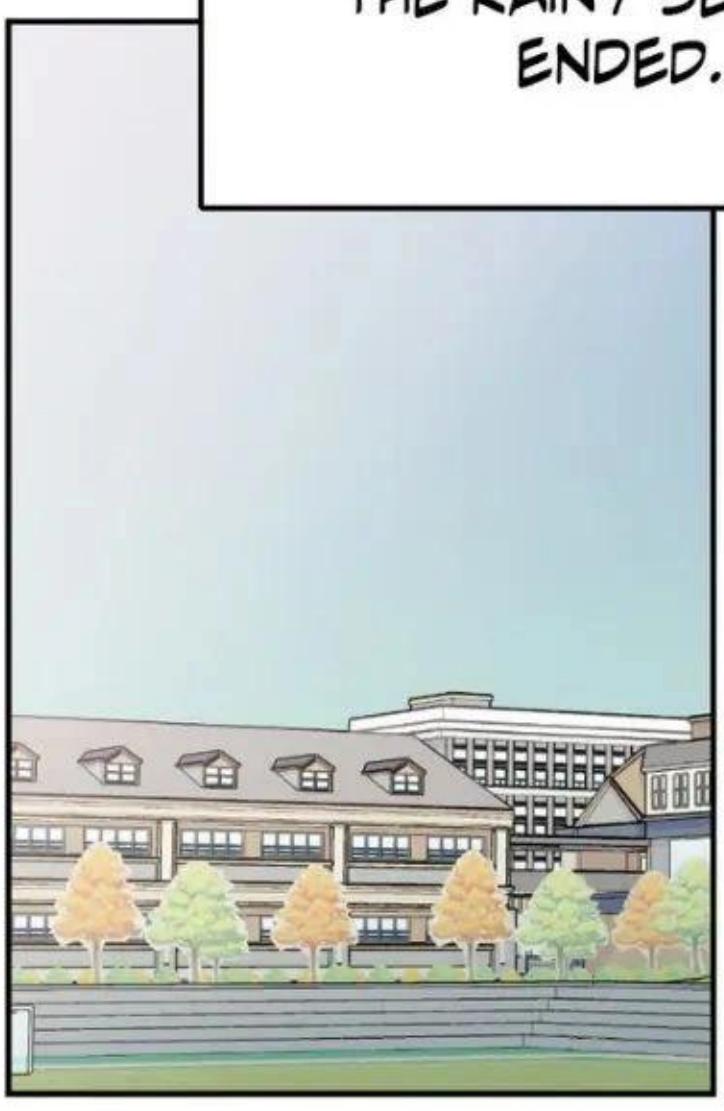
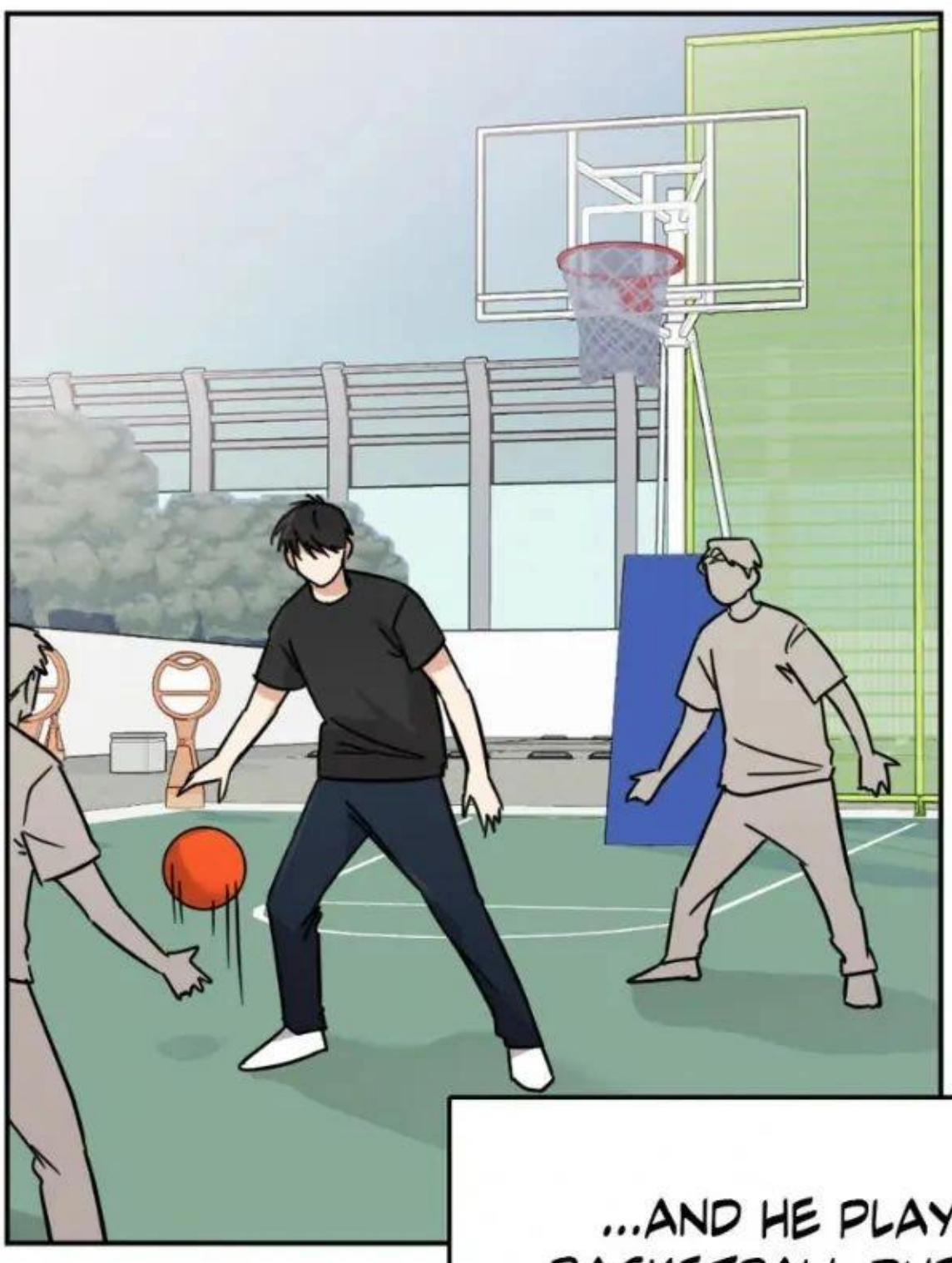
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE THE RAINY SEASON ENDED.



FROM WHERE I SAT, IT SEEMED LIKE JIN-HYEON WAS DOING WELL.

HE'S ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY HIS FRIENDS...



...AND HE PLAYS BASKETBALL DURING LUNCH.

I EVEN HEARD THAT HE DID UNEXPECTEDLY WELL ON HIS FINAL EXAMS.

HE SEEMED TO BE FARING FAR BETTER THAN ME, AT LEAST.

OF COURSE, JIN-HYEON HADN'T SPOKEN A SINGLE WORD TO ME.

TAP
TAP

YOU SEEM TO BE COUGHING LESS LATELY, BUT YOU'RE STILL AS PALE AS EVER.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT?

FLINCH
HMM
LEAN

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE JUST NATURALLY PALE.
HAHA

I CAME DOWN
WITH A BAD COLD
AFTER WE PARTED ON
THAT RAINY DAY.

STAGGER

STAGGER

INSTEAD
OF STAYING HOME,
I CONTINUED ATTENDING
SCHOOL SO I WOULDN'T
WORRY JIN-HYEON.

I ENDED UP
WITH A PERSISTENT COUGH
BECAUSE I PUSHED MYSELF
WHEN I SHOULD'VE
RESTED.

COUGH

COUGH

STEP

STEP

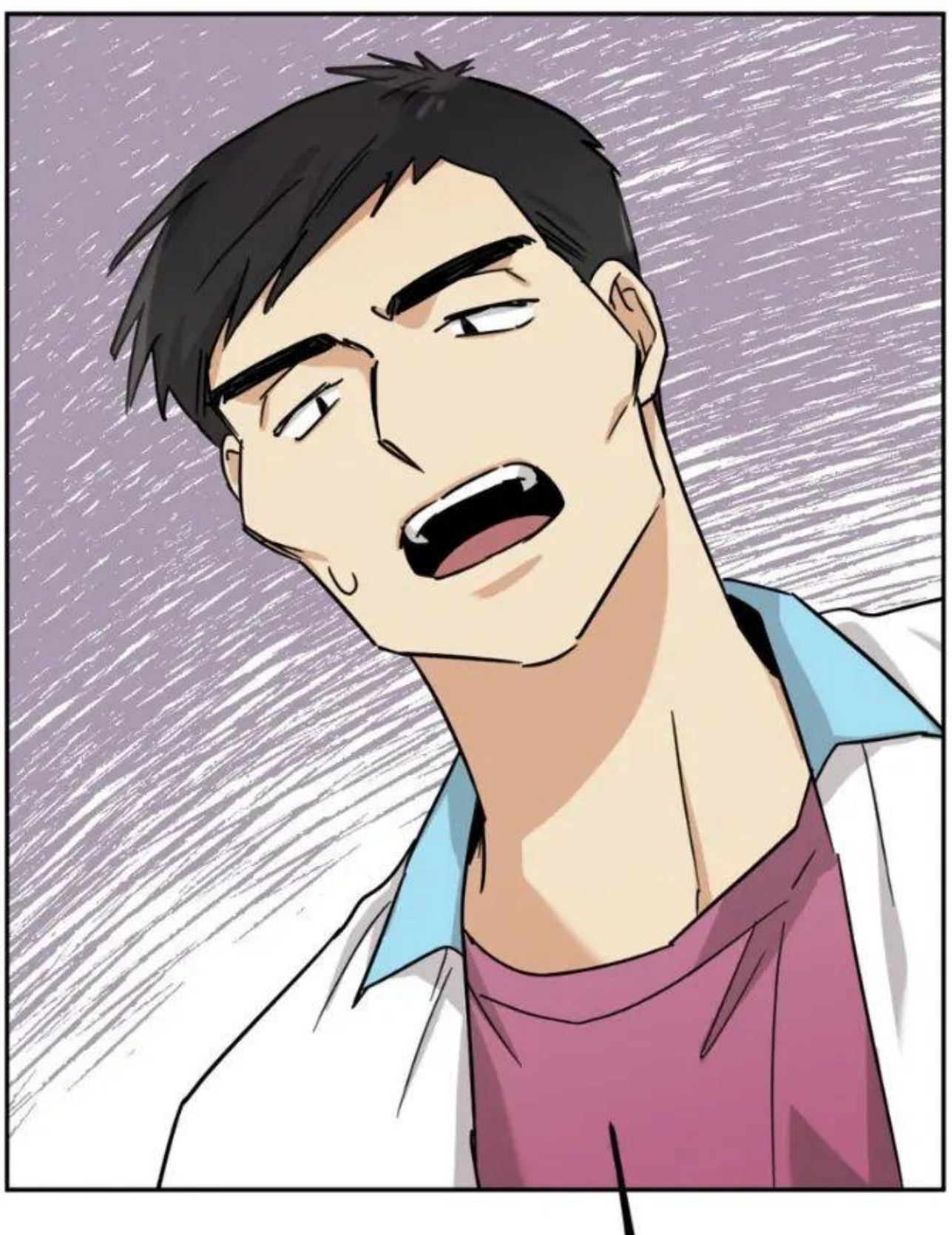
HOW'S CHUN-SIK DOING?

IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE HIM A WHILE.
HE CAN LISTEN TO ALL THE MUSIC HE WANTS DURING CLASS, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO FIX HIS STAGE FRIGHT.
NOD

LIKE,
WHAT'S THE POINT
OF HAVING PERFECT
TEETH?

HAHA

YOU WON'T
BELIEVE THIS!



GRAAA

JIN-HYEON GOT CAUGHT SKIPPING CLASS ON THE ROOF, AND NOW HE'S GETTING YELLED AT BY THE HOMEROOM TEACHER!

GRAAA

MURMUR

JIN-HYEON?
NAH, NO WAY.

WHAT?

REALLY?

MURMUR

ACTUALLY,
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I FEEL LIKE HE'S BEEN SKIPPING PRETTY OFTEN THESE DAYS.

THE HOMEROOM TEACHER MUST'VE FELT BETRAYED. HE SAID THAT JIN-HYEON WOULD HAVE TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A WEEK SINCE THIS WAS HIS FIRST STRIKE.

SHAKE

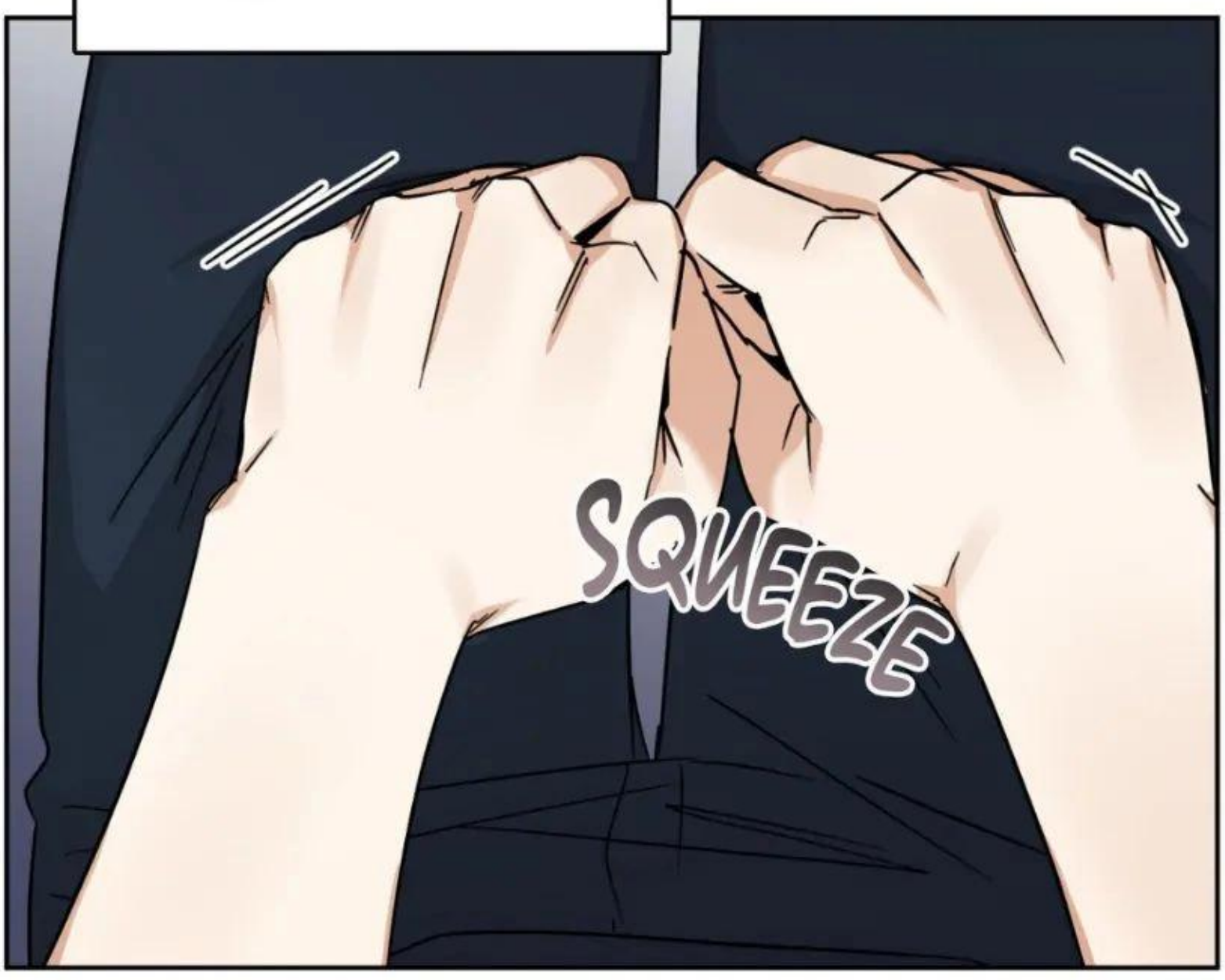
I'M NOT SURPRISED. HE SEEMS TO BE IN BAD SHAPE THESE DAYS.

BAD SHAPE?

THAT COULDN'T BE RIGHT. JIN-HYEON LOOKED LIKE HE WAS DOING FINE.

HE WAS
DOING BETTER
THAN ME, AT LEAST.
I BARELY ATE...

...AND
RARELY SMILED
IF IT HADN'T BEEN
FOR SEUNG.



I THOUGHT
JIN-HYEON WAS FINDING
HIS USUAL SELF AGAIN. AT
LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT.

DING DONG♪

♪

DING DONG♪

STEP

STEP

STEP

STEP

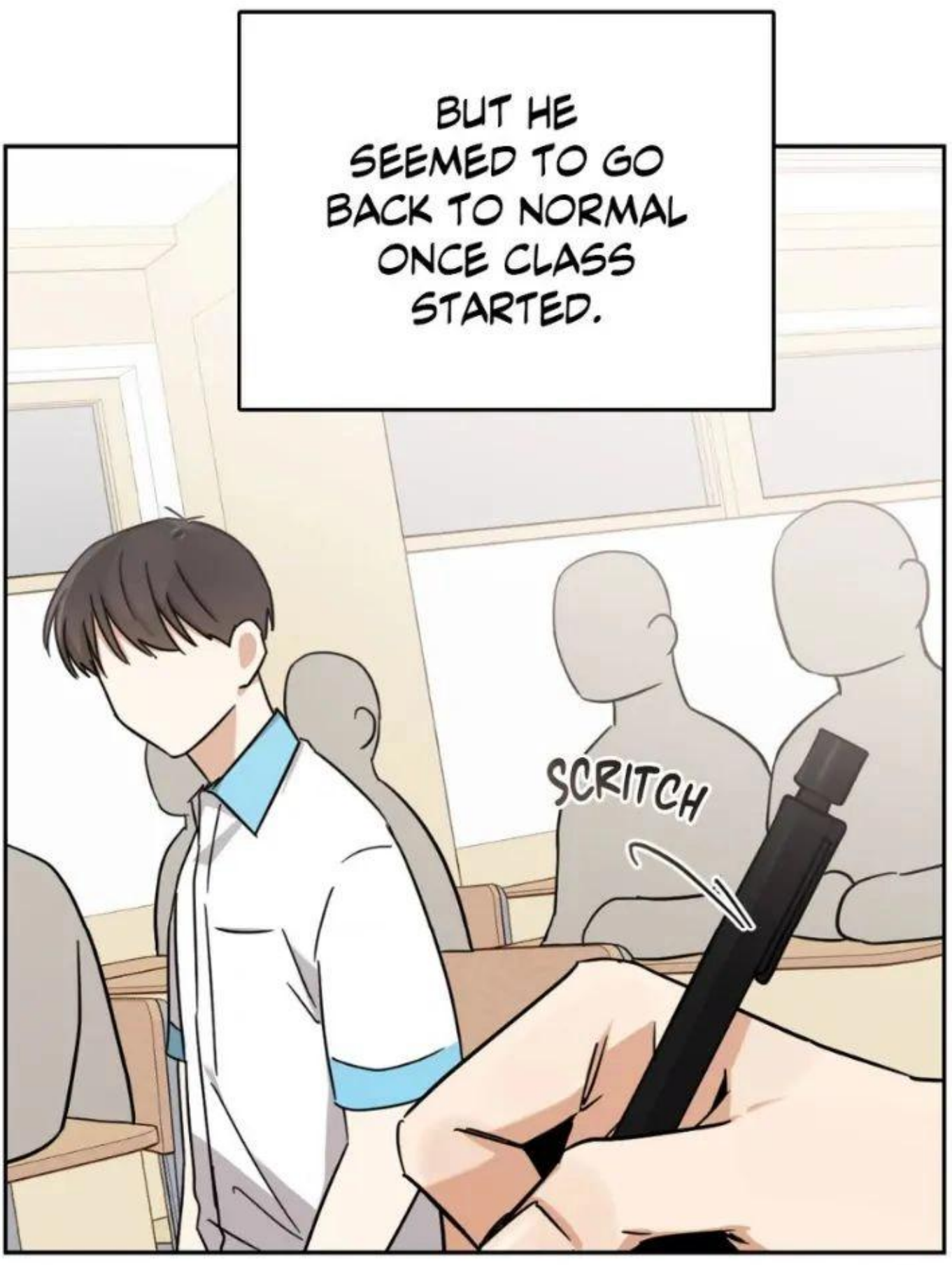
SHUT UP. I CAN PRACTICALLY HEAR YOU GUYS LOOKING AT ME.
FWIP
RATTLE

GLANCE

HEY, DID YOU REALLY GET PUNISHED?

SO WHAT IF I DID? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
JUST DO YOUR WORK.
OH, OKAY...

JIN-HYEON LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN A BAD MOOD.


BUT HE SEEMED TO GO BACK TO NORMAL ONCE CLASS STARTED.
SCRITCH
SCRITCH

HAHAHA

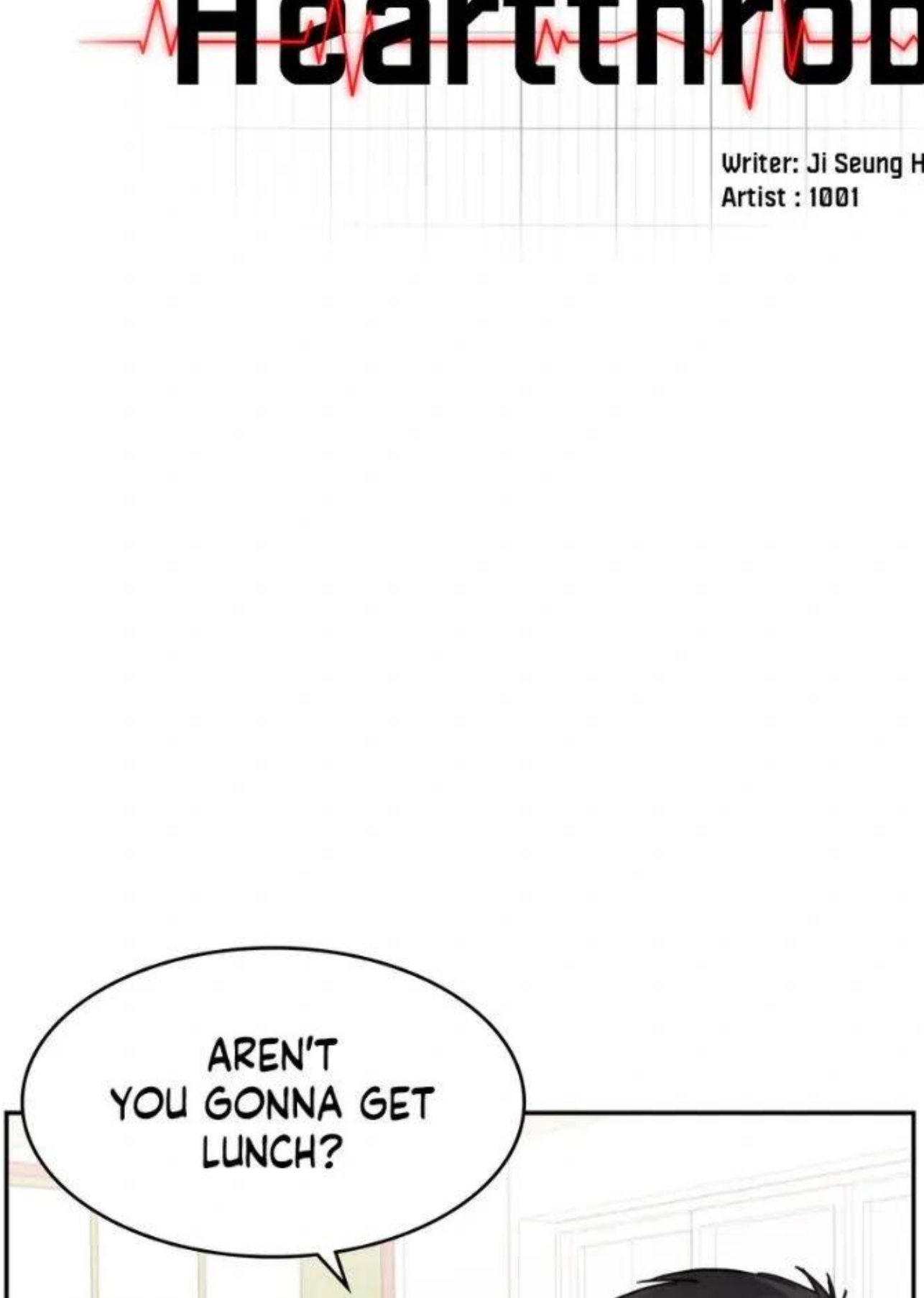
HE SEEMED TO BOUNCE BACK EASILY FROM HARDSHIP.

I THOUGHT THAT RESILIENCE WAS A GOOD THING. ALL I WANTED WAS FOR HIM TO BE HAPPY.

AS LONG AS JIN-HYEON DIDN'T FEEL EMPTY, LIKE ALL THE BLOOD HAD EVAPORATED FROM HIS BODY, THEN I WAS HAPPY.

Heartthrob

Writer: Ji Seung Hyun
Artist : 1001



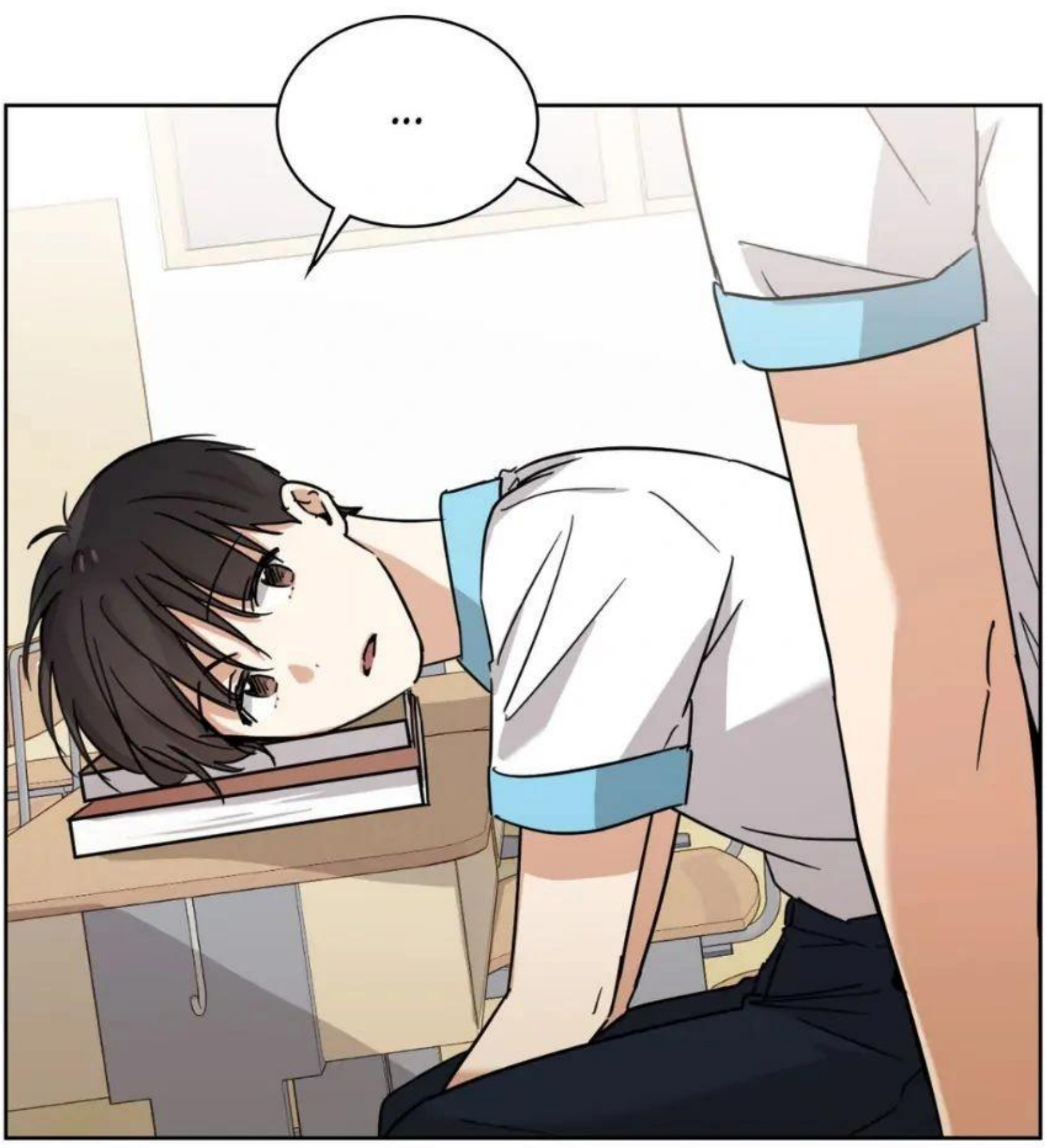
SLUMP

THIS IS NICE...

SILENCE

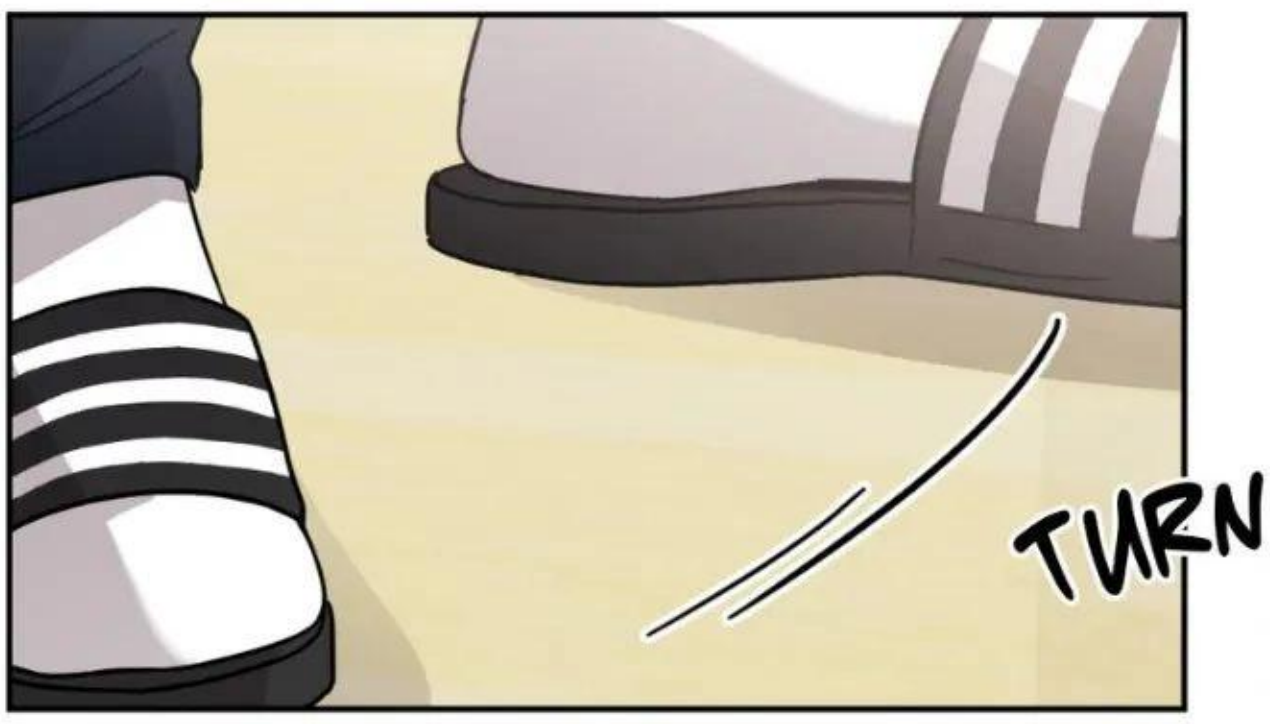
RUSTLE

SLIDE



I DECIDED
THIS MYSELF.

IT WAS
ONLY MY PAIN
TO BEAR.



STEP

THE MOMENT
I HEARD HIM LEAVE
THE ROOM, I FELT THE TEARS
THREATENING TO SPILL FROM
MY EYES AND DOWN
MY CHEEKS.

IT WAS A RELIEF HE DIDN'T
SEE MY TEARS FALL.

To be continued...