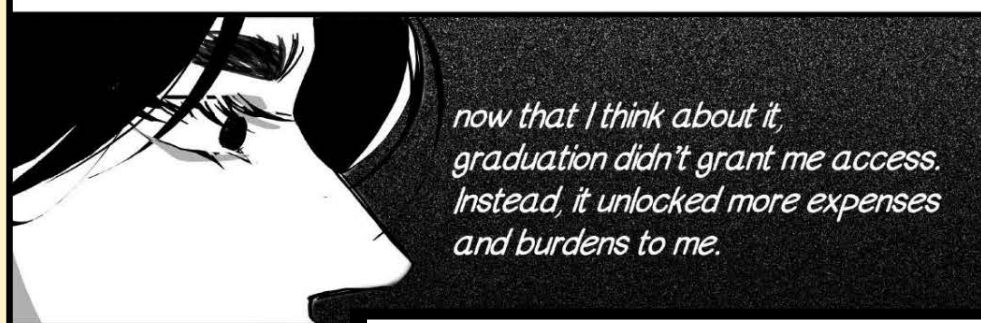
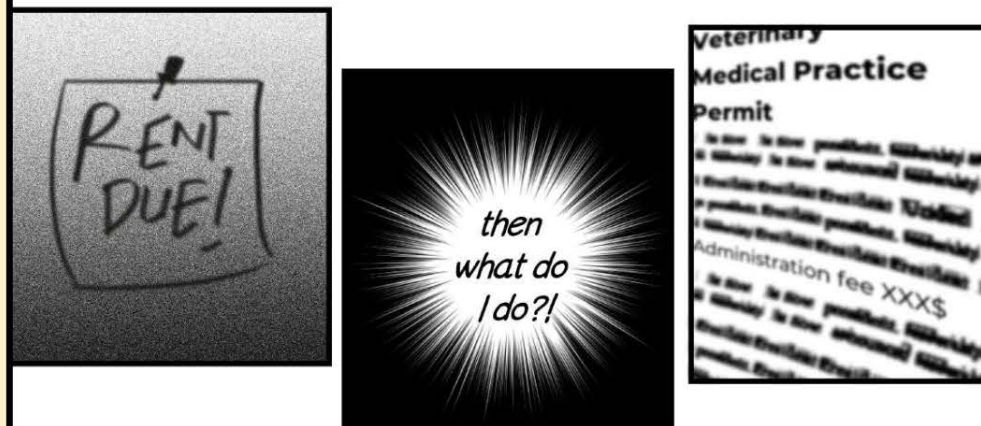
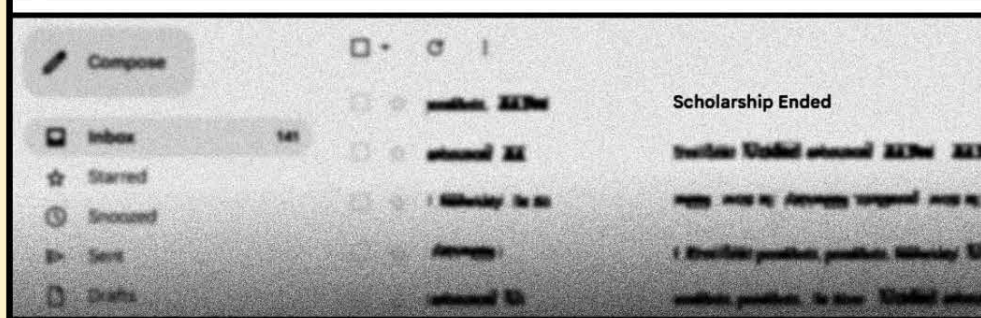




World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



A COST I COULDN'T AFFORD



Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

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Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOA or partner organisations, and responsibility for interpretation lies solely with the reader.

ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOAH in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOAH has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

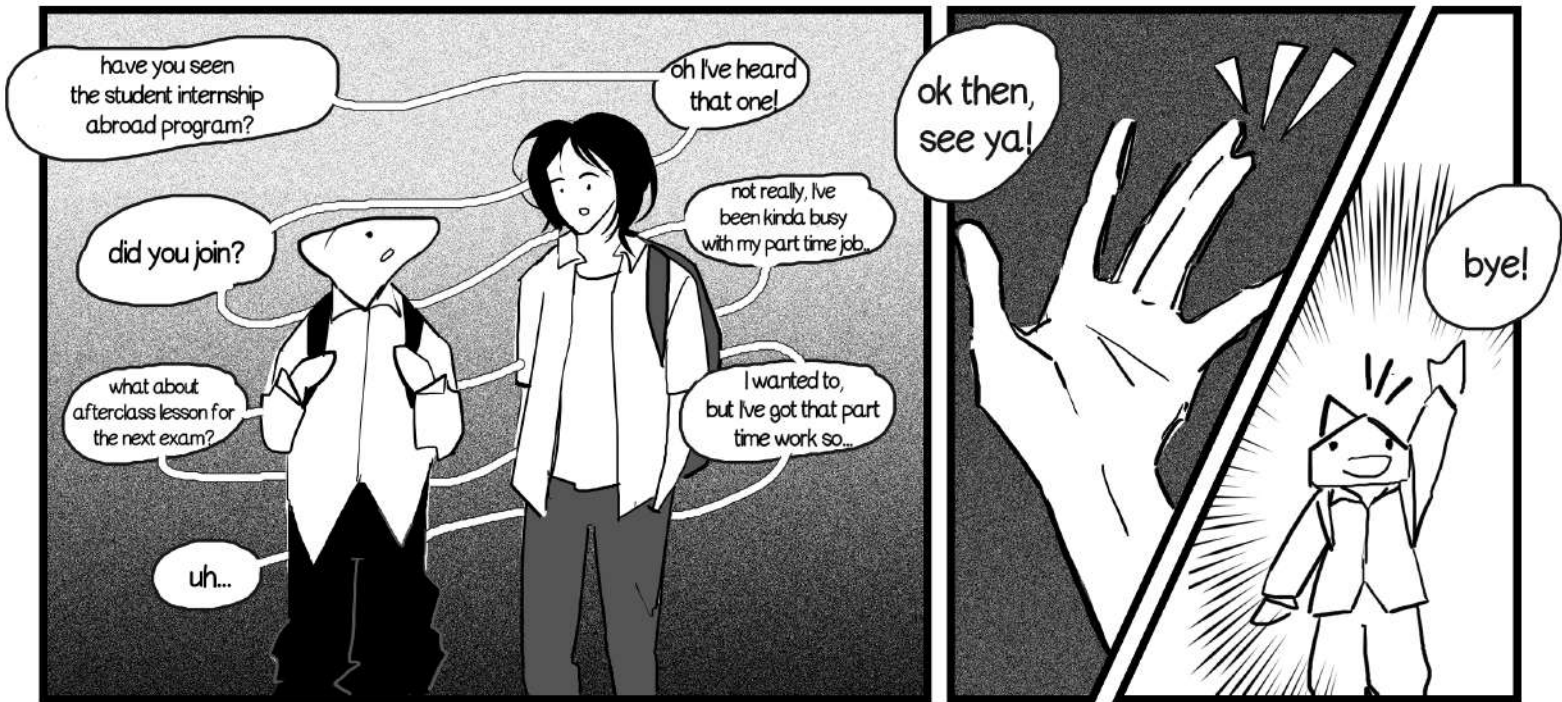
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.



Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
WOAH Regional
Representative for Asia and
the Pacific

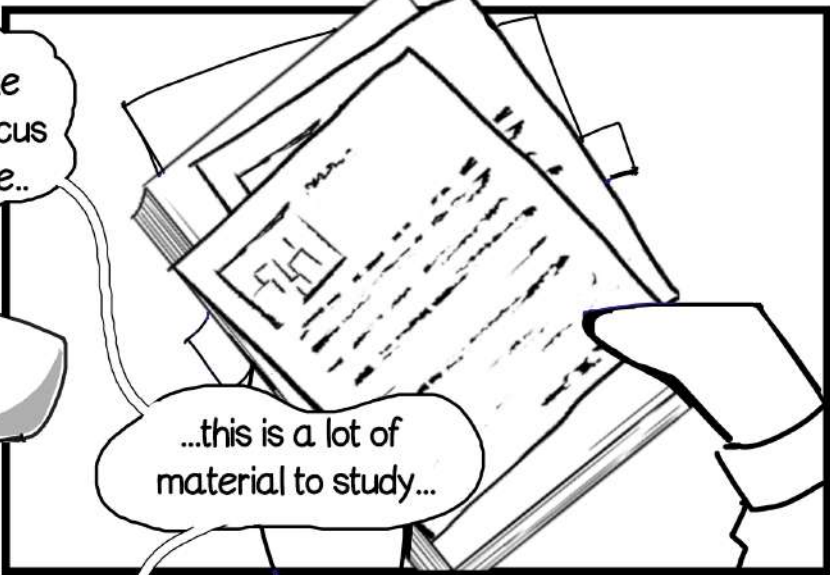


Dr Naree Ketusing
WOAH Sub-Regional
Representative for South-East Asia

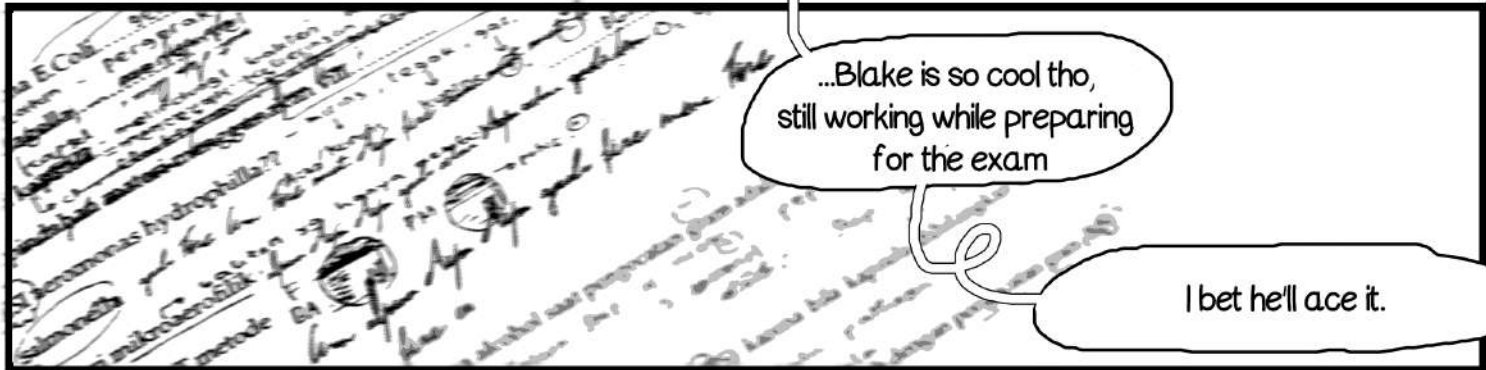




I feel like I can't focus anymore..



...this is a lot of material to study...



...Blake is so cool tho, still working while preparing for the exam

I bet he'll ace it.



here you go! :)

thanks!



ugh, when am I supposed to study...?

I am super not ready for the final exam..

the test is coming, we all passed . . .



. . . it happened so quickly . . .

. . . then,
we graduated.
just like that.

I know that once we graduate,
we're all *equal* as vets.

but something has been bugging me...

. . . something that makes me uneasy
everytime i think about it.

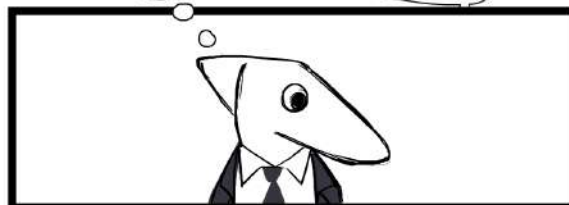
no matter what,

that "*equal*"
doesn't mean we started from the same line.

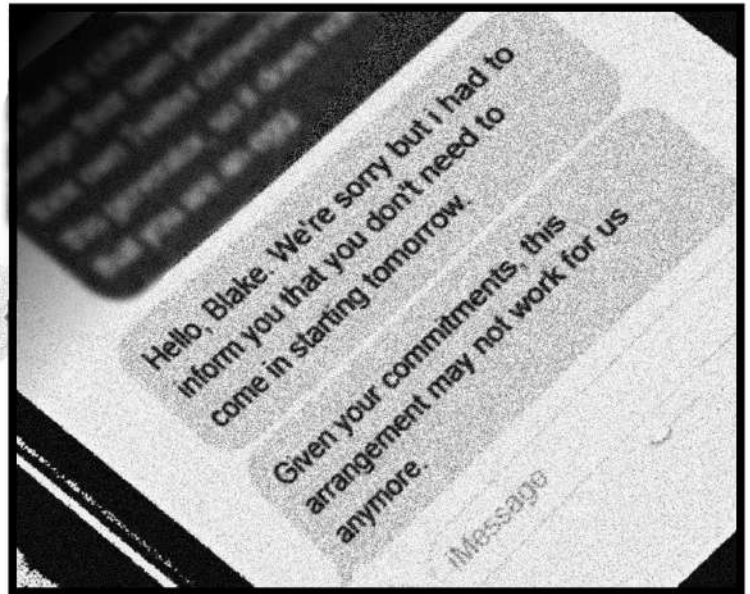
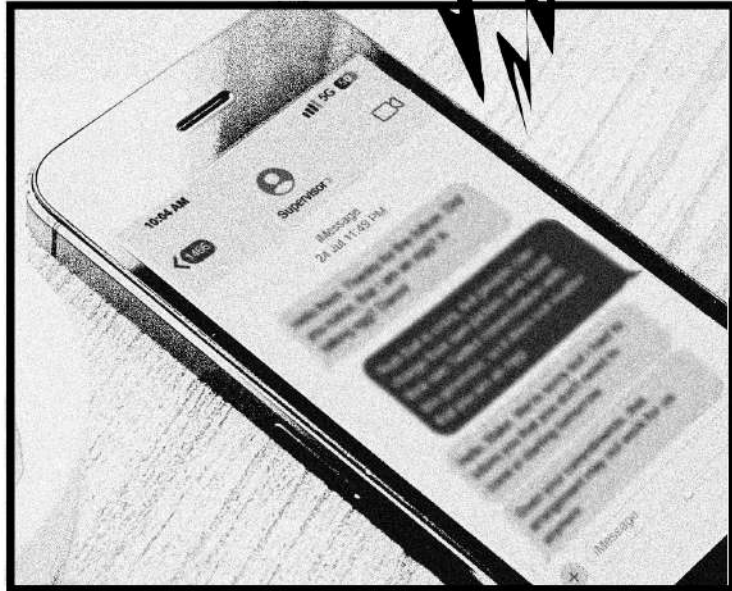
*some got their paths paved
before their first step.*

some didn't.

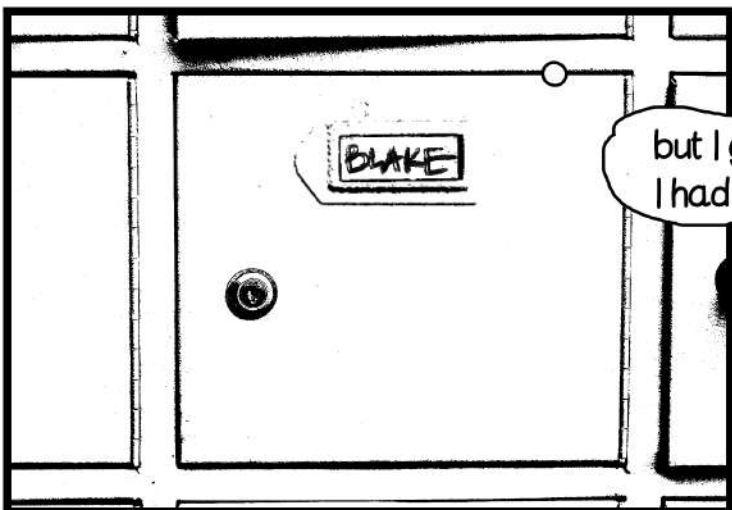
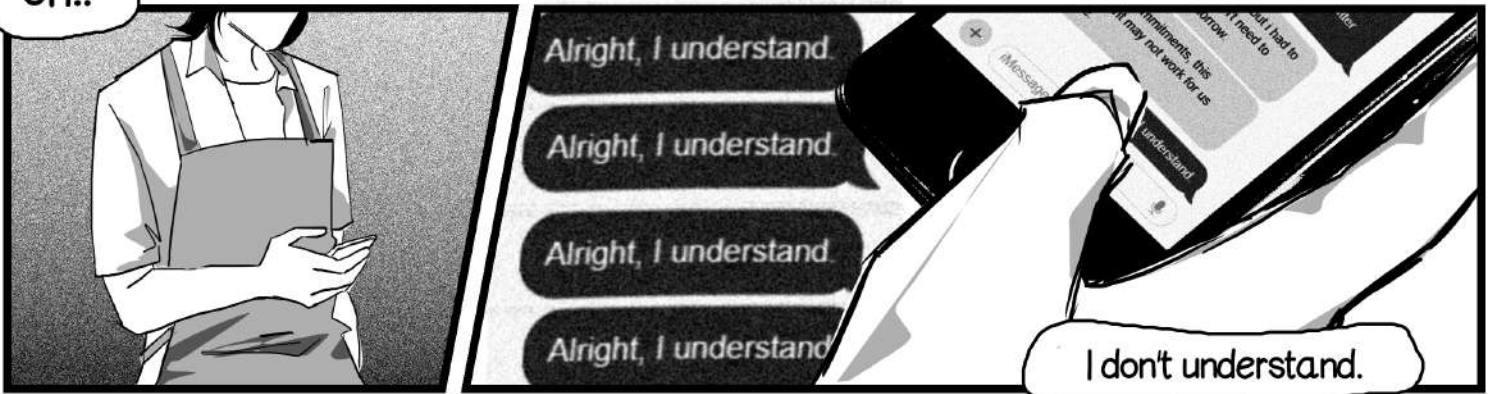
huh..



I wonder what Blake
will do next...



oh..

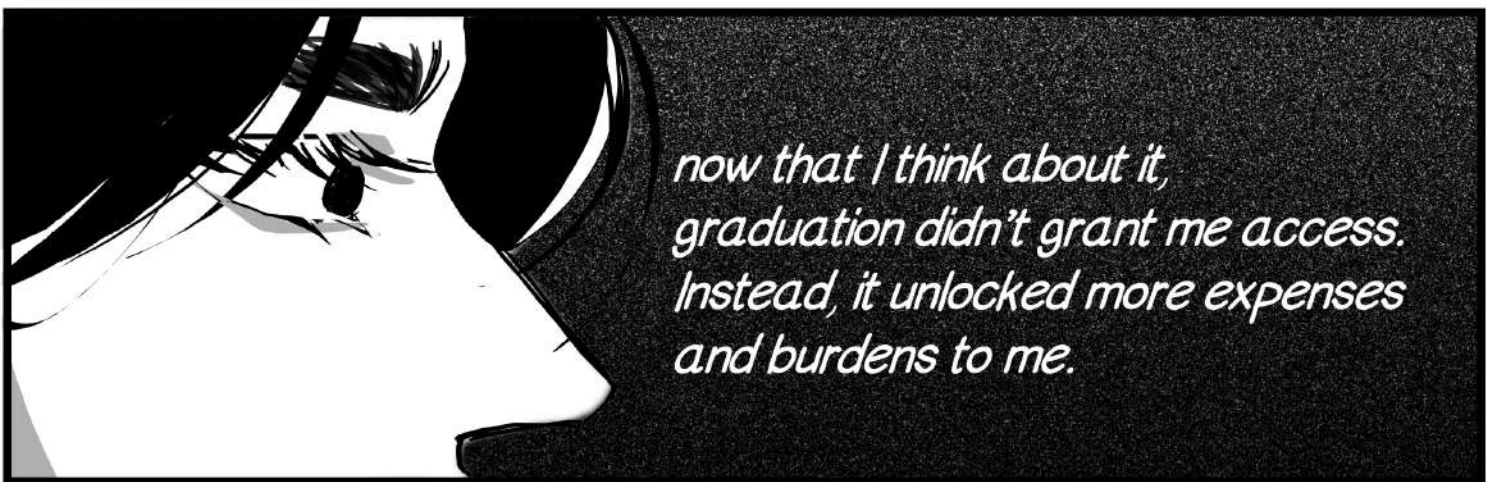
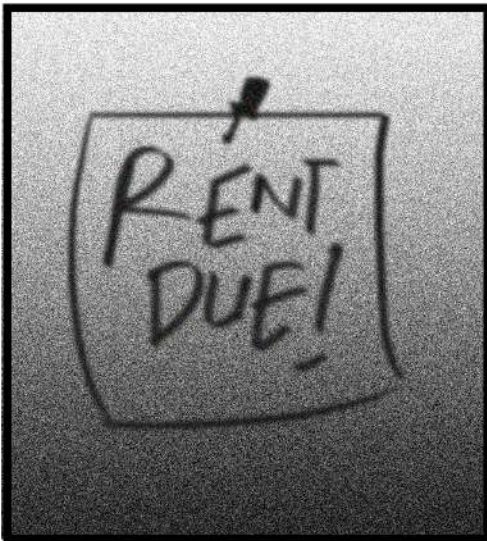
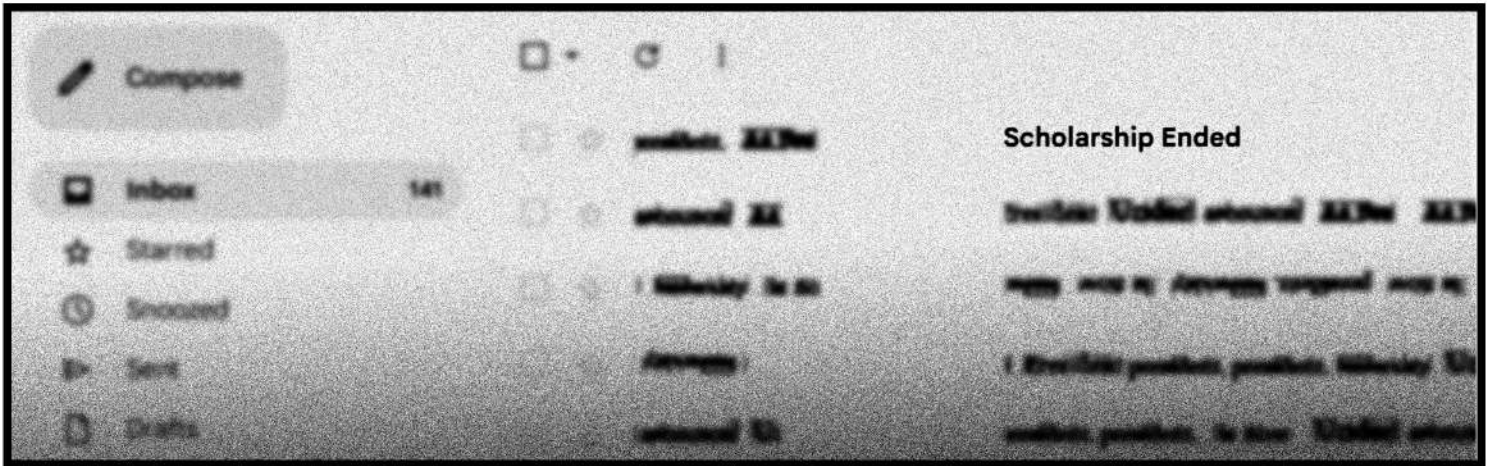


but I guess I had to say...





well, now I've graduated.. but..



*now that I think about it,
graduation didn't grant me access.
Instead, it unlocked more expenses
and burdens to me.*

Subject Job Offer

Dear Blake A.,

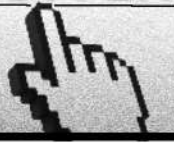
We are offering you the xxxxx position with a monthly salary of [[redacted: low salary]]

If you agree, please proceed by clicking the button below.

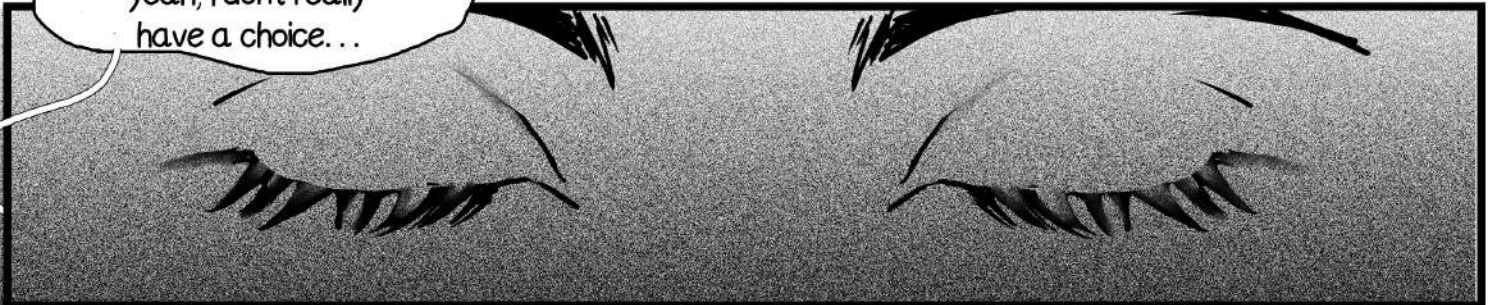
[ACCEPT OFFER]

If you agree, please

[ACCEPT OFFER]



yeah, I don't really have a choice...



...at least I had something to hold on to for a while...



..I'm stuck...



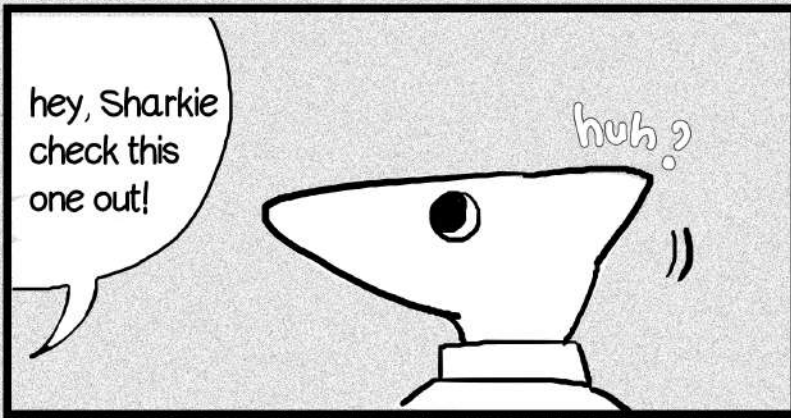
...at least... I had something... to hold on to... for a while...

Apparently, professional preparation came at a cost I couldn't afford.

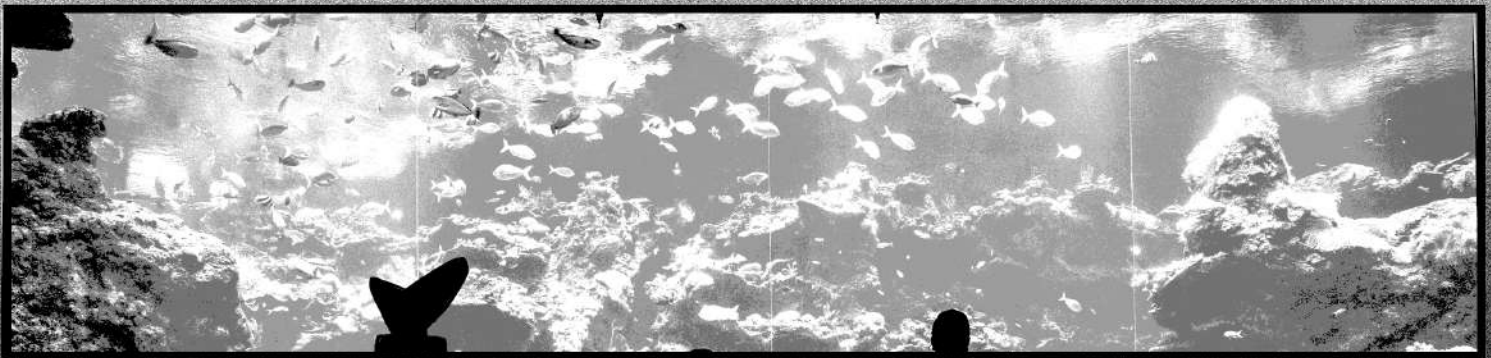
but...

...at...

...least...



huh.. I suddenly thinking of Blake..



well, not everyone is free to choose.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Baiq Puji Rahayu

Baiq Puji Rahayu is a veterinary medicine graduate from Indonesia with experience in laboratory works, research activities, and student organization. Alongside her scientific background, she has strong interest in illustration and graphic design and is interested in interdisciplinary approaches that combine creativity and science.

Comic description

This comic was created to address an issue commonly faced by newly graduated veterinarians in the author's country. While veterinary education is relatively accessible, opportunities to further develop specific interests and gain professional experience remain limited and often gatekept. Universities offer various academic and extracurricular activities, yet follow-up support is often lacking, leaving graduates to navigate career progression on their own.




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