



LET ME SEE YOUR ID.
ONE PERSON?

'MY DEAR JEAN-LUC, I LOVE YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW.'



AND THERE'S A PRIVATE DANCE THAT COMES WITH ONE DRINK.
THAT'S PLUS 20. YOU CAN ALSO DESIGNATE SOMEONE HERE, BUT...

10 DOLLARS.

'IF SOMETHING HAPPENED WHERE I MIGHT LOSE YOU, I WOULD SURELY BE UNABLE TO BEAR IT. THAT'S WHY...'



Hahaha
IT'S FINE.

ARE YOU SURE?
HE'S AN OLD HAG.

HUH?
AL?



...I'VE DECIDED NOT TO MEET YOU!

BECAUSE I CAME TO MEET HIM.

iLOCAS!



THE
PRIVATE
ROOM IS
THIS WAY.



HONEY,



AH,
WAIT A
MINUTE!

HE'S
ALREADY
FINISHED ON
STAGE SO
HE'LL COME
SOON.



YOU HAVE
15 MINUTES.
AFTER THAT
YOU CAN
NEGOTIATE.



SORRY FOR THE WAIT.

AL.



ALFONSO.



WHAT IS AL SHORT FOR?

HM?



Al...!?

!

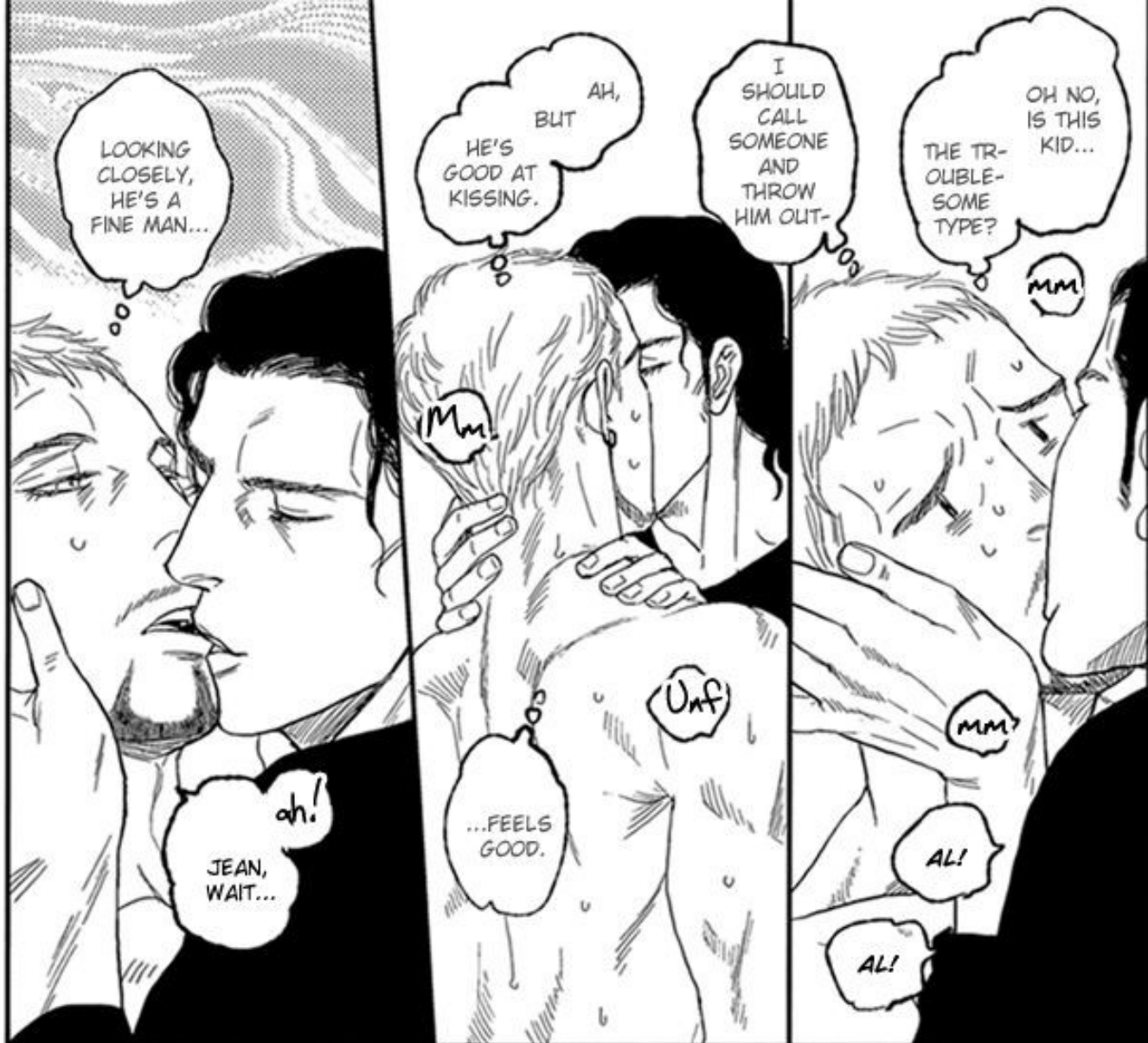


THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME DESIGNATING, RIGHT?

YEAH, SO...

Shut







...CHANGE LOCATIONS AND CONTINUE... OKAY?



LET'S...



YEAH... SO JEAN...





SLAM

AAAAA!

I'M
HUNGRY!
MAKE ME
SOMETHIII-
IIIING!!

...AH!

BLARE

HUH?





...my...



OH

NO



...



Eee-k

Eeeek! sorryyy!

TIFFANY!
YOU IDIOT! STUPID STUPID IDIOT!!

I didn't think you'd be doing it this early in the morning.



HEY... AL...

SHOULD WE REST A BIT?

Are you gonna pay the rent if starve to death?

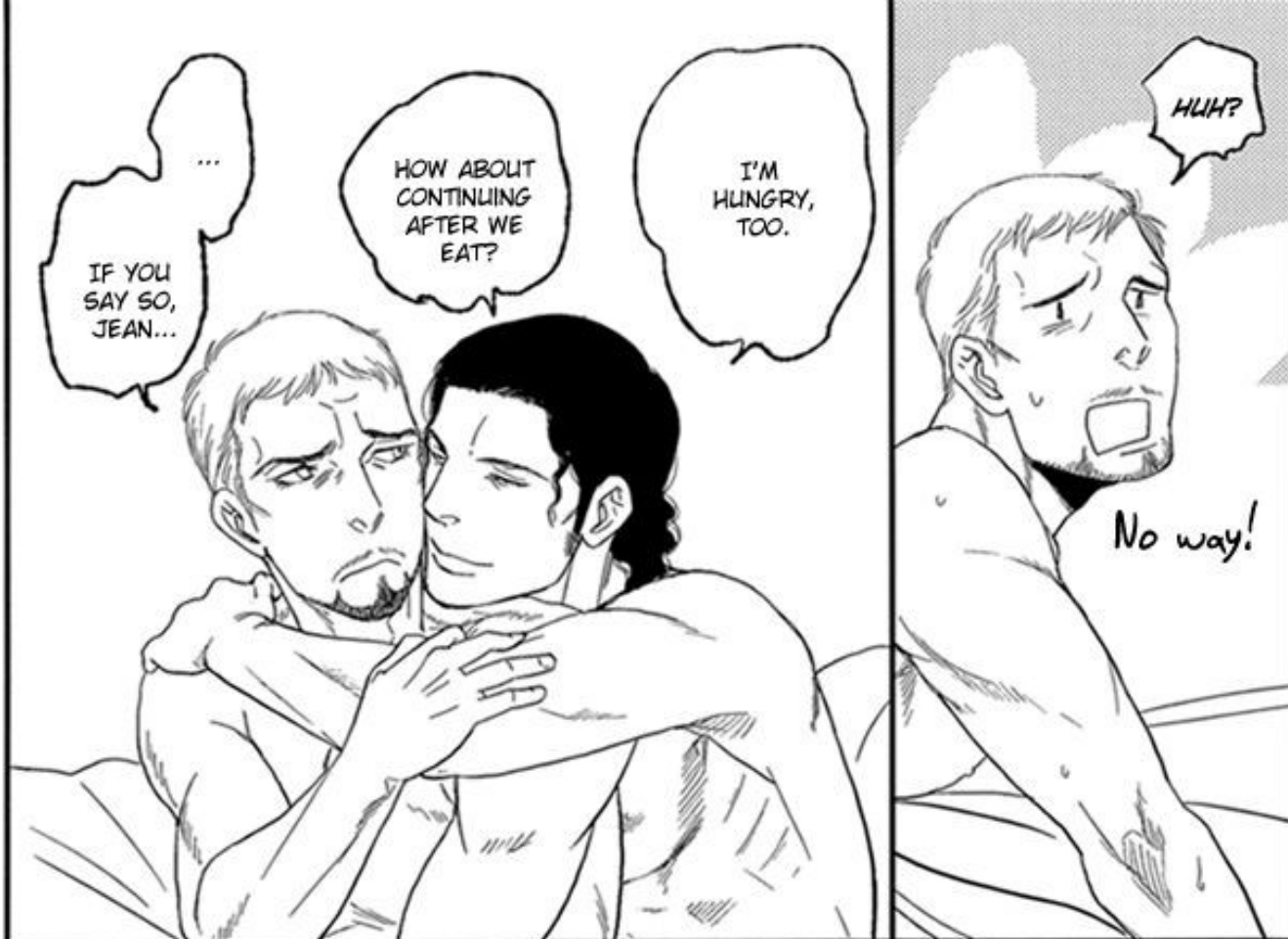


Make me foood!

I'm so hungry. I'm gonna die.

No! I can't gnaw on such nicely shaped hillips.

WHY DON'T YOU ENDURE BY GNAWING ON THE FLESH OF YOUR OWN ASS!?



...
IF YOU SAY SO, JEAN...

HOW ABOUT CONTINUING AFTER WE EAT?

I'M HUNGRY, TOO.

HUH?

No way!



NICE TO MEET YOU.

JEAN, THIS IS MY ROOMMATE, TIFFANY.

YOU CROSS-DRESSER!

YOU ALWAYS JUST GET IN MY WAY!
-HONESTLY! YOU NEVER LEARN!

I'M JEAN-LUC. YOU CAN CALL ME JEAN.

Wah! sorry!

I cross dress.



Haha!
YOU'RE A TREKKIE TOO, HUH?

♡ CAPTAIN PICARD!

✿ Ufufu! NICE TO MEET YOU. ✿

THAT IS TO SAY...

HUH, WHAT? YOU WERE DESIGNATED BECAUSE YOU WERE MISTAKEN FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

YOU GO BEYOND BEING A WITCH, YOU'RE A DEMON, A DEMON!!

WHEN YOU'RE IN DQ (DRAG QUEEN) FORM IT'S THE DEMON TREATMENT.

YOU SPEW OUT WHATEVER'S IN YOUR MOUTH RIGHT AWAY, TIFF!

WHEN THERE'S A MAN ASKING FOR A PRIVATE DANCE WITH A HAG LIKE YOU. YOU SHOULD BE SUSPICIOUS THEN AND THERE, AL!

NO, LIM...

I'M SORRY!

IS A CHAT FRIEND. IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS AND WE'VE NEVER MET.

THE AL I WAS LOOKING FOR...

AND THIS IS HOW THINGS ENDED UP.

UNABLE TO BEAR IT, I LOOKED UP THIS PLACE FROM HIS PROFILE AND CAME HERE.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, JEAN.

IT'S FINE!

BECAUSE YOU WERE FOOLED, TOO.

HUH, WHAT'S THAT?



YEAH,
AS
FOR
THAT...

I
THINK
IT'S
PROBABLY
A
MEMBER
OF
OUR
GROUP.

THE
PROFILE
AND
PICTURES
SENT
FROM
THE
GUY
HE
WAS
CHATTING
WITH
WERE
MINE.

??

SORRY,
I
DON'T
GET
IT.

LOOKING
AT
THE
CHAT
RECORD,
THERE
ARE
A
LOT
OF
THINGS
WRITTEN
WHICH
NO
ONE
BUT
MEMBERS
KNOW.



SERI-
OUSLY!?
WHAT'S
WITH
THAT!?

PISSES
ME
OFF!
JUST
WHO
AND
FROM
WHERE?



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CHAT
ID?
DON'T
TELL
ME
EVEN
THAT
IS
THE
SAME?

HYA,
SCARY!

IF
YOU
READ
IT,
EVEN
YOU
WOULD
THINK
IT
WAS
ME,
TIFF.

LIKE
ABOUT
THE
ANGEL
CLUB
AND
CONTENT
OF
THE
SHOWS
EHE
EVEN
KNOWS
CHANGES
TO
THE
SCHEDULE



SOMEONE
SPOKE
TO
HIM
FROM
BEHIND
AND
CALLED
HIM
"AL."

BEFORE,
THE
ONE
TIME
HE
AGREED
TO
A
VOICE
CHAT
WHEN
I
BEGGED
HIM,

NO,
THE
ID
IS
ARTHUR70.



I FEEL LIKE I'LL REMEMBER...
UM...

WAIT, WAIT!

PROBABLY! I THINK IT'S RELATED TO WORK...
I'LL TRY A PC CHECK.



NO...
MORE THAN THAT, ARTHUR-70...

TIFF, WAS THERE ANOTHER AL CONNECTED TO THE CLUB?
Hmm...
THEN HIS REAL NAME IS ALSO AL.



DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING!?

WHAT!?



YEAH, YEAH, HURRY UP AND GO.

TAKE CARE OF THE COFFEE.

AL!



WOW! SO SHE'S SMART.

A LAWYER.

WHAT'S TIFFANY'S JOB?

MERCI.

I'LL PUT ON THE COFFEE.

JEAN, TAKE IT EASY ON THE SOFA OVER THERE.



BUT... AM I WRONG, I WONDER? HOW IS IT, I WONDER? WON'T YOU MAKE THINGS CLEAR, I WONDER?

YOUR EVIDENCE IS FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS AND I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING BUT EVASIONS.

YOU KNOW!



HER SKILL IS ALSO DECENT AND HER REPUTATION ISN'T BAD, BUT...

IT SEEMS HER MEMORY IS ABSURDLY GOOD.

AT ANY RATE, SHE'S ALWAYS EXPOSED AS A "BIG SISTER," RIGHT?

I CAN'T HELP LAUGHING AT THE RESPONSE.



IT'S SO HILARIOUS!!

EFFICIENTLY CORNERING THEM LIKE THAT.

splurt



Hahahq, sorry.

HEY... I TAKE MY WORK SERIOUSLY...



THIS IS ARTHUR70.



THIS IS...?

...?

HUH? A PHOTO...?



YEAH, I KNEW HIM AFTER ALL.

AND?

DID SOMETHING COME UP?

REALLY!?



ARTHUR JIMINEZ.

HE USED TO DO GO-GO AT THE CLUB. MEMBERS ARE MEMBERS...

BUT HE WAS A CHEAP SCOUNDREL WHO WOULD HOOK MEN IN CHAT AND STEAL OR EXTORT

MY CUSTOMERS HAVE EVEN CONSULTED ME ABOUT BEING CHEATED BY HIM.



MY AL CAN'T HURT AND DECEIVE PEOPLE.

HE'S A SENSITIVE AND KIND PERSON... THIS, THIS IS WRONG.



...NO.

THERE'S NO WAY THIS MAN COULD WRITE THOSE WONDERFUL LETTERS...!

THIS ISN'T MY AL...!



TIFFANY?

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S SOMEONE ELSE.



THIS IS FOR SURE.

THAT VULGAR HALFWIT COULDN'T WRITE COMPOSITIONS THAT WOULD GIVE THE POET JEAN-LUC BRUNEAU DEEP IMPRESSIONS NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED.

IN THE THIRD PLACE,

BECAUSE, IN THE FIRST PLACE, ARTHUR'S PET NAME WAS CHICO, NOT AL.

IN THE SECOND PLACE, ALTHOUGH THAT IDIOT CHICO WAS JEALOUS OF OUR AL IN HIS GO-GO DAYS, THERE'S NO WAY HE'D USE AL'S PROFILE OR PICTURES TO ENTICE MEN.

HUH?



ACTUALLY, I HAVE ALL OF YOUR WORKS.

Ufufu!

I LIKE THE NOVELS TOO, BUT THE COLLECTION OF POEMS RELEASED LAST MONTH IS THE BEST?!



JEAN, YOU'RE A POET?
HOW COOL!!



BUT YOU ACTUALLY KNEW I WAS BRUNEAU.

AH...NO, MY MAIN OCCUPATION IS A NOVELIST...

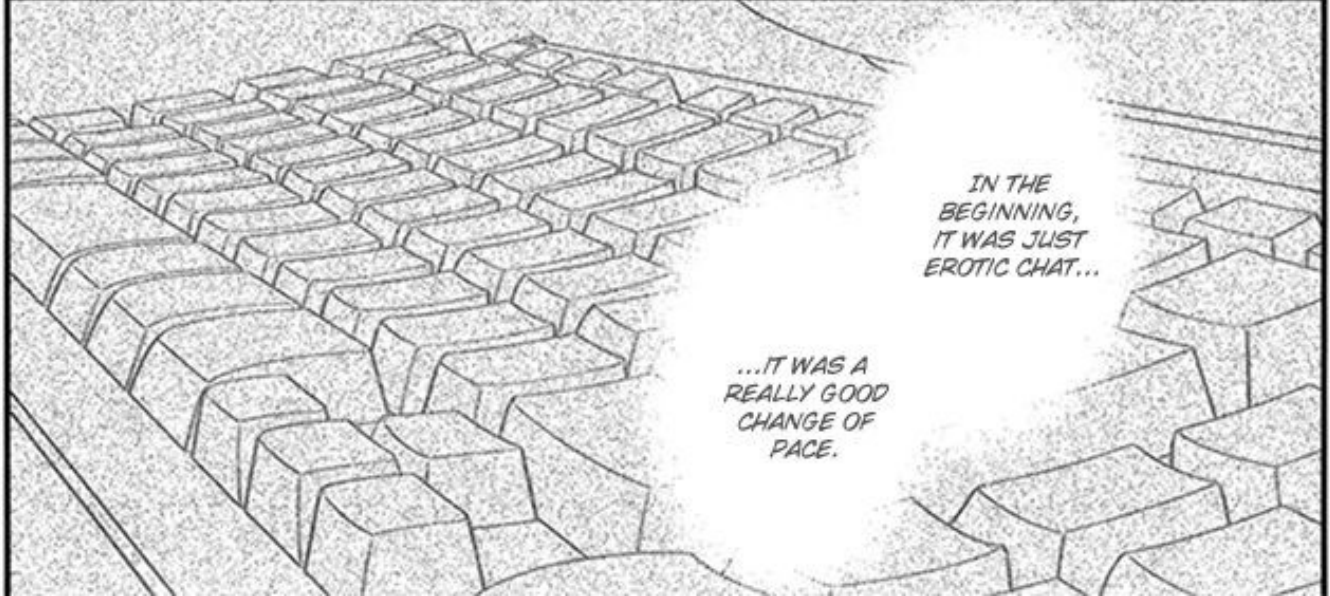


Wow!
YOU BOUGHT IT!
THANK YOU!



...IS SOMETHING I WAS ABLE TO DO BECAUSE OF MY EXCHANGE WITH AL.

...
THIS POEM COLLECTION...



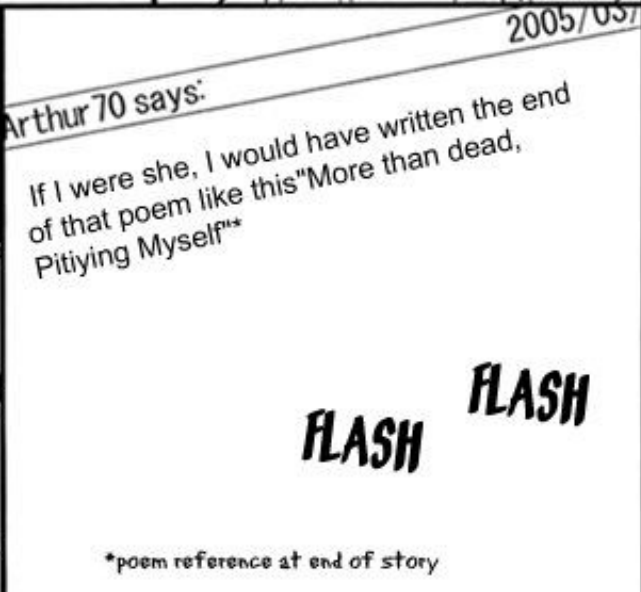
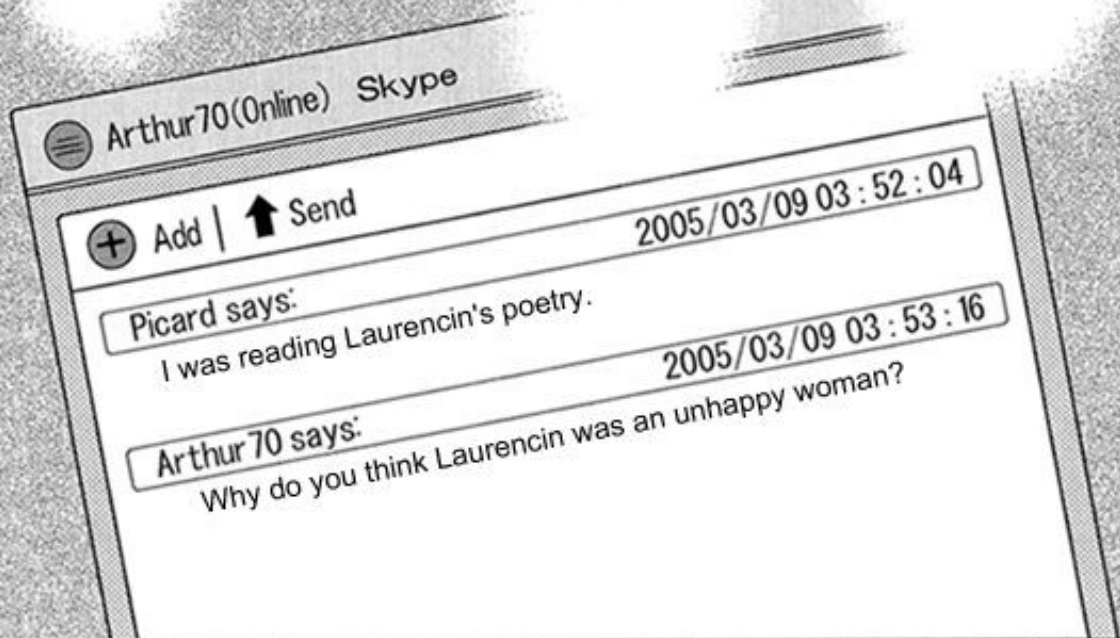
IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS JUST EROTIC CHAT...

...IT WAS A REALLY GOOD CHANGE OF PACE.

AND
SO...

I DIDN'T HAVE
ANY INTEREST IN
LAURENCIN SO I
DIDN'T HAVE ANY
EXPECTATIONS.

BUT ONE DAY,
BY SOME
CHANCE I WAS
TOUCHED
BY LAUREN-
CIN'S POETRY.



*poem reference at end of story



I WANT TO MEET HIM, THE ONE I WANT SO MUCH TO SEE, AND GIVE THIS COLLECTION OF POEMS TO HIM DIRECTLY.

I WOUND UP IN A DREAM, CAPTIVATED BY HIS UNIQUE WAY OF THINKING AND DISPOSITION.

FROM THAT DAY I TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS BESIDES SEX.

INSPIRATION WELLED UP AGAIN AND AGAIN FROM FRAGMENTS OF WORDS HE DROVE IN.

THE FOURTH REASON IT'S PROBABLY A DIFFERENT PERSON, THOUGH IT'S A DECISIVE REASON.

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HIS ID EXPIRED AFTER DEATH AND BECAME SOMEONE ELSE'S ID

BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY HE KNOWS MEMBER INFORMATION.

CHICO PASSED AWAY THREE YEARS AGO.



TIFFANY, CAN'T I MEET THAT CHICO MAN?

HE PROBABLY KNOWS SOMETHING...

IMPOSSIBLE! BECAUSE...



IS THE
GUY
CURRENTLY
USING
CHICO'S
PC.

WHICH MEANS,
WE CAN'T THINK
BUT THAT THE
ONE WHO CHATTED
WITH JEAN



XANDER!?


XANDER!?



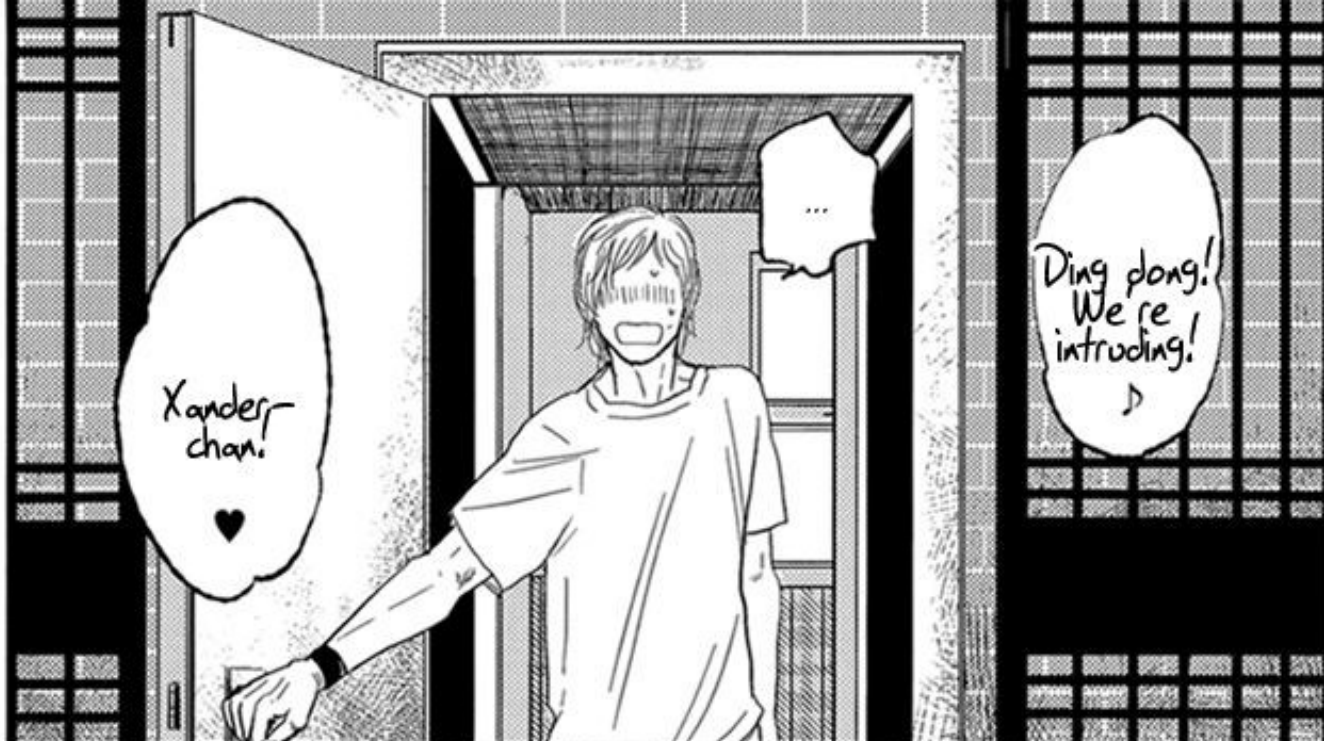
CHICO'S
YOUNGER
BROTHER
AND THE
CLUB'S BAR-
TENDER.

I SEE! FROM
THE COUNTER OF
THAT BAR THE
WHOLE STAGE
CAN BE SEEN!

AL DOTES ON
XANDER AND THEY
OFTEN HANG
OUT TOGETHER
SO THERE'S
NO END OF
INFORMATION
EITHER.



WELL, I
GUESS THERE'S
NO MISTAKE.



Xander-
chan.

Ding dong!
We re
intruding!



...WANTED
TO SEE YOU,
XANDER, SO
WE BROUGHT
HIM HERE.

HE
ABSOLUTELY...



ALEXANDER,
YOU'RE...AL,
RIGHT?

XAN-
DER...





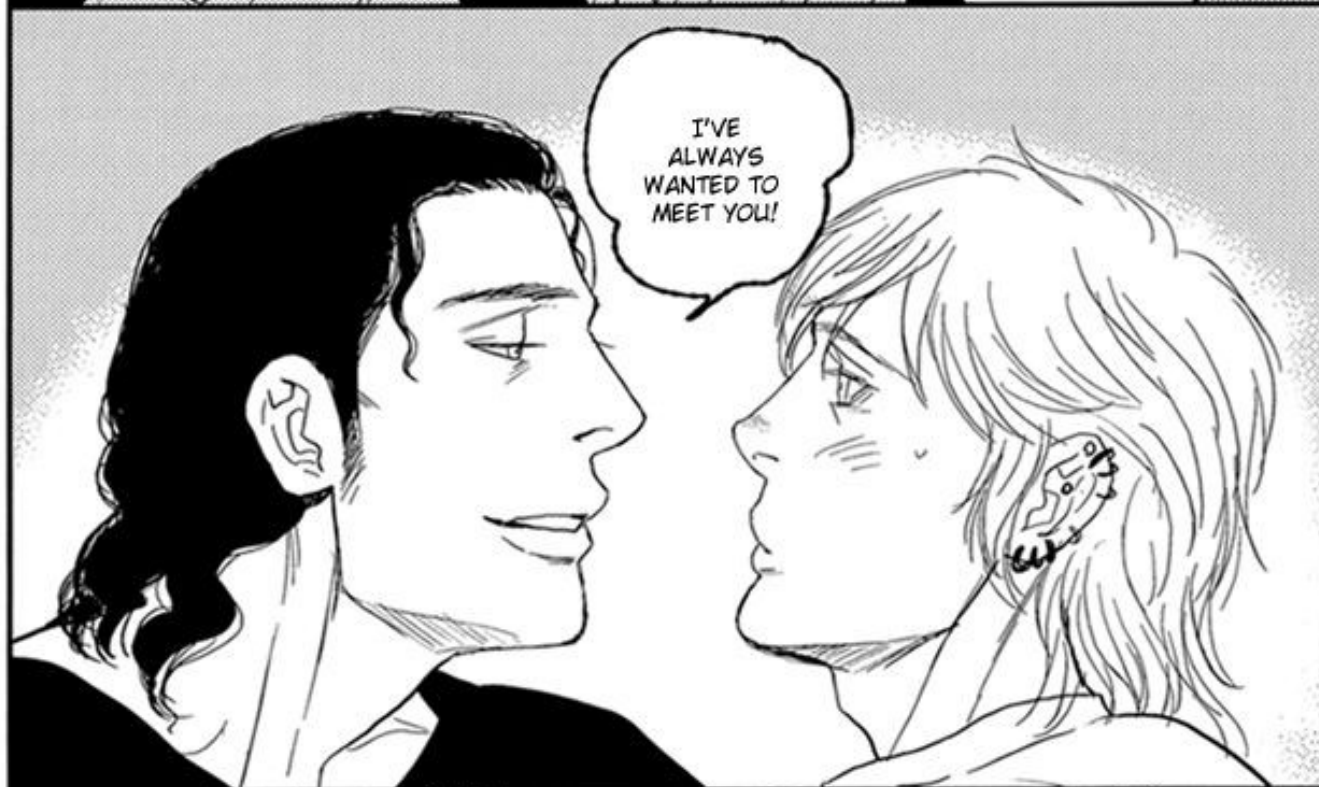


I HAVE SOMETHING I WANTED TO TELL YOU IF I MET YOU.

EVEN IF YOU HAD A TERRIBLY UNIQUE OUTWARD APPEARANCE...

WELL, EVEN IF YOU WERE AN OLD MAN OF 90...

W... WHAT?



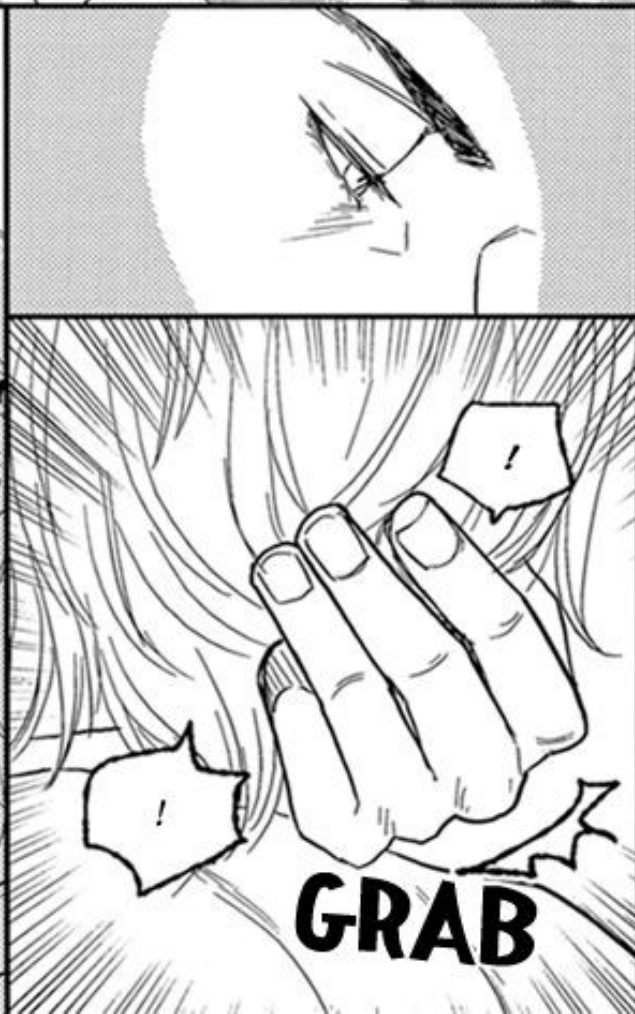
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU!



MY BE-LOVED.

I CAME TO MEET YOU,

ALEX-ANDER.









MAKE XANDER CRY AND I'LL BEAT YOU.

Really hard!!

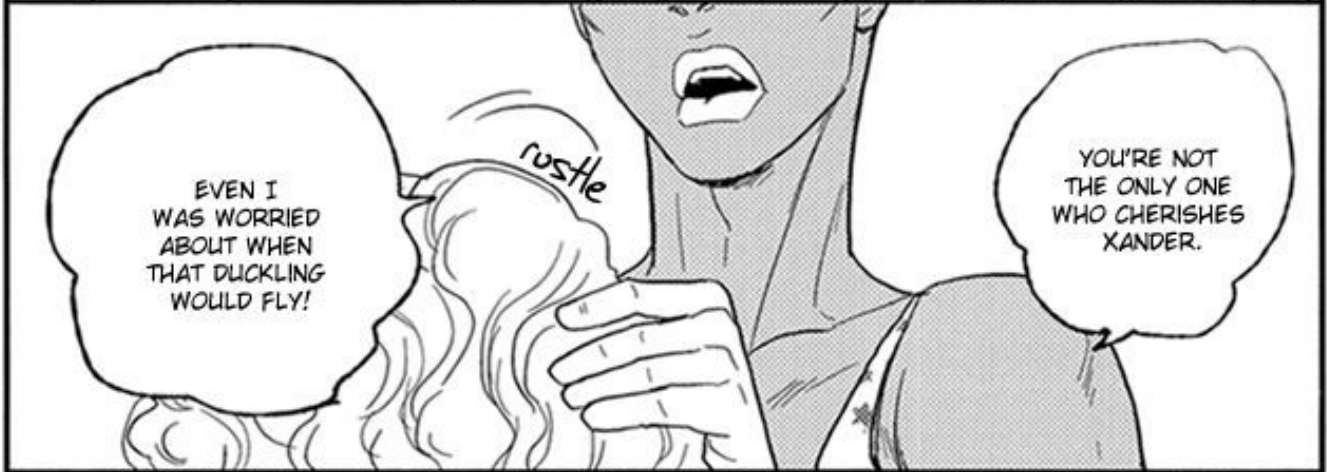
I GET IT! DON'T START A FIGHT!



I've lost...

AS EXPECTED OF SOMEONE FROM THE COUNTRY OF AMOUR...

CRAP! I SHOULD'VE HAD A GO ONCE BEFORE XANDER...!



EVEN I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHEN THAT DUCKLING WOULD FLY!

rustle

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CHERISHES XANDER.



YEAH... HE REALLY IS A GOOD MAN.

I DON'T DISLIKE THIS KIND OF FAIRY-TALE ENDING.

A FIRST-RATE PRINCE CHARMING.

EVEN I'D LIKE TO BE CALLED "MY ANGEL" OR SOMETHING WITH A SERIOUS FACE!!

YET WHY DO WE ALWAYS PLAY THIS KIND OF PART!?

YES, YES!

RIGID

GI

WAH

WE'RE GOOD MEN TOO!!

Woah!

clack

WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED, RIGHT? BECAUSE, FOR US, LOOK!

Wow!

DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU!

THE STAGE IS OUR LOVER.

THAT'S WHY NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GIVE UP GO-GO...

END!

ZFT EXPLAINS!

Le Calmant by Marie Laurencin

Hookay. Time for an explanation for anyone unfamiliar with this poem.
It is Le Calmant by Marie Laurencin. The original goes like this:

Plus qu'ennuyée Triste.

Plus que triste Malheureuse.

Plus que malheureuse Souffrante.

Plus que souffrante Abandonnée.

Plus qu'abandonnée Seule au monde.

Plus que seule au monde Exilée.

Plus qu'exilée Morte.

Plus que morte Oubliée.

In English that would be:

More than bored Sad.

More than sad Unhappy.

More than unhappy Ill.

More than ill Abandoned.

More than abandoned Alone in the world.

More than alone in the world Exiled.

More than exiled Dead.

More than dead Forgotten.

Now, the Japanese translation of the poem goes like this:

退屈な女より もっと哀れなのは 悲しい女です。

悲しい女より もっと哀れなのは 不幸な女です。

不幸な女より もっと哀れなのは 病気の女です。

病気の女より もっと哀れなのは 捨てられた女です。

捨てられた女より もっと哀れなのは よるべない女です。

よるべない女より もっと哀れなのは 追われた女です。

追われた女より もっと哀れなのは 死んだ女です。

死んだ女より もっと哀れなのは 忘れられた女です。

Which in English would be:

What is more pitiful than a bored woman is a sad woman.

What is more pitiful than a sad woman is an unhappy woman.

What is more pitiful than an unhappy woman is an ill woman.

What is more pitiful than an ill woman is an abandoned woman.

What is more pitiful than an abandoned woman is a woman with no place to go.

What is more pitiful than a woman with no place to go is a woman driven away.

What is more pitiful than a woman driven away is a dead woman.

What is more pitiful than a dead woman is a forgotten woman.

So when AI changes the end of this poem, he actually changes it to

"What is more pitiful than a dead woman is a woman pitying herself."

It's a little more clever than what I put because it uses the "aware"

(which I wrote as "pitiful") from each line and sticks it at the end in

"jibun o awaremu" ("pitying oneself"). I didn't translate it as that because

I wanted to follow the format of the original poem, which is more likely to

be familiar to our readers than the Japanese format.