RUNAWAY

CHAPTER-20



BY-IZUMISAN


LATER THAT NIGHT...


IS SHE ALREADY ASLEEP...
SHE HASN'T SEEMED TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD EVER SINCE I GOT HERE. SHE HASN'T SAID A SINGLE WORD TO ME SINCE THEN, AND NOW SHE JUST CAME IN AND WENT STRAIGHT TO BED WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING...
IS IT BECAUSE OF ME...?
NO... NO... MAYBE SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENED. I SHOULD PROBABLY TRY TALKING TO HER.


E-EMMA...?
ARE YOU AWAKE?
TCHHH...


LOOK, I'M TIRED...
I REALLY DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY FOR YOUR LITTLE CHIT-CHAT RIGHT NOW. PLEASE... JUST LET ME REST FOR A BIT.
HUH... BUT... WHAT DID I DO?
ISN'T SHE HAPPY THAT I CAME HERE?


MEANWHILE...
BETTY TOLD ME YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE THESE PAST FEW DAYS. YOU'RE ALWAYS LOST IN YOUR THOUGHTS, AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN FOCUSING ON YOUR STUDIES EITHER. IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
HAHA... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. SHE JUST CARES ABOUT YOU A LOT.
WHAT? NO! NOTHING'S BOTHERING ME. YOU KNOW HOW BETTY IS. SHE HAS A HABIT OF NAGGING ME ABOUT EVERYTHING. SHE ALREADY SCOLDED ME HERSELF, AND THEN SHE WENT AND TOLD YOU ABOUT IT SO YOU COULD LECTURE ME TOO.
YEAH, YEAH. BUT I THINK YOU TWO SHOULD JUST LEAVE ME ALONE NOW. I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE. INSTEAD OF ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT ME, FOCUS ON YOUR OWN LIFE FOR ONCE. YOU'RE GETTING OLD, YOU KNOW. AREN'T YOU AT THE AGE WHERE YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE BY NOW?


I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU GUYS TOO, YOU KNOW. SO, TELL ME... HAVE YOU FOUND ANYONE YET?
MARRIAGE? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WELL... I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TELL YOU RIGHT NOW OR NOT. BUT ACTUALLY, THERE IS SOMEONE I LIKE.


WHAT?! REALLY?!
WHO IS SHE? DO I KNOW HER?
HEY, CALM DOWN. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DATING OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST... FROM MY SIDE FOR NOW. AND YEAH... YOU KNOW HER.


REALLY, I KNOW HER? ... IS IT EMMA?
IT WAS OBVIOUS! SHE'S BASICALLY THE ONLY GIRL I KNOW WHO YOU KNOW TOO, BESIDES CLARA. AND I KNEW IT COULDN'T BE CLARA, SO... EMMA WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
OKAY, OKAY! I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET. ANYWAY...
HUH?! HOW DID YOU--?!
YOU GOT ME! BUT I DON'T THINK SHE SEES ME AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A FRIEND FOR NOW. SO, PLEASE... DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS. ESPECIALLY HER SISTER, MIA. IF SHE FINDS OUT, THINGS COULD GET COMPLICATED BEFORE ANYTHING EVEN STARTS.

... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF MIA WOULD WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING I HAVE TO SAY...

HUH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

N-NO, NO! NOTHING! I WAS JUST... UH... BABBLING NONSENSE. IT'S JUST THAT SHE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY, SO I WAS... WONDERING, THAT'S ALL.

OH, ACTUALLY, SHE CAME HERE TO VISIT HER EMMA.

HUH, SHE'S THERE?

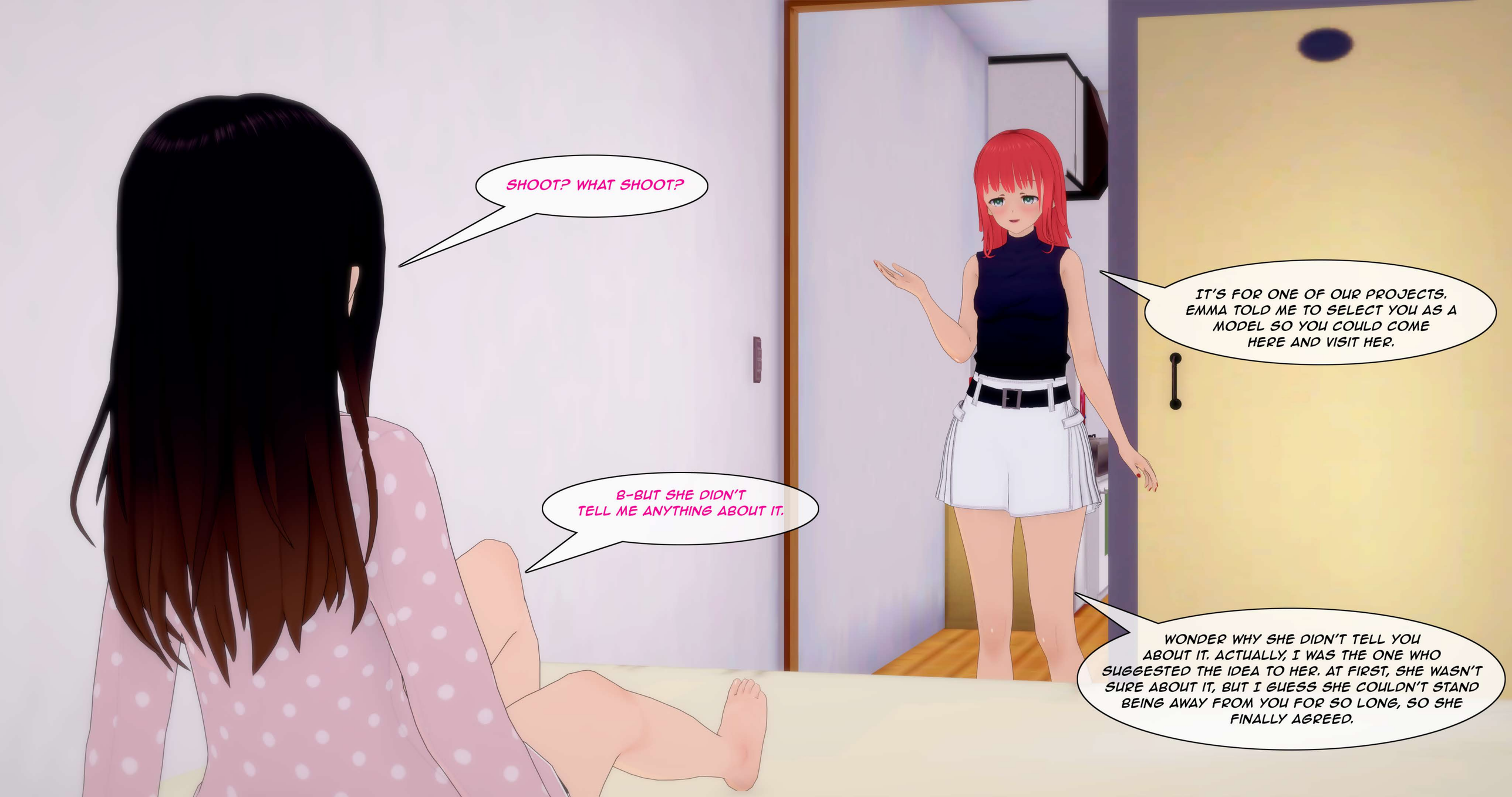

YEAH, SHE WANTED TO VISIT HER SISTER, BUT SHE COULDN'T BECAUSE OF SCHOOL. SO RUBY SELECTED HER AS A MODEL FOR ONE OF OUR SHOOTS. THAT GAVE HER A REASON TO COME HERE.
UMM, BROTHER... CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING? AND... WILL YOU HELP ME IF I DO?


NEXT MORNING...
GRAB
12
9
3
6
TOKEI


HEY, SORRY TO WAKE YOU UP.
BUT IF YOU KEEP SLEEPING, WE'RE
GOING TO BE LATE.


YAWN WHAT TIME IS IT?
IS IT MORNING ALREADY?
IT'S PAST 9 O'CLOCK. EMMA HAS
ALREADY LEFT FOR THE OFFICE TOO.


HUH? SHE LEFT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER? SHE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO WAKE ME UP.
MAYBE SHE THOUGHT YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST, SINCE YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME FOR THE SHOOT.


SHOOT? WHAT SHOOT?
B-BUT SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
IT'S FOR ONE OF OUR PROJECTS. EMMA TOLD ME TO SELECT YOU AS A MODEL SO YOU COULD COME HERE AND VISIT HER.
WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT. ACTUALLY, I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THE IDEA TO HER. AT FIRST, SHE WASN'T SURE ABOUT IT, BUT I GUESS SHE COULDN'T STAND BEING AWAY FROM YOU FOR SO LONG, SO SHE FINALLY AGREED.


YEAH... I KNEW IT. EMMA ISN'T UPSET WITH ME. MAYBE IT'S JUST SOME OFFICE WORK OR SOMETHING. OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD SHE HAVE WANTED ME TO COME HERE? BUT... WHAT'S THIS SHOOT ABOUT?
WELL, EMMA MUST'VE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA, SO I GUESS IT'S FINE. AS LONG AS I GET TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER, I'M FINE WITH IT.


A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER...
IS EVERYTHING READY?
ALMOST. I'M JUST SETTING UP THE CAMERA. BY THE WAY, WHY DID THE PLAN CHANGE AT THE LAST MINUTE? WE'RE SHOOTING IN THE RESORT INSTEAD OF OUR OWN STUDIO?
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT EITHER. BUT IT WAS KEN'S DECISION, SO WE COULDN'T REALLY SAY NO.


YEAH, BUT STILL... BOOKING AN ENTIRE RESORT JUST FOR A COUPLE OF SHOOTS DOESN'T SEEM NECESSARY. AND THAT TOO FOR NON-PROFESSIONAL MODELS? I REALLY DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S STRANGE. HE USUALLY DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR WORK.
I KNOW, RIGHT? AND HE EVEN CHANGED THE NAME OF THE OTHER MODEL I SELECTED.
HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS. ANYWAY, I'LL GO CHECK IF SHE'S READY.


IN THE DRESSING ROOM...
OKAY, JUST A TINY BIT MORE BLUSH... AND YOU'RE ALL SET!
SWEETIE, YOU CAN JUST TUCK THEM BEHIND YOUR EAR. OR WAIT... LET ME CLIP THEM BACK FOR YOU.
UMM... ARE THESE HAIRS ON THE SIDE SUPPOSED TO STAY LIKE THIS?
もえるごみ
PAPER GARBAGES
VERSO
SUPER FACIAL OIL


CLICK!


THERE YOU GO! MUCH BETTER... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S PERFECT!
I THOUGHT THE MAKEUP I WAS DOING AT HOME WAS ALREADY GOOD... BUT WOW, THIS IS NEXT LEVEL! EVERYTHING MATCHES SO WELL-- THE BLUSH, LIP GLOSS, EYELINER, EYESHADOW, LASHES, AND EVEN THE HAIRSTYLE.
MAYBE I SHOULD ACTUALLY LEARN MORE ABOUT MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING MYSELF. I COULD PROBABLY FIND SOME VIDEOS ONLINE. YEAH, I SHOULD CHECK THEM OUT WHEN I GET SOME FREE TIME.


AND THIS OUTFIT... IT LOOKS REALLY EXPENSIVE. I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN MODELS AND ACTRESSES WEARING OUTFITS LIKE THIS.
UH, DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL FIT PERFECTLY ON MY BODY OR NOT... HOPE RUBY DOESN'T REGRET CHOOSING ME FOR THIS.


TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
UGH, I'VE WORN HIGH HEELS BEFORE, BUT THESE ARE SOOO HIGH!
AND THIS SOUND... I CAN ACTUALLY HEAR MY HEELS WITH EVERY STEP.
CLACK!
CLACK!


OH, YOU TOOK SO LONG IN THE DRESSING ROOM!
I'M SORRY... I-I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET EVERYTHING TO LOOK RIGHT.
DON'T WORRY. YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!
REALLY? TH-THANK YOU... I GUESS. BUT, I'VE NEVER REALLY DONE A SHOOT LIKE THIS BEFORE, SO I'M NOT SURE HOW TO POSE. BUT I'LL TRY MY BEST! I PROMISE...


AWW... SHE'S SO CUTE.
I KINDA WISH I HAD A LITTLE SISTER
LIKE HER, TOO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
TOO MUCH. JUST FOLLOW THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S
INSTRUCTIONS. HE'LL GUIDE YOU AND TELL YOU
HOW TO POSE. YOU'LL BE FINE!


TWO MINUTES LATER...
OKAY, JUST RELAX AND TRY TO KEEP YOUR MOVEMENTS NATURAL. WE'LL START WITH A FEW SIMPLE POSES, AND THEN WE'LL GO FROM THERE. READY?
Y-YES... I'M READY.


KEEP YOUR RIGHT HAND ON YOUR HIP, TILT YOUR HEAD SLIGHTLY TO THE LEFT, AND LOOK STRAIGHT INTO THE CAMERA.
YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT. HOLD IT... PERFECT!
KA-CHICK!
NOW, NEXT POSE...


BEND YOUR LEFT KNEE OUTWARD THROUGH THE SLIT, AND REST BOTH HANDS SOFTLY.
YES, KEEP YOUR CHIN LEVEL.
GOOD, NEXT POSE NOW...
KA-CHICK!
MENU
OK


TURN YOUR HIPS AND LOWER BODY SLIGHTLY. TWIST YOUR UPPER BODY BACK TOWARD ME.
PERFECT. LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER, RIGHT AT THE CAMERA.
KA-CHICK!
GREAT! YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER. LET'S CHANGE LOCATIONS NOW.


GIVE ME A MINUTE. I NEED TO ADJUST THE HEIGHT OF THE STAND.
OKAY... I THINK YOU SHOULD MOVE OVER TO THE CORNER OF THE COUCH. THAT ANGLE WOULD BE PERFECT.


YES, LEAN YOUR TORSO FORWARD. KEEP YOUR HANDS RELAXED, TILT YOUR HEAD SLIGHTLY, AND LOOK RIGHT AT THE CAMERA.
KA-CHICK!
OKAY NEXT POSE...


LEAN BACK INTO THE SOFA.
YEAH, CROSS ONE LEG FIRMLY OVER THE OTHER.
BRING YOUR LEFT HAND UP TOWARD YOUR CHIN.
KA-CHICK!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT.


WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM
THIS CALM WITH A FIRST-TIMER BEFORE.
USUALLY, HE HAS TO KEEP CORRECTING BEGINNERS
AND MAKE THEM REPEAT THE SAME POSE AGAIN
AND AGAIN. YOU DID REALLY WELL!


THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE PRETTY CLEAR, SO I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY TROUBLE.
NO, I'M FINE. WE CAN CONTINUE.
STILL, I THINK YOU HAVE A REAL TALENT FOR THIS. YOU PICKED THINGS UP QUICKLY AND FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS PERFECTLY. SO, WANT TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK, OR SHOULD WE CONTINUE WITH THE NEXT OUTFIT?
YOU LOOK EXCITED! OKAY, GO BACK TO THE DRESSING ROOM. I'LL BRING THE NEXT OUTFIT THERE.


A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN THE DRESSING ROOM...
W-WAIT... WHAT?!
VERSO
SUPER FACIAL OIL


IT'S A BIKINI!!


WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION? HAVEN'T YOU EVER WORN A BIKINI BEFORE?
FUCK... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? IF I TELL HER I WON'T WEAR IT, THE SHOOT WILL BE CANCELED, AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE.

HEY, IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YOU CAN TELL ME IF THERE'S A PROBLEM.



AND THAT BIKINI BOTTOM...
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO
HIDE MY CROTCH, EVEN AFTER TAPING.
UGH, WHAT EXCUSE SHOULD I MAKE?


OHH, I SEE... IF I'D KNOWN EARLIER, WE COULD'VE POSTPONED THE SHOOT. BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN CHANGE IT NOW. THE COMPANY ALREADY BOOKED THIS RESORT AND PAID FOR ALL THE EXPENSES.
UMM... ACTUALLY, I-I'M ON MY PERIOD RIGHT NOW... SO I'M WEARING A PAD. I-I DON'T THINK I CAN WEAR THAT BIKINI BOTTOM. IT'LL BE... YOU KNOW... VISIBLE, RIGHT?


ARGH... LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T ESCAPE IT.
A PHOTOSHOOT IN A BIKINI...? CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. BUT I GUESS IT'S STILL BETTER THAN WEARING THIS ONE.
SHIT... I NEED TO FIND SOME DUCT TAPE.
IT'S ALRIGHT. I CAN BRING YOU ANOTHER MATCHING BOTTOM WITH A LITTLE MORE COVERAGE. THAT SHOULD BE FINE.
HUH? Y-YEAH...
I-I GUESS THAT WOULD BE BETTER.
TO BE CONTINUED...


AN HOUR LATER...
HMM... I ALREADY GAVE HER THE OTHER BOTTOM, AND THE MAKEUP ARTIST FINISHED ALMOST AN HOUR AGO. SHE SHOULD'VE BEEN OUT BY NOW...
SHE SEEMED A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE EARLIER AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE BIKINI SHOOT. MAYBE HER PERIOD IS BOTHERING HER MORE THAN I THOUGHT. HOPE SHE'S OKAY.

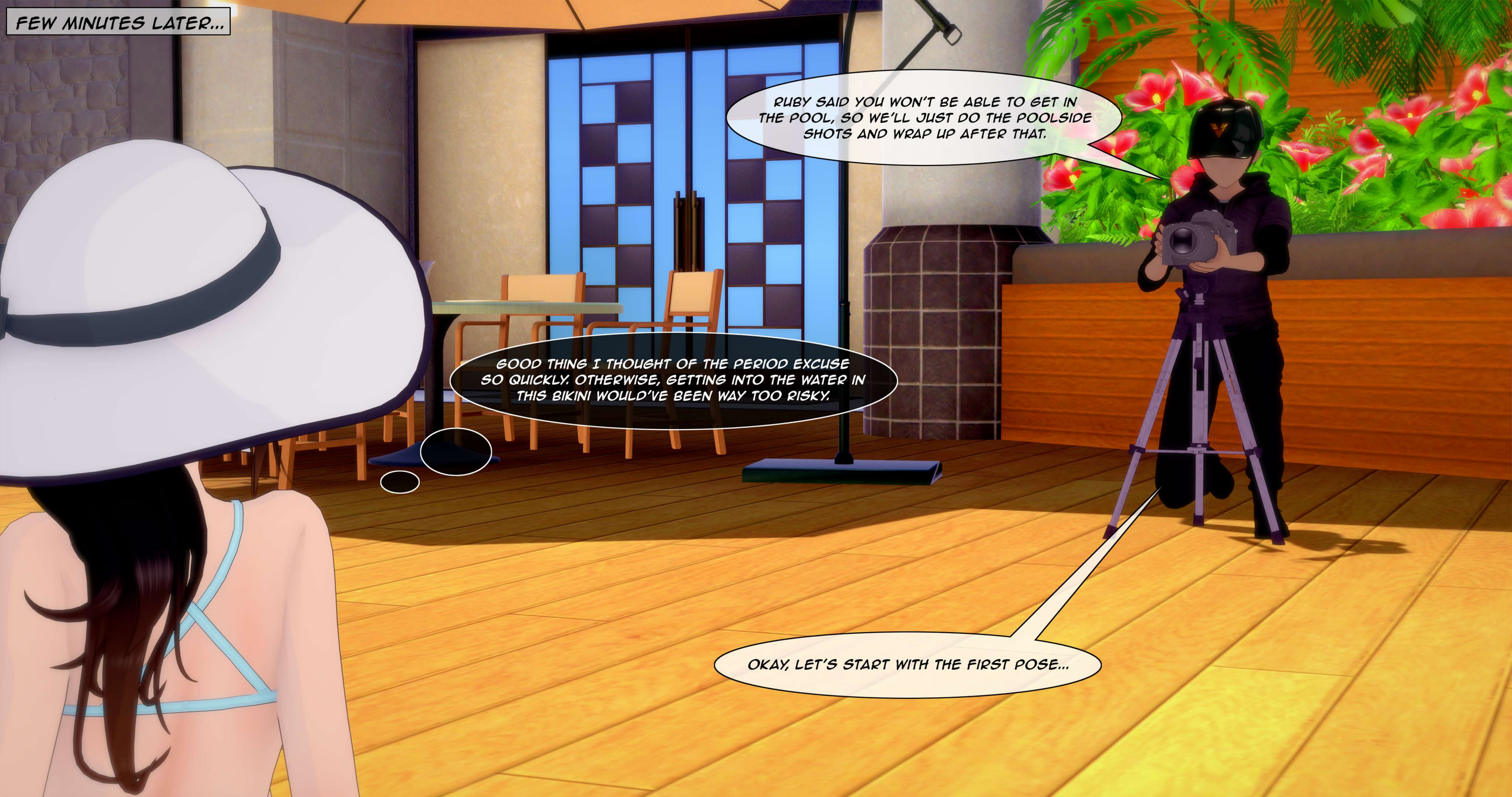

RUBY, HOW MUCH LONGER IS SHE GOING TO TAKE? IT'S ALREADY GETTING LATE, AND WE NEED TO FINISH THIS SESSION BEFORE SUNSET.
ACTUALLY, SHE'S HAVING A LITTLE PROBLEM. JUST GIVE HER FIVE MORE MINUTES. IF SHE DOESN'T COME OUT BY THEN, I'LL GO CHECK ON HER.


MEANWHILE, IN THE DRESSING ROOM...
NO MATTER HOW TIGHTLY I TIE THIS... IT STILL FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO COME LOOSE AND FALL DOWN.
もえるごみ
PAPER GARBAGES
MM... I'VE SEEN OTHER GIRLS, AND EVEN EMMA, WEARING BIKINIS LIKE THIS AT THE BEACH. THESE BOTTOMS DON'T JUST COME UNTIED ON THEIR OWN. IT'LL BE FINE... I GUESS.


GOOD... I FOUND SOME BODY TAPE, AT LEAST.
I'M LUCKY THEY HAD IT HERE IN THE DRESSING ROOM.
HOPEFULLY RUBY WON'T NOTICE IT.
HOPEFULLY RUBY WON'T NOTICE IT.
AND EVEN IF SHE DOES, SHE'LL PROBABLY
JUST THINK IT'S A SANITARY PAD.


AND THIS... I'VE NEVER WORN ANYTHING THIS REVEALING IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE... ARGH... I JUST NEED TO RELAX AND BE A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENT.
KNOCK
KNOCK
VO


MIA! ARE YOU OKAY IN THERE? HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU NEED?
UH... S-SORRY. JUST GIVE ME TWO MORE MINUTES.


FEW MINUTES LATER...
RUBY SAID YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN THE POOL, SO WE'LL JUST DO THE POOLSIDE SHOTS AND WRAP UP AFTER THAT.
GOOD THING I THOUGHT OF THE PERIOD EXCUSE SO QUICKLY. OTHERWISE, GETTING INTO THE WATER IN THIS BIKINI WOULD'VE BEEN WAY TOO RISKY.
OKAY, LET'S START WITH THE FIRST POSE...


SIT COMFORTABLY, LEANING BACK ON BOTH HANDS.
TILT YOUR HEAD SLIGHTLY AND FRAME YOUR FACE WITH THE HAT. AND LOOK GENTLY INTO THE CAMERA.
KA-CHICK!
ALRIGHT! LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT POSE...


KNEEL UPRIGHT, FACING AWAY. KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT AND SHOULDERS RELAXED.
TURN SLIGHTLY TO THE SIDE, WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND RESTING NATURALLY ON YOUR WAIST.
KA-CHICK!
GOOD! NOW NEXT...


FACE THE CAMERA IN THE SAME POSE. TURN YOUR HIPS SLIGHTLY TO CREATE A GENTLE CURVE THROUGH YOUR WAIST AND LEGS.
RAISE YOUR HANDS LIGHTLY, TILT YOUR HEAD, AND LOOK AT THE CAMERA.
KA-CHICK!
GREAT! NEXT POSE NOW...


KNEEL DOWN WITH YOUR HIPS BACK TOWARD YOUR HEELS. ARCH YOUR LOWER BACK SLIGHTLY.
PLACE YOUR RIGHT HAND ON THE FLOOR AND YOUR LEFT HAND ON YOUR THIGH. TILT YOUR HEAD A BIT.
KA-CHICK!
PERFECT!


THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
GREAT JOB!
WHAT WAS THAT LAST POSE?!
I WAS SO IN THE FLOW THAT I DIDN'T
EVEN REALIZE WHAT I WAS DOING.
UGH, WHATEVER...
IT'S FINALLY OVER.


SORRY, I GUESS I MADE YOU WORK PRETTY HARD, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE ON YOUR...
UH, N-NO, IT'S FINE. IT HONESTLY WASN'T THAT HARD.
THAT'S A RELIEF, THEN. WE STILL HAVE ONE MORE SHOOT LEFT, BUT WE CAN'T DO IT TODAY, SO WE'LL CONTINUE TOMORROW.
HUH? TOMORROW AGAIN? I THOUGHT THAT WAS IT.


YEAH... HERE, HYDRATE YOURSELF FIRST.
THANK YOU... BUT IF THERE'S ONLY ONE SHOOT LEFT, WHY DON'T WE JUST FINISH IT TODAY?


WELL, THAT WAS MY PLAN TOO. I WANTED TO FINISH EVERYTHING IN ONE DAY, BUT THE OTHER MODEL GOT REPLACED AT THE LAST MINUTE. THE NEW MODEL WILL BE HERE TOMORROW MORNING, SO WE CAN'T DO THE LAST SHOOT WITHOUT HIM SINCE YOU TWO HAVE TO SHOOT TOGETHER.
WHAT? I-I HAVE TO DO A SHOOT WITH SOMEONE ELSE TOO? AND... YOU SAID "HE"... IS IT A GUY?


HUH... WHAT DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?
HAHA... YOU TWO SISTERS ARE ALMOST EXACTLY THE SAME. YOU BOTH GET NERVOUS THE MOMENT A GUY IS INVOLVED.
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT TOMORROW'S SHOOT. IT'S NOTHING INTENSE OR ANYTHING. YOU JUST HAVE TO DO A FEW SIMPLE POSES SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIM, AND THAT'S ALL.


DID SOMEONE TRY TO APPROACH EMMA THINKING SHE IS SINGLE...? BUT IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAD HAPPENED, SHE SHOULD'VE TOLD ME... OR MAYBE IT JUST WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.
OKAY, NOW GO TO THE DRESSING ROOM FIRST. THE MAKEUP ARTIST WILL TAKE OFF YOUR MAKEUP AND PUT YOUR HAIR BACK THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE THE SHOOT. I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE OFFICE, SO I'LL DROP YOU HOME ON MY WAY.


FEW HOURS LATER...
FIRST A BIKINI SHOOT, AND NOW I HAVE TO POSE WITH A GUY... OH GOD...
I'M SURE EMMA DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY OF THIS, OTHERWISE SHE WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO IT IN THE FIRST PLACE...


HMM... SHE SHOULD BE HOME ANY TIME NOW. I HOPE HER MOOD IS BETTER BY NOW.
STILL, AT LEAST THIS WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO COME HERE...


FIVE MINUTES LATER...
LOCK
OH, YOU'RE HOME!


YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE SHOOT!
THE FIRST SHOOT WAS SO EASY, AND THAT FIRST OUTFIT WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL! BUT THEN, THE NEXT SHOOT...


MY DAY WAS ALREADY EXHAUSTING, AND I REALLY NEED SOME REST. SAVE THE CHIT-CHAT FOR NOW. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY DIFFERENT EVER SINCE I GOT HERE.
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW. I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE.


BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN SPENT ANY PROPER TIME TOGETHER YET...
SIGH... JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME. I'LL THINK ABOUT IT AFTER WORK TOMORROW AND TRY TO LEAVE EARLY IF I CAN.


NEXT MORNING...
SHE LEFT FOR WORK EARLY AGAIN...
AT THIS POINT, I'M STARTING TO DOUBT WHETHER IT REALLY IS BECAUSE OF WORK, OR IF SHE'S ACTUALLY UPSET WITH ME.


MIA, HURRY UP AND GET READY!
WE HAVE TO LEAVE IN 20 MINUTES!


AFTER A WHILE, IN THE RESORT'S DRESSING ROOM...
SO TODAY'S SHOOT IS IN A BIKINI TOO...
もえるごみ
PAPER GARBAGES


HMM... THIS DOESN'T LOOK AS SCARY AS IT SEEMED ON THE HANGER.
I GUESS WEARING A BIKINI YESTERDAY REALLY DID GIVE ME A CONFIDENCE BOOST. AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST A PIECE OF CLOTHING. THE MORE CONFIDENTLY I WEAR IT, THE MORE CONFIDENT I FEEL.

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY...
I JUST DON'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT TODAY.
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

AND THE WAY EMMA SAID SHE'D TRY TO COME BACK EARLY FROM THE OFFICE... IT KIND OF FELT LIKE SHE WAS FORCING HERSELF TO. LIKE SHE DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO.


FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK A LITTLE DOWN. ARE YOUR PERIOD CRAMPS BOTHERING YOU?


HUH... NO.
I-ITS SOMETHING ELSE.
Y-YEAH, IT'S THAT.
I KNOW... AND SHE SAID SHE'D TRY TO LEAVE WORK EARLY TODAY TOO. BUT I'M NOT SURE IF SHE WILL.
UM, I THINK I CAN GUESS.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SPEND MUCH TIME WITH YOUR SISTER?
OH, I'M SORRY. I KNOW THAT'S THE MAIN REASON YOU CAME HERE, AND I'VE BEEN KEEPING YOU BUSY WITH ALL THIS WORK. BUT DON'T WORRY, THIS IS THE LAST SHOOT. IT'LL BE OVER IN ABOUT AN HOUR, AND THEN YOU'LL BE FREE.


SORRY... I WAS JUST THINKING NEGATIVELY.
HUH? I DON'T THINK SO... I DON'T KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE AROUND HERE.
HA! WHY DO YOU THINK THAT? I KNOW HOW MUCH SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN. SHE DEFINITELY WANTS TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU TOO. AND AFTER WE FINISH HERE, I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE OFFICE ANYWAY. SO I'LL KEEP BUGGING HER TO LEAVE EARLY UNTIL SHE DOES.
HAHA! STAY POSITIVE, GIRL. NOW, LET'S GET THIS SHOOT DONE FIRST. OH, AND BY THE WAY, I DON'T THINK I NEED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE NEW MODEL. YOU PROBABLY ALREADY KNOW HIM.


HE'S FROM THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOU.
OH, HERE HE IS!


Y-YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!


HEY MIA!
TO BE CONTINUED...


MEANWHILE...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN? HE'S NEVER CARED MUCH ABOUT THE COMPANY'S WORK BEFORE. BUT THE MOMENT HE HEARD MIA WAS HERE FOR A SHOOT, HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED ME TO REPLACE THE OTHER MODEL WITH HIM.
HE SAID HE'D TELL ME EVERYTHING, BUT THEN HE DIDN'T. IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THOSE TWO? OR MAYBE THEY'VE JUST GOTTEN CLOSER AS FRIENDS...

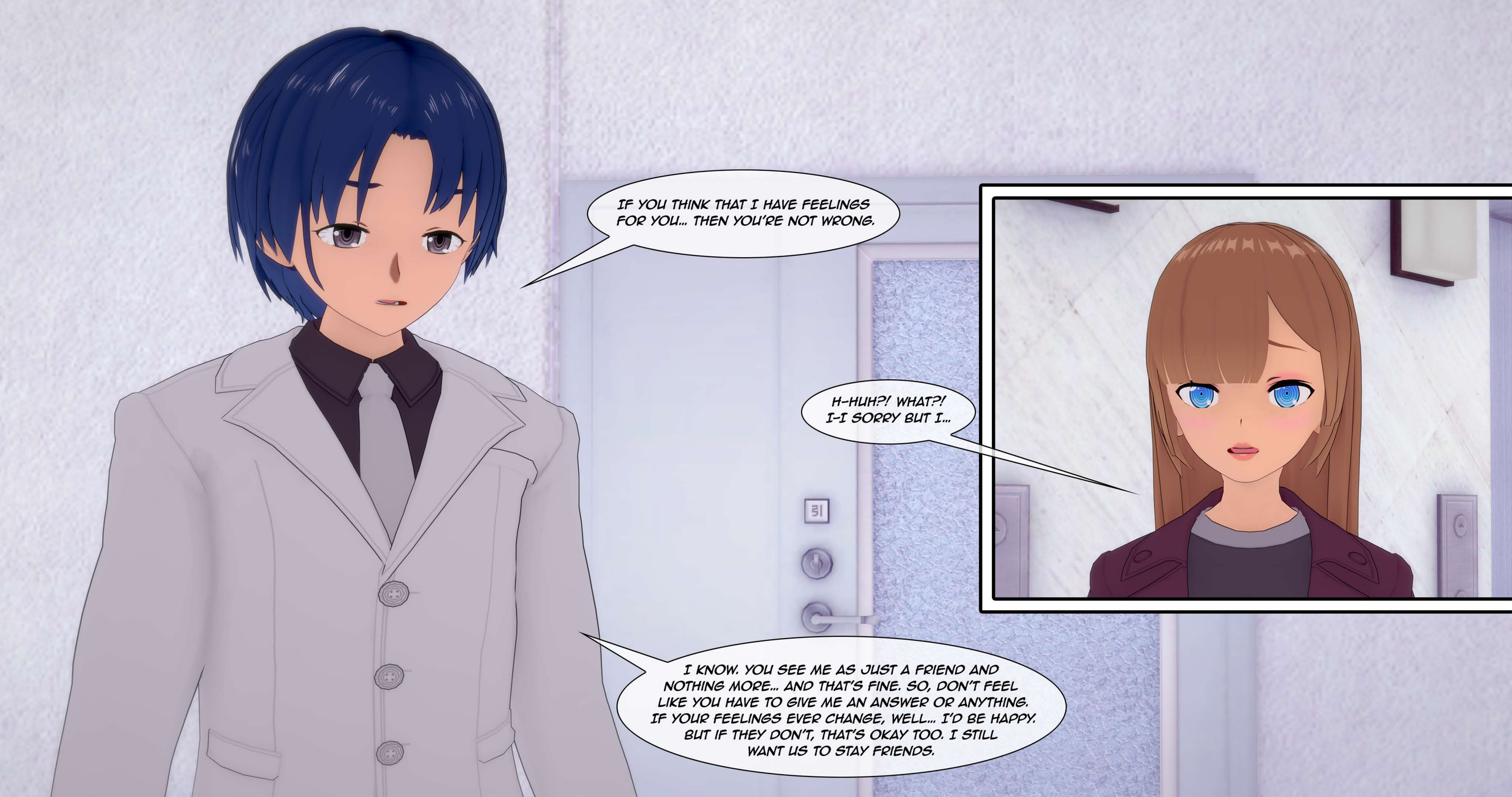

AND EMMA... SHE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME EVER SINCE THAT DAY.
HMM... I THINK IT'S TIME I CLEARED THINGS UP WITH HER.


HEY, EMMA...
CAN WE TALK FOR A BIT?
非常口
EXIT
HUH... Y-YEAH, WHAT'S UP?

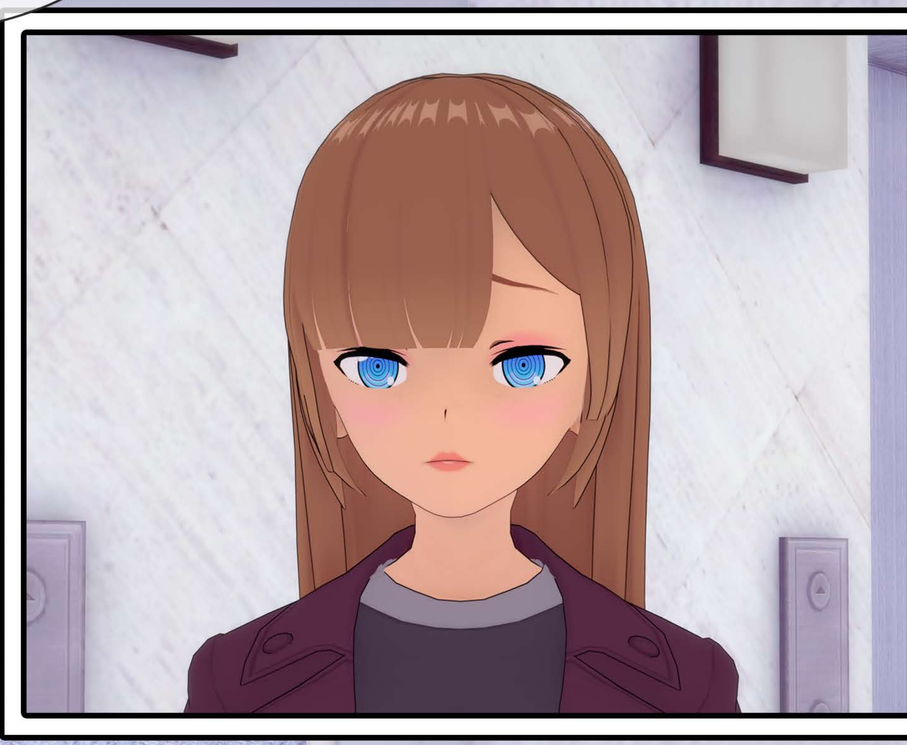

UM, I JUST WE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY. AND YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME EVER SINCE.
NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE. I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE DRUNK AND MISTOOK ME FOR YOUR EX...
I'M SORRY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, OR HOW TO FACE YOU AFTER WHAT I DID. I'M STILL ASHAMED OF MYSELF.


I MEAN... I SHOULD'VE STOPPED YOU, BUT I LET IT HAPPEN TOO. SO, I'M PARTLY TO BLAME, TOO. AND I THINK WE SHOULD JUST PUT IT BEHIND US. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, AFTER ALL. WE WORK IN THE SAME PLACE, SO THERE'S NO REASON TO MAKE THINGS AWKWARD BETWEEN US. RIGHT?
Y-YEAH... RIGHT. THANK-YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING.
BY THE WAY, YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING THAT DAY, RIGHT? WHAT WAS IT?


OH... THAT, ACTUALLY I THOUGHT YOU...
I DON'T KNOW. I-I HAD THIS FEELING THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE... SOME KIND OF F-FEELINGS...
UGH... NEVER MIND. I GUESS I WAS WRONG. IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT ANYWAY.


IF YOU THINK THAT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU... THEN YOU'RE NOT WRONG.
H-HUH?! WHAT?! I-I SORRY BUT I...
I KNOW. YOU SEE ME AS JUST A FRIEND AND NOTHING MORE... AND THAT'S FINE. SO, DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER OR ANYTHING. IF YOUR FEELINGS EVER CHANGE, WELL... I'D BE HAPPY. BUT IF THEY DON'T, THAT'S OKAY TOO. I STILL WANT US TO STAY FRIENDS.

HAHA... SORRY FOR BRINGING THIS UP OUT OF NOWHERE. I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP HIDING IT FROM YOU. ANYWAY, LET'S FORGET ABOUT IT FOR NOW AND FOCUS ON TODAY'S CLIENT MEETING.



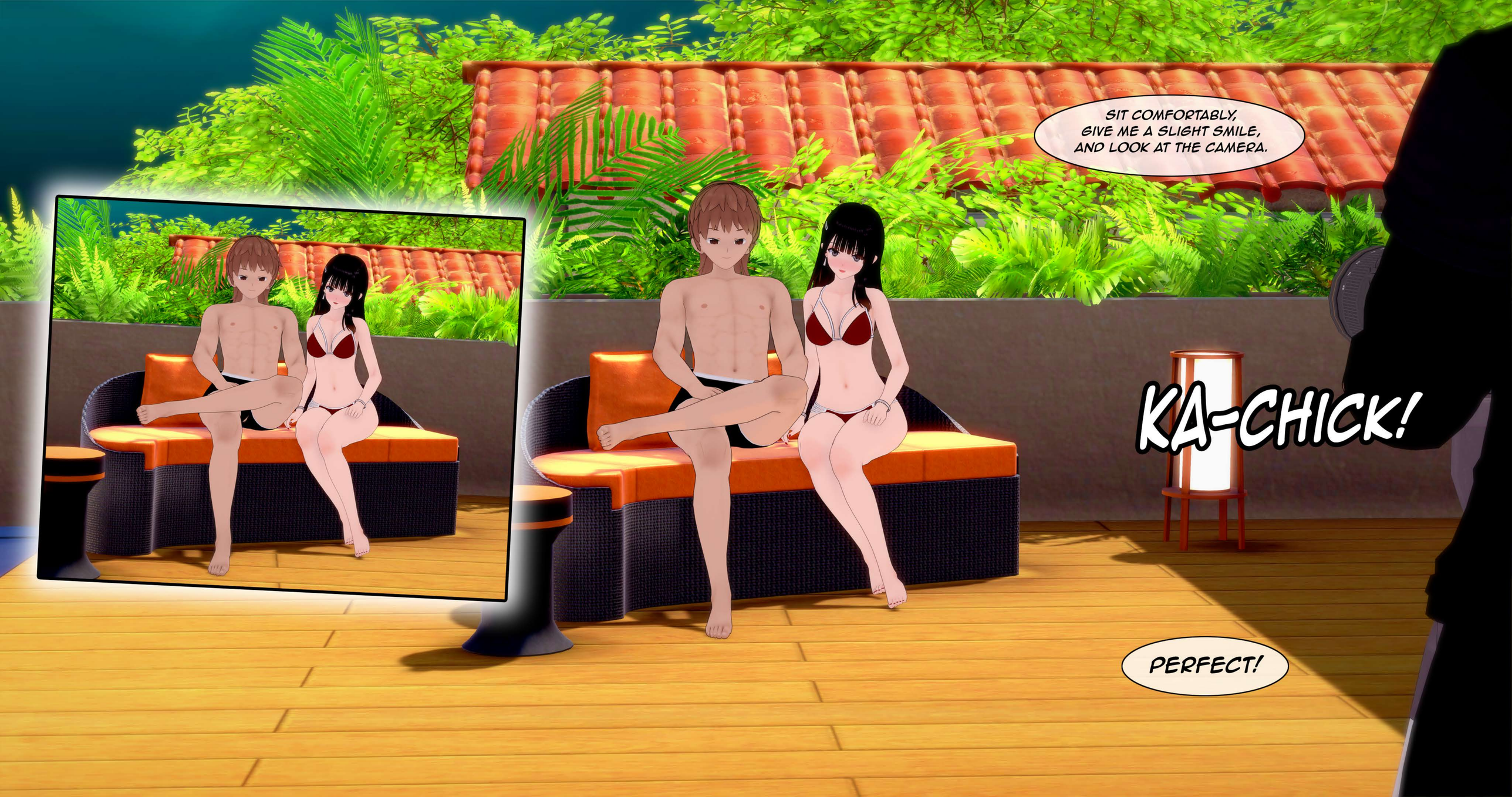
UM, CAN YOU CALL RUBY AND ASK IF SHE'LL BE ABLE TO COME BACK EARLY FROM THE SHOOT? WE NEED TO DISCUSS A FEW IMPORTANT THINGS BEFORE THE MEETING.


A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE RESORT...
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THE OFFICE. I HAVE TO GO BACK. CAN YOU HANDLE EVERYTHING HERE?
YEAH, AS LONG AS THEY FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS PROPERLY.
HMM... SEEMS LIKE THEY KNOW EACH OTHER, SO I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY PROBLEMS.


WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO RIP ME APART?
CAN YOU STOP DOING ALL THIS ALREADY?! HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE? THIS IS SERIOUSLY STARTING TO FEEL LIKE STALKING!
CALM DOWN. I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE SHOOT FROM MY BROTHER, AND ALL I DID WAS ASK HIM TO LET ME FILL IN AS THE OTHER MODEL. BESIDES, ISN'T IT BETTER TO WORK WITH ME THAN SOME RANDOM STRANGER?
I'D RATHER WORK WITH SOMEONE ELSE THAN YOU...


WELL, I'M ALREADY HERE, SO PLEASE JUST BEAR WITH ME. BESIDES, I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO MOVE THE SHOOT TO THIS RESORT. THE VIEW HERE IS AMAZING, DON'T YOU THINK?
TRUST ME... I WON'T.
I DON'T CARE, AND DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND. I JUST WANT TO GET THIS SHOOT OVER WITH BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY REASON I'M ABLE TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL. BUT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING AGAIN, I SWEAR I'LL—


ALRIGHT, IF YOU TWO ARE READY, LET'S GET STARTED. MIA, COULD YOU MOVE A LITTLE CLOSER TO JACK?
O-OKAY...


SIT COMFORTABLY, GIVE ME A SLIGHT SMILE, AND LOOK AT THE CAMERA.
KA-CHICK!
PERFECT!


EVERY TIME I LOOK AT HER, SHE LOOKS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN BEFORE. SHE'S CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE THE DAY I FIRST MET HER... OR MAYBE I'M JUST SEEING HER DIFFERENTLY NOW. I GUESS... THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE IN LOVE.
I-I HAVE TO LEAN ON HIS SHOULDER?
N-NO, NOTHING...
NOW, LEAN YOUR HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER. AND JACK, PUT YOUR ARM AROUND HER WAIST.
YES. IS THERE A PROBLEM?


HUH? I-I WAS JUST THINKING YOU SHOULD TRY TO RELAX A LITTLE... THE SHOOT SHOULDN'T BE THAT DIFFICULT.
UGH... SHUT YOUR MOUTH! I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO. BESIDES, I ALREADY DID THIS YESTERDAY!
OKAY, OKAY. SO YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME. I GUESS I SHOULD TRY MY BEST, TOO.


YES, HOLD THAT POSE.
KA-CHICK!
GOOD! NOW,
LET'S CHANGE LOCATION.


TWO MINUTES LATER...
MIA, MOVE A LITTLE IN FRONT OF HIM.
AND JACK, PLACE BOTH HANDS ON HER WAIST.


HUH... HIS WHOLE BODY IS TOUCHING MY BACK, AND MY BUTT... IT'S SO CLOSE TO HIS CROTCH...!
HEY, Y-YOU'RE STANDING TOO CLOSE!
OH, SORRY! BUT I THOUGHT THAT'S HOW HE WANTED US TO POSE.
THAT'S IT! STAY JUST LIKE THAT!
UGH... I JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS...!


BOTH OF YOU,
GIVE ME A NICE, TIGHT SMILE!
KA-CHICK!
GREAT!


NEXT, MIA, TURN AROUND AND PLACE ONE HAND ON HIS CHEST AND THE OTHER ON ABS.


HIS CHEST IS SO FIRM, AND HIS SHOULDERS ARE SO BROAD... I NEVER REALLY NOTICED HOW MUSCULAR HE IS. HE MUST WORK OUT A LOT. WHEN I WAS HIS AGE, I WAS SKINNY, AND ALL I DID WAS STAY HOME AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES.
EMMA ALWAYS USED TO TELL ME TO WORK OUT, BUT I NEVER LISTENED... NOW I GET WHY! IF I WERE A REAL GIRL, I'D WANT A MUSCULAR BOYFRIEND, TOO... SOMEONE WHO LOOKS HOT AND COULD PROTECT ME...!
ONCE I TURN BACK INTO A GUY, I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO START WORKING OUT! THOUGH... I WONDER HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE ME TO GET MUSCLES LIKE HIS...
ENJOYING THE VIEW?


SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY PHYSIQUE? DO YOU LIKE IT?
I-I'M NOT LOOKING AT IT! AND IT'S NOT EVEN THAT GREAT, SO DON'T GET TOO FULL OF YOURSELF!
THAT'S A SHAME. I WORK OUT SO MUCH, AND I CAN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE COMPLIMENT FROM YOU? GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WORK OUT EVEN HARDER.
UH, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. I DON'T CARE!
ALRIGHT, GUYS, FOCUS HERE! WE NEED TO WRAP THIS UP QUICKLY.


KA-CHICK!
PERFECT,
WE'RE ALMOST DONE!


JACK, YOU HAVE TO HOLD MIA BY THE WAIST AND LIFT HER UP INTO THE AIR.
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY.
UM, I-I'M READY... JUST DON'T DROP ME,
WHAT, YOU THINK I'D DROP YOU? SEEMS LIKE YOU THINK MY MUSCLES ARE JUST FOR SHOW. I THINK IT'S TIME TO SHOW OFF!
GRAB
HEY, EASY!


KA-CHICK!


A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER...
FINALLY, IT'S OVER...!
I WAS SO SCARED WHEN I SAW JACK THIS MORNING. I THOUGHT HE'D CAUSE TROUBLE AGAIN! HE'S SO UNPREDICTABLE... SOMETIMES HE'S REALLY SWEET, AND OTHER TIMES, HE'S SUCH ASS!


AHH, WHATEVER... I'M JUST GLAD EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY. AND I'LL BE ABLE TO GET OFF EARLY!
AND NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT'D BE. I SHOULD ASK RUBY FOR A COPY OF YESTERDAY'S PHOTOS LATER. IT'LL BE NICE TO KEEP THEM AS MEMORIES.


IT'S ALREADY 4 PM... I SHOULD TEXT EMMA AND LET HER KNOW I'M DONE WITH THE SHOOT AND JUST GOT HOME.
SHE KNOWS I HAVE A FLIGHT BACK TOMORROW, SO TODAY IS OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER...


4:02 PM
THURSDAY


FOUR HOURS LATER...
8:24 PM
THURSDAY
Press HOME to unlock


YOU'RE LATE...
YEAH, THERE WAS AN IMPORTANT MEETING TODAY, AND IT RAN LONGER THAN EXPECTED.


BUT YOU PROMISED YOU'D COME HOME EARLY...
I DIDN'T PROMISE! I SAID I'D TRY! I COULDN'T LEAVE WORK, SO STOP BLAMING ME!


THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ME COMING ALL THE WAY HERE AND MAKING ALL THAT EFFORT?
YOU CALL THAT EFFORT?! DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH HERE? LOOK AT ME! I'M THE ONE WORKING OVERTIME BECAUSE OF YOUR MISTAKE, TRYING TO GET US OUT OF THIS MESS, WHILE YOU'RE OFF ENJOYING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE!


I'M ENJOYING MYSELF?! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD THINGS HAVE BEEN FOR ME TOO. EVERY DAY FEELS LIKE A CHALLENGE! AND THAT GUY, JACK... HE'S THE BIGGEST HEADACHE OF THEM ALL!
OH, SO THE GUYS ARE A PROBLEM FOR YOU, BUT THE GIRLS ARE JUST FINE?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I-ITS JUST EVERYONE'S A PROBLEM!


UGH... I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, EVEN IF WE TELL EACH OTHER WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR LIVES.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL, BUT I HAVE MINE, TOO. WE'RE LIVING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIVES RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S BETTER IF WE DON'T MIX EVERYTHING UP.


LET'S JUST STOP ARGUING ABOUT THIS. RUBY'S IN THE NEXT ROOM, AND SHE'LL HEAR US. YOU HAVE AN EARLY-MORNING FLIGHT, SO LET'S JUST GO TO SLEEP.
AND WHATEVER YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT JACK... JUST DON'T GET ON BAD TERMS WITH HIM. YOU KNOW HE'S KEN'S BROTHER, AND WE'VE ONLY MADE IT THIS FAR BECAUSE OF THEM. SO PLEASE, DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD RUIN THINGS.
I CAN'T EVEN TELL HER THAT HE'S TRYING TO TURN HER BOYFRIEND INTO HIS GIRLFRIEND...!


NEXT DAY...


AFTER A WHILE...
CIVIC
SI


I JUST FEEL BAD... I NEVER WANTED HER TO END UP LIVING LIKE THIS. SHE'S SUFFERING EVEN MORE THAN I AM.
IT'S OKAY. DON'T LOOK SO UPSET. WORK'S PROBABLY BEEN REALLY HECTIC FOR HER, SO I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SHE REACTED THAT WAY.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU? YOU CAN'T GO BACK AND FIX EVERYTHING IN THE PAST, SO JUST FOCUS ON YOUR CURRENT SITUATION.


AND RIGHT NOW, JACK IS THE MAIN PROBLEM. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT HIM? YOU SAID HE SHOWED UP THERE, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW... I COULDN'T EVEN BRING MYSELF TO TELL EMMA WHAT HE DID. BUT SHE TOLD ME NOT TO GET ON BAD TERMS WITH HIM.
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING YOU DIDN'T TELL HER. IT WOULD ONLY STRESS HER OUT EVEN MORE. BESIDES, TELLING HER WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING ANYWAY.


B-BUT... WHAT IF HE TRIES SOMETHING WITH ME AGAIN? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO STOP HIM THEN...?
AND HONESTLY, IF YOU ASK ME, I'D STILL SAY THE SAME THING. ACCEPTING HIS PROPOSAL MIGHT BE YOUR BEST OPTION RIGHT NOW.


WELL, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP SOMEONE UNDER CONTROL, YOU HAVE TO KEEP THEM CLOSE AND HOLD THE LEASH.


THE NEXT DAY, ON THE SCHOOL TERRACE...
W-WAIT... SERIOUSLY?
YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING YES?


THANKS FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE. I PROMISE I'LL TREAT YOU SO WELL THAT YOU'LL NEVER REGRET SAYING YES!
HUH? WHY?
UGH, DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF!
O-OKAY... BUT I HAVE SOME CONDITIONS. FIRST, I DON'T WANT MY SISTER TO FIND OUT THAT I'M DATING YOU.


I-IT'S BECAUSE... UMM... SHE'LL BE ANGRY IF SHE FINDS OUT I'M DOING ALL THIS INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON MY STUDIES.
OH, THAT MAKES SENSE. DON'T WORRY, MY FAMILY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS YOUR SISTER, SO I PROMISE I WON'T TELL ANYONE IN MY FAMILY ABOUT US UNTIL YOU SAY.


AND ONE MORE THING. LOOK, I ONLY AGREED TO DATE YOU BECAUSE I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE. SO DON'T TRY ANYTHING I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH, OKAY? LIKE... GETTING TOO PHYSICAL OR... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, RIGHT?
OKAY, OKAY... BUT NOW THAT I'M YOUR BOYFRIEND, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO AT LEAST A FEW THINGS, DON'T I?


W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?
WAIT!


KISS
KISS


ARGH... I SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS COMING! GUESS I CAN'T STOP HIM FROM DOING THIS... I'LL JUST HAVE TO GET USED TO DEALING WITH THIS NOW...!
MMM
MMM
MMM
TO BE CONTINUED...