

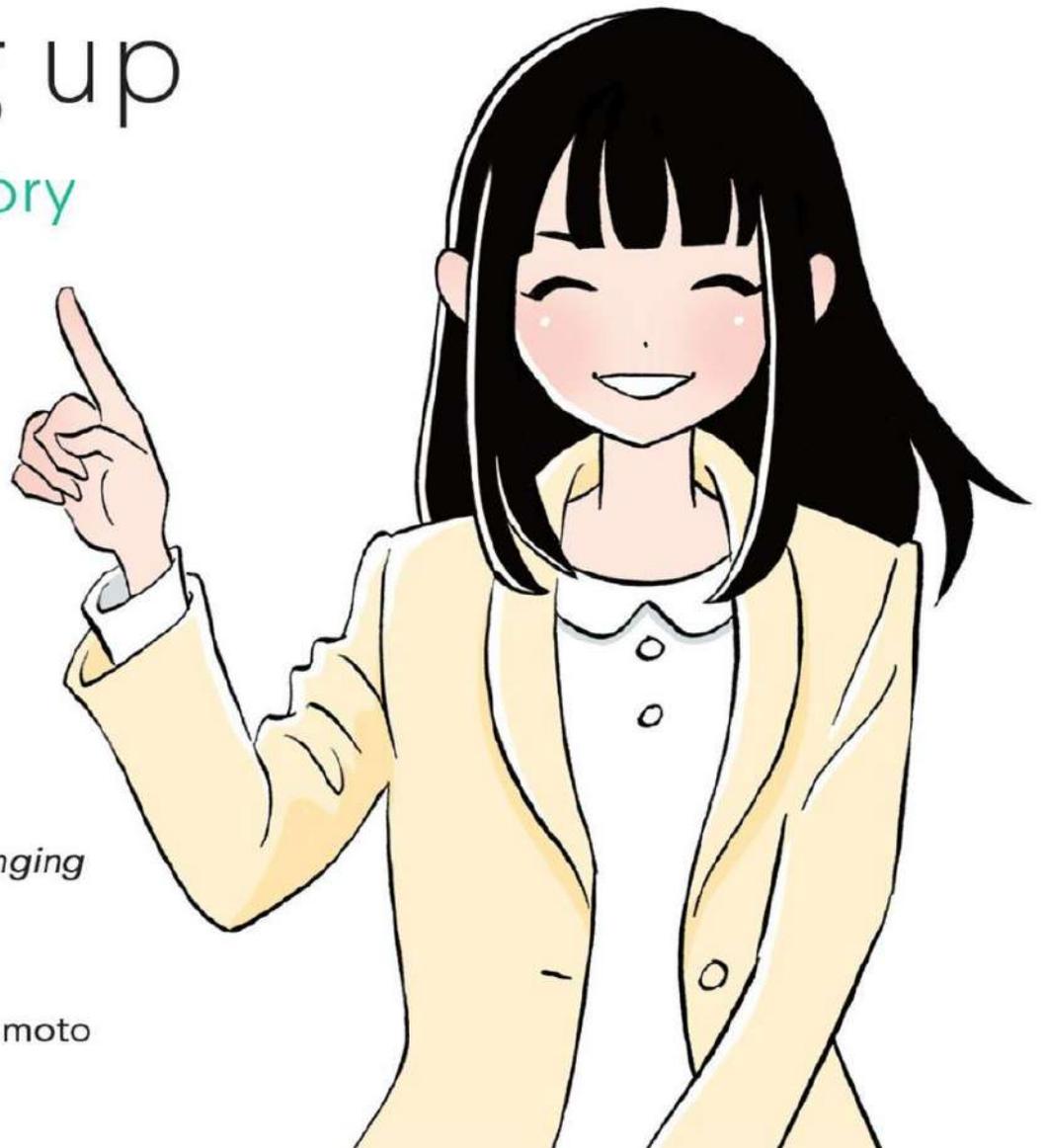
a
graphic novel
to spark joy
in life, work,
and love

the
life-changing
manga of
tidying up
a magical story

marie
kondo

author of *the life-changing
magic of tidying up*

illustrated by yuko uramoto



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illustrated by yuko uramoto
translated from the japanese by cathy hirano



TEN SPEED PRESS
California | New York

the life-changing *manga* of

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Chiaki Suzuki

Twenty-nine years old. Sales rep. Single. Falls in love easily but loses interest quickly, which makes it hard for her to have a lasting relationship.



tidying up

a magical story

introducing the characters

Marie Kondo

Tidying consultant. Nickname: KonMari. Has a winning smile but is an exacting instructor.



Chiaki's Neighbor

Good-looking guy who lives in the apartment next to Chiaki's. Works as a cook at a café. Likes to keep things tidy.



You really want to tidy up, but you don't believe you can. If this describes you, don't worry. You, too, can be just like Chiaki in this story.

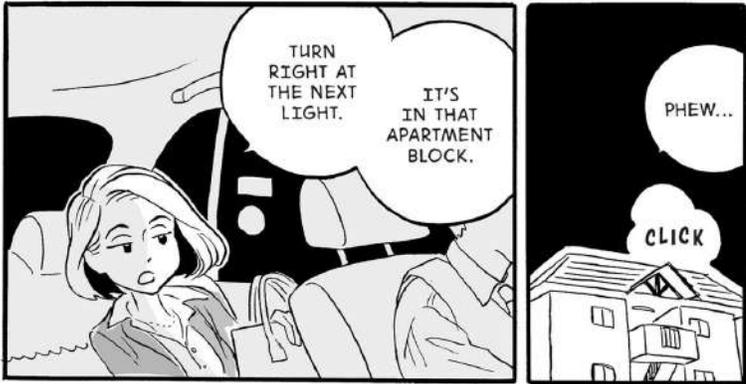


Chiaki's Apartment

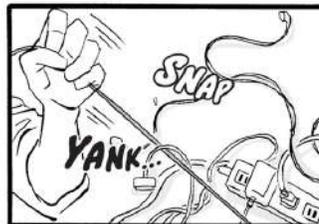
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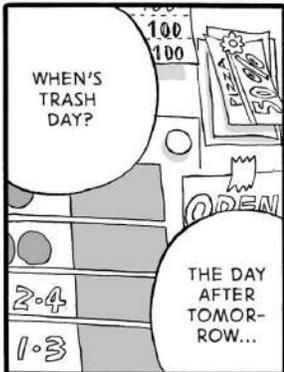
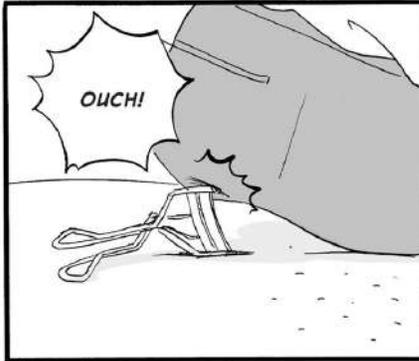
decide to
tidy up



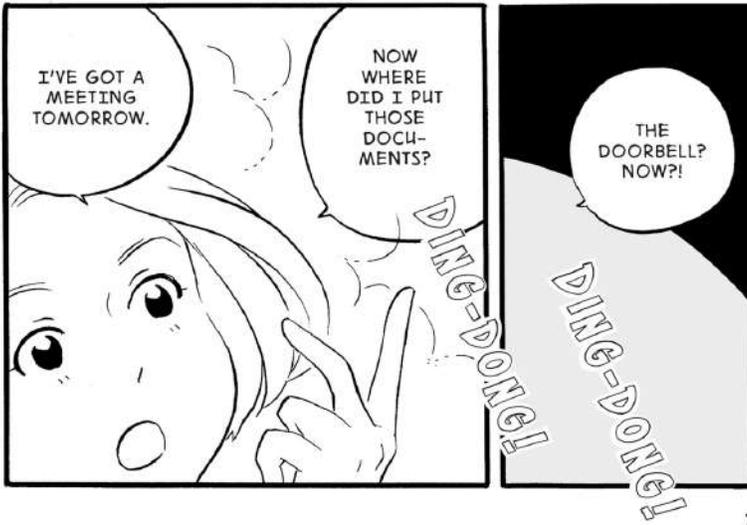


















I LIVE
NEXT
DOOR
AND...



YOU
KNOW, I
WAS JUST
GETTING
CHANGED.

WHOA!
HE'S
REALLY
CUTE!

JUST A
MOMENT
PLEASE.

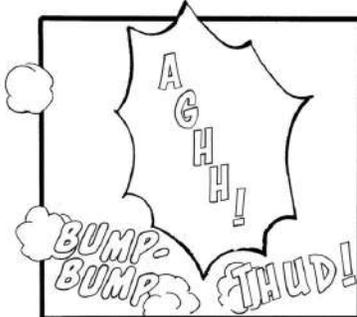


WHO
WOULD'VE
GUESSED A
GUY LIKE
THAT LIVED
NEXT DOOR!

TOO LATE
FOR MAKEUP,
BUT LET
ME GET
SOMETHING
NICER ON.

YANK

SLIP



A
G
H
H!

BUMP?
BUMP?

THUD!

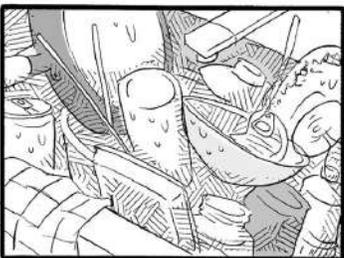
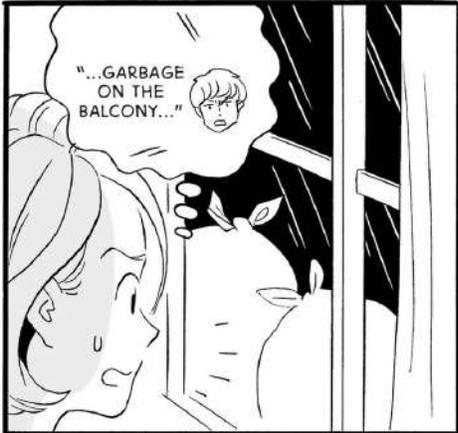


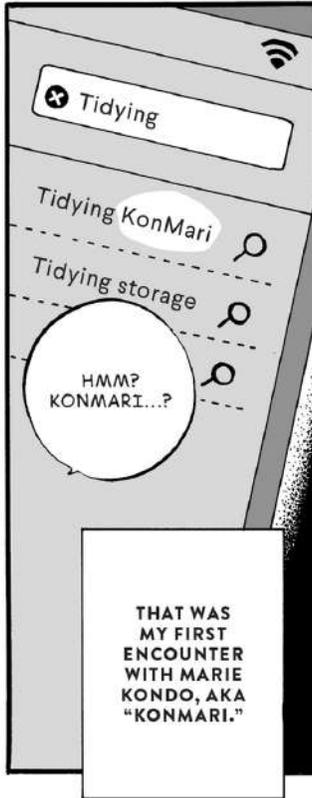
HUH?
WHAT
HAPPENED?
I'M
COMING
IN!













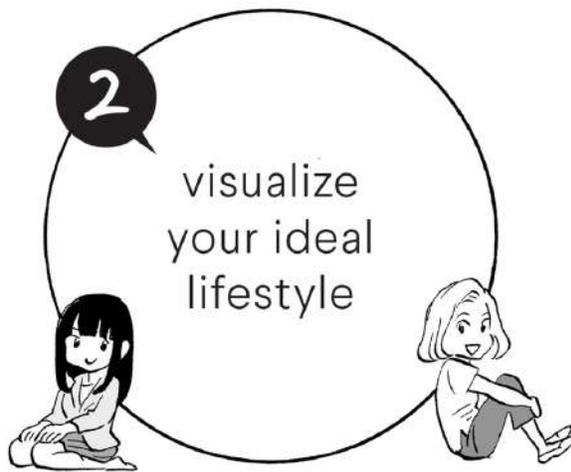


Think you can't do it? If so, you're wrong. Everyone can learn how to tidy up.

Success in tidying depends 90 percent on your mind-set. Of course, know-how is important, too, but the chances of a rebound are higher if you only learn the "how-to's" of tidying.

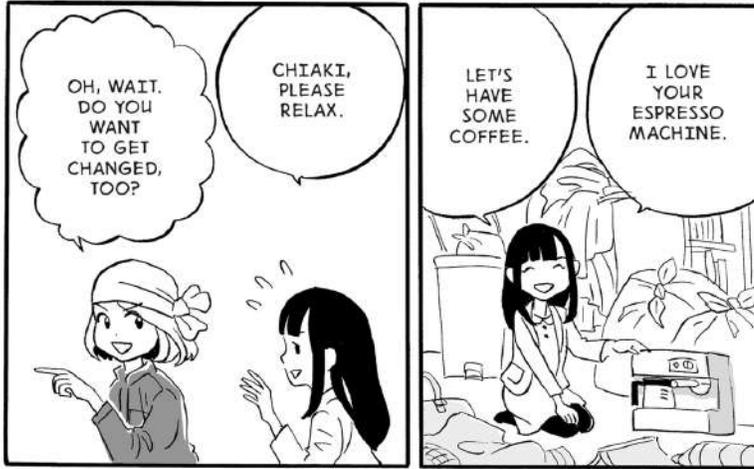
The approach that you are about to start is not simply about decluttering your home or making it look neat when visitors drop in. Instead, it will change your whole life and fill it with joy.

Start by believing with all your heart that you can and will be tidy.

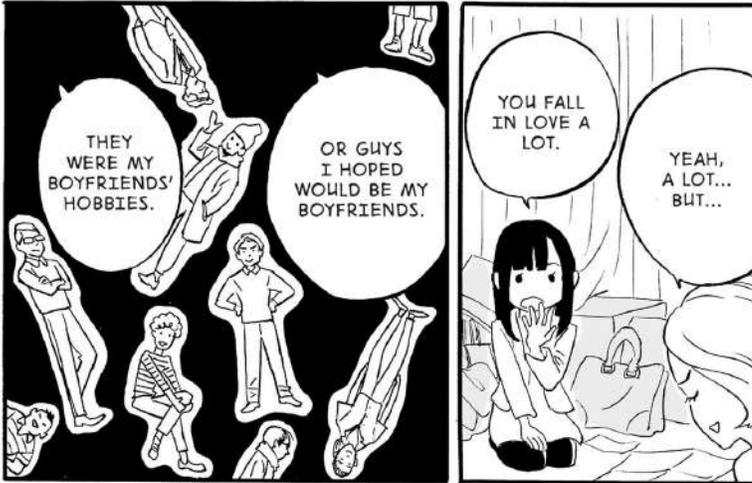




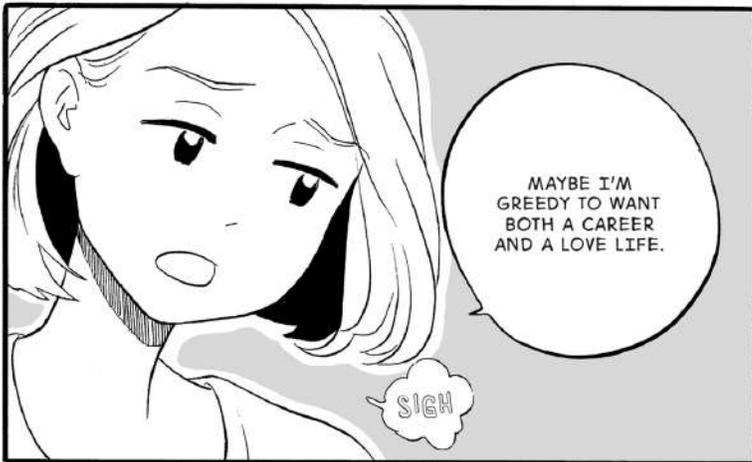
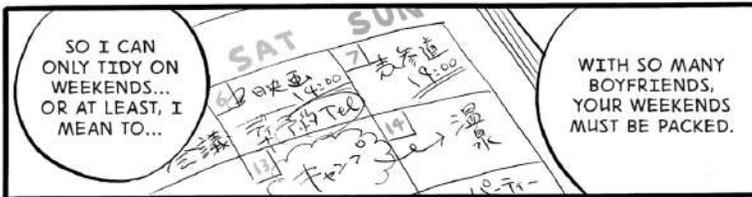




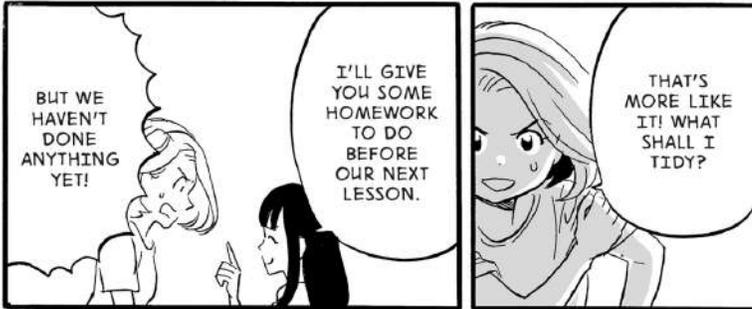


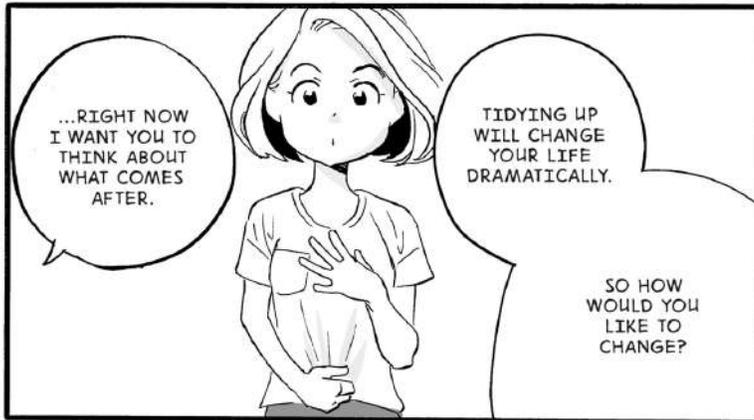
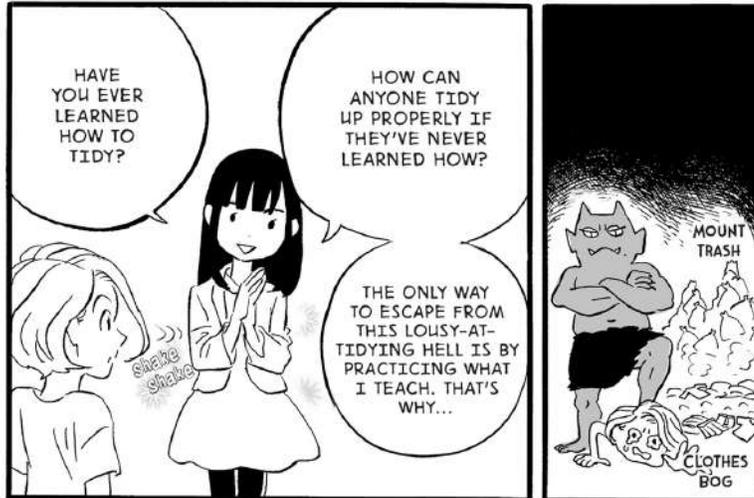


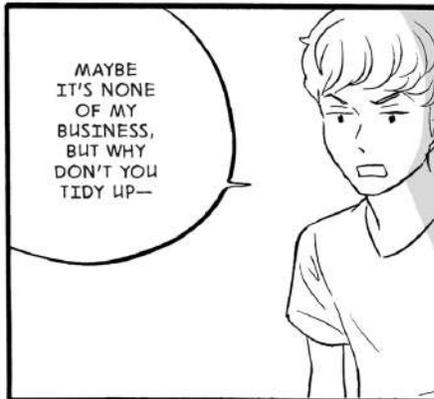


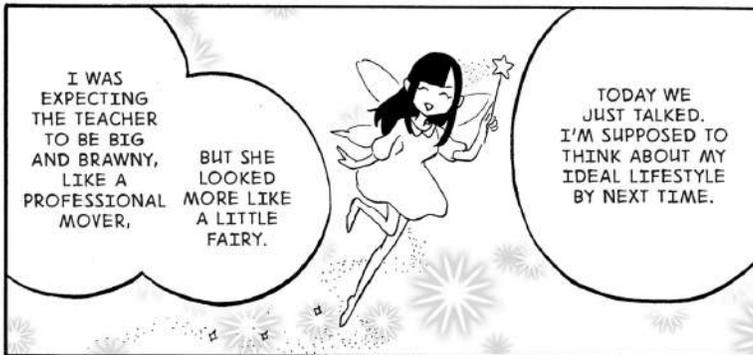
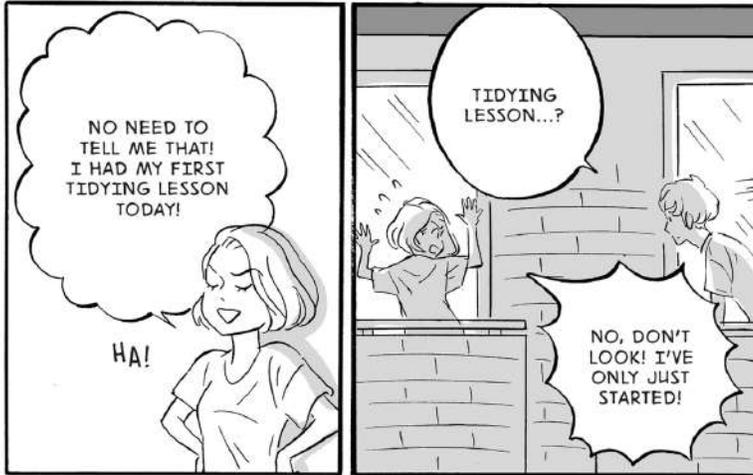




















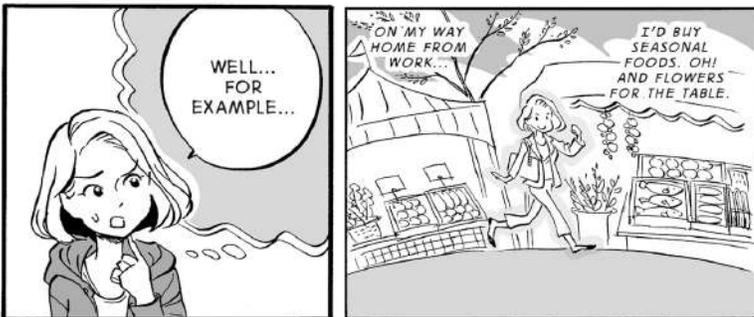
It all starts with visualizing
your ideal lifestyle.

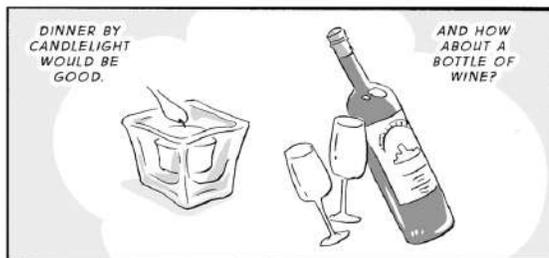
Start by thinking about how you really want to live. What kind of house would you like and what kind of life would you like to lead in it?

If you feel artistic, draw a picture. If you like writing, jot down your thoughts on paper. I also recommend cutting out photos of homes you like from interior decorating magazines.

By thinking about your ideal lifestyle, you will begin identifying why you really want to tidy and the kind of life you want once you have finished. That is how life-changing tidying can be.











ABSOLUTELY!

ANYONE CAN DO IT, IF THEY LEARN HOW TO TIDY UP PROPERLY.



PHEW!

IF YOU SAY SO, IT MUST BE TRUE.



SO LET'S GET TO WORK!

WAIT!



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT LET'S TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME.

CHIAKI,

WHY

DO YOU WANT THAT KIND OF LIFESTYLE?



What if they've
kissed and eat
of course!!!
delicious

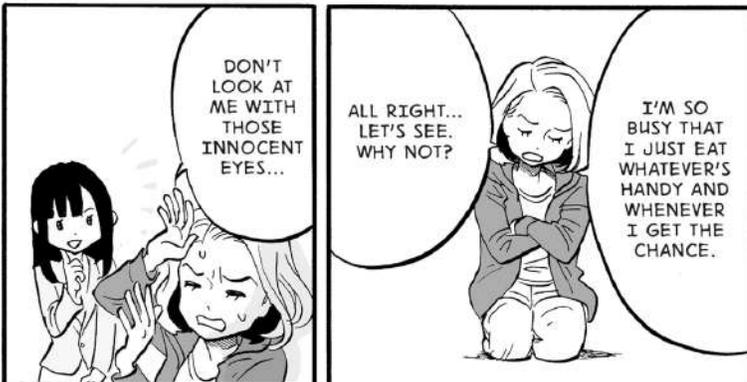


HUH?

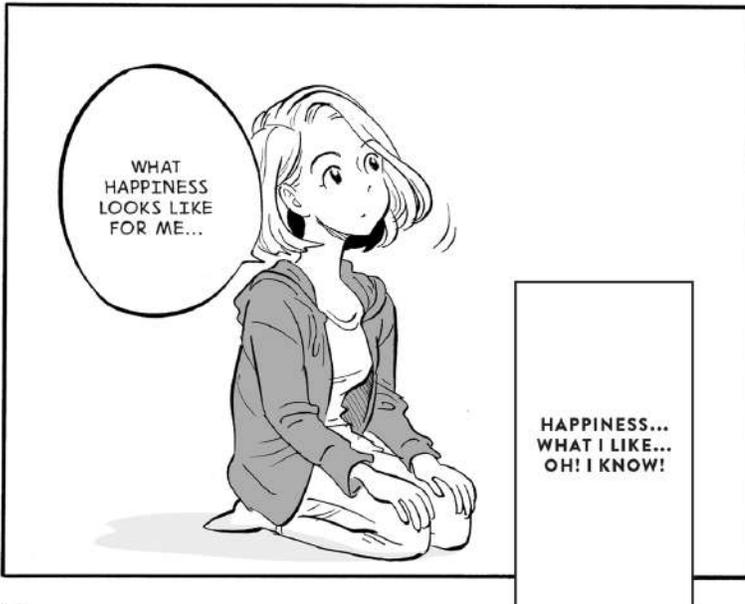
"WHY"??

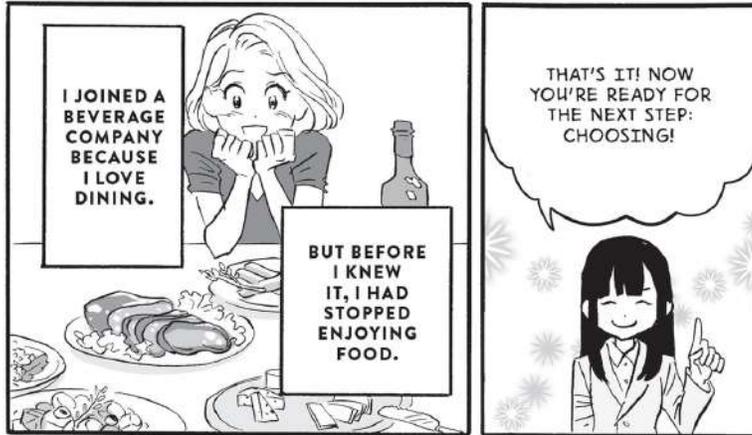
UHM... BECAUSE IT'S HEALTHY TO EAT PROPERLY...

WHY?

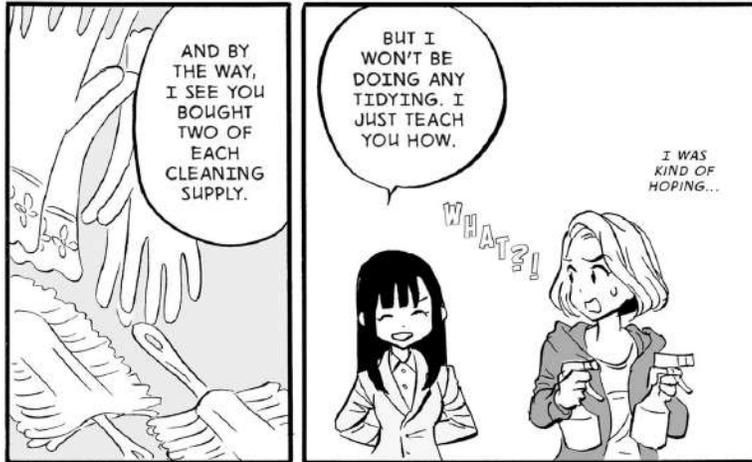




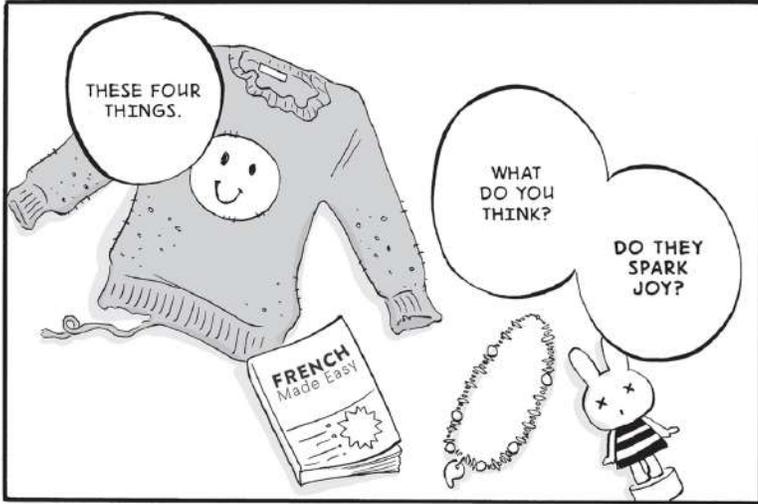


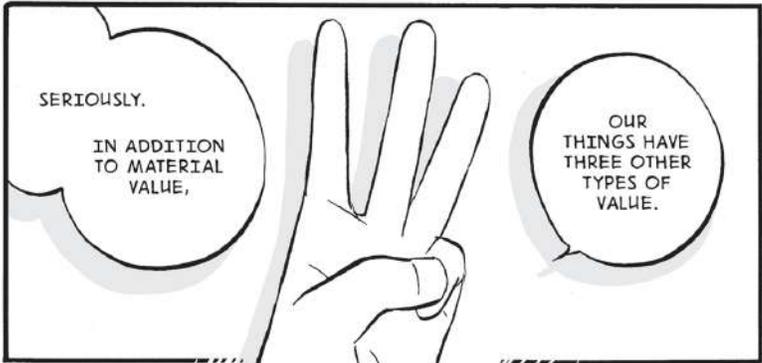
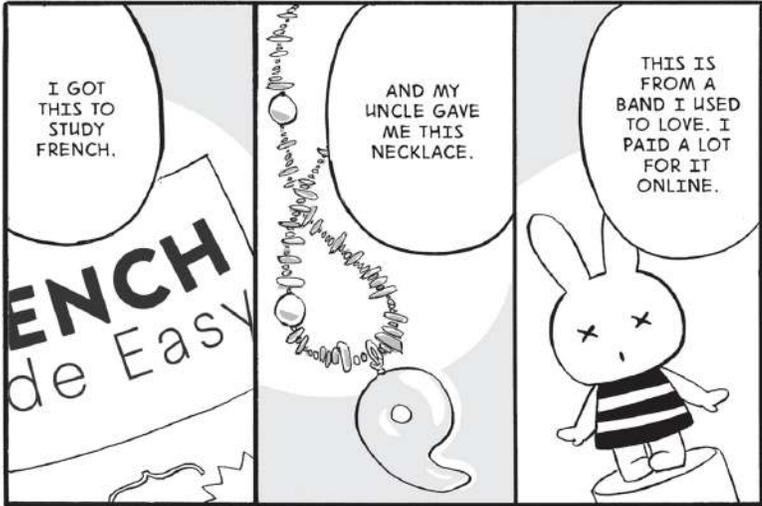


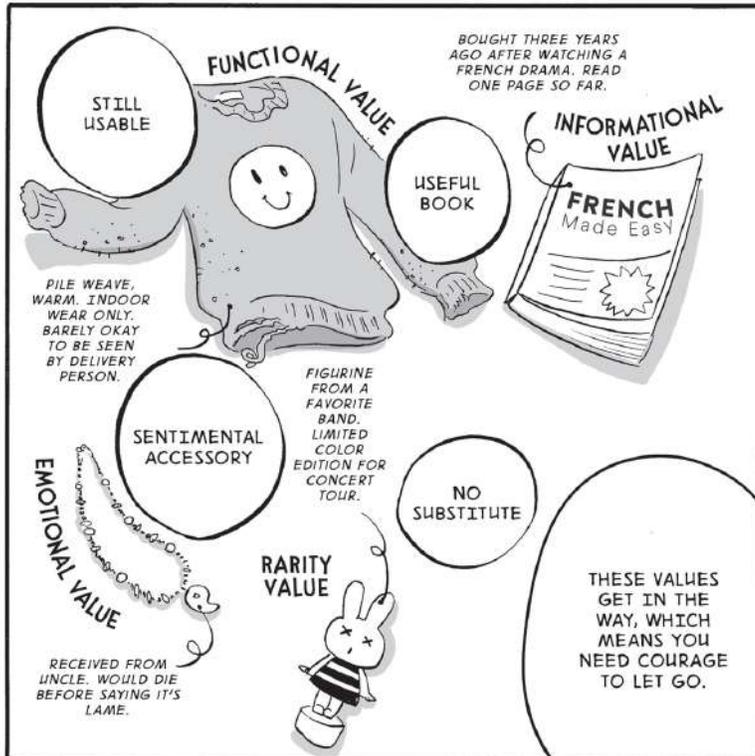
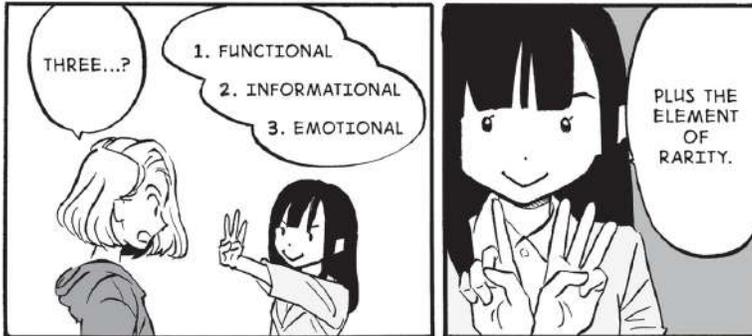
















Finish discarding first. But don't choose what to discard. Choose what to keep.

If you focus on what to throw away, you will lose sight of the real purpose of tidying.

The best criterion for choosing what to keep is this: Does it spark joy when you touch it?

Take each item in your hand. Keep those that spark joy and discard those that don't. This is the simplest and most accurate way to figure out what you should keep.

The true purpose of your home and your things is to bring you happiness. So, naturally, the criterion for choosing should be whether keeping something will make you happy—whether it will bring you joy.

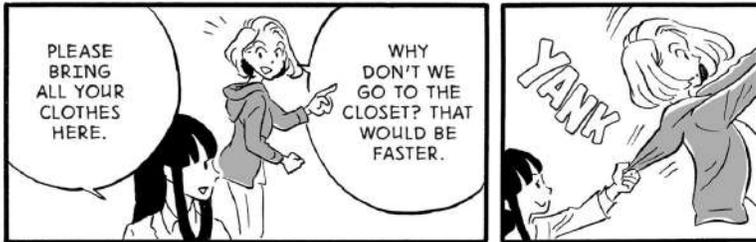
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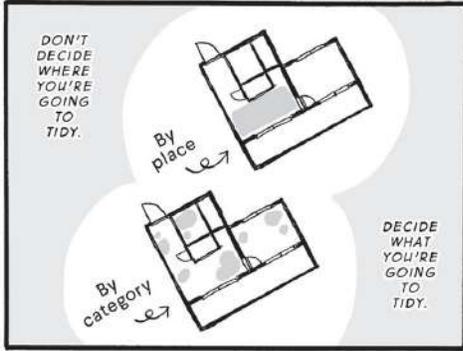
tidy by
category

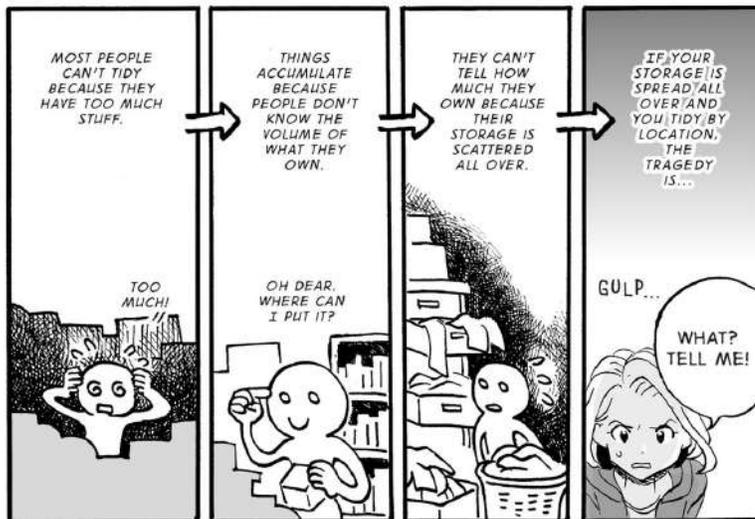




CLOTHING IS EASIEST BECAUSE IT'S A CLEARLY DEFINED CATEGORY WITHOUT MUCH "RARITY."





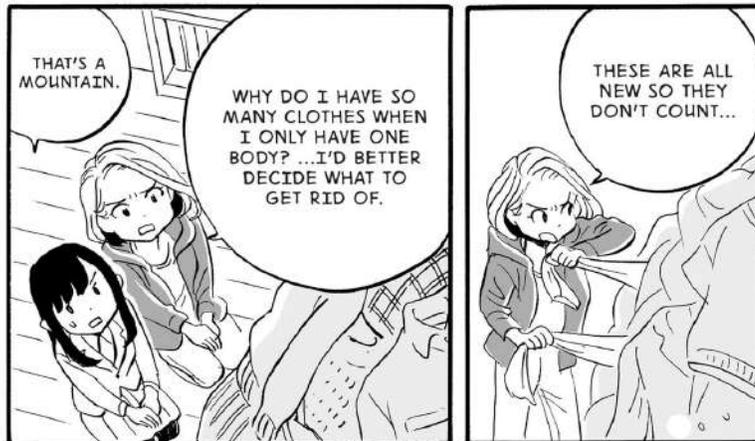


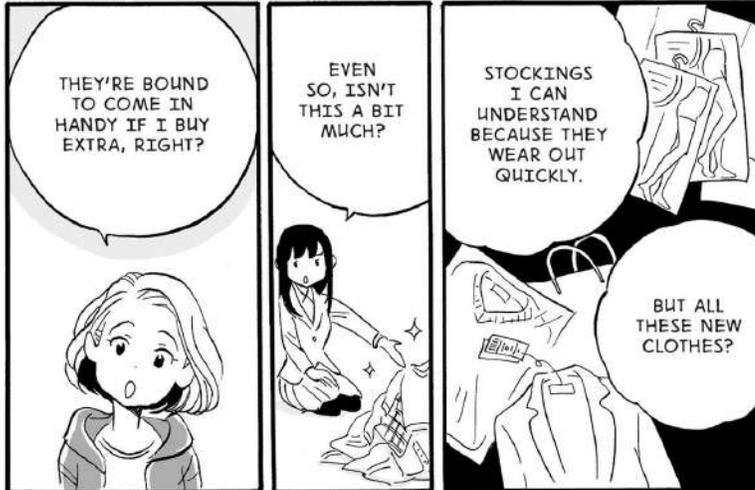




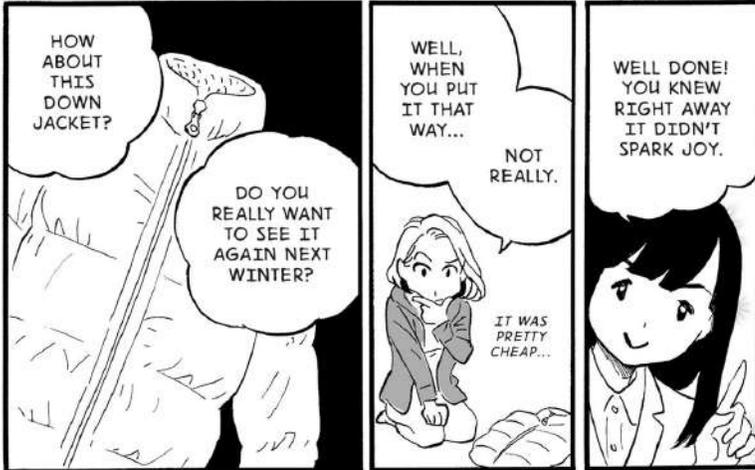
KONMARI,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

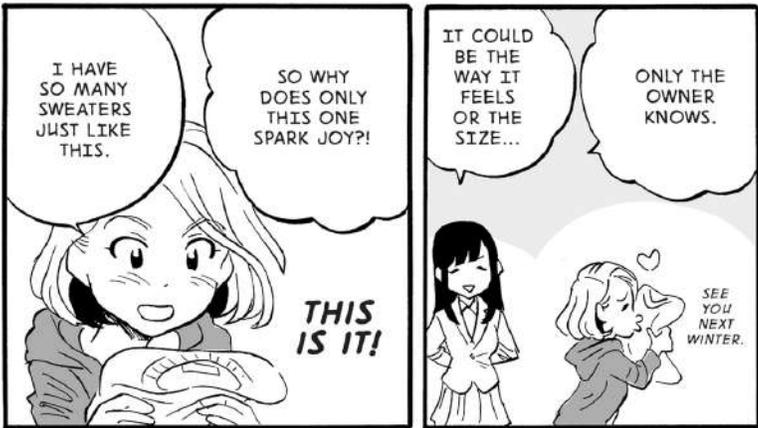
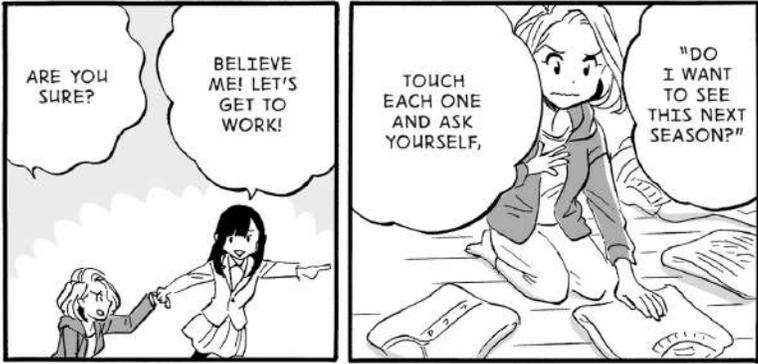
OVER HERE,
CHIAKI! OVER
HERE!





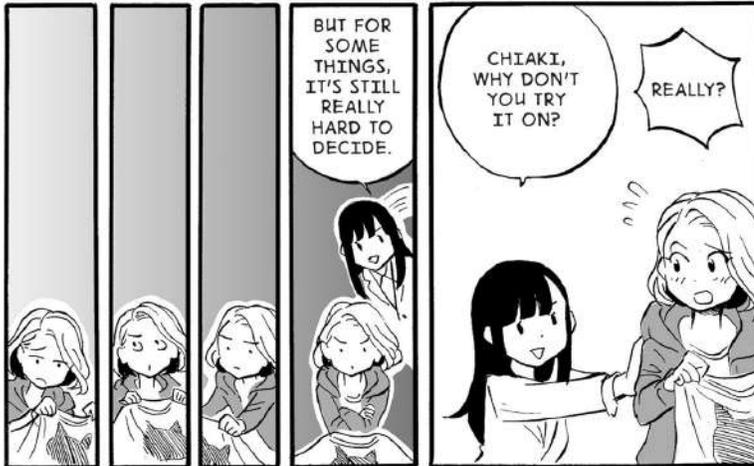


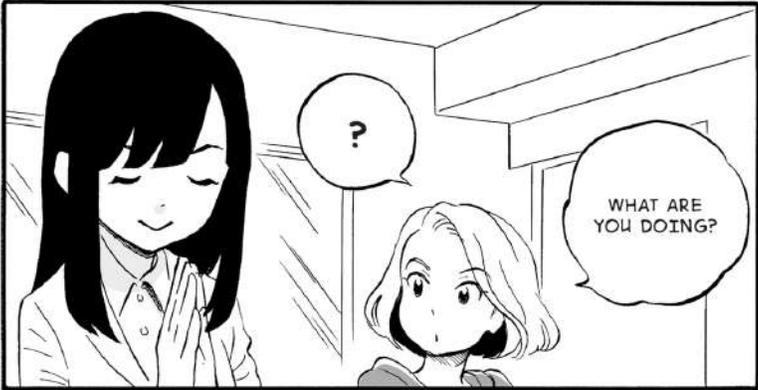














YOU CAN DONATE THOSE IN GOOD CONDITION TO A CHARITY SHOP OR TAKE THEM TO A RECYCLE STATION.



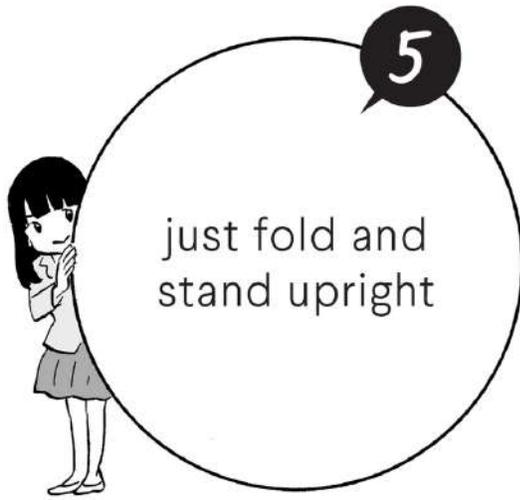
Don't tidy by place or by room,
but by category.

Most people can't tidy because they have too much stuff. They accumulate too much stuff because they don't know how much they actually own.

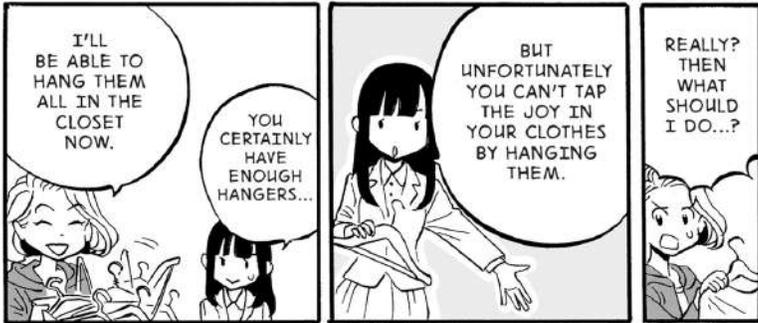
Gather every single item in the category from every corner of your home. Pile them all in one spot. This way, you can see exactly how much you have.

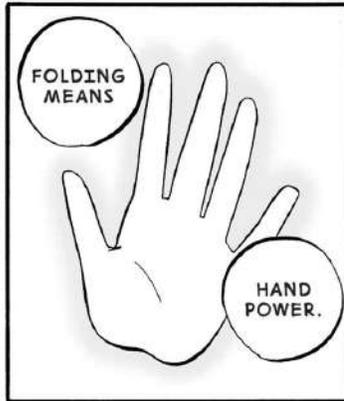
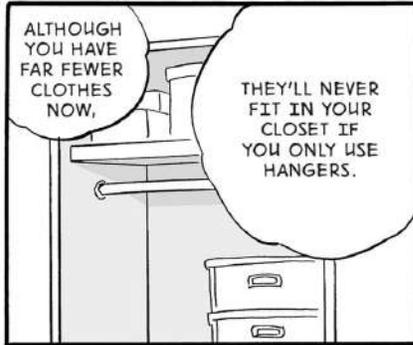
Things that have been put away in a drawer or a closet are basically dormant. Wake them up by taking them out and spreading them across the floor to expose them to the air. When you do, you will be amazed to find that your joy barometer becomes clear and focused.

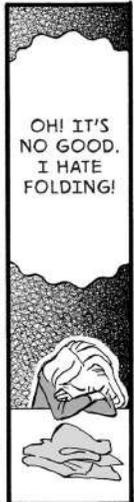
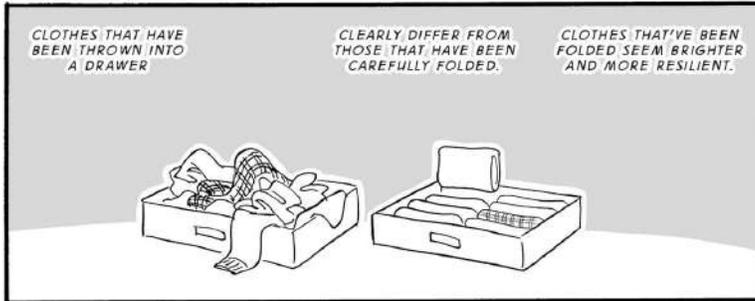
Gathering everything in the same category in one spot is the best way to finish tidying up quickly.





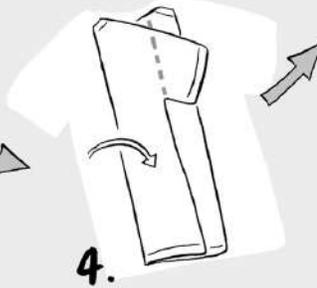
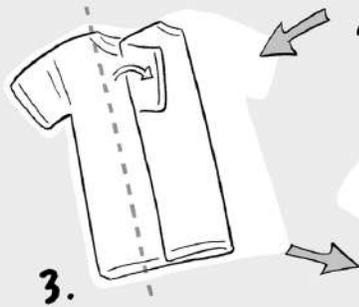
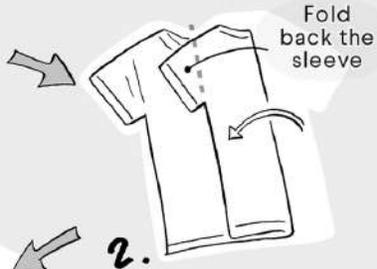


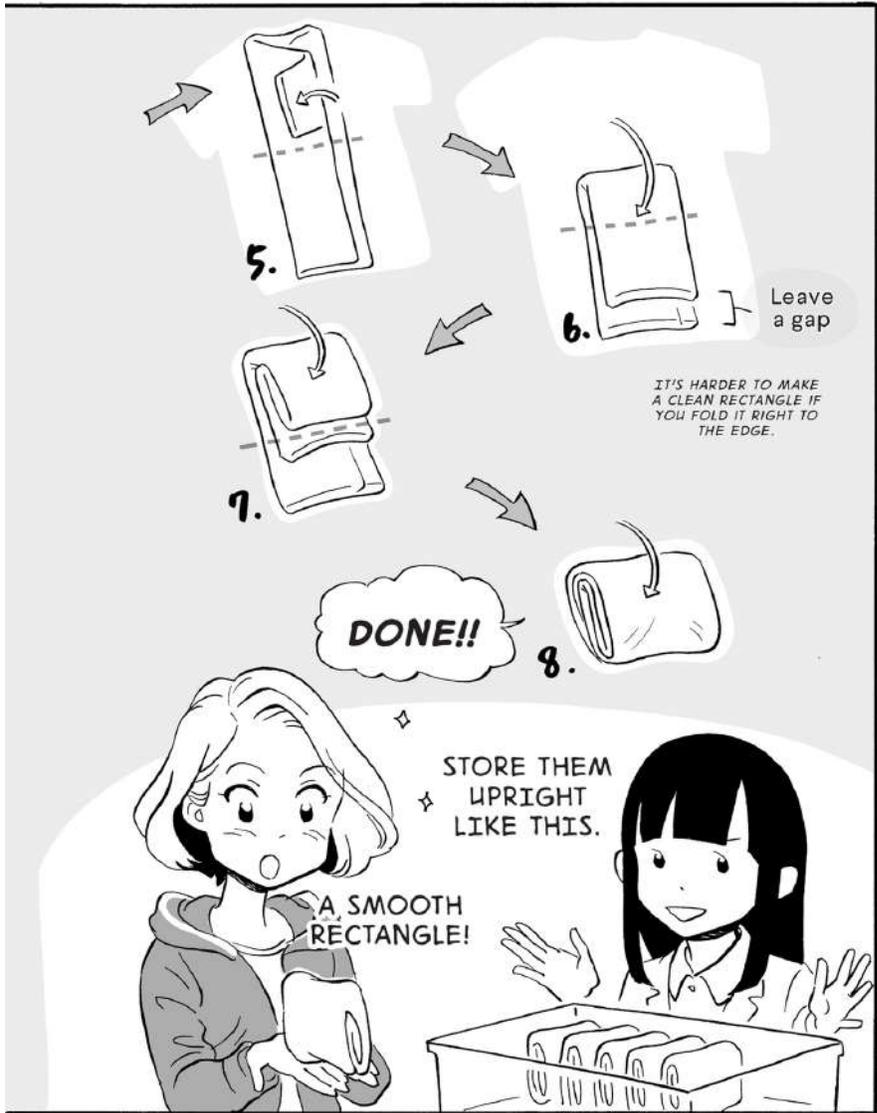




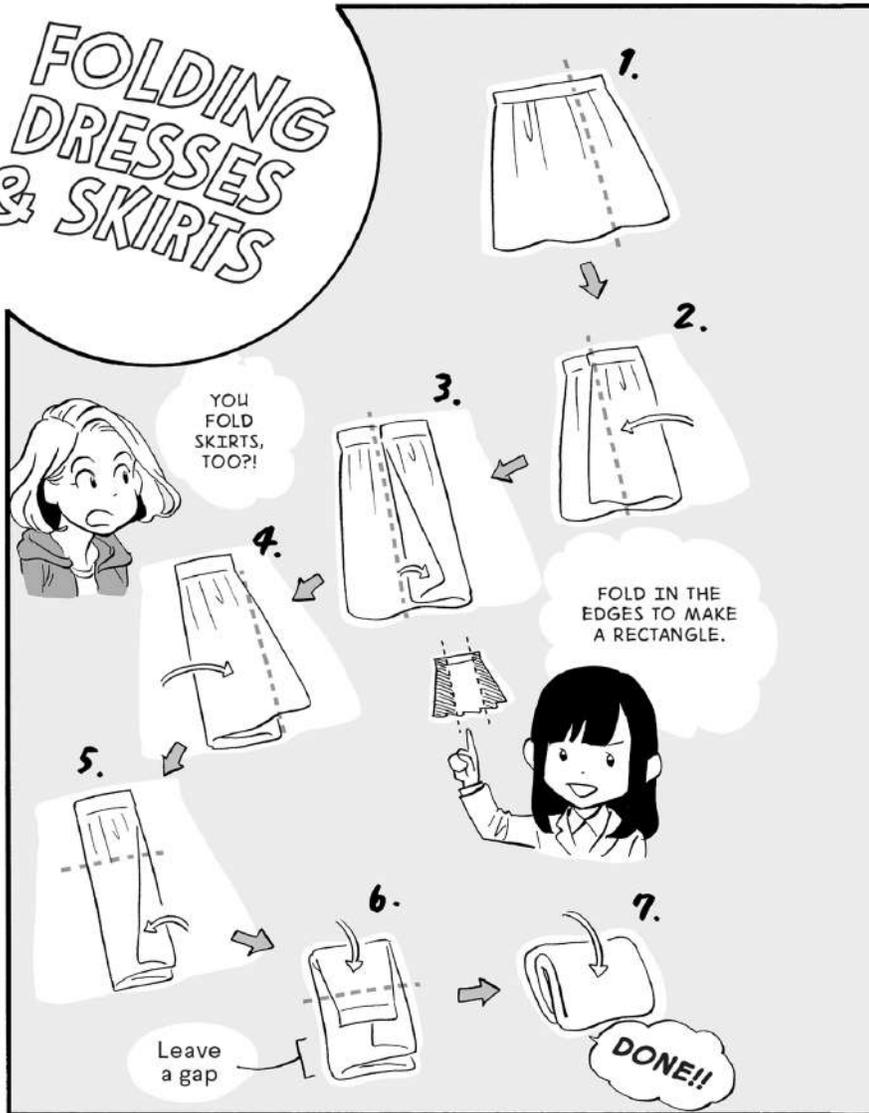
FOLDING T-SHIRTS

THERE'S JUST ONE IMPORTANT POINT: AIM TO MAKE A SMOOTH RECTANGLE!





FOLDING DRESSES & SKIRTS



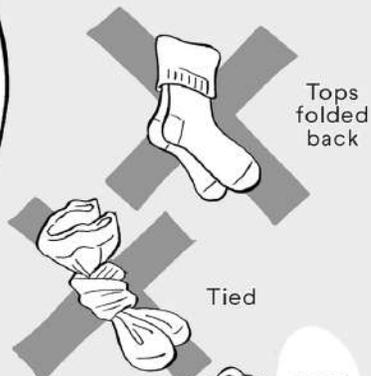


WRINKLES ARE CAUSED BY PRESSURE, NOT THE NUMBER OF FOLDS!

IF YOU STORE THEM UPRIGHT, THEY WON'T WRINKLE AS EASILY BECAUSE THERE'S NO WEIGHT.



FOLDING SOCKS & STOCKINGS

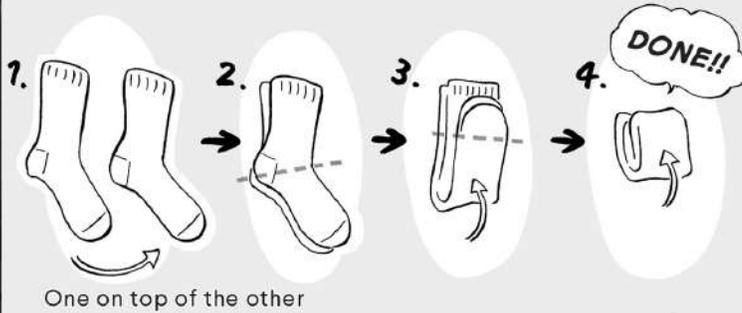


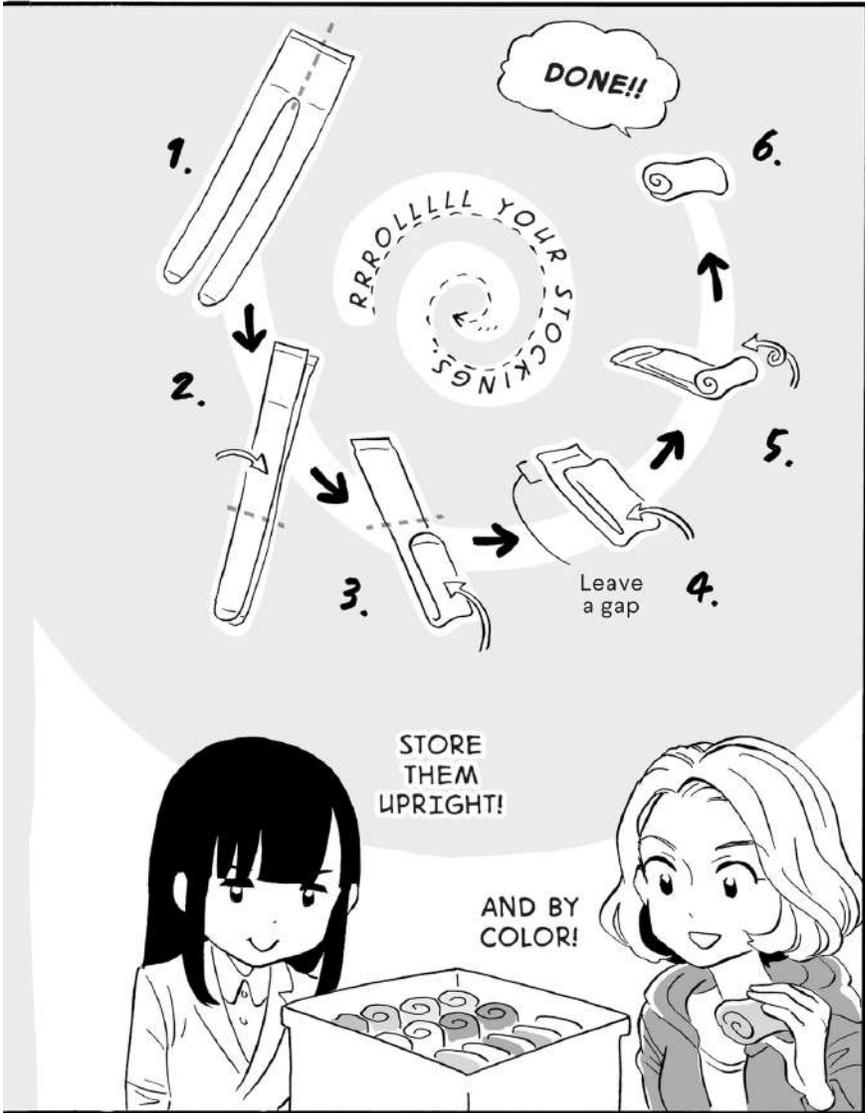
GIVE YOUR SOCKS A BREAK WHEN THEY'RE IN THE DRAWER.



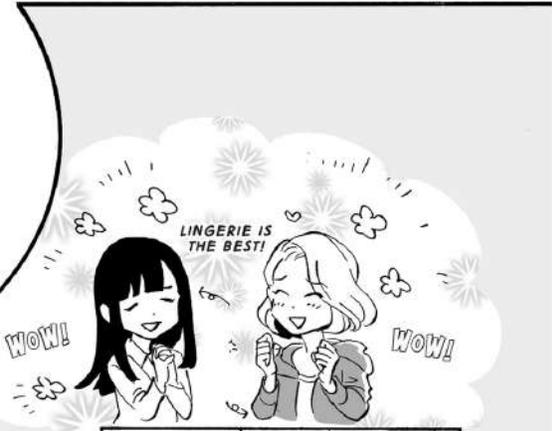
WHEN THEIR ELASTIC IS STRETCHED LIKE THAT, THEY CAN'T REST.

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

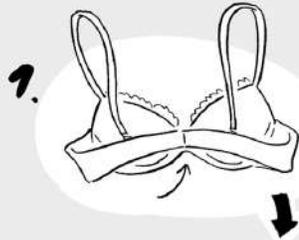




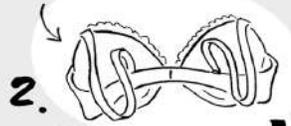
FOLDING BRAS & PANTIES



Fasten the hook

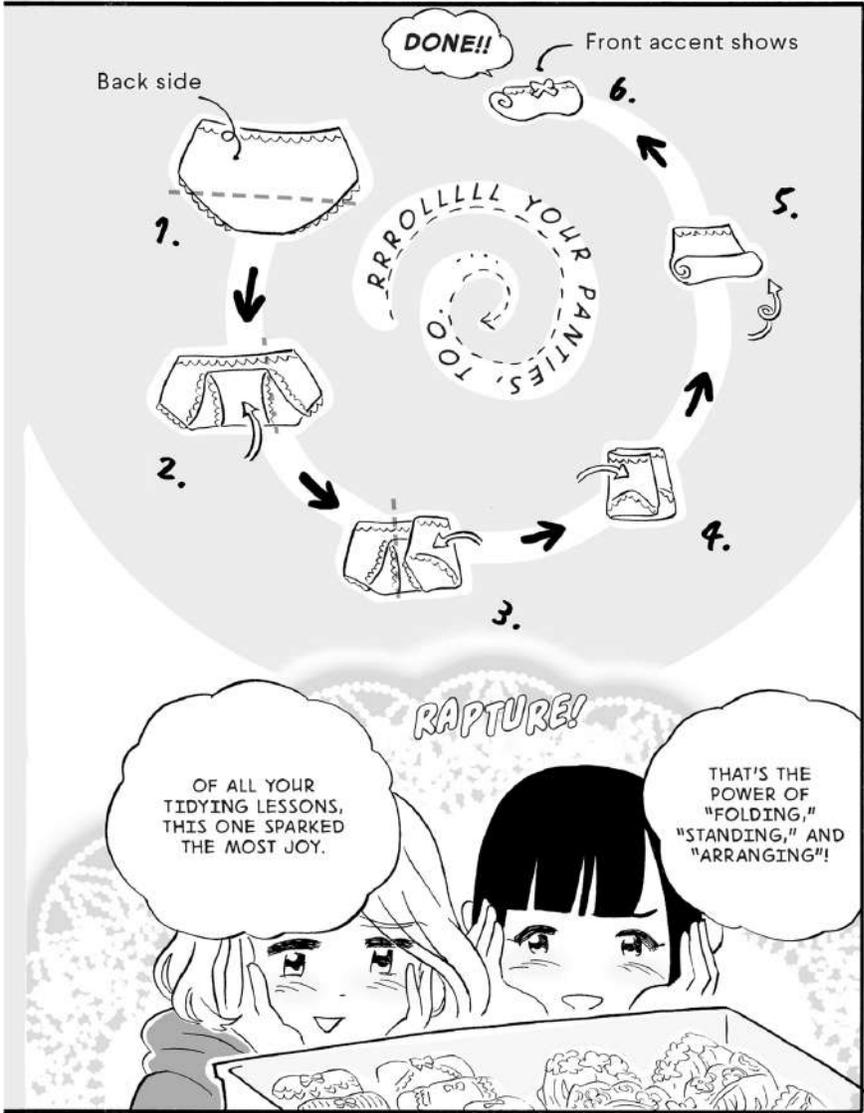


Fold the straps into the cups

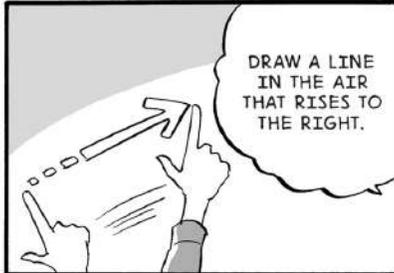


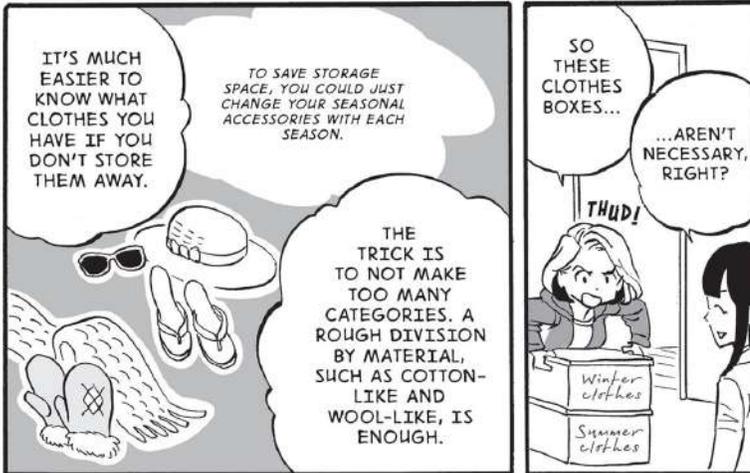
DONE!!

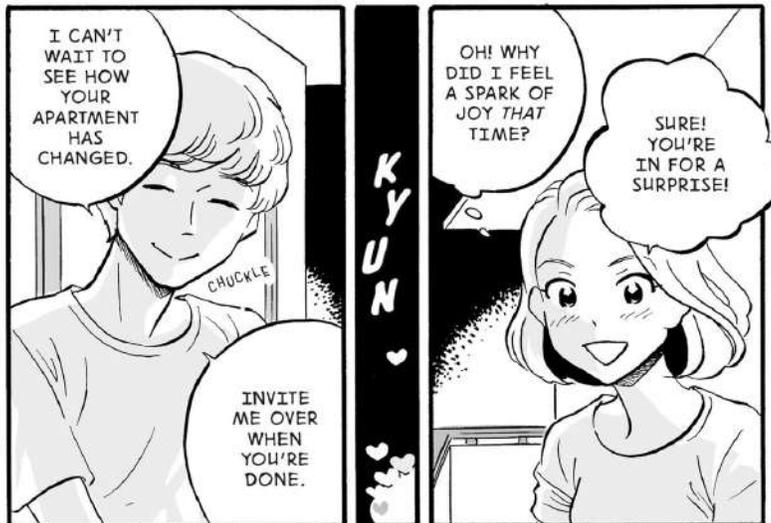
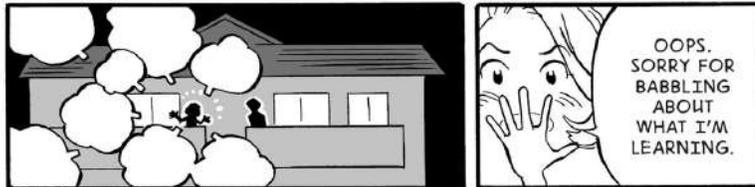
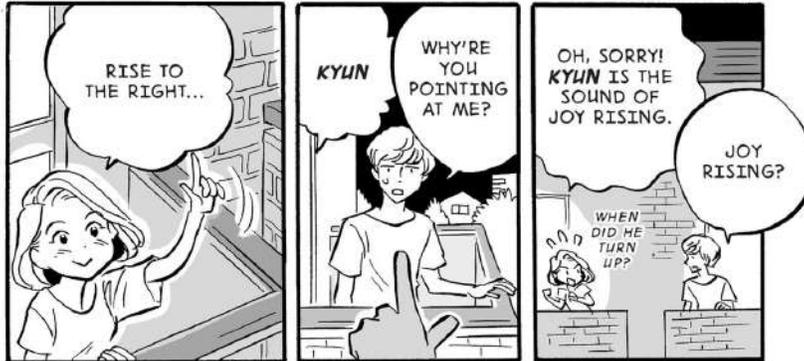












Folding your clothes is an opportunity to show them your appreciation for all they do to support your life.

Do you think folding clothes and storing them in a drawer is a pain? Would you rather just hang them all in the closet? If so, you don't know the power of folding.

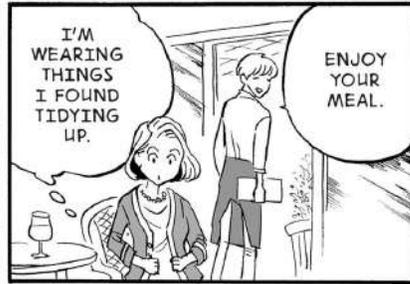
Folding can solve almost all your clothing storage problems. But the real value of folding is this: By touching your clothes with your hands, you pass on your energy. Try folding your clothes with gratitude in your heart for the way they protect you.

6

choose
books
by feel



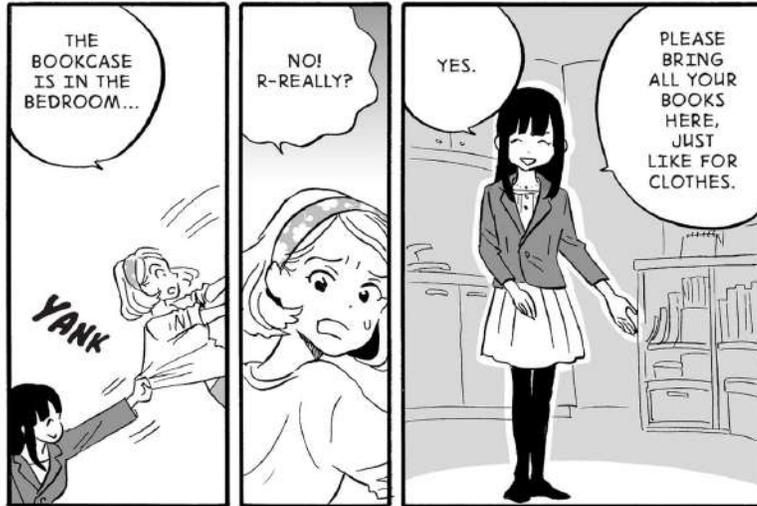














W-WHAT WAS THAT?



I WAS WAKING UP YOUR BOOKS.

BOOKS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN MOVED FOR A WHILE ARE DORMANT, SO IT'S HARD TO JUDGE WHETHER TO KEEP OR DISCARD THEM.

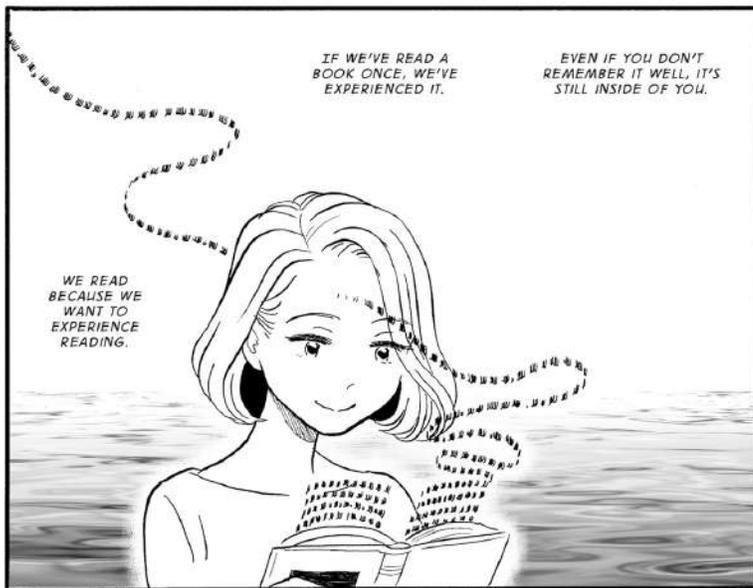
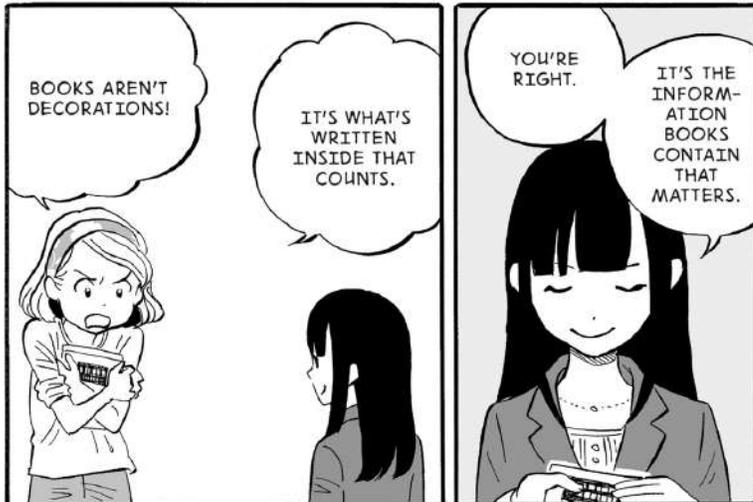


HMMM...?

WAKE YOUR BOOKS BEFORE YOU CHOOSE THEM...?

YES! AND OF COURSE...







FOR BOOK LOVERS, A ROOM STACKED WITH BOOKS... SEEMS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.



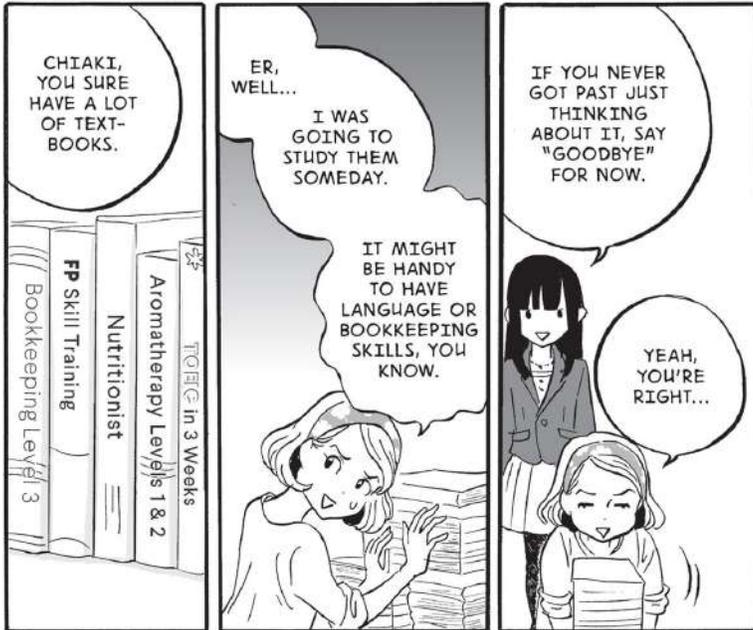
BUT IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT SOME OF THOSE BOOKS HAVE ALREADY FULFILLED THEIR PURPOSE.

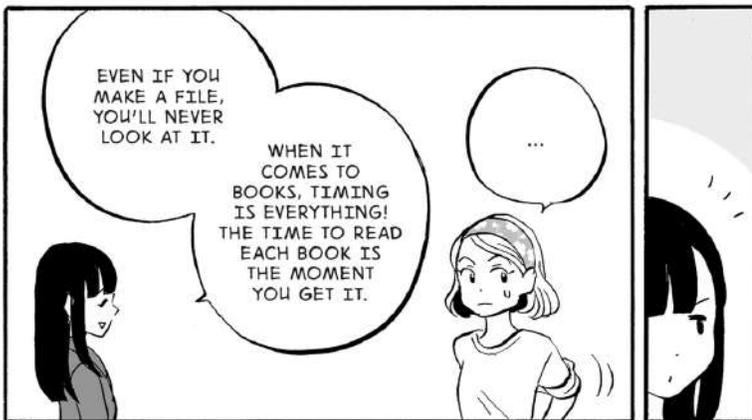
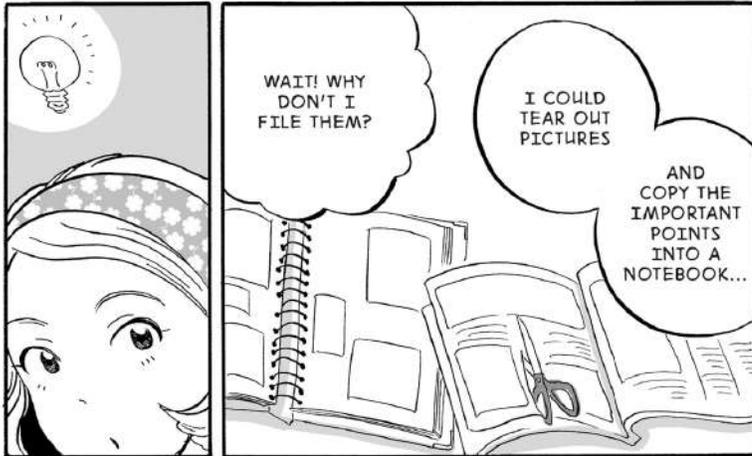


IMAGINE A BOOKSHELF FILLED ONLY WITH BOOKS YOU LOVE.

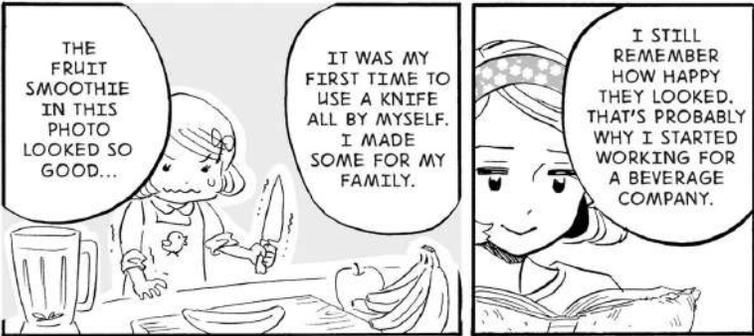
ISN'T THAT THE ULTIMATE DREAM COME TRUE?

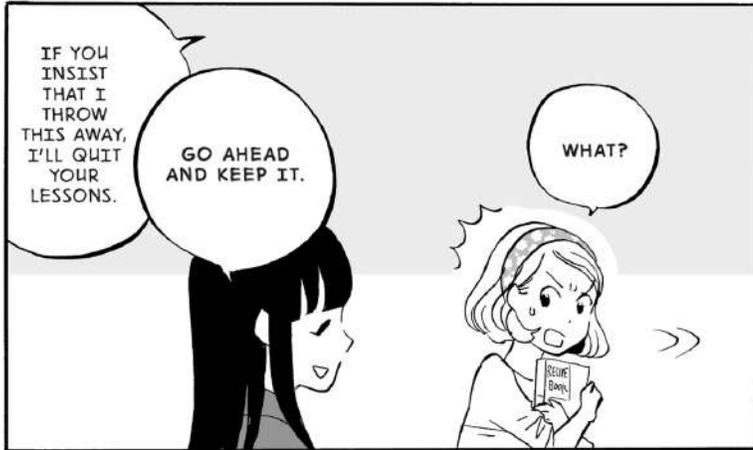










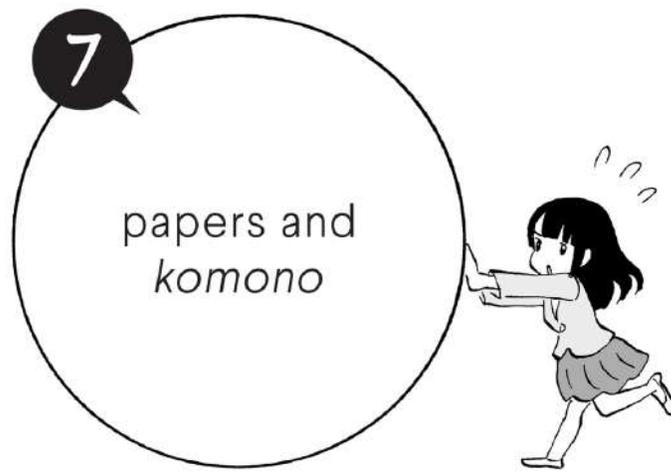


Do you have unread books that you intend to read “someday”? Believe me. “Someday” never comes.

Take all your books off the shelf and put them on the floor. Pick them up one by one and choose which ones you want to keep. Of course, the criterion is whether or not they spark joy. Keep those that belong in your personal Hall of Fame and treasure them.

Take this opportunity to get rid of all your unread, neglected books. When you're left with only those that spark joy, you'll find that the quality of information that comes your way changes dramatically.

By discarding books, you create space for an equivalent amount of information, and you'll soon see that the information you need comes right when you need it.







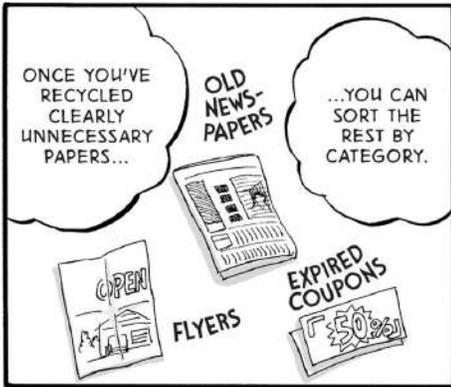




WHOOPS!
CHIAKI,
SAVE
LETTERS
FOR LAST!

SOB

DON'T TREAT
SENTIMENTAL
ITEMS LIKE OLD
LOVE LETTERS AND
DIARIES AS PAPER.
LEAVE THEM TO
THE END.



ONCE YOU'VE
RECYCLED
CLEARLY
UNNECESSARY
PAPERS...

OLD
NEWS-
PAPERS

...YOU CAN
SORT THE
REST BY
CATEGORY.

OPEN
SALE

FLYERS

EXPIRED
COUPONS
50%

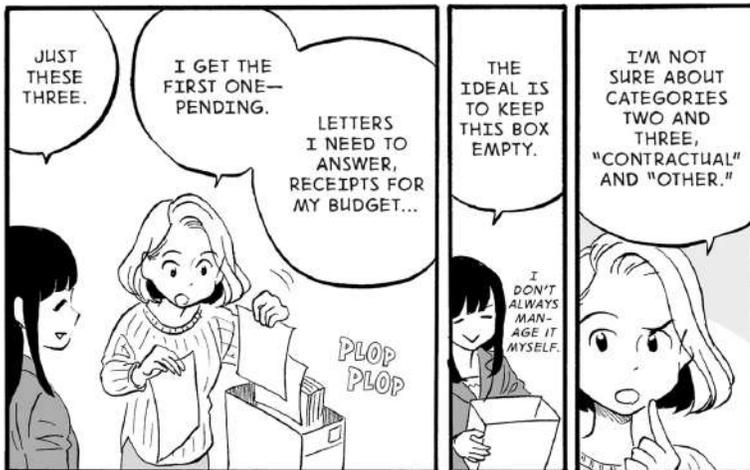
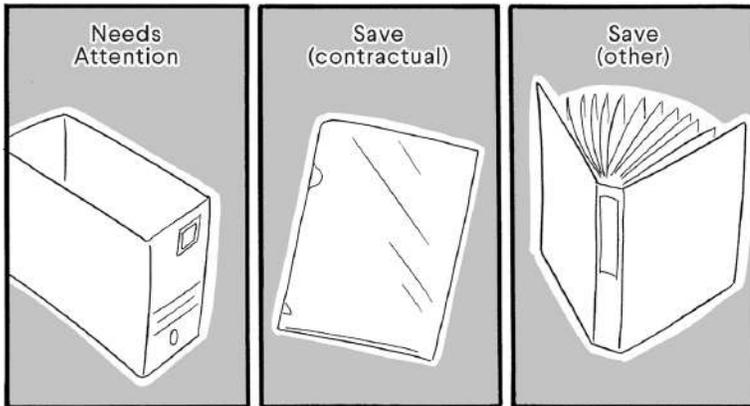


LET'S SEE. WORK-
RELATED, HOME-RELATED,
RECEIPTS, MANUALS,
LETTERS, PAY SLIPS...

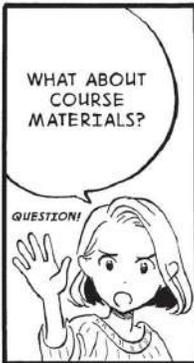
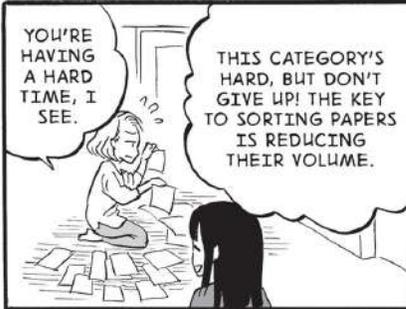
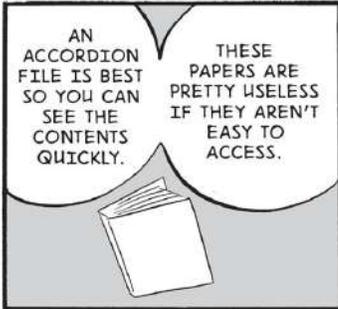
HOW MANY
FILES DO I
NEED?

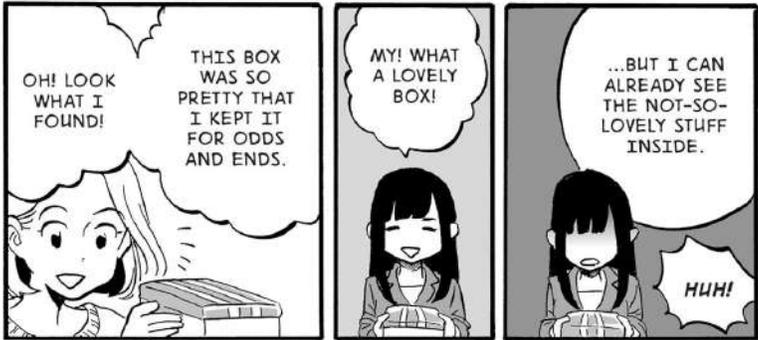


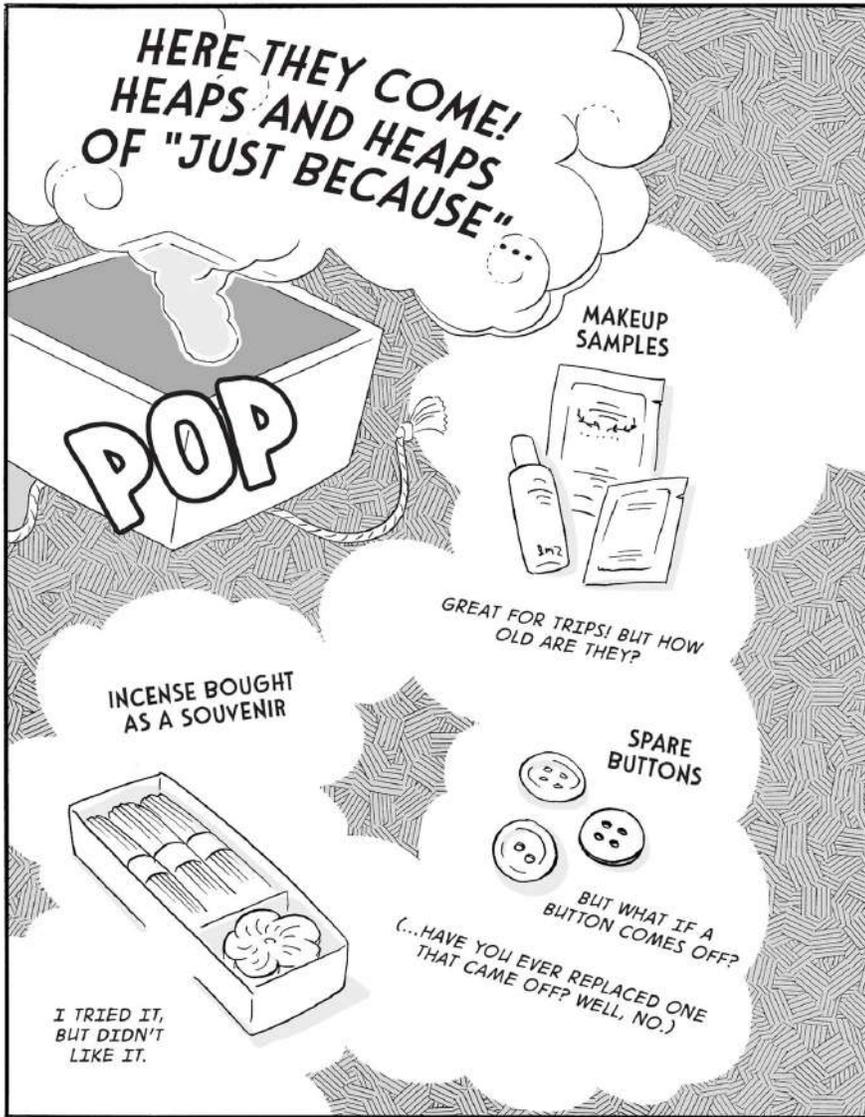
JUST THREE.











HERE THEY COME!
HEAPS AND HEAPS
OF "JUST BECAUSE"

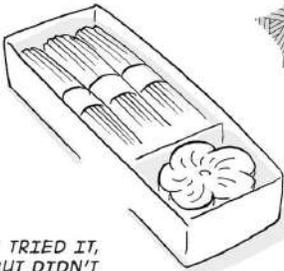
POP

MAKEUP
SAMPLES



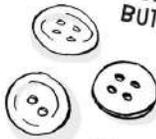
GREAT FOR TRIPS! BUT HOW
OLD ARE THEY?

INCENSE BOUGHT
AS A SOUVENIR



I TRIED IT,
BUT DIDN'T
LIKE IT.

SPARE
BUTTONS



BUT WHAT IF A
BUTTON COMES OFF?
(...HAVE YOU EVER REPLACED ONE
THAT CAME OFF? WELL, NO.)

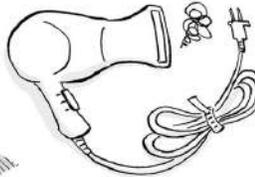


IT'S NOT JUST IN THAT BOX—
YOUR HOME OVERFLOWS
WITH "JUST BECAUSE."

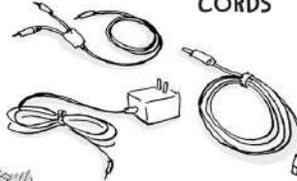
ELECTRONICS
PACKAGES



BROKEN
APPLIANCES



UNIDENTIFIED
CORDS

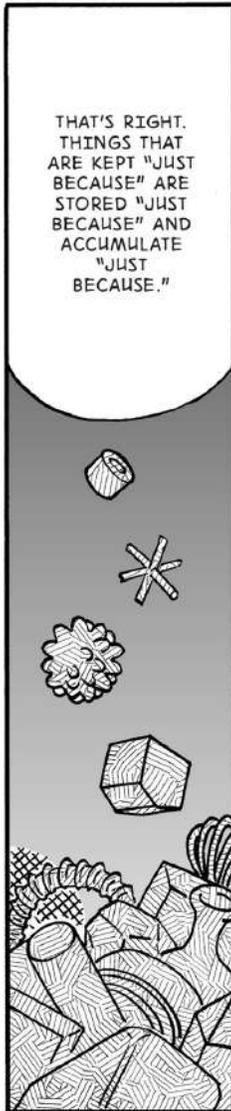


HEALTH FADS

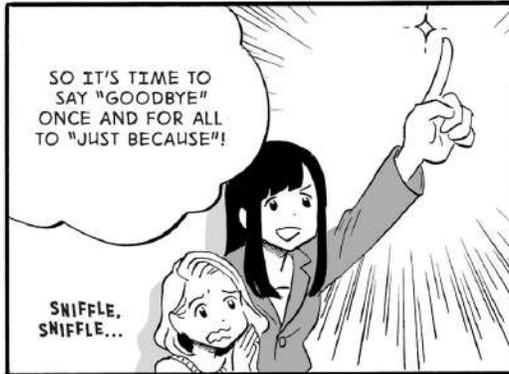


EVERY HOUSE
HAS THEM...





THAT'S RIGHT. THINGS THAT ARE KEPT "JUST BECAUSE" ARE STORED "JUST BECAUSE" AND ACCUMULATE "JUST BECAUSE."



SO IT'S TIME TO SAY "GOODBYE" ONCE AND FOR ALL TO "JUST BECAUSE"!

SNIFFLE, SNIFFLE...



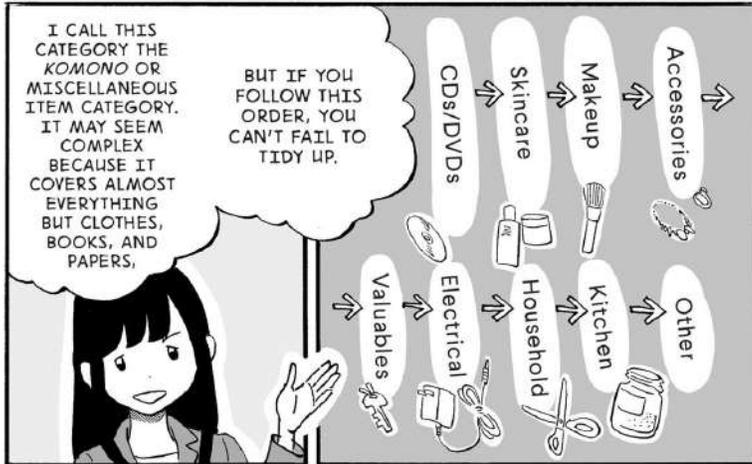
I SEEM TO HAVE LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE "JUST BECAUSE"...

LOOKING AT ALL THIS STUFF MAKES ME SO MAD...



NO, NO, CHIAKI. THESE ALL PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN SUPPORTING YOUR LIFE.

SO TOUCH EACH ONE AND BID IT "FAREWELL."



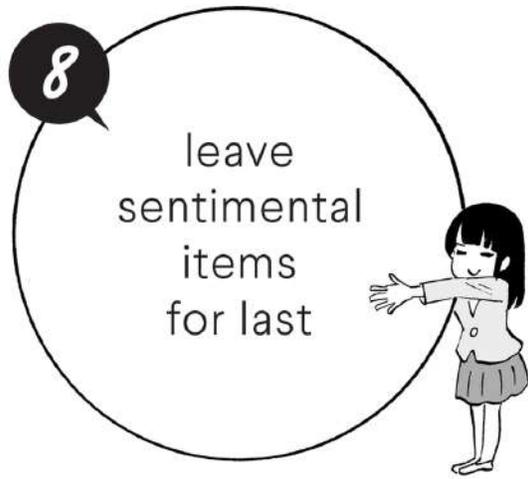




The rule of thumb for papers is to discard them all. Keep only those that you're certain you will use in the future.

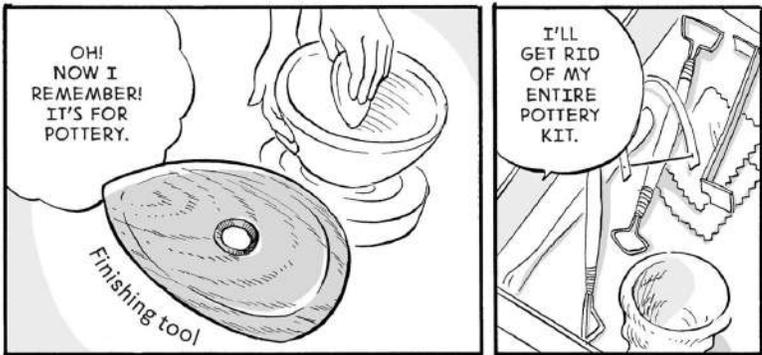
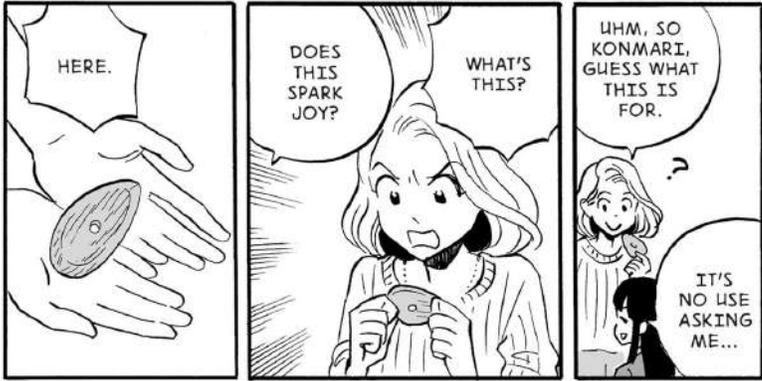
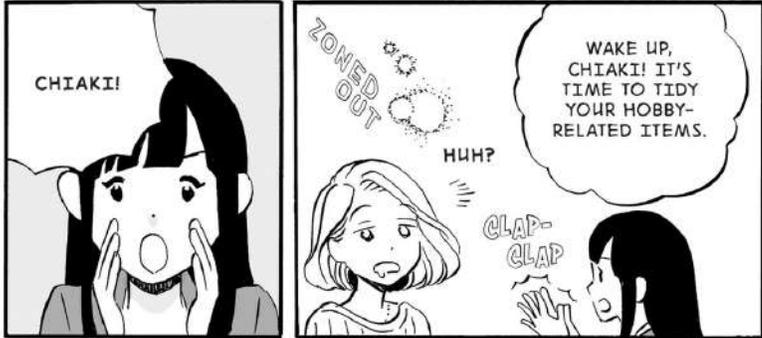
Discard any papers that don't fall into one of the following three categories: those you are currently using, those you will need for a limited period of time, and those that you need to keep indefinitely.

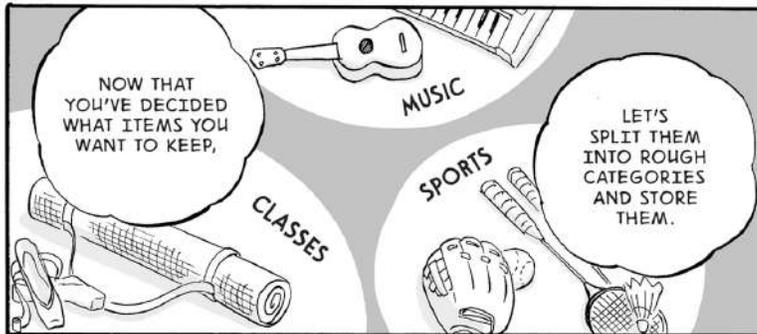
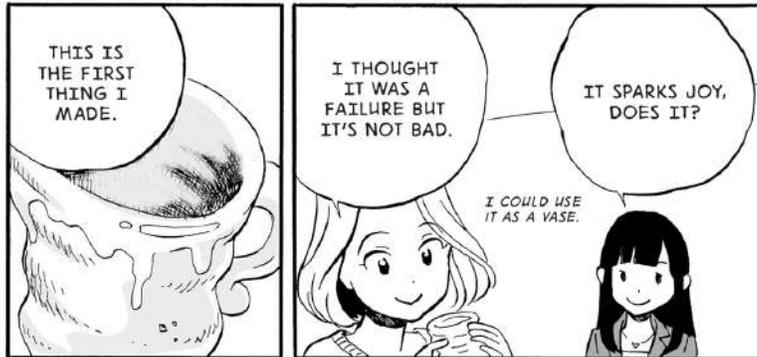
Put all those papers that require action, such as letters you need to respond to or bills you need to pay, in a "Pending" box, set a date for dealing with them, and tackle them all in one go. Unfinished business like this weighs on the mind far more than we realize. You'll feel much better if you get this job out of the way quickly.

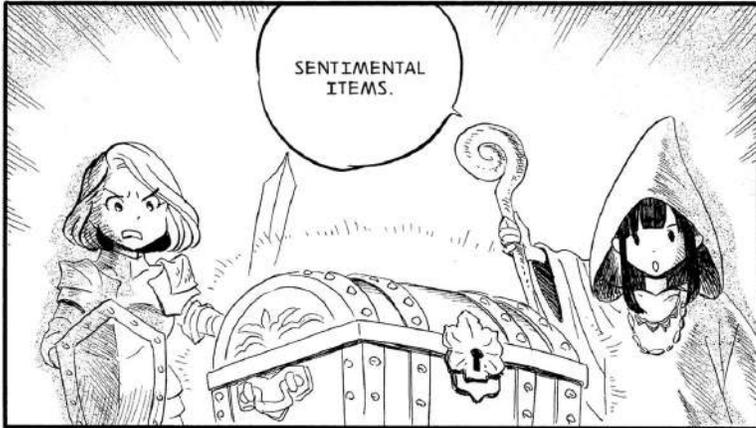
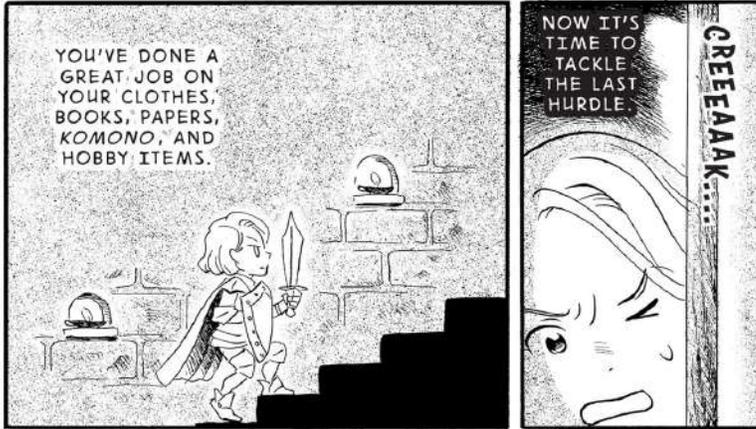




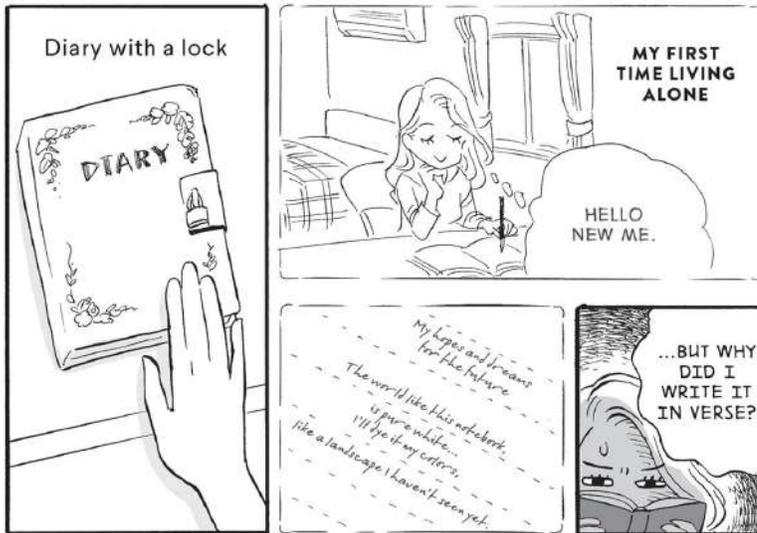
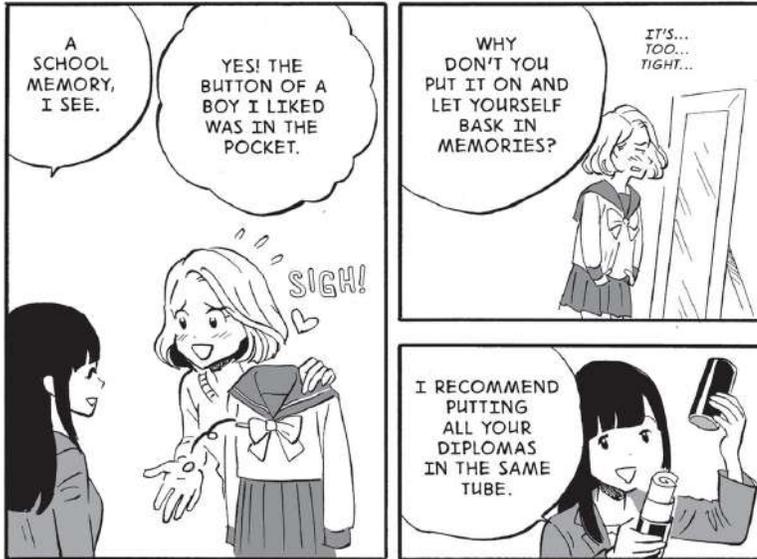


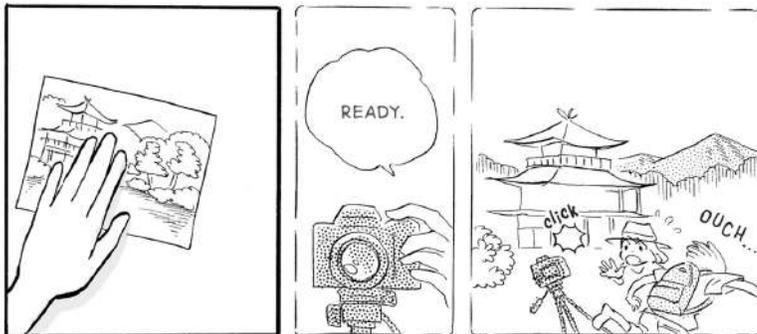


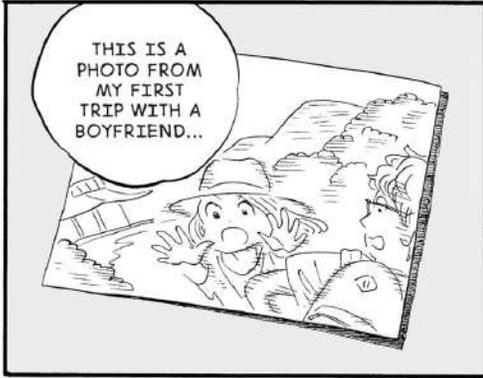


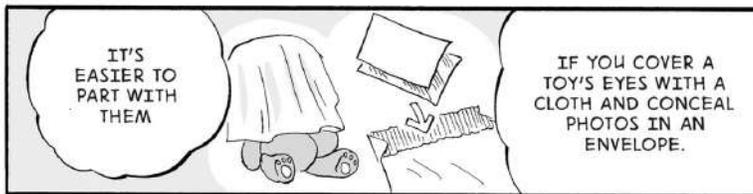
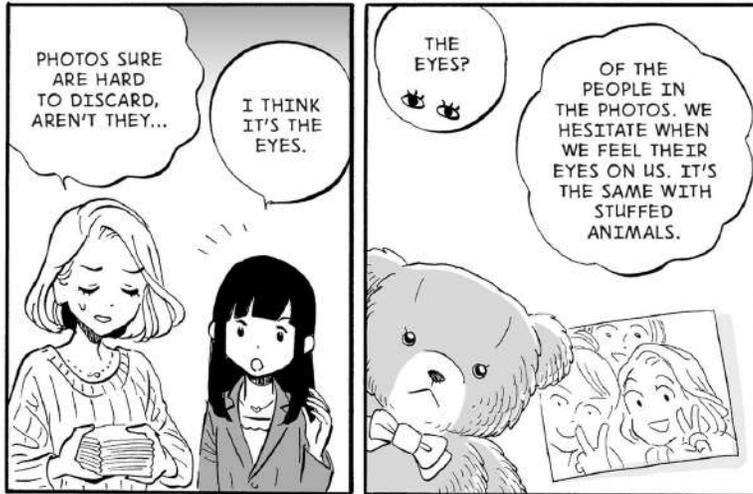


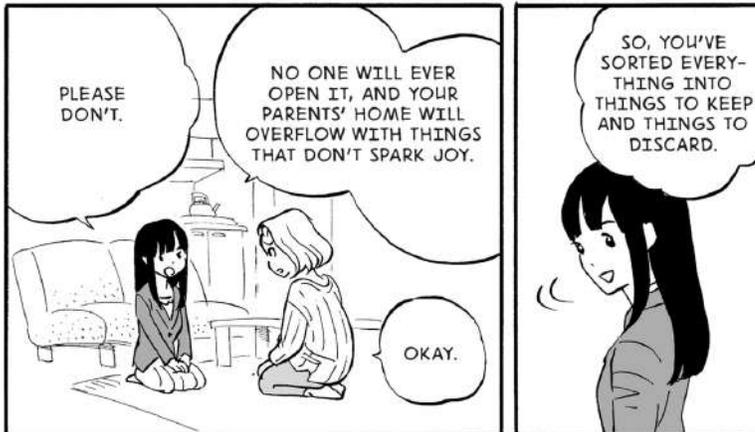
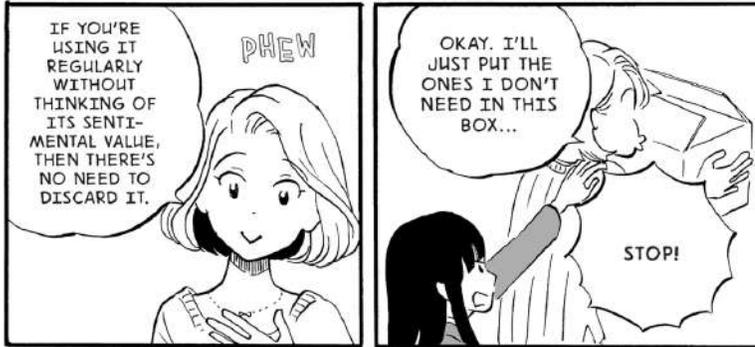


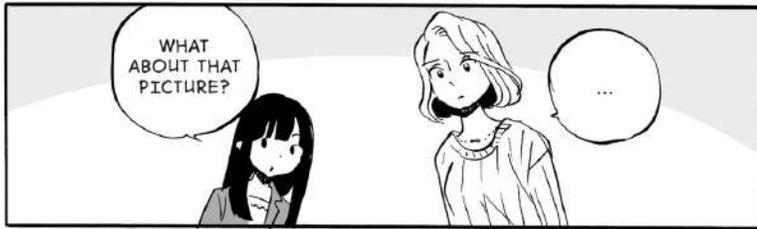
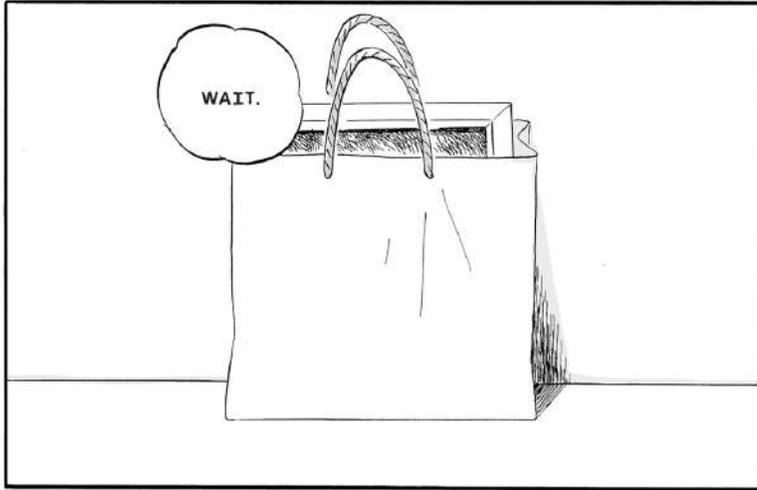




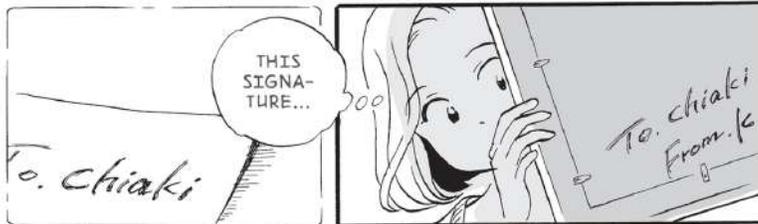
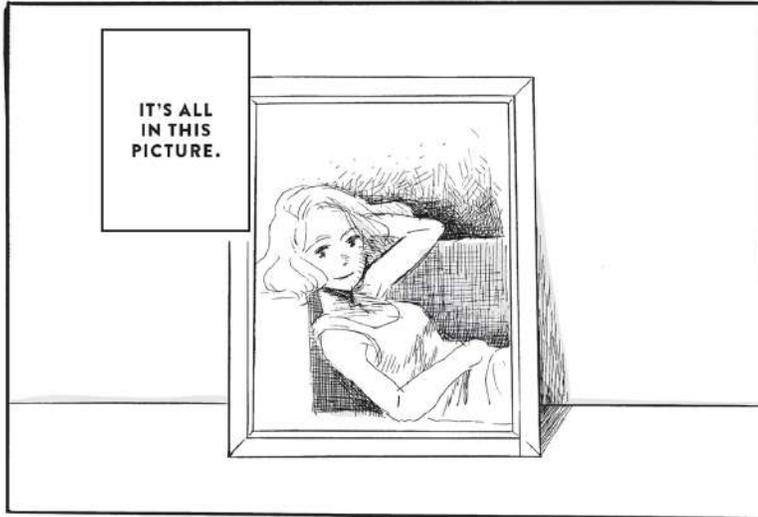


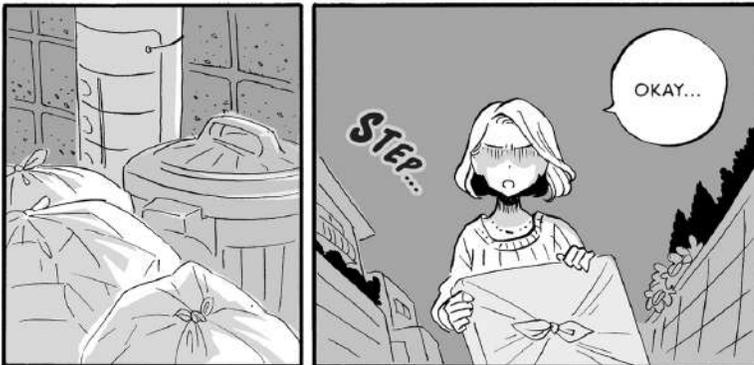
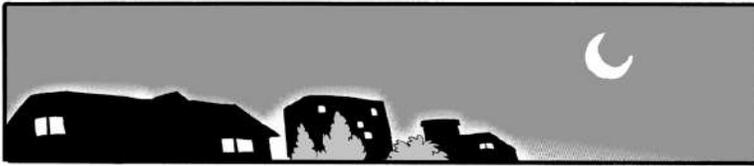
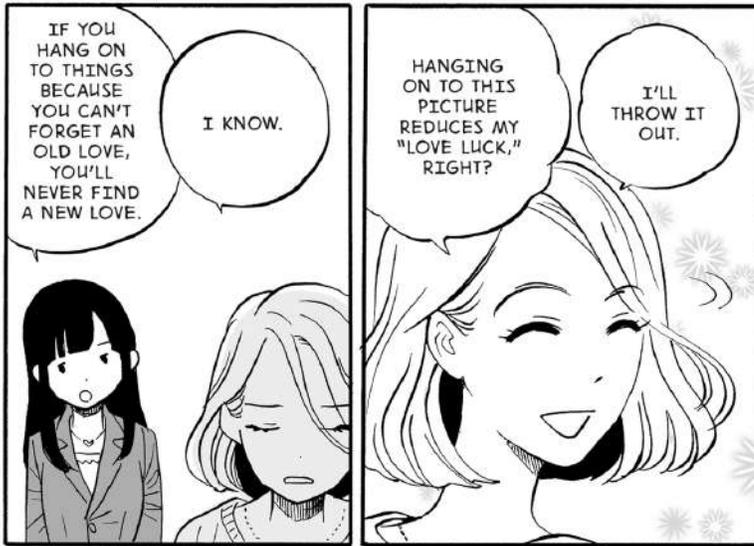


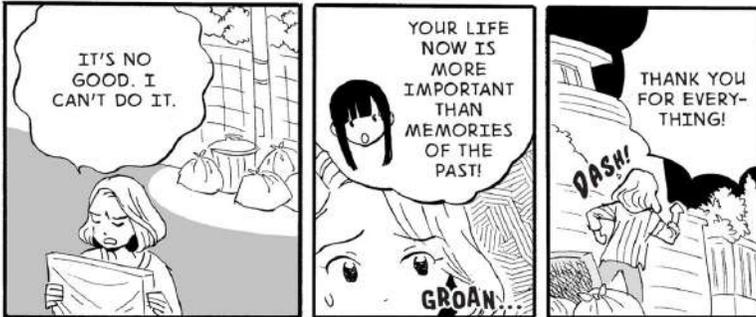




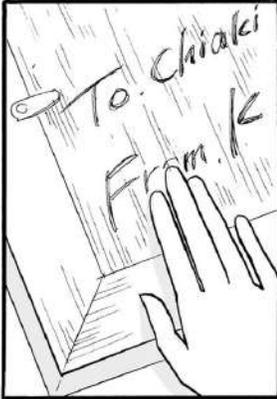




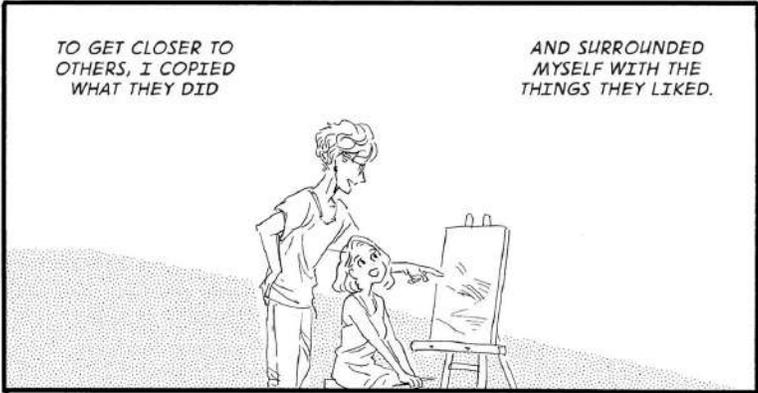






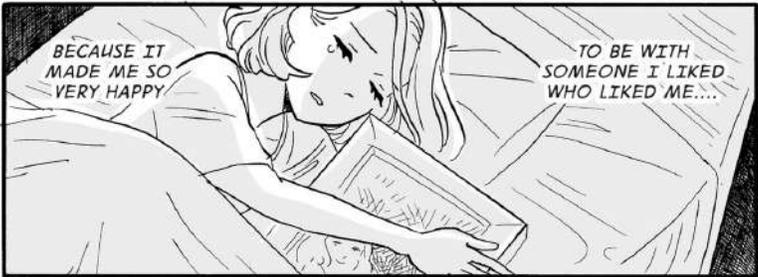


JUST DRIFTING
ALONG, AM I?



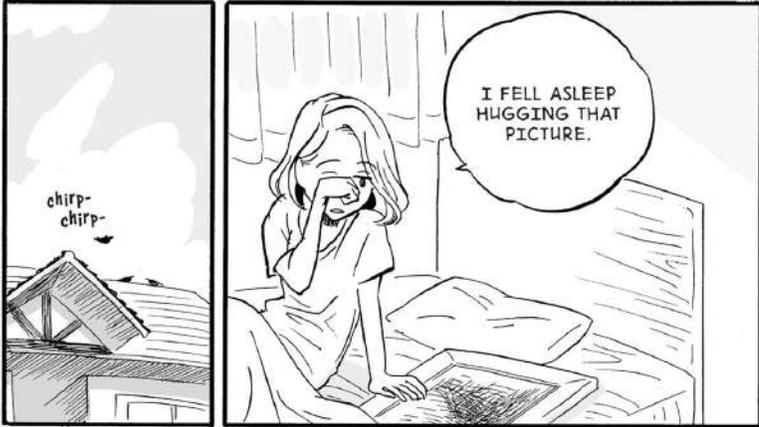
TO GET CLOSER TO
OTHERS, I COPIED
WHAT THEY DID

AND SURROUNDED
MYSELF WITH THE
THINGS THEY LIKED.



BECAUSE IT
MADE ME SO
VERY HAPPY

TO BE WITH
SOMEONE I LIKED
WHO LIKED ME....



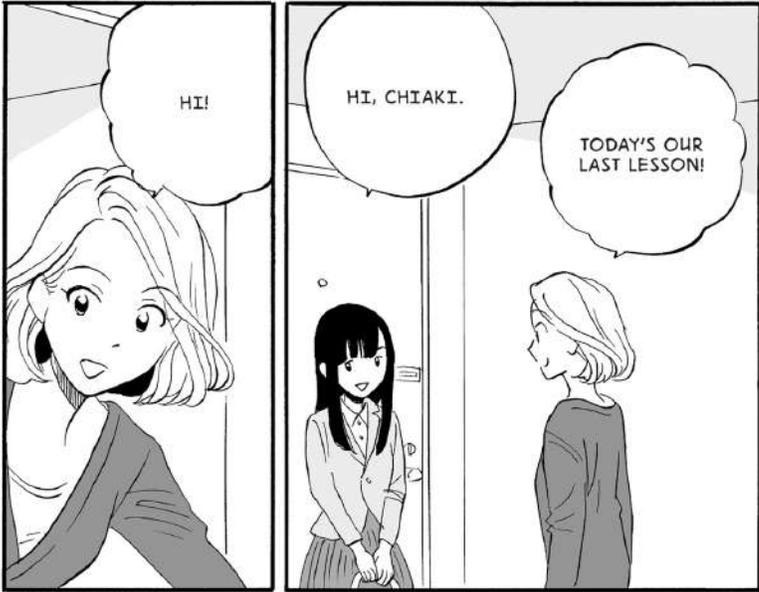


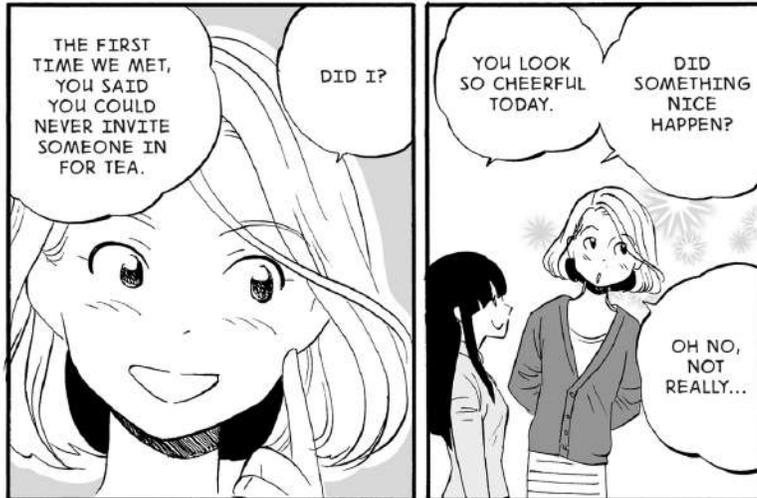
We live in this moment. Who you are now is more important than memories of your past. Be good to yourself.

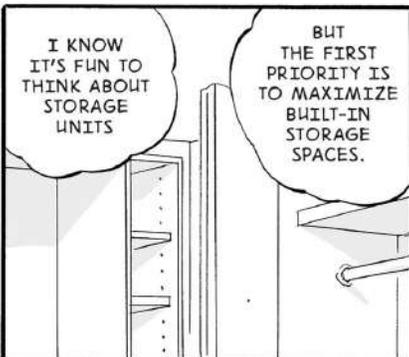
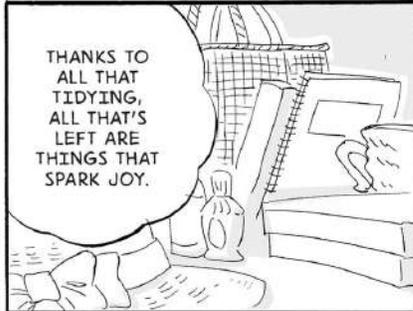
It is so hard to let go of things that once brought us joy and are filled with precious memories. It feels like we are losing the memories along with them. But that is not the case. Memories that are truly precious will never be forgotten, even if we discard an item associated with them.

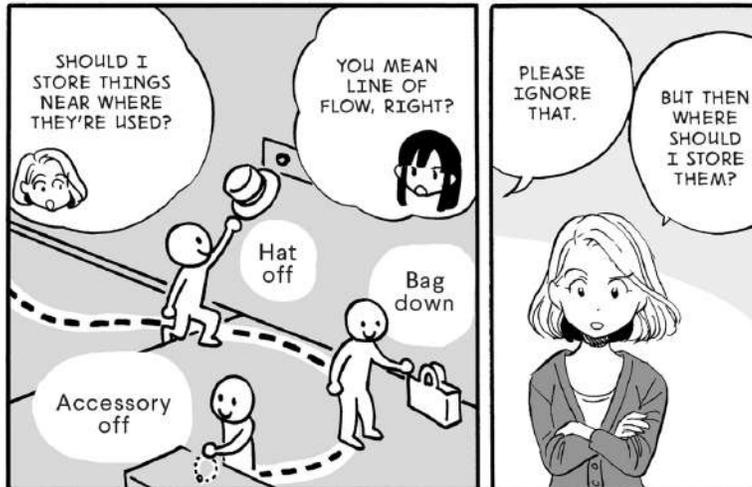
What really matters is not the past but the person we have now become, thanks to those past experiences. We should use our space not for the person we once were, but for our future selves.



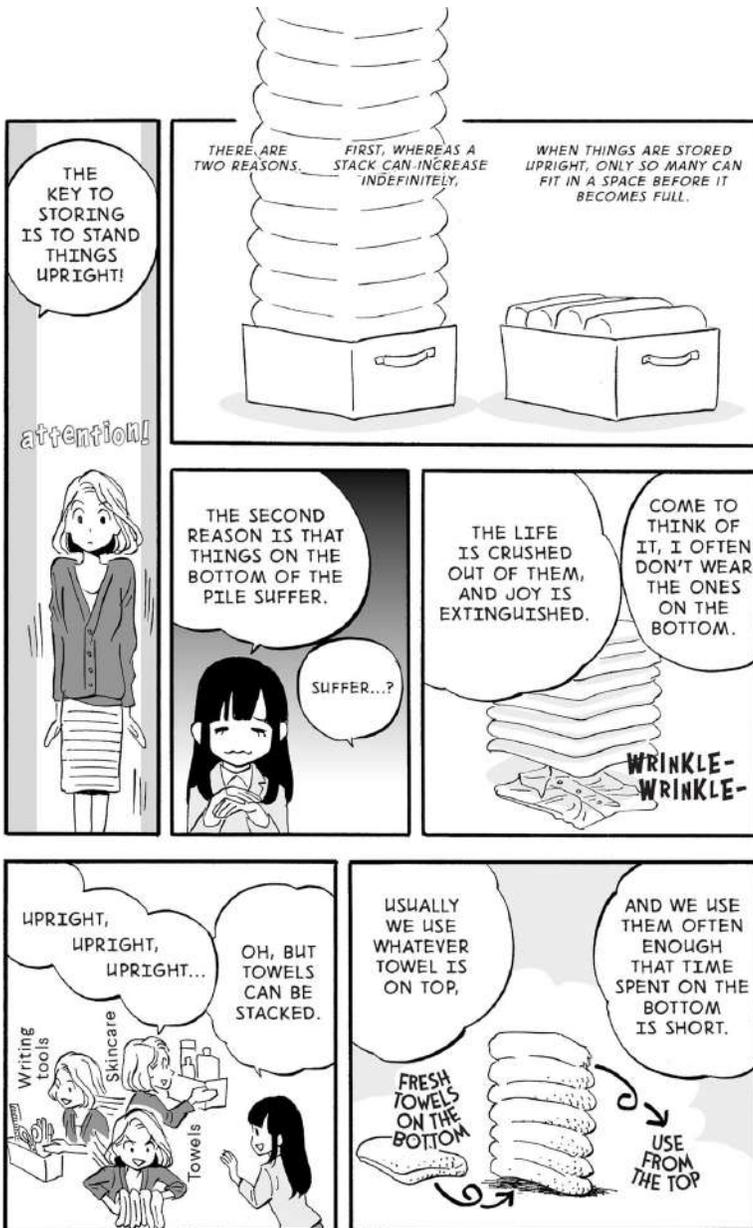


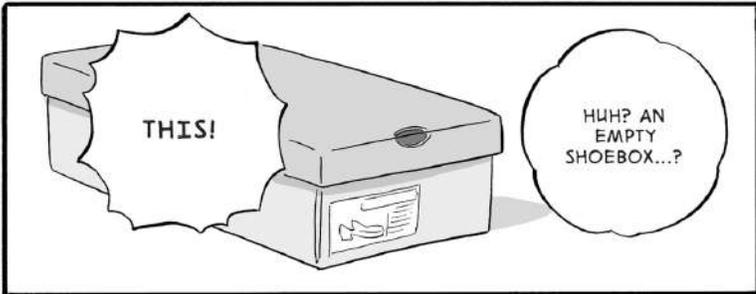


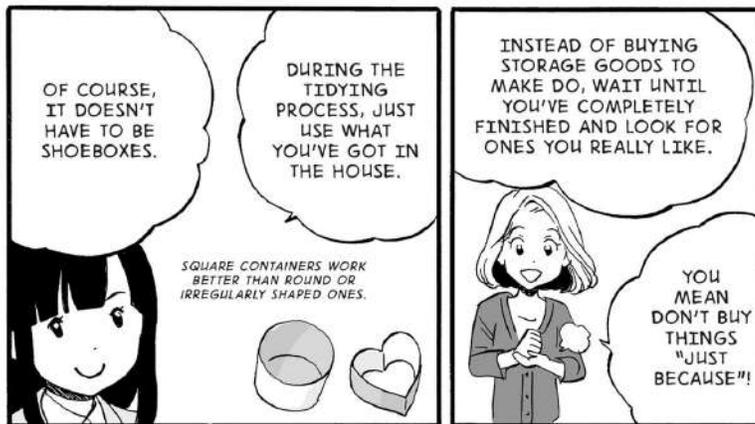
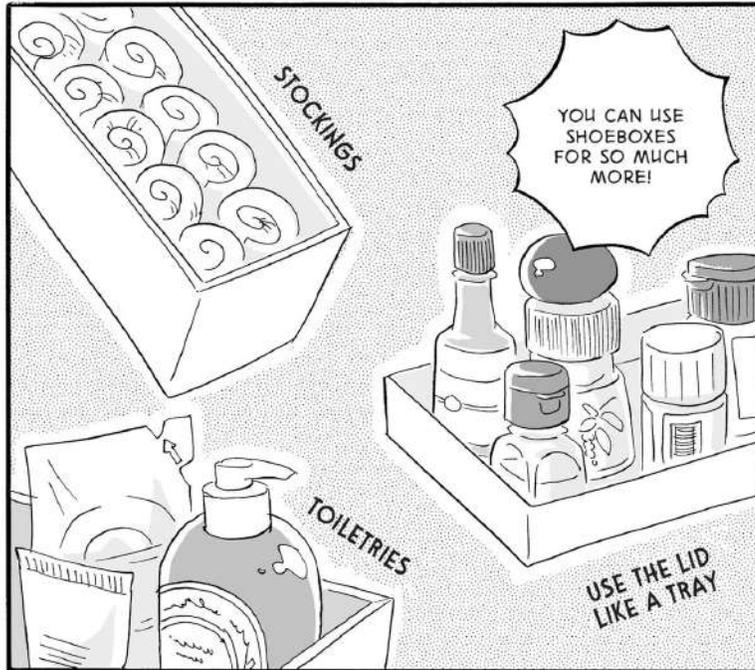


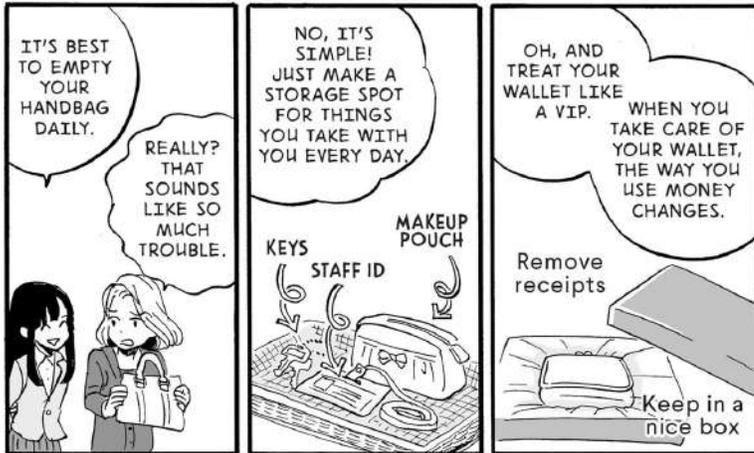


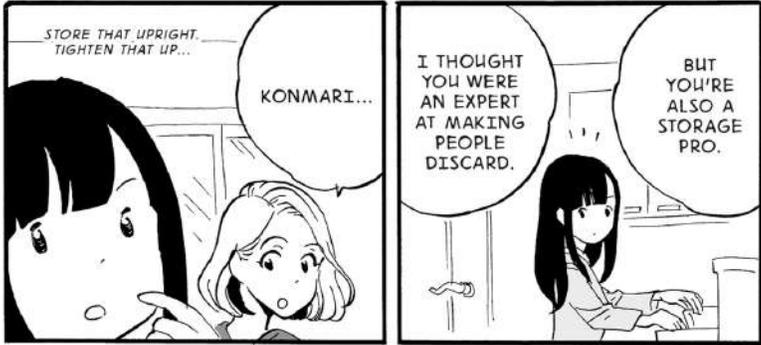


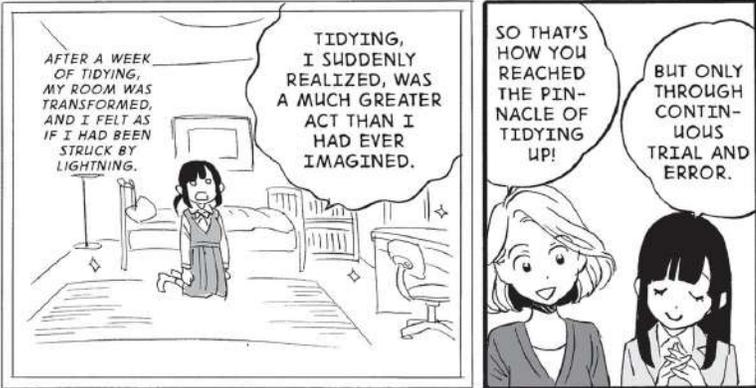
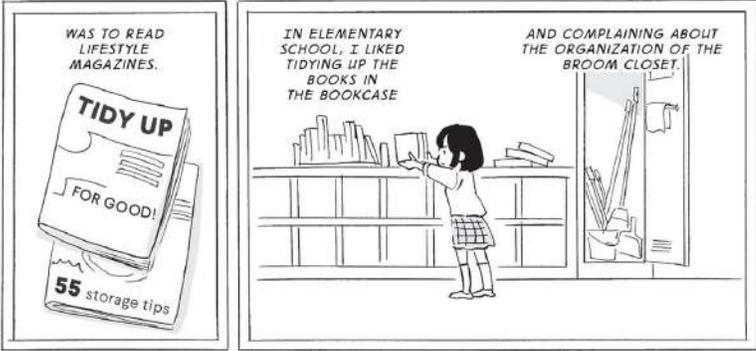


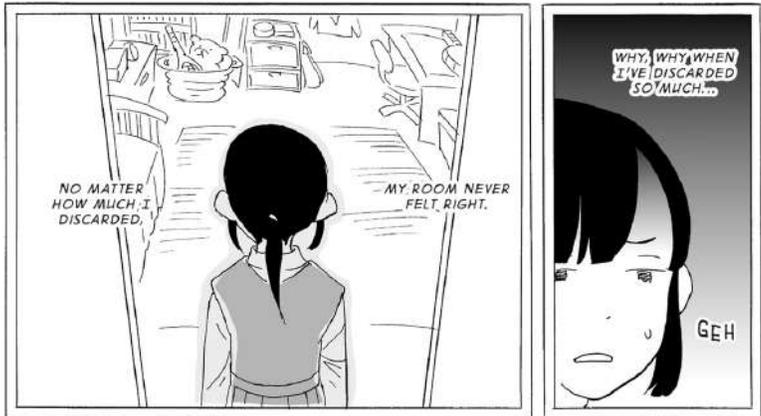


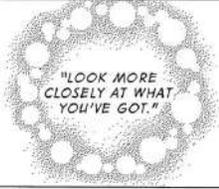
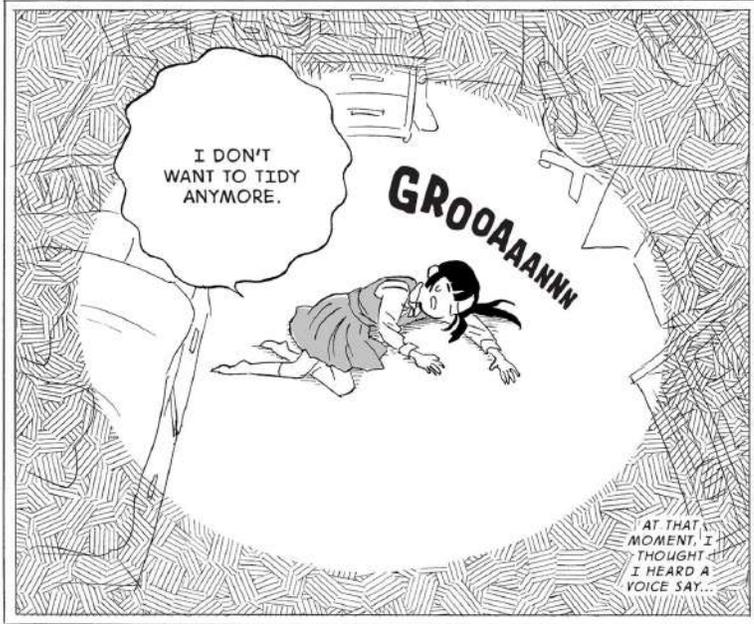


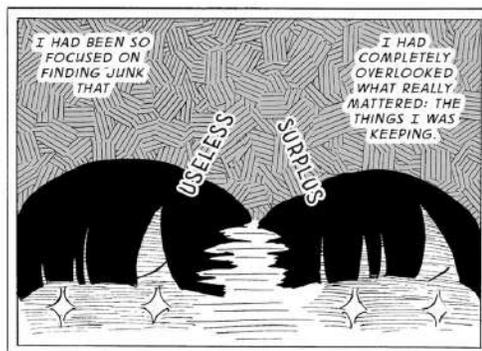


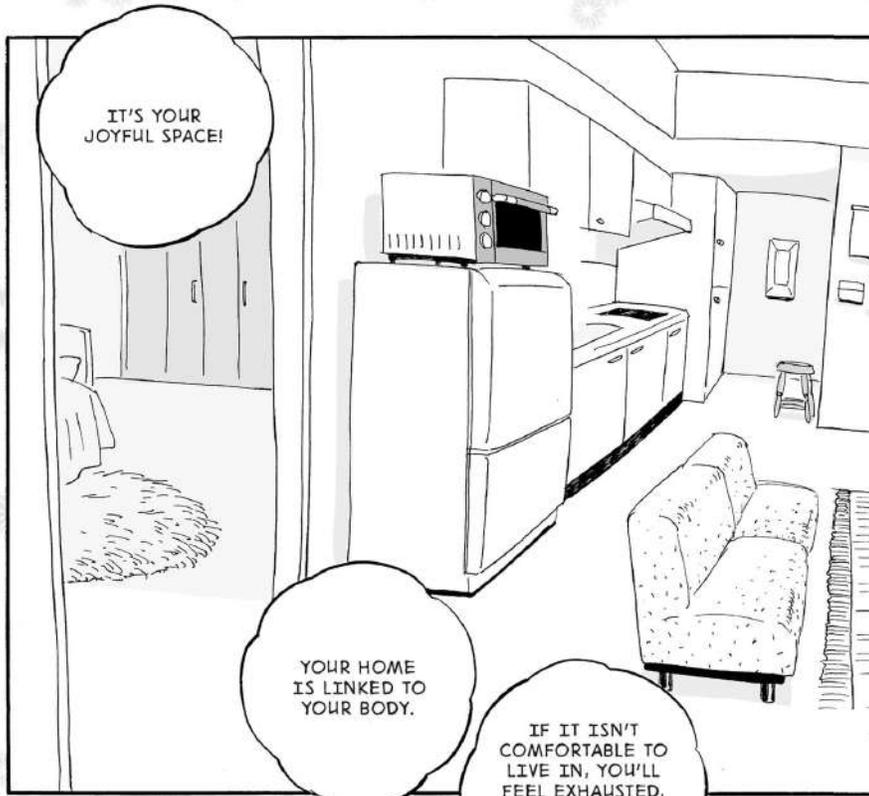














CHIAKI, YOU'RE
JUST AS RADIANT AS
THIS ROOM WE'RE IN
RIGHT NOW.

Designate a “home” for each thing
and store it where it belongs.

Although we may not be aware of it, our belongings work hard to support us every day. Just as we like to come home and relax after a long day's work, our things breathe a sigh of relief when they are returned to where they belong. It's very important to give our things the security of having a place to come home to.

Things that are returned each day to their designated place are different. They have a special glow. If we take good care of our possessions, they will take good care of us.

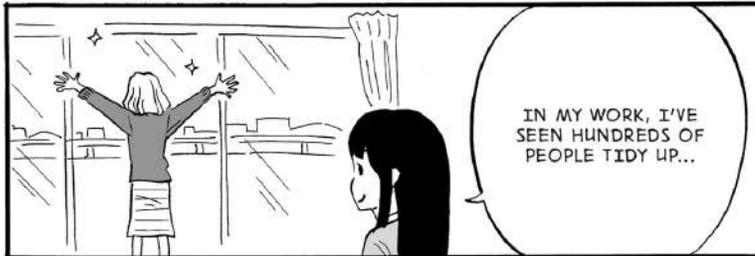
10



real life
begins after
putting
your house
in order







IN MY WORK, I'VE SEEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TIDY UP...



BUT IT NEVER FAILS TO MOVE ME.



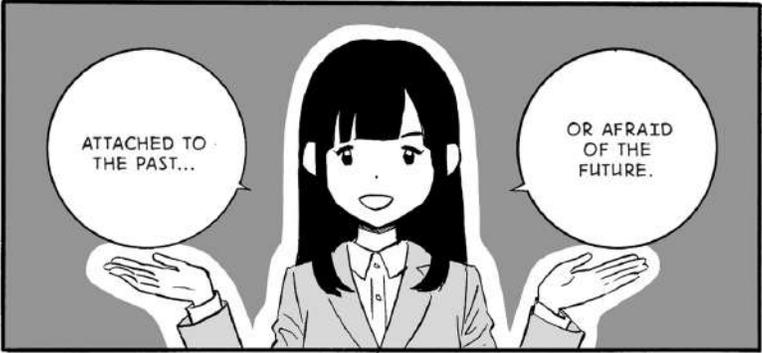
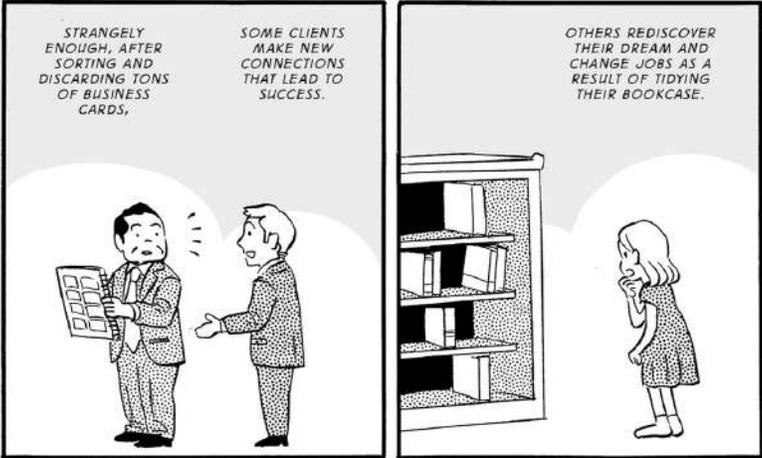
WITHOUT EXCEPTION THEIR LIVES CHANGE DRAMATICALLY,

EVEN THOUGH THEIR HOMES AND POSSESSIONS ARE VERY DIFFERENT.



THAT'S WHY I CALL THIS...

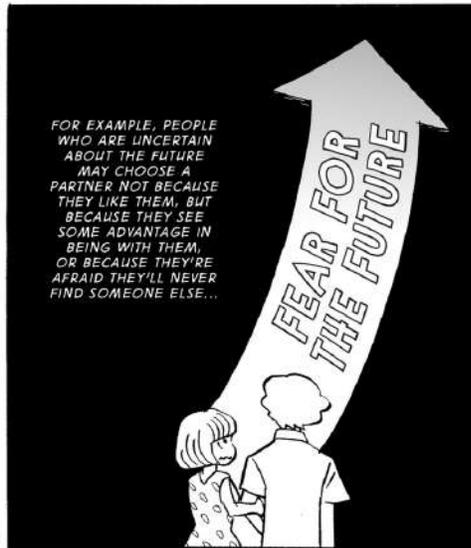
THE *MAGIC* OF TIDYING UP.







IT'S A SIGN THAT OUR SELECTION STANDARDS AREN'T CLEAR, NOT ONLY FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THINGS BUT ALSO WITH PEOPLE, OUR JOBS, AND OUR LIVES.



FOR EXAMPLE, PEOPLE WHO ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE MAY CHOOSE A PARTNER NOT BECAUSE THEY LIKE THEM, BUT BECAUSE THEY SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN BEING WITH THEM, OR BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL NEVER FIND SOMEONE ELSE...



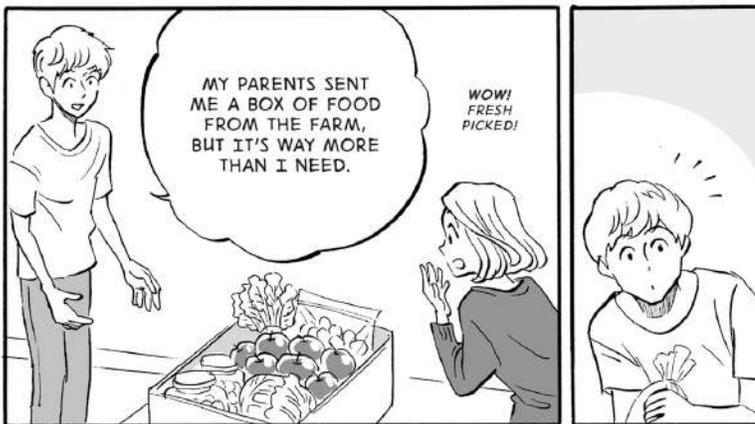
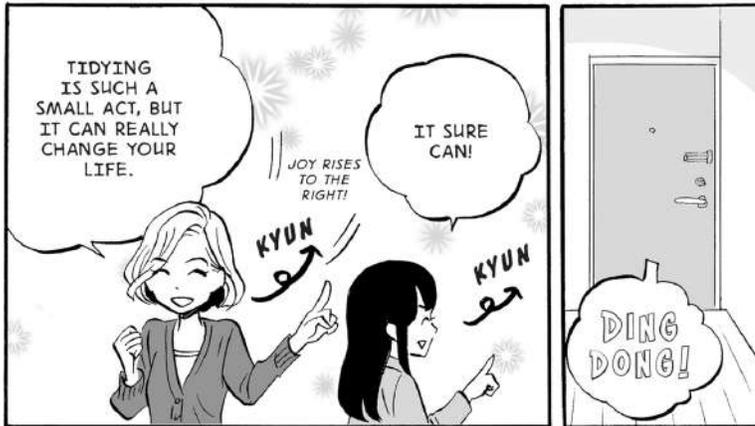
PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE PAST MAY BE AFRAID TO MOVE ON TO A NEW RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FORGET A PREVIOUS ONE.



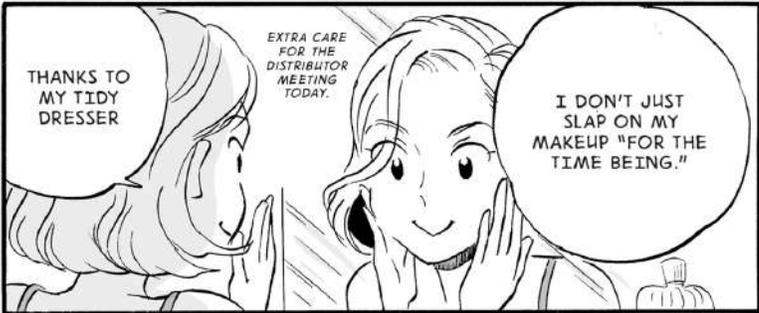
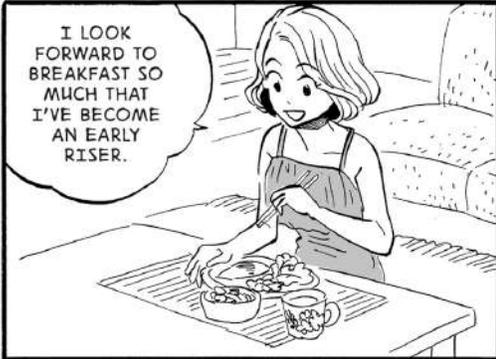
SO TIDYING IS REALLY A WAY TO CONFRONT THAT STATE AND SET YOURSELF FREE...

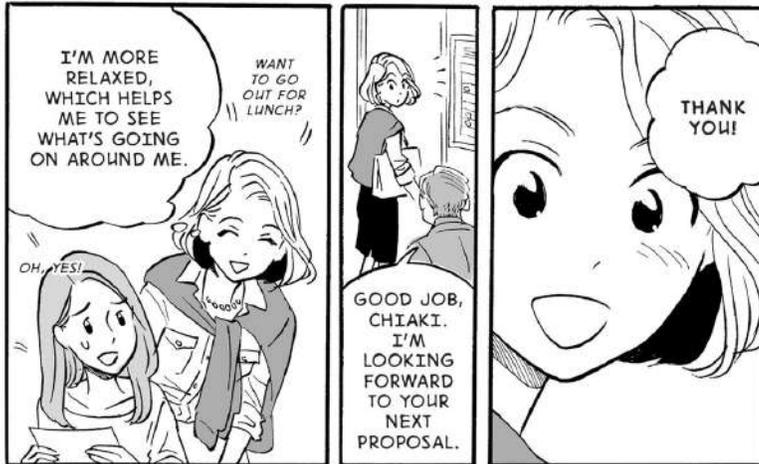
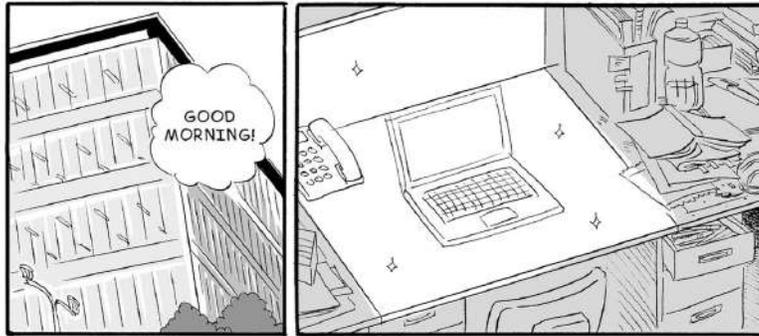


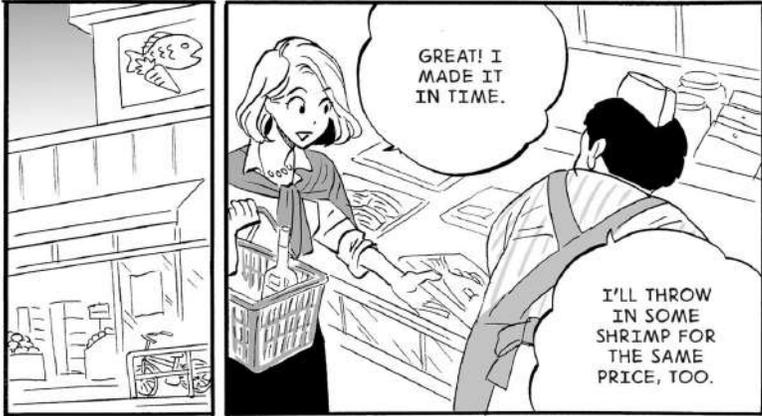


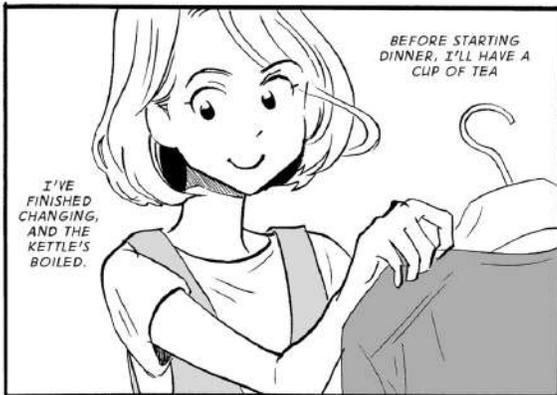




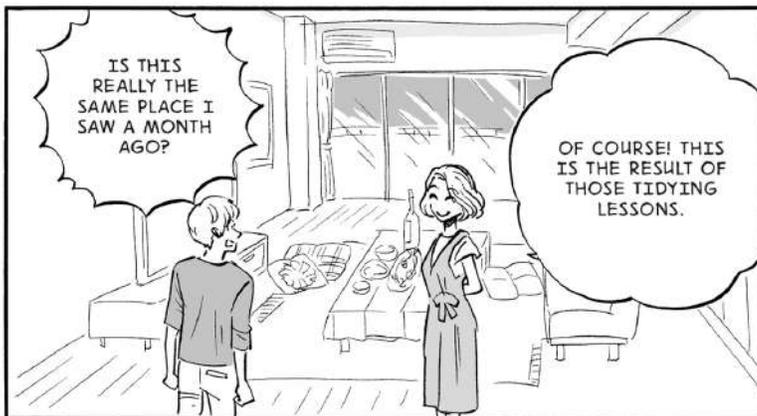
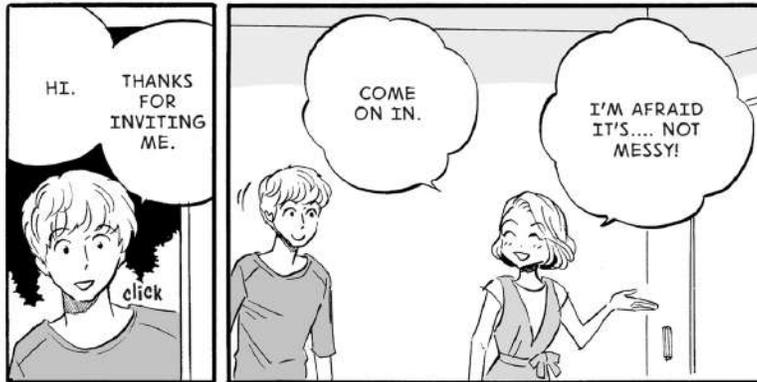




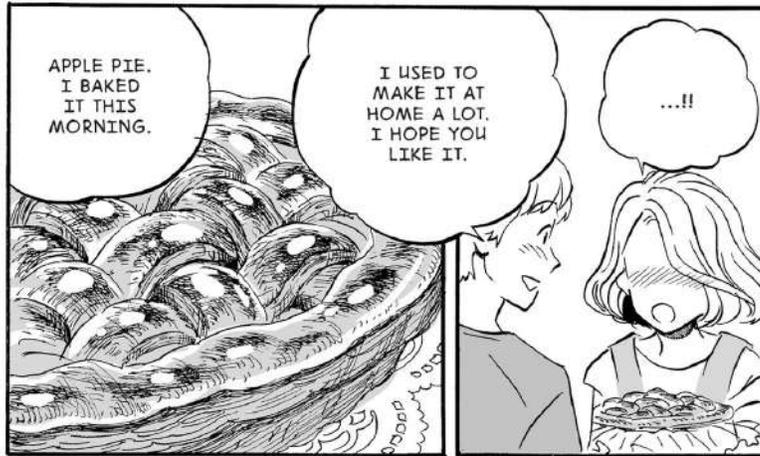












afterword

As a tidying consultant, I have seen how tidying up sparks joy in the lives of many people.

Work, relationships, falling in love . . . the magic of tidying up positively impacts every aspect of life.

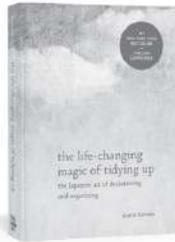
If you want to spark more joy in your life, try tidying up by following the advice in this manga. The effect will be even greater than you expect.

I hope that through tidying you will experience joy in your life every day.

about the author and illustrator



MARIE KONDO is the founder and chief visionary officer of KonMari Media Inc. and author of the #1 *New York Times* best seller *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, which has sold more than six million copies worldwide, has been translated into over forty languages, and has been turned into a Japanese television drama. She is also the author of *New York Times* best seller *Spark Joy* and the companion journal, *Life-Changing Magic: A Journal*. Kondo has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and on the *Today* show, and has been named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People. Visit www.konmari.com.



YUKO URAMOTO is a renowned manga artist who was born in Fukuoka, Japan. In 2011 she was awarded the Grand Prize in the Shueisha Aoharu Manga Awards. Her works include *Kanojo no kabu* (Her Curves), *Tsubakiso* (Camellia House No. 101), *Kabantoridori* (Different Bags), and *Hanayome miman* (Less Than Married).

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