

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



MUGEN-

Reoooooo



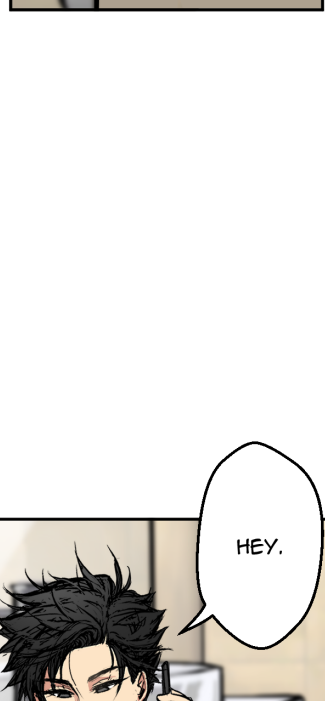
MUGEN, STOP BEING SO DRAMATIC.

AWRARAR

IT'S A BATH, JUST LIKE THE THOUSAND OTHER BATHS YOU'VE HAD.

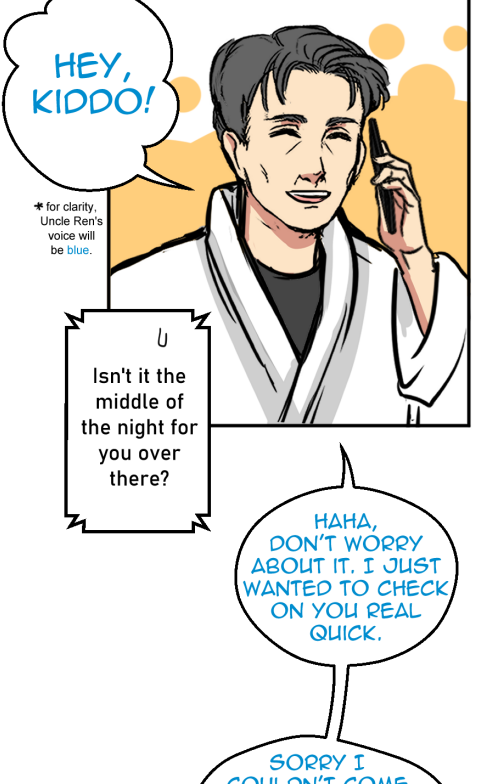
It really is just a regular bath.

QUIET OR I'M NOT PLAYING WITH YOU LATER.



HEY.

[restrained grumbling]



HEY, KIDDO!

* for clarity, Uncle Ren's voice will be blue.

Isn't it the middle of the night for you over there?

HAHA, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I JUST WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU REAL QUICK.

SORRY I COULDN'T COME BACK YESTERDAY. UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE GOT SOME MORE WORK TO DO HERE. YOU DOING ALRIGHT?

It's alright. Everything's fine.

IS THAT SO? WELL, I FIGURED I'D GIVE YOU A CALL SINCE WE CAN'T CATCH UP IN PERSON.

HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOU AND YOUR... LADYFRIEND?

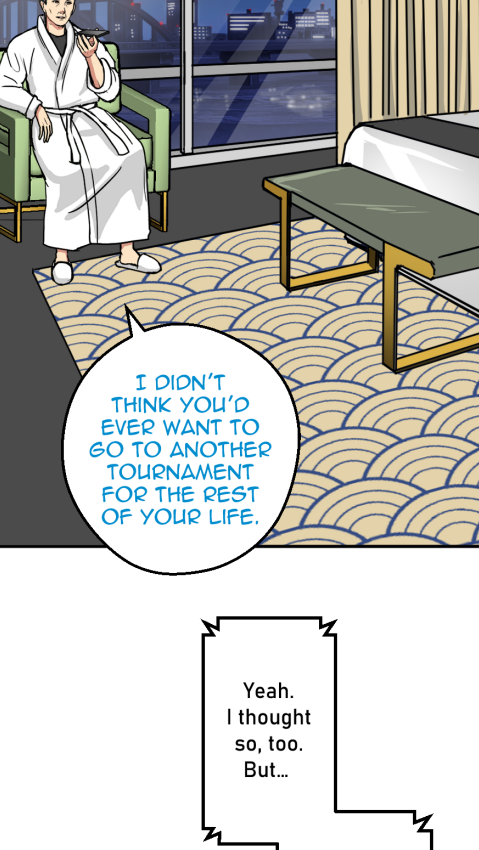
YOU WENT TO HER TOURNAMENT, RIGHT?



MY "LADYFRIEND"?

I assume no one noticed you since I haven't heard any kind of commotion.

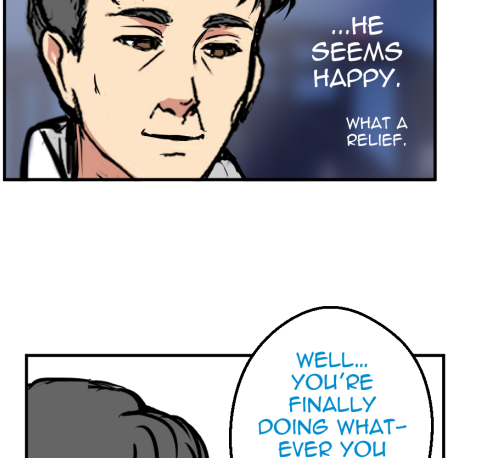
on speaker phone



Y'KNOW, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT.

Yeah. Thankfully, it pretty much went as well as it possibly could.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D EVER WANT TO GO TO ANOTHER TOURNAMENT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.



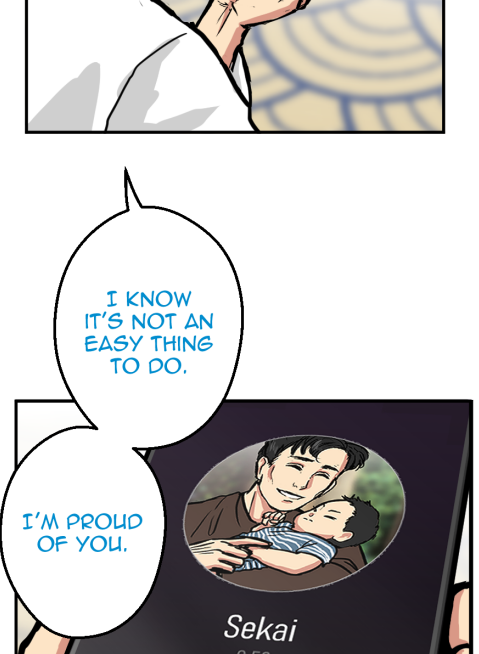
Yeah. I thought so, too. But...

At the same time, going there felt...
...liberating.



...HE SEEMS HAPPY.

WHAT A RELIEF.

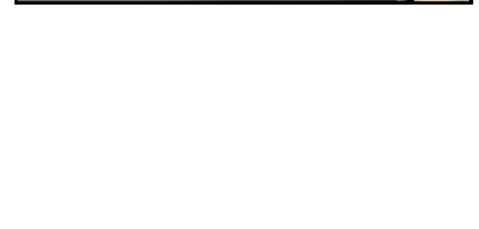


WELL... YOU'RE FINALLY DOING WHAT-EVER YOU WANT TO DO, AREN'T YOU?

I KNOW IT'S NOT AN EASY THING TO DO.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

Sekai
0:52





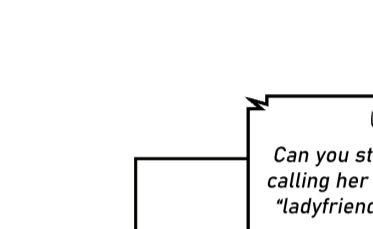
...THANKS.

...HUH. THAT'S...

...THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S SAID THAT TO ME.

So this ladyfriend of yours-

She's getting quite the special treatment from you, isn't she?



Going to a tournament just for her?

Can you stop calling her my "ladyfriend"?



WOULD YOU RATHER ME CALL HER YOUR "GIRL FRIEND"?

Her name is Ishihara.



I TOLD YOU... SHE HELPED ME REALIZED A LOT ABOUT THE WAY I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE.

I'M JUST... TRYING TO RETURN THE FAVOR.



"TRYING"? YOU USED THE PRESENT TENSE.

Oh, right. About that... I told her I would help her with judo.

And uh... For a few days, I'm gonna be helping her train.

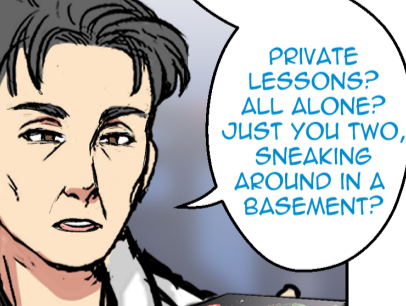


HELPING HER WITH JUDO? WOW- WAIT, HOW? HOW? WHERE?

...In a secret dojo hidden in the basement of a school building.

A SECRET BASEMENT? WAIT A MINUTE.

JUST YOU TWO? ALONE?



Of course. I can't just walk into her dojo.

NO, NO. LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.

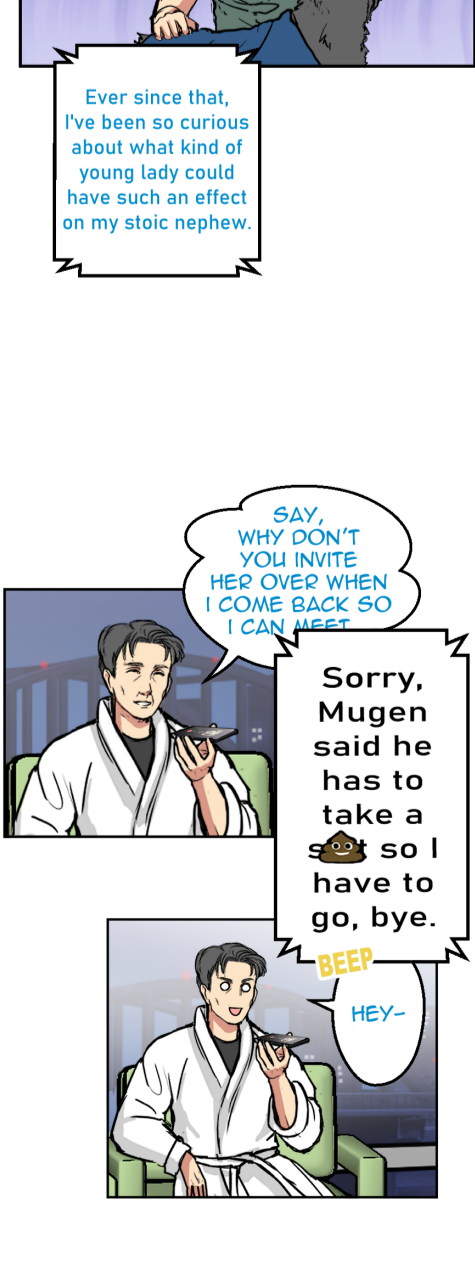
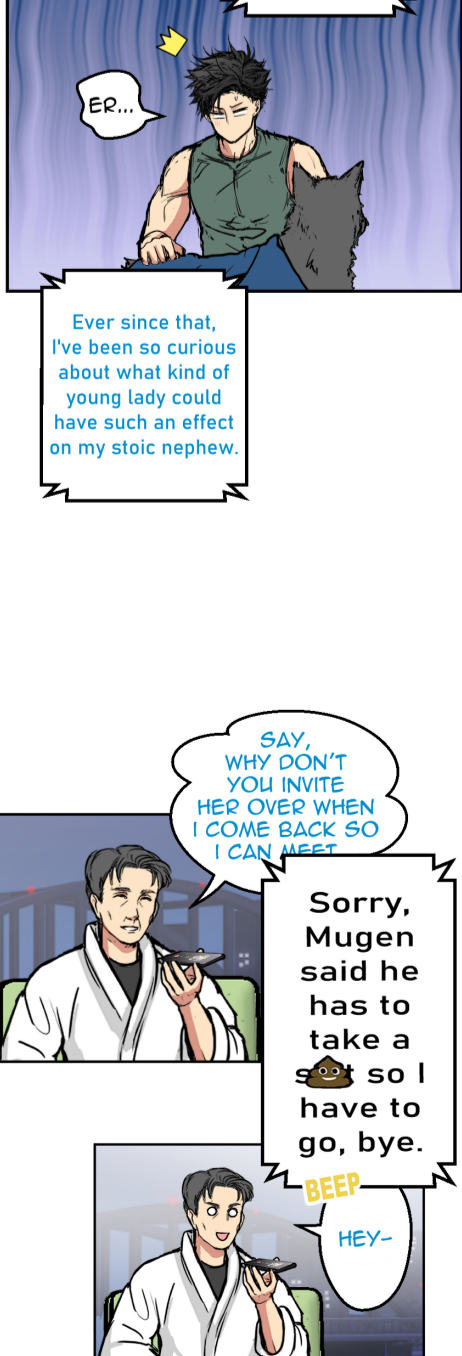
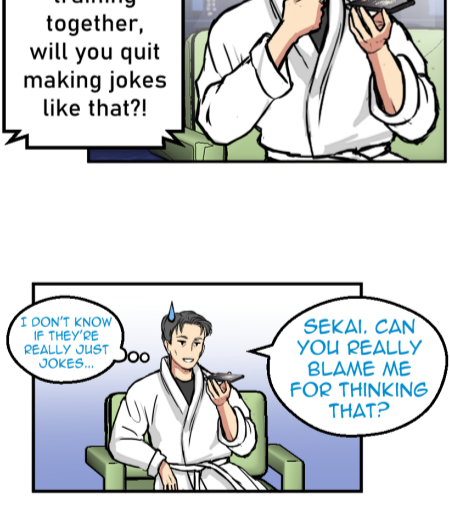
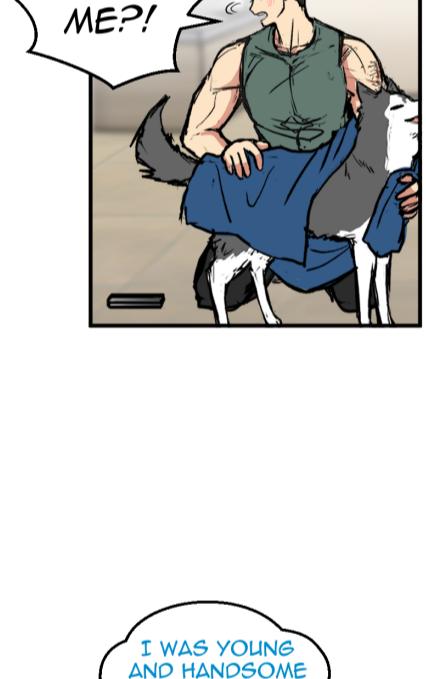
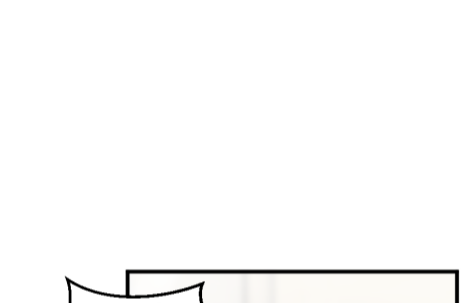
PRIVATE LESSONS? ALL ALONE? JUST YOU TWO, SNEAKING AROUND IN A BASEMENT?



JUST JUDO-WRESTLING AROUND? GRABBY-GRABBY?

suspicious squinting



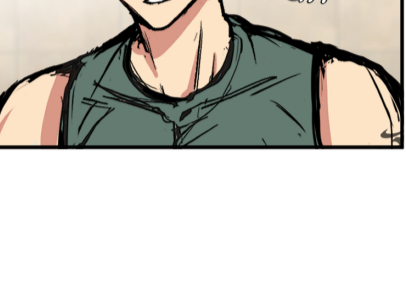


IF SHE EVER MEETS HIM...



...ALL HE'S GONNA DO IS SAY EMBARRASSING THINGS!!

WHY DOES HE ALWAYS TEASE ME ABOUT THIS?

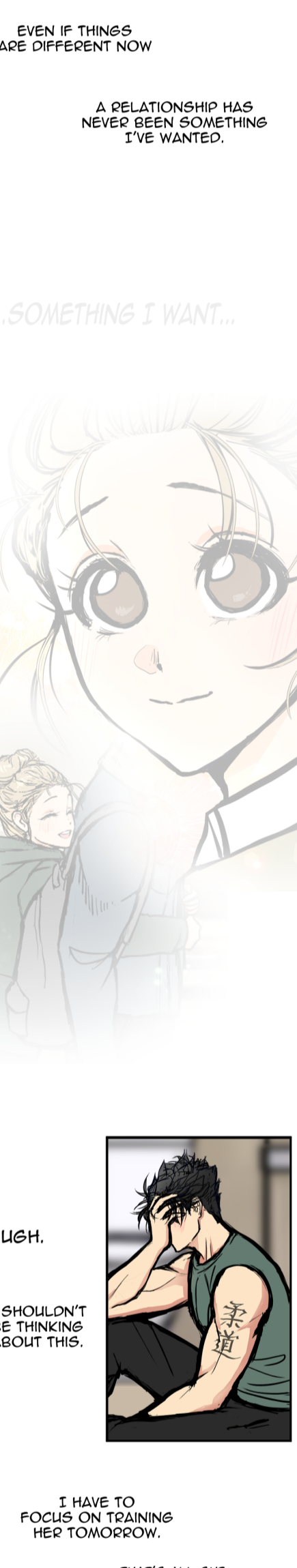


DATING HAS NEVER BEEN A PRIORITY FOR ME.



ESPECIALLY DURING MY JUDO CAREER...

...AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED, RELATIONSHIPS WERE JUST TROUBLESOME AND TIME-CONSUMING.



EVEN IF THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW

A RELATIONSHIP HAS NEVER BEEN SOMETHING I'VE WANTED.

...SOMETHING I WANT...

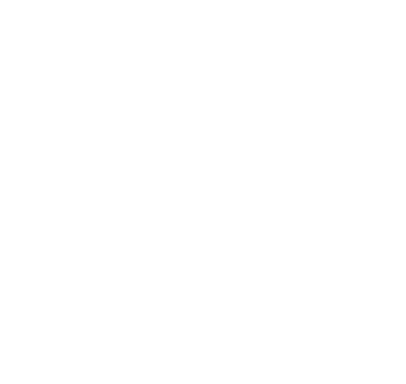
...UGH.

I SHOULDN'T BE THINKING ABOUT THIS.

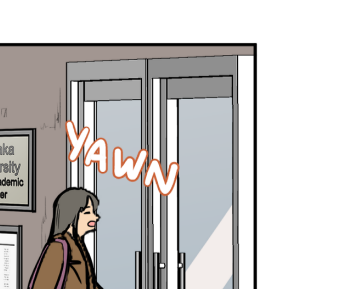
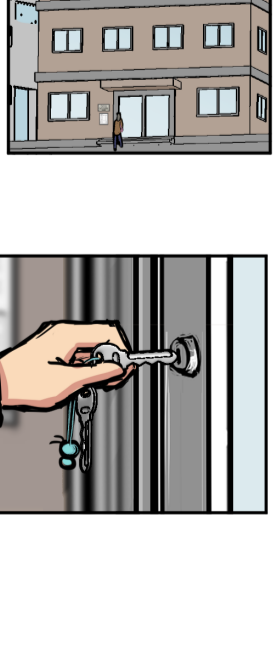


I HAVE TO FOCUS ON TRAINING HER TOMORROW.

THAT'S ALL SHE ASKED ME TO DO.

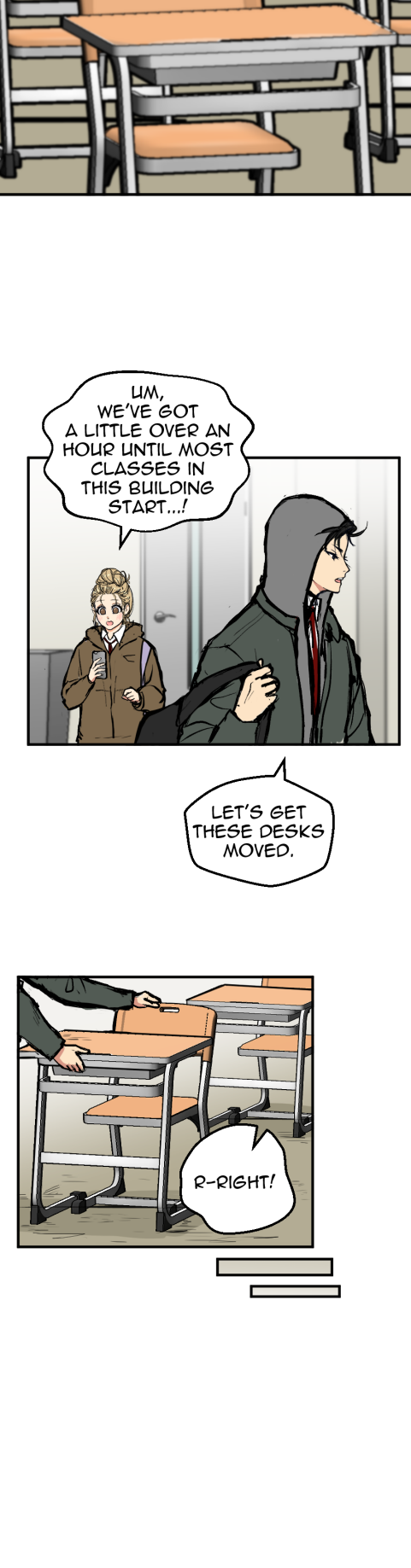


EARLY NEXT MORNING





...WE MADE IT!



UM, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR UNTIL MOST CLASSES IN THIS BUILDING START...!

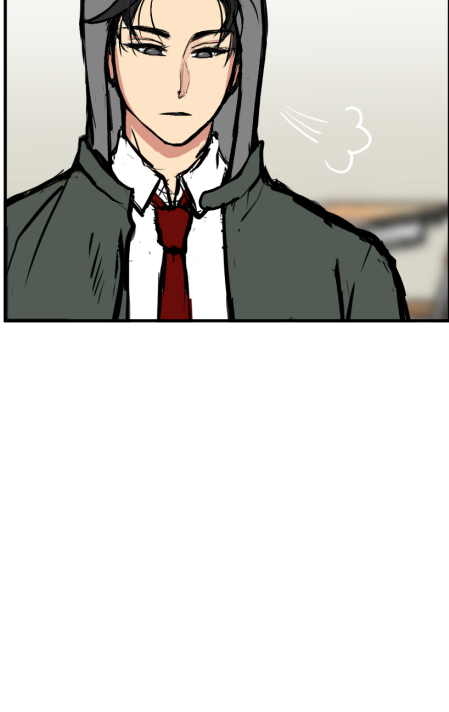
LET'S GET THESE DESKS MOVED.



5 MINUTES LATER

ONE LAST PIECE...





...SO DID YOU COME UP WITH ANY EXPLANATIONS IF ANYONE WALKS IN?

OH
N-NO! SHOULD I HAVE? I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...



AREN'T MOST CLASSES ENDING SOON, ANYWAY? WINTER BREAK IS ABOUT TO START.

AH, YES---

BUT THEY ALSO HAVE CLASSES DURING THE BREAK HERE...

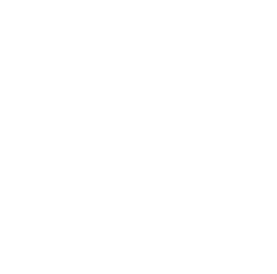
SO THIS BUILDING STAYS OPEN YEAR ROUND, ACTUALLY.

B-BUT DON'T WORRY! I'M PRETTY SURE THE BUILDING IS MOSTLY EMPTY DURING THIS TIME OF DAY.

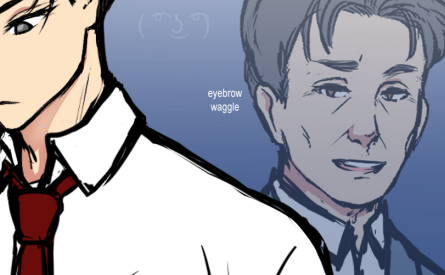
AND I CAN EVEN LOCK THE DOOR IF YOU'D LIKE?

OH, SURE.

ALSO I-I CAME HERE A FEW TIMES BEFORE, TO SEE IF ANYONE WANDERED AROUND HERE.

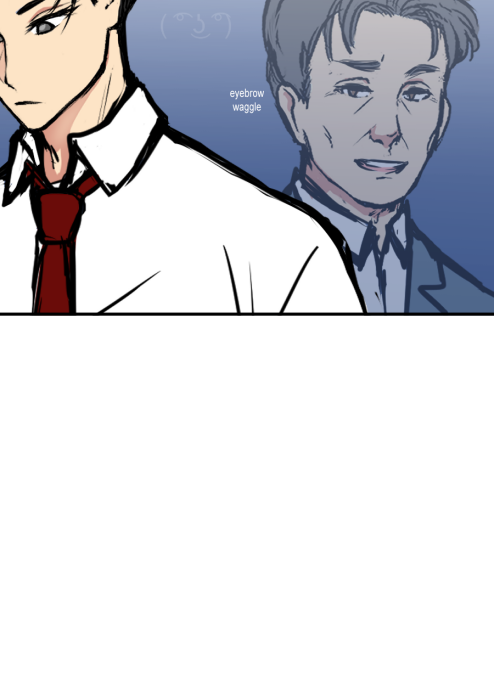


CLICK!



.....

AND IT SEEMS PRETTY SAFE...



TOGETHER?

ALL ALONE?

eyebrow wobble



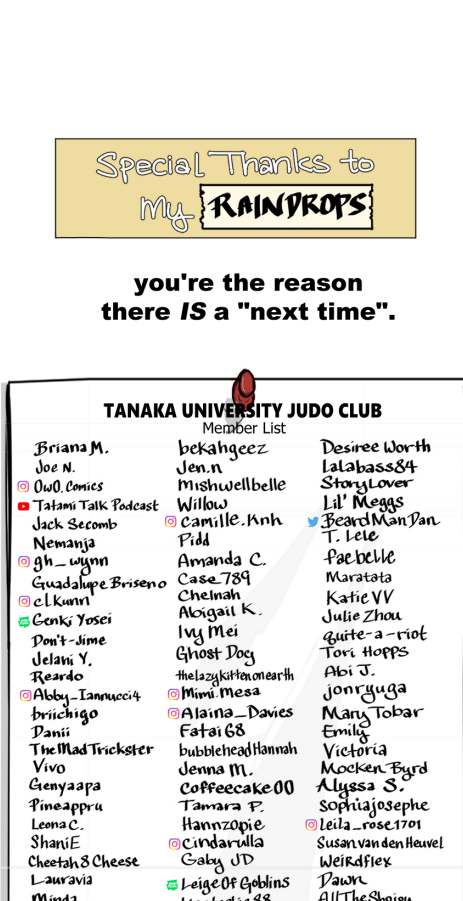
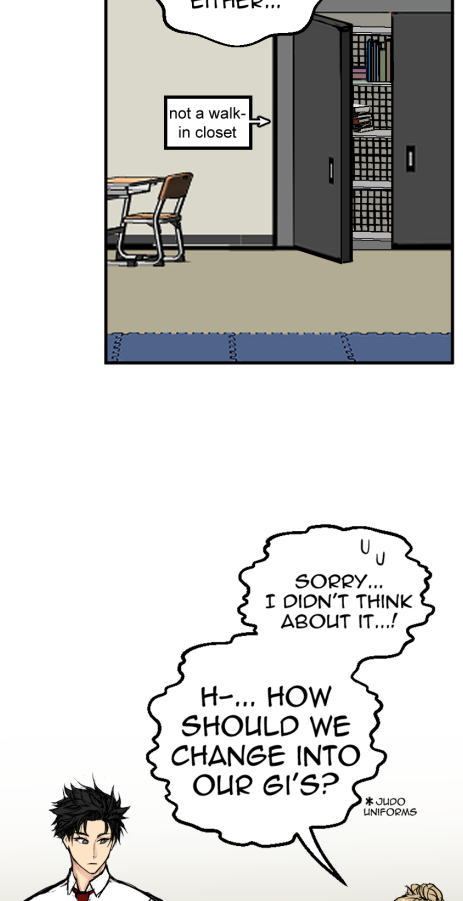
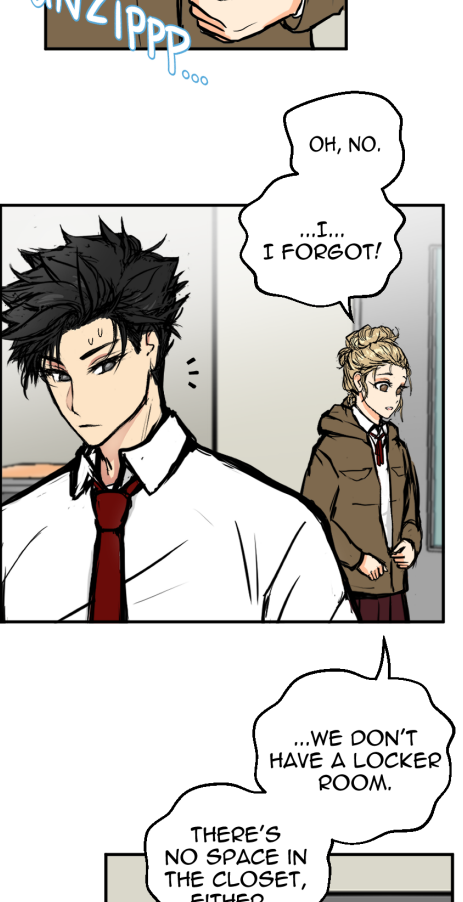
GRABBY GRABBY?



UGH... WHY DID HE HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SO STUPID?!

HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE LIKE. NOTHING'S GONNA HAPPEN.

ISHIHARA IS LITERALLY AS PURE AS THEY COME!



sekai: mugen, it's bath time.
no one:
mugen:



Special Thanks to my RAINDROPS

you're the reason there IS a "next time".

TANAKA UNIVERSITY JUDO CLUB Member List

and my anonymous raindrops ♡♡♡