

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.



**IS GUMIN GOING TO
COME TO SCHOOL TODAY?**

A young man with dark, wavy hair and a white button-down shirt is shown from the chest up. He has a surprised or concerned expression, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. He is standing in a school hallway with lockers visible in the background. A speech bubble is positioned above his head.

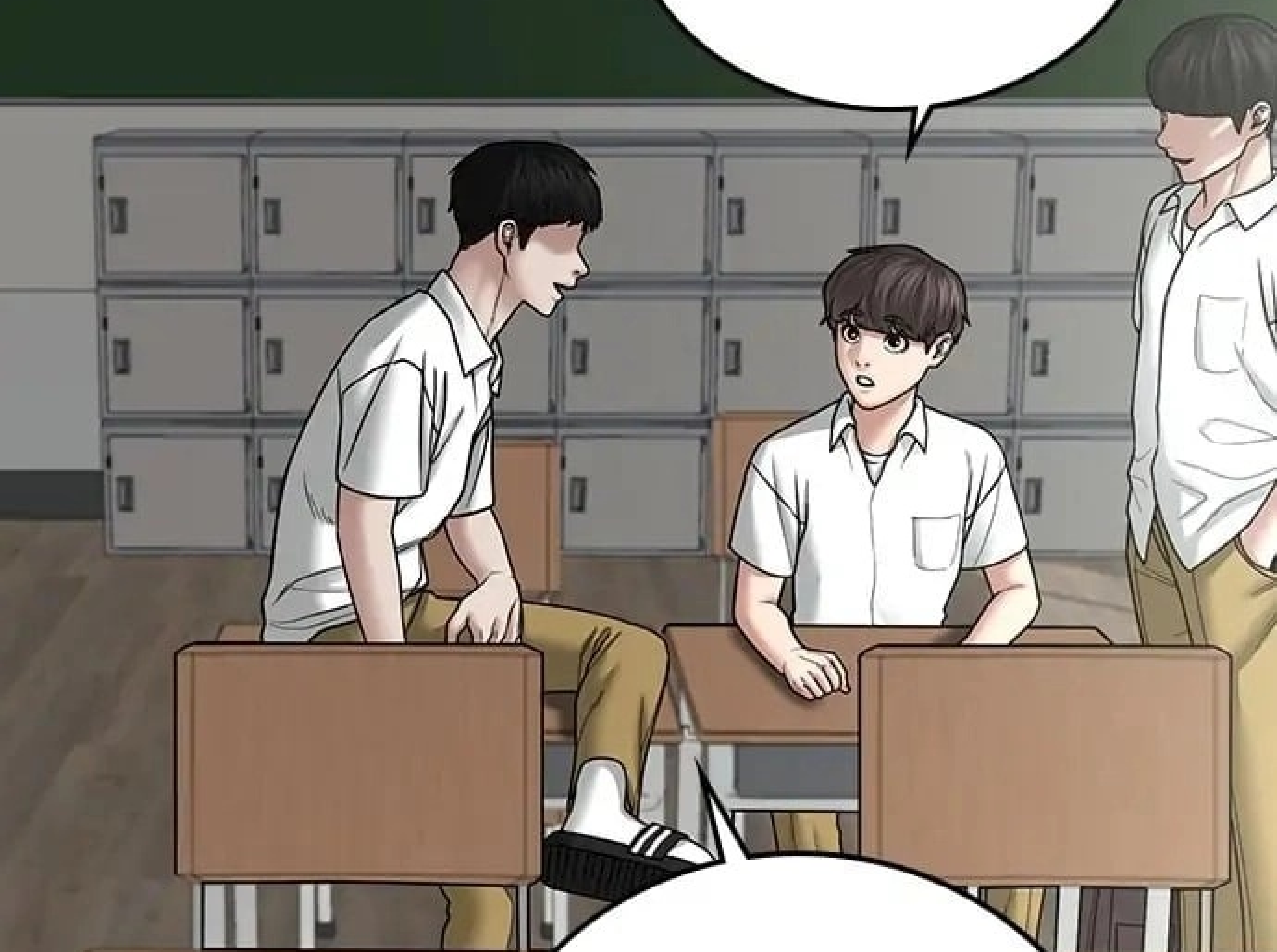
HE'S NOT ANSWERING
MY CALLS...

I WONDER IF HIS
MOM'S FUNERAL WENT WELL...

JIHAN, ARE YOU
LEARNING **BOXING**
THESE DAYS?

YEAH, HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

I SAW YOU
GO TO THE GYM
YESTERDAY. HAHA.



WHOA... I THOUGHT
YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE
LEARNING *JIU-JITSU*
LAST TIME...

YOU'RE TOUGHER
THAN YOU LOOK.

STEP





IT'S JUST A HOBBY.
HAHA...



I WAS THINKING
OF LEARNING A
SPORT TOO...



I'M GOING
THROUGH HELL
RIGHT NOW...



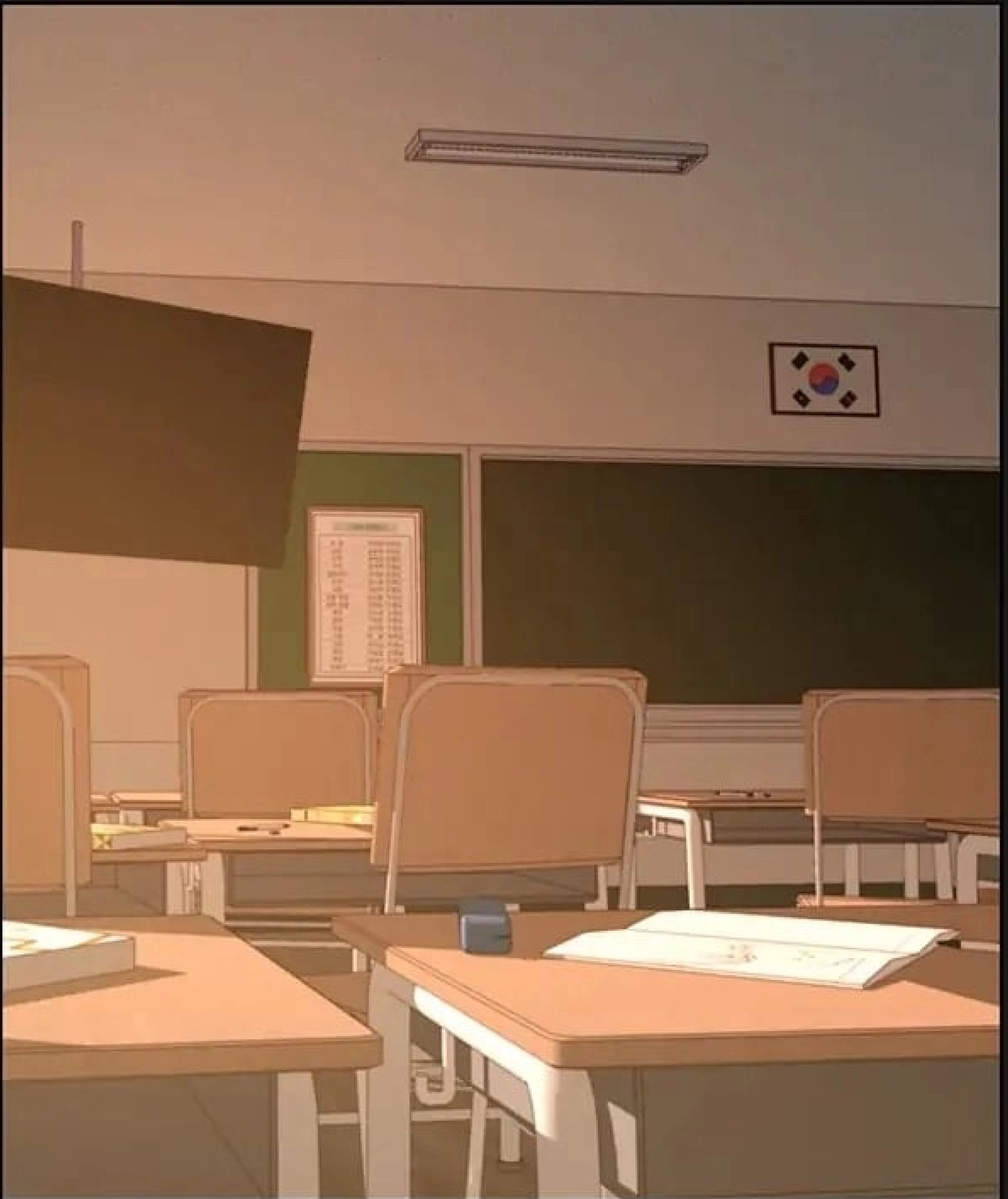
THE FEELING YOU GET
WHEN SOMEONE HAS
SOMETHING THAT YOU
CAN'T HAVE...

...BUT HE'S
LAUGHING WITH
HIS FRIENDS...

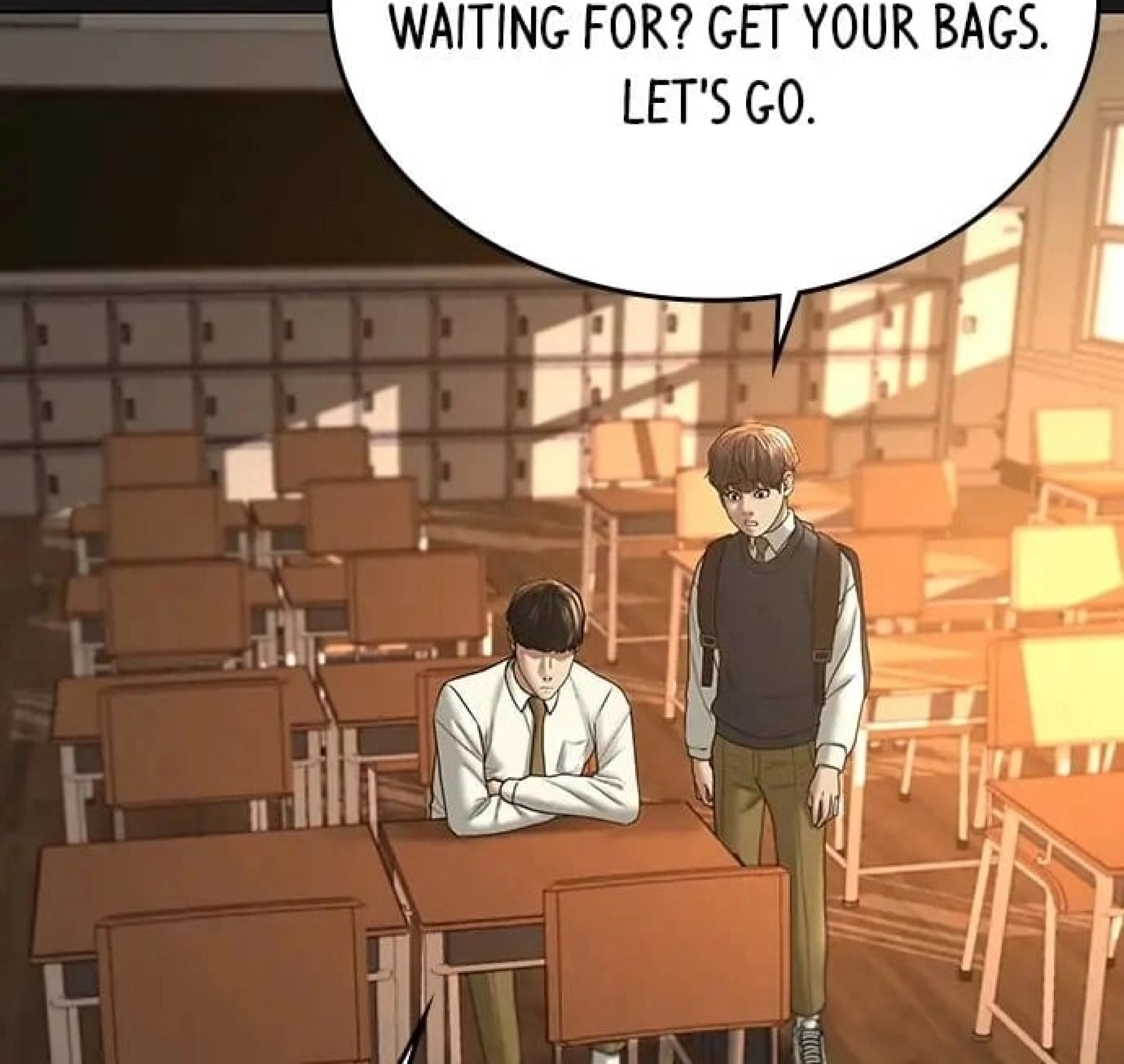




...IS CALLED
JEALOUSY.



GUMIN, WHAT'RE YOU
WAITING FOR? GET YOUR BAGS.
LET'S GO.

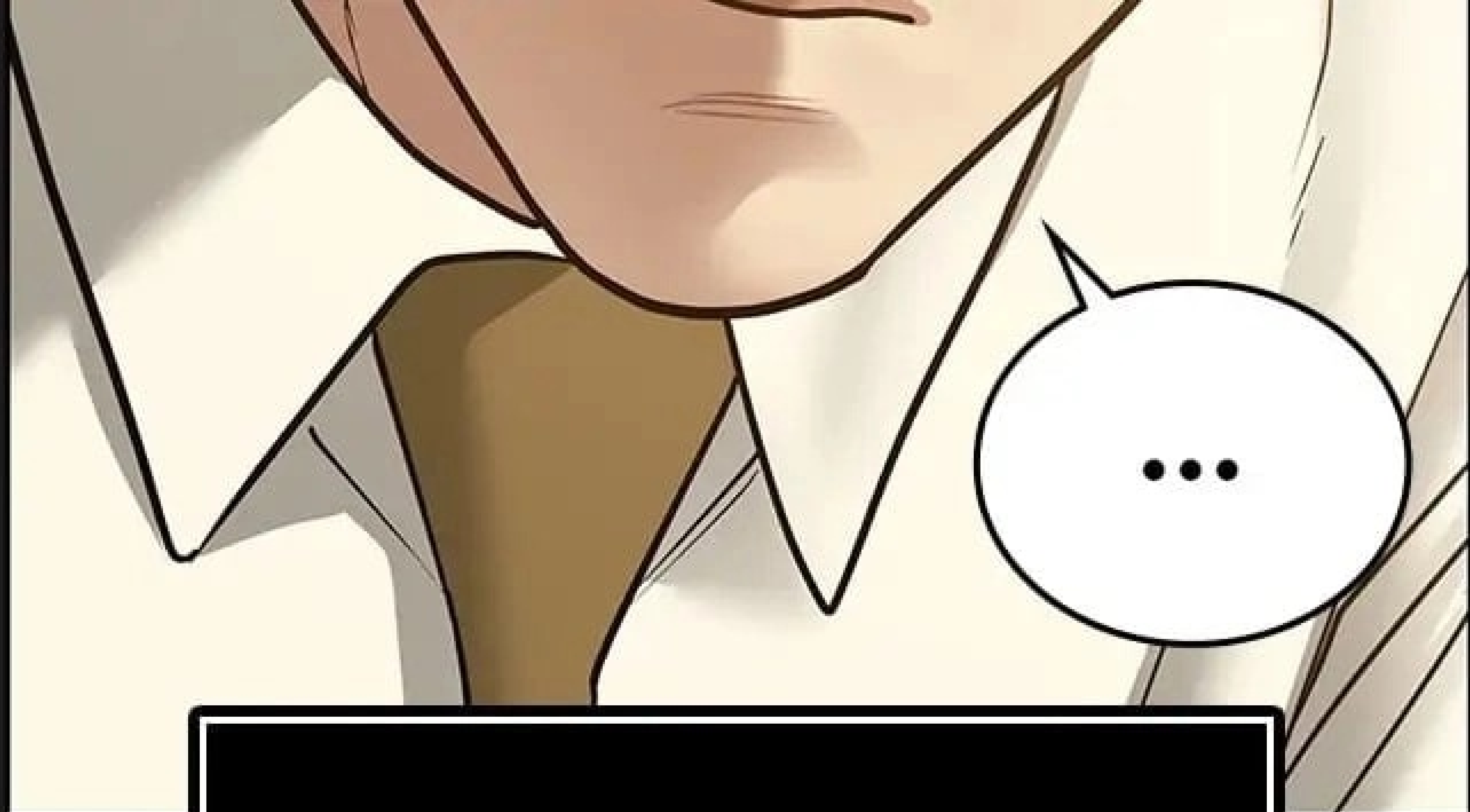




ISN'T TODAY
THE DAY THAT YOU VISIT
THE HOSPITAL?



YEAH, BUT...



AND BEFORE
YOU EVEN REALIZE IT...

ISN'T IT A
RELIEF...



...THAT JEALOUSY...

...THAT YOUR MOM
IS STILL ALIVE?





...OFTEN BECOMES THE
SEED OF HATE TOWARDS
THAT PERSON.



REALITY QUEST

STORY BY JOOWOON LEE
ART BY TAESUNG

YLAB

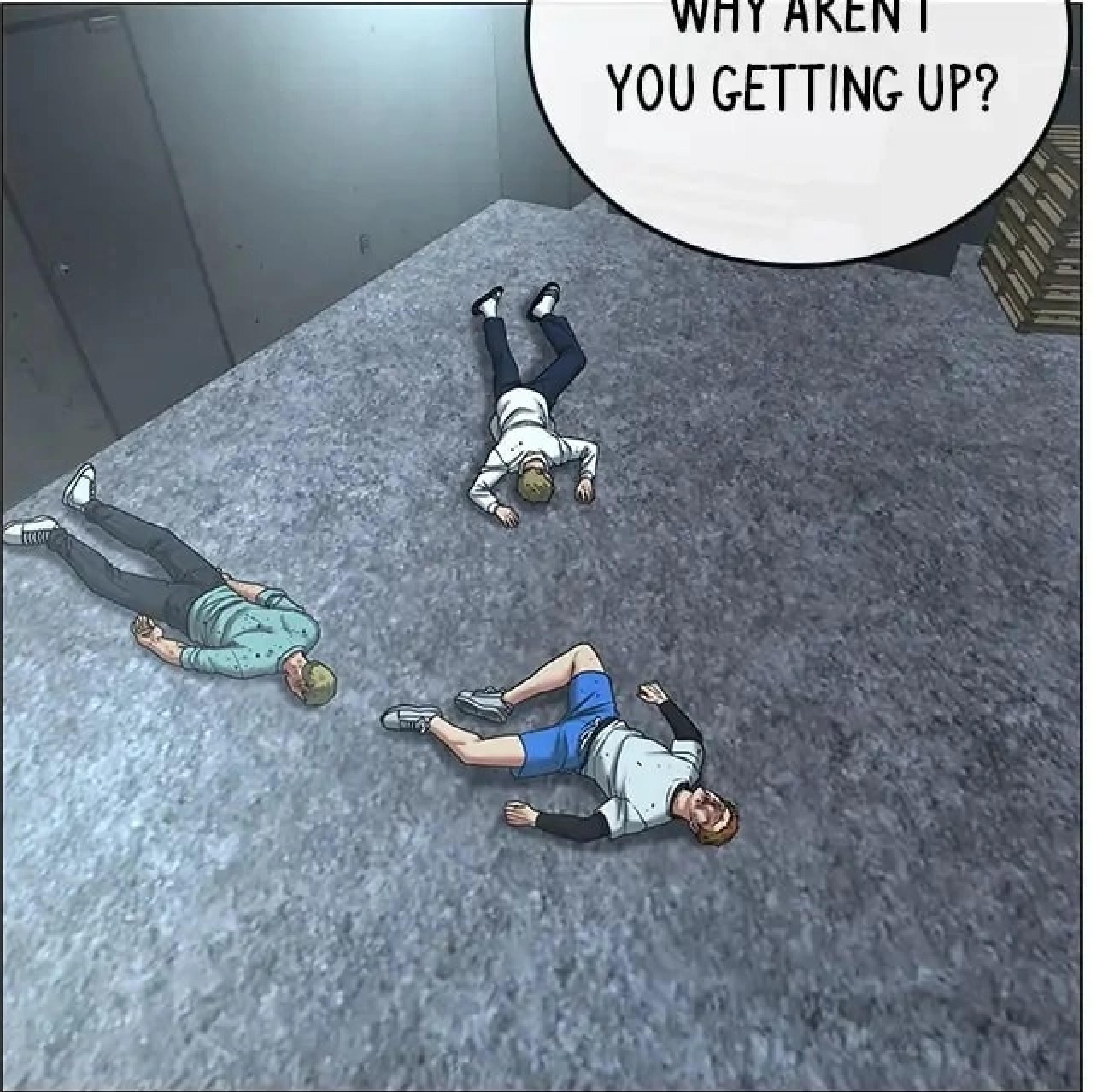
WHAT THE...



WHAT ARE YOU
GUYS DOING?



WHY AREN'T
YOU GETTING UP?





SH*T...



***WAKE UP,
YOU BASTARDS!!***





YOU JACKASSES!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA
HOW MUCH MONEY I SPENT ON
ALL OF YOU?!



YOU COULDN'T
KNOCK DOWN
ONE PUNK?!



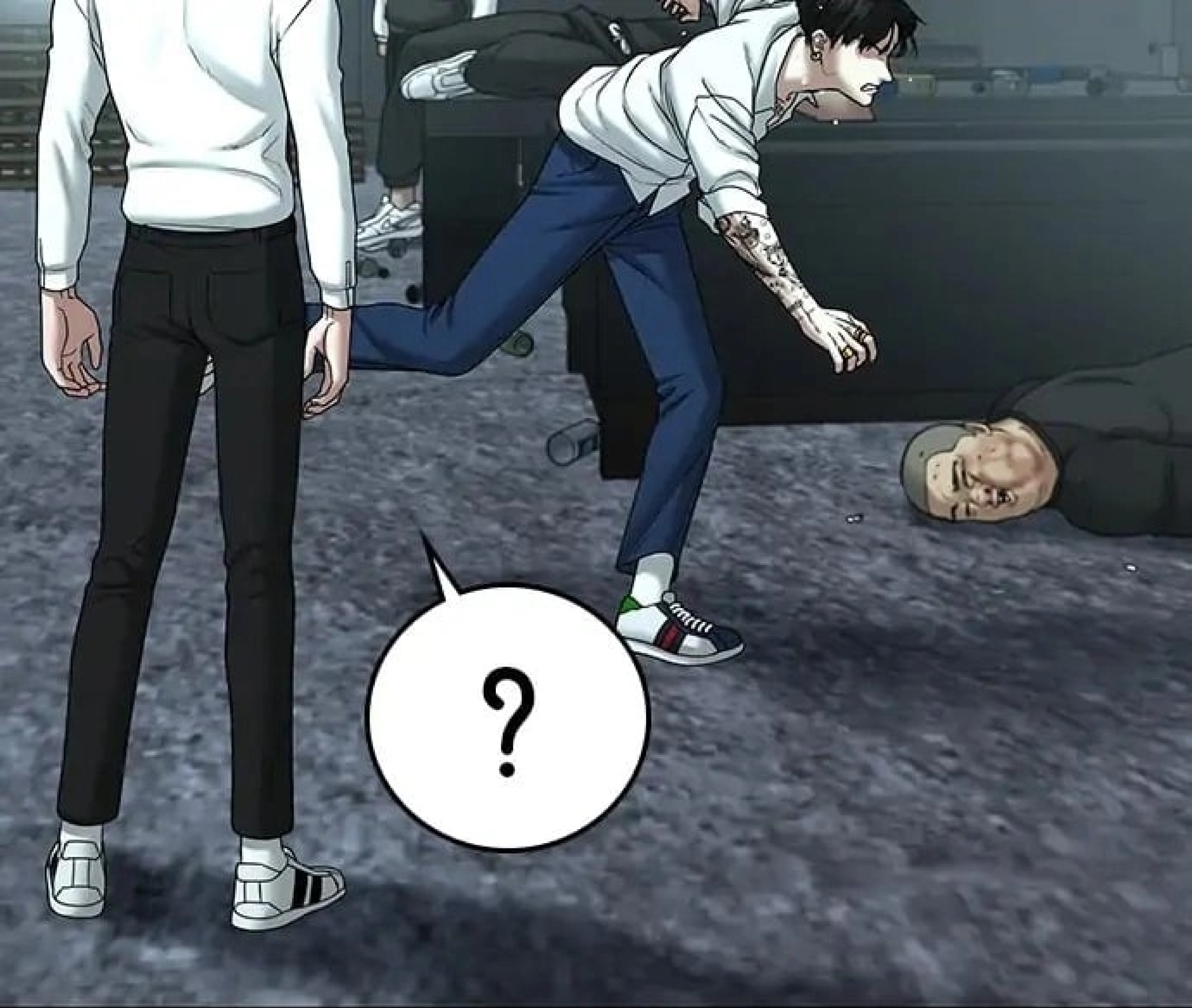


YOU GUYS ARE MORE
USELESS THAN COCKROACHES!!

RUSH



KARGH...!



KYAA!



WHAT'RE
YOU DOING?!

GO AND FIGHT TOO!

GO FIGHT, YOU
F*CKING B*TCHES!!





**LET GO,
YOU *SSHOLE!!**



YOU F*CKING--

AREN'T YOU
GONNA FIGHT, RICH BOY?

WELL, I'M
GUESSING YOU'RE NOT THE
FIGHTING TYPE...

STEP





!

FWWD

AH, SH*T!



KYA!

H-HOW MUCH...?!

?

HOW MUCH DID
THAT JIHAN BASTARD SAY
THAT HE'LL PAY YOU...



...FOR YOU TO
DO THIS?!

I'LL GIVE YOU
TWICE, NO, THREE TIMES
AS MUCH FOR YOU TO BE
ON MY SIDE!

IF YOU JUST
GET THAT
BASTARD--



WHOA...
YOU LITERALLY JUST SAID
A THIRD-RATE VILLAIN'S LINE,
HUH?

WHY WOULD I
TAKE YOUR MONEY,
YOU JACKASS?

YOU'RE SO FUNNY.

BUT I'LL TAKE IT
IF THERE AREN'T ANY
STRINGS ATTACHED--



SH*T!

JIHAN...! YOU DARE
TO USE YOUR STRENGTH
AGAINST ME?



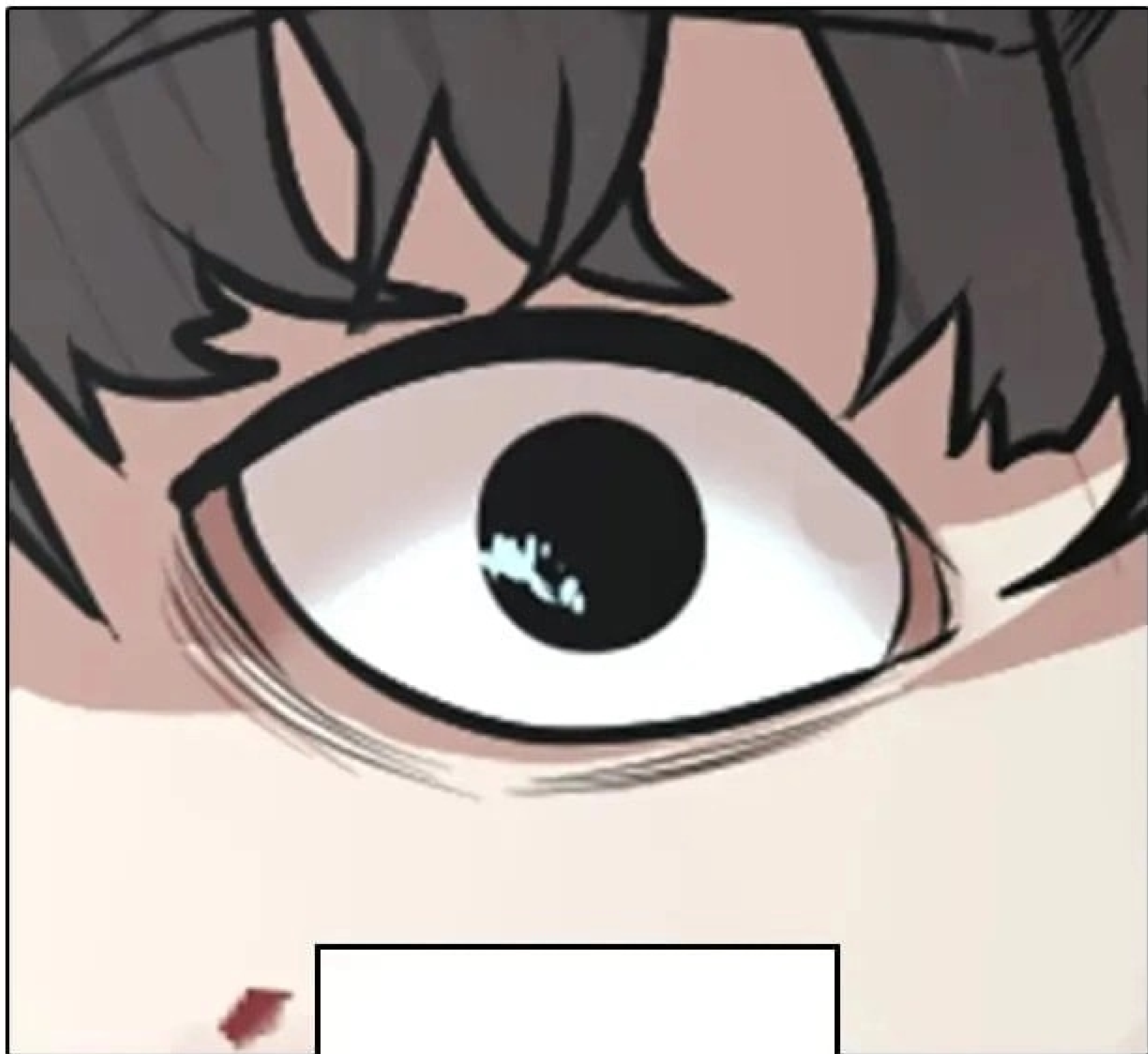


I'M GONNA SEND ALL THE
PICS AND VIDEOS OF YOU
BEING BULLIED TO YOUR
MOM!

ARE YOU OKAY
WITH THAT?

DO YOU NOT CARE IF
THINGS END UP LIKE
WHAT HAPPENED ON
THAT DAY?!





THAT WAS

THAT WAS
THE DAY...

...THE
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN
GUMIN AND I COMPLETELY
FELL APART...

GUMIN, WHAT'S
WRONG WITH YOU
THESE DAYS?

THIS ISN'T YOU...





F*CK. HEY.



YOU'RE PITTYING ME,
AREN'T YOU?



...AND THE DAY THAT
I REGRET THE MOST OUT
OF MY ENTIRE LIFE.

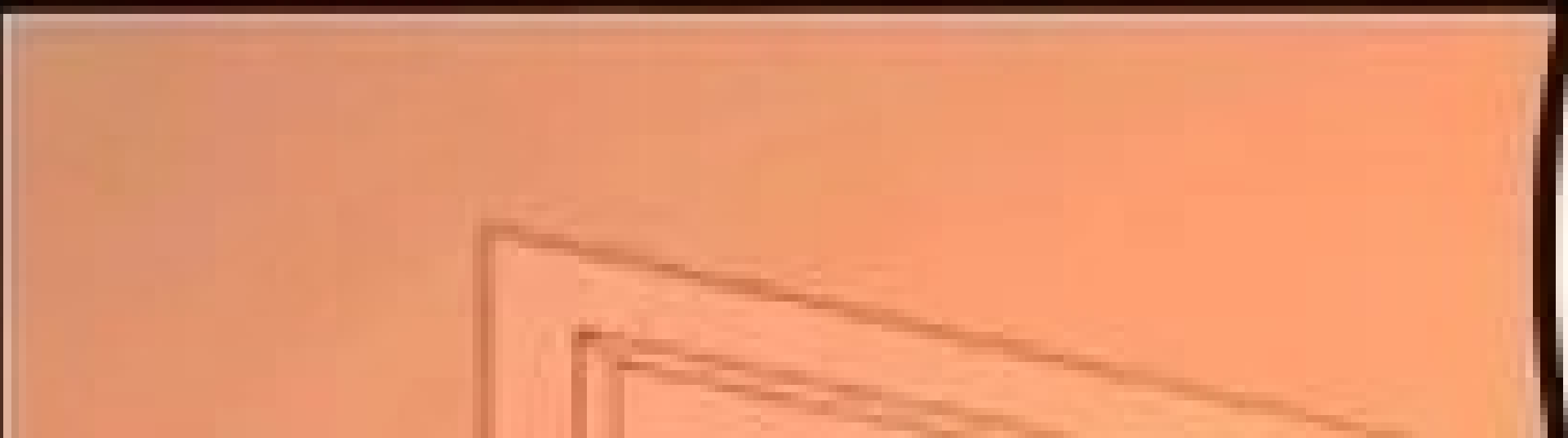
NO WAY...!





CALM DOWN
AND HEAR ME OUT,
GUMIN.

THE KIDS THAT
YOU'RE HANGING AROUND
WITH THESE DAYS...



...ARE ONLY
APPROACHING YOU



FOR YOUR MONEY.

THEY AREN'T
YOUR FRIENDS!

I UNDERSTAND THAT
YOU'RE GOING THROUGH
A TOUGH TIME BECAUSE OF
WHAT HAPPENED TO
YOUR MOM.

BUT IT'S NOT
TOO LATE TO--





UNDERSTAND
MY ASS...

YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN THROUGH THIS STUFF
SO HOW ARE YOU GONNA
UNDERSTAND ME?

A close-up illustration of a young man with dark hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a dark tie. He has a surprised or perhaps indignant expression on his face, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. The background is a warm, orange-toned interior with some architectural details like door frames visible.

WELL--

THOUGH YOU KNOW NOTHING
AND GONNA KEEP BLABBERING
NONSENSE LIKE THAT, HUH?
JUST GET LOST AND--

WAIT, NO.

THERE'S ***ONE*** WAY
THAT YOU COULD
PUT YOURSELF IN
MY SHOES.

YOUR MOM...



WHEN I
HEARD THAT...

...I SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET MY ANGER
TAKE OVER ME

TAKE OVER ME.



PRINCIPAL'S
OFFICE



ARE YOU SAYING THAT
AN APOLOGY FROM
THAT KID IS ENOUGH...

...FOR HURTING
MY PRECIOUS SON'S
FACE?



WHERE IN
THE WORLD ARE
HIS PARENTS?!



PLEASE,
MR. LEE. THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEANT.

JIHAN'S FATHER
IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP
RIGHT NOW...

...AND HIS MOTHER IS
IN THE HOSPITAL,
SO SHE CAN'T COME--

CLACK



MENTAL STABILITY IS
MORE IMPORTANT THE
WEAKER THE PATIENT IS.

AND TO MY SICK MOM,
NEWS THAT HER
SON HIT SOMEONE...





HAA...

HAA...

I'M SO SORRY...
THAT I'M LATE...

?!

HUFF

HUFF

M-MOM...?

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark, pleated skirt is shown from the waist down. They are standing in a room with dark brown walls.

**...CAME AS
A BIG SHOCK.**

A person wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a dark, pleated skirt is shown from the waist down. They are standing in a room with dark brown walls.

**MRS. LEE...
YOU'RE UNWELL,
SO YOU SHOULDN'T...**



OF COURSE...
I SHOULD COME...
KLEGH...!

I'M HIS MOTHER.

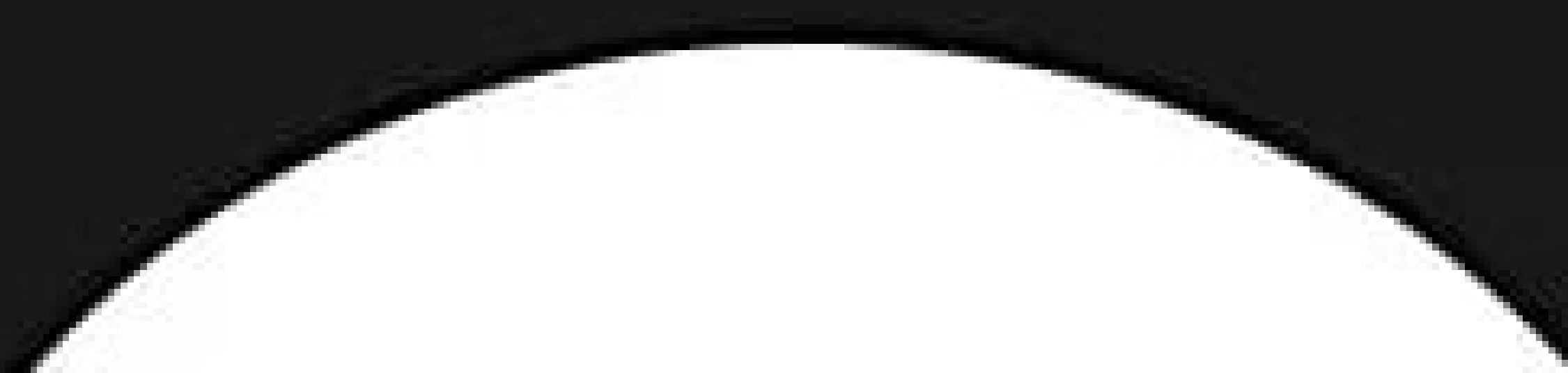
WHY DID
YOU LEAVE
THE HOSPITAL?



JIHAN... HAS COMMITTED
A GRAVE MISTAKE TO YOUR--
KLEGH, KLEGH!

I'M SOR--







WH-WHAT
IN THE WORLD?!

MRS. LEE...!

I FOUND THIS OUT
TOO LATE...

...BUT ON THAT DAY...

MOM!!



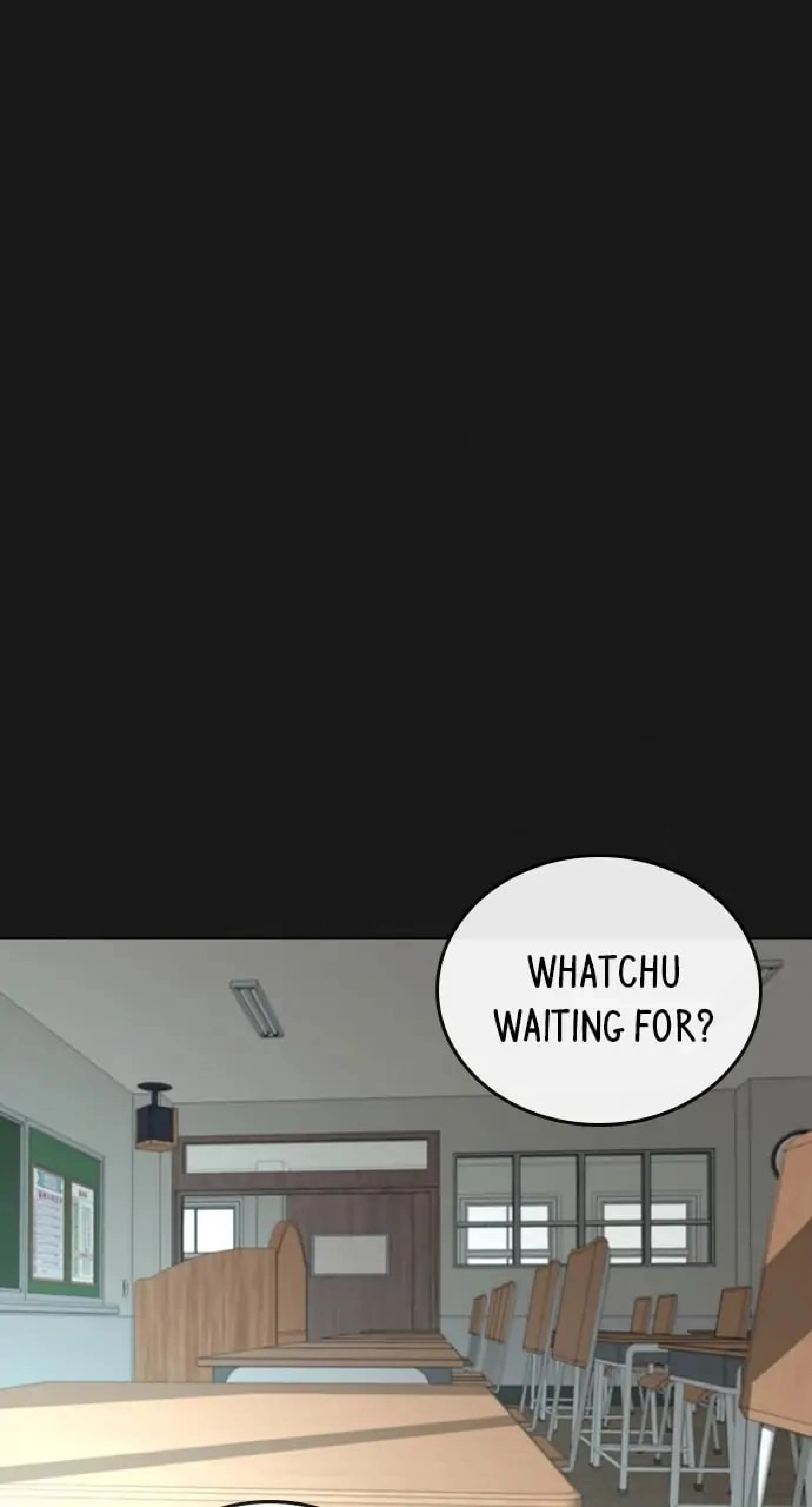


...MY MOM'S HEALTH
COULD'VE TAKEN
A SERIOUS
DOWNTURN.

AND MY
MISFORTUNE...



...BECAME GUMIN'S
OPPORTUNITY.

A stylized illustration of a classroom. In the foreground, there are several rows of wooden desks. To the left, a green chalkboard is mounted on the wall with some papers pinned to it. In the center background, there is a wooden door with a small window. To the right of the door, there is a large window with multiple panes. The room is lit with soft, warm light, suggesting a calm atmosphere.

WHATCHU
WAITING FOR?

I SAID LICK IT.

THAT DWEEB
REALLY LICKED IT!
HAHA.





UGH...! LOOK
AT THAT MOLD. THAT'S
FREAKING DISGUSTING!
HAHA.

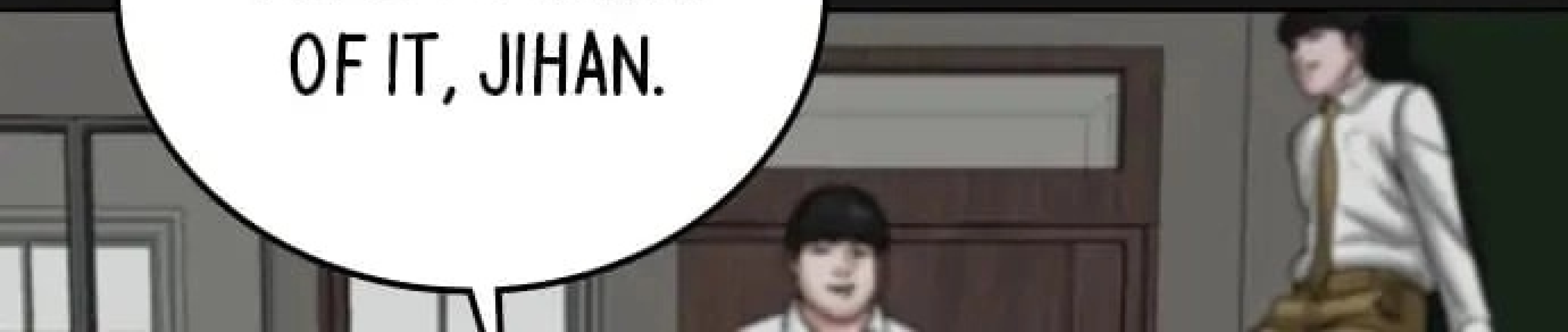
OOH,
I GOT A GOOD SHOT!
I'LL SEND IT TO YOU LATER, GUMIN.
HAHA.



IN HIS OWN WAY,
GUMIN BULLIED
AND ISOLATED ME...

...WITH HIS GANG.

COME TO THINK
OF IT, JIHAN.



LEAN



I HEARD THAT
YOU QUIT GOING TO ALL THE
GYMS THAT YOU USED
TO GO TO.

WHY, ARE YOU
SCARED OF GETTING
INTO FIGHTS AFTER SEEING
YOUR MOM PASS OUT?

YANK





DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH.
WE'RE GONNA GET ALONG
FINE, JUST LIKE THIS.



BUT THIS TIME, IF SHE FINDS
OUT THAT HER SON IS BEING
TREATED LIKE SH*T,

SHE'LL
PROBABLY GET SHOCK
AND NEVER WAKE UP.

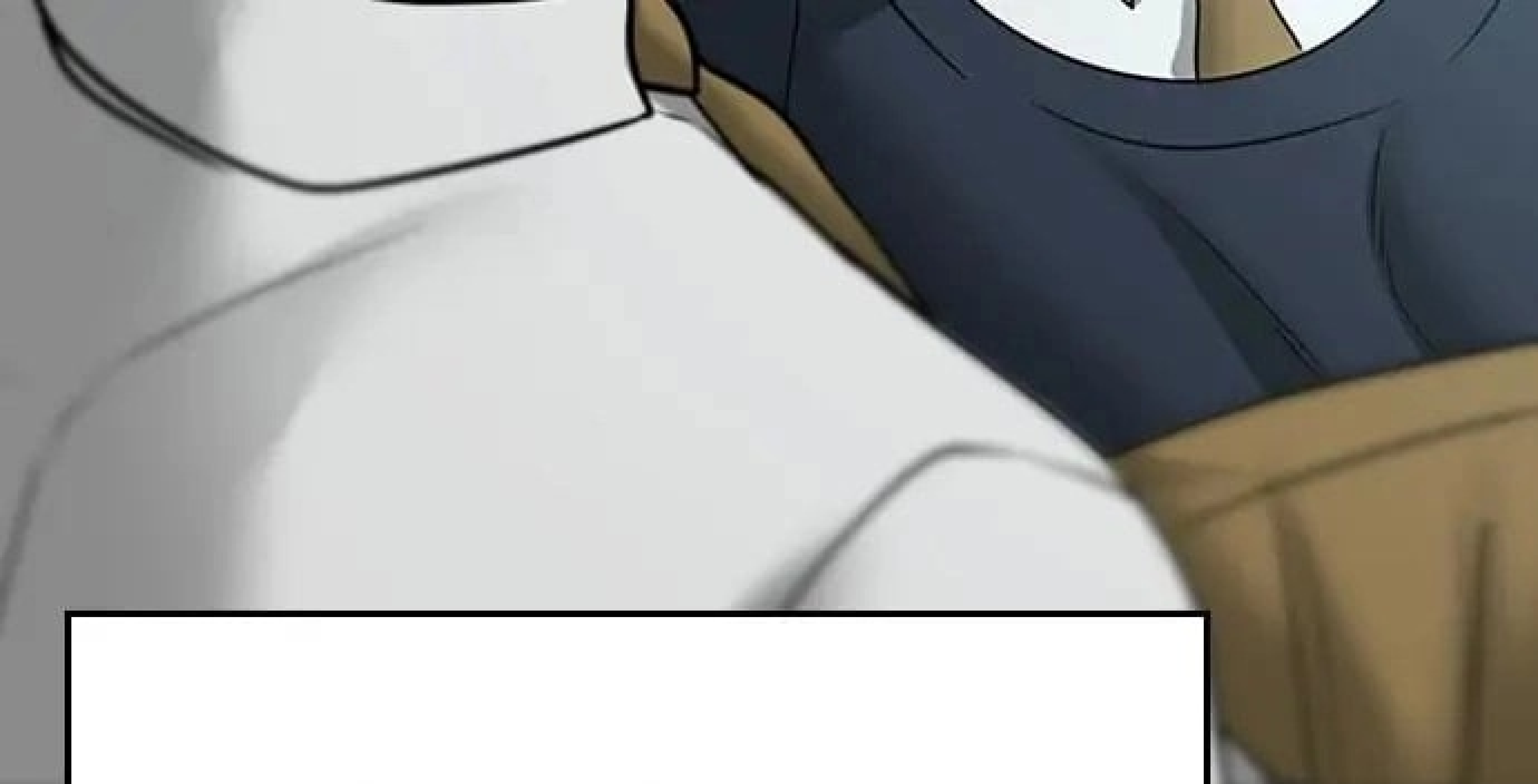


DUDE, THAT'S
HARSH. HAHA.

YOU TOLD ME
BEFORE, GUYS ARE
APPROACHING ME FOR
MY MONEY...

...WEREN'T
MY FRIENDS, RIGHT?





I WAS AFRAID THAT
SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN
TO MY MOM AGAIN,

SO I COULDN'T
FIGHT BACK.

THEN DO YOU...



AND AT
ONE POINT...

...EVEN HAVE
A SINGLE FRIEND
HERE?





...I WAS ALONE.

HAHA, WHY
CAN'T YOU ANSWER?
YOU SCARED?





I'M GONNA
PRESS SEND!!

IT'S NOT TOO
LATE TO KNEEL DOWN
AND--



SO THIS IS
WHY JIHAN COULDN'T
DO ANYTHING.

HMM... I CAN'T FIND
AND ERASE EVERY SINGLE ONE.
SHOULD I JUST
RESET IT?

HEY, DO
YOU USE CLOUD TOO?





HAHA, IT
DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU
ERASE THAT--

ERASE THAT



OF COURSE, YOU
COULD'VE HIDDEN THE
PICS OR VIDEOS...

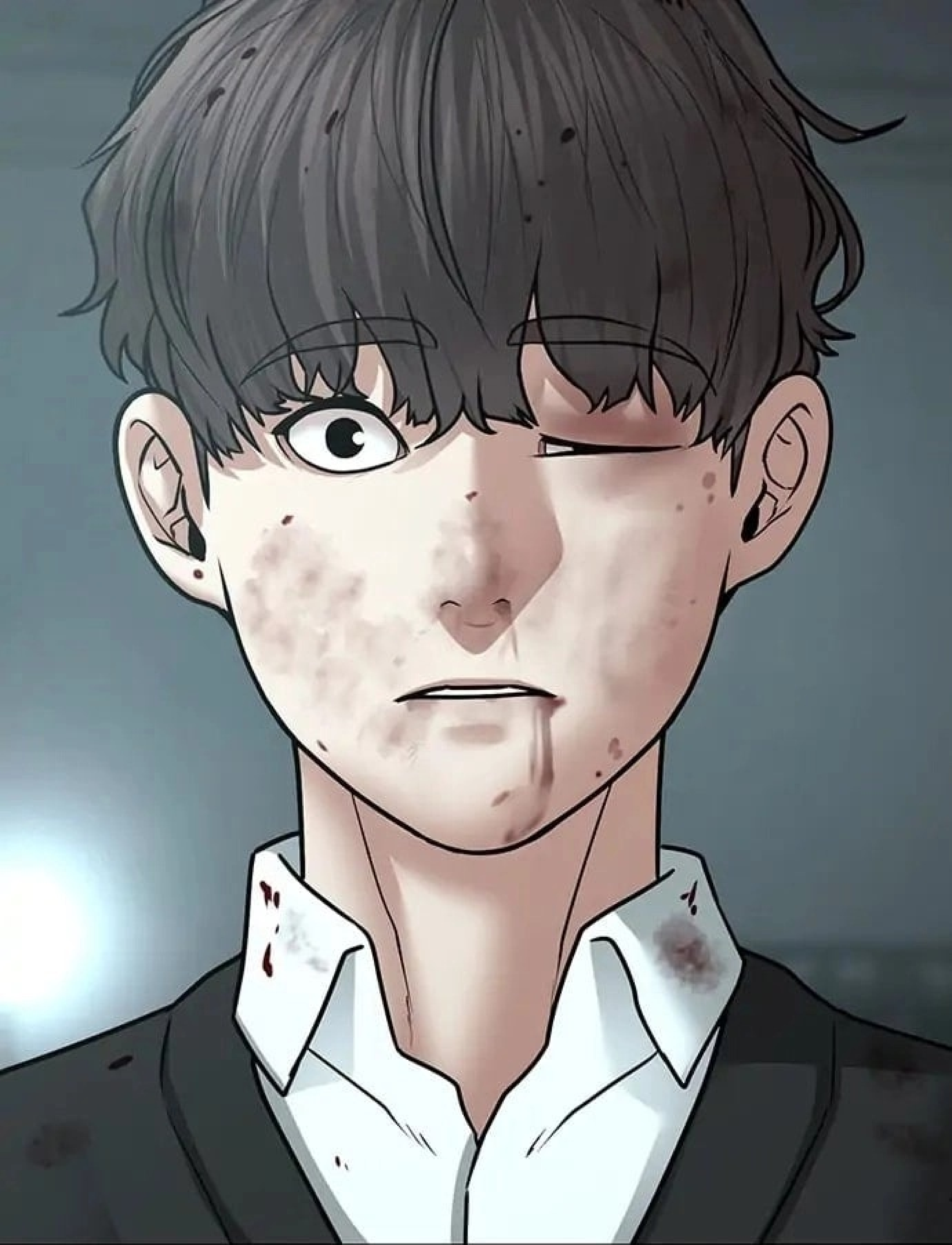
...SOMEWHERE ELSE.

BUT JUST
REMEMBER THIS.

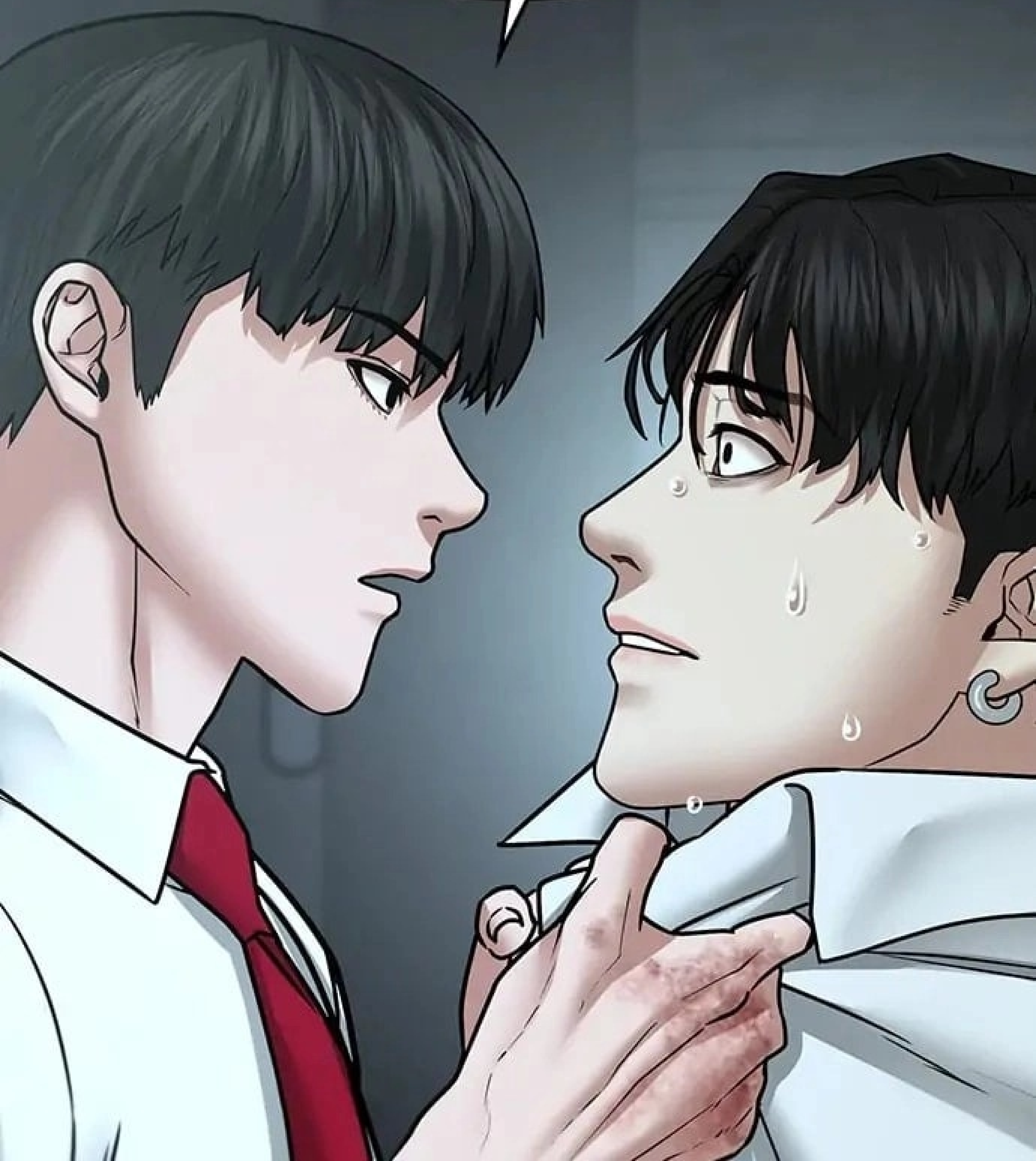
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT WAS LIKE
BEFORE

BEFORE...

...BUT I'M
BY JIHAN'S SIDE
NOW.



IF I CATCH YOU
DOING ANY OF THIS
CRAP AGAIN...





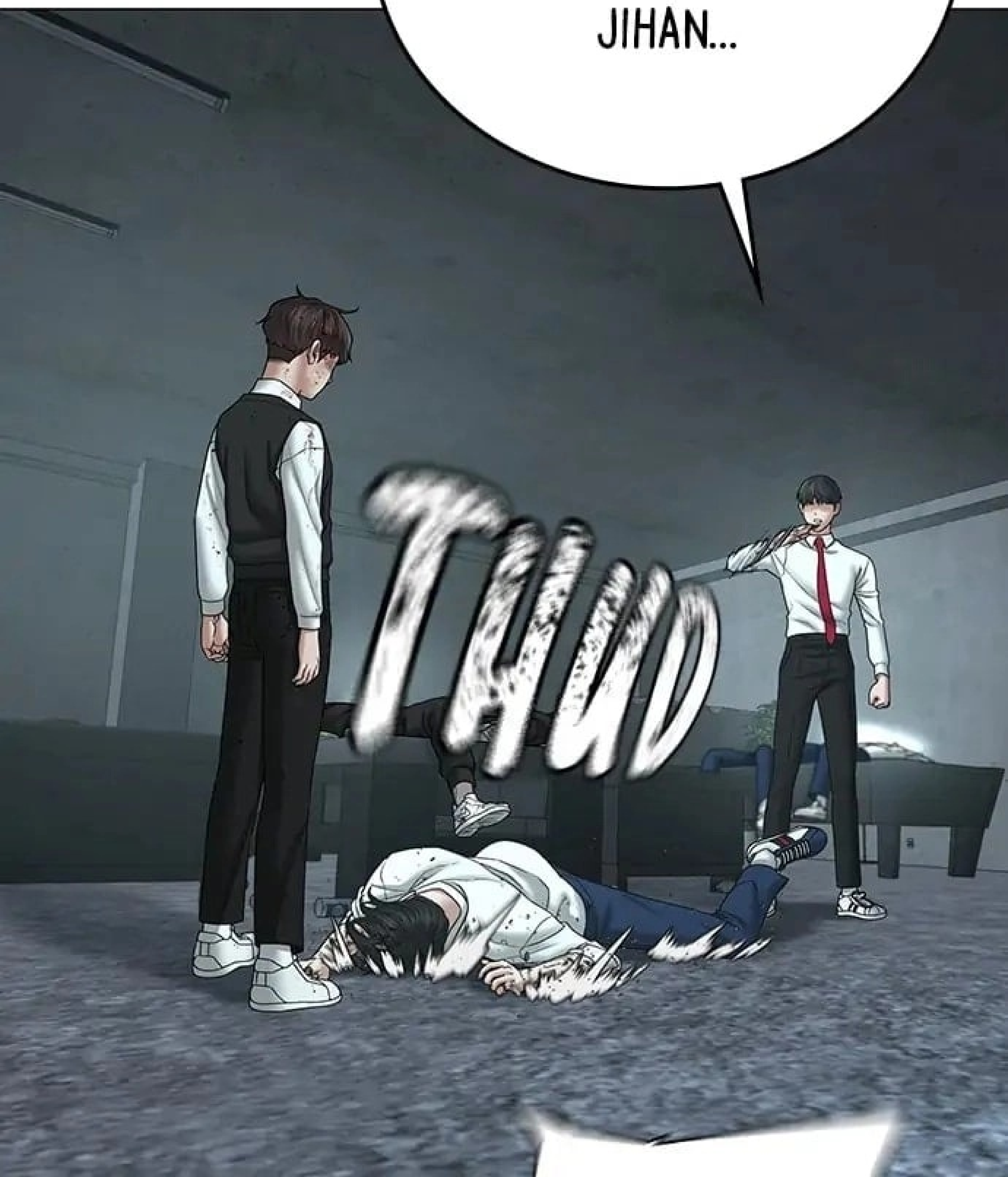
...I'M GONNA
DESTROY YOU.

IF I COULD, I'D DO THAT
RIGHT NOW.



BUT I THINK
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU
TO CHOOSE...

...HOW YOU'D LIKE FOR
ME TO HANDLE HIM TODAY,
JIHAN...



KAARGH..!

**...SINCE
YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO SUFFERED AS
A VICTIM.**





UGH...!

...

HAA... SH*T...



ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
YOU WIN...



AFTER GUMIN AND I
FELL APART THAT DAY,
I'VE BEEN ALONE.

THE DEATH METER!

BUT LOOKING BACK NOW...

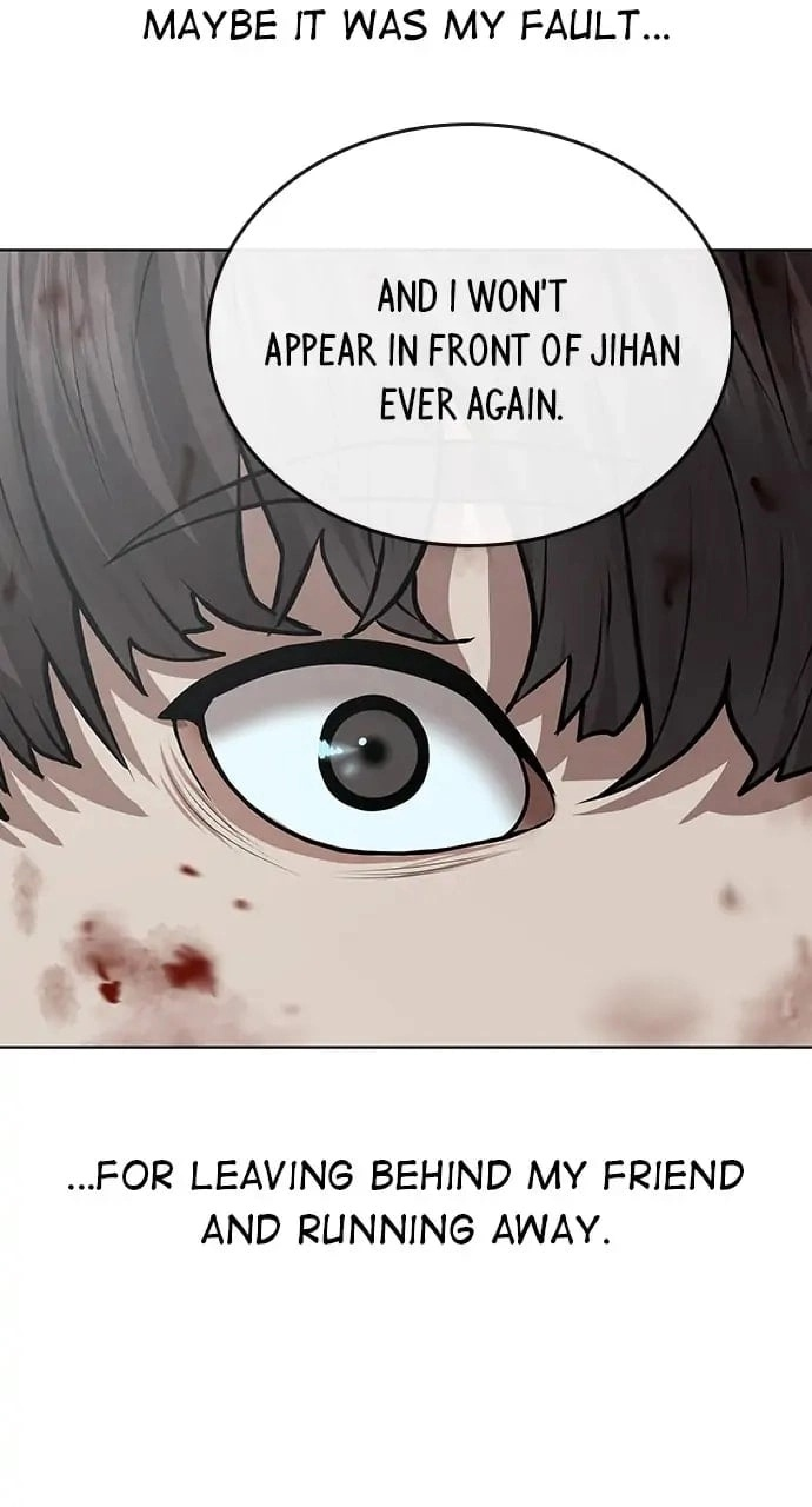
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ERASE
THE REST OF THE PICTURES
AND VIDEOS, RIGHT?





...IT SEEMS THAT SO WERE YOU.

MAYBE IT WAS MY FAULT...



AND I WON'T
APPEAR IN FRONT OF JIHAN
EVER AGAIN.

...FOR LEAVING BEHIND MY FRIEND
AND RUNNING AWAY.

SO EVERYTHING THAT
YOU'VE DONE TO ME SO FAR...

SO FORGIVE ME
THIS TIME...

SWISH





***...MY ASS!
EVERY BASTARD THAT
TRIES TO COME AT ME
IS GOING***

IS GOING...







....I'M GOING TO
CALL IT EVEN WITH THIS.





SK





DOWAN, ARE YOU HURT
ANYWHERE?





N-NO,
I'M FINE.

JIHAN, I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO ASK YOU THIS
FOR A WHILE...





HM?
WHAT IS IT?

WHY ARE YOU GOOD
AT FIGHTING...?



AND THAT WAS THE
END OF THAT INCIDENT.

ON THE WAY HOME,

JIHAN TOLD ME
EVERYTHING THAT HAD
HAPPENED TILL THEN.





I'VE GOTTEN MORE
TIMID AFTER GOING THROUGH
WHAT HAPPENED WITH
GUMIN...

...THAT I KEPT BEING
BULLIED EVEN IN
HIGH SCHOOL.

SO THE REASON THAT
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN

YOU WERE BEING BULLIED BY
THE ILJINS AT KARAOKE
LAST TIME--



YEP...

AS MUCH AS I WANTED
TO GET MYSELF OUT OF
THOSE SITUATIONS,

FIGHTING BACK WAS ALMOST
A TRAUMA TO ME.



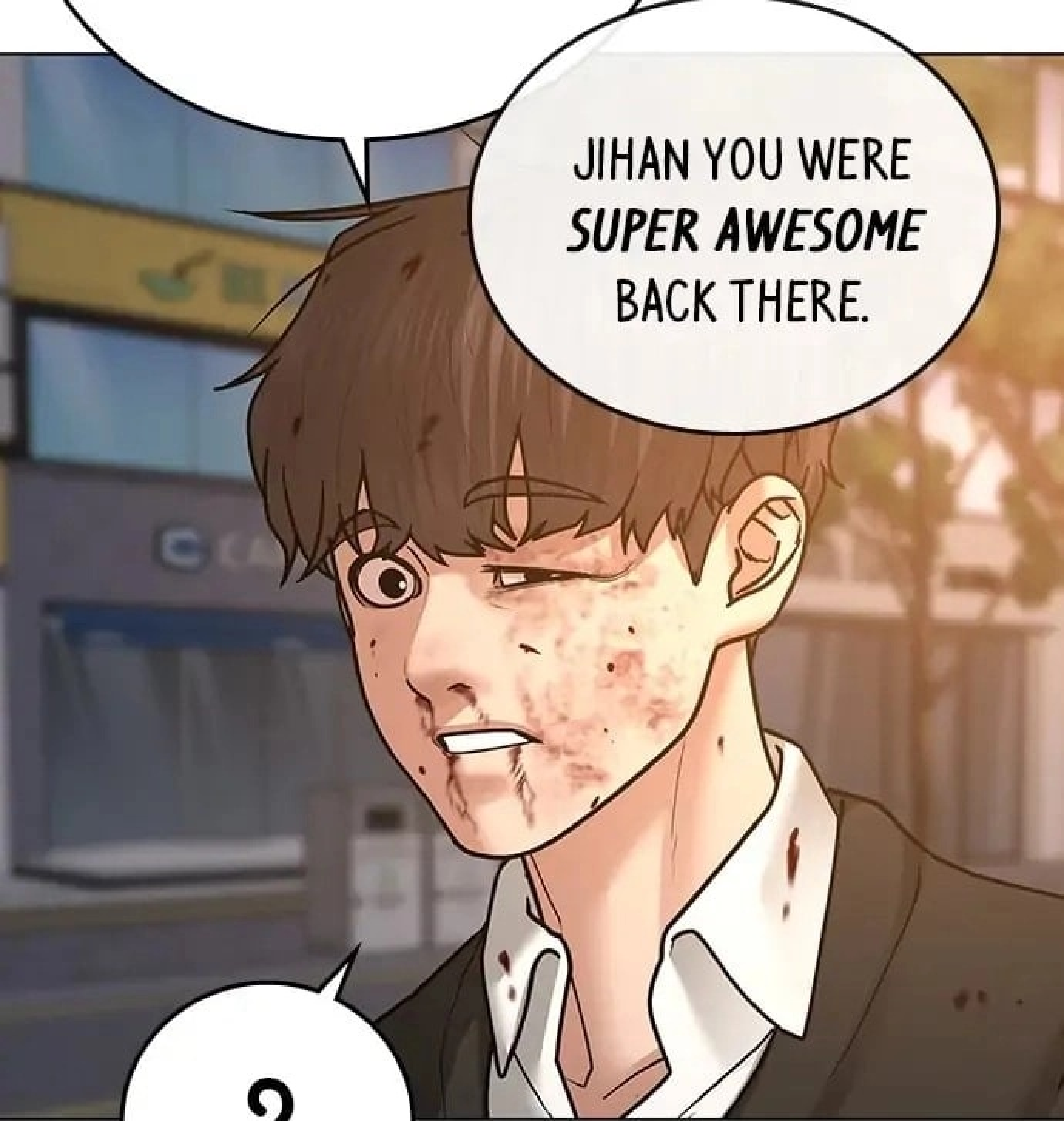


I COULDN'T
DO ANYTHING...

I'M PATHETIC,
AREN'T I?



AND I FEEL LIKE I
DRAGGED YOU INTO THIS
BECAUSE OF--



JIHAN YOU WERE
SUPER AWESOME
BACK THERE.

?

AND ESPECIALLY AT
THE END, WHEN THAT PUNK
SWUNG AROUND THAT
SOJU BOTTLE...



IF IT WAS ANYONE ELSE,
THEY COULD'VE BEEN

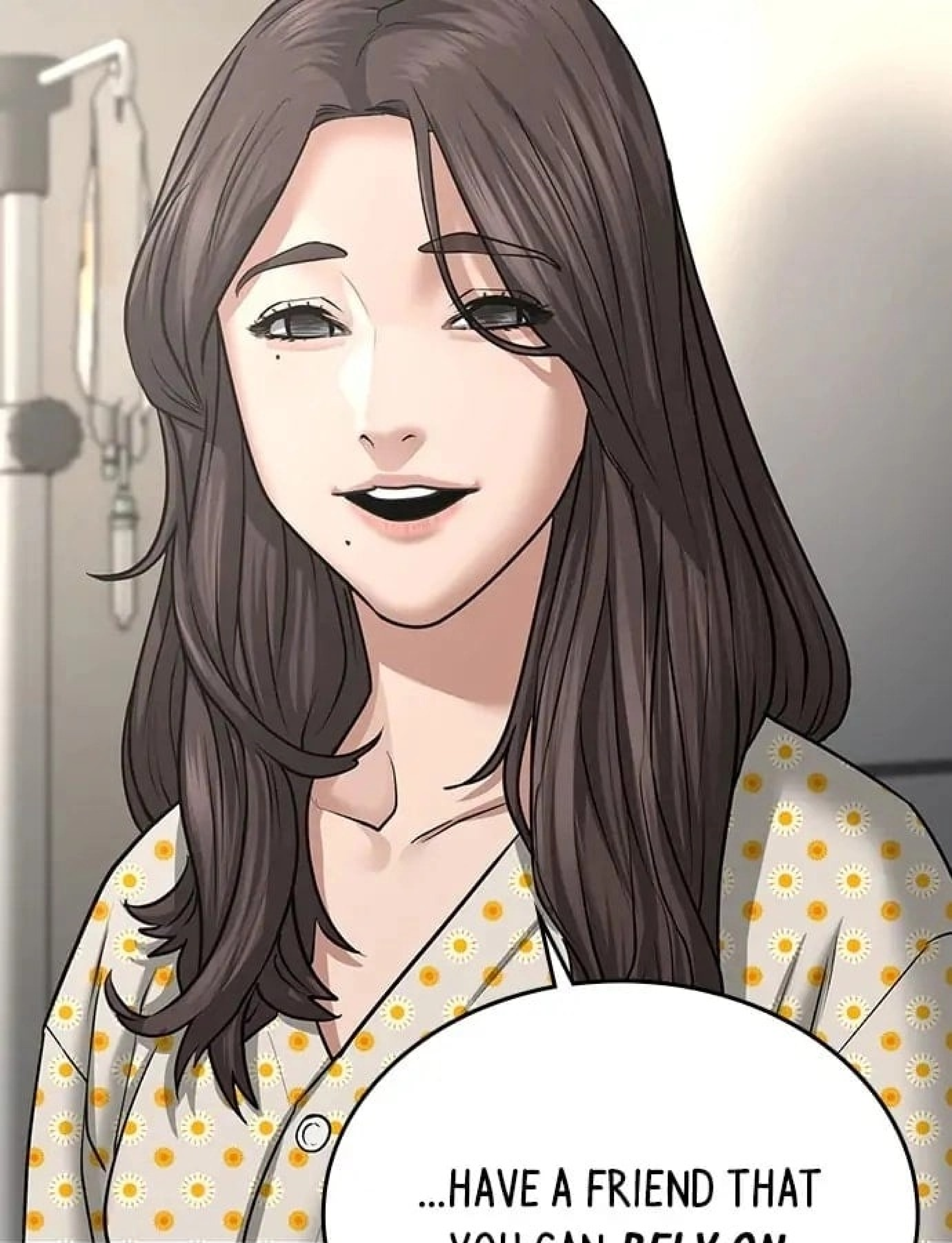
BADLY HURT TRYING TO
BLOCK IT!
IT WAS
FREAKING SHARP--



...



I JUST WANT
YOU TO...



...HAVE A FRIEND THAT
YOU CAN ***RELY ON.***

YOU
TAKE AFTER ME,
SO YOU'RE ON THE
SCRAWNY SIDE.

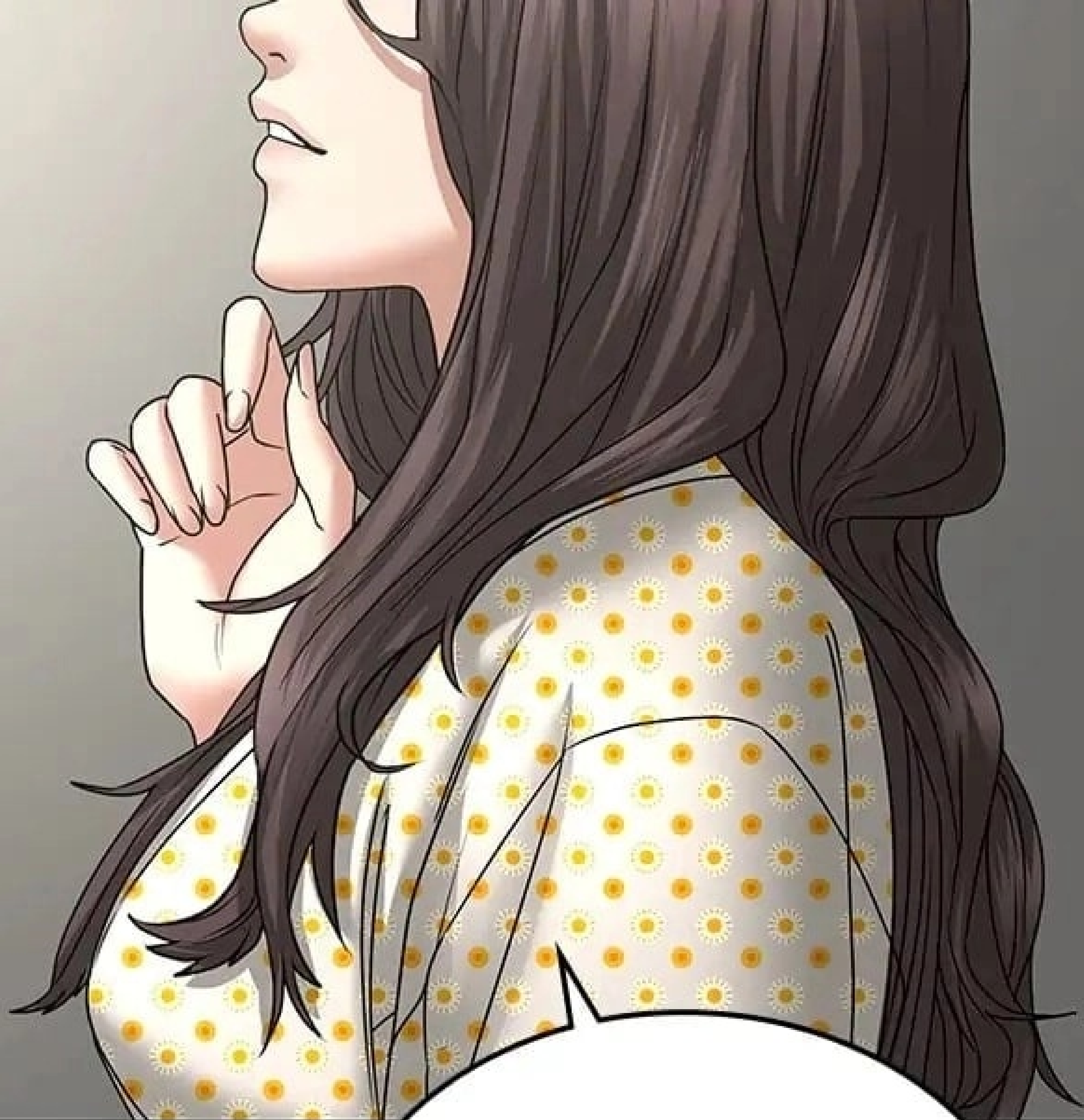
I WISH YOU'D HAVE
A STRONG FRIEND THAT WILL
BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU
INSTEAD OF ME!





I'M NOT
WEAK ANYMORE!

HM, THEN
YOU CAN BECOME...



...A RELIABLE FRIEND
TO SOMEONE TOO.



YOU KNOW WHAT,
JIHAN?

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND
WHO YOU CAN TRUST...

...YOU'LL GAIN
THE COURAGE

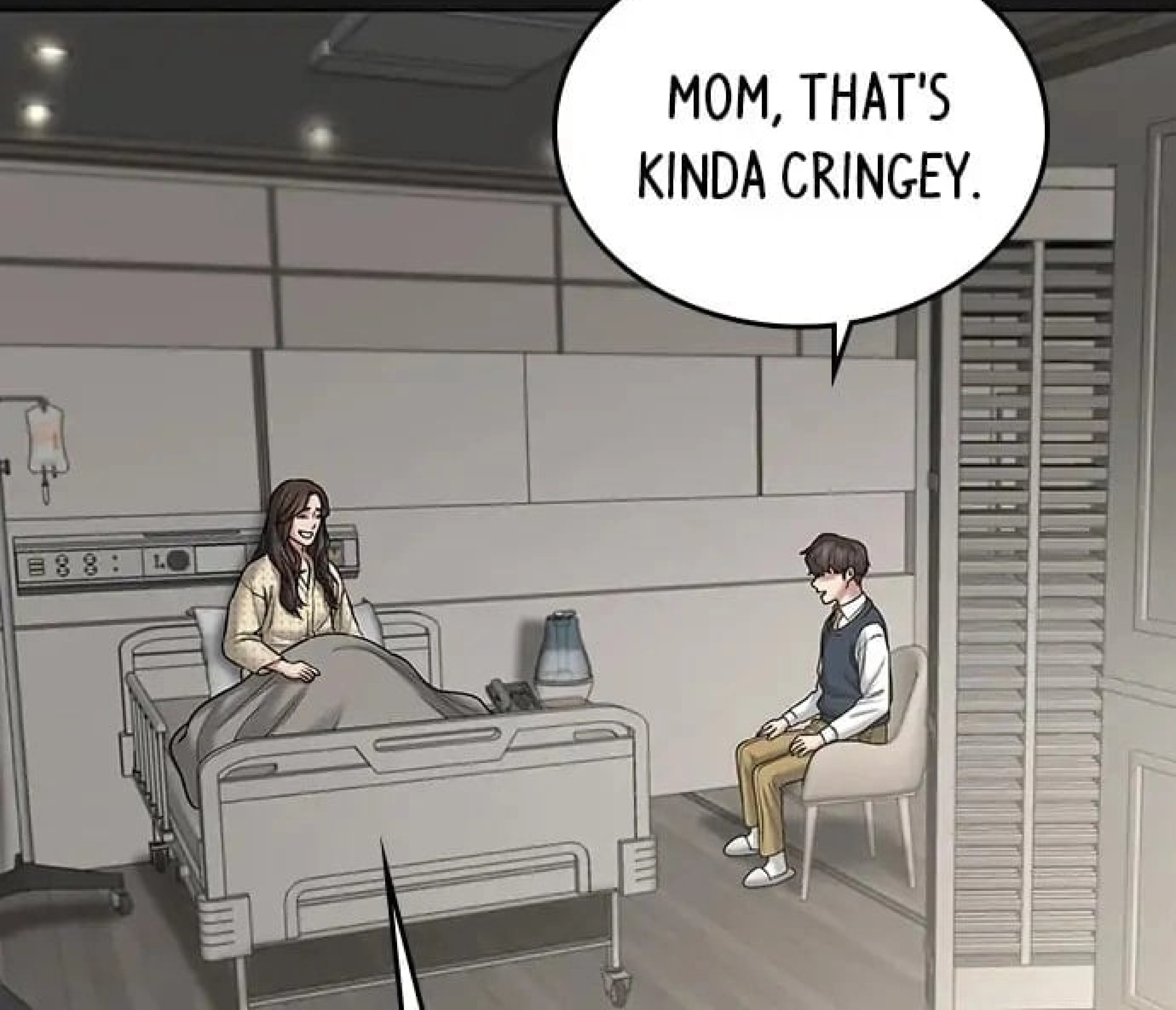
TO NOT RUN AWAY,
NO MATTER HOW HARD
THINGS GET.

...





MOM, THAT'S
KINDA CRINGEY.



A comic book panel featuring a large white speech bubble with a black outline. The speech bubble is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame. The background is a dark, solid color. The text inside the speech bubble is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in four lines. The overall style is minimalist and modern.

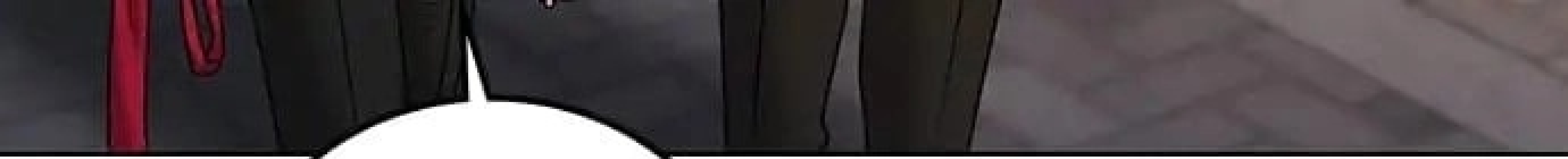
HAH! IT MUST BE
THE HORMONE CHANGES
FROM MENOPAUSE.

AH...! BUT WHAT
IF THAT PUNK TRIES TO
TAKE REVENGE...

...AND SENDS THE
PICS AND VIDEOS
TO YOUR MOM?

THOUGH, I DID
WARN HIM...





I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT...



I DON'T KNOW HOW
LONG IT'LL TAKE, BUT

I PLAN TO
TELL MY MOM EVERYTHING



TELL MY MOM EVERYTHING
ONE AT A TIME.



I CAN'T LIVE RUNNING
AWAY FROM A PAST LIKE
THAT FOREVER.





BUT JUST
REMEMBER THIS.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT WAS LIKE
BEFORE

BEFORE...



BUT I'M

...BUT I'M
BY YOUR SIDE
NOW.

DOWAN, I COULD TAKE
MY COURAGE BECAUSE YOU
WERE BY MY SIDE.



THANKS.



THIS IS
SO CRINGEY!

WHAT...?!





DINC

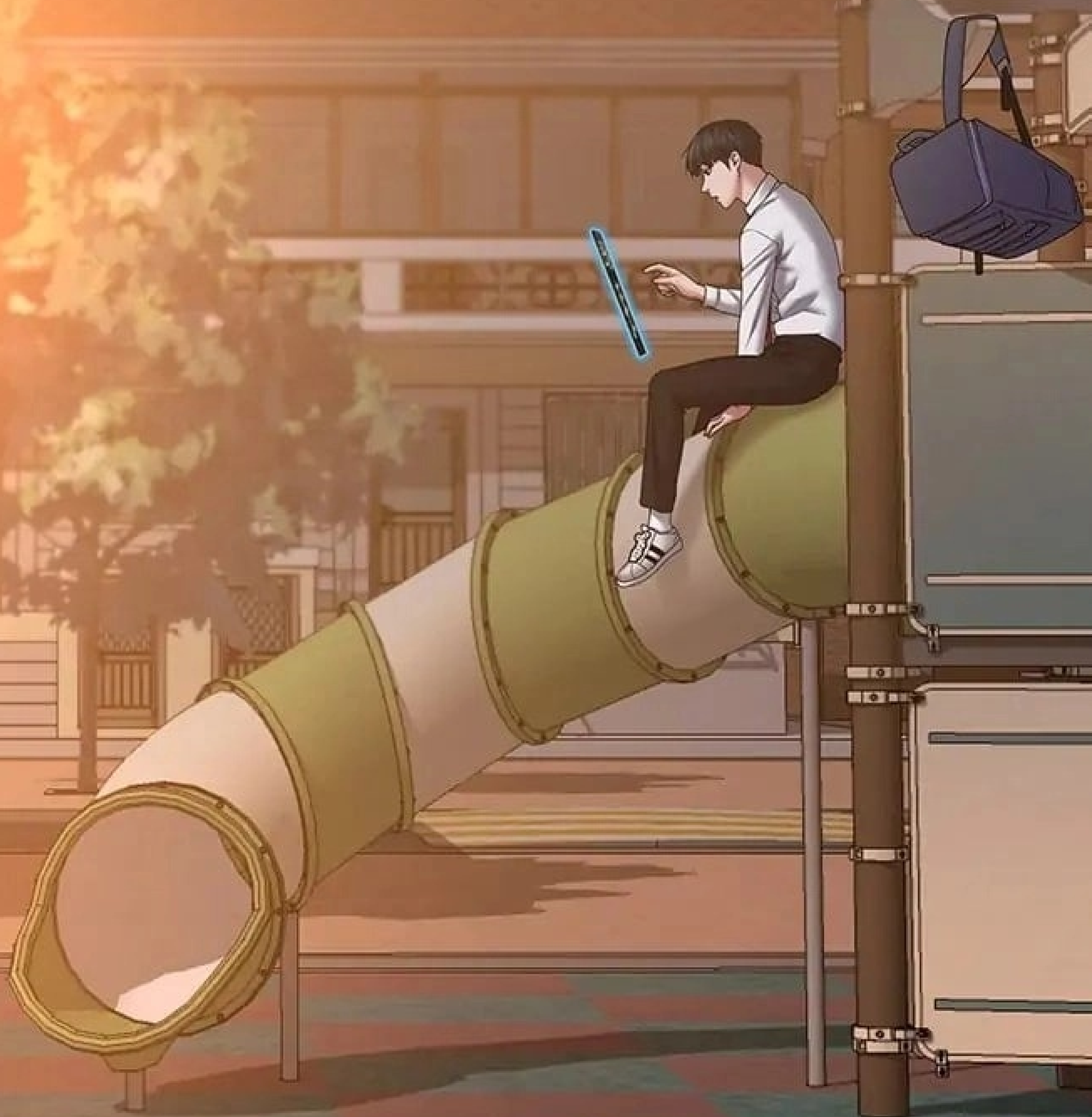
DING



QUEST: BODYGUARD

COMPLETE

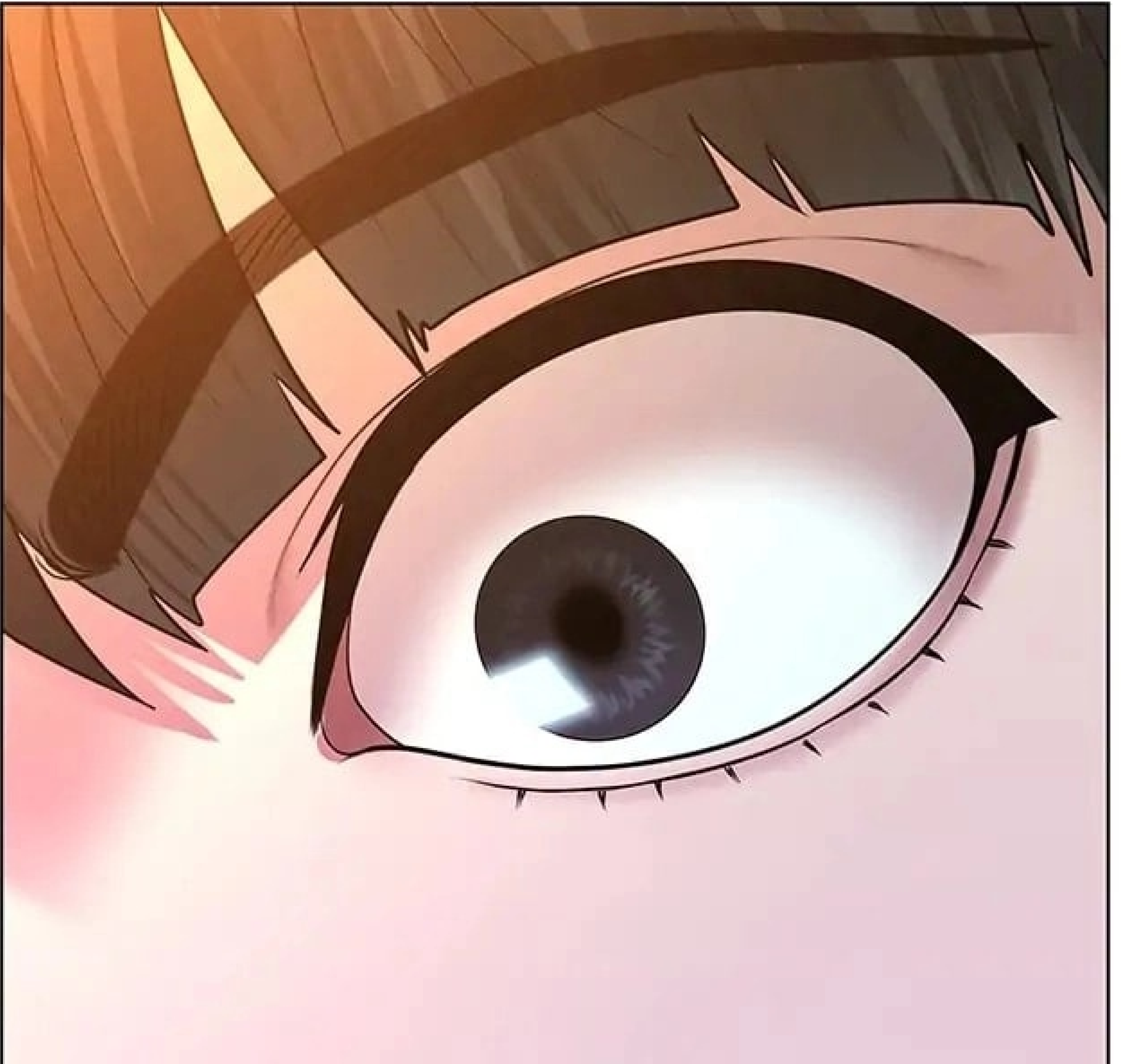
PHEW...!
SHOULD I CHECK
RIGHT AWAY THEN?



**QUEST COMPLETION
REWARD**

**A HIDDEN ITEM
AWARDED.**

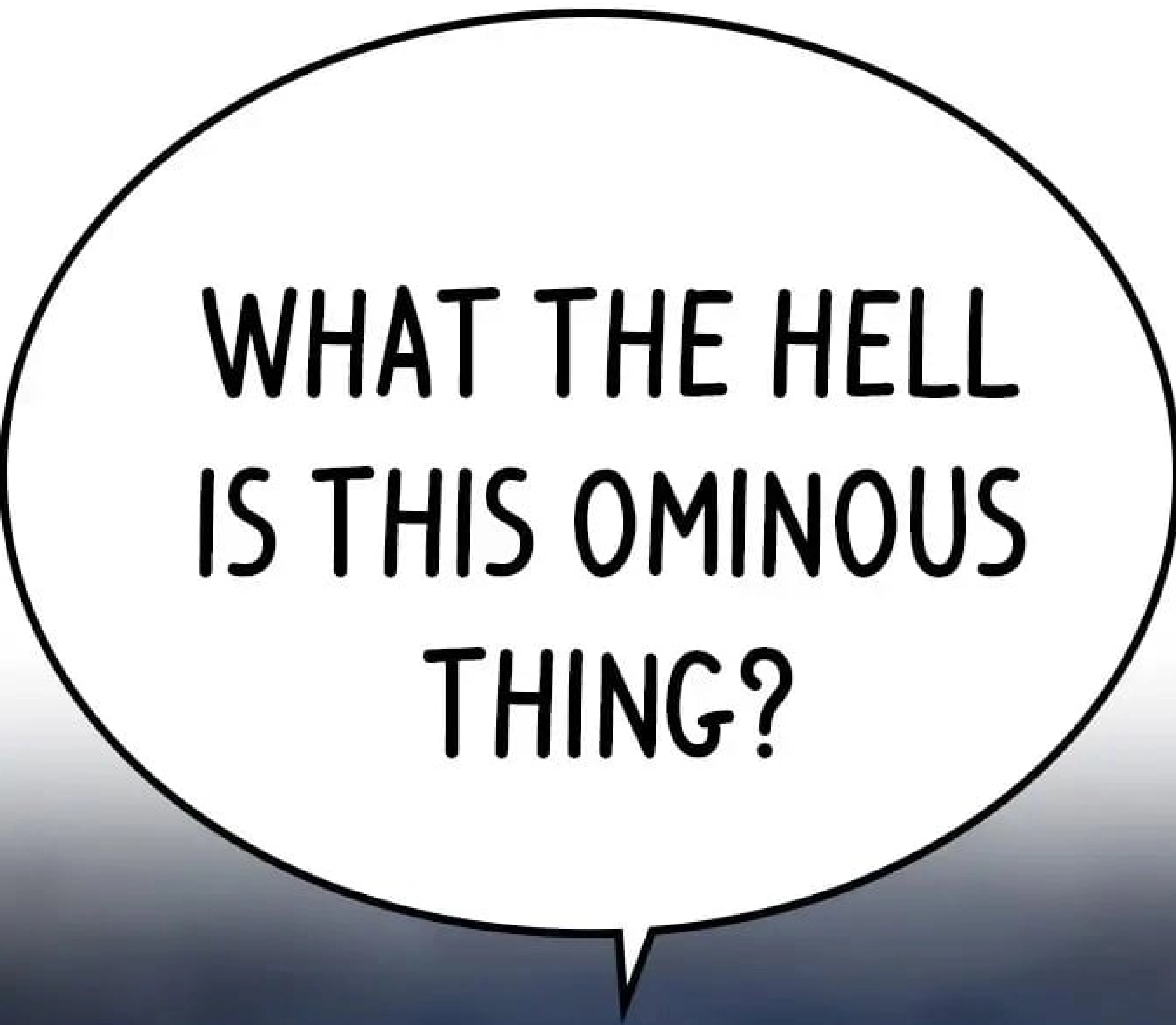
WHAT COULD
THE HIDDEN ITEM
BE?



SWOOSH



HM...?



**WHAT THE HELL
IS THIS OMINOUS
THING?**



PRODUCER
HYUNGWUK SHIN

STAFF
KANGMOON JO
KYEON JU

PRODUCED BY

