

My Dad Took My BF HOSTAGE?!





THIS IS **NOT** HOW THE STORY SHOULD START.

AND YET,



HERE I AM, SITTING IN A RAPIDLY COOLING PUDDLE OF MY OWN ACCIDENT.

OH, MIKE... I'M SO SORRY, ARE YOU OK?

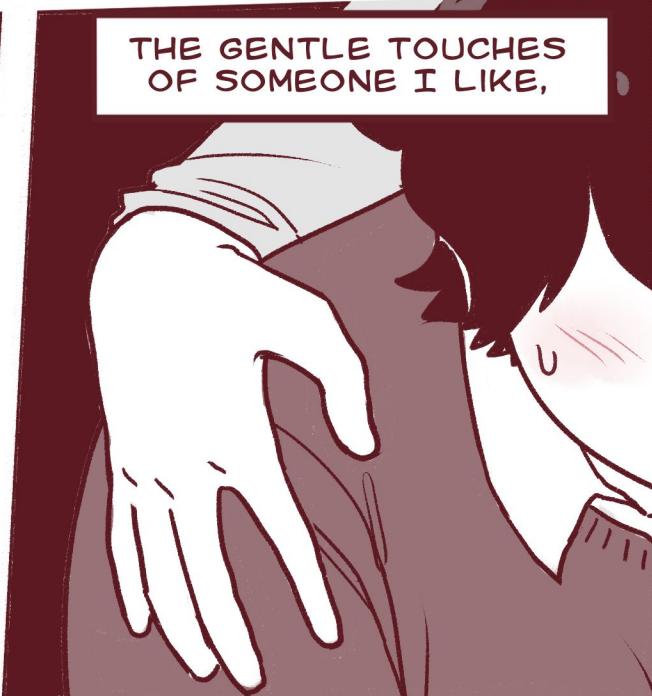
AND MY NEW BOYFRIEND, BLESS HIM, REALLY TRIED HIS BEST TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.

WHICH SOMEHOW MADE ME FEEL ... WORSE.

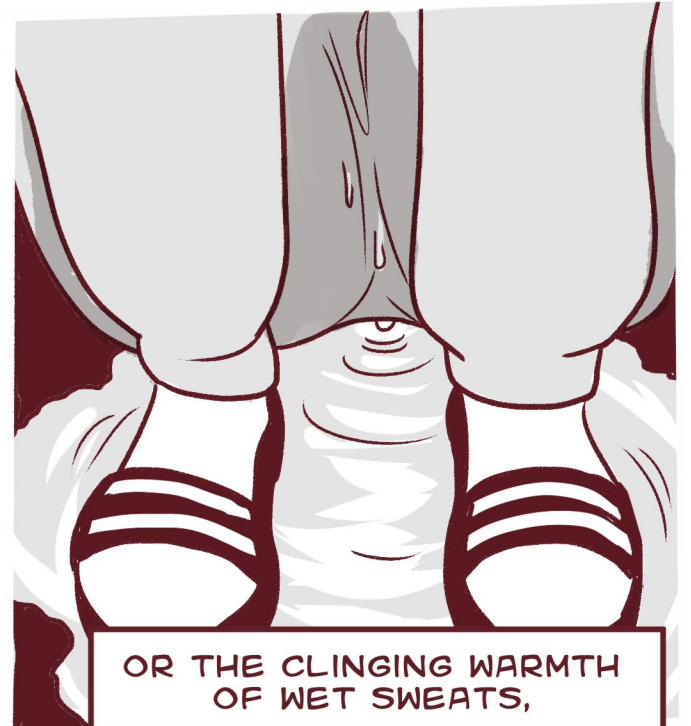


MICHAEL?

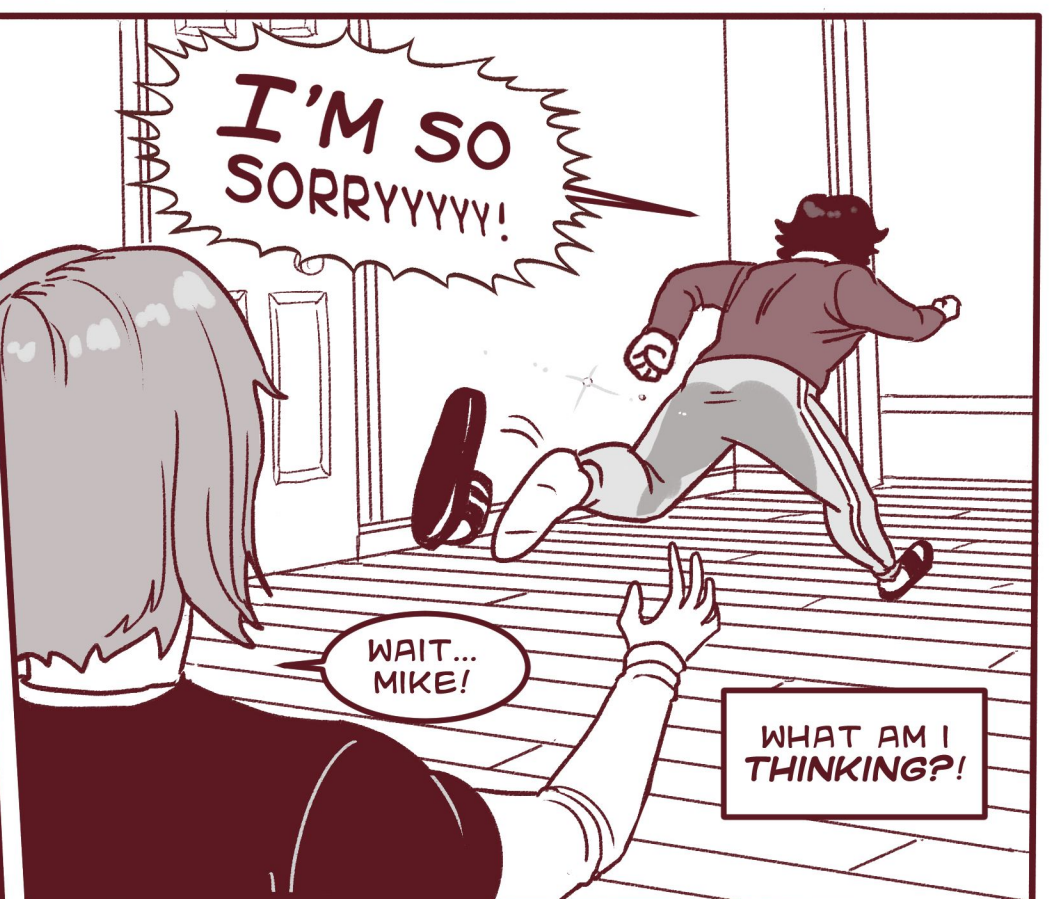
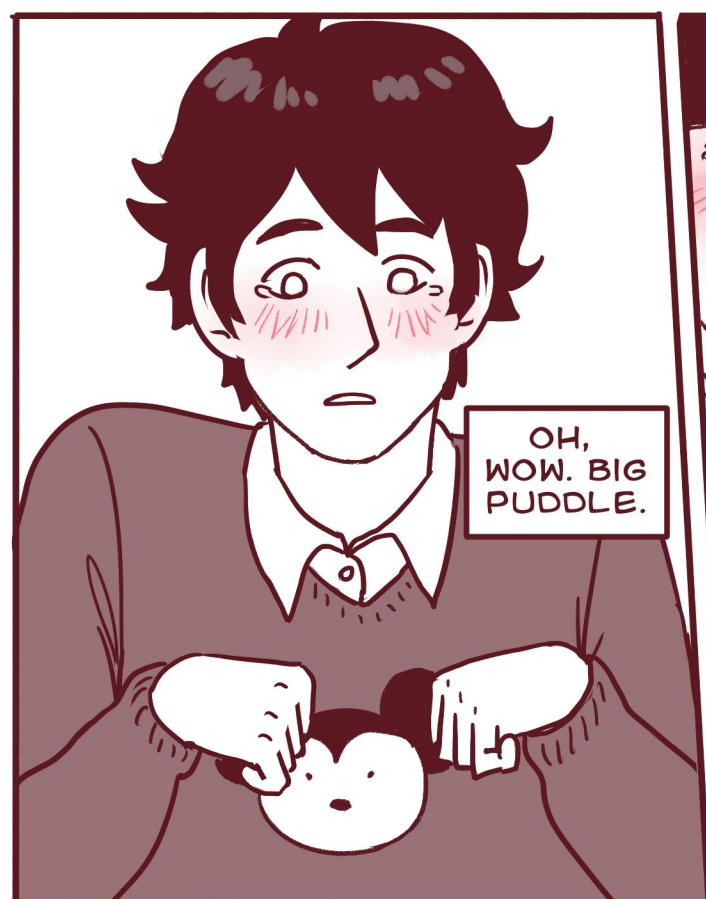
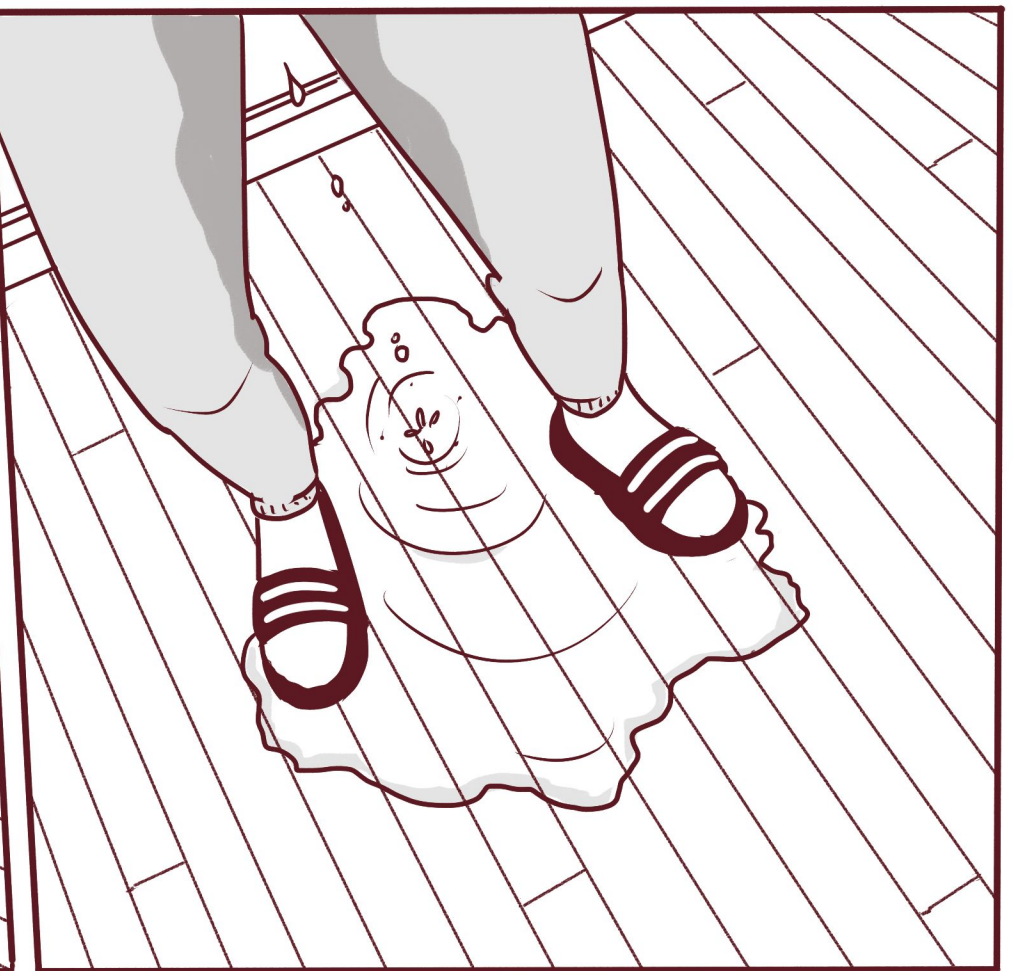
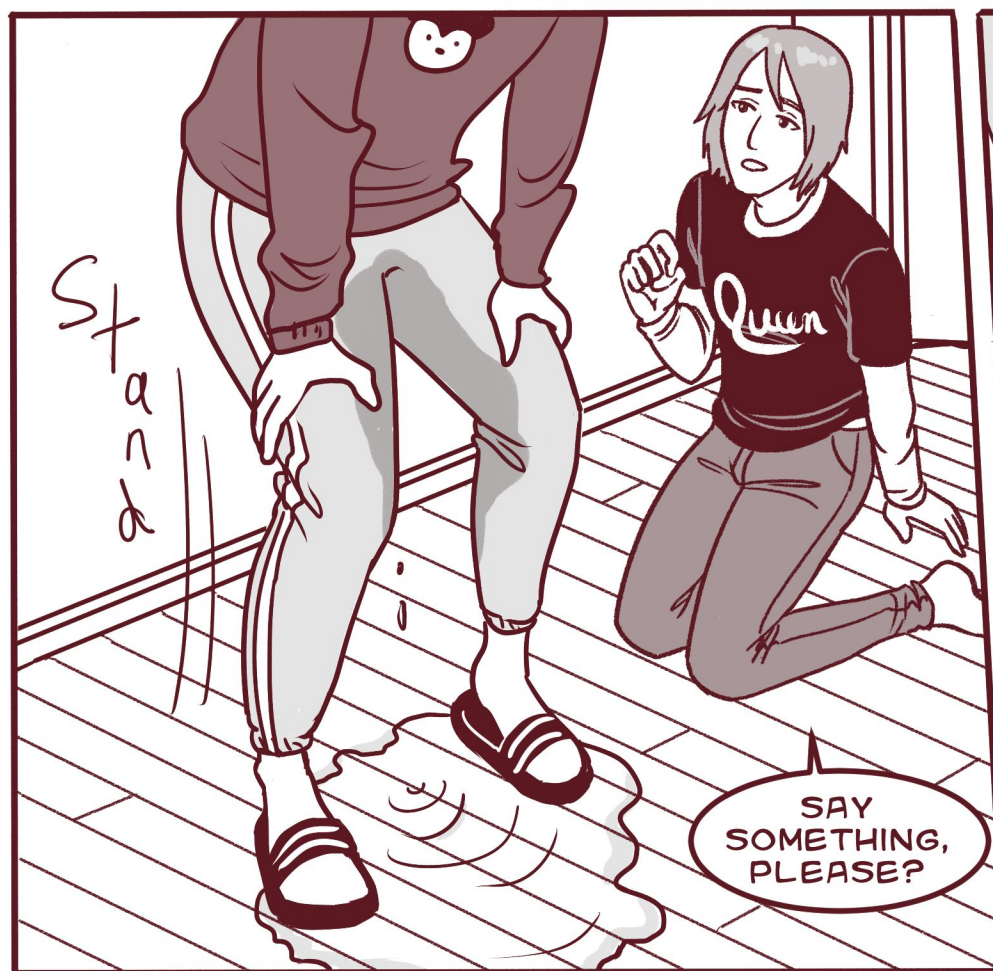
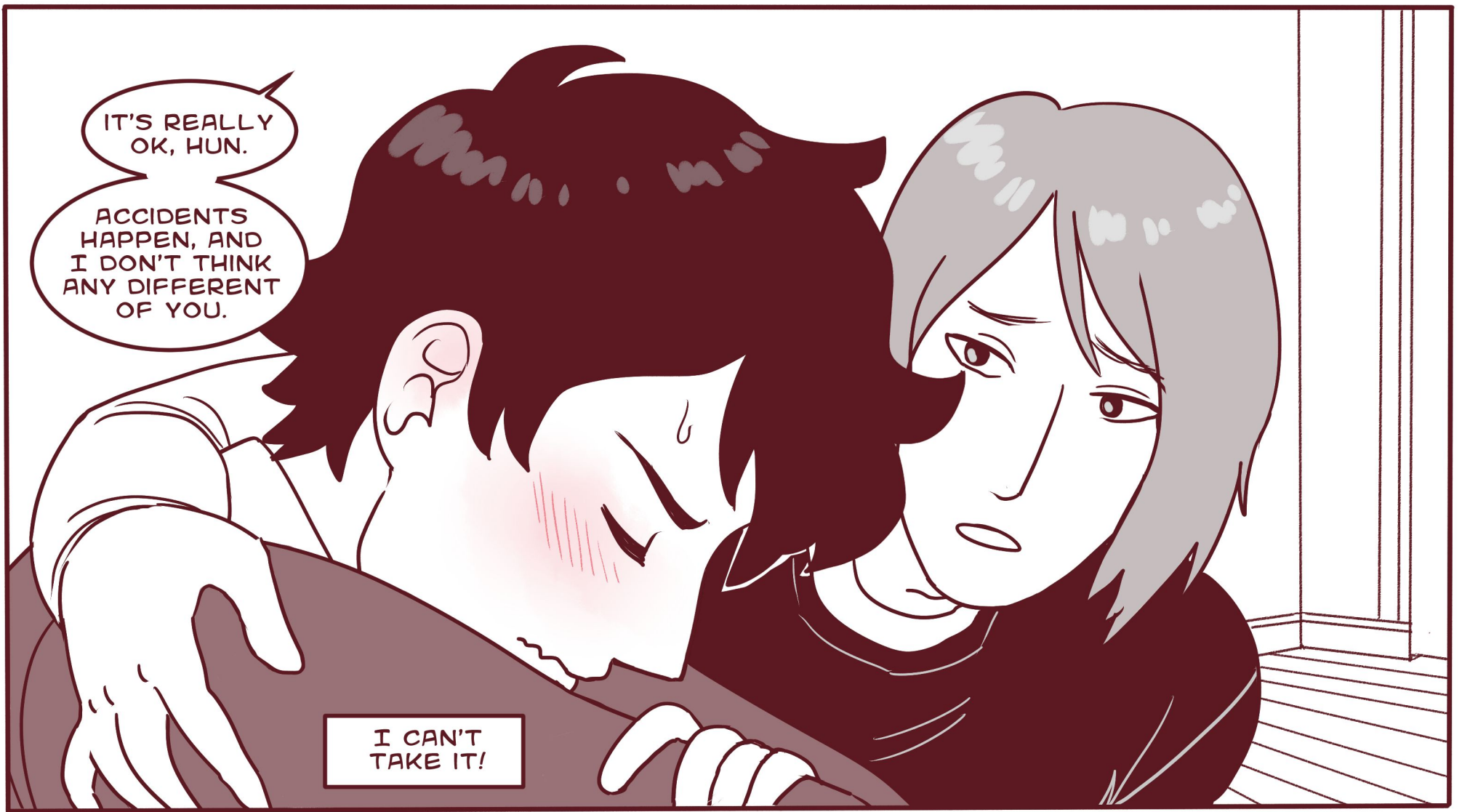
I DUNNO IF IT WAS THE GENUINE CONCERN,

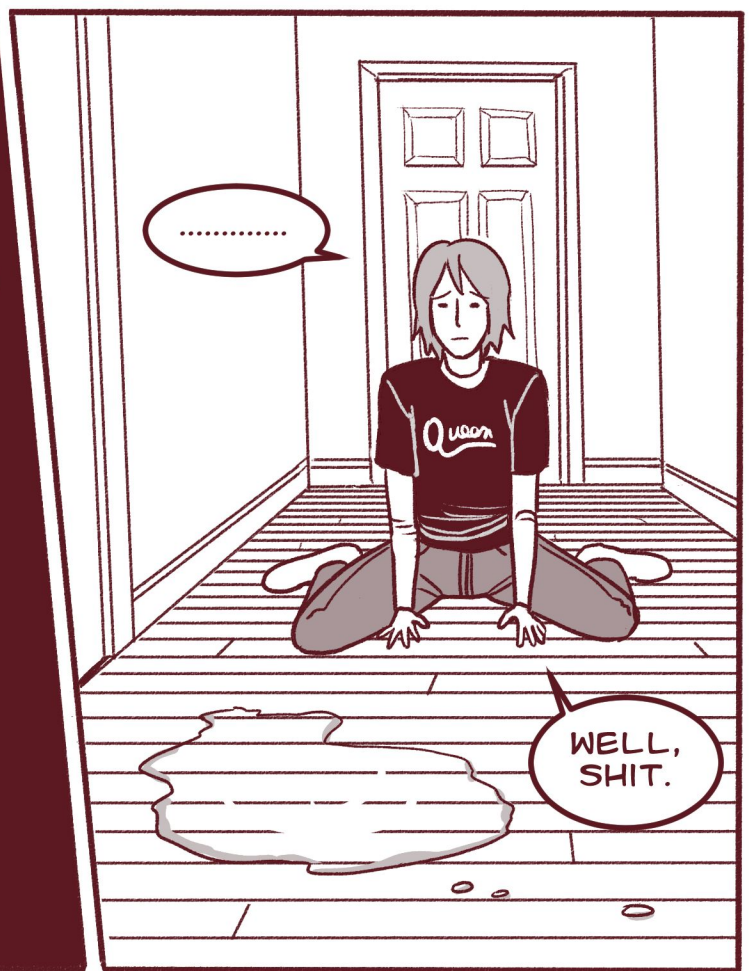


THE GENTLE TOUCHES OF SOMEONE I LIKE,



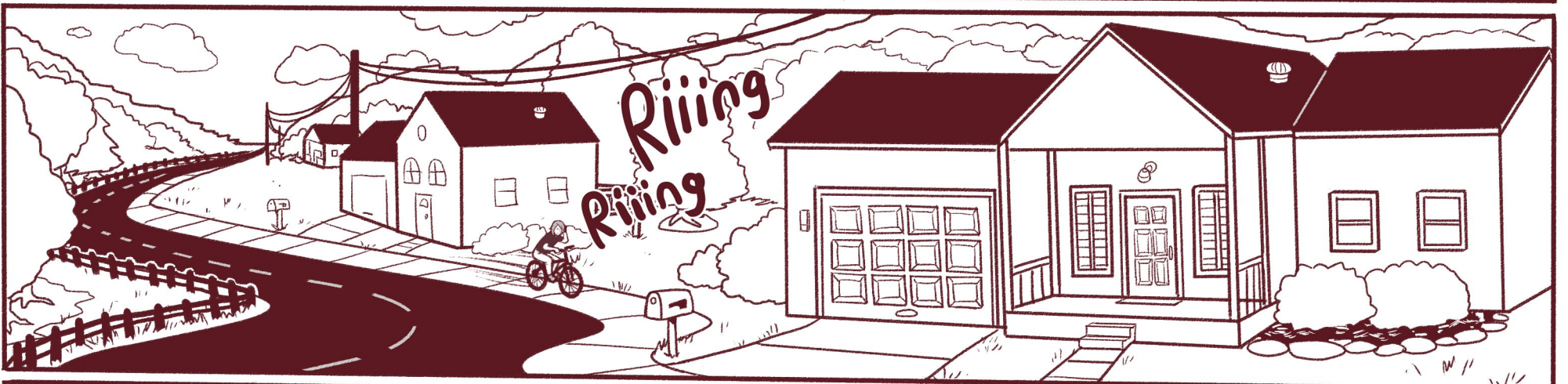
OR THE CLINGING WARMTH OF WET SWEATS,



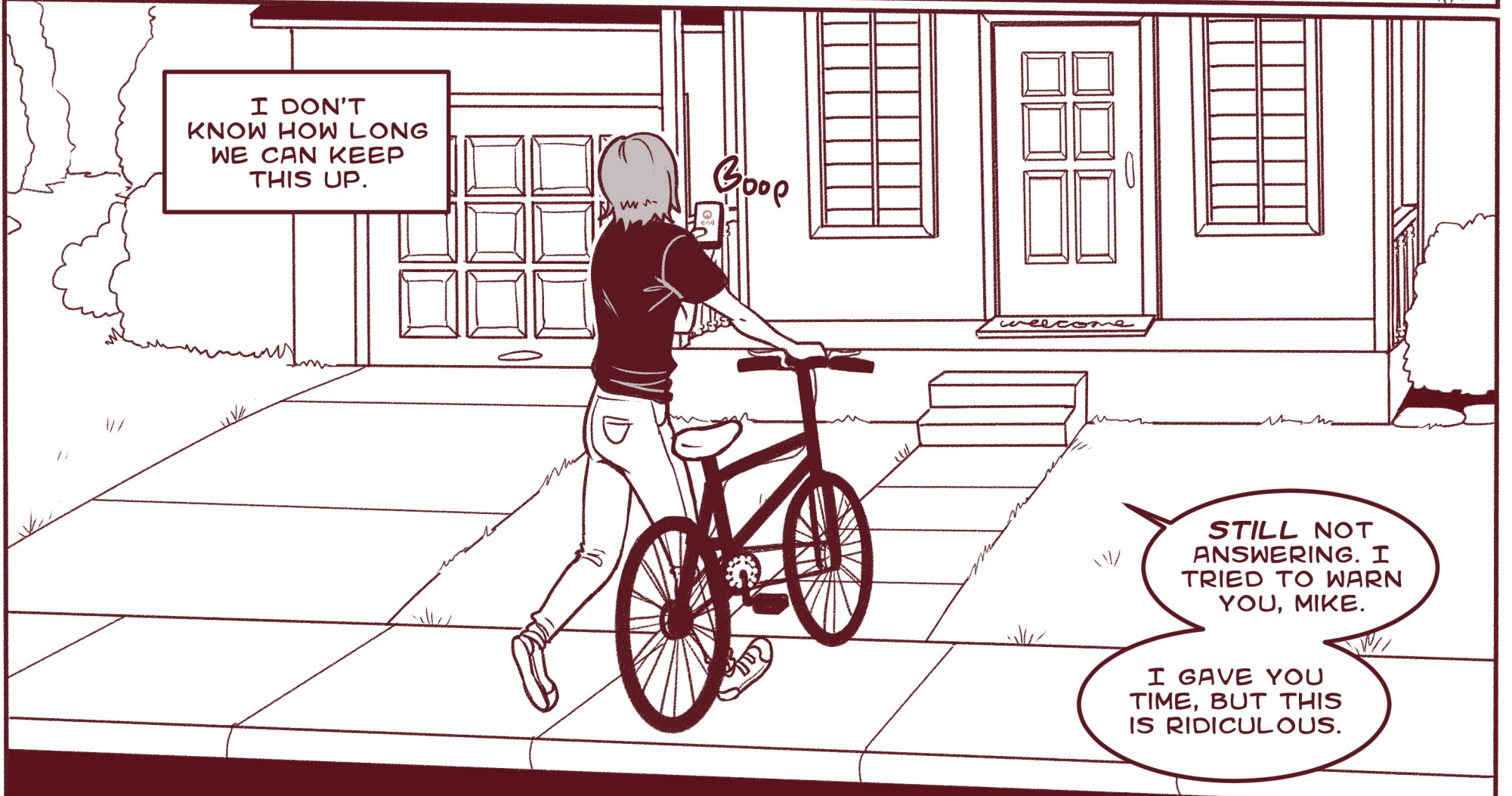


IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS, AND WE STILL HAVEN'T TALKED.

MORE ACCURATELY, I'M IGNORING HIM.



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP THIS UP.

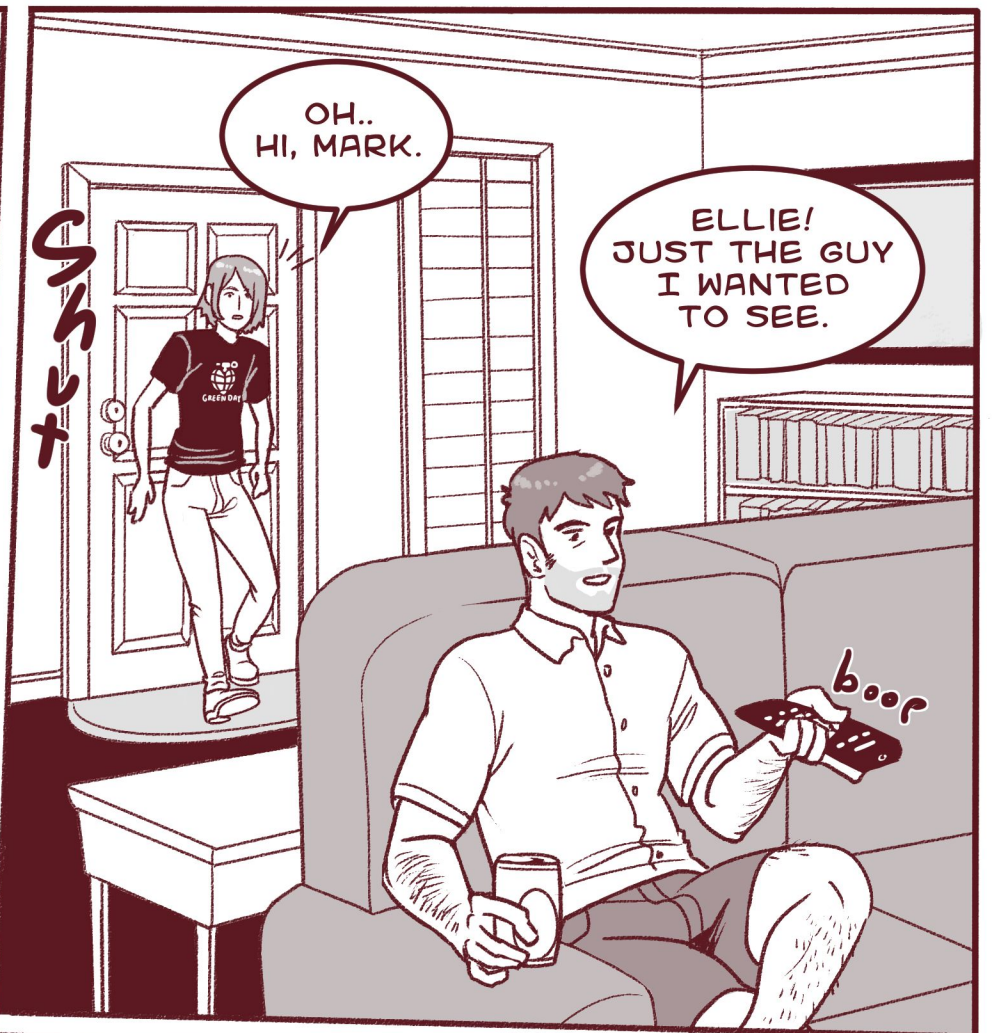




IT'S OPEN. DID MIKE DO THAT FOR ME?

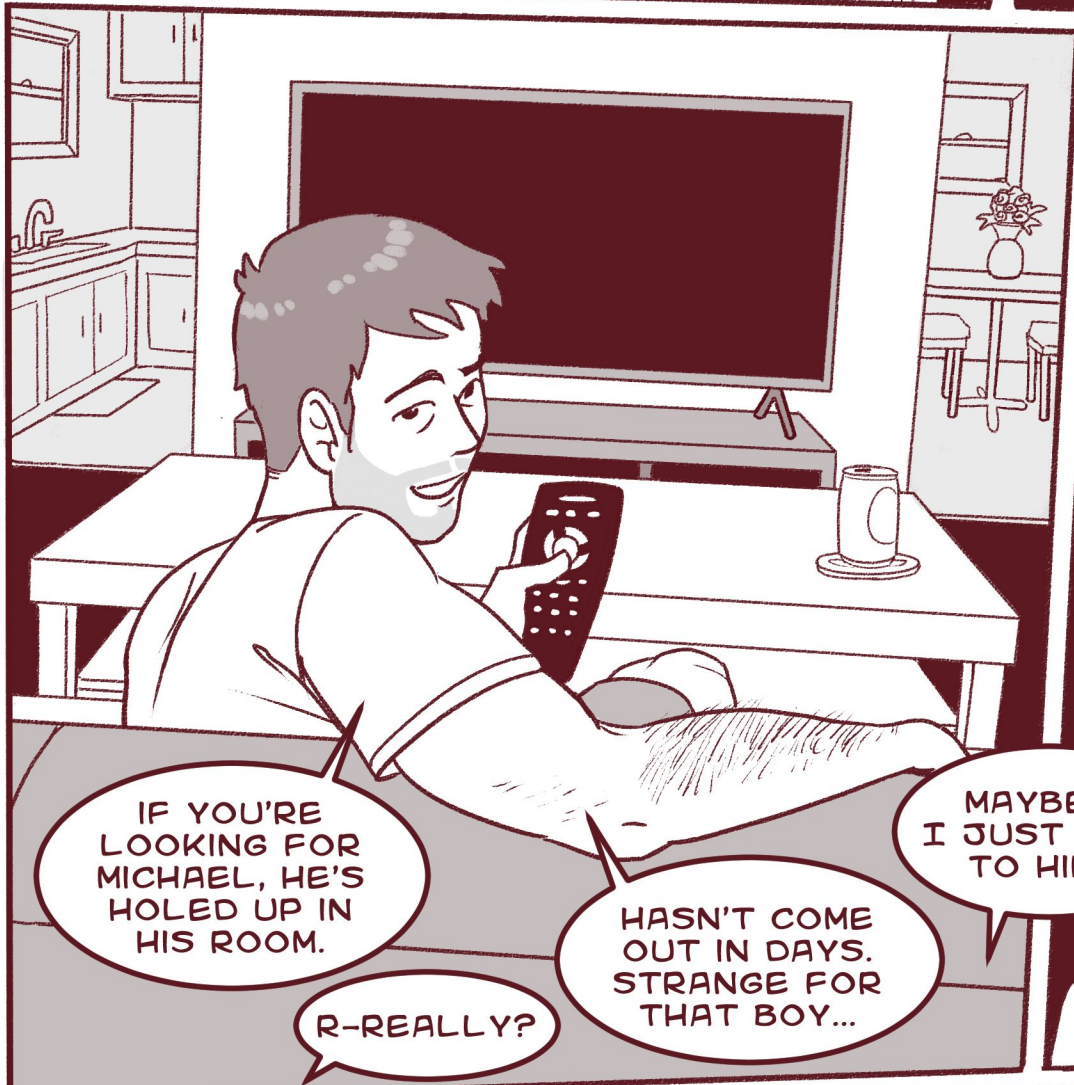
HELLO?

COME ON IN!



OH.. HI, MARK.

ELLIE! JUST THE GUY I WANTED TO SEE.



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MICHAEL, HE'S HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM.

R-REALLY?

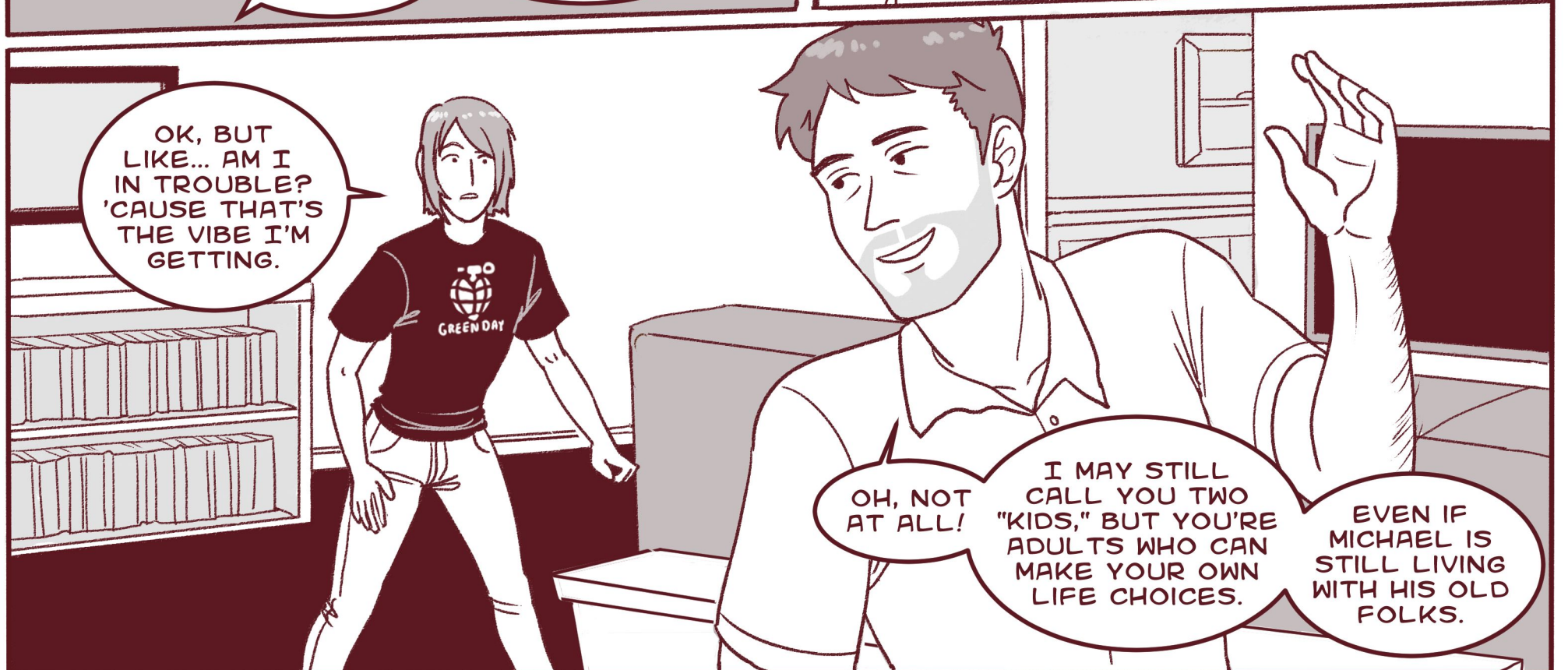
HASN'T COME OUT IN DAYS. STRANGE FOR THAT BOY...

MAYBE IF I JUST TALK TO HIM--



THAT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.

BUT FIRST, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.

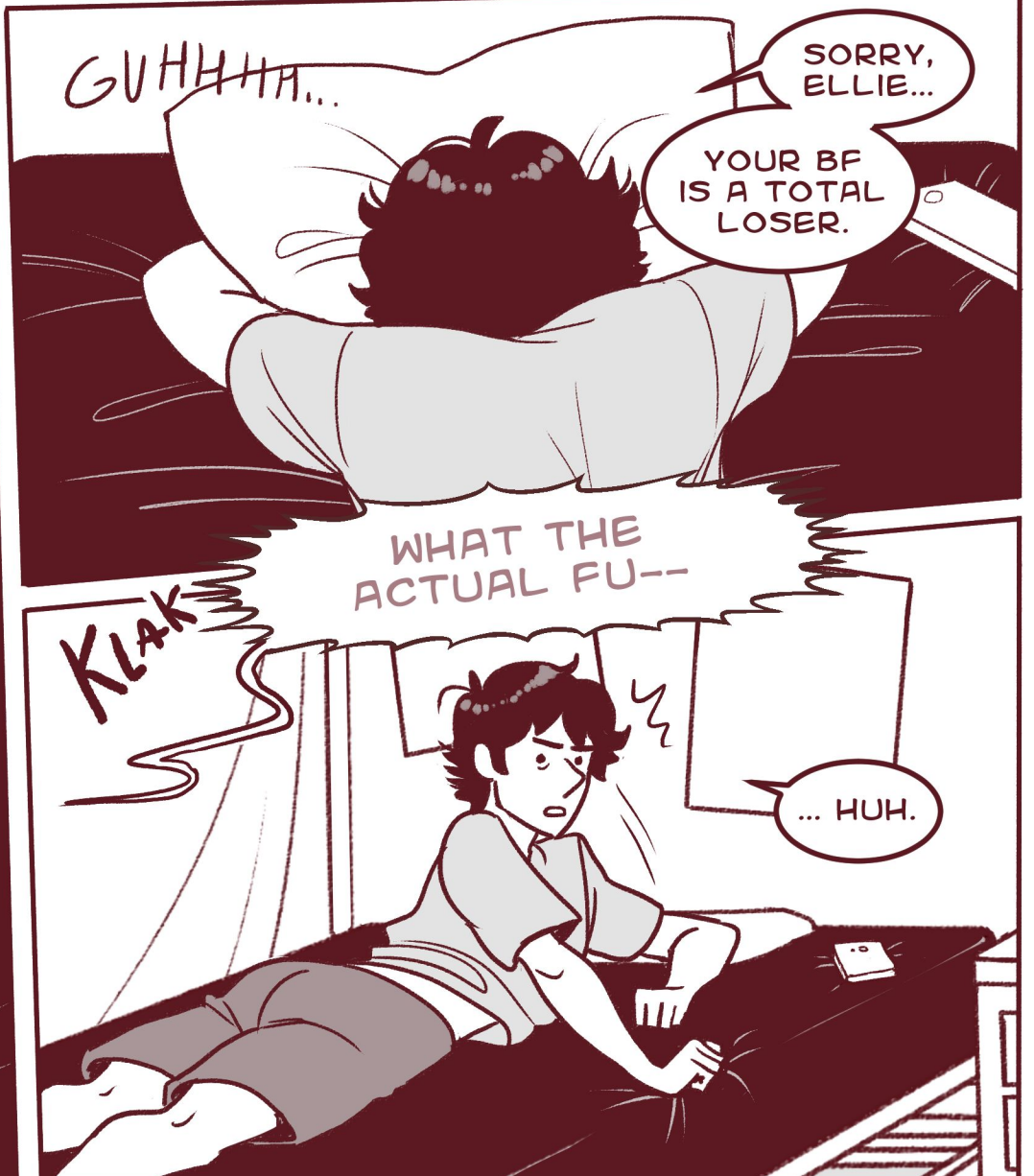
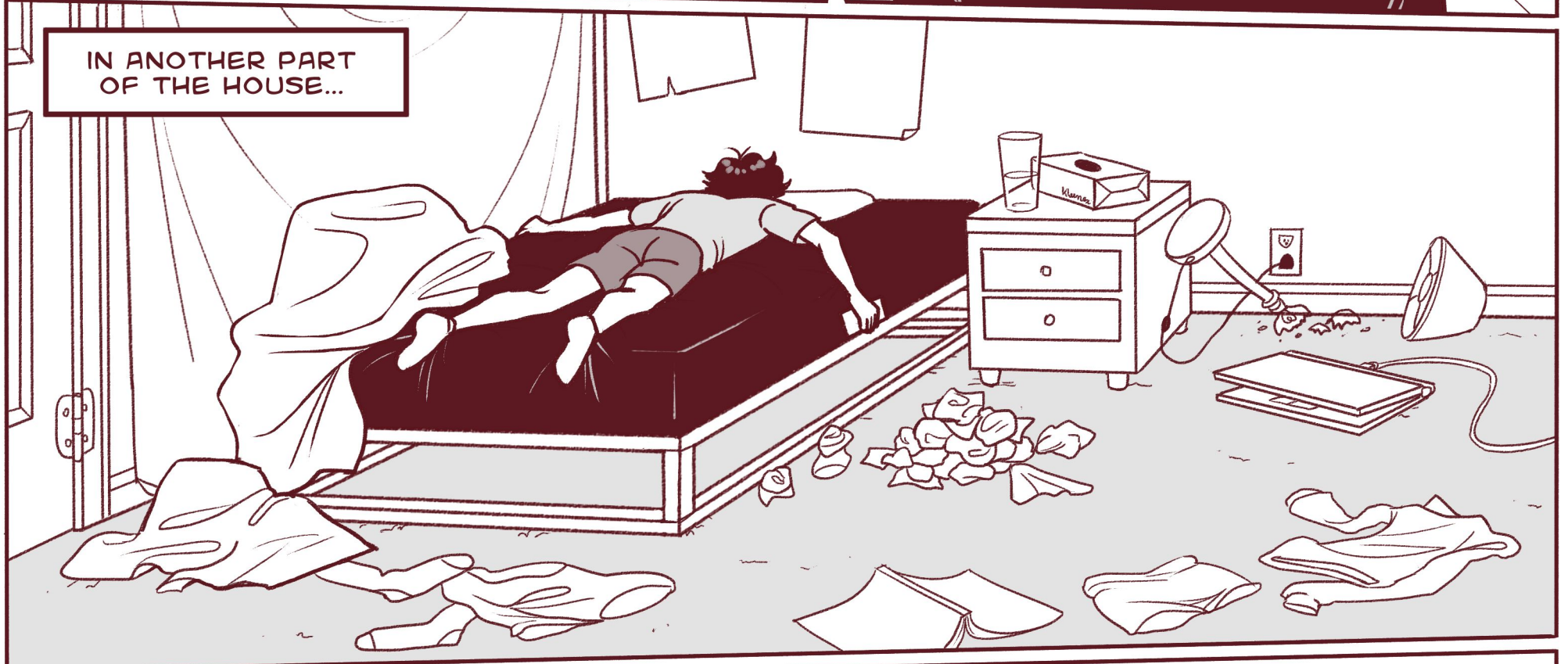
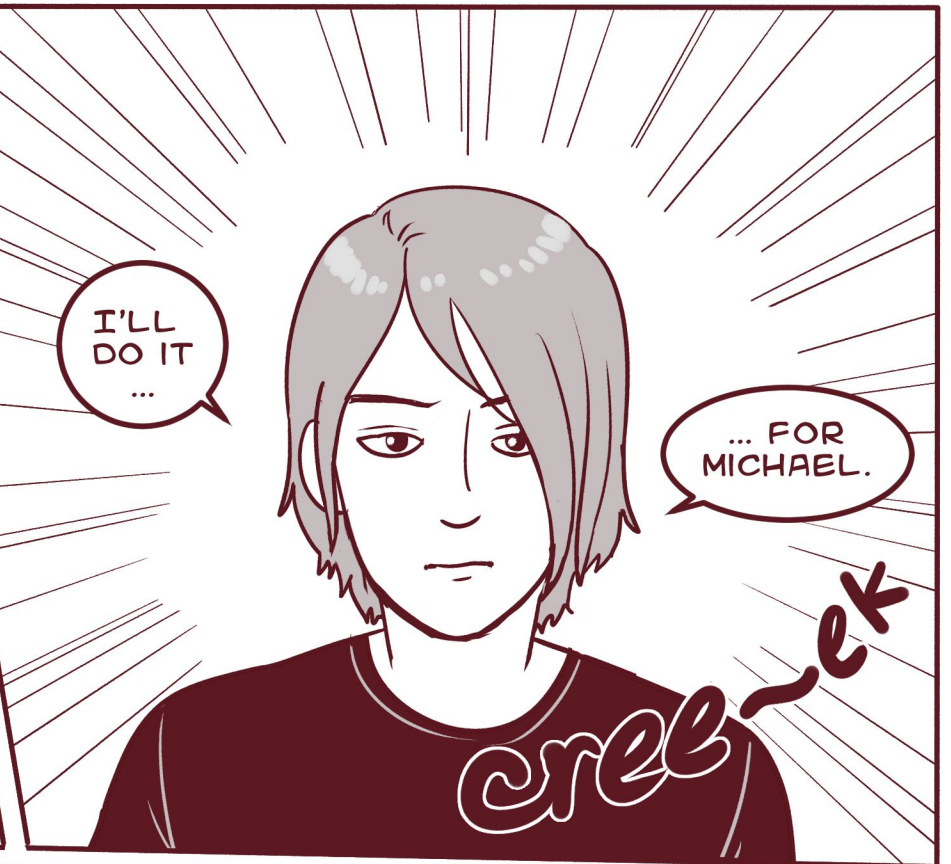
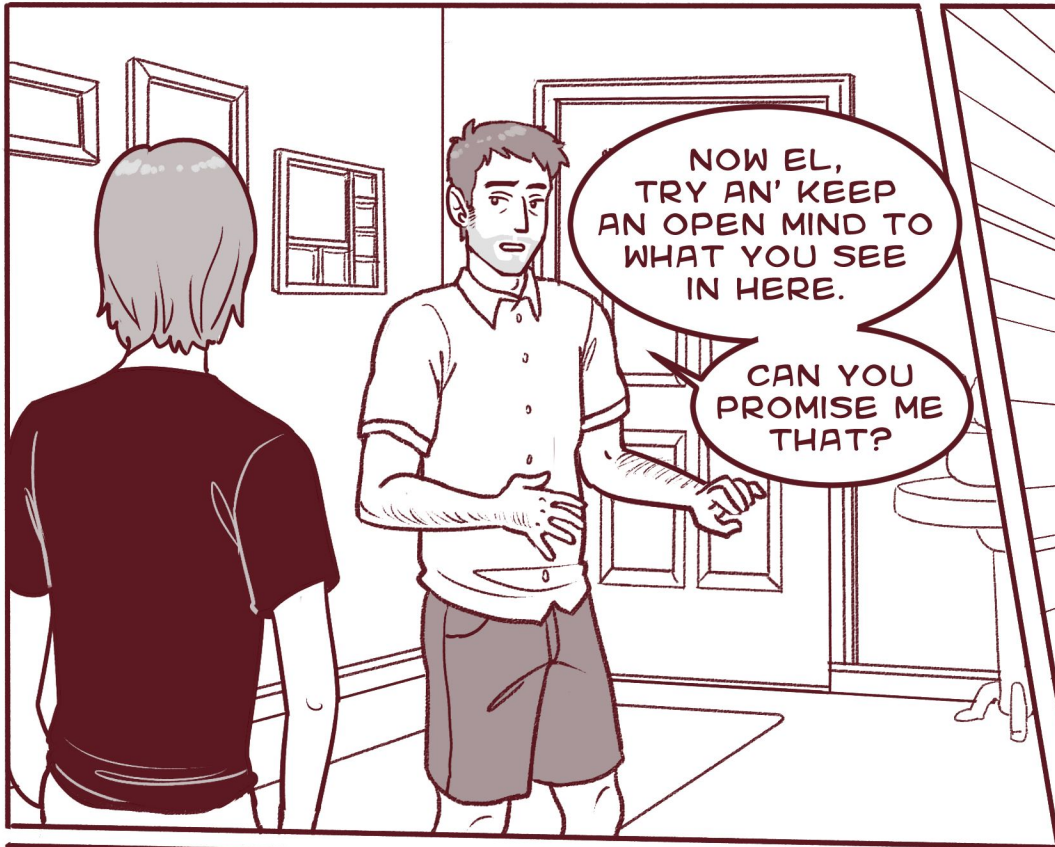


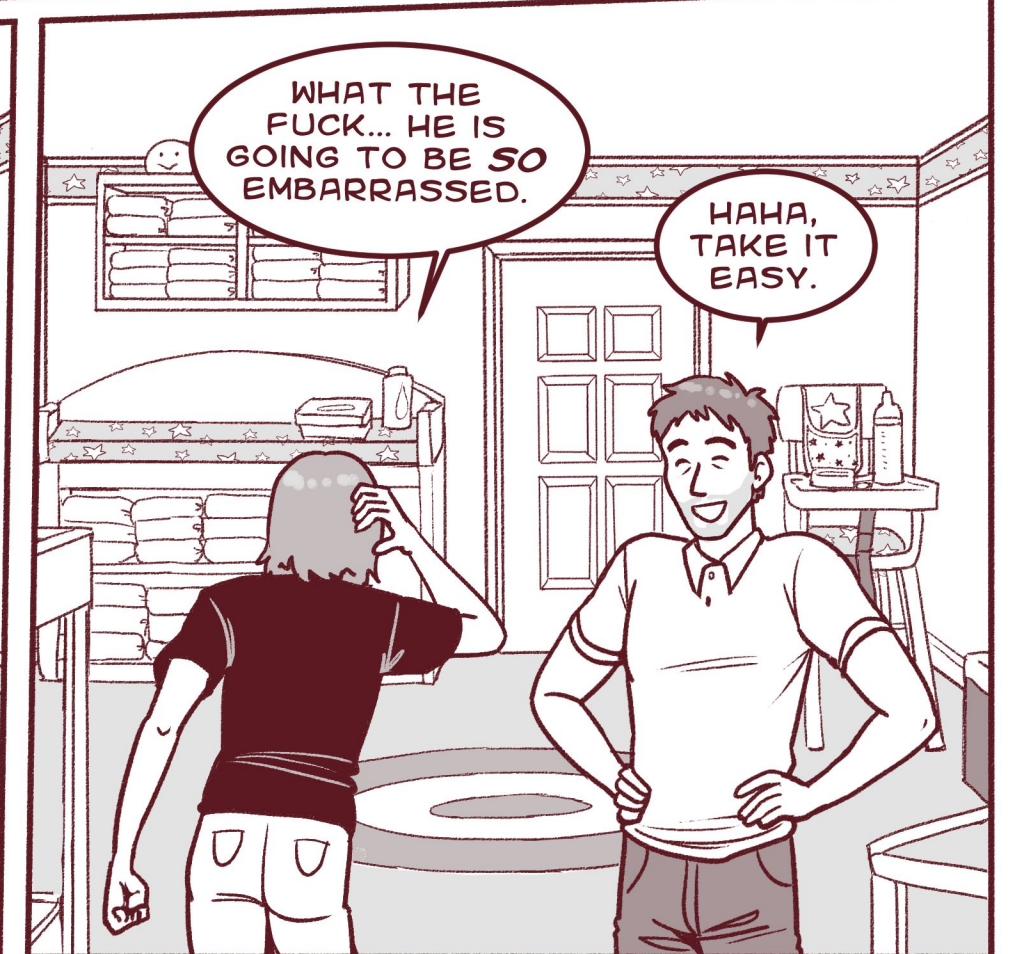
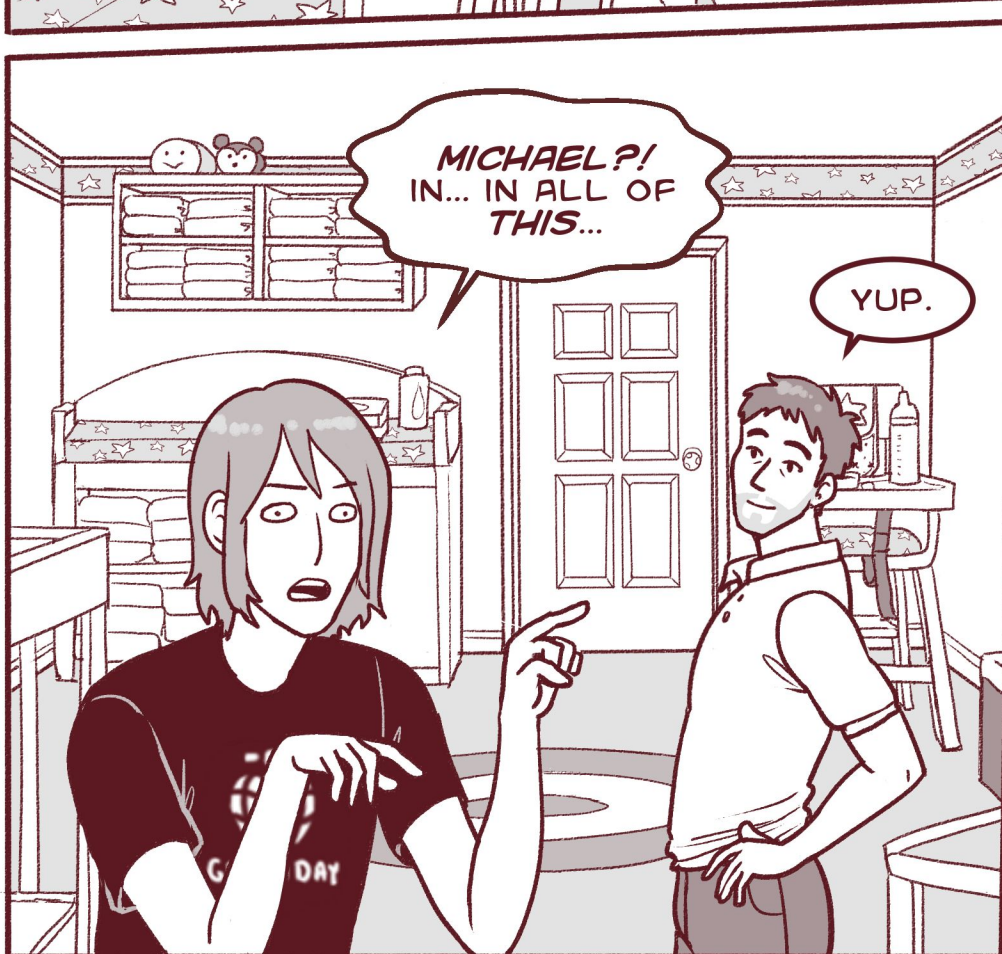
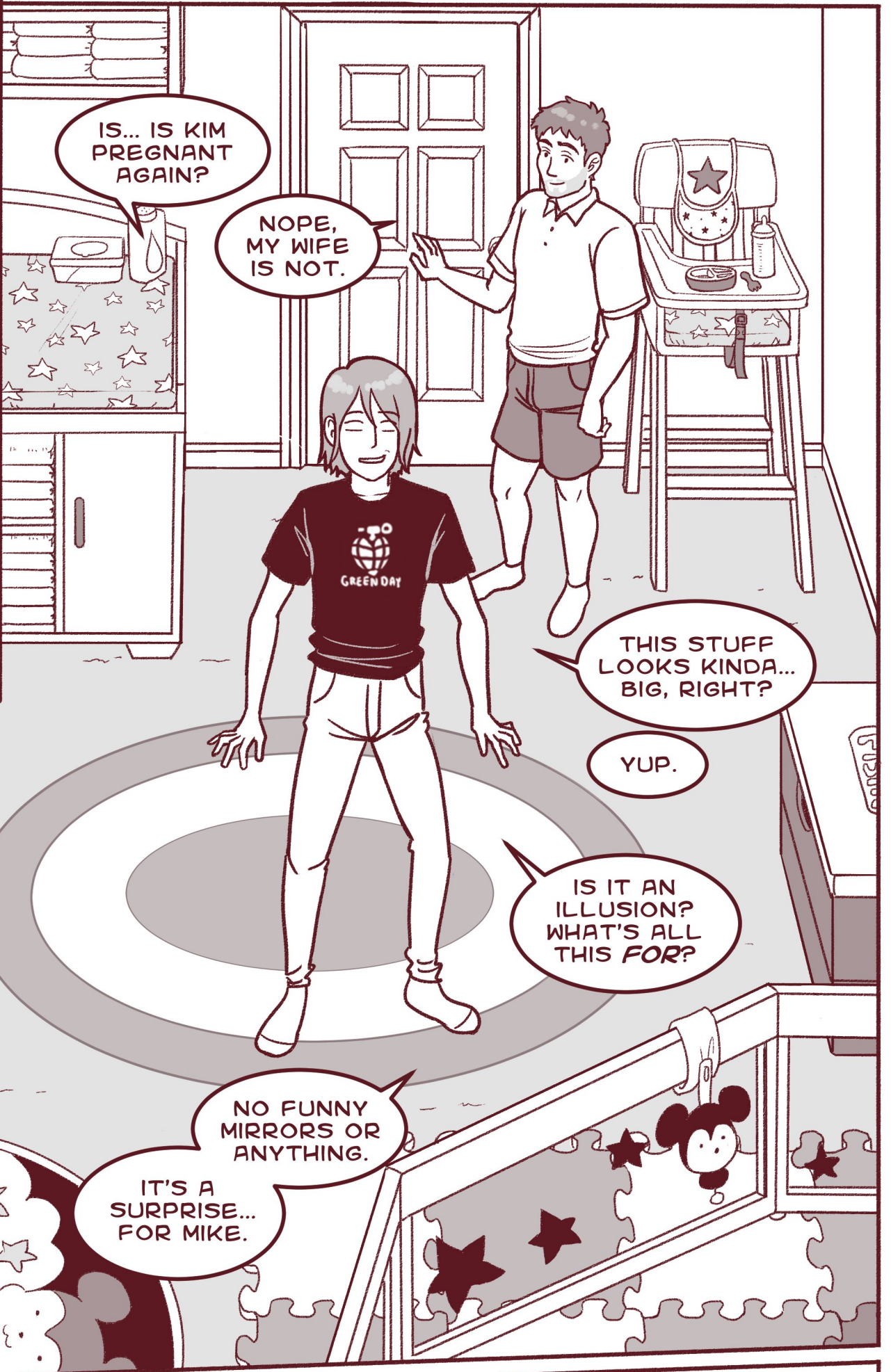
OK, BUT LIKE... AM I IN TROUBLE? 'CAUSE THAT'S THE VIBE I'M GETTING.

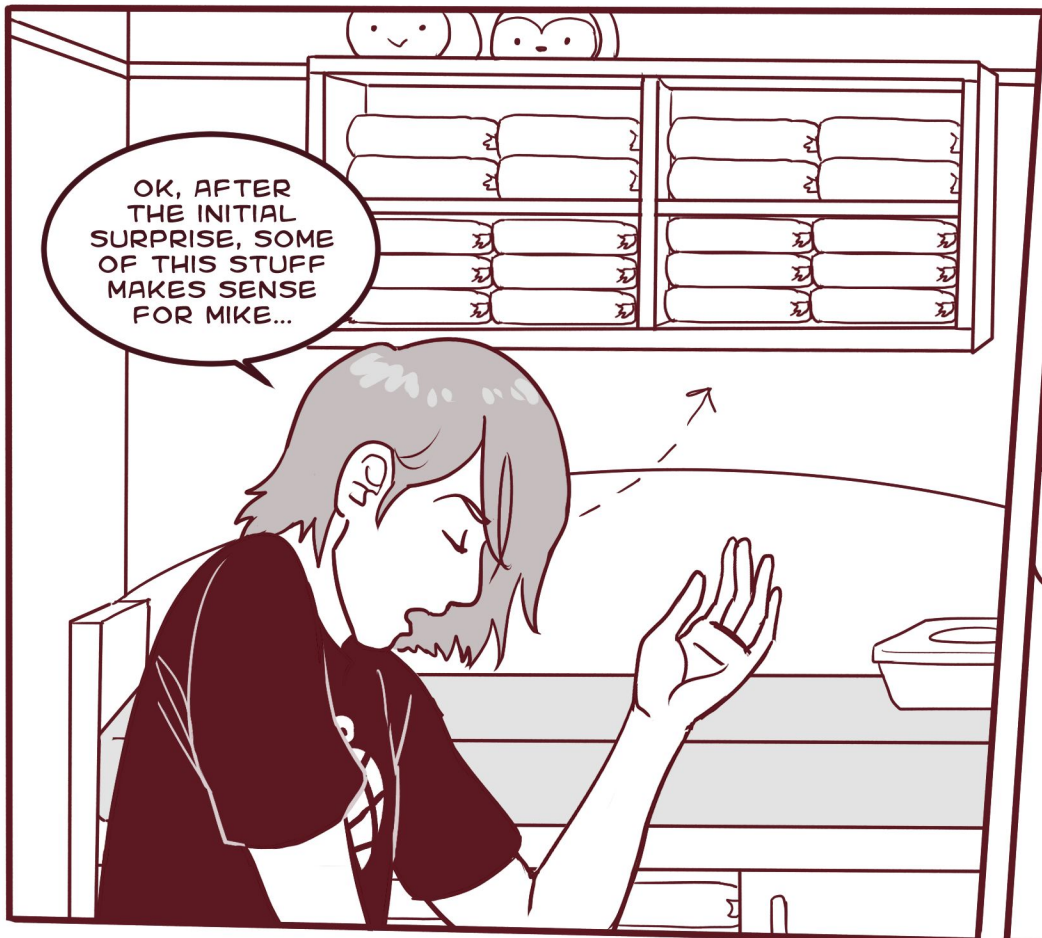
OH, NOT AT ALL!

I MAY STILL CALL YOU TWO "KIDS," BUT YOU'RE ADULTS WHO CAN MAKE YOUR OWN LIFE CHOICES.

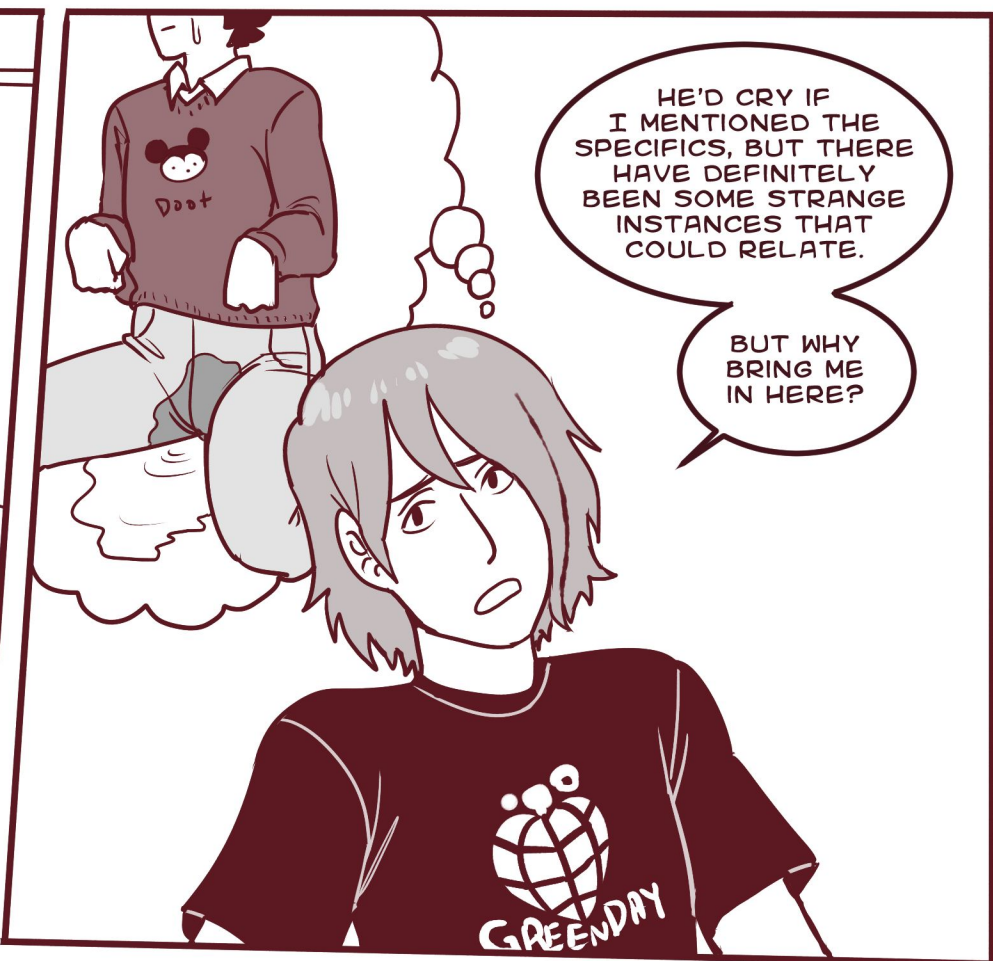
EVEN IF MICHAEL IS STILL LIVING WITH HIS OLD FOLKS.





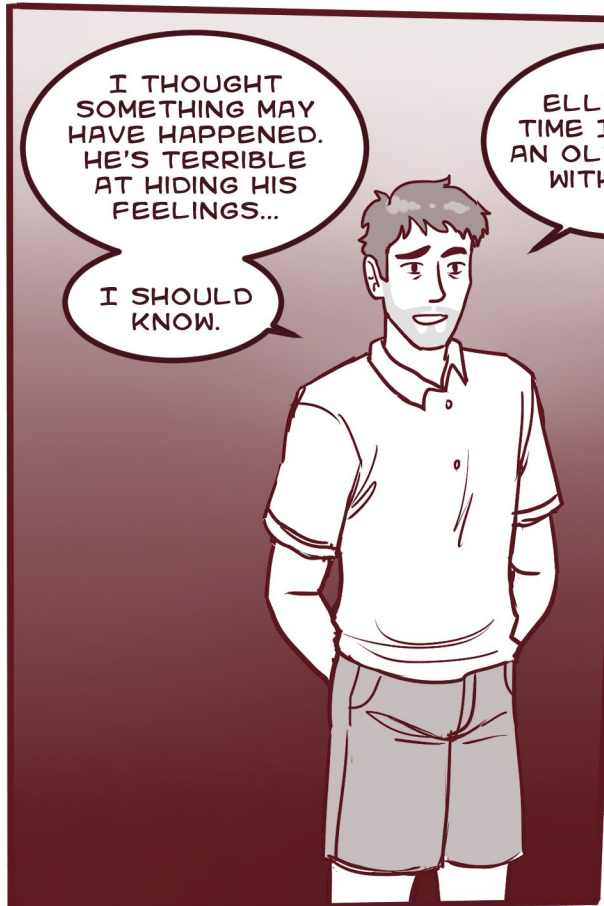


OK, AFTER THE INITIAL SURPRISE, SOME OF THIS STUFF MAKES SENSE FOR MIKE...



HE'D CRY IF I MENTIONED THE SPECIFICS, BUT THERE HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN SOME STRANGE INSTANCES THAT COULD RELATE.

BUT WHY BRING ME IN HERE?



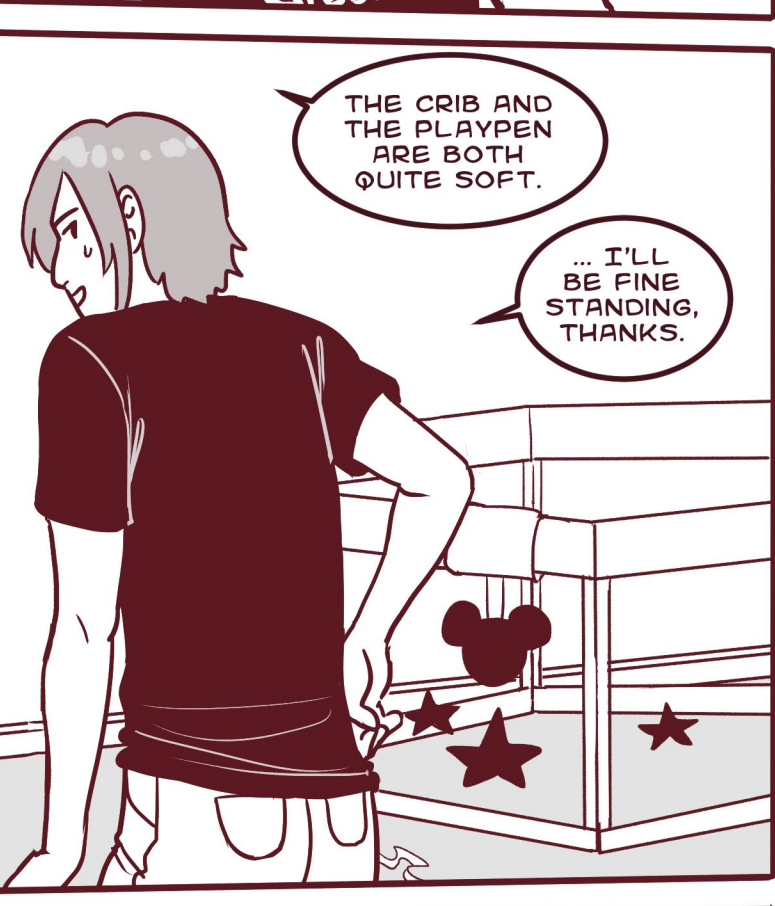
I THOUGHT SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED. HE'S TERRIBLE AT HIDING HIS FEELINGS...

I SHOULD KNOW.

ELLIE, IT'S TIME I SHARE AN OLD STORY WITH YOU.

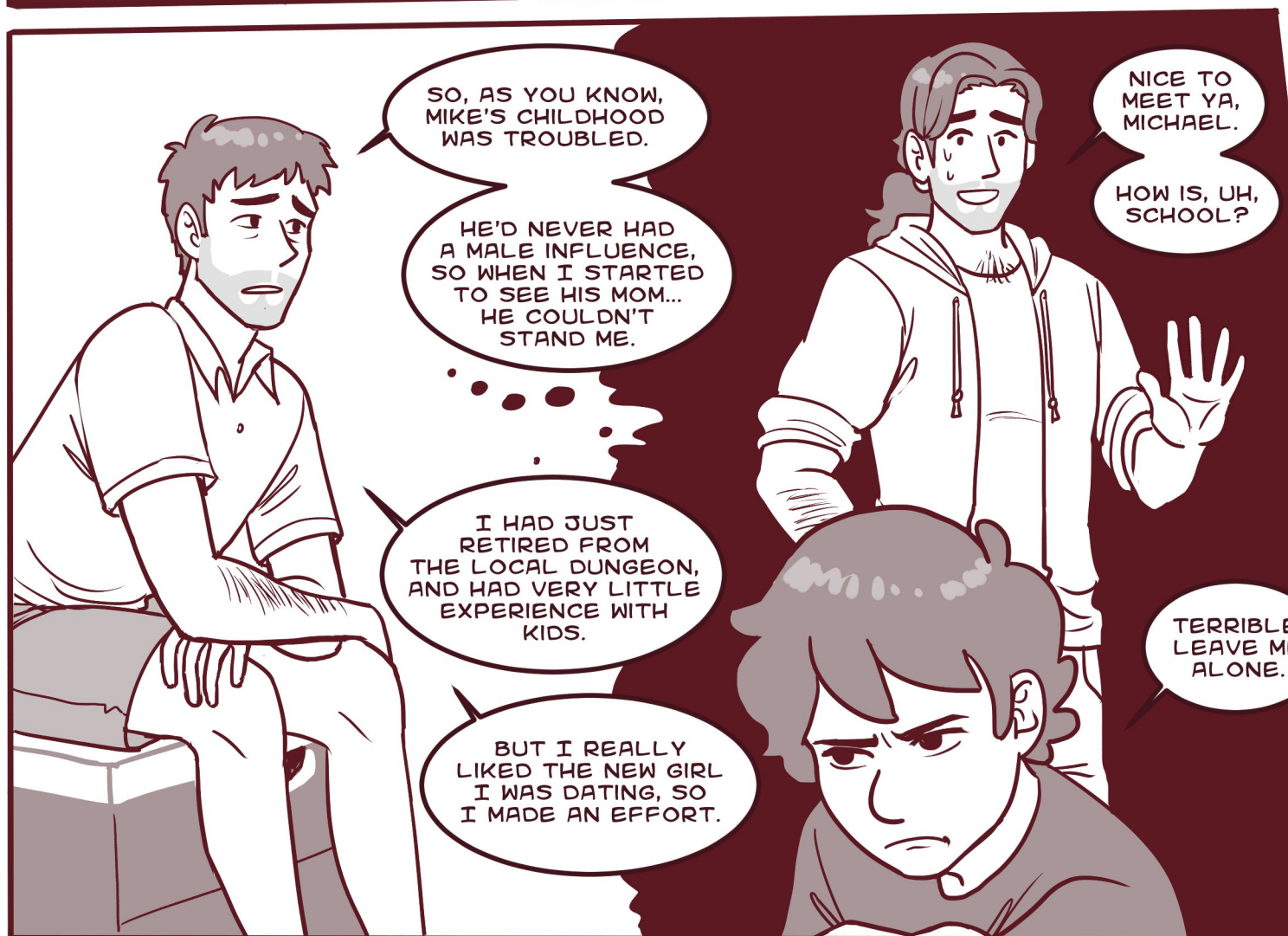


GO AHEAD, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.



THE CRIB AND THE PLAYPEN ARE BOTH QUITE SOFT.

... I'LL BE FINE STANDING, THANKS.



SO, AS YOU KNOW, MIKE'S CHILDHOOD WAS TROUBLED.

HE'D NEVER HAD A MALE INFLUENCE, SO WHEN I STARTED TO SEE HIS MOM... HE COULDN'T STAND ME.

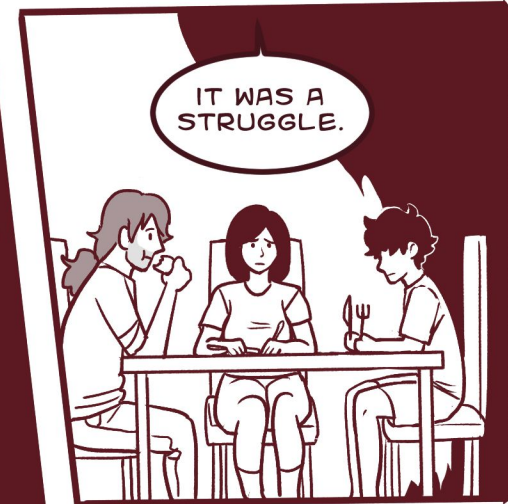
I HAD JUST RETIRED FROM THE LOCAL DUNGEON, AND HAD VERY LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH KIDS.

BUT I REALLY LIKED THE NEW GIRL I WAS DATING, SO I MADE AN EFFORT.

NICE TO MEET YA, MICHAEL.

HOW IS, UH, SCHOOL?

TERRIBLE. LEAVE ME ALONE.



IT WAS A STRUGGLE.



AFTER A BIT, HE STOPPED COMING OUT OF HIS ROOM.

EVEN KIM DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

ONE MORNING, AFTER KIM HAD LEFT FOR WORK, I FOUND HIM AND HIS WET SHEETS.

I GOT IT ALL CLEANED UP.



HE TOLD ME IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL ACCIDENTS.

SO I WENT AND GOT HIM SOME PULLUPS.



IT WAS THE FIRST POSITIVE INTERACTION WE'D HAD YET.

THOUGH NOT MUCH CHANGED...

UNTIL KIM AND I STARTED NOTICING SOME STUFF.

A BABY'S PACIFIER IN MIKE'S NIGHT STAND.

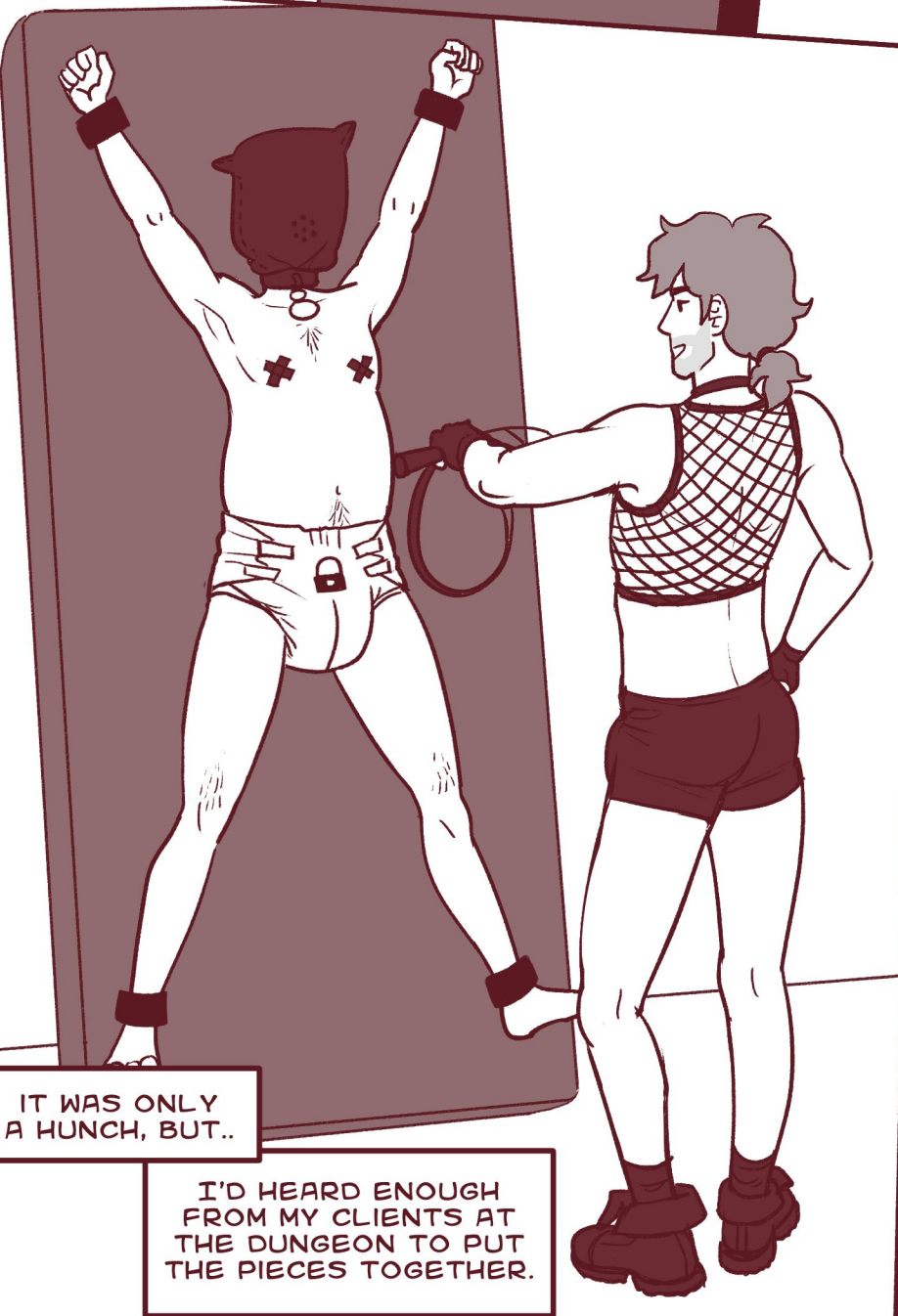
DIDN'T I JUST BUY THESE ...?



AND THE PULLUPS WERE GOING FAST. WAY TOO FAST.

DESPITE ALL REASON, I STARTED TO WONDER...

WAS IT MY FAULT?



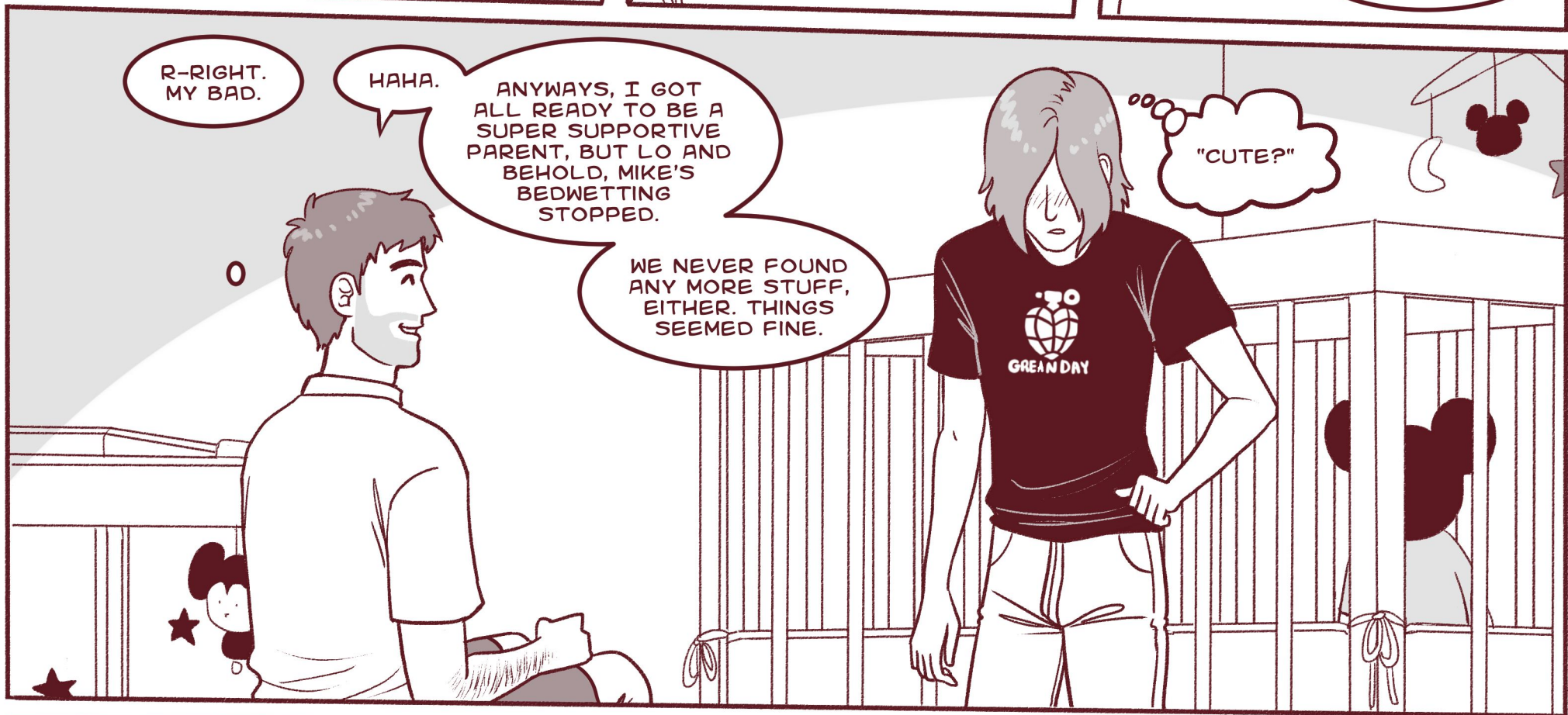
IT WAS ONLY A HUNCH, BUT..

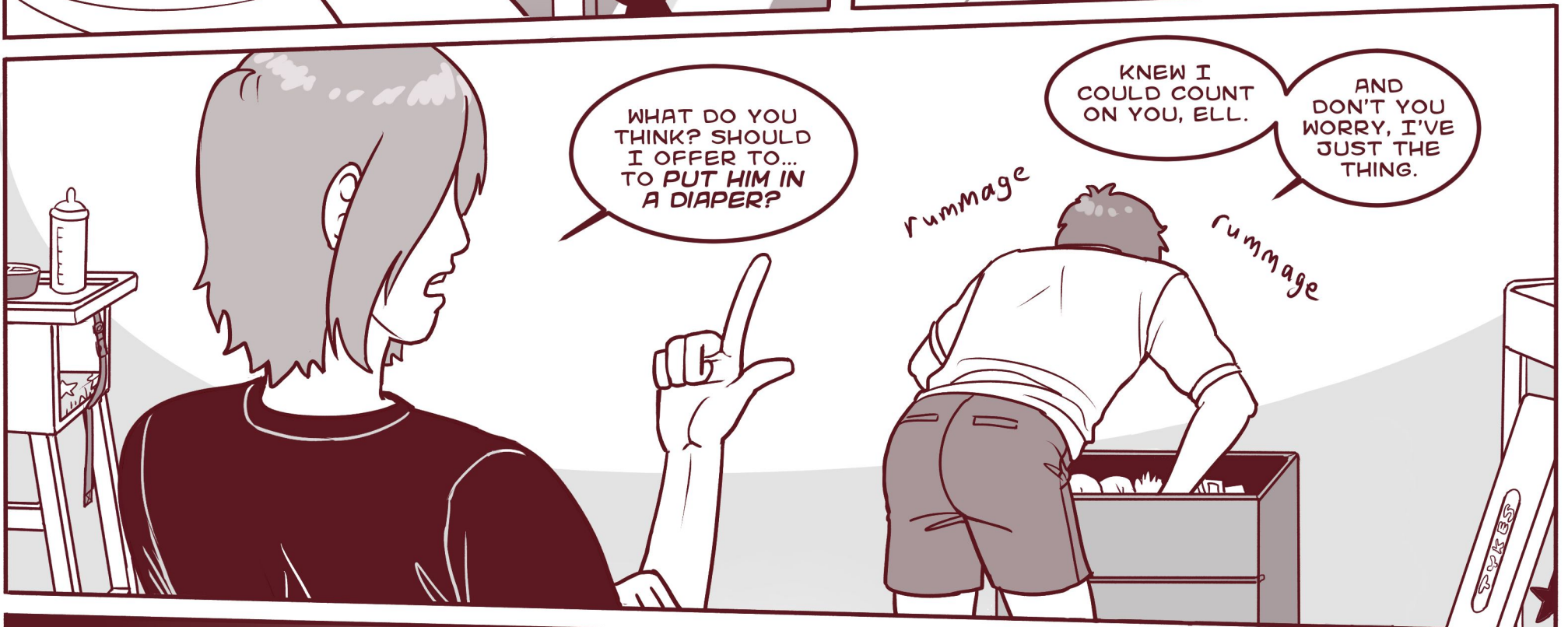
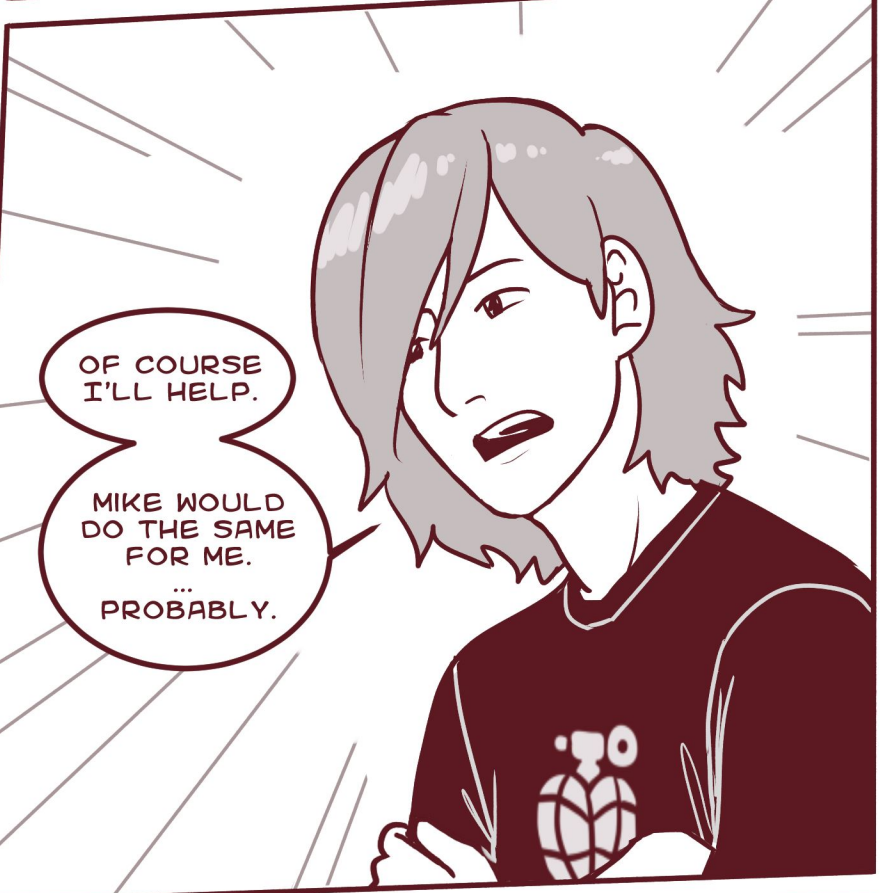
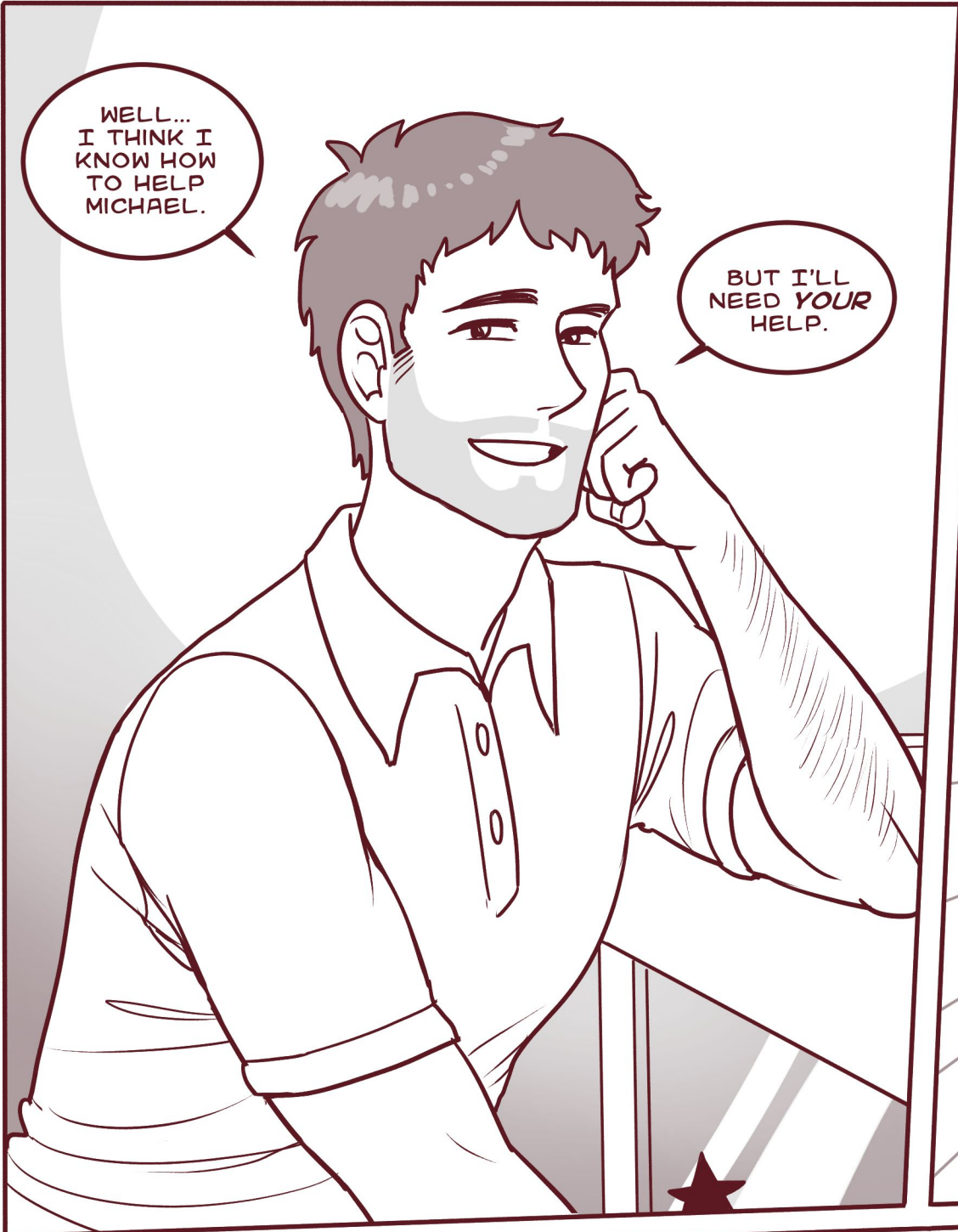
I'D HEARD ENOUGH FROM MY CLIENTS AT THE DUNGEON TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.

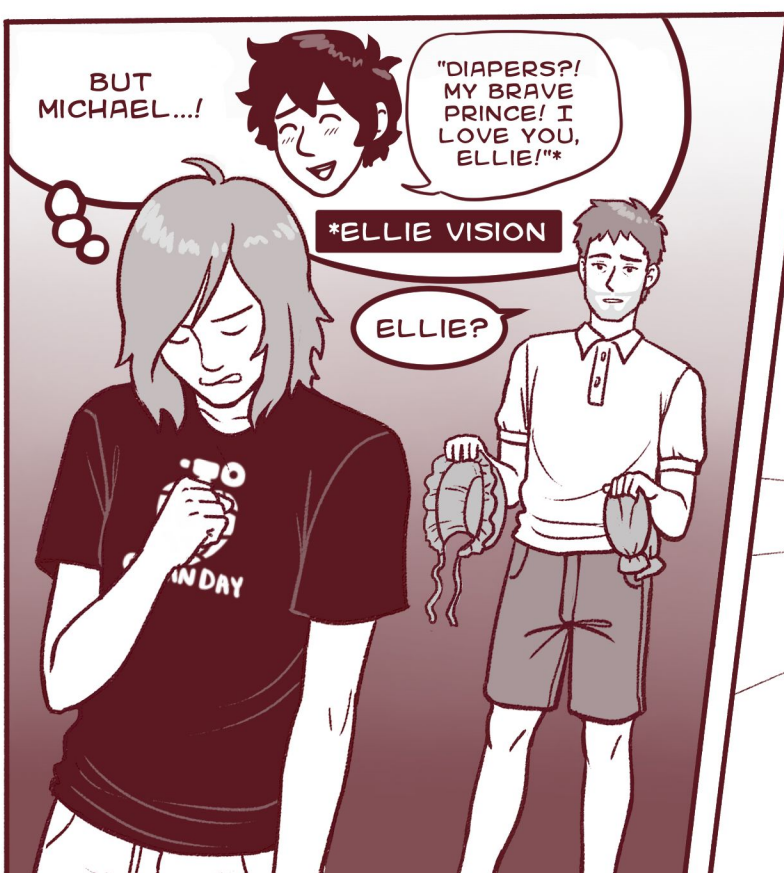
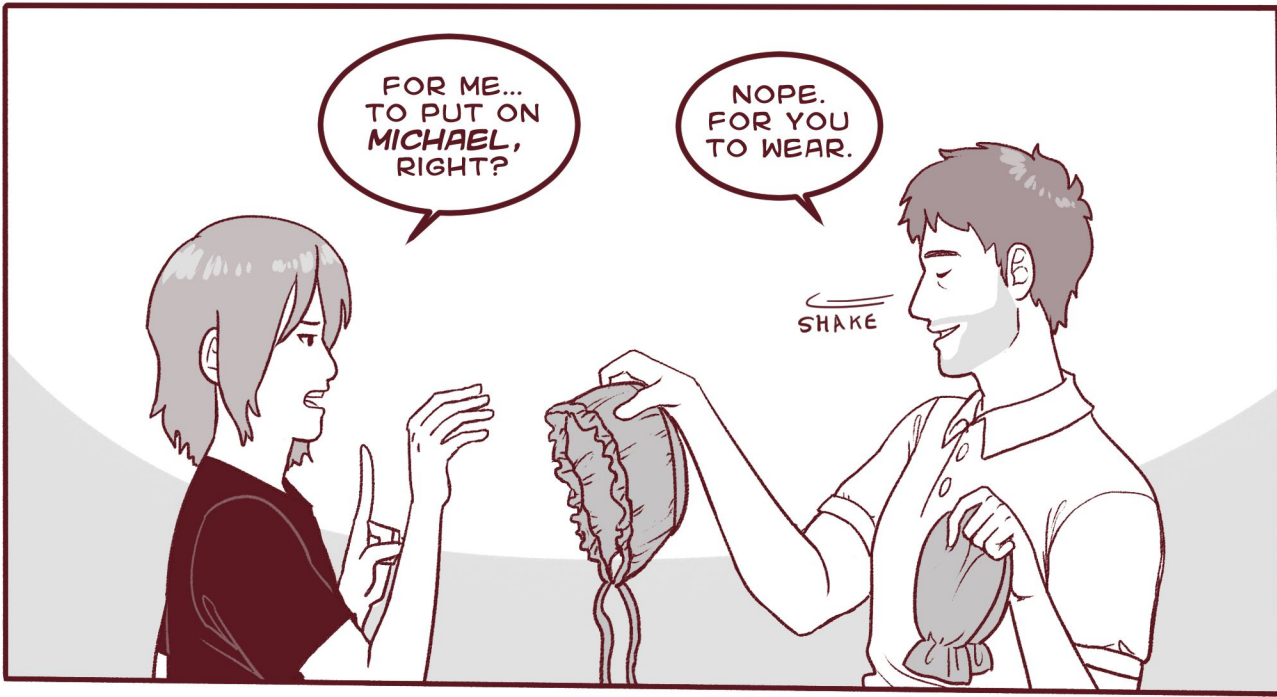


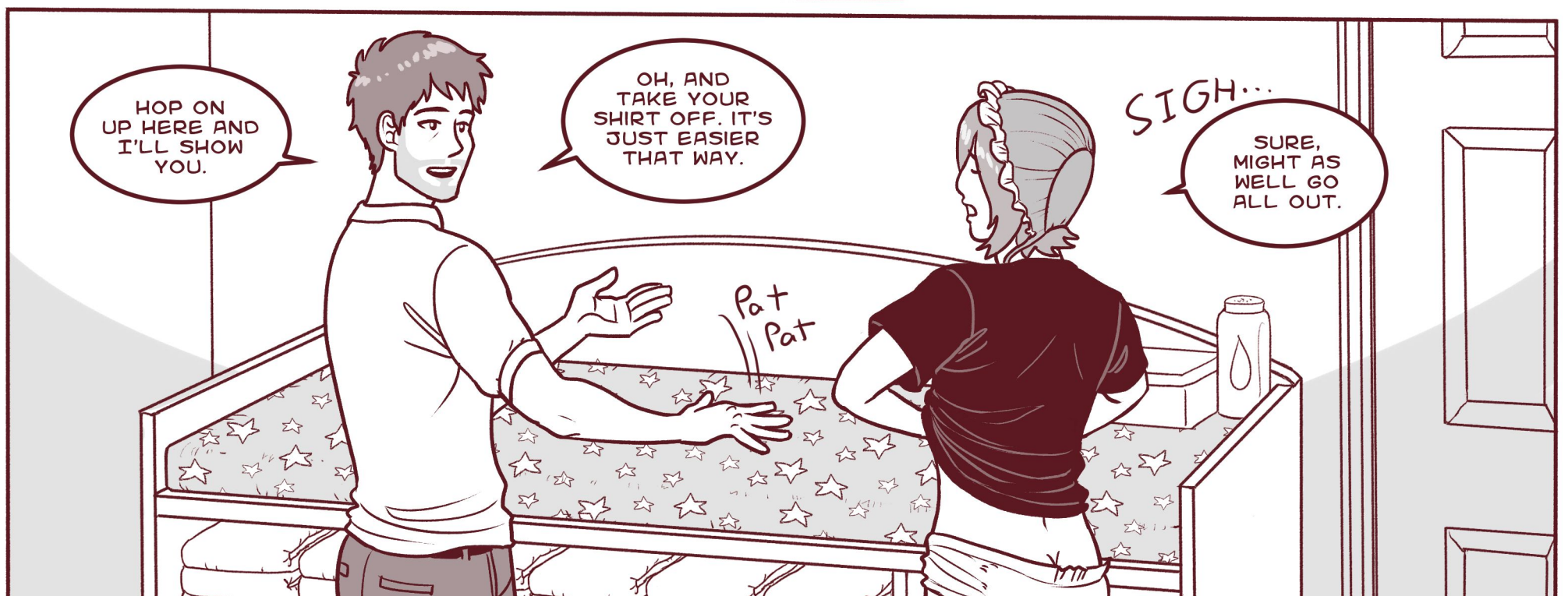
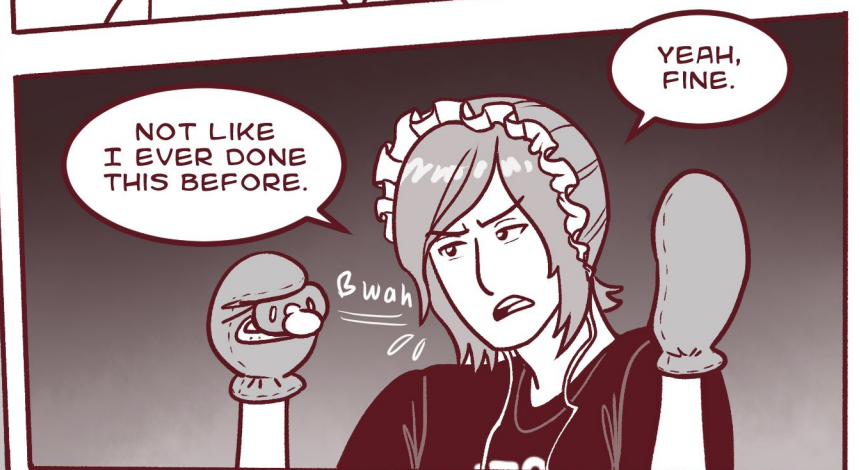
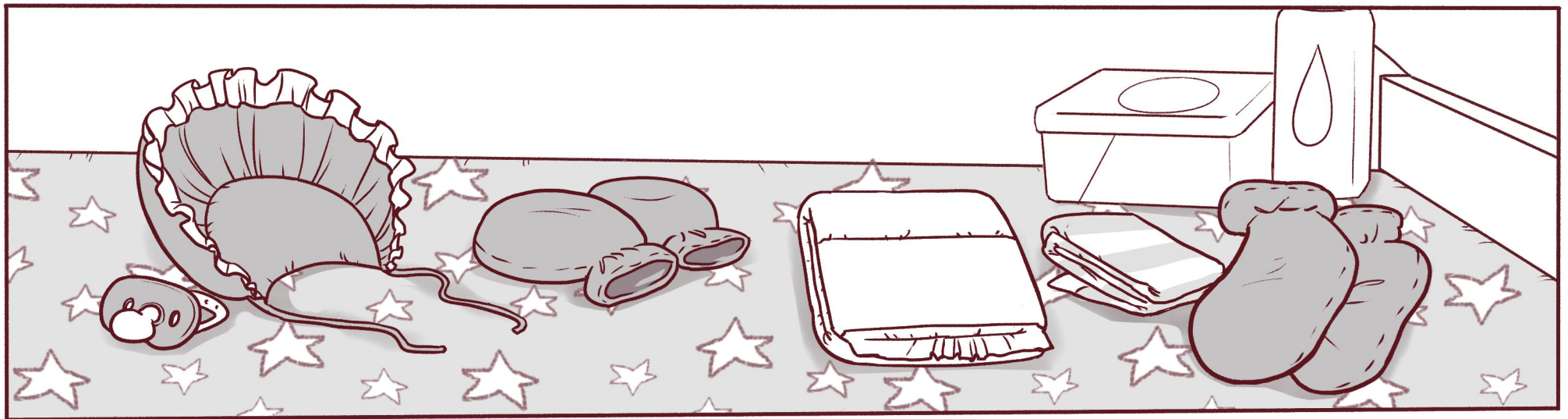
HAD I INADVERTANTLY INTRODUCED THIS YOUNG PERSON TO A NEW WORLD?

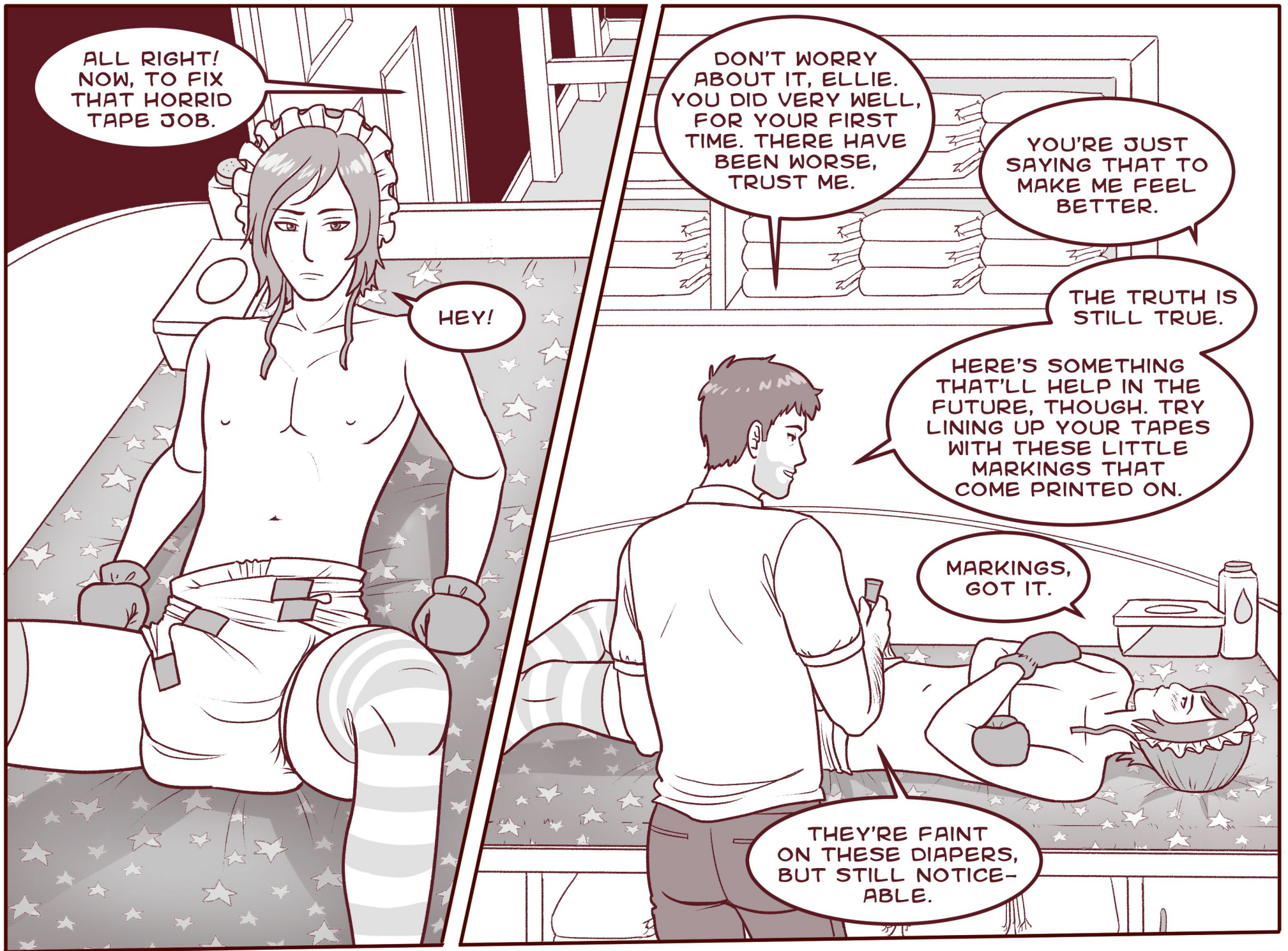
HOW DO I FIX THIS?











ALL RIGHT!
NOW, TO FIX
THAT HORRID
TAPE JOB.

HEY!

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT, ELLIE.
YOU DID VERY WELL,
FOR YOUR FIRST
TIME. THERE HAVE
BEEN WORSE,
TRUST ME.

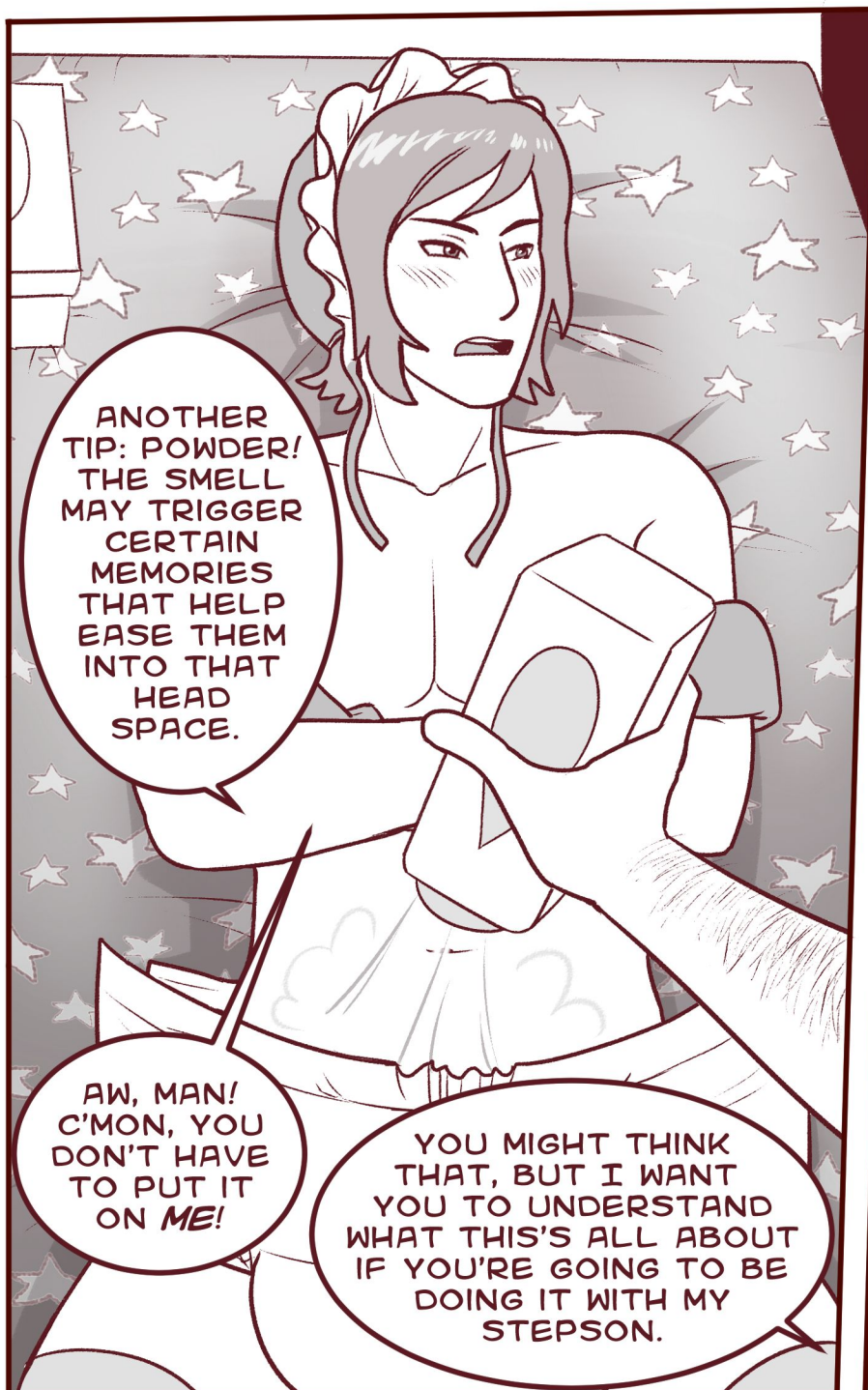
YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT TO
MAKE ME FEEL
BETTER.

THE TRUTH IS
STILL TRUE.

HERE'S SOMETHING
THAT'LL HELP IN THE
FUTURE, THOUGH. TRY
LINING UP YOUR TAPES
WITH THESE LITTLE
MARKINGS THAT
COME PRINTED ON.

MARKINGS,
GOT IT.

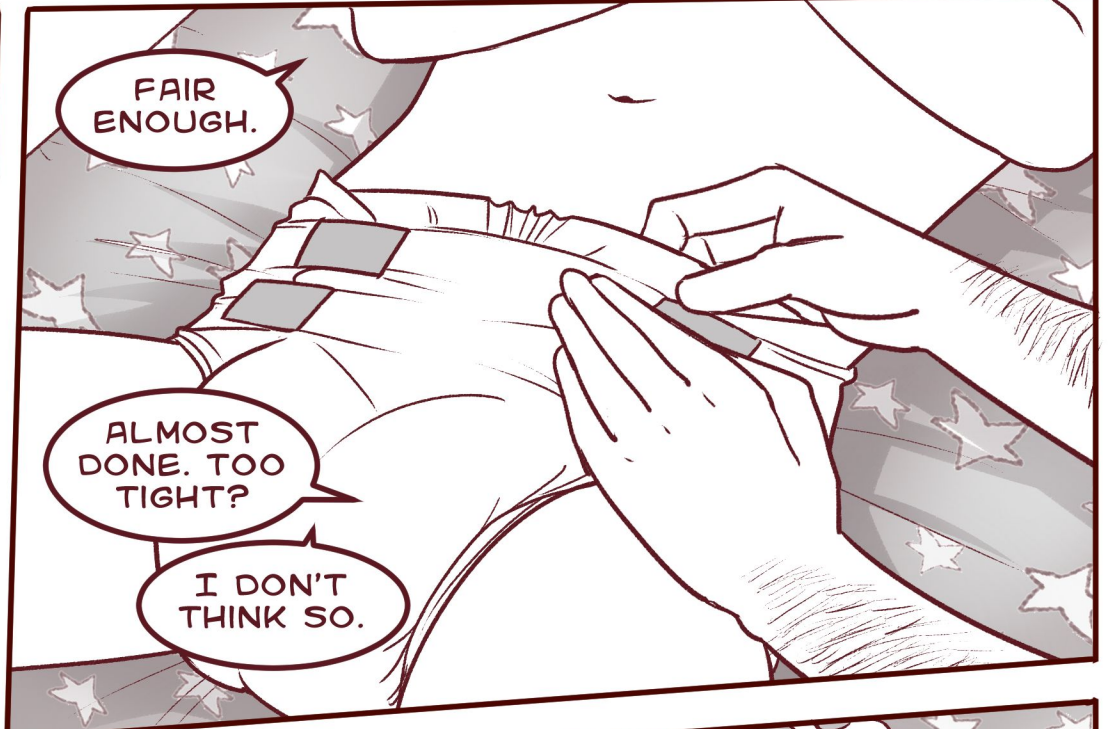
THEY'RE FAINT
ON THESE DIAPERS,
BUT STILL NOTICE-
ABLE.



ANOTHER
TIP: POWDER!
THE SMELL
MAY TRIGGER
CERTAIN
MEMORIES
THAT HELP
EASE THEM
INTO THAT
HEAD
SPACE.

AW, MAN!
C'MON, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO PUT IT
ON ME!

YOU MIGHT THINK
THAT, BUT I WANT
YOU TO UNDERSTAND
WHAT THIS'S ALL ABOUT
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE
DOING IT WITH MY
STEPSON.



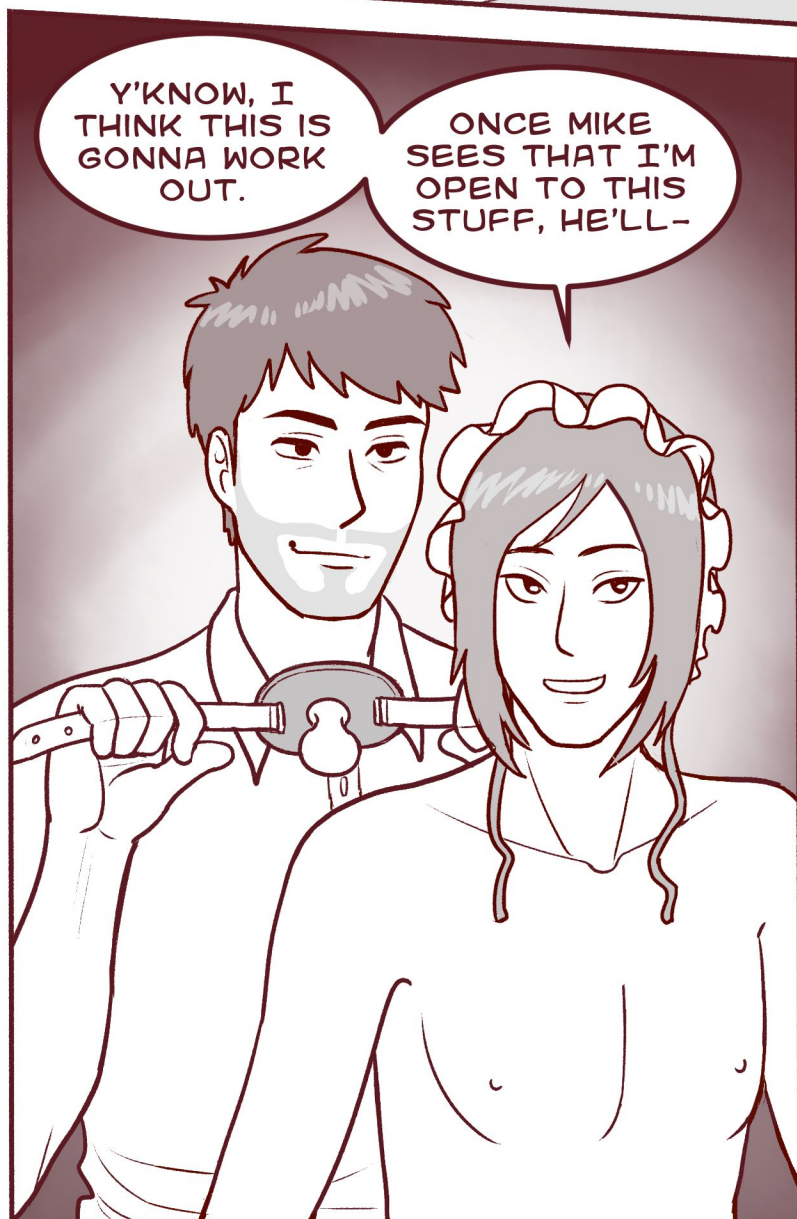
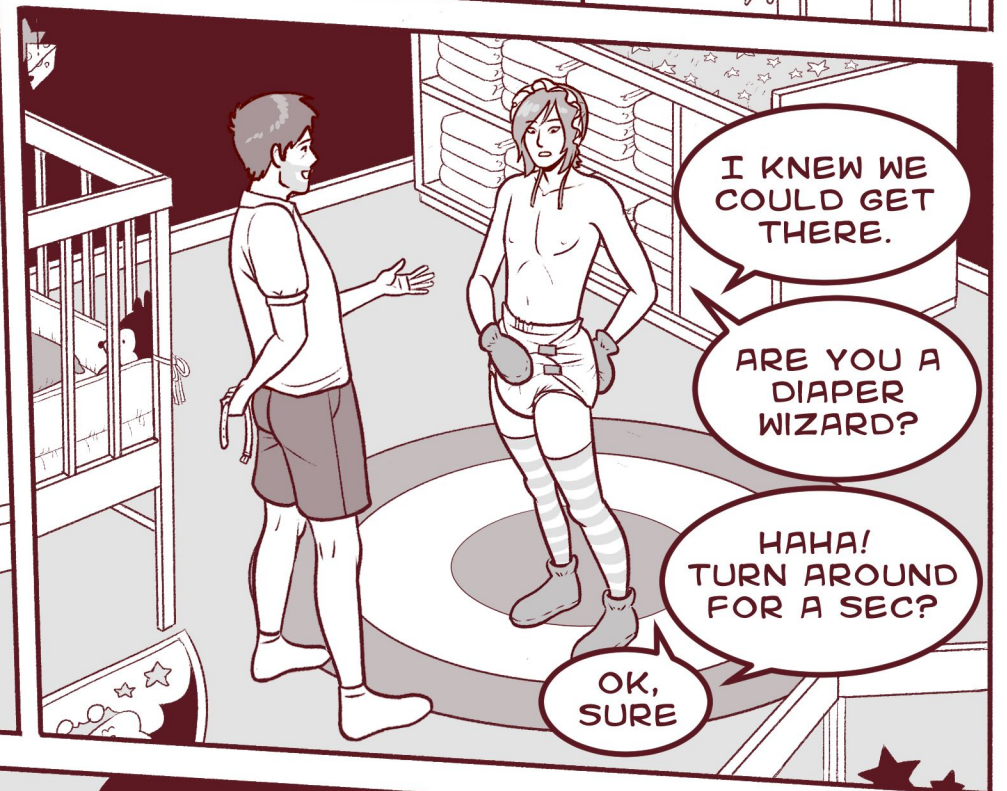
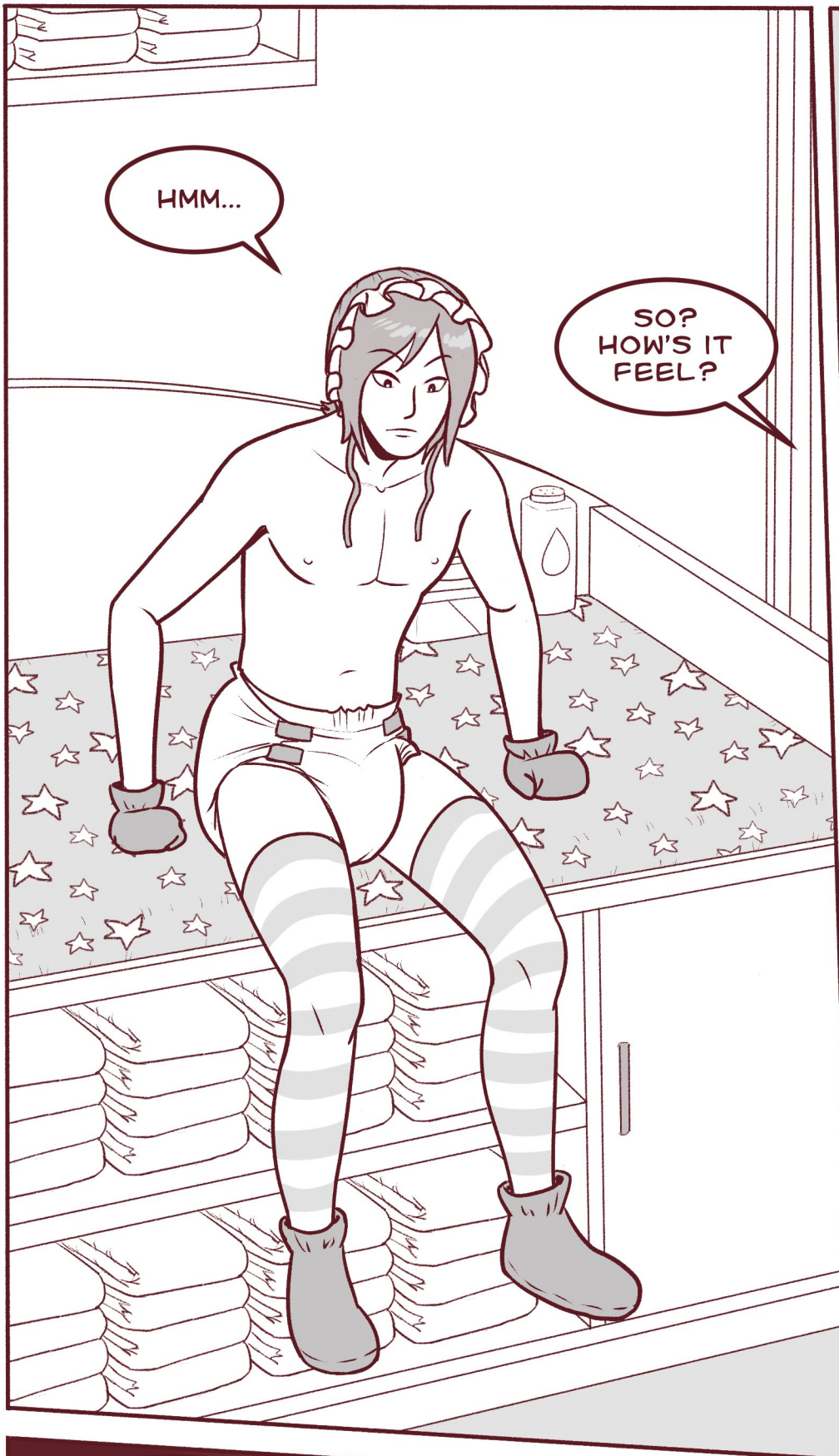
FAIR
ENOUGH.

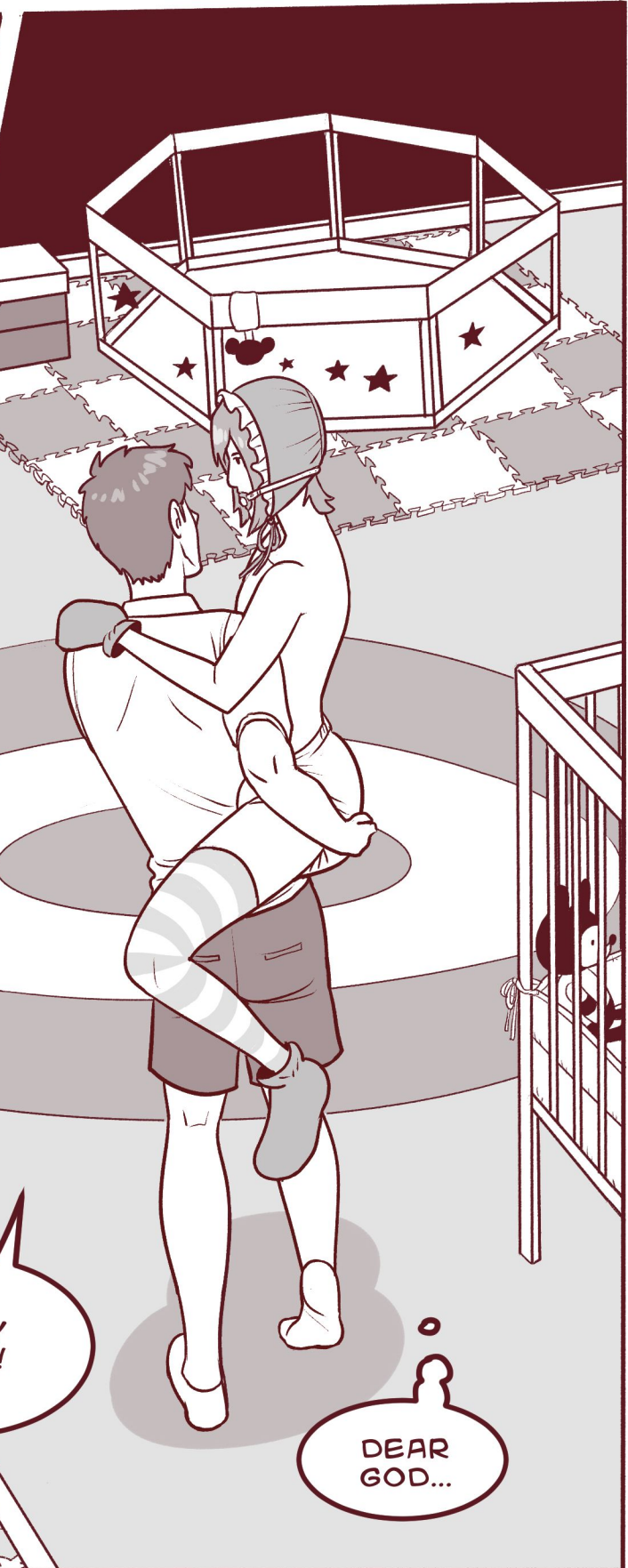
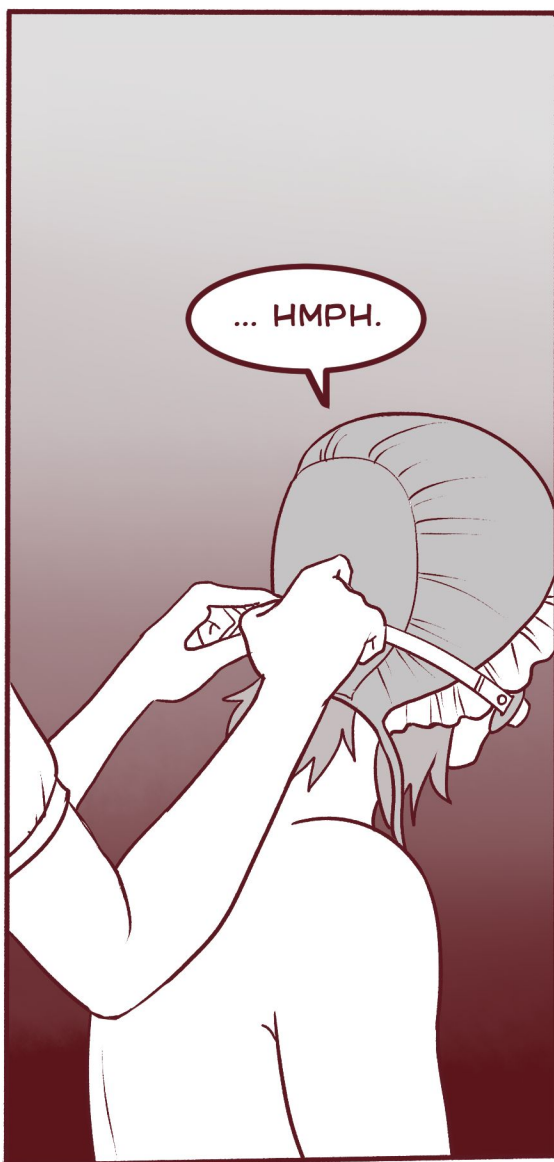
ALMOST
DONE. TOO
TIGHT?

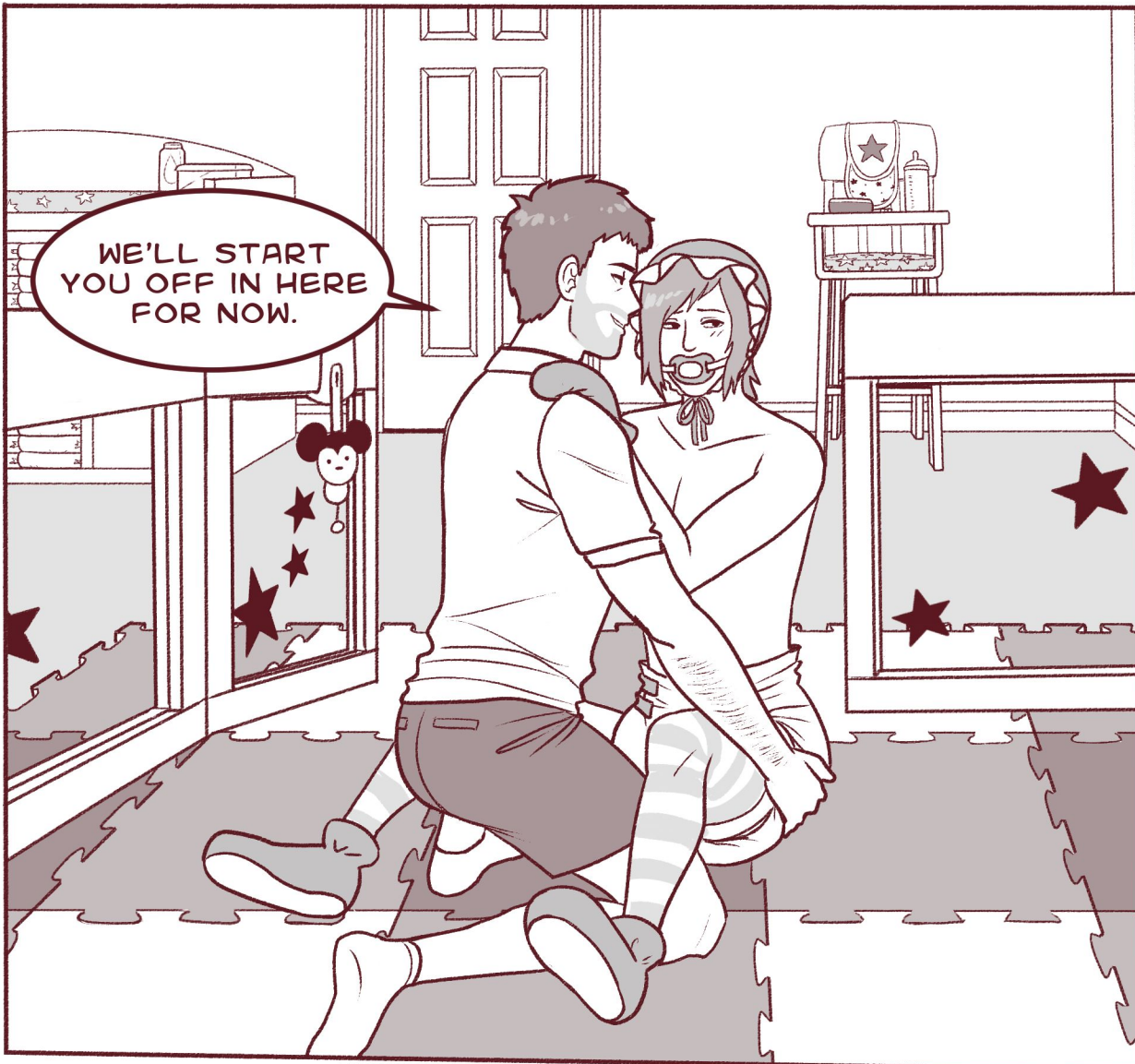
I DON'T
THINK SO.



peek
TRY
STANDING
UP.



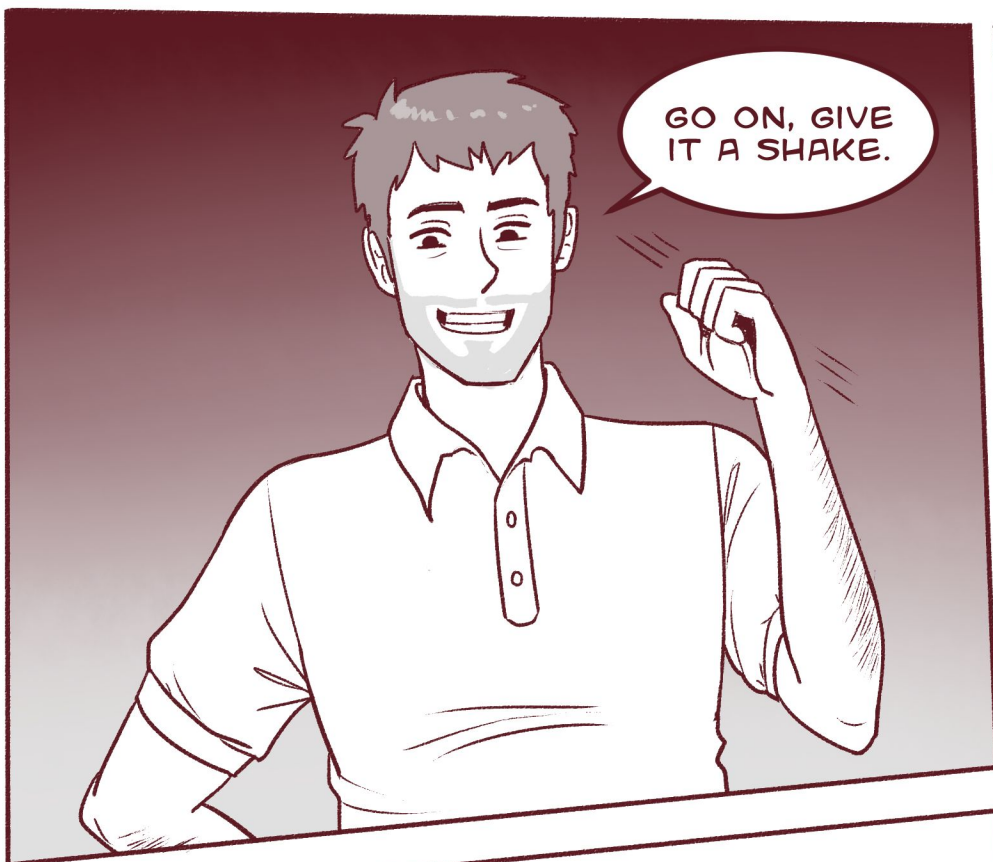




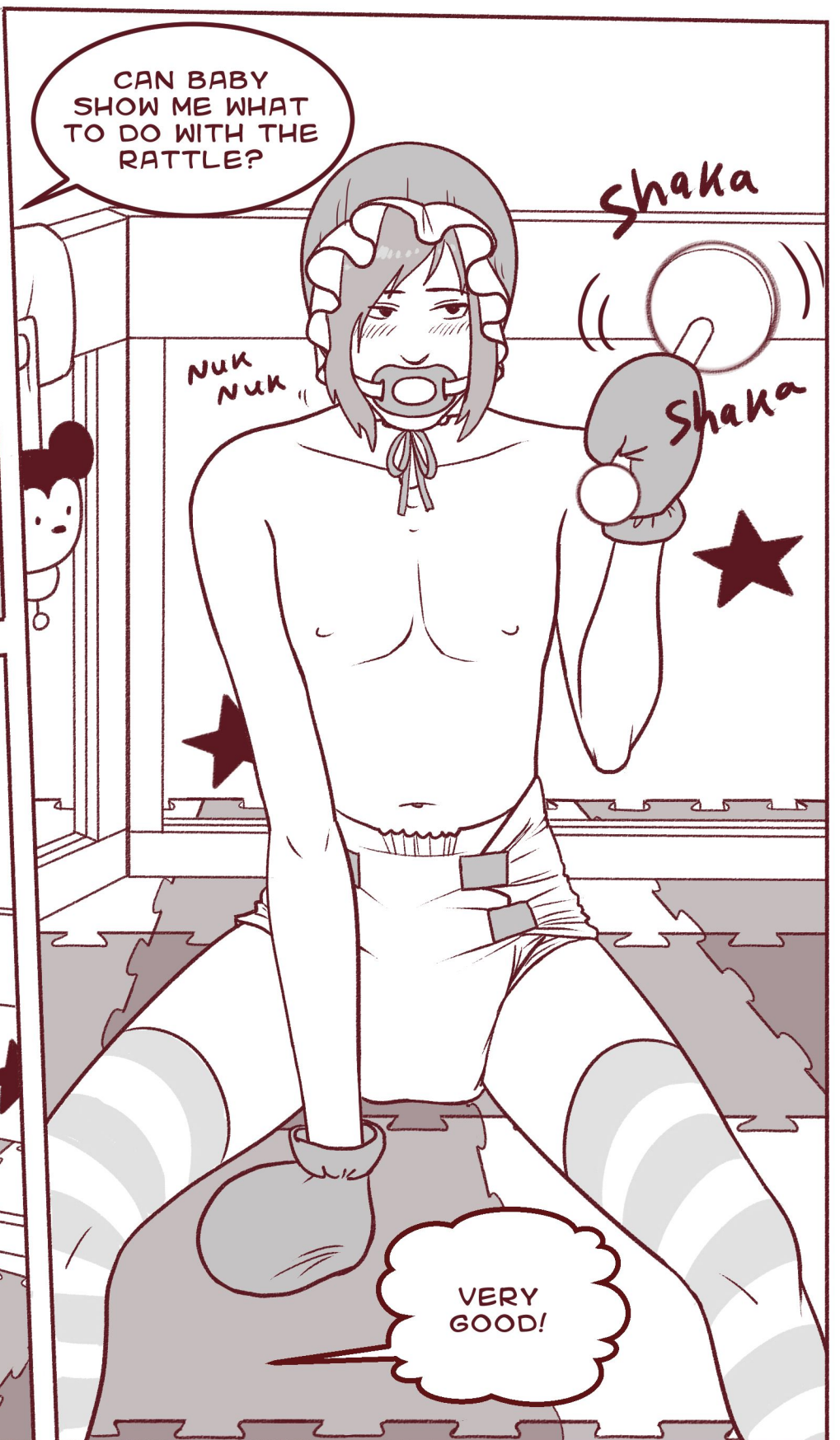
WE'LL START YOU OFF IN HERE FOR NOW.



TAKE THIS.



GO ON, GIVE IT A SHAKE.



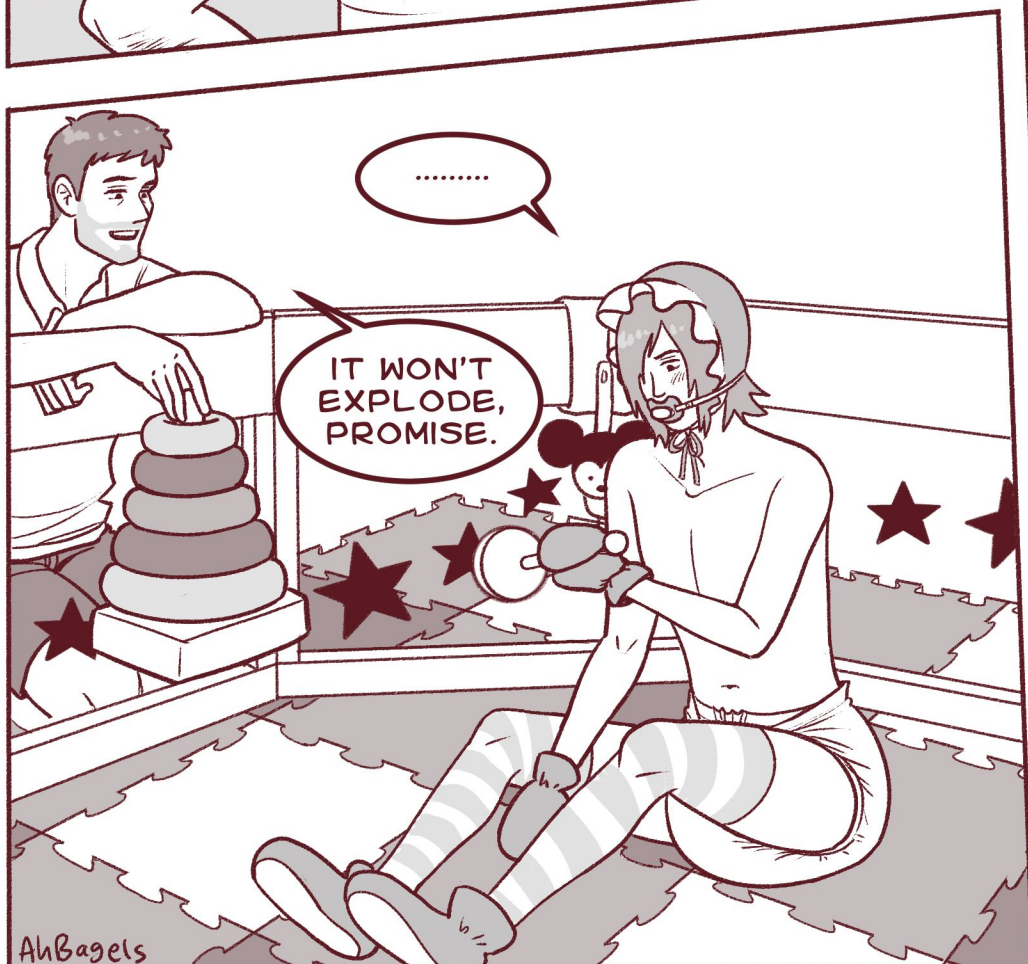
CAN BABY SHOW ME WHAT TO DO WITH THE RATTLE?

Shaka

Shaka

Nuk Nuk

VERY GOOD!



IT WON'T EXPLODE, PROMISE.

.....

AhBagels

