

S M I L E

CHAPTER 2

D I S T A N C E O F F E E L I N G S





DON'T BE
AFRAID, HONEY.



BUT...
MOM...



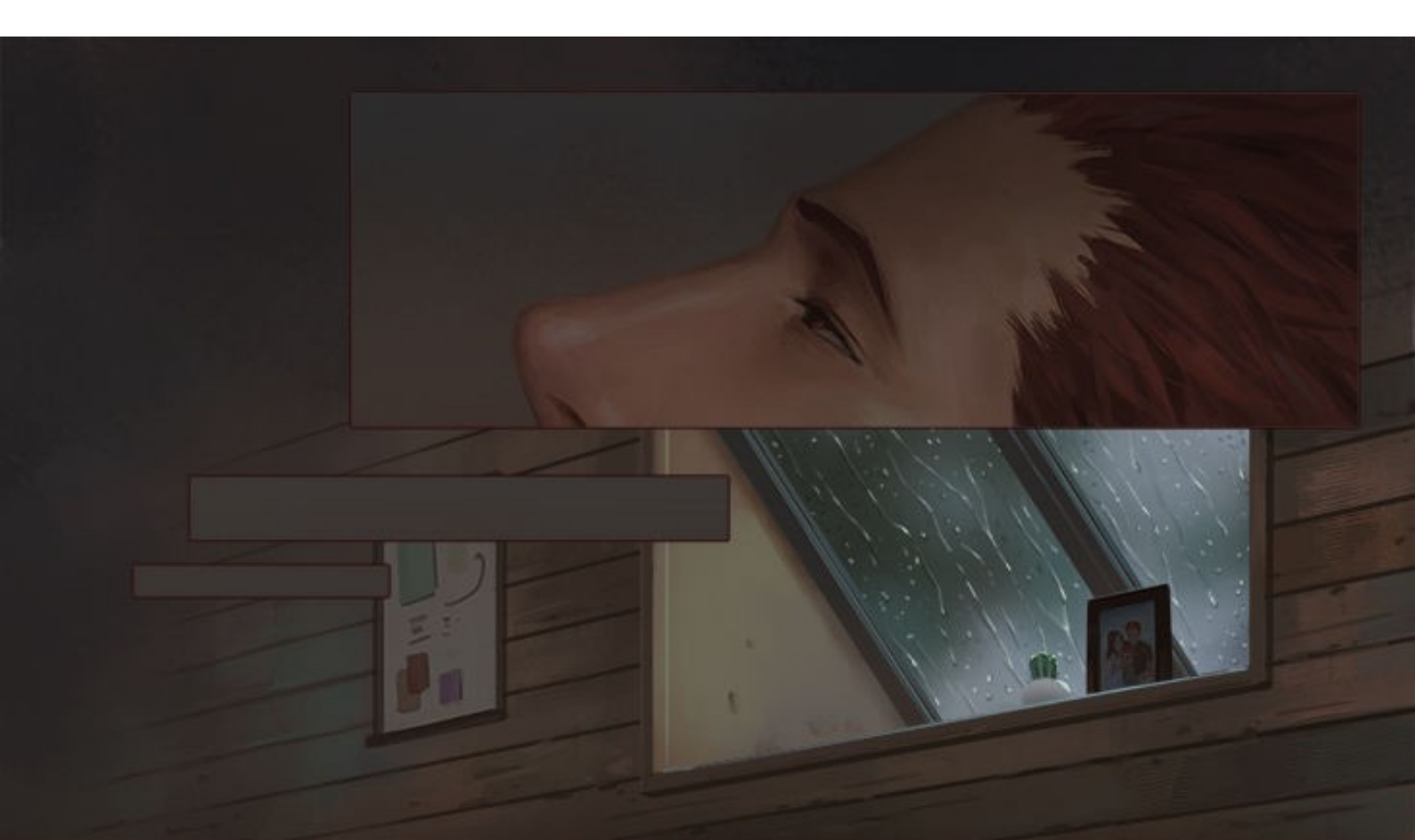
...I'M
SCARED...

HERE,
INTRODUCE
YOURSELF.

THEY ARE
GOOD FRIENDS
OF MOMMY
AND DADDY.



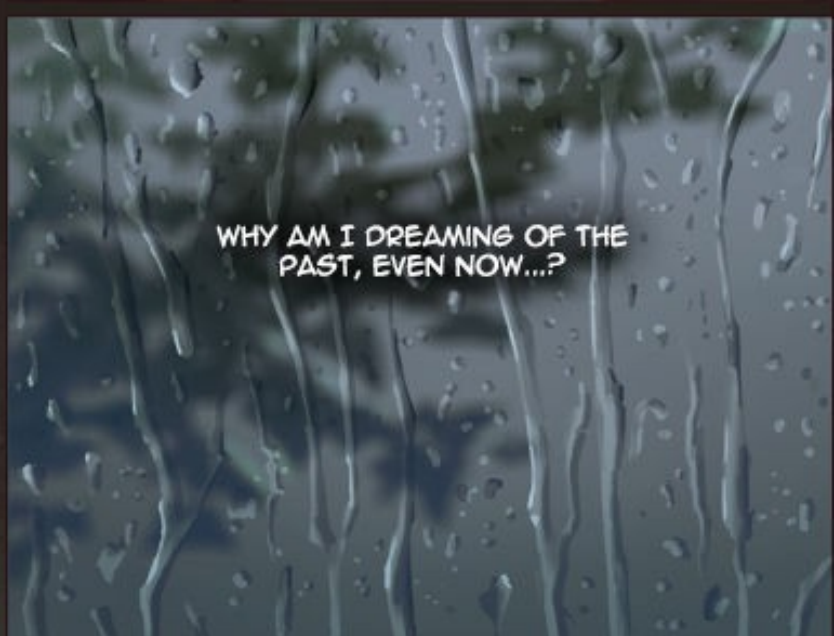




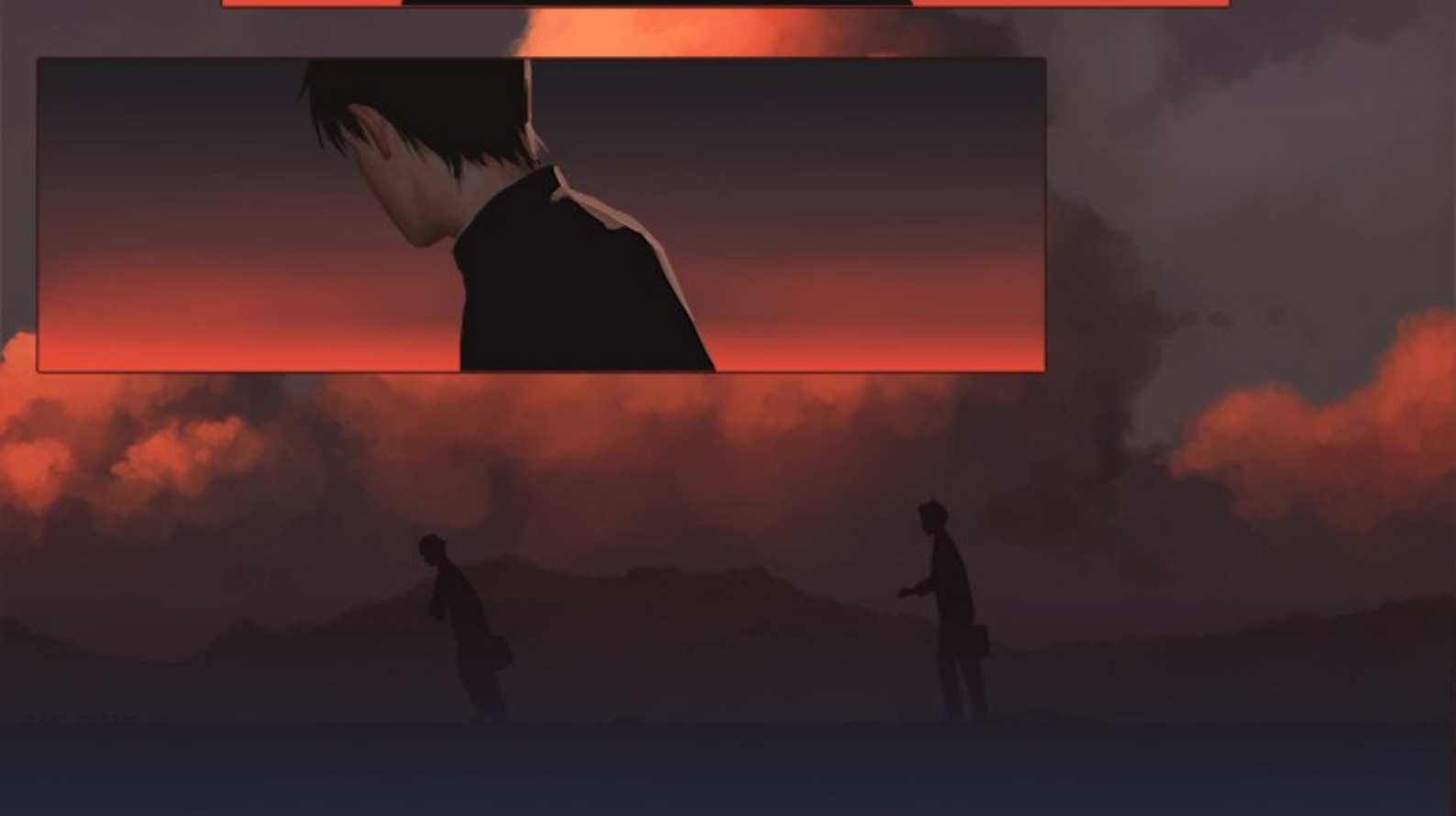
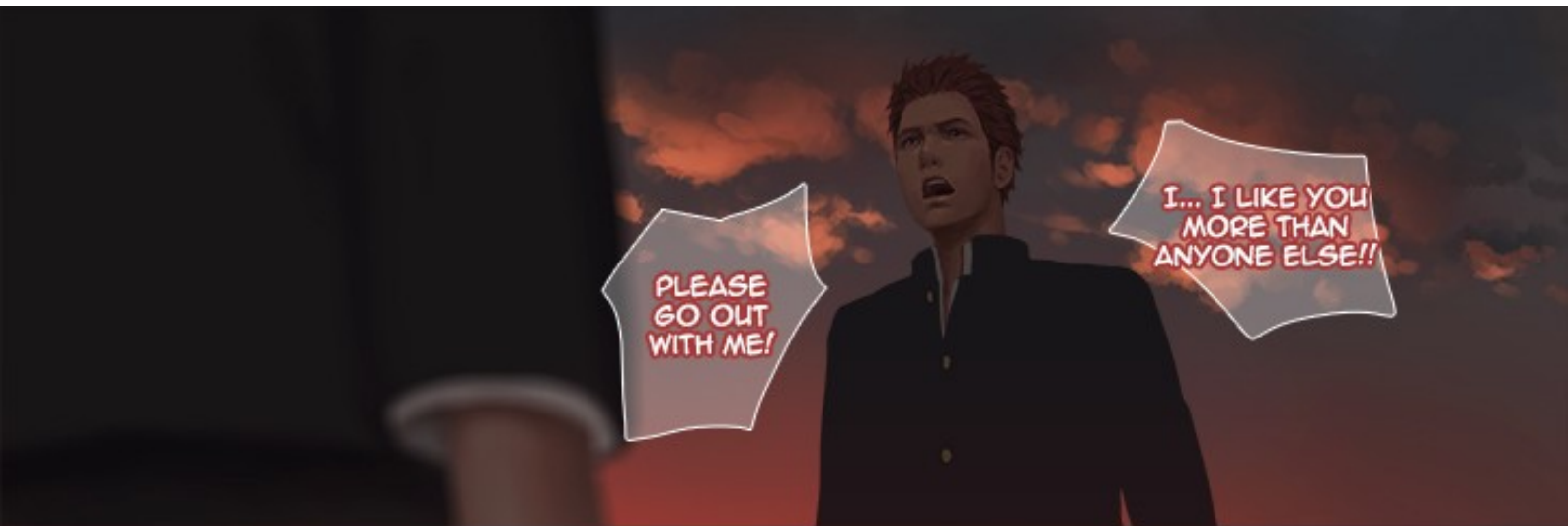
REN...



A DREAM?



WHY AM I DREAMING OF THE
PAST, EVEN NOW...?

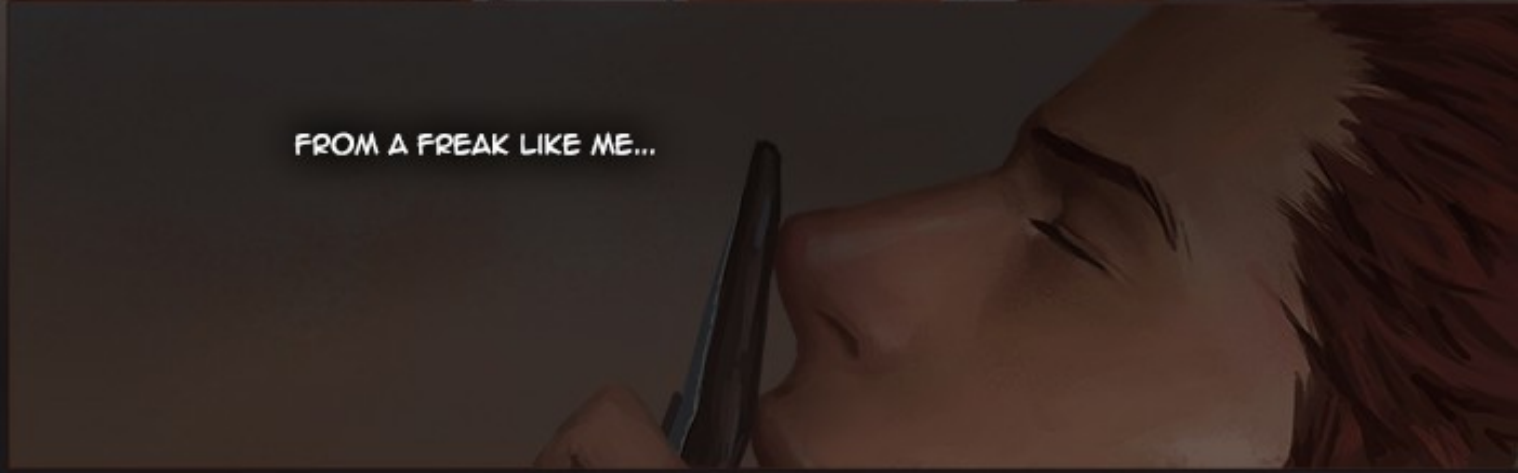


A hand is holding a smartphone, displaying a video of a person with dark hair running in a pool. The person is seen from the side, leaning forward as if in motion. The background of the video shows a pool and some greenery.

REN...

A man with reddish-brown hair is lying in bed, wearing a white tank top. He is looking at a smartphone held in his right hand. The phone screen shows a video of a person running in a pool. The man has a serious expression on his face.

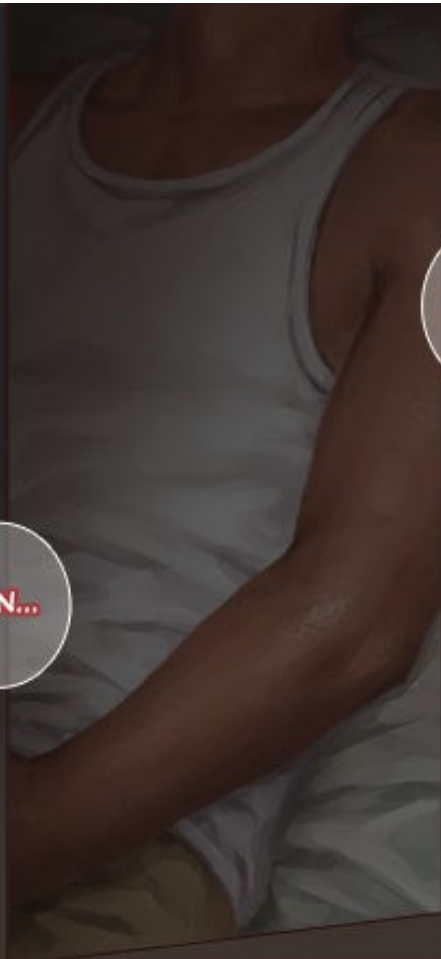
OF COURSE HE'D
RUN AWAY...

A close-up of a man's face, looking down at a smartphone held in his hand. His eyes are closed, and he has a somber expression. The phone screen is visible, showing a video of a person running in a pool.

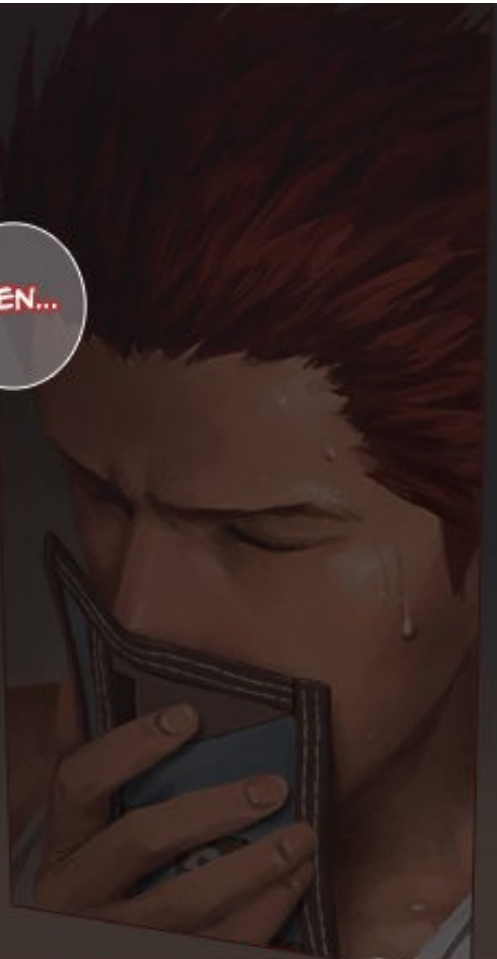
FROM A FREAK LIKE ME...



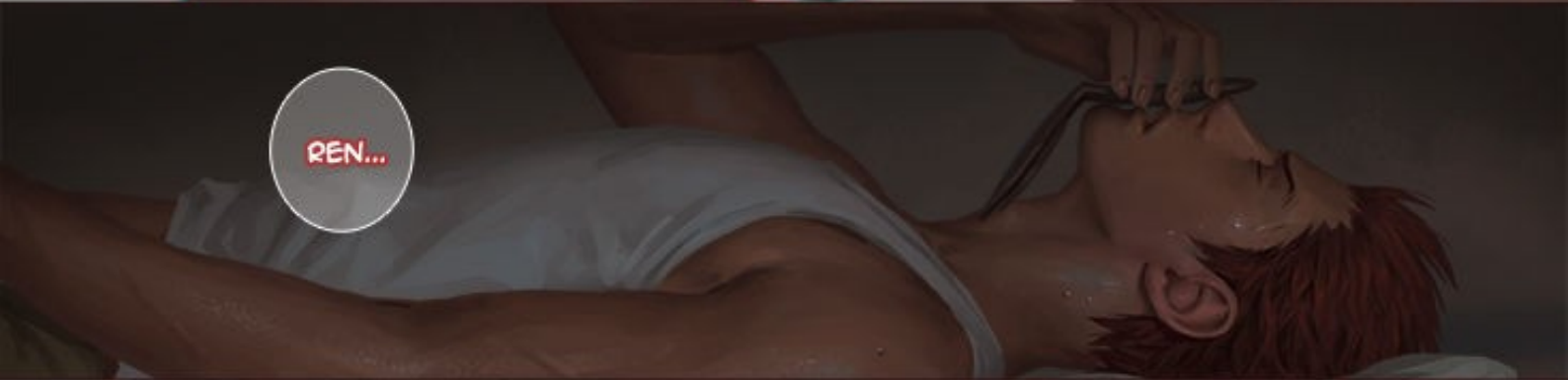
REN...



REN...

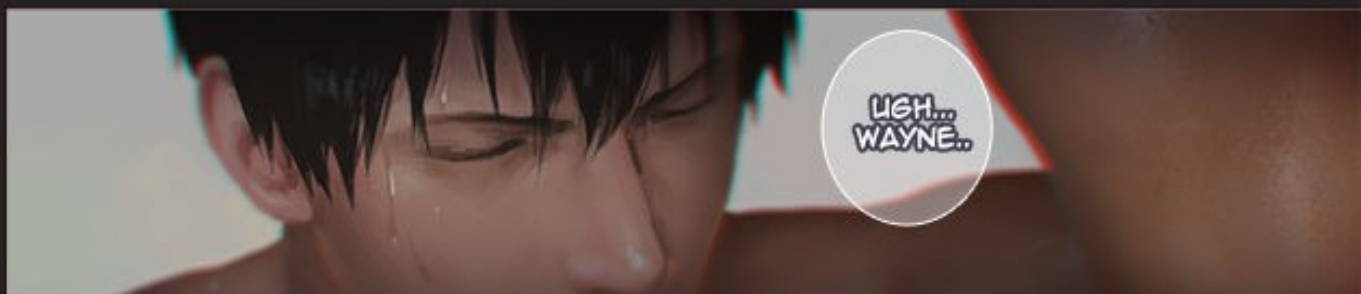


REN...



REN...



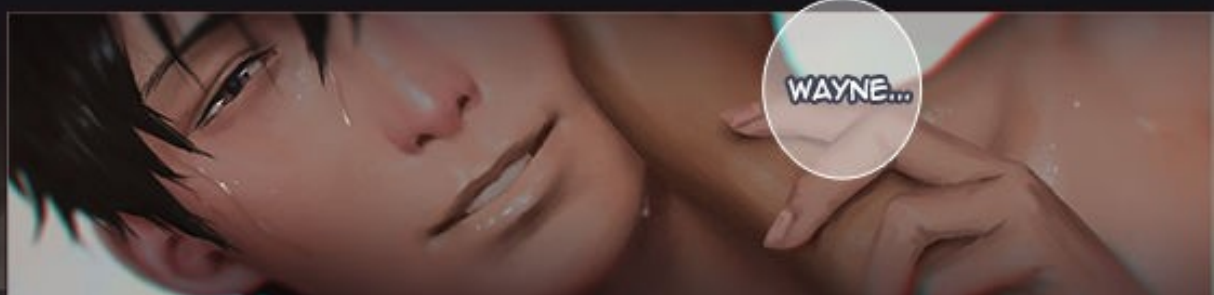


UGH...
WAYNE..

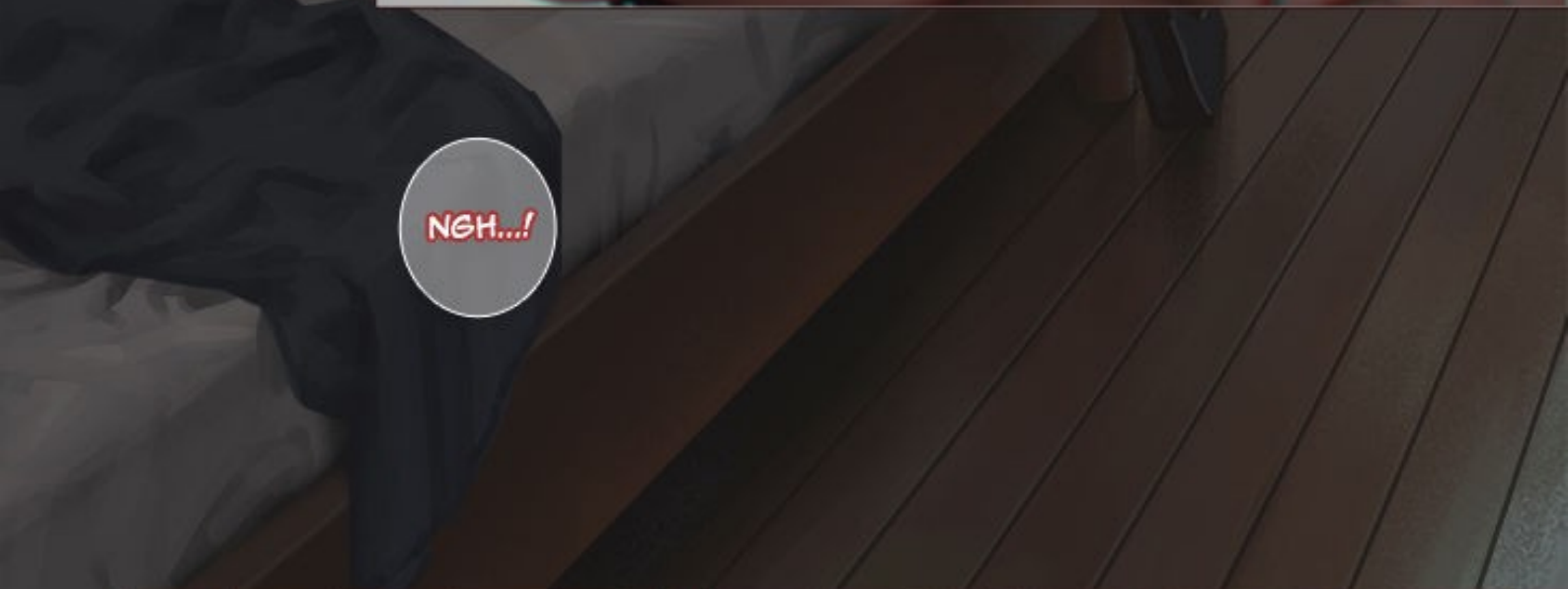


HAA...
REN... I...

REN...



WAYNE...



NGH...!



HA...
HAA....

HAA...



WHAT AM I DOING...

JERKING OFF TO A PHOTO OF
MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND...



WHY
AREN'T YOU
SMILING?

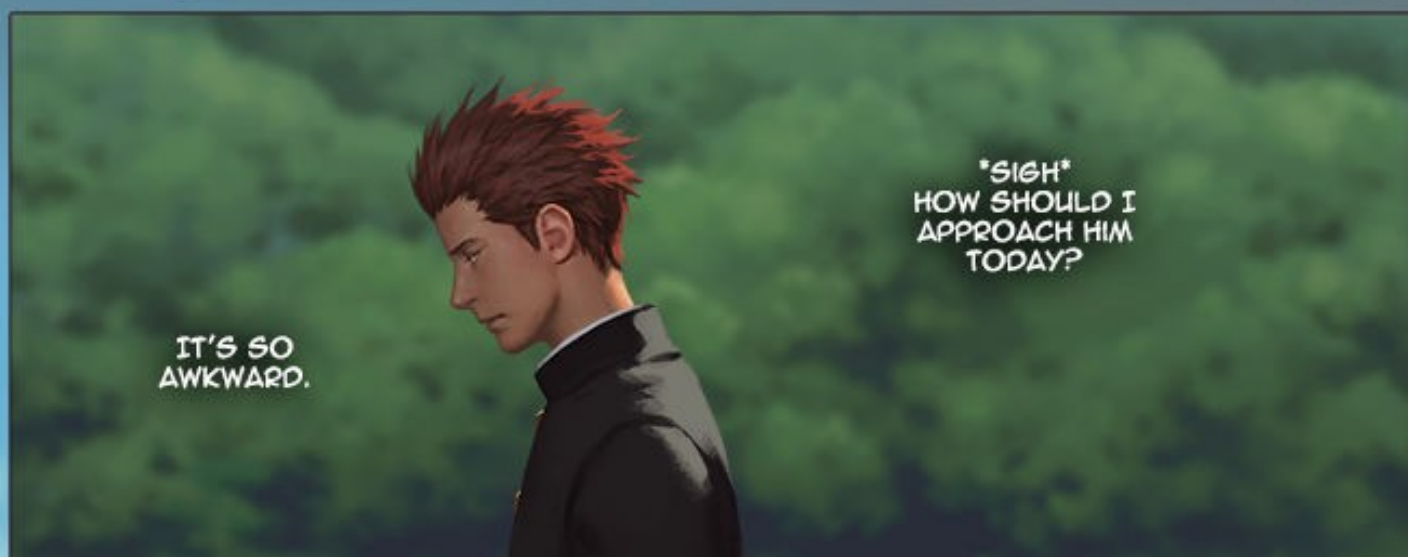
THERE YOU
GO AGAIN,
WAYNE.

HE MIGHT NOT EVEN SMILE AT
ME ANYMORE...



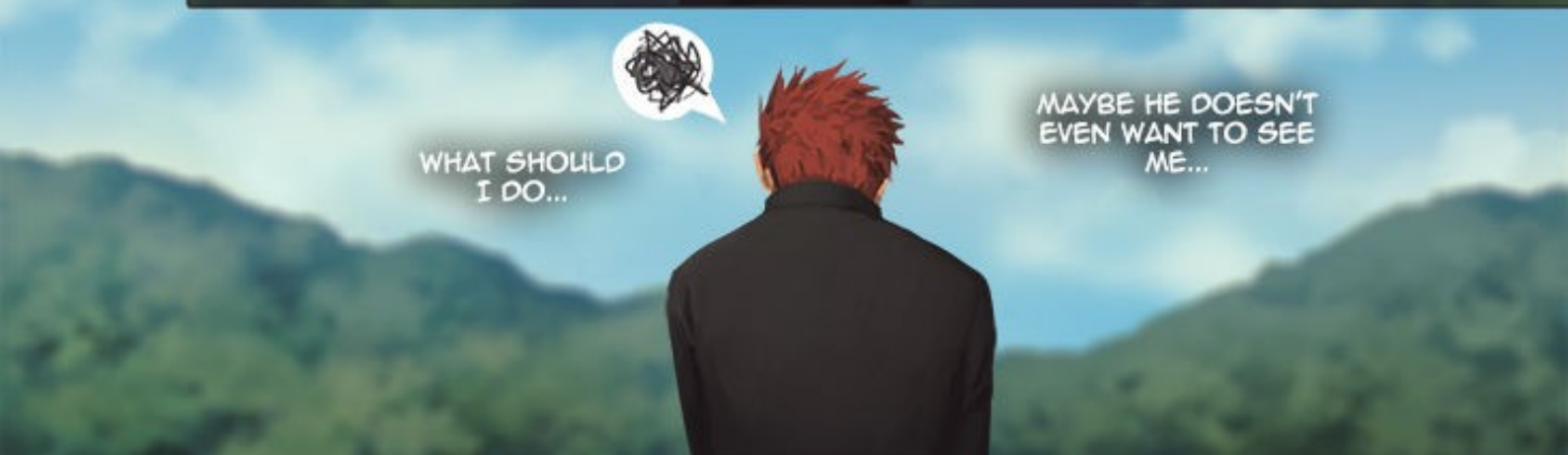
I DON'T FEEL
LIKE GOING TO
SCHOOL.

MY BODY
FEELS HEAVY...



IT'S SO
AWKWARD.

SIGH
HOW SHOULD I
APPROACH HIM
TODAY?



WHAT SHOULD
I DO...



MAYBE HE DOESN'T
EVEN WANT TO SEE
ME...



SKIPPING THE
MORNING
PRACTICE
AGAIN,
MR. ACE?



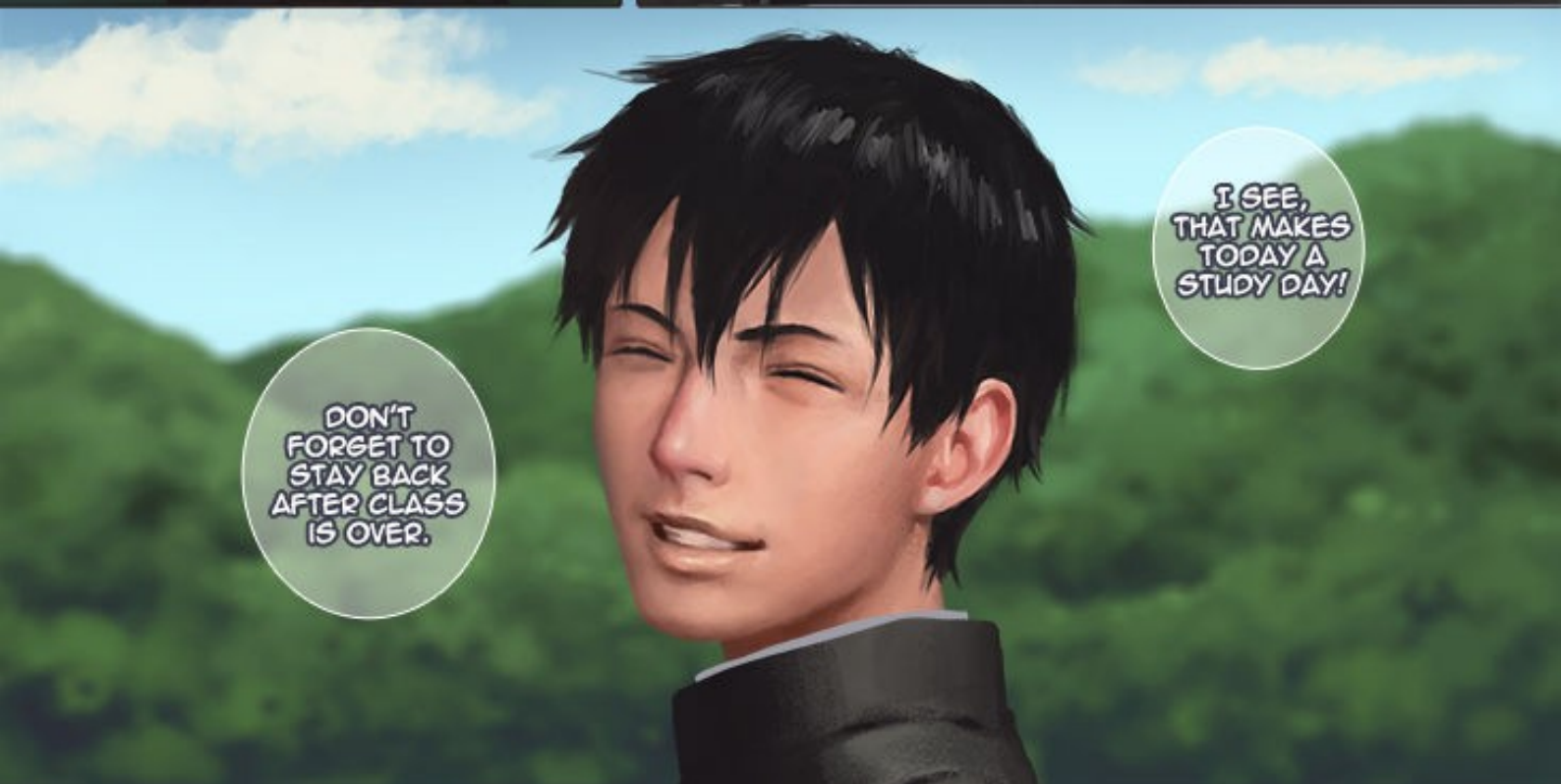
N-NOPE,
THERE WAS
A TIMETABLE
CHANGE.

DON'T YOU
HAVE CLUB
PRACTICE
TODAY?



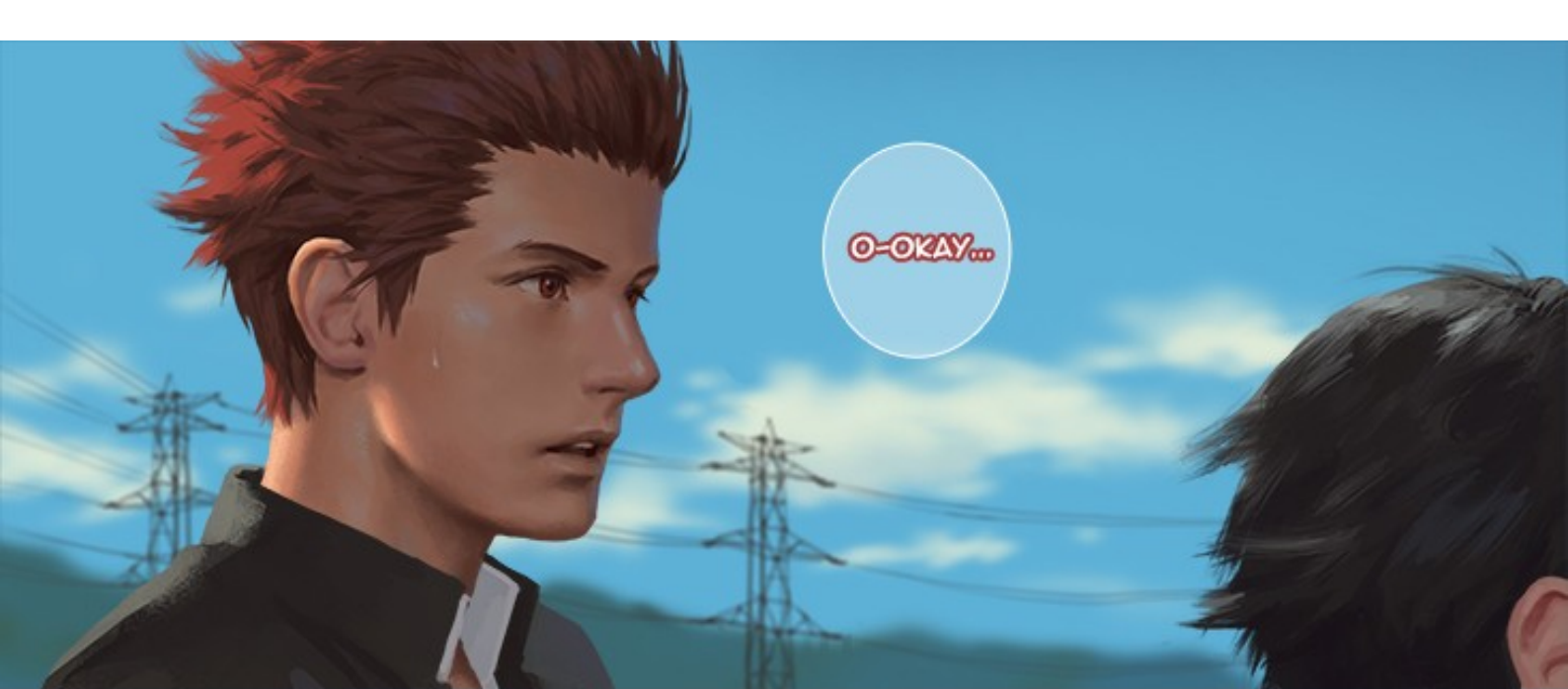
AH!
E-GOOD
MORNING!

GOOD
MORNING,
WAYNE.



I SEE,
THAT MAKES
TODAY A
STUDY DAY!

DON'T
FORGET TO
STAY BACK
AFTER CLASS
IS OVER.



O-O-KAY...

REN SMILED AT ME AS USUAL,
EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO NORMAL.....



WE HAVEN'T BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE SINCE THEN.
OUR RELATIONSHIP REMAINS UNCHANGED.....

AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.



BEEN BUSY STUDYING FOR A TEST.

OH, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.

WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE DURING SUMMER BREAK?

IT'S GETTING REALLY HOT LATELY.

IT'S ALMOST SUMMER.



SO, HOW WERE YOUR RESULTS?

HO~? HARDWORKING, AREN'T YOU?

I GOT FULL MARKS.



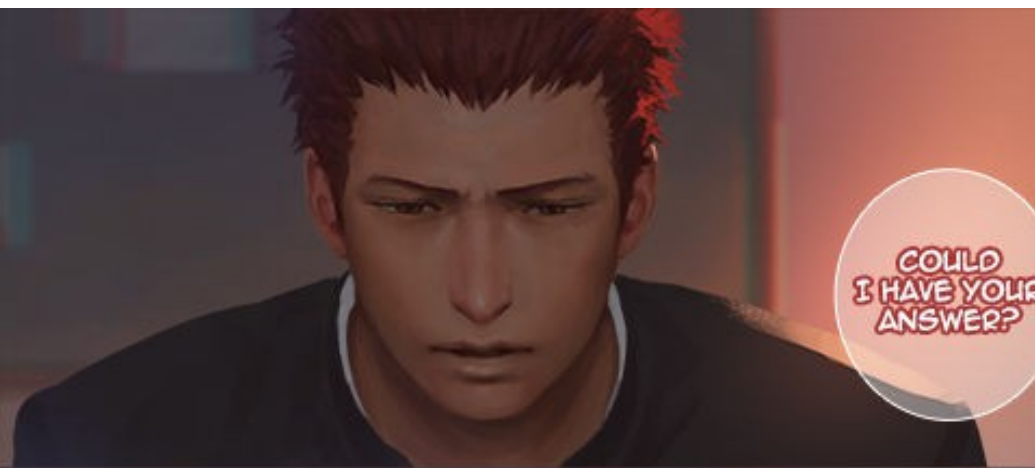
WELL, ALL THE QUESTIONS WERE FROM THAT CHAPTER YOU POINTED OUT TO ME.

WOW! GREAT!

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO YOUR "PROPHECY".

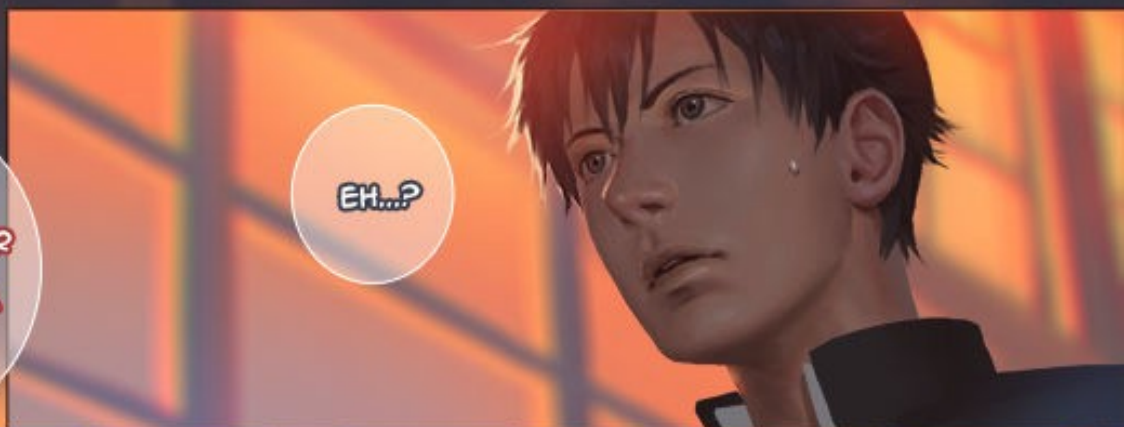
HAHAHA... DON'T DOUBT YOUR OWN EFFORTS.

YOU SHOULD REWARD YOURSELF FOR THE HARD WORK.



COULD
I HAVE YOUR
ANSWER?

IN THAT
CASE...



EH...?

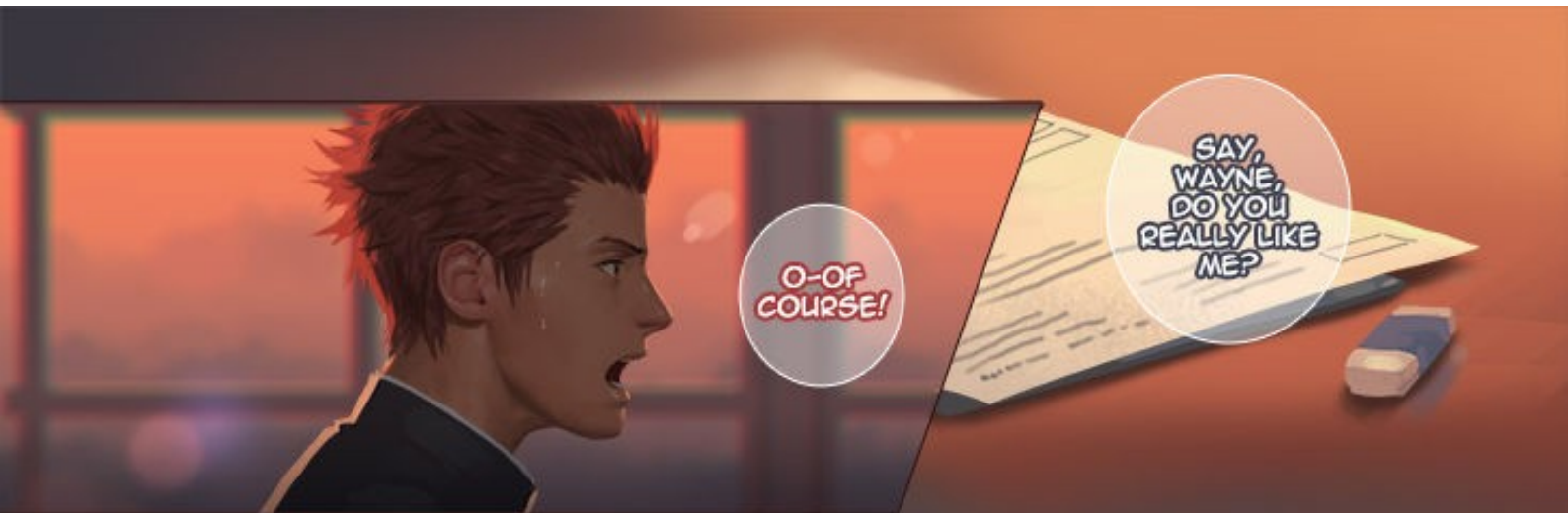
I WANT A
CLEAR ANSWER
FROM YOU,
EVEN IF IT'S A
"NO".



.....



I GUESS I
SHOULDN'T BE
RUNNING AWAY
FROM IT...
I'M SORRY.



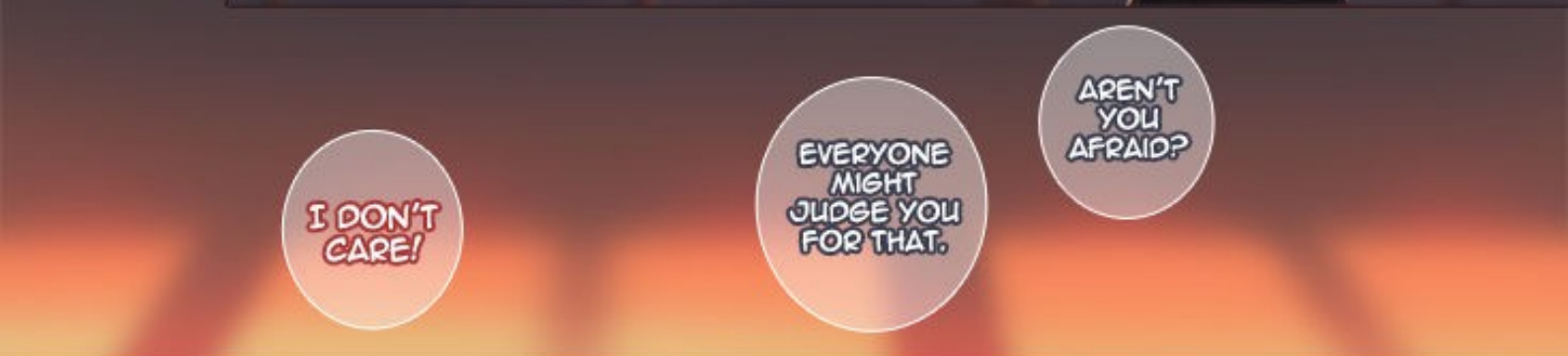
O-OF
COURSE!

SAY,
WAYNE,
DO YOU
REALLY LIKE
ME?



EVEN
THOUGH
I'M A GUY?

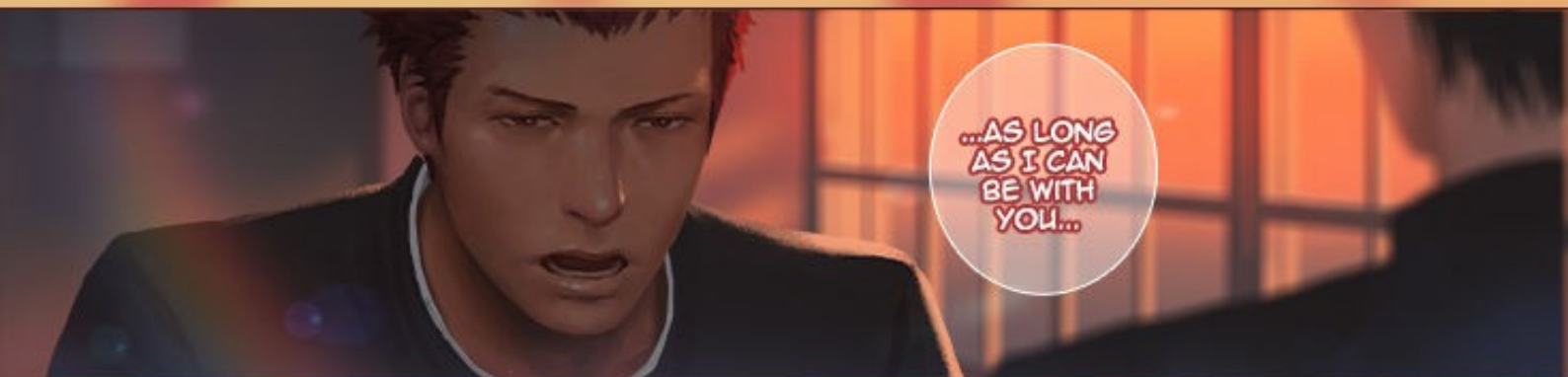
I'M
WELL
AWARE
OF IT.



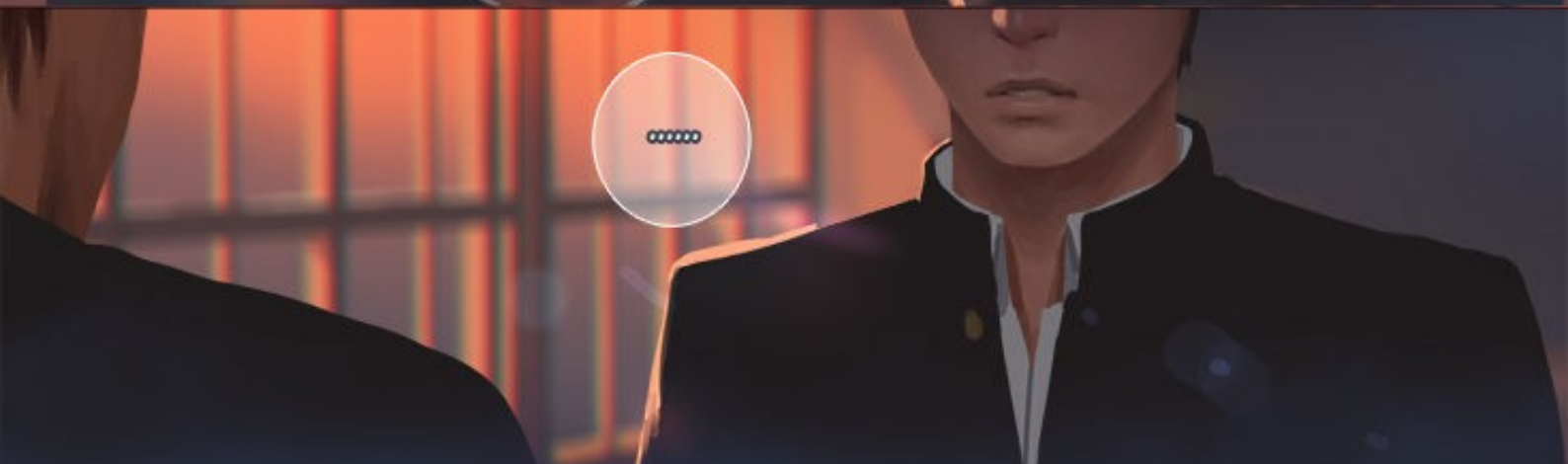
I DON'T
CARE!

EVERYONE
MIGHT
JUDGE YOU
FOR THAT.

AREN'T
YOU
AFRAID?



...AS LONG
AS I CAN
BE WITH
YOU...





I'M
JEALOUS.

YOU
REALLY ARE
TOUGH,
AREN'T YOU?



...YOU
ALREADY HAVE
SOMEONE
YOU LIKE,
RIGHT?

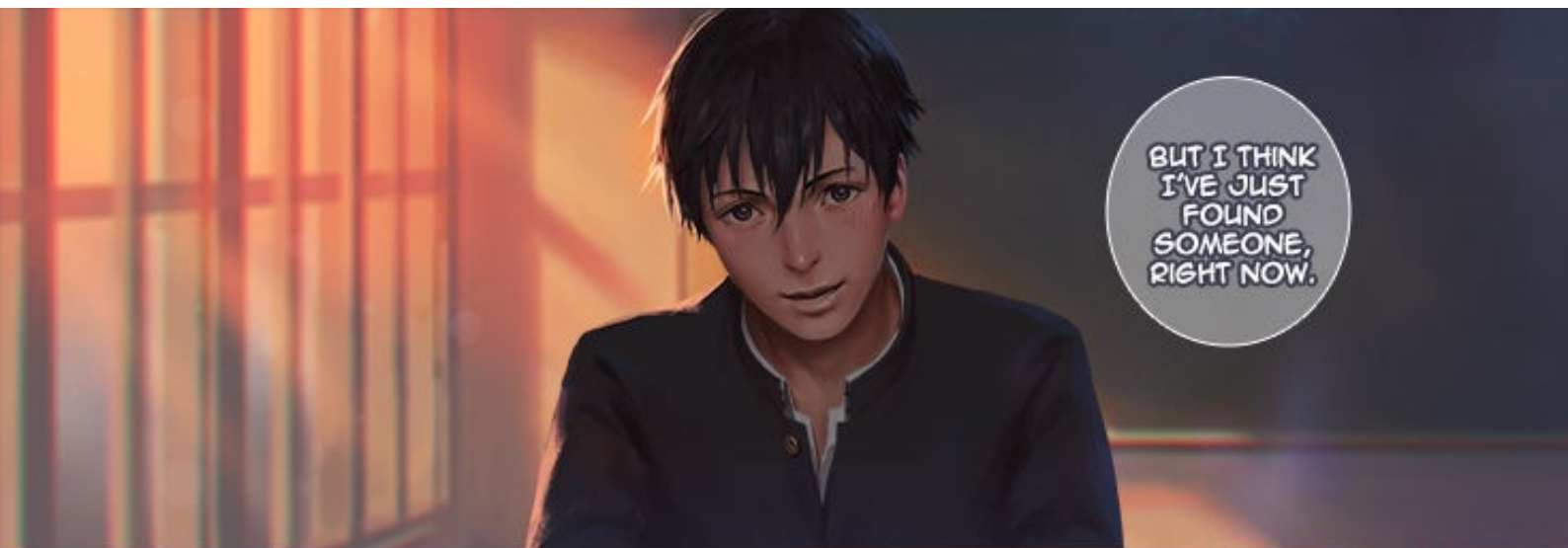


W-WHAT
KIND OF GIRL
IS SHE?



HUH?

I DON'T HAVE
ANYONE LIKE
THAT.



BUT I THINK
I'VE JUST
FOUND
SOMEONE,
RIGHT NOW.



T-THAT
MEANS...!

