

Forever Summer

Chapter 32

By Moonlly



A MOMENT LATER...

OH MY GOSH, I'M
DEAD FOR SURE!

I THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE JUST
AKIO-SAN, BUT THE
EXPERT TOO?

HOW AM I GOING TO
PASS THIS NOW?!

AHHHH, I'M SO SCREWED!

RIKA-CHAN, YOU NEED
TO CALM DOWN.



MY GOD, YOU'RE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN. YOU'VE ALREADY DONE THIS A MILLION TIME!

OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT. THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU.

BUT MOM, I- I JUST CAN'T! HOW I CAN BE CALM IN THIS SITUATION??

UGH... BUT IF I CAN'T DO IT WELL ENOUGH, YOU KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN, RIGHT?

CALM DOWN AND FOCUS ON WHAT'S AHEAD!



THAT'S EASIER TO SAY
THAN DONE, MOM...

UGH... T-
THAT'S....

A- ALRIGHT... I'LL
TRY...

BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU
RIKA-CHAN. I KNOW
THAT YOU CAN DO IT.

AND LIKE AKIO-KUN
SAID, DON'T WORRY
ABOUT HIM AND HIS
FRIEND, AND TRY
YOUR BEST.

GOOD, THIS IS JUST
ANOTHER DAY AT
WORK, RIGHT?

SIGH I DON'T REALLY GET HOW CAN YOU STILL BE POSITIVE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, MOM.

BUT YOU'RE KINDA RIGHT, I ALREADY DID THIS SO MANY TIMES. SO, IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY, I- I GUESS....?

HOHO, OF COURSE, IT WILL BE FINE, HONEY.

UGH, W- WELL, IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THEN. I DON'T WANT THEM TO WAIT FOR TOO LONG.

OKAY, I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE THEN.

OKAY...

DOOR CLOSE

THEN AGAIN, IF I FAIL TODAY...

AHHHHHH, I NEED TO STOP THINKING ABOUT THAT!

YOU NEED TO FOCUS, RIKA-CHAN!

OKAY, I'LL CHANGE INTO TODAY'S OUTFIT FIRST, THEN FINISH THE MAKE UP...

YEP, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT, LET'S DO THIS!

10 MINUTES LATER...

LGH...

ESPECIALLY IN THE ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE, LGHH...

OFFICE AREA

GOSH, EVEN THOUGH I ALREADY DID THIS BEFORE, IT'S STILL SUPER EMBARRASSING TO WALK AROUND IN LINGERIE.

DO I HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY SINGLE TIME UNTIL I GET THE MONEY FOR THE SURGERY?



A woman with long, straight purple hair and blue eyes stands in a hallway. She is wearing a purple lace-trimmed bikini. She has a small, dark mark on her belly button. The hallway has a sign that says "OFFICE AREA" and a door handle with a Japanese character "押" (push).

MAN, LOOK AT THOSE EYES, I THINK I COMPLETELY FOOLED THEM.

MAYBE I SHOULD DO THAT ONCE EVERYTHING IS COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL.

YES, THIS IS HER SECOND PHOTOSHOOT FOR OUR COMPANY.

HMPH! I REALLY WANT TO SEE THE FACE WHEN THEY KNOW THAT I'M NOT A GIRL THEY THINK I AM.

BUT I'LL HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE THIS GIRLY GIRL FOR NOW...

?



HMM?

SO THAT IS THE
EXPERT AKIO-SAN
TALKED ABOUT?

RIKA-CHAN, PLEASE
GET ON TO THE
STAGE, WE'RE ABOUT
TO START!



Y- YES! I'M
COMING~

WELL, LET'S PUT
THAT ASIDE FOR
NOW, I NEED TO
FOCUS ON THE
MODELING FIRST.

A WHILE LATER...

HMM~ IT'S NOT AS
BAD AS I THOUGHT.

MAYBE I WAS
OVERTHINKING
ABOUT IT.



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FLASH

TO THINK THAT I CAN DO
THIS WITHOUT COACHING,
MAYBE I'M REALLY GOOD
AT THIS AFTER ALL~ HEHE.

OKAY, THE NEXT POSE
WILL BE...

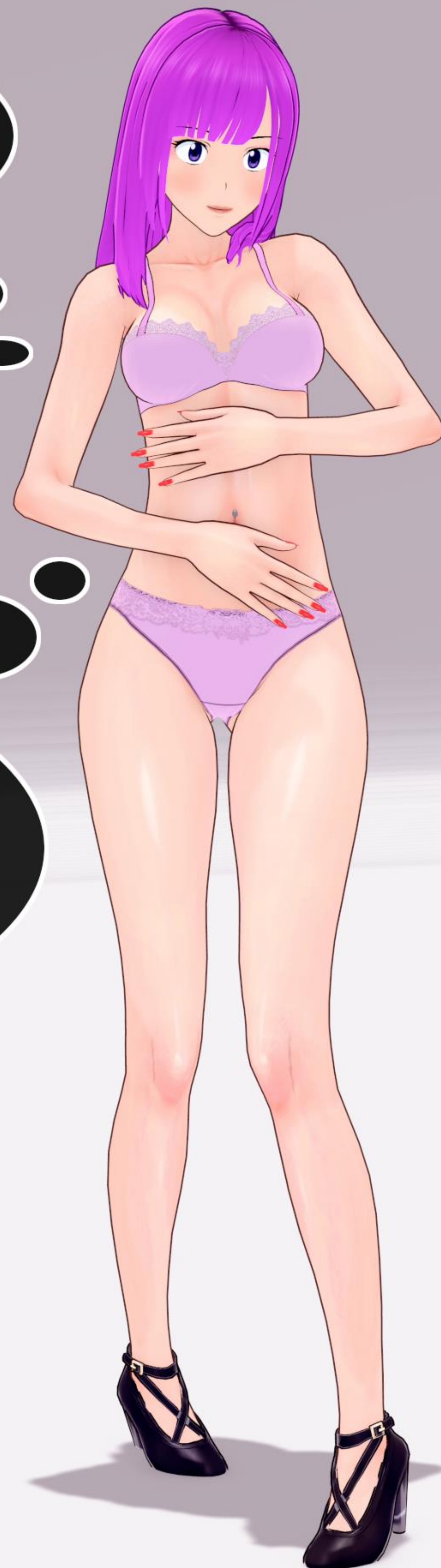
THIS ONE THEN.

I JUST HAVE TO FOCUS
AT THE CAMERA, AND
POSING.

FLASH

AND OF COURSE, I NEED
TO BE CONFIDENT TOO!
CAN'T FORGET THAT.

OKAY, YOU CAN TAKE
A 15-MINUTES BREAK,
RIKA-CHAN.





AHHHH~ AND THE FIRST HALF IS FINISHED JUST LIKE THAT.

WHEW, TIME FLEW BY SO FAST TODAY.



AND NOW LET'S SEE WHAT THOSE GUYS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MY PERFORMANCE.

I HOPE THIS WILL BE ENOUGH FOR THEM.

A MOMENT LATER...

HMM... IT'S OKAY,
I GUESS...

ALRIGHT~ HOW DID I DO
TODAY, AKIO-SAN?

I- I SEE...

AND WHAT ABOUT THE
EXPERT? DID HE SAY
SOMETHING?

EH...? WHERE'S THE
EXPERT GUY?

HE ALREADY LEFT
A MOMENT AGO,
RIKA-CHAN.

W- WHAT? BUT WHAT
ABOUT MY EVALUATION?

WELL, I WILL BE THE ONE WHO
GIVES YOU THE FINAL SCORE.
BUT NOW... THINGS AREN'T
LOOKING THAT GREAT FOR
YOU I'M AFRAID.

H- HUH?

I'M SORRY, BUT YOUR PERFORMANCE TODAY IS A BIT LACKING.

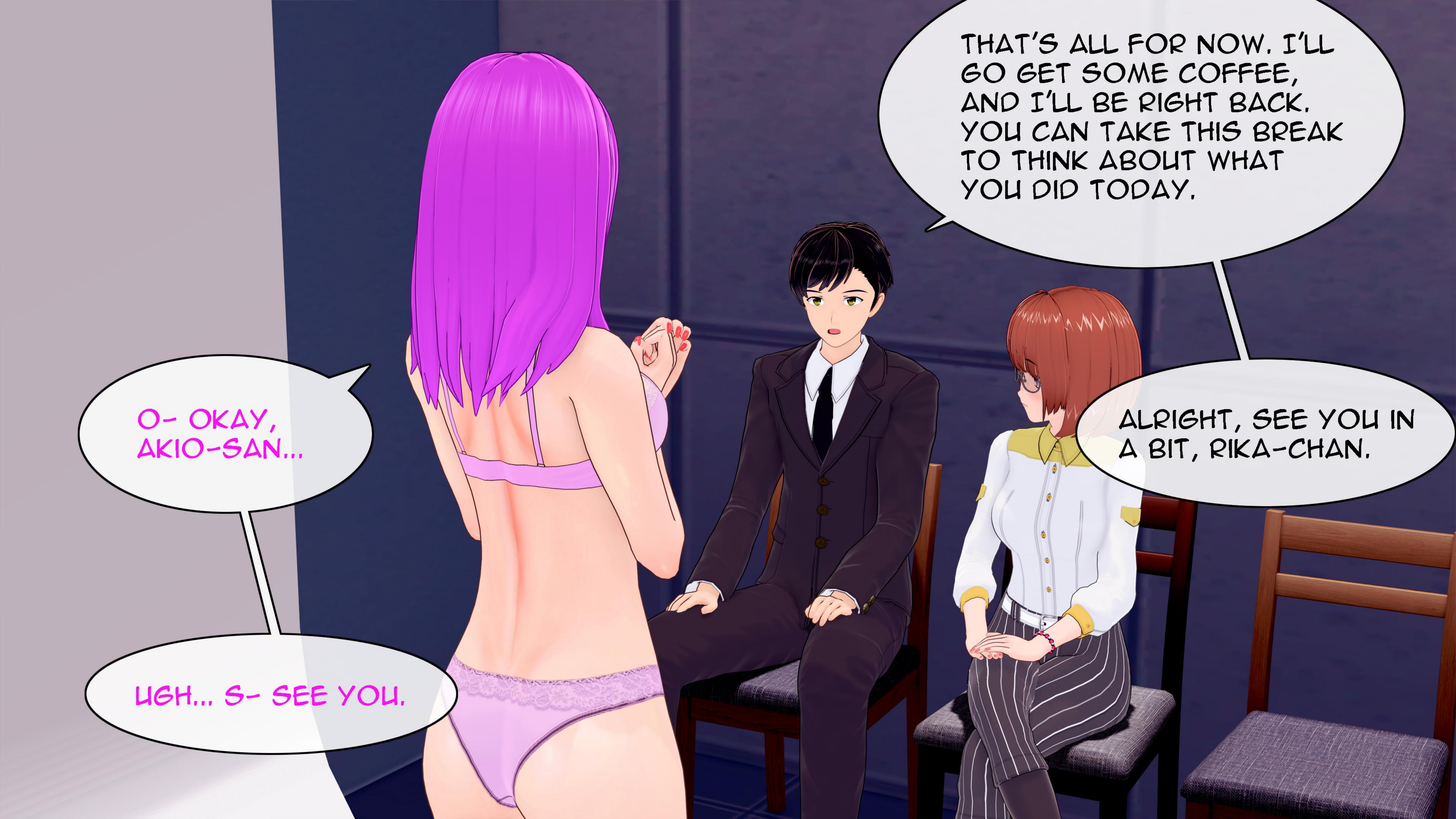
B- BUT DON'T WORRY, IF THE SECOND HALF YOU DO WELL, IT WILL BALANCE THINGS OUT.

AND THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT, RIKA-CHAN. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE ANSWER. I'M NOT A MODEL LIKE YOU.

N- NO WAY...

B- BUT WHAT DO I HAVE TO IMPROVE? I- I DID EVERYTHING I COULD.

AH...



THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. I'LL GO GET SOME COFFEE, AND I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. YOU CAN TAKE THIS BREAK TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TODAY.

O- OKAY, AKIO-SAN...

ALRIGHT, SEE YOU IN A BIT, RIKA-CHAN.

LGH... S- SEE YOU.

A MOMENT LATER...

IT'S OKAY, RIKA-CHAN.
YOU DID GREAT OUT
THERE.

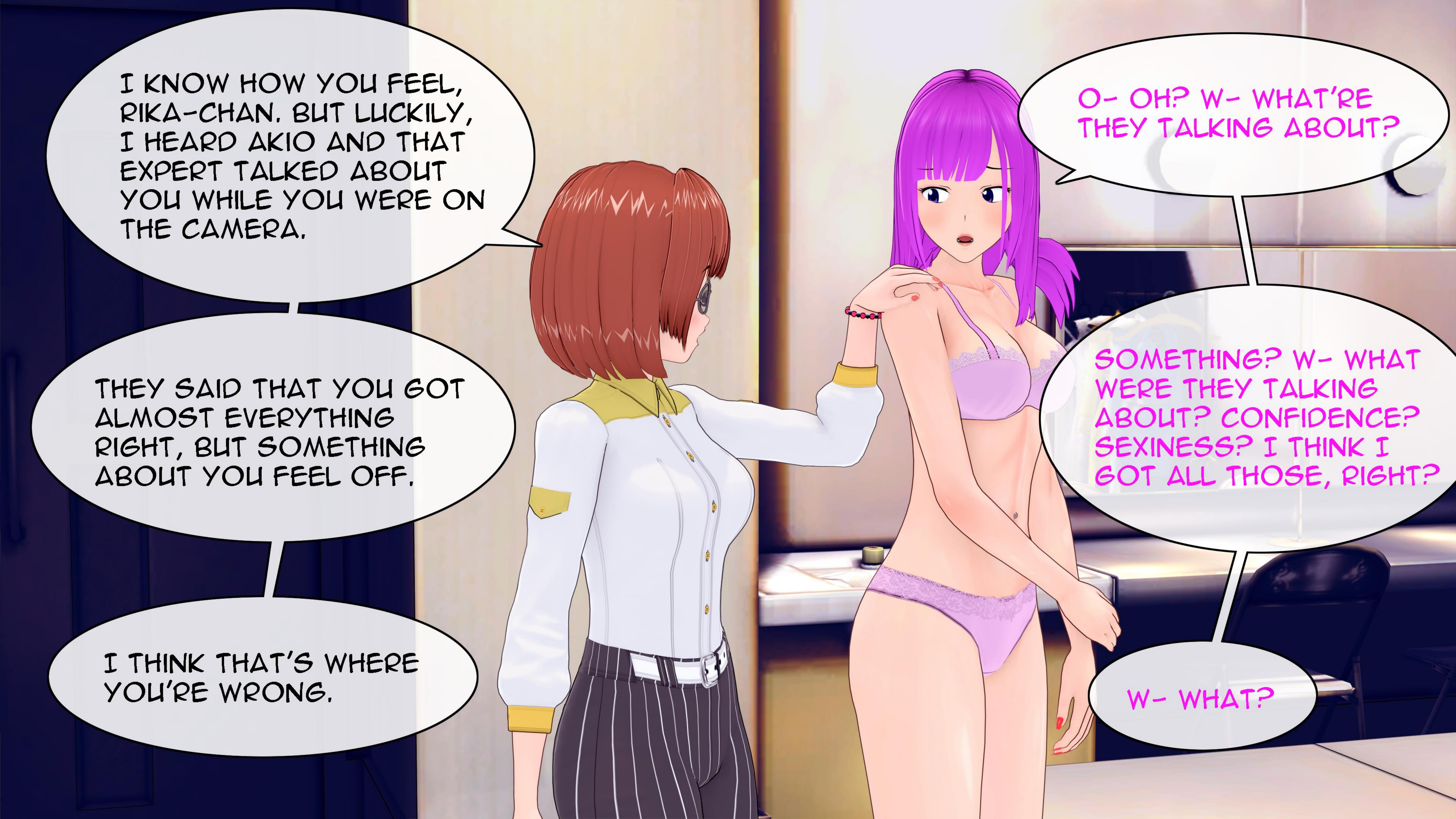
WELL, AT LEAST YOU
CAN TRY TO DO
BETTER IN THE
SECOND HALF, RIGHT?

OH MY GOSH, I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT WASN'T
GOOD ENOUGH??

W- WHAT DID I DO
WRONG?? I THOUGHT THAT
WAS FLAWLESS...

BUT HOW?? IT'S GONNA
BE THE SAME THING WITH
DIFFERENT POSE, MOM!
GOSH, AM I REALLY
GOING TO LOSE THIS
JOB??





I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, RIKA-CHAN. BUT LUCKILY, I HEARD AKIO AND THAT EXPERT TALKED ABOUT YOU WHILE YOU WERE ON THE CAMERA.

THEY SAID THAT YOU GOT ALMOST EVERYTHING RIGHT, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT YOU FEEL OFF.

I THINK THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG.

O- OH? W- WHAT'RE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

SOMETHING? W- WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT? CONFIDENCE? SEXINESS? I THINK I GOT ALL THOSE, RIGHT?

W- WHAT?

LET ME ASK YOU THIS,
ARE YOU CONFIDENT
BEING A MODEL?

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS,
ARE YOU CONFIDENT
BEING A GIRL, RIKA-CHAN?

JUST ANSWER ME.

O- OF COURSE, I DO!
THAT'S WHY I LET
THEM SHOOT THE
PHOTO OF ME, YOU
KNOW?

O- OF COUR-
H- HUH? WHAT KIND
OF QUESTION IS
THAT?

Y- Y- YES...?



COME ON NOW, GIRL.
WAS THAT WHAT YOU
CALL BEING CONFIDENT?

AND NOW YOU JUST
LOOK AWAY FROM ME.
SIGH RIKA-CHAN,
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A
LITTLE GIRL, YOU KNOW
THAT?

WELL, THAT DOESN'T
MATTER. I THINK YOU
CAN CLEARLY SEE THE
PROBLEM NOW.

LIGHHHH, Y- YEAH...

I- I- I DON'T!

LIGHHHH....

AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT ACCEPTING THIS FACT, YOU'LL NEVER REALLY BE CONFIDENT.

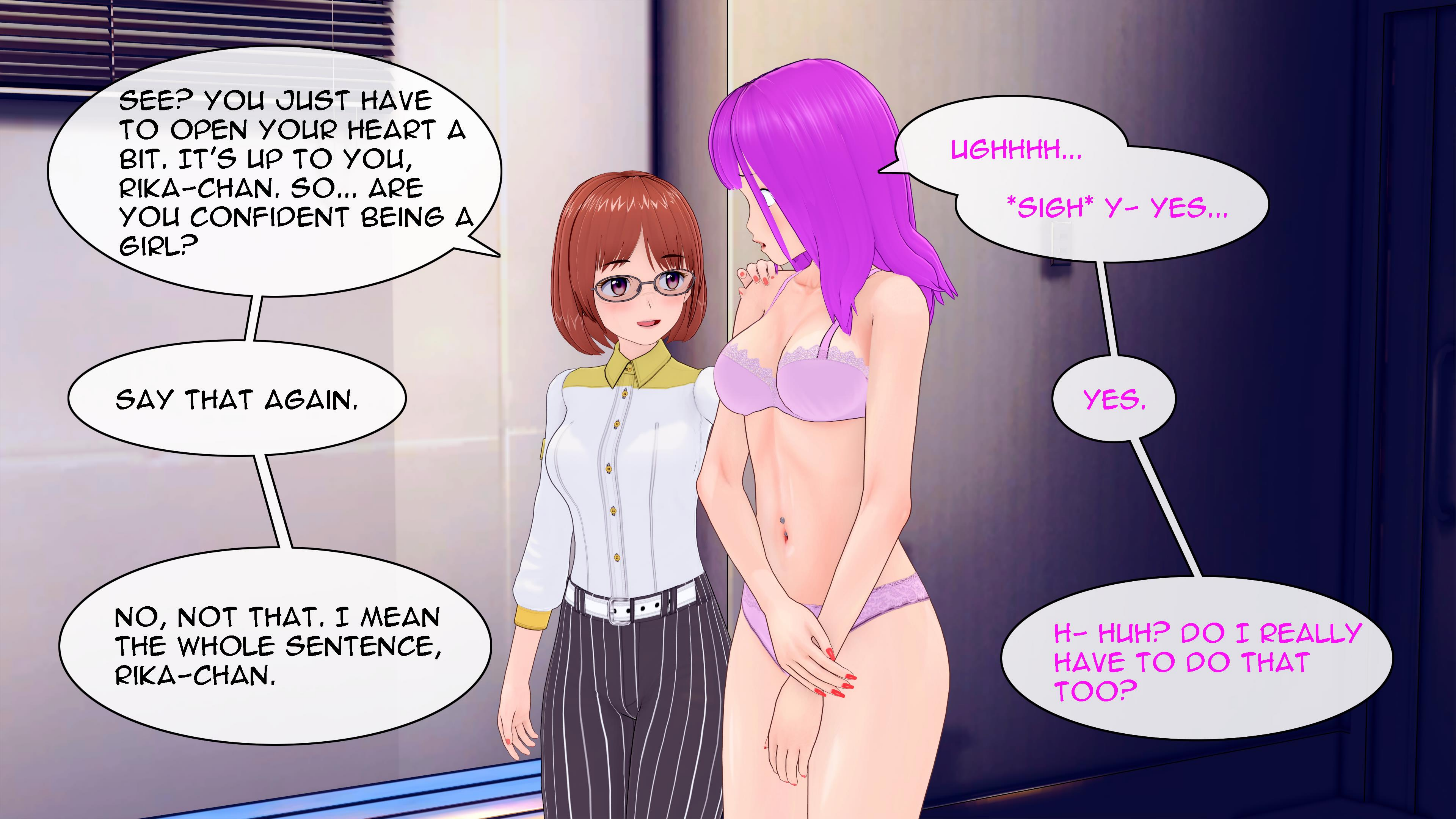
T- THEN...

AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT THOSE GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT. LUCKY FOR YOU, THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR SECRET.

LIGHT, B- BUT HOW SHOULD I DO THIS THEN?!

THAT'S NOT HARD, RIGHT? YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A GIRL. AND I MEAN THE REAL ONE.

B- BUT YOU KNOW, I'M NOT THAT!



SEE? YOU JUST HAVE TO OPEN YOUR HEART A BIT. IT'S UP TO YOU, RIKA-CHAN. SO... ARE YOU CONFIDENT BEING A GIRL?

SAY THAT AGAIN.

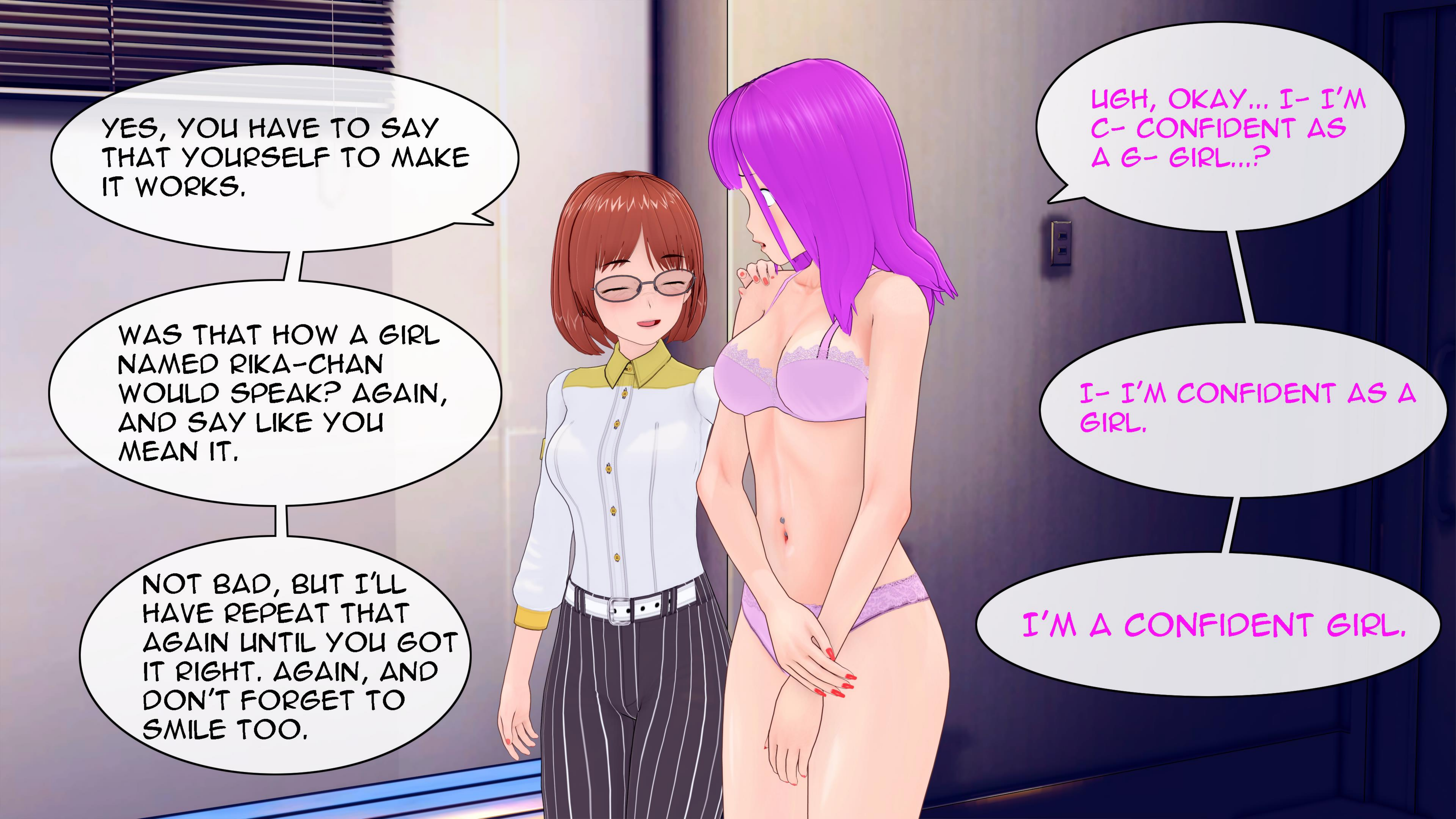
NO, NOT THAT. I MEAN THE WHOLE SENTENCE, RIKA-CHAN.

LIGHHHH...

SIGH Y- YES...

YES.

H- HUH? DO I REALLY HAVE TO DO THAT TOO?



YES, YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT YOURSELF TO MAKE IT WORKS.

WAS THAT HOW A GIRL NAMED RIKA-CHAN WOULD SPEAK? AGAIN, AND SAY LIKE YOU MEAN IT.

NOT BAD, BUT I'LL HAVE REPEAT THAT AGAIN UNTIL YOU GOT IT RIGHT. AGAIN, AND DON'T FORGET TO SMILE TOO.

LIGH, OKAY... I- I'M C- CONFIDENT AS A G- GIRL....?

I- I'M CONFIDENT AS A GIRL.

I'M A CONFIDENT GIRL.

A MOMENT LATER...

OKAY, HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW, ANY BETTER?

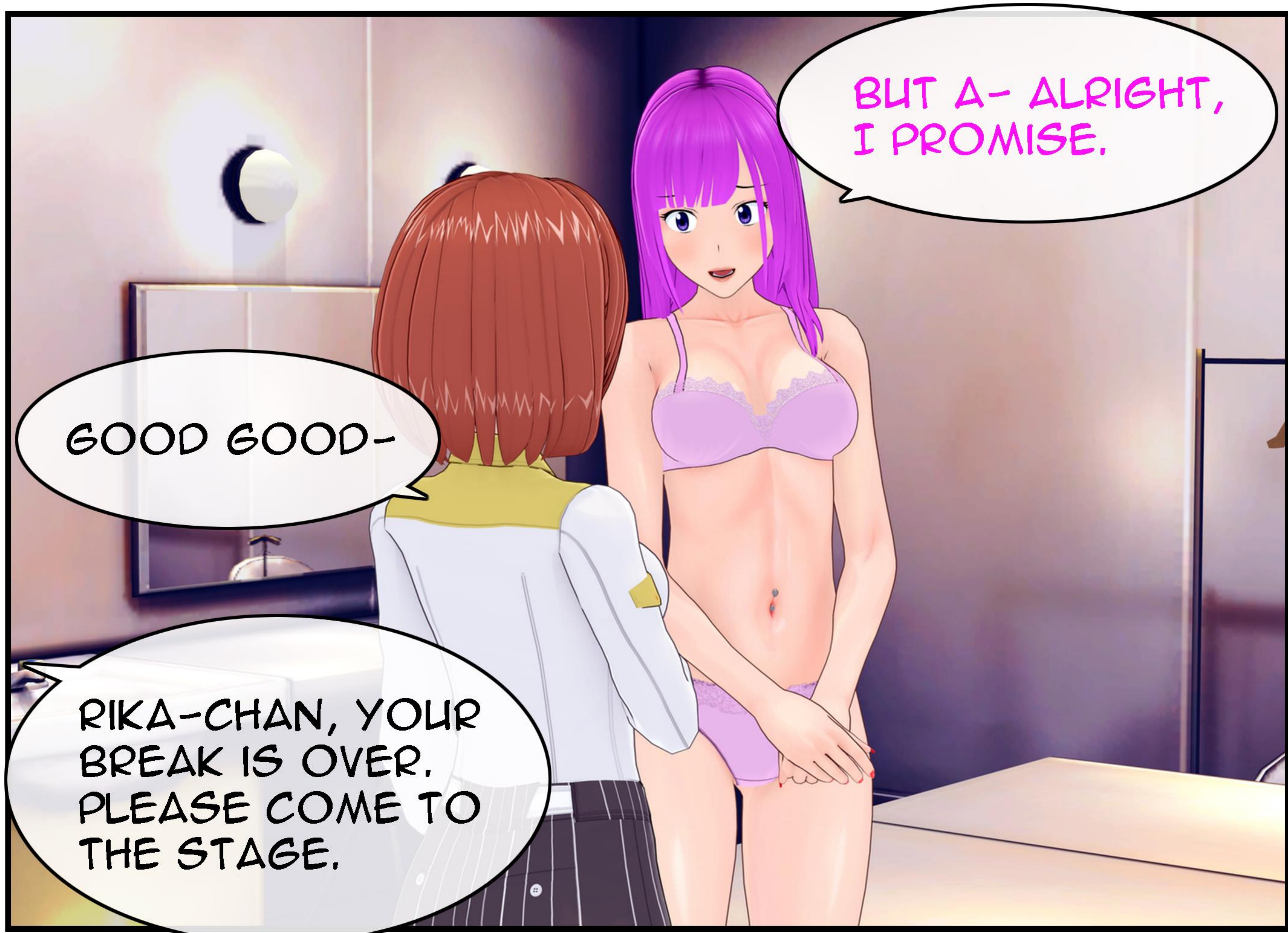
WELL, LIKE I SAID, IT'S ALL UP TO YOU. BEING CONFIDENT IS NOT JUST ABOUT SAYING, YOU HAVE TO FEEL IT.

STOP RIGHT THERE! IT WILL WORK, TRUST ME, AND PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL DO YOUR BEST.

UHM, NOPE. I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT, HAHA.

I- I SEE... WELL, I HOPE THIS WILL WORK, OTHERWISE...-

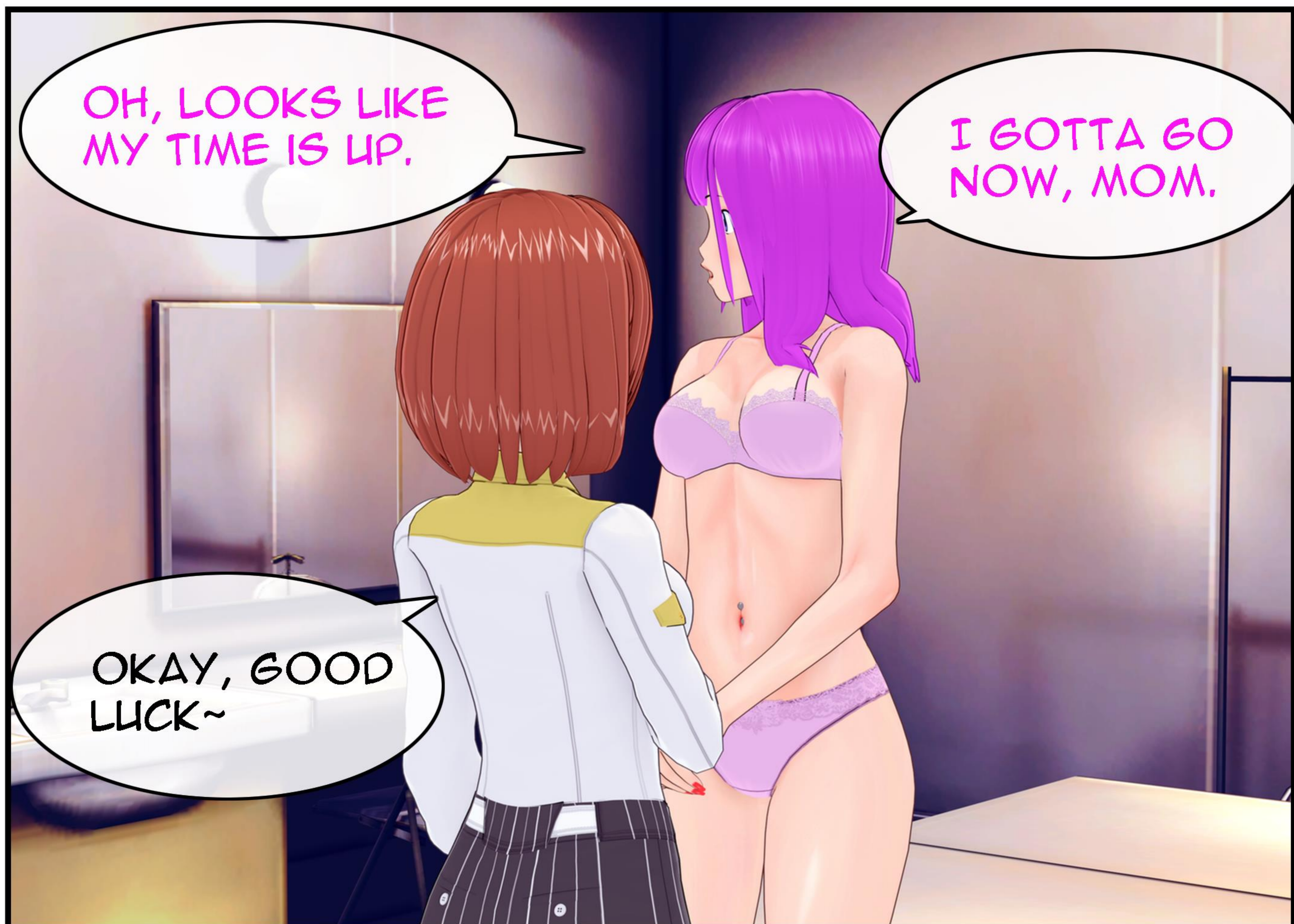
UGH, THAT SOUNDS SO WEIRD COMING FROM YOU, MOM.



BUT A- ALRIGHT,
I PROMISE.

GOOD GOOD-

RIKA-CHAN, YOUR
BREAK IS OVER.
PLEASE COME TO
THE STAGE.



OH, LOOKS LIKE
MY TIME IS UP.

I GOTTA GO
NOW, MOM.

OKAY, GOOD
LUCK~

DOOR CLOSE

AHHHHH~

WE ACTUALLY ACTED LIKE A MOTHER, AND DAUGHTER. OH GODDDD~

NOW, IT'S TIME TO GO OUT AND SEE HOW THE WHOLE THING PLAYS OUT~

OH MY GOD, THAT FELT LIKE A DREAM~

AND THAT WAS SO SMOOTH BY ME TOO, HEHE~

