



# 18×2 When Hearts First Stirred

A Full English translation is available.

## 青春 18X2 重返最初的悸動

**Comic Artist:** Yu-Shi Wu, Monday Recover, Rimui, Yao-Ching Tseng, Chi-Cheng Yang

**Original Concept:** Jumpboys Films Co., Ltd. **Publisher:** Dyna Books

**Date:** 06/2024 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

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

**Adaptation:** A spin-off project from a TV drama *18×2 Beyond Youthful Days*

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Lorena Rivas Kuang

Five acclaimed manga artists team up in a unique film-and-manga crossover project to explore the many faces of young love. Each story offers a different perspective on romance and coming of age—capturing both the unforgettable beauty of youth and its lingering regrets.

Yu-Shi Wu’s “Boxed Feelings” portrays a secret crush on a best friend, hidden beneath layers of friendship and playful teasing. Rimui’s “A Spring Unseen” reflects on love at first sight, a confession left unspoken, and a secret that becomes a lifelong weight.

Yao-Ching Tseng’s “Breakwater” tells of yearning for a twin sister’s boyfriend, and the restless search for answers to adolescence’s mysteries. Chi-Cheng Yang’s “Unauthorized Chronicles of Your Youth” follows a relationship left undefined, where the words “I like you” were never heard, and regret never fades. Finally, Monday Recover’s “School Uniforms and Parasols” brings together two solitary lives, their paths crossing in an unexpected bond. From first loves to shy glances, unspoken feelings to the courage of confession, these stories capture the thrill, hope, and heartbreak of youth.



## Comic Artist **Yu-Shi Wu**

Yu-Shi Wu enjoys drawing girls and telling warm, emotionally rich stories through watercolor and hand-drawn techniques. She is active in commercial comics, illustration commissions, and dōjin works. Her notable titles include *Fall in Love with Spring* and *The Time Traveller from Showa Era*.



## Comic Artist **Rimui**

Rimui, of Atayal and Hakka heritage, is a graduate of National Taiwan University of Science and Technology. Her notable works include *Where Are You Going?* and *The Funeral Concerto*.



## Comic Artist **Yao-Ching Tseng**

Yao-Ching Tseng uses drawing and writing as mirrors of the self, emphasizing physical sensation and spontaneity in the creative process. His work explores the body and the world through varied postures and movements, striving to make form not just a vessel for content, but content itself.



## Comic Artist **Chi-Cheng Yang**

Chi-Cheng Yang is a Taiwanese comic artist who debuted in 2016 with *Don't Call Me Magical Girl, I'm OXXX*. His second series *Just Hear Me Out!!* is currently serialized on the Tong Li Comics e-book platform.



## Comic Artist **Monday Recover**

Monday Recover, a full-time comic and illustrator, is a Tainan native who starts every day with a black coffee. Her notable works include *Have I Found You?* and *Sea You There and Us*.



## Original Concept **Jumpboys Films Co., Ltd.**

Jumpboys Films, founded by Huang Chiang-Feng and Lin Yu-Hsien, specializes in script development, production, and documentaries. Known for unique, emotional storytelling rooted in Taiwanese culture, Jumpboys Films champions artistic integrity and social impact. The company collaborates with emerging directors and global partners to promote Taiwanese cinema and talent worldwide.

# Young Love: Five Acclaimed Manga Artists Reimagine a Classic Theme

by Chen Yu

Stories that explore youth have always captivated me. I see those early years as life's most luminous chapter—simple, potent, and overflowing with possibility. What makes this period so unforgettable is its irreplaceability. Beauty and regrets can never be relived. That's why I find myself endlessly drawn to revisiting and describing those moments.

My own teenage years were nothing like the rosy, glittering depictions I admired in fiction. In reality, they were fairly ordinary—frankly, even dull. That's part of what drew me to manga, where characters lived out the dreams and emotions my own life seemed to lack. And that's why I started writing stories about young people. My hope is that my narratives can captivate readers, offering them a temporary respite from their everyday anxieties and troubles.

Manga brightened my otherwise uneventful and solitary youth, setting me

on the long path of artistic creation. Even now, well past my teenage years, I still cherish the excitement and emotion these stories evoke. I've continued to follow incredible Taiwanese and international artists—many of whom are featured in this collection, and whose work I've admired for years. For an aspiring manga artist like myself, collaborating with admired creators in this collection and writing about their stories is an honor.

This manga collection, brought to life by five amazingly talented Taiwanese artists, is an extended adaptation of the movie *18×2 Beyond Youthful Days*. Built around the themes of "youth, love, 18 and 36 years old," it features five youth manga, each with a completely unique style. From the sweetness of mutual affection to the pangs of unrequited love and the sorrow of farewells, these emotionally rich stories captivated me. I return to them time and again, and their re-readability is one of

the most wonderful things about this collection.

Yu-Shi Wu's *Boxed Feelings* pulled me right back to my teenage years, to a time when schoolboy crushes filled my thoughts. The story's vibrant charm brought a knowing smile to my face. I longed to leap into that world—racing across campus, reliving youthful joys and sorrows, and finding the courage to be brave for the one I love.

Rimui's *A Spring Unseen* delves into a forbidden love story with an 18-year age gap, instantly taking me back to my school days and a male teacher I once admired. Seeing the main female character confront that unrequited love nearly two decades later brought an unexpected sense of relief to my own regrets. Rimui's masterful art, with its beautiful figures and tender interplay of light and shadow, creates scenes as striking as film stills. Through her work, distant memories feel real once more.

Yao-Ching Tseng's *Breakwater* stands out as the collection's sole youth story told from a male perspective, and it was also my very first encounter with his work. The meticulous portrayal of a teenage boy's inner world, coupled with thrilling visuals, left a powerful, lingering impression long after I finished the story. In the entire collection, this story resonated most deeply with me.

Chi-Cheng Yang's *Unauthorized Chronicles of Your Youth* masterfully intertwines sweet memories with unforgettable regrets. An adolescence

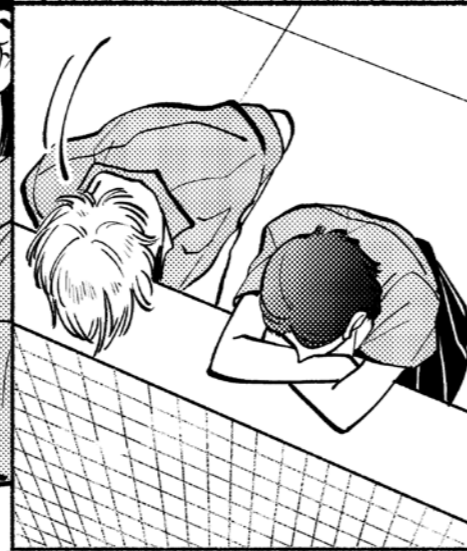
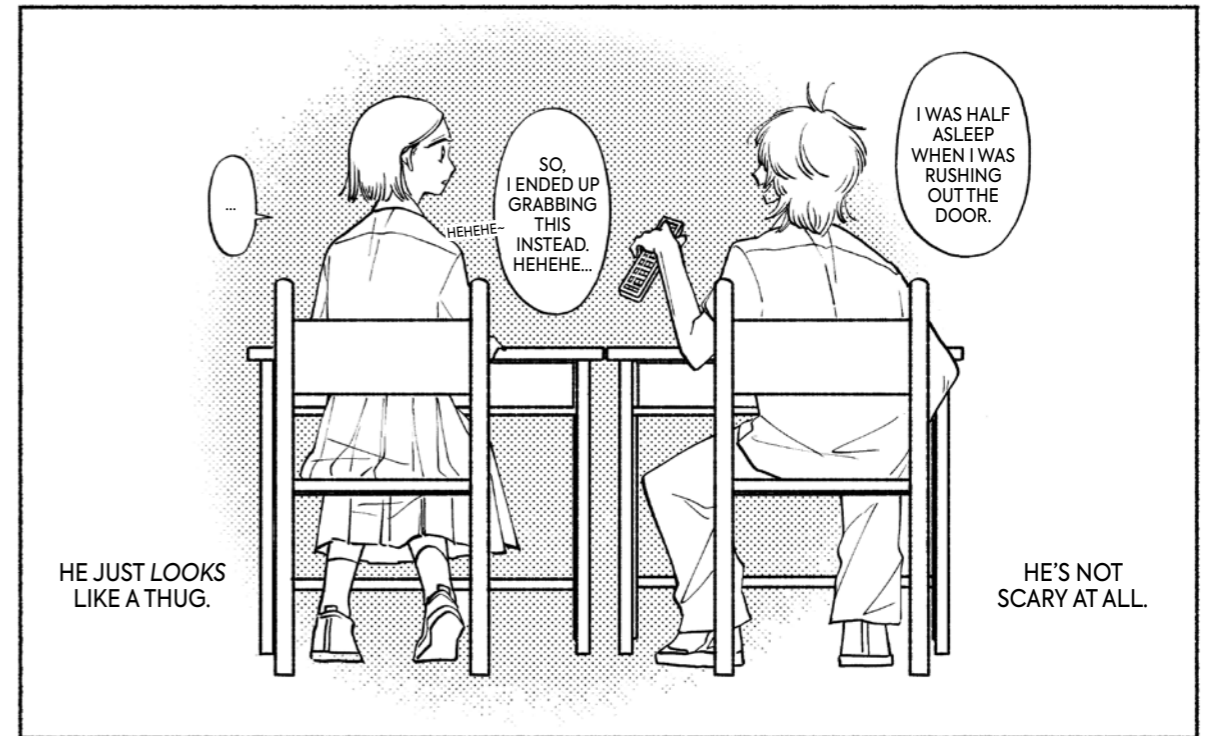
abruptly cut short and a love destined to remain unspoken creates wounds that never heal. Some people, some moments, are forever confined to memory. Yang Chi-Cheng's characteristic delicate brushwork and rich visual storytelling.

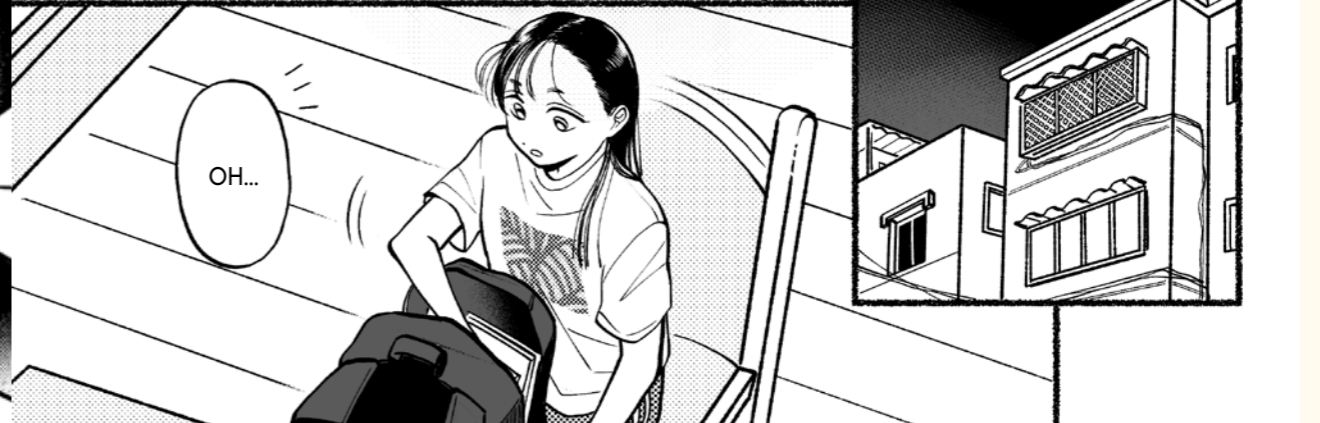
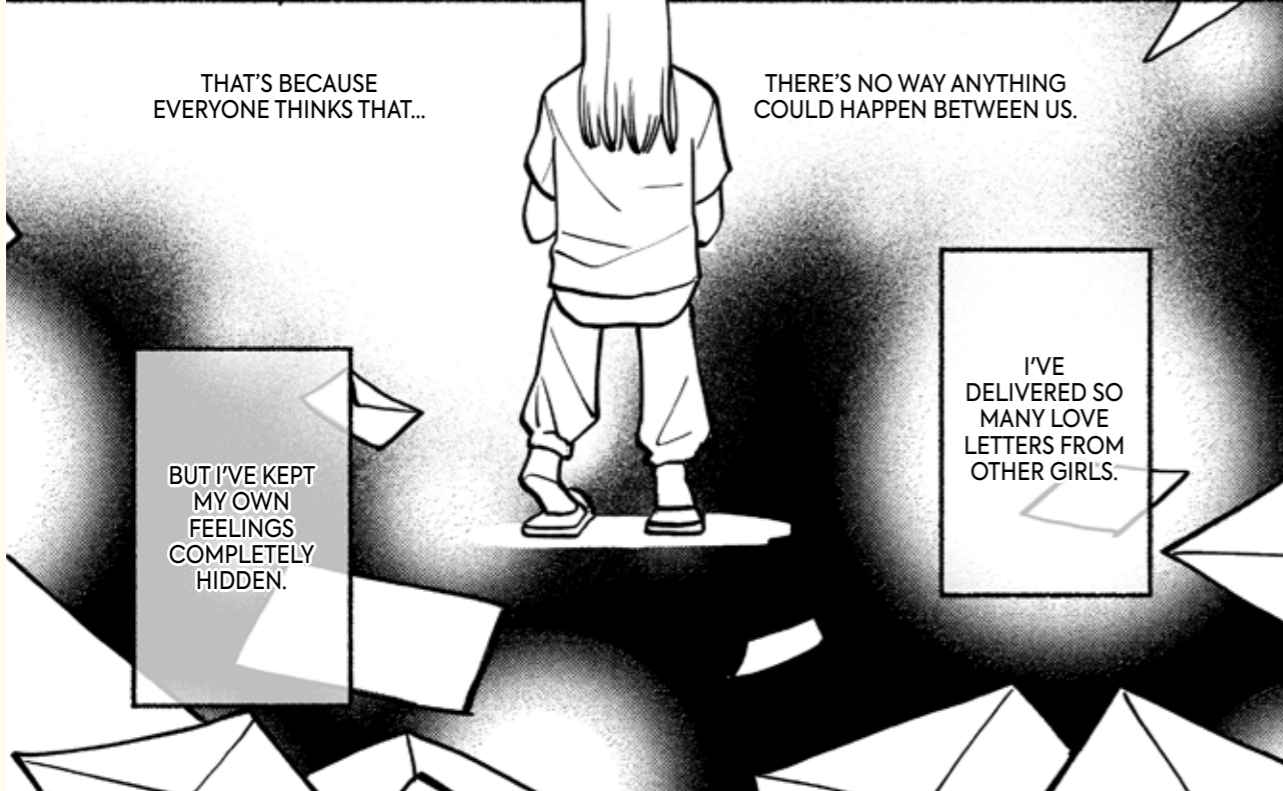
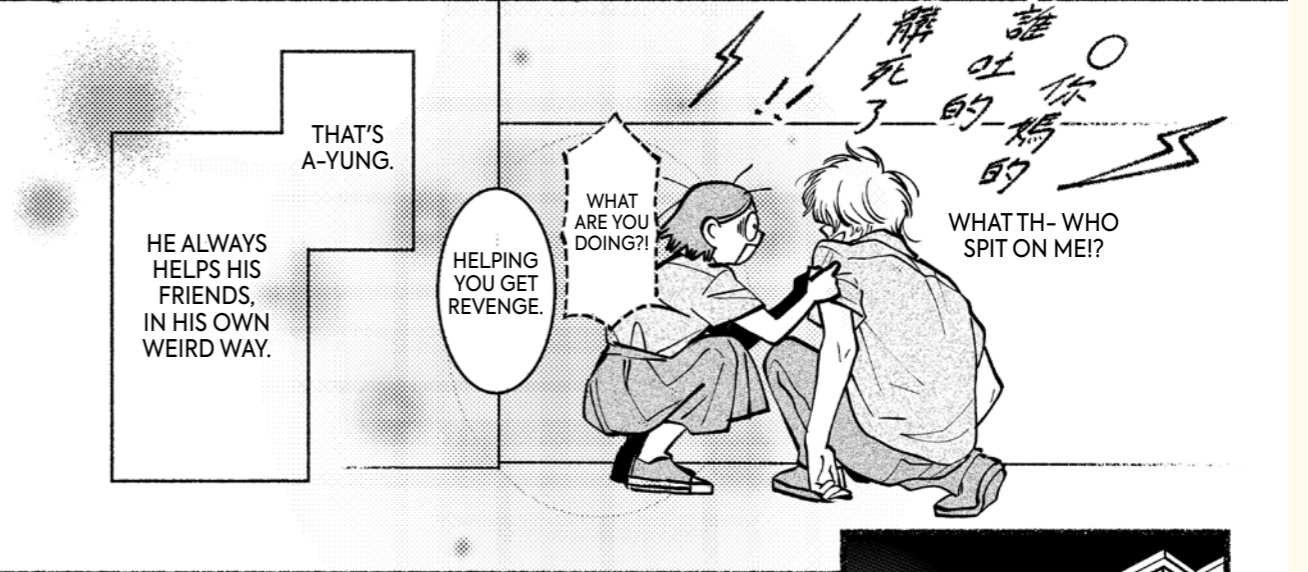
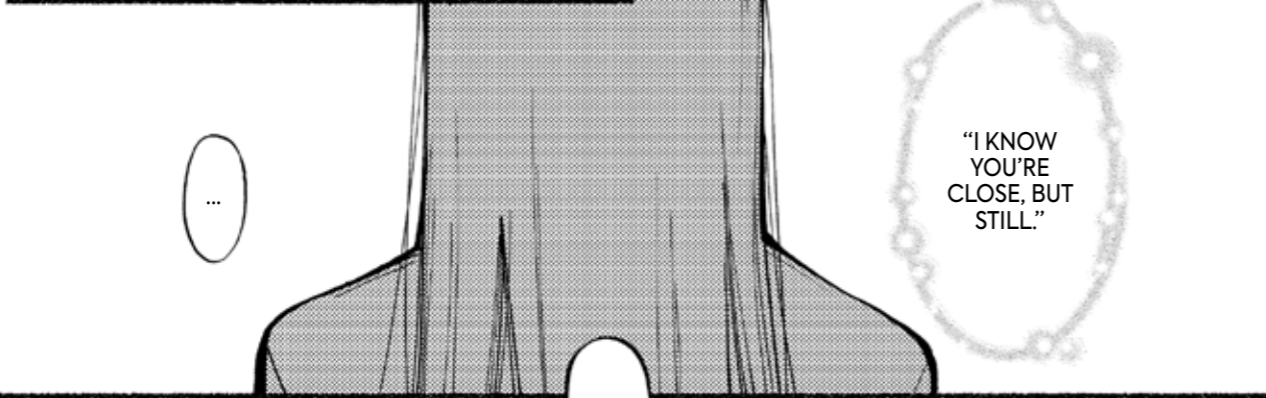
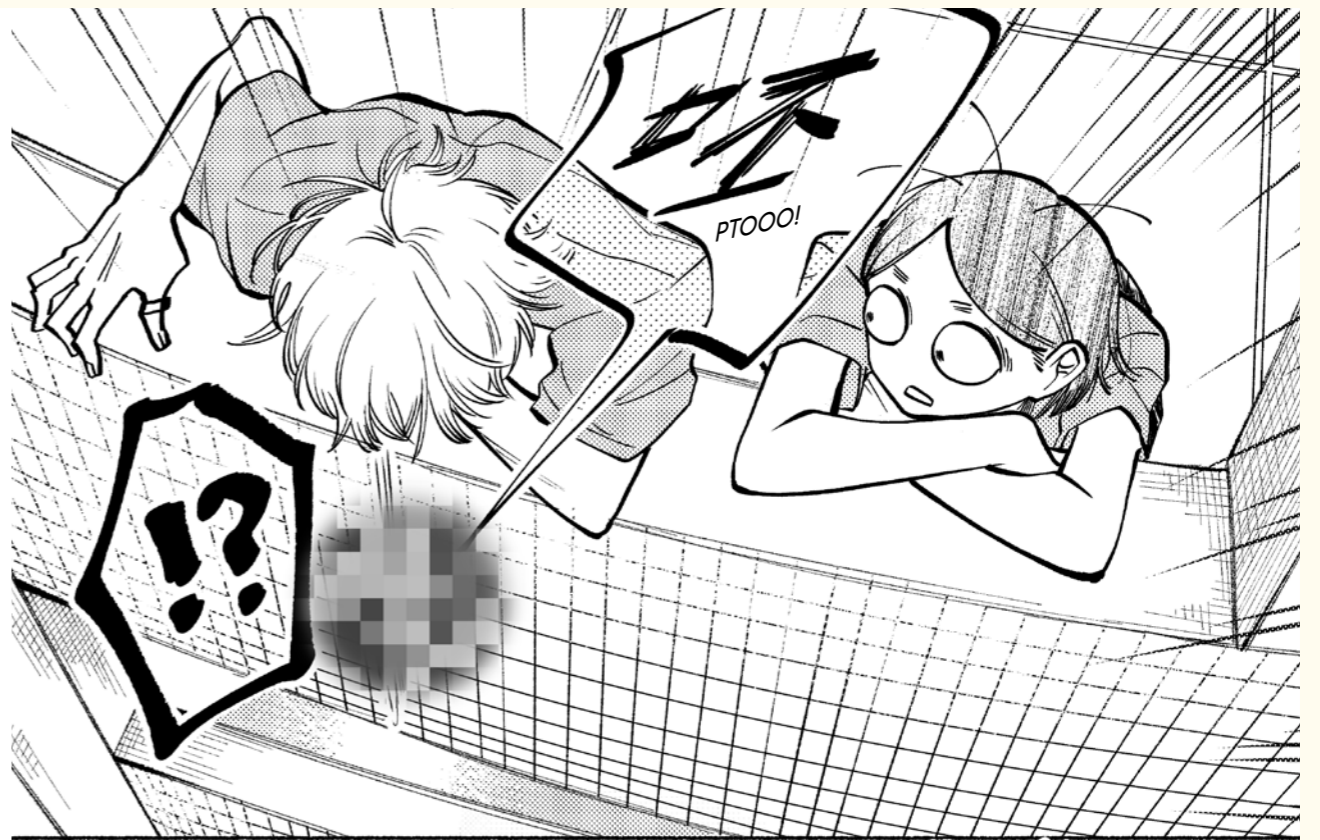
Monday Recover's *School Uniforms and Parasols* transcends age and identity, offering a love story that feels both pure and subtly forbidden, infused with a dreamlike quality. (No spoilers here!) It's utterly captivating—you'll wish for a sequel. I've admired Monday Recover's fresh artistic style since *Sea You There and Us*, and this new work highlights her signature rhythm and emotional depth.

As you experience these five beautiful short stories of youth, you might just find yourself, like me, recalling someone from your own past. Whether you're currently 18 or looking back at that age from 36, I believe this collection will strike a chord within your heart.

*This foreword has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.*

*Chen Yu is a Taiwanese web novelist. She began writing in high school and has since published numerous young adult romance novels, including *Deep Sea*, *Blue Sky and Safe and Sound*. Her stories often bring readers to tears while leaving a lasting warmth. She lives in Nangan, Matsu, and is passionate about black tea, the color blue, music, films, and storytelling. Her greatest wish is to tell a story that stays in someone's heart for a very long time.*





I ACTUALLY  
REALLY  
WANT HIM  
TO HOLD MY  
HAND...

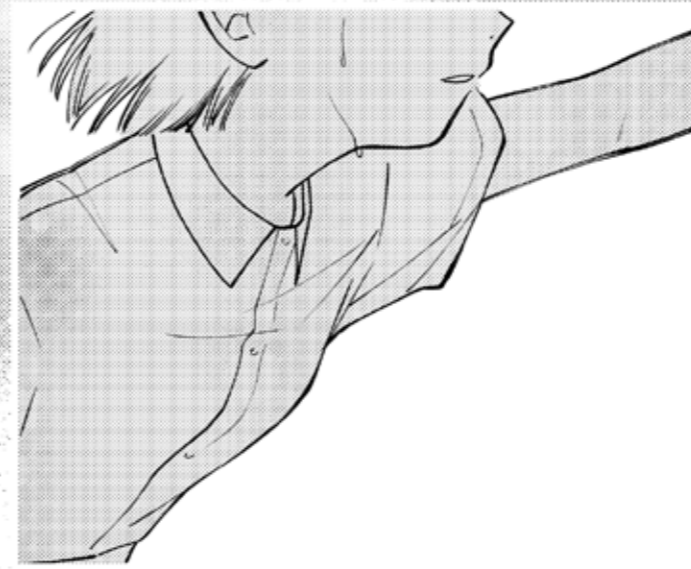
FOREVER AND EVER.



I'M  
COMING  
FOR YOU!

YOU UP  
THERE!  
DON'T YOU  
DARE RUN  
AWAY!

HE'S  
COMING UP.  
LET'S GO!



EVERY ONE OF THOSE  
LOVE LETTERS FELT  
LIKE A HUGE WEIGHT  
ON MY CHEST.

