

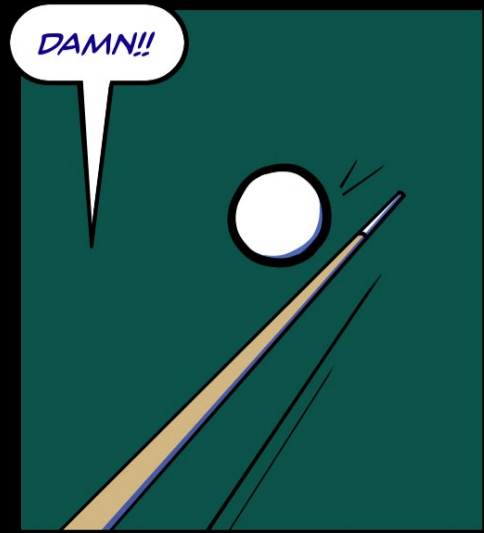
# ARCADE

# ALEX

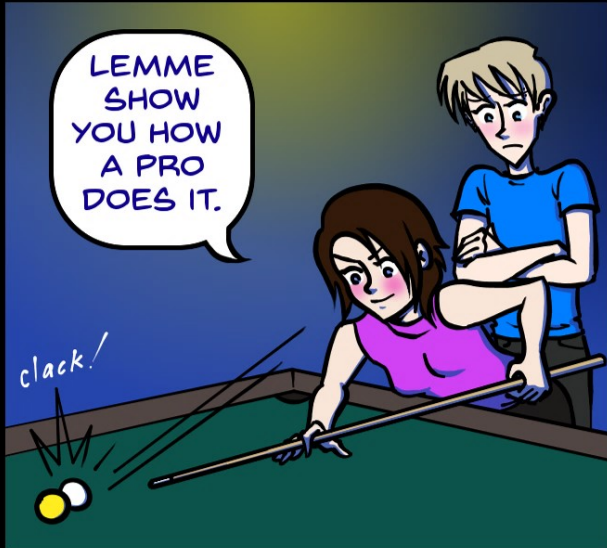


## CHAPTER 6

BY  
RISHO



DAMN!!



LEMME SHOW YOU HOW A PRO DOES IT.

clack!



HAH!

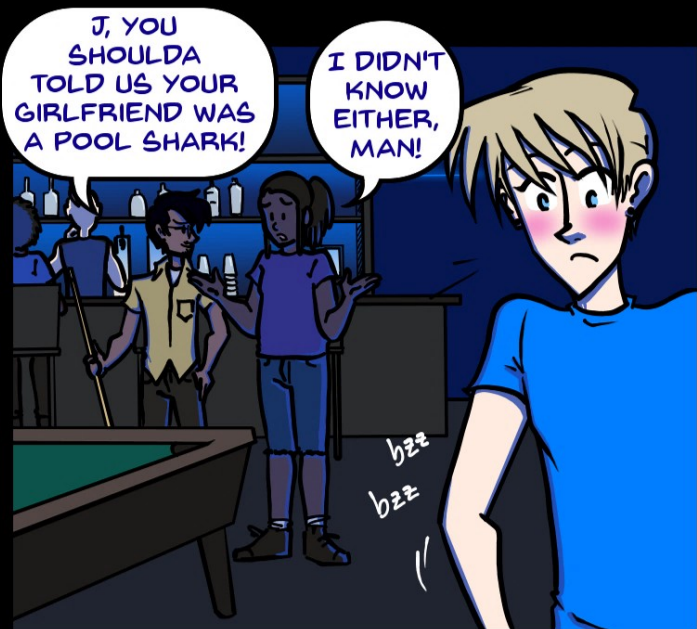
I LOST AGAIN??

GUESS SO, BUDDY.



PLEASE BEAT HER FOR ME.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!



J, YOU SHOULDA TOLD US YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS A POOL SHARK!

I DIDN'T KNOW EITHER, MAN!

bzz  
bzz



HEY BABE, WHAT'S UP?



KAZ!

HEY, I HAD AN IDEA...

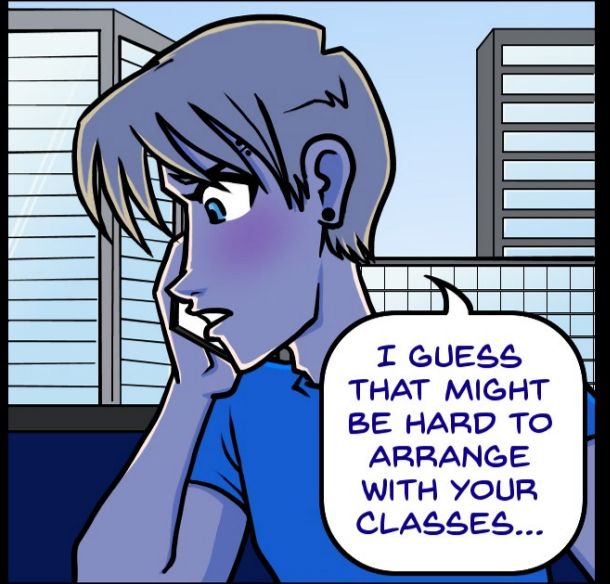
LET'S GO TO THE BEACH!



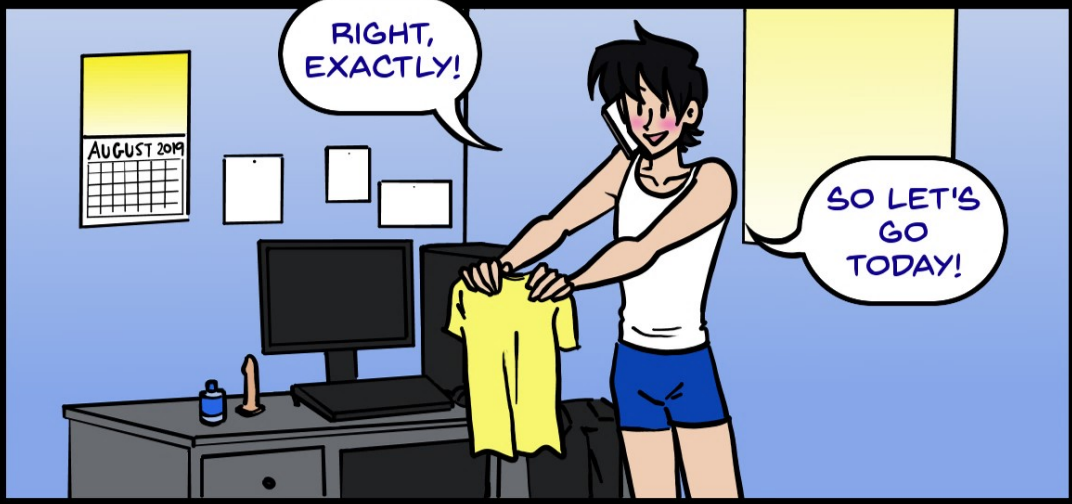
THE BEACH?

SURE, WHEN WERE YOU THINKING?

IN A COUPLE WEEKS?

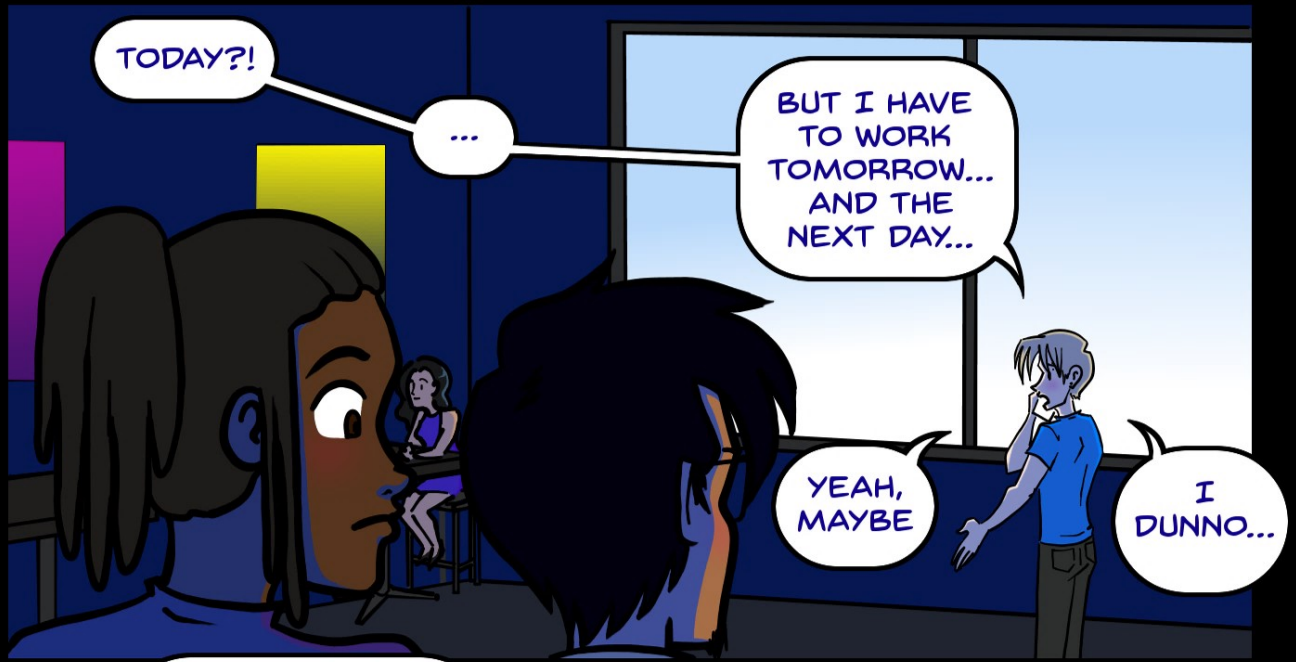


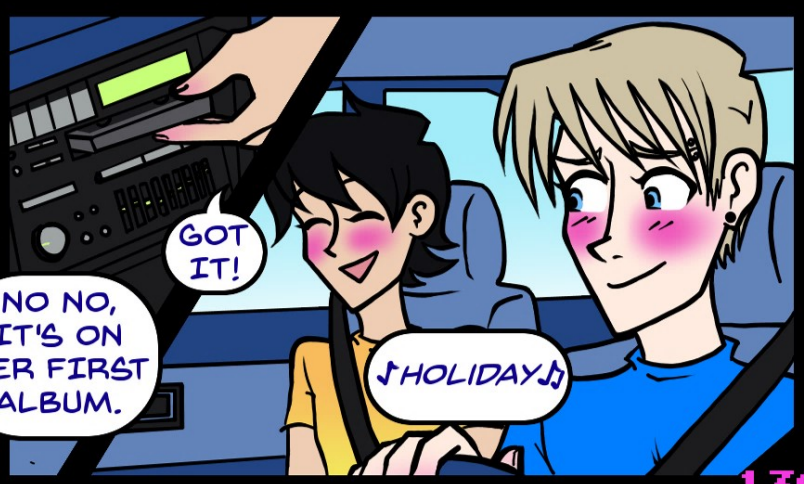
I GUESS THAT MIGHT BE HARD TO ARRANGE WITH YOUR CLASSES...

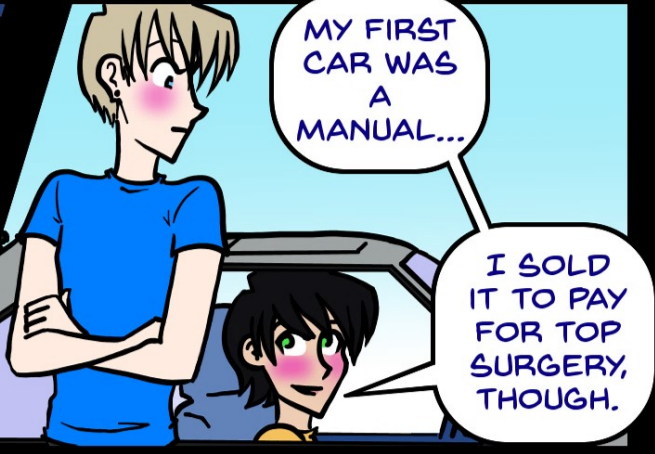
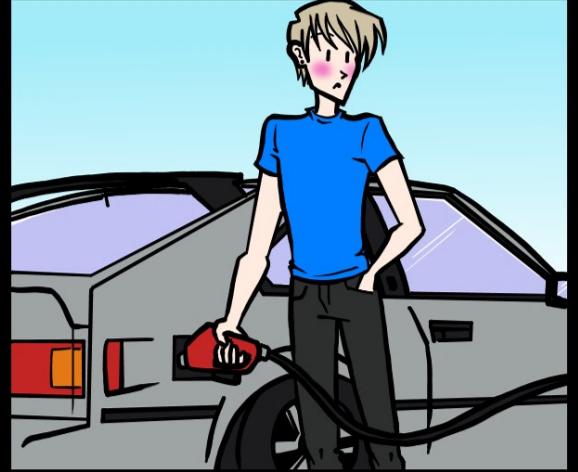


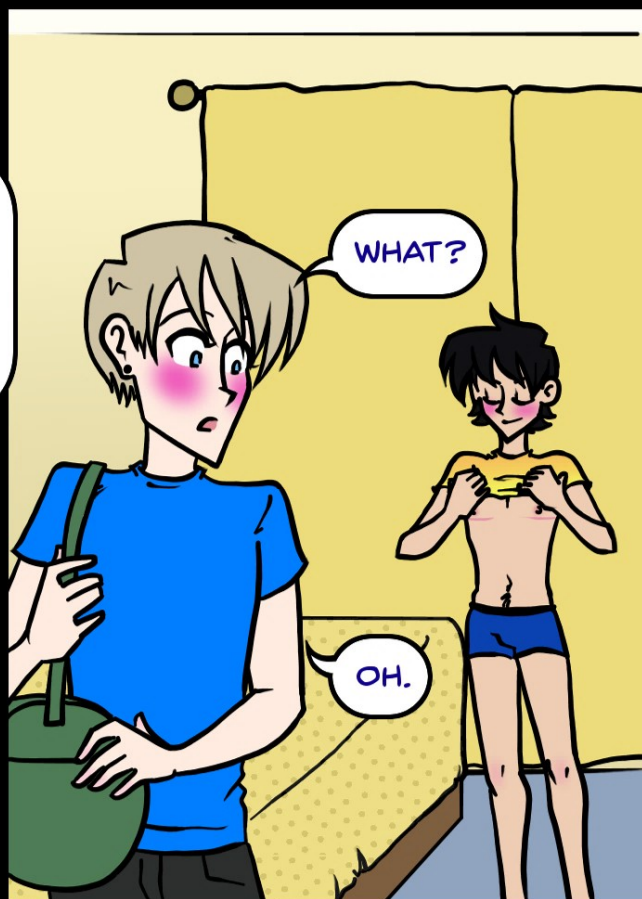
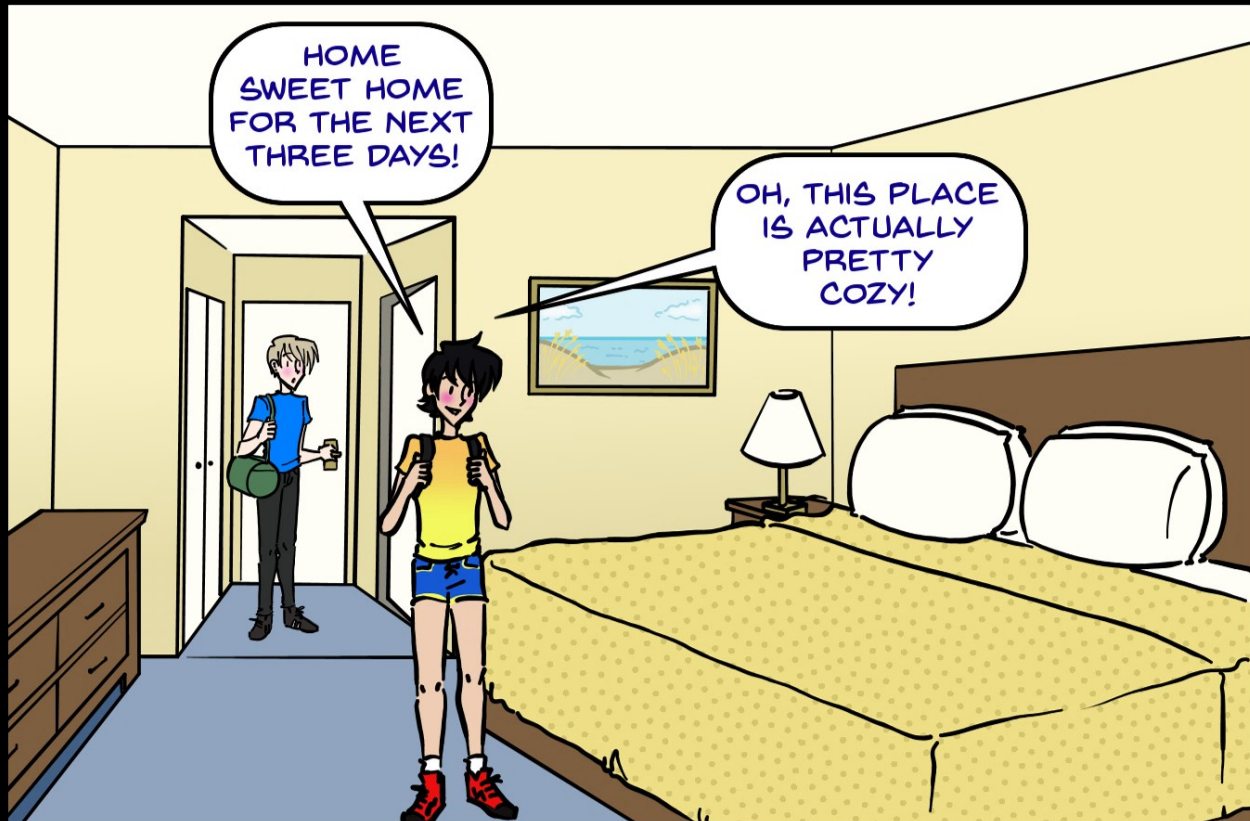
RIGHT, EXACTLY!

SO LET'S GO TODAY!











C'MON,  
I WANT  
YOU TO  
FUCK ME!

BUT I WANT  
YOU TO  
FUCK ME!

WE DID THAT  
THE LAST  
TWO TIMES.  
IT'S MY  
TURN!



PRETTY  
PLEASE?



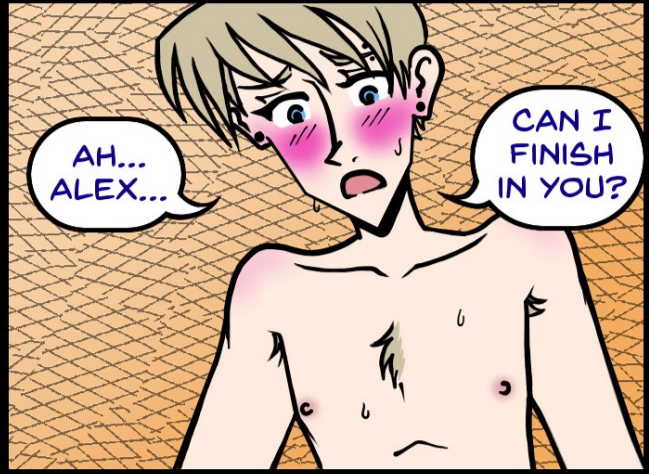
AW, I  
CAN'T SAY  
NO TO THAT  
CUTE FACE.

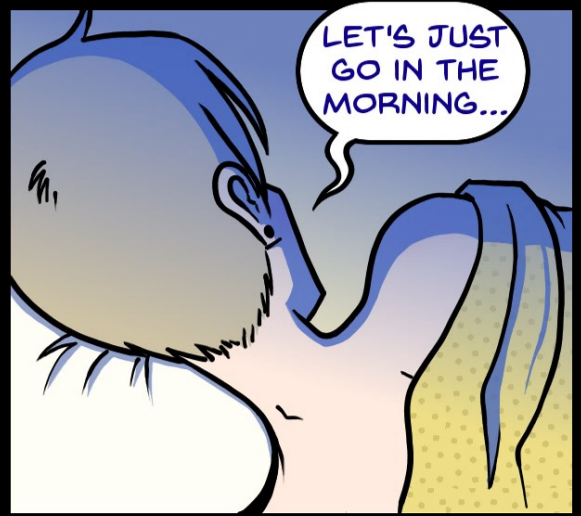
I CAN'T  
WAIT TO  
FUCK YOU  
SILLY...

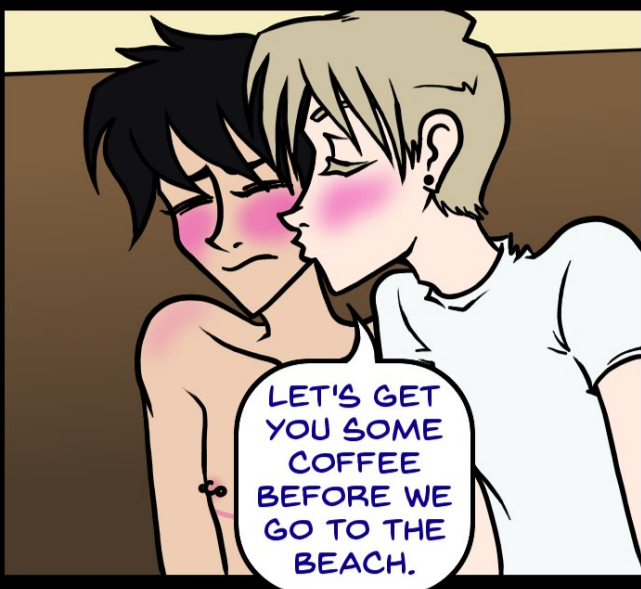
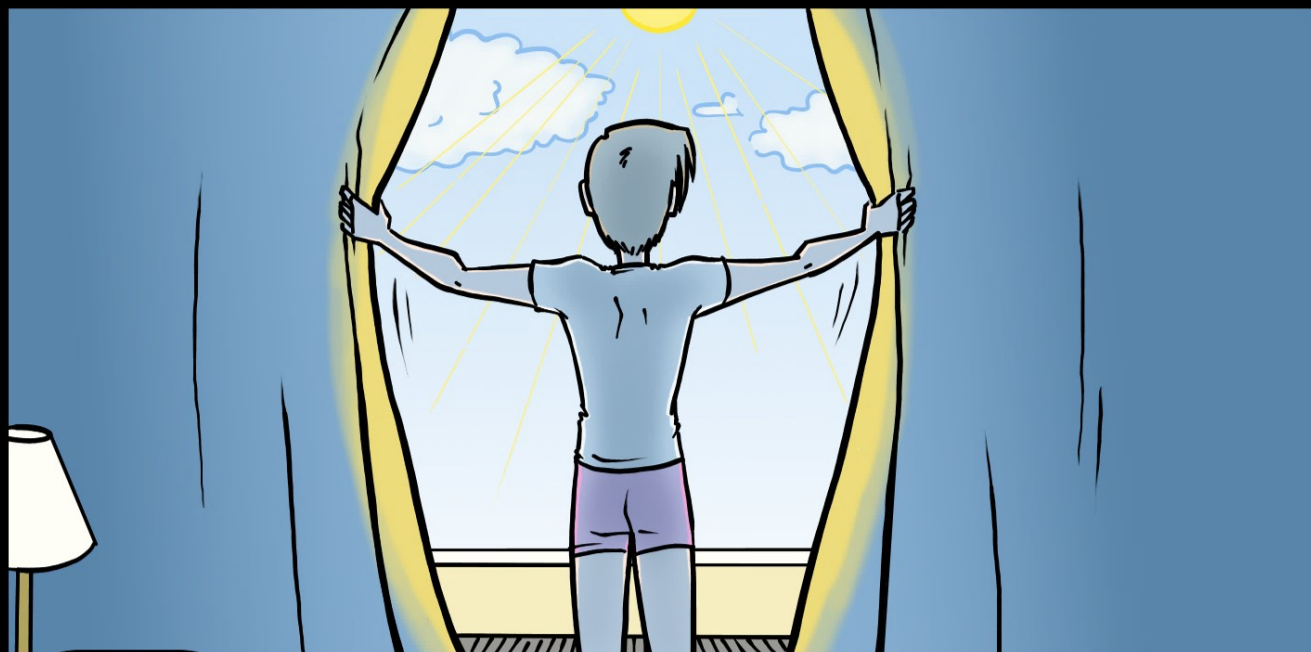


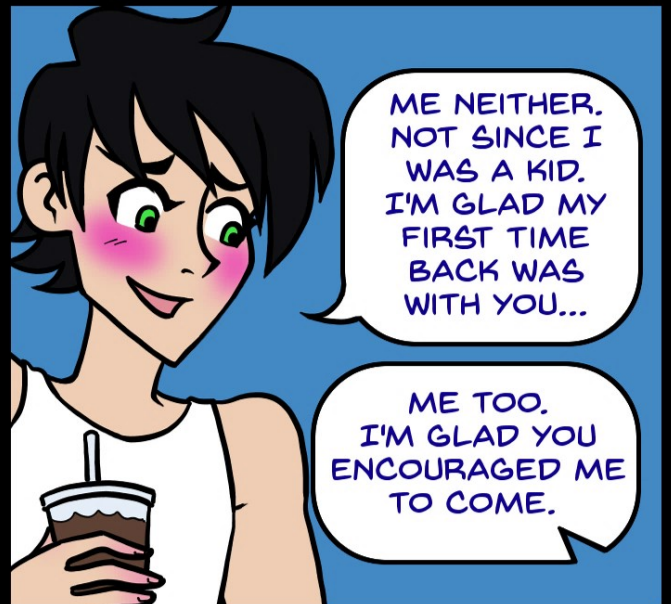


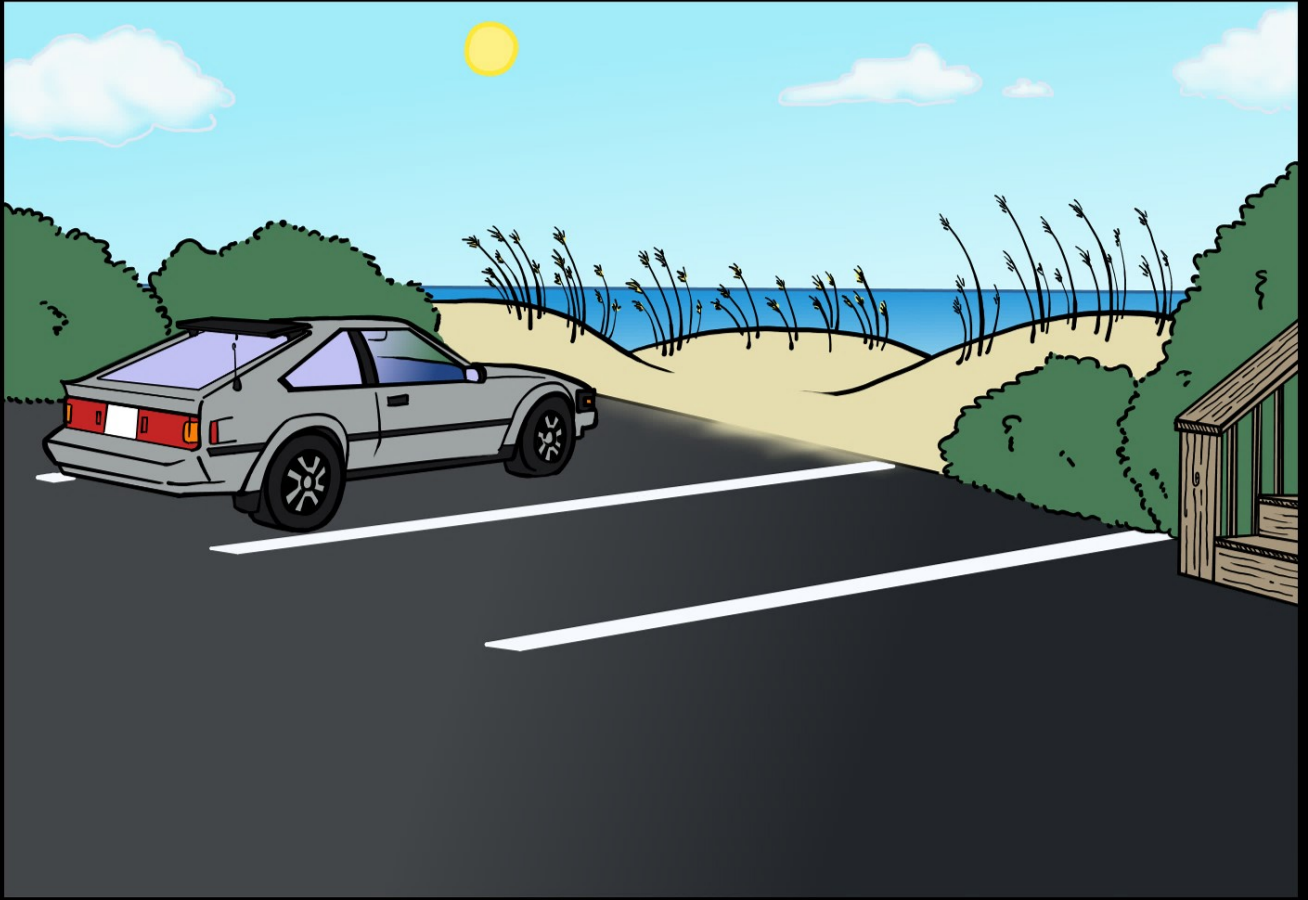


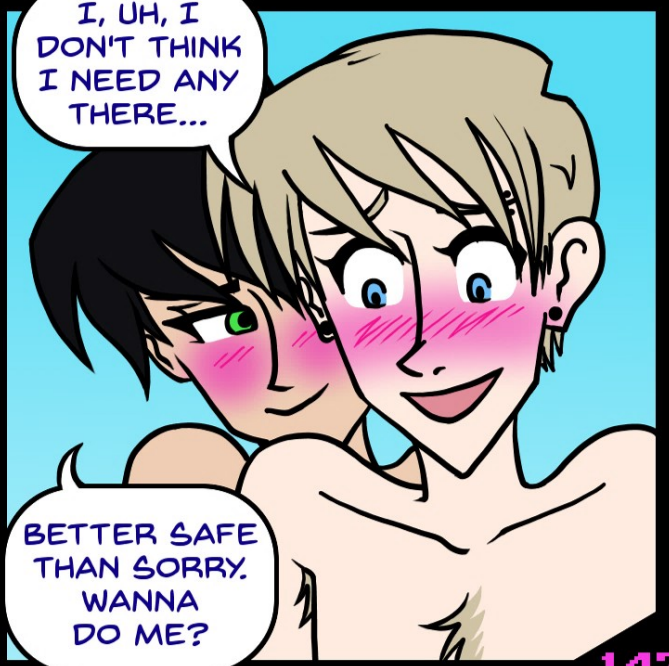
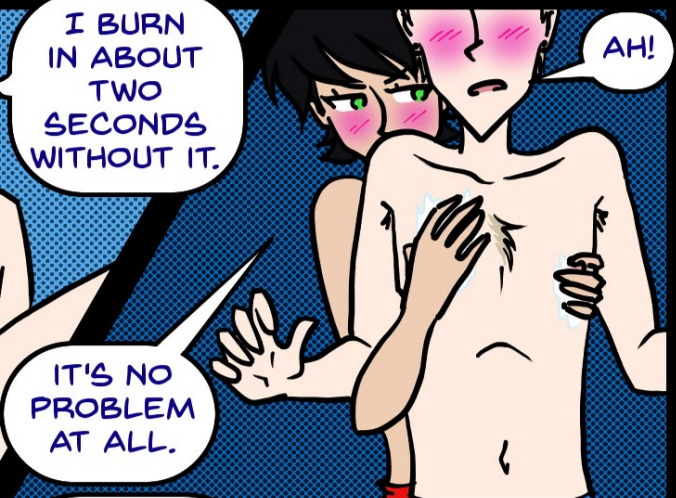
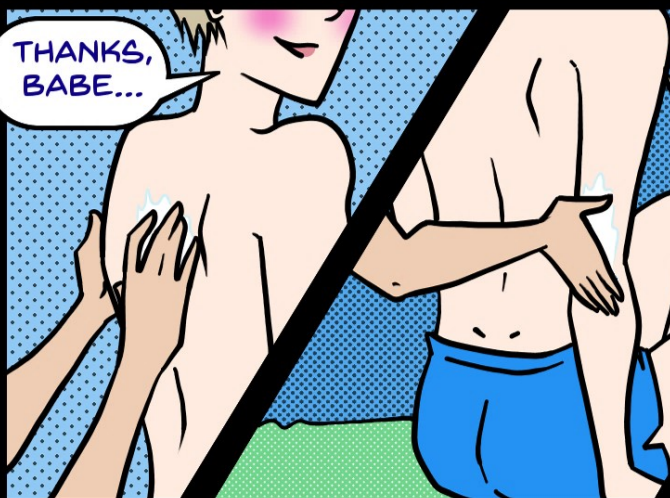
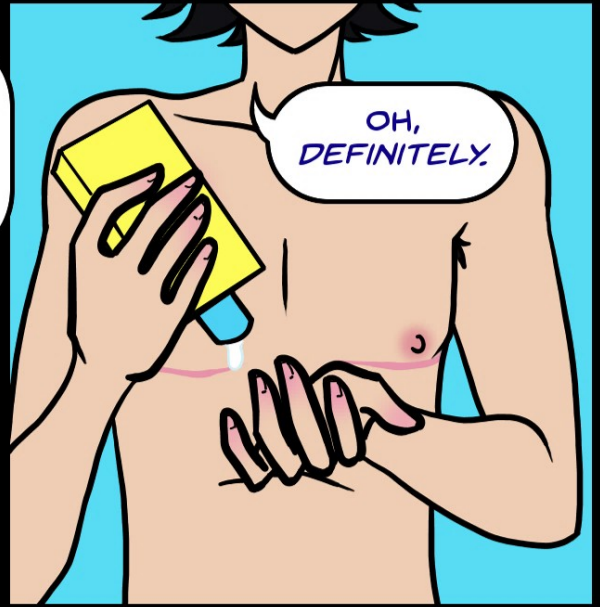
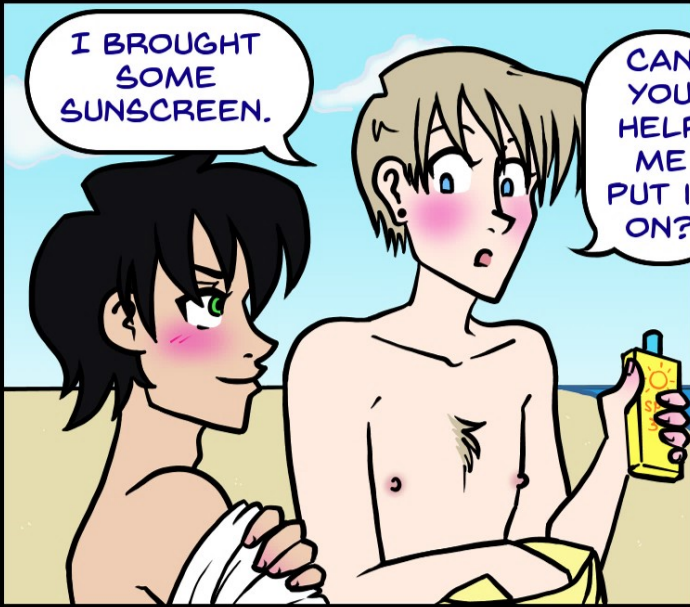




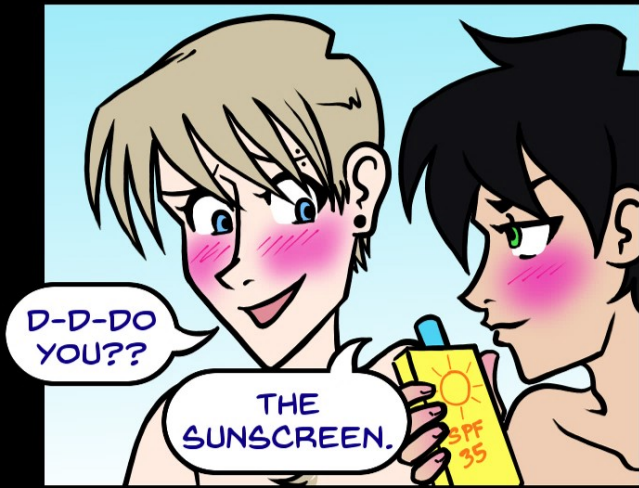






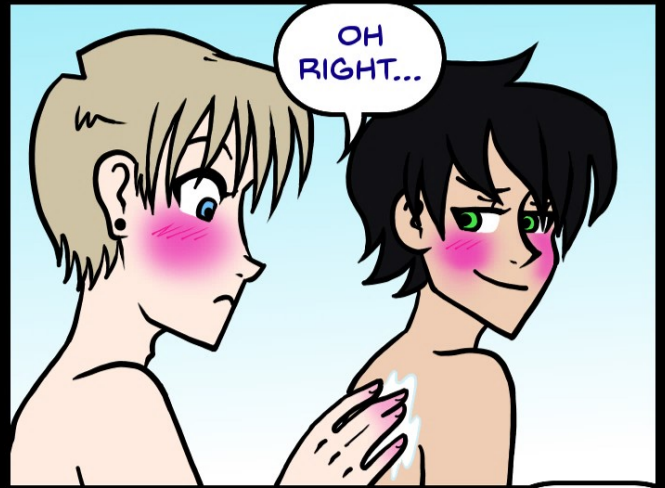




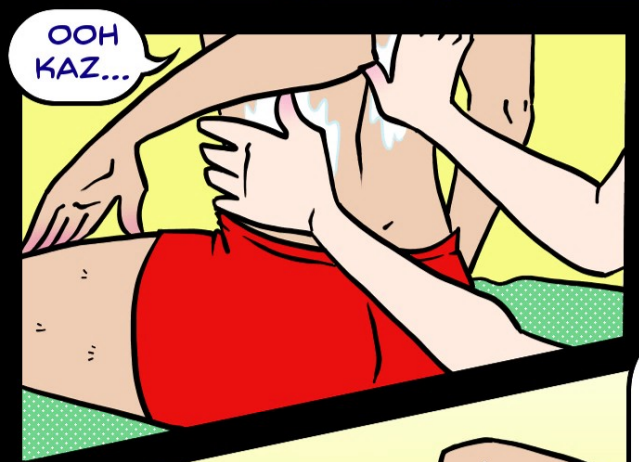


D-D-DO YOU???

THE SUNSCREEN.



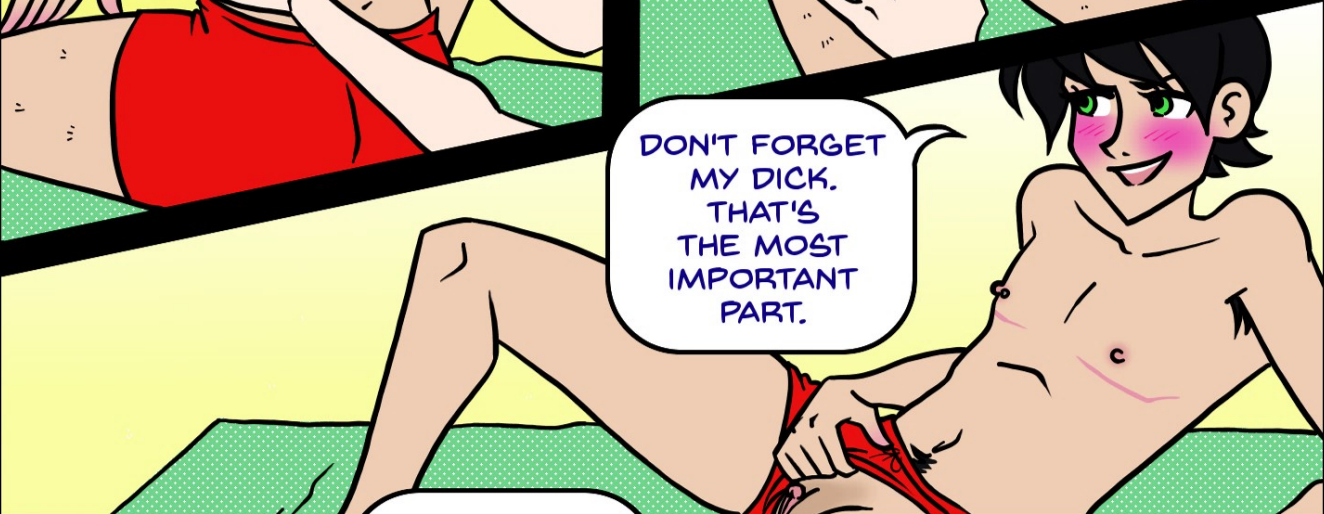
OH RIGHT...



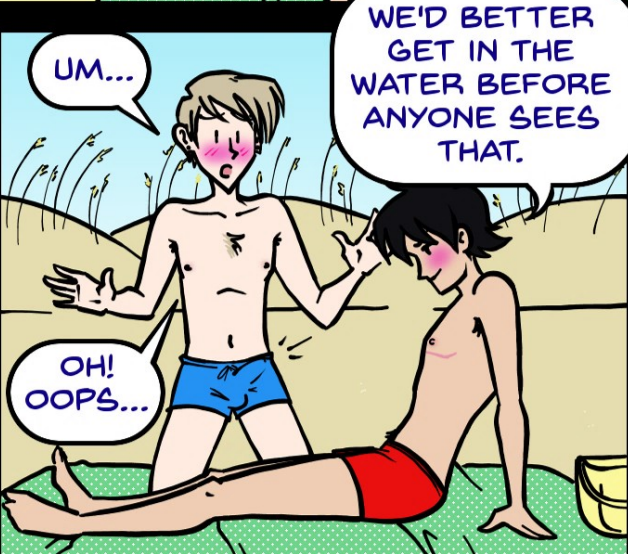
OOH KAZ...



YOU SHOULD GET MY LEGS, TOO.



DON'T FORGET MY DICK. THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.



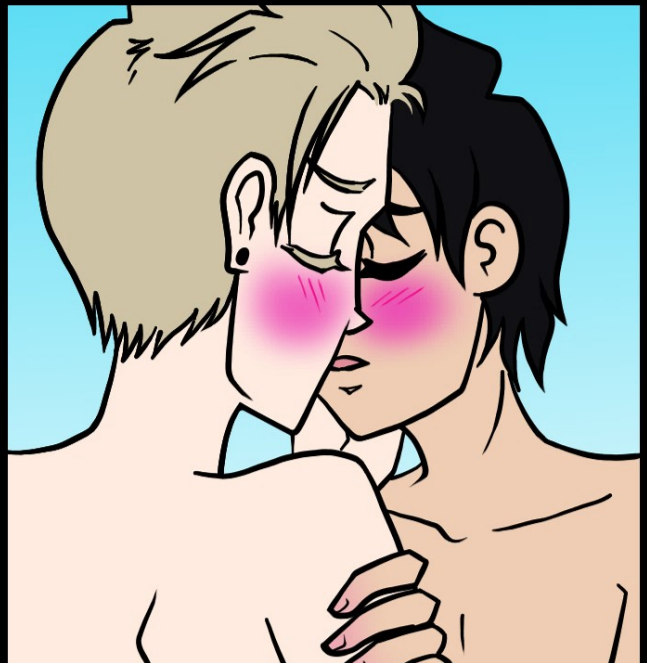
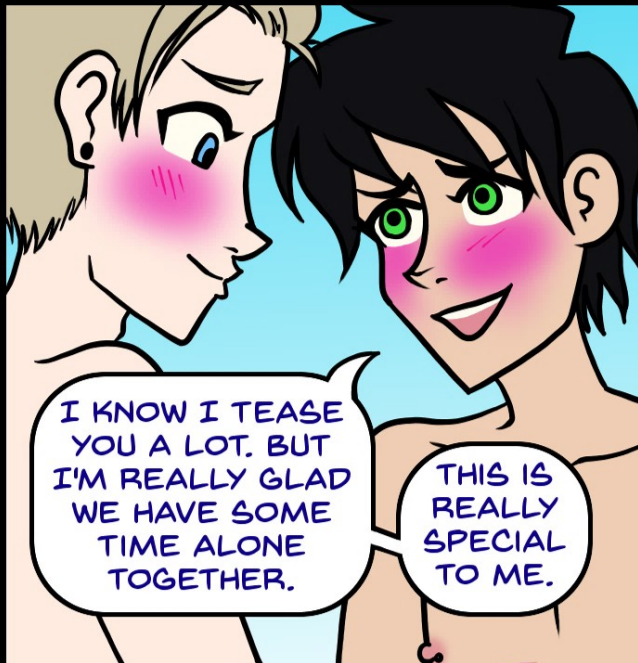
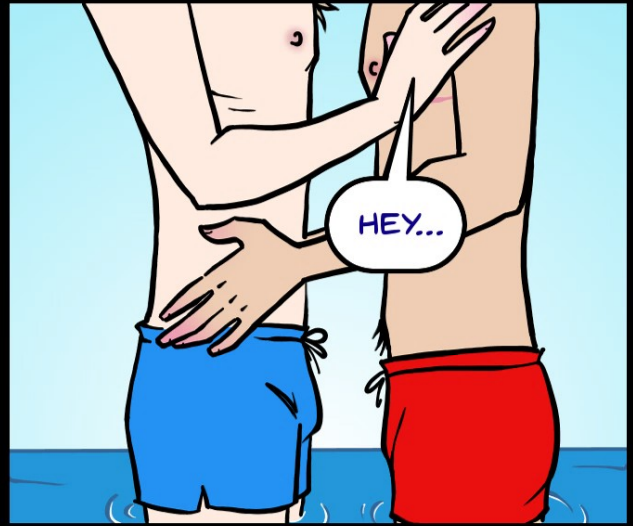
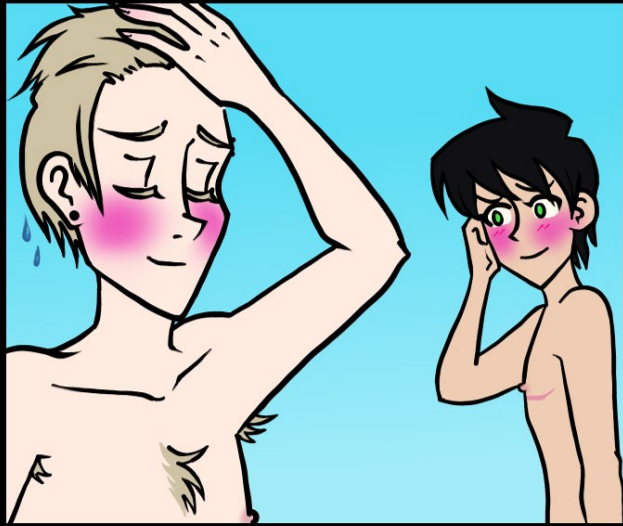
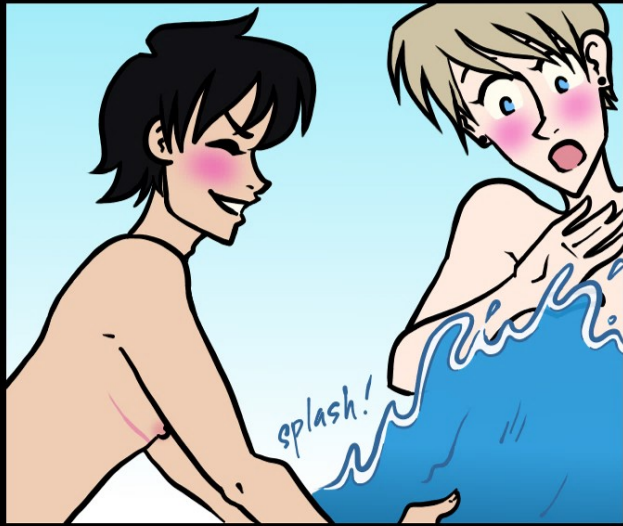
UM...

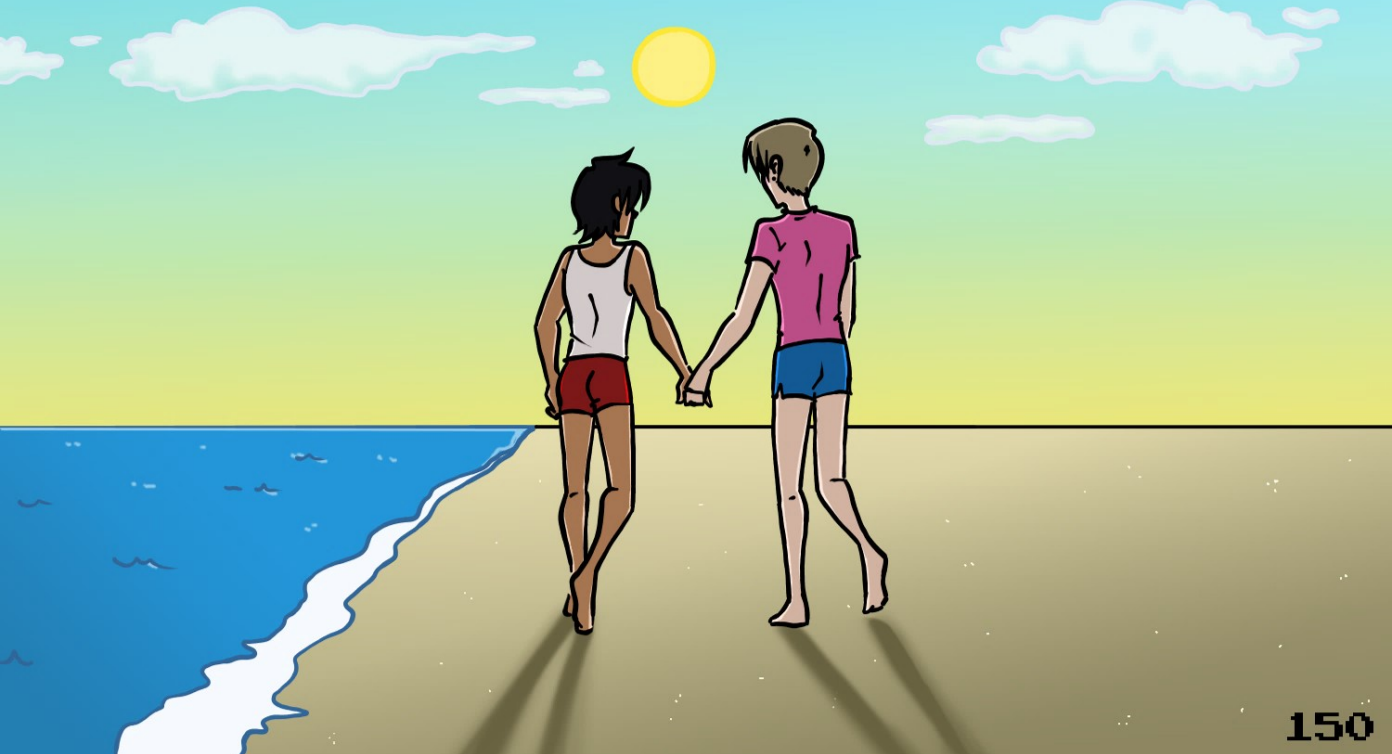
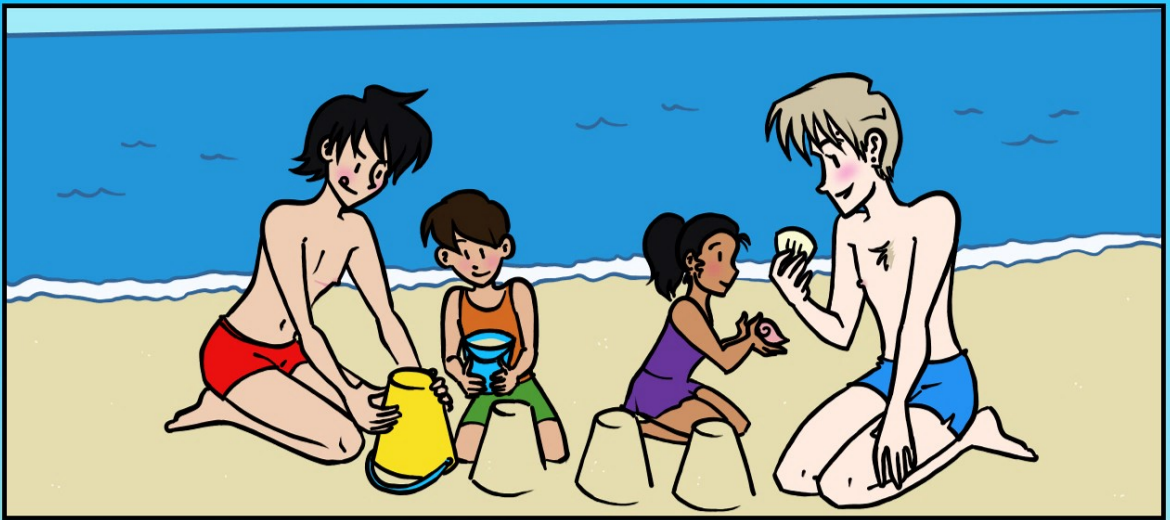
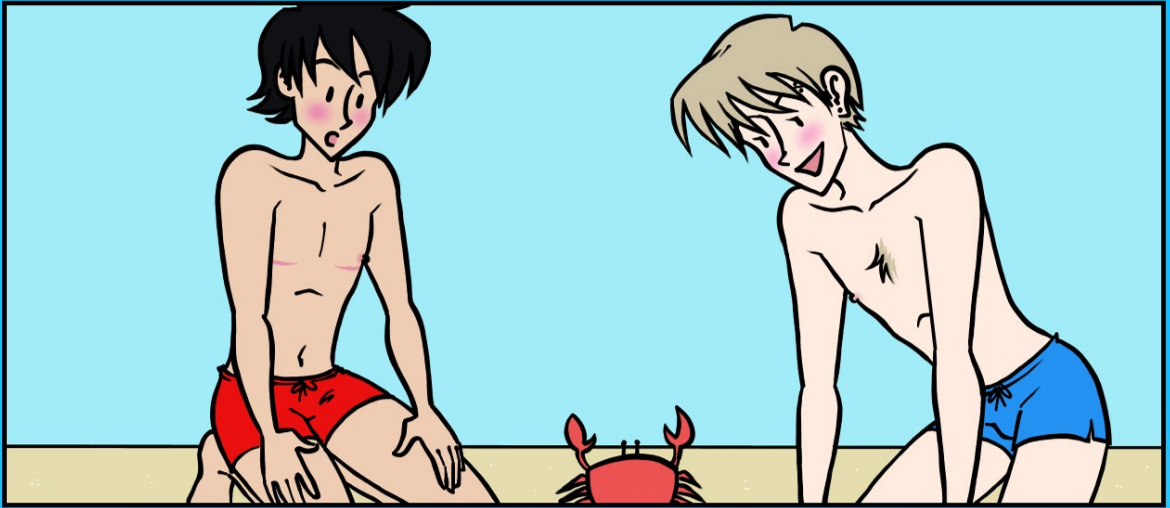
WE'D BETTER GET IN THE WATER BEFORE ANYONE SEES THAT.

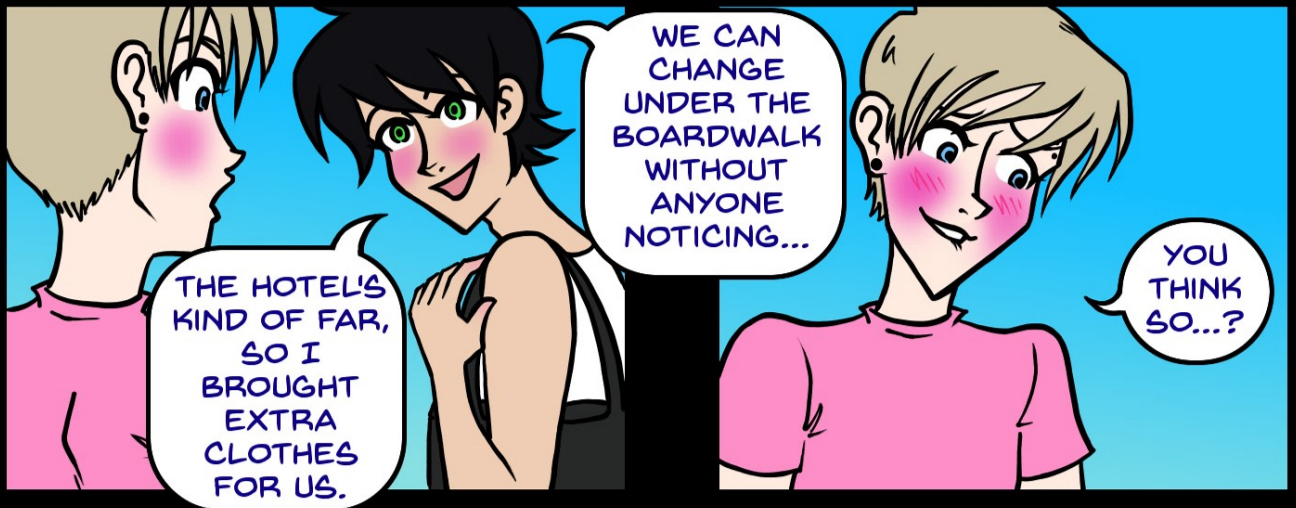
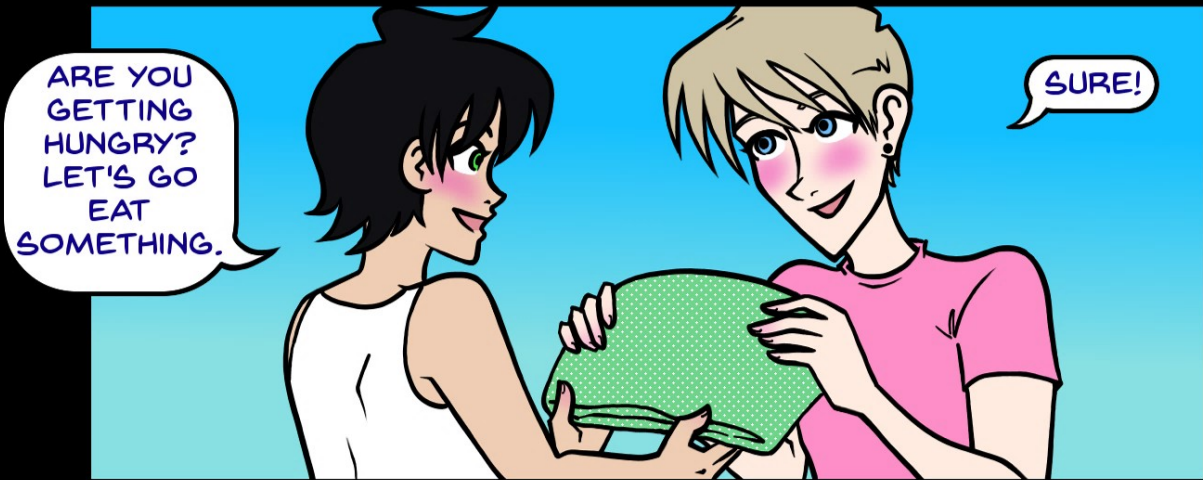
OH! OOPS...

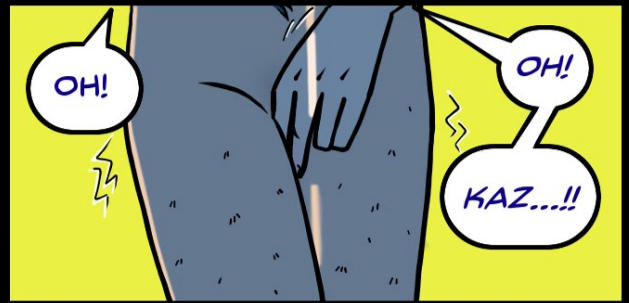
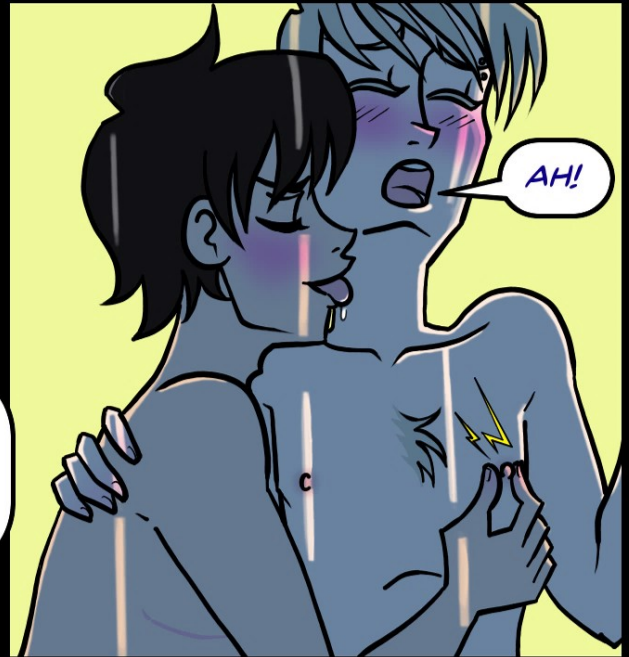
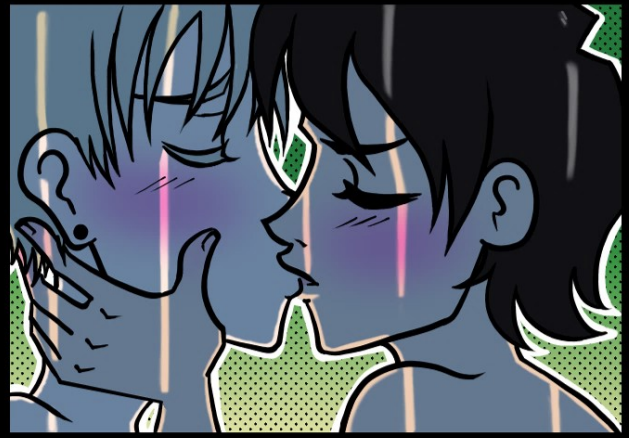
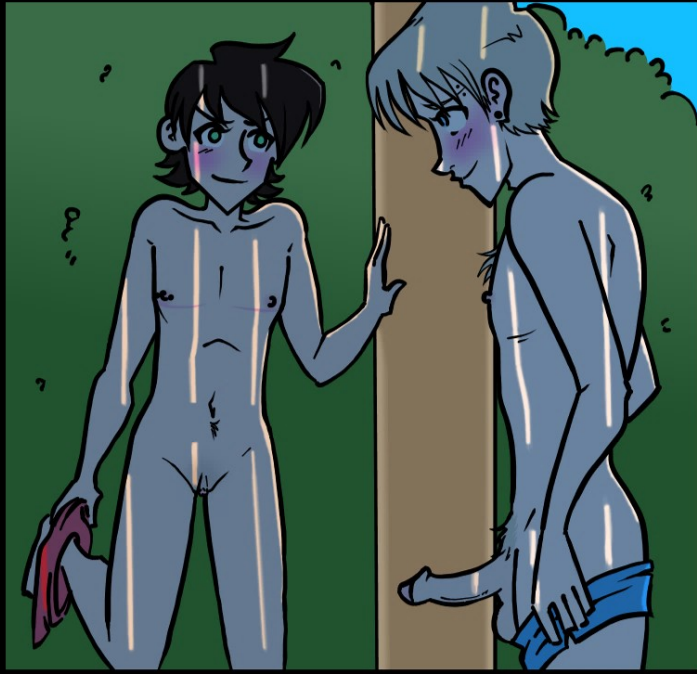


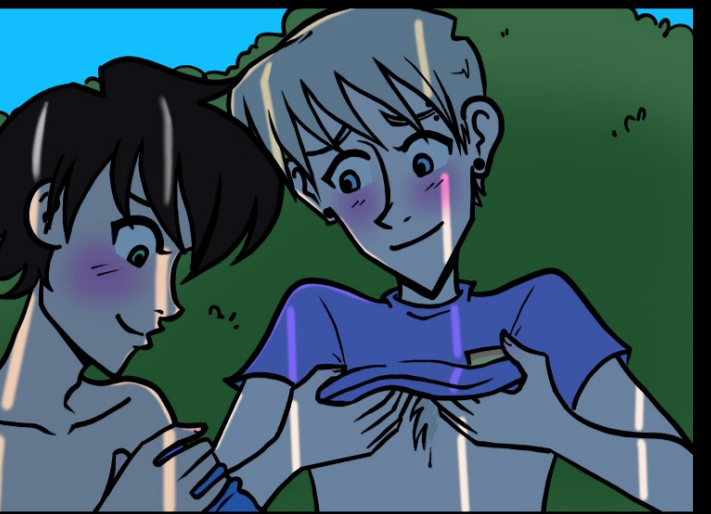
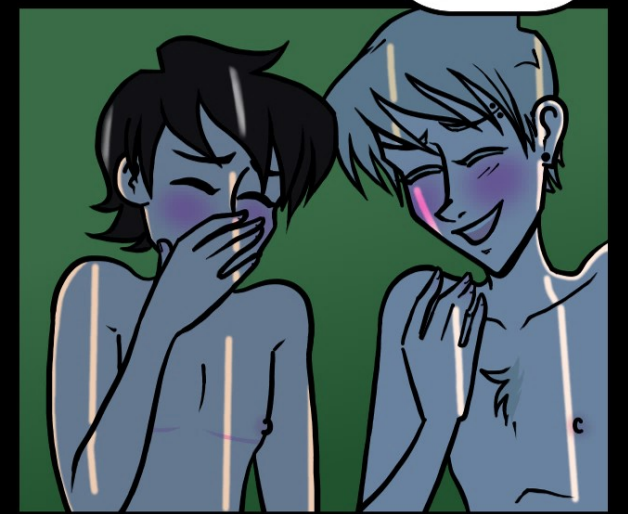
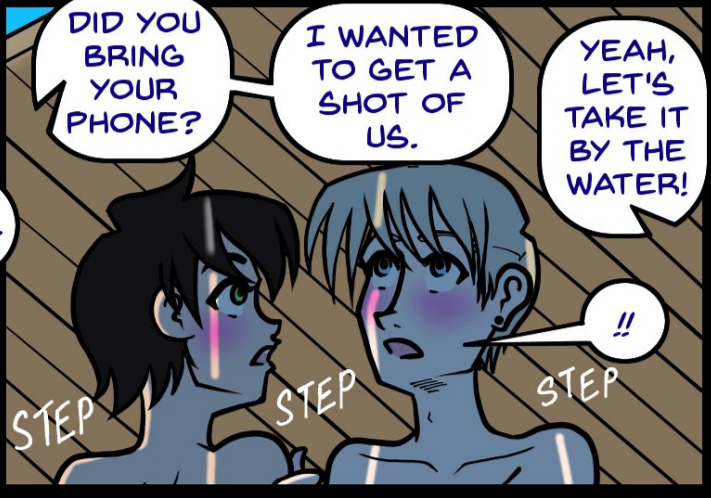
COME ON!











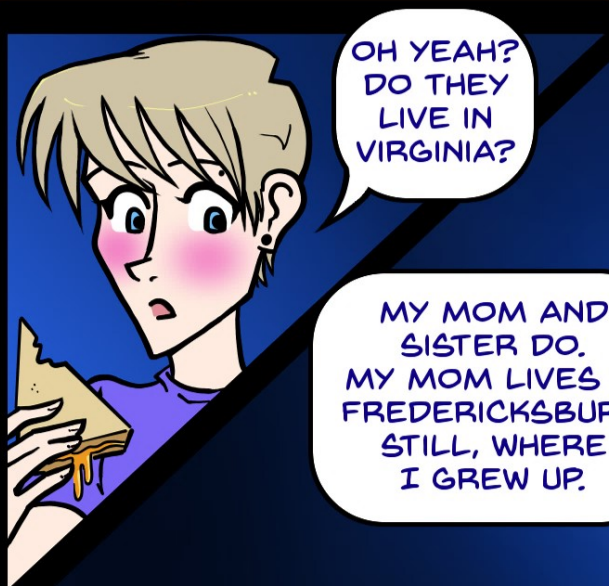


HOW IS IT?



AMAZING!

THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN I USED TO GO HERE WITH MY FAMILY AS A KID.



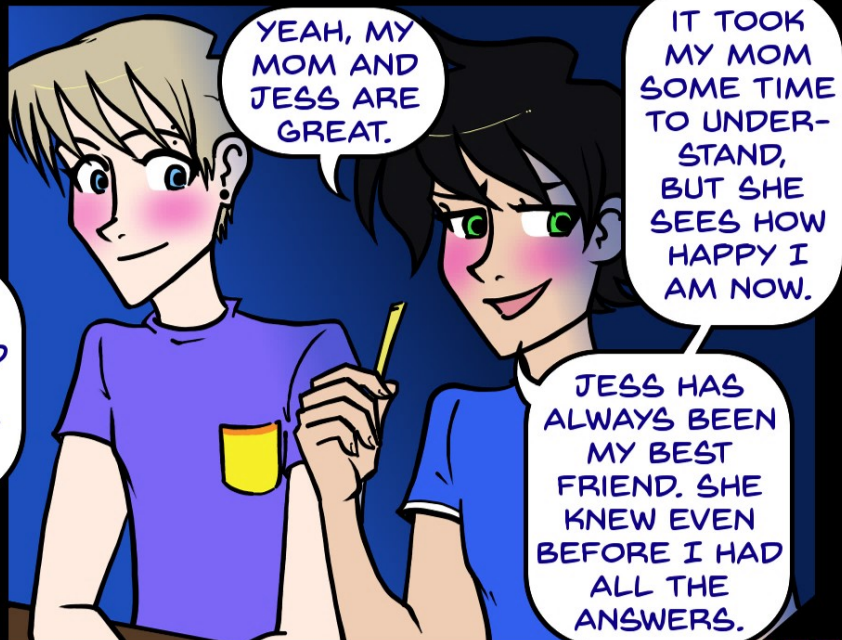
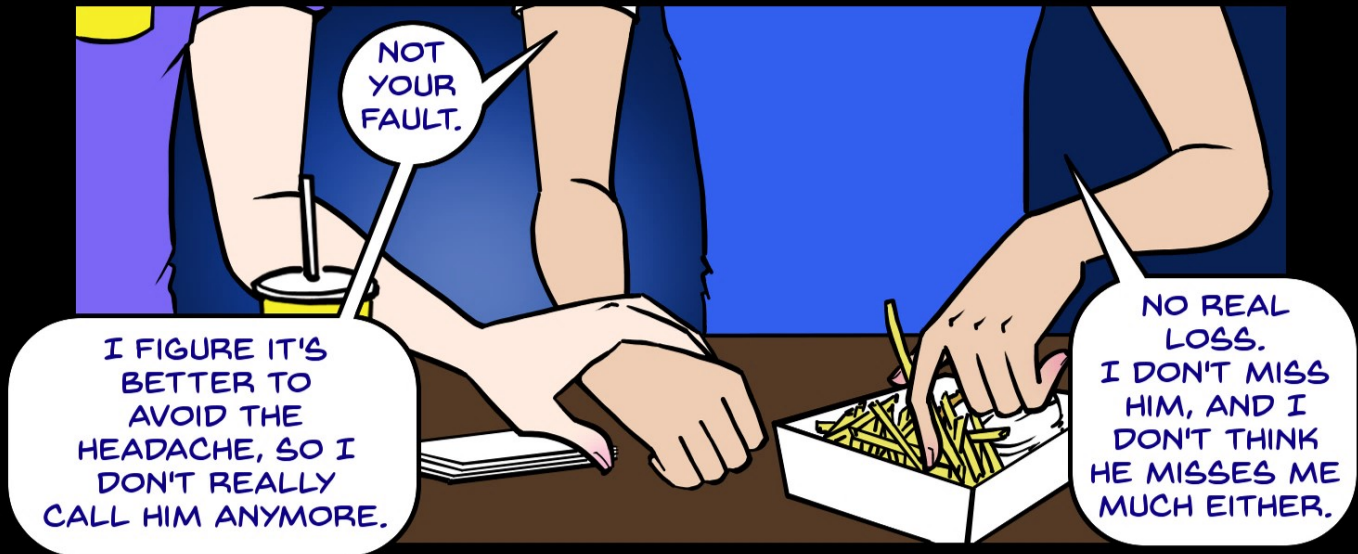
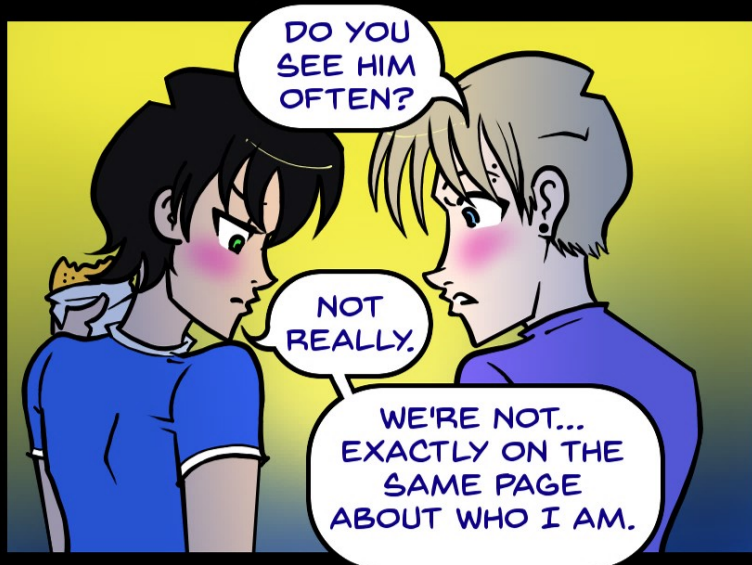
OH YEAH? DO THEY LIVE IN VIRGINIA?

MY MOM AND SISTER DO. MY MOM LIVES IN FREDERICKSBURG STILL, WHERE I GREW UP.

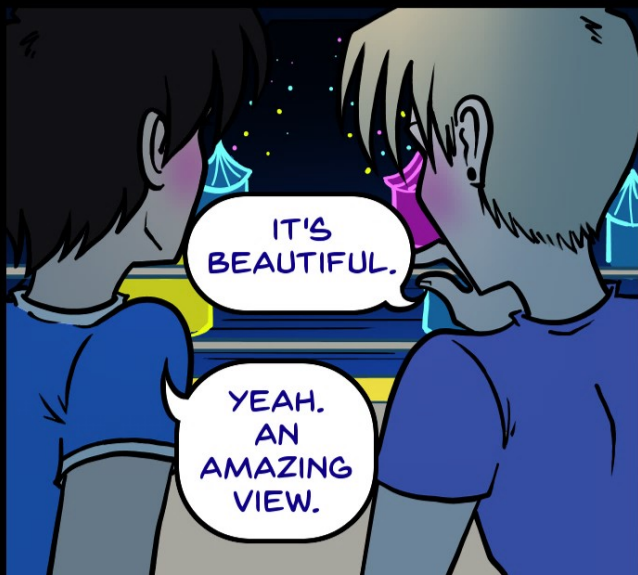
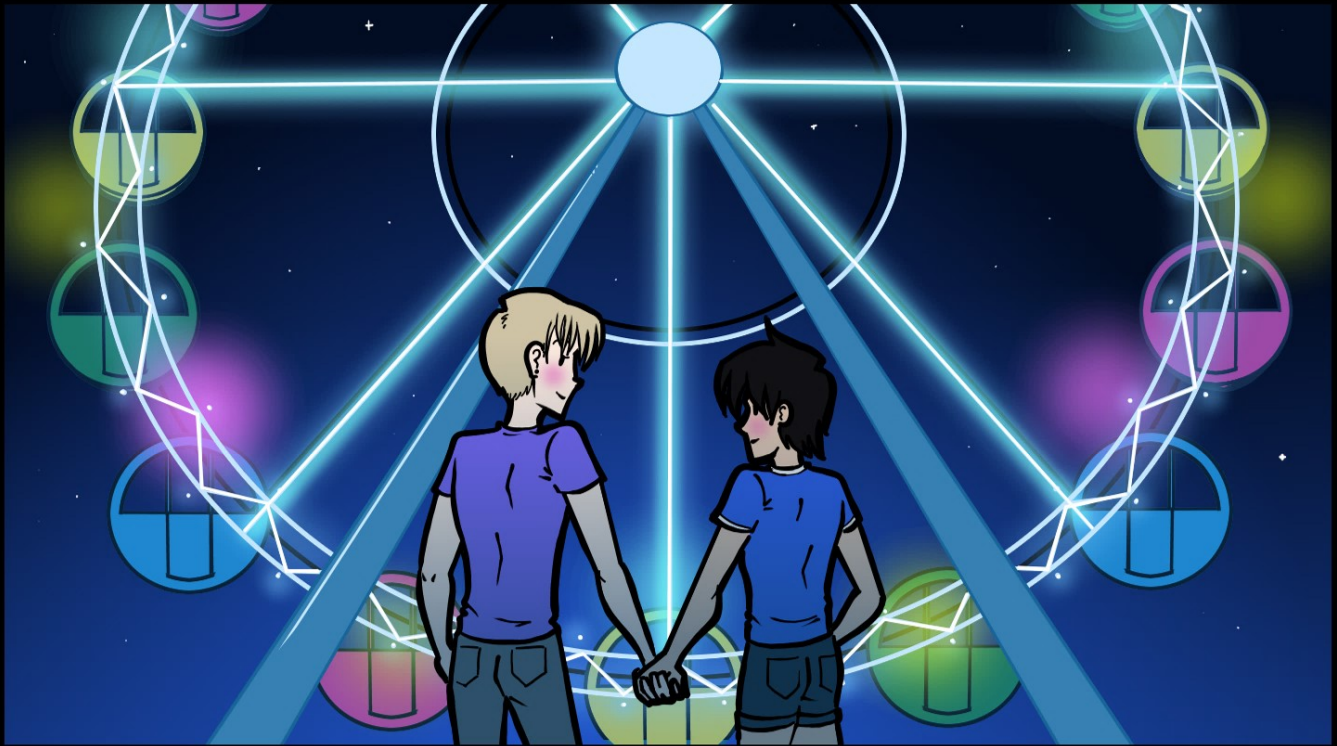


JESSICA GOES TO COLLEGE OUT IN CHARLOTTESVILLE.

AND MY DAD MOVED TO NEW YORK AFTER MY PARENTS DIVORCED, YEARS AGO.









LUCKY!  
I'VE NEVER  
BEEN TO  
CHICAGO.

IT WAS  
A COOL  
TRIP.

THAT  
PART WAS  
LESS  
FUN.

BUT WE WENT  
SO MY DAD AND  
BROTHER COULD  
SEE A  
FOOTBALL  
GAME...



YEAH,  
I'M NOT  
REALLY  
A  
SPORTS  
GUY,  
EITHER...

DO YOU  
JUST HAVE  
ONE  
BROTHER?



NOPE,  
TWO.

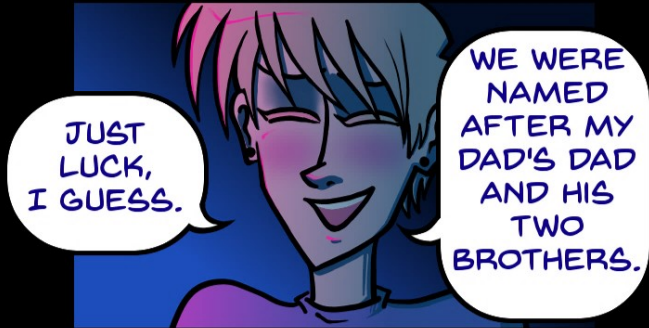
JOE'S  
OLDER,  
MAT'S  
YOUNGER.



MAT?

JOE?

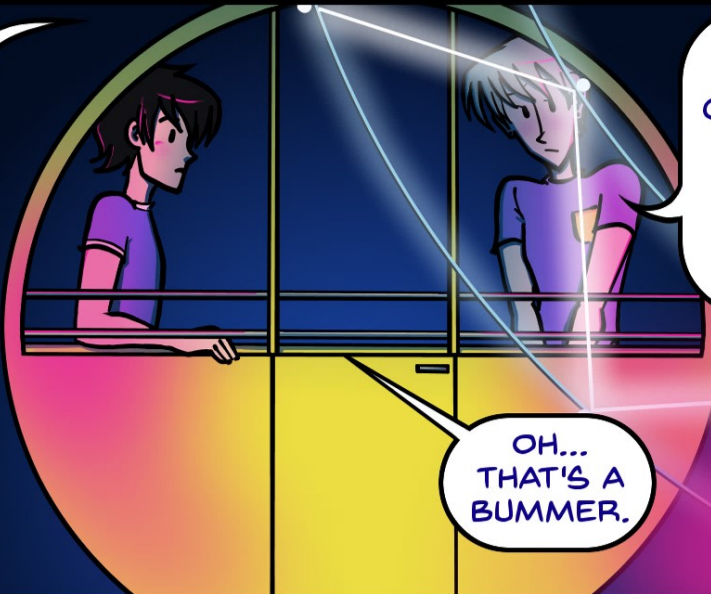
WHY'D  
THEY GET  
BORING  
NAMES  
AND YOU  
GOT A  
COOL  
ONE?



JUST  
LUCK,  
I GUESS.

WE WERE  
NAMED  
AFTER MY  
DAD'S DAD  
AND HIS  
TWO  
BROTHERS.

JOSEF  
IS MY  
GRANDFATHER.  
HIS TWO  
YOUNGER  
BROTHERS  
WERE  
KAZIMIR  
AND MATEJ.



I NEVER  
MET MY  
GREAT UNCLE  
KAZIMIR,  
THOUGH.  
HE DIED  
BEFORE I  
WAS BORN.

OH...  
THAT'S A  
BUMMER.



IF IT'S OKAY TO ASK...

...YOUR FULL NAME IS ALEXANDER, RIGHT?

YEAH.

I ALWAYS LIKED THAT NAME.

IT REALLY SUITS YOU.

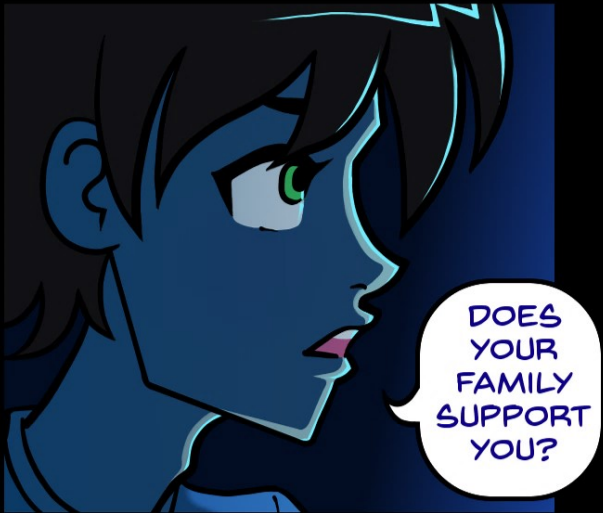
THANKS!

MY OLD NAME STARTED WITH "AL" AND I WANTED TO KEEP THAT.

JESS HAS CALLED ME AL AS A NICKNAME SINCE BEFORE I EVEN CAME OUT.

LIKE YOU SAID, I GUESS SHE REALLY DID KNOW BEFORE YOU.

YEAH...



DOES YOUR FAMILY SUPPORT YOU?



THEY...

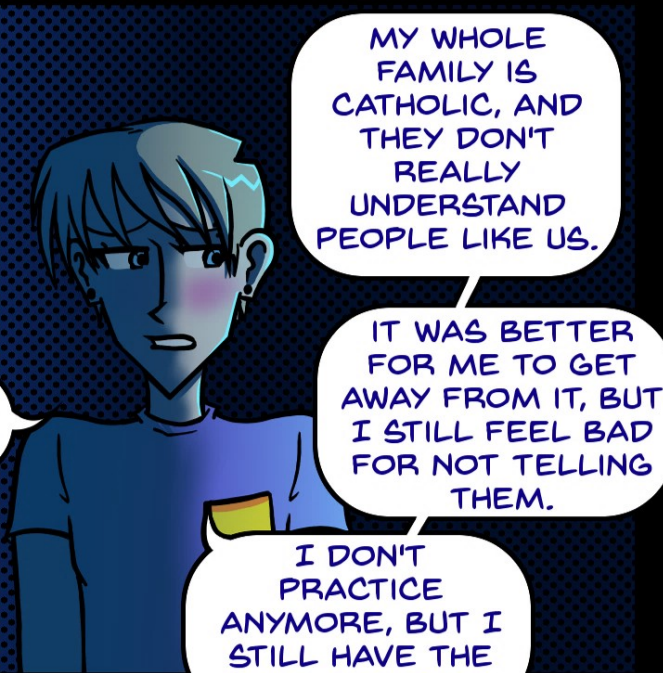
...THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'M GAY.



OH.

I DON'T THINK THEY'D TAKE IT WELL IF THEY KNEW.

ESPECIALLY MY DAD.



MY WHOLE FAMILY IS CATHOLIC, AND THEY DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND PEOPLE LIKE US.

IT WAS BETTER FOR ME TO GET AWAY FROM IT, BUT I STILL FEEL BAD FOR NOT TELLING THEM.

I DON'T PRACTICE ANYMORE, BUT I STILL HAVE THE GUILT COMPLEX.



YEAH, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.

MY MOM'S CUBAN AND MY DAD'S ITALIAN SO I WAS RAISED CATHOLIC TOO.



BUT IT NEVER FIT FOR ME. I WASN'T EVER REALLY RELIGIOUS.

I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD MY ABUELA AND ABUELO ABOUT MY TRANSITION. SOMETIMES YOU JUST... DON'T KNOW HOW TO TELL PEOPLE.

YEAH,  
EXACTLY.

THAT WAS  
WHY I  
MOVED TO  
STARLIGHT  
CITY.

WELL,  
AND  
BECAUSE  
OF DREAM  
RUNNER.

DREAM  
RUNNER?

YOU KNOW,  
THAT  
DREAMCAST  
RACING GAME  
WHERE YOU  
DRIVE A SUPRA  
THROUGH  
STARLIGHT  
CITY.

THAT'S  
WEIRD.

I'VE  
NEVER  
HEARD OF  
THAT ONE...

I'LL LOOK  
FOR MY  
COPY  
WHEN WE  
GET BACK.

IT'S  
FUN!

THE BACK-  
GROUNDS  
WERE  
REALLY  
COOL.

ALL BLUE  
AND HOT  
PINK NEON.

I'D LOVE  
TO PLAY IT  
WHEN YOU  
FIND IT.



I WAS SO SCARED OF MY FAMILY FINDING OUT ABOUT ME.

I WANTED TO LIVE SOMEWHERE WHERE I COULD BE MYSELF WITHOUT BEING AFRAID...

IT WAS SORT OF THE SAME FOR ME. I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE FOR A YEAR BEFORE I FINALLY REALIZED I WAS TRANS.

STARLIGHT CITY LOOKED SO COOL IN THE GAME, SO I THOUGHT, WHY NOT?

SO I SAVED LONG ENOUGH TO BUY MY DREAM CAR, PACKED WHAT WOULD FIT, AND MOVED.

I WANTED A FRESH START. WHEN I DID DECIDE TO GO BACK, I TRANSFERRED TO NOVA UNIVERSITY.



I WANTED A NEW START AS A NEW GUY. WITHOUT THE BAGGAGE FROM MY OLD LIFE...

...OR PEOPLE WHO KNEW THE OLD ME.



I WANTED PEOPLE TO JUST SEE ME.

JUST A REGULAR GUY.


NOT MY OLD NAME.

JUST ALEX.



I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.

I'M SORRY YOUR DAD CAN'T SEE YOU AND LOVE YOU FOR THE AMAZING GUY YOU ARE.



AND I'M SORRY YOUR FAMILY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO LOVE YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE TOO.



BUT I DO.

THANK YOU...

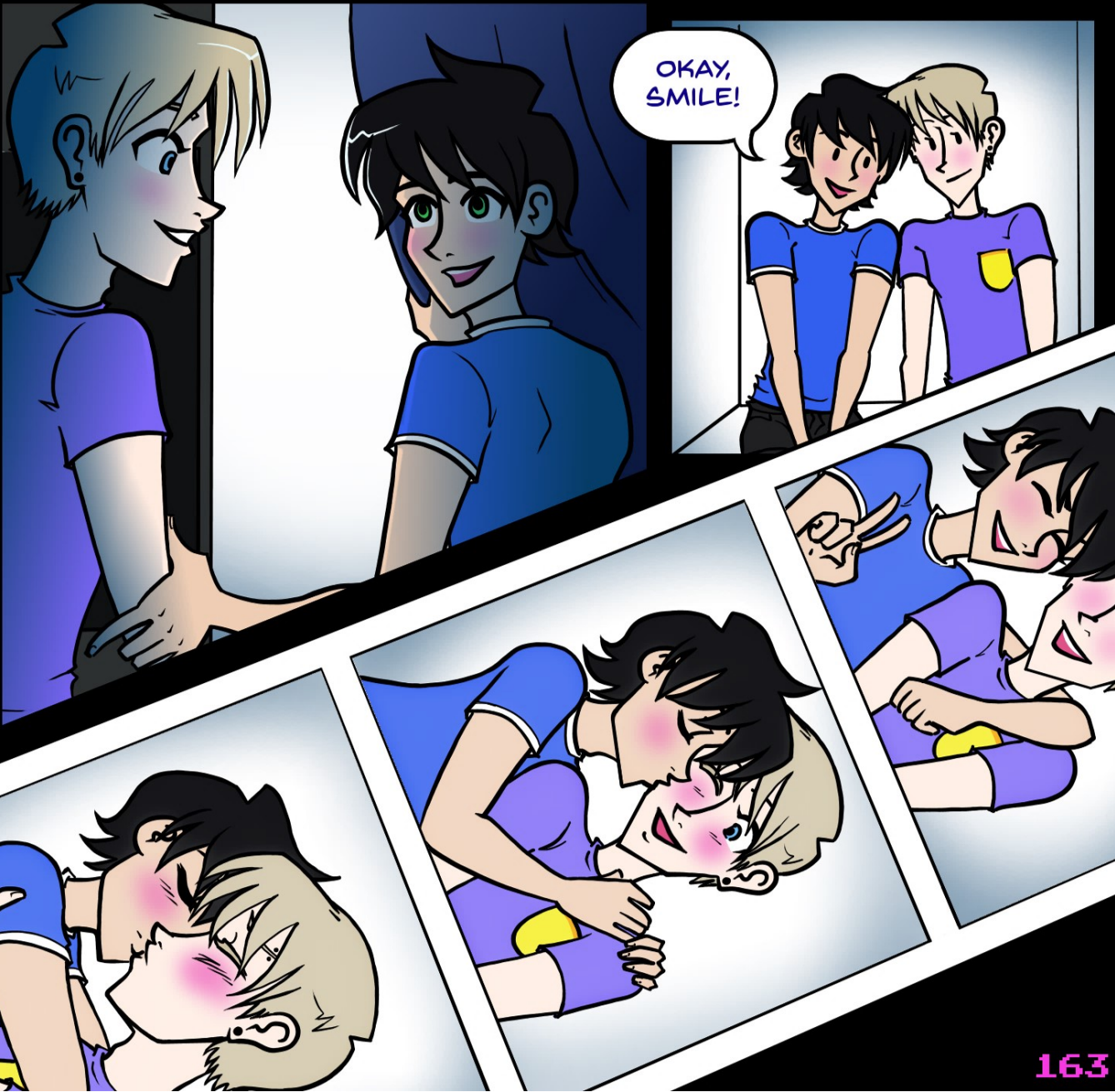


HEY!

WE SHOULD  
TAKE A  
PHOTO  
BEFORE  
WE LEAVE!

TOTALLY!

PHOTO BOOTH



OKAY,  
SMILE!



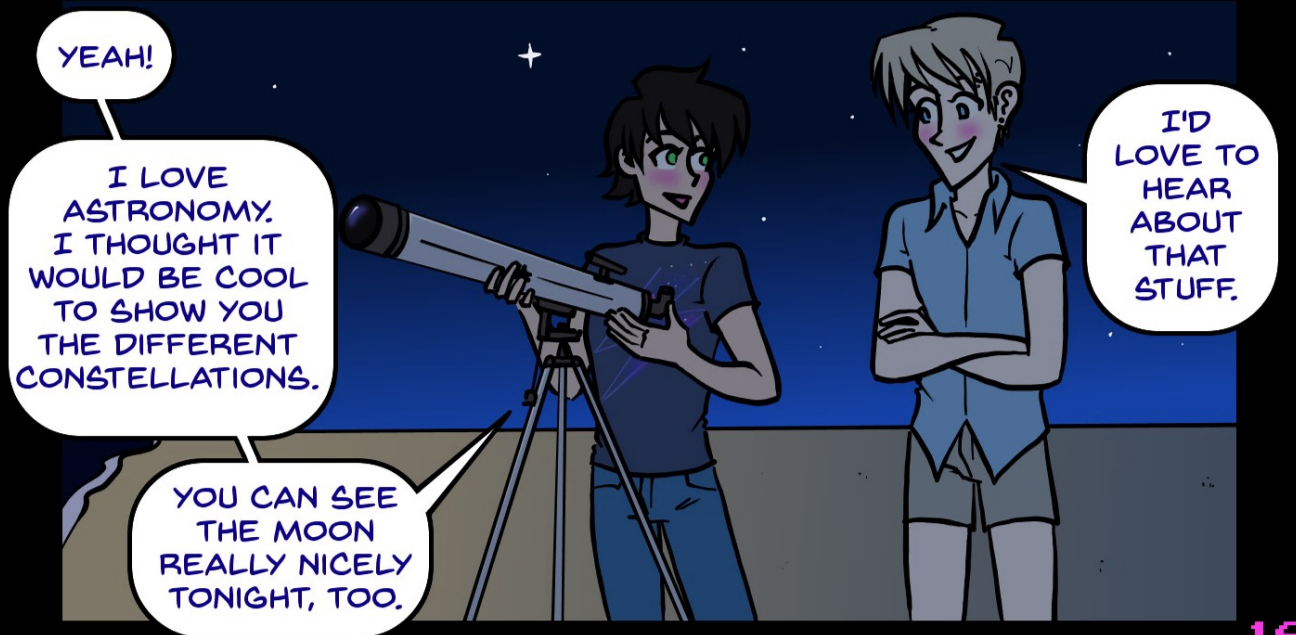


I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR OUR LAST NIGHT.



WHOA, COOL!

DO YOU DO A LOT OF STARGAZING?

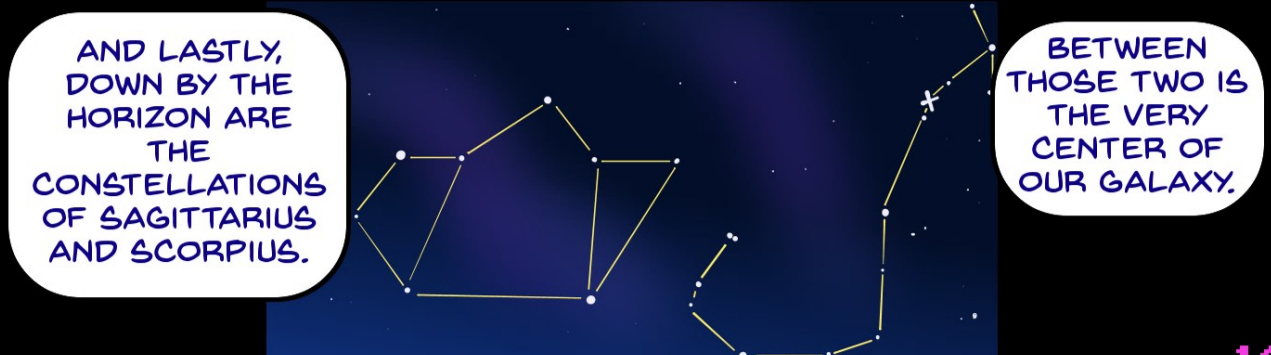
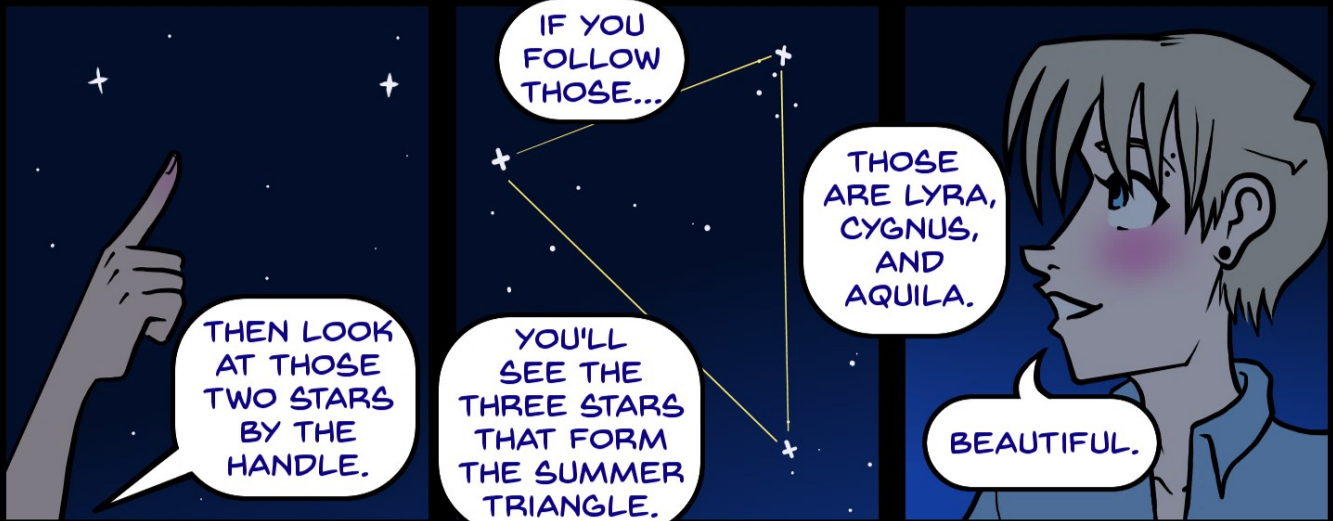


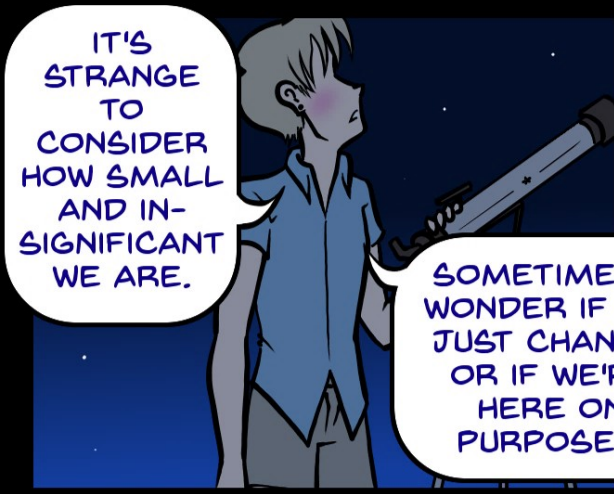
YEAH!

I LOVE ASTRONOMY. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE COOL TO SHOW YOU THE DIFFERENT CONSTELLATIONS.

YOU CAN SEE THE MOON REALLY NICELY TONIGHT, TOO.

I'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT THAT STUFF.





IT'S STRANGE TO CONSIDER HOW SMALL AND IN-SIGNIFICANT WE ARE.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF IT'S JUST CHANCE, OR IF WE'RE HERE ON PURPOSE...



I LIKE TO THINK THAT THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON.



OH LOOK!

A SHOOTING STAR!

MAKE A WISH!

WONDER REFLECTED IN HIS FACE AS HE WATCHED THE SKY.



WHAT SHOULD I WISH FOR, I THOUGHT?

THE THING I WANTED MOST WAS TO STOP TIME. TO LIVE IN THIS MOMENT FOREVER.

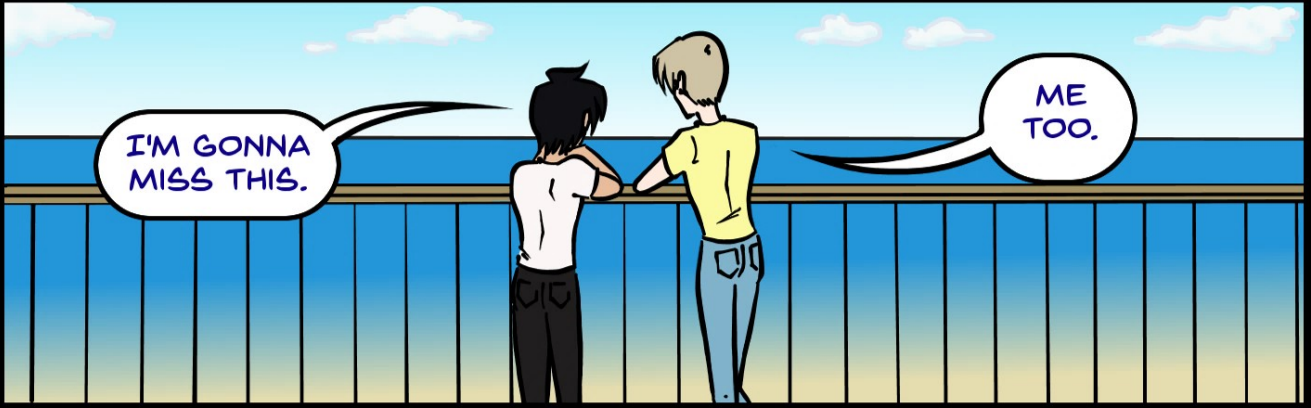


HIS EYES SHONE WITH PROMISE.



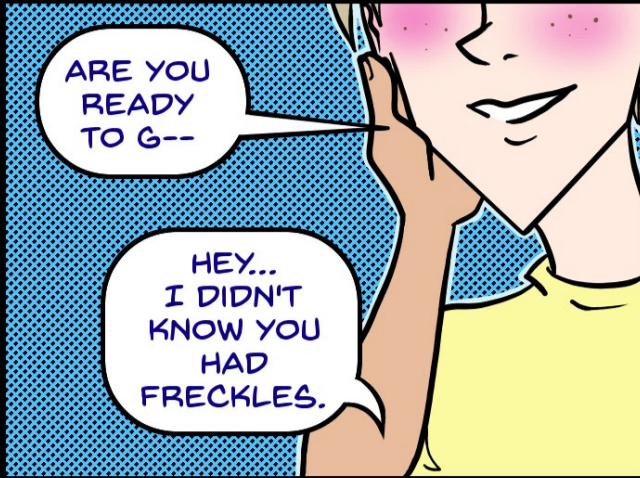
KISS ME.





I'M GONNA MISS THIS.

ME TOO.



ARE YOU READY TO G--

HEY... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD FRECKLES.



YEAH.

THEY COME OUT IN THE SUN.



I THINK IT'S REALLY CUTE.

I THINK YOUR TAN IS WAY HOTTER THAN SOME FRECKLES.

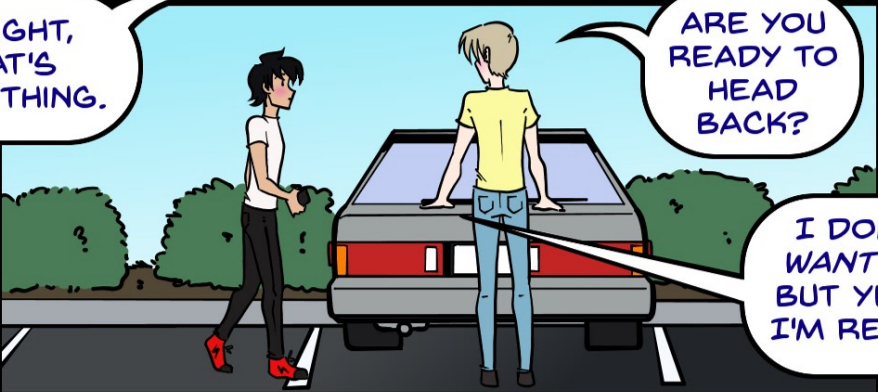


OH, I DUNNO ABOUT THAT.

Swooch!

LET ME SHOW YOU!

ALRIGHT, THAT'S EVERYTHING.



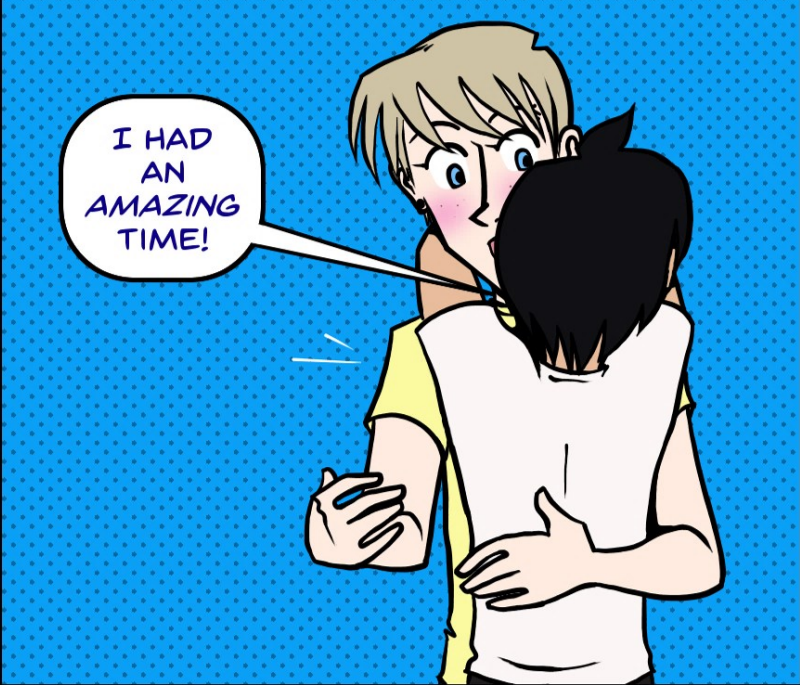
ARE YOU READY TO HEAD BACK?

I DON'T WANT TO, BUT YEAH, I'M READY.



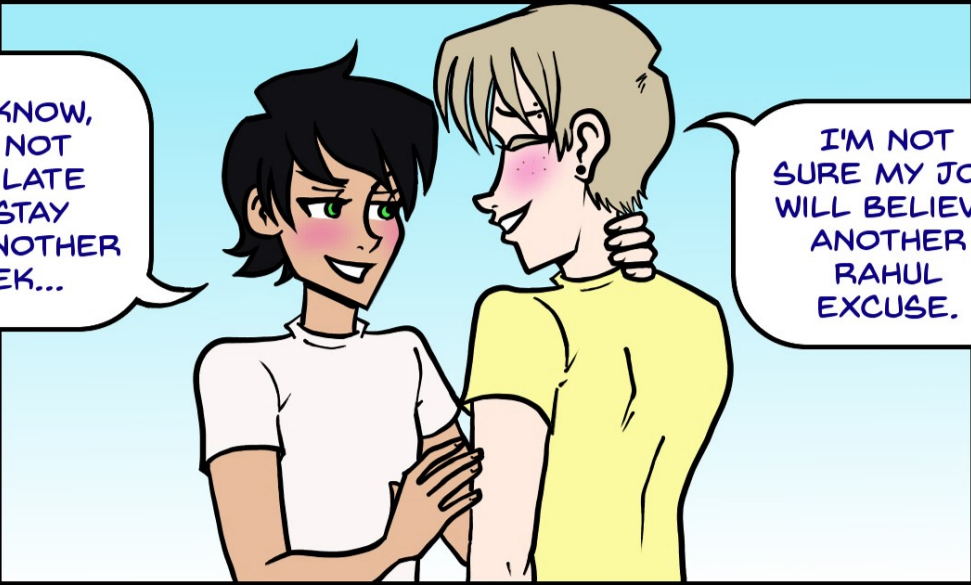
YEAH, ME NEITHER.

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?

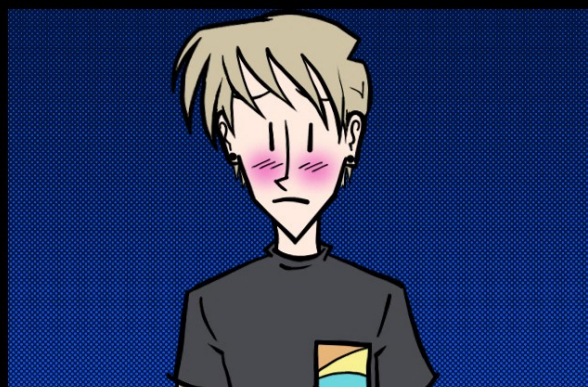
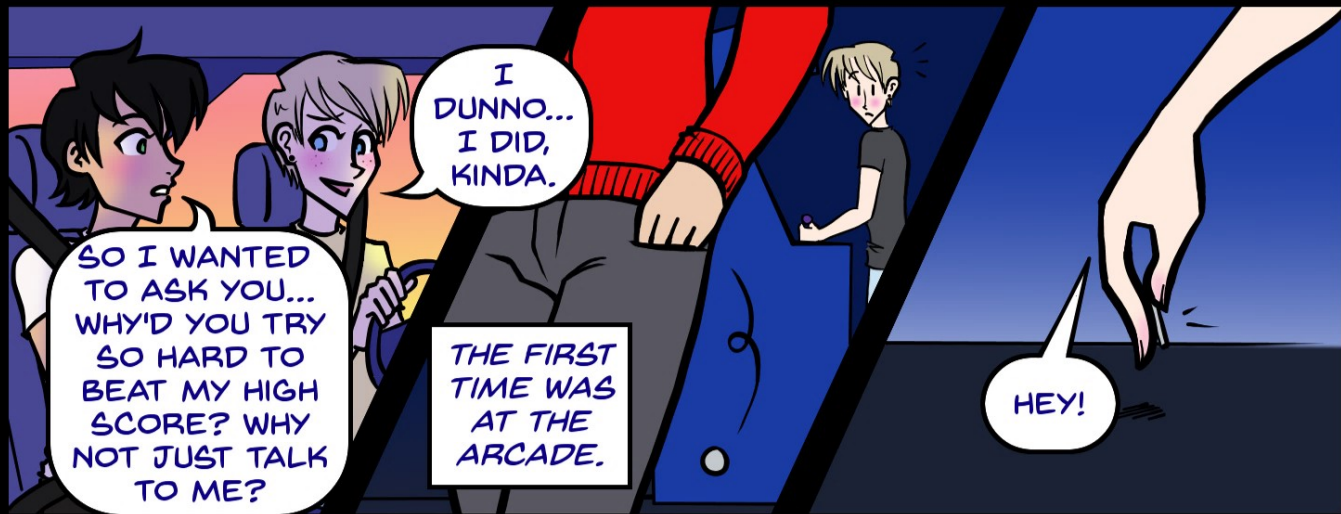


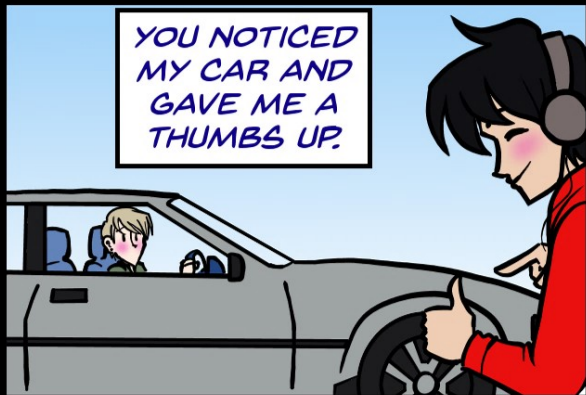
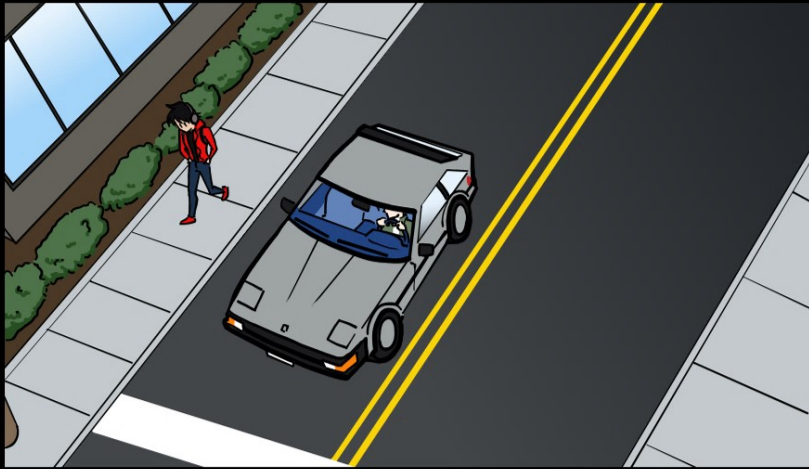
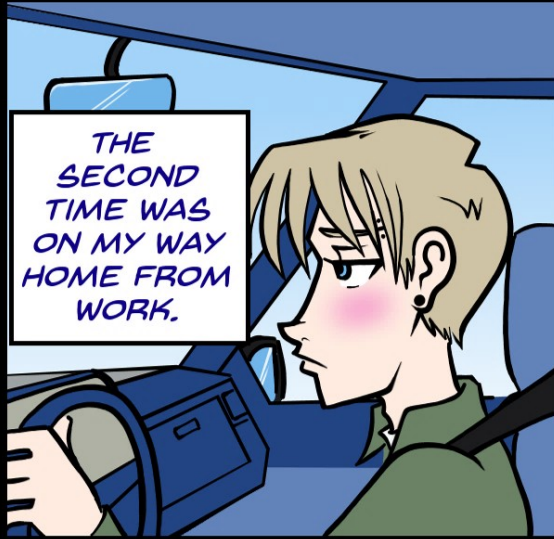
I HAD AN AMAZING TIME!

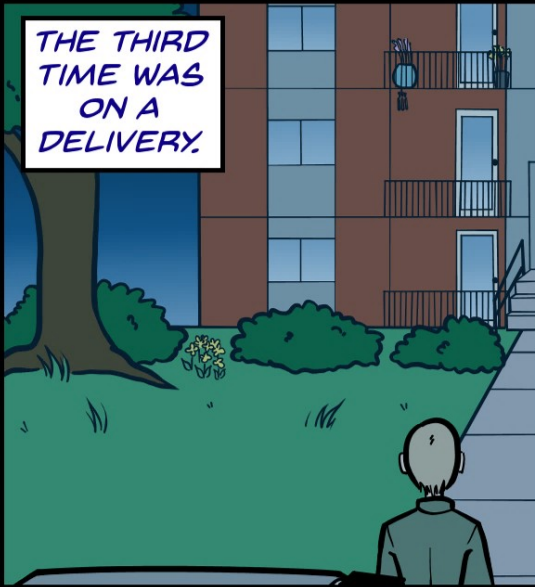
YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STAY FOR ANOTHER WEEK...



I'M NOT SURE MY JOB WILL BELIEVE ANOTHER RAHUL EXCUSE.



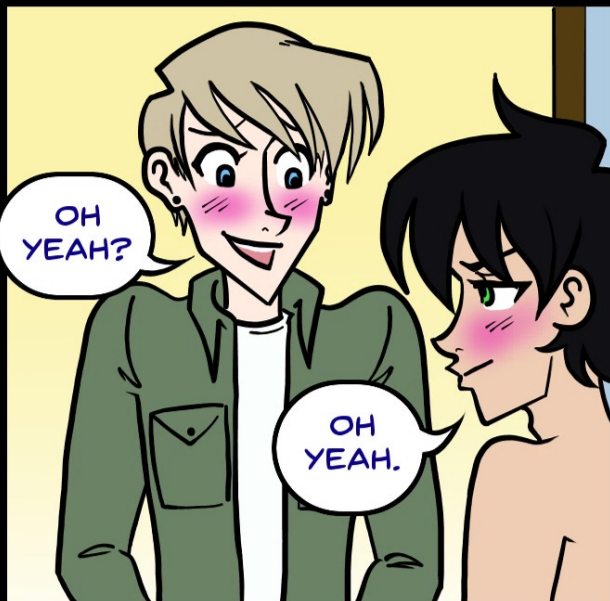
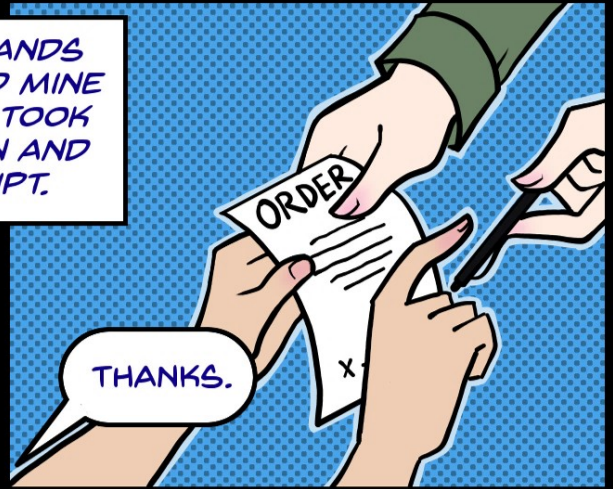


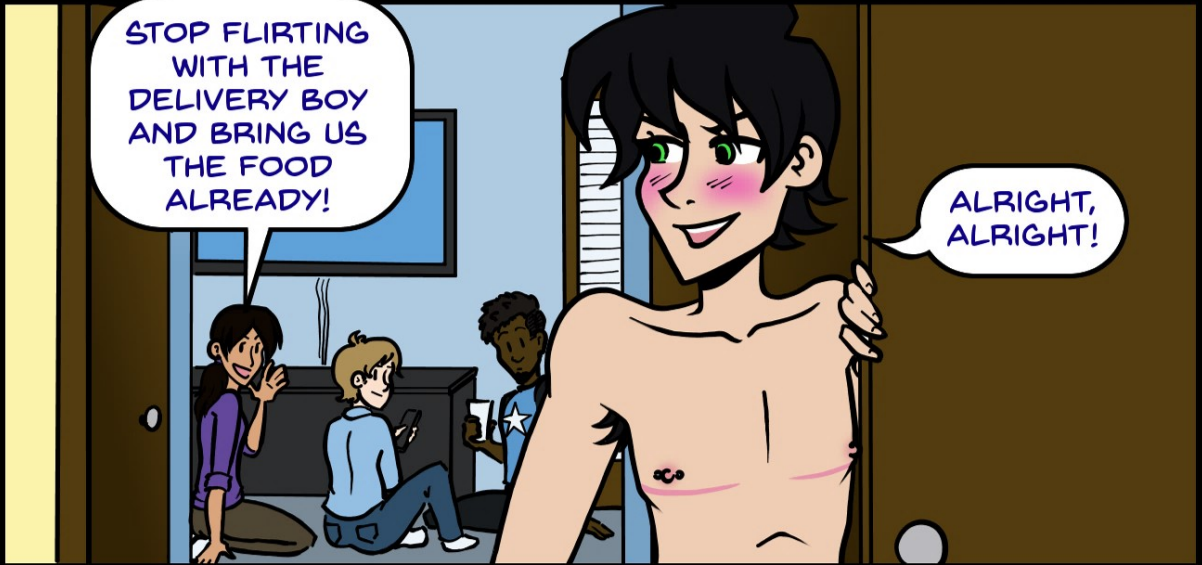






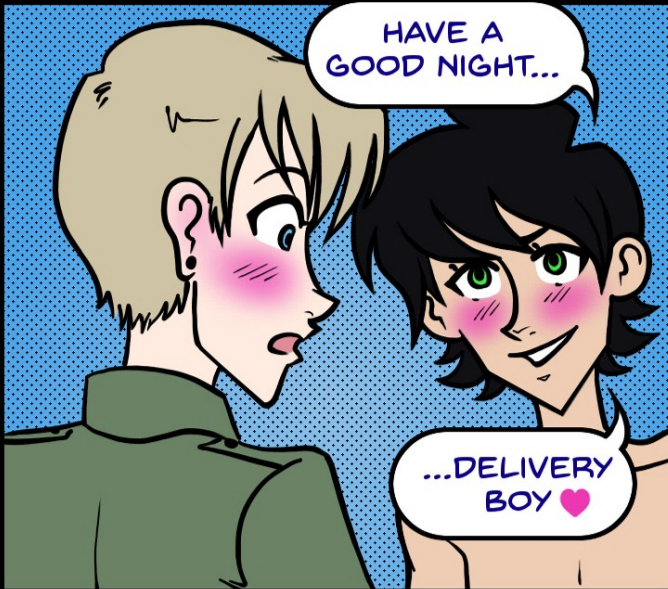
YOUR HANDS  
BRUSHED MINE  
AS YOU TOOK  
THE PEN AND  
RECEIPT.





STOP FLIRTING WITH THE DELIVERY BOY AND BRING US THE FOOD ALREADY!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT!



HAVE A GOOD NIGHT...

...DELIVERY BOY ♡



I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT FOR WEEKS AFTERWARDS.



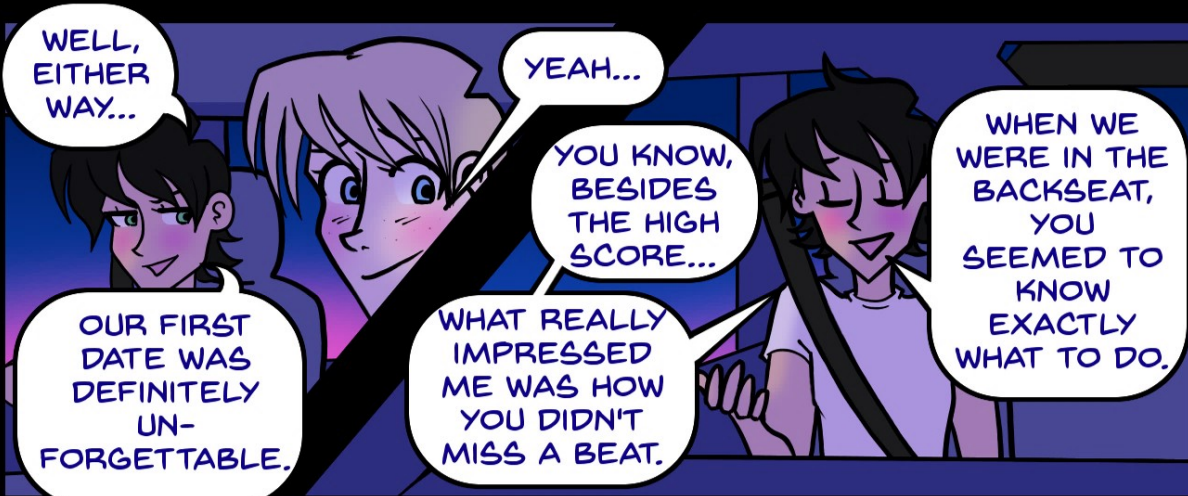


MAN, I FEEL TERRIBLE...

I ONLY REMEMBER THE LAST ONE. I GUESS I WAS REALLY OBLIVIOUS.



THAT'S FINE.



WELL, EITHER WAY...

OUR FIRST DATE WAS DEFINITELY UN-FORGETTABLE.

YEAH...

YOU KNOW, BESIDES THE HIGH SCORE...

WHAT REALLY IMPRESSED ME WAS HOW YOU DIDN'T MISS A BEAT.

WHEN WE WERE IN THE BACKSEAT, YOU SEEMED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.

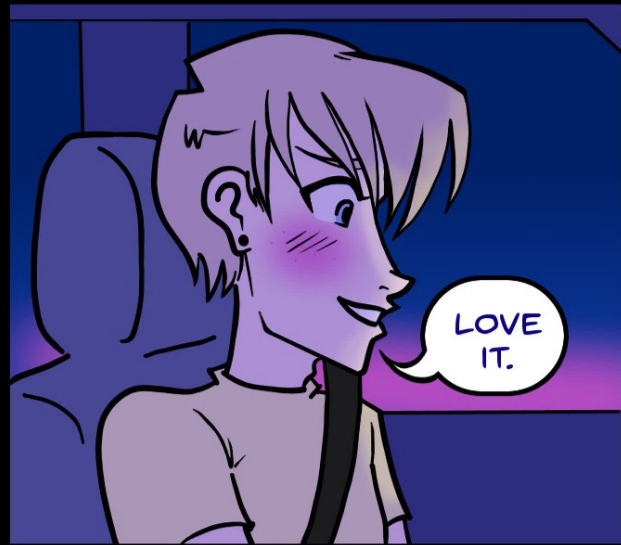


WELL, I MEAN, I MIGHT BE A LITTLE INEXPERIENCED...

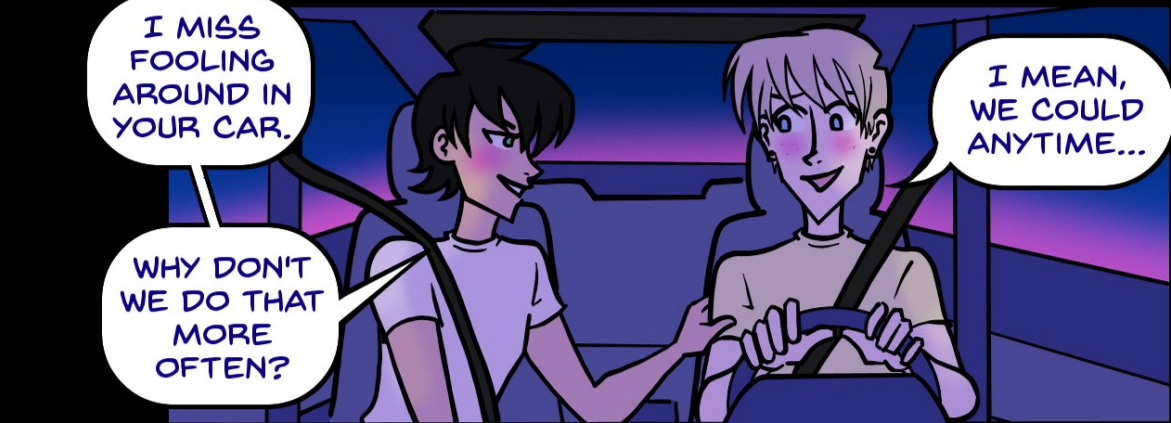
BUT I DO KNOW HOW TO SUCK COCK.



OH,  
YOU LIKE  
SUCKING  
MY COCK?



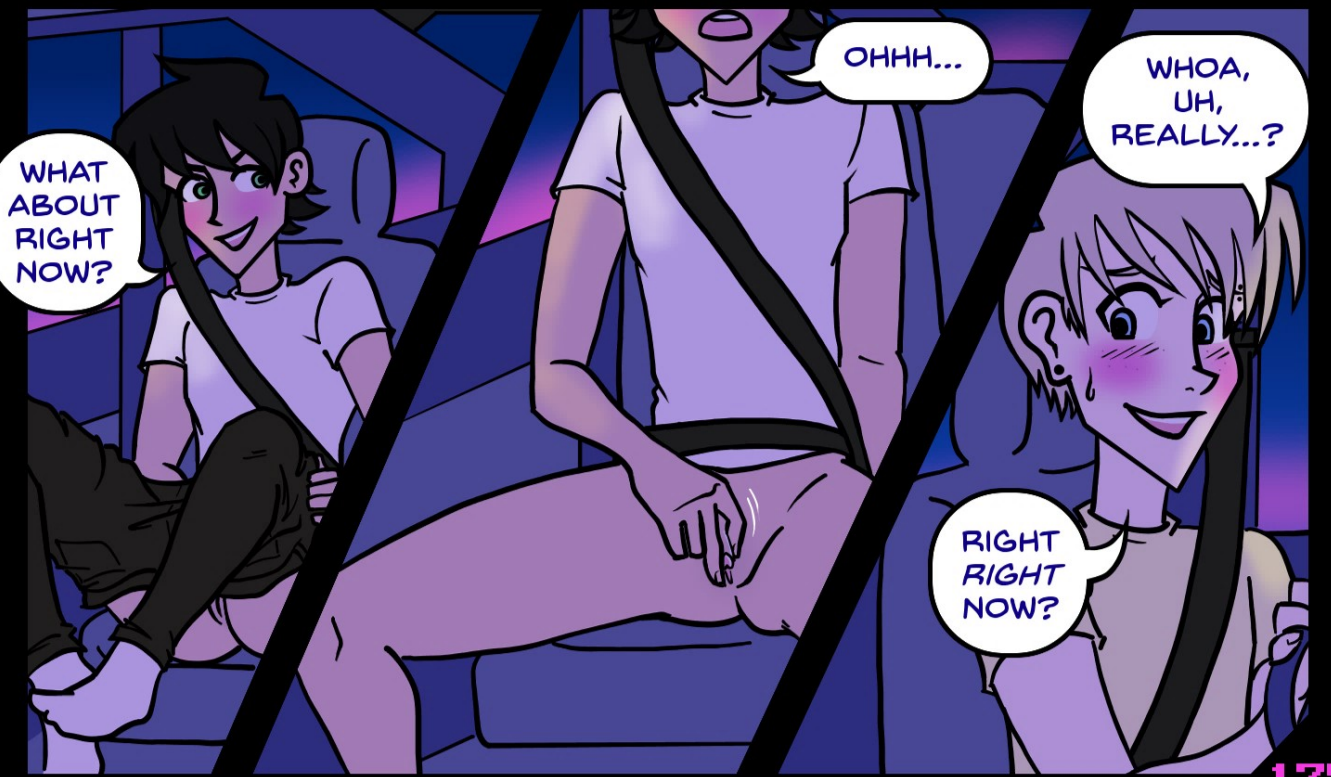
LOVE  
IT.



I MISS  
FOOLING  
AROUND IN  
YOUR CAR.

WHY DON'T  
WE DO THAT  
MORE  
OFTEN?

I MEAN,  
WE COULD  
ANYTIME...



WHAT  
ABOUT  
RIGHT  
NOW?

OHHH...

WHO,  
UH,  
REALLY...?

RIGHT  
RIGHT  
NOW?



YOU... YOU WANT ME TO STOP...?



N-NO...

AH!



GOOD, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK I CAN...



OH FUCK...

IT FEELS SO GOOD!



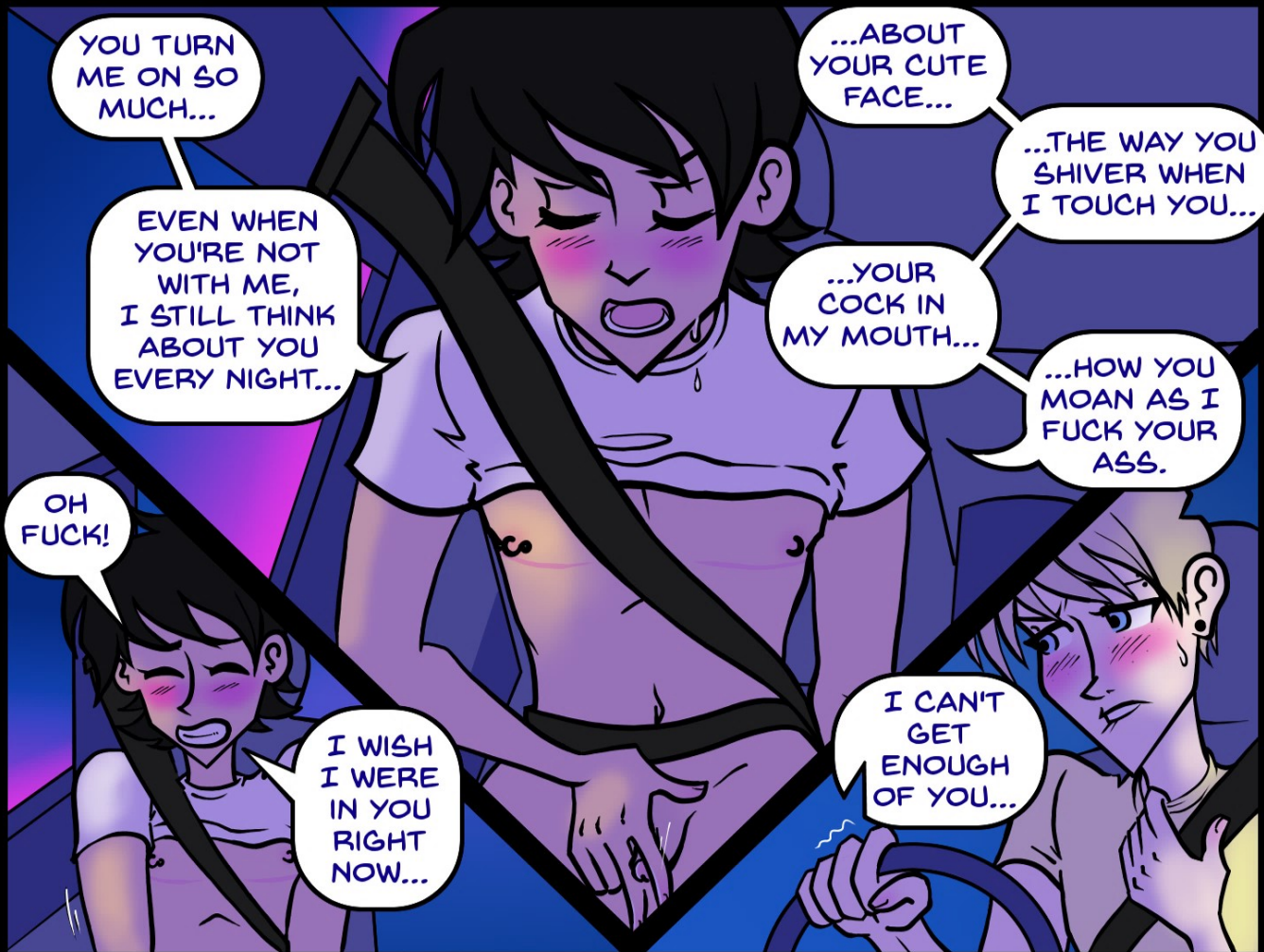
OH YEAH?



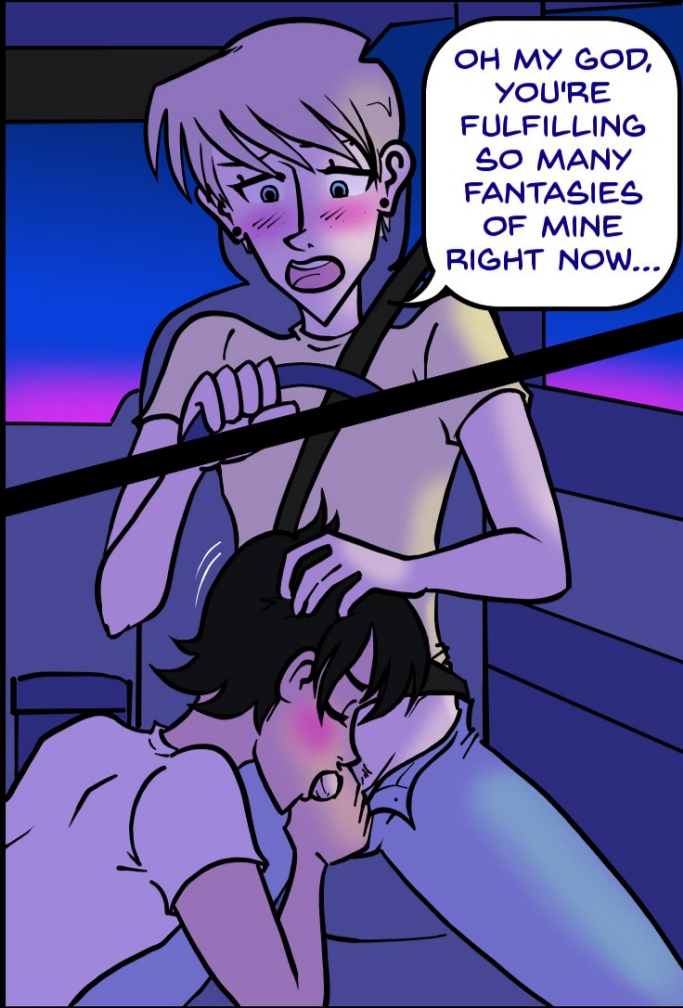
YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT?



...YEAH...







OH MY GOD,  
YOU'RE  
FULFILLING  
SO MANY  
FANTASIES  
OF MINE  
RIGHT NOW...



WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL  
ME  
SOONER?

WE  
COULD'VE  
DONE THIS  
MONTHS  
AGO.



ALEX,  
I--!

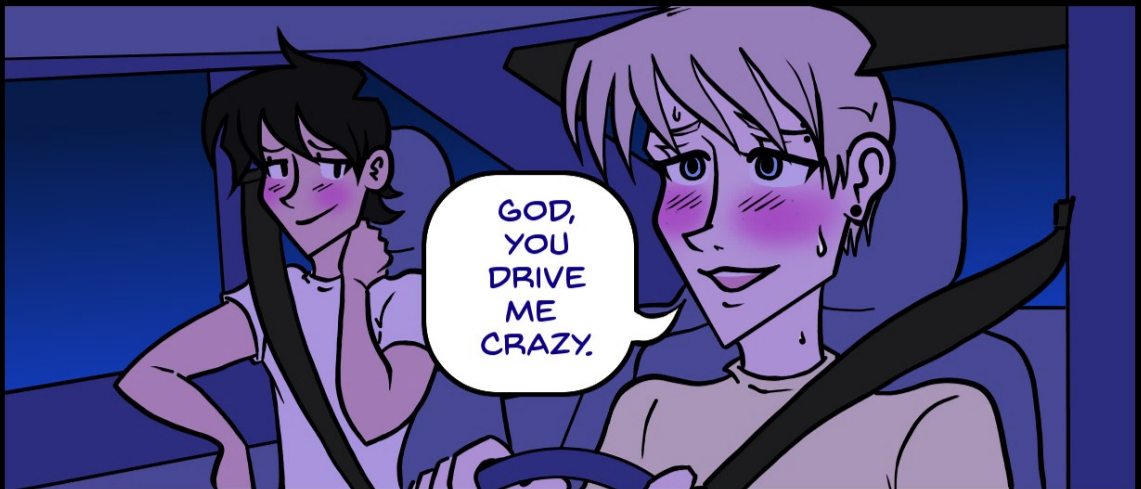
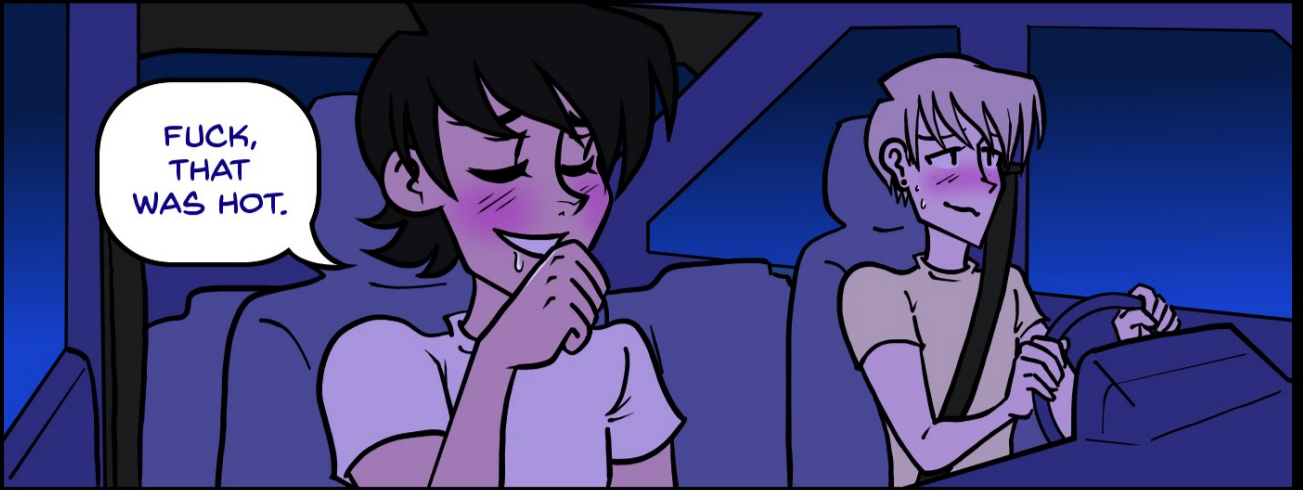
MMF-  
HMM!



HOLY  
FUCK!





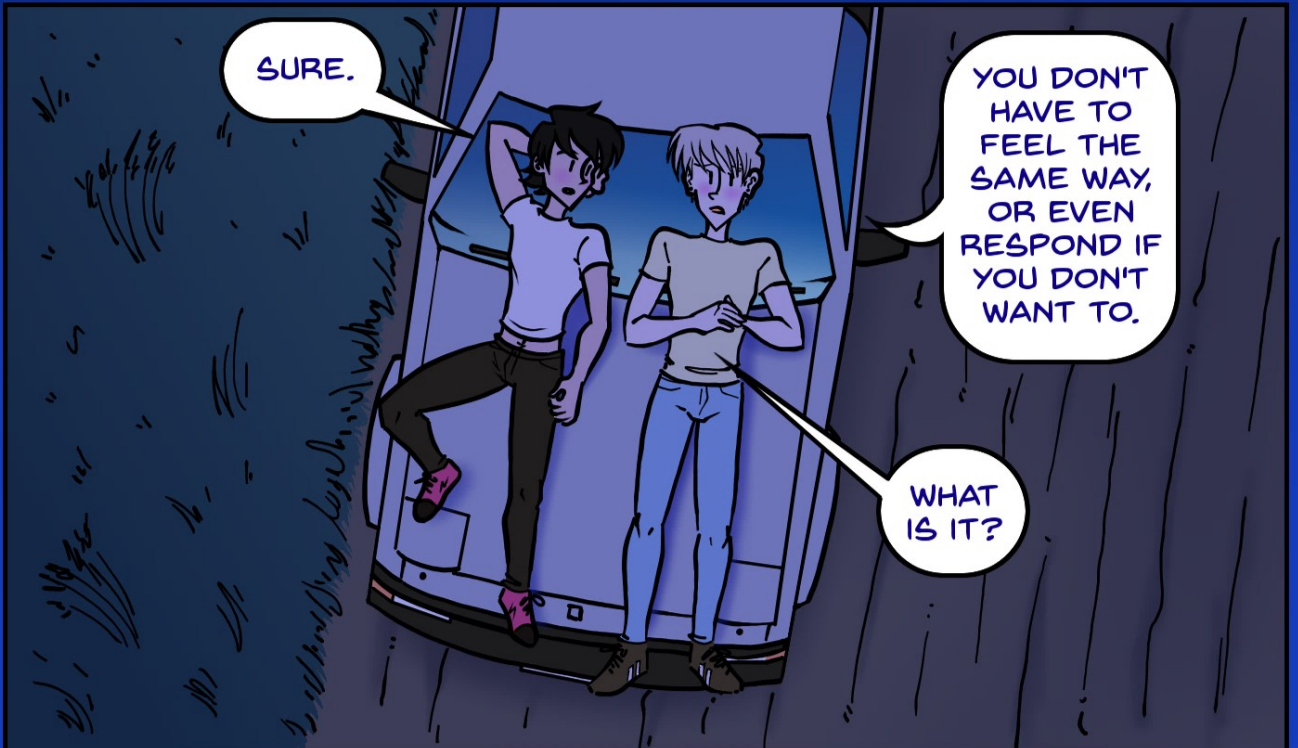


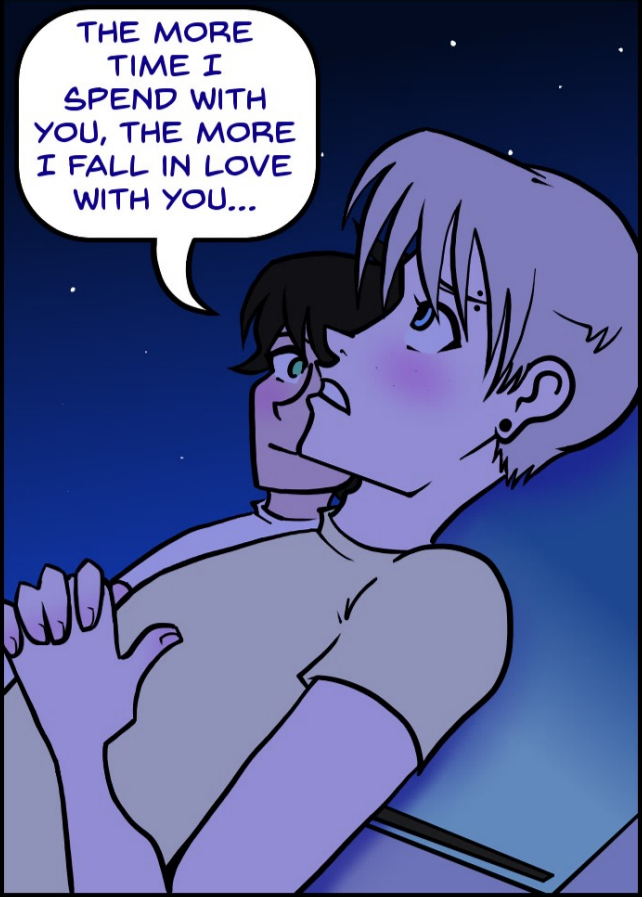
CAN I  
TELL YOU  
SOMETHING?

SURE.

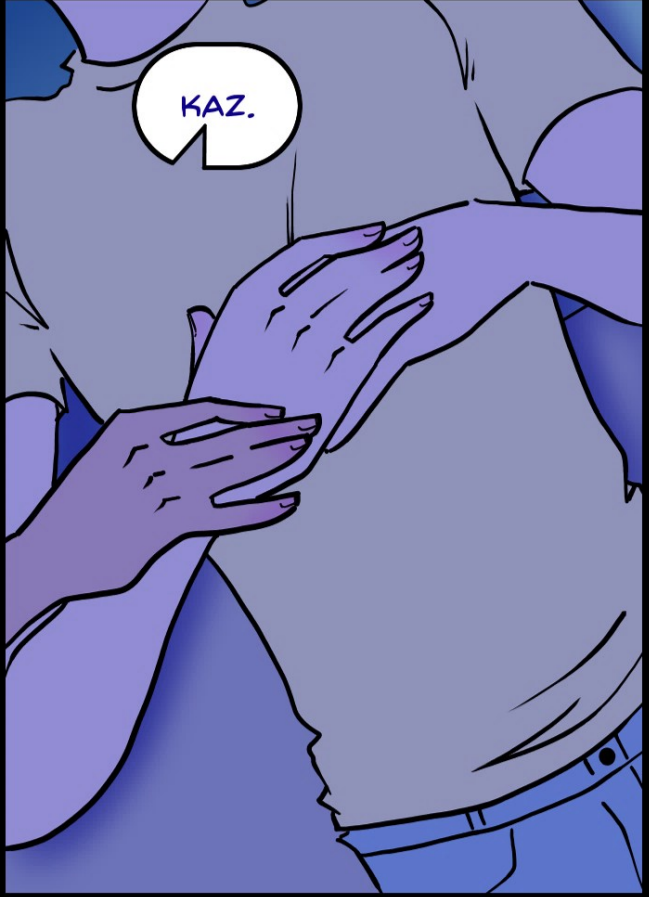
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
FEEL THE  
SAME WAY,  
OR EVEN  
RESPOND IF  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO.

WHAT  
IS IT?





THE MORE  
TIME I  
SPEND WITH  
YOU, THE MORE  
I FALL IN LOVE  
WITH YOU...



KAZ.



I'VE FALLEN  
IN LOVE  
WITH YOU  
TOO.

