

CONSOLE, 2073

2073 年的電子玩具

* 2023 Golden Comic Award

In a high-tech future, a game debugger uses forbidden technology to enter a virtual world and spend time with the object of his affections – a video game character who runs a cafe. As his visits become more frequent, the boundaries between reality and the game world blur, forcing the debugger to question the nature of love, consciousness, and reality.

In 2073, the Dream Reality Engine is released, allowing gamers to fully enter the worlds of their favorite computer games in a dream-like state. However, due to safety concerns, the device is quickly banned. Years later, J, a game debugging specialist, stumbles across the banned device in an electronics flea market. Spurred by curiosity, he purchases it and enters the world of his favorite classic game, *Doomsday Library*.

As he works his way through the game levels, J finds he wants to spend more and more time with Saya, an in-game character who runs a coffee shop. Although Saya can only speak the stock phrases she is programmed with, in her presence, J finds a sense of peace and belonging. Over time, J's obsession with the game deepens until one day, Saya mysteriously breaks free from her programming and asks if he is from "the outside world". The game immediately shuts down, and afterwards, Saya disappears from the game. After the loss of Saya, the boundaries of J's reality blur. At the same time, he begins to suspect there is a deeper secret that lies hidden behind his jumbled experience of the game world, his dreams, and waking life.

Blurring the lines between reality and virtual reality, author/artist Ding Pao-Yen has delivered a compelling sci-fi love story that reveals its deeper truths one tantalizing layer at a time. The depth of J's longing will linger long after the story ends, even as readers



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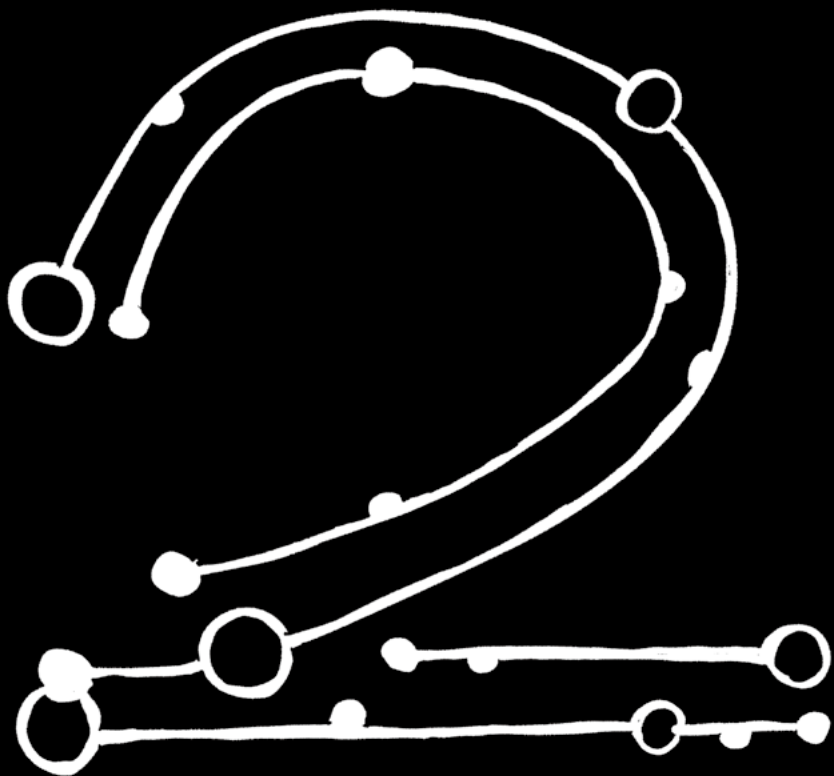
Volume: 1 (END)

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Italian (IF)

are reassured by knowing they are not alone in their search for human warmth in a world dominated by technology.

Ding Pao-Yen 日安焦慮（丁柏晏）

A graduate of National Kaohsiung Normal University's Department of Fine Arts, Ding Pao-Yen works simultaneously in the fields of comic books and contemporary art. A lover of video games and sci-fi, he has been publishing his original comics and staging solo exhibitions since 2014. In 2019 he was a resident artist at the Angoulême International Comics Festival. His previous works include *Dinosaur Gallery*, *Maybe I Should Find a Job Trilogy*, *Road to Nowhere*, and *From the Dream Dimension*. *Road to Nowhere* has been published in French by MISMA.

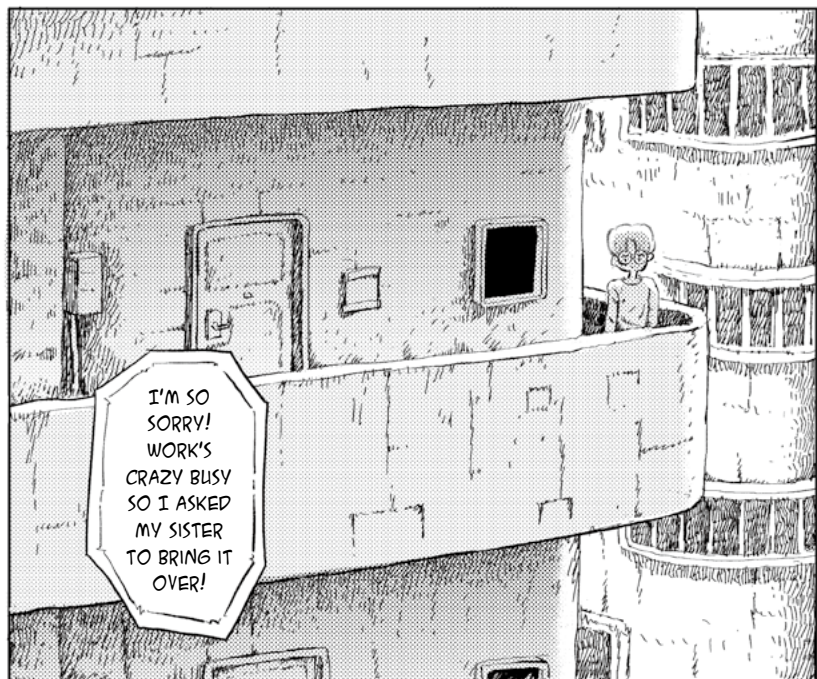
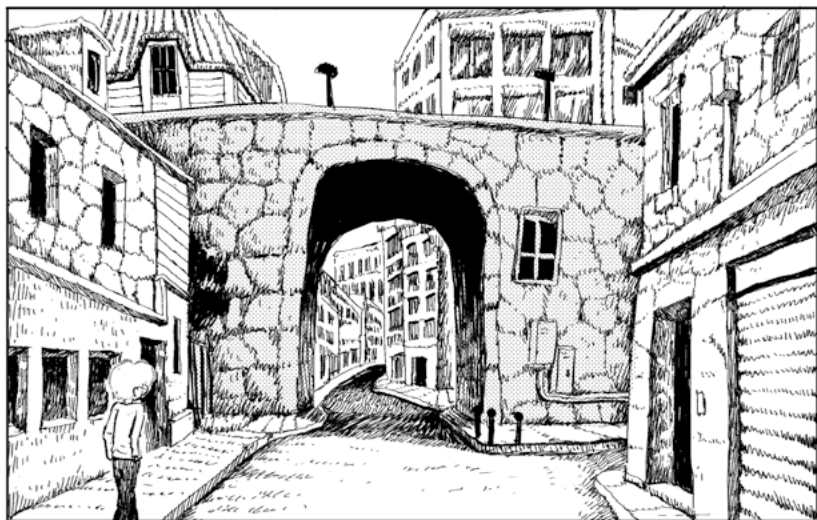


Coöcle

也許不是理想的工作



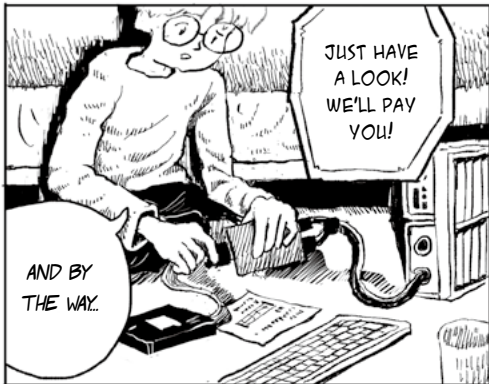
This might not be the best job





THE CORE CODE FOR OUR COMPANY'S NEW GAME IS ON IT. IT KEEPS GLITCHING!

WE'RE HOPING YOU CAN HUNT DOWN THE BUGS FOR US, LIKE LAST TIME!

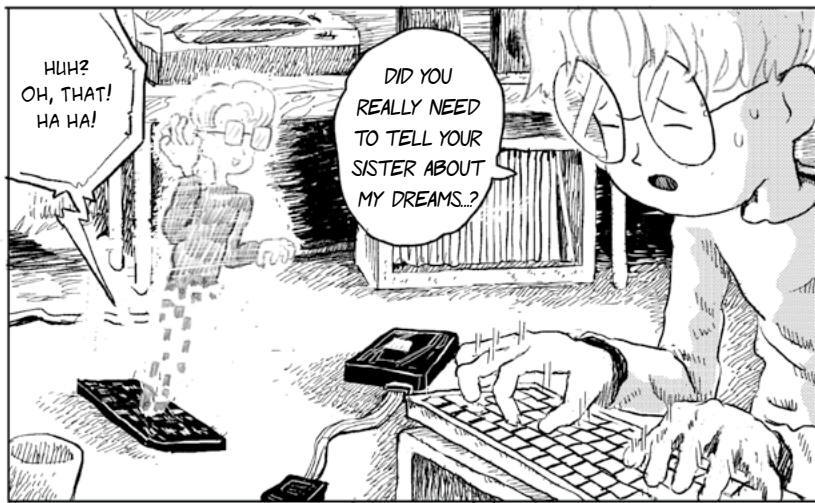


JUST HAVE A LOOK! WE'LL PAY YOU!

AND BY THE WAY.

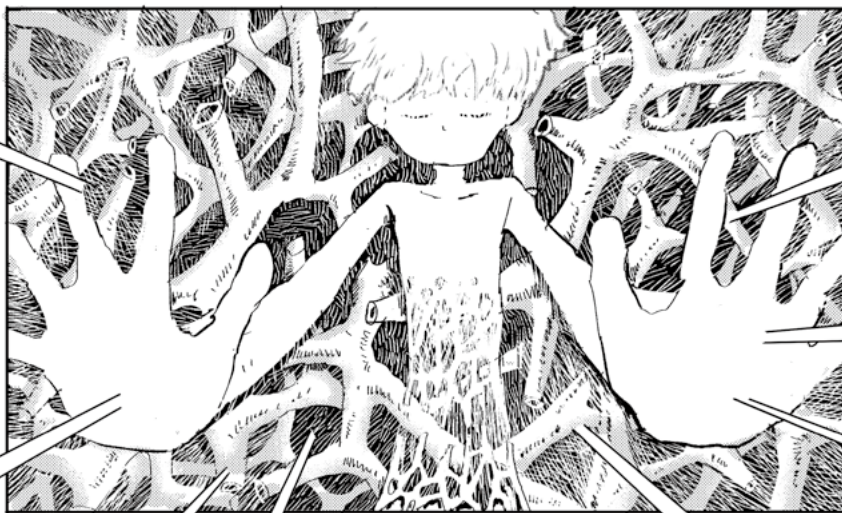
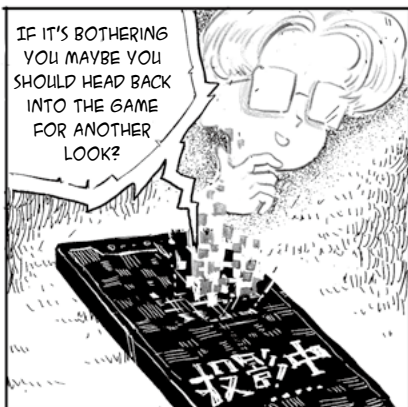


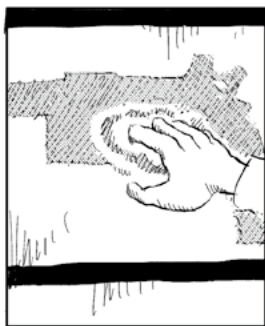
HEY. I CAN'T PROMISE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG..

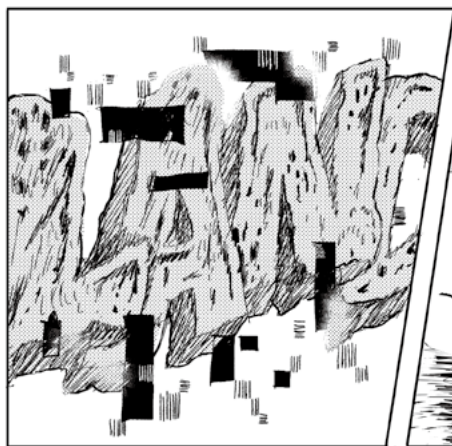
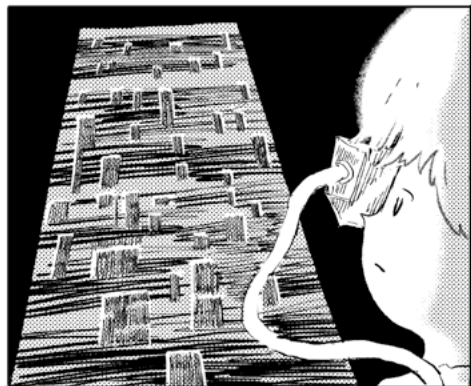


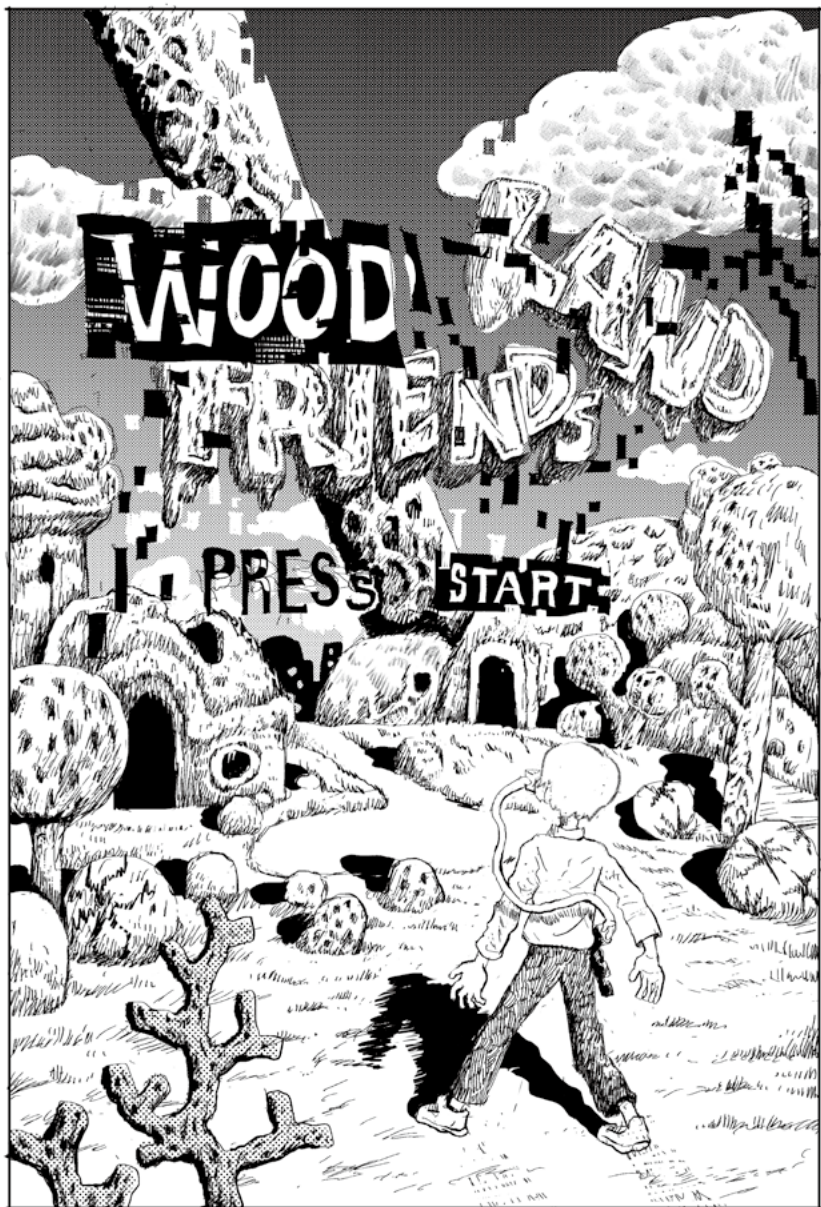
HUH? OH, THAT! HA HA!

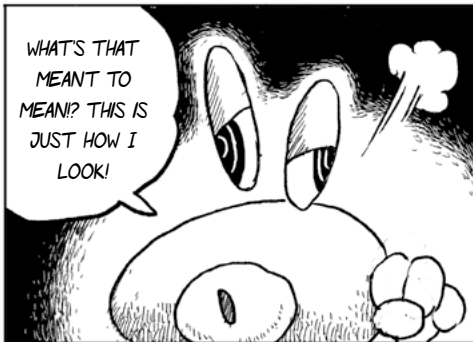
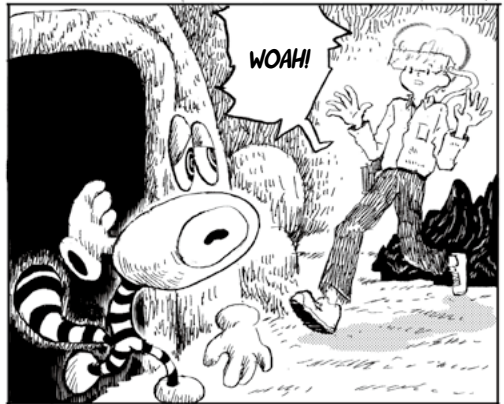
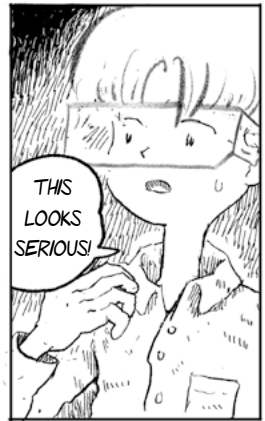
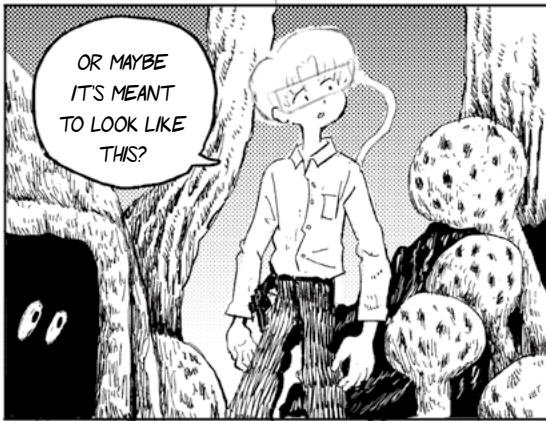
DID YOU REALLY NEED TO TELL YOUR SISTER ABOUT MY DREAMS..?



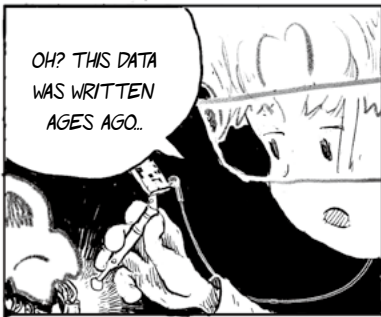


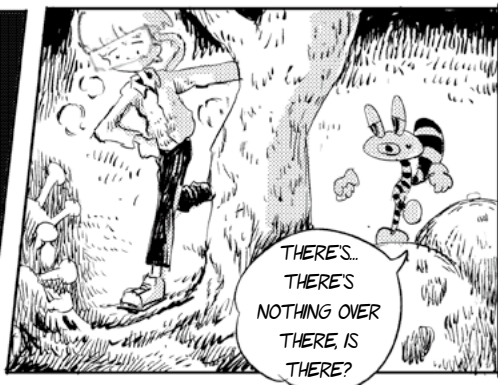
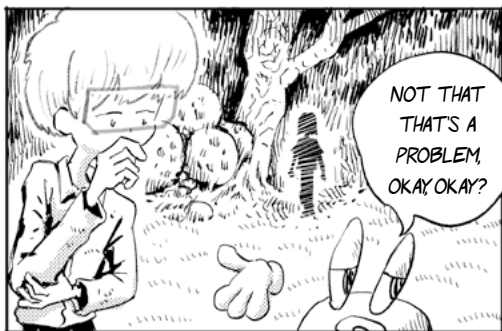


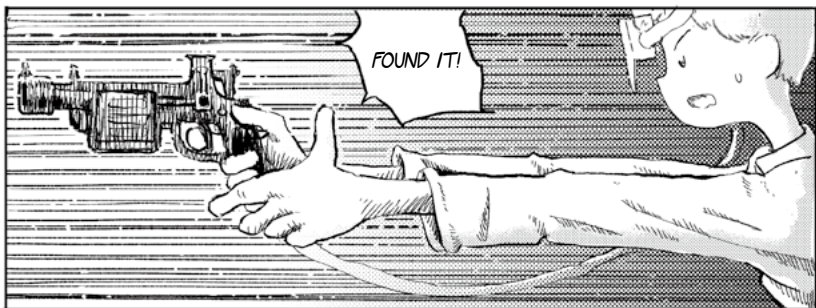
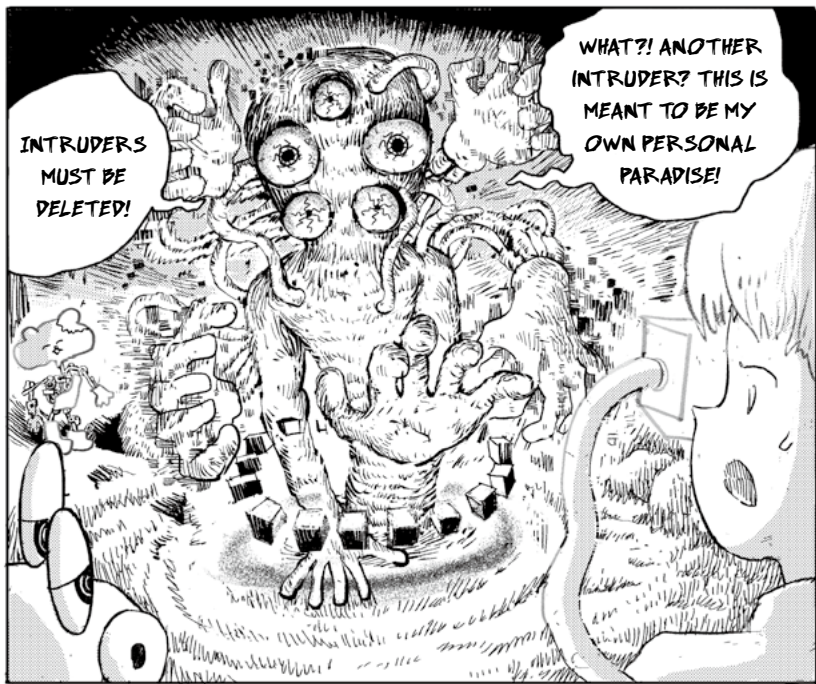


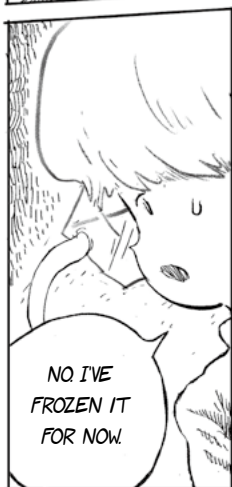
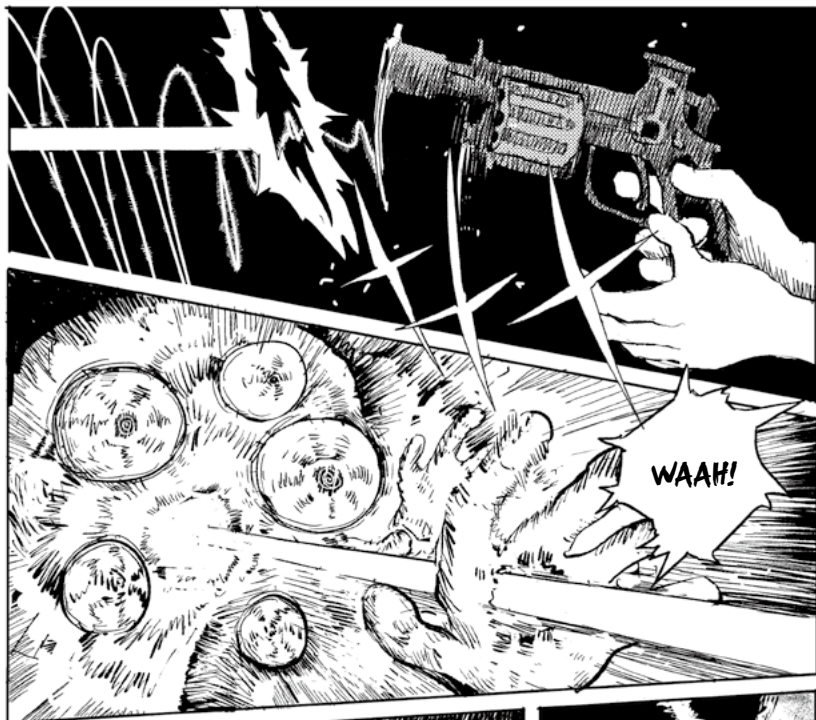




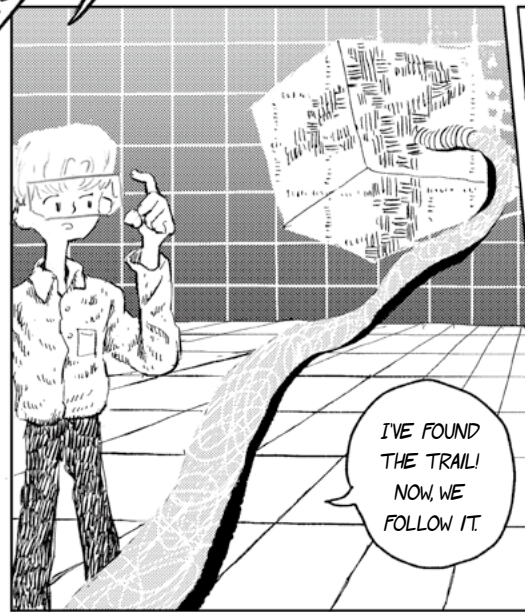








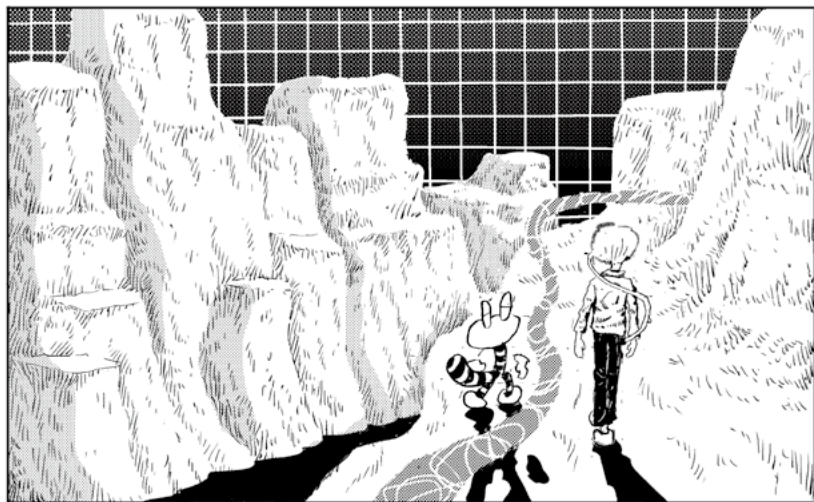
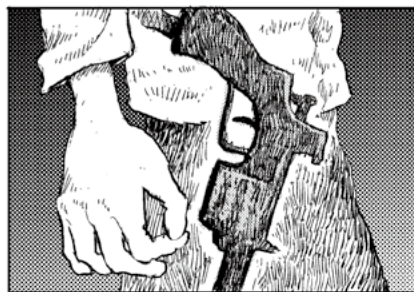
TURNS OUT THIS ISN'T THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM. I'LL DO A REVERSE TRACE

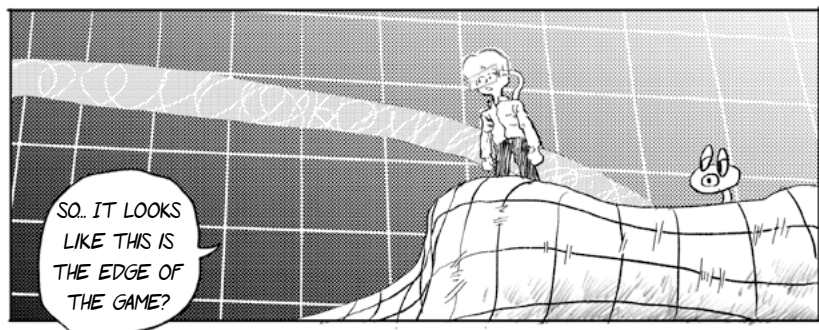
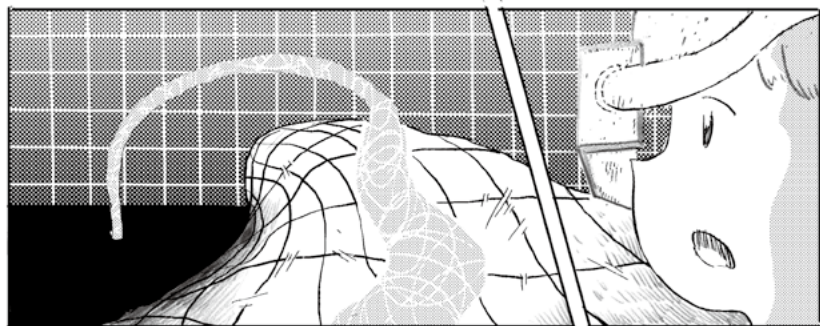


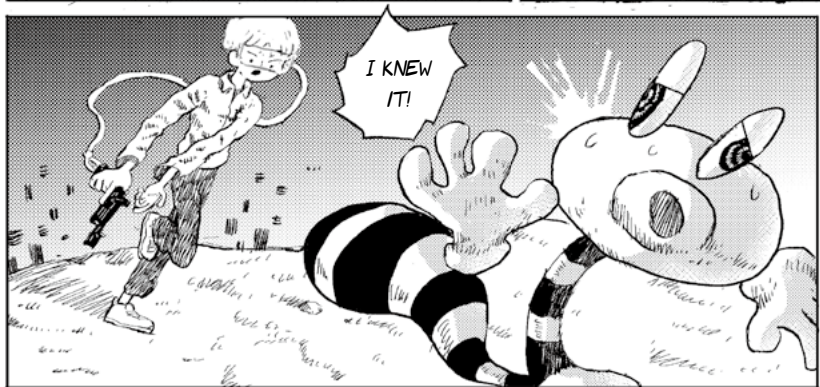
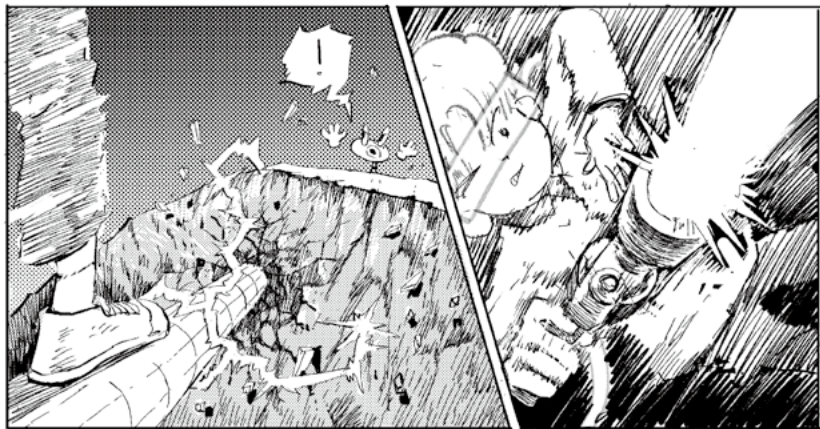
I'VE FOUND THE TRAIL! NOW, WE FOLLOW IT.

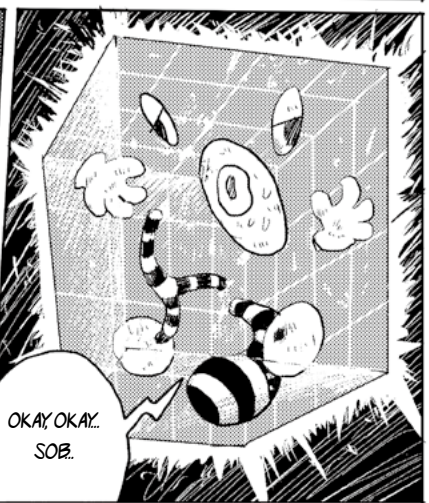
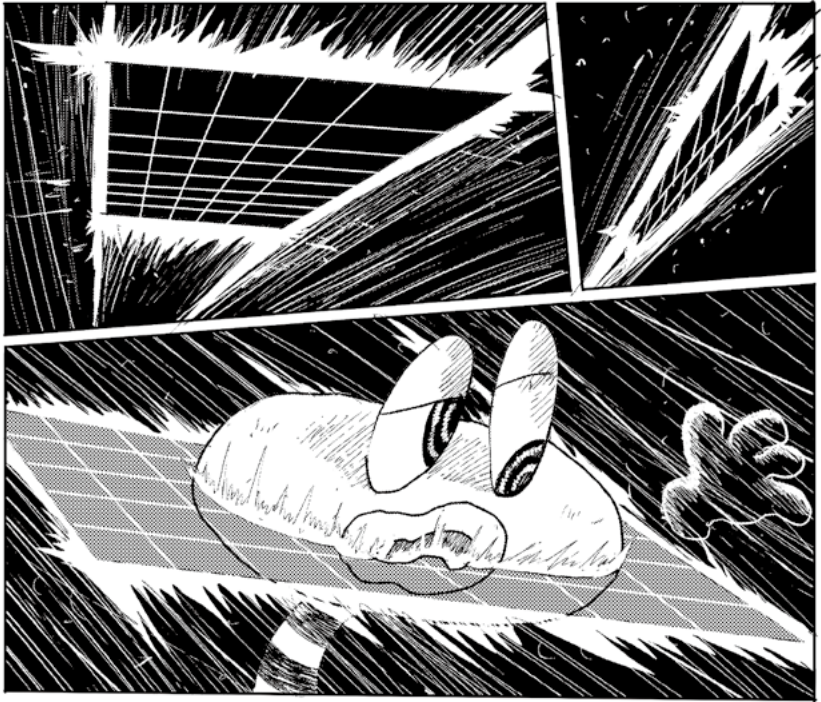


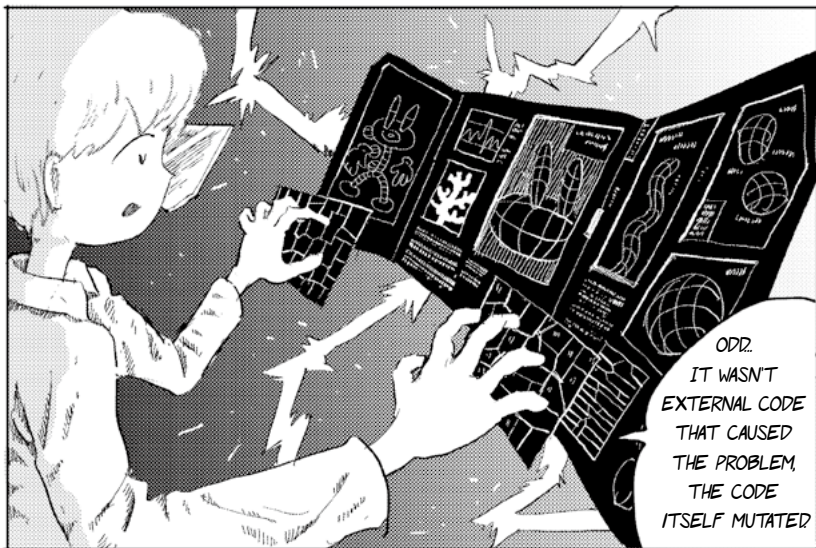
N-NOT THE SOURCE!



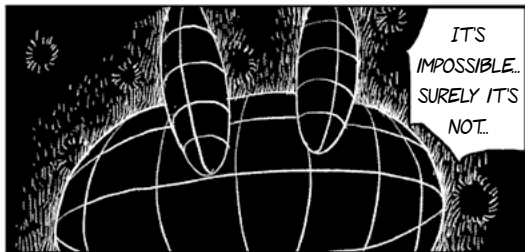




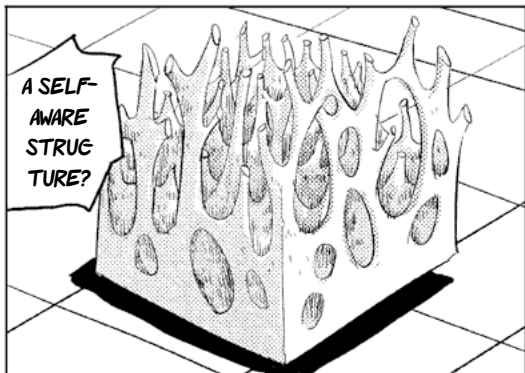




ODR.
IT WASNT
EXTERNAL CODE
THAT CAUSED
THE PROBLEM,
THE CODE
ITSELF MUTATED



ITS
IMPOSSIBLE...
SURELY ITS
NOT...

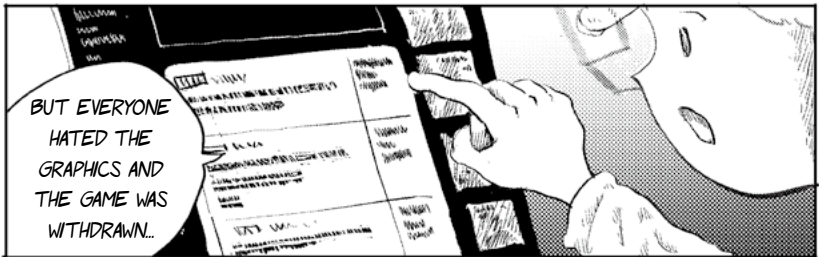


A SELF-
AWARE
STRUC
TURE?



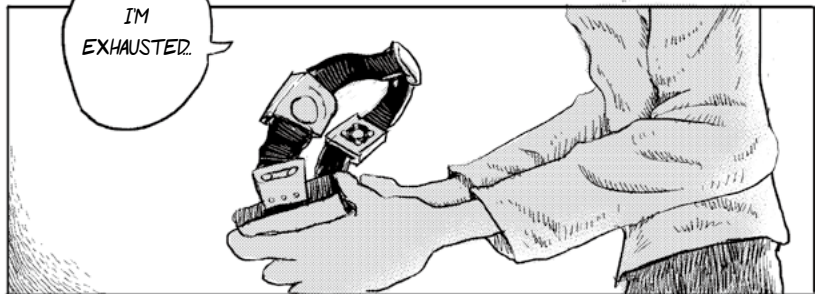
AND
DECIDED
TO CHANGE
THE ENTIRE
GAME OF ITS
OWN FREE
WILL...

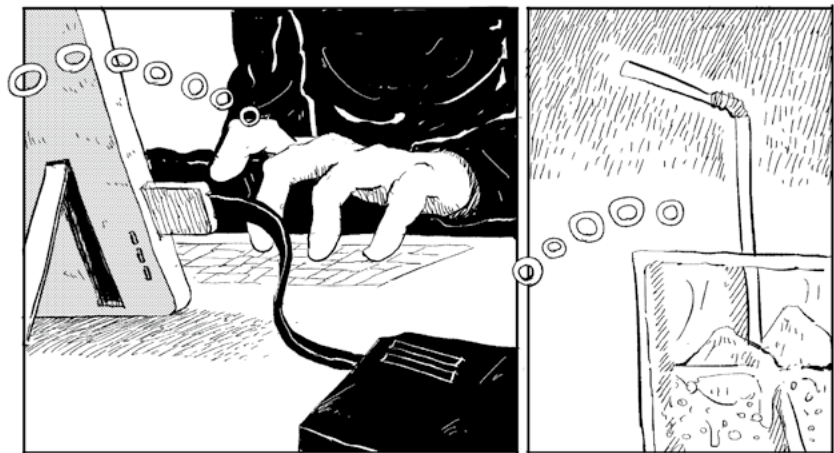
O.. KAY..

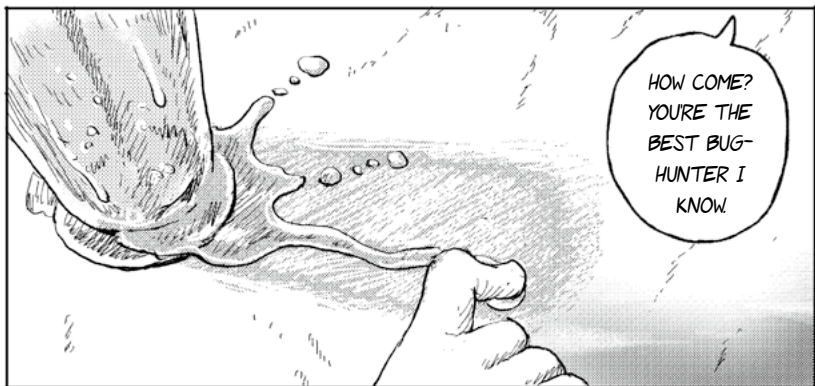


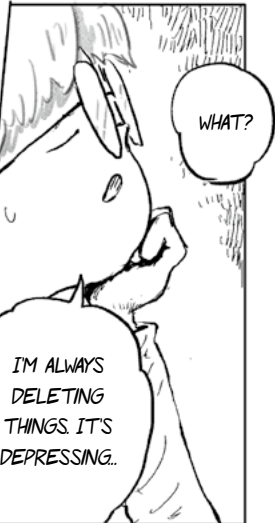
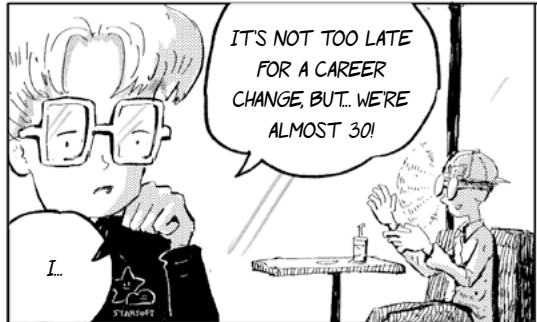
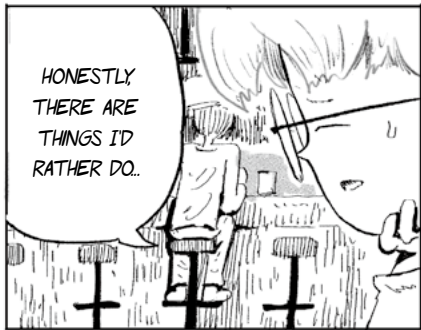
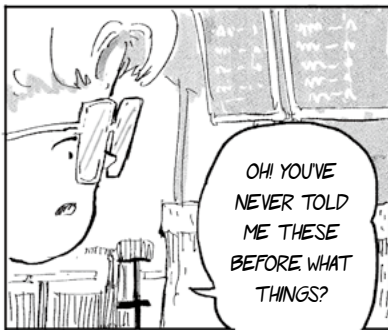


IM
EXHAUSTED.



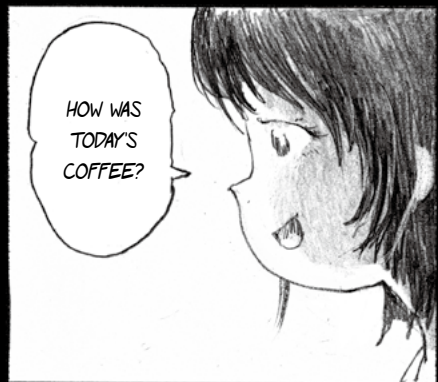








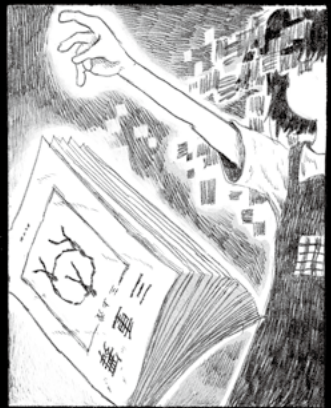








WHY, WHY
WERE YOU
THERE?

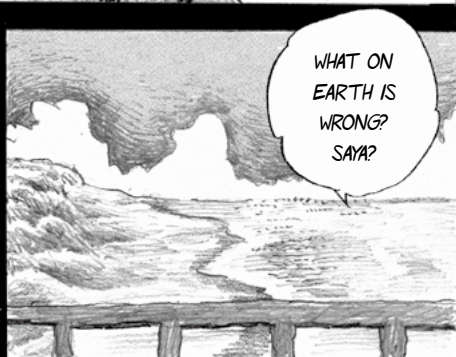


THAT PLACE,
IT'S... IT'S THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD..

I... I
REMEMBER
NOW..



THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD?

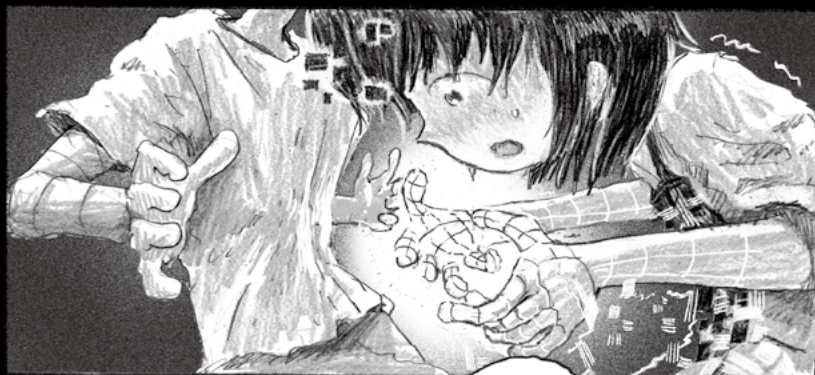




TAKE ME
THERE!



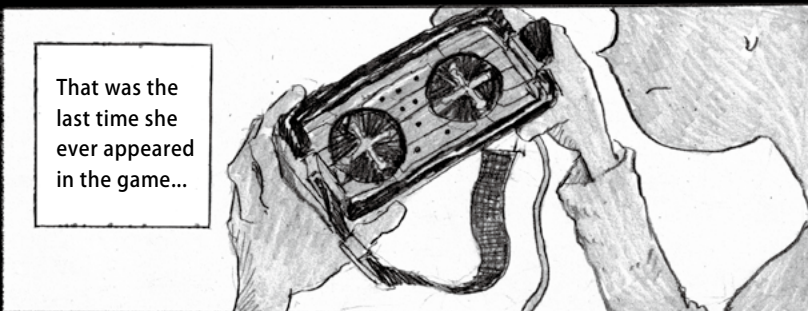
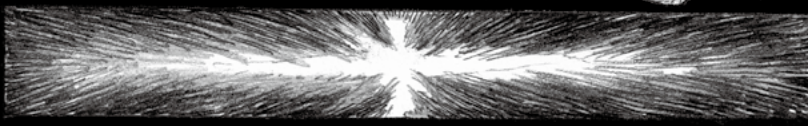
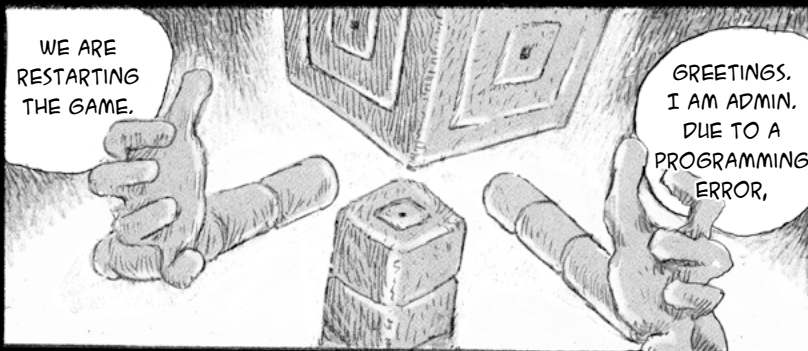
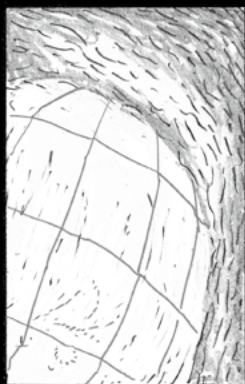
AND YOU'RE
FROM THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD.

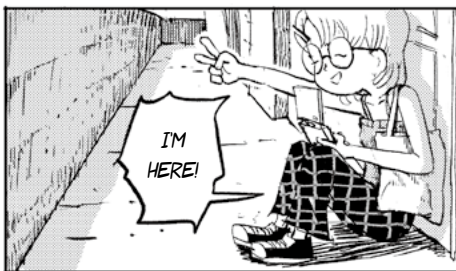
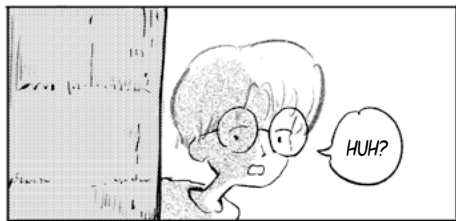


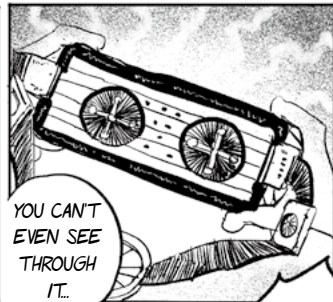
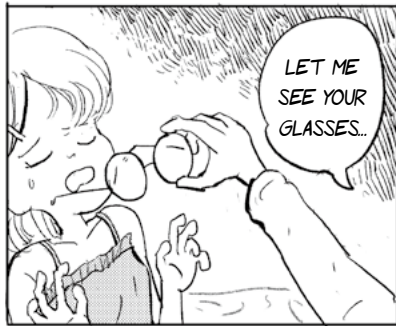
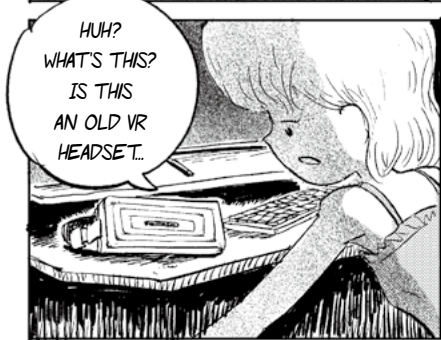
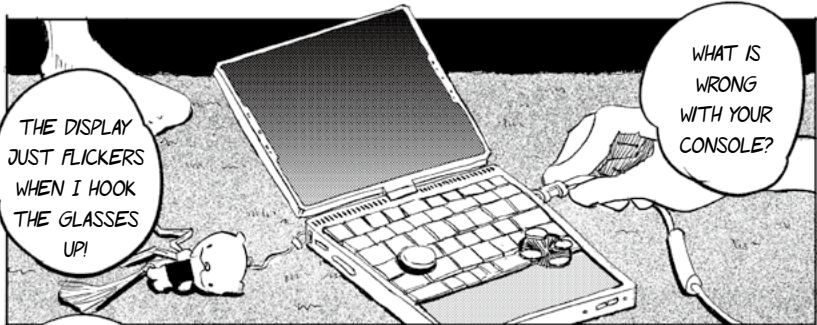
SYSTEM ERROR
DETECTED
TERMINATING
PROGRAM...



MY.
MY BODY!

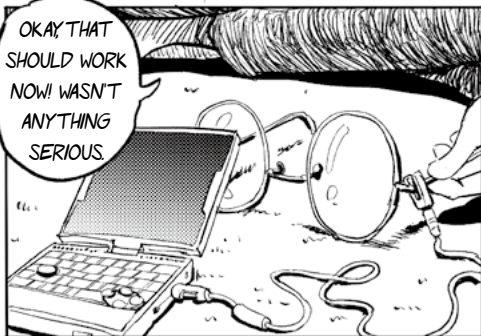








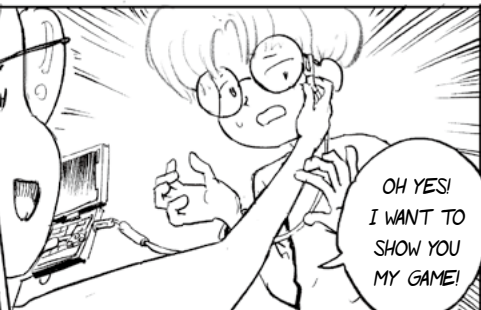
THANKS!



OKAY, THAT SHOULD WORK NOW! WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.



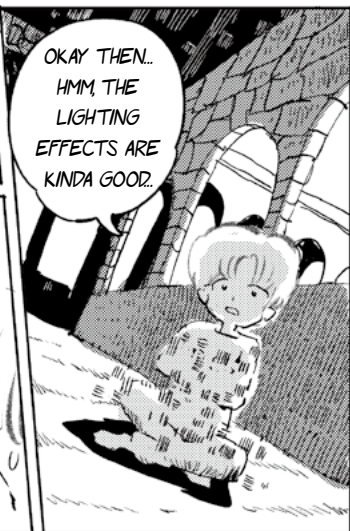
OH...



OH YES!
I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY GAME!



HUH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING SITTING THERE, MISS SAKURA? IT'S DANGEROUS! WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE CRIMINAL.



OKAY THEN.
HMM, THE LIGHTING EFFECTS ARE KINDA GOOD.

IN THAT CASE...

WOW! SO THIS IS WHAT I LOOK LIKE IN THE GAME..

I'LL CARRY YOU!

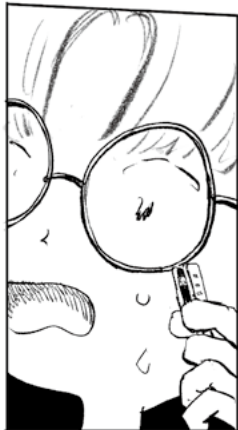
WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T YOU GET UP?

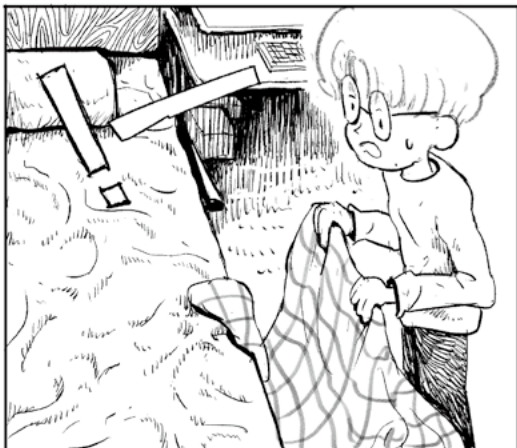
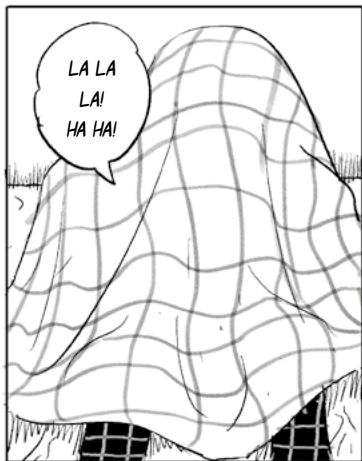
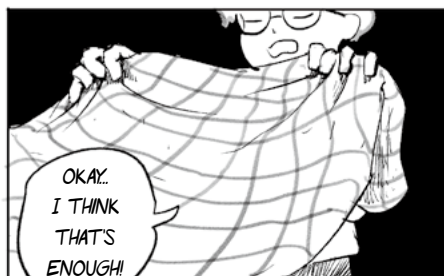
Wait! Hey, how come I can feel things?

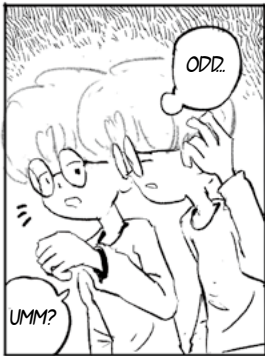
WOW!

THERE'S NO NEED!

HA HA! MY STOMACH HURTS...







UMM?

ODD..



HUH?
AND IT'S
EVENING
ALREADY?



SHE
CAN'T
HAVE



IS THAT
YOU? SAYA?

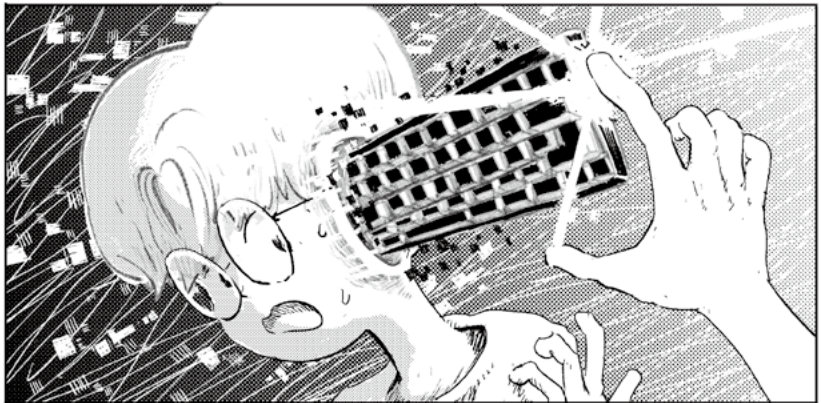
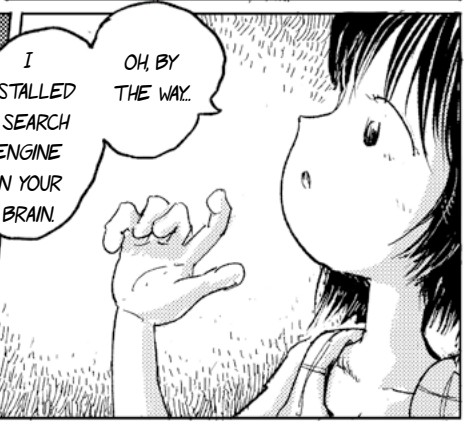
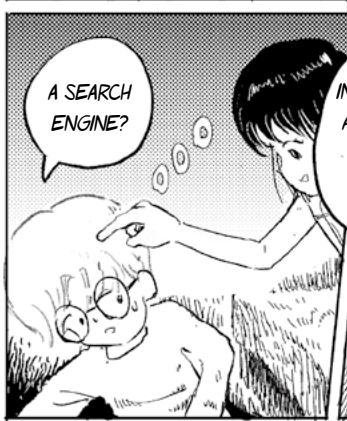
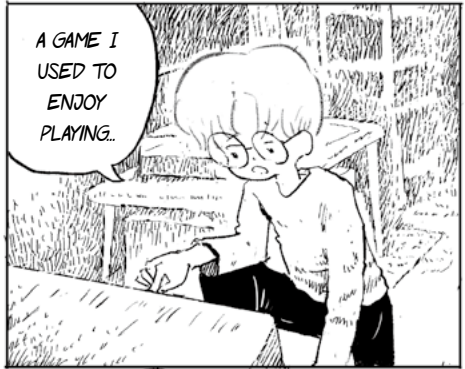


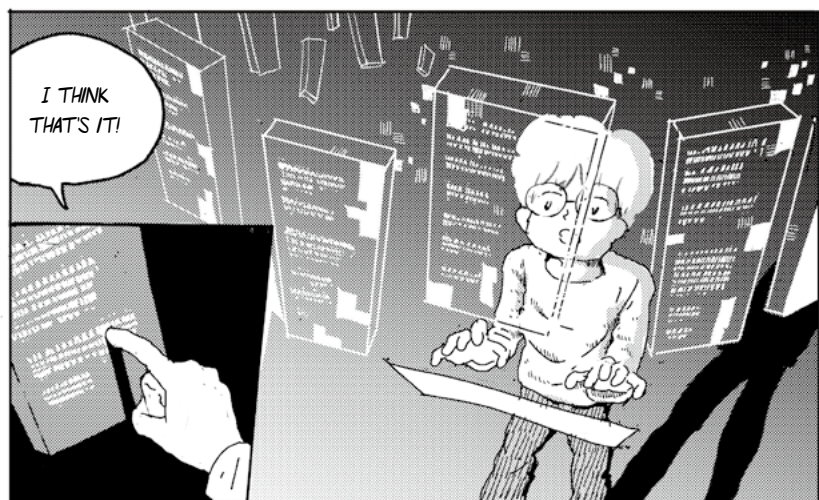
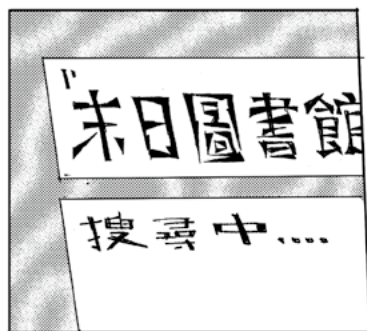
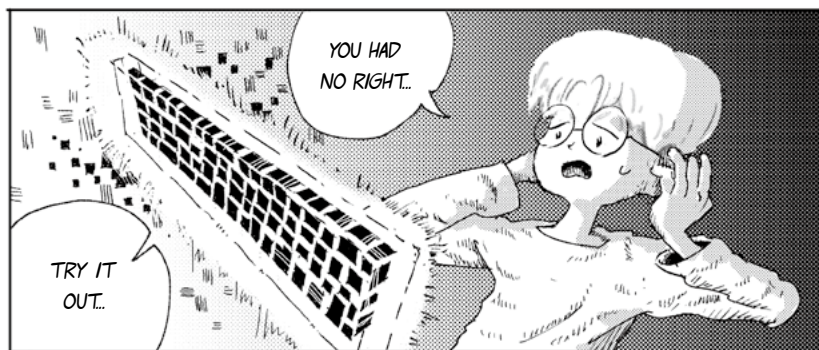
FOR
WHAT?

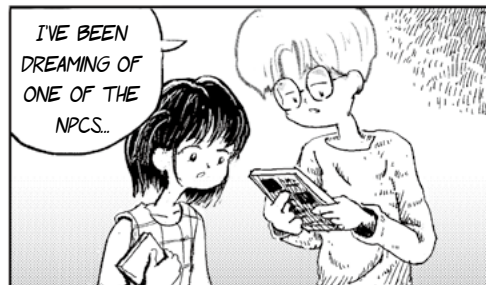
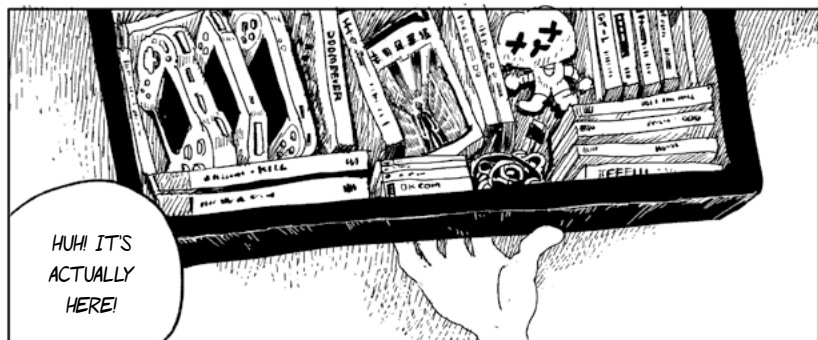
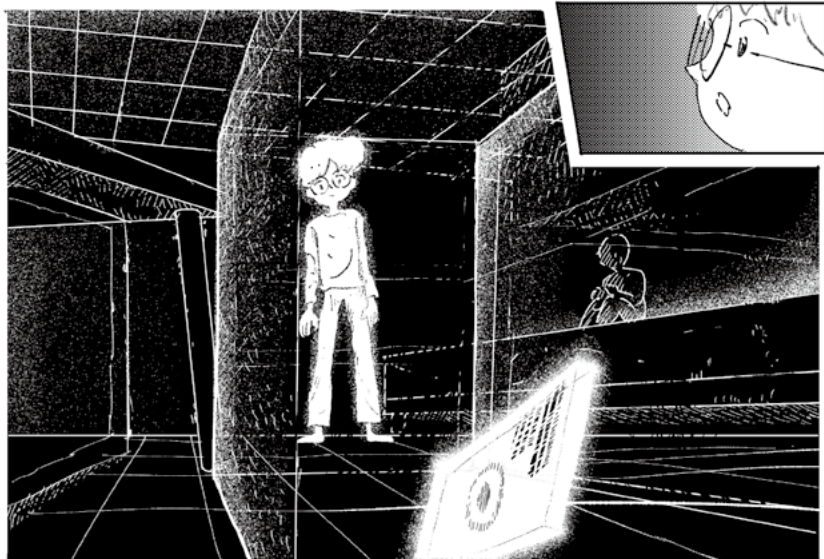
OH YES! I WAS
LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING



BIZARRE
WHAT WAS
I DOING..









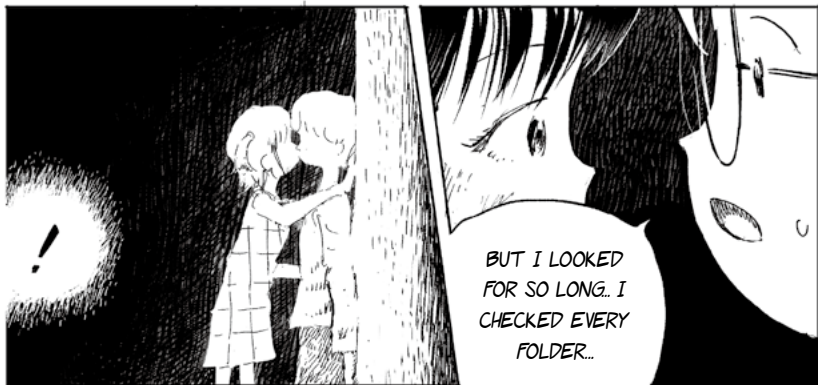
WHICH ONE?
DO YOU
MEAN ME?

BECAUSE
I'M RIGHT
HERE!



YOU? ARE YOU
STILL IN THE
GAME? YOU
CAN'T BE...

DIDN'T I TELL
YOU I WAS DEEP
IN THE FILE
SYSTEM?



BUT I LOOKED
FOR SO LONG. I
CHECKED EVERY
FOLDER...

