

TOP SECRET CONTENT

GUARDED BY COPYRIGHT-SAMA

**SHARING IS CARING, EXCEPT
IN THIS CASE.**

**PLEASE PROTECT THE VALUE
OF YOUR PURCHASE BY KEEPING
THIS CONTENT EXCLUSIVE.
SHARING WITHOUT PERMISSION
HURTS ME AS A CREATOR.**

OKLUVUBYE

the gentle way

柔道

story & art by True



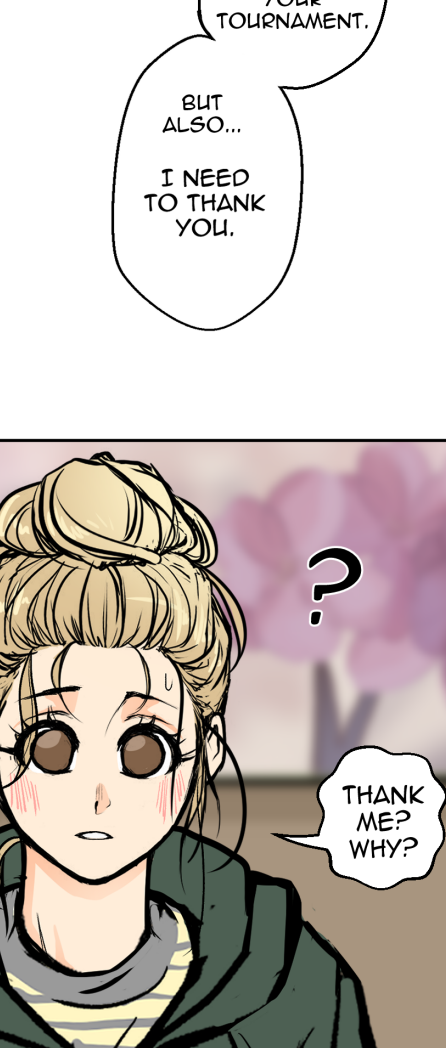
I'M JUST...

...WORRIED THAT MAYBE I'M A BAD INFLUENCE ON YOU.



YOU'RE NOT.

I PROMISE.



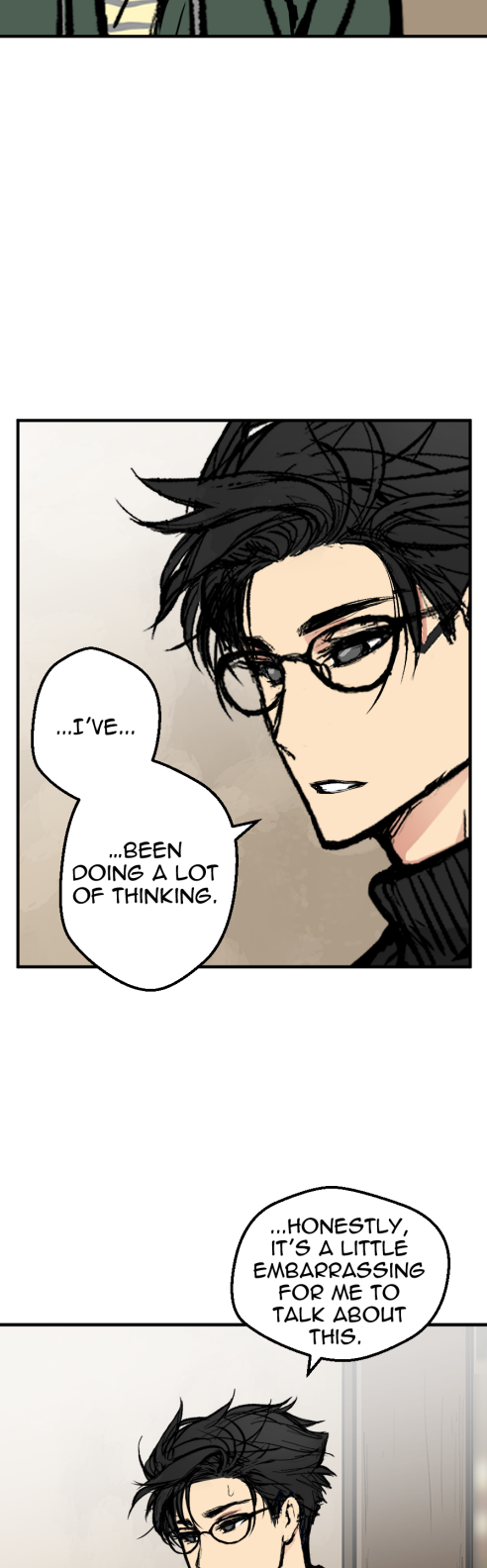
HONESTLY, YOU'VE BEEN THE OPPOSITE.

THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, ACTUALLY.

WE'RE HERE TO CELEBRATE YOUR TOURNAMENT.

BUT ALSO...

I NEED TO THANK YOU.



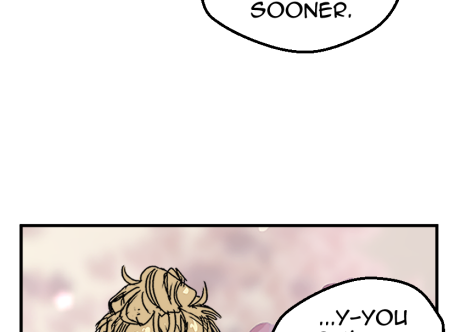
THANK ME? WHY?



...I'VE...

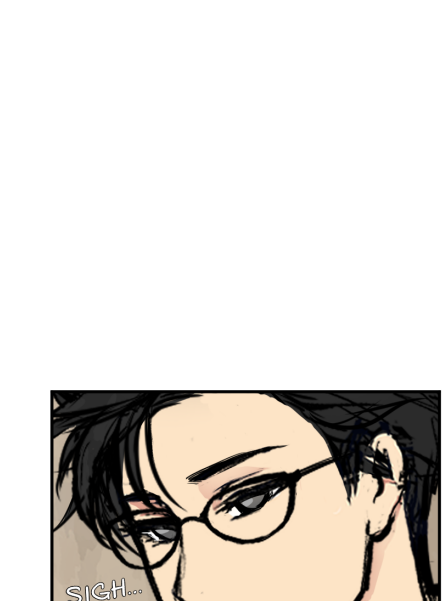
...BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING.

...HONESTLY, IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

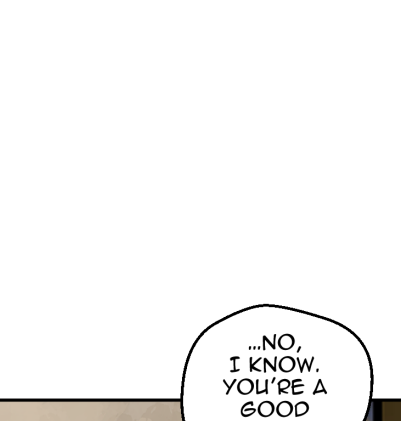


IN HINDSIGHT IT SEEMS SO OBVIOUS.

I FEEL STUPID FOR NOT REALIZING IT SOONER.



...Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHARE ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO...



SIGH...

...NO, I KNOW. YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND.



AND I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT.



BUT HOW COULD I BE A GOOD FRIEND

IF ALL I'VE EVER DONE IS BRING YOU AROUND THE ONE THING YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID?



THAT'S THE THING. YOU'VE NEVER PRESSURED ME INTO DOING ANYTHING.

THAT'S WHY I'M COMFORTABLE STAYING AROUND YOU.

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY CHOICE.



YOU KEEP BLAMING YOURSELF...

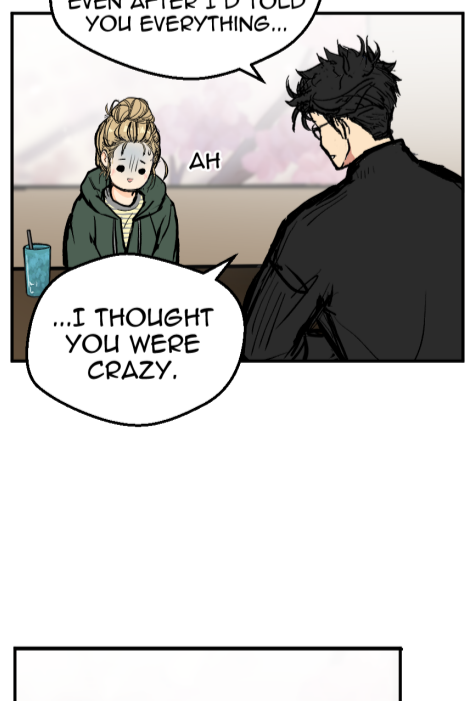
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL GUILTY ABOUT DECISIONS THAT I MAKE.



...I'VE BEEN AVOIDING A LOT OF THINGS SINCE I MOVED HERE.

AVOIDING PEOPLE... AVOIDING PLACES...

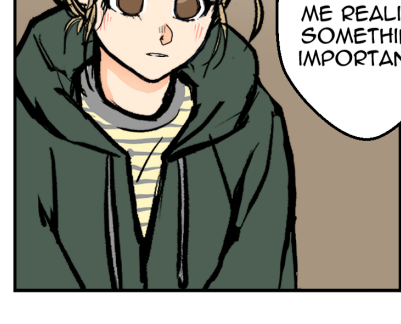
AND I WAS FINE WITH THAT. THE ONLY THING I CARED ABOUT WAS STAYING HIDDEN.



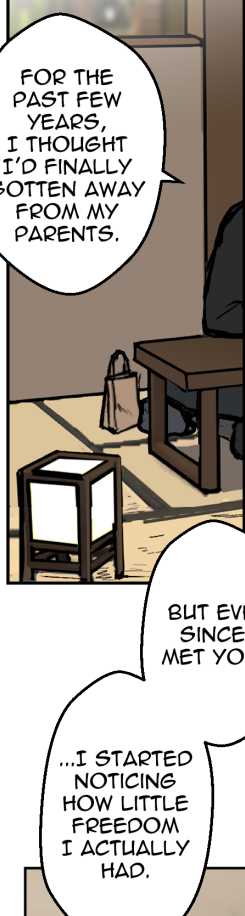
THEN WHEN YOU INVITED ME TO YOUR TOURNAMENT, EVEN AFTER I'D TOLD YOU EVERYTHING...

AH

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE CRAZY.



BUT... YOU ACTUALLY HELPED ME REALIZE SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY GOTTEN AWAY FROM MY PARENTS.

BUT EVER SINCE I MET YOU...

...I STARTED NOTICING HOW LITTLE FREEDOM I ACTUALLY HAD.



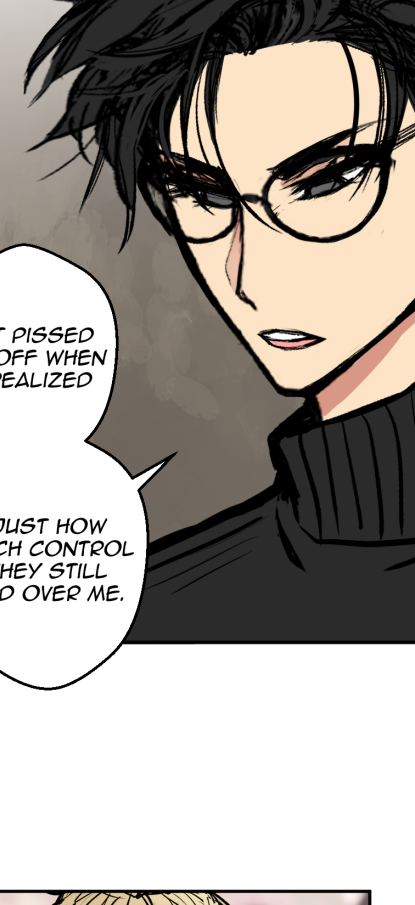
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE MILES AWAY

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO REALLY RELAX, BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT SOMEDAY BEING FOUND.

...ALL THIS TIME...

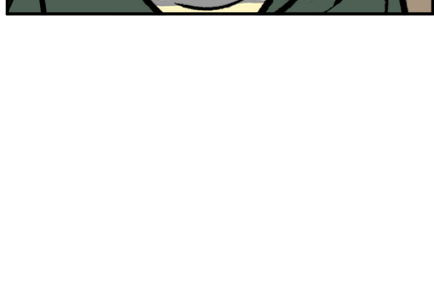


I STILL COULDN'T GO OUT AND LIVE LIFE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.



...IT PISSED ME OFF WHEN I REALIZED

JUST HOW MUCH CONTROL THEY STILL HAD OVER ME.



...THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO COME TO YOUR TOURNAMENT.

I WANTED TO SUPPORT YOU, SO I DID.



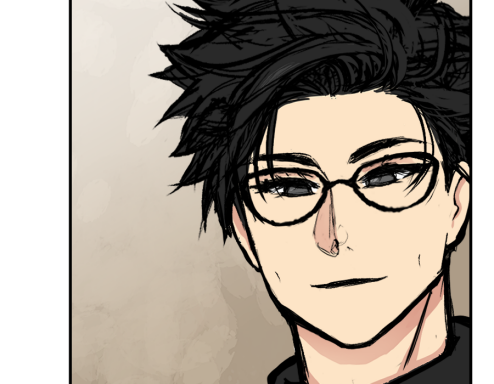
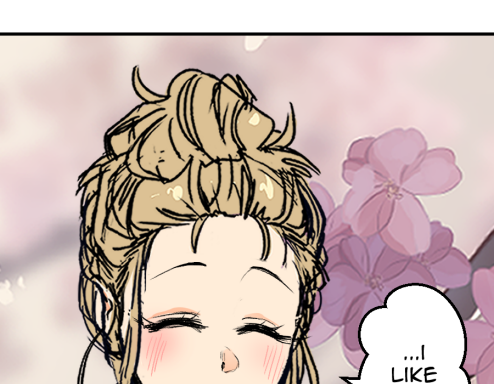
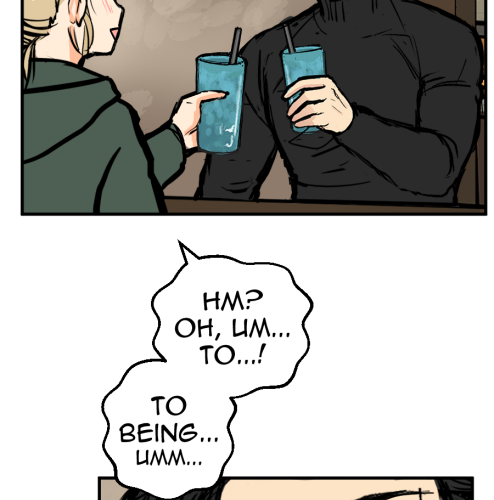
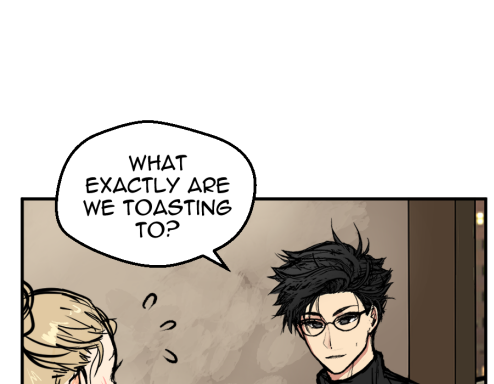
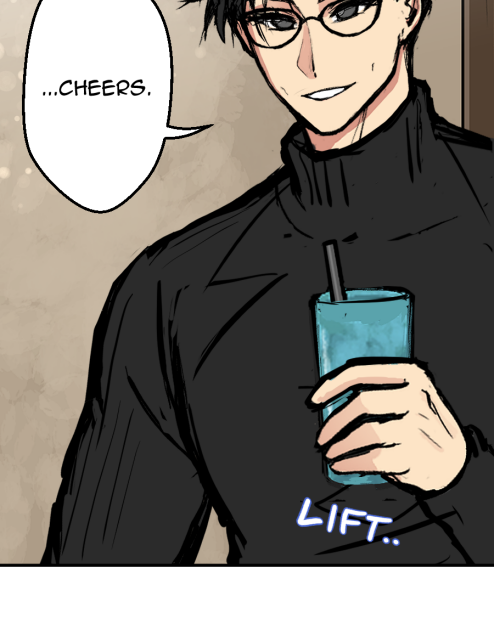
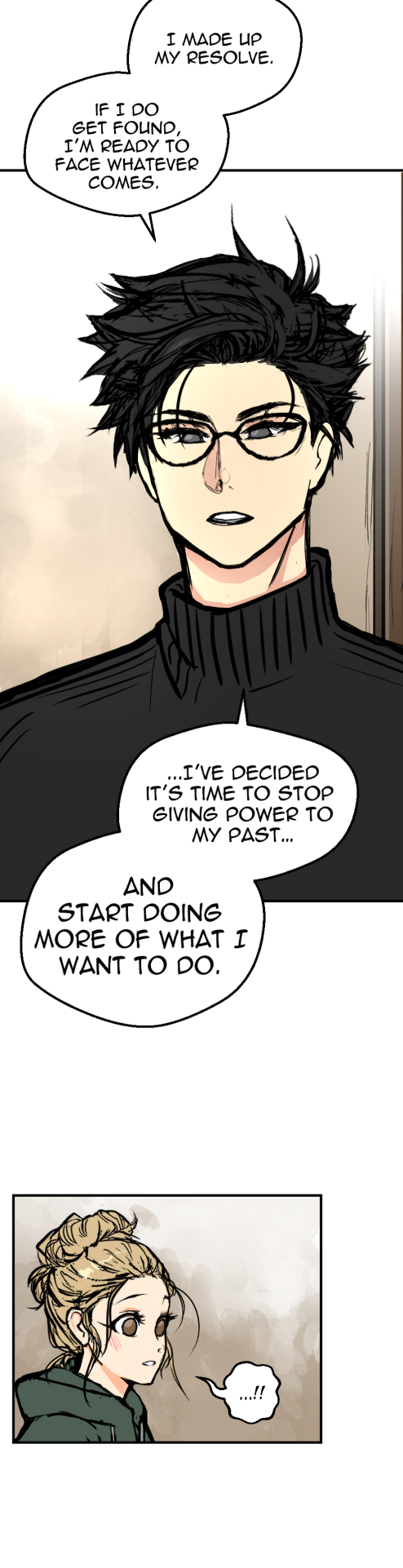
SENPAI...

I'M NOT SAYING I'M GONNA GO AROUND ANNOUNCING MY NAME...



IDEALLY, I STILL WANT TO STAY HIDDEN AS LONG AS I CAN.

BUT...





DID YOU ALL ENJOY YOUR DINNER?

YES, THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, IT WAS DELICIOUS!

NO PROBLEM! GLAD YOU ALL ENJOYED.

I'M FULL! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE FINISHED ALL THAT FOOD...

SENPAI EVEN ORDERED MORE... EVEN HIS STOMACH CAPACITY IS WORLDCLASS...

PH EW

I'LL GO AHEAD AND BRING YOU ALL THE BILL.

ONE CHECK OR TWO?

TWO.

ONE.



ISHIHARA, LET ME -

REALLY, IT'S OK, I CAN'T LET YOU PAY-

NO, I-I CAN COVER MINE, DON'T WORRY--

NO, I TOLD YOU THIS IS MY TREAT--

IT'S OKAY, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO--

ISHIHARA--

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE TREATING YOU--

I'M YOUR SENPAI SO LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU.

HE PULLED THE "SENPAI" CARD!!!

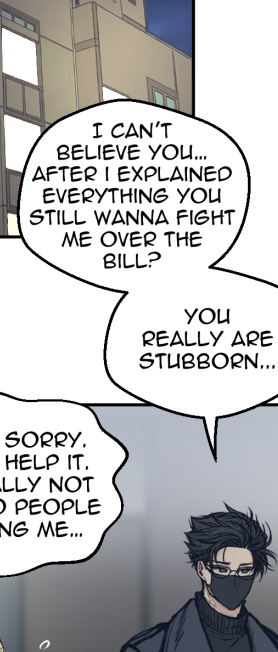
"LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU"?

...ONE CHECK, PLEASE.

HEHE

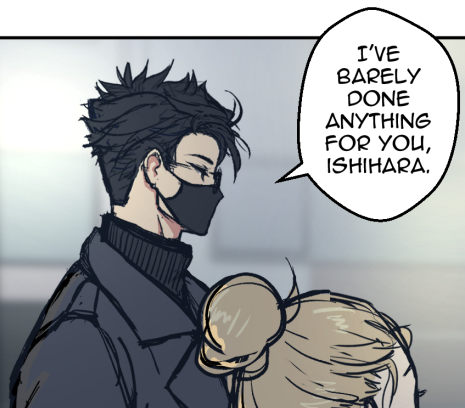
...THESE TWO ARE CUTE.

A COUPLE MONTHS AGO, THIS IS WHERE SHE FIRST ASKED ME TO TEACH HER...



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU... AFTER I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING YOU STILL WANNA FIGHT ME OVER THE BILL?

YOU REALLY ARE STUBBORN...



HEHE... SORRY. I CAN'T HELP IT. I'M REALLY NOT USED TO PEOPLE TREATING ME...

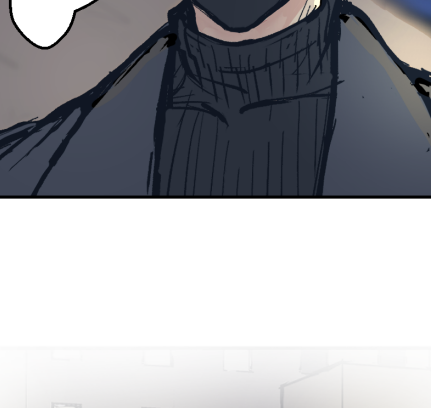
AND I'M GRATEFUL FOR YOU, SO I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE TREATING YOU, TOO...!



I'VE BARELY DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU, ISHIHARA.

AW, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE...!

--AH, WE'RE HERE ALREADY...

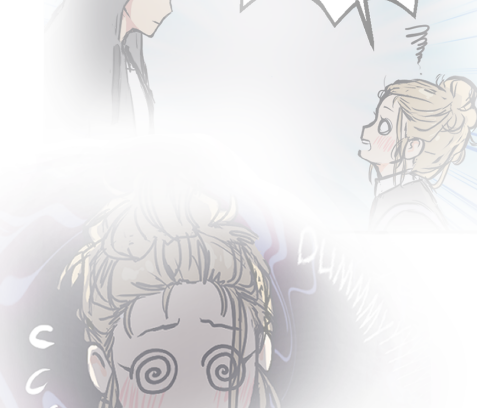


THAT SEEMED FAST.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT TO ME WALKING HOME ALWAYS FEELS FASTER THAN LEAVING...



...

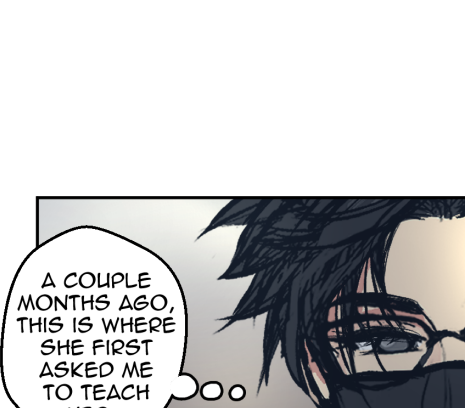


HAVE A SHOULDER!!!



WILL YOU PLEASE...

...TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT LIKE THAT?



A COUPLE MONTHS AGO, THIS IS WHERE SHE FIRST ASKED ME TO TEACH HER...

UM, THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD, SENPAI.



AND FOR WALKING ME BACK.

I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU, UM--... WELL, ACTUALLY, I-IF YOU ALSO HAVE EXAMS THIS WEEK

I-I WAS PLANNING ON STUDYING AT THE LIBRARY, IF YOU WANTED TO COME AS WELL...

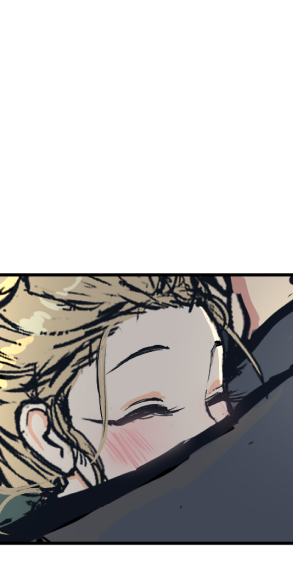
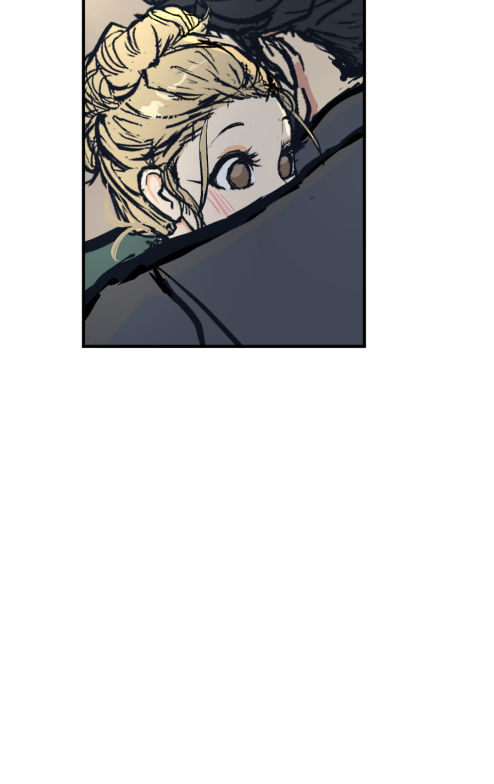


I MEAN, NOT THAT YOU NEED MY PERMISSION TO COME TO THE LIBRARY.

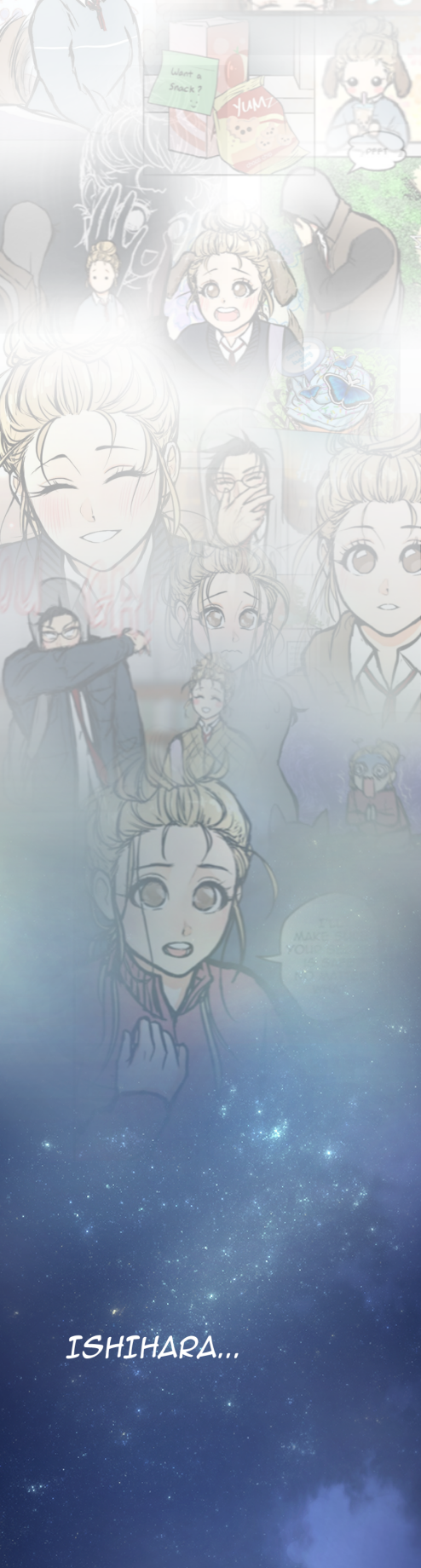
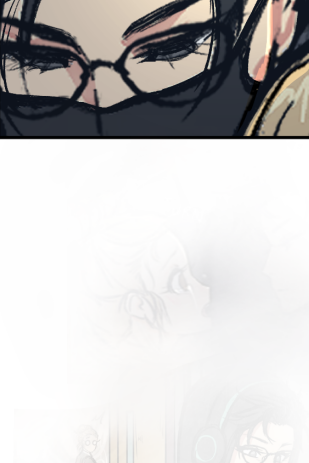
JUST, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN ME IF YOU WANTED TO STUDY



--ADJACENTLY...

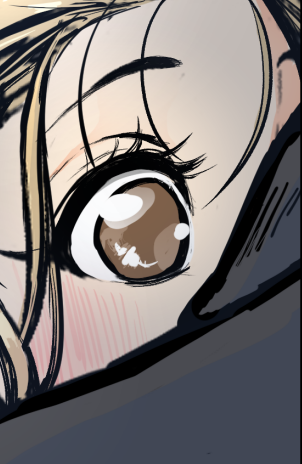
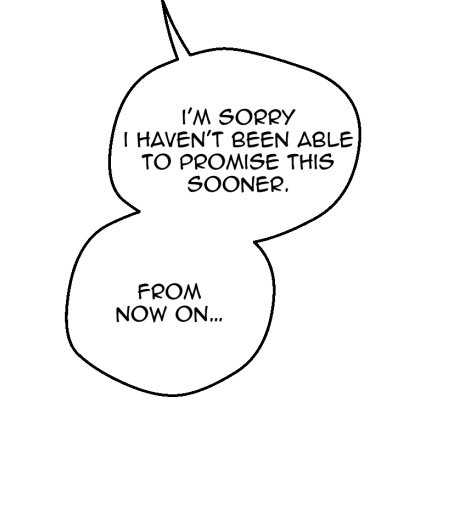
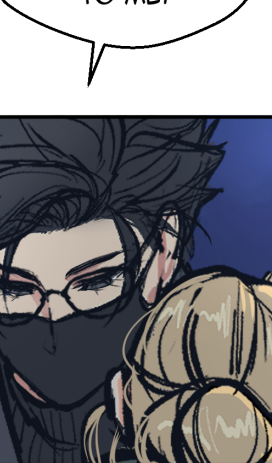
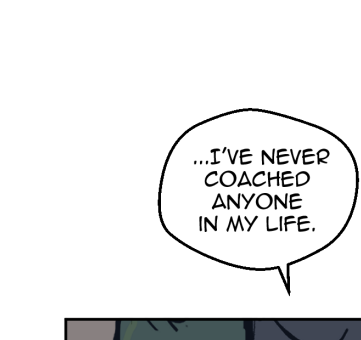


WRAP..



ISHIHARA...

...THANK YOU.



the gentle way

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story & art by True

end of season one.

