

HEARTSTOPPER

VOLUME 1

ALICE OSEMAN

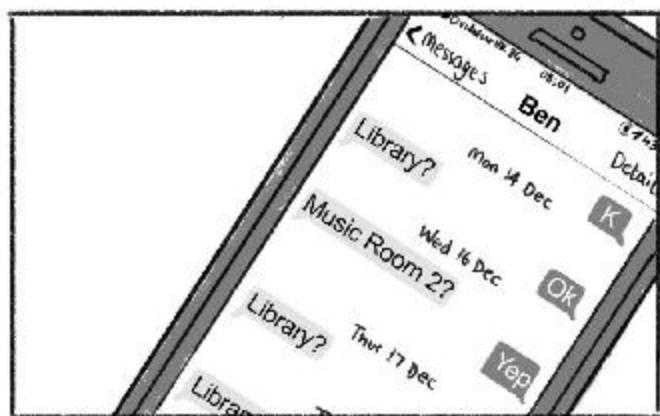


1. MEET



4

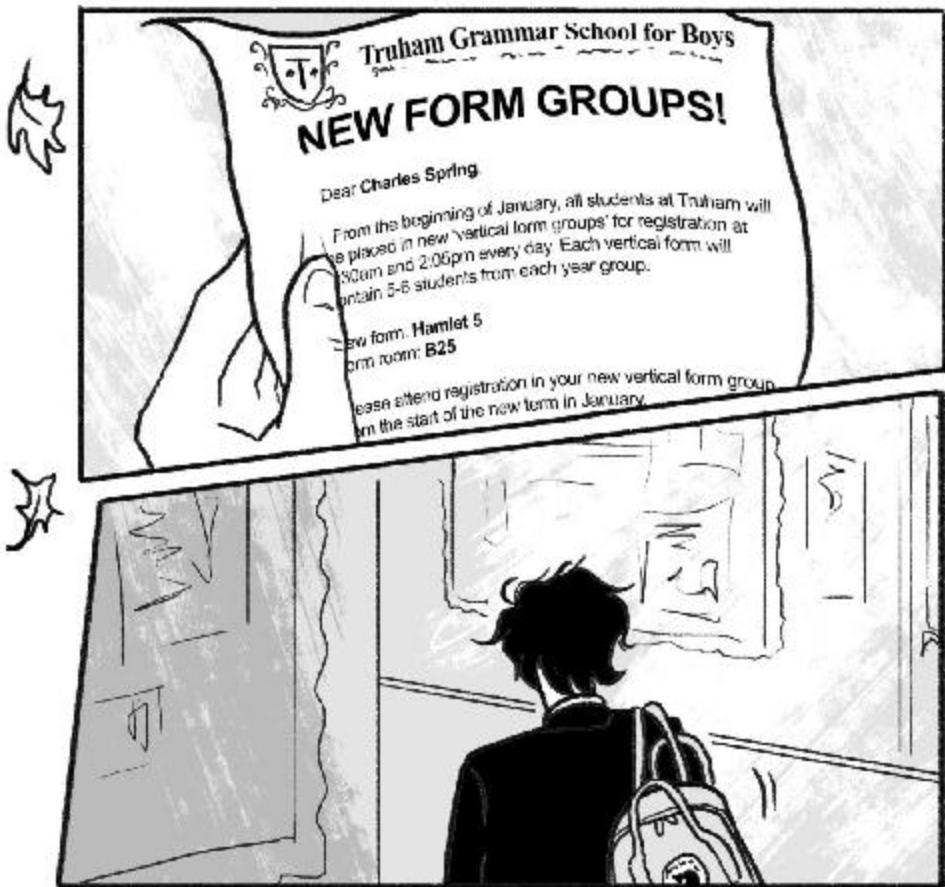
January

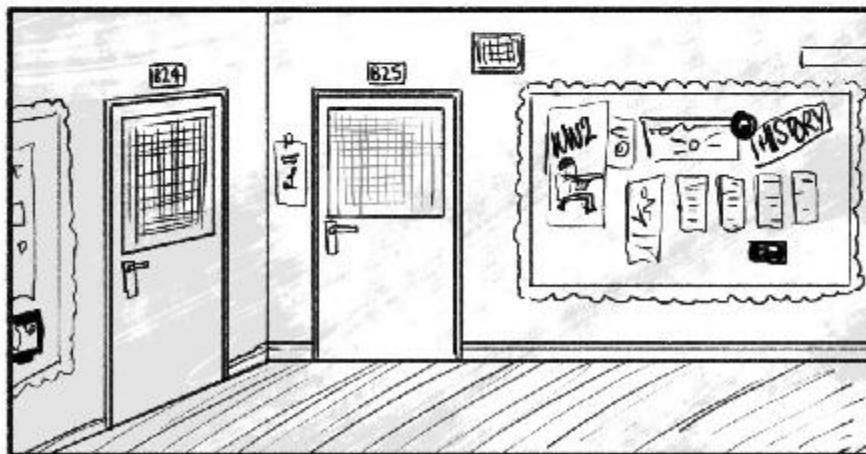


1









5



6













DAY 2



DAY 3



DAY 4





Er... Charlie?







Hopefully I'll miss some
of first period...
I have double science

Ugh! Who
d'you have?



17





beep
beep
beep











Er... yeah?

TAO XU (FRIEND)



So? Nick's
really nice!

But he's one of
the rugby lads!
He's friends with
Harry Greene, for
God's sake

COME ON.
He's a fucking chav.
He calls everyone 'mate'
and probably throws food
at people on the bus.

...he doesn't
call me
'mate', though





WHAT.



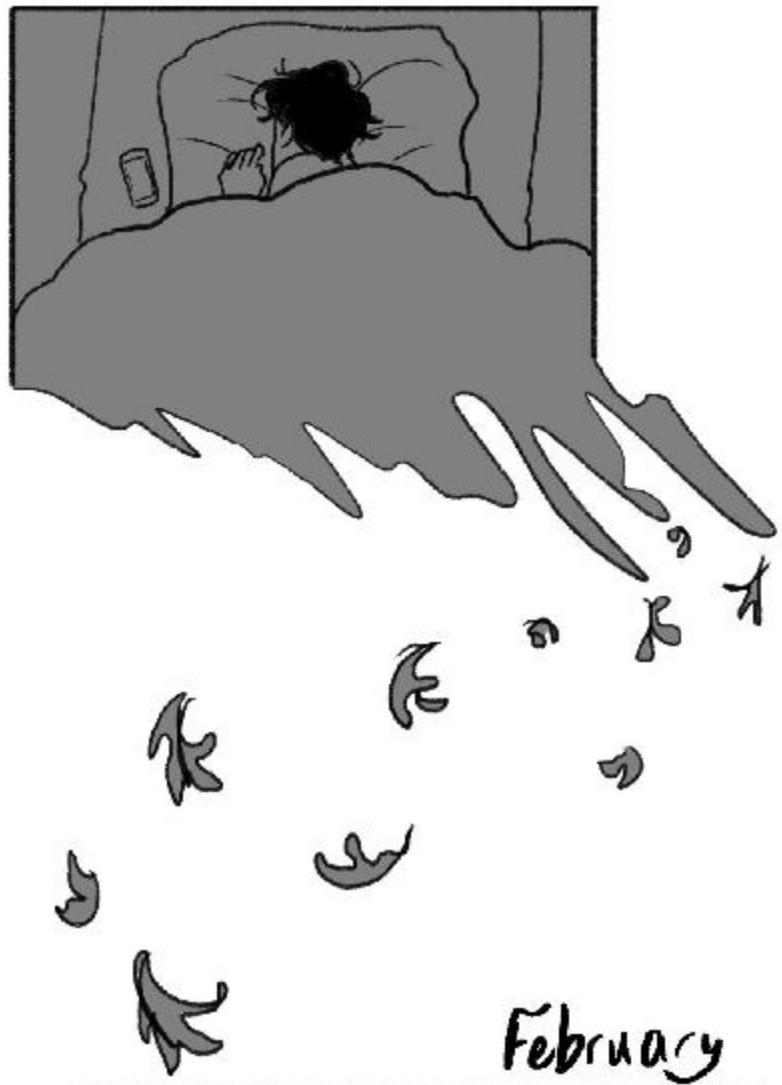


..haha...

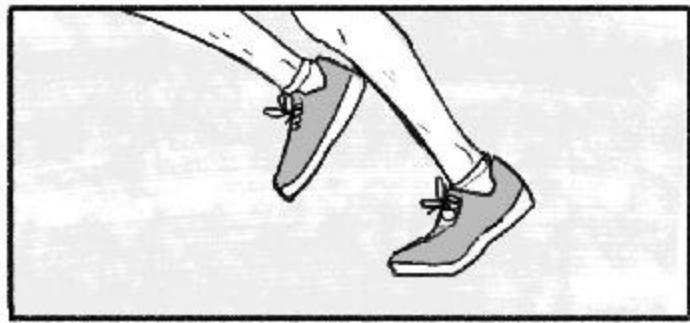






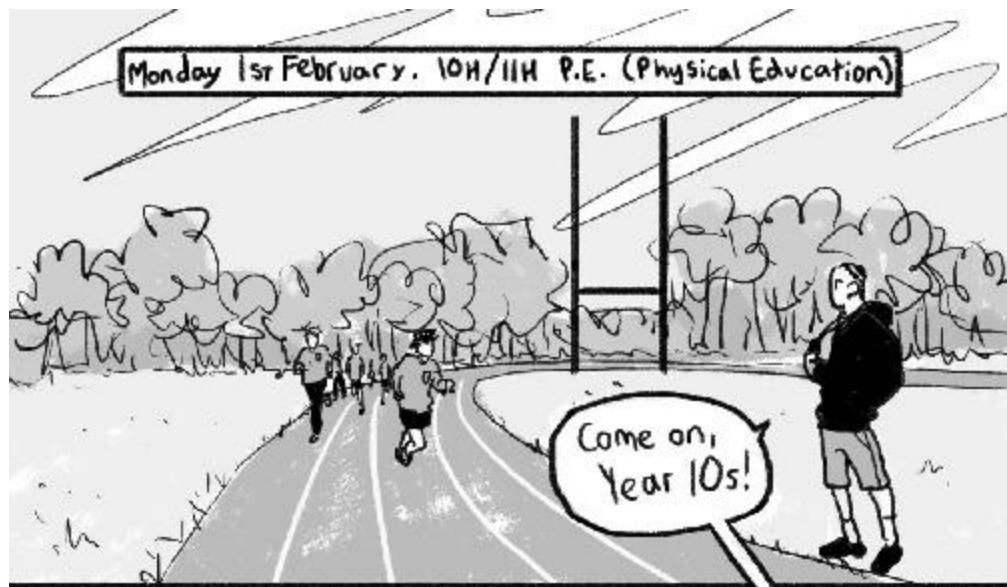


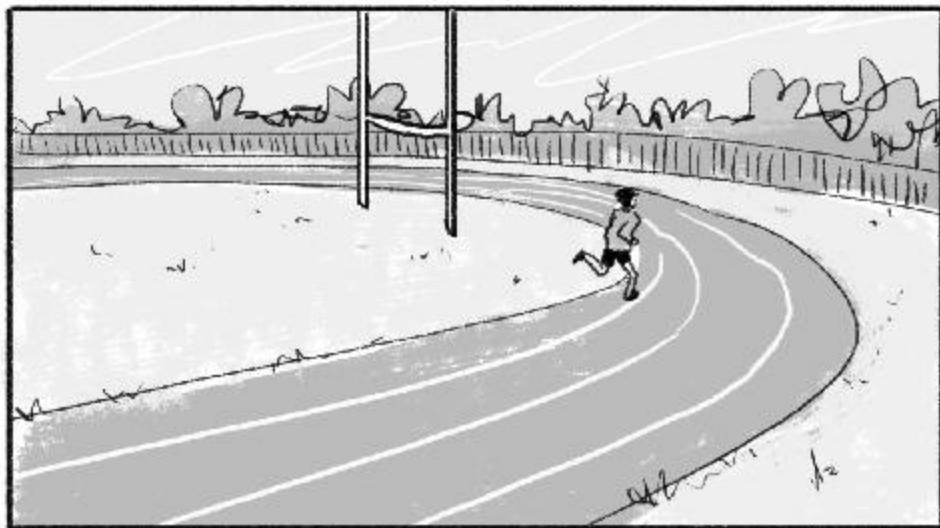
February



28

Monday 1st February. 10H/11H P.E. (Physical Education)







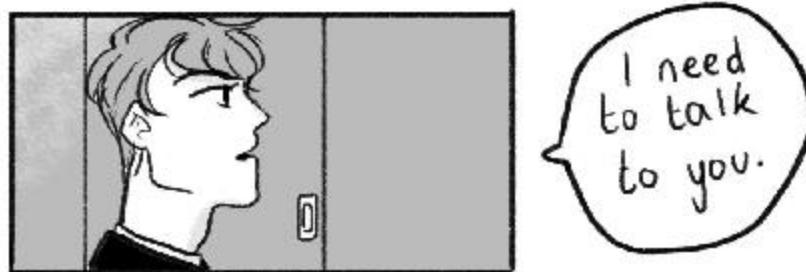
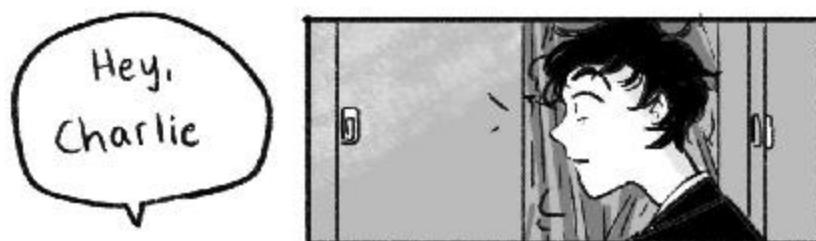
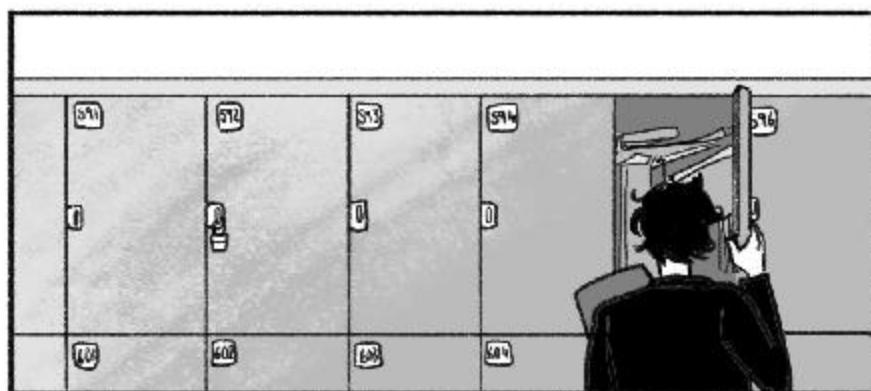
NICK!



Nothing











36



CHARLIE?













:- beep :-



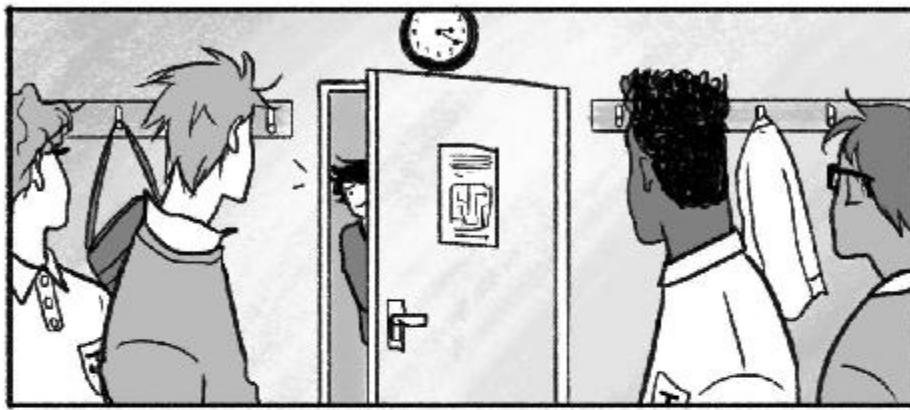


ONE WEEK LATER...





- CREAK -



Hey!





So there are 4 ways to score in rugby - a try, a conversion, a penalty, or a drop-goal.



A try is where you ground the ball over the line, conversions and penalties are where you get the chance to kick the ball at goal without being tackled, and a drop-goal is where you kick it through the posts during general play



I hope you're prepared for me to be absolutely crap.

You might be better than me, for all we know!



CHARLIE SPRING!!

50





Um













Want to
give it
a go?









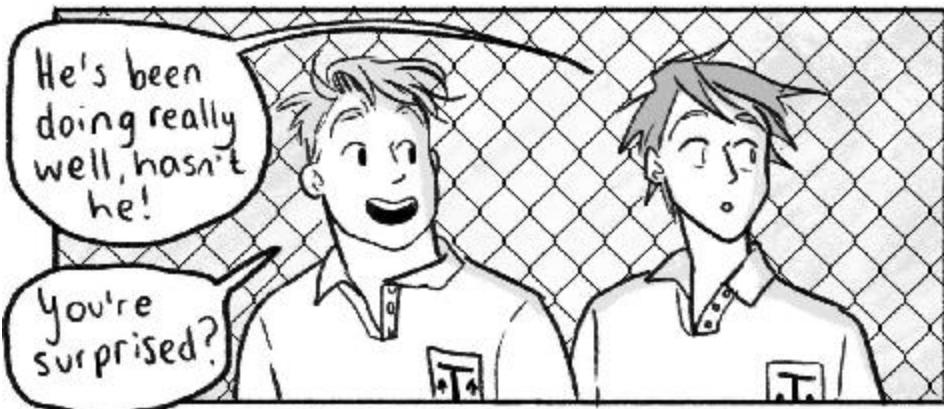
59







ONE WEEK LATER



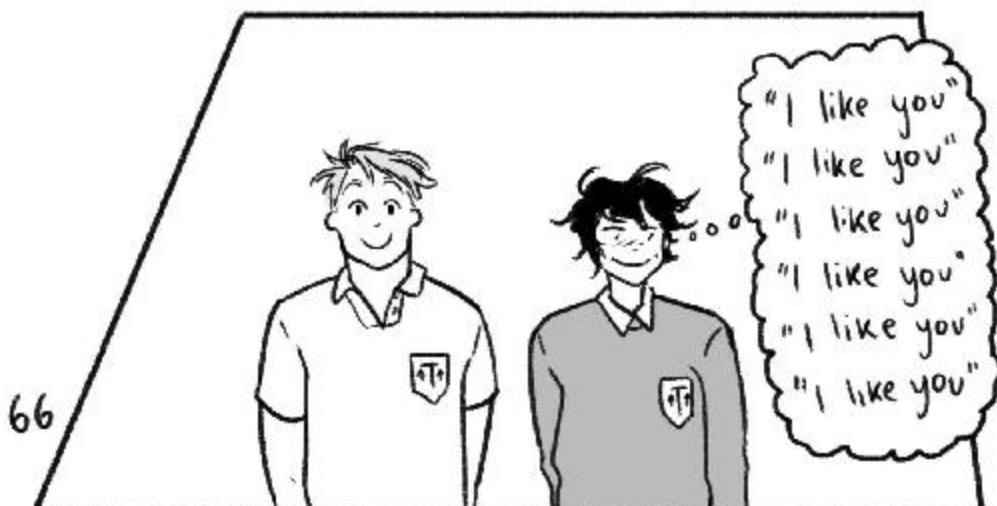






All of the older boys kinda remind me of the people who used to bully me.





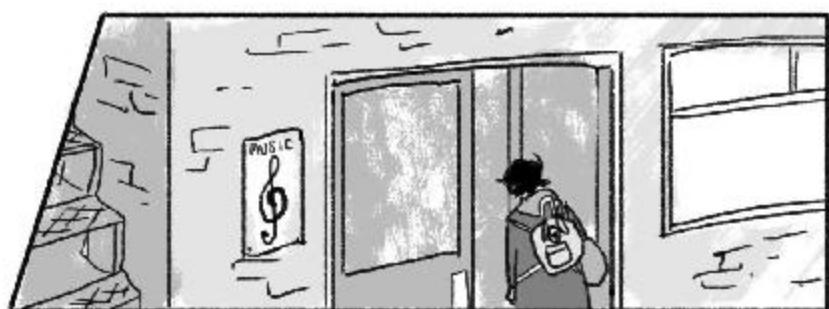
















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Why would I be scared? Everyone in the school already knows I'm gay! YOU'RE the one who's scared of getting caught! You're not even my boyfriend! I've seen you with your girlfriend at the school gate!!

You don't give a SHIT about me. You just found the nearest guy who was willing to make out with you and went for it!



YOU went for it too. Don't be angry at me for not wanting to come out yet.













4















I just... kind of
followed you... You seemed
really stressed out while
we were getting changed.

I just started getting
worried... er...
so... yeah.

FIVE MINUTES EARLIER



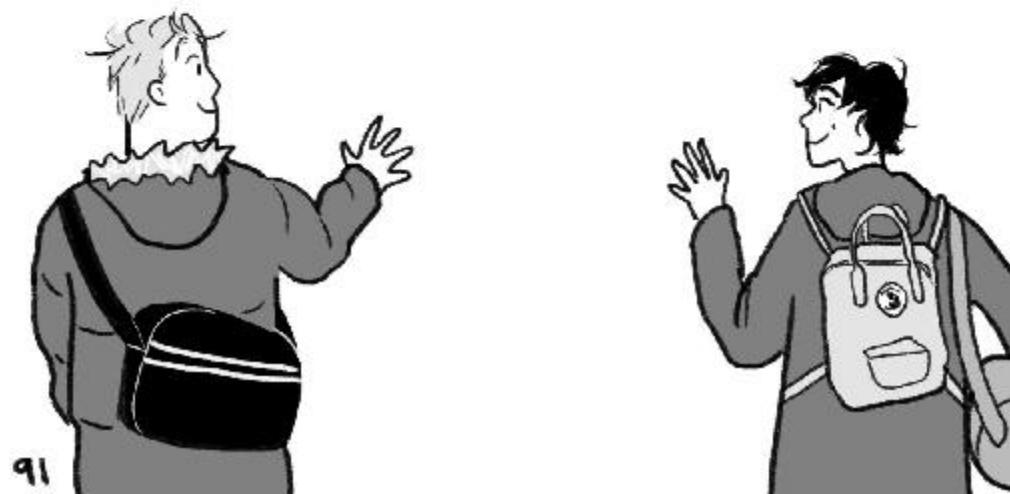
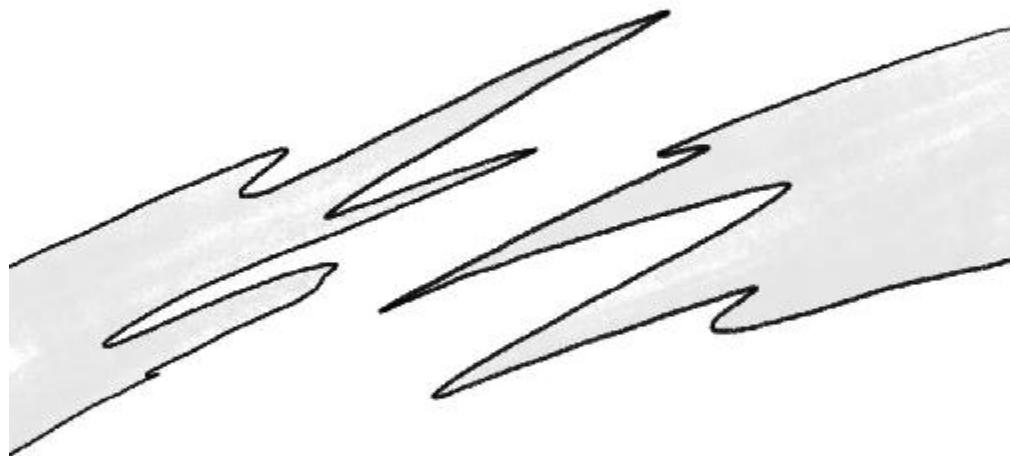




89









Such
a fucking
idiot

A large, jagged thought bubble containing the text "Such a fucking idiot".

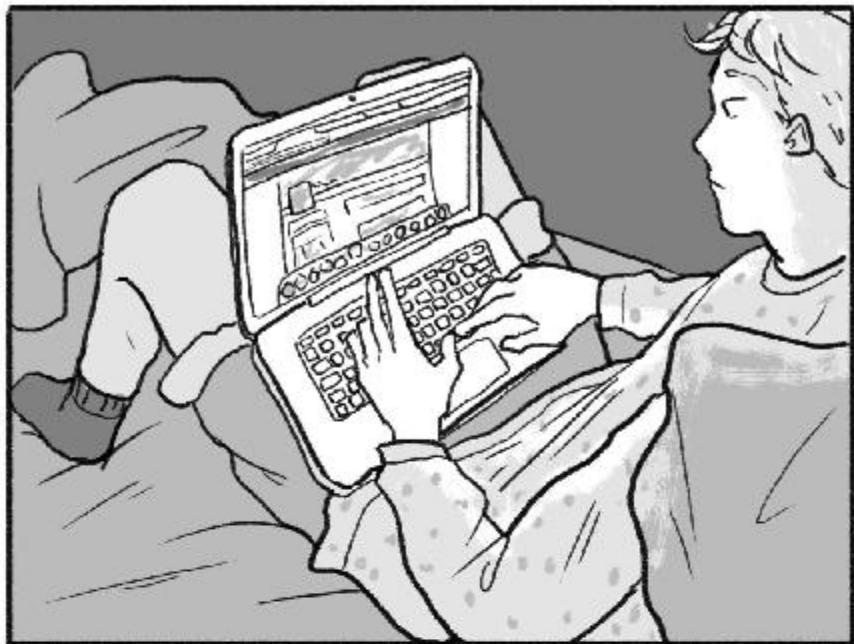




2. CRUSH







"Hey, did you hear
some Year 9 has
come out as gay?"

A black and white screenshot of a Facebook profile page for "Charlie Spring". The profile picture shows a young man making a peace sign. The timeline shows a post from "Charlie Spring" and a photo from "Tao Xu".

Charlie Spring

Timeline About Friends Photos

Info

Student at John Grammar School for Boys

Photos

Tao Xu 18 February at 00:15

Charlie Spring is this not you?

Profile picture: Charlie Spring

TEN MONTHS AGO...

"Huh? No?"

"Yeah, d'you know Charlie Spring from 9H? Apparently he's gay."

"It's going round the whole school."

"Where did you hear that?"

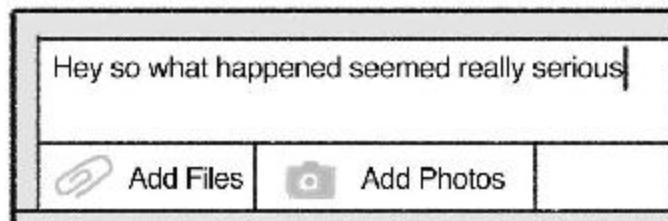


"I mean, this is an
all-boys school! What
did he expect?"





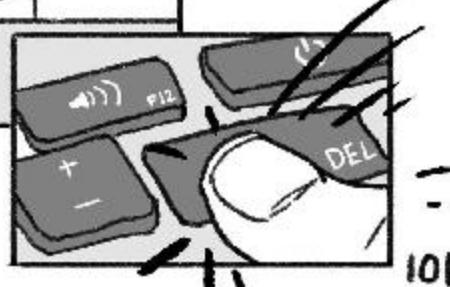
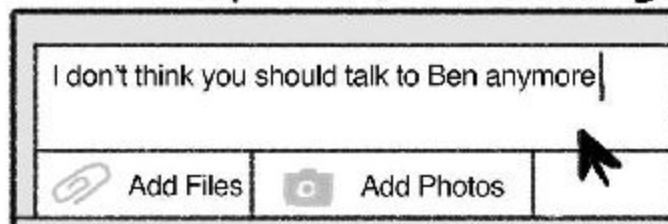
tap tap



tap



tap tap tap

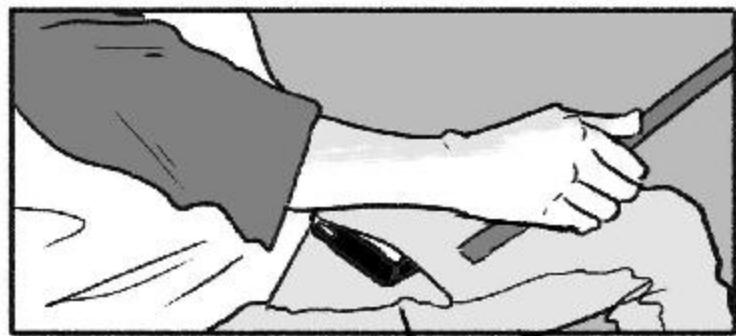


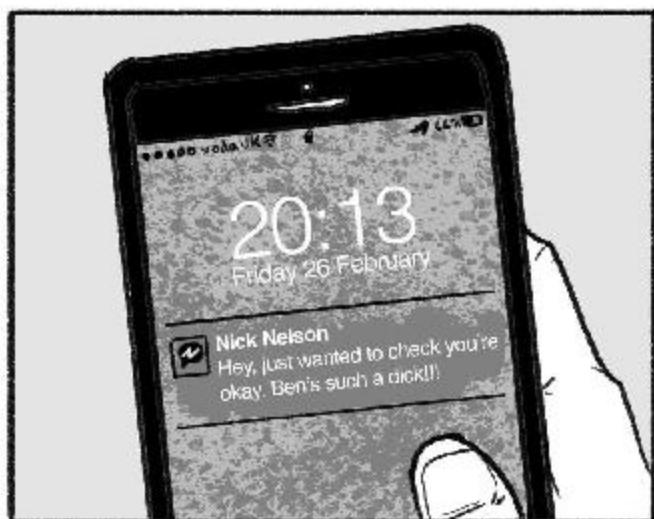
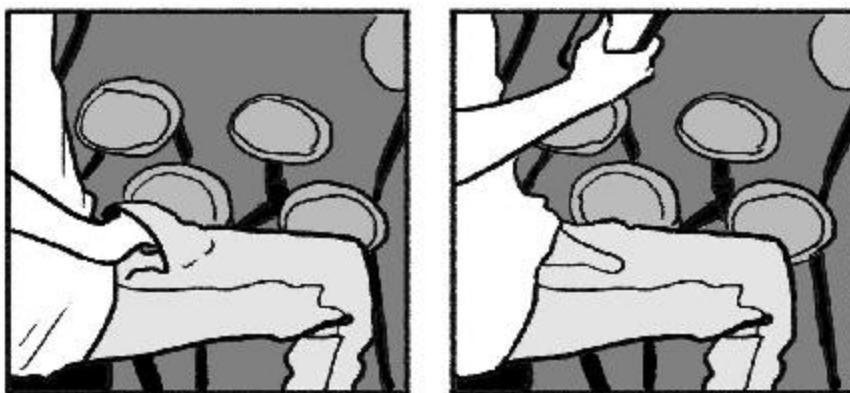
101



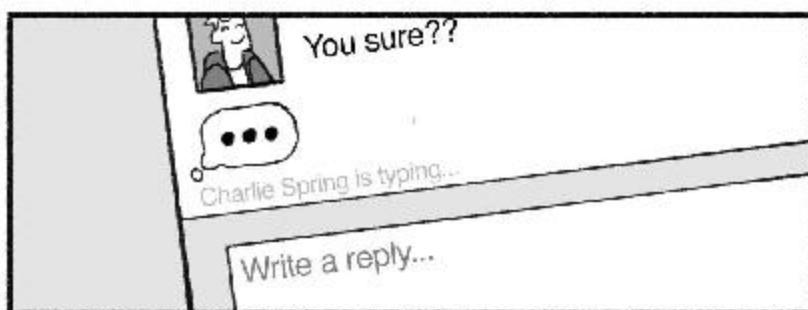
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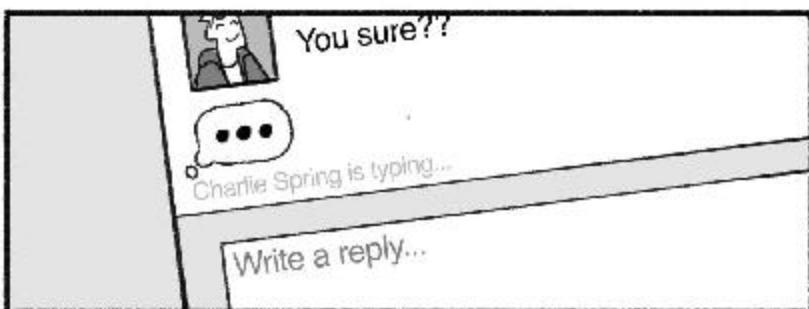


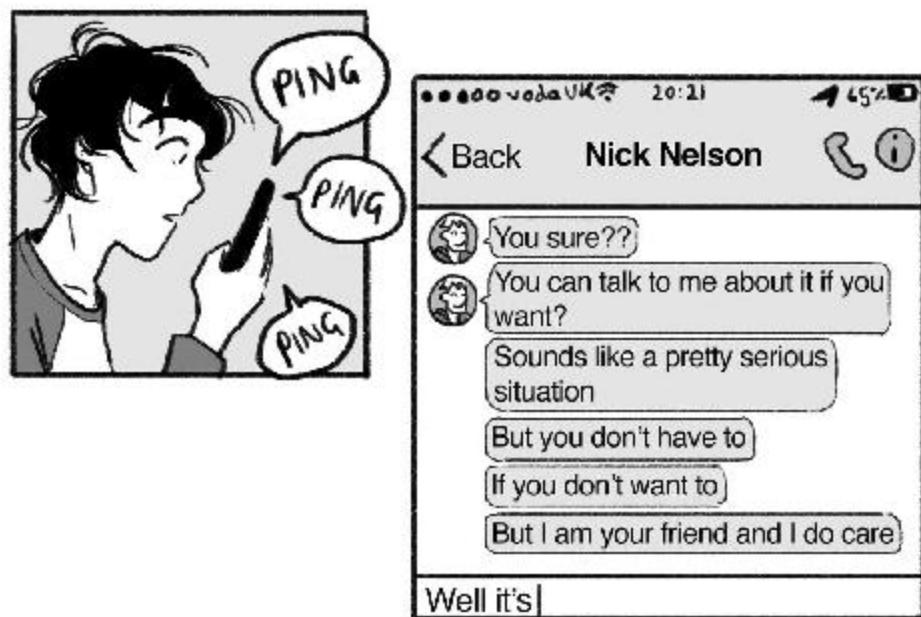






FIVE MINUTES LATER







But you don't have to
If you don't want to
But I am your friend and I do care



Charlie Spring

Okay

Might be a bit of a long story lol



Nick Nelson

I don't mind!!

109



.....voda UK 20:26 64%

< Back Nick Nelson

Well it started last September

Everyone at school had found out I was gay by then. the bullying had mostly stopped I guess and people had started to be nice to me (there was a group of Sixth Formers who stopped the bullies) but everyone in the school knew i was gay.

So I was practising my drums one morning before form in a practise room and I look up and see Ben looking in through the door window. He walks in and starts telling me how good I am at playing the drums, and I'm just sitting there like 'what the fuck' because I've never spoken to him before in my life... but also kind of freaking out because I thought he was really attractive...

Eventually he comes in and sits next to me and starts talking to me about me coming out at school, and like, how 'brave' I am and stuff... even though it's not like I came out myself or anything, it just got out because I told a couple of people...

And then next thing I know he's just kissing me



•••••
20:28 45%

< Back Nick Nelson

And yeah, we just continued to meet up sometimes at school before form. And like... I was so excited about it. I thought I had a boyfriend, or, like, I was having some big romance... But I slowly started to realise he was just using me for someone to make out with... because I was the only gay boy he knew...

and then in January I found out he had a girlfriend as well. Some girl from Higgs school. I don't know if he's bisexual or gay or whatever but it doesn't really change anything. He was just using me.



I tried to end it but he just kept pestering me. I thought I'd just meet up with him one last time to tell him to leave me alone but... yeah. That didn't go well I guess haha



tap

Nick Nelson

FUCK I hate Ben so much. I knew he was a dick, but... jesus.

Please don't ever talk to him again

Charlie Spring

I definitely won't!!!!

Nick Nelson

I will kick his ass if he tries to come near you





Thank you for
being there

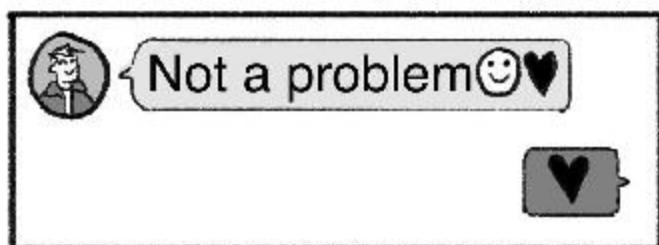
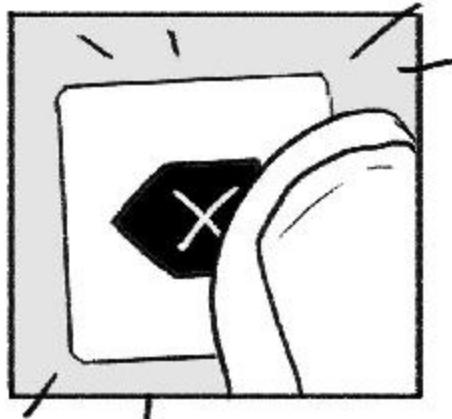
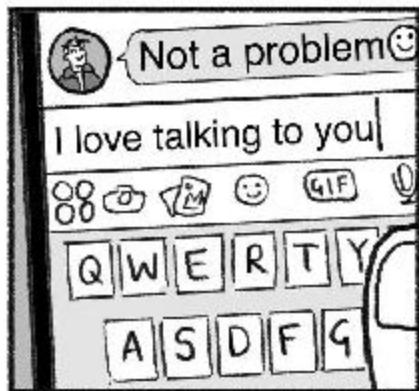
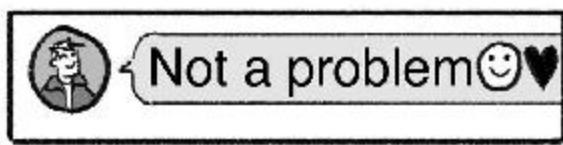
Generally or in
the music block?

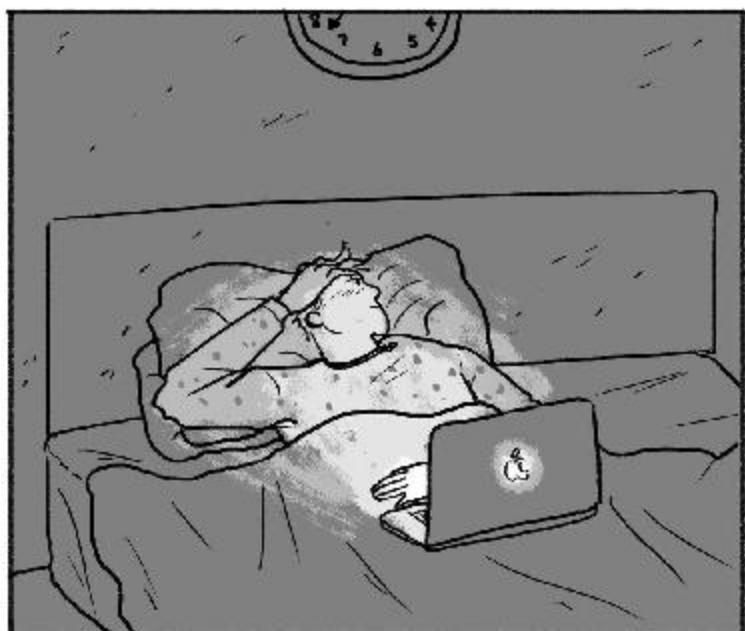


Well...

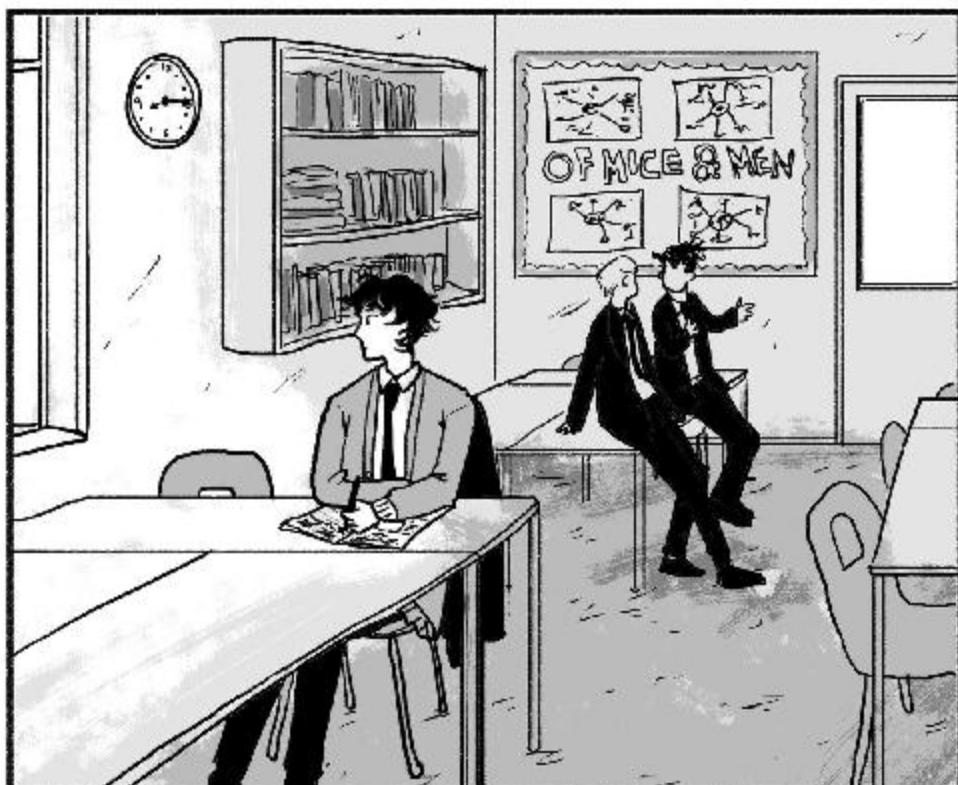


both





Should I
have told him
all that?







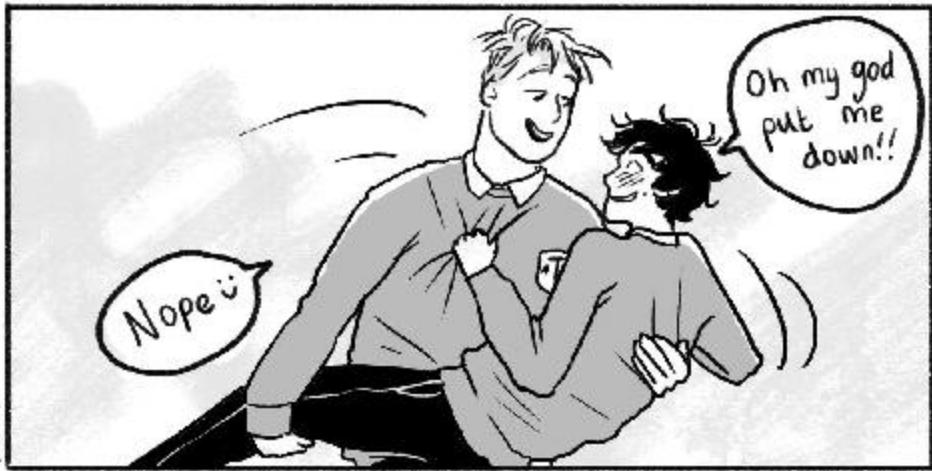
sf

b

Charlie, what
the FUCK is
going on!?

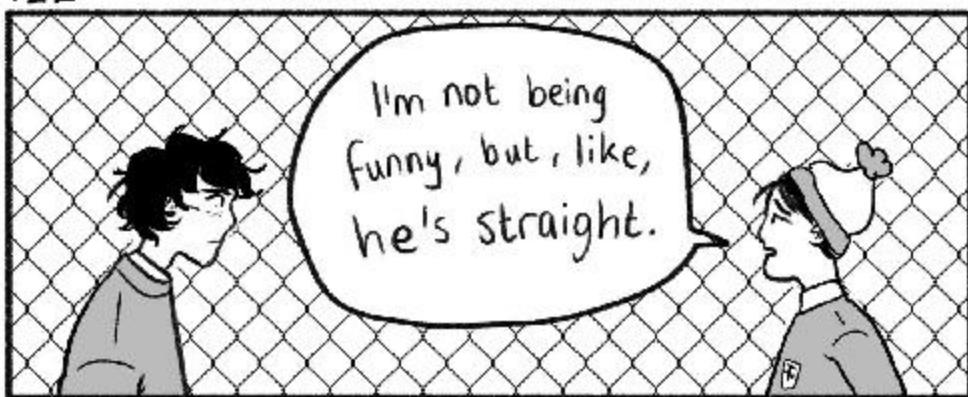








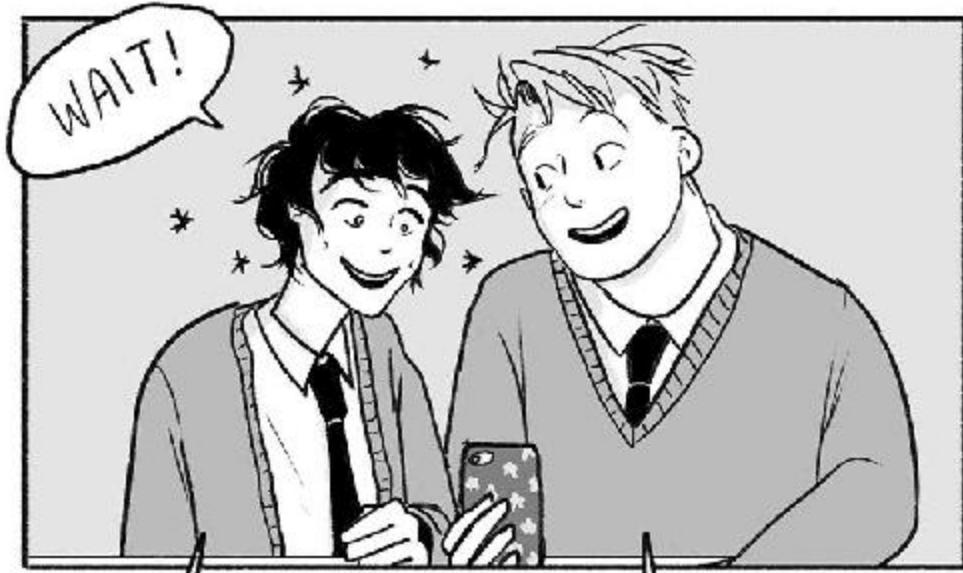
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You have
a dog?

Yeah! Her name's
Nellie ❤

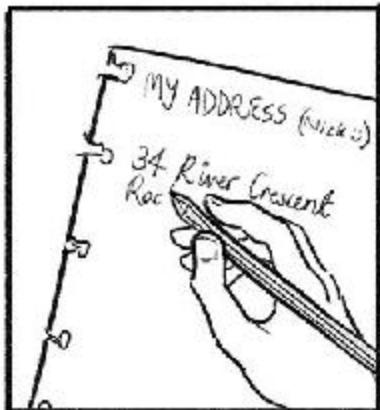


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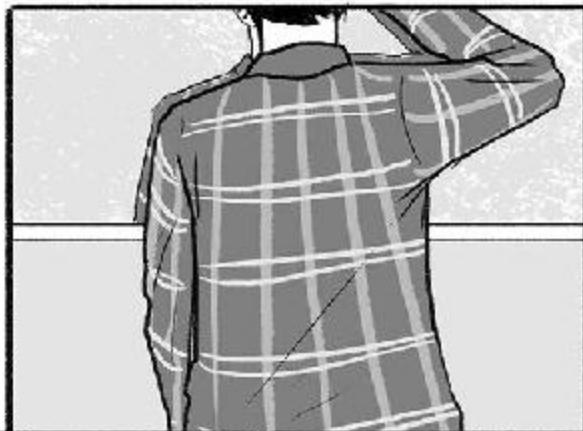




❀ ❀

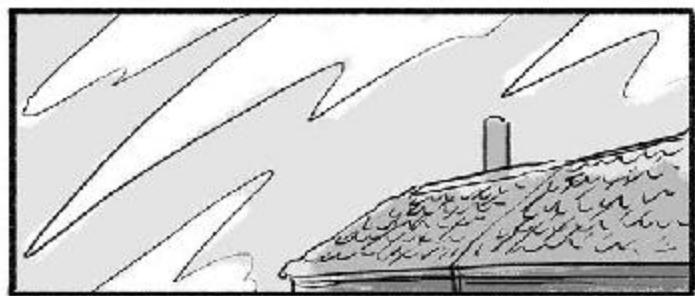
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SATURDAY

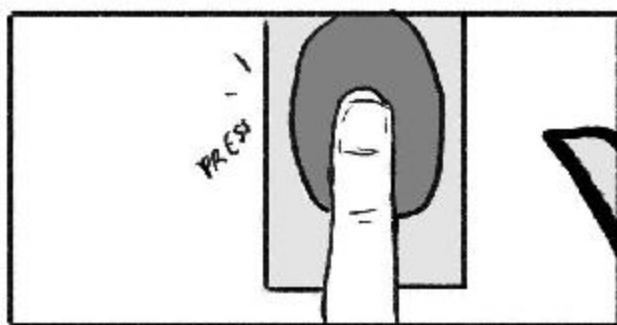
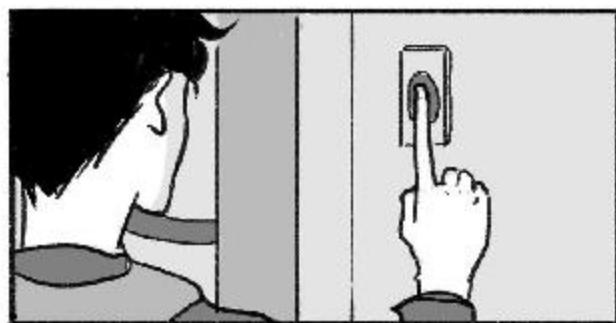




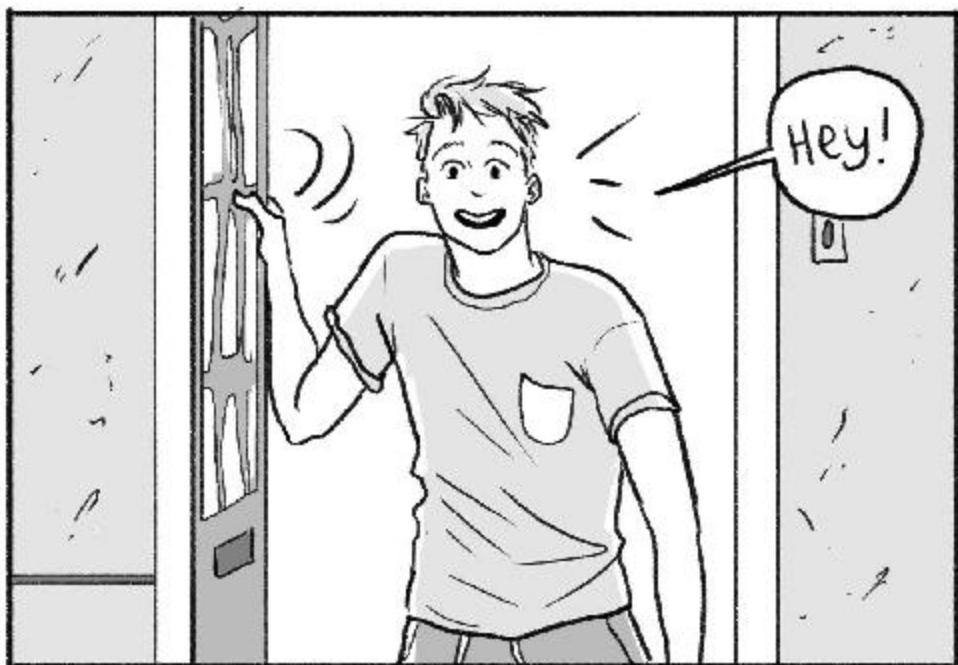


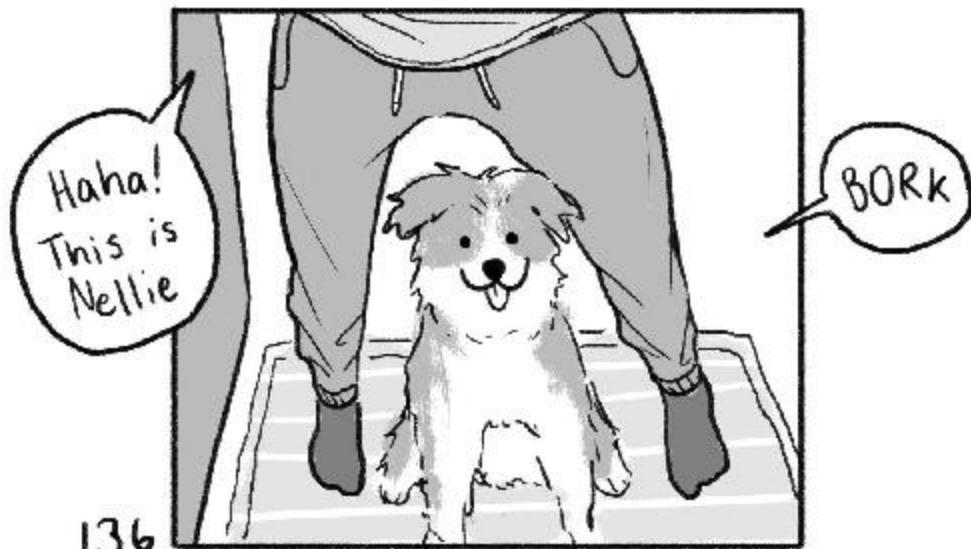






D R R P I N G





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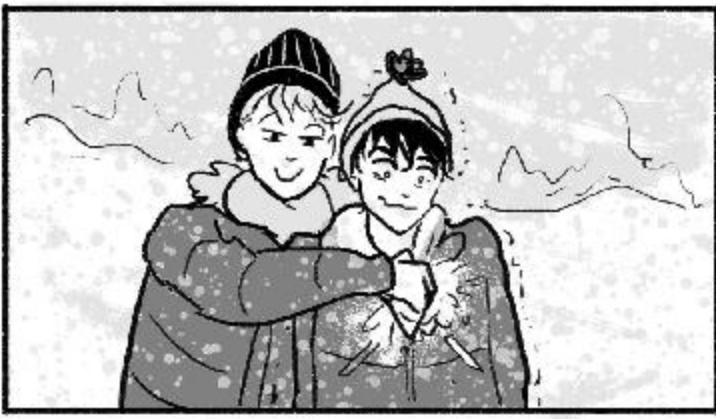


It's
Snowing











SNAP!

SNAP!

SNAP!



I. Am.
Freezing.

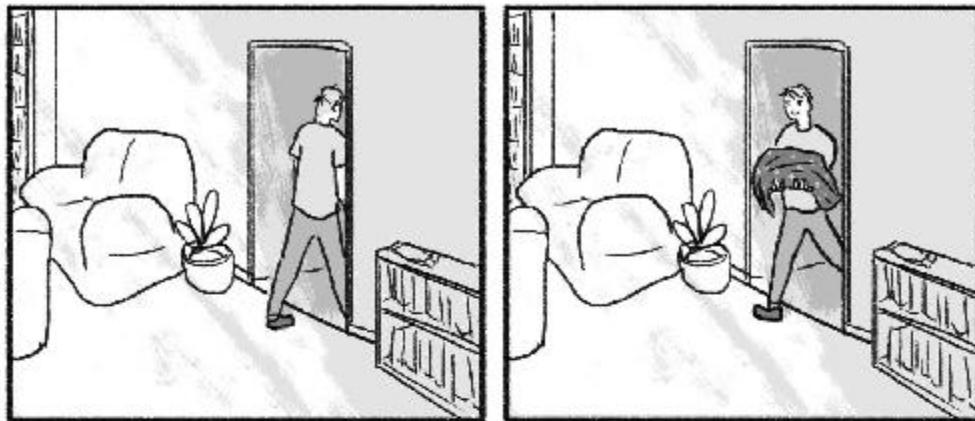


150





Wait
there!



152





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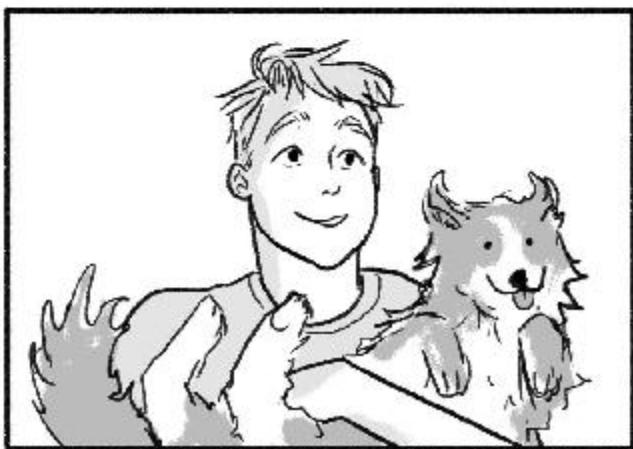
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D

D

You really have
to go home?

Yeah... My dad
said I had to
be home for dinner.



Well...
Nellie
will
miss
you





Charlie seems
like a lovely boy.
When did you
meet him?

A couple
of months
ago. He's
in my
form group.











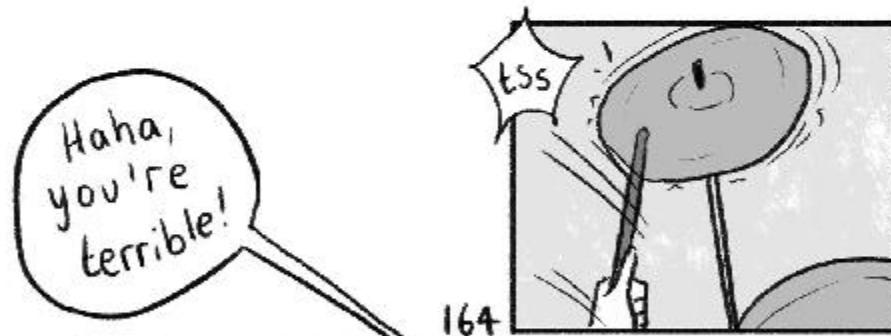
Are you
okay?

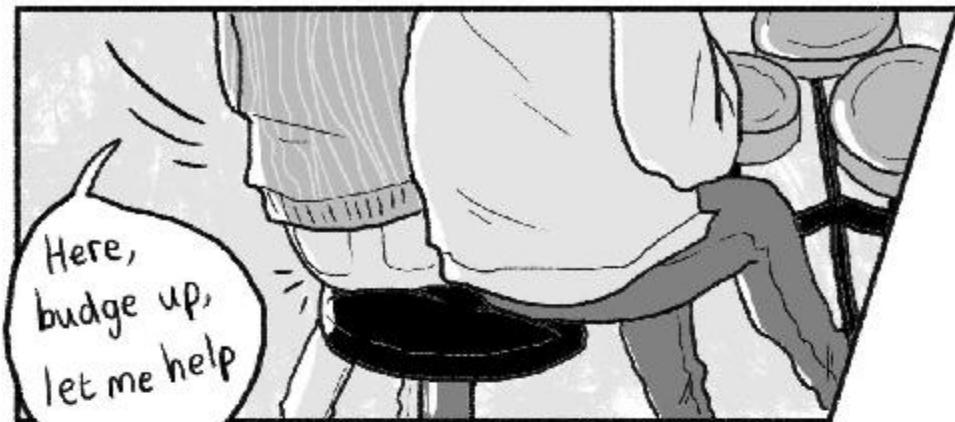












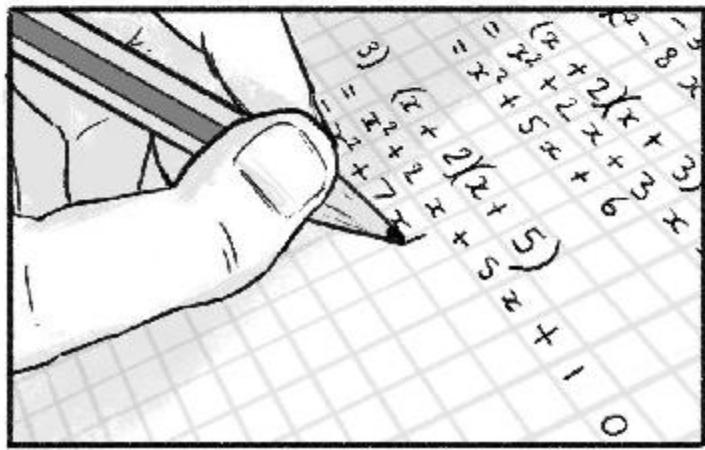






Charliiiiiie

Yeah?











OKAY, okay, stop,
you win





ROL







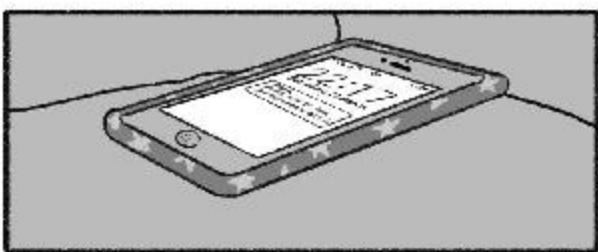
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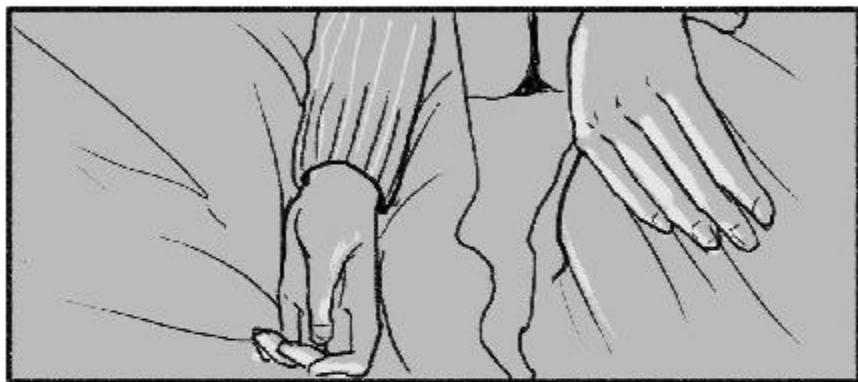
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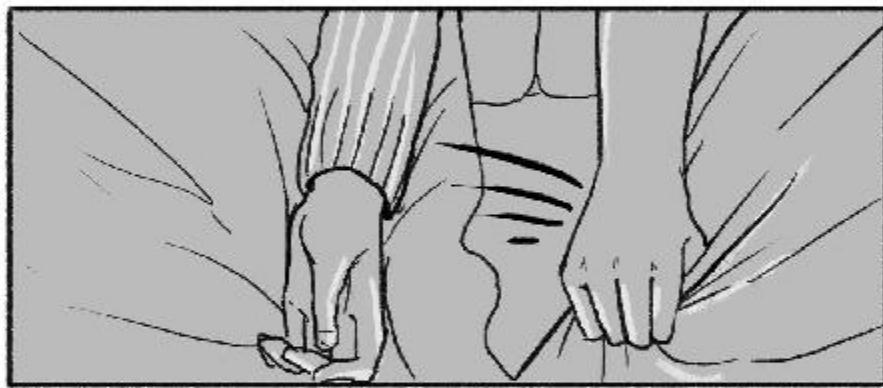


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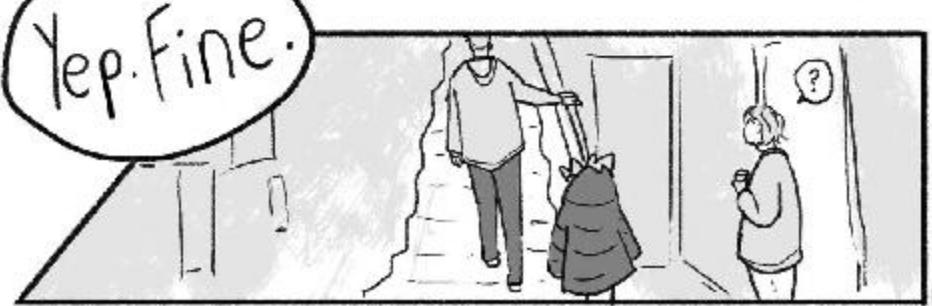
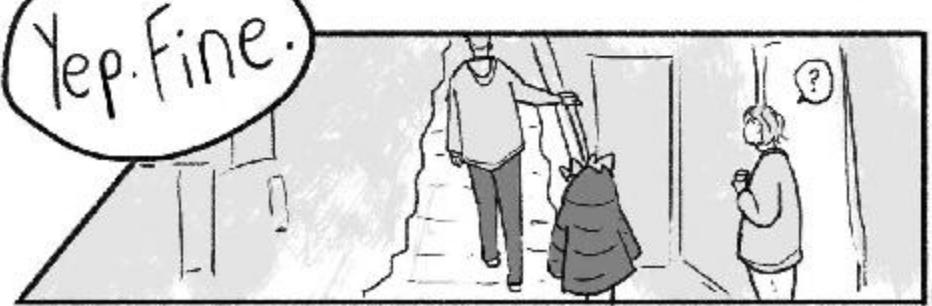
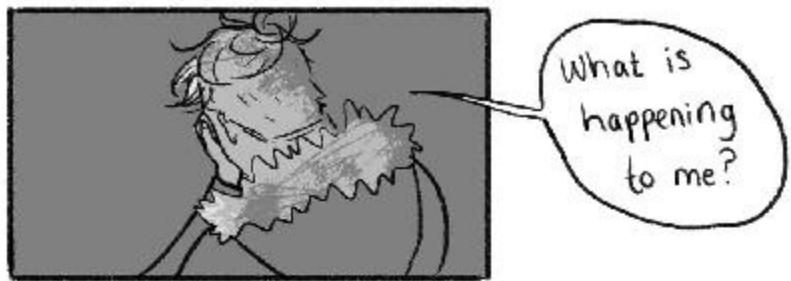
















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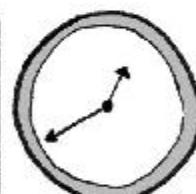
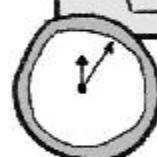
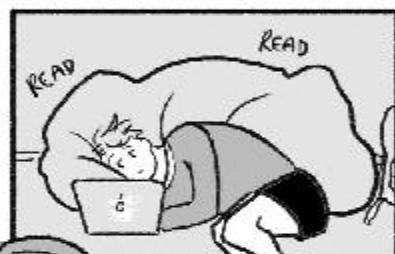


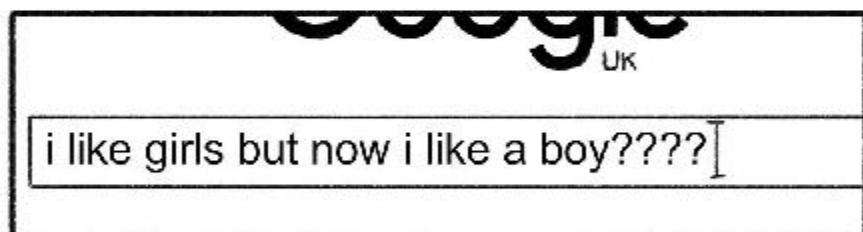




Google
UK

how to tell if you're gay]









help
me...



APRIL

(TWO WEEKS LATER)





Hey Tao... so... about Nick Nelson

What??? Has something happened???

Well... I think he might maybe like me back

EXPLAIN.

Over the past two weeks during the Easter holidays we've hung out like almost EVERY DAY



He's a lot more... idk... physical?
We hug now?

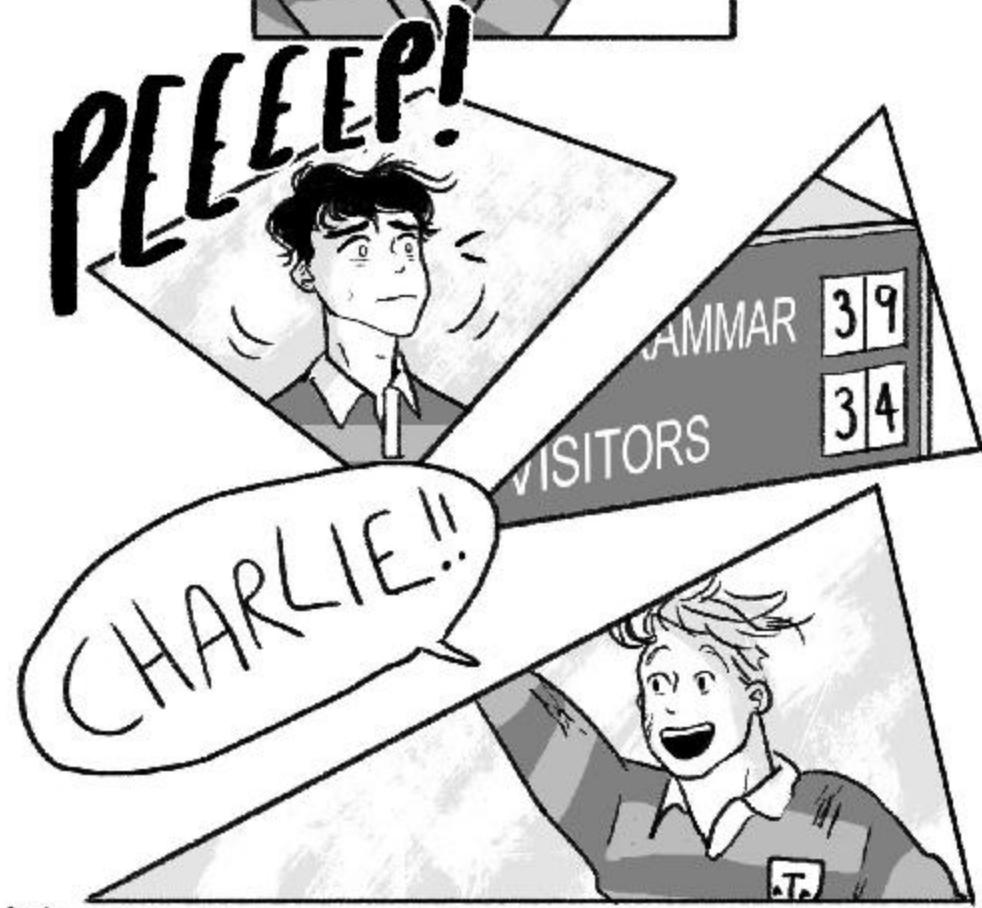


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Sometimes I just catch him looking at me...



Look... Charlie... I didn't want to say anything but... I've asked around and I've heard Nick's had a crush on a girl called Tara Jones from Higgs school for, like, 3 years or something











30 MINS LATER...





203



They do seem really close





But Nick's not gay, is he?

Well, I guess we don't know

He doesn't look gay. And didn't he have a crush on that girl Tara Jones?



MISS SINGH
(P.E. TEACHER
AND COACH)

You can't tell whether people are gay by what they look like.

And gay or straight aren't the only two options.

Anyway, it's very rude to speculate about people's sexuality.



Go home, lads.





→ ←



I can kinda see it.
Nick and Charlie.

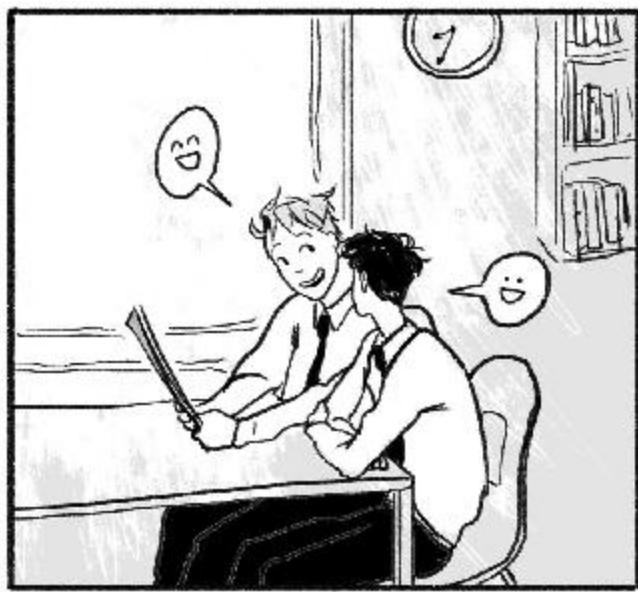


↑



Are you
going to
Harry
Greene's
party on
Saturday?



















Wh-
what?



Remember her?
The girl you had
a crush on all
through Year
7 and 8?

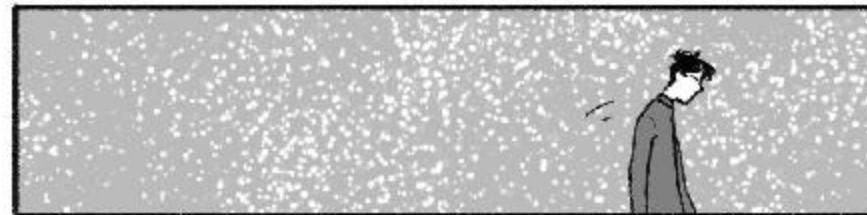


The one you
KISSED at
the Year 8
Higgs-Truham
disco?







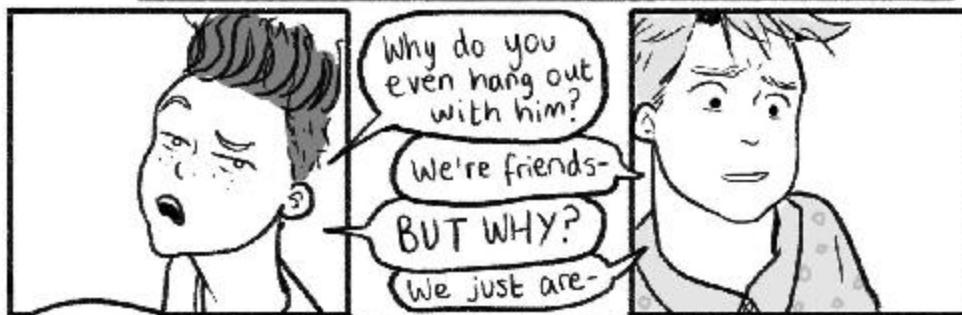




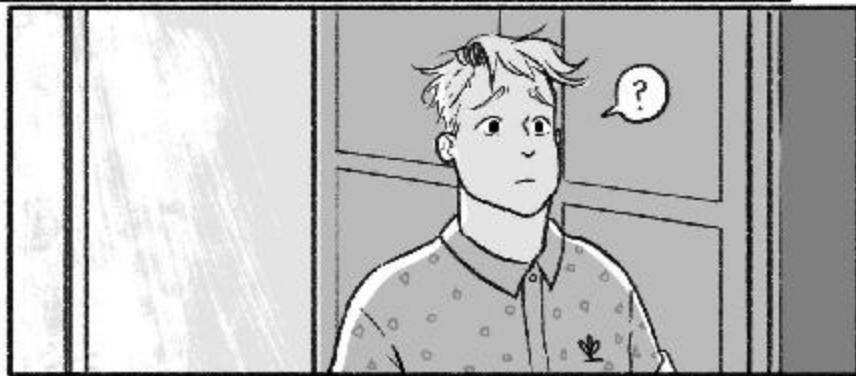
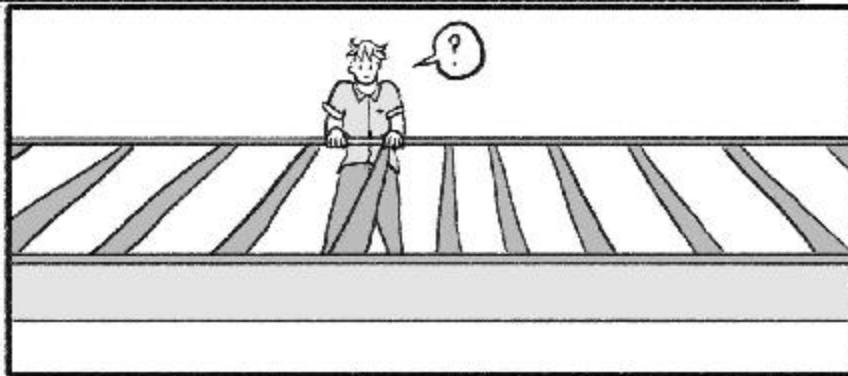




















He... er...
he tried to
apologise,
but...



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Then he just
walked off,
so...

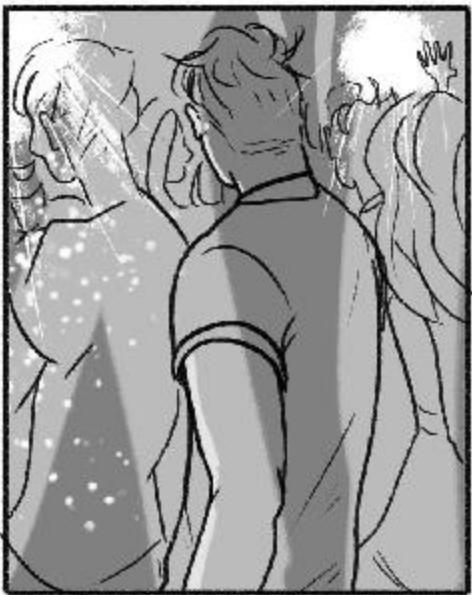
Yeah, I think
he got the
message this
time

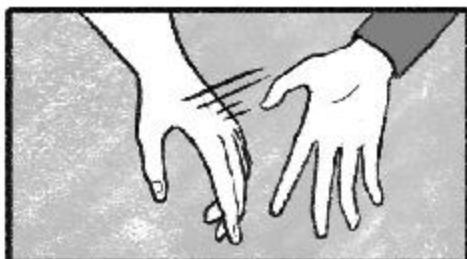




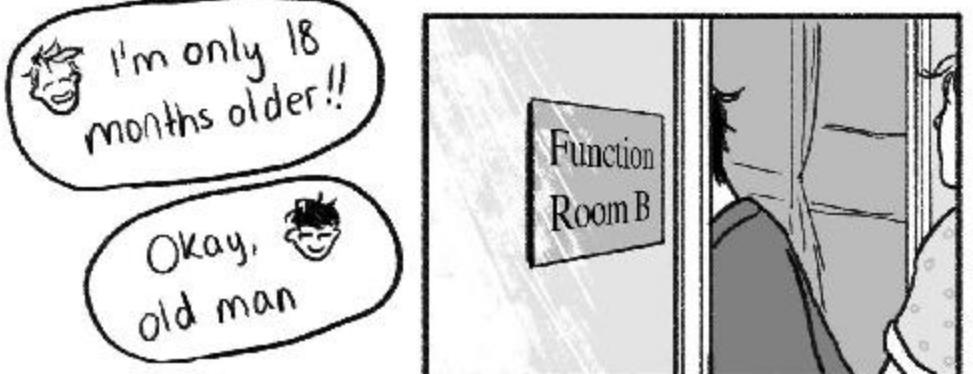
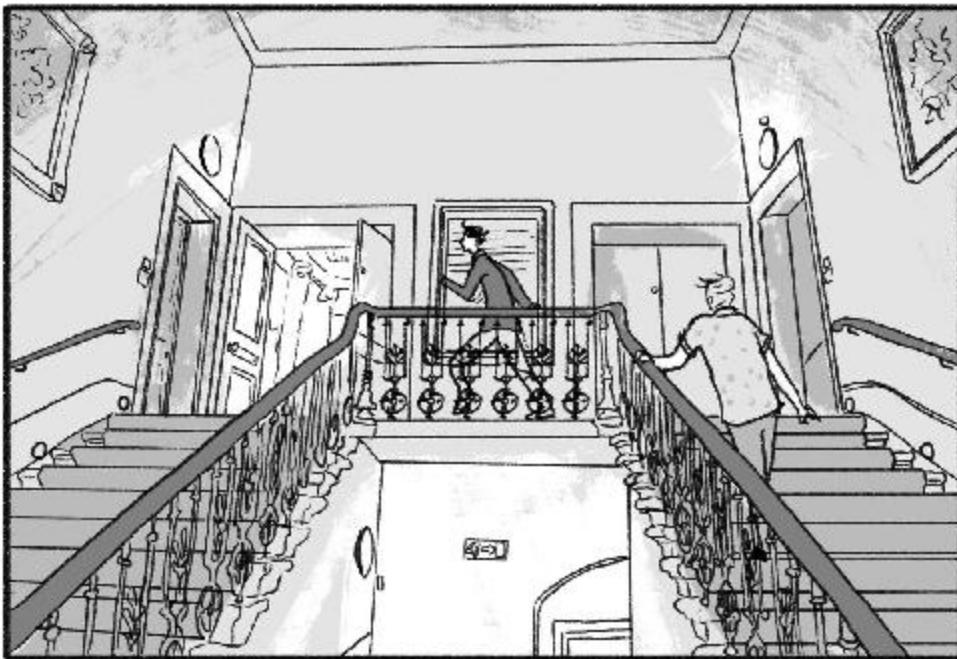


233



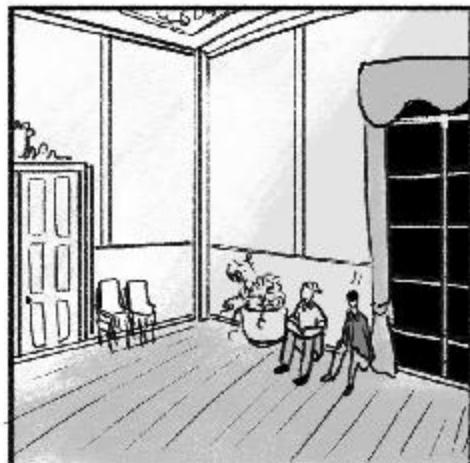
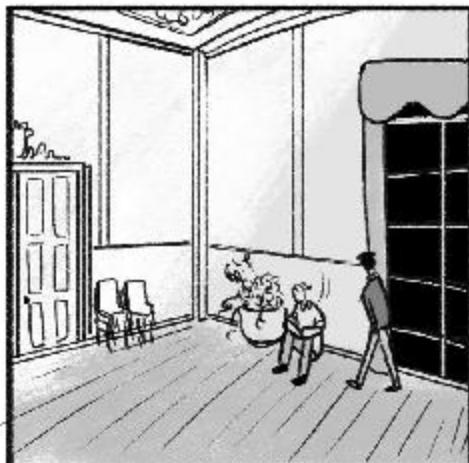












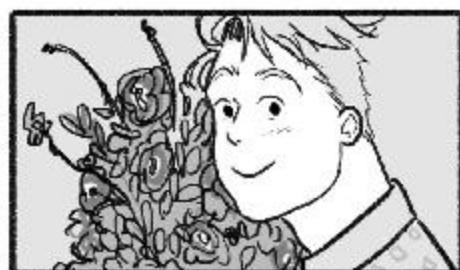


NO! No, definitely not!

We... we kissed at a party
when we were like 13 and I
liked her at the time but I've
honestly barely
thought about
her since then
and I DEFINITELY
don't like her
that way
anymore!



Ah...
Okay...







... I've been around
had a crush on a girl call
Hana's school for like 3 years

Haha...
what's
she
like,
then?

242

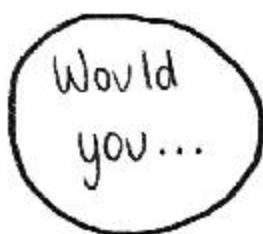




not a girl?











2



Would
you







❀
❀



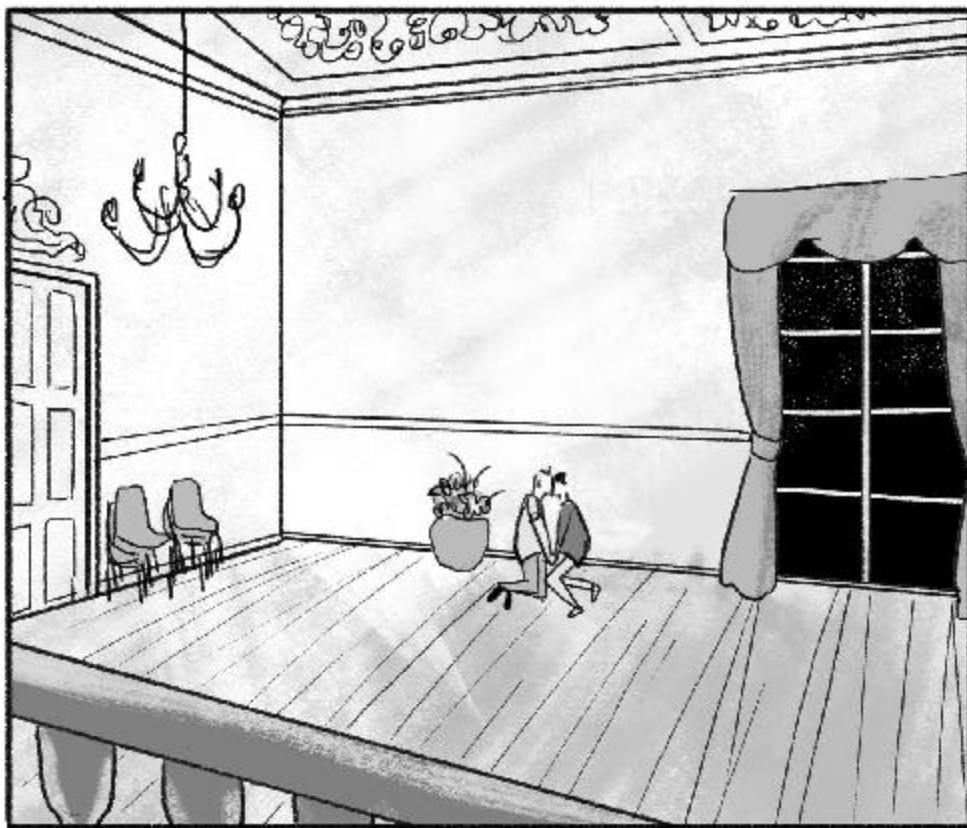
❀

❀

❀



249



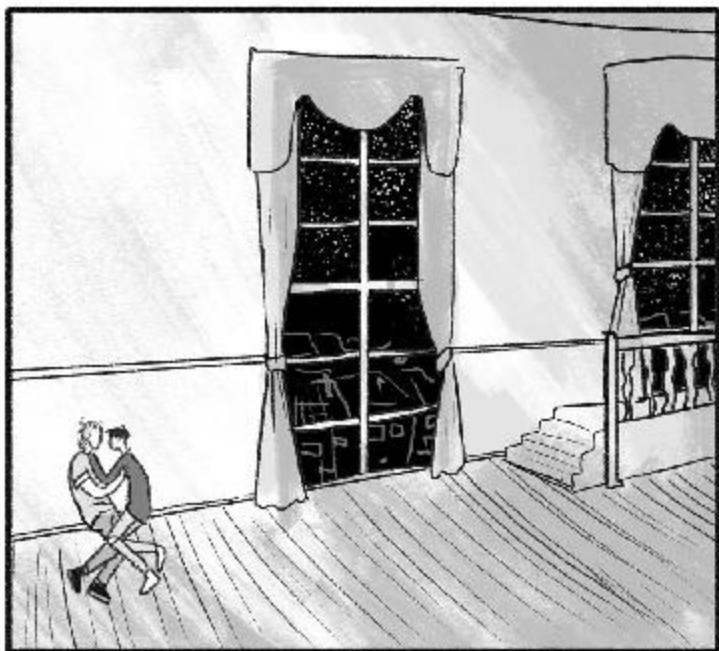














I-



Nick?
Are you
up here?



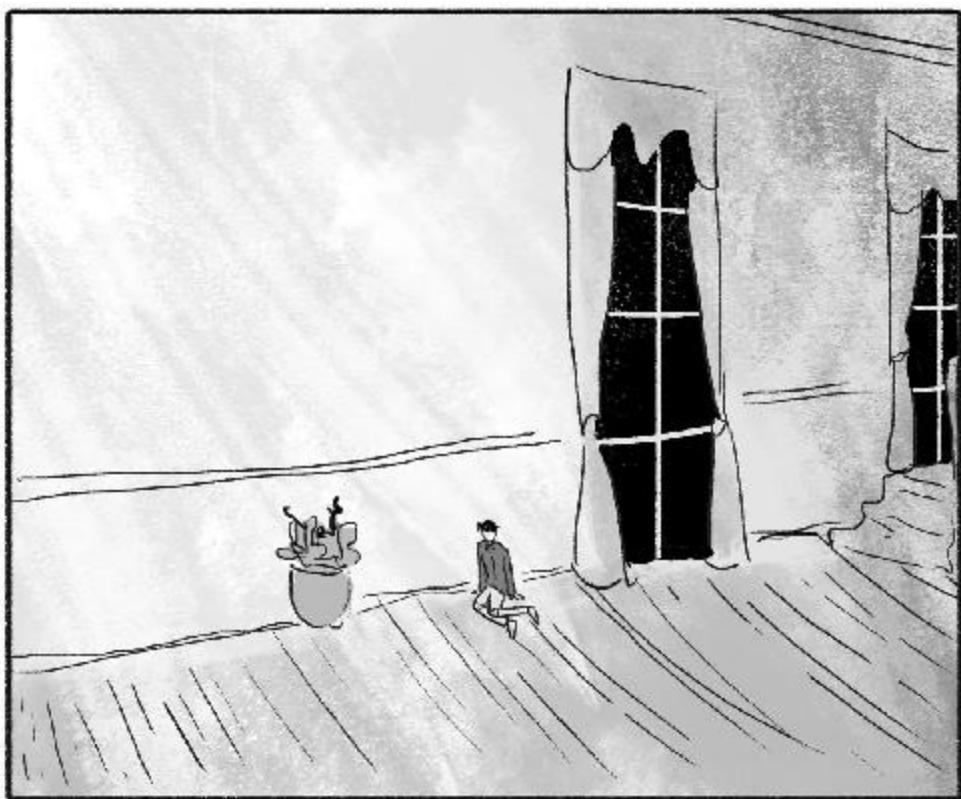






-SHUT-





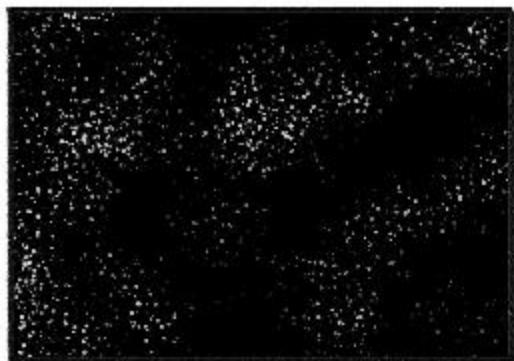


I'm
sorry





I'm
sorry



I'm
sorry