

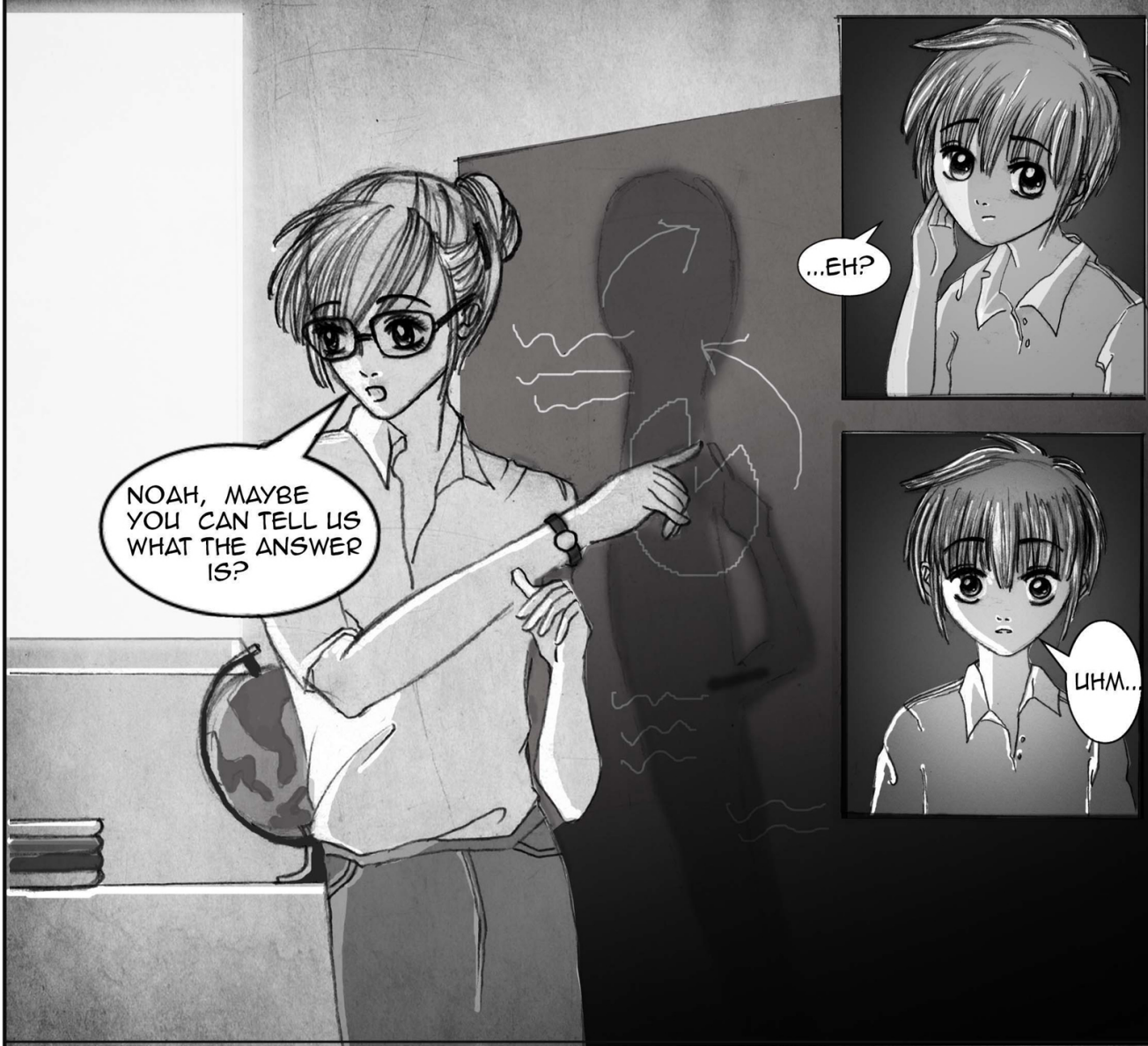


Sparks

STORY BY AKHILA JOHNY & BRENDAN OZAWA-DE SILVA . ART BY AKHILA JOHNY



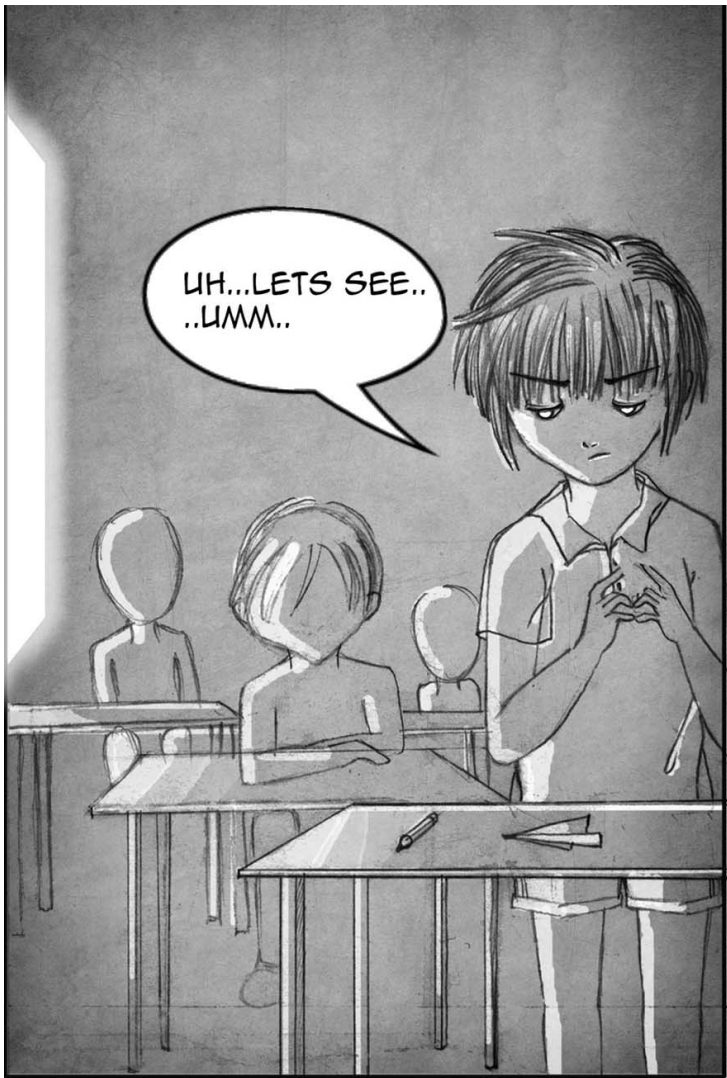
I, NOAH, AM SO BORED I COULD FALL ASLEEP RIGHT HERE...



NOAH, MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHAT THE ANSWER IS?

...EH?

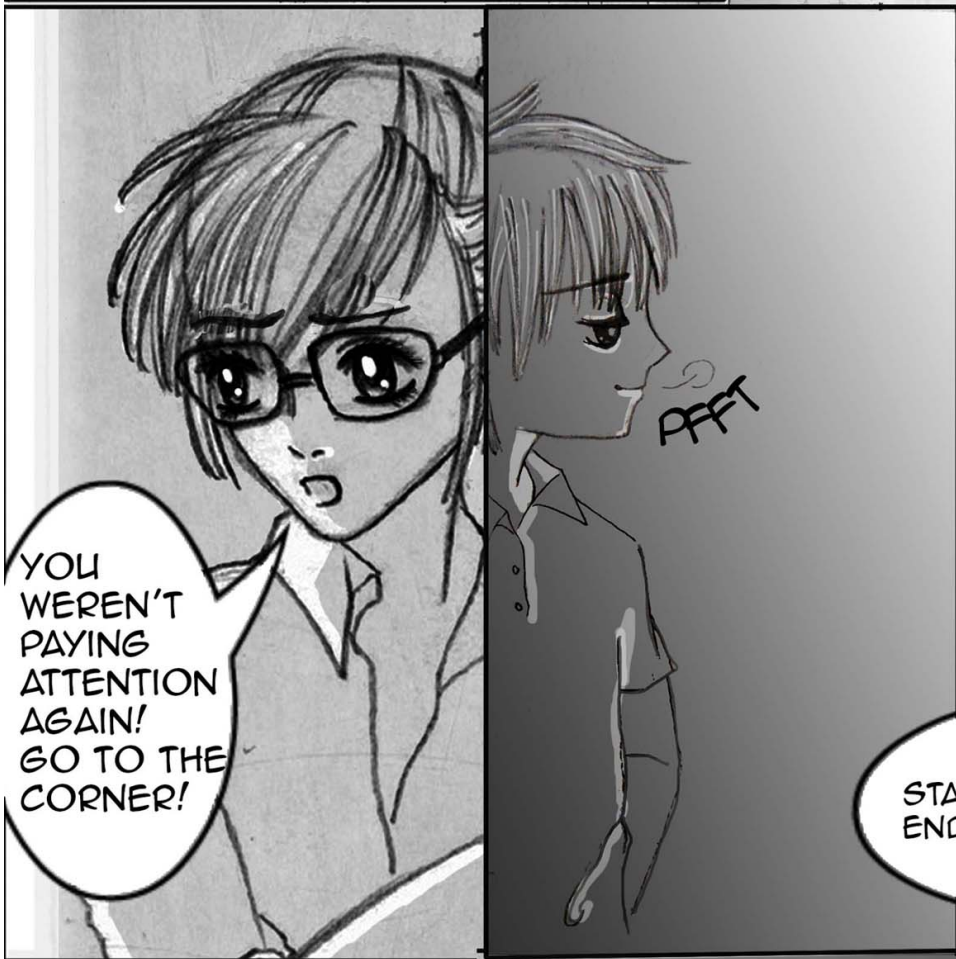
LHM...



UH...LETS SEE..
..LMM..



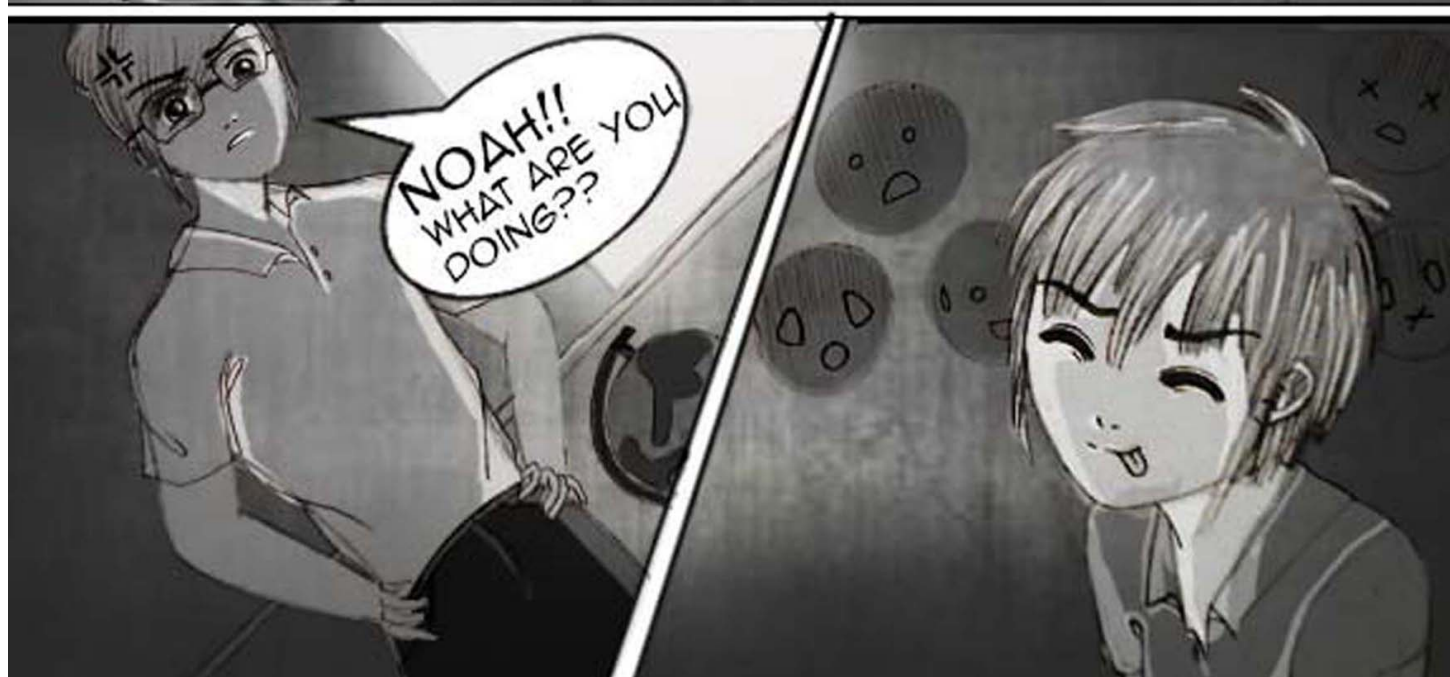
HERE?



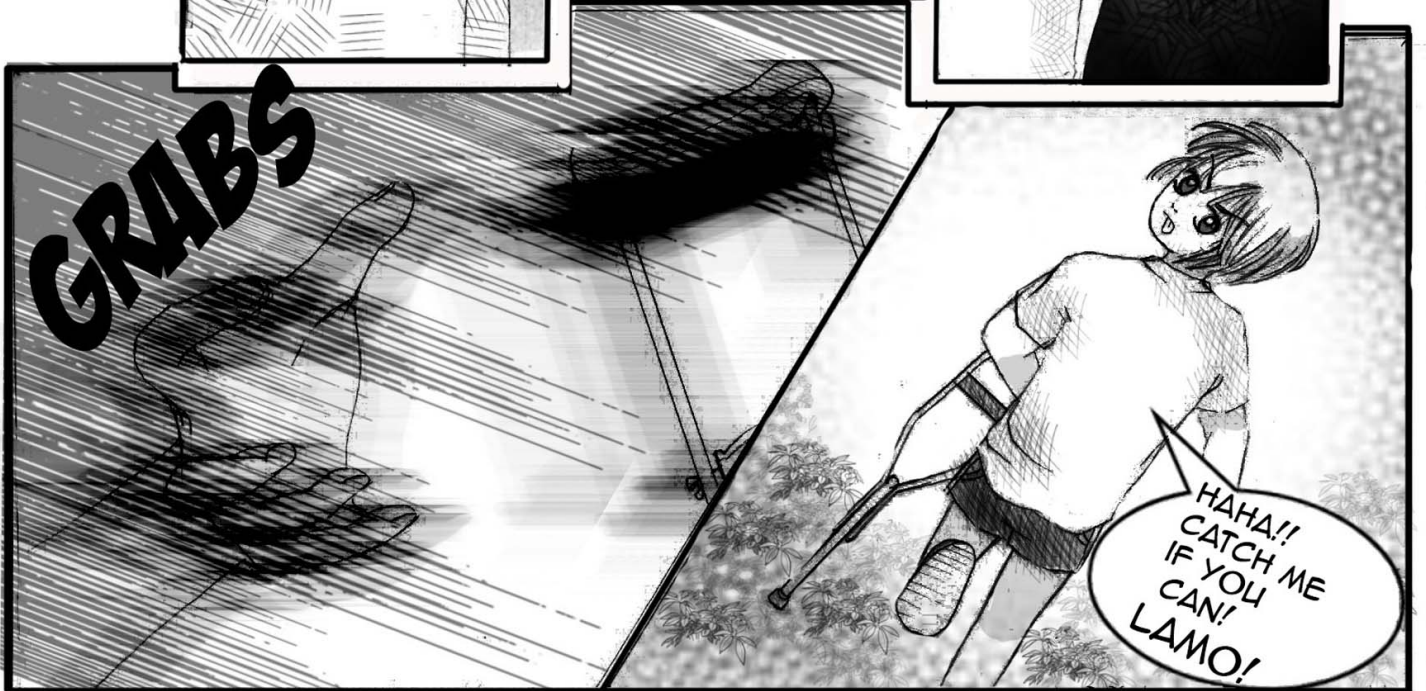
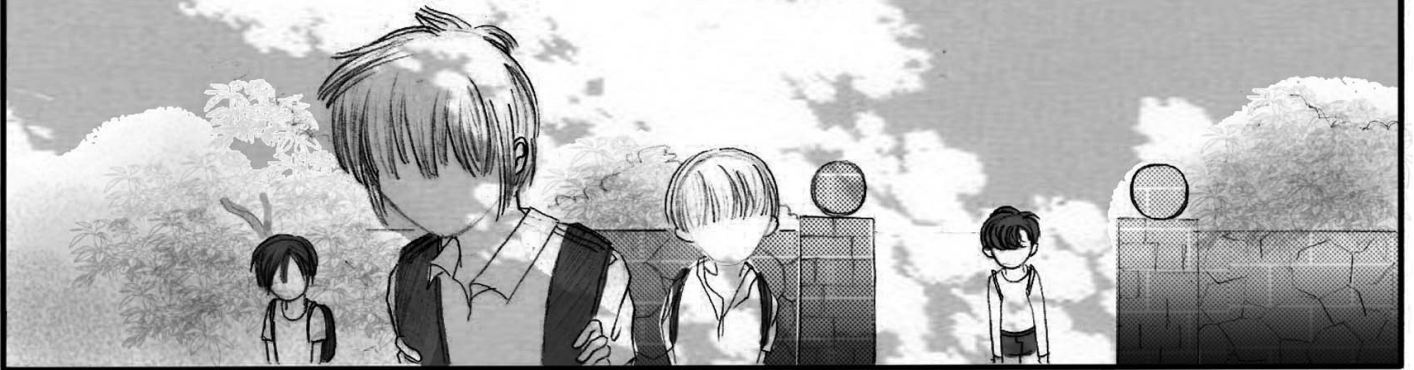
YOU
WEREN'T
PAYING
ATTENTION
AGAIN!
GO TO THE
CORNER!

PFT

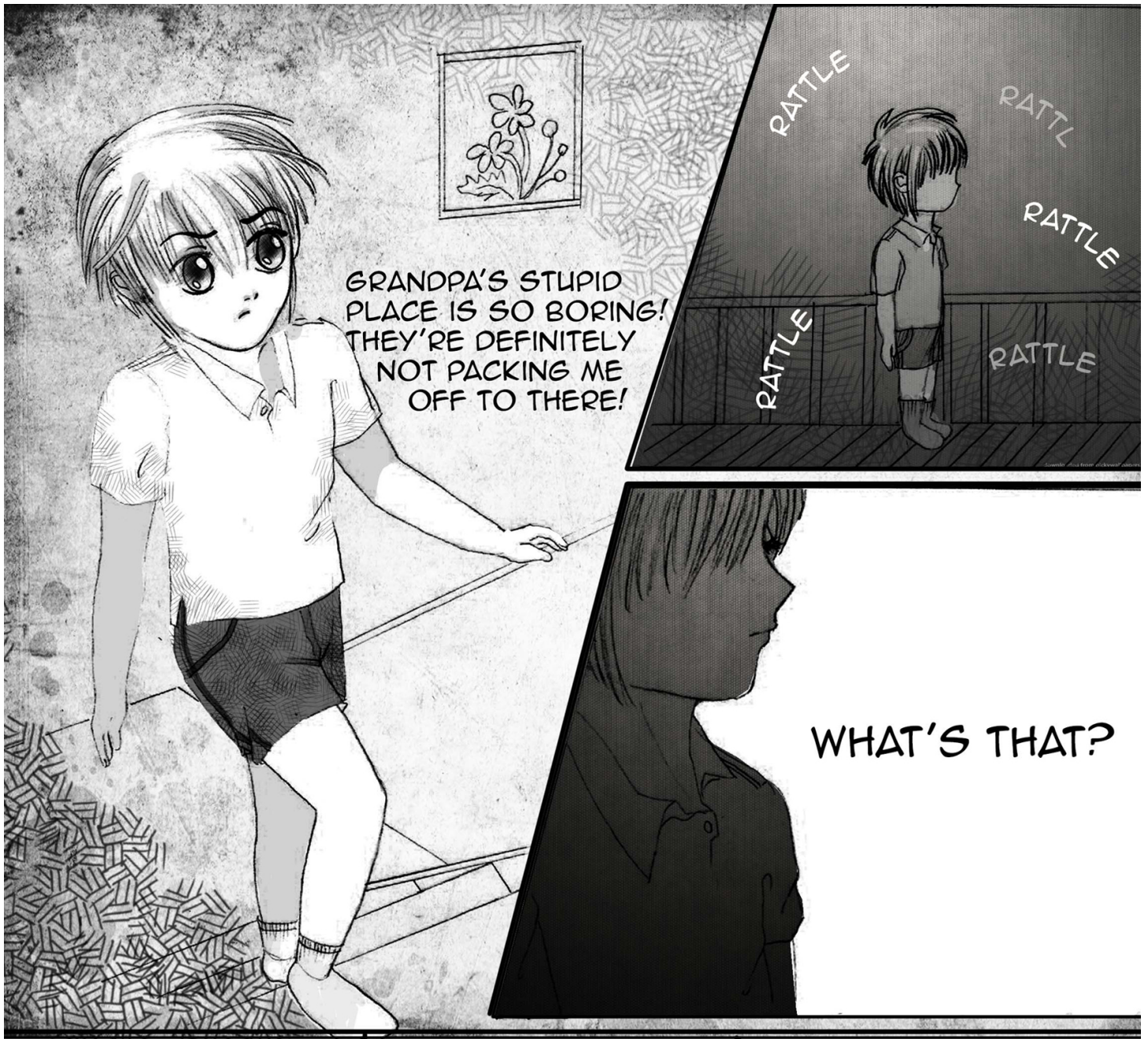
STAND THERE TILL THE
END OF THE PERIOD!



PHEW...
CLASS IS FINALLY FINISHED FOR THE DAY!







GRANDPA'S STUPID PLACE IS SO BORING!
THEY'RE DEFINITELY NOT PACKING ME OFF TO THERE!

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

WHAT'S THAT?



OH...

...ITS EMMA.



SHE LOOKS HAPPY...

PULLS



PULLS



NANANANA!!
ITS MINE NOW!

NO!
ITS MINE!
I WANT IT!





NOAH!!
STOP THAT RIGHT
NOW!!

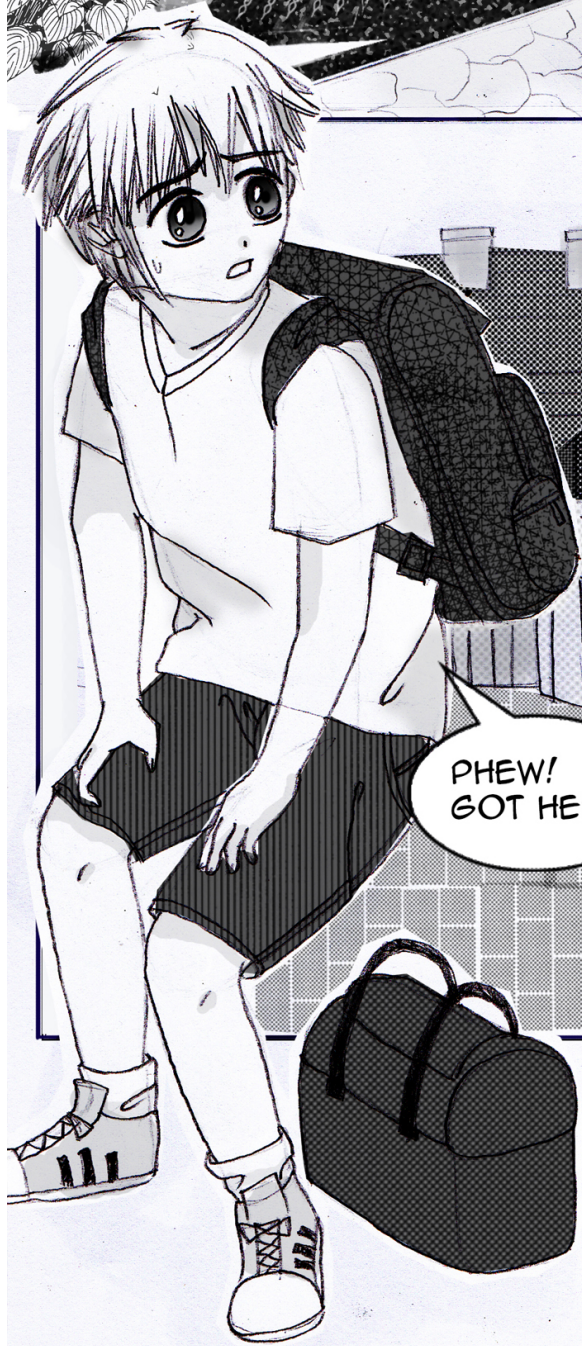
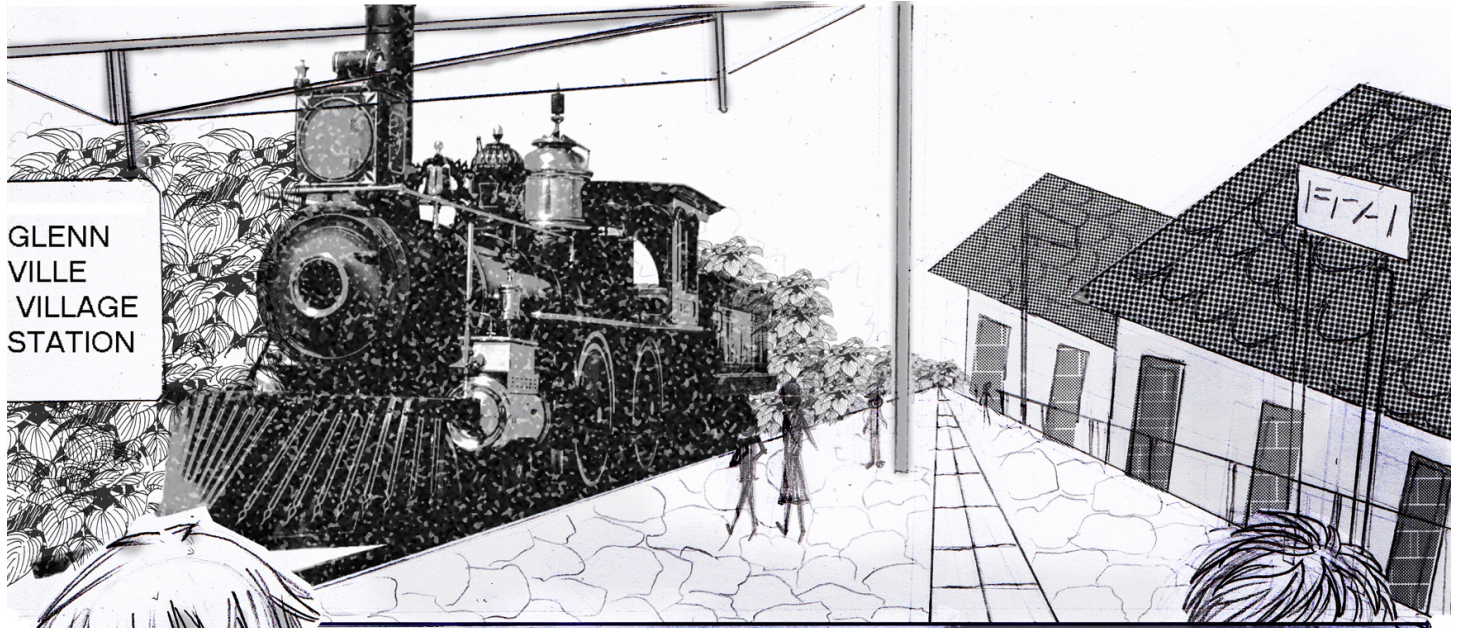
OH-OH!

THATS IT!
YOU ARE LEAVING
FOR GRANDPA'S
PLACE TOMORROW
AND THAT'S
FINAL!!

AND THAT WAS
HOW I ENDED UP
GOING TO GRAMP'S
PLACE...



GLENN
VILLE
VILLAGE
STATION



PHEW!
GOT HERE!



NOAH!
THERE YOU
ARE!



UGH! AND SO BEGINS THE MOST BORING VACATION EVER...



READY TO GO, SON?



YEAH... SURE.

YOU'RE GOING TO ENJOY YOURSELF HERE!

YEAH... WHY NOT..



AND THEN I SAW IT...

WOW...

THE AMAZING WOODS...

SO MYSTERIOUS...

BUT THEN...

I KNEW I JUST HAD TO SEE IT.



YES IT IS BEAUTIFUL. HOWEVER, YOU MUST NEVER COME HERE ALONE. IT IS NOT SAFE.



OH...



SHALL WE GET GOING THEN?

HIS WARNING MADE ME ALL THE MORE EAGER.

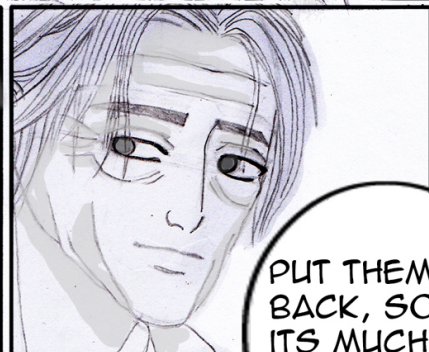
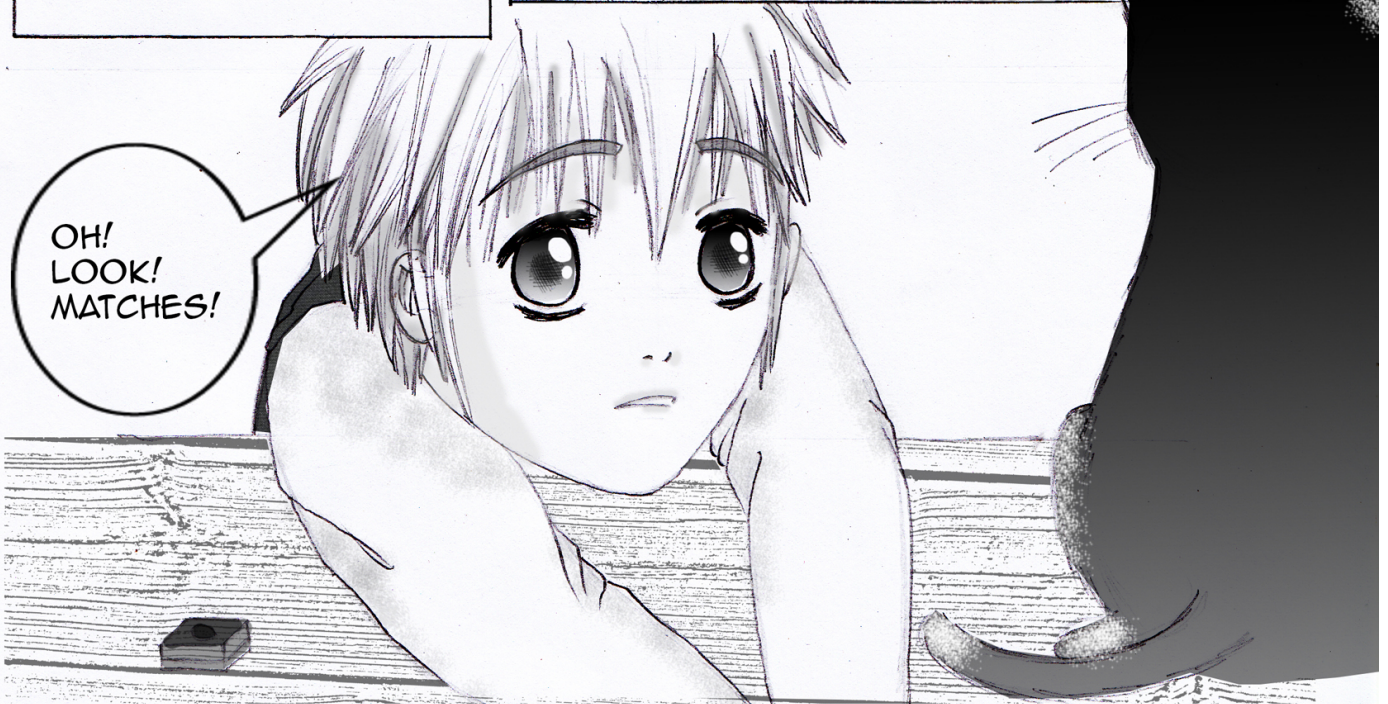
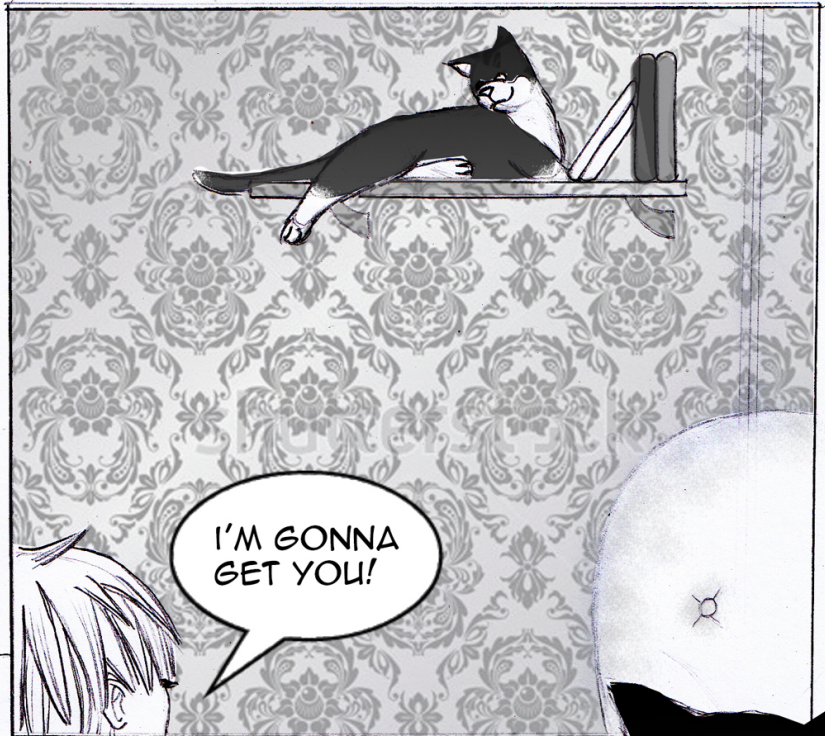
GRANDPA'S PLACE WAS AS BORING AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

BUT I MADE A NEW FRIEND.



MR MUFFTY, THE CAT.





LATER...

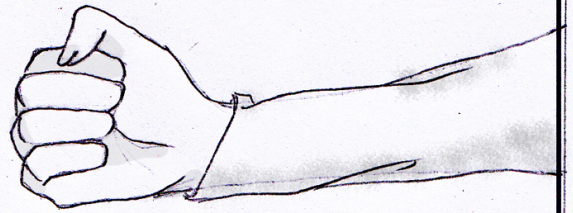
THE WOODS...



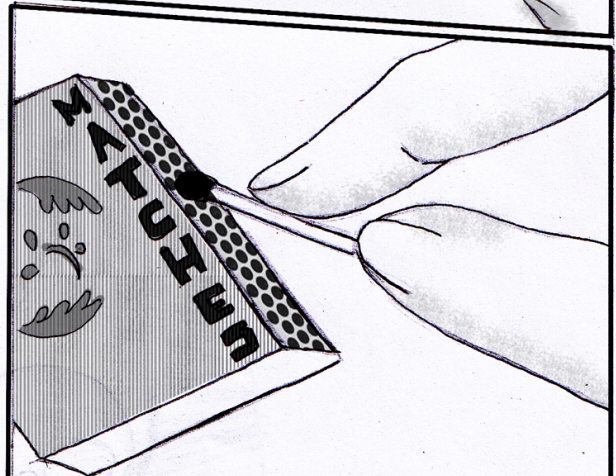
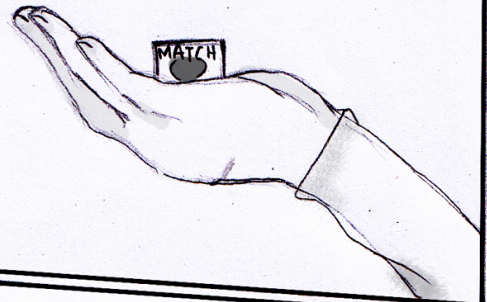
I'M FINALLY HERE!



ITS AS EXCITING AS I HOPED!

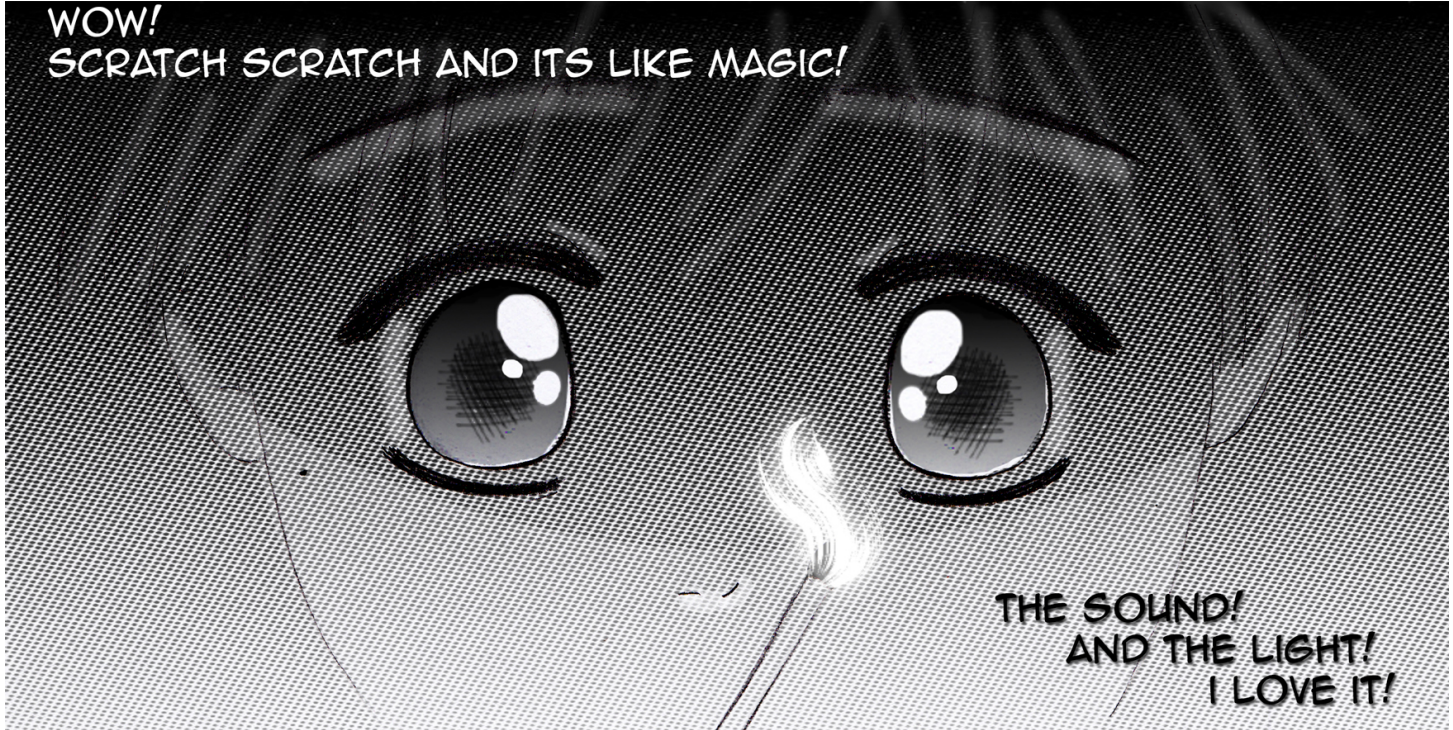


AND NOW...

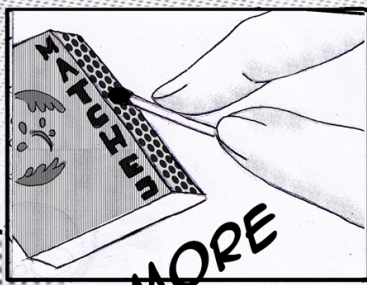


...FOR THE FINAL TOUCH!

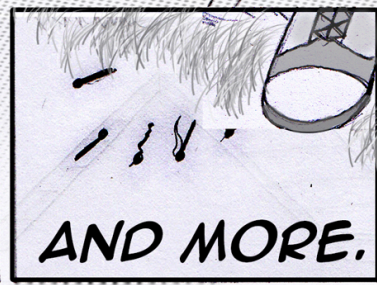
WOW!
SCRATCH SCRATCH AND ITS LIKE MAGIC!



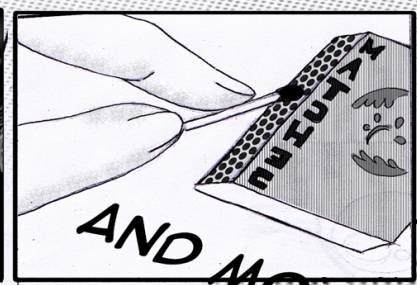
THE SOUND!
AND THE LIGHT!
I LOVE IT!



MORE



AND MORE.



AND MORE!



YAWN...!

WHAT A
TIRING DAY!

MAYBE A NAP
WOULD NOT BE
SO BAD...

...AND SO I WENT HOME, LEAVING MY PLAYTHINGS BEHIND.

AFTER MY NAP...

YAWN..
WHATS FOR
TEA, GRANDPA?

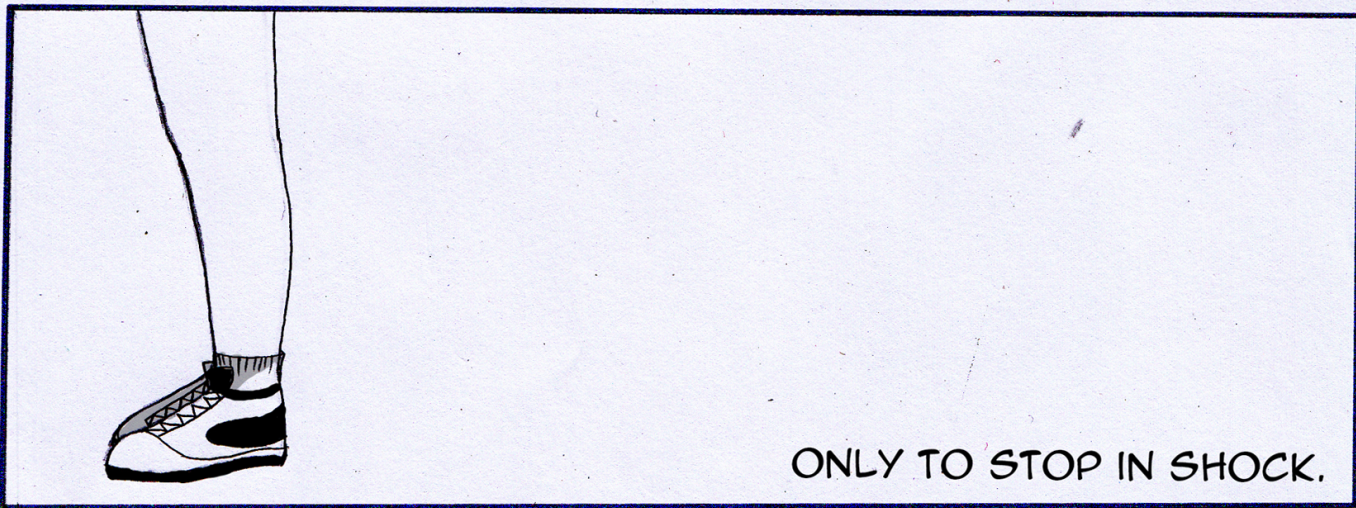
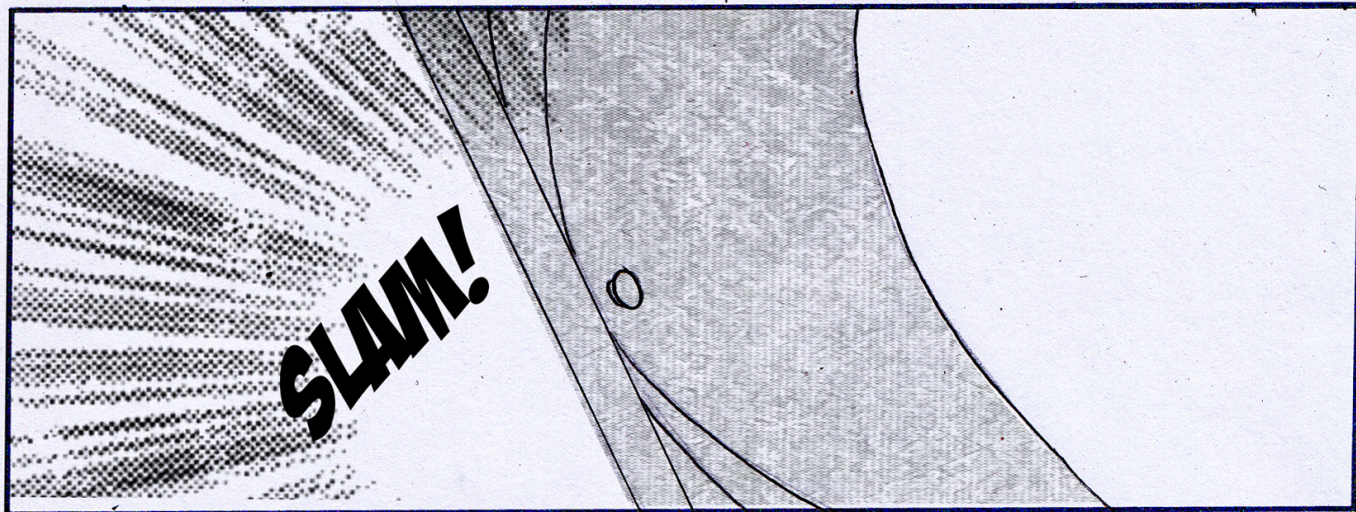
MHMM..
DID YOU
SEE?

THE
FOREST...
IS ON
FIRE.

EH...
WHAT?

THE
FIREMEN
ARE HERE.
ITS BEEN
BURNING
A WHILE
NOW...

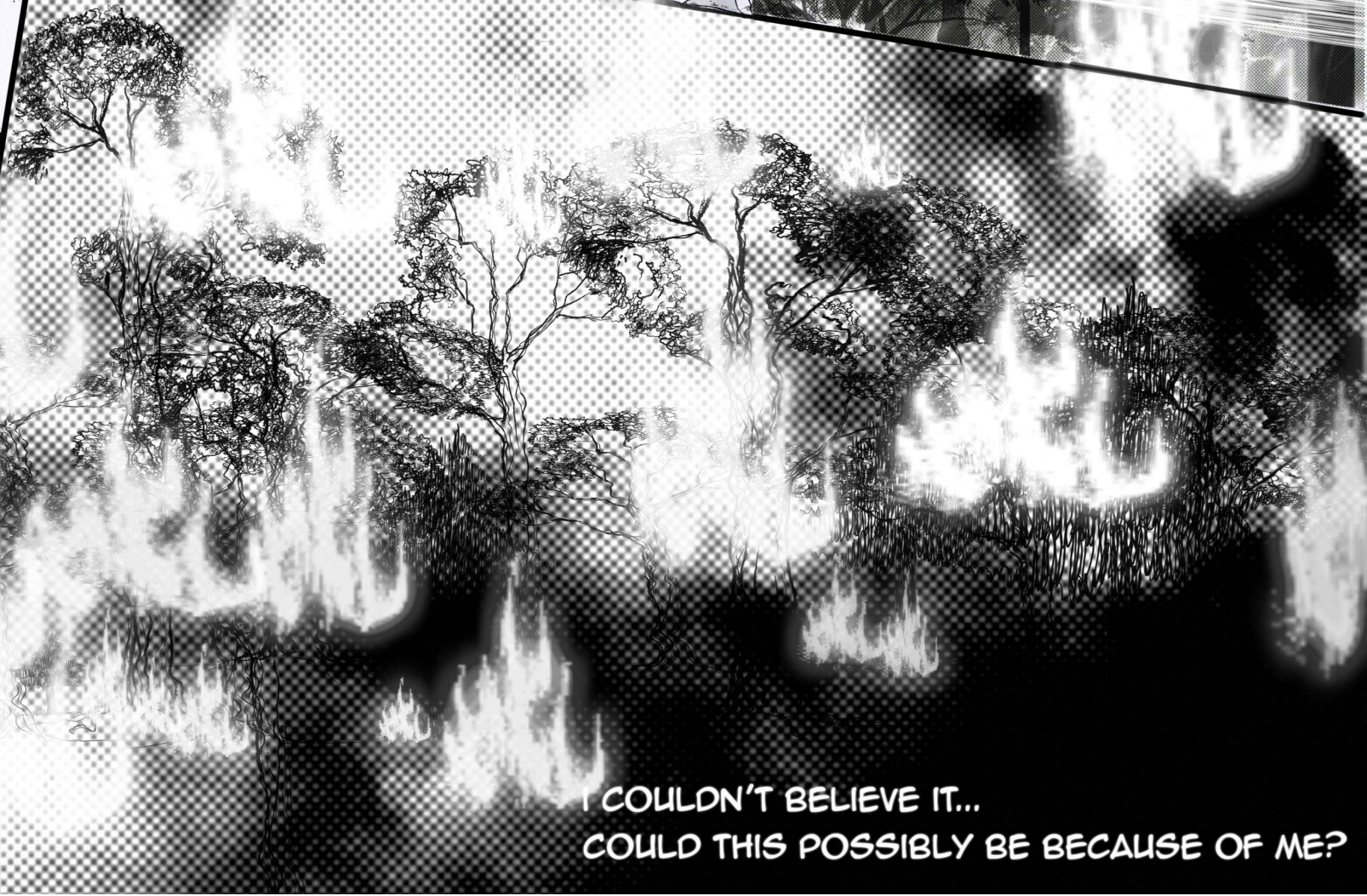
THE WOODS?
OH NO!
IT CAN'T BE!





IT'S NOT
GOING
DOWN!

WE GOTTA
MAKE IT
WORK!



I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE BECAUSE OF ME?

WHAT A
TERRIBLE
DAY...THE
FOREST FIRE...

MR MUFFTY
IS MISSING
TOO...



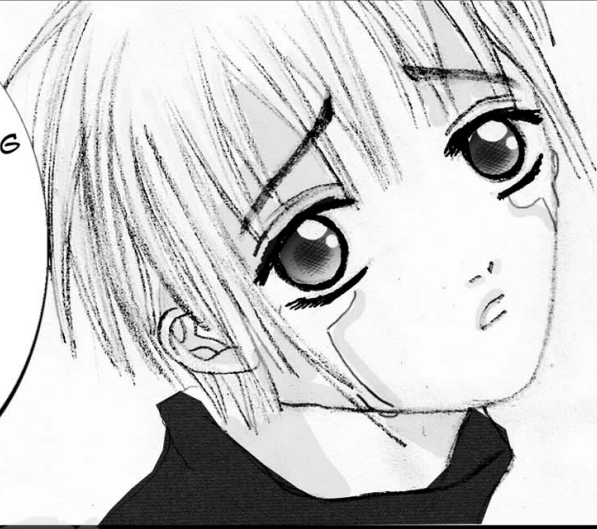
TREMBLE



I DID
IT!

I DID SOMETHING
REALLY BAD!
I PLAYED WITH
THE MATCHES
IN THE WOODS
EVEN THOUGH
YOU TOLD ME
I WAS NOT TO!

SON!
WHATS
WRONG?



SIGH



ITS BECAUSE
OF ME THAT
EVERYTHING IS
RUINED ...
HES LOST AND
LONELY..AND
MAYBE HE EVEN
DIED!

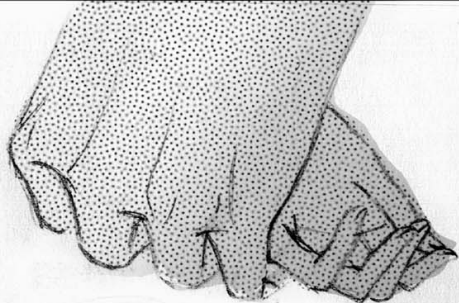


THE SPARK CAUSED A FOREST FIRE. THEY START SMALL, LIKE A SPARK OR A FEW DRY LEAVES BURNING -



NOAH, OUR FEELINGS AND OUR NEGATIVE DEEDS ARE LIKE THE SPARK...

BUT GROW INTO SO MUCH MORE UNTIL ITS DIFFICULT TO STOP THEM.



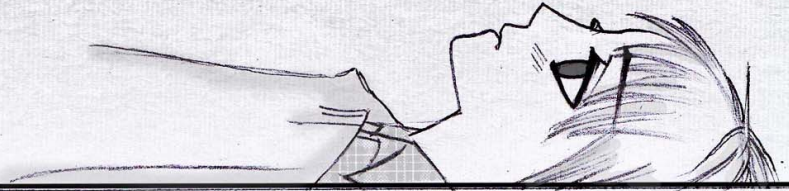
GRASP



THEY DESTROY OUR HAPPINESS.

DO YOU SEE NOW, NOAH, WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTROL SUCH FEELINGS?

POOR MR. MUFFTY...I WONDER WHERE HE IS..HOPE HE IS OKAY..PLEASE LET HIM BE OK



GET OUT OF BED, NOAH. I'VE NEWS



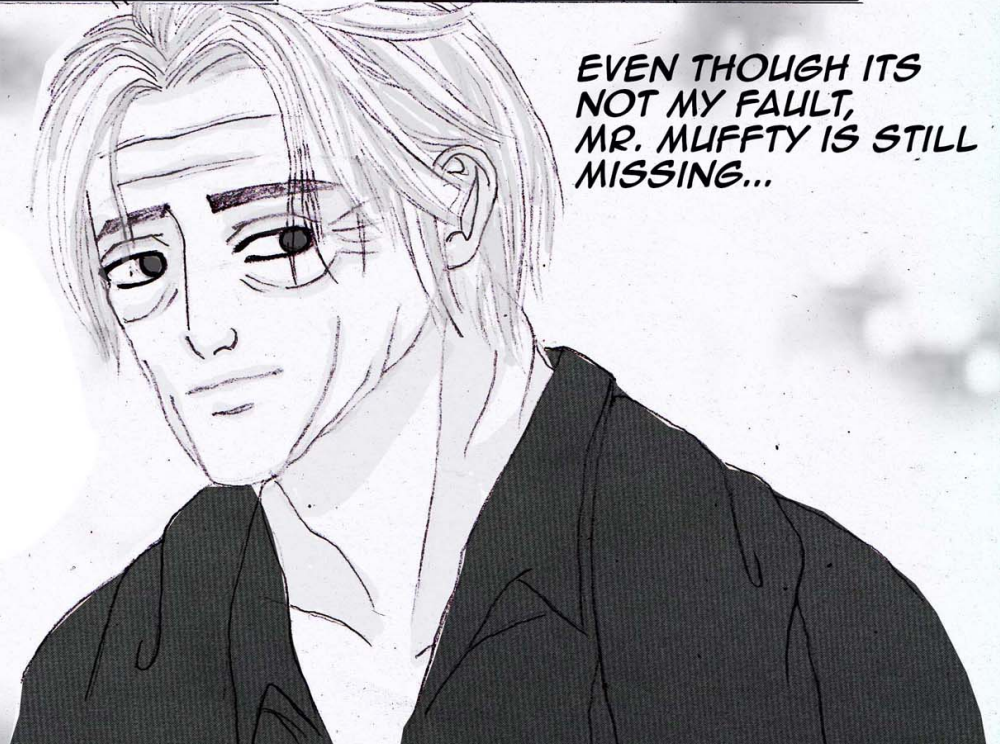
THE FIRE HAS DIED DOWN. TURNS OUT..IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE DRY LEAVES THAT IT STARTED...



OH...



EVEN THOUGH ITS NOT MY FAULT, MR. MUFFTY IS STILL MISSING...



SETTLES



MEOWWW



MEOWWW



MR.
MUFFTY!

YOU CAME
BACK! OH
I AM SO
GLAD!

AND SO GIVEN EVERYTHING, THINGS ENDED WELL. BUT I NEVER FORGOT WHAT GRANDPA TOLD ME THAT NIGHT ABOUT OUR NEGATIVE EMOTIONS AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO CONTROL THEM.