

プールサイド・エンド

Poolside End

ART BY UME MARU

STORY BY SAKURAI MINAMI

My skin is sensitive to chlorine so I have to sit out on swimming class.

A period of boredom where all I can do is tan in the sun's practically painful rays.

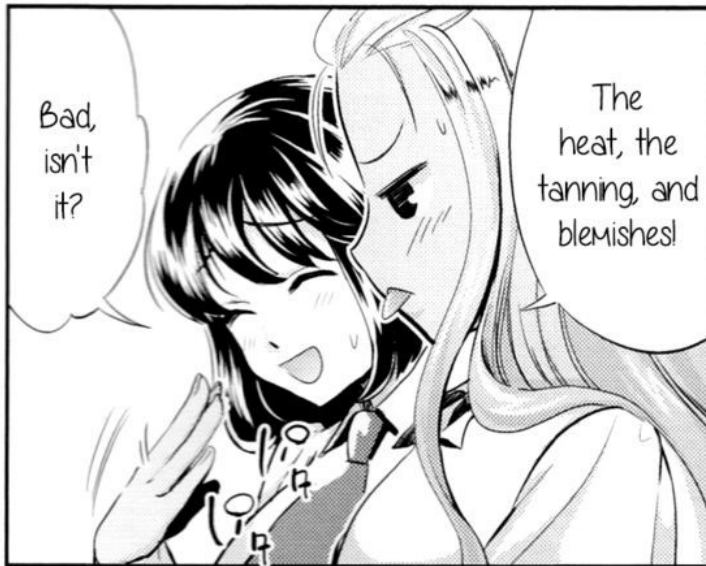
But that changed.

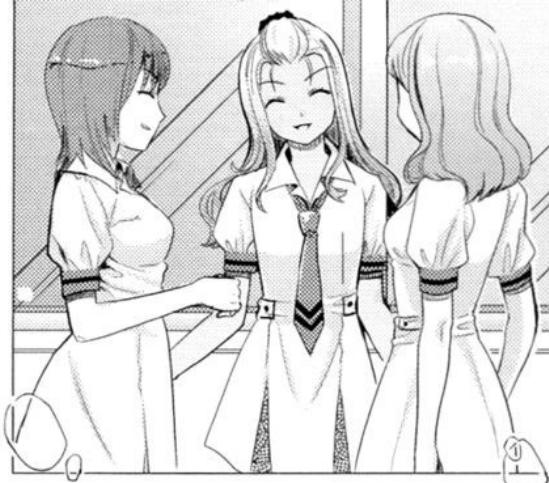
I've got a wet towel.

Thanks to her.

Sawako-cha~n♪







Even among
peers she's
flashy and
stands out,
and she has
many friends.

She's
the
typical
popular
high
schooler.



Even
people
from
other
classes
admire
her.



Sawako-
chan...
Right?

When
Natsumi-
chan came
to talk to
me by the
pool side...



I was part
delighted,
and part
amazed.

Can I
sit next
to you?

I'm also
sitting out
today.



Hahah!
That's
so like
her!

he
he!

"ARE
YOU
EVEN
TRY-
ING?"

And
then
Mitsuki-
chan
got the
biggest
grin!

Check
this, Sawa-
chin. I forgot
the history
assignment...

Now, each
swimming
lesson we
talk about
all kind of
stuff.



Aah...



Natsumi-
chan, you
sure are
forgetful.

It's
so scary
getting
threatened
by some-
one that
pretty!



No,
don't!

I'll
poke
you!

strike

What?!
Not you too,
Sawa-chin!
So cruel!
GRR!

As I thought,
Natsumi-
chan is full
of energy
and very
interesting.



I know
what is really
behind that
appearance.



She may
kind of
look irre-
sponsible,
but...



Yes...
And so
the fun
times
will end
today.

Yeah.

The summer
holiday sure
ended fast!
Swimming
lessons are
ending too.



Natsumi-
chan
probably
doesn't
remember
what hap-
pened back
then...

Hmm?

Haa

Natsumi-
chan... You
know, I...

I may not be
able to talk
to Natsumi-
chan again
like this.

We're in
different
classes,
joined only
with P.E.



Natsumi-chan,
I and all other
second years
were in charge
of the pool.

During the
cleaning
after the
rainy season
where the
whole school
had to help.



They had
obviously no
motivation
and were
slacking.

Shouldn't
the first
years
be doing
this?

Lichen
are
dirty!

What a
chore!
It's
steaming
hot!

...



WHAT YEAR
YOU'RE IN
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
IT.

AS
LONG AS
EVERYONE
DOES THEIR
PART, IT'LL
BE OVER
SOON.



That's what the diet to form beautiful hips said!

Mother of two in her thirties with a great body.

Cleaning Besides... is a good work-out.



Silence

Natsumi-chan told them what they had all been thinking without any reserve.



She broke the tense atmosphere like it was nothing.

They really work!

It's like this?

Alaha!

You're too into those diets, Natsumi!



She's actually really cool...

She looks simple-minded, but she has a maturity you wouldn't expect of her age.

And there's even a rumor going around school that she has a part-time job.



You're spacing out.
Are you okay?

Sawa-chan...?



From then on I couldn't keep my eyes off her.

Yes, I'm sure that was when...



I'm not fine at all!



But your face is red.



What do I do?



Are you sure?

Yeah, it's fine.



Just thinking about it stops my breath.

It's the sweltering heat.



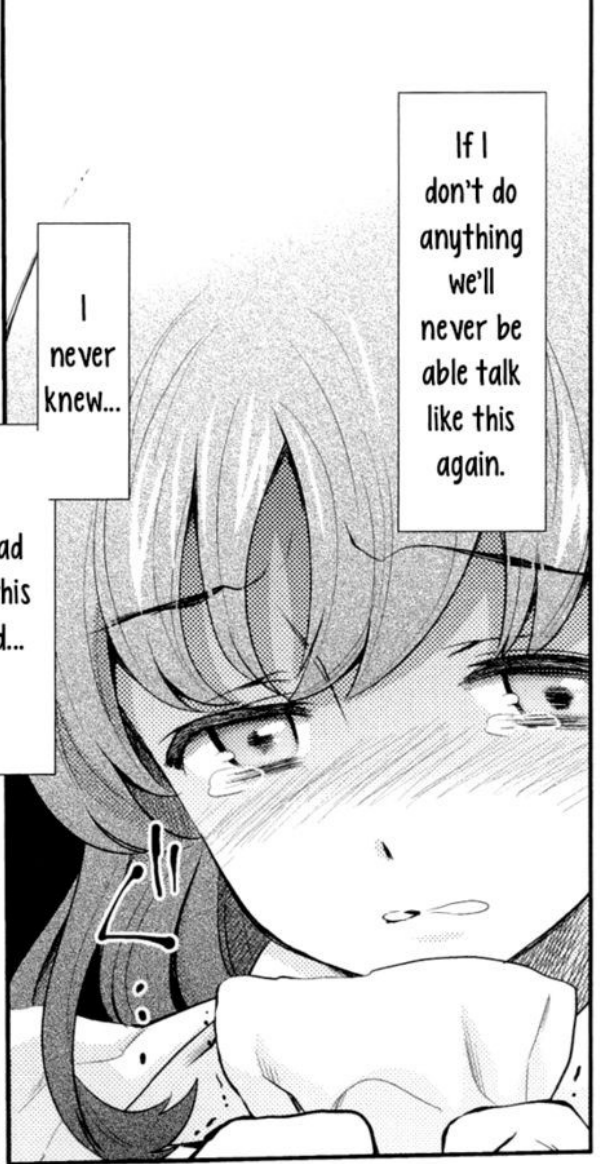
Be-
cause.

If you're
fine, why do
you look like
you're about
to cry?

...Sawa-
chan.

I had
it this
bad...

I
never
knew...



If I
don't do
anything
we'll
never be
able talk
like this
again.

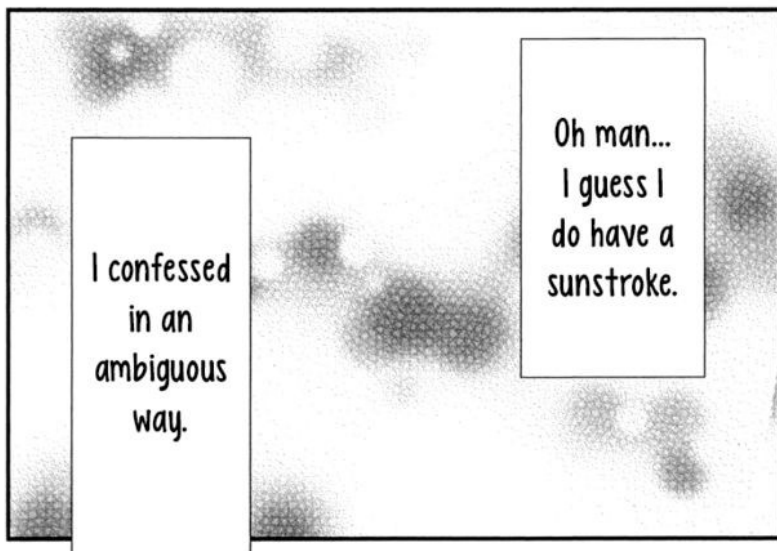


Natsumi-
chan!

I like
you!



...!







Yeah,
sorry! Go
on ahead!



Natsu-
mi! You
skipping
lunch?



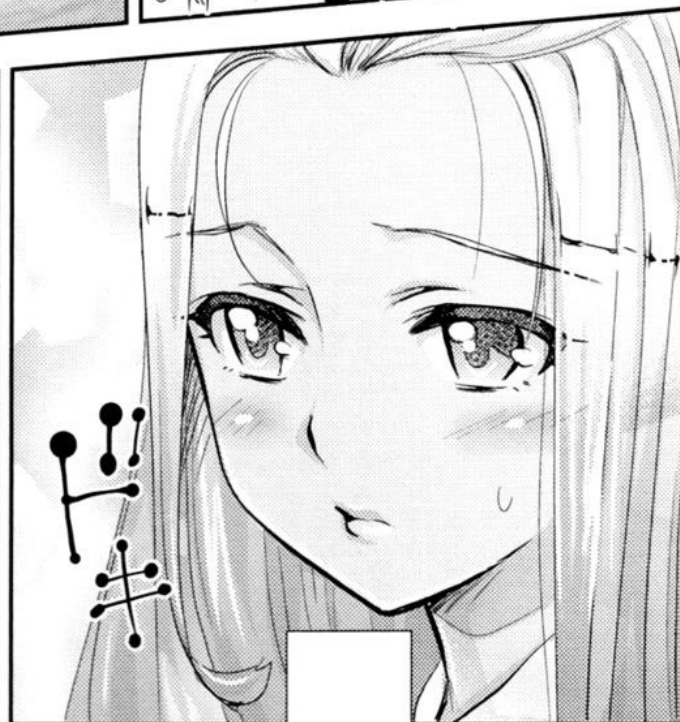
Ah...!
No... You
were
joking,
right?
Sorry,
I feel
weird
today.



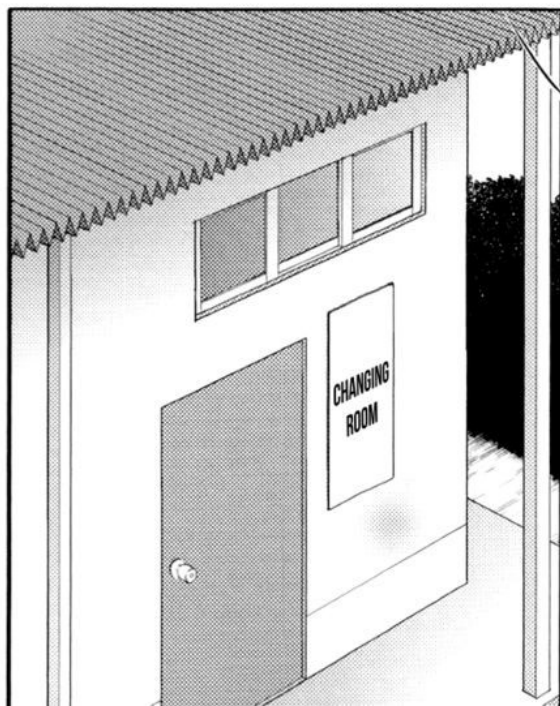
SLIDE



The
dizzi-
ness...



won't
stop...





They
aren't
fake. So
exten-
sions?



Нн...
Ннн...

I want
to come
closer,
and...

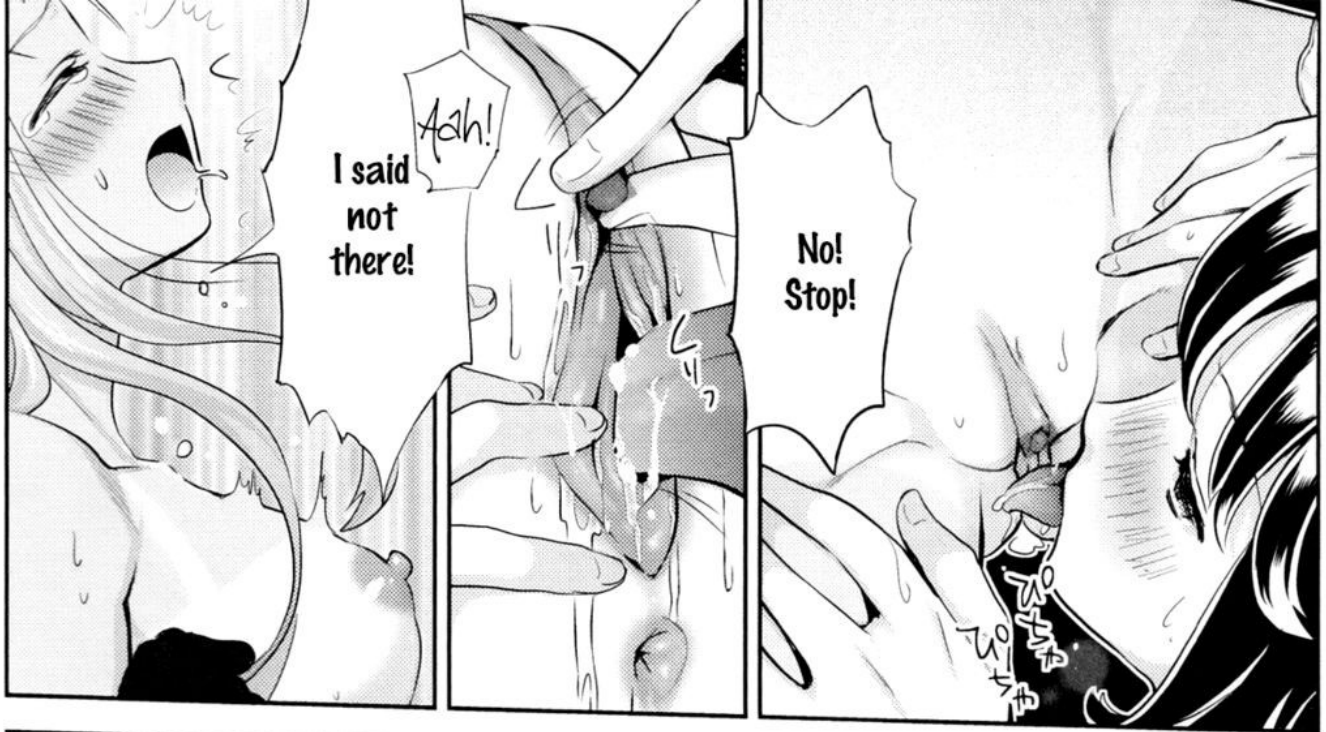


And you,
Natsumi-
chan?
You are,
right?

I'm not...

...Sawa-
chan, are
you familiar
with these
things?









Aaah!
Hyaah!

Hyaah!

ちゅ

ちゅ

ちゅ

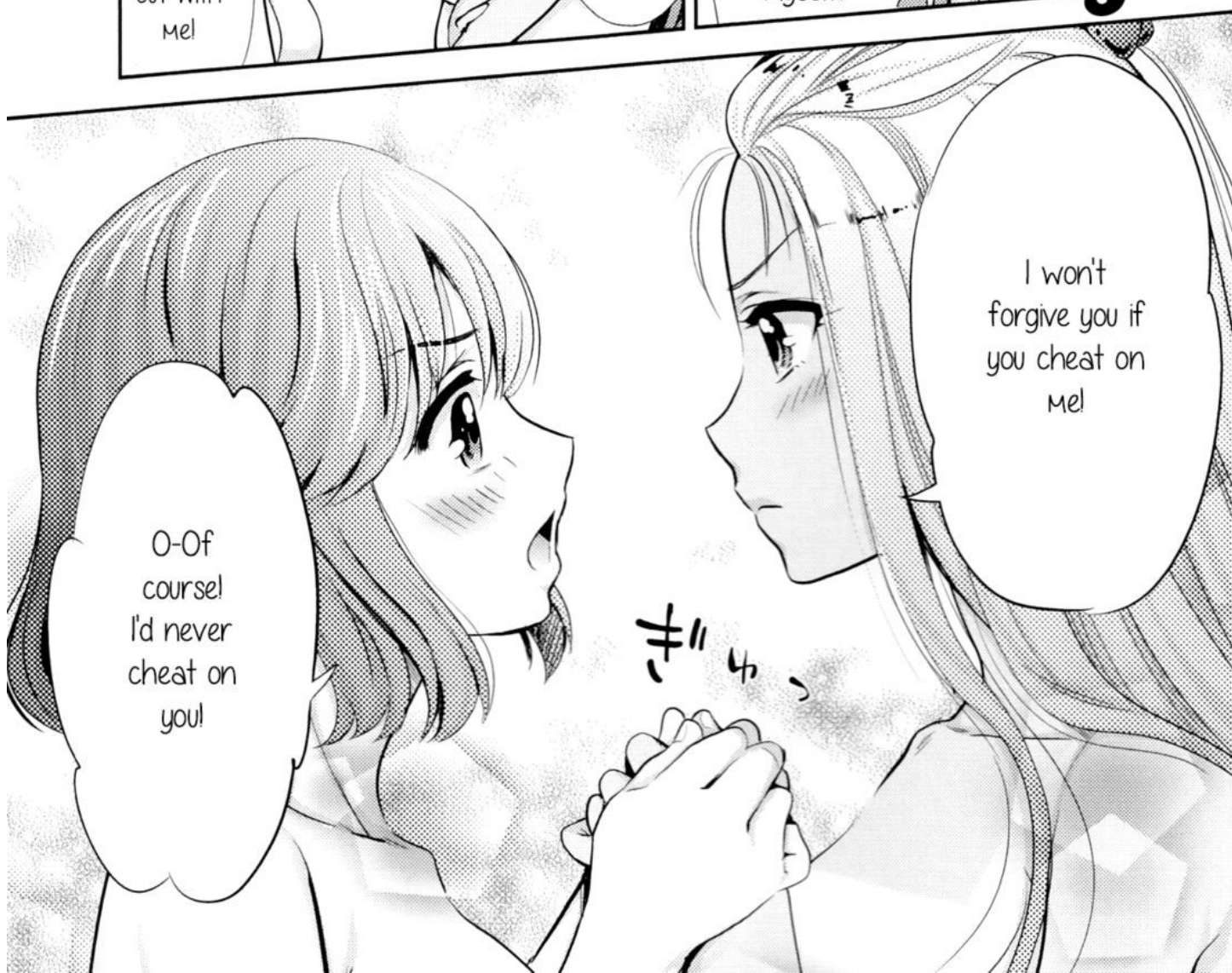
Aaah!

ちゅ

ちゅ

I'm
coming!

Aaah!



From class-
mate to
lover...

Yeah,
I knew
that.

Eh?
How
did you
know?!

You
know,
I worked
at a beach
restaurant
in the
summer!

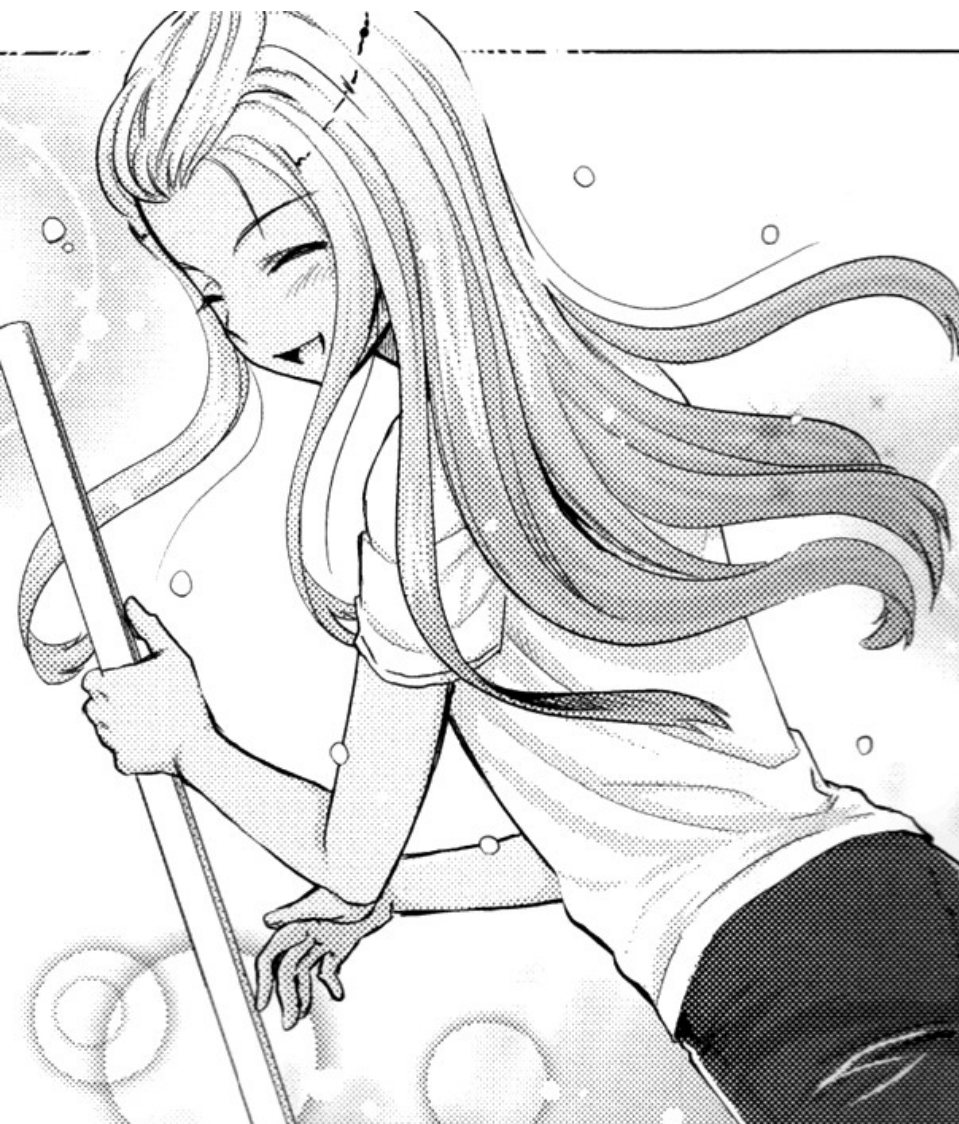
Then next
time, instead
of the pool
let's go to
the beach!

Our love
began...

In late
summer...

At the
poolside.

END



Poolside End

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