

CLINICLOWNS: LAST GOODBYE

小丑醫生：最後一次說再見

A young woman who was too afraid to bid a final farewell to her terminally ill sister is given the opportunity to make amends by performing as a CliniClown at a children's hospital.

17-year-old high school student Hsiao-han's fear of hospitals prevented her from saying goodbye to her terminally ill little sister. Her regrets consume her until a chance encounter with a "CliniClown" who performs for young patients at the children's hospital presents her with a new opportunity.

Determined to overcome her fears and make amends for failing her sister, Hsiao-han joins a CliniClown training program. Through the course of the class work, practice performances, and collaboration with fellow trainees, Hsiao-han finds that not only can she bring smiles to faces of sick children, she can also gradually relinquish the burden of her own guilt.

A collaboration between author Feng Shi and Golden Comic award winner Cory Ko, *CliniClowns* is adapted from the real-life experiences of CliniClowns from Dr. Rednose Association. With warmth and charm, Cory Ko's art gently guides readers into a tale rich with both laughter and tears.

Story by Feng Shi 逢時

Light novelist Feng Shi lives in Tainan, Taiwan with her four cats. Her writing blends the romance, fantasy, and thriller genres. Her previous novels include *My Boyfriend is Not a Zombie*, *Monster Cafeteria*, and *I Willingly Let Him Kill Me*.

Comic by Cory Ko 柯宥希（顆粒）

Cory always knew she was good at drawing, but only gradually built



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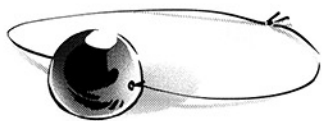
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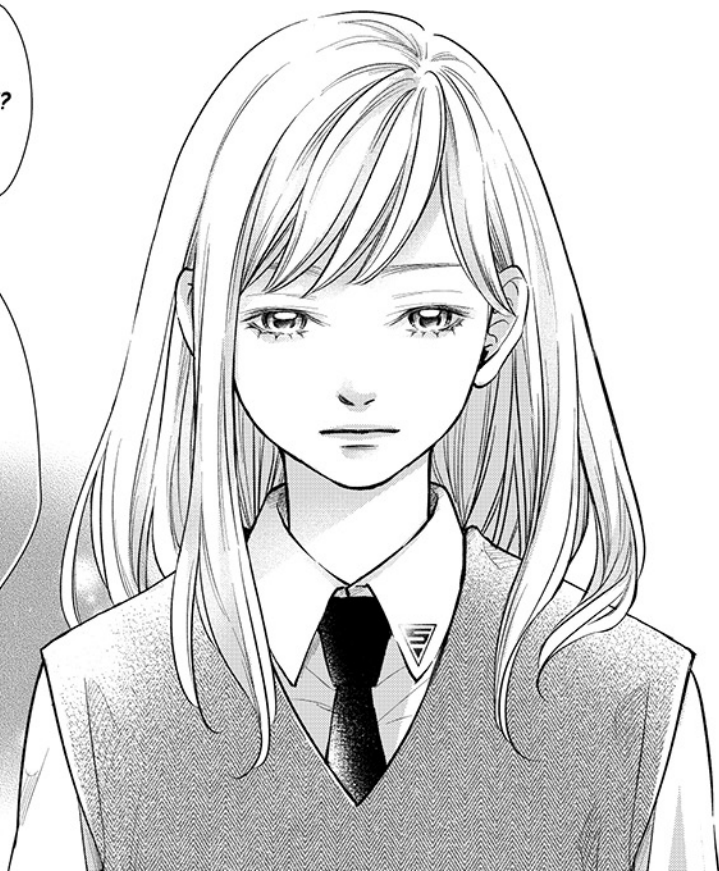
up the confidence to publish her work. Beginning with illustrations for short stories and covers for novels, Cory eventually started publishing four panel comics in shojo magazines. Her first long-form comic, *Love is Everywhere*, was serialized in *Shojo Monthly*. Cory's clear style of drawing and exceptional storytelling quickly captured the hearts of readers, transforming her into an award-winning comic artist. Her previous manga series *Make a Wish, Dashi!* and *Why Not?* have been translated into Korean and French.

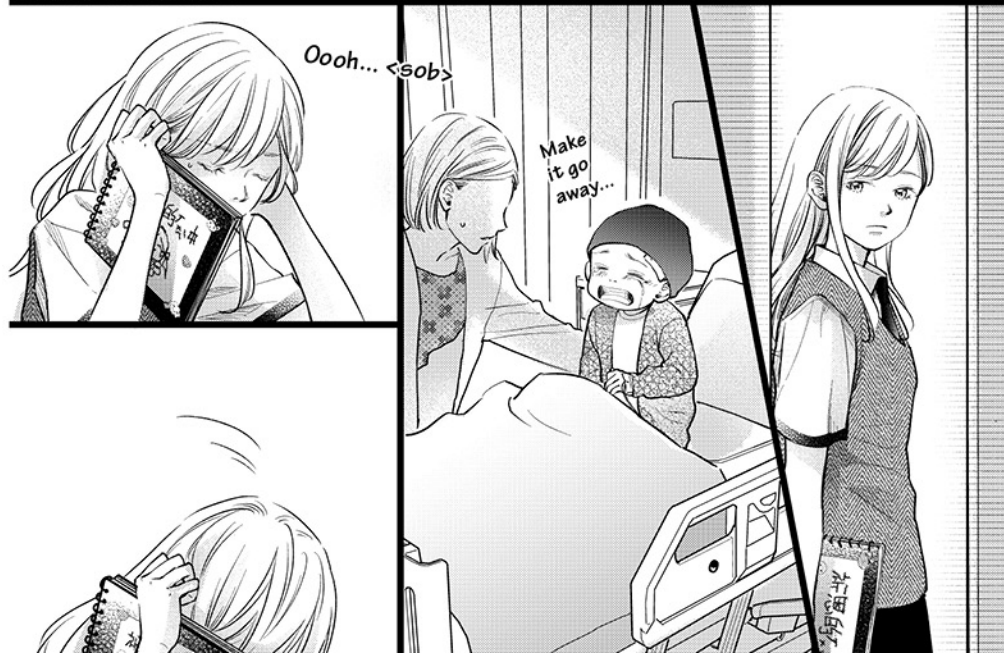
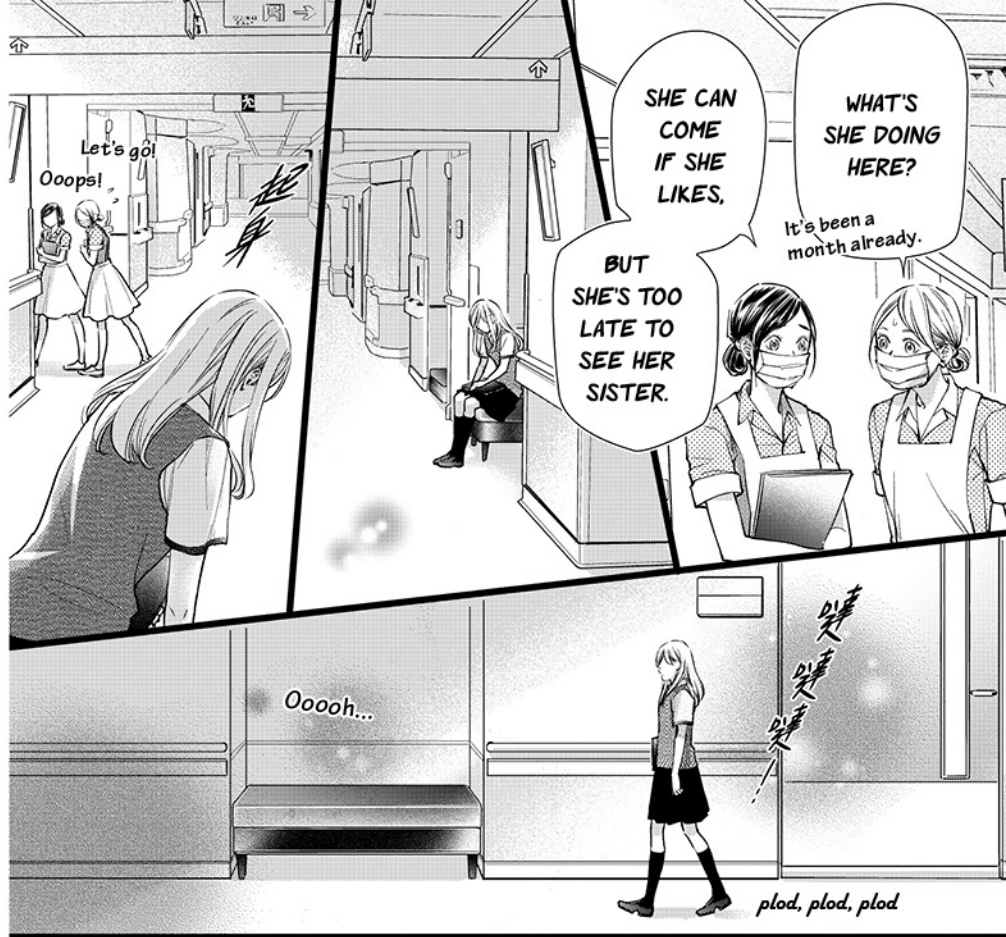


HUH?

ISN'T
THAT
CHEN
HSIAO-
HAN?

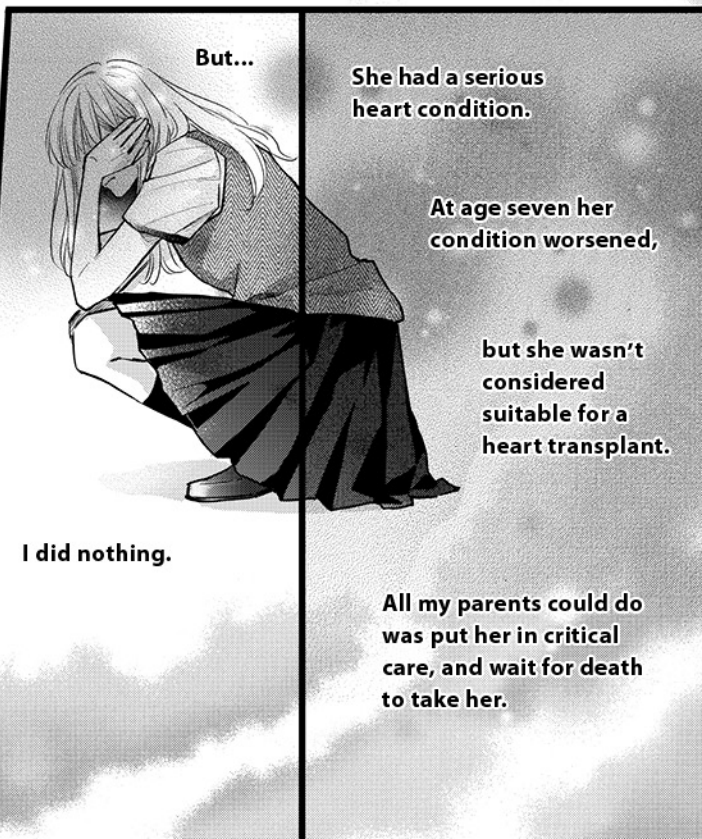
CHEN
CHI-EN'S
SISTER?







**TWO MONTHS
EARLIER...**



But...

**She had a serious
heart condition.**

**At age seven her
condition worsened,**

**but she wasn't
considered
suitable for a
heart transplant.**

I did nothing.

**All my parents could do
was put her in critical
care, and wait for death
to take her.**



I ONLY HOPE
THAT SHE
CAN PASS
PEACEFULLY.

THE WARD
HAS CLINI-
CLOWS
TO HELP
LIFT HER
SPIRITS.

THEY'RE
JUST
TRYING
TO KEEP
HER
COMFOR-
TABLE
NOW.

...



WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME LEFT
WITH CHI-EN.



HSIAO-
HAN...



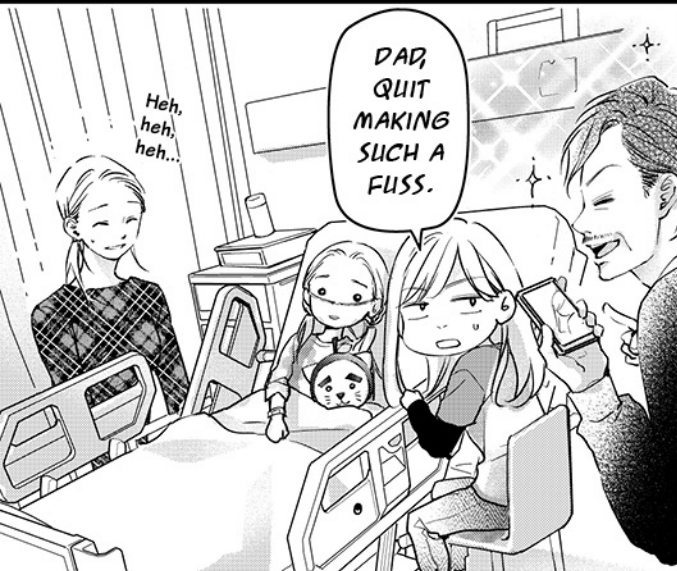
IF YOU
CAN BE
HERE AT
HOSPITAL
TO KEEP
HER
COMPANY,

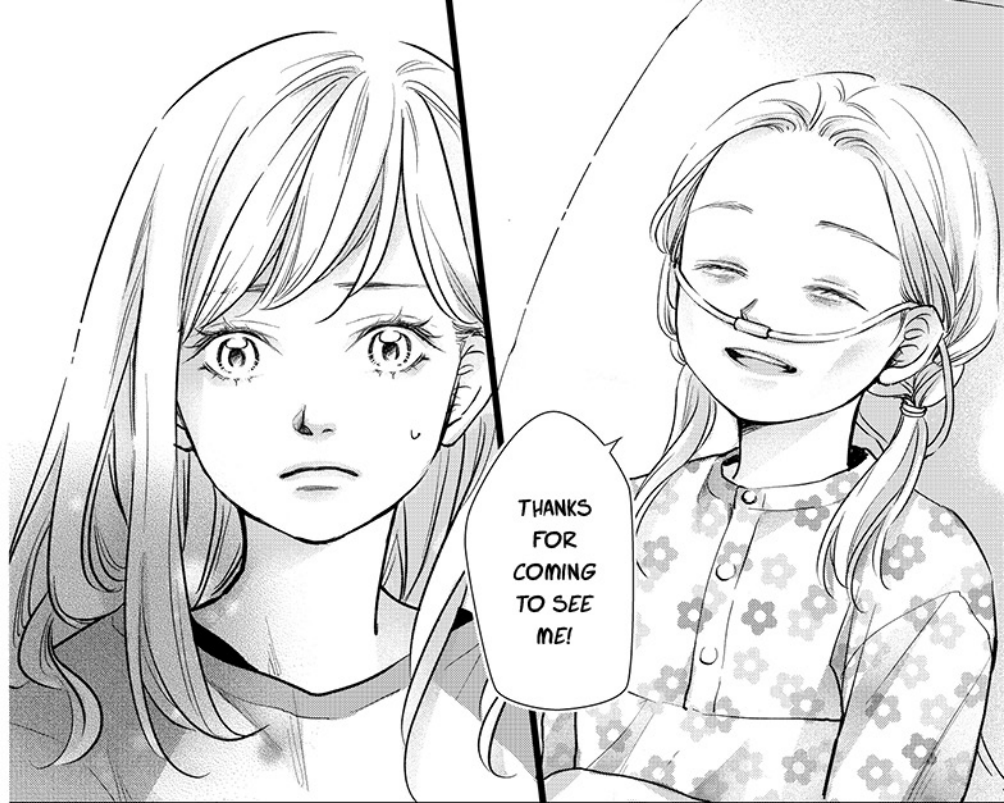
BUT MOST
OF ALL, SHE
WANTS TO
SPEND TIME
WITH HER BIG
SISTER.



YOU NEED
TO CHERISH
THE TIME
YOU HAVE
LEFT WITH
YOUR
SISTER.

CHI-EN
WILL
BE SO
HAPPY.







It was like I was avoiding something.

Every day after class I rushed off to the library

and crammed until I felt sick to my stomach.



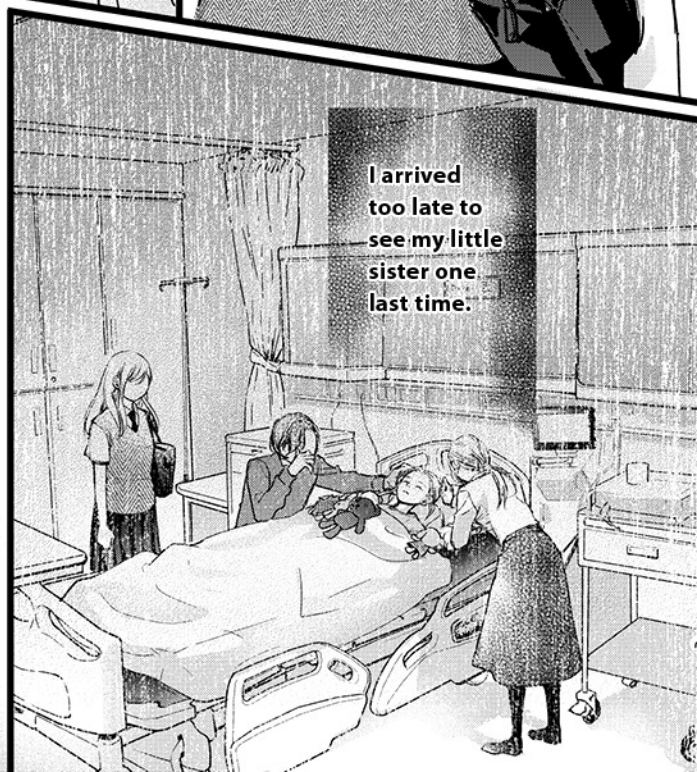
Shhh...



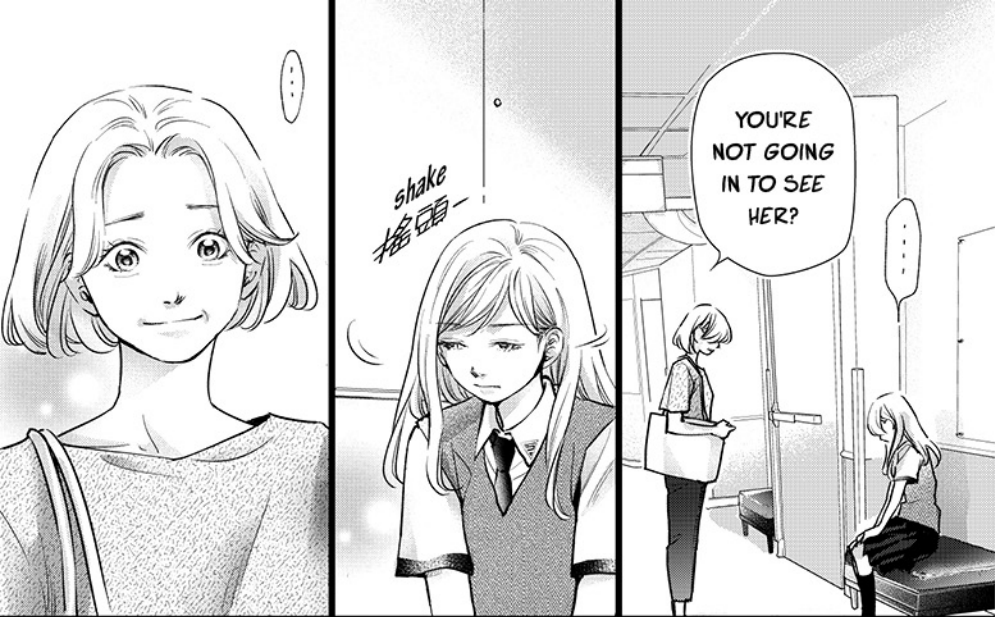
So it
went,
until the
moment
finally
came...

ARE
YOU...

CHI-EN'S
SISTER?



I arrived
too late to
see my little
sister one
last time.



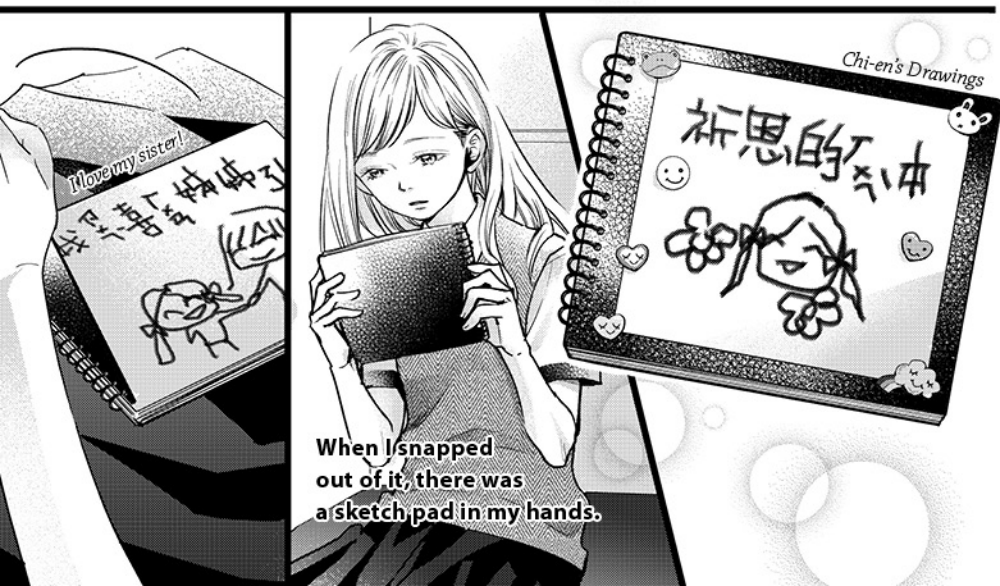
CHI-EN
WANTED ME
TO GIVE
YOU THIS
SKETCH PAD

My mind was a blank.

I couldn't cry, and I didn't dare go back into the room.

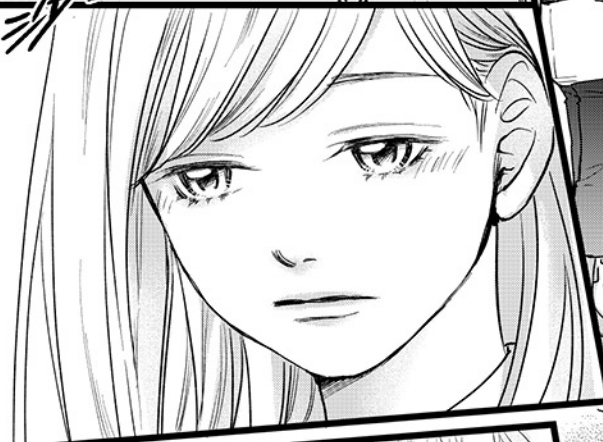
Was this woman a hospital volunteer?

I don't even remember what she said to me...



姊姊，我成為天使之後
要保護你！

When I am an angel
I will protect you.



No,
it's not
that...



Hsiao-han, Mommy and Daddy are here.
Where are you? Are you mad at me?

姊姊，爸爸媽媽直找我，
妳生氣了嗎？



祈思的公本





No, that's not the problem.

Your sister was just too much of a coward.

I'm afraid of hospitals.

I was afraid of
watching you die...

I'm so sorry.

I've been
an awful
big sister
to you.



I didn't
even have
the courage
to say
goodbye...

Afterwards,

I kept returning to that hallway in the children's hospital,
with Chi-en's sketch pad in hand.

Even if I'm scared, I won't leave.

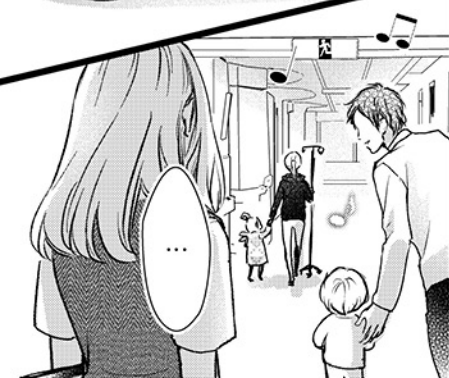
I want to stay here and feel the fear that she must have felt.

— This is my penance.









The sobs, moans, and suffocating tension
that normally filled the hallway...

...had been replaced by laughter and singing.



← STEPPING IN

OH!

OH!



YOU'RE
THE
ONE...

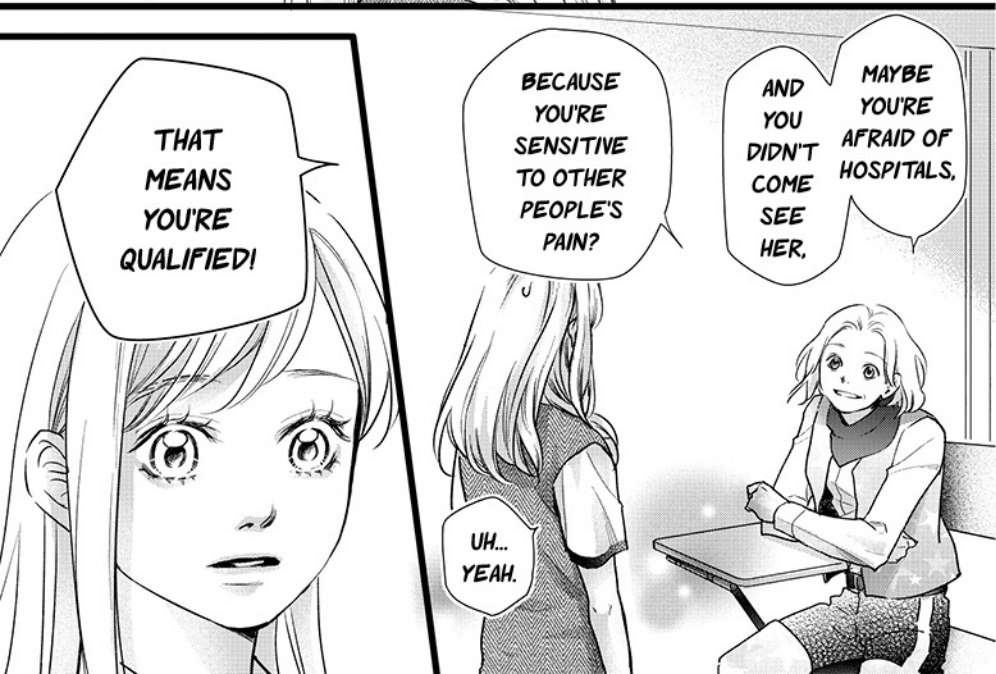


WHEW!

I'M
BUSHED!

TWO
HOURS
LATER...







HUH?

YOU'VE
ALREADY
NAILED
THAT ONE.

IT
SEEMS
TO ME...

Chi-en...

THE FIRST
REQUISITE
FOR A
CLINICLOWN
IS...

YOU MUST
HAVE A
TENDER
HEART.

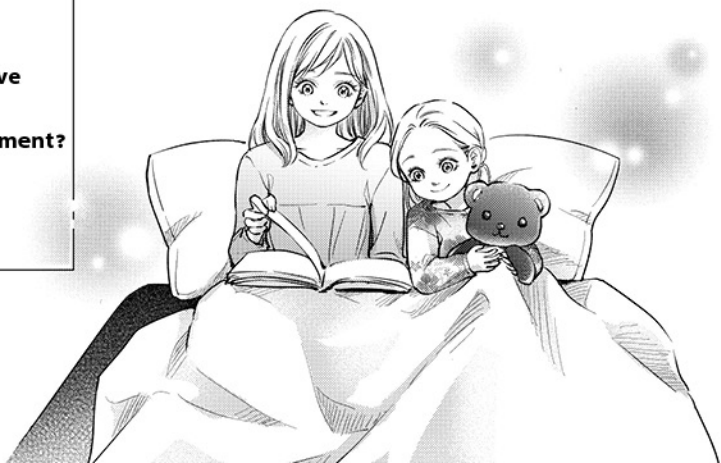


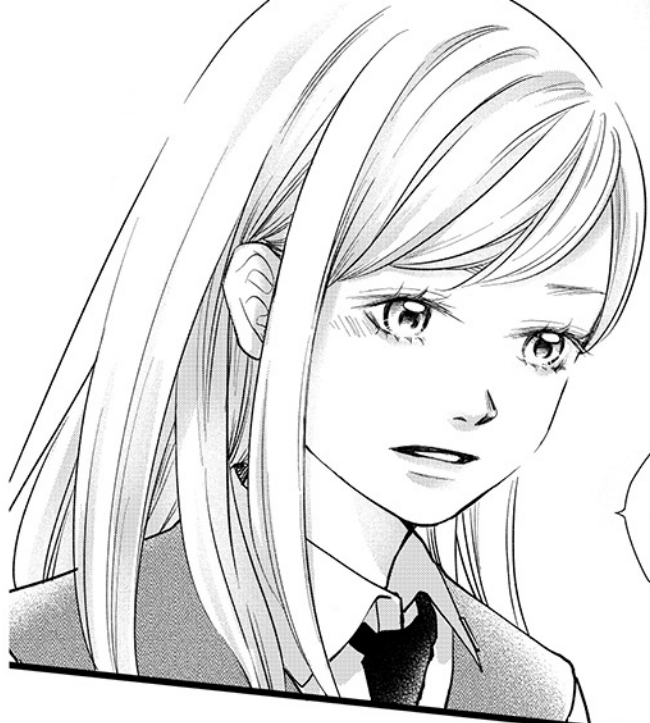
but I've found something
that might help me learn to be brave.

your big
sister
is still a
coward,

握
死
death
grip...

Can you give
me some
encouragement?





I...

... I'M
AFRAID...

... BUT...

... I'D LIKE
TO TRY TO
BECOME
A CLINI-
CLOWNI



Smile.Two





★ 認真 ★

What
do you
mean?

ARE YOU
SAYING YOU
WANT TO DO
BETTER
IN THE
PERFORMANCE
CLASS?

YEAH!

CAN YOU
TEACH ME
TO BE FUNNY
LIKE YOU?

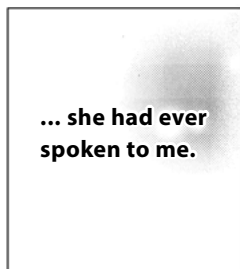


I was
surprised.

Sure.

JUST WAIT
FOR ME A
MOMENT...

OK!



... she had ever
spoken to me.



It was
the first
time...

A top student at the best
high school in the city,

she could memorize a
phone book backwards
and forwards.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

ACUTE CARE

PEDIATRIC
CANCER

her scores are the
best on everything.



She's Chen Hsiao-han,
the hardest working
student in our clown
doctor training program.

Our very own
Hermione Granger.

But
when it
comes to
performance
class...

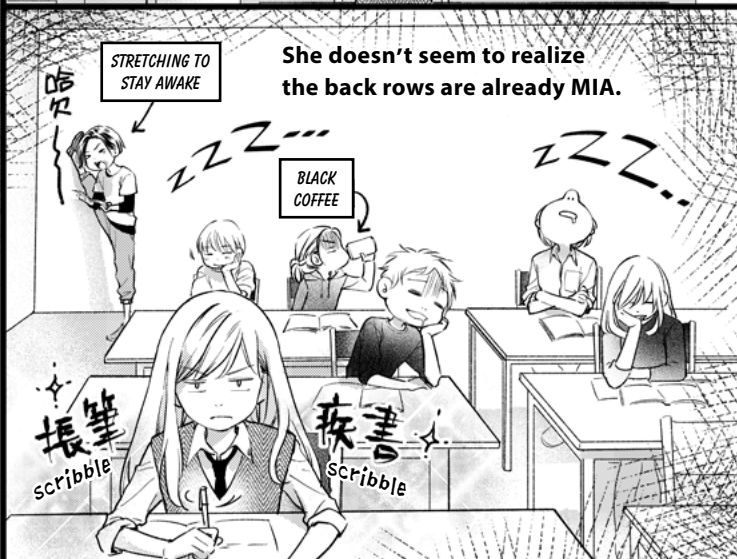
back straight,
writing down
everything the
teacher says.

She sits in the
front row of
our theory of
medicine class,



Hermione
Granger is
hopeless.

She doesn't seem to realize
the back rows are already MIA.



... fall flat with the audience.



But she just doesn't have the knack for it.

Her blunder-free performances...



Clowns use intentional blunders...



to amuse the audience.



LI YU-KUANG
TAKES HIS TURN





She gets top scores in theory,

but she's bottom of the class in performance.

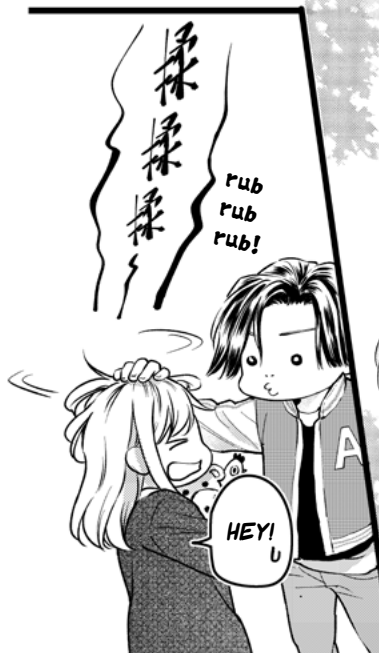
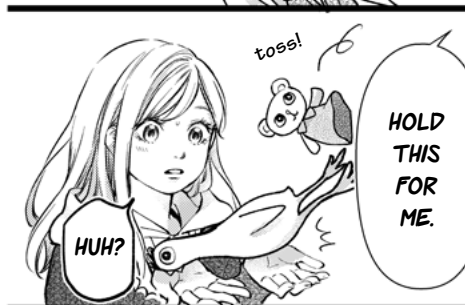


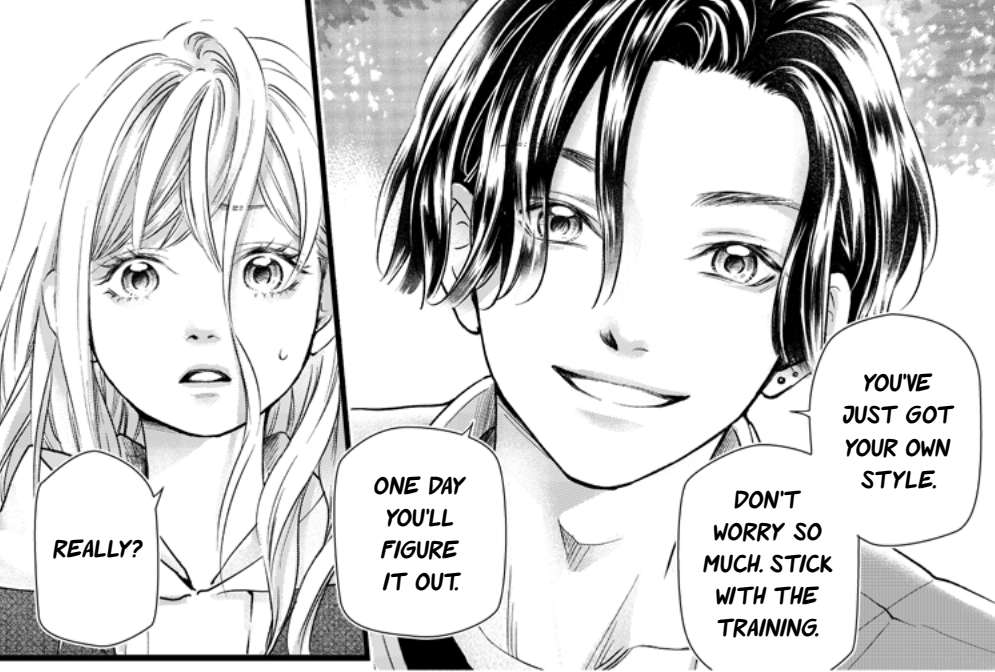
I'LL
NEVER BE
A CLINI-
CLOWN.



HONK!

唧





REALLY?

ONE DAY
YOU'LL
FIGURE
IT OUT.

DON'T
WORRY SO
MUCH. STICK
WITH THE
TRAINING.

YOU'VE
JUST GOT
YOUR OWN
STYLE.

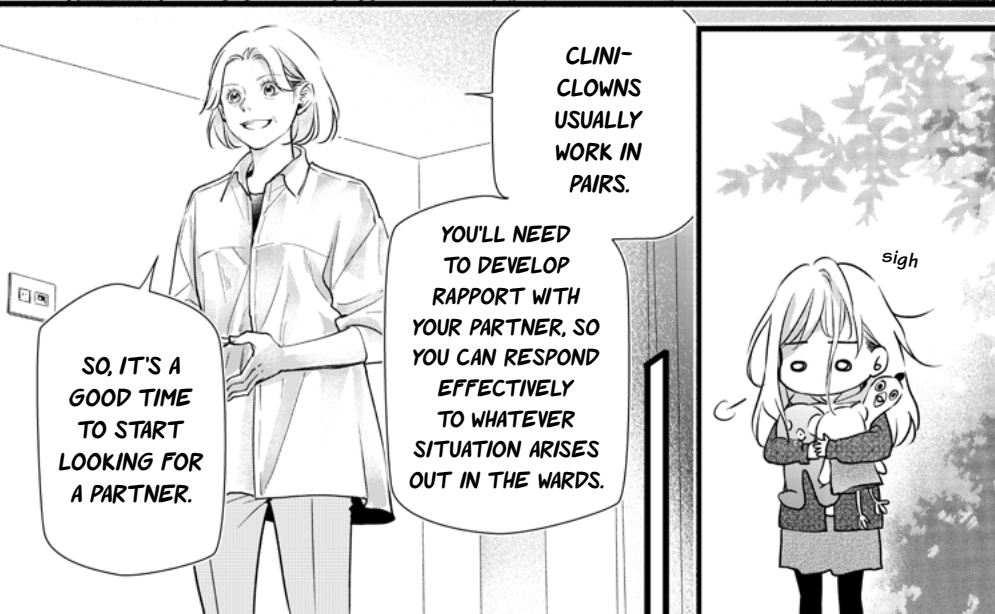


What do
I do with
all this
stuff?

Hey!

加油
You've got this.

gone like the wind

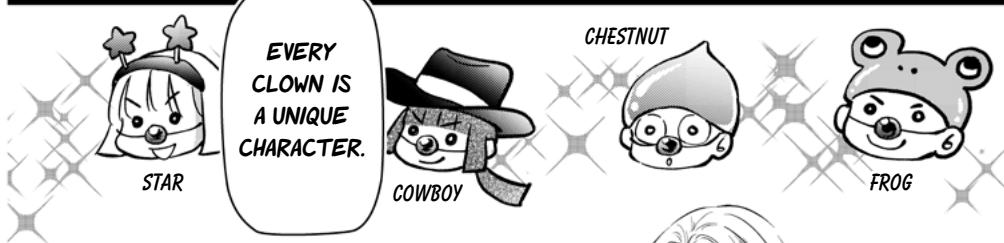


SO, IT'S A
GOOD TIME
TO START
LOOKING FOR
A PARTNER.

YOU'LL NEED
TO DEVELOP
RAPPORT WITH
YOUR PARTNER, SO
YOU CAN RESPOND
EFFECTIVELY
TO WHATEVER
SITUATION ARISES
OUT IN THE WARDS.

CLINI-
CLOWNS
USUALLY
WORK IN
PAIRS.

sigh

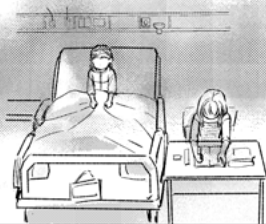


Starting
in elemen-
tary
school...

LOOK
AT YOUR
CHILDHOOD
SELF.

WHAT WOULD
YOU DO TO
MAKE HIM OR
HER LAUGH?

... I knew things would never
be normal again.



After my sister was born
I was always at the hospital taking care of her.

I did all of my vacation homework assignments
in my sister's hospital room.

DADDY
TOLD US
WE CAN'T
GO OUT.

I WANT
TO GO
PLAY IN
THE PARK.
HSIAO-
HAN...



My parents were overwhelmed
dealing with Chi-en's illness.

I tried to make things easier for
them by being a good little girl.

I always did my homework,
and I got good grades.

I didn't want
to be a burden
to them.



IT'S SO
BORING
IN HERE.

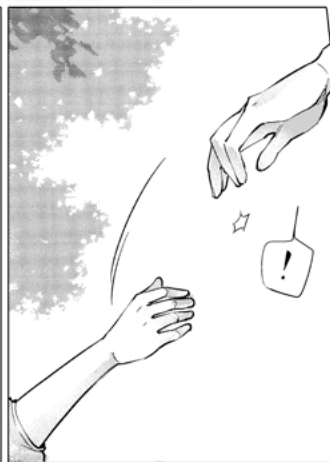
I WANT
TO PLAY
ON THE
SWINGS.



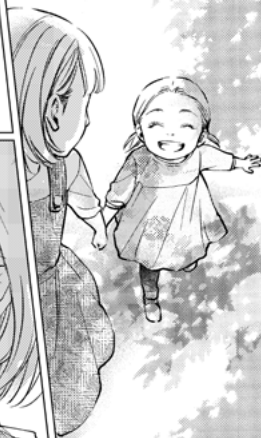
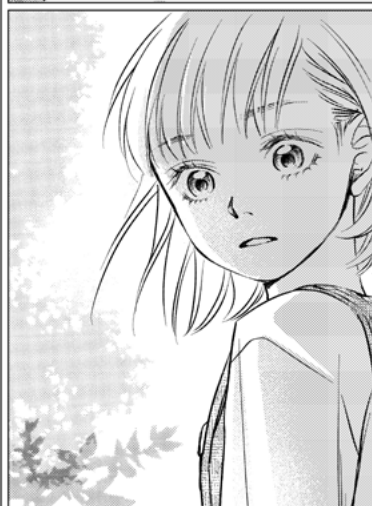


It's just for a little while. It'll be fine.

We almost made it to the park that day.



The look of happiness on her face reassured me.



WHERE
ARE YOU
TAKING
CHI-EN?

HER
IMMUNITY
IS VERY
WEAK
RIGHT
NOW!

We were
so close.



WE'VE
STRUGGLED
WHY SO HARD
CAN'T JUST TO
YOU GET HER
JUST DO STABLE.
AS WE
SAY?

Enough...

SHE
DIDN'T
MEAN
ANY
HARM.

...

I'M
SORRY.

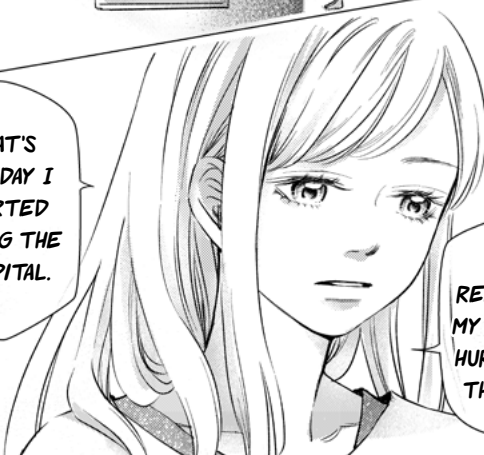
I'll do as
I'm told
from
now on.



Please
don't
die!

THAT'S
THE DAY I
STARTED
HATING THE
HOSPITAL.

I WAS
AFRAID
CHI-EN
WOULD
DIE.



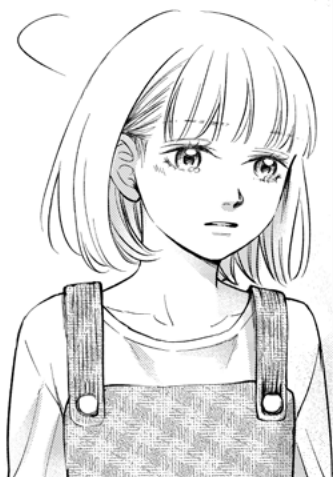
THE SMELL
OF MEDICINE
HUNG THICK
IN THE AIR
THAT DAY.

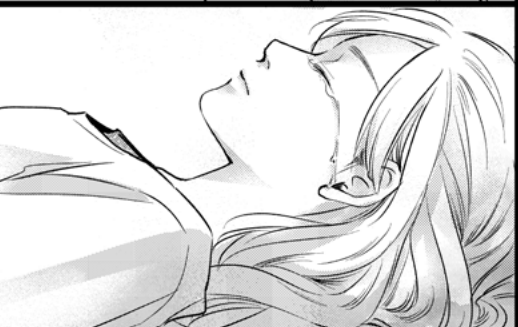
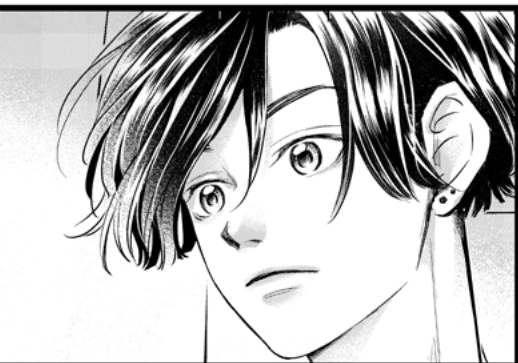
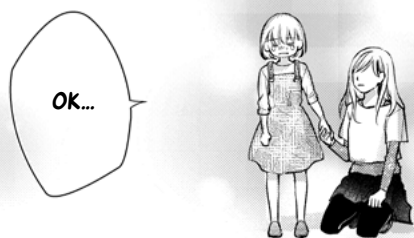
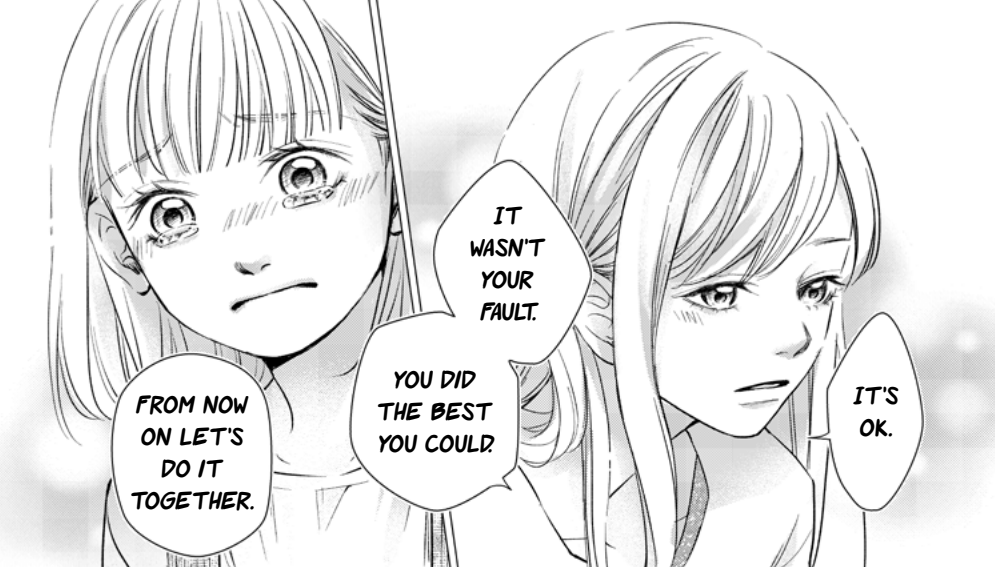
AND I
REMEMBER
MY FINGERS
HURT FROM
THE COLD.

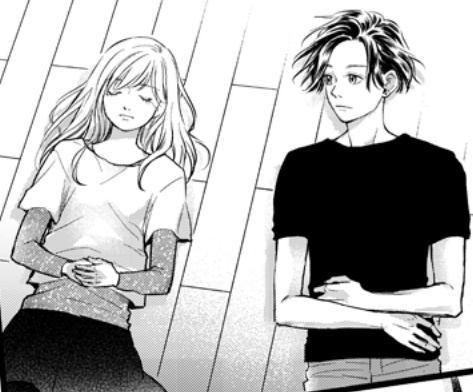


THAT'S WHEN
YOU BECAME
THAT GOOD
LITTLE
GIRL WHO
WAS AFRAID
TO MAKE
MISTAKES.

THAT'S
WHEN YOU
STOPPED
SMILING.







Today
we're in
the park.

The intern
clowns are
supposed
to play
with the
children,

and interact
with them.

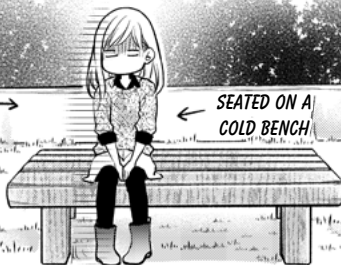


What a
shame...

DOESN'T
KNOW HOW
TO PLAY
WITH KIDS

← SEATED ON A
COLD BENCH

... that
it's so
difficult
for me to
join in.





WHAT
IS YOUR
CLOWN
CHARACTER
LIKE?

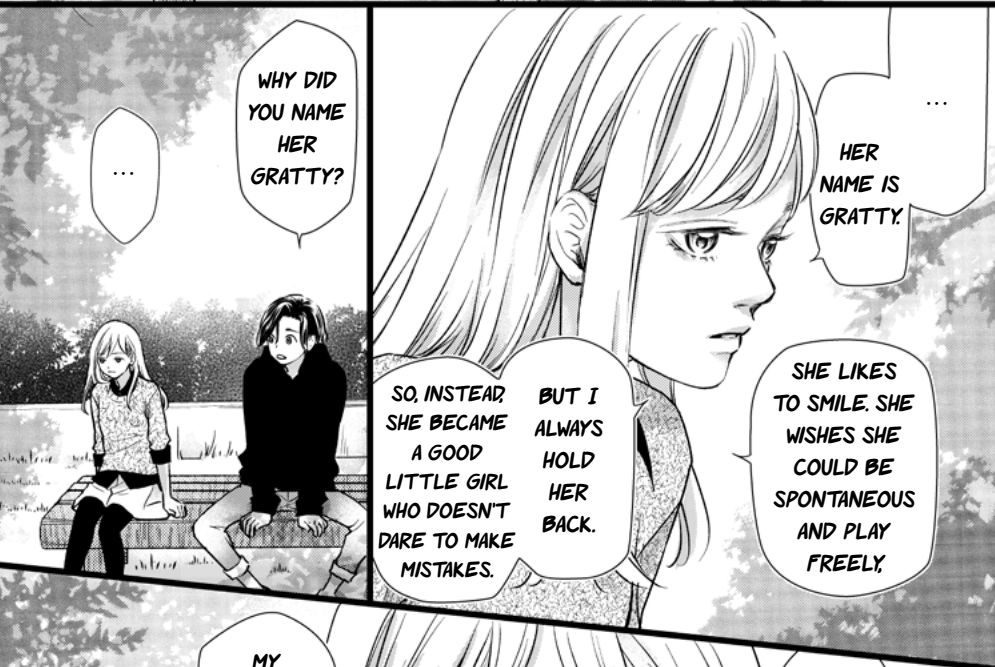
Heh heh...

so immature!

WHAT
THE
HECK?!



honk, honk, honk!



WHY DID
YOU NAME
HER
GRATTY?

HER
NAME IS
GRATTY.

SO, INSTEAD
SHE BECAME
A GOOD
LITTLE GIRL
WHO DOESN'T
DARE TO MAKE
MISTAKES.

BUT I
ALWAYS
HOLD
HER
BACK.

SHE LIKES
TO SMILE. SHE
WISHES SHE
COULD BE
SPONTANEOUS
AND PLAY
FREELY.



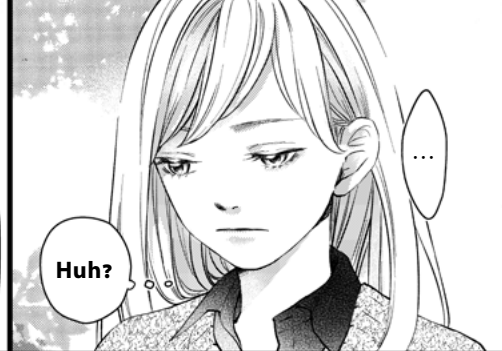
THAT'S WHY
I DECIDED
TO BECOME
A CLINI-
CLOWN.

MY
SISTER
DIED
A FEW
MONTHS
AGO.

MY
LITTLE
SISTER'S
NAME,
CHI-EN,
MEANS
"GRATI-
TITUDE".



Why is
he so
quiet?



Huh?



Is he
crying?



GRATTY,
FOR
GRATI-
TUDE.

SO
THAT'S
IT.



BUT THE
ATMO-
SPHERE
IN THE
HOSPITAL
WAS SO
GLOOMY.

FOR ONCE,
MY WHOLE
FAMILY
CAME
TOGETHER.

WHEN I WAS
LITTLE MY
GRANDPA WAS
DYING OF
CANCER.

FLUSTERED

WELL... WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
WHY DO YOU
WANT TO
BE A CLIN-
CLOWN?



JUST TO
LIVEN
THINGS UP

SO I BEGAN
BEATING HIS
SLIPPERS
TOGETHER
AND SINGING
A SONG,



I KNEW I
DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
LEFT WITH
MY GRANDPA.



ME?

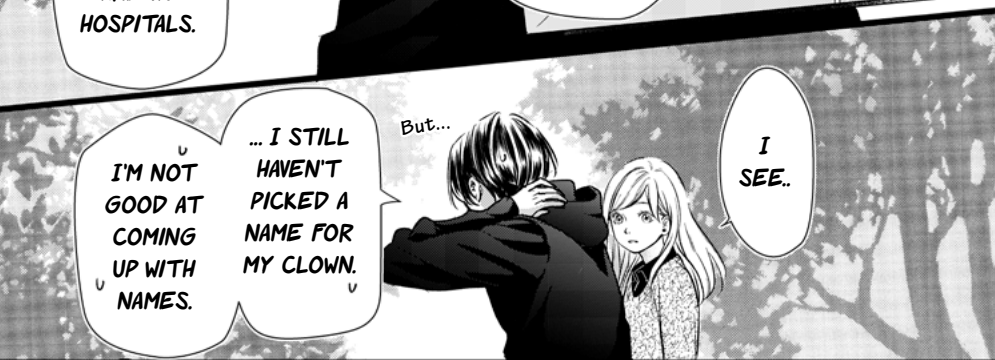


I KNEW I
WANTED TO
CHANGE THE
WAY THINGS
ARE IN
HOSPITALS.

FROM
THAT
DAY
ON,

BUT I ALSO
GOT TO SEE
MY GRANDPA
SMILE ONE
LAST TIME.

I GOT
SCOLDED
FOR IT,



I'M NOT
GOOD AT
COMING
UP WITH
NAMES.

... I STILL
HAVEN'T
PICKED A
NAME FOR
MY CLOWN.

But...

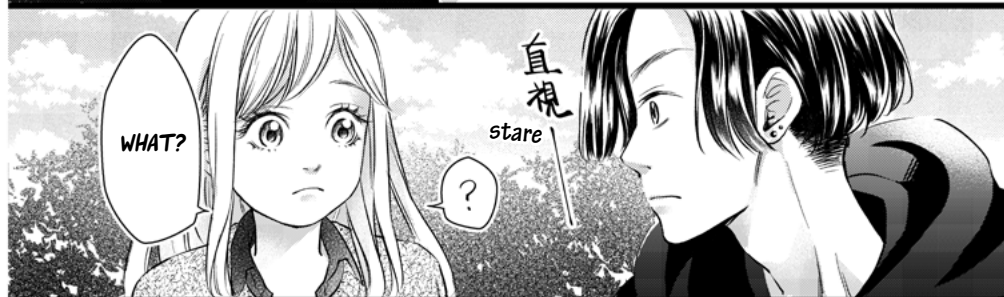
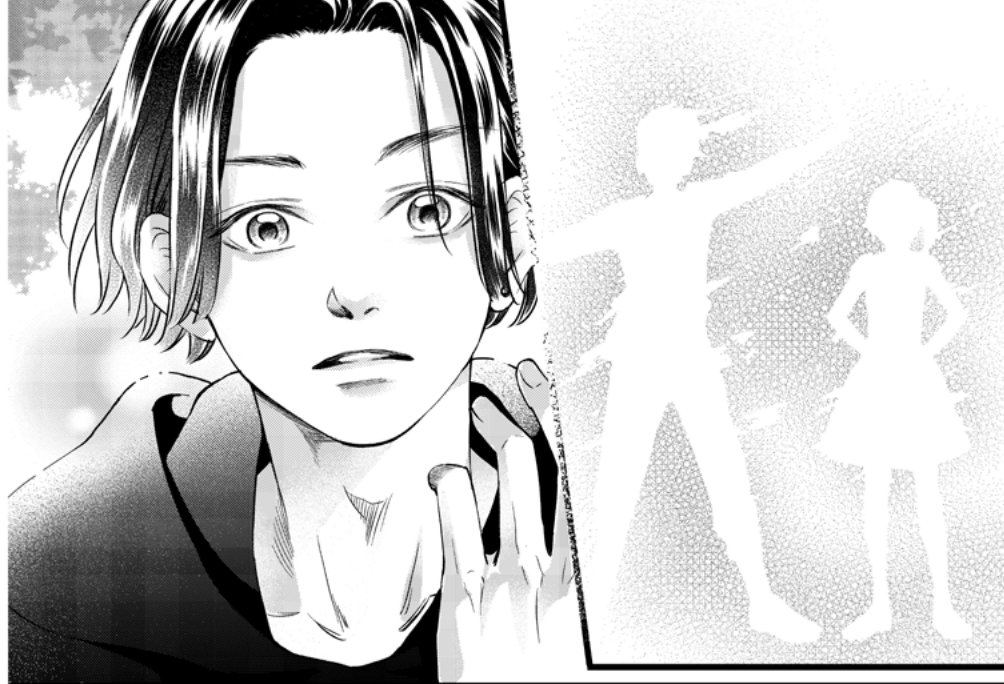
I
SEE..



YOU MIGHT
AS WELL
CALL
YOURSELF
"BOOMER".

SINCE
YOU LOVE
SCARING
PEOPLE SO
MUCH...

TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM ME, BY
THE WAY...





I'LL BE
BOOMER!

"BOOMER"
IS GREAT!

WAIT...
WHAT
ABOUT
CHOOSING
YOUR
NAME?

I REALLY
WANT TO
BE YOUR
PARTNER.

IS
THAT
OK?

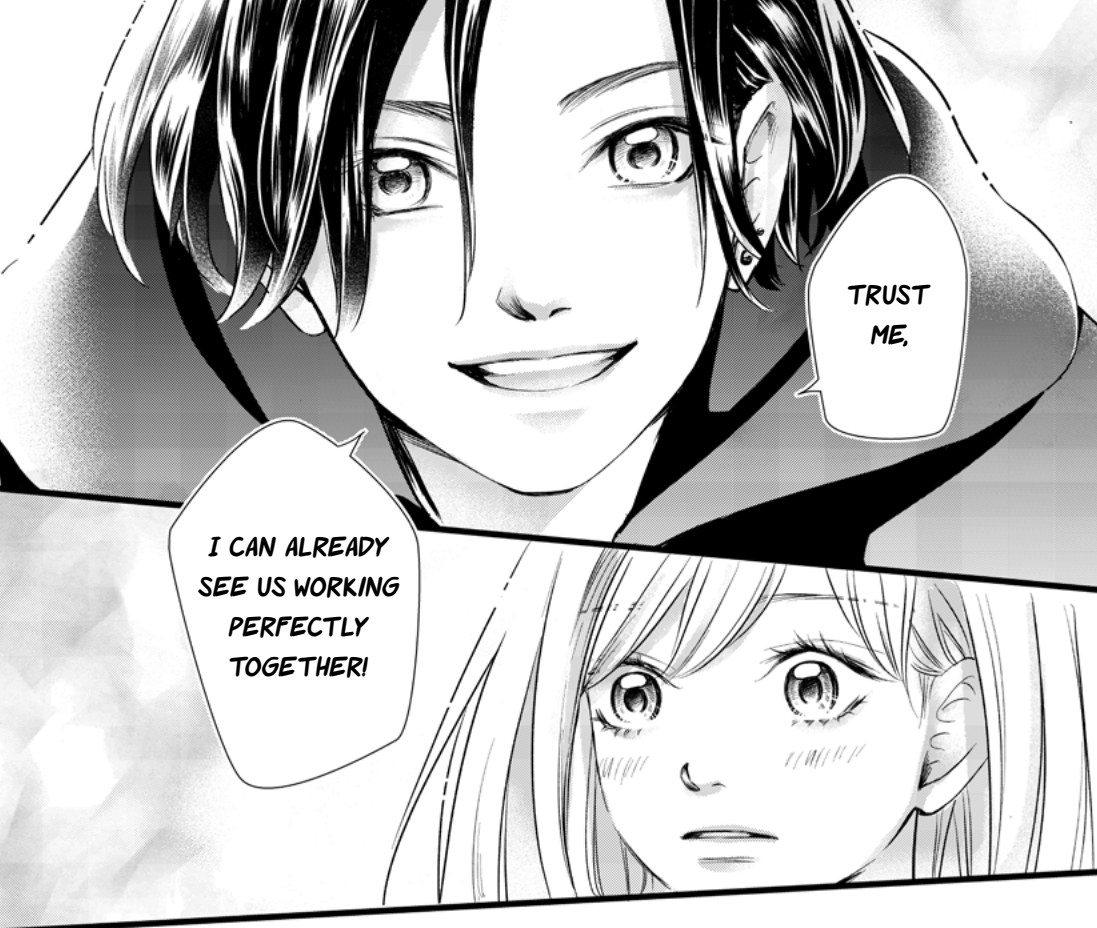
UM...
ARE
YOU
SURE?



I'M NOT
GOOD AT
PERFORMING.

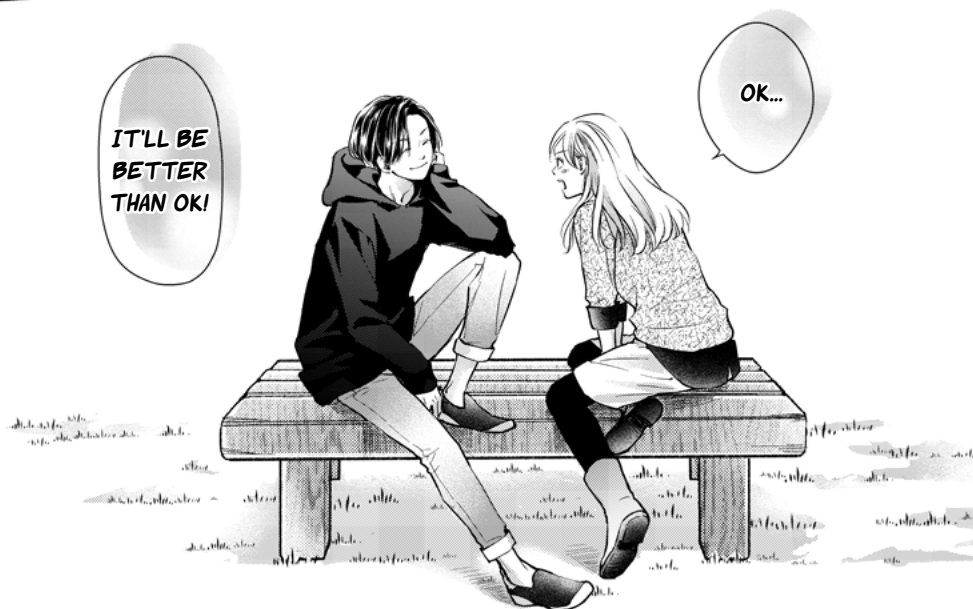


I WON'T
MAKE A GOOD
PARTNER.



I CAN ALREADY
SEE US WORKING
PERFECTLY
TOGETHER!

TRUST
ME,



IT'LL BE
BETTER
THAN OK!

OK...