

ARCADE

ALEX



CHAPTER 1

BY
RISHO



MY NAME
IS KAZ.

I FIRST
MOVED HERE
TWO YEARS
AGO.

EVERYONE
CALLS
IT
STARLIGHT
CITY.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
THE CITY IS
REALLY
CALLED.



THE
COOLEST
PLACE IN
TOWN IS
THE
SHOOTING
STAR
ARCADE.

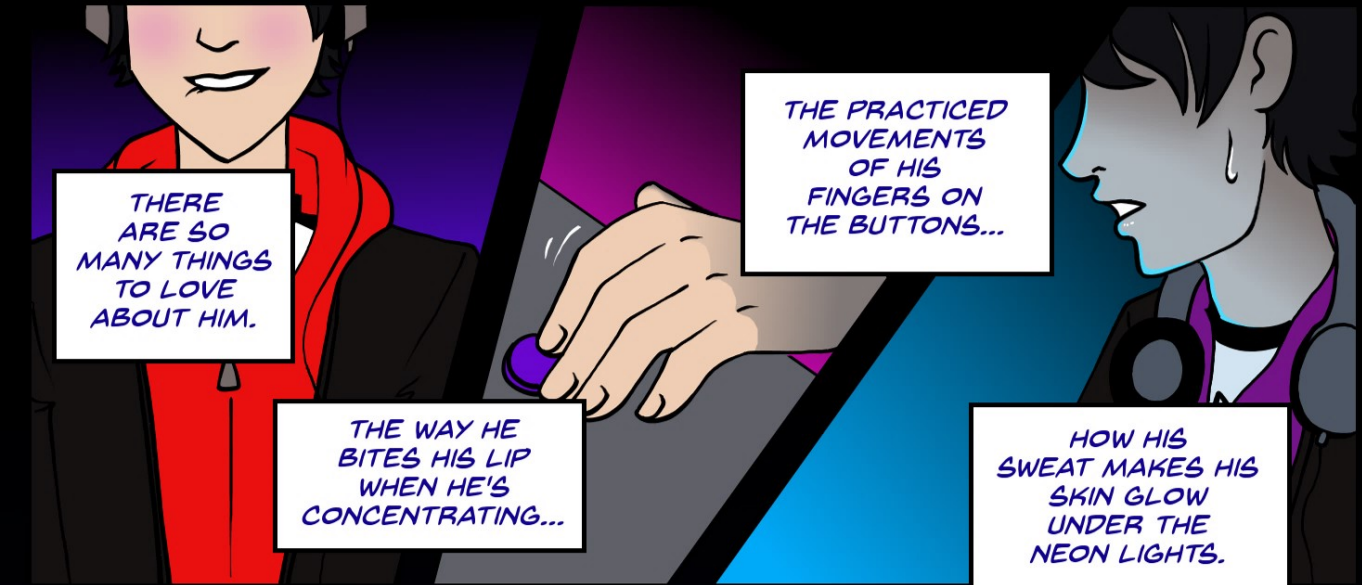


THAT'S
WHERE
I FIRST
SAW
HIM.



ARCADE
ALEX.

STARCHASER

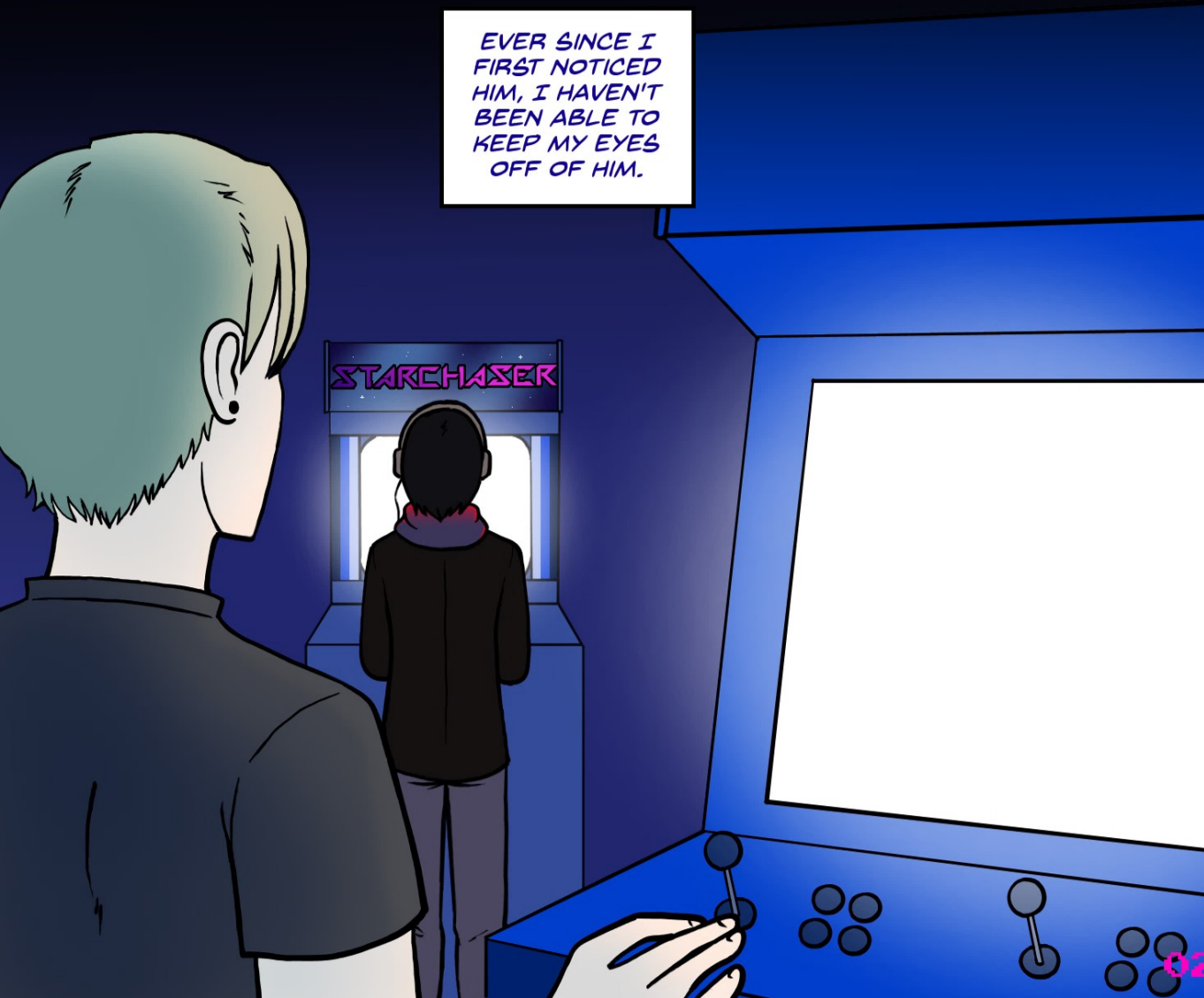


THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS TO LOVE ABOUT HIM.

THE WAY HE BITES HIS LIP WHEN HE'S CONCENTRATING...

THE PRACTICED MOVEMENTS OF HIS FINGERS ON THE BUTTONS...

HOW HIS SWEAT MAKES HIS SKIN GLOW UNDER THE NEON LIGHTS.



EVER SINCE I FIRST NOTICED HIM, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP MY EYES OFF OF HIM.

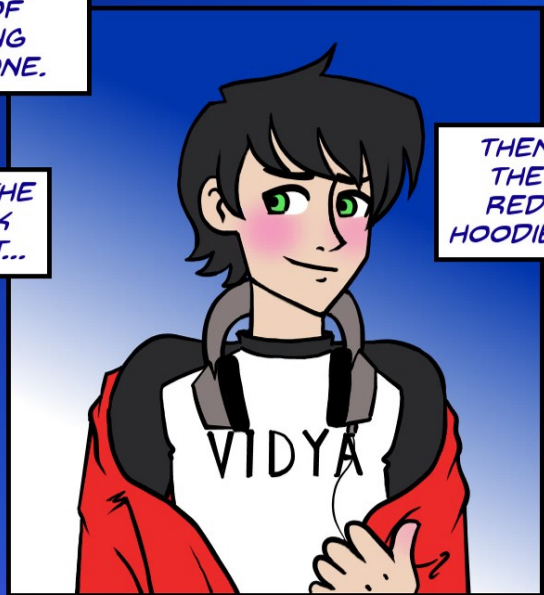
ALL OF THE LAYERS HE WORE JUST MADE ME CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HE MUST LOOK LIKE UNDER THEM.



I THOUGHT OF HIM REMOVING EACH PIECE OF CLOTHING ONE BY ONE.

FIRST THE BLACK JACKET...

THEN THE RED HOODIE...



UNTIL HE STOOD BEFORE ME WEARING ONLY HIS HEADPHONES AND A SMILE.

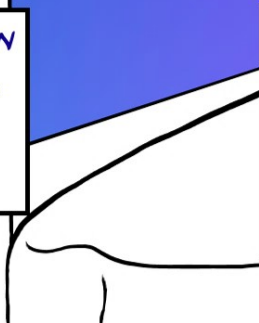


THEN HE'D PUT ON HIS HEADPHONES...

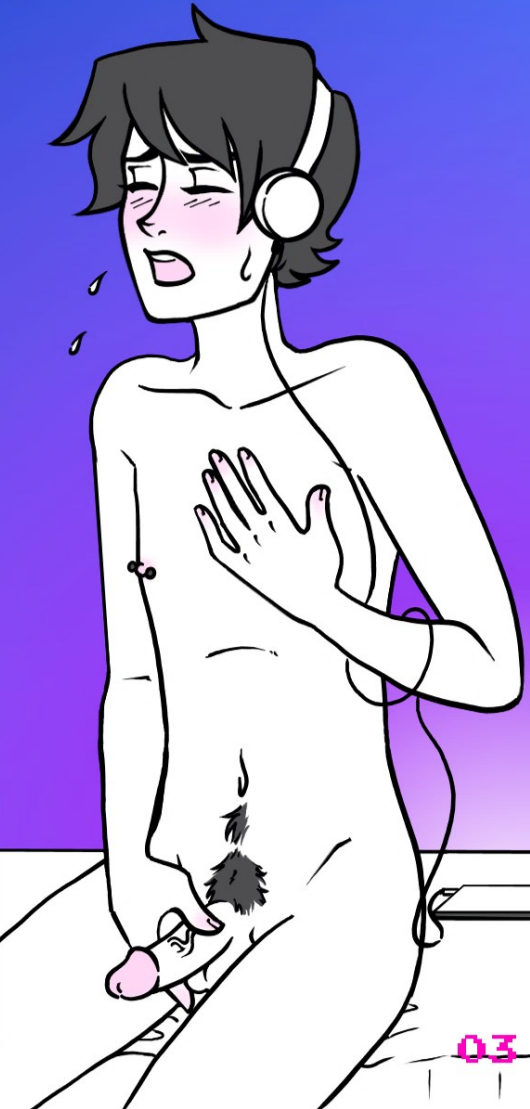


LETTING HIS MUSIC WHISK HIM AWAY TO A FANTASY WORLD.

HE'D SHINE IN THE DIM LIGHT, LIKE A VISION FROM A DREAM...



AND I'D WATCH AS HE PLEASURED HIMSELF WITH THE SAME PRACTICED TOUCH THAT HE USED FOR HIS ARCADE GAMES.



AT LEAST,
THAT WAS
HOW I IMAGINED
IT. IT COULD
NEVER REALLY
HAPPEN
BECAUSE I
WAS TOO SHY
TO TALK TO HIM.

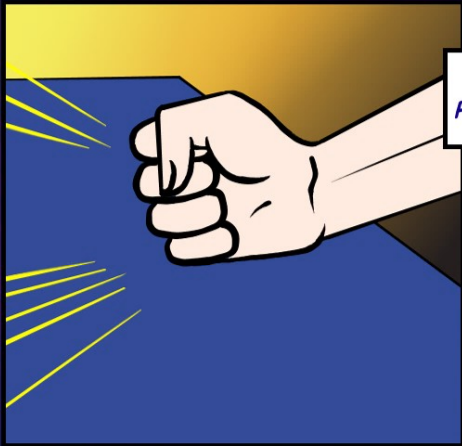
I HAD NO
IDEA HOW
TO EVEN
GET HIS
ATTENTION.



BUT THEN, THE
PERFECT IDEA
CAME TO ME.
SO I WAITED
UNTIL AFTER
HE LEFT,
EVERY DAY...



AND I
PRACTICED.



AND
PRACTICED.



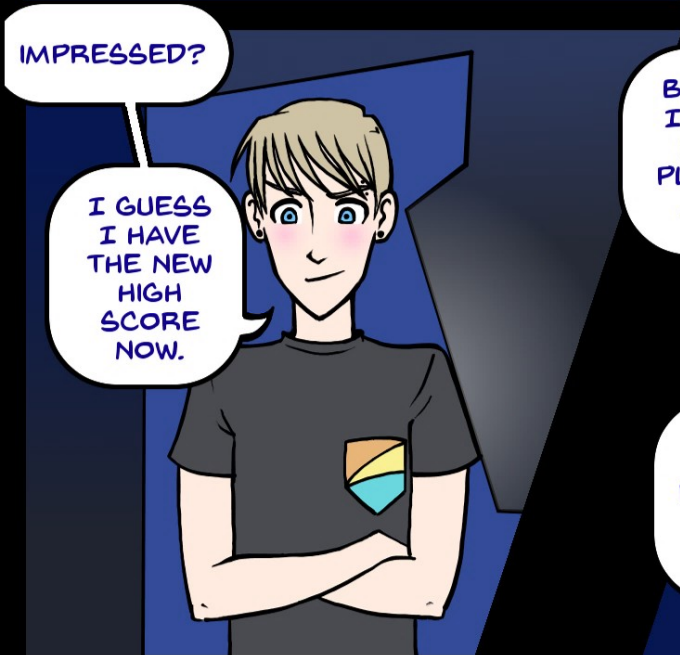
AND
PRACTICED.

UNTIL ONE DAY...



WHAT!?

MY HIGH SCORE...



IMPRESSED?

I GUESS I HAVE THE NEW HIGH SCORE NOW.

BUT HOW? I'VE BEEN IN FIRST PLACE FOR A YEAR!



WELL... TO BE HONEST...

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING FOR MONTHS AND MONTHS...



...JUST TO GET YOU TO NOTICE ME.

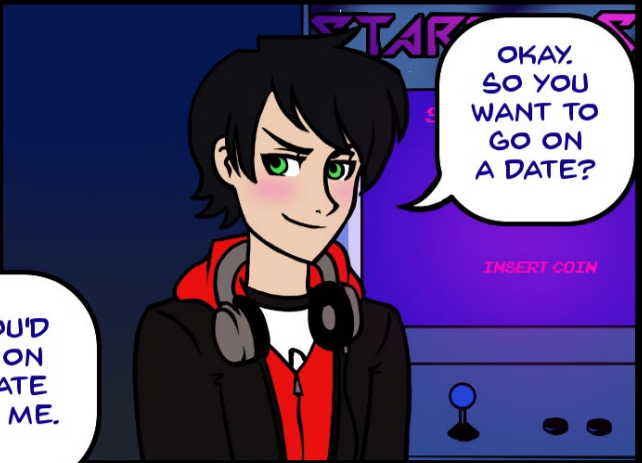


OH? WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ONCE I NOTICED YOU?

IT... IT SOUNDS STUPID TO SAY.

JUST SPIT IT OUT.

Y-YOU'D GO ON A DATE WITH ME.

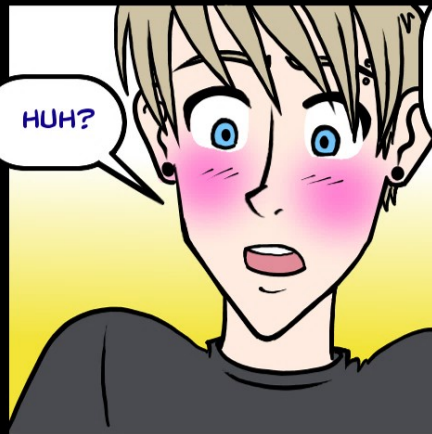


OKAY. SO YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE?

INSERT COIN



BUT FIRST YOU GOTTA SHOW ME HOW YOU GOT THAT HIGH SCORE.

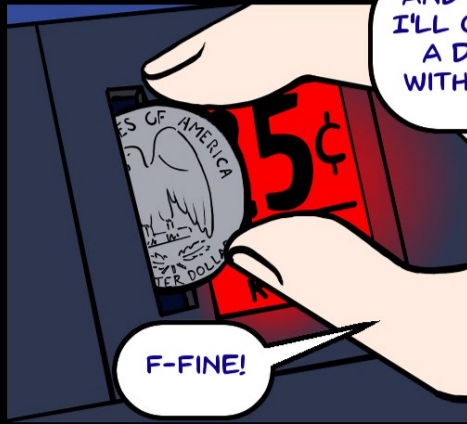


HUH?

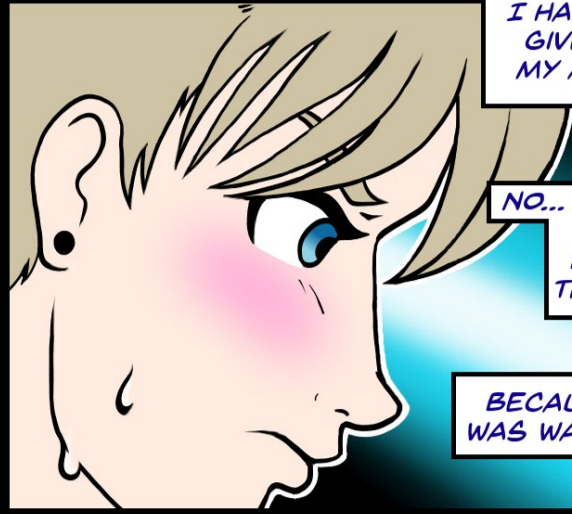
YOU HEARD ME. HOW DO I KNOW IT WAS REALLY YOU?

GET A HIGH SCORE LIKE THAT AGAIN...

AND THEN I'LL GO ON A DATE WITH YOU.



F-FINE!



I HAD TO GIVE IT MY ALL.

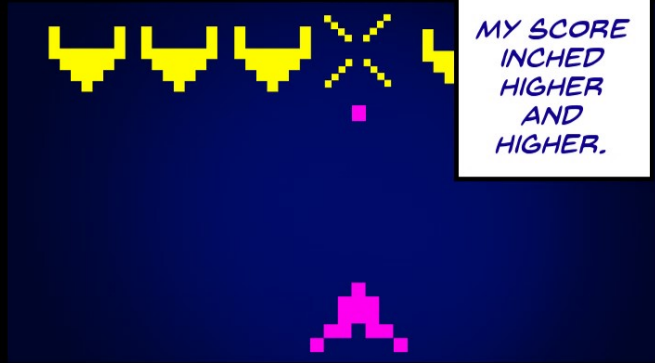
NO... EVEN BETTER THIS TIME.

BECAUSE HE WAS WATCHING.



HMPH.

BEGINNER'S LUCK...



MY SCORE INCHED HIGHER AND HIGHER.

I HAD TO PROVE IT TO HIM.

17450

I WAS SO NERVOUS, BUT I WAS ALMOST THERE...



MY HANDS SHOOK AS I FUMBLLED WITH THE CONTROLS.

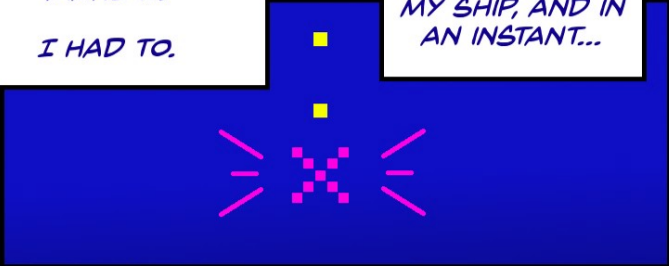
I WAS SO CLOSE.

SCORE 1851300

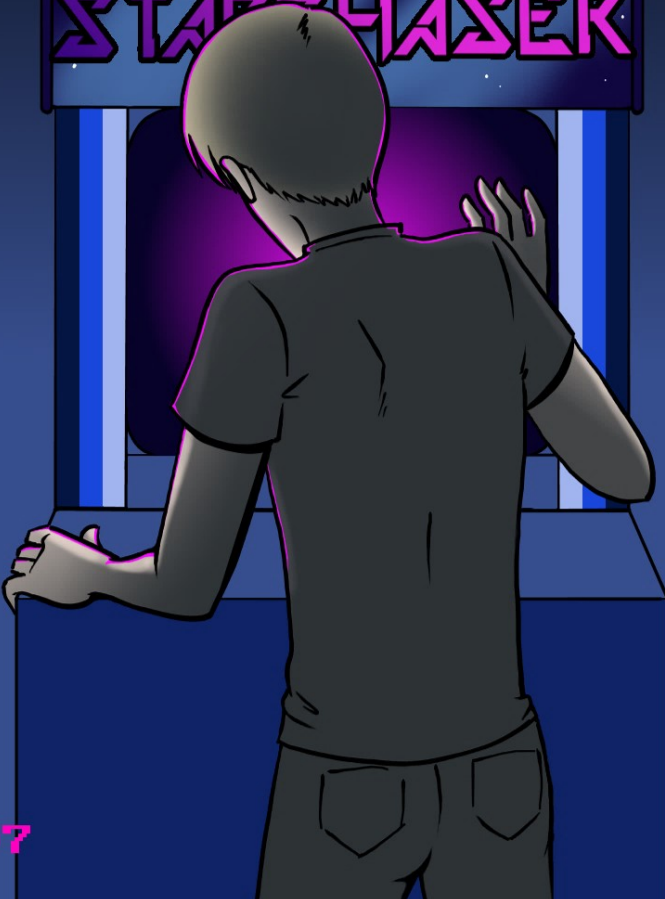
ONLY 2000 POINTS AND I WOULD REACH MY HIGH SCORE.

I WAS ON MY LAST LIFE, BUT I KNEW I COULD MAKE IT. I HAD TO.

BUT I WASN'T FAST ENOUGH. AN ENEMY HIT MY SHIP, AND IN AN INSTANT...



STAR CHASER



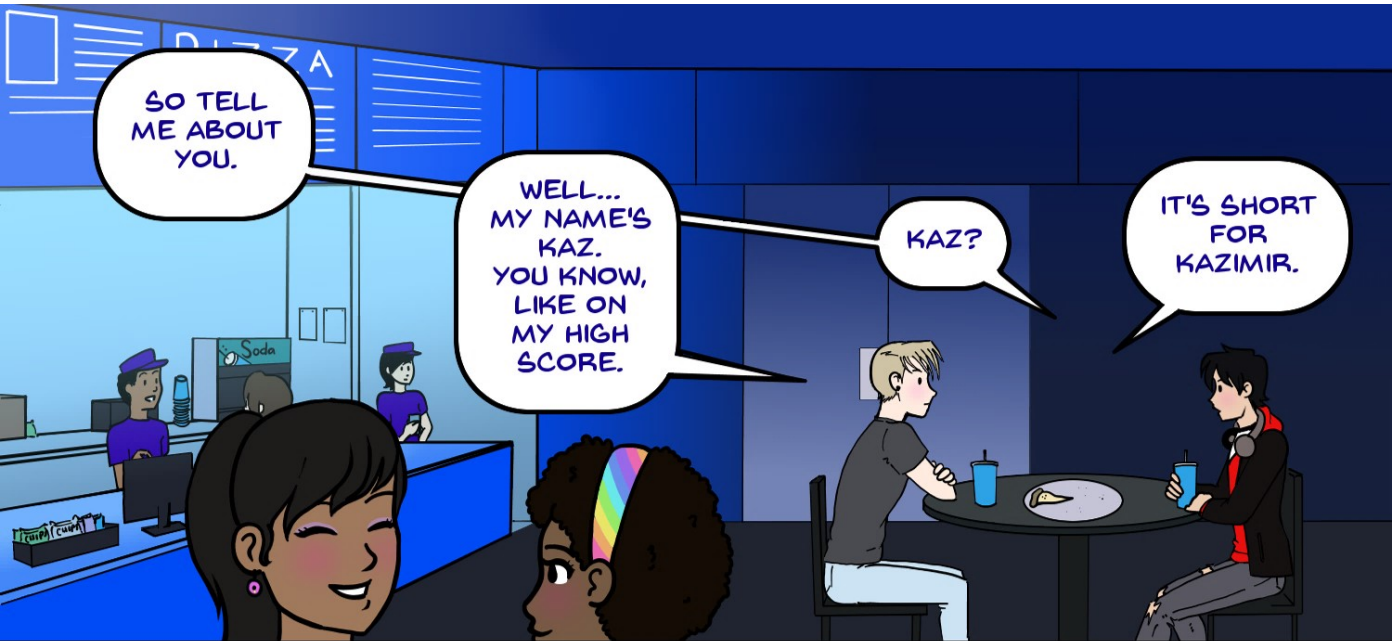
IT WAS ALL OVER.

THEN SUDDENLY, I FELT A HAND ON MY SHOULDER.



THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD!





SO TELL ME ABOUT YOU.

WELL... MY NAME'S KAZ. YOU KNOW, LIKE ON MY HIGH SCORE.

KAZ?

IT'S SHORT FOR KAZIMIR.



NICE, IS THAT POLISH?

CZECH.



OH COOL, ARE YOU FROM THERE?



I'M FROM OHIO.



EXOTIC.



C'MON,
LET'S GO
PLAY
SOMETHING.



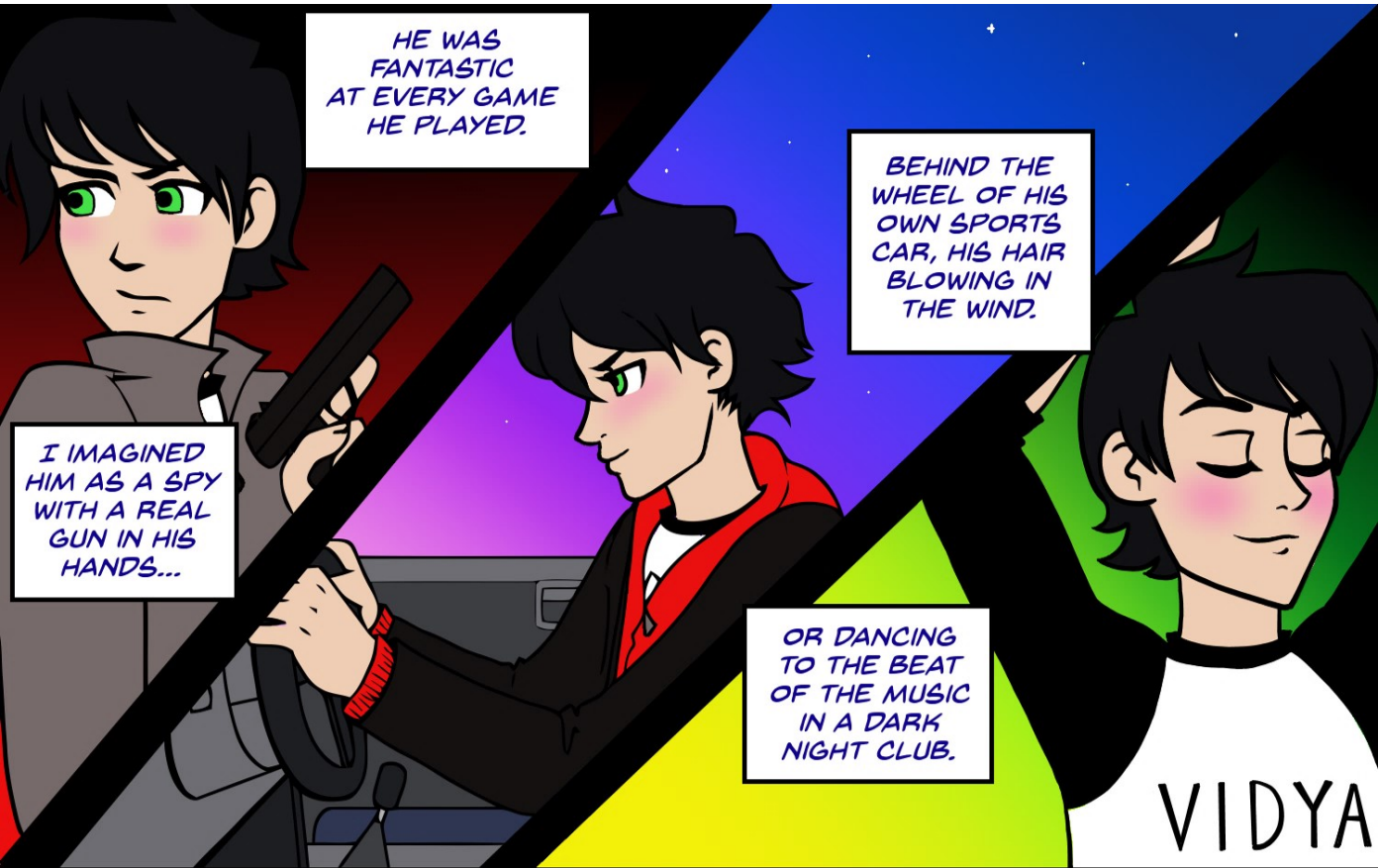
ENOUGH
STARCHASER.

WHAT DO
YOU LIKE TO
PLAY?



SO WE
WENT ON
OUR DATE.

IT WAS
SO HARD
TO KEEP
MY EYES
OFF OF
HIM...

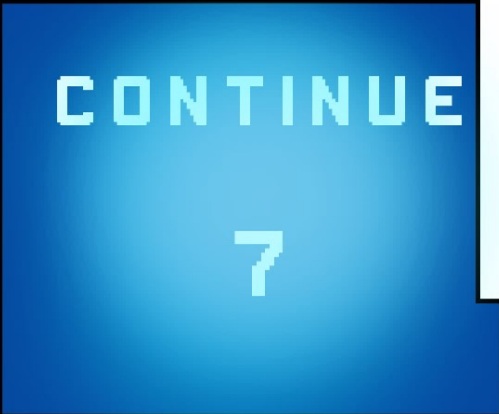


HE WAS FANTASTIC AT EVERY GAME HE PLAYED.

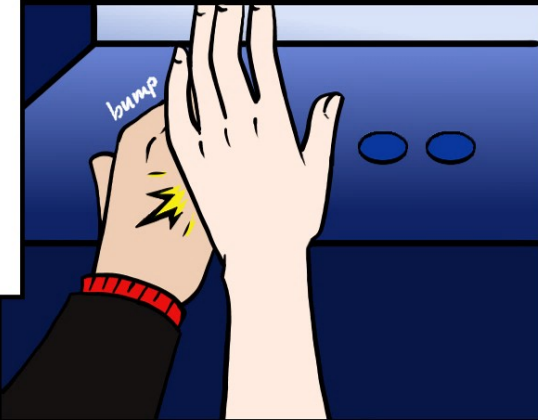
BEHIND THE WHEEL OF HIS OWN SPORTS CAR, HIS HAIR BLOWING IN THE WIND.

I IMAGINED HIM AS A SPY WITH A REAL GUN IN HIS HANDS...

OR DANCING TO THE BEAT OF THE MUSIC IN A DARK NIGHT CLUB.



PURELY BY ACCIDENT, MY HAND TOUCHED HIS WHEN WE BOTH TRIED TO PRESS THE BUTTON TO CONTINUE.

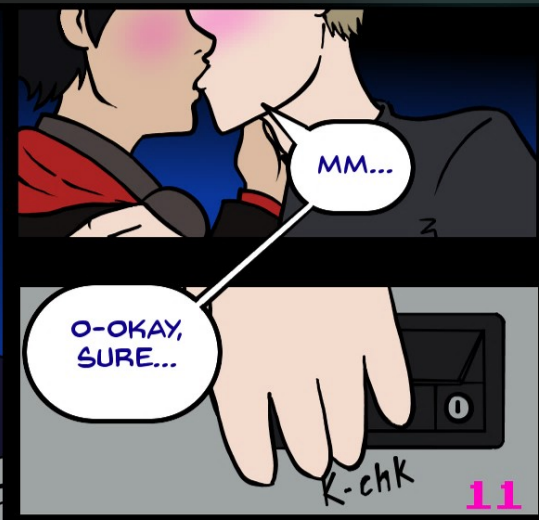


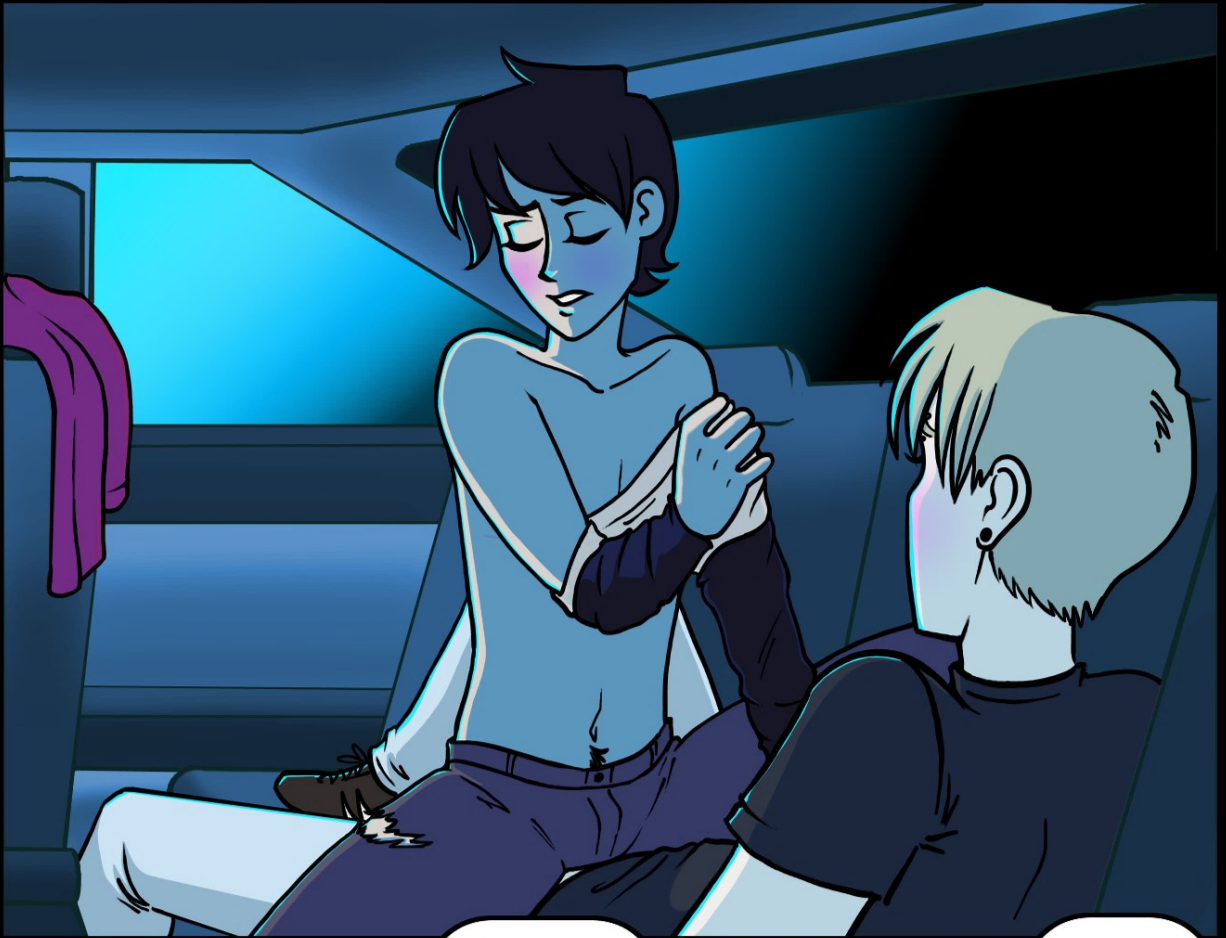
OUR EYES MET, AND I TRIED TO STAMMER OUT AN APOLOGY...

WHEN SUDDENLY A SMILE SPREAD ACROSS HIS FACE...



AND WITHOUT A WORD, HE TOOK MY HAND AND WE LEFT THE ARCADE.





I CAN
TELL
YOU'RE
ENJOYING
YOURSELF.

I-I'M
SORRY...



WHY ARE
YOU
APOLOGIZING?
IT'S
FLATTERING.



NO ONE'S
AROUND.
IT'S JUST US.

LET ME
MAKE YOU
FEEL GOOD...



W-WAIT!



SHIT,
I'M SORRY.
AM I
MOVING TOO
FAST?



N-NO!
NOT AT
ALL!

IT'S JUST...
I'VE HAD A
CRUSH ON
YOU FOREVER,
SO IT FEELS
LIKE... LIKE
I SHOULD BE
THE ONE
MAKING YOU
FEEL GOOD.



OH...



...FIRST YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING.

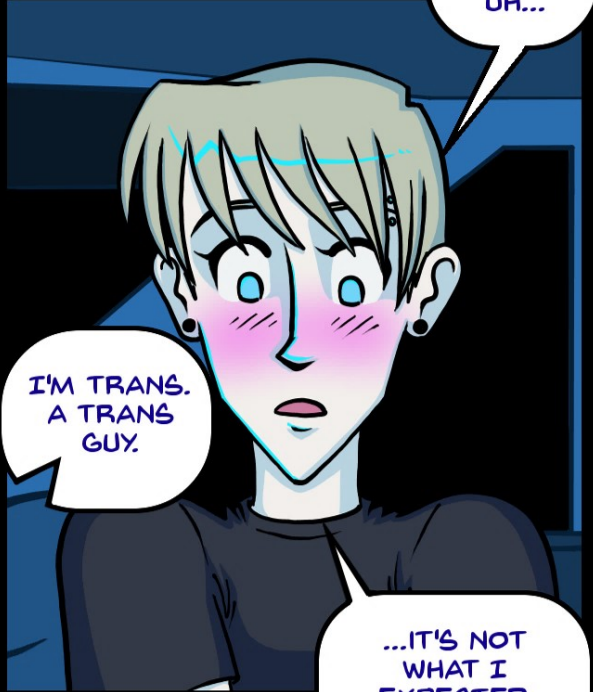
I WANT TO, BUT...

WHAT IS IT?



MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF I JUST SHOW YOU.

THEN YOU CAN DECIDE IF YOU STILL LIKE ME.



OH, YOU'RE... UH...

I'M TRANS. A TRANS GUY.



I HOPE YOU'RE NOT DISAPPOINTED.

...IT'S NOT WHAT I EXPECTED, BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT DISAPPOINTED.



NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED, HUH?

YEAH, BUT THAT'S NOT A BAD THING.

NOTHING ABOUT YOU IS WHAT I EXPECTED!

YOU WERE JUST A FANTASY, AN UNAPPROACHABLE GUY UNTIL TODAY...

BUT NOW... NOW YOU'RE SO MUCH BETTER.



I LIKE YOU SO MUCH MORE NOW THAT I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

NOT ARCADE ALEX. JUST YOU. JUST ALEX.



SO PLEASE, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW MUCH I LIKE YOU.

I WANT YOU TO BLOW ME.

OOF!



GO ON, SHOW ME WHAT A BIG CRUSH YOU HAVE ON ME.



AH!

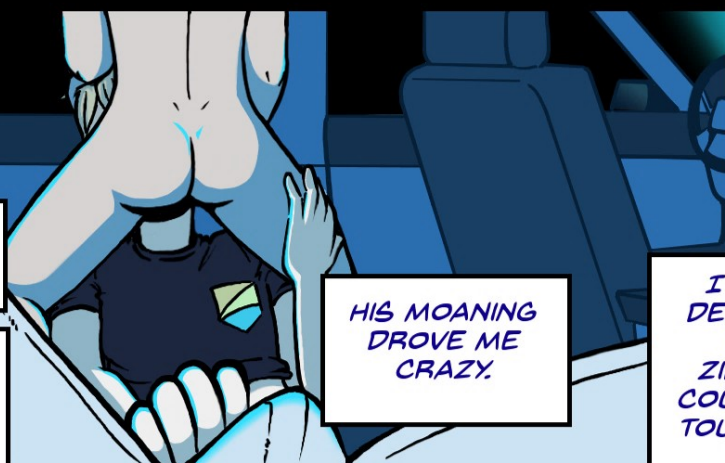
DAMN!

KAZ, YOU FEEL SO GOOD!

I NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD EVER HAPPEN.

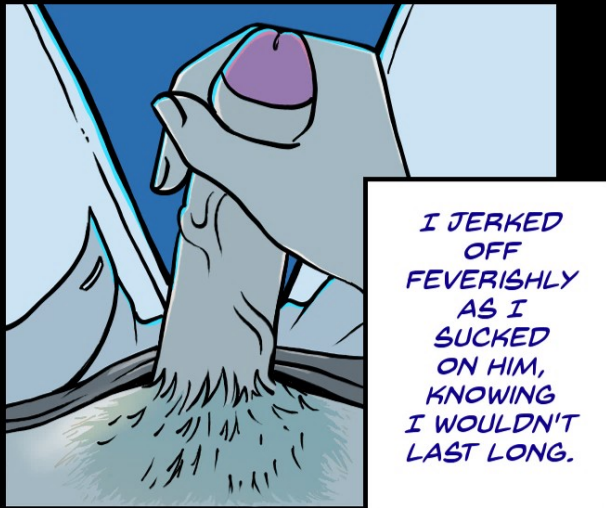
BEING WITH HIM FELT LIKE A DREAM.

AND YET, HERE I WAS...



HIS MOANING DROVE ME CRAZY.

I FUMBLER DESPERATELY WITH MY ZIPPER SO I COULD FINALLY TOUCH MYSELF.

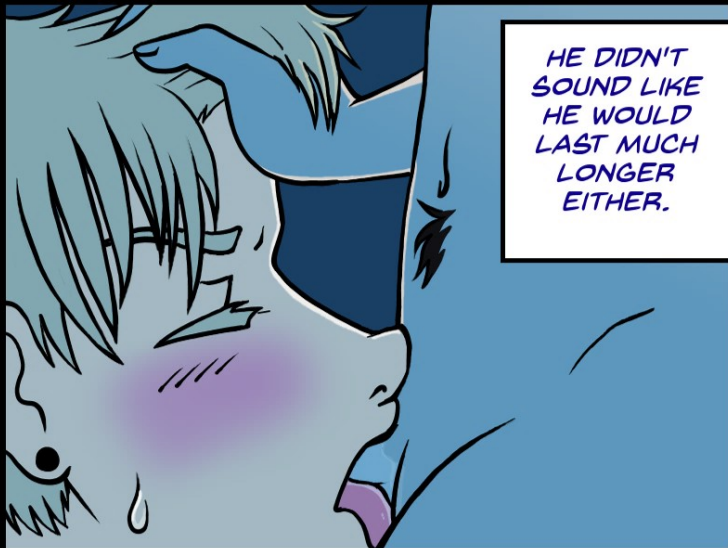


I JERKED OFF FEVERISHLY AS I SUCKED ON HIM, KNOWING I WOULDN'T LAST LONG.



KAZ...

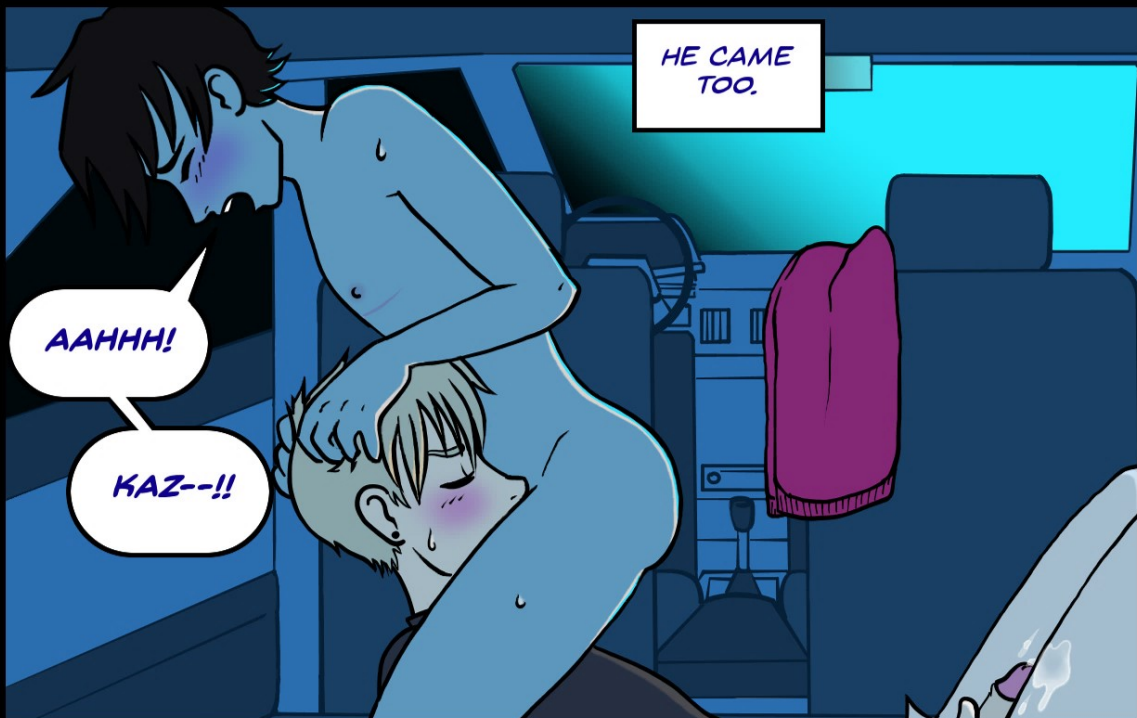
KAZIMIR...



HE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE HE WOULD LAST MUCH LONGER EITHER.



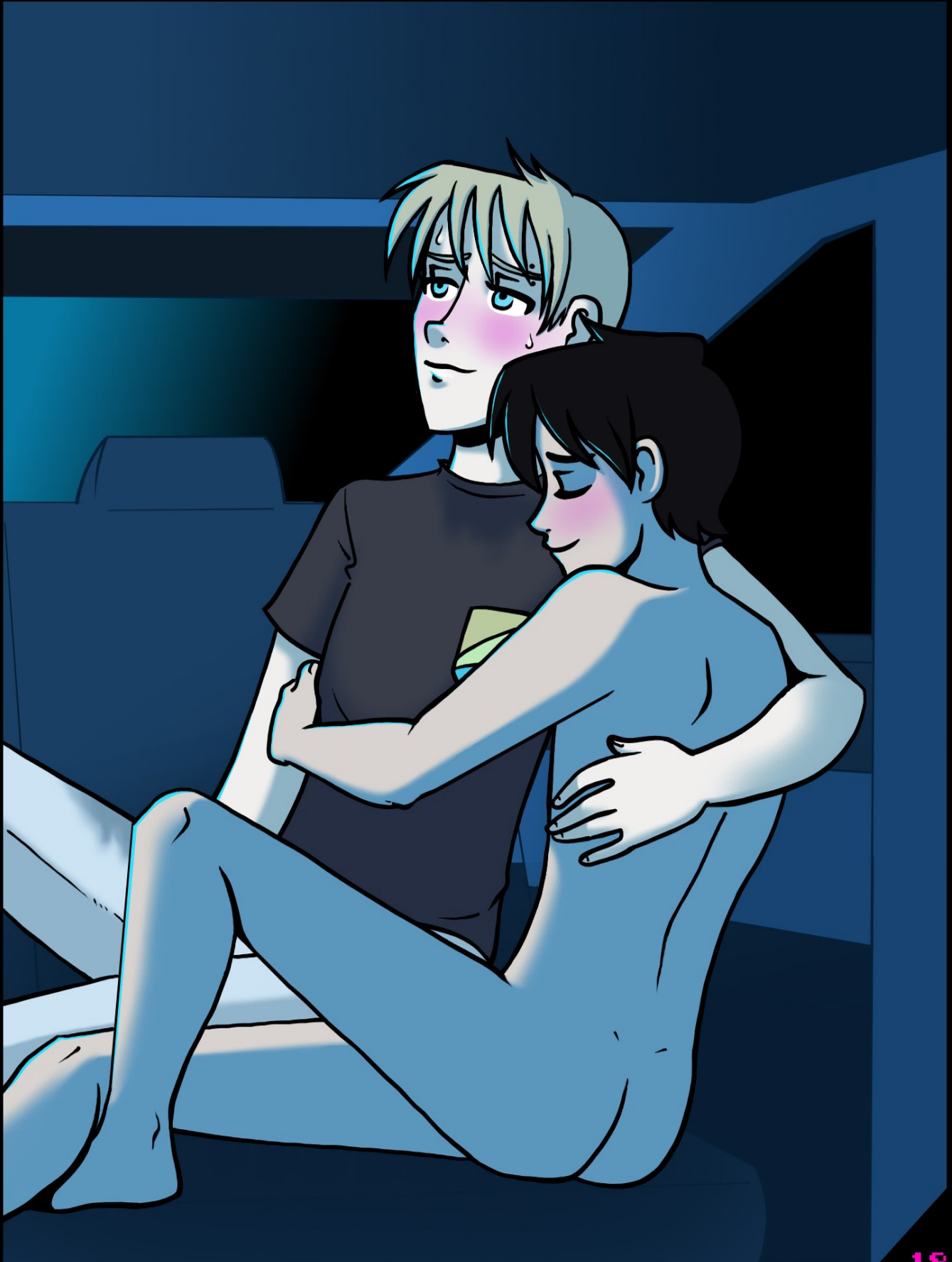
JUST AS I COULDN'T HOLD BACK A MOMENT MORE...



HE CAME TOO.

AAHHH!

KAZ--!!



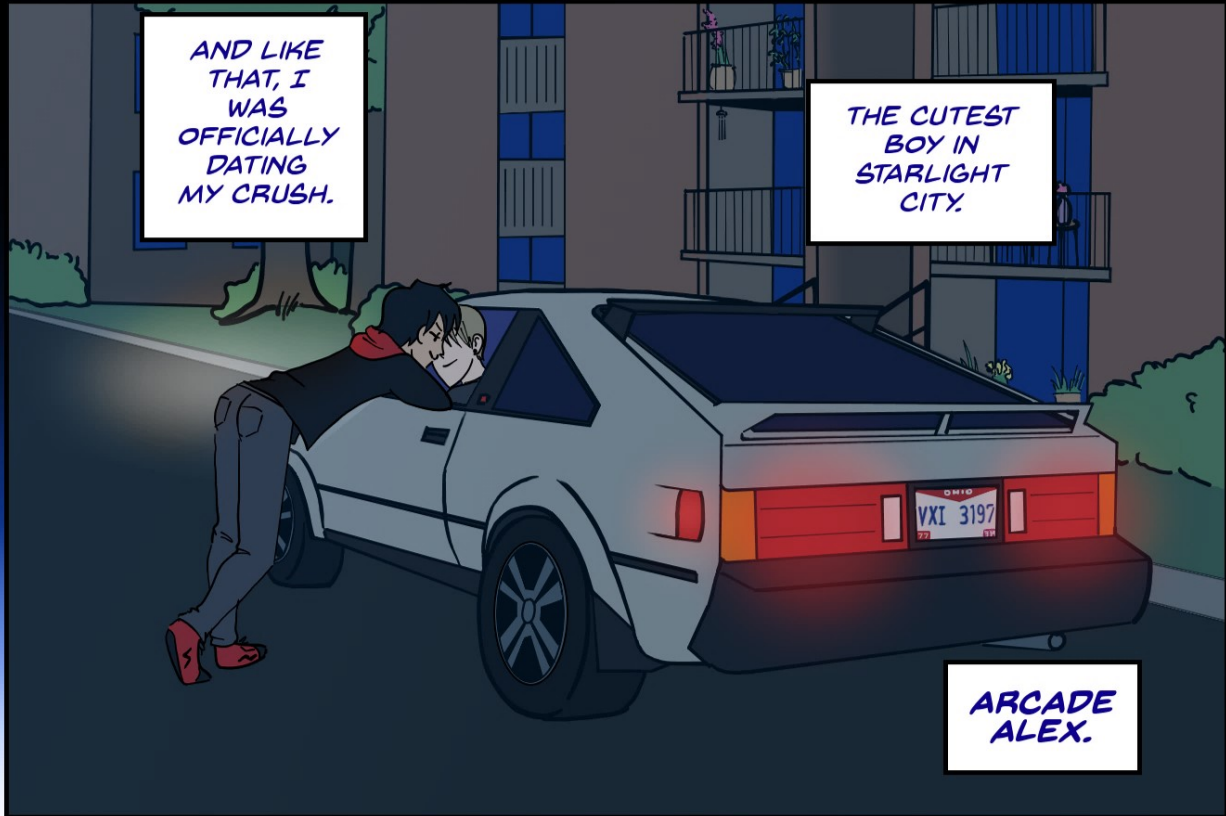


HEY. THIS WAS AMAZING, BUT I NEED TO GO CATCH MY TRAIN.



NO, LET ME GIVE YOU A RIDE HOME!

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.



AND LIKE THAT, I WAS OFFICIALLY DATING MY CRUSH.

THE CUTEST BOY IN STARLIGHT CITY.

ARCADE ALEX.

