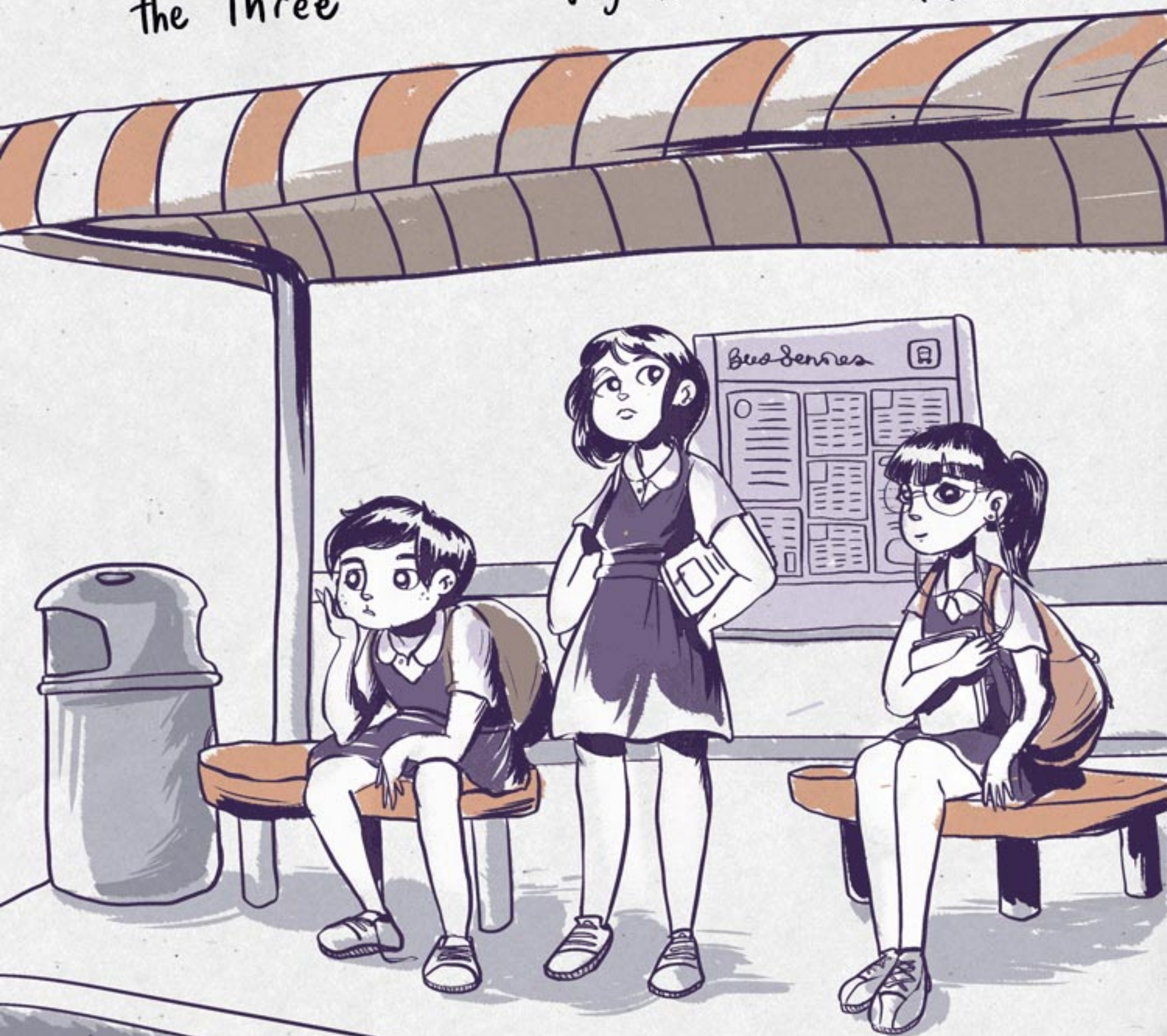


By Felicia Low &
the Three

Illustrated by
Joy Ho

Colors by
Xiao Yan



THE SCHOOL NEVER ASKED

: a story about
life and love for teenagers

This comic book contains true stories about 3 girls and what they learnt about life, love and sexuality while growing up in the Normal Technical stream in Singapore.

Presented by

the Substation
A Home for the Arts

A·A·
Associate
Artist
Research
Programme
R·P

INTRODUCING THE THREE



CHERYL, age 16

N-LEVELS

ITE OFFICE
SKILLS

HIGHER NITEC
ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNTS
ASSISTANT



CHERYL, age 24



JUSTINE, age 16

N-LEVELS

ITE ELECTRONIC
ENGINEERING

NANYANG
POLY

AIRPLANE
MAINTENANCE
ENGINEER

DIP in Electronic
Computer Communications
And Engineering



JUSTINE, age 24



RENA, age 16

N-LEVELS

ITE MULTIMEDIA
AND TECHNOLOGY

DIP in
Design and
Communications

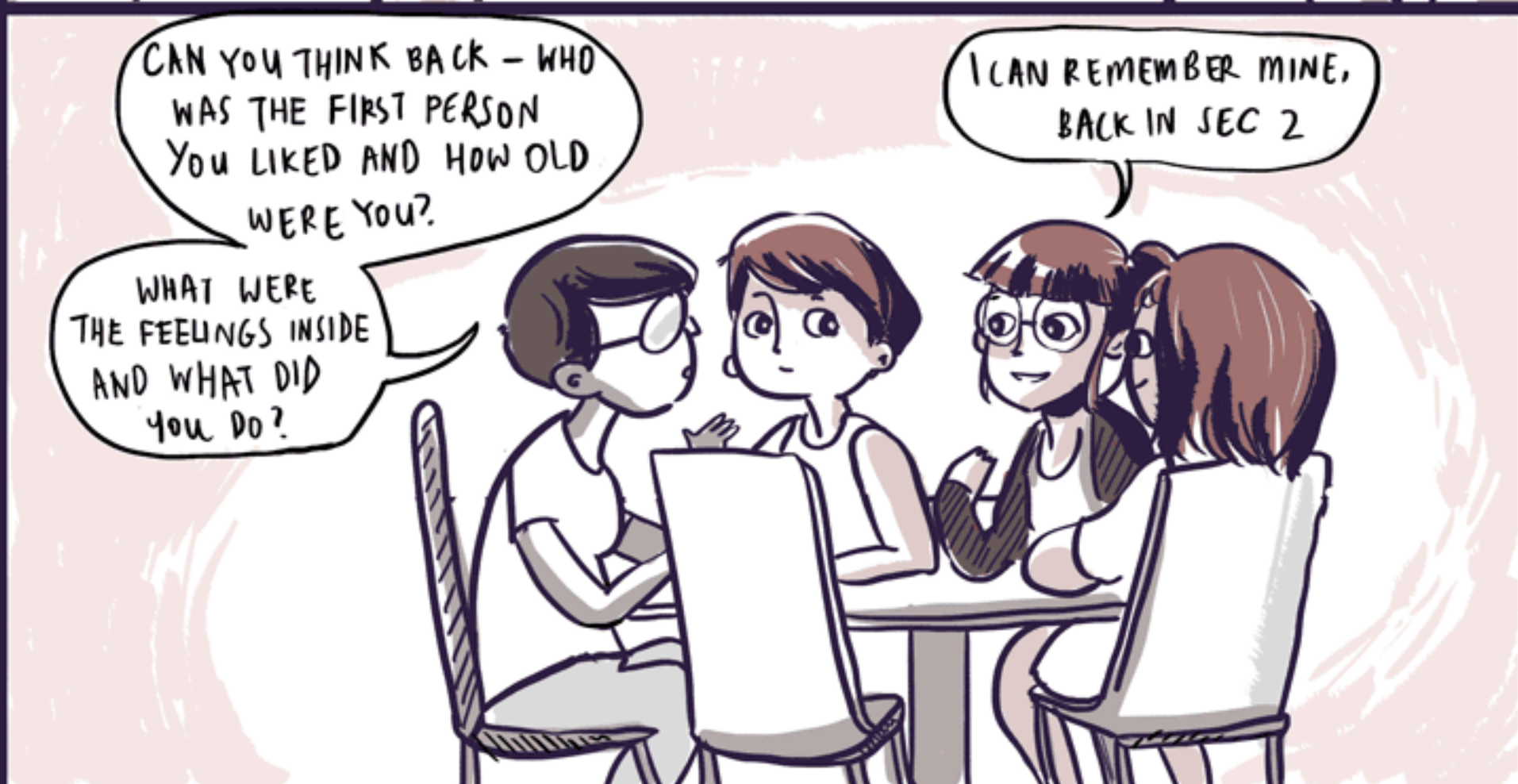
VARIOUS JOBS:
- Beauty Consultant
- Hospital Admin
- Security Admin

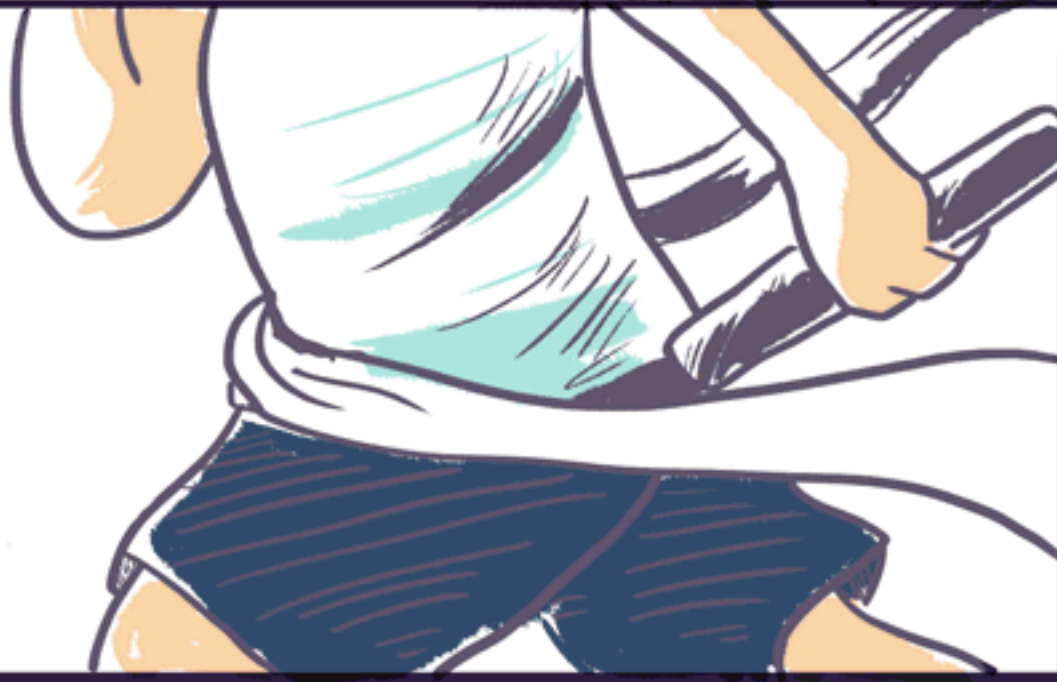


RENA, age 24



FELICIA LOW,
artist





EVERYONE WAS PRETTY CLOSE DURING CAMP AND SO IT FELT QUITE AWKWARD TO APPROACH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.



HE NEVER KNEW I LIKED HIM BECAUSE THERE WAS ALWAYS A FEAR THAT TELLING HIM COULD GO AWRY AND TURN THE FRIENDSHIP SOUR.





I THINK WE WERE QUITE CONFUSED BECAUSE WE WERE STILL VERY YOUNG. AND- I THINK IT'S ADMIRATION - LIKE THE IDEAL PERSON, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF FALLING IN LOVE, BECAUSE IF YOU'RE REALLY FALLING IN LOVE THEN YOU'LL FIND ALL WAYS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. SO I DID THINK OF HER AS A CRUSH AND AFTER AWHILE IT GOES AWAY, AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HOLD ONTO IT FOR YEARS AND YOU REGRET DOING NOTHING

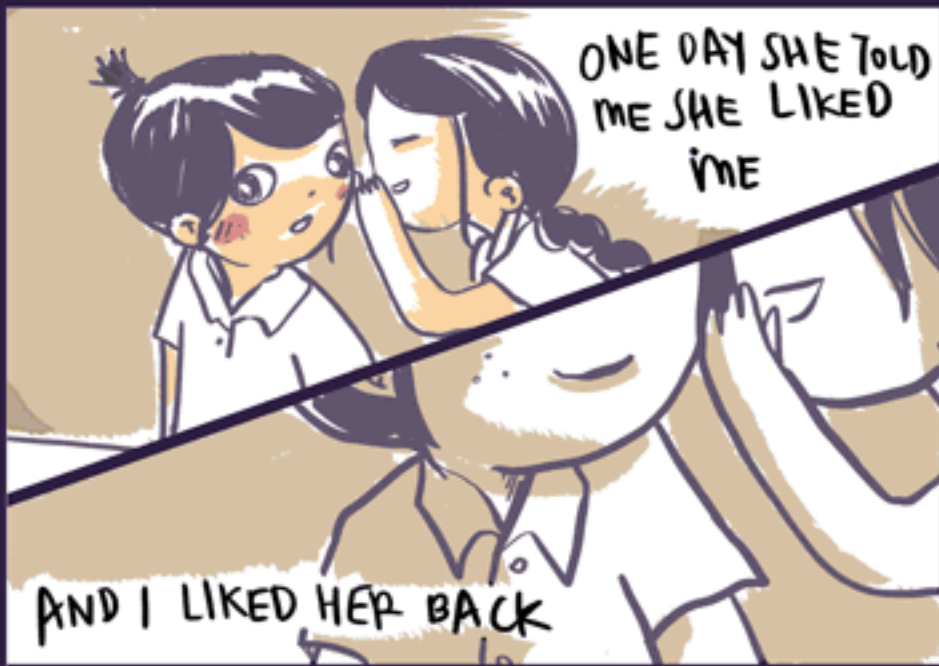


AT A CERTAIN DEGREE I FELT MAYBE SHE GOT SOME MESSAGE WHERE I HAD A FEELING SHE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN ME. I AVOIDED CONVERSATION WITH HER THOUGH ONCE SHE INSISTED I SIT NEXT TO HER IN A CAMP



IT WAS DURING CHINESE ORCHESTRA & WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS





ONE DAY SHE TOLD ME SHE LIKED ME

AND I LIKED HER BACK



WE DID GET TOGETHER - BUT IN TALKING ABOUT CRUSHES AND LOVE, I THINK SHE WAS A CRUSH, A FEELING WE DECIDED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY

I THINK WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE YOUR HEART JUMPS ..

THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME



DID PEOPLE TAKE A LOT OF NOTICE WHEN YOU GUYS WERE TOGETHER?

QUITE A BIT ACTUALLY



psst
IS IT TRUE YOU AND SUYIN ARE TOGETHER?

hmm, yes



AND THEY WERE ALWAYS AWFULLY CURIOUS

TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT



IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE IT WAS A GIRL-GIRL RELATIONSHIP



SO RENA, DID THE OTHER STUDENTS DISTURB YOU AS WELL?

HAH, I GET MORE ATTENTION FOR SKIPPING CLASS



MY GIRLFRIEND THEN DID TELL ME IT COULD GET DIFFERENT IN MIXED SCHOOLS THOUGH



THE ATTENTION YOU COULD GET ISN'T ALWAYS THE GOOD OR FUN KIND AT ALL.



THEN AT ANY POINT DID YOU FEEL GUILTY? OR ANYTHING?

THERE ARE SOME FEELINGS, YES



NOT EVERYONE AGREES WITH SAME GENDER RELATIONSHIPS— SO WHILE I DON'T FEEL GUILTY, IT'S DIFFICULT TO GET ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM "STRAIGHT FRIENDS" WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND.



AND WHILE THEY MAY BE CIVIL TO YOU REGARDING IT, YOU KNOW THEY DON'T LIKE IT - AND THE FRIENDSHIP JUST ISN'T THE SAME ANYMORE.



FURTHERMORE IT'S ALREADY MUCH BETTER IN SCHOOL. WHEN OUTSIDE AND IN THE WORKPLACE,



WELL I KNOW I DON'T FEEL GUILTY AT ALL.

ALL THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE MUTUAL, ITS NOT LIKE IT WAS FORCED

HOW ABOUT OUTSIDERS?

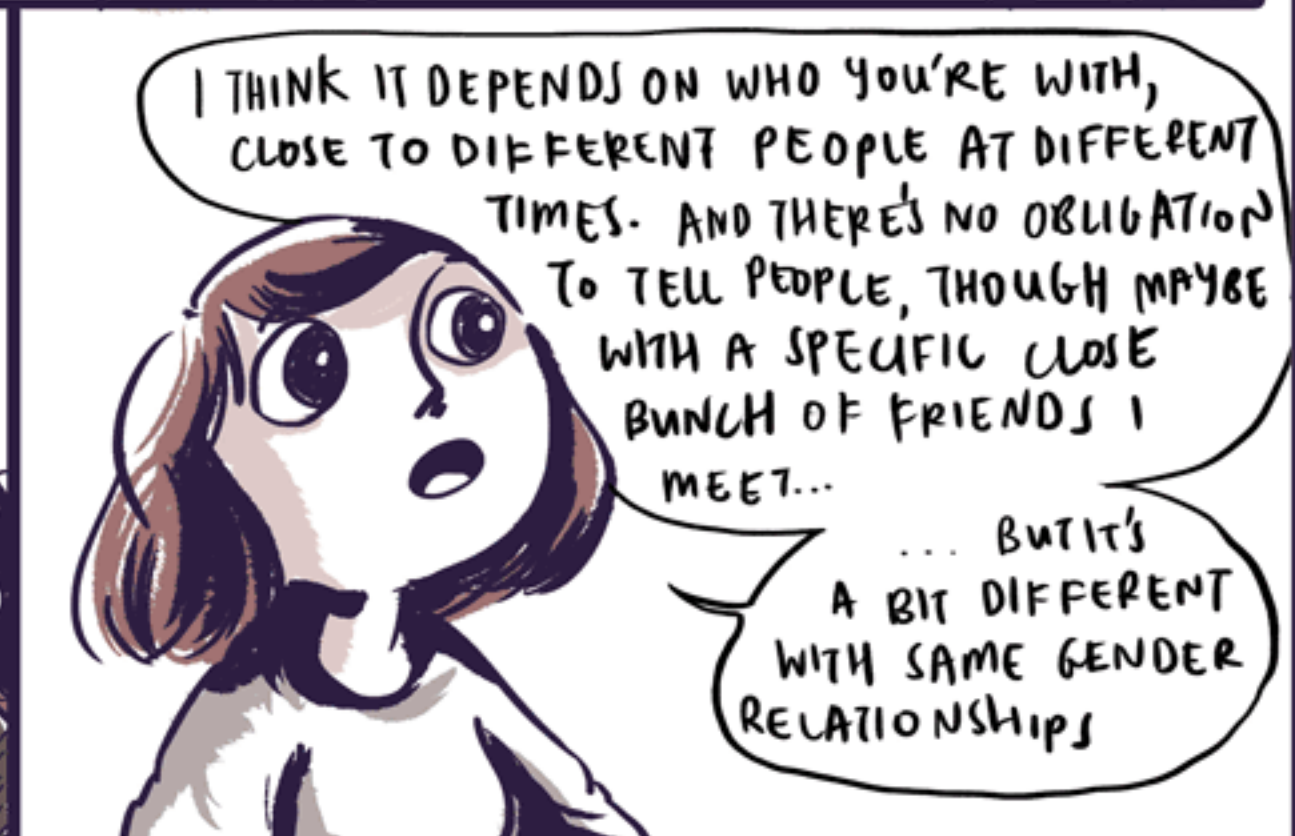
SO IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SHARE ANYTHING ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A GIRL.



DO YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THEM?

I DUNNO, I THINK IT'S ALRIGHT





FOR ME I DON'T
LIKE TO TELL PEOPLE
RIGHT NOW. SCHOOL
WAS A COMFORT
ZONE AND IT WAS
QUITE THE NORM



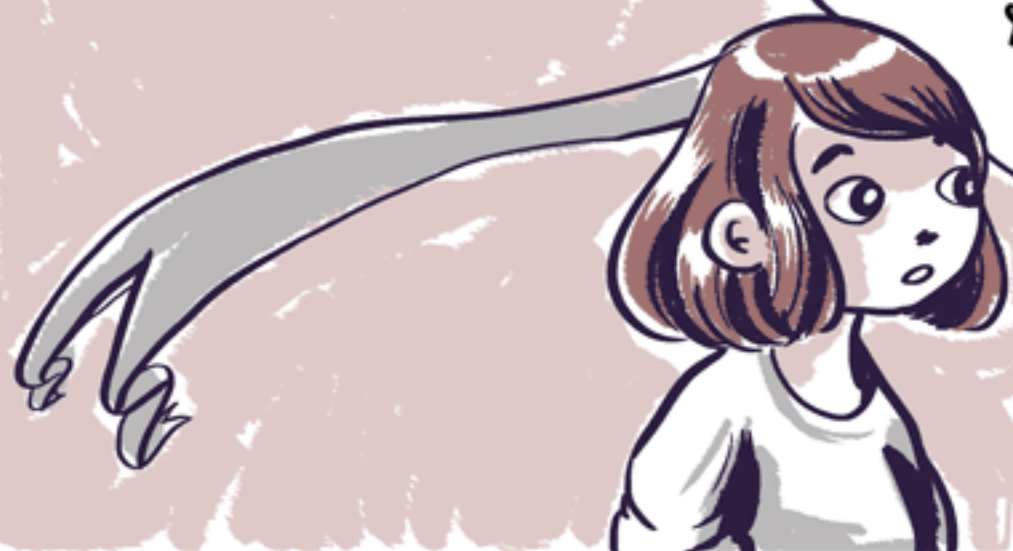
BUT WHEN WE STEP
OUT OF SCHOOL IT
WASN'T THE USUAL AND
WE HAD TO BE DISCRETE.



SO IT WAS A TOUGH
DECISION TO GET INTO A
RELATIONSHIP WITH HER
BECAUSE I WASN'T READY
FOR IT YET

EVENTUALLY WE WERE
TOGETHER BUT I COULDN'T
FACE THE PUBLIC WITH
HER IN A WAY

AND IT TOOK ME A VERY
LONG TIME FOR ME
TO MAKE UP MY MIND THAT
"OK, I HAVE TO BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS,
& I HAVE TO, I AM
READY TO SPEND
THE REST OF
MY LIFE
WITH HER.



AND THAT IS THE POINT WHEN I CAN FACE THE PUBLIC AND LET MY FRIENDS KNOW HER EXISTENCE - "OH, SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND". SO IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

NOW MY HUSBAND KNOWS I'VE BEEN THROUGH SEVERAL FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS, AND MY FRIENDS AS WELL, AND I'M COMFORTABLE WITH IT



OK, SO LAST QUESTION. HOW DO YOU SEE THE WHOLE MEANING OF SEXUALITY - LIKING GIRLS, GUYS, FALLING IN LOVE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU, OR HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO YOU?



I FEEL THAT WHILE IT IS A PART OF LIFE, IT'S NOT SO IMPORTANT



IT USED TO BE, IN THE PAST, TILL I COULDN'T FUNCTION IN EXAMS, OR COULDN'T GET WORK DONE..



BUT WORK NEEDS TO CARRY ON, & NOW THAT I'M OLDER I DON'T THINK THAT WAY ANYMORE.

WHY IS THAT?



I FEEL IT'S NOT WORTH IT. IF IT'S GONE, FORGET IT.



BUT IF YOU LIKE SOMEBODY AND IT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU HOW CAN YOU JUST "FORGET IT?"



BUT AFTER ALREADY PUTTING IN THE BEST, AND IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?



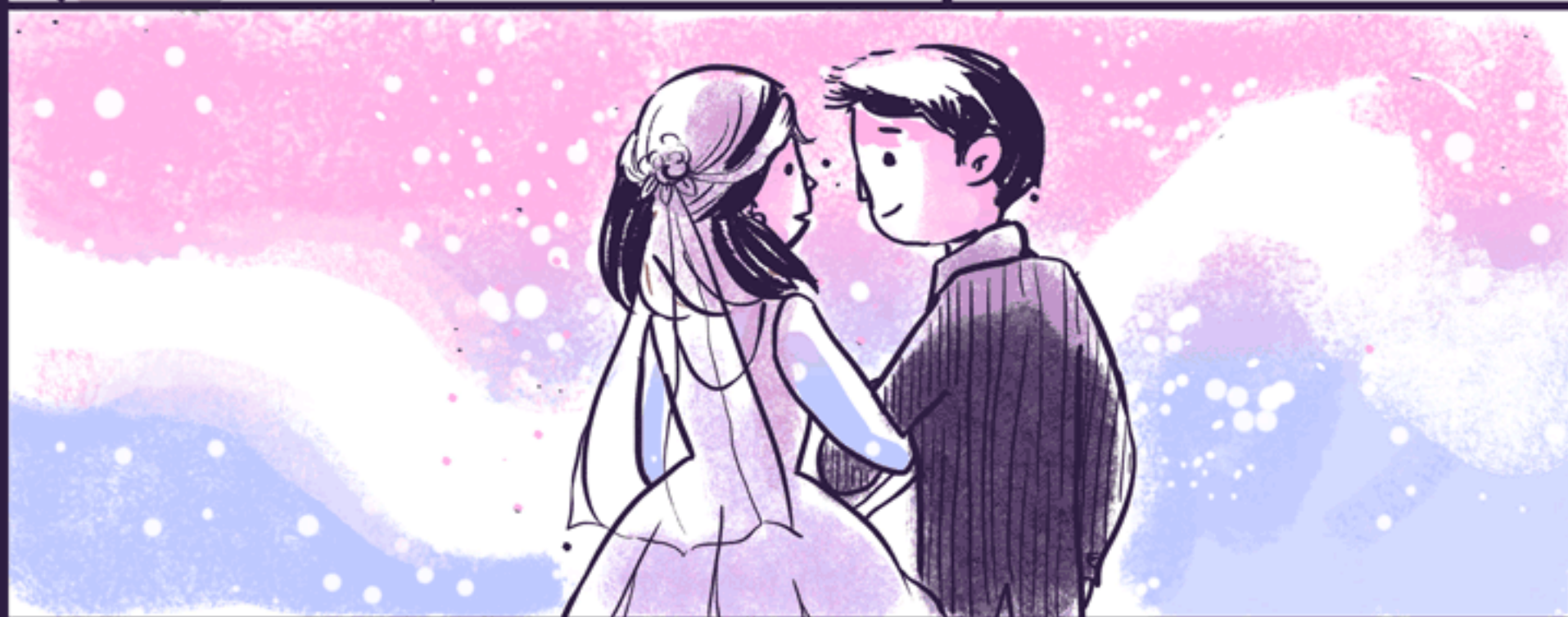
IT'S BETTER TO GET IT DONE AND OVER WITH THAN TO PROLONG THE PAIN.



WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK?



I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP BEFORE, BUT LIKE WHAT JUSTINE SAID IT SHOULDN'T AFFECT YOUR WORK OR DAILY LIFE I FEEL



AND WITH THIS, I TOOK THE BIG STEP TO MARRY HIM, AND BECAUSE I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR SO LONG, AND THIS FAMILIAL LOVE AS WELL HAS ALWAYS BEEN WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SINCE I WAS YOUNG.



PART 2 -

SO IN SCHOOL, HOW DID ANYONE TELL YOU HOW TO FALL IN LOVE - OR ABOUT SEXUALITY?

WELL THERE WAS THAT VIDEO

IT'S LIKE A RITE OF PASSAGE WHERE EVERYONE WATCHES IT IN THE GYM AND STRESSES THE MAIN STUFF

"DON'T FOLLOW STRANGERS"
"NO RELATIONSHIPS"
"NO SEX"
ETCETERA.

OR IN CLASS

THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS

SO THAT WAS WHAT SCHOOL TOLD YOU - WHAT DID THE TEACHERS SAY ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING, AND WHAT DID YOU FEEL THAT THEY WERE TELLING YOU?

I THINK A LOT OF IT WAS THROUGH DISCIPLINE

YOUR HAIR IS TOO SHORT

YOUR SKIRT IS TOO SHORT
EARRINGS ARE TOO BIG

YOUR FRINGE

YOUR NAILS

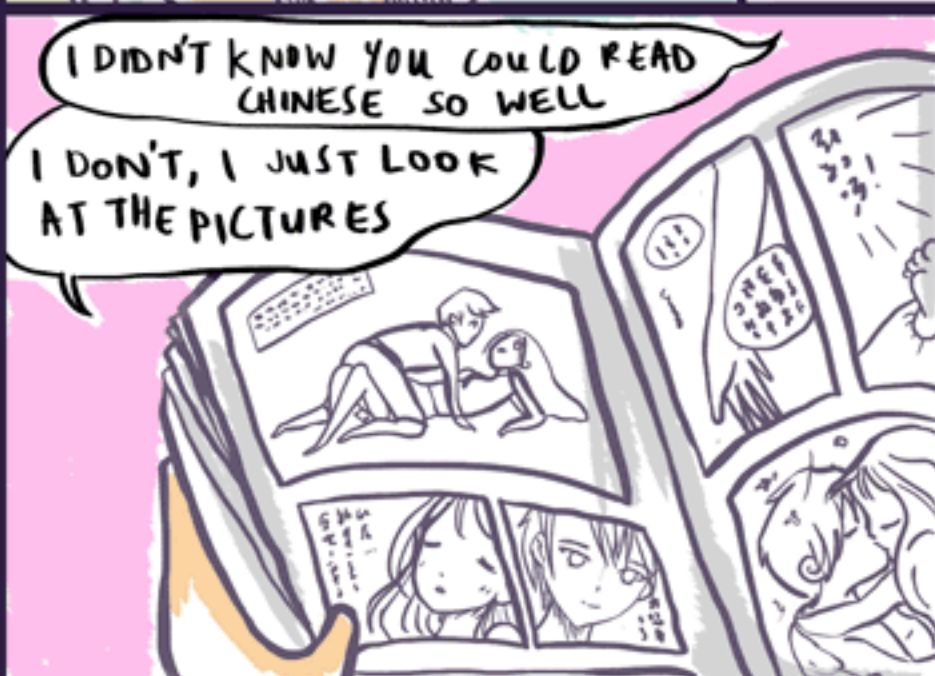
FOR EXAMPLE, GROOMING WAS MEANT TO CONVEY TO US A CERTAIN BEHAVIOUR

... I'D LIKE TO ASK ALL STUDENTS TO REFRAIN FROM HUGGING IN PUBLIC ...

THEN WERE THERE OTHER WAYS YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT SEX?



AND IT GOT PASSED AROUND A LOT



WHEN I FOUND OUT WAS DURING THE TIME I LIVED AT MY AUNTIE'S PLACE WHEN I WAS YOUNG — AND MY UNCLE HAD A BUNCH OF PORNOGRAPHIC CDs AROUND THE HOUSE.



I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT WAS THOUGH, I ONLY KNEW IT HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE NOT WEARING CLOTHES



UNTIL PRIMARY SCHOOL THEN WE HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE GETTING PREGNANT, TALKING ABOUT IT MADE US CURIOUS ON HOW THAT HAPPENED—

AND WE USED TO THINK HOLDING HANDS COULD GET YOU PREGNANT!



IS IT TRUE THAT GUYS THINK A LOT ABOUT SEX?

FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN HEARING, YES.



WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

MY FRIEND WILL TELL ME, HOW WHEN THEY PARTY, THEY'LL "TAPAO" A GIRL TO HAVE A ONE-NIGHT STAND WITH.



THEN WHEN THEY LOOK AT GIRLS, THEY IMAGINE THEM NAKED



THESE ARE THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH NOW?

NO, AT ITE. OUTSIDE BOYS AS WELL— AND THEY TELL ME WHAT THEY IMAGINE

DO THEY TELL YOU AS IF BECAUSE YOU'RE A GUY LIKE THEM?

MAYBE, LIKE A BROTHER LIKE THAT



THEN DID THEY ALSO ASK YOU IF YOU DID THAT?

I TOLD THEM NO— THE THINKING IS DIFFERENT? I THINK IT'S CHARACTER ALSO, THOUGH MOST OF THEM TELL ME THE SAME THING



SO CHERYL, WHEN DID YOU FIRST FIND OUT ABOUT SEX?

mmm

ACTUALLY I FOUND OUT WHEN I WAS YOUNG, AND WHEN I HAD OUTSIDE FRIENDS WHO HAD ABORTIONS.

ACTUALLY NOW THAT YOU GUYS ARE OLDER, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ADVICE THAT PEOPLE USED TO GIVE YOU?

SUCH AS, SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE IS BAD, NO RELATIONSHIPS UNTIL YOU'RE OLDER...

WOULD YOU GIVE ADVICE LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE YOUNGER NOW?

I THINK I WOULDN'T BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T CARE AND AS LONG AS ADULTS SAY IT, CHILDREN WILL BE STUBBORN. AT LEAST THAT WAS HOW I WAS WHEN YOUNG

RENA, HOW ABOUT YOU? SINCE YOU HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER?

WELL, I DO TALK TO HER ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO RELATE TO THE QUESTION BECAUSE MY FAMILY AND MYSELF ARE CONSIDERABLY OLDER. ANYTHING THE PARENTS SAY WILL BE TAKEN AS NAGGING.



SO THE TOPIC ITSELF IS ADVICE

YEAH, AND THEY FIND YOU A NAG - THAT "IT'S YOUR S.O.P AND NOT MINE"

SO FAR IT SEEMS THAT

OR LOOKING AT PEERS, WHERE IF THEY KNOW SOMEONE'S GONE THROUGH IT

KIDS LEARN BY GOING THROUGH THE HARD WAY

AND WHEN THEY CAN SEE THAT PROBLEM COMING TO THEM

IS WHEN THEY REALIZE THE ISSUE AT HAND.

DID YOU TAKE THE ADVICE FOR YOURSELF, THAT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE GOTTEN INTO A RELATIONSHIP?

mmm...

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH ADVICE ACTUALLY...

BECAUSE MY PARENTS WEREN'T SO CLOSE TO ME. I WAS BUSY AND I DIDN'T HAVE SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME TO SIT DOWN AND TALK TO ME REGARDING THIS

I STILL THINK IT'S MORE NAGGING THAN ACTUAL ADVICE

HEH, SOMEONE HASN'T GROWN UP YET

PFET

WELL, I THINK I WAS IN THE SAME BOAT AS RENA. I NEVER REALLY HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARENTS. IF IT STARTED YOUNGER AND MY PARENTS TALKED ABOUT THESE THINGS AND ADVISED, I MIGHT HAVE LISTENED MORE.

CHERYL, DID YOUR PARENTS GIVE YOU THIS SORT OF ADVICE?

WELL



I NEVER HAD
TO TALK ABOUT
IT BEFORE,
I MOSTLY
LEARN'T ABOUT
IT IN SCHOOL.




THOUGH NOW
THAT I
REMEMBER
MY MOM
USED TO TELL
ME IT WASN'T
GOOD TO BE IN
A HOMOSEXUAL
RELATIONSHIP.

AND THEN
SHE'D
QUOTE
BIBLE
VERSES



AND I THINK, WOW, OK,
GOD IS SAYING THAT.
THEN I'D FEEL GUILTY
IN THAT SITUATION,
LIKE I'M NOT A
FILIAL DAUGHTER
AND I SHOULDN'T
REBEL.



BUT YOU DIDN'T
PUT THIS
MINDSET ON
YOUR FRIENDS?



NO, THEY'LL REALLY HAVE NOT
MUCH REASON TO LISTEN
BECAUSE WHAT DOES MY ADVICE
MEAN TO THEM? BUT LIKE
WHAT THEY'VE BEEN SAYING,
WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS TO
A FRIEND, THEY MAY RECALL
WHAT I'VE SAID AND
CONSIDER WITHOUT
TREATING IT AS A NAG.




LET'S SAY YOUR MOM SAYS
HOMOSEXUALITY IS WRONG,
AND JUSTINE GOES OUT WITH
THIS GIRL. AND THIS GIRL
TREATS HER BADLY
AND SHE'S UPSET.
DO YOU THINK THE
RELATIONSHIP IS BAD
BECAUSE IT IS
GIRL-GIRL?




WELL NO,
BECAUSE
GUYS GET
DITCHED
BY FEMALES
AND VICE VERSA,
AND IT'S ALL
BASED ON COMPATIBILITY,
RIGHT?




FOR ME, I DON'T THINK
THERE'S A CORRECT OR
WRONG RELATIONSHIP
REGARDING SAME
OR DIFFERENT
GENDER.



AND ACTUALLY I ADVISED
JUSTINE TO TRY GOING FOR A
GUY SINCE SHE ISN'T SEEING
ANY GIRLS NOW. IT'S
DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO FIND
SOMEONE YOU CAN
DEPEND ON IN
THE SMALLER
LESBIAN CIRCLE.



BUT WHAT
MAKES THE
DIFFERENCE?



MMM, WHY I WANTED
TO BE WITH GIRLS
IS BECAUSE I
FELT THEY UNDERSTOOD
BETTER.

AND THEY ARE MORE DETAILED,
CAREFUL ... AND MORE PROTECTIVE
EVEN, COMPARED TO CARELESS GUYS



BEFORE I GOT MARRIED
I WASN'T IN A
GOOD RELATIONSHIP
BEFORE THAT.



BUT BUTCHES AREN'T AS
FAITHFUL AS
BEFORE, CAN HAVE
ONE NIGHT STANDS,
TWO TO THREE GIRLS
AT A TIME...



AND IT REALLY DEFEATED THE POINT OF
BEING WITH A GIRL.

no - I MARRIED
HIM BECAUSE

IS THAT WHY
YOU MARRIED
A GUY?



... BECAUSE I FOUND THE
LOVE OF MY LIFE



SO WHAT
MAKES A
GOOD
RELATIONSHIP?



TRUST



FREEDOM



COMMUN-
ICATION



SO WHY DO YOU
GUYS SAY
THAT?



WITHOUT TRUST, ANY RELATIONS-
HIP WILL GET TOUGH REALLY FAST.
IF YOU DON'T TRUST HIM AND YOU
CHECK ON HIM EVERYDAY IT'S VERY
TIRING.



I AGREE WITH RENA, BUT I WOULD
ALSO EXPECT FREEDOM AND TO
GIVE ME SPACE. IT ACTUALLY GOES
BACK TO TRUST, AND NOT TO KEEP
CONSTANTLY CHECKING ON YOU.



COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT
AND EVEN WITH CERTAIN THINGS WE
DISLIKE WE TALK ABOUT IT. AND
ALWAYS THE TRUTH. IF A CONVERSATION
GETS HEATED, TO COOL IT DOWN SLOWLY
AND TALK
ABOUT IT.



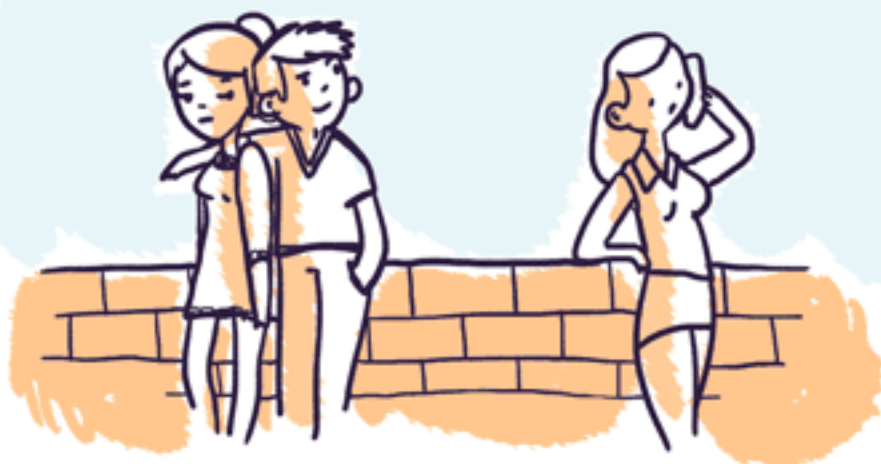
THEN WHAT
MAKES A BAD
RELATIONSHIP?



I'VE BEEN REALIZING
THE LACK OF RESPECT
IS ACTUALLY A
REALLY COMMON
THING.



THIS GUY MINGLING WITH A LOT OF GIRLS OR FLIRTY WITH THEM



AND THESE CREATE A LOT OF EMOTIONS AND GIRLS THINK A LOT



AND RESPECT IS A REALLY BASIC THING TO HAVE.



USUALLY AFTER A RELATIONSHIP, DO YOU GUYS REMAIN FRIENDS?



IT DEPENDS. I'M STILL FRIENDS WITH MY MOST RECENT EX AND AT THAT POINT WE BOTH KNEW IT COULDN'T WORK. I COULDN'T TRUST HER AND SHE COULDN'T BE LOYAL. WE BROKE IT OFF PROPERLY, AND IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN IT'S DONE IN A NASTY WAY.



JUSTINE, DO YOU FIND THAT THE RELATIONSHIP GETS BETTER AFTER THE FIRST ONE? AFTER MAKING THOSE MISTAKES, THEN THE SECOND ONE..

YEAH, YOU WILL. IN BETWEEN YOU'LL LEARN YOUR LESSON, HOW TO TREAT HER BETTER, SEEING THEIR CHARACTER, OR WHEN TO PULL BACK, THAT KIND OF THING.

SO YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR OWN BEHAVIOUR?



YEAH. MORE MATURED. THERE WAS THIS GIRL, WHO WAS DEFINITELY MORE THAN FRIENDS WITH ME - BUT SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND.



AND SO HOW COME YOU STILL WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER? WASN'T SHE MAKING USE OF YOU?



I THINK IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO LET GO. I WAS USED TO HER AROUND, TALKING EVERYDAY, MEETING UP A LOT.



AND ALTHOUGH I DO KNOW SHE WAS MAKING USE OF ME, WE QUARRELED ABOUT IT A LOT.



WHY MUST YOU GO OUT WITH A GUY WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME?



...



I'M SORRY



I'M JUST A BIT CONFUSED... I FEEL LIKE I LIKE HIM BUT I'M SO CLOSE TO YOU



BUT IN THE END WE REMAINED FRIENDS. I DID TELL HER ABOUT MY FEELINGS, AND SHE TOLD ME SHE FELT THE SAME, BUT THAT SHE COULDN'T BE WITH ME AND SHE CHOSE TO BE WITH A GUY.



DID YOU EXPECT IT, TO LAST?

SO YOU'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN BE COMMITTED

NO— THIS KIND OF THING DOESN'T.

THAT'S WHY I FEEL THAT IT'S BETTER TO FIND SOMEONE WHO LIKES YOU MORE.



BUT I'VE BEEN IN A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT, AND IF YOU FEEL THAT SHE LIKES YOU MORE THAN YOU LIKE HER YOU WON'T PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT, AND THE RELATIONSHIP GETS BLUNT...



I USED TO THINK THE SAME WAY TOO.



I HAD SOMEONE VERY SUBMISSIVE BEFORE— SUPER NICE — BUT I REALIZED I WASN'T MAKING ANY EFFORT FOR HIM.. AND THEN THE RELATIONSHIP AND THOUGHTS GET DIFFERENT, AND I REALIZED I DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT HIM SINCE HE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF ME, AND THEN IT TURNED ONE-SIDED.



I think we should stop seeing each other...




AND WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO THINK LIKE THAT IN A RELATIONSHIP

I THINK IT'S ABOUT HOW, WITH ALL THE GOOD THINGS AND BAD THINGS ABOUT A PERSON, THE PERSON STILL LIKES YOU AS MUCH AND WILL DO AS MUCH. AND THEN IT'S NOT ABOUT PROVING YOU LIKE SOMEONE BY DOING MANY THINGS, AND PROVING THAT YOU LOVE HER THIS WAY.



BECAUSE WHEN YOU HAVE TO KEEP PROVING YOU LOVE SOMEBODY, IT BECOMES VERY TIRING. AND THEN IT STOPS BEING ABOUT THE OTHER PERSON AND ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU CAN PROVE YOURSELF. I FIND THAT A LOT OF THE MALE, THE "BUTCHES" WILL TEND TO GIVE A LOT.




BUTCHES TEND TO GIVE A LOT?

YEAH, BECAUSE I THINK THE MINDSET IS THAT THE GUY TAKES CARE OF THE GIRL, SO IN A RELATIONSHIP, IF YOU PLAY THE MALE ROLE, YOU'RE EXPECTED TO TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL. AND SO THEY TEND TO DO THIS, AND THEN THEY GET TIRED, AND THAT'S WHEN THEY START TO LOSE THE FEELING AND THE GIRL WILL EXPECT MORE.



THE FUNNY THING IS SO WITH A FEMALE TAKING ON THE MALE ROLE, WITH IT BEING TO TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL, THE OTHER PARTY EXPECTS IT ALSO



SO MAYBE JUSTINE'S SOLUTION IS TO FIND SOMEBODY THAT LOVES HER MORE IS TO BREAK OUT OF THE MALE ROLE.



AND IT'S MOSTLY ABOUT EQUALITY, WHICH I SUPPOSE IS WHAT RENNA HAS WITH HER MARRIAGE. HE TAKES CARE OF YOU AND YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND HE RESPECTS THAT. DOES HE EXPECT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM?

HE WILL!

SO IT'S MUTUAL, EQUAL. BUT I THINK IN A LESBIAN ONE, THE BUTCH IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THE OTHER, SO IT'S MORE LIKE A ROLE-PLAYING RELATIONSHIP.

AND IT BECOMES TIRING, THAT YOU MUST KEEP DOING THINGS, AND GIVING ...



TRUE, I AGREE. MY GIRLFRIEND IS THE SAME WAY

BUT ACTUALLY IN CURRENT DAY, BUTCHES ARE NOT ALL LIKE THAT AND NOW THE GIRL ALSO GIVES IN A LOT TO THEM.



YEAH, I HAVE FRIENDS TELLING ME I'M TOO "MAN" COMPARED TO THEIR GIRLFRIENDS AND GIRLS MAY NOT LIKE SUCH MANLY GIRLS, PREFERRING SOMEONE SOFTER AND THAT'S WHY THEY CHOSE TO LIKE GIRLS - IF NOT THEY MIGHT AS WELL GO FOR A GUY.



I THINK IT'S ALSO SINGAPORE... AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF ACTUALLY IMAGINING A LIFE WITH SOMEBODY IS VERY DIFFICULT.



I HAVE FRIENDS IN CANADA WHERE THEY GOT MARRIED LIKE IN A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP, AND IT'S TOUGH TO HAVE THAT KIND OF HOME IN SINGAPORE.



AND IT'S NOT POSSIBLE HERE, AND A GIRL-GIRL RELATIONSHIP BECOMES ABOUT HAVING FUN. SO EVEN IF YOU WANT TO BE SERIOUS, HOW SERIOUS CAN YOU BE?



IT'S TRUE ACTUALLY, GIRLS NOWADAYS BECOME LESBIANS DUE TO CURIOSITY AND... TREND - AND THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, AND THAT'S WHY THE RELATIONSHIP CAN'T LAST FOR LONG.

AND THEY FIND IT COOL TO HAVE A BUTCH FRIEND BECAUSE LITTLE GIRLS "DARE" TO DO IT. THESE YOUNG GIRLS FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT



SO THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE, PEOPLE MORE ACCEPTING OF SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS?

SO DO YOU THINK THIS CHANGE, BECOMING TRENDY, IS A GOOD OR BAD?

I THINK IT'S GOOD. AFTER THEY EXPLORE THEN THEY'LL KNOW WHAT THEY WANT. UNLIKE US, TAKING A LONG TIME TO KNOW WHAT WE WANTED

YEAH



AND WITH THAT KIND OF EXCITEMENT

THEY ALL WANT TO TRY IT

SO WE'RE LIKE THE GUINEA PIGS!

end of part 2



PART 3

SO THIS IS THE LAST
TIME WE'RE MEETING-
UP FOR THE FINAL BIT

SO I'LL JUST
START OFF BY
ASKING IF YOUR
PARENTS STILL KEEP AN
EYE ON THE RELATIONSHIPS
YOU HAVE. CHERYL?

NO, NOW MY PARENTS DON'T,
THOUGH THEY DID IN THE PAST.
MY MOTHER WOULDN'T LET
MY SISTER AND I STAY OUT
AND NO MATTER HOW
LATE IT GOT WE HAD TO
MAKE IT A POINT TO GO HOME.

DID YOUR PARENTS
HAVE EXPECTATIONS
OF YOUR FRIENDS?

NOT ME, BECAUSE I'M MORE
STUDIOUS, AS COMPARED
TO MY SISTER WHO'S A BIT
MORE REBELLIOUS, SO THEY
ARE MORE STRICT WITH HER
AND THEY WATCH WHO SHE
HANDS OUT WITH.

WHAT TYPE OF PERSONS ARE THEY
LOOKING FOR?

CAN'T BE
NOTORIOUS, OR AH BENG
OR AH LIAN

HOW ABOUT YOU, RENA?
DID YOUR PARENTS
HAVE SUCH EXPECTATIONS?

NO, BUT HE'S VERY
PROTECTIVE

MY DAD SAW MY SMS, AND A BOY USED "FUCK" IN A TEXT, AND HE BEAT ME UP BAD FOR IT.



AND HOW ABOUT WHEN YOU MARRIED KEN?

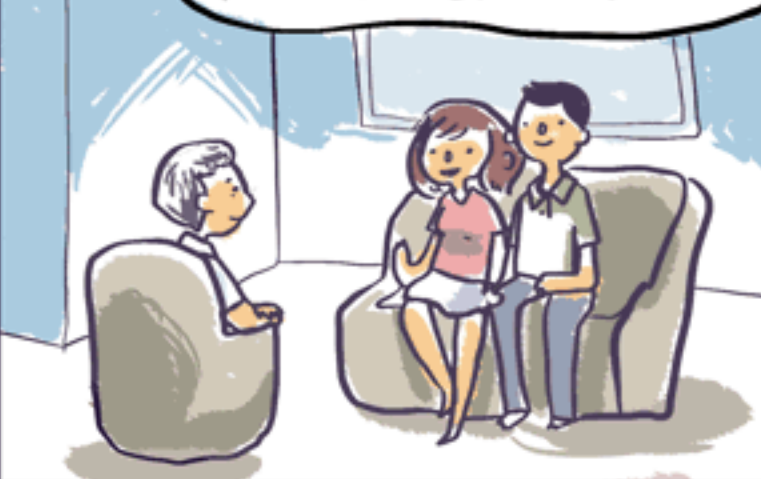


NO HE DIDN'T REALLY CARE WHEN I BROUGHT KEN HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME HE DIDN'T SAY MUCH



THOUGH WHEN KEN LEFT HE TOLD ME HE THOUGHT HE WAS TOO OLD

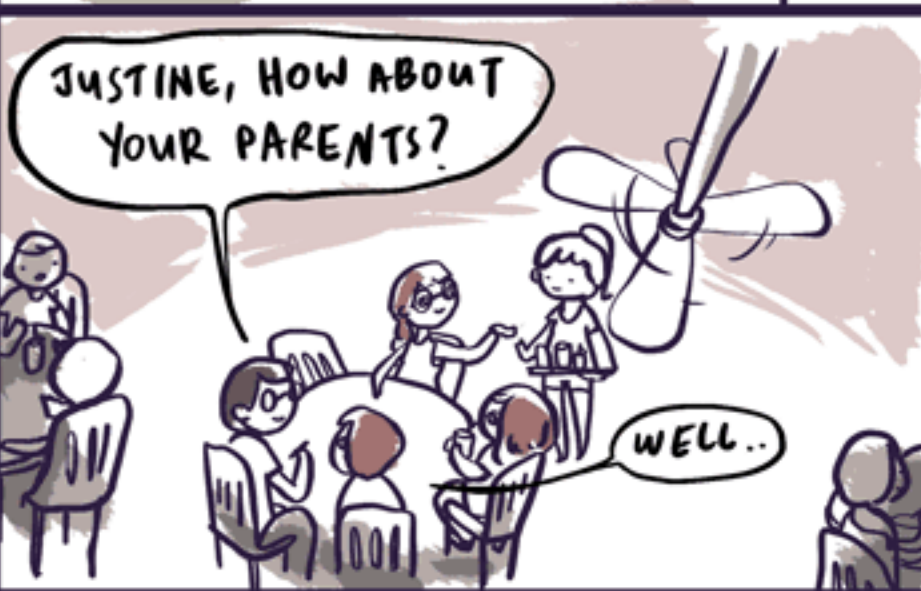
BUT I TOLD HIM KEN WILL ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF ME—AND MY FATHER TRUSTS ME AND LETS ME MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS.



HOW OLD IS HE?



JUSTINE, HOW ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?

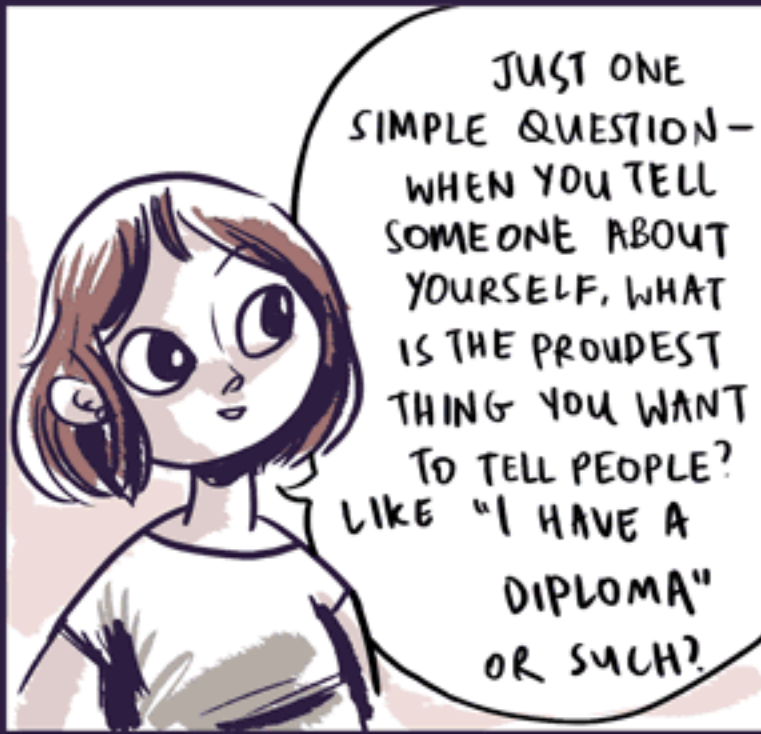


BUT IF I HAVE TO TELL MY PARENTS, PROBABLY JUST MY DAD BECAUSE I THINK ONLY HE WILL ACCEPT.

BUT IT'S FUNNY BECAUSE WHEN I BRING GIRLS HOME MY MOTHER WILL SAY "DON'T ALWAYS BRING GIRLS BACK" AND I'D RETORT "THEN YOU'D RATHER I BRING GUYS BACK?"

THEY ALWAYS TELL ME NOT TO HAVE SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS, BUT I IGNORE THEM.









WE GOT UNLUCKY
THAT DAY



OR JUST
CARELESS



BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP



WE GOT CAUGHT, BUT THEY DIDN'T
CALL THE SCHOOL
OR THE POLICE



BUT REALLY WHAT WAS THE WORST WAS
THE WRATH OF OUR MOTHER



SINCE THEN I LEARN'T
MY LESSON



BUT THE LESSON DOESN'T
END THERE.





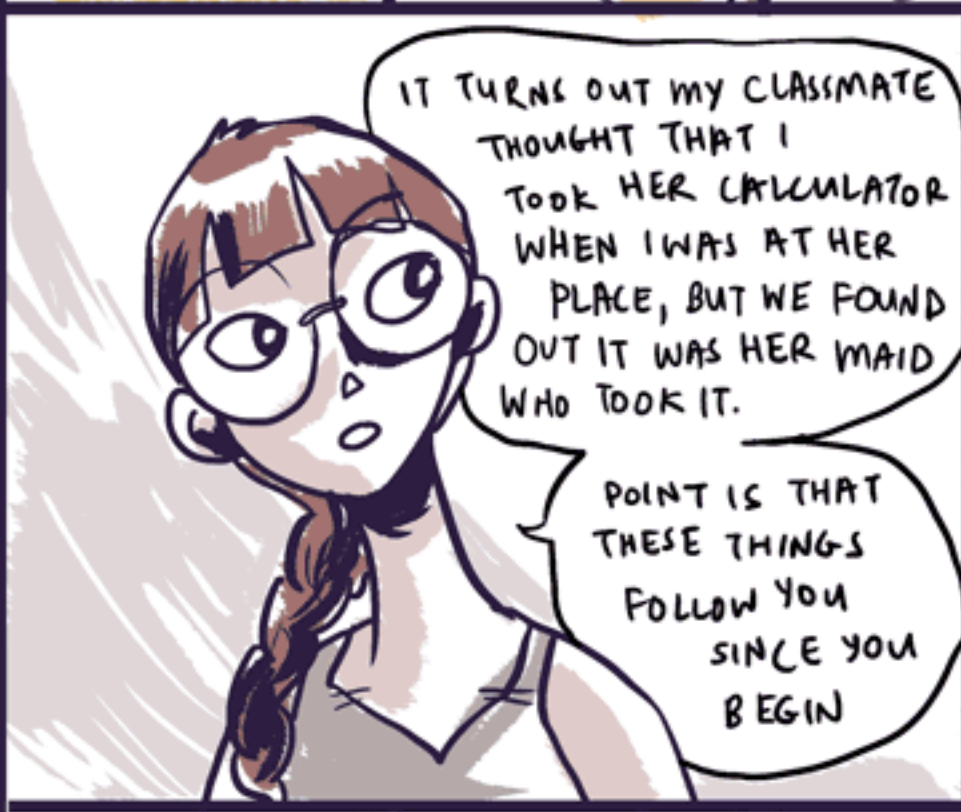
CHERYL, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE



.. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DENY, YOU CAN JUST OWN UP, HOW FAR CAN YOU COVER UP?



BUT I DIDN'T DO IT



IT TURNS OUT MY CLASSMATE THOUGHT THAT I TOOK HER CALCULATOR WHEN I WAS AT HER PLACE, BUT WE FOUND OUT IT WAS HER MAID WHO TOOK IT.

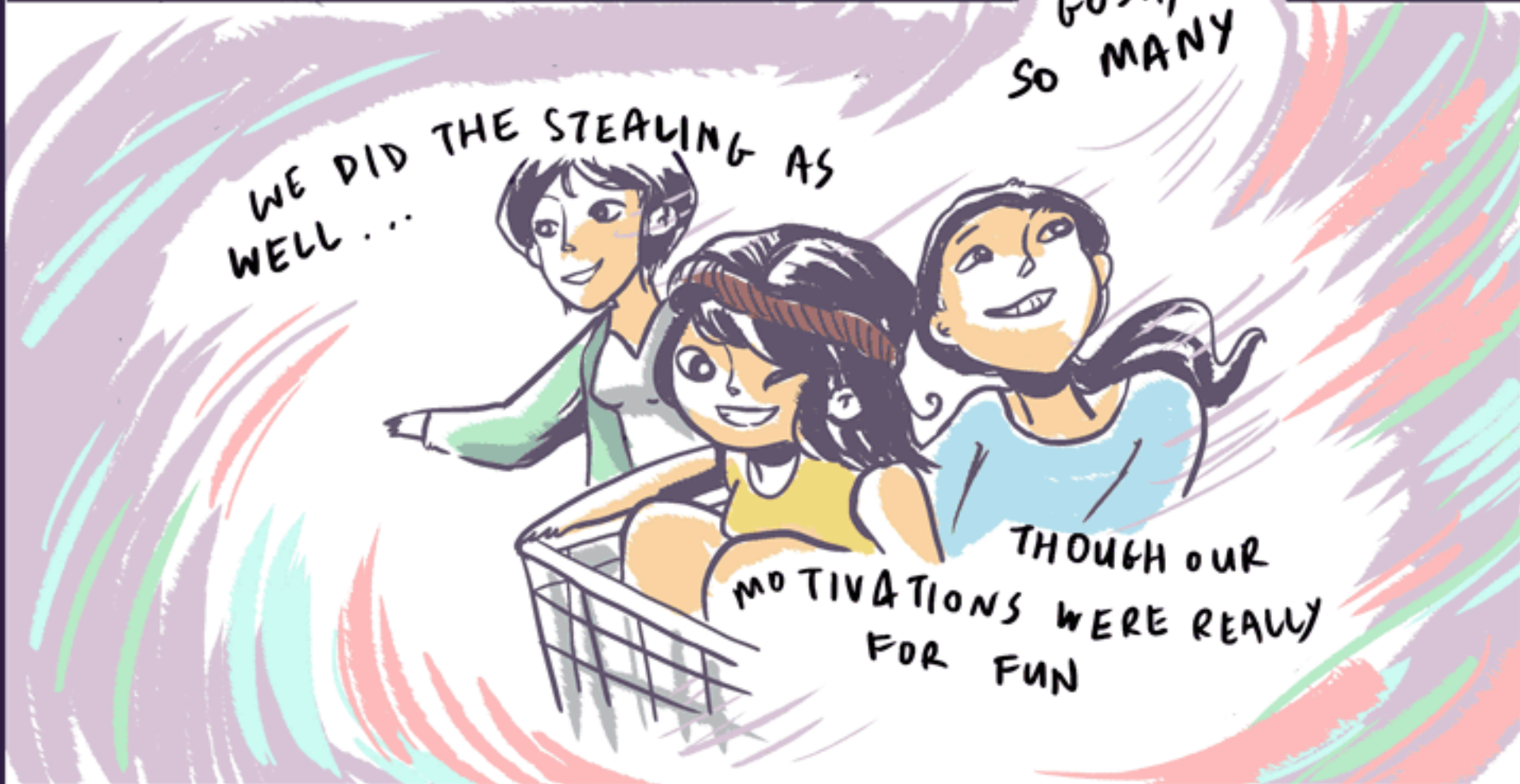
POINT IS THAT THESE THINGS FOLLOW YOU SINCE YOU BEGIN



HOW ABOUT YOU, RENA? I'M SURE YOU HAVE A LOT OF STORIES



OH GOSH, SO MANY



WE DID THE STEALING AS WELL ...

THOUGH OUR MOTIVATIONS WERE REALLY FOR FUN

WE WERE TAKING SO MANY THINGS AND SO BLATANTLY AS WELL

IT TOOK JUST ONE SMALL TEDDY BEAR TO GET US CAUGHT



ALL OF IT IN ONE DAY

WHEN WE GOT CAUGHT

I DIDN'T FEEL BAD OR SORRY OR SCARED— I JUST FELT NUMB. THEY GOT THE SHOP OWNERS TO VERIFY THEIR THINGS. THEY ALSO WANTED TO IDENTIFY A MASTERMIND



IT WAS SO MUCH STUFF



MY FATHER BAILED ME OUT AND I EXPECTED HIM TO BE MAD... BUT HE SENT ME HOME WITHOUT A WORD.

COURT

GIRL'S HOME

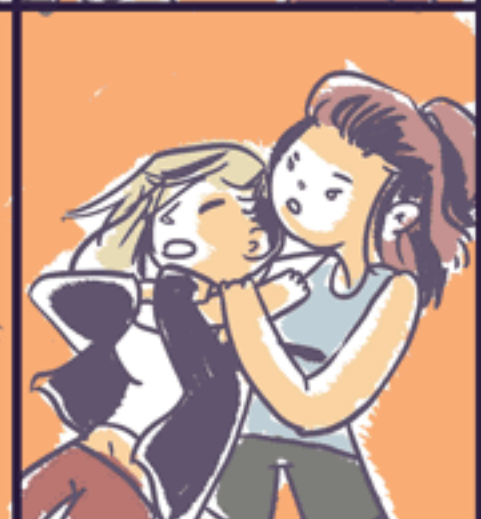
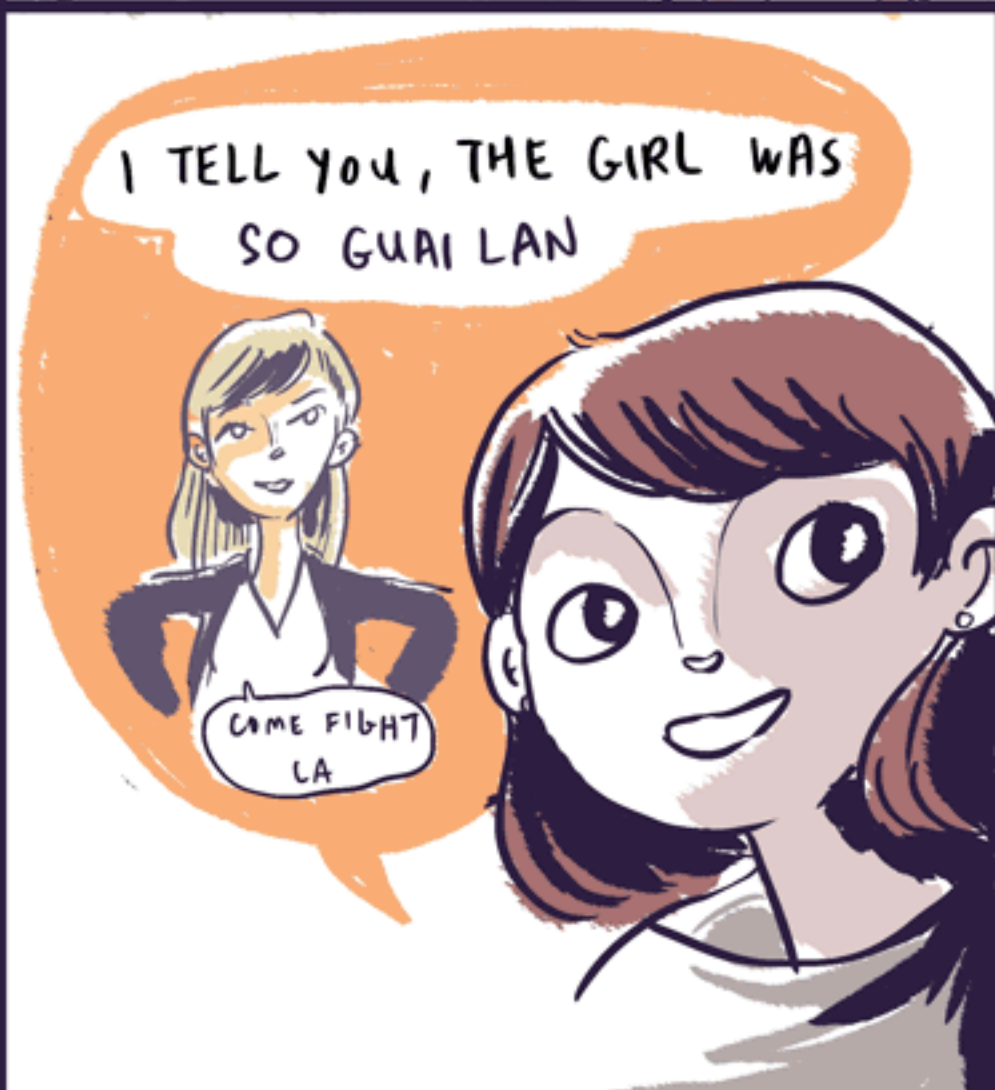
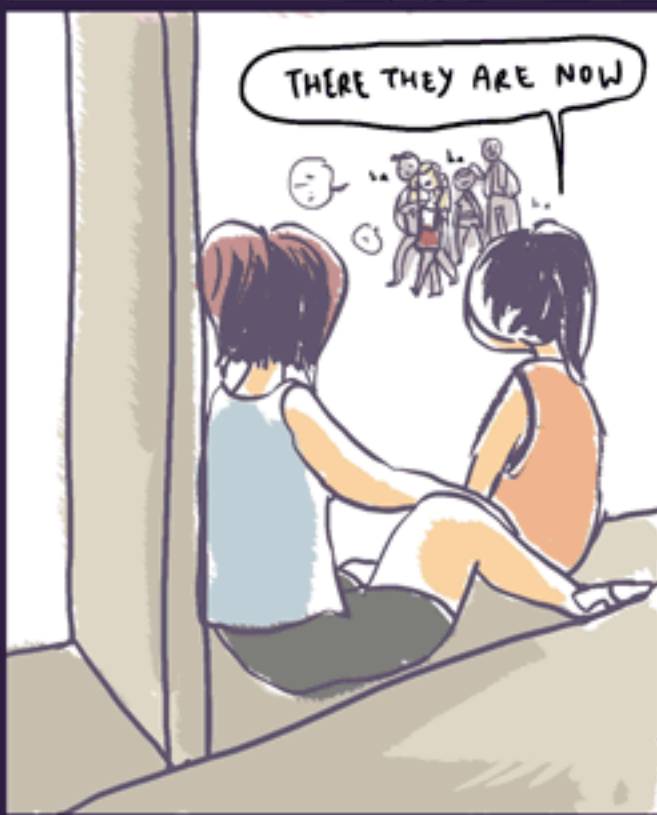
WE ALL SAID WE ALL STOLE TOGETHER

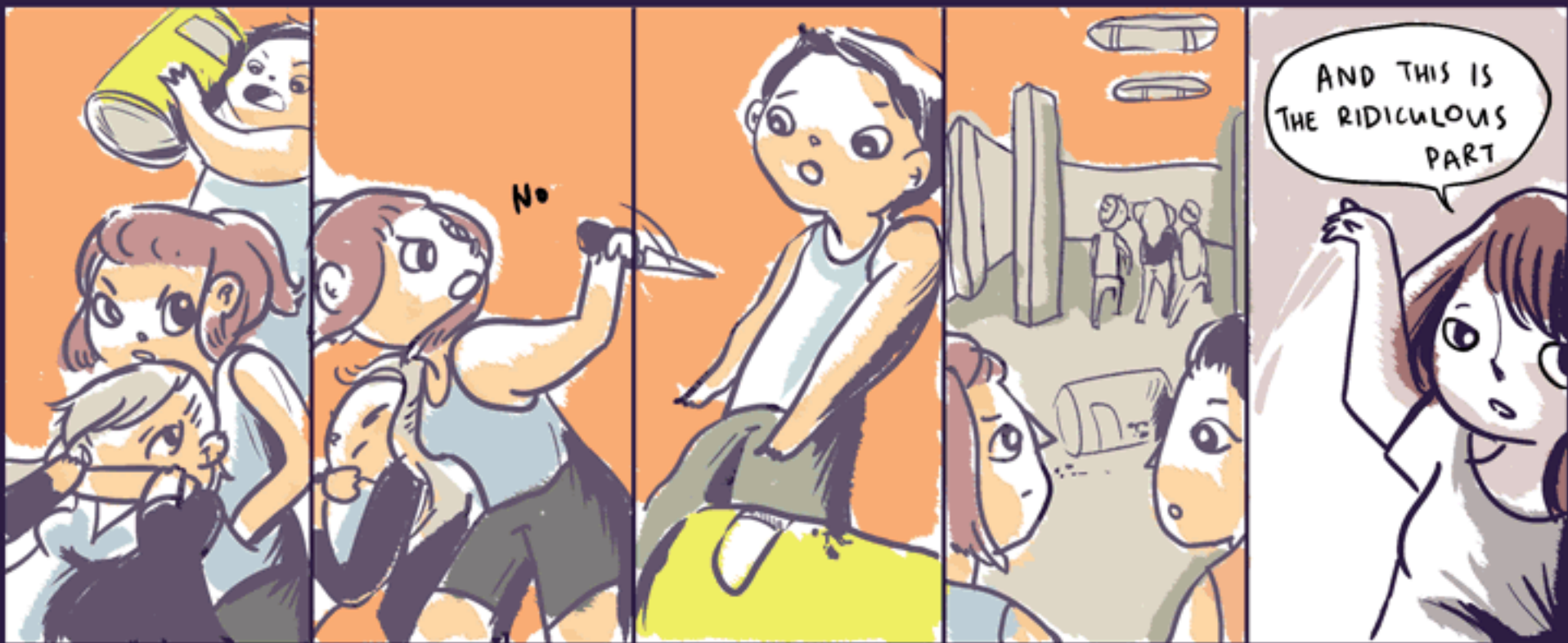
BUT WHAT GOT TO ME WAS WHEN THEY CALLED MY DAD, AND I JUST CONFESSED TO BEING THE ONE WHO STARTED IT ALL.

I NEVER STOLE AGAIN AFTER THIS.

HE WAS DISAPPOINTED, AND THAT AFFECTED ME MORE THAN ANY BEATING.



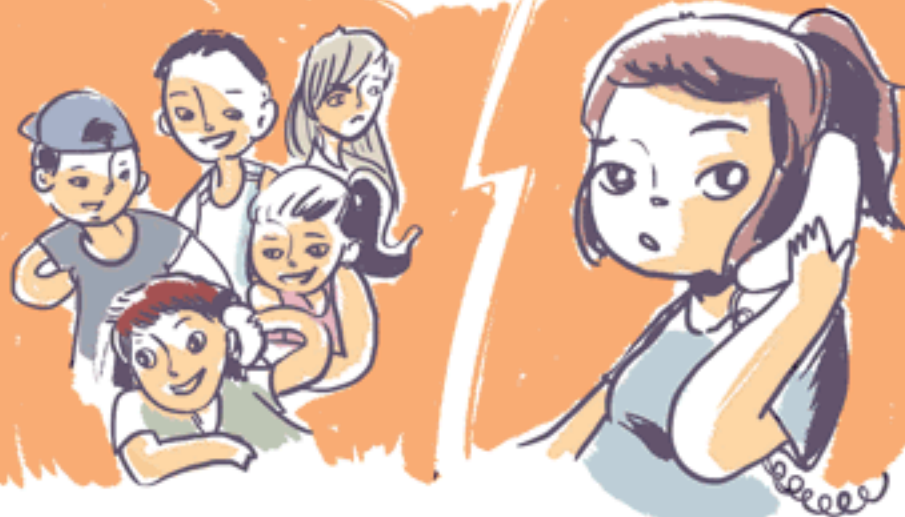




AND SHE GAVE THEM MY NUMBER



AND ASKED TO CALL ME DAJIE OR
SOME BULLSHIT



BUT PROBABLY THE MOST
RECKLESS THING I HAVE
DONE WAS TO SO EASILY
TRY TO TAKE MY LIFE.



I REMEMBER THAT



WHY DO YOU
THINK IT WAS
STUPID?

IF YOU DIDN'T SPEAK SENSE INTO ME THAT DAY
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WHAT I SHOULD
HAVE DONE. AT JUST THAT POINT OF MY LIFE..

...
PUTTING EVERYTHING
ON MYSELF

AND FEELING
ALONE..

THOUGH IN FACT I AM
NOT. I REMEMBER THAT
ONE THING YOU SAID
TO ME THAT WOKE
ME UP - THAT LEAVING
MY DAD THIS WAY WOULD
CRUSH HIM - AND I CAN'T LET
THIS HAPPEN BECAUSE IN THIS WORLD
HE IS THE PERSON I LOVE MOST.



NOW THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT RECKLESS THINGS YOU HAVE DONE,

HOW ABOUT RECKLESS RELATIONSHIPS YOU'VE HAD?

OH, THE VIETNAM ONE

THAT WAS SO IMPULSIVE

WHAT WAS IT?

I HAD THIS JOB AT A DEPARTMENTAL STORE. THERE WAS A MUTUAL AFFECTION AND WE WERE TOGETHER

AWHILE - BUT I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH.



I REMEMBER THOUGH - SINCE I KNEW ABOUT THIS EVENT. IT WAS THIS VIETNAMESE WOMAN WHO WAS BOUGHT BY A SINGAPOREAN MAN TO BE HIS WIFE, AND YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH HER.

SO I ASKED YOU THE SIMPLE QUESTION - CAN YOU HANDLE THE HUSBAND? SINCE HE BOUGHT HER FROM OVERSEAS HE CAN DO A LOT OF HARM TO YOU.

HOW SERIOUS COULD YOU BE WITHOUT A STABLE JOB? I REMEMBER TELLING YOU IT WAS DANGEROUS AND KEPT NAGGING AT YOU.

NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT! ACTUALLY I DID WHATEVER SHE SAID, JUST TO MAKE HER FEEL GOOD. SHE DIDN'T MEAN IT AND I DIDN'T TAKE HER SERIOUSLY. SHE OFTEN DIDN'T COME TO WORK AND SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING BACK TO VIETNAM. I THINK THEY SAUKED HER AND I NEVER SAW HER AT WORK AGAIN.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING NOW - THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY NEWS.



MY MOST RECKLESS
RELATIONSHIP WAS
WITH A GUY WHO
WAS VIOLENT



I WAS IN IT AND I WAS WITH A BOYFRIEND
WHO WAS REALLY NICE



BUT VERY POSSESSIVE

HE WAS JUST REALLY
INSENSITIVE ABOUT A
LOT OF THINGS,
AND I
WANTED
TO BREAK
IT OFF.



HEY

THERE WAS THIS MALAYSIAN
GUY, AM WHO WORKED
OPPOSITE ME, ALWAYS CAME
INTO THE SHOP TO DISTURB ME,
PULL MY HAIR KIND OF THING.
SO I TRIED TO USE HIM TO
BREAK UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND.

MY BOYFRIEND WAS BECOMING
MORE AND MORE POSSESSIVE,
LIKE NOT GOING TO SCHOOL
AND WAITING OUTSIDE
MY CLASSROOM FOR ME,
AND HE GOT EXPELLED
AS WELL.



THE RELIANCE ON ME
WAS TOO MUCH,
SO I BROKE UP WITH
HIM AND IN THE END
GOT TOGETHER WITH AM.



BUT THINGS STARTED
TO TAKE A TURN FOR
THE WORSE TOO



IT'S BEEN BUSY
WITH WORK
RECENTLY I
MIGHT HAVE
TO OT

IF YOU
OT I'LL
BEAT UP
YOUR
BOSS



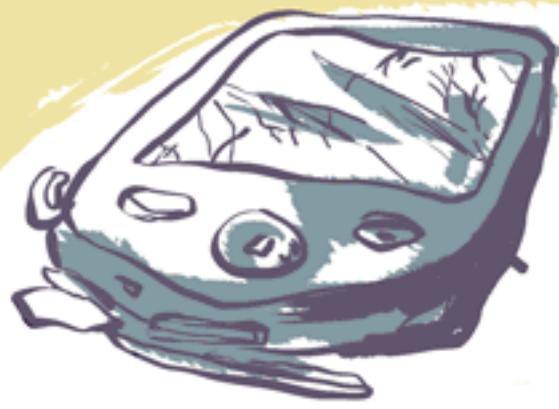
WHAT!!

IT WAS
A JOKE!





SLOWLY
I
STARTED
TO
REALIZE
WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON HE WAS



IN A FIT OF FRUSTRATION
ONCE HE JUST SMASHED
HIS NEW PHONE LIKE THAT



OR HE'D FORCE ME TO EAT
SUPPER AND I USUALLY DON'T-
HE'D THROW A TANTRUM.. AND
THE FOOD AS WELL



WE QUARRELED A LOT AND
HE ALWAYS THREATENED TO
HURT HIMSELF



WHEN I INITIATED A
BREAKUP HE THREATENED TO
JUMP OFF THE BUILDING

HE WOULDN'T HURT HIMSELF
BUT HE'D PUNCH HIMSELF
UNTIL HIS FACE WAS SWOLLEN.



ONE NIGHT HE TRIED TO TAKE ME OUT OF IT.
HANG OUT AT HIS PLACE, BUT INSTEAD
HE TRIED TO RAPE ME AND TO MAKE ME
PREGNANT SO THAT I WOULD BE WITH HIM.



HOW LONG DID
THIS LAST FOR?

6 MONTHS

IT WAS REALLY TOO MUCH, LIKE
ONCE HE PUT A CAMERA OUTSIDE
MY DOOR. I FINALLY GOT OUT OF IT
THROUGH AVOIDING HIM,
GOING HOME AT 3AM,
NOT ALLOWING HIM
TO SEE ME. WITH
NO WAY TO CONTACT
IT JUST STOPPED.



WELL MY EX NEVER SAID
SHE WANTED TO DIE SO MAYBE
I'M NOT SO IMPORTANT TO HER



DO YOU SEE YOURSELVES STAYING WITH YOUR PARENTS?
OR HAVE YOU GUYS THOUGHT OF MOVING OUT TO HAVE YOUR OWN FREEDOM?



YEAH, UNTIL I GET MARRIED- OR IF FOR FREEDOM, COST IS THE ONLY DETERRENCE TO MOVING OUT.



I'LL PROBABLY LIVE WITH THEM UNTIL I FIND MY OTHER HALF. MY PLAN IS TO BUY A HOUSE AND RENT IT OUT WHILE I STAY WITH THEM AS A MODE OF INCOME.



I ALREADY LIVE WITH MY HUSBAND - THOUGH THERE ARE SOME THINGS WHEN YOU MOVE OUT THAT YOU WON'T BE USED TO, NO PARENTS TO WASH AND DRY YOUR CLOTHES



YEAH, I DID TELL MY MOTHER THAT I HAD THE INTENTION TO MOVE OUT, BUT AFTER CALCULATING I FIND THAT IT'S NOT WORTH IT. AT LEAST AT HOME THERE'S A MAID TO DO CHORES



WHAT OTHER THINGS IN THE FUTURE DO YOU WANT TO DO?



I PLAN TO BE AN ENTREPRENEUR, THOUGH I MUST WORK TO GET CAPITAL FIRST. I'VE THOUGHT OF OPENING A CAFE.



SAME ACTUALLY - I'VE WORKED AT A CAFE PREVIOUSLY FOR A LONG TIME SO I KNOW HOW MANAGEMENT WORKS AND FOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HAPPY THING FOR ME. I LOVE CAFES TOO, WITH THAT FEELING OF RELAXATION ONE GETS JUST BY SITTING IN ONE



SO AT WHAT AGE IS A GOOD AGE TO START A BUSINESS?



IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN CAPITAL, ANY TIME IS ALRIGHT, BUT POSSIBLY BELOW 35, BECAUSE IT'S THE GOLDEN PERIOD. YOU GO OUT AND DO IT, MAKE EVERY PROFIT AND LOSS. BECAUSE AFTER THIS AGE, YOU'RE PRETTY SETTLED WITH YOUR LIFE AND WHATEVER YOU ARE DOING. YOU JUST STEP BACK AND STAY IN YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

HOW ABOUT YOU, TUSTINE?



I WANT TO SELL NOODLES



BECAUSE I LIKE NOODLES



REALLY THOUGH, STARTING IN THE FOOD COURT EVEN



SO LATE THAT YOU GUYS DREAM OF CAFE, BUT JUSTINE DREAMS OF COFFEESHOP



IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE TO SEE WHICH CAFE HAS POTENTIAL AND ASK THEM FOR FRANCHISING. FROM THERE YOU TAKE THEIR IDEA, SUPPLIERS, AND PUT THEM IN ANOTHER BRANDING THOUGH YOU HAVE TO GIVE THEM COMMISSION AND PAY FOR THE SUPPLIES.



IT'S USING THEIR REPUTATION AND YOU KNOW THE SHOP WILL DEFINITELY MAKE MONEY, THEN MOSTLY DEPENDING ON THE SHOP'S LOCATION. OPENING A NOODLES SHOP IS EASIER TOO.

YES, BEING A HAWKER IS DEFINITELY LESS COSTLY.

AND YOU COULD ALSO OPEN YOUR OWN PLACE

OR YOU COULD BUY A COFFEESHOP AND BE THE BOSS



ANYWAY GIRLS, THANK YOU FOR SHARING



NO PROBLEM AT ALL. NOW WE GOT TO SHARE ALL THESE



THE SCHOOL NEVER DID ASK

