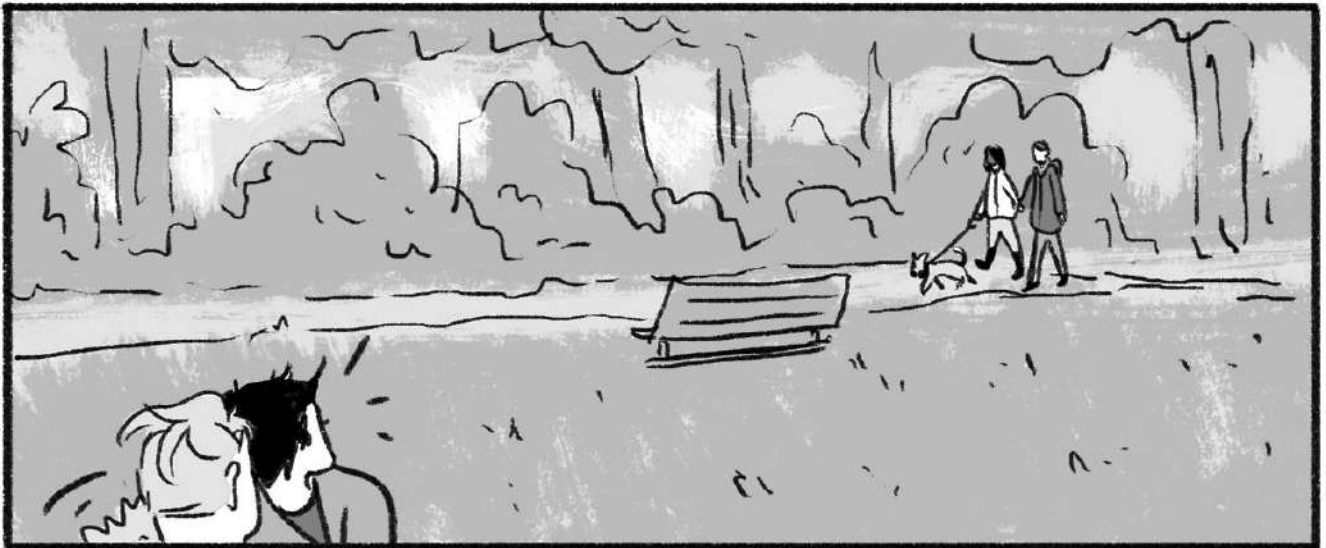


but I'm still not sure

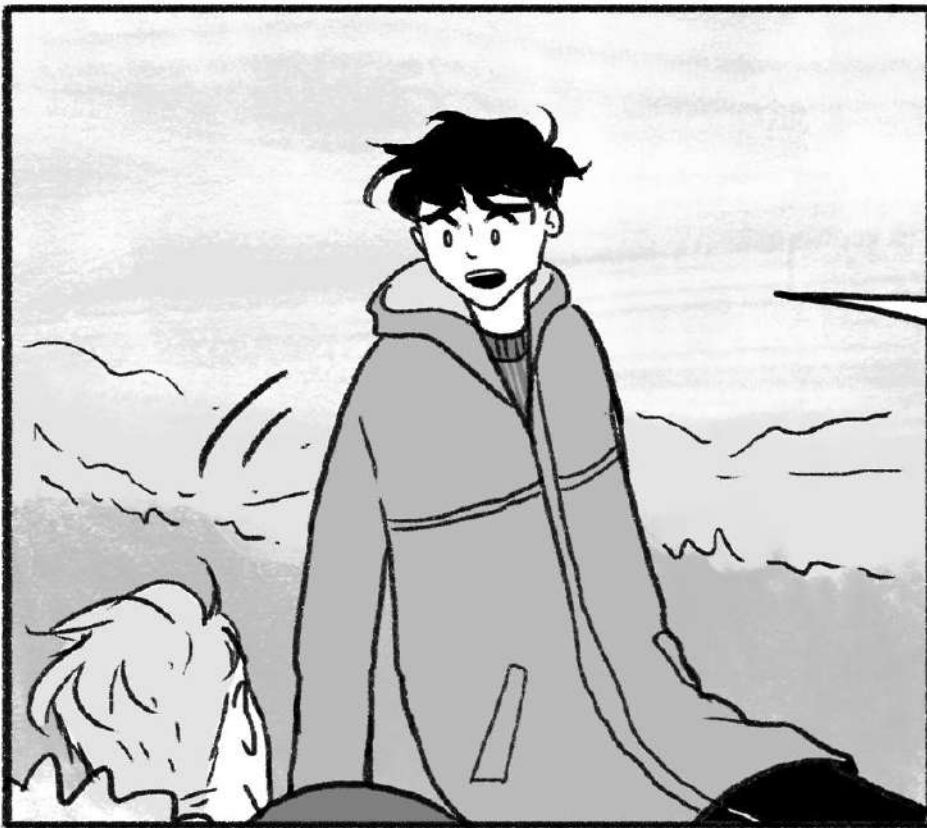




RUSTLE







Don't
be
sorry!!



I feel
bad...



Nick.
I understand.
I promise.



Can I have an extra kiss when we get back to your house?



y-yeah!!

boof?



FRIDAY

So... it's kind of my birthday next Tuesday



me and my friends are going bowling tomorrow



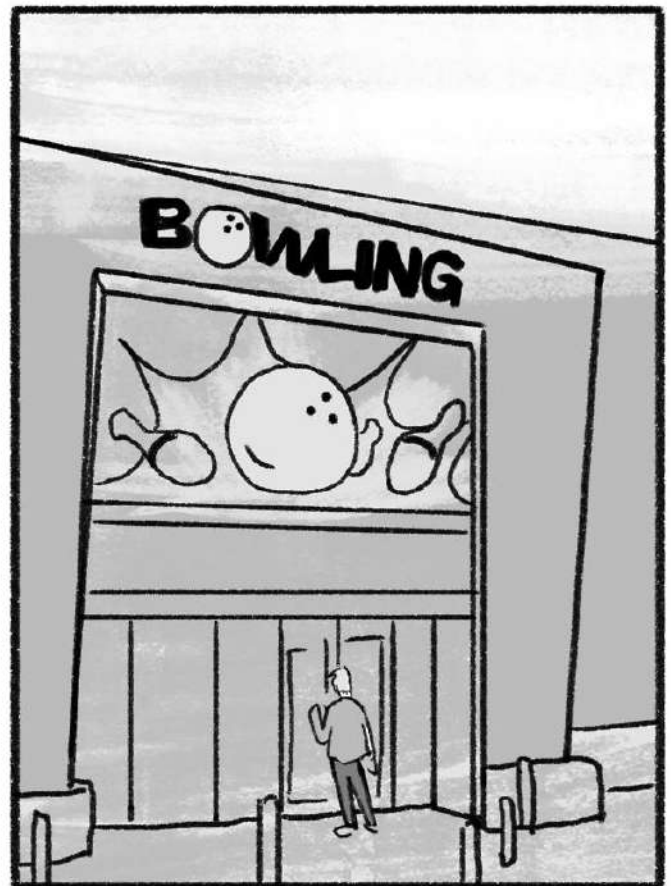
and.. um.. I was gonna ask if you wanted to come but I know you don't really know my friends so you don't have to-





Yeah, Charlie's Dad's dropping me home

Okay! Have fun!





Hey!

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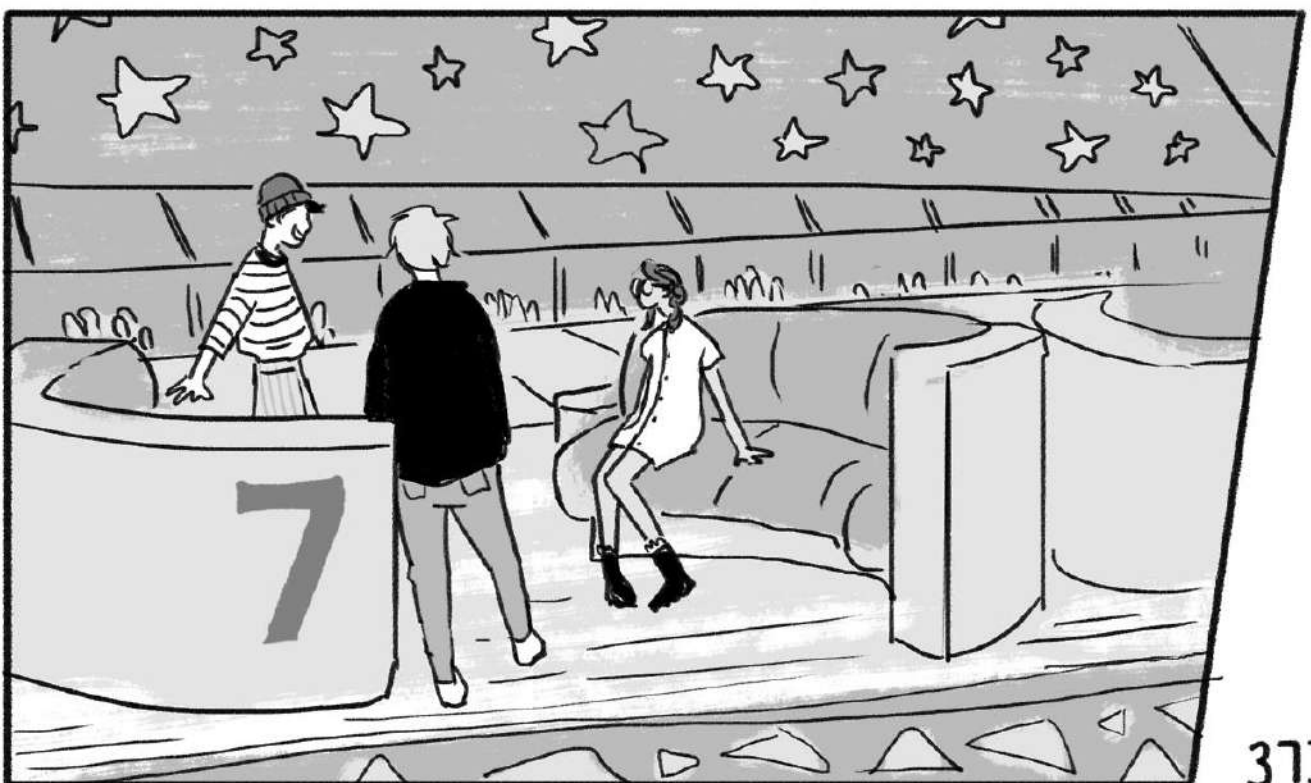


Happy Birthday!

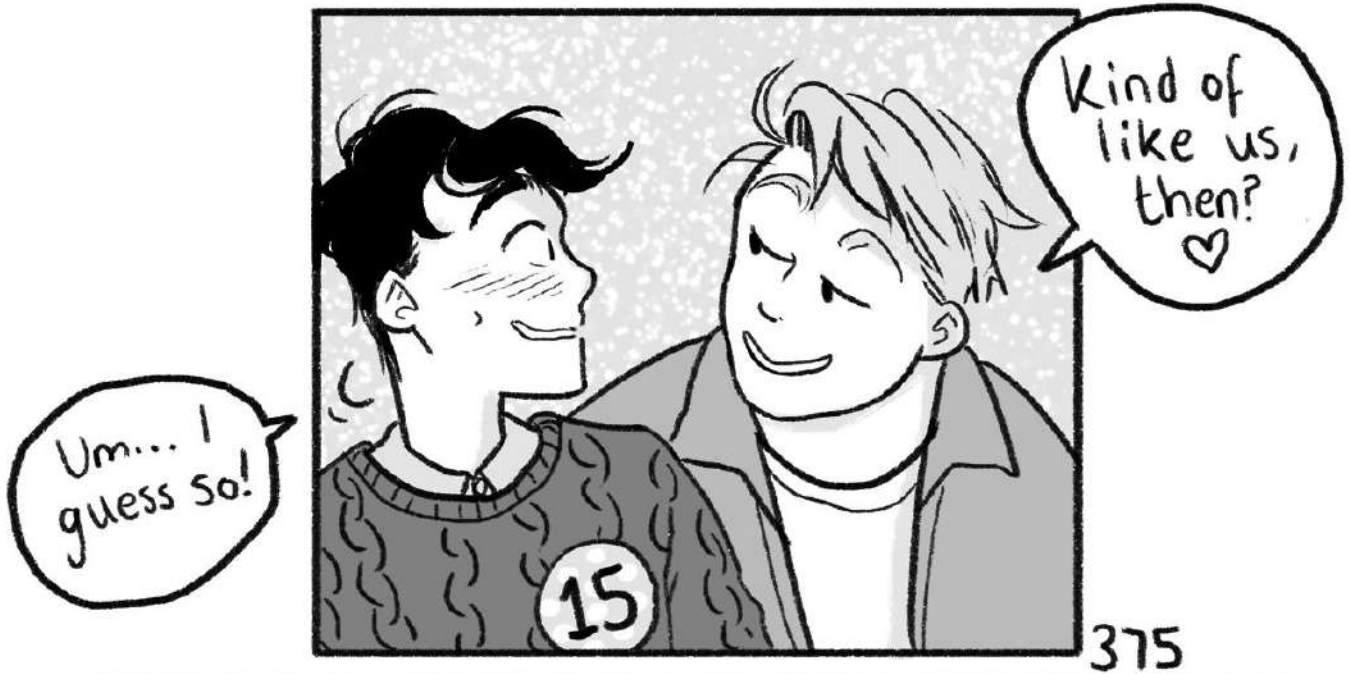
Haha!
It's not my
birthday
til Tuesday!

!! I said
you didn't
have to get
me anything!!

And I
ignored
you









This is Nick



Hi!



What name d'you want me to put on the board?

Haha just Nick is fine!



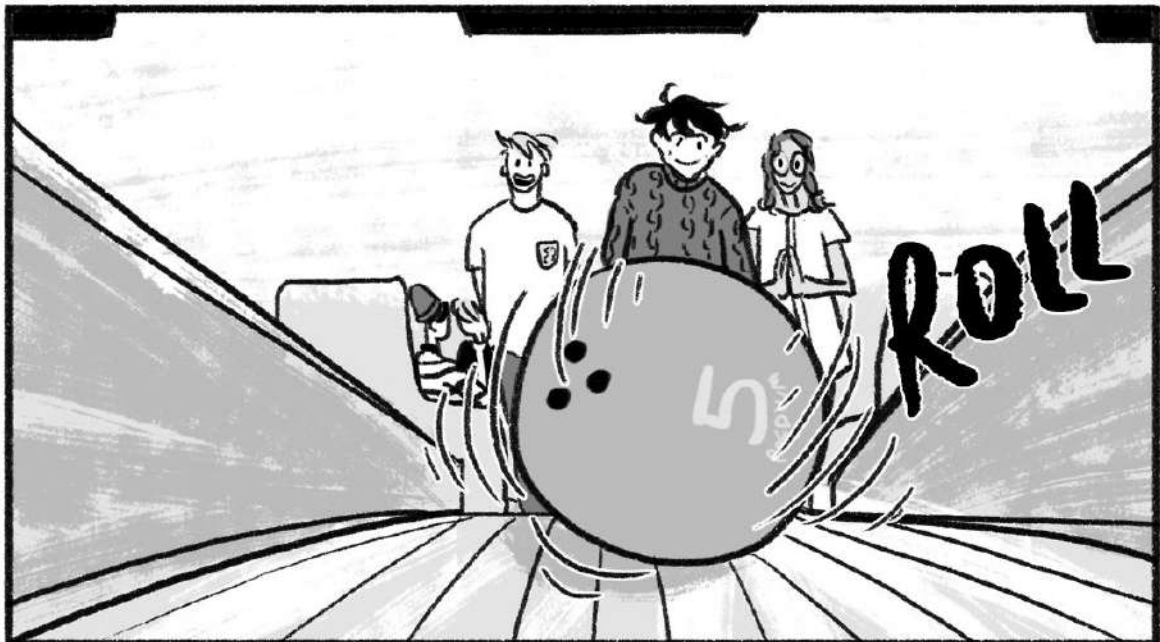
Hey Elle! How's Higgs school?

Mostly the same as Truham. But cleaner.

USED TO HAVE GEOGRAPHY CLASS TOGETHER



BIRTHDAY BOY	6 2																	
	8																	
ALED :)	3 2																	
	5																	
ELLE SMELLS	X																	
BEANIE (TAO)	3 0																	
	3																	
NICK	8 /																	





Looks like Nick won the first game!! 

YES!!!

GAME 1 WINNER
NICK!

Noooo! I was so close!



You totally cheated



Oh yeah? How?









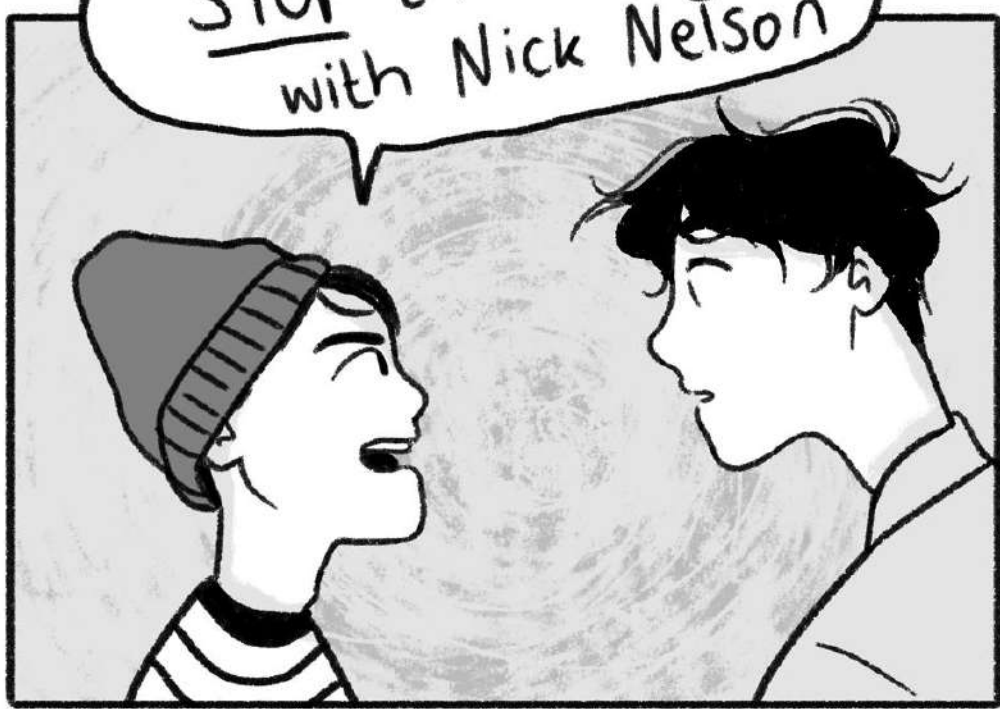
Charlie.

383





You need to STOP this thing with Nick Nelson



Hmm I think I'm gonna go get more chips

















I'm- I'm just worried-



Worried about WHAT?



I'm worried that... one day he'll find out you like him and... I don't know... do something bad.

Like, a lot of his Year 11 friends like Harry are kinda judgemental and exactly the sort of people who bullied you last year.

I was the only one on your side back then, and... I'm so scared that'll happen to you again

...



We weren't close with Aled and Elle back then. They don't know what it was like.



You used to be terrified to come to school.



And I couldn't do anything to help.









UGH
just
go.
I'll meet
you back
at our lane.



You getting more food?



Yep!

haha
you're gonna need
it if you wanna
beat Elle
again-



huh?





...
okay



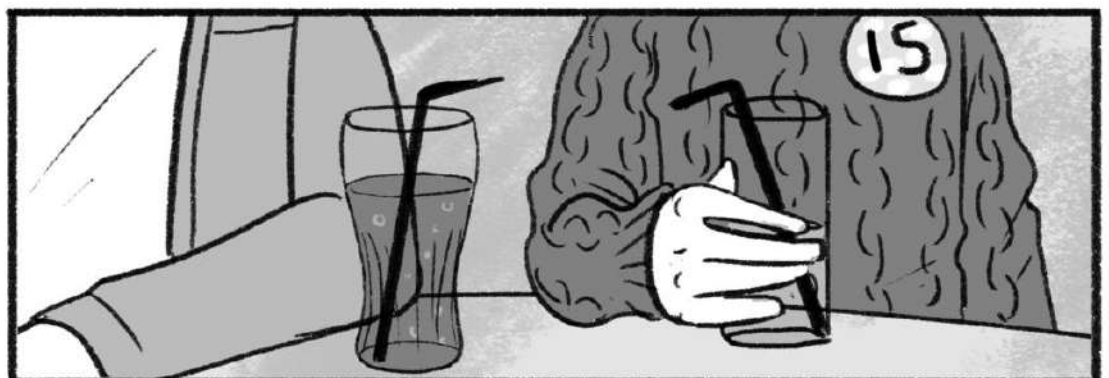
um... have
you two
been served?

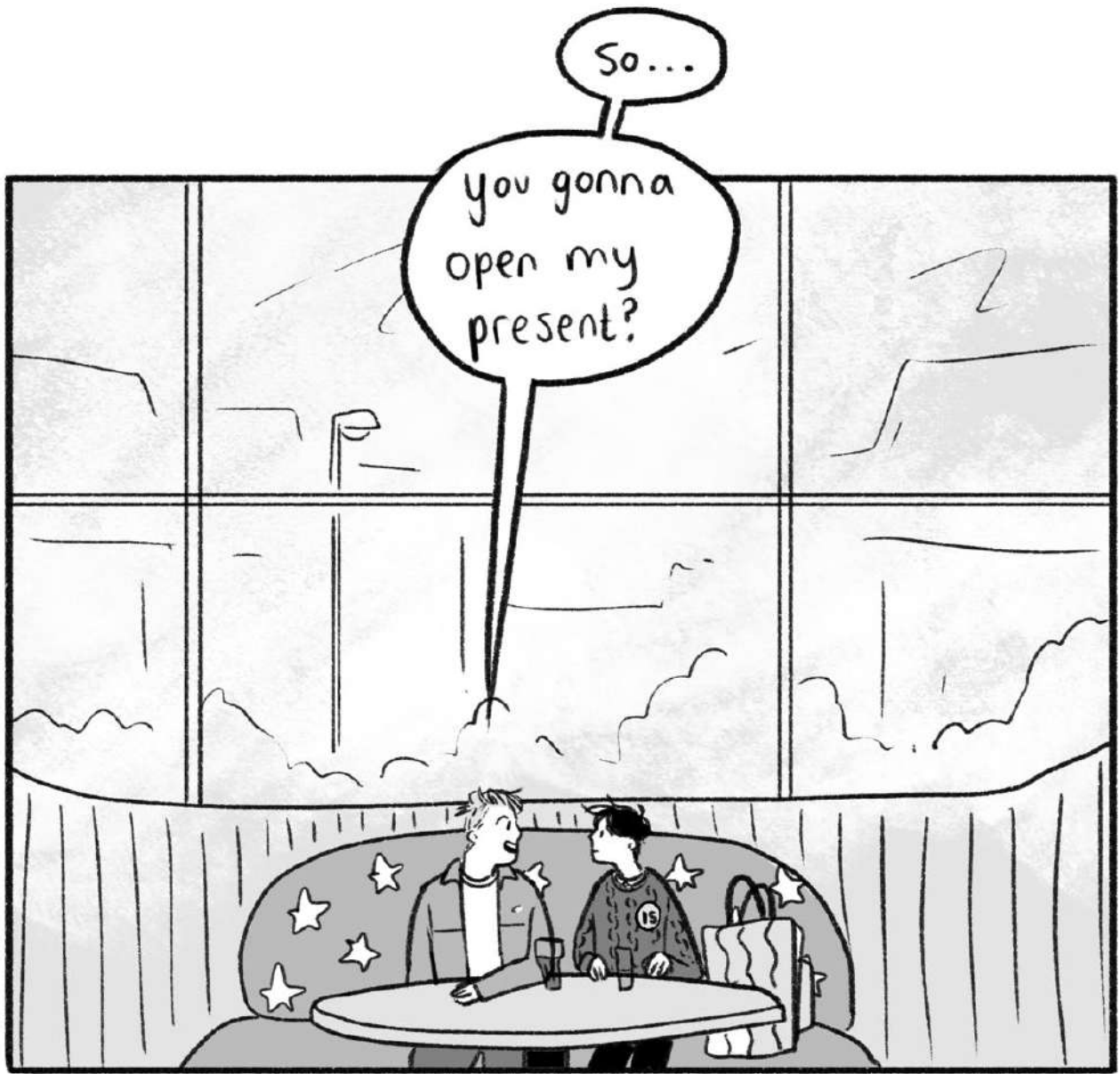


YESSS!

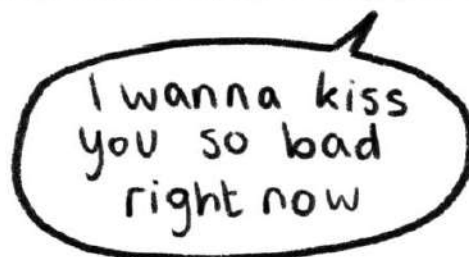












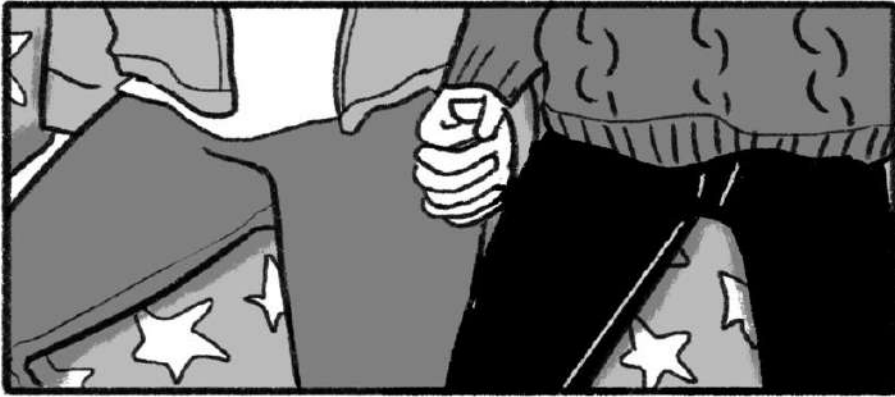


Okay



Are you sure??

Yeah



Ha
na
♥



Hey...

I... overheard you and Tao in the bathroom earlier



Oh.
Oh
no.

407



You don't believe what he said, do you? I'm not- I'm not just doing this for a laugh or attention-

No! of course not!

Yeah... I don't know why I thought you'd believe that



Tao can be very forceful about his opinions



I'm so scared I'm just...



doing to you what Ben did to you-







yeah, I've been there.



I... remember when you used to get bullied.



I wish I'd.. helped you, or.. done something, I don't know.

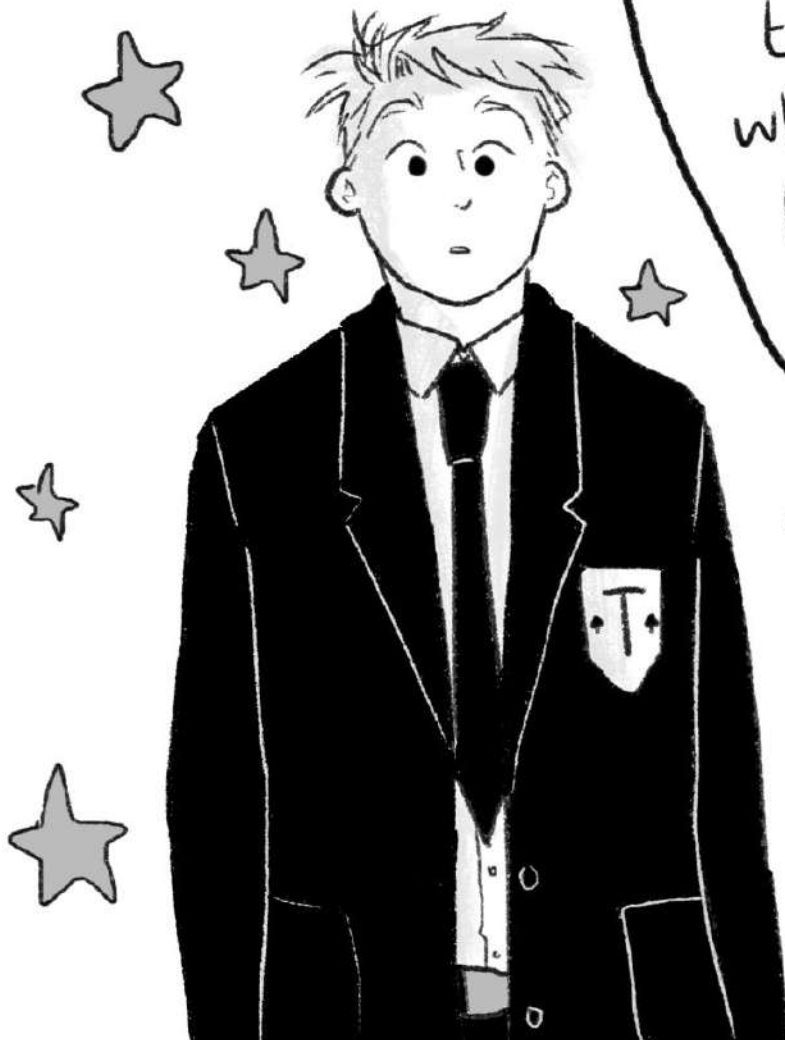


But you didn't even know me then!



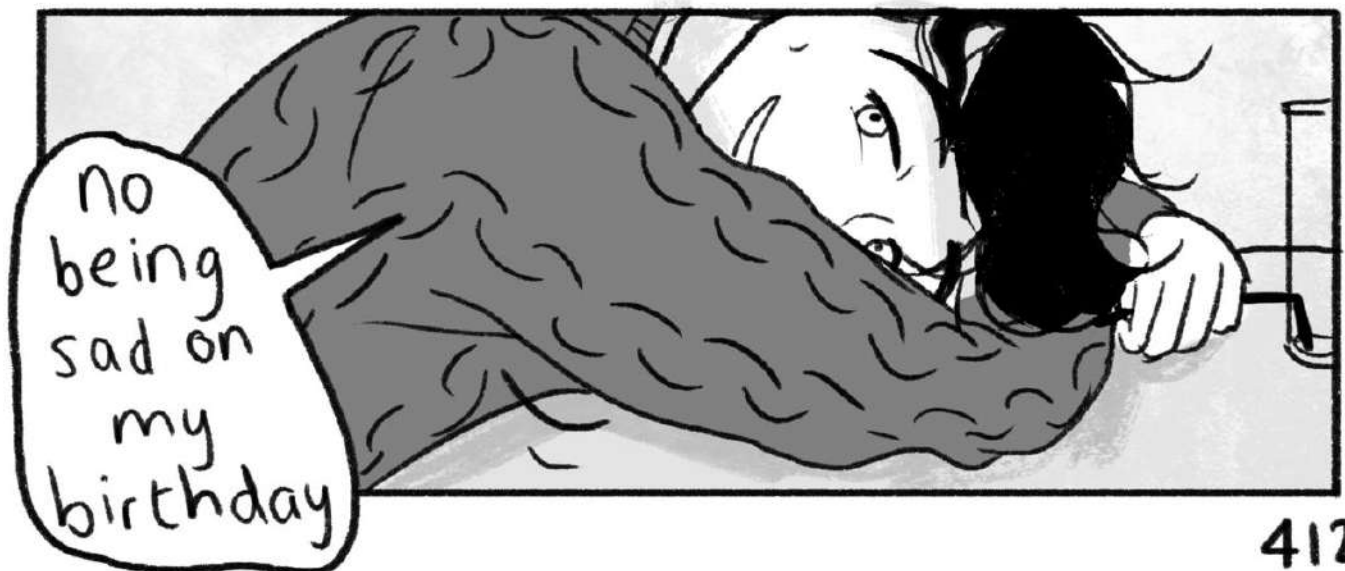
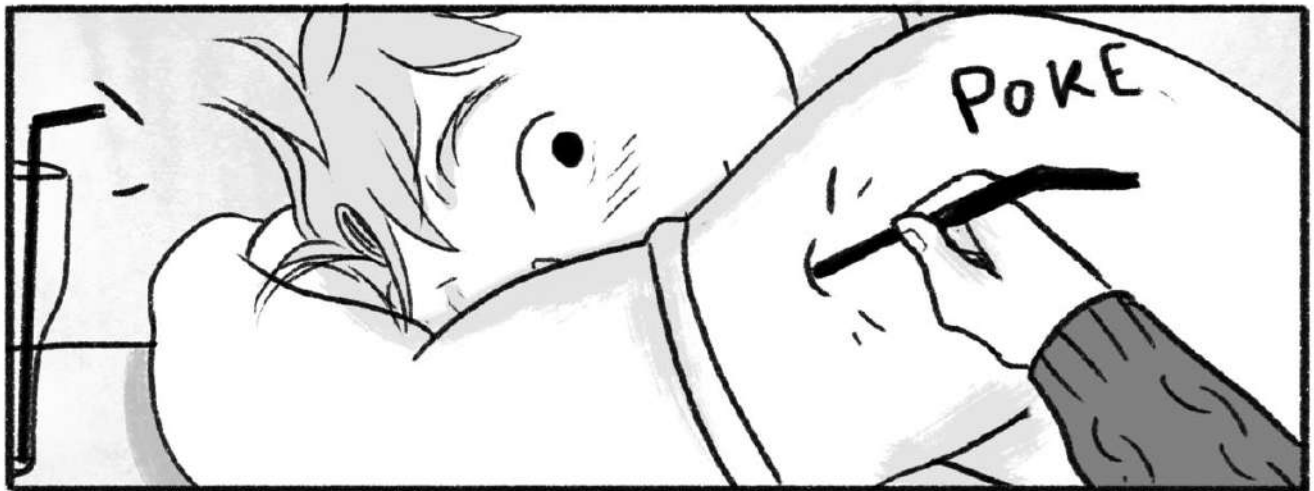
I wish I
had known
you

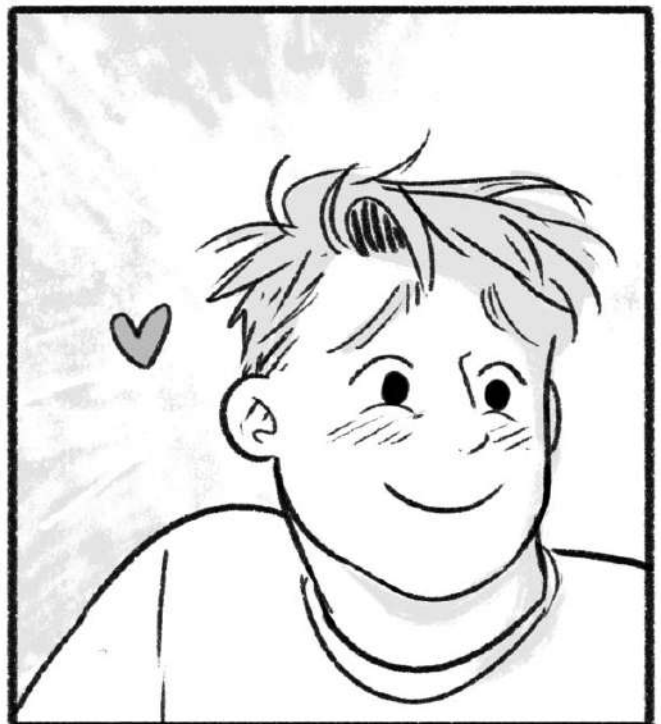
I wish I'd
known
then
what I
know
now

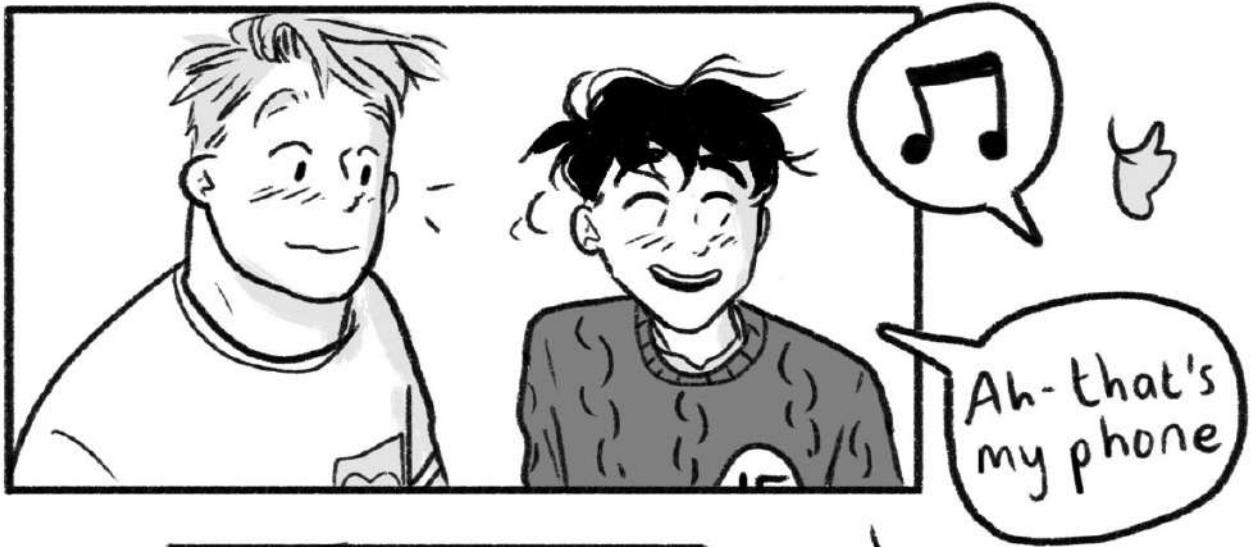




Hey!







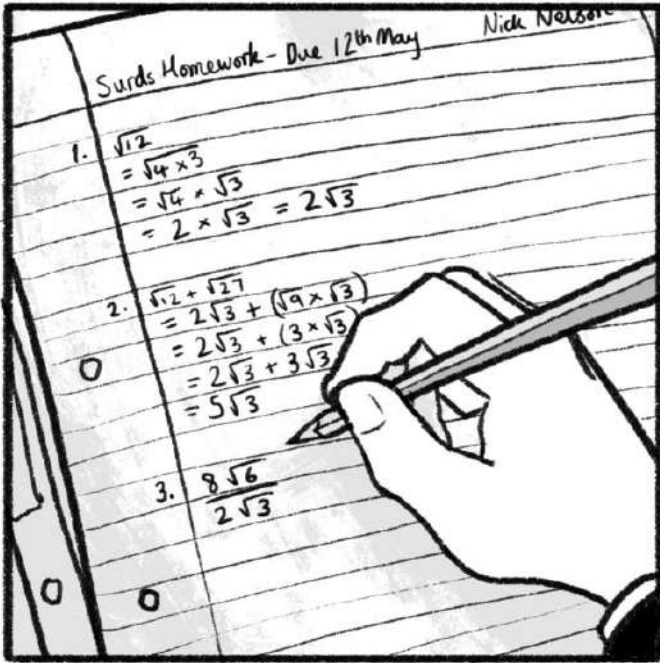


MAY

(TWO AND A HALF WEEKS LATER)

Hurry up Nick,
you'll be late
for fourth period!







Our school orchestra is doing a joint concert thing with the girls' school and they needed me to play drums for the rehearsal

Ooh that's cool!

What are you doing? Did you forget to do your maths homework again?



Well... I was gonna do it last night, but...





er... you came over and...



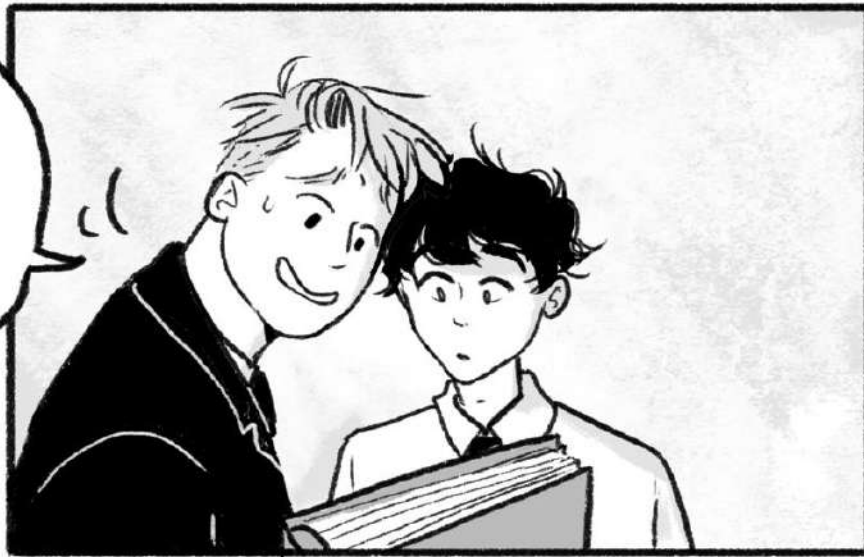
..yeah.

Oh.

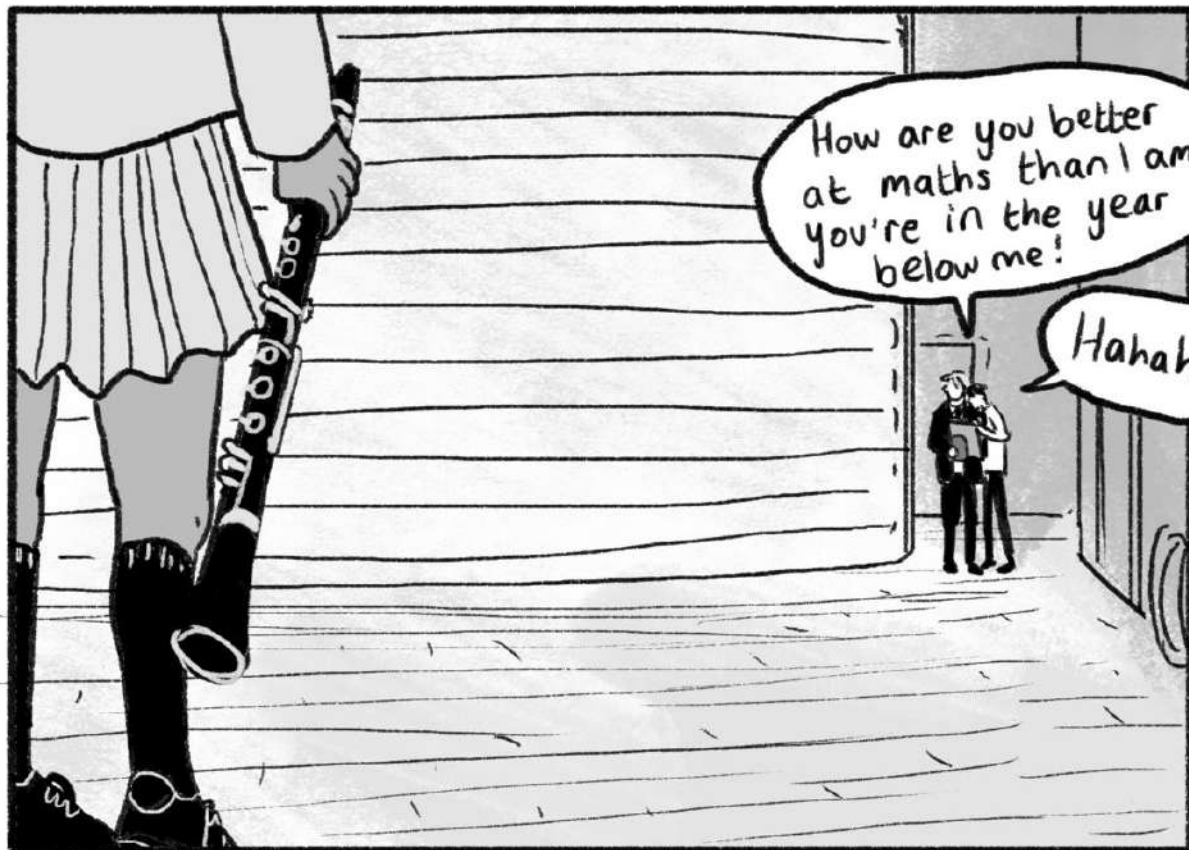
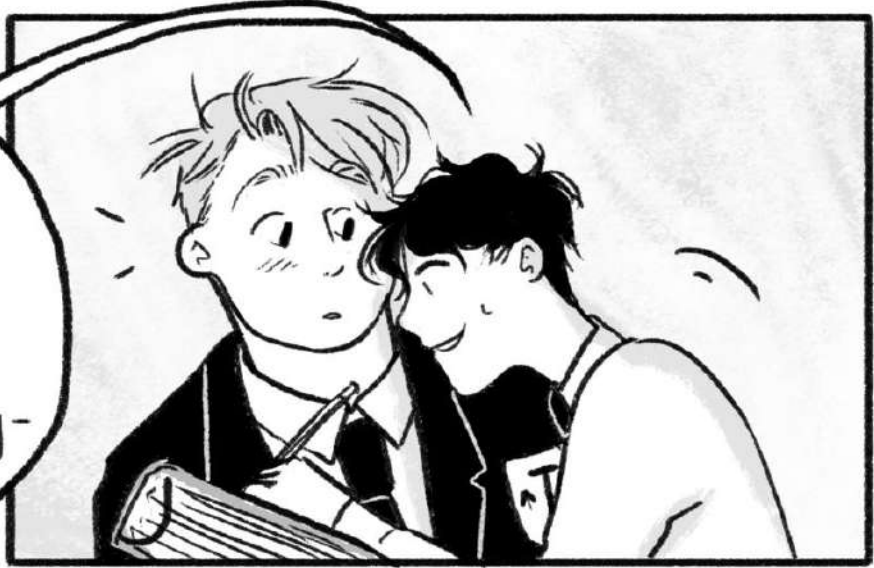


ha ha!

I'm stuck on a question anyway

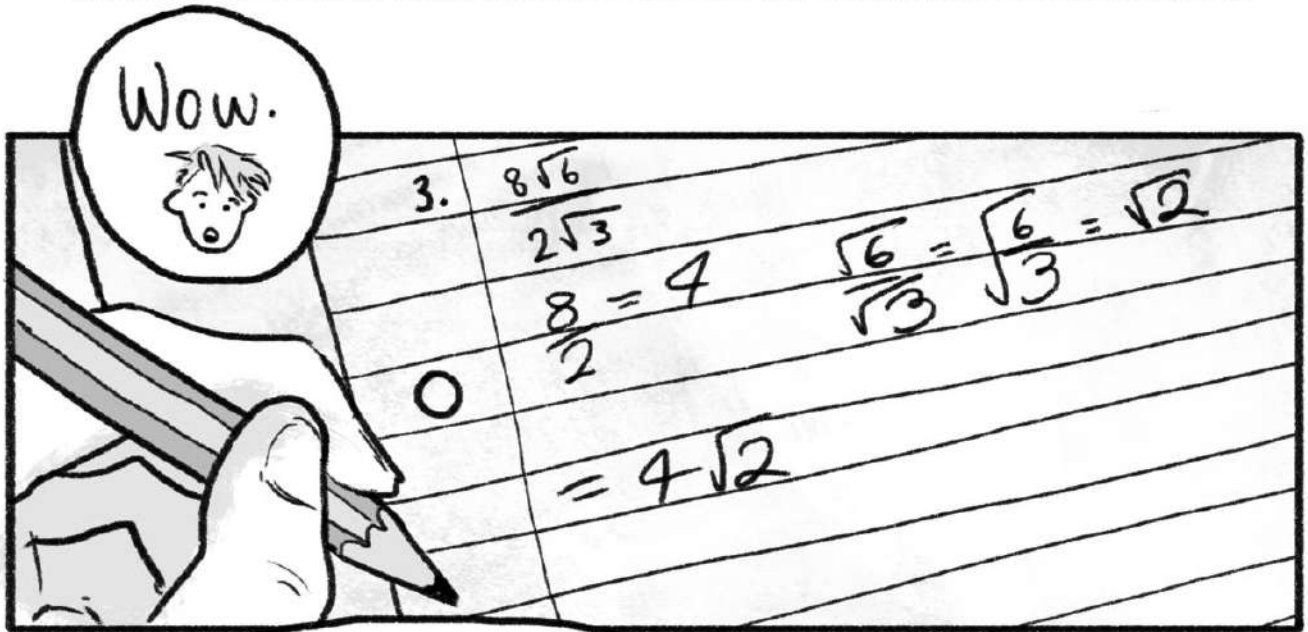


Oh! You've just got to deal with each term individually-



How are you better at maths than I am!?! you're in the year below me!

Hahaha!





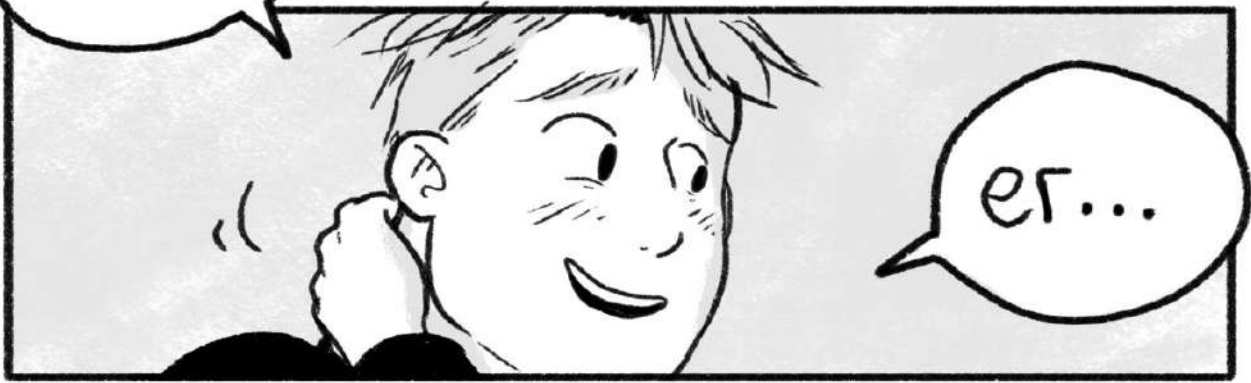
Hey Nick?







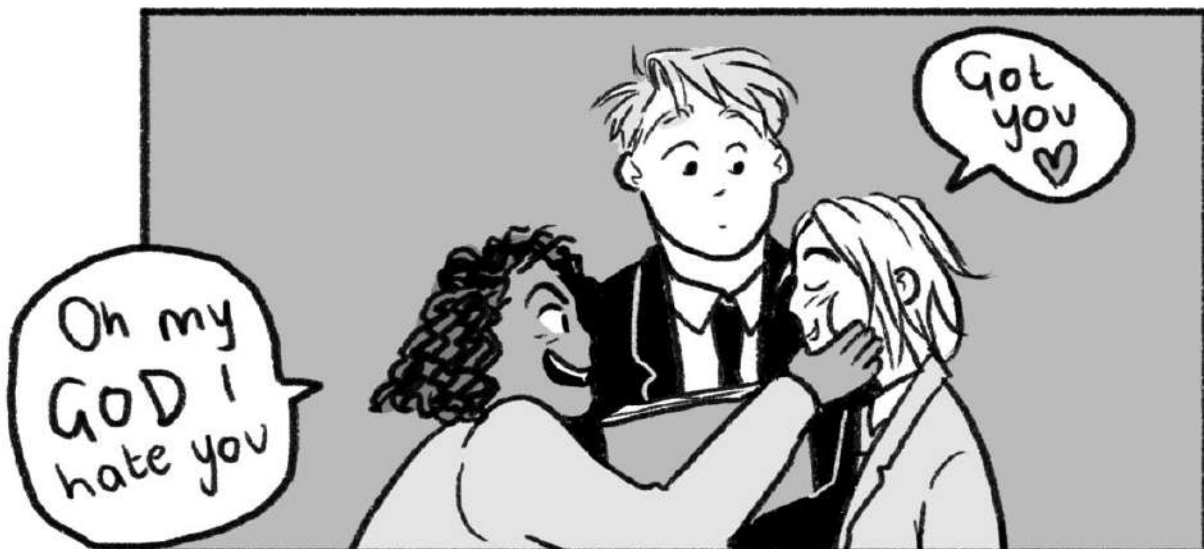














430





I'm going out with Charlie Spring





We've found another one

SSH you can't tell anyone!!

She won't tell anyone



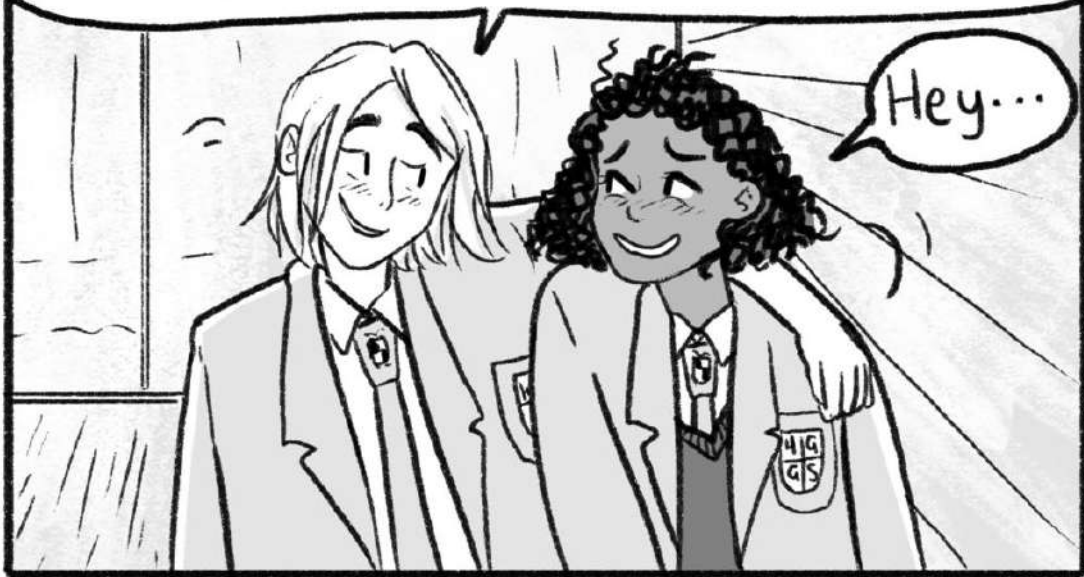
O...kay-







That's okay! Tara didn't know she was a lesbian until we'd kissed like 6 times



Hey...

Nick... don't feel like you need to come out to anyone until you feel ready.



Rumours spread so fast around our schools...

That can be really hard to deal with if you barely know who you are.

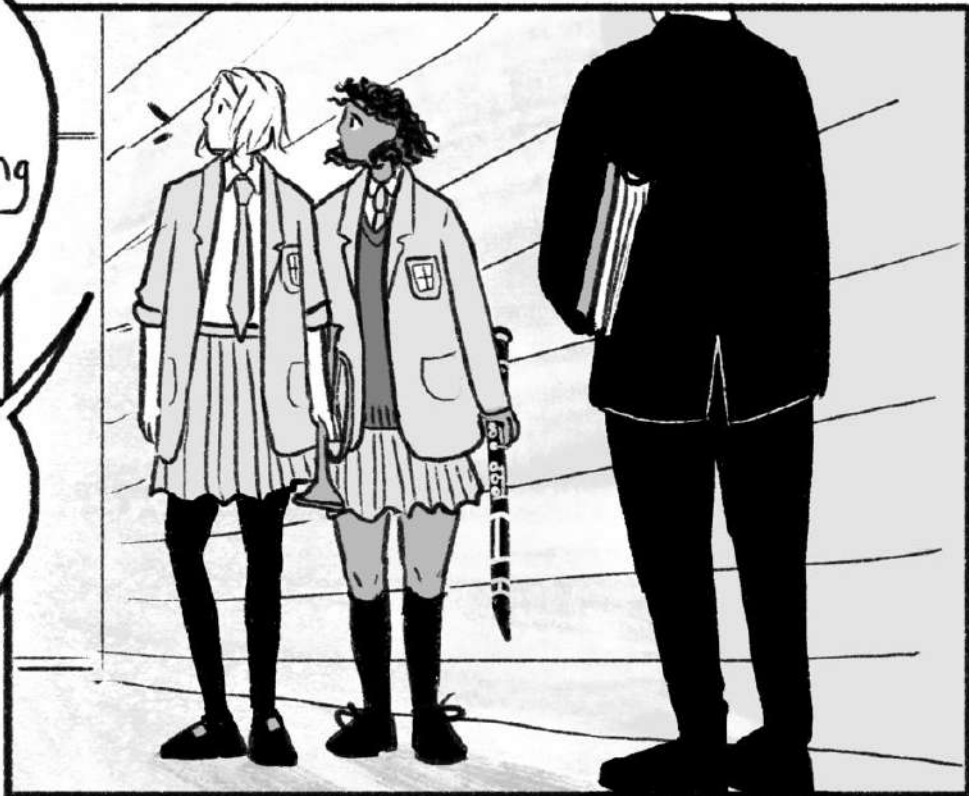




That's true...

TARA!
DARCY!
We're running
from the
top!

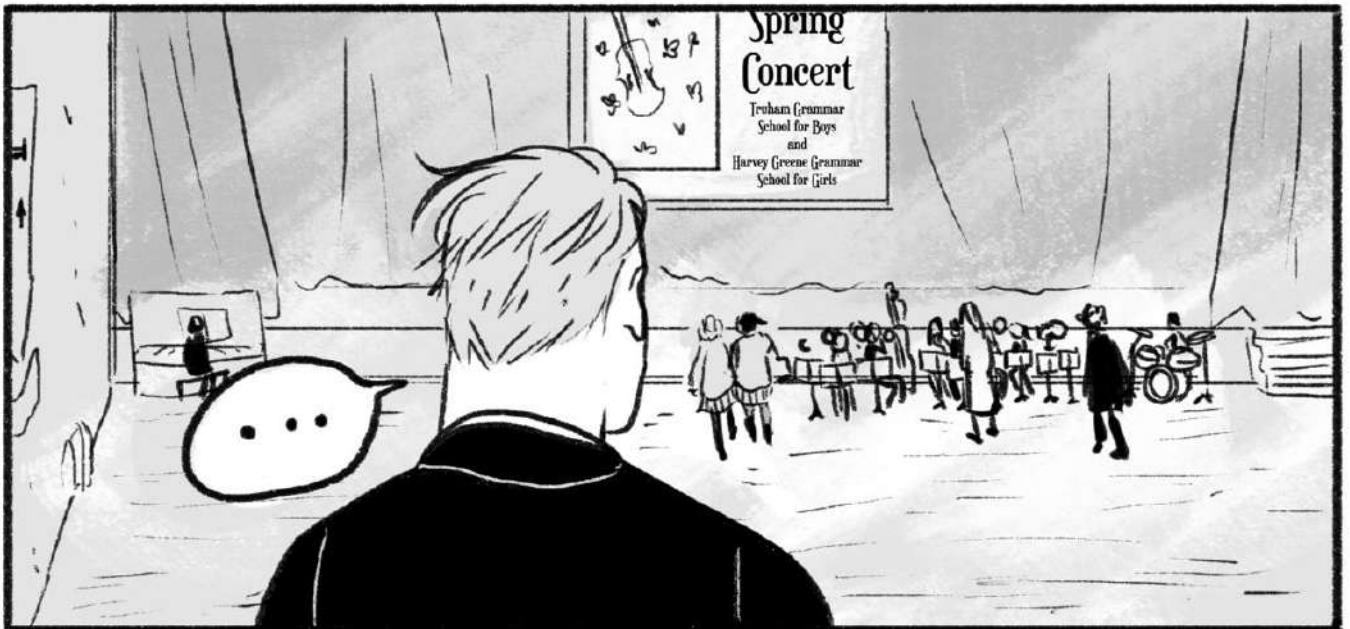
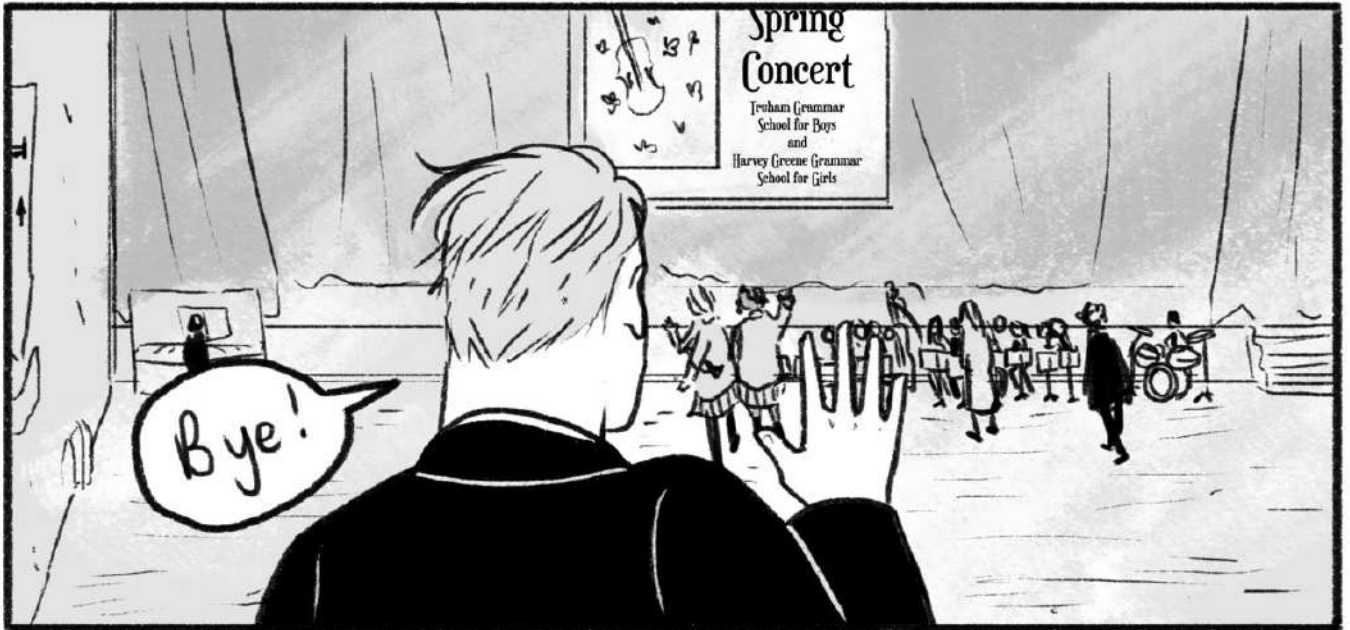
We'd
better
go

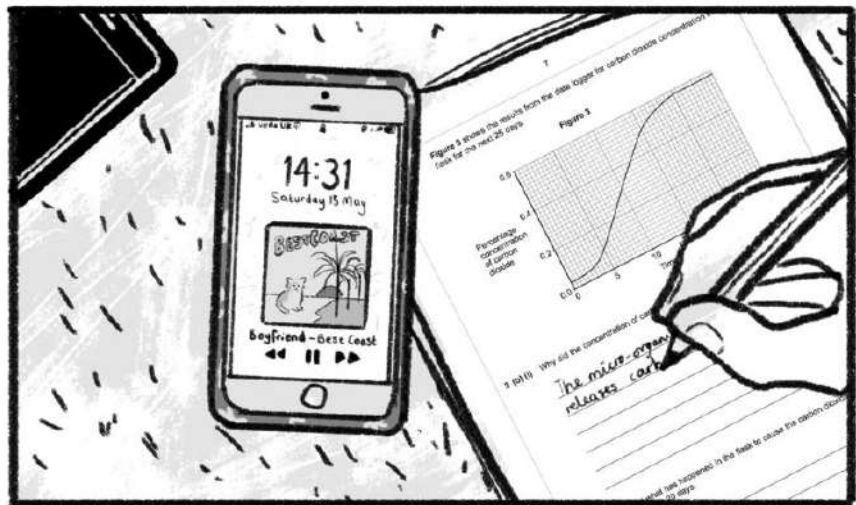
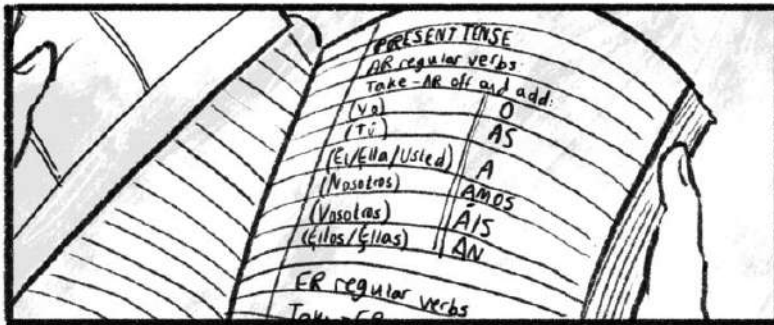


We'll see
you again
soon, okay?
Message
us!

Yeah, we need to
go on a double
date or something!

PAT
PAT



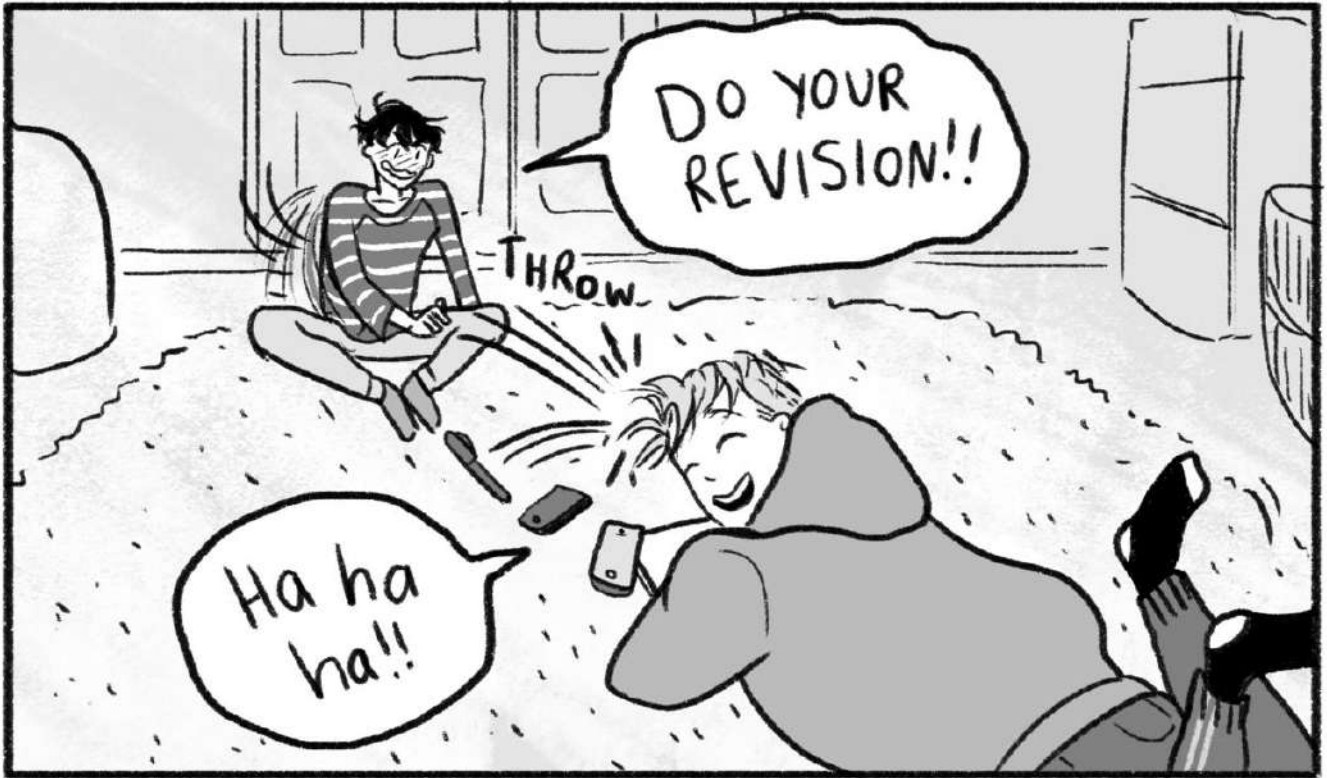




You're staring

You're cute

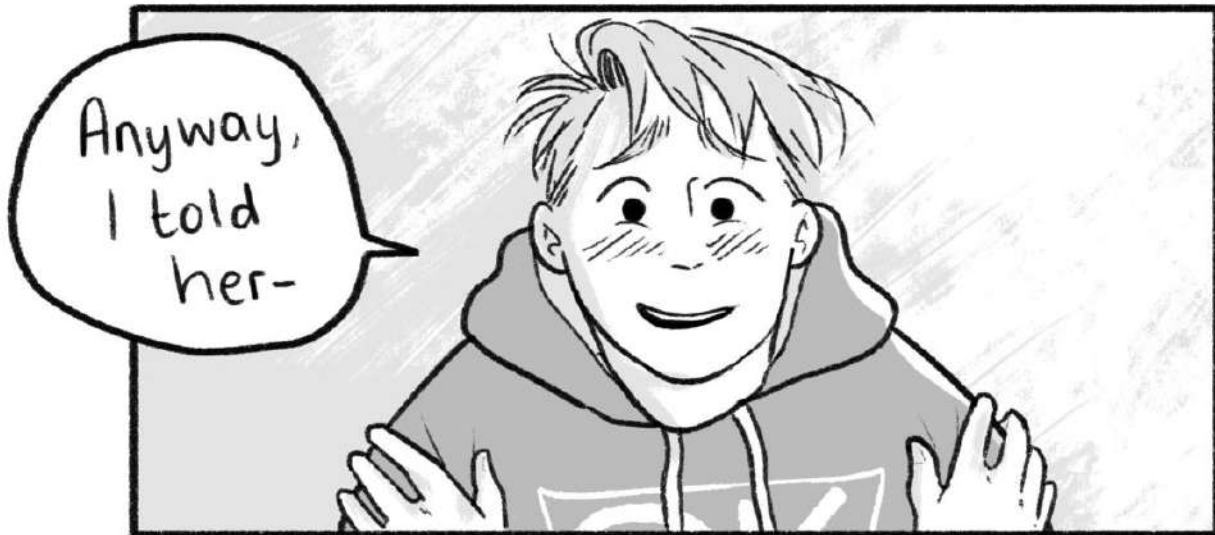




Hey...
so...









Was...
was
that
okay?

I felt bad
because
I didn't
ask you
first-



OH MY GOD!!



THAT'S AMAZING!!



I take it that means you don't mind I told her?



You told someone!!

You came out to someone!!



did!!

...





going out with you is like a dream







AH- sorry,
was that-
uh- was
that too
much-

NO NO,
you just-
you surprised
me!!

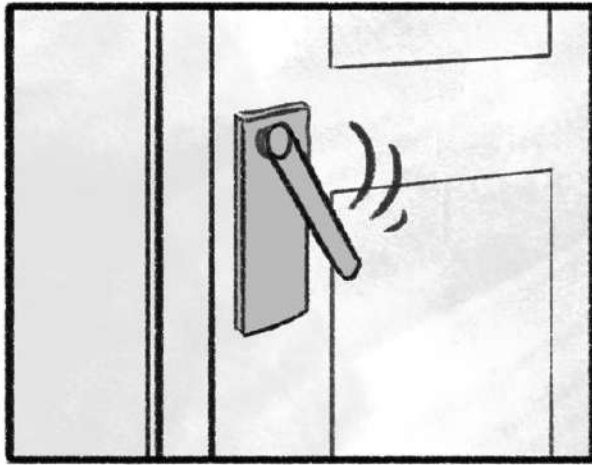


Haha
okay!!



!!





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Nick ... you don't need to feel bad about feeling like that. I don't expect you to be okay with coming out to everyone at once!

That's true...

Haha your hair!



Pfft I need a haircut



Kiss



So are you sure you want me to come with you next Saturday?



Yeah!!



You invited me out with your friends so you should come out with mine!



I feel like your friends don't like me though...

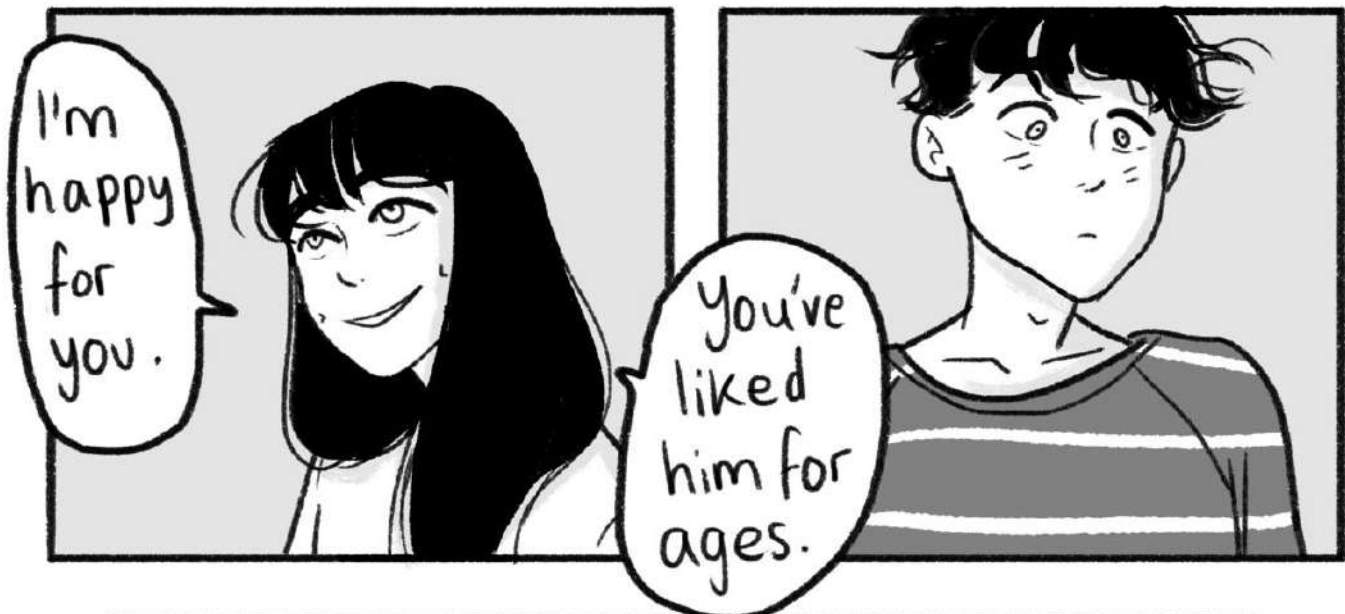


Hey no no no!!













THE NEXT SATURDAY...









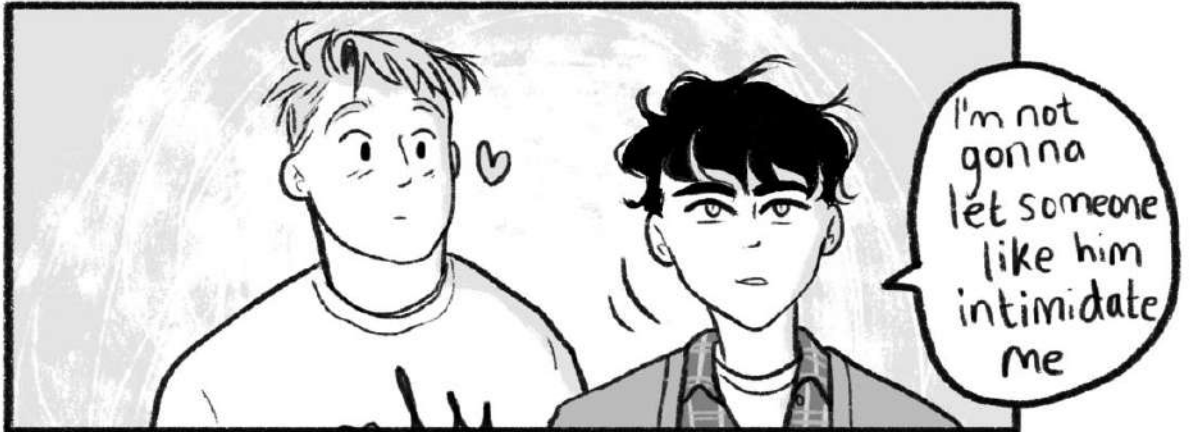
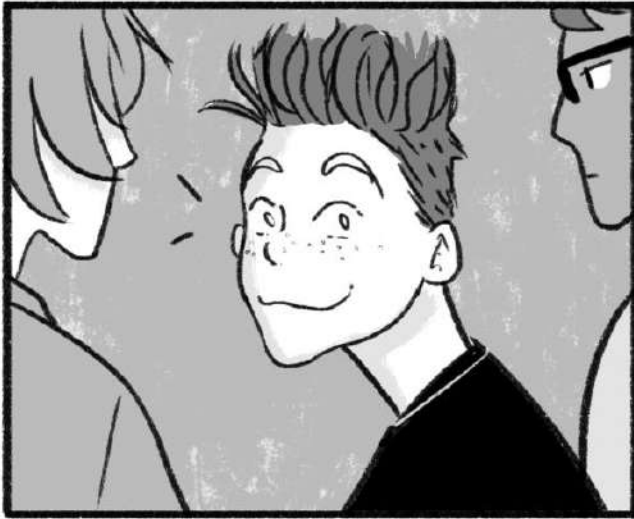






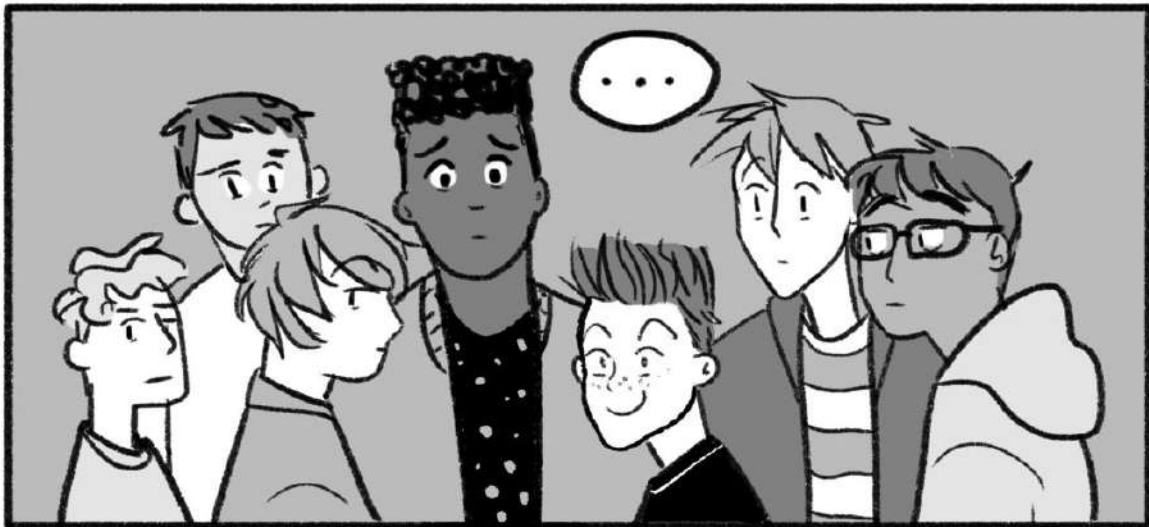
-be... here...





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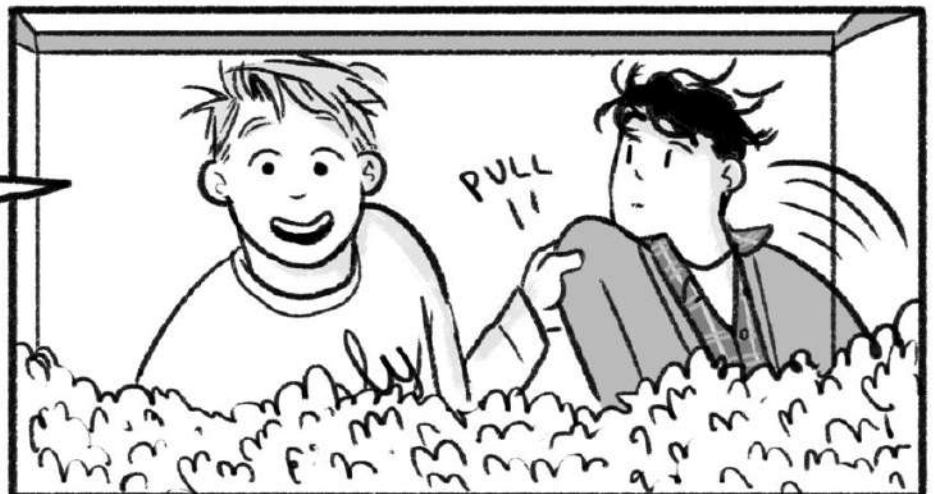
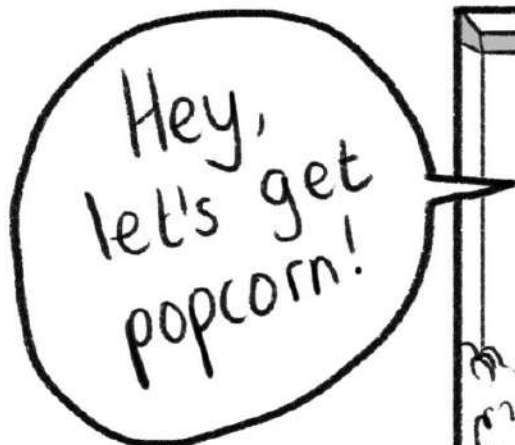
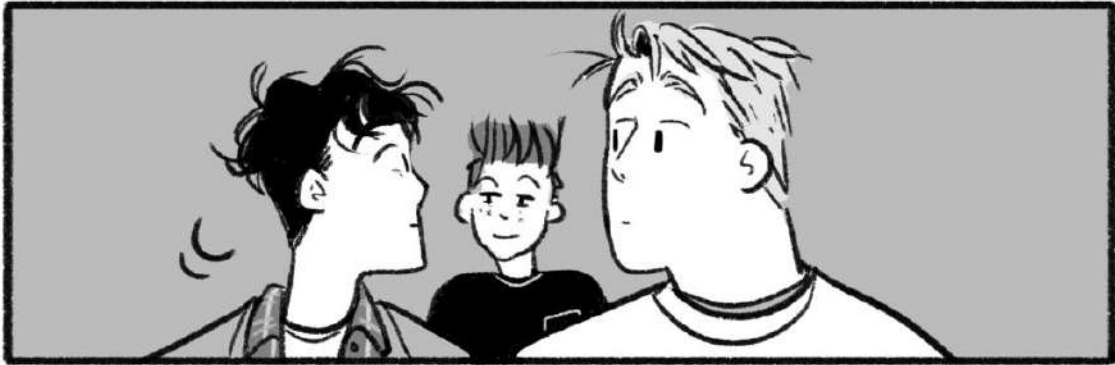
Ah, I forgot to ask!



Are you okay with horror movies?



Yeah I love horror!









Oh... er, wow, th-that just slipped out-



Oh my GOD, say it again!!

NO!!

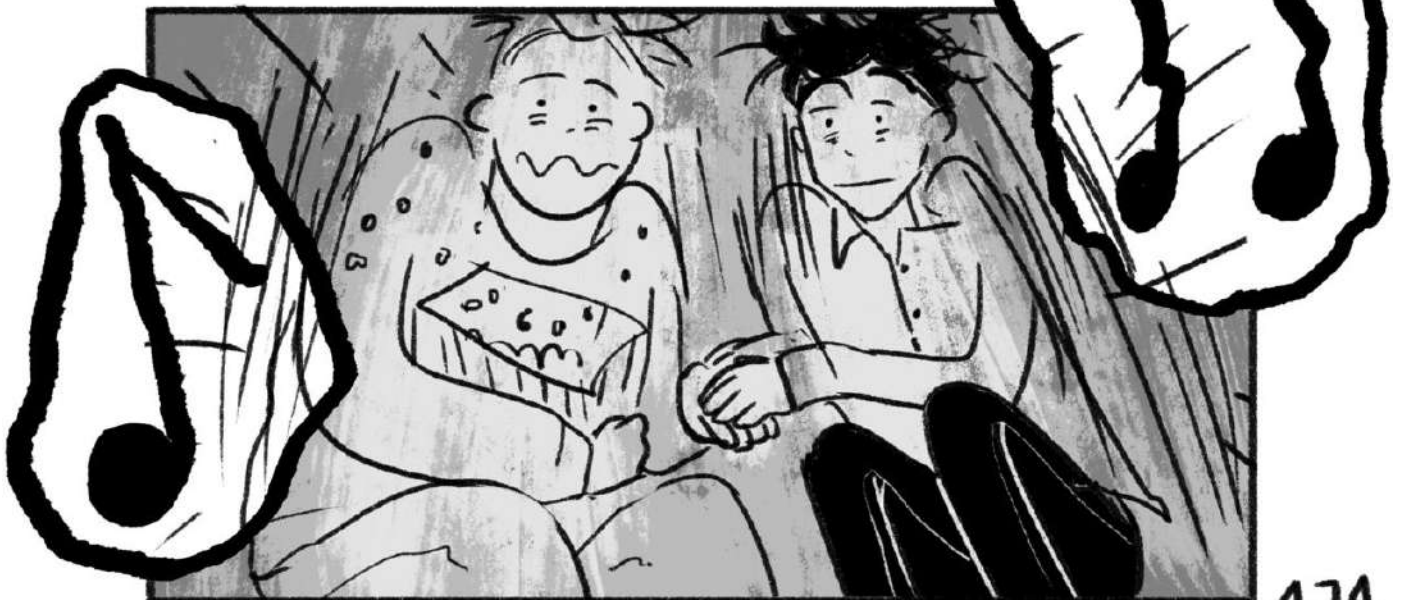
Go onnnnn

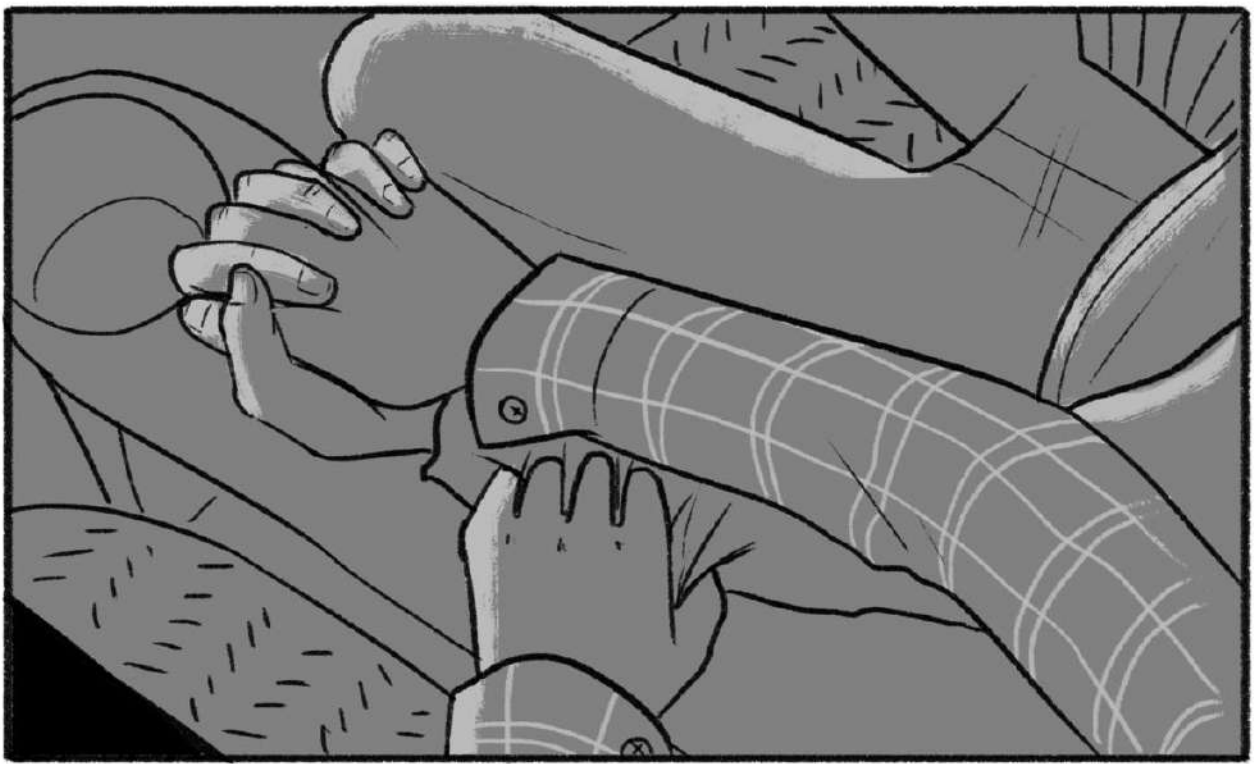
No!!!

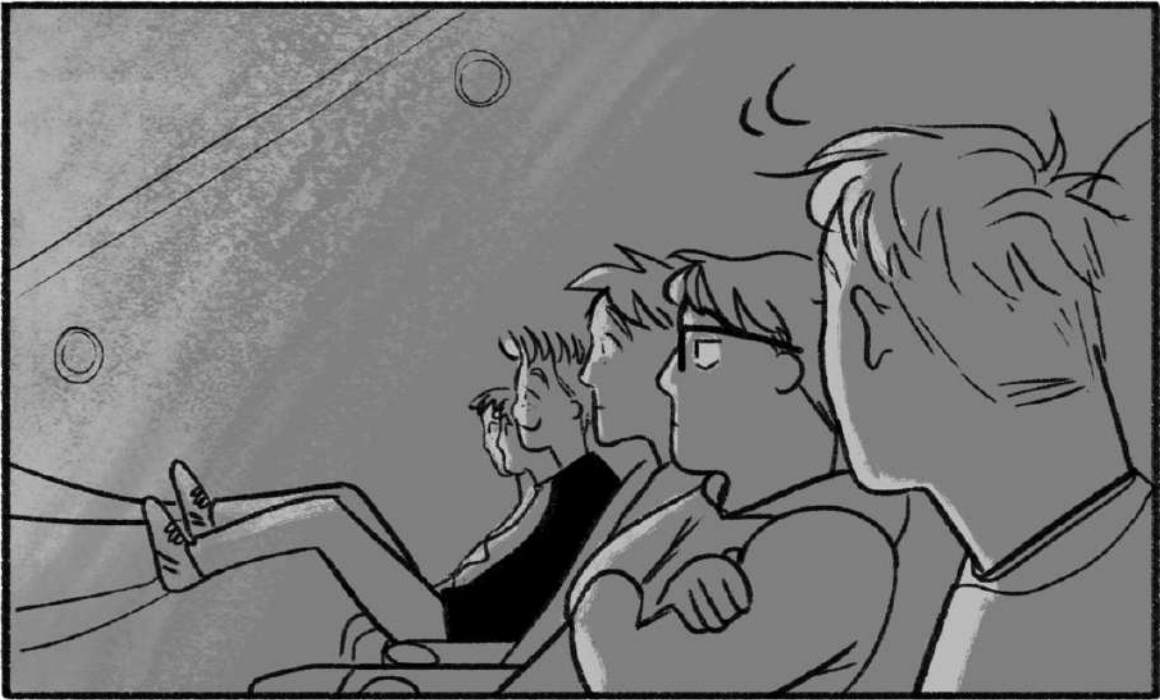


I like it. It's cute.

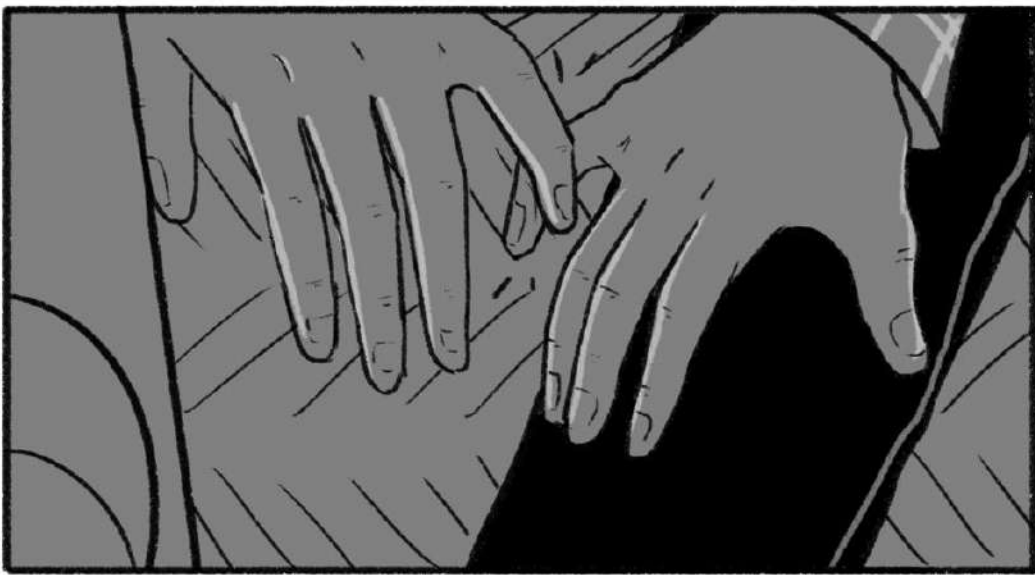
Now I'm never calling you it again













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You don't seem that gay, to be honest



I mean, you SOUND sort of gay, but that's it!



Do you like musicals?

HARRY,
can you just fuck off, please?





What about Nick? You think he's hot?





Not really
my type.



Naaah, you SO
have a crush on him!

No.

You doooo









Hey, hey,
wait-



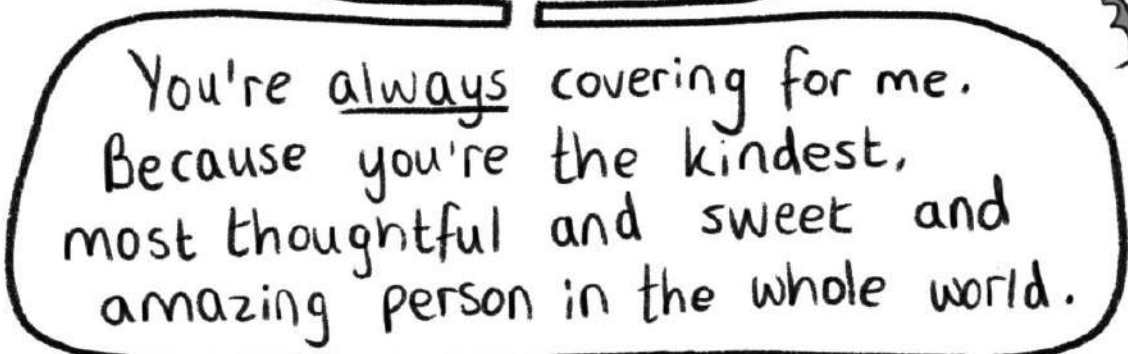
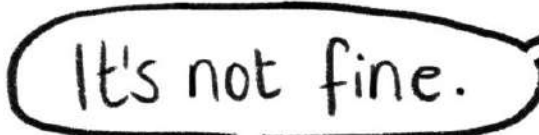
huh?



I- It's
fine-

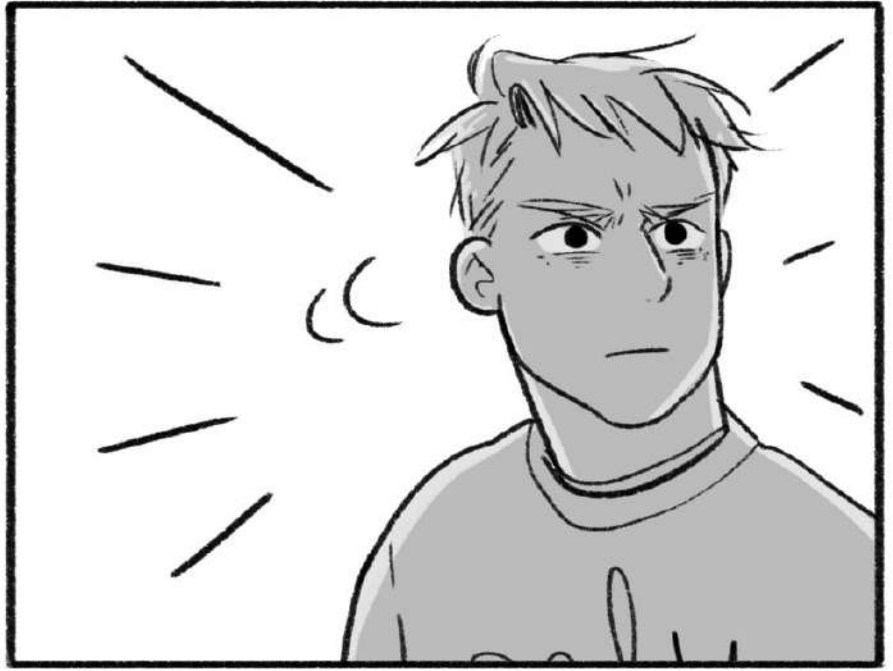
God, I'm so
sorry-

No, Harry
was being an
absolute
twat and
the others
were being
really
unfriendly
to you!
We- we
should
have just
left-









THIS UPDATE MAY TRIGGER SOME PEOPLE. TO SEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIGGERING MATERIAL, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE UPDATE NOTES. THANKS!

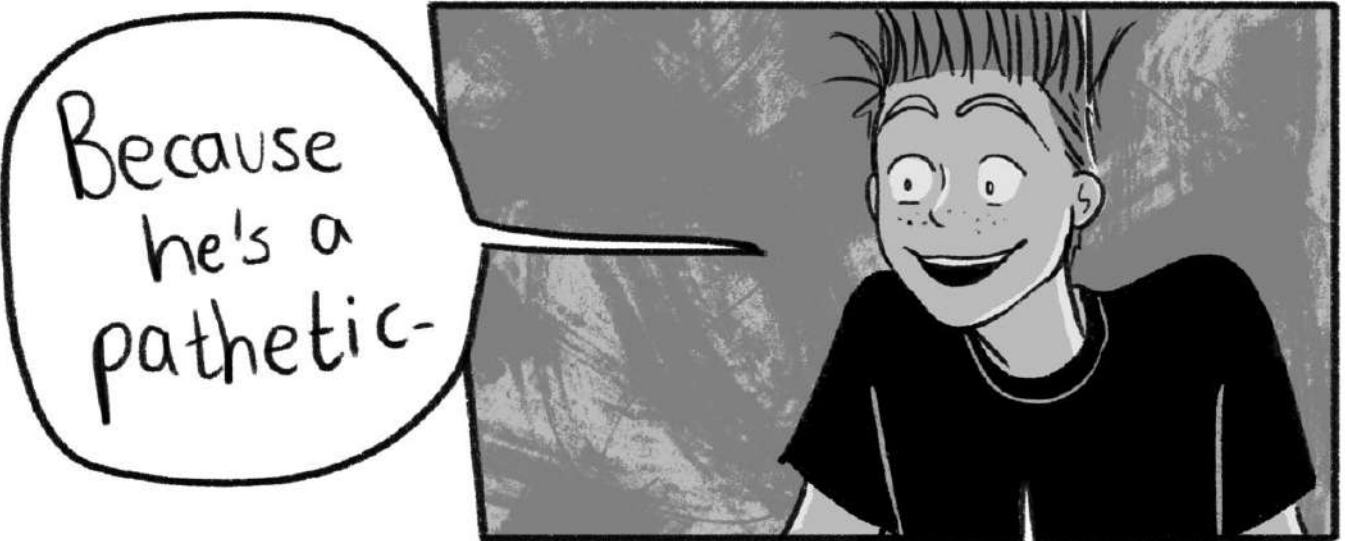






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fag





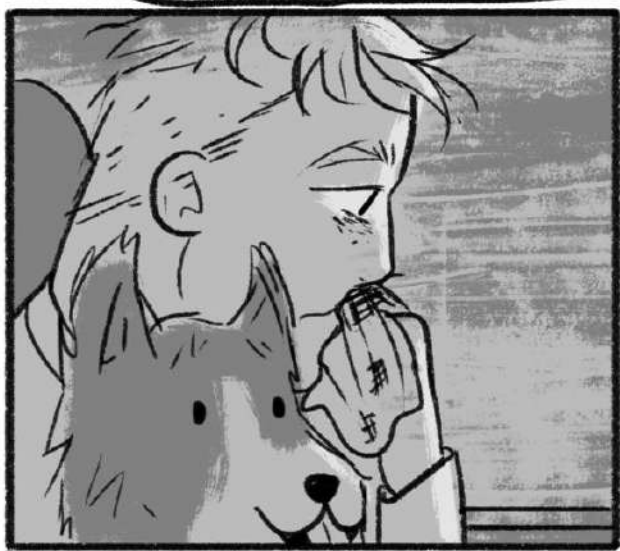


You gonna tell me what happened?

There's not really anything to tell.



Nicky. Come on, baby.



Harry was saying really nasty stuff about-

-about Charlie



Charlie's a really special friend,
isn't he





yeah



yeah he is







Always haha



I'm so sorry about tonight, all my friends are ASSHOLES

No I'm sorry I shouldn't have agreed to come!!



HEY
NO
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SAY THE S WORD





I don't want to be friends with those guys anymore. Like I thought if I could show them how cool and lovely you are, they might stop being dicks, but... it didn't work

Cool and lovely??



Well you ARE

I don't expect you to dump your friends for me...



Oh they're dumped. They're all dumped. Anyone who's mean to you is officially dumped forEVER

Sai and Christian from rugby are nice! And Omar sometimes!! But yeah... I don't think any of the others like me...



TAP





To be honest I don't think I have many good friends... I don't really have any very close friends apart from you

I'm really sorry



Well I think my friends want to adopt you into our friendship group 😊



Omg

They liked me then?? Because they're all so nice and I definitely wanna hang out with them more!!

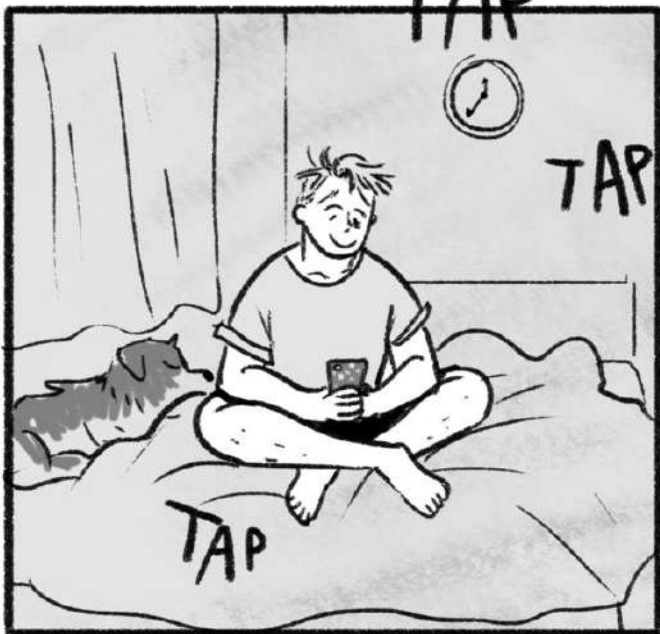
Of course they liked you Nick you are the loveliest person in the whole entire world

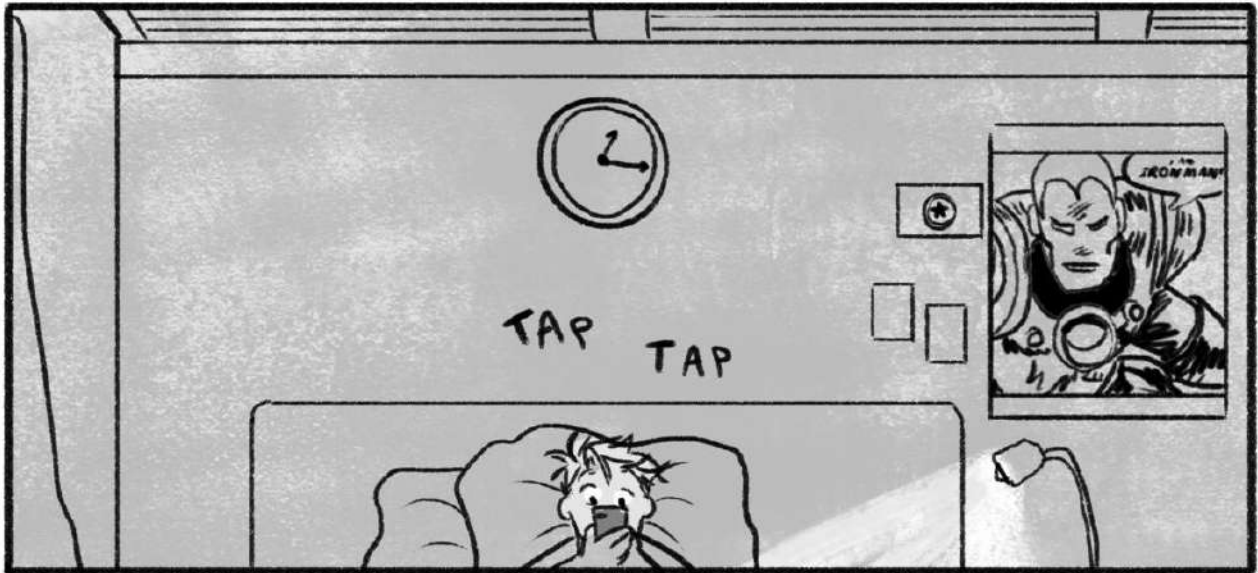


Um excuse me I think you already have that role pretty much filled thank you very much

SSHHH don't make me flustered







You still ok to come over tomorrow?? 😊

Because I sorta have an idea

Do you wanna go on a proper date?

Omg... Formally asking me out... This sounds slightly more sophisticated than just making out in our bedrooms



but yes of cOURSE



what shall we do? 😊



Can I make it a surprise??

Omg okay!! I'm so excited alkjsdfldsg



Nick I like you so much

You're my favourite person

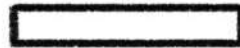
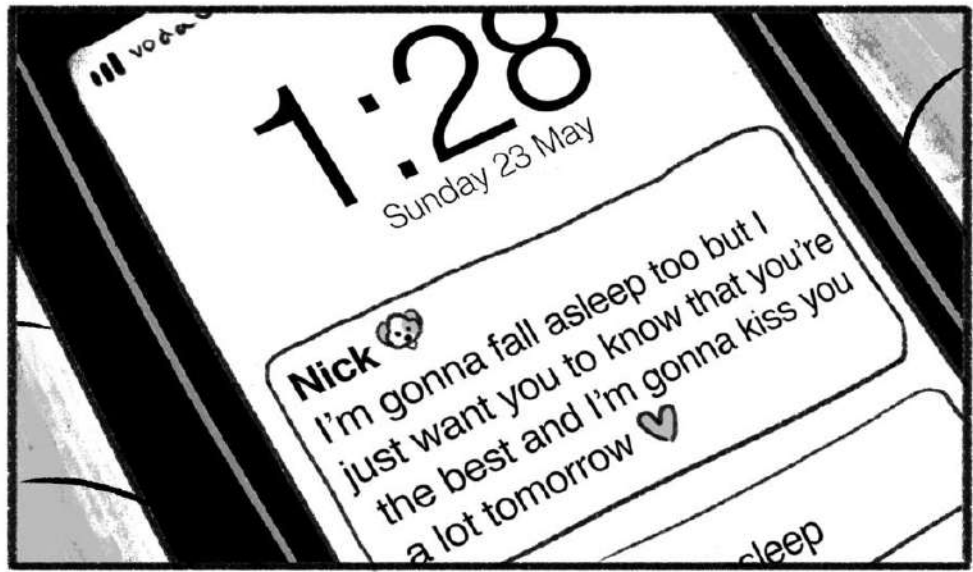


You're MY favourite person!!!!!!!!!!!!

Charlie??

LOL did you fall asleep

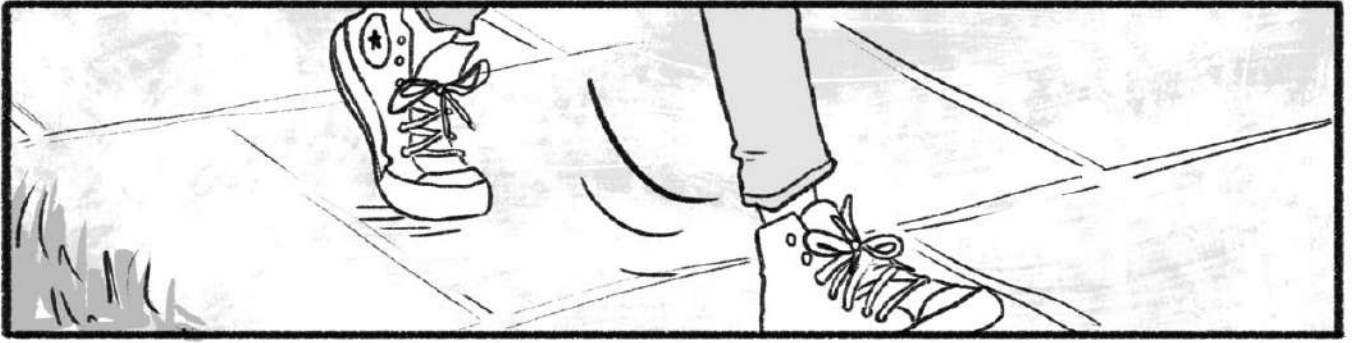




THE NEXT MORNING







So, I kind of got in a fight with Harry.



When you left and I got back to the group, he started saying a lot of shitty things about you. And I just lost it and... I punched him.



Oh...
Nick...



But, like, I immediately regretted it and stopped. And that's when he punched me.



I guess he managed to hit me really hard, haha



513





Why didn't you tell me last night?

I was embarrassed...it was stupid, sinking to his level





As much as I hate seeing you get hurt,



Harry really deserved a proper punch in the face



Hahaha!! You are SUCH a Slytherin!

And you're 100% Gryffindor!

How are we even dating?

Because I'm so hot, I turned a straight boy?

That may be true but TOO SOON

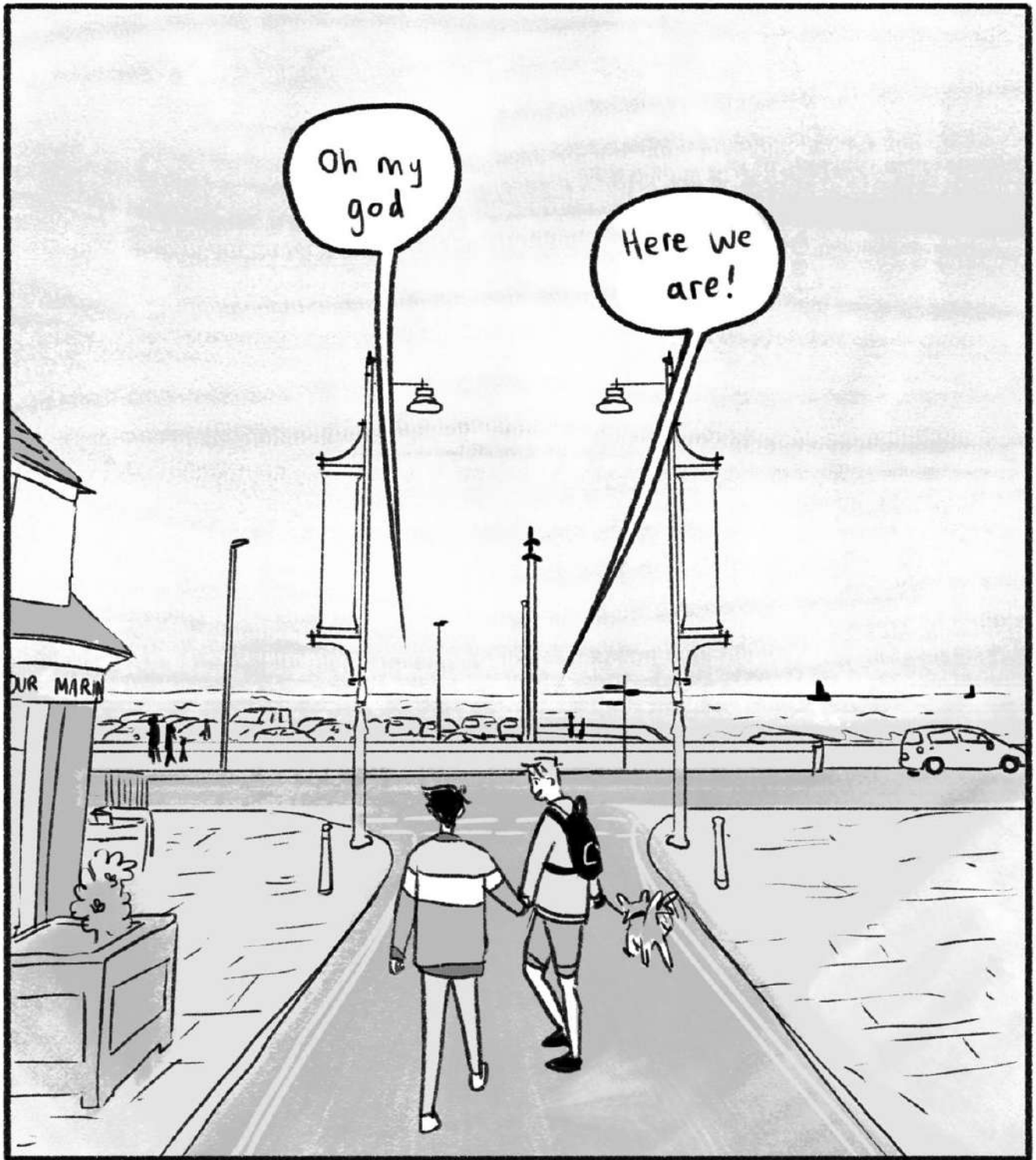
Ha ha ha!

Now can you tell me where we're going?

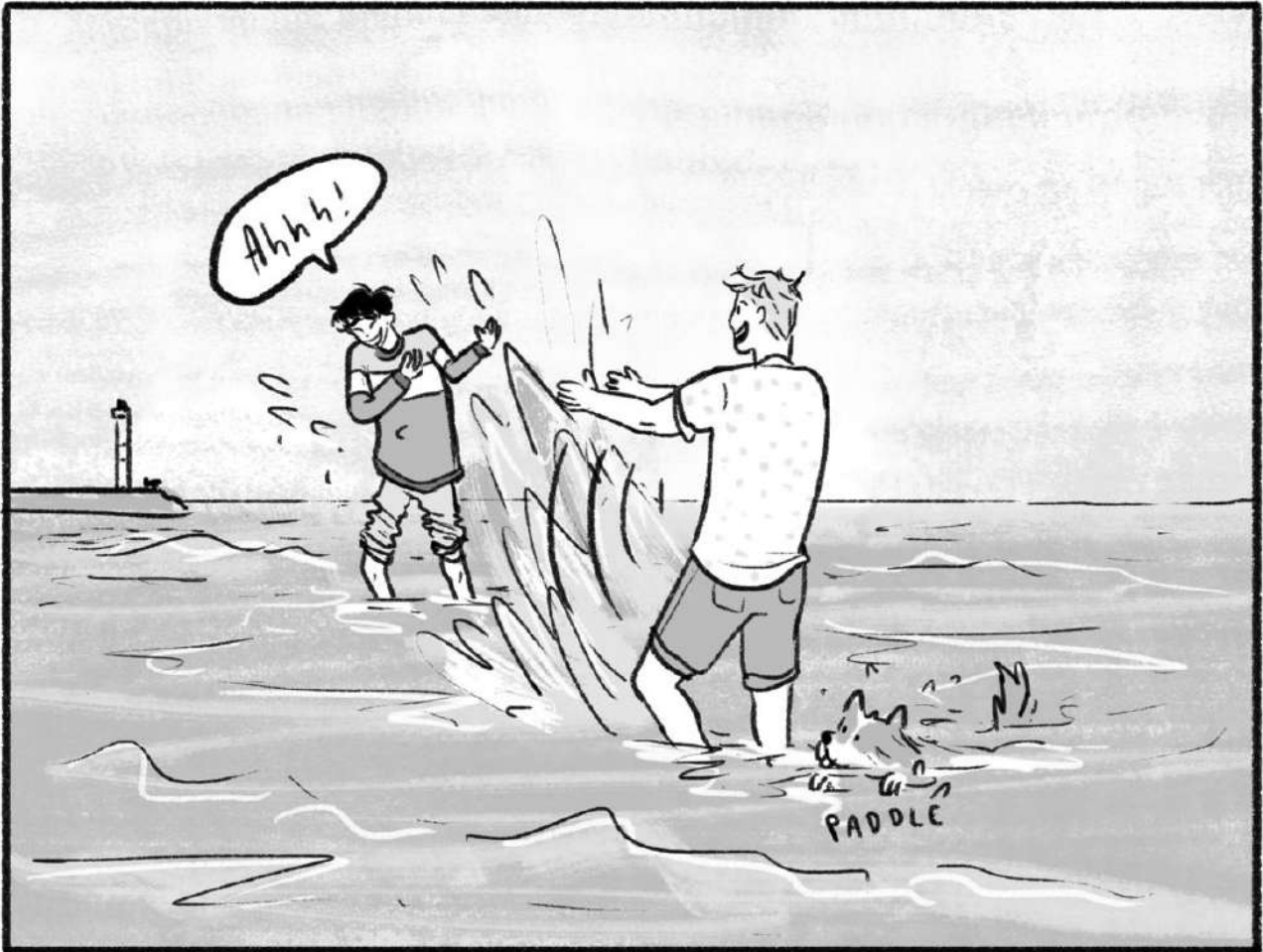
Nope! Still a surprise ☺

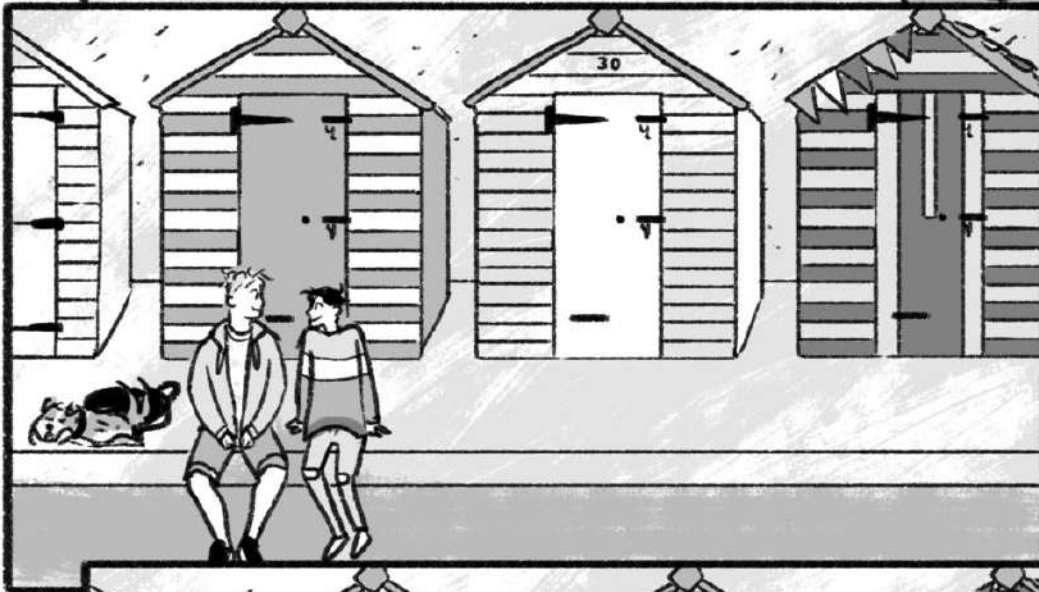
















I distinctly remember you literally pulling me onto your lap





I wanted to kiss you so bad when that happened



me too

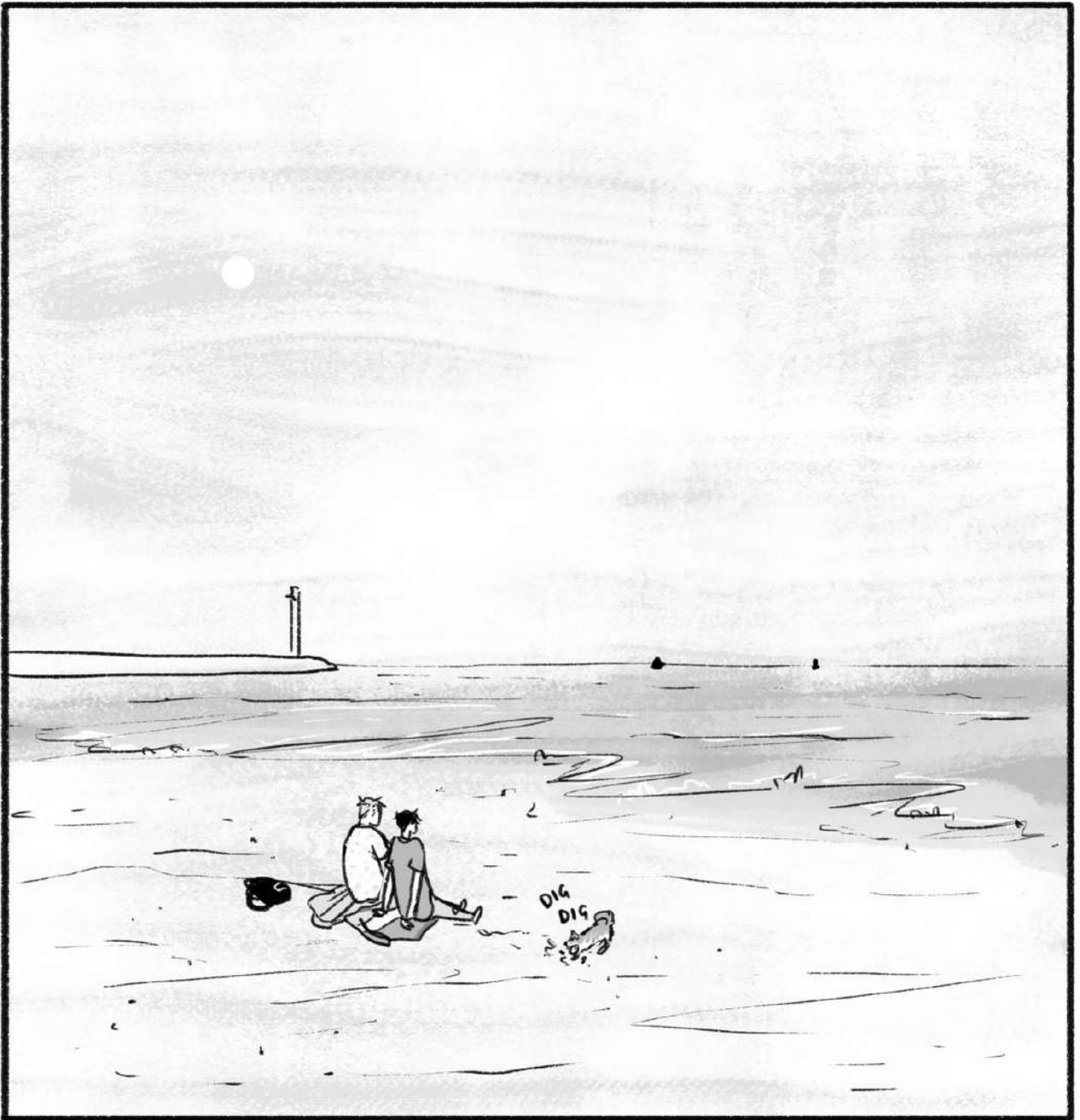




15 MINUTES LATER...











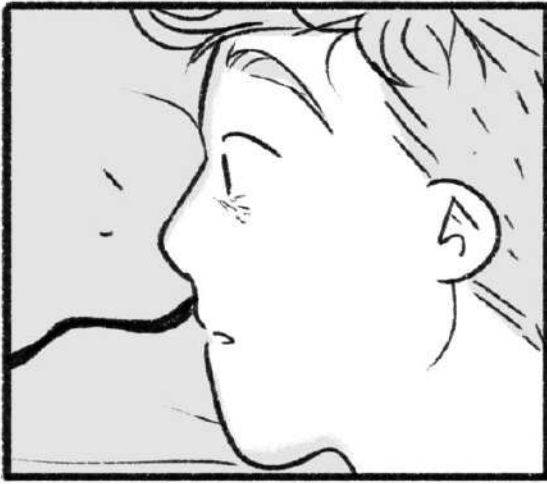
Yesterday...

you said you didn't want me to cover for you anymore...

530



Does that mean you want to come out?















I never thought this would happen to me



Oh
Char...

me
neither





Does this mean we're boyfriends?

539







WE'RE BOYFRIENDS!!





Hey Mum

Hi Nicky!













I- I still like girls, but... I like guys too, I think...



And Charlie, we're- we're going out

I wanted you to know



549







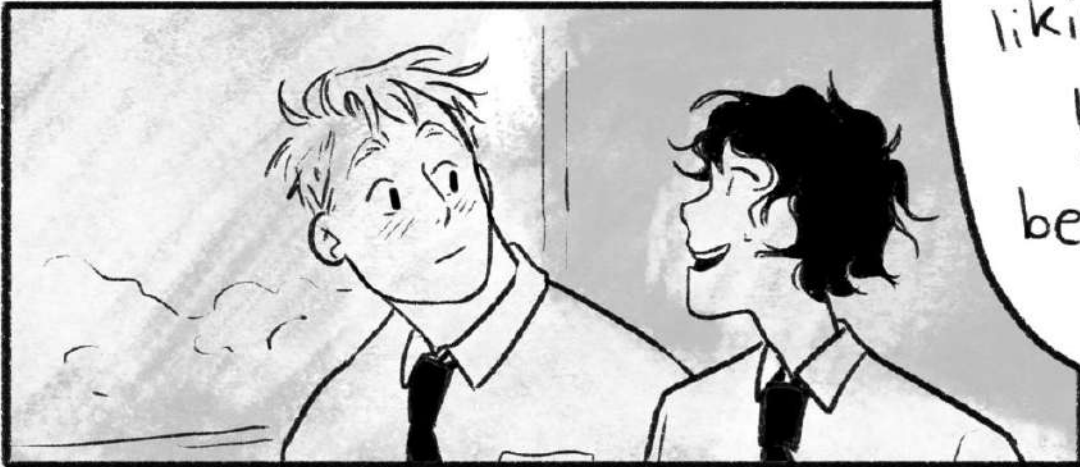






Well... me and Charlie started going out, like, a month and a half ago...

but I started liking him way before that...

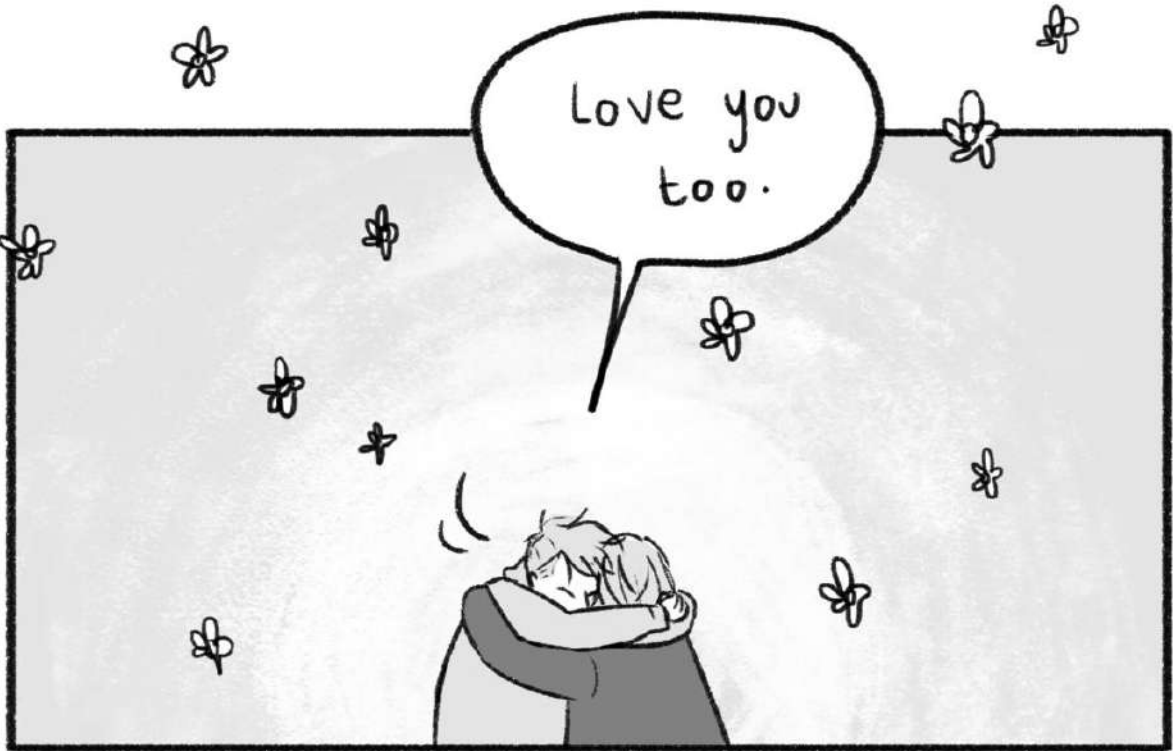


Months ago.









David got to bring his girlfriend last year!!



Your brother is four years older than you and they were living together at uni at the time-



But Mvvvvvum... I thought you loved meeeeeee...



SIGH Nicholas...

