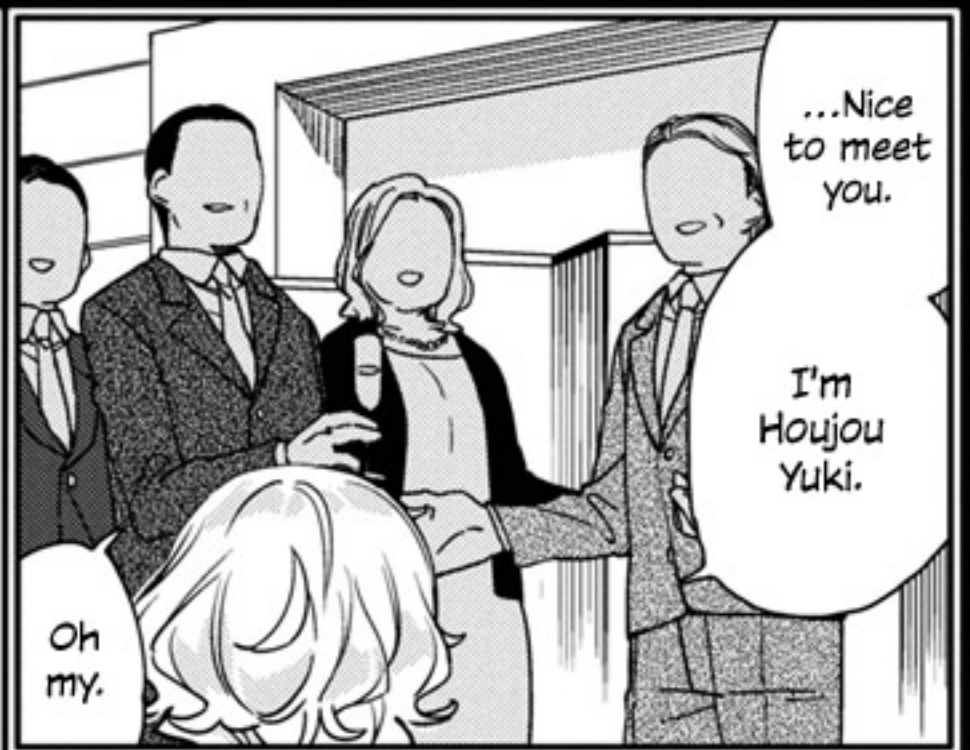
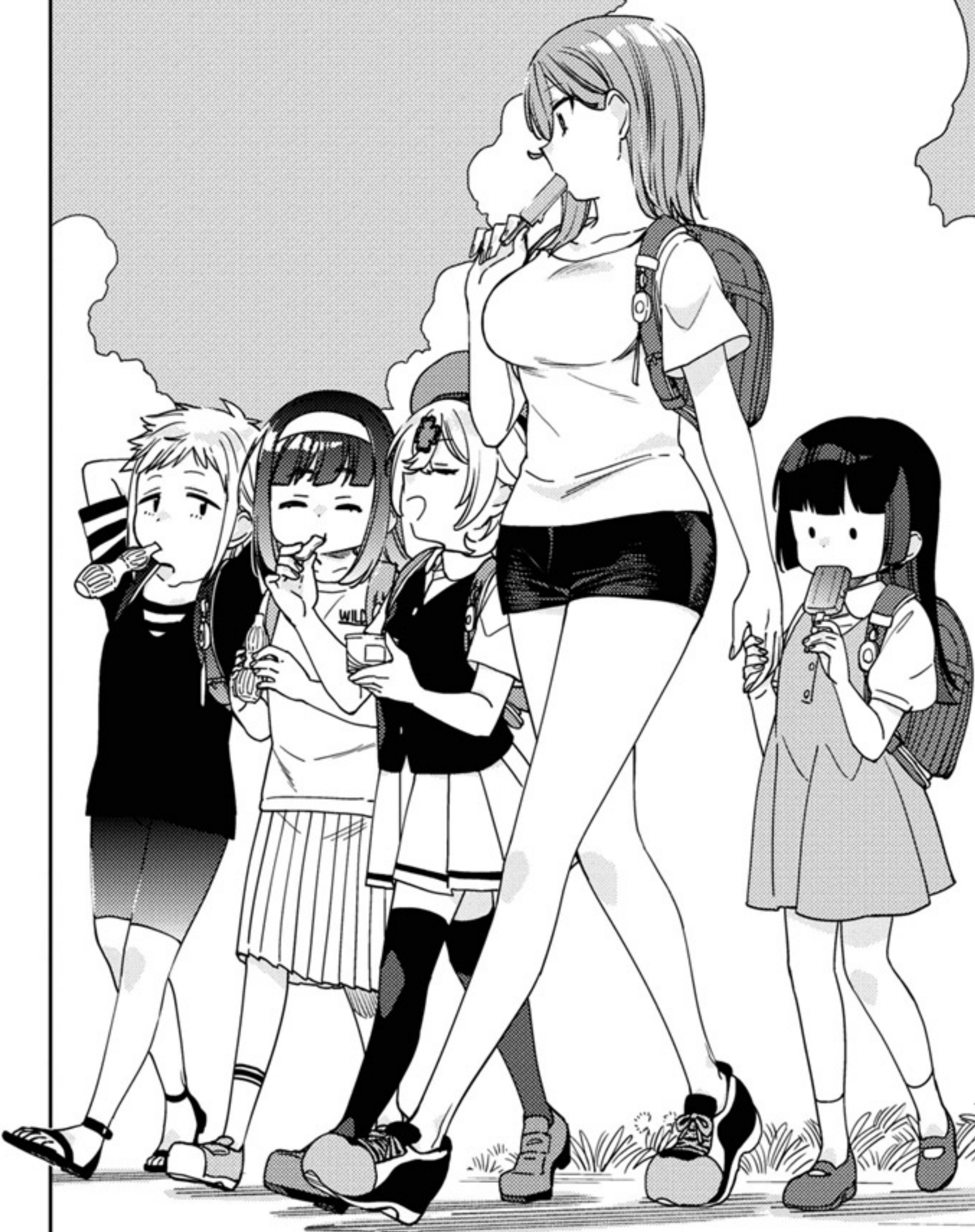


CHAPTER 16



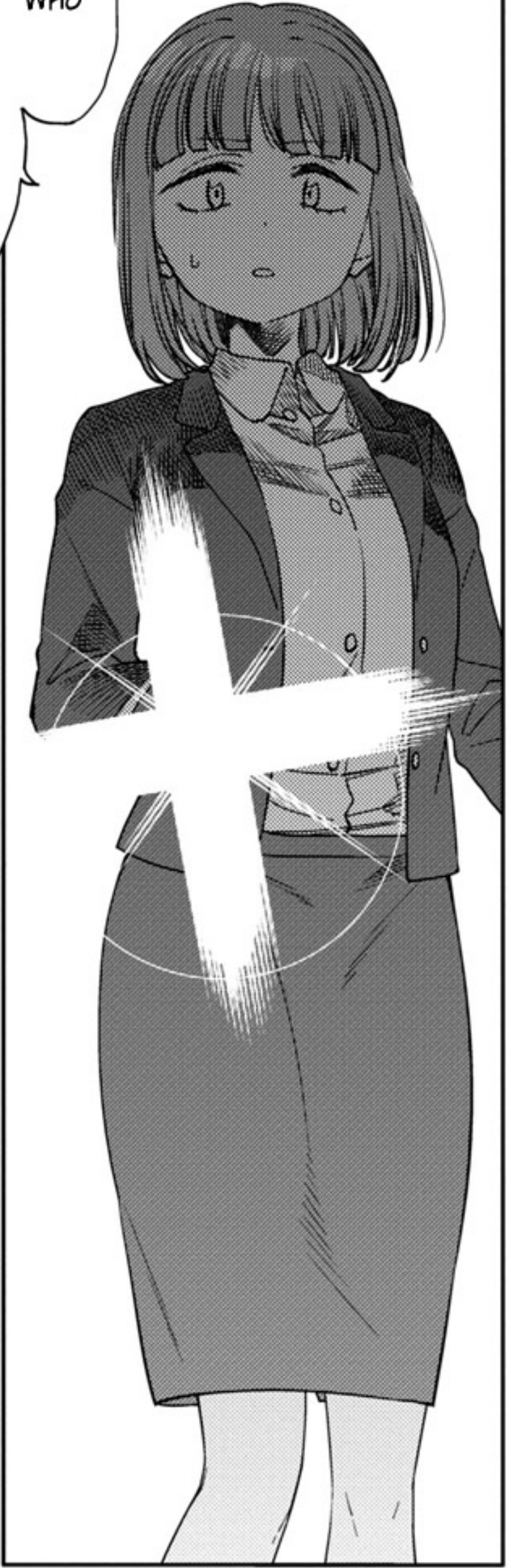
CHAPTER 16





...are you?

Who



It's all over...

I'll get fired from my job.

The news will label me as a criminal who's interested in children ...

NEWS 百花

In the middle of November, Honda Tae (23), a female office worker in her 20s, was arrested after trespassing into the local elementary school.

The police state that she "had an interest in little girls" and are currently investigating any additional crimes she may have committed.

... interview, a female colleague responded with "I didn't think a girl who would do such a thing."

I'm gonna get arrested for trespassing into an elementary school.

with Mai-chan ...!

I won't be able to spend any more time

Wait...

She came with me to pick up something I had left behind!

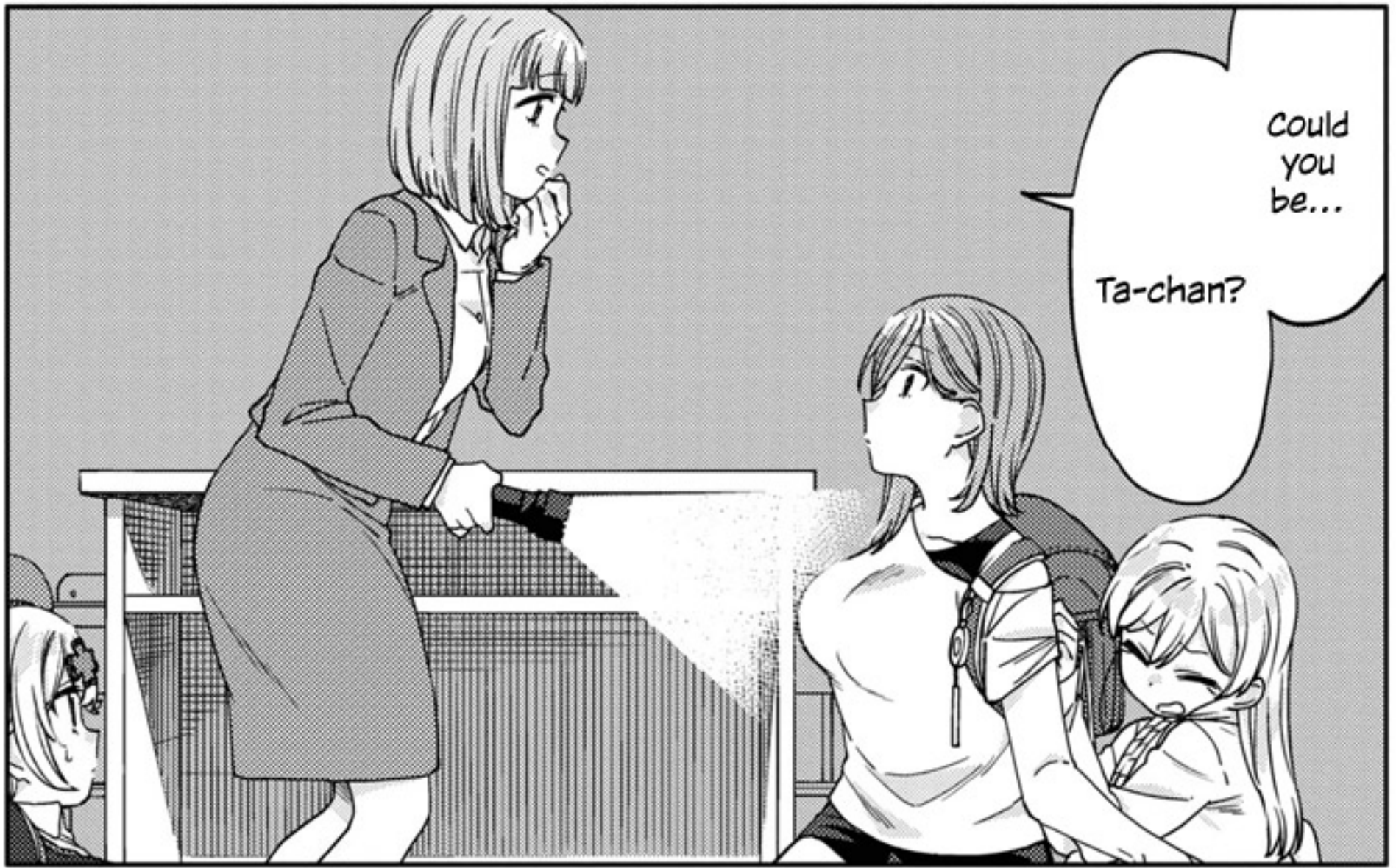
So...

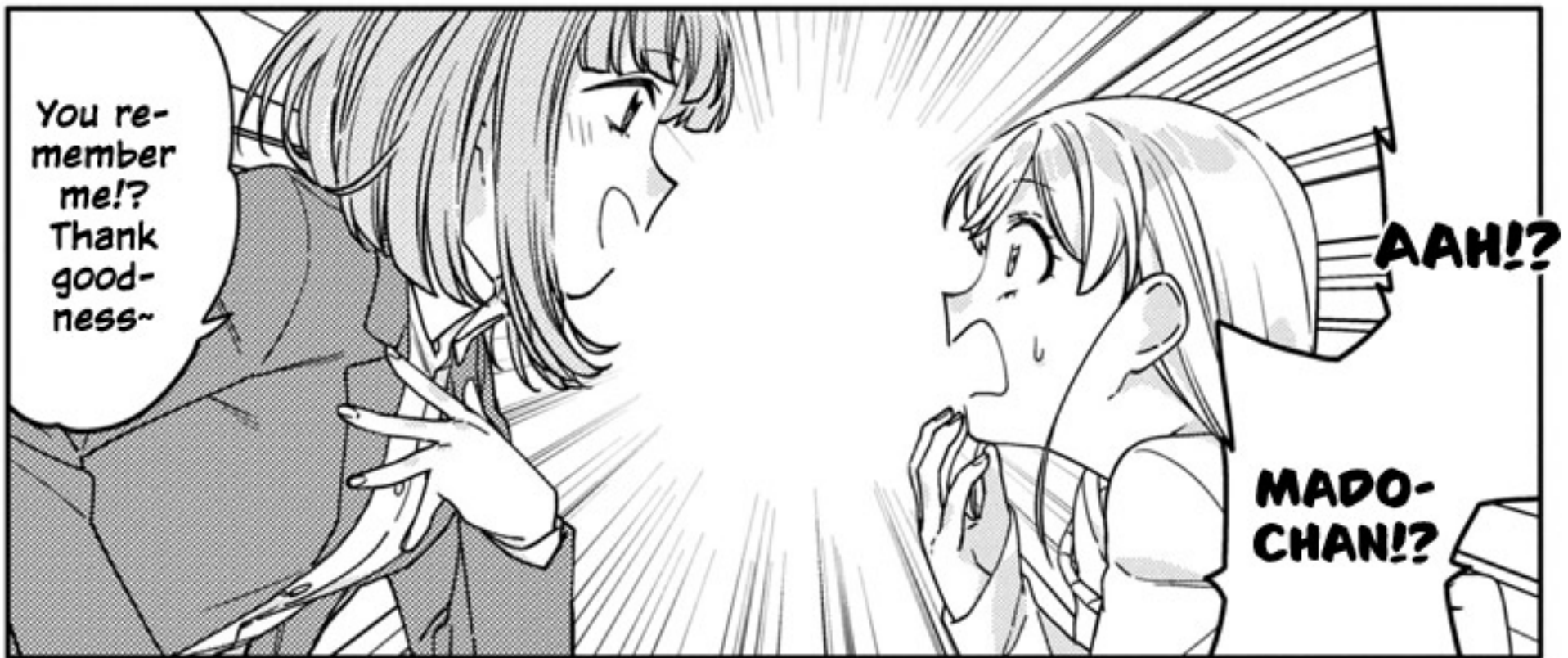
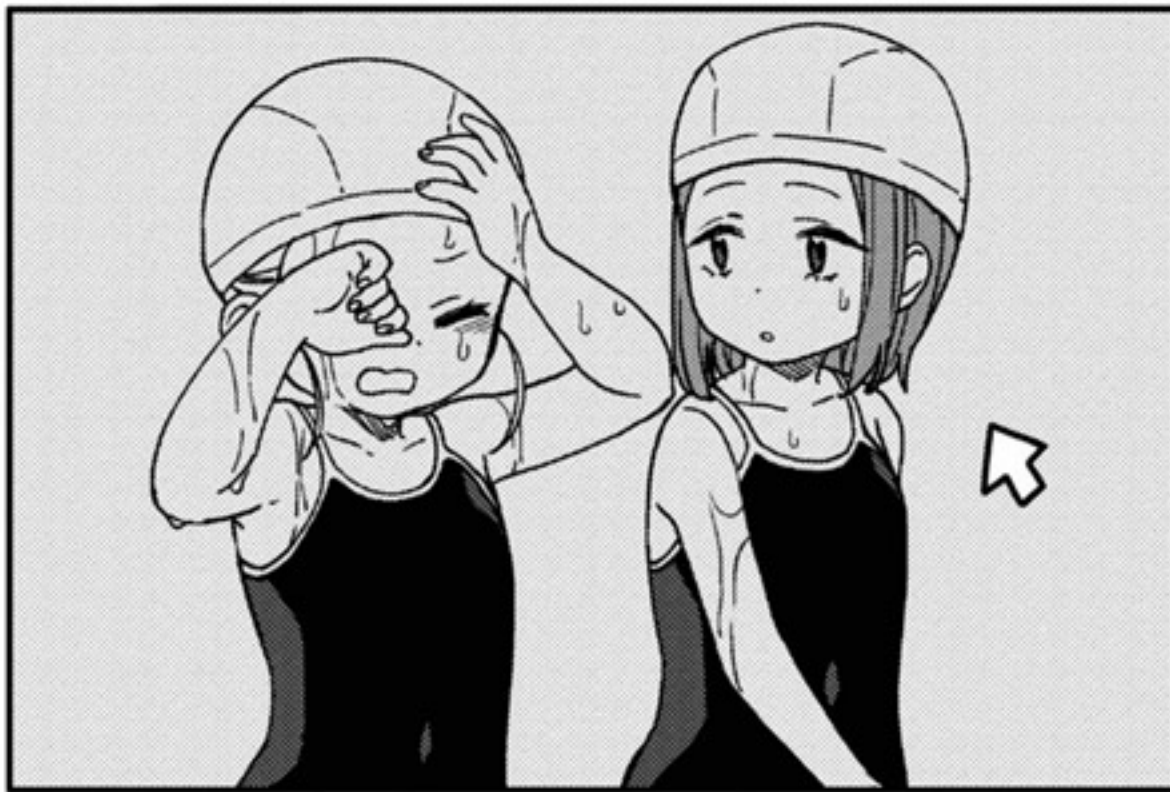
Ah, Sensei!

わ た わ た

You've got it all wrong!

This lady is my cousin...







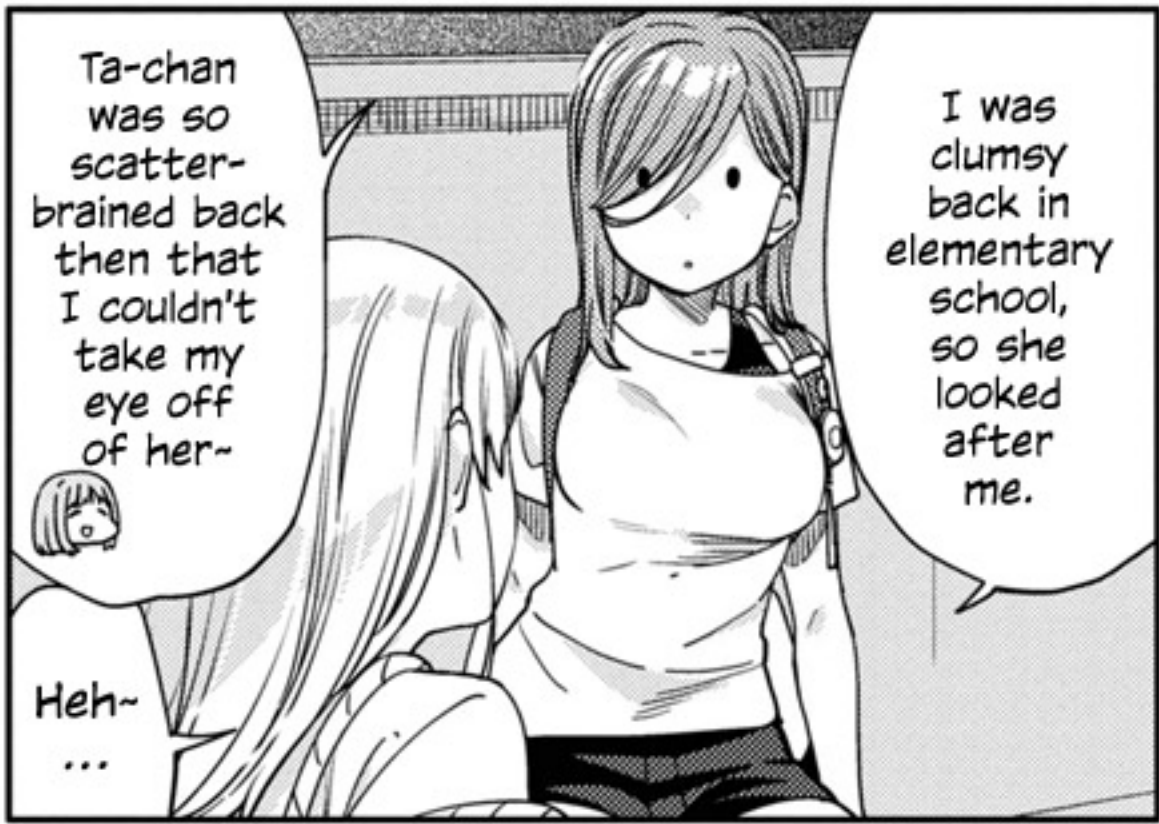
Urk...

That aside,

Erm.

what are you doing here?

That's ...



Ta-chan was so scatter-brained back then that I couldn't take my eye off of her~



Heh~

...

I was clumsy back in elementary school, so she looked after me.



Ah... sure.

...
Since we have the opportunity, let's chat for a bit.

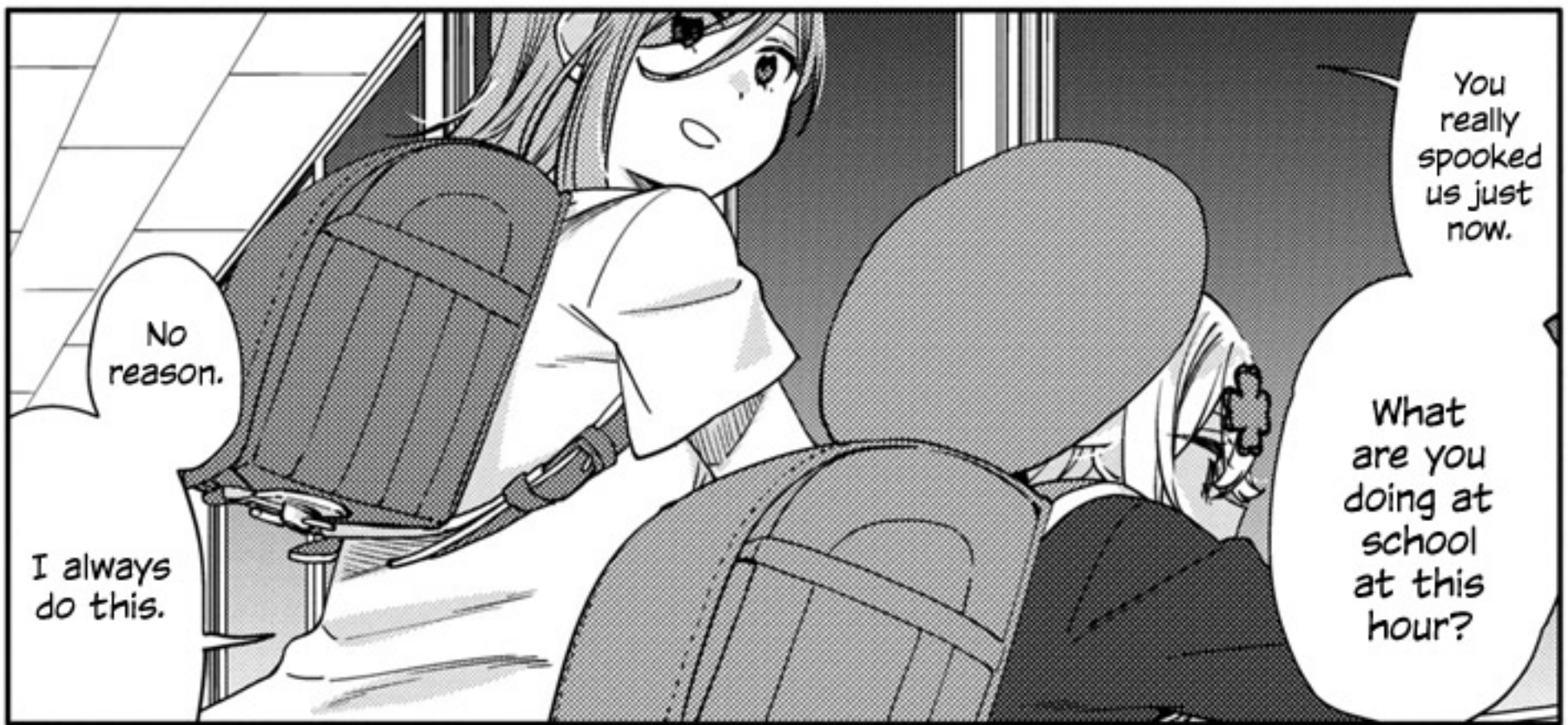


Ah.

You two wait here until we're done talking.

We'll be right back.

Okay~

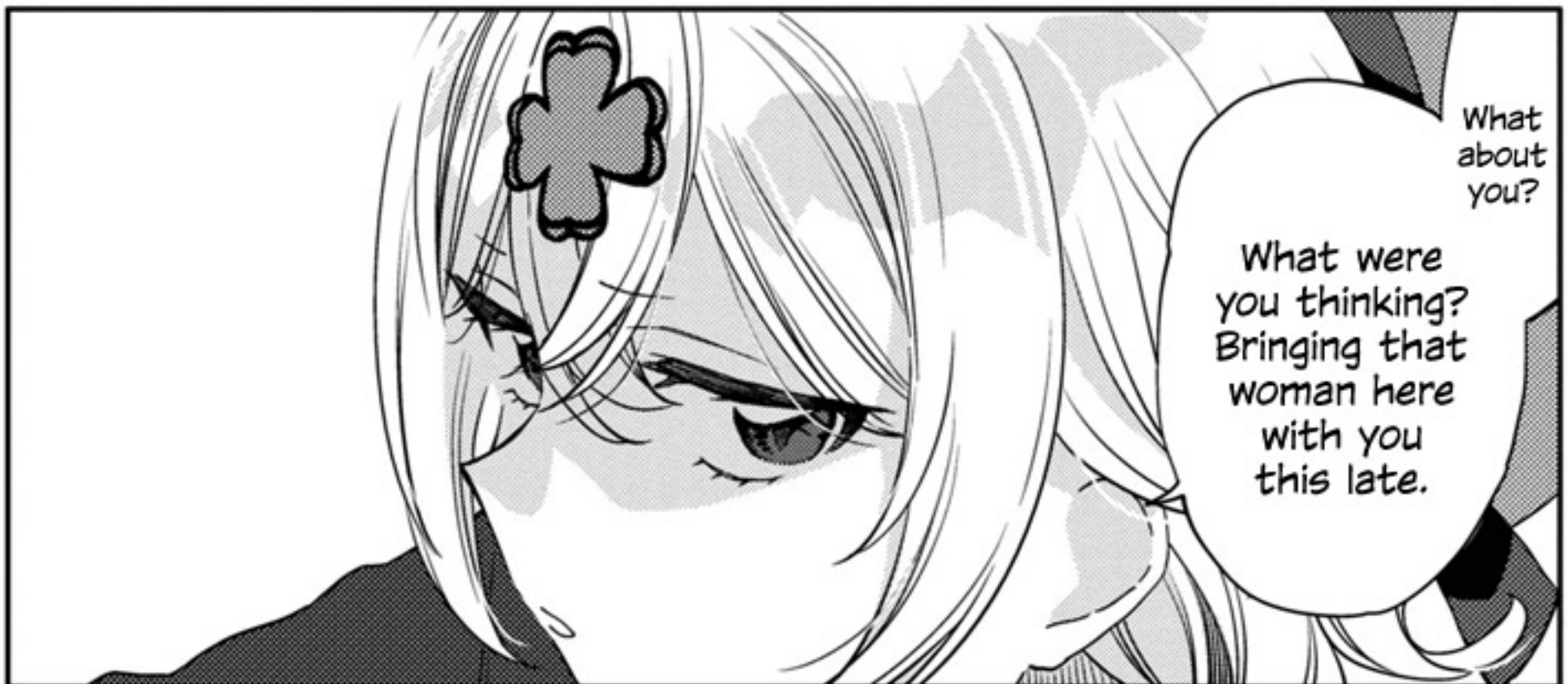


No reason.

I always do this.

You really spooked us just now.

What are you doing at school at this hour?



What about you?

What were you thinking? Bringing that woman here with you this late.



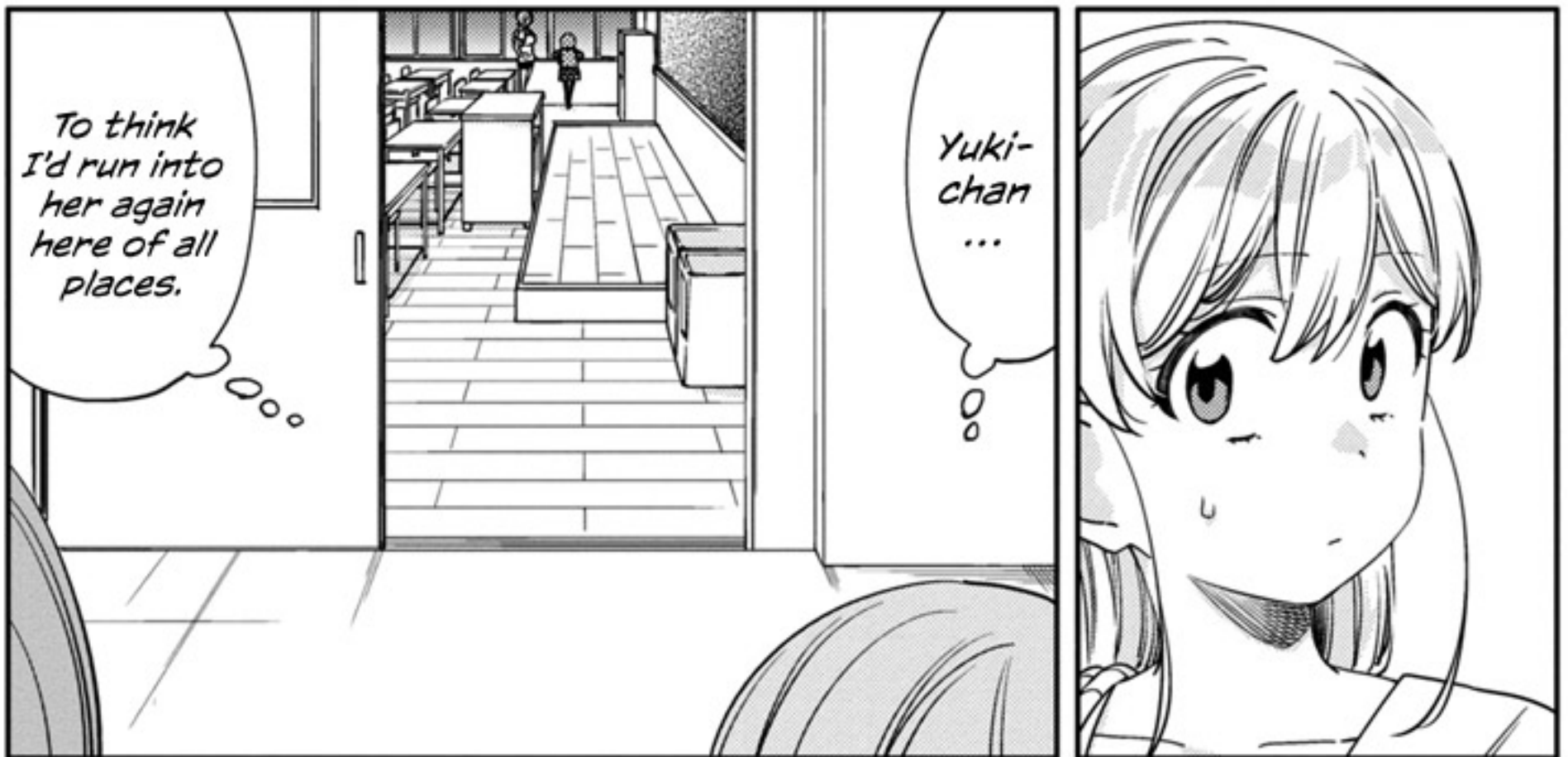
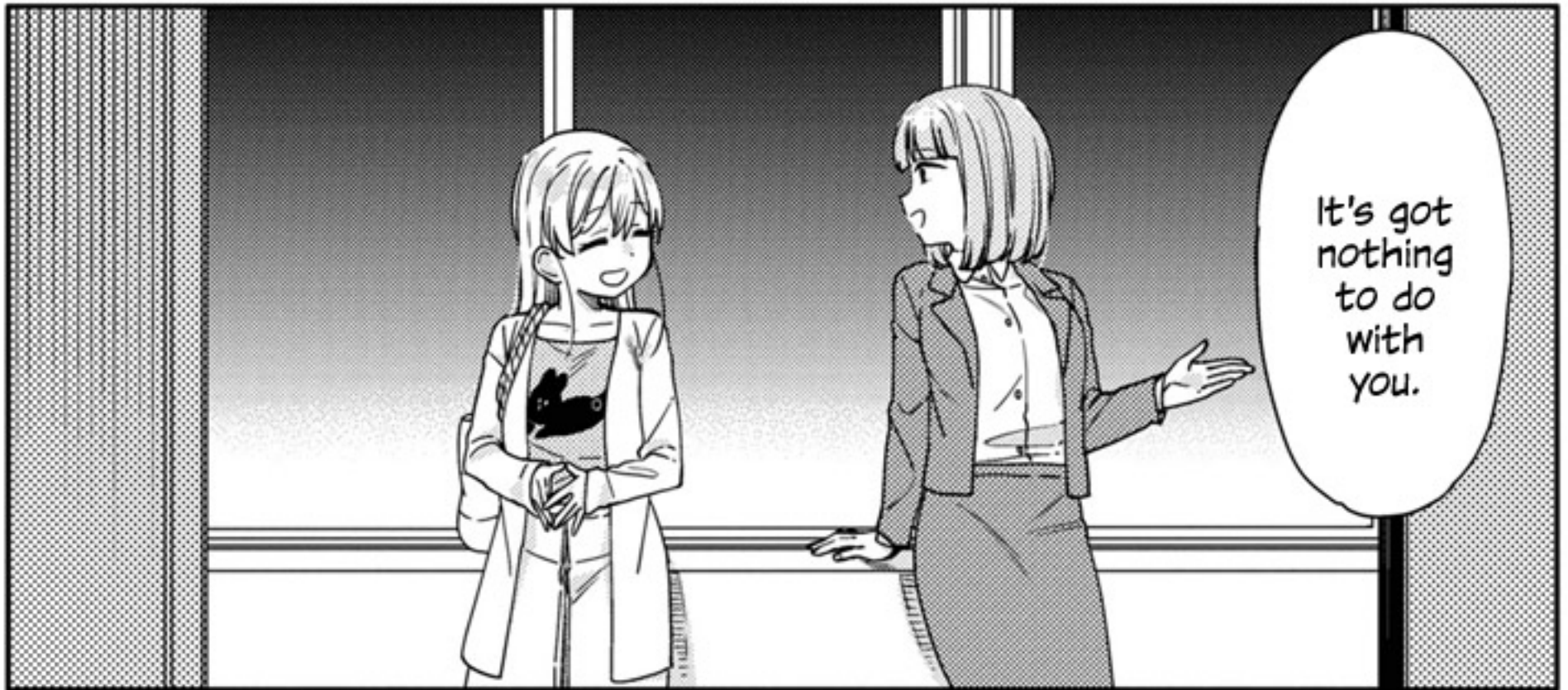
...What happened to you?

You weren't like this before.



I can't believe you.

...





To think you were acquainted with Igarashi-san and Houjou-san, Ta-chan. What a surprise-

So that's what it was.



Ahaha.

I wouldn't say I'm that acquainted with Yuki-chan...

Small world, huh?



that she came to warn me because she was worried about Mai-chan ...

I can't exactly tell her...

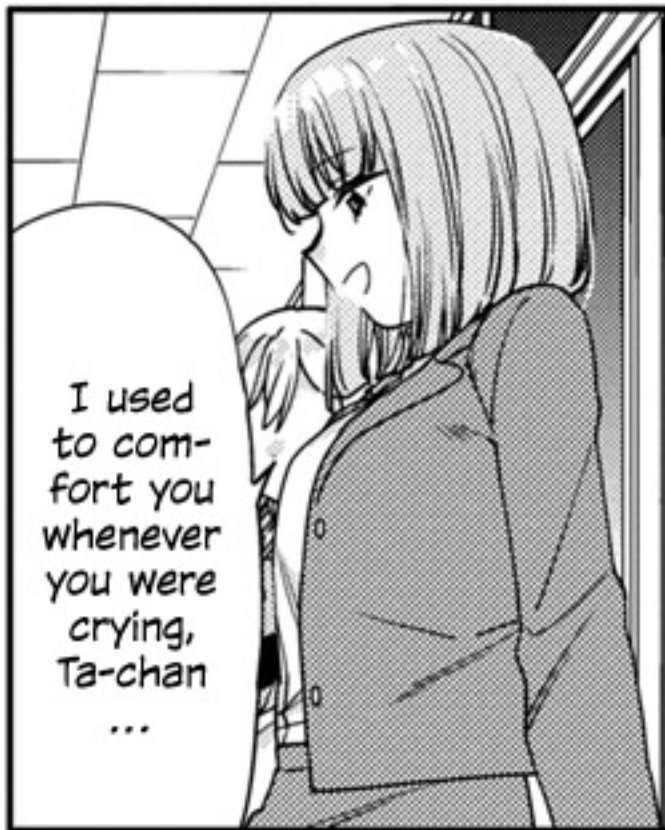


We kinda drifted apart

after graduating elementary school, after all...

And I never expected

that you'd become an elementary school teacher, let alone Mai-chan's homeroom teacher, Mado-chan.



I used to comfort you whenever you were crying, Ta-chan ...

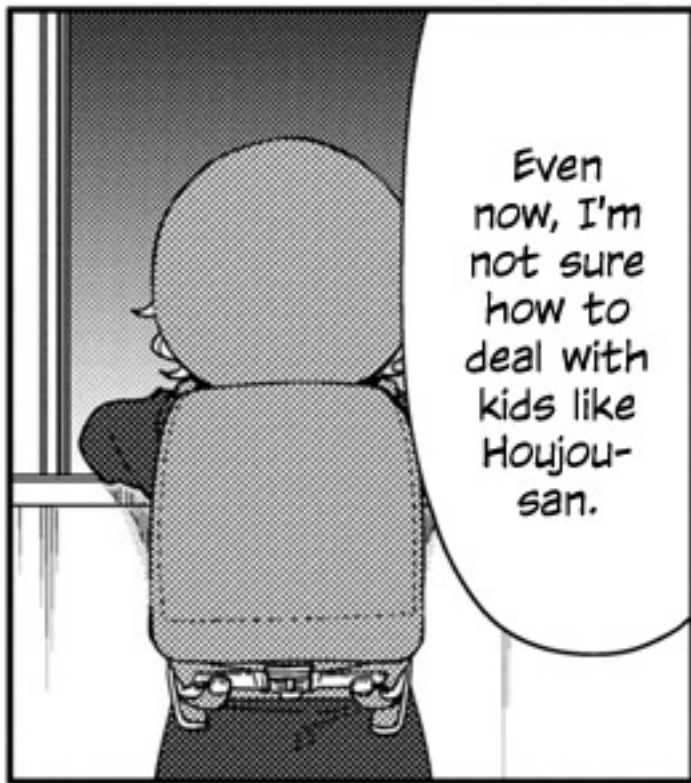


I loved watching over others.

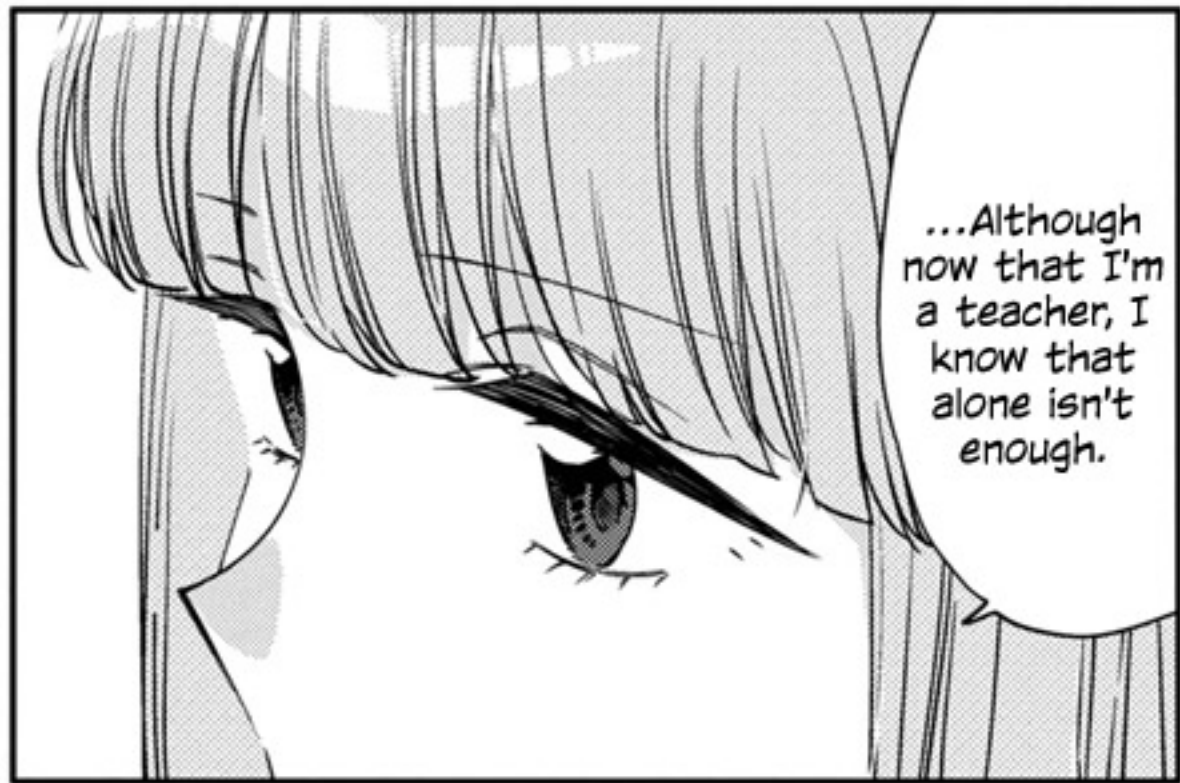


But

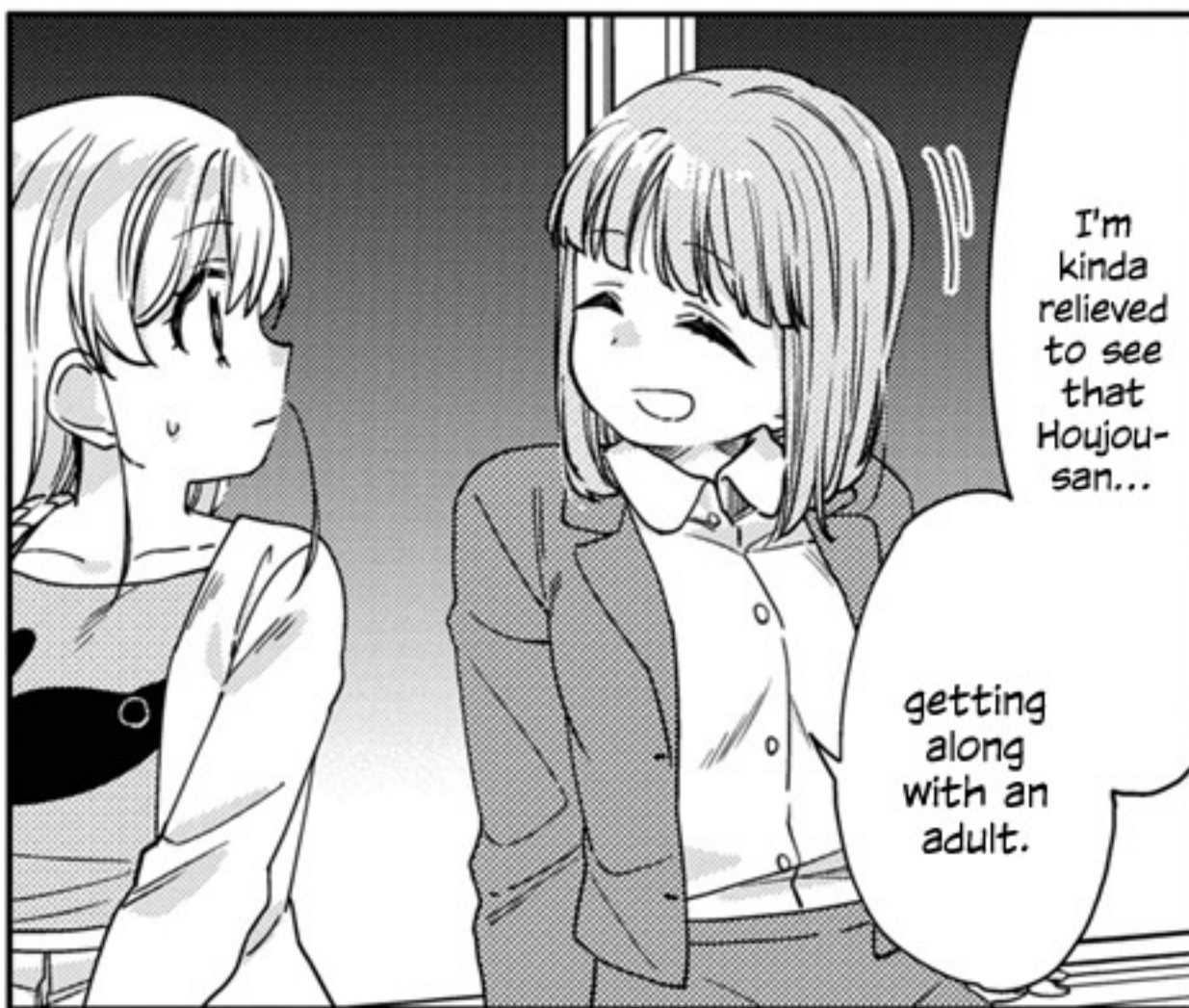
you've always been good at looking after others, so I can see why.



Even now, I'm not sure how to deal with kids like Houjou-san.



...Although now that I'm a teacher, I know that alone isn't enough.



I'm kinda relieved to see that Houjou-san...

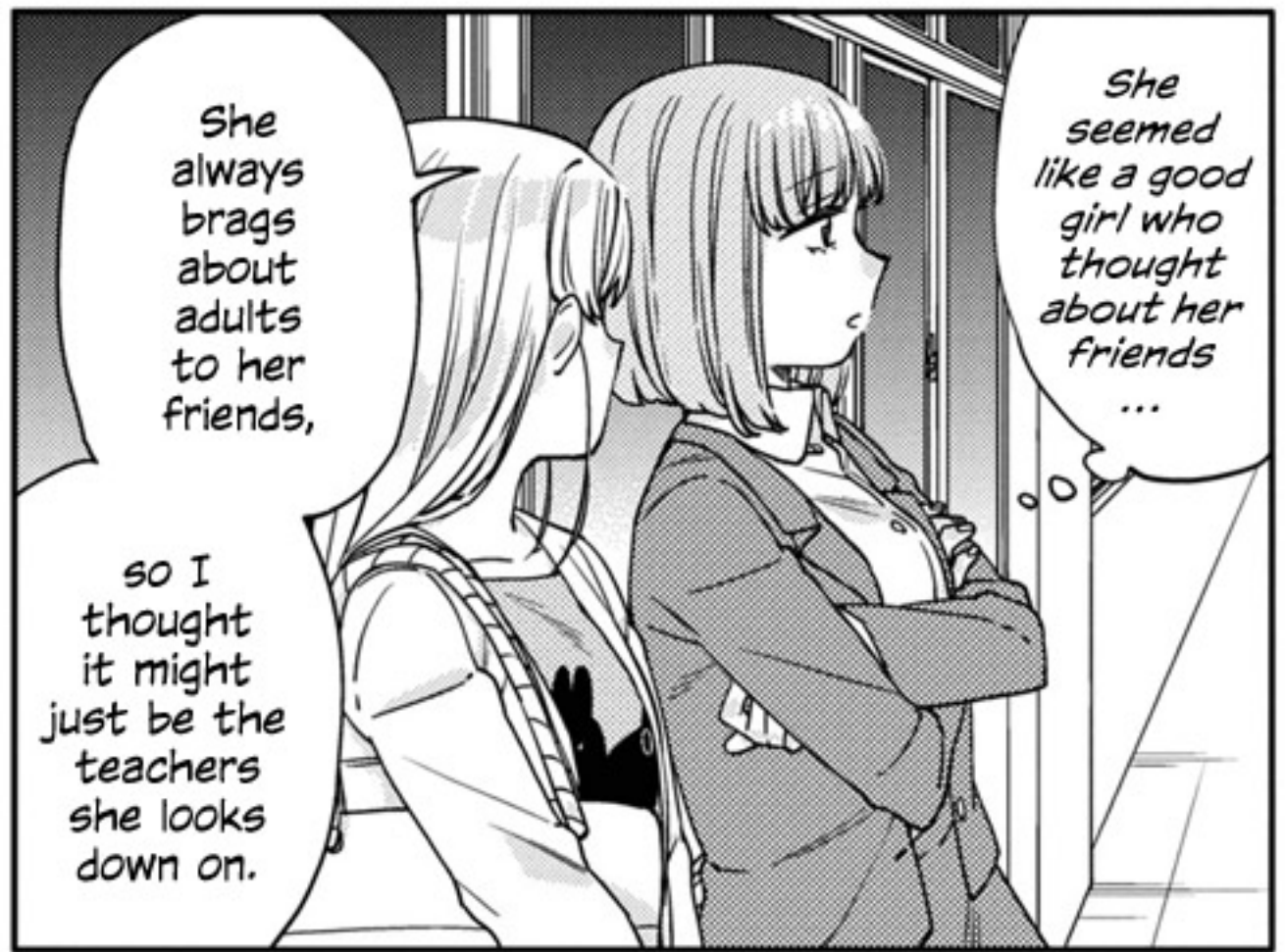
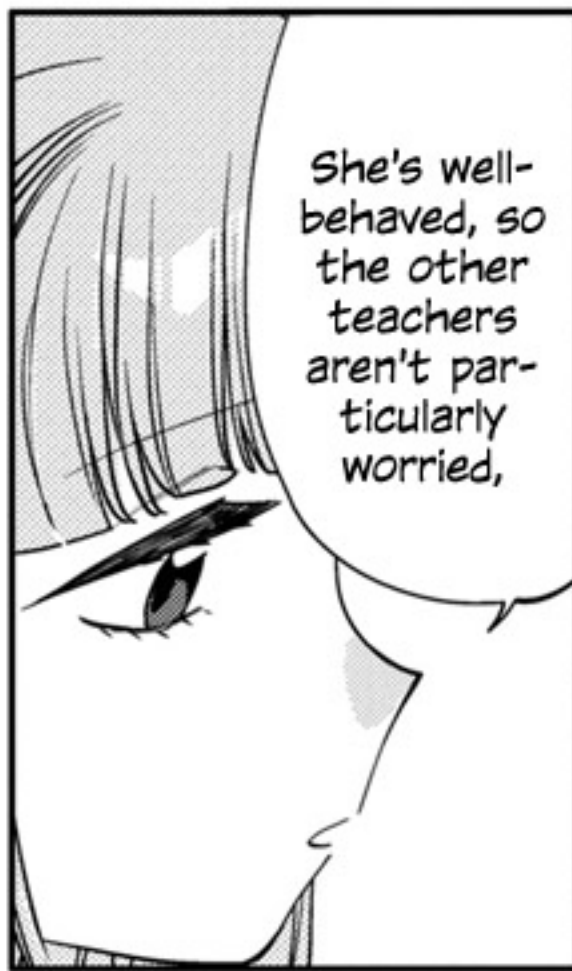
getting along with an adult.

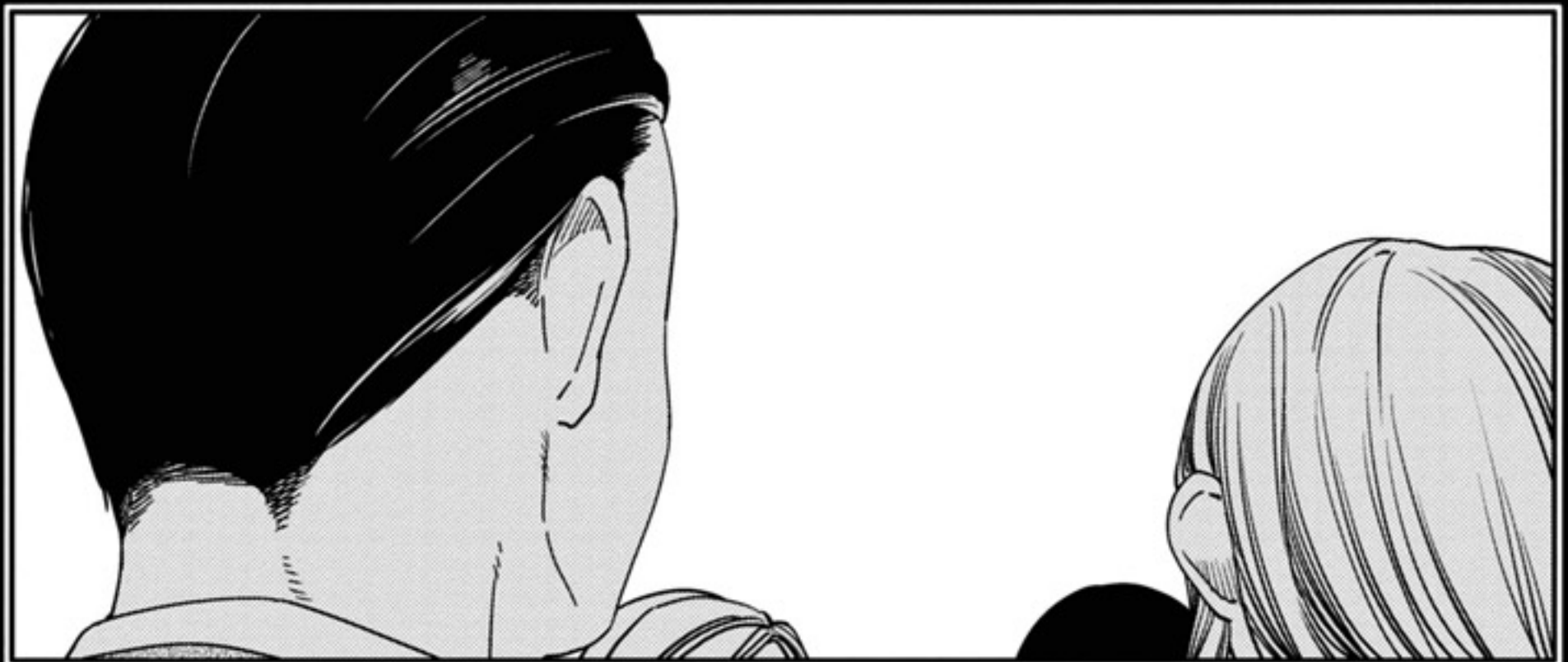
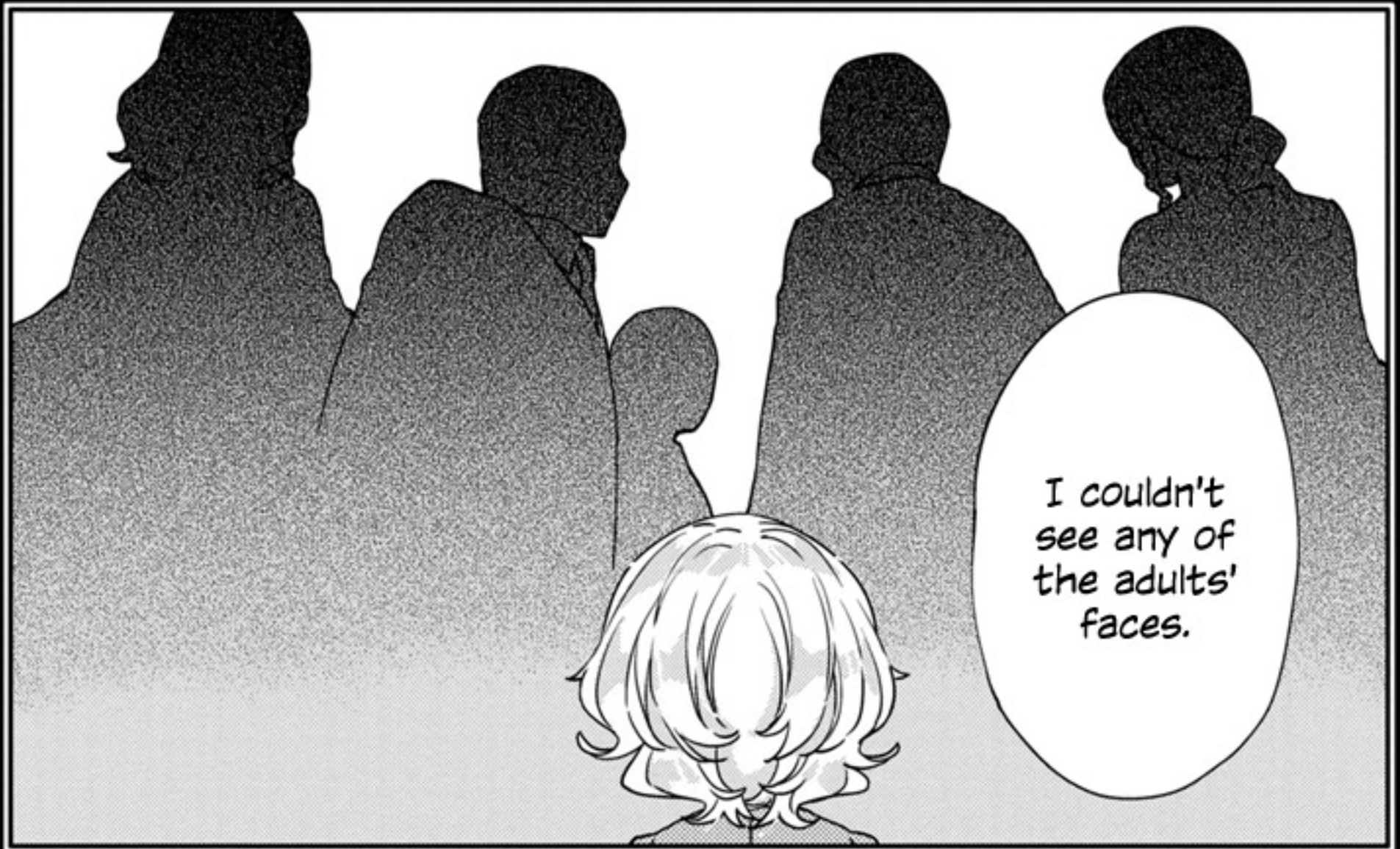
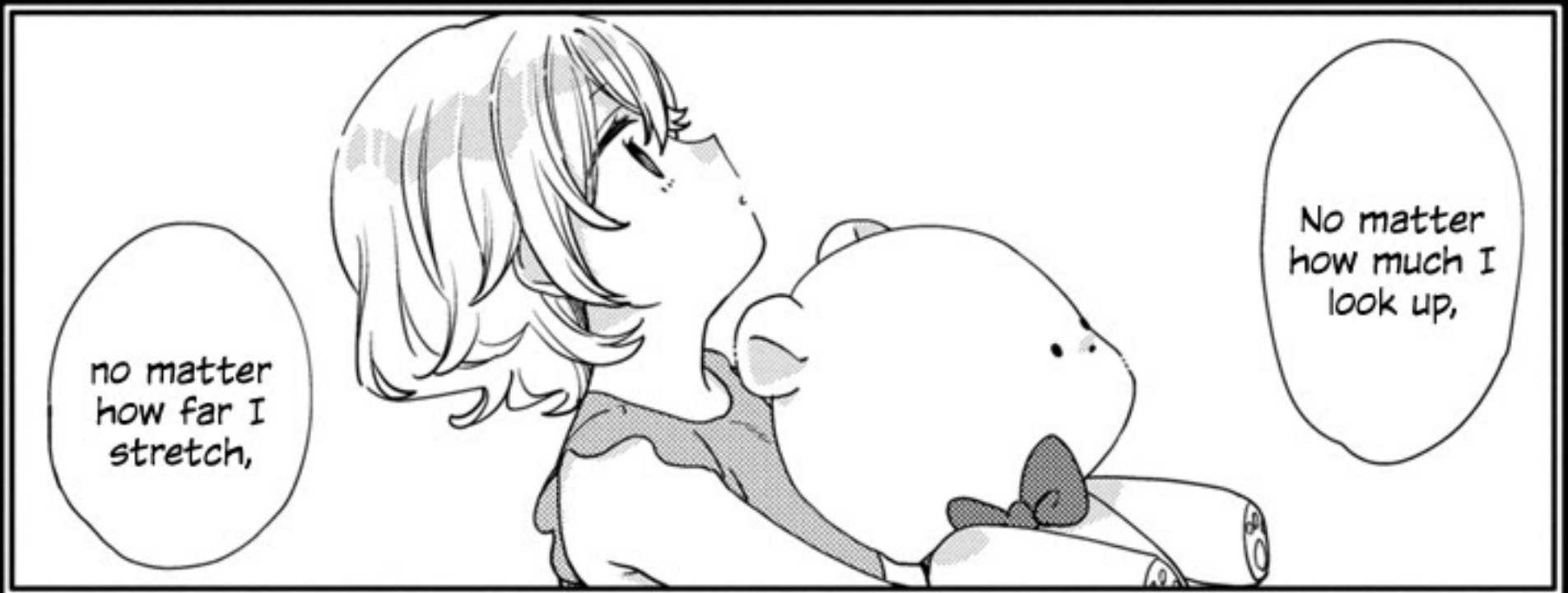


...You mean ...

That's why



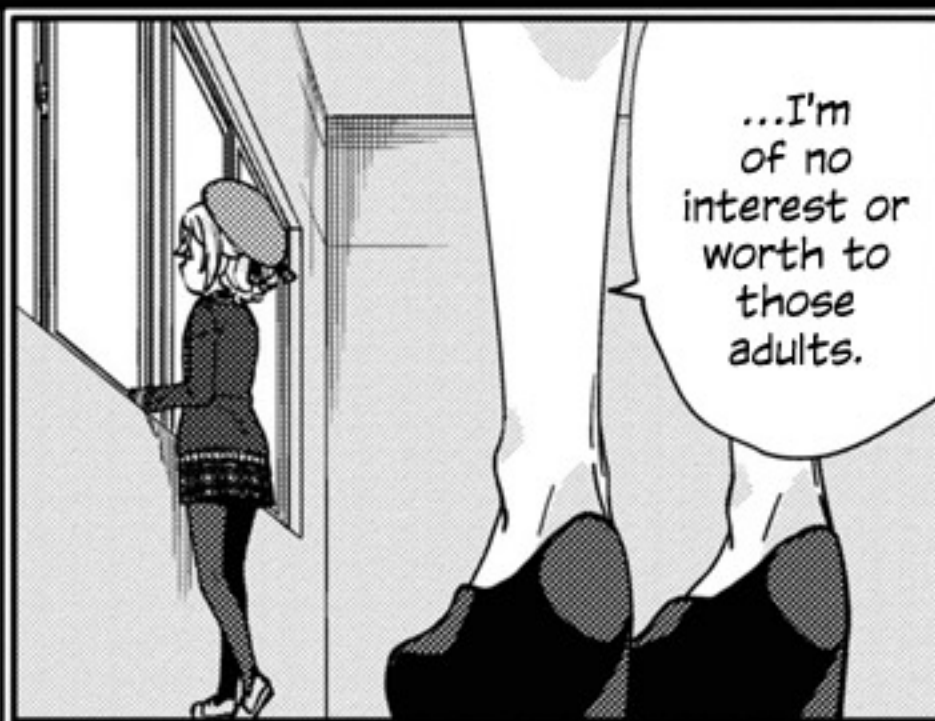






I don't care

as long as I have close friends.



...I'm of no interest or worth to those adults.



Please leave me alone.



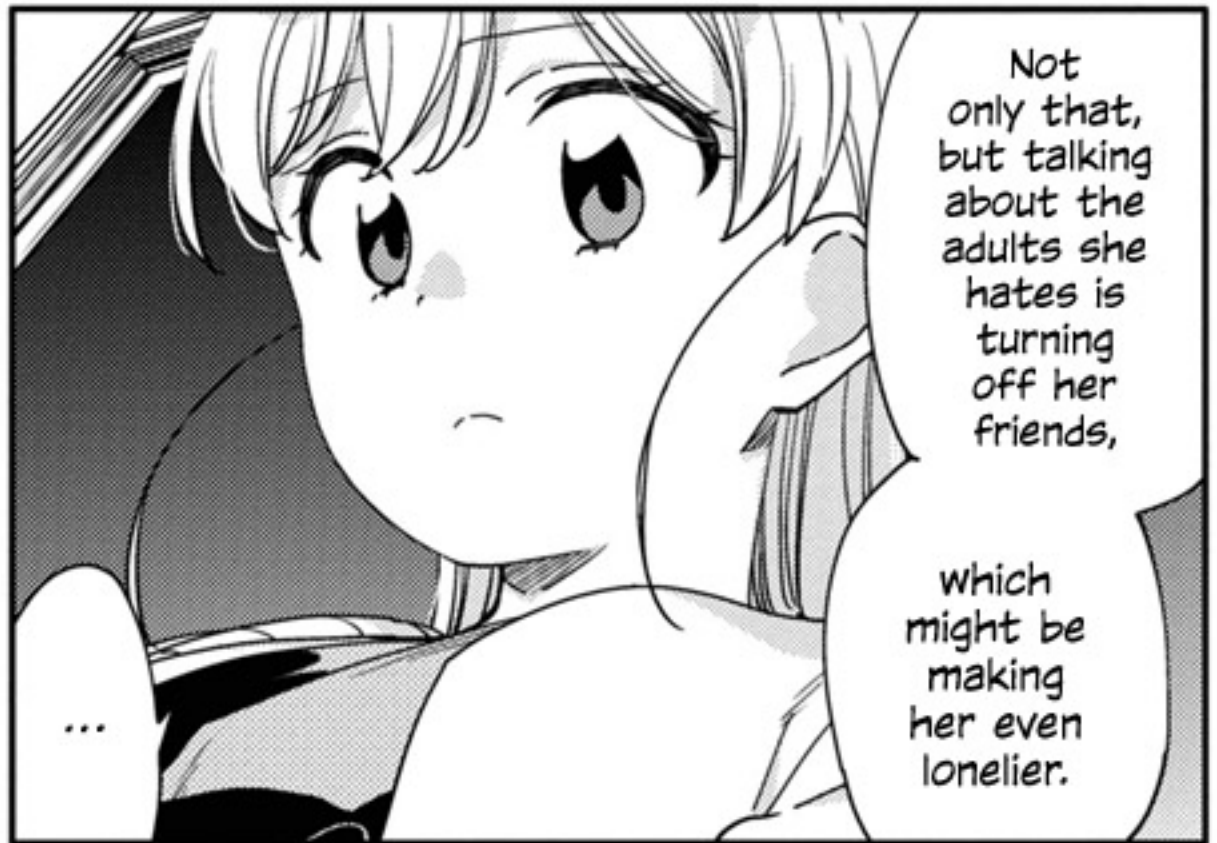
her parents always come home late because of their work.

Poor girl.

On top of having more opportunities to interact with adults than normal kids,

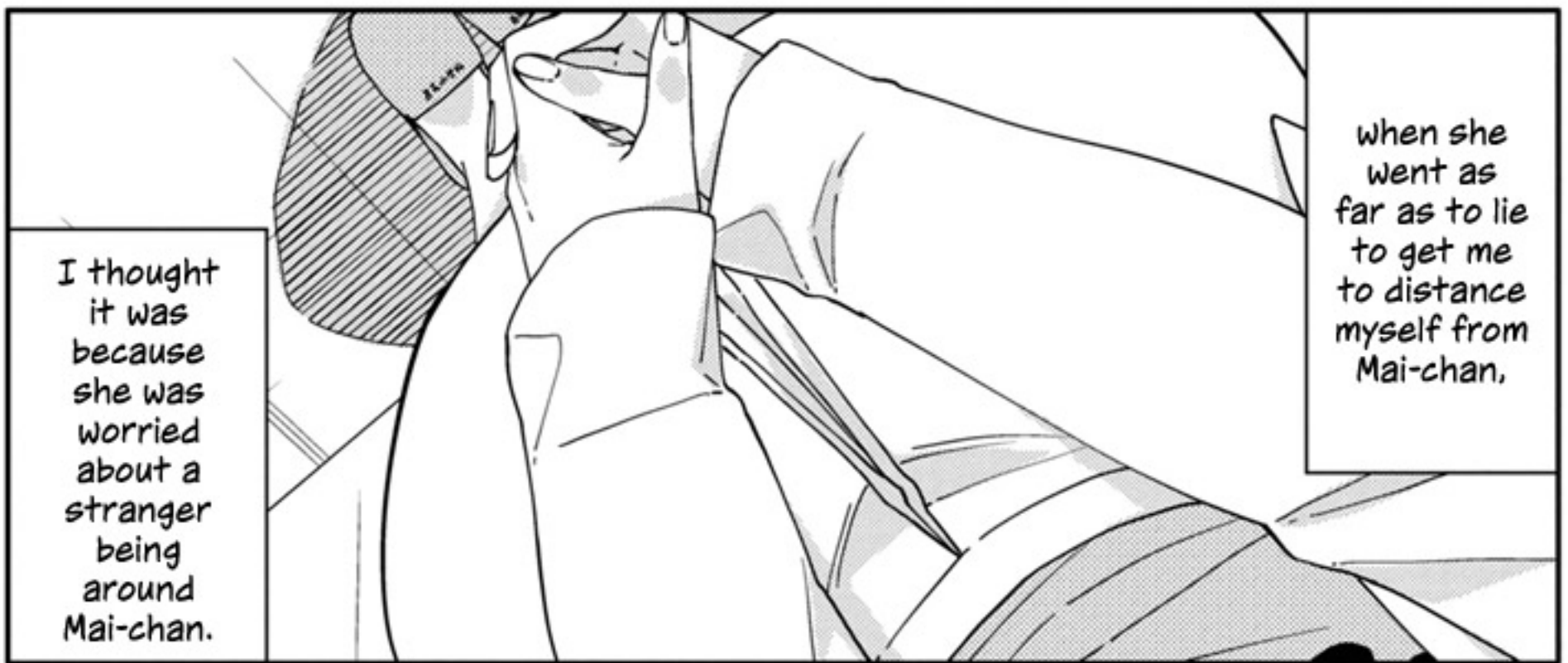


That day,



Not only that, but talking about the adults she hates is turning off her friends,

which might be making her even lonelier.



I thought it was because she was worried about a stranger being around Mai-chan.

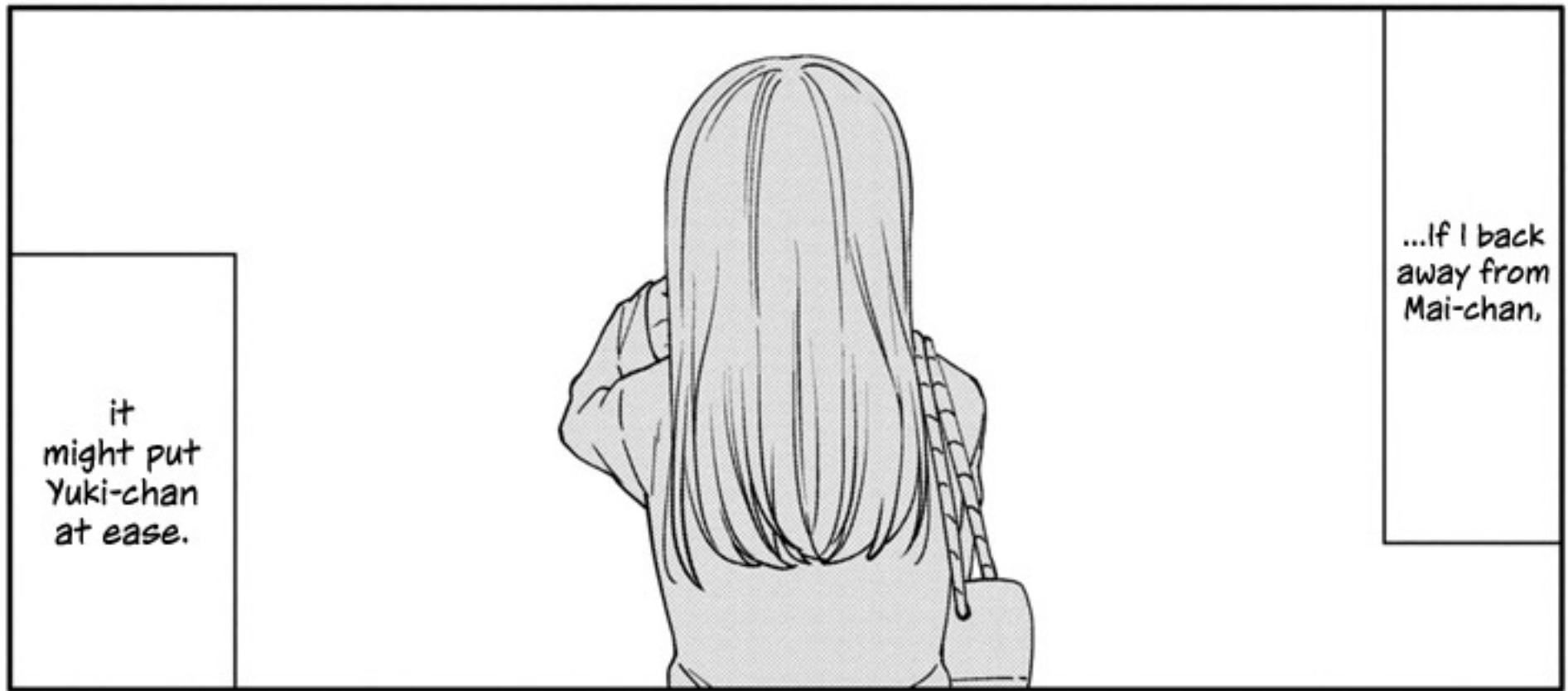
when she went as far as to lie to get me to distance myself from Mai-chan,



in actuality...



But

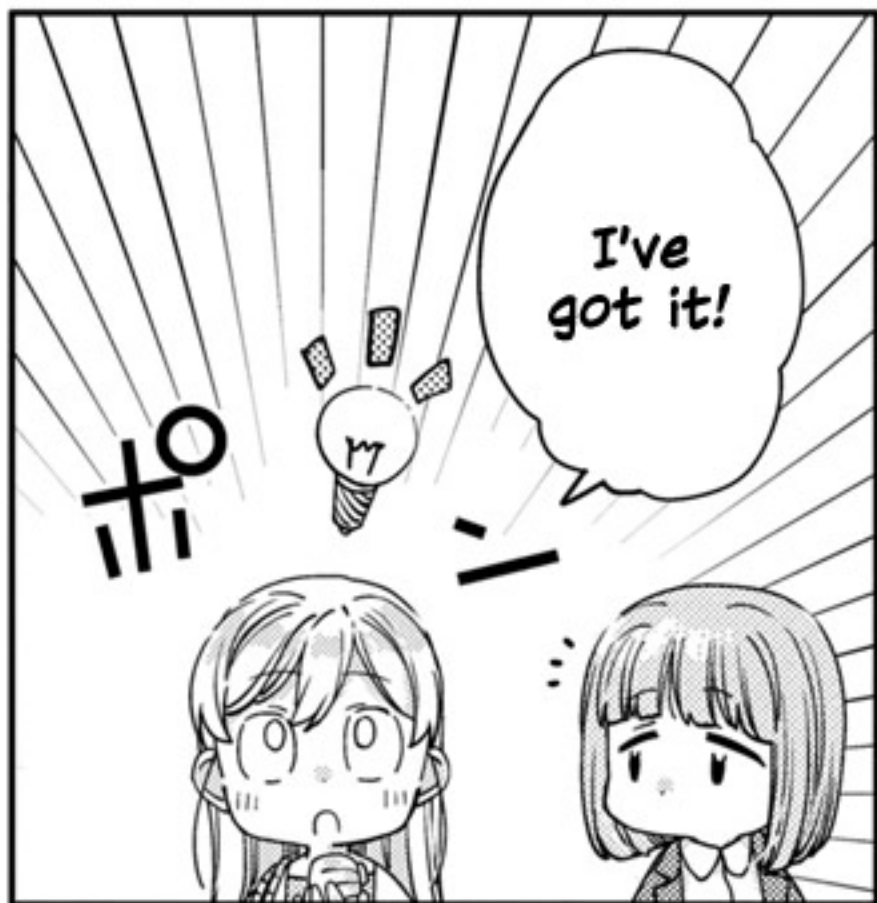


it
might put
Yuki-chan
at ease.

...If I back
away from
Mai-chan,



...But



I've
got it!



won't rid
Yuki-chan
of her
loneliness
...

that
alone

Sorry for
just talking
about gloomy
stuff...

The following week.

...Why on Earth

are you bringing me here...?

Onee-san told me

to bring you along.

!?

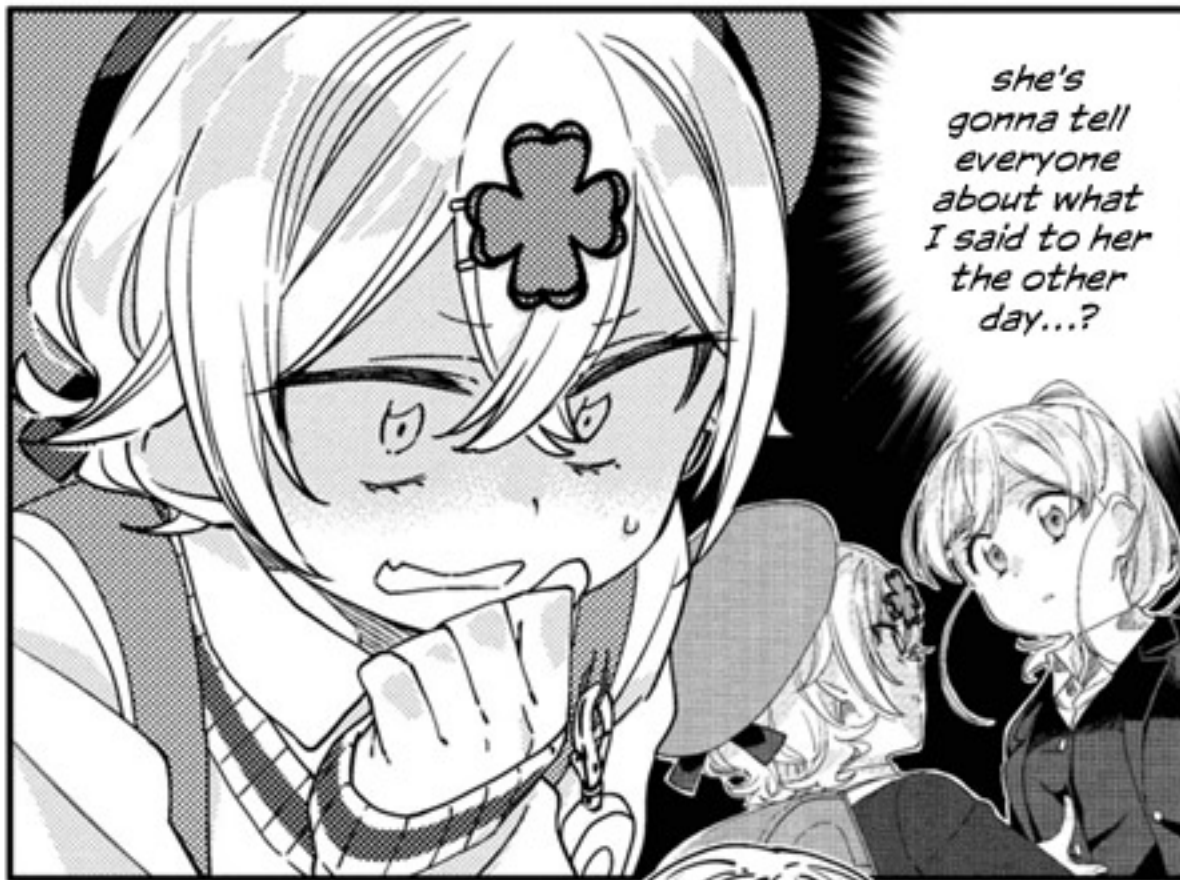
Actually,



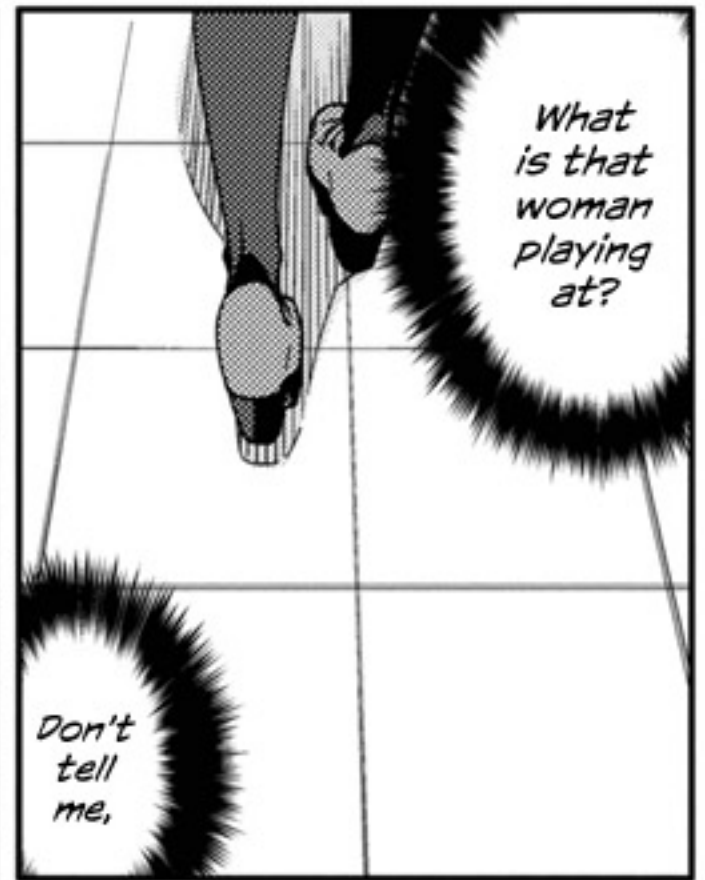


That's...

since when have you two known each other?



she's gonna tell everyone about what I said to her the other day...?



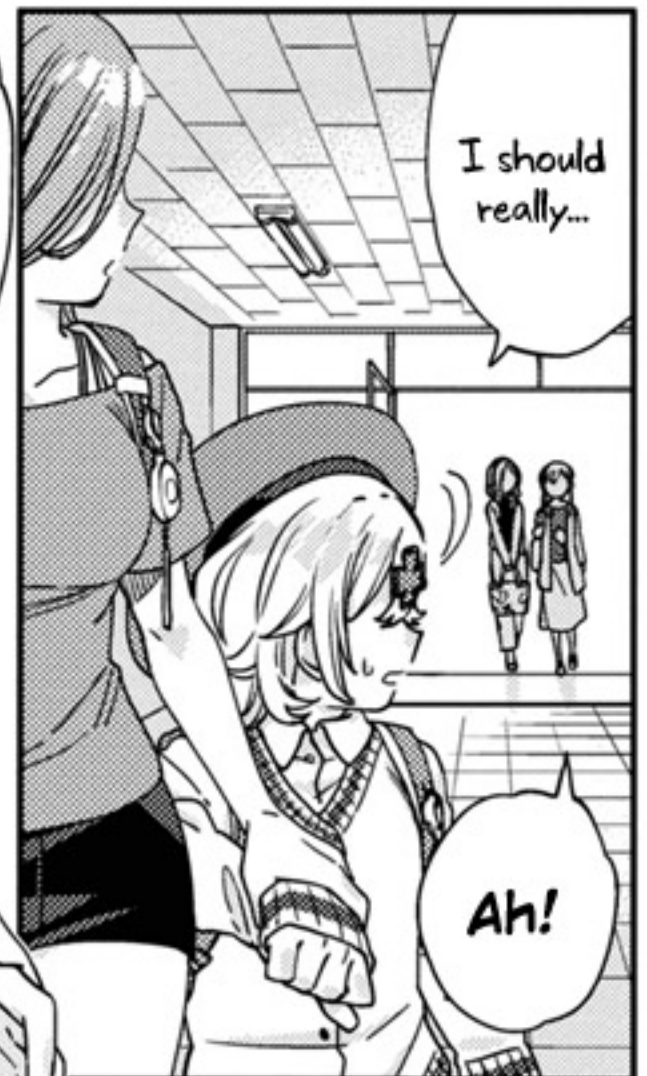
What is that woman playing at?

Don't tell me,



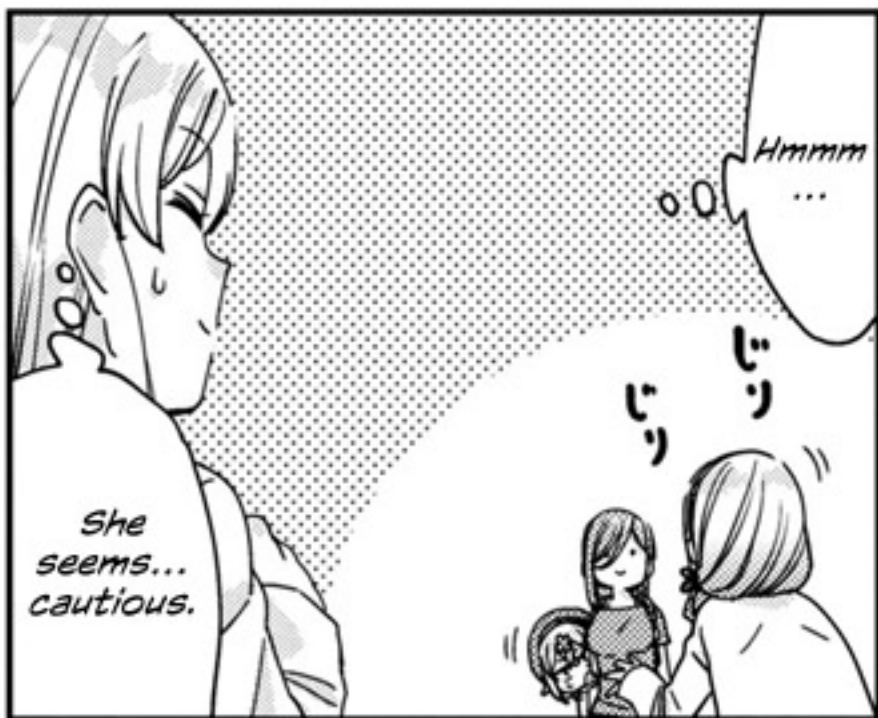
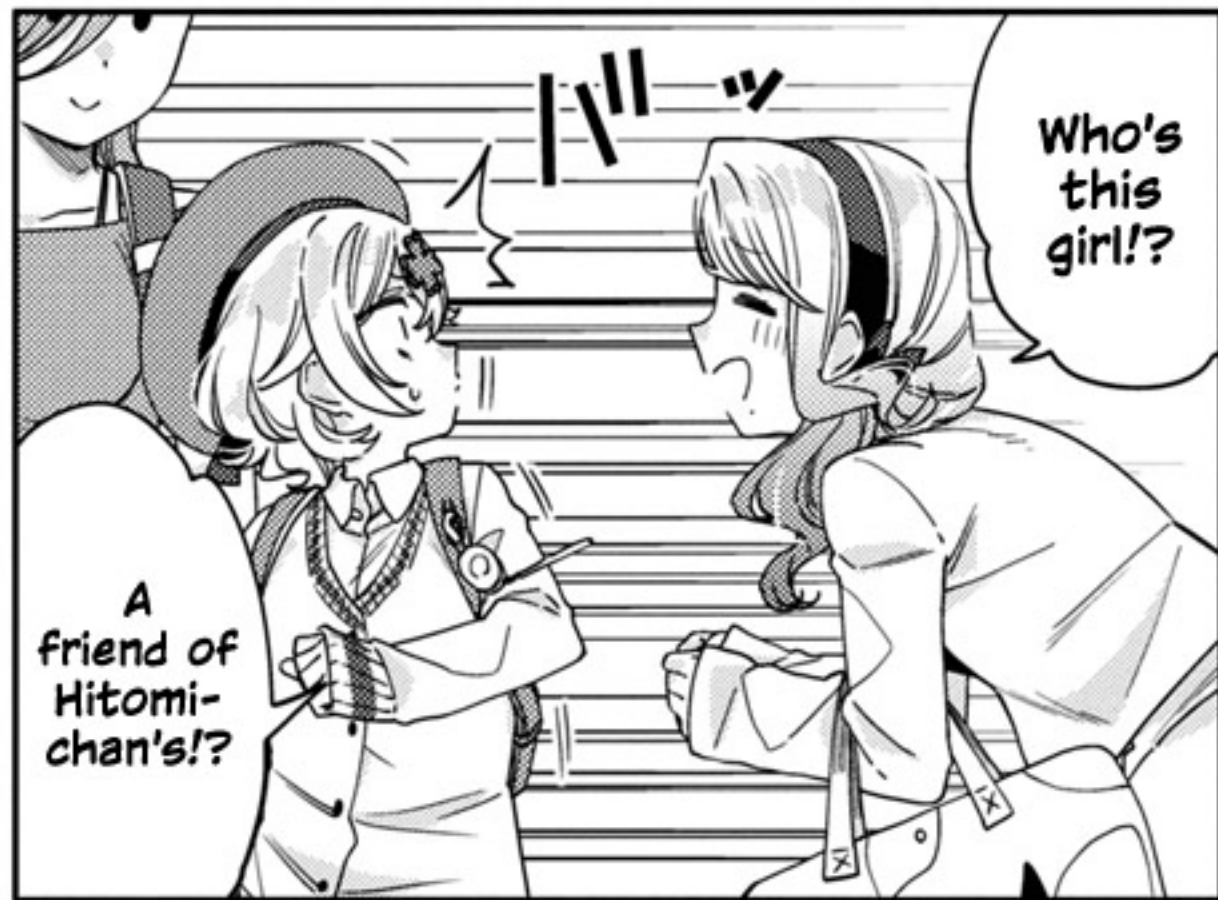
You're here!

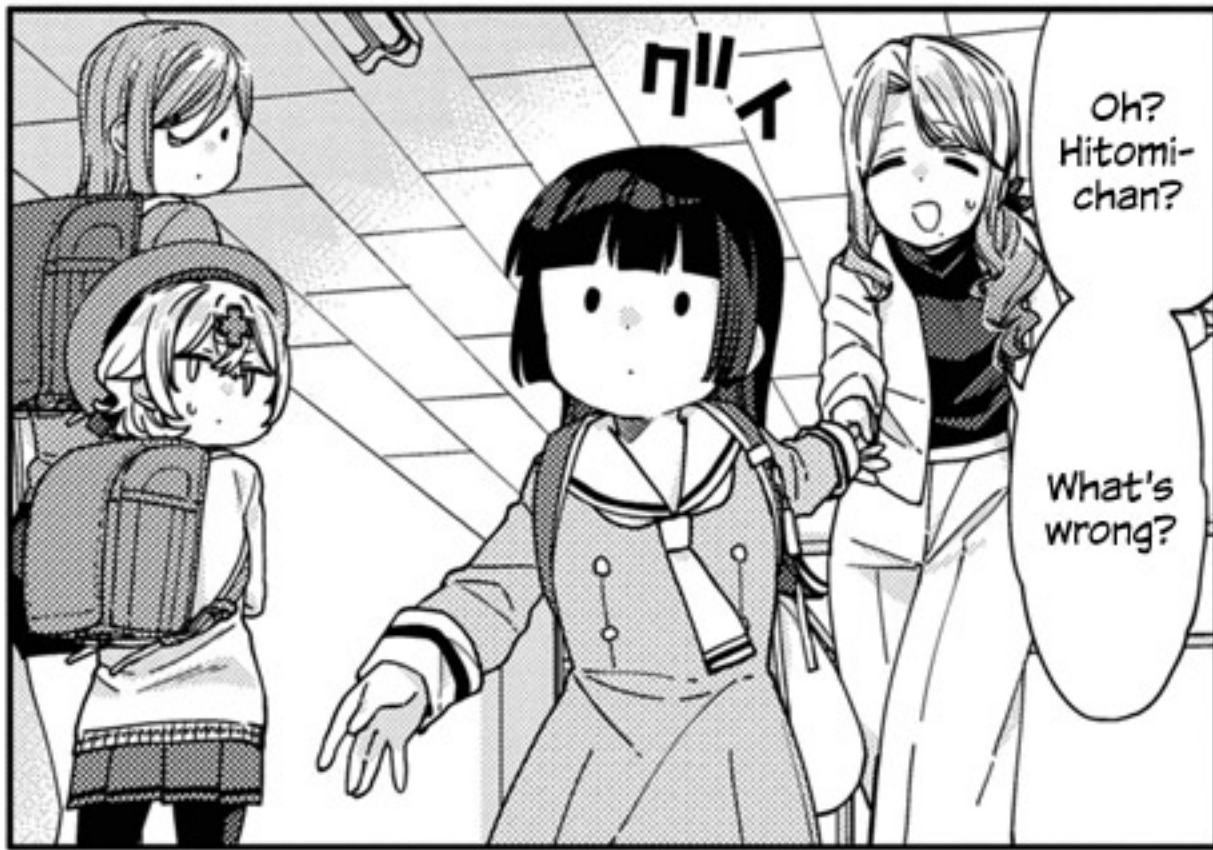
Thank goodness-



I should really...

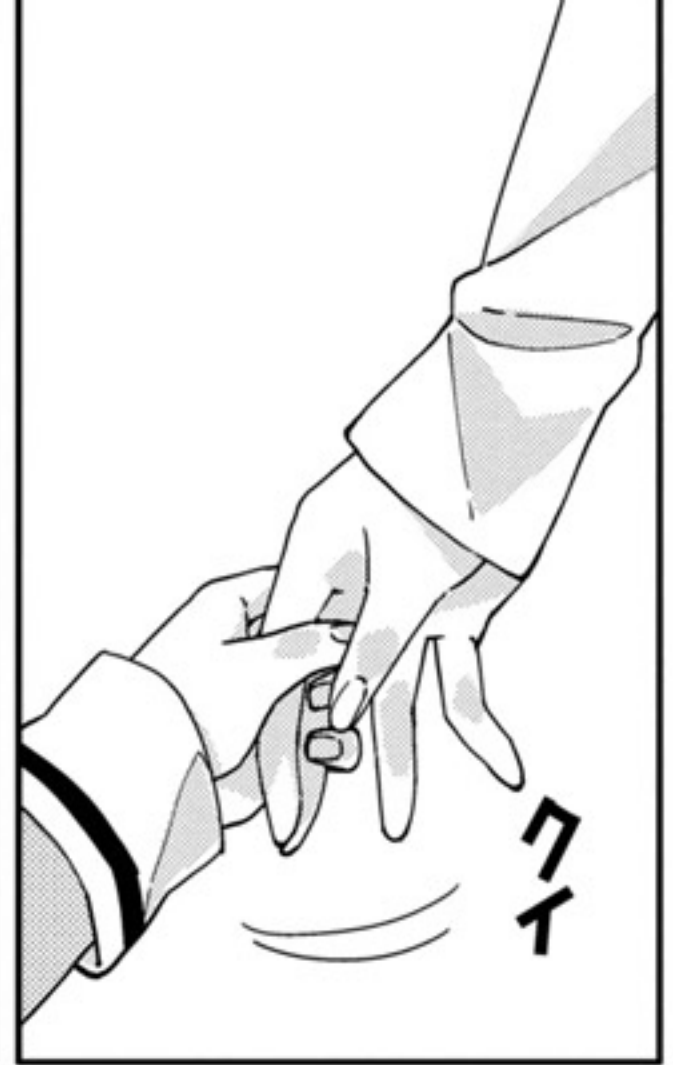
Ah!





Oh?
Hitomi-
chan?

What's
wrong?



I want
to speak
with
Yuki-chan
alone for
a bit.

Is that
okay?



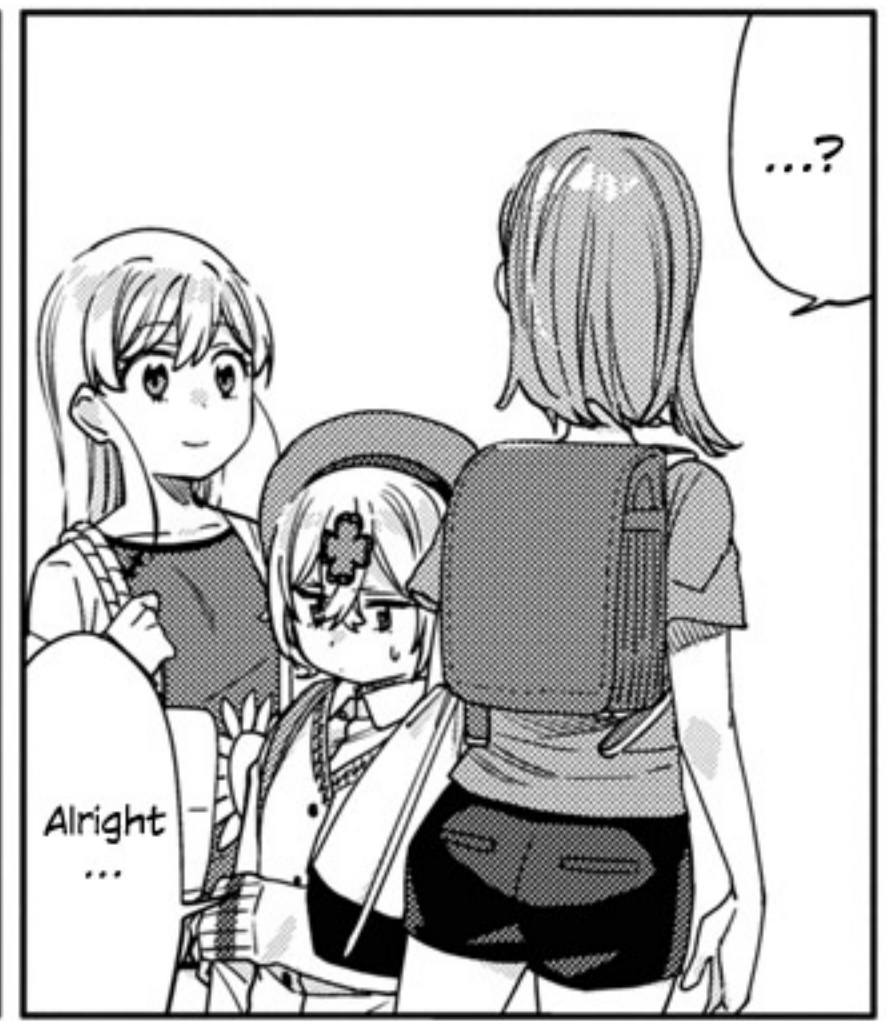
Hm?

Mai-
chan.



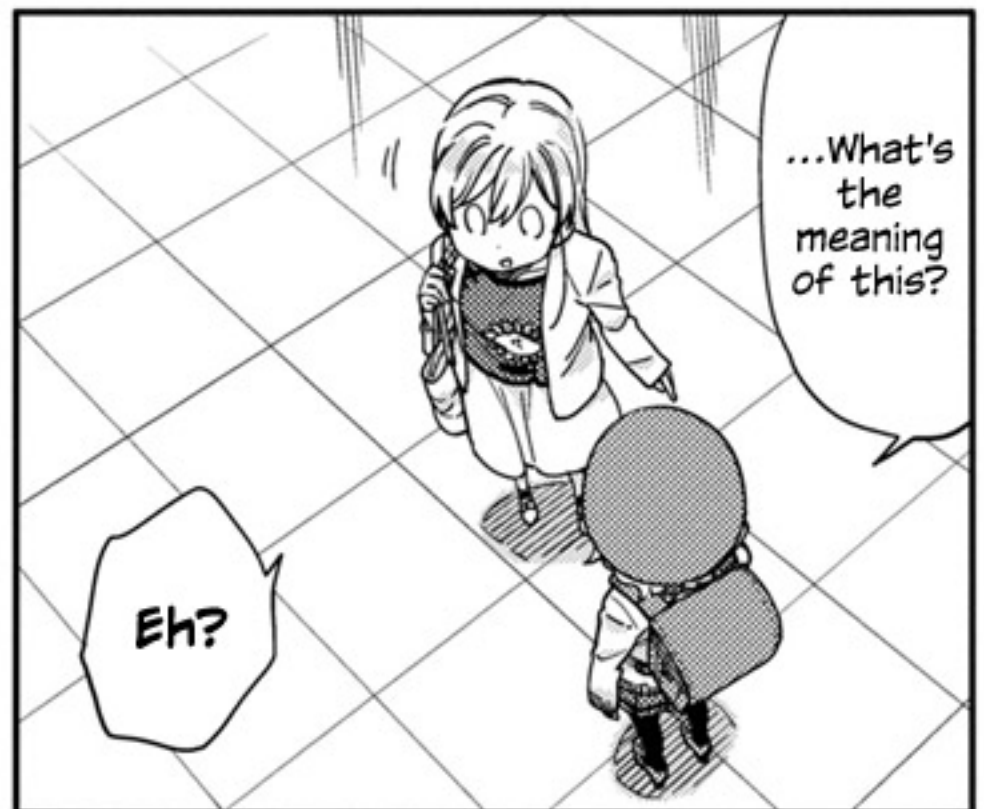
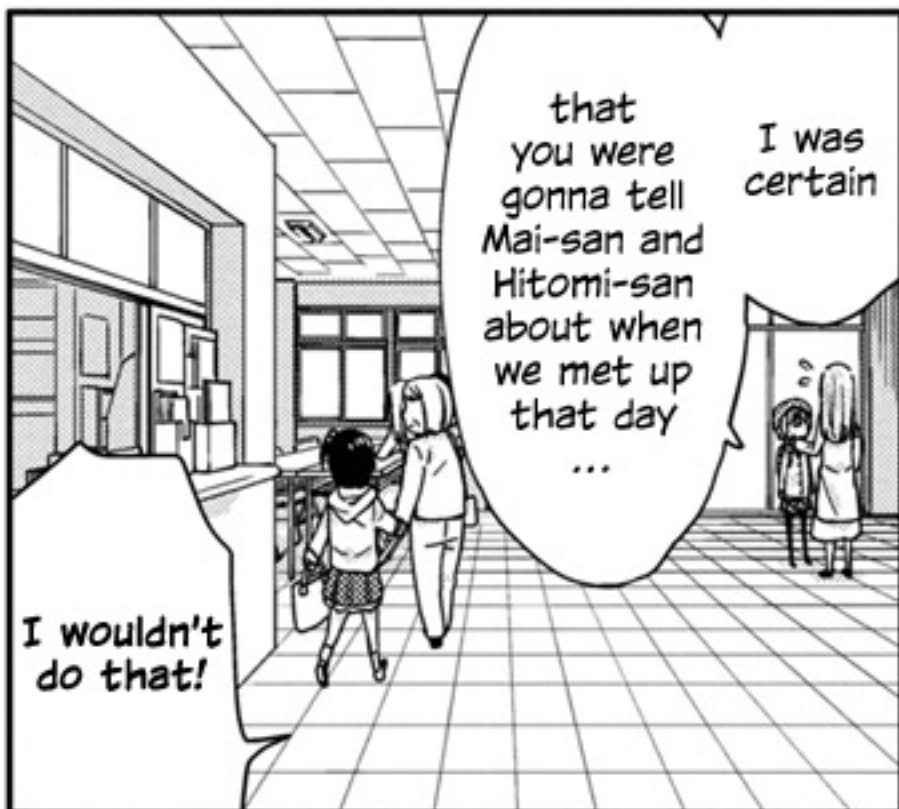
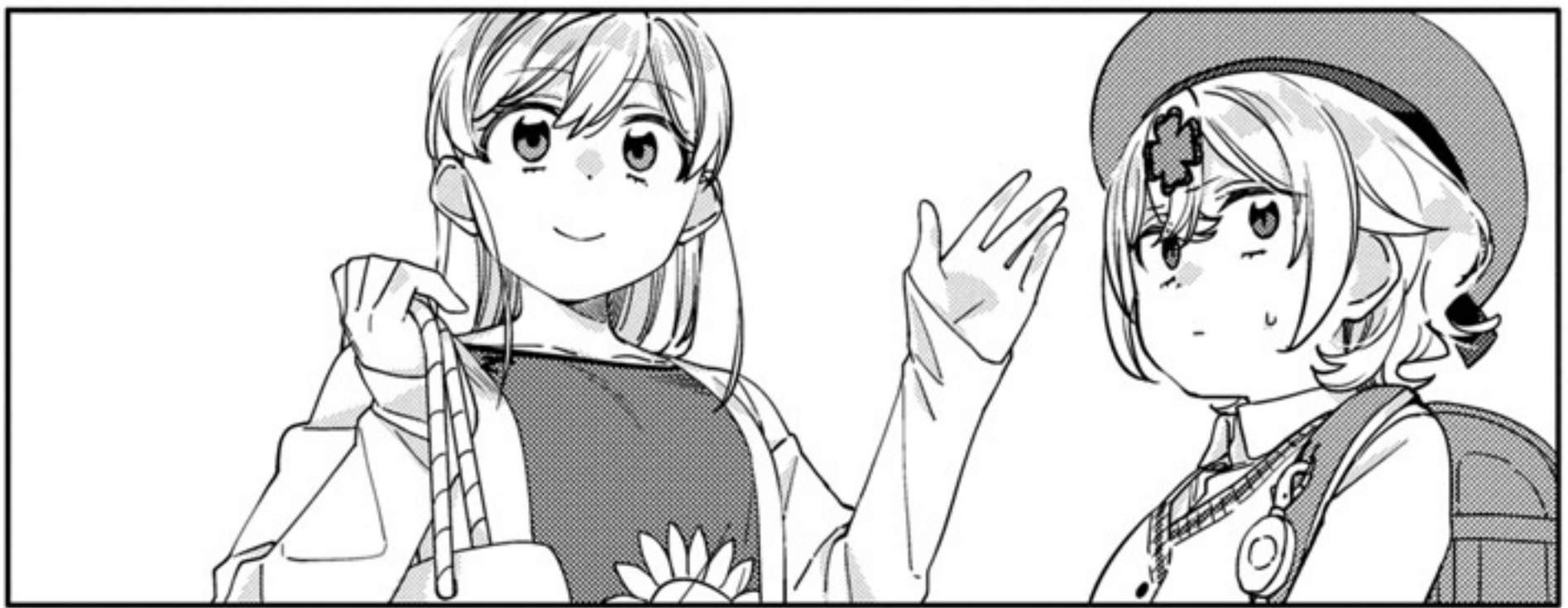
Okay!

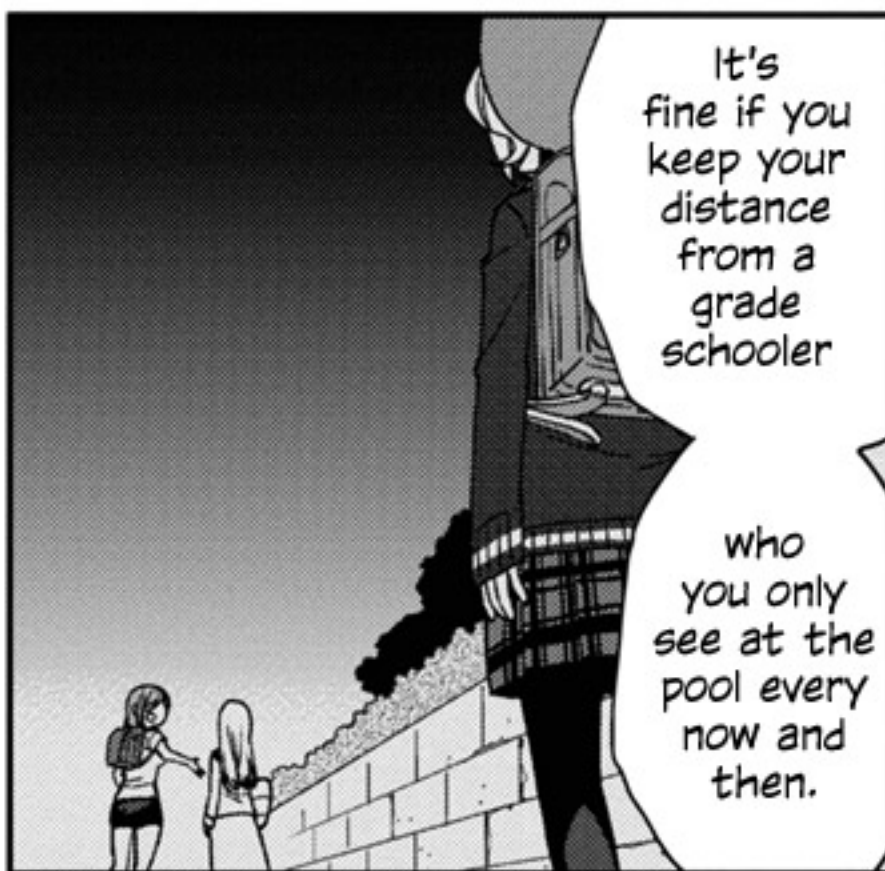
Don't
take too
long!

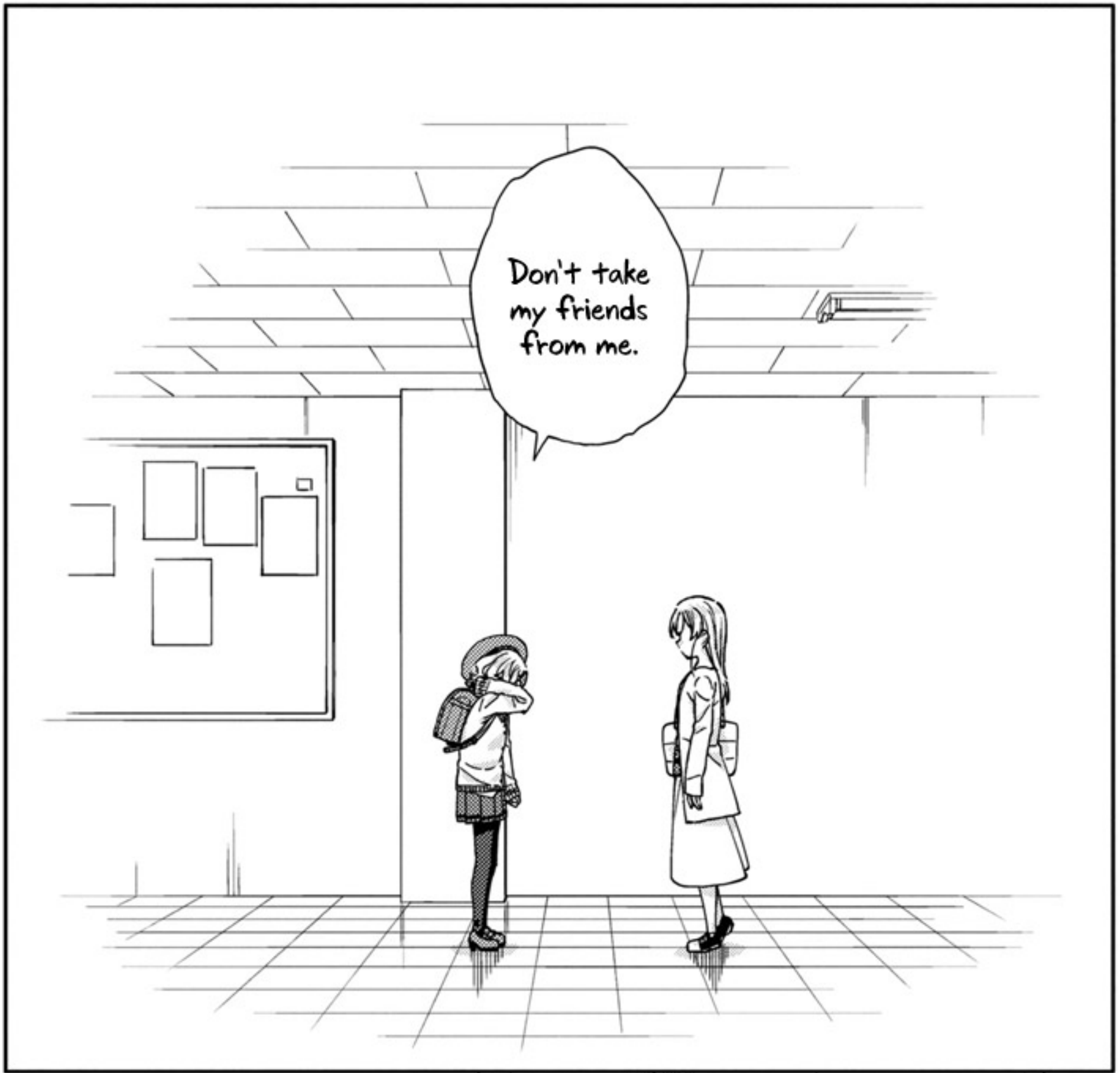


Alright
...

...?

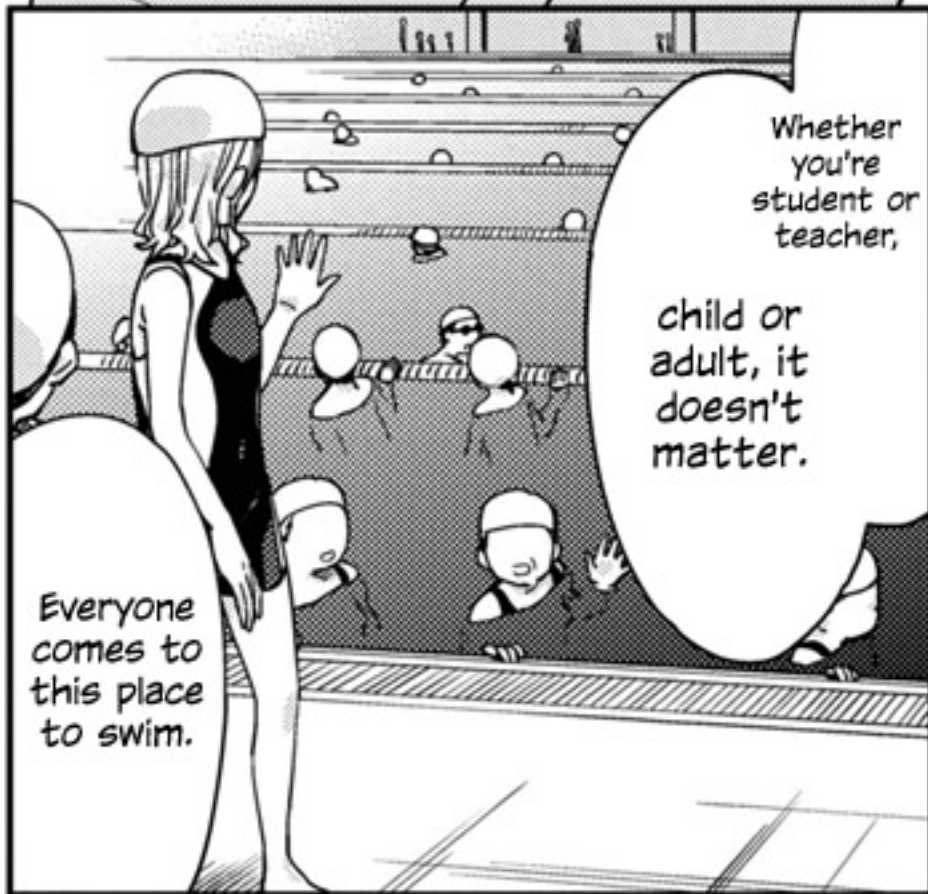






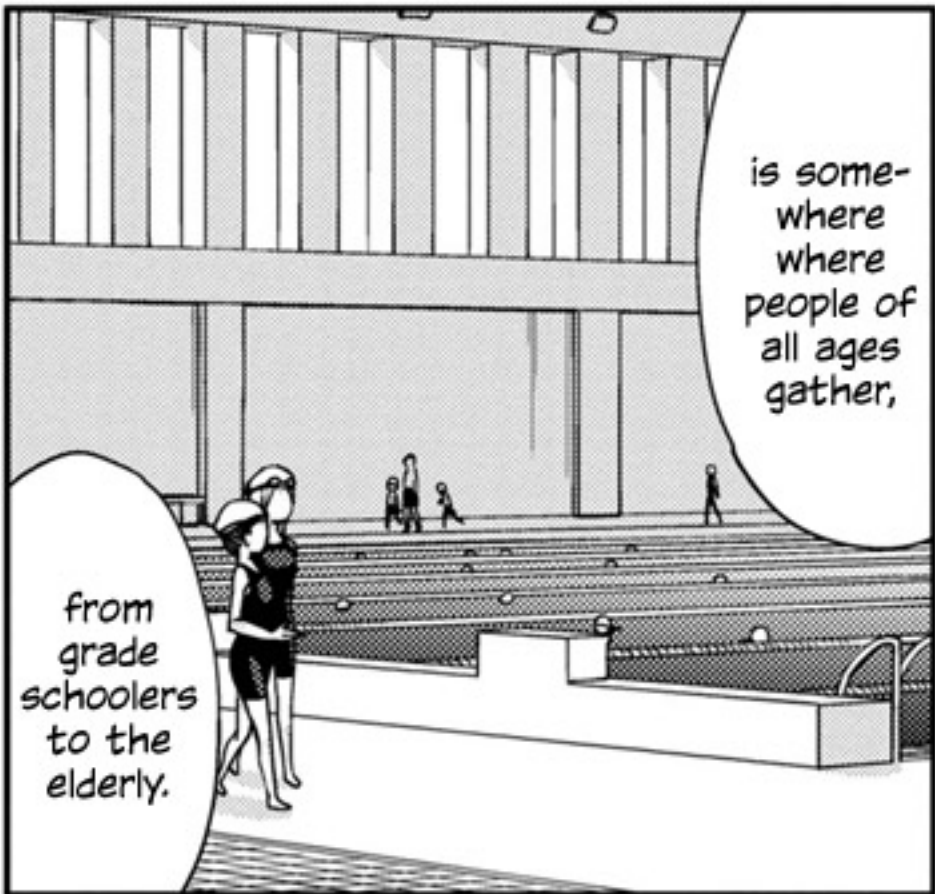


This place



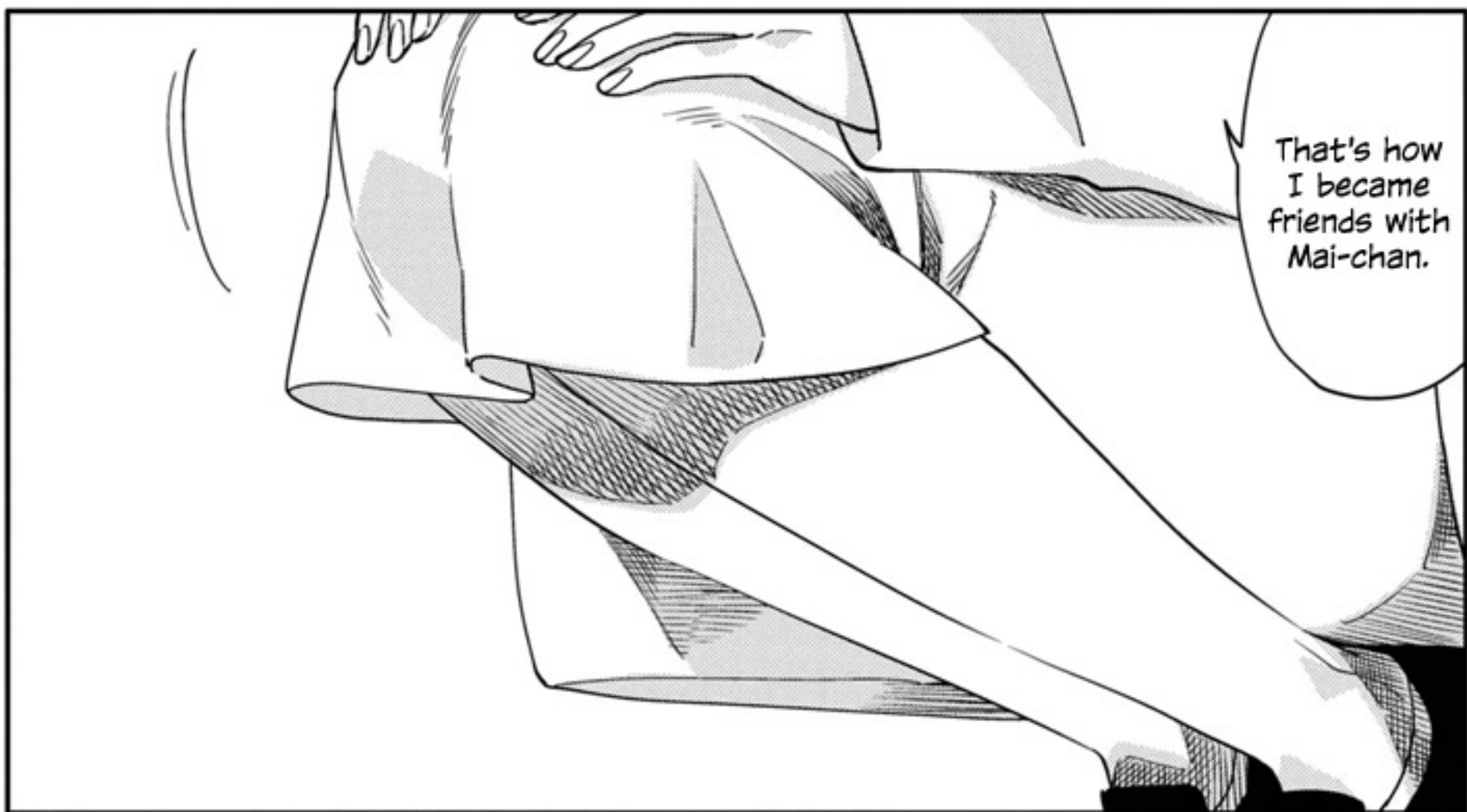
Everyone comes to this place to swim.

Whether you're student or teacher, child or adult, it doesn't matter.



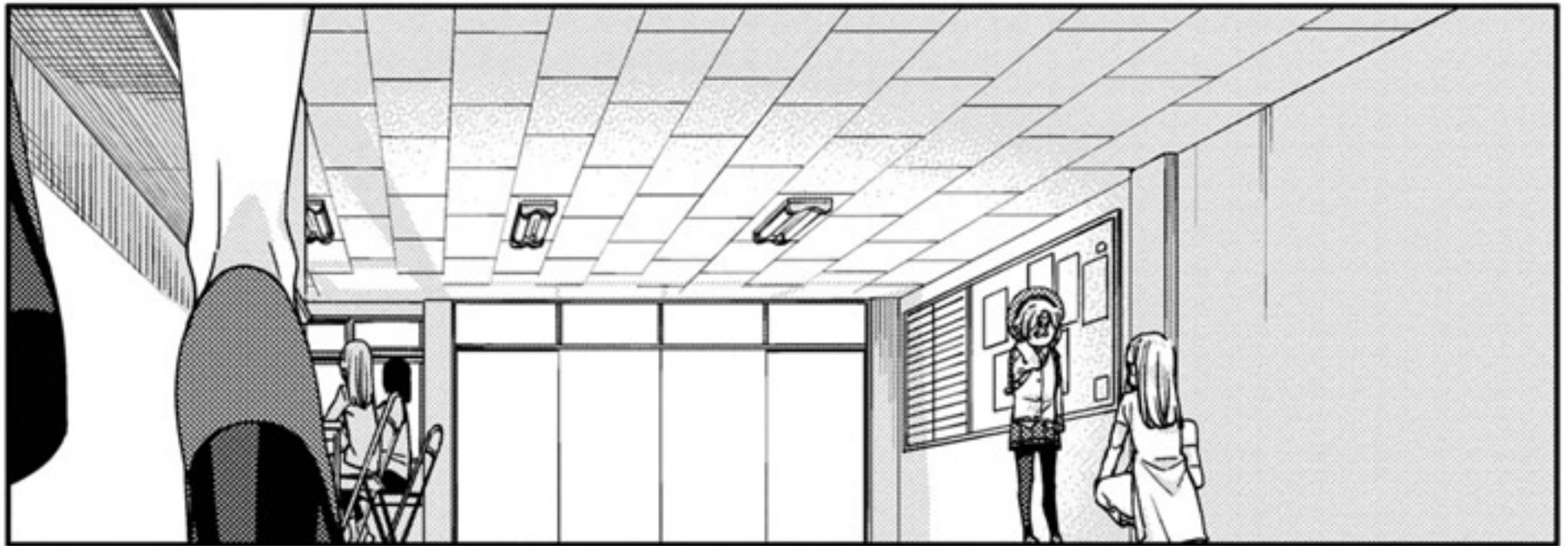
from grade schoolers to the elderly.

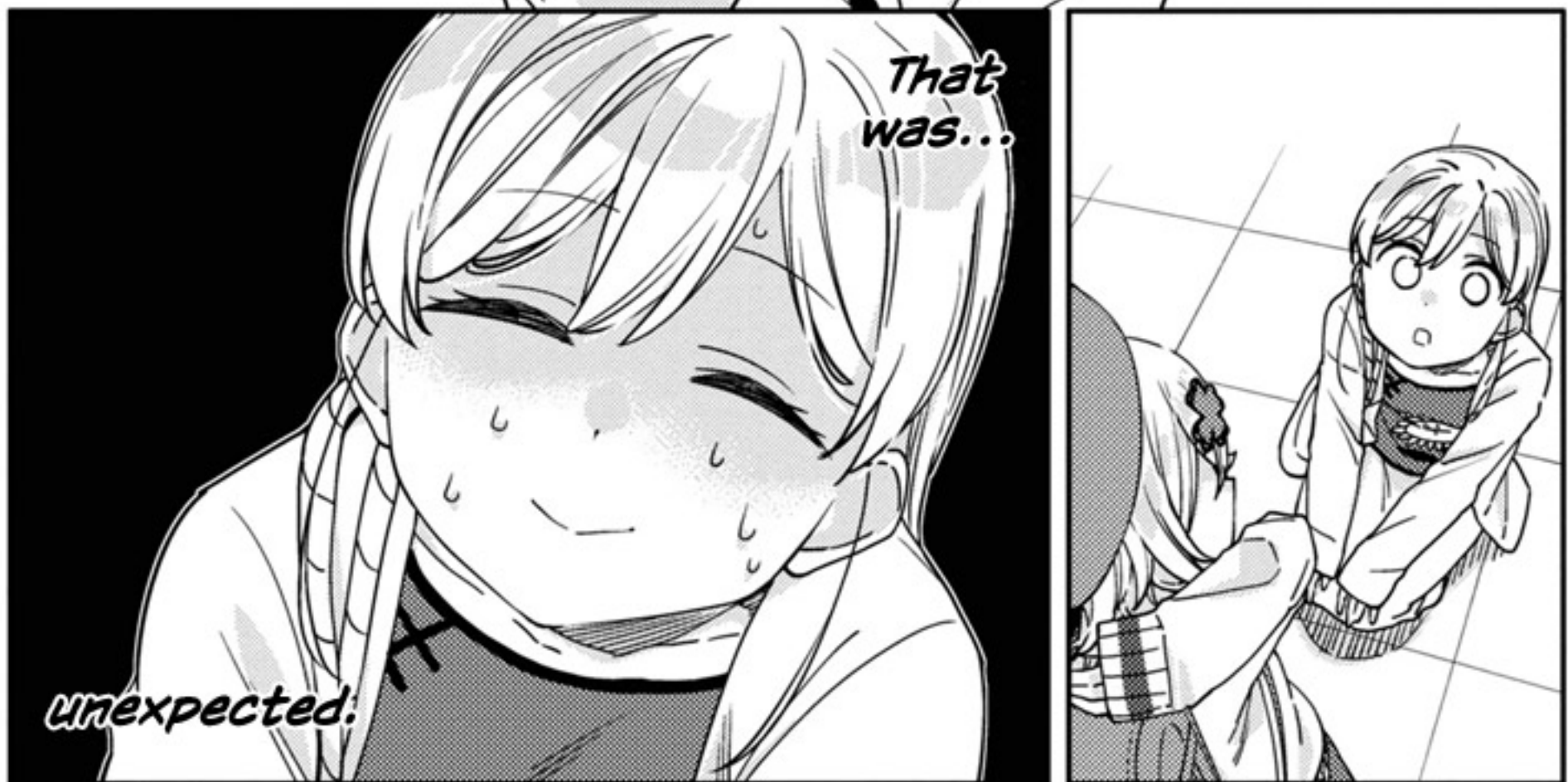
is somewhere where people of all ages gather,

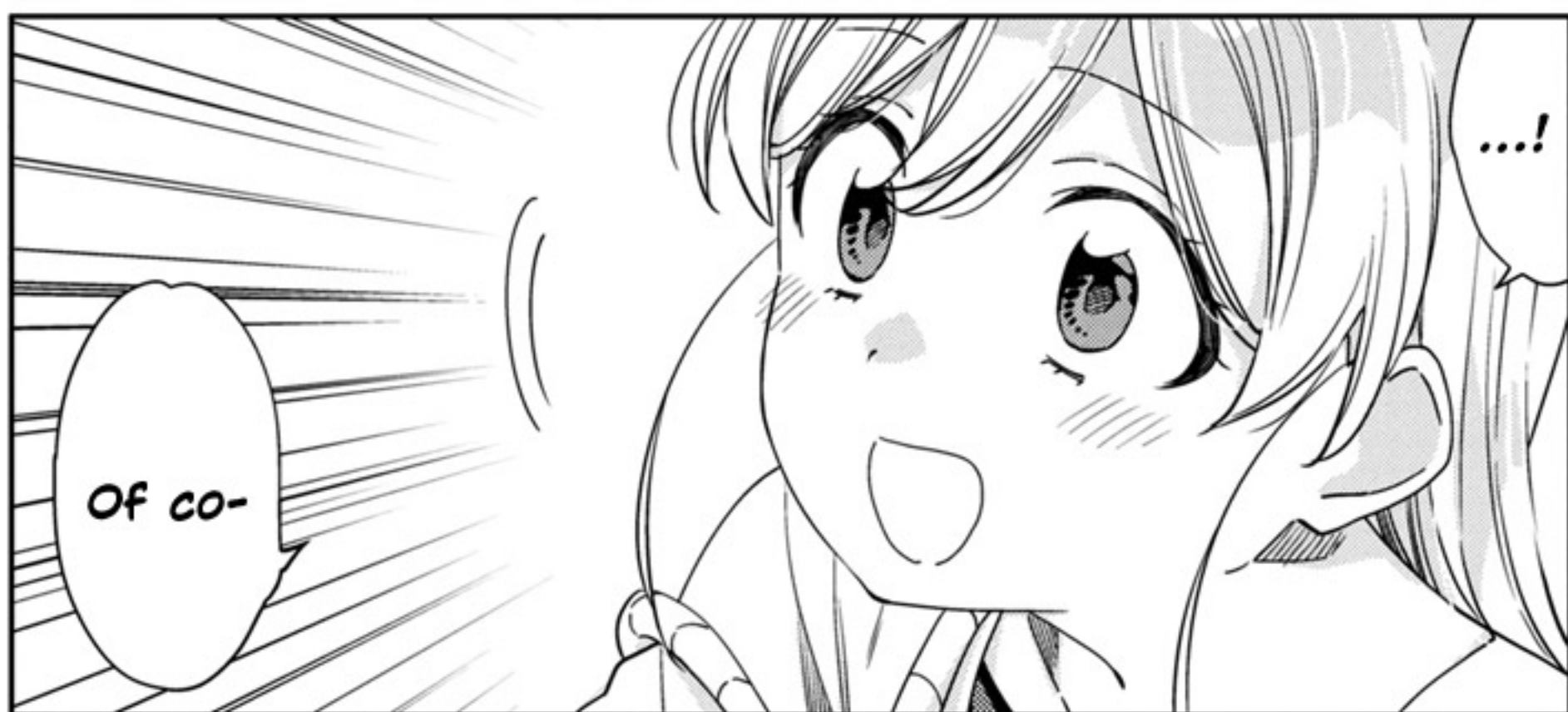
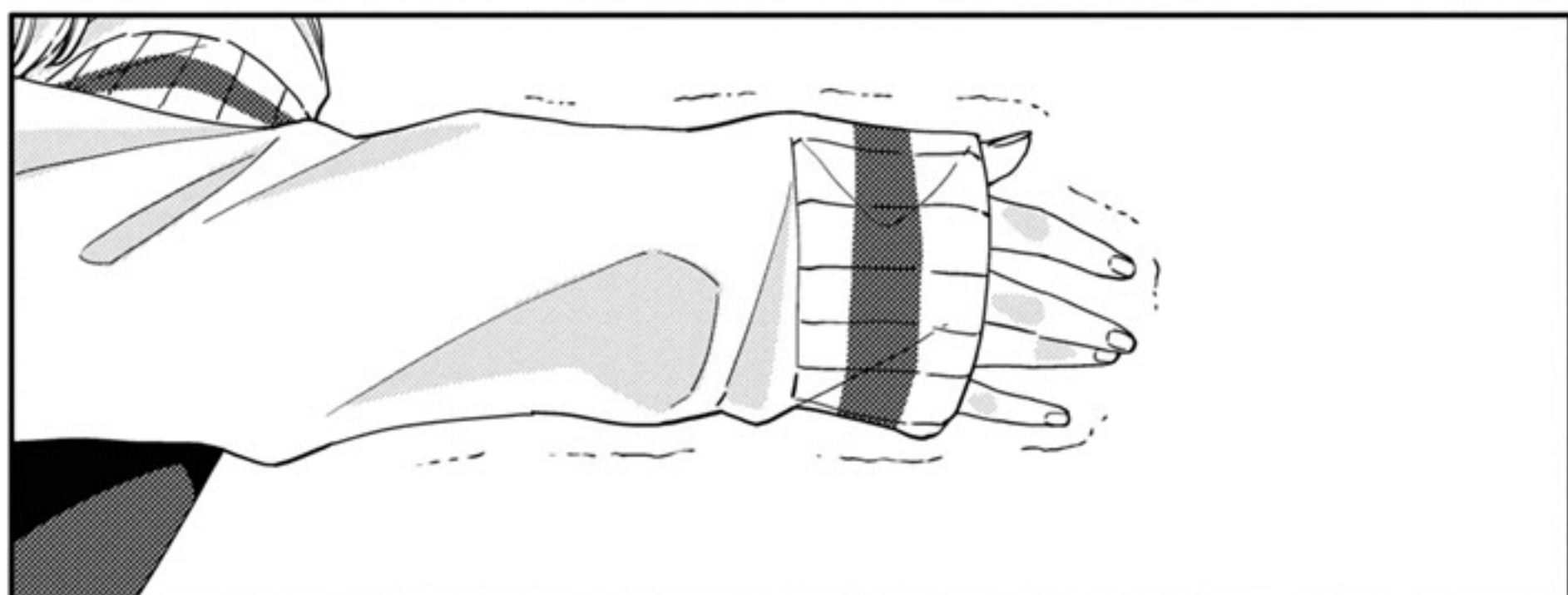


That's how I became friends with Mai-chan.











I can teach you how to swim.



MAI-CHAN !?

You two were taking so long, so I went to fetch you!



!?



In that case, I'll teach you.

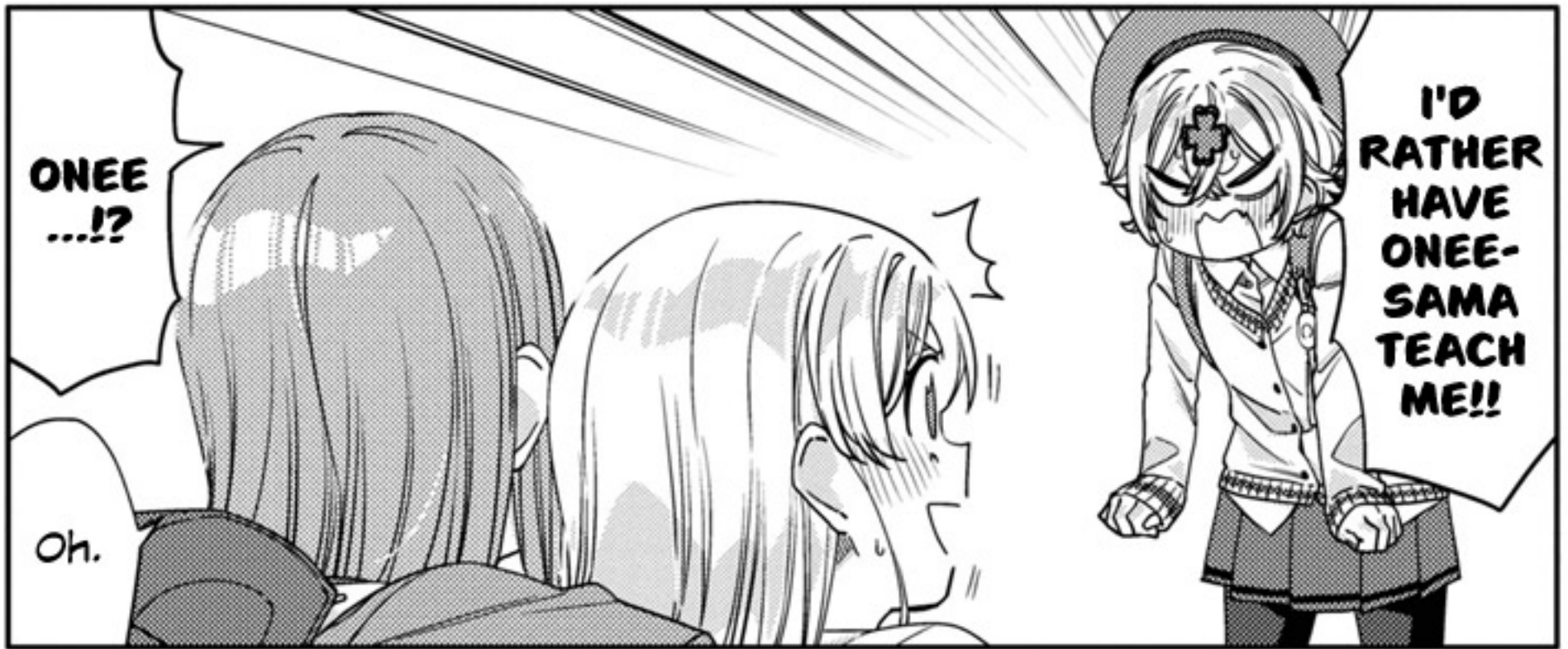
NNNN



WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN !?

Eh?

You can't swim, right, Houjou-san?



ONEE ...!?

Oh.

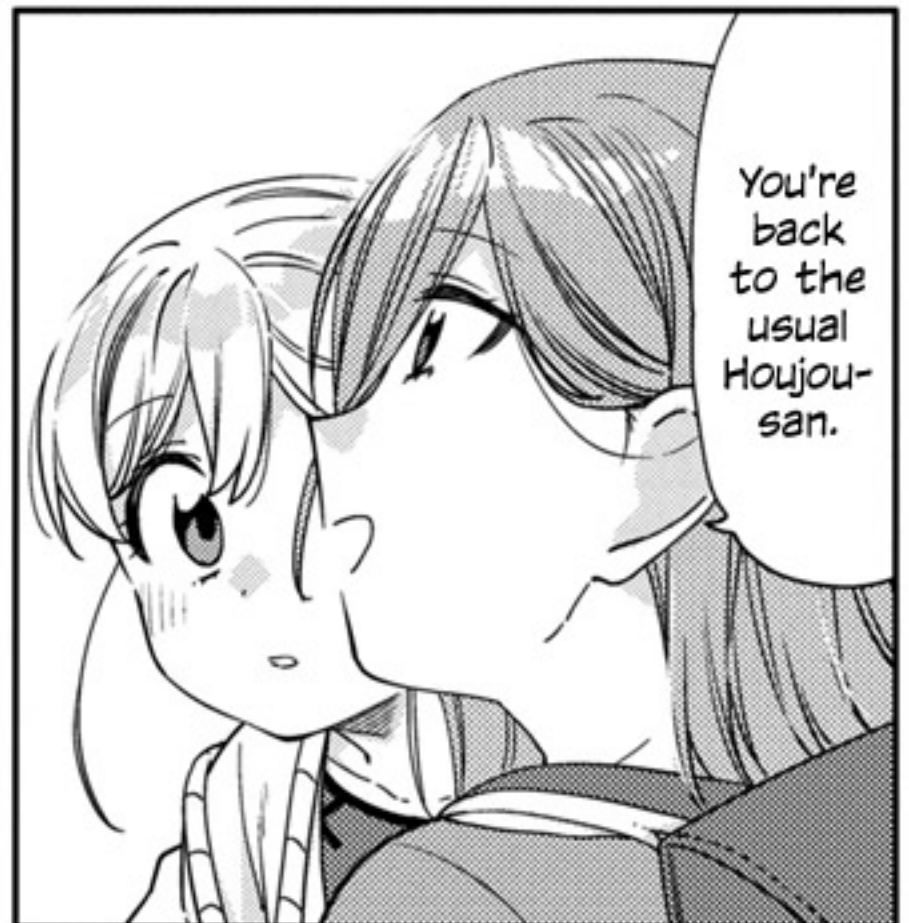
I'D RATHER HAVE ONEE-SAMA TEACH ME!!



Thank goodness!

I was worried-

...



You're back to the usual Houjou-san.



Hrm

I wasn't sure how things were gonna turn out at first,



But

you musn't go stealing my swim time with Onee-san.



I get to stay with Mai-chan and the others for a little longer.

You can just let me teach you.

That's not for you to decide, Mai-san!

but it looks like



You sure about that?

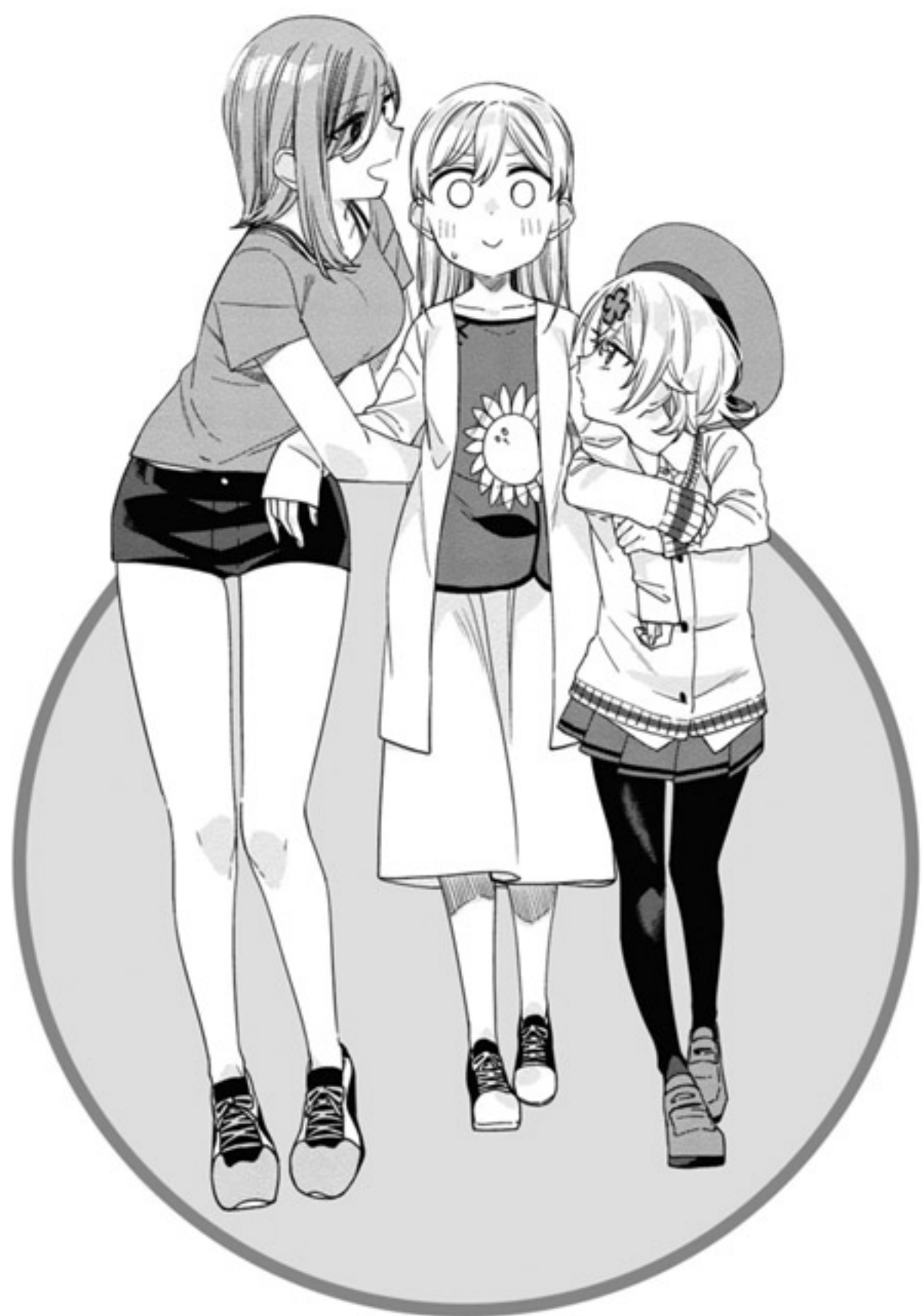
Onee-sama doesn't belong to you!

I've made a new friend, too.

Things are getting more lively...

...Hm?







ENGLISH VERSION

/u/ Scanlations
TS / QC : GoggledAnon
Raws / Clean : Urbs

Fake Fansub
Edit : Raiko
www.fake-fansub.org

 @FakeSub_Raiko

 FakeSub

