



POW BOOM





WHAM

GILSU, STOP
PLAYING ON YOUR

PHONE.



TAP

TAP
TAP



TAP

KABOOM

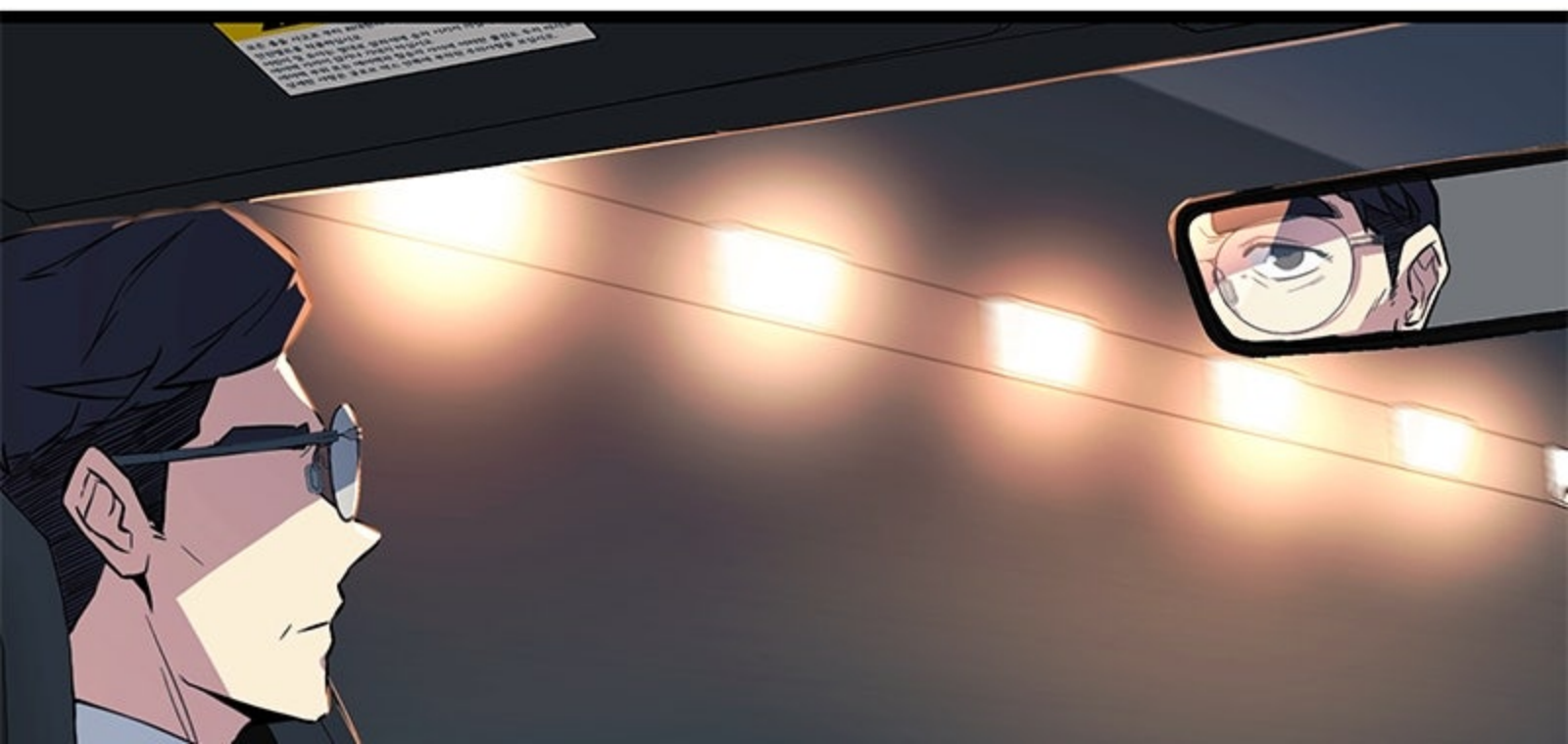
KABOOM



BOOM

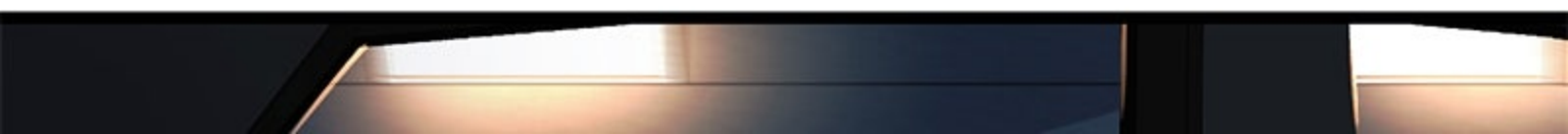


... I DON'T SEE
SOMETHING.





SIGH...









I BET MY DAD REGRETS...







Losey

Human
Ash Tray



...HAVING A WEAKLING LIKE
ME FOR A SON...



IF YOUR
CLASSMATES
IN THE NEW
SCHOOL...



BULLY YOU
OR BEAT YOU
UP AGAIN...



...THEN
YOU CAN
DROP OUT OF
SCHOOL.

YOUR
HAPPINESS IS
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN ANYTHING
ELSE.





LIAR...



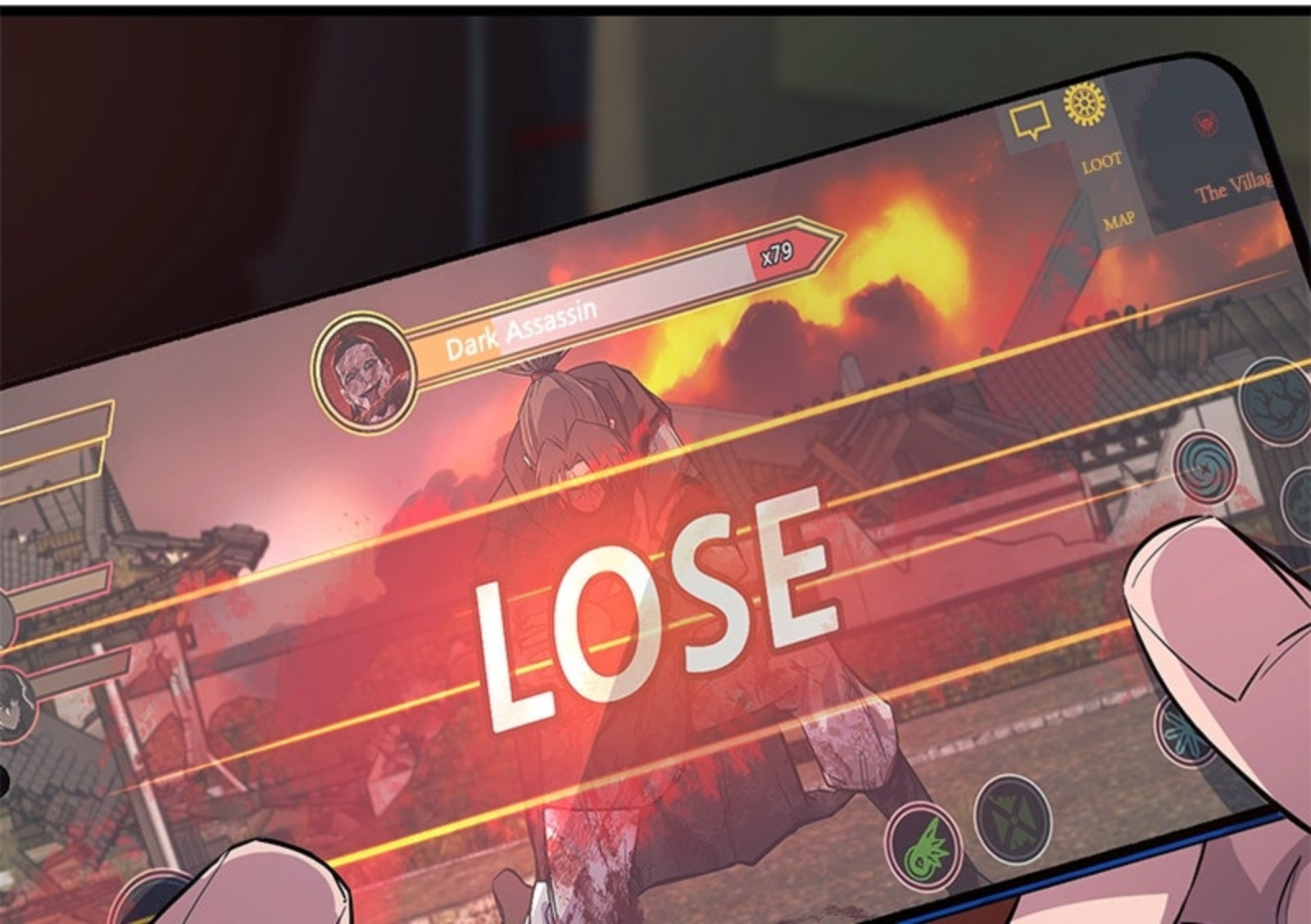


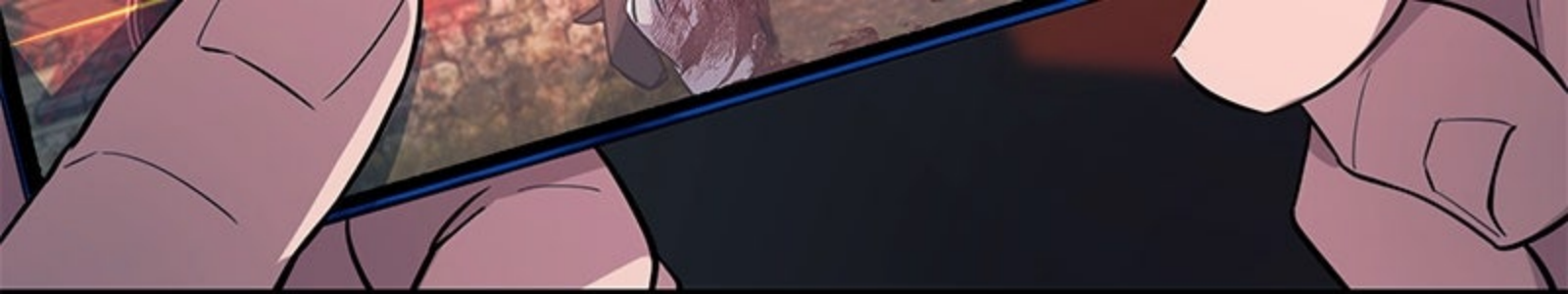
I TOLD HER I WANTED
TO DROP OUT, BUT ***SHE***
INSISTED ON MOVING AND
TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS.

WHISH



HAAA...

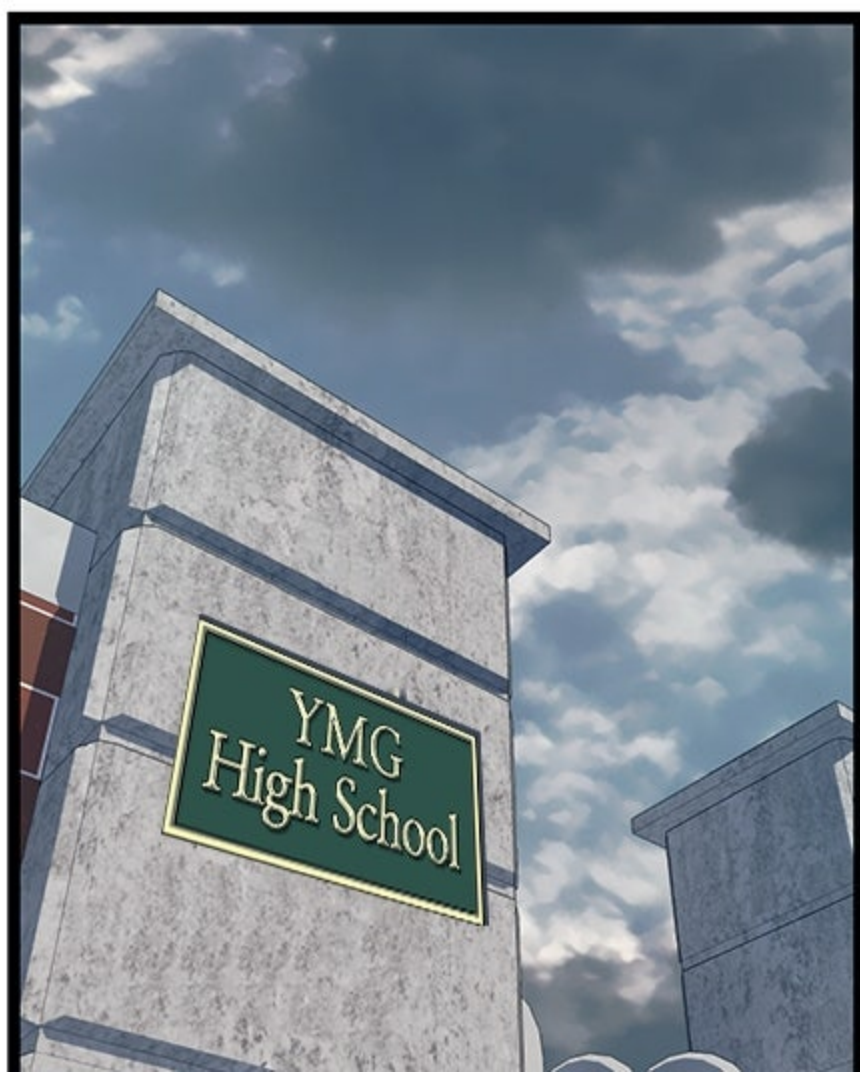








MAYBE I SHOULD
JUST KILL MYSELF..





*YUKMLIN-GWAN HIGH SCHOOL

STEP



STEP





I WISH I COULD RUN AWAY...

**I WISH CLASSES WOULD GET
CANCELED BY AN EARTHQUAKE...**

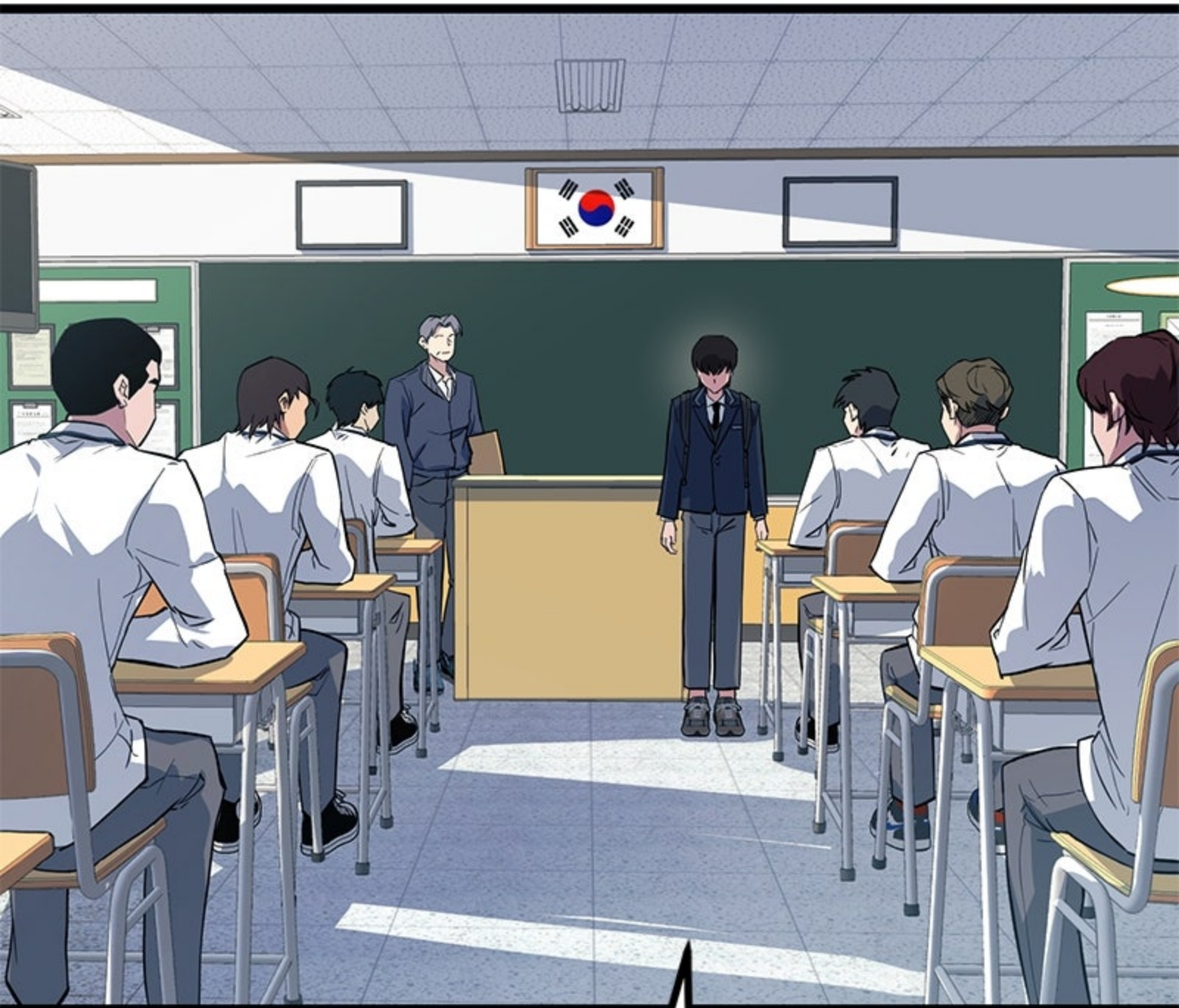


...OR MAYBE A FOREIGN INVASION.

I'M...
GILSU LEE...

...AND
I JUST MOVED
HERE FROM
SEOUL

SEOUL.



I'M
NEW TO THE
AREA...

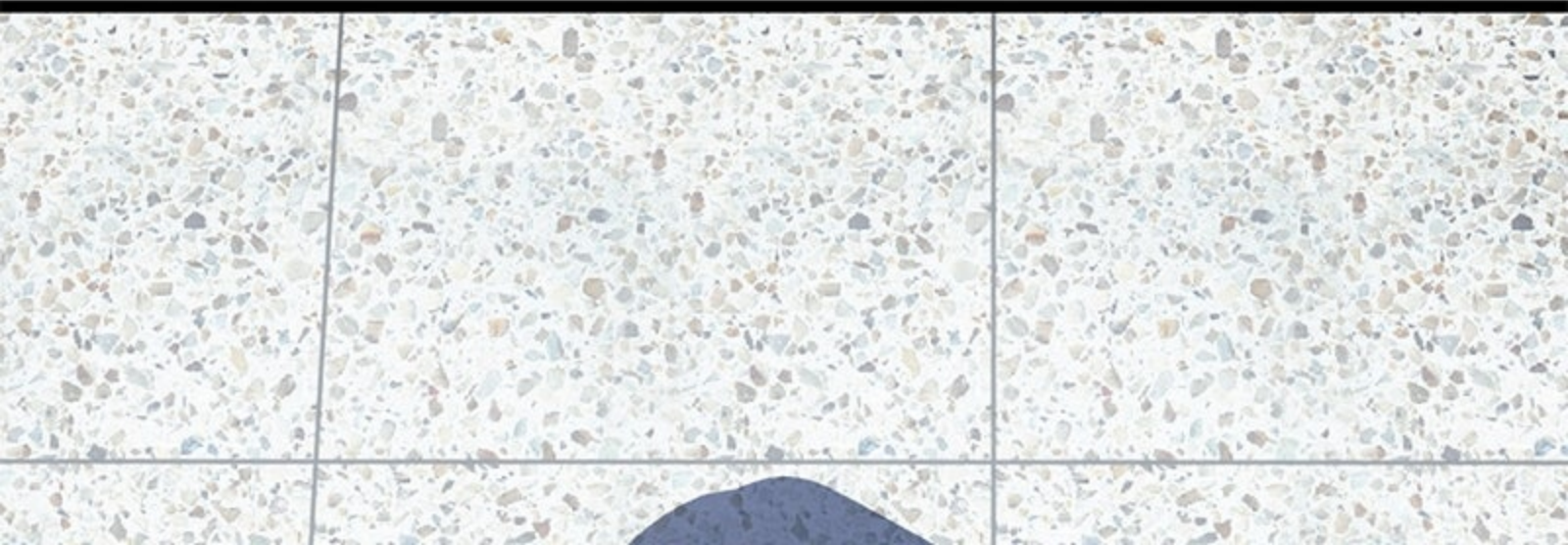
...SO
I HOPE
WE'LL GET
ALONG...





I WISH TIME COULD STOP.

**I HOPE NOTHING BAD WILL
HAPPEN HERE...**





AND

CLAP



CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



NICE
TO MEET

YOU!

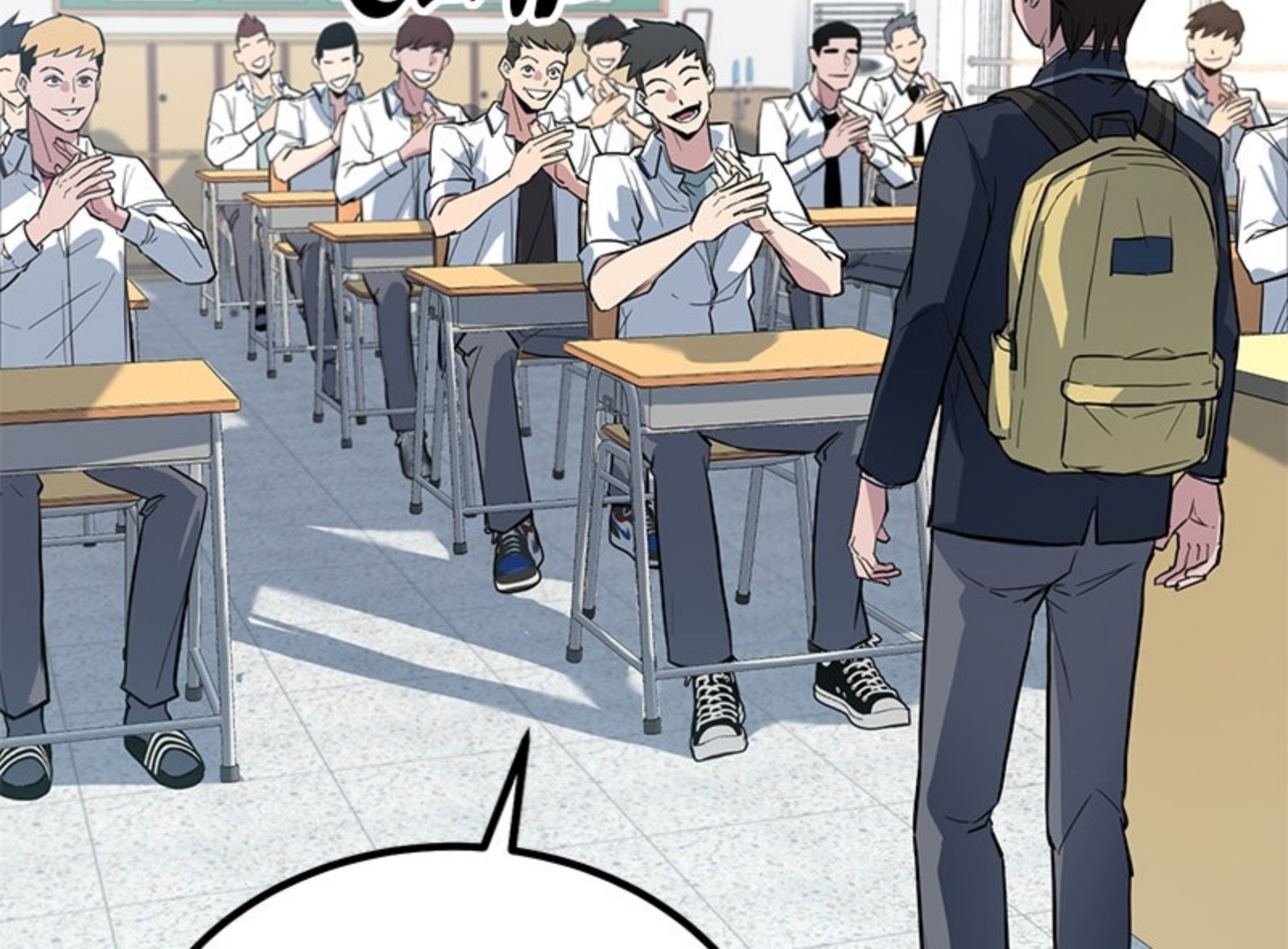
WELCOME!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



WE'LL
ALL BE GOOD
FRIENDS!

WOW, WE
FINALLY HAVE
SOMEONE FROM
SEOUL IN THE
CLASS.

OH, COME ON.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE
LIVE ON A FARM!

NICE TO MEET
YOU TOO!





**THIS IS
EXCITING!**

**HEY,
YOU CAN
SIT NEXT
TO ME.**



RRRING



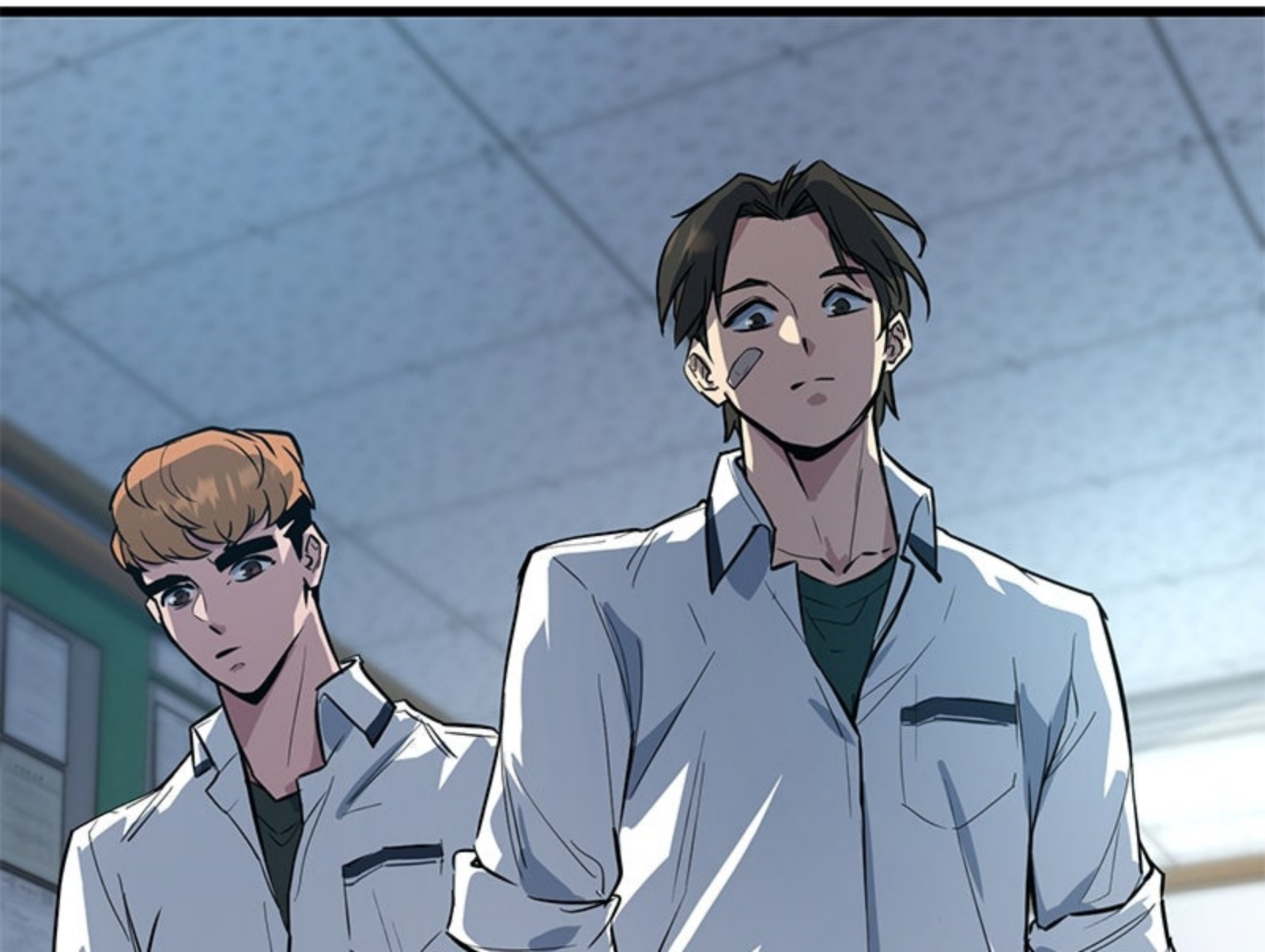
RRRING



HEY, YOU.
NEW GUY.



STEP





UMM...
YEAH?



I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

I TOLD YOU I
DON'T LIKE THIS
BREAD! DO YOU
WANNA GET YOUR
BUTT KICKED?



IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN

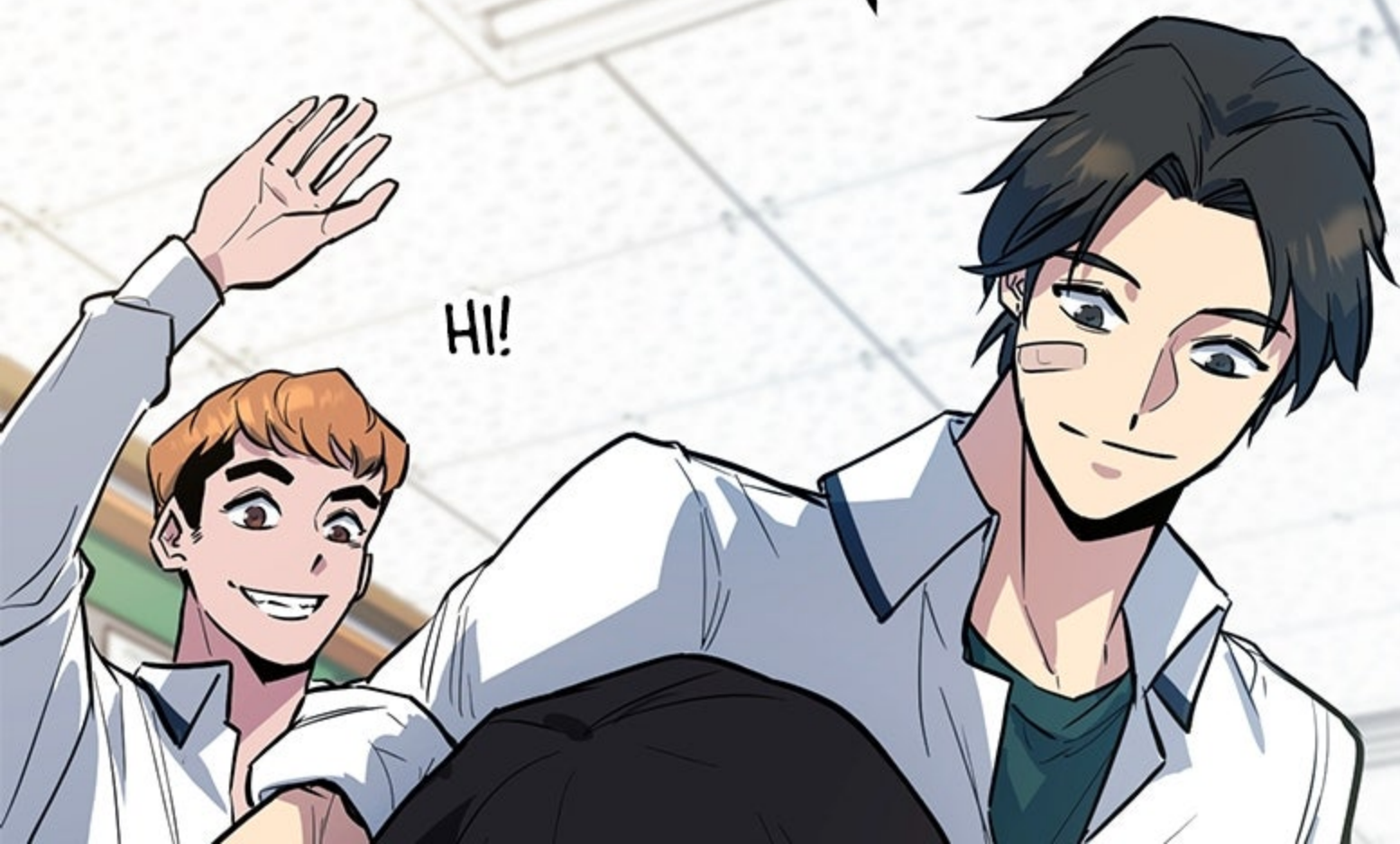
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...

PAT






HI,
I'M DO-IL JIN.
HOW'S EVERYTHING?
STILL PRETTY
CONFUSING,
RIGHT?



HI!



LET'S GO
THE SNACK
BAR.



WE'LL SHOW
YOU AROUND
ON THE WAY
THERE.



UHH...
SURE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?





THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I WENT TO A SNACK BAR...



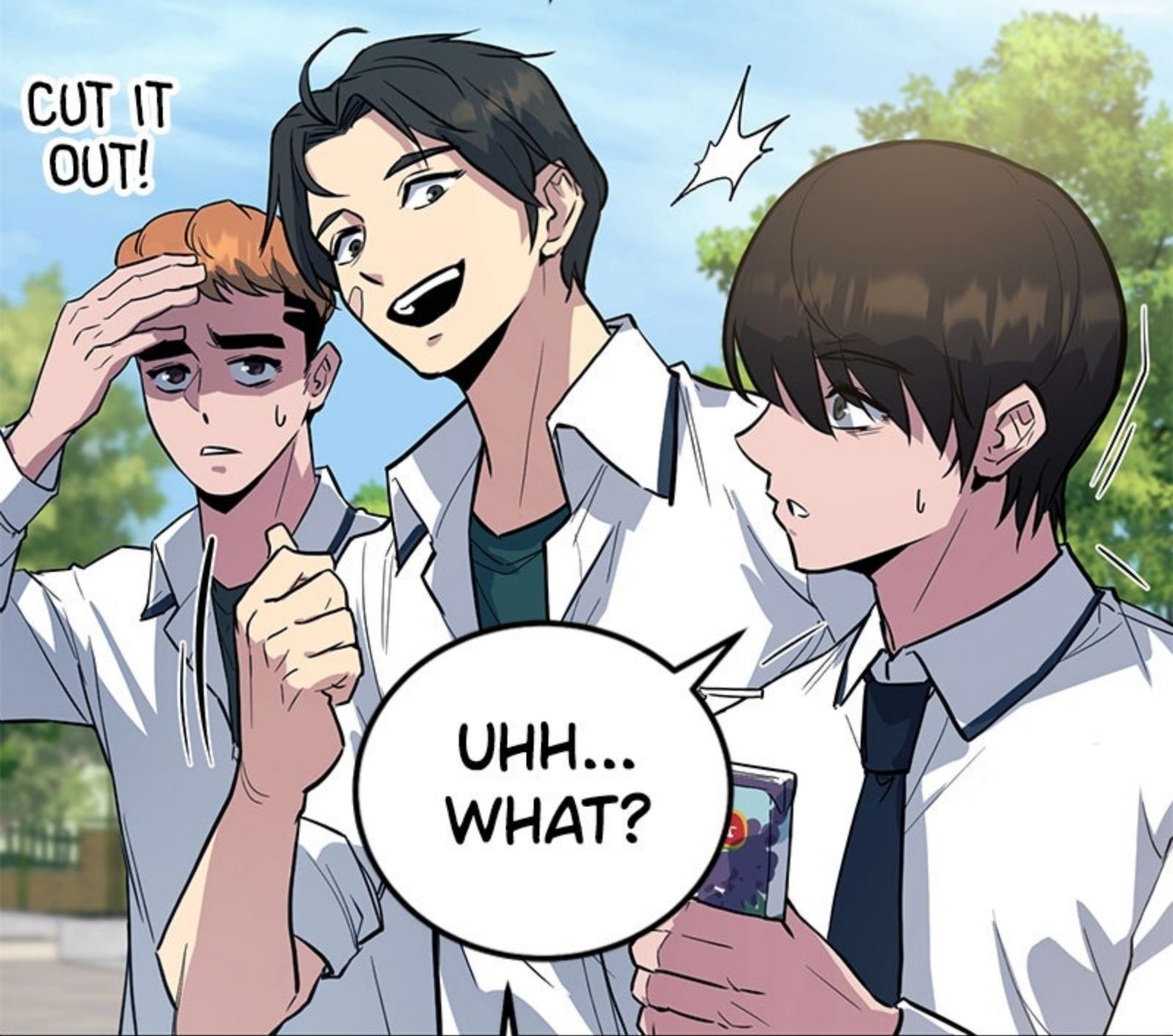


**...WITHOUT BEING ON
AN ERRAND FOR A BULLY.**

CHECK THIS
OUT, GILSU. HAVE
YOU EVER SEEN
EYEBROWS AS
THICK AS HIS?

CUT IT
OUT!

UHH...
WHAT?



NO WONDER
HIS GIRLFRIEND
DUMPED HIM.

I-I THINK
IT'S KINDA
CHARMING IN ITS
OWN WAY...

SECRET



WHY IS HE ASKING ME
QUESTIONS OUT OF THE BLUE?
HE STARTLED ME...



WOW, GILSU.
ARE YOU SURE
YOU DON'T NEED
GLASSES?



HEY! STOP
MAKING FUN OF
MY EYEBROWS!



**THERE'S SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS SCHOOL.**





THEY ALL SEEM SO HAPPY HERE.

MAYBE I MIGHT REALLY
BE ABLE TO--





BUMP

A comic book panel depicting a collision. The word "BUMP" is written in large, bold, black, stylized letters with a white outline, centered in the upper half of the panel. Below the text, a character with dark hair and a blue shirt is shown in profile, looking towards the left. In the foreground, the back of another character's head with dark hair is visible. Small purple particles are scattered around the point of contact between the two characters. The background shows a brick wall and a grey concrete structure.



WHOA!





....!

A large, black-outlined speech bubble is centered on the page. It has a tail pointing downwards towards the bottom edge of the frame. The text inside is in a simple, bold, sans-serif font.

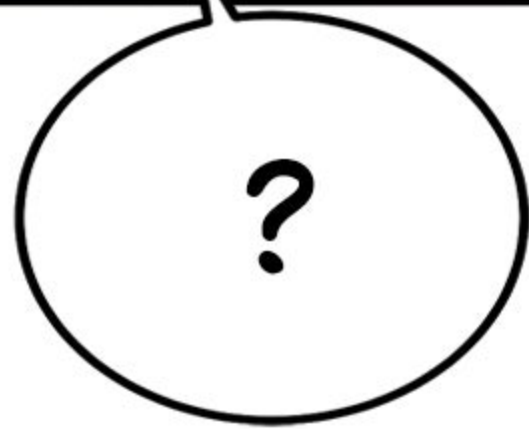
COME ON...
I GOT GRAPE
JUICE ALL OVER
MY SHIRT.



I-I'M SO SORRY!!
I'LL PAY FOR THE
CLEANING. I'M IN
CLASS ONE, SO YOU

CAN COME BY
LATER--

NO. DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
IT.



I'LL CONSIDER
IT TAKEN.





H-HE'S SO KIND...



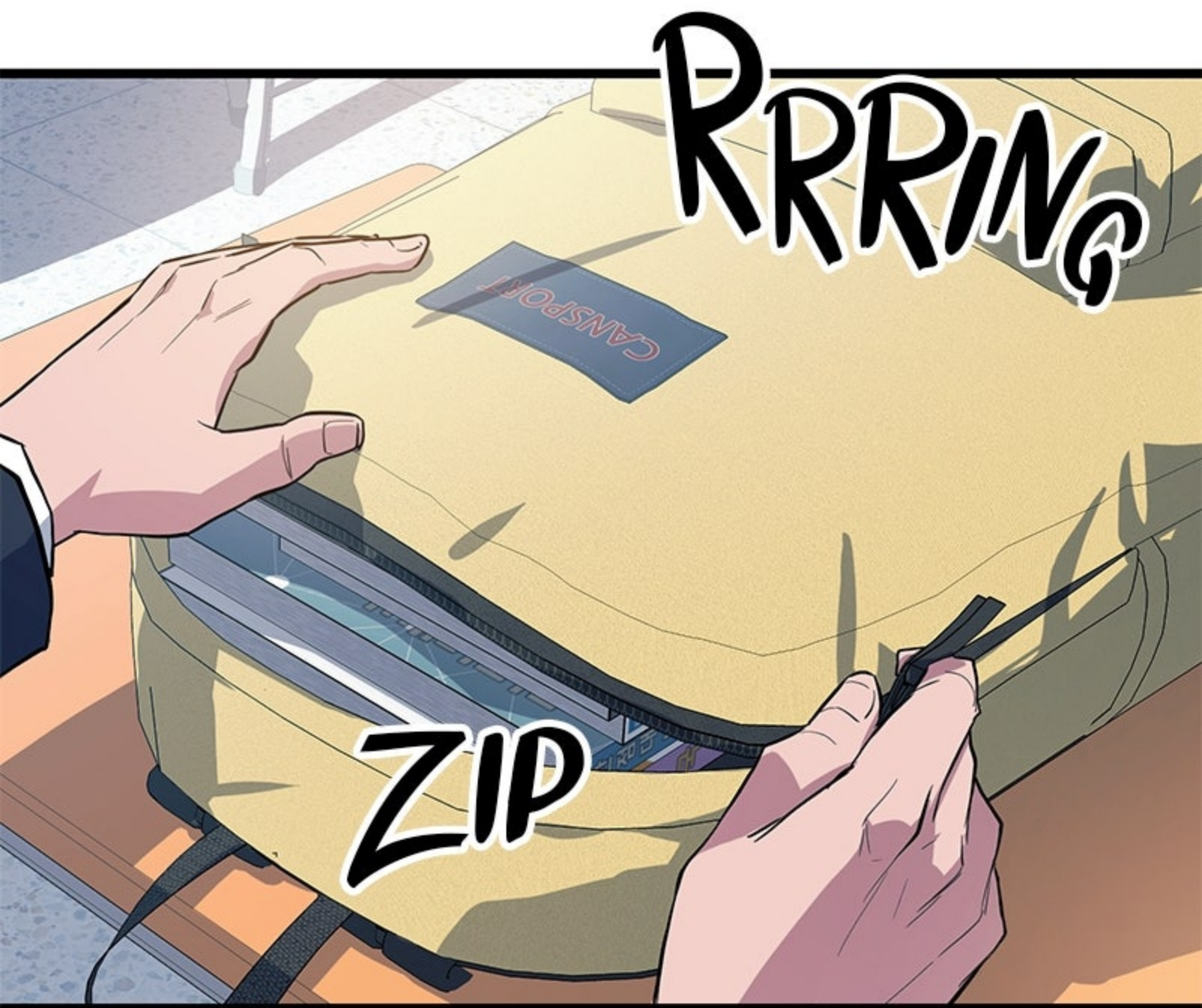
IT ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE...





...I COULD HAVE A NORMAL
LIFE HERE FOR ONCE...

KRRRING



OKAY, THAT'S
THE END OF THE
LESSON FOR
THE DAY.

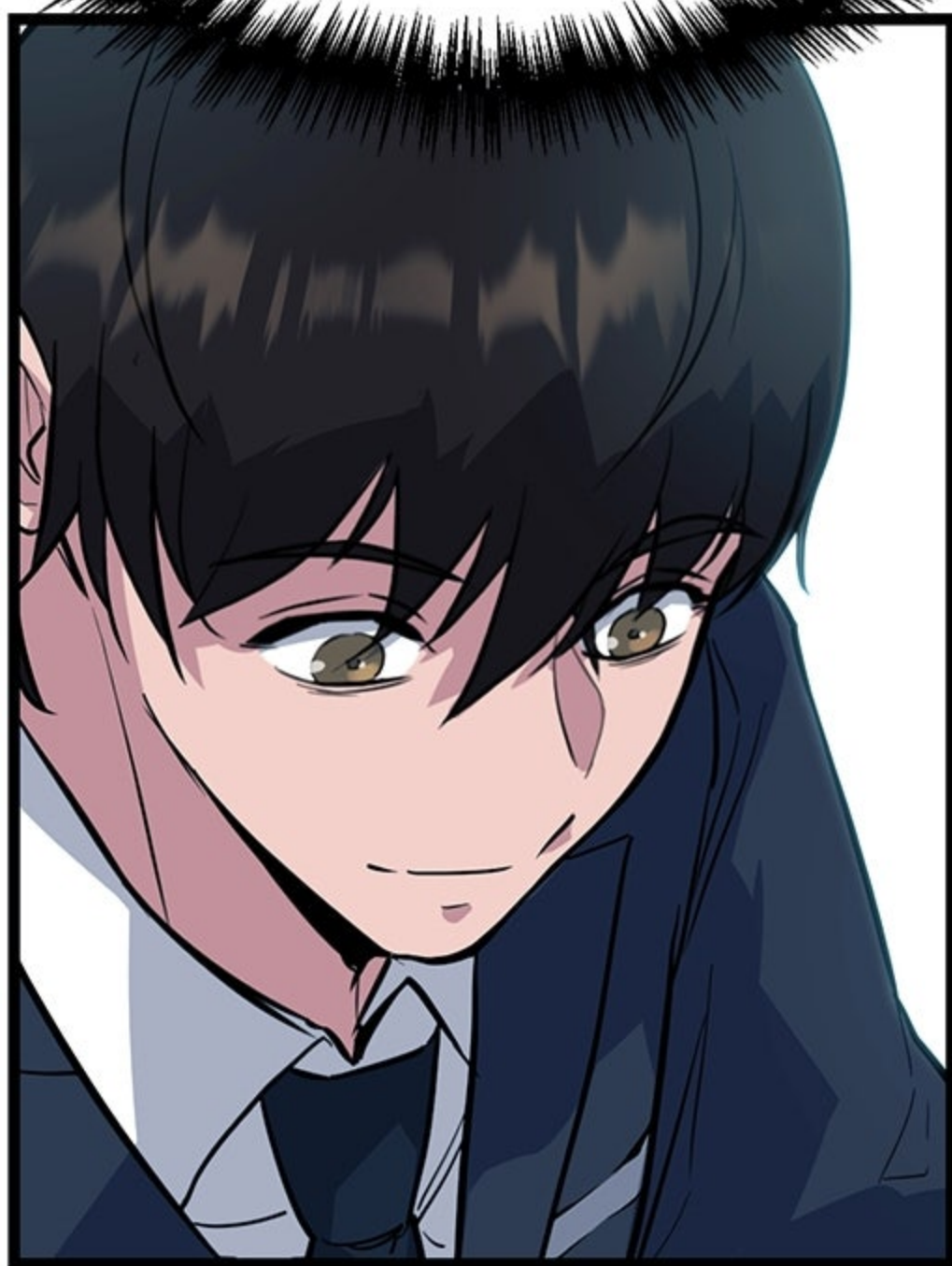
EVERYTHING FEELS SO
DIFFERENT FROM THE SCHOOL
I USED TO GO TO.





**EVERYONE IS NICE AND KIND.
I WAS WORRIED FOR NOTHING.**

I'M GLAD
I TRANSFERRED
HERE.



HEY,
GILSU.

STEP





DO YOU HAVE
ANY PLANS FOR
THE DAY?





UHH...
PLANS?

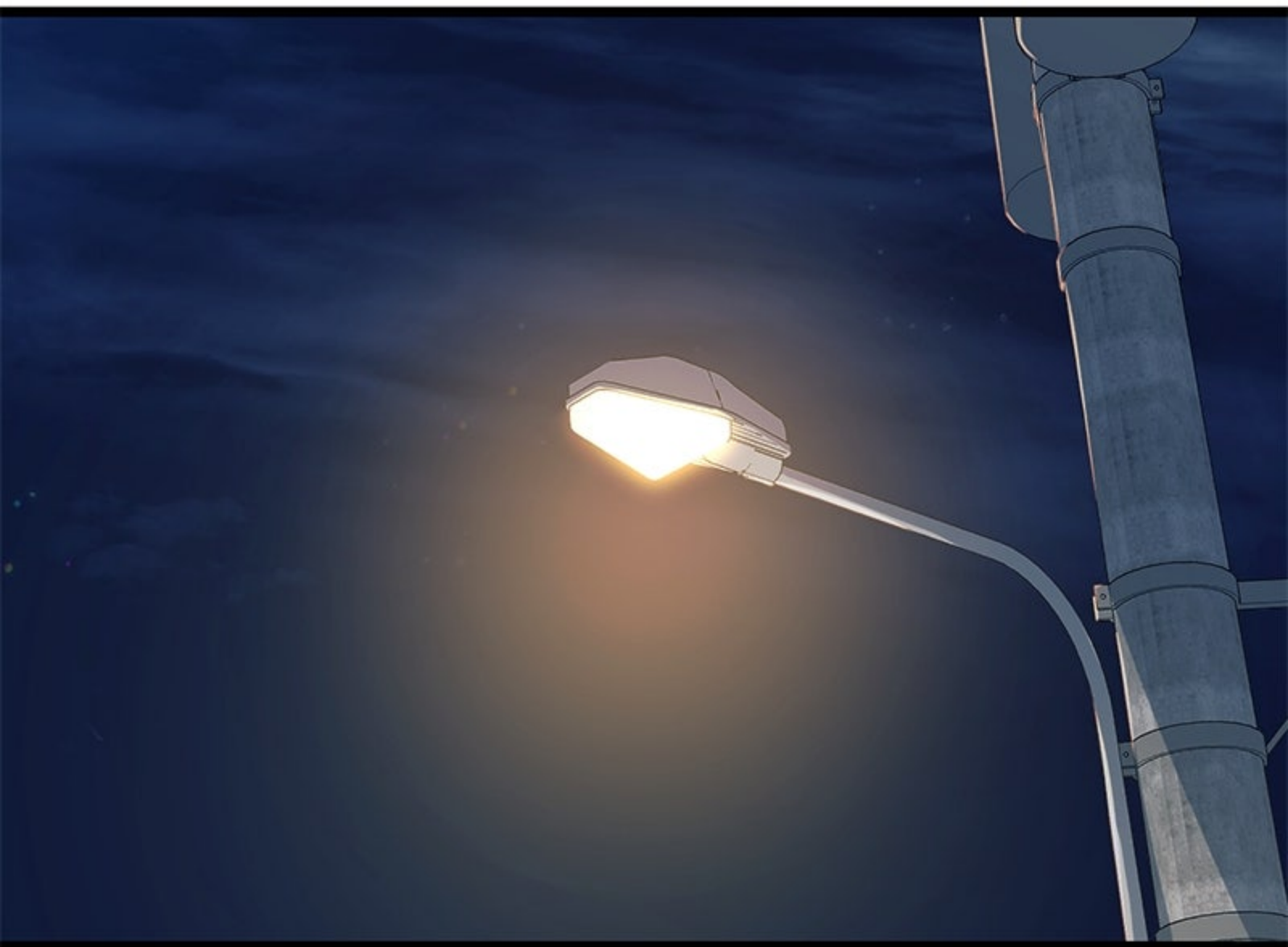
NO...
I DON'T.

THAT'S
AWESOME.
WANNA GO
SOMEWHERE
WITH ME?





UMM...
S-SURE.



STEP



STEP

STEP

STEP



WE'VE BEEN WALKING

WE'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR A WHILE NOW. WHERE
IS HE TAKING ME?



UMM DO-IL.
WHERE ARE WE
GOING?





WE'VE BEEN
WALKING FOR
SOME TIME
ALREADY.

THERE'S A
PLACE I WANT
TO SHOW YOU.





EVERY NEW
STUDENT HAS TO
GO THROUGH IT.

WHAT DOES HE
MEAN EVERYONE
HAS TO GO
THROUGH IT?



STEP

STEP

STAY

TURN





I JUST REALIZED..





...THIS IS PRETTY FAR
FROM THE CITY...


I ALMOST
FORGOT TO
ASK.



DO YOU DO
ANY MARTIAL
ARTS OR
SPORTS?

SPORTS...?





NO... NOT
REALLY.



OH,
YEAH?





THEN YOU'LL
NEED TO PREPARE
YOURSELF.

COME ON.
WE'RE ALMOST
THERE.



WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT BEFORE?





**HE HAS SCARS
ALL OVER HIS BODY.**









IS THIS WHAT
I THINK IT IS?



UHHH...
UMM...



?

FIDGET



HESITATE



I'M SORRY,
BUT I SHOULD
GET GOING.

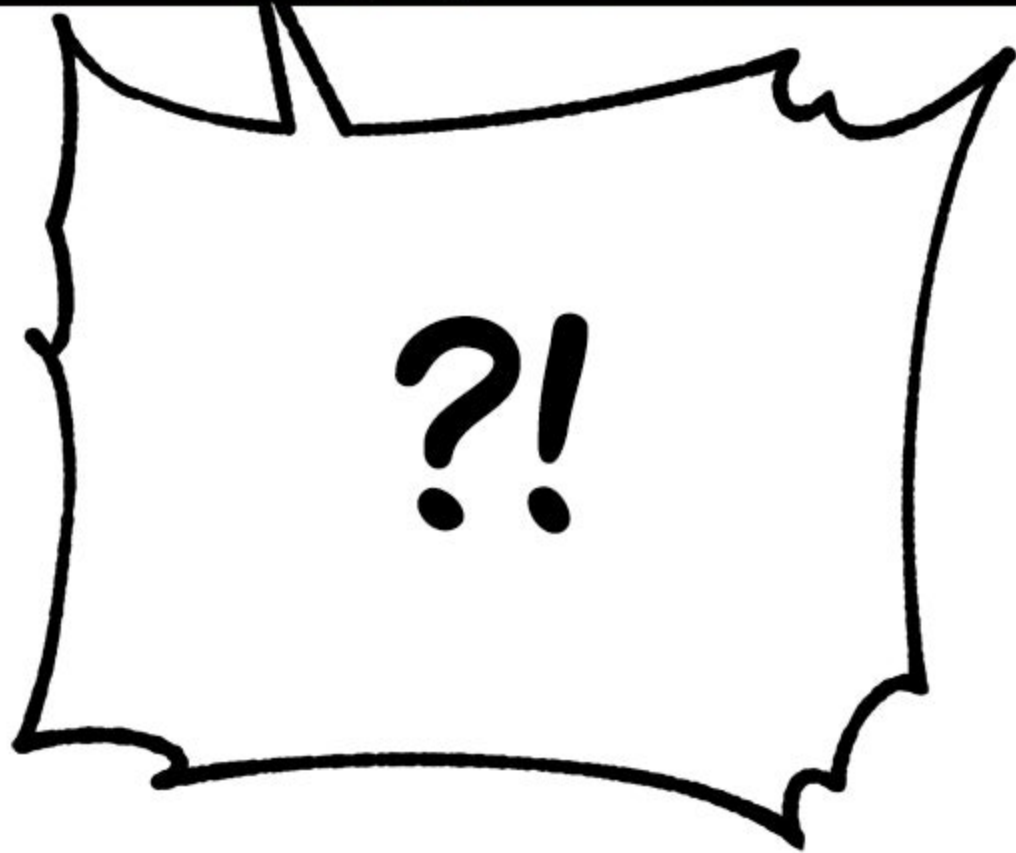




LET'S
DO THIS
AGAIN NEXT
TIME--



CRAB



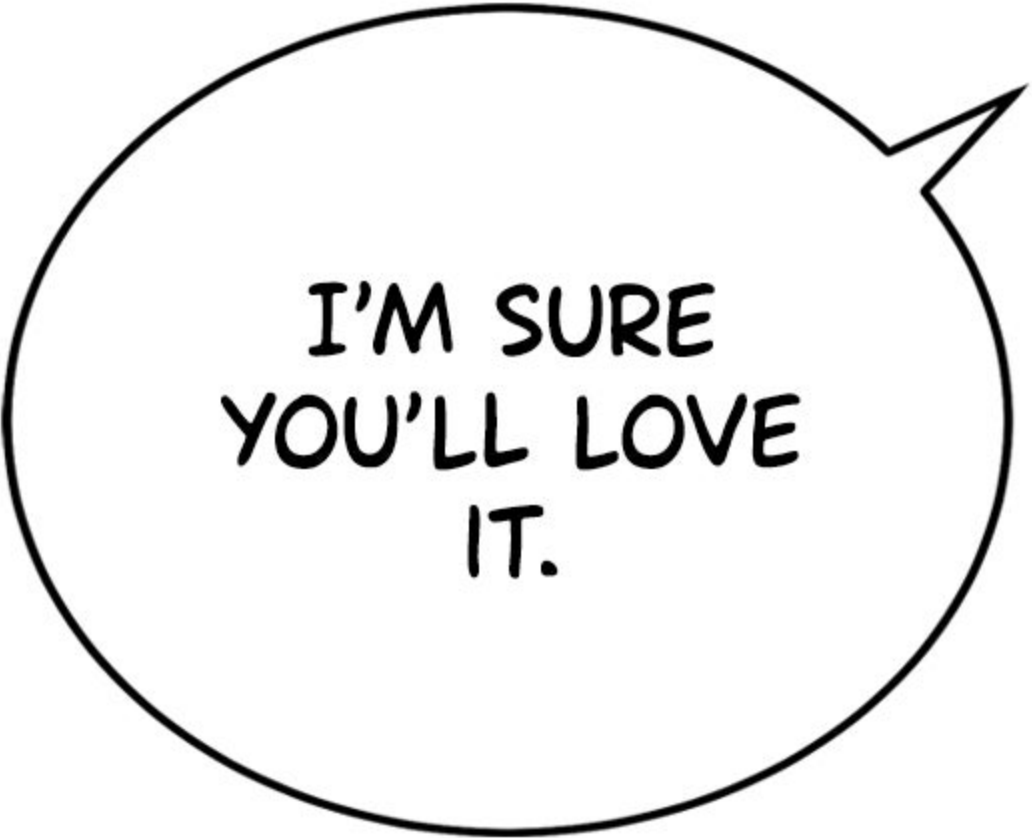
WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE.





DROP BY
AND TAKE A
LOOK BEFORE
YOU GO.





I'M SURE
YOU'LL LOVE
IT.



I DIDN'T EVEN
FIGHT BACK...







...AND LET MYSELF
GET DRAGGED INTO IT ALL
OVER AGAIN.

STEP

STEP





**EVERYTHING IN
THE SCHOOL WAS A LIE.**

ALL THE KINDNESS...

CREAK

A hand is shown gripping a door handle in a dark, industrial setting. The hand is rendered in shades of purple and pink, with detailed shading on the fingers and wrist. The door handle is a simple, rectangular metal piece. The background is a dark blue-grey color with faint circular patterns, suggesting a metallic or tiled surface. A bright light source is visible through a narrow opening in the door, creating a strong contrast and highlighting the hand and the handle.

...AND THE SMILES WERE FAKE.

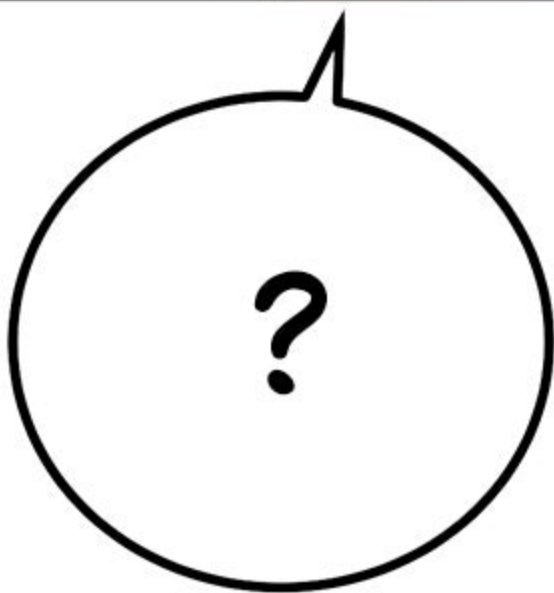
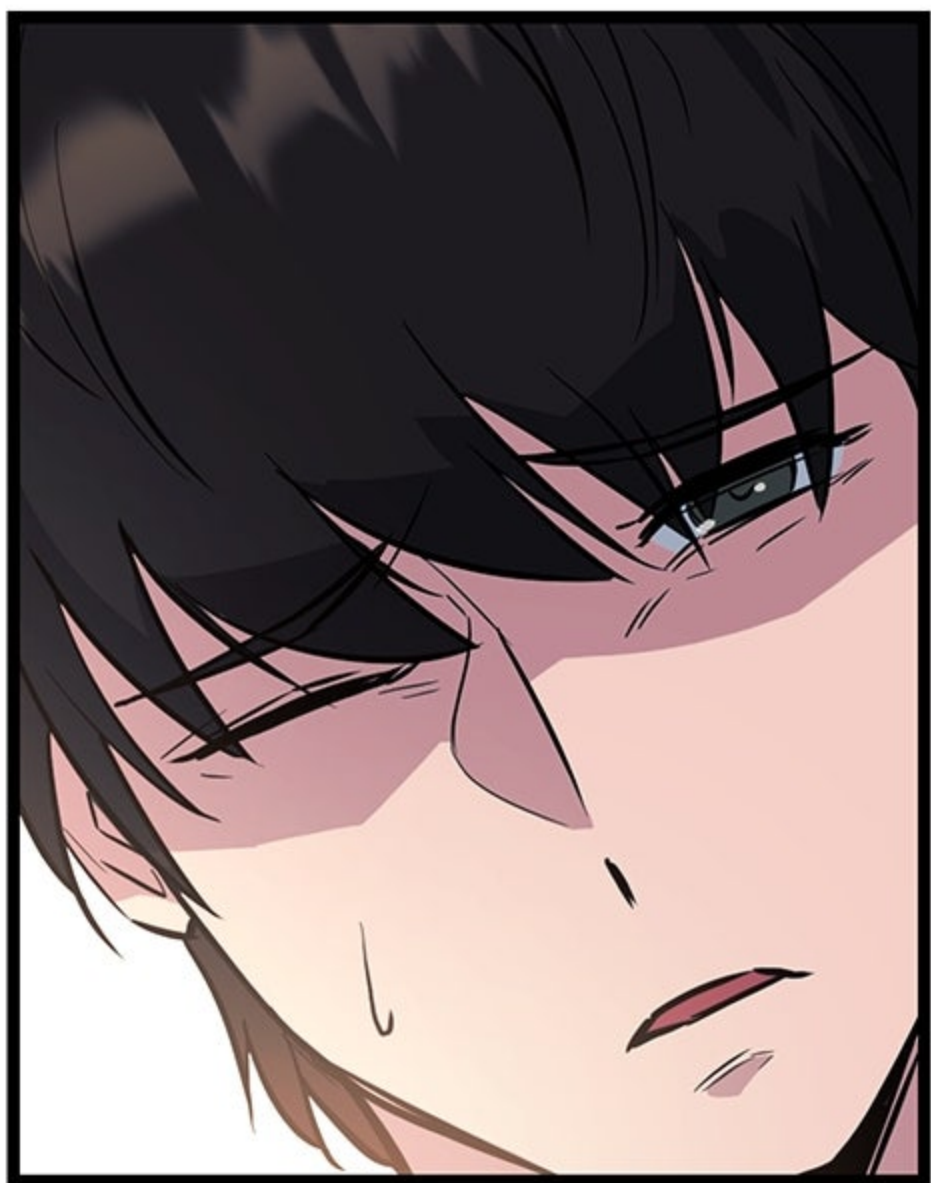
RATTLE





I'M GONNA GET BULLIED AGAIN...

!!!

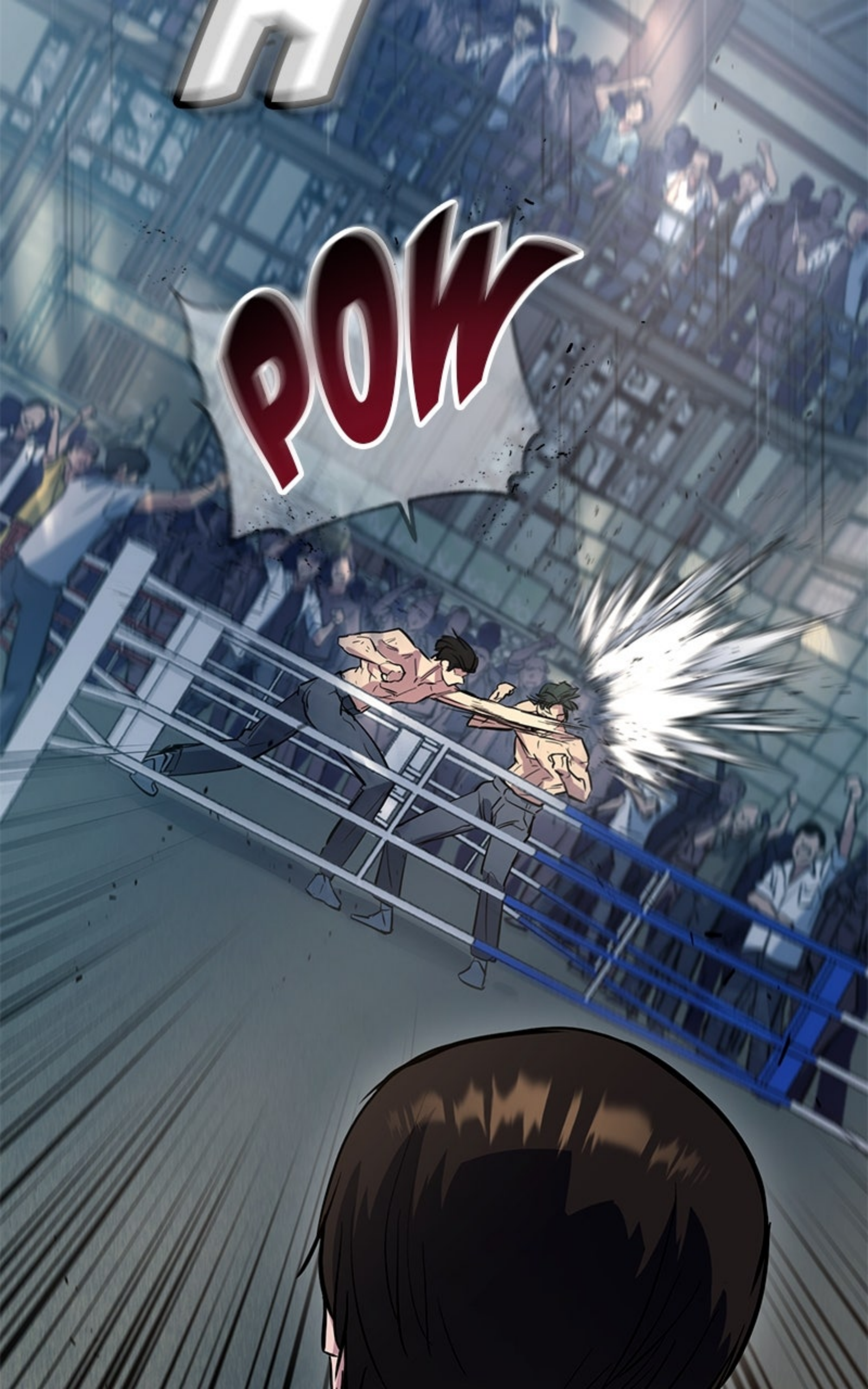






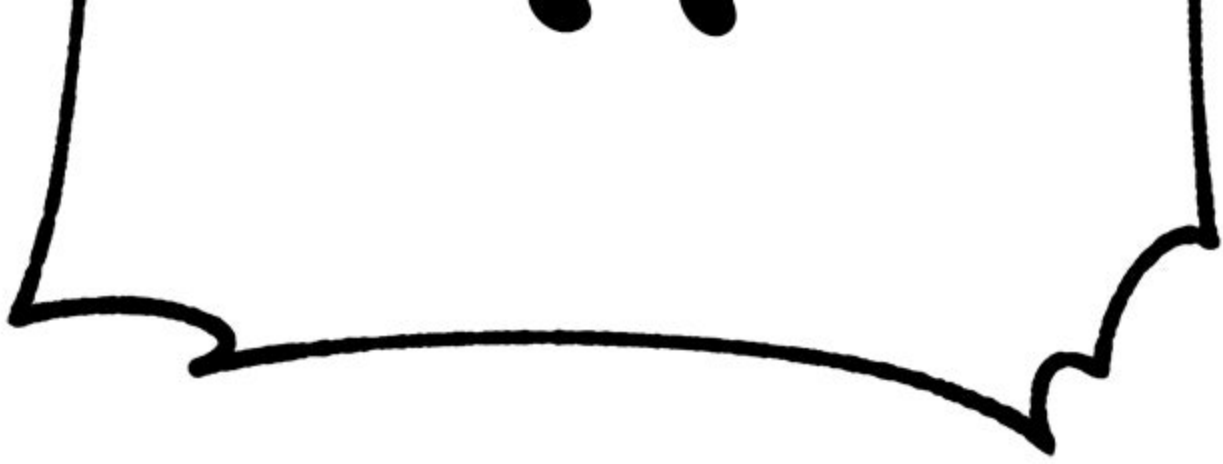
1

POW





?!



HIS RIGHT
IS OPEN!

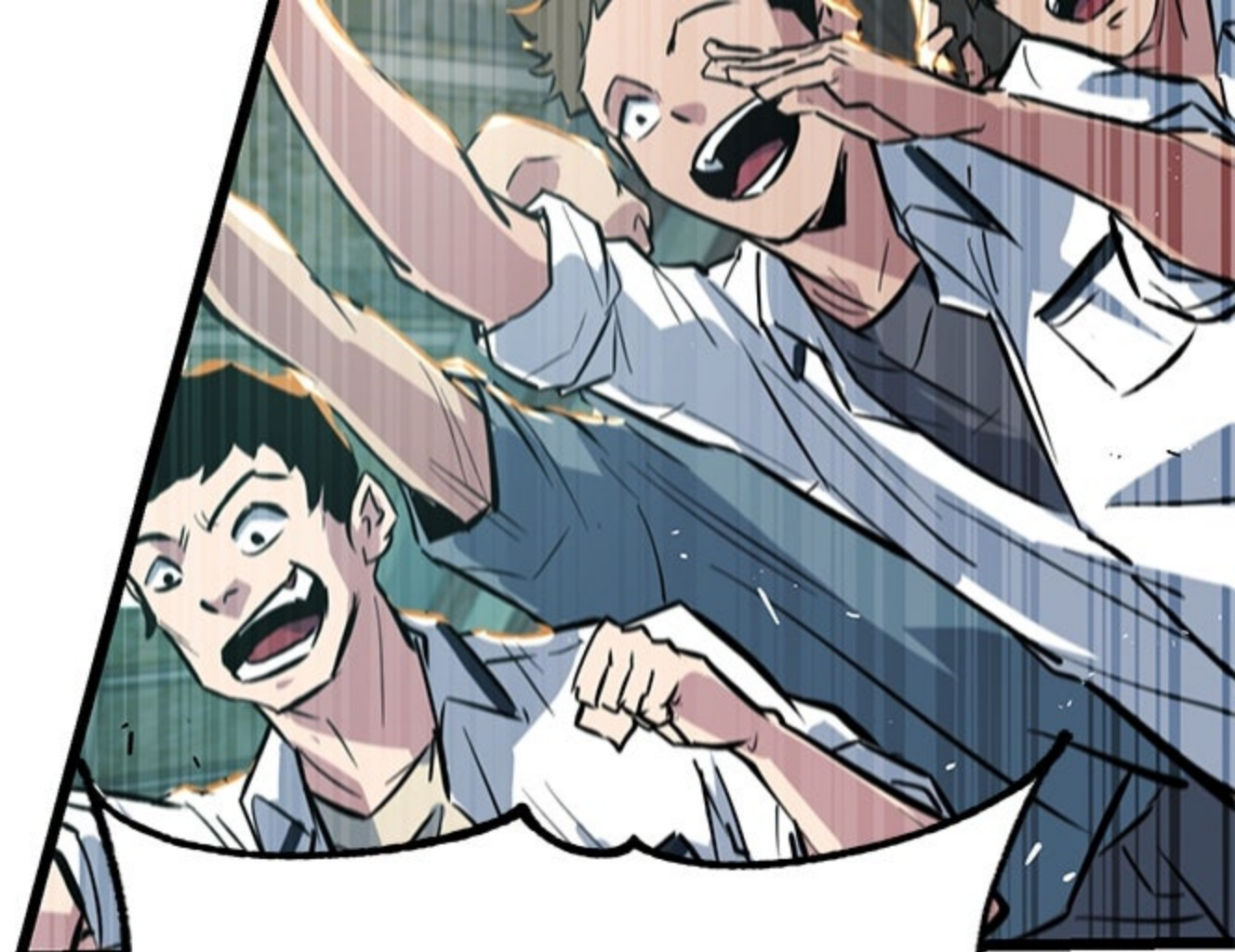


A group of people in a crowd, cheering and raising their fists. The central figure is a man with dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt, shouting with his mouth wide open. Behind him, several other people are visible, some with their arms raised in excitement. The background consists of vertical lines, suggesting a stadium or arena setting.

GIVE HIM AN
UPPERCUT!

A close-up view of the crowd's faces. A woman with dark hair and a headband is shouting with her mouth open. Below her, another person is also shouting. The background shows vertical lines, consistent with the previous panel.

FINISH HIM!
YOU'RE ALMOST
THERE!



SAVE YOUR
ENERGY FOR THE
NEXT FIGHT!





A hand-drawn comic book panel. At the top, there are some sketchy lines and colors: a pinkish-red shape on the left, and blue and grey lines suggesting motion or a character's hair. Below this is a large, hand-drawn speech bubble with a black outline and a white fill. Inside the speech bubble, the word "NICE!!" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The rest of the page is blank white space.

NICE!!

HEY, FINISH
THE FIGHT!
I'M NEXT!





WH-WHAT'S GOING ON...?!

HAHA.
SURPRISING

SURPRISING,
ISN'T IT?



WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?



**THIS IS
THE SCHOOL'S
ARENA.**



WHO'S NEXT?

**I WANNA FIGHT
WITH HIM LATER!**

WE GOT SOME GREAT
FIGHTS TODAY!

THIS IS
GETTING
EXCITING!

YOU GOT
STRONGER. HAHA.

IT'S THE
GREATEST PERK
WE ENJOY AS
STUDENTS OF
YMG HIGH.

A-AN ARENA...?





HEY, FIRST
YEAR.





OH,
HELLO!

WHO'S THE
NEW GUY?



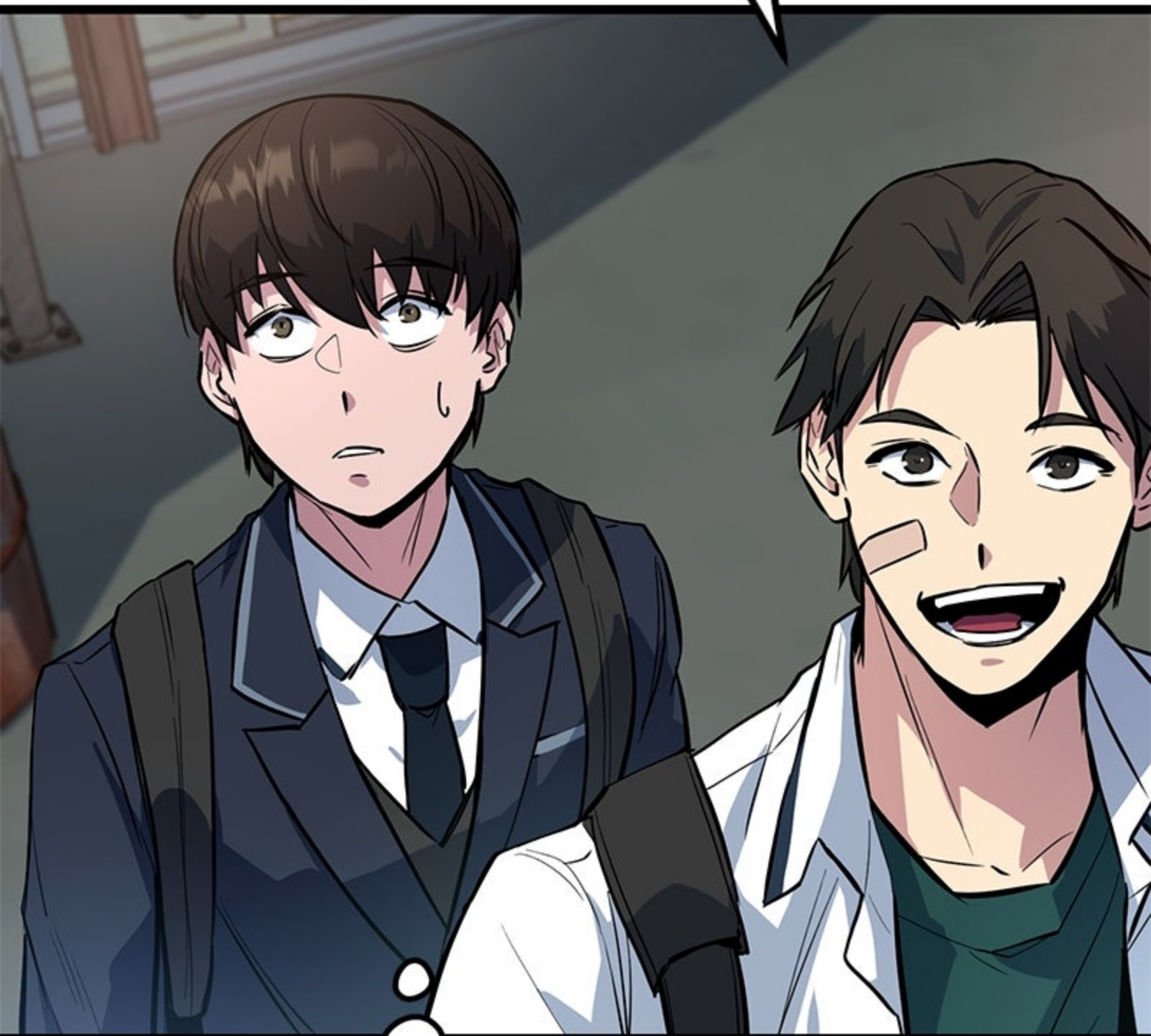


CHUNG JANG

STUDENT PRESIDENT
OF YMG HIGH SCHOOL

HE JUST GOT

TRANSFERRED
TO THE SCHOOL
TODAY!



HE LOOKS SUPER
INTIMIDATING. IS

INTIMIDATING... IS
HE REALLY IN HIGH
SCHOOL?

HEY,
GET OVER
HERE. I'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU.





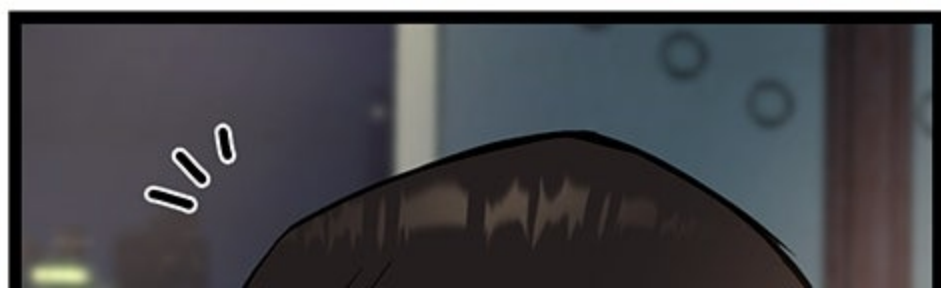
YOU'LL PAY
FOR MAKING FUN OF
MY EYEBROWS.

HAHA, STAY
RIGHT THERE.
I'M GONNA KICK
YOUR ASS.



HUH?
IT'S THE
THICK-BROWS
GUY!

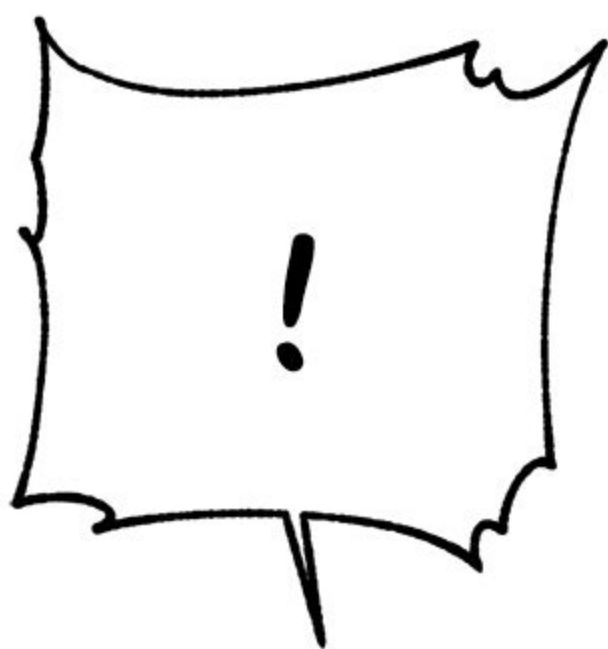
NICE TO
MEET YA.





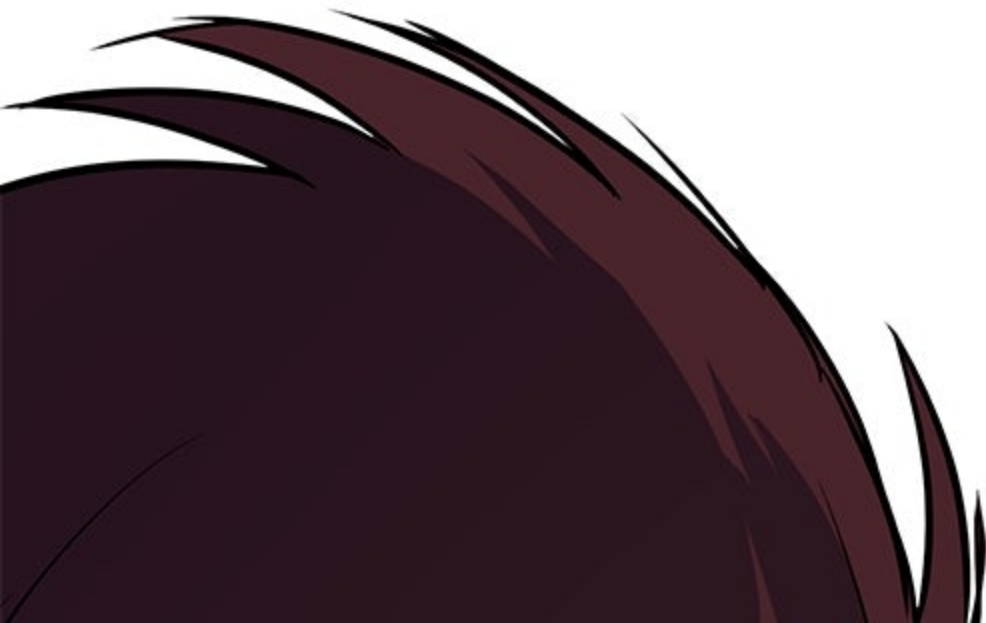
I'M CHUNG JANG,

STUDENT PRESIDENT
OF YMG HIGH.





**WELCOME TO
YMG HIGH.**





H-HELLO...

H-HE'S

SUPER TALL...!

WHACK

WHAM

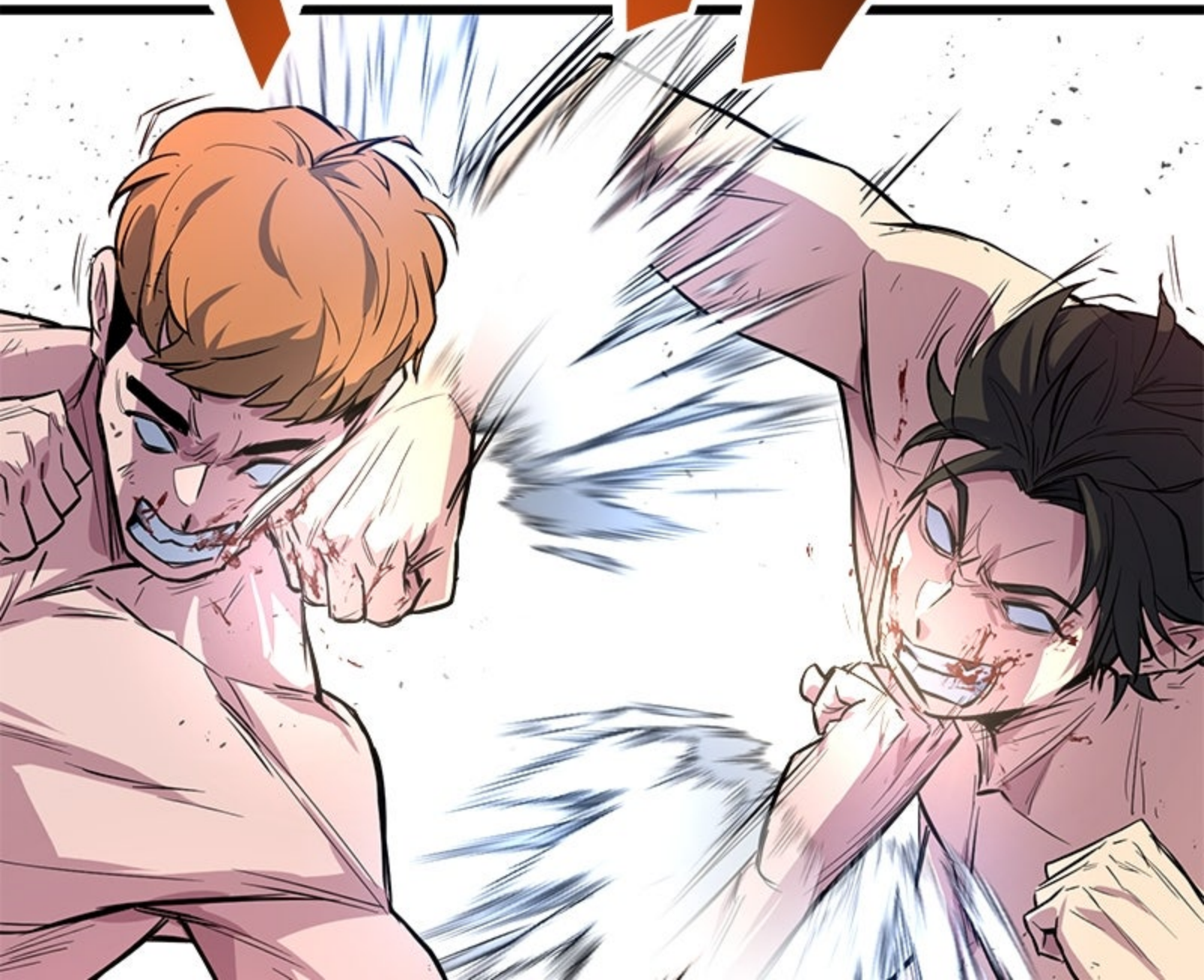




**HIT HIM
HARDER!!**

**ALL
RIGHT!!**

POW





WHY ARE THEY FIGHTING
EACH OTHER?

POW



BAW



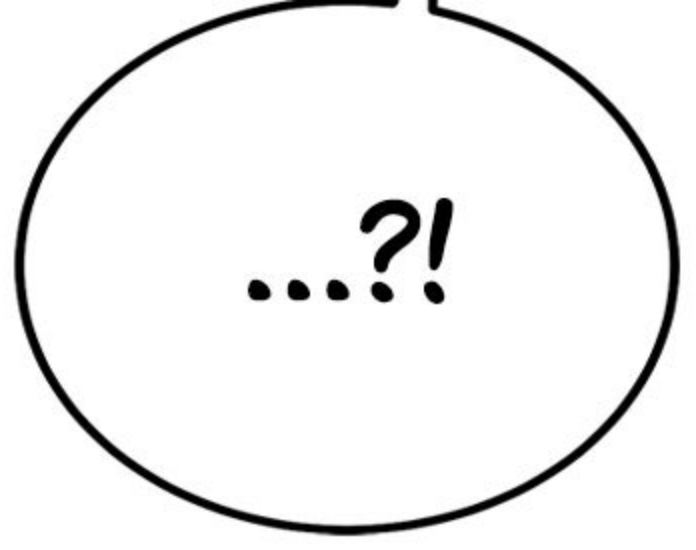
WHACK

I THOUGHT THEY
WERE FRIENDS!

HA!

THE FIRST
YEARS AREN'T
SO BAD!





...?!

WHAT EXACTLY DOES
HE DO HERE?



THIS IS THE
TRUE NATURE
OF YMG HIGH!

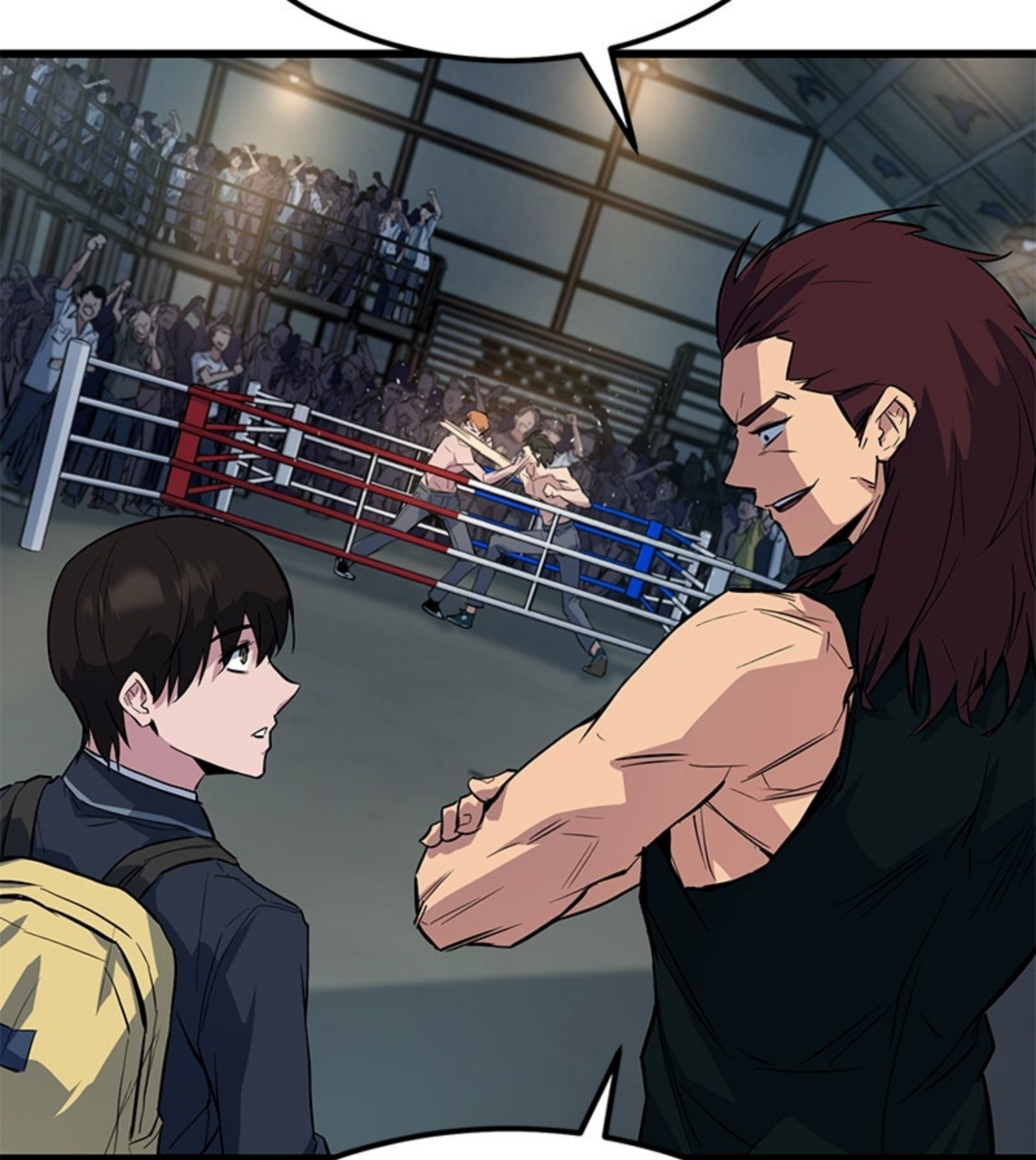
TURN





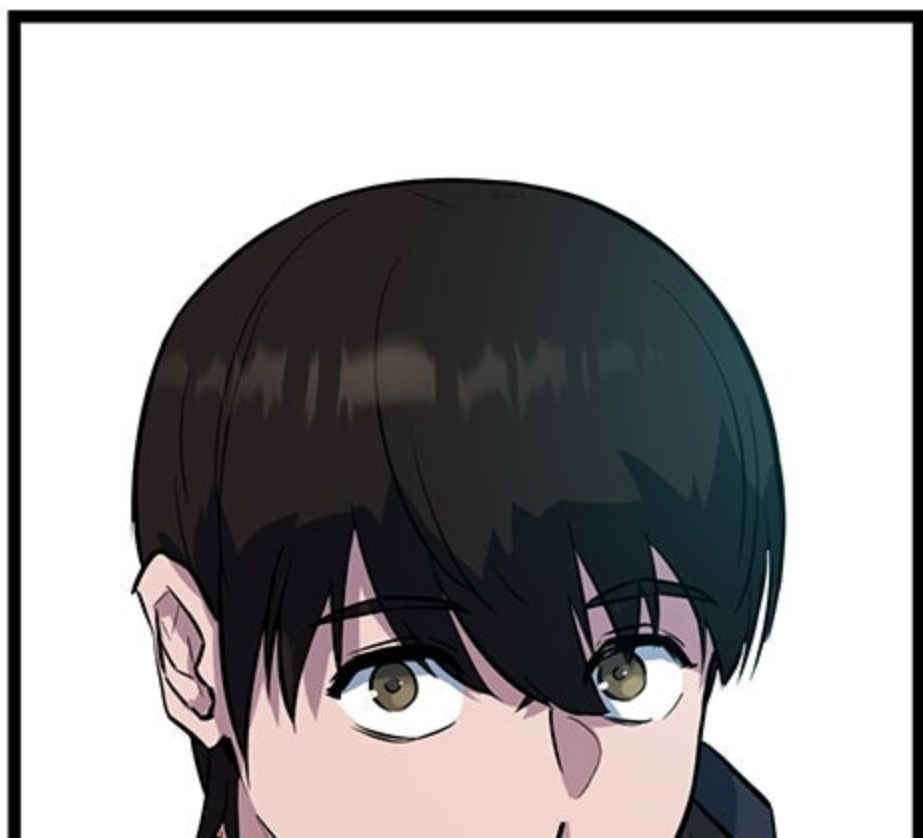
UHH...
WHAT?!

I'M NOT
SURE IF YOU'VE
NOTICED
IT YET...



...BUT WE
DON'T HAVE BULLIES
OR BULLYING IN THE
SCHOOL.

HOWEVER...





**...WE DO
HAVE SCHOOL
VIOLENCE.**





**BUT
ONLY IN THIS
ARENA.**

...!




I'M SURE YOU'VE
EXPERIENCED SOME
S*** IN SCHOOL
AS WELL.





THIS IS
WHERE YOU
RELEASE IT
ALL!



IN THIS SCHOOL,
EVERYONE IS EQUAL
IN THE RING.



THAT'S
THE VERY
ESSENCE
OF...



...YMG
HIGH'S
ARENA!







EVERYONE IS EQUAL...
IN THE RING?

I HATE
COMPLICATED
STUFF.



I WON'T EXPLAIN
TWICE, SO LISTEN
CAREFULLY.



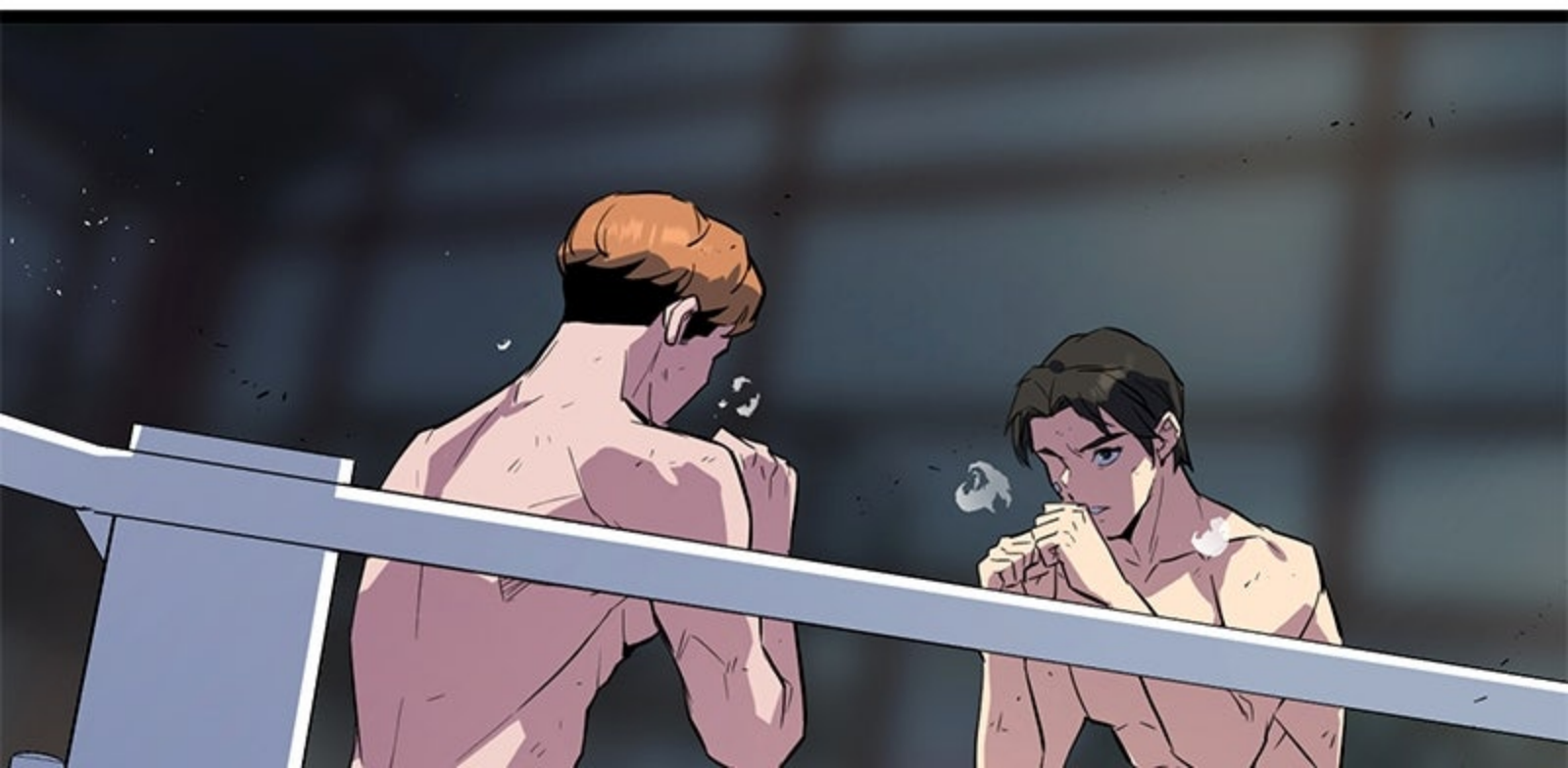
HUH...?!

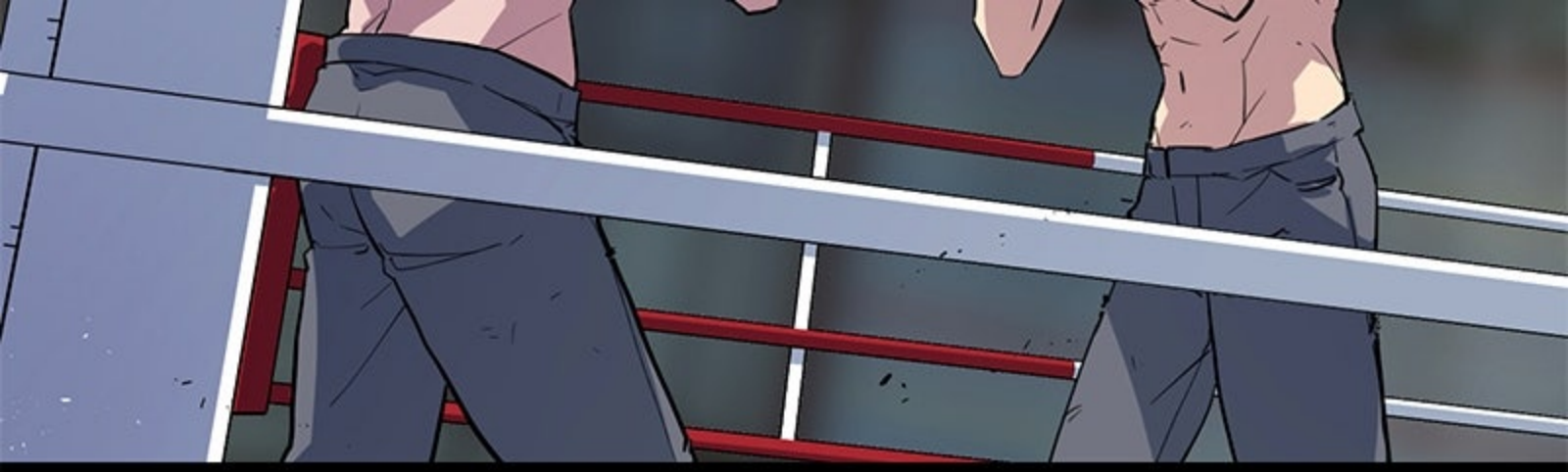
RULE NUMBER ONE.
ONLY STUDENTS OF
YMG HIGH HAVE ACCESS
TO THE ARENA.



YOU CAN'T ENTER
THE ARENA ONCE YOU DROP
OUT, GET KICKED OUT, OR
GRADUATE FROM THE SCHOOL.

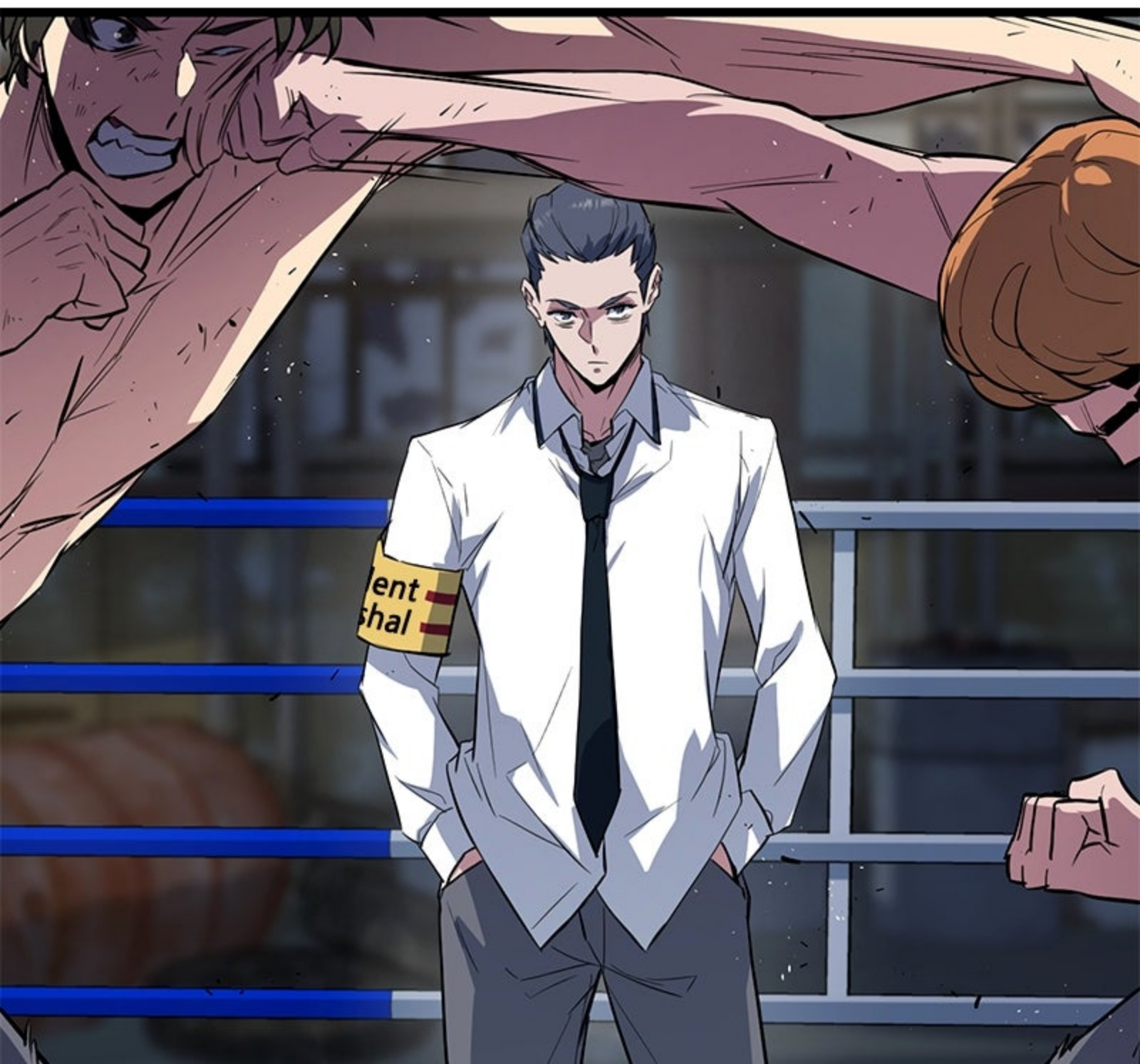
**RULE NUMBER TWO.
MATCHES ARE HELD
AS ONE-ON-ONE,
BARE-HANDED FIGHTS
UNLESS SPECIFIED
OTHERWISE.**







FIGHTERS IN THE RING
MUST NOT EXCEED
THREE PEOPLE UNDER
ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

RULE NUMBER THREE.
YMG HIGH'S STUDENT
MARSHALS SERVE AS
REFEREES IN THE RING...





...AND THEY
DETERMINE THE
START AND THE
END OF A FIGHT.



THERE YOU
ARE. I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR
YOU.





?!

WHERE HAVE

WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN ALL
THIS TIME?



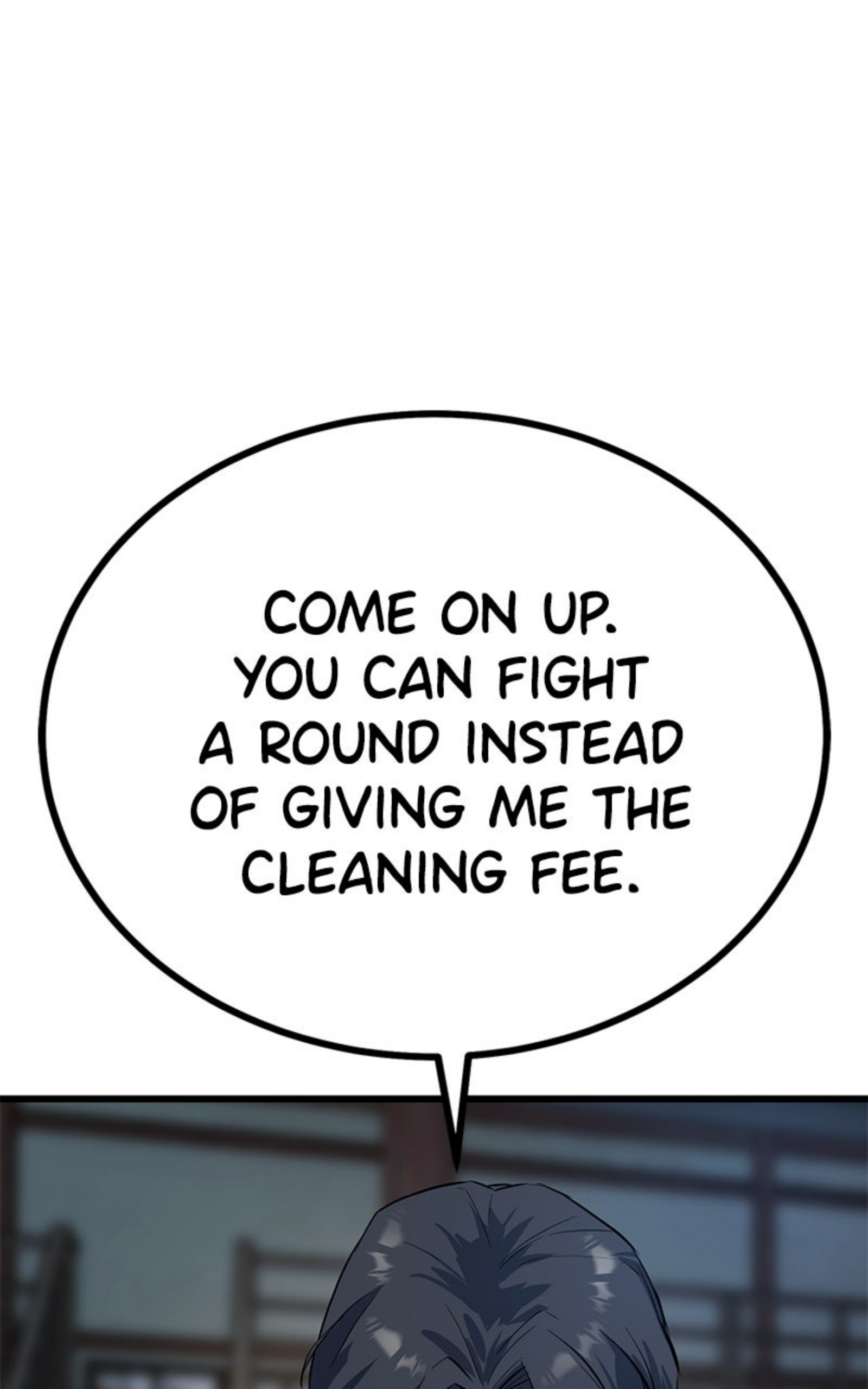


HIH ?

HUH...!

I REMEMBER HIM...





COME ON UP.
YOU CAN FIGHT
A ROUND INSTEAD
OF GIVING ME THE
CLEANING FEE.



WOW, YOU HAVE
A MATCH ALREADY.
THEN YOU CAN LEARN
THE REST IN THE
RING ITSELF.

TAP



UHH...
WHAT?!

WAIT!
BUT I'M--

RULE NUMBER
FOUR. VIOLENCE OF

YOUR. VIOLENCE OF
ANY KIND IS FORBIDDEN
IN ALL AREAS OTHER
THAN THE ARENA.



ALL BAD BLOOD
BEFORE AND AFTER
THE FIGHT STAYS IN
THE RING AND THE
RING ONLY.

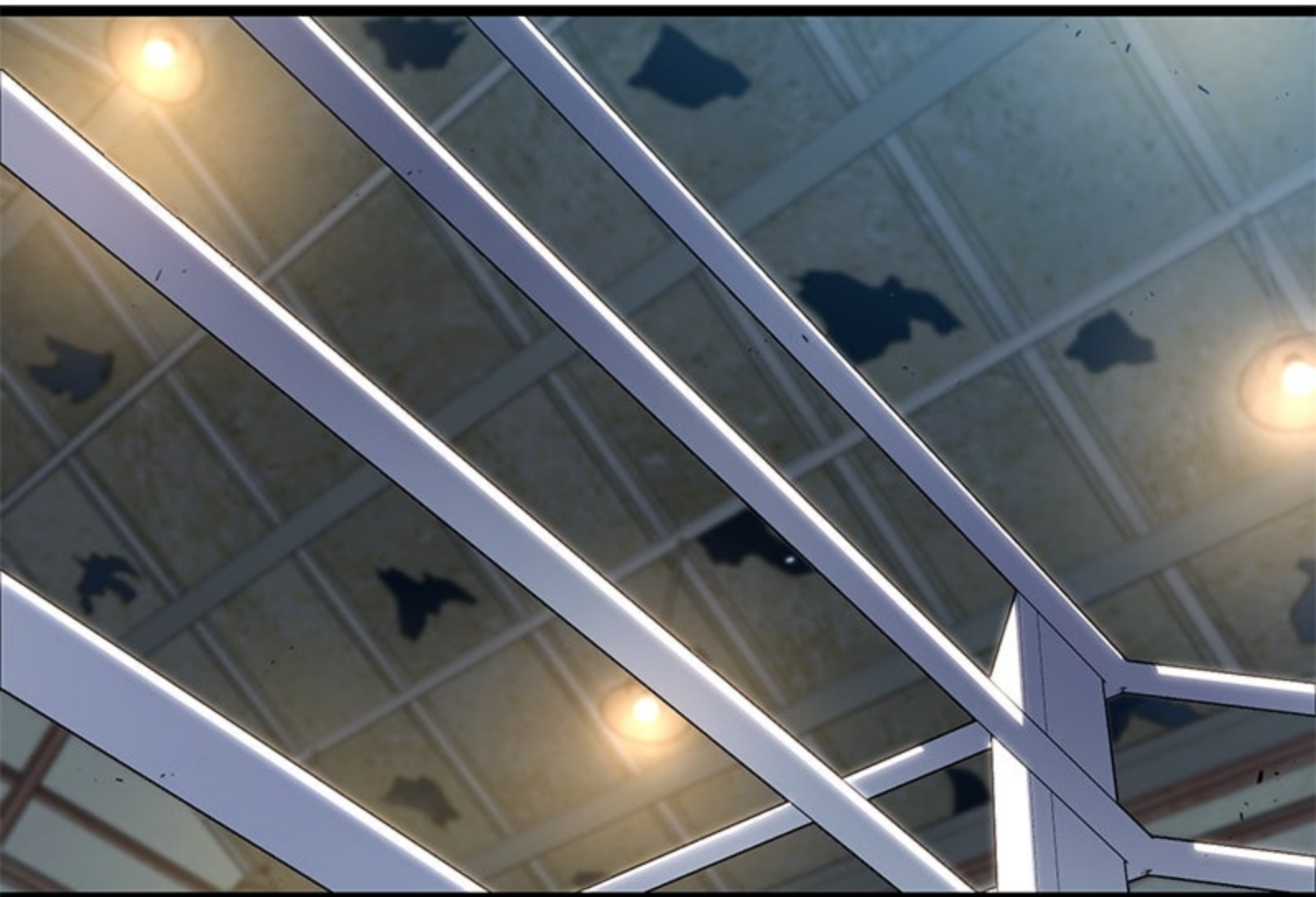
THAT'S THE
MOST IMPORTANT
RULE IN THE
ARENA

ARENA.



DON'T
BE SCARED.
JUST ENJOY
YOURSELF UP
THERE.





I'VE BEEN BULLIED
AND BEATEN UP EVERY DAY
IN SCHOOL.

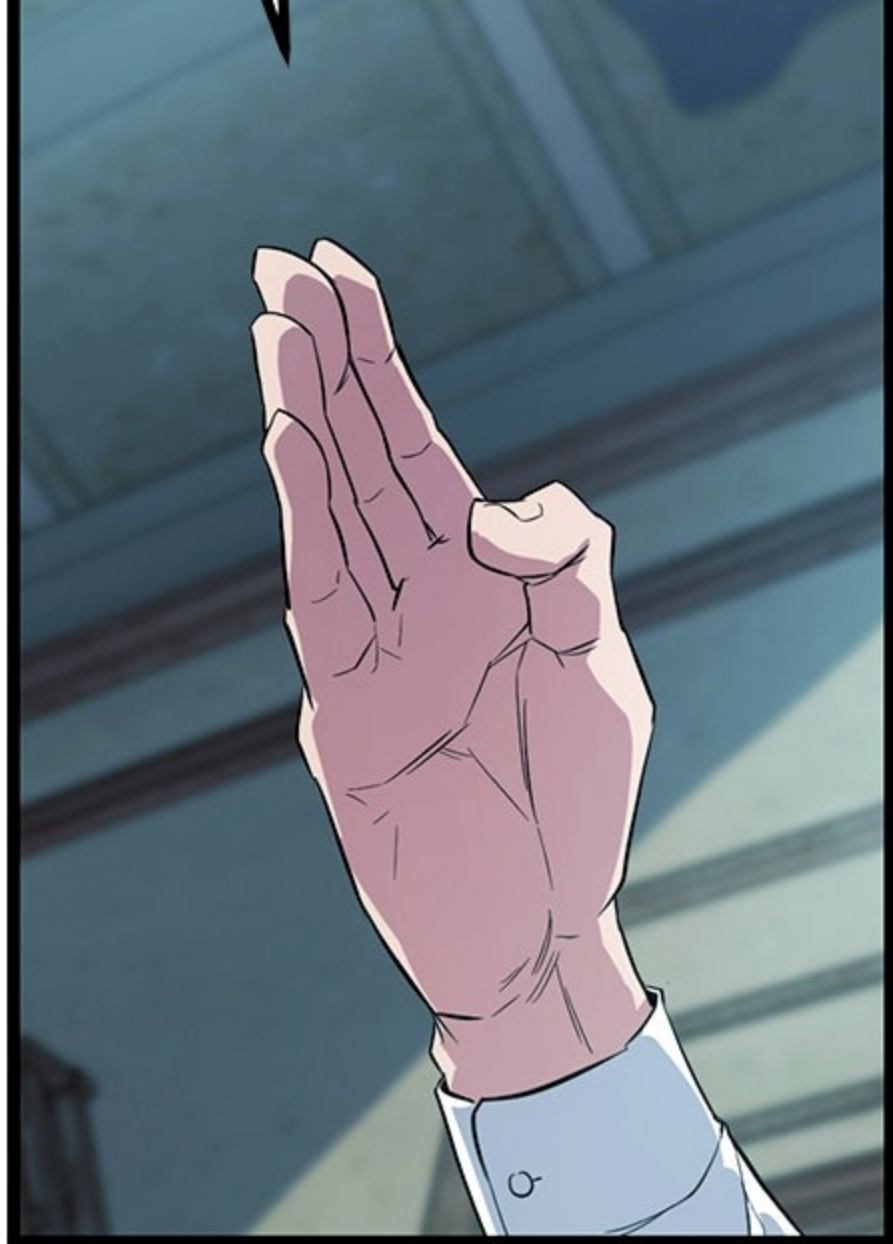
YEAHAAAH



YEAH AH

**SO HOW AM I SUPPOSED
TO ENJOY A FIGHT?**

READY?



ESPECIALLY...



...AGAINST A GUY LIKE HIM?

I'VE BEEN A SANDBAG
IN SCHOOL FOR THREE YEARS.





AND MY GUTS ARE
TELLING ME...







...I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE!!

The title 'KING OF THE ARENA' is rendered in a bold, blocky, sans-serif font. The letters are white with a black outline and are set against a black background. The text is arranged in two lines: 'KING OF' on the top line and 'THE ARENA' on the bottom line. The letters are three-dimensional, with a thick black border around them, giving the impression of a physical structure or a sign. The entire title is surrounded by a dynamic splash of black ink or paint, with various sized droplets and streaks radiating outwards, creating a sense of movement and impact.

KING OF THE ARENA

Original story | Nyeongni
Adaptation | Jaeyu Jeong
Drawing | Kyeongchan Han
Production | Baekha

**STUDIO
LICO**