by Kat-chan

with the kind collaboration of Renaud Clerc

FONDATION IPSEN BookLab

France Paralympique

THE RACE OF A LIFETIME

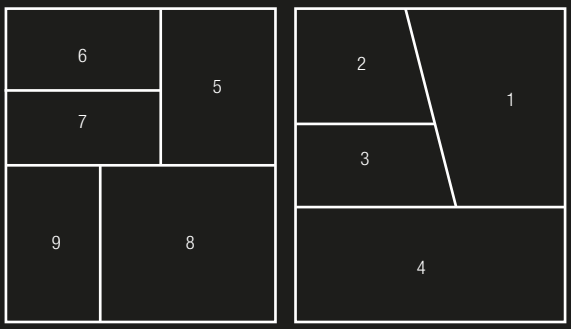
FONDATION IPSEN

BookLab

WARNING!

This book is printed in the Japanese reading direction:
from right to left.

Follow the box guide.



Enjoy!

Kathleen Bausset graduated from AAA-Ecole de Manga, the first manga school in France. She publishes, under the name **Kat-chan**, online: http://mangakat-chan.eklablog.com.

Passionate about sports, and French champion at the age of 18, **Renaud Clerc** is defined by four words: resilience, effort, sharing and hard work. A law student, this disabled athelete keeps his eyes forward. At the end of the race, perhaps a medal at the Paralympic Games? And, without a doubt, the beginning of new challenges.

ISBN : 978-2-490660-42-1 (printed book_French version)/ 978-2-490660-48-3 (ePub_French version)/ 978-2-490660-80-3 (printed book_English version)/ 978-2-490660-49-0 (ePub_English version)/ 978-2-490660-50-6 (ePub_Spanish version)/ 978-2-490660-51-3 (ePub_Japanese version)

© Fondation Ipsen, 2021
Fondation Ipsen is under the aegis of Fondation de France.
www.fondation-ipsen.org

Text & Illustrations: Kat-chan (avec l'aimable collaboration de Renaud Clerc)
Layout: Céline Colombier-Maffre
Translation: Junior Isit (https://www.juniorisit.com/)
Editorial direction: Céline Colombier-Maffre
In collaboration with AAA - École de Manga, 21 rue d'Antin, 75002 Paris

ÉTABLISSEMENT D'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR PRIVÉ

First published in French, in July 2021
Original title: La Course d'une vie
© Fondation Ipsen, 2021

Act No. 49-956 of 16 July 1949 on publications for young people, amended by Act No. 2011-525 of 17 May 2011
Legal Deposit: August 2021

Print on demand, by Fondation Ipsen, Paris, France

Not for sale - free book

Following these difficult months for many of us due to the Covid-19 crisis, I wish the very best to our athletes who have shown unwaivering determination to stay on top despite health restrictions. Completing this manga during this particular year was particularly trying for me, psychologically and physically, but I am still very happy to have been able to participate in this great project. I would like to thank Fondation Ipsen for allowing me to collaborate with them once again, and particularly Céline Colombier-Maffre for her patience and kindness. Renaud Clerc who taught me a lot of things about disabled sports, and where I was able to find my inspiration. My family, and all the people who have always supported me. The AAA school. And thank you to my dear readers.

- Kat-chan

Spread dreams! They will become real.
Share the impossible, it will become achievable.

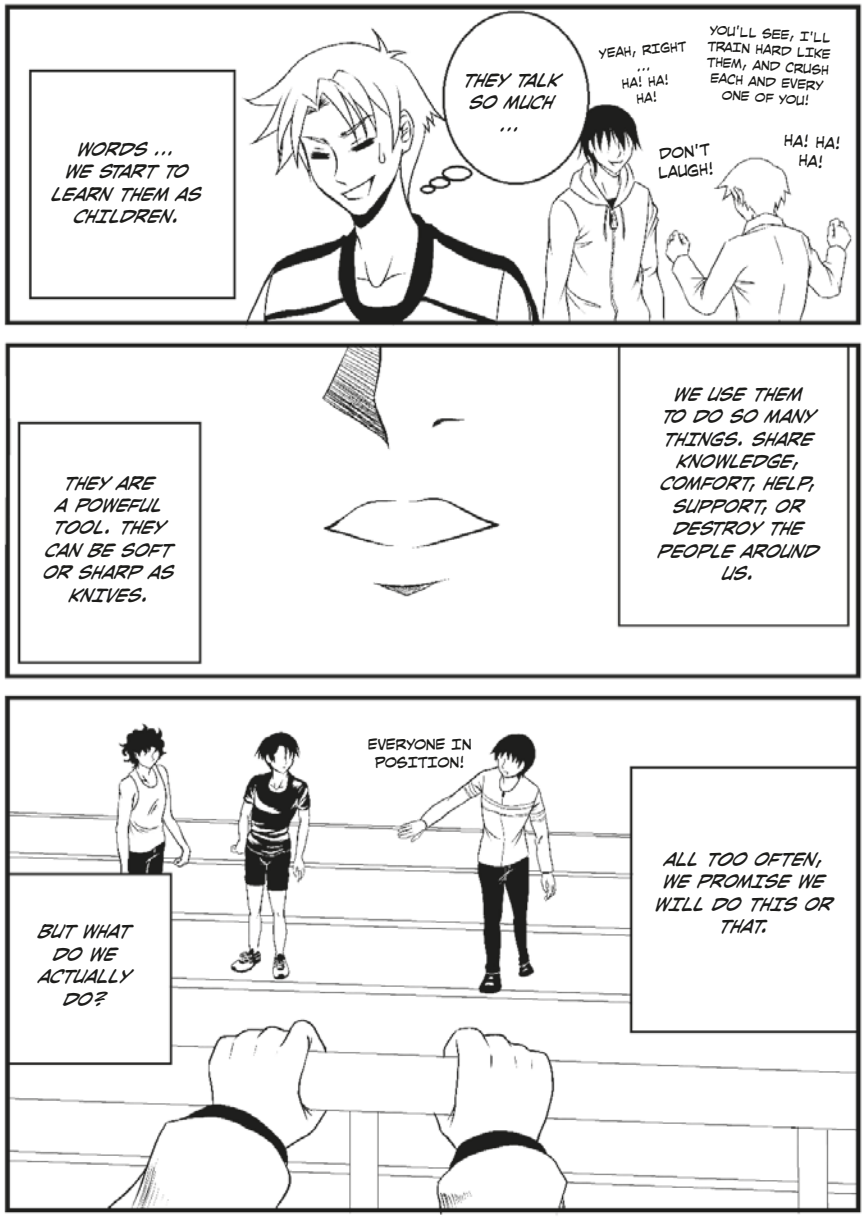
- Renaud Clerc

The mission of the Fondation Ipsen is science for people.
In our Manga series we have connected leading young manga artists with established scientists. This book has emerged through this collaboration.
This is a powerful medium and we are thrilled to bring you these books.

- James A. Levine
MD, PhD, Professor, Fondation Ipsen, President
www.fondation-ipsen.org

IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
AND WHEN THEIR WORDS ARE FOLLOWED BY ACTIONS ...
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE WORDS LIGHTLY.
BANG!
... THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT THE IMPACT THEY MAKE. LIKE A DREAM FINALLY COMING TRUE.

SLIGHT RECTIFICATION ...
THAT'S IT. THEY'RE ABOUT TO START! I HOPE NOAH WILL QUALIFY FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES.
ME TOO.
... IT'S THE PARALYMPIC GAMES.
THE EQUIVALENT OF THE OLYMPICS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.
OH, I UNDERSTAND ...


WORDS ... WE START TO LEARN THEM AS CHILDREN.
THEY TALK SO MUCH ...
YEAH, RIGHT ... HA! HA! HA!
YOU'LL SEE, I'LL TRAIN HARD LIKE THEM, AND CRUSH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!
DON'T LAUGH!
HA! HA! HA!
THEY ARE A POWEFUL TOOL. THEY CAN BE SOFT OR SHARP AS KNIVES.
WE USE THEM TO DO SO MANY THINGS. SHARE KNOWLEDGE, COMFORT, HELP, SUPPORT, OR DESTROY THE PEOPLE AROUND US.
EVERYONE IN POSITION!
BUT WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO?
ALL TOO OFTEN, WE PROMISE WE WILL DO THIS OR THAT.

!

EVERYTHING HAPPENS TODAY.

OH! HE SAW ME...
AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND HIS MOTIVATION BACK.

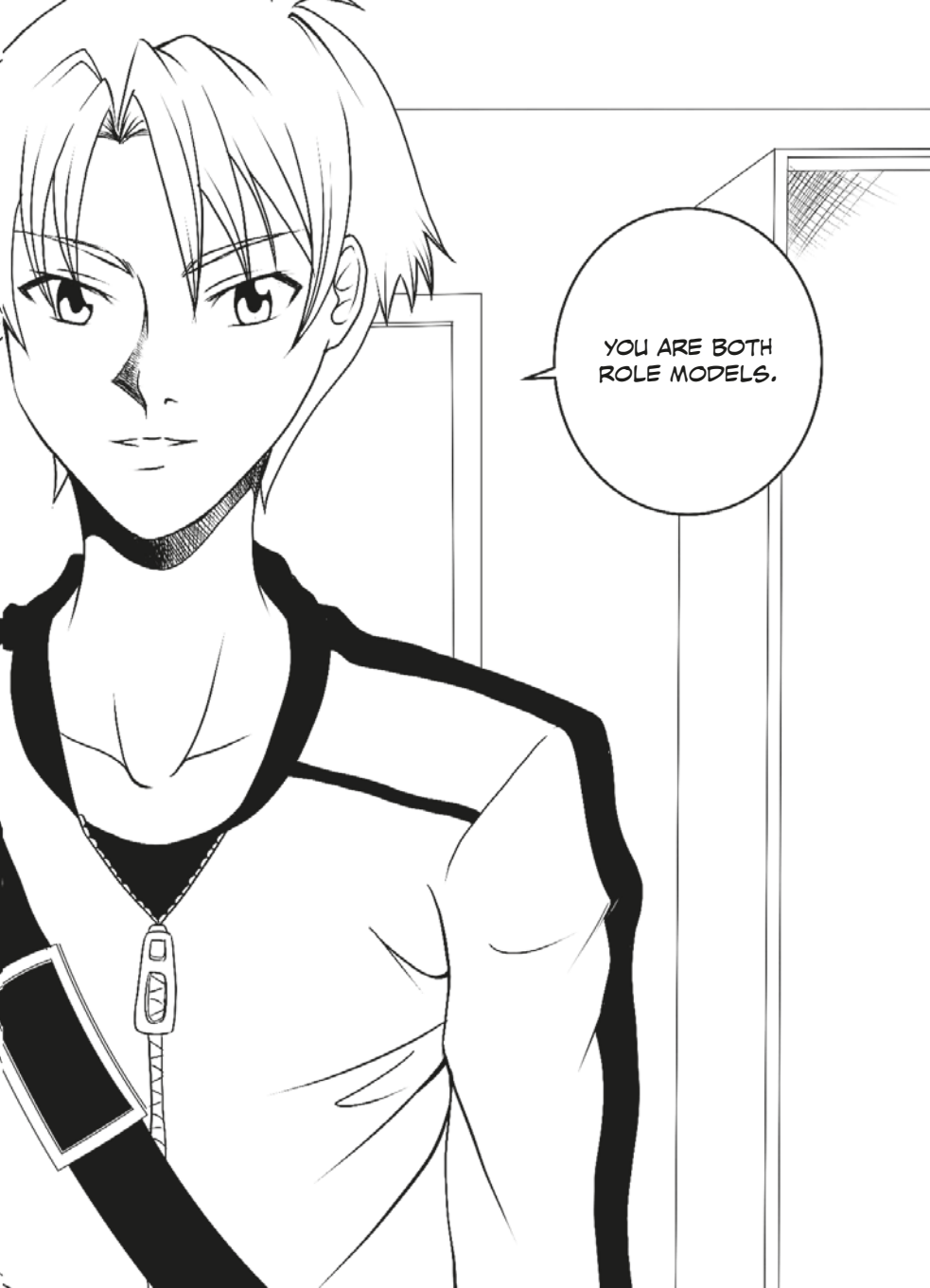
I'M ON FIRE TODAY! LET'S CHEER NOAH ON!
One month later.
YEAHH!
YOU'VE STARTED TO LIKE IT, IT SEEMS ... HA! HA!
PHEW ...
YEAH, ACTUALLY! IT'S AMAZING!
... DID HE COME ?

CLACK!
HMMM...
THANK YOU, LIAM.

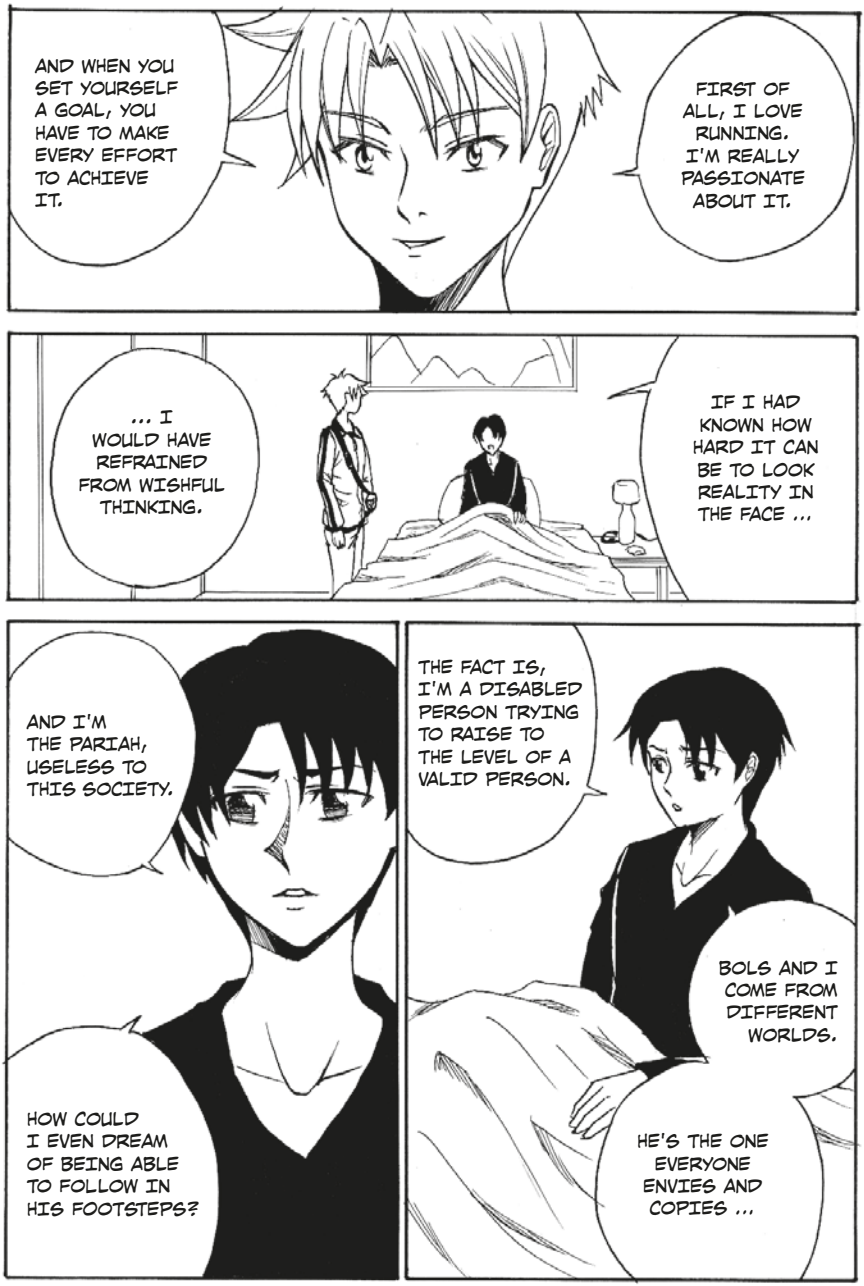
I THINK YOU DON'T REALIZE YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
NOAH, YOU'RE NOT USELESS TO ME.
YOU'RE THE EXAMPLE I WANT TO FOLLOW...
SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO. .. JUST DON'T FORGET ALL OF THAT.

YOU'RE NOT UTAIN BOLS AND YOU'LL NEVER BE.
YOU'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF YOUR LEGS ...
... AND YET, WITH INTENSIVE TRAINING, YOU WERE MUCH BETTER THAN ME, WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY DISABILITY.
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, WHEN YOU BEAT ME IN THAT RACE, I'M FULL OF ADMIRATION.

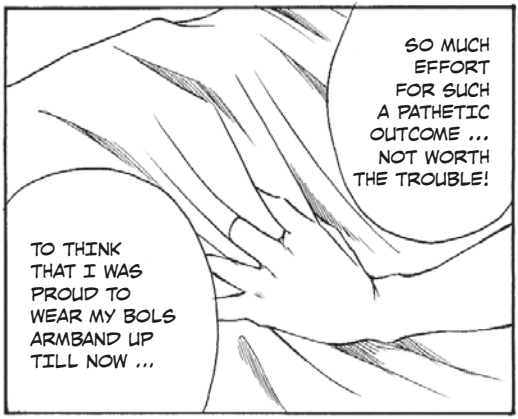
OF COURSE
...

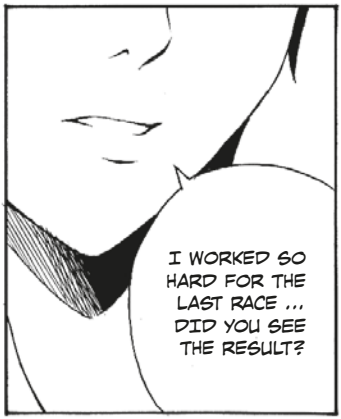

YOU ARE BOTH ROLE MODELS.

OH, DEAR! I WONDER WHERE THE COMBATIVE NOAH WHO BEAT ME WENT.
OUT OF THE TWO OF US, YOU ALWAYS HAD THE BEST CHANCE OF REACHING OUR DREAM.
LET ME TELL YOU ...
... YOU AND BOLS HAVE A HUGE SIMILARITY, IN MY OPINION.
YOU THINK YOU'RE USELESS, LIGHT-YEARS AWAY FROM BOLS, BUT ...


AND WHEN YOU SET YOURSELF A GOAL, YOU HAVE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE IT.
FIRST OF ALL, I LOVE RUNNING. I'M REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT IT.
... I WOULD HAVE REFRAINED FROM WISHFUL THINKING.
IF I HAD KNOWN HOW HARD IT CAN BE TO LOOK REALITY IN THE FACE ...
AND I'M THE PARIAH, USELESS TO THIS SOCIETY.
HOW COULD I EVEN DREAM OF BEING ABLE TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS?
THE FACT IS, I'M A DISABLED PERSON TRYING TO RAISE TO THE LEVEL OF A VALID PERSON.
BOLS AND I COME FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS.
HE'S THE ONE EVERYONE ENVIES AND COPIES ...

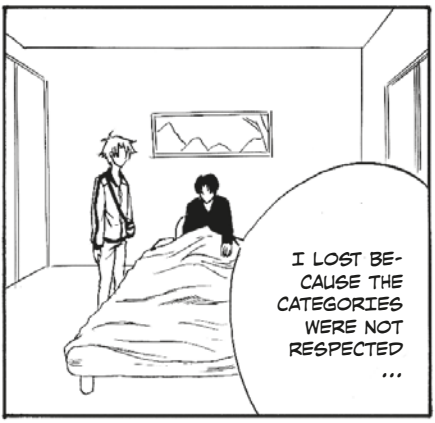
?
I GAVE UP FOR THE SAME REASONS.
AFTER A FALL THAT COST ME THE VICTORY FIVE METERS FROM THE FINISH LINE.
SORRY, I'M SORRY, BUT YOU SOUND LIKE ME WHEN I QUIT ATHLETICS.
I WAS THE BEST ONE ON THE TRACK.
AND I HAD TRAINED HARD FOR IT. I FOUND THE RESULTS SO UNFAIR ...
BUT, SEING YOU AT THE STADIUM MADE ME REALIZE A FEW THINGS.
... THAT IT PUT ME OFF RUNNING. I DIDN'T SEE THE POINT OF INVESTING MYSELF IN IT.


SO MUCH EFFORT FOR SUCH A PATHETIC OUTCOME ... NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE!
TO THINK THAT I WAS PROUD TO WEAR MY BOLS ARMBAND UP TILL NOW ...


I WORKED SO HARD FOR THE LAST RACE ... DID YOU SEE THE RESULT?

IT'S SO UNFAIR ... BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD UNDERSTAND.

PHEW ...


I LOST BECAUSE THE CATEGORIES WERE NOT RESPECTED ...

HA! HA! HA!!!

BWAHA-HAHA!

NOAH?
CLIP
I'M COMING IN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT THE STADIUM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO GO BACK ...
WHAT?!

YES?
DING-A-LING !!!
THANK YOU.
HELLO, I'M A FRIEND OF NOAH'S.
CAN I SEE HIM? IT'S IMPORTANT.
HMM.., ALRIGHT. IT'S OPEN.
TOC
TOC
NOAH? IT'S LIAM!
HIS ROOM IS AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR.
IT'S NICE TO THINK ABOUT NOAH. HE HASN'T BEEN FEELING VERY GOOD THESE DAYS.
OK.

I DON'T KNOW. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN TRAINING FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
?!
EXCUSE ME,
DO YOU KNOW WHERE NOAH IS?
OK, THANKS FOR THE INFO.
REALLY ?
IT'S HERE!
THIS WAY ...
I BELIEVE HE LIVES JUST DOWN THE STREET.

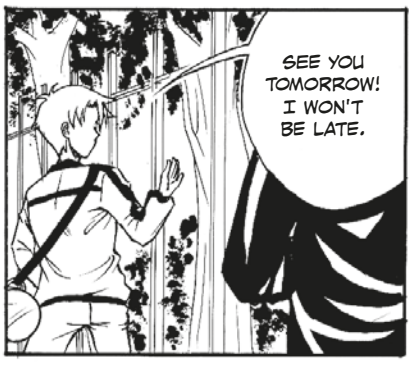
I MUST ADMIT, I'VE STARTED TO APPRECIATE MAKING MORE EFFORT.
I AM DOING THE EXERCISES CORRECTLY.
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
AND I'M CAREFUL NOT TO BE LATE.
WOW! ALREADY HERE!
I STILL HAVEN'T SEEN NOAH!
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING ...

OH! WHAT A SURPRISE! YOU KEPT YOUR WORD!
I TOLD YOU I WAS MOTIVATED.
IT'S GREAT. COME ON, LET'S GO! IN YOUR SPORTS GEAR!
AND WE'RE STARTING WITH A TEN-MINUTE RUN!
SINCE I RETURNED TO THE CLUB, I'VE MADE NEW RESOLUTIONS.
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

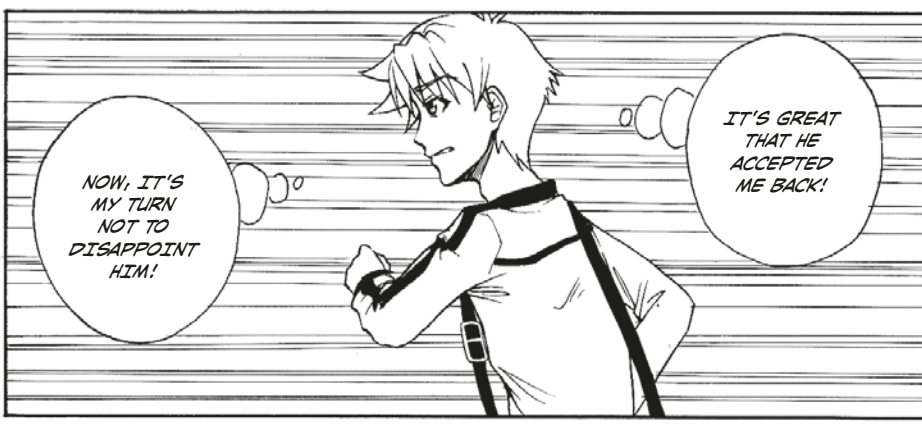
YEAH ... THE COACH KICKED ME OUT.
YOU LEFT IT? WHEN?
SPEAKING OF WHICH ...
... I NEED TO GO, I HAVE TO BE ON TIME.
HA! HA! HA! LOSER!
OK, SEE YOU!
I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
NOAH STILL ISN'T HERE.

HEY, NOAH ISN'T HERE TODAY ?
OH, WELL ...
I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THE COMPETITION. BAD LUCK, I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE REJOINING THE CLUB?
AH ?
Squizz
Squizz

ALRIGHT, BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
SAME DAYS AND SAME TIMES, FOR PRACTICE.


SEE YOU TOMORROW! I WON'T BE LATE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!


NOW, IT'S MY TURN NOT TO DISAPPOINT HIM!
IT'S GREAT THAT HE ACCEPTED ME BACK!

I'D LIKE TO COME BACK TO TRAINING.
WHAT FAVOUR?
BUT I'M REALLY MOTIVATED AND I WANT TO REJOIN NOW.
I'M SORRY I DISTURBED THE SESSIONS,
AND I DIDN'T TAKE ALL THIS SERIOUSLY.
WELL ...
...
SO PLEASE, CAN YOU TAKE ME BACK?

GYMNASE D'ALUM
IT'S OVER, COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE CHANGING ROOM!
WHAT IS IT ?
COACH, WOULD YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME FOR ME?
!
I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK.

HUH ... DESPITE THE RESULTS, THEY'RE PROUD OF HIM ...
TOO BAD NOAH LOST, I'LL CHEER HIM ON LOUDER NEXT TIME.
LIAM, RUNNING REALLY IS YOUR THING.
WHY DID I QUIT RUNNING, AGAIN?
I WANT ...
... TO RUN AGAIN.
I WOULD HAVE WON IF I HADN'T FALLEN!
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY I WOULD GO ON TRAINING!

YOU TOO, THEY WOULD HAVE ANIHILATED YOU.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE SO MANY GREAT ATHLETES IN PARASPORTS.
SAME. IF YOU HAD RUN AGAINST THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE CRUSHED YOU.
PHEW ...
WE'RE GOING THIS WAY. SEE YOU TOMORROW, LIAM!
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, BUT I'M EXHAUSTED !

FIRST: ERICK LAYMER! SECOND: NOAH BELUR! THIRD: SOPHIE...
IF THERE EVER WAS ONE RACE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE ...
MY LEG MUSCLES ARE SO TIGHT.
... IT WAS THIS ONE.
AAAH!
HA
HA
HA
HA
BAM
ANYWAY, I'M STILL EXCITED FROM THE RACE.
OH, WHOA! THIS WASN'T BAD, IT WAS GREAT, EVEN!
TOO BAD NOAH LOST, I'LL CHEER HIM ON LOUDER NEXT TIME.
YOU WERE A GOOD AUDIENCE.

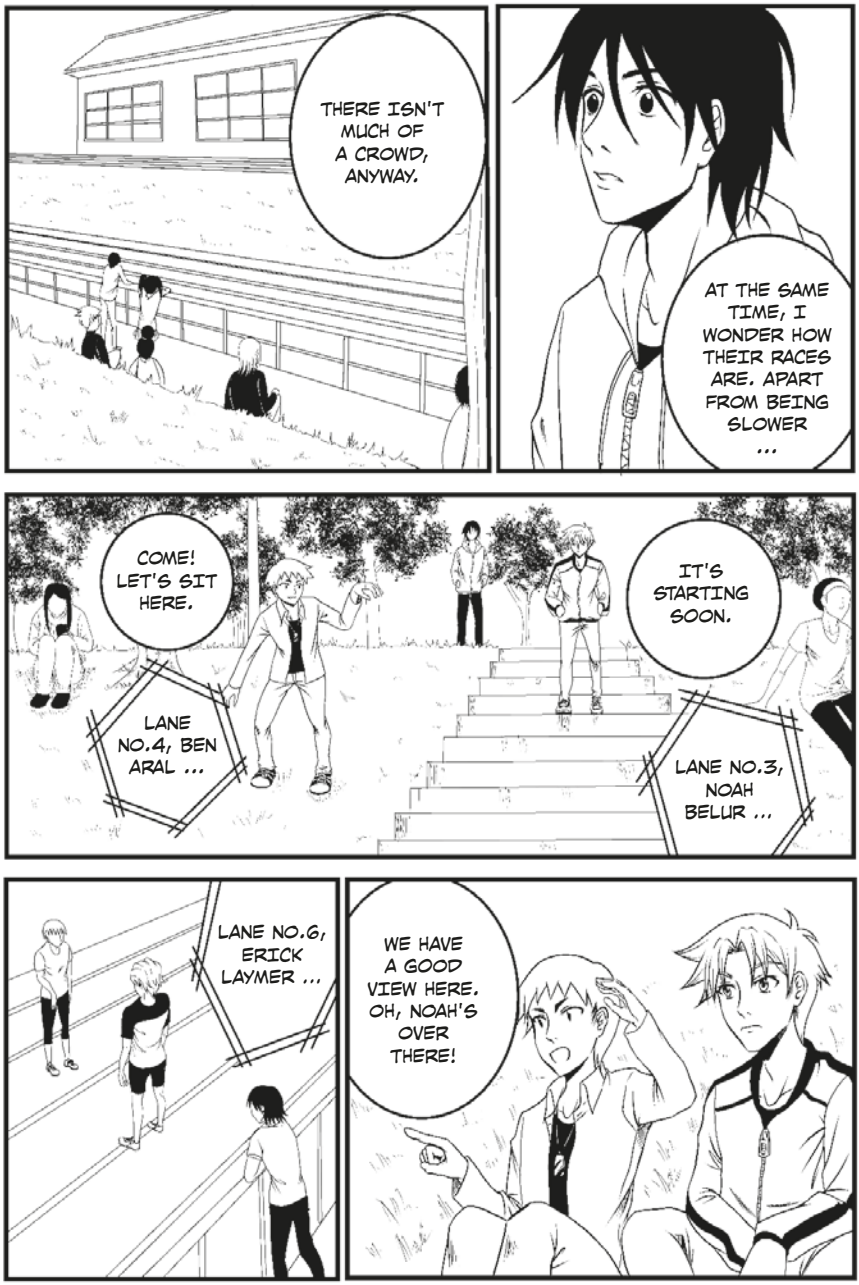
IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH NOAH?
UM ...
?
?
THE GUY'S GOING ALL OUT.
GO!
COME ON, NOAH!
MY LEG HURTS.

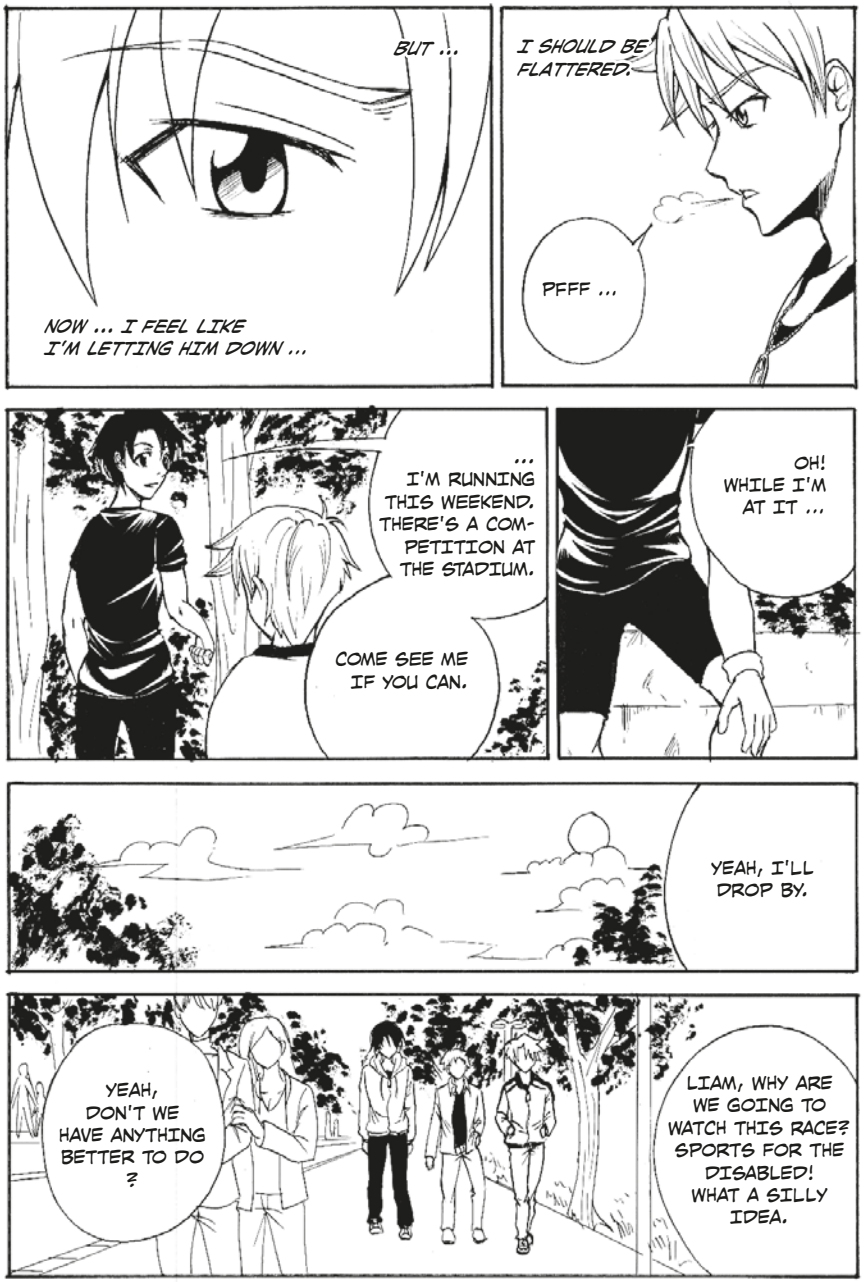
THIS ERICK LAYMER ...
EVEN WHEN HE'S RUNNING, YOU CAN'T NOTICE ANYTHING.
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO WIN.
OUTCH !

BANG !
OH, OKAY! TO SAY I WAS EXPECTING A ONE-LEGGED RACE AND A BUNCH OF FALLS ...
THEY ARE ALL BRILLIANT !
I WAS THINKING THE SAME.

IT'S UNFAIR, HE SHOULD RUN IN THE T38 CATEGORY!
AHHH, AT LAST!
ATHLETES, IN POSITION.
COME ON NOAH, FOCUS.

DID YOU SEE WHO WE'RE RUNNING AGAINST ?
LOOK NOAH!
PFFF ...
HE'S THE FAVOURITE FOR THIS COMPETI-TION, HE'S GOING TO BE HARD TO BEAT.
ERICK LAYMER.
I KNOW WE'RE IN THE "MILD DISABILITY" CATEGORY,
BUT I DON'T EVEN SEE HIM LIMPING.
IT'S TRUE! YOU WOULDN'T GUESS HE'S HEMIPLEGIC.


THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A CROWD, ANYWAY.
AT THE SAME TIME, I WONDER HOW THEIR RACES ARE. APART FROM BEING SLOWER ...
COME! LET'S SIT HERE.
IT'S STARTING SOON.
LANE NO.4, BEN ARAL ...
LANE NO.3, NOAH BELUR ...
LANE NO.6, ERICK LAYMER ...
WE HAVE A GOOD VIEW HERE. OH, NOAH'S OVER THERE!


BUT ...
NOW ... I FEEL LIKE I'M LETTING HIM DOWN ...
I SHOULD BE FLATTERED.
PFFF ...
...
I'M RUNNING THIS WEEKEND. THERE'S A COMPETITION AT THE STADIUM.
COME SEE ME IF YOU CAN.
OH! WHILE I'M AT IT ...
YEAH, I'LL DROP BY.
YEAH, DON'T WE HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO ?
LIAM, WHY ARE WE GOING TO WATCH THIS RACE? SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED! WHAT A SILLY IDEA.

COOL, ME TOO!
YOU LIKE TO RUN? WE COULD BECOME HIS SUCCESSORS!
HE'S MY ROLE MODEL. I'D LOVE TO RUN LIKE HIM.
YOU NEVER MADE FUN OF ME.
AND YOU TOOK ME SERIOUSLY, RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT I'M WARNING YOU, I'M FAST!
I'D BLAME MYSELF IF I QUIT EVERYTHING NOW.

YOU WERE ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE, AND THEY ADMIRED YOU.

I REALLY ENVIED YOU, AS A KID.

BUT YOU ...
WOW! YOU'RE A FAN OF BOLS TOO?

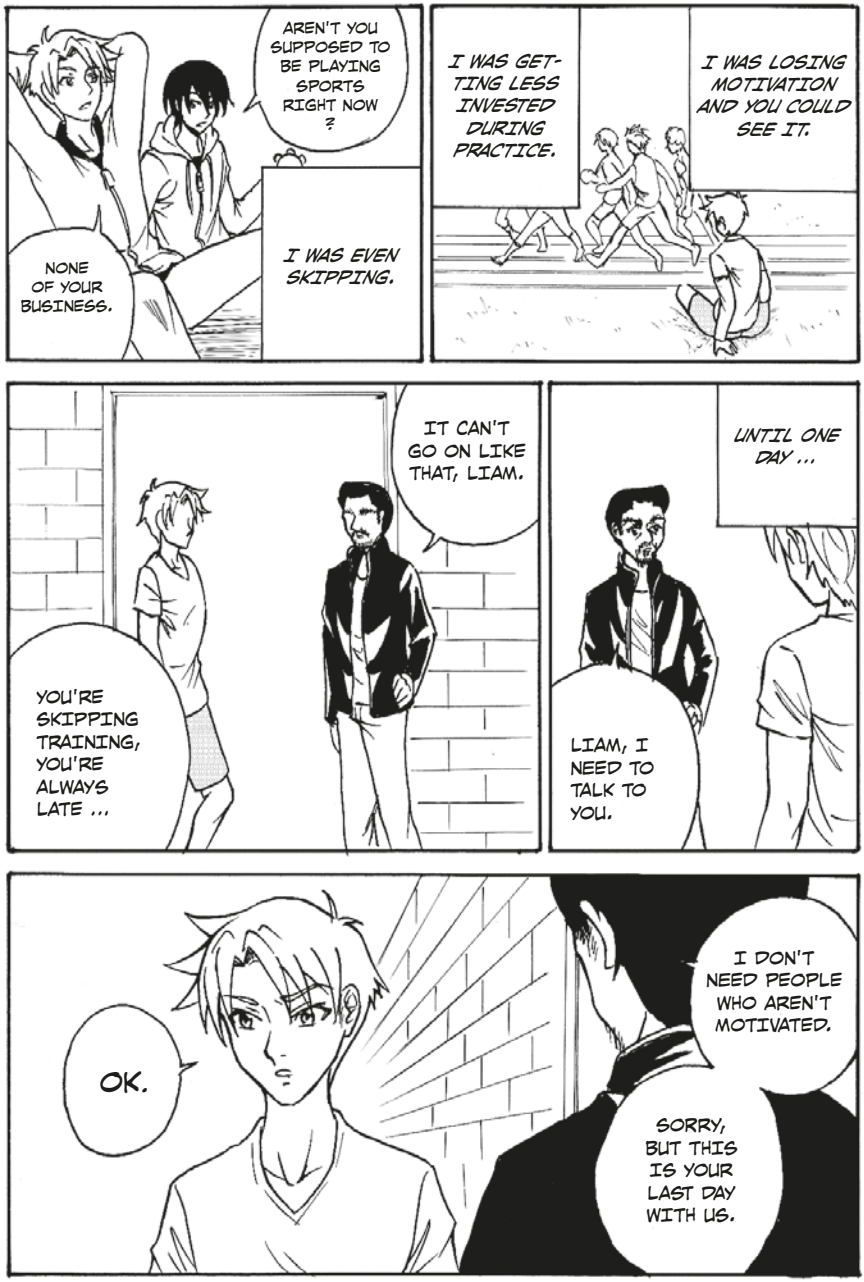
I ALSO HAD ONE SIGNED!

BUT ME ... NO MATTER WHAT I DID ... OR SAID ...
... PEOPLE IGNORED ME, OR DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
THEY ONLY SAW ME AS A DISABLED KID, UNABLE TO DO THINGS.

WELL, IT'S BECAUSE ...
THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE SO SLIM, WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING?
IT'S WHAT WE USED TO SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS, WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER.
YOU KNOW, LIAM ...
BUT WHY HOLD ON TO THAT? WE WERE KIDS, IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING.

COMING BACK FROM YOUR RUNNING CLUB?
IT'S SO COOL THAT YOU JOINED A CLUB!
GLOUP
GLOUP
NOAH
...
ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO GO TO THE OLYMPICS?
...
WE COULD TRAIN TOGETHER, HUH?
AND I FULLY INTEND ON BECOMING THE UTAIN BOLS OF PARASPORTS! HA, HA, HA!
TO THE PARALYMPICS, YES!
IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF THE OLYMPICS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

I FEEL ...
HEY, LIAM!
THIS JUST CONFIRMS THIS SPORT ISN'T FOR ME.
... SO PATHETIC.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DO YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES?

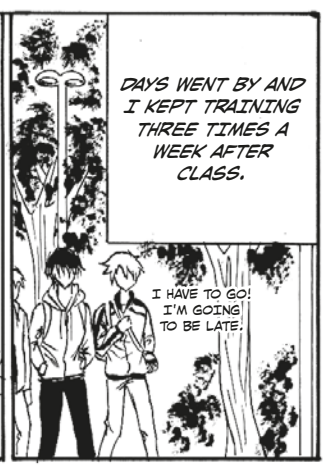

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING SPORTS RIGHT NOW ?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
I WAS EVEN SKIPPING.
I WAS GETTING LESS INVESTED DURING PRACTICE.
I WAS LOSING MOTIVATION AND YOU COULD SEE IT.
IT CAN'T GO ON LIKE THAT, LIAM.
YOU'RE SKIPPING TRAINING, YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE ...
UNTIL ONE DAY ...
LIAM, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
I DON'T NEED PEOPLE WHO AREN'T MOTIVATED.
SORRY, BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST DAY WITH US.
OK.

... LAST.
LAST.

EVERYONE IS
MUCH BETTER THAN I AM.
DID I ...
... REGRESS THIS MUCH?

TOO SLOW.
HA! HA! HA!
AND IT BUGGED ME, NOT BEING THAT LITTLE GENIUS MY FRIENDS IDOLIZED...

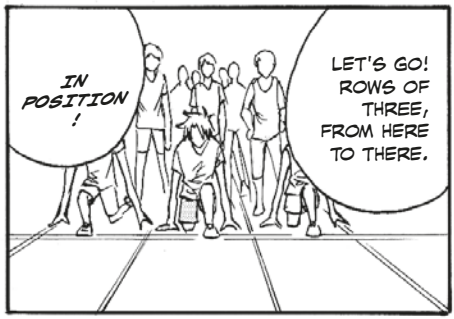
AND BEING LATE EVERY TIME.
I CAN'T DO IT.


DAYS WENT BY AND I KEPT TRAINING THREE TIMES A WEEK AFTER CLASS.
I HAVE TO GO! I'M GOING TO BE LATE.

GO!
12.48s,
13.05s,
13.22s
...
!
I'M LAGGING BEHIND!!
HA HA HA HA
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M ...

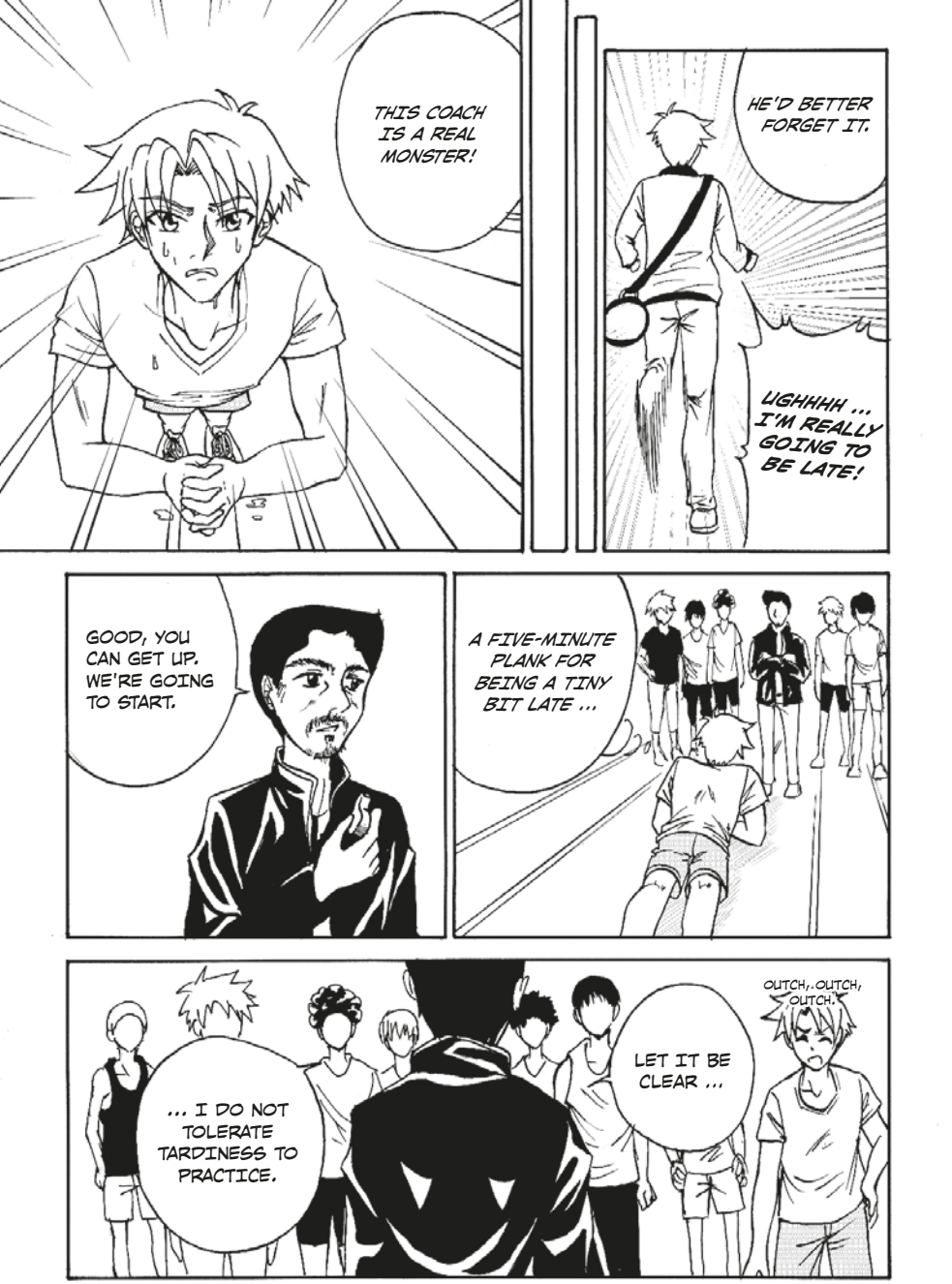
SO IT WAS WITH PAIN AND SUFFERING THAT I STARTED RUNNING IN A CLUB AGAIN.

I WILL TIME EACH OF YOU, TO GET AN IDEA OF YOUR LEVEL.


IN POSITION !
LET'S GO! ROWS OF THREE, FROM HERE TO THERE.

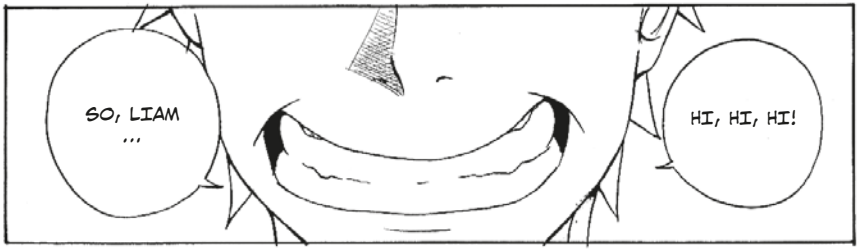
I'M GOING TO GIVE ALL I HAVE.
READY ?!

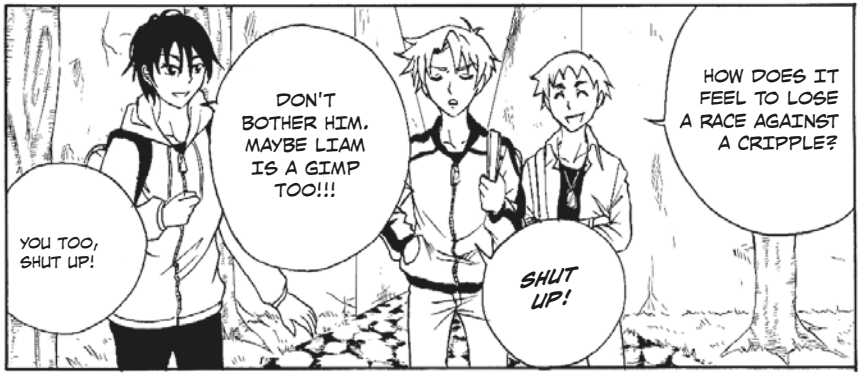
HAAA.. I'M ALREADY DEAD!
NEXT EXERCISE!


THIS COACH IS A REAL MONSTER!
HE'D BETTER FORGET IT.
UGHHHH ... I'M REALLY GOING TO BE LATE!
GOOD, YOU CAN GET UP. WE'RE GOING TO START.
A FIVE-MINUTE PLANK FOR BEING A TINY BIT LATE ...
... I DO NOT TOLERATE TARDINESS TO PRACTICE.
LET IT BE CLEAR ...
OUTCH, OUTCH, OUTCH.

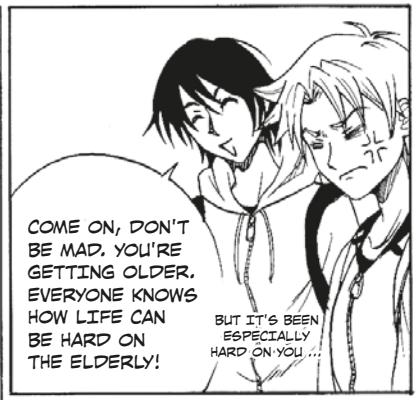
GREAT IDEA, JOINING A CLUB ON THE OTHERSIDE OF TOWN!
I'M STILL GOING TO RUN 15 MORE MINUTES BEFORE I GO.
YES, COACH.
I'M LEAVING. DON'T OVERDO IT, OKAY?!
I'M GOING TO BE LATE ON THE FIRST DAY!
ON THE PLUS SIDE, I'LL ALREADY BE WARM!
NOAH? TRAINING ON HIS OWN?
?
FOR ALL THESE YEARS, HE'S BEEN TRYING TO REACH BOLS'S LEVEL ...

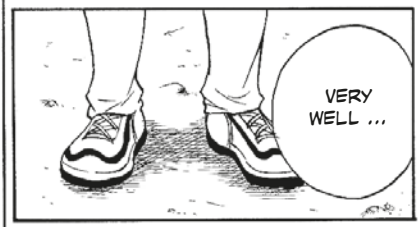
YOU'LL SEE WHO'S CRIPPLED THEN, YOU IDIOTS!
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, COACH?
IT'S INCREDIBLE! YOU'RE HERE EVEN WHEN THERE'S NO PRACTICE.
FINAL LAP!
... THAT OVERWORKED MUSCLES INCREASE THE RISK OF INJURY.
TRAINING TOO MUCH TO IMPROVE CAN GET YOU THE EXACT OPPOSITE RESULT.
I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
NOAH, I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW ...


SO, LIAM ...
HI, HI, HI!


HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LOSE A RACE AGAINST A CRIPPLE?
DON'T BOTHER HIM. MAYBE LIAM IS A GIMP TOO!!!
YOU TOO, SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

I'M GOING TO JOIN AN ATHLETICS CLUB AND SHOW YOU I STILL HAVE TALENT.
JUST SO YOU CAN STOP TAUNTING ME ONCE AND FOR ALL.


COME ON, DON'T BE MAD. YOU'RE GETTING OLDER. EVERYONE KNOWS HOW LIFE CAN BE HARD ON THE ELDERLY!
BUT IT'S BEEN ESPECIALLY HARD ON YOU ...


VERY WELL ...

IT'S STUPID !
POF
BOFS
I KEPT THAT?
THIS IS SO UNFAIR! I WAS FASTER THAN HIM.
IT WAS STUPID TO REFUSE TO RESTART THE RACE! I WOULD HAVE WON IF I HADN'T FALLEN.
COME ON, LIAM! LOSING A RACE ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL, THERE WILL BE OTHERS.
IT WAS A SMART IDEA TO STOP. THIS SPORT IS NOT FOR ME.
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DREAM, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S FEASIBLE.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT, I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY I WOULD GO ON TRAINING!

LIAM LOOKS FURIOUS.
WOW ... AND I THOUGHT LIAM WAS BOUND TO WIN ...
I'M HOME!
?

!
HE PASSED ME !!!
OH!
I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
NOAH WINS!

THIS FEELING... IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.
IT'S OKAY, I DIDN'T START TOO BAD.
HA HA
HOWEVER ...
FOR SOMEONE WHO STOPPED TRAINING, HE IS GOOD.
STAY STRONG, IT'S ALMOST THE END.
TAP
I'VE LOST MY STAMINA!
I'M STARTING TO SLOW DOWN...

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
YOU SHOULD DO IT. EVEN NOAH WANTS TO ...
YOU RUN ALL THE WAY TO THOMAS OVER THERE.
I'LL GIVE THE START AND YOU,
YEAH! COME ON, KIDS!
GET SET ?!
ON YOUR MARK !
GO !!!

IT'S OKAY!
TAP
TAP
ARGH! HE REMEMBERS LIAM BUT NOT US!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU. STILL RUNNING?
LIAM ?!
UM, ACTUALLY ...
HE QUIT!
BUT, AS IT HAPPENS, I WAS JUST SUGGESTING YOU TWO SHOULD RACE EACH OTHER!
LET'S RACE!
!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ...
FROTTE
FROTTE
AÏE AÏE
OK, I'M IN.

...
...
REMEMBER US, MAN?
BAM
NOT AT ALL.
!
LOOK BETTER.
YES YOU DO! WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER OFTEN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL.
WE'RE BOTHERING HIM, LET'S GO.
SERIOUSLY, CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE ANNOYING HIM?
YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT? RIGHT?
UM ...

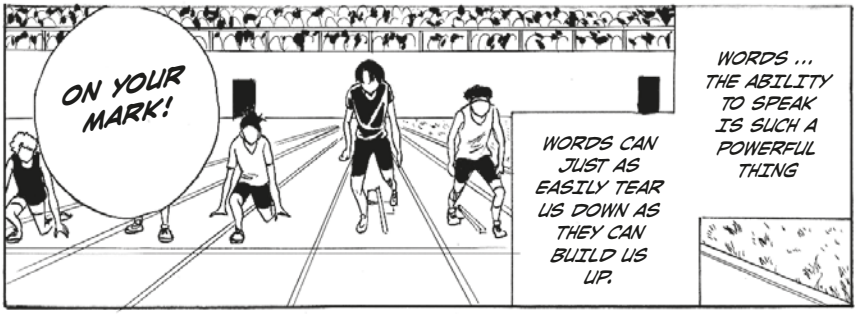
LIAM, WOULD YOU RACE HIM? FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE!
I'M SURPRISED THE CLUB ACCEPTED HIM.
HE'S A BETTER RUNNER, BUT HE'S FAR FROM BEING OLYMPIC-LEVEL.
UNLESS YOU'RE AFRAID ...
OH, COME ON! THAT'LL BE QUICK.
NO, THANKS.
WHY WOULD YOU MAKE HIM RUN? YOU ALREADY KNOW THE RESULT.
IT MIGHT JUST TEACH NOAH THAT THIS ISN'T FOR HIM!
NO. I'M GETTING TIRED OF YOU.
SO HUNGRY!
I'M BEAT!
NOAH, WAIT!
TO THE LOCKER ROOM, AT LAST!!
TRAINING SESSION OVER! LOTS OF REST, EVERYONE.

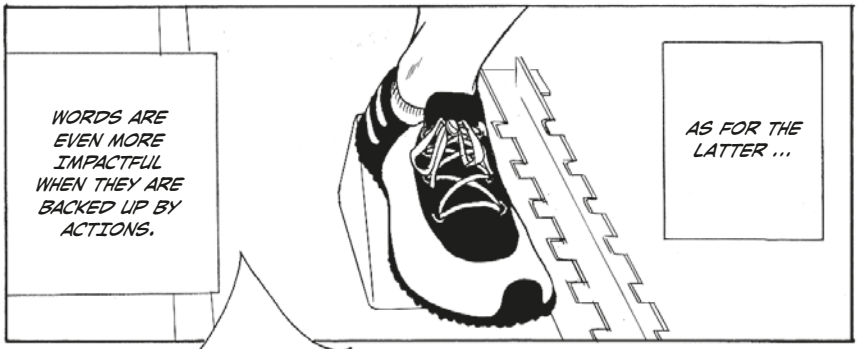
OH, THIS GUY OVER THERE! HIS FACE RINGS A BELL ...
AAHHH! GLAD TO BE GOING HOME!
TELL ME ABOUT IT !!!
I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE TOO. BUT WHERE?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH, I GOT IT! IT'S THAT DISABLED KID WHO USED TO HANG OUT WITH LIAM!
NOAH!
SO, HE JOINED AN ATHLETICS CLUB. THE GUY'S GOT MOTIVATION ...
AAAH! WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?!!
UM ...

Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
11.9 SECONDS !
Today.
...
IT'S NOT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.
Ha
Glup
Glup
Glup
Clic
THIS IS GOOD! YOU SEEM READY FOR THE UPCOMING QUALIFIERS.
QUALIFICATION EVENTS FOR THE PARALYMPICS, ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS MY DREAM
...

WE'RE BOTH HUGE BOLS FANS! AND WE PROMISED WE WOULD TRAIN HARD ...
... TO BECOME A GREAT ATHLETE LIKE HIM.
OH DEAR, MY BELLY!
BWAHAHA!
SERIOUSLY ?!?
LIAM, I GET IT ...
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD DO IT, NOAH? YOU CAN BARELY WALK STRAIGHT!
HAHA! COME ON, BE REALISTIC.
SPORT ...
WITH YOUR CRIPPLED LEG.

Years earlier ...
I WON!
RUNNING REALLY IS YOUR THING, LIAM, ISN'T IT?
AAAARGH, YOU'RE TOO FAST FOR US!
THAT'S PARTLY THANKS TO THIS THING!
WOW! A WRISTBAND SIGNED BY UTAIN BOLS! YOU'RE SO LUCKY!
HEHE!
NOAH'S GOT ONE TOO!


ON YOUR MARK!
WORDS CAN JUST AS EASILY TEAR US DOWN AS THEY CAN BUILD US UP.
WORDS ... THE ABILITY TO SPEAK IS SUCH A POWERFUL THING


WORDS ARE EVEN MORE IMPACTFUL WHEN THEY ARE BACKED UP BY ACTIONS.
AS FOR THE LATTER ...

BANG !
I LEARNED THAT BY WATCHING HIM.

THE RACE OF A LIFETIME

by Kat-chan

with the kind collaboration of Renaud Clerc