

엄마 : Omma

아빠 : Appa

Title

The title of the work is *In Visible*. There is a space between “In” and “Visible.” The “s” in “Visible” is a spine. Below the title is a person looking over their shoulder. Next to the person is a spine with spina bifida. The center far right has the text “A collaborative effort by Natt and Katherine Hong.”

Page 1

Panel 1: The text says, “Special thank you to my sister Natt for giving me permission to tell her story.”

Panel 2: The text says “In exchange for an interview...” Below is a person holding a notebook and pencil and asking questions to the other person.

Panel 3: The text says, “...I discreetly bought McDonald's as payment.” Below are two people eating fast food from McDonald's. The person on the right says, “Was the whole effort of doordashing and going through the garage way and whatnot really worth this?” The person on the left is holding a burger and replies, “No but it's funny.” The table has a McDonald's paper bag and scattered fries.

Panel 4: The text says, “We later crashed for hours due to the ungodly calories.” Below are two people sleeping in their respective beds.

Panel 5: The writer (Katherine) says, “But anyways, I just wanted to let you know that not everything written here is exactly her words. Some stuff is modified or shifted around to make things flow and more clear. Nevertheless, most is exactly straight from the interview.”

Panel 6: Katherine is holding a comic page and says, “Also, while Natt is one of the numerous individuals with spina bifida, Natt and I hope that by telling this specific story, we can highlight ‘invisible’ disabilities, which can even be invisible to a disabled person. Hence, these invisible disabilities require actually knowing the person/self, to look inward beyond the physical. That’s why I chose ‘In Visible’ to emphasize these two things.”

Page 2

Panel 1: A portrait of Natt. Below is an absence slip with her name and age. On the right is a doctor’s note. The date section has infinity symbols for each blank. Underneath says, “Please Excuse: Natt Hong.” Below is “From:” and a checkmark next to “School,” “Work,” and “Other.” Below that is “Due to:” and there is a blank next to “Injury,” “Illness,” and “Other.”

Panel 2: Natt says, “I was born with spina bifida, specifically lypomeni– lypomenigo– lypomele– ...” Underneath Natt is a checkmark next to “Other: Spina Bifida” from the doctor’s note. The panel is interrupted by Natt pondering how to pronounce the word. Above her are the phrases, “how pronounce?”, “lypome...”, “lypo...”, and “lipo?” There are also three question marks surrounding her.

Panel 3: Natt is sitting at the computer and looked up the word “lipomeningomyelocele” and is also saying the word. Underneath is a breakdown of how to pronounce it: lipo-my-elo-men-in-go-seal.

Panel 4: Natt says, “Honestly, I’m not sure about all the details. As far as I’m aware, it’s something about the spine drifting because of fat on the bottom part of the spine? So, you have to get rid of it or it’ll cause serious problems.” Next to Natt is a Wikipedia page on lypomyelomeningocele, and it says, “A lipomyelomeningocele is a type of closed neural tube defect that affects around 3 to 6 babies out of 100,000 births. It is an example of a spinal lipoma, which is a collection of adipose tissue, or fat, that is located at or around the spinal cord. Essentially, it is a tumor of fat located on the spinal cord.”

Panel 5: Natt is glancing behind her and is looking at a human figure with a drawn out spine. Natt says, “I guess the most noticeable thing is that I have a long scar down my back.”

Panel 6: Natt says, “But definitely the more annoying thing is that I often am late to stuff or miss events because I’m stuck in the bathroom.” Natt is holding a poster that lists health issues associated with her condition: Incontinence (can’t control when to use restroom), limited feeling in some parts of body, and weakness in legs.

Page 3

Panel 1: A person is pounding on the bathroom door, yelling, “HURRY UP!! We’re going to be late to our reservation!!” Natt’s speech bubble indicates that she’s annoyed using a scribble.

Panel 2: A person is looking down at a phone, which says, “Sorry. Can’t go.” The person looks annoyed. There are two other people in the room. One says, “Damn, flaked again.” The other says, “Bruh.” Below the people is a text box, which says, “I can understand people’s frustration with me. It is annoying when someone flakes last minute or cancels plans. But sometimes they have to realize that there is only so much I can do.”

Panel 3: Natt says, “I do wish sometimes that people would have a better understanding of my condition so I’m not forced to explain every time I’m late or miss something.

Panel 4: Natt looks irked and says, ‘But some stuff is private so don’t pry either. Bottom right is a conversation between Natt and a stranger. The stranger exclaims, “Wow! You should tell me every single part of your medical history!” Natt replies, “Uh no.”

Panel 5: Natt says, "But other than all of these issues, I pretty much appear normal. Long as I avoid physical contact with my back (no football for example), I can pretty do much anything." Natt lists the following activities: Video games, typical messing around with friends, P.E., etc.

Page 4

Panel 1: Natt looks happy and is hanging out with friends, who also appear to be enjoying themselves. Natt says, "But even when hanging out with friends, I can feel a bit isolated."

Panel 2: Natt says, "Not particularly because of them but because I know I'm different." Natt is isolated from the rest of the group as they walk away and talk amongst themselves.

Panel 3: Natt says, "I'm not depressed per say about my condition but I do want to feel normal, so treating me like a normal person is the best thing you can do for me (though please have considerations for the problems that arise with my condition). Me joking about it does help me cope a bit."

Panel 4: Natt looks very exasperated and is bending her arms to her right in order to emphasize this. She says, "And please don't treat me like I'm a 'special person.' It's really frustrating..."

Panel 5: The text box says, "All you're doing is emphasizing that there is something wrong with me." Surrounding an annoyed Natt is a bunch of ghostly figures making unhelpful comments. The one on the left says, "Oh, you poor soul!" The middle says, "A miracle! You're so brave!" The one on the right says, "An inspiration to us all!" An arrow is pointing to Natt with the phrase "Literally just existing."

Page 5

Panel 1: Natt says, "My condition does mean that I have to travel every year to visit a specialist."

Panel 2: There is a silhouette of the United States. The states of Alabama and Pennsylvania are outlined. There is an outline pointing to Washington D.C. There is a dotted line from Pennsylvania to Alabama. Below is text that says, “Originally, I had to go to Alabama, where I got surgery when I was born. Thanks to the surgeon, I got pretty lucky. But he’s retired now so he referred me to someone in D.C.”

Panel 3: The text says, “Our family actually built a special event based on this. Out of everyone, **아빠** (Dad) understands my condition the best. And someone needed to take care of Katie and Haley, so **엄마** (Mom) would stay with them. Below is Natt’s family. **엄마** is on the left. Next to her are Haley and Katie. **아빠** is on the right. Next to him is Natt. There are arrows labeling each person.

Panel 4: The text says, “So while they get to eat out and have fun...” Below is **엄마**, Katherine, and Haley eating together and playing Uno.

Panel 5: The text says, “I get to enjoy rigorous testing.” Natt is sitting on a hospital bed awaiting a checkup.

Panel 6: The text says, “Though I do get to hang out with **아빠** and we do some activities and eat out.” Natt and **아빠** are eating at a restaurant.

Page 6

Panel 1: Natt says, “**엄마** is admittedly not as familiar with my condition compared to **아빠**. She glances at her thought bubble, which shows **엄마** looking confused with three question marks.

Panel 2: The text says, “There’s this kinda funny story when we got into a disagreement.” Natt and **엄마** are arguing with each other.

Panel 3: The text says, “She got annoyed when I couldn’t name what her nerve condition was. After telling me, she said this:” **엄마** looks upset.

Panel 4: 엄마 says, “Knowing the name of my condition shows that you care about me!”

Panel 5: The text says, “So, of course, I then asked...” Natt says, “Okay, then what’s the name of my condition?” There is an asterisk next to “name” and below is an explanation of the asterisk, which says, “Specific one, not just spina bifida.”

Panel 6: The text says, “She looked at me...” Natt and 엄마 stare at each other.

Panel 7: The text says, “...And then walked away.” 엄마 walks away from Natt, who looks a bit smug.

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Panel 1: Natt says, “Surprisingly, it was relatively easy to get accommodations at Upper Dublin.” Natt is holding her left arm.

Panel 2: The text says, “For me, it took one talk with a guidance counselor.” Natt is talking with the counselor and says, “Uh, I have this—.” She is interrupted by the counselor saying, “Ok cool, you’re good to go lol.” The counselor has an oversized thumbs up right hand.

Panel 3: Natt says, “Of course, not every teacher is receptive to accommodations.” She sighs.

Panel 4: The panel is split diagonally. The upper half shows an empathetic teacher, who says, “Okay I understand.” The text says, “Some are open-minded and still treat me like any other student.” The lower half shows an unwelcoming teacher. Natt is walking into the classroom, saying “Hi sorry I’m late.” The teacher has a faceless expression and ignores Natt. The text says, “Others know that they have to give accommodations but clearly are unhappy about it, and they’ll refuse to acknowledge me when I arrive late.”

Panel 5: The text says, "Disability, visibility, and accommodations can often feel like an amusement park ride." Natt is standing next to an amusement park ruler that measures height. A sign says, "Must be at least this tall to ride! Thank you!!" The arrow points to 4 feet.

Panel 6: The text says, "But instead of height, the sign says, 'Must be at least this disabled to be disabled' and the indicators on the ruler are arbitrary and confusing." Natt looks visibly confused with three question marks above her head. There are several arrows that point in every direction except toward the indicators on the rulers. The sign says " Must be at least this disabled to be disabled." The indicators have confusing descriptions and say the following: "Extremely disabled I think or not." "IDK disabled." "Disabled but not disabled." "Disabled but walks so not disabled." "Faker b/c I said so." "Disabled maybe."

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Panel 1: Natt says, "I guess, in short, I wanted to show that there is no clear image of a disabled person." Natt is holding a wheelchair icon.

Panel 2: The text says, "In lots of cases, like me for instance, the disability is invisible." Natt stands and is surrounded by four silhouettes of people.

Panel 3: The text says, "You wouldn't guess that I was disabled if you walked by. Not Unless you got to know me. Natt and a stranger are walking in opposite directions.

Panel 4: Natt says, "Disability isn't fun, but it's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just how I was born. But it's not the only thing that defines me." Natt is holding up a sign that says "Hi! I have spina bifida."

Panel 5: The text says, “To truly understand a disabled person requires going beyond this surface-level perception of disability that’s focused on physical appearance. Instead, really get to know the person inside...and be patient!” Natt is chatting with another person. Both people are holding boxes that say their names, interests, and family. Natt also has a box that says “Spina Bifida.”