

# Did You Eat?

A Young Adult Web Comic by Rachel Kim



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# Pitch

Just like that, Ciro's mom was gone. Everything felt numb. Everything was moving so fast, and yet slow at the same time... but in the end, life continues. Ciro keeps going to work like any other day, keeps skipping school, as usual. Except when he gets home, it's silent. Until his friend, Dooly, stops to visit and asks, "Did you eat?"

Readers who've enjoyed manga such as Hiiragi Yutaka's "新米姉妹のふたりごはん" (Shinmai Shimai no Futari Gohan) or Tana's "ごはんのおとも" (Gohan no Otomo) would enjoy slow and calm pace of "Did You Eat?"

# Motive

In August 2019, my friend's mom passed away. She had many regrets. Not being able to show her mother that she could be independent... Not spending enough time with her... Not writing down her mom's cooking... She only had her memories to rely on to recreate her mom's cooking.

I want to recreate our food journey together, so she has the recipes that we've made for each other and together.

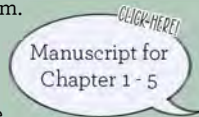
# Overall Plot

In the beginning, Ciro is resentful towards those who show him sympathy, mistaking it for pity. Until Dooly stops by, and rather than verbally showing concern, Dooly shows his love by actively preparing and sharing a meal with Ciro. After having a proper meal, Ciro calms down and realizes he had unintentionally come off hostile. He gradually allows himself to open up through the comfort of food.

As more recipes & meals are shared together, Ciro realizes what he's taken for granted. Though he regrets what he hasn't done for his mother, he is also grateful towards Dooly for helping him realize to appreciate what his mother & Dooly has done for him.

Near the end, Ciro shows his gratitude by cooking a recipe he suddenly remembers his mother once taught him. Although it isn't a perfect replica, Ciro is satisfied because he and Dooly still enjoyed the meal.

They hope to continue creating and sharing meals together in the future.



# Chapter Outline

## **Chapter 1: Hamburger Steak**

Ciro is introduced at his mother's funeral. He looks exhausted, and his friend, Dooly, is concerned. However, *Ciro* is drained for a completely different reason. He's sick & tired of waves of pity being crashed down upon him. He was raised by his mother not to dwell too long on morbid feelings, and so he continues, trying to adjust to his new yet ordinary life.

But, despite trying to convince himself that things are still the same, there are noticeable changes, the empty kitchen, the repetitive condolences, and the lack of appetite. Regardless, *Ciro* goes on pushing through the day till he gets home. Where he finds his friend, Dooly, waiting for him.

Dooly convinces *Ciro* to have a meal with him. Despite *Ciro's* protests, he surprisingly enjoys the meal he has with Dooly. After eating and having a moment of clarity, *Ciro* realizes that he may have been hostile towards those around him, and invites Dooly to have another meal sometime.

# Chapter Outline

## Chapter 2: Croquette

Ciro is shown at his job, in a friendlier persona. This shift in his mood doesn't go unnoticed by others and himself, and he points out to himself that ever since he's been obsessed with Dooly's recipe, he is in a better headspace.

Ciro notices Dooly's texts and sees that Dooly is concerned that he hasn't been in school lately. He contemplates ignoring these messages, but once again, Dooly convinces him to have him over, by bribing another tasty dish. He quickly complies. But when revealing the dish is croquettes, he complains saying that it wasn't a dish that he had particularly fond memories of. Dooly insists that his recipe is different and proves him wrong!

After the meal, he thinks of how much his mother enjoyed cooking, and how hard his mother must've worked to create a meal for him. He confides to Dooly that he regrets not spending more time with his mother, or paying attention to anything his mother tried to teach him. But he also thanks Dooly for taking the time to teach and make delicious meals with him. Dooly is touched and makes a promise to keep creating food together.

# Chapter Outline

## Chapter 3: Mapo Tofu

Dooly and Ciro are in class together. Dooly is relieved to see Ciro back in class... but Ciro is completely knocked out. Dooly asks Ciro why he's so sleepy. Ciro responds that because he has to juggle between work & school, to pay for his rent & bills.

Dooly feels guilty for pushing Ciro to come to school while he was swamped with work. Suddenly, Dooly remembers a recipe that refreshes his mind when he's worn out and asks Ciro if it's okay to eat together. They make a quick stop at the grocery to buy the ingredients. While Dooly picks out the ingredients, Ciro notices one of them being tofu, which he wasn't particularly fond of. Dooly is surprised, but quickly dismisses Ciro, since Ciro had the same stance for the last recipe.

As soon as they're home, Dooly makes the Mapo Tofu, claiming that the spice should help refresh their mind and body. He allows Ciro to taste it and tells Ciro that the spiciness could be adjusted with red pepper flakes or paste (gochugaru/gochujjang). Ciro proceeds to add an excessive amount because it turns out that Ciro has a high spice tolerance. In the end, Ciro is hyped and enjoys eating the Mapo Tofu, and although the dish is a treat for Ciro, Dooly is left suffering, eating the same dish.

# Chapter Outline

## **Chapter 4: Meat&Egg Soup with Braised Potatoes**

It's a rough day for **Ciro**. He woke up late for work, his pets let loose, got lectured by his manager, argued back with customers, and as he was heading home, it started raining. **Ciro** was over with this day. When **Ciro** finally makes it home, he thinks he could finally decompress, but gets a surprise visit from **Dooly**.

**Ciro** explains that he was having a bad day, and **Dooly** urges **Ciro** to take a shower after being drenched in the rain to refresh himself. **Dooly** decides to make a simple soup for **Ciro** but feels that the presentation is underwhelming. **Dooly** notices there are leftover ingredients from the previous dishes, and he whips up a sweet & salty dish, braised potatoes.

When **Ciro** comes out of the shower, feeling a bit more relaxed, he eats and feels calmer. He feels that the dish feels homey and warm, and thinks of how grateful he is towards **Dooly**. Suddenly, **Ciro** is reminded of a dish once created with his mother, and wonders if he could repay **Dooly's** kindness with the cooking of his own.



# Chapter Outline

## Chapter 5: Mom's Rice

Ciro manages to wake up early on his day off and hypes himself up to make his mom's rice! All that excitement quickly crumbles, as soon as he remembers he has no idea where to start. He tries to recall the ingredients, and tries to recreate the rice, but fails miserably the first couple of times. Hiro becomes disheartened when he notices how late it's become, he looks into the fridge and sees the leftovers that Dooly, feeling grateful and determined once more. While looking in the fridge, he finally notices an important ingredient that happened to slip his mind.

On Dooly's side, it briefly shows what a normal morning is for Dooly, eating breakfast with his mom and small banter between them and how Dooly's been neglecting his school work. Just Dooly sat down to begin work, he receives a rare invitation from Hiro to come out and eat together. Dooly quickly ditches his school assignments to go grocery shopping and look for ingredients. While browsing around he notices an ingredient known for special occasions.

# Chapter Outline

## Chapter 5: Mom's Rice

After purchasing, Dooly runs off to Ciro's place to prepare the meal together. Ciro opens the door and Dooly is greeted with the smell of cooking as he enters inside. Ciro shows off his mother's rice. When Dooly questions what else would they eat with the rice, Ciro is shocked because he was so focused on just the rice.

Fortunately for Ciro, Dooly had bought easy to prepare ingredients, such as pork belly (samgyupsal; 삼겹살), pickled radish, and kimchi. He quickly grilled up the pork belly and they have a meal together. When Dooly asks Ciro how he made the rice, Ciro explains and also includes that he forgot to add the secret blend (Sofrito). Dooly is surprised because he doesn't enjoy eating cilantro at all.

He compliments the rice and asks if it tastes just like his mom's. Ciro flatly says no. But he's happy that he managed to remember something that his mom taught him, and he's glad that he had Dooly be there to help him. They promise to go and find more foods to eat together and make together.

# Characters

## Ciro Ortiz

**Age:** 20      **Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Part-time; Student  
**Personality:** Sarcastic, Hot-headed, Stoic, Reserved

*Ciro is the main character, who recently lost his mother. He guards himself by not showing his feelings, but it can come off a bit awkward sometimes.*



## Pepper Pickles

**Age:** 10      **Gender:** Female  
**Occupation:** Dog; Chef  
**Personality:** Good

*Ciro's beloved. When Ciro is home, she is usually seen right next to him, unless there is food around.*



# Characters



## Dooly Cho

**Age:** 20      **Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Student  
**Personality:** Cheerful, Worrywart, Talkitive, Sympathetic

*One of Ciro's closest friend. Dooly does his best to make things lighthearted and plays around by gently overstepping some boundaries.*

## Gavin Ghoul

**Age:** 3      **Gender:** Male  
**Occupation:** Cat  
**Personality:** Chill

*Doesn't appear a lot because he is a cat, but Gavin is a very important family member.*



# Comic Format

## Week 1 Update



## Week 2 Update



## Week 3 Update



The main storyline will follow **Ciro & Dooly**.

Every week, the comic will be uploaded with a page, and includes a reoccurring title page & thank you note.



Title Opening

Ending Card

Thanks for reading!



# Comic Format



Narrative



Recipe

When the storyline turns to a recipe, the character will change from **Ciro & Dooly** to **Pepper** and she will teach the reader on how to recreate the recipe.

The illustration style will change, in order to differentiate storytelling to direction.



# Process Book

- Week 1:** Class Introduction
- Week 2:** Proposal/Schedule Creation
- Week 3:** Script (*Chapter 1-5*)
- Week 4:** Character Design
- Week 5:** Thumbnails (*Chapter 1-3*)
- Week 6:** Thumbnails (*Chapter 4-5*)
- Week 7:** Line Art (*Chapter 1 focus only*)
- Week 8:** Line Art/Text&Speech Bubble Placement
- Week 9:** Line Art/Text &Speech Bubble Update
- Week 10:** Typeface&Speech Bubble Update/Color
- Week 11:** Typeface Update/Color
- Week 12:** Typeface Update/Color
- Week 13:** Color
- Week 14:** Pitch/Website Creation
- Week 15:** Pitch/Website Update/ Process Book



**Week 2:** Proposal/Schedule Creation  
Includes goal, problem, solution, synopsis,  
inspiration, format, niche, pages, & schedule

# Process Book

## Week 3: Script

(link to manuscript)



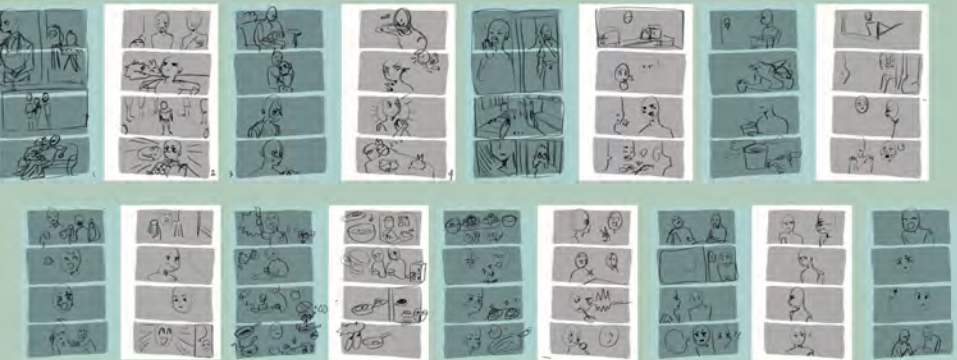
## Week 4: Character Design





# Process Book

## Week 4 - 5: Thumbnails



# Process Book

Week 4 - 5: Thumbnails



Chapter 2



Chapter 3

# Process Book

Week 4 - 5: Thumbnails



Chapter 4



Chapter 5

# Process Book

Line Art > Text Placement > Speech Bubble > Color





# Thank you!

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Discipline: Illustration

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