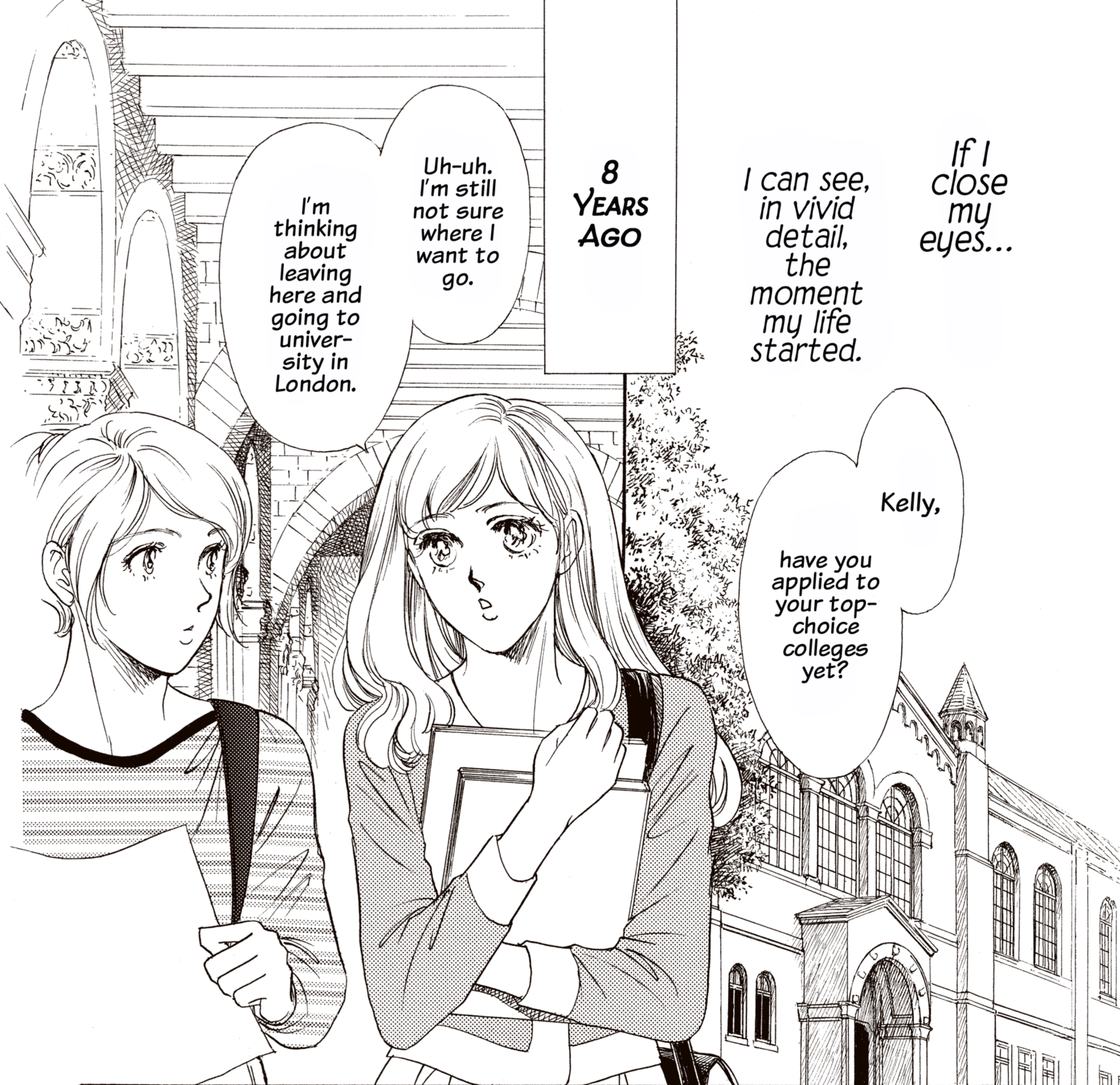




I'm thinking about leaving here and going to university in London.

Uh-uh. I'm still not sure where I want to go.

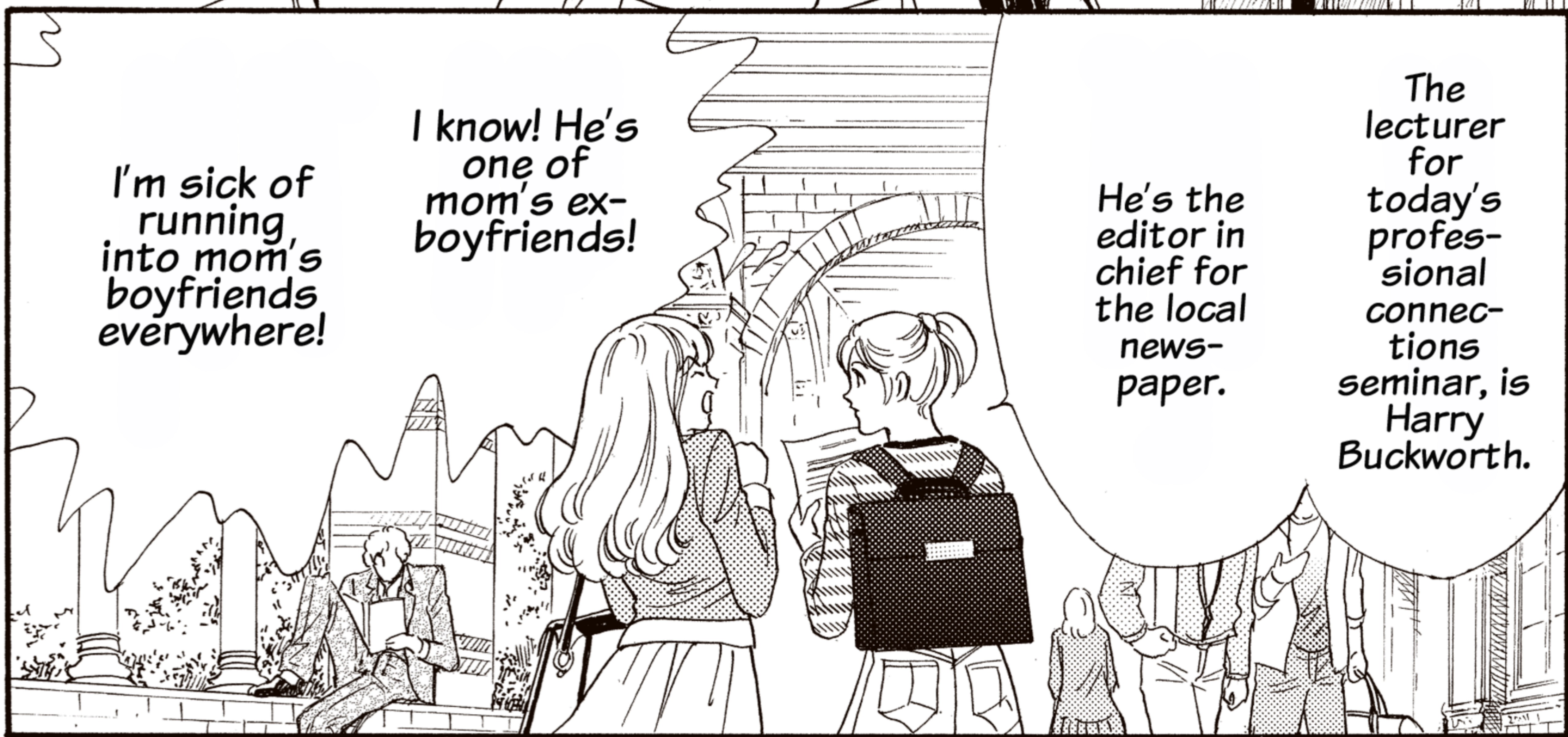
8 YEARS AGO

I can see, in vivid detail, the moment my life started.

If I close my eyes...

Kelly,

have you applied to your top-choice colleges yet?

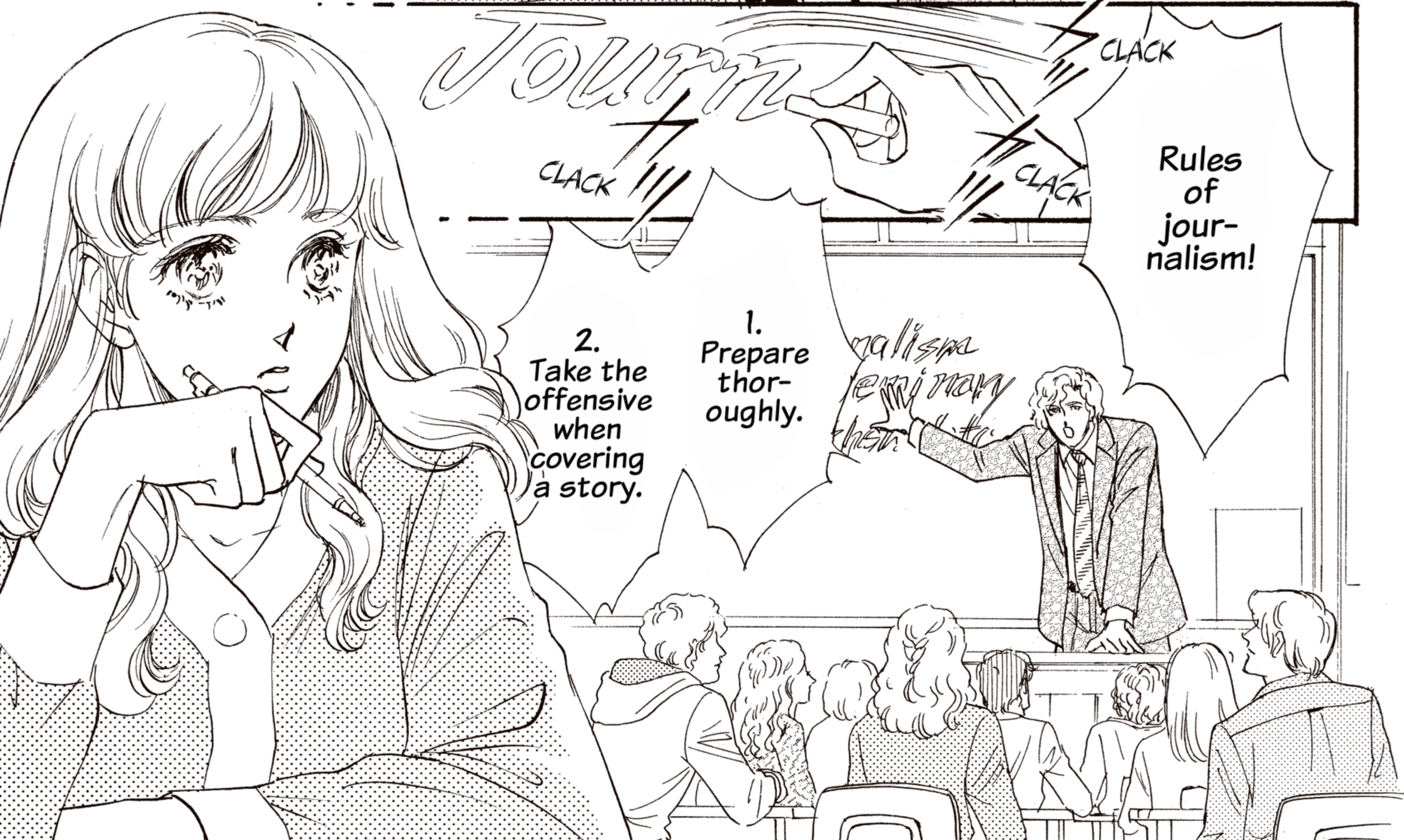
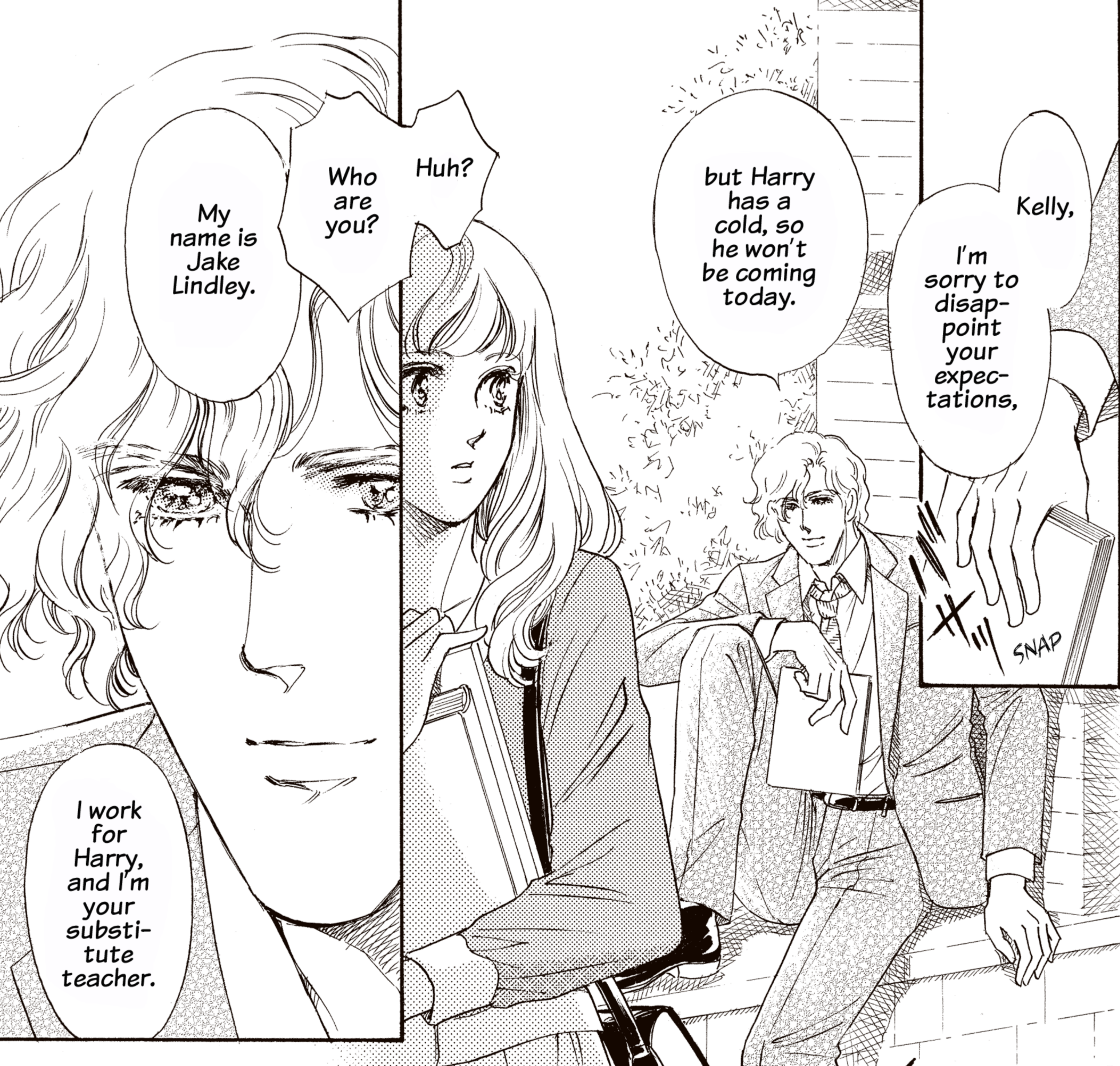


I'm sick of running into mom's boyfriends everywhere!

I know! He's one of mom's ex-boyfriends!

He's the editor in chief for the local newspaper.

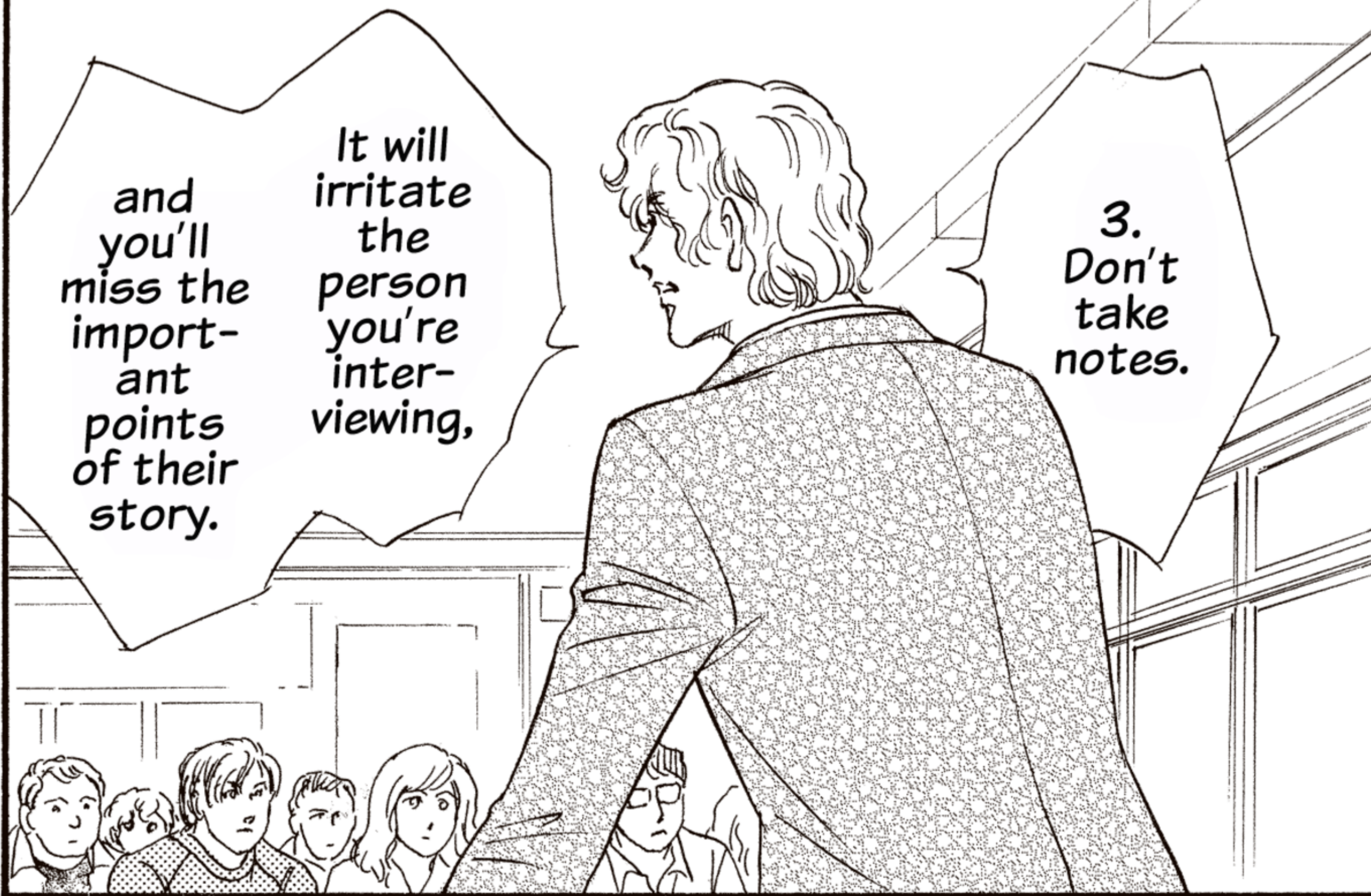
The lecturer for today's professional connections seminar, is Harry Buckworth.





how do we write the article?

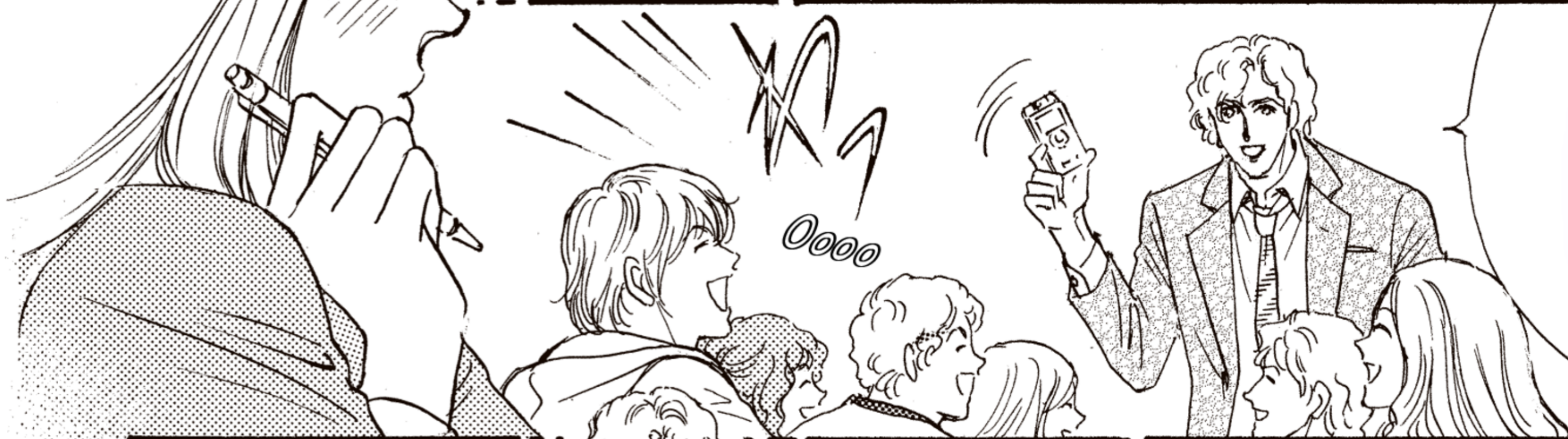
So...



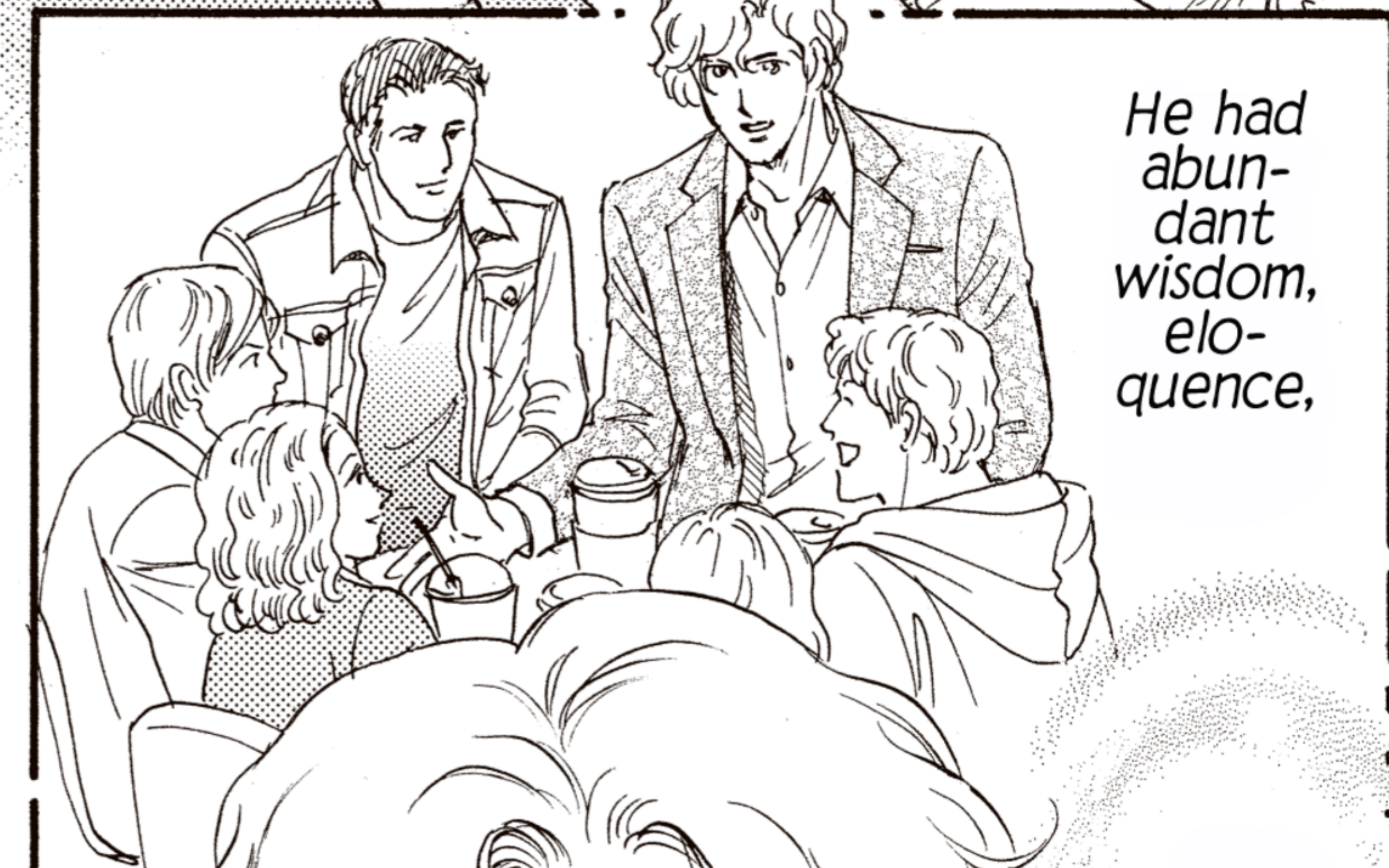
and you'll miss the important points of their story.

It will irritate the person you're interviewing,

3. Don't take notes.

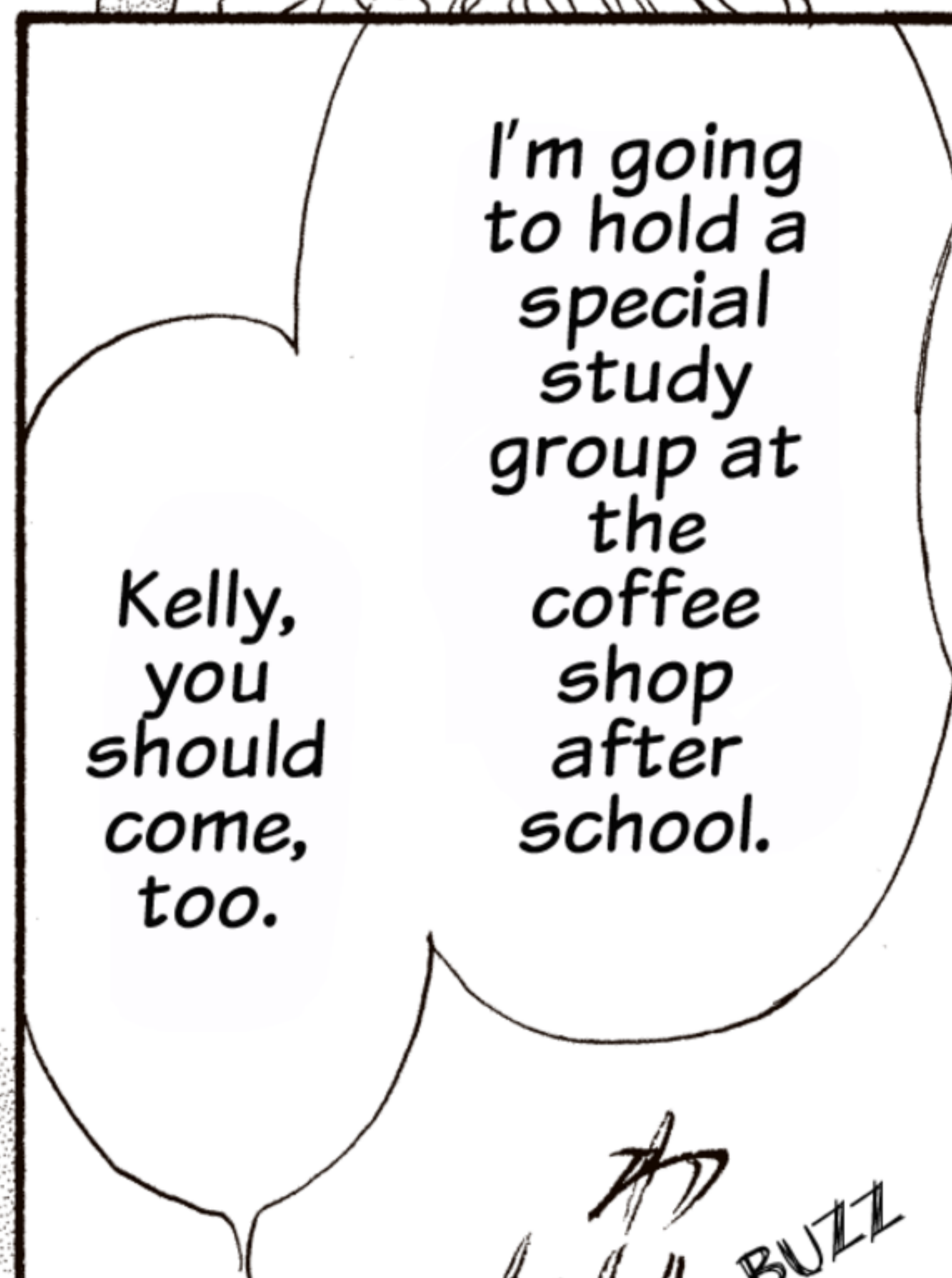


4. Buy a high-quality recorder.



He had abundant wisdom, eloquence,

and a care-free laugh.



I'm going to hold a special study group at the coffee shop after school.

Kelly, you should come, too.

Time's up.

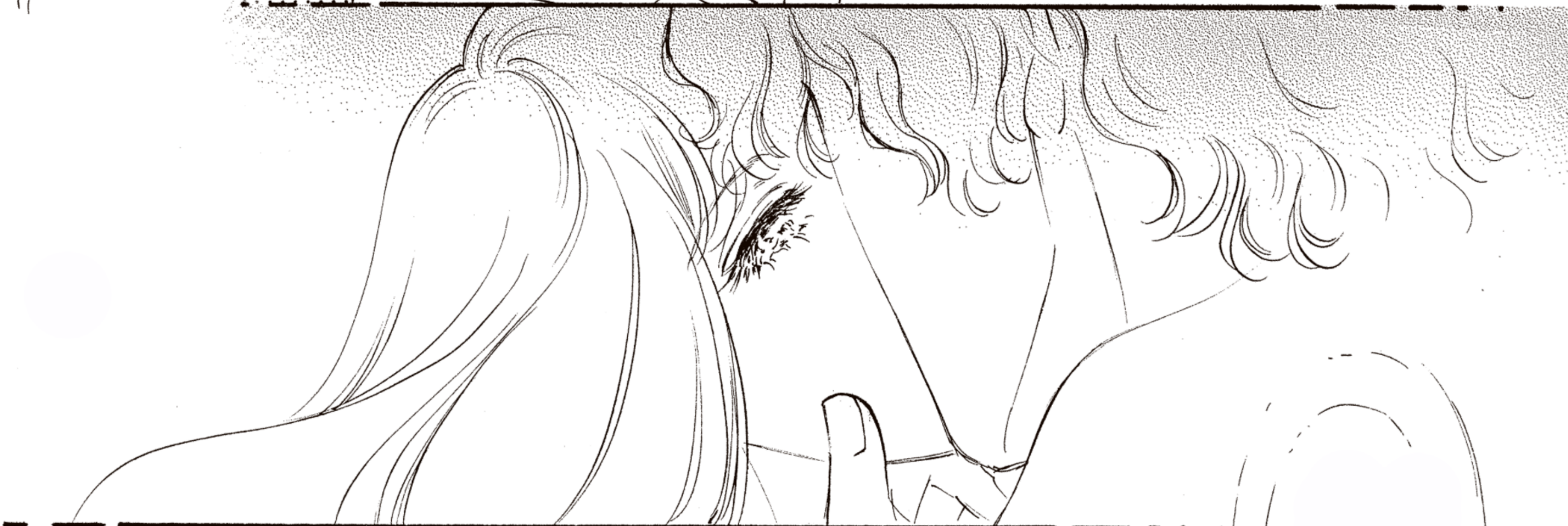
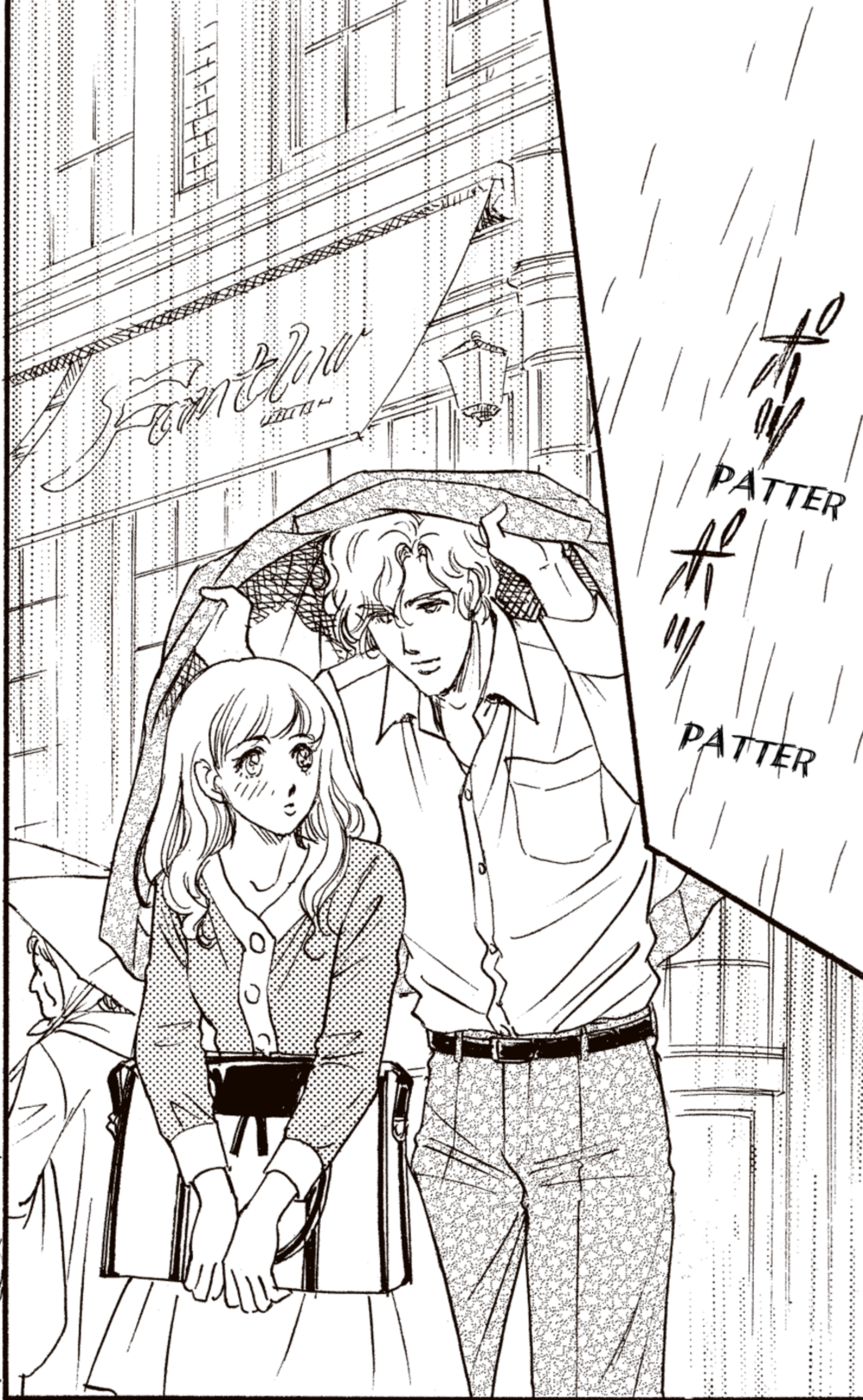
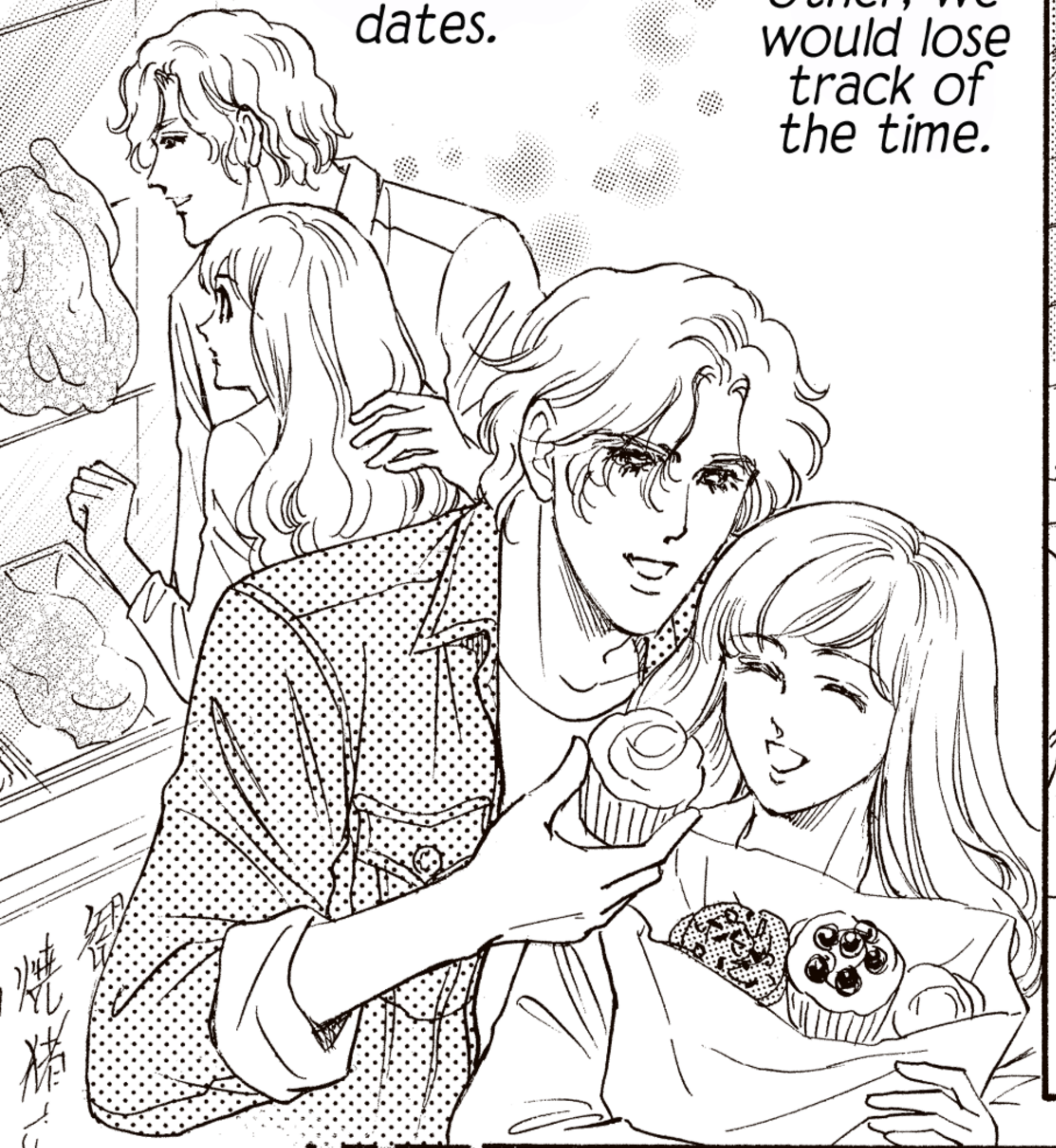
Brring



BUZZ
BUZZ

But Jake
always
took
things slow
on our
dates.

We were so
attracted
to each
other, we
would lose
track of
the time.



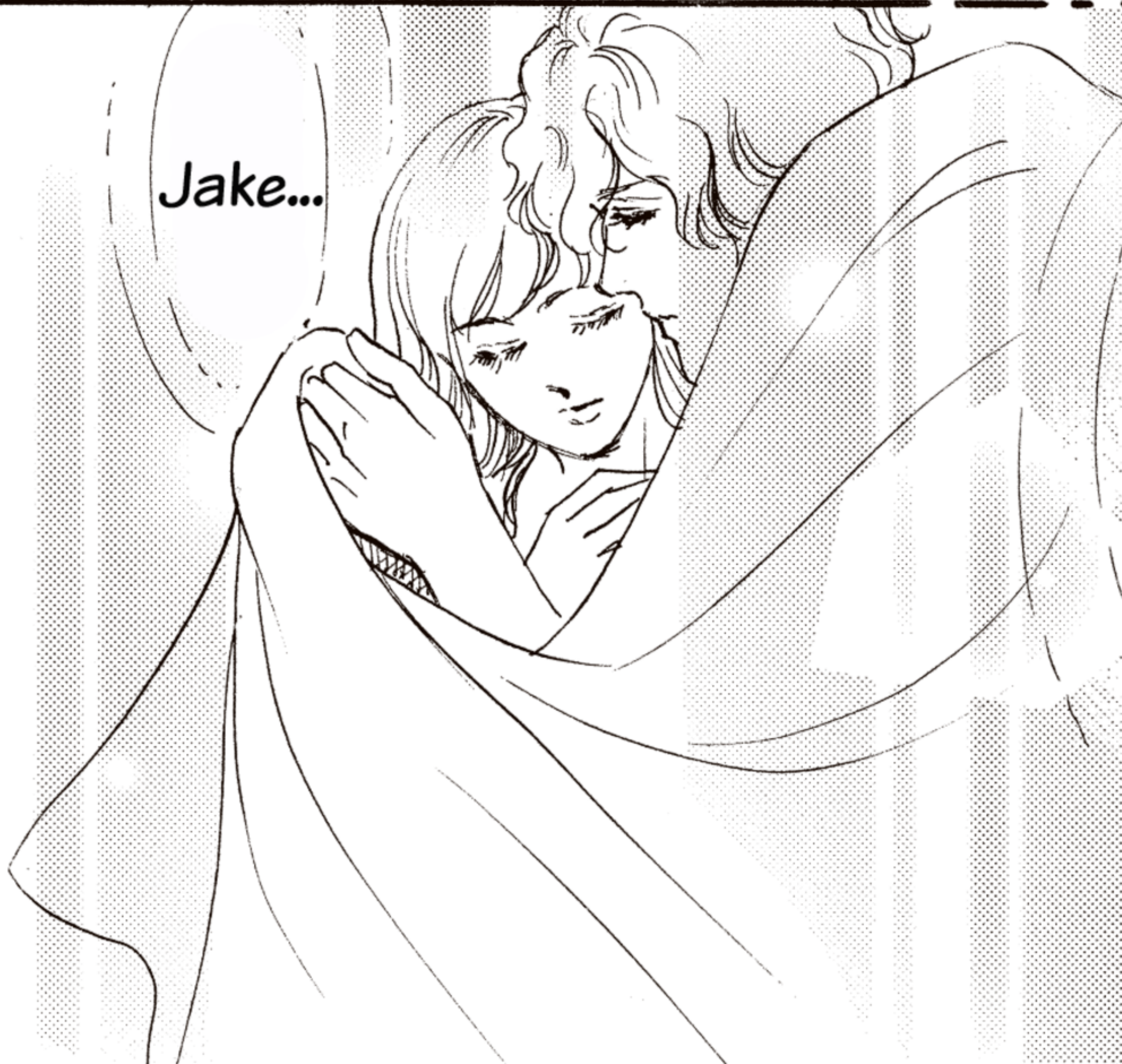
Our first
kiss.

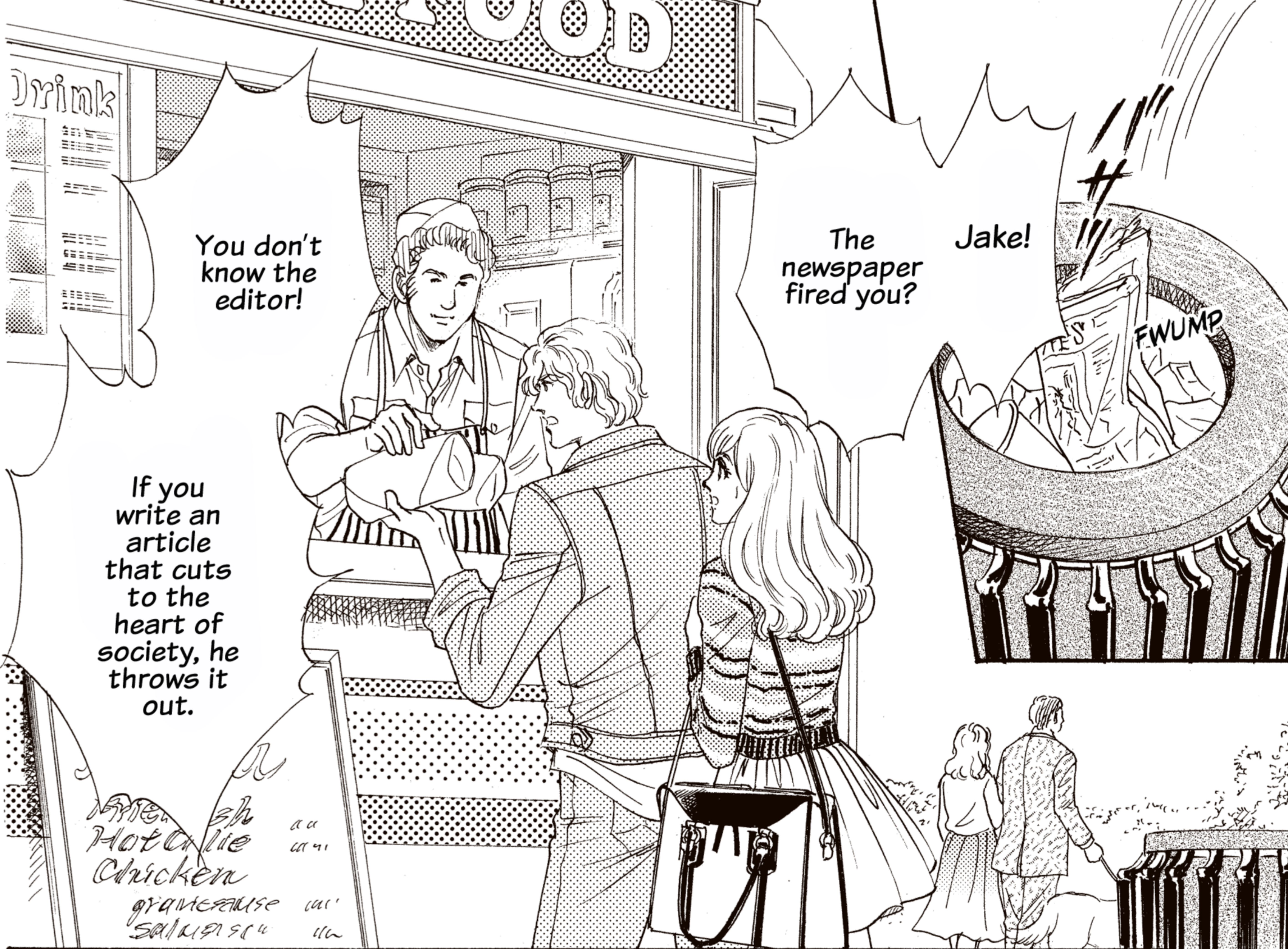
Our desire
to lie
with one
another...

Jake...

Kelly, happy
eighteenth
birthday.

I've
been
waiting
for
this
day...





You don't know the editor!

The newspaper fired you?

Jake!

If you write an article that cuts to the heart of society, he throws it out.

Hot Chicken

Gravy Sauce

Salt & Pepper

The newspaper only publishes things that appeal to the advertisers.

That's horrible. A good journalist needs opinions.

Kelly,

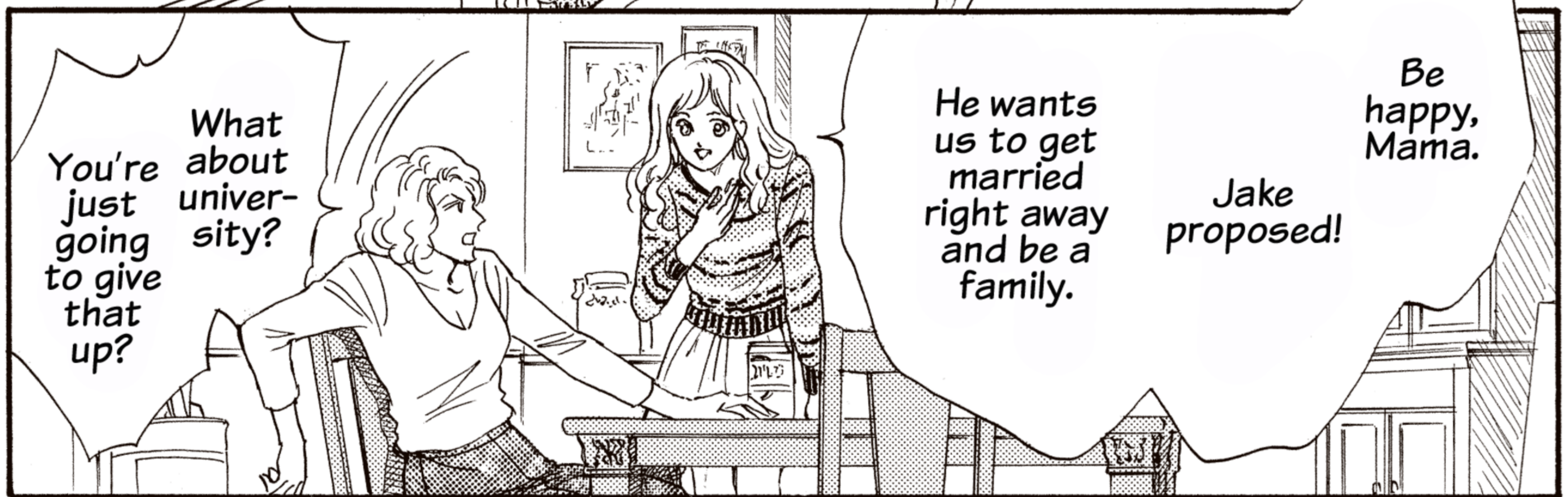
you can't be...can you?

Unh...

I agree, Jake. Like you were saying...



You're pregnant?



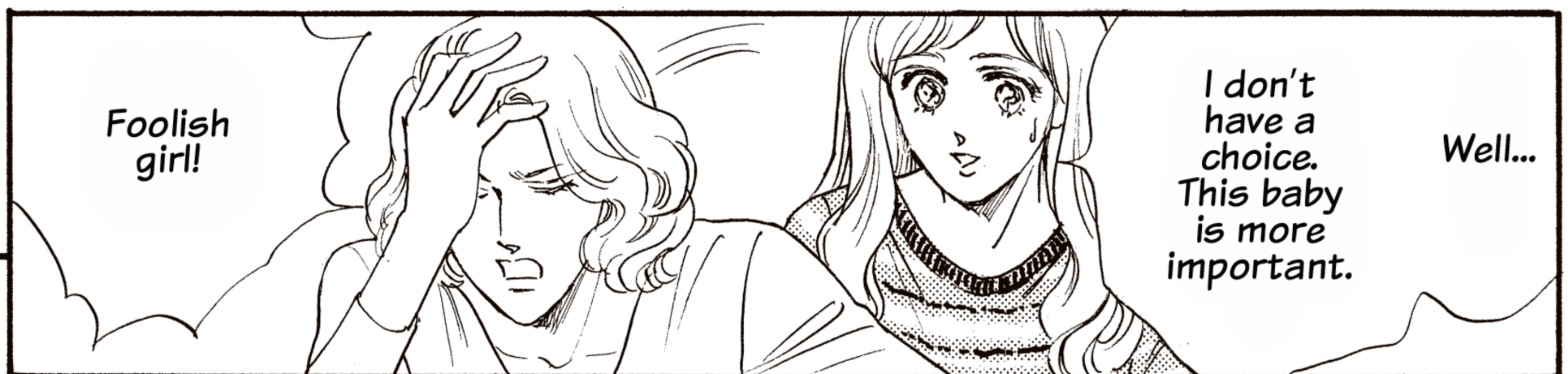
You're just going to give that up?

What about university?

He wants us to get married right away and be a family.

Jake proposed!

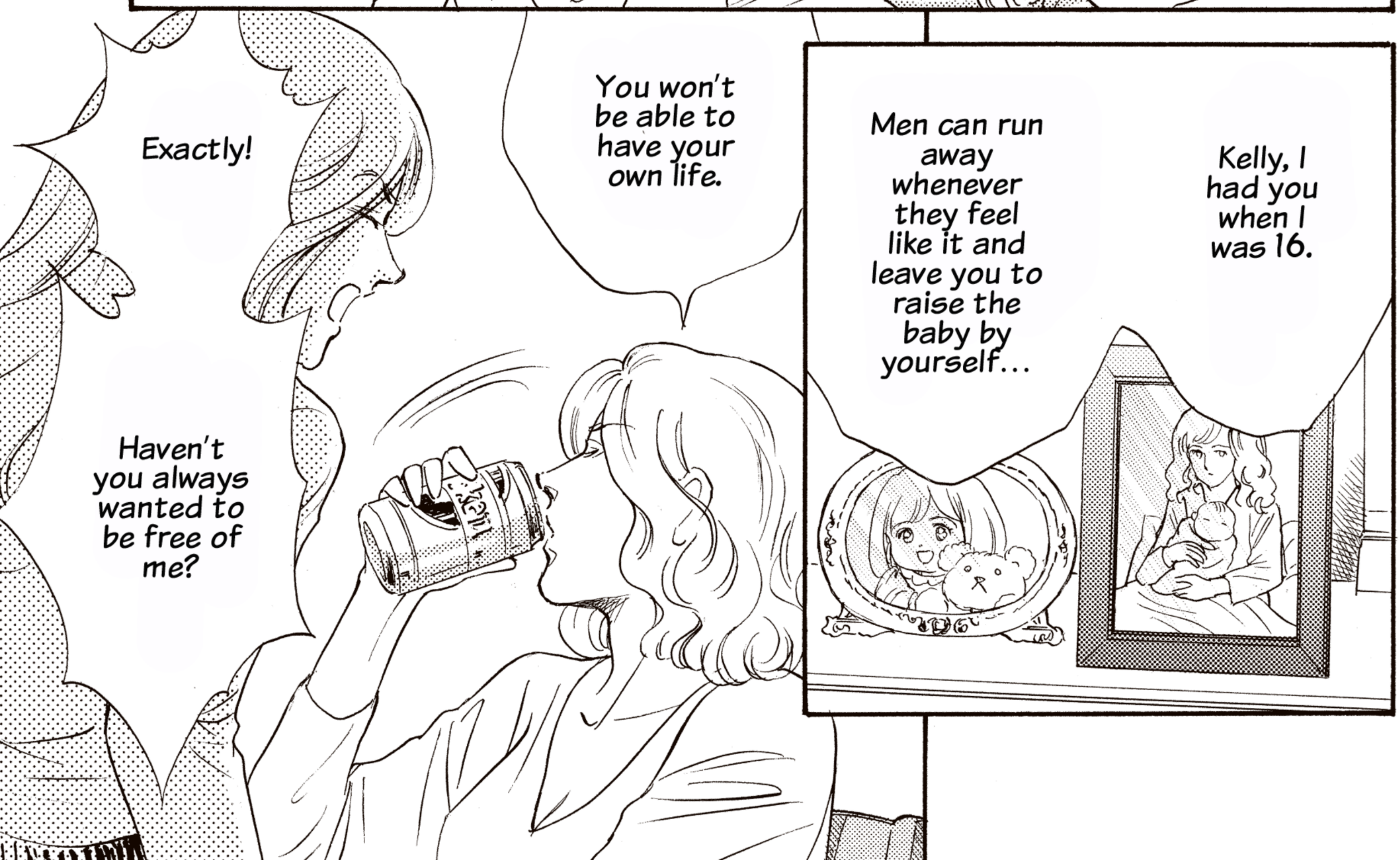
Be happy, Mama.



Foolish girl!

I don't have a choice. This baby is more important.

Well...



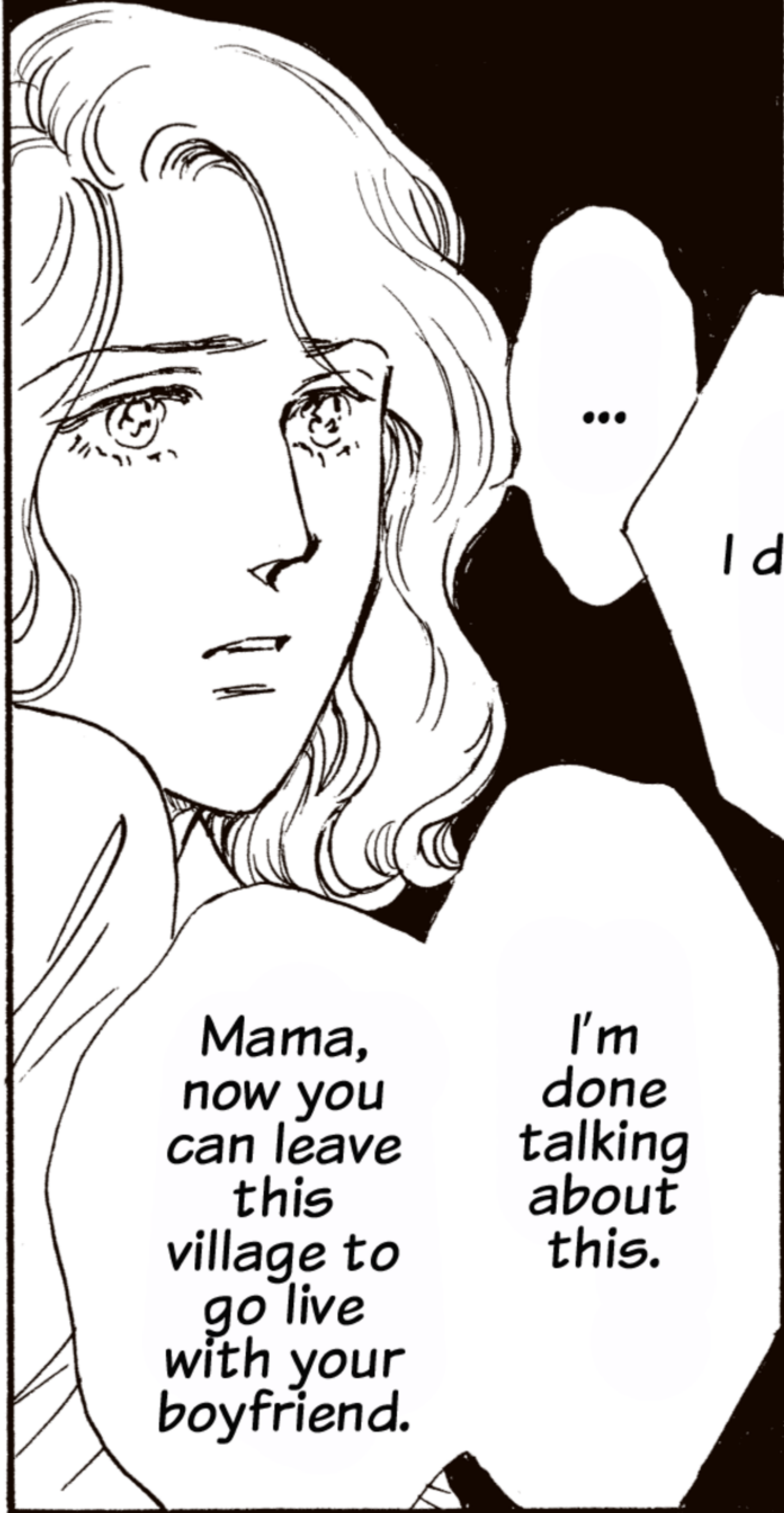
Exactly!

You won't be able to have your own life.

Men can run away whenever they feel like it and leave you to raise the baby by yourself...

Kelly, I had you when I was 16.

Haven't you always wanted to be free of me?



Mama,
now you
can leave
this
village to
go live
with your
boyfriend.

I'm
done
talking
about
this.



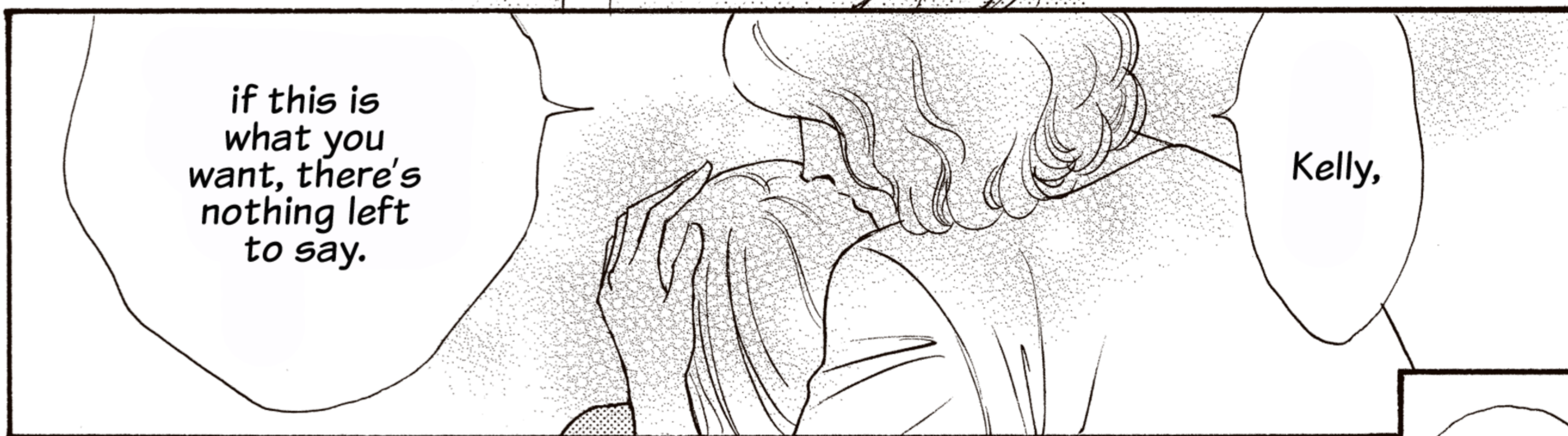
...

I do, too.



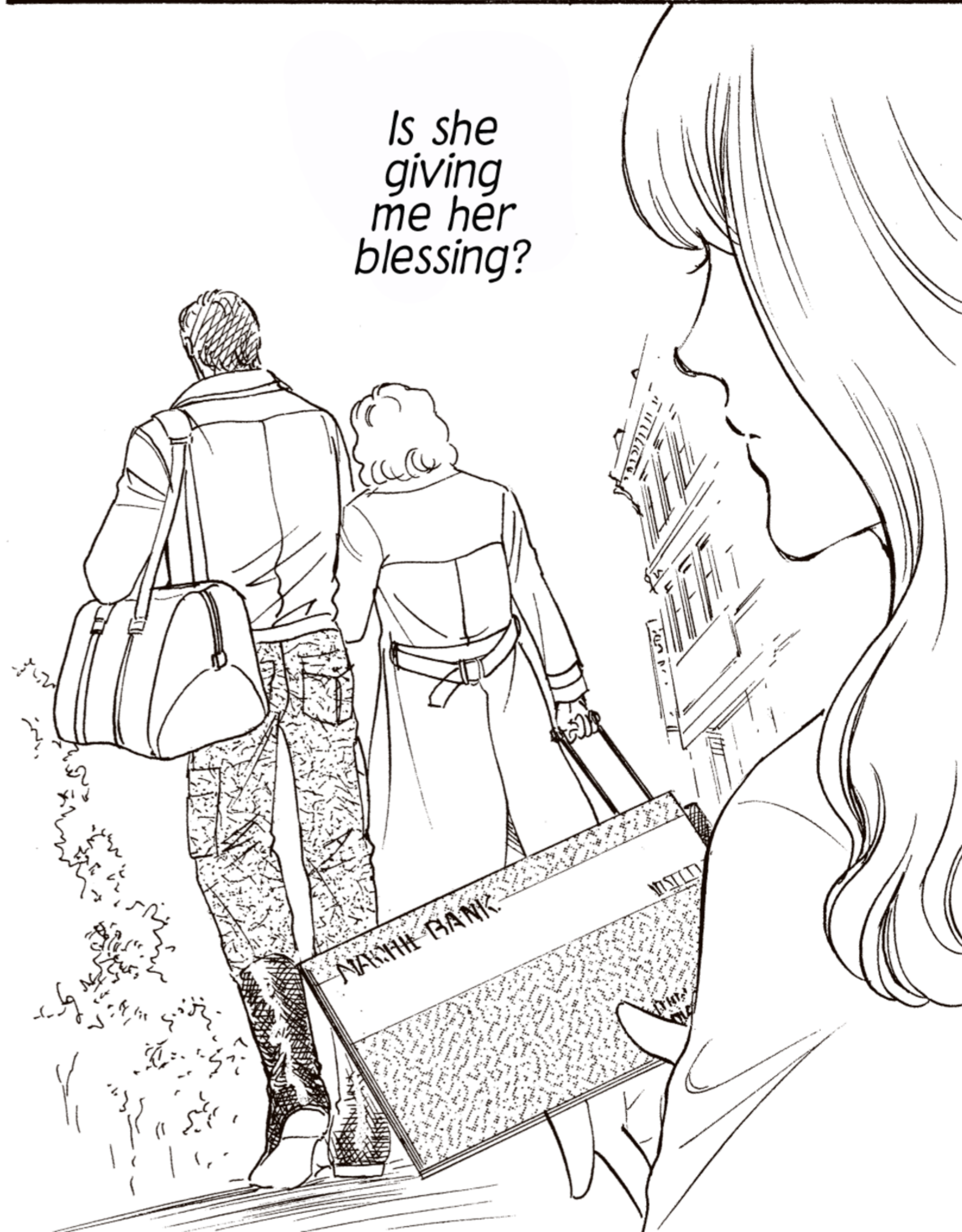
He
wants a
family
that will
love him.

Jake's
parents
died in an
accident
when he
was 14.

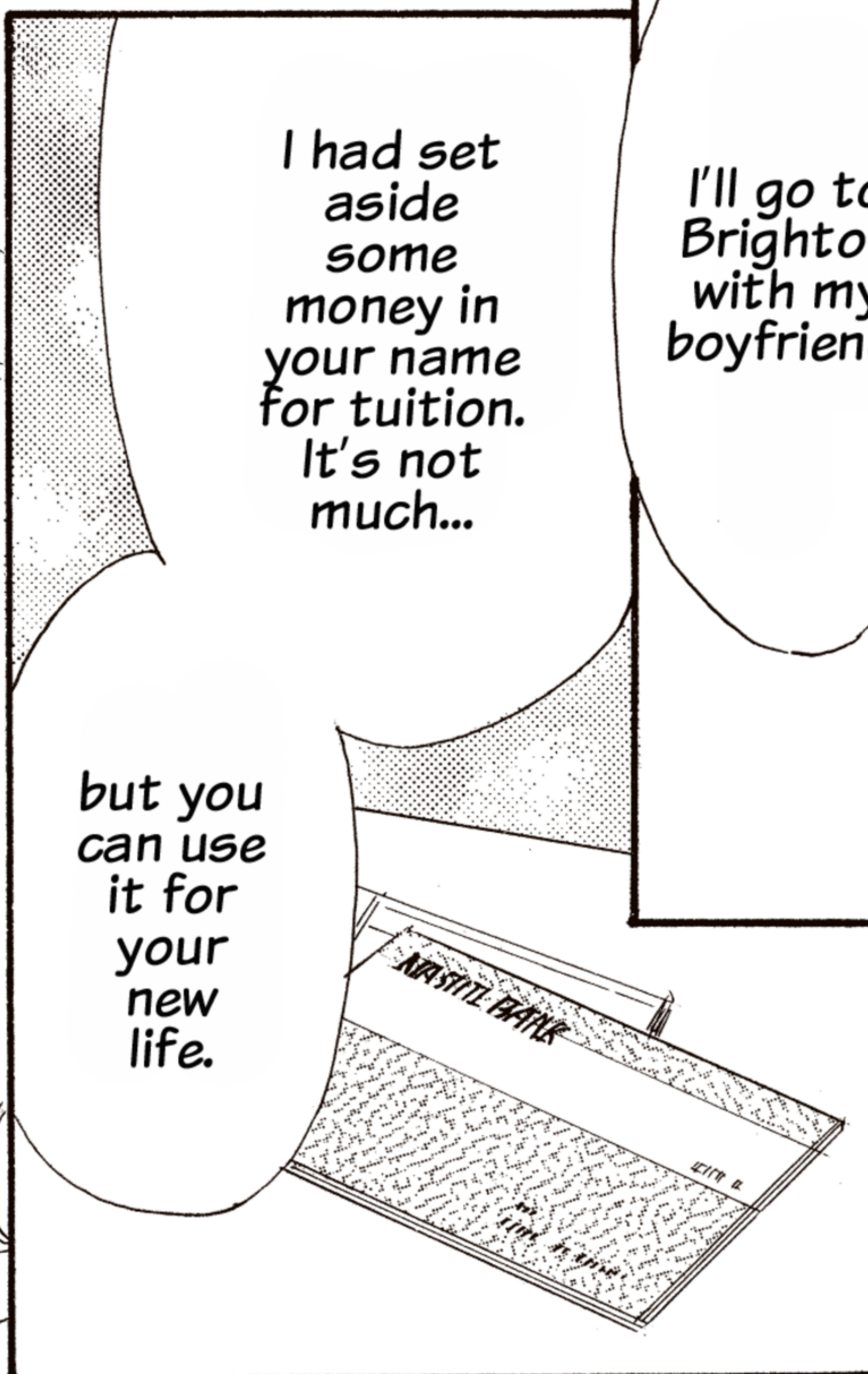


if this is
what you
want, there's
nothing left
to say.

Kelly,



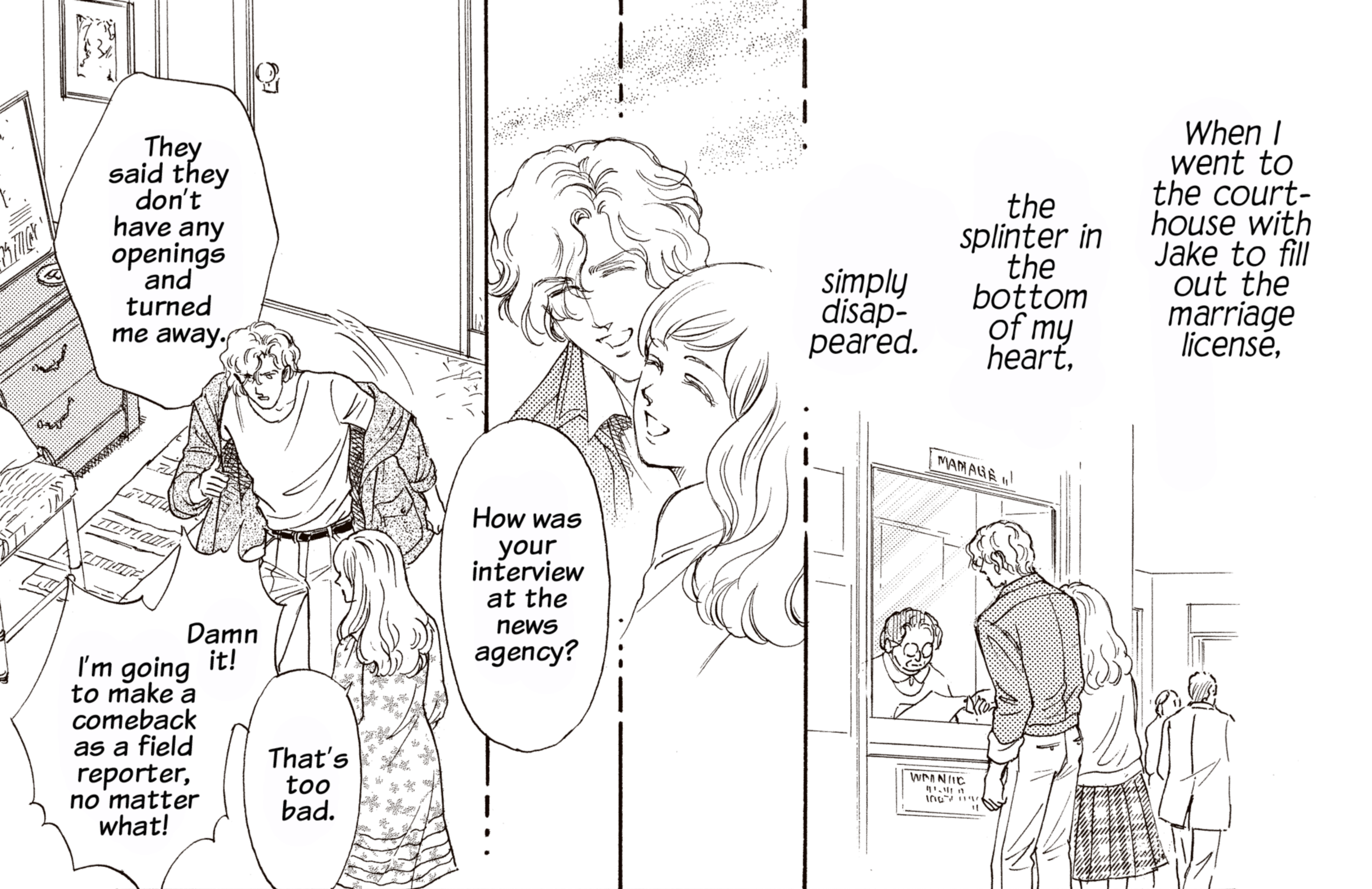
Is she
giving
me her
blessing?



I had set
aside
some
money in
your name
for tuition.
It's not
much...

but you
can use
it for
your
new
life.

I'll go to
Brighton
with my
boyfriend.



They said they don't have any openings and turned me away.

simply disappeared.

the splinter in the bottom of my heart,

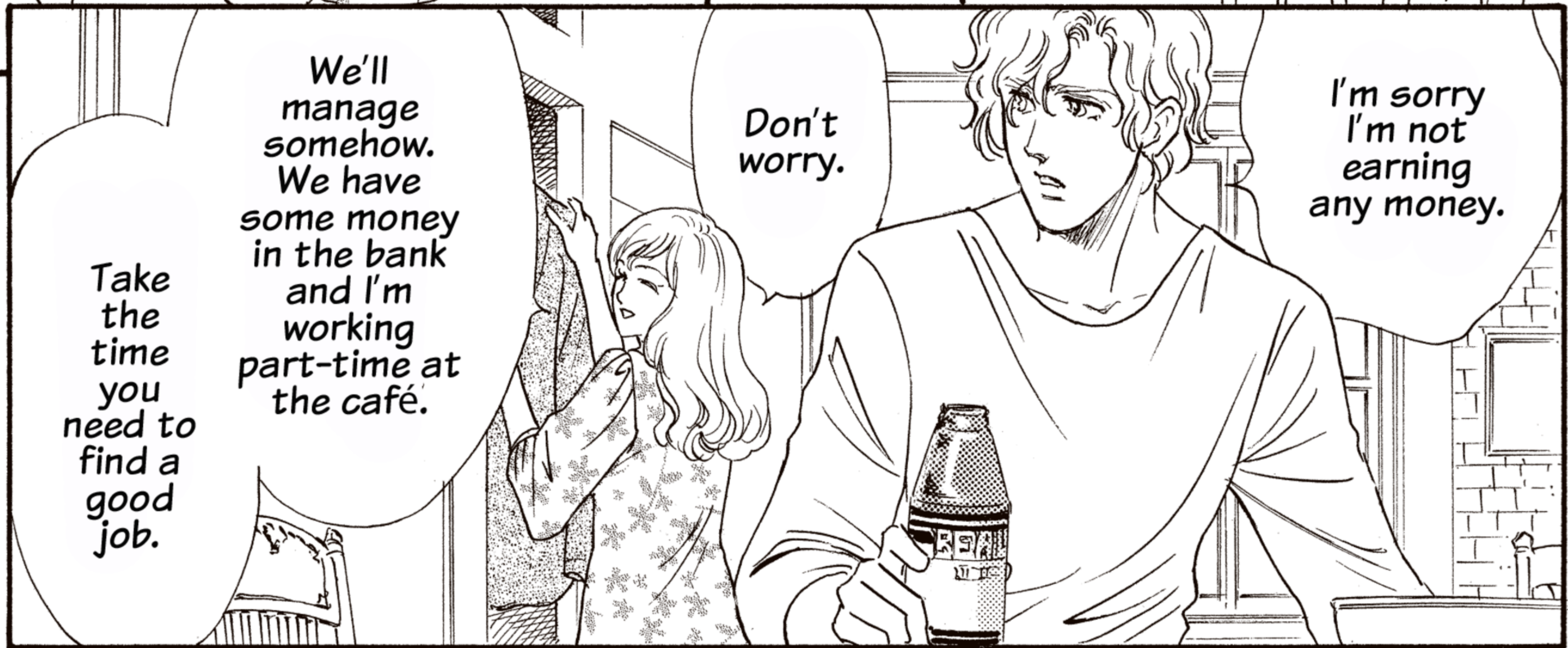
When I went to the court-house with Jake to fill out the marriage license,

How was your interview at the news agency?

Damn it!

I'm going to make a comeback as a field reporter, no matter what!

That's too bad.

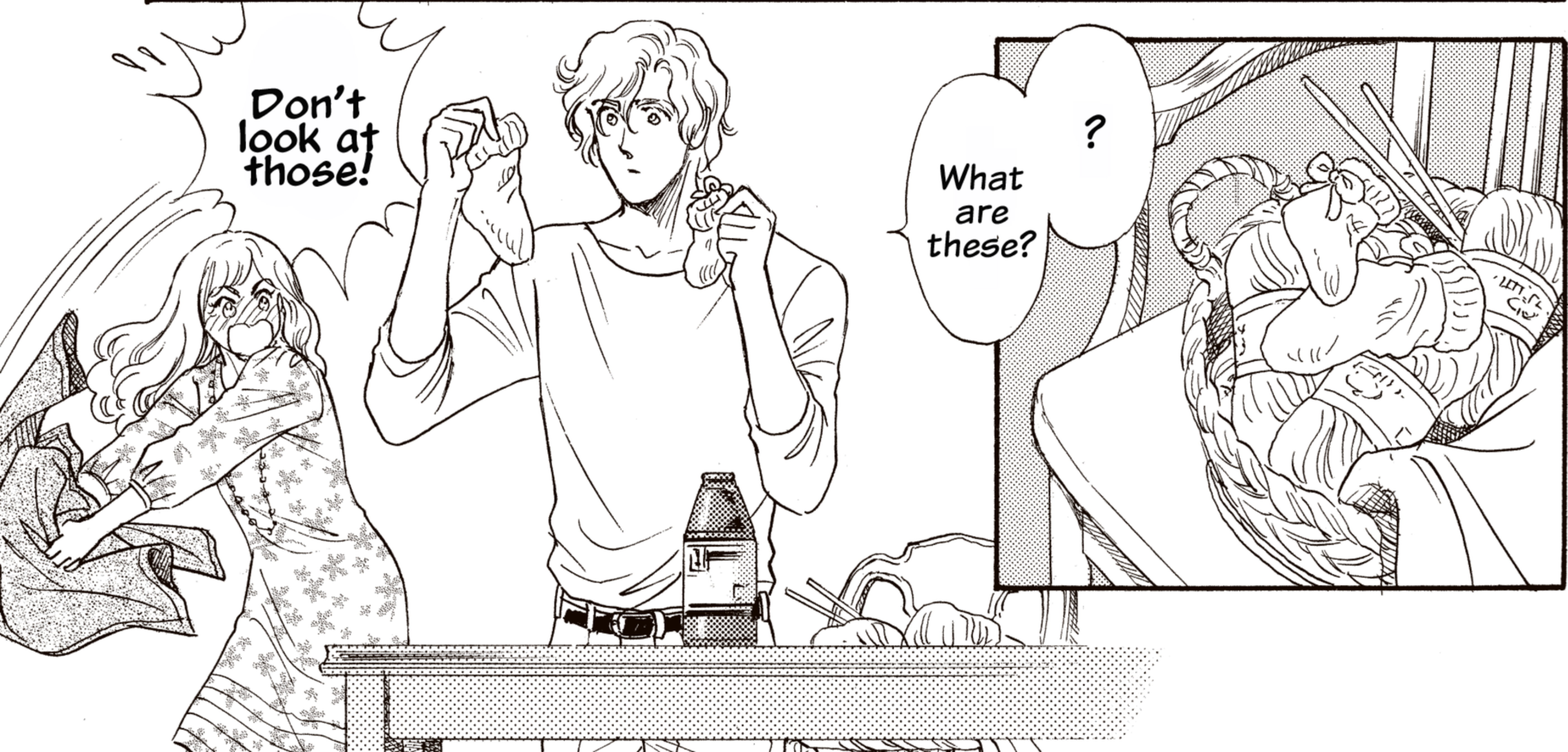


Take the time you need to find a good job.

We'll manage somehow. We have some money in the bank and I'm working part-time at the café.

Don't worry.

I'm sorry I'm not earning any money.



Don't look at those!

What are these?

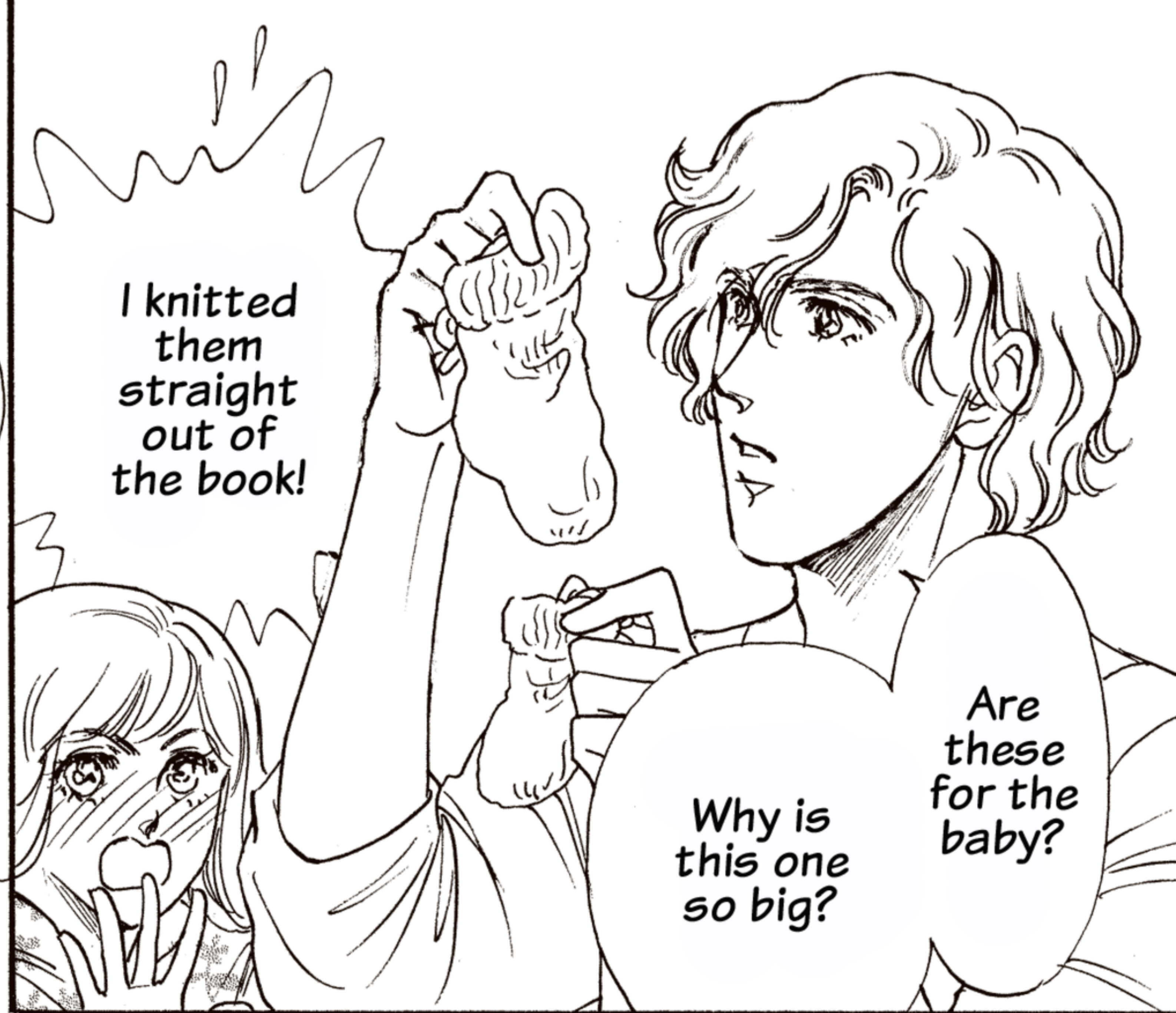
?



That way we'll have a set of little ones and a set of big ones!

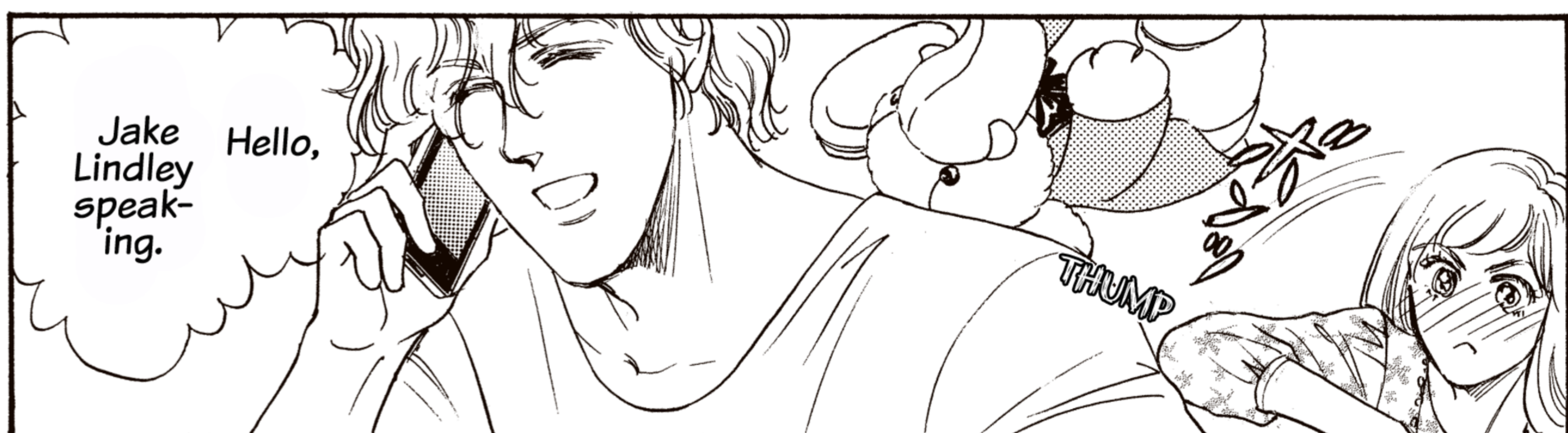
Well, you better knit another pair!

Stop it!

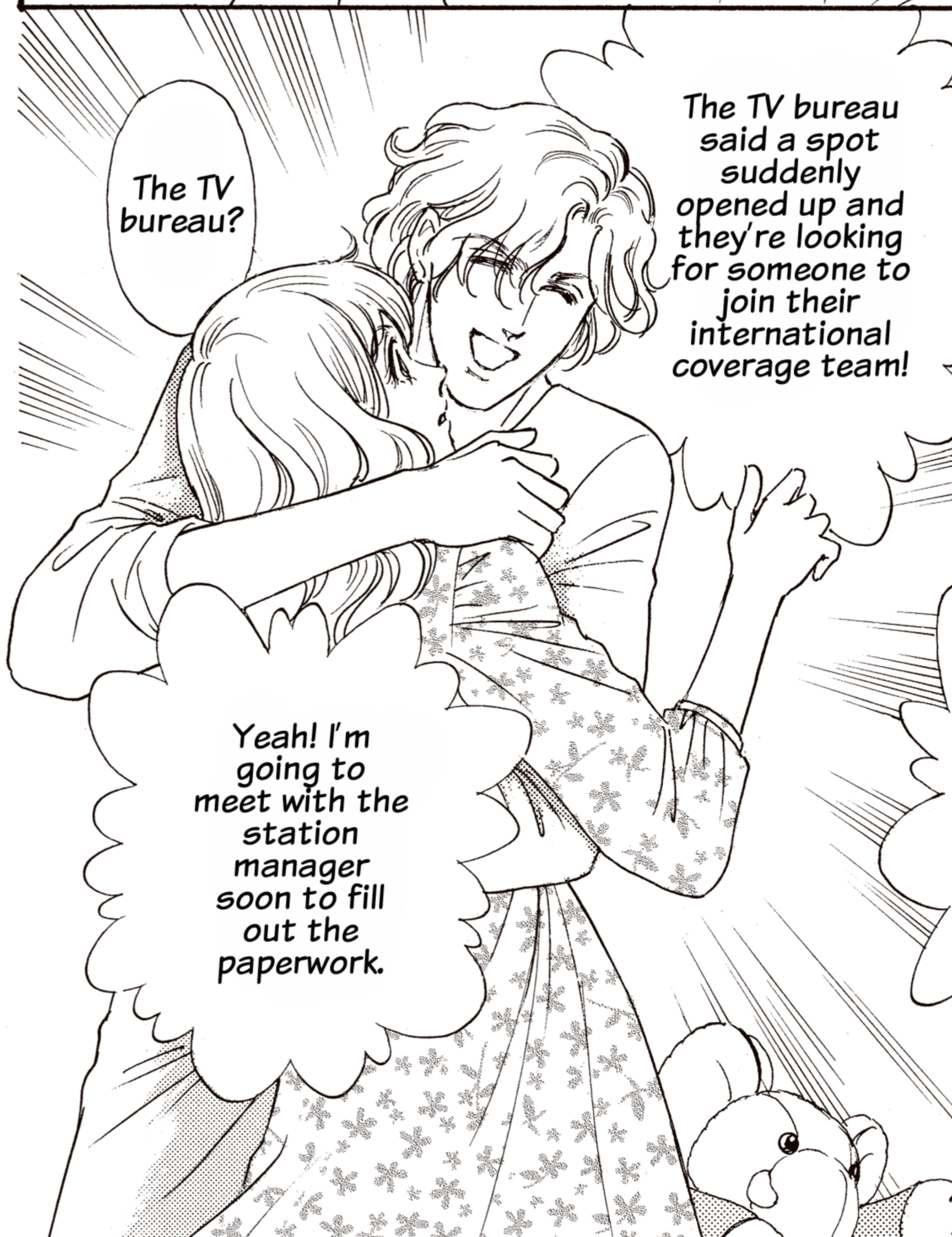


I knitted them straight out of the book!

Are these for the baby?
Why is this one so big?



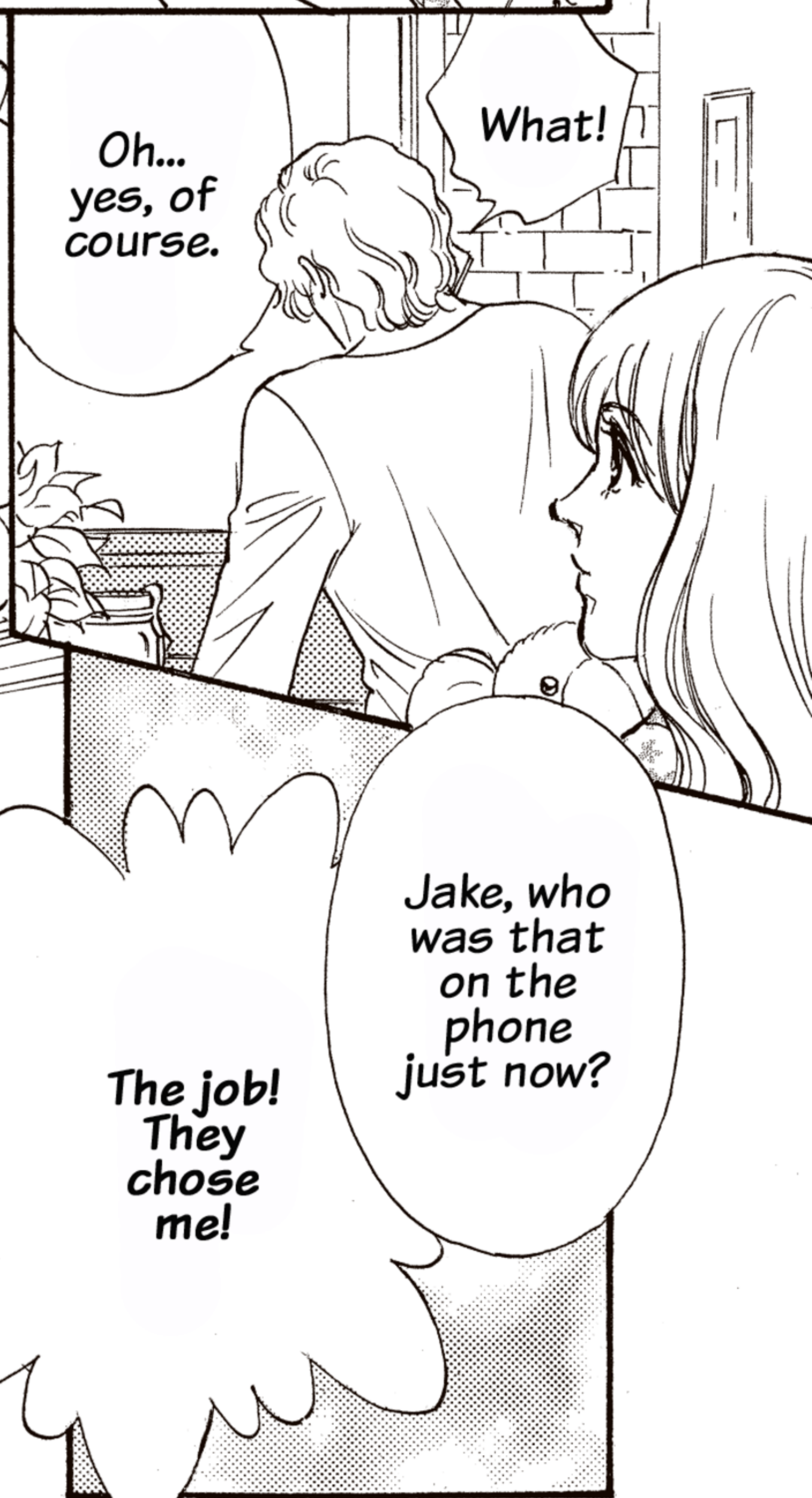
Jake Hello,
Lindley speak-
ing.



The TV bureau?

The TV bureau said a spot suddenly opened up and they're looking for someone to join their international coverage team!

Yeah! I'm going to meet with the station manager soon to fill out the paperwork.

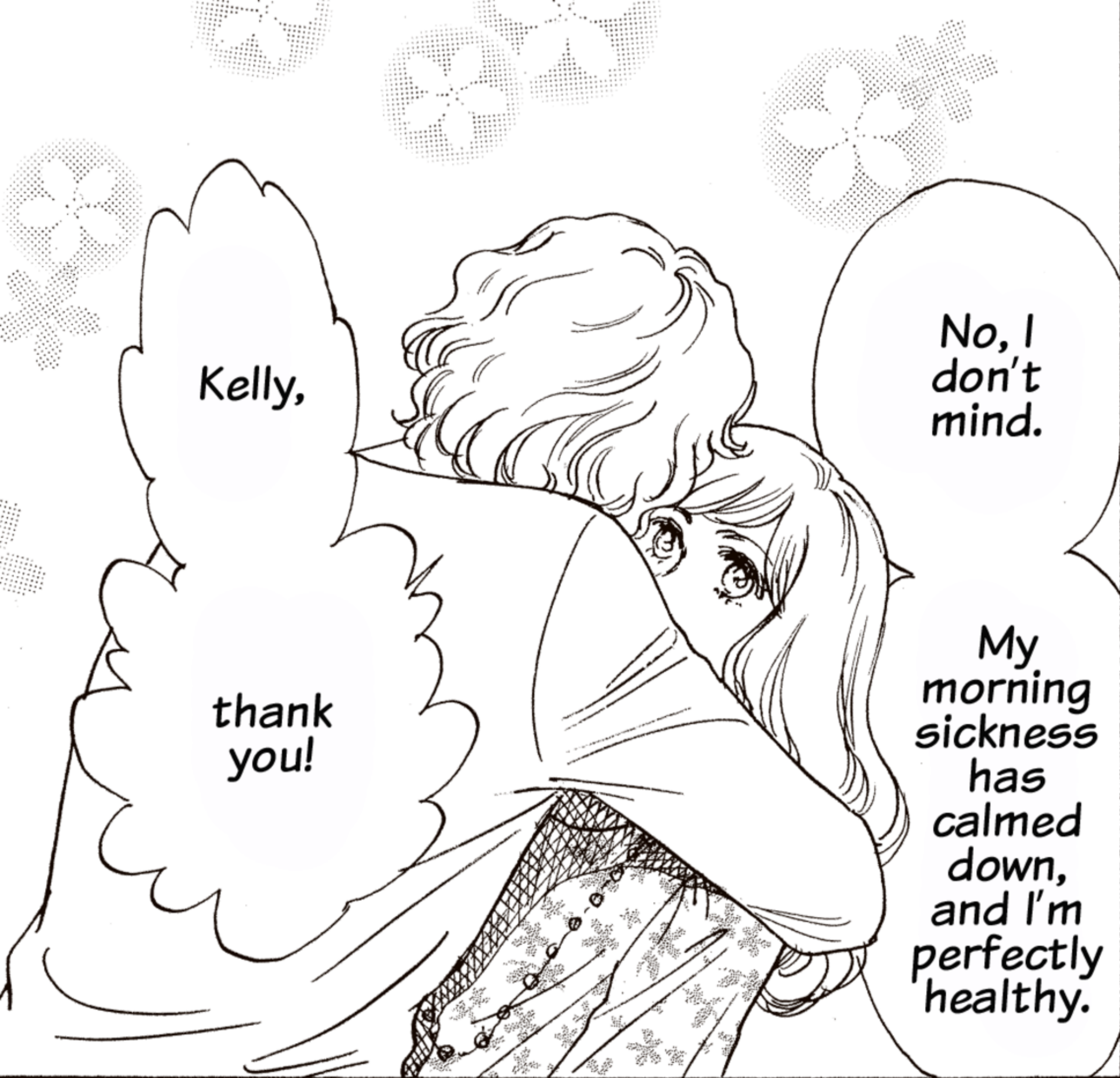


Oh... yes, of course.

What!

The job! They chose me!

Jake, who was that on the phone just now?

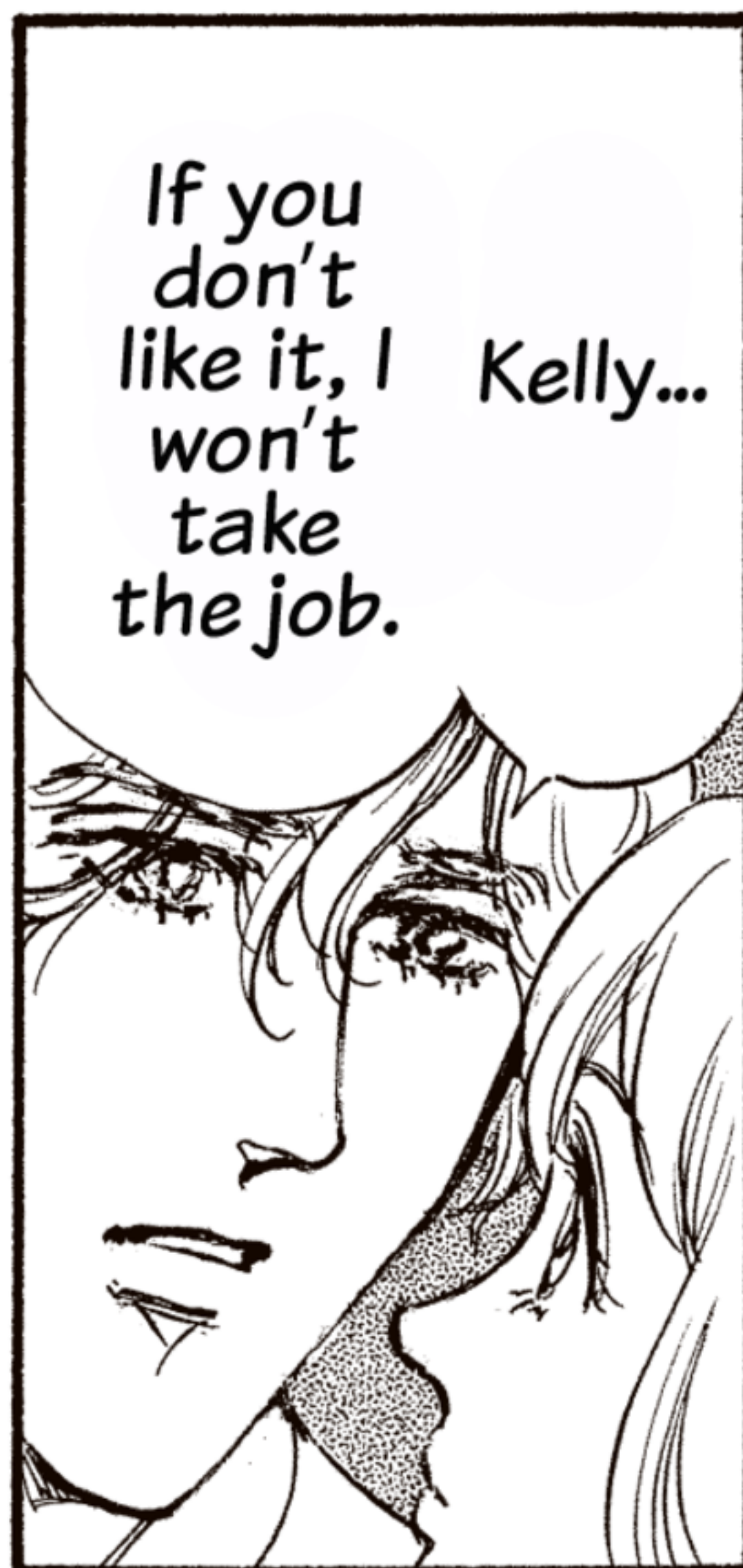


Kelly,

thank
you!

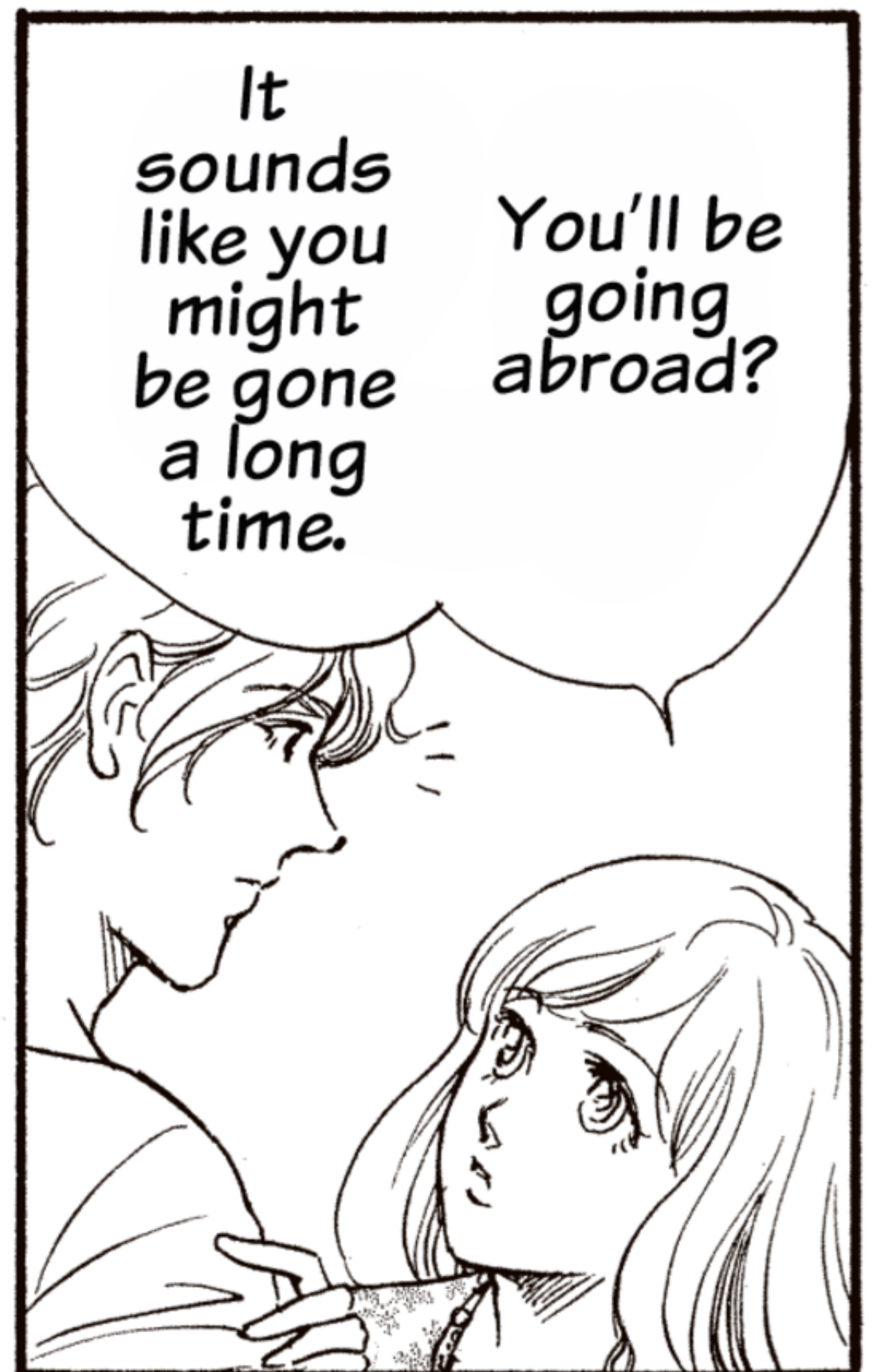
No, I
don't
mind.

My
morning
sickness
has
calmed
down,
and I'm
perfectly
healthy.



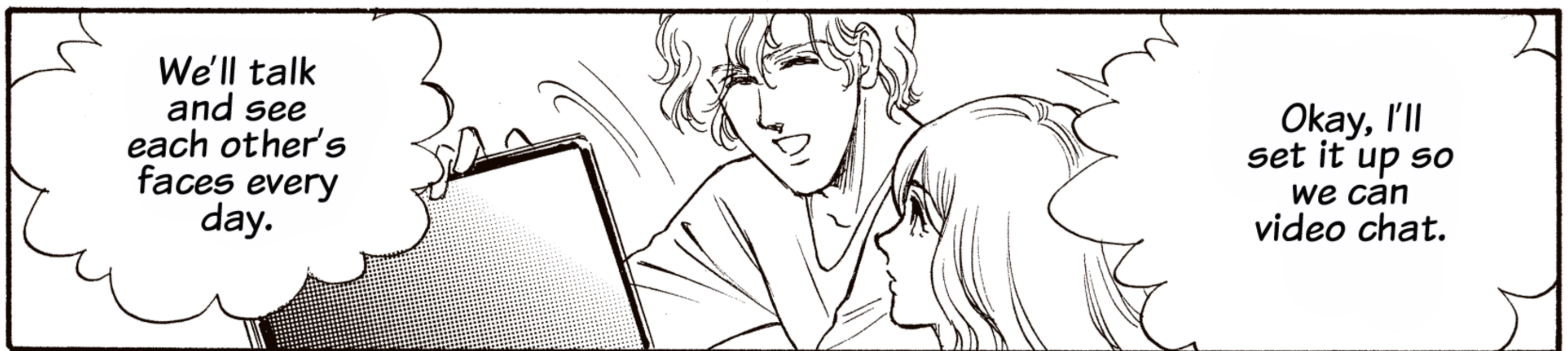
If you
don't
like it, I
won't
take
the job.

Kelly...



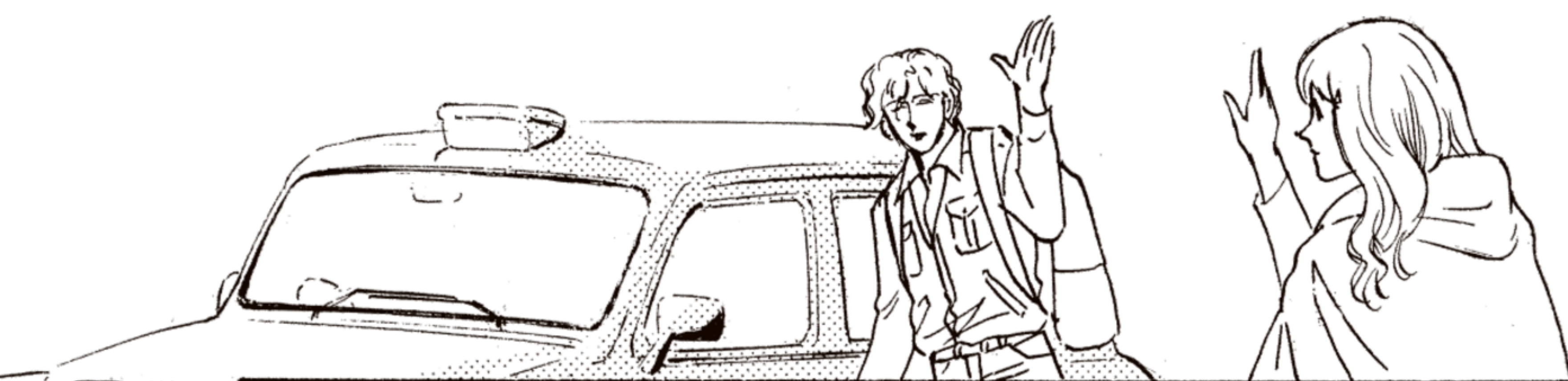
It
sounds
like you
might
be gone
a long
time.

You'll be
going
abroad?



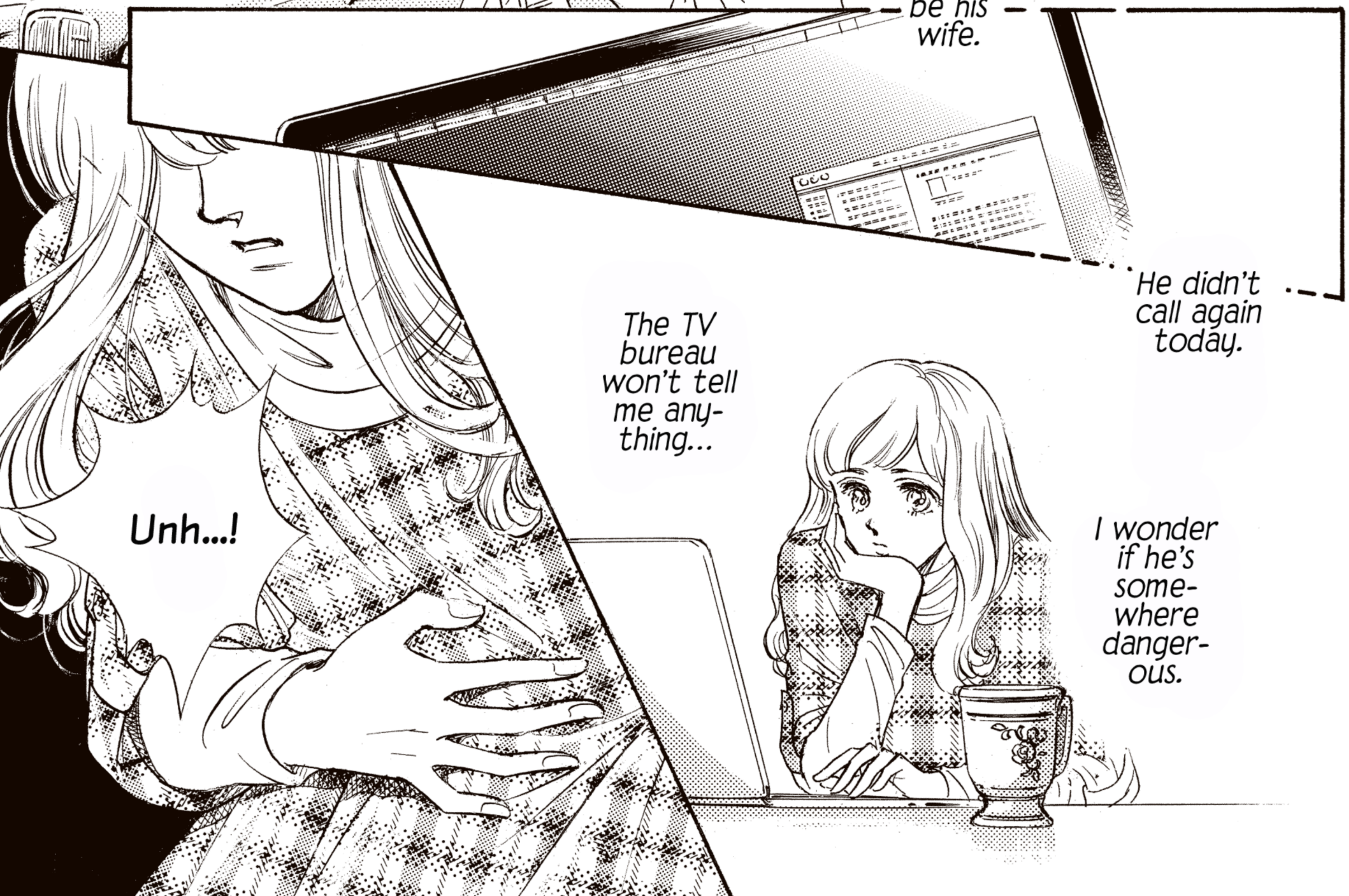
We'll talk
and see
each other's
faces every
day.

Okay, I'll
set it up so
we can
video chat.



...be-
cause
that's
what it
means to
be his
wife.

I have to
smile as I
send him
off...



Unh...!

The TV
bureau
won't tell
me any-
thing...

He didn't
call again
today.

I wonder
if he's
some-
where
danger-
ous.