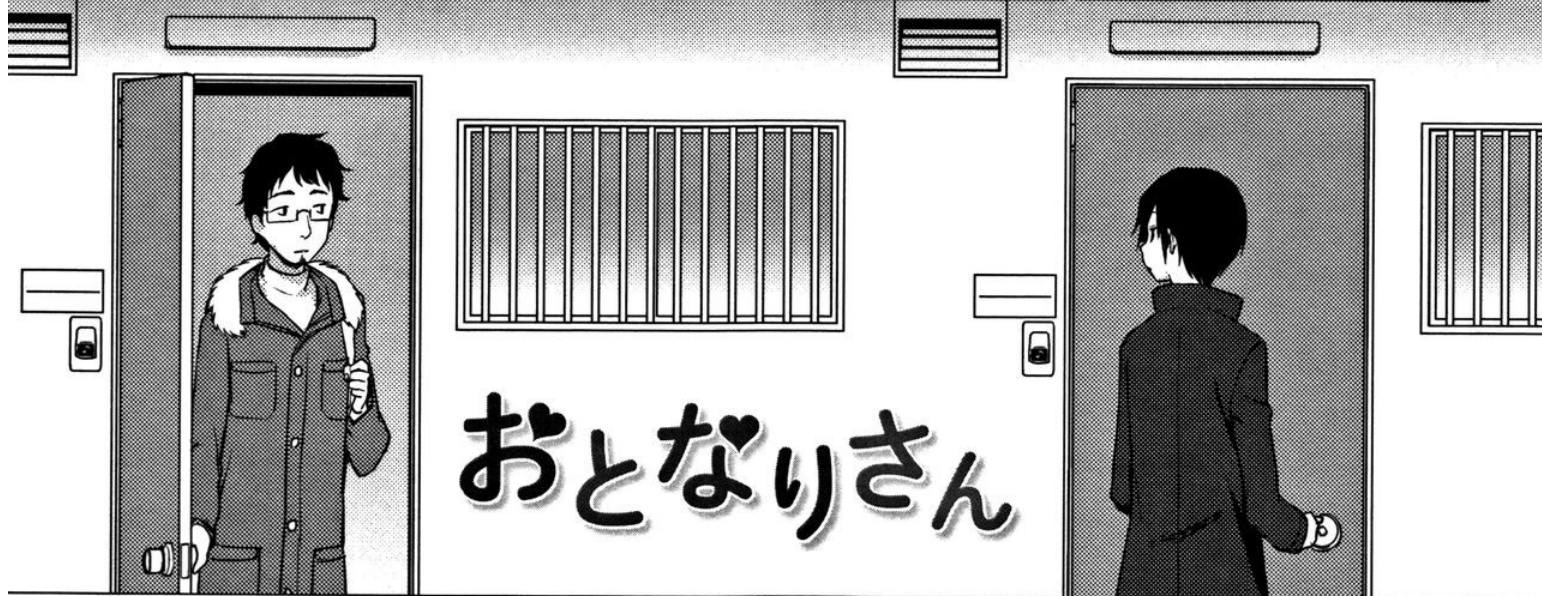


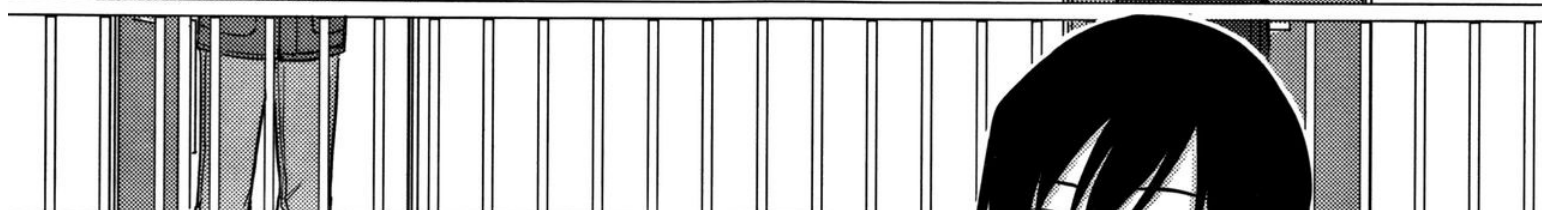


Man... Morning lectures are the worst...

カチヤ



おとなりさん



Ah-

Hello...



G-Good morning.

That's... Kitahara from next door, right...





I'm glad my next-door neighbor isn't a weirdo, but...

She's still a girl, so I get a little nervous around her... Plus, she looks kinda scary.

SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS, I KNOW NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT HER.

OUR INTERACTIONS HAVE ALWAYS FOLLOWED THIS SAME PATTERN: WE BUMP INTO EACH OTHER, WE EXCHANGE GREETINGS, AND THAT'S THAT.

SHE MOVED HERE LAST YEAR, BUT...

AND I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S A YEAR BELOW ME.

SHE GOES TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY AS ME...



Haah~ That was good-

THAT DISTANT RELATIONSHIP OF OURS STARTED CHANGING, HOWEVER. IT ALL BEGUN ON A CHILLY NIGHT, WHEN THE WARM FRONT WAS STILL YET TO ARRIVE...



She's getting home pretty late... Maybe she's working part-time?

...Well, whatever it is, it's none of my business.



Good evening...

Er, hello there...



But I can't help it: when I hear people are going drinking, I have to go with them.

I might have stayed a bit too late...

I barely caught the last train...



I'm going straight to bed the second I get my shoes off...

Mh?



Ah.



DID I DROP THEM SOMEWHERE?

MAYBE WHEN I TOOK OUT MY WALLET AT THE BAR...?



MY KEYS ARE GONE.



Did you...
Lose your keys?



Eh?!

If you'd like, you could come over...



Ahaha... Seems like it...

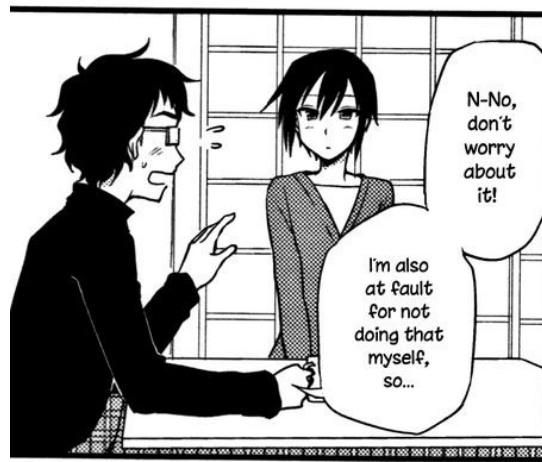


Hmmm...
Um...



ALRIGHT, NOW WHAT?
I CAN'T POSSIBLY CONTACT THE LANDLORD THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
BUT THERE ARE NO PLACES TO SPEND THE NIGHT NEAR HERE...







AND AFTER THAT, KITAHARA-SAN AND I STARTED SPENDING TIME WITH EACH OTHER EVERY NOW AND THEN.

AT THE TIME, I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HER ALONE...

Well, since we happen to be next-door neighbors...

What do you say we get to know each other better?

...All right!

I don't think it's the reason why she called out to me earlier... But she must be feeling lonely, living alone and not having any friends.



Can I really? Thanks, Kitahara-san.

I, um... made a little too much of this, so if you'd like...

Take what you want... G-Go ahead...

Neat. Can I borrow a book or two?

Well, yes...

So, I guess you like reading?



Ah! Right... I completely forgot...

I... can't drink alcohol yet...

Want to drink it with me?

I got my hands on some really good booze!

Really? If you don't mind, could you tell me what parts you liked about it...?

This book was really good!



When I think about it like that... I don't know... It doesn't sit well with me...

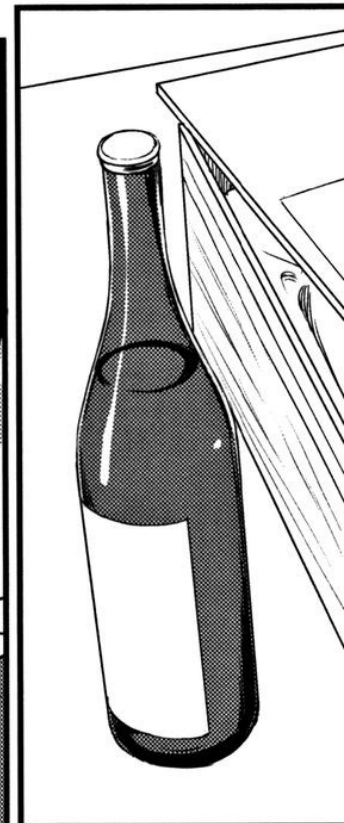
But... if she gets new friends... She'll start spending time with them, and we won't be able to spend time together like this anymore... right?

Ohh! Good job!

Listen to this, Yamamoto-san! I finally made a friend at school!

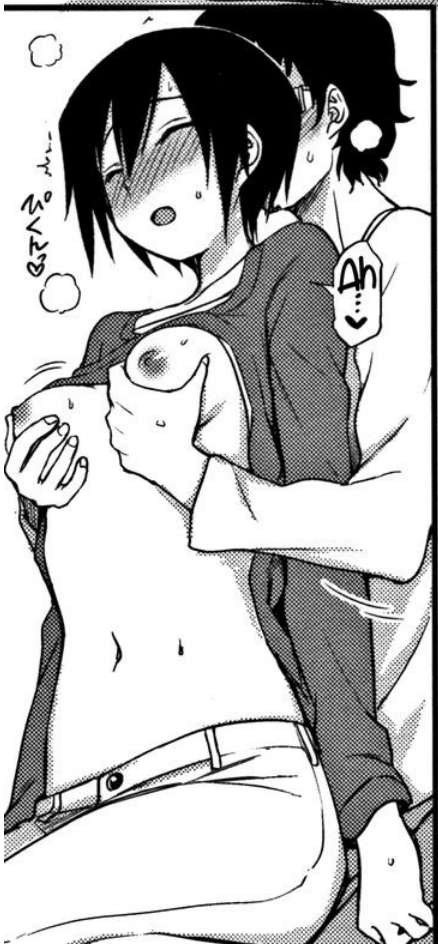
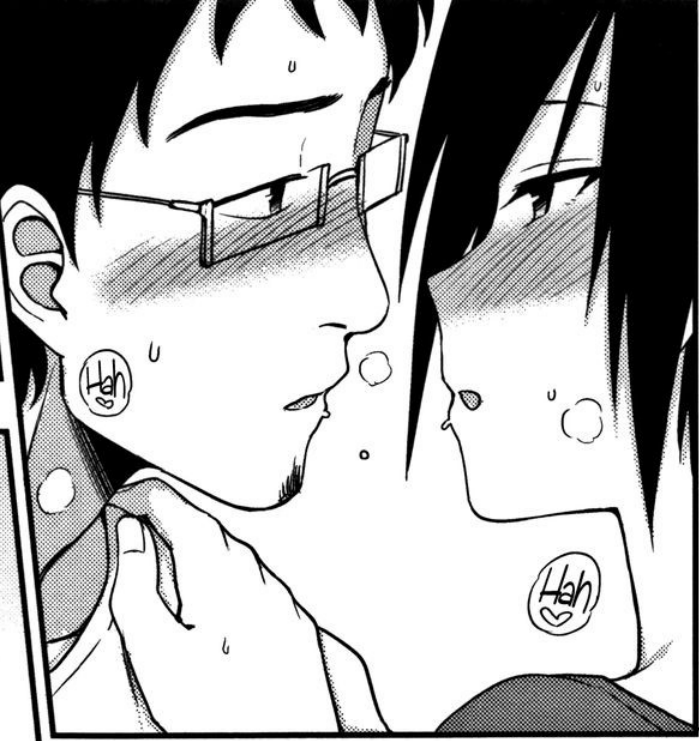
Ohh! Good job!

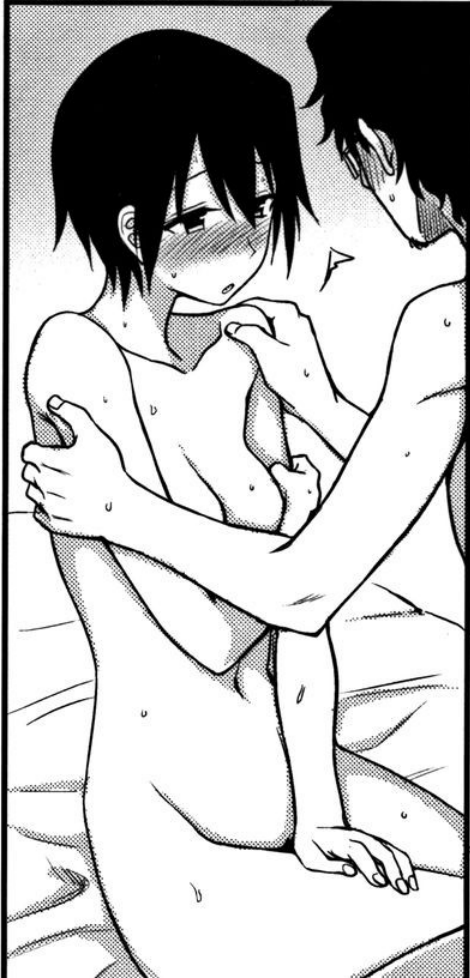






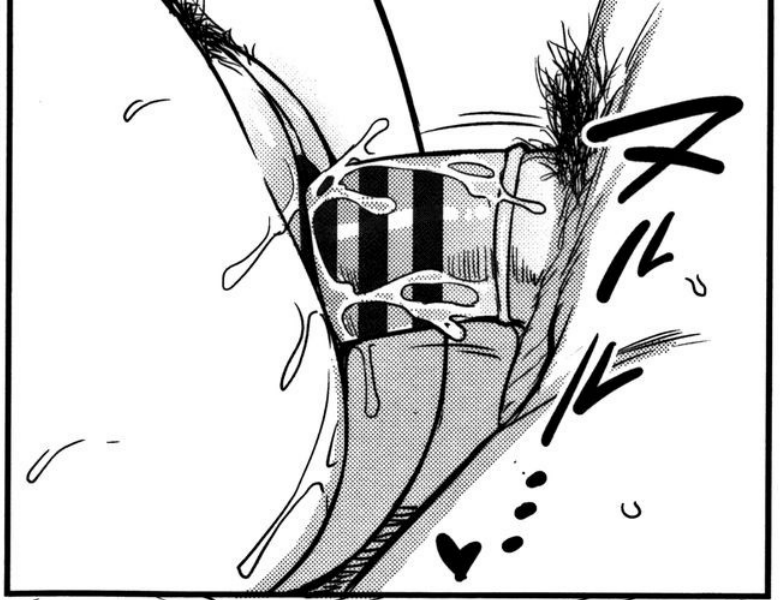




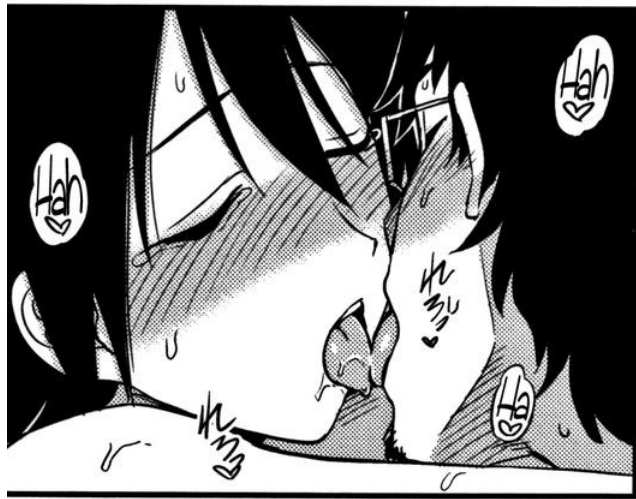


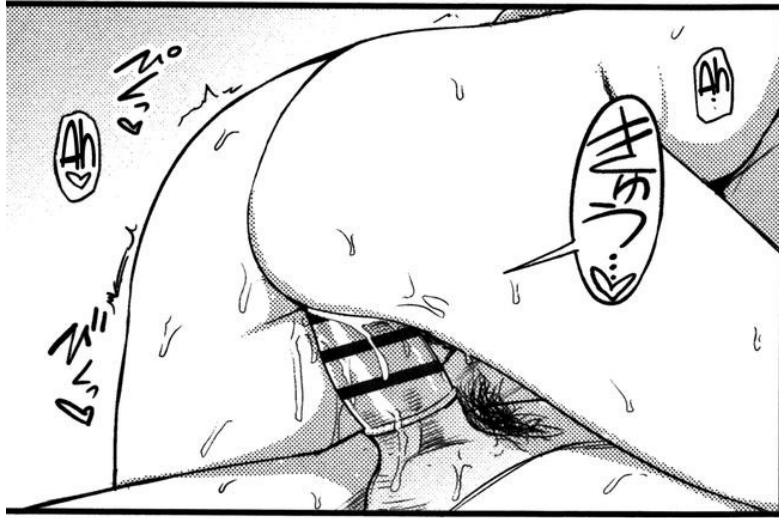
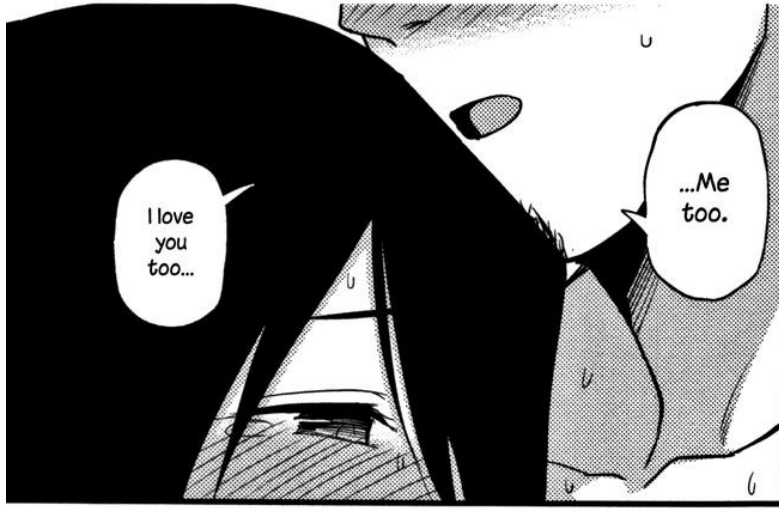












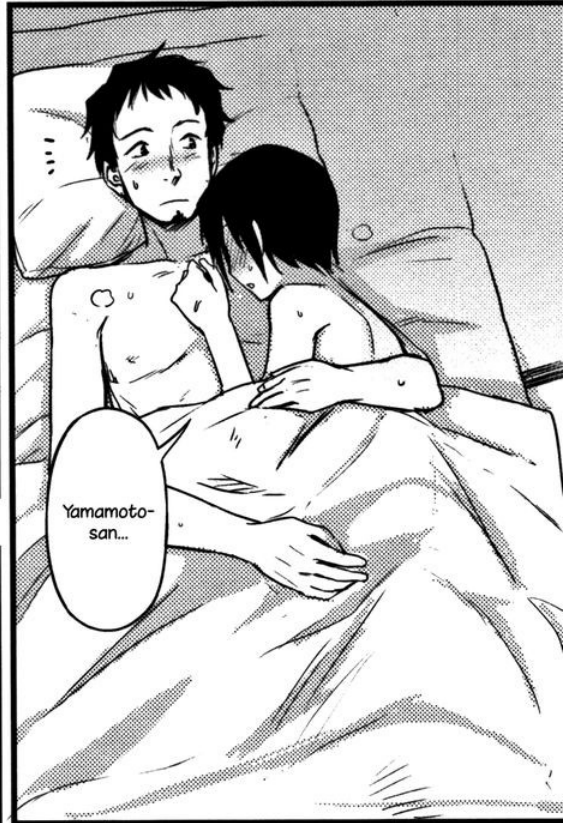


Please...
Um...

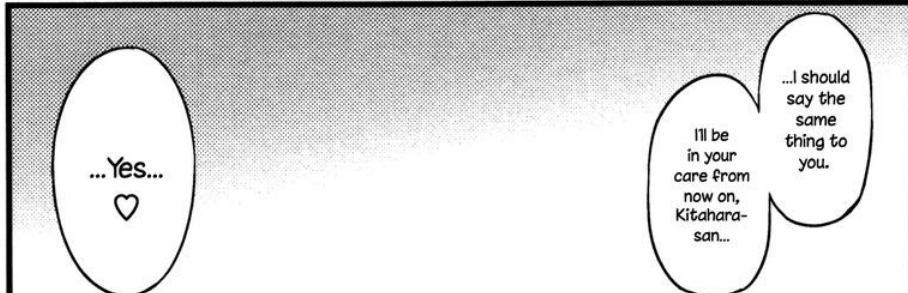


I don't know if I can be a good girlfriend for you... so...

I've... never had a boyfriend or anything, so...



Yamamoto-san...



...Yes...
♡

I'll be in your care from now on, Kitahara-san...

...I should say the same thing to you.

END