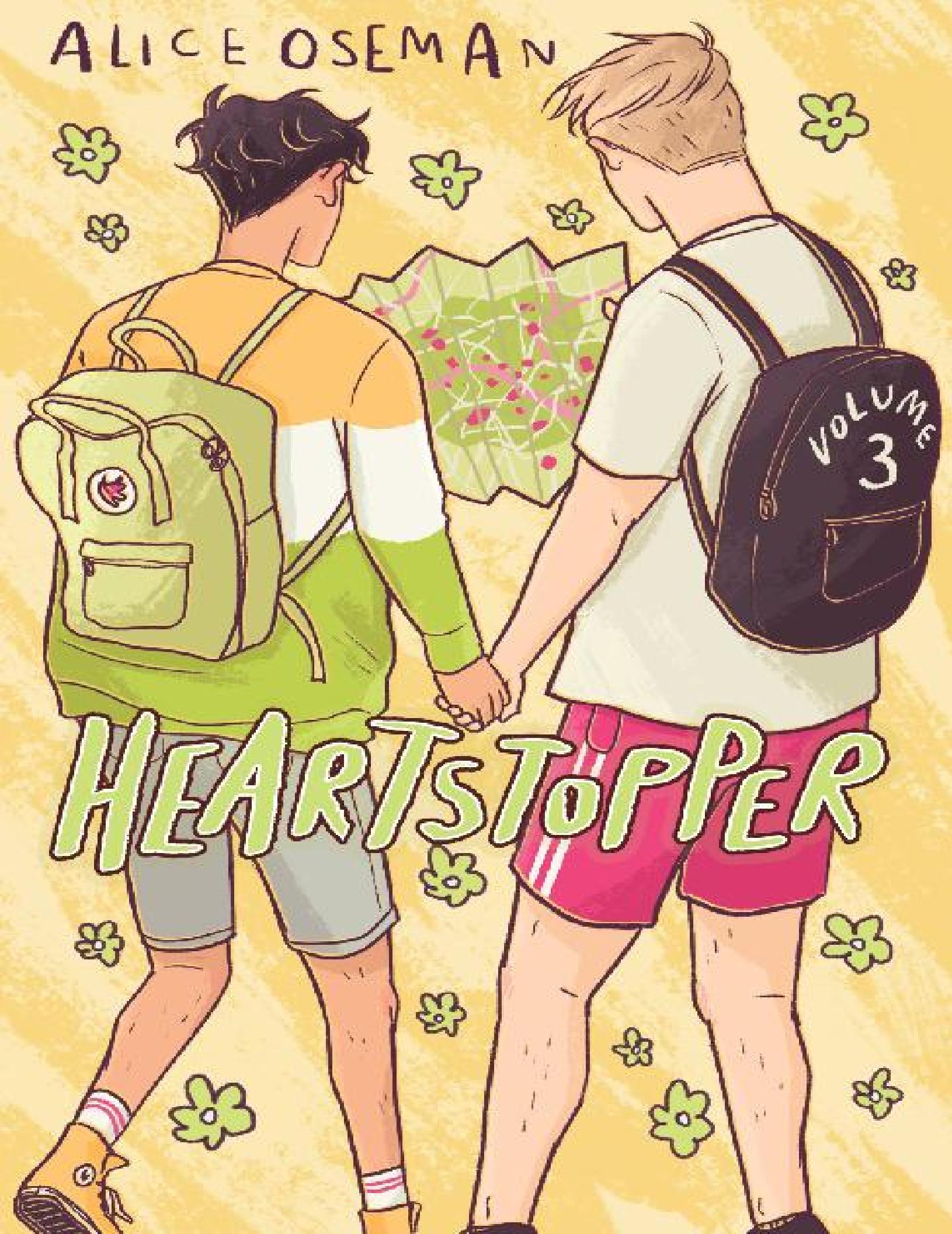
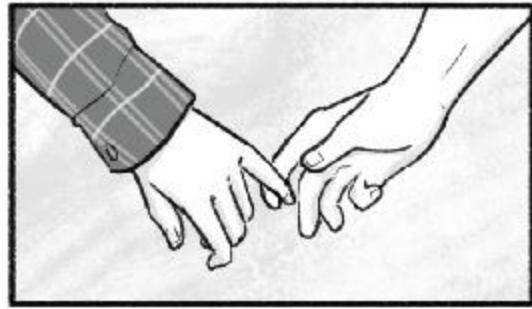


ALICE OSEMAN

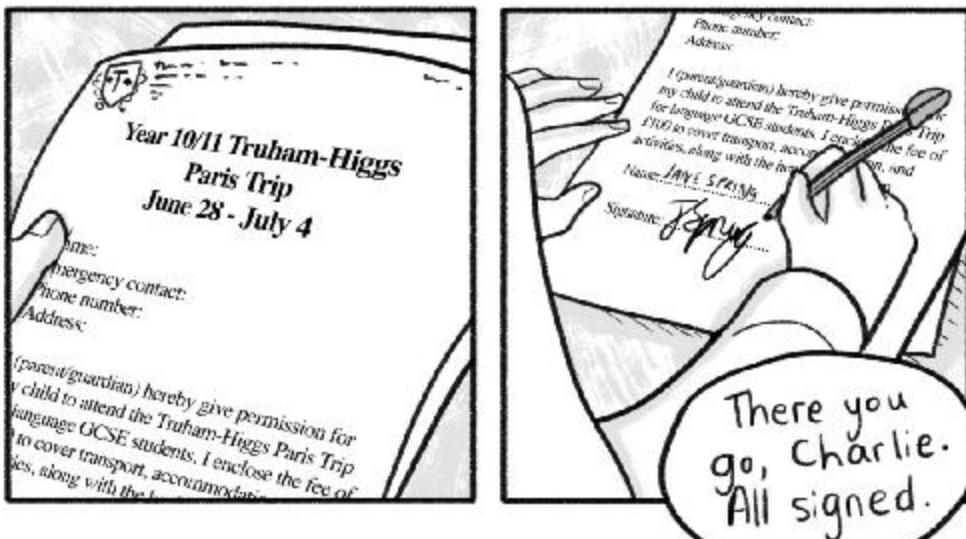


# HEARTSTOPPER



4. OUT











You didn't  
think he  
was gay?

Well... he's a bit  
of a 'jock'...  
isn't he?

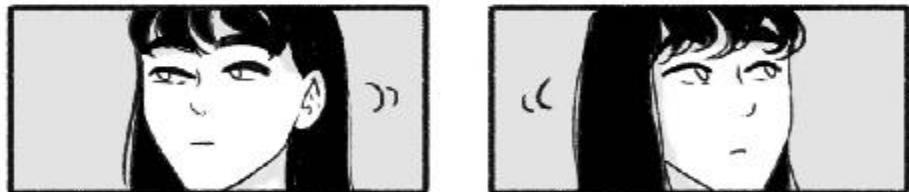
Being gay has nothing  
to do with that!!  
And for what it's  
worth, he's actually  
bisexual!















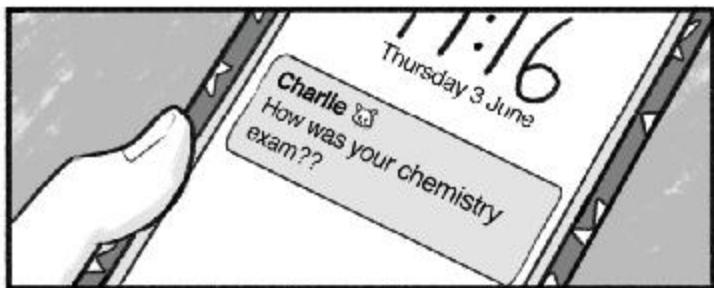


"I'll... meet you after?"  
"Yeah!!"





# JUNE





















ONE WEEK LATER







ha  
ha



Hey...when did you  
start feeling like that?



It doesn't  
matter! It's  
just exam  
stress!

I'm not  
saying you  
shouldn't  
come out!

Just...forget I  
said anything!!

charlie...







You can  
talk to me  
about it...?

Can you just...  
kiss me  
again...

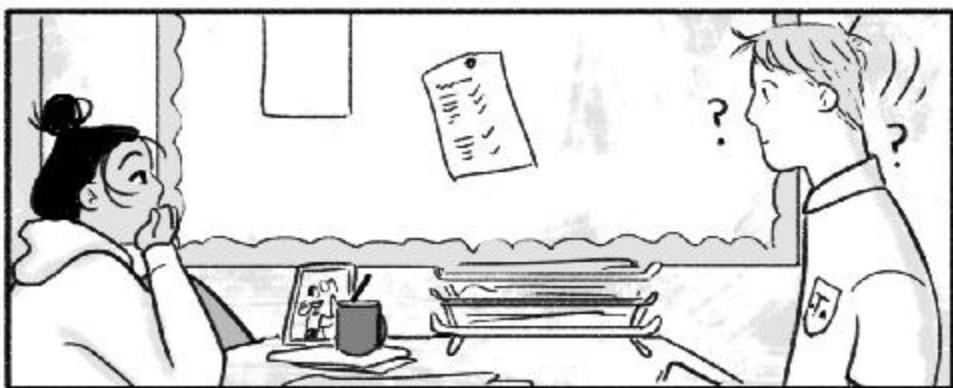














You're the heart and centre of this team, Nick. You have the talent to pursue rugby beyond school, if you want to.





And if any of the other boys do or say anything spiteful to you or Charlie, you just come straight to me, okay?

I'll sort them out.

.. Yeah.  
Yeah,  
I will.

Thanks  
miss.

I met my wife  
playing university  
sport in the early  
noughties.



People gave  
us a lot  
of shit.



Things are  
a little better  
now, but...  
you never  
know.











THE NEXT MORNING...





Well... I had something I wanted to ask you...

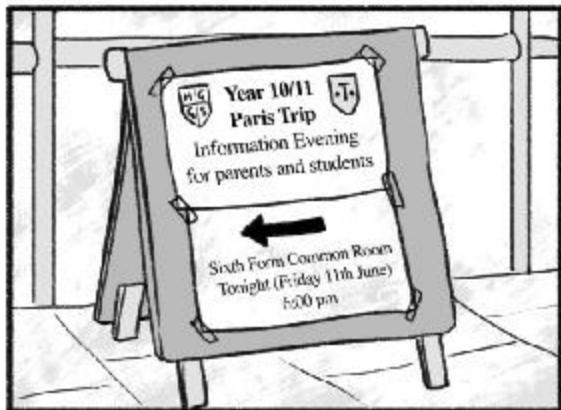


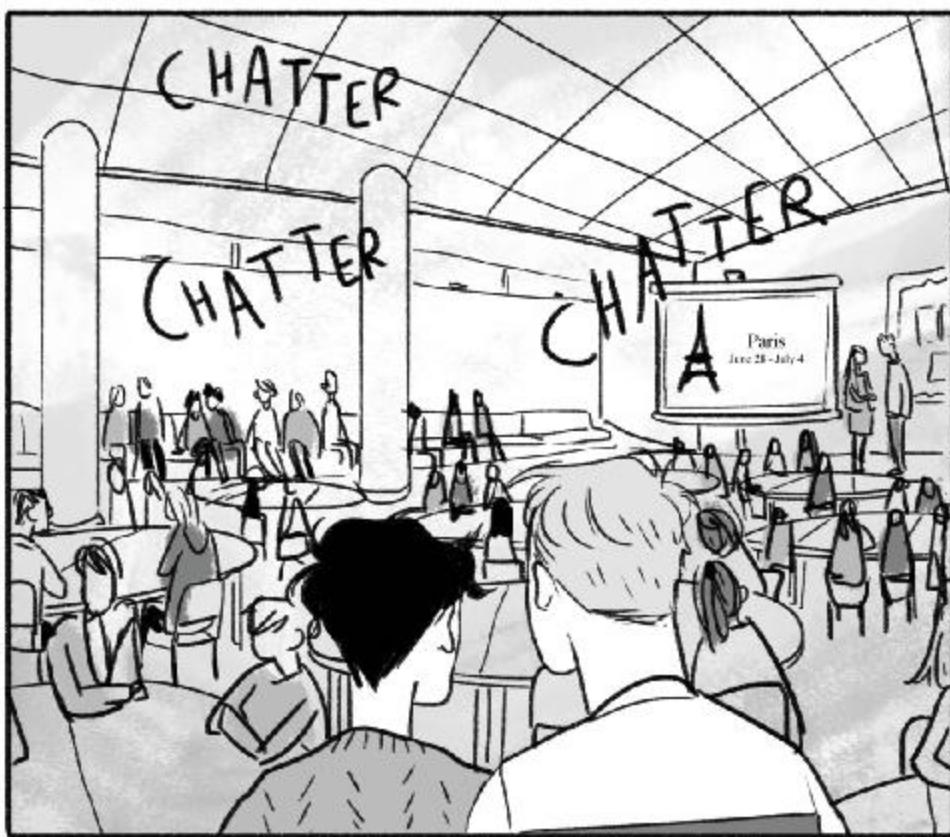




-but I still need to be able to hear myself to take the register...















Good evening, Year 10s and 11s of Truham and Higgs, and good evening parents!



We've got a lot of information to get through this evening.



My name is Mr. Ajayi! I teach art at Higgs.



And I'm Mr. Farouk.  
I teach physics  
at Truham.



We'll be supervising the Paris trip this year...

A





Now, we need one person from each group to come up to the front to write down your names.







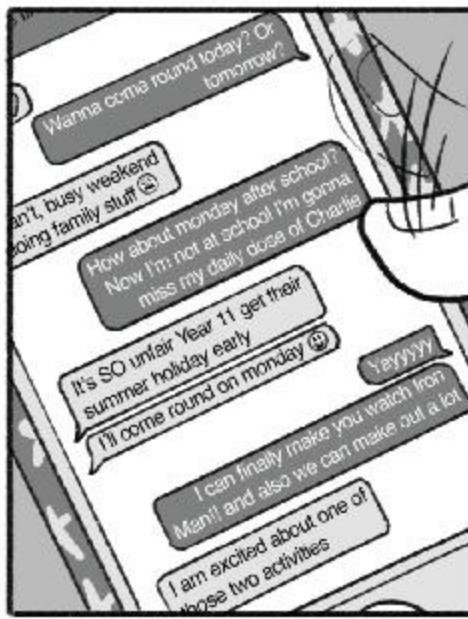
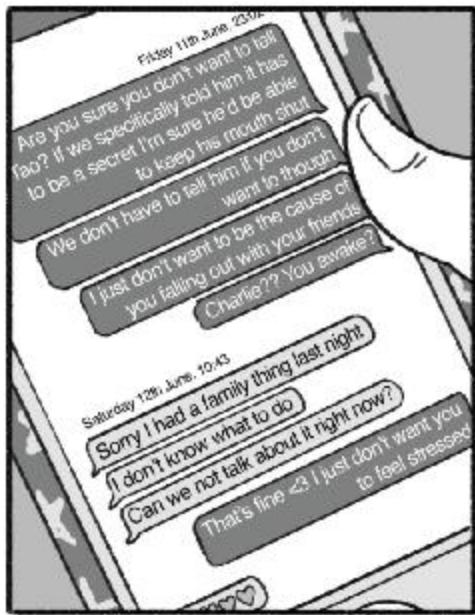


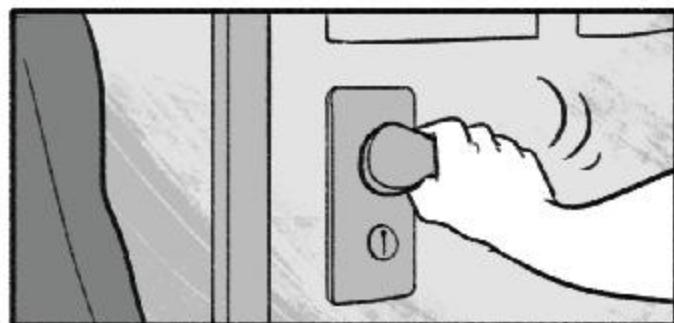




623









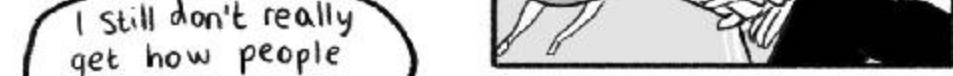






Hey,  
Char...





I still don't really get how people found out, though.



Like Aled said- he just spoke about it too loudly. And word spread around. Like, how did you find out I'm gay?

I dunno... I guess someone just told me.







Yeah...  
The  
bullying...  
It was  
really  
bad,  
and...



I started to believe  
what they were  
saying.



It made me  
really hate  
myself.

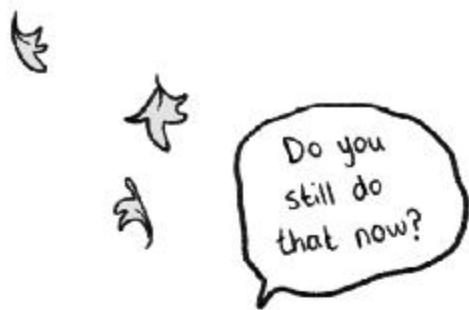
so much  
that  
I...



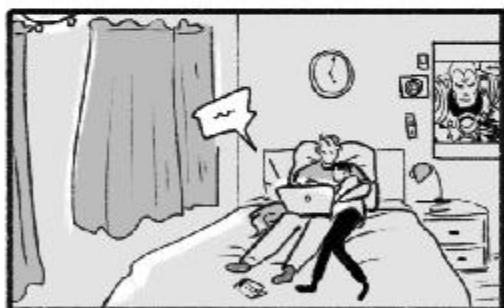
I used  
to...  
um...





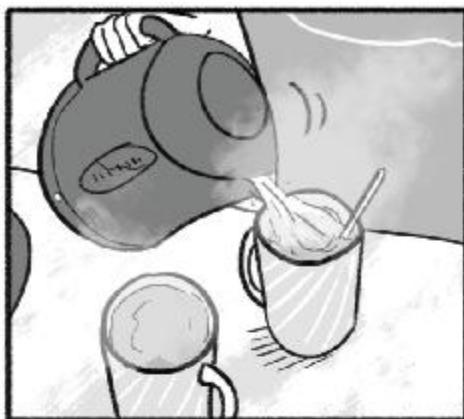
























Nick...



Um...  
should I  
go home?



I...  
Maybe that's a good  
idea. I'm so sorry. I  
don't want him to  
start picking on  
you too.





at



23:18

Why is being out so complicated?





Are you awake?



652





SHIT sorry I meant to message you!!!

My brother's being a dick, he literally won't stop  
pestering me

Might be better if you don't come round here until  
he's back at uni





It was my fault for not telling him sooner tbh



No! You shouldn't have to tell him if you didn't want to



I guess he would have found out eventually one way or another. I should probably call my dad soon and tell him too



You don't have to! you can take your time!



I want him to know about you!! Plus I want to be the one to tell him, not David



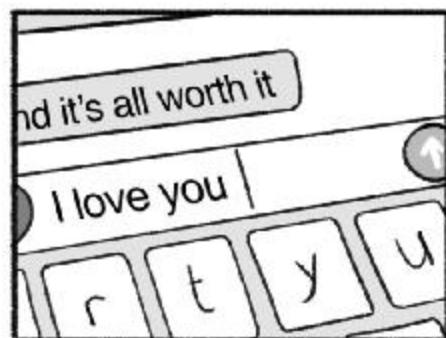
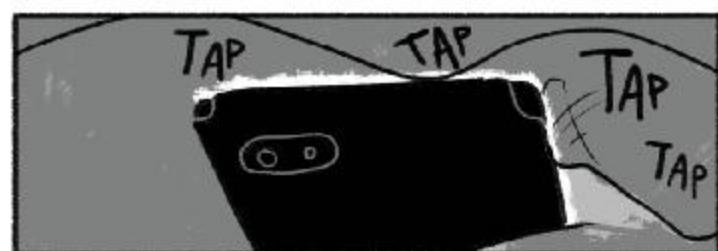


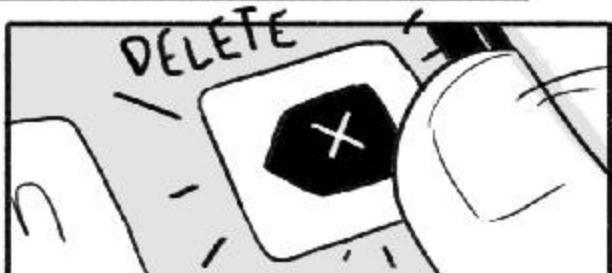
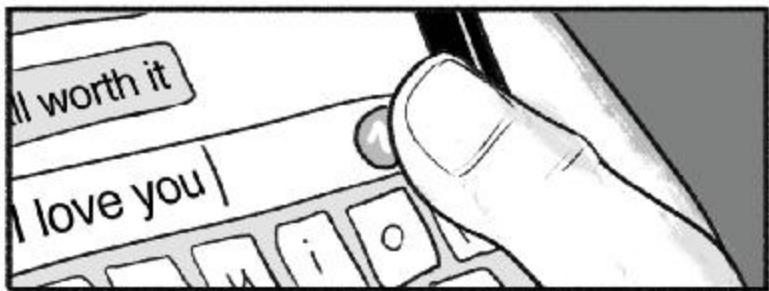
Charlie this is NOT your fault!!!!!!!

Coming out is HARD and COMPLICATED, right???

And it doesn't all happen at once! And it doesn't always go right! Sometimes it probably doesn't even happen at all!! Coming out to my mum was amazing but I never expected it to go super well with everyone!! And it's not YOUR fault!  
I just want people to know who I am and know that you're my boyfriend and I know that not everyone will like it but I'm ready for that. We're probably gonna have to come out hundreds more times in our lives!!



















This whole deal with you and Nick being out to people... I think you need to stop worrying about anyone else's feelings.







This is about you and Nick.





I just...



I don't  
want what  
happened to  
me to  
happen to  
Nick



Anyway...  
tell me about  
this boy



Wha-  
no

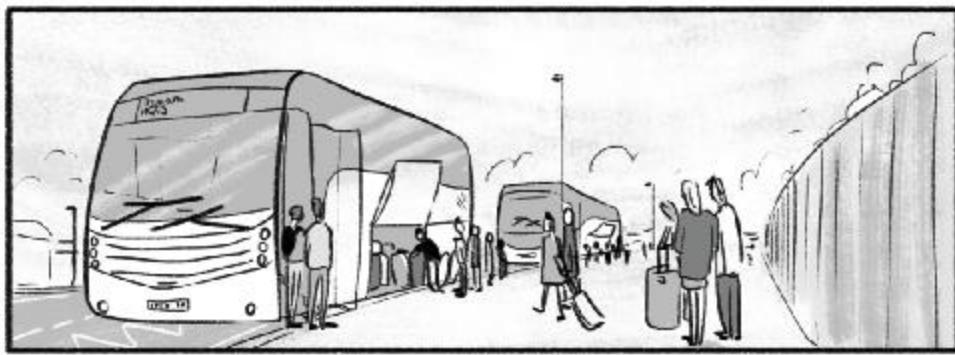


Come onnn...  
not even  
his name?



Um... it's  
Daniel...

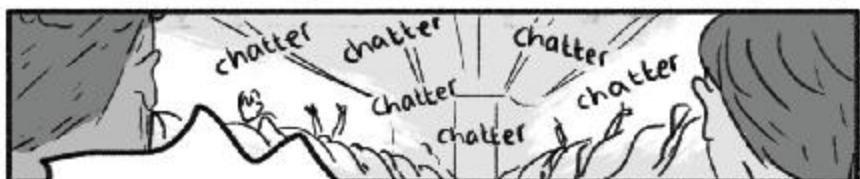




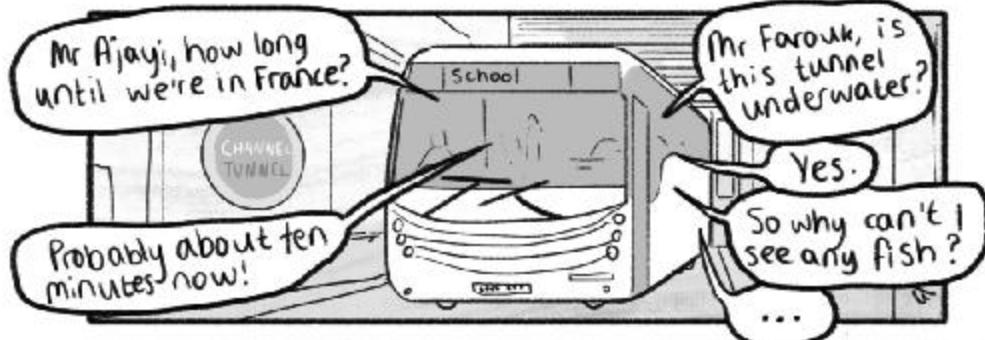














3 2

3 2



675







Well I want the other bed, then!  
I hate getting woken up by the sun

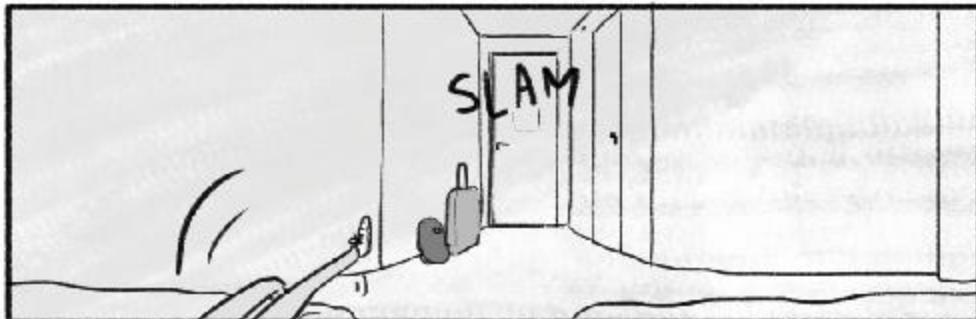
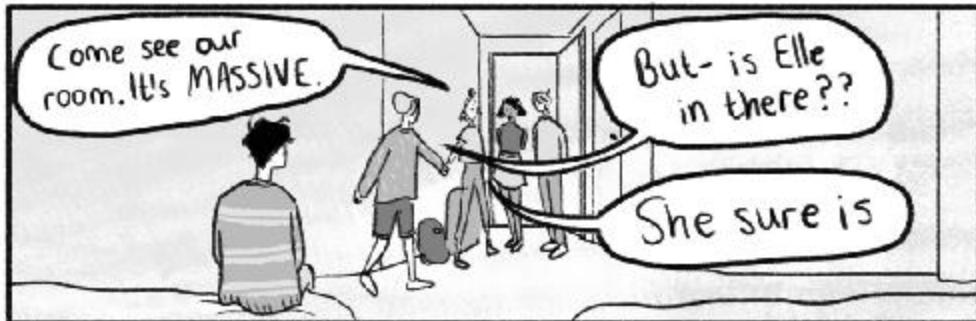


Um... I guess  
... I'll go  
with Tao  
and you go  
with Aled?

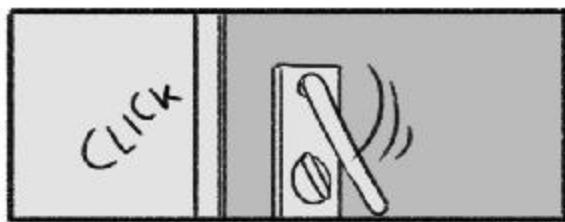
Yeah...





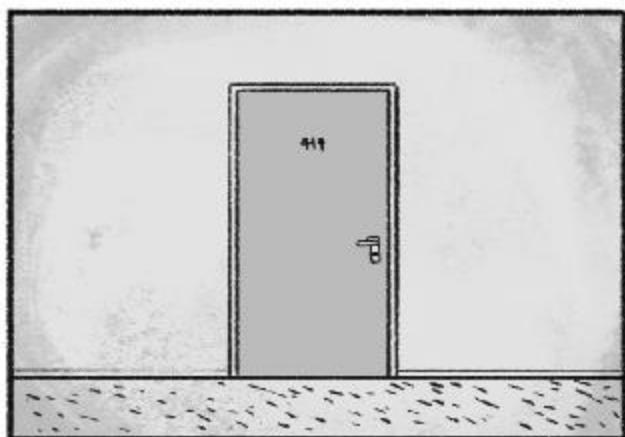














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Paris - Day 2



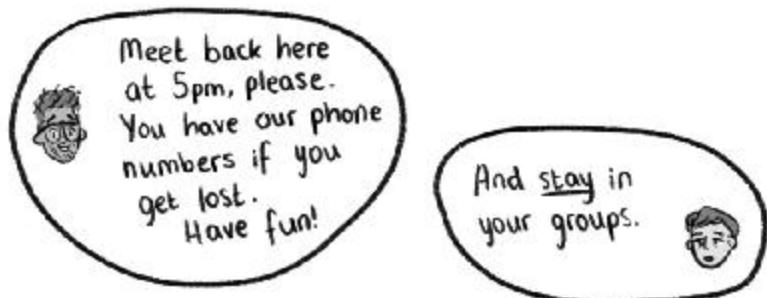


689





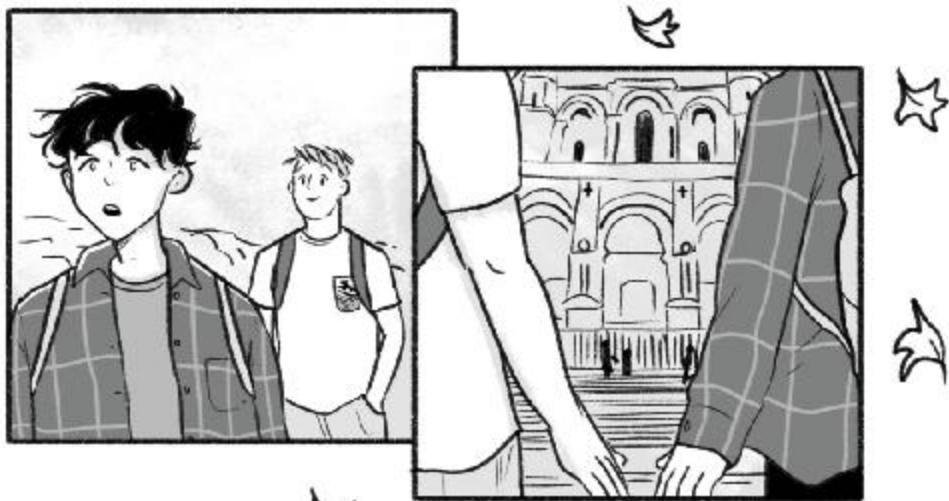
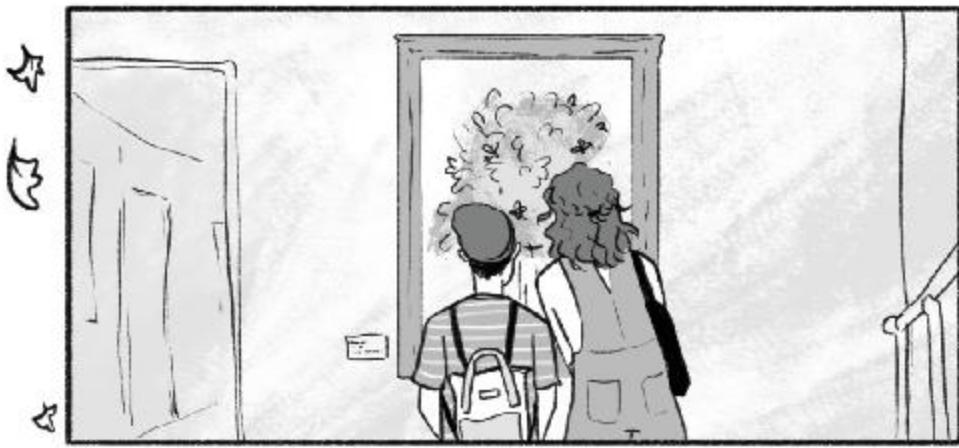






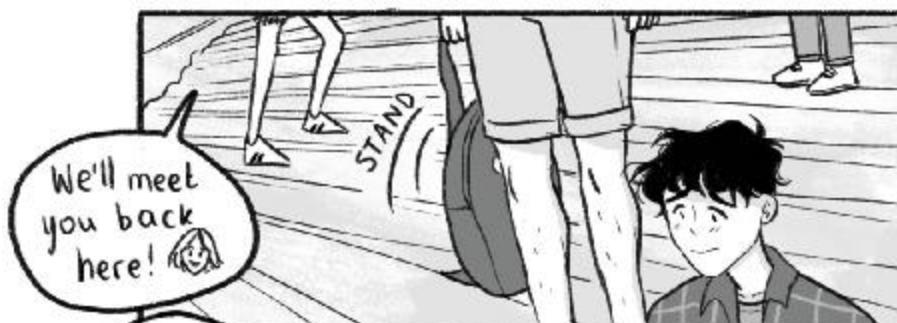












Okay!



Hey, Aled...

Have you noticed  
that Charlie doesn't  
really eat much?







SINCE WHEN!?  
Since... his birth?







How did you and  
Darcy get over the fear  
of people knowing  
you're together?





Darcy was already out. We'd been dating for a while and most of our friends knew. But other people were starting to guess too.



At our school, 'lesbian' was used as an insult all the time. I probably even used it once or twice when I was younger.

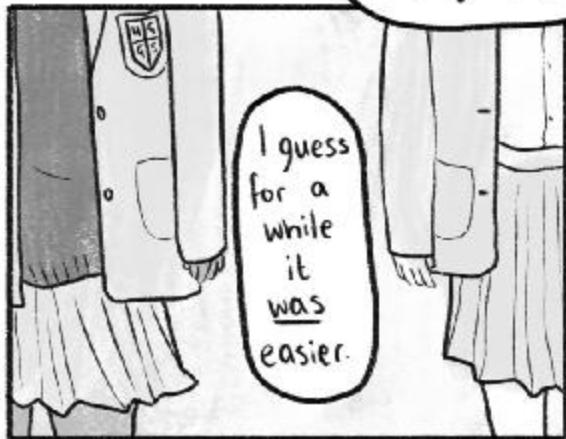


We were terrified.



It took me a long time  
to even feel comfortable  
calling myself a  
lesbian.

And for a while,  
we thought it'd be  
easier to pretend we  
were just friends.



I guess  
for a  
while  
it  
was  
easier.

But, in time, we got more  
comfortable being us.



We reached the point where we knew that  
whatever people said or thought about us,  
we knew who we were



And we loved ourselves anyway.





Tara Jones is in a relationship with Darcy Olsson

2 You and 235 others

46 comments



I don't want him to feel like he needs to be out just because I'm out.



But do you want to be out as a couple?

...yeah

And does he?

Well...he said he does

So maybe you should just let it happen. It doesn't have to be a big dramatic announcement. You can just be you.

And if it goes badly, well... you can deal with it together.



So, absolute disaster,  
Jonesy-











Hey Tao... how'd it go with Elle today?





You don't get it.



Elle is literally the most amazing person in the world.

She's been through so much shit. Like, I was her friend when she came out as trans and that was not a fun time for her.



\* She's been through all that and now she's finally enjoying herself with new friends at a new school.

\* The last thing she needs is me throwing a curveball and messing up our friendship.



720











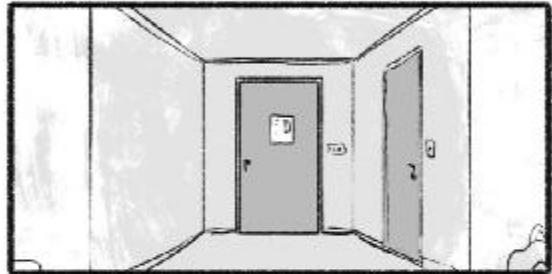












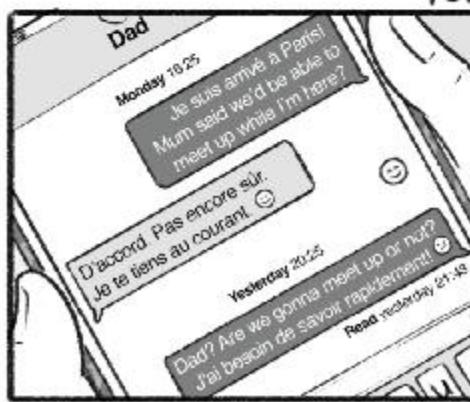
Nick... we're gonna get  
caught. We should  
stop.





Paris - Day 3





733















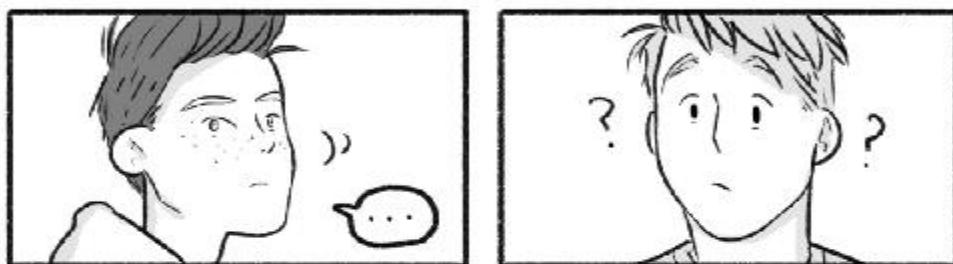




742



All right, lads.  
Fucking leave them alone.





I was thinking about it and...  
I don't think I even mind if  
people find out it was me.



I honestly think it'd be a  
relief to just... be out.







The person you are calling is  
unavailable. Please leave a  
message after-





That's a  
good one!





Me and Nick  
are dating.





Actually... it's been going on for a few months. We've been going out since April.













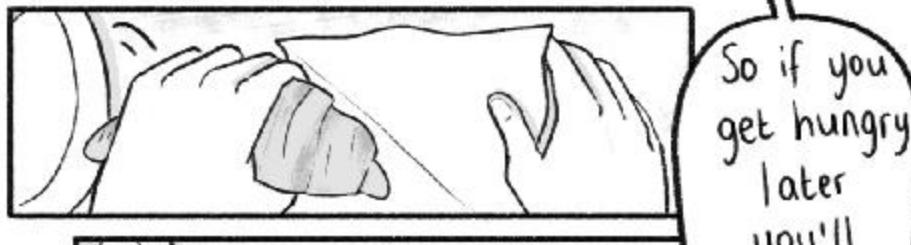


Paris - Day 4











You have  
until 2pm -  
that's four whole  
hours to explore  
the Louvre!

It's a very hot  
day today so  
make sure you  
stay hydrated!

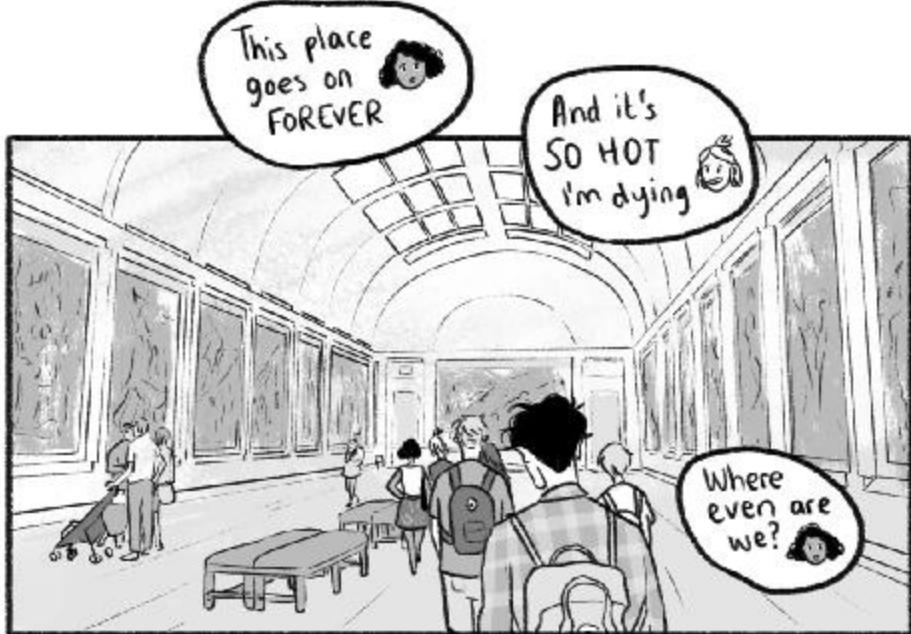
And PLEASE  
try not to  
get lost.























Kind of... but I'm glad you did!!

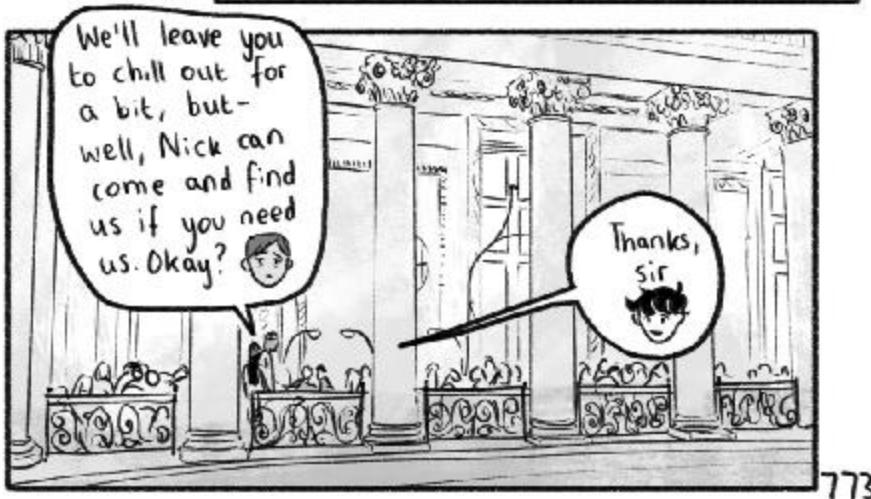


Yeah, just... really embarrassed

Why were you wearing a beanie at a swimming pool??



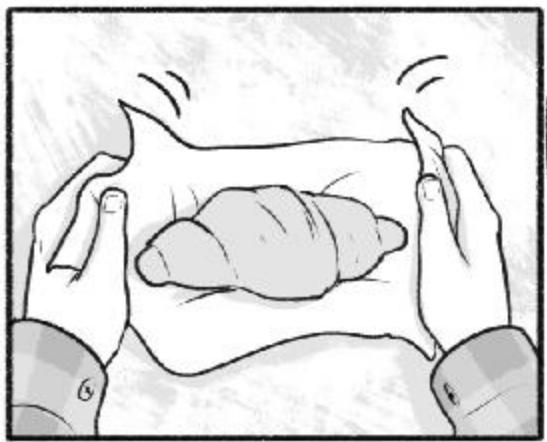
THIS UPDATE MAY TRIGGER SOME PEOPLE. TO SEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIGGERING MATERIAL, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE UPDATE NOTES. THANKS!





I guess I thought you were just a picky eater, but... I mean, you've barely eaten anything this week and you just passed out and now I'm worried.









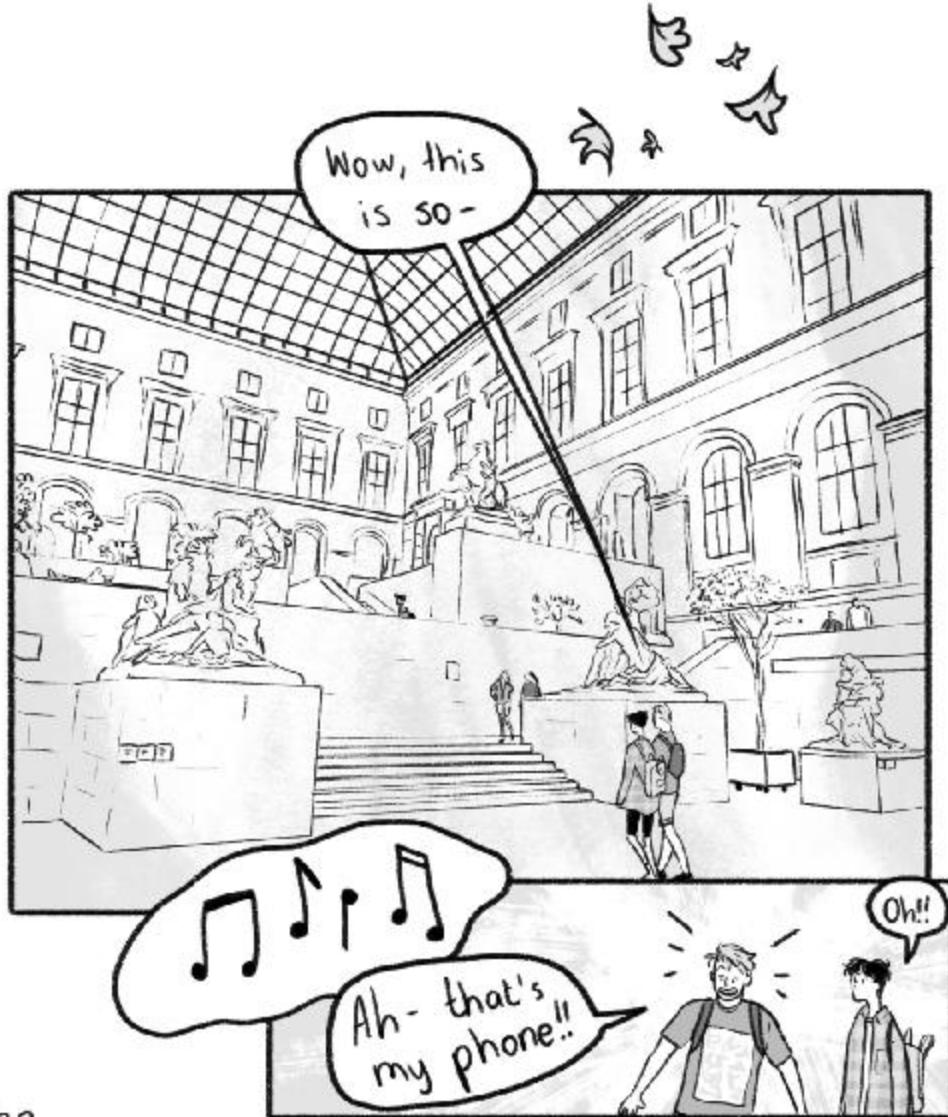




780



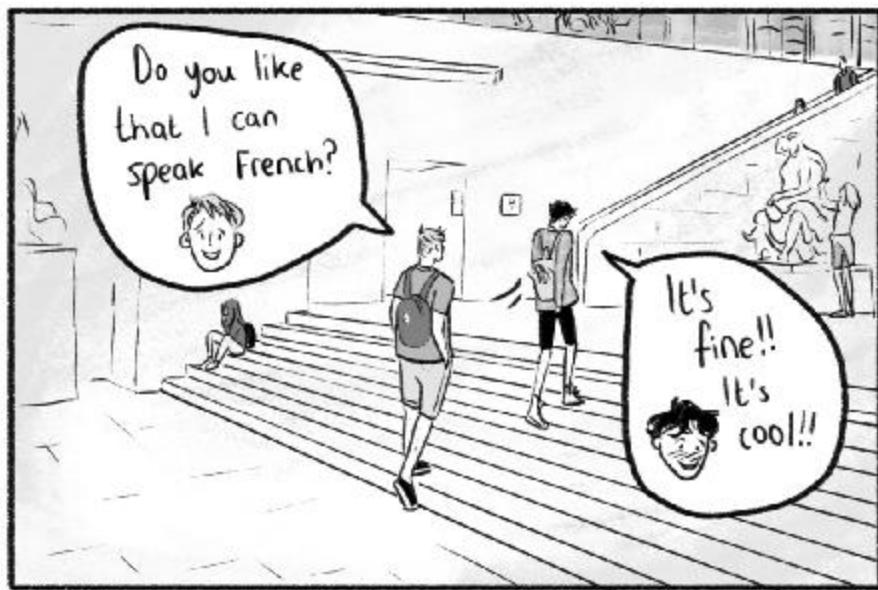










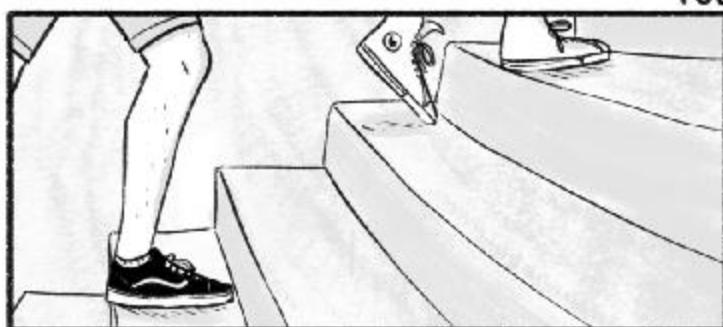






Anyway, what did your dad want? I can't believe I didn't know he was French!

Oh yeah! I wanted to try and meet up with him but he said he's too busy with work.











I love you  
I love you







I feel horrible about fucking up last year but I shouldn't pass that guilt onto you. I made a really stupid, idiotic mistake and you suffered really badly because of it.



So...



I will be  
a better  
friend and  
less of an  
idiot.  
I promise.









Paris - Day 5





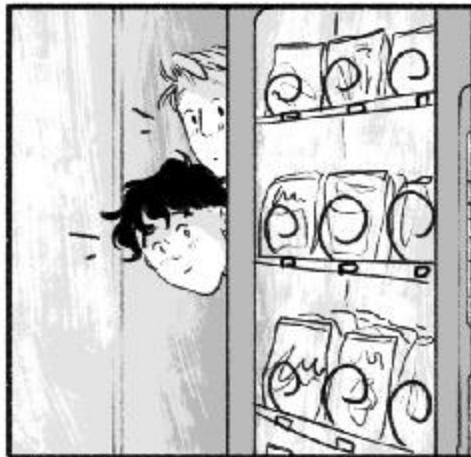








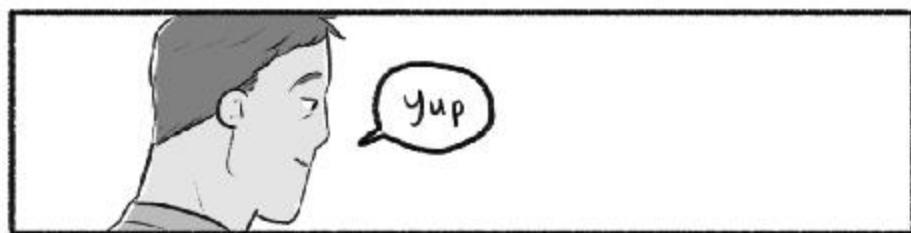






807









Paris - Day 6

Haaaappy Biiiirthdaaaay ♪  
♪ tooooo yoooooUVVVV..!!



811



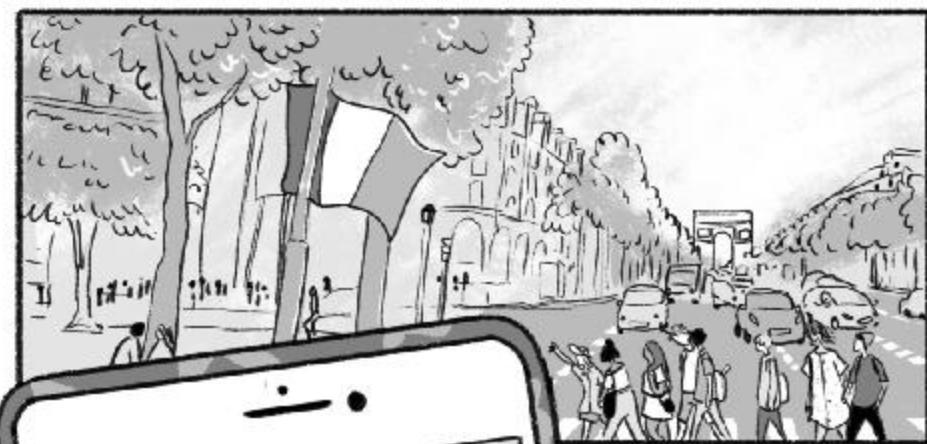




813











Tara Jones + 39 others

- Tara Jones  
Casual party in my room from 9pm!!  
Room 317!! Everyone's welcome 😊  
and you can wear PJs!
- Darcy Ollson  
PLEASE BRING SNACKS IF YOU HAVE ANY. ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE PRINGLES  
also I have vodka 🥃
- Katie Lee  
Yassss we'll be there!
- Tom Jaeger  
CAN'T WAIT
- Aleena Bukhsh  
omg darcy how did you get vodka
- Darcy Ollson  
i have my ways
- Jared Lambe  
YEEEEEE LET'S GET LIT
- Charlie Spring  
we'll be there!!!!!!

That night ...



















THIS UPDATE MAY TRIGGER SOME PEOPLE. TO SEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIGGERING MATERIAL, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE UPDATE NOTES. THANKS!











Ahem.











835





836

A little while later...



837











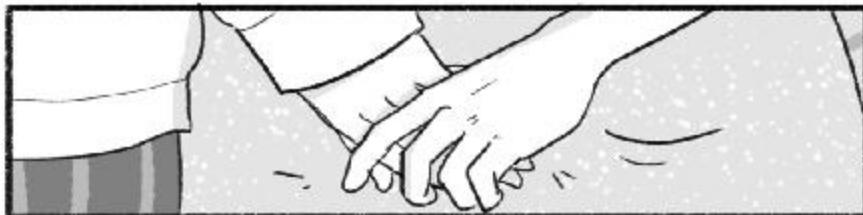
You don't get  
to ambush me  
into forgiving  
you in front  
of everyone.

One "sorry"  
doesn't  
make up  
for all  
the things  
you said.

So  
**Congrats**  
on your incredibly  
difficult realisation  
that gay people  
actually do  
have feelings

and have  
a nice  
life ❤





"TOUCH"

844



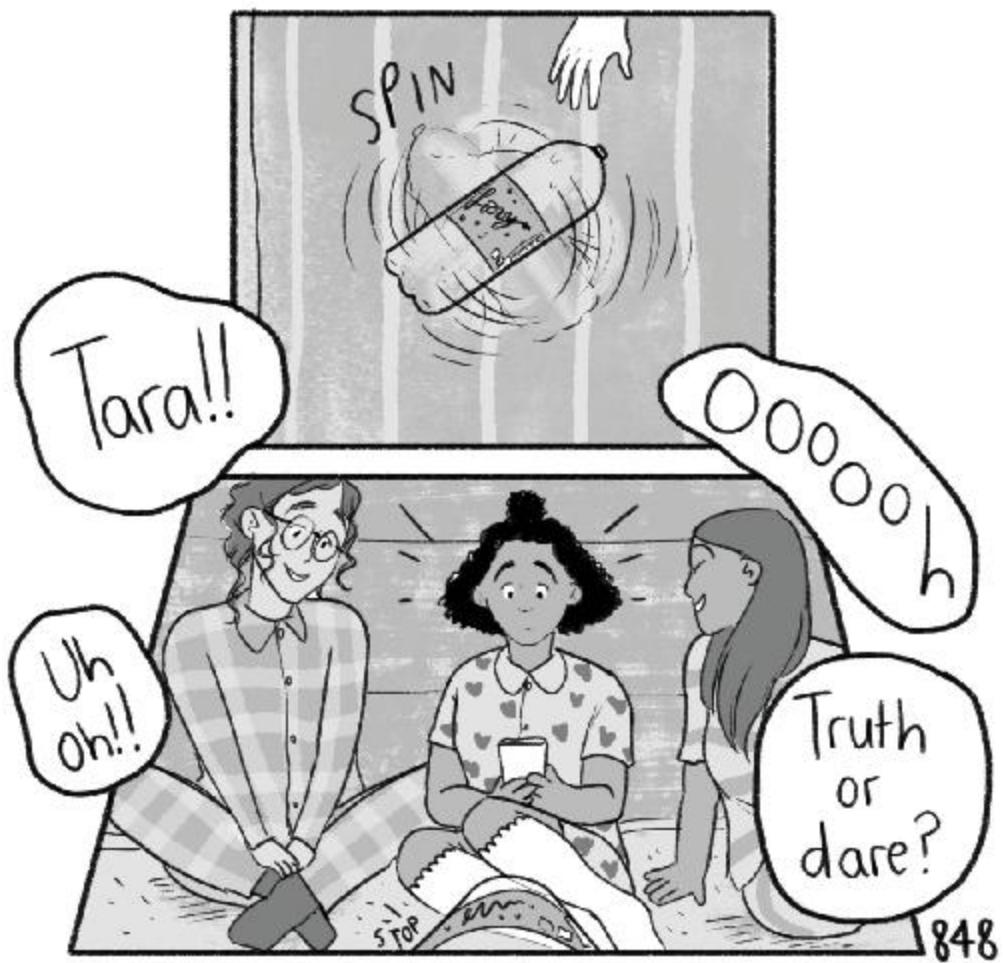


THIS UPDATE MAY TRIGGER SOME PEOPLE. TO SEE A DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIGGERING MATERIAL, PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO THE UPDATE NOTES. THANKS!



Ahem~♥











Obviously dare.





853









I know  
who it was.









I feel...  
really ill ...



I knew  
it.

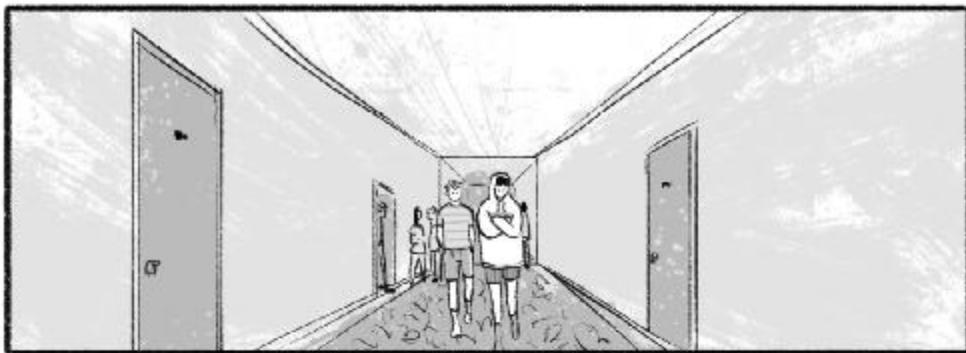






I WANT EVERYONE OUT EXCEPT  
TARA AND DARCY. EVERYONE ELSE  
GET BACK TO YOUR ROOMS NOW.









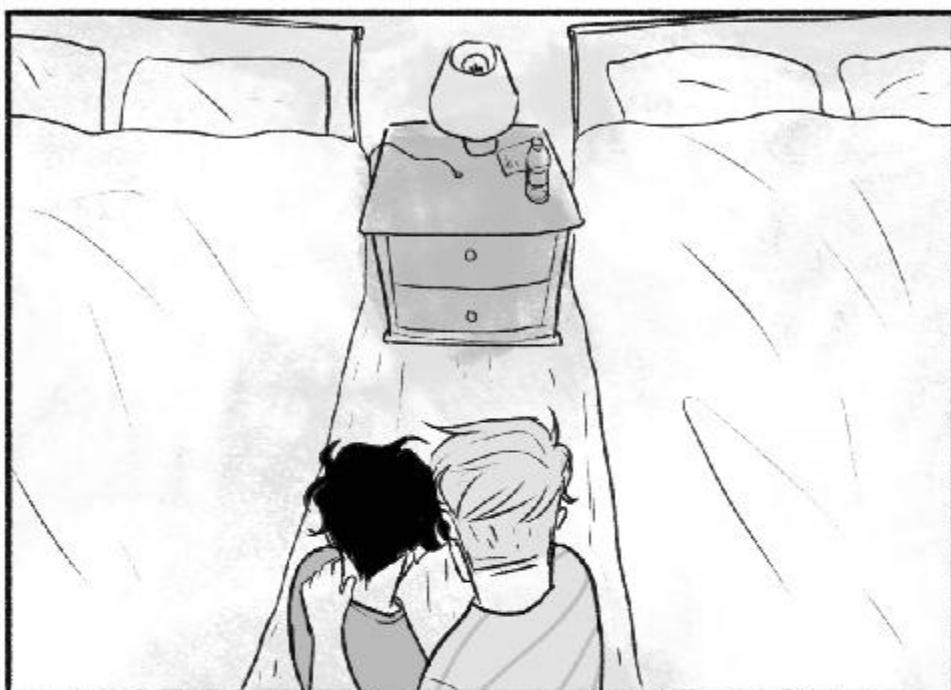




869







Since the  
room is  
ours  
tonight...





I could sleep in this  
bed with you?



Since we  
wanted  
to on  
Monday,  
but...  
then Tao  
was being  
Tao, and...  
yeah,  
haha































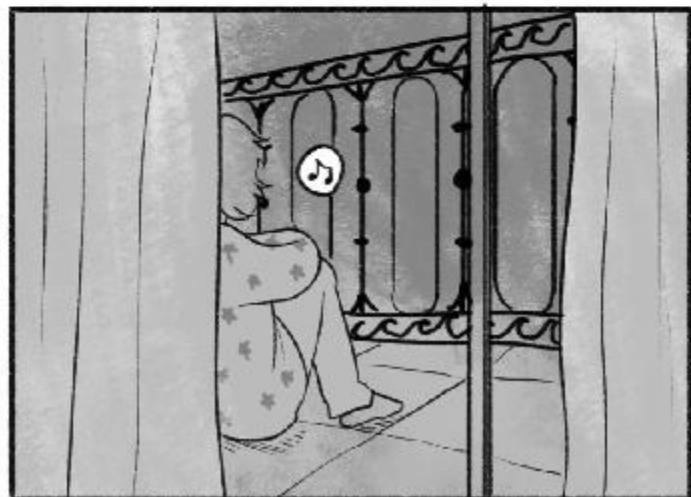
888







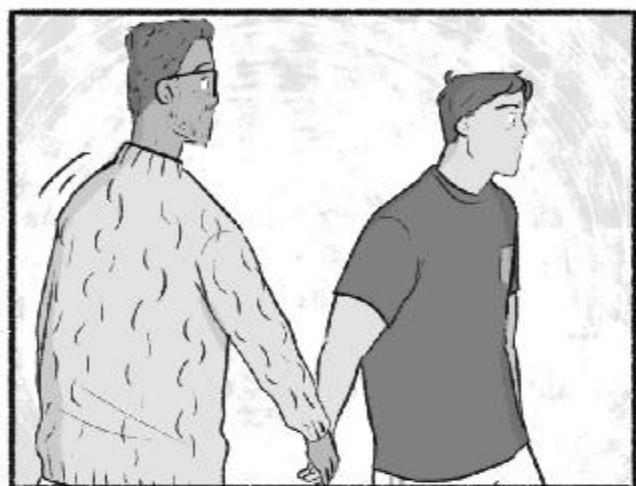




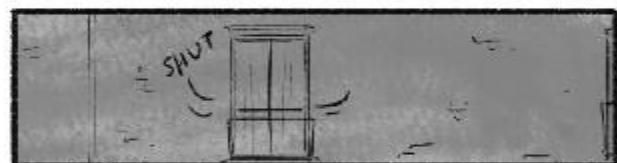












899

I wanna  
stay up  
all night

Same





Paris - Day 1



Come on.  
Onto the bus.  
We have a  
train to catch.





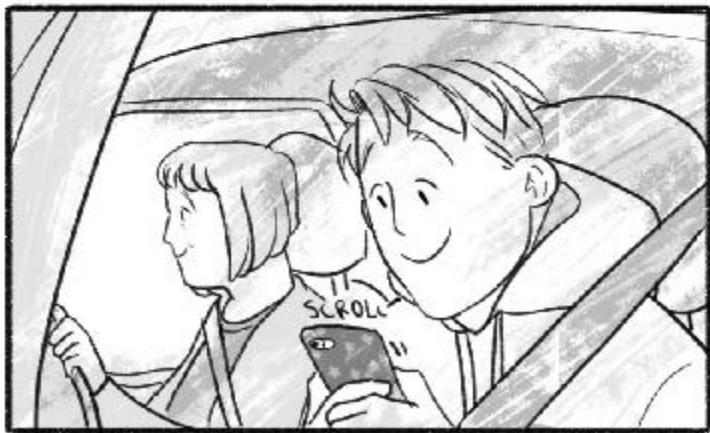
903







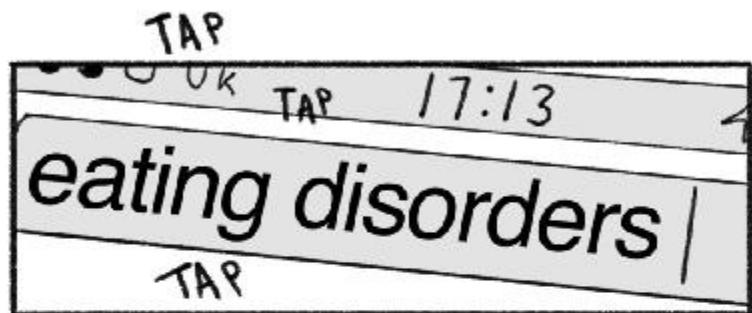








2



3

PRESS



4



5

909