

NEXT MORNING...



YOUR EXAMS ARE STARTING NEXT WEEK,
AND YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT TAKING ANOTHER
SICK LEAVE? YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS WILL BE
YOUR THIRD SICK LEAVE THIS MONTH!



YOU COULD JUST TAKE HER OUT AFTER SCHOOL TOO! UGH, YOU REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, DO YOU?

I KNOW... BUT PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND. EMMA CAME BACK AFTER SO LONG... I JUST WANT TO TAKE HER OUT SOMEWHERE.

PLEASE! I JUST WANT TO SPEND A WHOLE DAY WITH HER... PLEASE DON'T SAY NO...

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER... AND YOU'RE STILL HERE?



WAIT... DON'T TELL ME YOU
DIDN'T INFORM CLARA ABOUT THIS.

WELL, I JUST
TOLD HER NOW.

SEEMS LIKE YOU TWO ALREADY
MADE PLANS, SO HOW CAN I SAY
NO NOW?

HAHA, SEE? PERMISSION
GRANTED BECAUSE OF ME!
NOW GO GET READY!



DON'T WORRY! JUST GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES, AND I'LL BE READY IN NO TIME!

UHM, YEAH, DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE POSSIBLE NOW?

ONE MORE LEAVE... WE THOUGHT THAT IF SHE MAINTAINED HER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, SHE COULD TAKE ALL THE LEAVE TOGETHER LATER AND VISIT YOU.

I DON'T THINK... DESPITE ME REFUSING MANY TIMES, SHE HAS STILL TAKEN TOO MANY LEAVES. BUT DON'T WORRY, TIME WILL PASS AGAIN. AND HONESTLY, I THINK IT'S BETTER IF SHE DOESN'T VISIT THERE.

HUH... WHY, IS THERE ANY PROBLEM IF SHE VISITS THERE?

NO, SHE HERSELF HAS SAID MANY TIMES THAT I SHOULD CALL MY SISTER OVER. AND LAST TIME SHE EVEN CAME UP WITH A SUGGESTION WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT THE ATTENDANCE ISSUE.

I MEAN, YOU ALREADY HAVE A FLATMATE... SO I THINK IF MIA STAYS, YOUR FLATMATE MIGHT NOT BE TOO COOL WITH THE EXTRA PERSON IN YOUR PLACE... RIGHT?

OH, REALLY? HA, I GUESS I MISJUDGED HER... UMM, SO WHAT KIND OF SUGGESTION DID SHE GIVE YOU?

ACTUALLY, ONE OF OUR CLIENTS OFTEN REQUESTS NEW MODELS FOR THEIR PRODUCT PROMOTION, SO SHE SUGGESTED WE ASSIGN MY SISTER TO IT. THAT WAY, IF SHE TAKES LEAVE, THERE WON'T BE ANY ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS SINCE IT'S COMPANY WORK...

UH, IT WAS A SILLY IDEA. THAT'S WHY I DENIED HER, SAYING THAT MY SISTER IS TOO SHY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

HMM, THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING...

BUT... I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA.



YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THIS OPTION.
AT LEAST IT'S WAY BETTER THAN BEING APART
FOR SIX MONTHS, RIGHT? AND, I'M SURE SHE'LL
GET PAID FOR IT. EXTRA MONEY IS NEVER
A BAD THING.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING ON A FIRST DATE WITH HER... MAYBE I'LL JUST PUT ON WHATEVER...

UGH, WHY AM I BEING SO PICKY?




UM, CLARA ORDERED SOME NEW CLOTHES ONLINE LAST WEEK, AND SHE MENTIONED HAVING SIZE ISSUES WITH SOME OF THEM.

I SHOULD PROBABLY CHECK THEM OUT.



THIS TOP LOOKS NICE, BUT I REALLY WISH IT WERE A BIT LONGER. MY BELLY ISN'T FULLY COVERED.

SHOULD I CHANGE INTO SOMETHING ELSE?



OR MAYBE I COULD PAIR IT WITH SOME HIGH-WAISTED BOTTOMS TO MAKE IT WORK...

HMM, THOSE SHORTS DEFINITELY WON'T COVER ENOUGH...

SERIOUSLY, MIA? YOU SAID YOU'D BE READY IN FIVE MINUTES, AND NOW IT'S BEEN AN HOUR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

UM... EMMA'S NEVER SEEN ME WEAR SOMETHING LIKE THIS... IS THIS REALLY OKAY FOR GOING OUT WITH HER?

UGH, LET'S NOT MAKE THIS MORE AWKWARD... I'D BETTER JUST CHANGE INTO SOME LONG JEANS OR SOMETHING.

BUT YOU LOOK ALREADY DRESSED,
AND THIS SKIRT... WOW, IT'S LITERALLY
SO CUTE ON YOU!

AH, NOW I GET IT... WHY IT
TOOK YOU SO LONG. YOU MUST'VE BEEN
CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT I'D THINK, RIGHT?

W-WAIT! I'M SORRY...
JUST GIVE ME 5 MORE MINUTES.

I WAS JUST CHECKING HOW THIS
FITS... I'M GOING TO CHANGE INTO
SOMETHING ELSE.

I-I THOUGHT THIS WOULDN'T
BE THE RIGHT OUTFIT TO GO OUT
IN WITH YOU.



COME ON, IT'S JUST CLOTHES... AND DIDN'T I SEE YOU IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM YESTERDAY? ESPECIALLY IN THAT SKIRT!

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL LIFE... BUT SEEING YOU NOW, I'M REALLY HAPPY TO SEE HOW CONFIDENT YOU'VE BECOME.

UM, REALLY?

YEAH, OBVIOUSLY! BUT I'M A LITTLE MAD AT YOU ABOUT ONE THING.

HUH, WHAT IS IT?



UH... IT'S BEEN A WHILE... I JUST... I THOUGHT IT WASN'T REALLY SOMETHING INTERESTING TO MENTION...

DON'T KNOW HOW I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT EARLIER! MAYBE BECAUSE OF YOUR LONG HAIR... BUT I JUST SAW YOUR EARS ARE PIERCED! WHEN DID YOU DO THAT? AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?!

WELL, IT IS! SO, I'M GUESSING YOU MUST HAVE SOME EARRINGS TOO, RIGHT?



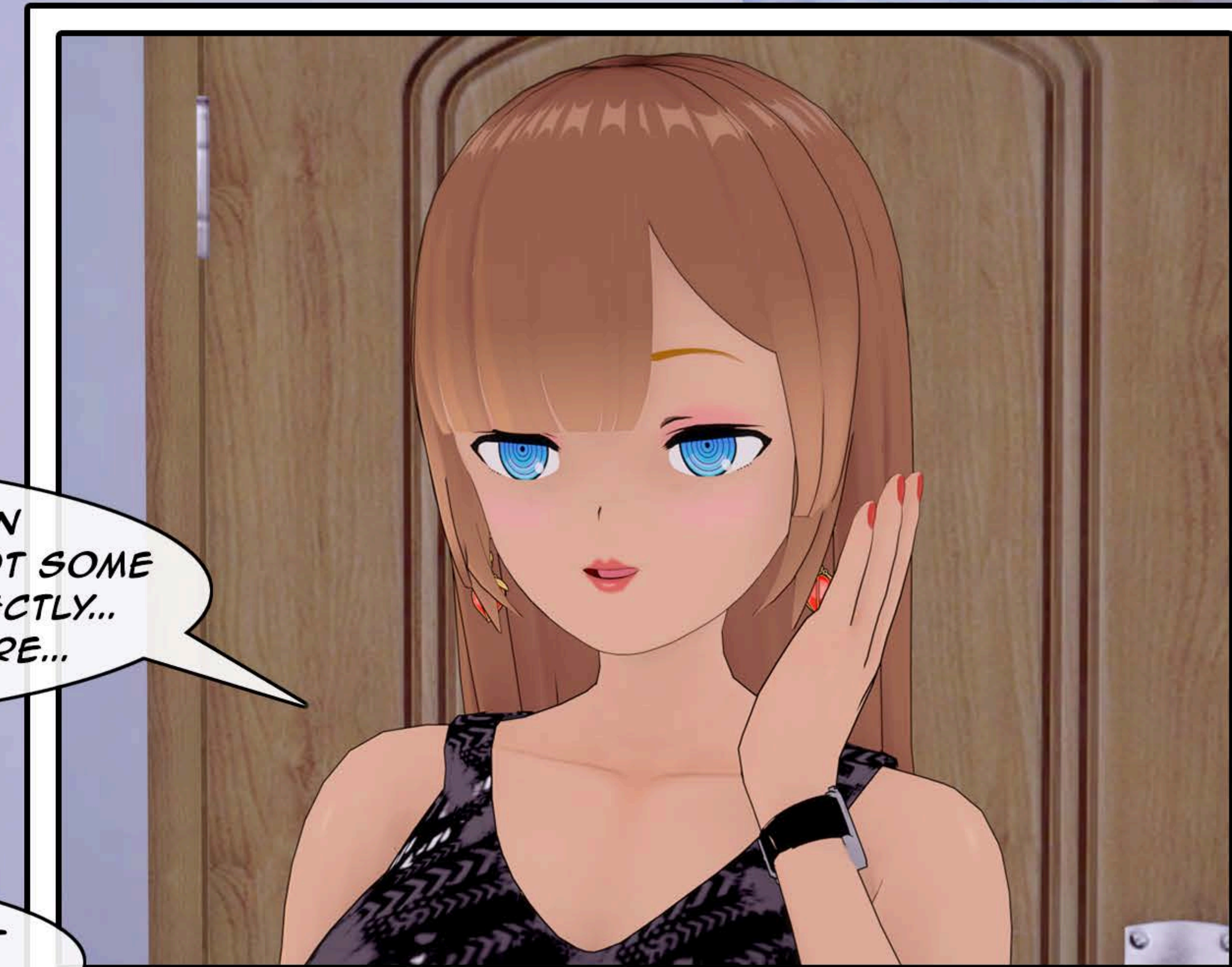


*YEAH, BUT I'VE ONLY GOT ONE PAIR...
AND AND THEY'RE KIND OF VIOLET IN COLOR.
I'M NOT SURE IT'LL GO WELL WITH THIS...*

*OMG, SEEMS LIKE YOUR FASHION
SENSE HAS IMPROVED A LOT! I'VE GOT SOME
EARRINGS THAT'LL MATCH THIS PERFECTLY...
AND YOUR WRISTS LOOK KINDA BARE...*

*WANNA TRY SOME BRACELET
OR MAYBE... BANGLES?*

LMM... BANGLES?





NO, CLARA'S PUT IT ON ME SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE... BUT THIS ONE FEELS A BIT LIGHTER AND HAS THIS RASPBERRY KIND OF SCENT. IS IT THE SAME ONE YOU'RE WEARING?



I THOUGHT THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME WEARING LIPSTICK...

YUP, IT'S THE SAME ONE! I LOVE HOW IT SMELLS.



I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW YOUR BANGLES FIT MY WRIST SO EASILY...

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DO YOU KEEP TOUCHING THE BANGLES?

YEAH, EVEN I THOUGHT THEY'D BE A BIT TIGHT... BUT SURPRISINGLY, THEY FIT REALLY WELL! AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE EARRINGS?



UM, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE 10 MINUTES, AND
THEY'RE ALREADY STARTING TO FEEL HEAVY!
HOW DO YOU MANAGE WITH THESE?

HONESTLY, DAY BY DAY,
I'M REALIZING HOW MUCH EFFORT IT
TAKES TO KEEP UP WITH ALL OF THIS
STUFF... AND YOU GIRLS REALLY MAKE
IT LOOK SO EASY!

HAHA, DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL GET
USED TO IT! A LITTLE DISCOMFORT NEVER
HURT ANYONE... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU
LOOK THIS GOOD!

WELL, WELCOME TO THE CLUB, GIRL!

BY THE WAY, YOU STILL HAVEN'T
TOLD ME WHERE WE'RE GOING...

JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER,
OUR CAB IS ALREADY HERE... WE'LL
BE THERE SOON!

AFTER A WHILE...

SIMA AQUARIUM

Welcome





SEEMS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE, APART FROM THE STAFF.

OH, THAT'S WHY YOU SAID WE HAD TO LEAVE EARLY...

YEAH, USUALLY THIS PLACE IS CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS, BUT NO ONE REALLY COMES THIS EARLY ON WEEKDAYS.

I THOUGHT WE'D BE ABLE TO ENJOY THIS PLACE BETTER AT THIS HOUR...



NO, ALICE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS PLACE. SHE AND JULIA CAME HERE.

THEY DID, AND USUALLY, WHENEVER THEY GO OUT TOGETHER, THEY ALWAYS INVITE ME, BUT I ALWAYS DECLINE.

HMM, SO YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

OH, SO THEY DIDN'T INVITE YOU?

SORRY TO SAY, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY FAIR...



UM, TO BE HONEST, SOMETIMES I FEEL BAD TOO... BUT YOU KNOW, I CAN'T JUST HANG OUT WITH THOSE GIRLS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.

UH, NO! OF COURSE NOT!

YOU SHOULDN'T ALWAYS TURN YOUR FRIENDS DOWN LIKE THAT. AREN'T THEY THE ONES WHO HELP YOU OUT IN SCHOOL?

AND WHY CAN'T YOU? COME ON, I TRUST YOU, AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO CHEAT ON ME WITH SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRL... RIGHT?



HUH? W-WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AND I GUESS, INSTEAD OF WORRYING
ABOUT THE GIRLS, I SHOULD BE MORE
CONCERNED ABOUT THE BOYS AROUND
YOU AT SCHOOL...

HAHA, NOTHING, I'M JUST KIDDING!



WHY IS SHE MAKING THESE KINDS OF JOKES... AND EVER SINCE SHE CAME HOME, SHE'S BEEN ACTING A BIT STRANGE, ALMOST TOO RELAXED ABOUT EVERYTHING.

HMM, IT'S NOT WRONG THOUGH. I SHOULD BE HAPPY THAT AT LEAST NOW SHE'S NOT STRESSING AS MUCH.

HEY, COME LOOK OVER HERE.



WOW, THIS AQUARIUM IS HUGE!
LOOK AT ALL THE FISH SWIMMING
AROUND, IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!

I KNEW YOU'D LOVE
THIS PLACE...

LIKE THE FISH,
THAT'S A UNIQUE WISH.

YEAH, SURE!

I WISH WE COULD BE LIKE THOSE
FISH... JUST FLOATING AROUND TOGETHER
WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD.

HMM, IT IS! CAN YOU TAKE
SOME PICTURES OF ME SO I CAN
REMEMBER THIS MOMENT?



HERE, CHECK IT OUT!





YOU LOOK AMAZING IN ALL OF THEM!

YEAH, I TWEAKED THE CONTRAST
A BIT TO BRING OUT ALL THE BLUE FROM
THE AQUARIUM. IT GIVES THE PICS THIS
COOL, DREAMY VIBE!

YEAH, THESE ARE AWESOME! DID YOU
ADJUST THE COLOR CONTRAST?

OOH, GREAT! NOW IT'S YOUR
TURN, LET ME SNAP SOME PICTURES
OF YOU TOO!

関係者以外
立ち入り禁止

MINE? LET'S JUST LEAVE IT...
WHAT WOULD WE EVEN DO WITH
MY PICTURES?

COME ON, YOU'VE PUT SO MUCH
EFFORT INTO GETTING READY THIS
MORNING! LET'S NOT WASTE IT!

AND IN THE FUTURE, WHEN WE LOOK
AT THESE PICTURES, WE'LL REMEMBER
HOW CRAZY ALL OF THIS WAS!

UM, FINE... IF YOU SAY SO.



SO, HOW EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO POSE?

ARE YOU JUST GONNA STAND LIKE THAT? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE ON SOME SOCIAL WORK!

WAIT, I'LL SHOW YOU.



LIKE THIS?

YEAH, PERFECT!
NOW LOOK AT HERE AND SMILE!



CLICK

OKAY, NOW NEXT POSE!



UH, ALRIGHT...

CAN YOU MAKE A V SIGN WITH YOUR FINGERS?
AND PULL YOUR HAIR TO THE FRONT FROM THE
SIDE... TRUST ME, IT'LL LOOK SUPER CUTE!



YES, JUST LIKE THAT!
HOLD A SECOND!

CLICK

OKAY, THATS IT!



HMM, MAYBE RUBY'S SUGGESTION IS WORTH CONSIDERING...



ARE WE DONE, OR DO YOU WANT TO TAKE MORE PICTURES?

YEAH, THAT'S ENOUGH. I'M JUST
SENDING THEM ON MY PHONE...

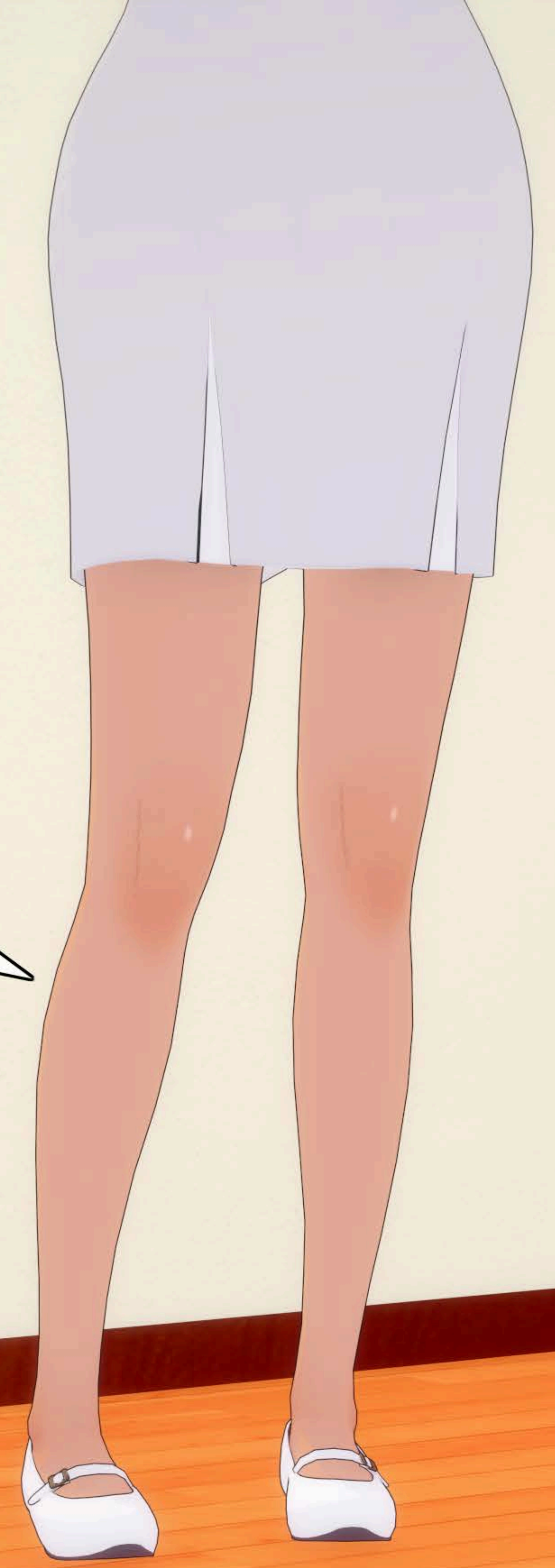
OH, HOW ABOUT WE GO
GET SOMETHING TO EAT NOW?
MY STOMACH'S RUMBLING.

YEAH, LETS GO...

A WEEK LATER...



I WISH I COULD, BUT MY LEAVE'S ALREADY UP. NOW I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.



CAN'T YOU STAY A FEW MORE DAYS?

SO AGAIN, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS...



REALLY? YOU'LL COME BACK
IN BETWEEN?

HUH, HOW? I'VE ALREADY TAKEN
SO MUCH LEAVES... I CAN'T TAKE ANY
MORE OR MY ATTENDANCE WILL BE
MESSED UP.

DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T BE
LONG THIS TIME...

NOT ME? BUT YOU CAN COME
TO VISIT ME...



UH-OH, I'LL WAIT.
HOPE IT WORKS OUT!



ACTUALLY, THERE'S ONE WAY...
BUT I CAN'T SHARE MUCH ABOUT
IT FOR NOW.

YEAH, HOPE SO!
ALRIGHT, I SHOULD LEAVE NOW...
SEE YOU SOON.



THUD

AH, WHAT AN AMAZING WEEK...
I'M GONNA MISS IT SO MUCH.

YEAH, SO AMAZING THAT
YOU COMPLETELY FORGOT
ABOUT YOUR EXAMS.



OH, REALLY? CAUSE I DIDN'T SEE YOU TOUCH A BOOK EVEN ONCE THIS WHOLE WEEK.

WHATEVER, JUST DON'T FAIL.

I DIDN'T FORGET. I KNOW THEY'RE STARTING TOMORROW, AND I'M TOTALLY PREPARED.

SO WHAT? I'VE ALREADY TAKEN EXAMS LIKE THESE BEFORE... I DON'T EVEN NEED TO STUDY TO PASS.

RELAX, IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE FOR ME..

