

Core plot ideas/themes:

- ★ The explicit story is about Wyllow, who is obsessed with becoming like another girl—Cassidy—from her class.
- ★ The plot is simple: Wyllow “glowed-up” during the winter break and, given her slight delusional tendencies, believes that this will cause Cassidy to react to/notice her, when they have barely interacted with each other.
- ★ These are high school students, in what is implicitly a school in Asia (as it’s sort of based on my own experiences, in Hong Kong)
- ★ Cassidy is one of the few caucasian students in the cohort, thus she is glorified by many
- ★ What is implicit are the themes and implications of Wyllow’s behavior
- ★ Wyllow is secretly a very repressed lesbian who assumes that her admiration for Cassidy is jealousy rather than attraction
 - Her own obsession with Cassidy disgusts her as she believes that she is only worthy of being in the same room as her if she is as beautiful as her
- ★ The core theme is girlhood: The competition, the way to be a “good”, “better” girl than another is to be “more beautiful” than them.
 - The value of a girl is tied to her appearance and Wyllow is so conditioned by society to think in such misogynistic terms that she never truly questions why she believes she’d gain something from becoming prettier than a girl she admires. This is just a default truth.

- The social benefits of being an attractive girl is reinforced in that Wyllow is frequently complimented for her appearance and is no longer bullied by those around her once she becomes beautiful
- But there is something grim in that, which leads me to:

★ The curse of beauty: To be a girl is to suffer

- You suffer prettily if you're pretty, otherwise you suffer normally. Either way, it's suffering.
- Wyllow is still an object to men. Before, they saw her as something worthless, she is ignored and made fun of. Now she's something to sexualise.
- Wyllow welcomes this because she feels it is better than being made fun of. She thinks that this is what it means to be human, when she is still treated as an object in reality.
- Cassidy suffers due to her beauty and femininity. It is to be inferred that the treatment that Wyllow receives after her glowup is what Cassidy has experienced on the regular for her whole life, and unlike Wyllow, she doesn't enjoy it. There is a mention of an inappropriate relationship between her and a teacher, which Wyllow is too naive to conceptualise as an abuse of power.
- Cassidy is much more than her appearance. She loves physics, she is funny and has a sense of humor, yet Wyllow fixates on her surface-level beauty. Wyllow's internalised misogyny causes her to dehumanise Cass.

SCRIPT

Panel 1: School building

1. Wyllow (monologue): 6am...

Panel 2: Door to classroom, Wyllow's shadow is cast on it.

1. Wyllow (monologue): I made it a point to come early today...

Panel 3: Wyllow as she stands before the classroom door, trembling.

NO COPY

Panel 4: Close up of Wyllow's eyes

NO COPY

Panel 5: [flashback] An unkempt Wyllow stares at Cassidy from behind a gym locker.

Cassidy converses with friends as she walks.

1. Wyllow (monologue): This was a long time coming
2. Wyllow (monologue): From the moment I'd first laid my eyes on Cassidy Lang...
3. Wyllow (monologue): I fucking despised her

Panel 6: [back to present] Close up of Wyllow's eyes, they're scrunched.

1. Wyllow (monologue): Today, this silent feud of ours...

Panel 7: Close up of Wyllow's eyes, they're wide; determined.

1. Wyllow (monologue): will fucking SCREAM

Panel 8: Wyllow's hands as she twists the doorknob of the classroom door.

NO COPY

Panel 9: Wyllow at the doorway of the classroom. It's dark. She hallucinates Cassidy sitting at a desk in the room.

1. Wyllow (monologue): I know where she'll sit. Third row, near the middle.
2. Wyllow (monologue): She'll pore over that stupid physics book like it's the bible...
3. Wyllow (monologue): Fucking teacher's pet. Literally. I saw her with Mr Smith's tongue down her throat one afternoon. It pissed me the fuck off.

Panel 10: Illusory!Cassidy pores over her book.

1. Wyllow (monologue): And those boys that surround her, she plays dumb about the way they just stare at her ass.
2. Wyllow (monologue): And I know she loves it, with the way she's all fake and nice and makes those stupid jokes with them...
3. Wyllow (monologue): ...with everyone else.

Panel 11: Wyllow's fist; clenched.

1. Wyllow (monologue): She makes me sick.
2. Wyllow (monologue): The nausea persists.

Panels 12, 13, 14: [action-to-action] Wyllow walking to her desk and sitting there

1. Wyllow (monologue): I feel it. Even now.

Panel 15: Close-up to Wyllow's face

1. Wyllow (monologue): it haunts me.

Panel 16: [flashback] Traceover of panel 15. Past-Wyllow with a fearful, anguished look on her face. A hallucination of Cassidy is next to her, almost taunting.

NO COPY

Panel 17: Past-Wyllow hunched over a sink. Illusory!Cassidy stands behind her.

1. Wyllow: I'm gonna be better than her...
2. Wyllow: I have to be...

Panel 18: Upper third of past-Wyllow's face, angry and determined.

NO COPY

Panel 19: [back to present] traceover of panel 18, present-Wyllow fixing her hair.

1. Wyllow (monologue): Changing myself made me human, somehow. At least I feel seen now, like others regard me as such.
2. Wyllow (monologue): Boys don't cackle anymore. In fact, they stare at me like I'm something gourmet...
3. Wyllow (monologue): ...has she always had this privilege?...

Panel 20: [flashback] Wyllow (post-glowup) stands there, happy, as peers compliment her on her transformation. She doesn't appear bothered by objectifying/misogynistic comments made.

1. Wyllow (monologue): ...but none of that is the point
2. Boy 1: NO WAY, IS THAT hot bitch WYLLLOW?
3. Girl: holy glow-up!!! GIRL, I NEED YOUR SECRETS!!!
4. Boy 2: That top is perfect on you, you should wear it out more ;)
5. Wyllow (monologue): no, that's NOT the FUCKING POINT.
6. Wyllow (monologue): the point is that, for the first time in her perfect fucking life, Cassidy Lang will TREMBLE...

Panel 21: close-up of Wyllow's face from panel 20, except she wears a manic expression.

1. Wyllow (monologue): and she shall do so at MY feet.

Panels 22&23: [back to present, moment-to-moment] Wyllow in the same dark classroom looking a bit unhinged as she fantasises. Her expression becomes shock when the light clicks on.

NO COPY

Panel 24: A classmate is at the doorway and greets Wyllow. Wyllow is at her desk.

1. Classmate: oh hey-
2. Classmate: WOAHH! Wyllow, is that you?

3. Classmate: Whatever you did to your hair and everything over the winter—it's gorgeous!
4. Wyllow: T-thanks!

Panels 25-27: [moment-to-moment] The classroom becomes more and more populated. Wyllow's seat in the middle.

1. Wyllow (monologue): she's usually quite early...
2. Wyllow (monologue): ...I wonder what's taking her so-

Panel 28: Close-up of Wyllow's face, manic

1. Wyllow (monologue): SHE'S HERE.

Panel 29: Black to white gradient with rough hatching.

1. Wyllow (monologue): I CAN FEEL HER

Panel 30: Cassidy's shoes as she walks to the classroom.

1. Wyllow (monologue): I feel her by the rhythm of her feet...

Panel 31: Cassidy's skirt, flowy.

1. Wyllow (monologue): ...by the hum of the wind against her skirt...

Panel 32: Cassidy's backpack.

1. Wyllow (monologue): ...the jingle of the keys bouncing in her backpack...

Panel 33: Cassidy stood before the classroom door. Her expression is blank, though there's an implied fear/dread on her face.

1. Wyllow (monologue): ...by that sudden pause.

Panel 34: The classroom door with Cassidy's shadow against it.

1. Wyllow (monologue): That 5 seconds it takes for her to gather herself... before...

Panel 35: Close-up of Wyllow's face, very manic. She bites her nails which have slight blood on them.

NO COPY

Panel 36: White background, black text.

1. Wyllow (monologue): SHE

Panel 37: bright light shines from the doorway, Cassidy stands there, a halo of light surrounds her.

NO COPY

Panel 38: Close up of Cassidy's face, her expression stoic.

NO COPY

Panel 39: Wyllow at her desk. Her expression inching towards something like terror and awe.

NO COPY

Panel 40: Close-up of Wyllow's face.

NO COPY

Panel 41: Close up of Cassidy's hair, glamorised.

NO COPY

Panel 42: Close up of Cassidy's eyes, glamorised.

NO COPY

Panel 43: Cassidy walking past Wyllow.

NO COPY

Panel 44: We see Wyllow's front face, she wears an expression of despair. Cassidy is walking behind and away from her.

1. Wyllow (monologue): I'd expected a glance... Something!
2. Wyllow (monologue): Recognition!
3. Wyllow (monologue): Admiration!
4. Wyllow (monologue): Envy!
5. Wyllow (monologue): ...It's like I'm not even here...

Panel 46: White text on black background.

1. Wyllow (monologue): will she ever see me?