I'm a Terminal Cancer Patient

BUT I'M FINE

(TRUE) STORY AND ART BY

Hilnama

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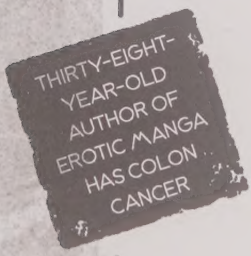
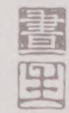
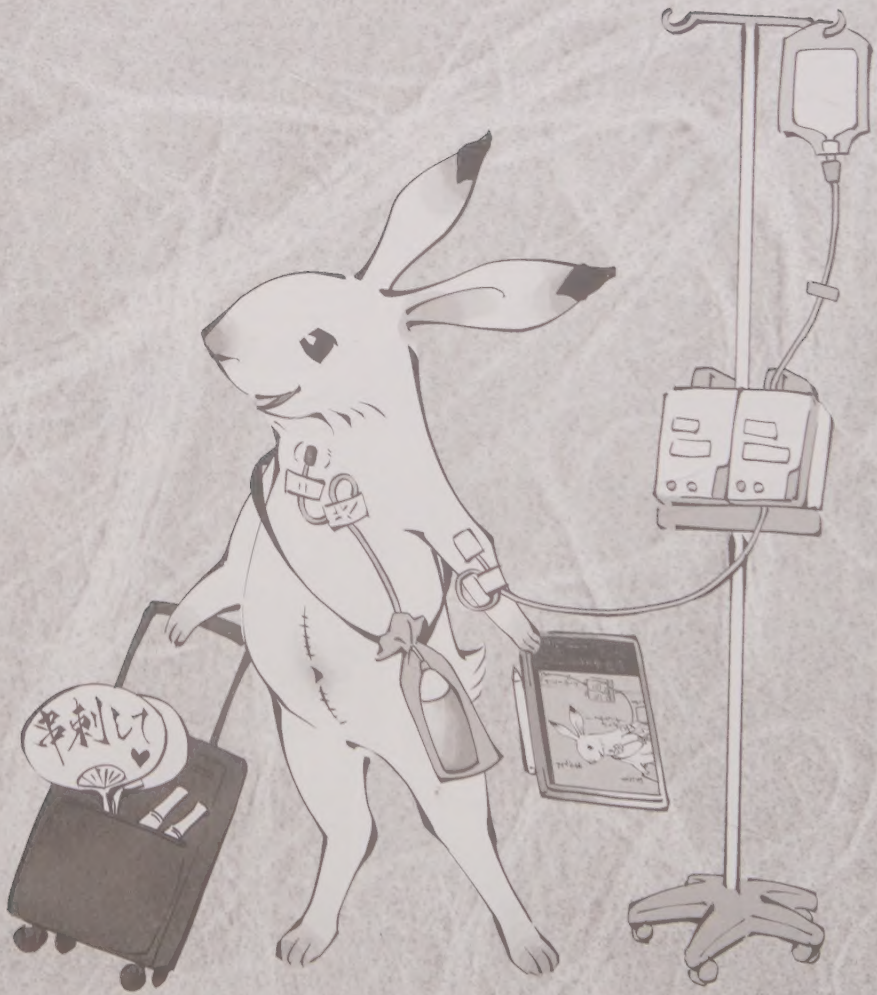




(TRUE) STORY AND ART BY

Hilnama

hilnama presents.


串刺して♥

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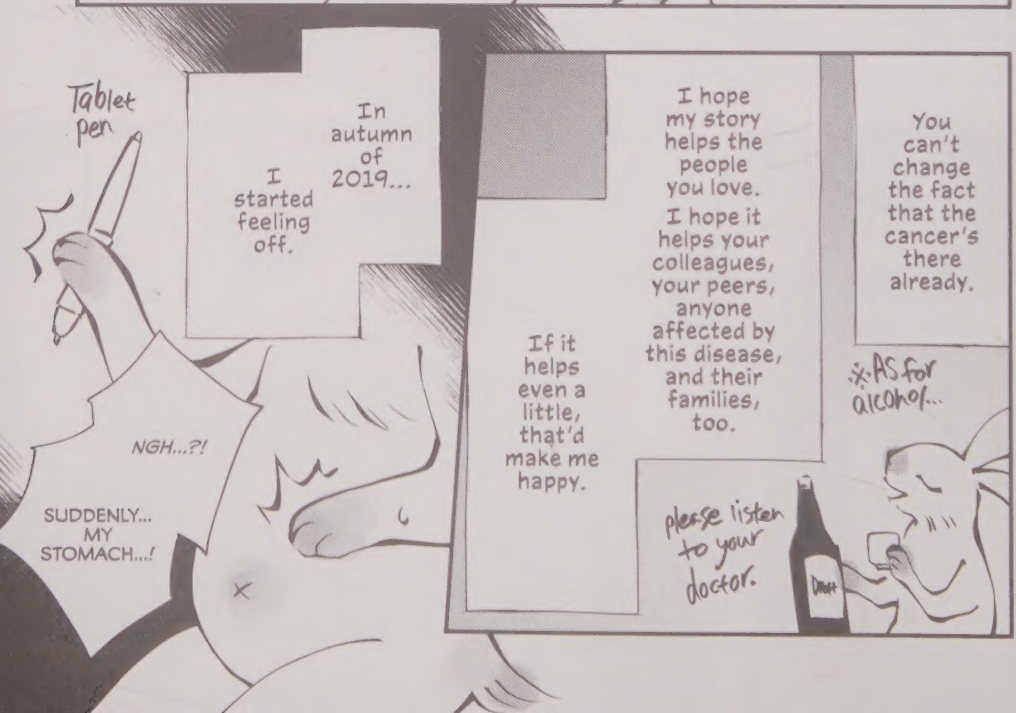
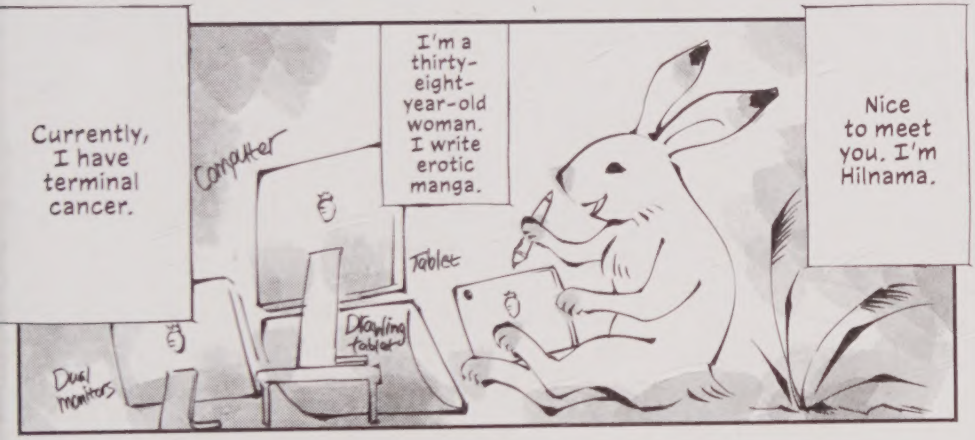
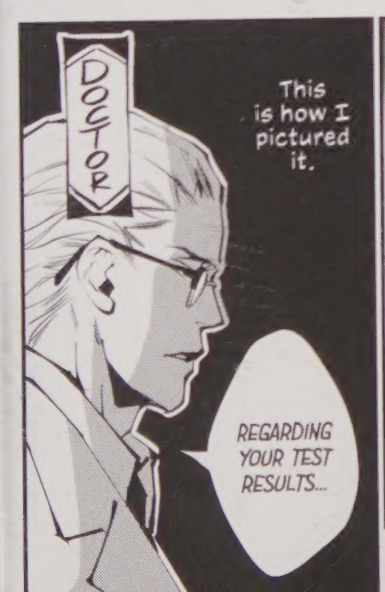
Or something like that.
SURELY THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE!
NO...
I don't understand!
WITH LUCK, YOU PROBABLY HAVE ■■ YEARS...
WAAAH!
IT IS STAGE ○○.
WE FOUND CANCER IN YOUR X X.

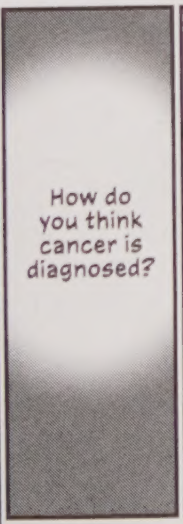
IT WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT...
In reality, there are no dramatic announcements like that.
My mind didn't go blank either.
It's actually pretty boring.
BEER


Tablet pen
In autumn of 2019...
I started feeling off.
NGH...?!
SUDDENLY... MY STOMACH...!
If it helps even a little, that'd make me happy.
I hope my story helps the people you love.
I hope it helps your colleagues, your peers, anyone affected by this disease, and their families, too.
please listen to your doctor.
You can't change the fact that the cancer's there already.
※AS for alcohol...

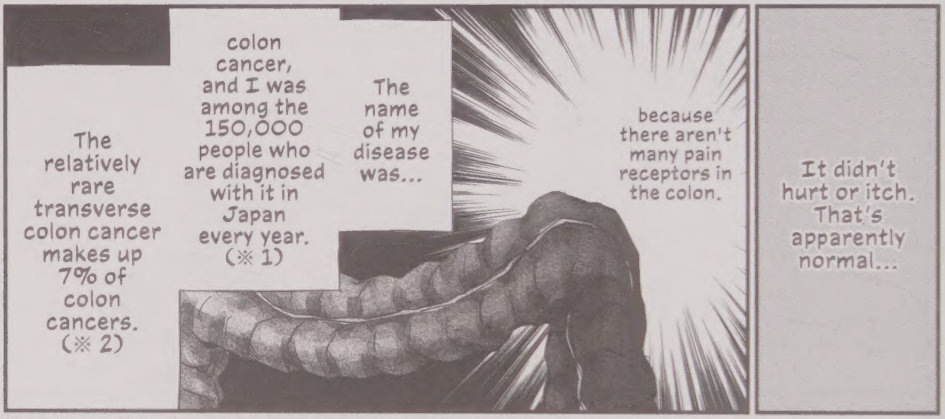
The Story of how I thought I had a Stomachache when I went to the hospital, but it was Terminal Cancer.



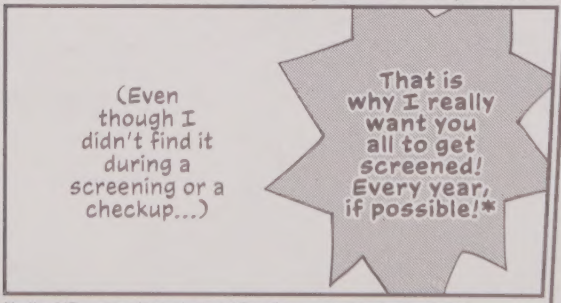




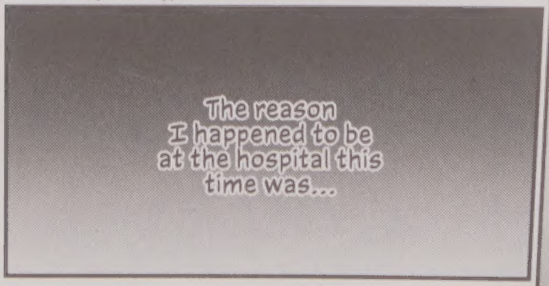
It was a subjective symptom of terminal colon cancer.

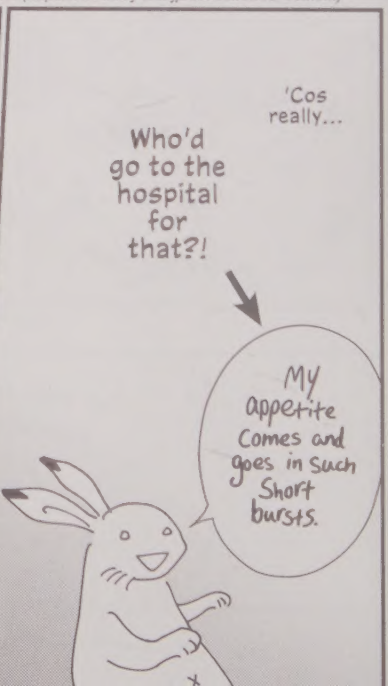


※ 1 Reference: National Cancer Center Information Service (https://ganjoho.jp/public/cancer/colon/)
※ 2 Reference: Japanese Red Cross Society Ise Red Cross Hospital's official site (http://www.ise.jrc.or.jp/cancer/ca06-06.html)

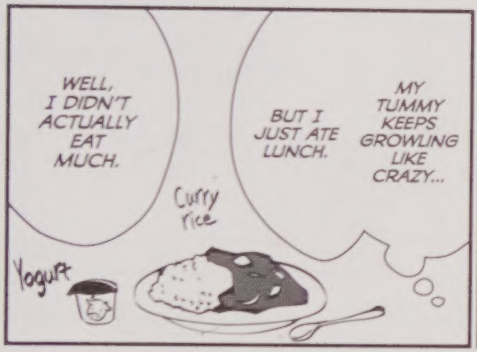


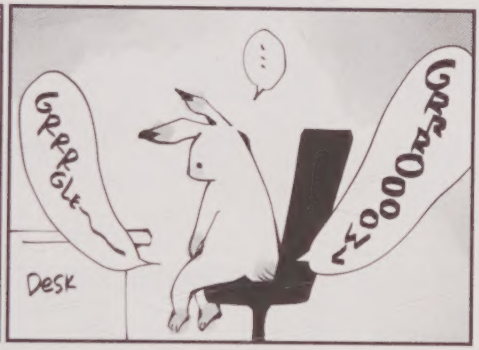
*In the US, screenings start at 45 and are not repeated annually. Three to ten years is typical between tests.





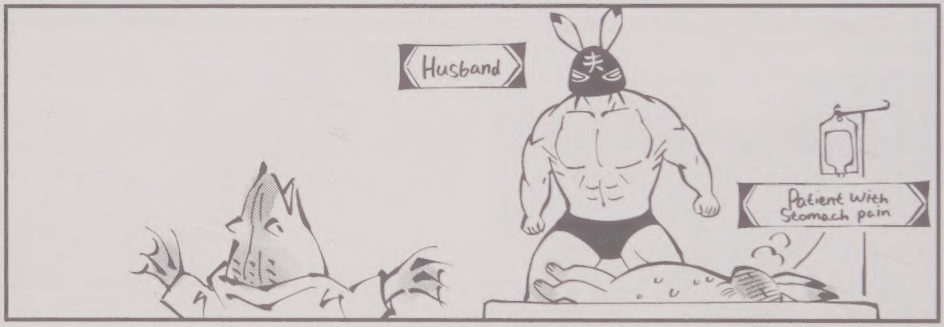
GETS HUNGRY...
MY TUMMY...

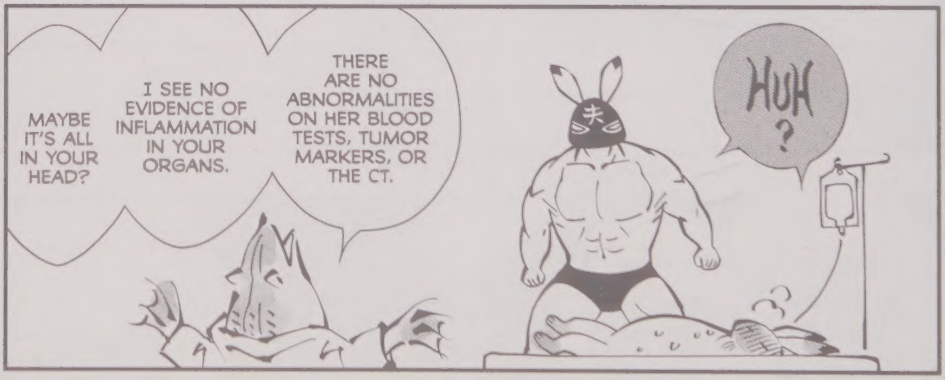

WELL, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY EAT MUCH.
BUT I JUST ATE LUNCH.
MY TUMMY KEEPS GROWLING LIKE CRAZY...
Curry rice
Yogurt

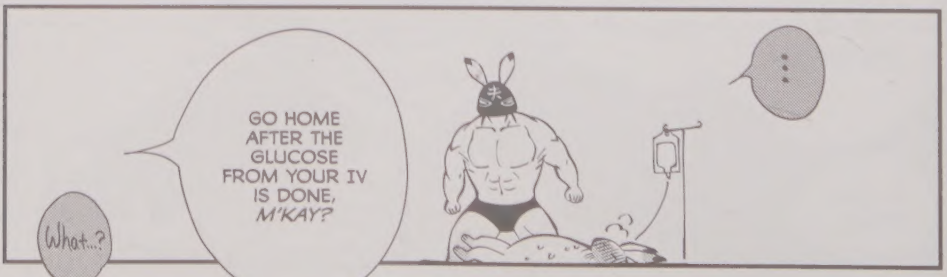

GRRRGLE...
GRRROOOO...
Desk

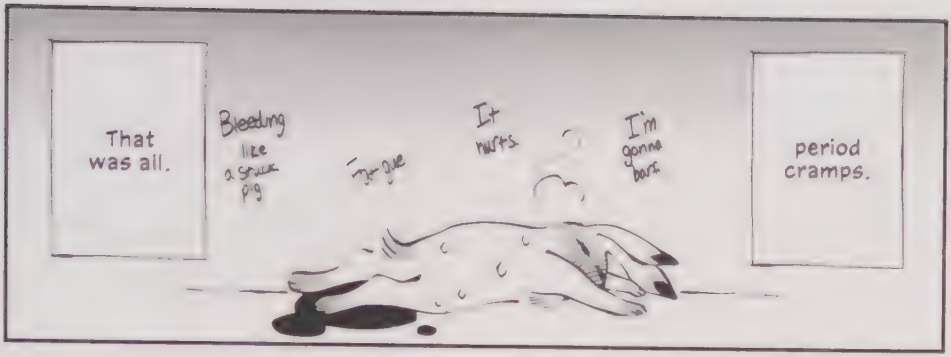
GUESS I'M OOOLD...
But it was something more serious.
MY TUMMY KEEPS GROWLING ALL DAY LONG.
GRRROOO...
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS FEEL EMPTY.
HMM. LATELY, I CAN ONLY EAT ABOUT HALF OF WHAT I USED TO...

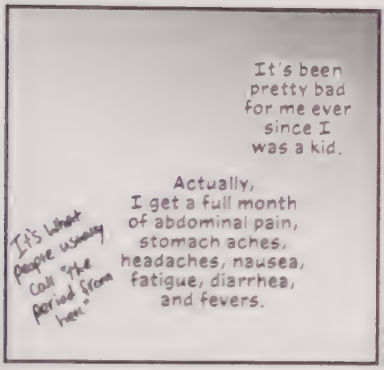
Quack Doctor
NO ABNORMALITIES, M'KAY?

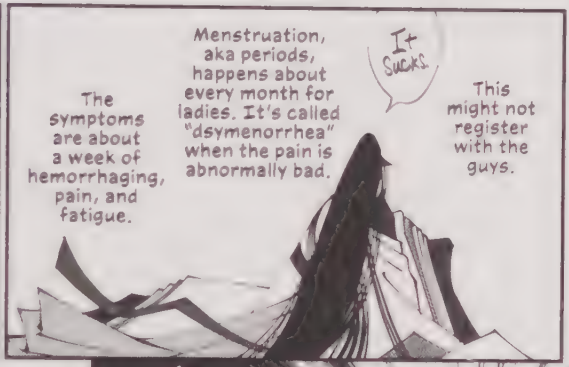

Husband
Patient With Stomach pain

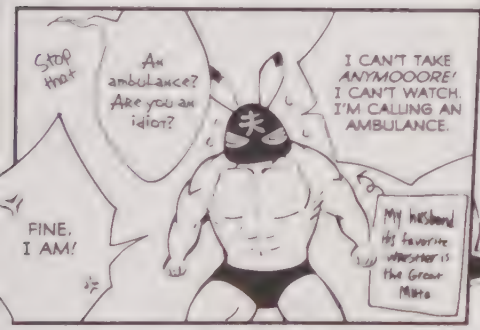

MAYBE IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD?
I SEE NO EVIDENCE OF INFLAMMATION IN YOUR ORGANS.
THERE ARE NO ABNORMALITIES ON HER BLOOD TESTS, TUMOR MARKERS, OR THE CT.
HUH?


What...?
GO HOME AFTER THE GLUCOSE FROM YOUR IV IS DONE, M'KAY?
...

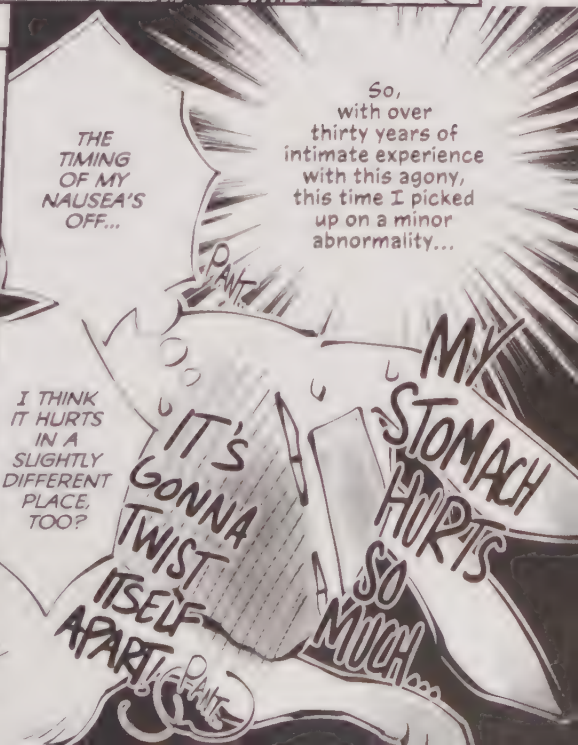


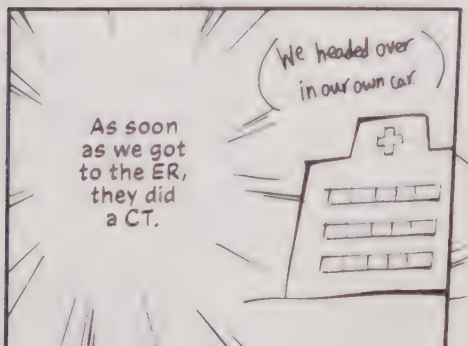


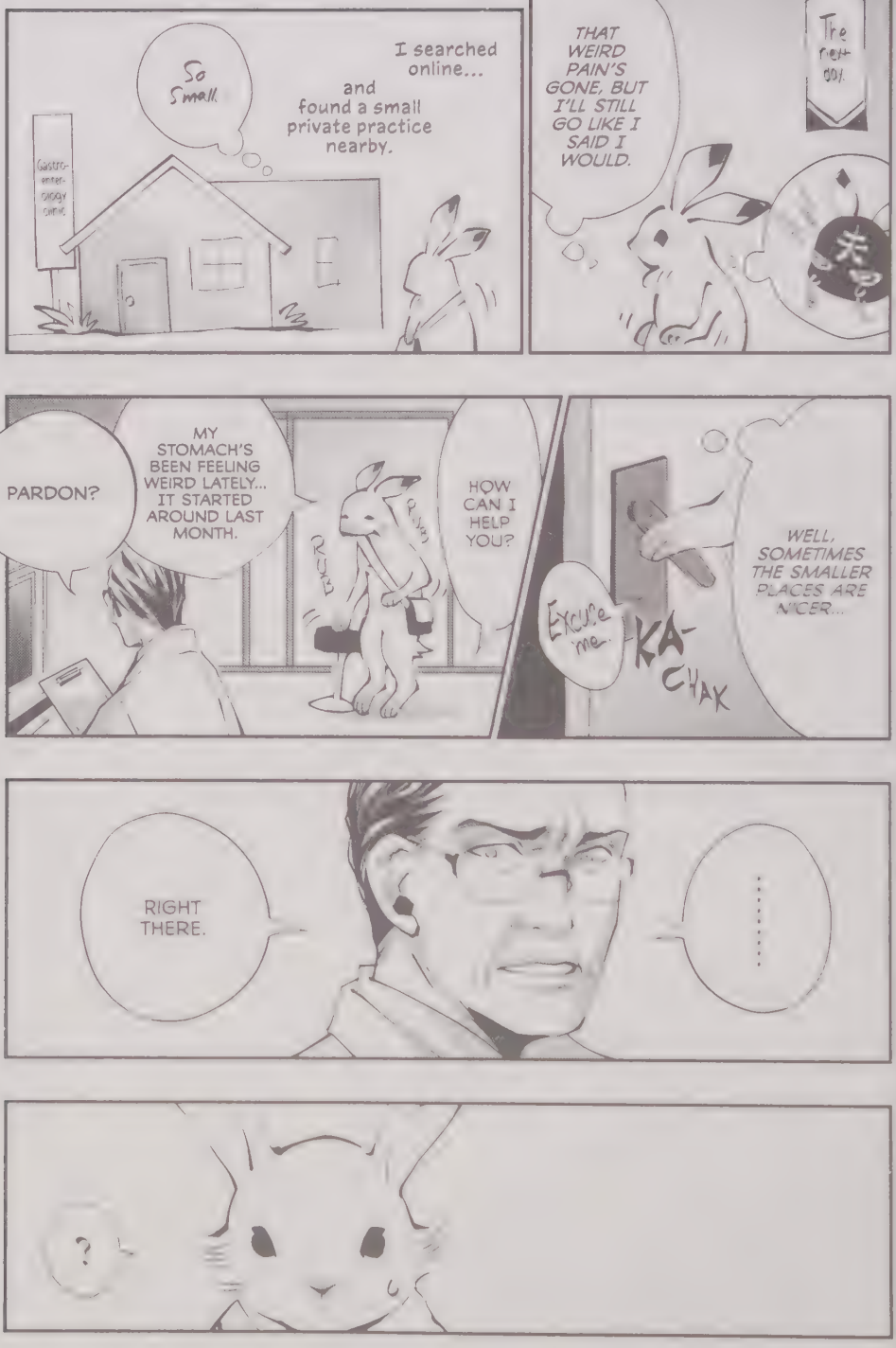


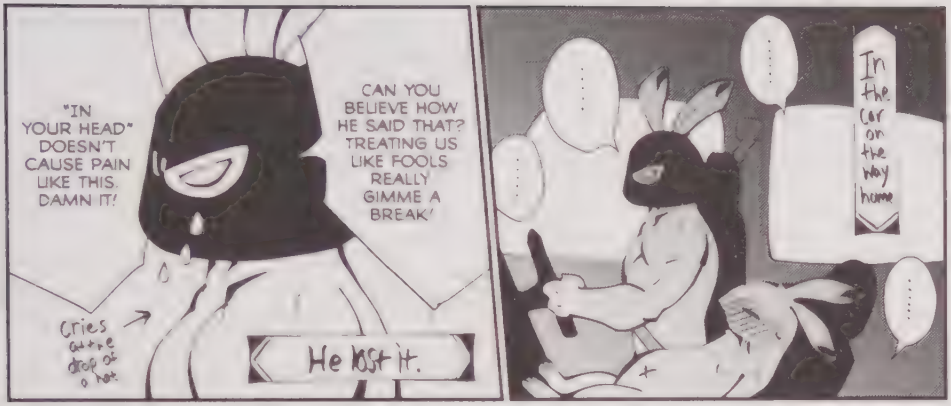


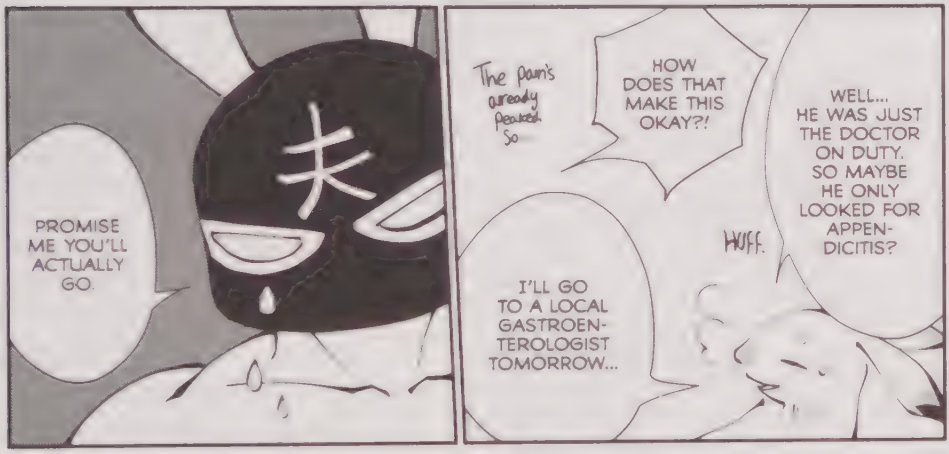
Mask Husband





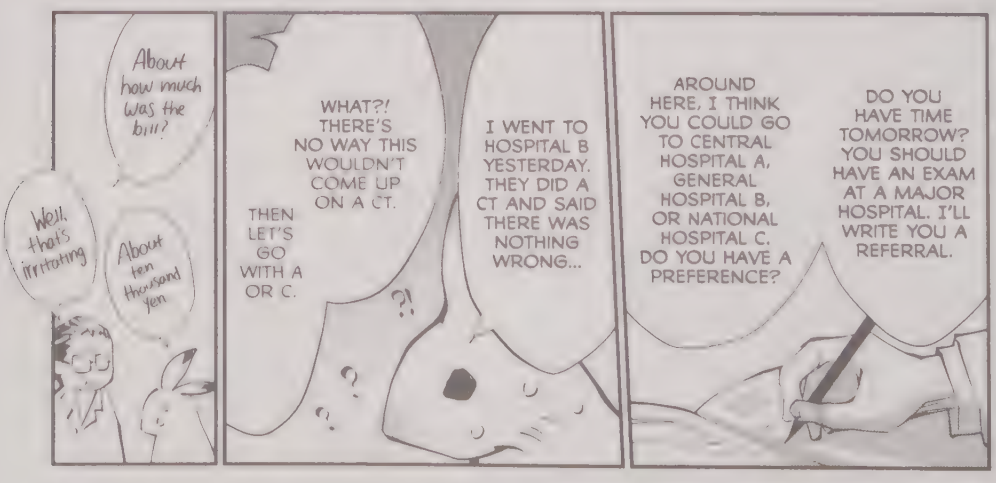

So small.
I searched online...
and found a small private practice nearby.
Gastro-enter-ology clinic
THAT WEIRD PAIN'S GONE, BUT I'LL STILL GO LIKE I SAID I WOULD.
The next day.
PARDON?
MY STOMACH'S BEEN FEELING WEIRD LATELY... IT STARTED AROUND LAST MONTH.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
Excuse me
KA-CHAK
WELL, SOMETIMES THE SMALLER PLACES ARE NICER...
RIGHT THERE.
.....
?


"IN YOUR HEAD" DOESN'T CAUSE PAIN LIKE THIS. DAMN IT!
CAN YOU BELIEVE HOW HE SAID THAT? TREATING US LIKE FOOLS REALLY GIMME A BREAK!
Cries out the drop of a hat.
He lost it.
In the car on the way home
.....
.....
.....

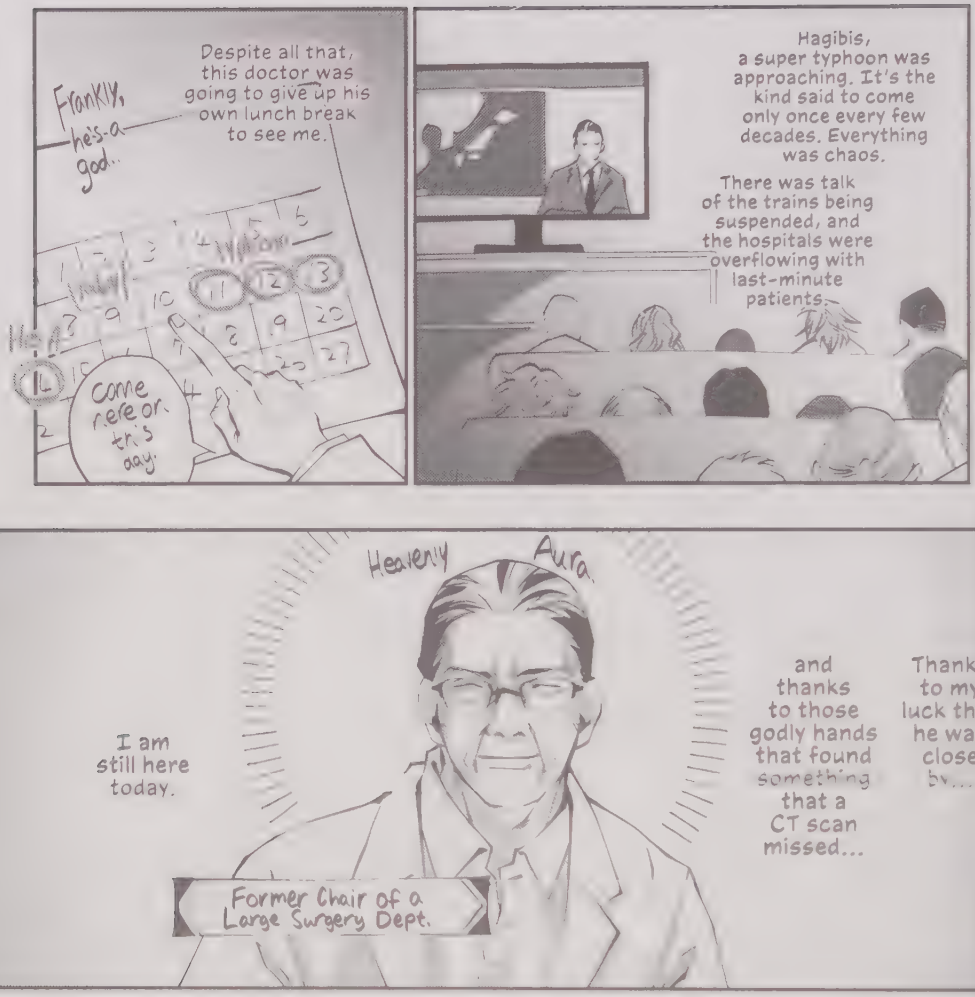

PROMISE ME YOU'LL ACTUALLY GO.
The pain's already passed. So
HOW DOES THAT MAKE THIS OKAY?!
WELL... HE WAS JUST THE DOCTOR ON DUTY. SO MAYBE HE ONLY LOOKED FOR APPEN-DICITIS?
HUFF.
I'LL GO TO A LOCAL GASTROEN-TEROLOGIST TOMORROW...

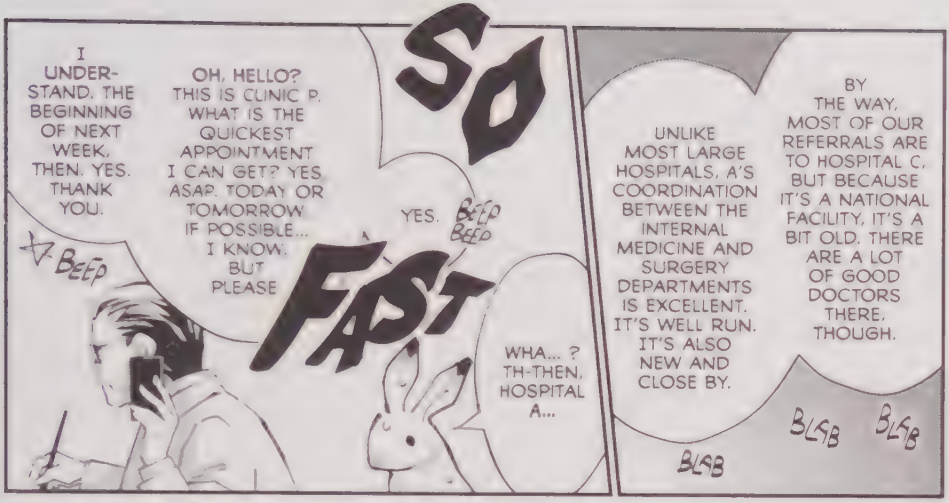
EVEN IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL TOMORROW, *PROOOMISE* ME. GO! TOMORROW!
"THE PAIN'S GONE, AND THAT'S ANNOYING, SO IT'S FINE—!"
PROMISE ME NOW.
O...OKAY, ALREADY..
LOOOO
O'OM

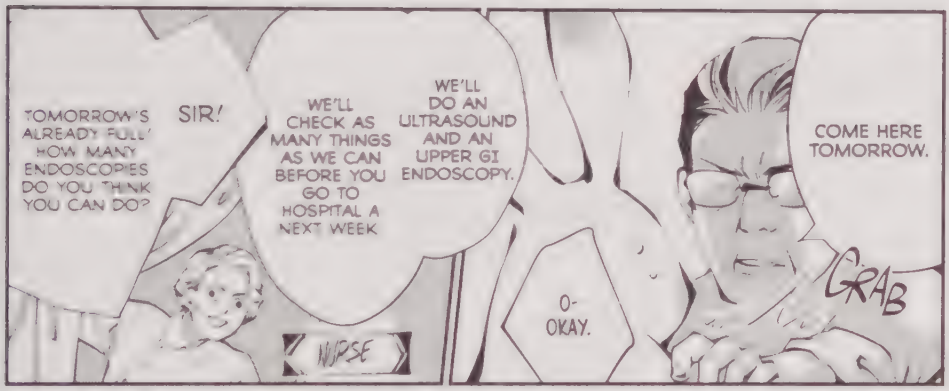
*The membrane holding your organs in place.

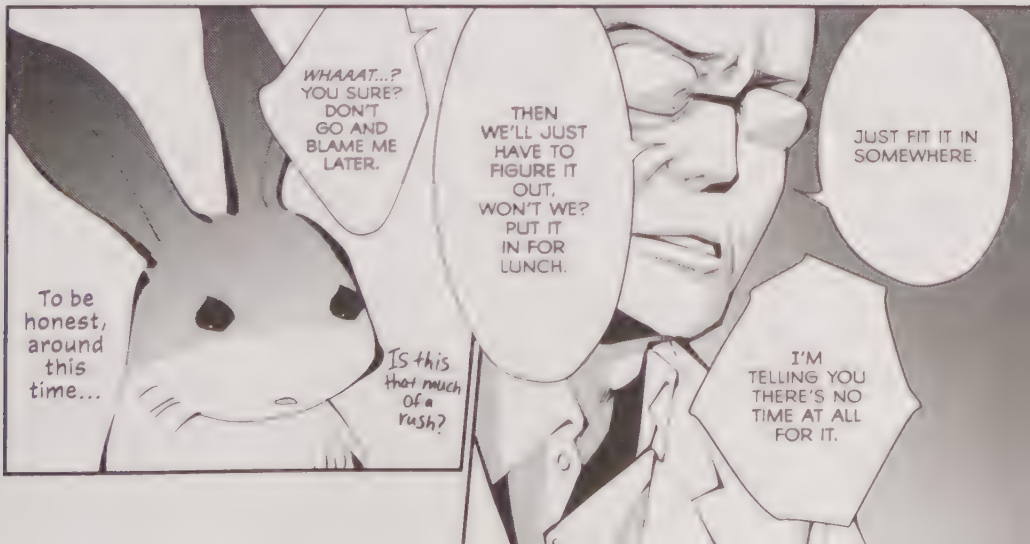


THAT'S NOT YOUR STOMACH.
THAT AREA THERE-- WHERE YOU'RE RUBBING.
GPPRR
WHAT??? ?????
WELL, THAT'S FINE FOR NOW. COULD I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK?
fusion
WHA... WHAT...???
PLEASE BE QUIET.
THAT FEELS FINE. IT HURTS LOWER AND--
BUT DIDN'T YOU JUST ASK ME A QUESTION?
HMM...
OKAY.
HERE? OR IS IT HERE...?
PUSH
PUSH
So different from yesterday
OKAY, THEN, EXCUSE ME.


Frankly, he's a god..
Despite all that, this doctor was going to give up his own lunch break to see me.
Come here on this day.
Hagibis, a super typhoon was approaching. It's the kind said to come only once every few decades. Everything was chaos.
There was talk of the trains being suspended, and the hospitals were overflowing with last-minute patients.
Heavenly Aura
I am still here today.
Former Chair of a Large Surgery Dept.
and thanks to those godly hands that found something that a CT scan missed...
Thanks to my luck that he was close by...
That's how things stood then.
Let's do all the tests we can today, okay?
Before your endoscopy, where we look at your digestive system, we have to do a blood test
I won't ever go there again
As if.
It was also thanks to the first hospital sending me home that I met the Hands of God!


I UNDERSTAND. THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK, THEN. YES. THANK YOU.
BEEP
OH, HELLO? THIS IS CLINIC P. WHAT IS THE QUICKEST APPOINTMENT I CAN GET? YES. ASAP. TODAY OR TOMORROW IF POSSIBLE... I KNOW. BUT PLEASE
SO
FAST
YES.
BEEP BEEP
WHA... ? TH-THEN, HOSPITAL A...
UNLIKE MOST LARGE HOSPITALS, A'S COORDINATION BETWEEN THE INTERNAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY DEPARTMENTS IS EXCELLENT. IT'S WELL RUN. IT'S ALSO NEW AND CLOSE BY.
BLAB
BY THE WAY, MOST OF OUR REFERRALS ARE TO HOSPITAL C, BUT BECAUSE IT'S A NATIONAL FACILITY, IT'S A BIT OLD. THERE ARE A LOT OF GOOD DOCTORS THERE, THOUGH.
BLAB BLAB


TOMORROW'S ALREADY FULL! HOW MANY ENDOSCOPIES DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO?
SIR!
WE'LL CHECK AS MANY THINGS AS WE CAN BEFORE YOU GO TO HOSPITAL A NEXT WEEK
WE'LL DO AN ULTRASOUND AND AN UPPER GI ENDOSCOPY.
NURSE
O-OKAY.
COME HERE TOMORROW.
GRAB


To be honest, around this time...
WHAAAT...? YOU SURE? DON'T GO AND BLAME ME LATER.
Is this that much of a rush?
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE IT OUT, WON'T WE? PUT IT IN FOR LUNCH.
JUST FIT IT IN SOMEWHERE.
I'M TELLING YOU THERE'S NO TIME AT ALL FOR IT.

There were about eighty days until I start the drug treatments.

Four hospitals. Seven attending physicians. Around fourteen more doctors.

Countless nurses. Countless pharmacists. So many occupational therapists, personal care assistants, dieticians...

and also...

*One hundred yen is about equal to one dollar

THAT'S WHAT IT TOOK.

NOW I'LL FILL YOU IN ON THE *FUUULL* STORY.

I don't drink too much alcohol I'm on the thin side, prefer light seasonings, and weight train every now and then.

I don't smoke, but I still got cancer.

LET ME EMPHASIZE THREE THINGS NOW.

examination fees and tests totaling two hundred thousand yen.

One million, three hundred thousand yen for surgery, three hundred thousand yen for my hospital stay...

and one hundred thousand yen a month for anti-cancer drugs every month, scheduled for two years.

(※ The amount you actually pay is heavily reduced by the High-Cost Medical Expense Benefit.)

1. GET SCREENED EVEN IF YOU'RE YOUNG!

2. GET GOOD INSURANCE EVEN IF YOU'RE YOUNG!

3. TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE UNDERGOING TREATMENT...

DO THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES!!! (PARTICULARLY HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING AND THE COOKING!)

Numbness of hands and feet are a common side effect I'll talk about that later.

Example of a meal six months after surgery (now)

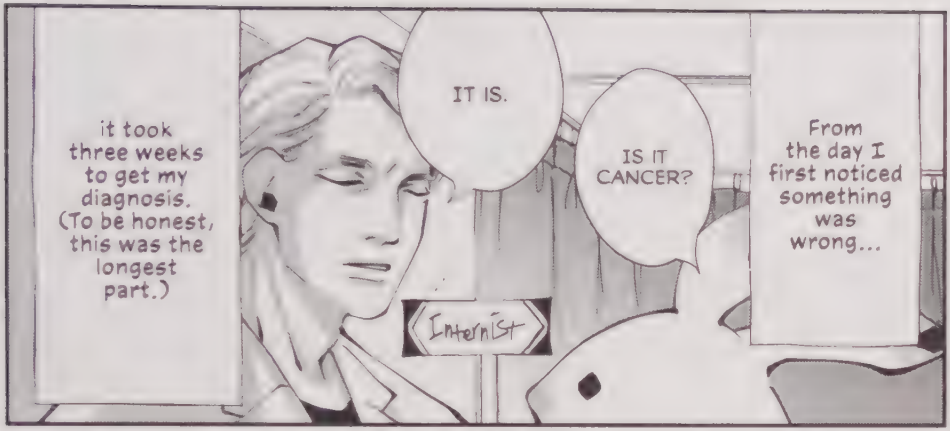
Stir fried oysters and vegetables ♥

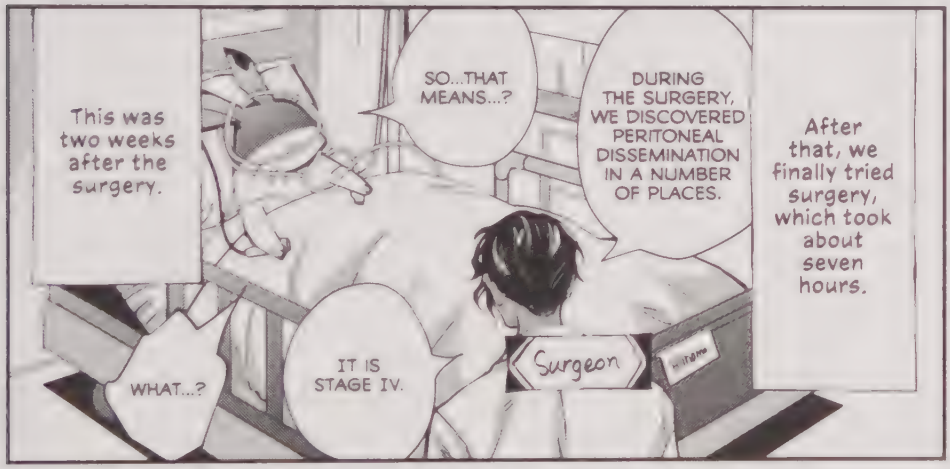
You can eat just about anything!

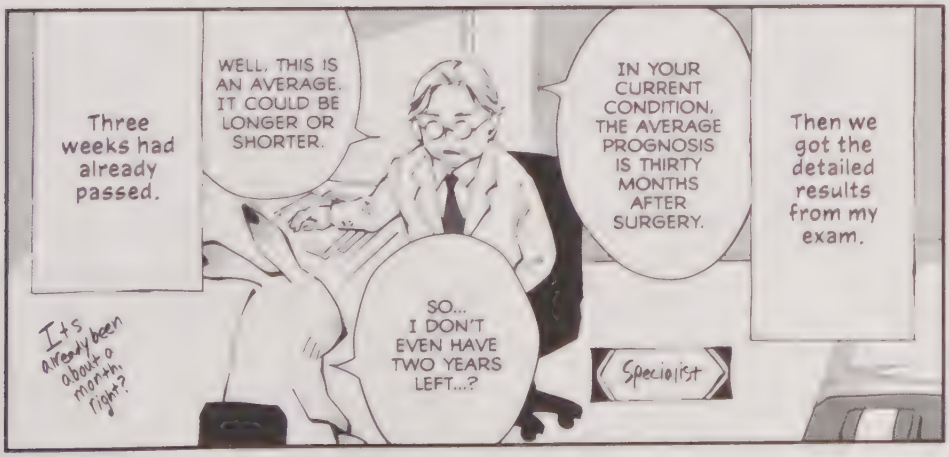
I'M COUNTING ON YOU ALL. ♡

Next up

THE TIME I WAS SPLURTCHED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.


it took three weeks to get my diagnosis. (To be honest, this was the longest part.)
IT IS.
IS IT CANCER?
From the day I first noticed something was wrong...
Internist


This was two weeks after the surgery.
SO...THAT MEANS...?
DURING THE SURGERY, WE DISCOVERED PERITONEAL DISSEMINATION IN A NUMBER OF PLACES.
After that, we finally tried surgery, which took about seven hours.
WHAT...?
IT IS STAGE IV.
Surgeon


Three weeks had already passed.
WELL, THIS IS AN AVERAGE. IT COULD BE LONGER OR SHORTER.
IN YOUR CURRENT CONDITION, THE AVERAGE PROGNOSIS IS THIRTY MONTHS AFTER SURGERY.
Then we got the detailed results from my exam.
It's already been about a month, right?
SO... I DON'T EVEN HAVE TWO YEARS LEFT...?
Specialist

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

Hello. This is the author.
When the first chapter went online, a lot of health-care workers shared it. I'm so grateful for their kind words even though I'm such an amateur about the medical field.

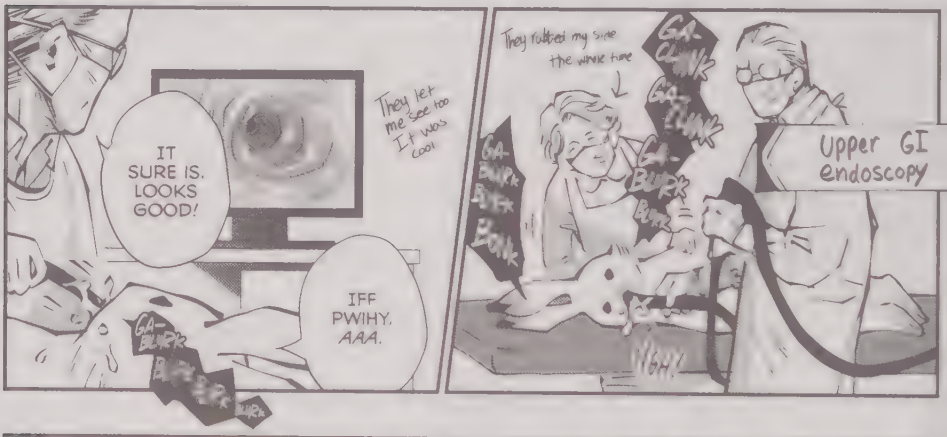
But!!
I'm seriously just a normal person...
To keep on going like this would be kind of irresponsible...so I asked experts to look over my work.

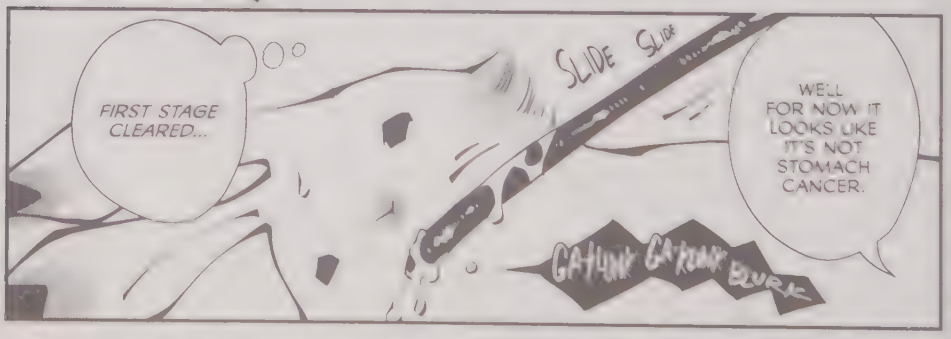
I was unsupervised when I started writing.
Once I was done, I invited two doctors over to review my drafts. Despite the extra work it was for them, they agreed to help me. They checked everything again when all the chapters were going to be made into a book, and I sincerely appreciate their warmth. Their guidance was so helpful.

To Dr. Keiko Kawada and Dr. Mari Sakamoto,
thank you so much!

Rest assured, what I chronicled here is credible.
You can read it with confidence. ♡

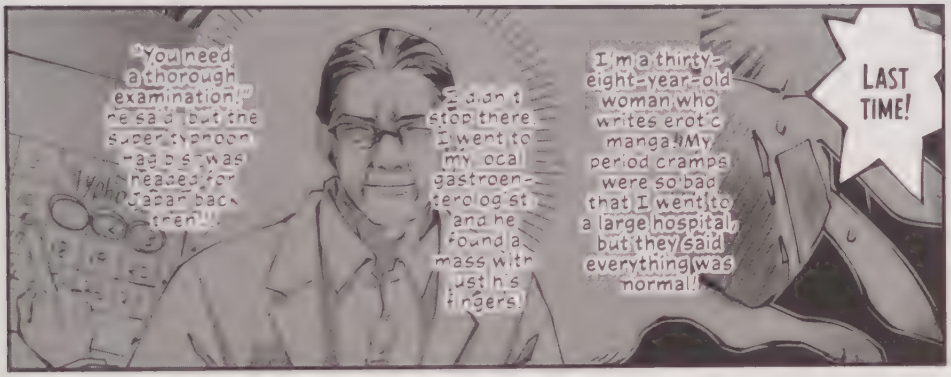
* It tasted bad.

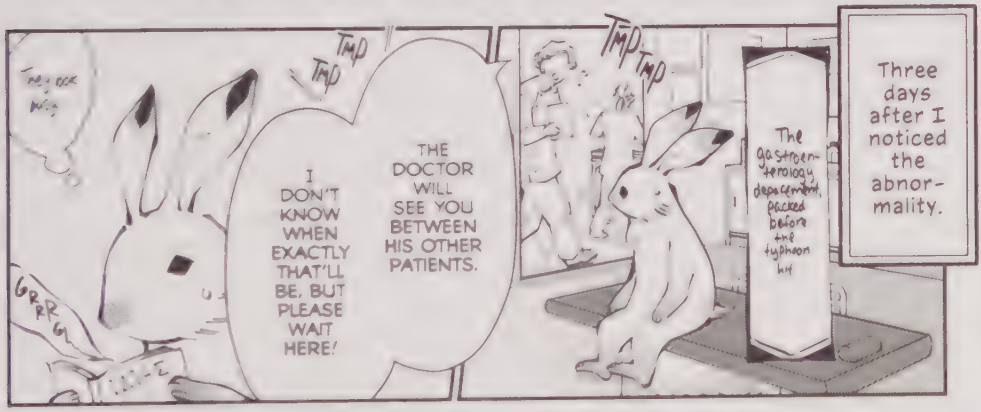


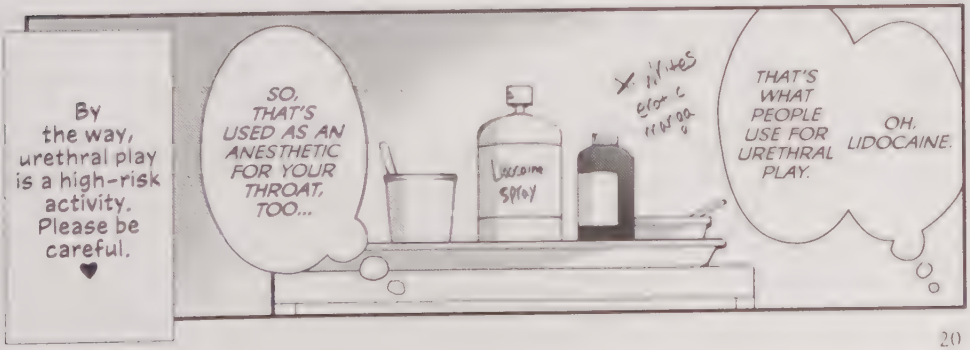


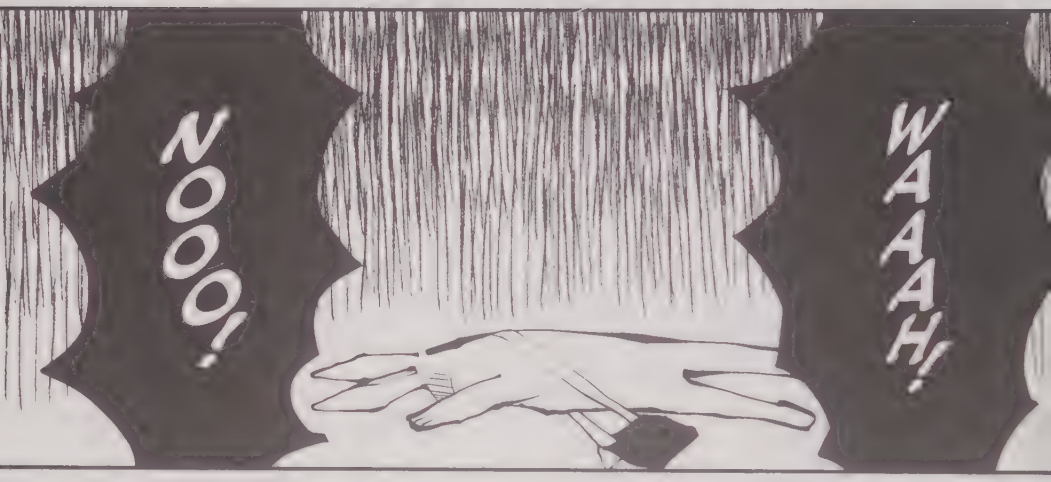
I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. ②

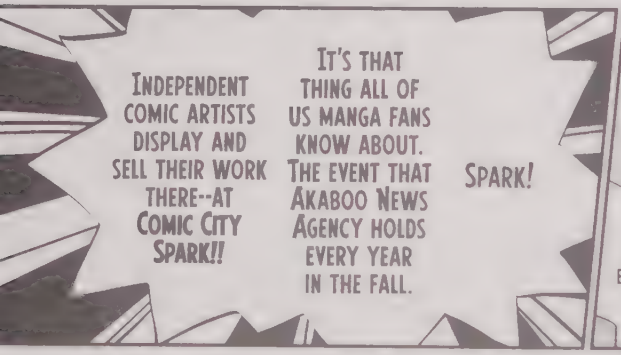
The Time I Was Splurtched from Top to Bottom.

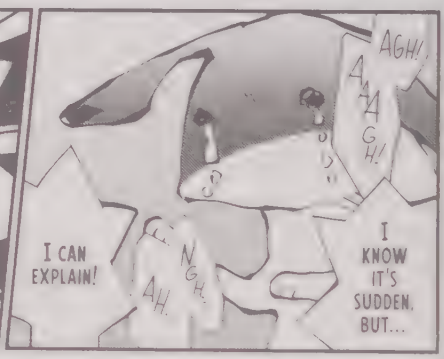


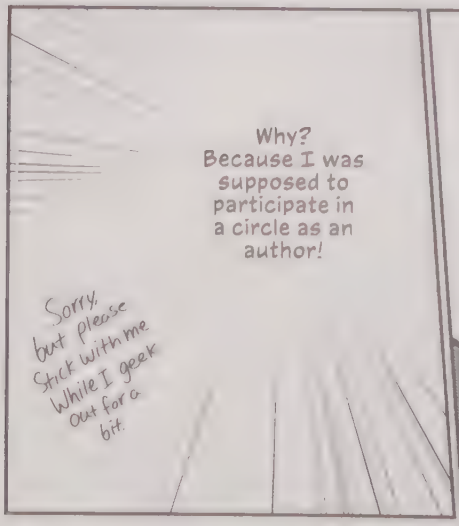


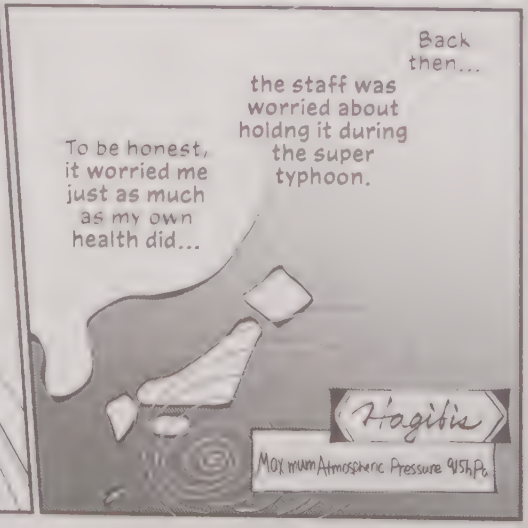


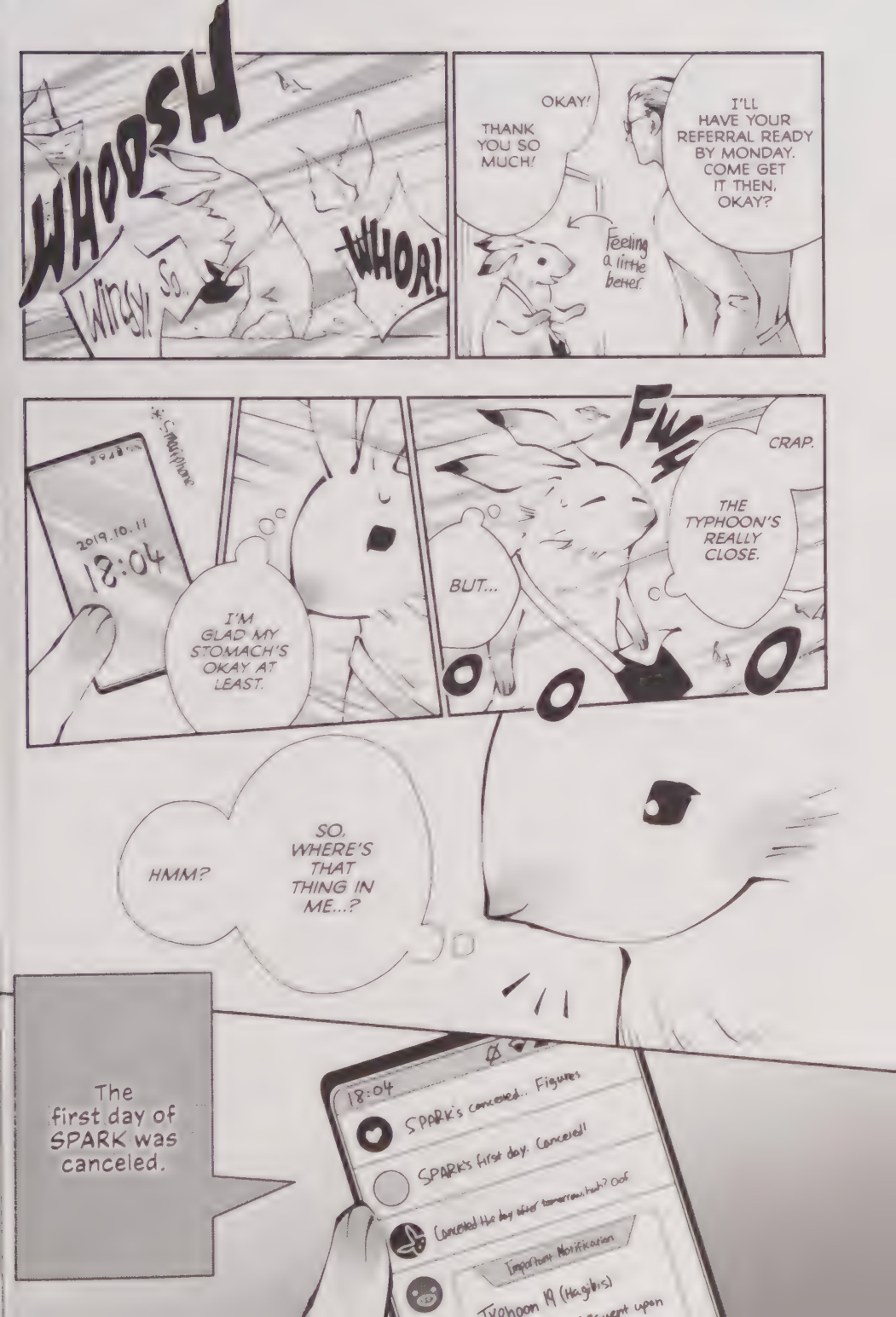

NOOO!
WAAAH!


INDEPENDENT COMIC ARTISTS DISPLAY AND SELL THEIR WORK THERE--AT COMIC CITY SPARK!!
IT'S THAT THING ALL OF US MANGA FANS KNOW ABOUT. THE EVENT THAT AKABOO NEWS AGENCY HOLDS EVERY YEAR IN THE FALL.
SPARK!


AGH!
AAAGH!
I CAN EXPLAIN!
NGH.
AH.
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT...


Why? Because I was supposed to participate in a circle as an author!
Sorry, but please stick with me while I geek out for a bit.


Back then...
the staff was worried about holdng it during the super typhoon.
To be honest, it worried me just as much as my own health did...
Hagibis
MOX mum Atmospheric Pressure 915hPa


WHOOSH
Whirl
So.
WHOA!
OKAY!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
Feeling a little better.
I'LL HAVE YOUR REFERRAL READY BY MONDAY. COME GET IT THEN, OKAY?
*Smartphone
2019.10.11
18:04
I'M GLAD MY STOMACH'S OKAY AT LEAST.
BUT...
FWL
CRAP.
THE TYPHOON'S REALLY CLOSE.
HMM?
SO, WHERE'S THAT THING IN ME...?
The first day of SPARK was canceled.
18:04
SPARK's canceled... Figures
SPARK's first day. Canceled!
Canceled the day after tomorrow, huh? Oof
Important Notification
Typhoon 19 (Hagibis)

It was so hard knowing I couldn't go...

They're an irreplaceable balm for the soul.

They're our salvation.

Weepy...

Dumb typhoon...

It all happened at once.

I was already anxious because I didn't feel well, and this pushed me further into isolation.

October in the year 2019... I bet a lot of people remember this event canceling because of the typhoon.

※Circle participation is pretty hard work.

BUT I CAN'T DENY THAT A WEIGHT FEELS LIFTED OFF MY SHOULDERS.

THE THING I WAS MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO...

IS GONE

That was the final nail in the coffin of my resignation to my fate.

NOW I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY I DON'T FEEL GOOD.

WELL...

my friend was going to cosplay the character I was pushing... Well, that was the plan.

So frustrating...

And this time...

Hear me

Circle

I have new stuff!

I wanna see!

Hmm

General Audience

Creatives who adore anime and manga display their own works...

and show them off them as a part of a "circle."

Why?

are really important to me. They're my hobby. You could even call them my raison d'etre.

those special events...

Even though I'm a published author...

To a lonely author, these events are a rare opportunity...

to see our readers and other authors.

So lonely...ob

Because being an author...

Hmm

Oh, nice

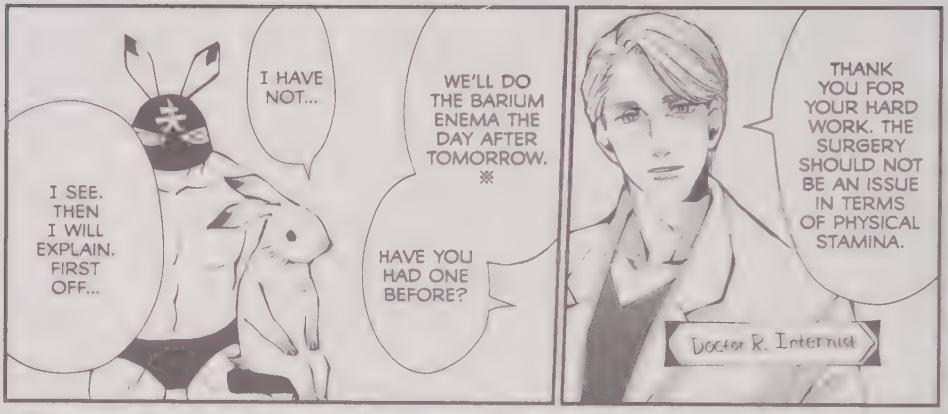
Or not

Not this

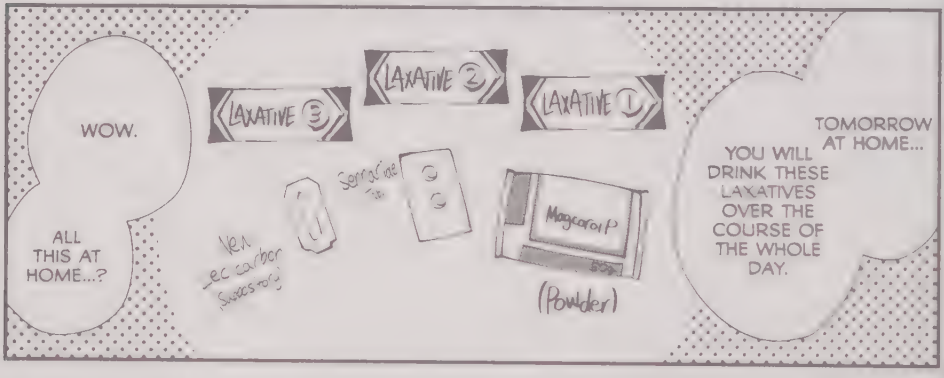
Not that either

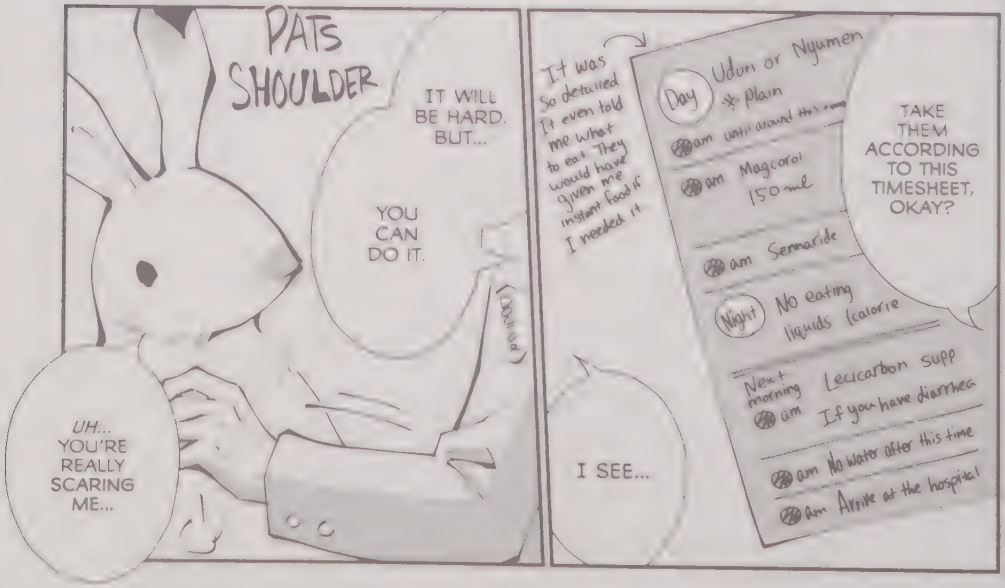
You idiot

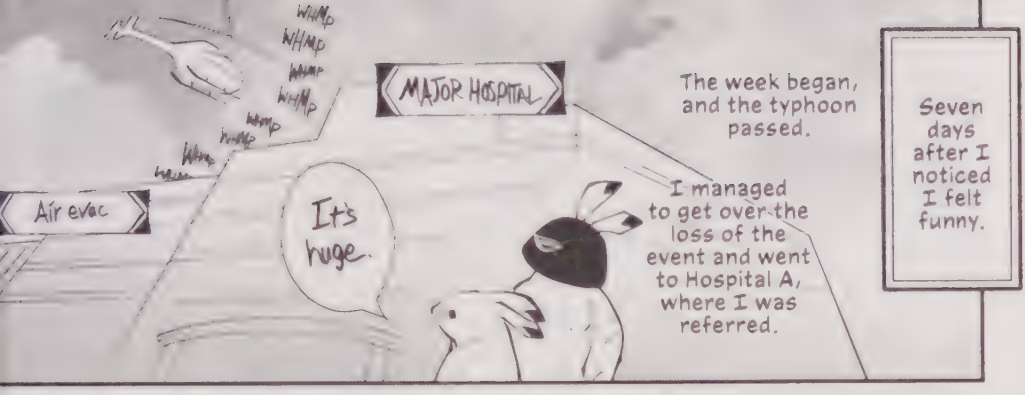
Why?

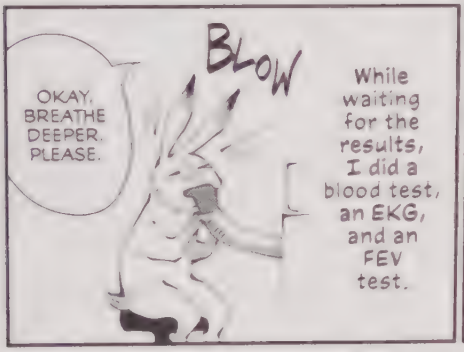


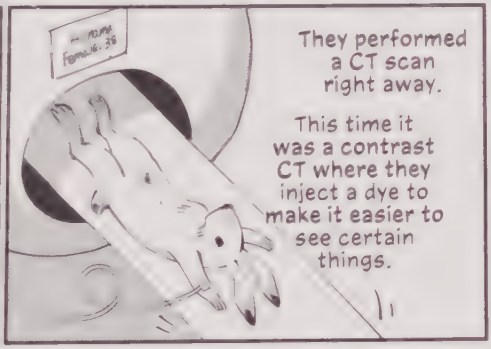
※ This exam uses a lot of radiation, but I told them I have no intention of getting pregnant.

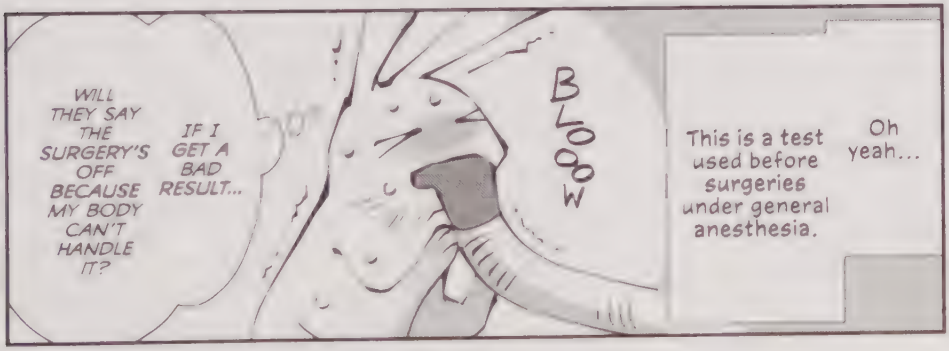


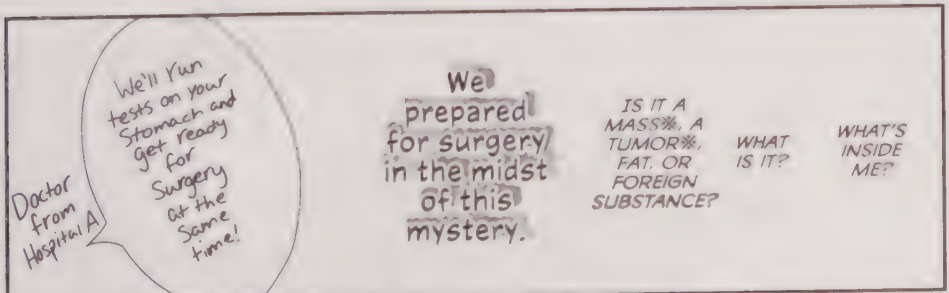








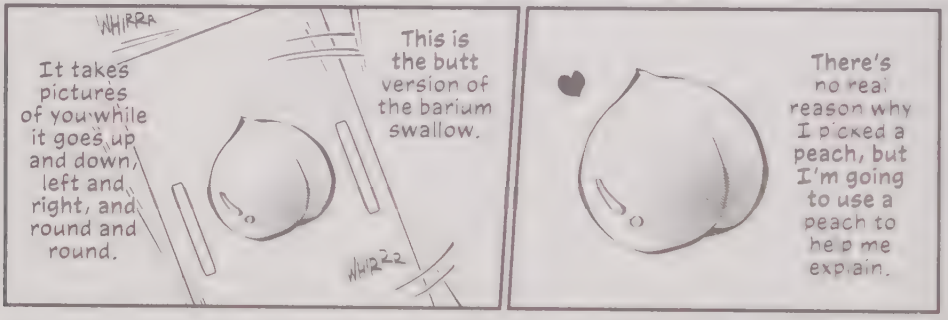


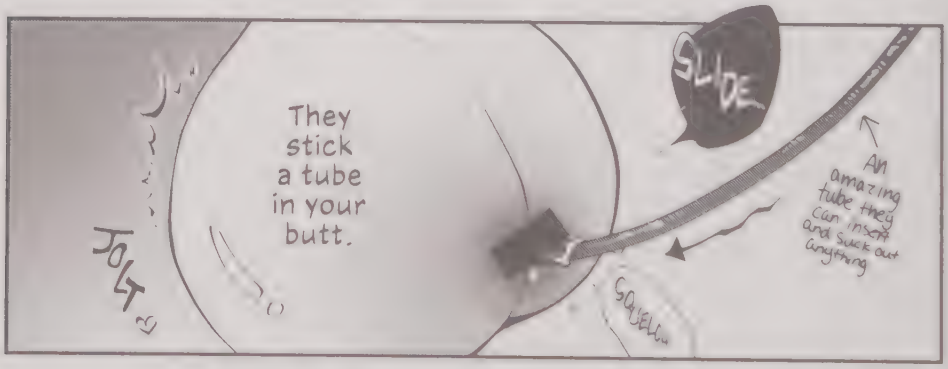


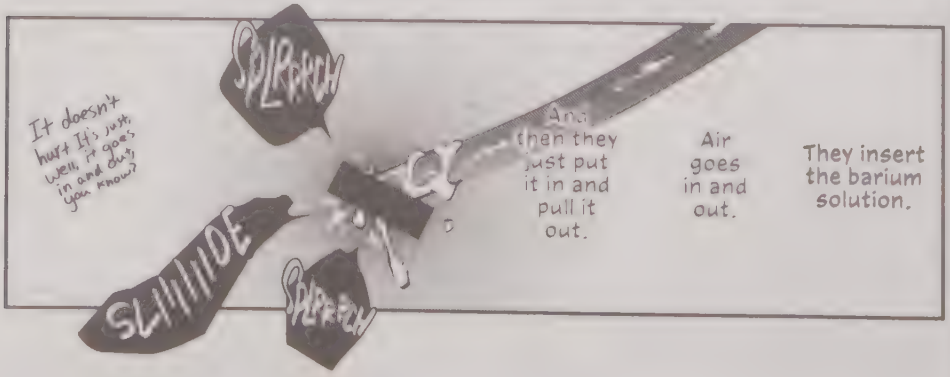
※ Mass: the general term for a mysterious lump or growth. This is often the word used for undefined things that could be a tumor.
※ Tumor: an abnormal growth. They can be benign or malignant.

THERE WAS THE EXAM ITSELF!

PLUS...







IT WAS REALLY HARD.

HE WAS RIGHT.

even though it was supposed to come out of the bottom, it came out of the top instead.

I panicked and called the hospital...

BARF

It was so difficult that...

This was the first roadblock.

People say it tastes like a sports drink.

First, I dissolved the powered laxative into 150ml of water and drank it.

Normally it should be a lot more liquid, like two liters or something?

OW.

OW.

OW.

However... nature kept calling, and the intense pain became constant.

This was in tablet form, so I didn't suffer as much.

That was followed by the nighttime laxative.

You have to drive me there tomorrow morning, so please get some sleep.

I'm okay

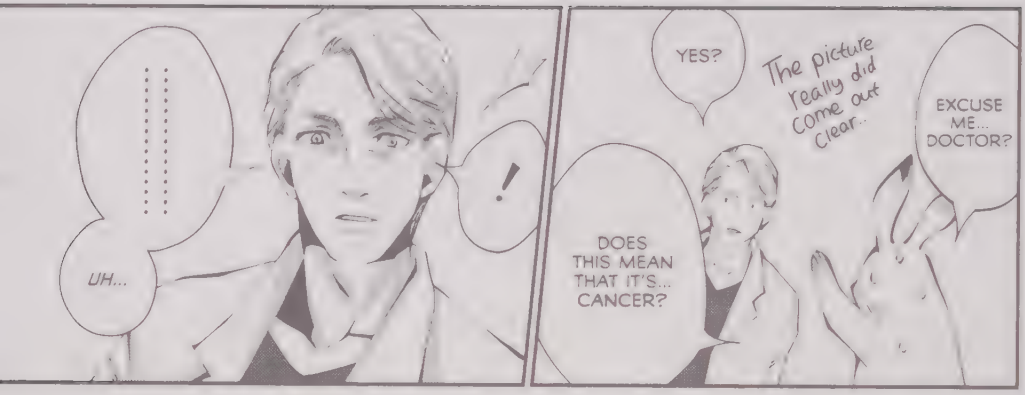
Cries at the drop of a hat

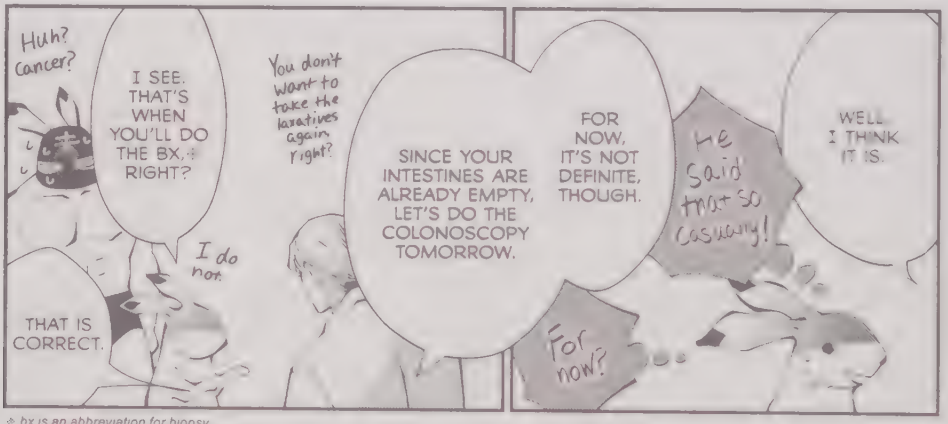
You okay?

I didn't sleep a wink. I could only doze.

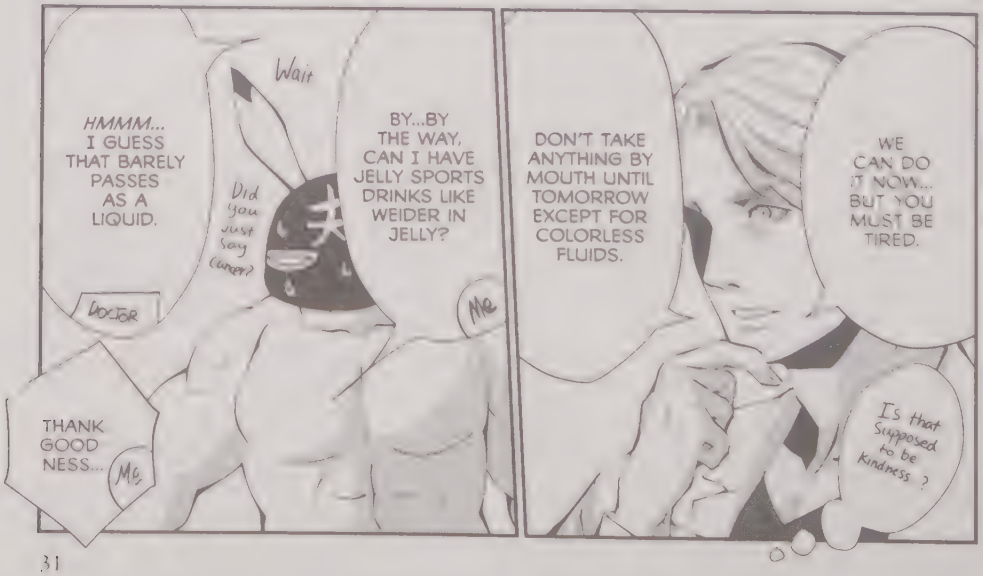
I ran to the bathroom every hour or two.

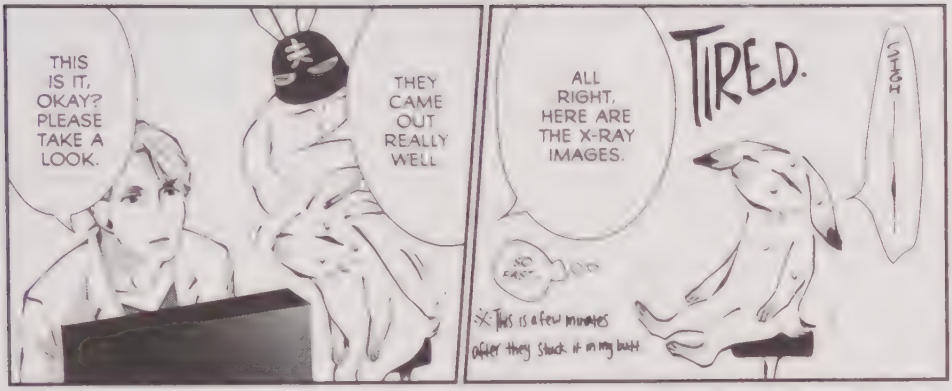
It lasted all night long.

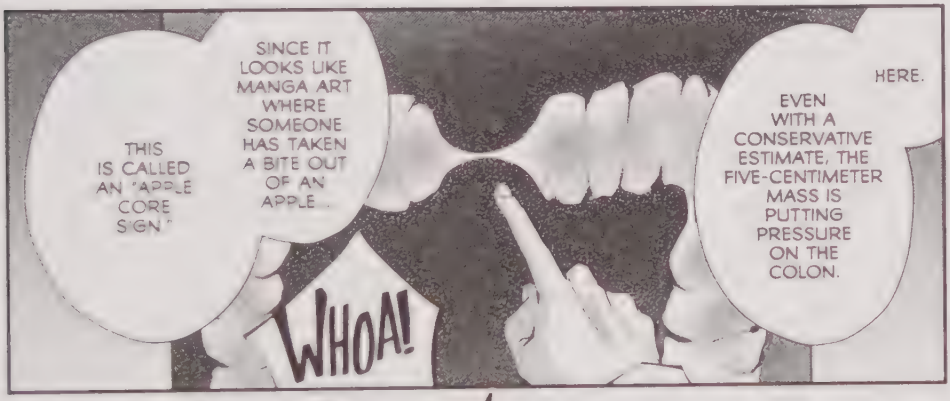




* bx is an abbreviation for biopsy, in which a portion of the lesion is collected




THIS IS IT, OKAY? PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.
THEY CAME OUT REALLY WELL
ALL RIGHT, HERE ARE THE X-RAY IMAGES.
SO EASY
TIRED.
SIGH
※This is a few minutes after they stuck it in my butt.


THIS IS CALLED AN "APPLE CORE SIGN."
SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE MANGA ART WHERE SOMEONE HAS TAKEN A BITE OUT OF AN APPLE...
WHOA!
HERE.
EVEN WITH A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE, THE FIVE-CENTIMETER MASS IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE COLON.

DUN-DUN
IS IT COLON CANCER...?!!
I know about that!!!
※I had already learned that piece of vocabulary.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS FOR MYSELF.
OF COURSE.
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.
I understand. Then I will see you tomorrow at ten am.
I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE AT ALL, BUT YOU KNOW...
THAT'S NOT FOR SURE, THOUGH.
BUT THAT X-RAY...
IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T AVOID SURGERY.
WELL, I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT TOO, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S DEFINITELY CANCER, RIGHT...?
Me
NEXT UP
CALLING FOR HELP & BLASTING THROUGH MY COLON.
Apple core with bites taken out of it.
Yeah.
WELL, LET'S GO HOME AND GOOGLE IT.
I MEAN I SAW THAT X-RAY FOR MYSELF, YOU KNOW.

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM WITH YOU.
WITH THAT SAID...
WHAT... IS IT?
Huh...?
This was the only scene that felt like it was from a TV drama.
WOULD YOU LIKE US...
TO BE FORTHRIGHT WITH YOU REGARDING THE RESULTS OF YOUR EXAMS?
SO, THEY DO ASK THAT...

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

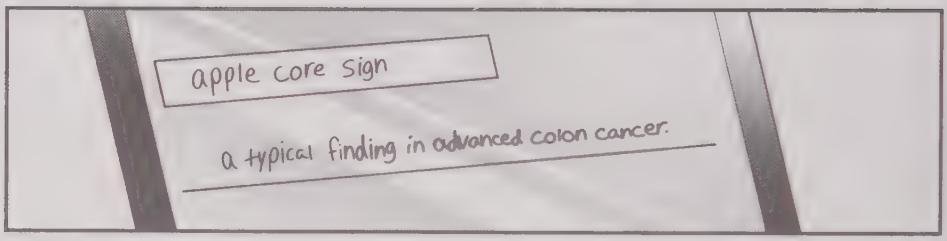
Hi. I'm the author.

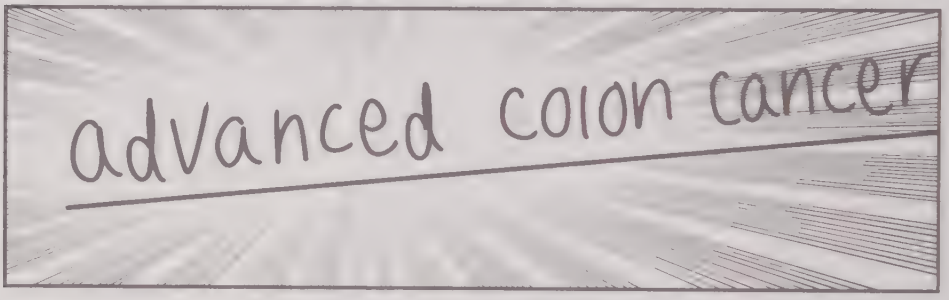
Weeell, that was a surprise, wasn't it?
Until I saw the x-ray, I was like...cancer?
Impossible! That was when I was the most anxious.

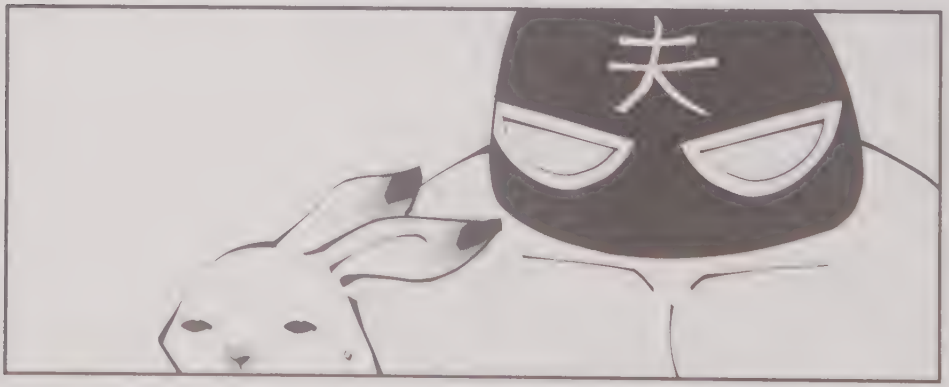
What's in my *tummyyy*?! What are you?!!!
Who are *youuu*?!!! Kind of like that.

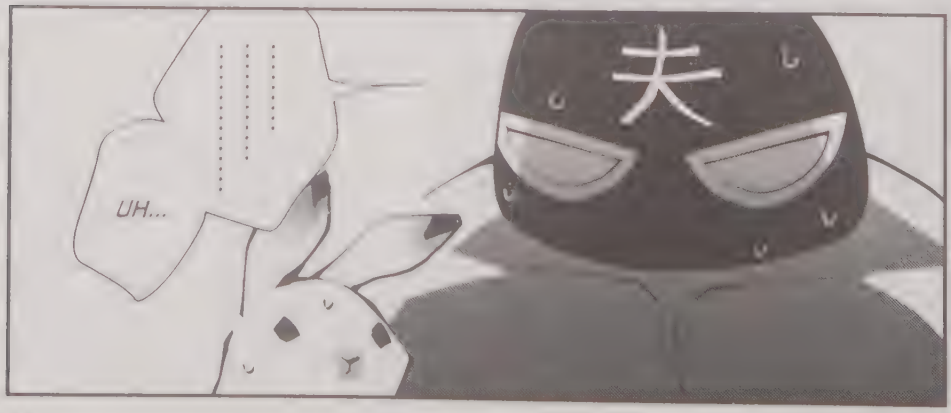
Every day it hurt so bad I thought it had burst...

At least I'd think it did...


apple core sign
a typical finding in advanced colon cancer.

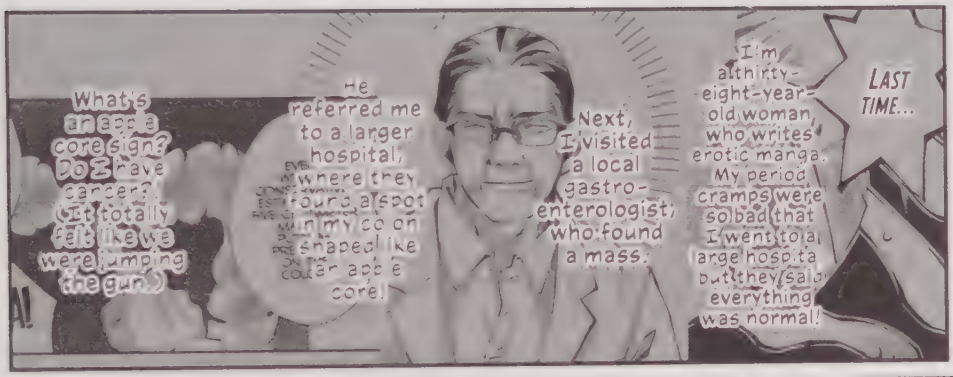

advanced colon cancer

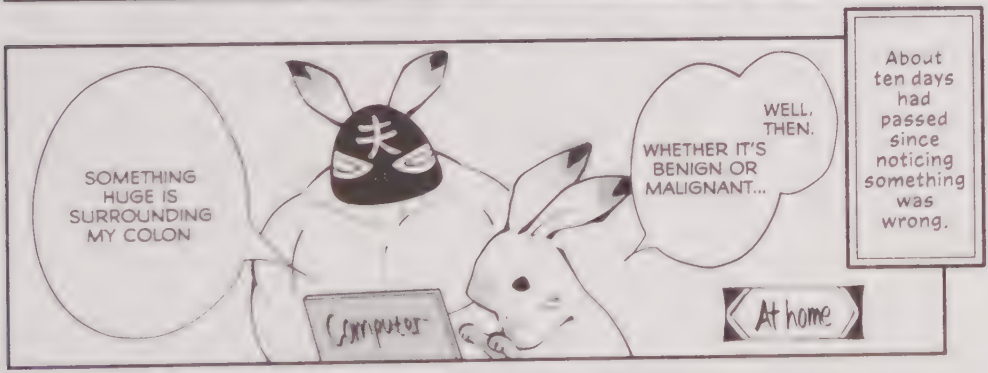


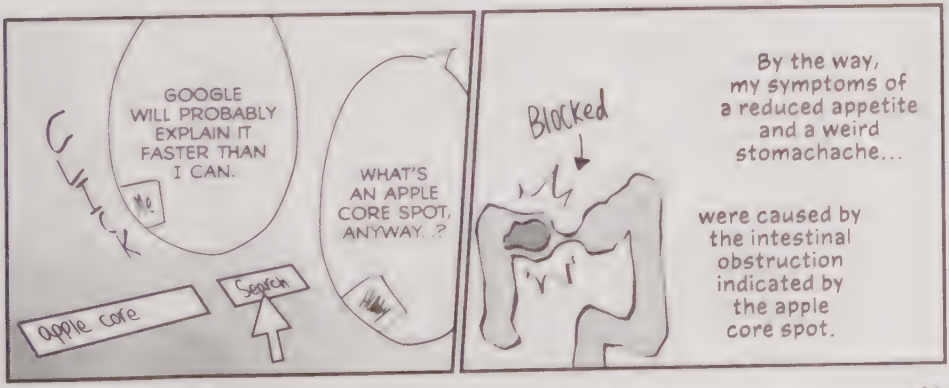

UH...

I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. ③

The time I said I better get help.







It was more than the shock from seeing the words "advanced cancer."

I realized something was bothering me.

But unlike how I slowly came to grips with my illness...

Irrigoscopy

Contrast CT

Upper GI endoscopy

My Stomach feels weird

Stomachache

Like it's cancer maybe

It wasn't Stomach cancer

It might be cancer after all?

Wait, So it IS cancer ??

I had to take a whole bunch of tests thanks to my poor health.

For him, it happened all at once.

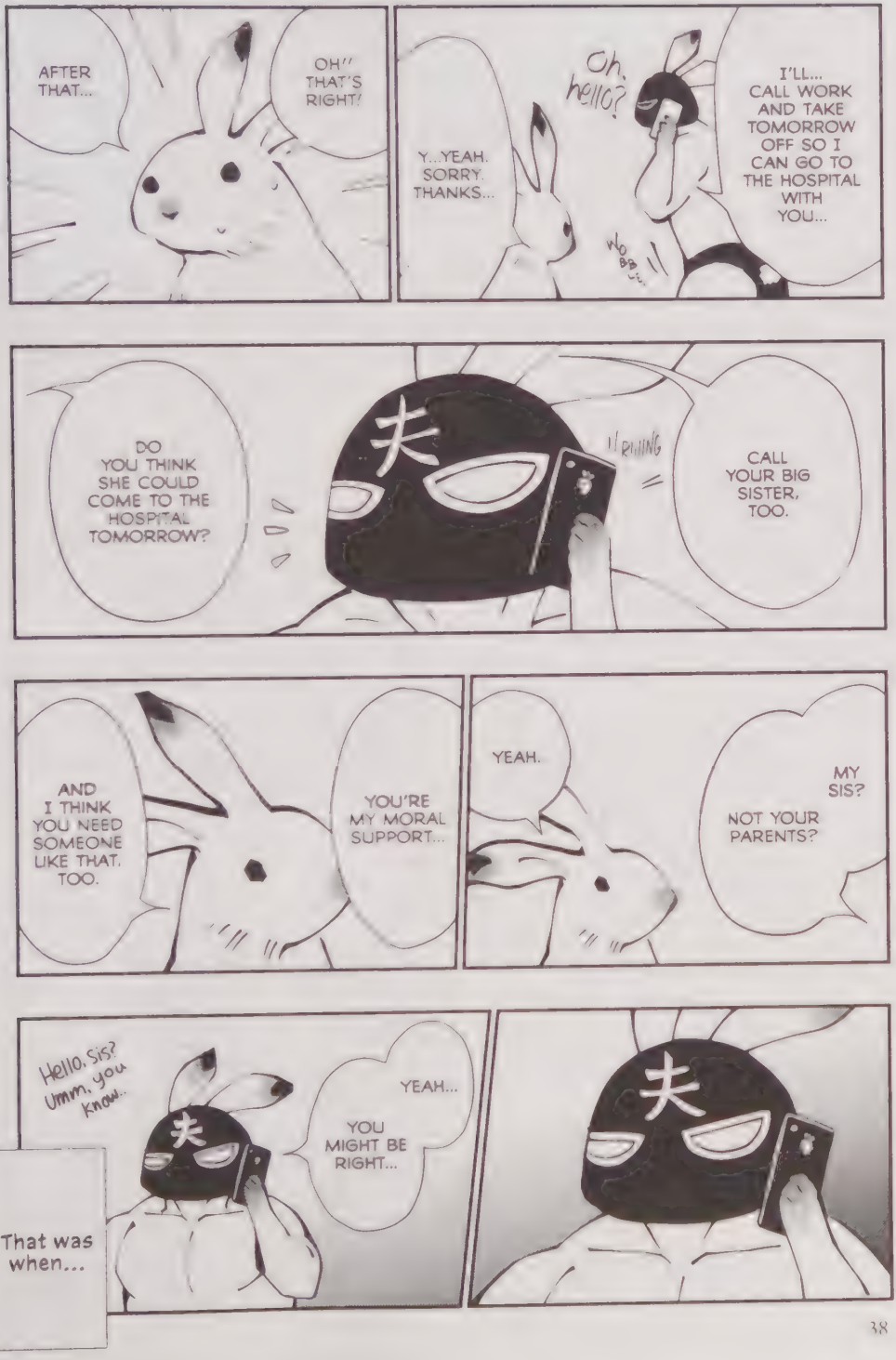
my husband, who witnessed it all...

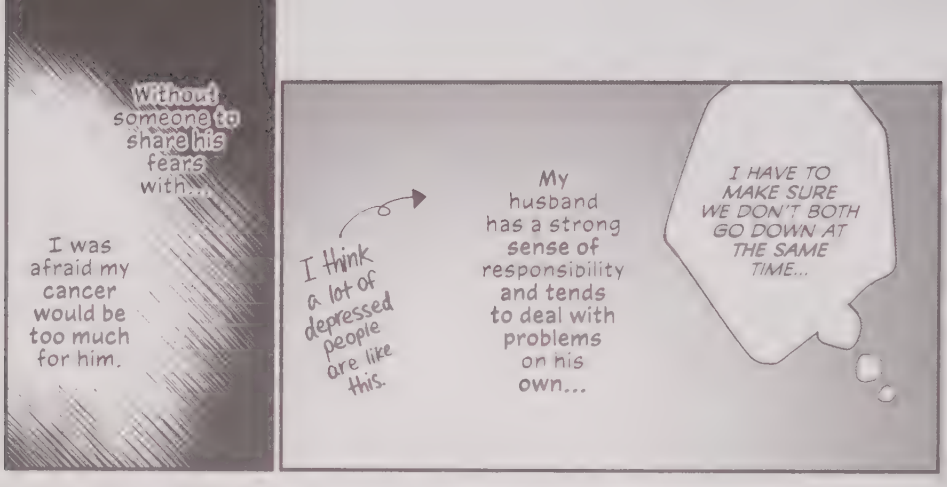
probably felt blindsided.

Especially, for those...

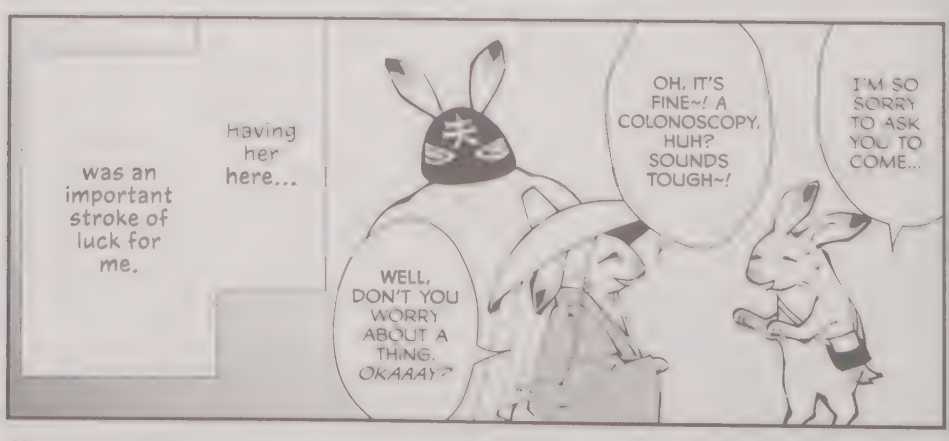
We have to consider the mental health of the family members supporting the patient, too.

This applies to all serious illnesses, not just cancer.

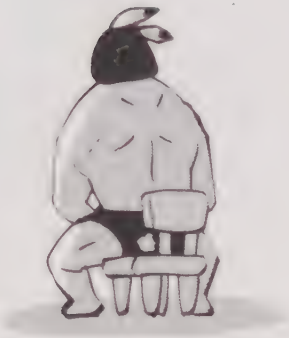

AFTER THAT...
OH!" THAT'S RIGHT!
Y...YEAH. SORRY. THANKS...
Oh, hello?
I'LL... CALL WORK AND TAKE TOMORROW OFF SO I CAN GO TO THE HOSPITAL WITH YOU...
DO YOU THINK SHE COULD COME TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW?
RINNG
CALL YOUR BIG SISTER, TOO.
AND I THINK YOU NEED SOMEONE LIKE THAT, TOO.
YOU'RE MY MORAL SUPPORT...
YEAH.
NOT YOUR PARENTS?
MY SIS?
Hello, Sis? Umm, you know...
YEAH...
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...
That was when...


Without someone to share his fears with...
I was afraid my cancer would be too much for him.
I think a lot of depressed people are like this.
My husband has a strong sense of responsibility and tends to deal with problems on his own...
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T BOTH GO DOWN AT THE SAME TIME...

Sister-in-law
I BAKED YOU THAT QUICHE YOU LOVE, HILNAMA CHAN~!
♥
And that's how things stood.
Now it's time for my husband's older sister, my sister-in-law, to make her appearance.


was an important stroke of luck for me.
Having her here...
WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING, OKAAAY?
OH, IT'S FINE~! A COLONOSCOPY, HUH? SOUNDS TOUGH~!
I'M SO SORRY TO ASK YOU TO COME...

Like my husband.



who are living with depression.

He locked up his darkened room for about two years and spent every day sleeping.

It was hard for him to talk to people, much less eat three meals a day.

Just a little while ago he was tortured by the super dark malicousness [illegible] job, though.

I made my lunch myself ♡

He wakes up every morning and goes to his new job.

IF HE HAS AN EPISODE RIGHT NOW, I'LL BE IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE...

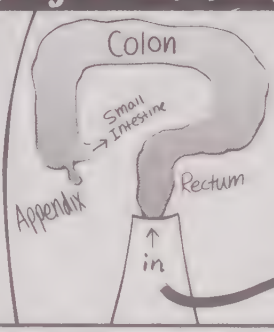
There's no way I can take care of others in this state.

When he has an episode, he gets headaches, diarrhea, and the shakes. The fear makes him oversleep or cry, and he gets irritated.

Regardless of his mental illness, he struggles when dealing with sudden, unexpected events.

We're finally going to blast through the colon!

With this detailed exam, we could finally see full color images and collect cells for the first time to determine whether it was cancer.



(This introduction has gone on a tangent.)

In short, I got myself ready, gathered my reinforcements, and went to tackle the endoscopy.

Twelve days since noticing the abnormality.

Will medium diapers fit you?

I've never worn any, so I don't know.

They also hand you diapers, but I hear some hospitals don't provide them for you.

They look like Chinese potty-training pants.

Wear this, okay?

During the exam, you wear these paper pants with an open crotch.

This procedure is the rectal version of the upper GI colonoscopy and the details are pretty different.

with towel to cover your butt

Lots of numbers for incident rates

UMM... THE CONSENT FORM IS REALLY SERIOUS...

Signature
Representative
Attending Physician

Compared to the upper GI endoscopy, the most different thing about this one was...

the consent form, I think.

The others weren't quite this serious.

TH THIS IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL, HUH?

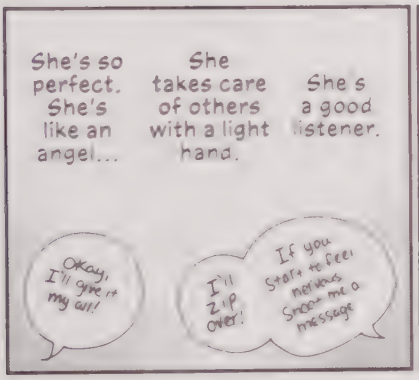
NURSE

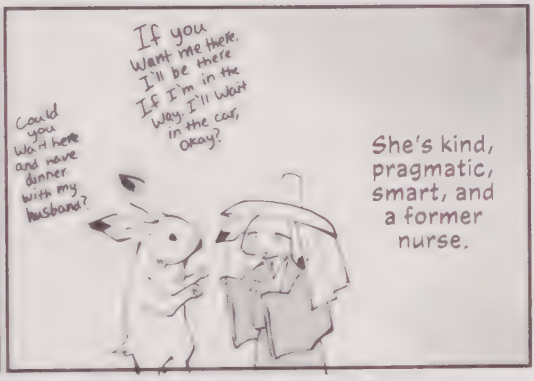
You signed the consent forms for the other examinations too, didn't you?

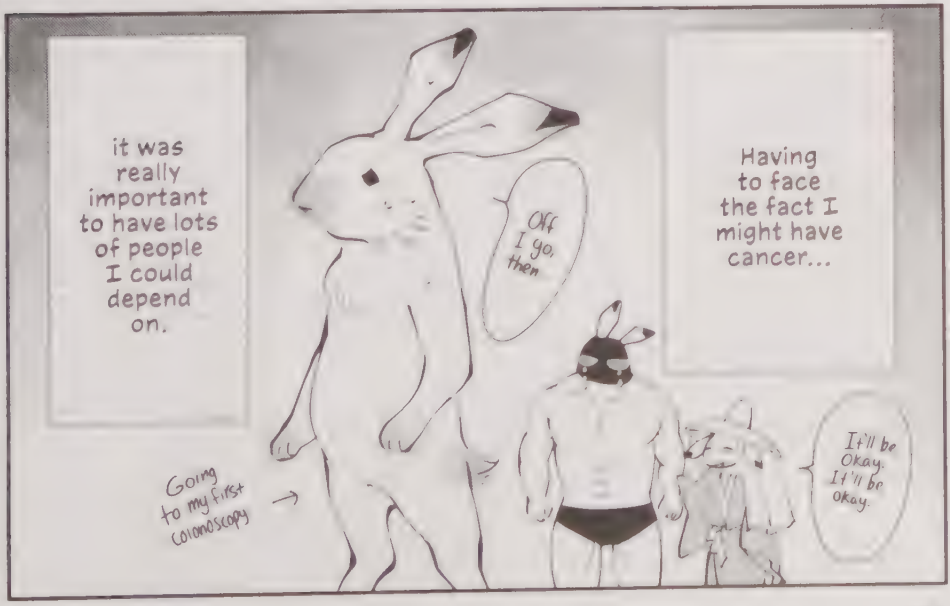
BUT THERE IS THE RARE POSSIBILITY OF INTESTINAL PERFORATION OR HEMORRHAGE.

THE NUMBERS ARE REALLY LOW...

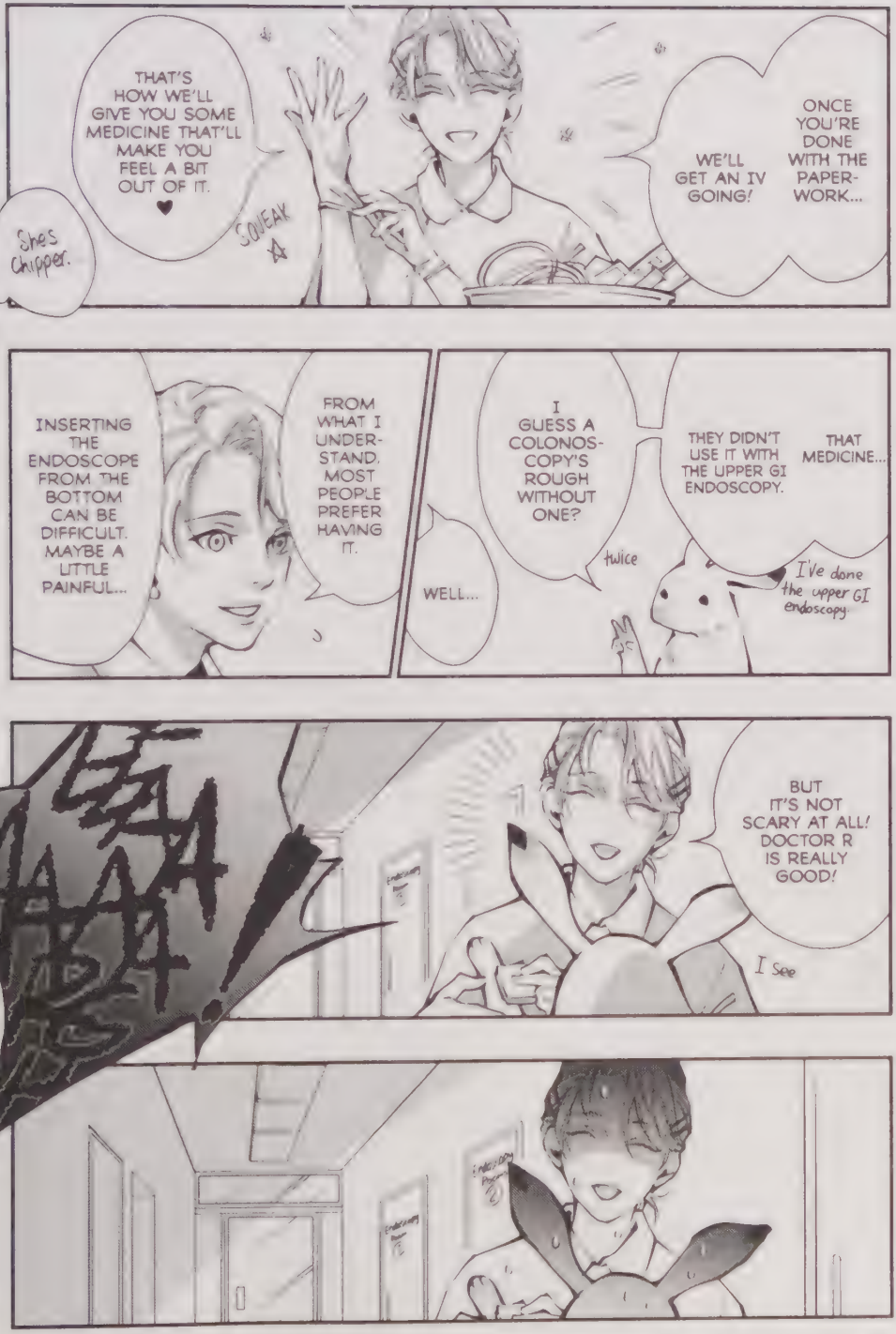
a wonderful person.
After all, she really is...


She's so perfect. She's like an angel...
She takes care of others with a light hand.
She's a good listener.
Okay, I'll give it my all!
I'll zip over.
If you start to feel nervous send me a message

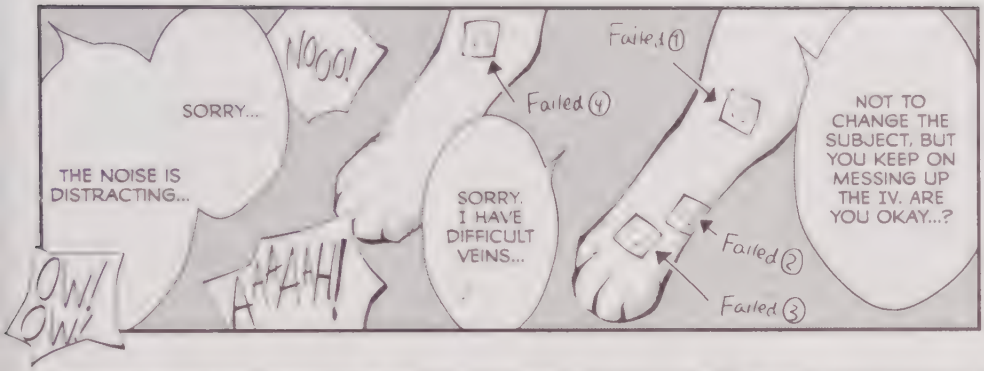

Could you wait here and have dinner with my husband?
If you want me there, I'll be there. If I'm in the way, I'll wait in the car, okay?
She's kind, pragmatic, smart, and a former nurse.

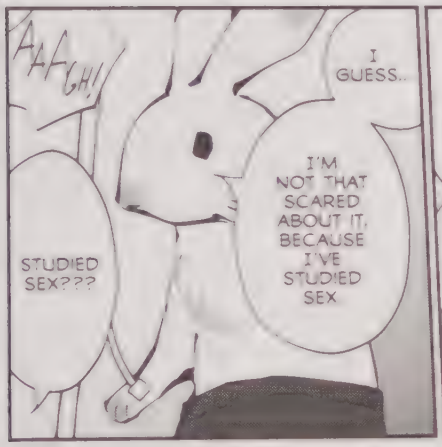

it was really important to have lots of people I could depend on.
Off I go, then
Having to face the fact I might have cancer...
Going to my first colonoscopy
It'll be okay. It'll be okay.

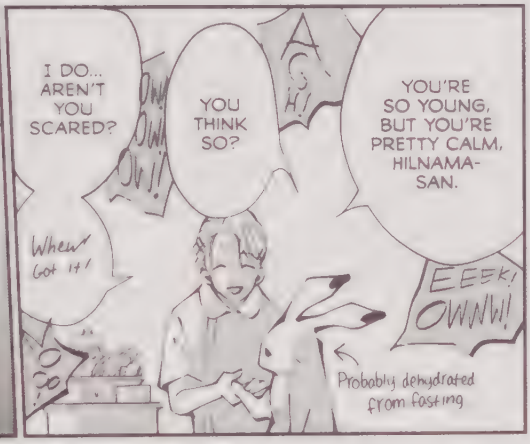
EEEK!
NOO!
OWWW!
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT! IT'LL BE OVER RIGHT AS YOU START TO GET SLEE--
WELL, IT MIGHT HURT A LITTLE...
ENOUGH!
STOOOP!
AH, WELL, UM, NOT EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT...
YEAH...
THE PATIENT BEFORE YOU SURE IS LOUD...
Desperately trying to reassure me.
NOT THAT SCARY... I THINK...
IT'S...
I-IT'S FINE...
I know this is rude to the person who was screaming, but this scene was actually helpful for me. It was a bit calming.

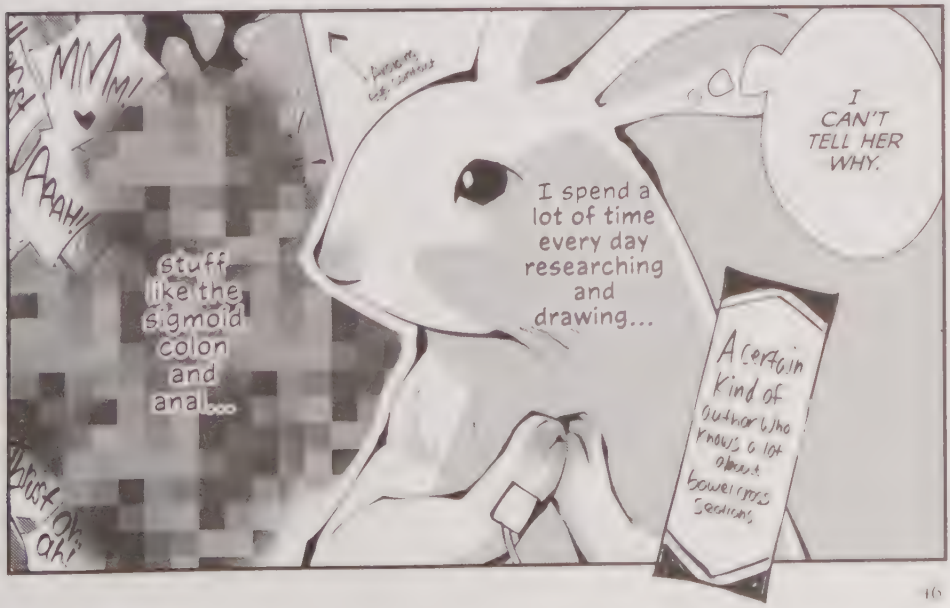

ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH THE PAPER-WORK...
WE'LL GET AN IV GOING!
THAT'S HOW WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME MEDICINE THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL A BIT OUT OF IT. ♥
SQUEAK
She's chipper.
THAT MEDICINE...
THEY DIDN'T USE IT WITH THE UPPER GI ENDOSCOPY.
I'VE done the upper GI endoscopy
twice
I GUESS A COLONOS-COPY'S ROUGH WITHOUT ONE?
WELL...
FROM WHAT I UNDER-STAND, MOST PEOPLE PREFER HAVING IT.
INSERTING THE ENDOSCOPE FROM THE BOTTOM CAN BE DIFFICULT. MAYBE A LITTLE PAINFUL...
BUT IT'S NOT SCARY AT ALL! DOCTOR R IS REALLY GOOD!
I See

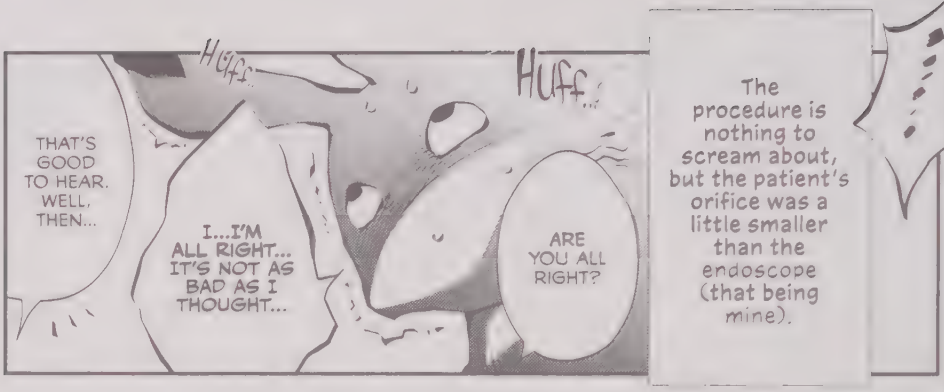
I SEE. YOU CAN EAT AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE.
IT'S HARD TO SAY. I'M SO HUNGRY...
HELLO. HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY COMPARED TO YESTERDAY?
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME.
WE'RE READY.
IT'S PRACTICALLY A SURGERY ROOM. NOTHING LIKE THE UPPER GI...
EVERY-THING'S A MONOTONE BLUE-GREEN.
THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF MACHINES AND
Internist
This is a peach
EXCUSE ME. I'M GOING TO TOUCH YOUR BOTTOM NOW.
SLIDE
.....!
OKAY. PLEASE LAY ON YOUR SIDE
Waterproof mat
SHOWH!
I HAVE A QUESTION...
YES. WHAT IS IT?
→ Looking at a monitor.
SHOVE
SHOVE
UMM. EXCUSE ME...

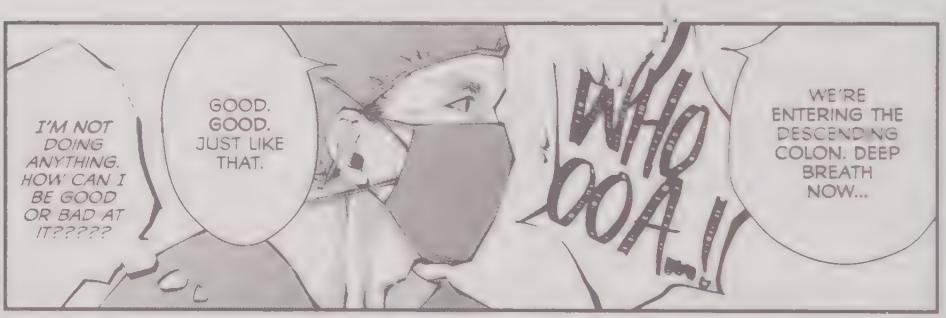

SORRY...
THE NOISE IS DISTRACTING...
NOOO!
A-AAHH!
OW! OW!
Failed ④
SORRY. I HAVE DIFFICULT VEINS...
Failed ①
Failed ②
Failed ③
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT YOU KEEP ON MESSING UP THE IV. ARE YOU OKAY...?

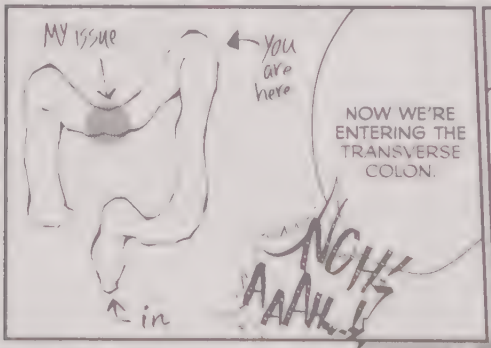

AAAGH!
STUDIED SEX???
I'M NOT THAT SCARED ABOUT IT, BECAUSE I'VE STUDIED SEX
I GUESS...

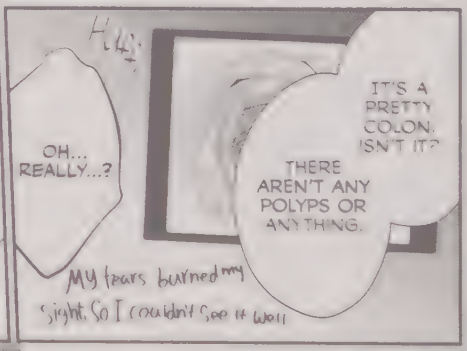

I DO... AREN'T YOU SCARED?
Whew Got it!
YOU THINK SO?
OW! OW! OW!
A-AH!
YOU'RE SO YOUNG, BUT YOU'RE PRETTY CALM, HILNAMA-SAN.
EEEK! OWWW!
Probably dehydrated from fasting

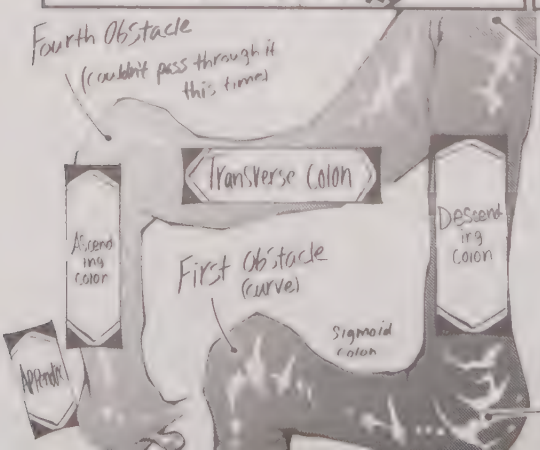

MMM!
AAAH!
stuff like the sigmoid colon and anal...
Ohhh! Oh, oh!
I spend a lot of time every day researching and drawing...
I CAN'T TELL HER WHY.
A certain kind of author who knows a lot about bowel cysts, fecaliths





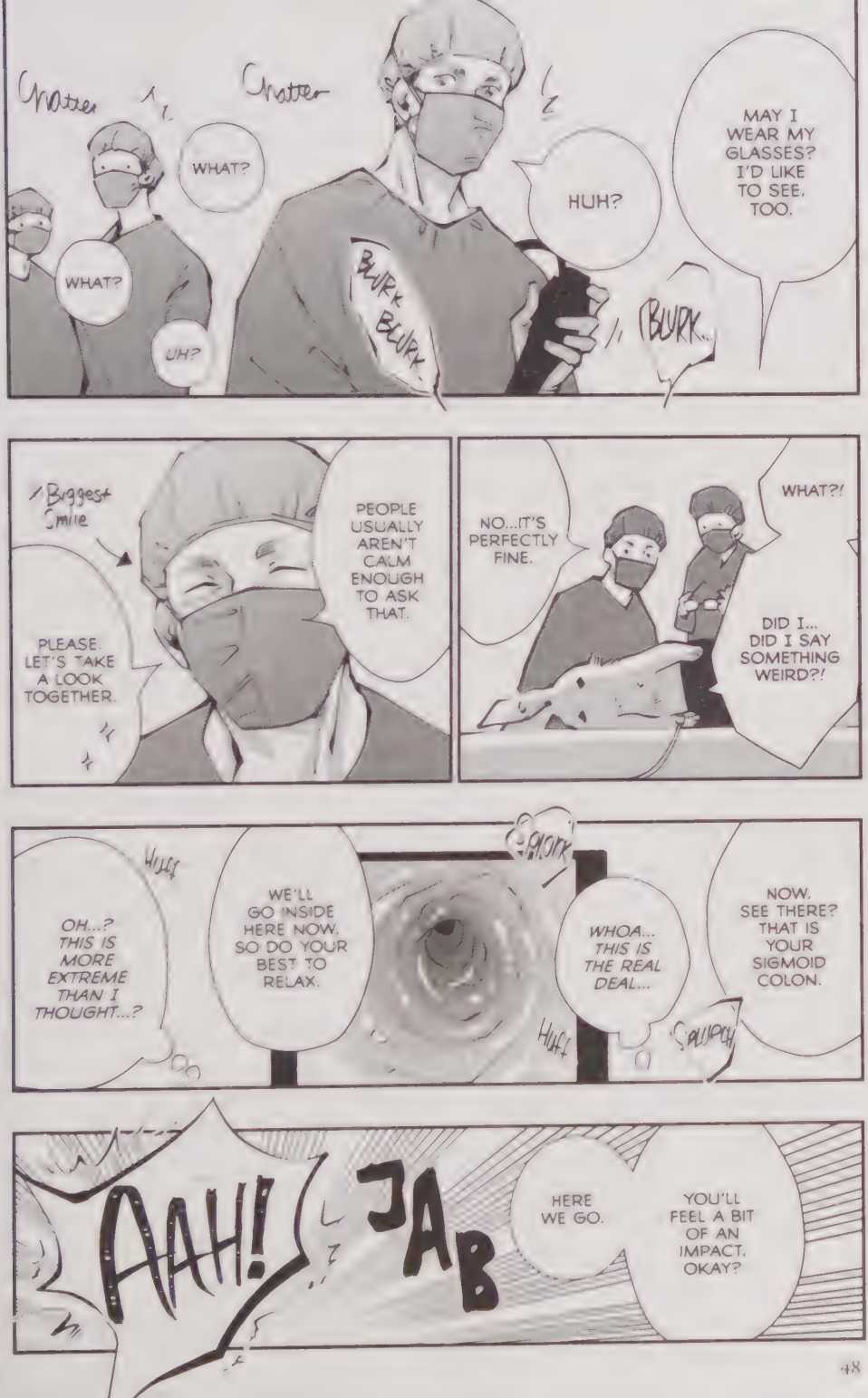


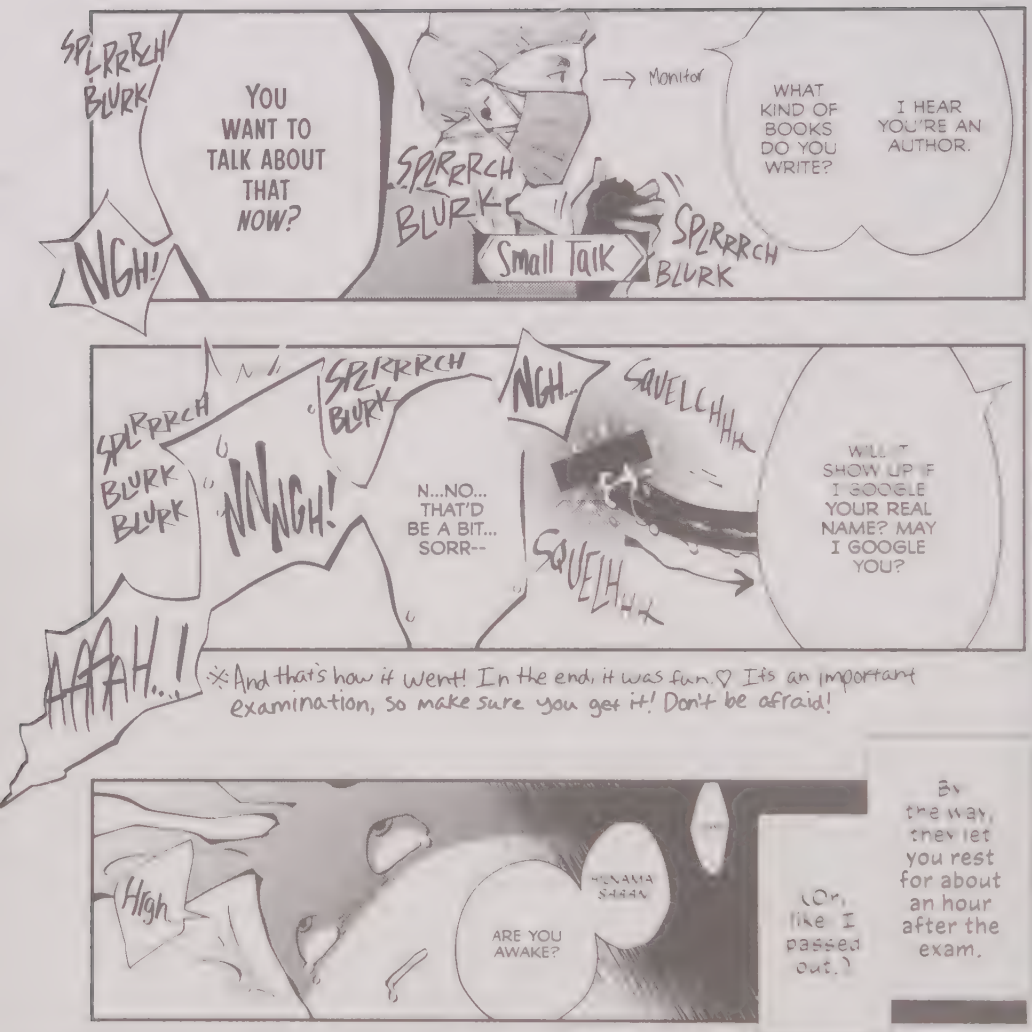




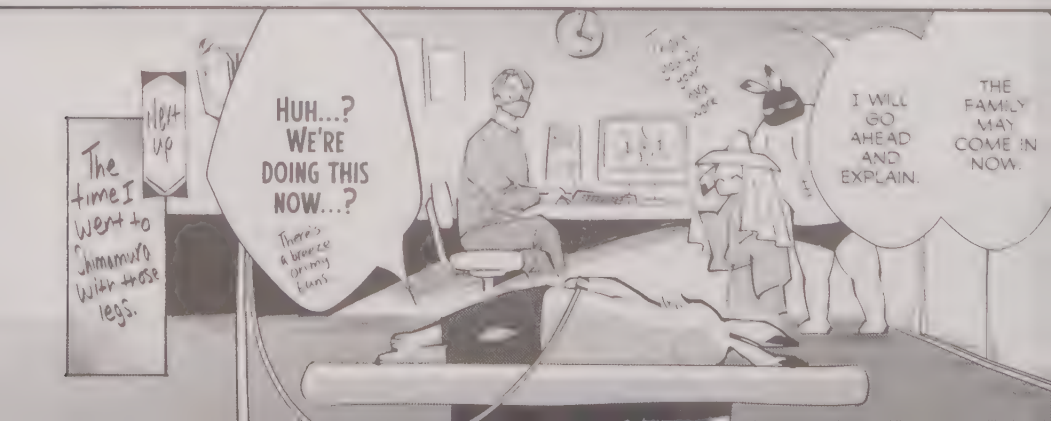
By the way, every time there's a significant curve, you might feel a lot of pressure.

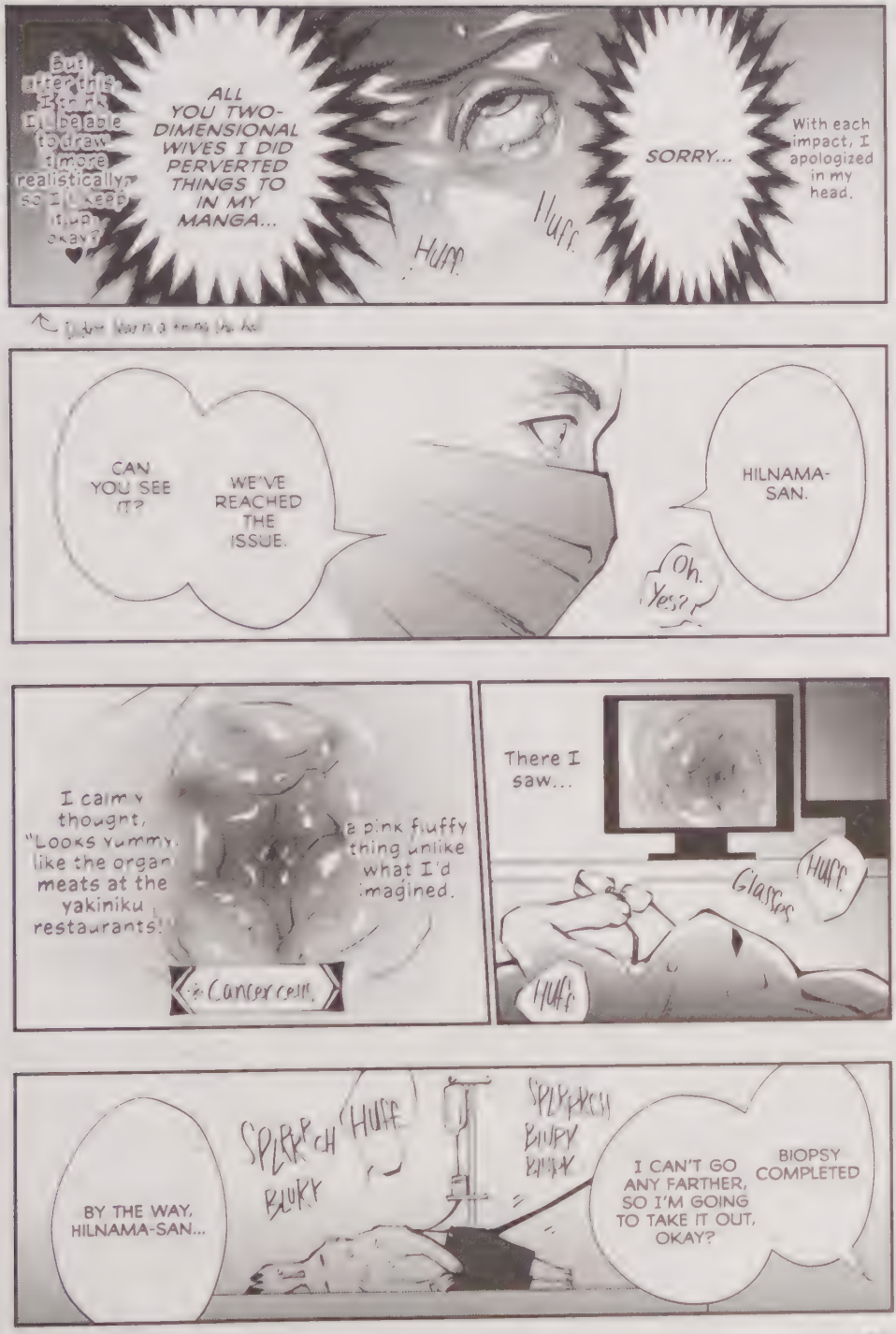
And this is how I casually lost my colon virginity.


Gratter
Gratter
WHAT?
WHAT?
UH?
BLURK BLURK
HUH?
MAY I WEAR MY GLASSES? I'D LIKE TO SEE, TOO.
BLURK...
Biggest Smile
PEOPLE USUALLY AREN'T CALM ENOUGH TO ASK THAT.
PLEASE. LET'S TAKE A LOOK TOGETHER.
NO...IT'S PERFECTLY FINE.
WHAT?!
DID I... DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?!
HUSS
OH...? THIS IS MORE EXTREME THAN I THOUGHT...?
WE'LL GO INSIDE HERE NOW, SO DO YOUR BEST TO RELAX.
BLORK
WHOA... THIS IS THE REAL DEAL...
HUSS
SPLURCH
NOW, SEE THERE? THAT IS YOUR SIGMOID COLON.
AAH!
JAB
HERE WE GO.
YOU'LL FEEL A BIT OF AN IMPACT, OKAY?



※And that's how it went! In the end, it was fun.♡ It's an important examination, so make sure you get it! Don't be afraid!



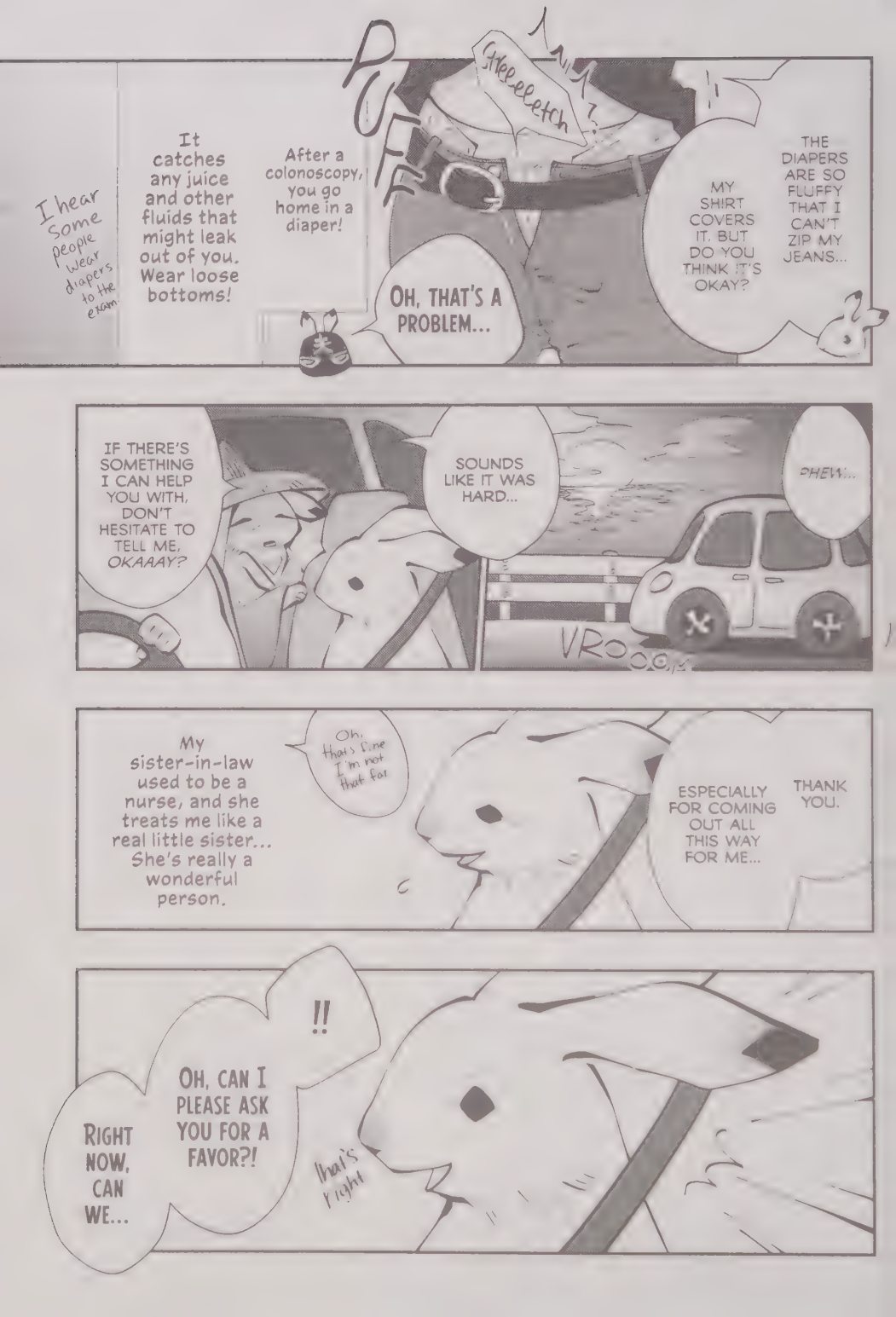

But after this I'm not liable to draw more realistically, so I'll keep it up, okay? ♥
ALL YOU TWO-DIMENSIONAL WIVES I DID PERVERTED THINGS TO IN MY MANGA...
Hum
Huff
SORRY...
With each impact, I apologized in my head.
CAN YOU SEE IT?
WE'VE REACHED THE ISSUE.
HILNAMA-SAN.
Oh. Yes?
I calmly thought, "Looks yummy, like the organ meats at the yakiniku restaurants!"
a pink fluffy thing unlike what I'd imagined.
Cancer cell.
There I saw...
Glasses
Huff
Huff
BY THE WAY, HILNAMA-SAN...
SPLRRCH
HUFF
BLUPY
SPLRRCH
BLUPY
I CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER, SO I'M GOING TO TAKE IT OUT, OKAY?
BIOPSY COMPLETED

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

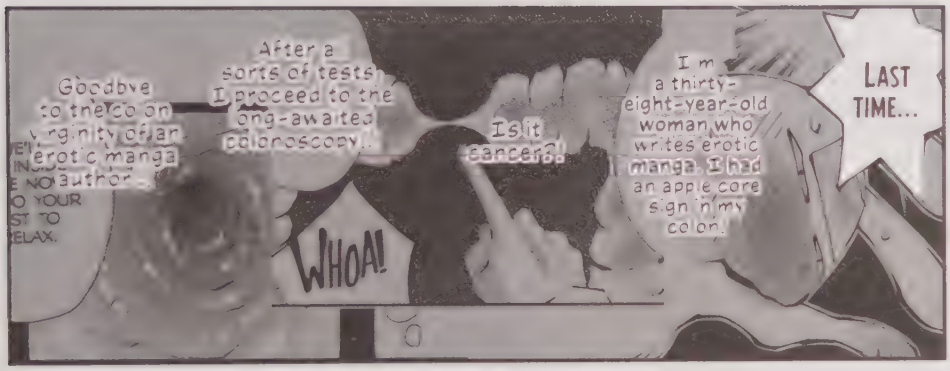
Weeell, I love all of you. That was the time I had a colonoscopy. I read a really wide range of responses after this went online. Some people said it didn't hurt at all! Others said it hurt so badly! Some people experienced complications. Other people thought it was the most fun they've ever had...! *(Ha ha.)*

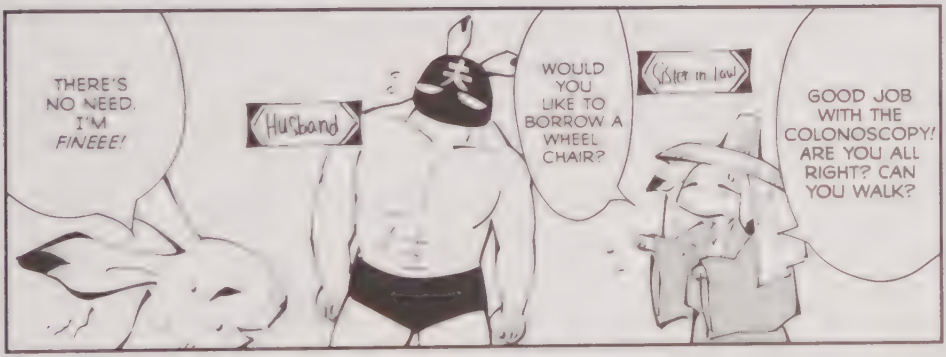
Well, the difficulties of the exam probably run the gamut depending on a person's health and situation. You shouldn't laugh at other people's pain. (Sorry...)

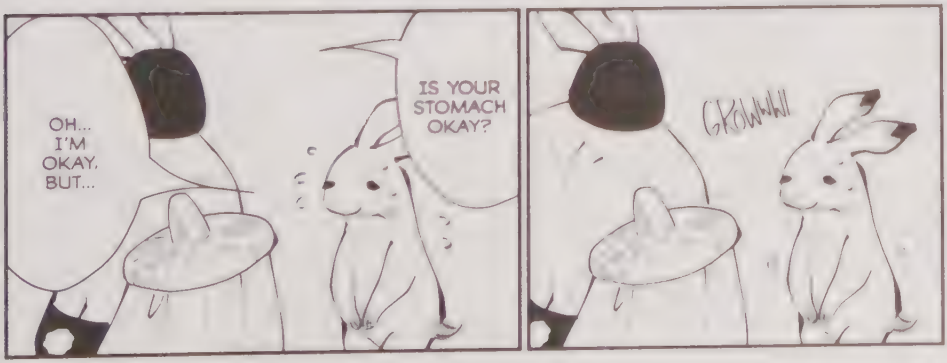
By the way, I wrote this in the afterword, too, but during my first colonoscopy, I did say "yelp" and stuff, but the second time (a year after my surgery) it was completely healthy and I thought about Chkmeruli, a Georgian chicken and garlic sauce dish.
It's because my colon got shorter. *Wooow!*

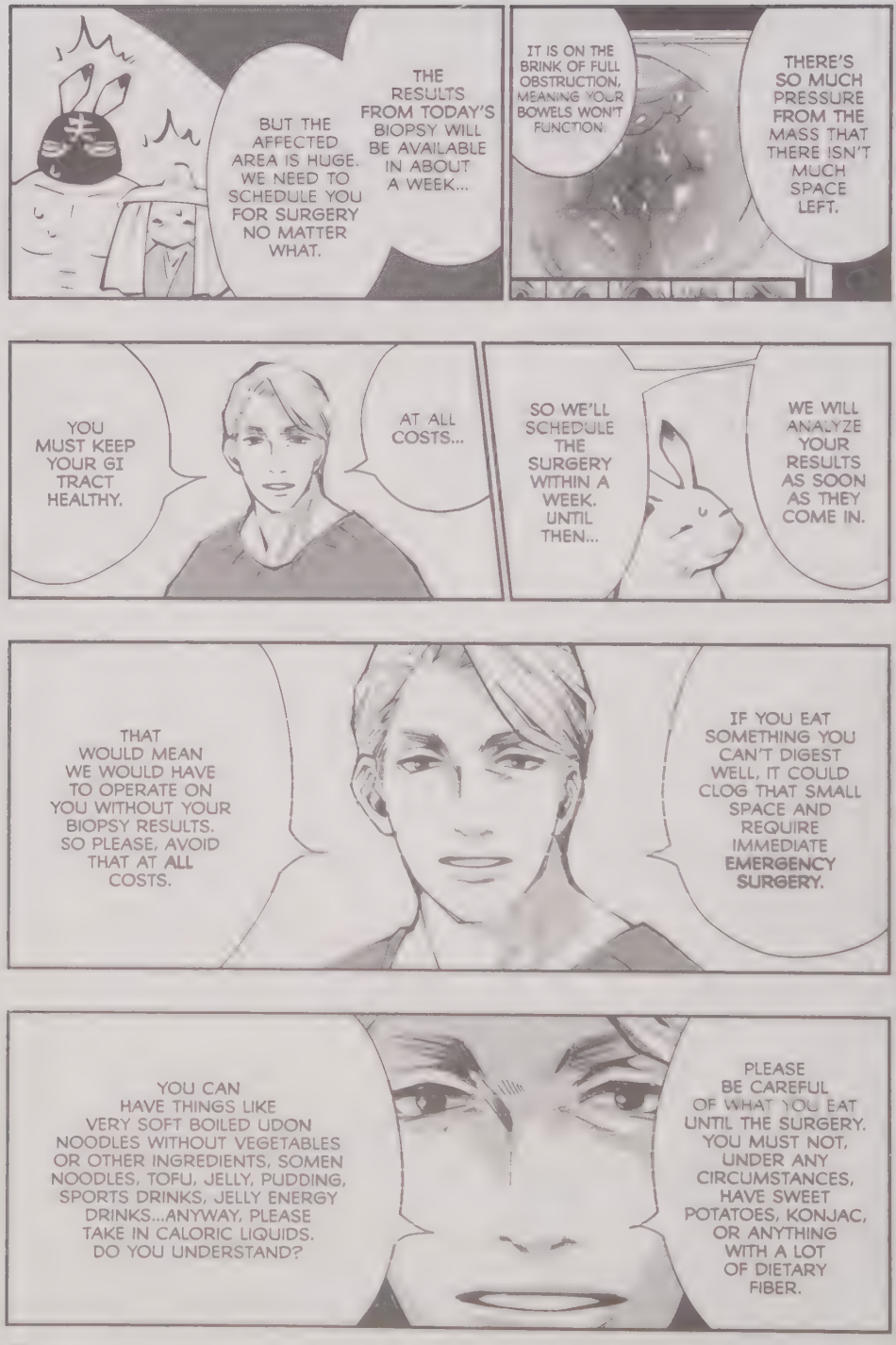

I hear some people wear diapers to the exam.
It catches any juice and other fluids that might leak out of you. Wear loose bottoms!
After a colonoscopy, you go home in a diaper!
PUFF
Gleeeeletch
OH, THAT'S A PROBLEM...
MY SHIRT COVERS IT. BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY?
THE DIAPERS ARE SO FLUFFY THAT I CAN'T ZIP MY JEANS...
IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH, DON'T HESITATE TO TELL ME, OKAAAY?
SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS HARD...
PHEW...
VROOM
My sister-in-law used to be a nurse, and she treats me like a real little sister... She's really a wonderful person.
Oh, that's fine I'm not that far
ESPECIALLY FOR COMING OUT ALL THIS WAY FOR ME...
THANK YOU.
!!
OH, CAN I PLEASE ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?!
RIGHT NOW, CAN WE...
that's right

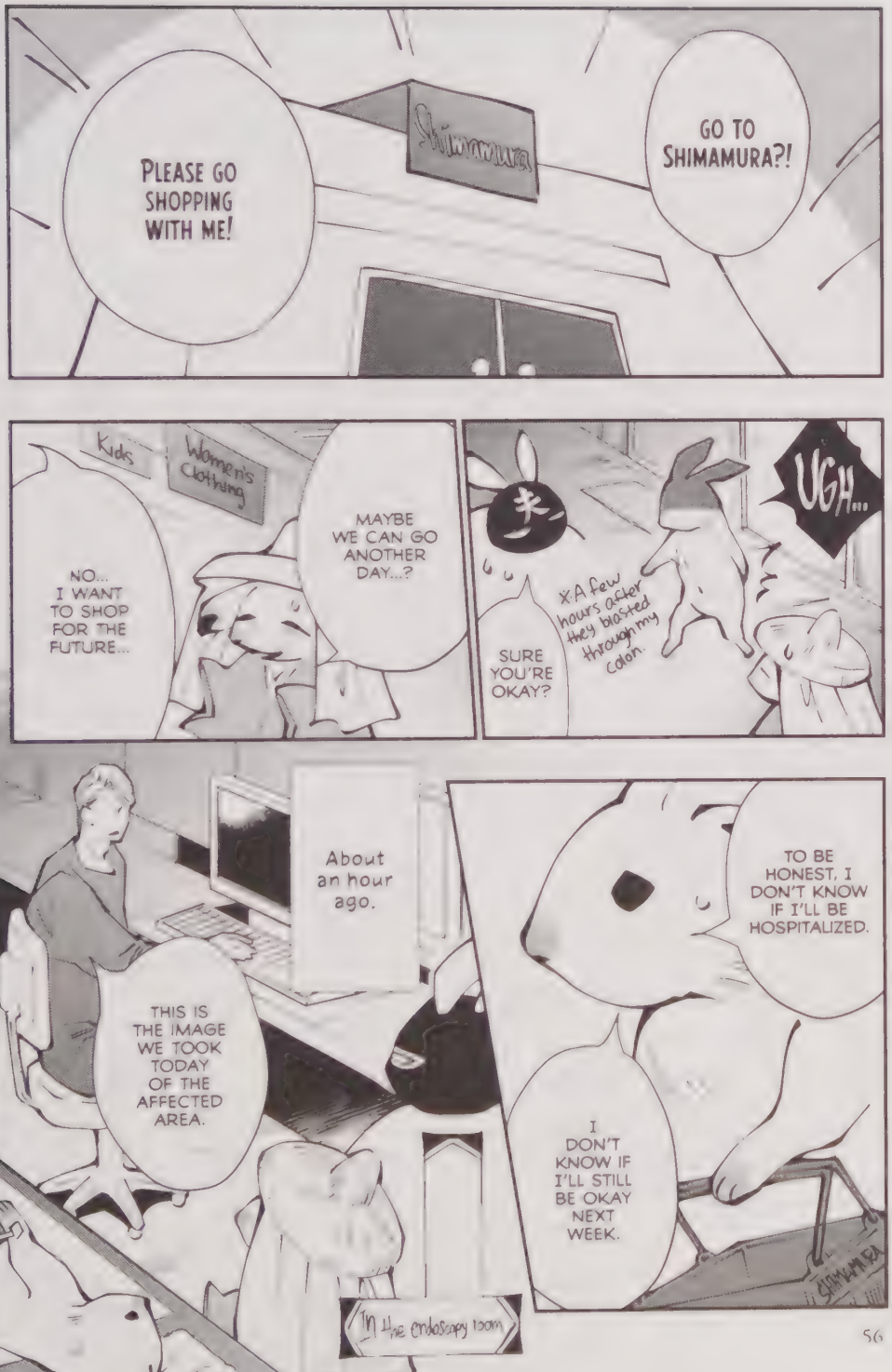
I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. 4
The time I went to Shimamura with those legs.

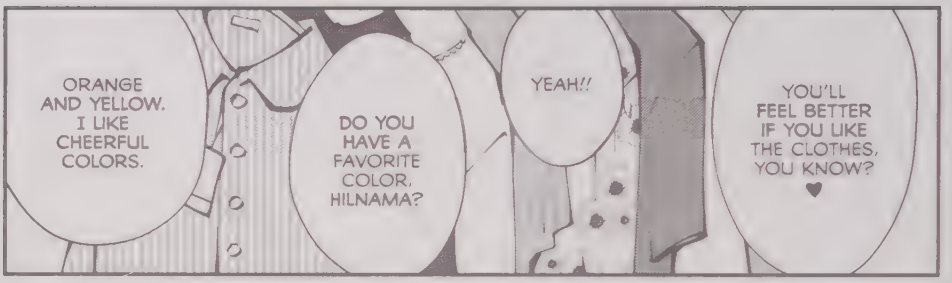


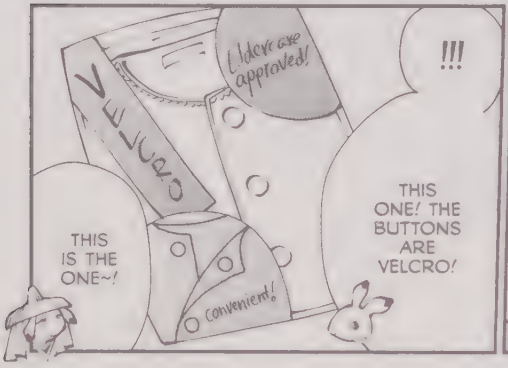





THE RESULTS FROM TODAY'S BIOPSY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ABOUT A WEEK...
BUT THE AFFECTED AREA IS HUGE. WE NEED TO SCHEDULE YOU FOR SURGERY NO MATTER WHAT.
IT IS ON THE BRINK OF FULL OBSTRUCTION, MEANING YOUR BOWELS WON'T FUNCTION.
THERE'S SO MUCH PRESSURE FROM THE MASS THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH SPACE LEFT.
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR GI TRACT HEALTHY.
AT ALL COSTS...
SO WE'LL SCHEDULE THE SURGERY WITHIN A WEEK. UNTIL THEN...
WE WILL ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS AS SOON AS THEY COME IN.
THAT WOULD MEAN WE WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE ON YOU WITHOUT YOUR BIOPSY RESULTS. SO PLEASE, AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS.
IF YOU EAT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T DIGEST WELL, IT COULD CLOG THAT SMALL SPACE AND REQUIRE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY SURGERY.
YOU CAN HAVE THINGS LIKE VERY SOFT BOILED UDON NOODLES WITHOUT VEGETABLES OR OTHER INGREDIENTS, SOMEN NOODLES, TOFU, JELLY, PUDDING, SPORTS DRINKS, JELLY ENERGY DRINKS...ANYWAY, PLEASE TAKE IN CALORIC LIQUIDS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU EAT UNTIL THE SURGERY. YOU MUST NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE SWEET POTATOES, KONJAC, OR ANYTHING WITH A LOT OF DIETARY FIBER.

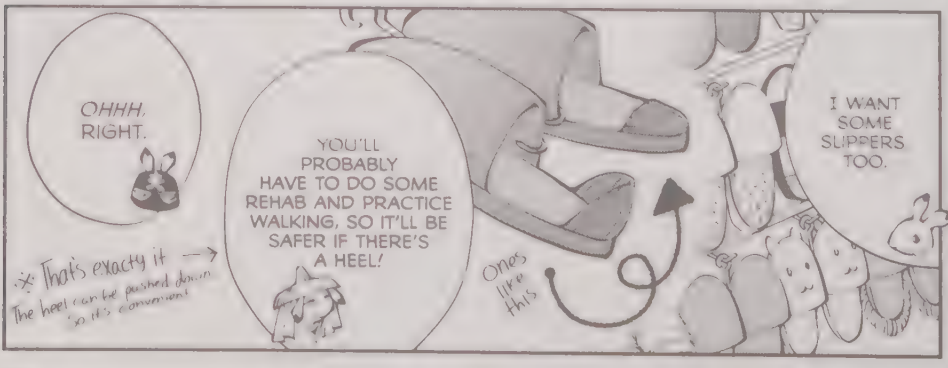

PLEASE GO SHOPPING WITH ME!
SHIMAMURA
GO TO SHIMAMURA?!
Kids
Women's Clothing
NO... I WANT TO SHOP FOR THE FUTURE...
MAYBE WE CAN GO ANOTHER DAY...?
SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
*A few hours after they blasted through my colon.
UGH...
About an hour ago.
THIS IS THE IMAGE WE TOOK TODAY OF THE AFFECTED AREA.
In the endoscopy room
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL STILL BE OKAY NEXT WEEK.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE HOSPITALIZED.
SHIMAMURA


ORANGE AND YELLOW. I LIKE CHEERFUL COLORS.
DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE COLOR, HILNAMA?
YEAH!!
YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU LIKE THE CLOTHES, YOU KNOW?

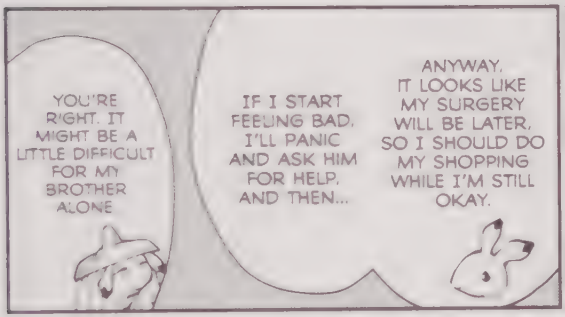

VELCRO
Elders are approved!
!!!
THIS ONE! THE BUTTONS ARE VELCRO!
THIS IS THE ONE~!
Convenient!

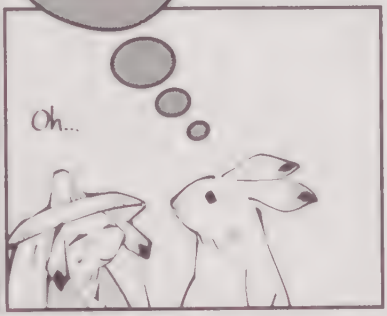
Women's Underwear
SOMETHING THAT OPENS IN THE FRONT.
GOT IT FOUND SOME.
MAYBE I'LL BUY SOME UNDERWEAR, TOO?
※ In the middle of winter

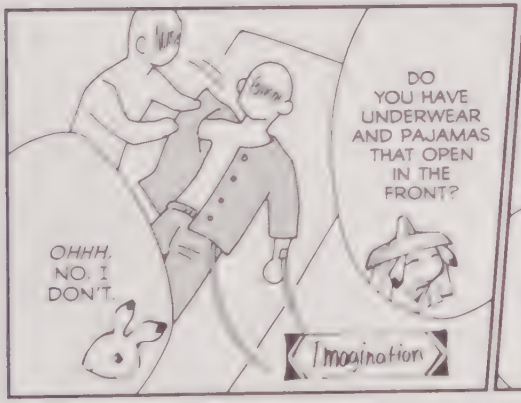
OHHH, RIGHT.
OHHH!
※ That's exactly it → I didn't see any white ones
IT'S SO THEY'RE VISIBLE EVEN IF YOU GET LIGHTHEADED!
VELCRO COMES IN RED, TOO?

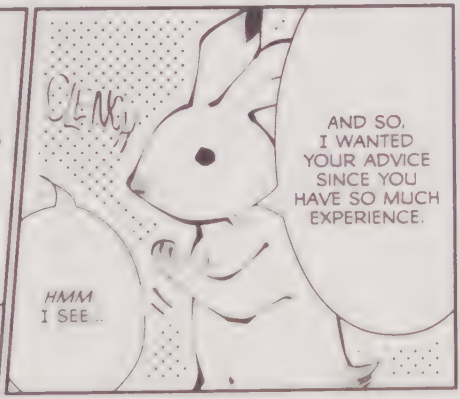

OHHH, RIGHT.
※ That's exactly it → The heel can be pushed down so it's convenient
YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO DO SOME REHAB AND PRACTICE WALKING, SO IT'LL BE SAFER IF THERE'S A HEEL!
Ones like this
I WANT SOME SLIPPERS TOO.

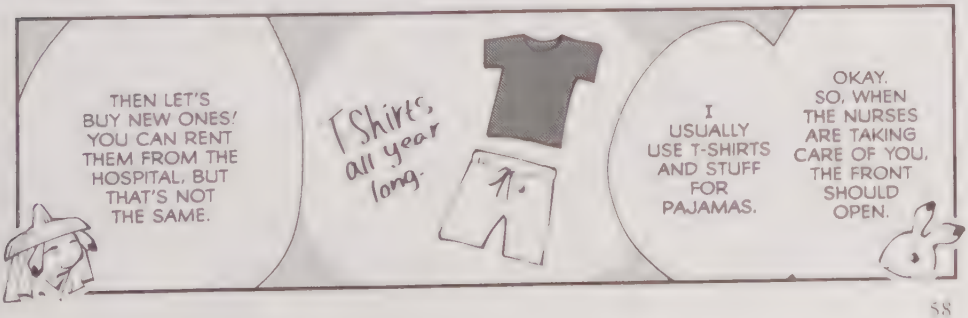
Yes...
YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THIS IS, RIGHT?

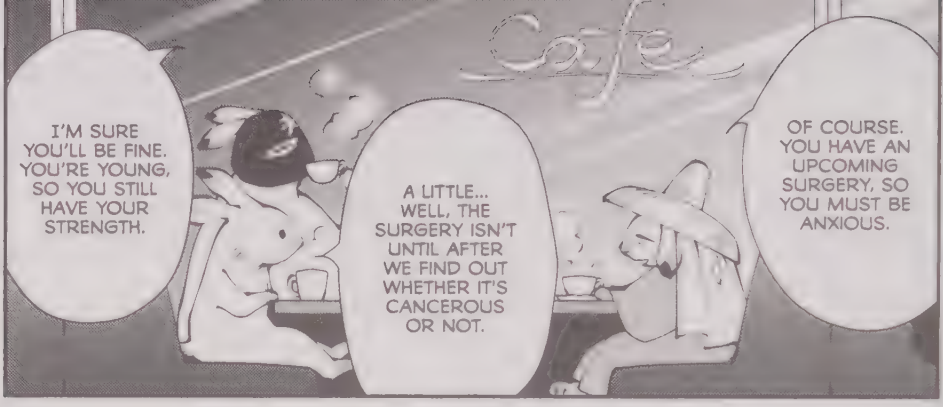

YOU'RE RIGHT. IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT FOR MY BROTHER ALONE
IF I START FEELING BAD, I'LL PANIC AND ASK HIM FOR HELP, AND THEN...
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE MY SURGERY WILL BE LATER, SO I SHOULD DO MY SHOPPING WHILE I'M STILL OKAY.

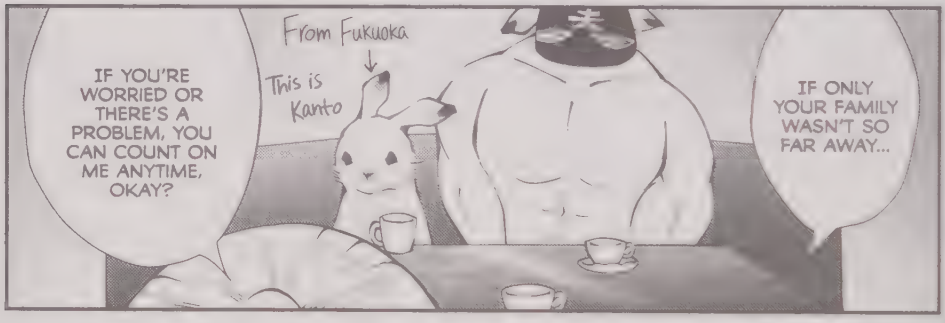

Oh...


OHHH, NO. I DON'T.
DO YOU HAVE UNDERWEAR AND PAJAMAS THAT OPEN IN THE FRONT?
Imagination

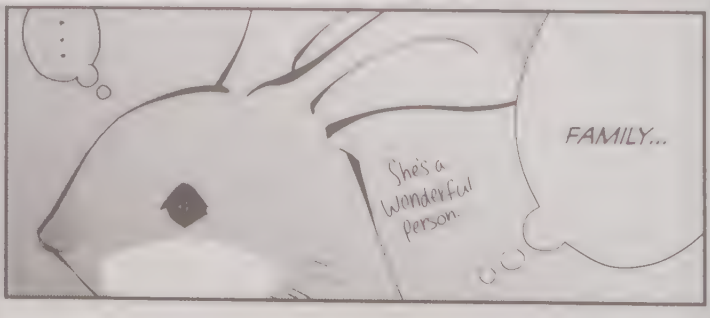

HMM I SEE...
AND SO, I WANTED YOUR ADVICE SINCE YOU HAVE SO MUCH EXPERIENCE.

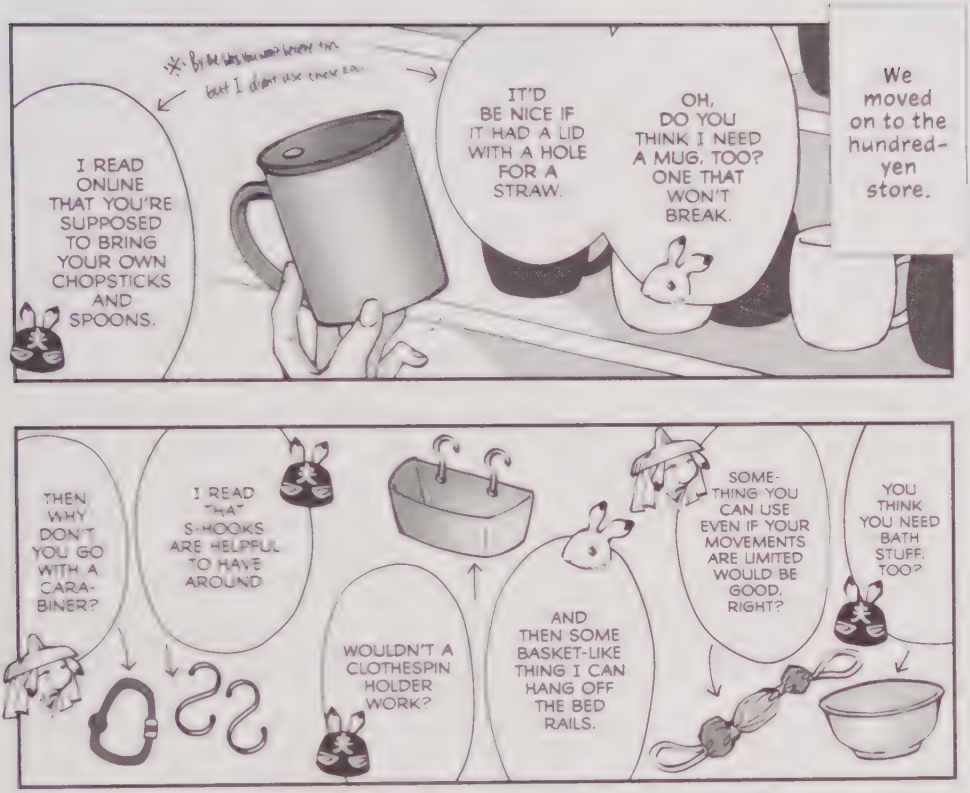

THEN LET'S BUY NEW ONES! YOU CAN RENT THEM FROM THE HOSPITAL, BUT THAT'S NOT THE SAME.
T-Shirts, all year long.
I USUALLY USE T-SHIRTS AND STUFF FOR PAJAMAS.
OKAY. SO, WHEN THE NURSES ARE TAKING CARE OF YOU, THE FRONT SHOULD OPEN.



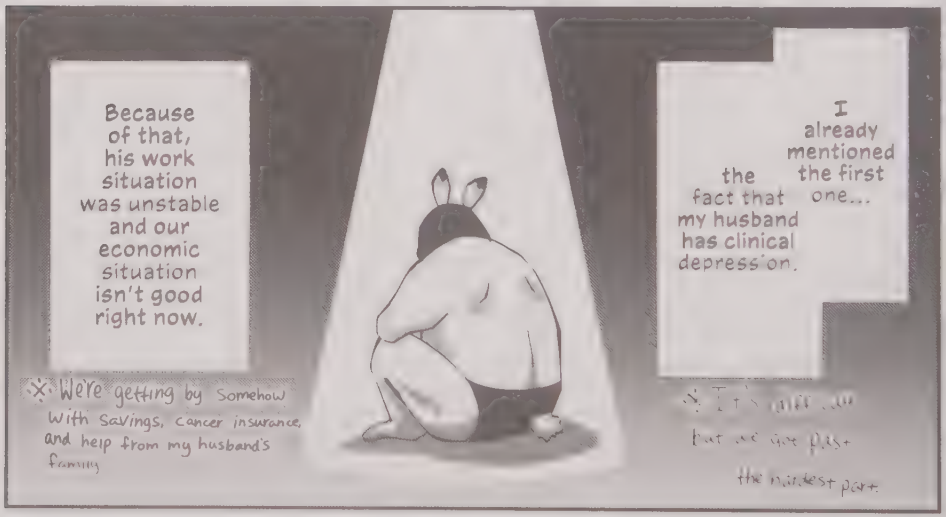


That was one of my sore spots.

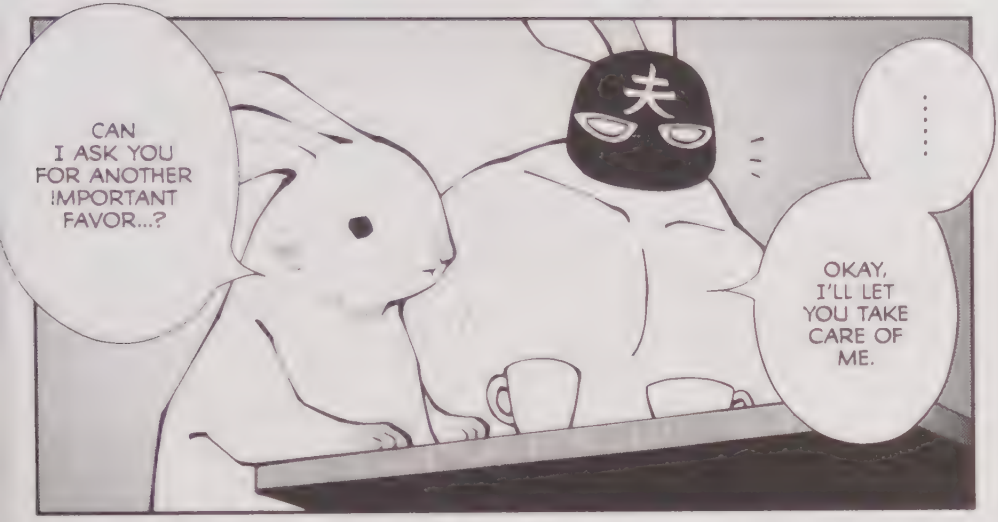



*. By the way you won't know this but I don't use chopsticks...
I READ ONLINE THAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BRING YOUR OWN CHOPSTICKS AND SPOONS.
IT'D BE NICE IF IT HAD A LID WITH A HOLE FOR A STRAW.
OH, DO YOU THINK I NEED A MUG, TOO? ONE THAT WON'T BREAK.
We moved on to the hundred-yen store.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO WITH A CARA-BINER?
I READ "HA" S-HOOKS ARE HELPFUL TO HAVE AROUND
WOULDN'T A CLOTHESPIN HOLDER WORK?
AND THEN SOME BASKET-LIKE THING I CAN HANG OFF THE BED RAILS.
SOME-THING YOU CAN USE EVEN IF YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE LIMITED WOULD BE GOOD, RIGHT?
YOU THINK YOU NEED BATH STUFF, TOO?
That day we took our time shopping while talking a whole bunch.
I agree
You're very honest, right?
I don't use much at all
I like simple designs without a lot of decoration but functionality is most important
Yep!
I think... shopping can help you understand another person's values.
THANK YOU FOR COMING WITH ME!!!
WE CAN BUY ANYTHING ELSE FOR YOU IF YOU NEED IT.
PHEW... OKAY...

The truth is, I had two other big issues.
Even with the surgery and hospitalization coming up...
and the fear I might have cancer...


Because of that, his work situation was unstable and our economic situation isn't good right now.
*We're getting by somehow with savings, cancer insurance, and help from my husband's family
I already mentioned the first one... the fact that my husband has clinical depression.
* It's still ... but we've got past the hardest part.

The second is...


CAN I ASK YOU FOR ANOTHER !MPORTANT FAVOR...?
.....
OKAY, I'LL LET YOU TAKE CARE OF ME.

YEAH.
WHAT? NO...

YOU OKAY?
?
I THINK I SHOULD... TALK ABOUT IT.
YEAH.
OR, LIKE, I THINK I SHOULD TALK ABOUT IT NOW.

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

I'm...

a survivor
of abuse.

The time the story gets a bit heavy.

Let's go

Mental health stuff

Movies and music *reaally* save your soul when you can't get around! You can buy ebooks about your illness, shop online, maybe even work on your manuscript.

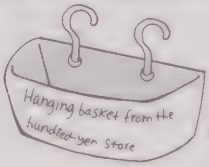
Make sure you find out if they have Wi-Fi where you're going to be.

Wired earphones

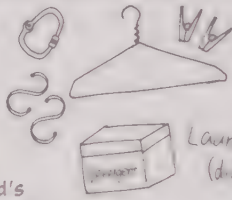
The probability of losing your wireless ones is 1,000%. It's devastating when they fall under the bed and you can't move.

Other Stuff

My neck and hips really hurt when I was stuck in bed, so I brought my beloved Tempur pillow, and my quality of life skyrocketed.



Hang this on the bed's frame and put in everything you need. It's helpful for when you can't move. Without this, you have to rely on others to be around.



The hanger is for stuff like towels. I ended up not doing any laundry, though.

Toiletries

All-in-one Shampoo, Conditioner, and body wash

It was a pain to have to bring everything in, but I only used it once (LOL).

Toilet paper

Soft

high-end

After colon surgery, your butthole is in danger.

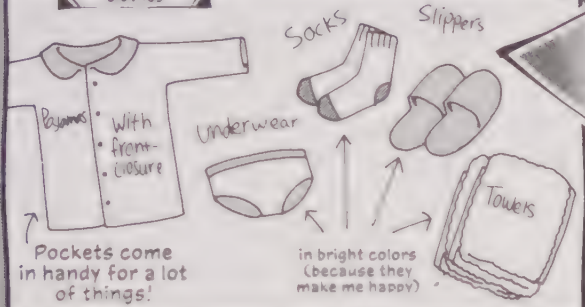
Of course, the hospital wards have bathing facilities, but I was discharged by the time I was able to take a bath. I only used it once immediately before surgery.

A nurse washed my hair while I was bedridden, which was an interesting experience.

Items for my hospitalization this time

Period of Hospitalization: about three weeks (laparotomy).
※ This depends on the hospital and person!

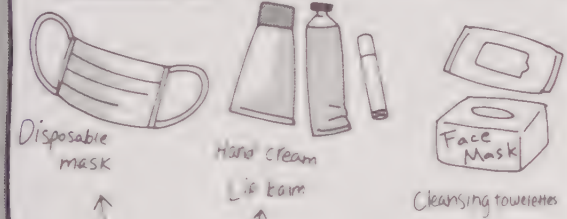
Change of clothes



Pockets come in handy for a lot of things!

in bright colors (because they make me happy)

Travel stuff



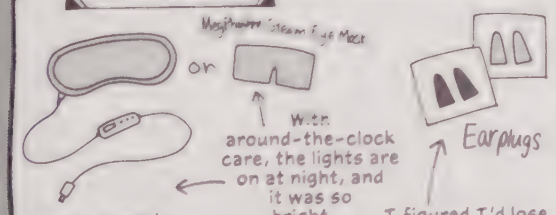
Disposable mask

Hand cream
Lip balm

Cleansing towelettes
Face washing sheets
(Life's hard if I don't have these.)

My throat was so dry and in pain because the room was heavily air-conditioned while I was bedridden.

Sleep Stuff



Electric-heated eye mask

With around-the-clock care, the lights are on at night, and it was so bright...

Earplugs

I figured I'd lose them, so I slept better knowing I had spares!

Motivational stuff

Charms and miscellaneous gifts from people.

Fan mail from my readers

Step Counter
(and other support items)

This is encouragement for the rehabilitation after surgery!

Food-related

It's easy to drop stuff if your movements are limited, so using plastic bottles worked out the best.

You can just give any leftovers to someone else

Like rice seasonings and stuff.

Condiments!

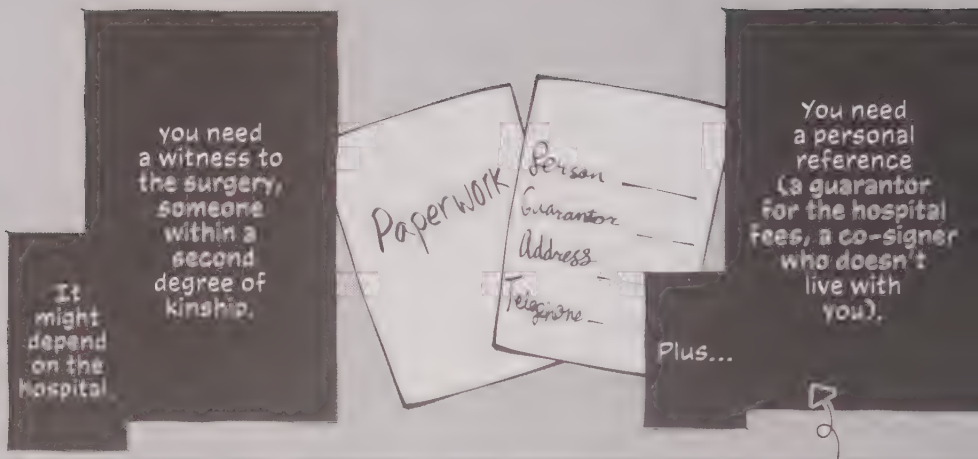
This depends on your illness. Listen to your doctor.

Like from a hundred-yen store.

Straws are amazing. Totally genius

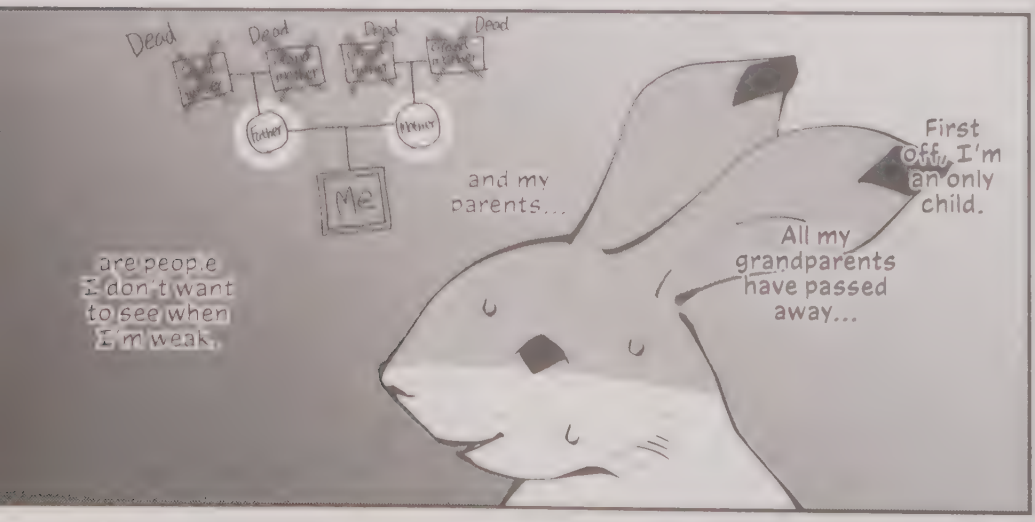
Plastic mug and utensils.

Didn't use these. The hospital had them (LOL). (Make sure beforehand, though...)

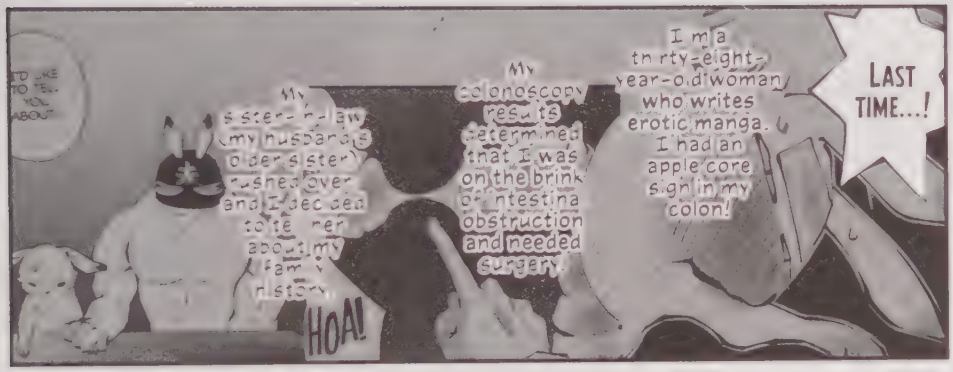


※ American hospital systems will be different

In short, it can't be someone you live with.

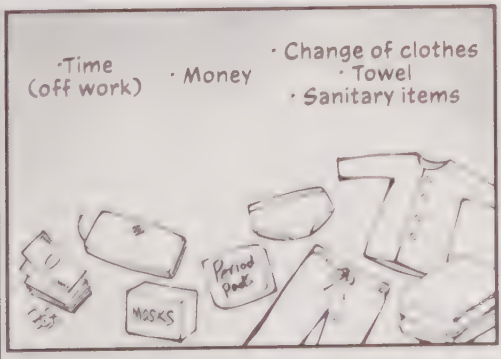


I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. 5
The time the story gets a bit heavy.



There's one more thing even more important.

Depending on the person, it could be the most difficult to prepare.



Those who are lucky enough to live through the violence from their families...

are survivors of abuse.

One of the handicaps survivors of abuse must continue to deal with for their whole lives...

is having no relatives to call on when hurt or sick.

(In fact, calling them would be a disaster.)

Even though I understood this rationally...

I couldn't have surgery without a witness.

I couldn't complete the paperwork to get hospitalized without a guarantor.

This is a very important conversation.

Wait, you

?!

So I would appreciate it if you could be my guarantor

I can't rely on my parents after what they did...

I have cancer.

while dealing with my illness was honestly really hard. (It's hard even when I'm healthy.)

asking for unrelated people to be a guarantor...

It's not fair that even everything outside of my actual illness had to be so hard!

Really, I was crying because I was so mad.

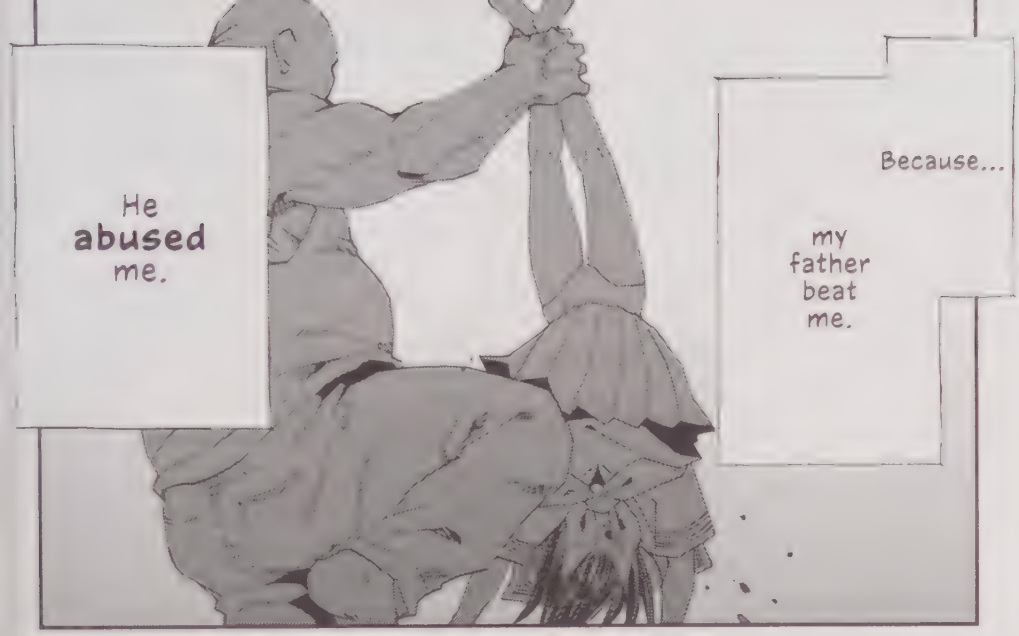
I hate this!

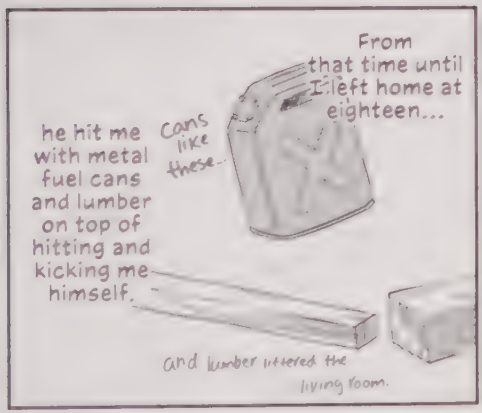
WAAH!

SNIFF

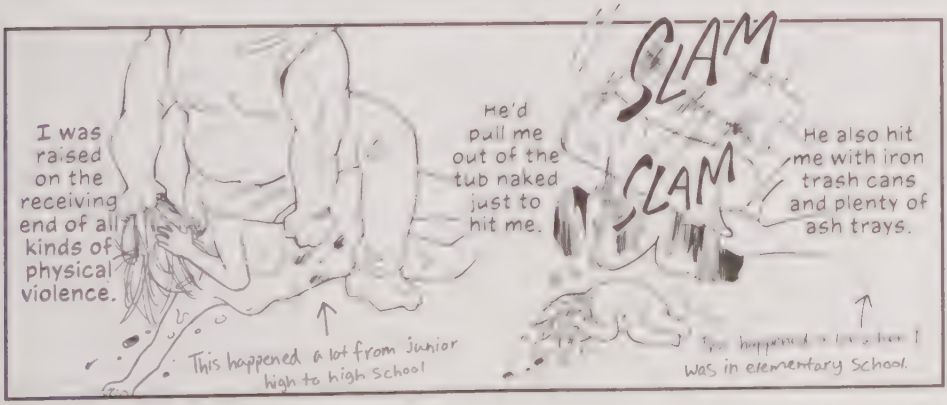
I'm interviewed about it's manga

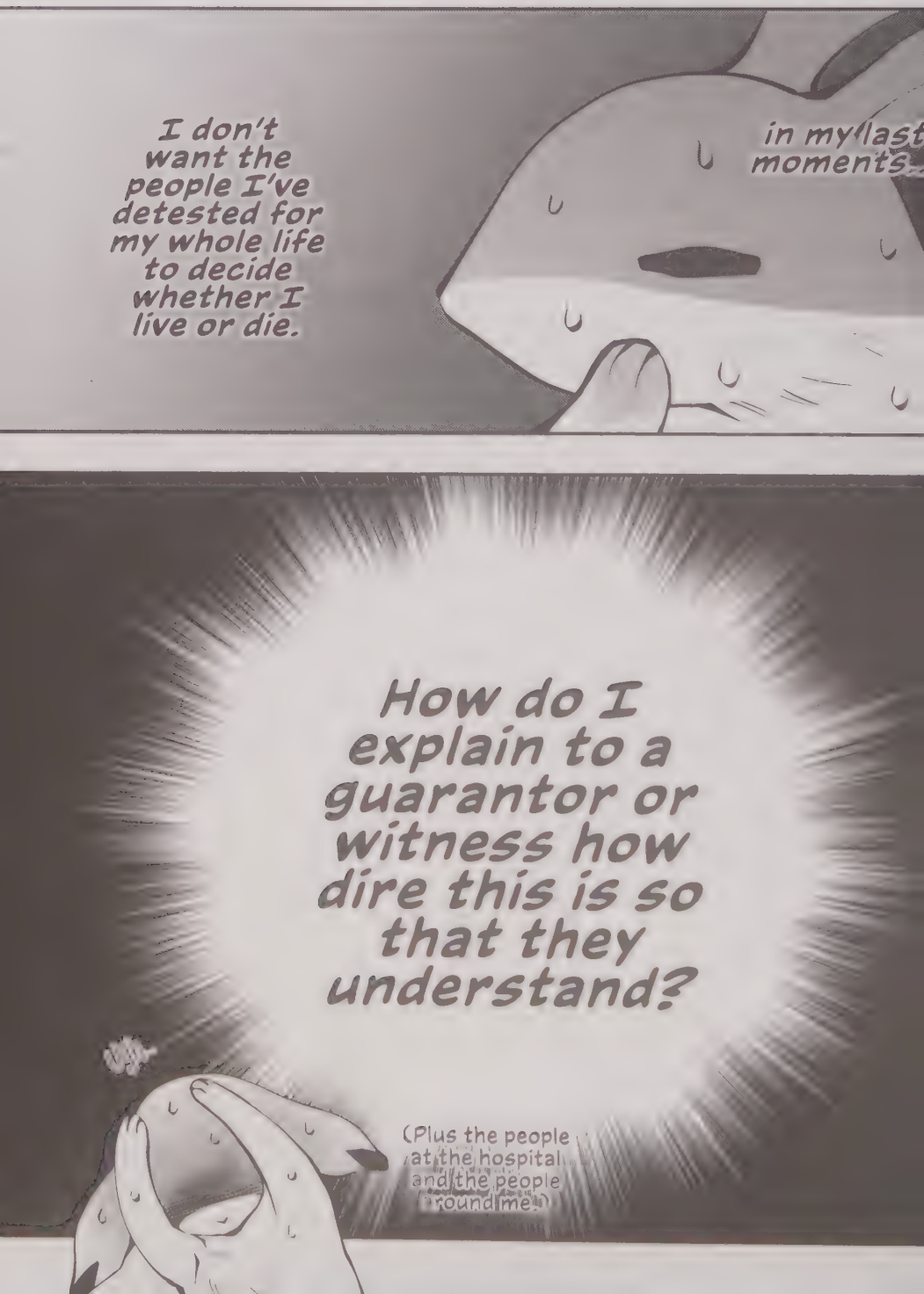
I said, "I acted like it was no big deal but the truth is I cried for two nights."

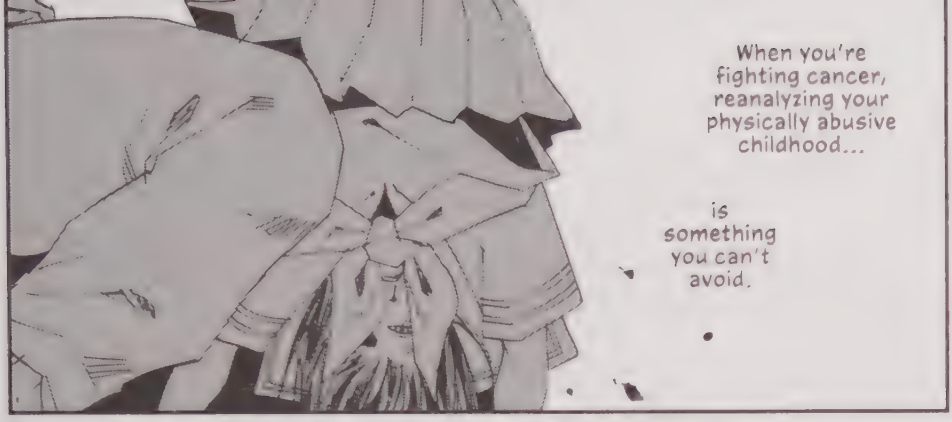

He abused me.
Because...
my father beat me.

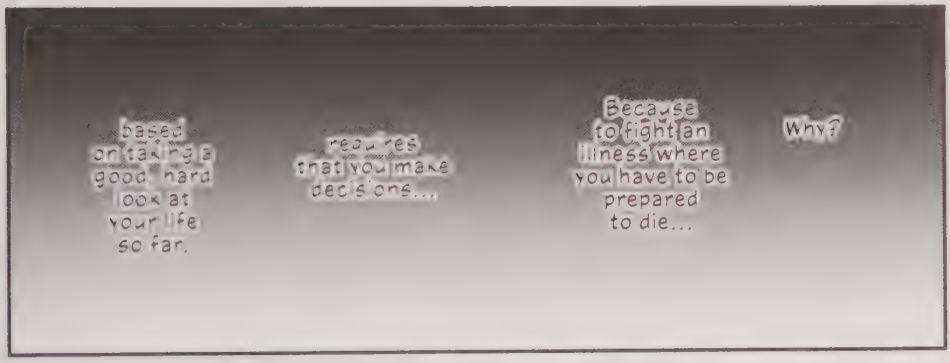

From that time until I left home at eighteen...
he hit me with metal fuel cans and lumber on top of hitting and kicking me himself.
Cans like these.
and lumber littered the living room.

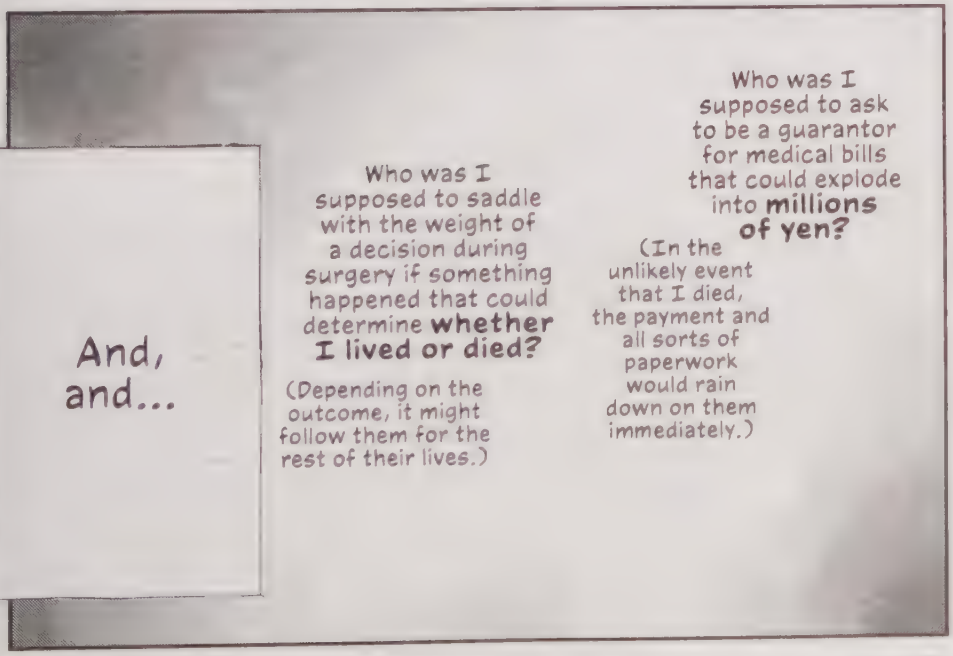
I was probably in a rebellious phase.
I won't go into detail, but it started around the time I was four years old.


I was raised on the receiving end of all kinds of physical violence.
This happened a lot from junior high to high school
He'd pull me out of the tub naked just to hit me.
SLAM
SLAM
He also hit me with iron trash cans and plenty of ash trays.
This happened a lot when I was in elementary school.


I don't want the people I've detested for my whole life to decide whether I live or die.
in my last moments.
How do I explain to a guarantor or witness how dire this is so that they understand?
(Plus the people at the hospital and the people around me.)


When you're fighting cancer, reanalyzing your physically abusive childhood...
is something you can't avoid.


based on taking a good hard look at your life so far.
requires that you make decisions...
Because to fight an illness where you have to be prepared to die...
Why?


And, and...
Who was I supposed to saddle with the weight of a decision during surgery if something happened that could determine **whether I lived or died?**
(Depending on the outcome, it might follow them for the rest of their lives.)
Who was I supposed to ask to be a guarantor for medical bills that could explode into **millions of yen?**
(In the unlikely event that I died, the payment and all sorts of paperwork would rain down on them immediately.)

But actually, it's those reactions that are the hardest part.

unless you've experienced it yourself, you're probably thinking, "As if it's that bad."

Now...

Survivors of abuse...

look "okay" now to many, so a lot of people don't take us seriously. People don't believe us.

We are telling the truth!

You've got to be exaggerating LOL LOL LOL

Why don't you stop those accusations? They're unfair.

Don't you think there's disrespectful to the kids who've actually died?

Your parents only did that because they love you

You're alive and well thanks to them (LOL).

They fed you three times a day and even sent you to school, right?

I dealt with my parents' abuse too, buuut...

It took me [redacted] years to heal the scars, develop social skills, and recover myself. I frantically worked hard to be a "normal person".

Normally...

"Which hospital should I go to? What treatments? Basic things I need to know about my illness? Work? Time off? Savings? Insurance? A...? Assets? Fam...? Life after surgery? Meals? Transportation? How long will I live?"

My head is already full just with this stuff!!!!!!

Those are the things...

on top of the medical tests and anxiety over them...

I had to frantically deal with for three weeks.

I have two things I would like to ask you.

And so...

based on my own battle against cancer...

Please don't dismiss the person disclosing to you or be suspicious of them. Be serious. Listen.

No matter how brave and healthy the person confessing these things to you seems, they're frantic to hide the loneliness, fear, and the toll it's taking on them. Please keep that in mind.

The other is for people who will have someone confide in them.

Please set these up while you are still healthy: legalities, work, finance, mental health-- everything. Talk with the people you're supposed to rely on and find out if you really can trust them.

The first is for people who suffer under similar circumstances.

People Call It A Little Pkin

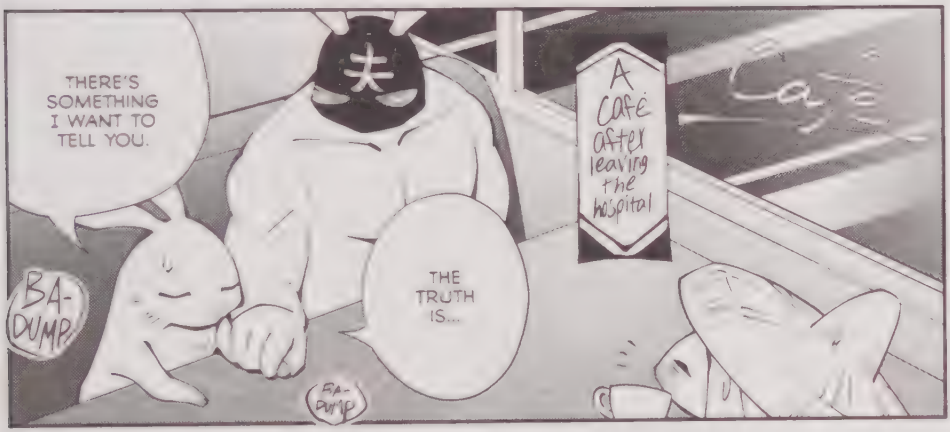
BA-DUMP
.....
WHAT...?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BUT YOUR FATHER HAD SUCH A LOVELY SMILE AND SEEMED SO NICE...
I'VE ONLY MET THEM ONCE...
Y...
YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT ? I MEAN..
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
Clench
Ngh
By the way...
HE LOOKED SO SINCERE...
YOU'RE... NOT TALKING ABOUT NORMAL DISCIPLINE, ARE YOU?

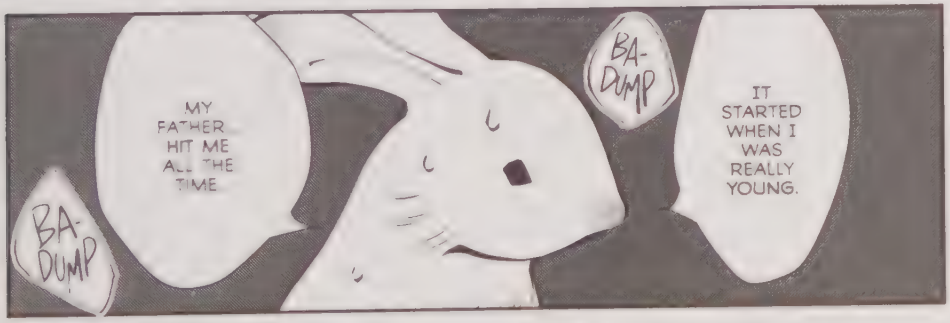
In chapter three...

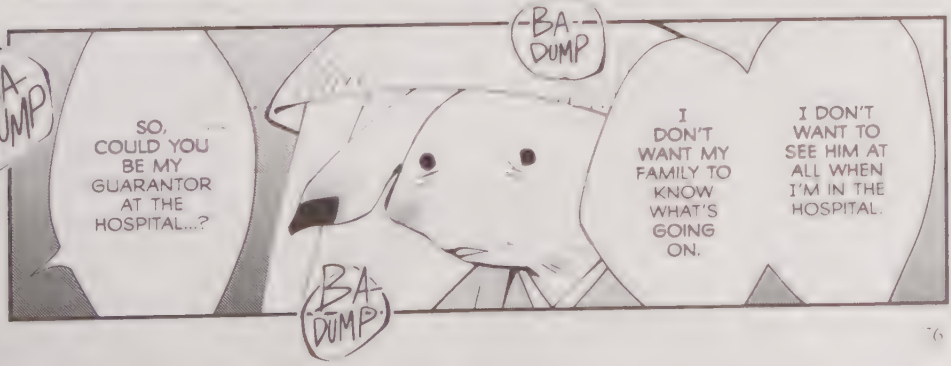
I said having my sister-in-law here was a stroke of luck.

However, what I'm most grateful to her for is...

that she believed me.



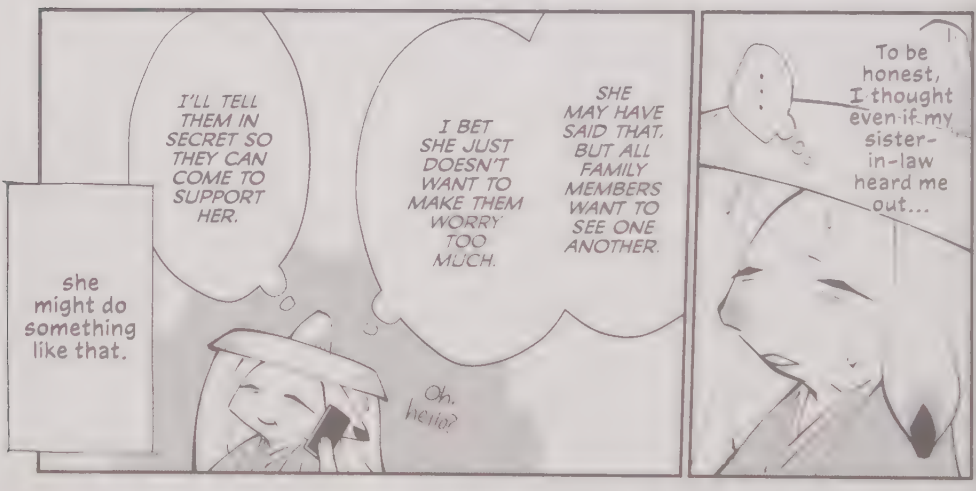


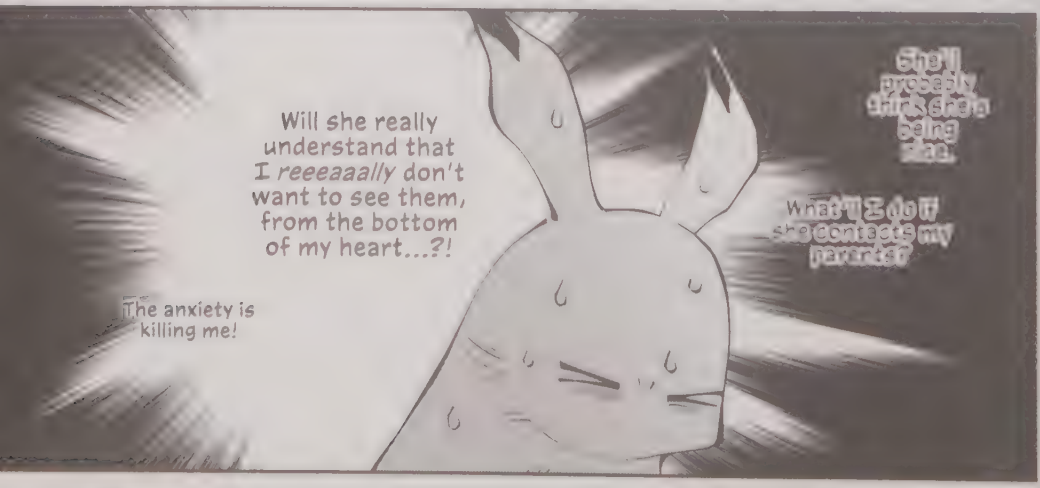


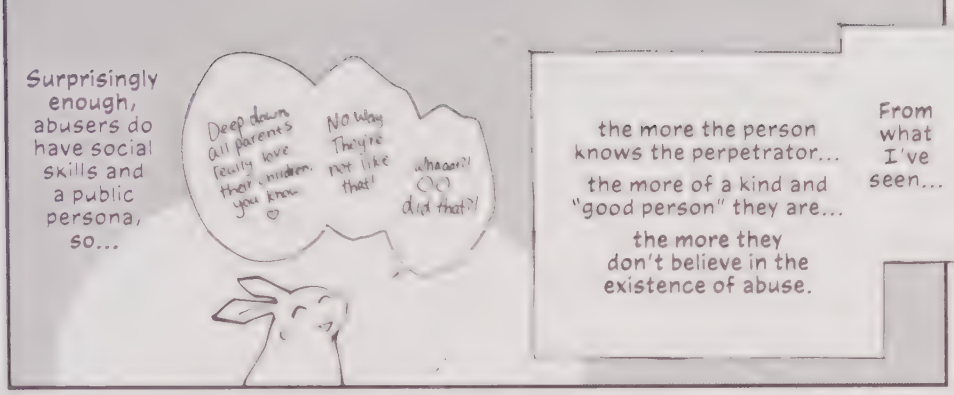
Watching him and his sister makes me think there's something about you if you're raised in a kind family.

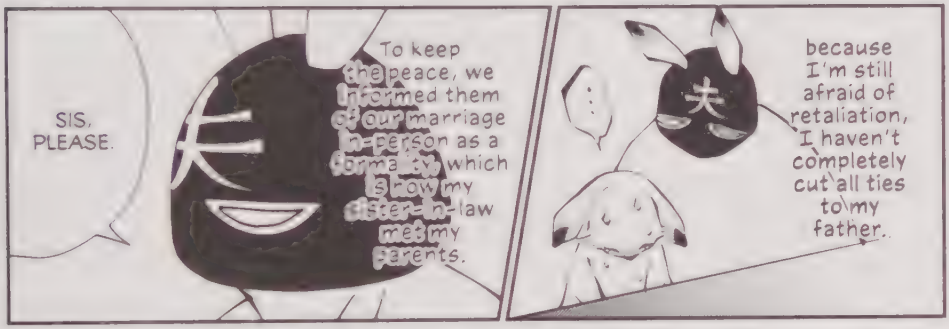
He's one of the few who listened to me without laughing, even though we grew up so differently.

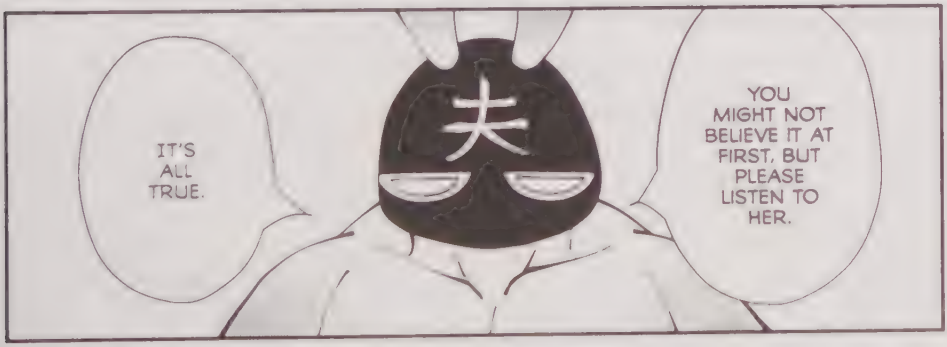
was born and raised in a loving family.





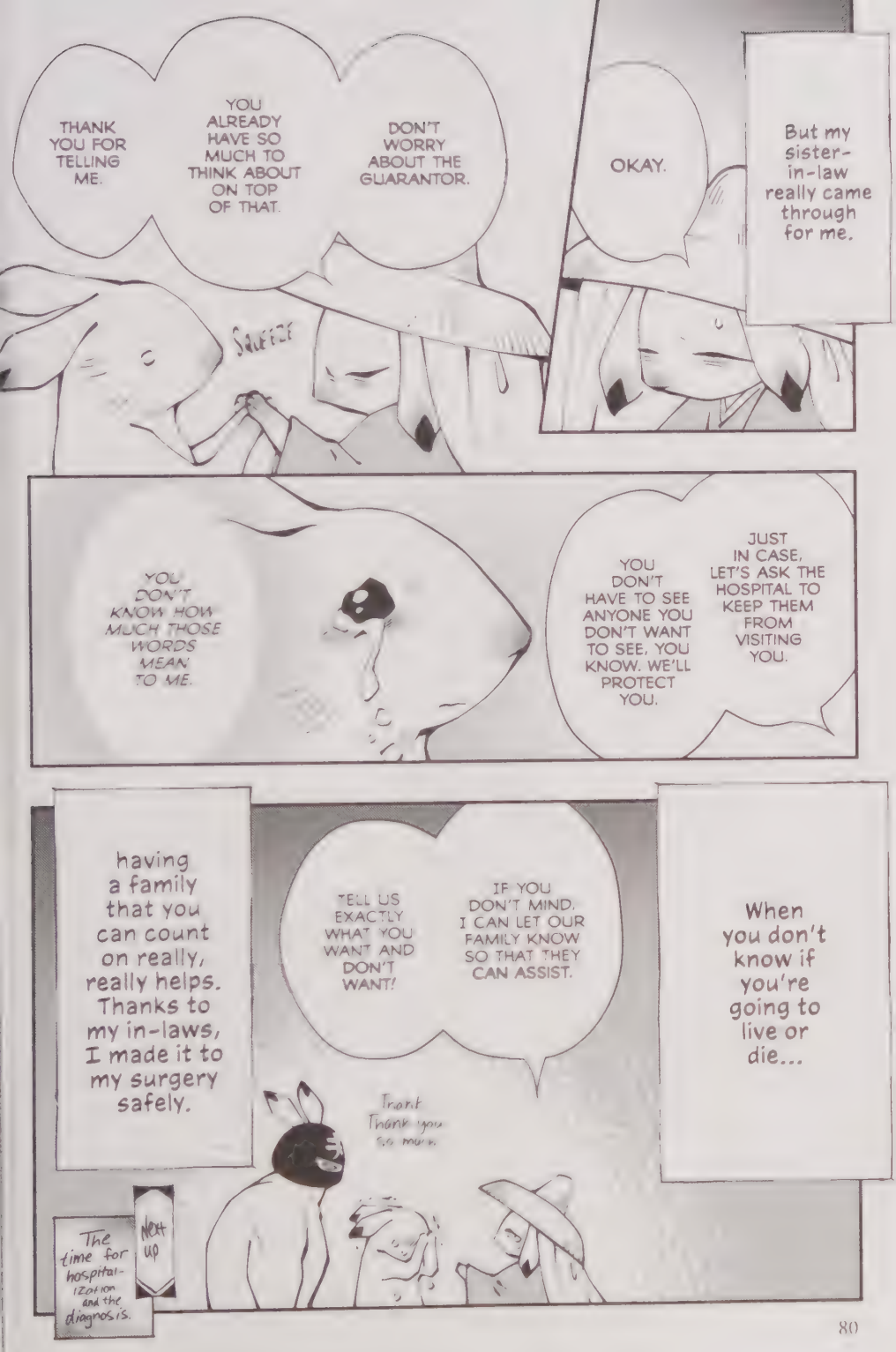

Surprisingly enough, abusers do have social skills and a public persona, so...
Deep down all parents really love their children, you know ♡
No way. They're not like that!
whaaat?! OO did that?!
From what I've seen...
the more the person knows the perpetrator...
the more of a kind and "good person" they are...
the more they don't believe in the existence of abuse.

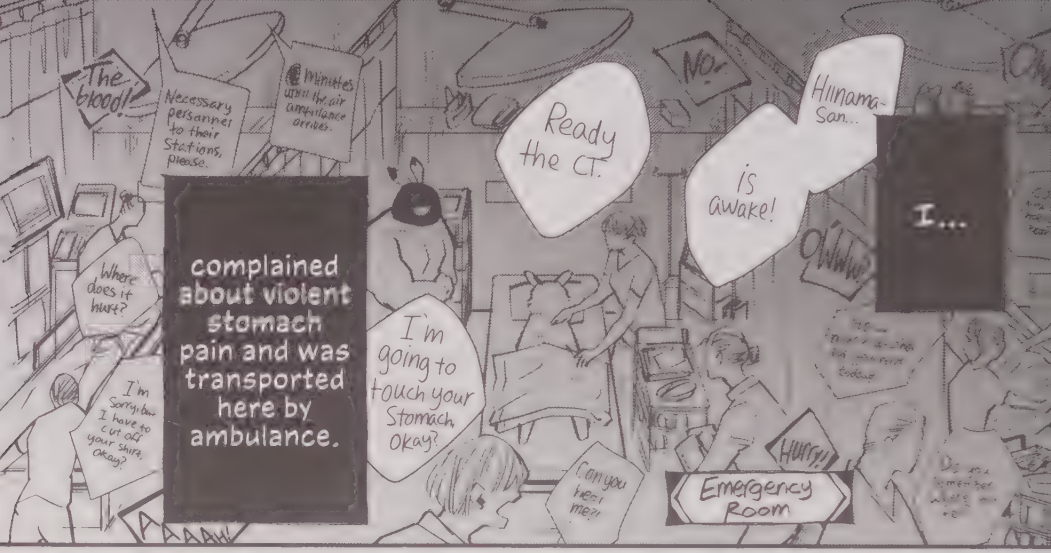

SIS, PLEASE.
To keep the peace, we informed them of our marriage in person as a formality, which is how my sister-in-law met my parents.
because I'm still afraid of retaliation, I haven't completely cut all ties to my father.

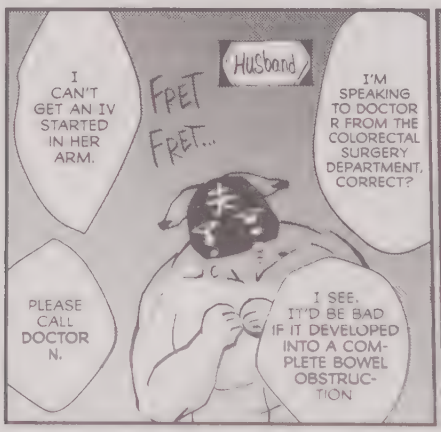

IT'S ALL TRUE.
YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT AT FIRST, BUT PLEASE LISTEN TO HER.

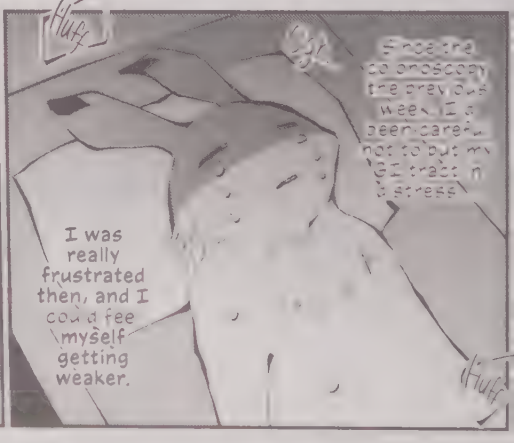
My husband...

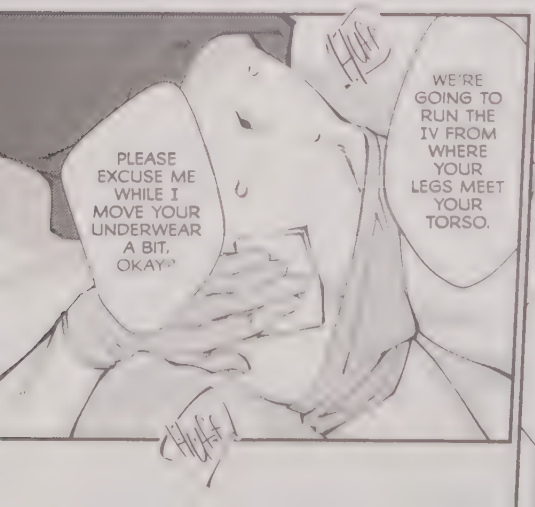
I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

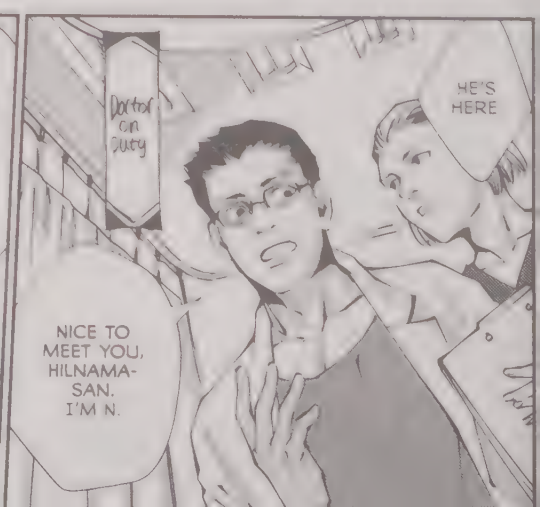

THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME.
YOU ALREADY HAVE SO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT ON TOP OF THAT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE GUARANTOR.
Squeeze
OKAY.
But my sister-in-law really came through for me.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THOSE WORDS MEAN TO ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ANYONE YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE, YOU KNOW. WE'LL PROTECT YOU.
JUST IN CASE, LET'S ASK THE HOSPITAL TO KEEP THEM FROM VISITING YOU.
having a family that you can count on really, really helps. Thanks to my in-laws, I made it to my surgery safely.
TELL US EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT AND DON'T WANT!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I CAN LET OUR FAMILY KNOW SO THAT THEY CAN ASSIST.
Thank Thank you so much.
When you don't know if you're going to live or die...
Next up
The time for hospitalization and the diagnosis.


The blood!
Necessary personnel to their stations, please.
minutes until the air ambulance arrives.
complained about violent stomach pain and was transported here by ambulance.
Where does it hurt?
I'm sorry, but I have to cut off your shirt, okay?
I'm going to touch your stomach, okay?
Ready the CT.
Can you hear me?
Hilnama-San...
is awake!
NO
I...
Hurry!!
Emergency Room

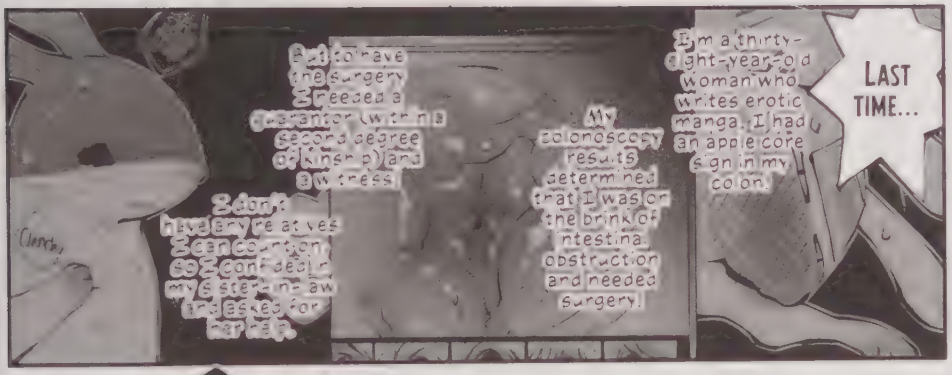

I CAN'T GET AN IV STARTED IN HER ARM.
FRET FRET...
Husband
I'M SPEAKING TO DOCTOR R FROM THE COLORECTAL SURGERY DEPARTMENT, CORRECT?
PLEASE CALL DOCTOR N.
I SEE. IT'D BE BAD IF IT DEVELOPED INTO A COMPLETE BOWEL OBSTRUCTION


Huff
I was really frustrated then, and I could feel myself getting weaker.
Huff


Huff
PLEASE EXCUSE ME WHILE I MOVE YOUR UNDERWEAR A BIT, OKAY?
WE'RE GOING TO RUN THE IV FROM WHERE YOUR LEGS MEET YOUR TORSO.
Huff

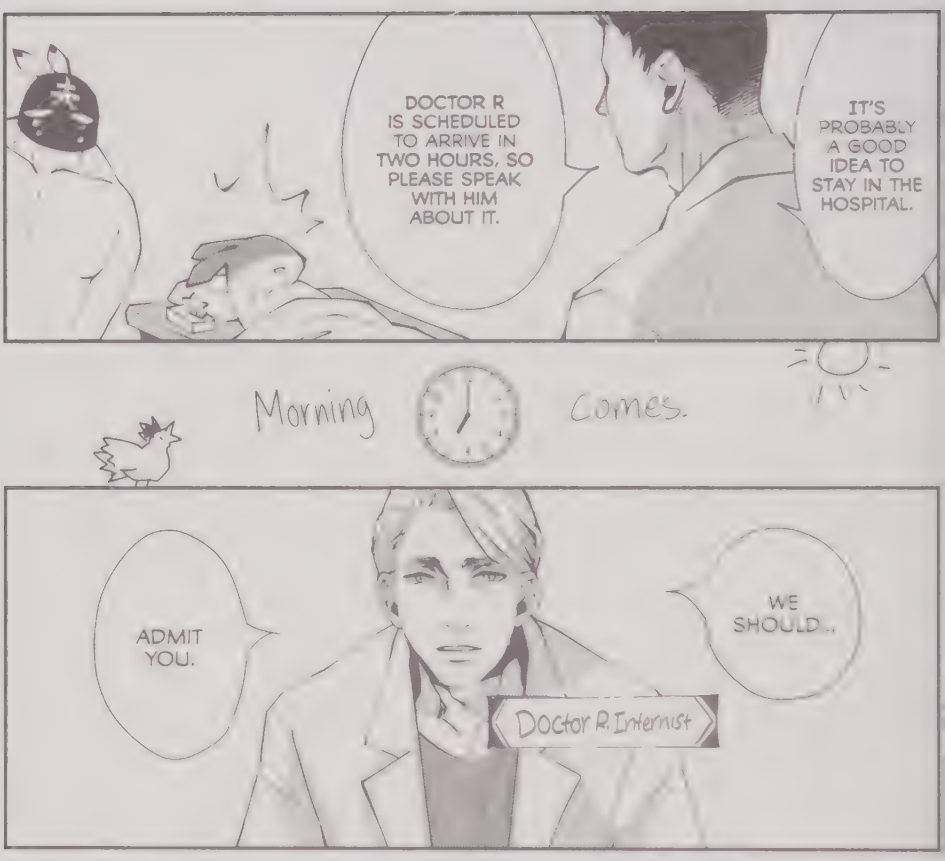

Doctor on duty
HE'S HERE
NICE TO MEET YOU, HILNAMA-SAN. I'M N.

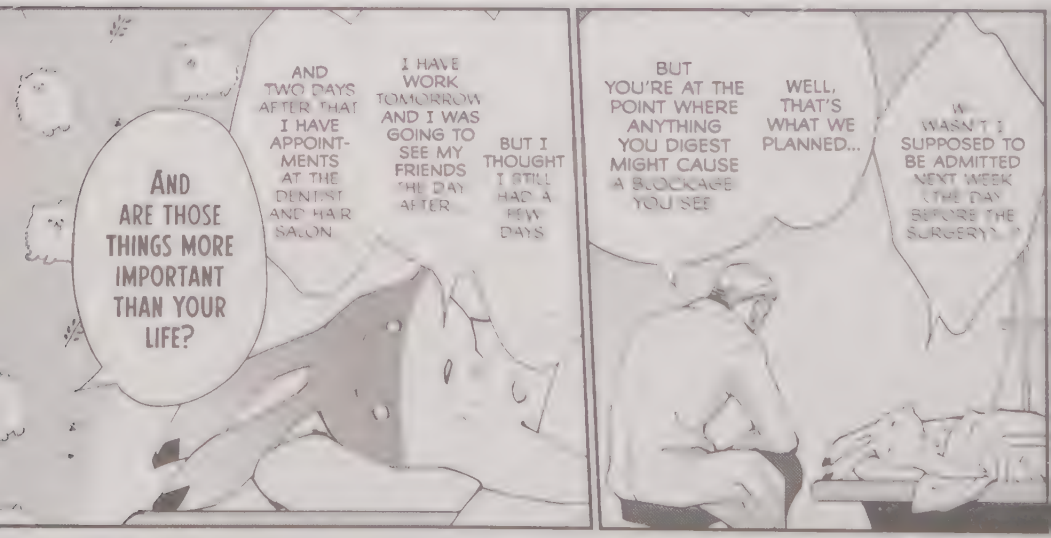
I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. ⑥ The time for hospitalization and the diagnosis.

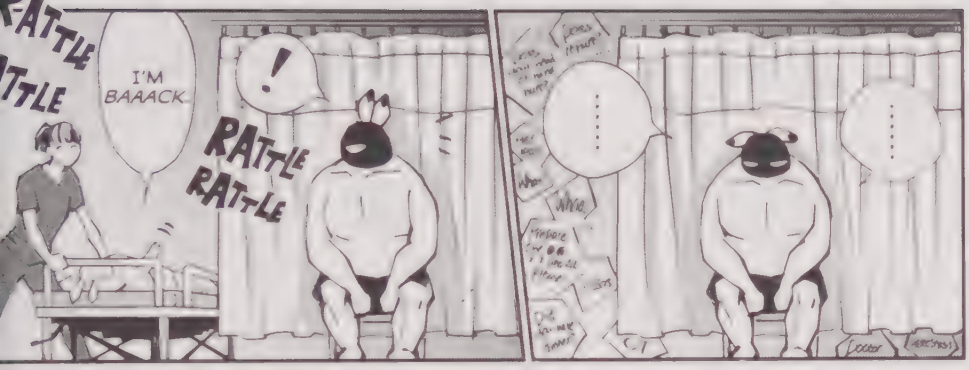


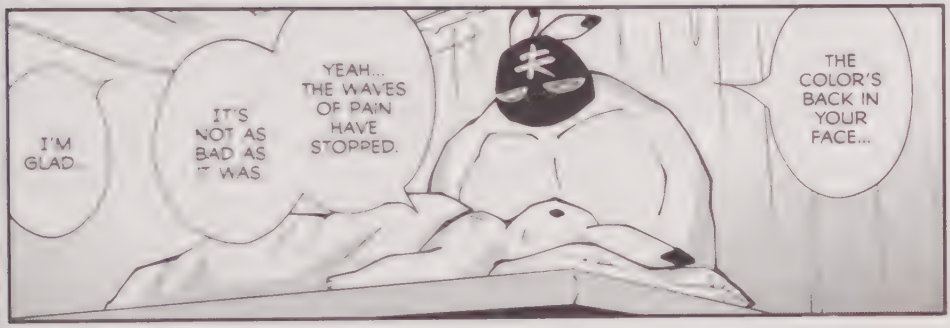
OH, NO, NO. NOT AT ALL.
SHE'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.
I...
I'M SORRY. I'M IN THE WAY HERE, AREN'T I?!
JUT
OH!
YOU CAME WITH HER!
Nurse
UNGH... NGH...
A Chair...
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T REALIZE. HERE'S A CHAIR.
YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER STANDING SO LONG.
IF SOMETHING COMES UP, GET ONE OF US RIGHT AWAY.
I KNOW IT'S LOUD AND BUSY IN HERE, BUT PLEASE KEEP HER COMPANY IF YOU CAN.
You only need to leave if you're feeling overnight bad or need a smoke break
IT'S FINE. YOU MUST BE WORRIED
tissue
S-SOFT
Sн...
Ungh rgh...
It must be so hectic here...
Shorry, thank you...
This is way different from how they treated me at Hospital B. They kicked me out that time...

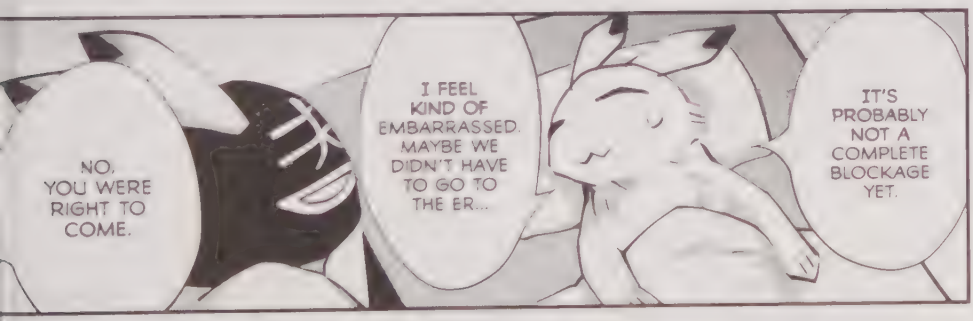
← Tape
BUT IT'S IN THERE GOOD. SO DON'T WORRY.
IT MIGHT HURT A LITTLE...
?!
Huh? That's an IV?!
ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL A LITTLE PRICK.
HUFF
OW!
STAB
HUFF
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHE'S READY FOR THE CT.
PLEASE TELL US IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU FEEL YOURSELF ABOUT TO THROW UP, OKAY?
WE'RE MOVING NOW.
RATTLE
So this is happening.
HUFF
HE'S NOT A NURSE...
A DOCTOR CAME JUST TO START AN IV?
HUFF
SOB
SOB
Alone...
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
X Ray
HUFF
WOW.
THE WHOLE BED'S GOING IN, TOO
The waiting room queue hit
Huh?
HUFF
They wheel the bed in, just like a drive-through
Amazing!

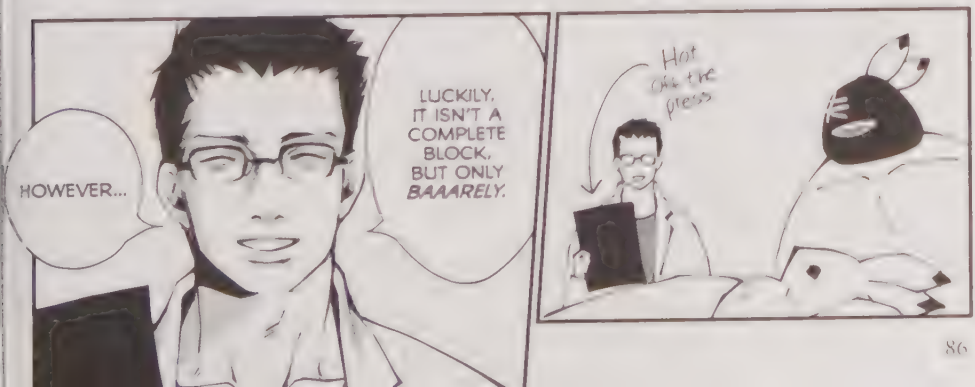

DOCTOR R IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TWO HOURS, SO PLEASE SPEAK WITH HIM ABOUT IT.
IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO STAY IN THE HOSPITAL.
Morning
Comes.
ADMIT YOU.
WE SHOULD..
Doctor R. Internist


AND ARE THOSE THINGS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR LIFE?
AND TWO DAYS AFTER THAT I HAVE APPOINT-MENTS AT THE DENTIST AND HAIR SALON.
I HAVE WORK TOMORROW AND I WAS GOING TO SEE MY FRIENDS THE DAY AFTER
BUT I THOUGHT I STILL HAD A FEW DAYS
BUT YOU'RE AT THE POINT WHERE ANYTHING YOU DIGEST MIGHT CAUSE A BLOCKAGE YOU SEE
WELL, THAT'S WHAT WE PLANNED...
W WASN'T I SUPPOSED TO BE ADMITTED NEXT WEEK (THE DAY BEFORE THE SURGERY...?

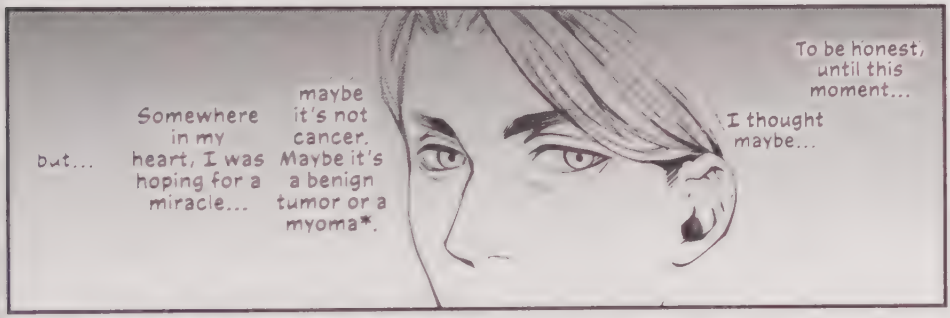

RATTLE
ITTLE
I'M BAAACK.
!
RATTLE RATTLE
.....
.....


I'M GLAD.
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS IT WAS
YEAH... THE WAVES OF PAIN HAVE STOPPED.
THE COLOR'S BACK IN YOUR FACE...

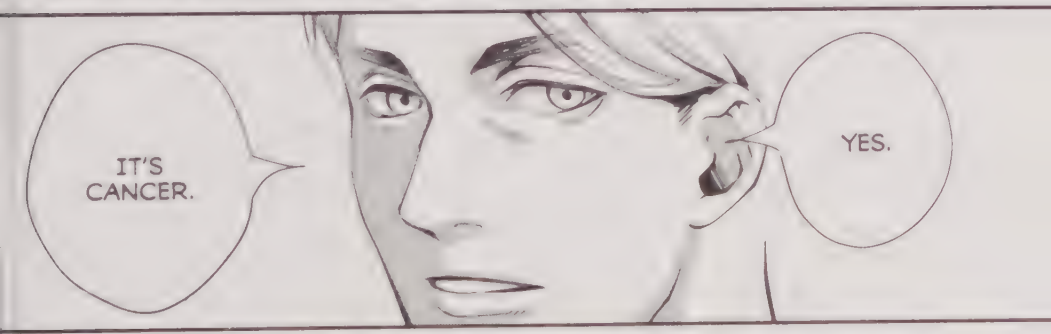

NO, YOU WERE RIGHT TO COME.
I FEEL KIND OF EMBARRASSED. MAYBE WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THE ER...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT A COMPLETE BLOCKAGE YET.

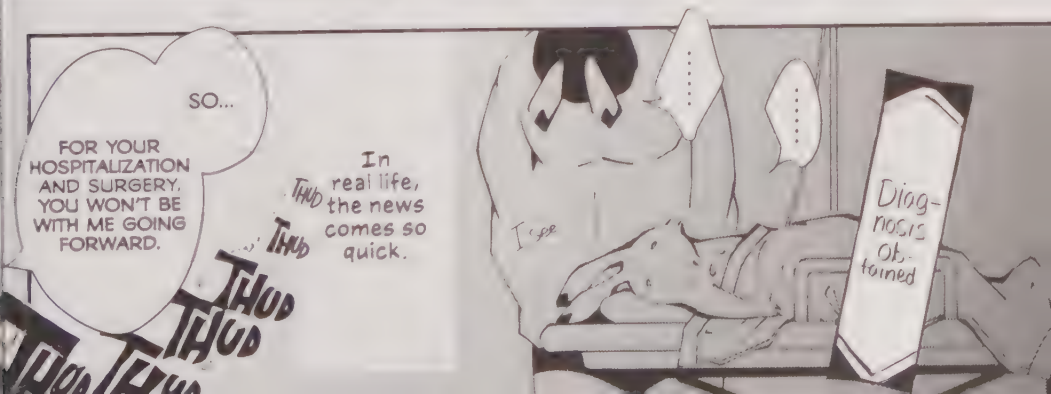

HOWEVER...
LUCKILY, IT ISN'T A COMPLETE BLOCK, BUT ONLY *BAAARELY.*
Hot off the press

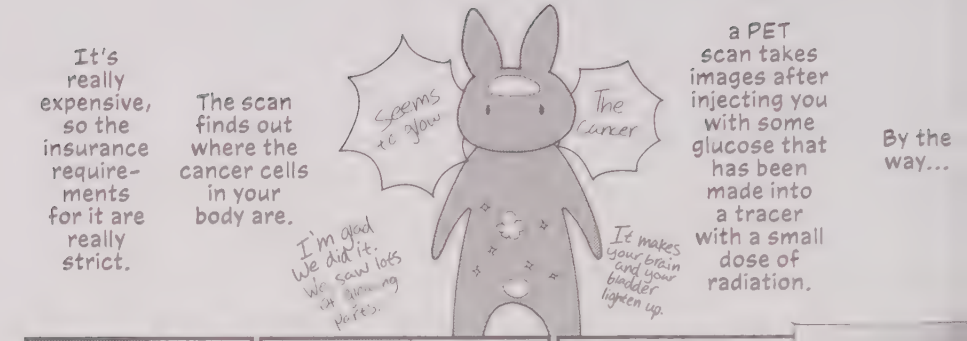
I'LL EXPLAIN!
I'M HERE!
Hyper Surgeon
Chill Internist
WELL NOOOW! I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM!
SERIOUSLY!! I'M SO GLAD YOU DON'T HAVE A BLOCKAGE!!
NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M J FROM THE COLORECTAL SURGERY DEPARTMENT!
And so, things went from there.
THEY'RE GETTING A BED READY FOR YOU IN THE WARD, SO LET'S JUST CHAT WHILE WE WAIT!
I HEARD YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T WALK OVER TO SURGERY YOURSELF, SO I CAME RIGHT OVER!
DOCTOR R JUST HANDED ME THE BATON AND STARTING TODAY I WILL BE YOUR ATTENDING PHYSICIAN FOR YOUR SURGERY AND HOSPITALIZATION!



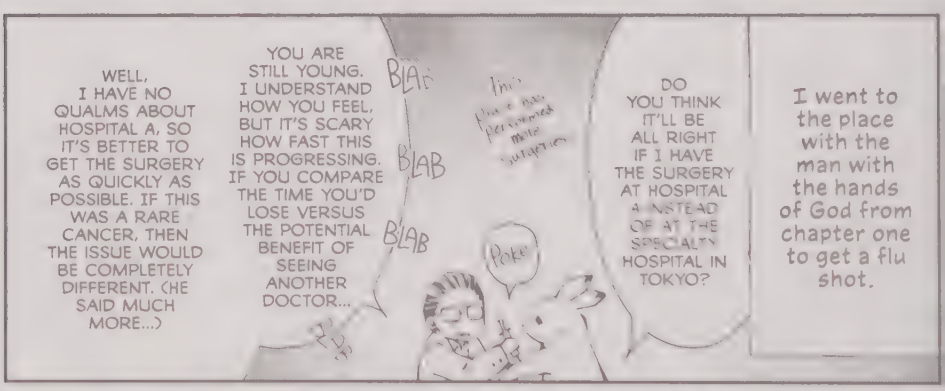
*Myoma: a benign tumor grown in smooth muscle tissue

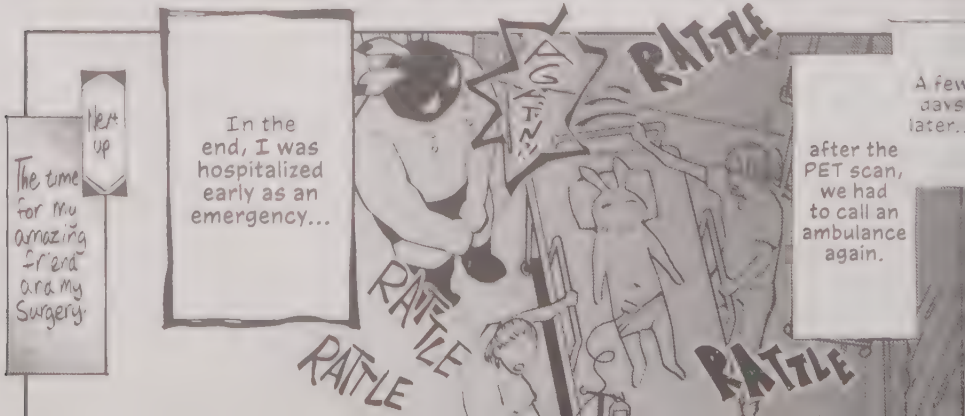




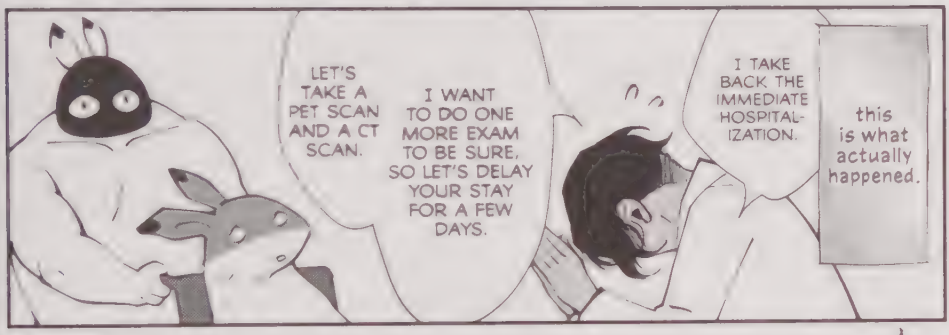

It's really expensive, so the insurance requirements for it are really strict.
The scan finds out where the cancer cells in your body are.
Seems to glow
The cancer
I'm glad we did it. We saw lots of glowing parts.
It makes your brain and your bladder lighten up.
a PET scan takes images after injecting you with some glucose that has been made into a tracer with a small dose of radiation.
By the way...

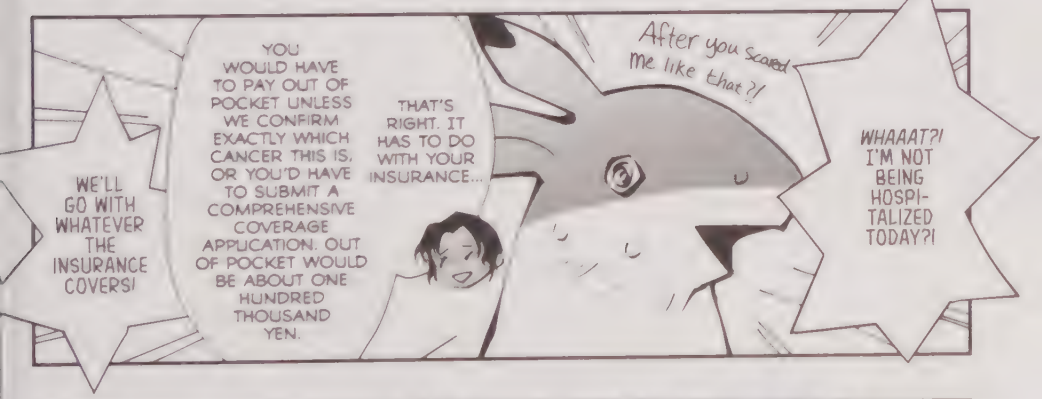
I'm going to be hospitalized soon, so please cut it short.
I also kept my appointments with the dentist and hair salon...
Thanks to all the medical people who gave me information on cancer treatments!
I tweeted about my cancer diagnosis and hospitalization.
I was illustrating the cover back then.
My First Traditionally Published Book
So I addressed my work with my editor at the time...
With everything happening right before and after the PET scan, I was granted a few days reprieve.

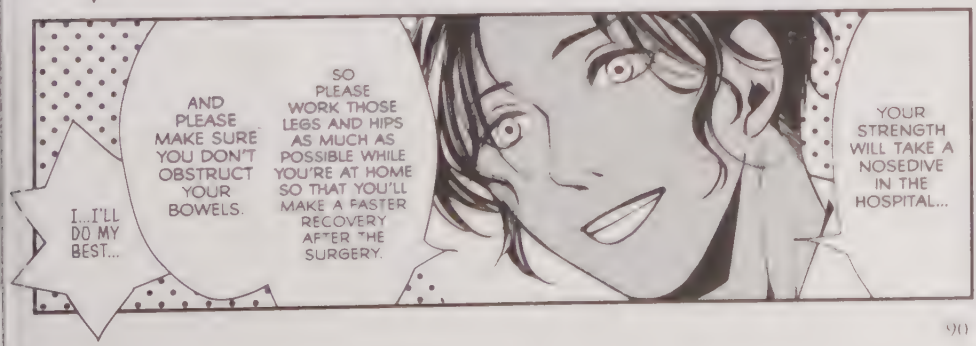

WELL, I HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT HOSPITAL A, SO IT'S BETTER TO GET THE SURGERY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IF THIS WAS A RARE CANCER, THEN THE ISSUE WOULD BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. (HE SAID MUCH MORE...)
YOU ARE STILL YOUNG. I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT IT'S SCARY HOW FAST THIS IS PROGRESSING. IF YOU COMPARE THE TIME YOU'D LOSE VERSUS THE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF SEEING ANOTHER DOCTOR...
BLAH
BLAB
BLAB
This place was recommended by a surgeon
Poke
DO YOU THINK IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF I HAVE THE SURGERY AT HOSPITAL A INSTEAD OF AT THE SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN TOKYO?
I went to the place with the man with the hands of God from chapter one to get a flu shot.


Next up
The time for my amazing friend and my surgery
In the end, I was hospitalized early as an emergency...
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
A few days later...
after the PET scan, we had to call an ambulance again.

Or at least that would've been pretty nice for a manga, but...
I was immediately hospitalized.


LET'S TAKE A PET SCAN AND A CT SCAN.
I WANT TO DO ONE MORE EXAM TO BE SURE, SO LET'S DELAY YOUR STAY FOR A FEW DAYS.
I TAKE BACK THE IMMEDIATE HOSPITAL-IZATION.
this is what actually happened.


WE'LL GO WITH WHATEVER THE INSURANCE COVERS!
YOU WOULD HAVE TO PAY OUT OF POCKET UNLESS WE CONFIRM EXACTLY WHICH CANCER THIS IS, OR YOU'D HAVE TO SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE APPLICATION. OUT OF POCKET WOULD BE ABOUT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT HAS TO DO WITH YOUR INSURANCE...
After you scared me like that?!
WHAAAT?! I'M NOT BEING HOSPI-TALIZED TODAY?!


I...I'LL DO MY BEST...
AND PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DON'T OBSTRUCT YOUR BOWELS.
SO PLEASE WORK THOSE LEGS AND HIPS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WHILE YOU'RE AT HOME SO THAT YOU'LL MAKE A FASTER RECOVERY AFTER THE SURGERY.
YOUR STRENGTH WILL TAKE A NOSEDIVE IN THE HOSPITAL...

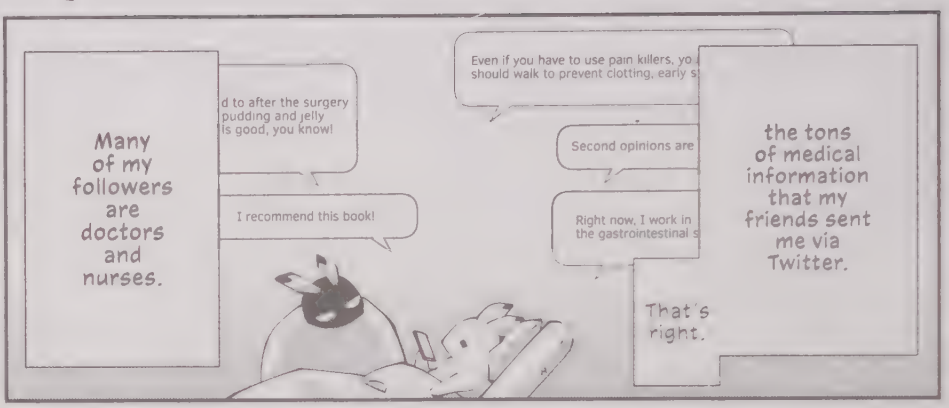
I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

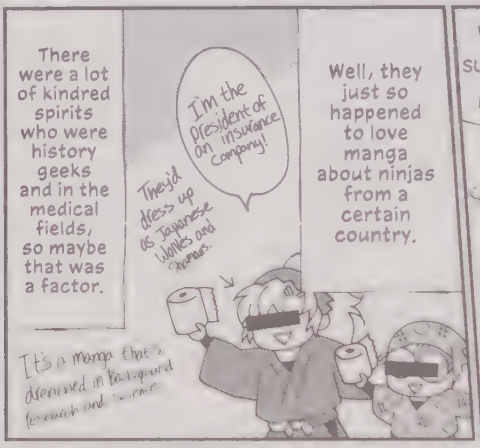
I was so busy back then...
The pain in my abdomen was off the charts.
I left it out of the manga, but I pretty much had some kind of exam every day, and they'd say, "Get admitted," and then they'd say, "Get admitted next week," and then, "No, you should do it today," and...I had no clue what was going on.

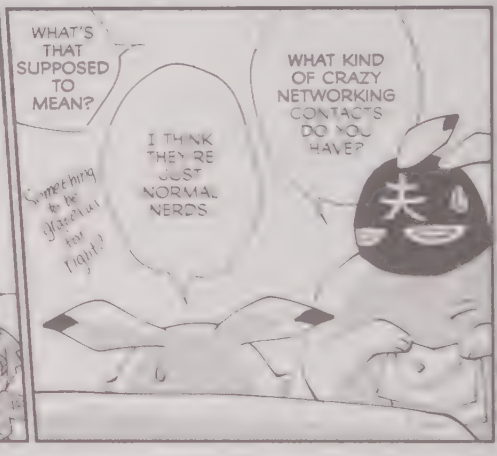
I was completely out of it while in the ambulance, so I don't remember *aaanything*...but I wanted to show that tension, so I got a lot of advice from the doctors looking over the chapter for the ER part.

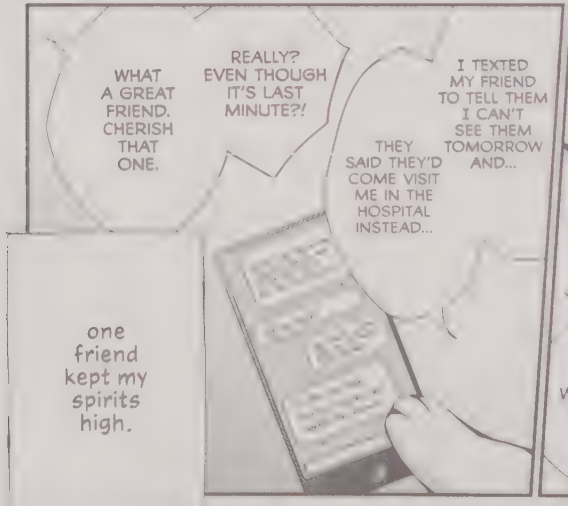
Oh, the part where my husband was offered a chair and cried? I wasn't there for that, but he remembered it clearly. To think that someone would take the time to care for him in the midst of that busy, battlefield-like area...it warms my heart. I can't thank all the people at the hospital enough.

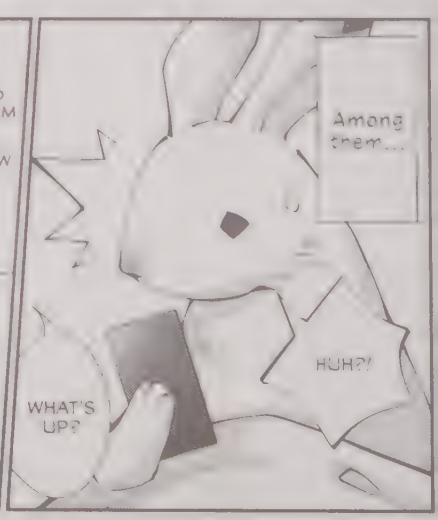
※ I make sure that I ask my attending physician about any information I receive from anyone before trying it out.



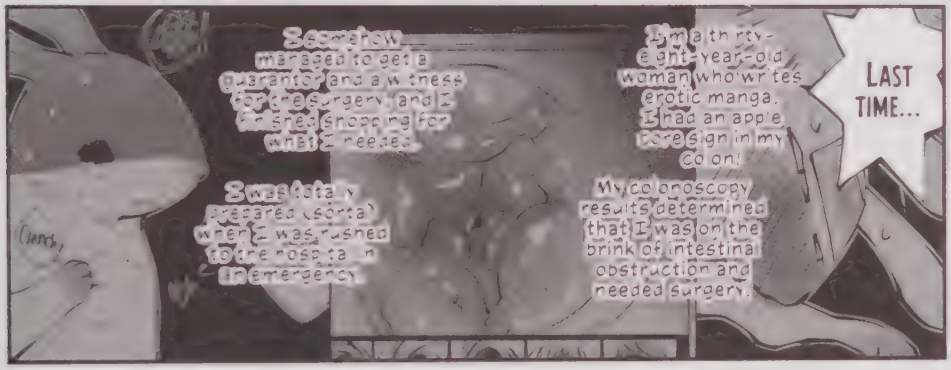


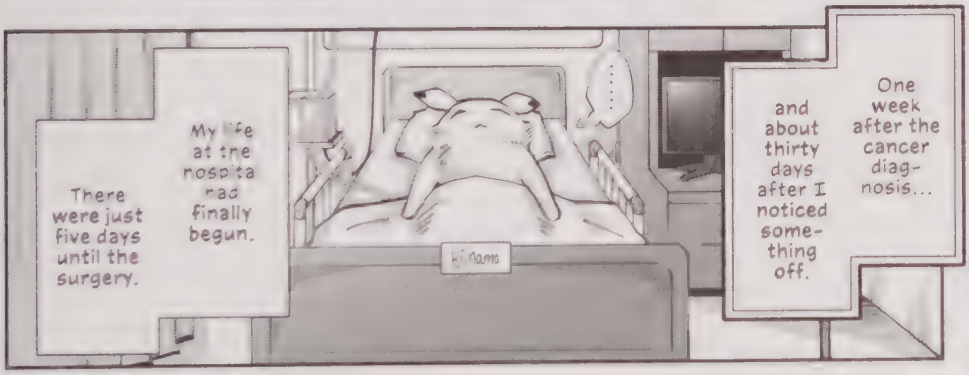


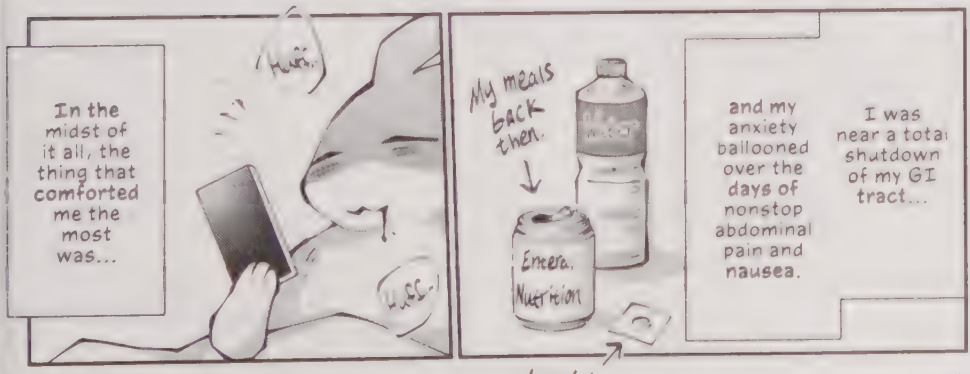


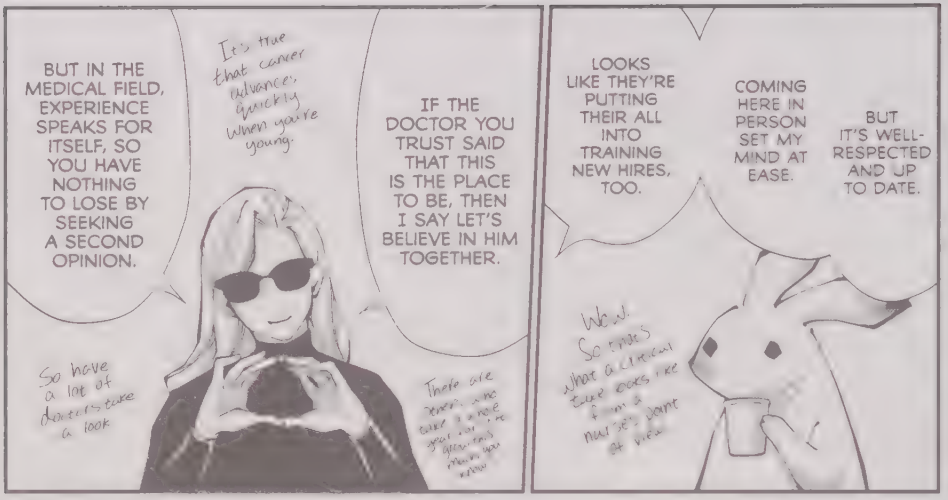


The time for my amazing friend and my surgery.

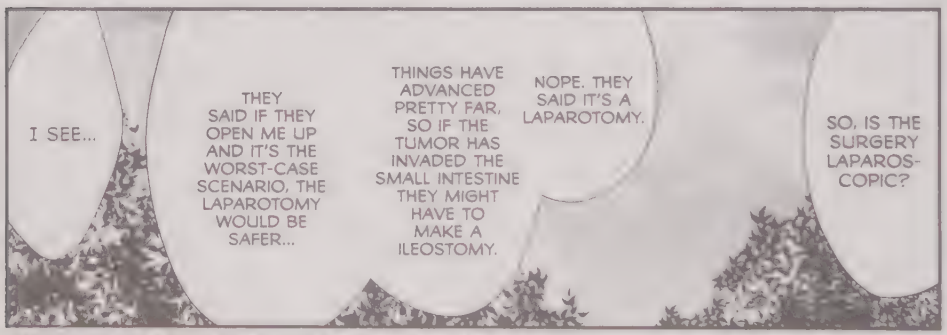


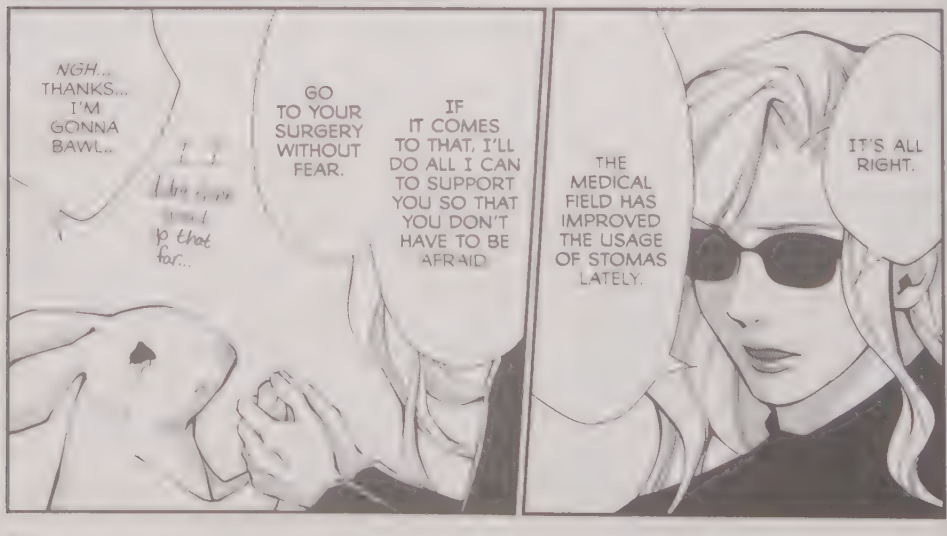


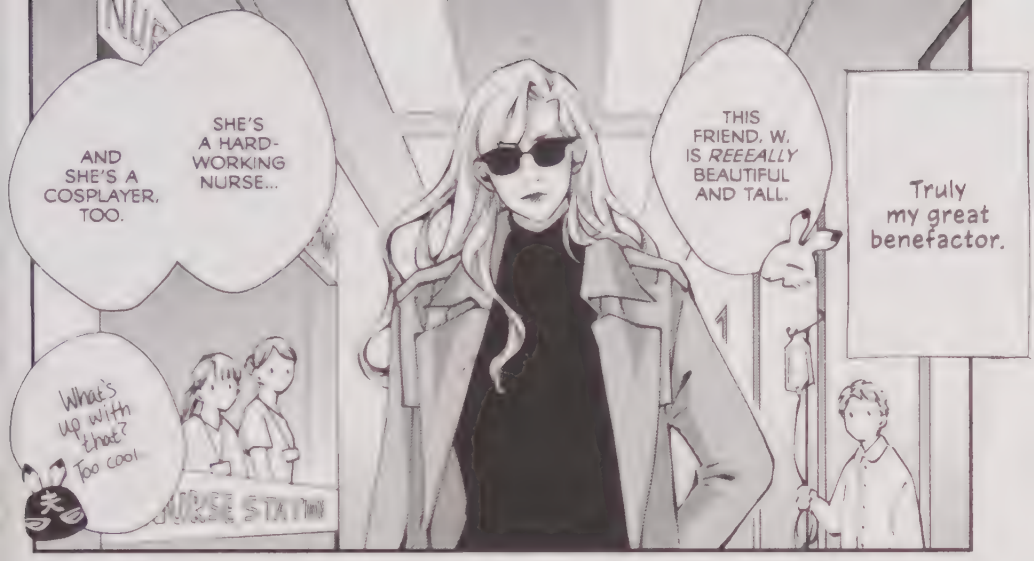


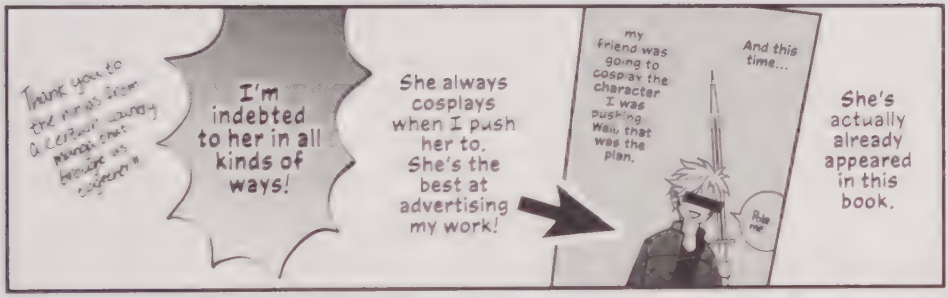


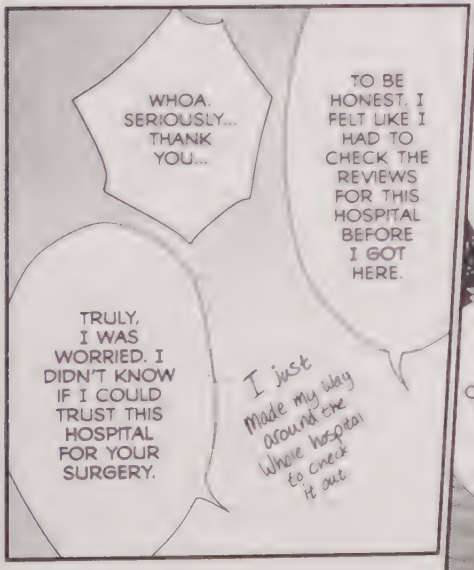
Many people will visit multiple doctors to get varied opinions for a diagnosis

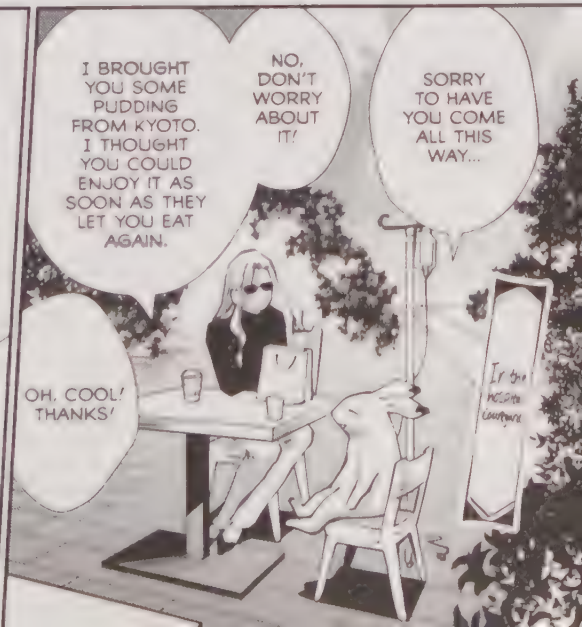




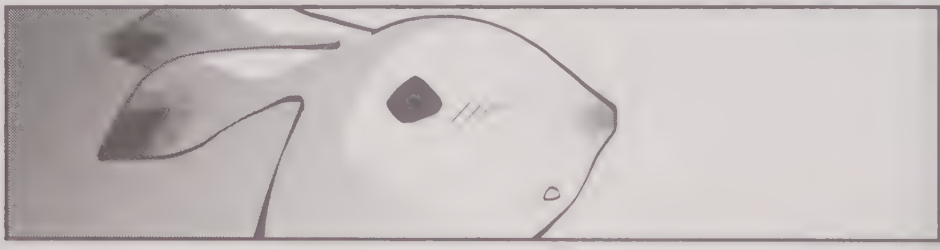

AND SHE'S A COSPLAYER, TOO.
SHE'S A HARD-WORKING NURSE...
What's up with that? Too cool
THIS FRIEND, W, IS REEEALLY BEAUTIFUL AND TALL.
Truly my great benefactor.

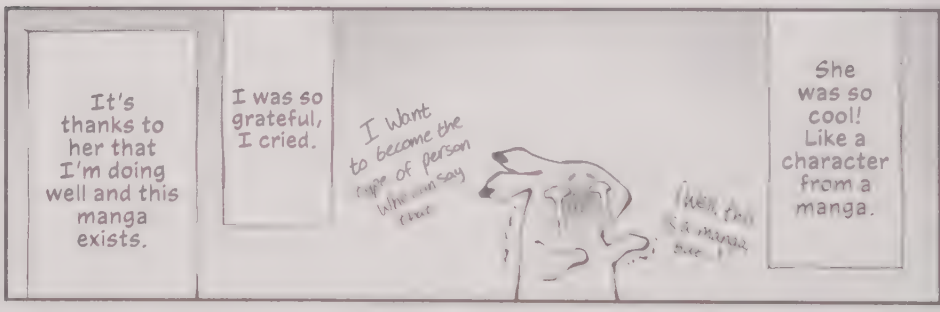

Thank you to the nurses from a certain county Miyagi that treated us together!!
I'm indebted to her in all kinds of ways!
She always cosplays when I push her to. She's the best at advertising my work!
my friend was going to cosplay the character I was pushing. Well, that was the plan.
And this time...
Rule me
She's actually already appeared in this book.

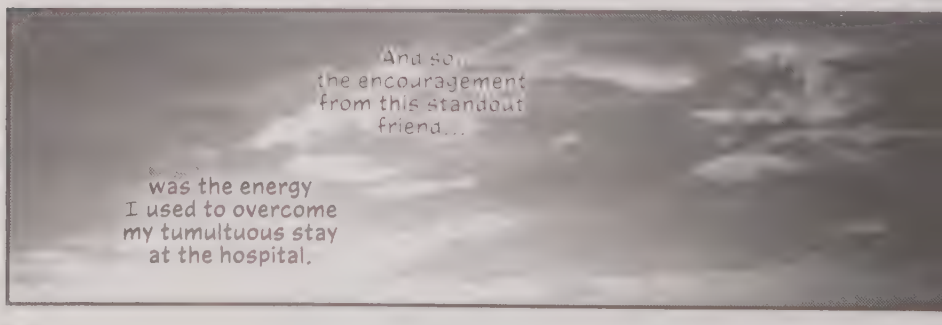

WHOA. SERIOUSLY... THANK YOU...
TO BE HONEST, I FELT LIKE I HAD TO CHECK THE REVIEWS FOR THIS HOSPITAL BEFORE I GOT HERE.
TRULY, I WAS WORRIED. I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD TRUST THIS HOSPITAL FOR YOUR SURGERY.
I just made my way around the whole hospital to check it out


I BROUGHT YOU SOME PUDDING FROM KYOTO. I THOUGHT YOU COULD ENJOY IT AS SOON AS THEY LET YOU EAT AGAIN.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
SORRY TO HAVE YOU COME ALL THIS WAY...
OH, COOL! THANKS!
In the hospital courtyard

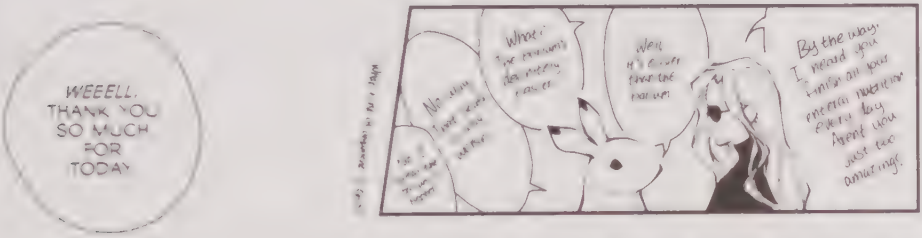
NO MATTER HOW YOU FEEL, JUST LET IT OUT.
I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.
DON'T HOLD IT IN ALL BY YOURSELF WHEN THINGS ARE DIFFICULT. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A GOOD CRY.

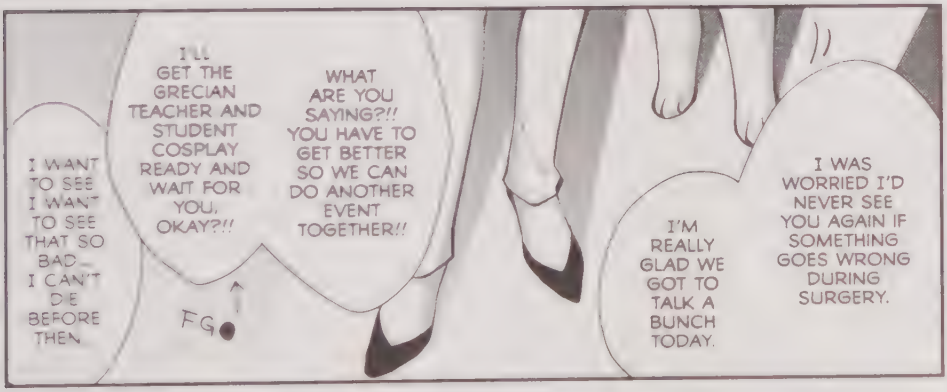



It's thanks to her that I'm doing well and this manga exists.
I was so grateful, I cried.
I want to become the type of person who can say that
She was so cool! Like a character from a manga.

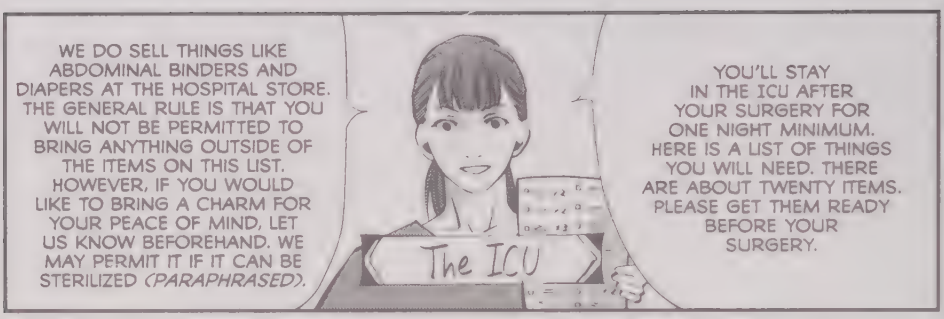

And so, the encouragement from this standout friend...
was the energy I used to overcome my tumultuous stay at the hospital.

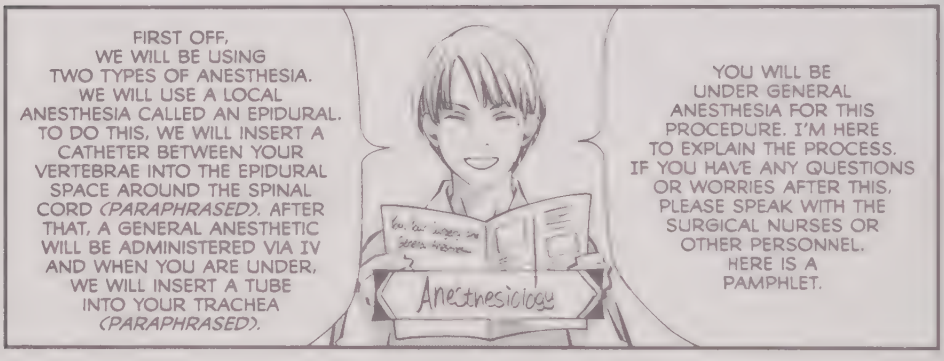
HMM. I SEE...
IT'S A SERIOUS OPERATION, BUT... MAYBE SOME INTERNS ARE GOING TO OBSERVE? MAYBE THIS SURGERY IS UNCOMMON...
OH...?
OH YEAH, ON THE SURGICAL PLANNING PAPERWORK, THERE WERE ABOUT TEN PEOPLE'S NAMES LISTED AS SURGEONS. IS IT THAT BIG A DEAL...?

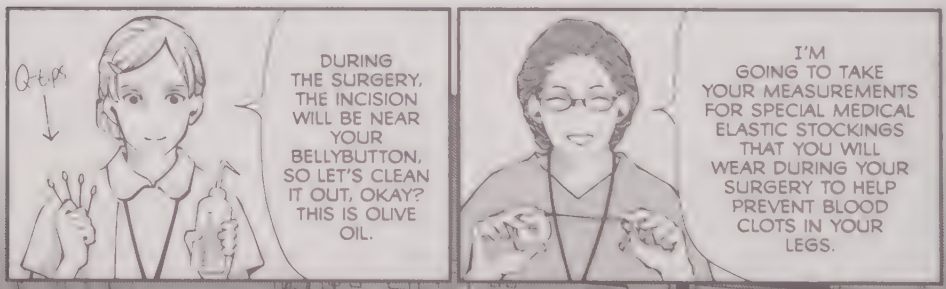

WEEELL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY
By the way, I heard you write all your medical notes every day. Aren't you just too amazing.

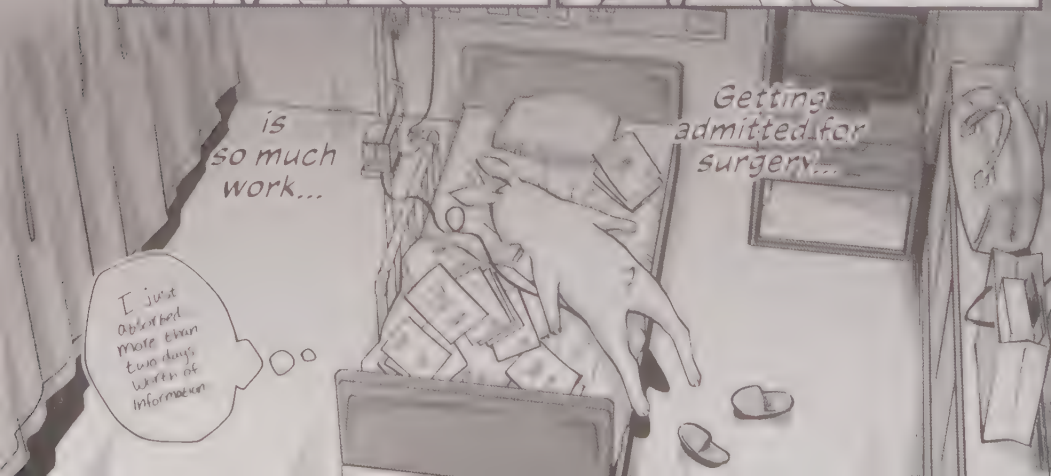

I WANT TO SEE I WANT TO SEE THAT SO BAD— I CAN'T DIE BEFORE THEN.
I'LL GET THE GRECIAN TEACHER AND STUDENT COSPLAY READY AND WAIT FOR YOU, OKAY?!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!! YOU HAVE TO GET BETTER SO WE CAN DO ANOTHER EVENT TOGETHER!!
I'M REALLY GLAD WE GOT TO TALK A BUNCH TODAY.
I WAS WORRIED I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG DURING SURGERY.

YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BE ANXIOUS ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, BUT...
GOING FORWARD...


WE DO SELL THINGS LIKE ABDOMINAL BINDERS AND DIAPERS AT THE HOSPITAL STORE. THE GENERAL RULE IS THAT YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BRING ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF THE ITEMS ON THIS LIST. HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING A CHARM FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND, LET US KNOW BEFOREHAND. WE MAY PERMIT IT IF IT CAN BE STERILIZED (PARAPHRASED).
The ICU
YOU'LL STAY IN THE ICU AFTER YOUR SURGERY FOR ONE NIGHT MINIMUM. HERE IS A LIST OF THINGS YOU WILL NEED. THERE ARE ABOUT TWENTY ITEMS. PLEASE GET THEM READY BEFORE YOUR SURGERY.

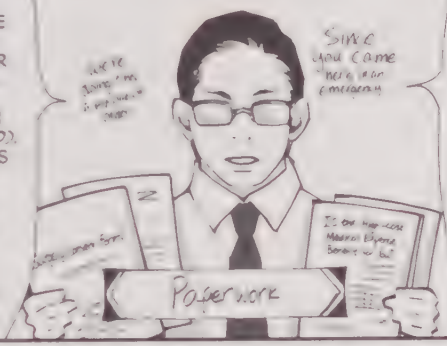

FIRST OFF, WE WILL BE USING TWO TYPES OF ANESTHESIA. WE WILL USE A LOCAL ANESTHESIA CALLED AN EPIDURAL. TO DO THIS, WE WILL INSERT A CATHETER BETWEEN YOUR VERTEBRAE INTO THE EPIDURAL SPACE AROUND THE SPINAL CORD (PARAPHRASED). AFTER THAT, A GENERAL ANESTHETIC WILL BE ADMINISTERED VIA IV AND WHEN YOU ARE UNDER, WE WILL INSERT A TUBE INTO YOUR TRACHEA (PARAPHRASED).
Anesthesiology
YOU WILL BE UNDER GENERAL ANESTHESIA FOR THIS PROCEDURE. I'M HERE TO EXPLAIN THE PROCESS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WORRIES AFTER THIS, PLEASE SPEAK WITH THE SURGICAL NURSES OR OTHER PERSONNEL. HERE IS A PAMPHLET.


Q-tips
DURING THE SURGERY, THE INCISION WILL BE NEAR YOUR BELLYBUTTON, SO LET'S CLEAN IT OUT, OKAY? THIS IS OLIVE OIL.
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL ELASTIC STOCKINGS THAT YOU WILL WEAR DURING YOUR SURGERY TO HELP PREVENT BLOOD CLOTS IN YOUR LEGS.


is so much work...
I just absorbed more than two days worth of information
Getting admitted for surgery...

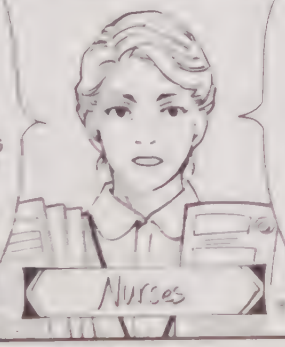
It begins! THE WAVE OF EXPLANATIONS!

AS YOUR PERSONAL REFERENCE WILL ALSO BE THE GUARANTOR OF YOUR HOSPITAL EXPENSES, PLEASE HAVE THEM SIGN THIS IN PERSON *(THIS IS PARAPHRASED)*. AS FOR THE WITNESS'S SURGERY CONSENT FORM, PLEASE HAVE IT COMPLETED AND HAVE THEM BRING IT IN PERSON ON THE MORNING OF THE SURGERY *(ALSO PARAPHRASED)*.



BEFORE I GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THE HOSPITAL, ARE YOU AWARE OF THE HIGH-COST MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFIT? IT GREATLY REDUCES THE AMOUNT YOU PAY OUT OF POCKET AT DISCHARGE. PLEASE APPLY FOR IT.

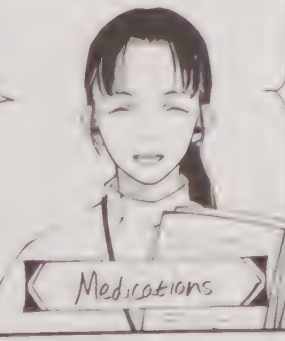
PLEASE WRITE DOWN YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION HERE. INCLUDE THEIR NAMES AND THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION. IF THERE ARE THOSE YOU WISH TO HAVE BLOCKED FROM VISITING YOU, ONLY THOSE VISITORS WHO THE PATIENT HAS GIVEN THEIR NAME AND ROOM NUMBER WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE ROOM BY A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY TEAM ONLY AFTER YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR CONSENT *(PARAPHRASED)*.



THIS TIME YOU WILL BE HOSPITALIZED IN THE □ BUILDING ON THE ○ FLOOR IN THE △ WARD. THE DAY BEGINS AT 6 A.M. AND LIGHTS TURN OFF IN THE ROOM AT 10 P.M. PLEASE SEE THIS PAMPHLET FOR WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING, THE PRICING ON RENTAL ITEMS, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOSPITAL, AND A MAP OF THE HOSPITAL'S FACILITIES.

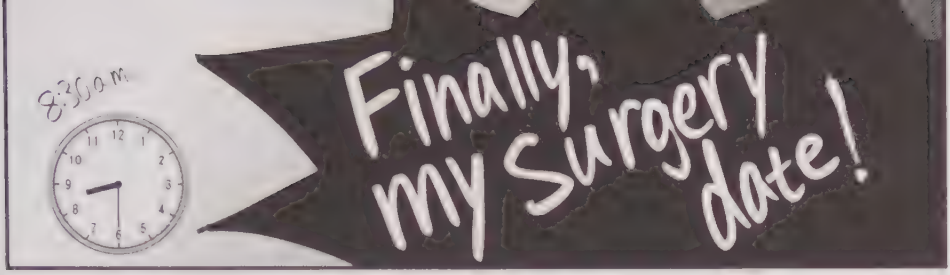
The hospital was on top of everything. I'm so glad!

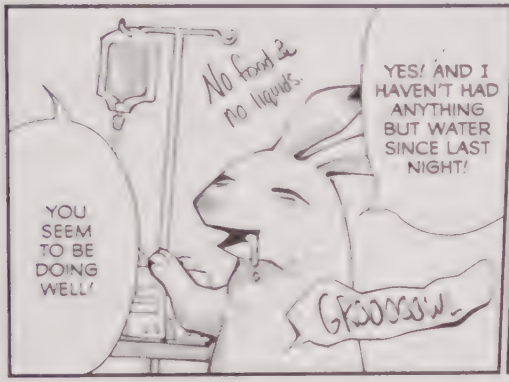
THE PHARMACIST AT YOUR BUILDING WILL CONSULT WITH YOUR PHYSICIANS AND KEEP TRACK, DISPENSE, AND ADMINISTER YOUR MEDICATIONS TO YOU EVERY DAY. OF COURSE, ANY REMAINING DOSES WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU UPON YOUR DISCHARGE AND ACCOUNTS WILL BE SQUARED OUT *(PARAPHRASED)*.

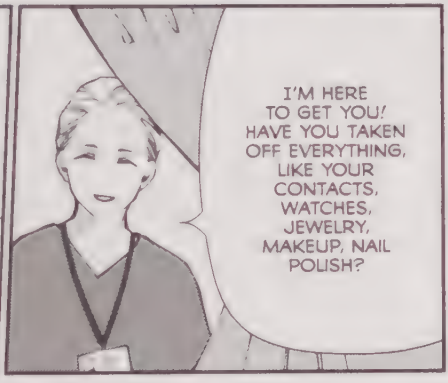


PLEASE LIST HERE THE MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS THAT YOU NORMALLY TAKE. WHEN YOU GET HERE, TURN IN YOUR MEDICATIONS ALONG WITH ANYTHING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN PRESCRIBED.

Perioperative Nurses
NICE TO MEET YOU.
PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR NAME, BIRTHDAY, AND GENDER, PLEASE.
I'M E. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I can't remember them all but
Nice to meet you.
I AM T, THE PERI-OPERATIVE NURSE IN CHARGE TODAY.
I'M K.
I'M S.
OKAY, TO CONFIRM, YOU'RE HILNAMA-SAN, HERE TO HAVE SURGERY ON YOUR COLON TODAY AT NINE O'CLOCK.
MY NAME IS HILNAMA. MY BIRTHDAY S □ △ 1900 I AM FEMALE.
PRETEND YOU'RE A SHRIMP.
PLEASE GET ON THE TABLE, HOLD YOUR KNEES TO YOUR CHEST, AND CURL INTO A BALL.
I'M M, THE ANESTHESI-OLOGIST. NICE TO MEET YOU TODAY.
It's one of the people who explained things to me yesterday!
Nice to meet you.

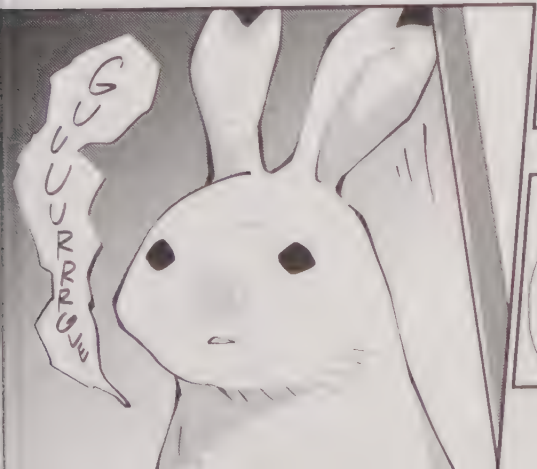

8:30 a.m.
Finally, my surgery date!

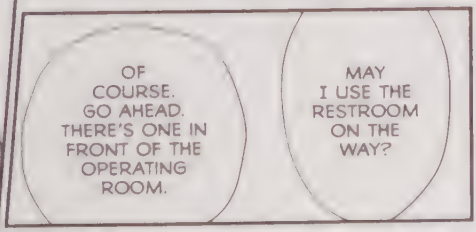

No food & no liquids.
YES! AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING BUT WATER SINCE LAST NIGHT!
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL!
GROOOOWN

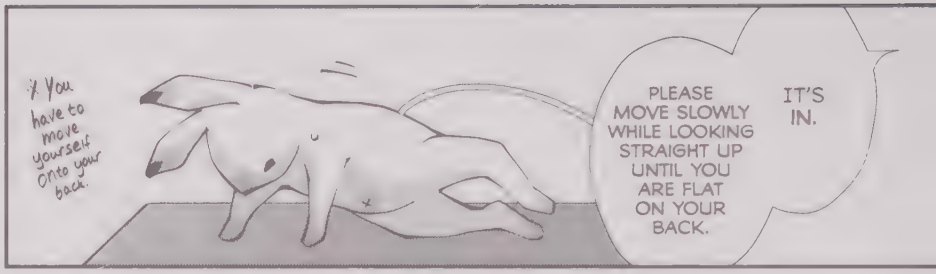

I'M HERE TO GET YOU! HAVE YOU TAKEN OFF EVERYTHING, LIKE YOUR CONTACTS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, MAKEUP, NAIL POLISH?

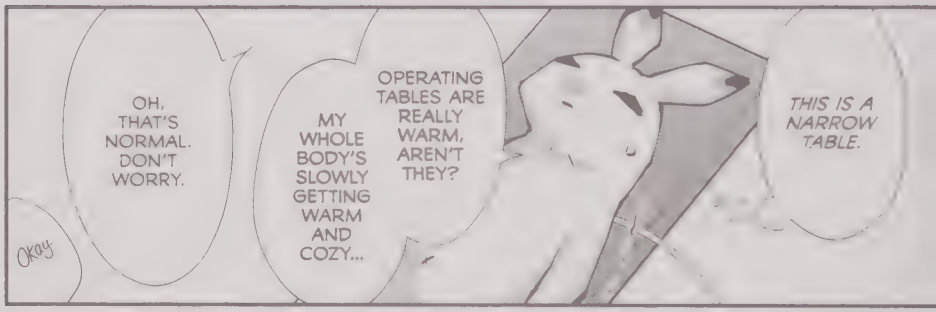
Beep
GROWN

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.
* I walked to the OR on my own
GROOWN

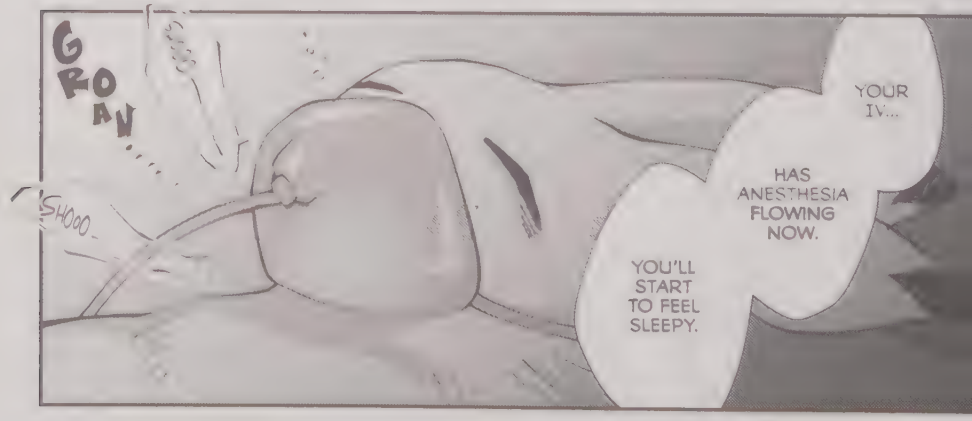

GUUURRGUW


OF COURSE. GO AHEAD. THERE'S ONE IN FRONT OF THE OPERATING ROOM.
MAY I USE THE RESTROOM ON THE WAY?

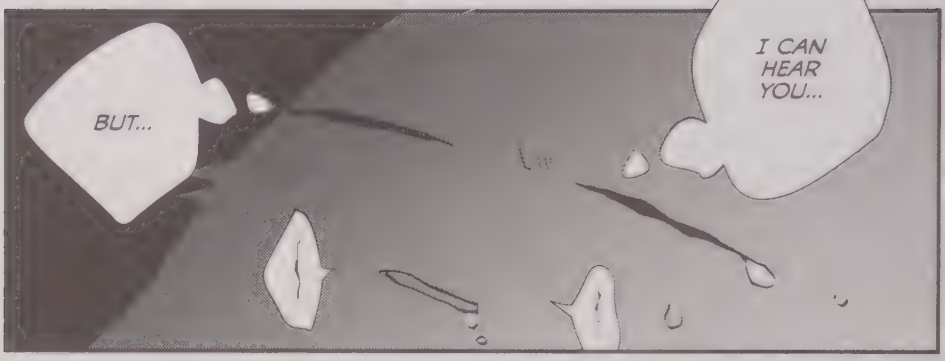

* You have to move yourself onto your back.
PLEASE MOVE SLOWLY WHILE LOOKING STRAIGHT UP UNTIL YOU ARE FLAT ON YOUR BACK.
IT'S IN.


OH, THAT'S NORMAL. DON'T WORRY.
Okay
MY WHOLE BODY'S SLOWLY GETTING WARM AND COZY...
OPERATING TABLES ARE REALLY WARM, AREN'T THEY?
THIS IS A NARROW TABLE.

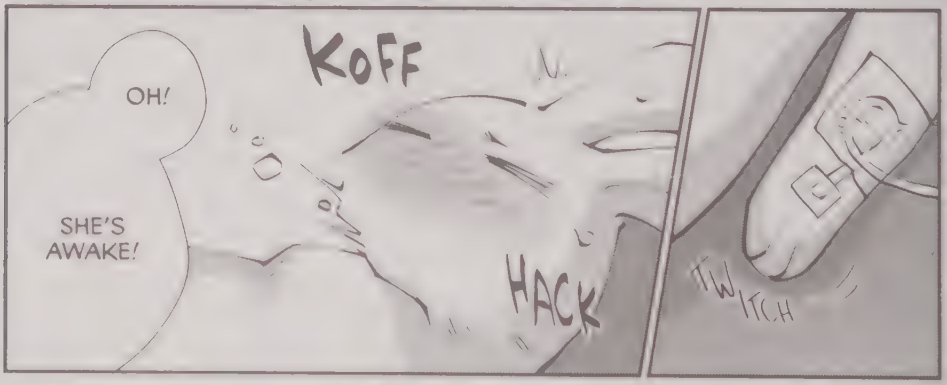
PLOP
I'M PUTTING AN OXYGEN MASK ON YOU.
ALL RIGHT...

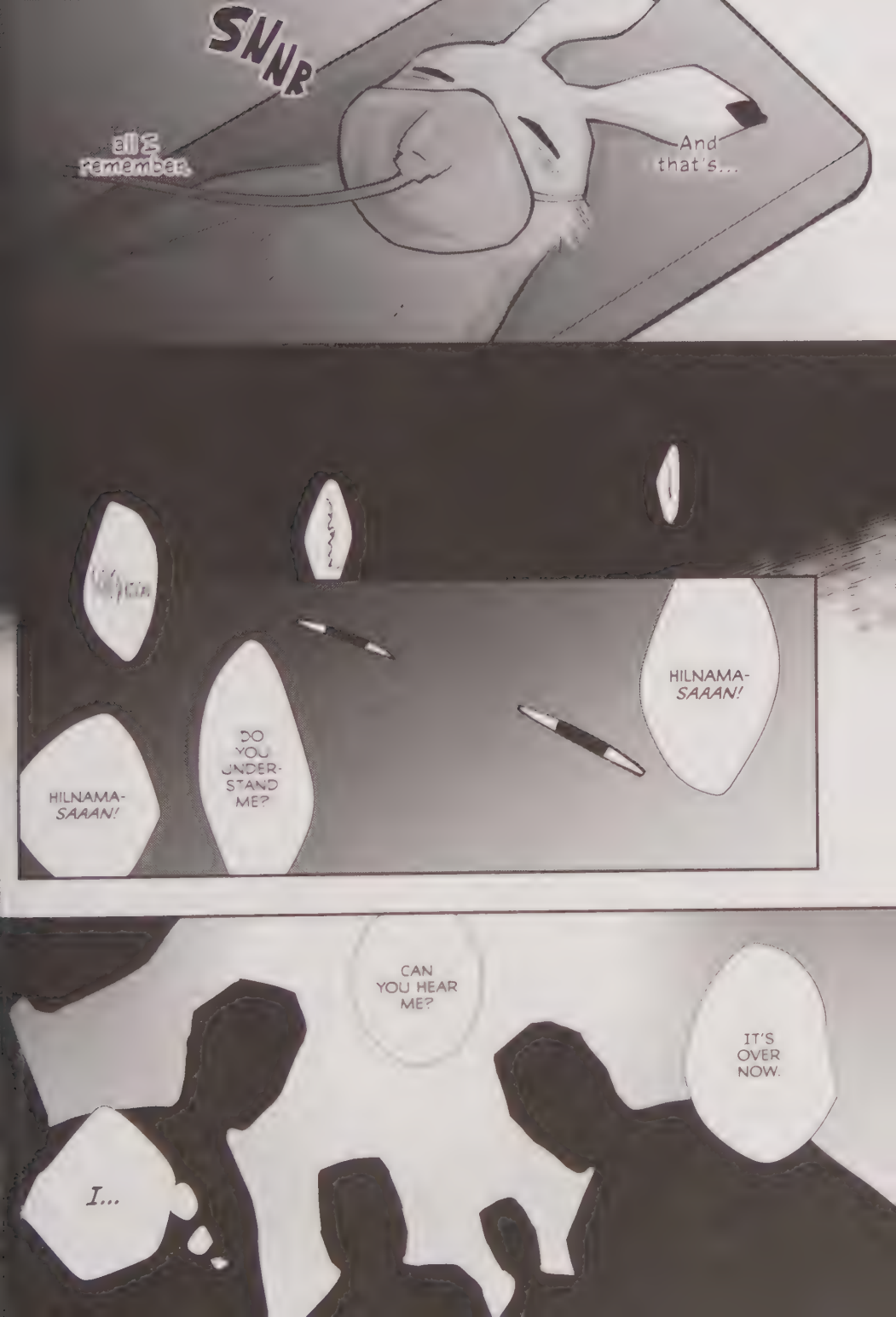

GROAN...
SHOOO...
YOUR IV...
HAS ANESTHESIA FLOWING NOW.
YOU'LL START TO FEEL SLEEPY.

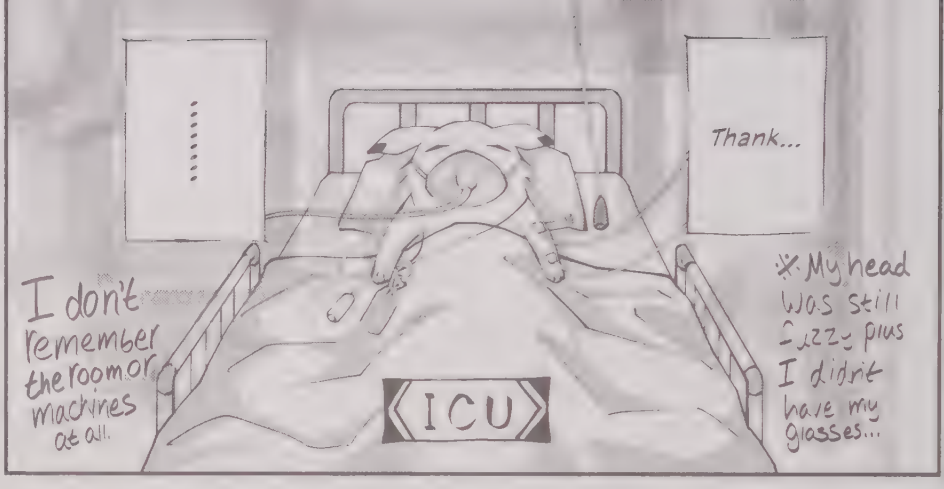
YES THAT'S IT PERFECT.
CAN YOU CURL INTO A TIGHTER BALL, PLEASE? JUST LIKE A SHRIMP.
LIKE THIS?
JOLT
Ppsk
I'LL GIVE YOU A SHOT FOR THE PAIN FIRST, OKAY?
Knee
I'M FINE
SLIDE
SLIDE
Ppsk
DO YOUR LEGS FEEL FUNNY OR HURT AT ALL?
I'M INSERTING THE TUBE FOR THE EPIDURAL.
GOOD. IT'S BETTER IF THEY DON'T.
Bet this is hard for people who aren't flexible
THEY DON'T...
PLEASE TELL ME RIGHT AWAY IF YOUR LEGS START TO FEEL WARM, OKAY?

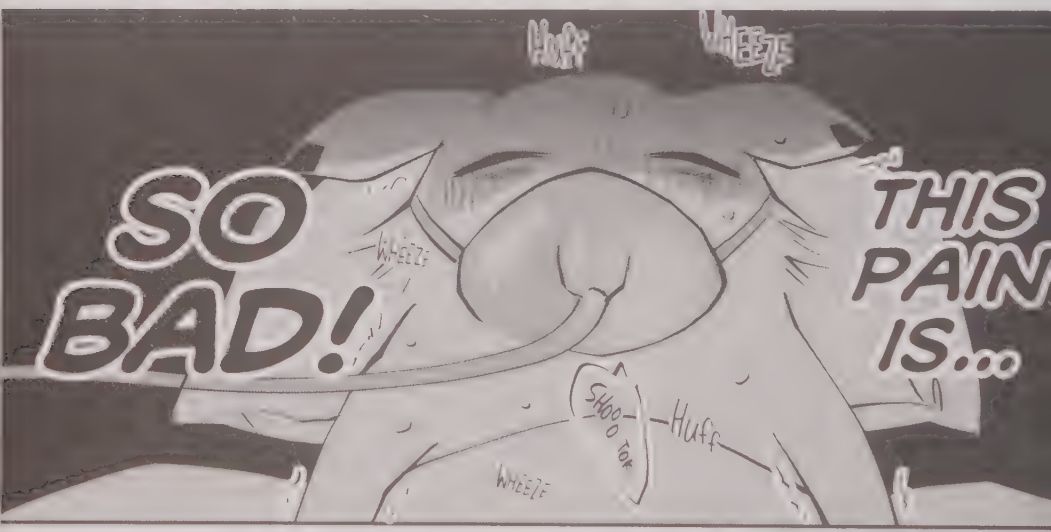


※. Your tracheas intubated during surgery. so you might find it hard to speak afterward

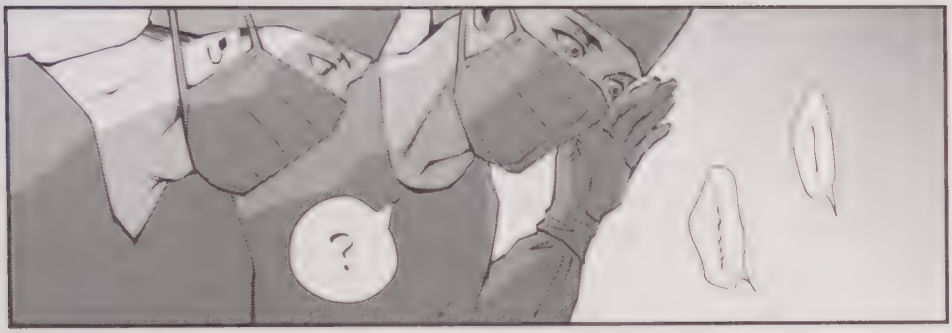


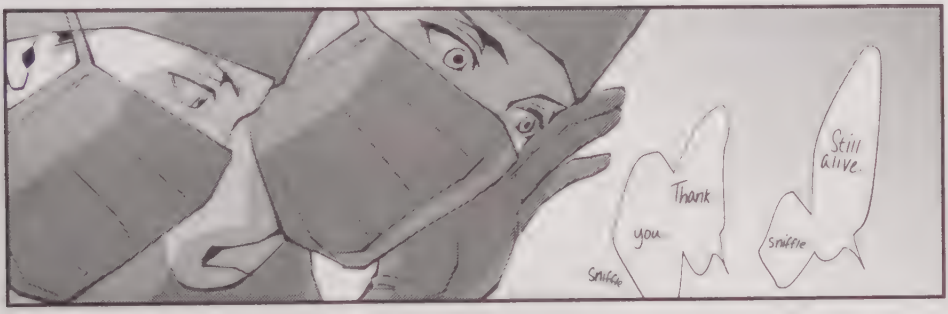

SNNR
all I remember.
And that's...
HILNAMA-SAAAN!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND ME?
HILNAMA-SAAAN!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
IT'S OVER NOW.
I...

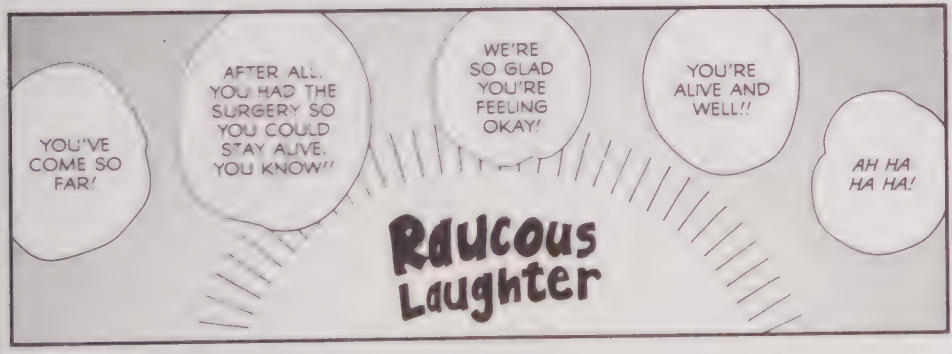

.....
Thank...
I don't remember the room or machines at all.
※My head was still ~zzz~ plus I didn't have my glasses...
ICU

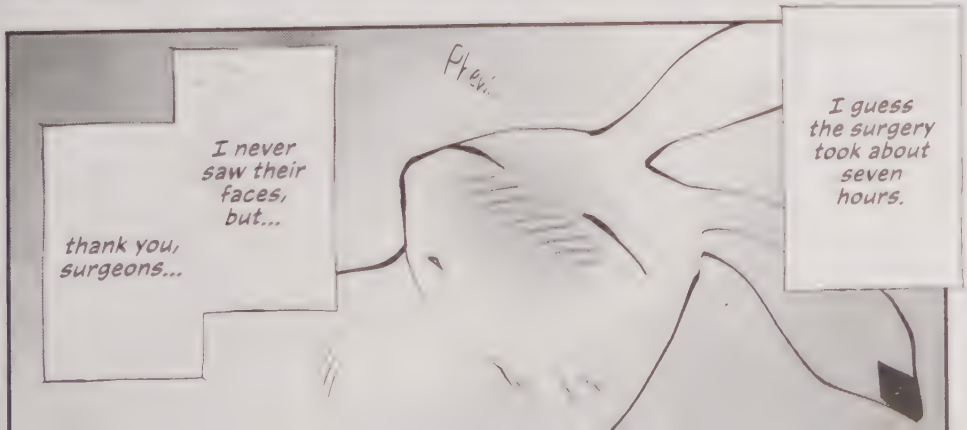

SO BAD!
THIS PAIN IS...
Huff
WHEEZE
SHOO-
WHEEZE

THIS HURTS TOO MUCH, RIGHT?!
NO, NO, NO, NO!
Huff
SHOO-

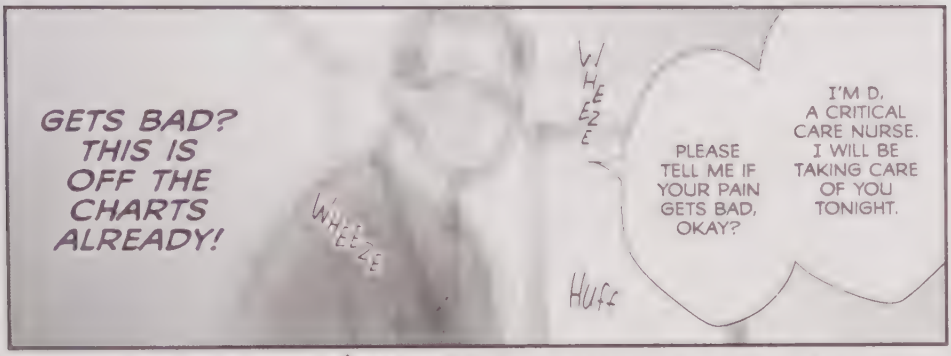

?


Thank you.
Sniffle
Still alive.
Sniffle

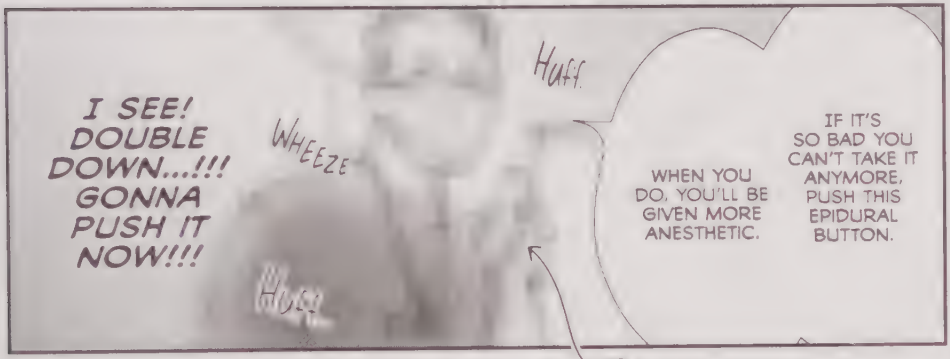

YOU'VE COME SO FAR!
AFTER ALL, YOU HAD THE SURGERY SO YOU COULD STAY ALIVE, YOU KNOW!!
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE FEELING OKAY!
YOU'RE ALIVE AND WELL!!
AH HA HA HA!
Raucous Laughter

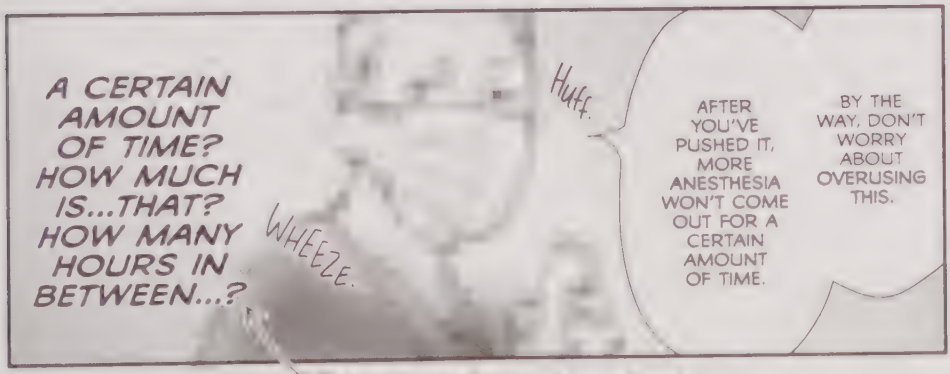

thank you, surgeons...
I never saw their faces, but...
I guess the surgery took about seven hours.

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

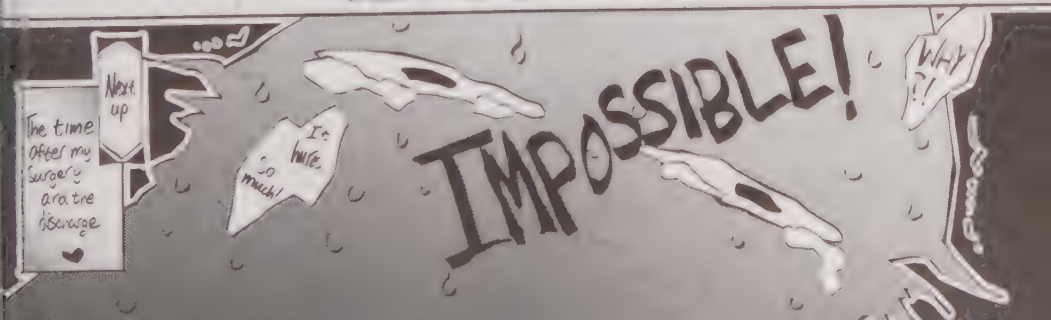


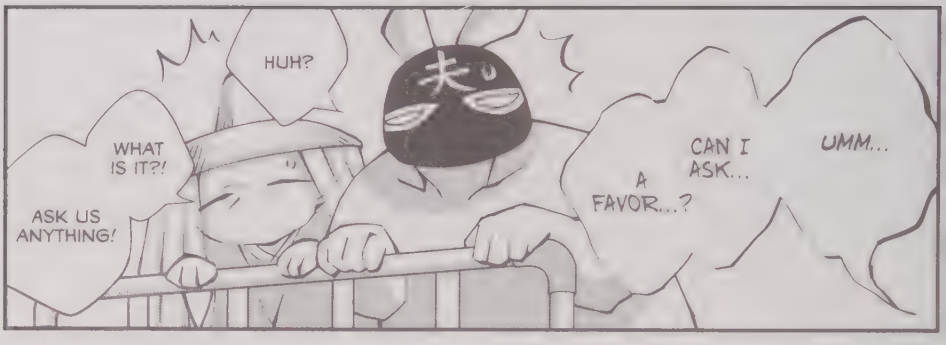
↖ I didn't move my glasses and my head was still fuzzy so I don't remember much

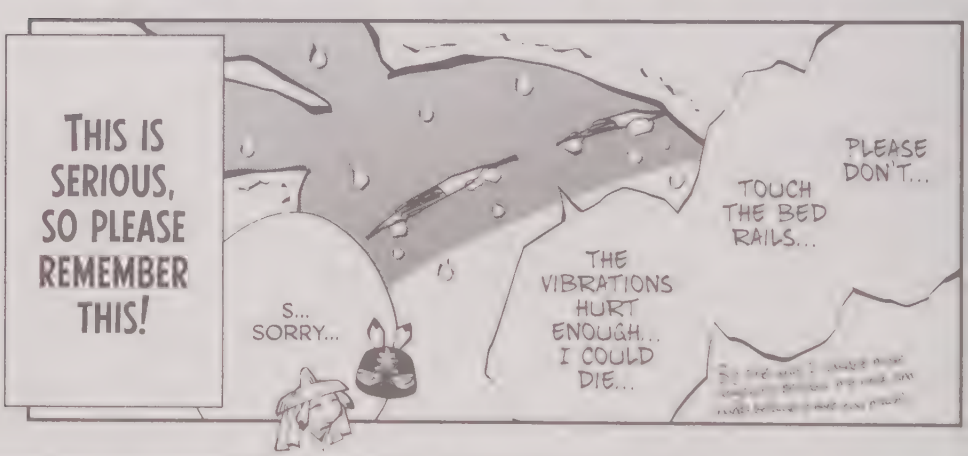


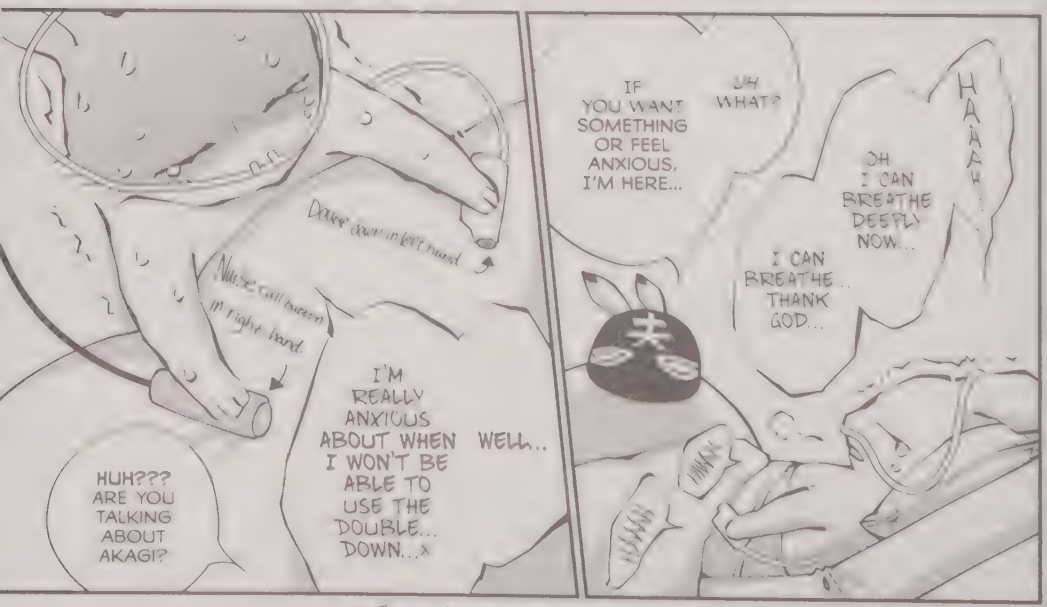


I don't remember if it was minutes or hours.



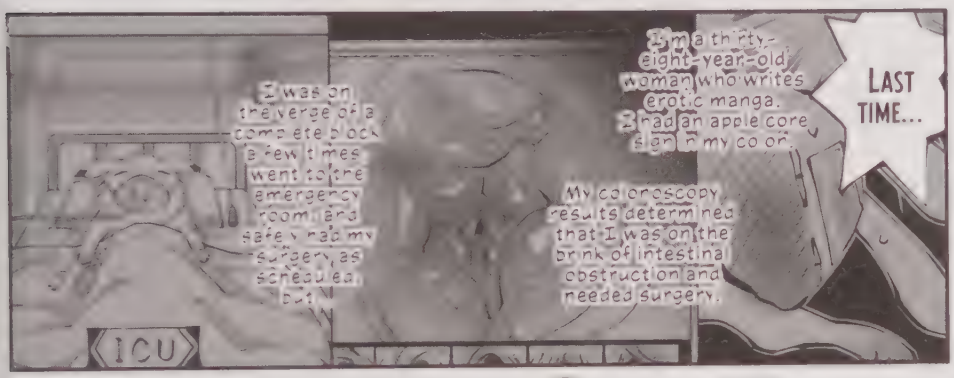


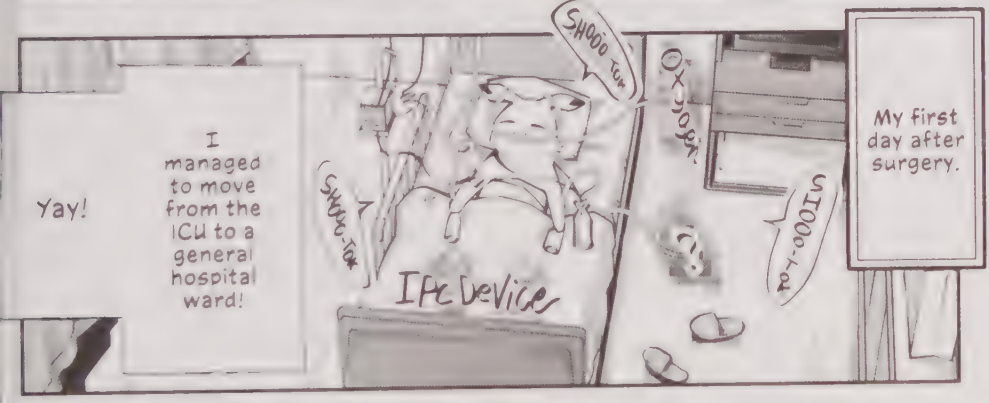


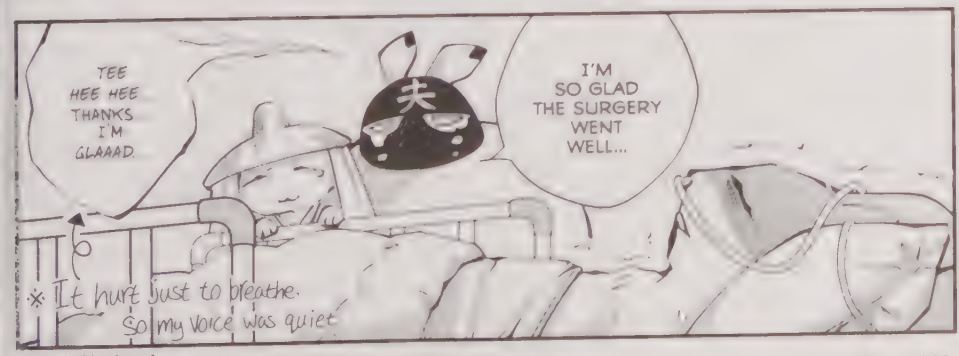


※I decided to name the epidural button after a thing from a manga.

I thought I had a Stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. 8
The time after my surgery and the discharge.







Mask: Husband

TO THE INTERNET TO ASK MY MEDICAL FIELD FRIENDS FOR SOME ADVICE!

I worried on my message for a while... and it ended up really freaking long

My surgery's safely over~! (^^)
Right now, I'm fighting the pain.
So, is it okay if I ask you a question?

I'm about to run out of my epidural anesthesia, but the pain is still intense... They told me after it runs out, I'll only have my IV and single-dose meds, so now I feel like a wreck. Does the pain after a laparotomy really calm down that much after a day or two? Sorry, I just wanted to ask someone...

tap...

tap...

I'm so proud~! Good work!!

pop

The pain varies by person, but after the second day, most people find it easier to manage. At my place, it's usually three single-dose medications...

Here, after a Cesarian, we take out the epidural at night on the same day. Then they just get suppositories, orals, intramuscular injections...

POP

pop

Yike...

Eep

Buzz Buzz Buzz

Buzz Buzz Buzz

※ This is all just talk between friends, so don't take it as official advice

This is just my opinion, but
They probably cut the inflamed area, so it wouldn't be pain just from the incision...
Go ask your doctor!

ACK...!

You're already in the general ward!
Good work!

pop

Oh!

To put it simply...

an epidural is a strong painkiller that's stuck right into your back...

for severe pain after a surgery.

This tube is stuck in my back

You push this.

It's made so that when the patient can't take any more pain, they can push the button to administer more of the painkiller themselves.

There wasn't much left, but...

Only one dose left!

it still hurt too much.

Make sure you look at the measurements and figure out how much is left.

Since this was my first time, I didn't know if that much pain was normal...

After all, my period cramps are really bad

Maybe I'm just not good at dealing with pain

So, I asked the nurse...

EVEN AFTER THE EPIDURAL IS FINISHED YOU STILL HAVE YOUR IV SINGLE DOSE MEDICATION, AND SUPPOSITORIES, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT

STUFF LIKE ACETAMINOPHEN OR BUPROFEN

Are you kidding me?

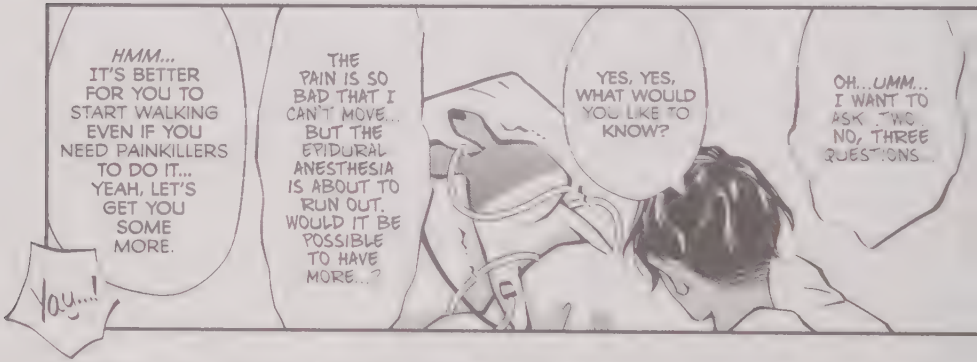
Aren't those just over the counter?

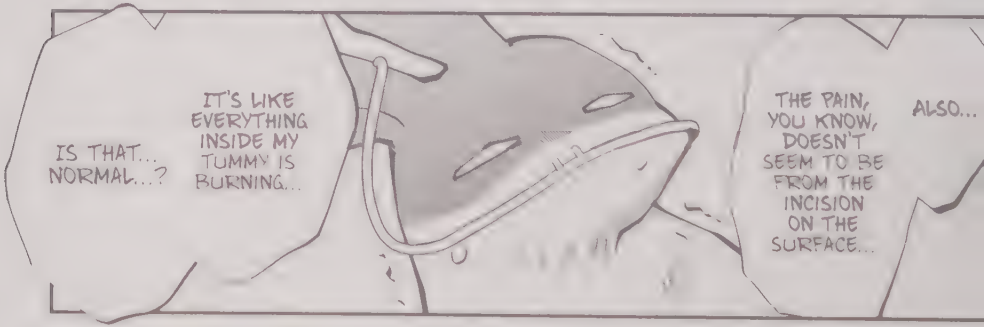
Plus, I couldn't talk much.

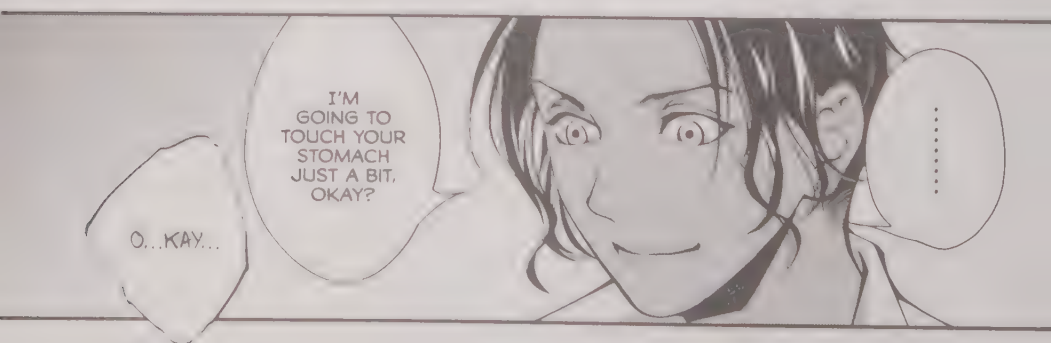
I couldn't really tell the nurse how anxious I was...

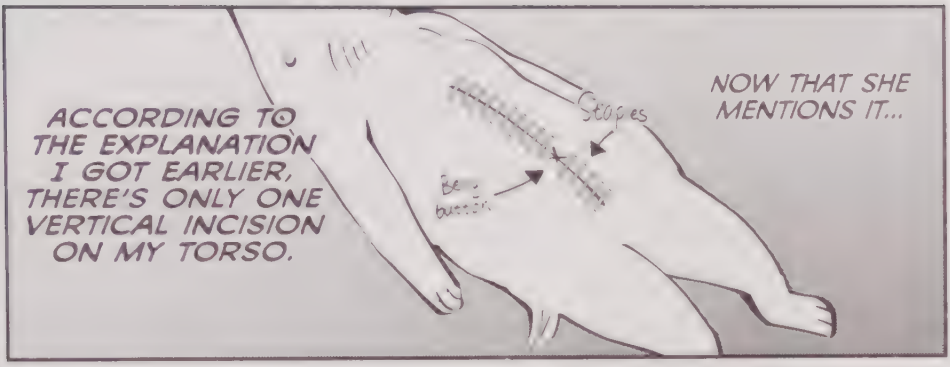
NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE...

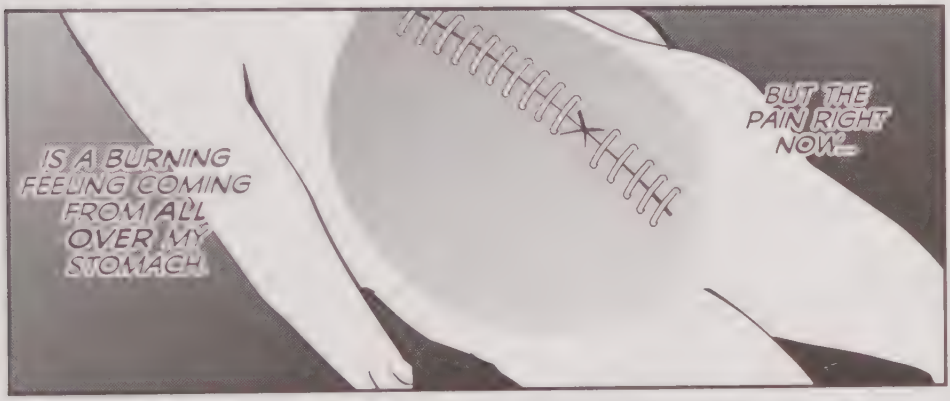
!!
Doctor!!
HELLO!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?


HMM... IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO START WALKING EVEN IF YOU NEED PAINKILLERS TO DO IT... YEAH, LET'S GET YOU SOME MORE.
Yay...!
THE PAIN IS SO BAD THAT I CAN'T MOVE... BUT THE EPIDURAL ANESTHESIA IS ABOUT TO RUN OUT. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE MORE...?
YES, YES, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?
OH...UMM... I WANT TO ASK TWO... NO, THREE QUESTIONS...

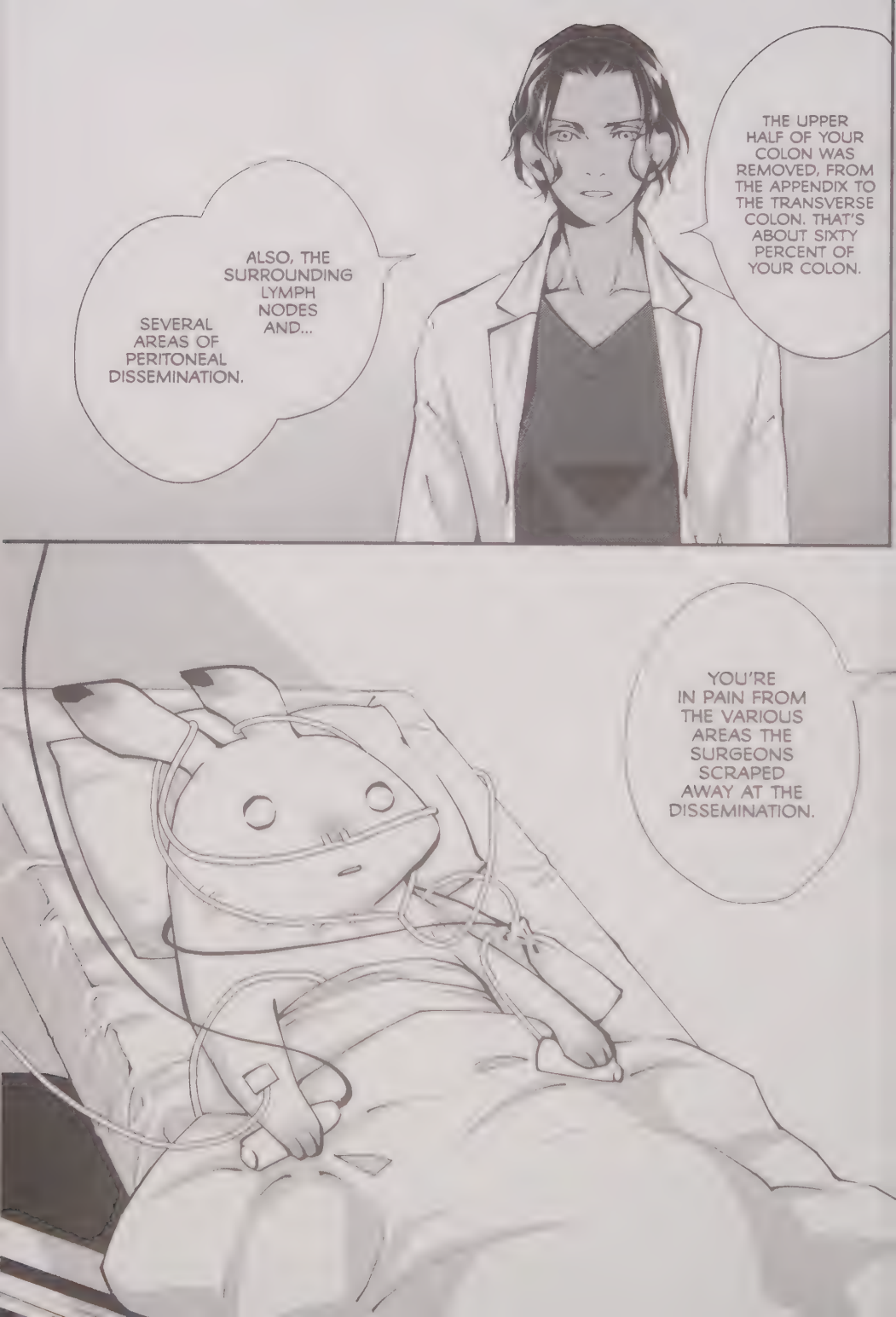

IS THAT... NORMAL...?
IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING INSIDE MY TUMMY IS BURNING...
THE PAIN, YOU KNOW, DOESN'T SEEM TO BE FROM THE INCISION ON THE SURFACE...
ALSO...


O...KAY...
I'M GOING TO TOUCH YOUR STOMACH JUST A BIT, OKAY?
.....


ACCORDING TO THE EXPLANATION I GOT EARLIER, THERE'S ONLY ONE VERTICAL INCISION ON MY TORSO.
Staples
Belly button
NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT...


IS A BURNING FEELING COMING FROM ALL OVER MY STOMACH.
BUT THE PAIN RIGHT NOW—

IS...
IS MY COLON HURTING...?


THE UPPER HALF OF YOUR COLON WAS REMOVED, FROM THE APPENDIX TO THE TRANSVERSE COLON. THAT'S ABOUT SIXTY PERCENT OF YOUR COLON.
ALSO, THE SURROUNDING LYMPH NODES AND...
SEVERAL AREAS OF PERITONEAL DISSEMINATION.
YOU'RE IN PAIN FROM THE VARIOUS AREAS THE SURGEONS SCRAPED AWAY AT THE DISSEMINATION.

I SEE. WELL...THIS IS SOMETHING...
Ungh
OW, OW!
OW, OW, OW!
HMM.
FEK!
WHAT ABOUT HERE?
NGHAAH!
HOW WAS IT AFTER YOU OPENED ME UP...MAY I ASK...?
I HAVEN'T HEARD THE RESULTS OF THE SURGERY...
NOW FOR THE THIRD QUESTION...
× Stomach
× Abdominal border
I WAS GOING TO WAIT TO TALK ABOUT IT IN DETAIL AFTER YOU'VE HEALED SOME MORE...
RIGHT...
BUT YOU SHOULD HEAR IT NOW.

Stage 3

It eventually breaks through the colon...

Stage 1

It slowly advances and invades the structures of the colon.

Stage 0

It's the colon cancer that forms on the inside of the colon.

Peritoneal dissemination is a form of metastasis.

Stage 4

Peritoneum

(This is a really big membrane. Stuff like your stomach and intestines are wrapped up in here)

※ This is a really crude diagram!

Liver

Stomach

Colon

Abdominal Cavity

Greater Omentum

Small Intestine

Then it sticks to the peritoneum, and when it grows large enough to see, it's called peritoneal dissemination.

and spreads cancer throughout the abdominal cavity like it's sowing seeds.

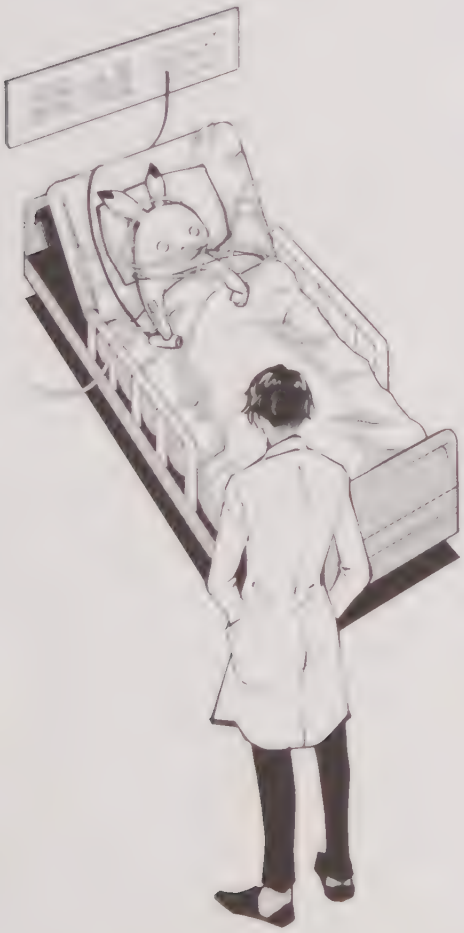
Magnified

Relapses often happen, and the prognosis is poor. Complete recovery is difficult.

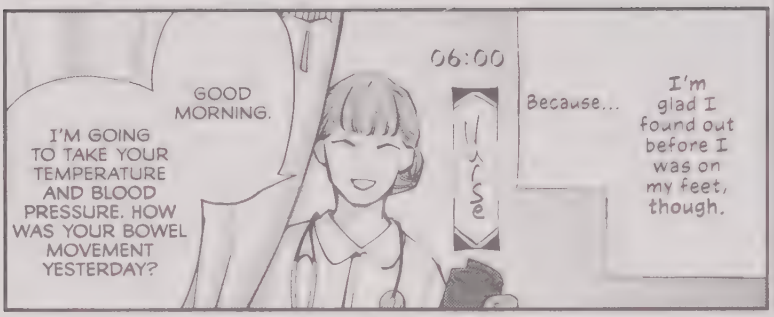
It's impossible to find peritoneal dissemination in the early stages when it's small enough to be invisible to the eye. It can't always be detected with an ultrasound or a CT scan, either.

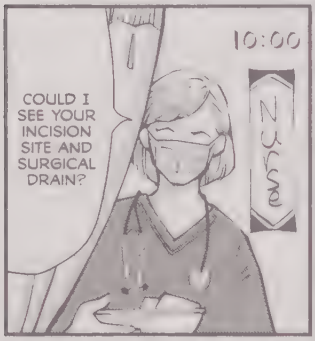
It's really hard to completely remove peritoneal dissemination with surgery.

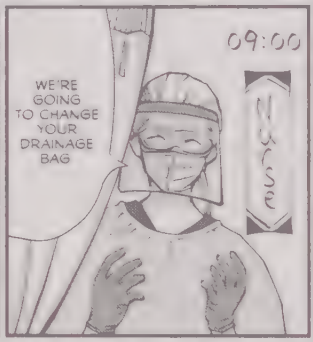
PERITONEAL

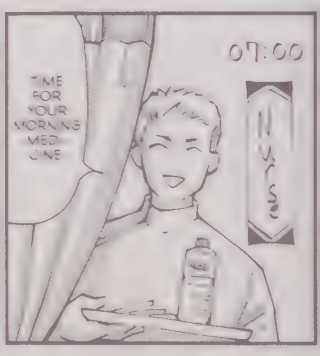


DISSEMINATION...?


06:00
GOOD MORNING.
I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE AND BLOOD PRESSURE. HOW WAS YOUR BOWEL MOVEMENT YESTERDAY?
Nurse
Because...
I'm glad I found out before I was on my feet, though.
Of course, that was shocking.

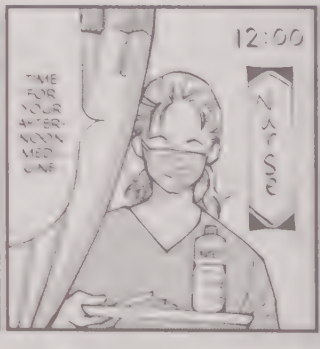

10:00
COULD I SEE YOUR INCISION SITE AND SURGICAL DRAIN?
Nurse

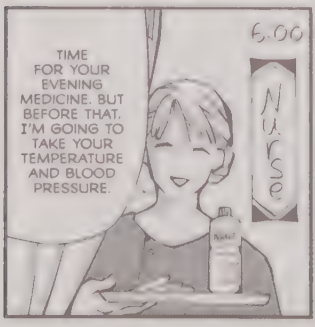

09:00
WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE YOUR DRAINAGE BAG
Nurse

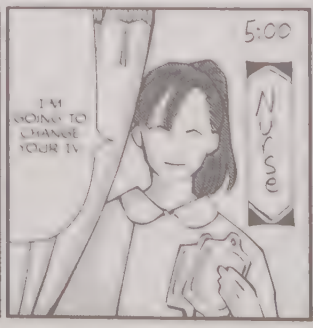

07:00
TIME FOR YOUR MORNING MEDICINE
Nurse

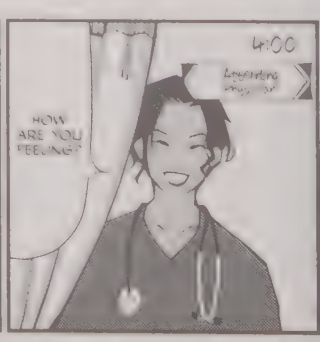
3:00
I'M GOING TO MOP THE FLOOR OKAY? DO YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE?

1:00
IT'S TIME FOR REHAB. LET'S SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN WALK TODAY


12:00
TIME FOR YOUR AFTERNOON MEDICINE
Nurse

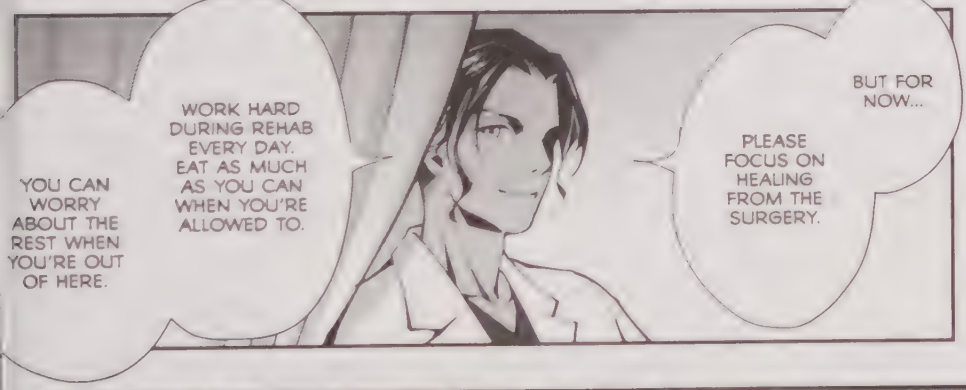

6:00
TIME FOR YOUR EVENING MEDICINE. BUT BEFORE THAT, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE AND BLOOD PRESSURE.
Nurse


5:00
I'M GOING TO CHANGE YOUR IV
Nurse


4:00
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

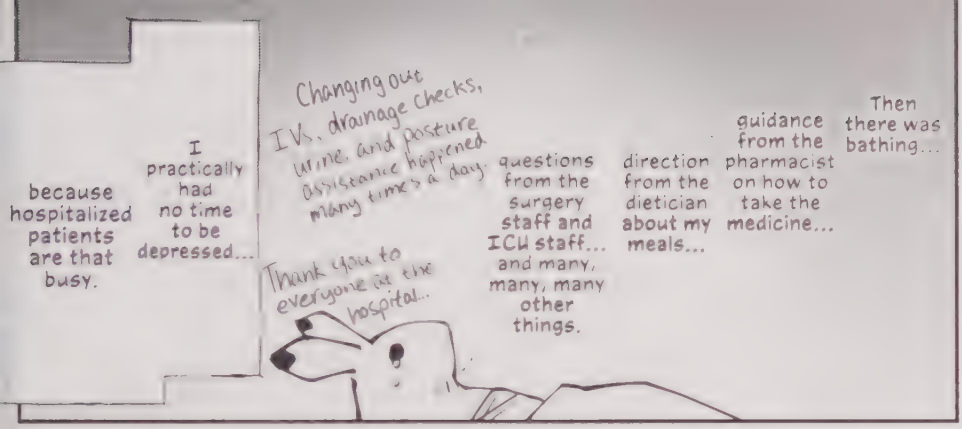
WE REMOVED EVERYTHING THAT WE COULD SEE. THIS REALLY INFLUENCES THE PROGNOSIS.
HOWEVER...
THE PAIN IS NORMAL. THE PERITONEUM DOES FEEL PAIN.

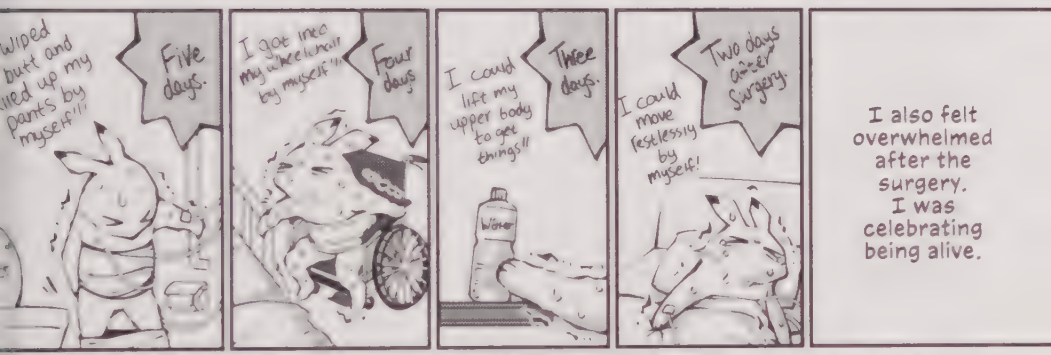
AFTER YOU'RE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, YOU'LL LIKELY START CHEMOTHERAPY QUICKLY.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S BETTER TO TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDER-ATION.
THAT THERE STILL ARE TINY CANCER CELLS INSIDE ME EVEN NOW, RIGHT...?
B-BUT THAT MEANS...


YOU CAN WORRY ABOUT THE REST WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF HERE.
WORK HARD DURING REHAB EVERY DAY. EAT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN WHEN YOU'RE ALLOWED TO.
PLEASE FOCUS ON HEALING FROM THE SURGERY.
BUT FOR NOW...

.....
Peri
toneum
.....

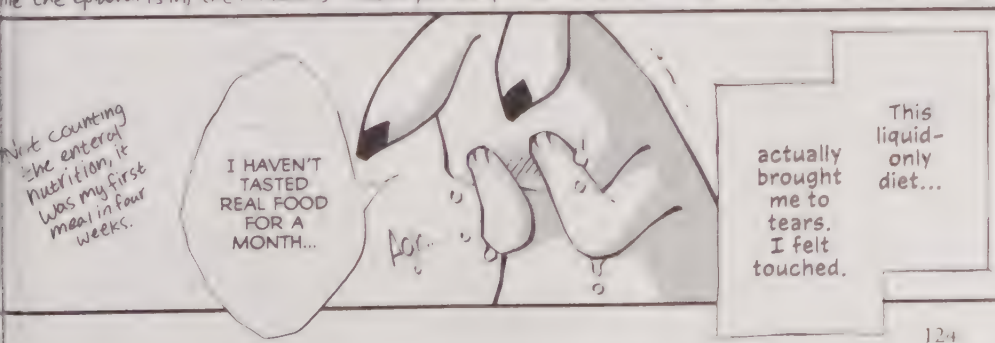
YOU COULD BE DISCHARGED ANY DAY NOW!
Huh?!
AND WITH THAT, ALL THE THINGS THE HOSPITAL NEEDS TO MANAGE ARE DONE.
YOUR DRAIN'S OUT, TOO!
Nine days after surgery.
SLIP
fluid drainage
There were aerobic bikes, and I did squats.
By the way, rehab involved things like wearing one-kilogram weights while walking up stairs...
It was surprisingly hard.
YOUR REHABILITATION IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, TOO.
ALREADY?!
The occasional message of hope stays with you and helps encourages you. Th
OH...
S-SO...
I HEAR THAT LATELY YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS SITTING UP, TOO.
AND YOU'RE DOING GREAT.
BUT FIVE DAYS AGO I COULDN'T EVEN GO TO THE BATHROOM BY MYSELF...
Excuse me?!
OF COURSE NOT!
I couldn't quite give up the tickets.
AFTER I'M DISCHARGED, CAN I GO SEE A SHOW AT THE THEATER?
IN TWO DAYS...





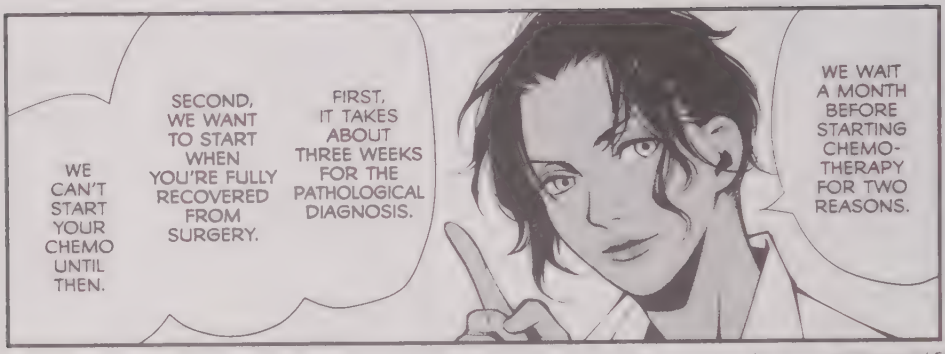
I hadn't eaten but leftover chunks of blood from when they cut my colon came out instead of poop.

While the epidural is in, the muscles you use to pee are paralyzed (For some reason, you can still poop, though.)

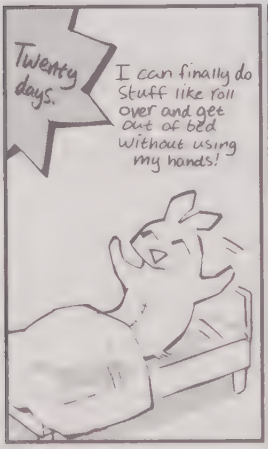


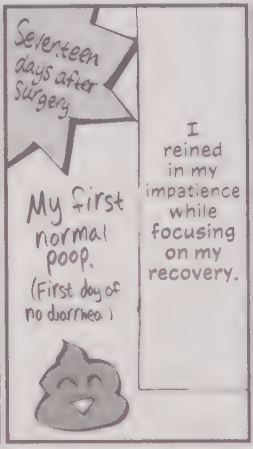
I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

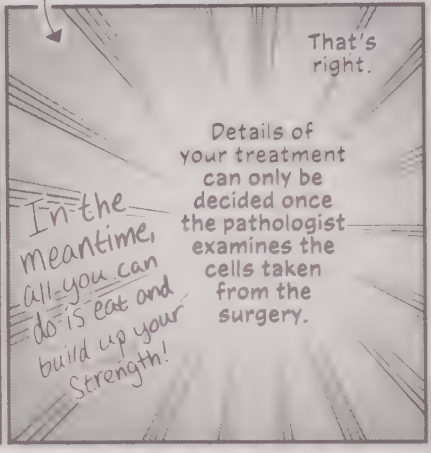
NO, NO. I'D WORRY TOO MUCH. PLEASE. NO.
THE DOCTOR SAYS I CAN!
SEE!
What?!
THAT'S TOTALLY FINE! GO HAVE A GOOD TIME~!
OR LIKE...
THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM. JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET THE FLU!
NO. YOU JUST SIT AND WATCH QUIETLY FOR THREE HOURS.
IS IT A SHOW WHERE YOU FLY AND JUMP AROUND?
?
So that was that.
PLEASE TAKE THIS MONTH TO ENJOY YOURSELF.
NOW'S THE TIME TO ENJOY EXERCISES LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING WITHOUT RESERVATION.
IN A MONTH WHEN THE PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS IS AVAILABLE AND YOU START YOUR TREATMENT, YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM WILL WEAKEN.
* This depends on the person. Please listen to what your attending physician says!
Anti-Cancer drugs
I recommended my husband and sister-in-law relax at the hot springs next to the theater. ★
Dinner on the day I was discharged
I was discharged eleven days after surgery. I went to watch the play, *Touken Ranbu*, and had dinner with my friends.



I probably won't ever meet these people, but thank you, pathologists!

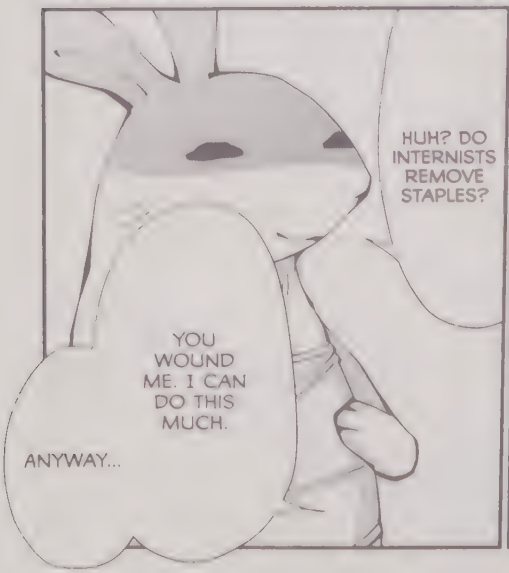


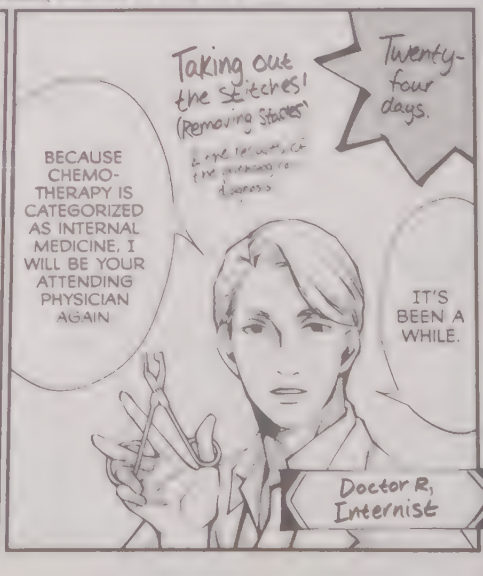




My abs were back!

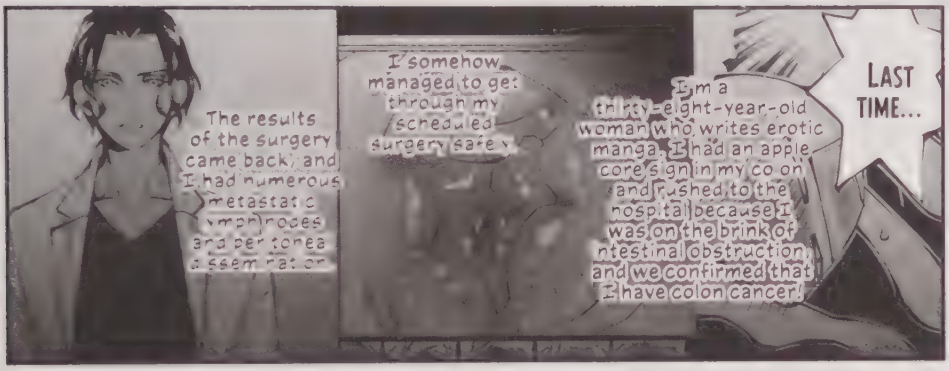
To be honest this made me the most emotional

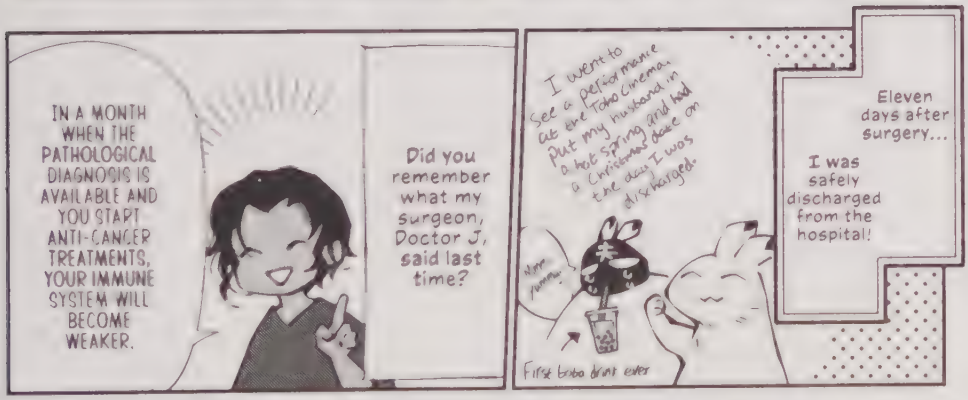


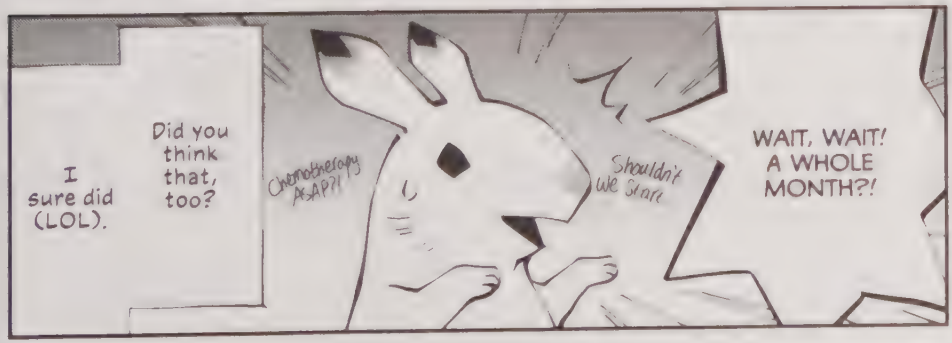


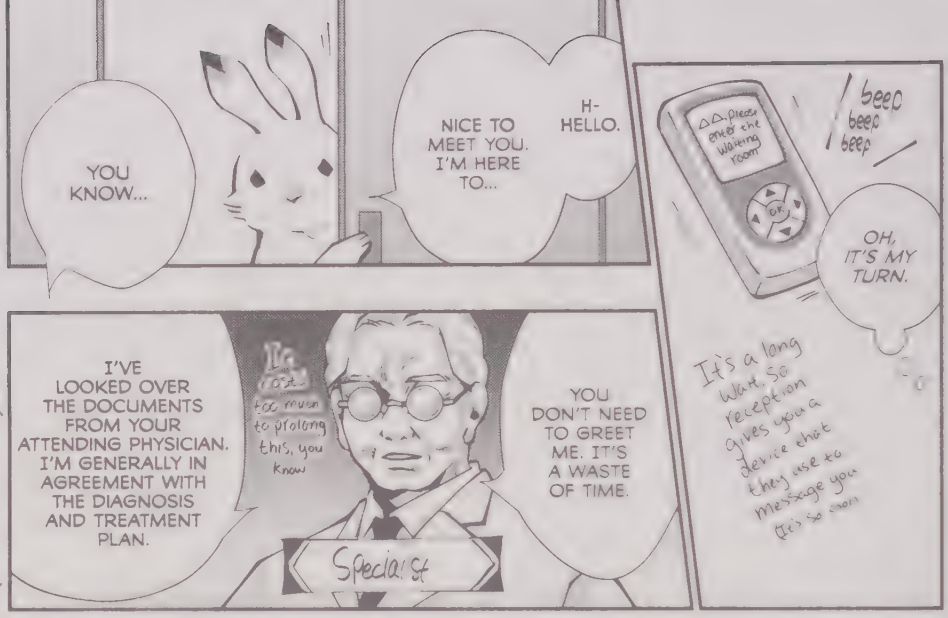
I thought I had a stomachache, but it was terminal cancer. ⑨

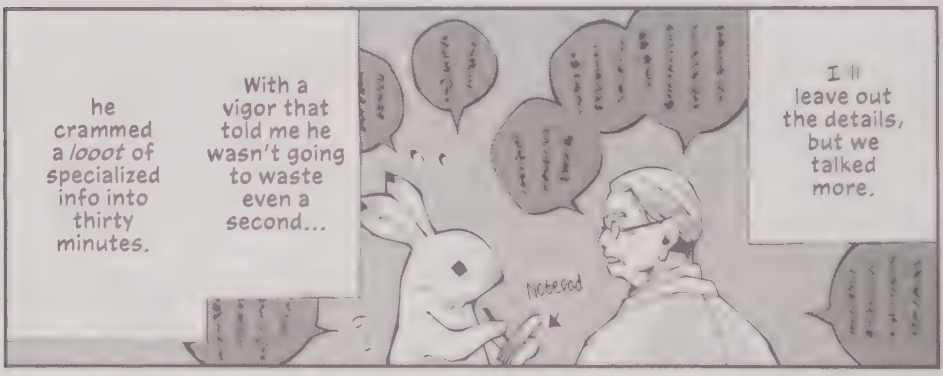
This and that about anti-cancer drugs.

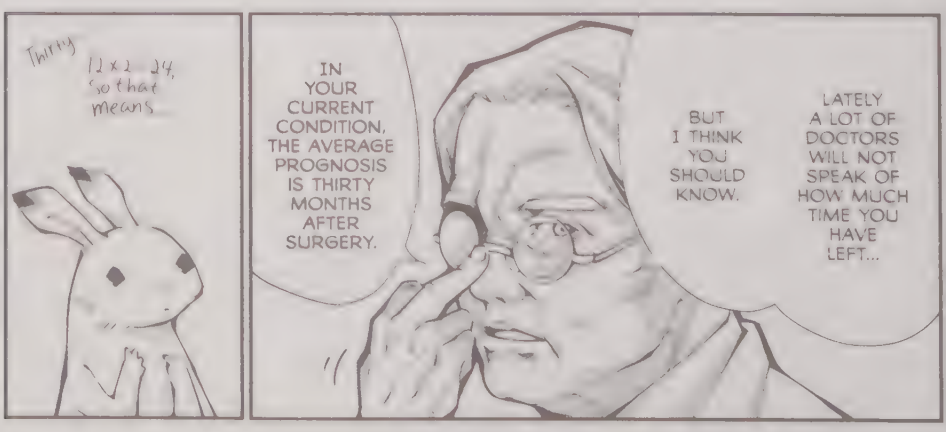


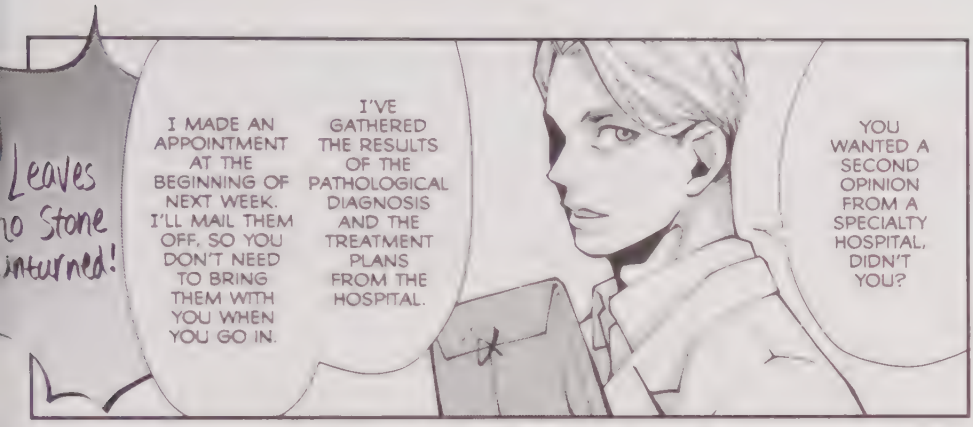





YOU KNOW...
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M HERE TO...
H-HELLO.
Please enter the waiting room
beep beep beep
OH, IT'S MY TURN.
It's a long wait, so reception gives you a device that they use to message you (it's so smart)
I'VE LOOKED OVER THE DOCUMENTS FROM YOUR ATTENDING PHYSICIAN. I'M GENERALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT PLAN.
Cost... too much to prolong this, you know
Specialist
YOU DON'T NEED TO GREET ME. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
(This took five seconds)

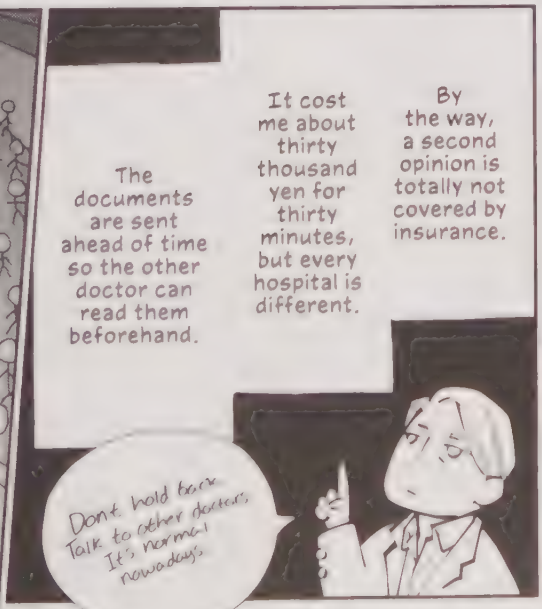

he crammed a looot of specialized info into thirty minutes.
With a vigor that told me he wasn't going to waste even a second...
Notepad
I'll leave out the details, but we talked more.

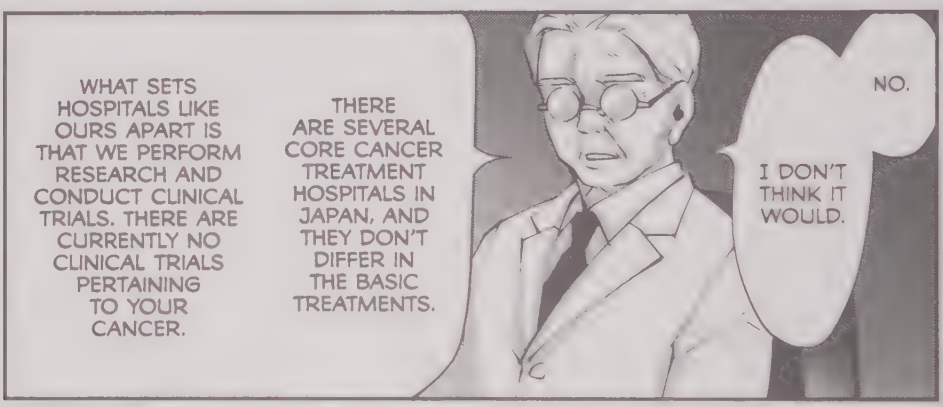

Thirty
12 x 2 = 24, so that means
IN YOUR CURRENT CONDITION, THE AVERAGE PROGNOSIS IS THIRTY MONTHS AFTER SURGERY.
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.
LATELY A LOT OF DOCTORS WILL NOT SPEAK OF HOW MUCH TIME YOU HAVE LEFT...



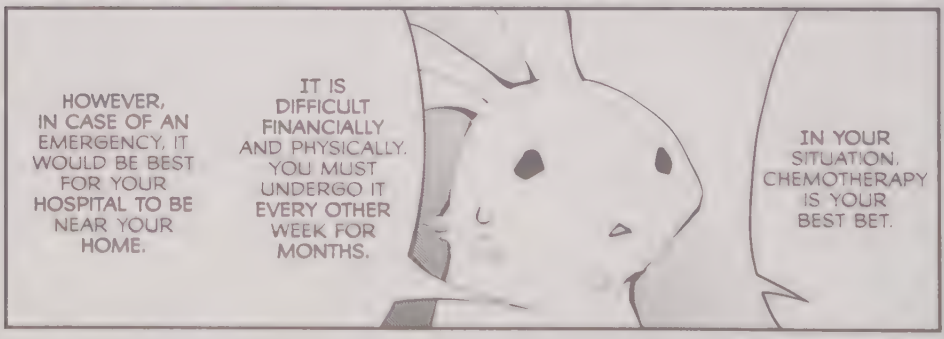
Super thick envelope.

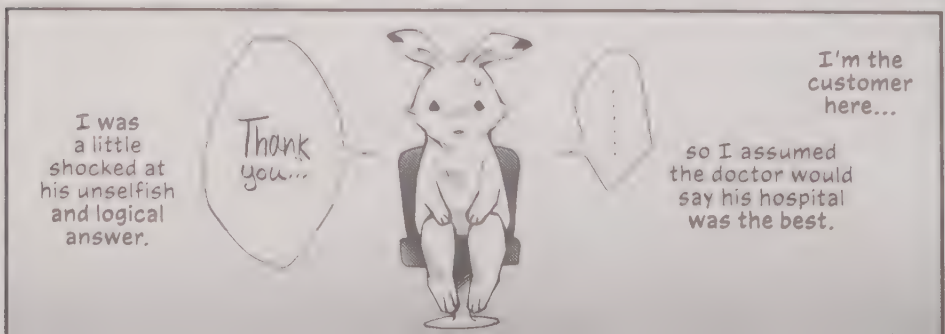
*In 2019.



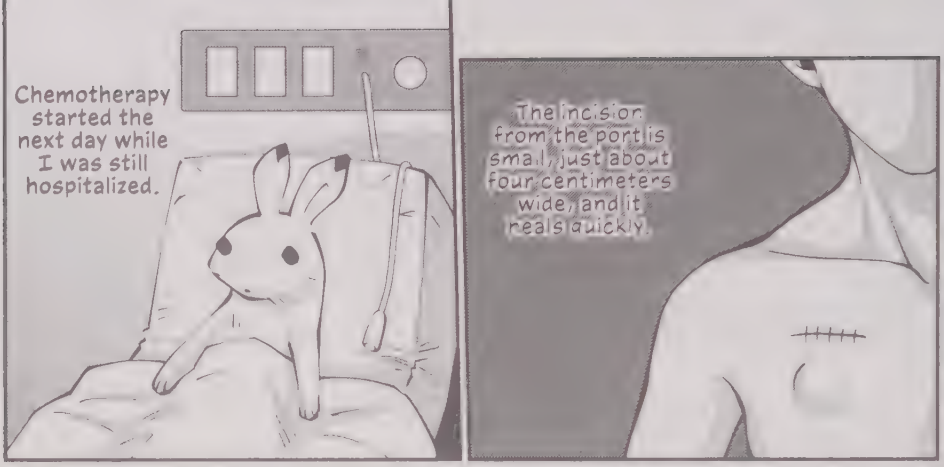


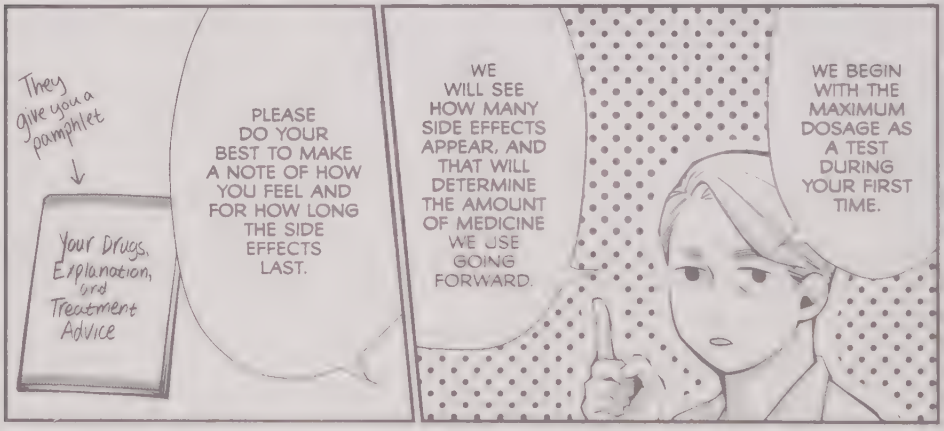
※*Clinical trials are studies for new, proposed treatments*
These trials offer hope for those whose illnesses currently don't have effective treatment methods

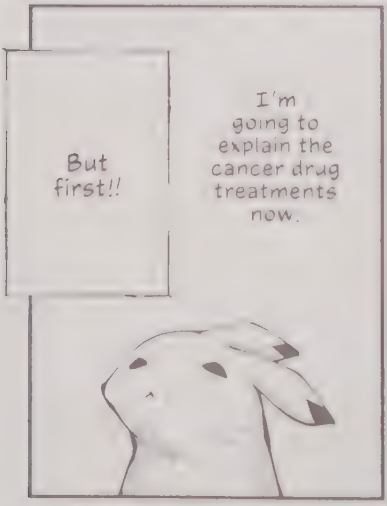


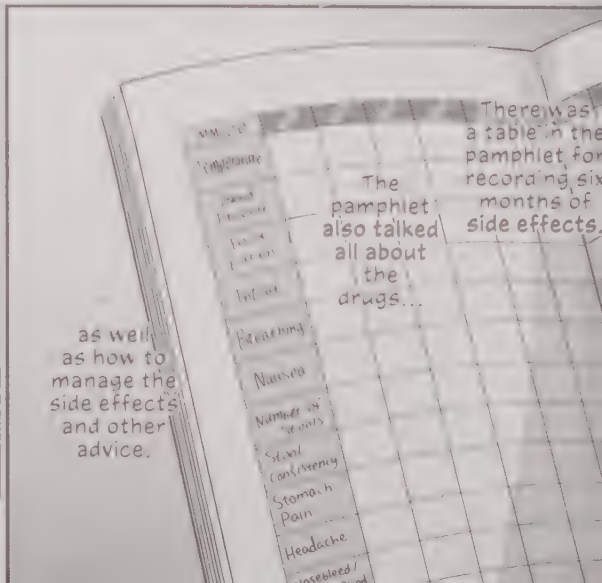


After thirty minutes have passed you're billed ten thousand yen for every additional thirty minutes


Chemotherapy started the next day while I was still hospitalized.
The incision from the port is small, just about four centimeters wide, and it heals quickly.


They give you a pamphlet
Your Drugs, Explanation, and Treatment Advice
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE A NOTE OF HOW YOU FEEL AND FOR HOW LONG THE SIDE EFFECTS LAST.
WE WILL SEE HOW MANY SIDE EFFECTS APPEAR, AND THAT WILL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF MEDICINE WE USE GOING FORWARD.
WE BEGIN WITH THE MAXIMUM DOSAGE AS A TEST DURING YOUR FIRST TIME.


But first!!
I'm going to explain the cancer drug treatments now.


There was a table in the pamphlet for recording six months of side effects.
The pamphlet also talked all about the drugs...
as well as how to manage the side effects and other advice.
Temperature
Diarrhea
Nausea
Number of Stools
Stool Consistency
Stomach Pain
Headache

By mouth

○ PROS: NO NEEDLES.
CAN DO IT FROM HOME.

✕ CONS: CAN FORGET TO TAKE IT.

Cancer drug treatments are administered in different ways, such as orally or through an IV...

IV

○ PROS: WON'T FORGET TO TAKE IT.
SURGERY UNNECESSARY.

✕ CONS: GOTTA FIND A VEIN EVERY TIME. WHICH HURTS.
VEIN INFLAMMATION.
YOUR HAND CAN'T DO MUCH WHILE THE IV IS IN.

My attending physician received the second doctor's comments, which were factored into my treatment plan.

My chemotherapy finally started.

Six weeks after surgery.

Hospitalized [illegible] of the first time.

Equipment from last time

Implanting a port-a-cath

○ PROS: WON'T FORGET TO TAKE IT.
HURTS LESS THAN INSERTING AN IV INTO THE VEIN.
VEIN INFLAMMATION ISN'T A PROBLEM.
CAN DO IT FROM HOME.

✕ CONS: REQUIRES SURGERY TO IMPLANT IT (OUT-PATIENT SURGERY IS POSSIBLE).

↑ ✕ I was hospitalized

In my case, the doctor selected a chest port-a-cath for use with an IV.

Squishy Silicon. The needle goes in here instead of in a vein

Port-a-cath

The medicine goes in your body through a catheter

* Port-a-cath: a port that is put under the skin to administer medicine

It's under local anesthesia, so you're conscious. Watching someone perform an operation was pretty scary.

This seems to depend on the hospital

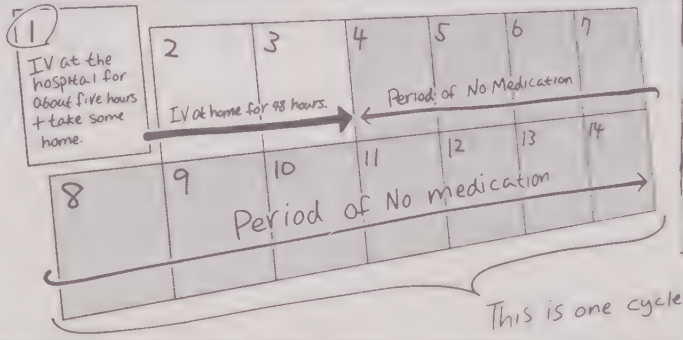
I can do this much

And so, first is the surgery to implant the port-a-cath. It took about thirty minutes.

This is what cancer treatment is like.

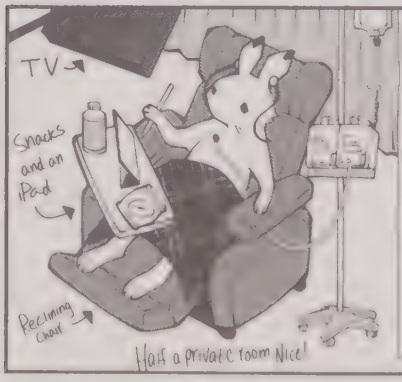
had one year (twenty-four cycles) of chemo.

And so I, Hilnama...



My treatment was outpatient and at home.

I went in once every two weeks for outpatient treatment.

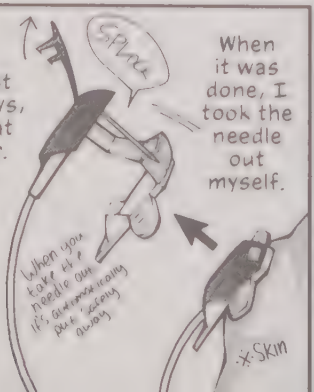


On day one, you get the first five in the hospital's chemo-therapy room for about five and a half hours.

1. ANTIEMETIC
2. TARGETED CANCER THERAPY DRUG
3. ANTI-CANCER DRUG 1
4. ANTI-CANCER DRUG 2
5. DRUG TO STRENGTHEN EFFECTS OF MEDICINE
6. ANTI-CANCER DRUG 3

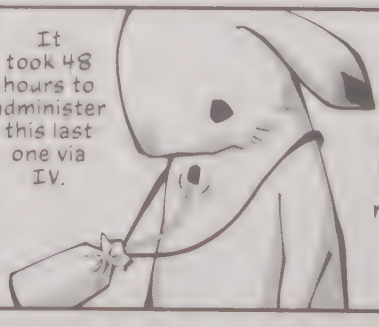
These are the six drugs I had in my IV.

All that's left is to rest for eleven days, and then that cycle is over.



When it was done, I took the needle out myself.

It took 48 hours to administer this last one via IV.



They hung a bottle of the sixth medication around my neck for me to take home.

※ Pharmacotherapy includes cytotoxic chemotherapy (chemotherapy, in the narrow sense of the word), hormone therapy, and targeted cancer therapy. Different treatments are used for different kinds of cancer

(this applies to many chemotherapy drugs)

It's true.

differently.

everyone responds to treatment...

It's important to know...

I can only tell you my experience.

aren't known until you start chemo.

No matter what you take, your side effects and how bad they are...

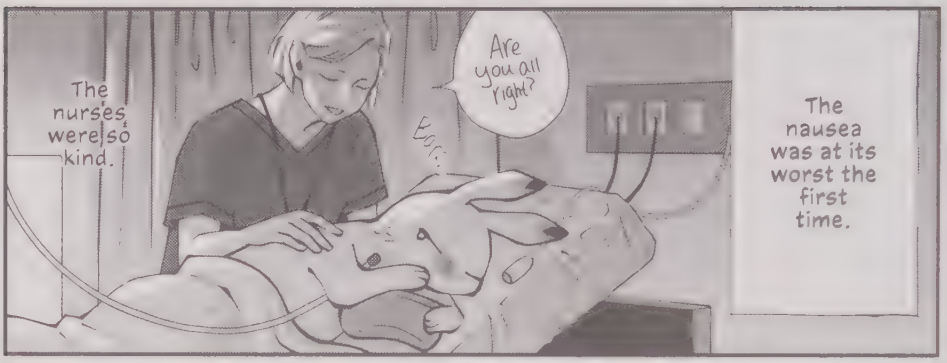
What you're given depends on your disease (stage and type of cancer), your general health, your age, history, allergies, and more.

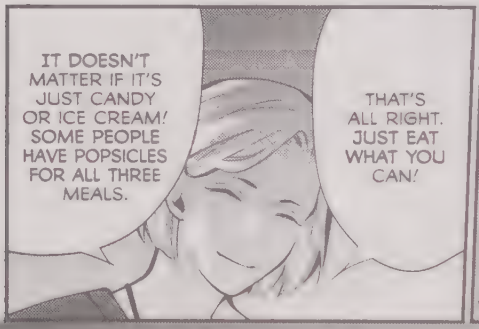
We call them cancer drugs, but really there are a whole bunch of different ones.

Don't be deceived by biased information, okay?

You have to **prioritize the directions from your doctors and pharmacists.**

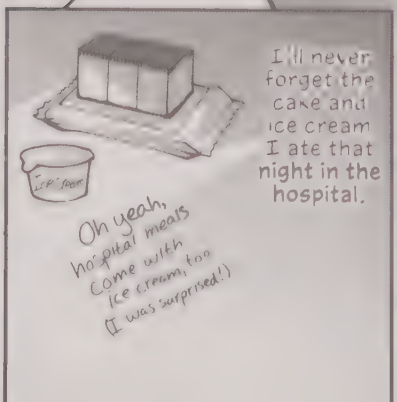
This manga--written by someone with no medical training *(ha ha)*--books, the internet, and your friends' advice are nothing but a reference.

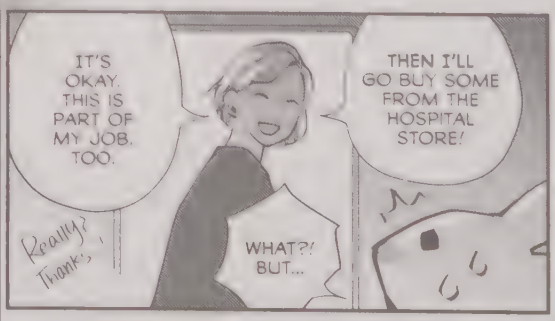

The nurses were so kind.
Are you all right?
Ecc...
The nausea was at its worst the first time.

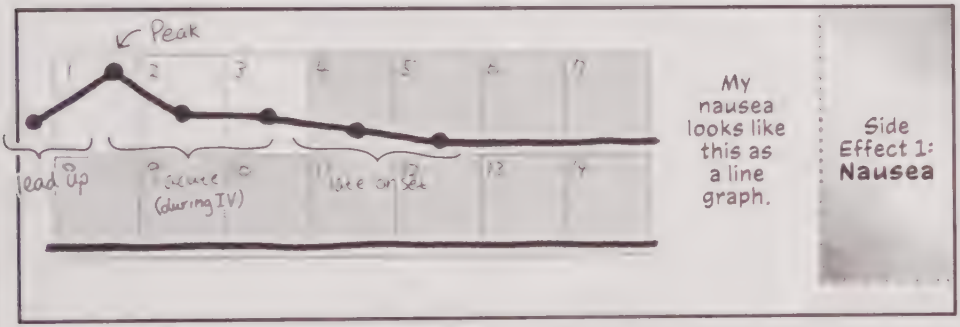

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S JUST CANDY OR ICE CREAM! SOME PEOPLE HAVE POPSICLES FOR ALL THREE MEALS.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. JUST EAT WHAT YOU CAN!

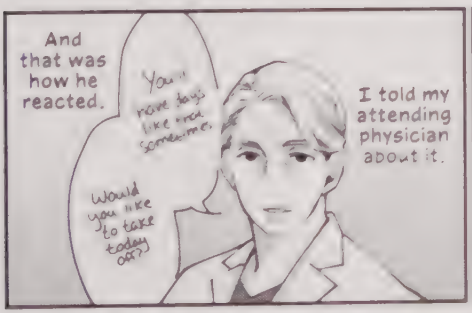
It made it really hard to eat...
Personally, the smell of dashi and rice set me off the most.

CASTELLA CAKE AND...ICE CREAM...
CAN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO EAT?
R-REALLY.....?


I'll never forget the cake and ice cream I ate that night in the hospital.
Oh yeah, hospital meals come with ice cream, too (I was surprised!)


IT'S OKAY. THIS IS PART OF MY JOB, TOO.
Really? Thanks.
THEN I'LL GO BUY SOME FROM THE HOSPITAL STORE!
WHAT?! BUT...

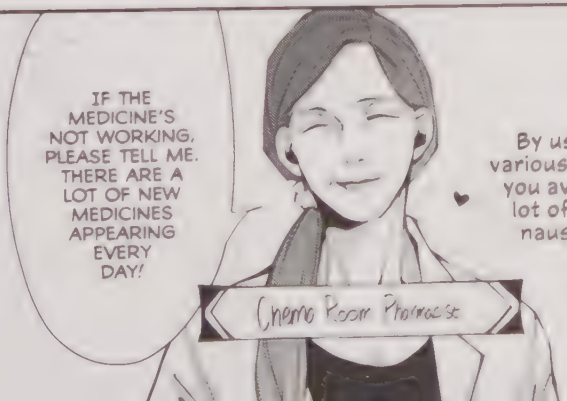




I sometimes remembered the agony I'd felt before and said, "I don't want to go to the hospital."

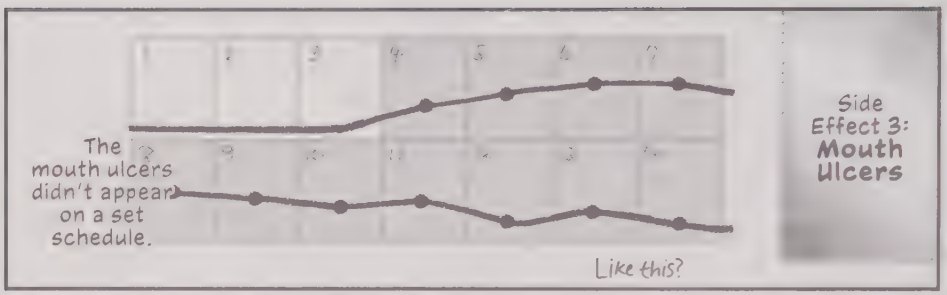
The initial nausea that comes before the IV started about six months into my treatment.

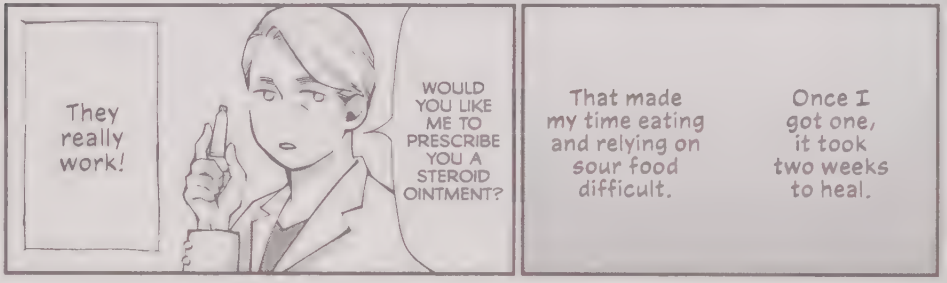
I switched to using three different ones orally and through the IV.

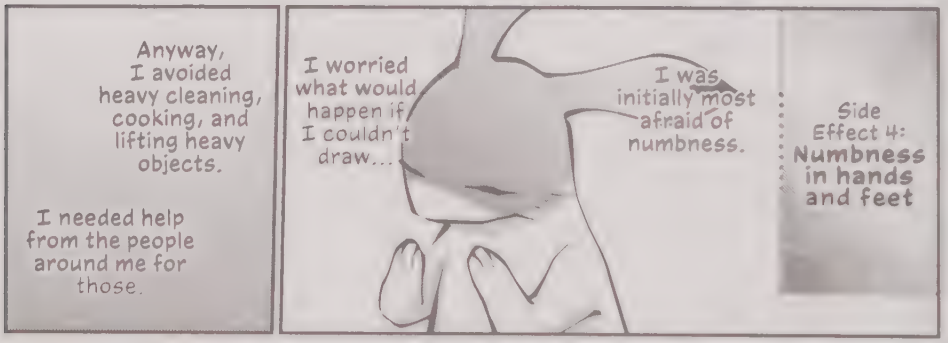


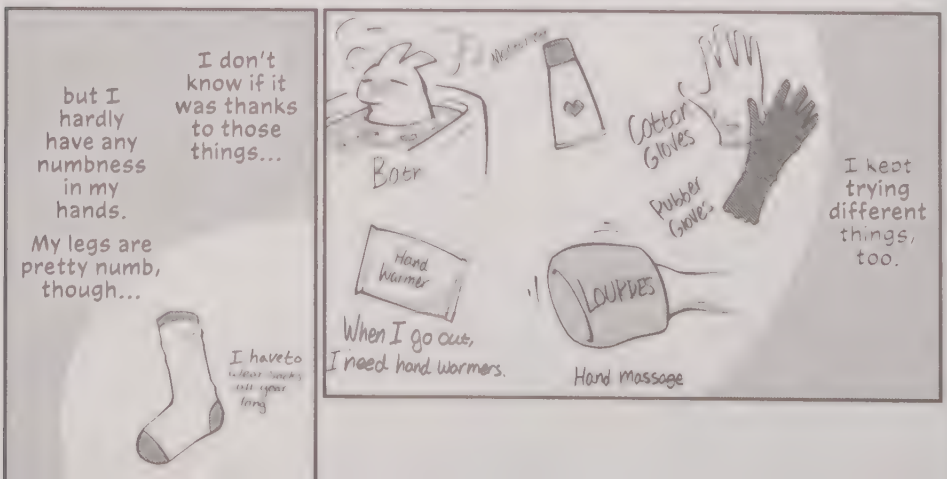
By using various ones, you avoid a lot of the nausea.

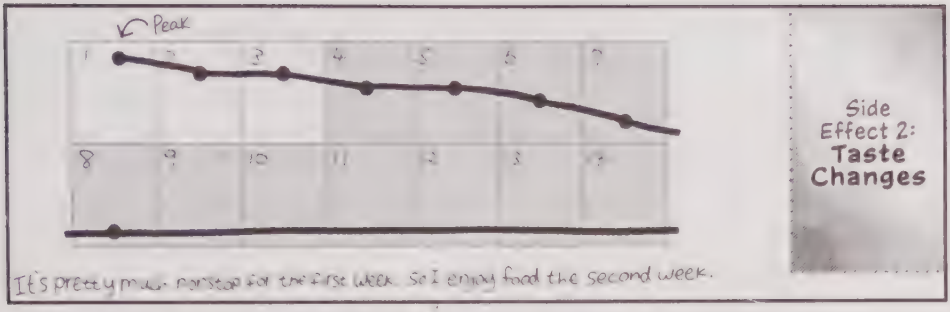
But you know, antiemetics are amazing now!

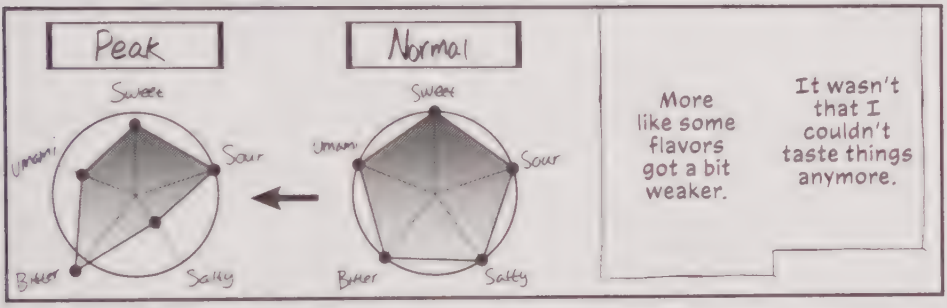

The mouth ulcers didn't appear on a set schedule.
Like this?
Side Effect 3: Mouth Ulcers

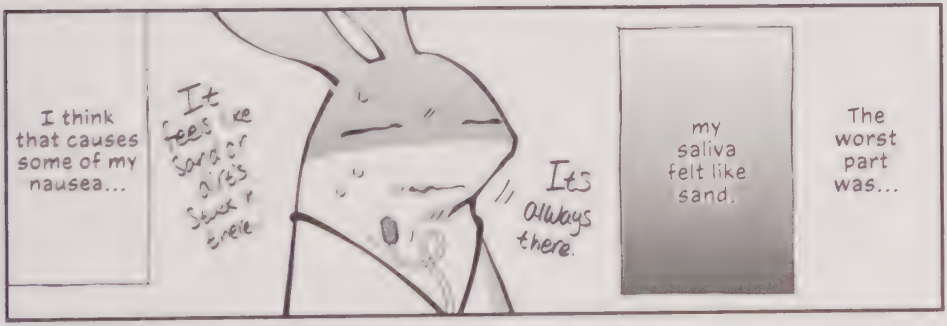

They healed in a day.
They really work!
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO PRESCRIBE YOU A STEROID OINTMENT?
That made my time eating and relying on sour food difficult.
Once I got one, it took two weeks to heal.

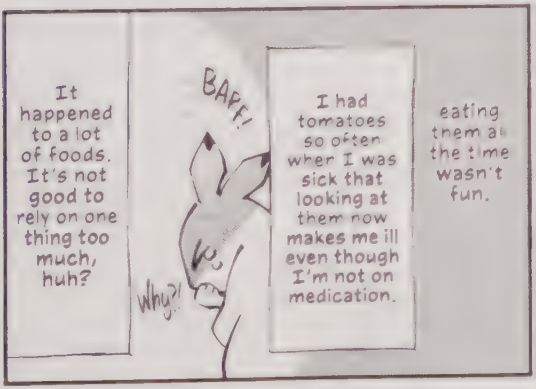

Anyway, I avoided heavy cleaning, cooking, and lifting heavy objects.
I needed help from the people around me for those.
I worried what would happen if I couldn't draw...
I was initially most afraid of numbness.
Side Effect 4: Numbness in hands and feet

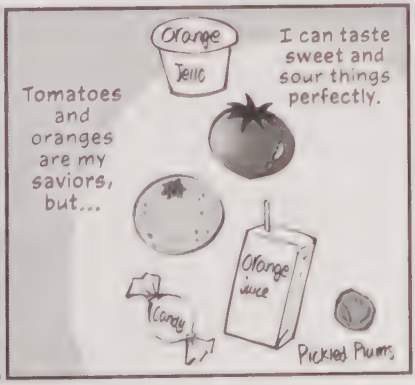

but I hardly have any numbness in my hands.
I don't know if it was thanks to those things...
My legs are pretty numb, though...
I have to wear socks all year long
Brrr
Cotton Gloves
Rubber Gloves
Hand Warmers
When I go out, I need hand warmers.
LOUPDES
Hand massage
I kept trying different things, too.


Peak
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
It's pretty much nonstop for the first week. So I enjoy food the second week.
Side Effect 2: Taste Changes


Peak
Normal
Sweet
Umami
Sour
Bitter
Salty
More like some flavors got a bit weaker.
It wasn't that I couldn't taste things anymore.


I think that causes some of my nausea...
It feels like sand or dirt's stuck in there
It's always there.
my saliva felt like sand.
The worst part was...


It happened to a lot of foods. It's not good to rely on one thing too much, huh?
BAFF!
Why?!
I had tomatoes so often when I was sick that looking at them now makes me ill even though I'm not on medication.
eating them all the time wasn't fun.


Tomatoes and oranges are my saviors, but...
Orange Jelly
I can taste sweet and sour things perfectly.
Orange Juice
Candy
Pickled Plums

The people who still commute to work while undergoing chemo are amazing..

Not as bad: **Fatigue**

Bad acne and dryness

My prescription Cream is a life saver.

Not as bad: **Skin Issues**

Make sure you talk about retaining fertility before beginning treatment!

My period completely stopped, which was a surprise.

I bet some people might have a hard time talking about it

but it's important

It seems that menopause infertility, vagina narrowing, abnormal sperm and erectile dysfunction can happen due to damage to the ovaries and testicles.

Few books touch on this.

Not as bad: **Fertility Issues**

As for me, it's been hard to motivate myself to look, so I haven't found many.

It could help to talk with others in survivor groups for your illness.

People taught me a bunch of things when I first tweeted about my nails. Thank you!

I think that's about it?

Under-standing and Assistance

Next up

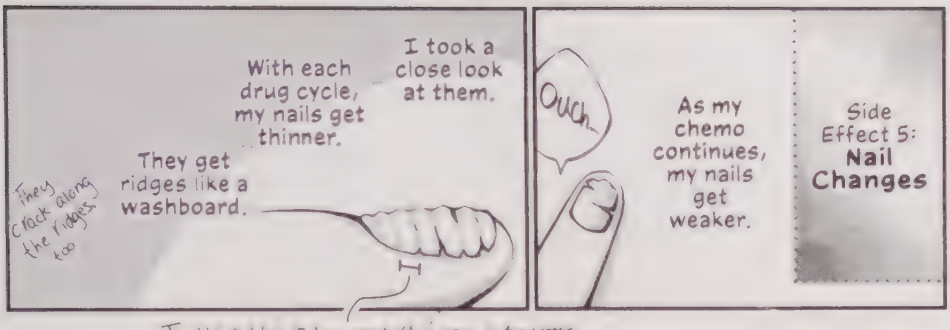
If you want to know how you can help, ask them!

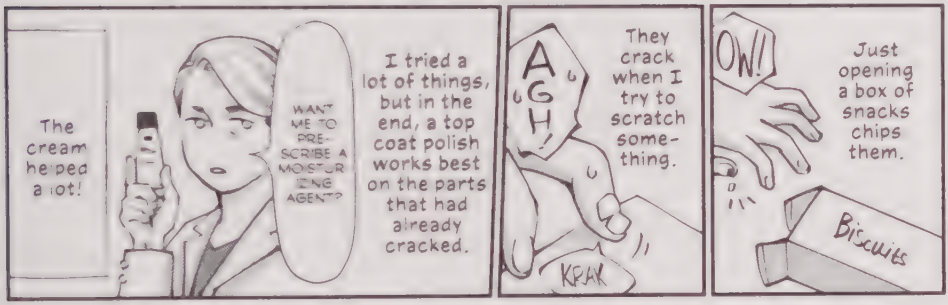
Each person's difficulties are their own!

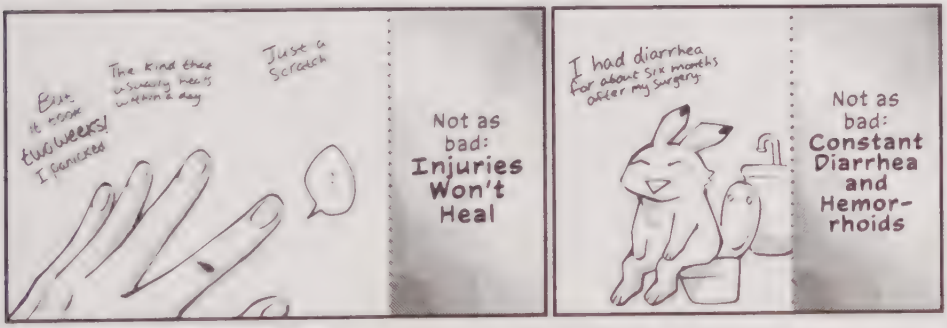
I hope this helps people going into chemo as well as the people around them.

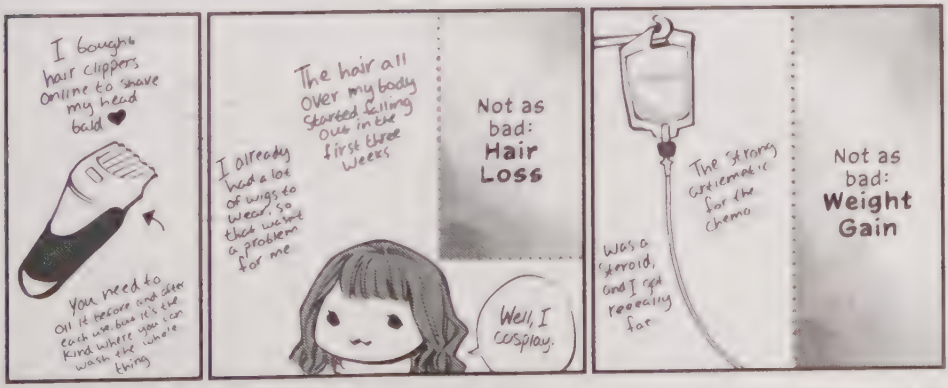
I think there are people with stronger or different side effects.

Well, these ar really jus a drop i the bucket


I took a close look at them.
With each drug cycle, my nails get thinner.
They get ridges like a washboard.
They clack along the ridges too
I think this is how much they grow in two weeks
Ouch
As my chemo continues, my nails get weaker.
Side Effect 5: Nail Changes


The cream helped a lot!
WANT ME TO PRESCRIBE A MOISTURIZING AGENT?
I tried a lot of things, but in the end, a top coat polish works best on the parts that had already cracked.
AGH!
KRAK
They crack when I try to scratch something.
OW!
Biscuits
Just opening a box of snacks chips them.


But it took two weeks! I panicked
The kind that unsurely heals within a day
Just a Scratch
Not as bad: Injuries Won't Heal
I had diarrhea for about six months after my surgery
Not as bad: Constant Diarrhea and Hemorrhoids


I bought hair clippers online to shave my head bald
You need to oil it before and after each use but it's the kind where you can wash the whole thing
I already had a lot of wigs to wear, so that wasn't a problem for me
The hair all over my body started falling out in the first three weeks
Not as bad: Hair Loss
Well, I cosplay.
The strong corticosteroid for the chemo
Was a steroid, and I got revealing for
Not as bad: Weight Gain

I'm a Terminal
Cancer
Patient
BUT I'M FINE

When I shared my cancer diagnosis online, one of my medical friends said, "The advances in cancer treatments are amazing. Knowledge grows, and limitations from just a few years ago keep changing. If you live even one or two years longer, your hope will grow that much. Please don't give up, okay?"

I've been reading books about the history of cancer research, and those words are *sooo* true!!

Thank you so much to those all around the world researching treatments and cures...I think there are a lot of people who we don't get to see as patients, but we should still be grateful for what you do. People like from pathologists, researchers, and more. Thank you also to the people whose positions I couldn't mention because of my lack of knowledge.
Seriously, thank you!!!

Oh, I'm also grateful for Japan's healthcare system, which allows for speedy preparations for treatment and health insurance anywhere in Japan!

The things that made me feel the best and the worst.

So...

And so, I'd like to look back on how the people around me reacted...

I've been feeling good in both body and mind...

thanks to the help and understanding from a lot of people.

I'll start off with the things that bothered me.

"Well, one out of every two people experiences cancer"

Those are words for warning naive and apathetic people to not get cancer, so... that's not going to make me feel better after my diagnosis.

"When are you going to get well?" "Are you better already?"

It's not something you get well from that easily. Maybe if they'd used the word "remission" instead?

"Calm down!!!"

You calm down! Please don't panic more than the person with cancer. (;_;)

"You can't do that." "You have to do this."

If you aren't a doctor, you shouldn't be saying this. Ask the patient or doctor what the patient shouldn't do, okay? ♥

"You eat healthy and exercise; you don't look sick at all."

It's because I'm sick that good food and exercise are extra important!!

"My aunt's husband got cancer, too, and so..."

This source of information is too far removed. Please talk about yourself or someone you cared for with cancer!

"Did you have too much anal sex?"

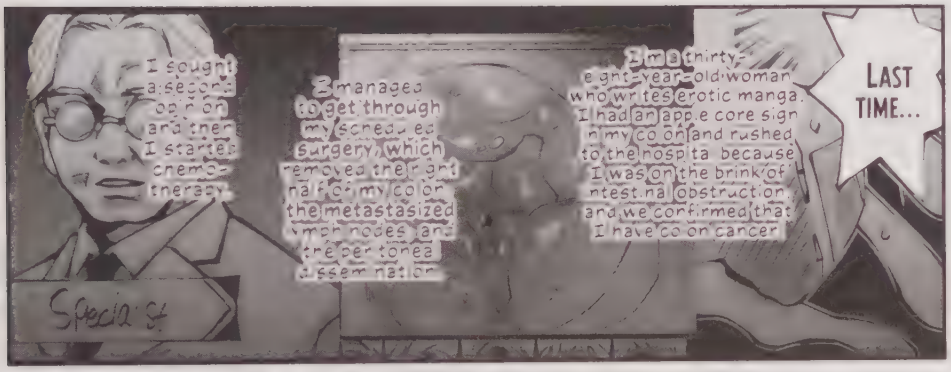
Do you have sex with your transverse colon?! Whoa, amazing! (Please don't say this to people with rectum cancer!)

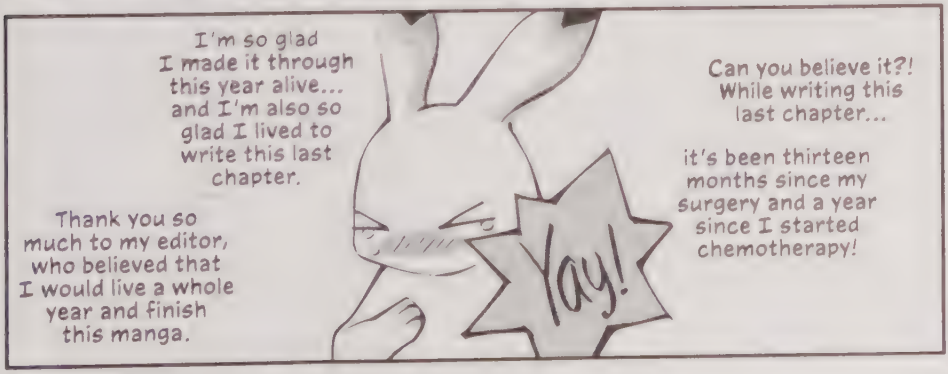
Fake medical diets, pyramid schemes, preaching

Most people would think these are wrong... but the people doing these things think, "It's for your own good." They don't realize they're being a pain.

I thought I had a stomachache but it was terminal cancer. 10

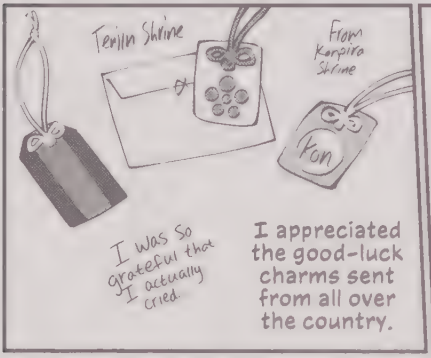
Time for the final chapter.





Jelly drinks and bottled drinks were the best!

And then... there were the things people gave me!

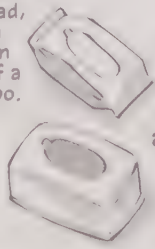


I was so grateful that I actually cried.

I appreciated the good-luck charms sent from all over the country.

I was able to enjoy jellies and puddings (without solids in it) as soon as they let me eat again. It's really a great idea.

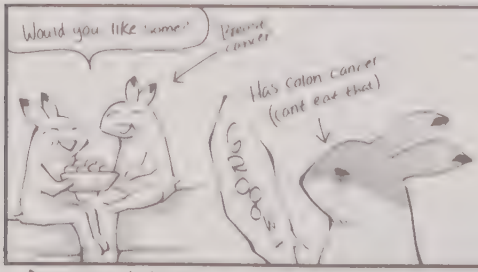
If you can wipe your head, it can work in place of a shampoo.



And for the same reason, it doesn't matter how many moisturizing and cleansing wipes you have. ♥

When I'm weak and sensitive to smells, it helps to have different ones to choose from. It's nice to change them up, so it doesn't matter how many you get.

I loved hand creams and moisturizers! (The hospital ward was very dry.)



↑ Old ladies in the same room.

and the takoyaki. (It was torture... *ha ha.*)

If I had to say, it was the live flowers that the hospital didn't allow and stuff like that...

I didn't really have any problems with the things people gave me.

Their own experiences with cancer or taking care of someone with cancer.

To be honest, this made me feel supported the most. Everyone who taught me a lot, thank you so much!

The things people said that lifted my spirits!

Advice from people who work in medical fields.

Of course, you're the best!!

"Tell us exactly what you **want** and **don't want!**" (See chapter five.)

The truth is I'm so thankful for this...

"Don't hold it in all by yourself. I'll be there for you." (See chapter seven.)

I don't think this is easy to say. I couldn't help crying because it meant so much to me.

"I pray for you every day when I pass my local shrine."

How can you not be grateful for this?! It made me really happy.

"I think you're a genius for how cheerful you are in this situation."

Yay!!!

When someone else with Stage IV cancer says, "I've already been alive years!" "My father lived a long years."

Some people say, "I hate blind encouragement, and it makes me feel bad," but I appreciated the optimism! (In short, it all depends on the person!)

The world probably isn't filled with all positive people, but it's nice.

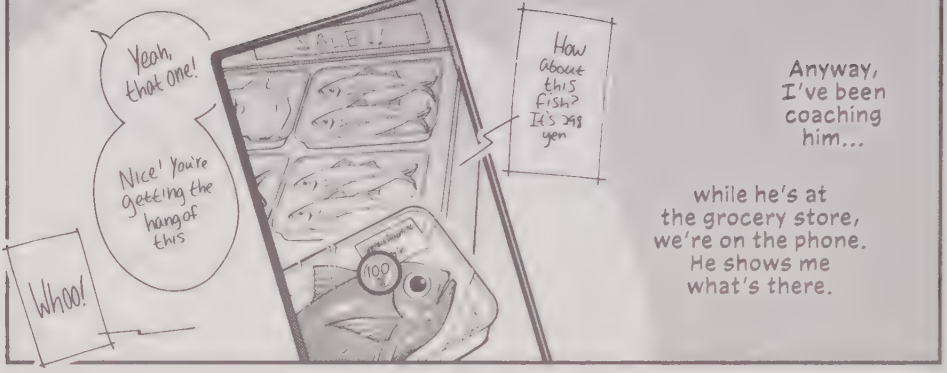
I was happy just seeing people try to encourage me and show that they cared.

but for me...

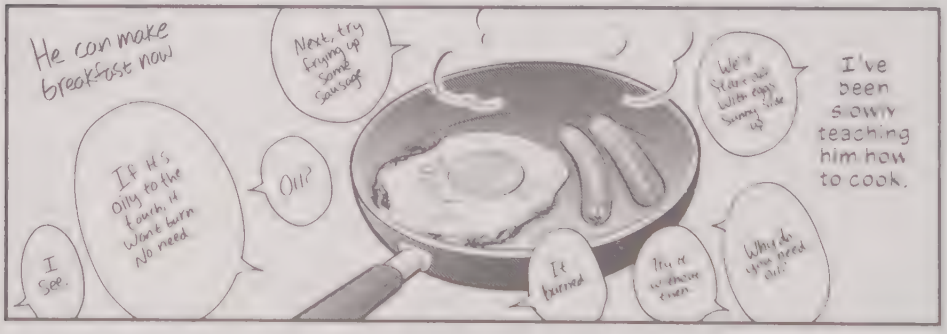
I think there are a lot of people who don't know what to say to their sick friends...

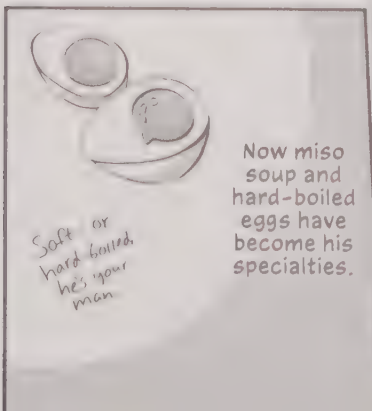
Unless someone was totally clueless, pretty much anything made me feel better.

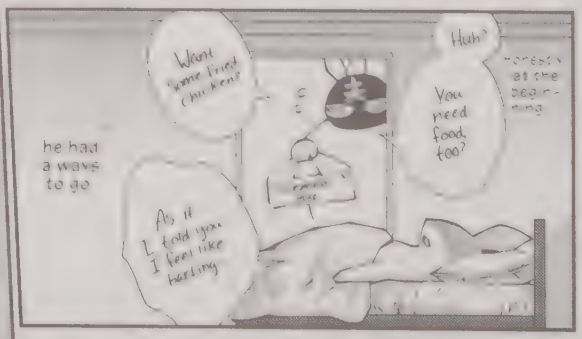
I've mentioned a lot of stuff.



↖We finally got one♡







It's hard to deal with. I've made my husband shoulder quite a bit (and still do).

There's something else you really need when fighting an illness...

Your family's cooperation.

This is also because I don't want to touch cold, wet things.

Stretch out the wrinkles, please

Help with the laundry, too.

I'm trying to avoid chores that deal with cold water to prevent numbness in my hands.

You're using too much dish soap.

Go easy on the teflon

The best thing would be to shoulder the housework, especially the dishes.

Our kitchen is too small for a dishwasher.

to avoid getting COVID-19 now that I'm writing this in 2020.

I've left most of the shopping to my husband now...

Chemo has weakened my immune system.

LOOK what I picked up

Grocery shopping is the hardest for me, to be honest.

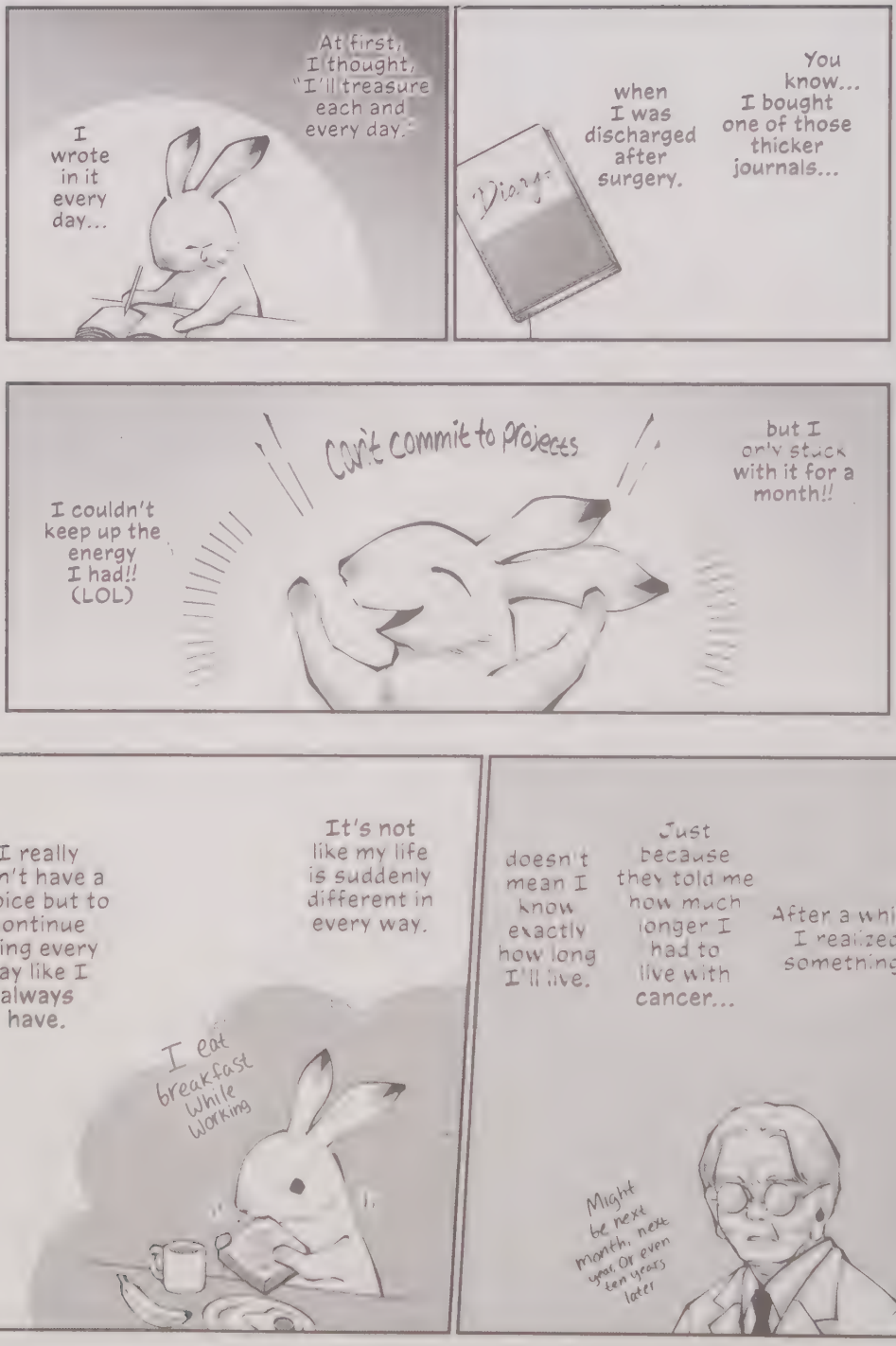
Shopping for groceries is... difficult, I suppose...

Fish fillets that are dripping all over and have a weird color.

Fatty pork...

Wilted vegetables

My husband originally did little housework.


I wrote in it every day...
At first, I thought, "I'll treasure each and every day."
Diary
when I was discharged after surgery.
You know... I bought one of those thicker journals...
I couldn't keep up the energy I had!! (LOL)
Can't commit to projects
but I only stuck with it for a month!!
I really don't have a choice but to continue living every day like I always have.
It's not like my life is suddenly different in every way.
I eat breakfast while working
doesn't mean I know exactly how long I'll live.
Just because they told me how much longer I had to live with cancer...
After a while, I realized something.
Might be next month, next year. Or even ten years later

I wish I'd known that before I got cancer.

I bought new shoes

but it's amazing how much better your colon works when you walk thirty minutes a day!

I never paid attention to this when I was healthy...

One thing I noticed while dealing with cancer is...

how wonderful walks are.

or sometimes while arguing.

talking about each other's day...

I often walk with my husband before dinner...

while gazing at the stars...

and walk under the new green leaves of the ginkgo and cherry blossom trees.

Once in a while, we drive to a big park...

The doctors and everyone involved in my chemotherapy.

The doctors and all the people involved in my surgery and hospitalizations.

The people who retweet, share, review, and talk to me about my manga.

The people who donated blood.

And to all the people who support me in my life.

Thank you!!!

You can pay me back by continuing to live. I'll keep fighting, so I'm going to do my best to stay strong mentally and physically. Please take care of yourselves, too...!!

My husband and his family.

My followers who chat with me on Twitter.

My friend, W-san, who supported me.

The people who have purchased this book

My friends who celebrated with me right after my surgery.

All the people who believed me when I talked about my abuse.

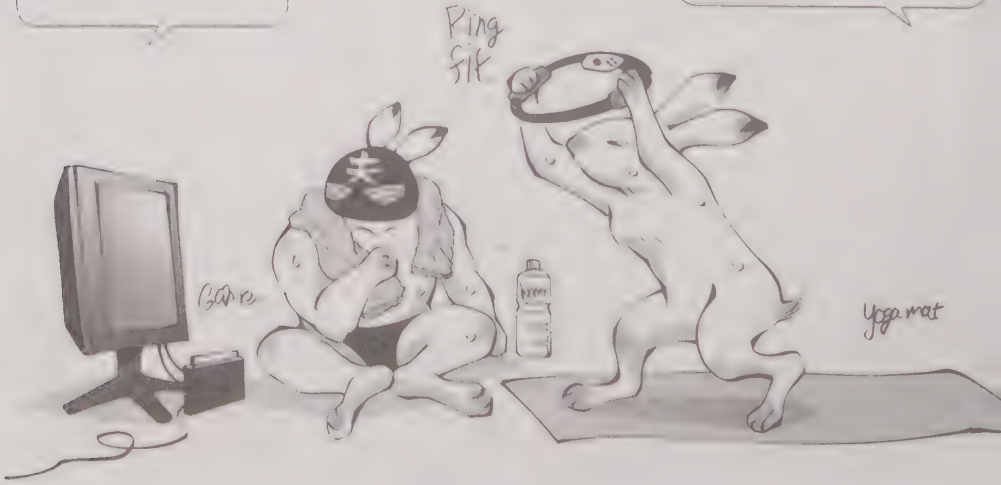
The end.

My friends who spent time with me and let me stay at their house during my travels while I was on chemotherapy.

The people who support businesses and the medical professions.

The people at the publishers who give me work.

The fans, staff, and writers who support me mentally.



how to keep life feeling normal.

I strike at my hands a lot

...

The big issue for younger cancer patients is...

continue to enjoy their hobbies. We keep living.

continue to do house-work...

still continue to work...

Many patients undergo chemo while battered by anxiety, but...

What really helps is to keep living life normally.

Don't push yourself! Just stay home!

You should just quit your job!

People say all kind of things about fighting your illness.

(I'm grateful for people's kindness, but listen.)

Traveling is dangerous, right? Stay home!

You shouldn't cook!

After all...

we all die one day, so we have to live while we still can.

but because I can continue an effective treatment, I don't want to call it that anymore.

I hope all the people who wished for the continuation of this manga and my life are happy, because I am.

And so, I called the issue of my spreading cancer cells terminal...

The truth is, there isn't a precise definition of the word "terminal."

Even stage IV doesn't always mean terminal. I think that's how it's generally understood now.

I hope you can watch over me so that next year I can say, "It's been two years!" with lots of energy!

Doctor R
Internist

He's an internist, but he's wearing scrubs

But even Doctor R said, "Let's set a goal of two years this time."

The reason so many people have to stop treatment because of this

Well, it's not certain how long I can continue this treatment though.

The side effects keep on getting worse. Depending on the numbers for my white blood cells and liver, I might have to stop treatment.

There are people with cancer who pass away from infectious diseases instead of their cancer. It must be so difficult and frustrating.

Everyone, please remember...

get your checkups, cancer screenings, insurance, and now prevent the spread of COVID-19!

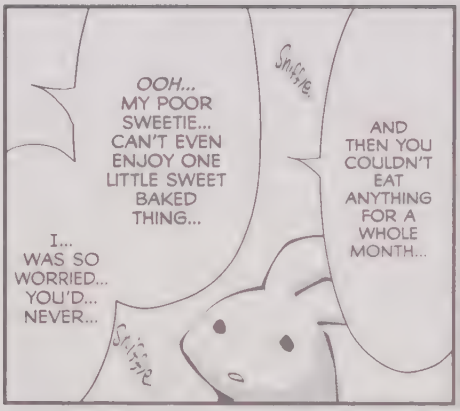
Rare it's possible for a blockage to suddenly appear many years after surgery, so remember what it's like when you eat!

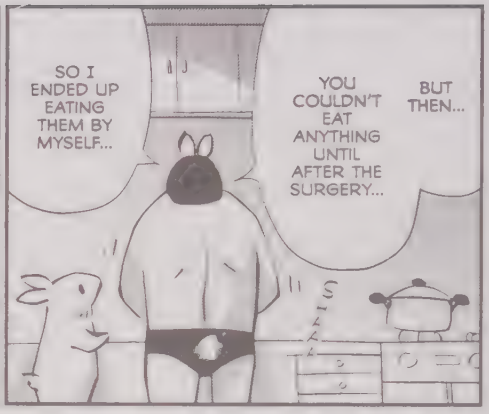
The key to continued treatment is stamina and willpower!!!

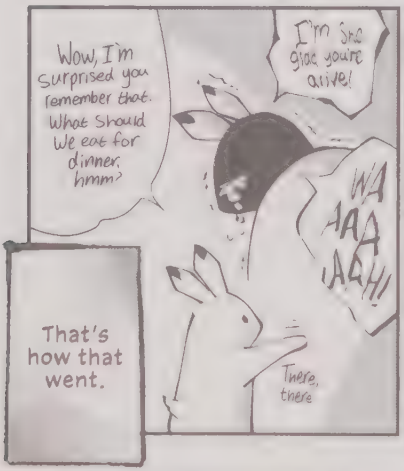
Well, until then, it's exercise and food!!

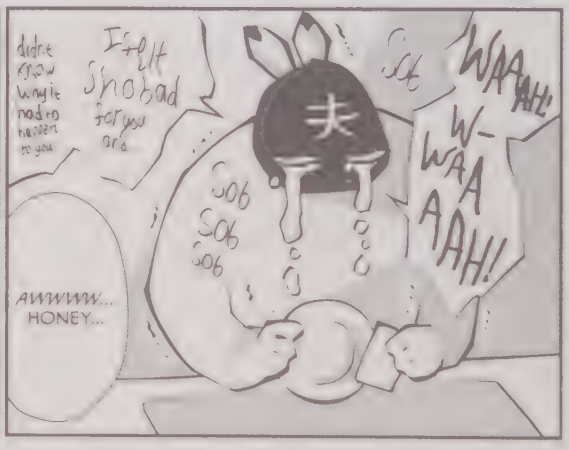
There are always risks for people who've had surgery.

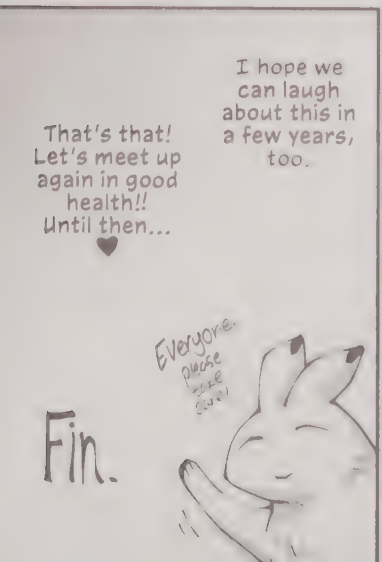
I'm Hilnama, the author.
The cover's awesome!
The designer's amazing.
Thank you so much for reading this book!
After-word
One is my age (well, there's nothing we can do about that).
My situation and the title now contradict each other.
but in the six months that the manga was serialized, my condition has changed.
The people who read this manga's official announcement may already know this...
I know this is sudden, but I have something to announce to my readers...
More than one doctor told me that my chemotherapy has gotten the peritoneal dissemination under control now...
so it's possible for me to continue my same treatment.
As of December 2020, my cancer is no longer considered terminal!
And then the next one is... Can you believe it?!

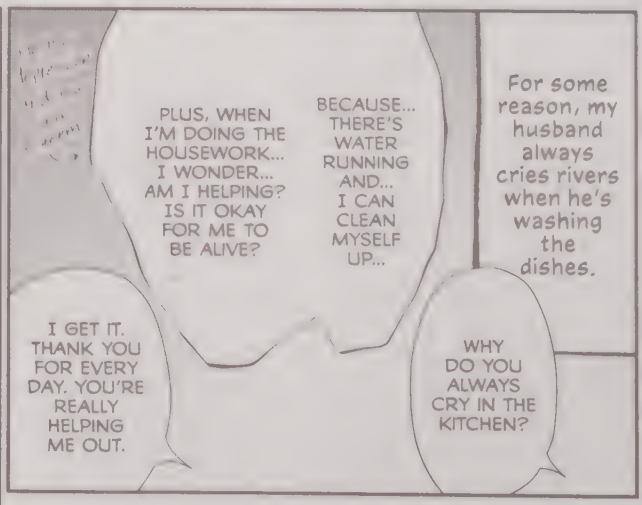

OOH... MY POOR SWEETIE... CAN'T EVEN ENJOY ONE LITTLE SWEET BAKED THING...
Sniffle
AND THEN YOU COULDN'T EAT ANYTHING FOR A WHOLE MONTH...
I... WAS SO WORRIED... YOU'D... NEVER...
Sniffle


SO I ENDED UP EATING THEM BY MYSELF...
YOU COULDN'T EAT ANYTHING UNTIL AFTER THE SURGERY...
BUT THEN...


Wow, I'm surprised you remember that. What should we eat for dinner, hmm?
I'm so glad you're alive!
WAAAAAAH!
There, there
That's how that went.

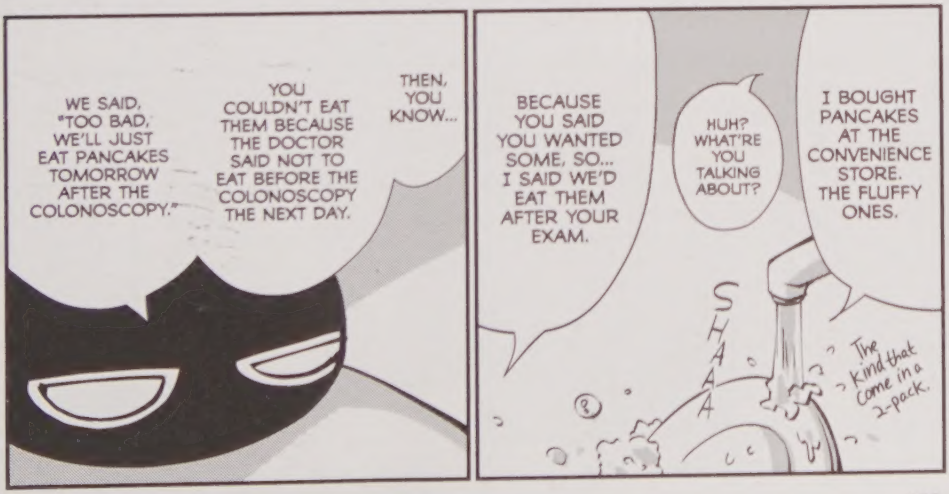

I felt shobad for you ara
WAAAH! W-WAAAAH!
sob sob sob
Awwww... HONEY...


That's that! Let's meet up again in good health!! Until then...
I hope we can laugh about this in a few years, too.
Everyone please take care
Fin.


PLUS, WHEN I'M DOING THE HOUSEWORK... I WONDER... AM I HELPING? IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO BE ALIVE?
BECAUSE... THERE'S WATER RUNNING AND... I CAN CLEAN MYSELF UP...
For some reason, my husband always cries rivers when he's washing the dishes.
I GET IT. THANK YOU FOR EVERY DAY. YOU'RE REALLY HELPING ME OUT.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS CRY IN THE KITCHEN?

I really did it in this position.
The laxative before the exam was the worst part.
It's Kohlrausch's plica.
Oh, my colon...
BURR
Unlike a year ago, it didn't hurt at all.
Monitor
Come to think of it, I had a one-year anniversary of my colonoscopy last week.
It's been a year, hasn't it? Congratulations! Let's do a colonoscopy!♡
Like, how cheery can you get about that?

YOU KNOW, LAST YEAR ON THE MORNING OF THAT EXAM...
And then...
That means this was the first time I had to drink this two-liter laxative. It was rough...
2L
LAST YEAR I HAD IT DONE A DAY AFTER ANOTHER EXAMINATION, AND I WAS PRETTY MUCH STOPPED UP, SO THEY GAVE ME A DIFFERENT LAXATIVE THEN.
When I got home, I told my husband...
※ The last half of chapter two.


WE SAID, "TOO BAD, WE'LL JUST EAT PANCAKES TOMORROW AFTER THE COLONOSCOPY."
YOU COULDN'T EAT THEM BECAUSE THE DOCTOR SAID NOT TO EAT BEFORE THE COLONOSCOPY THE NEXT DAY.
THEN, YOU KNOW...
BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU WANTED SOME, SO... I SAID WE'D EAT THEM AFTER YOUR EXAM.
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I BOUGHT PANCAKES AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE. THE FLUFFY ONES.
SHAAA
The kind that come in a 2-pack.

I'm a terminal cancer patient,
but I'm fine.

畫里

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

I'm a Terminal Cancer Patient

(true) story and art by **Hilnama**

BUT I'M FINE

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I'M A TERMINAL CANCER PATIENT, BUT I'M FINE.
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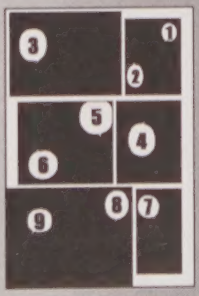
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



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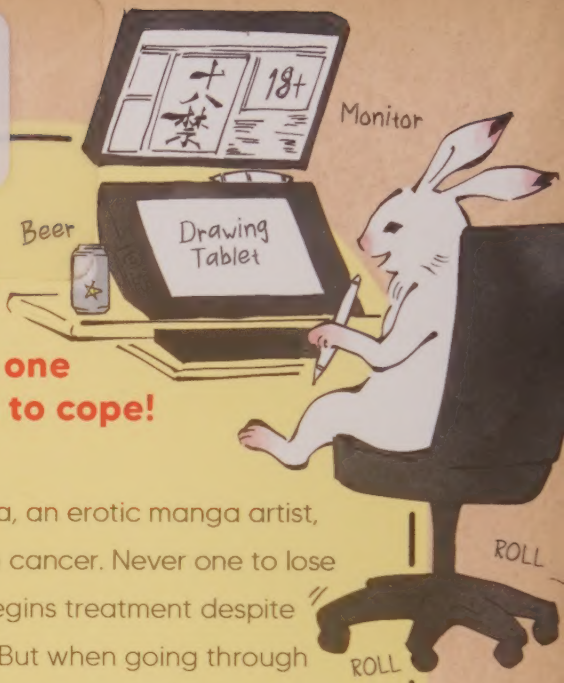
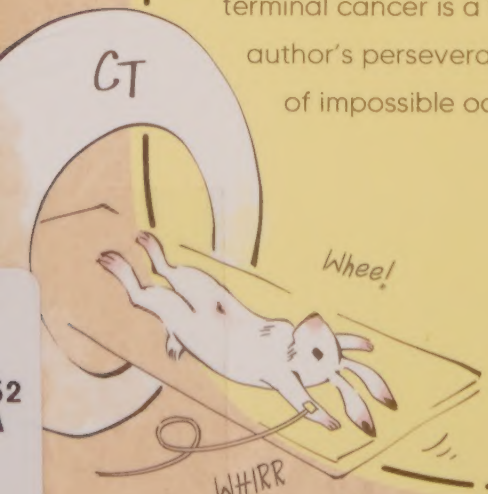


When a manga artist is diagnosed with terminal colon cancer, there's just one thing to do: draw manga to cope!

At 38 years old, Hilnama, an erotic manga artist, is diagnosed with colon cancer. Never one to lose hope or give up, she begins treatment despite the terminal diagnosis. But when going through such a grueling process, it can be difficult to keep a positive outlook. When faced with the struggles and trials of life, Hilnama turns to what she knows: writing and creating manga! This poignant and down-to-earth account of living with terminal cancer is a testament to the author's perseverance in the face of impossible odds.



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