

Comic Script: “Every story but mine”

Written by Cheng Katherine

PAGE 1-2 — “Every Story Has a Protagonist”

Panel 1

Wide shot, buildings.

NARRATION (Hana): “Every story has a main character...”

Panel 2

Close up shot

Alarm beeping

Panel 3

Shows *Hana’s hand, snoozing the alarm.*

Panel 4

Wide shot, Hana on her bed. With short descriptions about Hana. m

Hana sleeping on the bed .

NARRATION (Hana): “And it’s definitely me...”

Panel 5

Wide shot, high school hallway.

Students bustle around. Hana walks in the middle, sunlight from a window casts a literal spotlight on her.

NARRATION (Hana): “Everything I do feels like a movie”

Panel 6

Close-up of Hana’s journal on her desk. Doodles, dramatic phrases like “My life feels cinematic.”

NARRATION: “Everything I do feels like a movie. The quiet scenes..”

Panel 7

Hana laughing with her best friend Mika under a cherry tree.

MIKA: “You’re so dramatic, Hana.”

HANA (grinning): “Every protagonist is.”

NARRATION: “The turning points”

Panel 8

Hana watches classmates chatting happily nearby. She’s slightly apart, expression wistful.

NARRATION: “They don’t get it. I’m different.”

PAGE 3 — “New Chapter”

Panel 9

Close-up of an envelope: “Congratulations! You’ve been accepted.”

HANA (off-panel): “Finally — the next arc begins.”

Panel 10

Wide shot: first day at university. Towering buildings, crowds of students. Hana stands small, suitcase in hand.

NARRATION: “New setting. New story. My real adventure begins.”

Panel 11

Crowded campus walkway. Hana walks amid hundreds of students. Her figure is tiny now, no spotlight.

NARRATION (small font): “...right?”

Panel 12

Dorm room. Roommate Jade is unpacking.

JADE: “Your name’s Hana? Like the flower?”

HANA: “Yeah... like that.”

JADE (cheerful): “Cute!”

NARRATION: it’s another random scene in my life.”

PAGE 4 — “Background Character”

Panel 13

Lecture hall

She raises her hand; no one notices. Classmates chat around her.

NARRATION: “No one’s watching the main character.”

Panel 14

Closeup of her hesitantly putting her hand down.

Panel 15

Cafeteria. Hana eats alone, scrolling through social media.

Posts show smiling groups, successes, adventures.

NARRATION: “Everyone else’s story looks brighter.”

Panel 16

Close-up of phone reflection: her face faintly visible, surrounded by digital images of others.

NARRATION: “Maybe I’m not the protagonist anymore.”

PAGE 5 — “The World With You”

Panel 17

Hana walking to class. She spots a student dropping papers. Another rushes to help pick them up.

NARRATION: “Everywhere I look... stories unfold.”

Panel 18

Bus ride home. A stranger wipes away tears, trying to be discreet. Hana glances, empathy softening her face.

NARRATION: “Little moments. No audience. Still beautiful.”

Panel 19

Professor Ruiz in lecture, chalk in hand.

PROFESSOR: “The world isn’t a story *about* you.”

(Beat panel — pause)

PROFESSOR: “It’s a story *with* you.”

Panel 20

Hana sits thoughtful at her desk that night, rereading her old journal pages — phrases like “I’m the main character” crossed out.

NARRATION: “a story with me....”

PAGE 6 — “New Frame”

Panel 21

Morning café. Hana sketches people around her — a couple laughing, a barista humming, a student reading.

NARRATION: “I start to notice the side characters... who were never really ‘side’ at all.”

Panel 22

Video call with Mika.

MIKA: “So... how’s your movie going?”

HANA (smiling): “Less movie. More life.”

Panel 23

Hana helps a classmate in the library find a book. They laugh together.

NARRATION: “Feels good... not to be the star. Just part of something.”

Panel 24 (FINAL)

Wide city shot. Evening glow. Hana walks down a crowded street — now drawn as one figure among many, faces lit by warm light.

NARRATION: “Maybe we’re all main characters. Just in stories that overlap.”

CAPTION (bottom right): “And that’s enough.”

Core Story Concept

A teenage girl believes she's the "main character" of her life, destined for something extraordinary. She views others as side characters, her life as a movie. But when things don't go as planned, socially, academically, emotionally. She starts to realize that everyone carries their own story. In embracing this truth, she discovers a more grounded, genuine sense of worth: being part of the world is just as meaningful as standing above it.

Characters

Character	Description	Role in Growth
Hana	18, Japanese-American, introspective but self-focused. Loves journaling, film, and the idea of being "different."	Protagonist. Learns humility and empathy.
Mika	Hana's best friend, kind and grounded, often dismissed by Hana as "boring."	Serves as a mirror — someone content without needing to be "main."
Professor Ruiz	University lecturer, teaches philosophy or literature.	Offers a quiet comment that reshapes Hana's view.
Stranger / Peer	Random classmates or people she meets.	Represent other "stories" in the world.

Setting

- **High school → university transition**
- **Everyday environments** — cafeterias, classrooms, city sidewalks, dorms, buses.
- **Visual metaphors:**
 - Hana framed alone in the center of panels early on (spotlight effect).
 - Later panels widen — she becomes part of the crowd, not isolated.
 - Backgrounds become richer and more detailed as she notices others.

Narrative Arc

Act 1 – The Main Character (Panels 1–6)

Hana sees herself as the protagonist of a movie. Everything that happens revolves around her perception, even small inconveniences are “plot twists.” She narrates her own life dramatically in her journal.

But cracks show: people move on without her, and life isn’t cinematic.

Conflict: Hana’s fantasy clashes with reality.

Act 2 – The Realization (Panels 7–16)

At university, Hana feels lost in the crowd — everyone seems more interesting, more talented.

She starts to realize she’s not the “special one.” This hits her pride hard.

Moments of perspective come: seeing others’ small struggles, kindnesses, dreams.

She witnesses beauty in the ordinary, a classmate helping someone, a stranger crying on the bus, laughter from next door.

Turning Point: A professor’s comment:

“Every story matters — not because someone’s watching, but because someone *lives* it.”

Act 3 – The Shift (Panels 17–24)

Hana begins to notice people more deeply. She listens, helps, connects.

She no longer narrates her life like a movie, but lives it quietly, genuinely.

The story closes on her writing in her journal, this time, not about being the main character, but about being *grateful to exist* among others.

Resolution: She finds self-worth through connection, not attention.