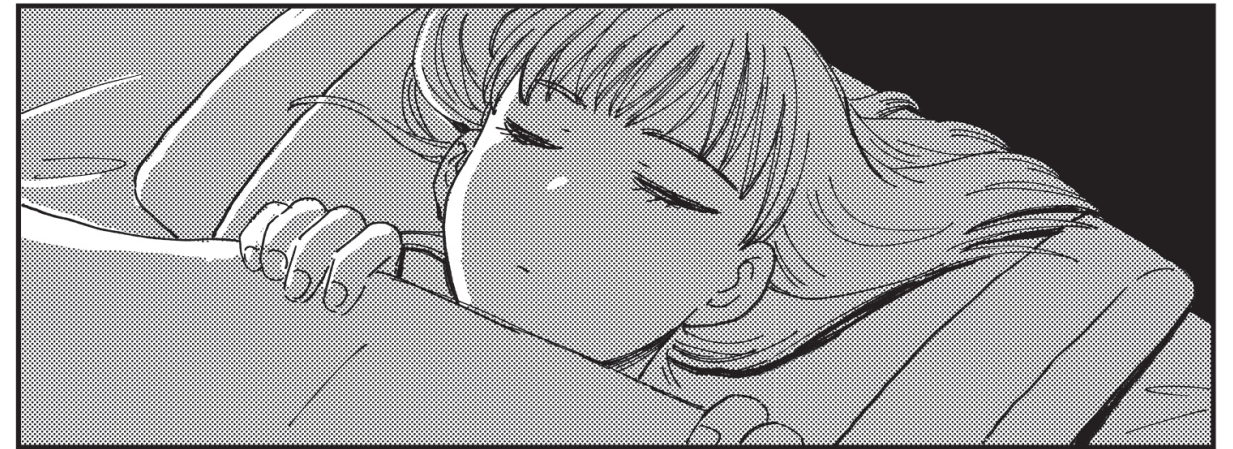
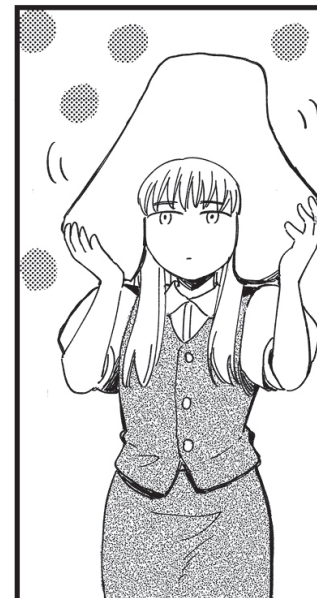
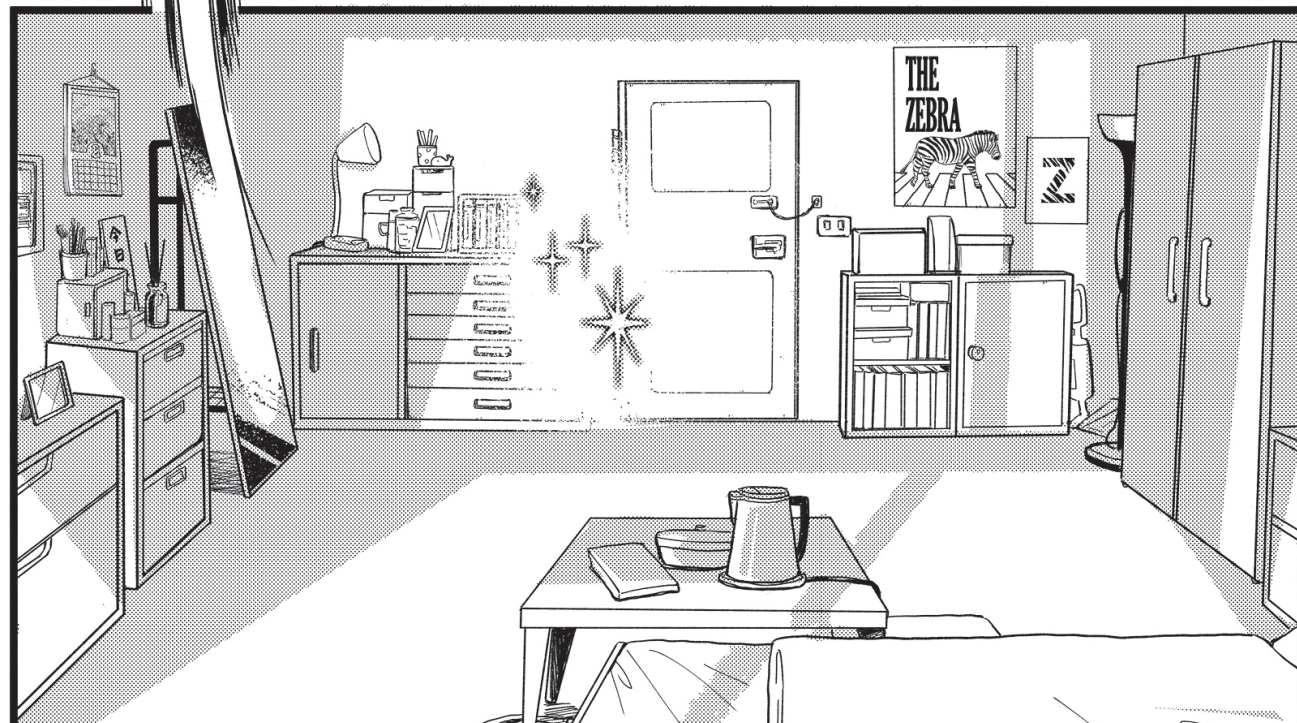
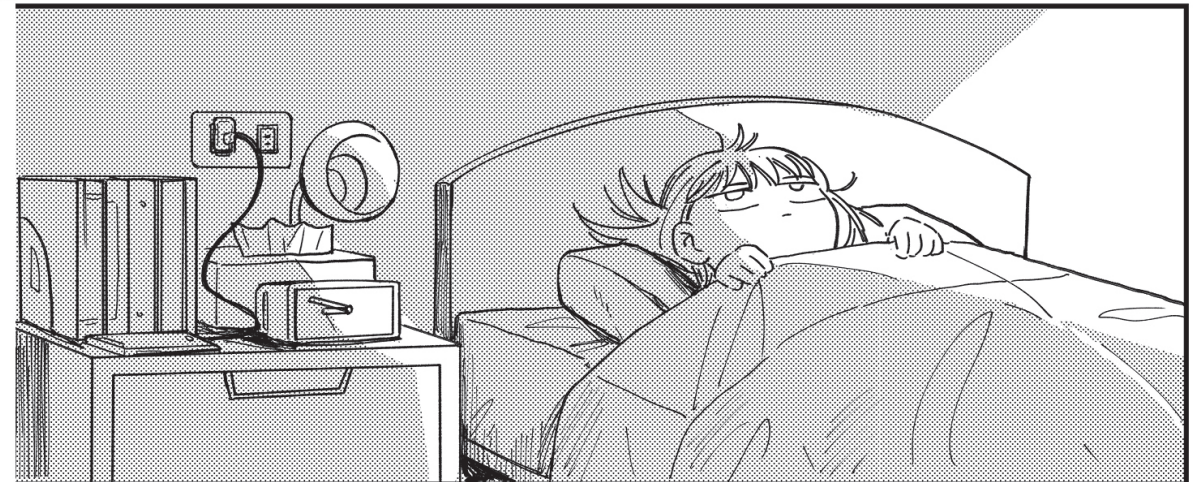
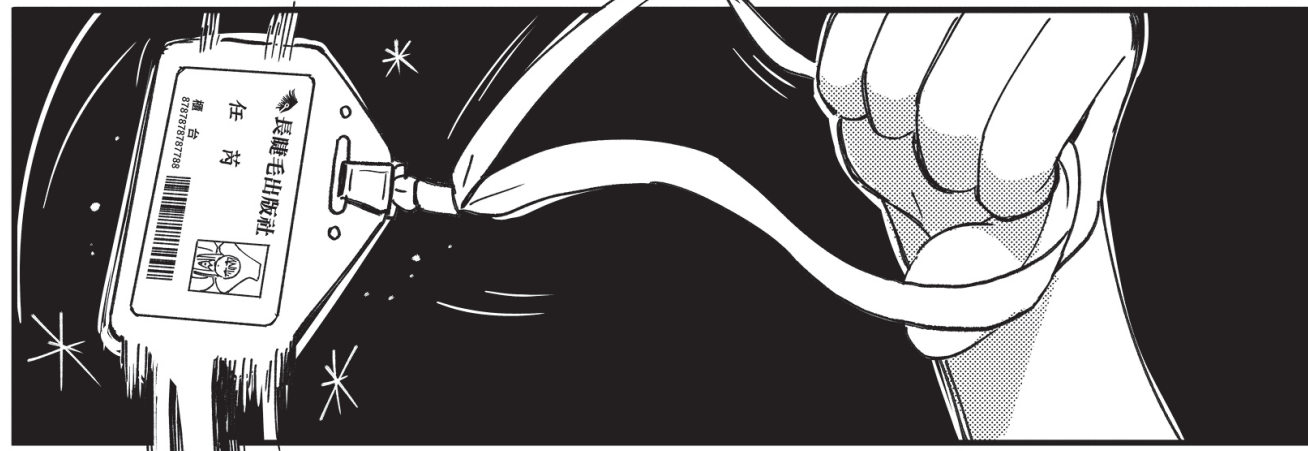


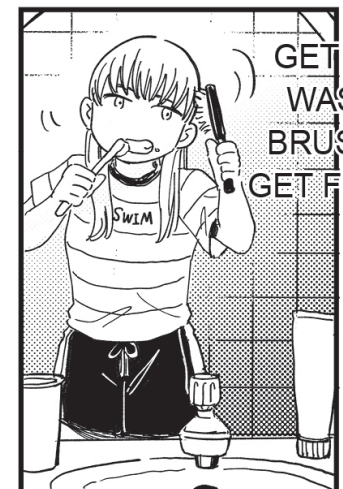
BUT EVEN  
IF I DON'T  
GET MYSELF  
TOGETHER,  
NOBODY  
WILL CARE.



AM 8:50

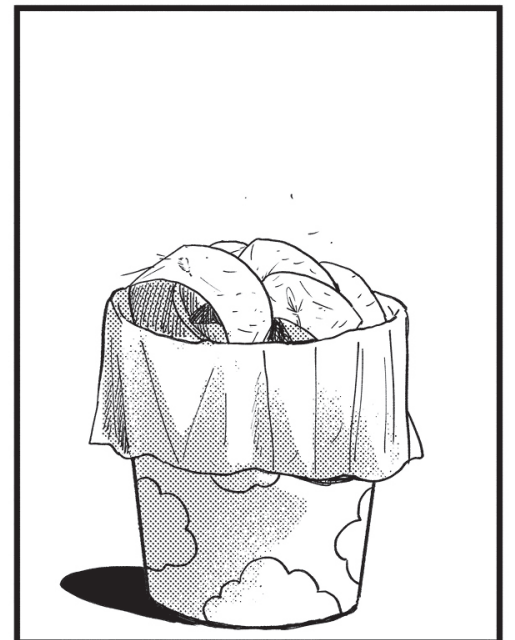
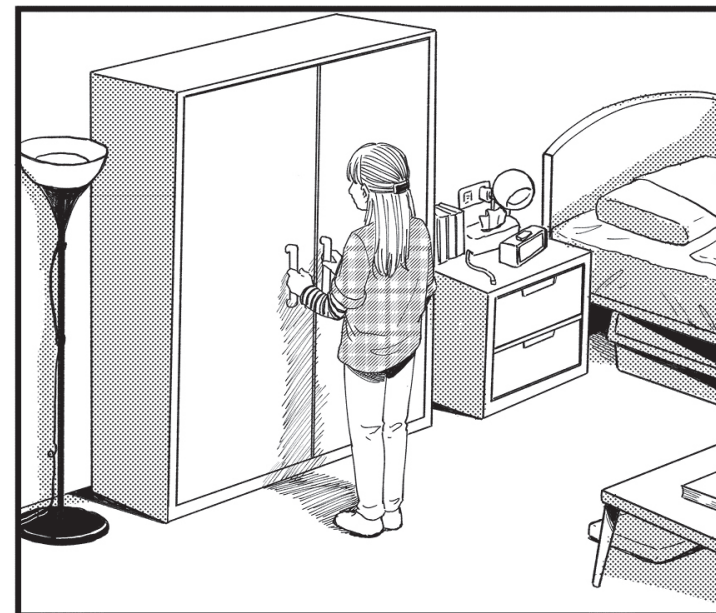
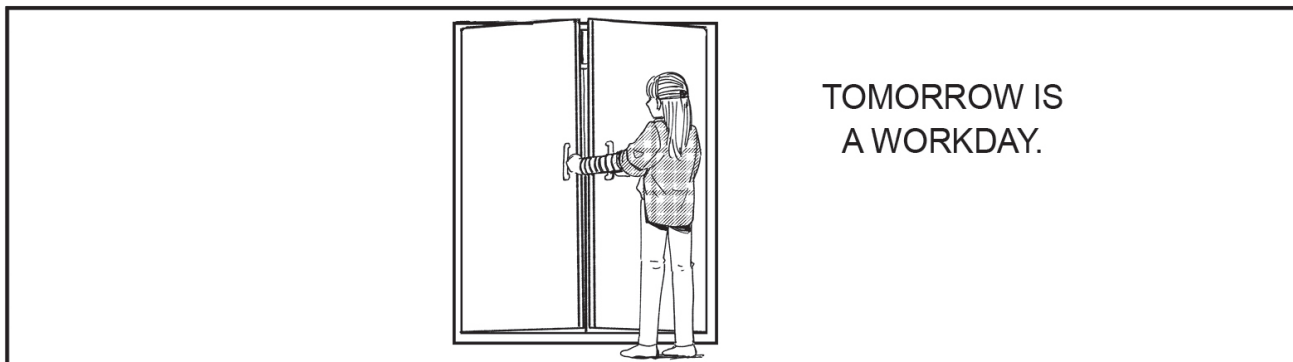
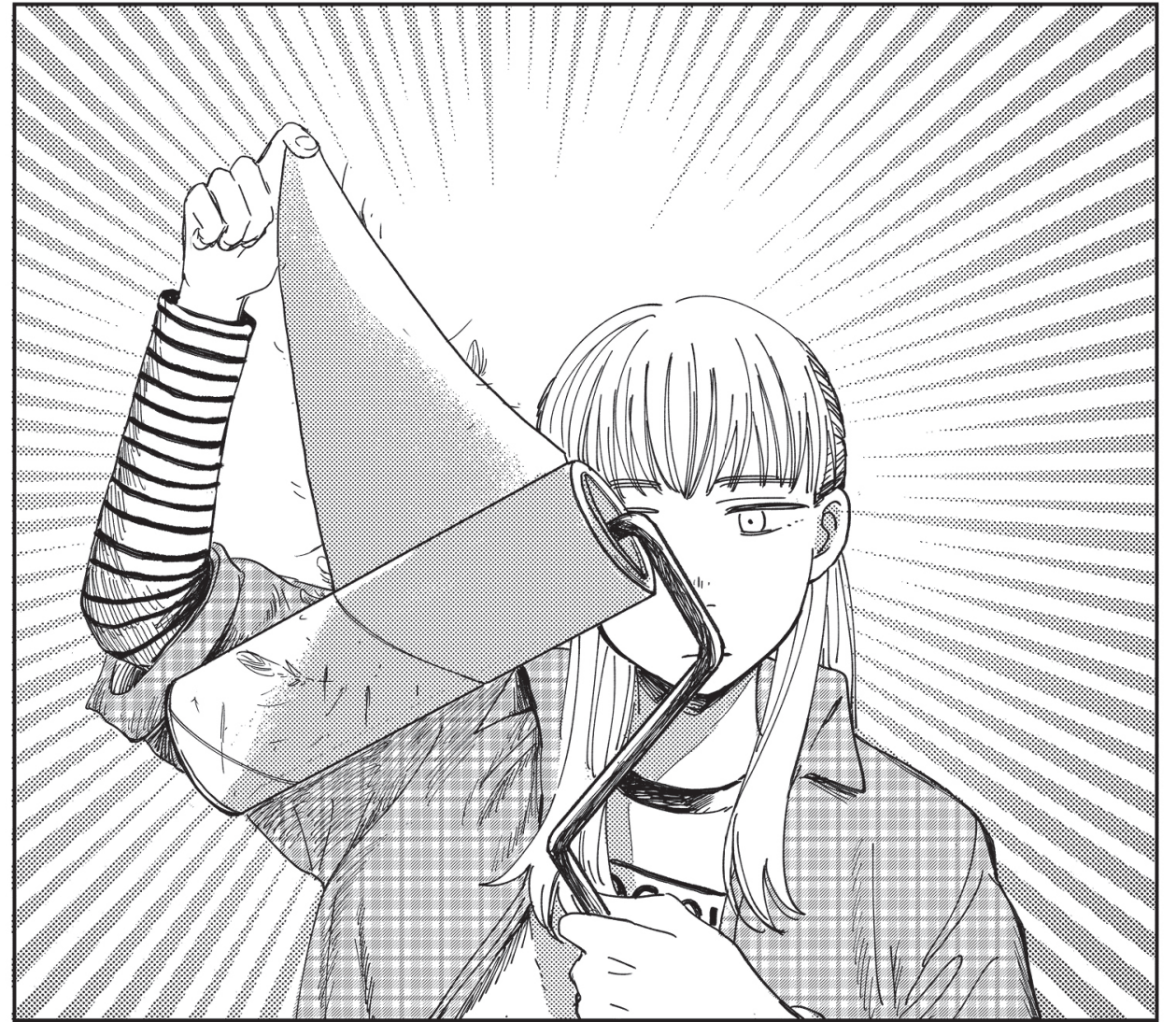


THEN GET  
DRESSED.  
IT CAN ALL  
BE DONE  
IN TEN  
MINUTES.

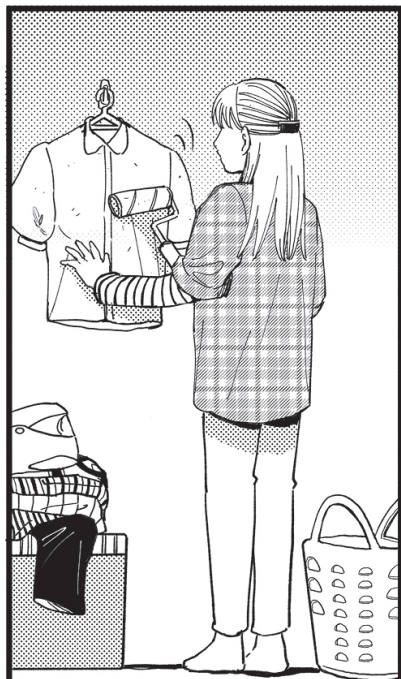
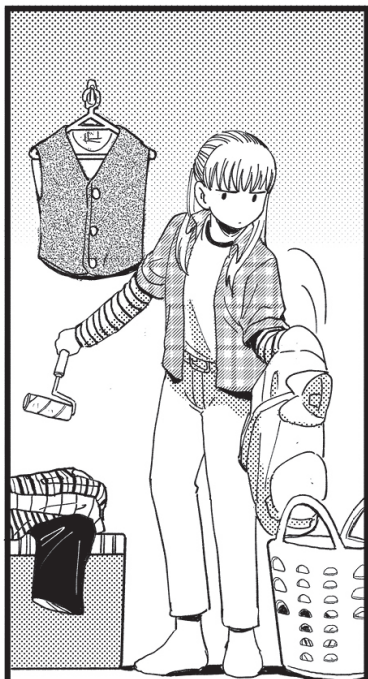
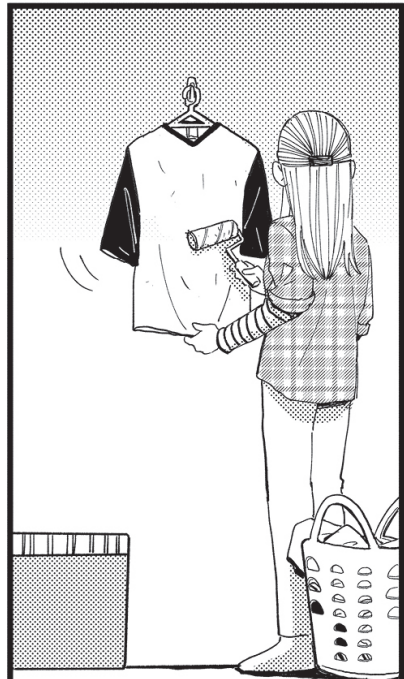
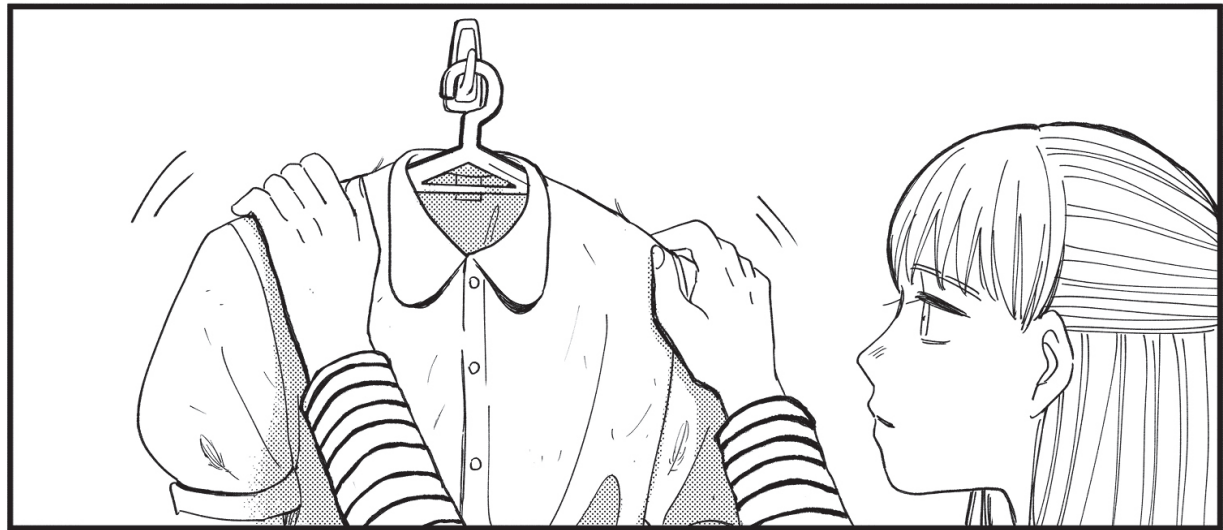
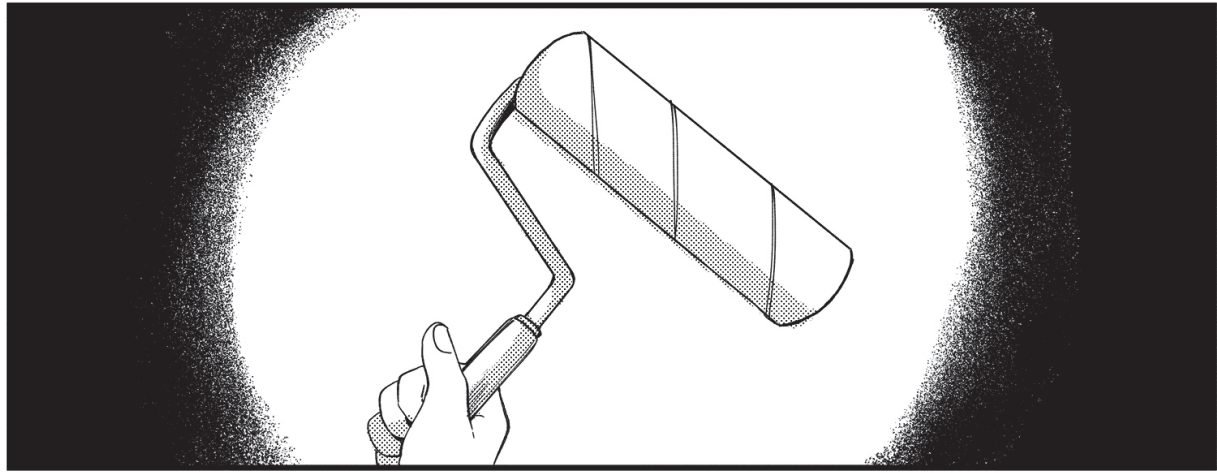


GET OUT OF BED,  
WASH MY FACE,  
BRUSH MY TEETH,  
GET FRESHENED UP.











# Between Whimsy and Fantasy: The Creative Charm of Peter Mann

by Wen-Chien Hsu

Peter Mann's creative style is delightfully unpredictable. Wildly imaginative and whimsical, Mann keeps readers guessing about what comes next. In her comic *Ms. Human from Animal Press*, the story revolves around an ordinary protagonist—someone who remains unambitious, finding more excitement in redeeming loyalty points for gifts than in pursuing promotions or pay raises.

In a neoliberal society that emphasizes competition, efficiency, and growth, this ordinary worker mirrors the countless "little people" in corners of the world. Rather than striving for greatness or enviable achievements, she longs for a stable and peaceful life: earning just enough to get by and working alongside

coworkers who are tolerable at best. Yet, in modern times, even such modest aspirations have become a form of luxury.

The comic employs a semi-flashback narrative structure, interspersed with ultra-short stories. At the start, readers only notice that the protagonist doesn't quite fit in with her "friends." She seldom speaks, refrains from venting dissatisfaction through complaints, and doesn't seek sympathy by emphasizing her misfortunes. Instead, she quietly listens and observes as her friends ramble on. When asked about her own life, she simply deflects with a company health report.

As the chapters unfold, the protagonist's indifference toward the workplace and her colleagues' disregard

for her become more apparent. The "animal colleagues" in the publishing house face various daily challenges and pressures from their superiors, while she quietly passes by during drink deliveries. Through her eyes, we observe the frantic busyness of the workplace "animals," a scene reminiscent of our own lives. Despite the cacophony and dramatic events surrounding us, we are often merely bystanders, not necessarily participants.

The comic also incorporates a series of ultra-short stories, seamlessly integrated into the narrative through the clever use of the publishing house's comic production context. This setup makes these stories feel natural, as if we are proofreading the publications alongside the staff. Some of these short stories reveal the author's ingenuity in both imagery and dialogue. For example, swapping dialogues between two comics introduces a fresh narrative perspective, or pairing identical lines with different visuals evokes a poignant story of

separation between a pet and its owner.

For first-time readers of Peter Mann's work, this comic might seem to lack a central theme or deeper meaning. However, those familiar with her short story collection *Bla Bla Song* will recognize her talent for crafting complete and structural narratives. The perceived "chaos" in *Ms. Human from Animal Press* is deliberate, reflecting the turmoil of both the publishing industry and the broader world.

How readers interpret the non-linear storytelling—interwoven with seemingly unrelated episodes—is entirely up to them. This, I believe, is the reflective space the author intentionally leaves hidden within the whimsy and fantasy of the work.

*Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at a LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and now works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0.*



# Ms. Human from Animal Press

動物出版社の人類小姐

**Author:** Peter Mann **Illustrator:** Peter Mann **Publisher:** Dyna Books

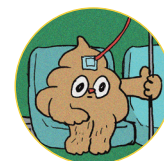
**Date:** 12/2023 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

202 pages | 14.8 x 21cm **Volume:** 1

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Kenny Yim

Giraffe colleagues? A koala editor-in-chief? Chihuahua accountants? The sole human employee, a woman who wants stability and an ordinary life, commences an office job at a publishing house run by nonhuman animals. This charming collection captures whimsical moments of office life.

Featuring meticulously redrawn popular web serials, this book is the debut work of Peter Mann, an award-winning comic artist and recipient of the Golden Comic Award for Newcomers. With a light-hearted, dynamic, and versatile style, it will leave readers smiling.



Author **Peter Mann**

Born in 1995 in Germany, Peter Mann is 100% Taiwanese. She previously worked in animation and video production but has now started creating comics. Her illustration work often relates to music, including visuals for music festivals and album cover designs. Peter's comic creations are difficult to categorize, but she enjoys exploring dark humor in daily life and developing unexpected twists within seemingly logical narratives. In 2023, her work *Bla Bla Song* won the Best New Talent Award and the Best Cross-Media Application Award at the 14th Golden Comic Awards.