

I THOUGHT IF
I JUST TRIED HARD
ENOUGH, I COULD MAKE
UP FOR EVERYTHING
I'VE DONE.

SO I KEPT
HOLDING ONTO YOU.
SHAMELESSLY,
SELFISHLY...





BUT AT
THIS RATE, I
THINK I MIGHT
KILL YOU.



WHAT?
I'M NOT DYING!
I TOLD YOU,
I'M FINE.





I PROMISED,
REMEMBER?

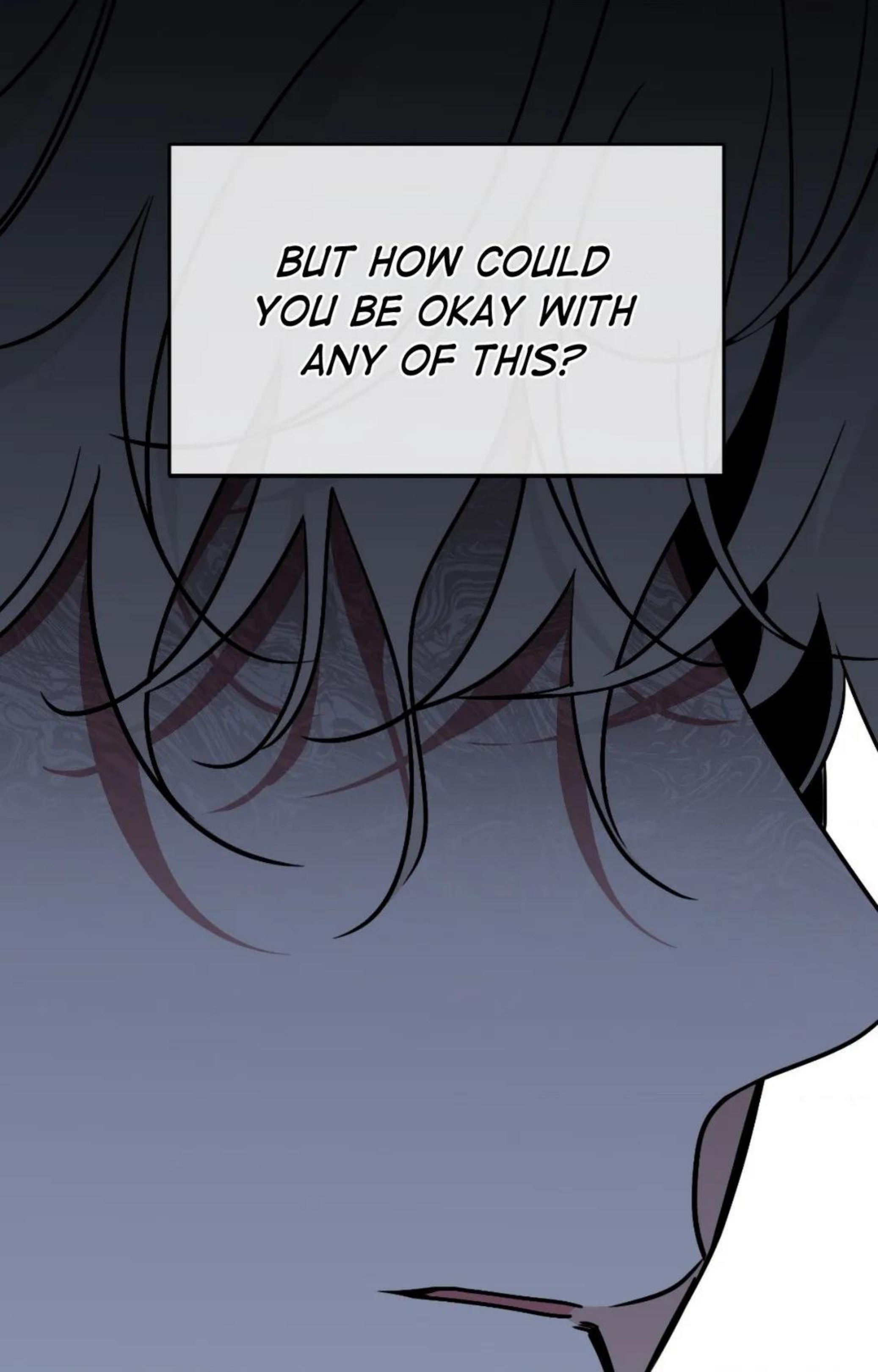


AT THIS
POINT, IT'S
SECOND
NATURE.

EVERY TIME,
I ASK YOU IF
YOU'RE OKAY AND
EVERY TIME, YOU
ASSURE ME THAT
YOU ARE.





A close-up, stylized illustration of a person's face, primarily showing the right side. The skin is a pale, muted blue-grey. The eye is partially visible, with dark, long, and thick eyelashes. The cheek and jawline are defined with dark outlines. A white speech bubble with a black border is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the face. Inside the bubble, the text "BUT HOW COULD YOU BE OKAY WITH ANY OF THIS?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, all in uppercase letters. The background of the face is filled with dark, swirling, and scribbled lines in shades of grey and black, creating a sense of intense emotion or distress. The overall style is graphic and expressive, typical of modern comic book art.

**BUT HOW COULD
YOU BE OKAY WITH
ANY OF THIS?**



*HOW COULD YOU EVER
POSSIBLY LOVE ME?*





WHAT?

*I'VE
SCARRED YOU
FOR LIFE.*

*YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO GOT
STABBED.*

*THIS LITTLE
THING WILL HEAL.
BUT WHAT ABOUT
YOU? CAN YOU
HEAL?*

ㄱ

"THIS
LITTLE THING"?

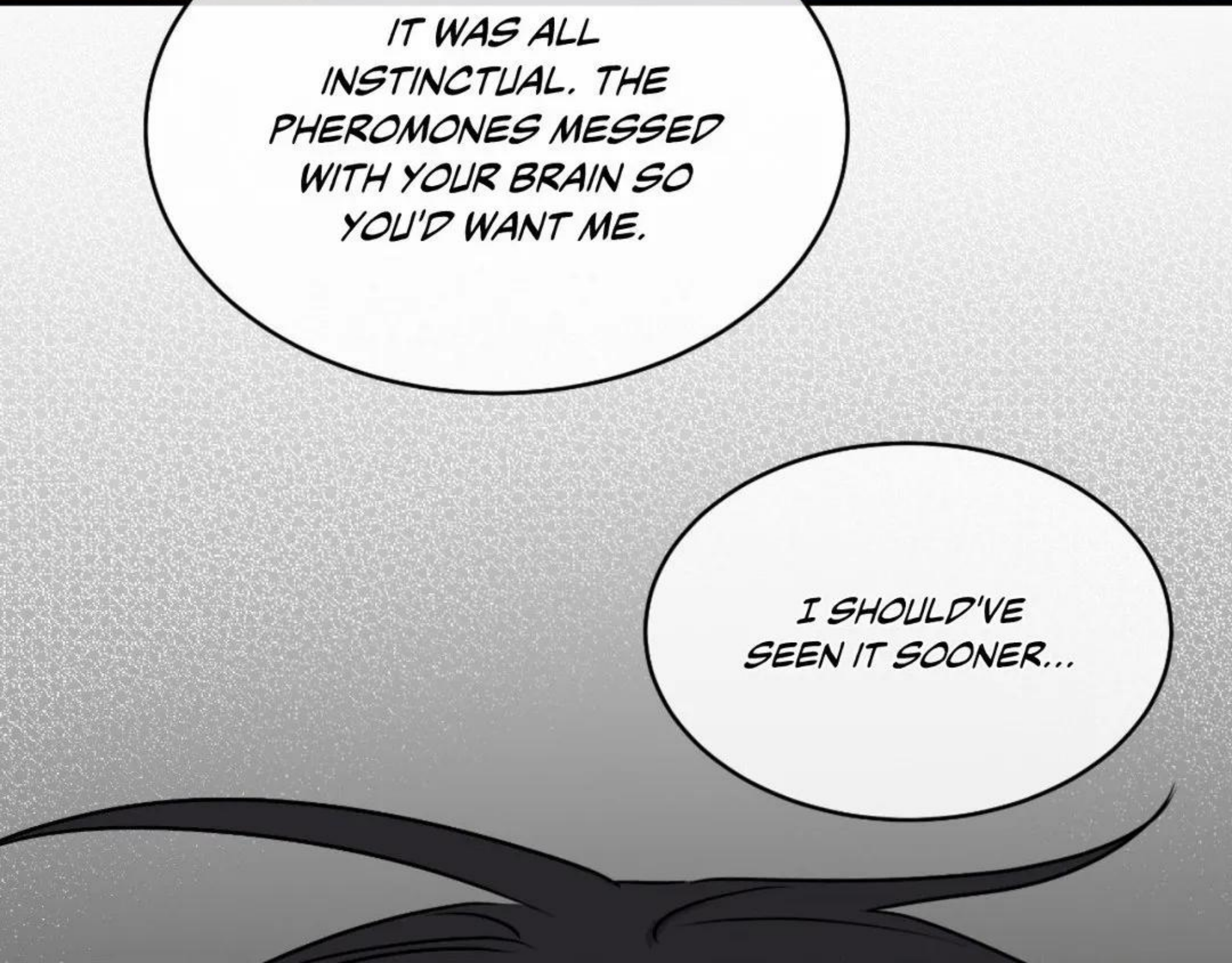


WHEN YOU
WERE PREGNANT,
YOU NEEDED ME... SO
YOUR BODY NUMBED
THE PAIN.

IT'S MADE
ALL THE FUCKED

A comic panel showing a character from the chest up, wearing a dark blue jacket with a silver button. The character has long, light-colored hair. A large white speech bubble is positioned above their head. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of pink and blue.

*UP SHIT I DID TO YOU
FEEL TRIVIAL AND VAGUE,
ALL SO THAT YOU'D
ACTUALLY WANT A
DIRTBAG LIKE ME.*

A comic panel showing a character from the chest up, wearing a light-colored shirt. The character has long, light-colored hair. A large white speech bubble is positioned above their head. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of pink and blue.

*IT WAS ALL
INSTINCTUAL. THE
PHEROMONES MESSED
WITH YOUR BRAIN SO
YOU'D WANT ME.*

A comic panel showing a character from the chest up, wearing a dark blue jacket. The character has long, dark hair. A large white speech bubble is positioned above their head. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of pink and blue.

*I SHOULD'VE
SEEN IT SOONER...*

**BUT EVERY
TIME YOU TOOK
A STEP CLOSER,
IT JUST MADE ME
SO HAPPY.**





***I WANTED
TO BELIEVE IT
WAS POSSIBLE
YOU COULD
LOVE ME...***



I WANTED
TO BELIEVE IT SO
BAD, I NEVER EVEN
NOTICED YOU WERE
CARRYING MY
CHILD.

BUT YOUR
SCARS HADN'T
DISAPPEARED...
YOU'D JUST
FORGOTTEN.

ALL I
DO IS HURT
YOU...

**GOD,
I'M SO SELFISH.
I'VE NEVER ONCE
MADE THE RIGHT
DECISION.**

**ALL I
HAD TO DO
WAS WALK
AWAY.**

**HEY, WHAT
THE HELL ARE
YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
THEN WHAT ABOUT
YOU?**

**WHAT ABOUT
THE WAY YOU WORRY
ABOUT ME? THE WAY YOU
CAN'T STAND BEING AWAY
FROM ME? YOU'RE TELLING
ME THAT'S ALL JUST
INSTINCT?**

**ARE YOU
SAYING YOU
WON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME?**

**ABOUT ME
ANYMORE?**



**AS LONG AS
I'M NOT IN YOUR
LIFE, THERE'LL BE
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT.**

FWIP



A close-up, stylized illustration of a person's face, mostly in shadow. A hand is visible near the eye area. A large, white, oval speech bubble is centered in the lower half of the frame, containing text in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font.

***I PROMISED
TO TAKE CARE
OF ANYTHING THAT
MAKES YOU SUFFER,
REMEMBER? AND
IF THAT'S
ME...***





*TO THINK YOU
COULD EVER LOVE
ME... IT WAS JUST
AN IMPOSSIBLE
DREAM.*

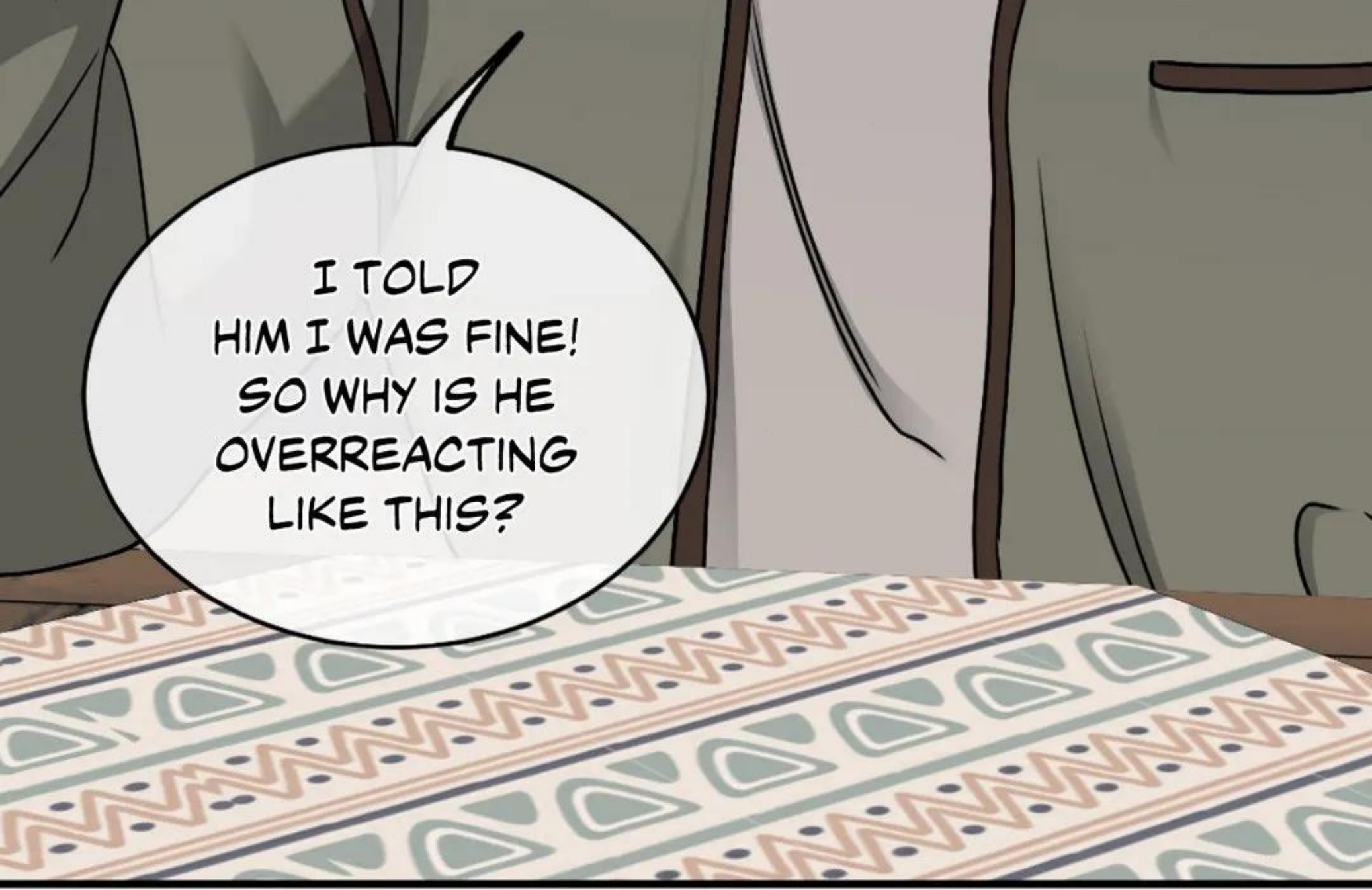


SIGH

AND
THEN HE

**THEN HE
MOVED OUT!
JUST LIKE
THAT!**



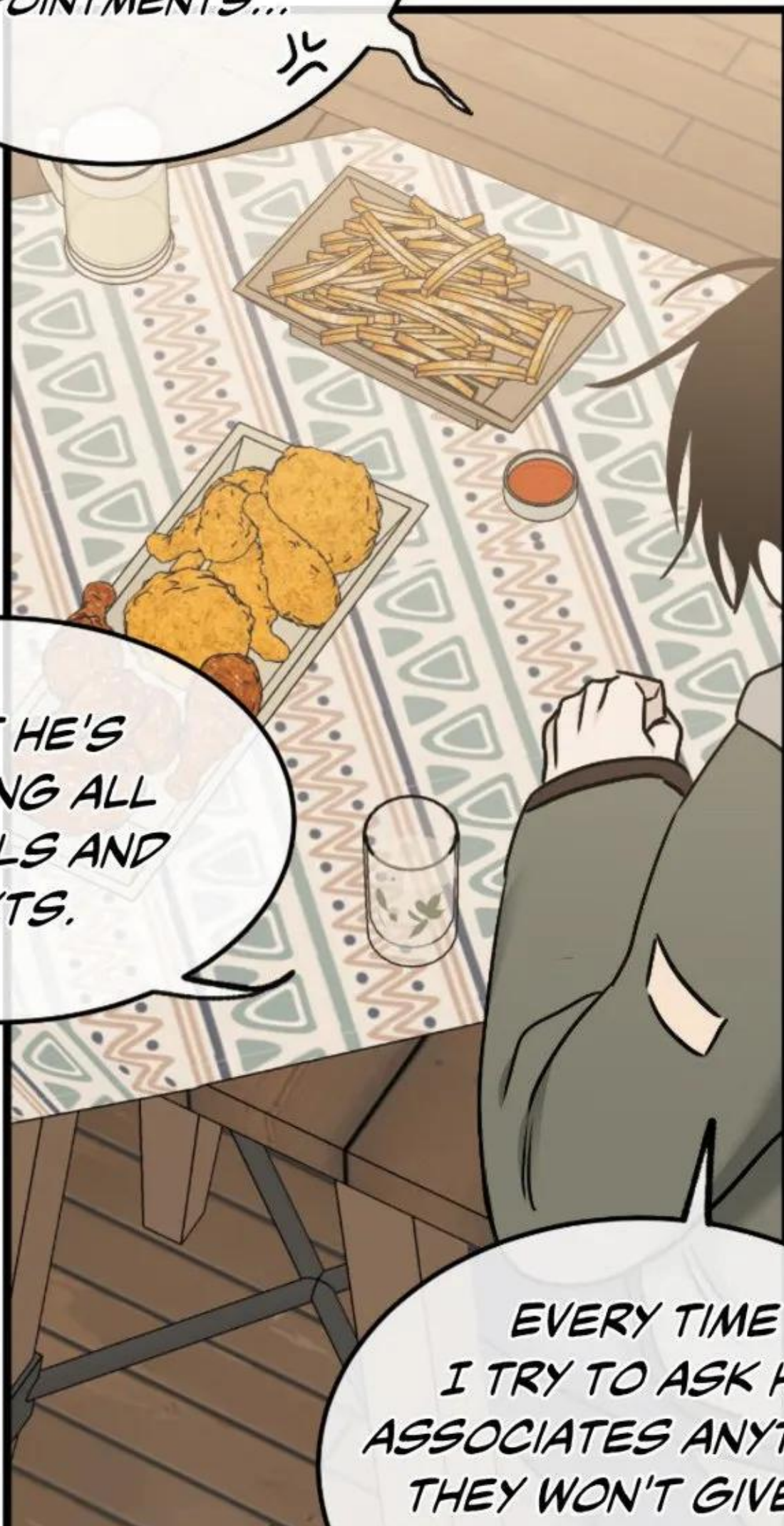


I TOLD
HIM I WAS FINE!
SO WHY IS HE
OVERREACTING
LIKE THIS?

SO MUCH
FOR NOT BEING
ABLE TO LIVE
WITHOUT ME...

⤵
I DOUBTED
HE'D LAST, BUT
IT'S ALREADY BEEN
A MONTH!

⤵
HE'S STILL
SENDING PEOPLE
TO ESCAPE ME TO

A person with long dark hair is sitting on a patterned rug. In front of them are two trays of food: one with french fries and another with fried chicken. There are also two glasses of water and a small bowl of red sauce. The person is wearing a grey jacket. The background shows a wooden floor and a wall.

TO ESCORT ME TO
ALL MY HOSPITAL
APPOINTMENTS...

...BUT HE'S
IGNORING ALL
MY CALLS AND
TEXTS.

EVERY TIME
I TRY TO ASK HIS
ASSOCIATES ANYTHING,
THEY WON'T GIVE ME
A STRAIGHT
ANSWER!

OH-YEAH!

ALSO...



**...HE SENT
ME MONEY.**





LOW TIDE
IN TWILIGHT

IN THE MOUNTAIN

Creator euja

THAT ISN'T
ALL. HE PUT THE
LEASE UNDER MY
NAME TOO.

RUB

PLUS,
HE GAVE ME
STOCKS.

**HYUNG,
DON'T TAKE THIS
THE WRONG
WAY BUT...**



**...THIS IS
A PRETTY SWEET
ARRANGEMENT!**





LOOKS LIKE
TAEJU'S GOT
A CONSCIENCE
AFTER ALL! AFTER
EVERYTHING
HE PUT YOU
THROUGH-

AGH, SORRY,
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID THAT

**HAVE SAID THAT.
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN THROUGH.**

GRRR

**NO, IT'S OKAY.
WHEN I SAW THE
NUMBERS, EVEN I
THOUGHT IT WOULD
ALL BE WORTH DOING A
SECOND TIME... JUST
FOR A MOMENT
THOUGH.**





*...I
DON'T NEED
ANY OF IT.*





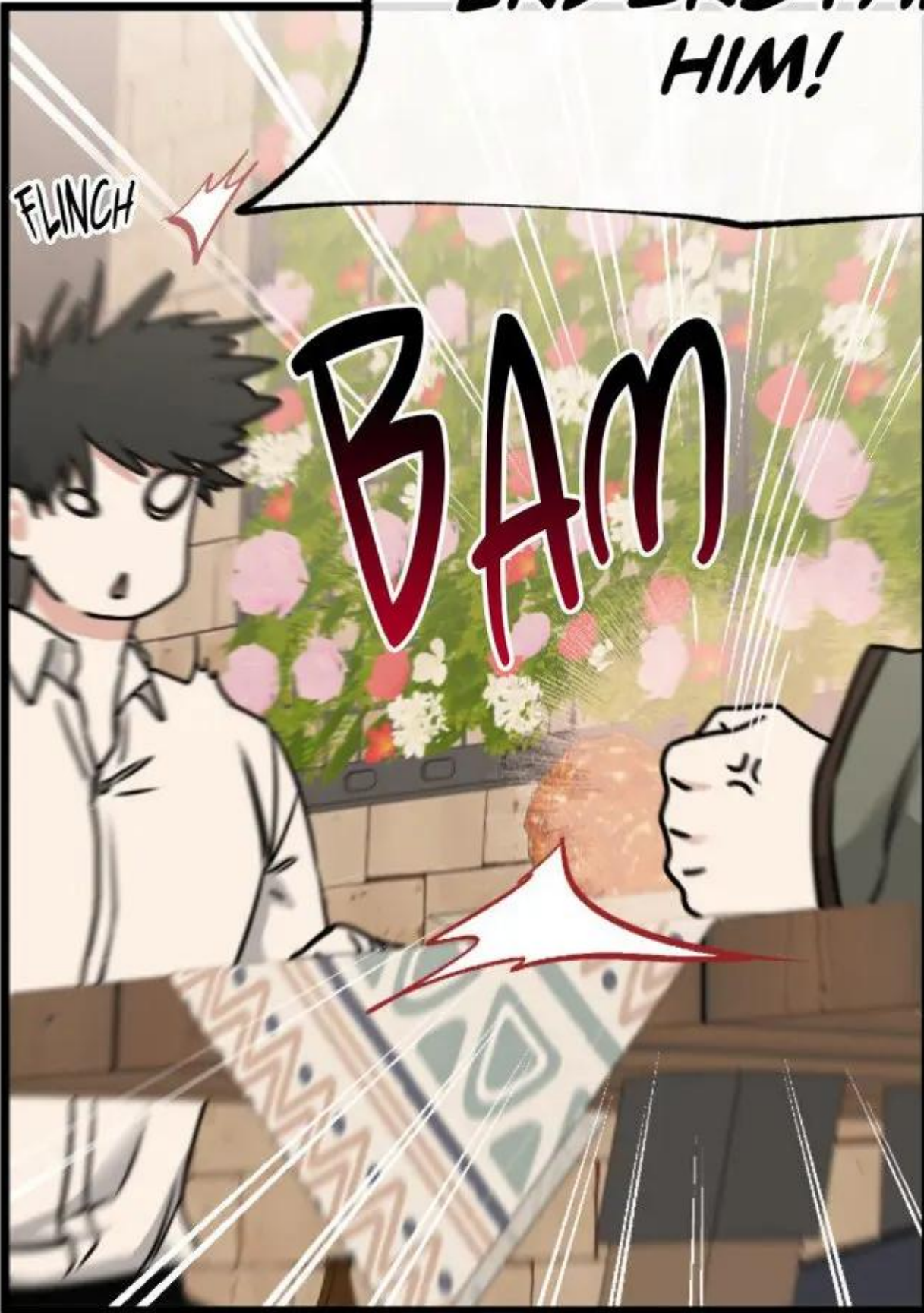




***I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HIM!***

FLINCH

BAM



HE ALMOST
DIED AFTER
GETTING STABBED
FOR ME, BUT THEN HE
GOES AND ACTS
LIKE THIS!

SPRING

WHAT?
STABBED?!

CLUNK





EVEN WHEN
HE GOT STABBED,
HE WAS SO HAPPY I
WASN'T HURT THAT
HE WAS GRINNING
LIKE AN IDIOT.

HE WORRIES
ABOUT ME EVEN
MORE THAN I DO,
SO WHY...?

ARE YOU^u
ALRIGHT,
HYUNG?

I'M FINE.





HE WANTED TO
KEEP ME AROUND SO
BAD THAT HE REFUSED
TO FORGIVE MY DEBT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE A GUY
LIKE THAT WOULD
JUST LET GO.

WAS
IT ALL JUST
A FUCKING
LIE?

ARE ALL
ALPHAS LIKE
THIS? DO THEY
JUST PICK UP
AND LEAVE?

STABBED?

WITH A
KNIFE?!



HE'D TALK
ALL THIS SWEET
BULLSHIT AND ACT
LIKE HE CARED, BUT
NOW THAT THE BABY'S
GONE, THE EFFECT
MUST'VE WORN
OFF.

THAT
BASTARD WAS ACTING
ON PURE INSTINCT,
AFTER ALL...



NO,
HYUNG.



I DON'T
LIKE TAKING THAT
GUY'S SIDE...

GROAN





**...BUT I'D
ARGUE IT'S THE
OPPOSITE.**





NORMALLY,
YOU'D LET GO OF
THE PERSON YOU LOVE
IF THEY'RE IN DANGER OR
GET HURT BECAUSE
OF YOU, RIGHT?

BUT ALPHAS ARE
A VERY PRIMAL TYPE.
THEY'RE EXTREMELY
POSSESSIVE.





IT'S HORRIBLE,
BUT AN ALPHA WOULD
NEVER LET GO OF THE
TARGET OF THEIR OBSESSION,
EVEN IF IT PUTS THEM IN
THE WORST DANGER
IMAGINABLE...

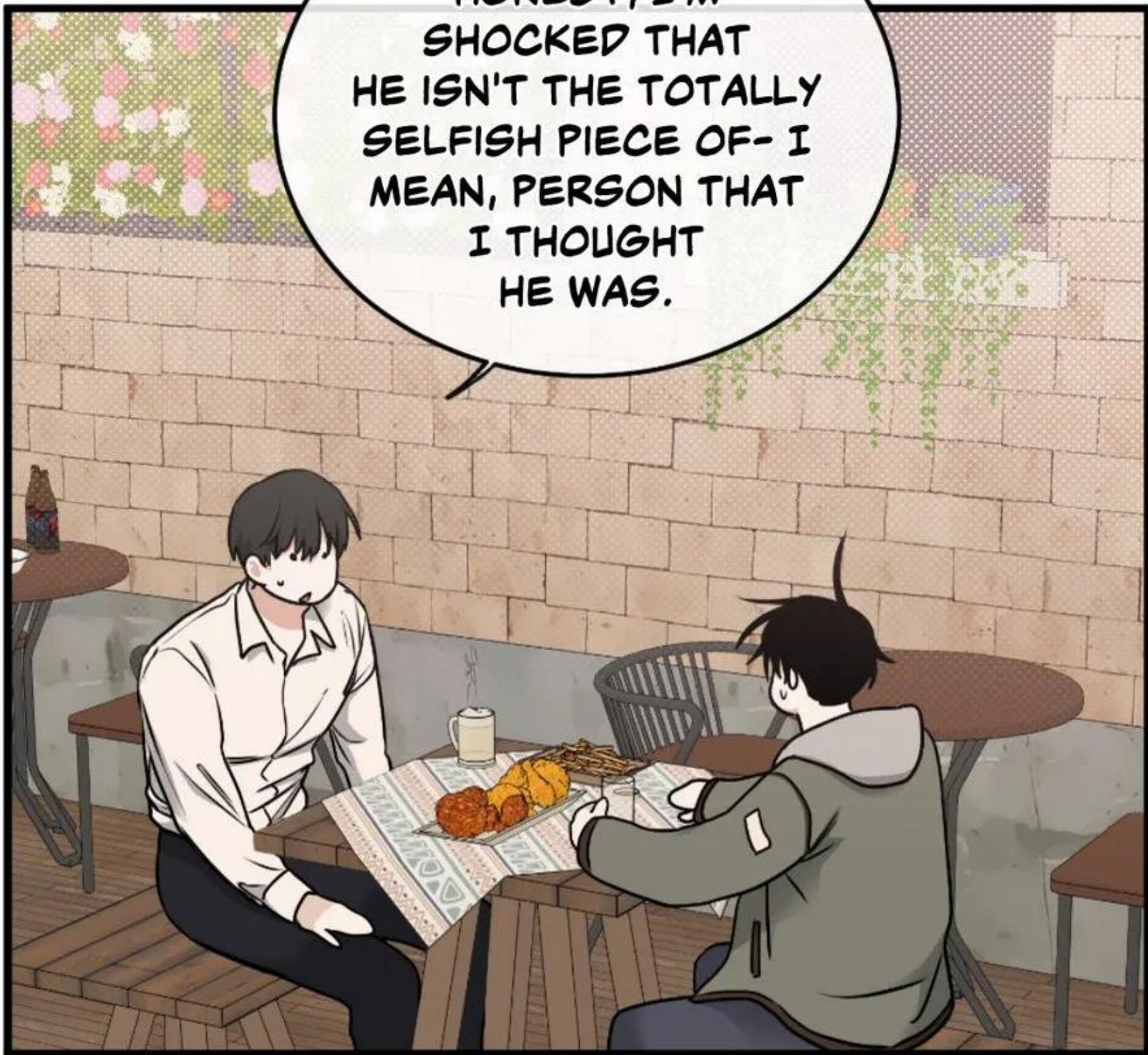
SO THE
FACT THAT TAEJU
RECOGNIZED WHAT
HE'S PUT YOU THROUGH
AND LET YOU GO
FIRST...

AT THE
VERY LEAST, THAT
MAKES HIM SOMEONE
WHO CAN OWN UP TO
HIS MISTAKES AND
CONTROL HIS MOST
BASE INSTINCTS.

...AND HIS FRIEND,
NO?

**NOT TO
SAY HE DID
THE RIGHT
THING!**

**TO BE
HONEST, I'M
SHOCKED THAT
HE ISN'T THE TOTALLY
SELFISH PIECE OF- I
MEAN, PERSON THAT
I THOUGHT
HE WAS.**

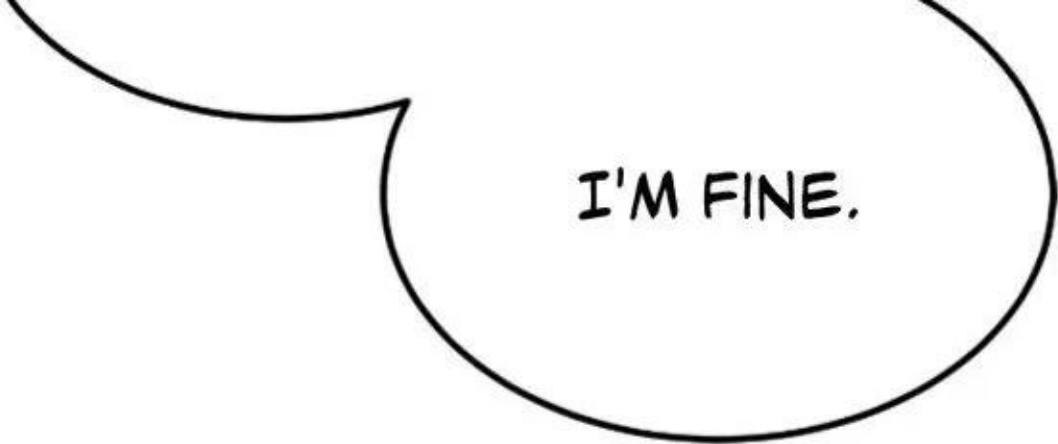




YOU'RE
SURE THEY DIDN'T
HURT YOU,
HYUNG?



HUH?
YEAH...



I'M FINE.

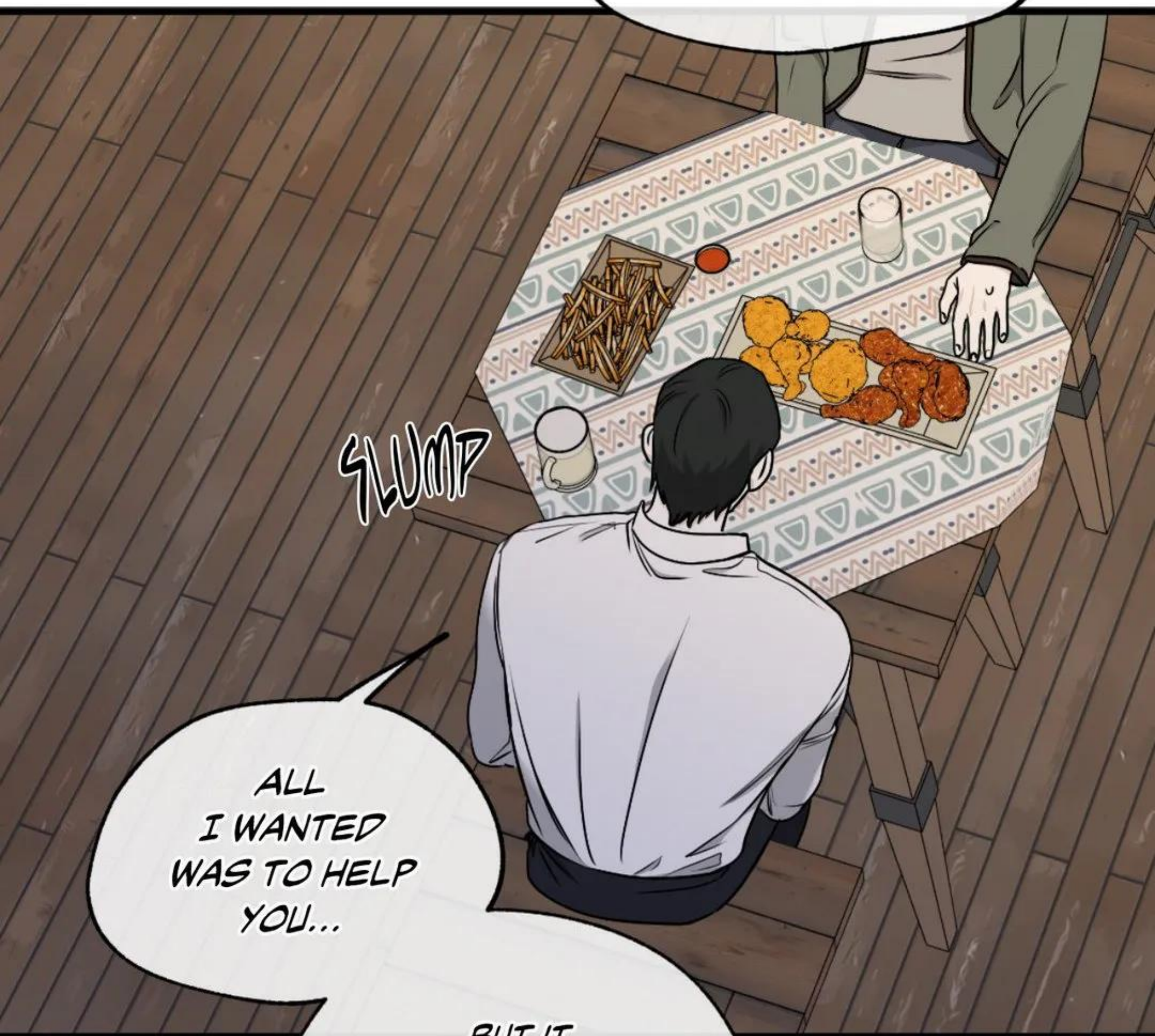
*SORRY,
I JUST...*

*WHY ARE YOU
APOLOGIZING?*

SLUMP

*ALL
I WANTED
WAS TO HELP
YOU...*

*BUT IT
JUST SEEMS LIKE
NOTHING WORKED*



OUT IN THE END.

OH,
TAESUNG...
I'M FINE.

REALLY.





I'M
HEALTHY...

...AND
I DON'T
FEEL GUILTY
EXACTLY.

IT JUST...

*...MAKES
ME SAD.*





*IT SEEMS LIKE
ALL WE DO...*

*IS BLAME
OURSELVES
AND NEVER MAKE
THE TIME TO
APOLOGIZE.*

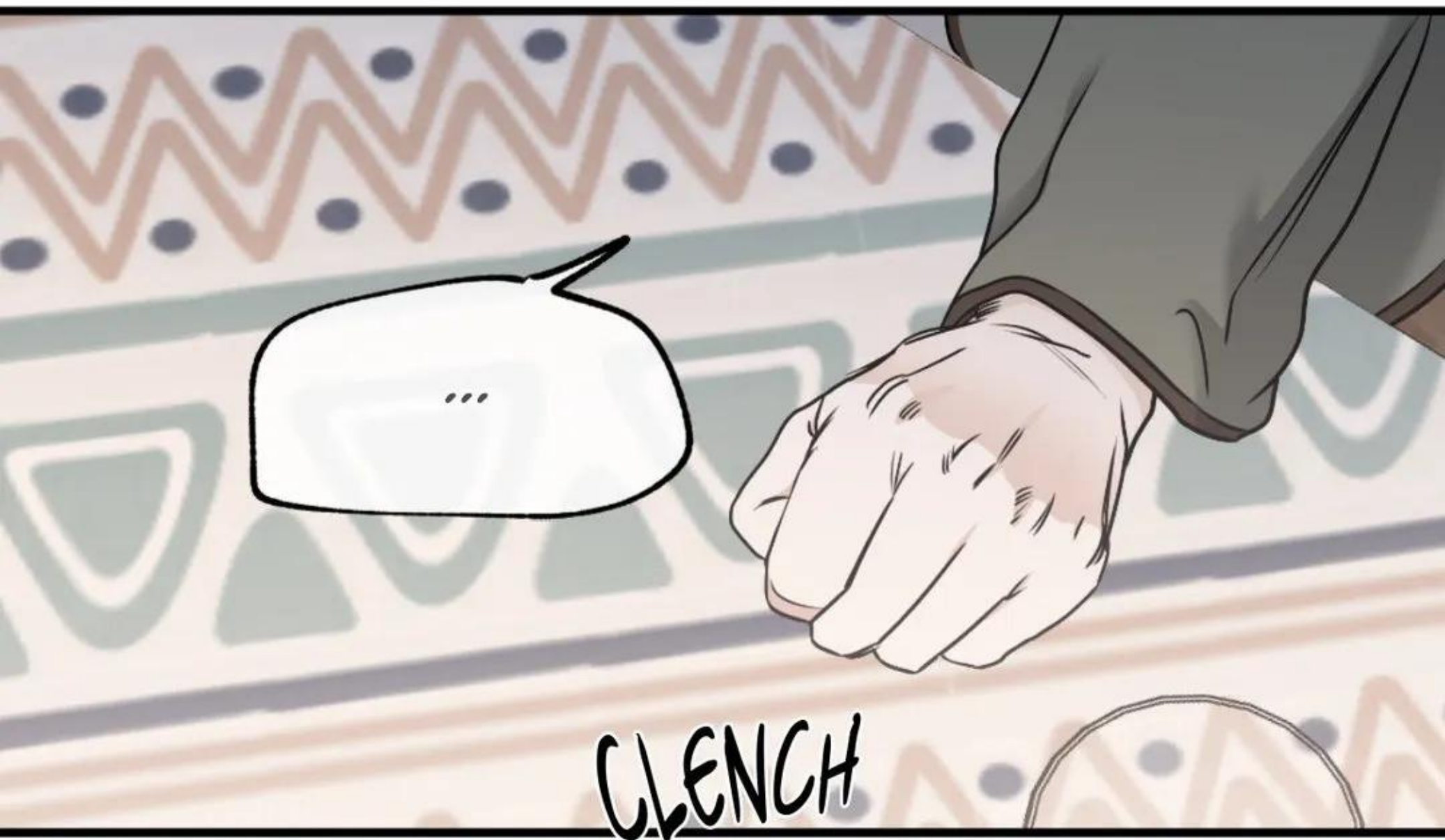


***I GUESS IF
THAT MAKES
ME SAD...***





***...THAT
MEANS IT'S
MY TURN TO
HOLD ONTO
HIM.***



DID YOU
BRING IT?



YES!
IT'S RIGHT
HERE...

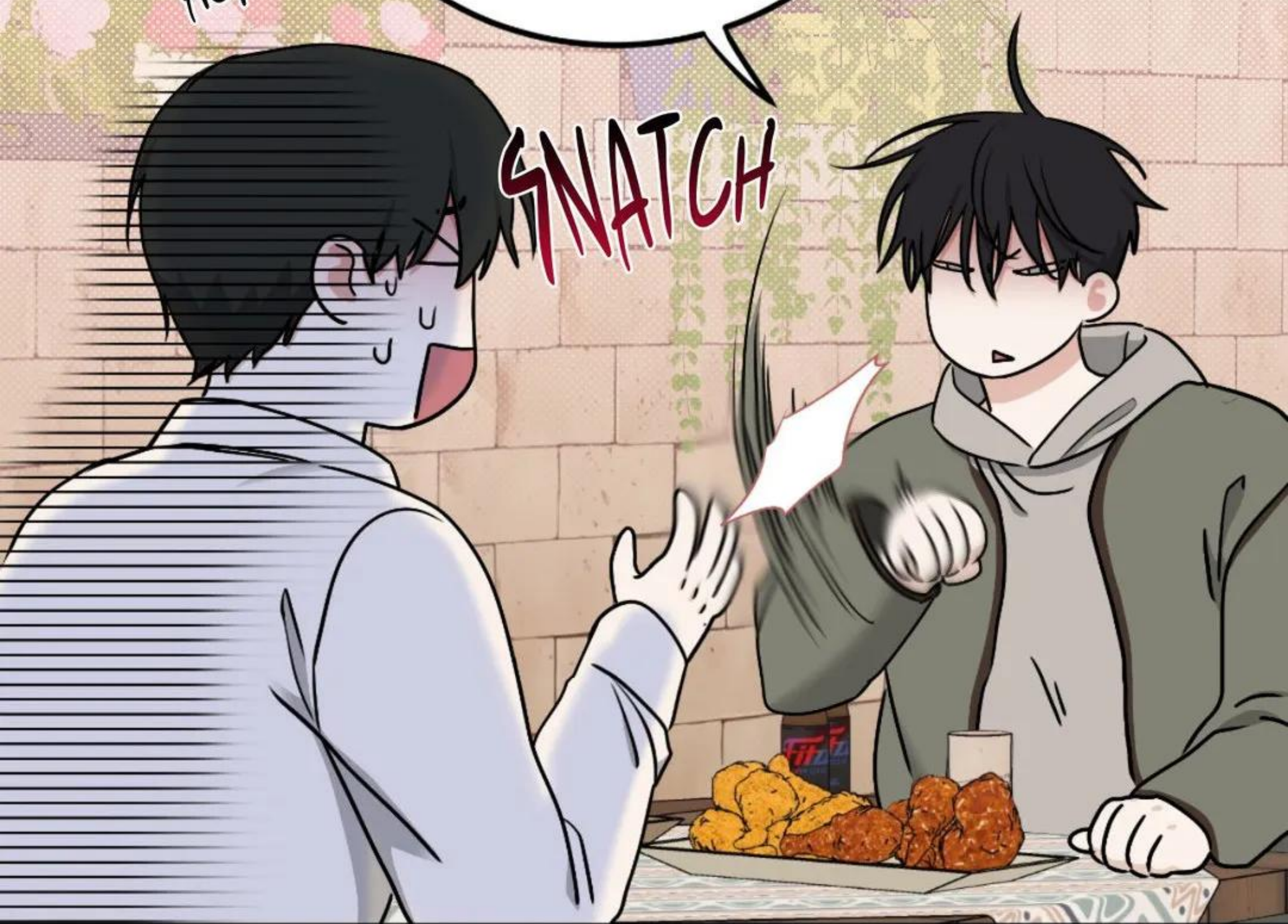
BUT
HYUNG... I
DUNNO ABOUT
THIS...

I-I DON'T
THINK THIS
IS RIGHT!

AFTER
EVERYTHING
THAT BASTARD
DID TO ME, DON'T
YOU THINK I
DESERVE THE
RIGHT?

ACK

SNATCH



YOU'RE
RIGHT...

SQUEEZE





*BUT WHAT
IF YOU'RE WRONG?
WHAT IF HE DIDN'T
DO IT FOR MY
SAKE?*

*WHAT IF
HE JUST GOT
BORED WITH
ME?*





OR WHAT IF HE
JUST DOESN'T LIKE
ME ANYMORE?



HYUNG...

GOD,
SORRY.

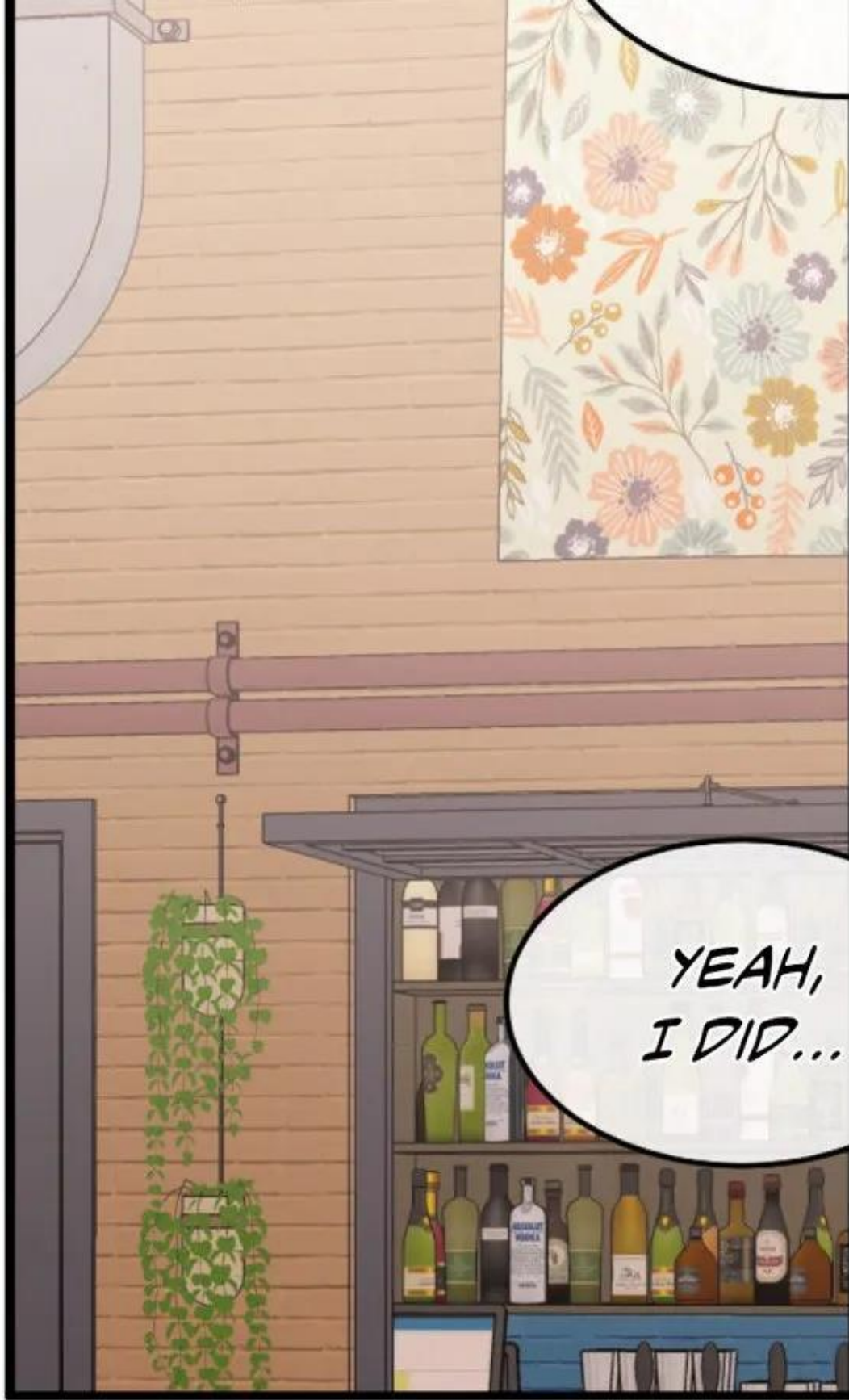




I'VE BEEN
TALKING SO
MUCH.

HOW ARE
YOU THESE DAYS?
I HEARD YOU GOT
A JOB.

CONGRATS.



YEAH,
I DID...

I WAS LUCKY.
I GOT HIRED AT
A RESEARCH LAB,
WHICH WAS TOP
CHOICE

CHOICE.



OPENINGS
ARE INFAMOUSLY
RARE AT LABS, SO I'D
ALMOST GIVEN UP. BUT
I GOT LUCKY,
I GUESS...

WOW, YOU
MUST'VE DONE
REALLY WELL
IN SCHOOL.

THAT'S
A RELIEF... I WAS
WORRIED I MIGHT'VE
DISTRACTED YOU FROM
STUDYING TOO OFTEN
WHEN WE STILL LIVED IN
MULYOUNG-DONG, SO
YOU'D HAVE A HARD
TIME FINDING
A JOB.

**NOT
AT ALL!**





ABOUT
THAT...

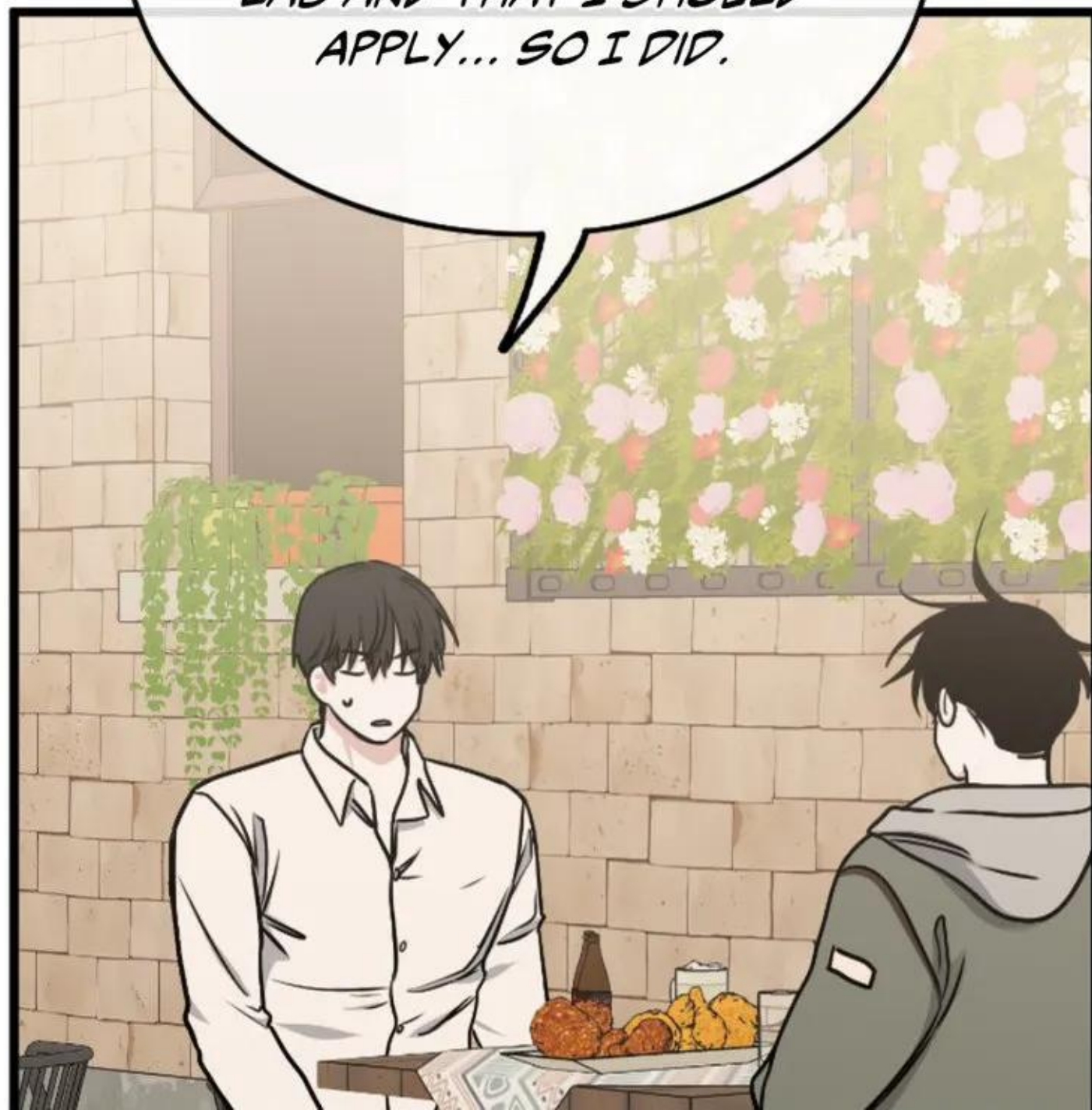


**TAEJU
ACTUALLY HELPED
ME GET THE JOB.**

HUH?

AFTER THE
INCIDENT WITH
EUIYOUNG, TAEJU
CONTACTED ME OUT
OF THE BLUE.

HE TOLD
ME THERE WAS AN
OPENING AT A RESEARCH
LAB AND THAT I SHOULD
APPLY... SO I DID.





**WHY WOULD
HE DO THAT?**

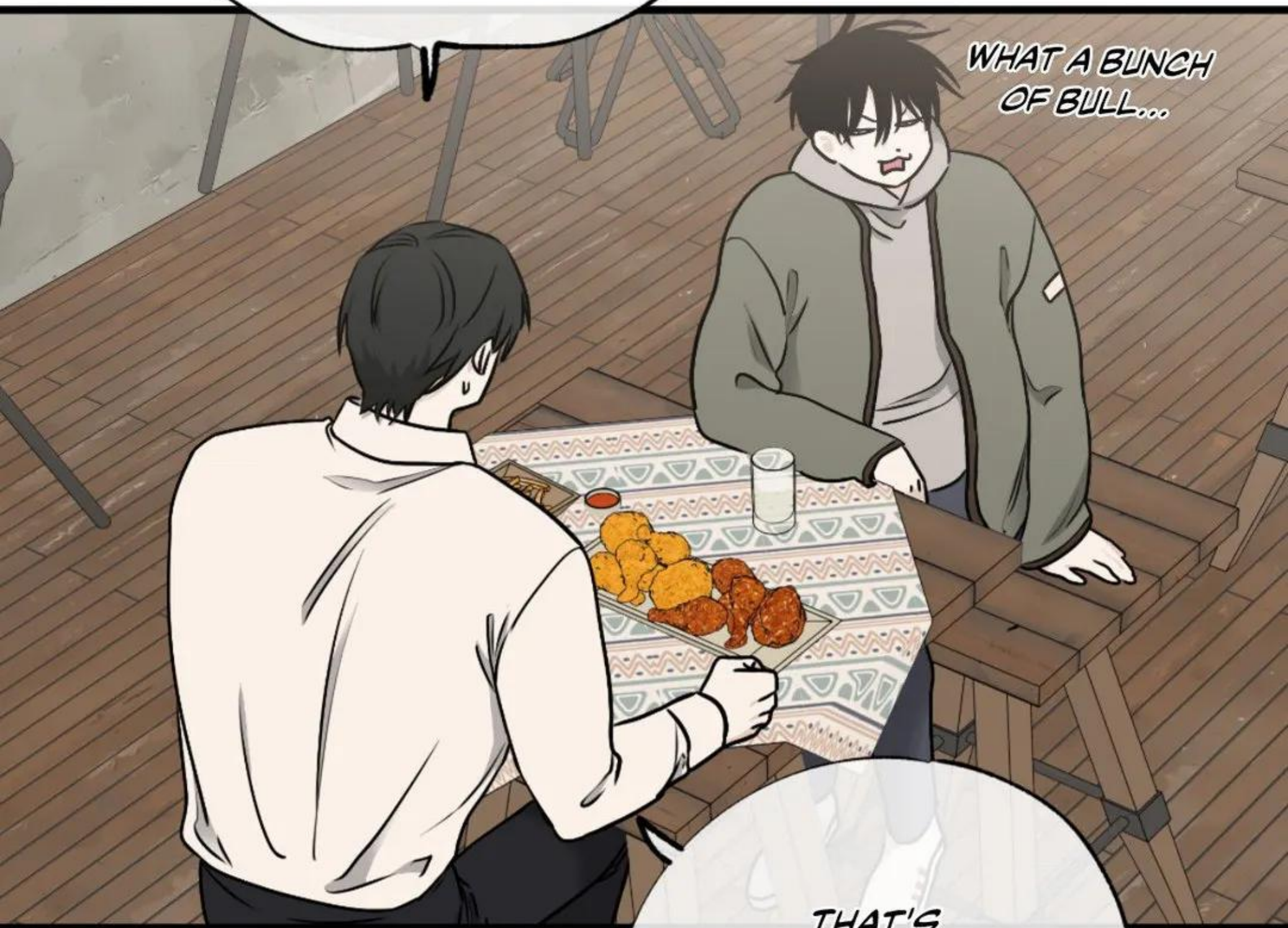




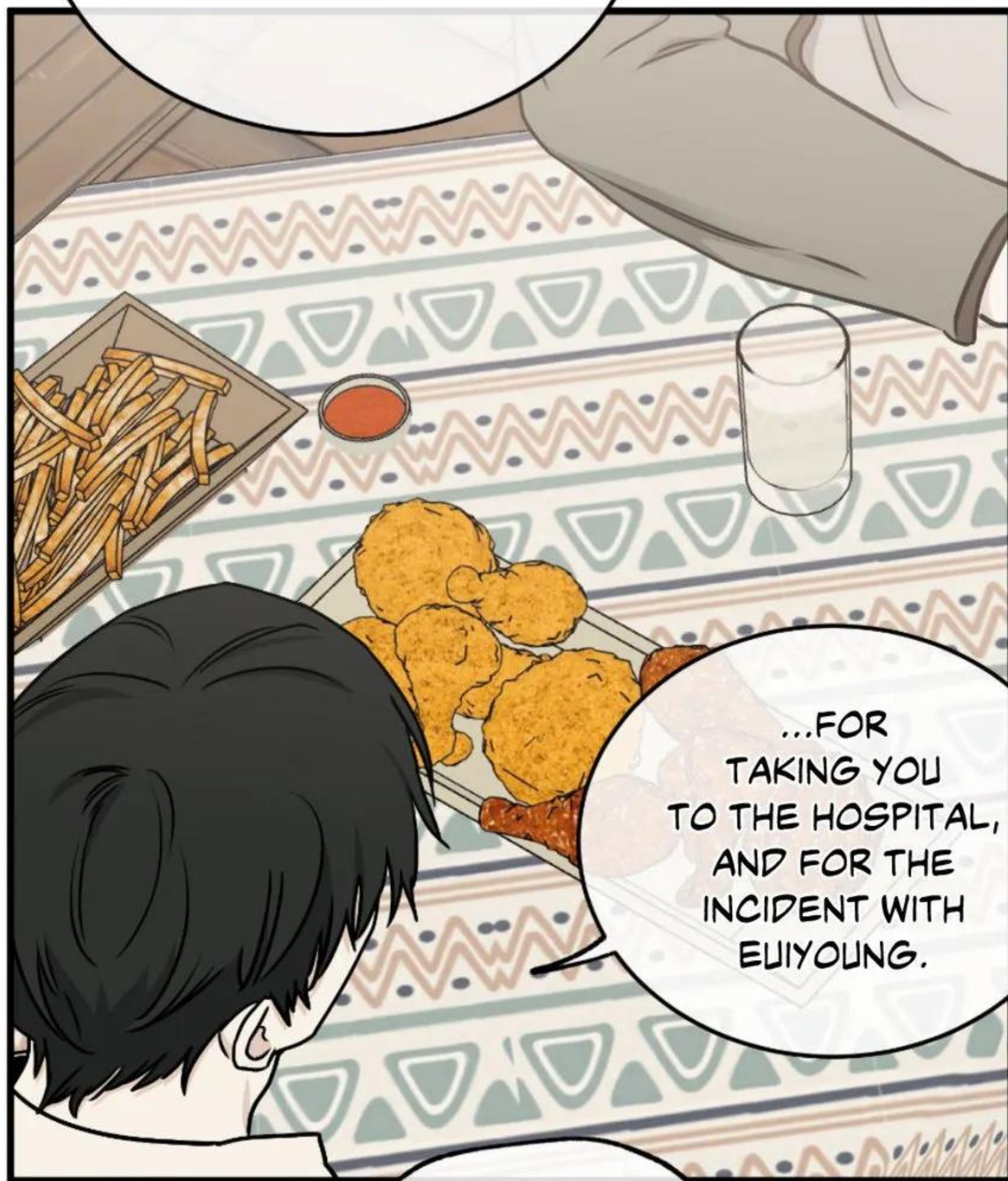
**EXACTLY!
IT'S STRANGE!**

**WHAT A BUNCH
OF BULL...**

**THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
I ASKED HIM!**



HE SAID HE
WAS PAYING BACK
THE FAVOR YOU
OWED ME...



...FOR
TAKING YOU
TO THE HOSPITAL,
AND FOR THE
INCIDENT WITH
EUIYOUNG.

HOW
DOES THAT
CONCERN HIM
EXACTLY?!

GRRR

**"EUIHYUN'S MY
RESPONSIBILITY"...**



...IS WHAT
HE SAID.







A comic panel featuring a character with long, dark, spiky hair laughing heartily. The character's face is partially visible at the bottom, with a wide, open-mouthed smile and closed eyes. A large, white, jagged speech bubble is positioned above the character's head, containing the text "HAHAHA!". The background consists of a light-colored, textured wall with a grid pattern. On the left side, there are colorful flowers in shades of pink, red, and white. The overall style is that of a modern manga or anime illustration.

HAHAHA!

HAHAHA





HAHAHAHA!



BASTARD!

WE WEREN'T
EVEN DATING
YET.

SEE, HYUNG?
NO ONE WOULD DO
THAT FOR SOMEONE
THEY DON'T HAVE
FEELINGS FOR.

HAHA







THEN
WHY WON'T HE
ANSWER MY
CALLS...?

HMPH

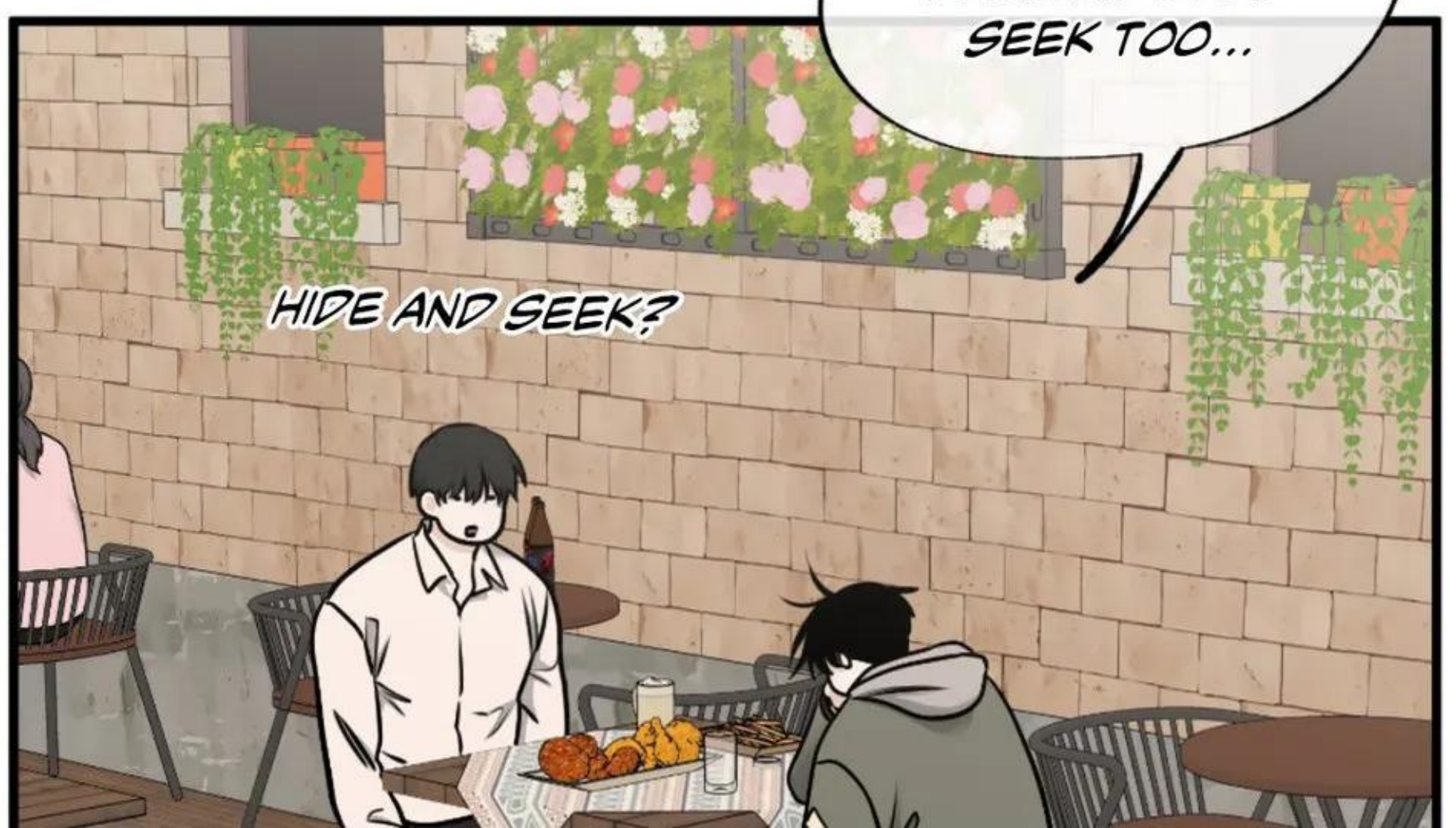




BASTARD...

*MAYBE
HE'S JUST
REALIZED HE
LIKES LIFE WITHOUT
ME.*

*HE'S
FINALLY FREE
FROM HIDE AND
SEEK TOO...*



HIDE AND SEEK?



I EVEN
CONSIDERED
THREATENING TO
HURT MYSELF...

MUTTER

PARDON? U



*...BUT
THAT'D BE A
PRETTY SHITTY
THING TO DO.*



SIGH BUT WHAT
DO I DO? HE
WON'T PICK UP MY
CALLS. HOW DO I
GET HIM TO COME
BACK?

RIGHT
NOW WOULD BE
PERFECT TOO, SINCE
ELIYOUNG ISN'T
HOME.

HYUNG...

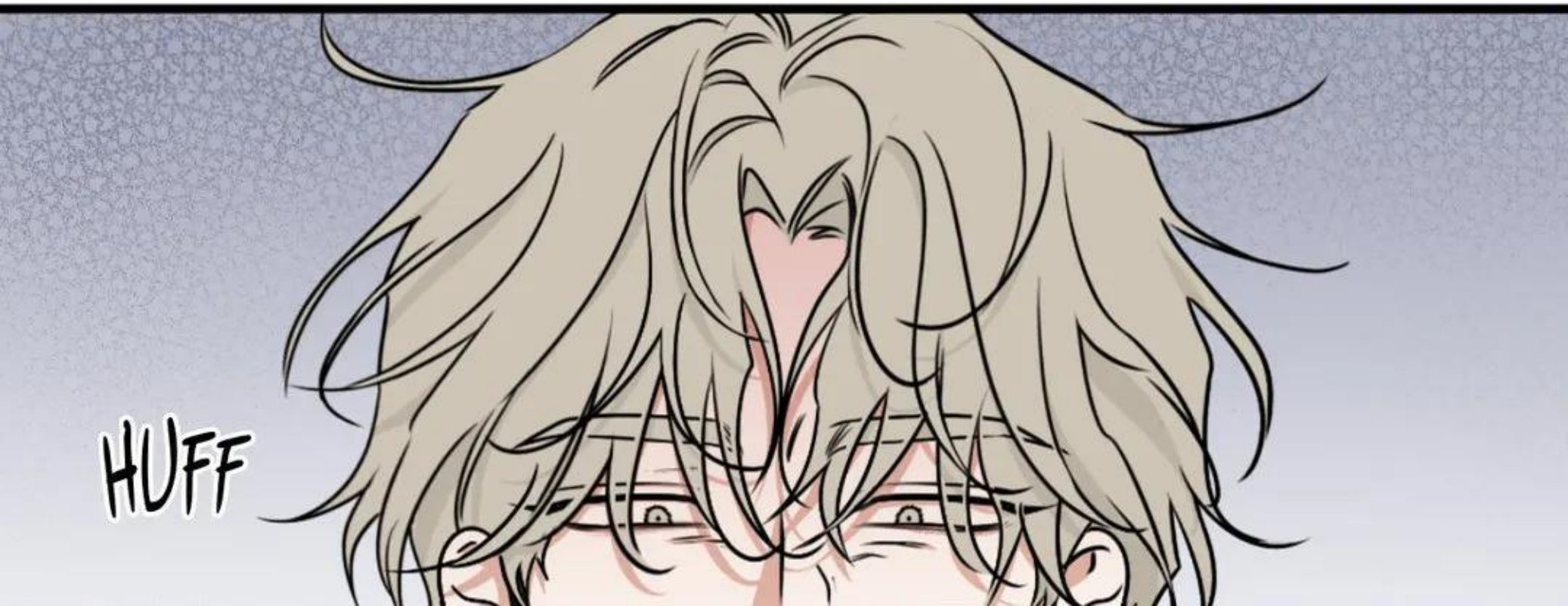
FWIP



YOU'RE
OVERTHINKING
THIS.

SMIRK





HUFF







**YOU
IDIOT!**

**WHY WOULD
YOU GIVE HIM
ALCOHOL?
YOU KNOW HE'S
NOT WELL TO
BEGIN WITH!**

SLIDE



IF YOU'RE
SO WORRIED
ABOUT HIM, THEN
WHY'D YOU MOVE
OUT?

YOU'VE
GOT NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
ASSHOLE...

WE'RE
GOING.





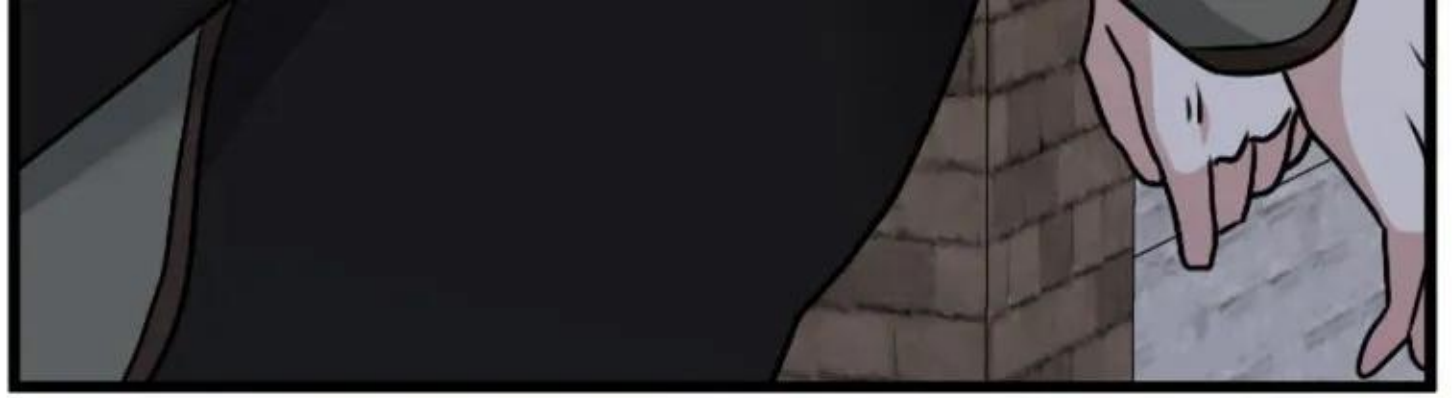


TSSSS





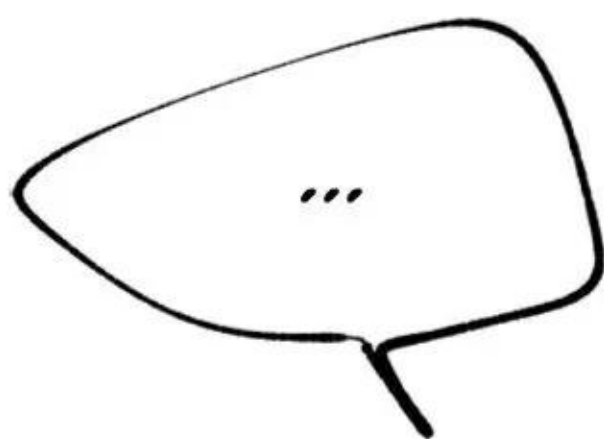




*YOU SURE
ARE A HANDFUL,
EUIHYUN...*







I GOTCHA





STEP

BAR

STEP

STEP



To be continued