

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

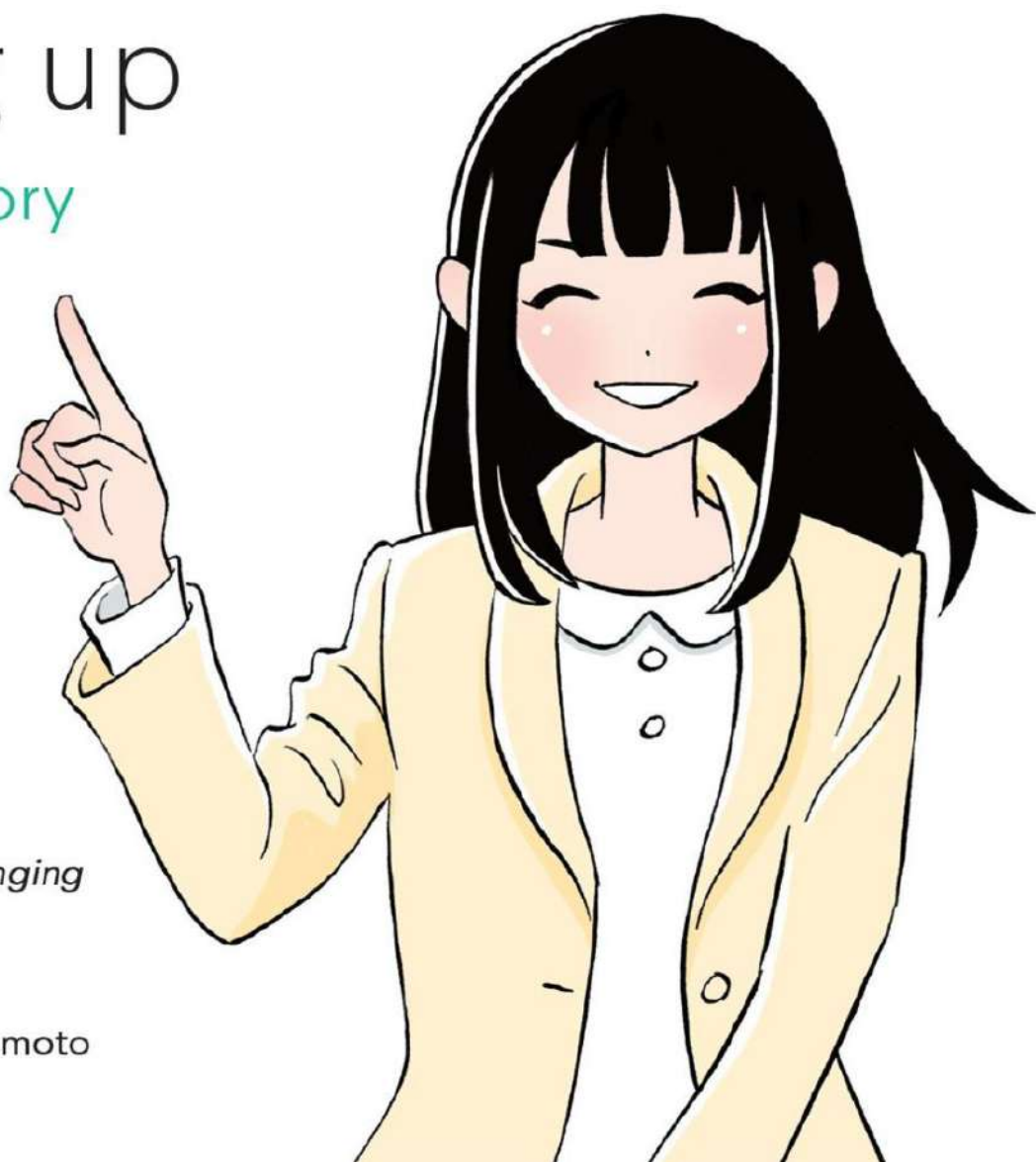
the  
life-changing  
*manga* of  
tidying up  
a magical story

marie  
kondo

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

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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

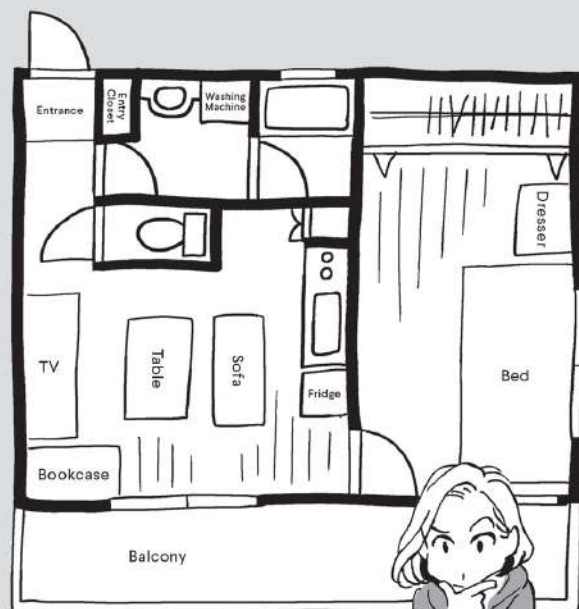
Good-looking guy who lives in  
the apartment next to Chiaki's.  
Works as a cook at a café.  
Likes to keep things tidy.





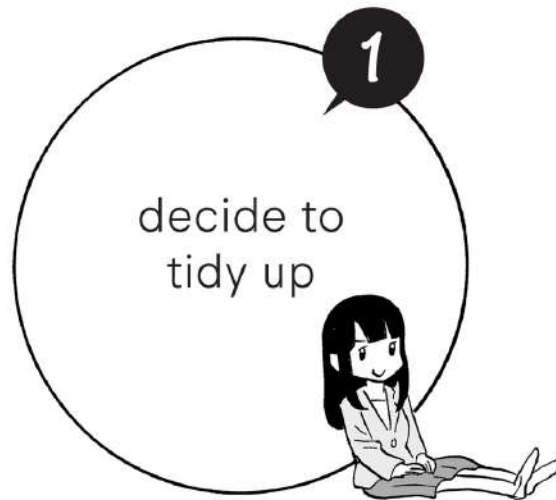
You really want to tidy up, but  
you don't believe you can. If this  
describes you, don't worry. You, too,  
can be just like Chiaki in this story.

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Chiaki's Apartment











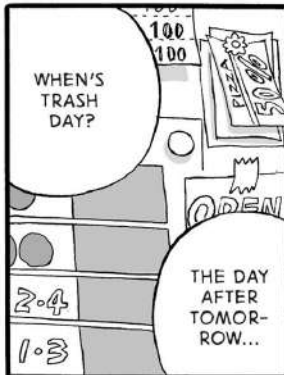
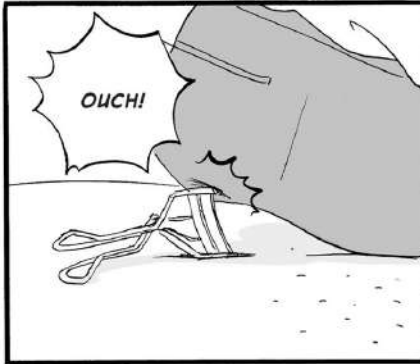










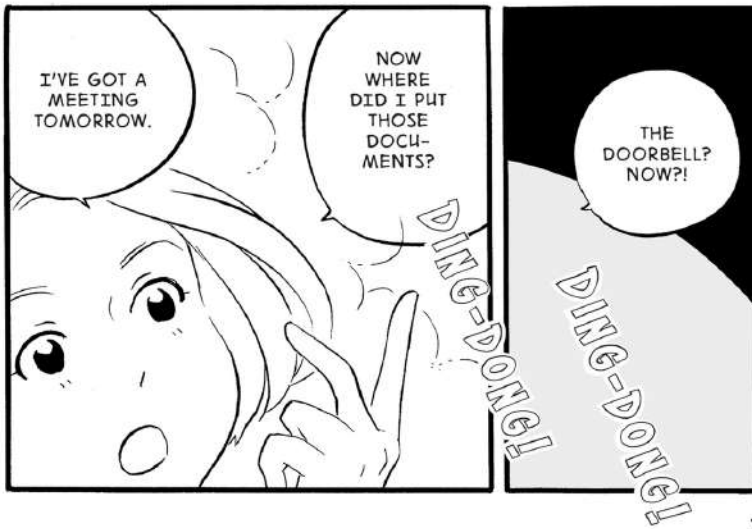






























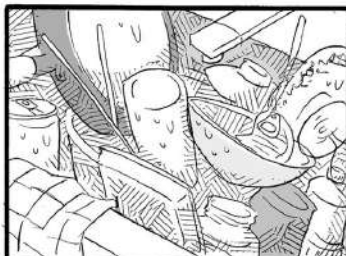






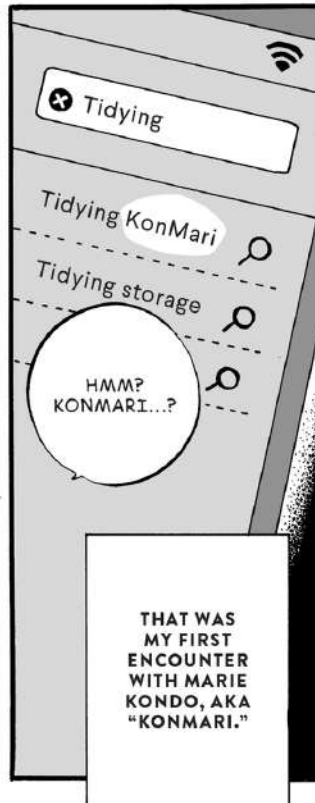






















Think you can't do it? If so, you're wrong. Everyone can learn how to tidy up.

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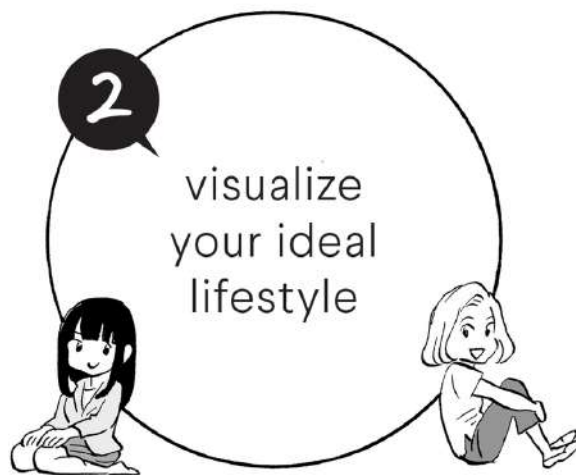
Success in tidying depends 90 percent on your mind-set. Of course, know-how is important, too, but the chances of a rebound are higher if you only learn the "how-to's" of tidying.

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.

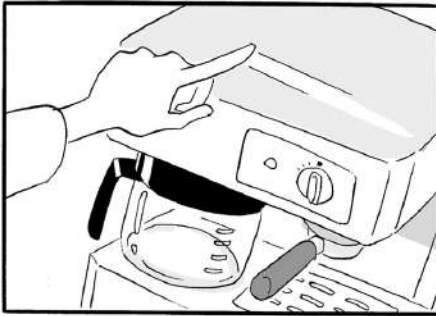
Start by believing with all your heart that you can and will be tidy.

















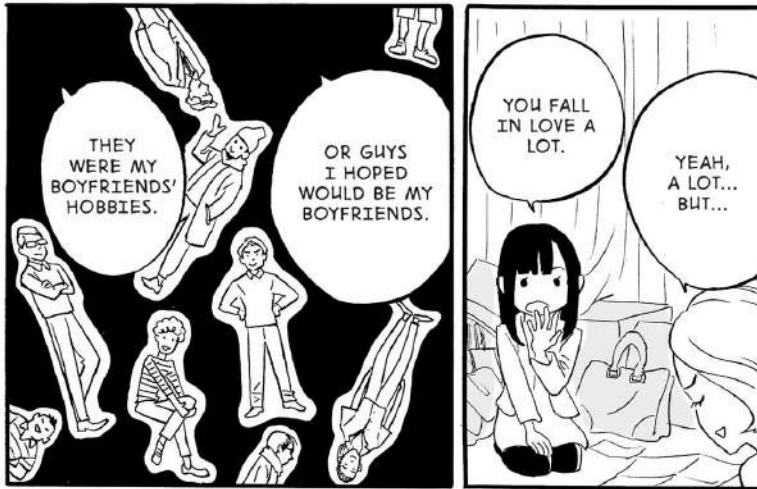








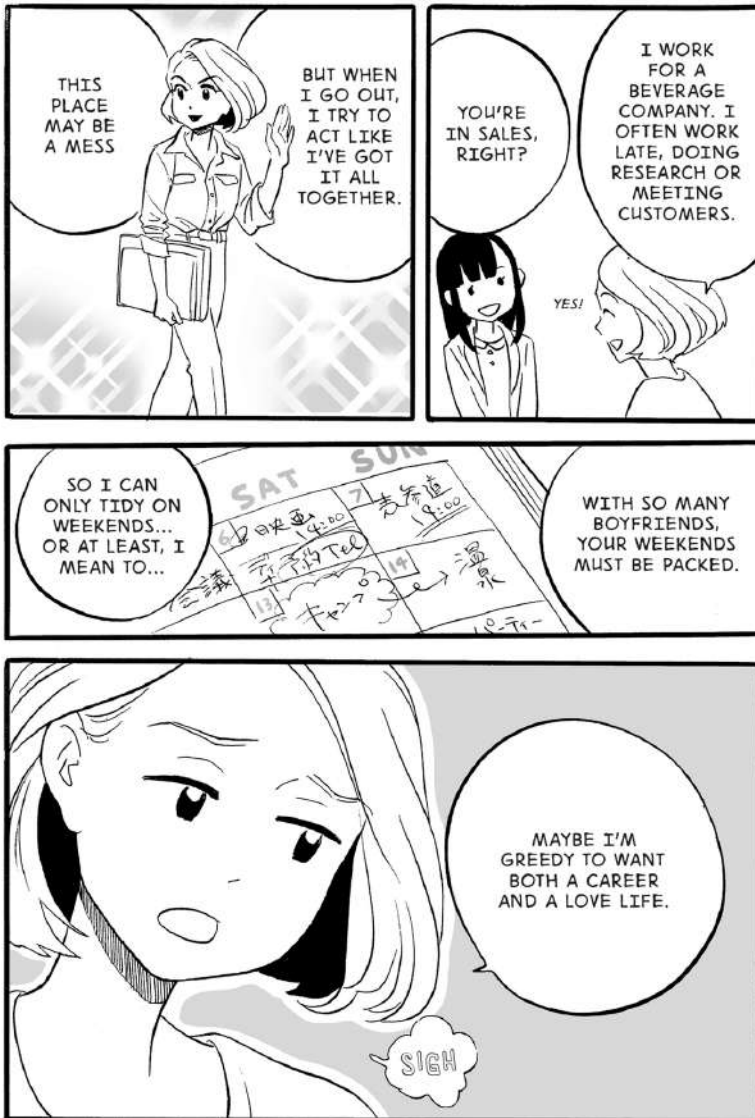






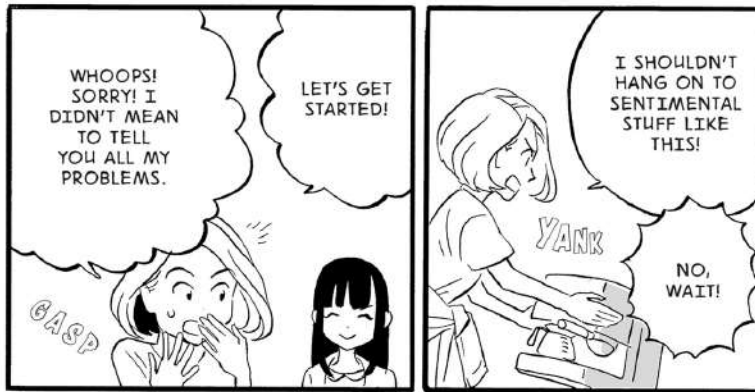




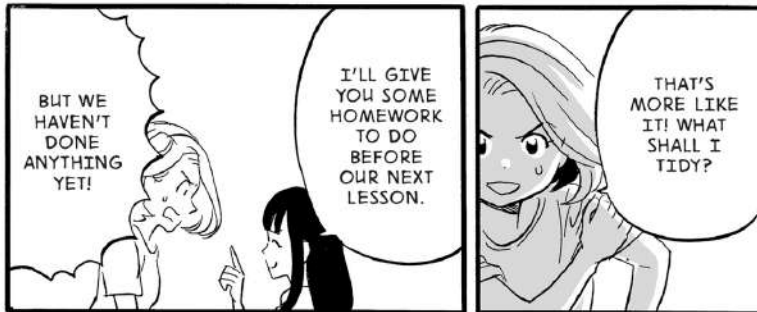




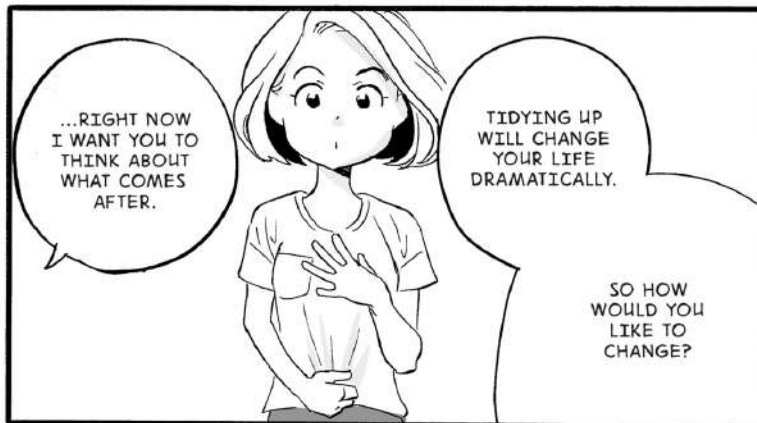
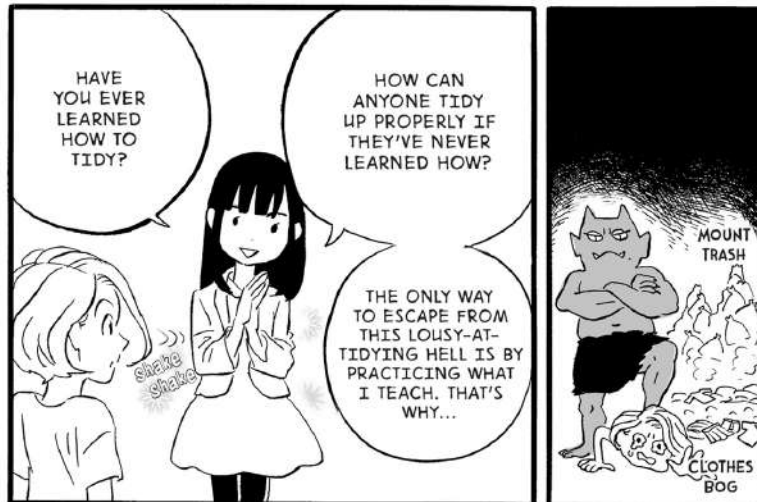










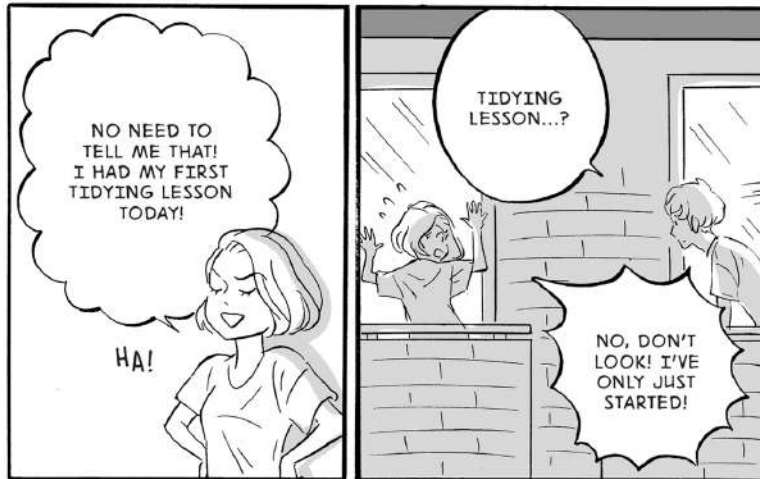








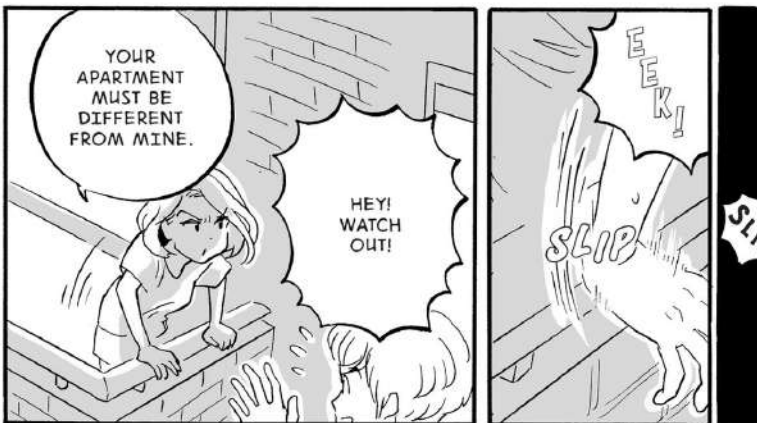
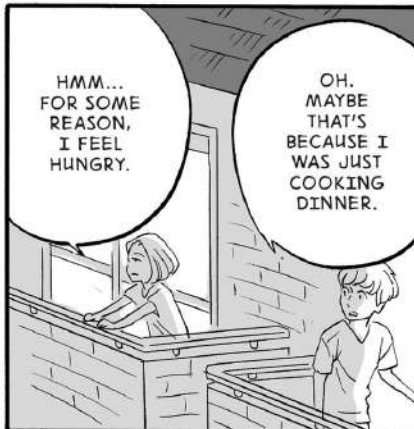








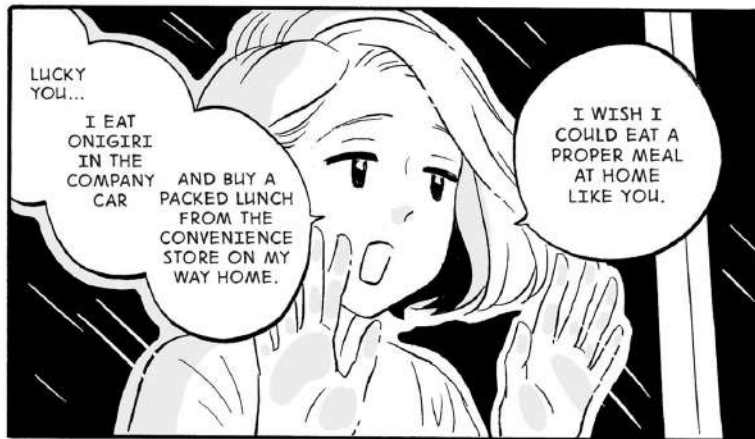
I KNOW. JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW I WANT TO LIVE WON'T GET ME ANYWHERE...





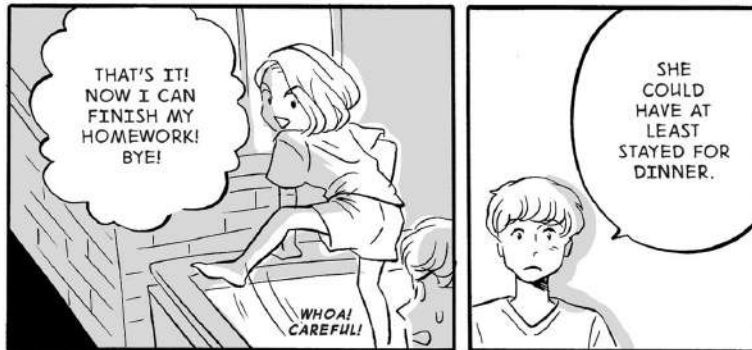














It all starts with visualizing  
your ideal lifestyle.

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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?

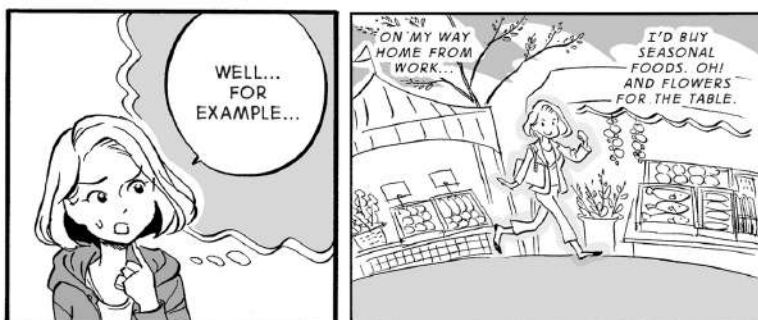
If you feel artistic, draw a picture. If you like writing, jot down your thoughts on paper. I also recommend cutting out photos of homes you like from interior decorating magazines.

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.



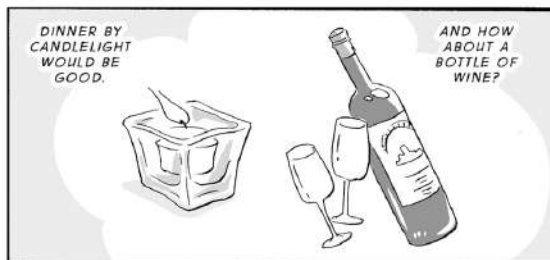








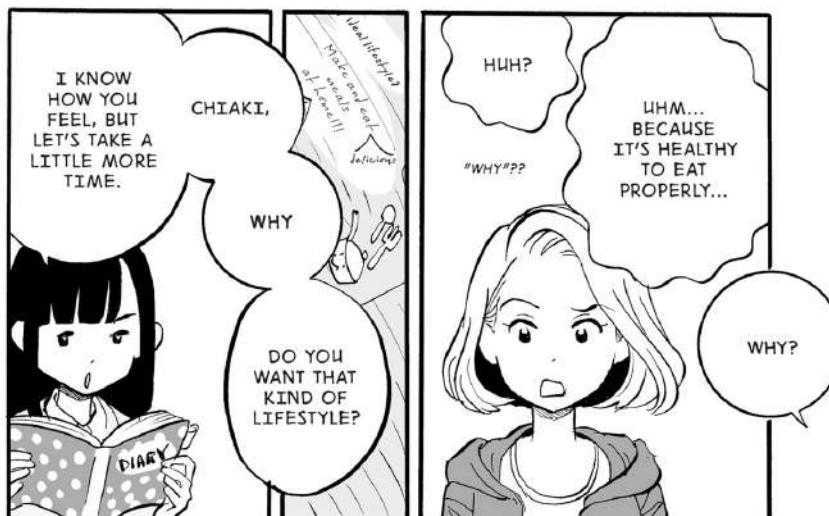




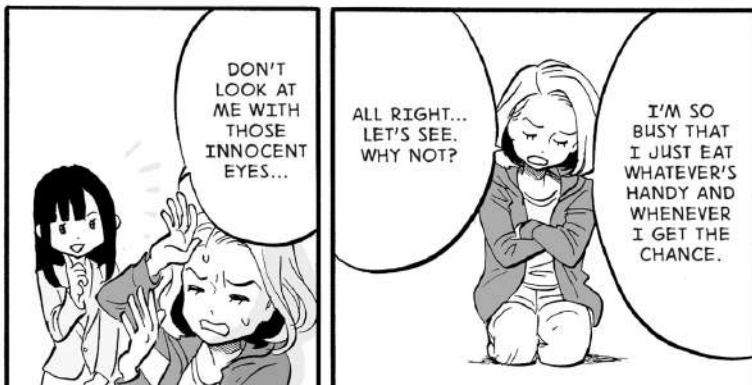
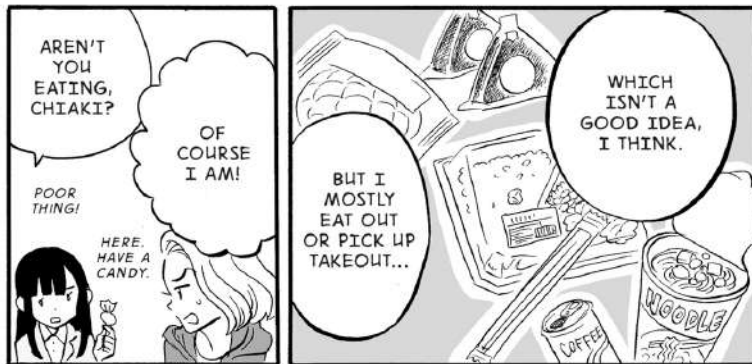














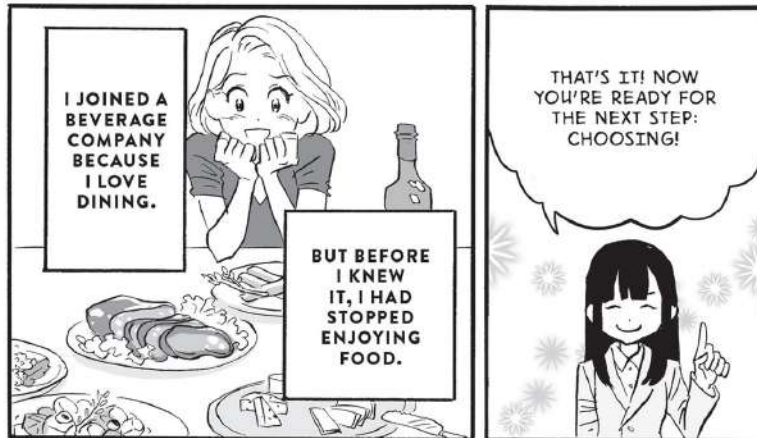










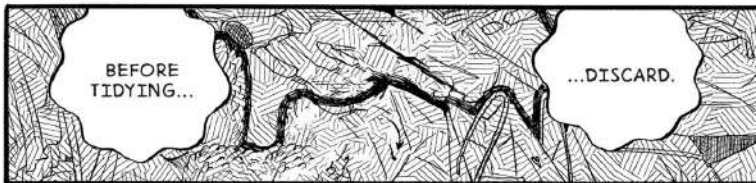
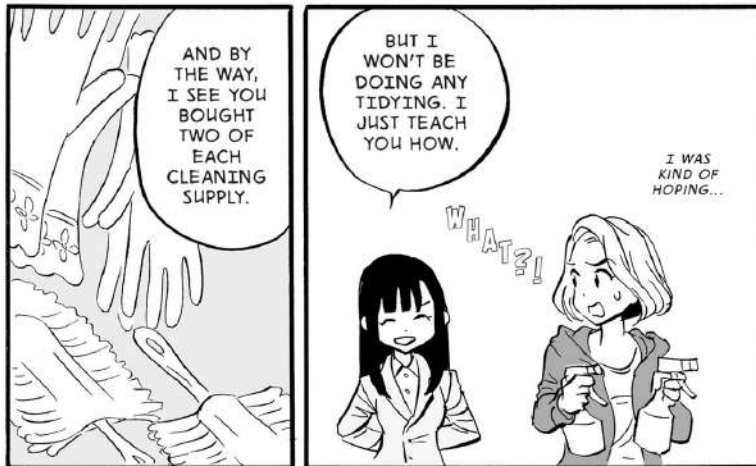








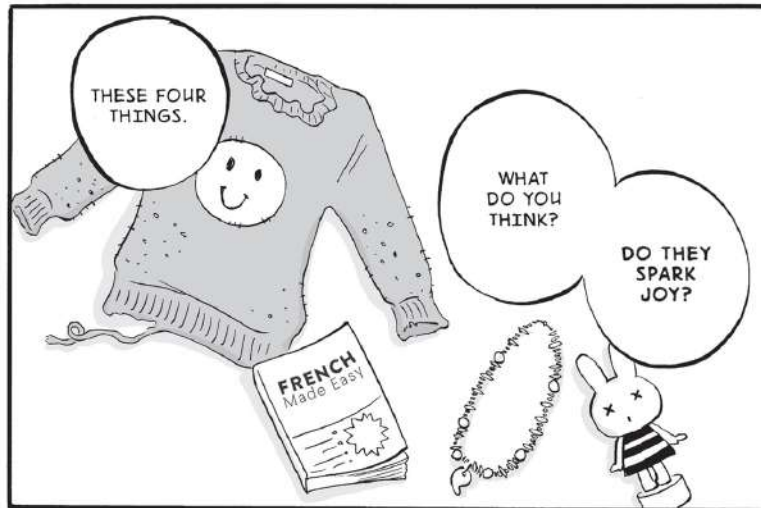




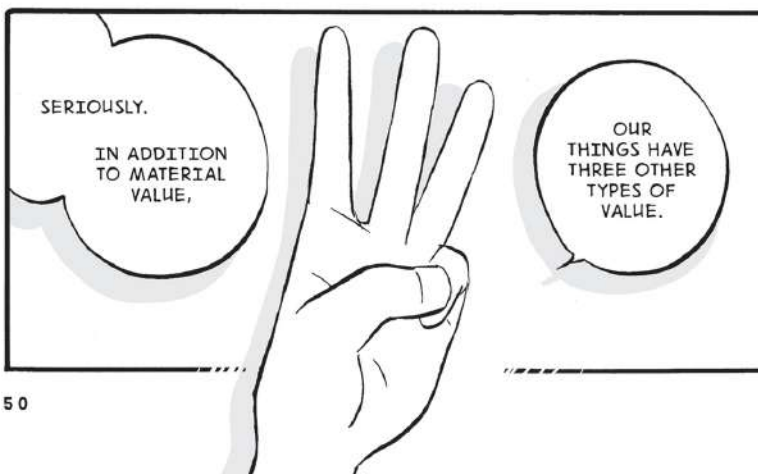
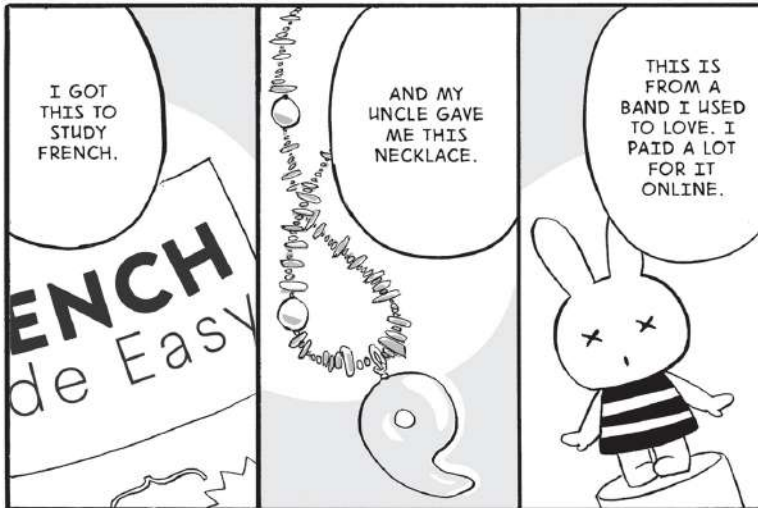






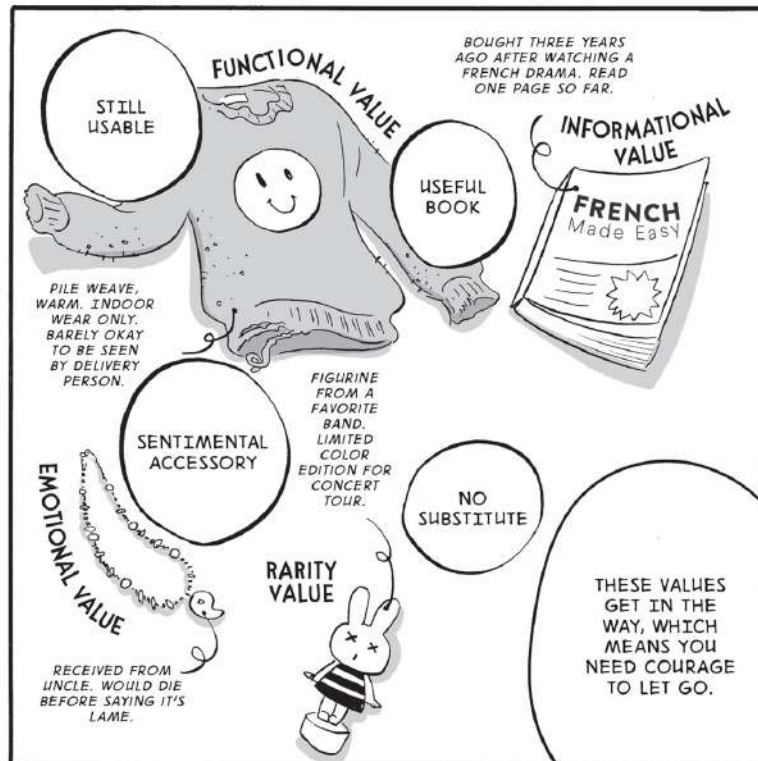
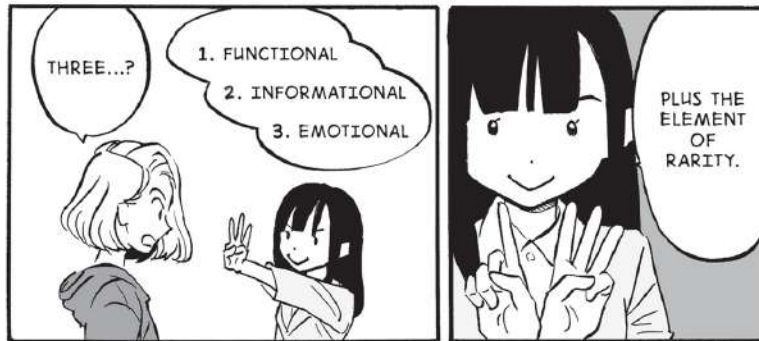






















Finish discarding first. But don't choose what to discard. Choose what to keep.

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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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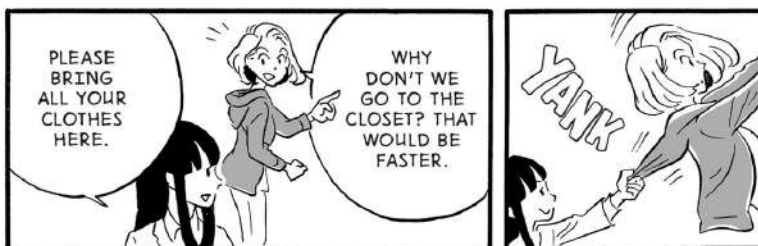
tidy by  
category



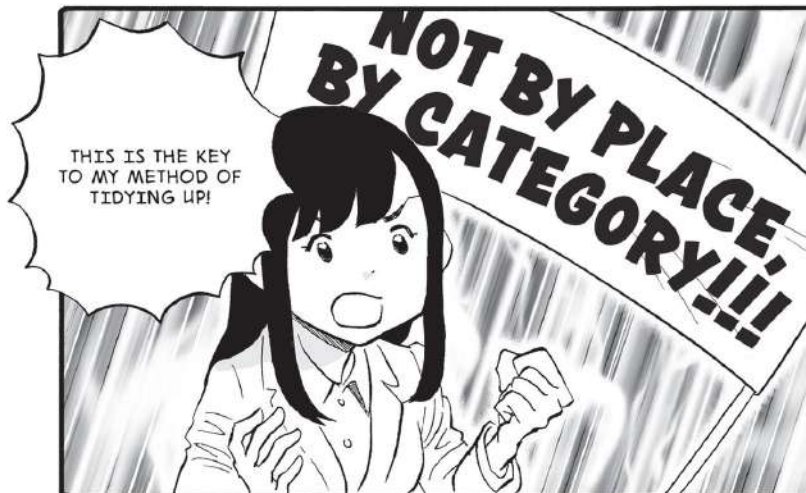
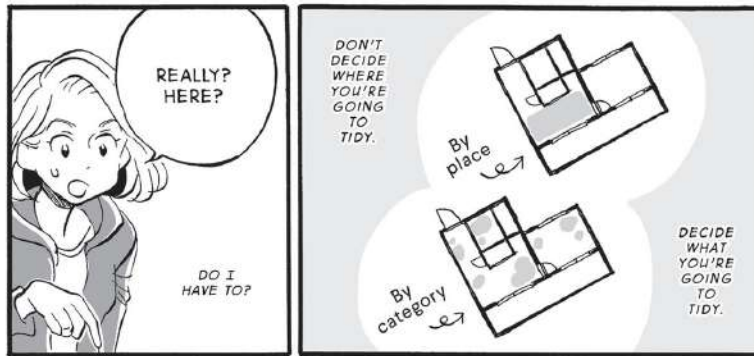




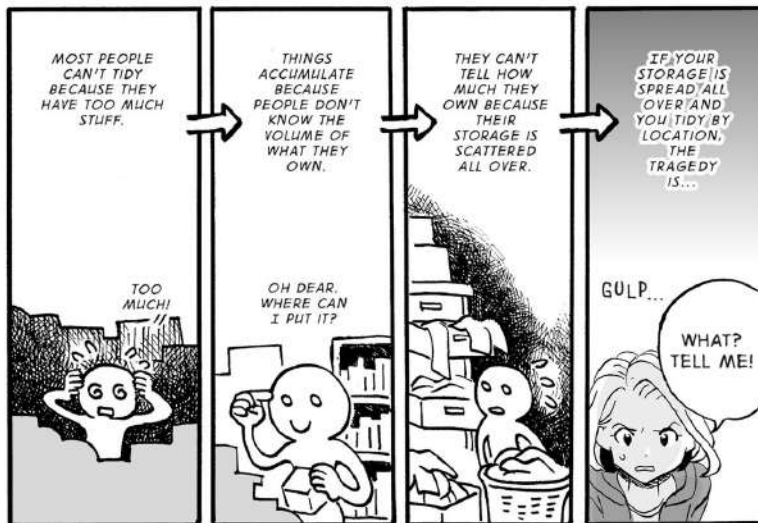
CLOTHING IS EASIEST BECAUSE IT'S A CLEARLY DEFINED CATEGORY WITHOUT MUCH "RARITY."























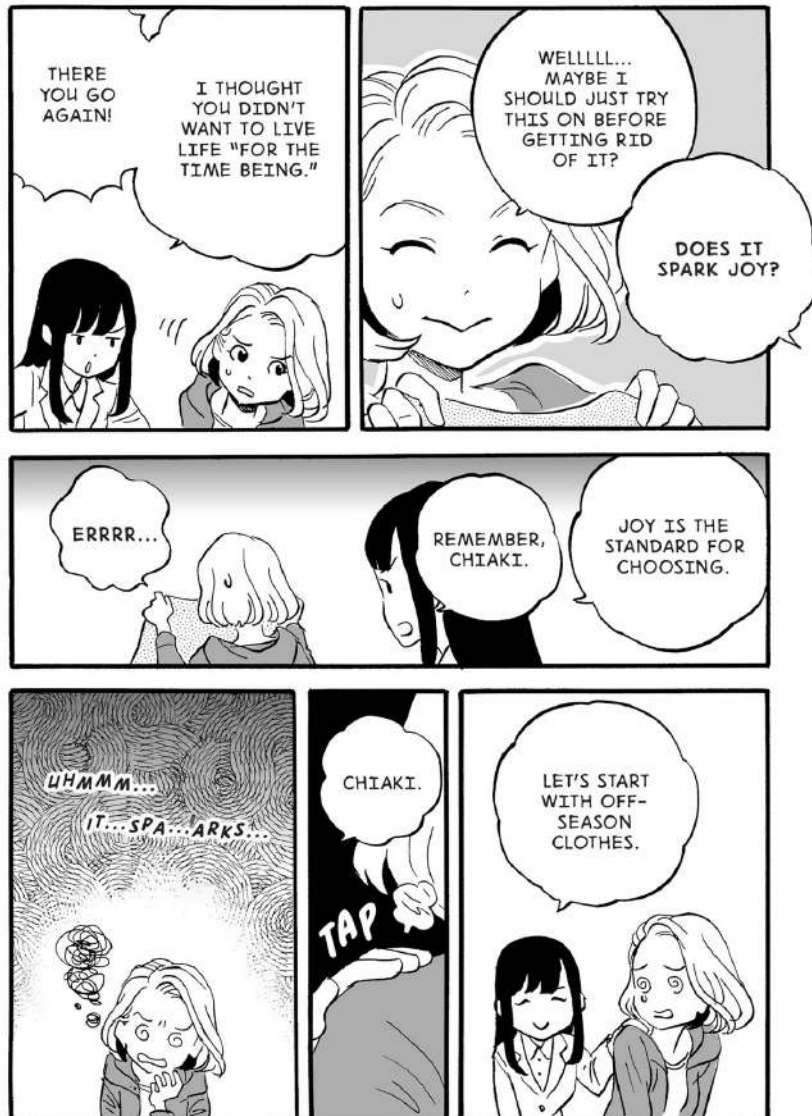








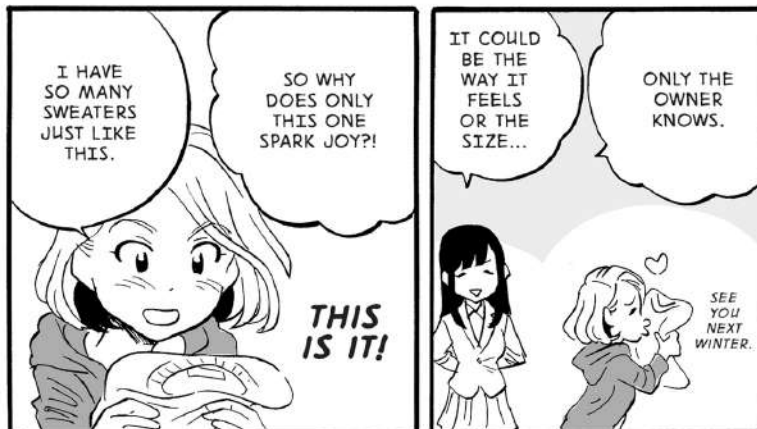
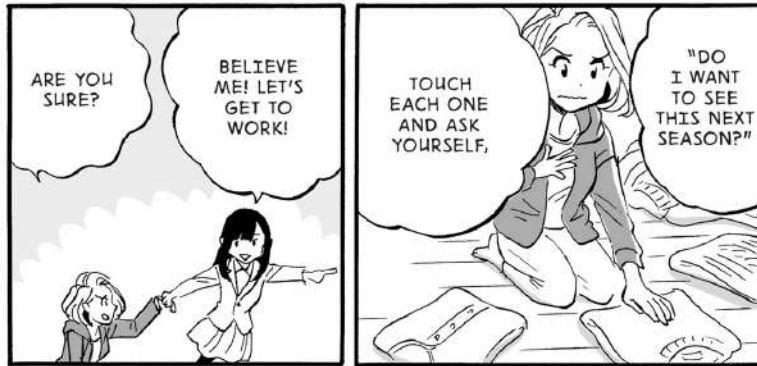




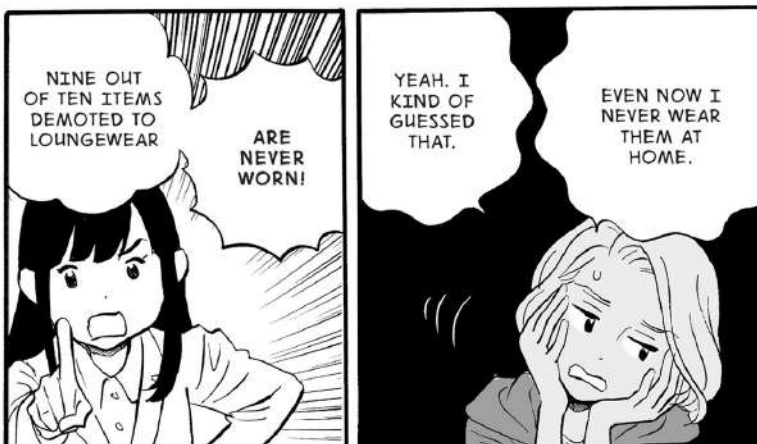










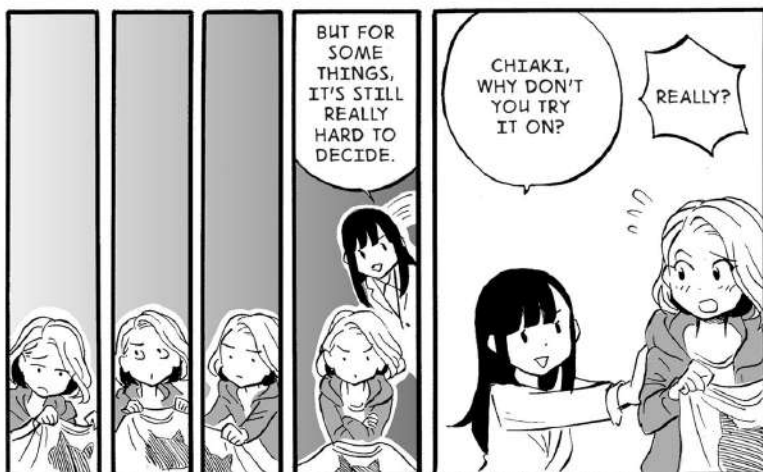




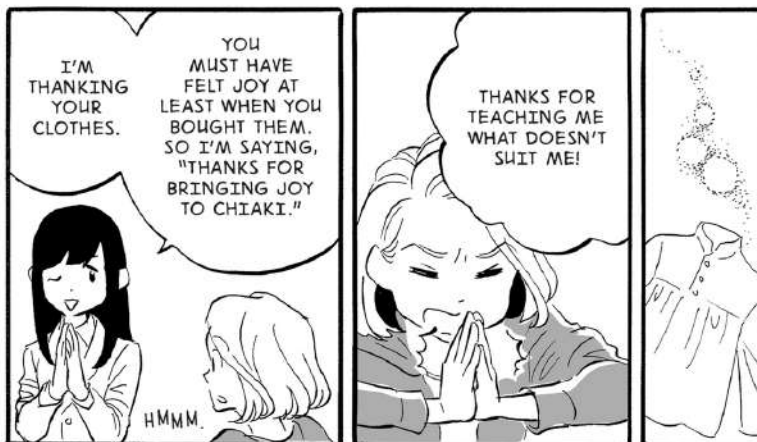
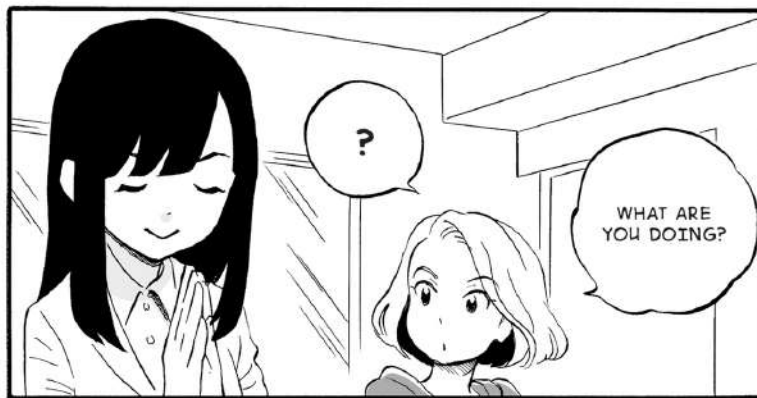
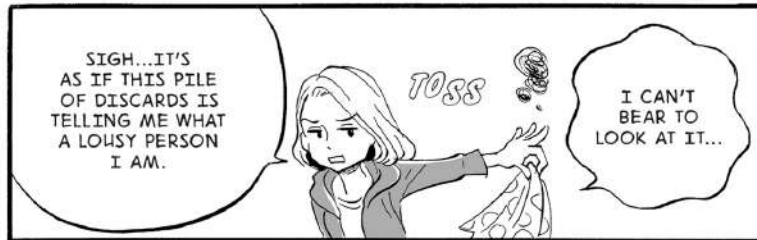
















YOU CAN DONATE THOSE IN GOOD CONDITION TO A CHARITY SHOP OR TAKE THEM TO A RECYCLE STATION.









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

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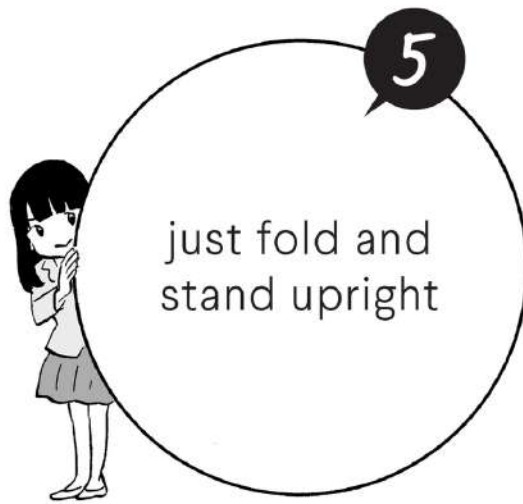
Most people can't tidy because they have too much stuff. They accumulate too much stuff because they don't know how much they actually own.

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.



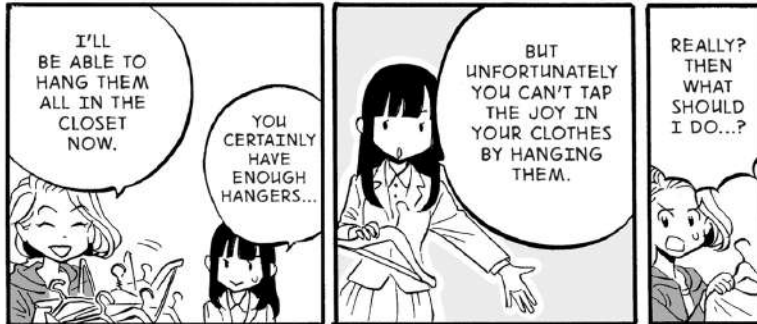




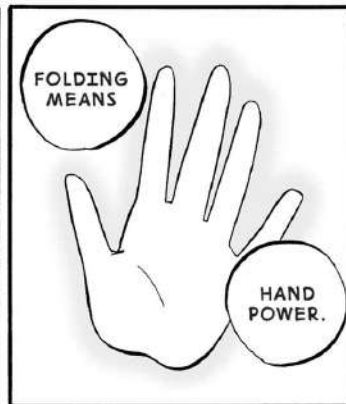
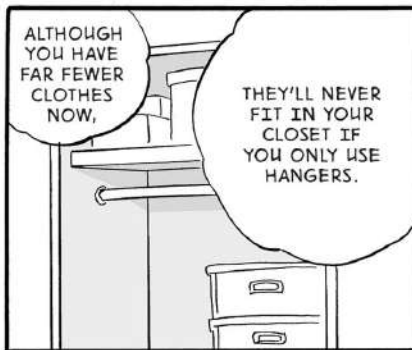




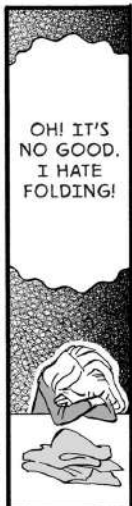








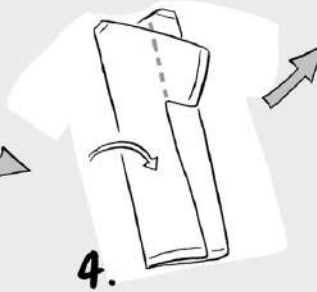
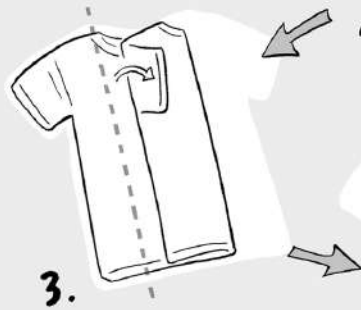
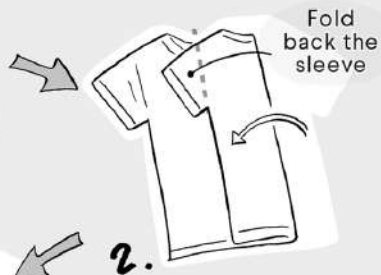






# FOLDING T-SHIRTS

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



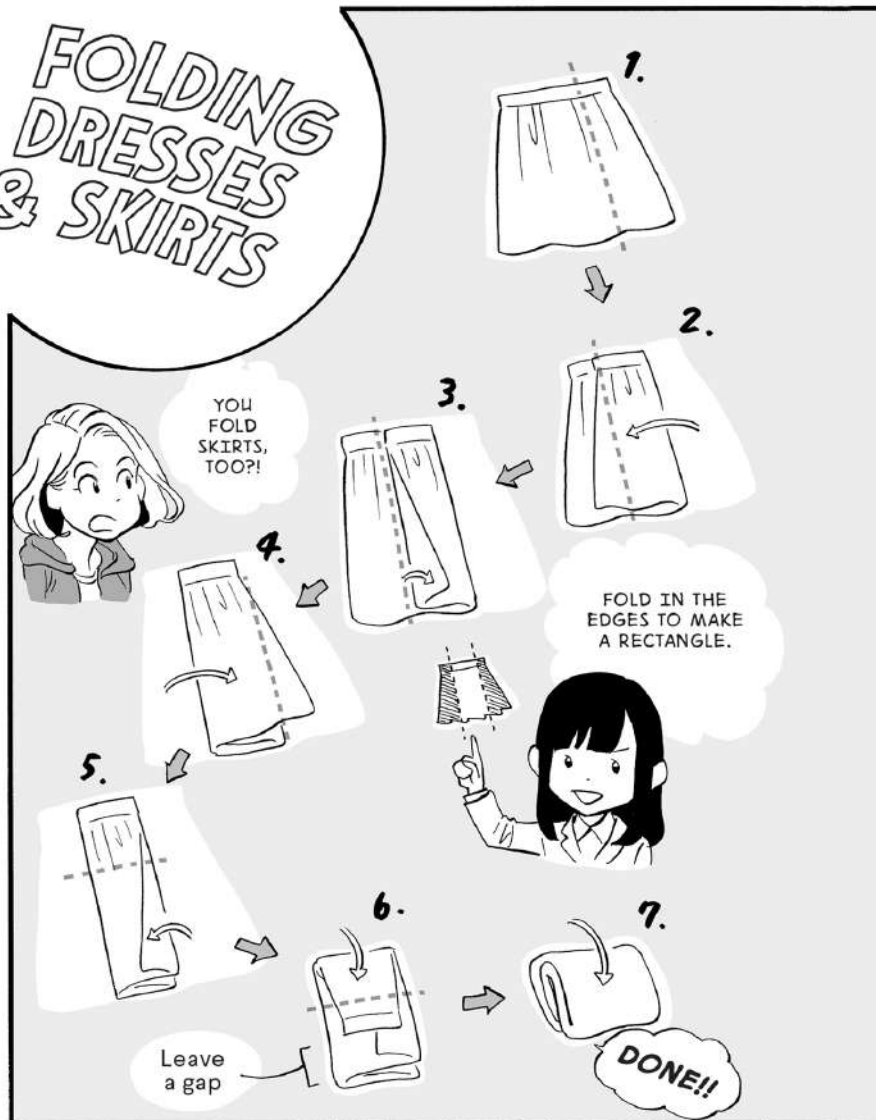








# FOLDING DRESSES & SKIRTS

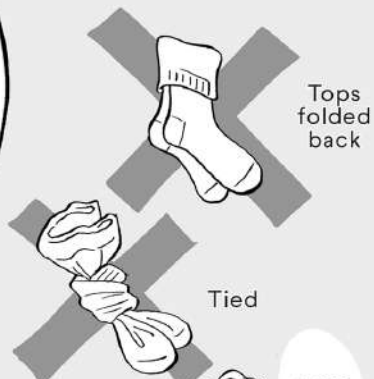








# FOLDING SOCKS & STOCKINGS

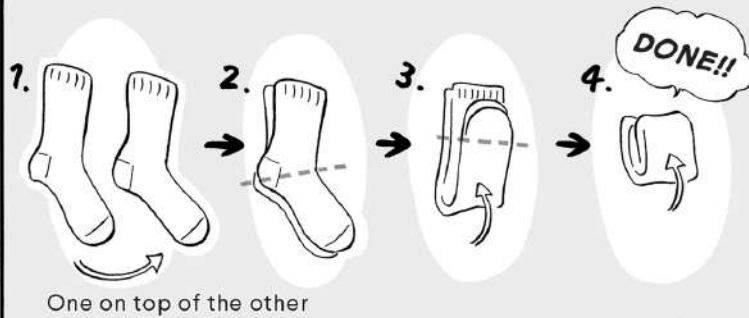


GIVE YOUR SOCKS A BREAK WHEN THEY'RE IN THE DRAWER.



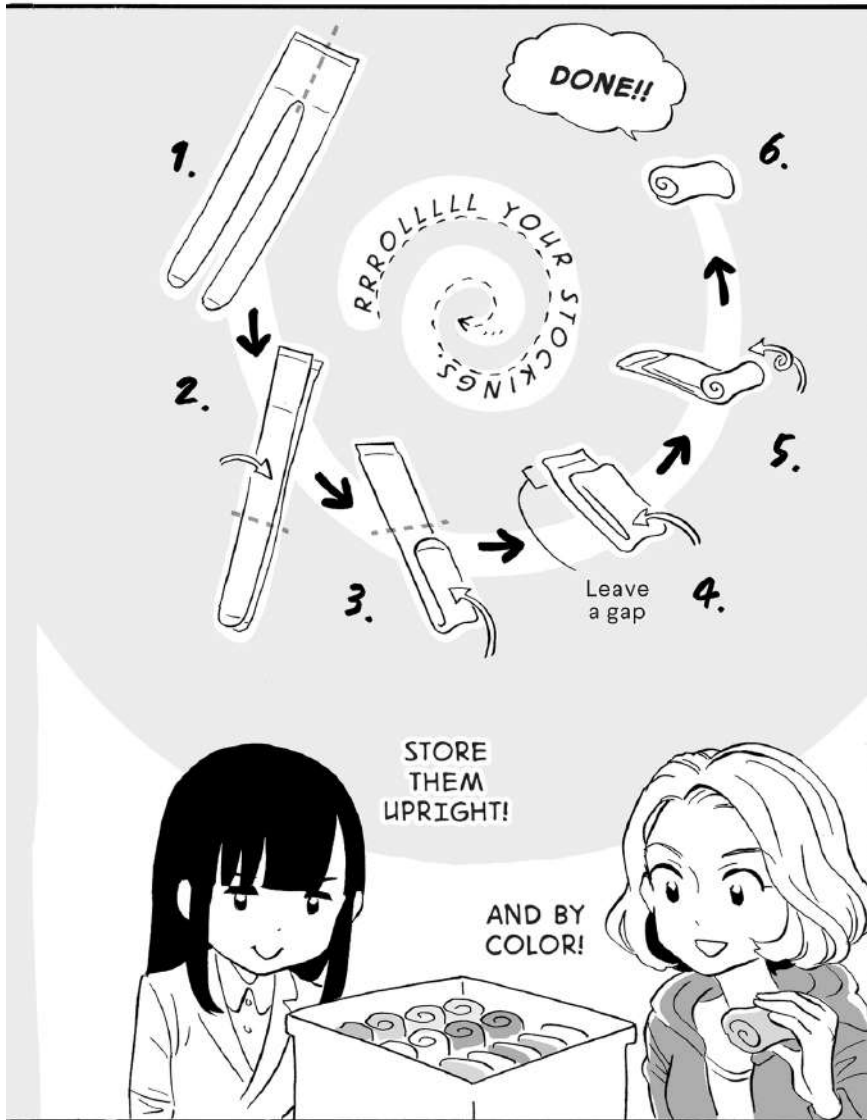
WHEN THEIR ELASTIC IS STRETCHED LIKE THAT, THEY CAN'T REST.

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.











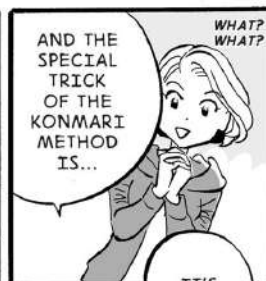
# FOLDING BRAS & PANTIES



























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.



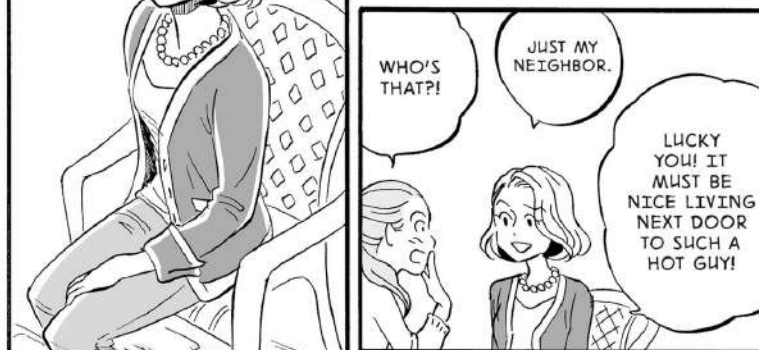
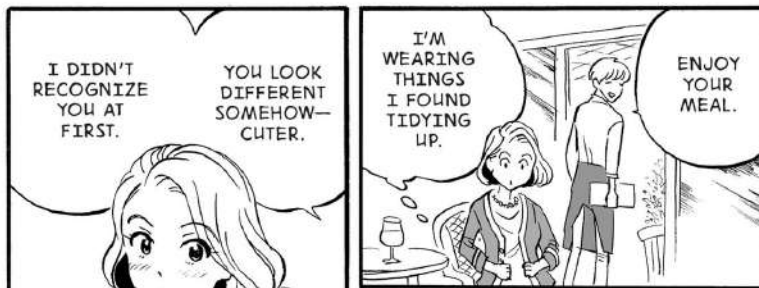










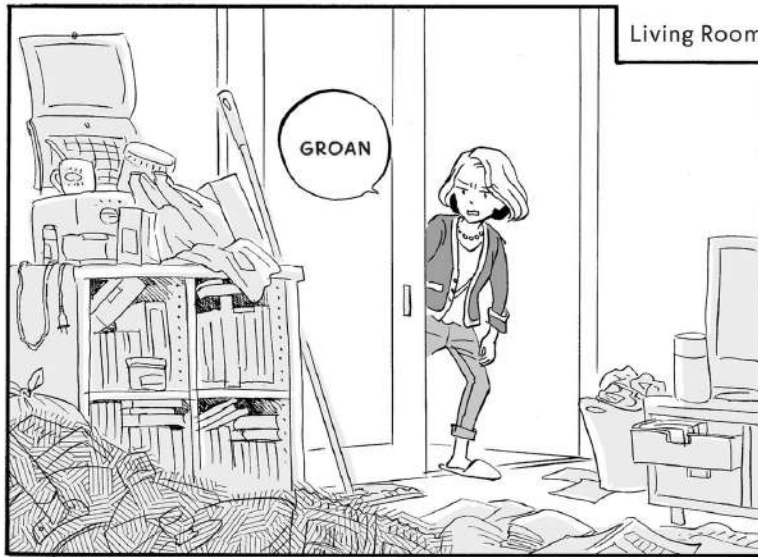








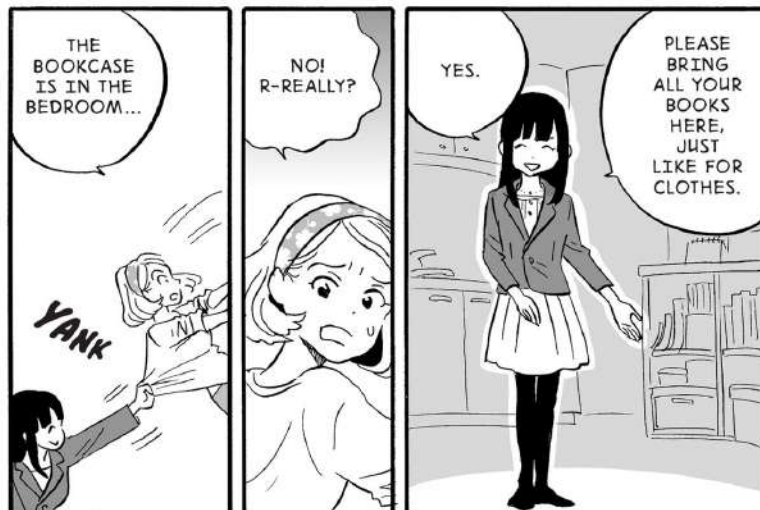










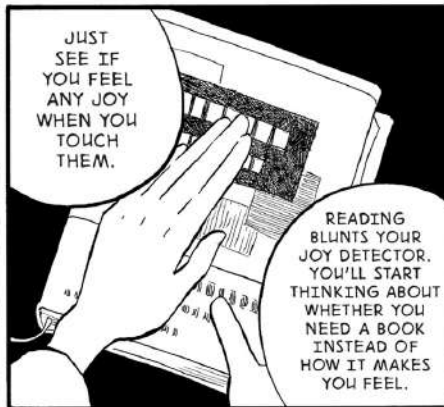




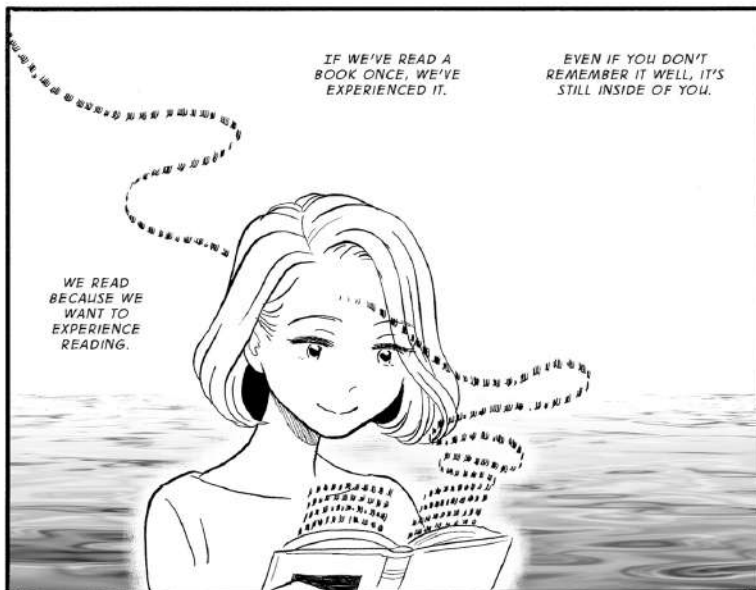
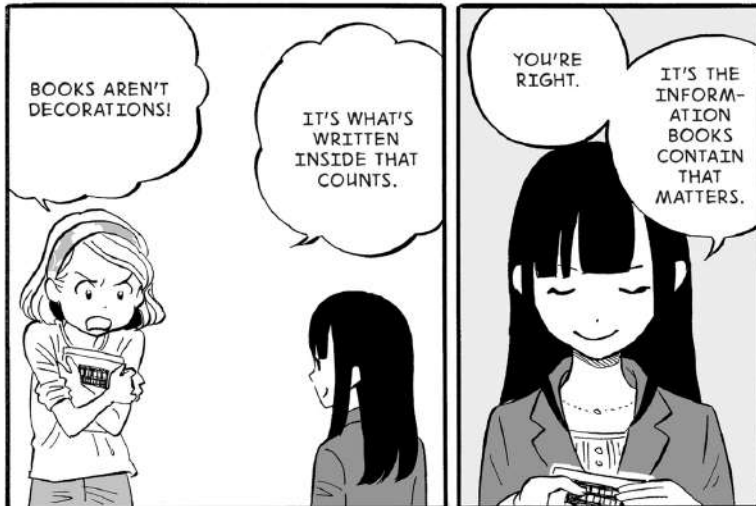








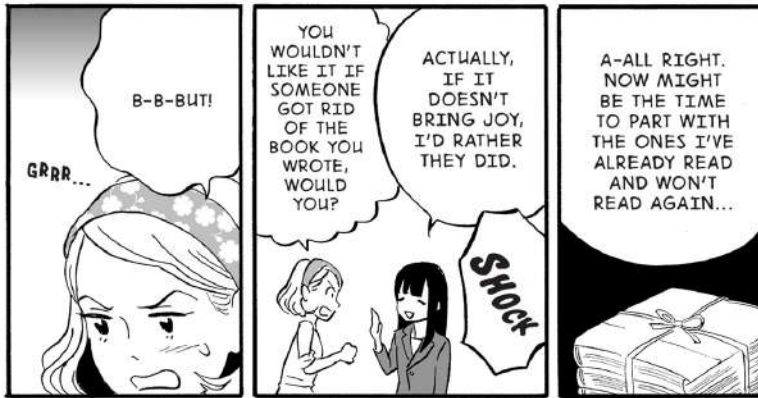






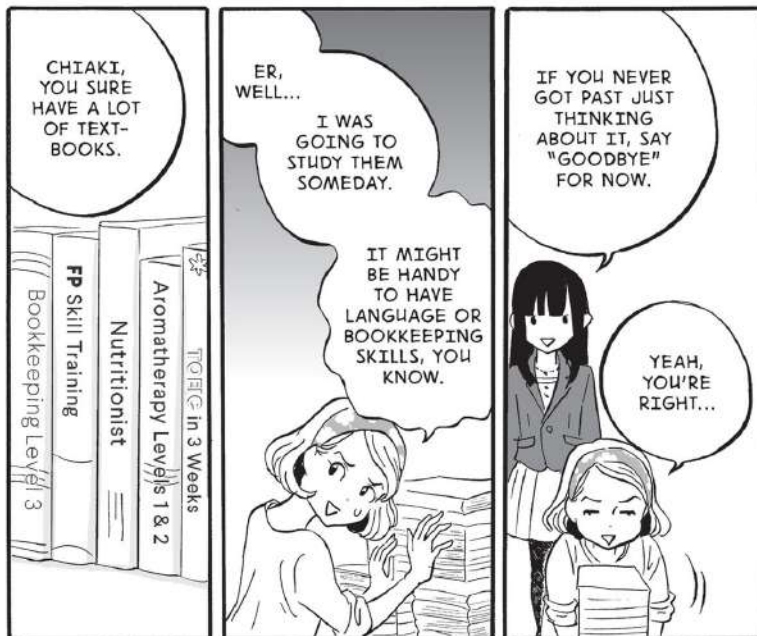


















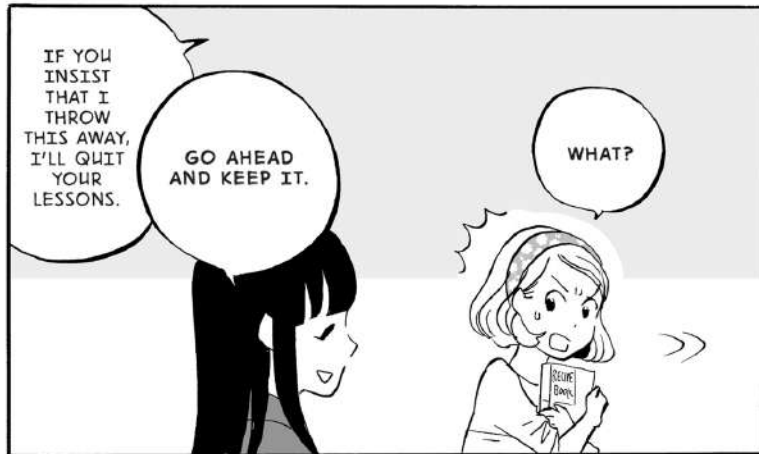














Do you have unread books that you intend to read “someday”? Believe me. “Someday” never comes.

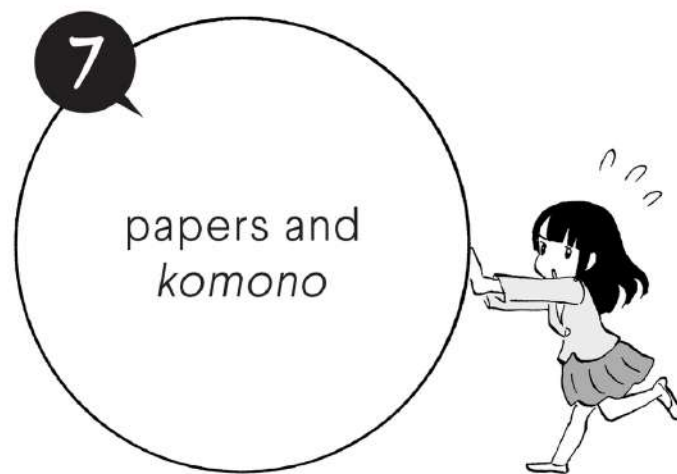
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Take all your books off the shelf and put them on the floor. Pick them up one by one and choose which ones you want to keep. Of course, the criterion is whether or not they spark joy. Keep those that belong in your personal Hall of Fame and treasure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



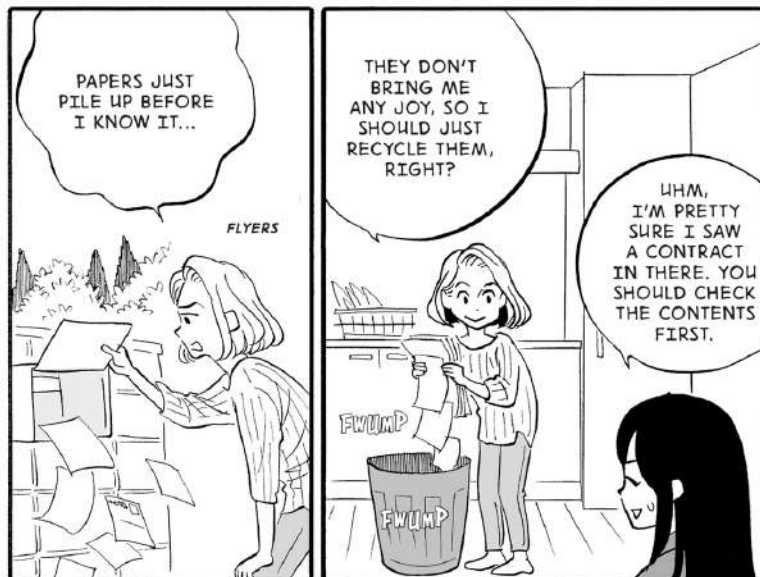








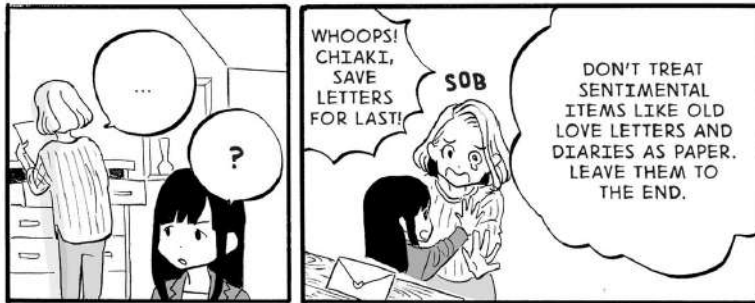














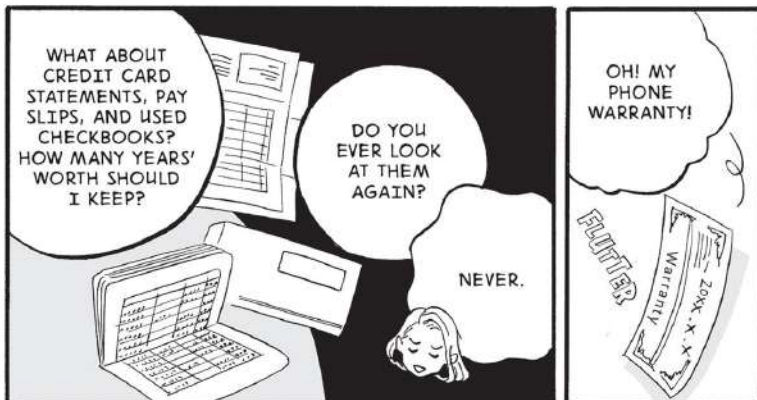
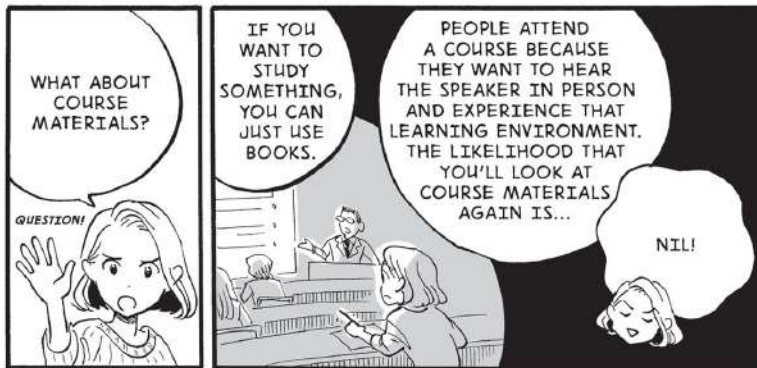




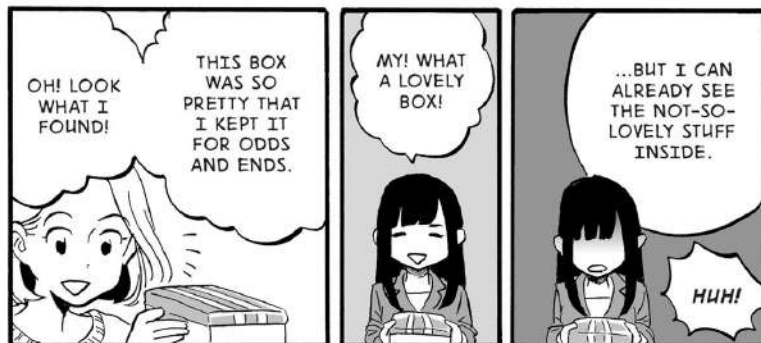




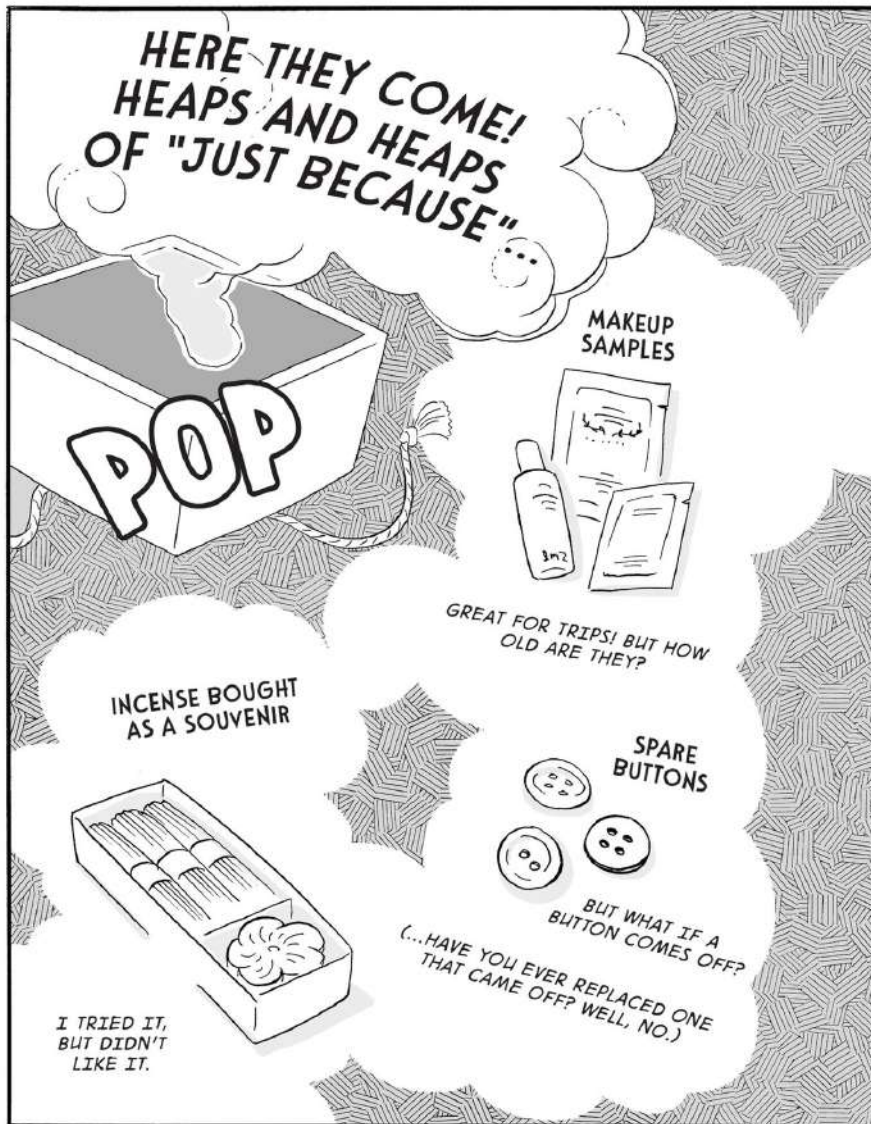






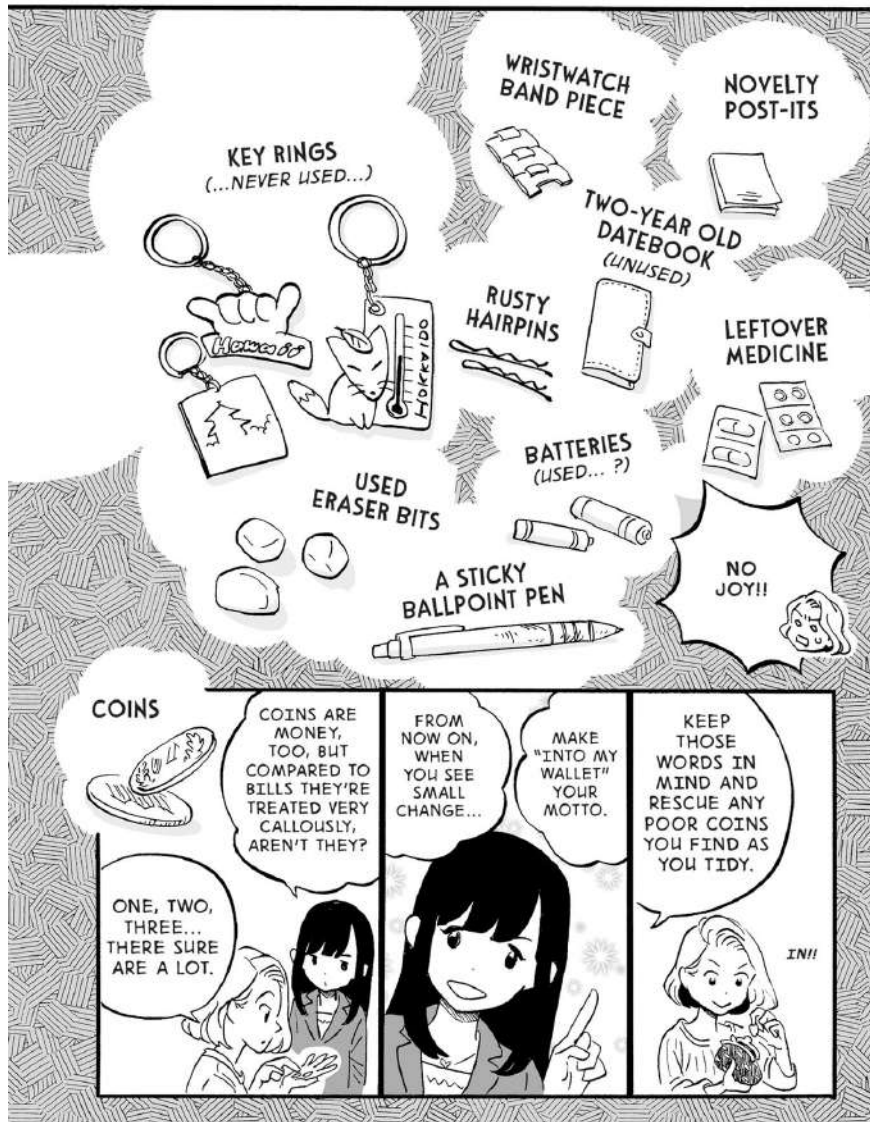




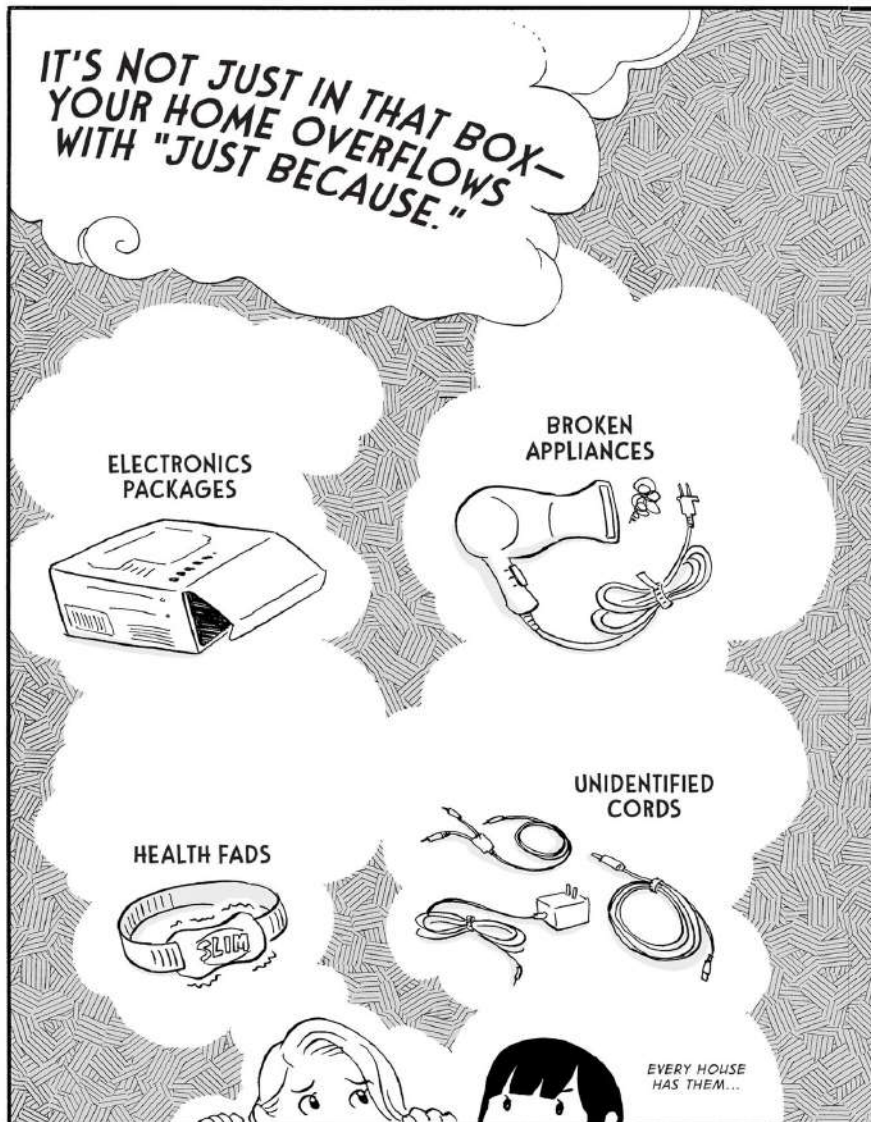








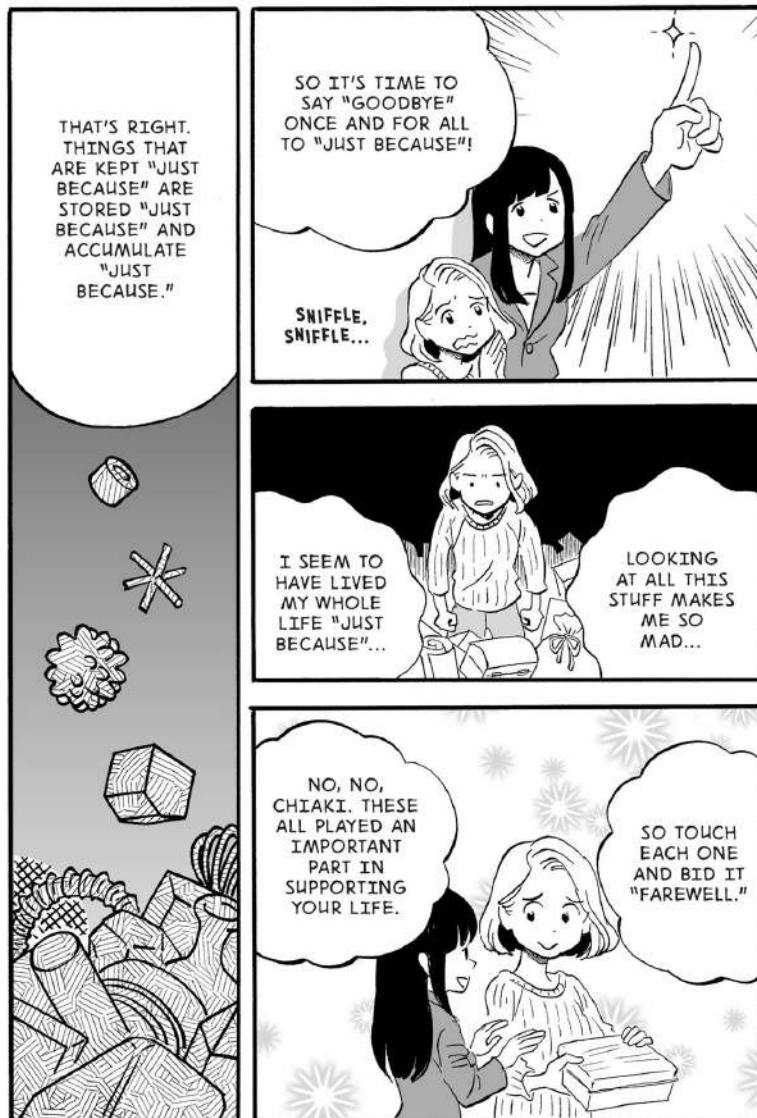












THAT'S RIGHT.  
THINGS THAT  
ARE KEPT "JUST  
BECAUSE" ARE  
STORED "JUST  
BECAUSE" AND  
ACCUMULATE  
"JUST  
BECAUSE."

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.

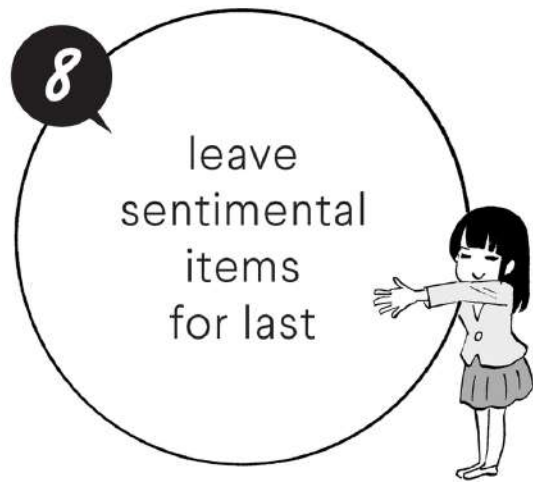
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Discard any papers that don't fall into one of the following three categories: those you are currently using, those you will need for a limited period of time, and those that you need to keep indefinitely.

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.







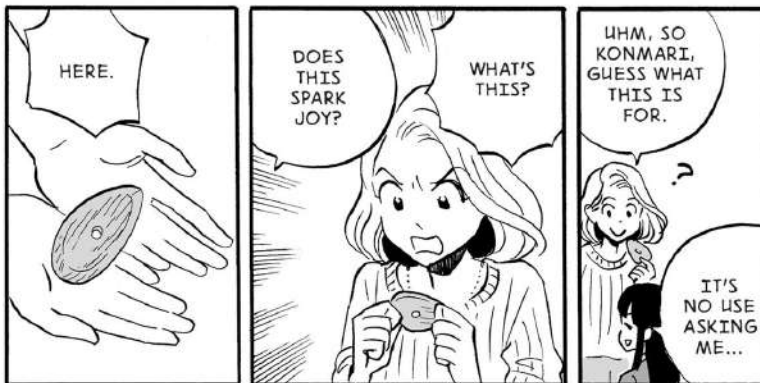
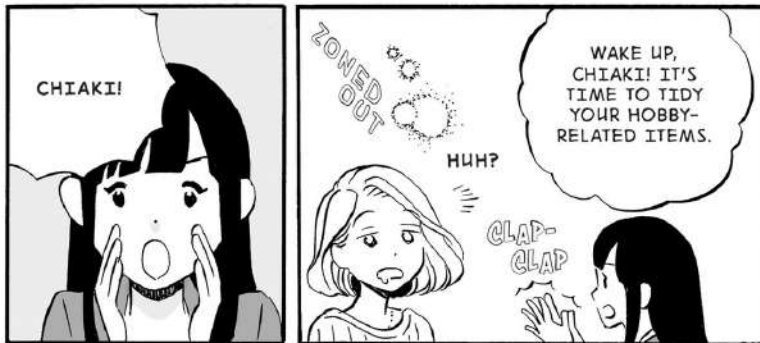






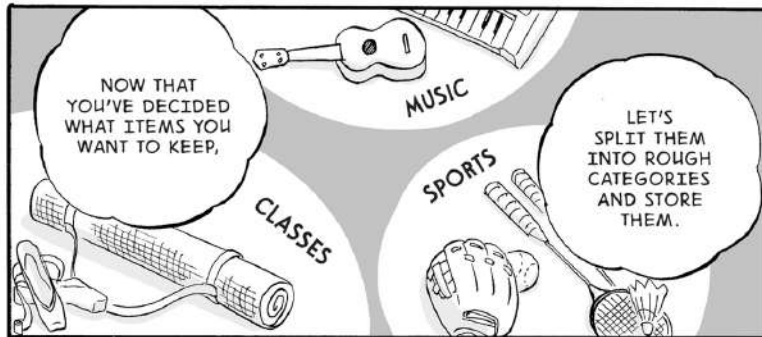
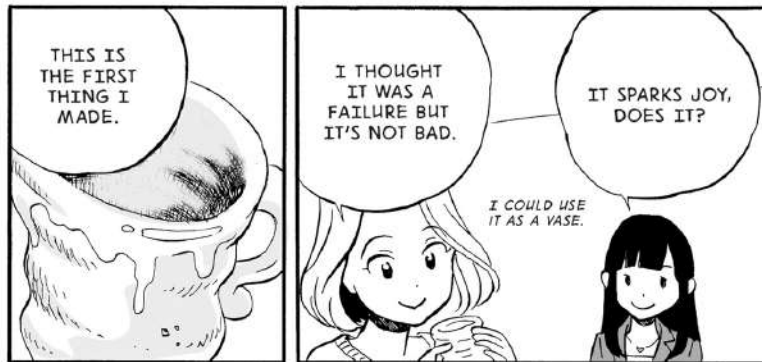




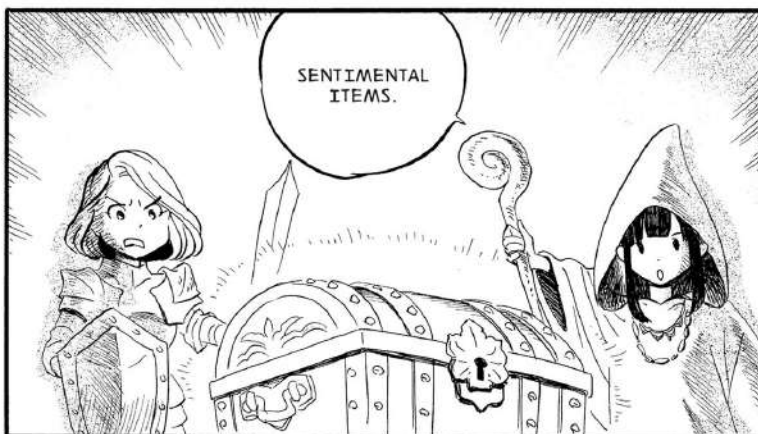
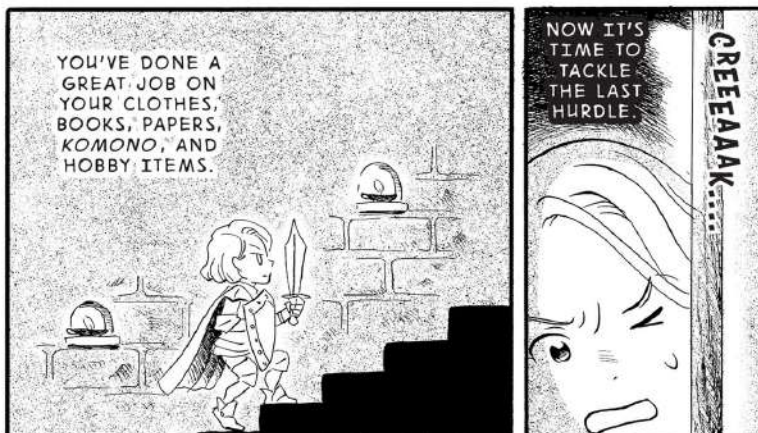




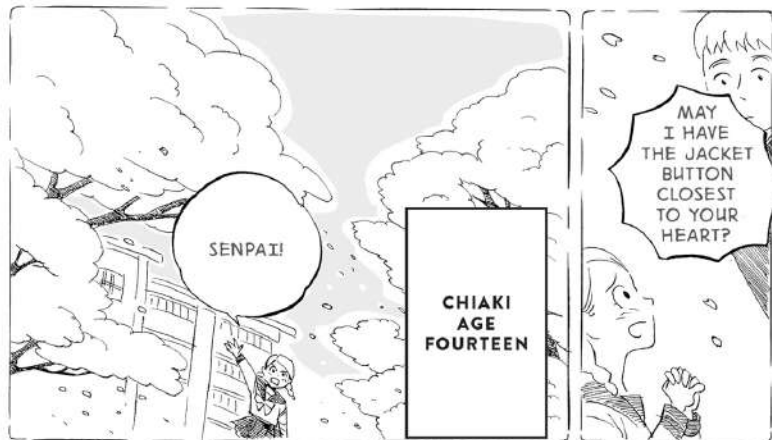
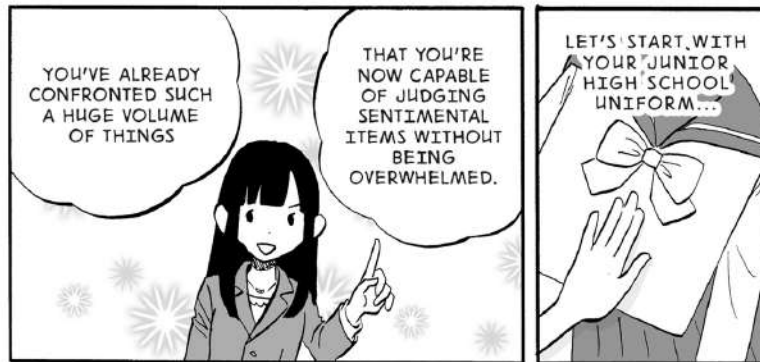




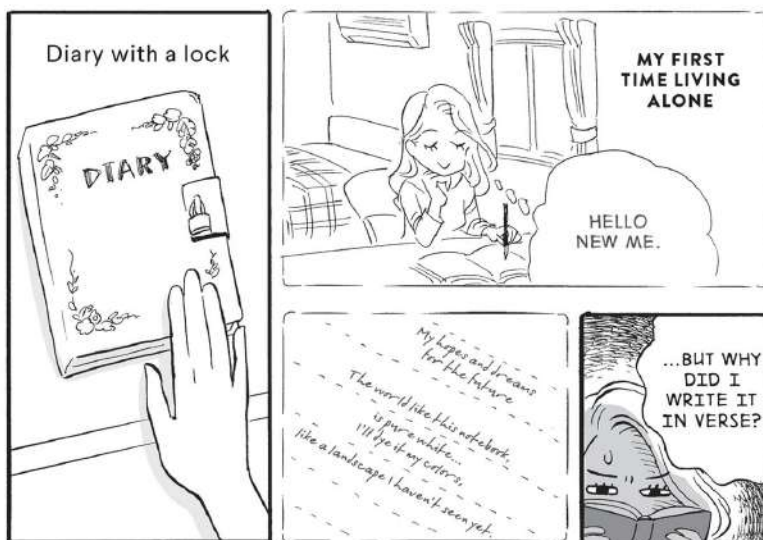
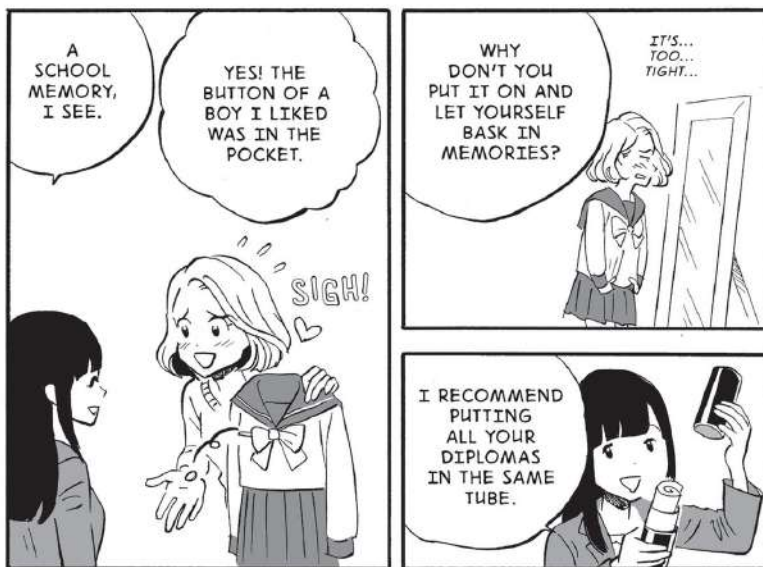






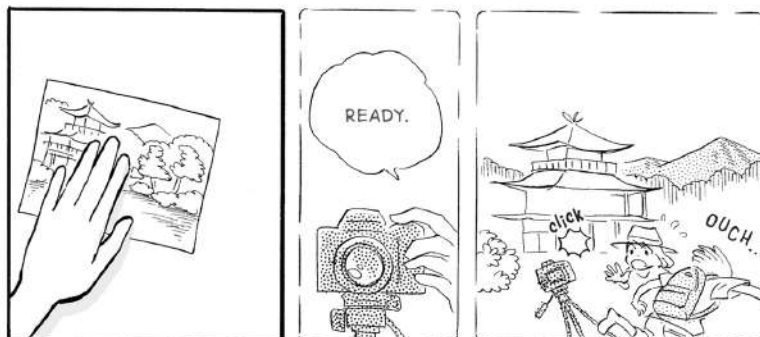




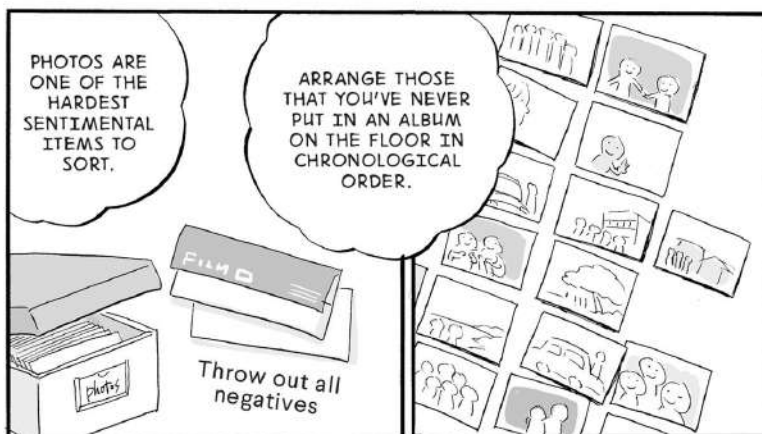
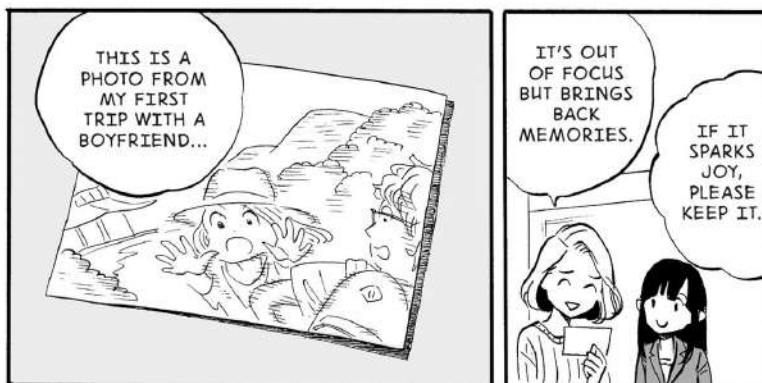








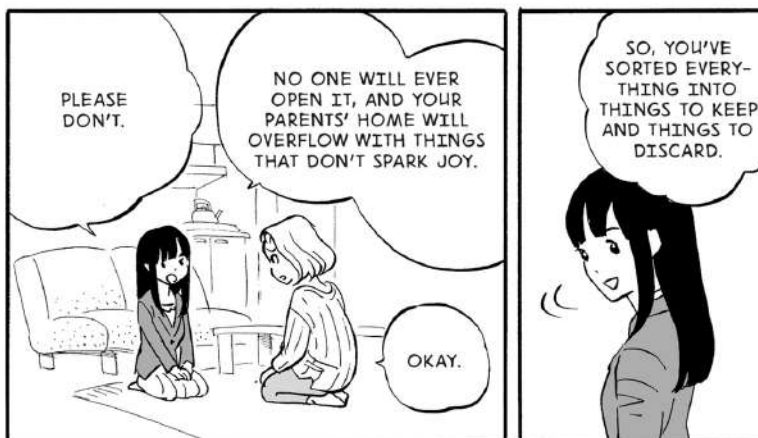
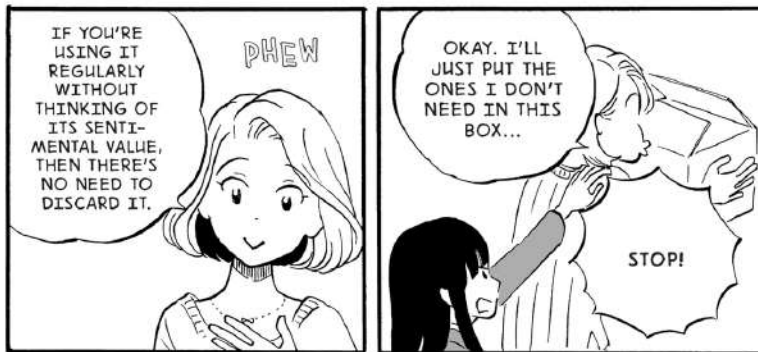






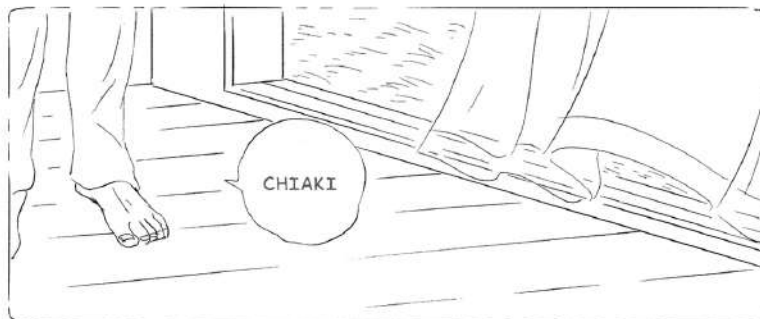
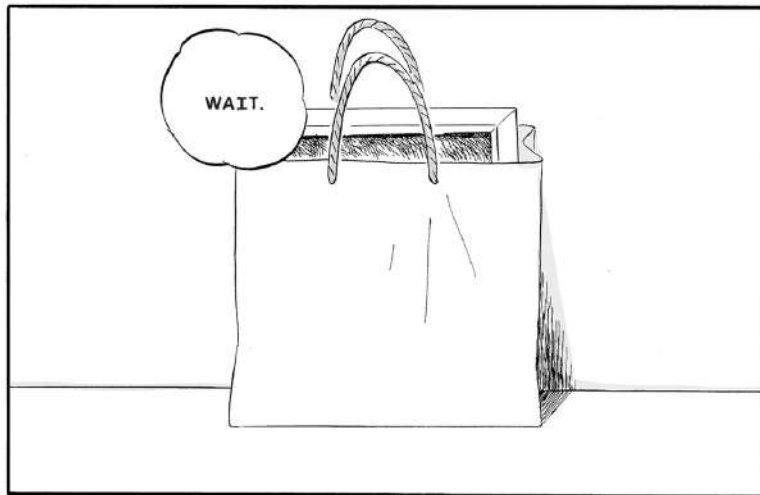








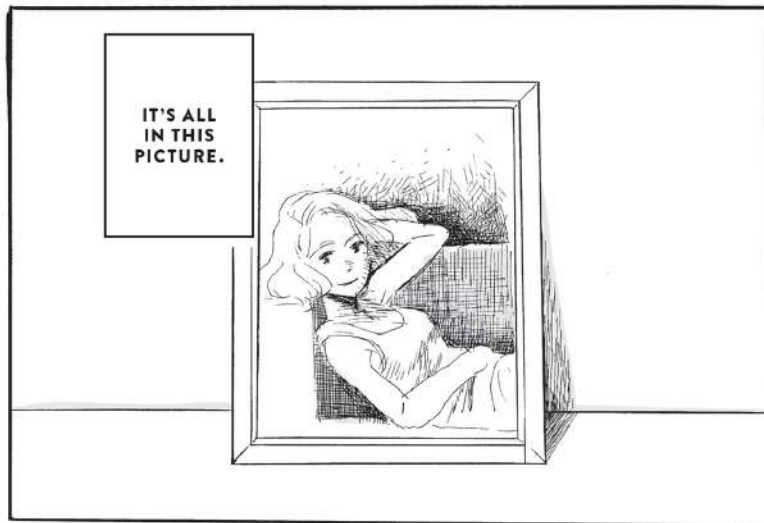




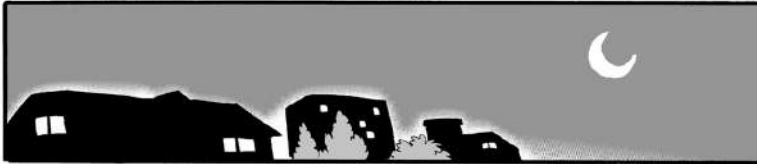
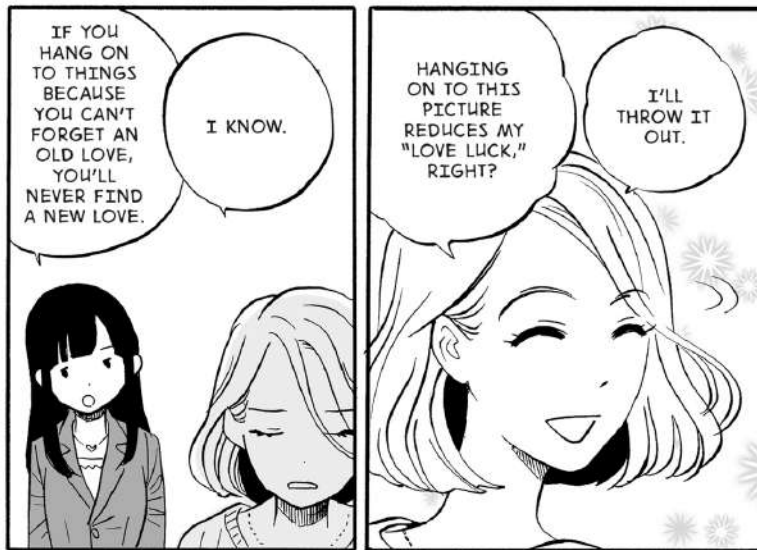






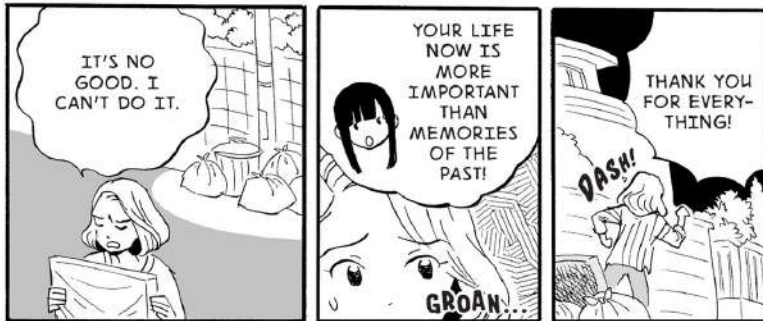












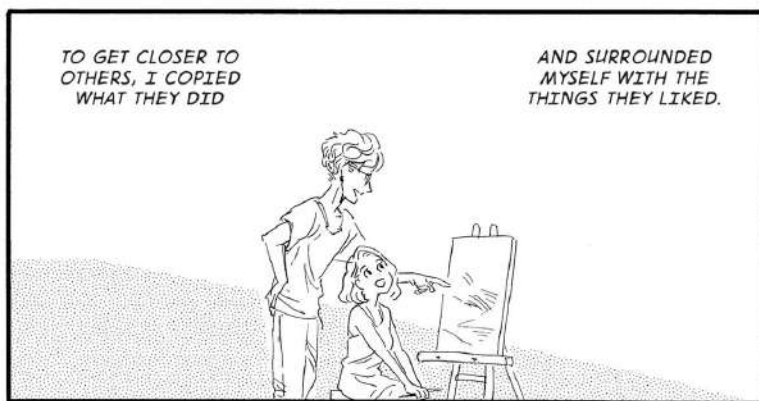








JUST DRIFTING  
ALONG, AM I?



TO GET CLOSER TO  
OTHERS, I COPIED  
WHAT THEY DID

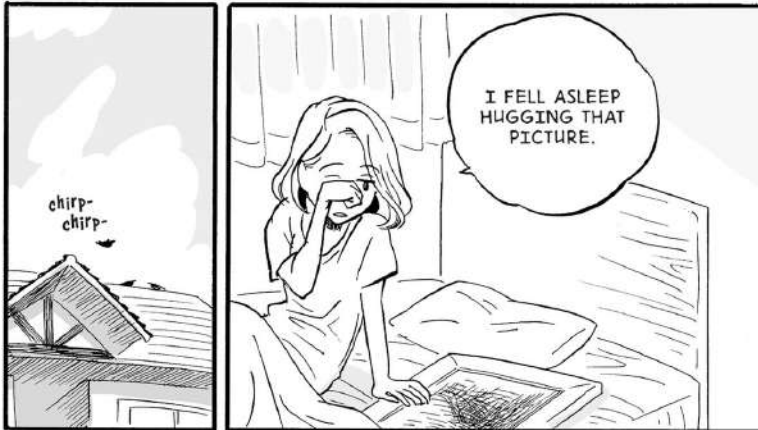
AND SURROUNDED  
MYSELF WITH THE  
THINGS THEY LIKED.



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.

---

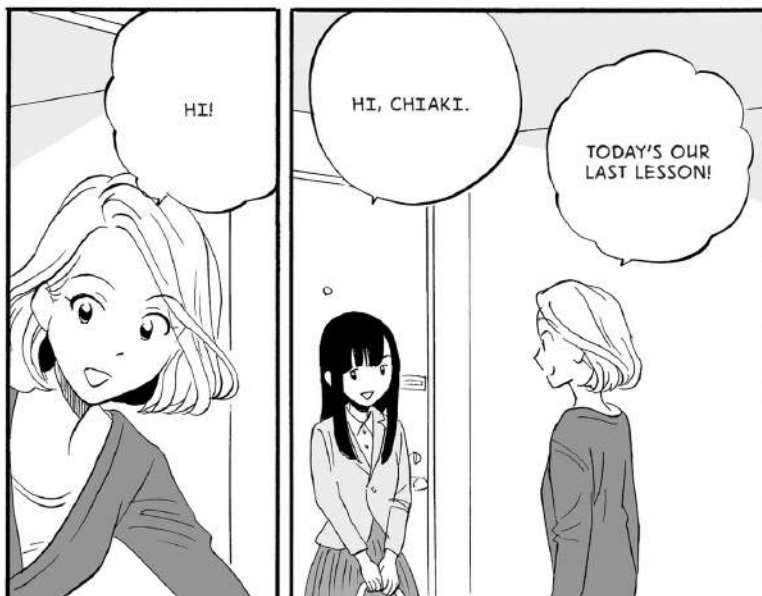
It is so hard to let go of things that once brought us joy and are filled with precious memories. It feels like we are losing the memories along with them. But that is not the case. Memories that are truly precious will never be forgotten, even if we discard an item associated with them.

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.



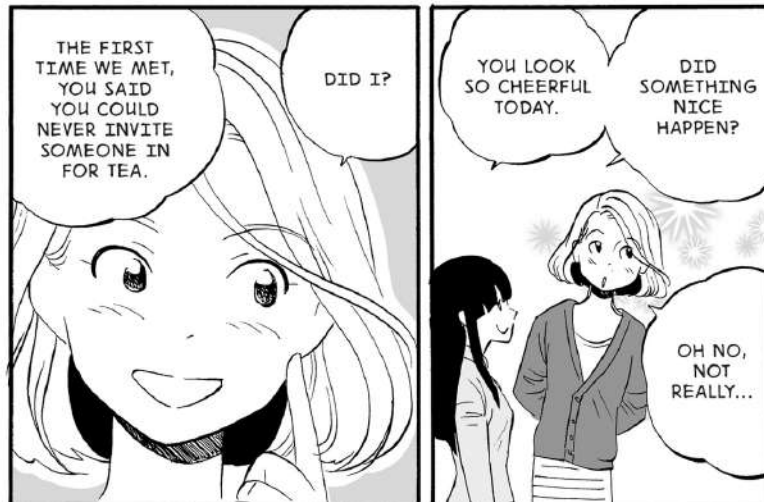








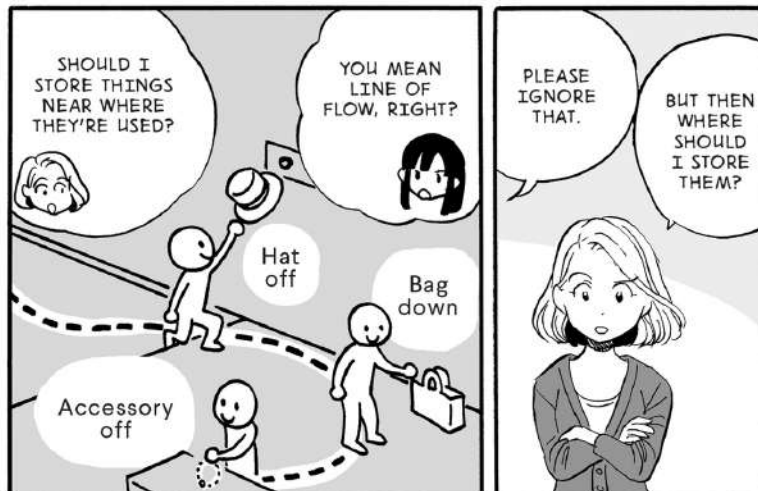










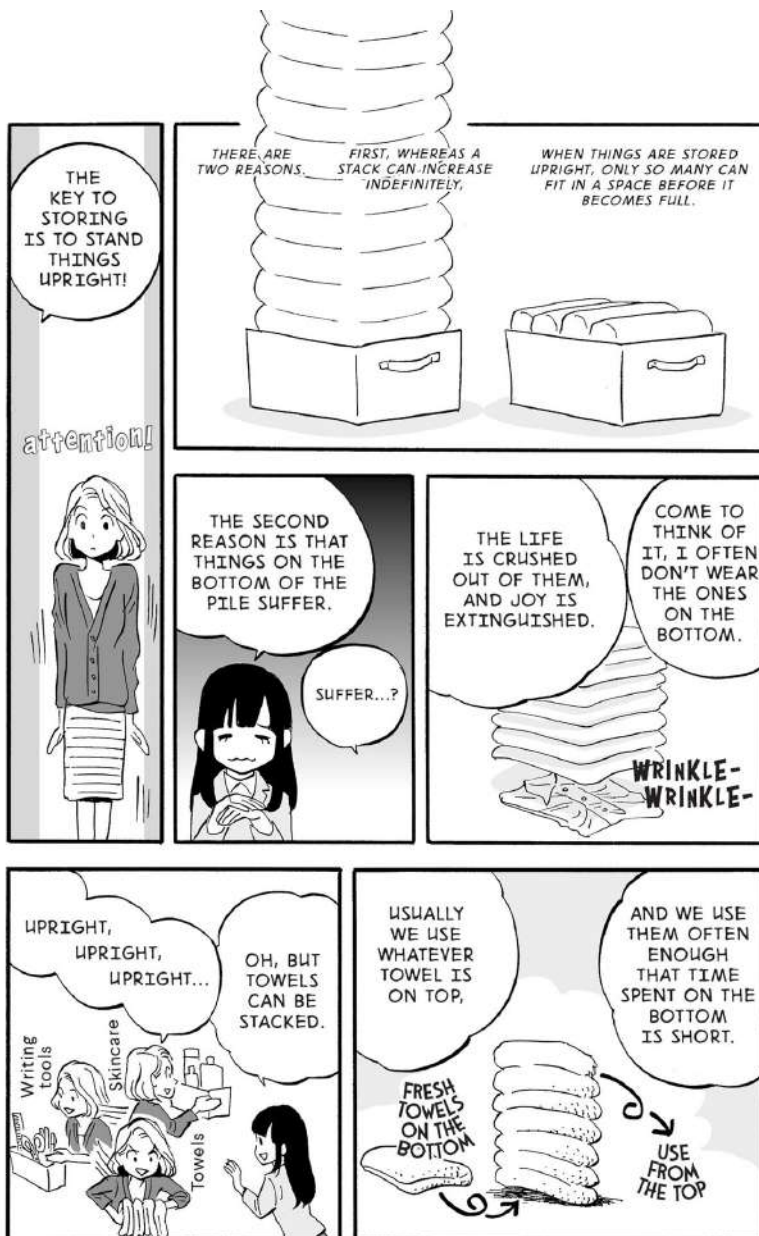




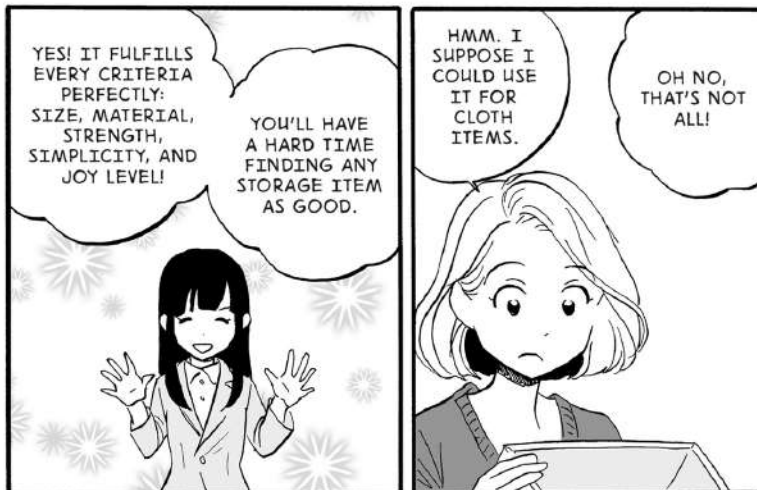
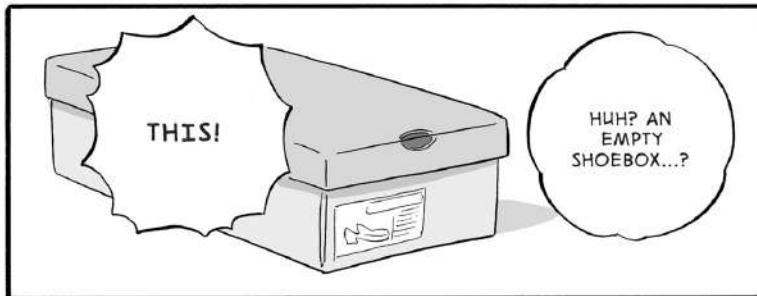
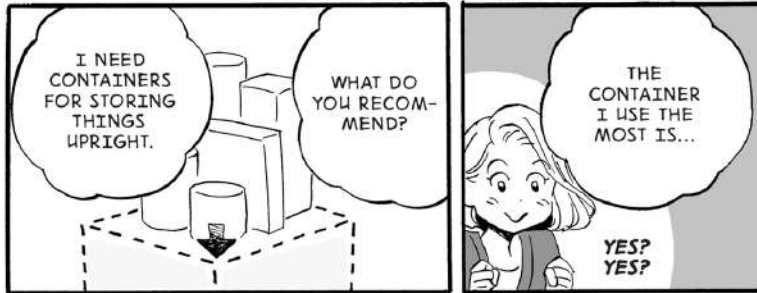




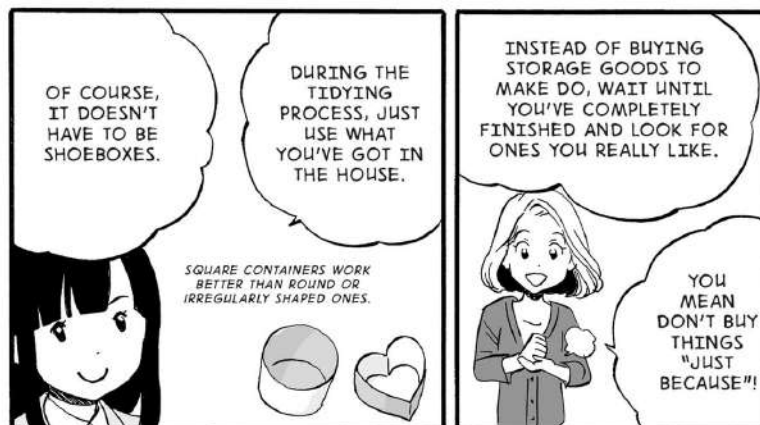
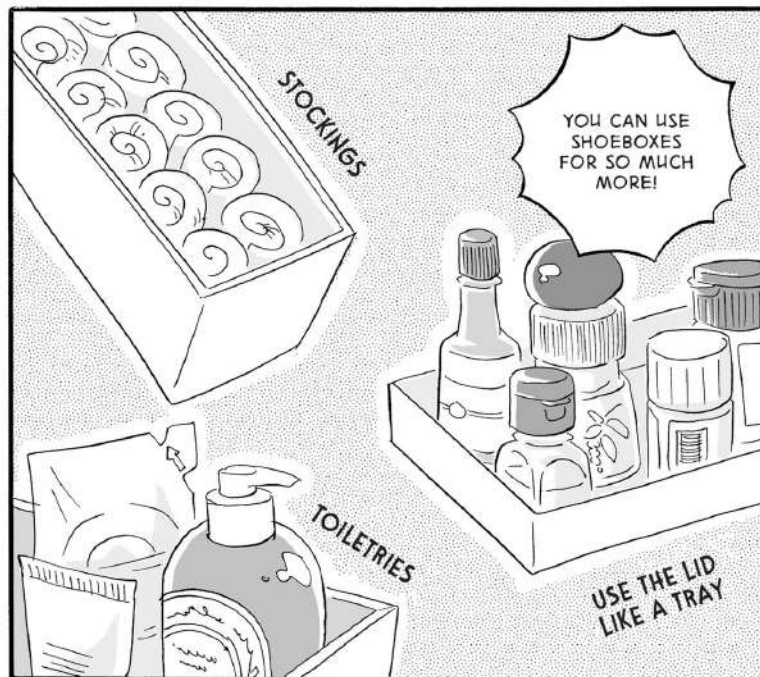




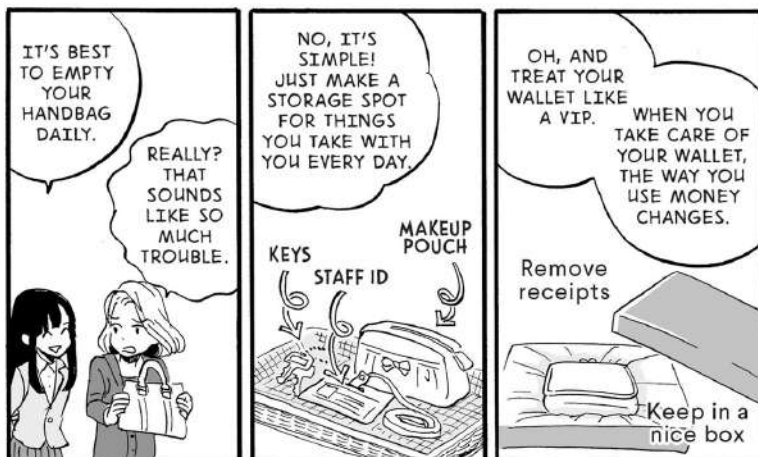






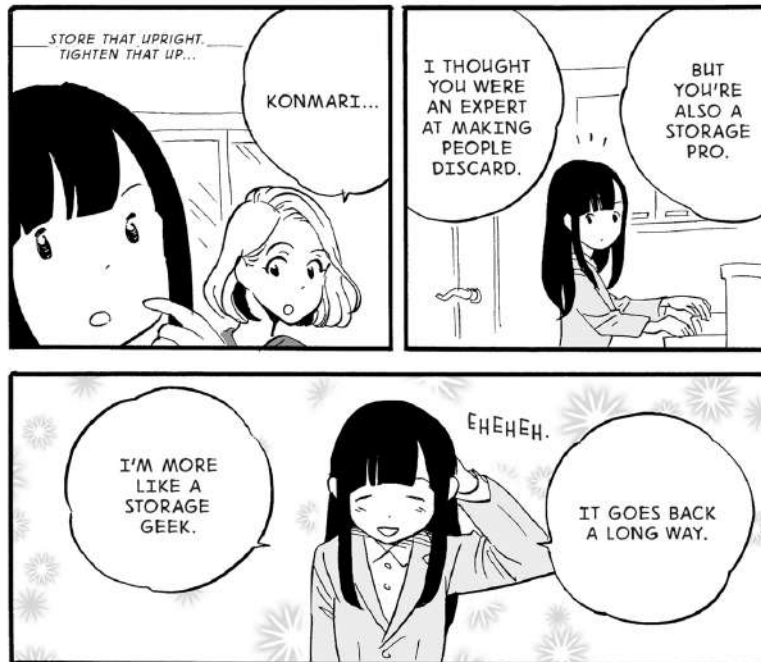




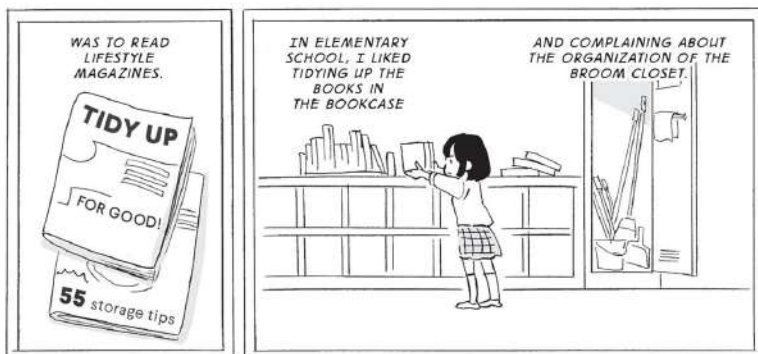




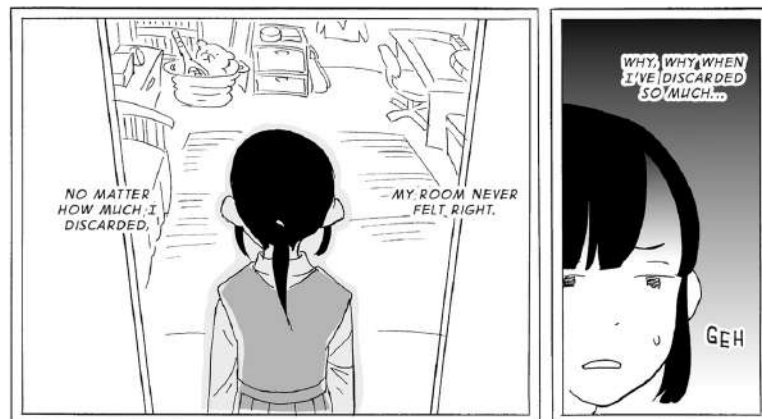




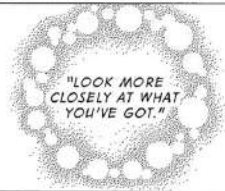
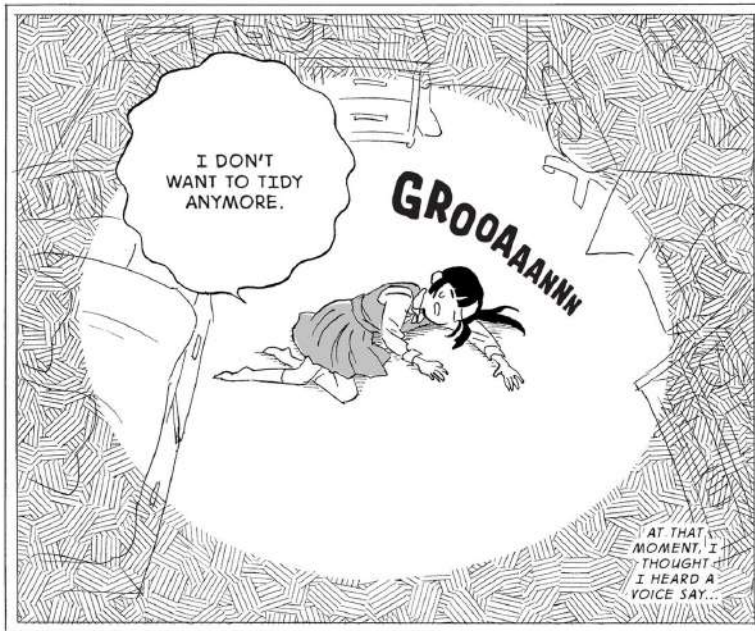






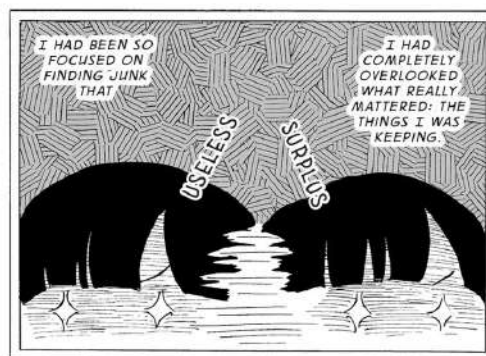






















Designate a “home” for each thing  
and store it where it belongs.

---

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.



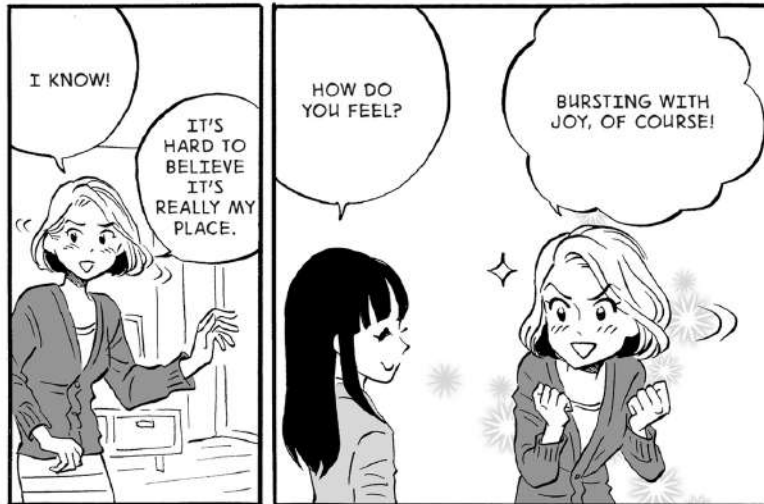


















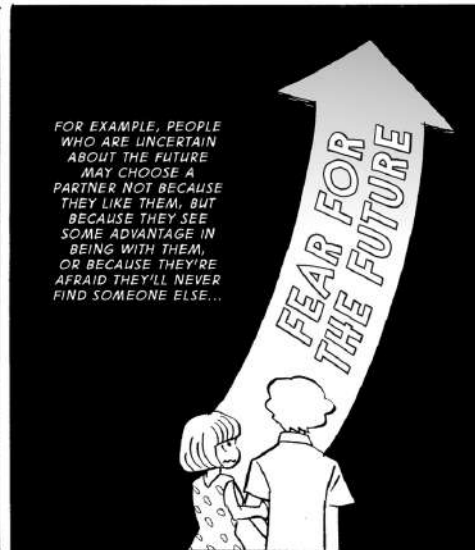




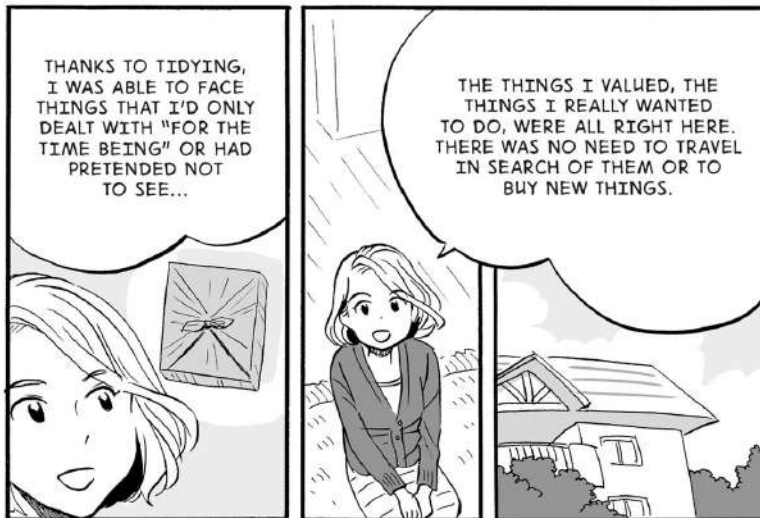










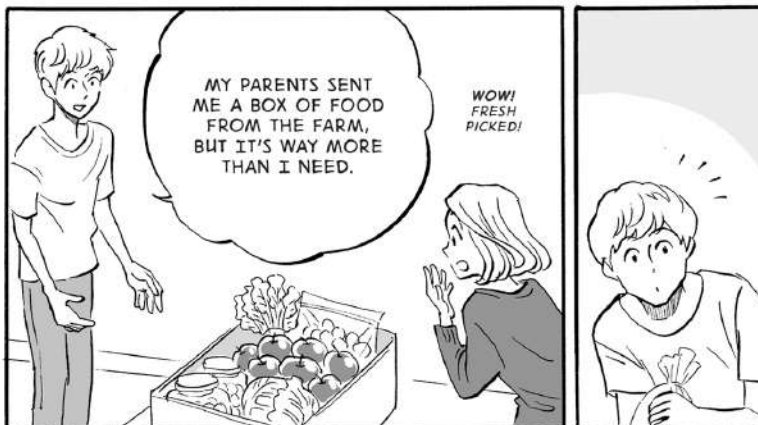
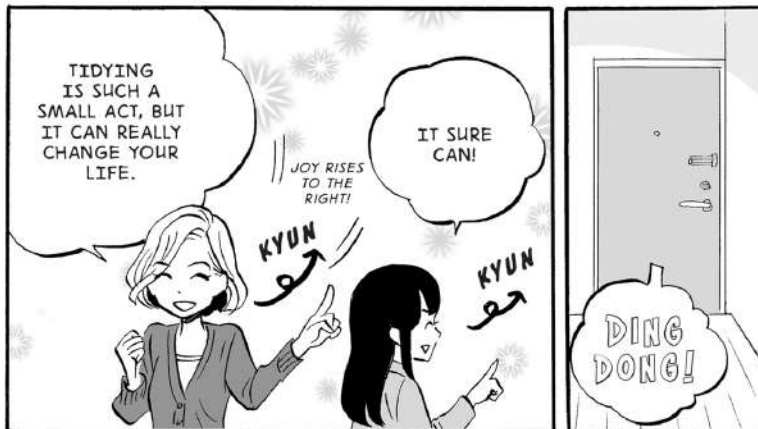








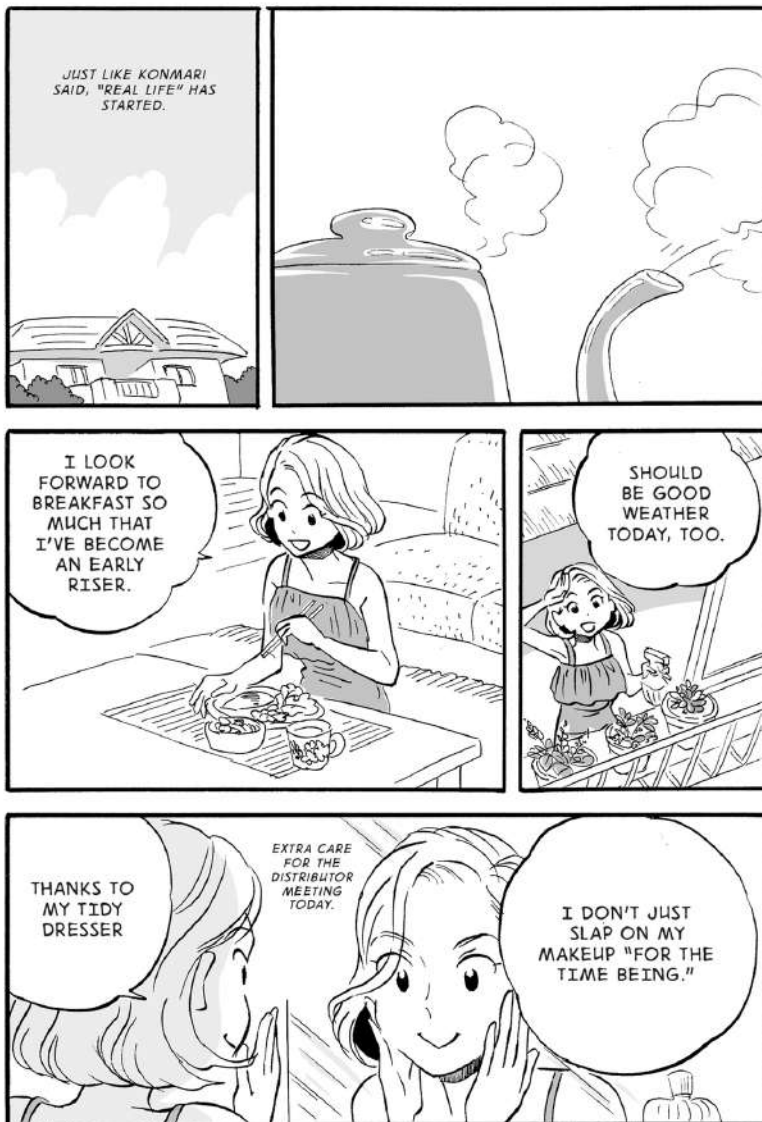






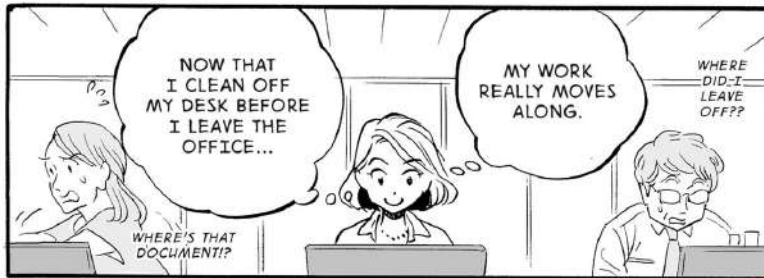
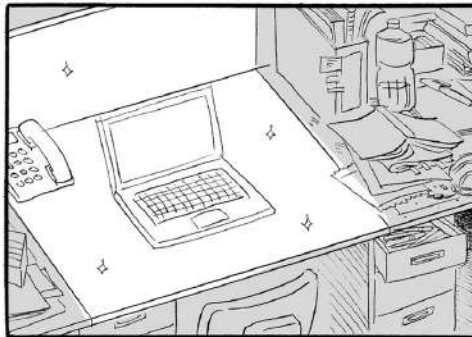




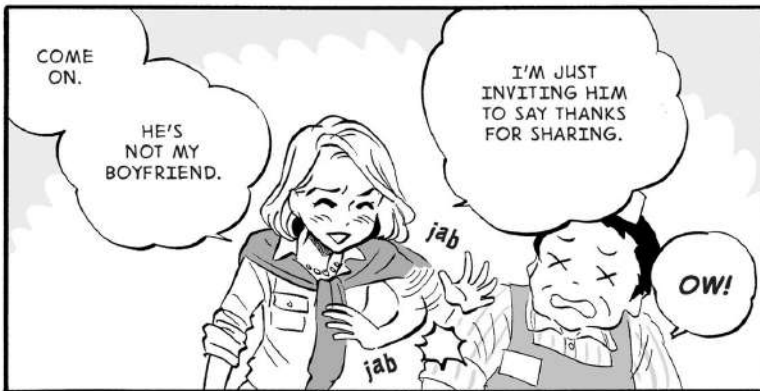
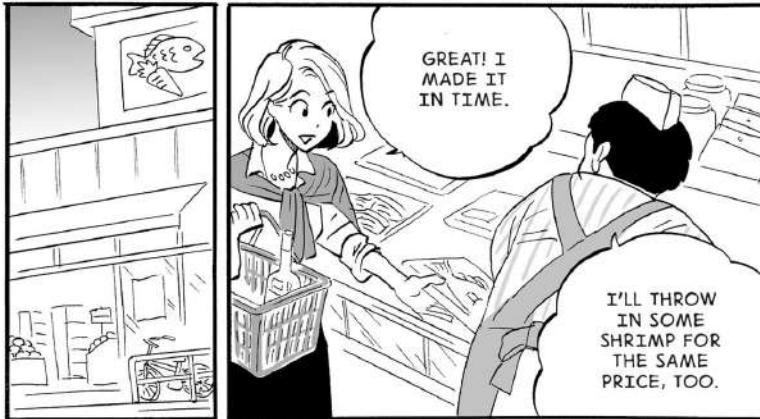
















I'M HOME.



NOW I CHECK MY MAIL ON MY WAY UP AND RECYCLE THE LETTERS I DON'T NEED AS SOON AS I WALK IN.

THIS ONE FROM THE TAX OFFICE GOES IN MY "PENDING" BOX.



I'LL EMPTY MY BAG WHILE BOILING THE KETTLE.

AND DUMP THE RECEIPTS IN THE BIN



TODAY I'LL JUST TOUCH UP MY MAKEUP...

INSTEAD OF REMOVING IT.



I'VE FINISHED CHANGING, AND THE KETTLE'S BOILED.

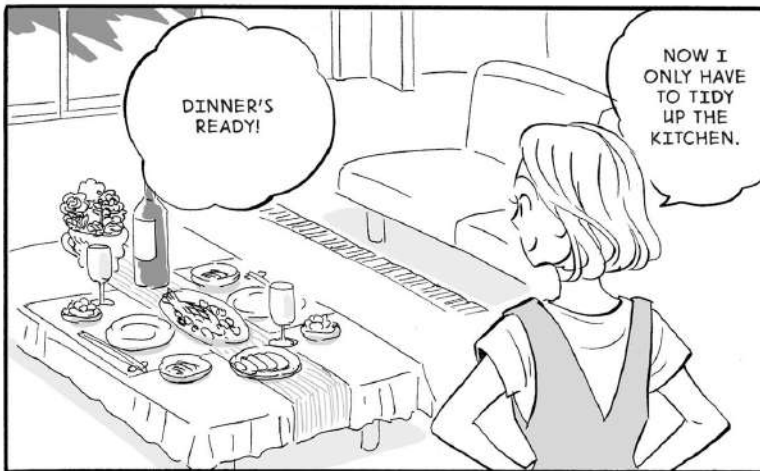
BEFORE STARTING DINNER, I'LL HAVE A CUP OF TEA



ALL THAT IN JUST FIVE MINUTES!

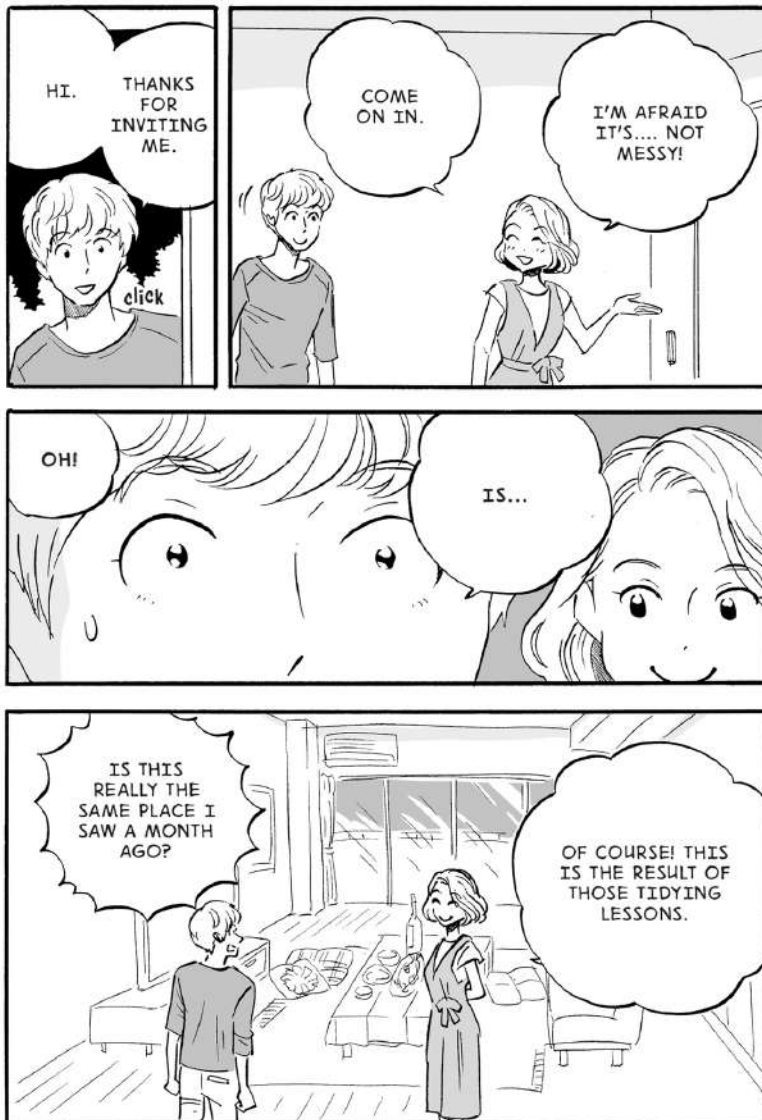
TA-DA!







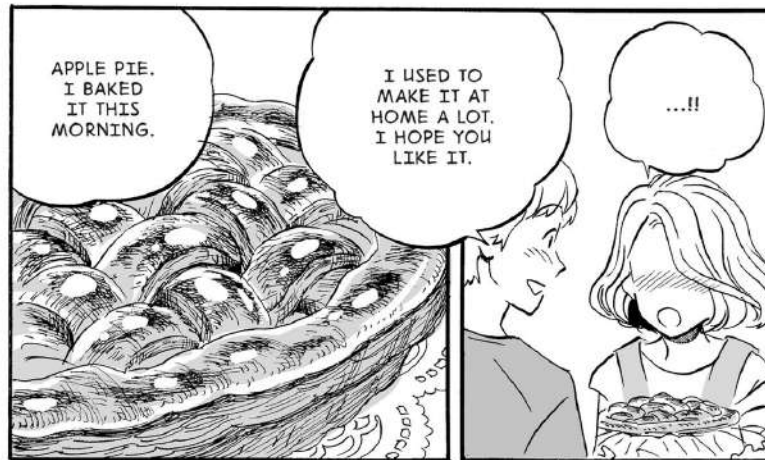














## afterword

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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.

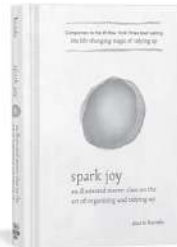




## about the author and illustrator



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](http://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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