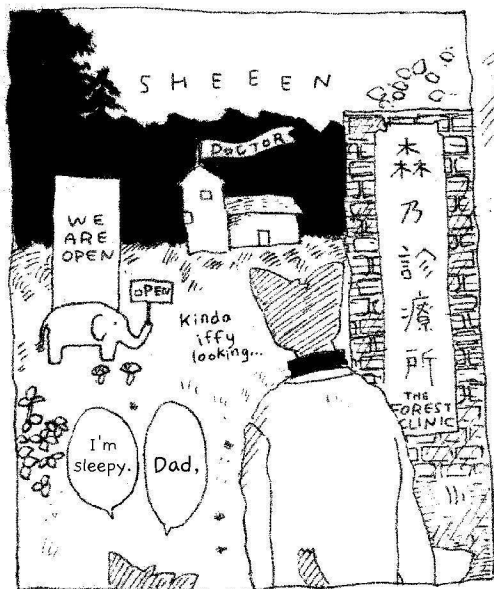
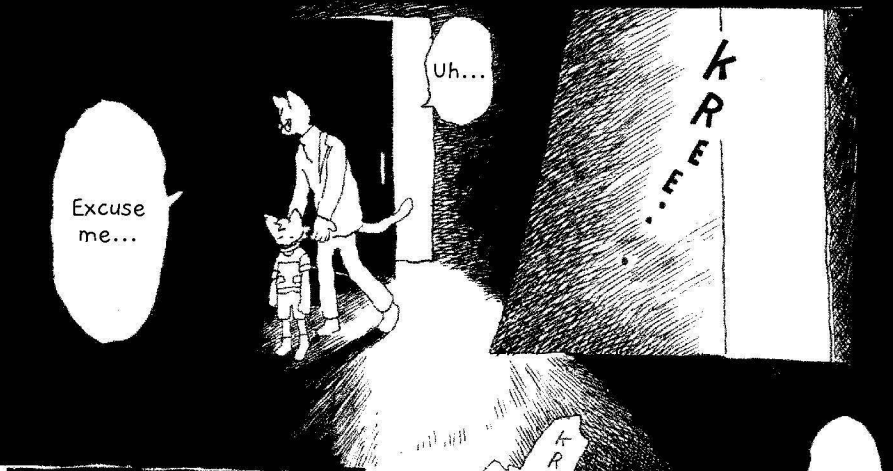




Sleepy Child





Excuse me...

Uh...

K
R
E
E



Oh...

I'm sleepy

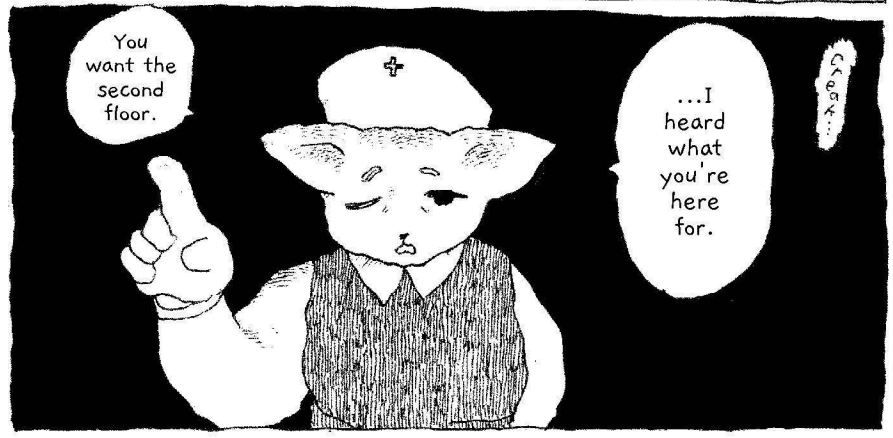
Huh?

K
R
E
E

K
R
E
E

K
R
E
E

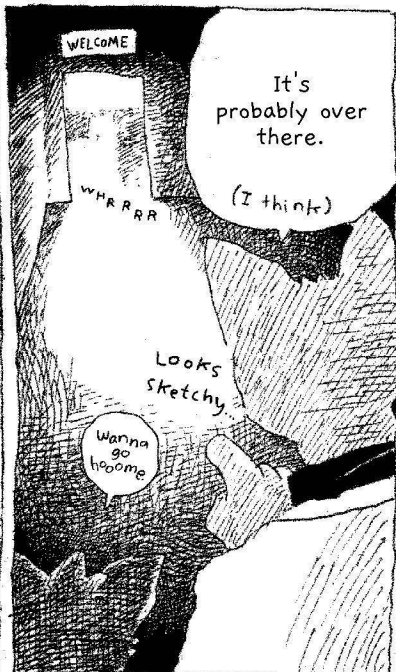
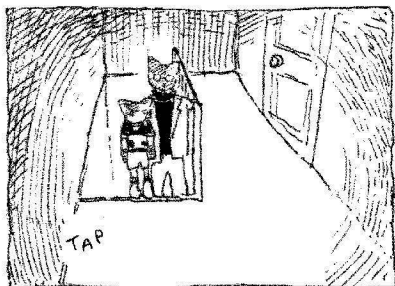
K
R
E
E

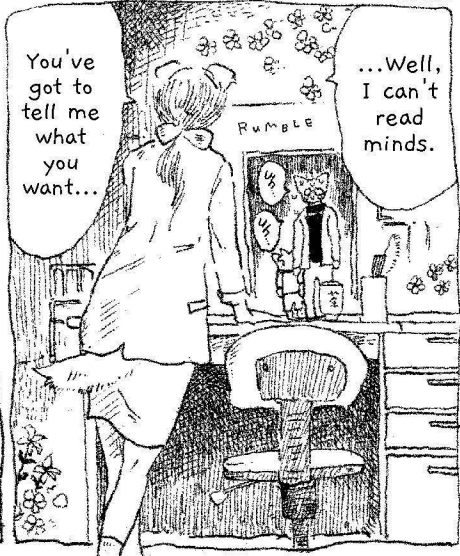
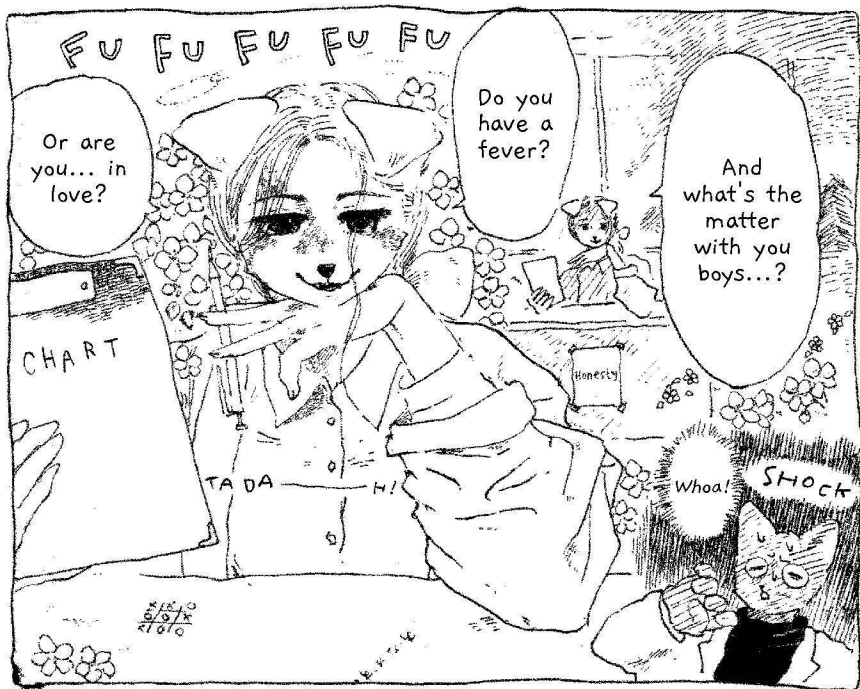


You want the second floor.

...I heard what you're here for.


C
R
A
K











When he gets like this, he'll sleep for two whole days.

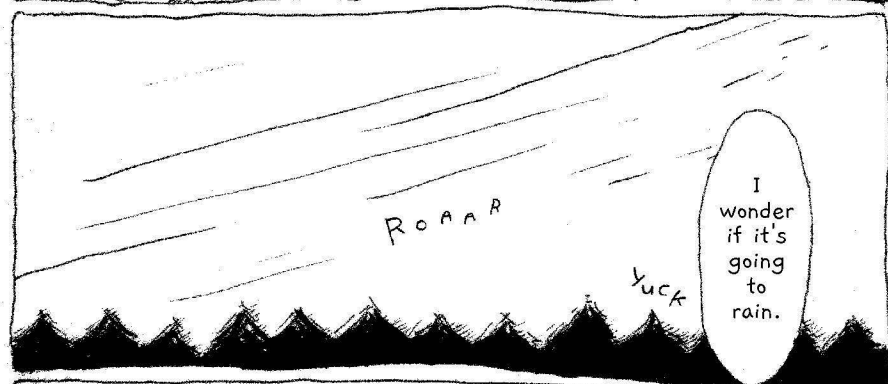
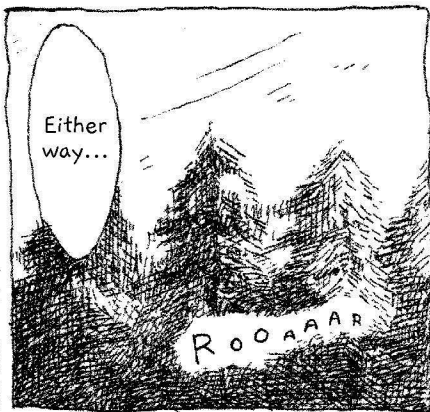
Two days?

Yes.

How long ago did this start?

Uhm... maybe half a month ago.

RATTLE



Things you can only do while sleeping?

And there are things you can only do while sleeping.

After all, there's nothing really wrong with it. Sleeping is wonderful.

I see...

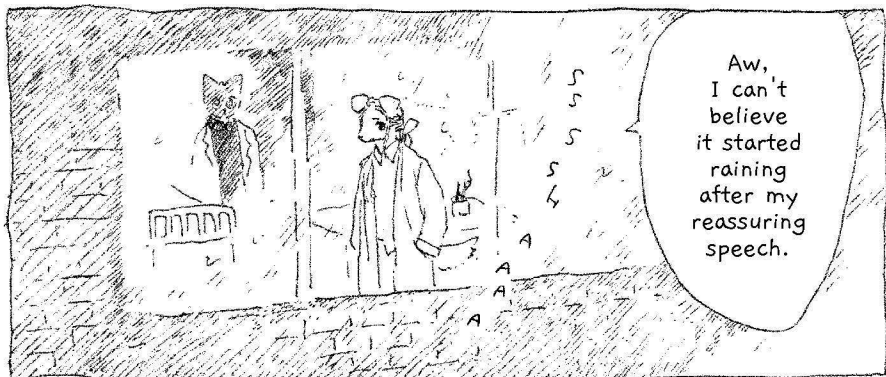
It'll be okay, whatever the cause is.

I'm talking about dreaming! He might be searching for something in his dreams.

SHASH
BOOM

Don't worry!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE



Aw,
I can't
believe
it started
raining
after my
reassuring
speech.



It'll be
okay! I
won't do
anything
to him!

She's
scary
...

Haha



If it's
going
to be
rough to
take him
home, I
can keep
him
here.



Y-yes,
please
do.
Thank
you.

Okay,
I'll call
you when
he wakes
up.

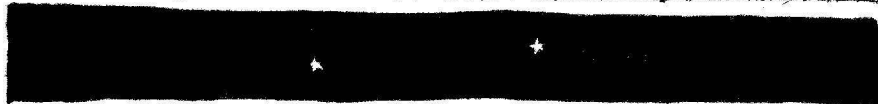
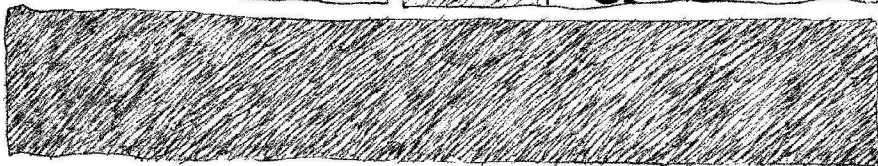
Hang
in there,
Chiyoji...

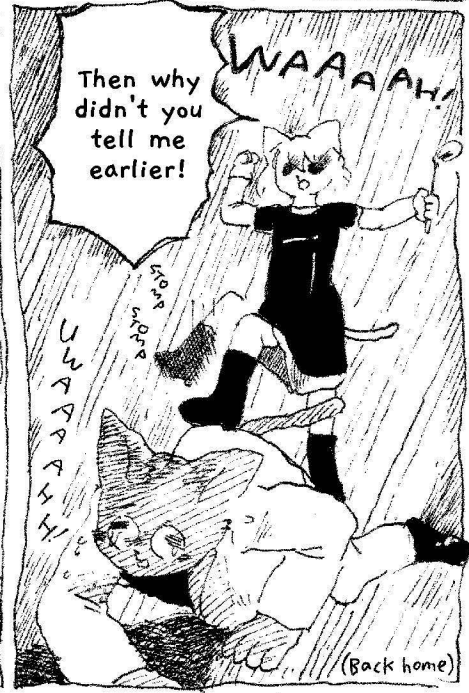
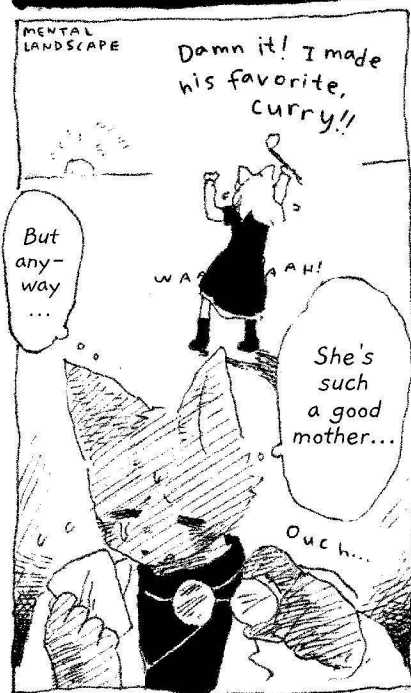


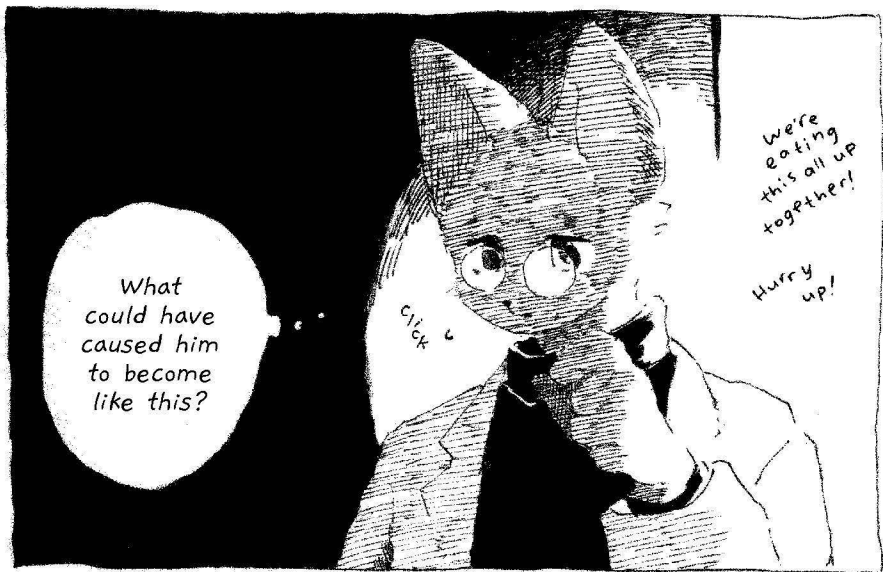
I'm
a bit...
No, quite
worried,
but...



* This is a Yoshiharu Tsuge reference.





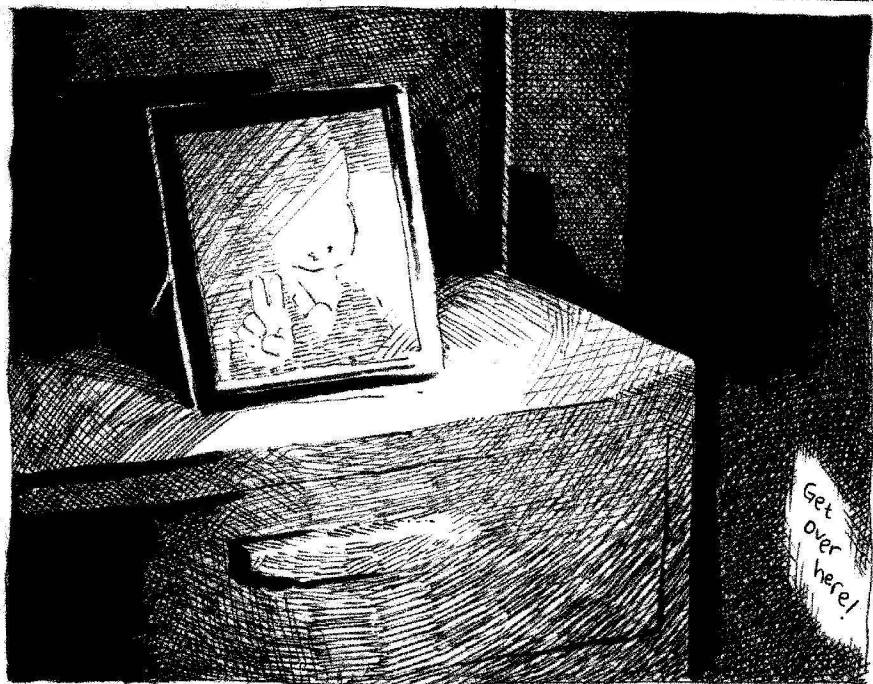


What
could have
caused him
to become
like this?

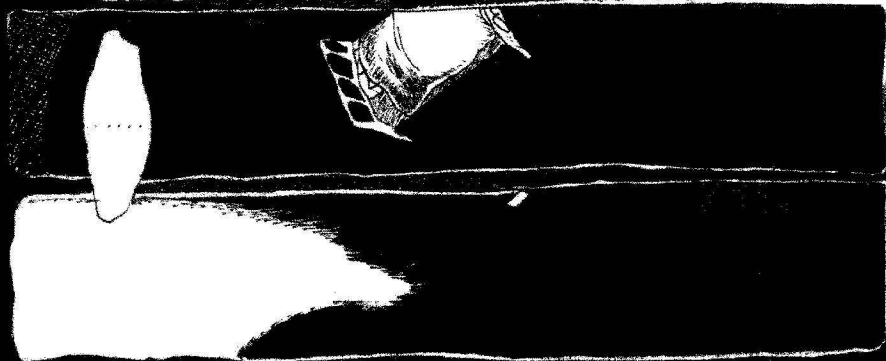
We're
eating
this all up
together!

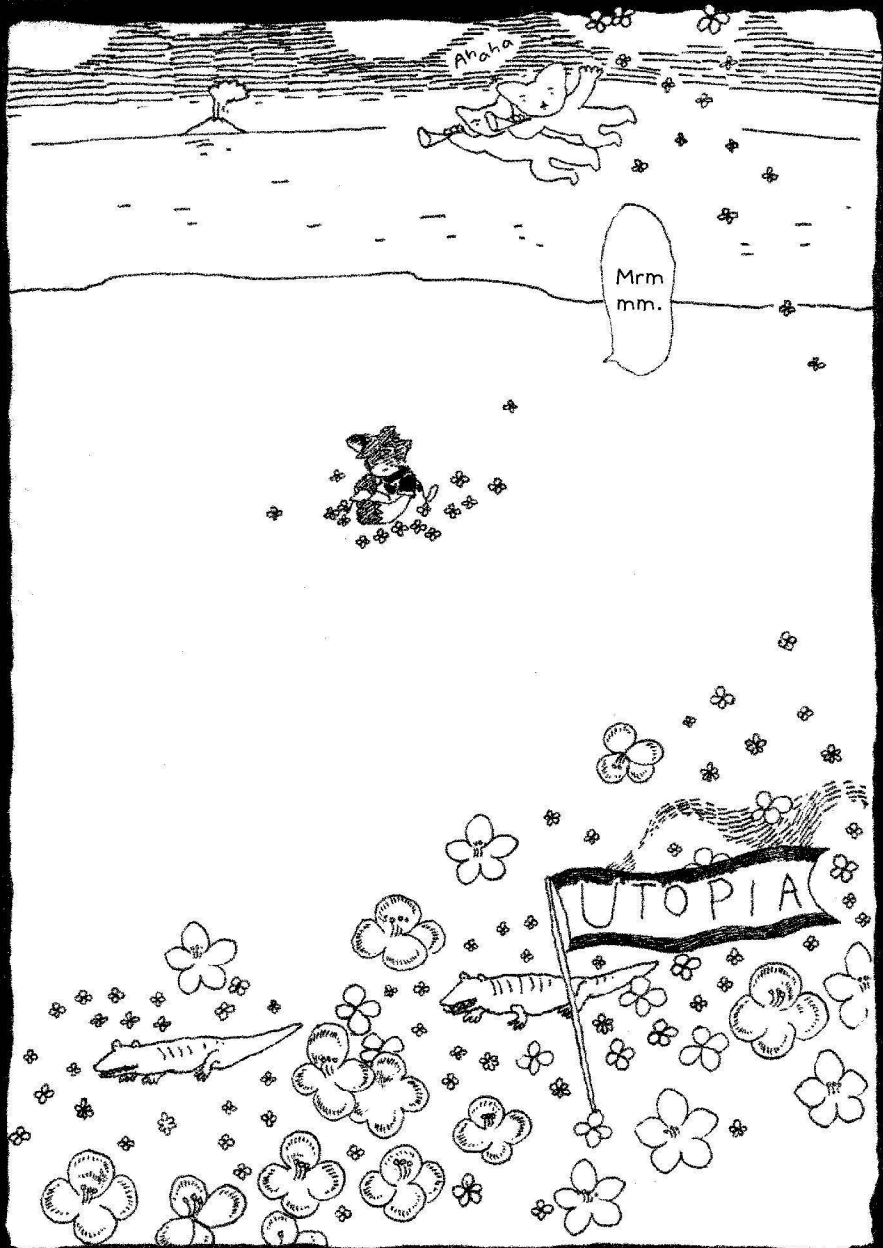
Hurry
up!

click



Get
over
here!





Aha

Mrm
mm.

UTOPIA

Oh,
my sincere
apologies.

M r m m...

I've been
waiting for
you this
entire
time,

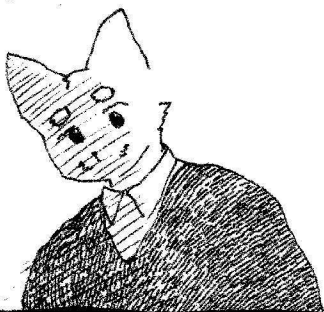


Hey there,
what's got
you so
down?

Ah.

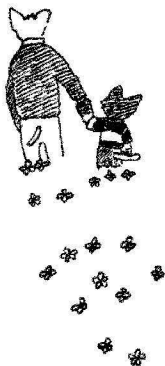


Grandpa.



Ha
ha
ha

I slept a
whole lot, so
everyone was
worried.



It must've
taken quite
a lot of work
to get here!

Oh!
Aren't
you
thought-
ful!

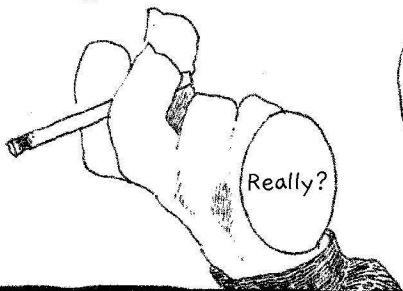


Here.

Yeah
...

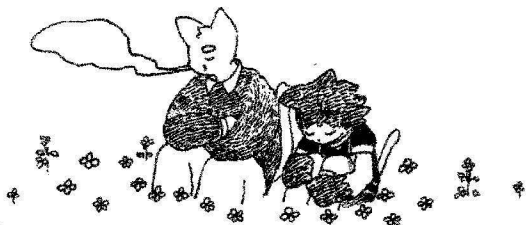
You
must've come
here to do
something,
right?

Ha
ha
ha



Really?

Do you
want one
too?



On
the day
of the
funeral,

Well...

So,
what did
you come
here for?

Ah!



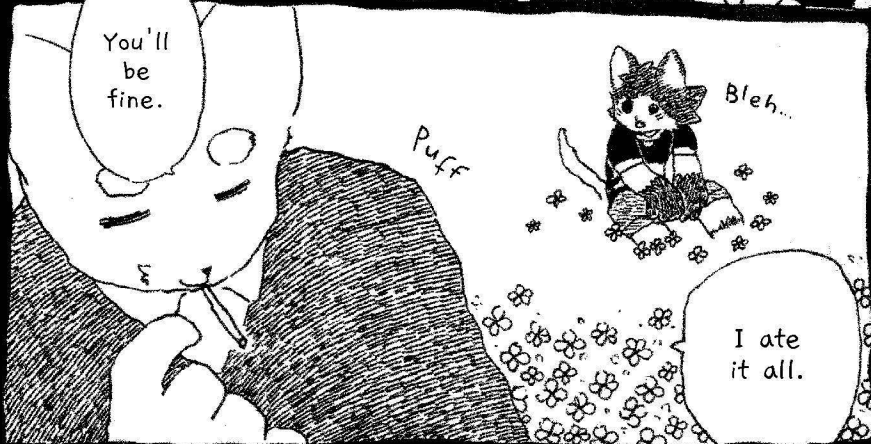
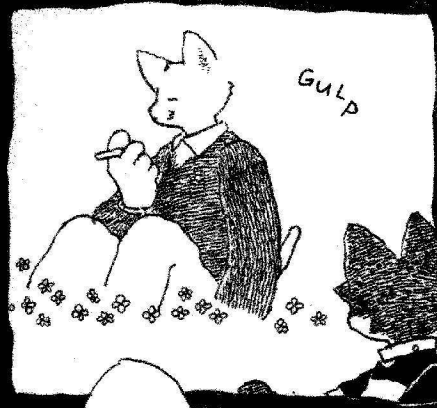
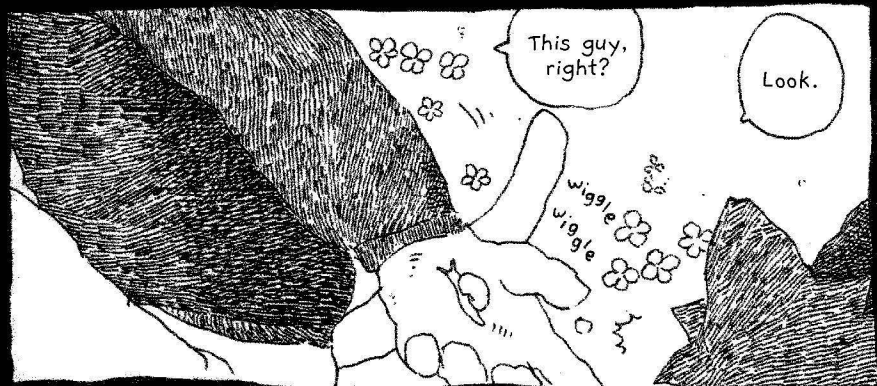
Euhadra

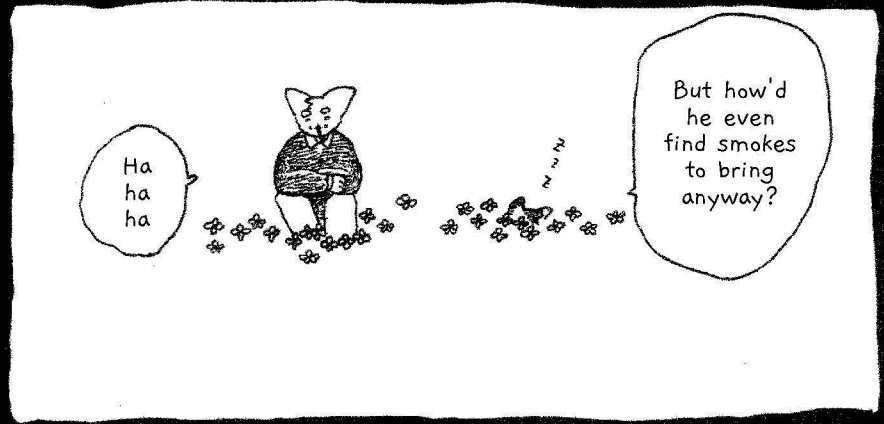
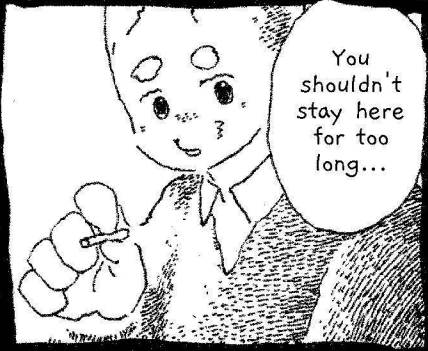
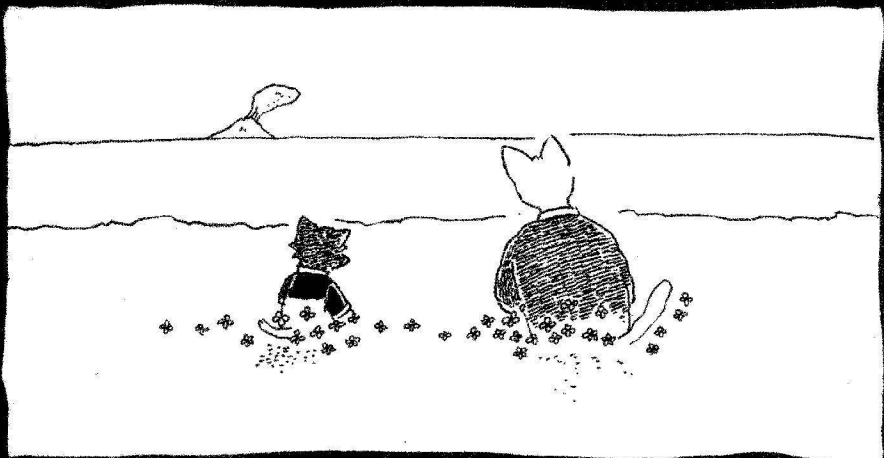
I stepped
on a snail.

Is
that
it?

Ha
ha
ha

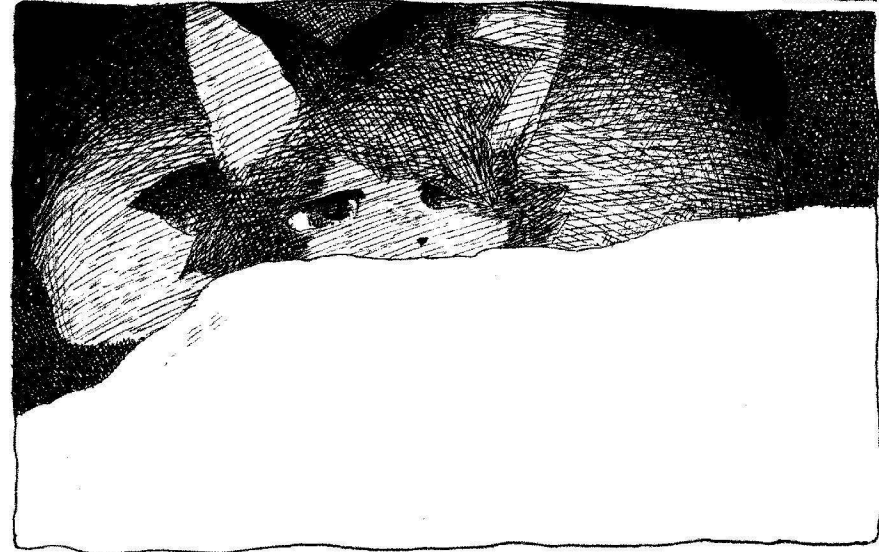
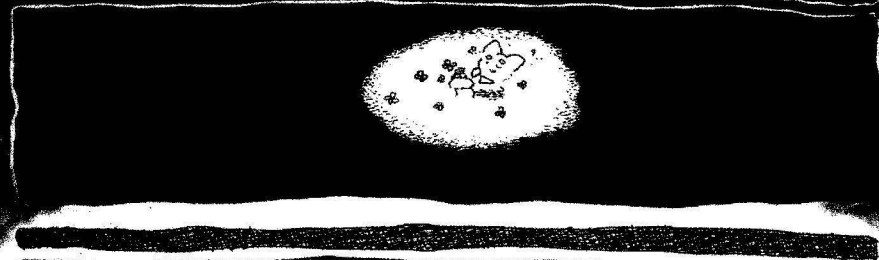
But I
don't want
to go to
hell, so...

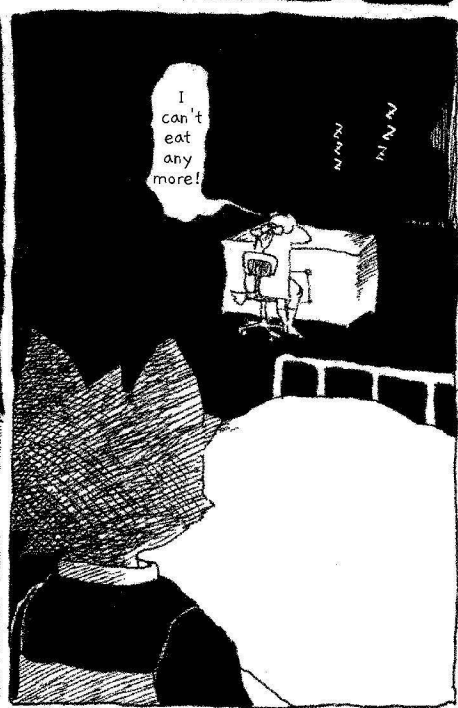
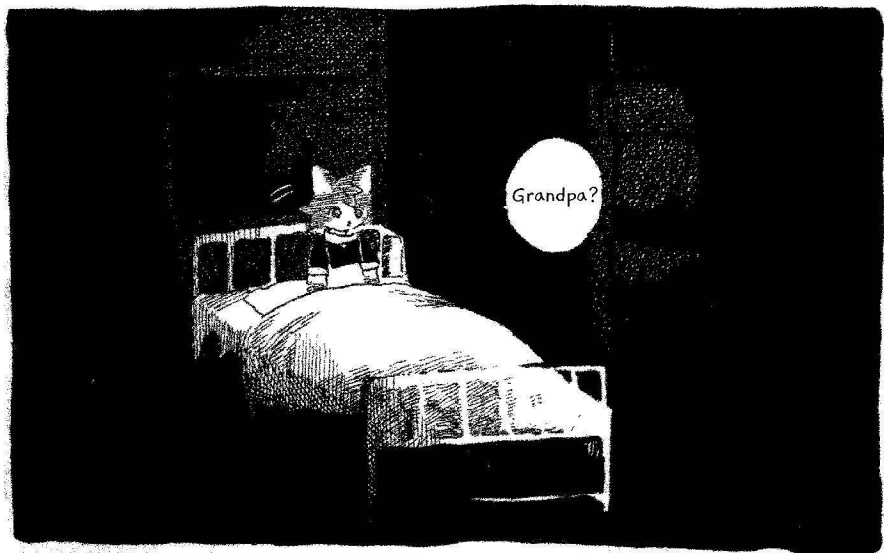


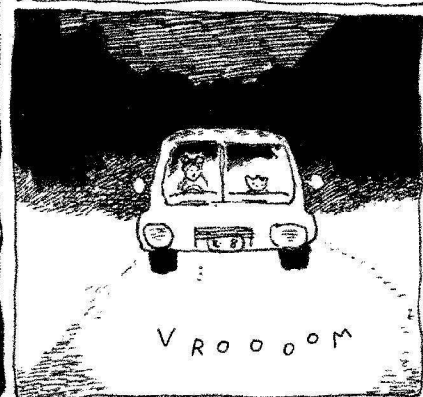
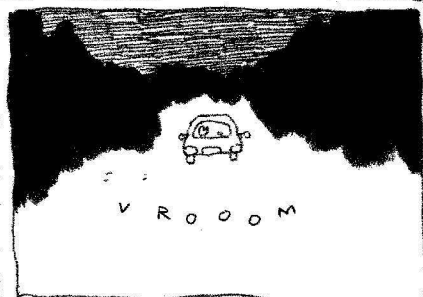
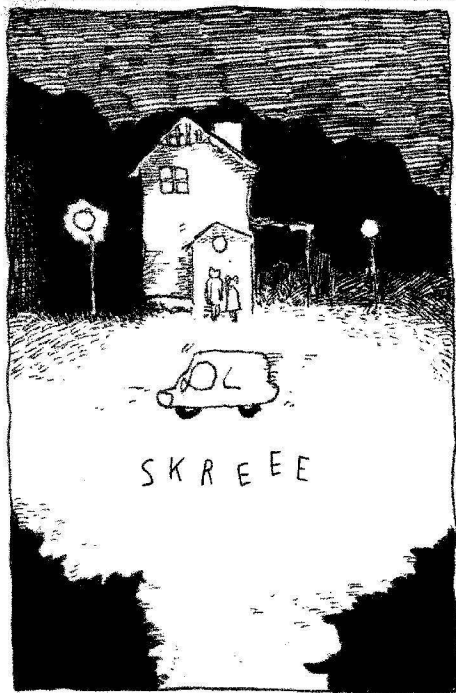


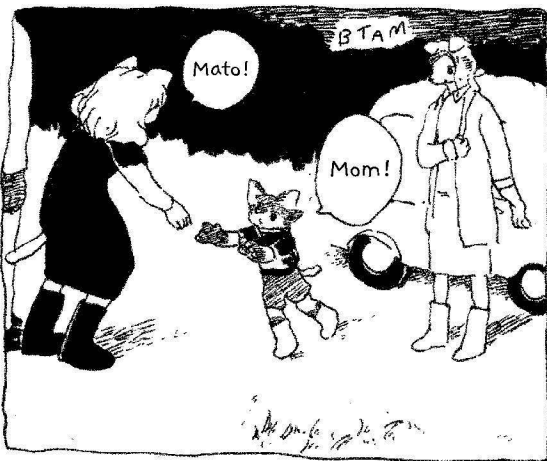


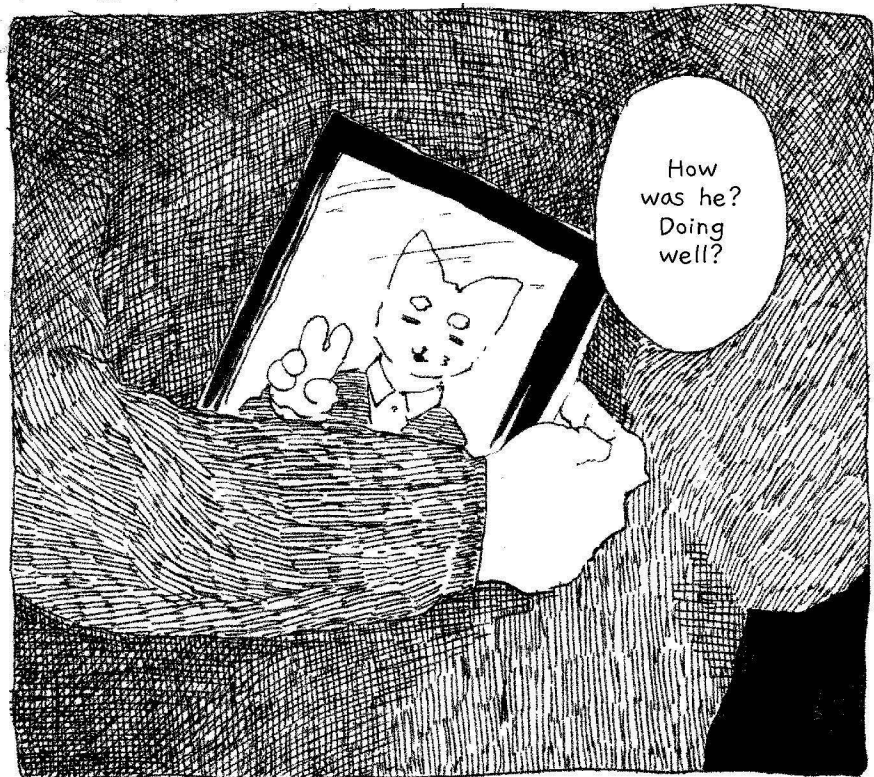
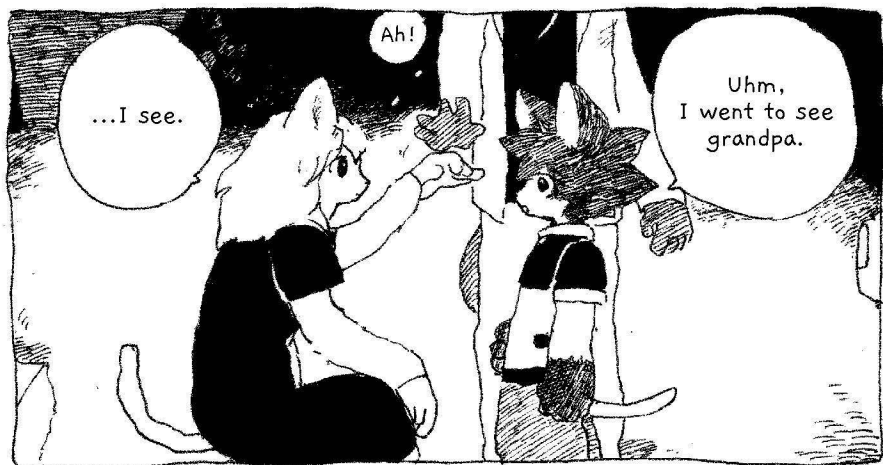
Take
care of
yourself.













I
guess
so.



That Child



TA-DAH!

I'm sure you'll make some friends here.

Oh, a tanuki.

森林
なぐよし
学校
FOREST
BUDDIES
SCHOOL

340034

3400



Guess this is the place.

Well what-ever...

This all feels kinda familiar...

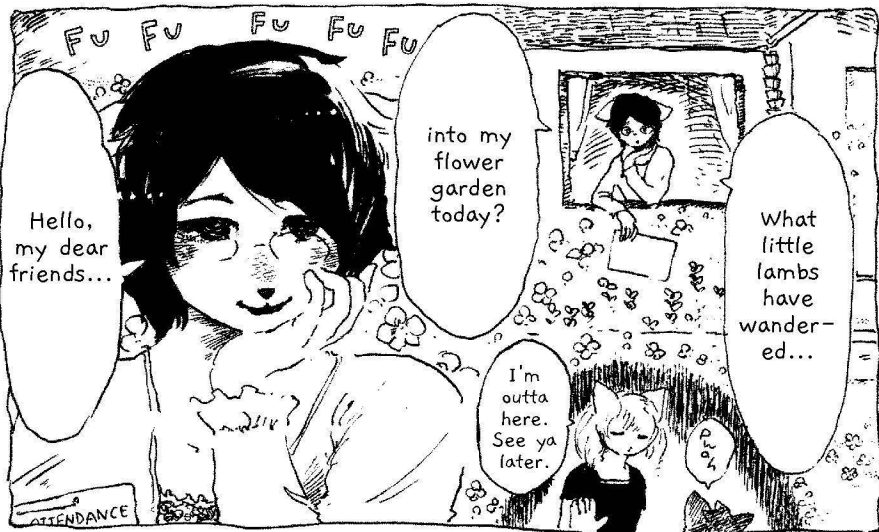
3400

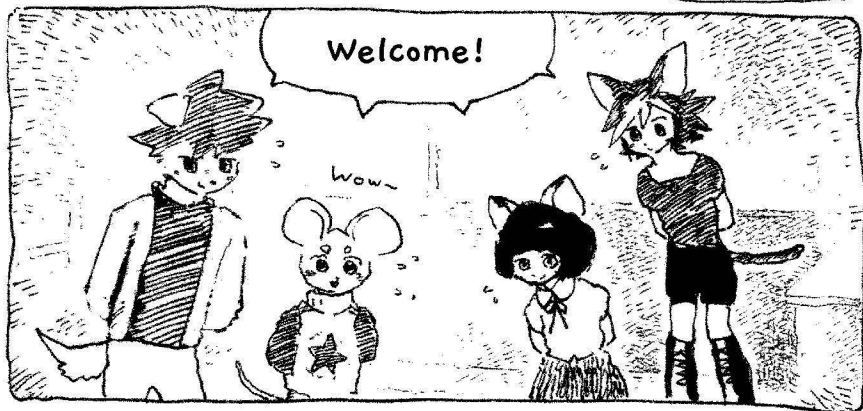


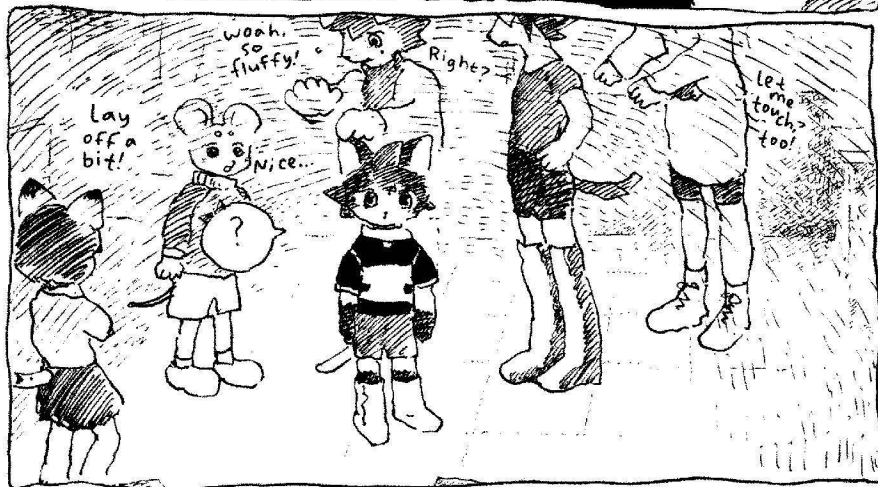
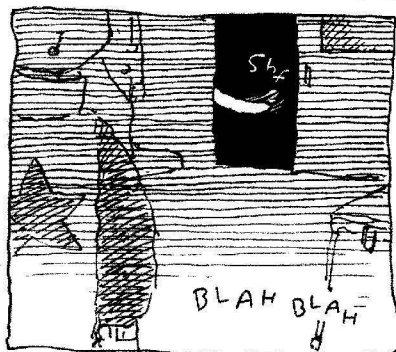
but I've got a bad feeling about this...

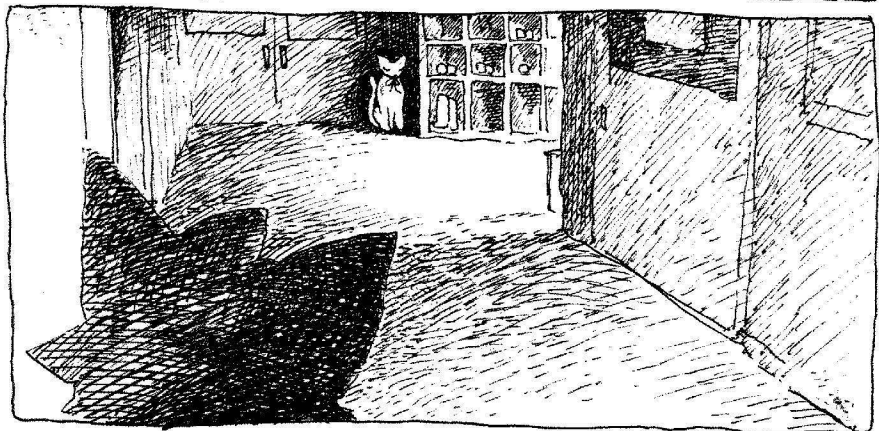
Your mom's not sure why...

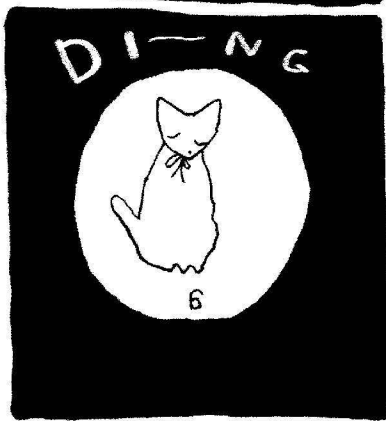
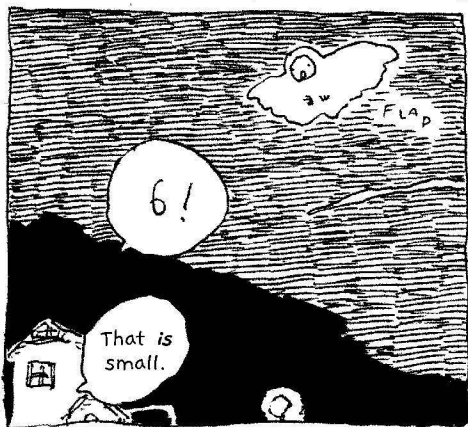
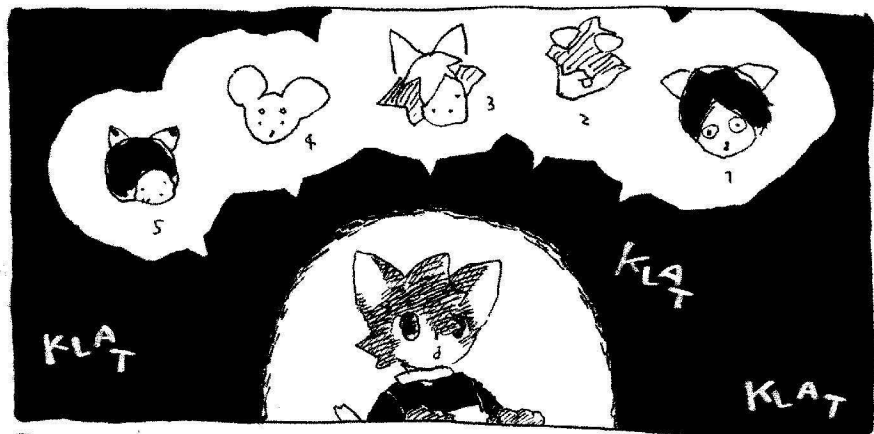
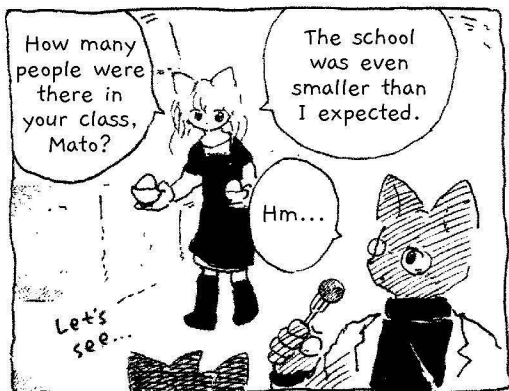
Oh my~

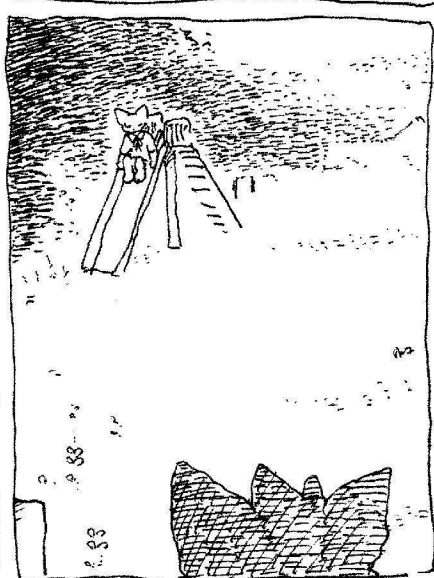
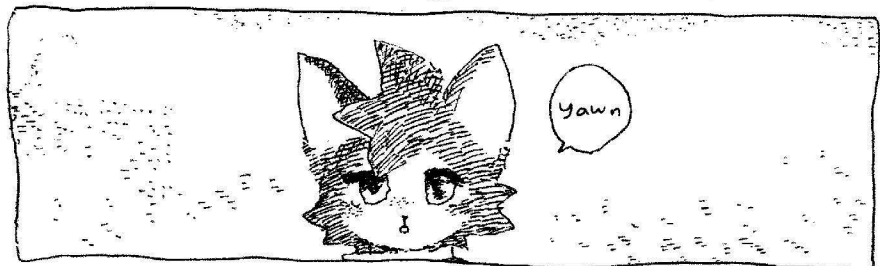
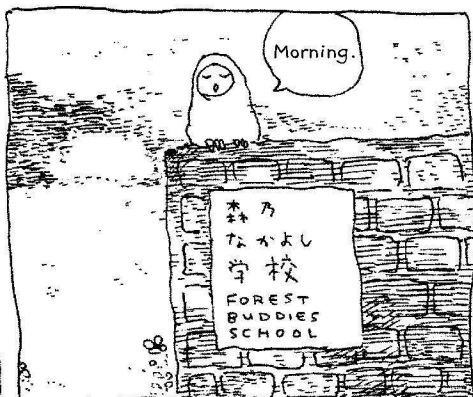


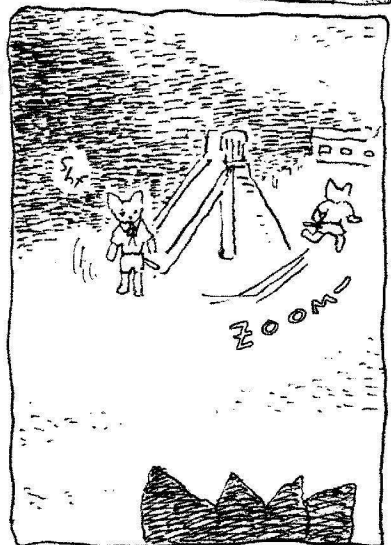
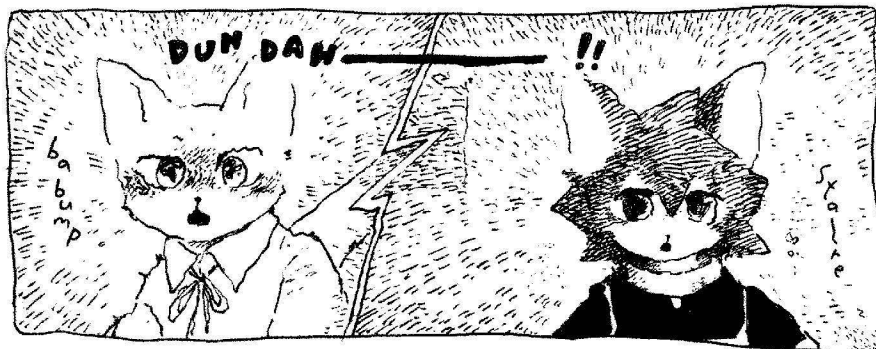
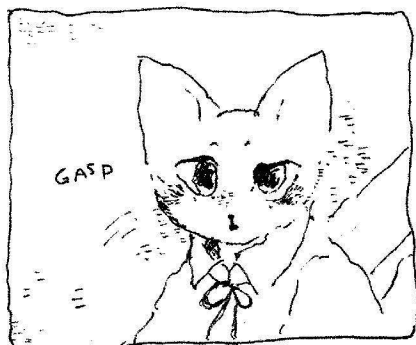


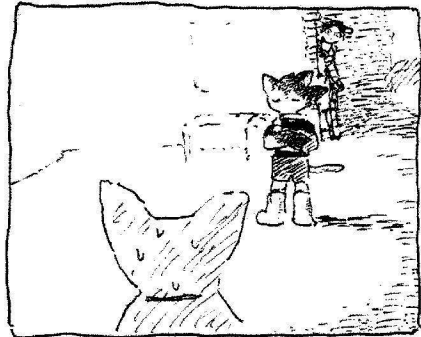
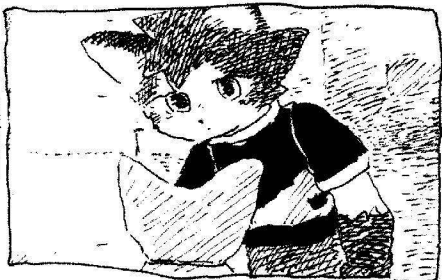
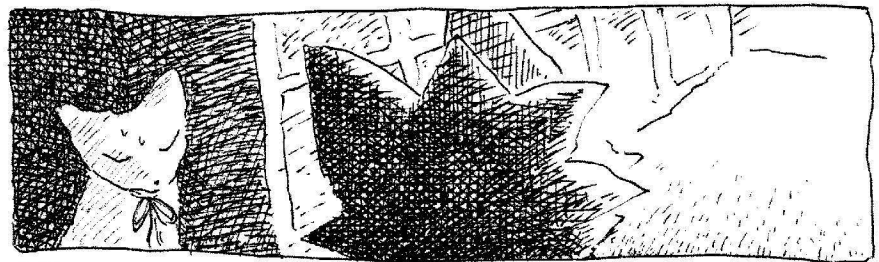
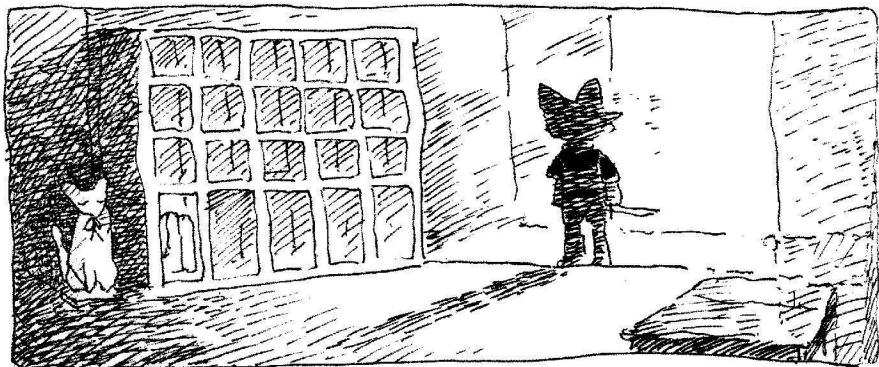


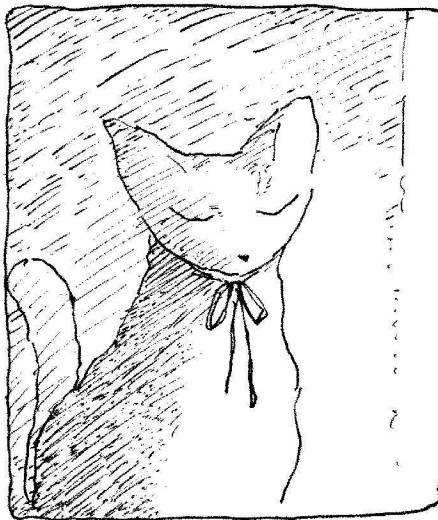
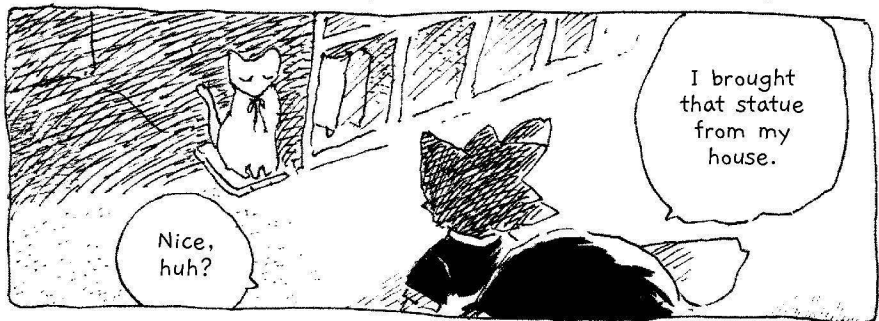
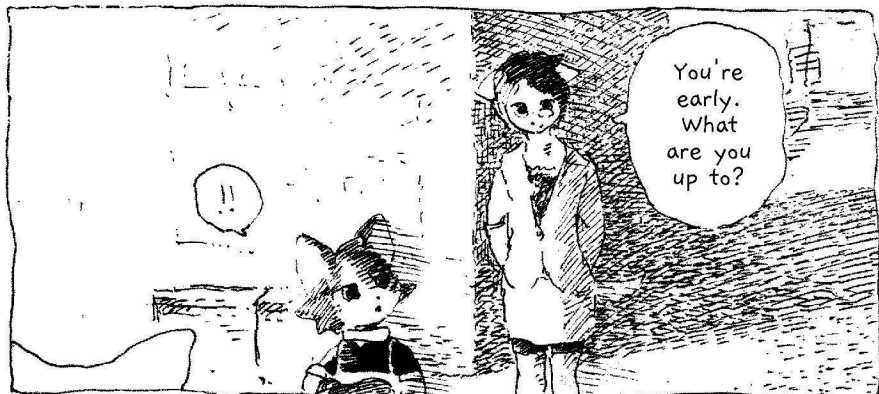


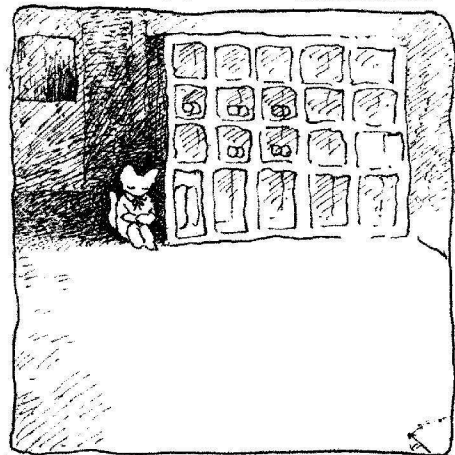
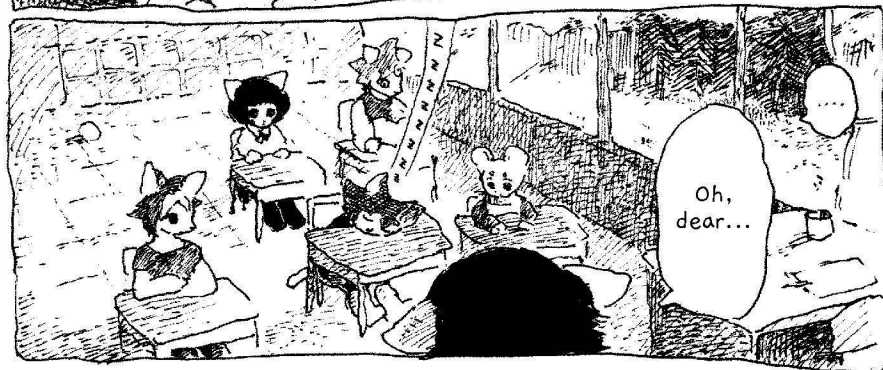
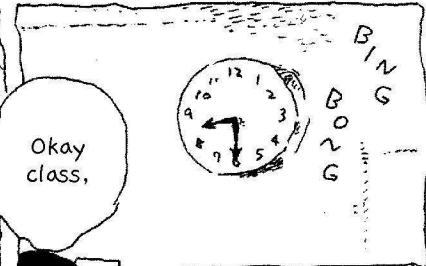


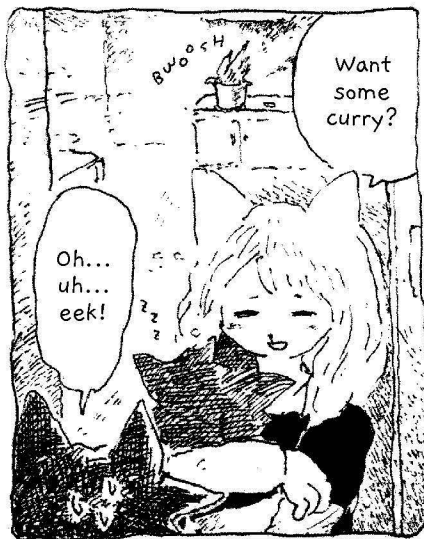
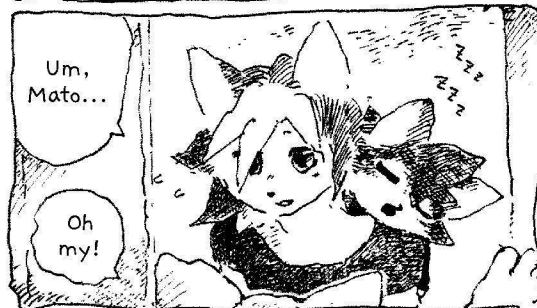








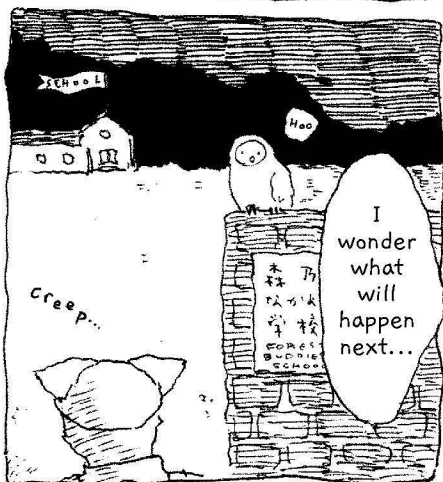
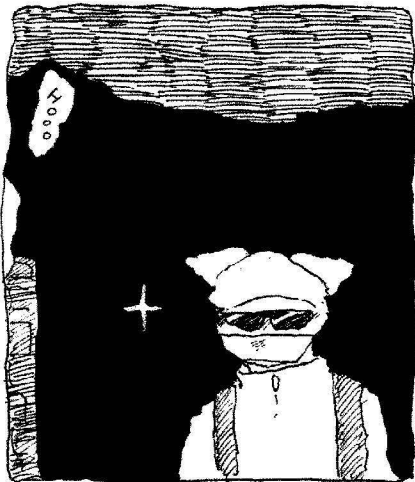
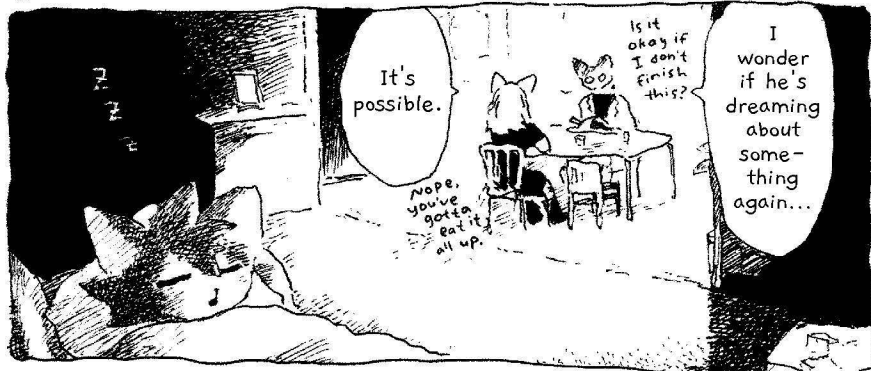




One of the kids from school even brought him all the way home.



So he didn't wake up for the entire day...





ugh...

Help
me...

I'm
scared!

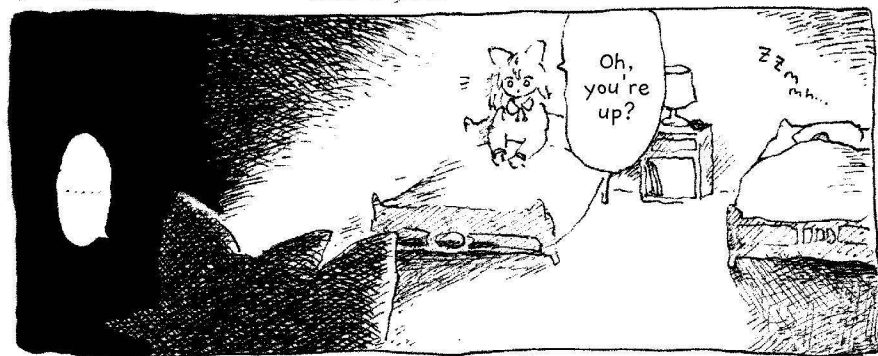
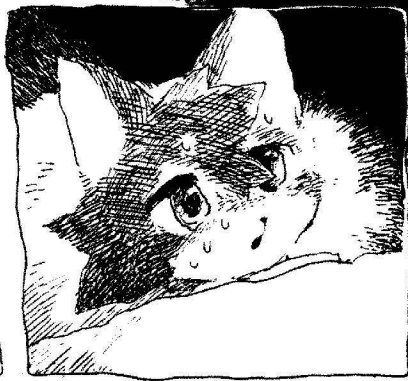
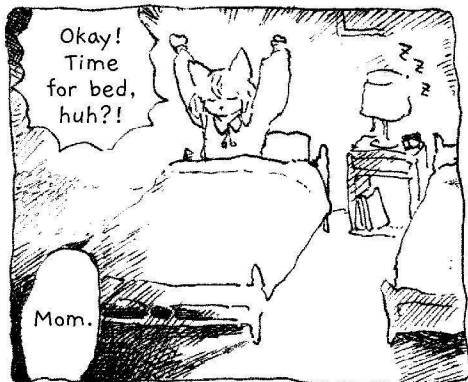


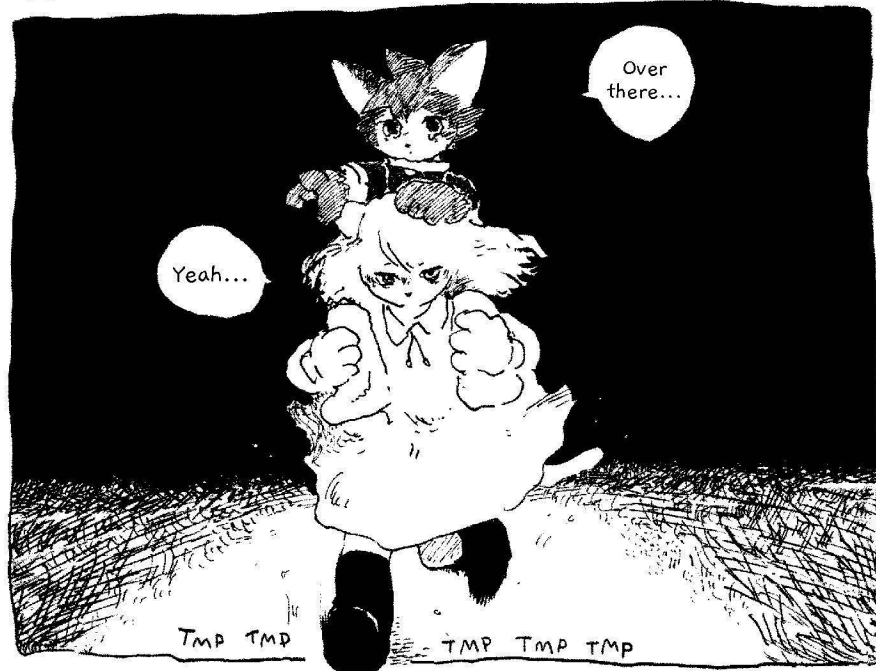
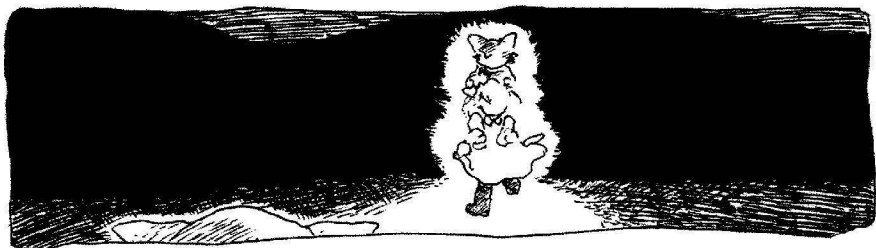
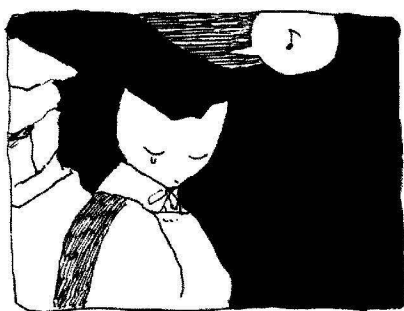
Ugh...

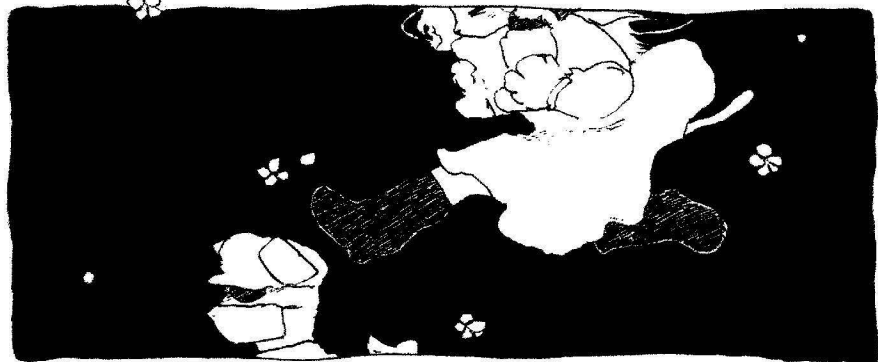
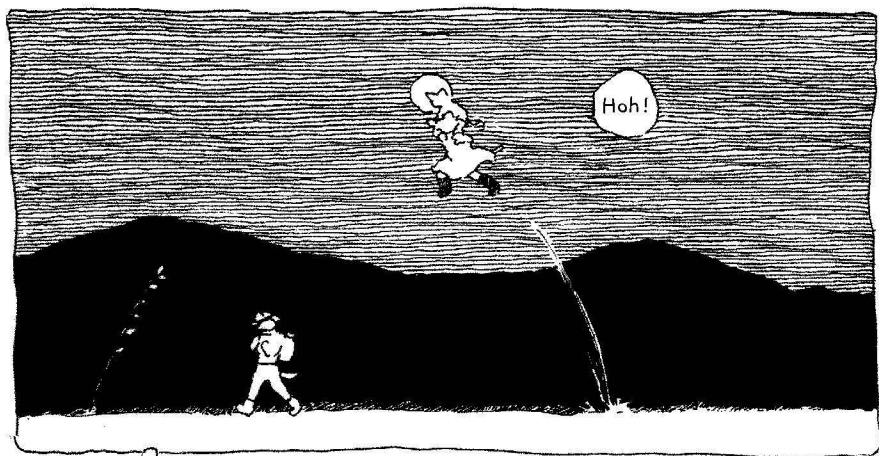
Please!

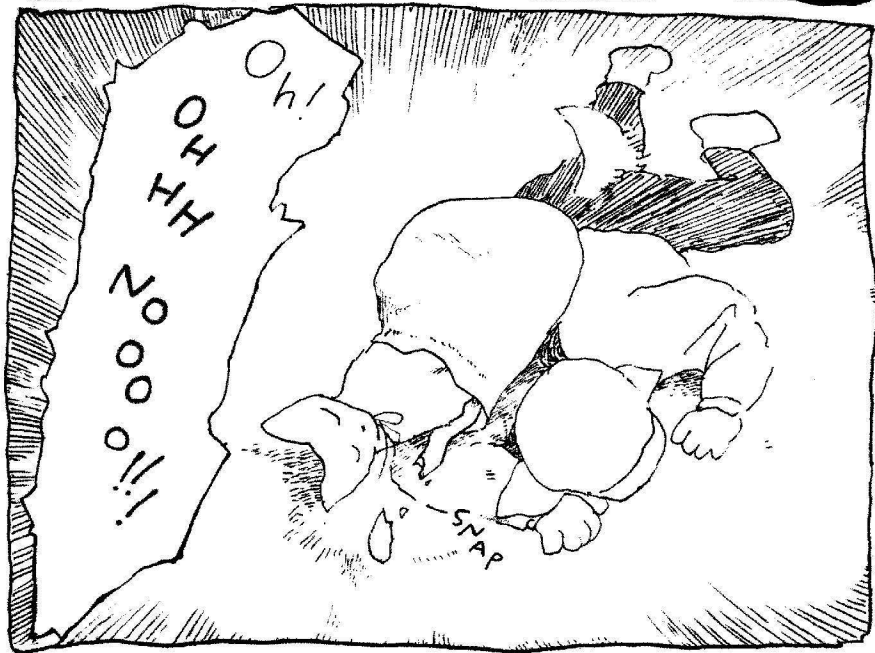
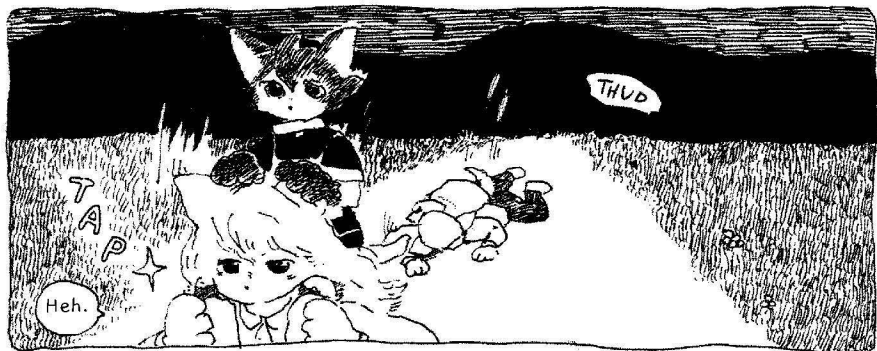


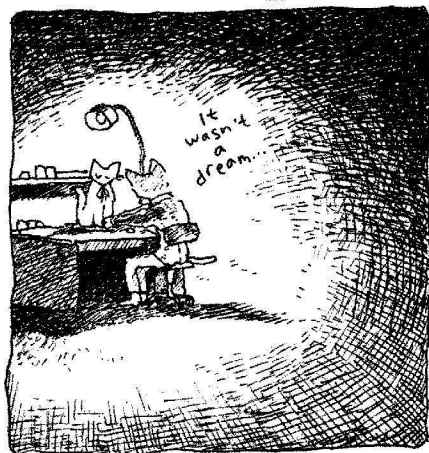


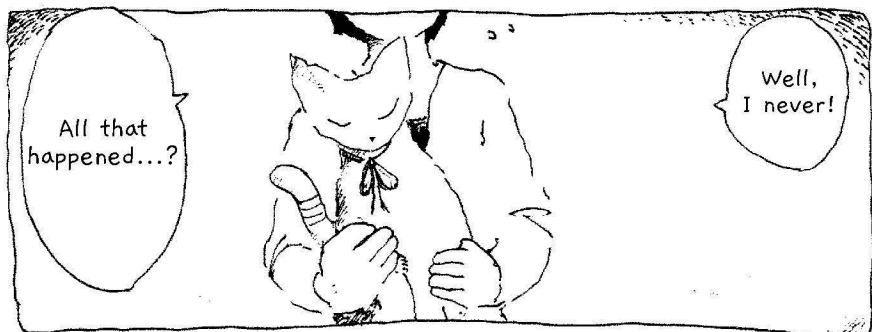








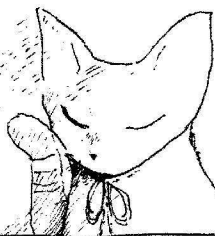






This is great,
isn't it?

Mato
...



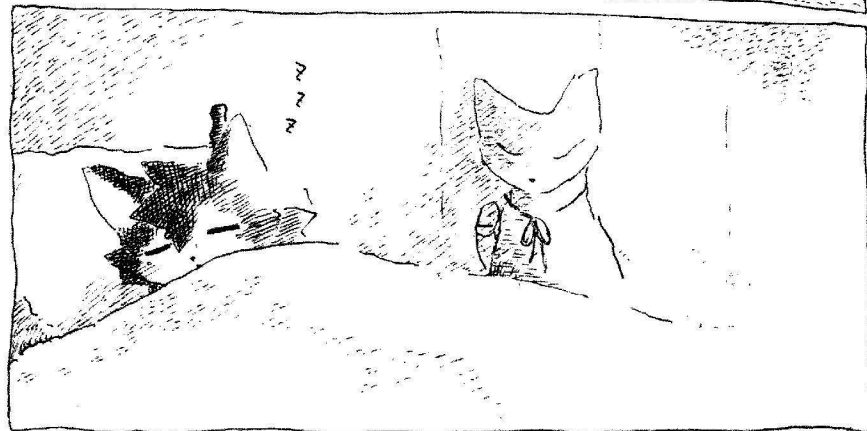
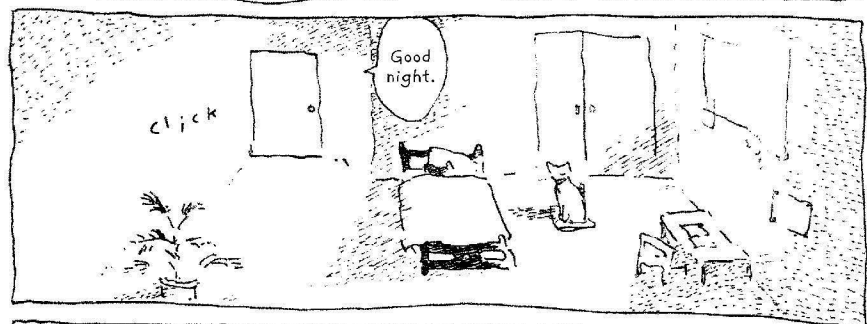
Your teacher asked me to put the statue here.

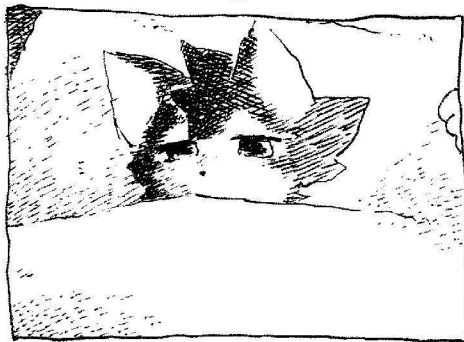
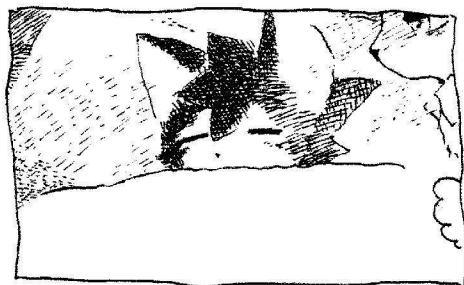
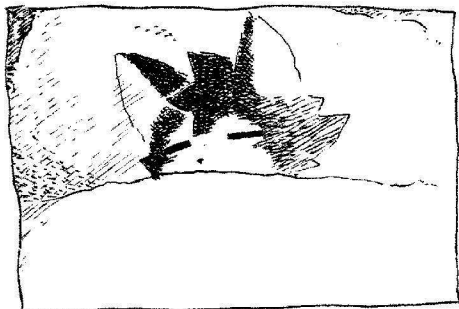


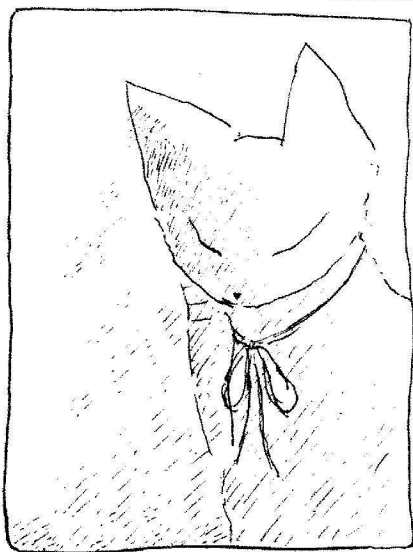
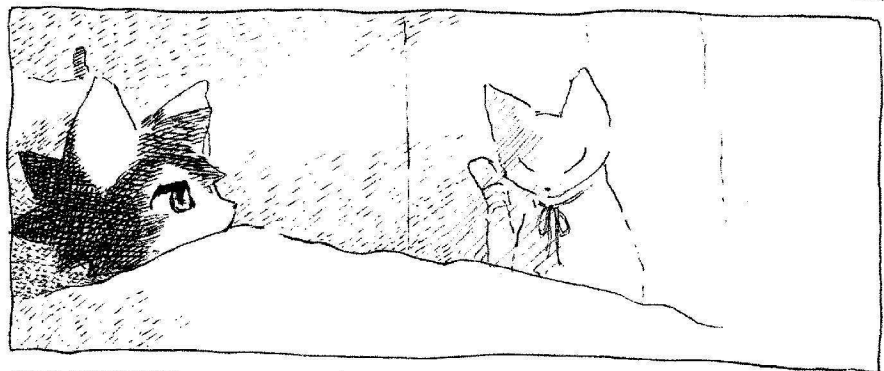
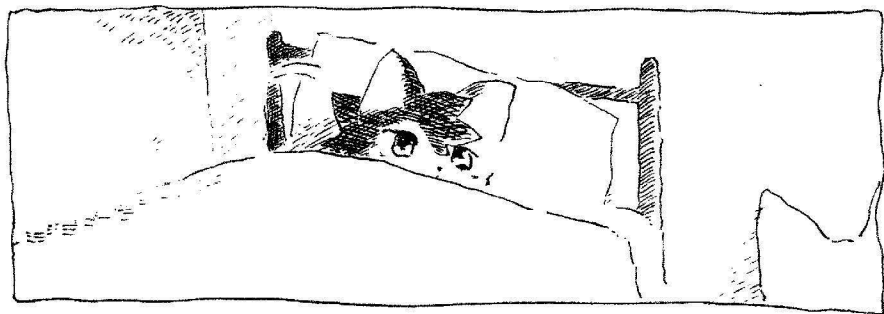
Whe w

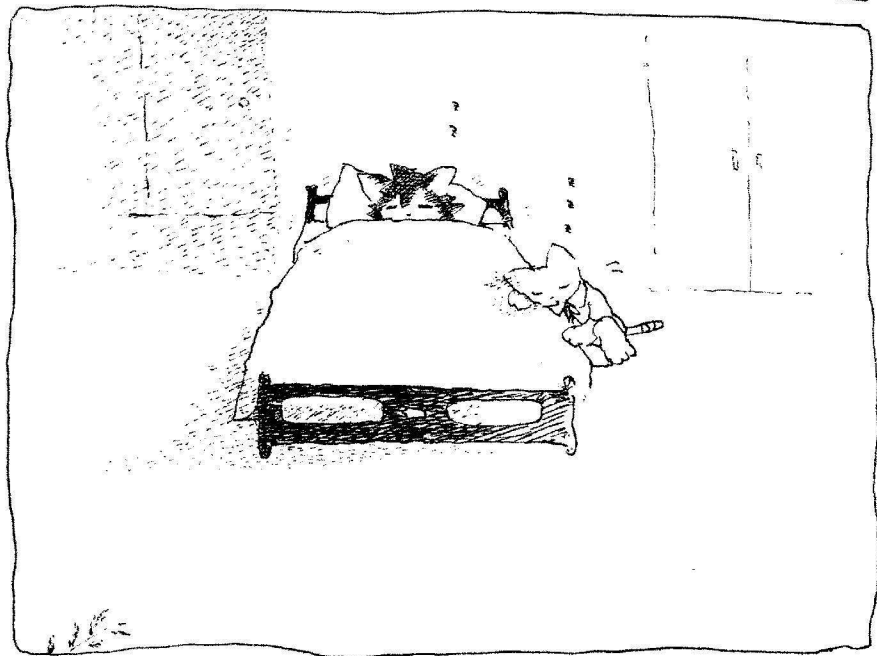
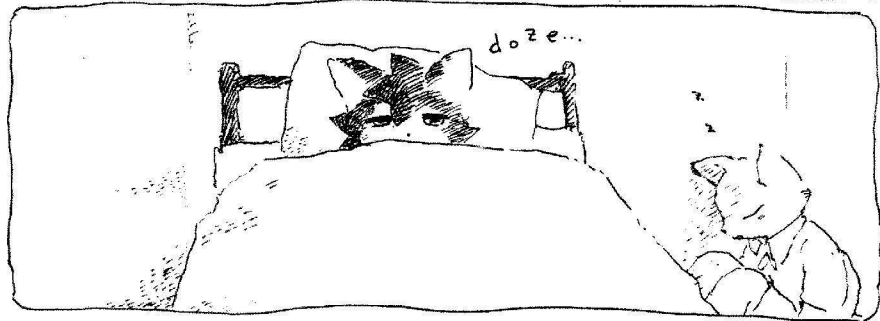
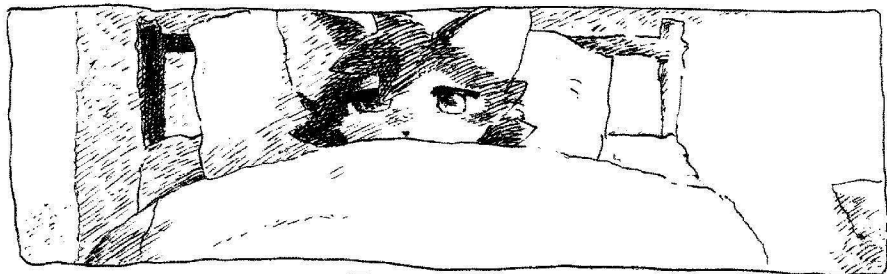
Fits right in, eh?







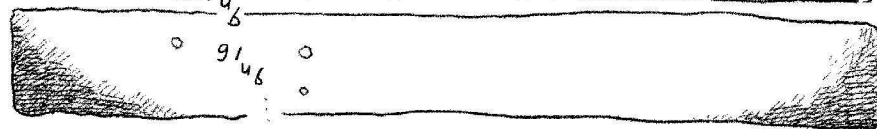
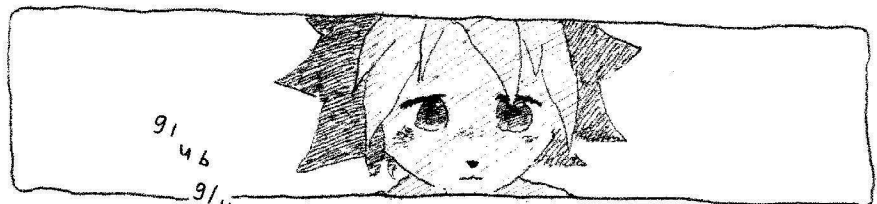
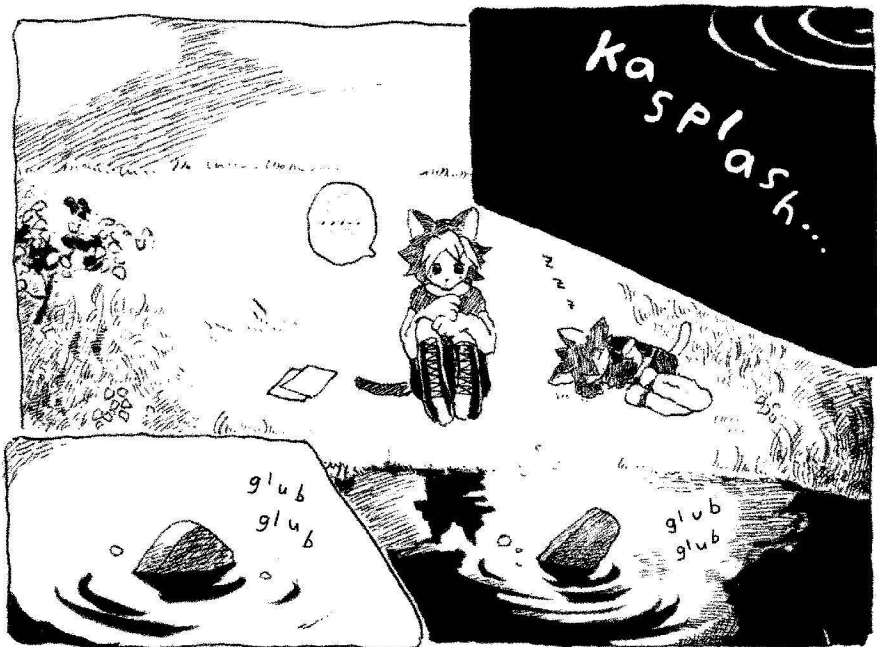






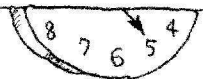
A black and white watercolor illustration of a child in a cradle. The child is lying in a cradle, which is positioned in a room with stone walls and a doorway in the background. The child is wearing a patterned dress and has their head resting on a pillow. The overall style is soft and painterly.

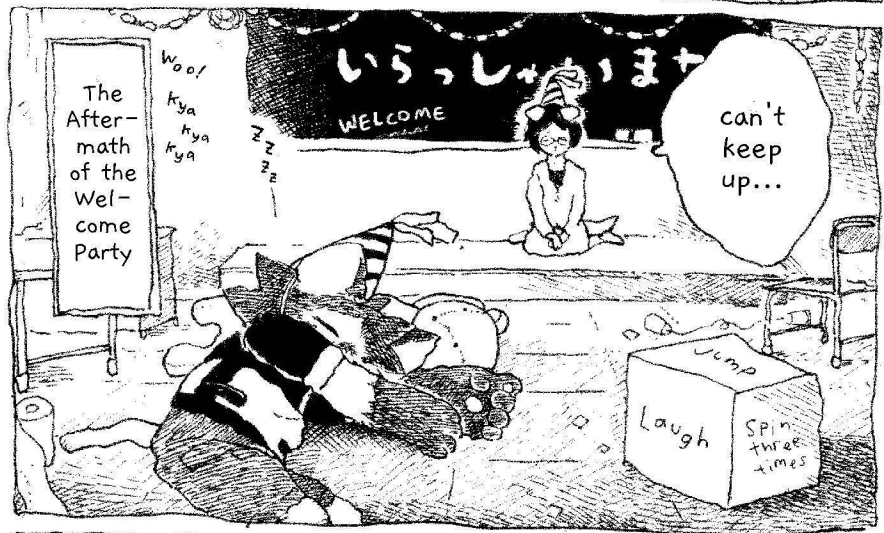
The Lullaby

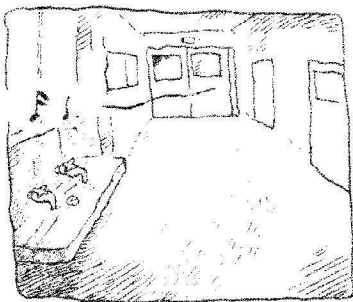
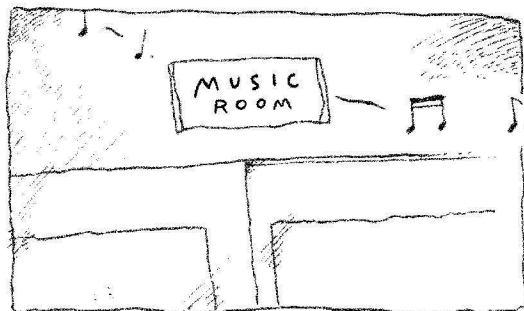


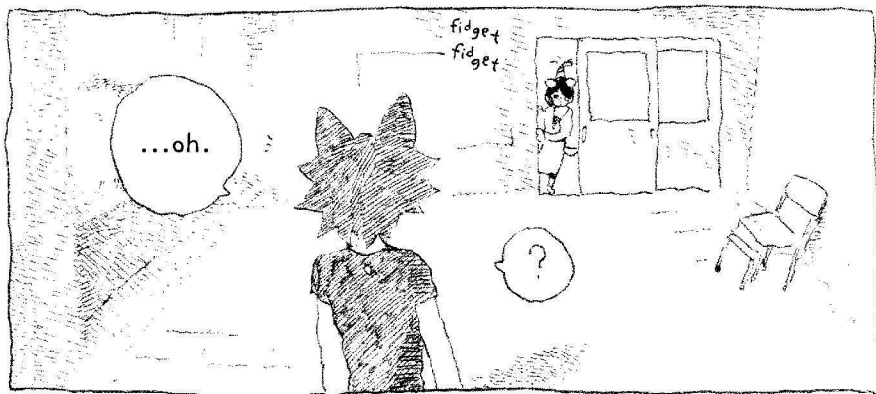
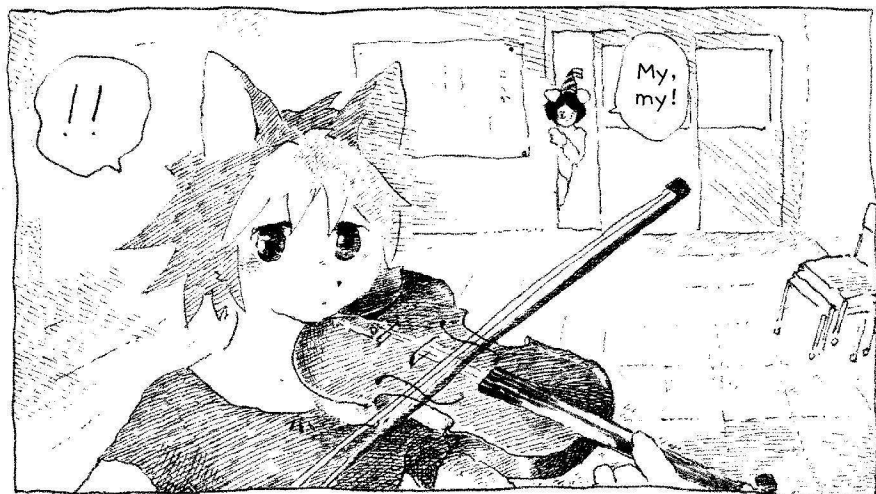
A
h
3

2 Weeks
Earlier...

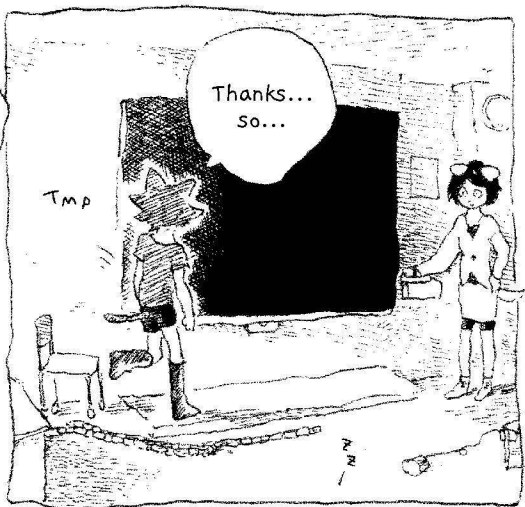
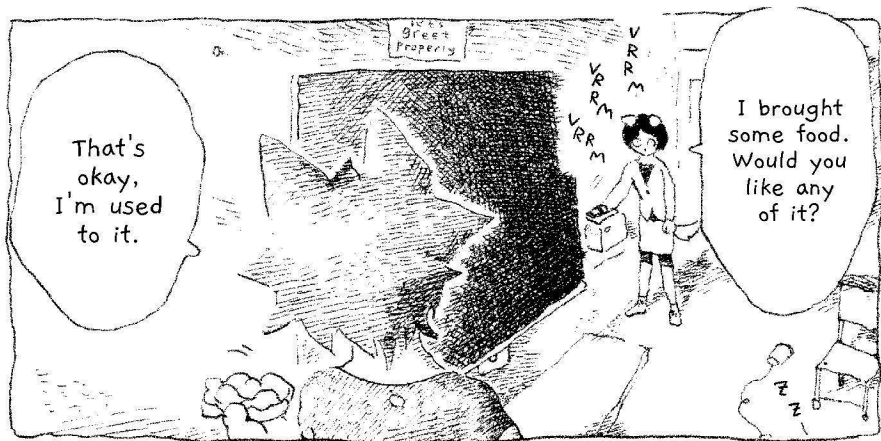


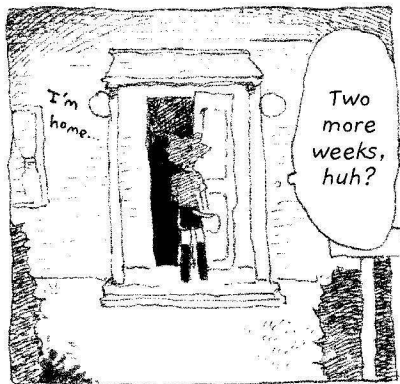
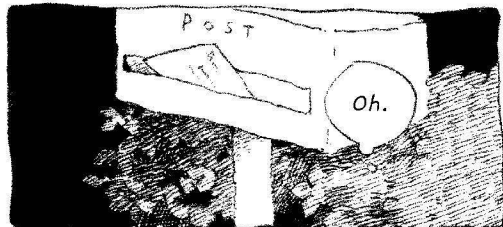
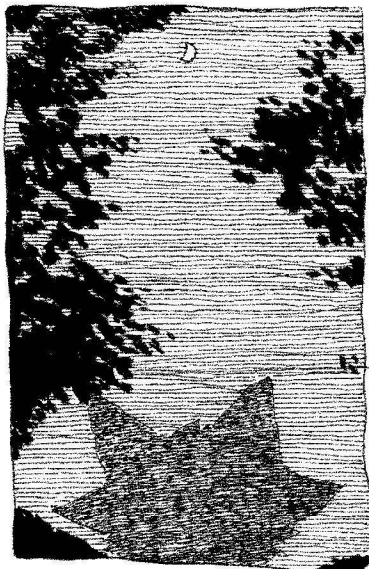






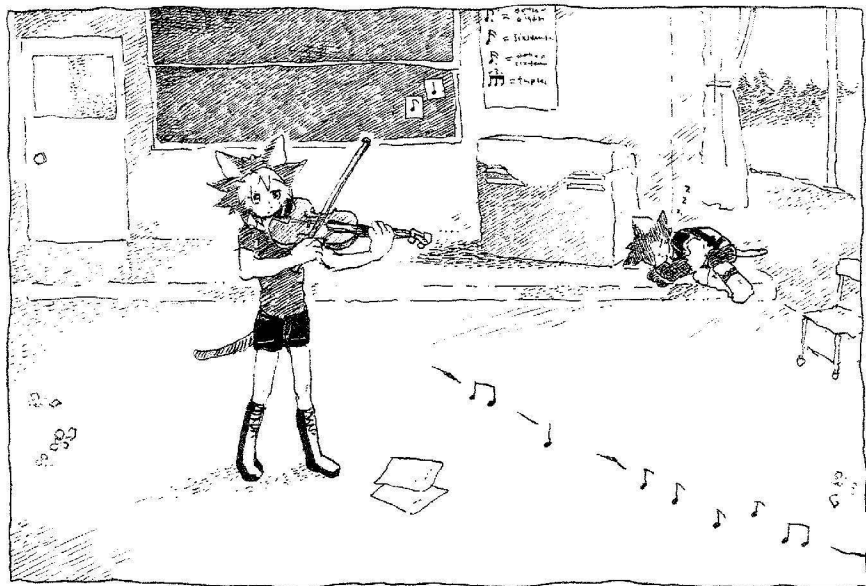


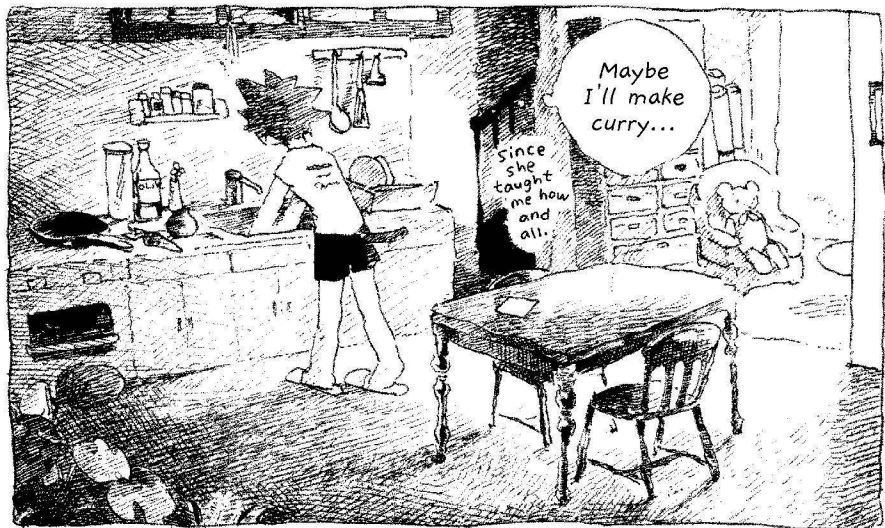
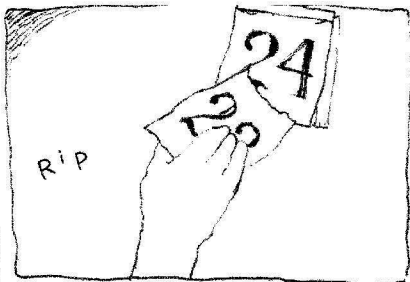
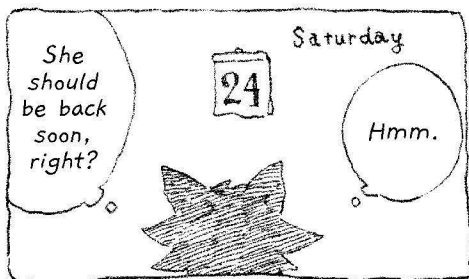


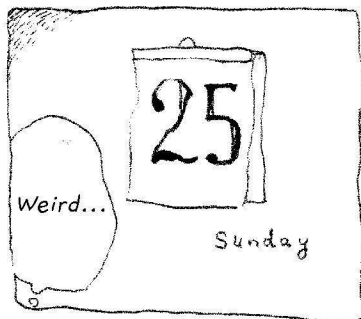
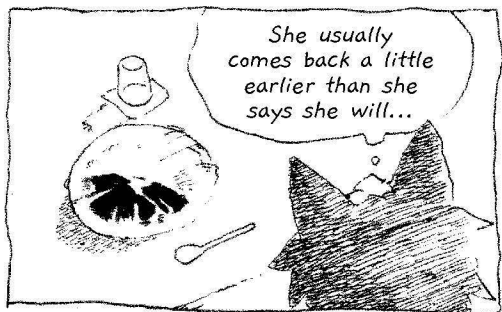


To my beloved, Rika.
I'm in France now. It is, of course, absolutely wonderful. There's so much quality antique lace here, it gets me all fired up. I'll buy you a souvenir and I'll be home around the 25th or so.
Love you Lots!
mama





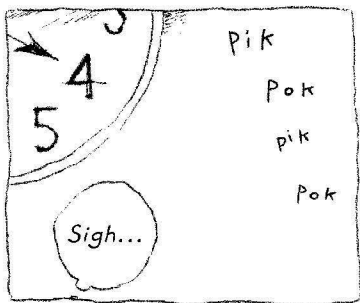






Will she
be home
tomorrow?

She
hasn't
called...



Pik

Pok

Pik

Pok

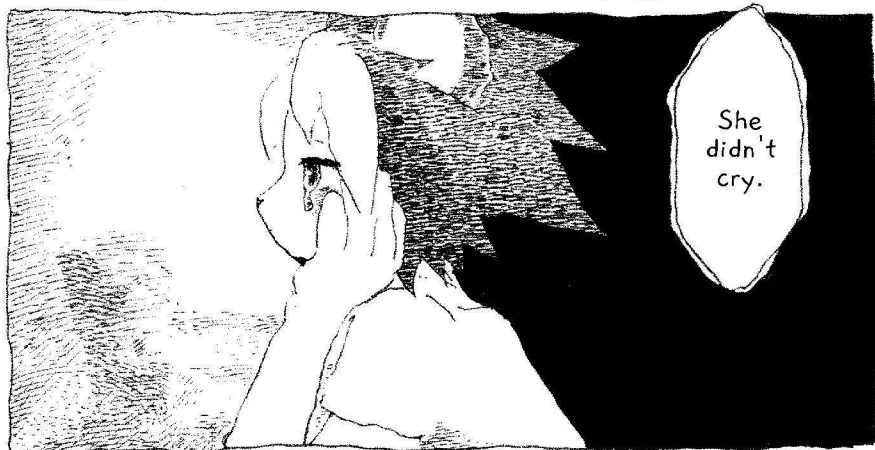
Sigh...



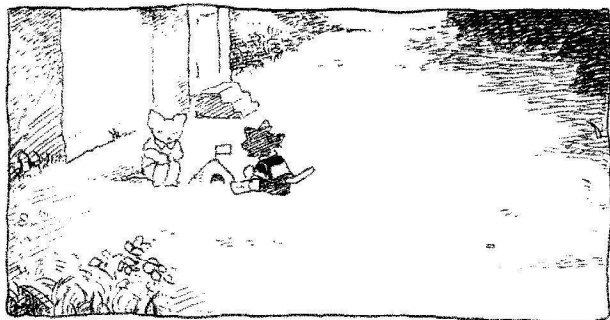
Rika,
you
know

Rika,
she...

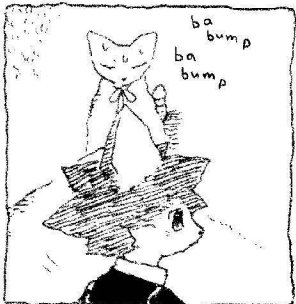
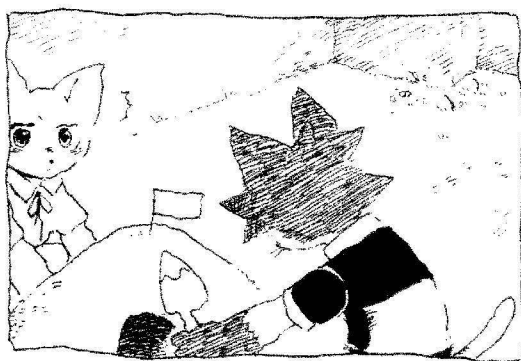
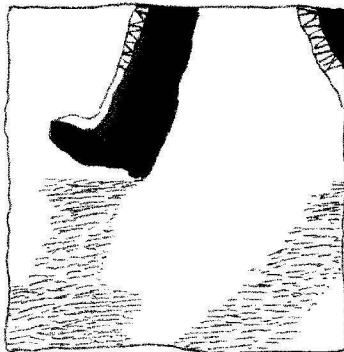
That
must be
so hard,
Rika.



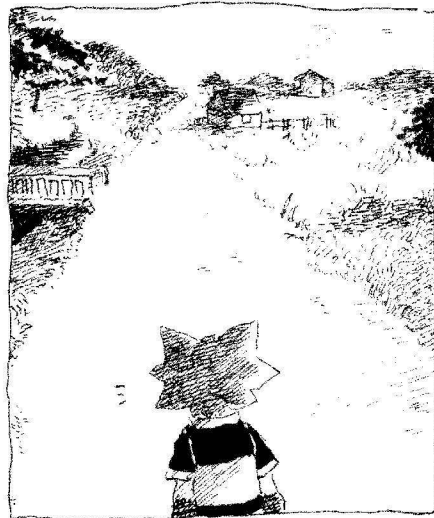
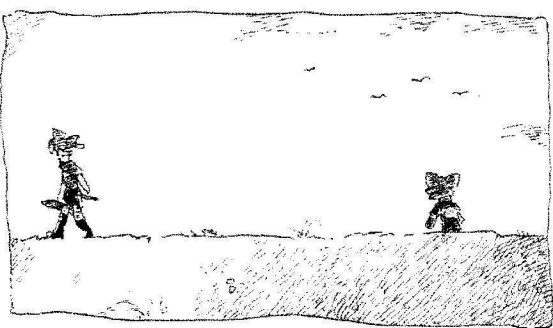
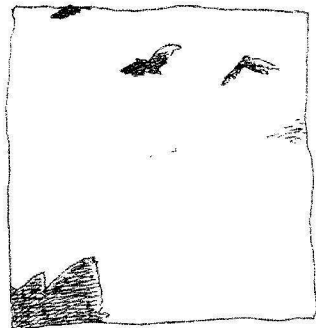
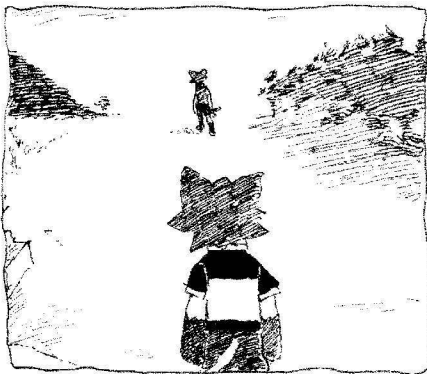
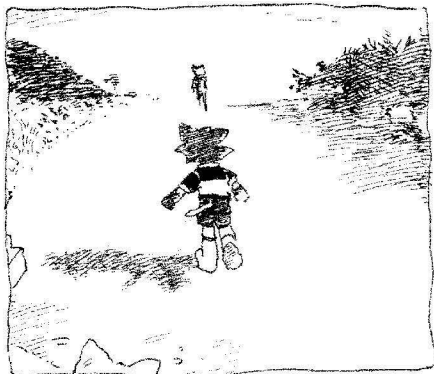
She
didn't
cry.

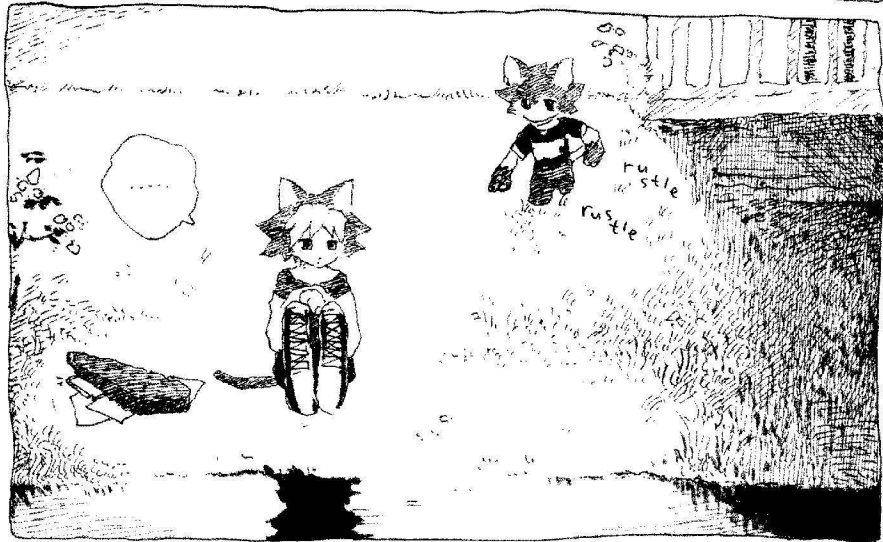
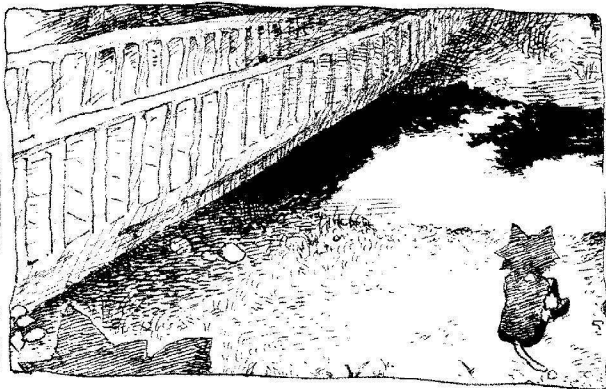
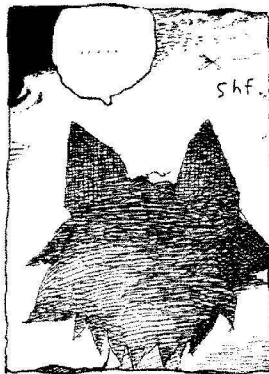
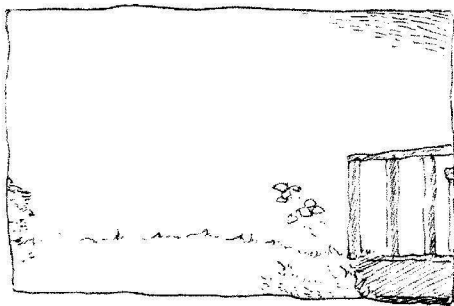
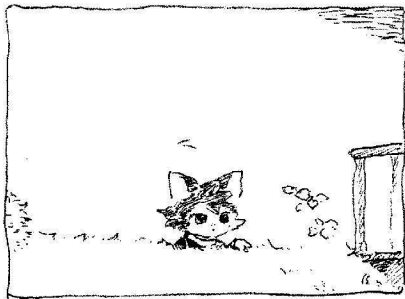


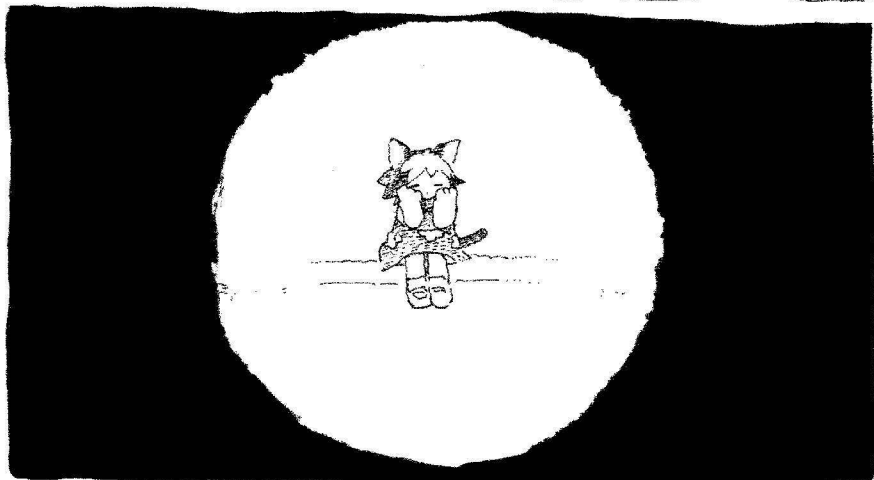
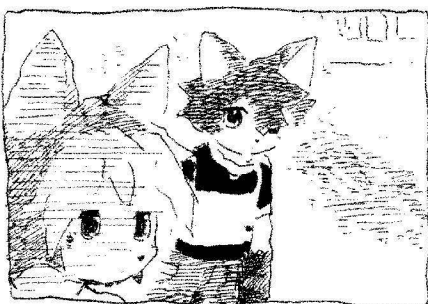
SLAM

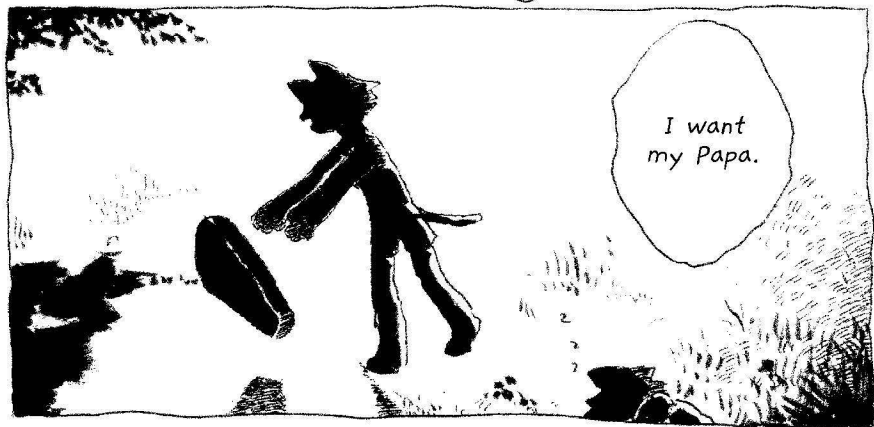
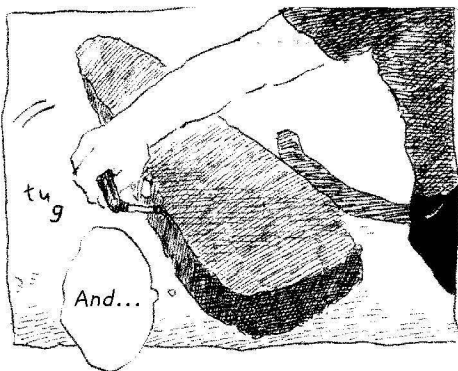


ba bump
ba bump
ba bump





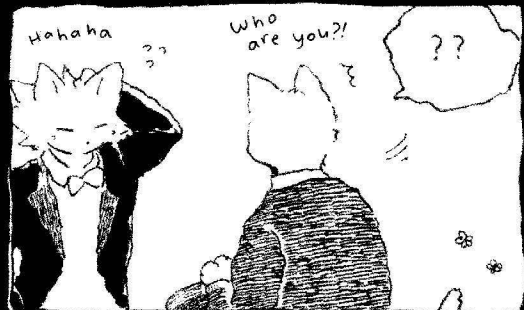
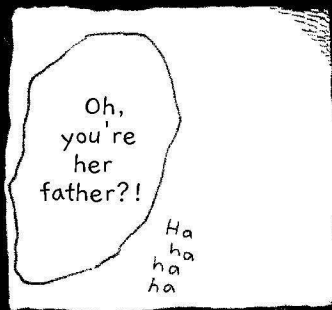
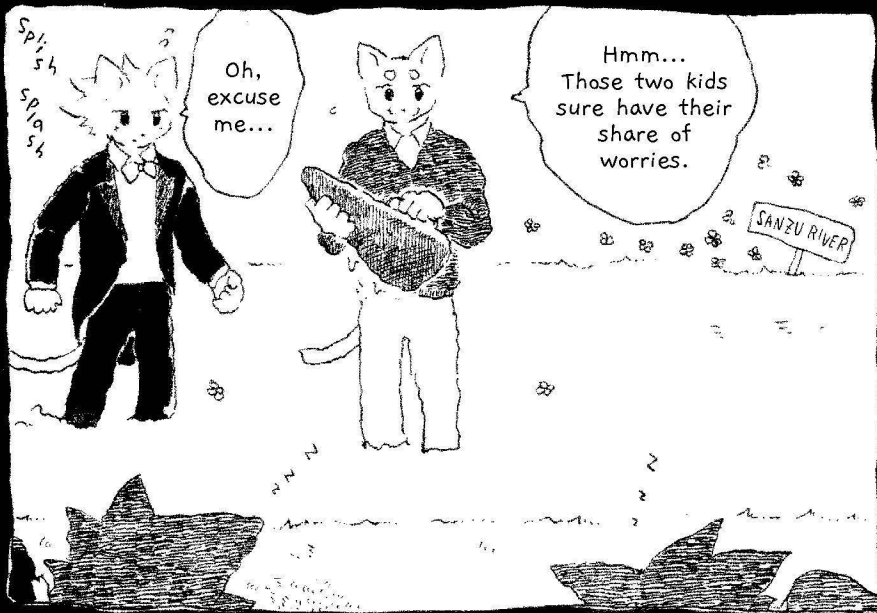






I'm
sorry...

9146
9146





Since the last time I saw her face...

Well, it's been about nine years I suppose?



Seeing as you are here, you must be...

...Yes.



I hear ya.

I wanted to see her sooner, but...

When I see her, I just want to be with her again even more...



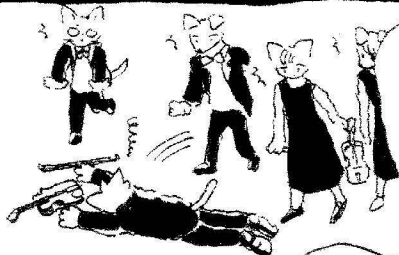
I was twenty eight.

I was in the prime of my life.



When my daughter was two...

And I just tried too hard...



I worked so hard to support myself... aside from playing music,

I also taught private lessons.



I thought it might still be okay I was so busy.



My daughter was so composed.

Heh heh

Huh. So you were a musician?



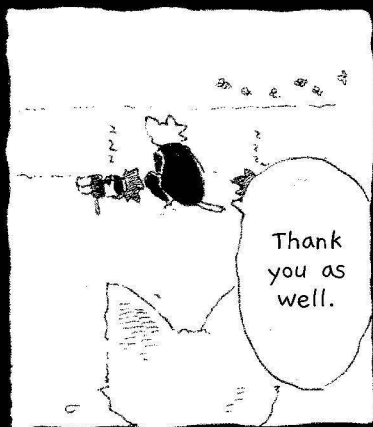
Explains your outfit...

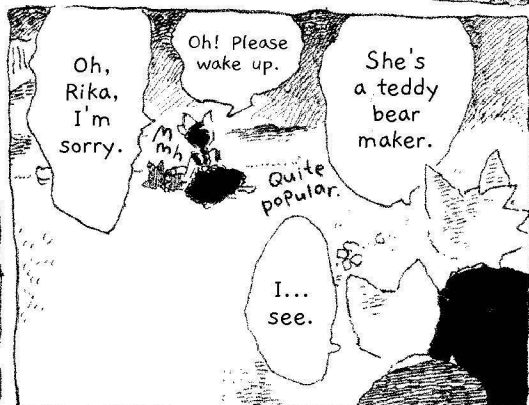
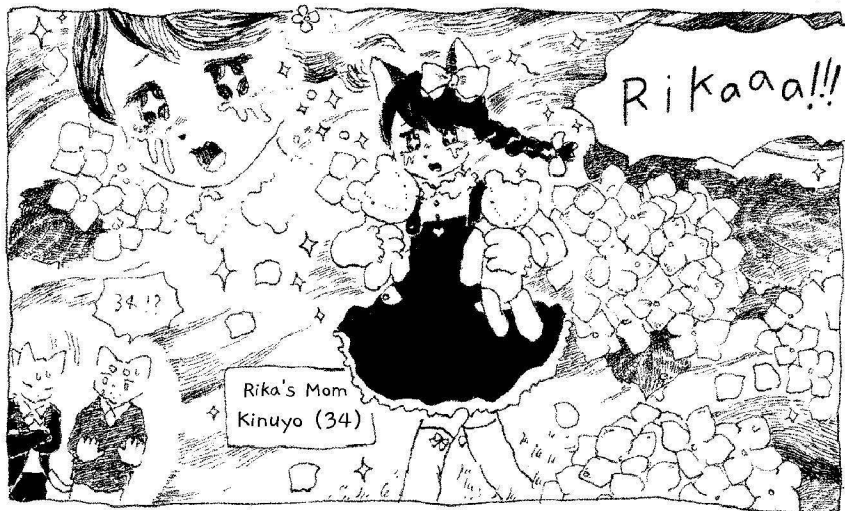
I'm sorry, Rika...



But I was just forcing her to put up with it.







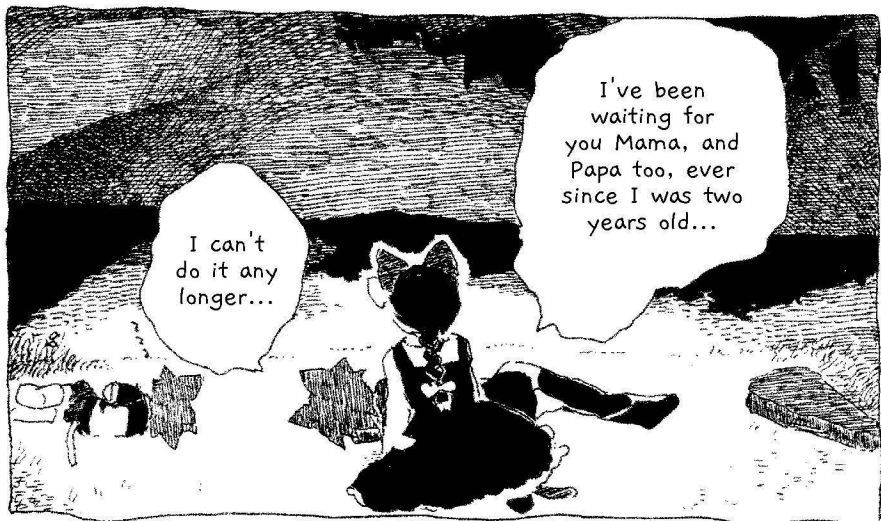


I threw my violin
into the river...



Rika
...

...
Ma-
ma.

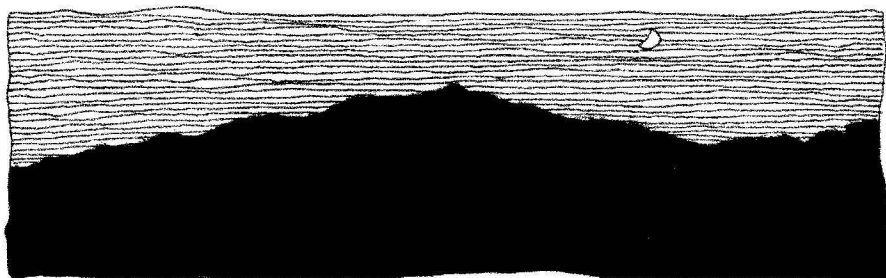


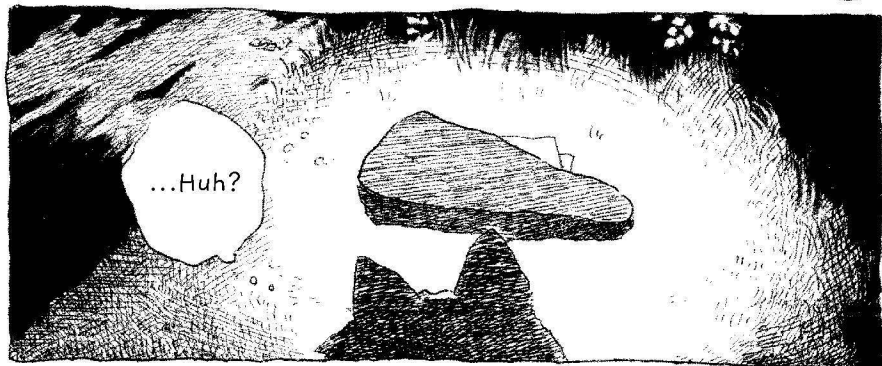
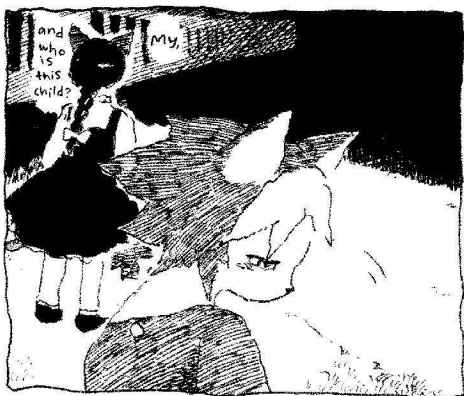
I can't
do it any
longer...

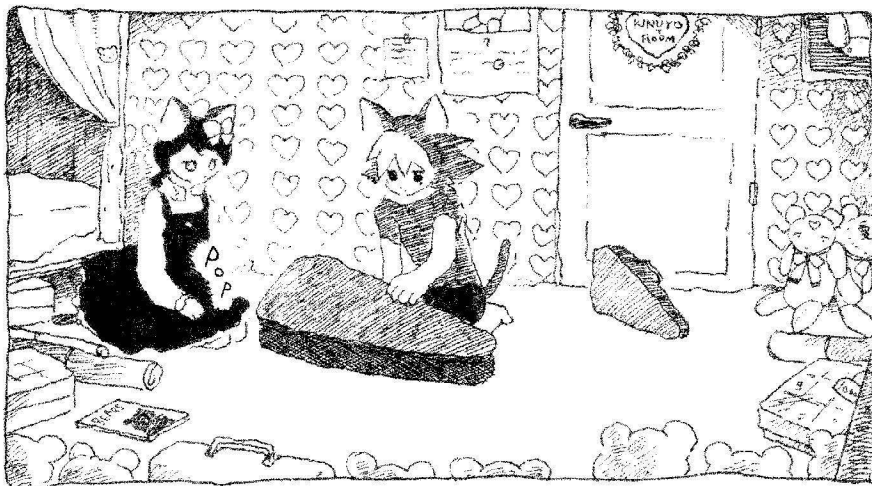
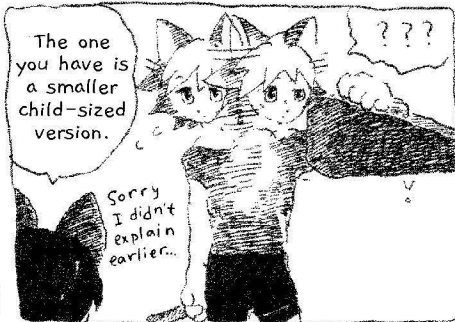
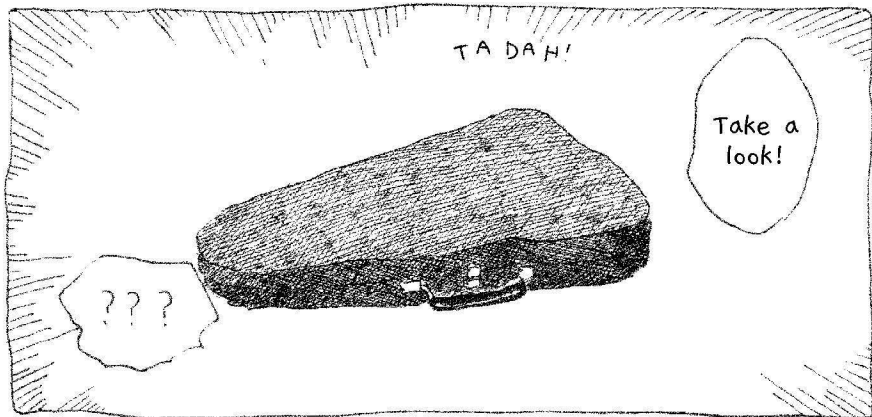
I've been
waiting for
you Mama, and
Papa too, ever
since I was two
years old...

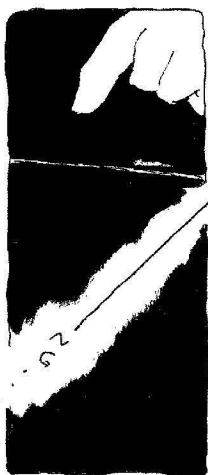
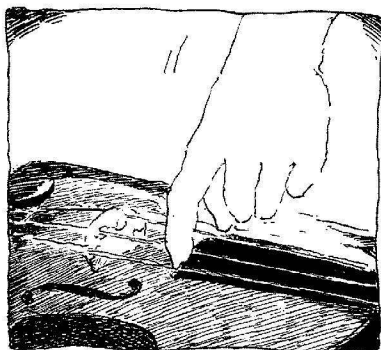
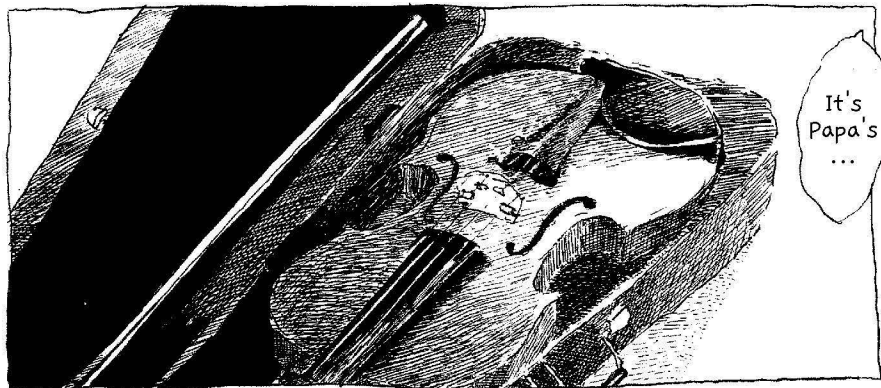


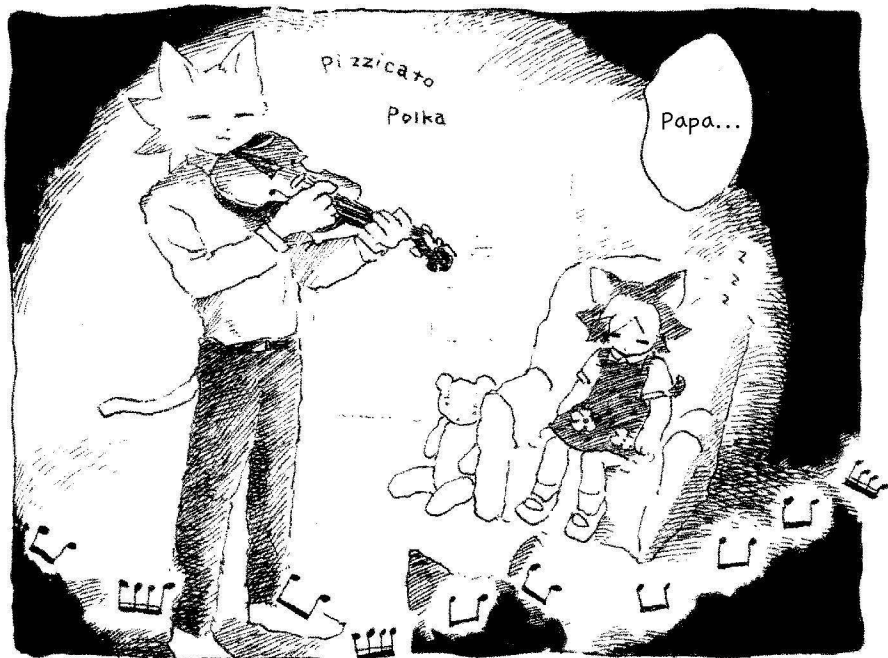
I don't even
remember Papa
anymore...



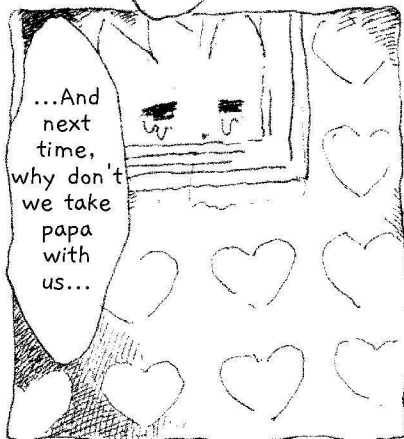








It's
the sound
of Papa...



...And
next
time,
why don't
we take
papa
with
us...



I'm sorry,
honey. Your
mama will be
home with you
for a little
while.



...and go
on a trip
together,
okay?

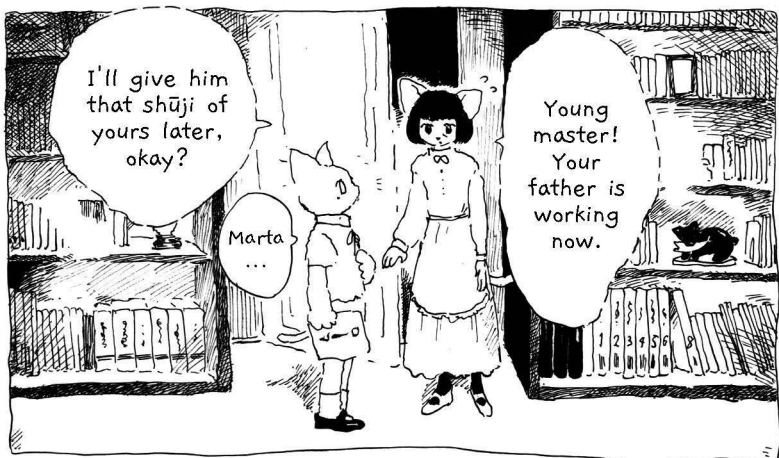
POST

☆
☆
☆
☆
☆
Tonio



This is the story of Tonio,
from before they came to
meet Mato in "That Child"...

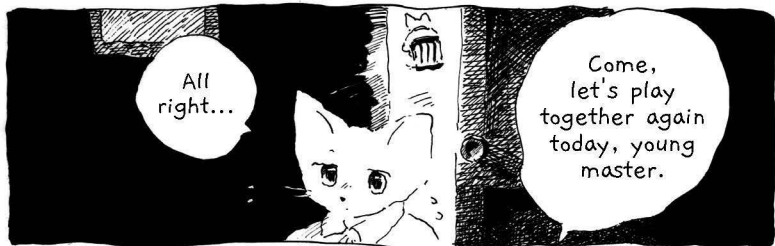




I'll give him
that shūji of
yours later,
okay?

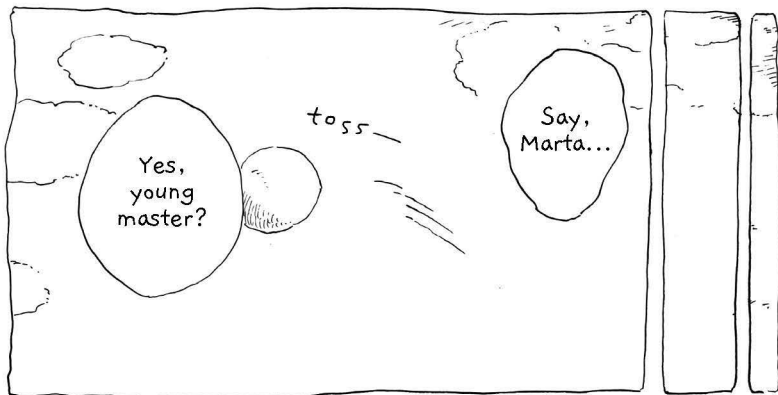
Marta
...

Young
master!
Your
father is
working
now.



All
right...

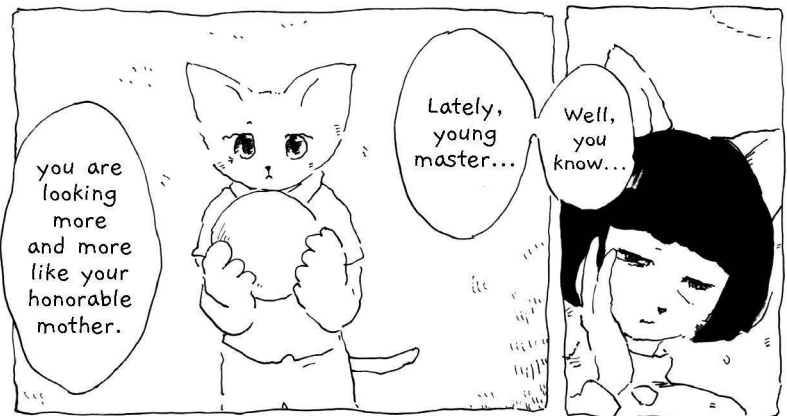
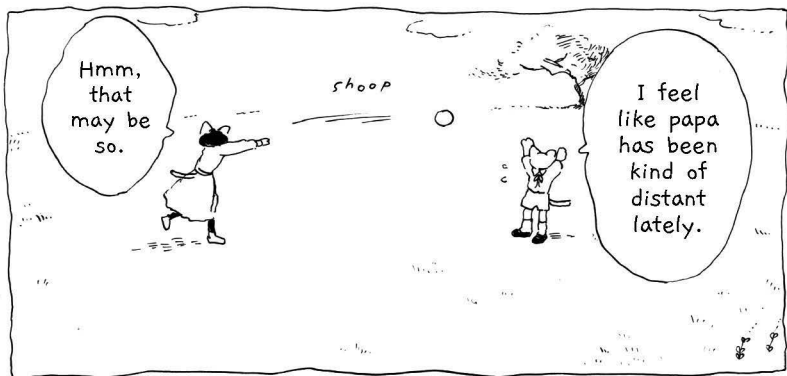
Come,
let's play
together again
today, young
master.



Yes,
young
master?

toss

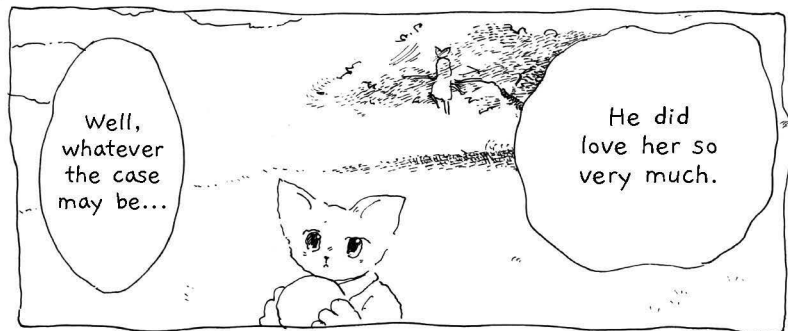
Say,
Marta...





he can't help but remember his dear late wife.

So perhaps when your father looks at you...



Well, whatever the case may be...

He did love her so very much.

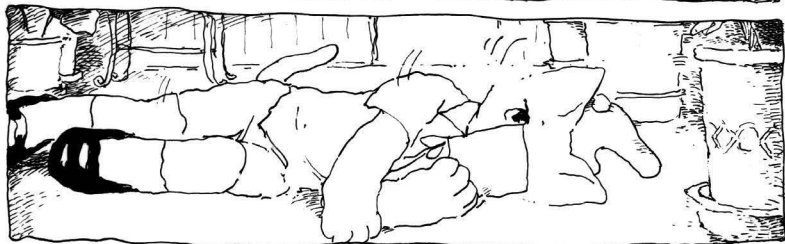
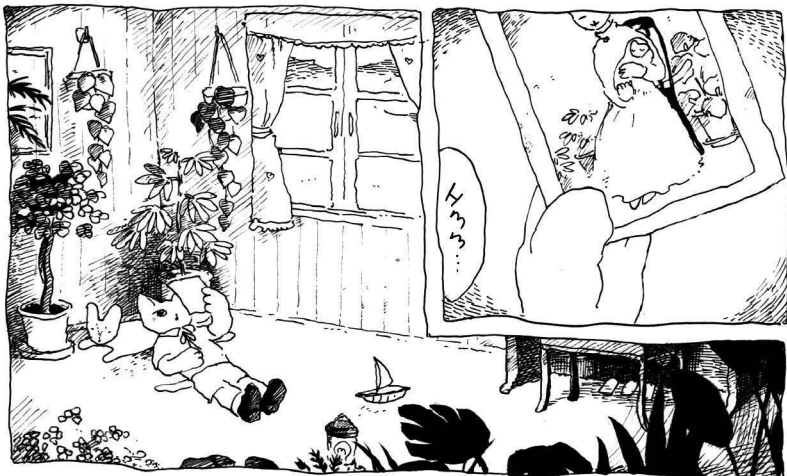


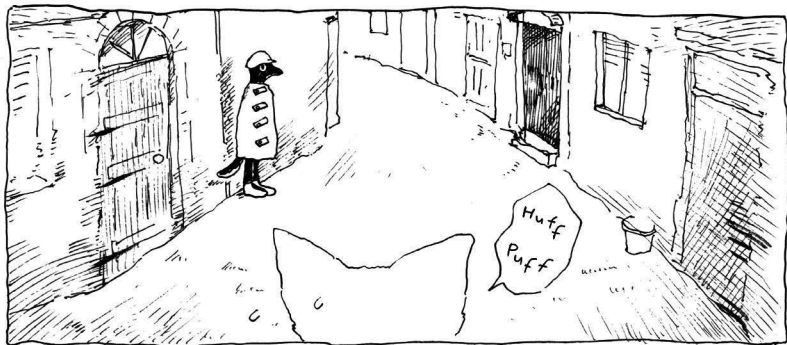
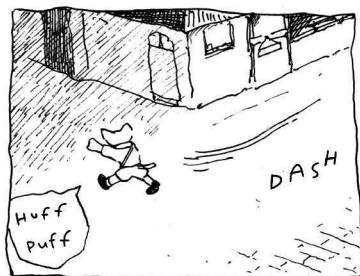
If you say so, Marta.

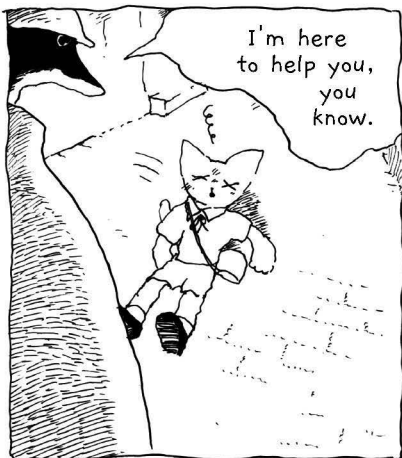
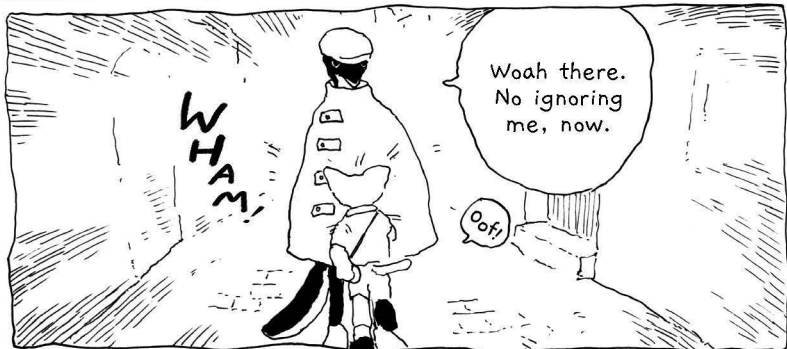
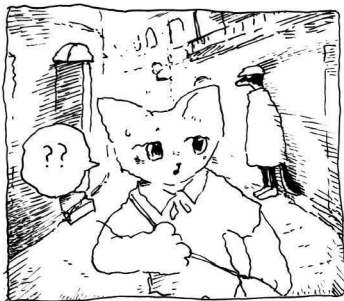
Your father doesn't hate you.

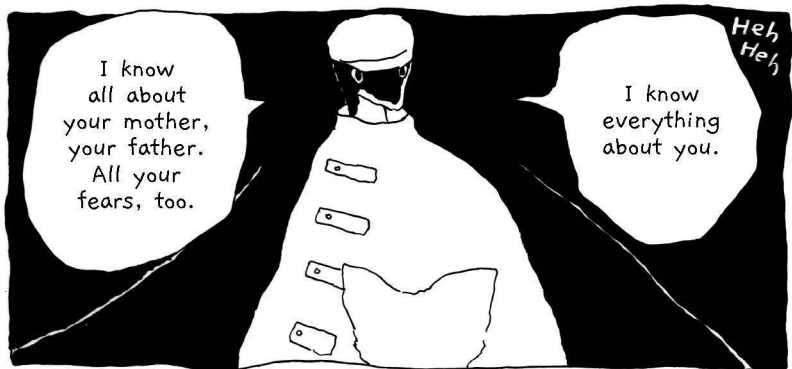
They say it's "nihongo."

By the way, what is shūji?









I know
all about
your mother,
your father.
All your
fears, too.

I know
everything
about you.

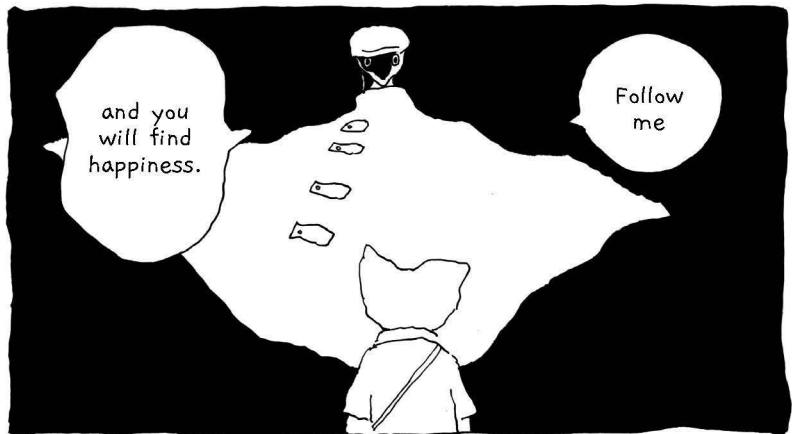
Heh
Heh



is
come
with
me.

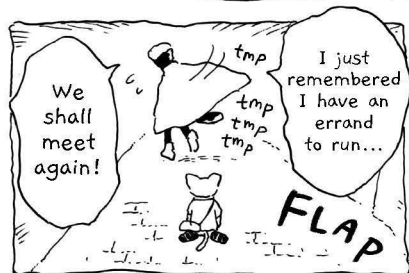
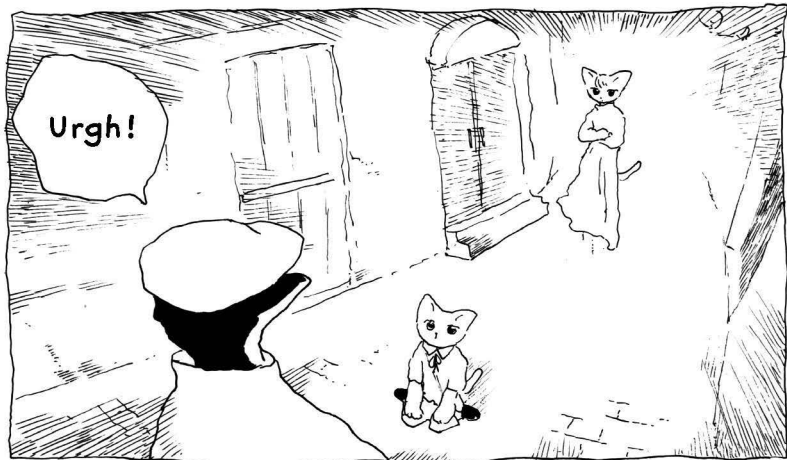
All
you
have
to
do...

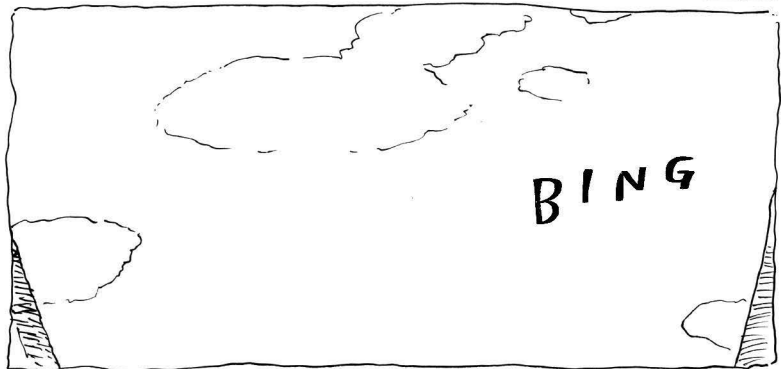
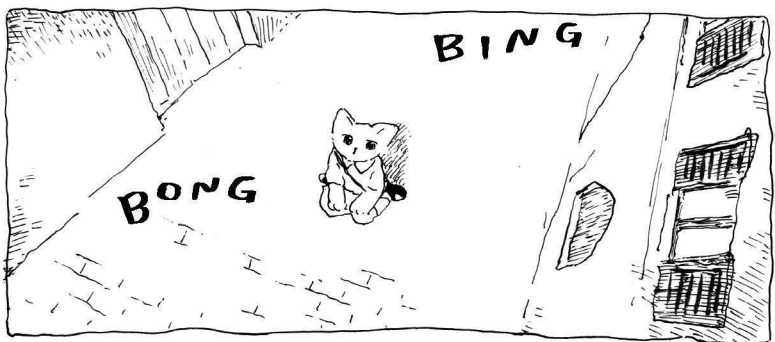
I can
grant
any wish
you have,
for I am
a GOD.

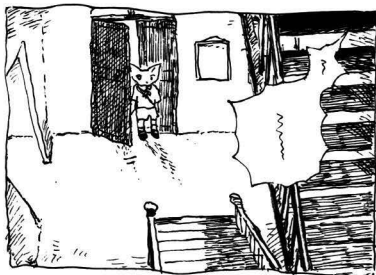
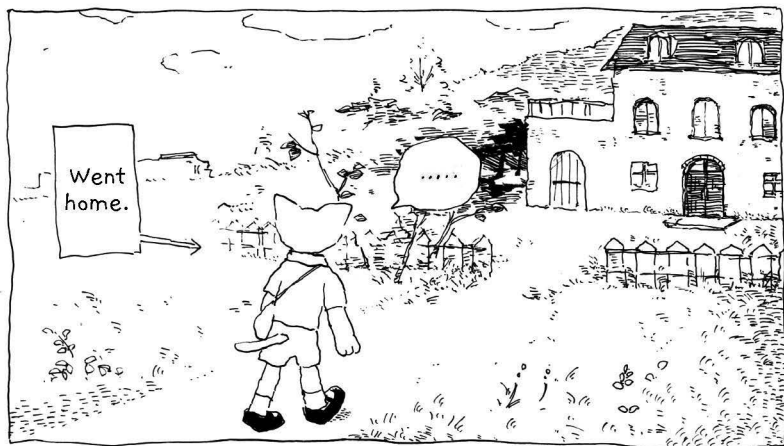


and you
will find
happiness.

Follow
me







if...

.....

But when
I look at that
child's face,
I can't help
but think...



he hadn't
ever been
born...



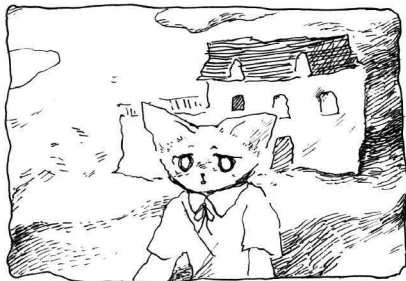
then
Franca
might
still be
alive.

But...

There's
no "but"
about it!

The Lady herself
decided that she
wanted to have a child
precisely because her
health was poor! You
were in favor of it
too, my Lord!

She's
strong.



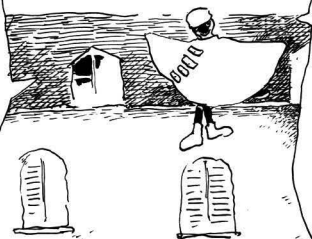
Eep.

How pitiful
you look.



But
I can take
you to a
far-off
world...

Apologies,
I cannot
bring your
mother
back to
life.



I'll
go...

So what
will you
do?

Not a
god at all,
but a devil
instead.

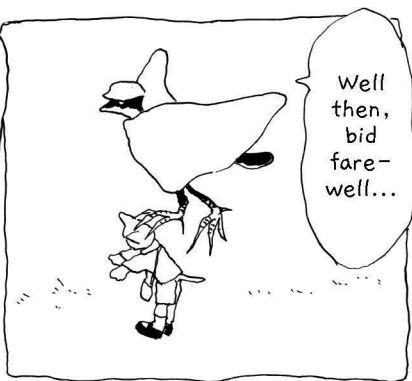
I am
Caim.

Hahaha!
How
delightful.

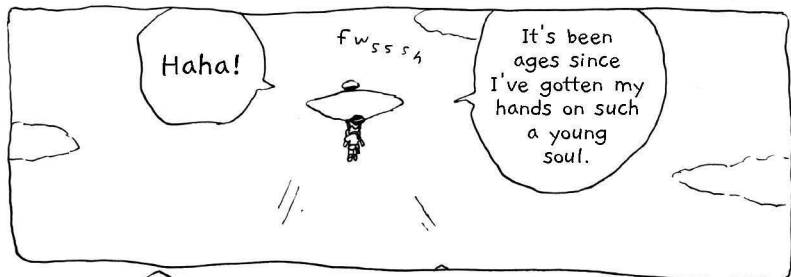




to this world.



Well then, bid fare-well...



Haha!

fwsssh

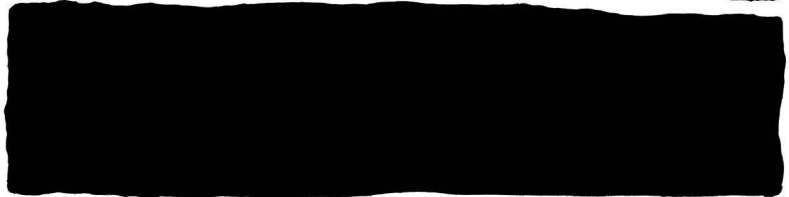
It's been ages since I've gotten my hands on such a young soul.

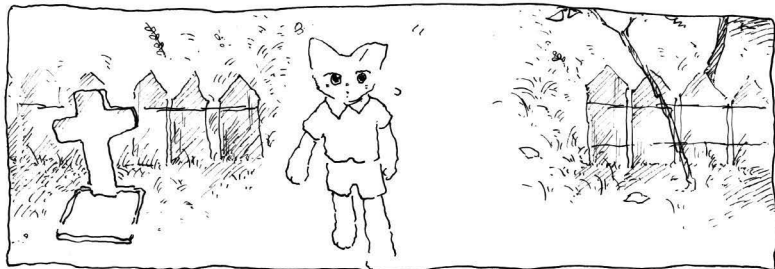
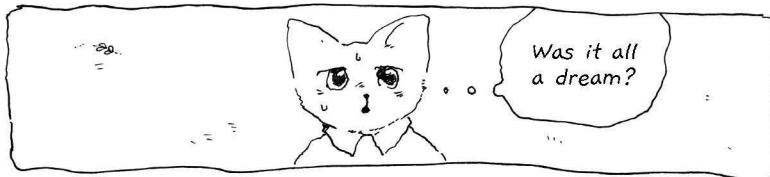
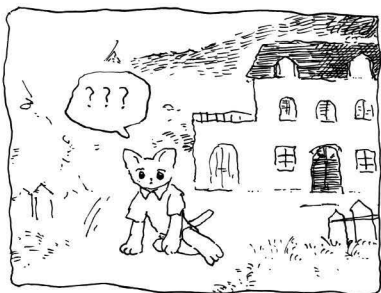
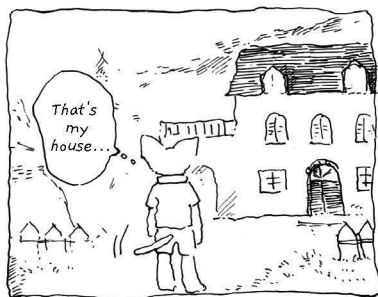
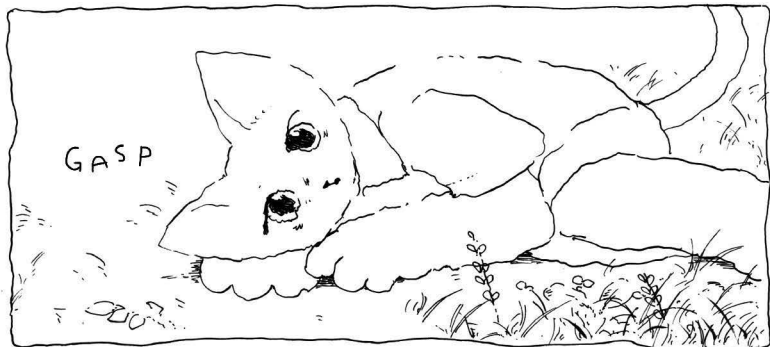


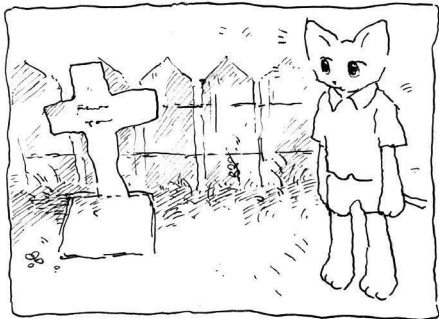
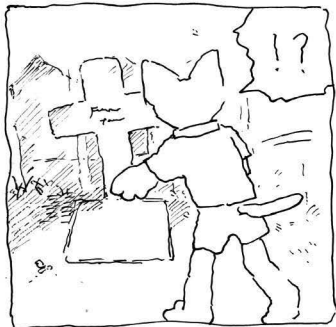
Woah ?!

neigh!

DUN DAH!

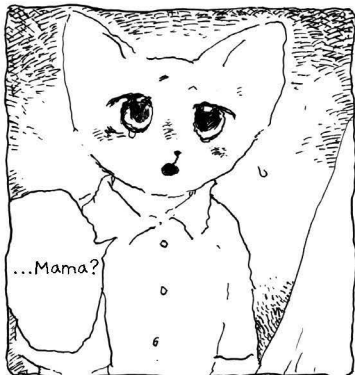






Franca
Tonio

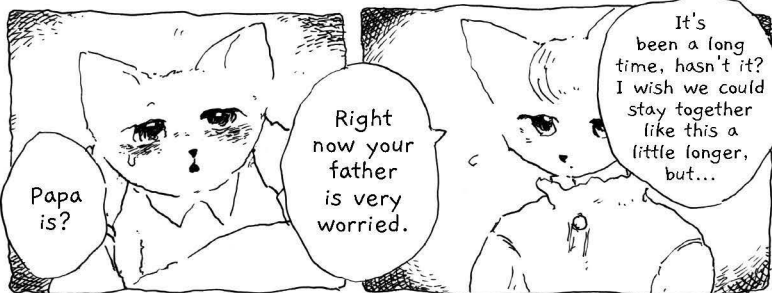
Mama
and me...





but I'm glad they didn't get your soul, at least.

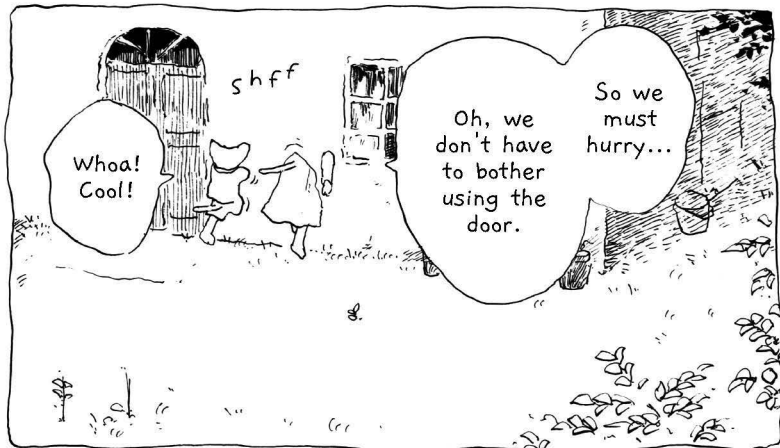
I'm sorry, Tonio. I wanted to rescue you sooner so you wouldn't die...



Papa is?

Right now your father is very worried.

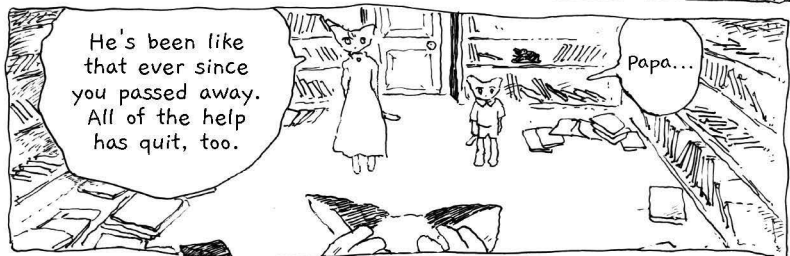
It's been a long time, hasn't it? I wish we could stay together like this a little longer, but...



Whoa! Cool!

Oh, we don't have to bother using the door.

So we must hurry...



He's been like that ever since you passed away. All of the help has quit, too.

Papa...



urgh...

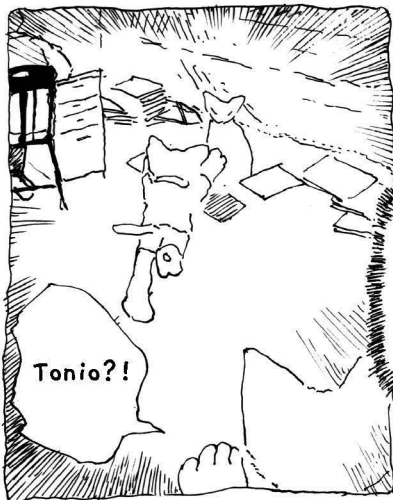
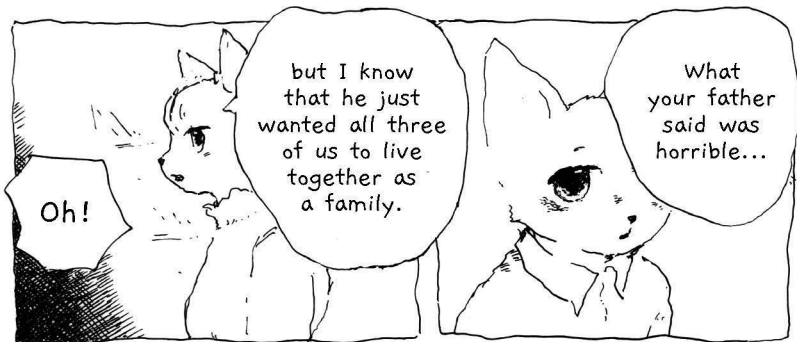
Dear!
Fight on!
Go, go!

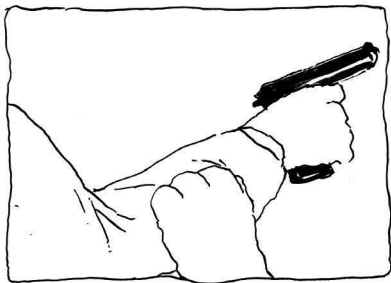
Well...

I did my best, but he can't see or hear me...

Yeah...

What can we do?

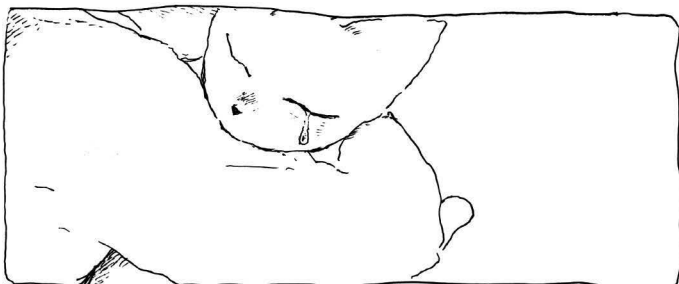
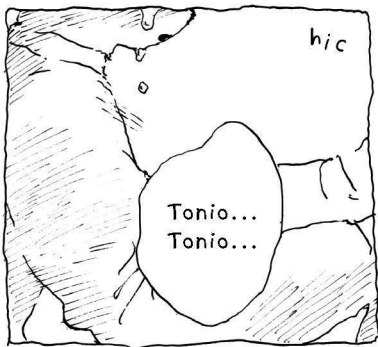


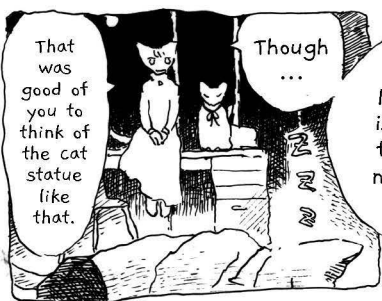


Papa..



Tonio
...?





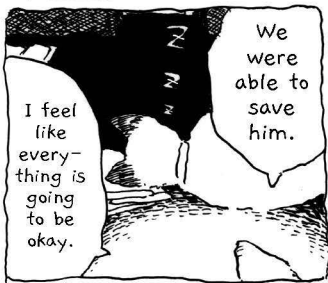
That was good of you to think of the cat statue like that.

Though ...

My, isn't that nice.



Papa gave me a ribbon!



I feel like everything is going to be okay.

We were able to save him.



Who was it?!

Huh? Didn't you tell me to get in this statue, mama?

No, but... I didn't...



Give my wishes to your father...

Mama!! I can't get out!

And so...



I guess I've got to go back now...

I'll go with y-...

Huh?!

Papa
spent the
rest of
his days
writing
stories for
children.

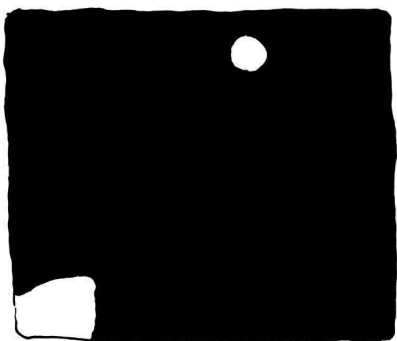
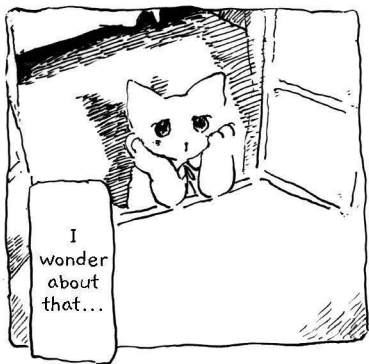


To tell
you the
rest
of the
story
after
that...

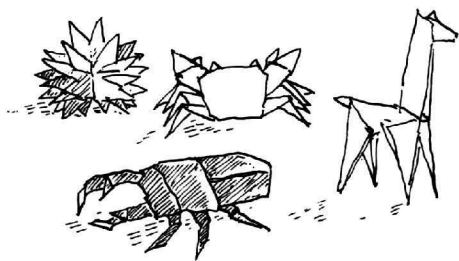
What
became
of me
after
that,
you
ask?

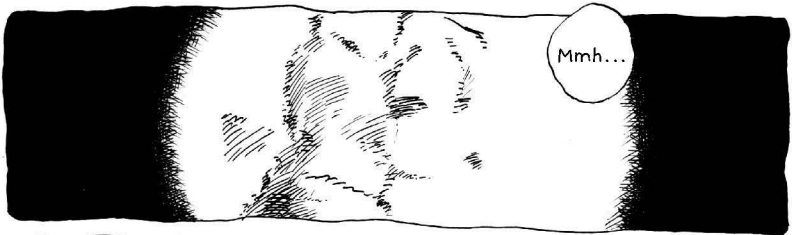


I was happy
to stay by
his side until
the very end.



☆
☆
One
Strange ☆
Day ☆
☆
☆







Oh, dear.
So you don't
remember?

Where...
am I?



Oh,
I see...

She
probably
won't
die.

My
daughter
looks like
she's about
to die!

You're
at the
hospital.

You were
brought in
last night.
They said you
were suddenly
in pain.

Ugh...!

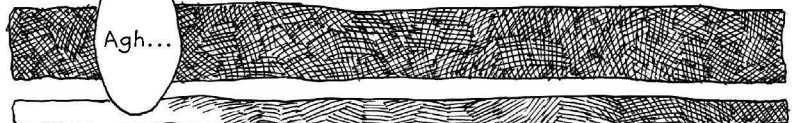


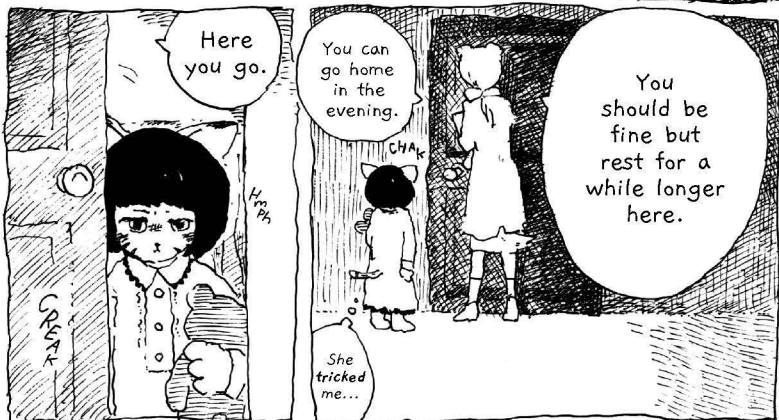
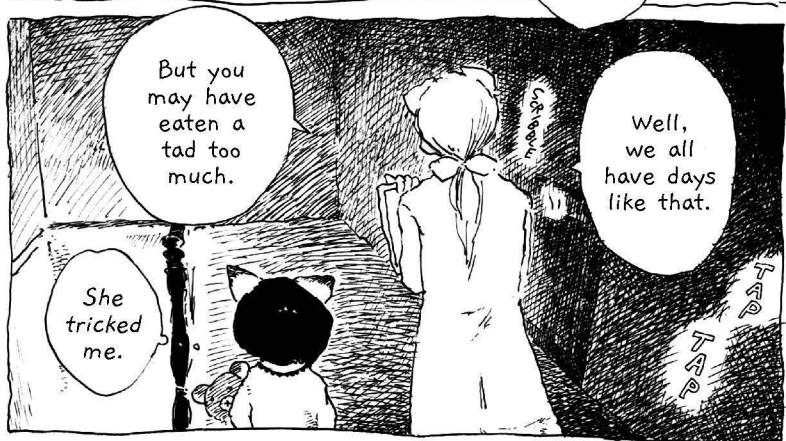
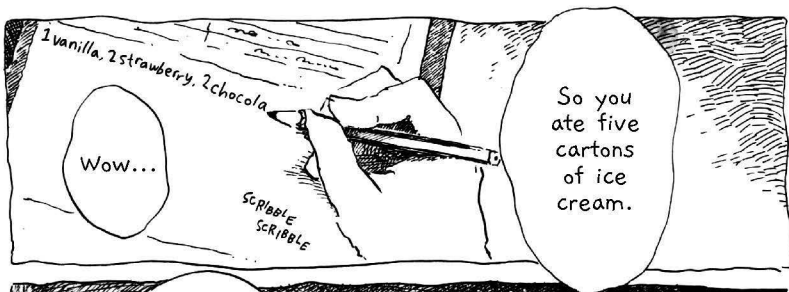
Was it
something
you ate?

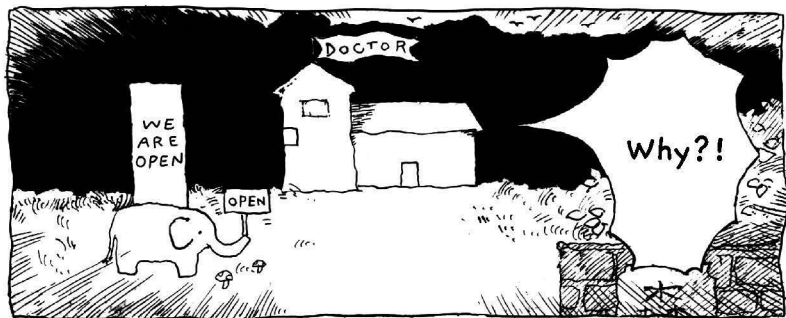
They
found you
in front of
the fridge
yesterday,
clutching your
stomach in
pain.

Oh no!
Yukie!

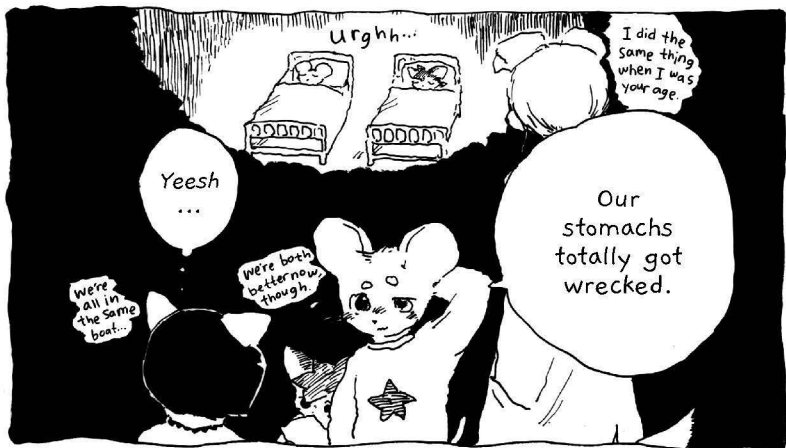
BA
BUMP!











Urghh...

I did the same thing when I was your age.

Yeesh
...

Our stomachs totally got wrecked.

We're all in the same boat...

We're both better now though.



Uh...

I, um...



Did you catch a cold?

What happened to you, Yukie-chan?

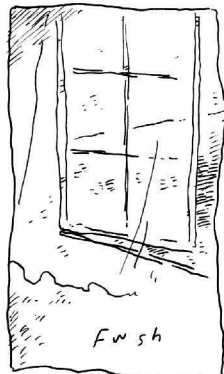
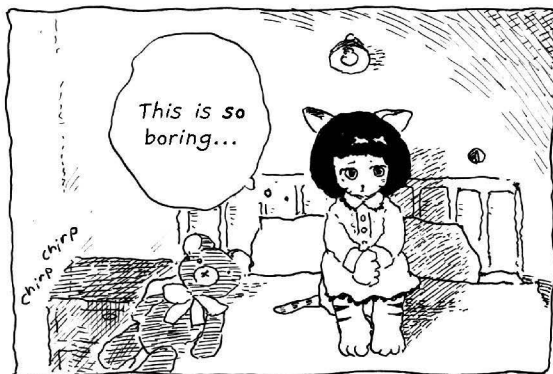
Huh?!



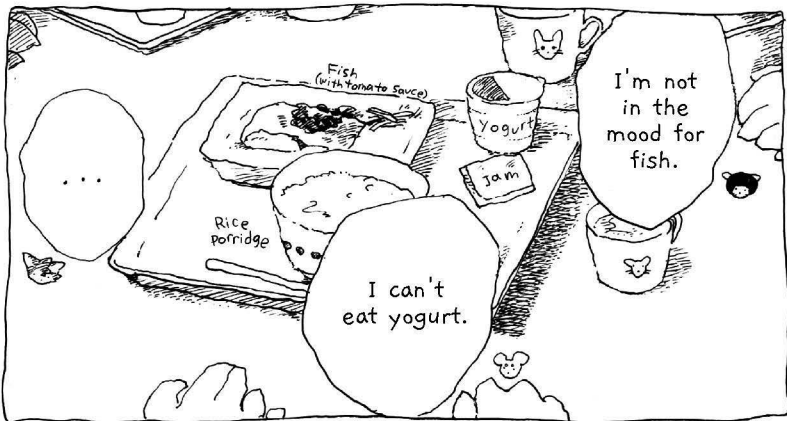
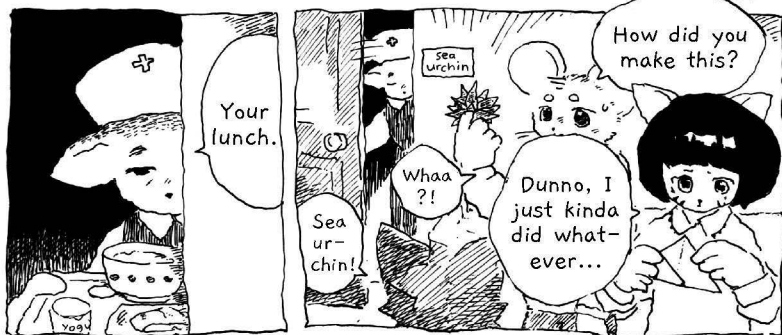
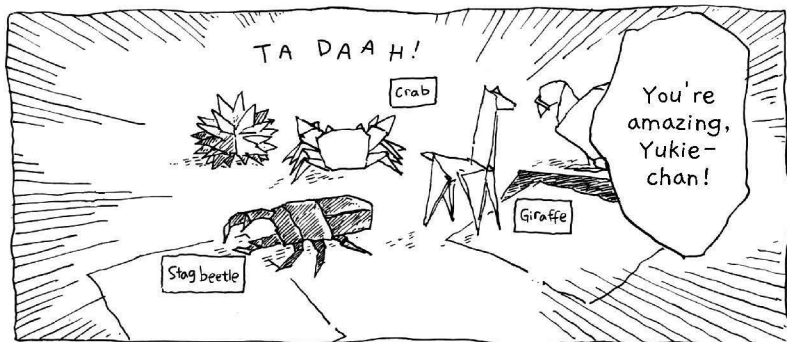
Okay, I've got a patient to see, so you all play nice now.

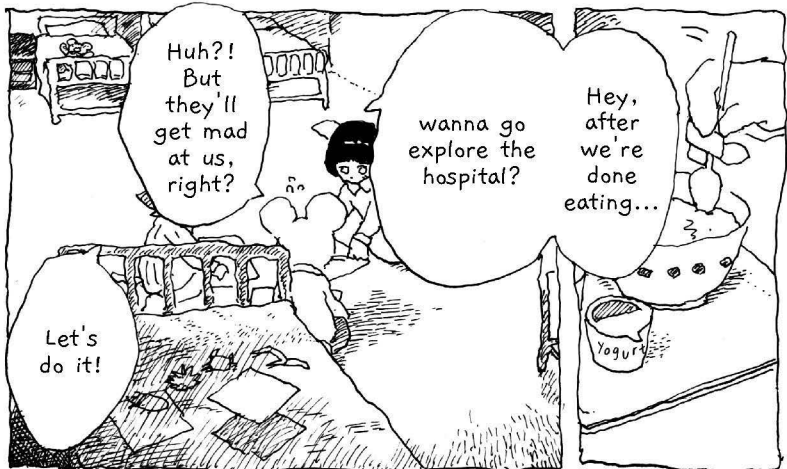
Yeah, something like that...

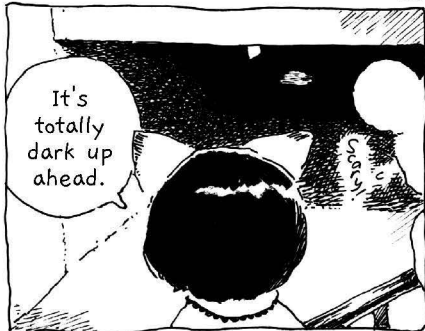
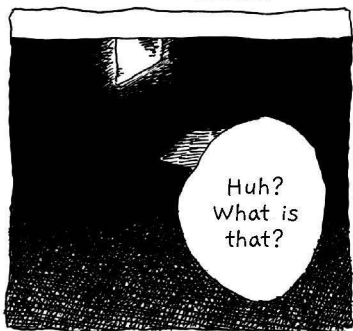
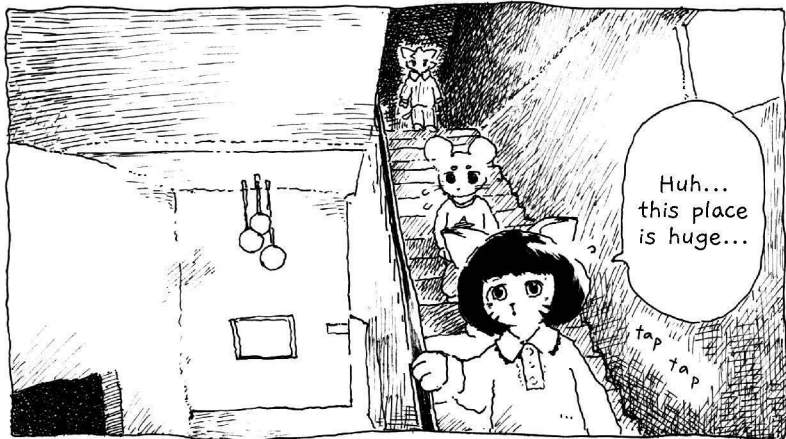
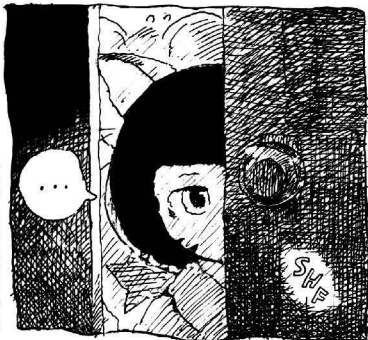
Man, that sucks.

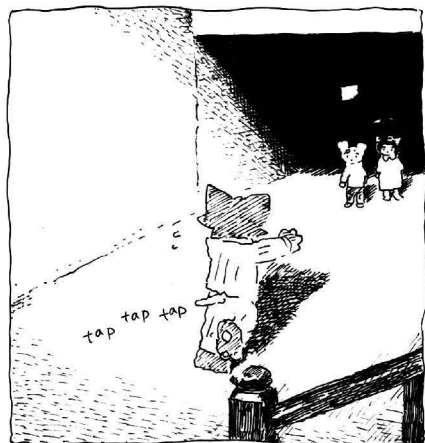
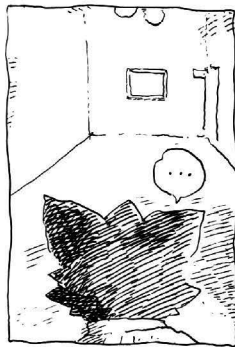
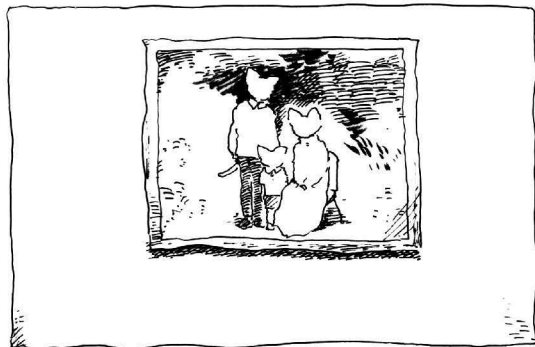
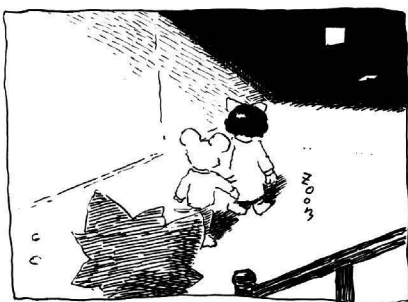
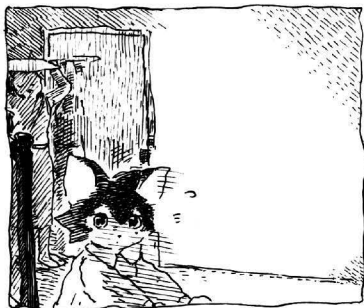


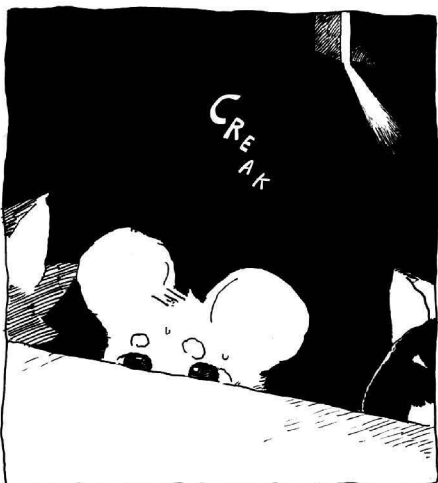
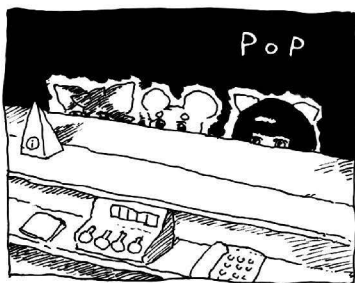


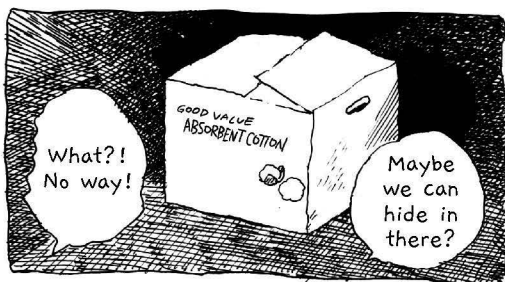
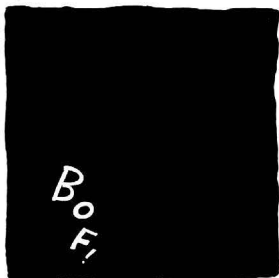
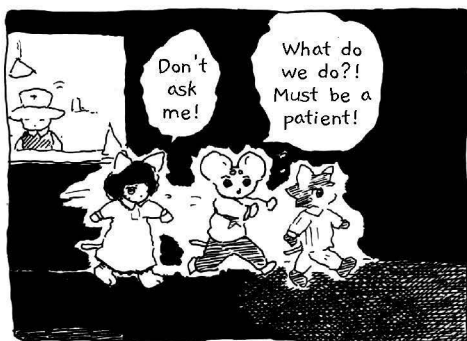












TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

There they go...

Here they come!

Think it's safe?

Guess we can get out now.

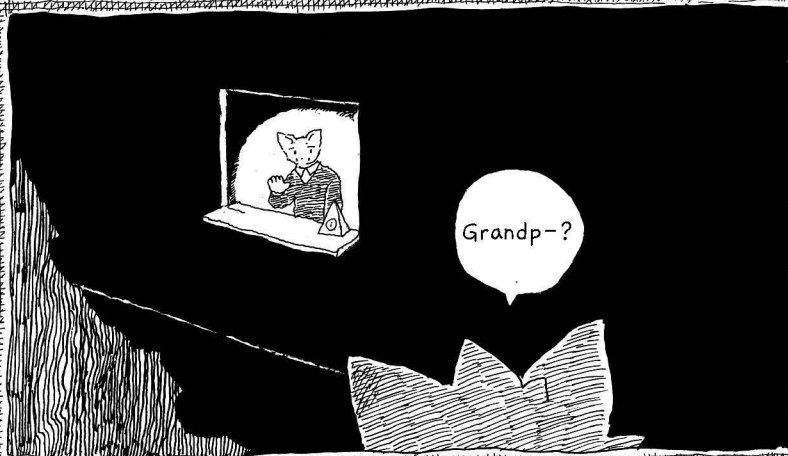
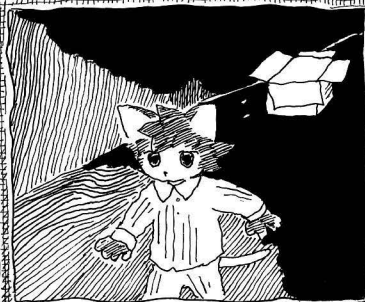
Shh...

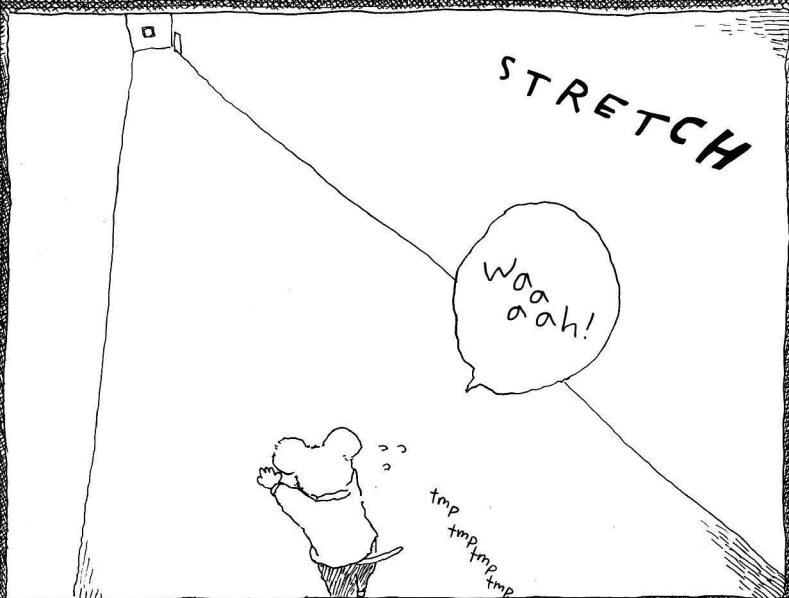
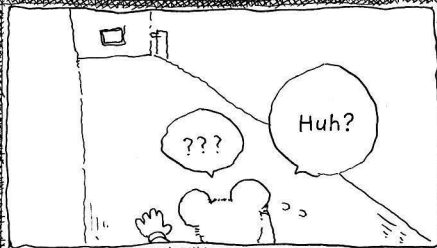
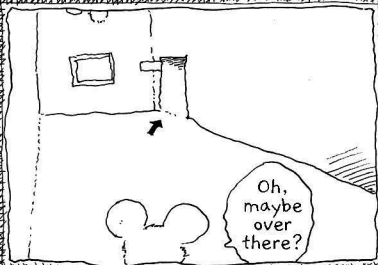
Feels like years got shaved off my life...

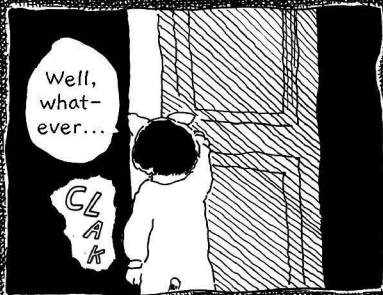
Seems like the coast is clear.

RUSTLE













This must be a dream ...

He'll be fine!



Sneeze

What about Mato-kun?!

Let's get out of here!



urgh...

Don't look at me...

GRIP



Woah!

STARE



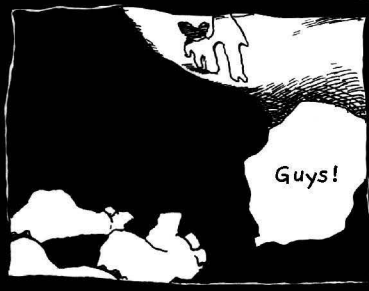
GRR

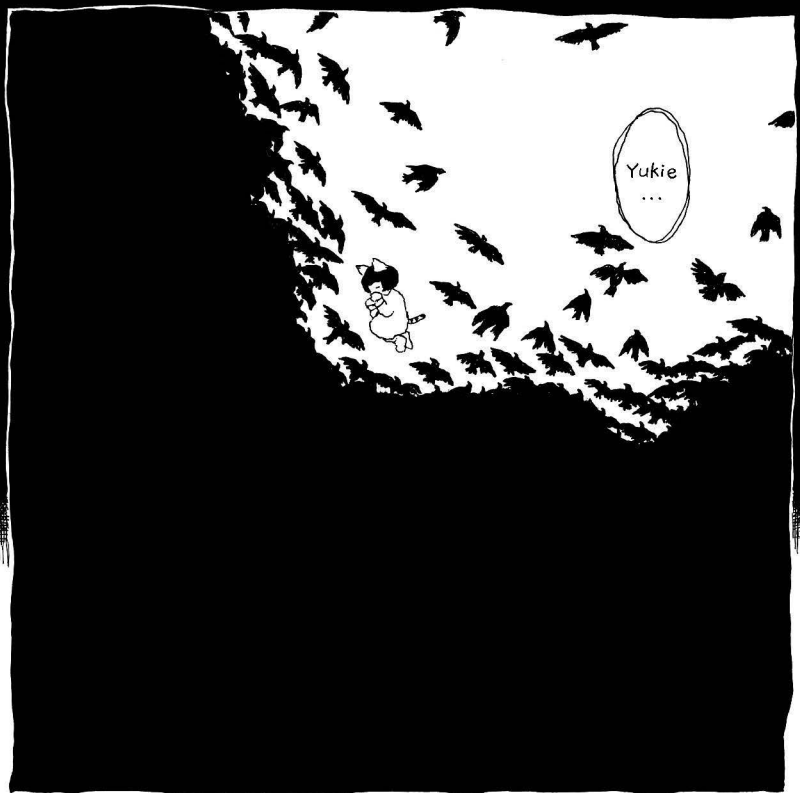
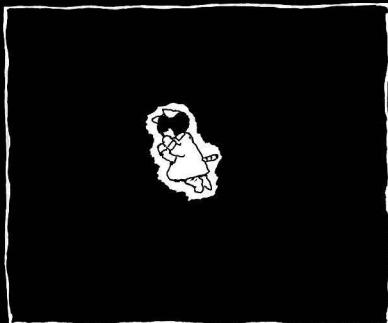
R!!

with those eyes!!

Good luck!! You got this!

MATE





Yukie

...

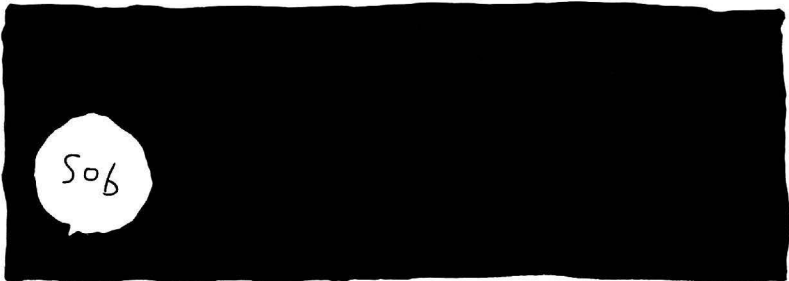
Mmh...

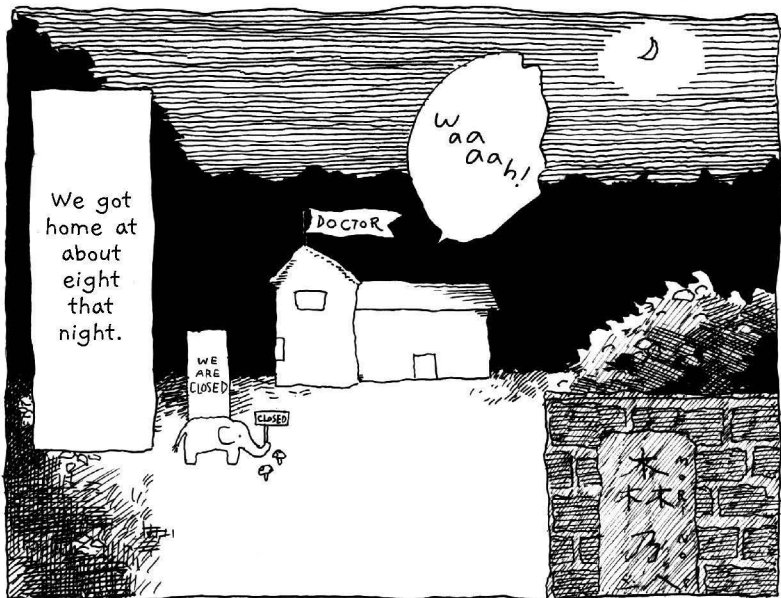
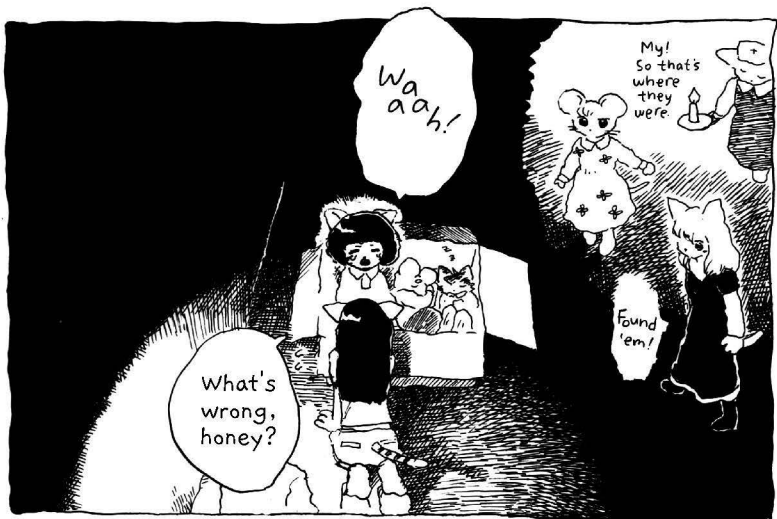
Oh,
good.

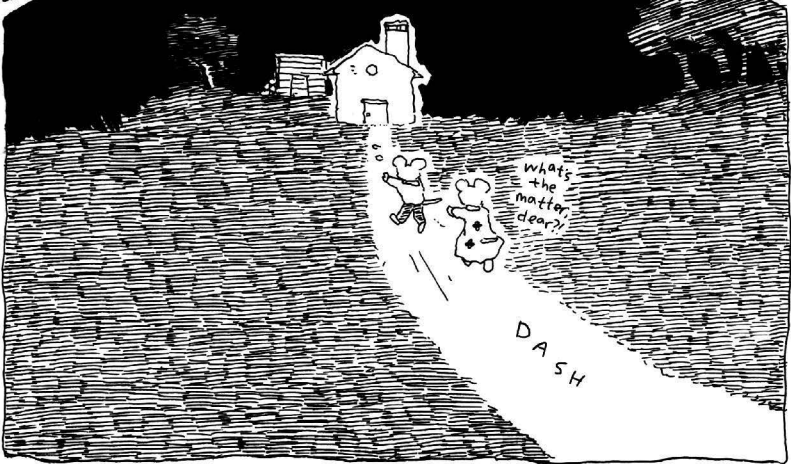
Yukie!!

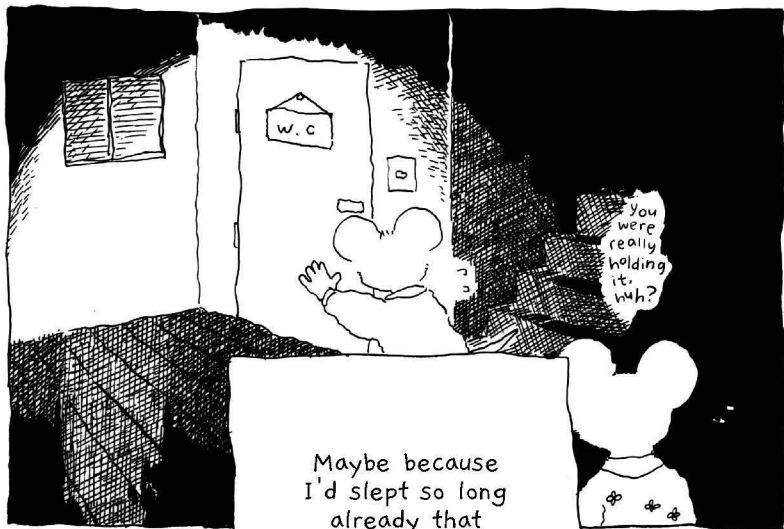
It's
already
nighttime!

CIRCUS NIGHT









Maybe because
I'd slept so long
already that
night...

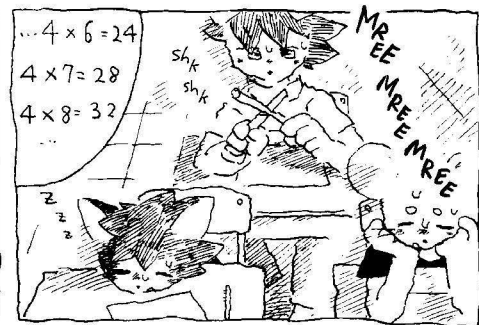
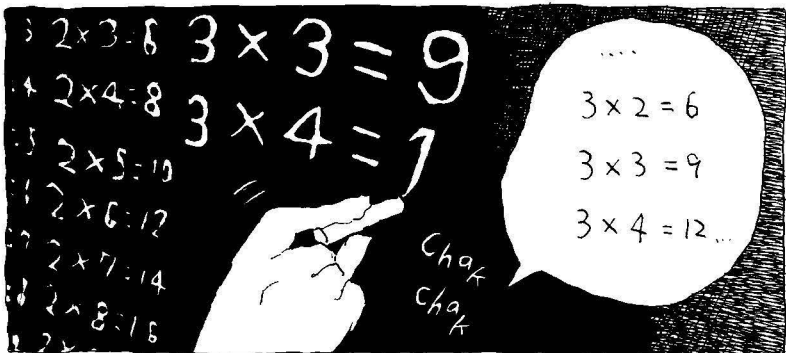


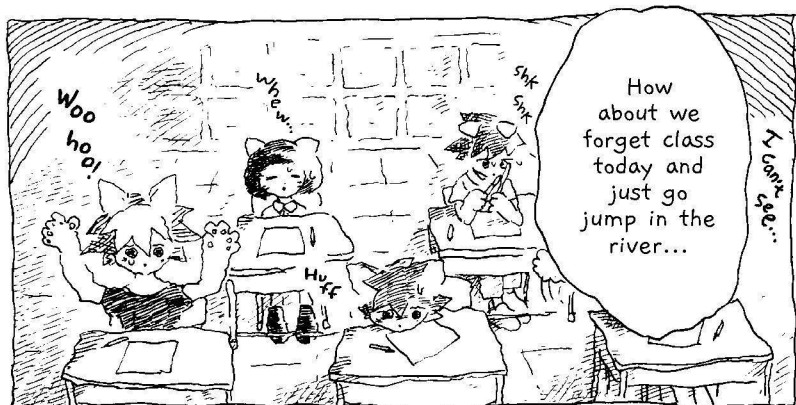


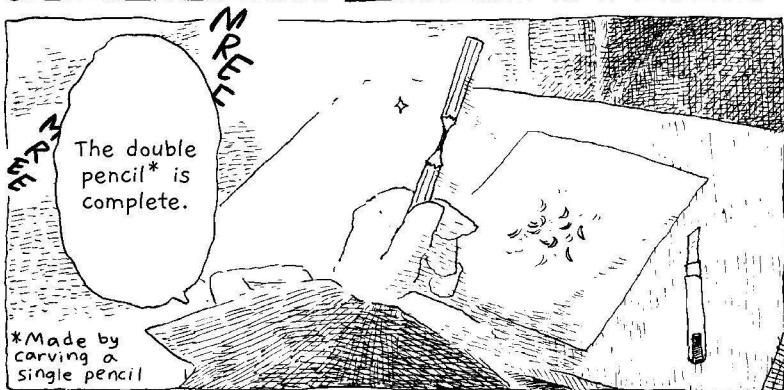
...but
I couldn't
really ever
fall asleep.

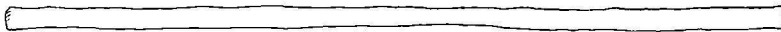
Mi-chan

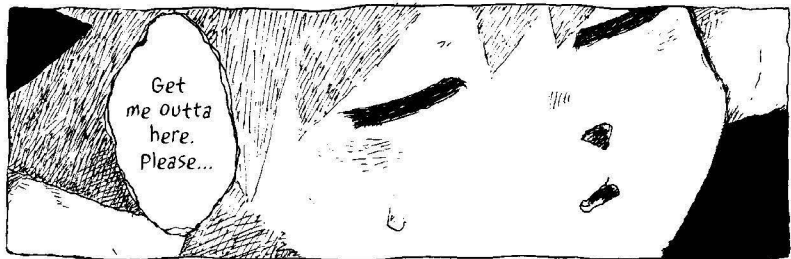
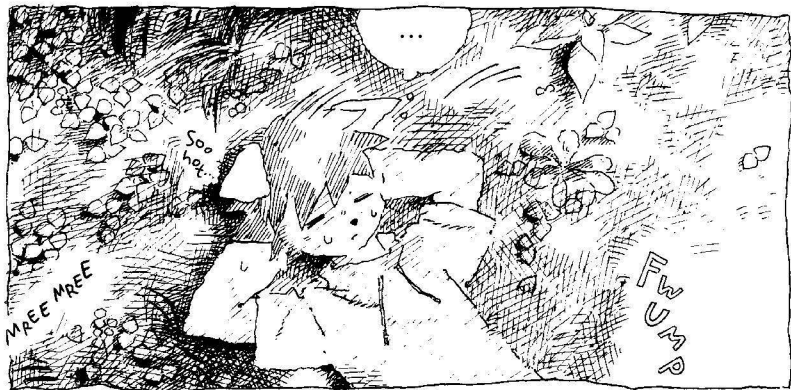


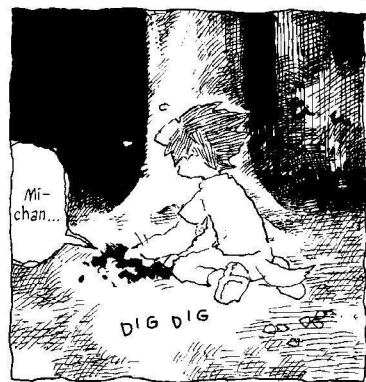
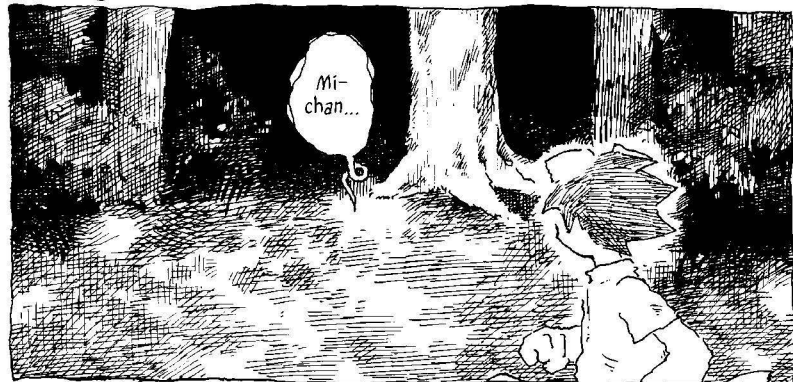




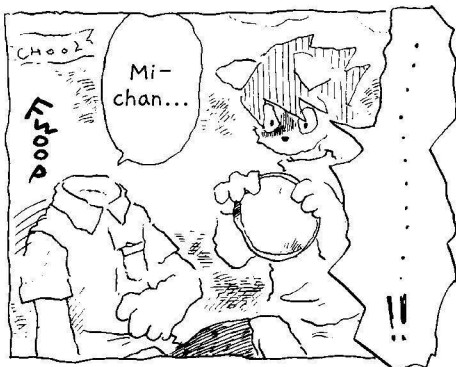


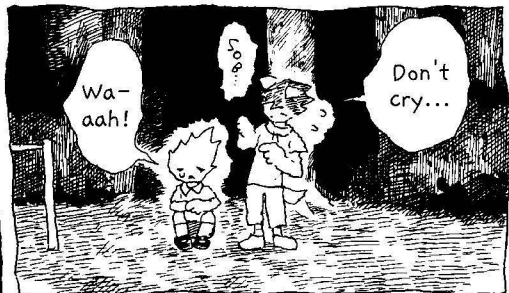


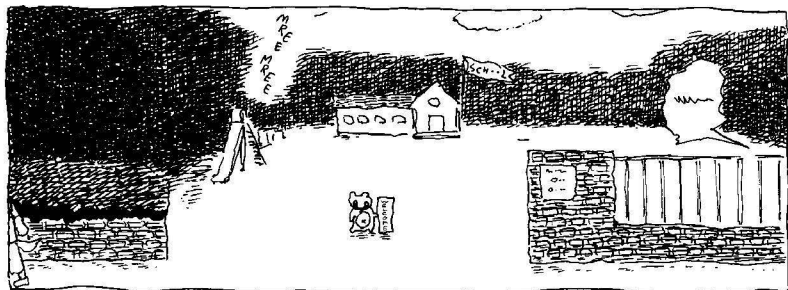
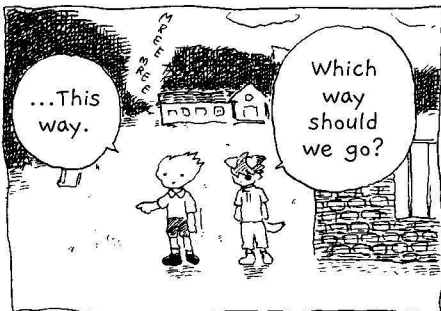
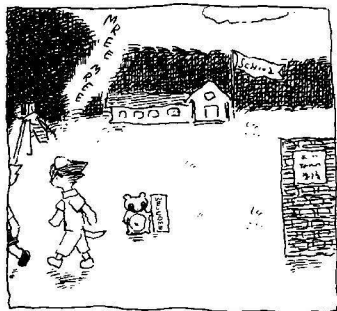


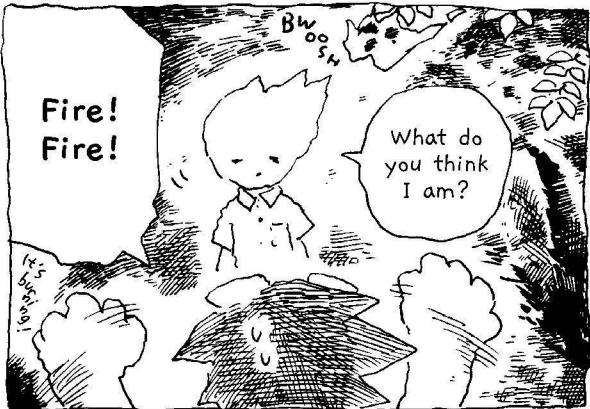
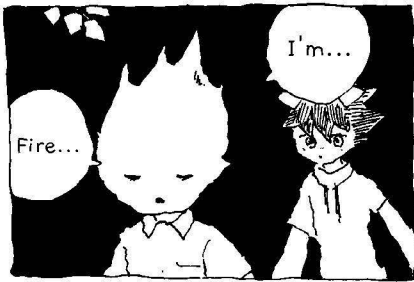















She's a girl...



What kinda person is "Mi-chan", anyway?

Mi-chan?



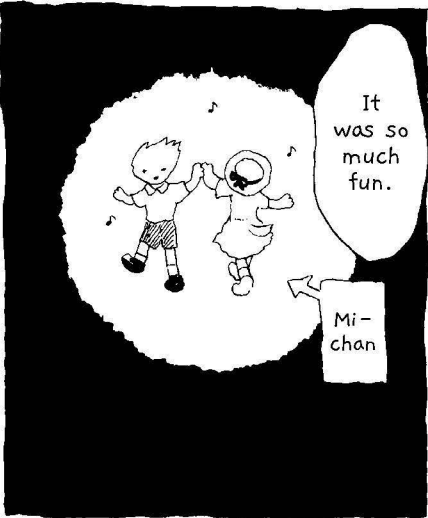
We always used to play together.



Oh, yeah!

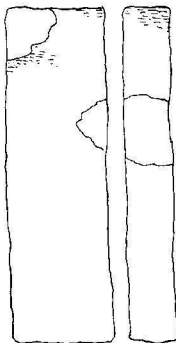
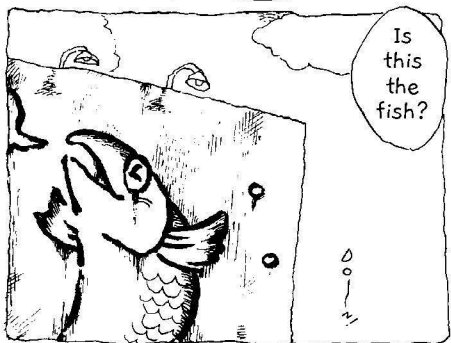


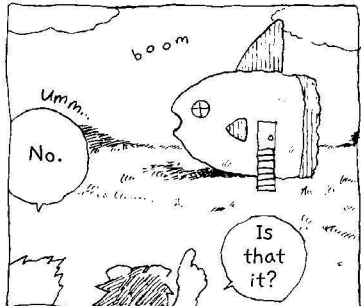
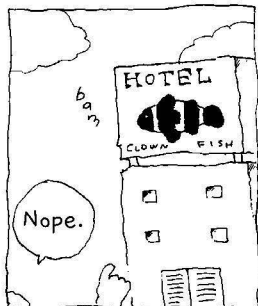
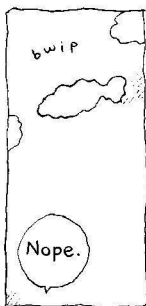
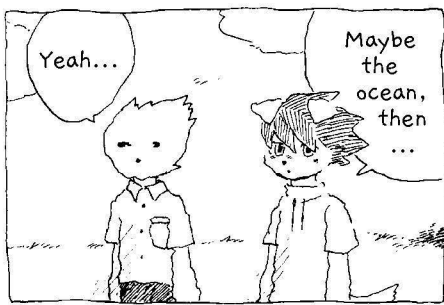
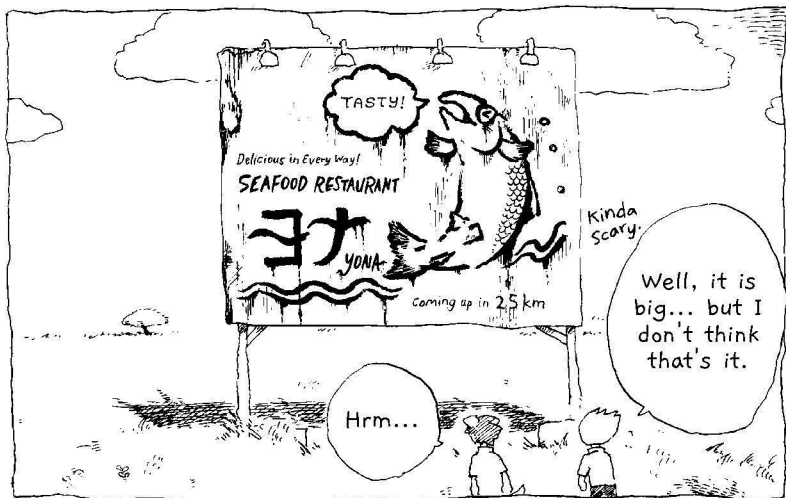
PING!

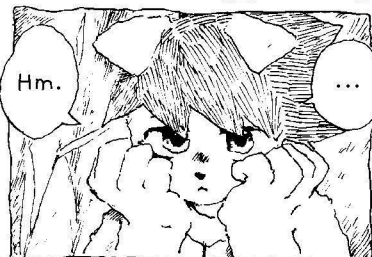
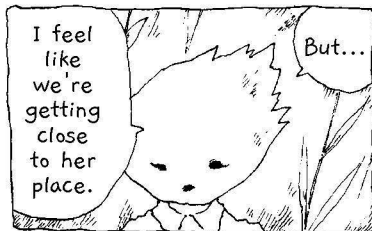
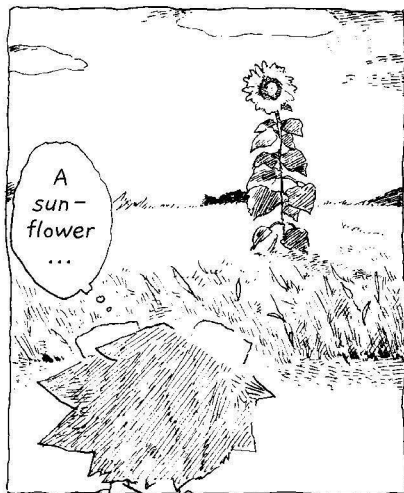
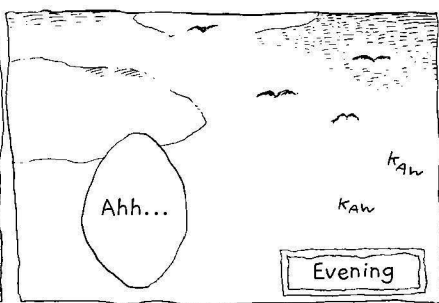


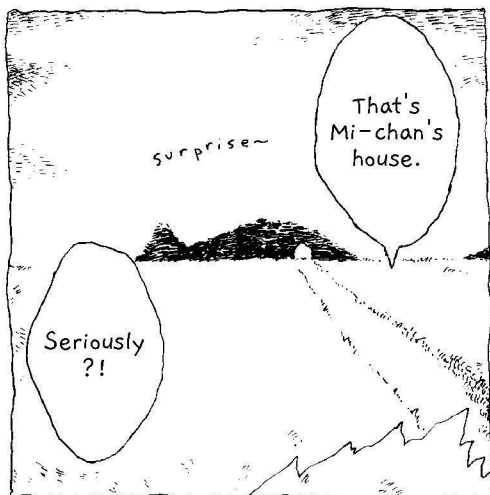
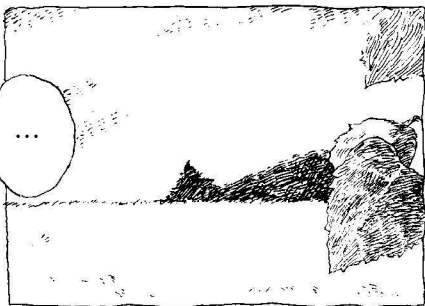
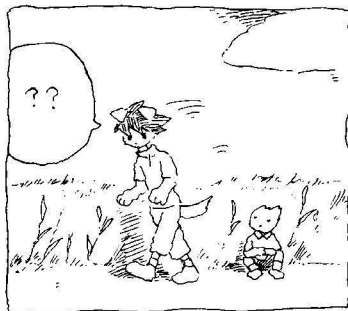
It was so much fun.

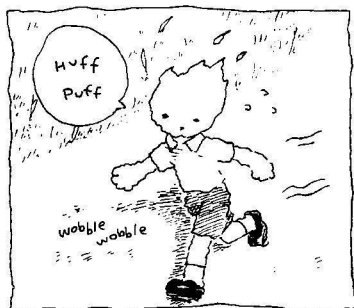
Mi-chan

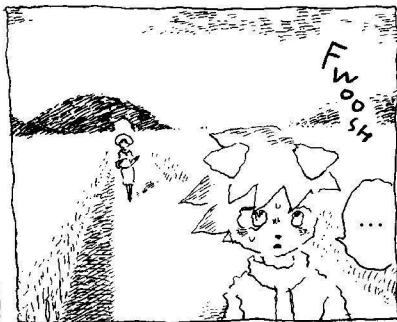


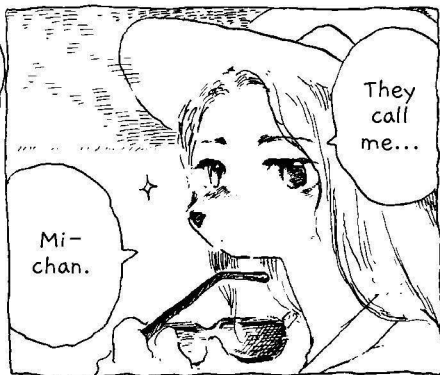


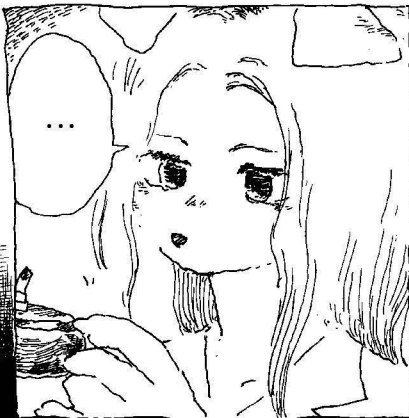
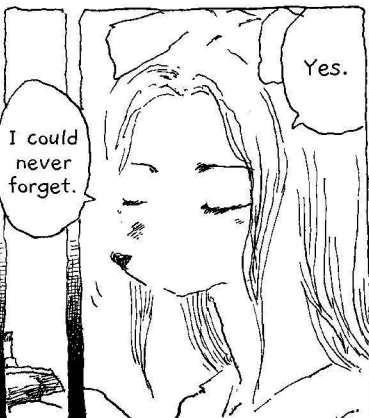
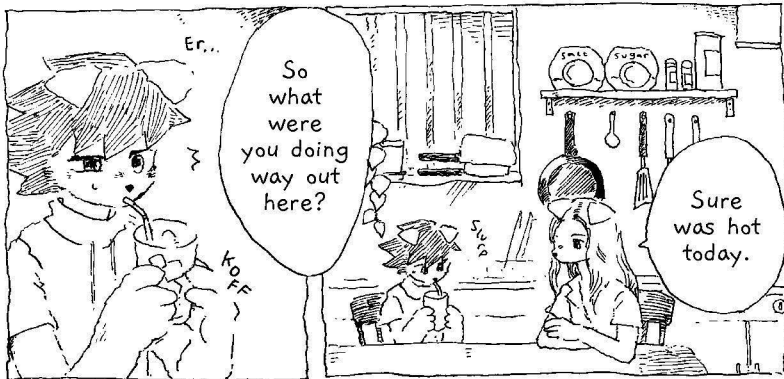












After school
all the kids
would hang out
and play in the
schoolyard...



Long ago,
I was a
student at the
neighboring
town's school.
Probably the
same school
you go to.

Though
the games
I played
were a little
different from
the other
kids...

and
I played
there,
too.

and
do all
kinds of
experi-
ments.

GLUB
GLUB

I'd
just up and
take the old
tools my dad
collected

Mi-
chan,
10
years
old.

that I carried this little guy around with me everywhere I went.

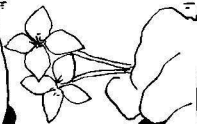


I was so into my experiments



This was the lamp I used back then.

But just as I was about to



I was doing experiments like always.

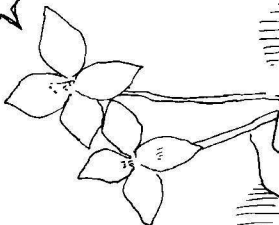
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB



Then one day...

They spoke.

"It's hot!"



boil some flowers ...

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB



began to speak all at once. I was so frightened ...

Eek!

Oh no...

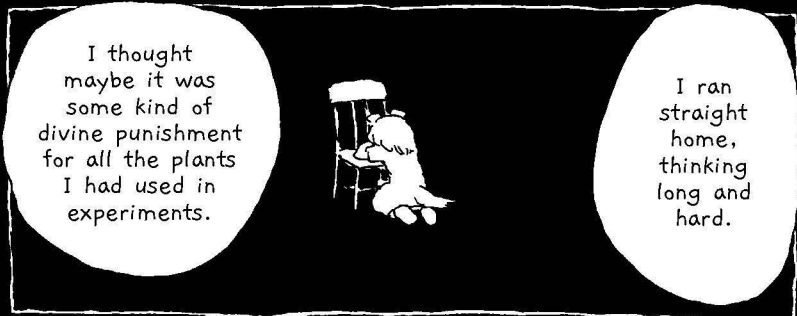
Then all of a sudden all of the flowers around me...

Help me!

How savage!

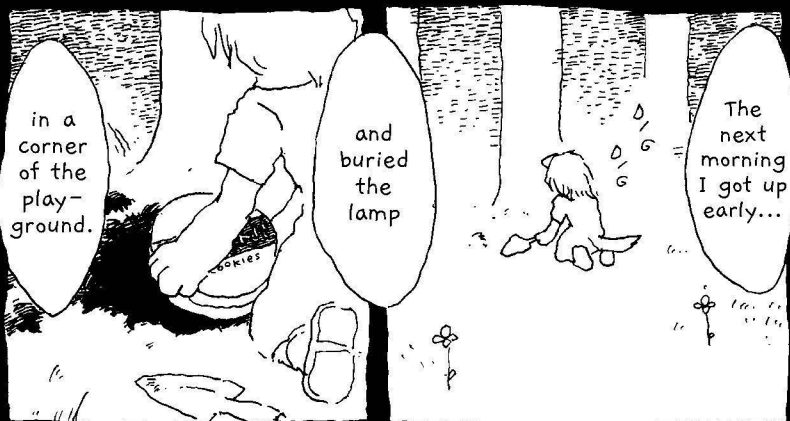
I'm scared

Ma-ma



I thought maybe it was some kind of divine punishment for all the plants I had used in experiments.

I ran straight home, thinking long and hard.

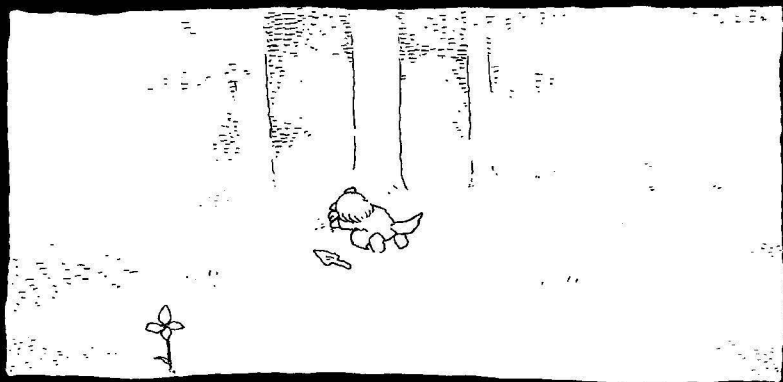


in a corner of the playground.

and buried the lamp

The next morning I got up early...

DIG
DIG
DIG



I was never able to face this lamp again until today.

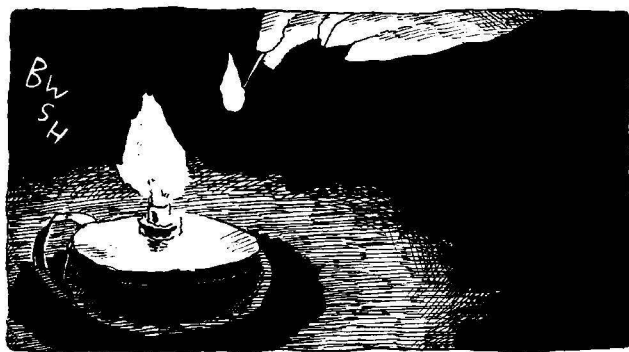


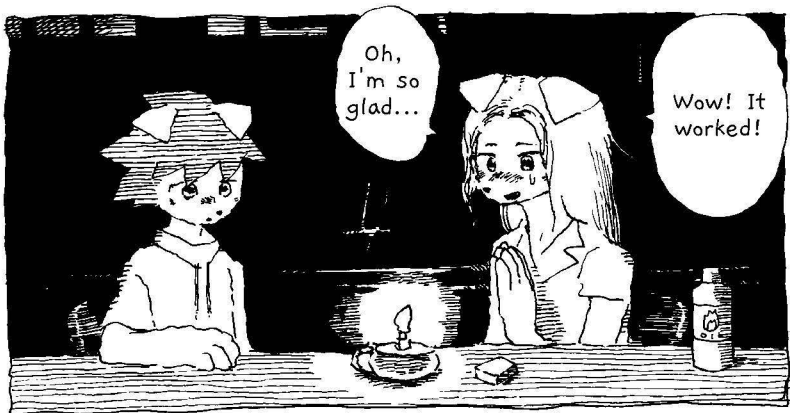
After that, the flowers didn't speak to me anymore, but...

I think I was probably afraid to face my own cruelty.



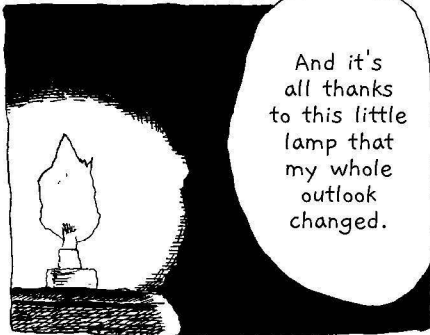
Partly due to the scary memories, but... that day I buried more than just the lamp.







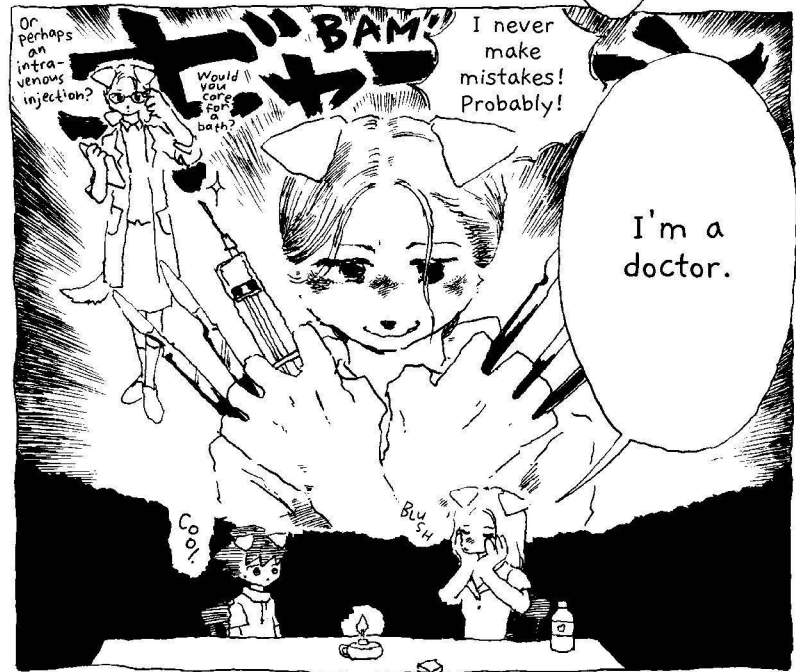
So
what do
you do
now?



And it's
all thanks
to this little
lamp that
my whole
outlook
changed.



Now...



Or
perhaps
an
intra-
venous
injection?

Would
you
care
for
a
bath?

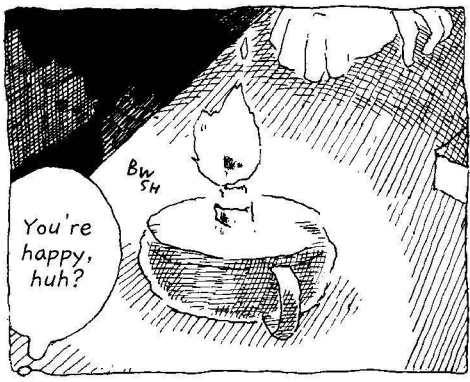
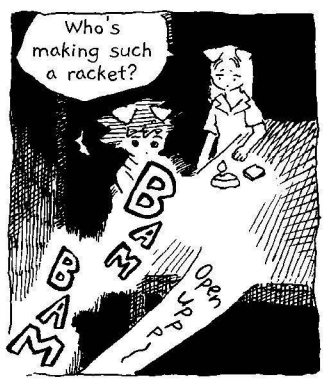
BAM!

I never
make
mistakes!
Probably!

I'm a
doctor.

Cool!

Bu Sh





And Mato-kun's nose won't stop running...

Big sis...
I lost Akira-kun...

CHAK

Who's there?

Michan (& Maki-Ko's) Papa, who was sleeping



I was right in the middle of a good story!

Jeez...

Who's that?

Mato-kun...

Huh?

Plus I'm not seeing any patients today, anyway.

Akira-
kun!!

They're
sisters
?!

A heart!

POLICE

W
T

