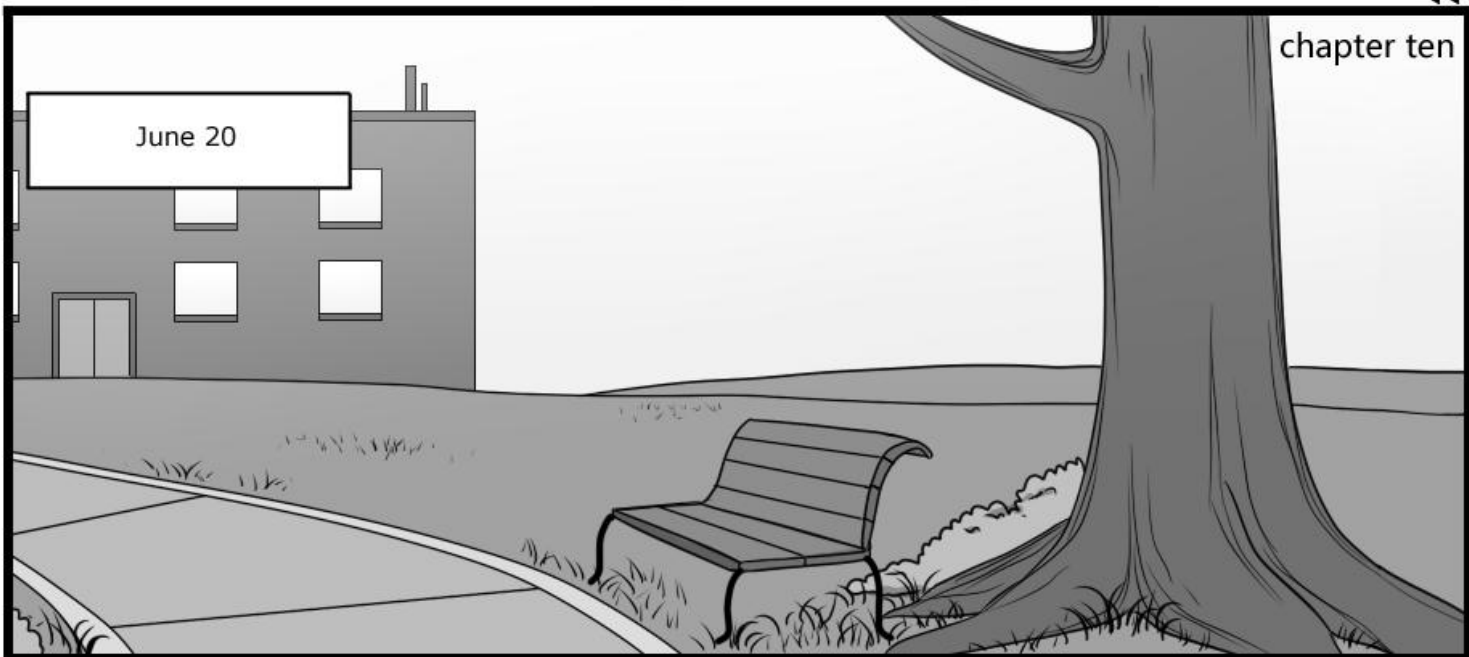
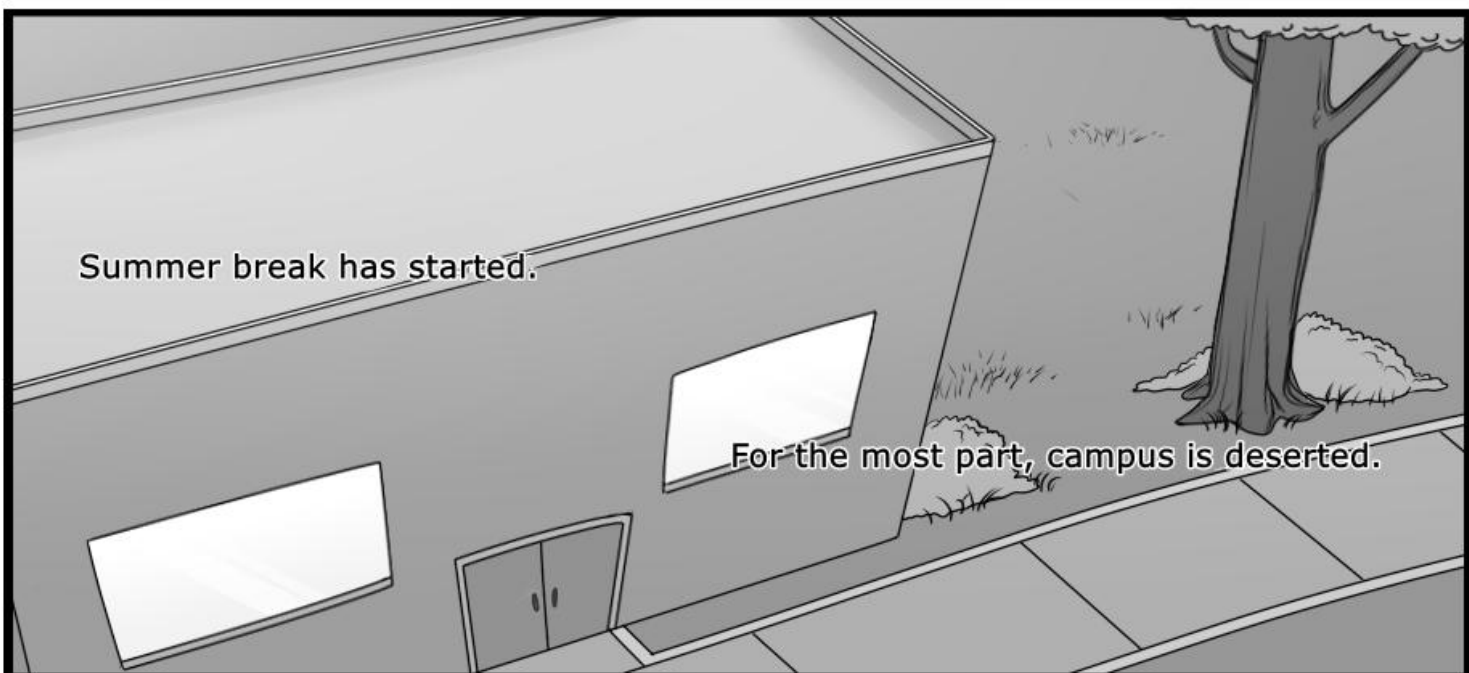


June 20



Summer break has started.

For the most part, campus is deserted.



I'm still here, though.

Because of my probation,
I need to take summer classes.






My probation comes with a lot of conditions...

I must get C's or higher in all my classes,
and I can't miss or be late too any of my classes,
unless there's a special reason.

If I meet these conditions, my probation will be lifted.
If I don't, I won't be able to return to Raisley in the fall.

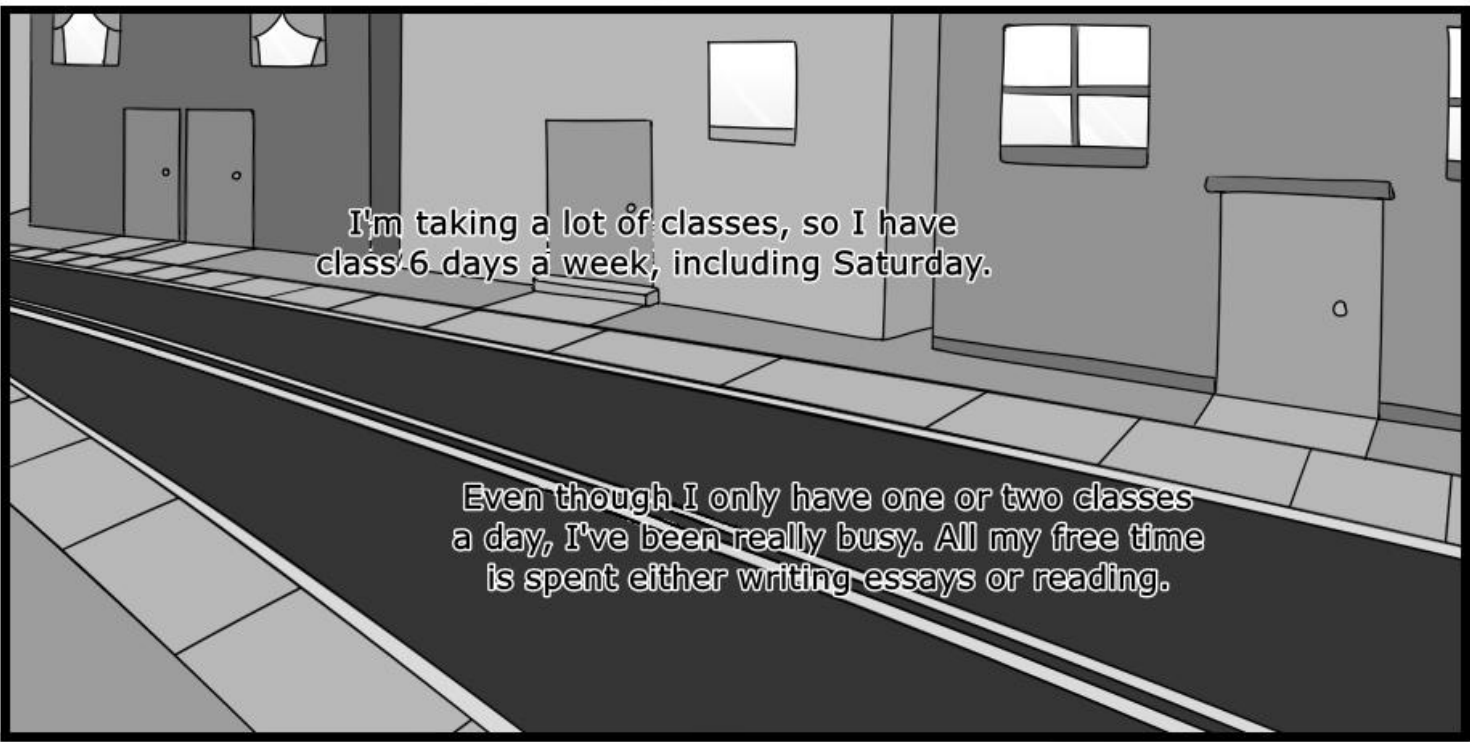


...I know that a lot of things need to
change, if I'm going to accomplish this.

I'm no longer taking any science classes.

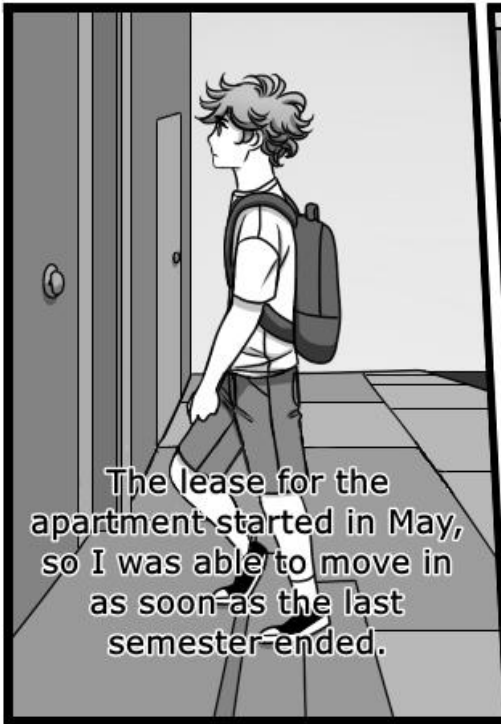
I'm taking reading and writing classes
instead. And I'll probably end up declaring
myself as an English major soon.

It's been hard... but so far I'm doing better.

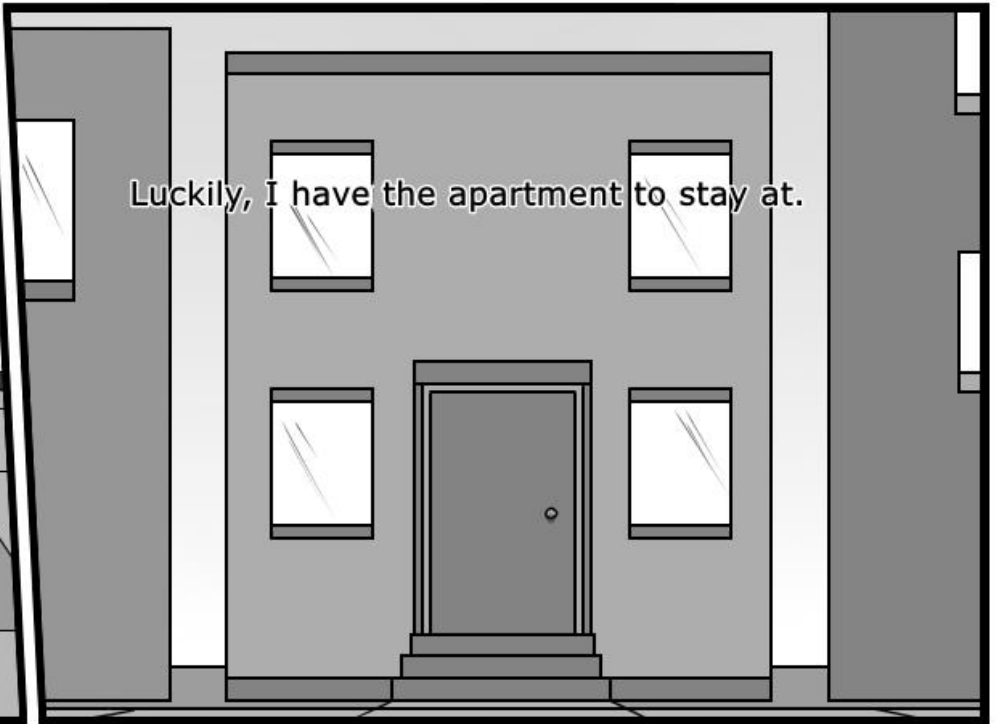


I'm taking a lot of classes, so I have
class 6 days a week, including Saturday.

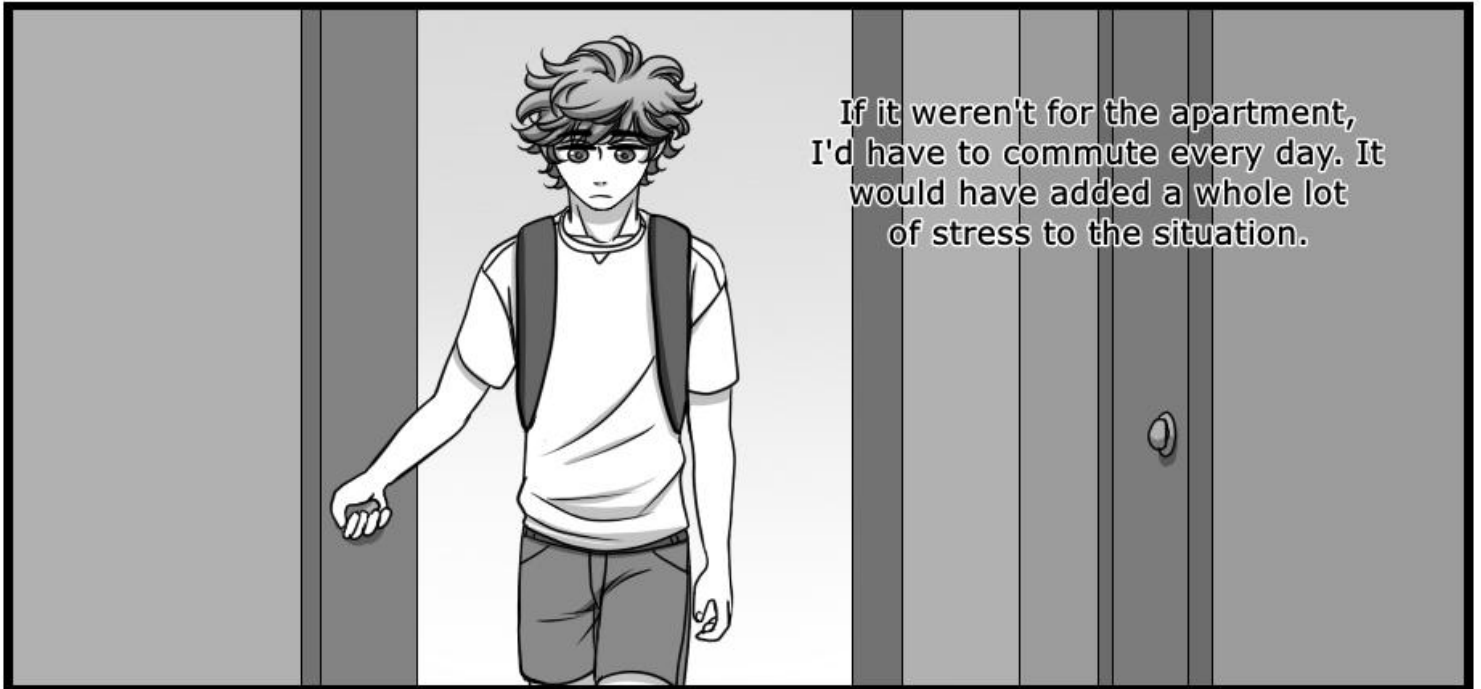
Even though I only have one or two classes
a day, I've been really busy. All my free time
is spent either writing essays or reading.



The lease for the apartment started in May, so I was able to move in as soon as the last semester ended.



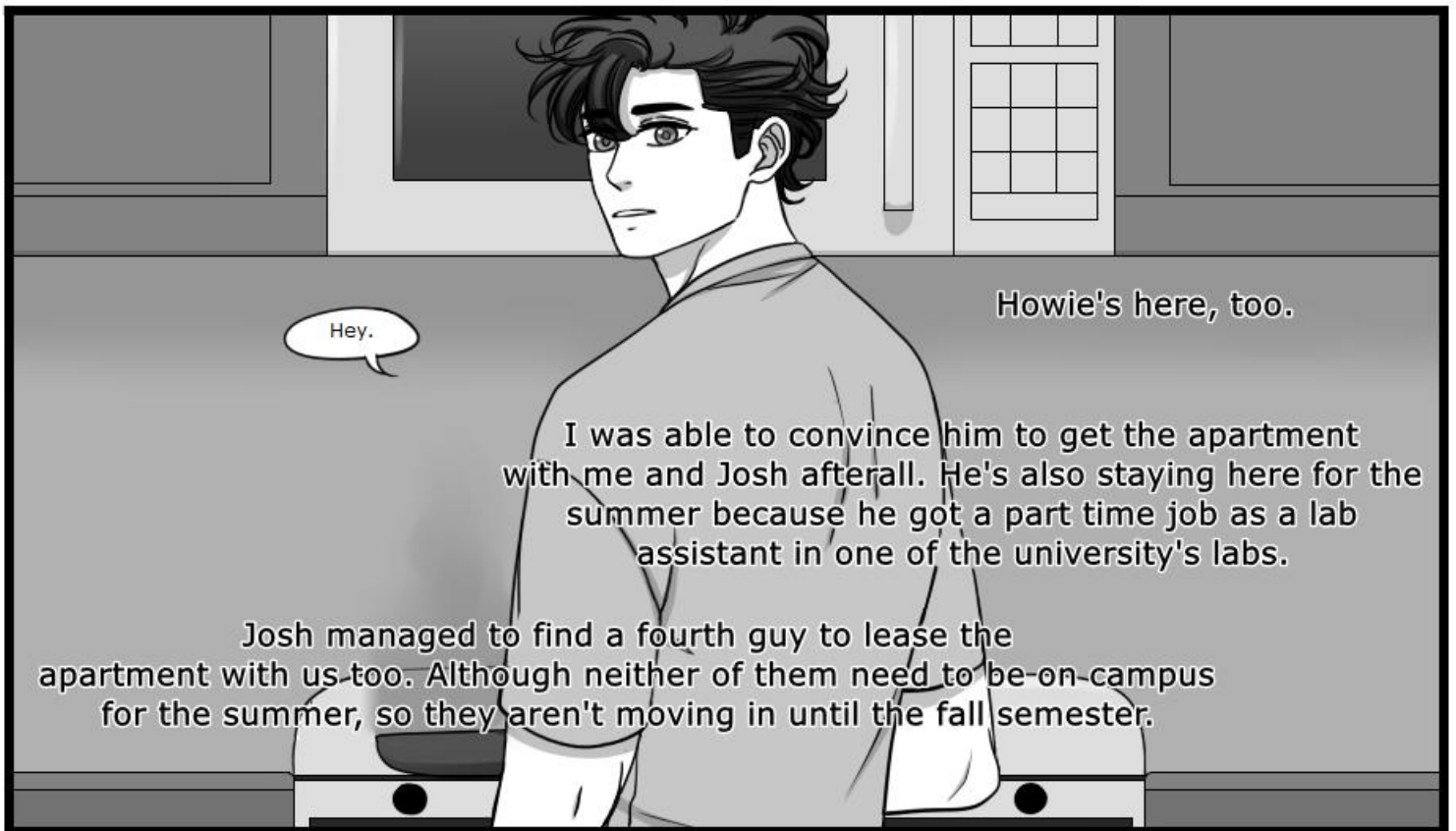
Luckily, I have the apartment to stay at.



If it weren't for the apartment, I'd have to commute every day. It would have added a whole lot of stress to the situation.



I'm back.



Hey.

Howie's here, too.

I was able to convince him to get the apartment with me and Josh after all. He's also staying here for the summer because he got a part time job as a lab assistant in one of the university's labs.

Josh managed to find a fourth guy to lease the apartment with us too. Although neither of them need to be on campus for the summer, so they aren't moving in until the fall semester.



How was class?

It was okay...
Saturday classes
are always hard.

Yeah, I bet.

So for now, it's just me and Howie.

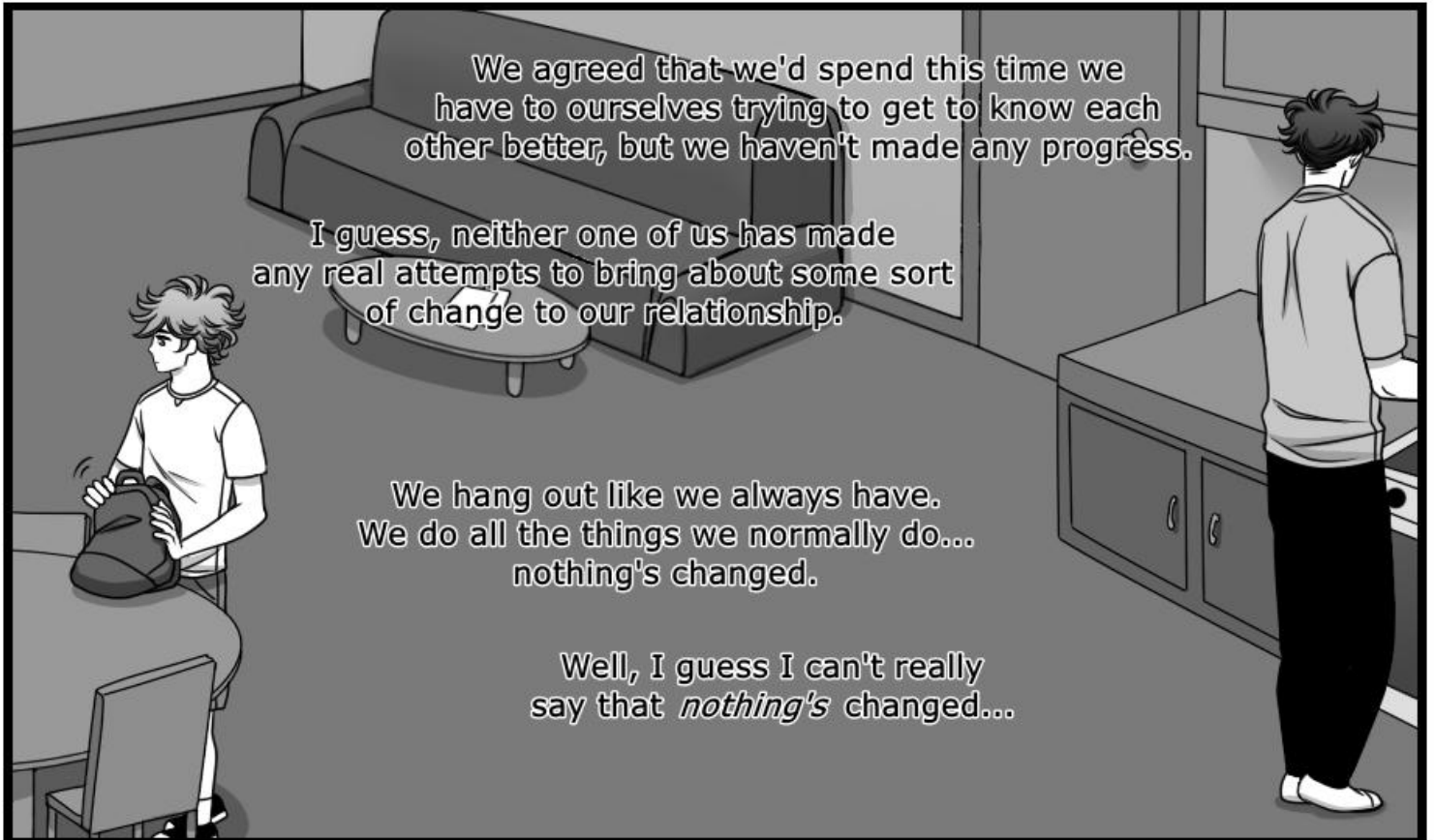


Howie and I are... talking.



Or at least... we're supposed to be.

But the truth is our relationship
hasn't changed at all.

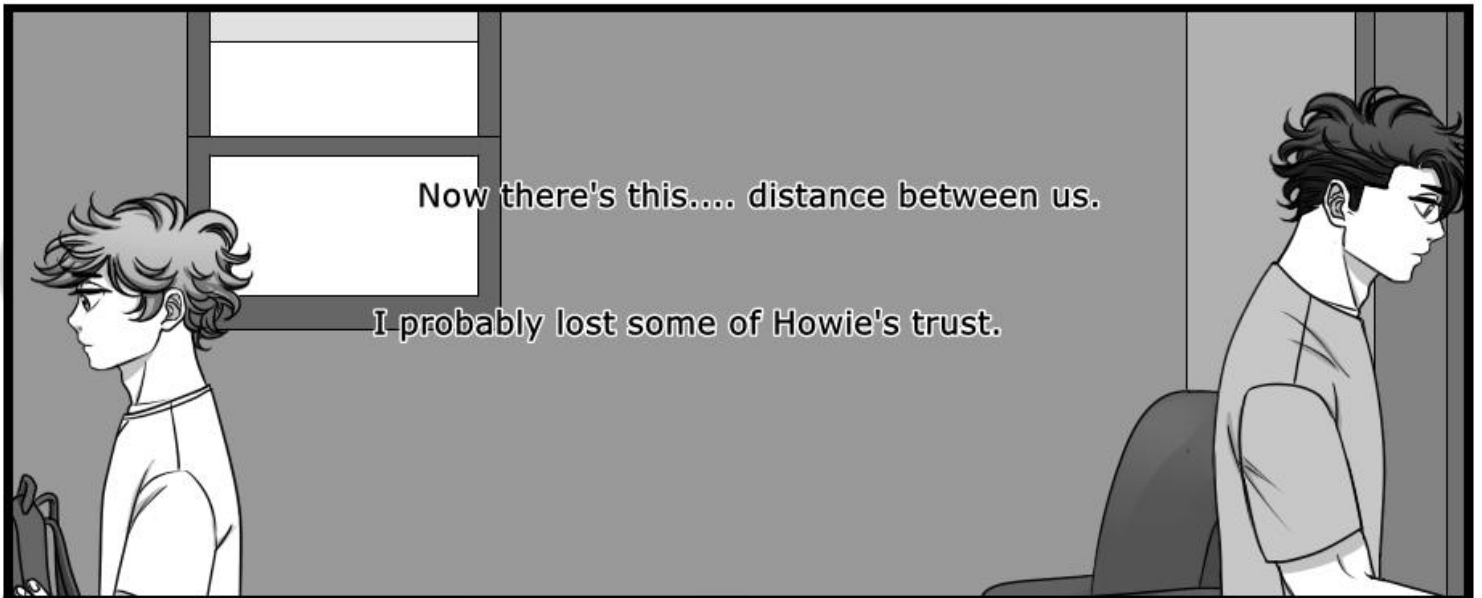


We agreed that we'd spend this time we
have to ourselves trying to get to know each
other better, but we haven't made any progress.

I guess, neither one of us has made
any real attempts to bring about some sort
of change to our relationship.

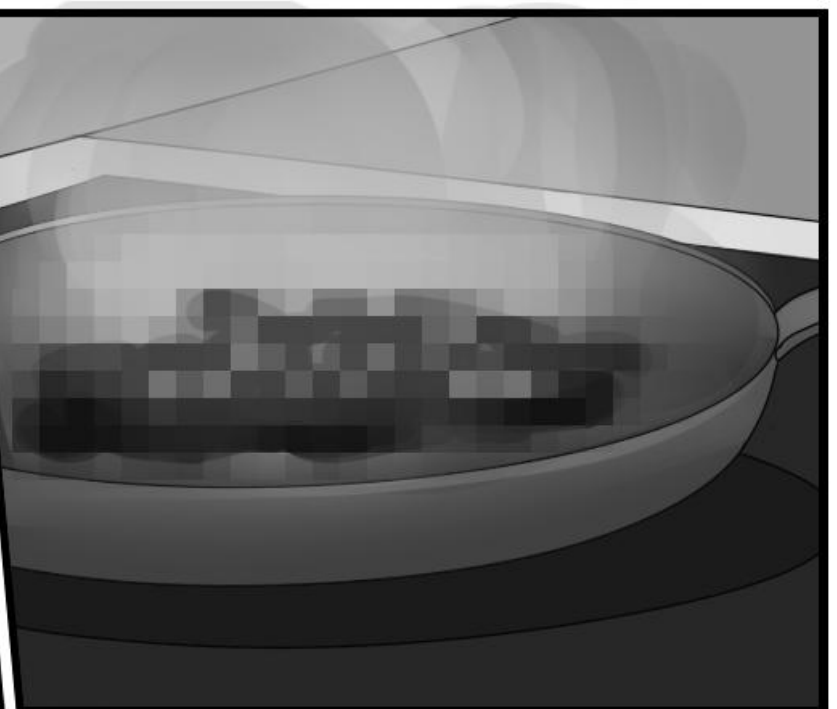
We hang out like we always have.
We do all the things we normally do...
nothing's changed.

Well, I guess I can't really
say that *nothing's* changed...

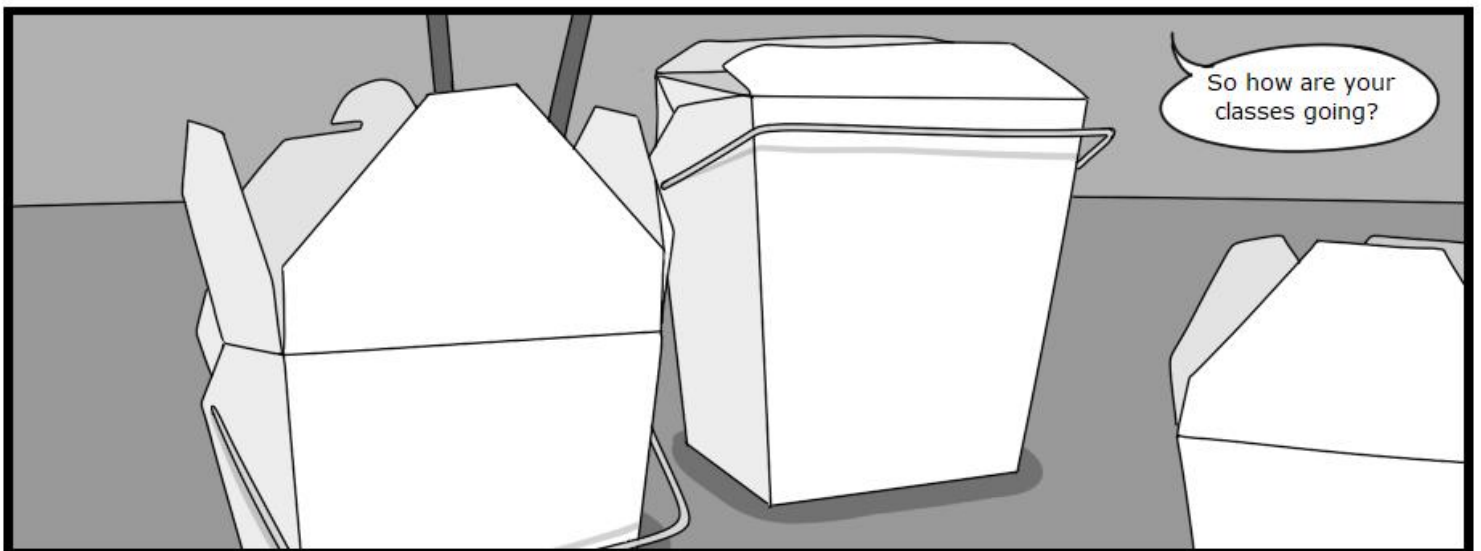


Now there's this.... distance between us.

I probably lost some of Howie's trust.



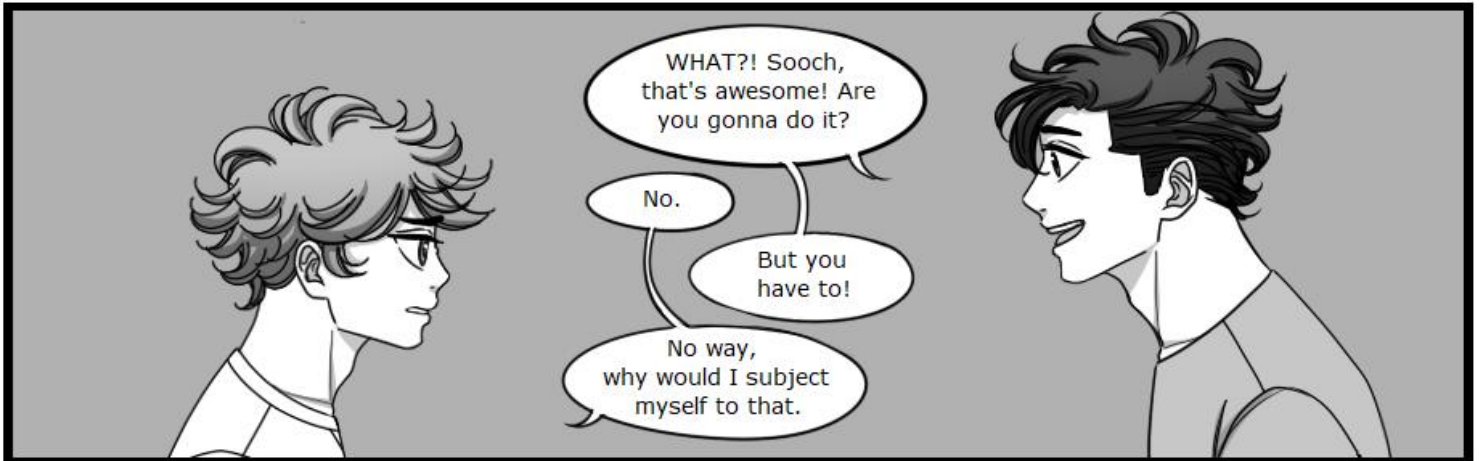
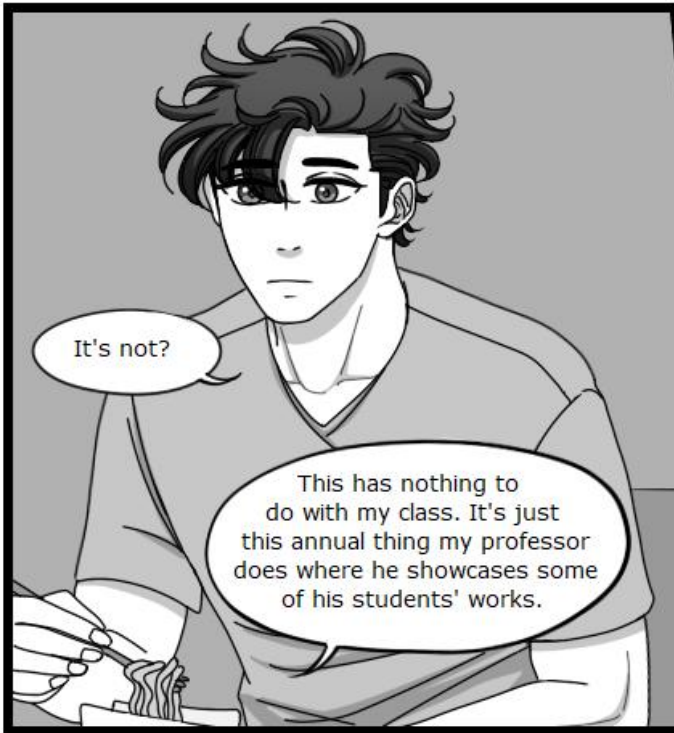








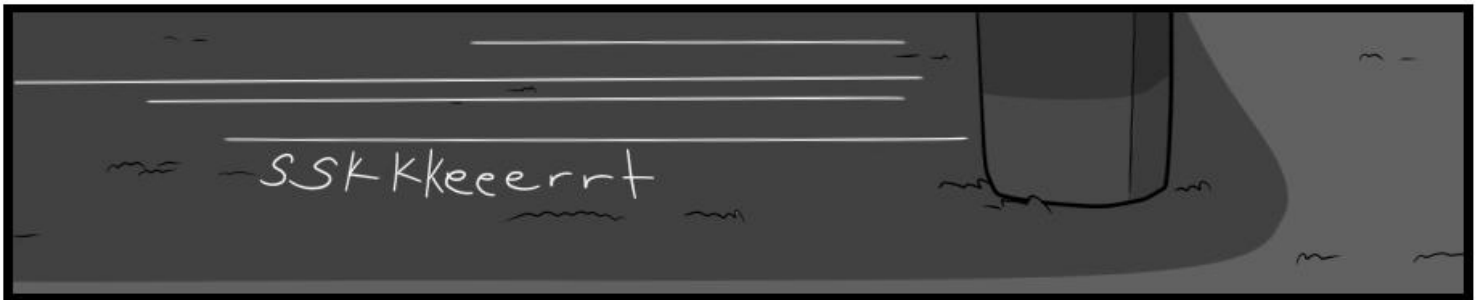


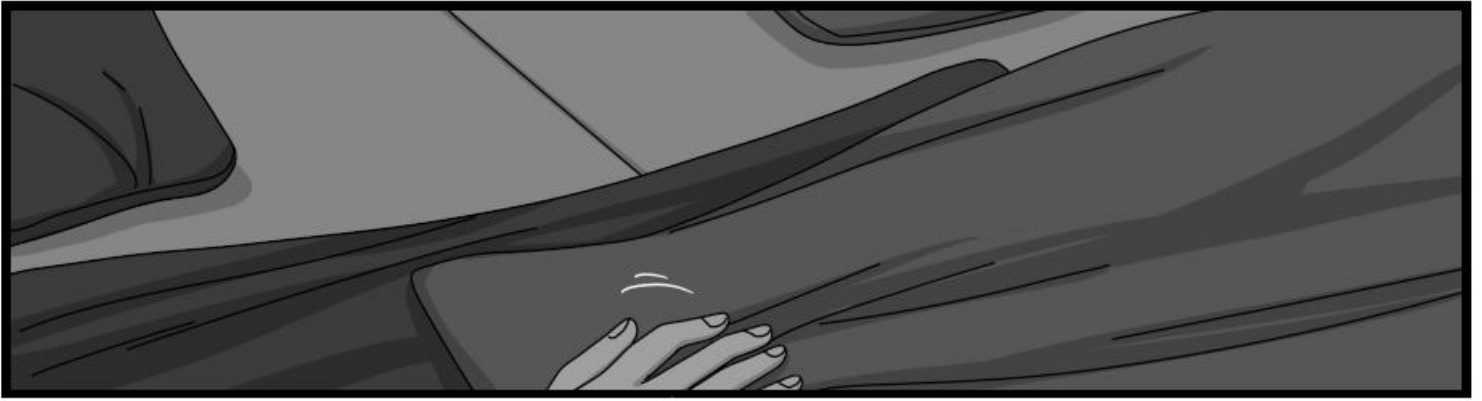


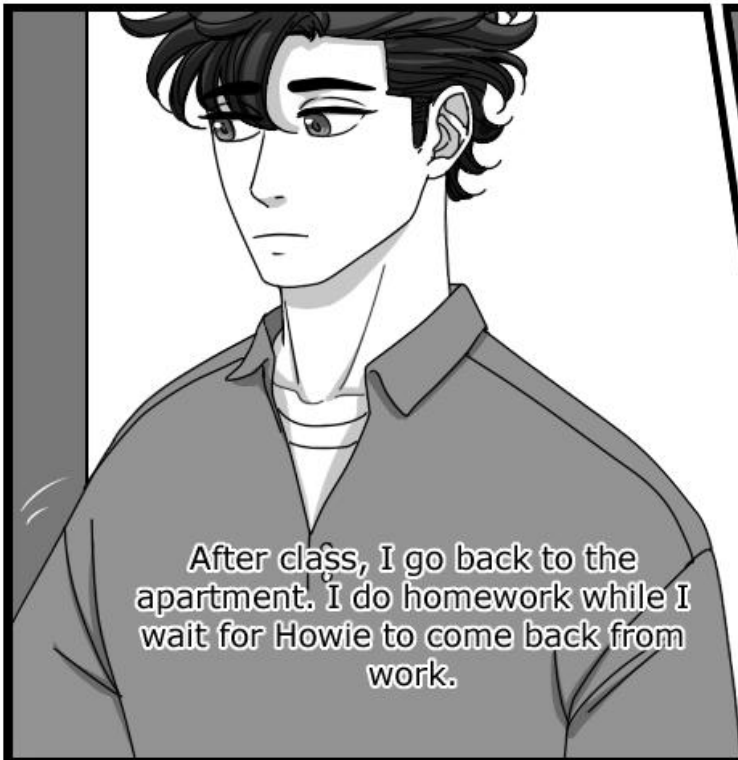
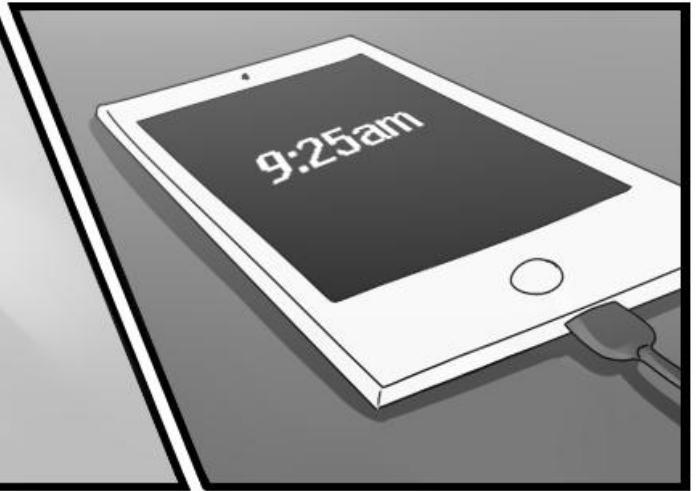
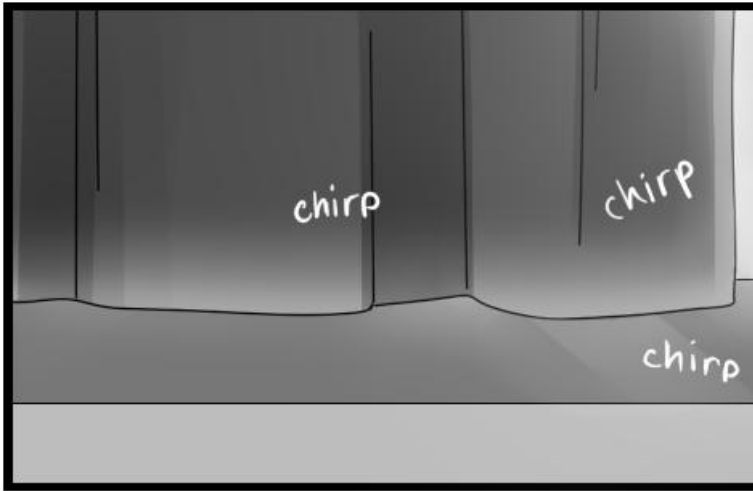












And every night I move my bed next to his, and we sleep together. In the morning I move it back, just in case we have company.

It's the same routine every single day.

I spend the whole evening with him.

I'm still not sure if it's possible for me to fall in love with him....

After all, the only vague indication that it may work is that one kiss we shared.

For now, the plan is to spend all my time with him... to try to get to know him in new ways.

And if he gives me some sort of special feeling, I won't reject it or deny it.

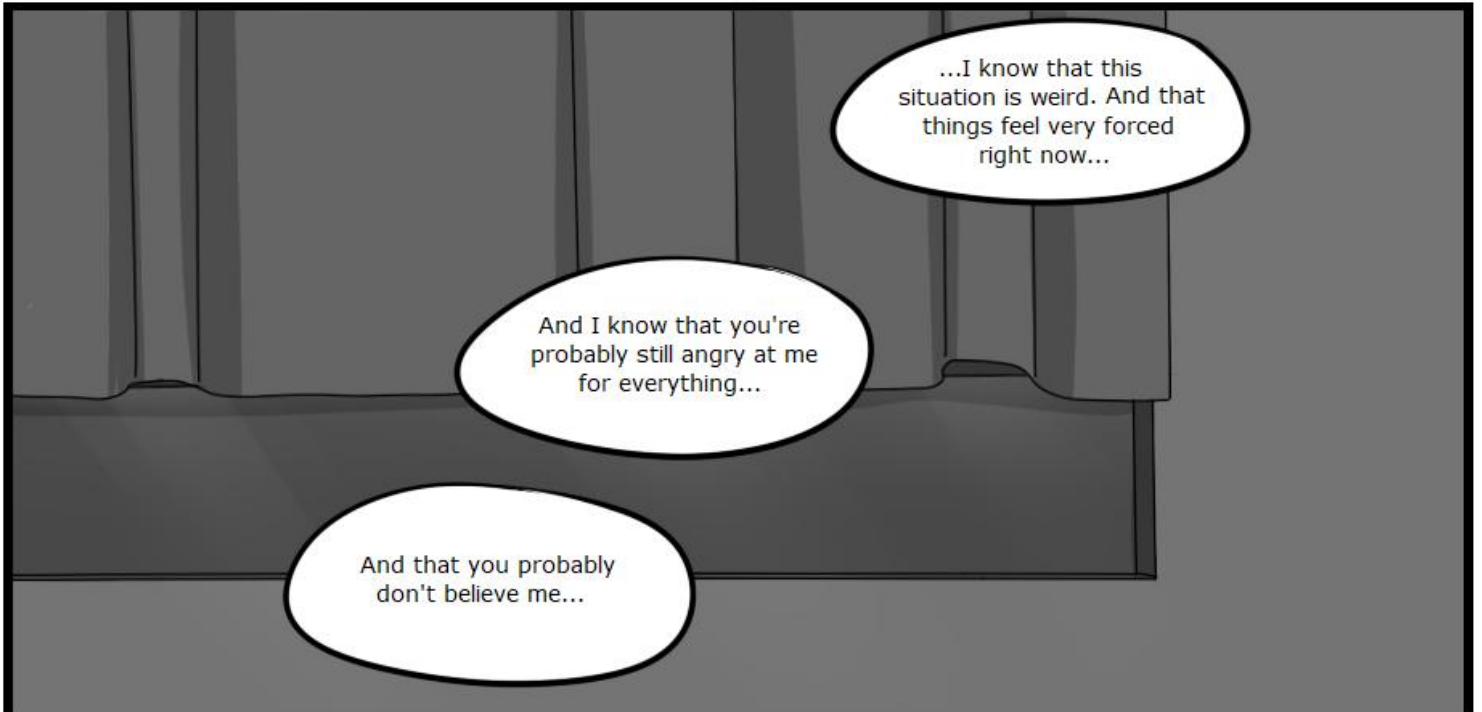
But... Howie's really guarded around me now. And I'll never be able to figure it out if he doesn't give me the chance to...

!!!
Lucky there's a family guy!





But if I'm ever going to figure this out, I need you to work with me...



...I know that this situation is weird. And that things feel very forced right now...

And I know that you're probably still angry at me for everything...

And that you probably don't believe me...



...But I really did mean it this time, when I said I want to give this a chance.











...I'm scared of how this could turn out.

I'm scared, too.



Just... please be patient with me while I figure things out.

I will...



We'll just take it slow... one day at a time.

Yeah...

end of chapter ten