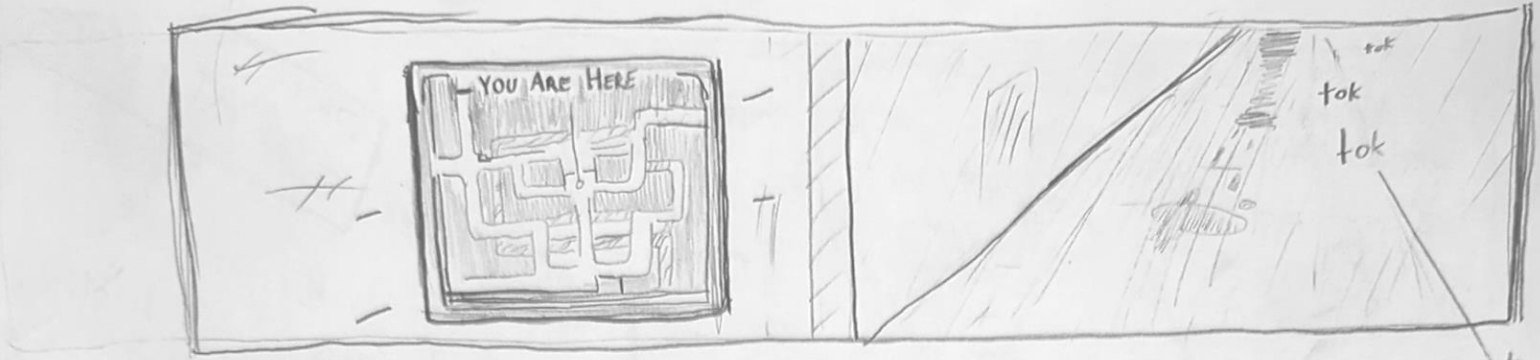




Two things
she can't
live without...

have something
in common,
maybe -

DRY
RATIONS

dark, bitter liquid
I don't care much
about.

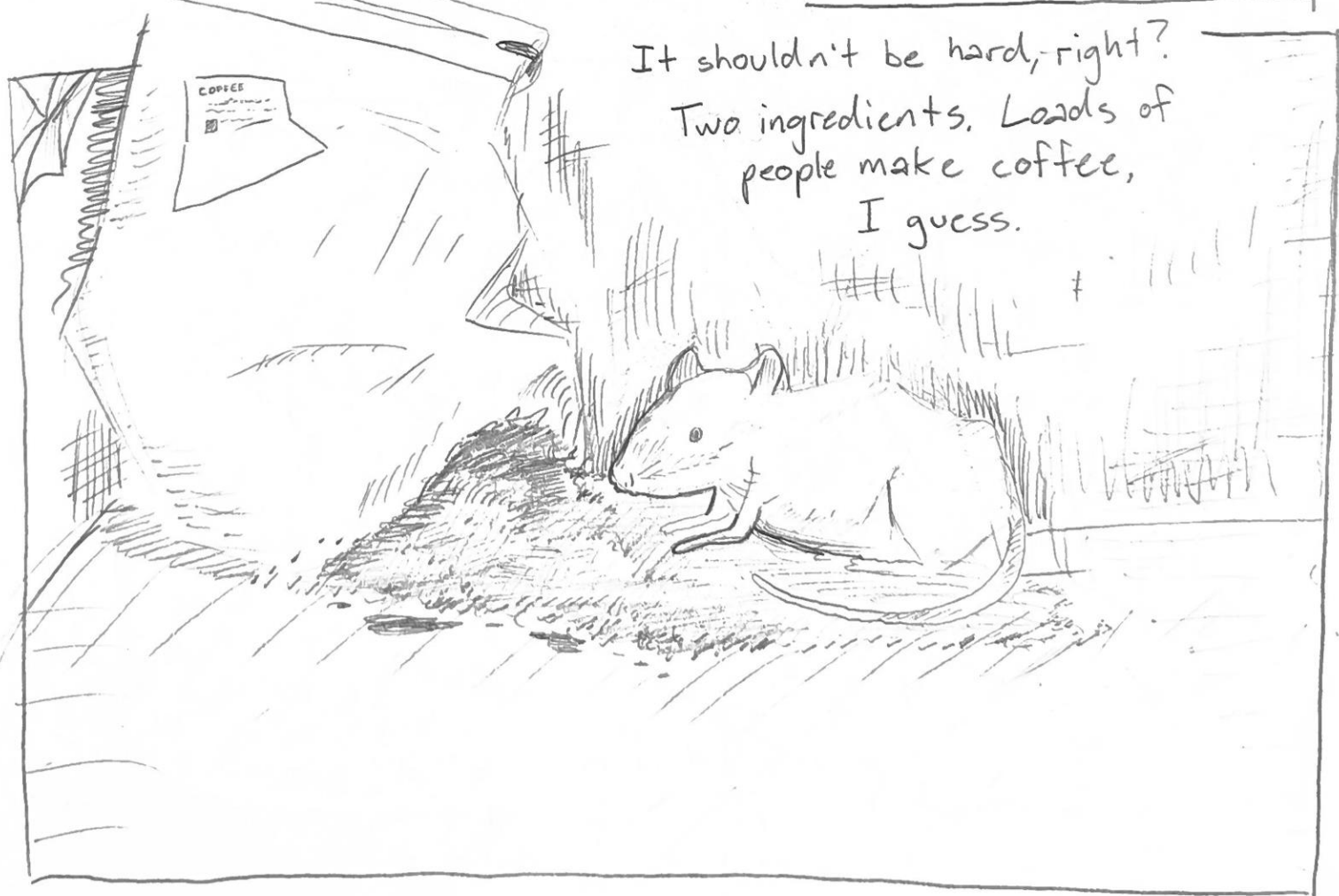


Her upper and
downer of choice...

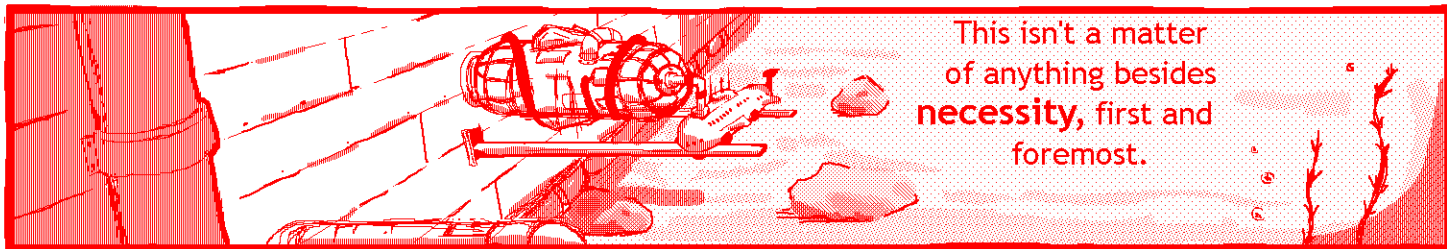
Well,

The last thing she needs
is caffeine withdrawals...

It shouldn't be hard, right?
Two ingredients. Loads of
people make coffee,
I guess.



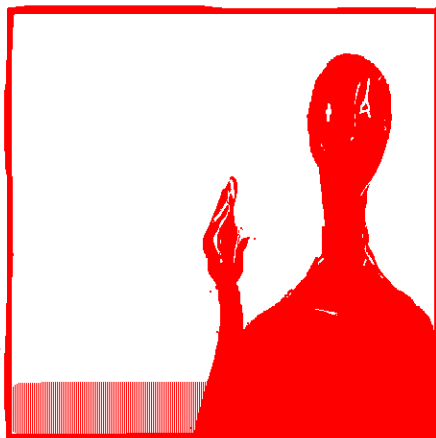
trench.



This isn't a matter of anything besides **necessity**, first and foremost.

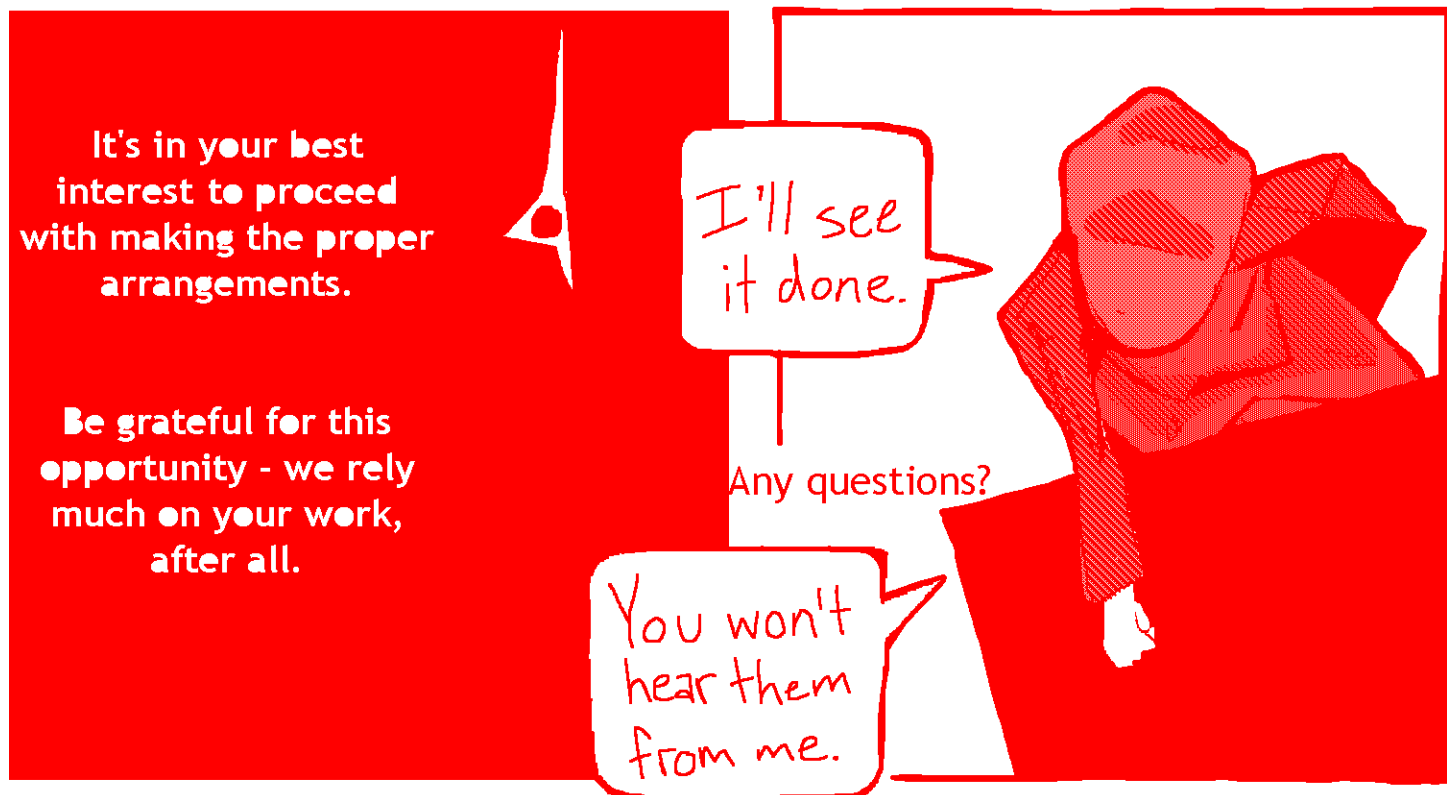
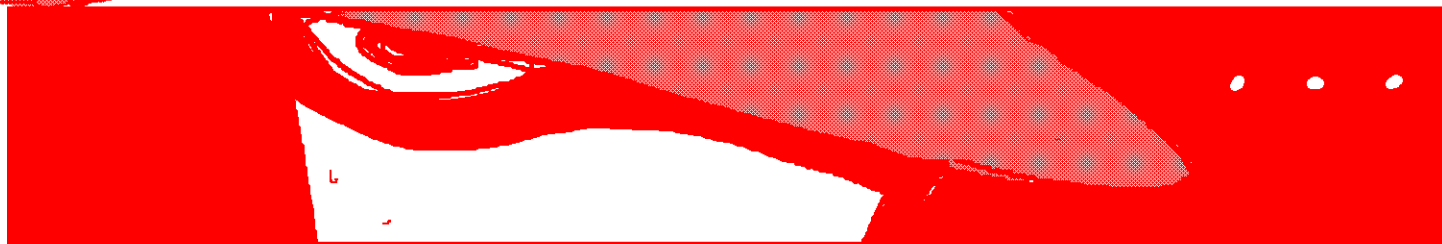


You fulfill your **debt**,



We'll put forward enough to get you through the month--simple.

We trust you'll have it done in your typical manner... **Aster**, was it?



It's in your best interest to proceed with making the proper arrangements.

Be grateful for this opportunity - we rely much on your work, after all.

I'll see it done.

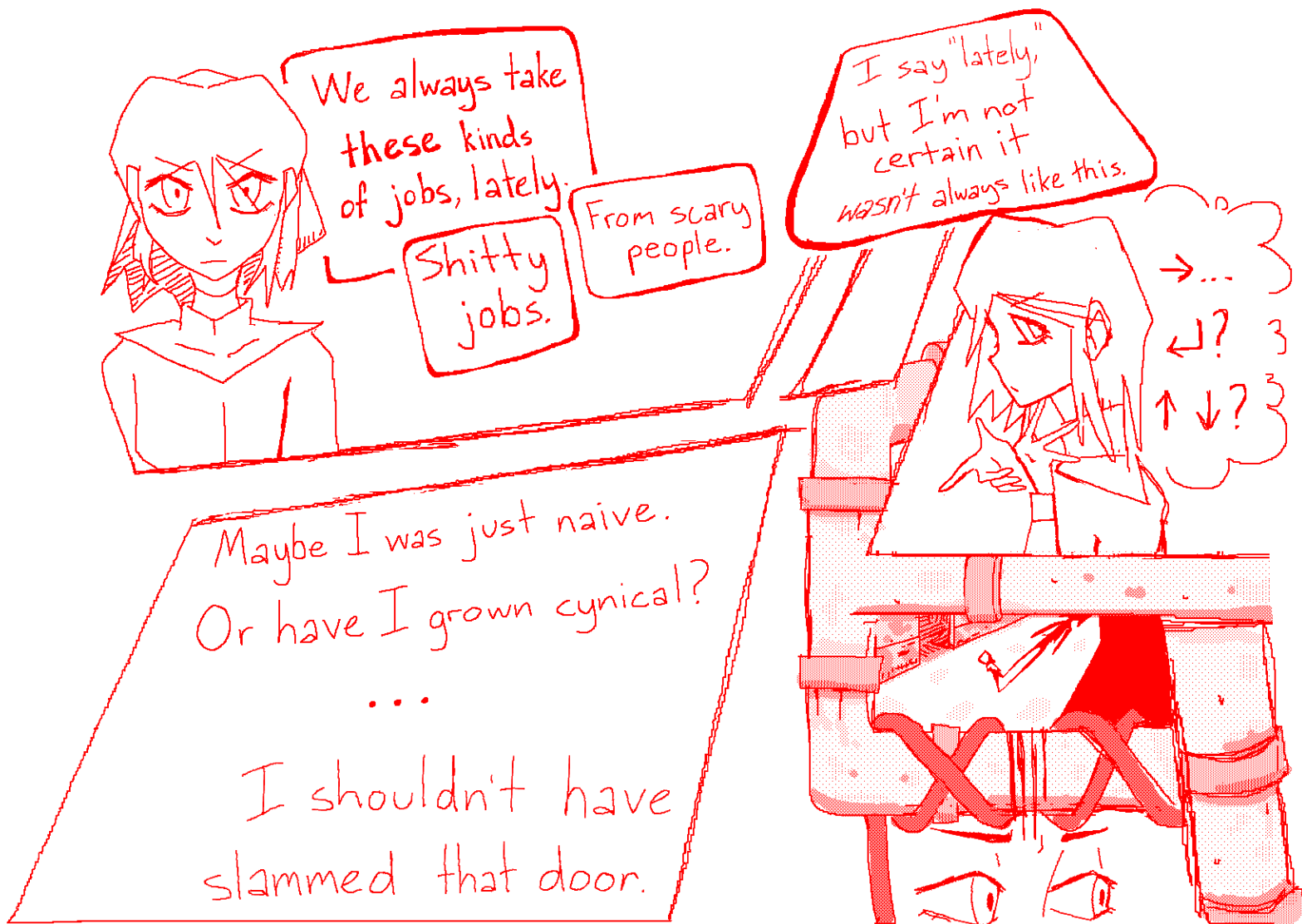
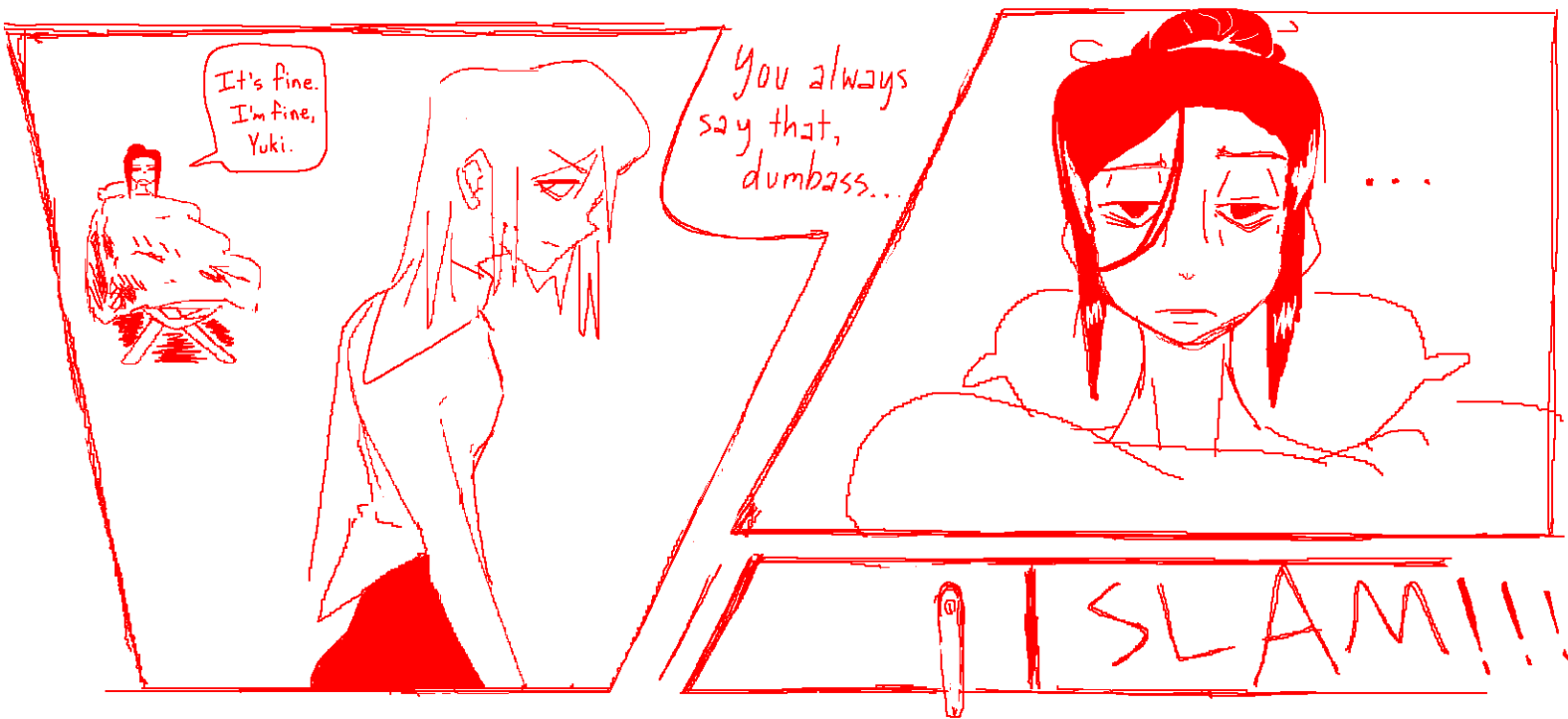
Any questions?

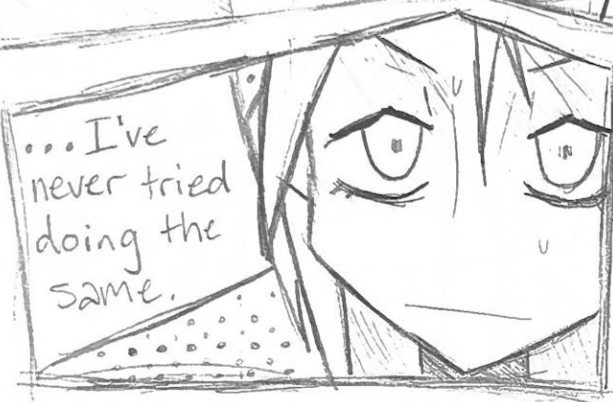
You won't hear them from me.

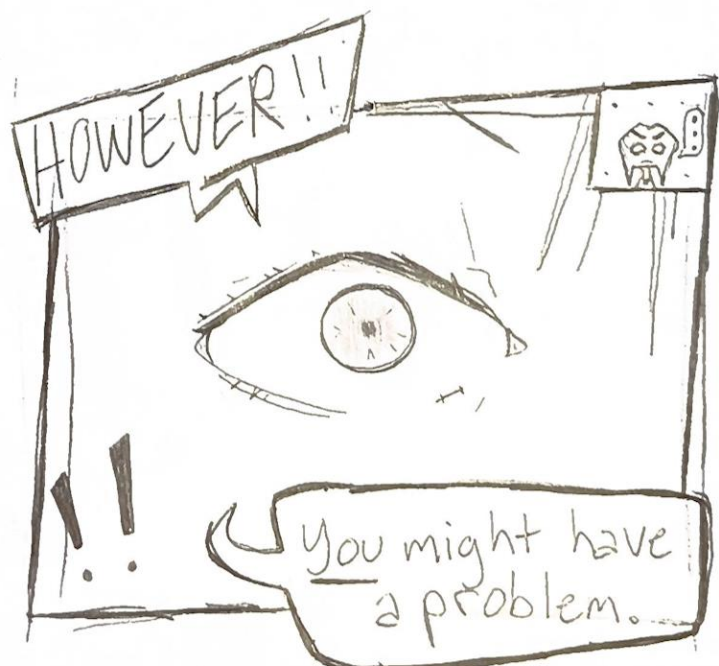
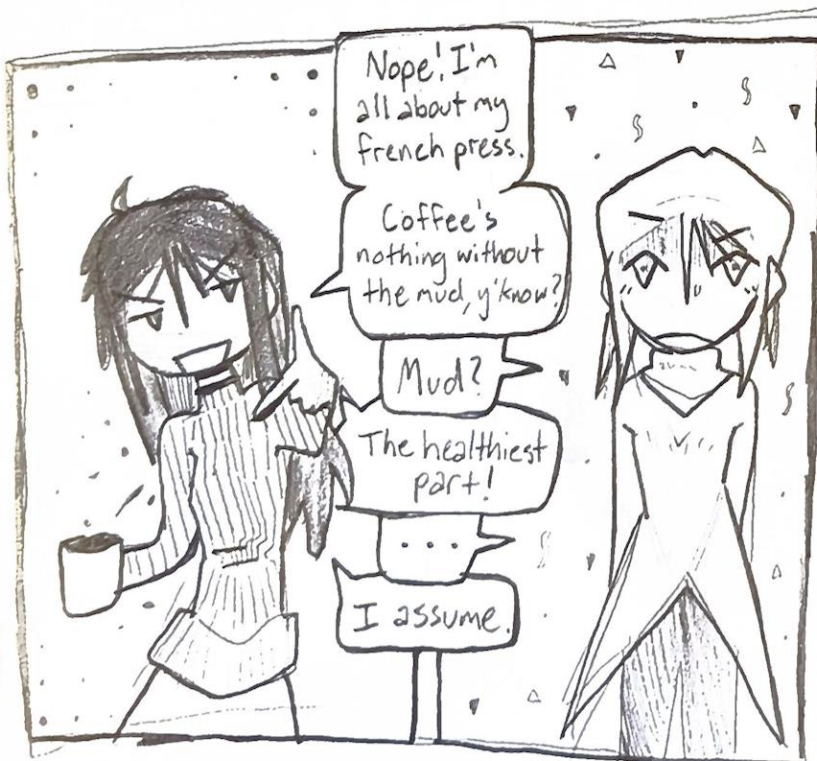
Expect to hear from us **shortly**.

You don't want to keep us waiting.

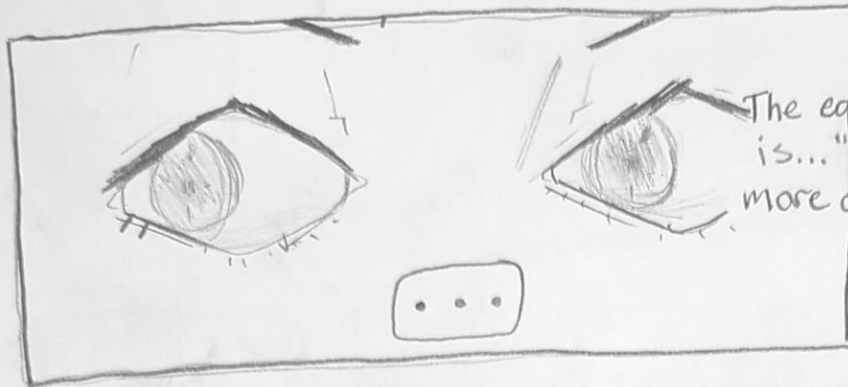












The equipment
is... "there,"
more or less.

"Good luck."

It'll be
quick.

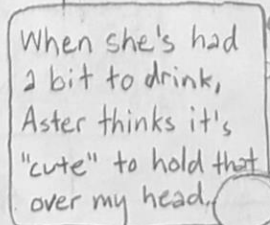
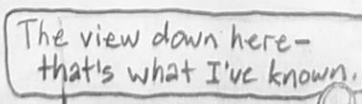
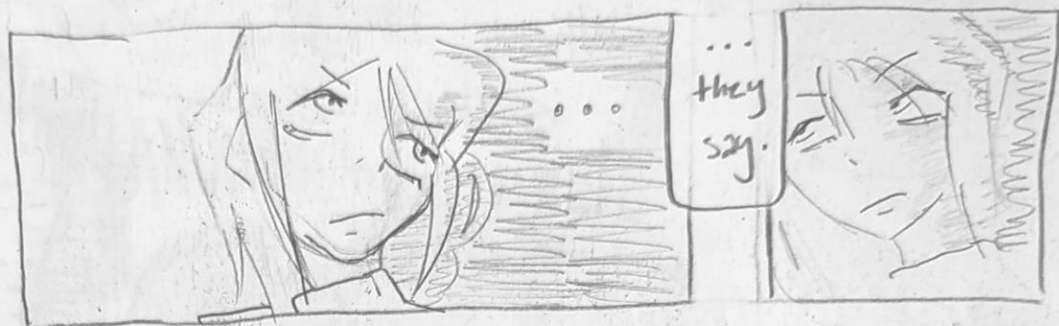
Besides, it's
not like they've
run "out" out—

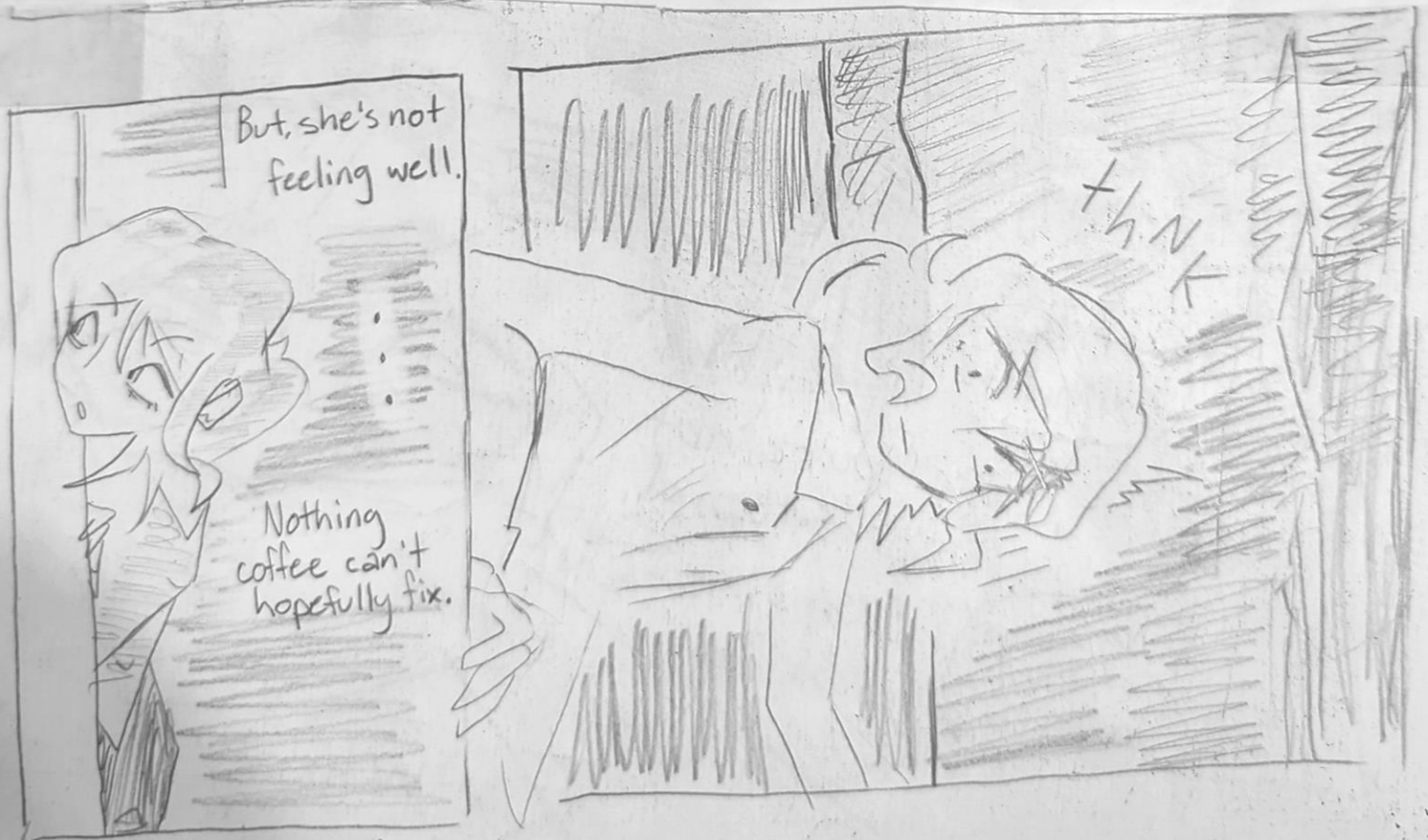
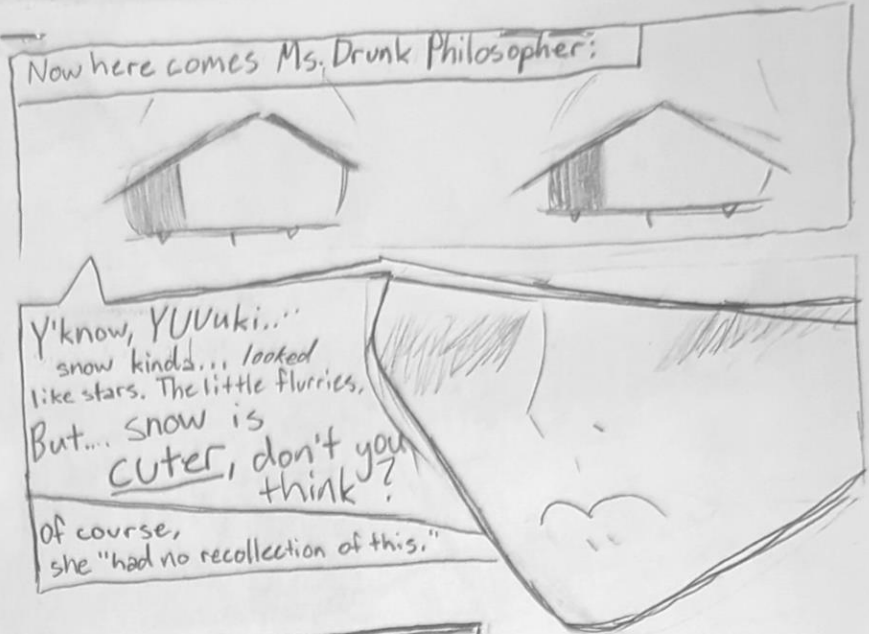
Some of these
people would
probably
riot.

...

that poor coffee
nerd would get
eaten alive,
wouldn't she?

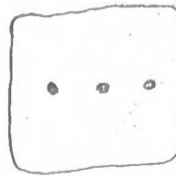








Who...



#

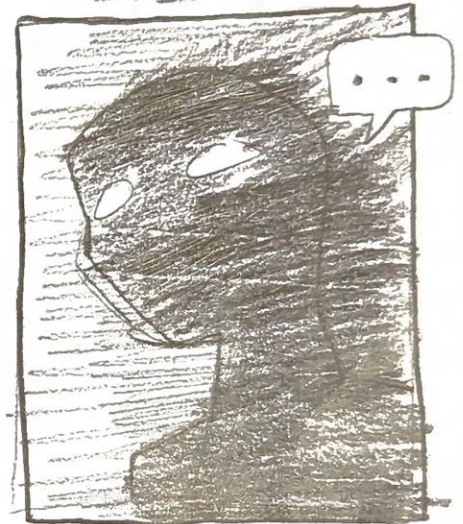


Aster.

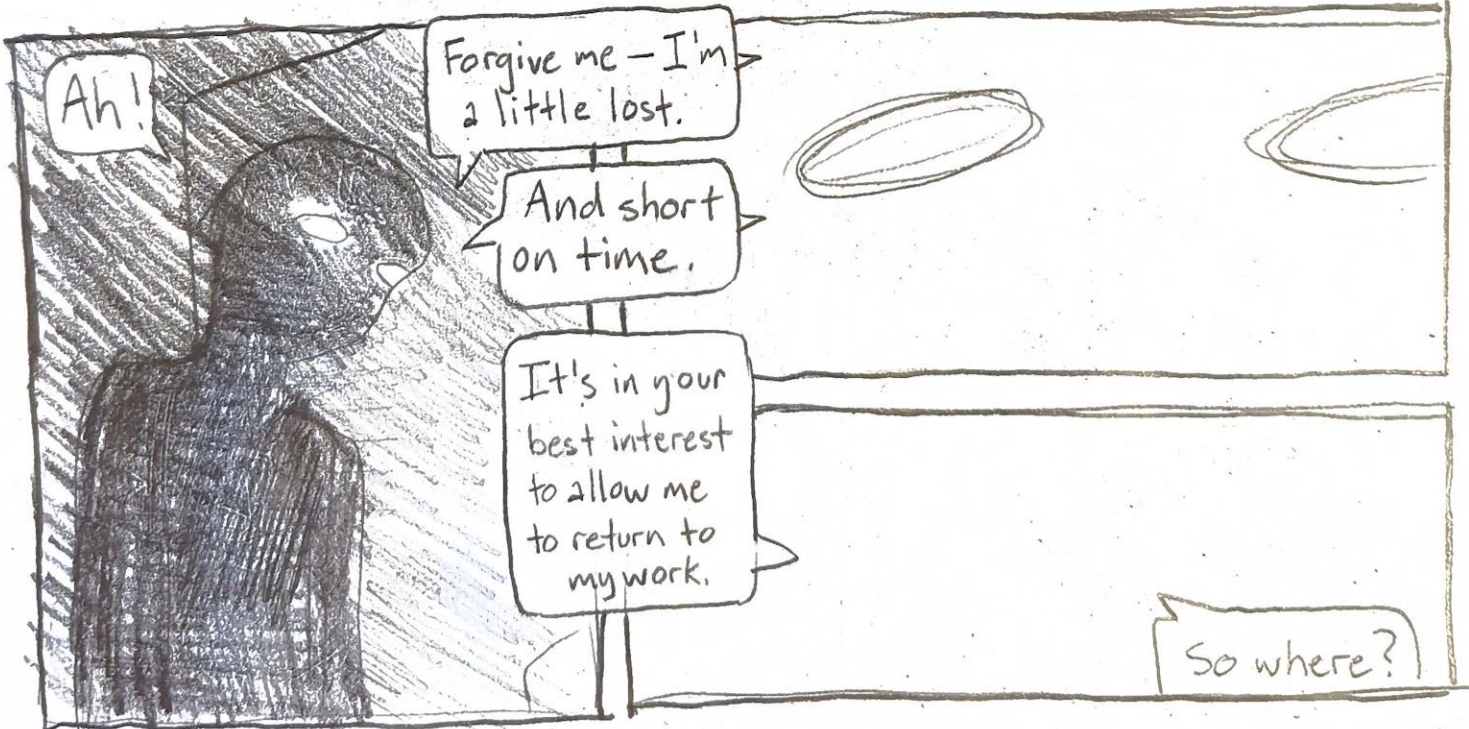
Have you
seen her?



I...



...



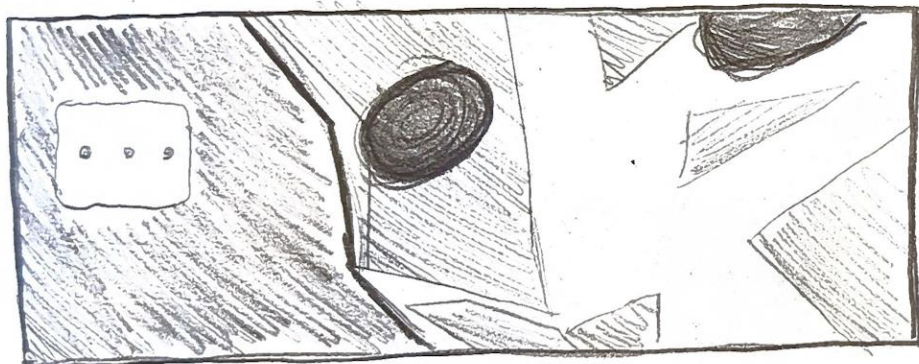
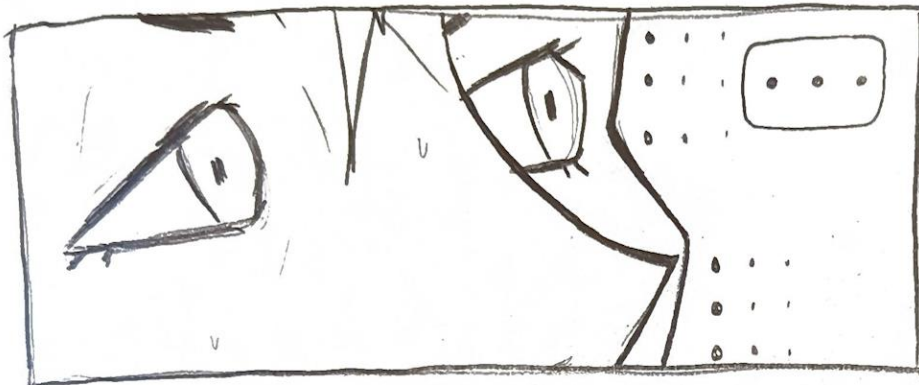
Ah!

Forgive me - I'm
a little lost.

And short
on time.

It's in your
best interest
to allow me
to return to
my work.

So where?



Not a sign
of life
back there.

You're not
stupid.

Last time
I'll ask.

...

Where?



Fwip!

YOU-

KGH!!

KEEP
YOUR
HANDS
OFF
HER!

Fwip



What are
you...

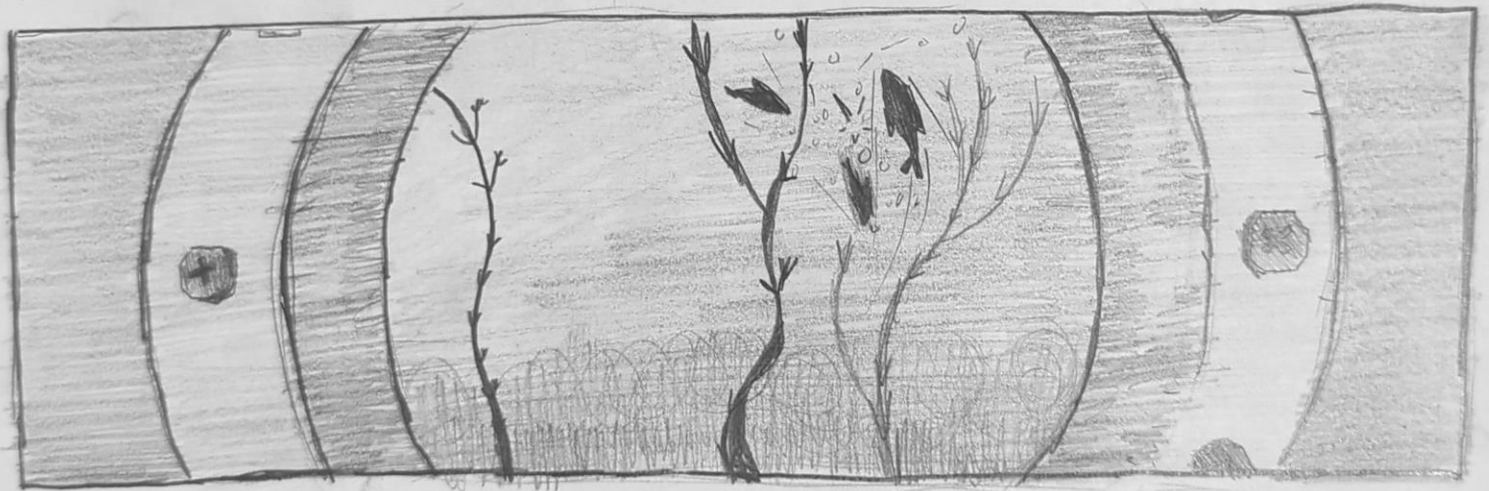
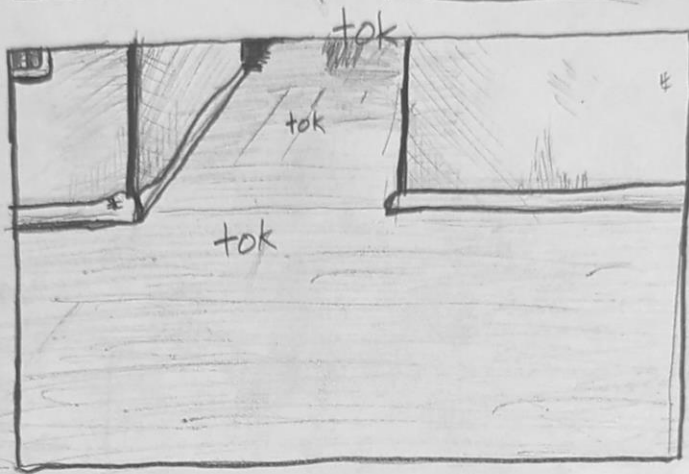
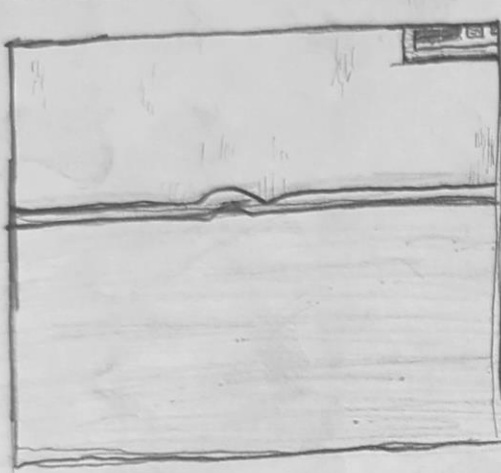
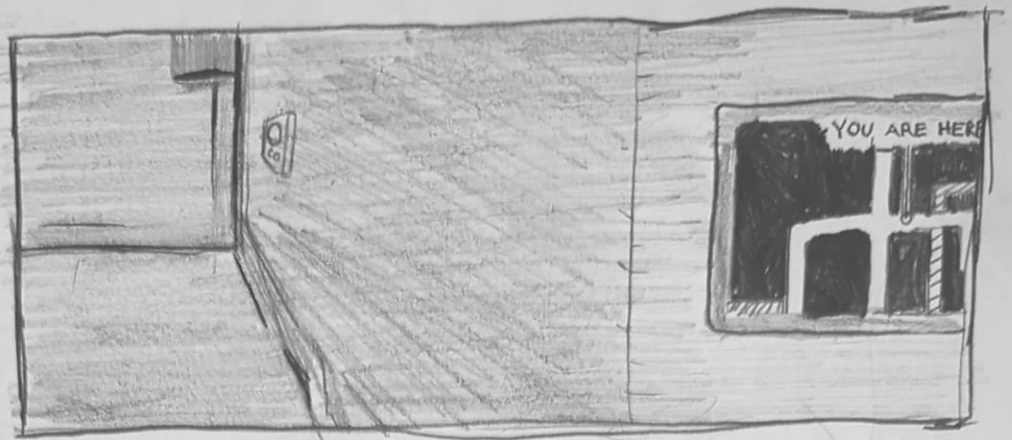
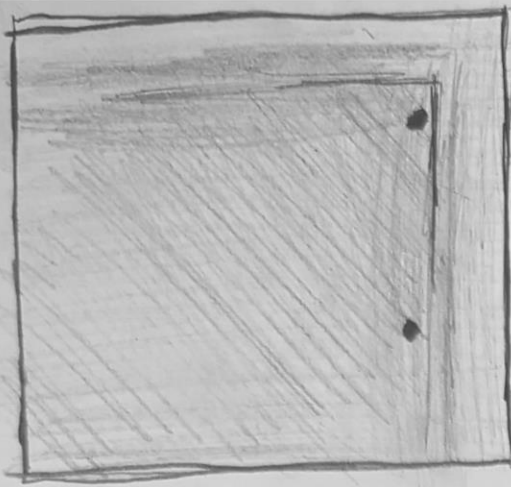
GAAAH!!

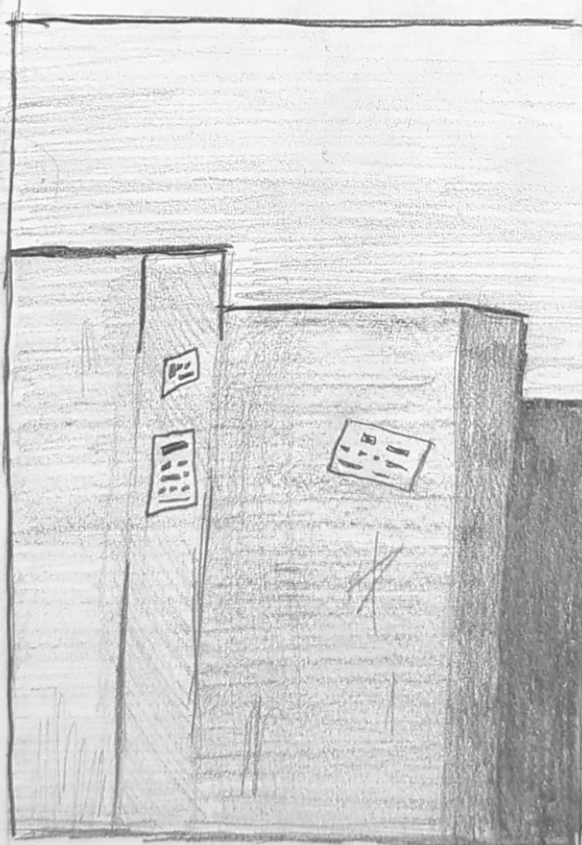
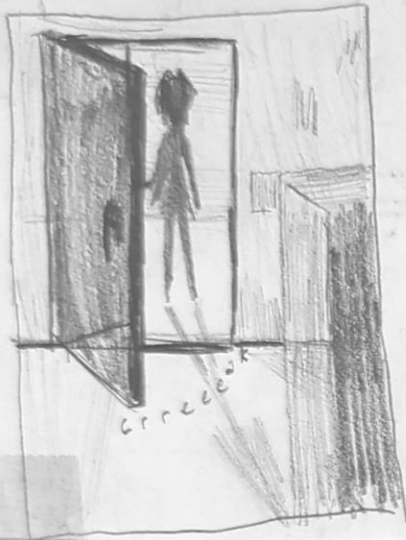
CHOMP

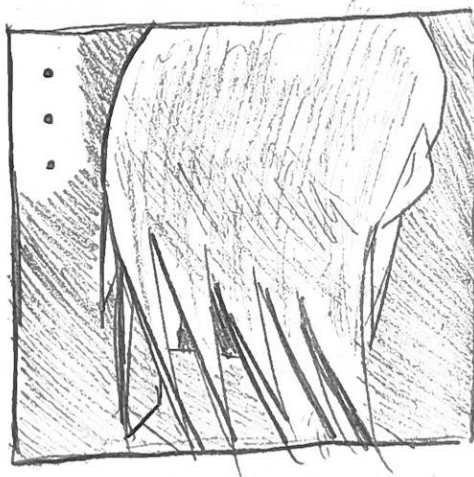
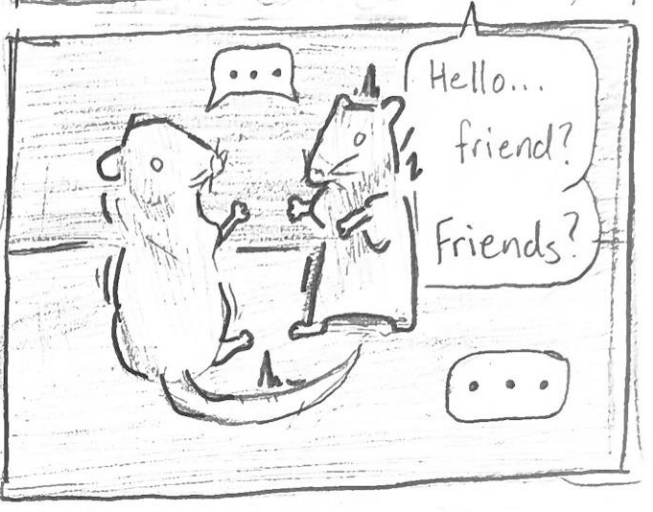


Shit.



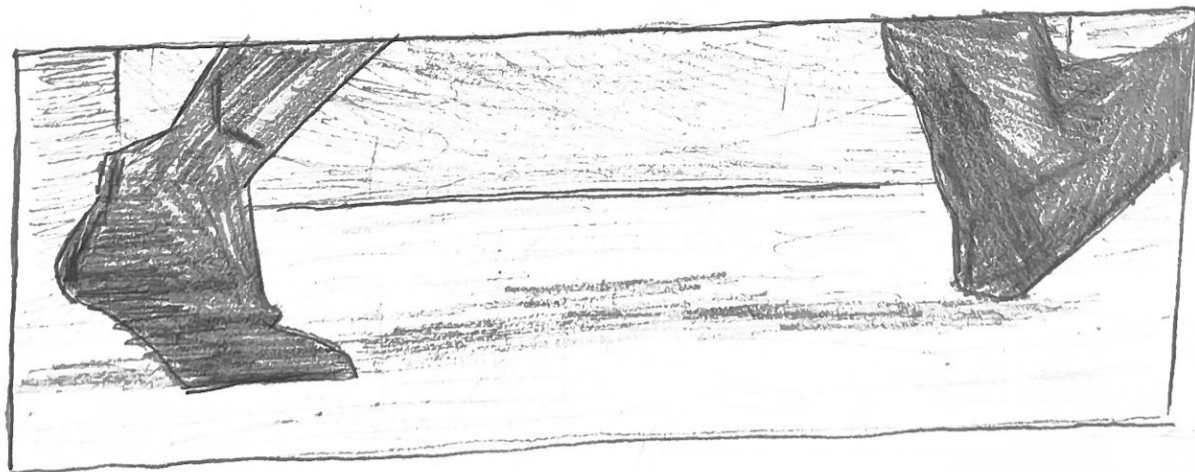






As I search,
I begin to question,
I mean—

I doubt I'd
want to eat
half the stuff
in here.

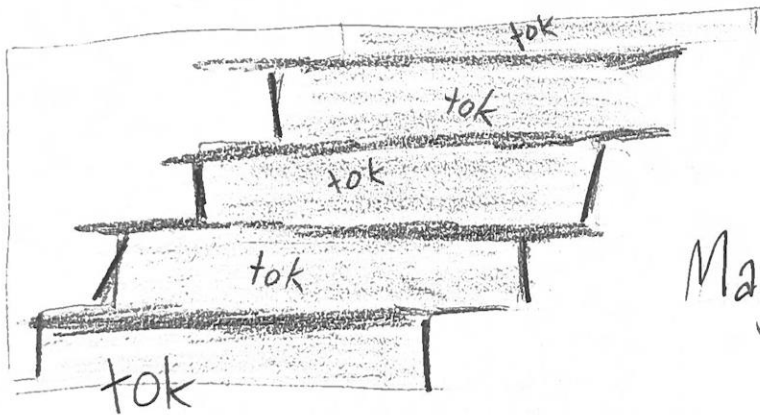
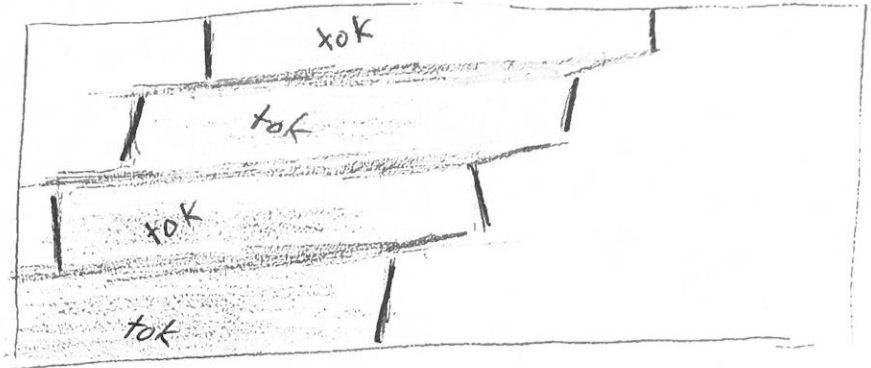






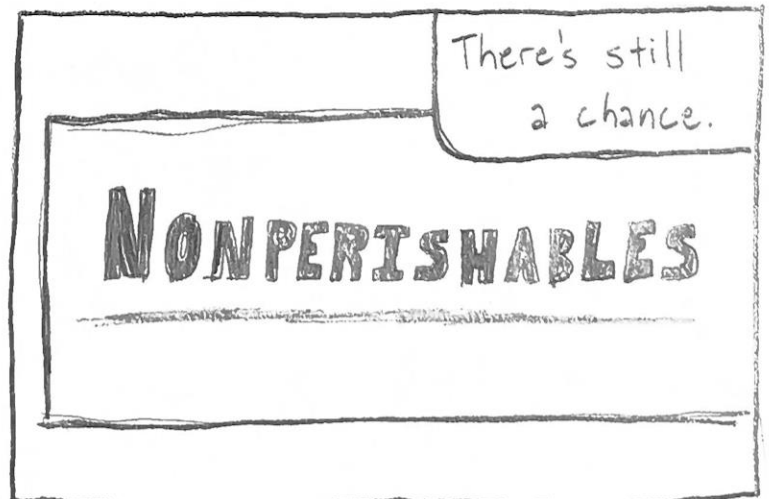
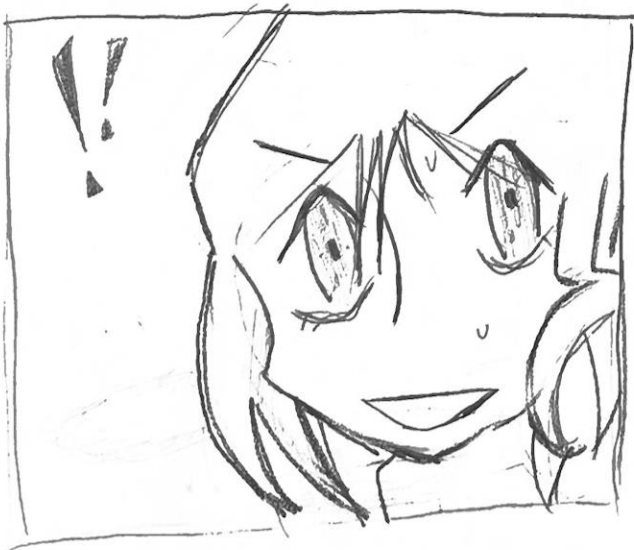
Stairs?

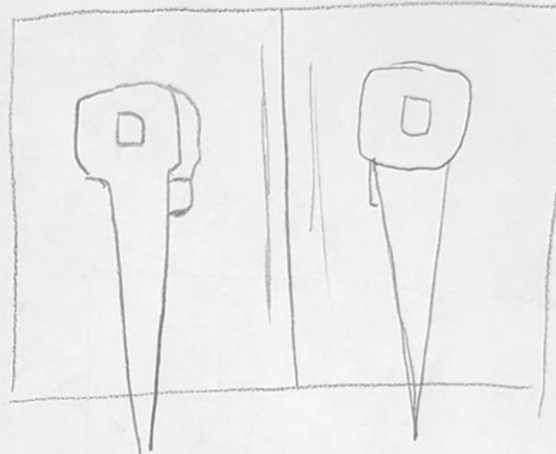
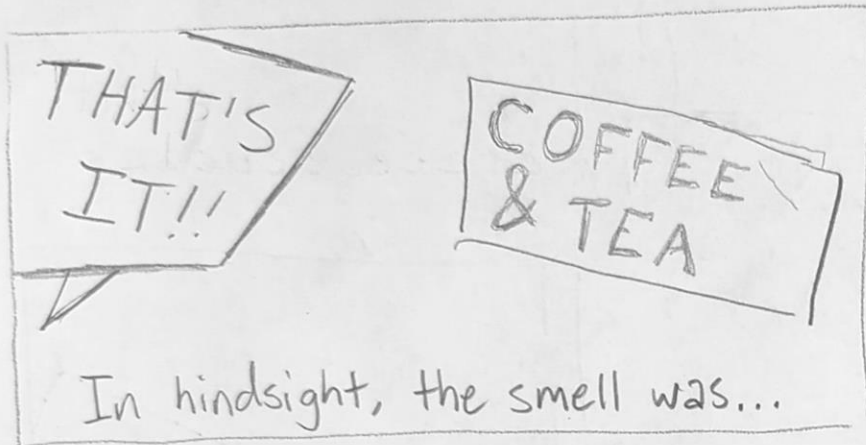
Well maybe...



Maybe!

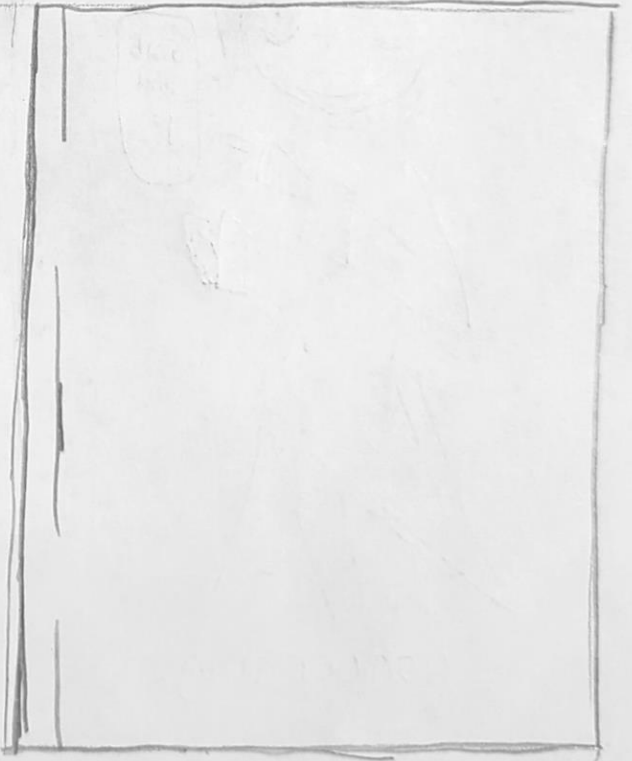
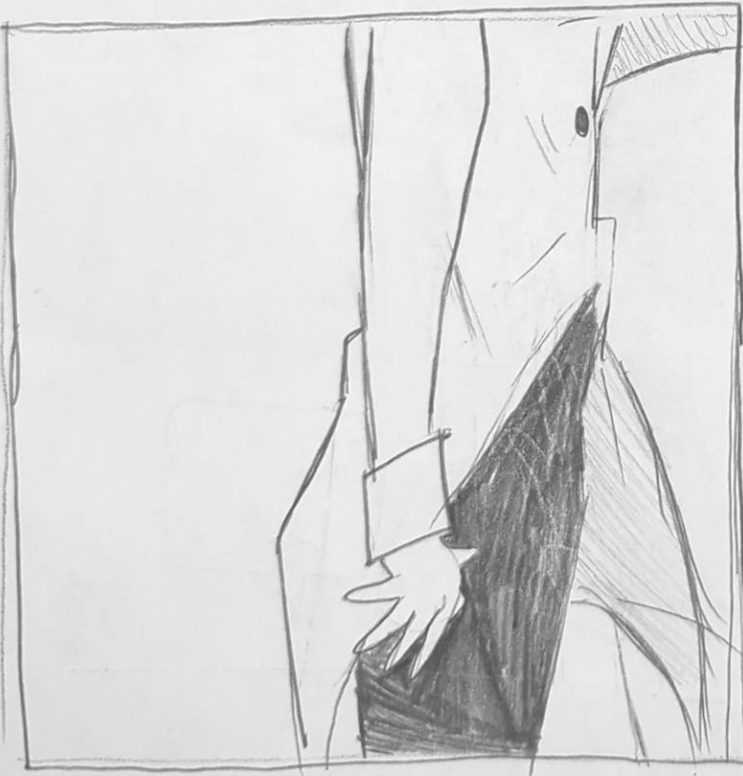
Maybe that means...

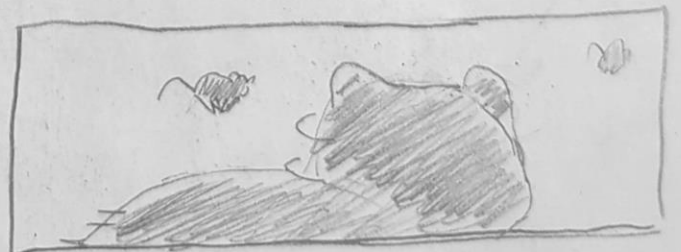
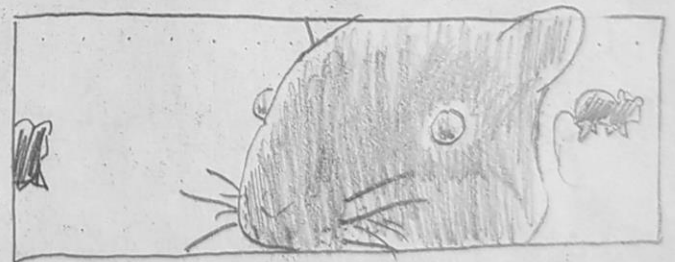
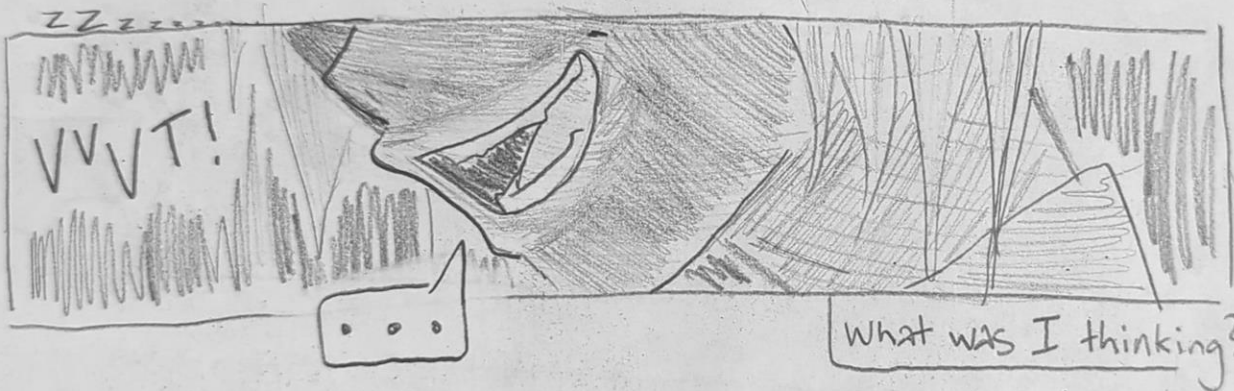
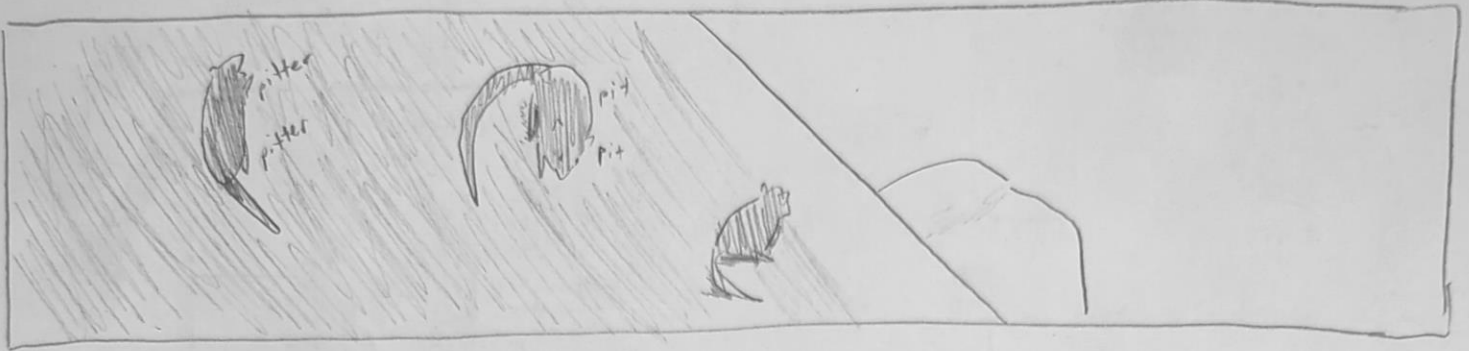


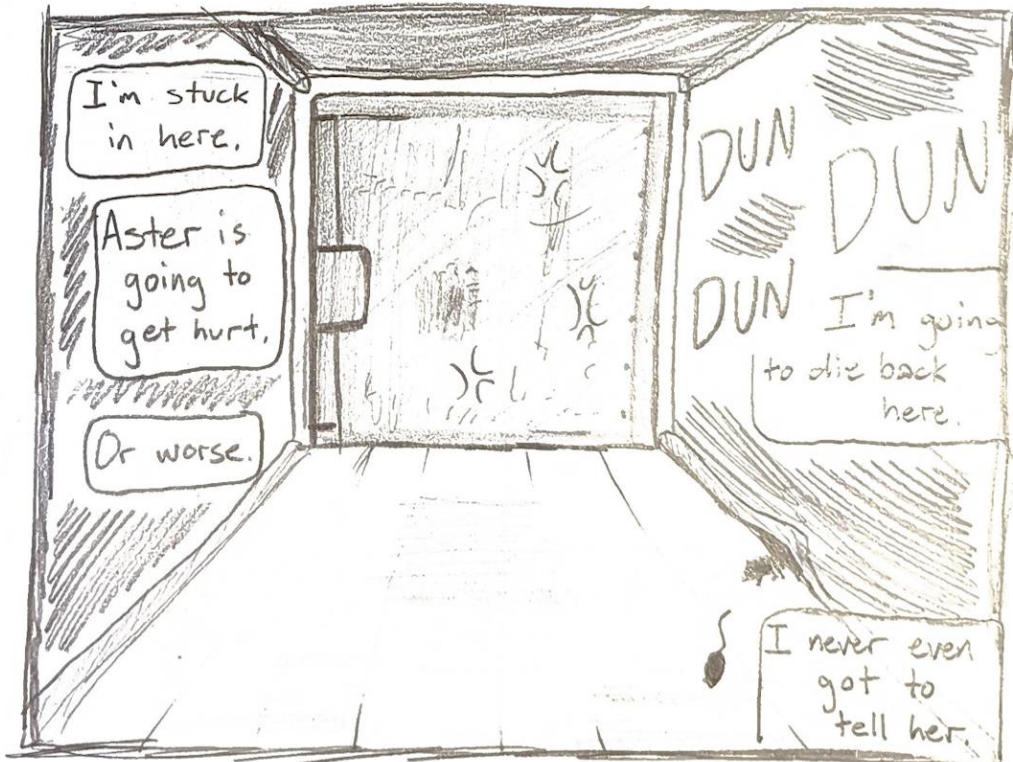
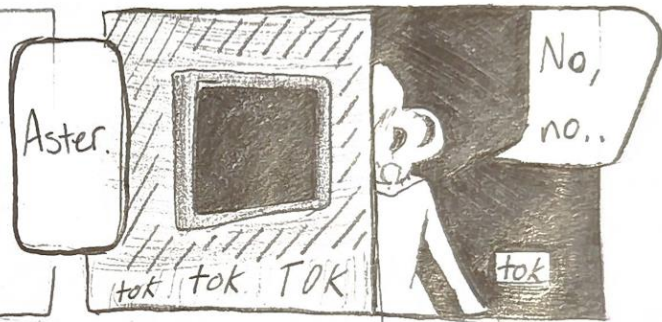
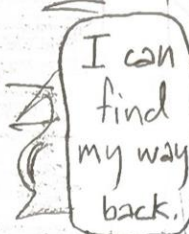




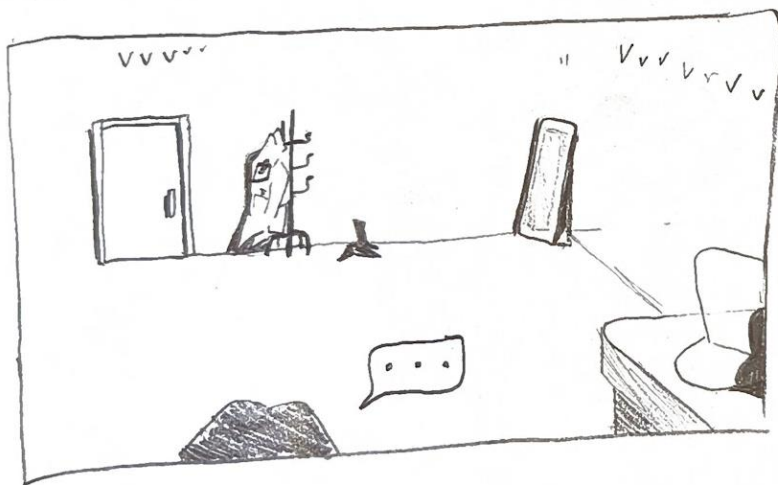
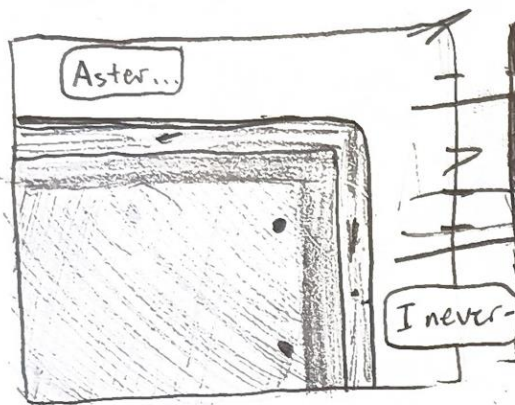
creeeeeeeeak...







trench.



Was I asleep?

Why?

...

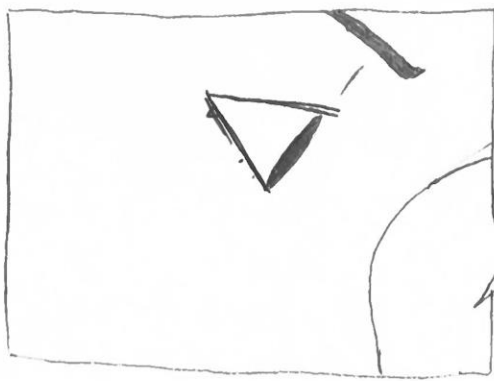
I slept enough
last night.

Yuki isn't here.

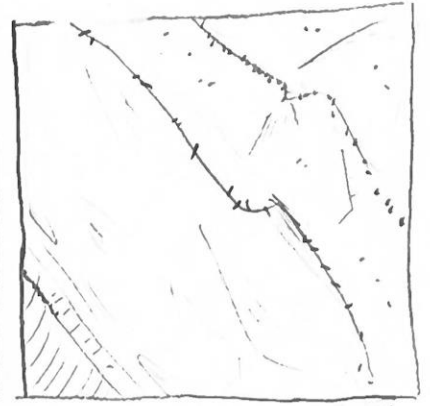
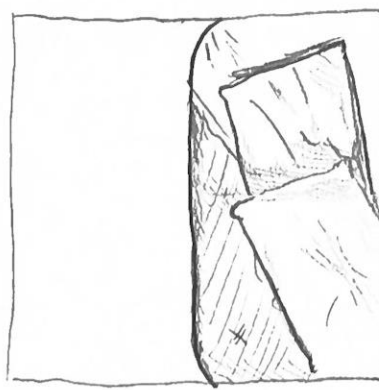
...

Right.

I remember.



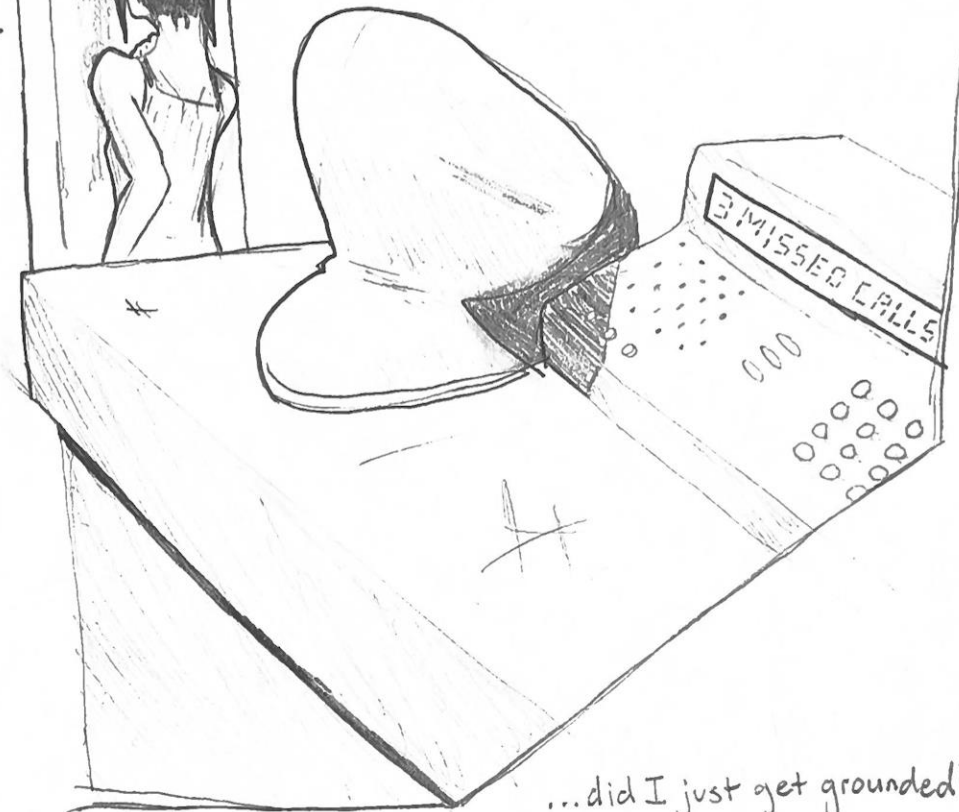
Shit.



I guess I
did need to
straighten
up.
...
A little.



...



...did I just get grounded?

I didn't even see the
time. I should get
dre—



back in
a bit.
STAY
PUT!

A
note
...





Since I've known her...

Yuki...



She has ...

get enough sleep? tired?

are you eating?

you slept, right...



Quite the odd way about her.



Not that I've... particularly ever... minded,

I guess.



There are stakes—

Mouths to feed, all that—

I know her to be kind, but she's... obtuse.

Still...



..dok... dok... dok... dok.....



dok

dok

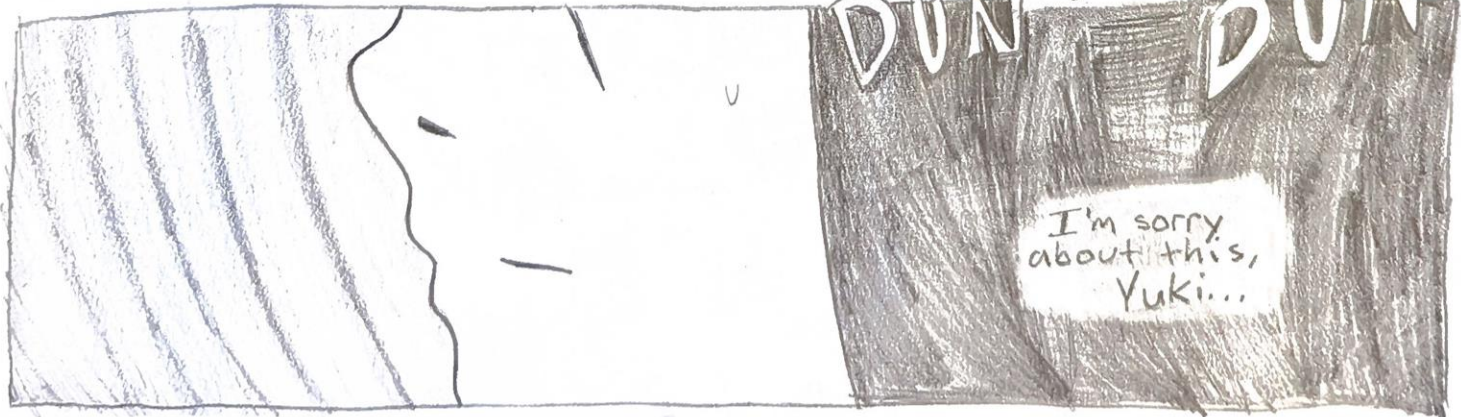
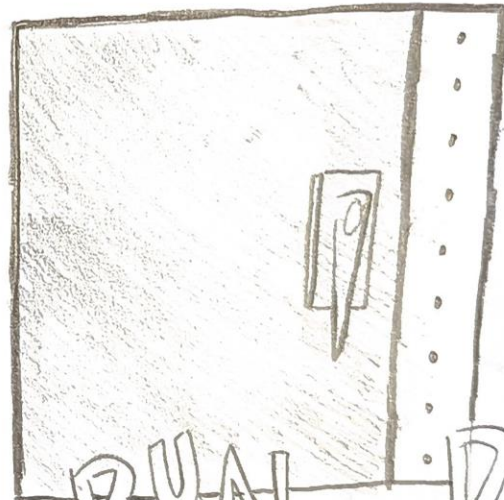
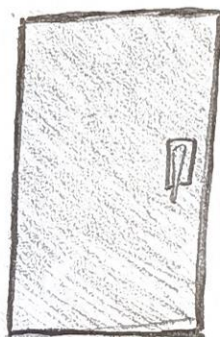
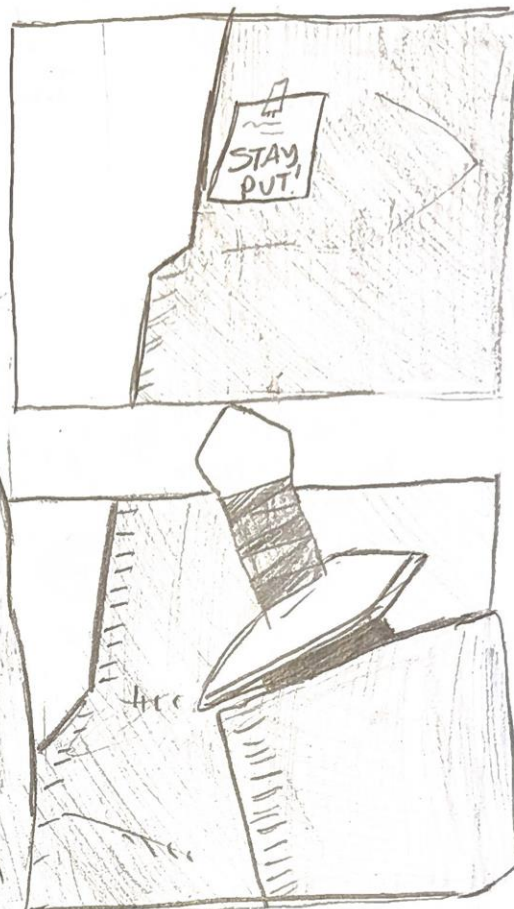
dok

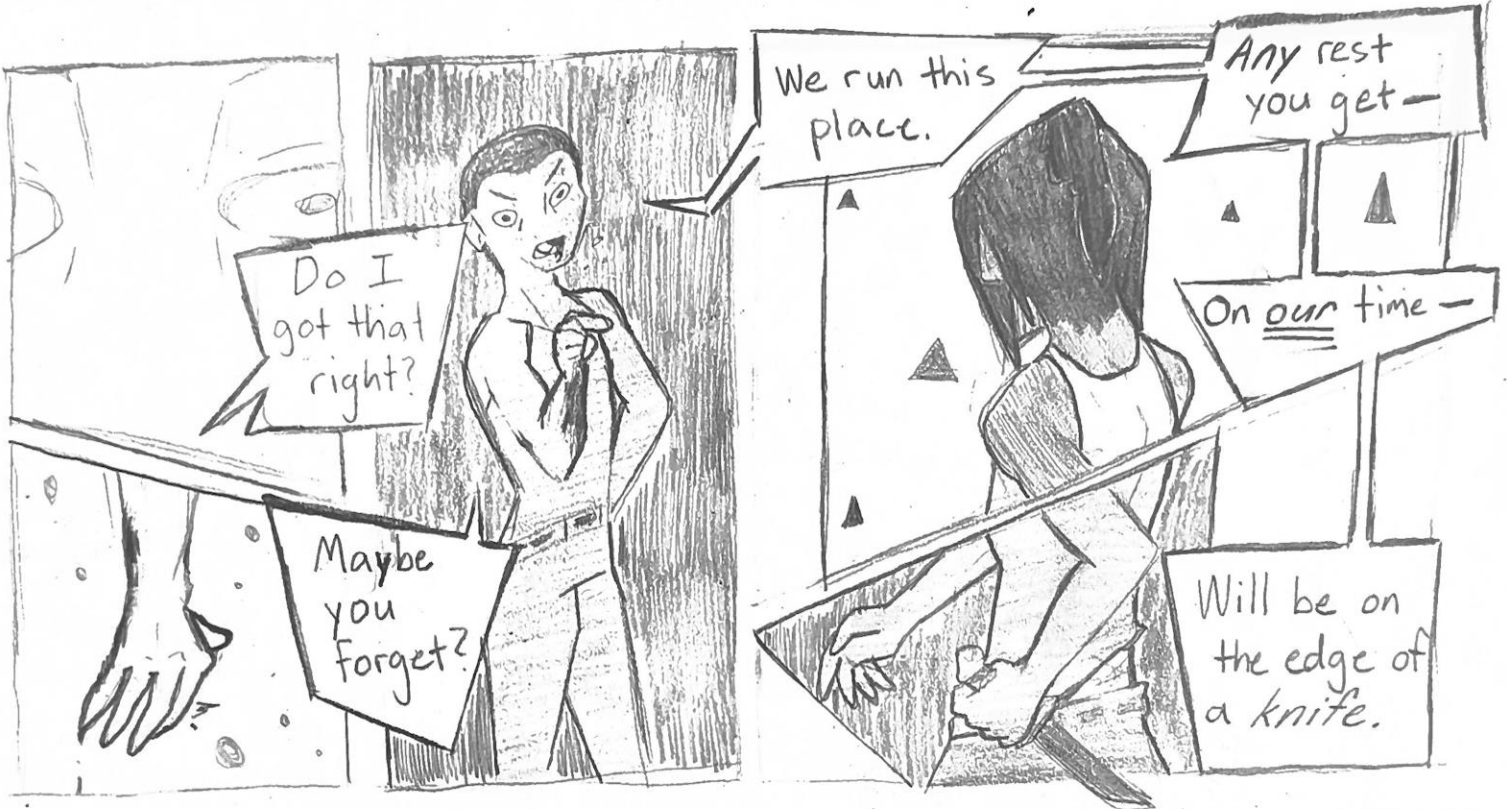
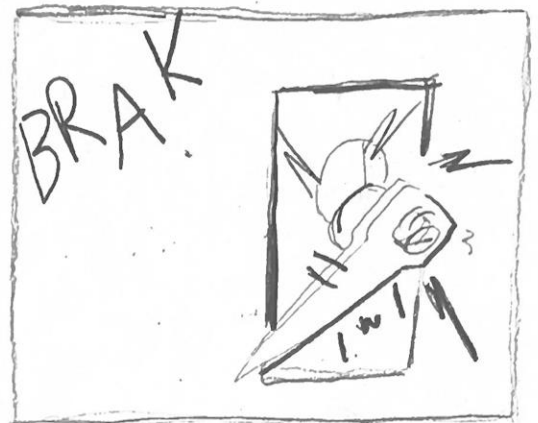
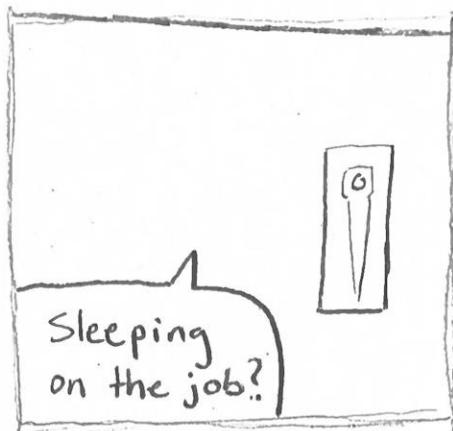
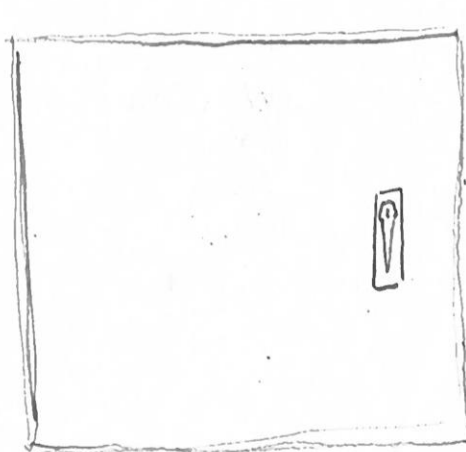


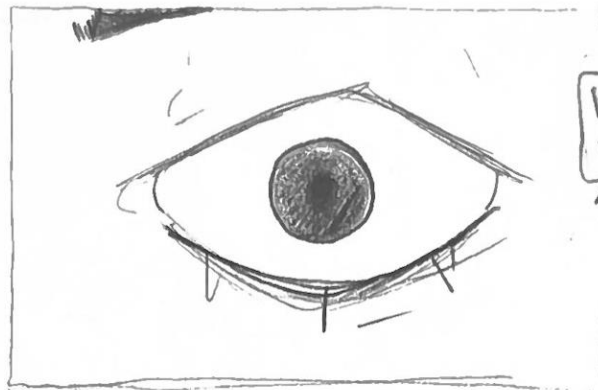
Those aren't ...

her footsteps ...

dok... dok... dok...







WHAT DID YOU DO?

What did I do?
HA!!!
She messed me UP!



Put up quite the "fight," albeit a strange one.



Ah, we'll send someone back to clean that up, I reckon.

Unless y,-





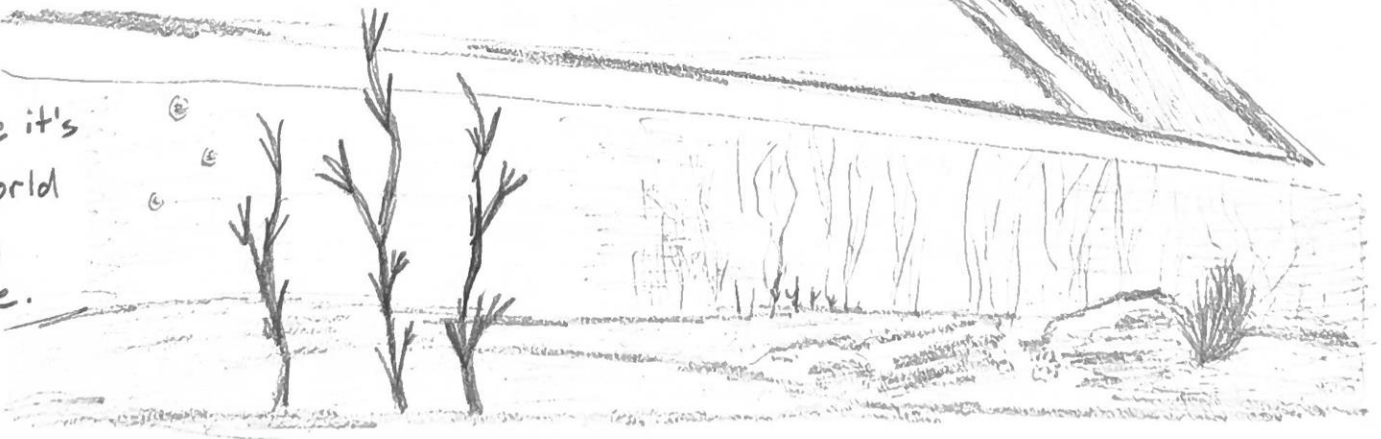
AW, PITY! NEED A SPARE?

I never quite
know how to
tell you this,
Yuki.

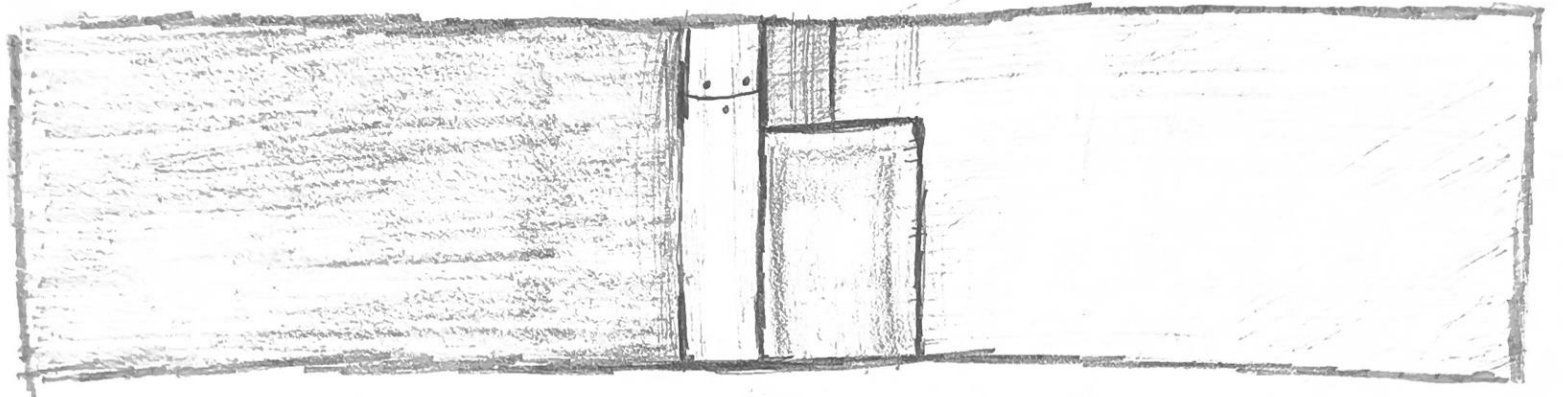
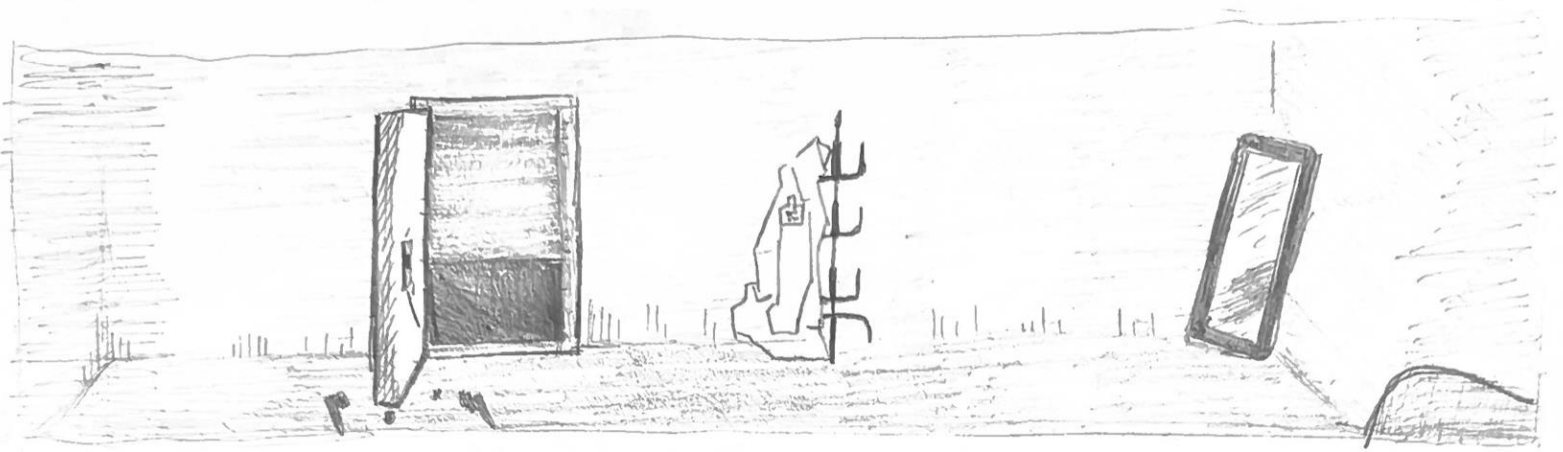
I'm grateful.

And y'know,
maybe you're
right.

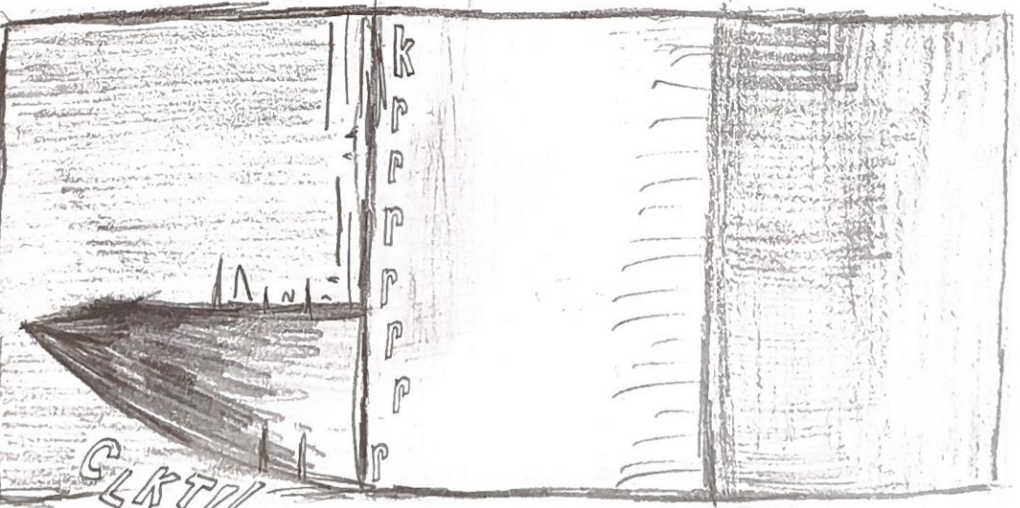
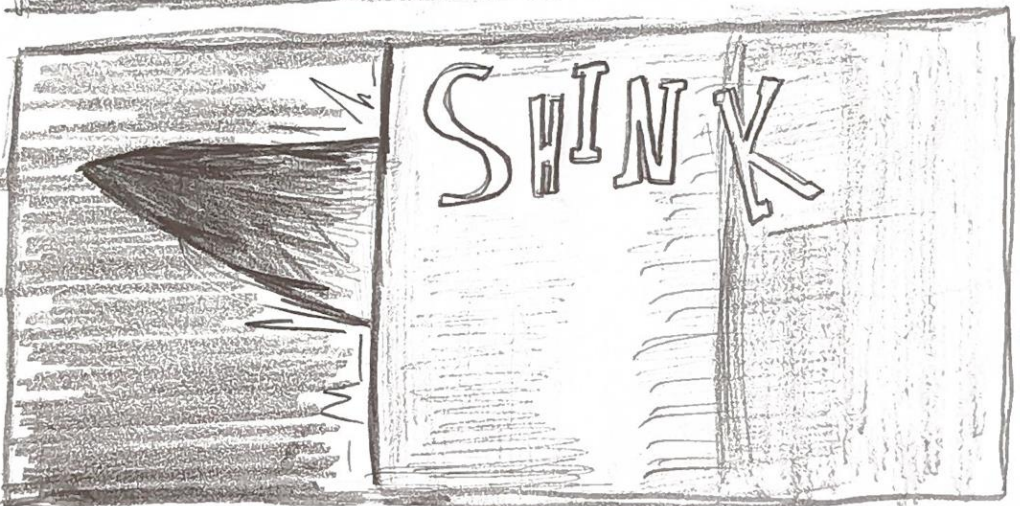
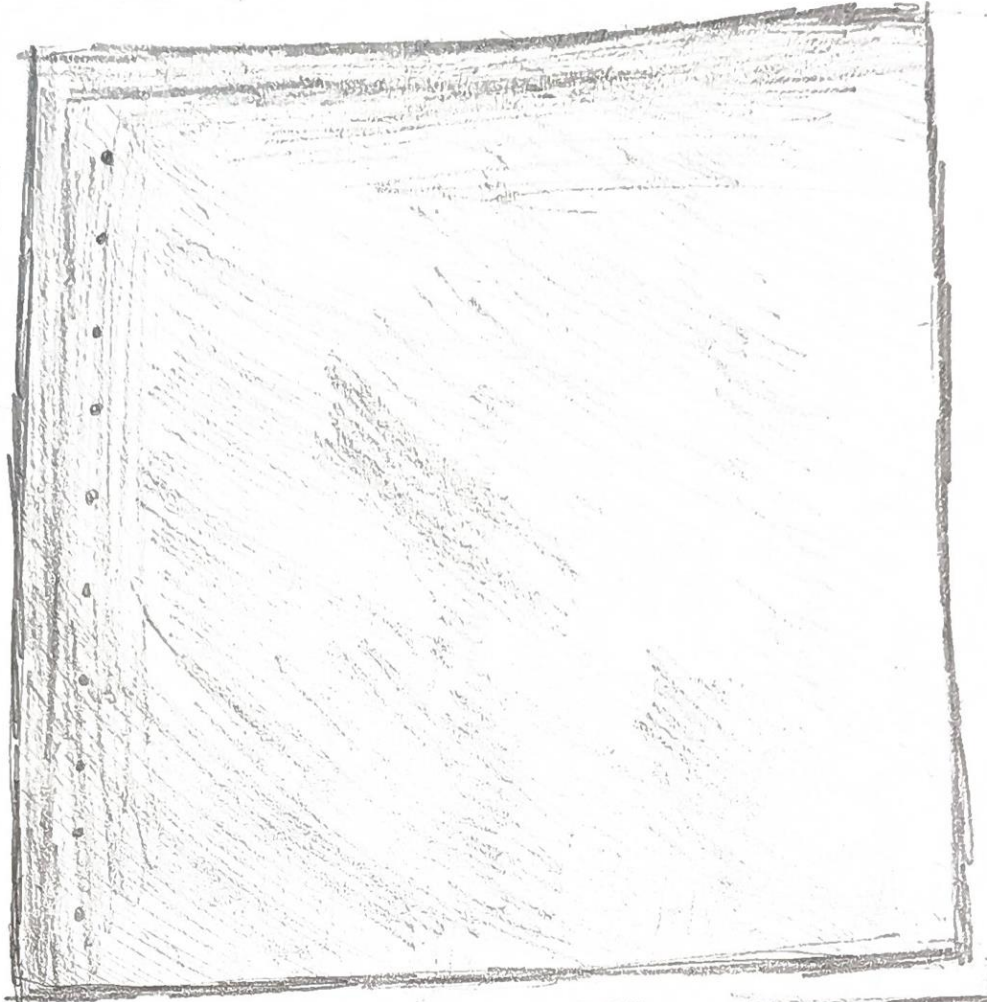
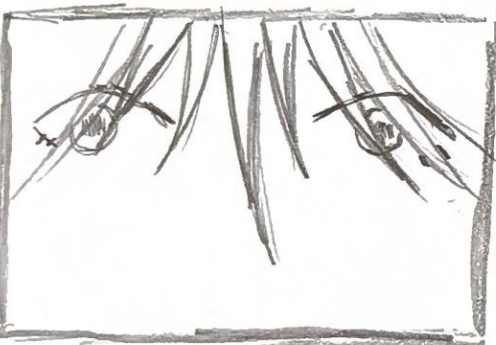
Maybe it's
the world
that's
obtuse.

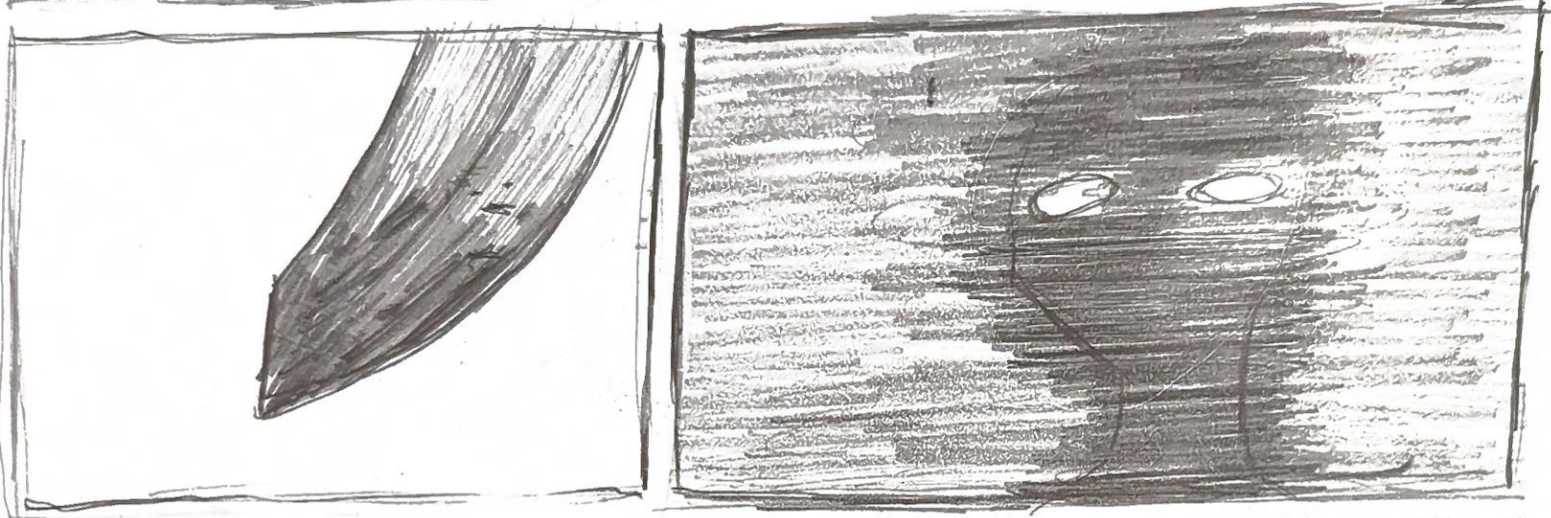


trench.



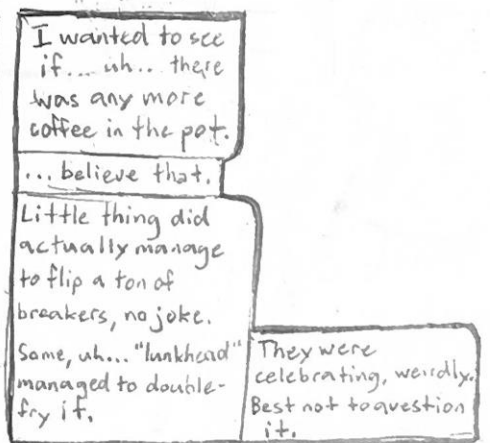
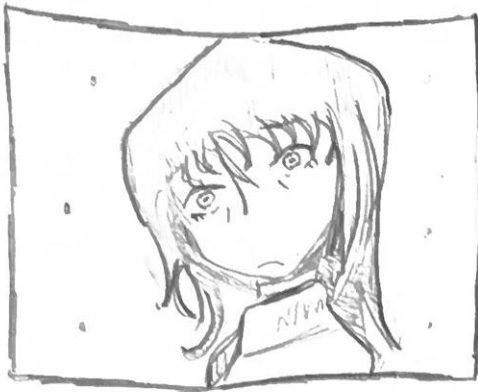


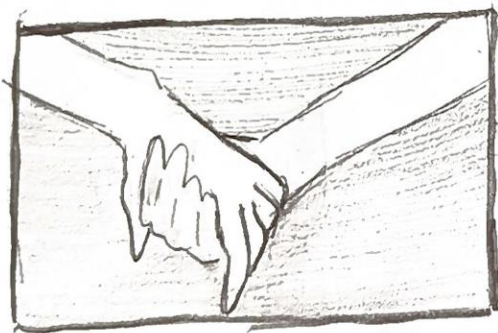




V K K T !!



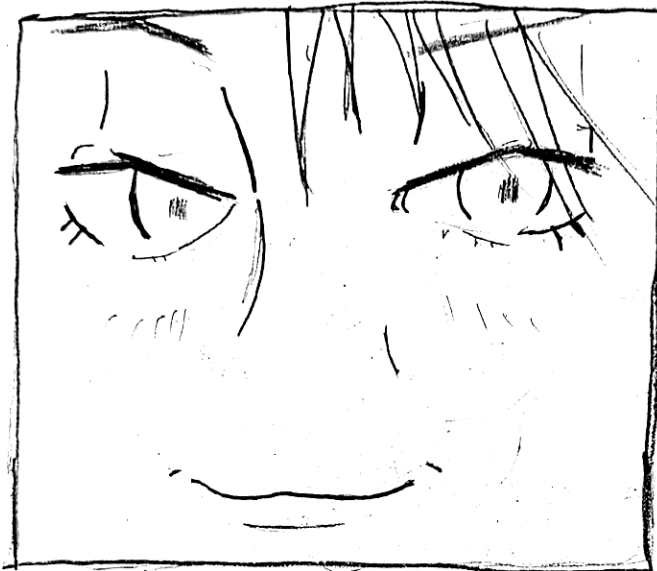




It's not particularly safe here, Yuki.



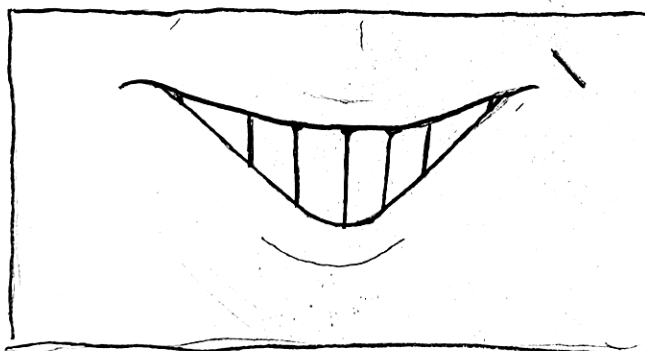
I'm
serious.



I'll take
it back,

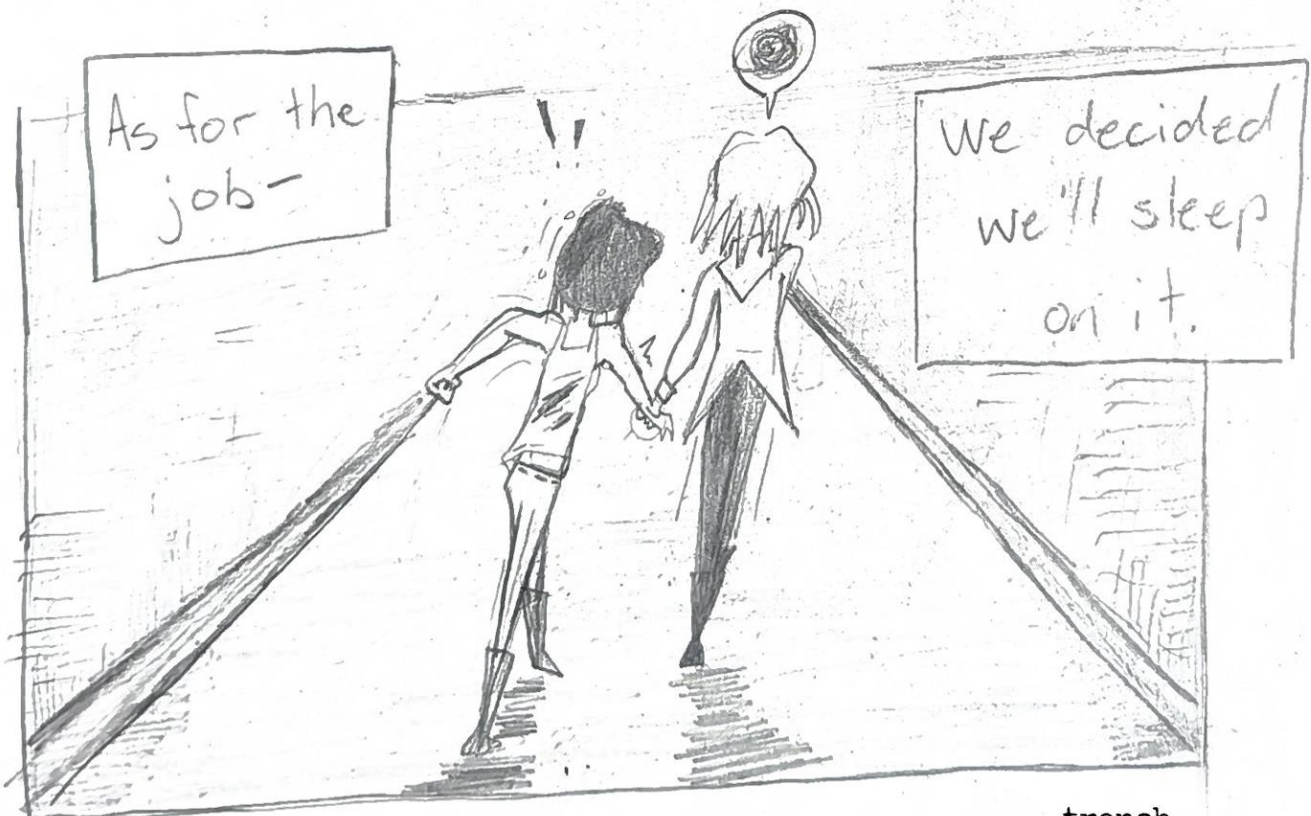
Leave you
behind.

Forever.



We'll have the
crappy ramen,
Yuki. The stalest,





trench.
END