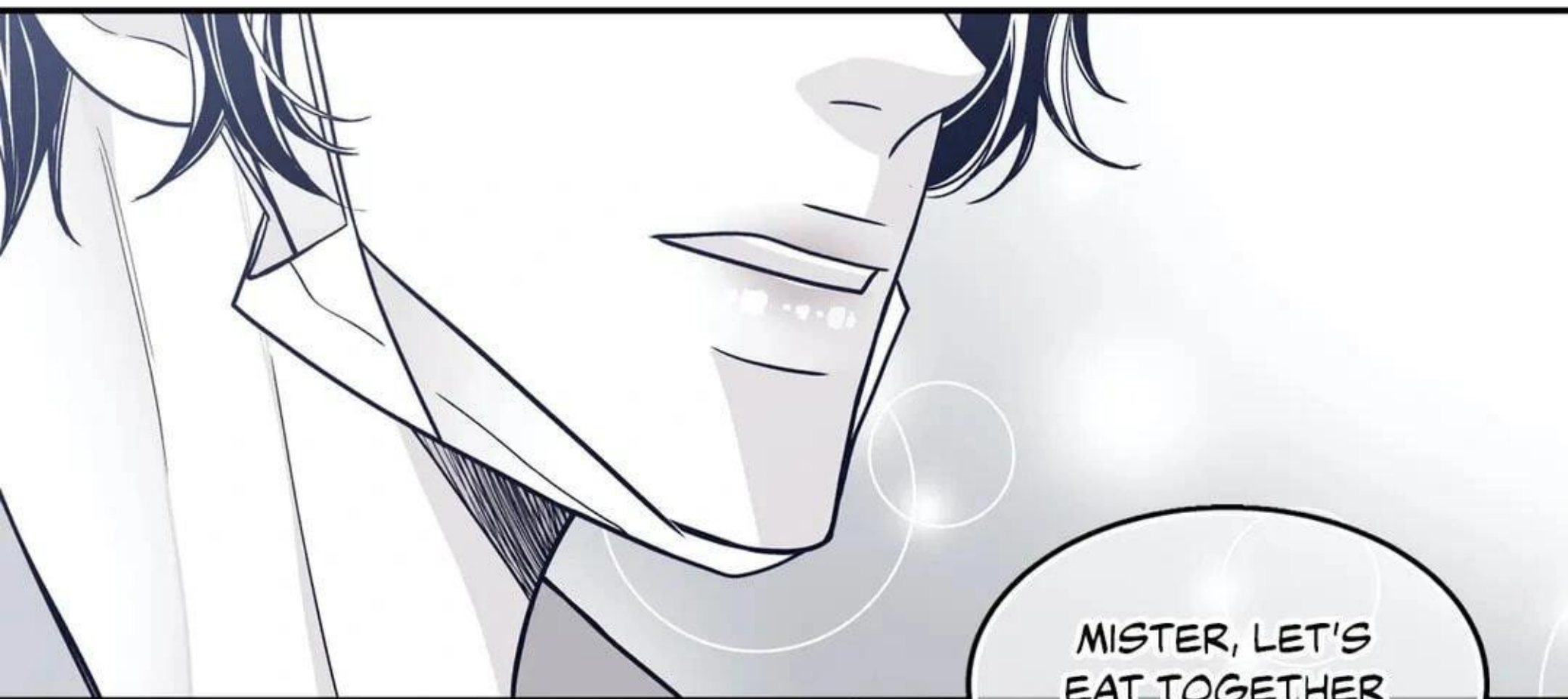




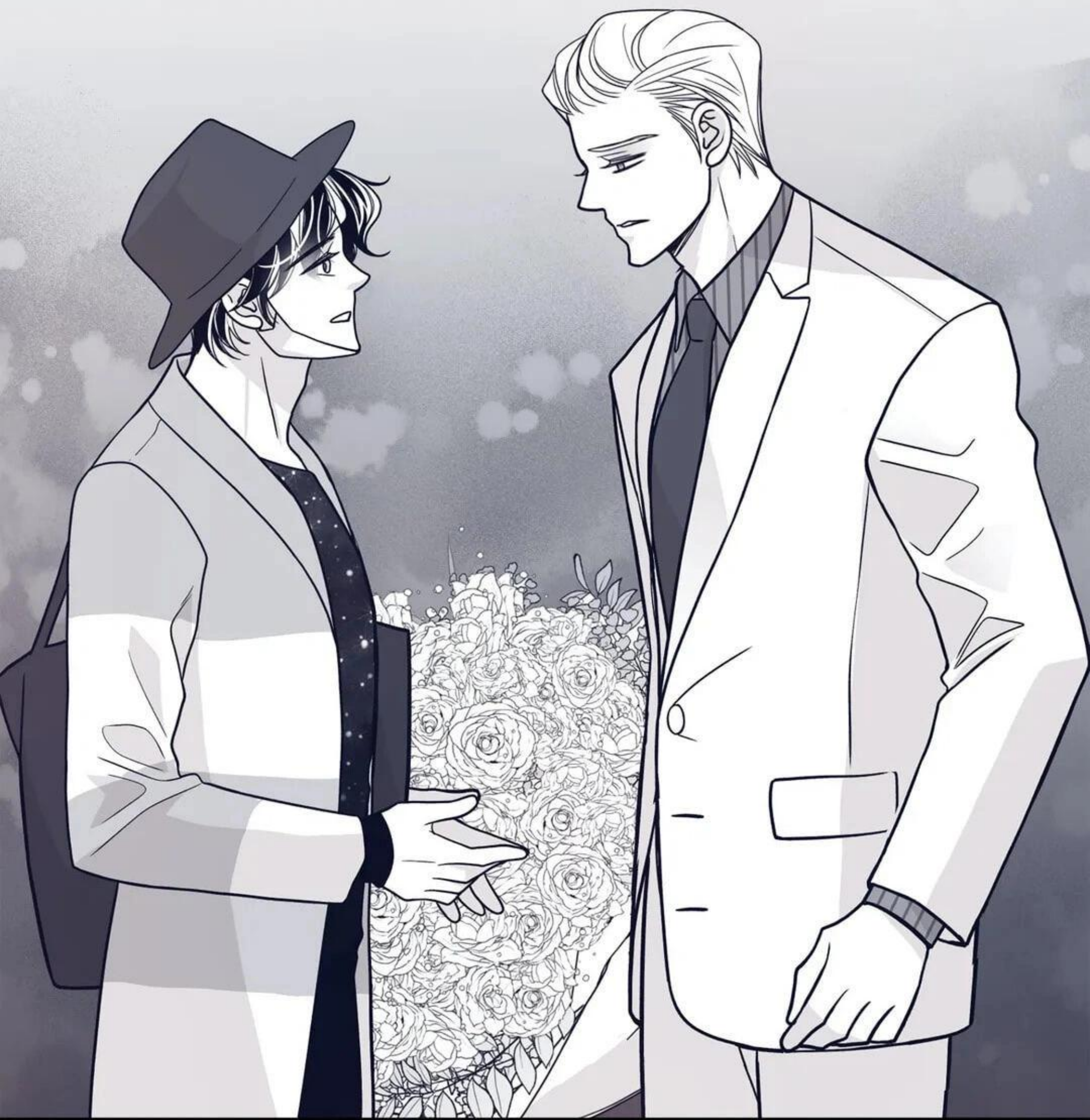
Creator Lee Green

Gold Gray



MISTER, LET'S
EAT TOGETHER
LATER.

THAT IS,
IF WE GET BACK
TOGETHER. LET'S
EAT TOGETHER
THEN.



RIGHT NOW,
LET'S TALK ABOUT
WHETHER THAT'S EVEN
A POSSIBILITY
FOR US.

Gold Gray

Creator Lee Green

– 64 –

SHAAA





WOW,
WHO KNEW
THERE WERE
SPOTS LIKE THIS
SO CLOSE TO
THE CITY?

THIS IS SO
NICE! IT'S SO
BEAUTIFUL
HERE...

THE FRESH
SMELL OF THE
TREES AND
GRASS...



GLANCE

I WONDER
HOW...

MISTER
KNOWS ABOUT
THIS PLACE.





DELICIOUS
RESTAURANTS...
SCENIC DRIVING
ROUTES...

HE ALWAYS
TAKES ME TO
SUCH WONDERFUL
PLACES...



I-I
CAN'T EVEN
COMPARE...

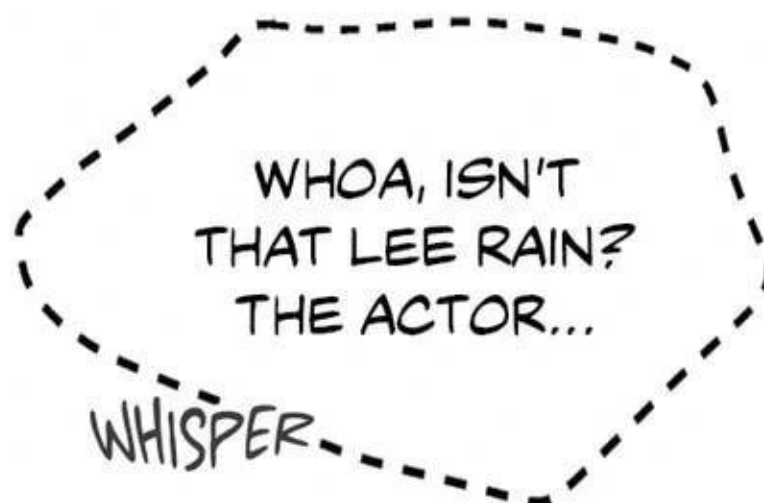
RAIN'S CHOICE
OF CAFE #1

ONE MILK
TEA AND ONE
ICED GREEN
TEA...

HUUH??!!
LEE RAIN?!
A-AREN'T YOU



YES, HELLO!





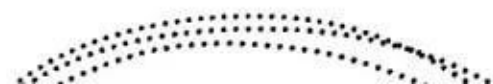
DISQUALIFIED!





I'LL HAVE TO
START LOOKING
FOR SOME GOOD
DATE SPOTS,
TOO.

*THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING...*

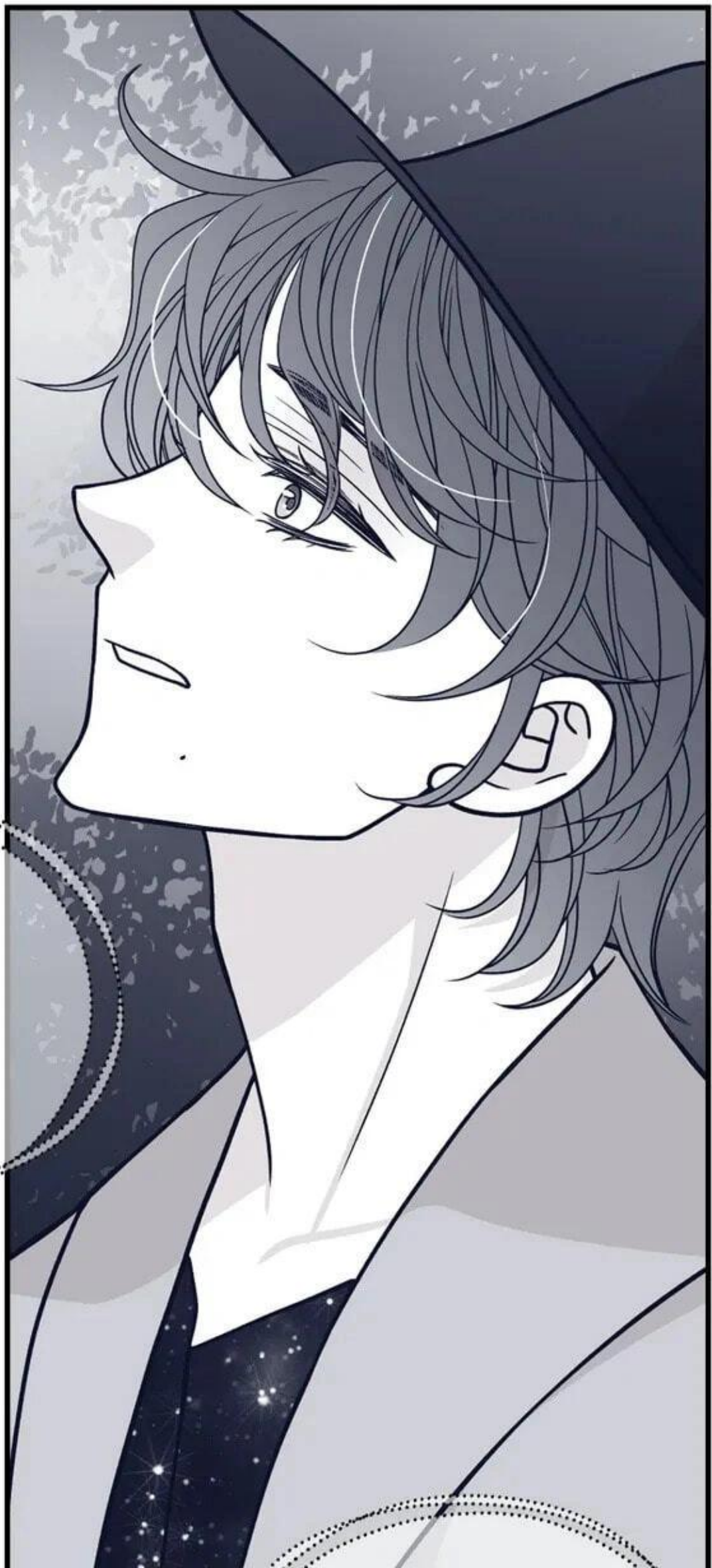




IT'S BEEN
SO LONG SINCE
I WENT FOR AN
EVENING WALK.

AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED THAT
TIME...

BEING OUT
AND ABOUT AT
NIGHT, GETTING
DRUNK, RIDING
IN TAXIS...





...I'VE
BEEN TOO
SCARED TO DO
ANY OF IT.

MY BODY
IS CHANGING... AND
THAT MEANS THE NUMBER
OF THINGS I SHOULD BE
SCARED TO DO IS JUST
INCREASING, DAY
BY DAY...

...IT MAKES
ME SO SAD.

MY CUTE
LITTLE ACTOR.



I'M GOING
TO LET YOU GO
NOW, SO DON'T BE
SCARED.





JUST GET UP
AND RUN AWAY AS
FAST AS YOU
CAN.

GET TO
A PLACE YOU
THINK IS SAFE.
RUN.

CHILLS



FWOOSH

RAIN.

...!

THANKS
FOR WAITING.

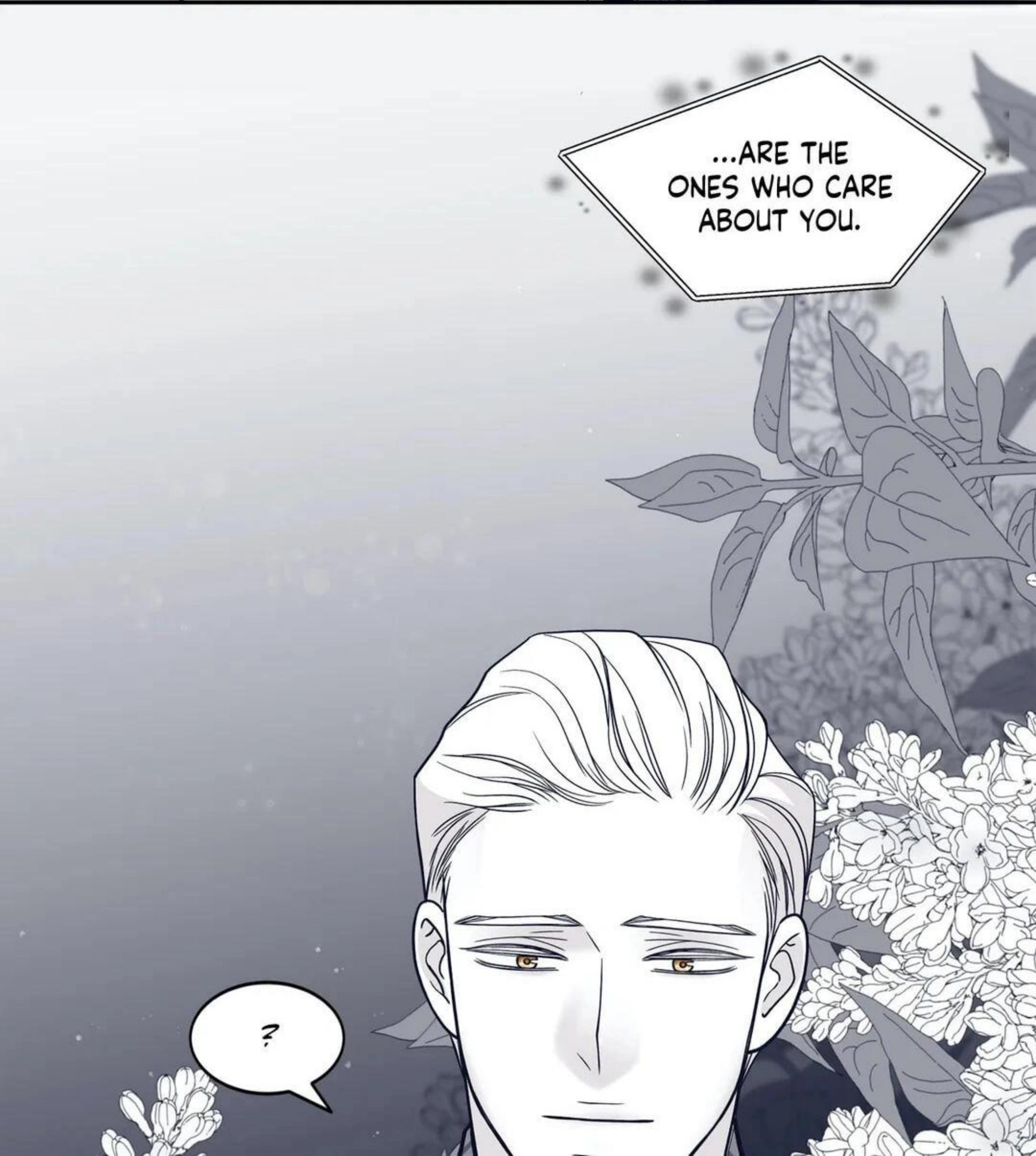
RAIN, YOU
KNOW THIS,

RIGHT?

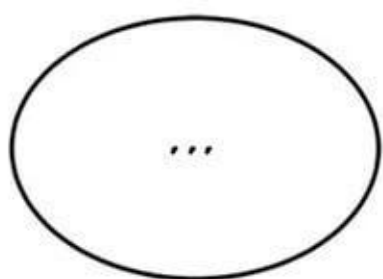
THE
PEOPLE WHO
WORRY ABOUT
YOU...



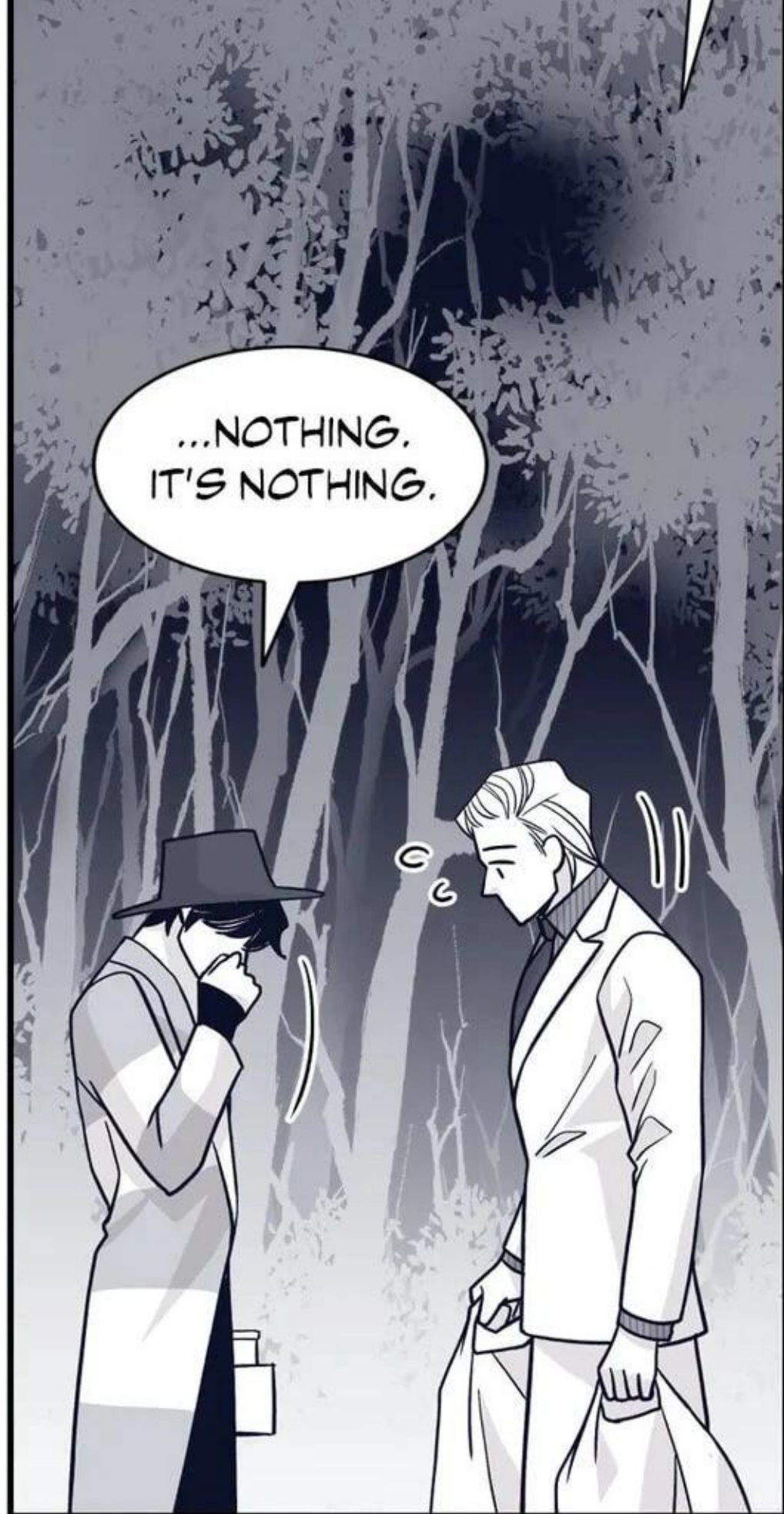
...ARE THE
ONES WHO CARE
ABOUT YOU.

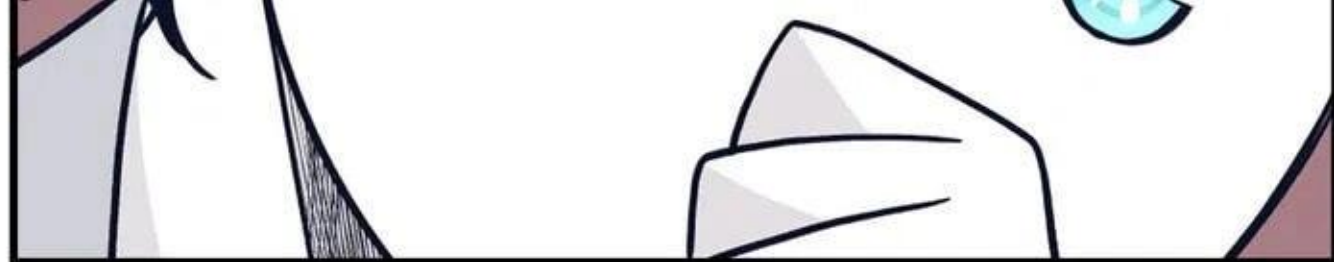


?



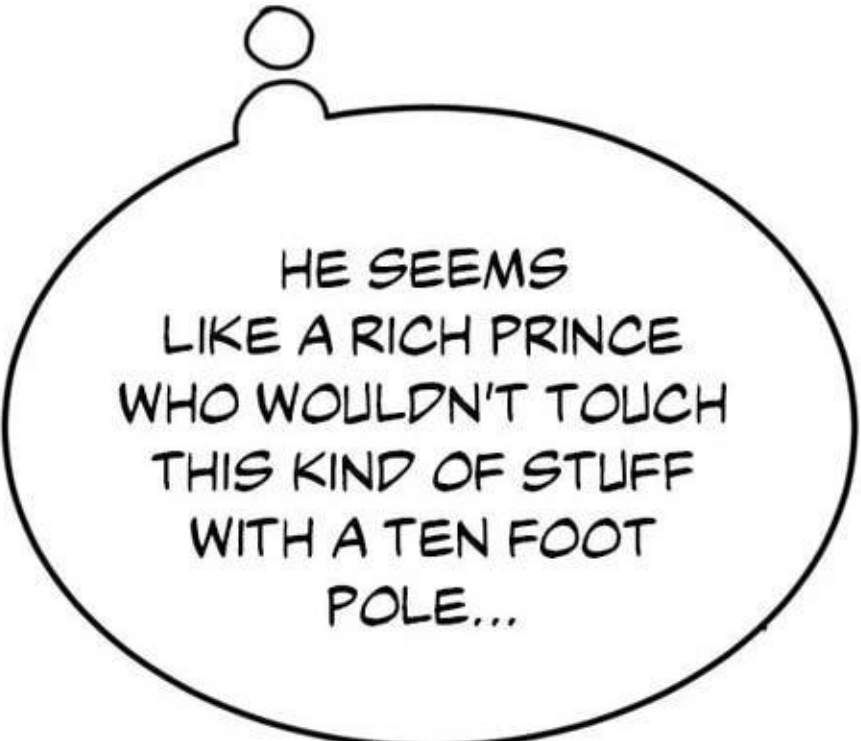
RAIN?
WHAT IS
IT?





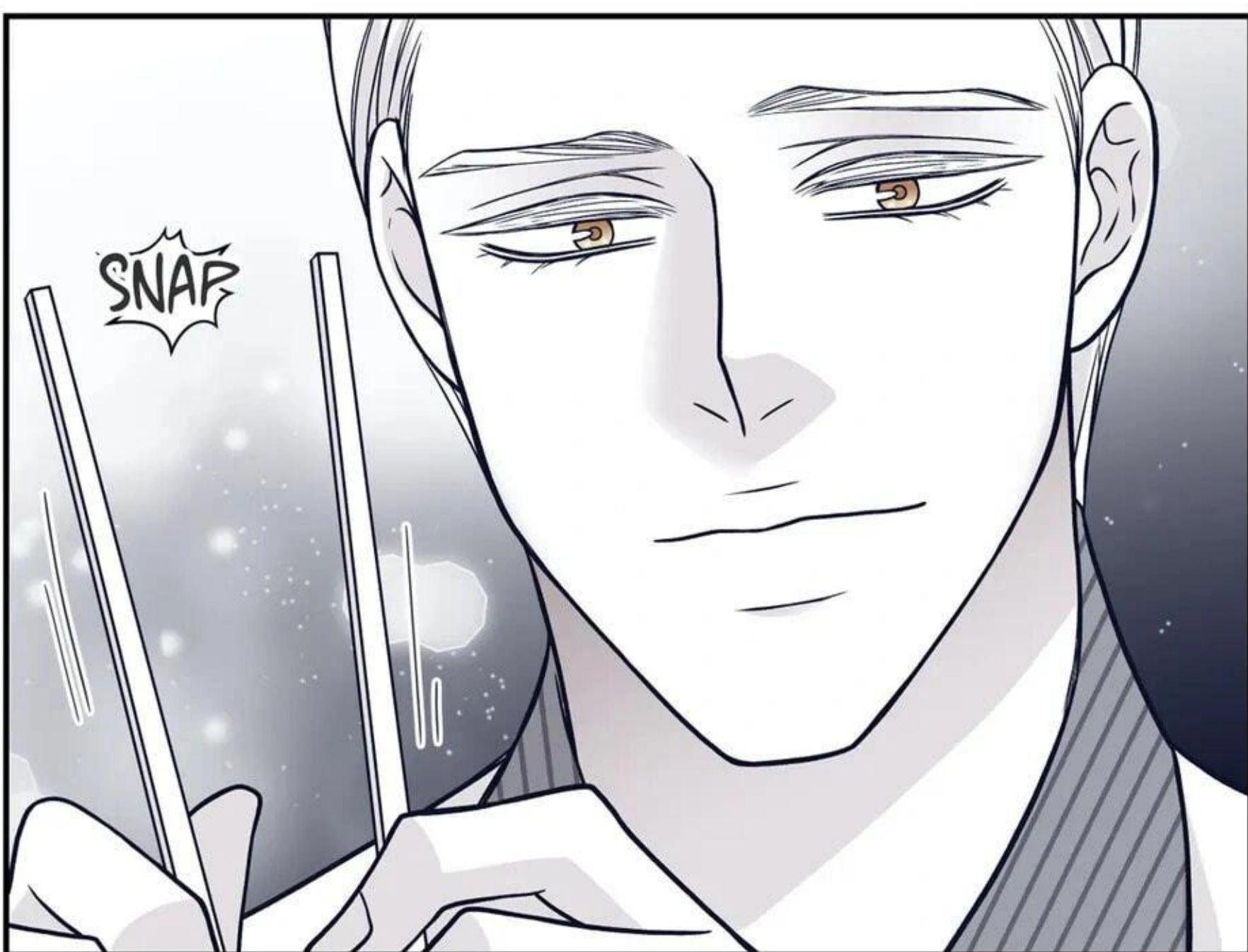






WHY'S
THAT?

DO
I SEEM LIKE
I WOULDN'T EAT
THIS KIND OF
THING?



EEP...

??
DID HE READ
MY MIND...?

NO, NOT
EXACTLY...
??

OR, I MEAN. YEAH.
IT'S SURPRISING! THERE
WAS THAT TIME YOU SAID
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LIKE
STREET FOOD...

HEHEH

WELL, FROM A
VERY YOUNG AGE, I
ALWAYS HAD PEOPLE
MANAGING MY EVERY
MOVE.

INCLUDING
MY DIET.

AHH...

GRAB

A black and white manga-style illustration of a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a white dress shirt, a dark striped tie, and a white suit jacket. He is looking down with a somber expression at a small, dark, round piece of food on a silver fork held in his right hand. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting at night with trees. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and one at the bottom right.

MY FATHER
WAS EXTREMELY
STRICT...

...SO WHENEVER
I ATE SOMETHING
THAT WASN'T UP TO HIS
STANDARDS, HE WOULD
BERATE ME.

OH, COME
ON. EVEN PICKING
UP A MINI HOT DOG
LOOKS GRACEFUL
WHEN YOU DO
IT.

SO LIKE,
YOU ATE MOSTLY
ORGANIC, NATURAL
STUFF?

SOUNDS LIKE
A GOOD DAD. WHAT
A THING TO COMPLAIN
ABOUT... YOU TRULY
ARE A PAMPERED
PRINCE.

AH...

HAHA

YOU THINK
SO...?



CLATTER



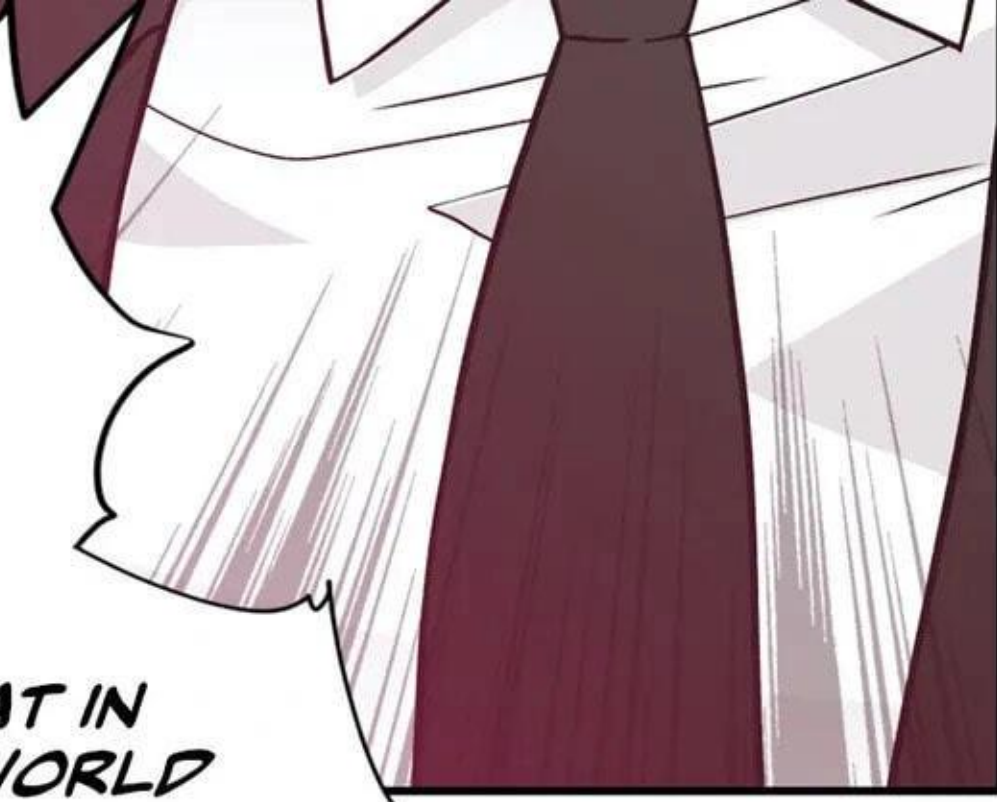
**HOW DARE
YOU FEED MY
SON THIS
TRASH!!**

I'M SO SORRY,
SIR. THE YOUNG
MASTER JUST WANTED
TO TRY IT SO MU- NO,
NO, I MEAN, I MEANT
TO EAT IT MYSELF...

**NOW YOU'RE
LYING TO ME?!
HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN FEEDING
HIM THIS JUNK
BEHIND MY
BACK?!**

NO, SIR,
TRULY! THIS
WAS THE
FIRST-





**EVEN
HORSES BRED
TO BE CHAMPIONS
ARE GIVEN SPECIAL
FEED!**

**WHAT IN
THE WORLD
WERE YOU
THINKING?!!**

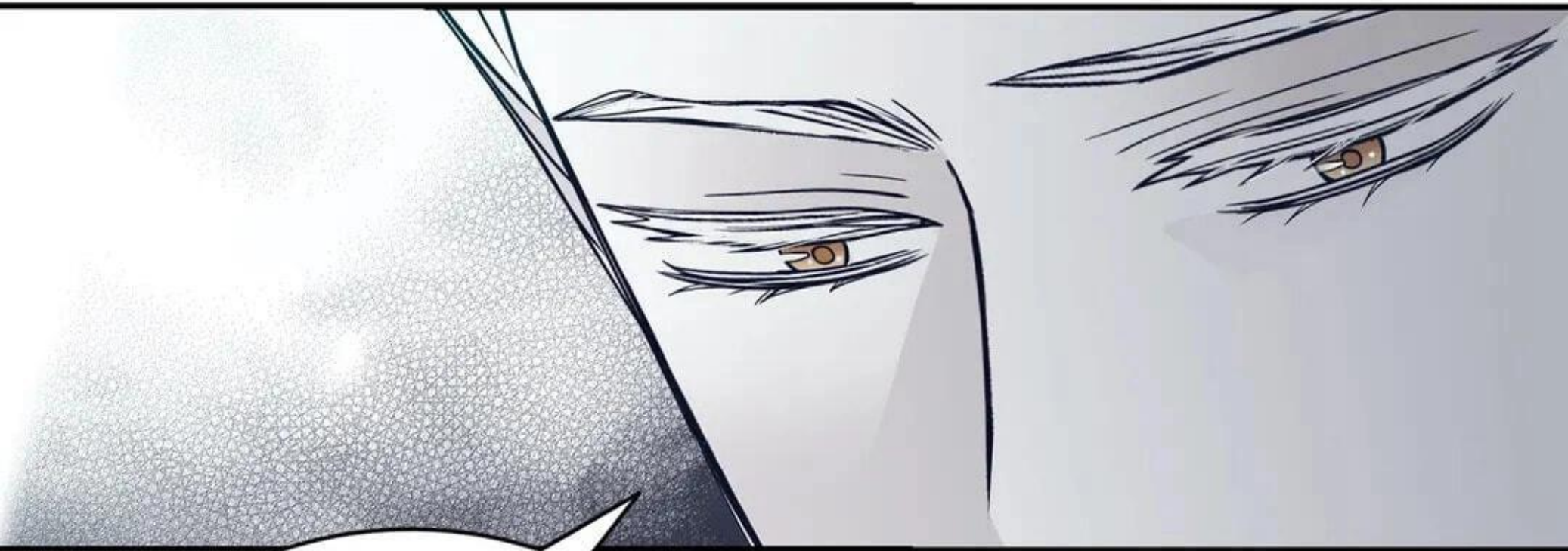
**FROM NOW
ON, YOU WILL
THOROUGHLY
MONITOR HIS
DIET.**

**NO NEW
ADDITIONS WITHOUT
THE APPROVAL OF HIS
PERSONAL PHYSICIAN.
UNDERSTOOD?**



**MY PRIZE
STALLION MUST
BE PERFECT!**

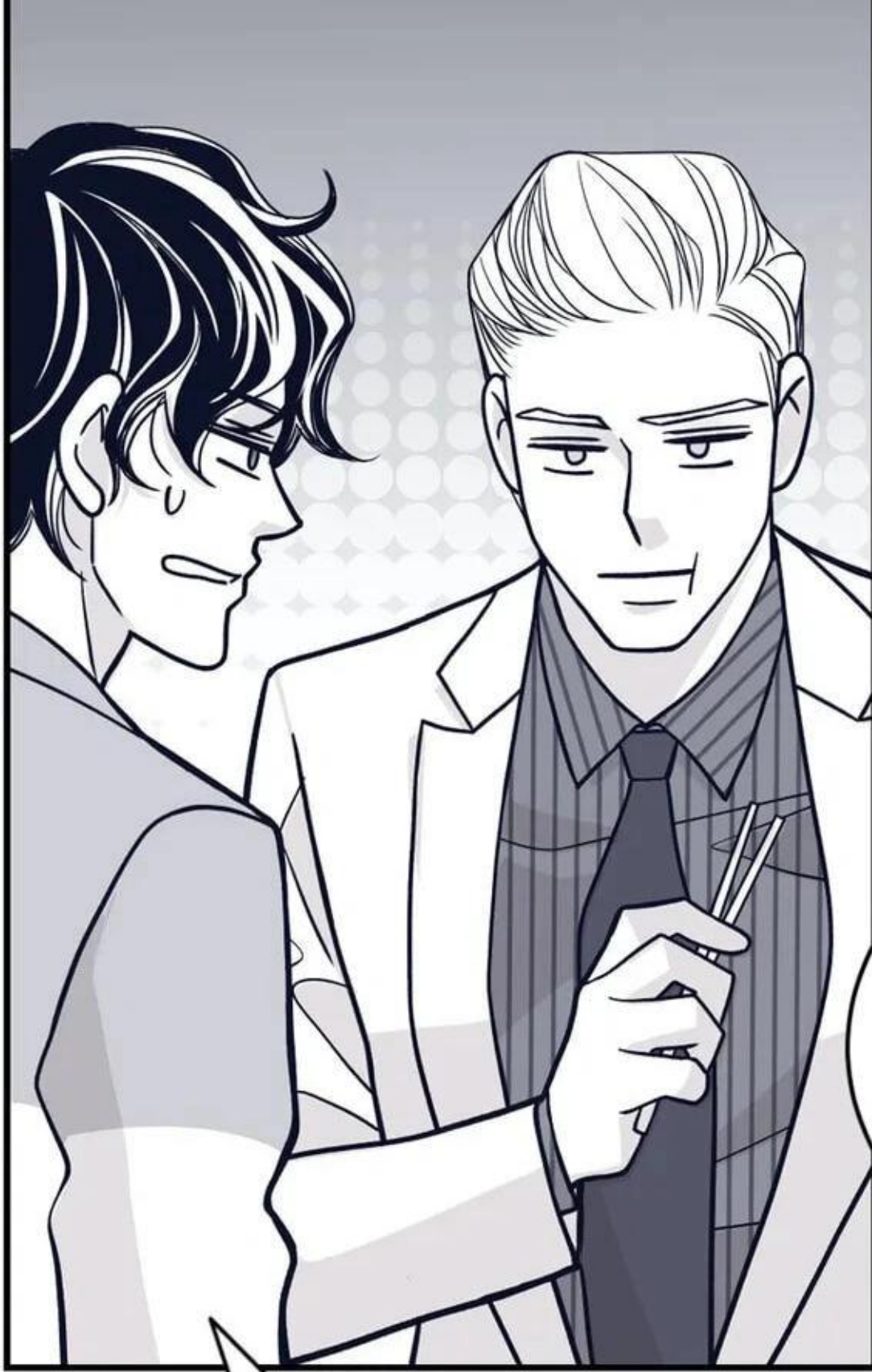
SURE,
MAYBE.



PEOPLE
MAY CERTAINLY SAY
I JUST DON'T KNOW
HOW GOOD I HAD
IT.

THANKFULLY,
AFTER I STARTED
COLLEGE, THE REALLY
INTENSE SUPERVISION
DID LOOSEN UP A
LITTLE BIT.

SO I
TOOK MY SAVED-UP
ALLOWANCE AND BOUGHT
MYSELF A LAMBORGHINI AND
WENT ON LONG DRIVES EVERY
CHANCE I HAD, HITTING UP
CONVENIENCE STORES
ALONG THE WAY.



A LXMBO
WITH YOUR
ALLOWANCE...

CHOKÉ

I STUFFED MY
FACE WITH ALL
THE PROCESSED
FOOD MY FATHER
HATED SO
MUCH.

HEEHEE

IS THAT
REALLY SOMETHING
TO BE SO PROUD
OF?





YOU CAN'T
IMAGINE THE SENSE
OF DEEP SATISFACTION
IT GAVE ME, RUINING THIS
BODY THAT WAS SO
PRECIOUS TO MY
FATHER!

OH, COME ON.
JUST EATING SOME
PROCESSED FOOD WON'T
"RUIN" YOUR WHOLE
BODY!

*PLUS YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO SUFFERS IF
YOU ACTUALLY MAKE
YOURSELF SICK!*

AND TO
THINK, I'VE BEEN
SO BROKE THAT I
SAVED THE SOUP FROM
MY INSTANT RAMEN TO
MAKE IT STRETCH
TWO MEALS...

BLAB

NO, I DON'T
EVEN WANNA GET
INTO IT, IT'S JUST
TOO PITIFUL.

BLAB



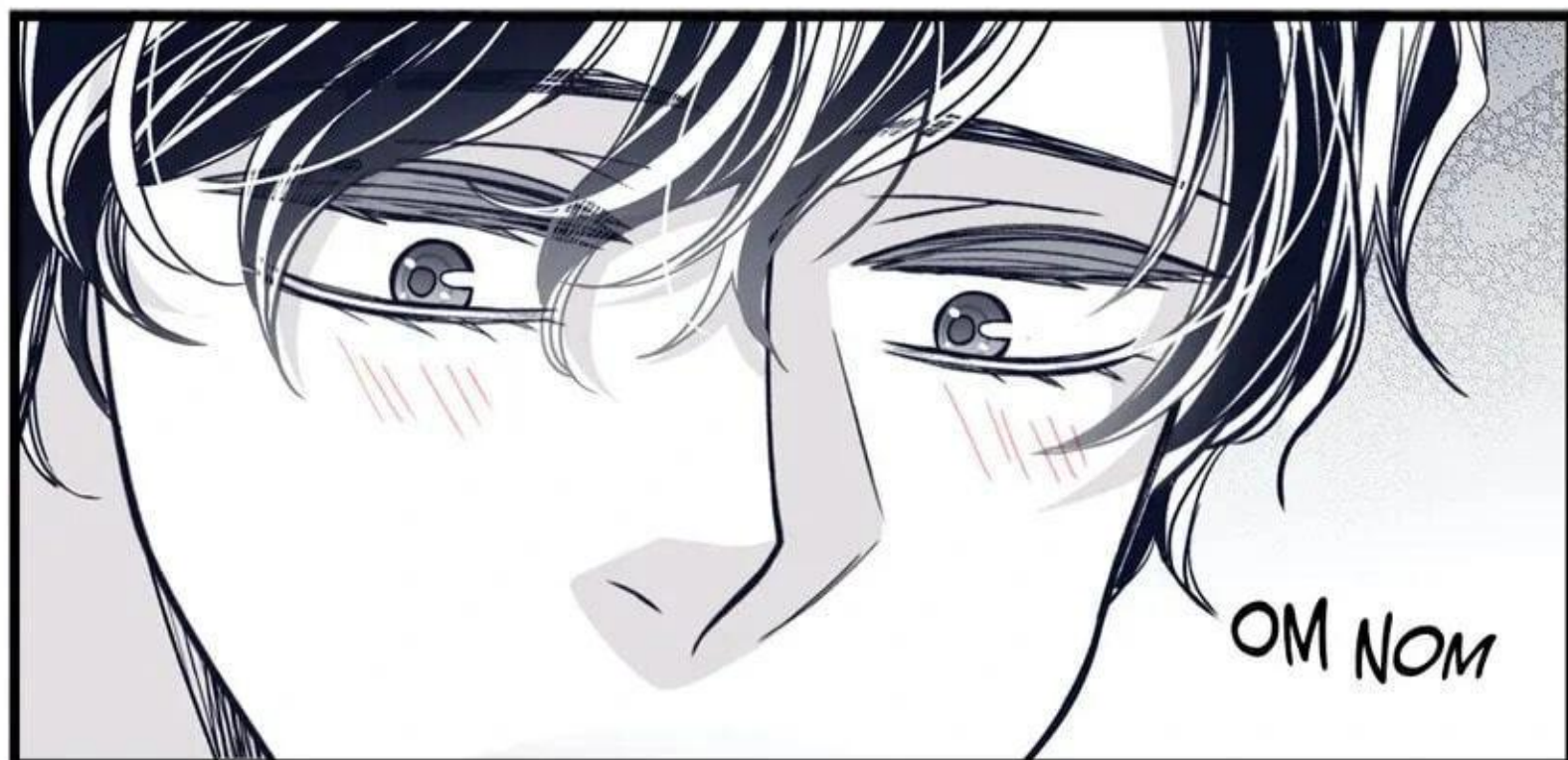
WHOA... RAIN.

U U

AH, DID
YOU HEAR
THAT?

CLEAR
AS A BELL.

THIS IS FUN.
I LIKE HEARING
ABOUT MISTER'S
PAST.



IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN NICE TO HAVE
MORE CONVERSATIONS
LIKE THIS, EARLIER
ON.

RAIN...

?



THINKING
ABOUT IT NOW,
I'VE EXPERIENCED
FIRSTHAND HOW AWFUL
IT IS TO HAVE SOMEONE
TRY AND CONTROL
YOUR LIFE...



...AND
YET I STILL
PUT YOU THROUGH
THE SAME THING.
I'M SORRY.



MISTER...

IS SENDING ME A
SIGNAL, ASKING ME
IF I'M READY.



PART OF ME...

JUST WANTS TIME
TO STOP RIGHT HERE,
IN THIS MOMENT.

NOT ASKING ANYTHING,
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING.

IF ONLY I COULD LOOK
INTO YOUR EYES LIKE
THIS FOREVER, MAKING
THIS MOMENT LAST.



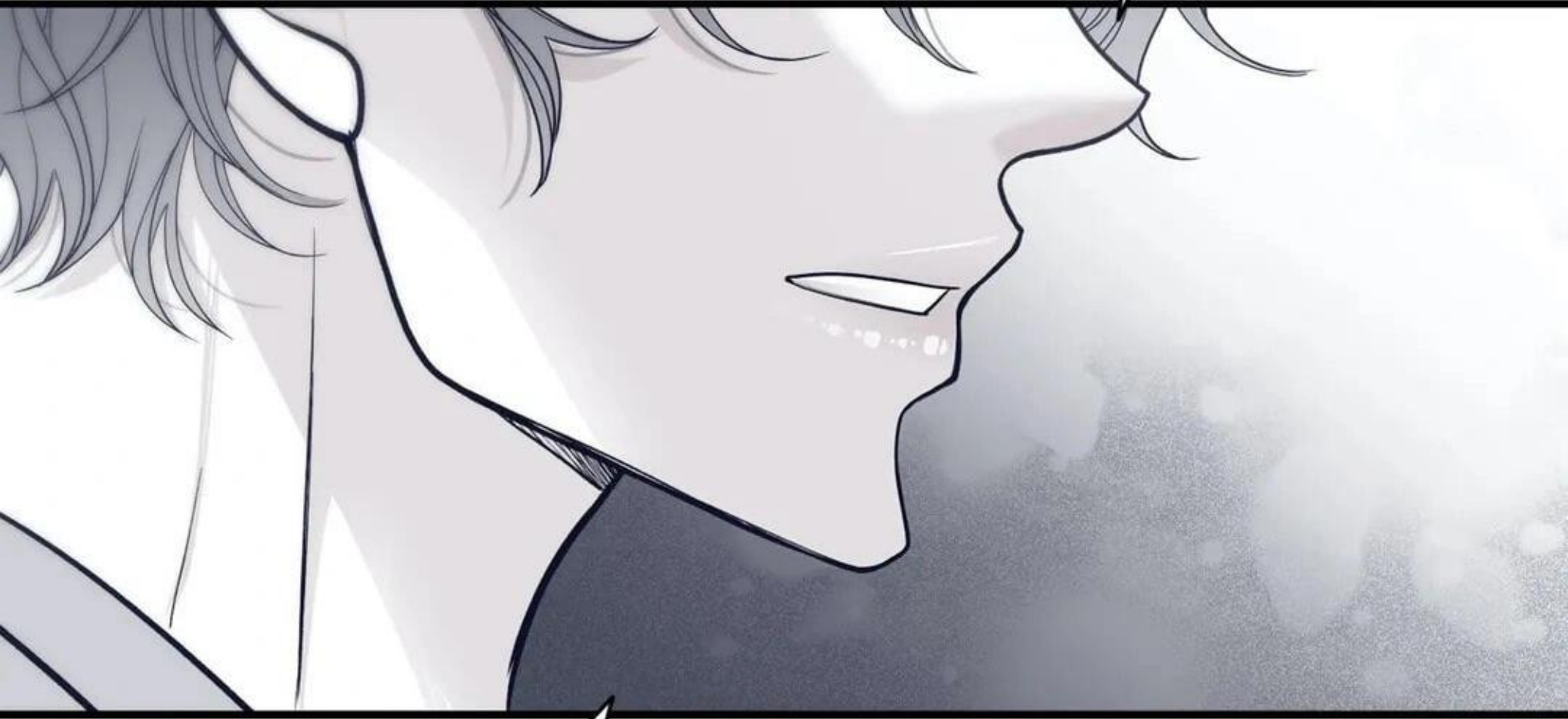


AS SOON AS I OPEN
MY MOUTH, THIS MOMENT

MY MOUTH, THIS MOMENT
WILL DISAPPEAR AND BE
GONE FOREVER...

BACK AT
THE HOUSE...

I WAS SO
OVERWHELMED
BY THE FACT THAT
I HAD BECOME
AN OMEGA...



...I COULDN'T
REALLY THINK ABOUT
ANYTHING ELSE.

BUT YOU KNEW...
YOU KNEW ALL
ALONG...

WHY...
WHY DID YOU
MAKE ME INTO
AN OMEGA?





WHY ME?
WHY DID YOU NEED
AN OMEGA SO BADLY,
THAT YOU'D GO SO
FAR TO GET
ONE?

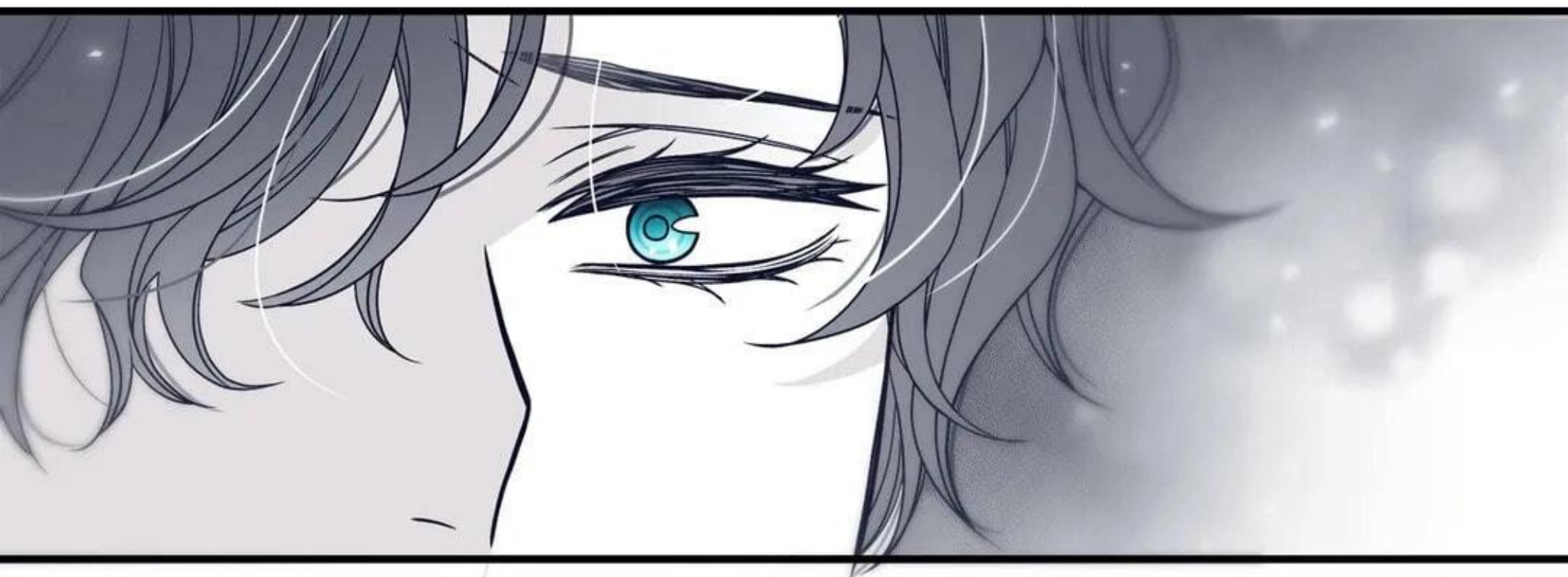
MISTER'S
EYES ARE SOFT,
AS HE LOOKS
AT ME.

I CAN FEEL
THAT HE DOESN'T
WANT THIS MOMENT
TO END, EITHER.

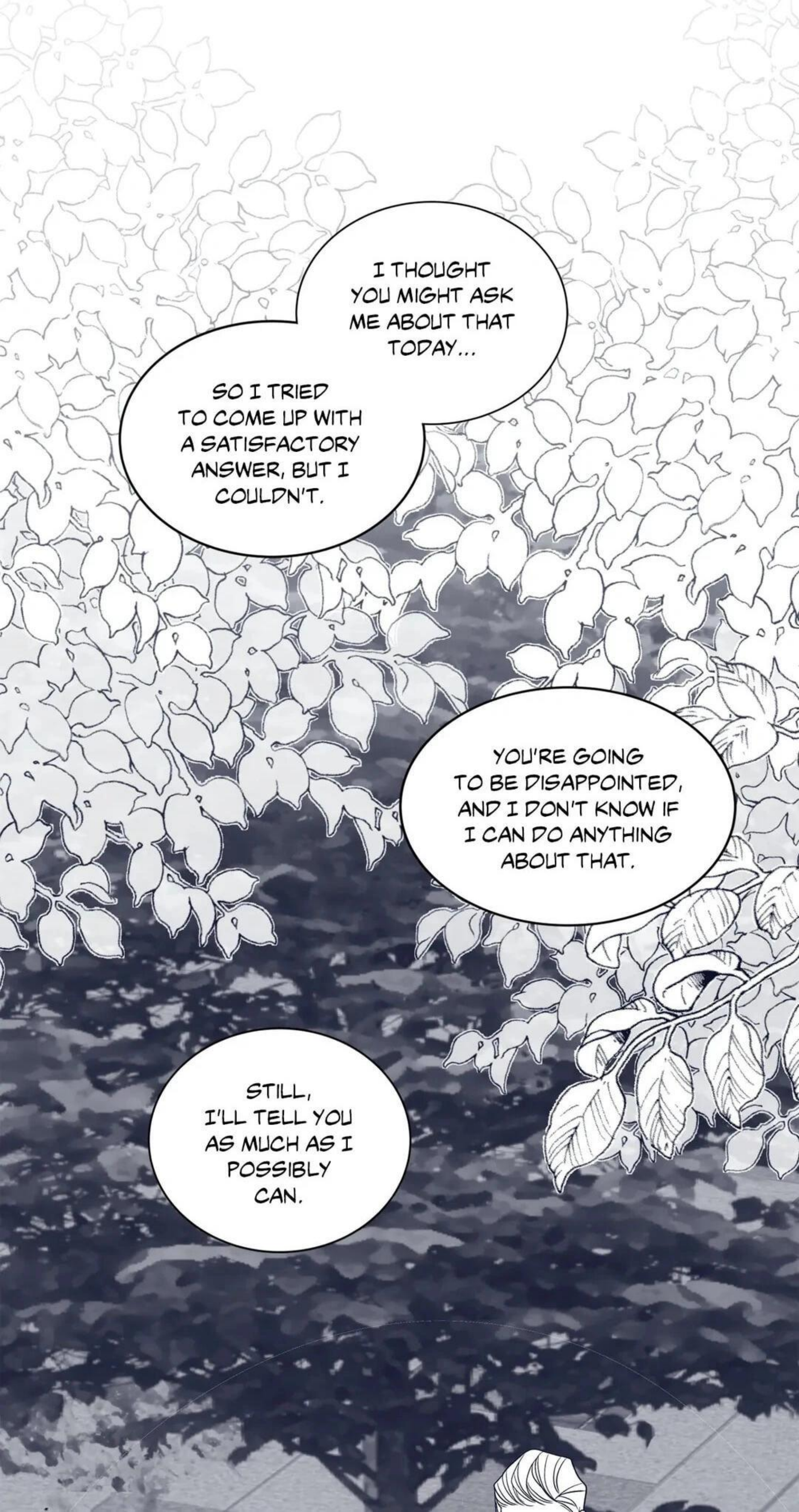


I LOVE
THIS GAZE OF
YOURS.

THIS LOOK...
SO WARM, SO
FULL OF GENTLE
AFFECTION...



I WANT
IT TO LAST
FOREVER.



I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT ASK
ME ABOUT THAT
TODAY...

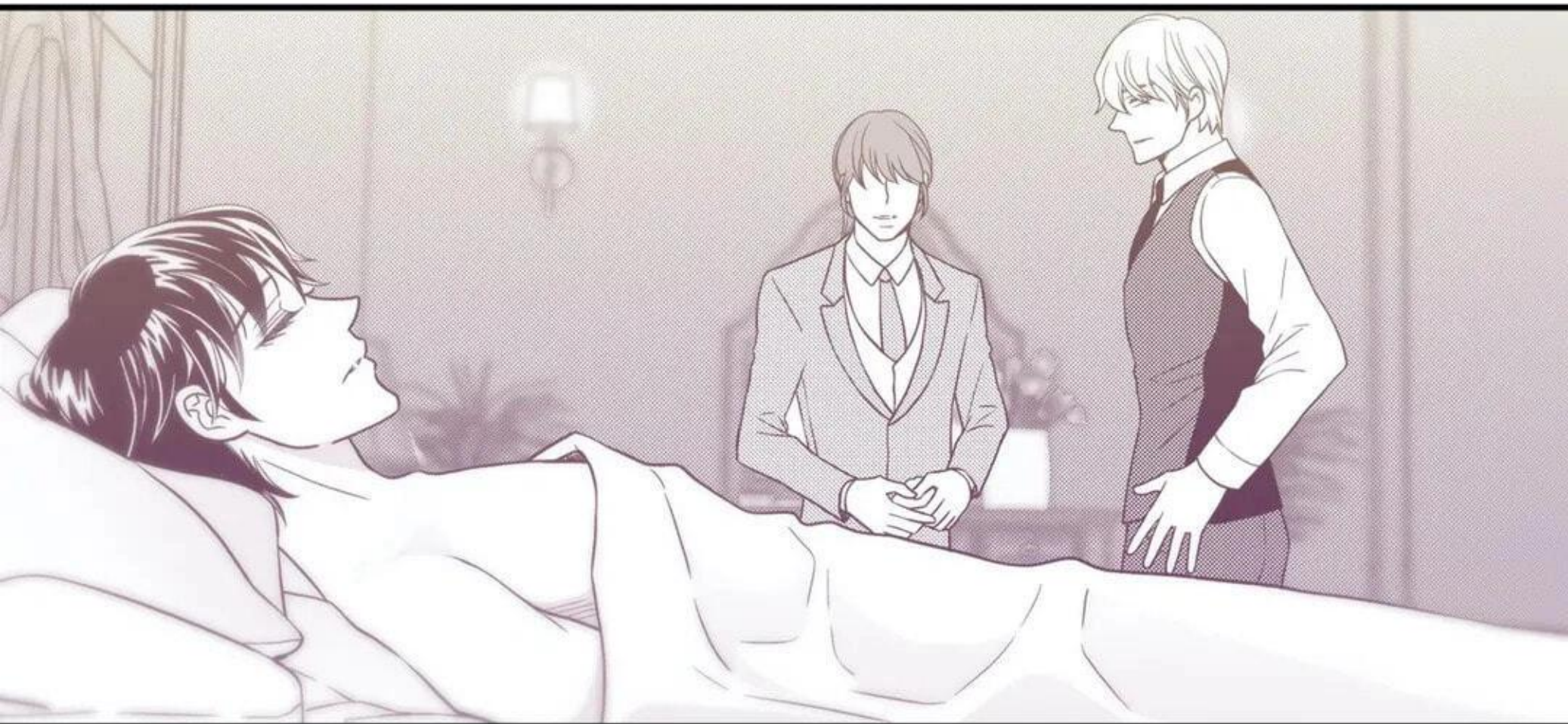
SO I TRIED
TO COME UP WITH
A SATISFACTORY
ANSWER, BUT I
COULDN'T.

YOU'RE GOING
TO BE DISAPPOINTED,
AND I DON'T KNOW IF
I CAN DO ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT.

STILL,
I'LL TELL YOU
AS MUCH AS I
POSSIBLY
CAN.



AND RAIN...



...I NEED



YOU TO KNOW
THAT...

...THE ME YOU
FIRST MET IN THAT
HOTEL ROOM...

AND THE ME
SITTING IN FRONT
OF YOU NOW... WE ARE
TWO COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE.



I NEEDED A
CHILD. AN ALPHA
CHILD.



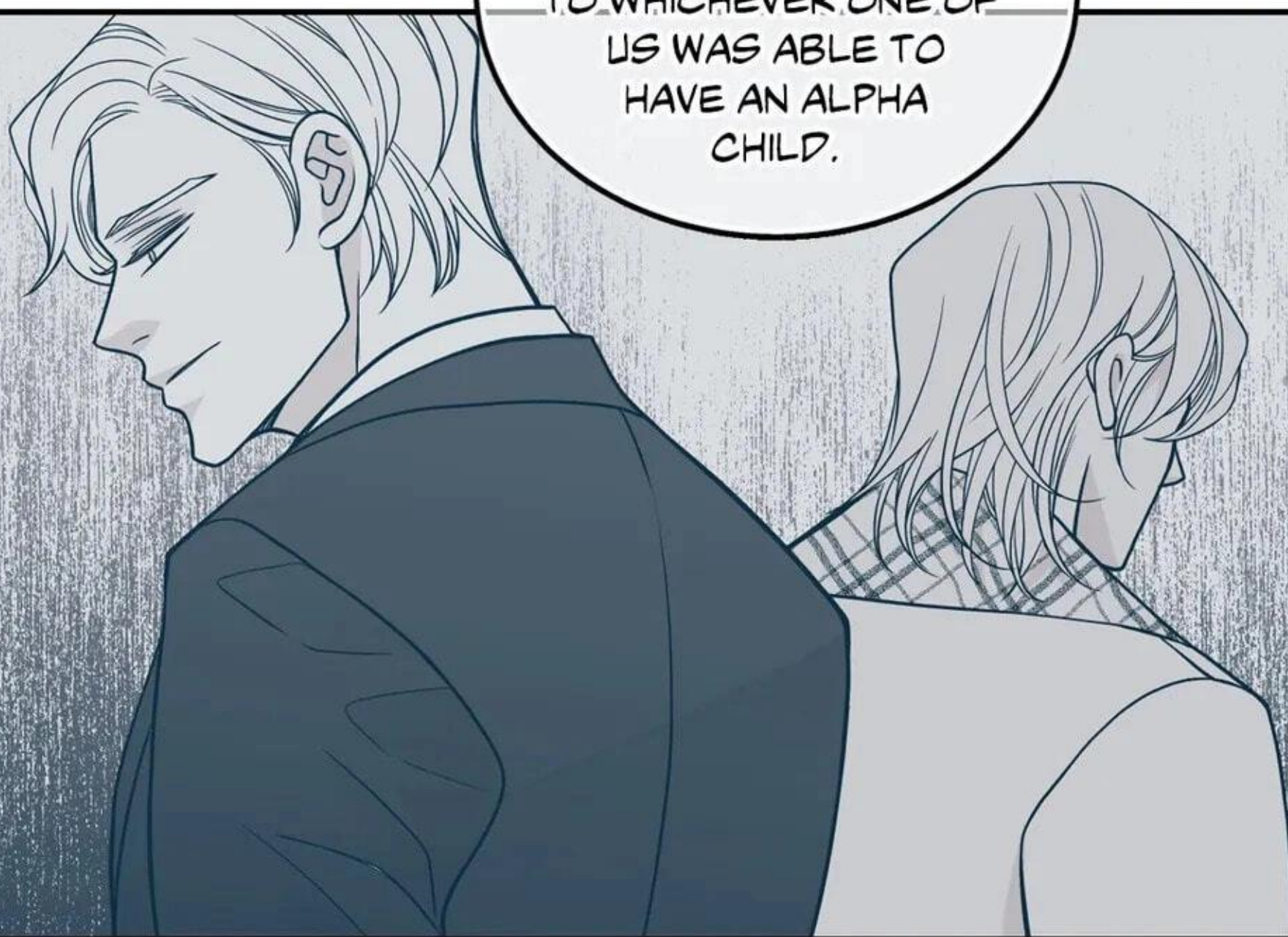
MY
ADVANCEMENT
IN THE COMPANY
WAS AT STAKE.



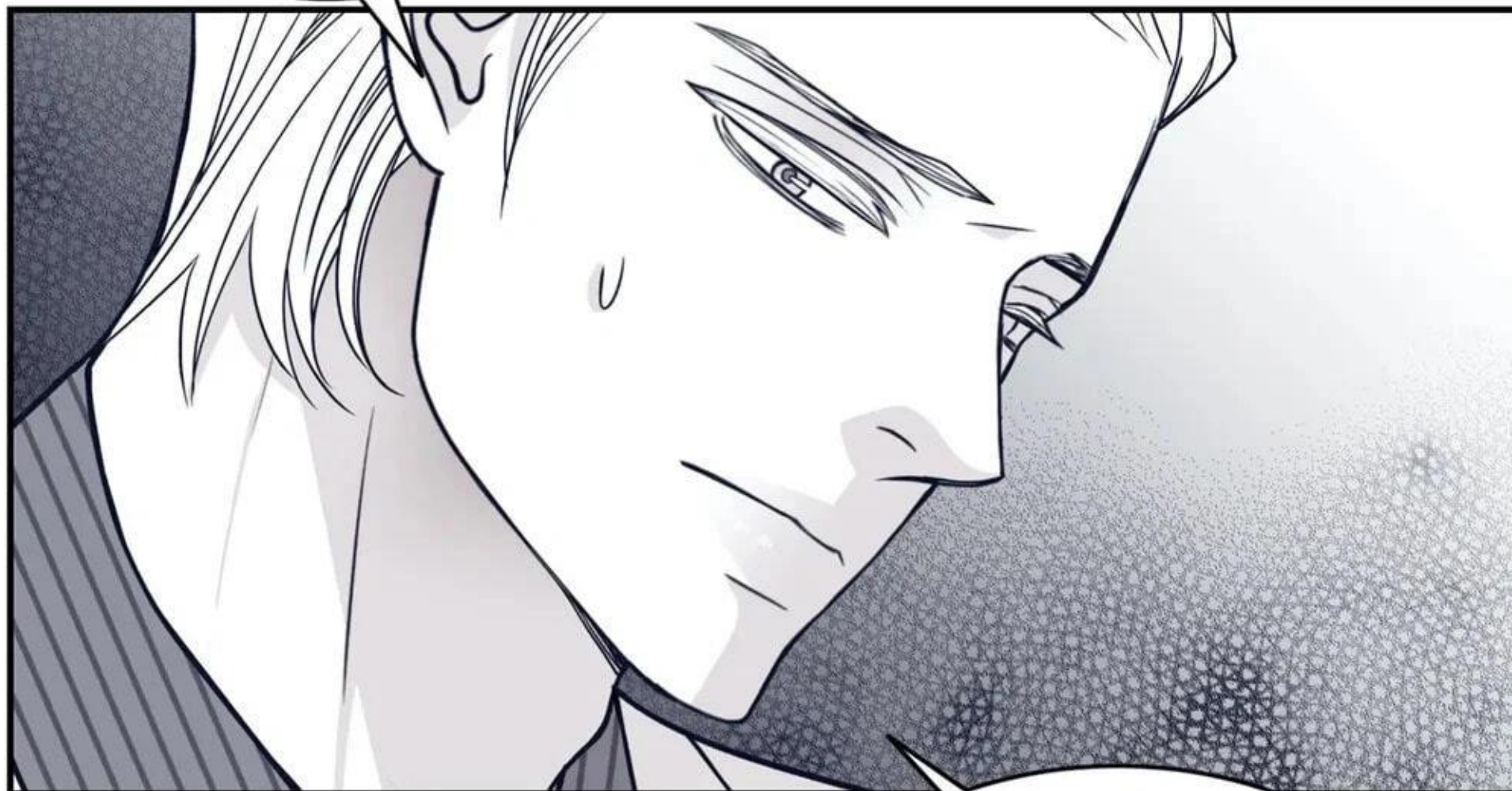
...

CHOOSING
BETWEEN ME
AND MY
BROTHER...

MY FATHER
SAID THAT HE WOULD
LEAVE THE COMPANY
TO WHICHEVER ONE OF
US WAS ABLE TO
HAVE AN ALPHA
CHILD.



I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU
KNOW THIS,
RAIN, BUT...



...THE MOST
EXCEPTIONAL ALPHAS
ARE THOSE BORN FROM
GOOD OMEGAS.



SO THAT'S
WHY... YOU...





ROENJOY IS
EVERYTHING TO
ME. IT'S THE VERY
REASON I WAS
BORN.

IT'S WHAT I
LIVED FOR, MY
WHOLE LIFE.

KNOWING
THIS, MY FATHER
IMPOSED THIS
CONDITION ON

US...

AND THAT'S
WHEN I FOUND
YOU. SOMEONE WITH
THE CAPACITY TO
BECOME A GOOD
OMEGA.



I COULDN'T
LET A LIFETIME
OF HARD WORK
VANISH INTO
THIN AIR.

SO...

SO YOU WERE
GOING TO USE ME
AS A TOOL TO BIRTH
YOUR CHILD?



TAKING
MY BODY AND
CHANGING IT
LIKE THIS...





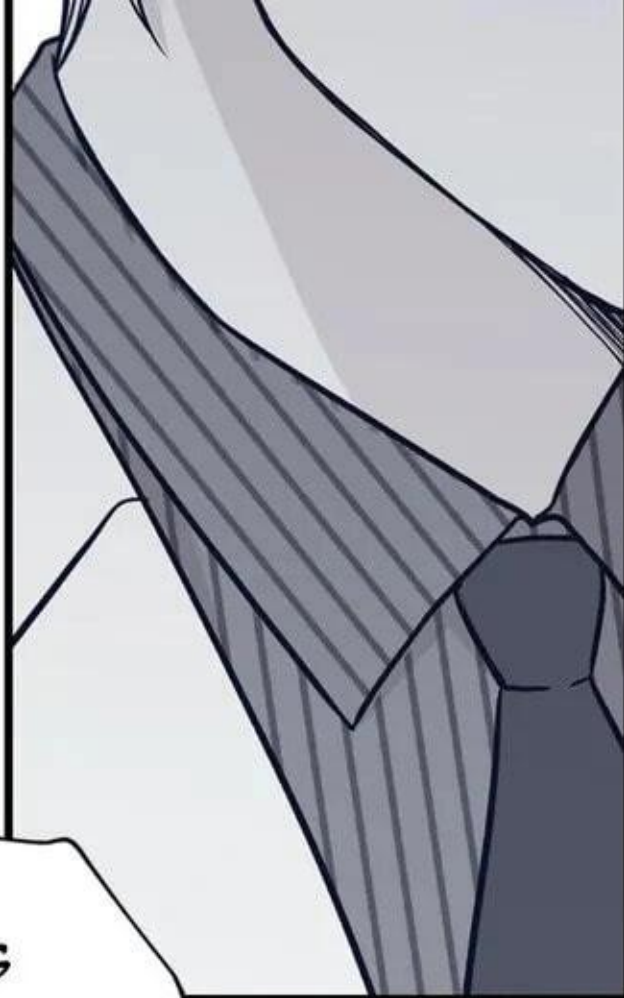
BACK THEN...
THAT WAS MY
PLAN.



PLIP

BUT...
BUT THAT'S
CRAZY.





THAT'S
SO CRAZY.





A stylized illustration of a hand holding a small, dark object against a dark blue background filled with white stars. The hand is rendered in shades of grey and black, with a simple line drawing style. The object being held is small and dark, with some internal detail visible.

THAT'S
SO MUCH MORE
CRAZY AND CRUEL
THAN I EVER
IMAGINED.



To be continued

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