THE STORY, ALL NAMES, CHARACTERS, AND INCIDENTS PORTRAYED IN THIS SERIES ARE FICTITIOUS. NO IDENTIFICATION WITH ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DECEASED), PLACES, BUILDINGS, AND PRODUCTS IS INTENDED OR SHOULD BE INFERRED.

WHAT THE...
SWOOSH

...DOWAN,
ARE YOU OKAY--

UGH...

OH MY GOD, DOWAN!

GAH...

WHAT IS ALL THIS--

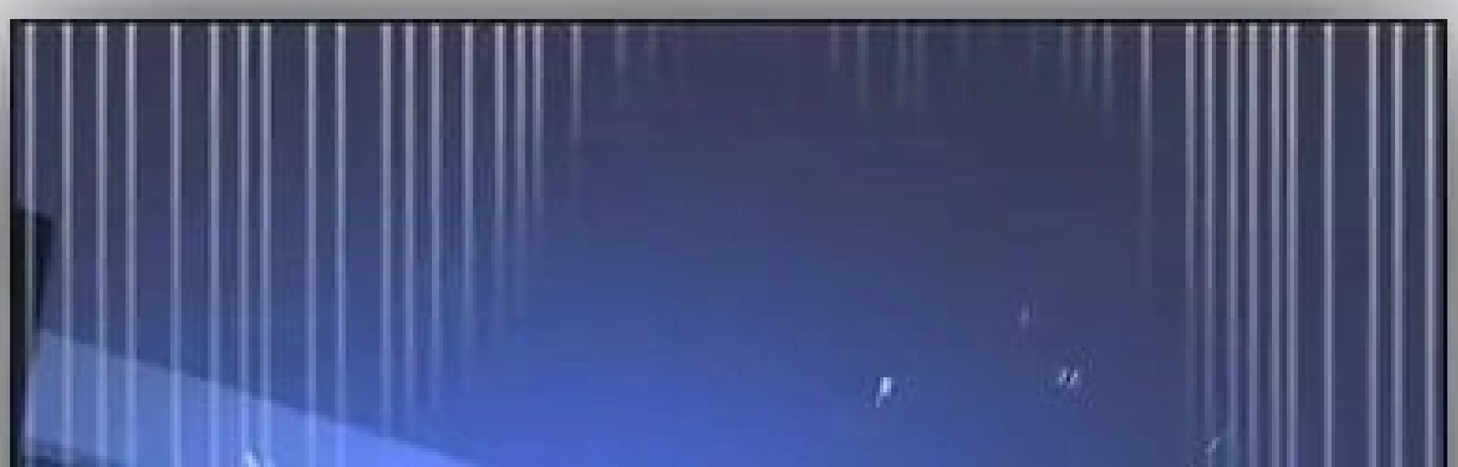
YOU HIT YOUR HEAD,
DIDN'T YOU?!

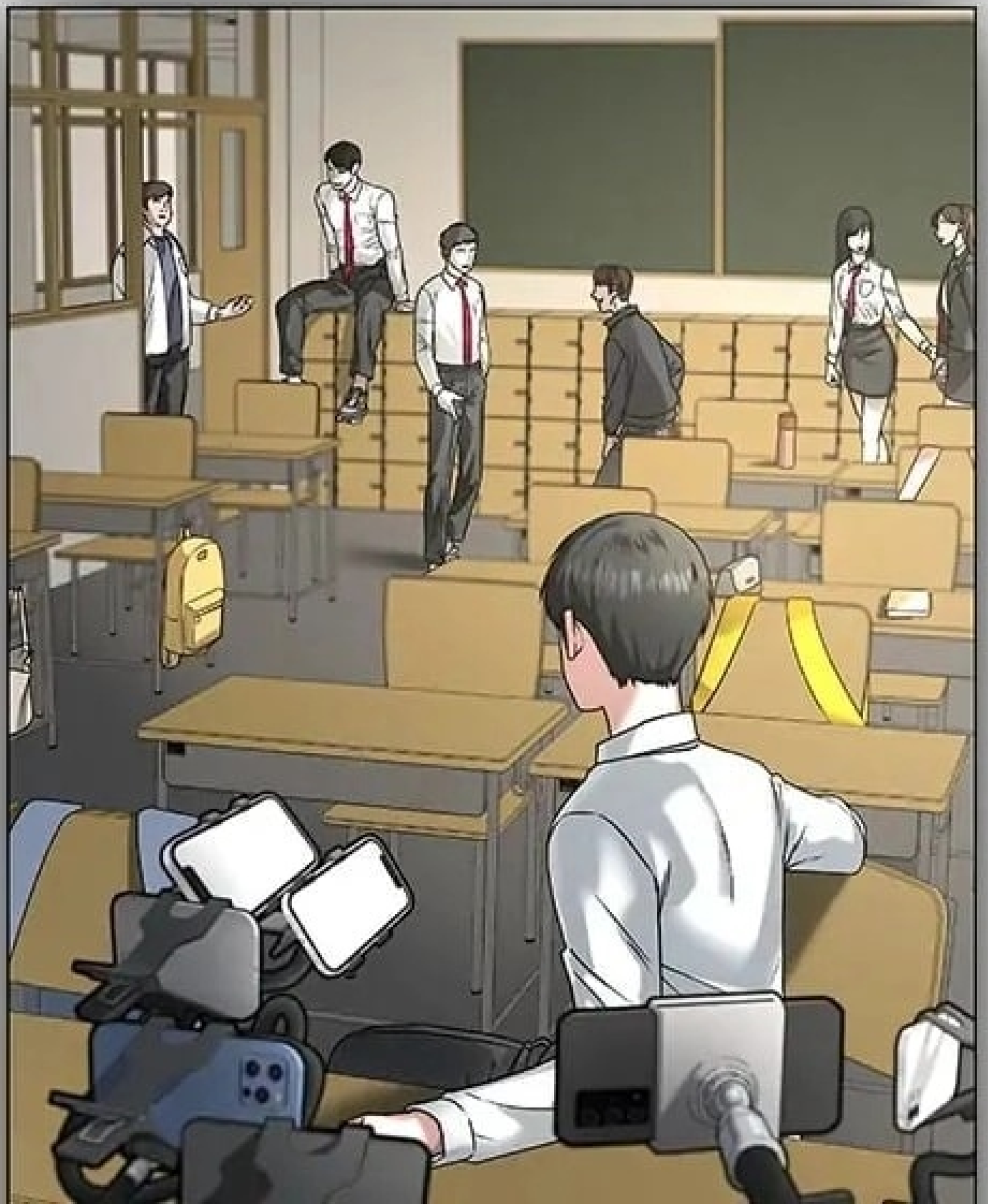
STAY RIGHT HERE!
I'LL CALL THE SCHOOL
NURSE!!

DASH

IS SOMETHING ACTUALLY
WRONG WITH ME?

DEATH.





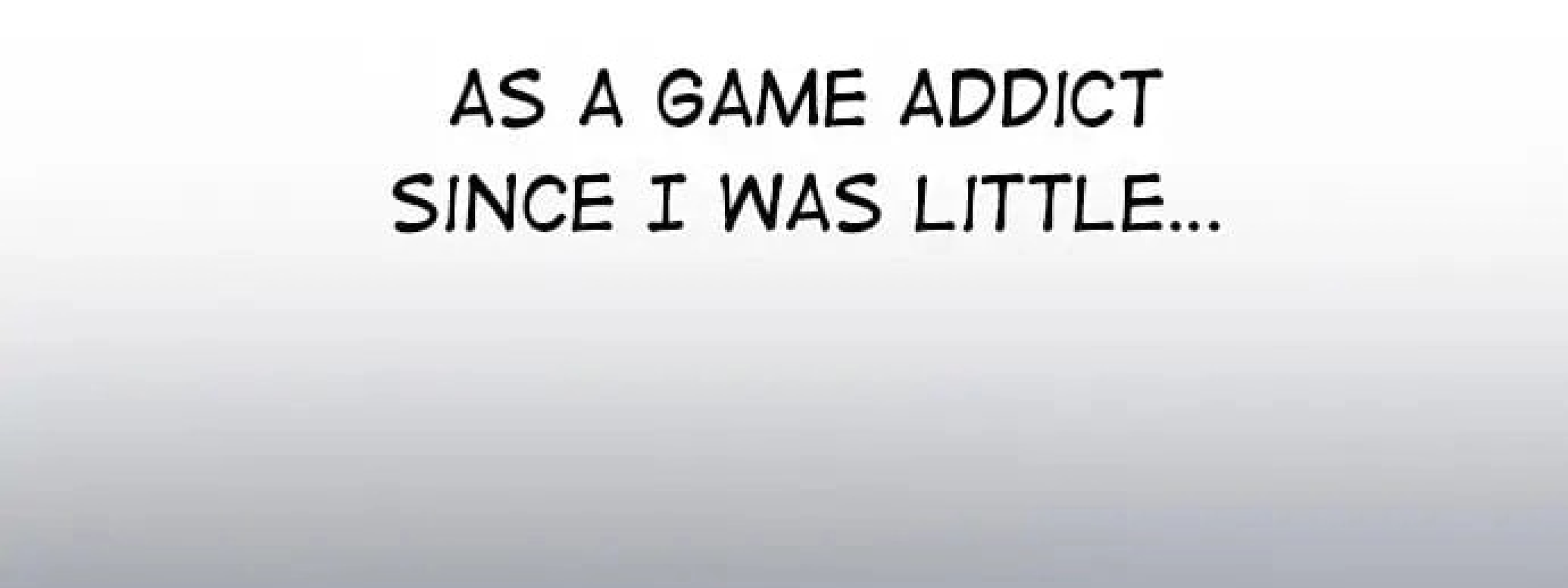
GOING BACK IN TIME.

AFTER THAT,
STRANGE SYSTEM WINDOWS
STARTED APPEARING BEFOREMY EYES.

AND I WAS ABLE TO USE

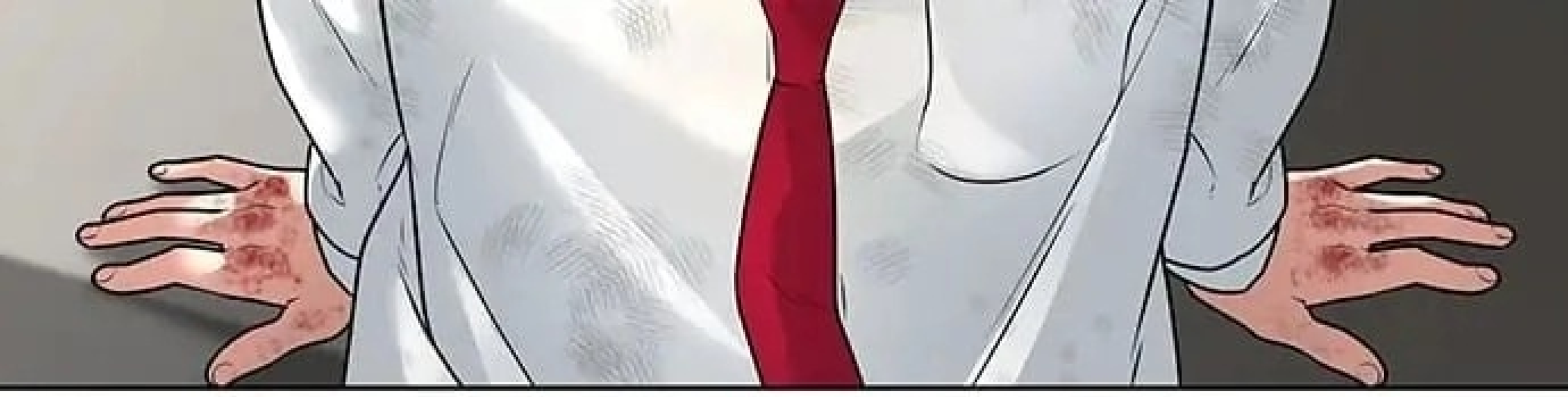
SKILLS FROM GAMES I PLAY...

AS A GAME ADDICT
SINCE I WAS LITTLE...



...I'VE ONLY EXCLUSIVELY READ GAME FANTASY NOVELS. AND THUS, I CAN STRONGLY SENSE THAT...

...THIS IS THE PLOT OF A CLICHE GAME FANTASY STORY...!



LIKE WHERE THE SUPER STRONG MAIN CHARACTER WIPES OUT ALL OF THE MONSTERS!

AND AS THE MAIN CHARACTER,
I WAS TOTALLY GIVEN A
SPECIAL POWER BOOST...

CURRENT STATS

HP: 50000/50000

MP: 5000/5000

ATTACK: 1000

DEFENSE: 1000

AGILITY: 1000

WILLPOWER: 1000

?!

I'M A COMPLETE BEAST!!

DUG

DING

SEALED SUBSTITUTE GAMER'S SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE BEING APPLIED.

IS THERE MORE?!

OOOOH!!

DING

ALL POWERS
HAVE BEEN
LOCKED.

ALL STATS
WILL BE LOWERED
TO ONE.

HP HAS
DECREASED.

ALL ACTIVE SKILLS ARE UNUSABLE.

ALL PASSIVE SKILLS ARE UNUSABLE.

MP HAS DECREASED.

CURRENT STATS [LOCKED STATS]
H-HUH?

DETAILS ?!

NAME: DOWAN HA LV 100

CLASS: SEALED SUBSTITUTE GAMER

CURRENT STATS [LOCKED STATS]

HP: 1000/1000 [49000/49000]

MP: 100/100 [4900/4900]

ATTACK: 1 [999]

DEFENSE: 1 [999]

AGILITY: 1 [999]

WILLPOWER: 1 [999]

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!

IT JUST SAID THAT I WAS THE HIGHEST RANK. THEN WHY AM I GETTING WEAKER?!

DETAILS

LV. 100

CURRENT STATS [LOCKED STATS]

IF THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, THEN WHY BOTHER INCREASING THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

ARE YOU KIDDING--

DING

EVENT QUEST: ANGER EXPLOSION

COMPLETE

MONSTER CHEOLWOO MIN HAS BEEN DEFEATED.

REWARD: GOLD KEY

EVENT QUEST?

IS THIS THE QUEST THAT
I ENDED UP ACCEPTING
RIGHT AFTER I DIED?

EVENT QUEST

WOULD YOU LIKE TO
ACCEPT?

ACCEPT...?
WHAT IS THIS THING
TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS?!

THE WORD ACCEPT WAS RECOGNIZED IN THE PLAYER'S MIND. QUEST HAS BEEN ACCEPTED.

WHAT THE...!

WHIRR

WHIRR

?

WHIRR

WHIRR

DING
QUEST COMPLETION
REWARD
GOLD KEY
AWARDED.

REALITY QUEST

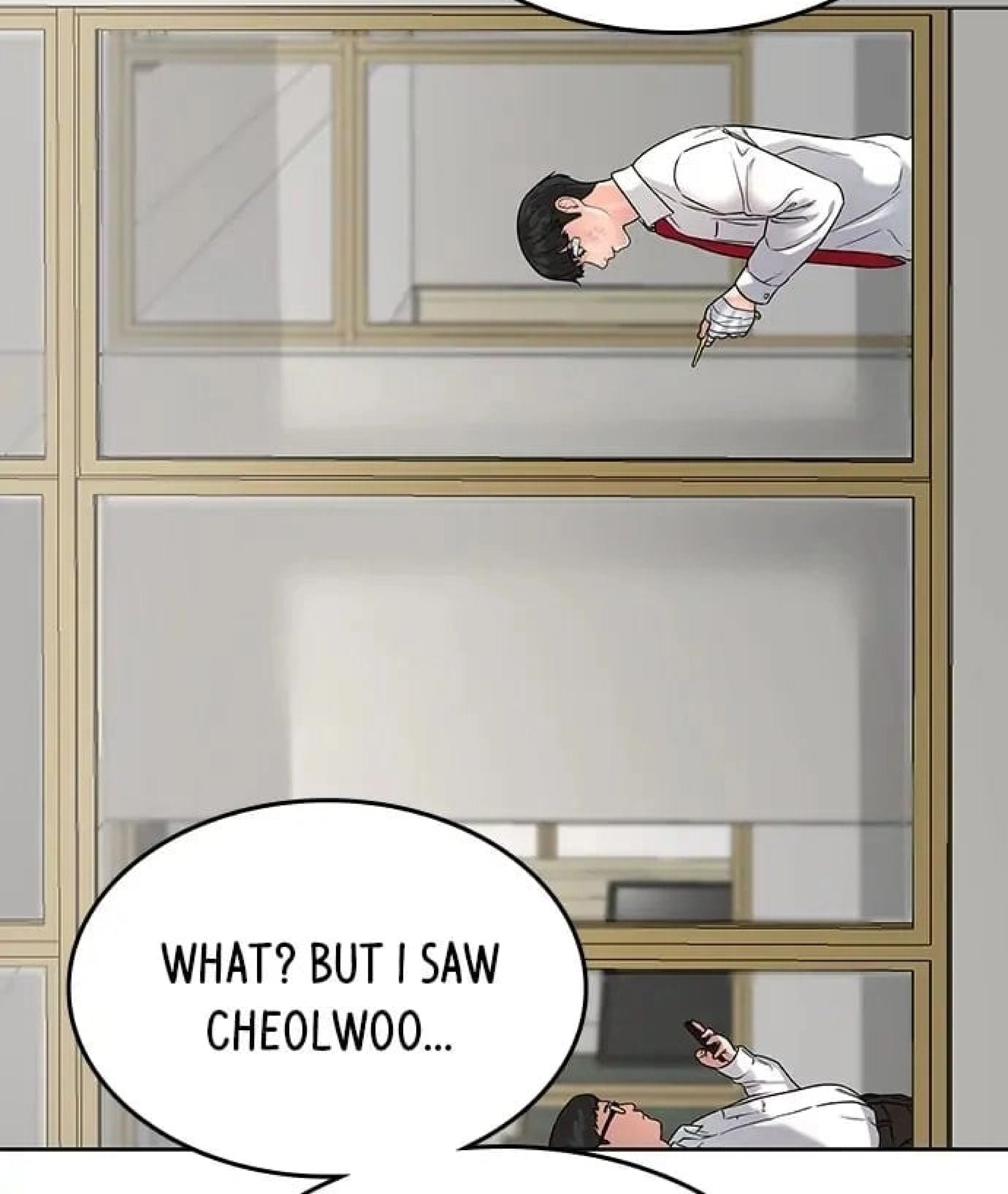
STORY BY JOOWOON LEE
ART BY TAESUNG

YLAB

HEY, WHAT HAPENED TO DOWAN THIS TIME?

I HEARD CHEOLWOO BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM AGAIN.

EVEN THE PODIUM WAS SMASHED THIS TIME.



WHAT? BUT I SAW CHEOLWOO...

...GO HOME CURSING TO HIMSELF JUST NOW.

IT'S PROBALY BECAUSE HE DIDN'T GET TO BEAT DOWAN UP AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO.

I HEARD THAT HE EVEN LASHED OUT AT THE NURSE THAT TRIED TO STOP HIM.

SAYS WHO?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER. EVERYONE WAS EATING AT THAT TIME.

SO NO ONE SAW IT FOR THEMSELVES, AND THERE ARE ONLY RUMORS.
WE SHOULD'VE RECORDED IT AND PUT IT ONLINE. PITY WE WEREN'T THERE.

HMM...

NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY KEY...

ON TOP OF THAT

ON TOP OF THAT...

GOLD KEY

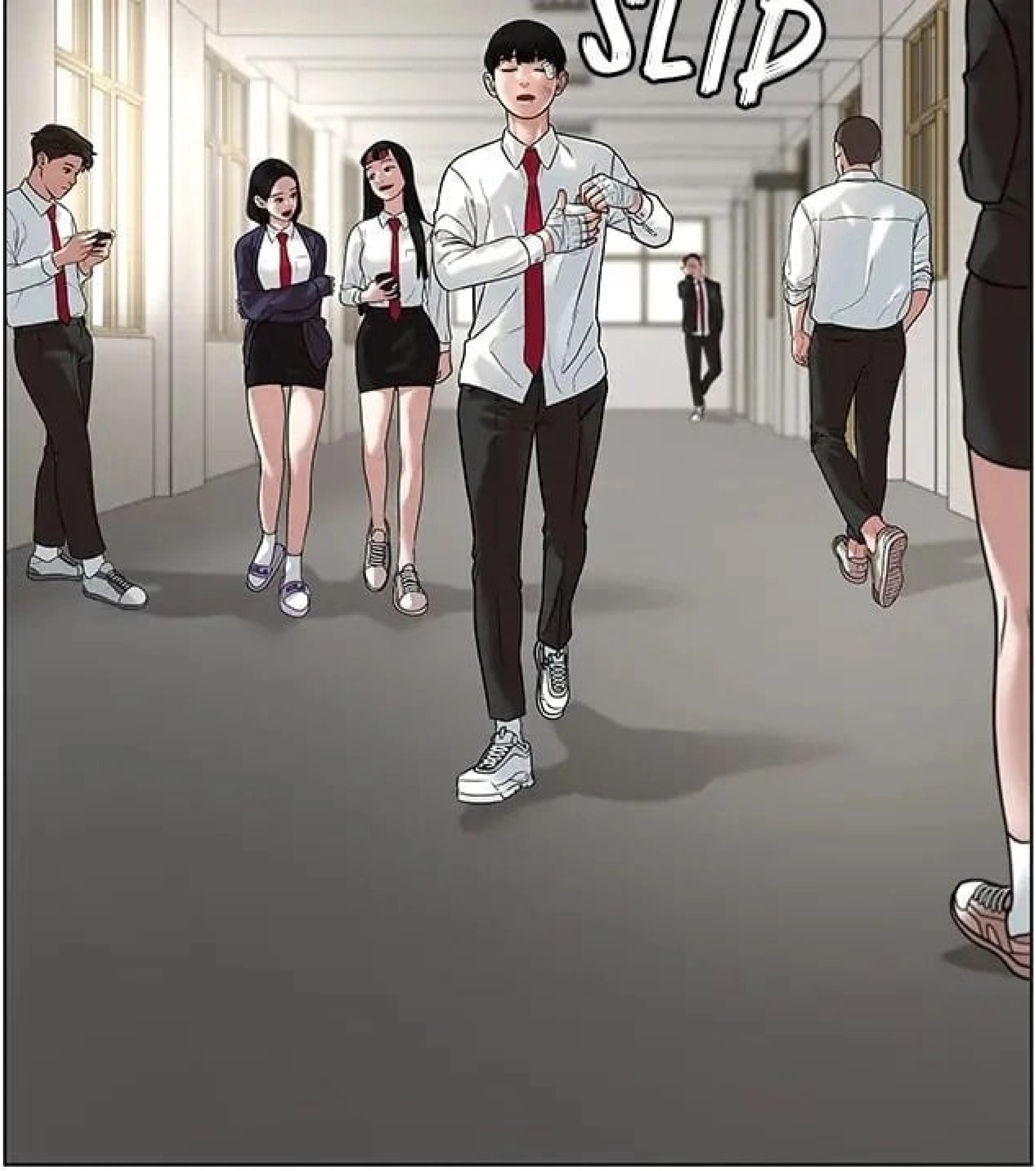
LEGENDARY ITEM

KEY THAT EMITS GOLDEN LIGHT.
HOW TO USE: INSERT AND TURN.

YOU USE IT LIKE
A NORMAL KEY TOO!!

WHY IS IT SO SIMPLE?

HAA...
LET'S DEAL WITH THIS LATER.



WHAT I WANT TO FIND
OUT THE MOST RIGHT NOW
ISN'T THIS.

BUT RATHER,
I WANT TO KNOW THE ONE
THAT GAVE ME THIS POWER.
WHO IS THE MANAGER?

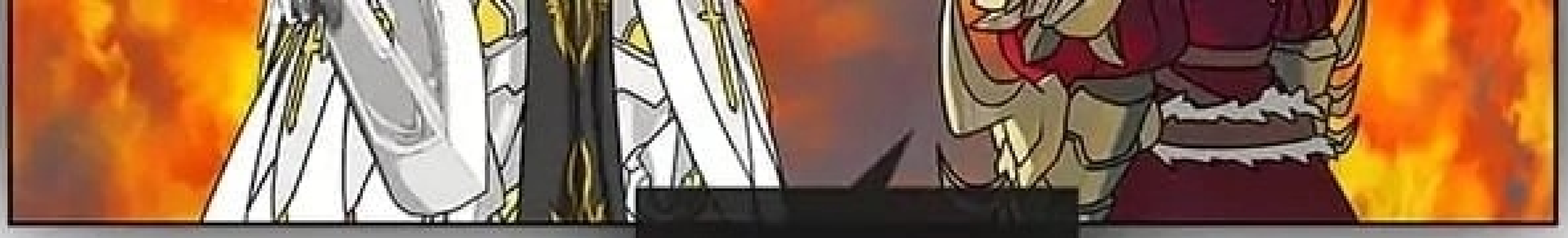
MESSAGE FROM
THE MANAGER

DON'T BE SURPRISED,
MY FRIEND.
THIS IS MY GIFT TO YOU
FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

LOOKING FOR A
PARTY, YOU SAID?

THE DESTROYER

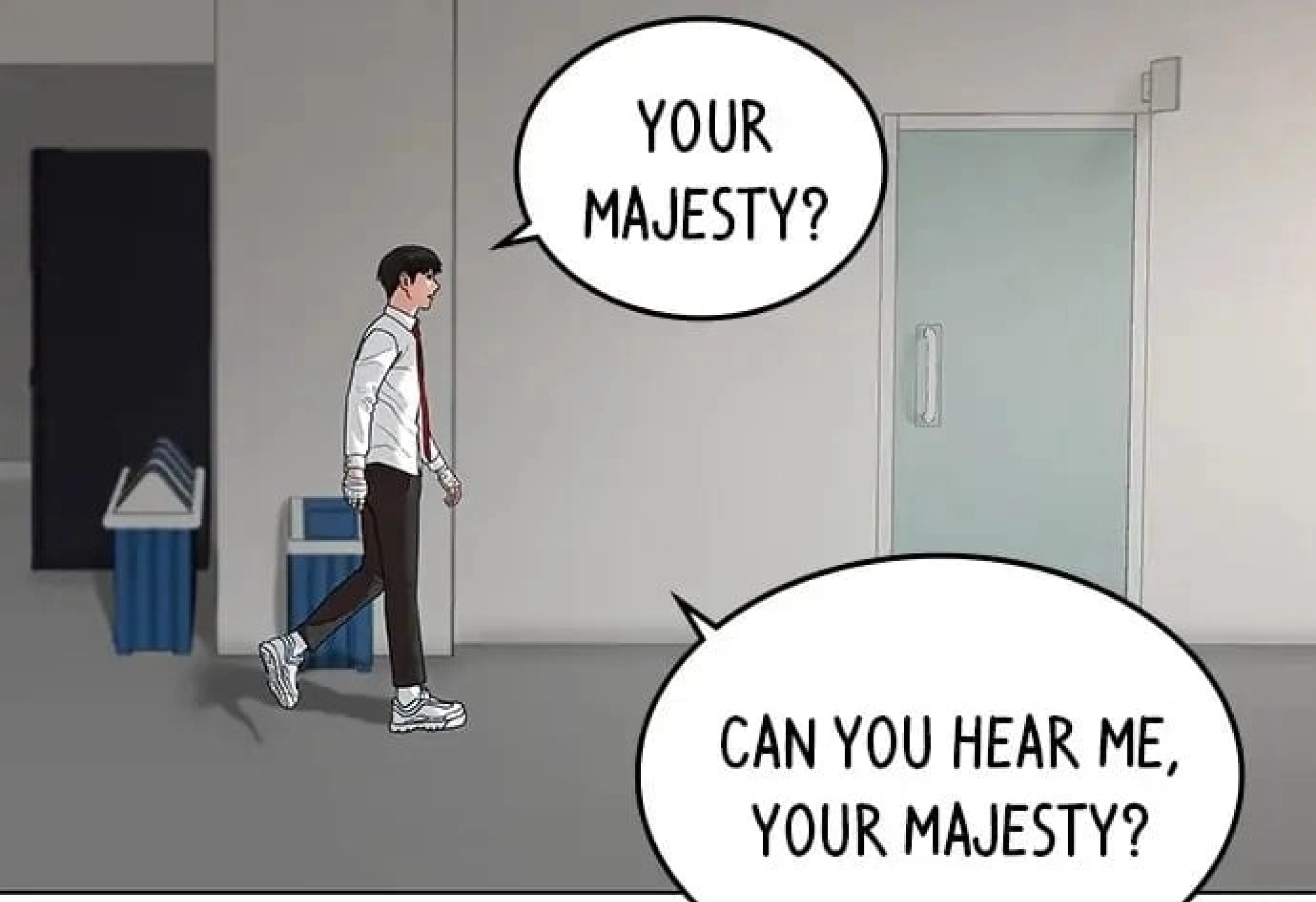
DARK CHOCOLATE PIE



THE TONE OF THIS MESSAGE
DID FEEL LIKE THE PLAYER I MET
BEFORE IN THE GAME...

T-THE DESTROYER...?

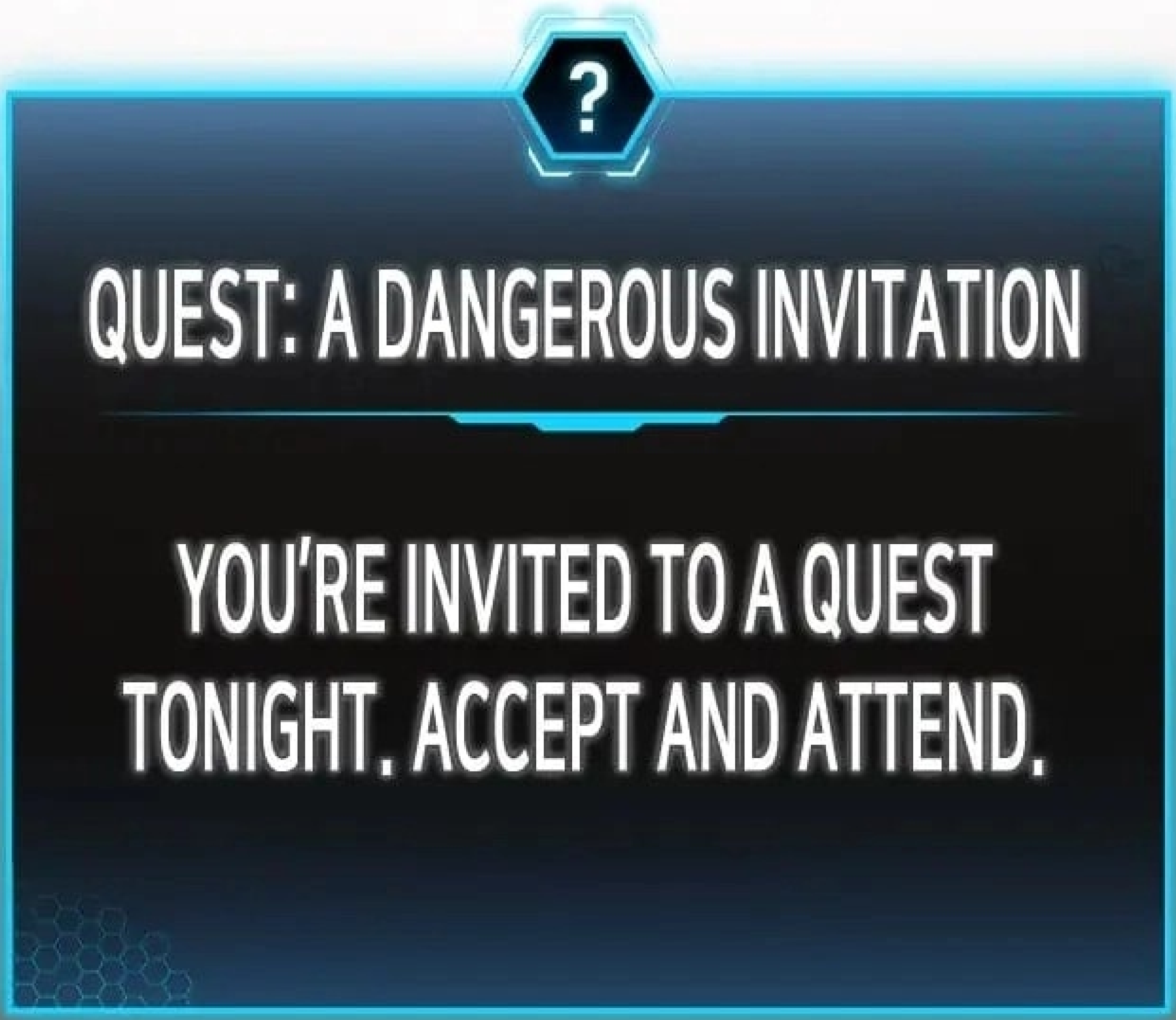
UGH, SO CRINGEY!



SINCE THERE'S NO RESPONSE,
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CHECK.

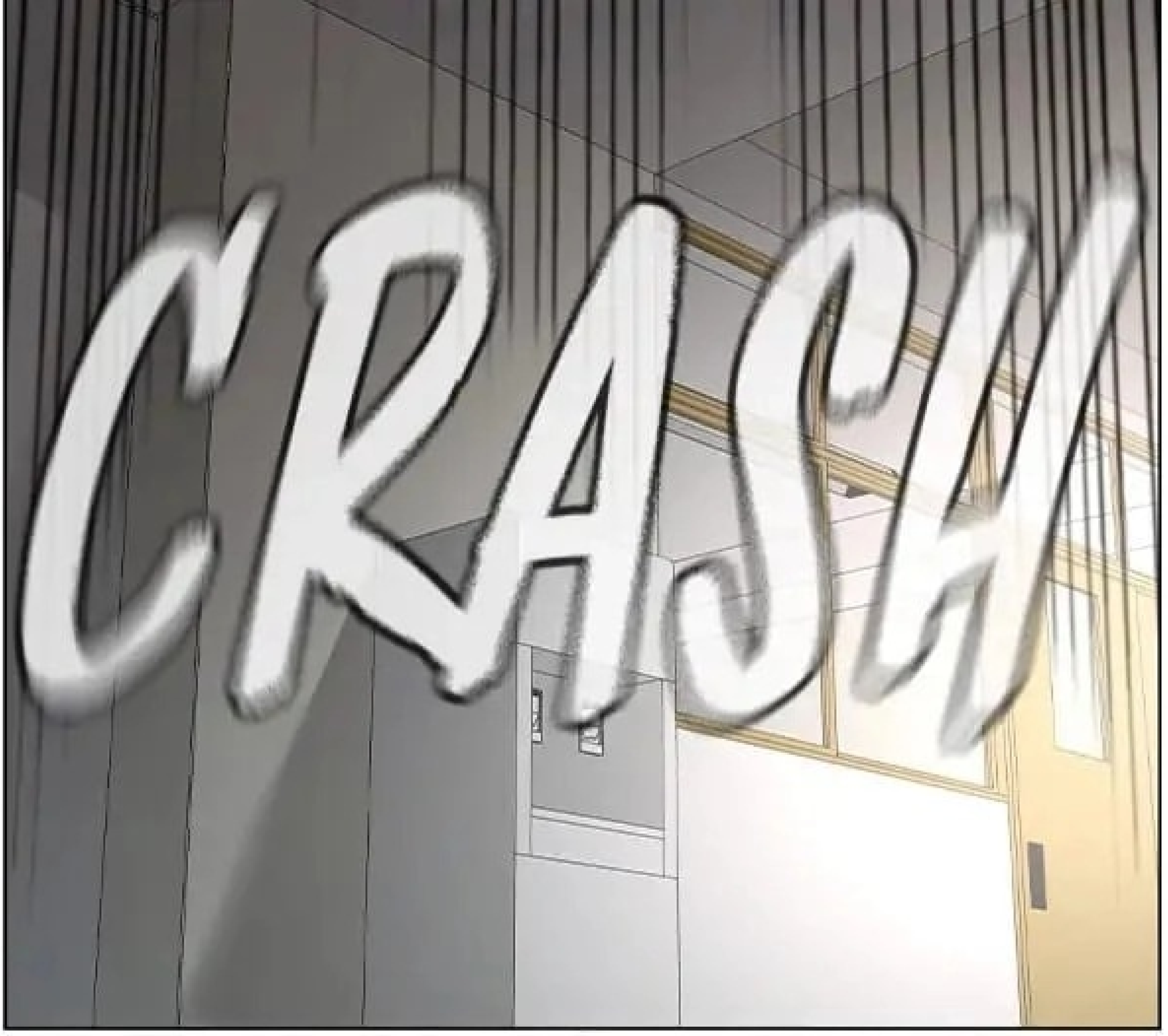
ONCE I GET BACK HOME,
I SHOULD SEND HIM A

PRIVATE MESSAGE--


?
QUEST: A DANGEROUS INVITATION
YOU'RE INVITED TO A QUEST
TONIGHT. ACCEPT AND ATTEND.

A QUEST!

TONIGHT?
BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW
THE LOCATION. HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO--


CRASH

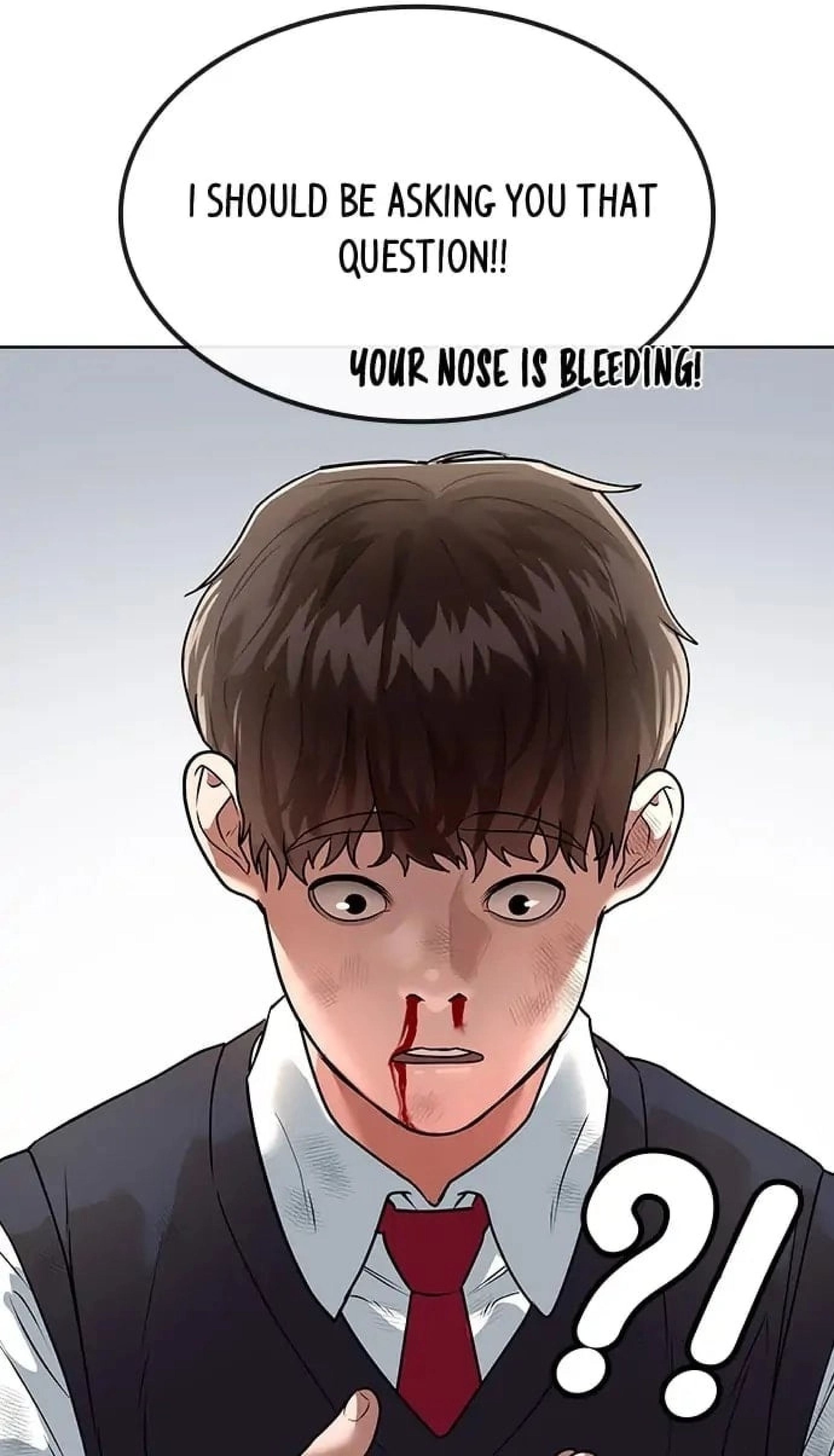
OW, MY BUTT! WHAT THE--

S-SORRY...!

I DIDN'T SEE YOU...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

HUH? AM I ALRIGHT?


I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT QUESTION!!
YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING!
?!

I'LL GET YOU SOME TISSUES!

PUSH

N-NO!
I'M FINE.

BUT STILL--

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
THANKS. BYE.

R-REALLY?

ALRIGHT, THEN...
TAKE CARE.

HIS NOSE BLED AFTER
BUMPING INTO ME ONCE.

HE MUST BE
EVEN WEAKER THAN I AM--

HEY, DOWAN!
HMM?

I ACTUALLY HAD SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
WHO KNEW WE'D MEET HERE?
JAEMIN SHIN (18)

HMM?
WHAT'S UP,
JAEMIN?

DID YOU
START PLAYING
GAMES TOO?

GAMES? NO,
I DON'T DO STUFF LIKE
THAT. HAHA.

THEN WHY--

I SAW
EVERYTHING.

SUCK

SEE WHAT?

YOU KICKING
CHEOLWOO'S ASS.

AH, COME TO THINK OF IT...

...WHEN I WAS BEAT
UP IN MY PAST LIFE...

...HE WAS NEAR MY CLASSROOM.

S-SO IS HE GOING TO AVENGE CHEOLWOO OR SOMETHING?

I WAS JUST BEATEN UP.
DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH
THAT AGAIN?!

NUDGE

?

WE'RE GONNA GO DRINKING WITH SOME GIRLS FROM ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL.

WANNA
JOIN US?

WHAT...?
WHY IS HE SUDDENLY

ASKING ME TO HANG OUT WITH HIM?

BUT DID HE JUST SAY TONIGHT?

THAT'S THE TIME THAT WAS WRITTEN ON THE QUEST EARLIER...

?

QUEST: A DANGEROUS INVITATION

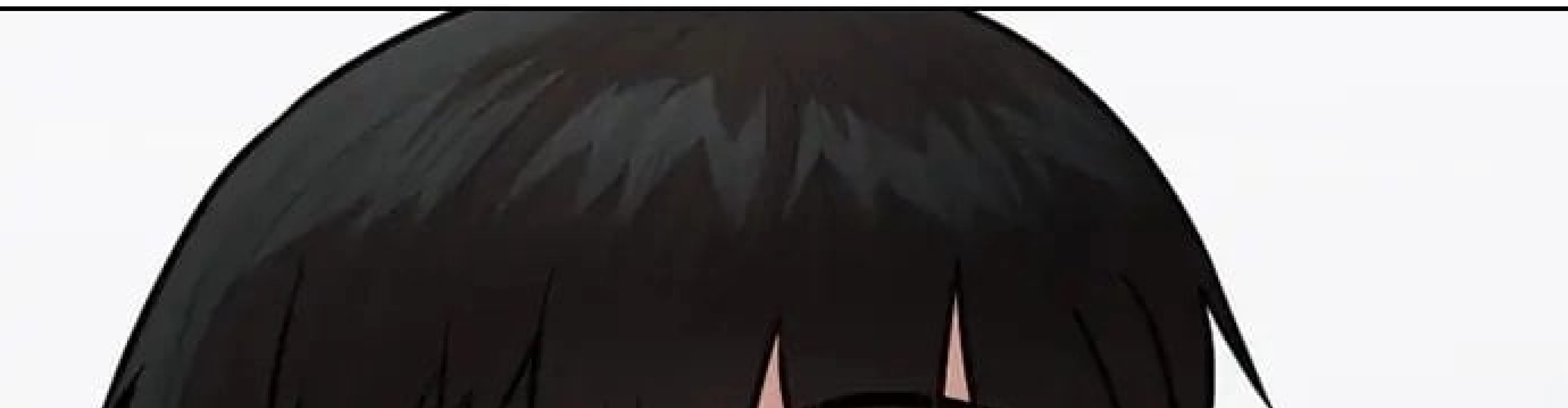
YOU'RE INVITED TO A QUEST TONIGHT. ACCEPT AND ATTEND.

...IS THIS WHAT IT WAS REFERRING TO?!

BUT HE'S IN THE SAME GROUP AS CHEOLWOO.

IS THERE
ANYONE ELSE IN HERE
OTHER THAN US?

WHY WOULD HE SUDDENLY
ASK TO HANG OUT WITH HIM?



WELL,
WHATEVER THE REASON...

...COMPLETING QUESTS
MEANS GETTING REWARDS.

CLEAR!
POWER UP!

AND THOSE REWARDS MAKE YOUR CHARACTER STRONGER. THAT'S THE GOLDEN RULE.

MAYBE THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCEPT?

...TO ESCAPE BEING A LOSER BY BECOMING STRONG LIKE A GAME CHARACTER!

...

SMIRK

BUT I DON'T THINK
I SHOULD GO!
IF I GO TO HANG OUT WITH
BULLIES LIKE HIM...

AH... OH, SORRY.

TODAY'S
MY GRANDPA'S MEMORIAL DAY,
SO I DON'T THINK
I'LL BE ABLE TO GO.

...FORGET ESCAPING BEING
A LOSER. THAT WILL BE THE END
OF MY SECOND LIFE.

THE WORD *DANGEROUS*
JUST GIVES
OFF BAD VIBES!

AH, REALLY?
TOO BAD.
I'LL INVITE YOU
ANOTHER TIME. PROMISE
YOU'LL COME THEN!
SEE YA.
SEE YOU.
OKAY. I'LL BE
LOOKING FORWARD TO
IT, JAEMIN. HAHA.
I SAID I'M NOT

GOING TO GO!

THERE'S NOTHING THAT
I CAN GAIN FROM HANGING

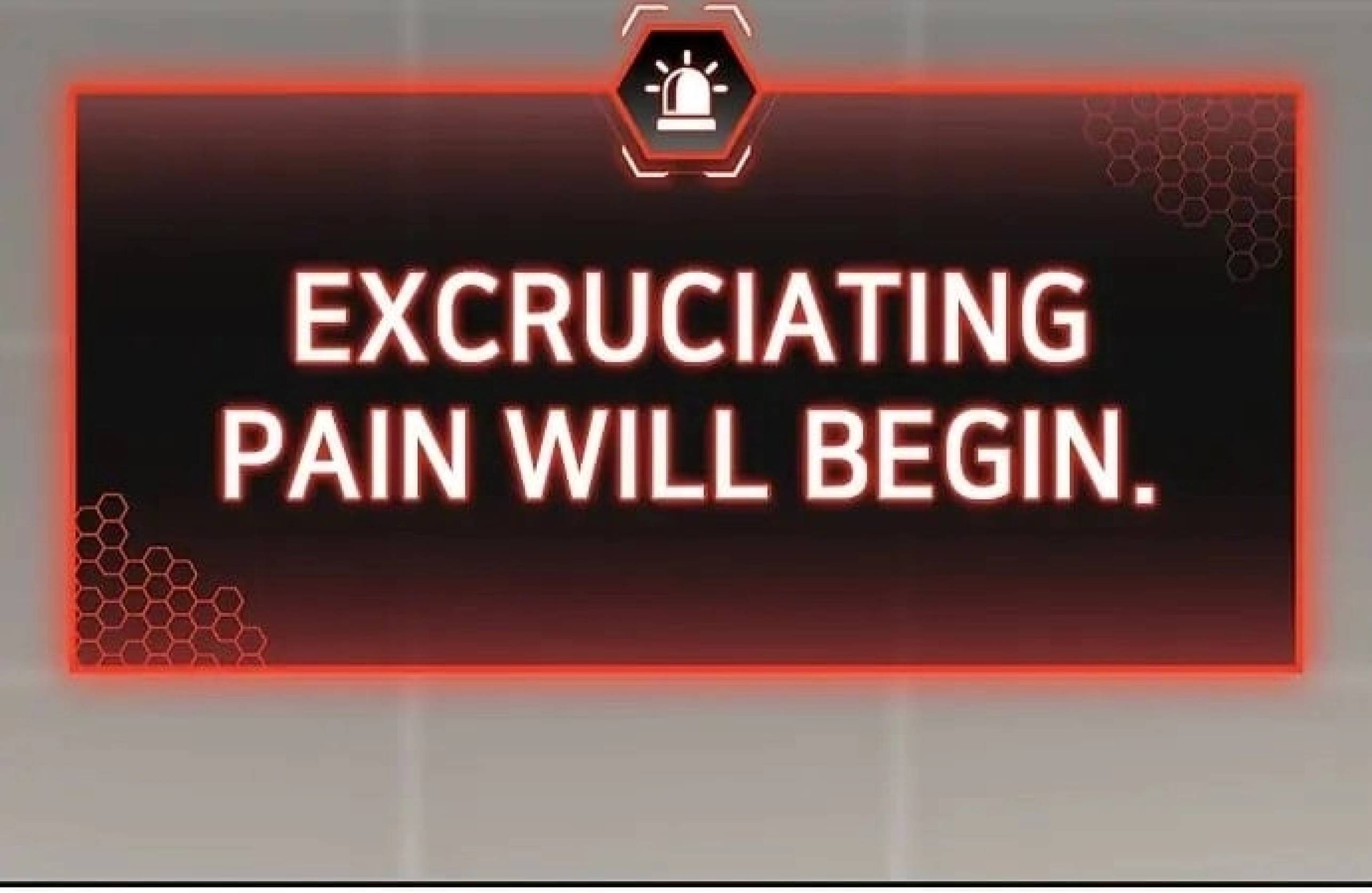
OUT WITH BULLIES.

DING

QUEST REJECTED.
PENALTY WILL
BE GIVEN.

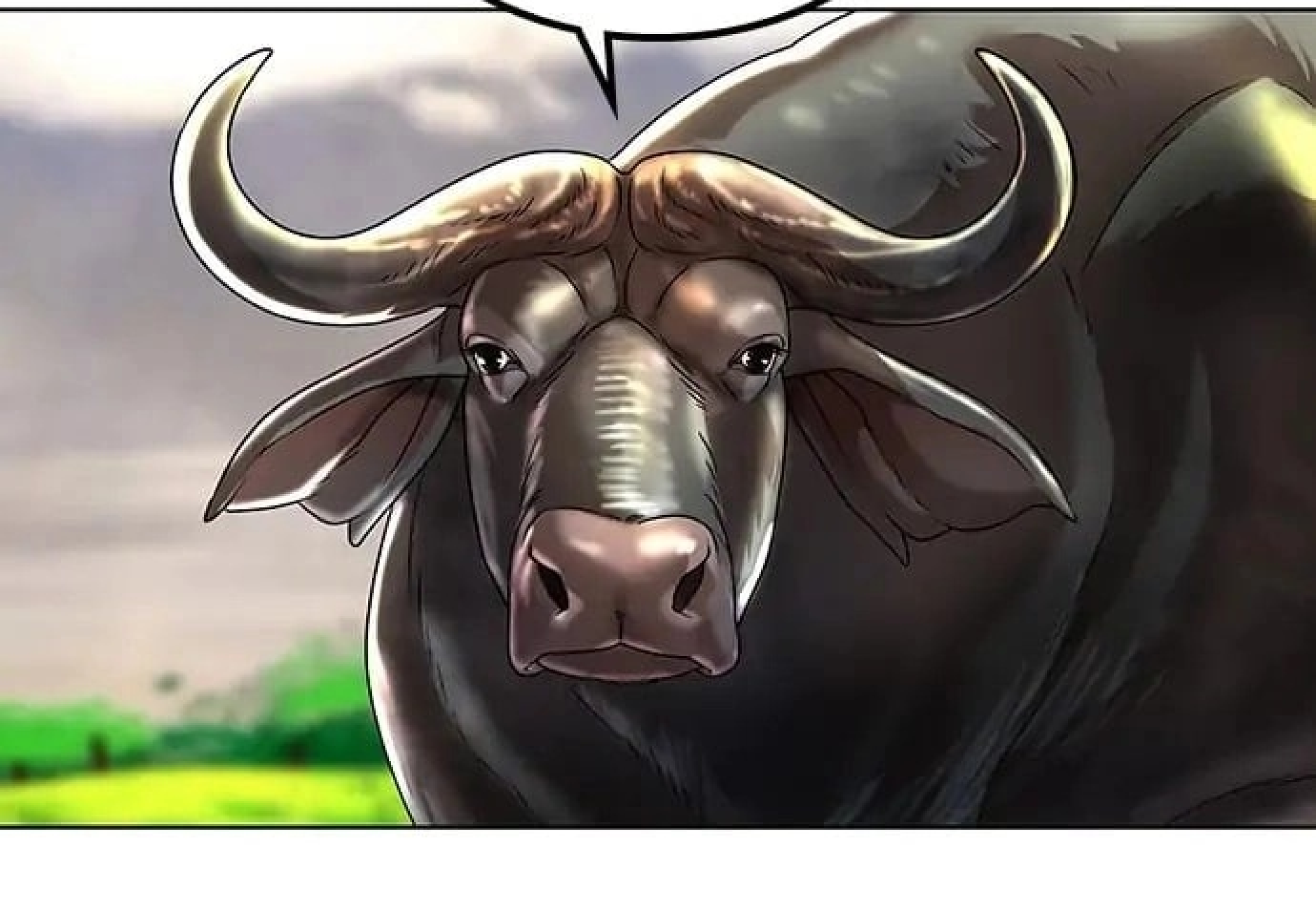
TRICKLE

HMM?
A PENALTY?



EXCRUCIATING PAIN?!
WHERE?

Moo.



SPOUT

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP
?!

MOOOOOO!

BURST

YEAH, RIGHT.

I'M SERIOUS,
YOU PUNK.

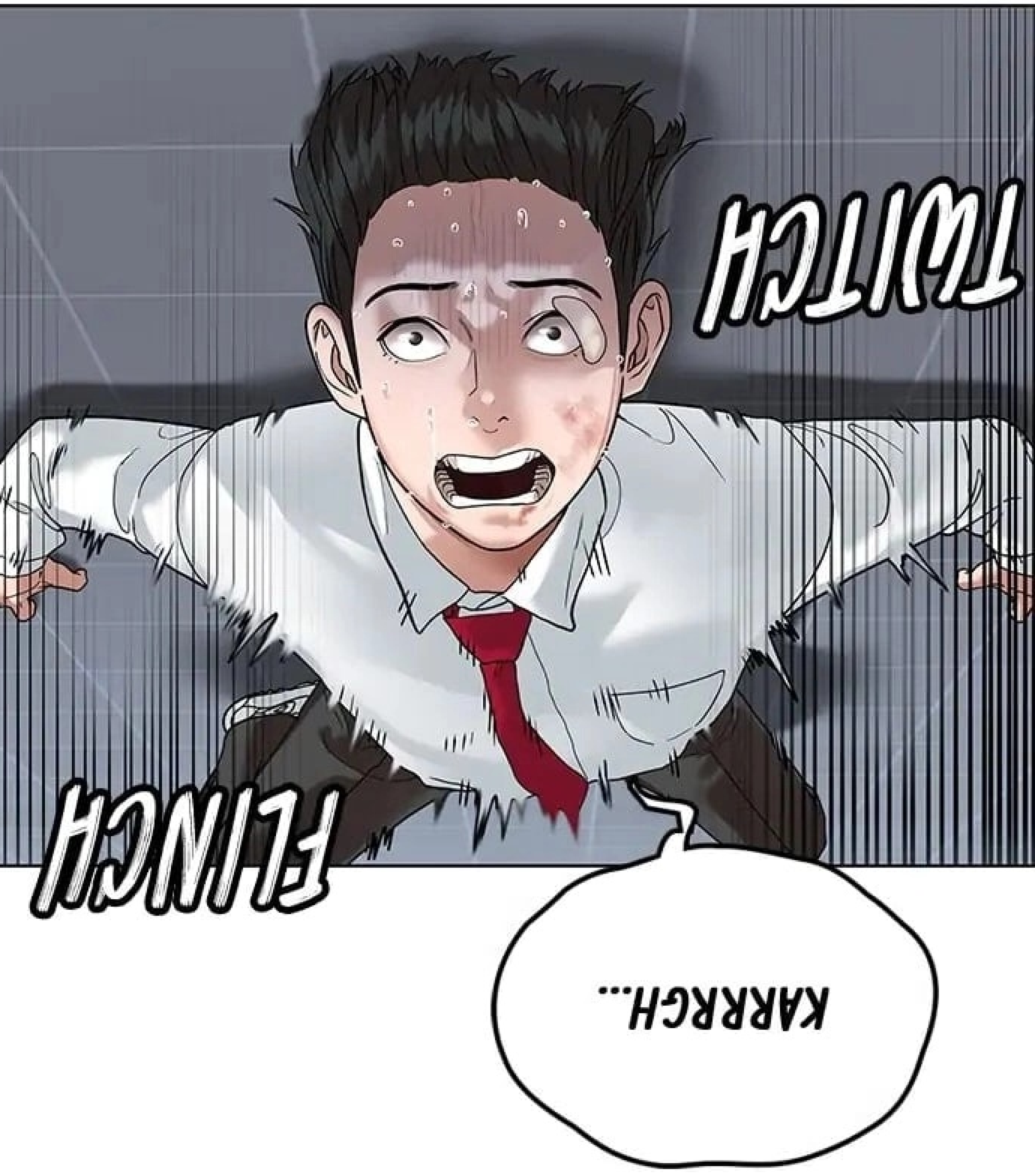
GAAAH...
HMM?

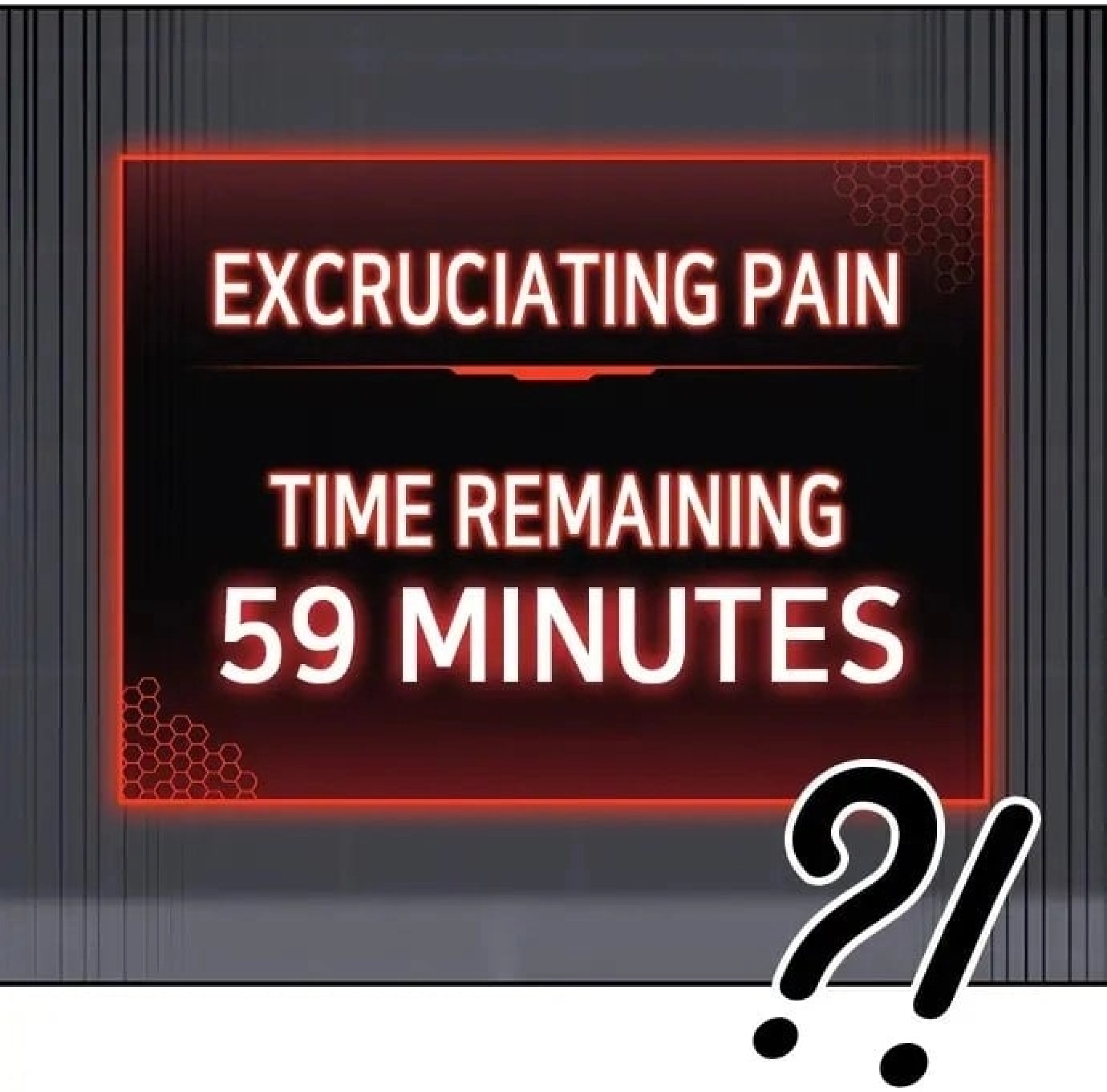
I-IS THAT LOSER PISSING LYING ON THE FLOOR?

CHEOLWOO SURE IS CRUEL... DID CHEOLWOO HIT HIM DOWN THERE?

SHAKE

TREMBLE


ΗΥΠΝΟΣ
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ
KARRRGH...


EXCRUCIATING PAIN
TIME REMAINING
59 MINUTES
?!

59?
N-NO WAY...
UGH...!

TREMBLE

EXCRUCIATING PAIN

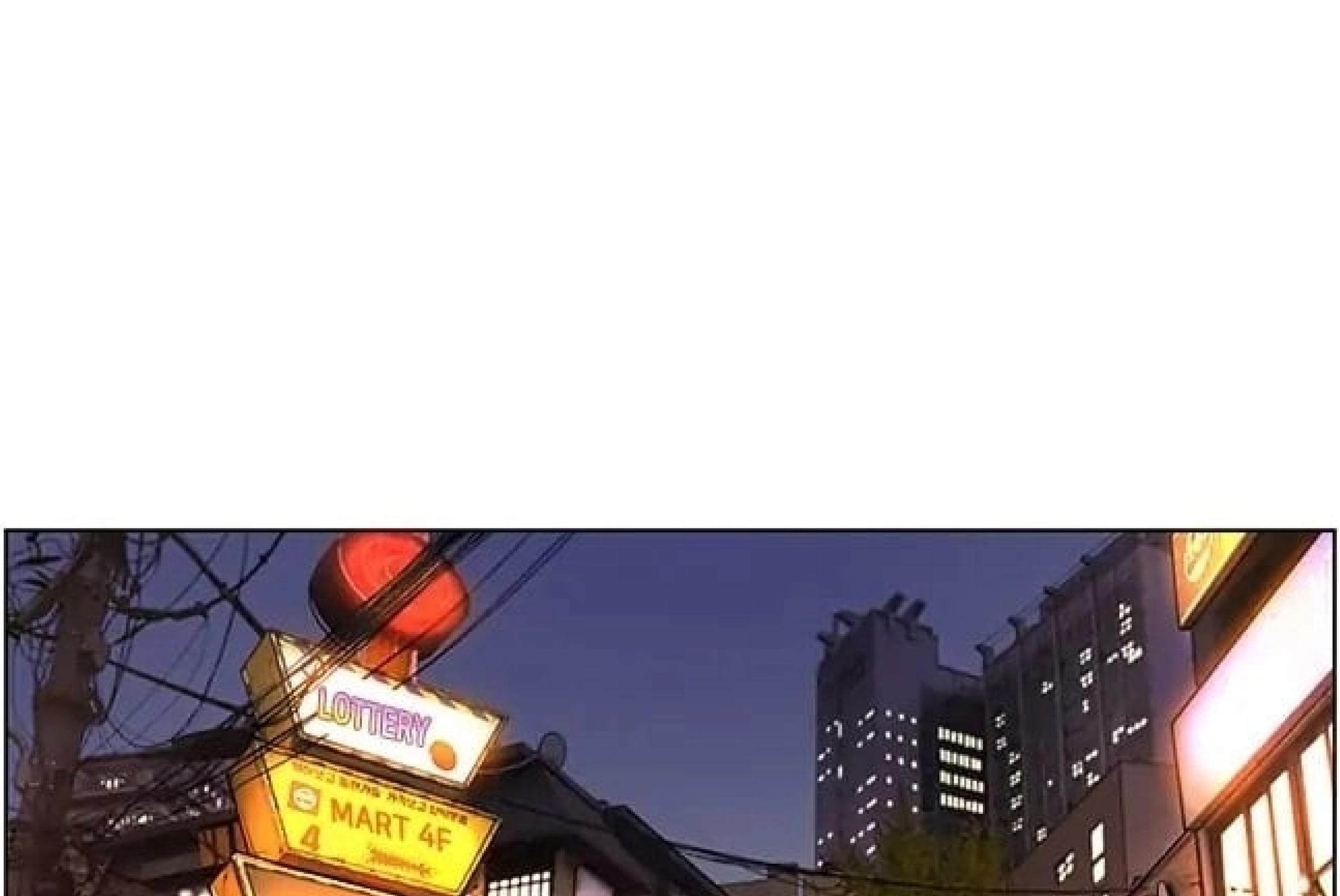
TIME REMAINING
59 MINUTES

DING

?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ACCEPT THE QUEST AGAIN?

AAAAAAGH!!
?


LOTTERY
MART 4F
4
BAR
PIZZA
SOJU
Flex

TURKISH
FOOD
HMM?
CLAMOR
MURMUR

YOU'RE EARLY.

I ENDED UP ACCEPTING...

COME ON. HOW WAS
I SUPPOSED TO ENDURE THAT
FOR 60 MINUTES?
I COULDN'T EVEN STAND IT
FOR 60 SECONDS!

I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR GRANDPA'S MEMORIAL. ARE YOU ALLOWED TO BE OUT?
HUH? Y-YEAH! MY GRANDPA SAID THAT HE'S BUSY, SO HE COULDN'T COME.
OH, REALLY?

TO-HIS OWN
MEMORIAL?

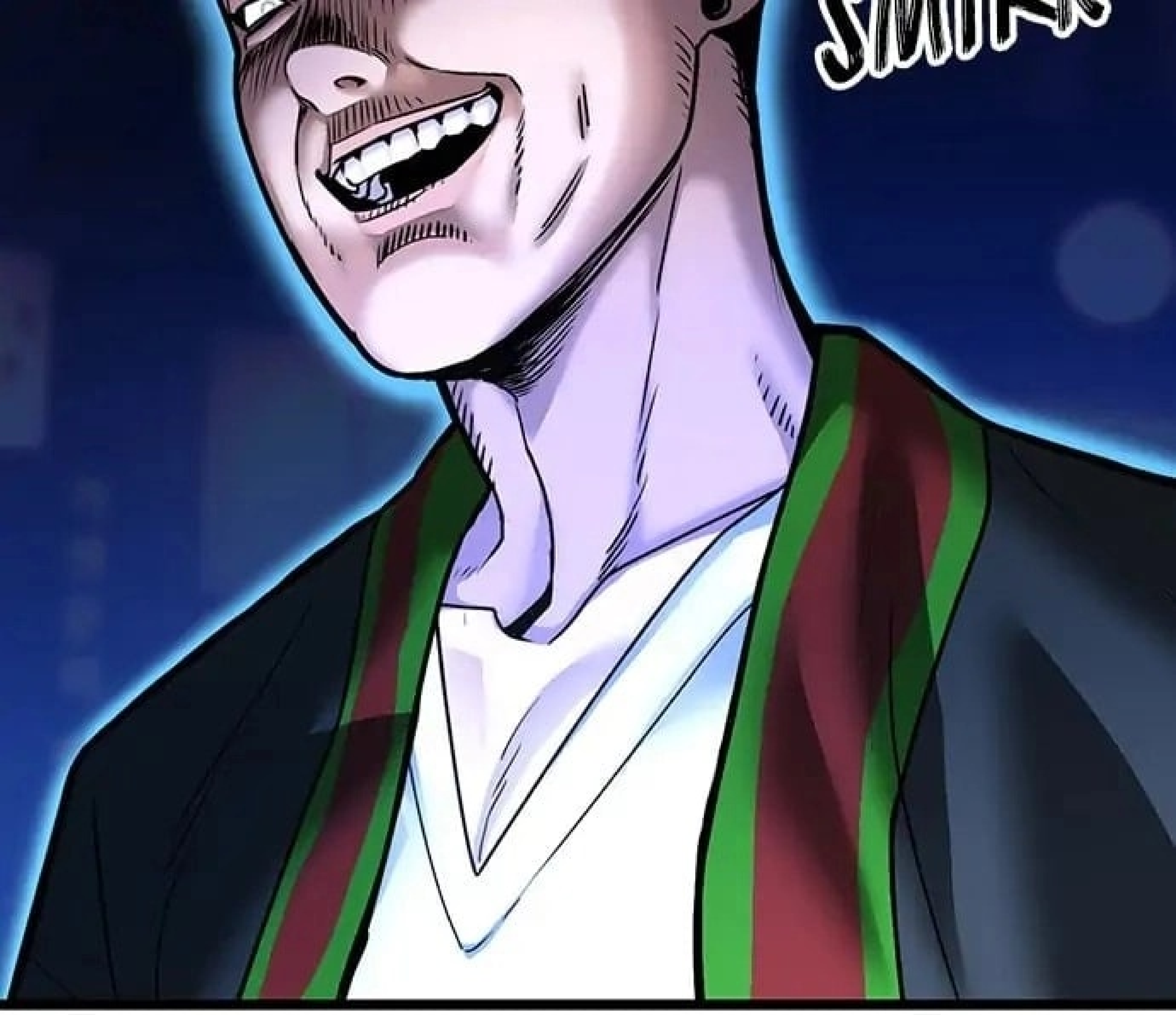
I DID COME,
BUT I'M SCARED AS HELL.
AND I FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT
FAINT FROM ANXIETY...

....NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN, RIGHT?

DOWAN,

LET'S HAVE FUN TODAY!

SNIRK



WHAT'S UP WITH THAT EXPRESSION?!
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO STIR UP
TROUBLE IF THERE ISN'T ANY!

I KNEW IT.
LET'S JUST RUN AWAY WHILE
I HAVE THE CHANCE!

HMM?
I JUST GOT A CALL!!

HELLO? YES,
GRANDPA?!

AH, YOU CAN MAKE IT?
THEN I GUESS I HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO--

OH, THE GIRLS ARE HERE.

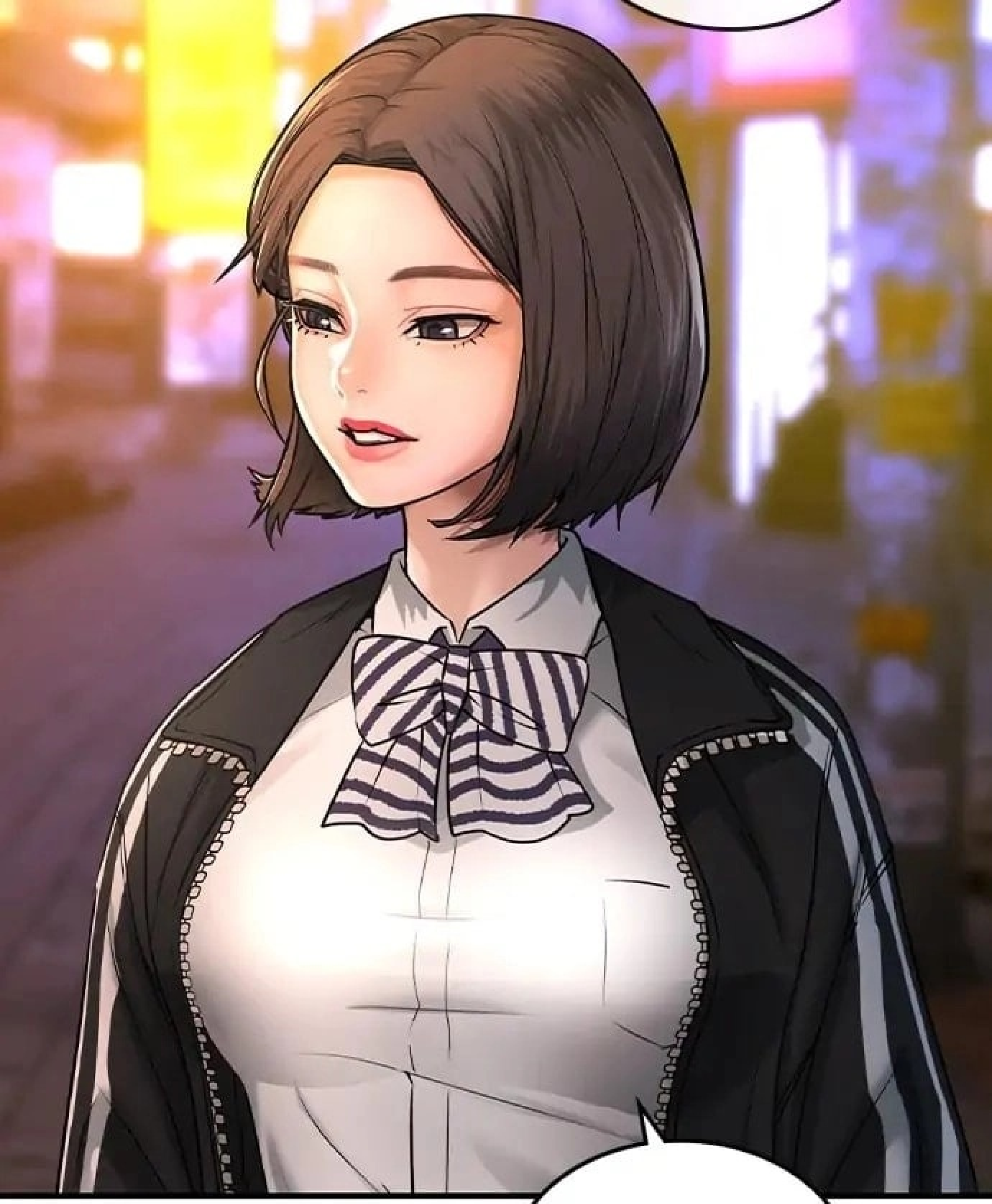
LOOK.
ISN'T HE GORGEOUS?

OH WOW.
WHO IS HE?

WE GO TO THE SAME CRAM SCHOOL.

WHO WANTS TO GO ON A BLIND DATE WITH HIM?

ME, ME!!


I'LL PASS.

I DIDN'T COME IN HERE
JUST BECAUSE
SHE'S PRETTY.

IT'D BE RUDE TO THE PERSON WHO INVITED ME.

BUT THIS IS FANCIER THAN
I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

ARE HIGH SCHOOLERS
EVEN CAPABLE OF PAYING
FOR ALL THIS?

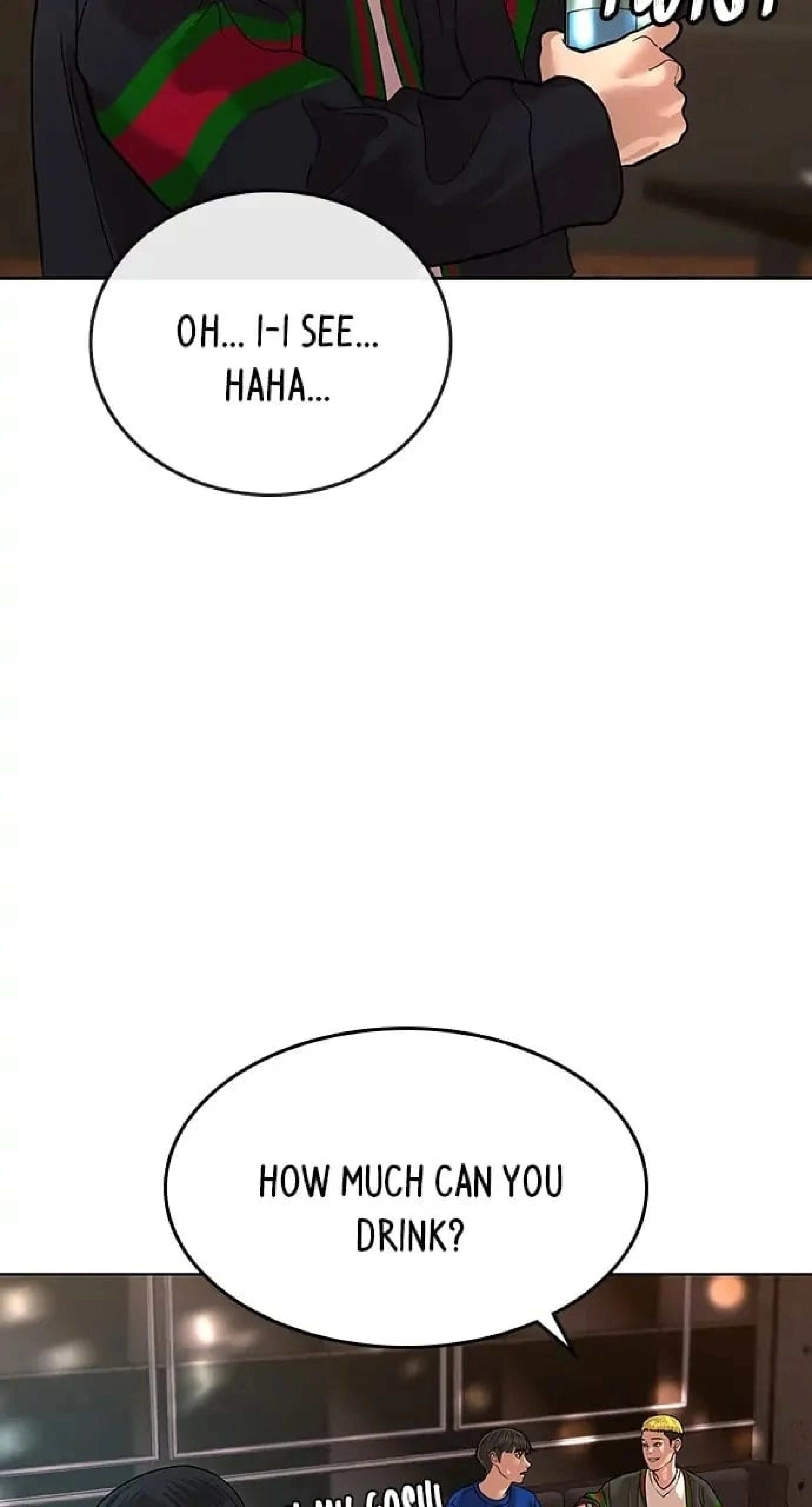
MY FRIEND'S BROTHER WORKS HERE.

ALL THE COOL KIDS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD DRINK HERE OFTEN.

HE'S GOING TO COME BY LATER TOO.

TWIST

TWIST


OH... I-I SEE...
HAHA...
HOW MUCH CAN YOU
DRINK?

I-I'VE NEVER BEEN DRUNK BEFORE, SO I DON'T KNOW...

OOH, SO YOU CAN HOLD YOUR LIQUOR!

TRICKLE

TRICKLE

TRICKLE

THAT'S BECAUSE I'VE NEVER DRANK ALCOHOL BEFORE.

DON'T WORRY

ABOUT THE PRICE AND ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT!

IT'S ON ME TODAY.

T-THANKS, JAEMIN.

HMM?
HE'S PAYING AND BEING SO

NICE TOO!

THIS ISN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE. MAYBE HE'S ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY...

NOW!

TSK, TSK, TSK, TSK!

...WHAT?

HIS WALLET WILL BE HERE?
WHAT DOES HE--

NICE TIMING!

YOU PAID.
RIGHT, JIHAN?

I ASKED FOR A TWO-HOUR EXTENSION, JAEMIN...

JIHAN YOO (18)

JAEMIN'S WALLET

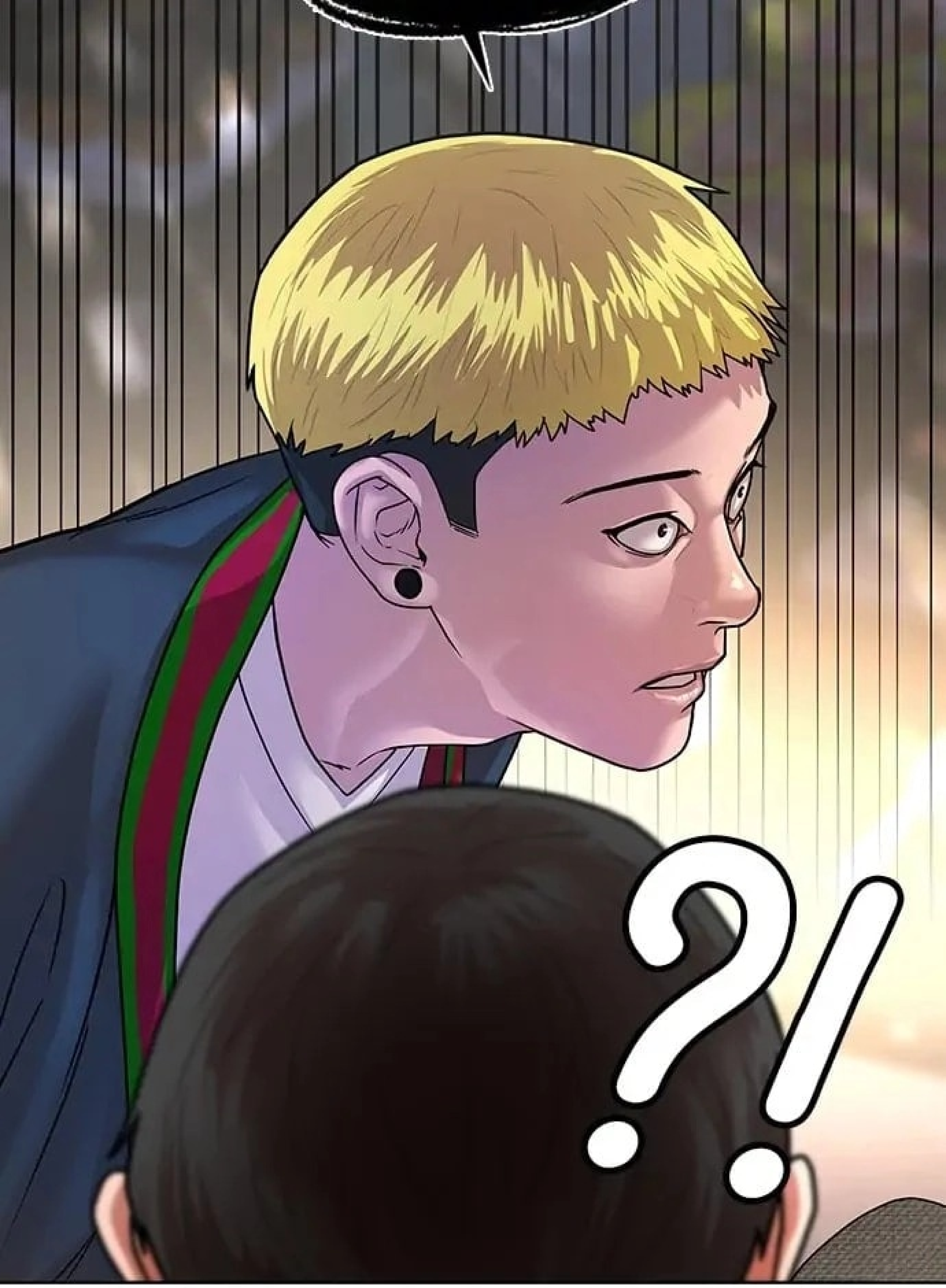
HE'S THE KID I BUMPED INTO AT SCHOOL EARLIER!

HE'S THE WALLET THAT
JAEMIN WAS TALKING ABOUT?!

HAA... YOU THINK
I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE
JUST TO HAVE FUN FOR
ONLY TWO HOURS?

LEAN

YOU MORON.



S-SORRY, JAEMIN...
HE'S SO DENSE, DON'T YOU THINK?
TREMBLE
SHAKE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
WHY'S HE SO ANGRY
ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

DO YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER? WE GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL.

N-NO, NOT REALLY...

REALLY?
SAY HI TO EACH OTHER.
THIS IS DOWAN, AND
THAT'S JIHAN.

JIHAN,
HAVE A SIP TOO.

TILT

SPLISH

SPLOSH
SPLISH
SPLOSH
?!

OH, SORRY, SORRY!
MY MISTAKE!

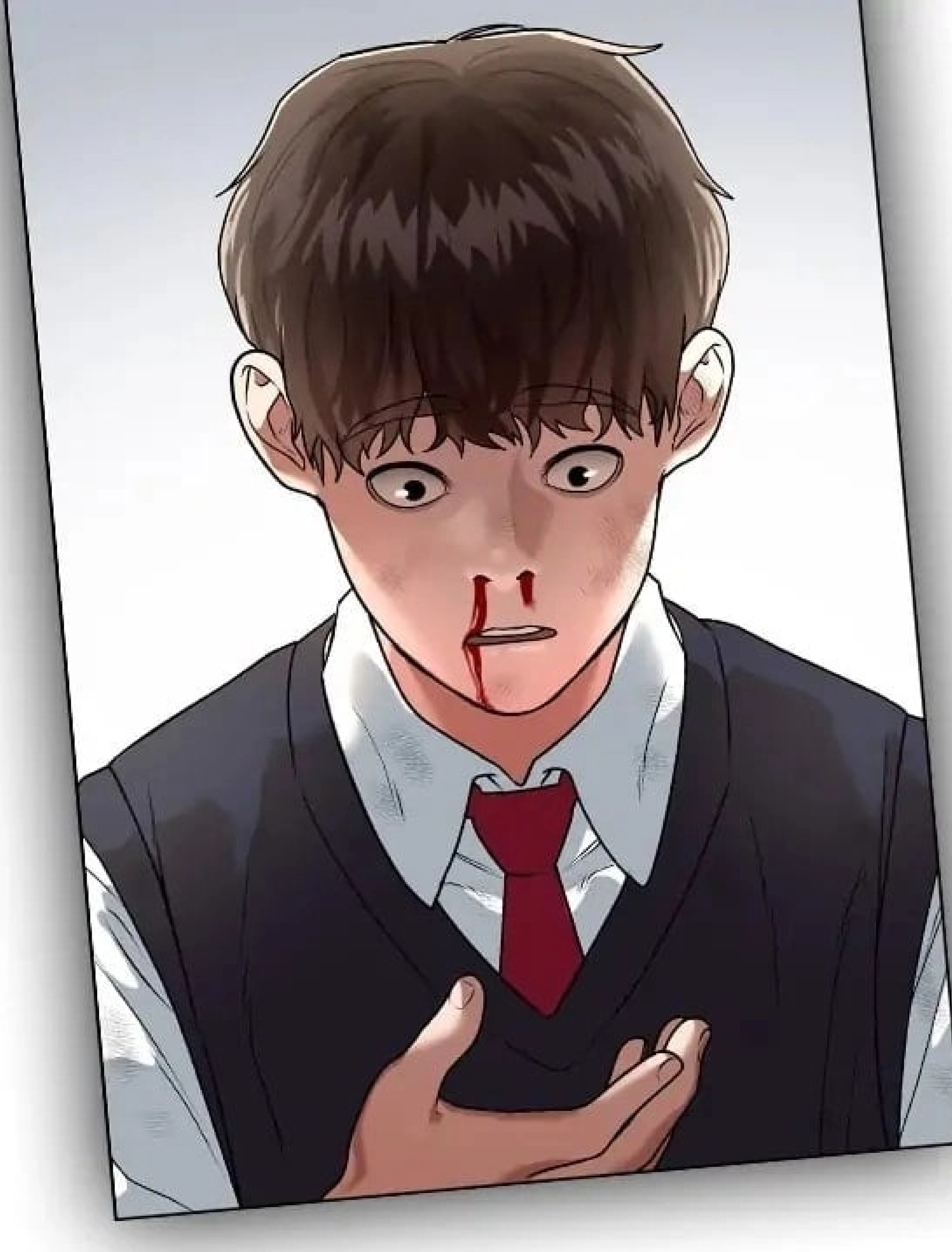
WHY DID YOU
WEAR GRAY PANTS?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU
PISSED YOURSELF.

MISTAKE MY ASS!
HE OBVIOUSLY POURED IT ON
HIS PANTS ON PURPOSE.

SORRY, I SHOULDN'T
HAVE WORN GRAY PANTS...

THIS IS EXACTLY HOW BULLIES TORMENT LOSERS...

LOOKING BACK, SOMETHING WAS OFF THEN TOO.



JIHAN'S FACE LOOKED LIKE
HE HAD BEEN BEATEN UP,
AND HIS NOSE WAS
BLEEDING TOO.

AND IN THE BATHROOM
HE RAN OUT OF...

...JAEMIN WAS THERE.

UGH, WHY DID I GET MIXED UP WITH ANOTHER BULLY!

WHO'S
THAT LOSER?

HEY, JAEMIN! WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU SING SOMETHING TOO.

SING? HA!
I'M JUST GOING TO
DRINK--

HMM... NEVER MIND.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, SO I'LL
SING A BALLAD.

UGH... A BALLAD?
YOU'RE RUINING THE
MOOD!

REALLY? BUT DON'T
YOU THINK IT'LL BE
FUN...

...IF JIHAN DANCES
WHILE I SING?

IS HE SERIOUS?
DANCE TO A BALLAD?

HE'S OUTRIGHT
TRYING TO HUMILIATE JIHAN!

COME ON, DON'T MAKE HIM DO STUFF LIKE THAT.

NO, HE LIKES TO DANCE.

RIGHT, JIHAN?

...

JIHAN.

WHAT'RE
YOU STARING AT?

DON'T EMBARRASS
ME IN FRONT OF THEM,
YOU FOOL.

TURN

GULP

I'LL DANCE...

GREAT! I KNEW YOU WANTED TO!

DAMN, HE'S REALLY
GOING TO DO IT? DOES HE
NOT HAVE ANY PRIDE?

WELL, IF I
WERE IN HIS SITUATION...

...I'D GET ON THE TABLE
AND BUST A MOVE TOO.

J-JAEMIN

I DON'T THINK
I CAN BEAR TO WATCH THIS.

THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON WHY THAT PUNK JAEMIN ISN'T BOTHERING ME.

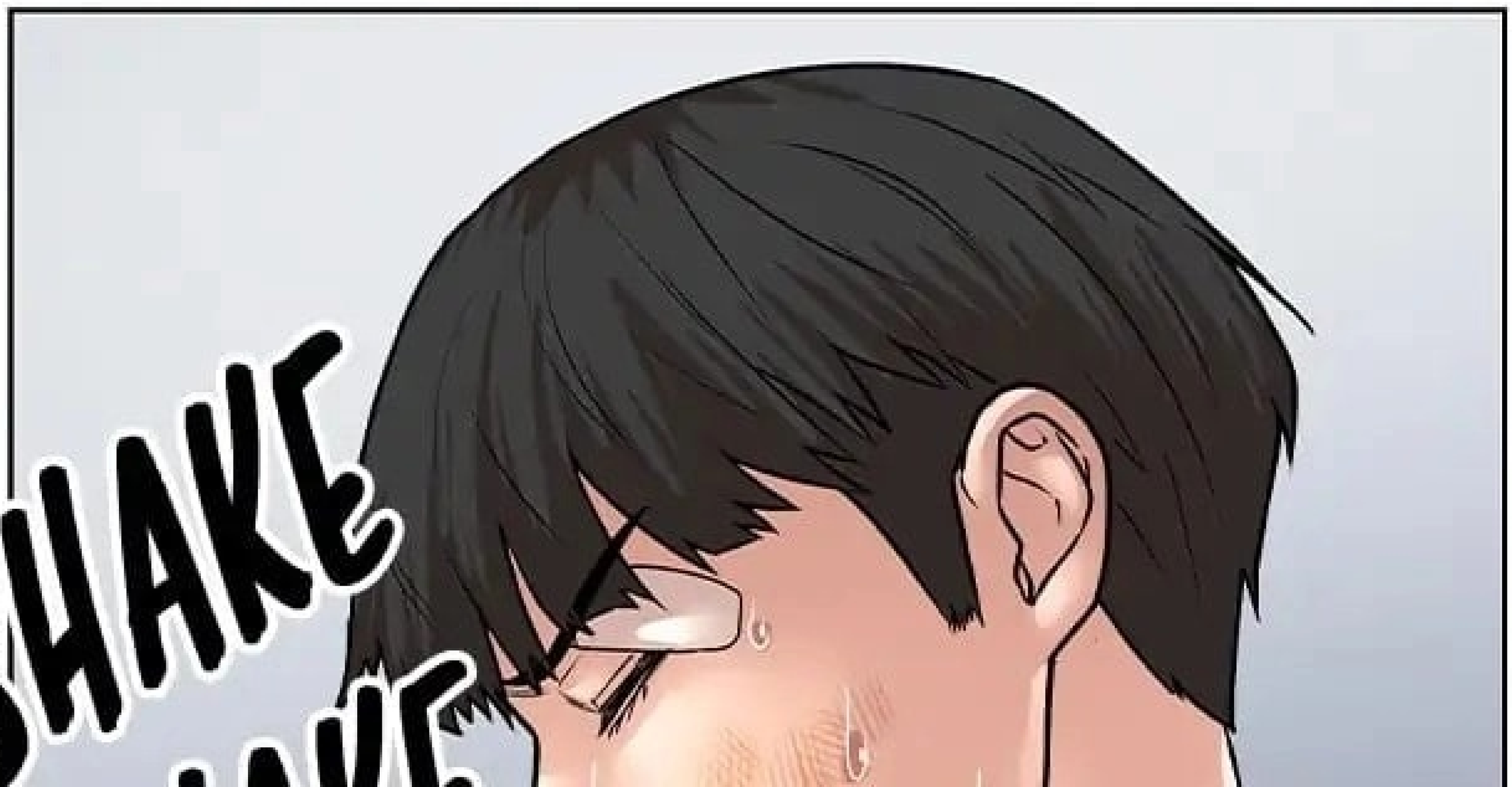
IT'S BECAUSE
HE THINKS I'M REALLY
STRONG, BUT JUST
PRETENDING TO BE
WEAK.

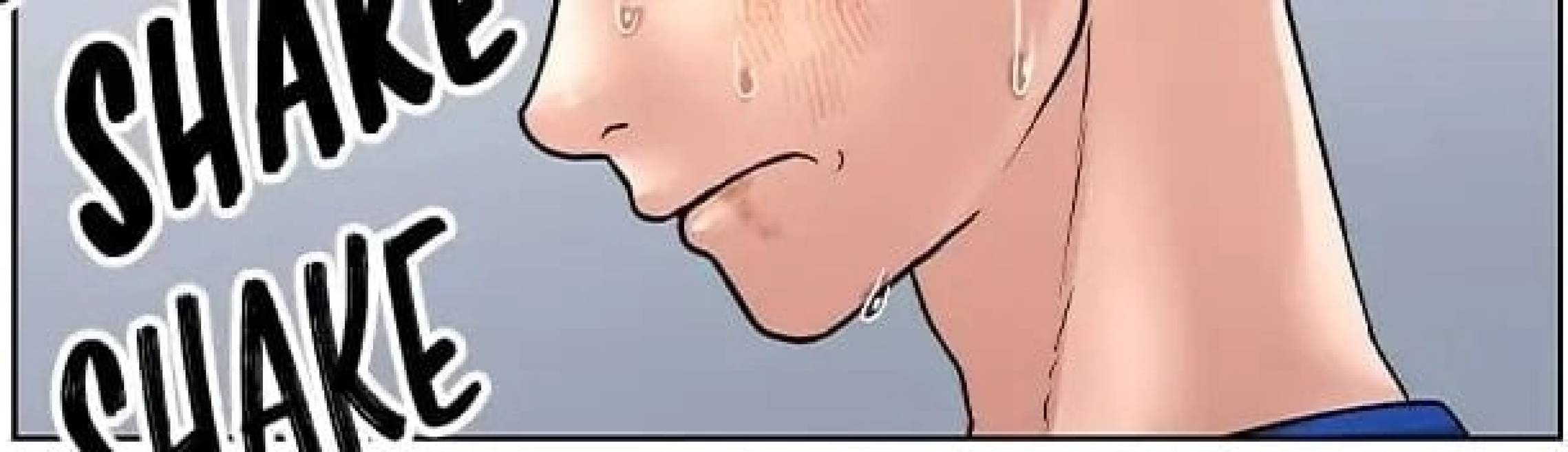
THE PROBLEM IS,

I DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH OR SKILLS...

...BECAUSE THEY'VE ALL BEEN SEALED.

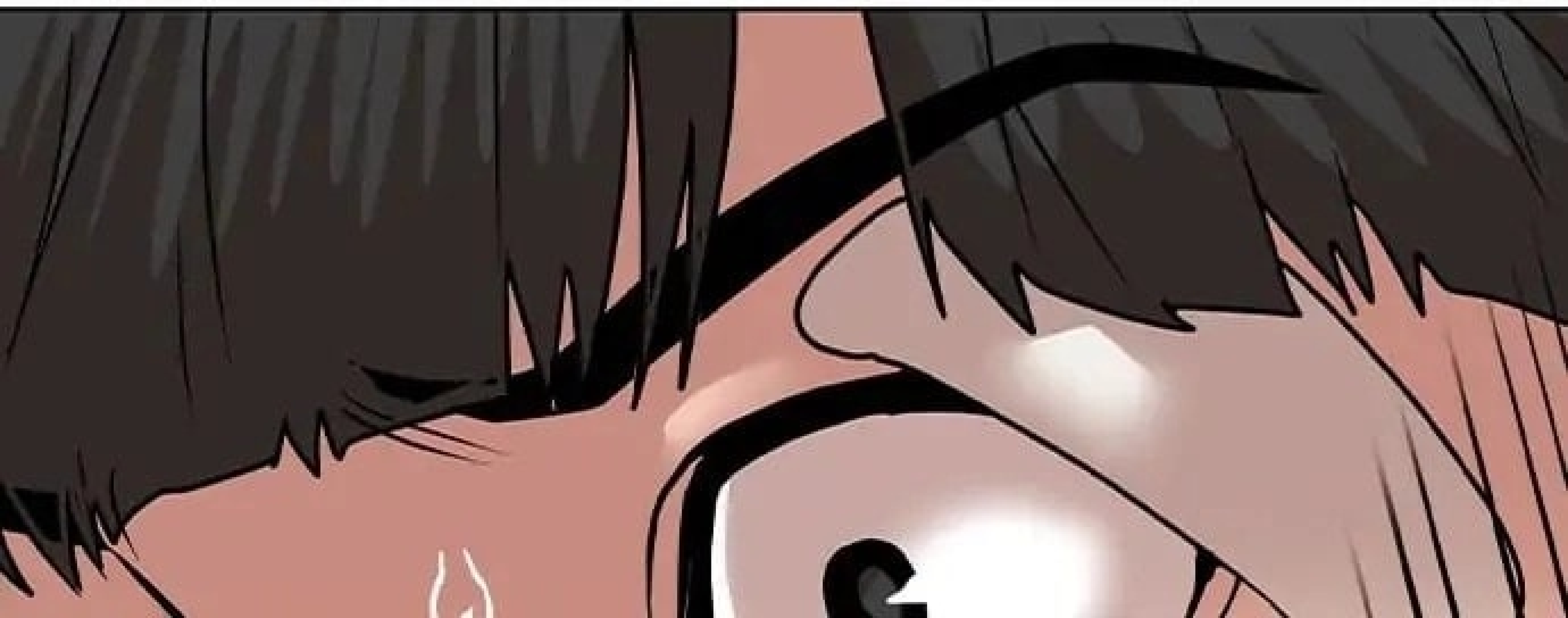
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME TILL HE FINDS OUT. AFTER THAT, I'M DEAD MEAT!





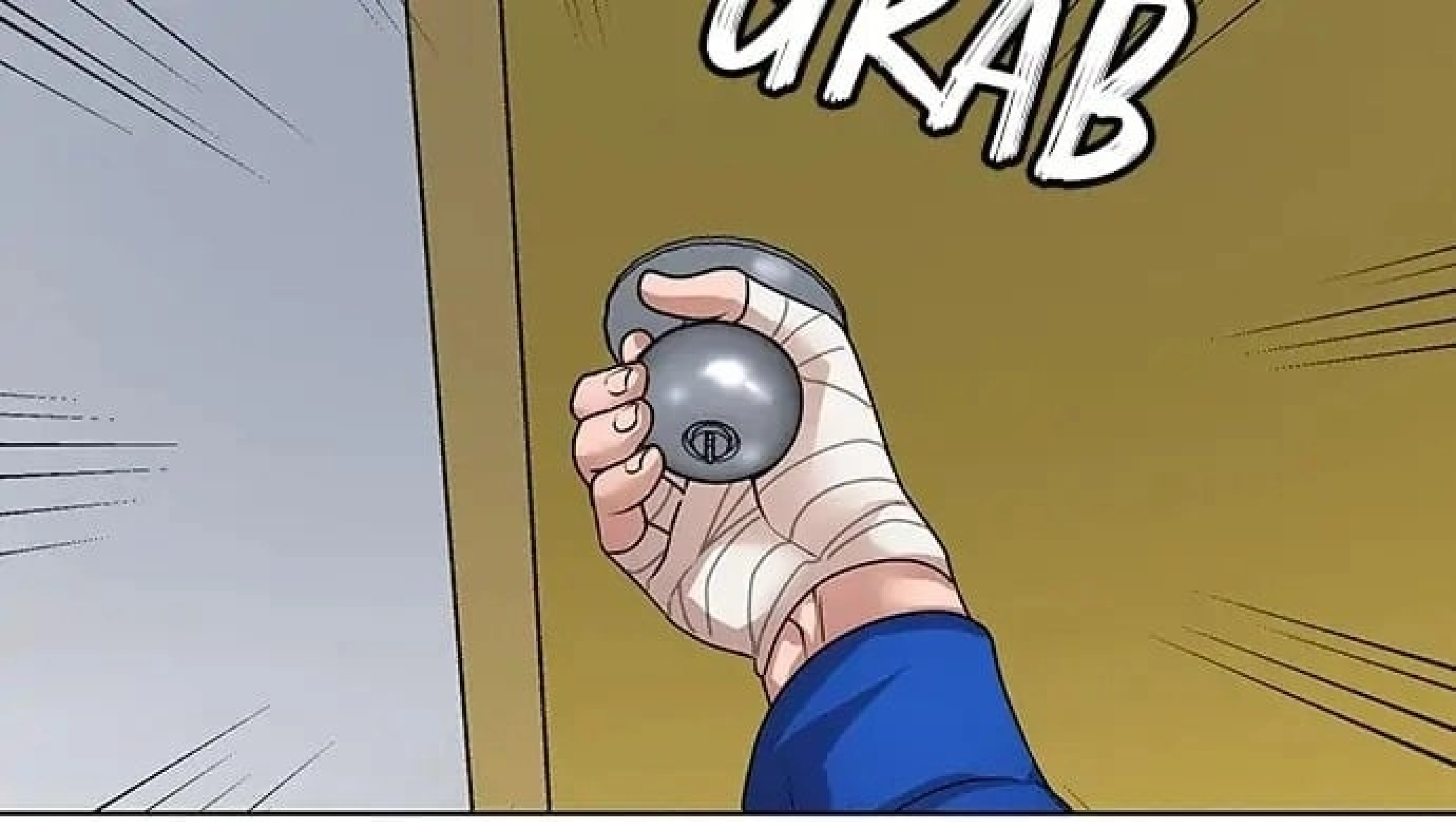
IF IT WASN'T FOR
THAT FREAKING PENALTY,
I WOULDN'T BE--

WAIT.



I ATTENDED
THE PARTY LIKE THE QUEST SAID.
I COMPLETED IT.

THAT'S RIGHT!
LET'S RUN AWAY BEFORE
ANYTHING HAPPENS.



IT'S TOO BAD FOR THAT WALLET, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.

I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE ANYONE.

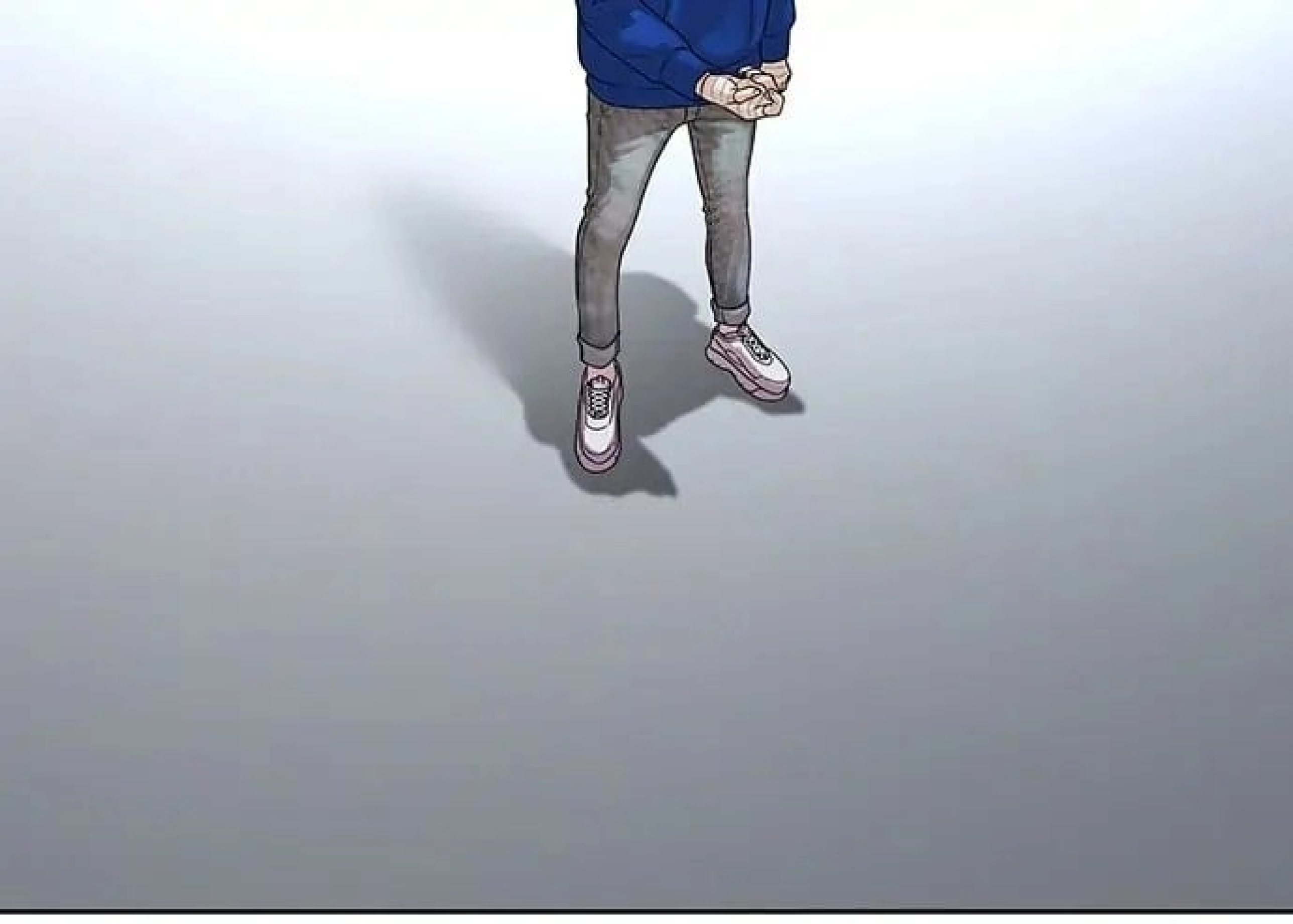
EMERGENCY
EXIT

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT
TO RUN AWAY.

DON'T EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF THEM, YOU FOOL.

WHAT'RE YOU STARING AT?

IS JIHAN...



...IN THE SAME POSITION
AS I AM?

CLICK

THERE YOU ARE.
YOU TOOK SO LONG THAT
I THOUGHT YOU WENT
HOME.

...

WHERE DID THEY GO?

THE GIRLS?
THEY WENT TO FIX
THEIR MAKEUP.

NOT THEM.

WHERE ARE HIS PANTS?
?!

OH, THAT?

I FELT BAD ABOUT SPILLING ON HIS PANTS,
SO I WAS WASHING THEM FOR HIM MYSELF.
SLOSH

!

SPLASH

T-THAT JACKASS...!
HE'S SCARING THE HELL OUT OF ME.
SHOULD I JUST HAVE KEPT
MY MOUTH SHUT?

NO, DON'T BACK DOWN!
I'VE COME TOO FAR.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY
OUT OF THIS.

LIFT

GIVE IT BACK.

DUN DUN

PRETENDING THAT
I'M SUPRESSING MY POWERS!

IF I BLUFF,
THEN JAEMIN WILL HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO--

CREAK

SORRY I'M LATE.

STOMP

THERE WAS A SMALL FIGHT THAT I HAD TO SETTLE ON MY WAY HERE.

WHO'S THIS PUNK?
?!

THERE YOU ARE.
THIS IS MY FRIEND.
SAY HI.

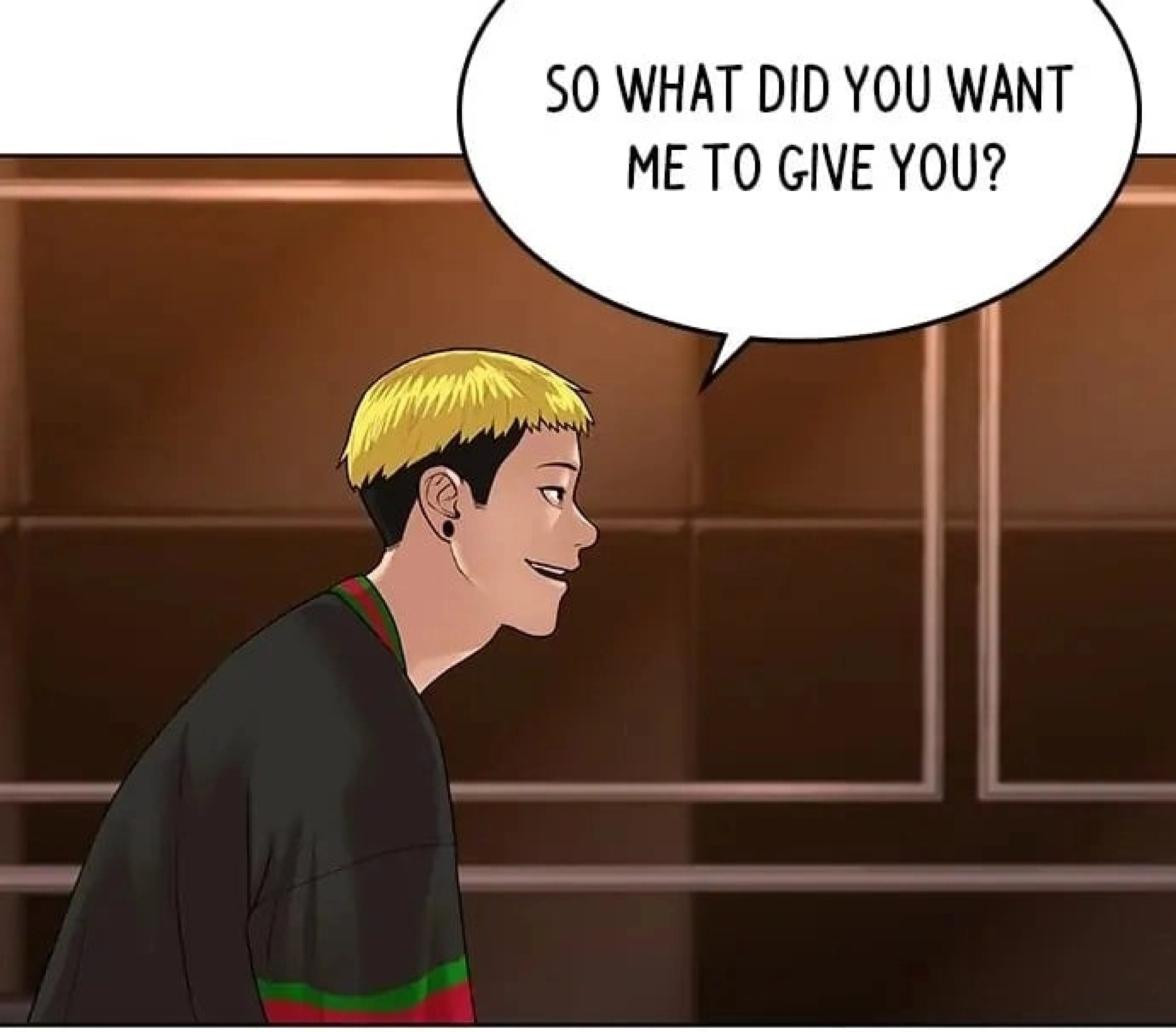
I TOLD YOU ABOUT
HIM EARLIER, RIGHT? HE'S THE
BROTHER OF MY FRIEND
WHO WORKS HERE.

H-HE'S A HIGHSCHOOLER?

HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN IN A GANG FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS!!

AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT BLOOD?! JUST WHAT DID HE HAVE TO SETTLE?

OH, RIGHT.



DAMN IT! WHY DID HE HAVE TO COME IN AT THIS TIMING?

WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?

TH-THE MIC!
GIVE ME THE MIC!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SING FOR A WHILE. HAHA...
OH REALLY? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

THANK GOD...
FORGET SUPPRESSING
MY POWERS. I NEARLY
GOT MY OWN PANTS
RIPPED OFF OF ME.

DING

QUEST: A DANGEROUS
INVITATION
COMPLETE

CHAIN QUEST
WILL START NOW.

HMM?

?

CHAIN QUEST:
JUDGE OF INJUSTICE

STRIKE JAEMIN SHIN ON THE HEAD WITH A MIC.

REWARD: BRONZE KEY
TIME LIMIT: 30 MINUTES

?!

WHAAAAAAAAAT?!

?

CHAIN QUEST:
JUDGE OF INJUSTICE

STRIKE JAEMIN SHIN ON THE HEAD WITH A MIC.

REWARD: BRONZE KEY
TIME LIMIT: 30 MINUTES

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