



World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



BEST SURGEON IN THE WORLD



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

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This publication was possible thanks to the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

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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).

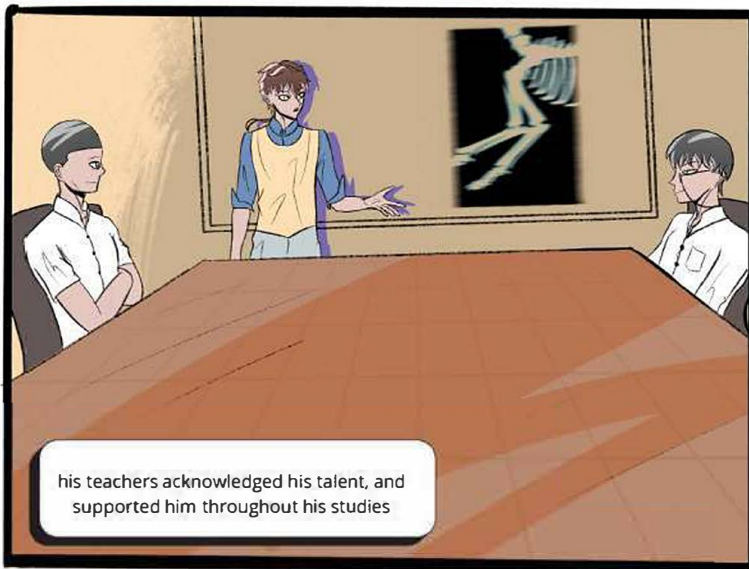
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health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



his teachers acknowledged his talent, and supported him throughout his studies



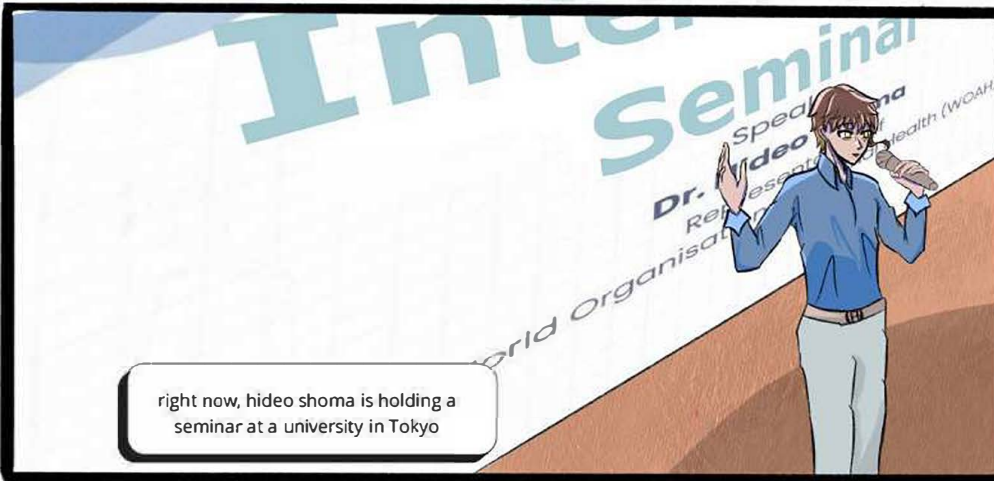
Hideo Shoma was a prodigy, the best in his class, and a genius born with talent



And he did, he was a machine in this field, better than most, even senior veterinarians, especially in animal surgery



He graduated vet school with the highest score in the past 10 years. Even then, he still wanted to be better



right now, hideo shoma is holding a seminar at a university in Tokyo



VET SAVES ENDANGERED TIGER



Dr. Hideo Shoma, a renowned Japanese veterinarian, has made medical history after successfully treating a critically endangered Sumatran tiger diagnosed with late-stage brain cancer. According to conservation officials, this marks the first recorded case in which a tiger suffering from advanced intracranial cancer has survived.

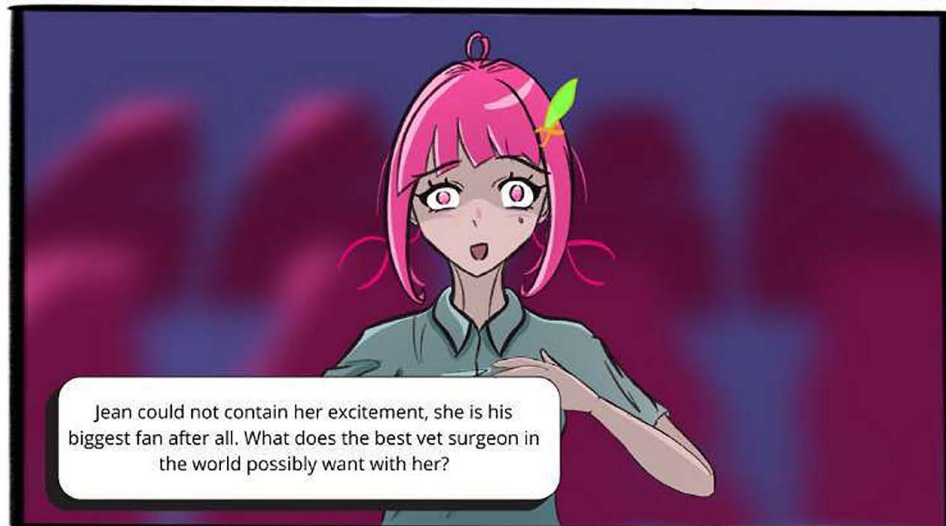
... weeks to live, is now reported
Until he finally, became the best of the best



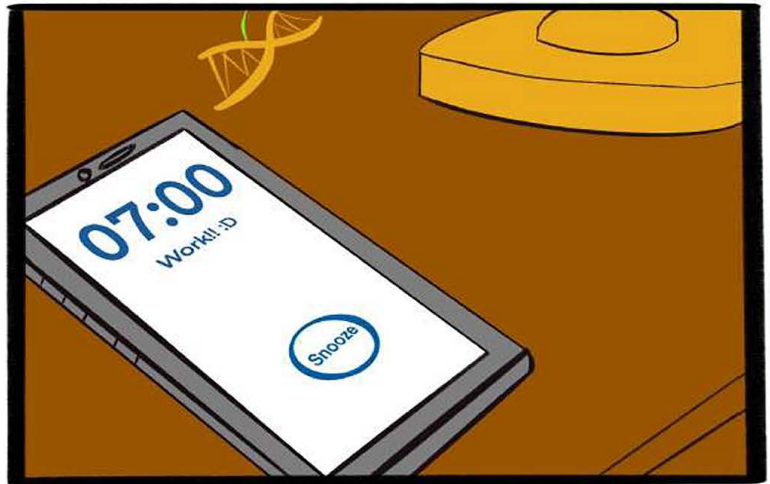
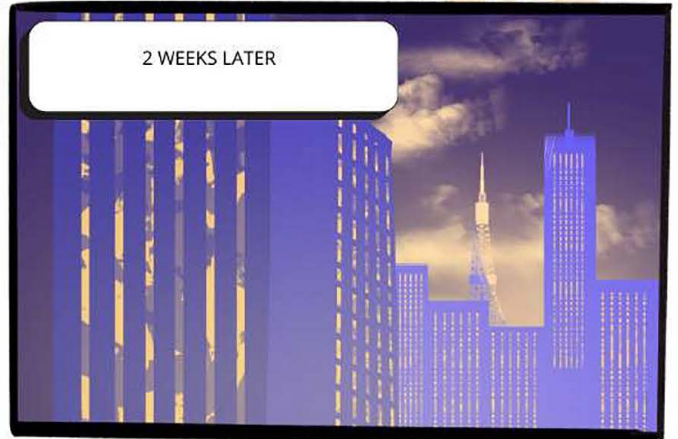
right now, Jean is attending Dr. Shoma's seminar, and she's about to ask a question that'll change her life

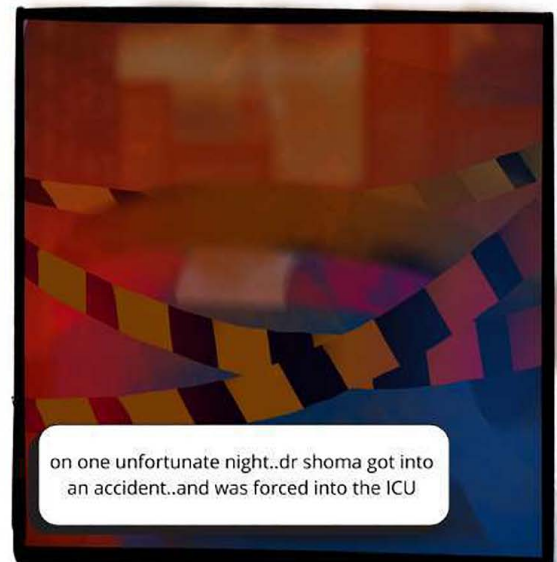


and this, is Jean Momoiro. . She's not a prodigy, nor was she the best. But she strives to better everyday





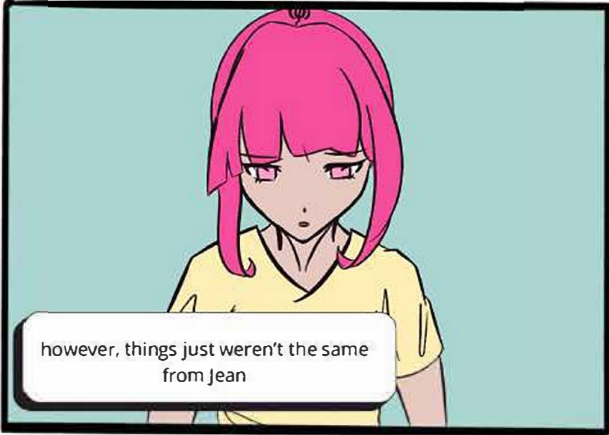






From now on, I will be taking over as the director of Shoma Clinic

In dr shoma's absence, Dr Sato as the other senior vet in the clinic, took over the role of leading the clinic



however, things just weren't the same from Jean



Don't worry Dr. daniel, I can handle it

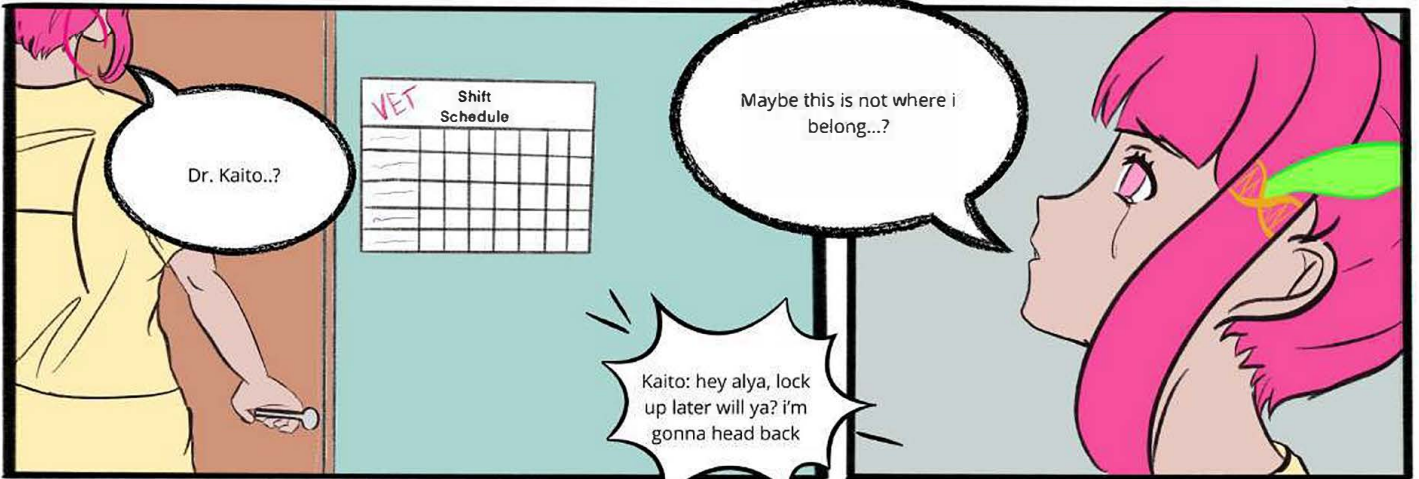


Hi there mister Great Dane...what's your na-



I'll handle this one Jean

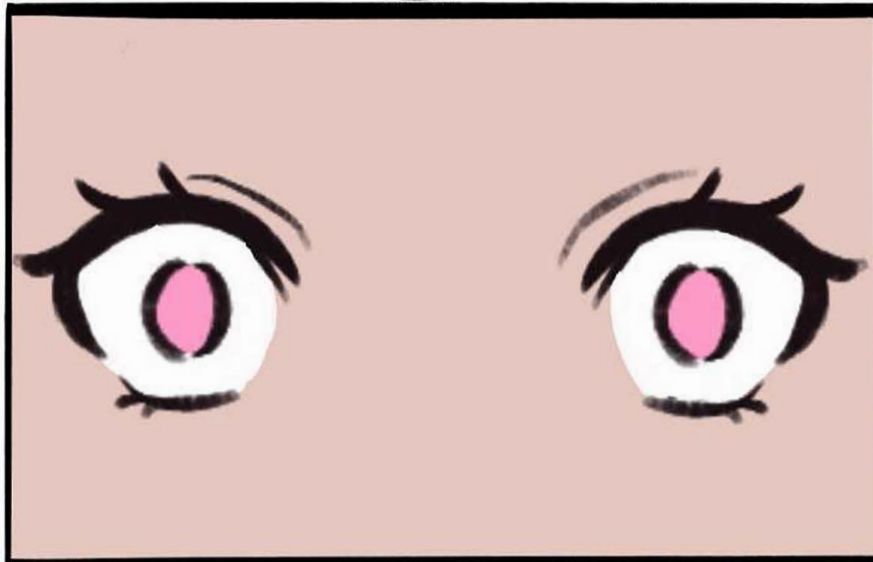


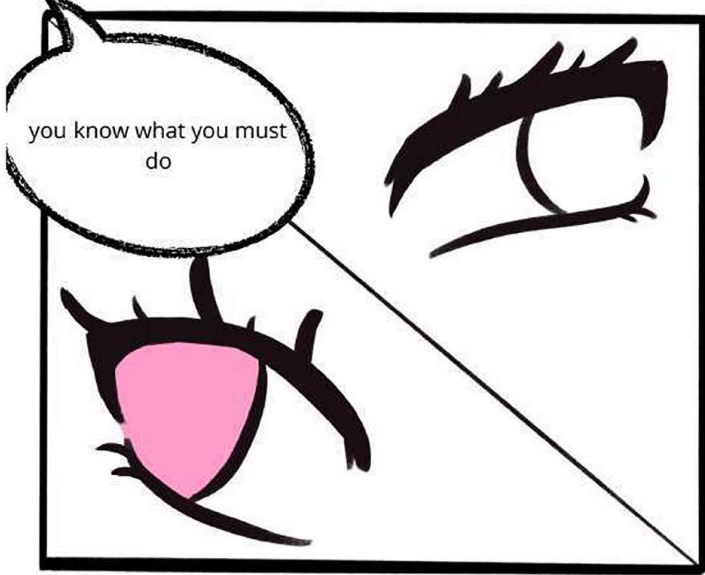
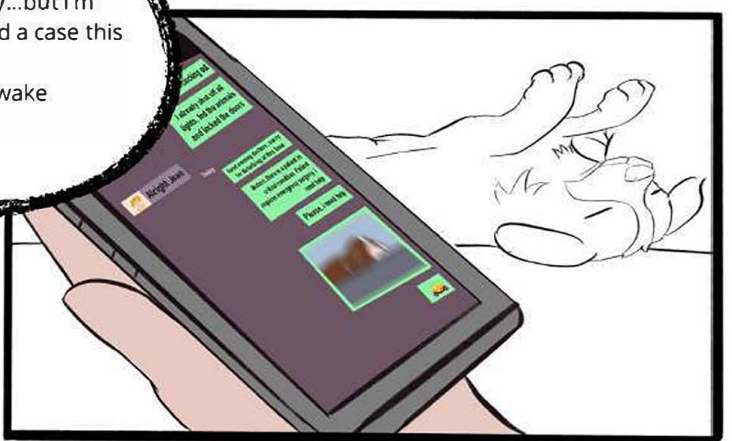


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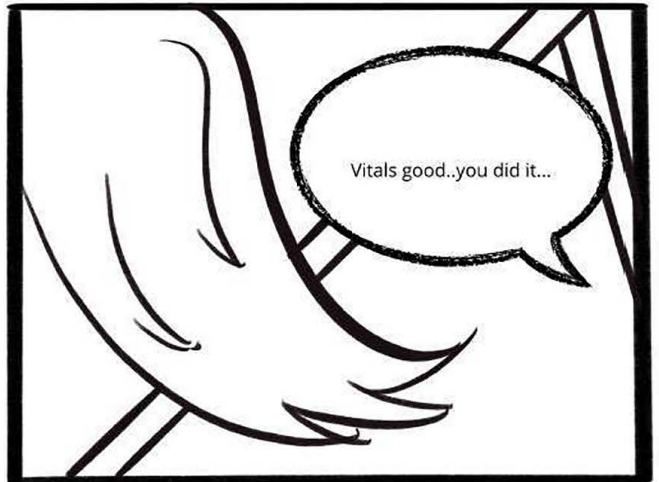
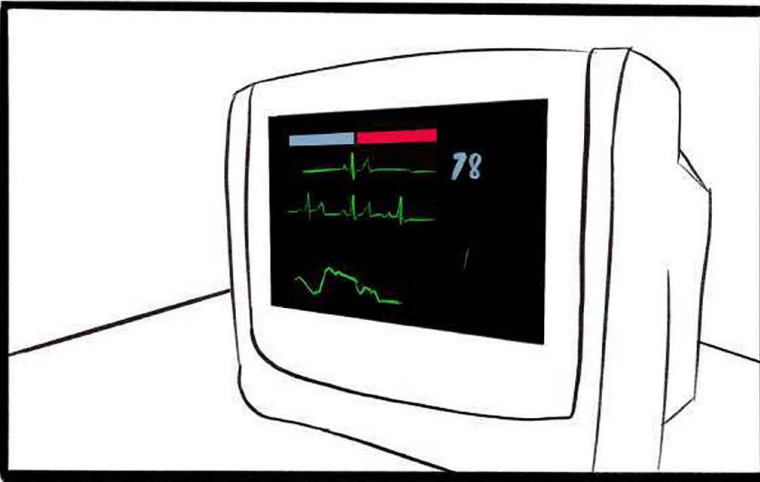
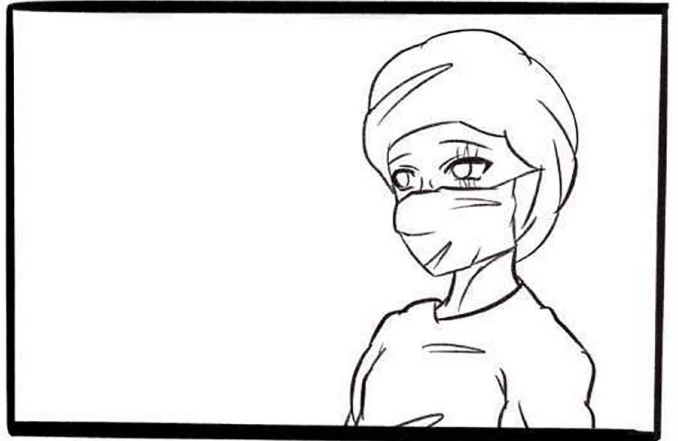
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'the surgery was a success,
your dog will be alright



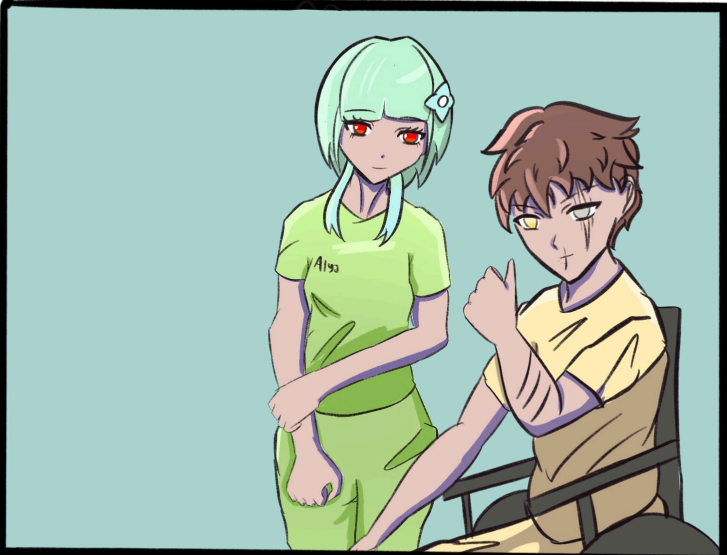
how is he doc? Will he be
okay?



THANK YOU..THANK YOU
SO MUCH...I don't know
what I'd do without him



it's my duty ma'am, I'm glad
I could be of service



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rangga Athaya Defan

My name is Rangga Athaya Defan, a vet student currently studying in IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia. Currently I'm in my 5th year out of 6, and I'm very busy studying for my title as veterinarian. Oh, and additional notes on the drastic artistic differences:

- The first art style depicts Hideo Shoma's full-fledged status as a veterinarian
- Then the art style switches to a duller color, depicting Jean Momoiro's as a "hatchling"
- Then near the end of the comic, we see the colors start to fade around Jean as only her eyes are left colored, this depicts Jean's slowly deteriorating confidence in herself
- Then at the end of the comic, we see the art style slowly regains colors, and slowly becomes brighter, as it was with Hideo Shoma. This depicts that now Jean is a full-fledged veterinarian, just like Hideo, with no more doubts and insecurities swarming her heart.

Comic description

“Best Surgeon in the World” is a dramatic and inspirational comic that follows the journey of Jean Momoiro, a veterinary student who begins her career in a far from extraordinary way. While others shine through natural talent, Jean survives through persistence, curiosity, and quiet determination.

Her life changes when she meets Dr. Hideo Shoma, the world’s most renowned veterinary surgeon. A prodigy known for his unmatched skill and discipline, Dr. Shoma recognizes Jean’s potential after she asks a thoughtful question during one of his seminars. Impressed, he offers her a chance to work under him after graduation.

Jean’s dream begins brightly at Shoma Clinic, where she is welcomed and encouraged by her mentor. However, tragedy strikes when Dr. Shoma is involved in a devastating accident that leaves him unable to operate. With his absence, the clinic’s atmosphere shifts. Senior doctors take over, and Jean finds herself overlooked, dismissed, and denied opportunities to grow.

As her confidence crumbles, Jean questions her place in the profession. Her struggles peak during a late-night emergency when a critically injured dog is brought into the clinic, and no senior doctors respond to her calls for help. Forced to face the crisis alone, Jean is on the verge of giving up—until Dr. Shoma appears.

Though physically unable to perform surgery, Dr. Shoma places his trust in Jean, guiding her through the operation step by step. Through fear, doubt, and determination, Jean successfully saves the patient, finally proving—to herself more than anyone—that she is capable.




In the end, Dr. Shoma retires peacefully, confident that his legacy lives on. Jean does not replace him, nor does she become a legend overnight. Instead, she becomes something more important: herself.

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