

FRIDAY NIGHT, AT SOME NOT-SO-POPULAR BAR...





THAT'S IT, GUYS! THIS IS
ROCK'N'ROLL!



FORGET IT,
MAN.

don't
pay
attention!
It's free

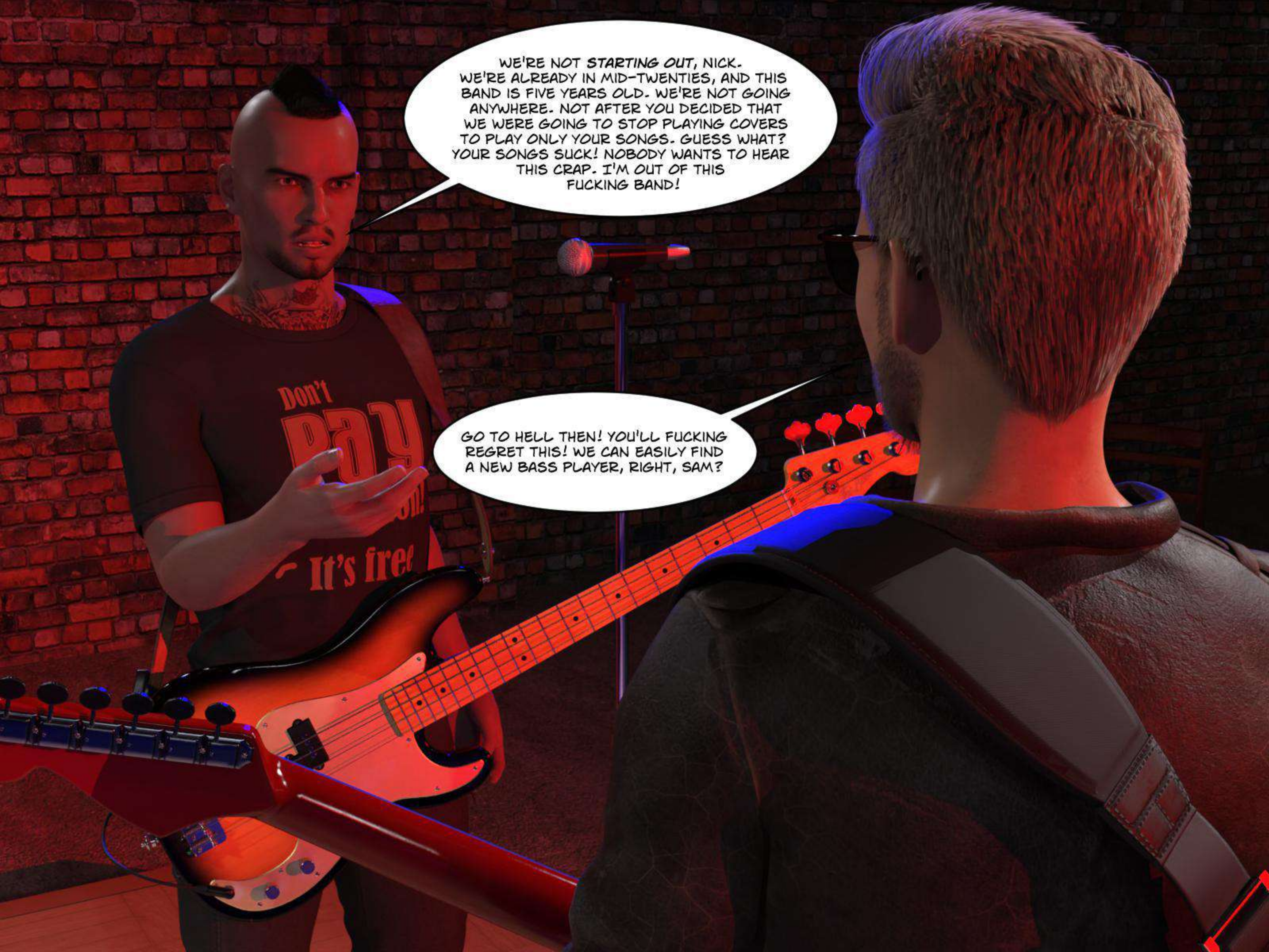
NONE OF THE FOUR PEOPLE WHO WERE CRAZY ENOUGH TO SHOW UP TONIGHT GIVE A SHIT ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

RESTROOMS




FINE, MAN, WE HAD A BAD NIGHT.
SO WHAT? EVERY LEGENDARY BAND
HAS PLAYED TO HALF A DOZEN PEOPLE
WHEN THEY WERE STARTING OUT!





WE'RE NOT STARTING OUT, NICK. WE'RE ALREADY IN MID-TWENTIES, AND THIS BAND IS FIVE YEARS OLD. WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NOT AFTER YOU DECIDED THAT WE WERE GOING TO STOP PLAYING COVERS TO PLAY ONLY YOUR SONGS. GUESS WHAT? YOUR SONGS SUCK! NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR THIS CRAP. I'M OUT OF THIS FUCKING BAND!

GO TO HELL THEN! YOU'LL FUCKING REGRET THIS! WE CAN EASILY FIND A NEW BASS PLAYER, RIGHT, SAM?



ACTUALLY, I'M LEAVING THE BAND
TOO, NICK. DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I DON'T EVEN THINK YOUR SONGS
ARE THAT BAD... THE THING IS...
I GOT BILLS TO PAY. I CAN'T
KEEP PLAYING TO EMPTY BARS.
SORRY, MAN!

The Dinner

A man with short, light-colored hair, a goatee, and dark sunglasses is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark leather jacket over a dark t-shirt. He has a determined or slightly angry expression on his face. The background is a brick wall with several framed pictures hanging on it. The lighting is dramatic, with strong blue and purple hues. A speech bubble is positioned to the right of his head, containing text.

YOU TWO ARE... TRAITORS!
GO AWAY THEN. BUT LISTEN
TO WHAT I'M SAYING, I'M GOING
TO BE FAMOUS, AND I'M GOING
TO BE FAMOUS PLAYING
MY SONGS!

I DON'T NEED THOSE LOSERS.
FOR TONIGHT, I GUESS WHAT
I HAVE LEFT IS TO TRY AND
HAVE SOME FUN...

RESTROOMS



RESTROOMS




HI THERE, PRETTY LADY!
CAN I BUY YOU A DRINK?



RESTROOMS


OH, HI! YOU WERE THE ONE SINGING, RIGHT? YOU'RE SO GOOD. I REALLY ENJOYED THE CONCERT!



A man with short, light-colored hair, wearing sunglasses, a dark leather jacket, and a dark t-shirt, stands in a club. He is smiling and gesturing with his right hand. A woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, ruffled dress, stands in front of him, her back to the camera. The background is a brick wall with blue and red lighting. There are tables and chairs in the background.

REALLY? THAT MAKES YOU MY
BIGGEST FAN TONIGHT. I GUESS
I'LL HAVE TO BUY YOU TWO DRINKS
THEN! I'M NICK, BY THE WAY.
NICK MOORE.


TEE-HEE NICE TO MEET YOU, NICK,
I'M MIN-JI. SORRY FOR MY BAD ENGLISH.
I'M HERE ON AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM
AND I DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE
VERY WELL YET.



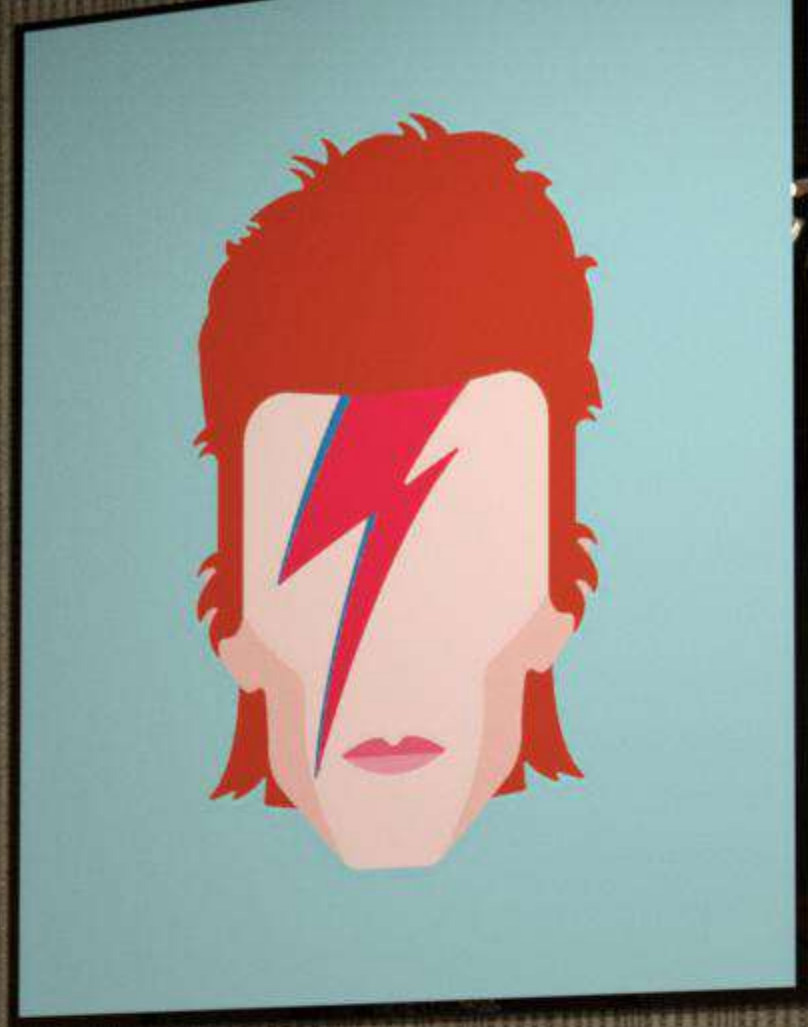
나는 당신의
영어가 훌륭하다고
생각합니다!

WOW, SO YOU SPEAK KOREAN?
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A LOT IN
COMMON NICK-OPPA. I ALSO
LIKE TO SING AND WRITE SONGS,
YOU KNOW?

*I THINK YOUR ENGLISH IS GREAT!

A man with short, light-colored hair, wearing dark sunglasses and a black leather jacket over a dark t-shirt, stands in a dimly lit club. He is looking towards a woman with long, dark hair who is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The background features a brick wall, several speakers, and rows of wooden chairs and tables. The lighting is a mix of red and blue, creating a moody atmosphere. A thought bubble originates from the man's head, containing text about his excitement for a college exchange program.

GOD BLESS THE LOCAL COLLEGE
FOR THIS EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH
KOREAN STUDENTS. AREN'T KOREAN
GIRLS THE HOTTEST IN THE WORLD?
JUST HEARING THIS CHICK CALL ME
'NICK-OPPA' MAKES ME SO EXCITED!
IT REALLY PAID OFF TO LEARN HALF
A DOZEN SENTENCES IN KOREAN...




CHAPTER ONE

FINGERTIP

THREE DAYS LATER...






ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING US INTO YOUR STUDIO, NICK-OPPA. WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR PRODUCING AND RECORDING OUR SONG WITHOUT CHARGING US A PENNY! YOU'RE TOO KIND!



THAT WAS MY PLEASURE,
MIN-JI. IT'S ALWAYS NICE
TO HELP FELLOW ARTISTS
AND SONGWRITERS!

THANKS ANYWAY! IT'S
A REALLY NICE STUDIO YOU
HAVE HERE. I BET YOU'VE
SPENT A FORTUNE
BUILDING THIS.

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a black choker and a light pink floral dress, sits on a brown couch. She is looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. The man has short, light brown hair and is wearing a black t-shirt. The background features a textured wall and a wooden door. A speech bubble is positioned in the lower-left corner of the frame.

I'VE INVESTED SOME MONEY IN EQUIPMENT AND SUCH, SURE, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT I INHERITED THIS PLACE FROM MY UNCLE. GREAT GUY, UNCLE FRANK! HE HAD SOME ISSUES WITH GAMBLING, BUT HE MANAGED TO KEEP THIS PLACE UNTIL THE END, AND IT WAS HIS GREAT PRIDE! HE WAS THE ONE WHO GOT ME INTO ROCK MUSIC AND TAUGHT ME HOW TO PLAY GUITAR. MAN, I REALLY MISS THAT GUY!




WE'RE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS,
NICK-OPPA. IT'S ALWAYS SAD TO LOSE
SOMEONE WE LOVE. I IMAGINE YOU STILL
HAVE YOUR PARENTS, THOUGH, AND THAT
THEY ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU. FAMILY IS
EVERYTHING, AFTER ALL.

MY PARENTS, PROUD OF ME?!
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS!


LET'S JUST SAY MY PARENTS WERE NEVER VERY HAPPY WITH MY LIFE CHOICES, SO WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS. I THINK THIS WAS BETTER FOR EVERYONE.



A man with short, light-colored hair and a beard is sitting in a wooden chair in a recording studio. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a white geometric pattern. He is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. A woman with dark hair is seen from the back, looking towards him. The studio has wood-paneled walls with acoustic foam panels. A piano and a mixing console are visible in the background.


BUT LET'S PUT THAT ASIDE, OKAY?
IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON
POP MUSIC, BUT I FOUND THE SONG
YOU GIRLS RECORDED... INTERESTING!
FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, YOU WERE
ONCE TRAINEES AT A RECORD LABEL IN
KOREA, RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT. WE TRAINED TOGETHER
FOR LIKE FOUR YEARS, BUT THEN, SADLY,
THE COMPANY WENT BANKRUPT BEFORE
WE COULD DEBUT. AS YOU CAN GUESS,
WE WERE HEARTBROKEN!



LIKE IN YOUR FAMILY, MY PARENTS WEREN'T TOO KEEN ON MY MUSIC CAREER EITHER, AND FOR A FEW YEARS I PUT THAT IDEA ASIDE AND WENT TO COLLEGE. JUST RECENTLY I GOT BACK TO WRITING SONGS, AND DASOM, EUNJOO AND I STARTED PRACTICING SOME CHOREOGRAPHIES AGAIN. IT WAS A GREAT LUCK THAT WE WERE CHOSEN IN THIS EXCHANGE PROGRAM TOGETHER. WE'RE STILL VERY CLOSE TO THIS DAY.

AT FIRST, WE WERE JUST DOING IT JUST FOR FUN, BUT THEN AN OPPORTUNITY AROSE...

A man with short, light-colored hair and a beard is sitting in a recording studio. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a white graphic of a crown and a face. He is gesturing with his hands as he speaks. Two women are sitting in front of him, one on the left wearing a red top and one on the right wearing a pink floral top. The background shows a mixing console and soundproofing panels.

YEAH... FROM WHAT YOU GIRLS TOLD ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT T-PANDA GUY, RIGHT? I REMEMBER HIM EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN INTO K-POP. THAT FUNNY SONG HE WROTE BLEW UP ALL OVER THE WORLD A FEW YEARS AGO, AND WHEREVER YOU WENT IT WAS PLAYING NONSTOP!

EXACTLY. AND T-PANDA HAD ENOUGH OF THE IDOL LIFE AND DECIDED TO START HIS OWN RECORD LABEL. BUT THE THING IS, HE'S TRYING TO DO THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE NORM IN KOREA. INSTEAD OF TRAINING IDOLS FOR YEARS AND YEARS ON END, HE IS LOOKING FOR "AMATEUR" GROUPS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DEBUTING.

HE JUST ANNOUNCED A CONTEST TO CHOOSE THE COMPANY'S FIRST GROUP. SORT OF LIKE "THE VOICE", YOU KNOW? WITH GROUPS BEING VOTED ON WITHOUT PEOPLE SEEING THE MEMBERS' FACES.



THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU TO
BE BRUTALLY HONEST WITH US,
NICK-OPPA.

DO YOU REALLY THINK OUR
SONG IS GOOD ENOUGH?




HMM... LIKE I SAID, I'M NOT A POP MUSIC EXPERT. I DO THINK, THOUGH, THAT THE SONG YOU GIRLS RECORDED IS... QUITE CATCHY...

BUT...?

WELL, BEING HONEST, I THINK SOMETHING IN THE VOCALS IS MISSING. DON'T GET ME WRONG, YOU GIRLS ARE IN TUNE AND CLEARLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT THE SONG NEEDS SOME HIGH NOTES AND A MORE VIBRANT VOICE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST CHORUS.

WHEN WE WERE TRAINEES, WE HAD
A MAIN VOCALIST, A GIRL CALLED JIHOO.
YOU HAD TO HEAR HER SINGING... SHE WAS
GREAT! UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, SHE
LEFT THE GROUP EVEN BEFORE THE
COMPANY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS.



A man with short, styled hair and a beard, wearing a black t-shirt, is sitting in a recording studio. He is looking towards a large, professional mixing console with many faders and knobs. A vintage-style microphone is positioned in front of the console. The studio walls are covered in acoustic foam. The scene is lit with warm, indoor lighting.

I SEE... WELL, WITH JIHOO OR NOT,
I BELIEVE YOU GIRLS CAN DO BETTER. LET'S
TRY FEW MORE TAKES. MAYBE YOU WERE JUST
A LITTLE NERVOUS BEFORE. JUST REMEMBER
TO FEEL WHAT YOU'RE SINGING, OKAY? THIS IS
REALLY IMPORTANT. I ONCE WITNESSED A GUY
DRINKING A WHOLE WEEK TO RECORD A SONG
ABOUT A MONSTER HANGOVER. FUN TIMES...
I WONDER HOW TOM IS DOING IN REHAB.

ANYWAY, ABOUT THE HIGH NOTES,
I THINK THE SONG WOULD NEED
SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

♪ ANNNNNN! ♪





WOW, MINJI-UNNIE WASN'T LYING WHEN SHE SAID YOU HAD AN AMAZING VOICE, NICK-OPPA!

HALF AN HOUR LATER....



OK, GIRLS...

I SHAVED OFF MY BEARD LIKE
YOU GUYS ASKED ME TO DO, BUT
I STILL DON'T SEE THE POINT
OF IT, YOU KNOW?





C'MON, NICK-OPPA, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT'S IMPORTANT TO FEEL WHAT ONE'S SINGING, RIGHT? AND YOU PROMISED TO RECORD THE LEAD VOCAL IN OUR SONG SINCE THERE'S SOMETHING LACKING, AND YOU CAN SING IN A PITCH AS HIGH AS OURS!


THAT WAY WE WILL HAVE MORE CHANCES IN THE CONTEST. AND UNTIL THE RECORD LABEL MAKES A DECISION, WE'LL HAVE TIME TO PRACTICE AND SING IDENTICALLY, OR AT LEAST CLOSE ENOUGH, TO YOUR RECORDING.

MINJI-UNNIE IS RIGHT. BUT EVEN
THOUGH YOU CAN SING A LOT BETTER
THAN US, YOU'RE NOT SOUNDING GENUINE,
NICK-OPPA. YOU'VE TRIED A LOT OF TAKES,
BUT EVEN SINGING IN A HIGH PITCH, YOU'RE
NOT SOUNDING LIKE A GIRL. THAT'S WHY
YOU NEED SOME... INSPIRATION.






I UNDERSTAND, GIRLS,
BUT... MAKEUP?! ISN'T
IT A LITTLE TOO MUCH?



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO RELUCTANT, NICK-OPPA. HOW HARD CAN IT BE FOR A MAN LIKE YOU? IT'S NOT LIKE A LITTLE MAKEUP WILL TURN YOU INTO A GIRL, RIGHT?



ME AND MY BIG MOUTH! YES, I WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED THIS TALK OF FEELING WHAT YOU'RE SINGING, AND NOW THEY WANT TO PUT MAKEUP ON ME TO SING A SONG ABOUT A GIRL BECOMING MORE FEMININE TO SEDUCE HER CRUSH!


FUCK, WHY DID THOSE KOREAN GIRLS HAVE TO BE SO HOT? I JUST CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT AROUND THEM! AND MINJI HERE IS REALLY PLAYING HARD TO GET... WE HAVEN'T EVEN KISSED YET!



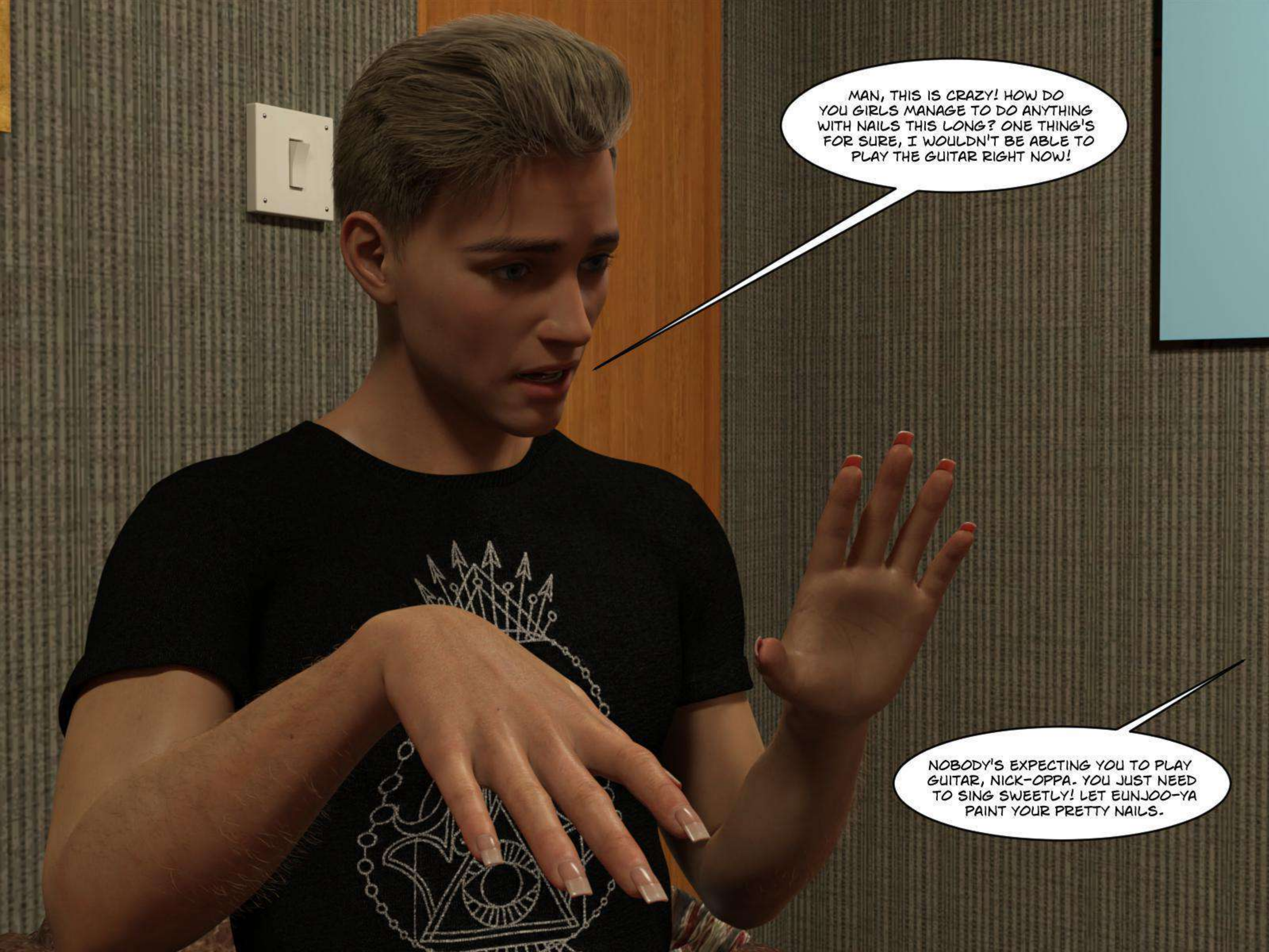


FABULOUS! I THINK WE SHOULD START WITH YOUR NAILS, THEN!

N-NAILS?!



I ALWAYS HAVE SPARE NAILS IN MY PURSE BECAUSE A GIRL NEVER KNOWS WHEN SHE'S GOING TO HAVE AN ACCIDENT... ONE NAIL GLUED, NINE TO GO!

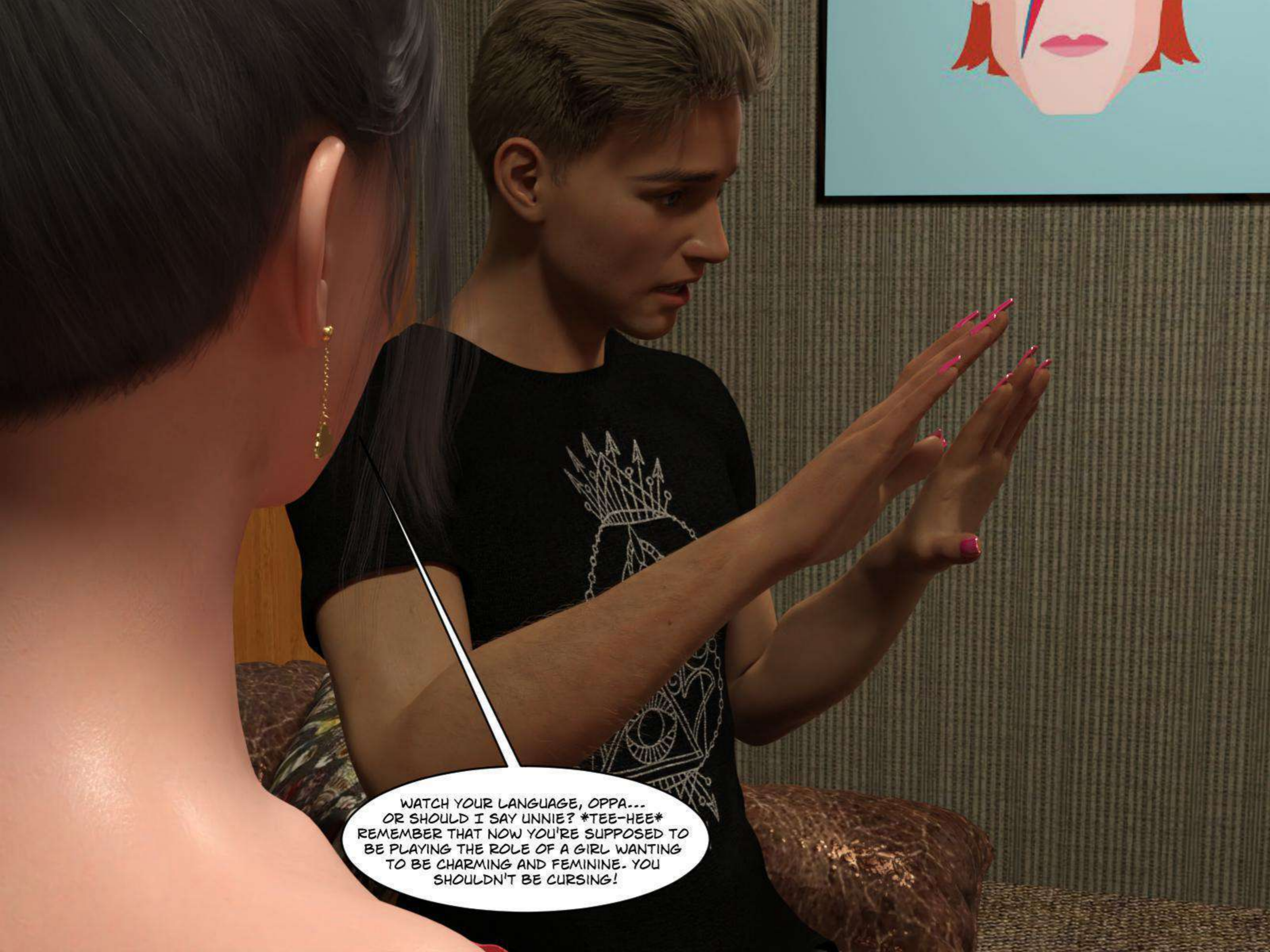


MAN, THIS IS CRAZY! HOW DO YOU GIRLS MANAGE TO DO ANYTHING WITH NAILS THIS LONG? ONE THING'S FOR SURE, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PLAY THE GUITAR RIGHT NOW!


NOBODY'S EXPECTING YOU TO PLAY GUITAR, NICK-OPPA. YOU JUST NEED TO SING SWEETLY! LET EUNJOO-YA PAINT YOUR PRETTY NAILS.



OH FUCK...



WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, OPPA...
OR SHOULD I SAY UNNIE? *TEE-HEE*
REMEMBER THAT NOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE PLAYING THE ROLE OF A GIRL WANTING
TO BE CHARMING AND FEMININE. YOU
SHOULDN'T BE CURSING!

A woman with dark, wavy hair and a black choker with a heart pendant is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a light pink, off-the-shoulder dress with a floral pattern. She has a slightly open mouth as if speaking. The background is a textured wall and a wooden chair with a perforated backrest. Three speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, connected to her mouth by lines.

I KNOW WE'RE PUSHING A LOT,
OPPA, BUT THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT
TO US! WE'LL OWE YOU A BIG ONE.
SO, COULD YOU START TALKING LIKE
A GIRL? TO GET INTO CHARACTER,
YOU KNOW?


WHEN YOU KOREANS GET AN IDEA
IN YOUR HEAD, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
TO MAKE YOU FORGET
ABOUT IT, RIGHT?

CORRECT! COULD YOU TRY
THIS, PRETTY PLEASE?




L-LIKE THIS?


HMM... NOT BAD...

A woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a red off-the-shoulder dress, is holding a makeup brush. She has a slight smile and is looking towards the camera. A speech bubble is positioned to her right, containing the text "NOW LET'S DO YOUR MAKEUP, SHALL WE?". The background is a textured, dark green wall. A patterned cushion is visible in the lower right corner.

NOW LET'S DO YOUR
MAKEUP, SHALL WE?



DON'T LOOK SO SAD, LUNNIE!
MAKEUP IS A LOT OF FUN!



I'M NOT GOING TO WORRY ABOUT FOUNDATION BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY OF YOUR SHADE HERE, BUT LET'S TRY SOME BLUSH, OKAY?

YOU STILL HAVE SOME HAIRS ON YOUR FACE. NOT GOOD. MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT ELECTROLYSIS!
TEE-HEE



NOW SOME MASCARA AND EYESHADOW.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO
PLUCK YOUR EYEBROWS? YOU COULD
LOOK EVEN PRETTIER!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR VOICE?
REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST SPEAK
LIKE A GIRL!

YES, I'M SURE.



AND, OF COURSE, WE CAN'T FORGET THE LIPSTICK! IT FEELS GOOD, DOESN'T IT? LET ME DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR HAIR TOO. IT DOESN'T LOOK SO STYLISH .



THERE, MUCH BETTER!
DO YOU WANT TO SEE
HOW YOU LOOK?

WHATEVER... *AHEM*
I'M SURE I LOOK
RIDICULOUS, ANYWAY.

DON'T BE SO SURE!





YEAH, LIKE I SAID,
RIDICULOUS!



NOT EVEN FIVE MINUTES AS A GIRL,
AND YOU'RE ALREADY ACTING LIKE
ONE, HUH? YEAH, WE ALWAYS THINK
WE CAN LOOK BETTER, DON'T WE?




ABSOLUTELY, LUNNIE!





I KNOW I ASKED YOU TO PRETEND TO BE A GIRL, BUT I WASN'T PICTURING YOU AS A BITCHY ONE. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SARCASTIC WITH ME, OPPA.



C'MON, NICOLE, DON'T BE LIKE THAT. I KNOW YOU'RE MAD, BUT LET'S JUST RECORD THIS SONG SO WE CAN HAVE FUN...



FUCK, I JUST CAN'T RESIST
HER WHISPERING IN MY EAR
LIKE THIS. IT'S SO
DAMN HOT!



O-O-KAY...




THAT'S MY
GOOD GIRL!



CHAPTER Two
Knock Knock

THE NEXT MORNING...



A close-up photograph of a hand with a pointing finger directed at a dark door. A white speech bubble with jagged edges is superimposed on the image, containing a threatening message. The background shows a textured wall and a shaggy rug.

NICK, OPEN THE DOOR RIGHT NOW
OR I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, YOUR
SON OF A BITCH!

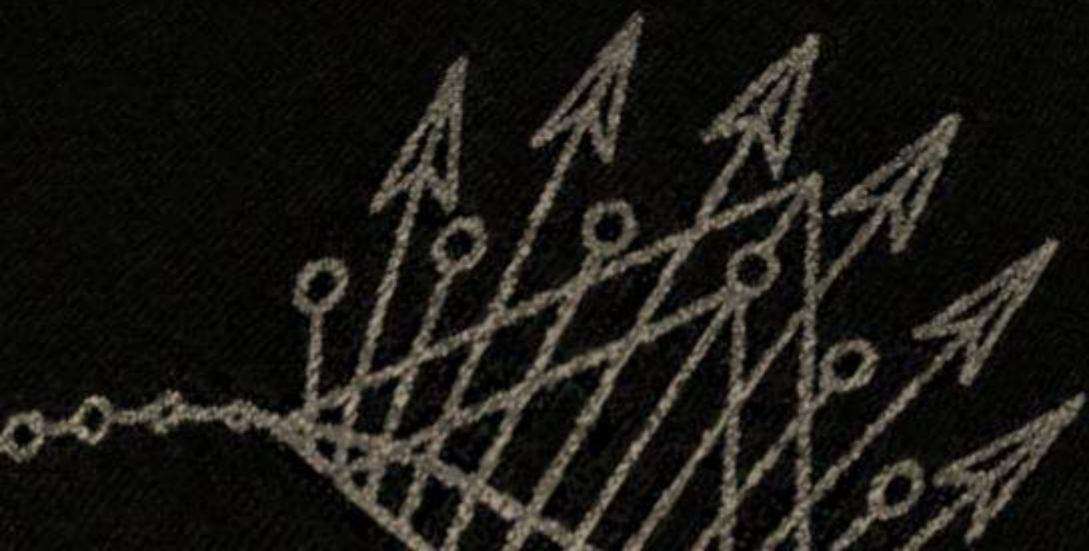
HMM...?



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
WHO IS MAKING SUCH A DRAMA?




MAN, I FEEL LIKE I GOT HIT
BY A TRUCK. THOSE KOREAN GIRLS
MAY LOOK CUTE AND ALL, BUT THEY
SURELY DRINK LIKE LUMBERJACKS!



OUCH, WHY THE HELL
DID I JAB MY EYE?





OH, OF COURSE, IT'S THOSE
DAMN FAKE NAILS! EUNJOO SAID
SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE SOLVENT WITH
HER YESTERDAY. SHE REALLY SHOULD
HAVE CHECKED THIS OUT BEFORE
GLUING THOSE THINGS
TO MY FINGERS!




FUCK, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER
FORGET HOW HUMILIATED I FELT
YESTERDAY...



C'MON, NICOLE, WE'VE TRIED THIS ABOUT THIRTY TIMES ALREADY!

I'M DOING MY BEST, OKAY? THAT'S NOT EASY SOUNDING LIKE A GIRL. TO MAKE IT WORSE, I HAVE TO SING IN KOREAN, A LANGUAGE I BARELY KNOW. DO YOU REALLY NEED TO KEEP CALLING ME NICOLE, ANYWAY?



YES, I DO. NOW MORE THAN EVER!
YOU SEE, THAT IS THE PROBLEM, YOU'RE NOT TRYING HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE NICOLE, A GIRL BECOMING MORE FEMININE AND CONFIDENT TO SEDUCE HER CRUSH. IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU CAN SING BETTER THAN US IF YOU CAN'T PLAY THE CHARACTER. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, GIRL!

SO NOW I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT YOUR PRETTY NAILS AND BE PROUD OF THEM... THINK OF THE TASTE OF YOUR LIPSTICK AND HOW GIRLY IT MAKES YOU FEEL... WHAT ABOUT THE WEIGHT OF YOUR EYELASHES? YOU JUST LOVE THE WAY THEY FLUTTER CHARMINGLY... IT'S ALL SO EXCITING KNOWING YOU'RE ONE STEP CLOSER TO WINNING YOUR CRUSH'S HEART...



AND YOU DO WANT
TO WIN YOUR CRUSH'S
HEART, DON'T YOU?

A-ALRIGHT... LET ME TRY AGAIN.





I WAS ONCE SOMEONE WHO HAD NO PLACE,
HIDING MY SMILE, A MASK OVER MY FACE.
BUT NOW I'M STEPPING OUT, BREAKING FREE,
UNLEASHING THE GIRL I'M MEANT TO BE.

I'LL SLIP ON HEELS, REACHING FOR THE SKY,
WITH EVERY STEP, I'LL CATCH YOUR EYE.
IN SHADES OF ROSE, MY LIPS WILL SHINE,
OH BOY, YOUR HEART WILL SOON BE MINE.




HEY, HEY, HEY, BOY,
YOUR HEART WILL
BE MINE!





OH, NICOLE, THAT WAS GREAT! I THINK YOU DESERVE A REWARD.





AND THAT WAS ALL I GOT... ONE KISS. THE SWEET MINJI CONTINUED TO RESIST MY ADVANCES AFTERWARDS, WHEN WE WERE HAVING A DRINK TO CELEBRATE RECORDING THE SONG, SAYING IT WAS TOO SOON. WAS ALL THE HUMILIATION WORTH IT? MAN, I KNOW IS THAT WAS A FUCKING HOT KISS!

I CAN HEAR YOU, YOU MORON! OPEN THE FUCKING DOOR THIS SECOND OR I'M GOING TO BREAK IT DOWN AND STICK THE DOORKNOB DOWN YOUR THROAT!



OH, GO FUCK
YOURSELF!



CAN'T YOU WAIT
A FUCKING MINUTE?!




YOU?! WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING HERE?




I WANT TO KNOW WHERE MY STUFF IS, YOU PIECE OF SHIT!

YOUR STUFF? WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DRUGS,
YOU ASSHOLE! YOU WERE THE ONLY
ONE BESIDES ME WHO KNEW WHERE THEY
WERE HIDDEN, AND NOW THEY ARE GONE!



LISTEN, ROY, I DON'T
KNOW WHY YOU THINK...

WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT THE
HELL HAVE YOU DONE TO
YOUR NAILS?!



MAN, I'M BEING SO STUPID TODAY! WHY DID I OPEN THE DOOR WITH MY NAILS LOOKING LIKE THIS?

UMM... IT WAS ALL ABOUT
A STUPID BET I LOST AND...

A BET MY ASS! I ALWAYS KNEW
YOU WERE A FUCKING SISSY, NICKY.
A SISSY PRETENDING TO BE
A WANNABE ROCK STAR!



YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TALK ABOUT, ROY!

WHY? WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? CALL YOUR BOYFRIEND TO DEFEND YOU, SISSY BOY?



I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S
SISSY HERE!






OUCH!

WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU BREAK
A NAIL, POOR SISSY? YOU REALLY HAVE
FAIRY HANDS, DON'T YOU? LET ME SHOW
YOU WHAT A REAL PUNCH LOOKS LIKE!







NOW TELL ME WHERE
THE DAMN DRUGS ARE!

I DON'T KNOW SHIT, MAN.
I DON'T DO DRUGS.



I DON'T EITHER... NOT ANYMORE.
BUT I WAS STRAPPED FOR CASH, AS OUR
GODDAMN BAND WAS GOING DOWNHILL, AND
I TOOK SOME TO SELL. YOU KNOW I HAVEN'T
PAID FOR THAT CRAP YET, RIGHT? AND I GOT
THE STUFF FROM VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE.
IF I GET SCREWED, I SWEAR I'LL TAKE
YOU DOWN WITH ME. JUST IMAGINE WHAT
JP AND HIS GANG WOULD DO TO A SISSY
LIKE YOU?


YOU HAVE UNTIL
TOMORROW. AFTER THAT...
YOU ALREADY KNOW.



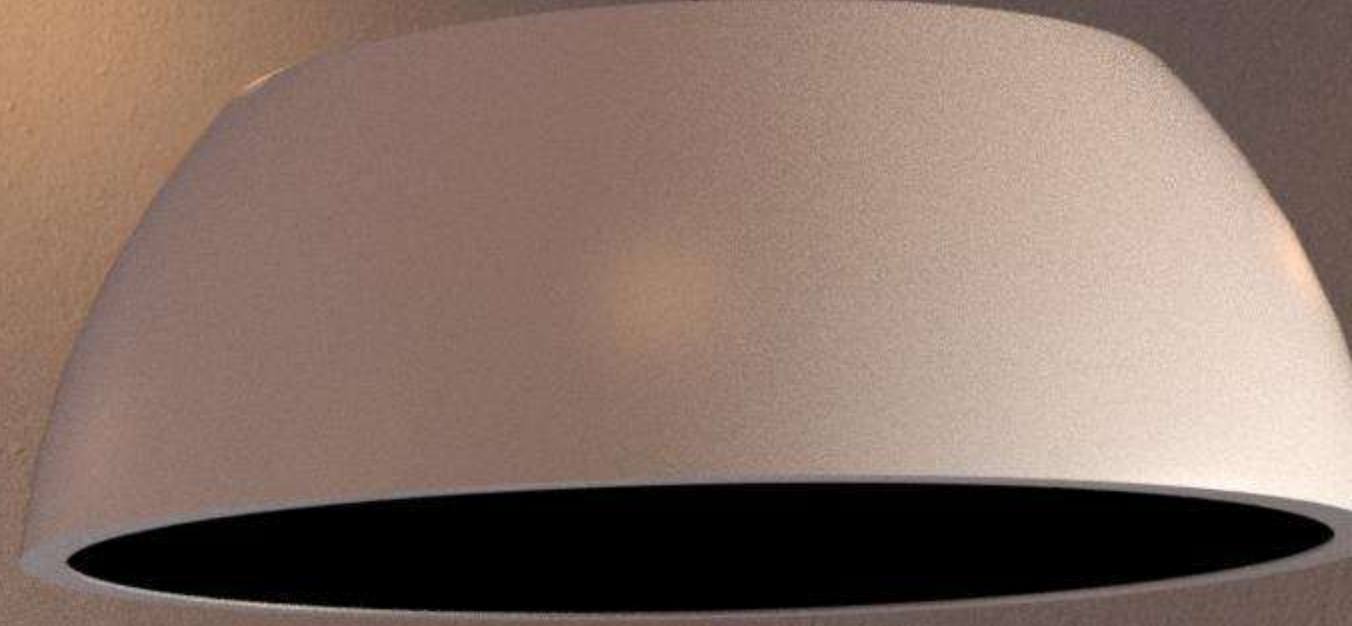




FUCK...

A low-angle shot of a person's legs in black pants and shoes standing on a light-colored wooden floor. In the background, another person is lying on the floor, and a third person's legs in grey pants and black sneakers are visible. A white speech bubble with a black border is positioned on the left side of the frame, containing the text: "HELLO. ARE YOU MR. BAXTER? DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?".


HELLO. ARE YOU MR. BAXTER?
DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?



CHAPTER THREE
ALONE?

A FEW HOURS LATER...






THAT'S AN ABSURD IDEA, MINJI!
I'M TELLING YOU, I WON'T DO
THAT IN A MILLION YEARS!




YOU'RE NOT BEING REASONABLE, OPPA. LET'S RECAP EVERYTHING, SHALL WE? YOUR FORMER BEST FRIEND IS ACCUSING YOU OF STEALING SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO HIM, AND YOU BELIEVE THAT DANGEROUS PEOPLE ARE AFTER YOU BECAUSE OF IT.


AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, YOU'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT YOUR UNCLE, WHO BEQUEATHED YOU THE STUDIO AND THE HOUSE YOU LIVE IN, HAS UNPAID GAMBLING DEBTS, AND YOU'VE RECEIVED A COURT ORDER TO VACATE THE PROPERTY. NONE OF YOUR FRIENDS AGREED TO HOST YOU AND I'M THE ONLY ONE OFFERING YOU A HAND.




YES, YES, I KNOW ALL THAT,
AND BELIEVE ME, I AM VERY
GRATEFUL TO YOU, MINJI! BUT
WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING...

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a red spaghetti-strap dress, is shown in profile, looking towards a man. The man is wearing a grey, textured sweater and is mostly obscured by the woman's shoulder. They are in a room with large windows overlooking a lush garden with a wooden bench and greenery. A speech bubble is positioned near the woman's mouth.


IT'S THE ONLY WAY, OPPA.
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WANT
TO ASK YOUR PARENTS FOR HELP.



NEVER! I ALREADY TOLD YOU
THAT THIS IS ABSOLUTELY OUT
OF THE QUESTION!

A woman with dark, wavy hair is sitting on a pink chair. She is wearing a purple halter-neck top with a white stripe. She is looking slightly to her left. A speech bubble is positioned to her right, containing text. In the background, there is a white vase with a dried branch on a wooden surface.

THEN I SEE NO OTHER OPTION.
AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU, WHEN WE CAME TO
THE US FOR THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, THERE
WERE NO FREE ROOMS IN THE COLLEGE DORM,
BUT WE MANAGED TO RENT THIS COMFORTABLE
HOUSE FOR A VERY GOOD PRICE. THE LANDLADY'S
ONLY RULE WAS THAT BOYS COULDN'T LIVE HERE.
SO IF YOU WANT TO STAY FOR A FEW DAYS,
YOU'LL NEED TO BE A GIRL.




BUT MINJI, EVEN IF I AGREED TO THIS CRAZY PLAN, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN PASS AS A GIRL. IT GOT CLEAR YESTERDAY!

YESTERDAY WE HAD NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE SUPPLIES TO TRULY WORK ON YOU, SILLY! BESIDES, EVEN IF THE LANDLADY REALIZES YOU WERE BORN A MALE, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T BE A FEMALE, RIGHT? SHE JUST NEEDS TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE A TRANS GIRL IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSITIONING. HOW HARD CAN IT BE, OPPA? THIS IS JUST FOR A FEW DAYS, RIGHT?

NOT LONG AFTER...

RELAX, OPPA! NOW THAT THE GIRLS HAVE GOTTEN RID OF YOUR BODY HAIR, THEY CAN GET ON WITH THE WORK. I KNOW EVERYONE HERE. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.


YOU SEE, SABRINA EVEN AGREED TO OPEN THE SALON ON HER DAY OFF SO YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH NO OTHER CLIENTS AROUND. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, OKAY? I JUST NEED TO BUY SOME STUFF.

A man with short, spiky brown hair and blue eyes is sitting in a white chair in a bright, modern spa or salon. He is wearing a shiny, pink robe with a floral pattern. The background shows a clean, white interior with several white chairs and a long white counter. Three comic-style speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text that suggests a medical or cosmetic procedure is being performed on him.

W-WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SABRINA?!

TRUST ME, SWEETIE. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS. DO YOU SEE HOW AMAZING THE CREAM I APPLIED ON YOU IS? YOUR SKIN LOOKS CLEARER AND I'VE EVEN MANAGED TO DISGUISE THE BRUISE UNDER YOUR EYE!

NOW THAT I'VE WORKED ON YOUR EYEBROWS, I'M JUST USING SOME SURGICAL GLUE TO MOLD YOUR EYES INTO THE DESIRED SHAPE. NOTHING PERMANENT, OF COURSE! IN JUST A FEW WEEKS EVERYTHING WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL! I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE FOR FASHION SHOWS AND PLAYS.



YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S GOING ON!

TRY NOT TO TALK FOR A MINUTE,
HONEY. BECCA IS GOING TO WORK
ON YOUR MAKEUP NOW. OH, AND
YOU'LL DEFINITELY NEED SOME
FILLING ON THE LIPS!




THERE, MUCH BETTER!



OUCH!


CALM DOWN, DARLING! I KNOW THAT PIERCING THE EARS IS A BIT OF A PAIN, BUT DO YOU SEE HOW CUTE YOU LOOK WITH PRETTY EARRINGS?

A close-up shot of a woman with short, straight black hair and bangs. She has large, expressive eyes, pink lips, and is wearing a shiny, pink floral-patterned jacket with a wide white collar. Her hands are visible, with long, pink, pointed fingernails. She is in a modern, brightly lit hair salon with white chairs and mirrors in the background. A speech bubble is positioned to her right, containing text.

ALRIGHT, YOUR HAIR IS
DONE TOO. OH, IT SEEMS THAT
MINJI IS BACK. JUST IN TIME!



OH MY... I CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK,
NABI-YA!

A woman with short, straight black hair and bright pink lips is shown in a close-up shot. She has a questioning expression on her face. She is wearing a pink and white floral patterned kimono. The background is a modern hair salon with white chairs and sinks. A speech bubble is positioned to her left, containing text.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON, MINJI?
WHY DID THOSE CRAZY BITCHES DYE
MY HAIR BLACK AND PUT CONTACTS
IN MY EYES? THEY EVEN PIERCED MY
EARS THREE TIMES! AND WHY ARE
YOU CALLING ME NABI?




NOW, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN, DOLL!
FIRST OF ALL, YOU SHOULD CALL ME UNNIE
FROM NOW ON, BECAUSE I'M OLDER THAN
YOU AND WE'RE BOTH GIRLS. YOU KNOW THAT
SHOWING RESPECT TO THOSE OLDER THAN
YOU IS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
TO KOREAN PEOPLE!



OLDER THAN ME? WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TWENTY-FIVE!

NO, YOU'RE NOT. NICK IS TWENTY-FIVE,
BUT YOU'RE NOT NICK, RIGHT? YOU'RE
KIM NABI, A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD
KOREAN GIRL.



WHAT?! WHY DO I NEED TO
PRETEND TO BE KOREAN?

BECAUSE THAT WAY IT'LL BE
EASIER TO CONVINCE OUR LANDLADY
TO LET YOU STAY WITH US. WE'LL TELL
HER THAT YOU LEFT KOREA TO FINALLY
BE ABLE TO BE YOUR TRUE SELF, AS YOU
WERE FACING A LOT OF RESISTANCE AT
HOME, AND THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYONE
ELSE HERE. GOT IT? NO MORE QUESTIONS
NOW, NABI-YA. WE STILL HAVE A LOT
OF WORK TO DO!

FIVE MINUTES LATER, IN A CHANGING ROOM...

WHY ARE YOU TAKING SO LONG? IS EVERYTHING OKAY THERE, NABI-YA?

YES YOU DO! THIS IS A GAFF, A SPECIAL UNDERWEAR FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU. NOW PUT THIS ON!

DO I REALLY NEED TO WEAR THESE PANTIES? MAN, THIS IS SO HUMILIATING!



A woman is shown from the waist down, sitting on a toilet. She is wearing a black bikini bottom. Her right hand is resting on her right thigh. A speech bubble is positioned above her head, and another is positioned to the left of the toilet. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

FUCK, THIS IS PAIN IN THE ASS, OKAY?

WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT BEING RESPECTFUL, GIRL? YOU DEFINITELY HAVE A LOT TO LEARN. ALRIGHT, I'M COMING IN!

AH, AMAZING! YOU'RE COMPLETELY
FLAT DOWN THERE. JUST PERFECT! THERE'S
A PART OF YOUR BODY THAT WE DON'T WANT
TO BE SO FLAT, THOUGH. LUCKILY, I HAVE
THE SOLUTION FOR THAT.

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
IN A MINUTE.


W-WHAT ARE
THOSE THINGS?



STOP MOVING SO MUCH, GIRL!
WE NEED TO WAIT FOR THE GLUE TO
DRY! THEN I'LL USE SOME MAKEUP
TO HIDE THE EDGES.


W-WAIT, MINJI,
I DON'T THINK...

GLUE?!



WHAT THE FUCK? THESE
BOOBS LOOK SO REALISTIC!
THIS IS INSANE!

YOU CAN ADMIRE YOUR "GIRLS"
LATER, NABI-YA. NOW IT'S TIME
FOR YOUR FIRST BRA. ISN'T
THAT EXCITING?

A woman with short black hair, wearing a black lace bra and thong, stands in a room. She has her right hand on her head. A speech bubble points to her from the left. A shadow of her is cast on the wall behind her. In the bottom left, there is a purple marble table. In the bottom right, there is a purple tufted ottoman.

IT ALL FEELS SO
FUCKED UP, MINJI!

YOU KNOW, I SHOULD START
PUNISHING YOU EVERY TIME YOU
SWEAR AND NOT CALL ME LUNNIE.
NOW STOP WHINING. YOU'LL WEAR
YOUR PRETTY LINGERIE ALL THE
TIME AS LONG AS YOU'RE A GIRL!
AND I HAVE ANOTHER SURPRISE
FOR YOU...



STOP IT, MINJI! THIS IS TOO TIGHT! I CAN'T FUCKING BREATHE!

OH, IS THERE SOMEONE TALKING TO ME?

PLEASE, STOP... UNNIE!



THAT'S BETTER! YOU SEE,
NABI-YA? GOOD THINGS HAPPEN
WHEN YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL!

ABSOLUTELY NOT, GIRL!
BEING BEAUTIFUL REQUIRES CERTAIN
SACRIFICES. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH.
YOU'LL GET USED TO THE CORSET...
IN TIME. NOW LET'S GET
YOU DRESSED!

I WOULDN'T CALL ANYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENING A "GOOD THING".
COULD YOU LOOSEN THIS FU... THIS
FREAKING CORSET, PLEASE, UNNIE?





OH MY... THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!
I FEEL LIKE I HAVE MY OWN
LIVING BARBIE DOLL, NABI-YA!



C'MON, UNNIE, EVEN YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THIS IS TOO MUCH! YOU CAN'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO WALK OUT OF THE SALON DRESSED LIKE THIS!





YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, NABI-YA,
UNLESS YOU WANT TO GO OUTSIDE
WEARING ONLY YOUR PRETTY LINGERIE!
I'VE GOT RID OF THE CLOTHES YOU
WERE IN WHEN YOU GOT HERE.



YOU WHAT?! YOU HAD
NO RIGHT TO...

I THINK YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, NABI-YA. DO YOU
REALLY WANT TO MAKE IT WORK? THEN YOU
NEED TO START LISTENING TO ME. I'M YOUR
UNNIE AND I KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
I'M GETTING TIRED OF YOUR RUDENESS.

B-BUT...

FOR THE LAST TIME, SILLY GIRL,
IF I'M SAYING YOU CAN GO OUT WEARING
THIS OUTFIT IT'S BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT
I'M TALKING ABOUT. THERE'S JUST ONE
THING WE STILL NEED TO FIX, THOUGH.
OPEN YOUR MOUTH, PLEASE.





W-WHAT THE HEEL WAS...



OUCH! WHAT DID YOU DO TO
COUGH MY THROAT? IT HURTS
COUGH LIKE HEEL!

OUCH!

DON'T BE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN, NABI-YA. YOU'RE JUST USING YOUR VOICE THE WRONG WAY, SO TO SPEAK. BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF IT!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER...





YOU KNOW, GIRL, IF YOU TRULY WANT TO AVOID DRAWING ATTENTION, YOU SHOULD WALK MORE DELICATELY. ANYONE WHO SEES A CUTE LITTLE THING LIKE YOU WALKING AROUND LIKE A BRUTE WILL STOP TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK!



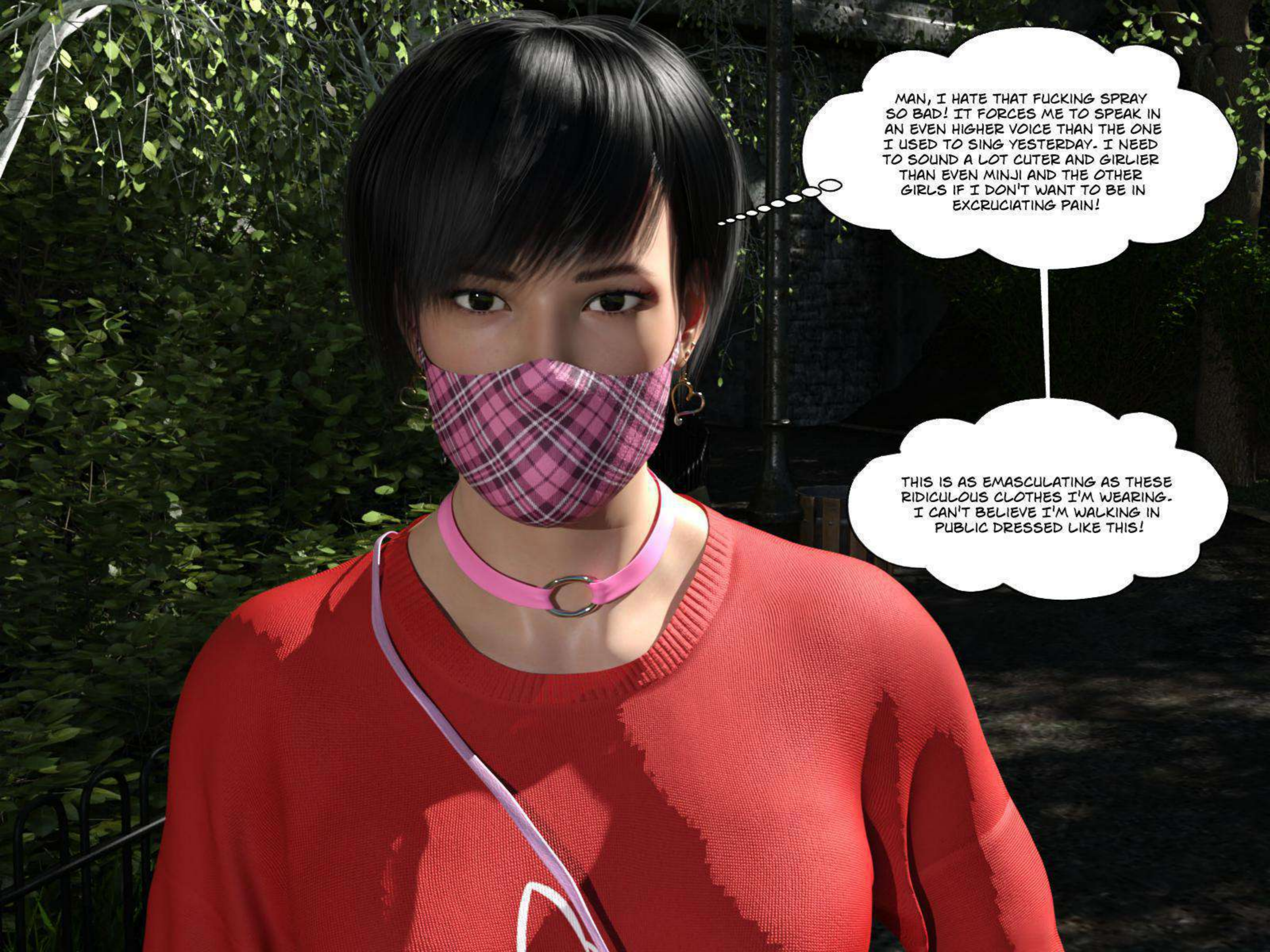
HUMPH!



WHAT'S WRONG, DOLL? ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT THE SPRAY? YOU KNOW THAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. YES, YOU'VE ALREADY PROVEN THAT YOU CAN SPEAK IN A PRETTY FEMALE VOICE, BUT YOU'VE BEEN TOO STUBBORN. WHAT IF DURING YET ANOTHER TANTRUM YOU DECIDED TO USE A MALE VOICE, PRETENDING YOU'RE A MAN IN FRONT OF MY LANDLADY?




REMEMBER THAT I AM RISKING A LOT TO HELP YOU. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT YOU'RE A TRANS GIRL WHOSE BIGGEST DREAM IS TO BE AS GIRLY AS POSSIBLE. WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO SAY SOMETHING? REMEMBER, THE DEAL FOR ME TO LET YOU WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC TODAY WAS THAT YOU WOULD COOPERATE!



MAN, I HATE THAT FUCKING SPRAY SO BAD! IT FORCES ME TO SPEAK IN AN EVEN HIGHER VOICE THAN THE ONE I USED TO SING YESTERDAY. I NEED TO SOUND A LOT CUTER AND GIRLIER THAN EVEN MINJI AND THE OTHER GIRLS IF I DON'T WANT TO BE IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN!

THIS IS AS EMASCULATING AS THESE RIDICULOUS CLOTHES I'M WEARING. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M WALKING IN PUBLIC DRESSED LIKE THIS!



WHEN *AHEM* WILL THIS
SPRAY WEAR OFF, UNNIE? YOU SPRAYED
IT DOWN MY THROAT ALMOST HALF AN
HOUR AGO, SHOULDN'T I ALREADY BE
ABLE TO SPEAK NORMALLY AGAIN?

MY SWEET NABI-YA, YOU'RE SPEAKING
NORMALLY RIGHT NOW! AND YOU SOUND
SO FREAKING ADORABLE! GOSH, I LOVE IT!
GET USED BEING THE CUTEST GIRL AROUND
BECAUSE THE SPRAY WON'T WEAR OFF
FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS!



TWO WEEKS!??



CHAPTER FOUR
YES OR YES

THREE DAYS LATER...




Knock!
Knock!





HMM?



IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP, NABI-YA!
THE OTHER GIRLS HAVE ALREADY LEFT
FOR CLASS. I MADE BREAKFAST!

AL... *COUGH* *COUGH*
ALRIGHT, GIVE ME A MINUTE!



A woman with short dark hair is shown from the back, sitting on a bed. She is wearing dark blue pajamas with a pattern of owls, stars, and moons. Her arms are raised, and she is yawning. The room is dimly lit with warm light from a window, casting shadows on the bed and a wooden clothes rack in the background. A white door is visible to the right.

YAWN!


FUCK, I HATE THIS VOICE SO MUCH! I HATE GETTING UP AT THIS HOUR TOO. I DON'T KNOW WHY MINJI-UNNIE ALWAYS WAKES ME UP SO EARLY!



WAIT... WHY AM I CALLING HER UNNIE WHEN SHE ISN'T AROUND? HAS SHE SCREWED UP MY MIND THIS MUCH ALREADY? IN JUST THREE DAYS?

MAN, I DEFINITELY NEED
SOME COFFEE!





AH, HERE'S
SLEEPING BEAUTY!

HUH?!



A scene from a game showing a character from behind. The character has dark hair and is wearing a black bikini with a pattern of yellow stars and brown owls. A speech bubble points to her from the right. In the background, two women are standing near a window. The woman on the left is wearing a red off-the-shoulder top and denim shorts. The woman on the right is wearing a white dress with a red floral pattern. The room is brightly lit, and there are plants visible outside the window.

UNNIE! Y-YOU DIDN'T
SAY... G-GUEST!



CRAP, I'M SO NERVOUS I CAN BARELY SPEAK! I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A STRANGE WOMAN SEEING ME DRESSED LIKE THIS. IT JUST GETS MORE AND MORE HUMILIATING!



YOU SEE, MRS. GOMEZ,
AS I TOLD YOU, THE POOR
NABI-YA CAN BARELY
SPEAK ENGLISH!



NICE TO MEET YOU,
HONEY! YOU DON'T NEED TO
BE ASHAMED. MINJI ALREADY
TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
I'M THE GIRLS' LANDLADY.

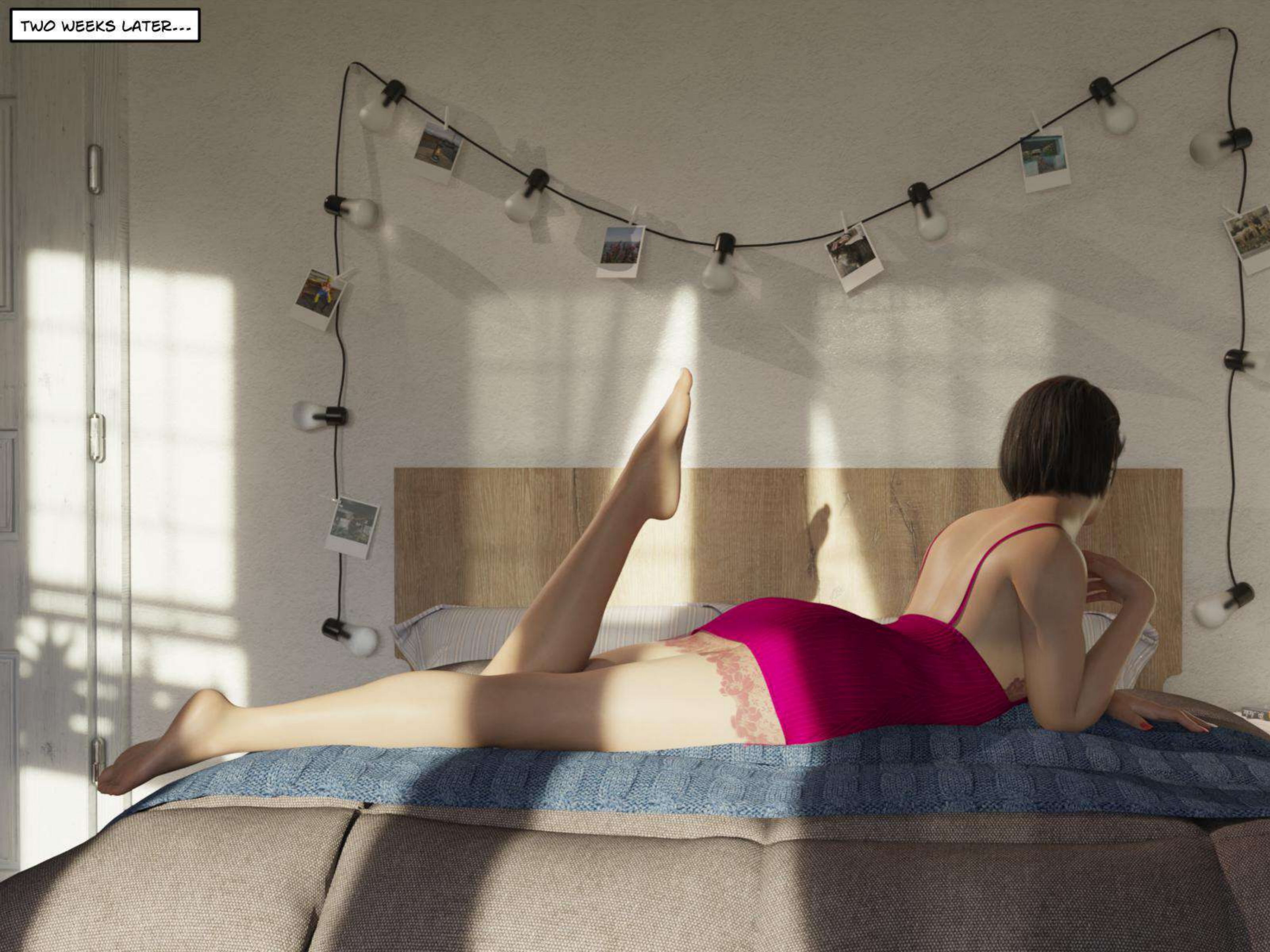


I GOT VERY TOUCHED BY YOUR STORY AND I DECIDED TO HELP YOU. I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER!



CHAPTER FIVE
NAVILLERA

TWO WEEKS LATER...








MAN, THIS IS SO UNFAIR!



I WAS SURE BY THEN THINGS WOULD HAVE CLEARED UP AND I'D BE BACK HOME, BUT EVERYTHING IS GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! JB AND HIS GANG ARE INDEED AFTER ME BECAUSE THEY THINK I STOLE THEIR DRUGS. WITH THAT HAPPENING, I HAVE NO WAY OF FIGHTING TO GET BACK THE HOUSE AND STUDIO I INHERITED FROM MY UNCLE!

A woman with dark hair is lying on her back on a blue and grey patterned couch. She is wearing a bright pink, ribbed, tube-style top and matching underwear with a floral pattern. She has a serious expression and her right hand is raised to her forehead. The room is decorated with a string of lights and several Polaroid photos hanging from the string. Sunlight is streaming in from a window on the left, casting shadows on the wall and floor. A wooden headboard and a striped pillow are visible behind her.

MEANWHILE, HERE I AM, LIVING
IN HIDING AS A SUBMISSIVE SISSY!

I MEAN...





...IT'S INSANE HOW DELICATE
AND WEAK I LOOK THESE DAYS!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL...





FUCK!






MINJI-UNNIE INSISTS THAT I'M SEEING THINGS, BUT I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE MY CHEST IS GETTING MORE AND MORE SWOLLEN. THIS ALL STARTED AFTER I WENT TO THAT DAMN DOCTOR!

THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING
I'VE EVER HEARD! I'M NOT TRANS
AND I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR TO
HELP ME WITH MY TRANSITION.
YOU KNOW IT VERY WELL!






THE IMPORTANT THING HERE IS
THAT MRS. GOMEZ BELIEVES YOU'RE
A TRANS GIRL, OKAY? AND SHE WANTS
TO HELP YOU FOR SOME REASON. SHE NOT
ONLY REFERRED YOU A DOCTOR BUT ALSO
OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE APPOINTMENT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, NABI-YA.
YOU WILL HAVE TO GO.

THERE'S NO REASON FOR SO MUCH
DRAMA, THOUGH. WORST CASE SCENARIO,
THE DOCTOR WILL PRESCRIBE YOU PILLS
THAT YOU CAN SIMPLY NOT TAKE.
SEE? SIMPLE!


YES, I DIDN'T TAKE ANY
PILLS BUT STILL....

MOAN



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a bright pink, strapless, pleated dress, stands in a bedroom. She has a shocked expression on her face, with wide eyes and an open mouth. Her hands are raised in a gesture of disbelief. A thought bubble above her head contains the text: "WHAT THE HELL! DID I GET TURNED ON BY TOUCHING MY NIPPLES?!". The room features a window with white curtains, a blue cushioned chair, and a white dresser. Sunlight streams in from the window, casting shadows on her chest.

WHAT THE HELL!
DID I GET TURNED ON BY
TOUCHING MY NIPPLES?!



YOU KNOW WHAT? ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
I NEED TO GET MY LIFE BACK. I'LL TELL MINJI
I'M LEAVING TODAY!

DING DONG!

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL... SHE MUST
HAVE FORGOTTEN HER KEYS AGAIN!






THAT'S IT! IT'S TIME FOR ME
TO STOP ACTING LIKE A SISSY
AND BE A MAN AGAIN!



AHHH...?!

A woman with short black hair, wearing a bright pink, ribbed, backless dress, stands with her back to the camera. She is looking towards a man who is wearing a grey, textured, short-sleeved shirt and a gold chain necklace. The man has a serious expression and is looking back at her. They are standing in front of a white door with a window. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, one pointing to the man and one pointing to the woman.

WHERE'S NICK?


N-NICK?

SLAM!



LISTEN TO ME, I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO WASTE! JUST TELL ME
WHERE THAT MOTHERFUCKER IS
IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD
FOR YOU!




A woman with short dark hair, wearing a red spaghetti-strap dress with lace detailing, is speaking to a man whose profile is visible on the left. She has her hands raised in a questioning or explanatory gesture. The setting is a modern living room with a pink sofa, a patterned rug, and a window with blinds. A speech bubble points to her.

SOW-LEE,
NO ING-LISH!

NO ENGLISH, HUH? YEAH, I HEARD
THERE WERE A BUNCH OF ASIAN GIRLS
LIVING HERE. I ALSO HEARD THEY WERE
HELPING NICK, THAT FUCKING COWARD!
SO WHERE IS HE? THE GUY!
WHERE IS HE HIDING?




A woman with short dark hair, wearing a red spaghetti-strap dress with lace detailing on the bodice, is shown in a living room. She is looking to her left with a slightly surprised or playful expression. Her right hand is raised near her neck, and her left hand is held out to the side. The room features a pink sofa, a patterned rug, and a vase with a plant. A speech bubble is positioned above her head.


NO GAI! JUS GULS
HEE-UH!



JUST GIRLS HERE... FUCK I JUST TOLD MYSELF IT WAS TIME, TO STOP ACTING LIKE AN SISSY AND BE A MAN AGAIN! NOW I'M SAYING THERE'S NO GUY IN THE HOUSE!

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a red spaghetti-strap dress with lace detailing, stands in a room. She has a thought bubble above her head. To her left, the back of a man's head and shoulder is visible. The room features a pink sofa, a framed abstract painting, and a vase with a branch.

BUT LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS BASTARD! I LOOK EVEN MORE GIRLISH NEXT TO HIM. HE WOULD KILL ME WITH JUST ONE FINGER IF HE KNEW WHO I REALLY AM!



VERY WELL, IF THAT'S THE TRUTH,
YOU DON'T MIND ME TAKING A LOOK
AT THE HOUSE, RIGHT? ALSO, KEEP IN MIND
THAT I'LL BE AROUND FOR AWHILE. I HAVE
ORDERS TO FIND THAT SON OF A BITCH
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO!



AND LET ME TELL YOU, IT WON'T HURT TO KEEP AN EYE ON A HOT CHICK LIKE YOU. MAYBE WE CAN EVEN HAVE SOME FUN!



DID HE REALLY CALL ME
A HOT CHICK?!



CHAPTER Six
NEXT LEVEL



BOULANGERIE
BEST QUALITY FRESH BAKED
KISS ME
KERRY CO
SHOW
QUALITY BAKE

OLDEST BOULANGERIE
KERRY CO
PREMIER QUALITY BAKERY

OLDEST BOULANGERIE
KERRY CO
PREMIER QUALITY BAKERY



YOU NEED TO RELAX NABI-YA. YOU LOOK LIKE A SCARED KITTEN!

BOUTIQUE PATISserie
BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP
SINCE 1983
PREMIUM QUALITY BAKERY

OLDEST BOULANGERIE
BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP
PREMIUM QUALITY BAKERY

Kiss Me

OF COURSE I'M NERVOUS!
IT'S ALWAYS SCARY LEAVING
HOME DRESSED AS A GIRL!

ESTABLISHED
BAKCO
COFFEE SHOP
PREMIUM QUALITY BAKERY

ESTABLISHED
COFFEE SHOP
PREMIUM QUALITY BAKERY



WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT
TO BE WEARING, SILLY?
YOU'RE A GIRL!





SIGH FINE, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU GUYS MADE ME GO OUT TODAY!


C'MON, NABI-YA, AREN'T YOU TIRED OF STAYING AT HOME ALL THE TIME? BESIDES, MINJI-UNNIE HAS A SURPRISE FOR YOU.

CRAP... WHATEVER MINJI-UNNIE
HAS IN MIND, IT DEFINITELY CAN'T
MEAN ANYTHING GOOD FOR ME!



A WEEK BEFORE...



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a pink lace-trimmed spaghetti-strap dress, stands in a bedroom. She is gesturing with her right hand while talking to another woman whose back is to the camera. The second woman has long dark hair and is wearing a blue and green striped long-sleeved top. In the background, there is a white dresser with three drawers, a potted orchid with pink flowers, and a round mirror on the wall. Sunlight streams in from the right, casting shadows on the wall and dresser.

...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, UNNIE.
THAT SHADY GUY SHOWED UP EARLIER
TODAY LOOKING FOR ME, AND BY SOME
MIRACLE I MANAGED TO TRICK HIM.
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE SO LUCKY NEXT
TIME, THOUGH, SO I'LL GO AWAY.

THIS STUPID SITUATION IS TOO
DANGEROUS NOT ONLY FOR ME,
BUT ALSO FOR EVERYONE
AROUND ME. I NEVER WANTED
TO PUT YOU GIRLS AT RISK!



WHAT A CUTIE!



I DON'T THINK SHE REALIZES IT,
BUT IT SEEMS THAT SOME GIRLY
MANNERISMS HAVE ALREADY BECOME
NATURAL TO HER. YES, THE TRAINING IS
PAYING OFF. MY SWEET NABI-YA...
MAYBE THIS WILL WORK, AFTER ALL!



YOU CAN'T LEAVE, DOLL.
NOT NOW. THAT'S DEFINITELY
OUT OF THE QUESTION!

WHAT? DID YOU HEAR WHAT
I JUST TOLD YOU?

SHHH... CALM DOWN, NABI-YA.
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME, OKAY?
I'M TELLING YOU EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.





B-BUT...

JUST THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE. IF THE HOUSE REALLY IS BEING WATCHED, DON'T YOU THINK THOSE MEN WOULD FIND ONE OF THE GIRLS DISAPPEARING OVERNIGHT SUSPICIOUS? THAT'S IT. IF YOU WANT TO SEE US SAFE, YOU MUST STAY.



OF COURSE, WE NEED TO PERFECT YOUR DISGUISE. YOU WERE LUCKY TODAY, AS YOU SAID YOURSELF, BUT WE CAN'T COUNT ON LUCK AGAIN.



AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, UNNIE?

OH, DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT THAT, I HAVE SOME IDEAS IN MIND!



OH, HELLO!

A woman with dark, wavy hair is standing in a locker room. She is wearing a maroon sports bra and matching leggings. She has her right hand raised in a gesture. A speech bubble points to her from the left. The background consists of rows of purple lockers with numbers 2 through 10 visible. A wooden bench is in the foreground, and a red bag is on the left.

I THOUGHT YOU
GIRLS WEREN'T GOING
TO COME ANYMORE!

WELL, IT WASN'T EASY
GETTING NABI-YA OUT
OF THE HOUSE. THAT'S
WHY WE'RE LATE.



I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M DOING HERE, UNNIE!



YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING
SOON, SWEETIE. GIRLS, COULD YOU
LEAVE NABI-YA AND ME ALONE
FOR A MINUTE?



SO, CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT'S
GOING ON NOW, UNNIE?





YOU SEE, NABI-YA, YOU'VE BEEN IMPROVING A LOT SINCE YOU STARTED COOPERATING. I LIKE THE FACT THAT IT'S BEEN MANY DAYS SINCE YOU LAST FORGOT TO ADDRESS ME CORRECTLY! YOU CAN BE SUCH A GOOD GIRL WHEN YOU WANT, DON'T YOU?

HOWEVER, THIS ISN'T ENOUGH YET!



W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF, NABI-YA.

W-WHAT?!!!

Kiss Me

YOU HEARD ME, DOLL!
LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND.

W-WAIT, UNNIE...

DON'T BE SILLY, NABI-YA.
WE'RE ALL GIRLS HERE, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SHY.





WELL, LOOKING AT YOU NOW,
IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE YOUR CHEST IS
A LITTLE PUFFY, YOU KNOW? MAYBE YOU
WEREN'T SEEING THINGS, AFTER ALL.
LET ME CHECK IT OUT!



GASP



YES, YOUR CHEST IS DEFINITELY SWOLLEN! AND FROM YOUR REACTION, IT ALSO SEEMS TO BE VERY SENSITIVE. DOES IT FEEL GOOD, NABI-YA?

AHHHH...





YES, I SEE YOU'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN, YOU NAUGHTY GIRL!




A LOT OF FUN
INDEED!

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, UNNIE? WHY DID YOU PUSH ME?

MY SWEET NABI-YA...





...LET'S JUST SAY I WANT
TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK
AT YOUR CHEST, HUH?











AHHHH...

A close-up photograph of two women. The woman on top has dark hair and is wearing a purple top. She is leaning over the woman below, who has dark hair and is wearing a black top. The woman on top has her hand on the shoulder of the woman below. A speech bubble is positioned above the woman on top, containing the text: "YOU REALLY LOVE IT WHEN I PLAY WITH YOUR BOOBS, DON'T YOU, NABI-YA?".

YOU REALLY LOVE IT WHEN
I PLAY WITH YOUR BOOBS,
DON'T YOU, NABI-YA?



B-BOOBS?! I... I DON'T
HAVE BOOBS, UNNIE!

OH, REALLY?







AHHHHHH...!

9



JUDGING BY THE VOLUME DOWN
HERE, YOU DO HAVE BOOBS, AND
YOU DEFINITELY LOVE IT WHEN
I PLAY WITH THEM!

ADMIT IT THIS SECOND
OR I WON'T TOUCH YOUR
BUDDY HERE EVER AGAIN!



A woman with dark hair, wearing a black choker and purple earrings, lies on a light-colored wooden table. She is looking up with a slightly open mouth. A man's hand is visible on her right breast. The man is wearing a dark purple tank top. The scene is set in a room with a light-colored carpet and a white railing in the background.

ALRIGHT... I ADMIT! I LOVE IT
WHEN YOU PLAY WITH MY BOOBS!
DON'T STOP, PLEASE!

GOOD GIRL! NOW KEEP
YOUR EYES CLOSED. I HAVE
A SURPRISE TO YOU!

A MOMENT LATER...



WHAT'S GOING ON, UNNIE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



NOW, NOW, BE PATIENT, GIRL.
AND KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED
OR YOU'LL BE PUNISHED!





OUCH! IT FEELS COLD!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE,
GIRL!



B-BUT...



GOOD...



NOW THAT THE ICE PACK IS DOING ITS JOB, I THINK YOU'RE ALMOST READY FOR THE SURPRISE.

LET ME GET THIS FROM MY BAG.





Click!



HUH...?!





WHAT THE...

GET THIS THING OFF MY COCK
RIGHT NOW OR I...








AHHHH...



OR YOU WHAT, SISSY BOY?



I'M NOT A SISSY!



YOU SURE? ARE YOU
A GIRL THEN?

NO! I'M A MAN!






A MAN? DO MEN WEAR PRETTY PANTIES? WOULD A MAN SPEAK WITH A HIGH, SWEET VOICE LIKE YOU? AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...

A close-up photograph of a woman in a purple ribbed top touching a man's bare chest. Her hands are visible, with pink and green nail polish. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing the text: "DO MEN HAVE SUCH PRETTY, SOFT BOOBS?".

DO MEN HAVE SUCH
PRETTY, SOFT BOOBS?

A woman with dark hair styled in a bun, wearing a purple halter top, is looking down at a man's long, dark hair. The man's hair is the central focus of the image. In the background, there is a red suitcase with white straps on a wooden bench. A speech bubble is positioned above the suitcase, containing text.

WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT THIS, NABI-YA. THERE ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE AFTER YOU. YOU NEED TO BE A GIRL. MY PRETTY GIRL! IF YOU BEHAVE, THEN LATER YOU CAN BE MY HUNKY MAN! YOU KNOW I'VE ALWAYS HAD A CRUSH ON YOU, RIGHT? CAN YOU DO THIS, NABI-YA?



I... I...


JUST SAY IT, NABI-YA.
JUST SAY IT AND EVERYTHING
WILL BE ALRIGHT!

I'LL BE YOUR
PRETTY GIRL!



YOU SEE? THAT WASN'T
HARD, DOLL!







AND YOU KNOW THAT GIRLS
DON'T USUALLY HAVE COCKS, RIGHT?
SO, WE CAN KEEP YOUR BUDDY HERE
LOCKED UP FOR NOW. THAT REALLY IS
A SHAME... YOU USED TO HAVE A BIG,
MANLY MEMBER, BUT IT LOOKS SO
USELESS NOW, DOESN'T IT?



B-BUT, UNNIE, I'M SO TURNED ON...
THIS THING IS HURTING LIKE HELL!
PLEASE, I REALLY NEED TO...



WHAT DID I JUST SAY, NABI-YA?
WHEN YOU DESERVE IT, I CAN FREE
YOUR BUDDY, BUT YOU'RE NOT DOING
YOUR PART, ARE YOU? THE MORE YOU
COMPLAIN, THE LONGER IT'LL
TAKE TO HAPPEN!



I DIDN'T WANT TO GO THIS FAR,
BUT YOU YOURSELF SAW THAT ONLY
THE GAFF WASN'T ENOUGH TO HOLD YOUR
MEMBER, RIGHT? WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS AGAIN
IN FRONT OF THE WRONG PERSON? NO, WE
CAN'T RISK IT. NOW YOU'RE UNDER CONTROL.
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR BOOBS.
WE'LL SEE THE THE DOCTOR AGAIN TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, ALTHOUGH
YOU LOOK KINDA CUTE LIKE THAT
GIGGLES



NOW GET UP, GIRL...

IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL
SURPRISE I HAVE FOR YOU.






CHAPTER SEVEN
High Heels



C'MON, NABI-YA!
DON'T BE SHY.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING.
HOW DID I LET THIS GET THIS FAR?
WHY CAN'T I REACT AS MINJI-UNNIE
KEEPS BOSSING ME AROUND?





I FEEL COMPLETELY HELPLESS
AROUND HER. I DIDN'T USE TO BE
LIKE THIS... A SUBMISSIVE SISSY!

NOW, THOUGH, JUST THINKING
ABOUT FIGHTING BACK MAKES ME
WANT TO CRY!



THIS CAN ONLY BE A SIDE EFFECT OF THOSE DAMN HORMONE PILLS, THE SAME ONES THAT ARE MAKING ME GROW BOOBS! BUT HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE IF I DIDN'T TAKE ANY OF THE PILLS THE DOC GAVE ME?

IS MINJI-UNNIE PUTTING THEM IN MY FOOD OR SOMETHING? WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE TO GAIN FROM DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?



ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE LOST
EVEN MY COCK, WHICH IS NOW
LOCKED UP IN A FUCKING CAGE!




WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY, GIRL. MOVE!



COME ON, NABI-YA!

WE'RE STILL JUST STRETCHING,
SO YOU HAVEN'T MISSED
ANYTHING YET!





I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M DOING HERE, GIRLS.

THAT'S VERY SIMPLE, SWEETIE. AS YOU
KNOW, WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING SOME
CHOREOGRAPHIES RECENTLY, AND WE'VE
DECIDED IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN
THE FUN!

A woman with short black hair, wearing a pink sports bra and bright pink leggings, stands in a dance studio. She has a confused expression. A speech bubble points to her. In the background, there is a wooden floor, a black ballet barre, and a large window with a grid pattern. Another woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark purple top, is seen from the back, looking towards the first woman. A second speech bubble points to her.

WHAT?!! THIS MAKES NO SENSE,
UNNIE! I... I DON'T KNOW HOW
TO DANCE!

DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY
LITTLE HEAD ABOUT THAT,
NABI-YA. WE ARE HERE
TO HELP YOU.



B-BUT...

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, SILLY. PEOPLE WILL START TO FIND IT SUSPICIOUS IF YOU NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE. IT'LL LOOK LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY OR HIDING FROM SOMEONE. BESIDES, WE NEED TO CREATE A PERSONALITY FOR YOU. A BELIEVABLE PERSONALITY - SOMETHING THAT COULD FOOL MRS. GOMEZ OR ANYONE ELSE SPYING ON YOU.

SO NOW, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YOUR BIGGEST DREAM IS TO BE A DANCER AND PERFORMER. THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL TELL ANYONE WHO ASKS. NO ONE WILL SUSPECT ANYTHING SINCE WE ALL HERE LOVE TO DANCE. PERFECT, RIGHT?



GOSH, THIS JUST COULDN'T GET MORE HUMILIATING! NOW THEY WANT ME TO NOT ONLY LOOK BUT ALSO DANCE LIKE A SISSY! I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET RID OF THE GANG THAT'S AFTER ME. UNTIL THEN, I'M COMPLETELY STUCK. I MEAN, IF THEY FIND OUT WHO I REALLY AM, I'M A DEAD GIRL...



DID I SAY DEAD GIRL?!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG
WITH ME? MAN, I'D BE
A DEAD MAN!

LET'S START WARMING UP, NABI-YA.
JUST FOLLOW MY MOVES, OKAY?









FUCK...

FIVE MINUTES LATER...





OKAY, GIRLS, WE'VE STRETCHED ENOUGH. NOW LET'S LINE UP IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR.


LET'S START WITH SOMETHING BASIC,
JUST SO YOU CAN GET THE HANG OF IT,
NABI-YA. PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR
HIPS AND KEEP YOUR LEGS
SLIGHTLY APART.





LIKE THIS?

YEAH, THAT'S GOOD!



NOW WATCH ME AND TRY
TO MEMORIZE MY MOVES.
FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT...



ONE, TWO...

THREE, FOUR...






FIVE, SIX...

SEVEN, EIGHT...






PRETTY EASY, HUH?
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

I... I DON'T THINK
I CAN DO THIS, UNNIE.

DON'T BE SILLY, DEAR.
I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE
IN YOU!

TWENTY TRIES LATER...



A digital illustration of two women in a dance studio. The woman on the left is wearing a maroon sports bra and leggings with three white stripes down the side. She has dark, wavy hair and is gesturing with her hands as if speaking. The woman on the right is wearing a pink sports bra and leggings, with purple sneakers. She has short black hair and is standing with her hands on her hips, looking towards the first woman. A speech bubble points from the woman in maroon to the woman in pink. The studio has a wooden floor, a black barre, and a door in the background.

NO, NO AND NO! AREN'T YOU LISTENING TO WHAT I'M SAYING, NABI-YA? YOU NEED TO WALK WITH GRACE AND ELEGANCE. NOT LIKE A LUMBERJACK!

A woman with short black hair and bangs stands in a dance studio. She is wearing a light pink sports bra and bright pink leggings. Her hands are on her hips, and she has a slightly frustrated or exasperated expression. A speech bubble points to her mouth. The background features a large window with a grid pattern, a white ballet barre, and a black support pole. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

I'M TRYING MY BEST, UNNIE.
I TOLD YOU THIS WASN'T
A GOOD IDEA. I'M NOT
MADE FOR DANCING!

OH, NOT SO FAST CLEVER GIRL!
I HAVE AN IDEA TO MAKE YOU
WALK THE WAY I WANT.





WHERE'S THE SHOEBOX,
GIRLS?



A photograph of a woman's legs from the waist down, wearing bright pink, ribbed leggings and matching pink high-heeled sandals. She is standing on a wooden floor in a dance studio. In the background, there is a dark wood wall with a black ballet barre and a window with white trim. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, pointing towards the top left.

C'MON, GIRLS...

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME
TO WALK ON THESE THINGS?




YOU REALLY HAVE A THING FOR BEING
A DRAMA QUEEN, DON'T YOU, NABI-YA?
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE SINCE
YOU'RE OUR MAKNAE.



A woman with short black hair and bangs, wearing a pink sports bra, stands in a dance studio. She has a surprised expression. Her hands are raised, showing colorful nail polish. A speech bubble points to her face, and another is at the bottom right. The background features a large window with a white grid and a black ballet barre.


MAKNAE?

THE YOUNGEST IN
THE GROUP, SILLY.



I'M NOT YOUNGER
THAN YOU GIRLS!

WE'VE ALREADY TALKED
ABOUT IT, DOLL.

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a maroon leotard, stands in a dance studio. She is looking towards the right. Her right hand is raised, showing colorful nail polish. In the background, another woman in a maroon leotard is standing with her back to the camera, looking out a window. The studio has a wooden floor and a black ballet barre. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the image, containing text.

NICK WAS OLDER THAN US, BUT YOU, MINJI, IS ONLY NINETEEN, SO YOU'RE OUR SWEETIE MAKNAE! IT MEANS YOU NEED TO OBEY AND BE GOOD TO YOUR UNNIES. YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT RESPECTING YOUR ELDERS IS IN KOREA, RIGHT?


YOU'LL BE A GOOD GIRL WHILE WE TEACH YOU HOW TO WALK ON HEELS. OTHERWISE YOU WILL BE PUNISHED, UNDERSTOOD?

FORTY MINUTES AND MANY ACCIDENTS LATER...






THAT'S BETTER,
NABI-YA!



YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING THE HANG OF IT. ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER, KEEP YOUR FISTS LOOSE AND MOVE YOUR SHOULDERS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD, CHEST OUT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR HIPS!

A woman with dark hair and bangs, wearing a pink tank top, is balancing a large, thick book on her head. She is in a dance studio with a wooden floor and a black barre. The background shows a window with a white frame and a door. The image is overlaid with two comic-style speech bubbles.

FUCK, THIS JUST GETS MORE AND MORE HUMILIATING! WHAT WOULD MY BAND THINK IF THEY SAW ME NOW, WEARING HEELS AND WALKING LIKE A SISSY? MY FEET ARE KILLING ME BECAUSE OF THESE DAMN SHOES! I FEEL LIKE I'M TRYING TO WALK ON STILTS.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED SEEING HOT CHICKS WEARING HEELS BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN I'M THE ONE WEARING THEM! I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE SO DAMN HARD!



YOU SEE HOW YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU TRY HARD AND LISTEN TO YOUR UNNIES, NABI-YA? I HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNED YOUR LESSON AND WILL BE A GOOD MAKNAE FROM NOW ON.


UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, YOU DROPPED THE BOOK EIGHT TIMES, AND I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WOULD BE PUNISHED IF THAT HAPPENED. HERE'S YOUR PENALTY: TWO DAYS IN HEELS PRETTY MUCH ALL THE TIME FOR EVERY TIME YOU DROPPED THE BOOK. I THINK AFTER SIXTEEN DAYS YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE A MASTER AT WALKING IN HIGH HEELS, GIRL!






WHAT?!!

FOCUS, DEAR, YOU DON'T WANT TO DROP THE BOOK YET AGAIN, DO YOU?




니콤포빠가 정말 여자가 되길 원하고,
그것도 한국 여자가 되길 원한다는
생각이 미쳤지 않아, 은주야?*

*ISN'T IT CRAZY TO THINK THAT
NICK-OPPA ACTUALLY WANTS TO
BE A GIRL, AND A KOREAN ONE,
EUNJOO-YA?



닉이라고 부르지 마세요, 언니. 그녀는 나비야예요.
민지언니가 우리에게 나비야가 항상 여자가 되길 원했다는
확실한 증거를 보여줬잖아요, 맞죠? 그런데 왜 그녀는 아직
우리에게 이것을 고백하기를 부끄러워하는지 이해가 안 가요.
그녀는 심지어 갱단에 쫓기고 있다는 이야기를 날린
적도 있어요.*

*DON'T CALL HER NICK, UNNIE. SHE'S NABI-YA.
MINJI-UNNIE SHOWED US UNDENIABLE PROOFS
THAT NABI-YA HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A GIRL,
RIGHT? I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SHE'S STILL
EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THIS TO US. SHE EVEN
MADE UP A STORY THAT SHE'S BEING CHASED
BY A GANG OR SOMETHING.



어쨌든, 우리가 할 수 있는 최소한은 그녀를 지원하는 거예요.*

*ANYWAY, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS TO SUPPORT HER!



CHAPTER Eight
CONFUSED

TWO WEEKS LATER...





EVEN YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THIS IS TOO MUCH, UNNIE!

PADLOCKS ON MY SHOES?
REALLY?!!






THIS IS YOUR OWN
FAULT, NABI-YA.


IT WAS YOU WHO TRIED TO CHEAT
AND TAKE OFF YOUR HEELS WHEN YOU THOUGHT
NO ONE WAS WATCHING. YOU REMEMBER YOUR
PUNISHMENT, RIGHT? YOU WERE SUPPOSED
TO WEAR HEELS ALL THE TIME FOR
SIXTEEN DAYS, NO EXCEPTION!





B-BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME ME!
MY FEET WERE KILLING ME AFTER
WEARING HEELS FOR SO LONG.
I NEEDED AT LEAST TEN
MINUTES OF REST!

THAT WASN'T THE DEAL, SILLY.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD
YOU THAT YOU NEED TO BE
A GOOD MAKNAE?




FINE! BUT ANYWAY, I'VE BEEN WEARING STUPID HEELS FOR TWO WEEKS NOW. THE PUNISHMENT ENDS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, RIGHT?



I DON'T THINK SO, DOLL.

WHAT? WHY NOT?



SINCE YOU TRIED TO CHEAT,
THE HEELS WILL STAY FOR A LITTLE
LONGER. HOW MUCH LONGER? THAT'S
UP TO YOU. THE MORE YOU COMPLAIN,
THE WORSE IT'LL BE FOR YOU. AT LEAST
YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF NOW,
RIGHT? THANKS FOR THE LOCKS.

A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a red top, is shown in profile, looking towards a keyboard. The keyboard is on a stand in the foreground. In the background, there is a wooden clothing rack with several items hanging on it, including a grey sweater, a yellow patterned top, and a blue and white patterned top. A round, woven basket hangs from the rack. The scene is set in a room with a light-colored wall and a wooden baseboard. A shadow of the woman is cast on the wall behind her.


NOW THAT THIS MATTER IS OUT OF THE WAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE. I LEFT THIS KEYBOARD HERE A FEW DAYS AGO, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD YOU PLAY IT... NOT EVEN ONCE. DON'T YOU MISS PRACTICING MUSIC?



HOW CAN I PLAY WITH NAILS THIS LONG? IF YOU LET ME CUT THEM A LITTLE BIT...

DON'T TRY TO TRICK ME, NABI-YA. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT I'M A MUSICIAN, TOO? YOU DON'T NEED YOUR NAILS TO BE SHORT TO PLAY THE KEYBOARD. THAT WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF WE WERE TALKING ABOUT GUITAR, BUT WHY WOULD A DELICATE GIRL LIKE YOU WANT TO PLAY GUITAR, HUH?



A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a red dress, is shown in profile, looking out of a window. The window has white curtains and a view of a garden with green plants and a large rock. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of the window, containing text.

I HAVE AN IDEA TO CHEER YOU UP.
WHY DON'T WE WRITE SOME SONGS
TOGETHER? DOESN'T THAT
SOUND FUN?




WHAT KIND OF SONGS? KPOP STUFF?
YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN FORCING ME TO
LEARN HOW TO DANCE LIKE A GIRL, AND
NOW YOU WANT ME TO WRITE GIRLY SONGS
WITH YOU? WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? DO YOU
WANT TO TURN ME INTO AN IDOL
OR SOMETHING?


HA! IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH,
I COULD HELP YOU, SWEETIE...



VERY FUNNY, UNNIE! I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO WRITE SONGS.

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a red long-sleeved crop top and a black and white plaid skirt, stands in a room. She is looking towards the left, where the back of another person's head and shoulder is visible. The room features a wooden floor, a black digital piano on a stand, a large green plant in a woven basket, and a window with a patterned curtain. A speech bubble originates from the woman, containing the text: "C'MON, NABI-YA, DON'T BE SO GRUMPY! LISTEN, I KNOW THAT BEING A GIRL HAS BEEN HARD FOR YOU, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE NOW. YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU? THERE ARE DANGEROUS PEOPLE AFTER YOU."

C'MON, NABI-YA, DON'T BE SO GRUMPY!
LISTEN, I KNOW THAT BEING A GIRL HAS BEEN
HARD FOR YOU, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE NOW.
YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, DO YOU? THERE ARE
DANGEROUS PEOPLE AFTER YOU.

A woman with dark, wavy hair and a red top is shown in a close-up, comic book-style illustration. She has a slight smile and is looking directly at the viewer. A speech bubble originates from her mouth, pointing towards the top left. The background features a window with a view of a lush garden, a wooden planter box with various plants, and a patterned curtain at the bottom. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an indoor setting with a view of the outdoors.


I GOT AN IDEA! I THOUGHT
OF A PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT
CHEER YOU UP.

A woman with short dark hair and bangs, wearing a pink floral halter-neck dress, stands in a bedroom. She has a thoughtful expression, with her hand near her face. The room features a bed with blue and brown pillows, a white dresser, and a colorful circular rug. A speech bubble points to her.

YOU ARE, WHEN YOU DON'T
TRY TO CHEAT, WEARING HIGH HEELS
ALL THE TIME EXCEPT TO SLEEP
AND SHOWER, RIGHT?

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red long-sleeved top and a black plaid skirt, is seen from behind. She is gesturing with her right hand towards the first woman. A speech bubble points to her.


RIGHT.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a red dress and red nail polish, is shown in profile, looking out a window. She has her hands clasped together near her face. The window shows a lush garden with green plants and a wooden chair. A speech bubble is positioned above her, containing text.


IF YOU AGREE TO WORK WITH ME,
WE CAN CUT IT DOWN TO, LET'S SAY,
SIX HOURS PER DAY?

SIX HOURS?! OH, GOD,
IT SOUNDS AMAZING!



A woman with short black hair and bangs, wearing a pink floral dress, stands in a room. She has her hands clasped near her chin. A thought bubble above her head contains text. The room features a wire cage lamp, a wooden desk with a plant, and a white dresser with framed pictures.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M CELEBRATING
HAVING TO WEAR HEELS SIX HOURS A DAY,
BUT GIVEN THE CURRENT SITUATION, THAT'S
ACTUALLY GOOD NEWS!




BUT HOW STUPID AM I? I SHOULD
HAVE BARGAINED MORE BEFORE ACCEPTING
MINJI-UNNIE'S DEAL!



NOT SO FAST, MISSY.
FOR US TO CLOSE THE DEAL,
THERE'S ONE CONDITION.

CONDITION? WHAT
CONDITION?

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a red dress, is shown in profile, looking out a window. She has a small, ornate earring. The window has white curtains and a view of a lush garden with green bushes and a tree with pink blossoms. A speech bubble points to her mouth.


YOU'LL SEE.

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

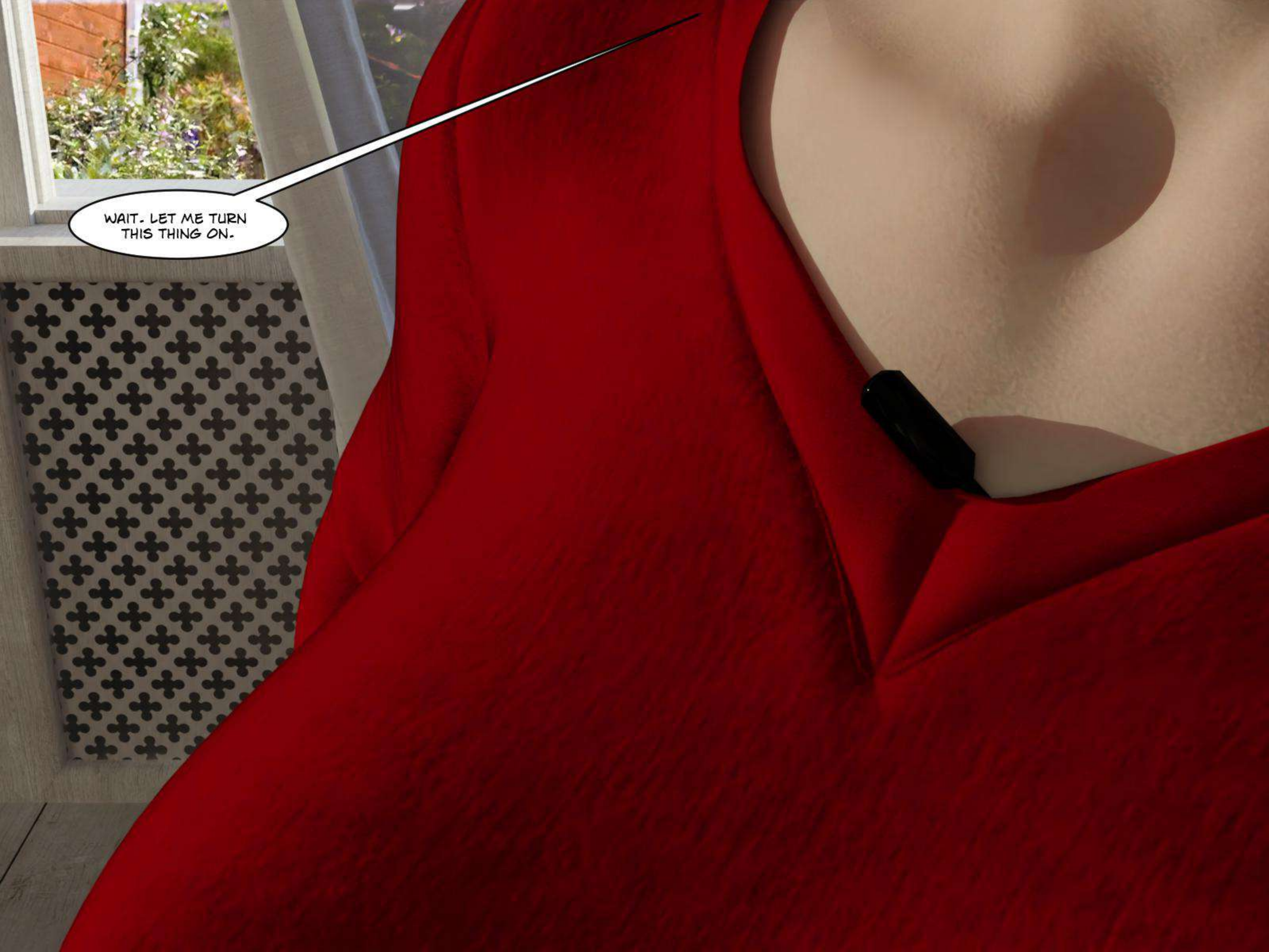




HUH?

A close-up photograph of a woman with short, dark hair and bangs. She has a shocked or surprised expression, with wide eyes and an open mouth. She is wearing a pink top and a gold necklace with a heart pendant. Her right hand is raised to her ear. A speech bubble is positioned to her left, containing the text "I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!". The background shows a white door and a wall with a small photo pinned to it.


I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!

A photograph of a mannequin wearing a bright red suit jacket and a white shirt. A black pen is tucked into the mannequin's waistband. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, pointing towards the mannequin. The background shows a window with a view of greenery and a patterned rug.


WAIT. LET ME TURN
THIS THING ON.



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

A woman with short dark hair and bangs, wearing a pink floral dress and a gold necklace, is standing in a bedroom. She is holding a black earbud to her ear. A speech bubble points to her ear. In the foreground, the back of another woman's head and shoulders is visible; she has long dark hair and is wearing a red top. The room features a bed with blue and brown pillows, a white dresser with a wooden top, a round gold mirror, and several birdcage-style pendant lights.

YES. YOU'RE USING A MICROPHONE,
AREN'T YOU? WHY CAN'T I REMOVE THESE
IN-EARS? I'VE NEVER USED ANYTHING AS
GOOD AS THESE IN THE STUDIO. THEY
TOTALLY DROWNS OUT ANY
AMBIENT SOUNDS!



STOP TRYING TO TAKE THEM OFF,
YOU SILLY GIRL, UNLESS YOU WANT TO
HURT YOURSELF! I'VE USED A SEALANT
TO SECURE THE IN-EARS IN PLACE.




YOU WHAT?! WHY?



BECAUSE YOU'LL KEEP WEARING THEM FOR THE TIME BEING. THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IN EXCHANGE FOR BEING ABLE TO WEAR HEELS ONLY SIX HOURS A DAY.

I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR WEEKS TO CONVINCING YOU TO STUDY KOREAN SERIOUSLY, BUT YOU HAVE BEEN LAZY AND DISOBEDIENT. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW MORE THAN JUST A FEW WORDS IN KOREAN IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR COVER.



NOW WITH IN-EARS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL ONLY SPEAK TO YOU
IN KOREAN. AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE
IGNORED, YOU'LL NEED TO DO THE SAME.
A GOOD LANGUAGE IMMERSION,
DON'T YOU THINK?



CHAPTER NINE
BE NATURAL

SOME DAYS LATER...





SIGH
I REALLY HATE THIS!




A 3D rendered woman in a pink polka-dot bikini stands barefoot in a bedroom. She is leaning forward with her right leg raised, as if feeling discomfort. A thought bubble above her head contains text. The room features a white dresser, a bed with a red blanket, a chair, and a circular rug.

I'VE BEEN WEARING HIGH HEELS
SO MUCH THAT EVEN WHEN I'M BAREFOOT
I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK PROPERLY!
WHEN I TRY TO PUT MY HEELS ON THE FLOOR,
IT'S LIKE I HAVE NEEDLES STICKING
INTO MY FEET!



THIS SITUATION IS MORE AND MORE OUT OF CONTROL...




MINJI-UNNIE HAS FULL POWER OVER ME!
I CAN NO LONGER WALK OR TALK LIKE A MAN,
AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH...



...NOW SHE EVEN CONTROLS
WHAT I CAN HEAR, THANKS TO
THESE THINGS STUCK IN MY EARS!



SHE'S BEEN SPEAKING TO ME ONLY IN KOREAN MOST OF THE TIME, AND THE LESSONS HAVE BEEN LONG AND DEMANDING!

A woman with short dark hair is lying on her stomach on a bed with a red blanket. She is wearing pink patterned underwear. Her hands are clasped near her face, and her legs are raised in the air. A string of warm white lights hangs above her, with several small photos clipped to it. A thought bubble originates from her head, containing text.


IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S TOTALLY DETERMINED TO MAKE ME FLUENT IN KOREAN IN NO TIME! SOMETIMES SHE CONNECTS THESE THINGS TO THE TV OR CELL PHONE, BUT ALL SHE LETS ME LISTEN TO IS KPOP AND I CAN ONLY WATCH DORAMA!

AND I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT THE SILLY
"FEMININITY" LESSONS! MINJI-UNNIE IS
COMPLETELY OBSESSED WITH THEM
THESE DAYS!










YOU SHOULD STOP BEING
SO DISOBEDIENT, NABI-YA.
YOU KNOW THIS NEVER ENDS
WELL FOR YOU!

B-BUT I'M DOING EVERYTHING
YOU ASK ME TO DO, UNNIE!



THAT'S NOT TRUE, GIRL. I ALREADY TOLD YOU
HOW I WANT YOU TO THINK AND GESTURE FROM
NOW ON, BUT YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT SERIOUSLY!
TRY IT AGAIN, OKAY? TO MAKE IT EASIER, I WILL
LET YOU TALK IN ENGLISH THIS TIME AROUND.
BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT SOON YOU'LL
ONLY SPEAK KOREAN!

HUMPH
FINE!





OH, UNNIE! I LOVE BEING NABI
SO MUCH! THIS IS A DREAM
COME TRUE FOR ME!




I MEAN, WHAT WOULD BE BETTER
THAN LOOKING PRETTY AND WEARING
CUTE SKIRTS AND HEELS ALL THE TIME?


A woman with short dark hair and bangs is standing in a bedroom. She is wearing a white off-the-shoulder top with a floral pattern and a bright pink skirt. She has a gold chain necklace and a dark armband on her right arm. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The room features a bed with a wooden headboard, a string of lights with photos, and a wire birdcage hanging from the ceiling. A speech bubble and a thought bubble are overlaid on the image.

I FEEL LIKE THE GIRLIEST GIRL EVER!

PLEASE, SOMEONE SHOOT ME!




THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE
BECOMING, NABI-YA! NOW WHY DON'T
YOU PRACTICE WALKING A LITTLE BIT?

A woman with short dark hair and bangs stands in a bedroom. She is wearing a white floral off-the-shoulder crop top with puffed sleeves, a bright pink pleated mini skirt, white thigh-high socks, and pink high-heeled shoes. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The room features a wooden bed with a striped duvet, a white dresser with a round mirror, and a colorful circular rug. A speech bubble points to her from the left, and another points to her from the right.

WHAT A PRETTY, DOLL!
YOU SEE, NABI-YA, YOUR
EFFORT IS PAYING OFF!

T-THANKS, UNNIE!

A woman with short dark hair is lying on her stomach on a red rug. She is wearing a pink bikini with white polka dots and a matching top with a cartoon pattern. She has her hand to her face, looking thoughtful. In the background, there is a black upright piano, a window with hanging plants, and a clothing rack with various items. The room is dimly lit, suggesting evening or night.

AND THAT'S HOW MY DAYS HAVE BEEN...
ACTING LIKE A SISSY, LEARNING KOREAN
AND WRITING STUPID SONGS WITH
UNNIE AS A HOBBY!

I WONDER IF ALL THIS WILL HAVE ANY
PERMANENT EFFECT ON ME... I MEAN,
I CAN'T NOTICE IT, BUT IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT I AM GESTURING, WALKING AND
SITTING LIKE A GIRL EVEN WHEN
UNNIE'S EYES AREN'T ON ME?



NAH, I DON'T THINK SO. I'M STILL THE OLD ME WHEN I'M ALONE! I... I HAVE TO BELIEVE SO! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I'M ACCEPTING THIS BULLSHIT. I USED TO BE A TOUGH GUY. I WASN'T AFRAID TO TELL ANYONE TO FUCK OFF, BUT LOOK AT ME NOW!

I HAVE CRAZY MOOD SWINGS AND PRETTY OFTEN I FEEL LIKE CRYING. I CAN'T ARGUE WITH ANYONE, LET ALONE UNNIE! GOSH, WHY AM I CALLING HER UNNIE EVEN IN MY THOUGHTS?

TOMORROW WE'LL FINALLY SEE MY DOCTOR. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THAT BITCH HAS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY BODY AND MY MIND. OR MAYBE THIS IS MINJI-UNNIE? WHY, THOUGH? AGAIN, WHAT WOULD SHE HAVE TO GAIN FROM THIS? ANYWAY, ONCE I FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON TOMORROW - ONE WAY OR ANOTHER - I'M GOING BACK TO MY OLD SELF. I DON'T CARE IF THERE'S A GANG AFTER ME. I WILL FACE THEM LIKE A MAN! 'COS THAT'S WHAT I AM, A REAL MAN... RIGHT?



BUT AS LUNNIE SAID,
DO MEN HAVE BOOBS?



GOSH, MY CHEST IS GETTING MORE AND MORE SWOLLEN! THE DOCTOR BETTER HAVE A REALLY GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ME TOMORROW!



MY NIPPLES ARE SO SENSITIVE...

Let's talk Czech conversation
P. Jirka
Czech conversation
in kate uckyemko



AHHHH....!

MEANWHILE IN THE LIVING ROOM...




SO, GIRLS, DID YOU WANT
TO TALK TO ME?







YOU SEE, UNNIE, WE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT NABI-YA... WELL, TO START WITH, YOU KNOW THAT NABI ISN'T EVEN A NAME, RIGHT?



OF COURSE I KNOW, DASOM-A-NABI IS HER NICKNAME. HER NAME IS ACTUALLY MINAH.




THAT'S THE THING, UNNIE. MINAH IS A KOREAN NAME. WE UNDERSTAND SHE'S A TRANS GIRL. SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS STILL A BIG TABOO IN KOREA, BUT WE'VE BEEN AROUND PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD SINCE WE WENT TO COLLEGE, RIGHT? THE POINT IS, DON'T YOU AGREE IT'S WEIRD THAT NABI... OR MINAH... WANTS TO BE A KOREAN GIRL?




WHAT DO YOU THINK,
EUNJOO-YA?

I PERSONALLY THINK
THIS IS A LOT OF FUN!




I MEAN, ISN'T IT ADORABLE THAT SOMEONE WANT TO TURN INTO ONE OF US? A AMERICAN GUY BECOMING A KOREAN GIRL... THAT'S CURIOUS FOR SURE! HIS LIFE AS A WHITE MAN WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER, BUT HE STILL WANTS TO BE AN ASIAN CHICK. I FIND IT KIND OF EXCITING!




I KNOW YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO SEE
THE BRIGHT SIDE OF THINGS, BUT DON'T
YOU FIND IT WEIRD, EUNJOO-YA?
NOT EVEN A BIT?

C'MON, UNNIE, I...



LISTEN, GIRLS, THERE'S SOMETHING
YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND...




AS YOU KNOW VERY WELL, I'M MAJORING IN PSYCHOLOGY, AND NABI'S CASE IS VERY INTERESTING TO ME. AFTER TALKING TO A FEW PROFESSORS AND DOING SOME RESEARCH, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT NABI-YA HAS SOME DEGREE OF DISSOCIATIVE DISORDER. YOU TWO REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST TALKED TO HER, AND SHE MENTIONED SHE ALWAYS HAD ISSUES BEING ACCEPTED BY HER FAMILY?

A TRAUMA OF THIS NATURE, COMBINED WITH GENDER DYSPHORIA, MAY HAVE TRIGGERED HER CURRENT CONDITION, WITH HER BELIEVING THAT IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED SHE NEEDS A COMPLETELY NEW IDENTITY.



WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I BELIEVE THIS IS A TEMPORARY SITUATION. I WANTED TO PRESERVE NABI-YA'S PRIVACY, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT SHE'S ALREADY SEEING A PSYCHOLOGIST... ONE OF MY PROFESSORS AT COLLEGE.

I THINK THAT SOON NABI-YA WILL ACCEPT HERSELF AS THE TRANS WOMAN SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE, AND WILL NO LONGER HAVE THE NEED TO BE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON TO ESCAPE HER TRAUMAS.



THAT'S BETTER THEN, RIGHT? YOU THINK THIS IS JUST A PHASE... LISTEN, UNNIE, YOU KNOW I'M YOUR FRIEND... ARE YOU SURE THIS ISN'T LIKE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND JIHOO, OUR MAIN VOCALIST BACK WHEN WE WERE TRAINEES, ALL OVER AGAIN?

THIS SITUATION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, DASOM-A. DON'T TALK NONSENSE! NABI-YA IS A TRANS WOMAN, AND SHE'S HAPPY TO FINALLY BE LIVING AS A FEMALE. THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD FOCUS ON.





FUCK...



I HATE THIS CAGE SO MUCH!
I HATE PRETENDING TO BE
A GIRL!

I'M SO TURNED ON... ALL I WANTED WAS TO CUM, FOR GOD'S SAKE! BUT THAT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE WITH THIS DAMN CAGE! THAT'S IT... TOMORROW... I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND I'LL BE A MAN AGAIN! I SWEAR!





CHAPTER TEN
PRETTY GIRL

THE NEXT MORNING...








HUH?



GOSH...

A woman with dark hair and pink nail polish is lying on her back on a bed with striped pillows. She is wearing a pink patterned top. A speech bubble is positioned above her head, containing the text: "HOW CAN A GIRL SLEEP WITH THE SUN ON HER FACE?".

HOW CAN A GIRL
SLEEP WITH THE SUN
ON HER FACE?

WAIT A MINUTE... SUN?!





WHAT TIME IS IT?



OH NO...

9:43


I'M TOTALLY
SCREWED!





MY APPOINTMENT WAS AT 9:30!
BUT OF COURSE I COULDN'T HEAR
THE ALARM WITH THESE THINGS
STUCK IN MY EARS!

OH, THERE'S A MESSAGE FROM UNNIE.
THIS IS FROM LAST NIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE
CHECKED THE PHONE BEFORE GOING
TO SLEEP!




"NABI-YA, THE SOLVENT FOR YOUR IN-EARS IS IN THE BATHROOM. REMOVE THEM TONIGHT. I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HOME EARLY TOMORROW, BUT I'LL MEET YOU AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE. DON'T BE LATE! REMEMBER, IT IS NOT EASY TO GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. WHITE!"

WELL, I'LL LEAVE AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE. I DON'T THINK I HAVE TIME TO
REMOVE THESE DAMN THINGS FROM MY EARS!
I'M ALREADY ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES LATE,
AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME AT LEAST HALF
AN HOUR TO GET TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE.
I'M JUST GOING TO PUT THE FIRST OUTFIT
I CAN GET MY HANDS ON AND
GET OUT OF HERE!




SOME TIME LATER...




A woman in a purple dress and high heels is walking in an office. She is carrying a small, metallic, teardrop-shaped bag. The office has wooden paneling on the walls and doors, and a patterned carpet. In the foreground, there are several wooden chairs with grey fabric seats. A thought bubble is connected to the woman's head by a line of small circles.

GOSH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN SUCH HIGH HEELS! IT'S PRETTY HARD TO WALK FAST ON THEM, NO MATTER HOW MUCH PRACTICE I HAVE! THIS HAS TO BE THE TALLEST PAIR IN MY WARDROBE, AND I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO FALL OVER AT ANY MOMENT!

A woman with short dark hair and bangs stands in a room with a wooden door. She is wearing a bright purple, short-sleeved, button-up dress with a matching skirt. She has a white bag slung over her shoulder. A thought bubble is positioned above her head, containing text.

BUT I'M SO LATE THAT I DIDN'T HAVE
TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING.
I DIDN'T EVEN DO MY MAKEUP! AT LEAST
I PUT ON SOME LIP GLOSS WHILE I WAS
IN THE UBER.



나비야, 너 진짜 왜 그래?
왜 이렇게 늦었어?


죄송해요, 언니. 저는...

*NABI-YA, WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU SO LATE?

*I'M SORRY, UNNIE, I CAN'T...

화장은 왜 안했어 이
기집애야?

*WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING MAKEUP, YOU SLOPPY GIRL?



내가 설명합니다! 나는 너의 말을 들을 수가 없고...


*IT'S LIKE I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN! I CAN'T HEAR YOU AND...

잠깐... 지금 이어폰 끼고 있는 거야?
오늘 정말 내 인내심을 시험하는구나!

나는...

*WAIT A MINUTE... ARE YOU USING YOUR IN-EARS? GIRL, YOU ARE REALLY TRYING MY PATIENCE TODAY!

*I...



어쨌든! 마이크가 내 지갑에 있었으니 다행이지.
이걸 켜면 내 말이 들릴거야. 직원과 얘기하고 올게.
이렇게 늦어도 선생님이 만나 주셔야 할텐데. 면담 동안에도
나 혼자만 얘기해야겠네, 안그래? 정말 너를 어떻게 해야
할지 모르겠어, 아가씨


*OH, WHATEVER! BE GLAD THE MICROPHONE IS IN MY PURSE SO YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR ME ONCE I TURN IT ON. LET ME TALK TO THE SECRETARY. YOU'LL BE LUCKY IF THE DOCTOR AGREES TO SEE YOU CONSIDERING HOW LATE YOU ARRIVED. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO ALL THE TALKING DURING THE APPOINTMENT TOO, RIGHT? I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, GIRL!

NOT LONG AFTER...

SO, FROM WHAT I UNDERSTOOD, YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE PILLS I PRESCRIBED FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SLOW DOWN YOUR TRANSITION A BIT IN ORDER TO HAVE TIME TO GET USED TO YOUR NEW LIFE. STILL, EVEN WITHOUT THE PILLS, YOU NOTICED DRASTIC CHANGES IN YOUR BODY, IS THAT CORRECT?

OKAY, MS. KIM, I HAVE TO EXAMINE YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING. I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE MOST COMFORTABLE SITUATION IN THE WORLD, BUT I NEED YOU TO UNDRESS, PLEASE.






의사가 무슨 말을 하고
계세요, 언니?

그는 너한테 옷을 벗으라고 해.
그래서 네 몸을 보려고 해.

*WHAT'S THE DOCTOR SAYING, UNNIE?

*HE NEEDS YOU TO TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF
SO HE CAN TAKE A BETTER LOOK AT YOU.



이것이 정말 필요한가요?

*WHAT? IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY, UNNIE?


와, 여자야, 고집 부리지 마. 너는 그가 네가 무슨 문제가 있는지 알아내길 원하잖아, 그치?

*C'MON, GIRL, DON'T BE STUBBORN. YOU WANT HIM TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DON'T YOU?

I HATE THIS, BUT I GUESS
I HAVE NO CHOICE! I DEFINITELY
WANT A GOOD EXPLANATION OF WHY
I'M GROWING BOOBS!







알겠어, 준비됐어요!

*O-O-KAY... I'M READY!


ALRIGHT, MS. KIM, SIT IN THE CHAIR, PLEASE. I PROMISE THIS WILL BE QUICK.

THIS HAS TO BE THE MOST HUMILIATING DAY OF MY LIFE!



LOOK AT ME, WEARING JUST MY PINK PANTIES
IN FRONT OF ANOTHER MAN, WITH MY BOOBS
TOTALLY ON DISPLAY. HOW COULD THIS
GET ANY WORSE?





I SEE YOU WEREN'T LYING, MS. KIM.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED
TO GET CLOSER, OKAY?

지금 어떻게 해야 하죠, 언니?

깊게 숨을 쉬어. 그러면 그가
검사를 할 거야.

*WHAT IS HE SAYING NOW, UNNIE?

*JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH SO
HE CAN PERFORM THE EXAM.



그러나...

짜증나지 마, 나비아.
금방 끝날 거야!

*BUT...
*STOP BEING ANNOYING, NABI-YA.
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT'LL BE OVER!




OH GOD...




AHHH...



A woman with short black hair and pink lips is sitting in a blue medical chair. She is topless, and two hands wearing white gloves are touching her breasts. The background shows a medical room with a sink, a counter with a tray of syringes, and a first aid kit on a shelf. A thought bubble is connected to her head by a dotted line.

WHAT THE FUCK! I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST GOT TURNED ON BY A MAN PLAYING WITH MY BOOBS! AND I COULDN'T EVEN HIDE IT! I SEE THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HOW BAD AND HUMILIATING THIS SITUATION CAN BE...



YES, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN ADDITION
TO BEING SWOLLEN, YOUR CHEST IS
VERY SENSITIVE TO TOUCH.

THAT SHE CANNOT DENY,
CAN YOU, NABI-YA?



ALRIGHT, LET'S CUT THE CRAP, GIRL!
OF COURSE HE DIDN'T NEED ANY PILLS
TO DEVELOP BREASTS. NOT AFTER THE
IMPLANT YOU FORCED ME TO PUT IN HIM!
NOW THE QUESTION IS, ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO KEEP DOING THIS TO
THIS POOR GUY?

YES, I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE, DOC,
THANKS FOR ASKING, THOUGH!






DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT THE RISKS? I TOLD YOU THIS DRUG IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF TESTING. LOOK HOW MUCH HE HAS CHANGED IN SUCH A SHORT TIME!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TRICK YOU USED TO MAKE HIM LOOK COMPLETELY FLAT IN THE GROIN AREA, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT IF WE DON'T STOP THIS MADNESS RIGHT NOW, HIS GENITALIA AND TESTICLES WILL ATROPHY AND BECOME HOPELESSLY DYSFUNCTIONAL VERY SOON. I BET HE'S ALREADY INFERTILE AT THIS POINT!

THAT'S A PRICE I'M WILLING TO PAY, DOC.



YOU STUPID, SELFISH BITCH!
YOU'RE NOT ONLY RUINING THIS GUY'S LIFE,
BUT PROBABLY MINE TOO! IF PEOPLE FIND OUT
ABOUT MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS SCHEME, NOT
ONLY WILL I LOSE MY MEDICAL LICENSE...
I'LL ALSO GO TO JAIL, DAMMIT!

BE GLAD YOU'RE NOT IN JAIL ALREADY,
DEAR DR. WHITE, AND BE CAREFUL WHO
YOU CALL A BITCH! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN
WHAT I KNOW ABOUT YOU? DO AS
I SAY OR... NOW!

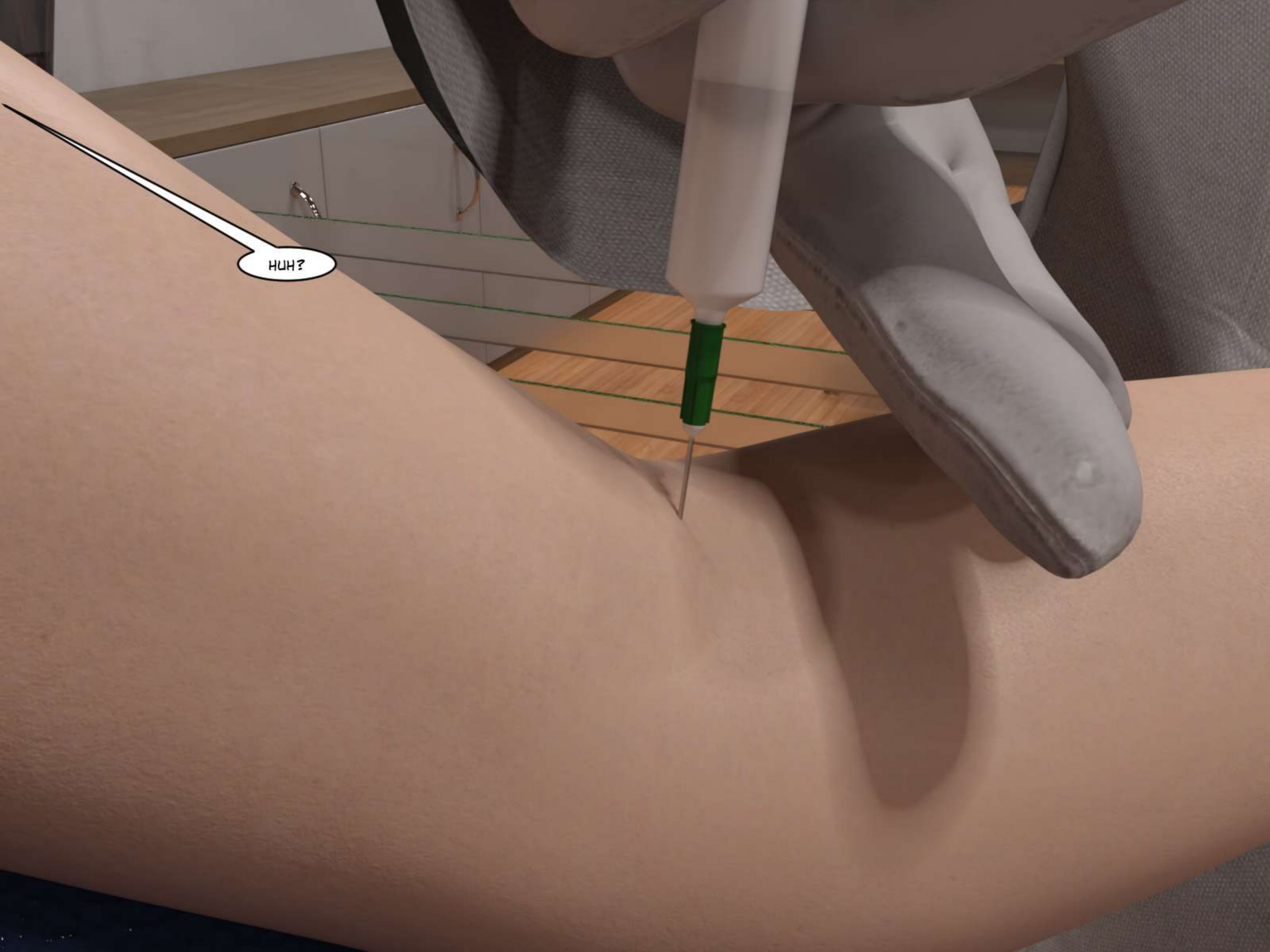


왜 그렇게 싸우는 건가요?


걱정하지 마, 여자야. 의사랑 나는
그냥 작은 불화 중이야. 어차피 너는
이런 거 하나도 기억 못 할 거야!

***WHY ARE YOU GUYS FIGHTING?**

***DON'T WORRY, GIRL. THE DOCTOR AND
I ARE JUST HAVING A LITTLE DISAGREEMENT.
YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS, ANYWAY!**



HUH?



언니, 무슨 일이 일어나고 있나요? 저...
저 지금 어지러운 기분이에요...

*WHAT'S GOING ON, UNNIE?
I... I'M FEELING DIZZY...



그냥 편하게 해, 인형아. 이쁜 잠 잘 때
마음 편하게 해. 깨면, 모든 게 완전히 달라질 거야.
기타도 안 치고 남자 같은 척하는 건 없을 거야. 네 삶은 애교,
귀여운 미니스커트, 예쁜 하이힐, 화장, 높은 목소리 노래로
가득할 거야. 이걸 꿈 같지 않니? 너는 영원히 예쁜 여자로
살 거야, 나비아!

JUST RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP, DOLL.
WHEN YOU WAKE UP, THINGS ARE GOING TO BE QUITE
DIFFERENT. NO MORE GUITARS AND PRETENDING TO BE
A GUY FOR YOU. YOUR LIFE WILL BE FULL OF AEGYO,
CUTE MINISKIRTS, PRETTY HEELS, MAKEUP AND HIGH
PITCHED SONGS. THIS TIME FOR REAL! DOESN'T THIS
SOUND LIKE A DREAM? YOU'RE GOING TO BE
A PRETTY GIRL, NABI-YA... FOREVER!

Try new things

BE HAPPY

Show compassion

BE GRATEFUL

DREAM BIG

Respect one another

LAUGH OUT LOUD




CHAPTER ELEVEN


Rough

ONE MONTH LATER...






IS THIS THE RIGHT ROOM,
LEE SIWOO-SUNBAE?




JUDGING BY HER CONDITION,
I'D SAY SO.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED TO HER, SUNBAE?

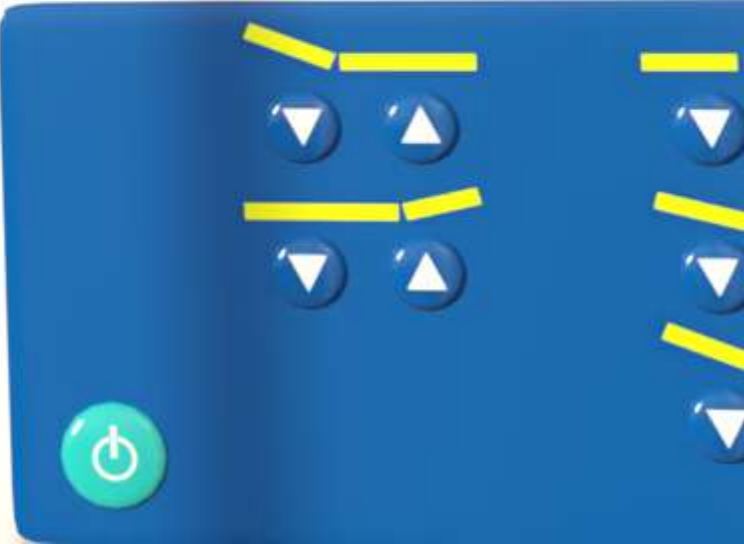
I DON'T RECALL ALL THE DETAILS,
BUT SHE WAS YET ANOTHER VICTIM
OF AMERICAN DEGENERATION.

A man with short, dark hair, wearing a black suit jacket over a black V-neck shirt, is shown from the chest up. He has a serious expression. A speech bubble originates from his mouth, pointing towards the top right. The background is a light-colored wooden door with a silver handle. A shadow of the man is cast onto the door to his right.

SOME JUNKIE LOSER OWED MONEY TO A GANG.
DURING A CHASE, THIS GIRL - WHO HAD NOTHING TO
DO WITH THE STORY - WAS RUN OVER BY THE GUY,
AND HERE SHE IS. AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T SUFFER
THE SAME FATE AS THE JUNKIE.
HE'S IN A COFFIN NOW.




POOR GIRL...






EVEN SWOLLEN AND BRUISED, SHE STILL LOOKS SO PRETTY! I HOPE SHE DOESN'T GET ANY AFTER-EFFECTS OR SCARS!



IF THAT'S THE CASE, ANY PLASTIC SURGEON CAN FIX HER BACK IN KOREA. THOSE IDOL GIRLS ARE ALL FAKE BARBIE DOLLS, ANYWAY. ANOTHER DEGENERATION OF THIS COUNTRY. ONE THAT WE HAVE IMPORTED, UNFORTUNATELY.

A woman with short black hair and glasses, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and black pants, is speaking to a man whose back is to the camera. The man is wearing a dark suit. The scene is set in a room with light-colored wood paneling and a window with green and blue curtains. A speech bubble is directed at the man.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO RUDE, SUNBAE!
YOU REMEMBER T-PANDA-SAJANGNIM SAID
THE COMPANY'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON THIS
GIRL'S VOICE, RIGHT? HE EVEN GAVE UP ON
THE CONTEST PLANS AND DECIDED TO
SIMPLY DEBUT HER GROUP INSTEAD!




IT'S YOU WHO'S BEING RUDE, PARK JISU-YANG!
YOU NEED TO SHOW MORE RESPECT NOT ONLY TO
ME FOR BEING YOUR SENIOR, BUT ESPECIALLY
TO BONHWA YANG-SAJANGNIM. STOP CALLING
HIM T-PANDA IN FRONT OF ME!

BUT THAT USED TO BE HIS STAGE
NAME, RIGHT? AND HE INSISTS THAT
EVERYONE CALLS HIM THIS WAY.

SOMETIMES BONHWA YANG-SAJANGNIM DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR TRADITIONS, WHICH IS SAD. IT DOESN'T MAKE HIM ANY LESS CAPABLE, THOUGH. I'VE BEEN HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT SINCE LONG BEFORE HE OPENED HIS OWN COMPANY, WHEN HE WAS STILL JUST A SINGER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE THINGS I'VE SEEN HIM DOING!

things
PPY
assion
EFUL
BIG
another
LOUD


A woman is lying in a hospital bed, covered with a bright pink blanket. She has a medical mask on her face and appears to be unconscious. To the left, a man in a black suit is standing, looking towards the woman. A speech bubble originates from him, containing a line of dialogue. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, possibly from a window in the background.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT
THE FUTURE OF HIS COMPANY IS IN THIS
GIRL'S HANDS? ANYONE CAN SING STUPID
SONGS. RUNNING A BUSINESS AND BEING
SUCCESSFUL IS ANOTHER THING!



SO YOU THINK BEING AN IDOL IS ALL ABOUT SINGING "STUPID SONGS"?

NO, THERE'S ALSO THE "GIGGLING AND WINKING LIKE AN IDIOT" PART. MY POINT IS, YOU CAN FIND DOZENS OF GIRLS WHO CAN DO THIS ON EVERY CORNER OF SEOUL THESE DAYS. I DON'T KNOW WHY SAJANGNIM THINKS THIS ONE IS SO SPECIAL. BUT HE DEFINITELY DOESN'T DEPEND ON HER FOR ANYTHING!

A woman with short black hair and glasses, wearing a purple long-sleeved button-down shirt and black pants, stands in a hospital room. She is gesturing with her right hand as if speaking. In the background, a man lies in a hospital bed, covered with a purple blanket. His face is heavily bandaged, with only his eyes and part of his nose visible. The room has light-colored wood paneling and a window with blinds in the background. A speech bubble originates from the woman's mouth.


WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SUNBAE, IF YOU HAVE SUCH A CONTEMPT FOR IDOLS, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WORK FOR AND SHOW SO MUCH ADMIRATION FOR T-PANDA... SORRY, BONHWA YANG-SAJANGNIM. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT HE USED TO BE AN IDOL HIMSELF, AND IS VERY PROUD OF IT!

MY MOTIVATIONS ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE'VE ALREADY SEEN THAT THE GIRL WILL SURVIVE, AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.



WAIT, SUNBAE...





...I THINK SHE'S WAKING UP!



SO WHAT? WE CAN TELL THAT TO A NURSE ON OUR WAY OUT OR SOMETHING. WE STILL NEED TO SEE THE OTHER GIRLS AND MAKE SURE WE GET THEM ALL ON A PLANE BACK TO KOREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE INFLUENCE OF THIS PLACE IS NOT DOING YOU ANY GOOD.



DON'T MIND HIM, KIM MINAH-SHI. ARE YOU AN UNNIE?
I STILL DON'T KNOW. TAKE CARE, OKAY? I SEE YOU
VERY SOON. I FEEL YOU'LL BE ADORED
IN KOREA!



HUH?

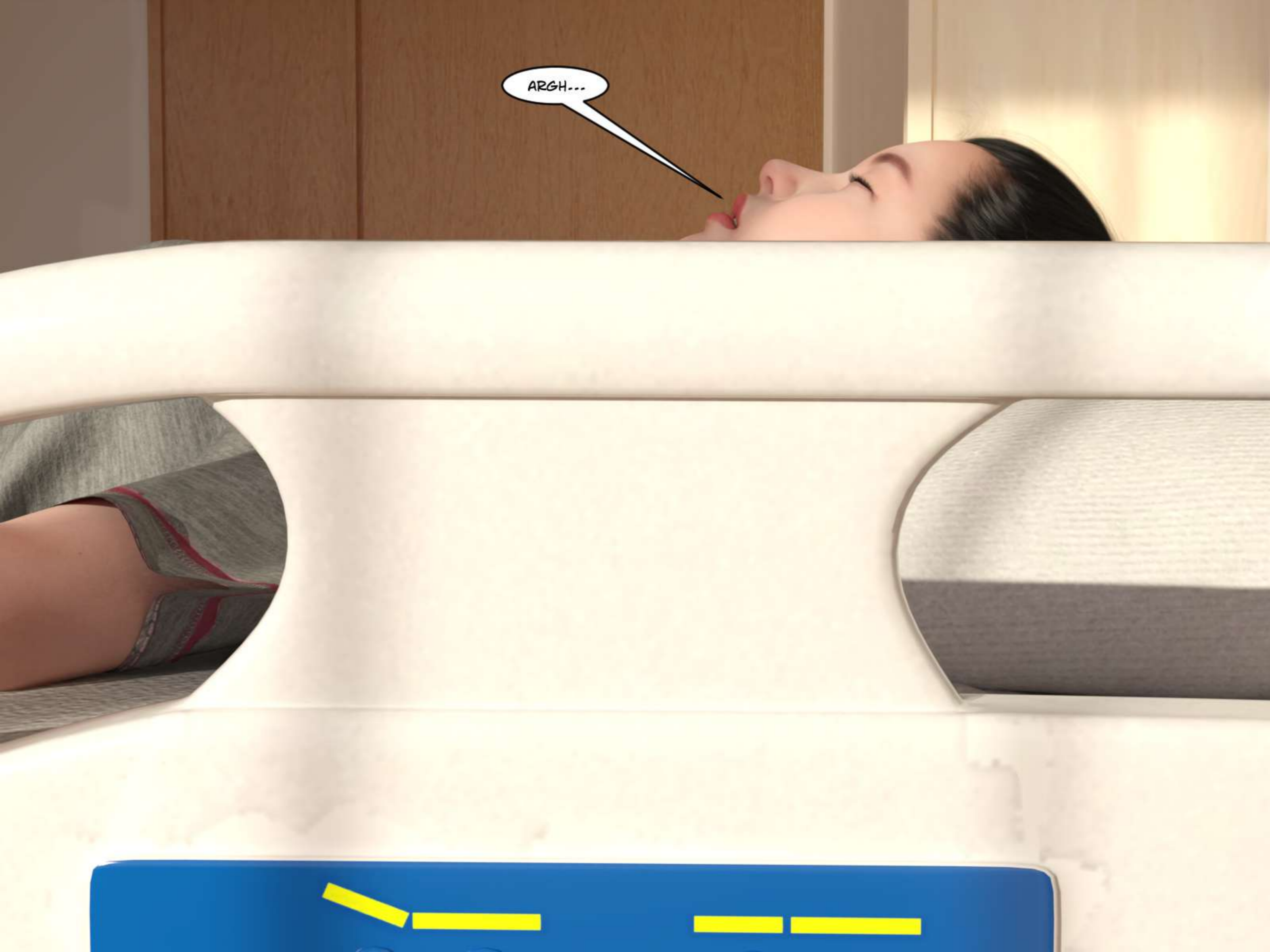
A FEW MORE WEEKS LATER...








ARGH...





WHA'S GOIN' ON?
WHERE I AM?

A woman with dark hair tied back is lying in a hospital bed, looking upwards with a pained expression. She is wearing a grey hospital gown with a red heart and a black smiley face on the chest. Her right hand is resting on her neck. A speech bubble originates from her mouth, containing text. The background shows a window with blinds and a wooden wall.

OUCH, MY FROAT HURTS REAL BAD
AN' MY BOICE SOUNDS FUNNY...

A young woman with dark hair pulled back is lying in a hospital bed. She is wearing a grey hospital gown with a maroon V-neck collar. Her right hand is resting on her chin, and she has a slightly open mouth as if speaking or reacting. A speech bubble is positioned above her head, containing text. The background shows the white metal frame of the hospital bed and light-colored curtains.

WAIT... WHY CAN'T I PU-RO-NOUNCE
DE WORDS RIGHT?

WHAT ABOUT MY SKIN? IT LOOKS
SO MUCH WHITER AND PINKISH AND
MY ARMS ARE SO DELICATE...



JUST LIKE MY WHOLE BODY!



WHAT THE HELL DID
THEY DO TO ME? IS THIS
A NIGHTMARE?





MY FACE SEEMS WEIRD, TOO.
IT FEELS SO SMALL AND SMOOTH!



I NEED A MIRROR NOW!
THERE MUST BE A BATHROOM
AROUND HERE!






OH NO...

DIS CAN'T BE TU-RUE...




A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a grey t-shirt with a red V-neck and a cat face graphic, stands in a bathroom. She has a shocked expression with wide eyes and an open mouth. Her right hand is raised to her ear, and her left hand is held out in a questioning gesture. A speech bubble points to her mouth.

HOW CAN DIS BE ME?!

A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a grey top with a pink strap, is shown in profile in a bathroom. She has a shocked expression, with her mouth open and hands near her face. A thought bubble is positioned above her head. The background includes a shower area with wood paneling and a grey wall.

FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, I WAS AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE JUST NOW COMPLAINING THAT I WAS GROWING BOOBS, AND INSTEAD OF A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM NOW I HAVE THE FACE OF A FREAKING ASIAN GIRL?!



IF THEY DID THIS TO MY FACE,
HOW EXTENSIVE IS THE DAMAGE
TO MY BODY?

MY CHEST LOOKS THE SAME, I GUESS?
BUT MY SKIN IS JUST LIKE PORCELAIN AND
MY NECK IS SO SLENDER AND FEMININE,
WITH NO TRACE OF MY ADAM'S APPLE...





GOD, WHAT ABOUT DOWN THERE?
COULD IT POSSIBLE THAT... NO, THEY
WOULDN'T BE SO SICK... RIGHT?



SIGH



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
THIS IS REALLY ME!



JUST LOOK AT MY BODY...





THEY CERTAINLY DID SOMETHING TO MY WAISTLINE TOO!



WELL, AS SCARY AS IT IS,
IT'S TIME TO FACE THE TRUTH...



I NEED TO TAKE MY PANTIES OFF.



WHA'?!?





LOOK HOW TINY
MY COCK IS!



AND MY BALLS ARE GONE!
I NO LONGER HAVE MY
FUCKING BALLS!



I... I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO THROW UP... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME? WHY ME?

I'VE NEVER DONE ANY HARM TO ANYONE.
WHY DID THEY MUTILATE ME LIKE THIS?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
I'M COMPLETELY RUINED!





I SEE OUR SLEEPING BEAUTY HAS
FINALLY DECIDED TO WAKE UP!



YOU! I TU-RU-SU-TE! YOU!
LOO! WHA! YOU LE! DEM DO
TO ME!



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE WHINING A BABY.
YOU LOOK PRETTIER THAN EVER! GOSH, THAT'S
AMAZING! YOU LOOK MORE ASIAN THAN I DO!
YOU EVEN SOUND LIKE A KOREAN GIRL WHO
CAN BARELY SPEAK ENGLISH. I LOVE IT!



YOU LOBE IT?! LOO' A' MY BODY!
LOO' WHA'S LEF' OF MY COCK! WHY ARE
YOU SMILIN'? THA' WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT YOU WERE DE ONE
WHO TOL' DE DOCTOR TO DO DIS TO ME!



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR DRAMA, GIRL.
I KNEW YOU WOULD WAKE UP TODAY BECAUSE
THE DOCTOR WAS GOING TO CUT OFF THE SEDATIVES.
WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT. GO PUT ON
THE CLOTHES I BROUGHT YOU... NOW.



I'M NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE WIF YOU,
YOU CU-RA-JY BITCHY! GE' OU' OF MY WAY.
I'M CALLIN' THE COP-SU, AND YOU WON'T
STO' ME!



OUCH, YOU'RE HURTIN' ME!

WEREN'T YOU THE ONE
SAYING I COULDN'T STOP YOU,
YOU LITTLE FREAK?

THAT WAS THE LAST TIME
YOU DISRESPECTED ME,
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

Slap!



NOW GO PUT ON YOUR DAMN CLOTHES UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE DRAGGED OUT OF THE HOSPITAL NAKED FOR EVERYONE TO SEE HOW RIDICULOUS THAT PATHETIC TINY THING BETWEEN YOUR LEGS LOOK, YOU STUPID SISSY!





CHAPTER TWELVE

Psycho

HOURS LATER...

CA BLDG.


CA
BLDG.








W-WHA' ARE WE
DOIN' HERE?



NABI-YA...




YOU KNOW YOU SOUND RIDICULOUS TRYING TO SPEAK ENGLISH, RIGHT? WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP THIS NONSENSE? YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT, GIRL!

NOW, IF I UNDERSTAND CORRECTLY, YOU ASKED WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE. WELL, EVEN YOU, WHO ARE DEFINITELY NOT THE MOST BRILLIANT PERSON IN THE WORLD, ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.



PU-LISE, DON'T MAK' ME DO DIS.
ANYTHIN' BU' DIS. I BEG YOU!

A close-up, profile view of a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a large hoop earring and a red top. She is looking towards the left. A white speech bubble with a tail pointing to her mouth is positioned to her left. The background is a dark, textured wall.

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL ABOUT
THE DEALS YOU PROPOSE, NABI-YA.

BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR
OFFER... NOT THIS TIME.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



THAT WE GOT YOU ALL
DOLLED UP FOR NOTHING?





REALLY?

A photograph of a woman's legs from the waist down, wearing red high-heeled shoes with gold peacock feather details. She is standing in a room with several white mannequins on stands. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image.

NO, THE WORLD NEEDS
TO SEE YOU!

...SEE HOW PRETTY AND FEMININE YOU LOOK!



BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR
LIFE NOW.



A woman with long black hair, wearing a red sequined strapless dress, a red choker with a heart pendant, and multiple gold and red accessories. She is holding a bright pink clutch bag. The background is a modern bar or lounge with white bar stools and a counter. A speech bubble is positioned in the upper left area of the image.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT
TO YOU THAN LOOKING LIKE
A GIRLY, CUTE DOLL.



THIS IS WHO YOU WILL
BE FOREVER!



DON'T YOU SEE IT?



DON'T YOU SEE THAT I HAVE
TOTAL CONTROL OVER YOU
AND YOUR LIFE?



THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE ALREADY
DONE TO YOU. IF YOU THINK THIS IS BAD,
KEEP IN MIND THAT I CAN TURN YOUR LIFE
INTO A LIVING HELL! AND WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO? STAMP YOUR FEET AND
WHINE LIKE A LITTLE GIRL?

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO WARN YOU
ONE LAST TIME, STOP COMPLAINING
AND START BEHAVING. THINGS CAN
GET TERRIBLE FOR YOU TONIGHT!



IS THAT IT? DO I REALLY HAVE
NO WAY OUT? WHY CAN'T I FIGHT BACK?
I MUST BE IN SHOCK OR SOMETHING...
WHO WOULDN'T BE IN MY PLACE?
OR MAYBE... MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT...
MAYBE I WAS NEVER A REAL MAN.





EXIT

RESTROOMS

WAI!...





ARE THOSE ROY AN' SAM?
IS DAT MY BAN'?



YOUR BAND? NOT
ANYMORE, DOLL.

RESTROOM



IT SEEMS THEY HAVE A REAL
MAN AS THEIR SINGER NOW!



AND I HAVE TO SAY...

JUDGING BY THE CROWD'S
EXCITEMENT...





THE BAND IS DOING A LOT BETTER WITHOUT YOU. AND TODAY IS ONLY WEDNESDAY! YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW BUSY THIS PLACE HAS BEEN OVER THE WEEKENDS. IT'S A SHAME YOU WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES...

EXIT




DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR LAST CONCERT...
IF WE CAN CALL THAT A CONCERT? BESIDES ME,
THERE WERE ONLY TWO OR THREE OTHER PEOPLE
IN THE AUDIENCE, RIGHT? THAT WAS SO PATHETIC
THAT YOU WERE EVEN KICKED OUT OF
THE BAND THAT NIGHT!

EXIT

RESTROOMS

DEY... DEY DIDN' KICK ME OU'!
DEY WERE DE ONES WHO LEF'!

A close-up shot of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink dress and large hoop earrings. She is in a dimly lit bar with a brick wall background. A speech bubble points to her mouth, containing a taunting message. The lighting is a mix of red and blue, creating a moody atmosphere.


OH, REALLY? IT'S FUNNY YOU SAY THAT 'CAUSE THEY'RE PLAYING ON THE STAGE RIGHT NOW WHILE YOU'RE HERE, WHINING IN YOUR PINK DRESS AND PRETTY HEELS!




WHA'S WRON' WIF YOU?
WHY DO YOU KEE' BEIN'
SO MEAN TO ME?



WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO START CRYING AGAIN?
WHAT A DELICATE PRINCESS... AT LEAST YOU'RE
WEARING WATERPROOF MAKEUP. SO YOU WON'T
RUIN YOUR CUTE LITTLE FACE!




WHA' ELSE DO YOU WAN' FROM ME?!
YOU ALRIDY DESU-TU-ROYE' MY LIFE.
I'LL NEVE' BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO
WHO I WAS! WHA' NOW? DO YOU WAN'
ME TO KILL MYSEL' OR SOMETHIN'?

A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a red, off-the-shoulder dress and large hoop earrings, stands in a dimly lit bar. She is holding a white envelope or document. The background features a brick wall and a bar counter with stools. A speech bubble originates from her mouth, containing a block of text.

YOU SAID I DESTROYED YOUR LIFE?
IT'S REALLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND
YOUR BROKEN ENGLISH. BUT THE TRUTH IS,
YOU SHOULD THANK ME! YOUR LIFE WAS
A FAILURE IN EVERY SINGLE ASPECT.
THERE WASN'T A SINGLE PERSON
WHO CARED ABOUT YOU!



T-THA'S NO' TU-RUE...



YOU SURE? LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY THEN. YOU, OR RATHER, NICK IS OFFICIALLY DEAD. YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT NEVER BEING HIM AGAIN! DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WENT TO YOUR FUNERAL? NONE! NOT EVEN YOUR FUCKING MOTHER!

YOU DON'T HAVE A TOMBSTONE BECAUSE NO ONE CARED ENOUGH TO PROVIDE ONE. DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME? LOOK FOR THE NEWS ABOUT NICK'S DEATH. AND HERE ARE YOUR SO-CALLED FRIENDS, PLAYING WITH ANOTHER GUY, AND NO ONE GIVES A SHIT THAT YOU'RE GONE!



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS
TO ME? WHY ME?



BECAUSE I WANT TO GIVE YOU
A CHANCE TO BE SOMEONE WORTHWHILE.
SOMEONE PEOPLE CARE ABOUT, NABI-YA.
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE? WOULDN'T YOU LIKE
BEING LOVED AT LEAST ONCE?

SOME TIME LATER...







HERE WE ARE, NABI-YA.




YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW
IMPORTANT IT IS TO CONGRATULATE
A BAND AFTER A CONCERT!



ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU
KNOW THE MEMBERS,
DON'T YOU THINK?



A man with dark, curly hair is shown in profile, facing left. He is holding a lit cigarette in his right hand, and a plume of white smoke rises from it. He has a slight smile on his face. The scene is dimly lit, with the background being a textured, light-colored wall. A speech bubble originates from the left side of the frame, pointing towards the man. In the lower-left foreground, there is a dark, cylindrical object, possibly a thermos, and a small red object. The overall mood is contemplative or casual.

LOOK OVER THERE, GUYS.



IT SEEMS WE HAVE
COMPANY!



WOW, AND THE BEST KIND OF
COMPANY, I'D SAY!



WELCOME TO OUR DRESSING ROOM, LADIES! NOT THE BEST IN THE WORLD, I ADMIT, BUT IT ALREADY LOOKS A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE!




WHY THANK YOU! I HOPE WE'RE NOT BOTHERING YOU GUYS!

NOT AT ALL... BUT TELL ME,
RED DRESS, HAVEN'T I SEEN
YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE?




WELL....





I'VE BEEN TO THIS PUB BEFORE,
AND YOU GUYS WERE PLAYING THAT
NIGHT TOO. BUT YOU HAD ANOTHER
VOCALIST BACK THEN. WHAT WAS HIS
NAME AGAIN? PETER, WASN'T IT?
I'M MINJI, BY THE WAY.

A man with a mohawk hairstyle and a goatee is shown from the chest up. He has a large, intricate tattoo on his neck and upper chest. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with a graphic design. The background is a dark, industrial interior with brick walls, pipes, and a wooden pallet leaning against the wall. A speech bubble is positioned above him, containing text.

THE BASTARD'S NAME WAS NICK.
AND I HAVE TO SAY, WE'RE MUCH
BETTER OFF NOW WITHOUT HIM!



C'MON, MAN, HE WASN'T THAT BAD!
I MEAN, HE WAS BAD, BUT STILL....



GOING EASY ON HIM JUST BECAUSE
THE MOTHERFUCKER GOT HIMSELF KILLED, BUDDY?
FROM WHAT I REMEMBER, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO
SAID YOU'D RATHER RIP YOUR EARDRUMS OUT THAN
HAVING TO LISTEN TO ONE OF HIS SHITTY
SONGS AGAIN!

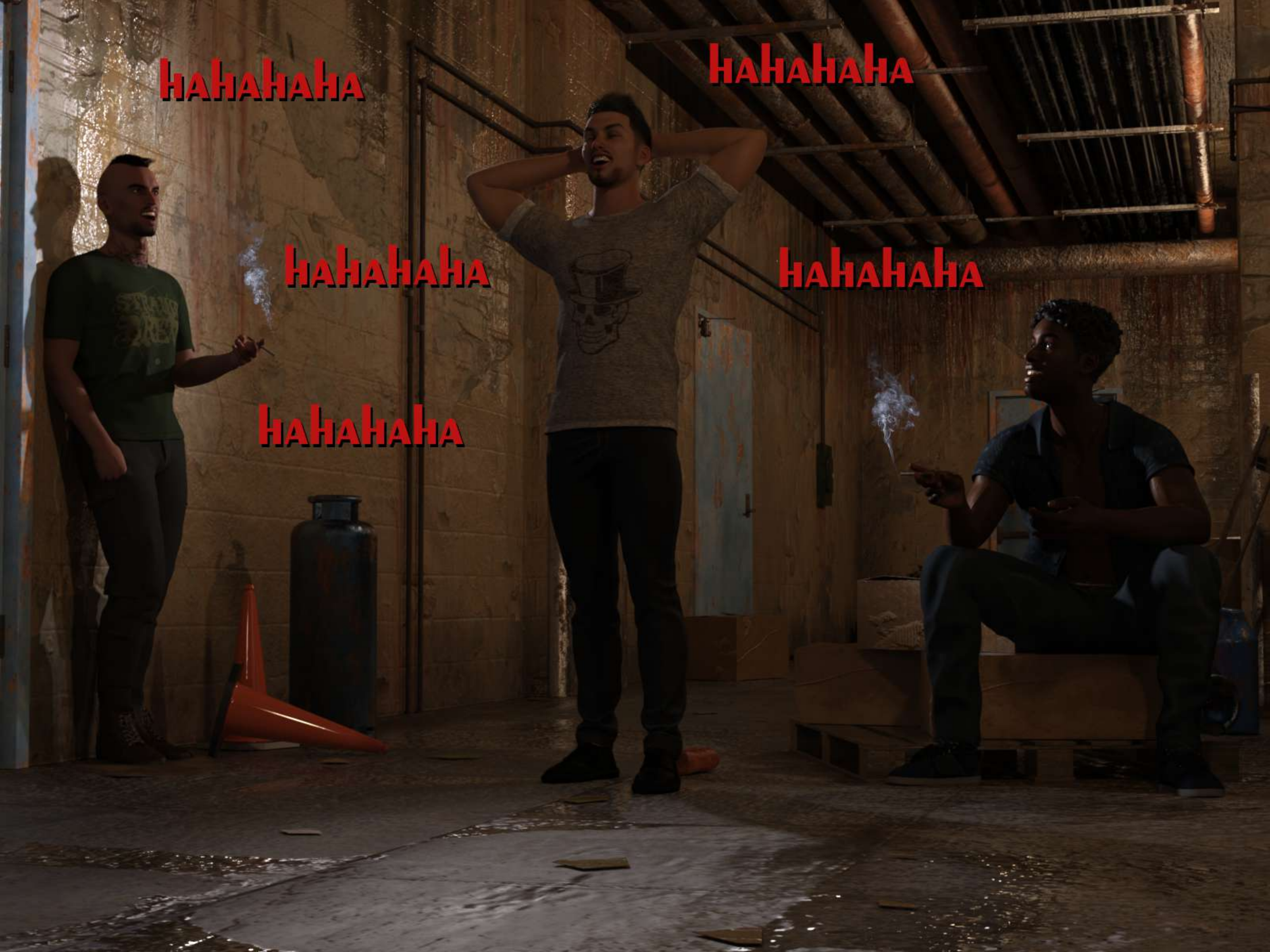
HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAHA



LOOKS LIKE UNNIE WAS RIGHT.
THEY DON'T GIVE A SHIT THAT I'M SUPPOSEDLY DEAD.
ALL THOSE YEARS PLAYING TOGETHER... AND NOW
THIS? THEY LAUGH AT MY SONGS... THEY DIDN'T
EVEN GO TO MY FUCKING FUNERAL!



THAT'S ENOUGH, GUYS. THE GIRLS WILL
START TO THINK WE'RE NOT GENTLEMEN!
TELL ME MINJI, YOUR PRETTY FRIEND IS
VERY SHY, ISN'T SHE? SHE HASN'T SAID
A WORD YET!





HER NAME'S KIM MINAH, BUT SHE PREFERS TO BE CALLED NABI. SHE JUST ARRIVED FROM KOREA, AND BARELY SPEAKS ENGLISH. ALSO, SHE'S QUITE SHY FOR SURE, ESPECIALLY AROUND CUTE GUYS, RIGHT, NABI-YA?



C-CUTE GUYS?!




WHA' YOU TALKIN' ABOU',
UNNIE? I NEBE...

THAT'S OKAY SWEETIE.
NOBODY IS JUDGING YOU!



SHE LIKES TO SING TOO, YOU KNOW?
AND EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ACTING LIKE
A SCARED KITTEN RIGHT NOW, SHE WAS
TELLING ME NOT LONG AGO HOW MUCH
SHE LOVED YOUR VOICE!



OH, REALLY? BESIDES BEING SO BEAUTIFUL, YOU ARE ALSO A SINGER, NABI? LOOKS LIKE I'VE FOUND THE PERFECT WOMAN FOR ME! DO YOU LIKE GUITARS? MINE IS STILL ON STAGE. WHY DON'T WE HOP OVER THERE SO YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK?


I... I DON' FIN-KU DAT
A GU-DU IDEA!





C'MON, DOLL, HE'S JUST BEING NICE. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK YOU'RE A RUDE GIRL, DO YOU?





WE'RE NO' GOIN' TO DE STAGE!
YOU BU-ROUGH' ME OU' OF DE PU-BU,
DIDN' YOU?

WE CAN GO THERE LATER, NABI.
BUT I WAS THINKING---

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A MOMENT TO
GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER?
I'M JOSH, IN CASE YOU DIDN'T HEAR
MY NAME DURING THE CONCERT.






I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING!
THIS GUY IS ACTING EXACTLY LIKE I USED TO
WHEN I WANTED TO MAKE OUT WITH SOME GIRL
AT THE END OF ONE OF OUR CONCERTS. BUT I'M
IN THE GIRL'S SHOES NOW! AND BY SHOES,
I'M REFERRING TO PINK HEELS WITH
BUTTERFLIES ON THE BACK!



THIS IS SO DAMN HUMILIATING!
I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE! WHY DOES
UNNIE KEEP MAKING ME MORE AND MORE
MISERABLE? WHY DO I KEEP CALLING
THAT BITCH UNNIE IN MY MIND?

A close-up, cinematic shot of a man with dark hair and a slight smile, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a grey crew-neck sweater. The background is dark and out of focus. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned to the right of his face, with a tail pointing towards his mouth.


SO, TELL ME, NABI, ARE
YOU ENJOYING YOUR STAY
IN AMERICA?



WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY NOW?
THINK FAST, GIRL! YOU HAVE TO GET
RID OF HIM SOMEHOW!

I... I FINK...





I SEE YOU'RE STILL
NERVOUS, BABE...



LET ME HELP YOU RELAX.

HUH?



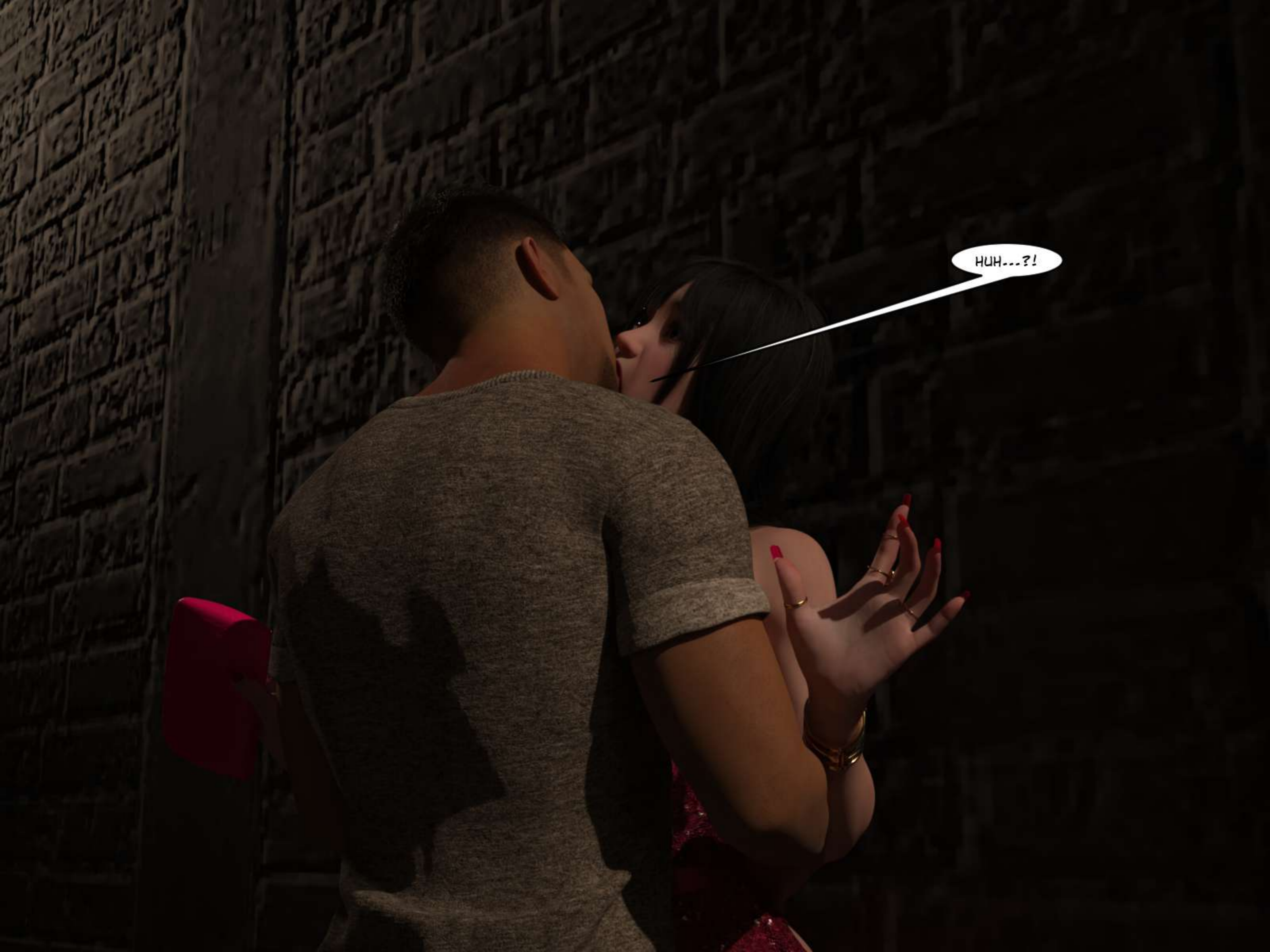
OH MY GOSH!



HE'S KISSING ME!
I'M BEING KISSED
BY A GUY!



WAI', JOSH, I...



HUH...?!





OH, GOD!

A young man and woman are shown in profile, French-kissing in a hallway at night. The woman is on the left, wearing a red halter top and a large, ornate silver earring. The man is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt. The hallway has a brick wall and a wooden door in the background. A thought bubble is positioned above the woman's head.

HE'S FRENCH-KISSING ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE ANOTHER
GUY'S TONGUE IS INSIDE
MY MOUTH!







WHAT THE... IS HE GRABBING
MY ASS?!



DAT'S ENOUF, O-KAY?



C'MON, NABI, WE'RE JUST HAVING FUN!
I WON'T DO ANYTHING YOU DON'T WANT,
OF COURSE, BUT YOU CAN'T DENY YOU
WERE ENJOYING THE KISS, CAN YOU?

I THINK SHE ALREADY MADE
HER ANSWER CLEAR.






EH?

WEREN'T YOU TALKING
TO ROY AND SAM? WHY DON'T
YOU GIVE US A MINUTE ALONE?

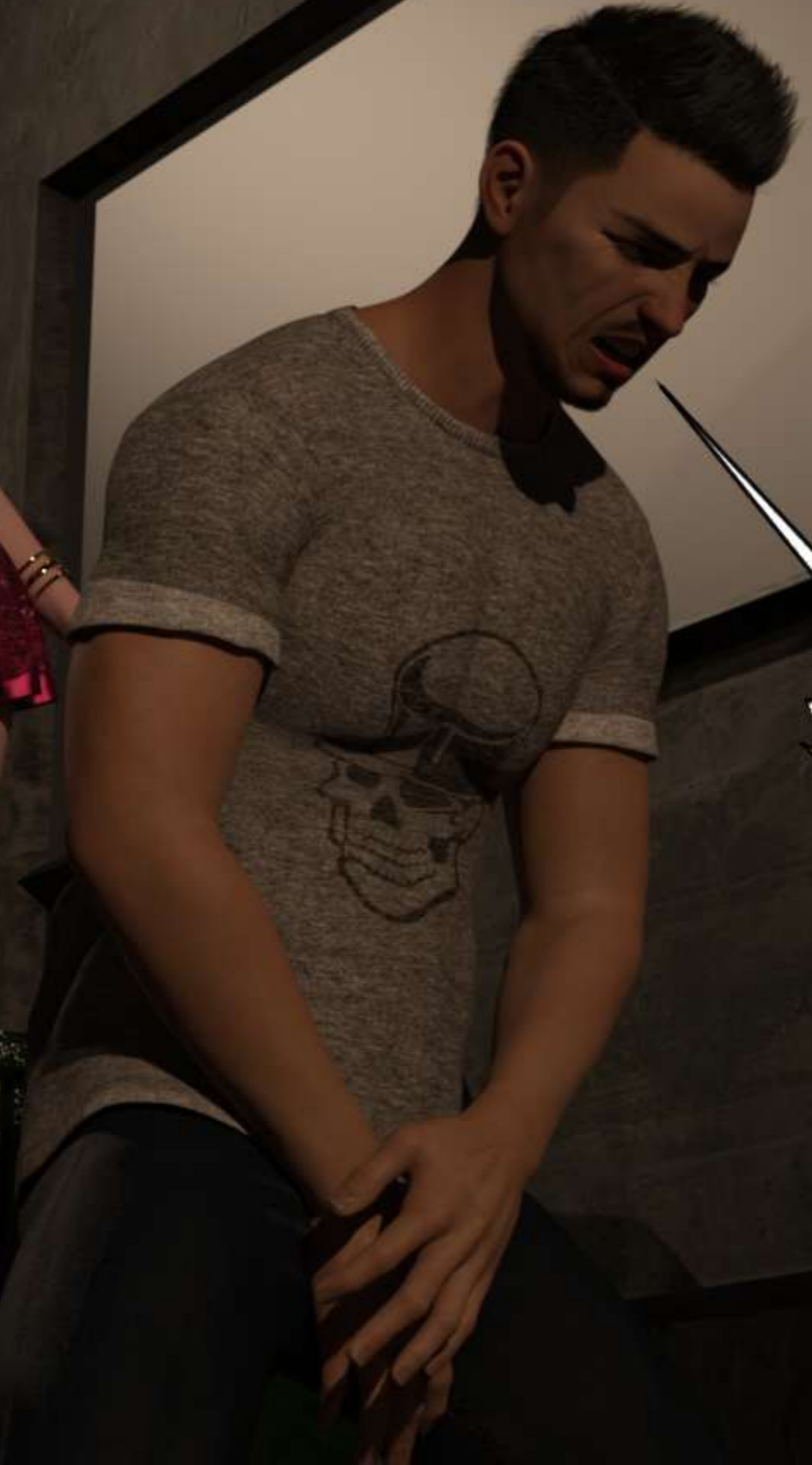


A close-up, cinematic shot of a woman with dark, wavy hair and large hoop earrings. She is wearing a red, off-the-shoulder dress. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on her face and hair against a dark background. A white speech bubble is positioned in the upper left corner, containing text.

THE THING IS... YOU LIED TO ME.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD TAKE NABI-YA TO
SEE YOUR GUITAR ON STAGE, NOT THAT
YOU WOULD BRING HER TO A DARK ALLEY.
SO THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO
MAKE CLEAR NOW.

kick


CABLDG.



!!!!!!!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU,
YOU BITCH?



BE GLAD I JUST KICKED YOU IN
THE BALLS. NEXT TIME YOU LAY A FINGER
ON NABI-YA, I'LL CUT THEM OFF AND
MAKE YOU SWALLOW THEM!



WHAT THE HECK JUST
HAPPENED HERE?



C'MON, NABI-YA, WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON THIS LOSER!