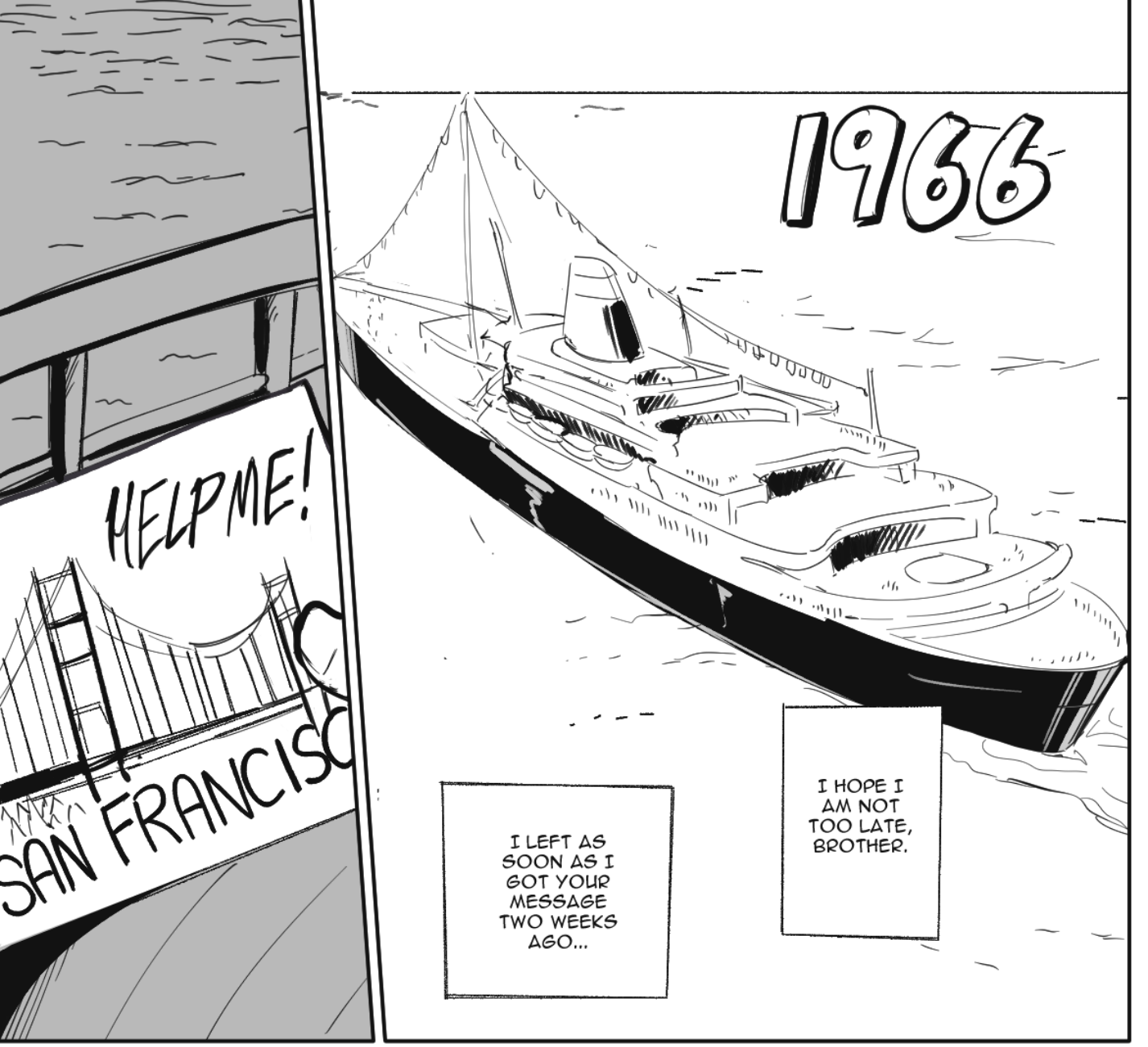
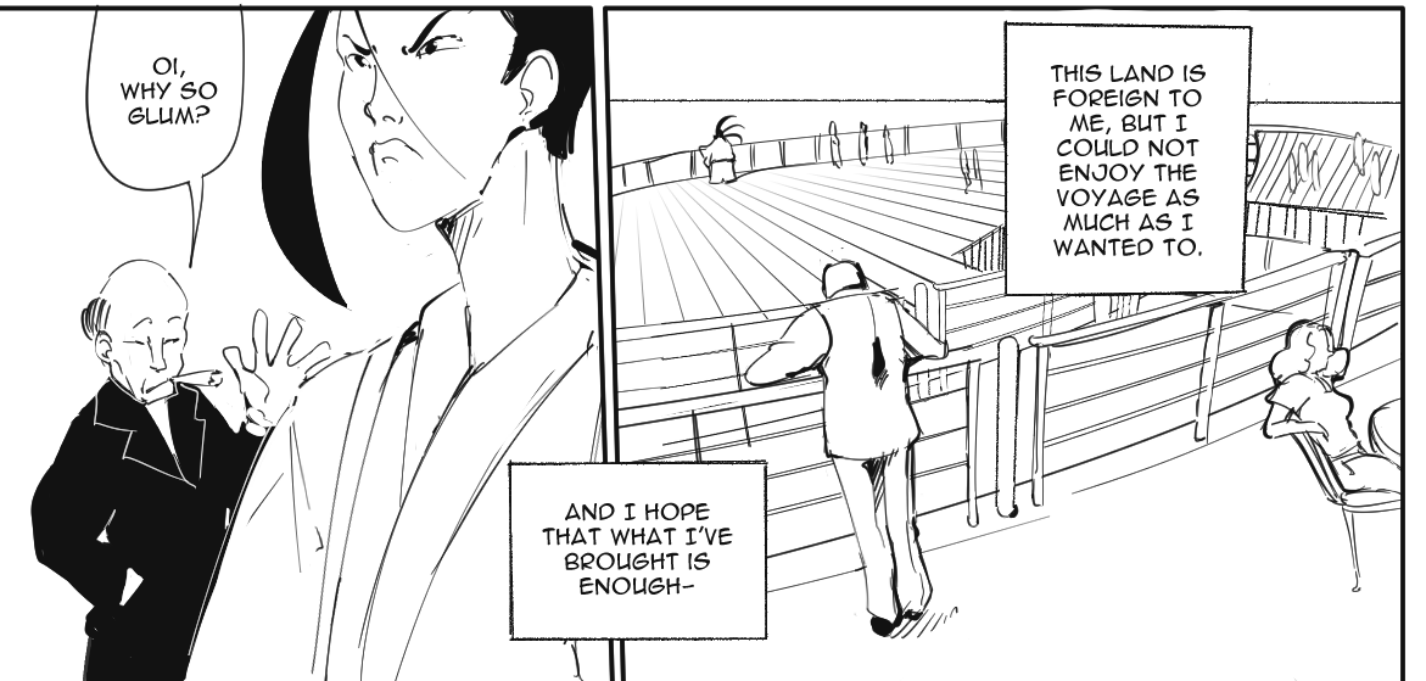
BUSHIBALL

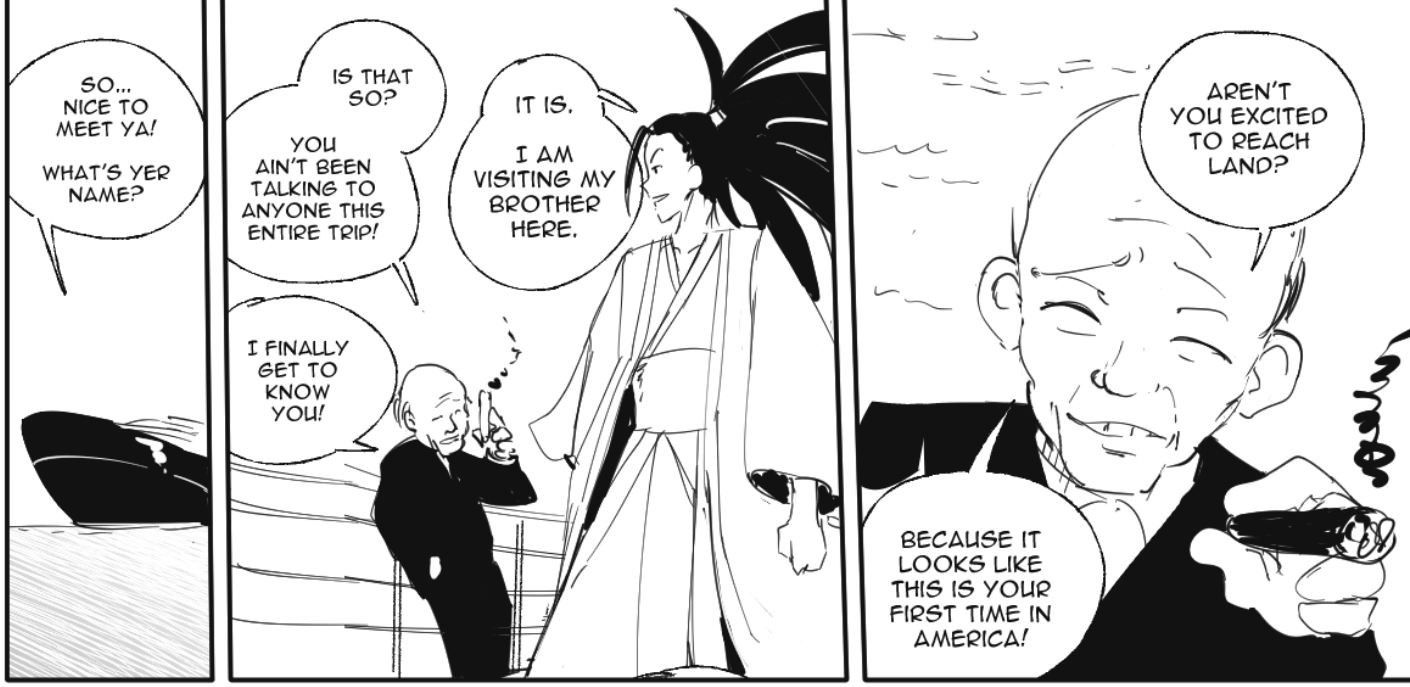


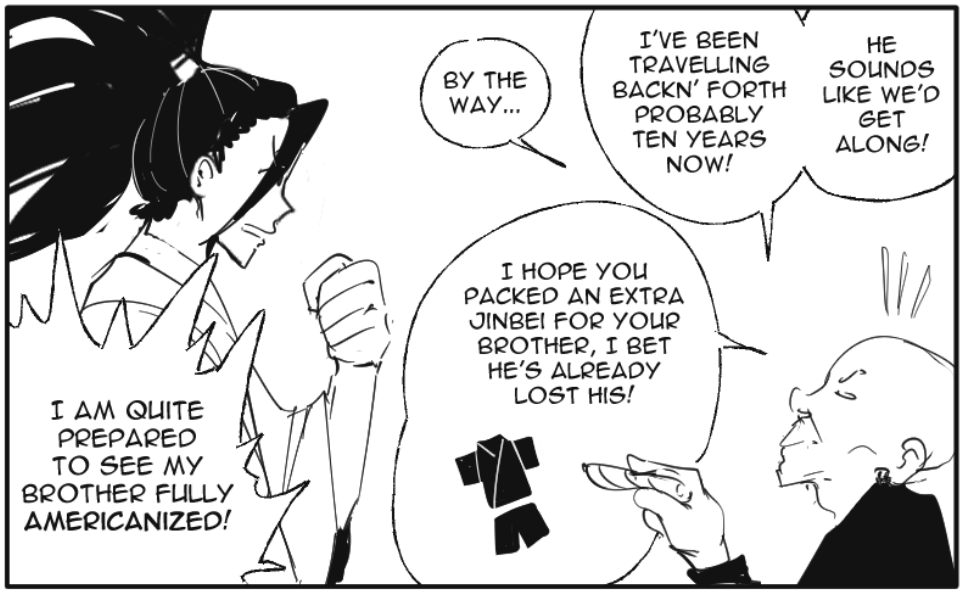
READ RIGHT TO LEFT


SAN FRANCISCO
SHOW ME THE LIFE YOU'VE BUILT HERE.
I'VE FINALLY ARRIVED, DEAR BROTHER.


1966
HELP ME!
SAN FRANCISC
I LEFT AS SOON AS I GOT YOUR MESSAGE TWO WEEKS AGO...
I HOPE I AM NOT TOO LATE, BROTHER.


OI, WHY SO GLUM?
AND I HOPE THAT WHAT I'VE BROUGHT IS ENOUGH-
THIS LAND IS FOREIGN TO ME, BUT I COULD NOT ENJOY THE VOYAGE AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO.

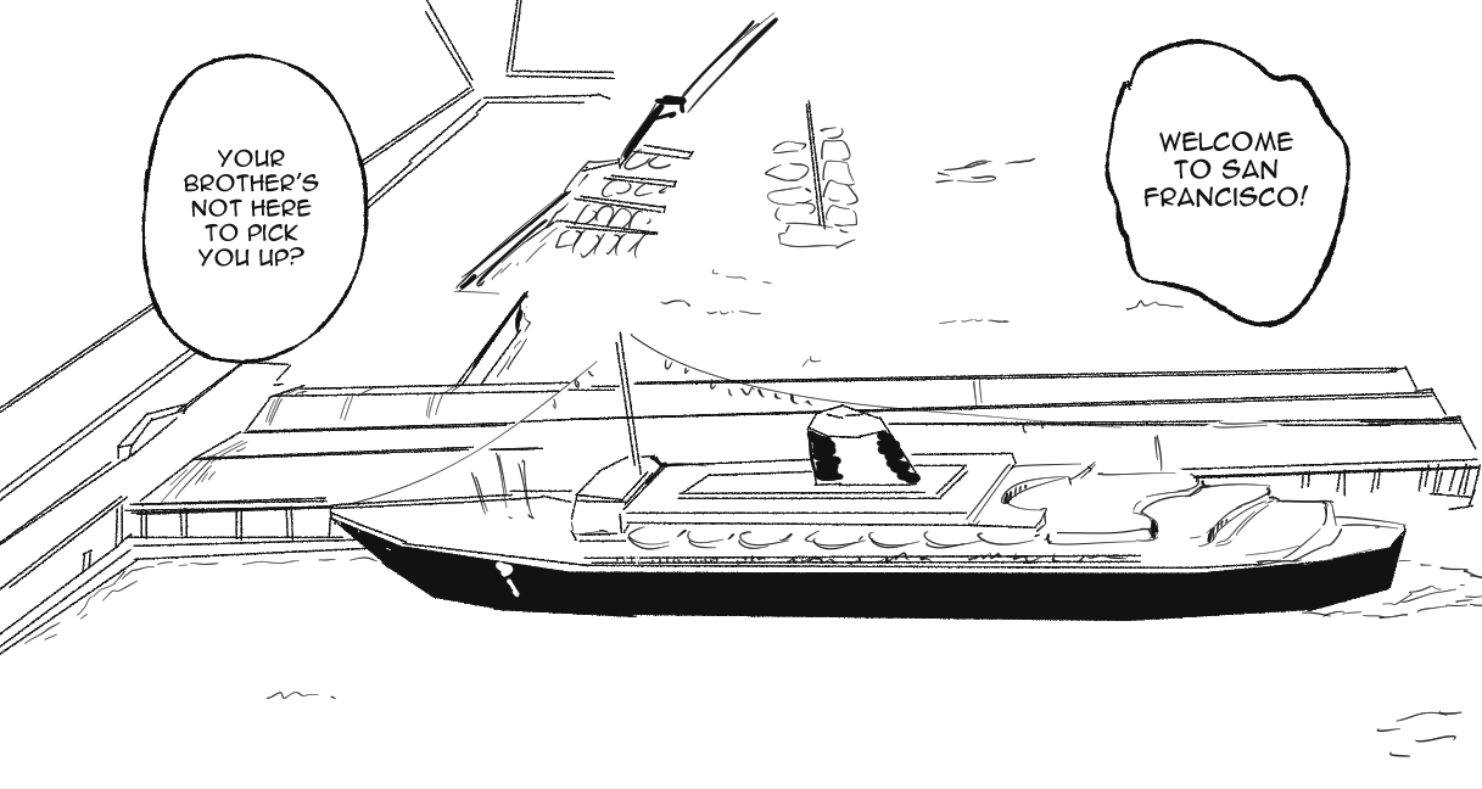

SO... NICE TO MEET YA!
WHAT'S YER NAME?
IS THAT SO?
YOU AIN'T BEEN TALKING TO ANYONE THIS ENTIRE TRIP!
IT IS.
I AM VISITING MY BROTHER HERE.
I FINALLY GET TO KNOW YOU!
AREN'T YOU EXCITED TO REACH LAND?
BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN AMERICA!


I AM QUITE PREPARED TO SEE MY BROTHER FULLY AMERICANIZED!
BY THE WAY...
I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING BACKN' FORTH PROBABLY TEN YEARS NOW!
HE SOUNDS LIKE WE'D GET ALONG!
I HOPE YOU PACKED AN EXTRA JINBEI FOR YOUR BROTHER, I BET HE'S ALREADY LOST HIS!

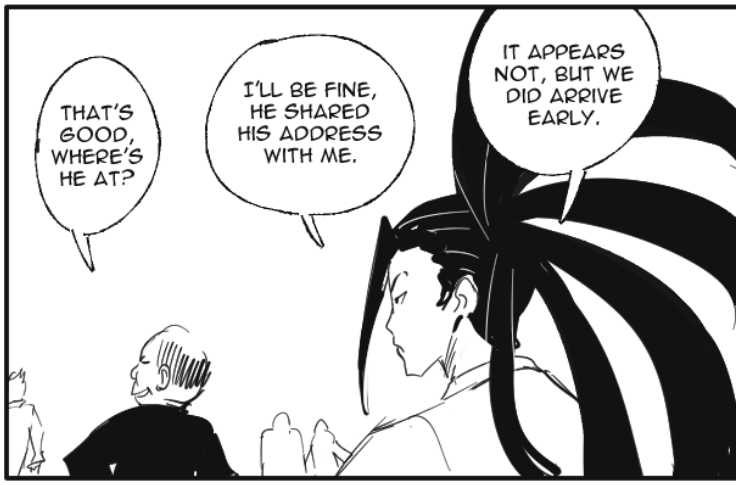

MY NAME IS RYUNOSUKE.
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
MY BROTHER LIVED IN AMERICA FOR YEARS WHILE I REMAINED IN JAPAN, SO THIS IS A REUNION.




《YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE A SIDE OF YOUR BROTHER YOU NEVER KNEW WAS THERE.》
... THEN DON'T LET THIS COUNTRY CHANGE YOU TOO MUCH.
IF YOU PLAN ON STAYING...
I WILL HEED YOUR WORDS.
YOU LOOK PRETTY OLD-FASHIONED FOR YOUR AGE, SO I WANTED TO MAKE SURE!
YES. I KNOW HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH!
BOW
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAID?

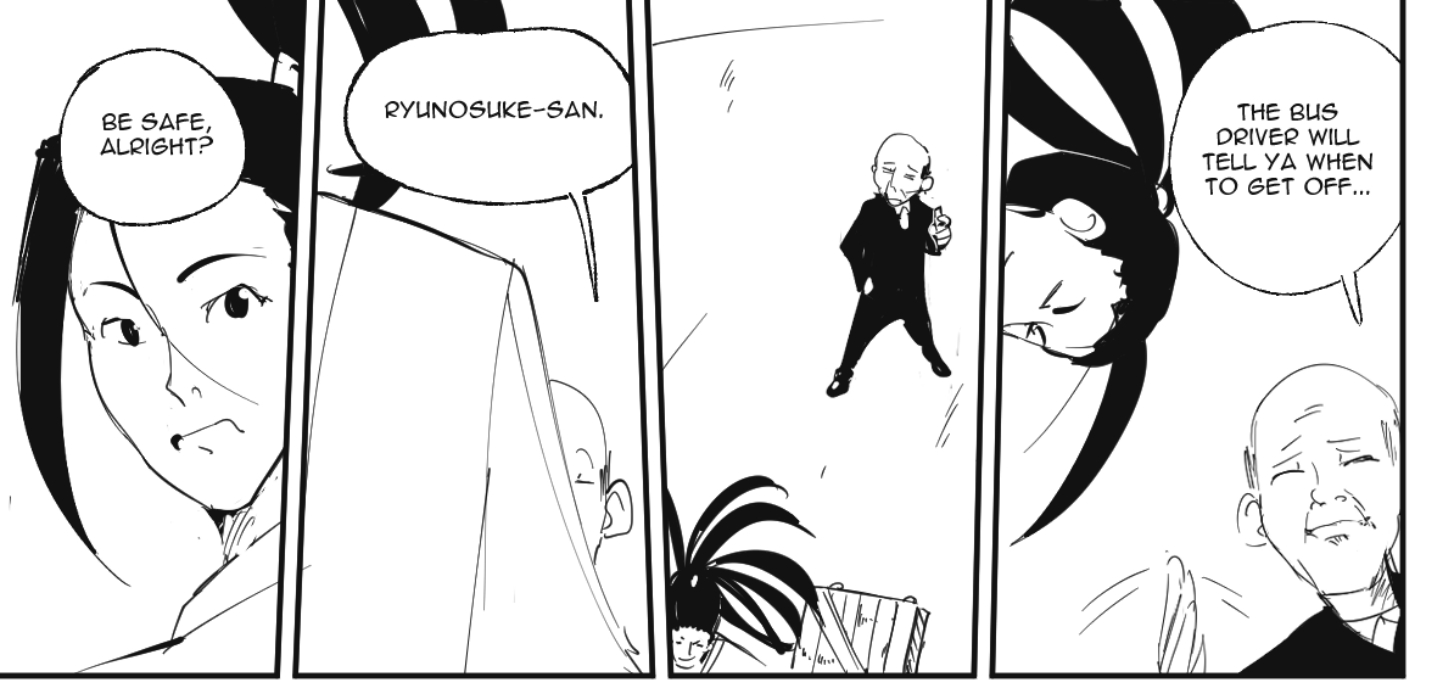

YOUR BROTHER'S NOT HERE TO PICK YOU UP?
WELCOME TO SAN FRANCISCO!


THEY ALL PASS THROUGH BANGLEWOOD SINCE IT'S SO CLOSE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NUMBERS.
... YOU WANT TO GO THREE BLOCKS DOWN AND TAKE ANY BUS GOING SOUTH FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES.
THANK YOU.
I AM QUITE GOOD AT NAGIVATION, SO I WON'T GET LOST.

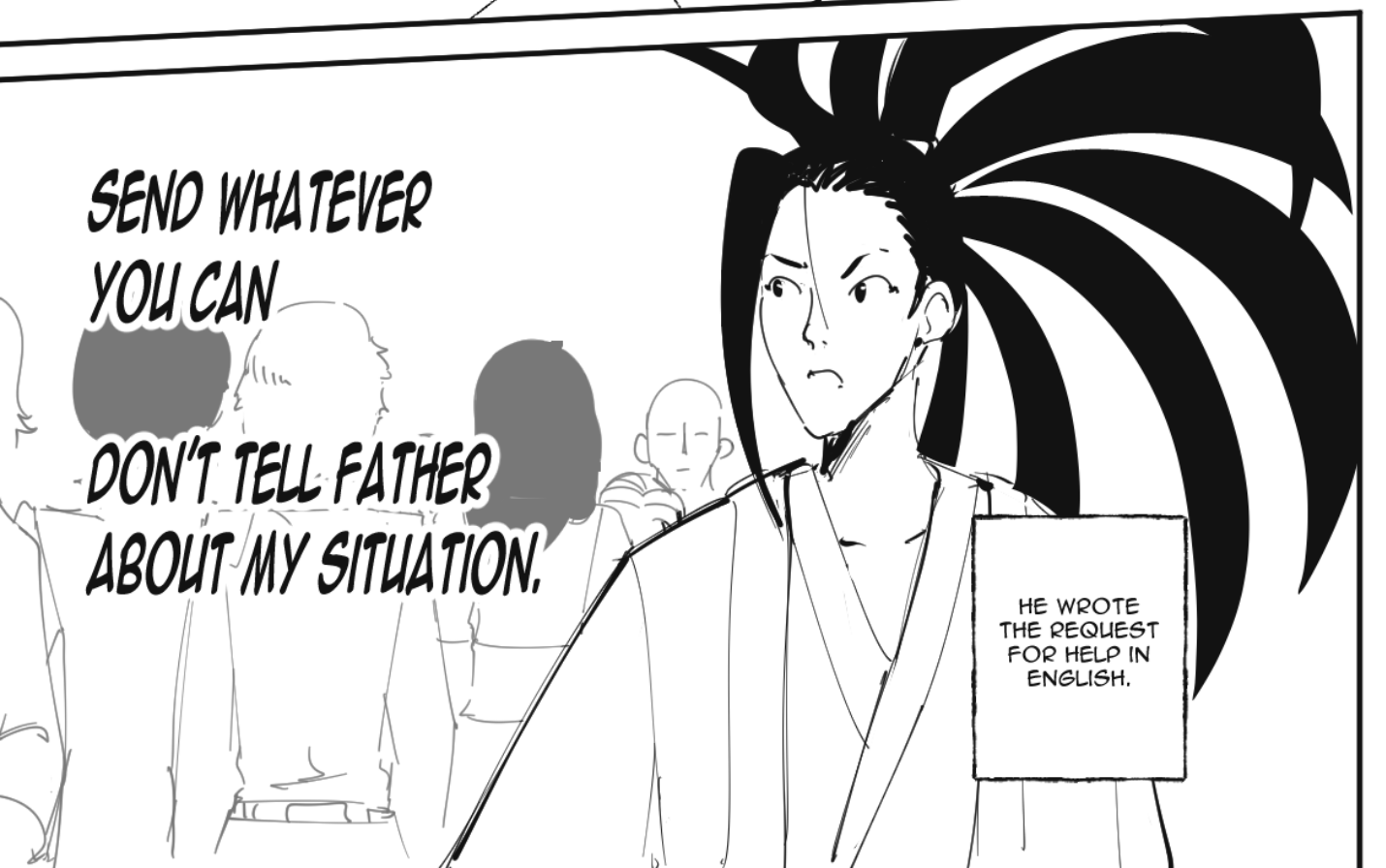

THAT'S GOOD, WHERE'S HE AT?
I'LL BE FINE, HE SHARED HIS ADDRESS WITH ME.
IT APPEARS NOT, BUT WE DID ARRIVE EARLY.

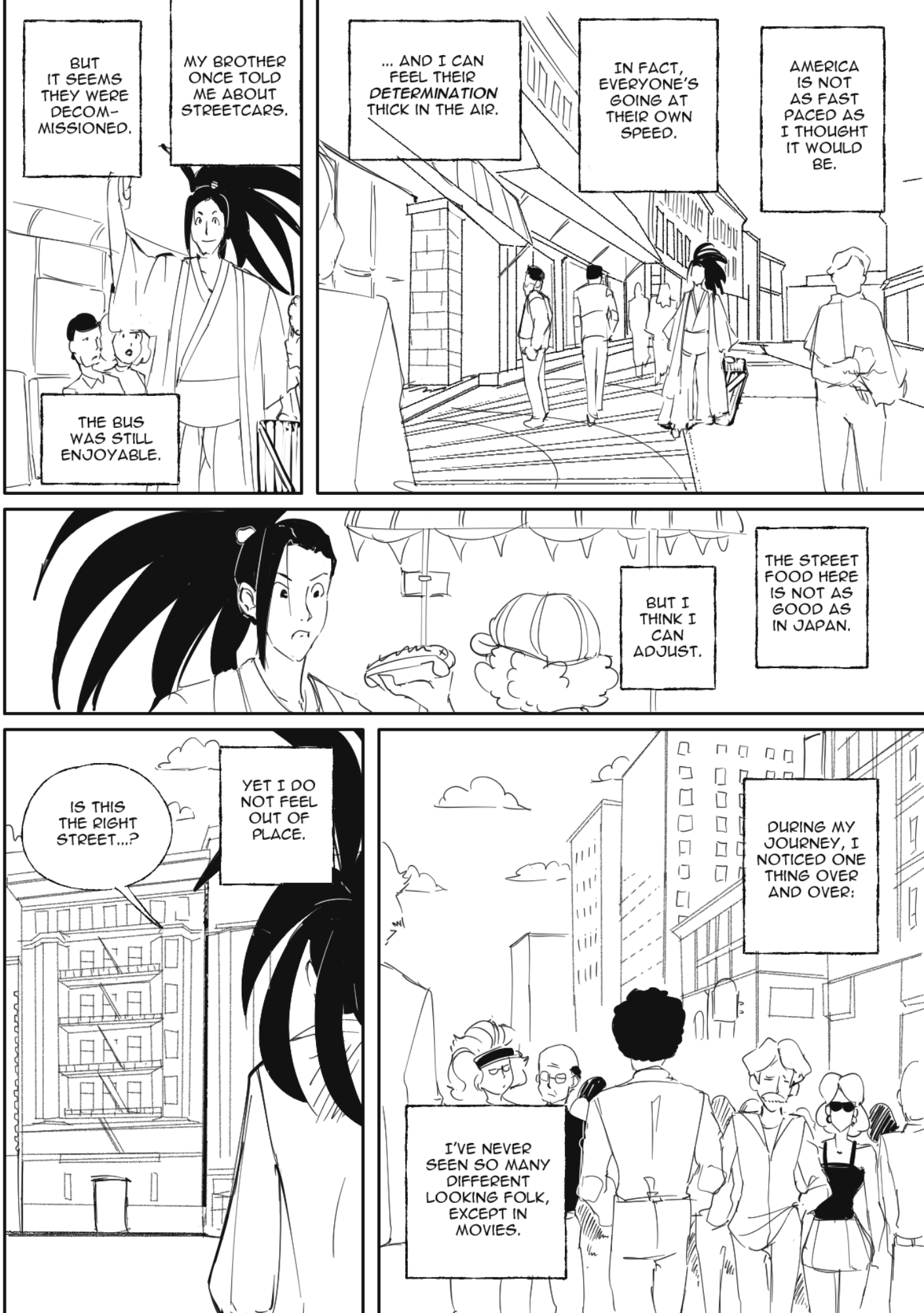



GLADSTONE ESTATES...
ON 12TH STREET IN...
BANGLEWOOD.


BE SAFE, ALRIGHT?
RYUNOSUKE-SAN.
THE BUS DRIVER WILL TELL YA WHEN TO GET OFF...


BUT THINKING ABOUT HIS LETTER REIGNITED MY WORRY.
I SAID I WAS PREPARED TO SEE MY CHANGED BROTHER...
"DON'T LET THIS COUNTRY CHANGE YOU..."


SEND WHATEVER YOU CAN
DON'T TELL FATHER ABOUT MY SITUATION.
HE WROTE THE REQUEST FOR HELP IN ENGLISH.


MY BROTHER ONCE TOLD ME ABOUT STREETCARS.
BUT IT SEEMS THEY WERE DECOM-MISSIONED.
THE BUS WAS STILL ENJOYABLE.
AMERICA IS NOT AS FAST PACED AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
IN FACT, EVERYONE'S GOING AT THEIR OWN SPEED.
... AND I CAN FEEL THEIR *DETERMINATION* THICK IN THE AIR.
THE STREET FOOD HERE IS NOT AS GOOD AS IN JAPAN.
BUT I THINK I CAN ADJUST.
DURING MY JOURNEY, I NOTICED ONE THING OVER AND OVER:
I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY DIFFERENT LOOKING FOLK, EXCEPT IN MOVIES.
YET I DO NOT FEEL OUT OF PLACE.
IS THIS THE RIGHT STREET...?


BROTHER...
I KNEW YOU WERE IN TROUBLE...
BUT WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?
THESE BUILDINGS DON'T LOOK VERY PLEASING TO THE EYE.
THAT'S ACROSS THE STREET.
EH?
EXCUESE ME.
IS THIS GLADSTONE ESTATES?
HEY, CAN YOU GIMME A DOLLAR?
IT IS UNOPENED, PLEASE HAVE IT.
I AM SORRY.
HERE IS A BAKED SNACK I PUCHASED.
!!


STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
RYUNOSUKE!!!!
STAY RIGHT THERE!
I'M COMING DOWN!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE COMING TONIGHT!!
HOW WAS THE TRIP?!
WAS THE FOOD GOOD?!
IT WAS GREAT, KENICHIRO!
...
LET'S GO INSIDE.
IT'S GETTING DARK AND THIS PLACE ISN'T THAT SAFE.


I DIDN'T CLEAN UP SO BEAR WITH ME.
THINGS ARE ROUGH NOW.
BUT... WELL, Y'KNOW.
I WOULD HAVE PAID FOR YOUR TRIP.
ANYWAYS!! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE, RYUNOSUKE!
CREAK
I'M NOT HERE TO JUDGE YOUR SITUATION, BROTHER.
YOU ASKED ME FOR HELP.
AND THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.
PAT
PAT
SLAM

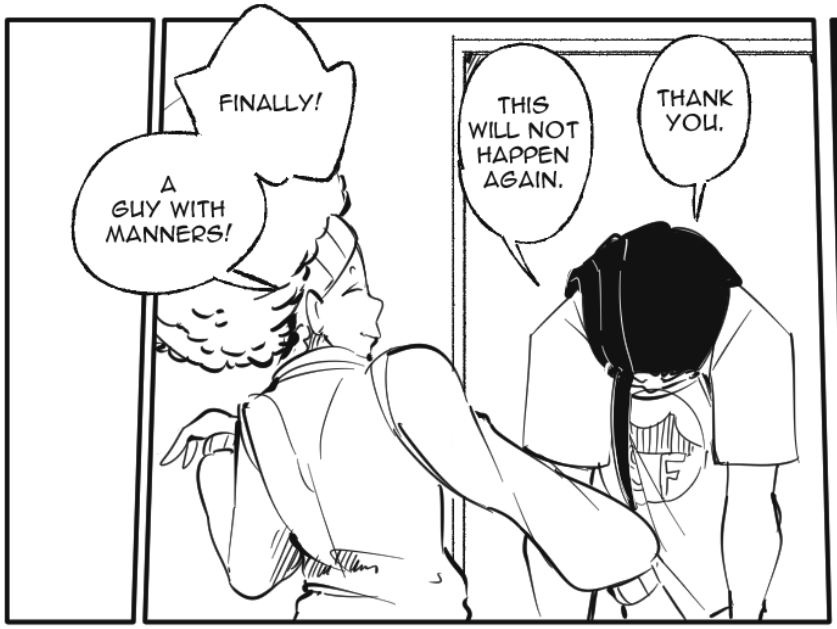

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
I HOPE THIS FITS YOU!
CREAK
SO I SHALL.
BUT FIRST...
I MUST GIVE YOU THIS.
-GRUNT-
NOW, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH MY LIFE...
COME ON.
PUT THIS ON, YOU'RE IN AMERICA NOW.

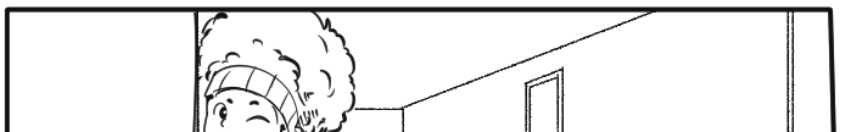

ANYWAYS...
THIS TEAM RUNS IN THE INDIES, SO NOT QUITE THE MAJOR LEAGUE, BUT IT STILL PAID PRETTY GOOD.
BEEN COASTING EVER SINCE.
THEY LET ME GO LAST MONTH.
WORKED?
FOR ALMOST 2 YEARS...
I WORKED AS AN ACCOUNTANT FOR A LOCAL BASEBALL TEAM.
BLUE CUBS 10
777 8
SPARTANS 2
PUFFINS 0
I INVESTED EVERYTHING I HAD INTO THE PUFFINS.
NEARLY NO ADVERTISING DEALS OR PROMOTIONS EITHER...
BUT FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS THEY'VE BEEN DEAD LAST IN THE CIRCUIT...
AT THE TIME, THINGS WERE LOOKING UP SO I THOUGHT IT WAS A SAFE BET...
I WAS GIVEN THE OPORTUNITY EARLY ON TO INVEST IN THE TEAM.
THE COMPANY'S WORTH NEARLY NOTHING NOW!
THE PUFFINS ARE GONNA BE BANKRUPT ANYDAY!
BUT THEY DOWNSIZED AGAIN... AND AGAIN...!
I NEED TO START OVER!!
I HELD ON TO MY INVESTMENT THINKING IT WOULD PAY OFF EVENTUALLY...
THEN I LOST MY JOB WHEN THEY DOWNSIZED!


SO LET'S OPEN THIS ALREADY!
I UNDER-STAND, BROTHER.
YOU NEED NOT WORRY.
WHAT'S IN THIS HEAVY BOX?!
DID YOU BRING GOLD?!
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP!
WHATEVER MONEY YOU BROUGHT, I CAN USE IT TO GET BACK ON MY FEET!
I BROUGHT AS MANY AS I WAS ALLOWED.
FATHER'S BUSINESS IS ON A DOWNTURN, BUT WE'RE SURE YOU CAN SELL THESE FOR A LOT MORE IN AMERICA!
AND I'LL HELP YOU SETTLE HERE TOO!!!
KATANAS? !?!
KATANAS? !?
KATANAS? !?!
KATANAS? !?
KATANAS? !
KATANAS?
KATANAS? !
KATANAS?


DAMN IT!
DAMN IT!!!
DAMN IT!!!!
I'M SCREWED!
I'LL PROBABLY GET A MONTH OF RENT FOR THESE!
MAYBE TWO MONTHS IF THE PAWNSHOP IS NICE!
SELL?!?
YOU SURE I SHOULDN'T JUST..!


WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RACKET?!
YOU'RE NOT HAVING A PARTY WHILE EVERYONE ELSE ON THIS FLOOR HAS WORK TOMO-
OPEN THIS DOOR!
D-DON'T OPEN IT!
KNOCK
KNOCK
ARRGH!!
GAAHH!!!
EXCUSE ME FOR YELLING, DIDN'T KNOW KENNY HAD COMPANY~
WELL HELL-OOOOO THERE!
NAME'S NATSU.
I AM SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF TIME?
FOCUS, GIRL.
I'M HERE FOR THE RENT, SO COULD YOU TELL KENNY TO GET OFF HIS ASS AND-
I WILL MAKE SURE HE PAYS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SF


FINALLY!
A GUY WITH MANNERS!
THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.
THANK YOU.

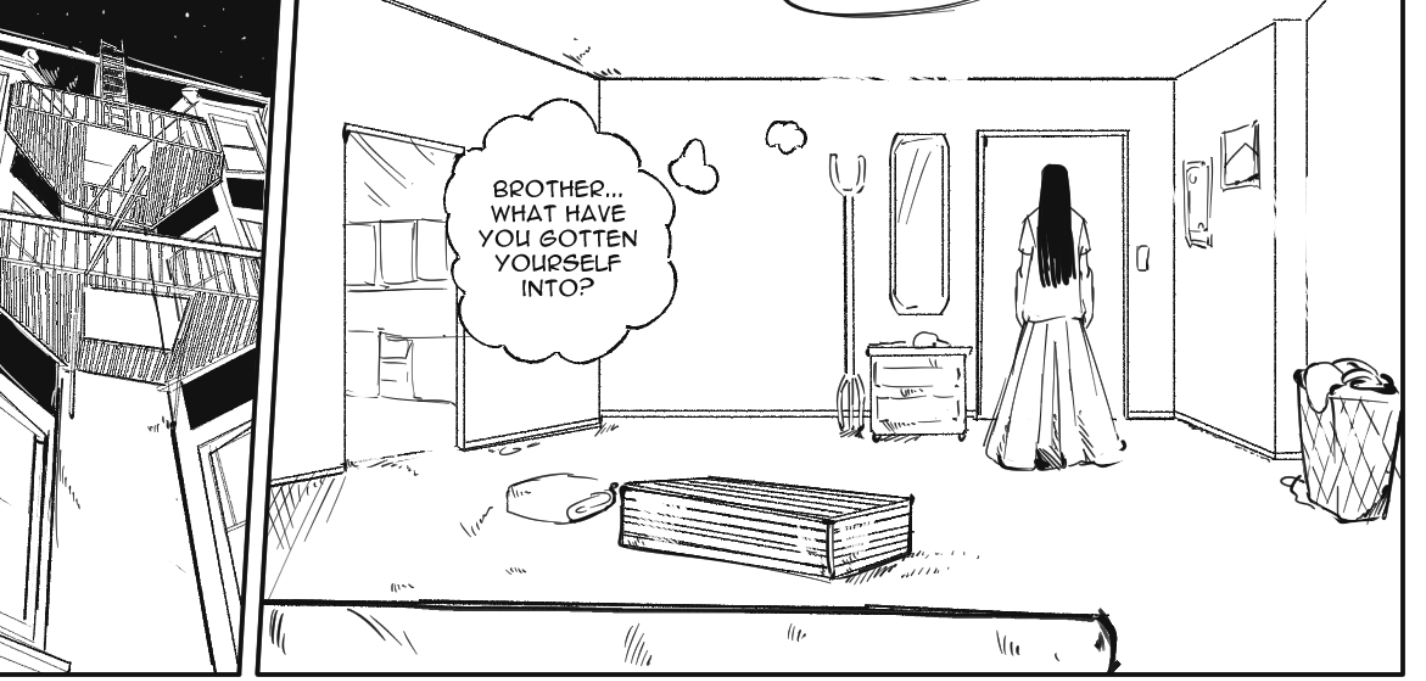



THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF THAT.


YOU'RE PRETTY OLD-FASHIONED, HUH?
LEMME GUESS: YOU'RE KENNY'S BIG BROTHER?
WELL, ALRIGHT.
... BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SO CUTE!
I'LL ADD IT TO NEXT MONTH.



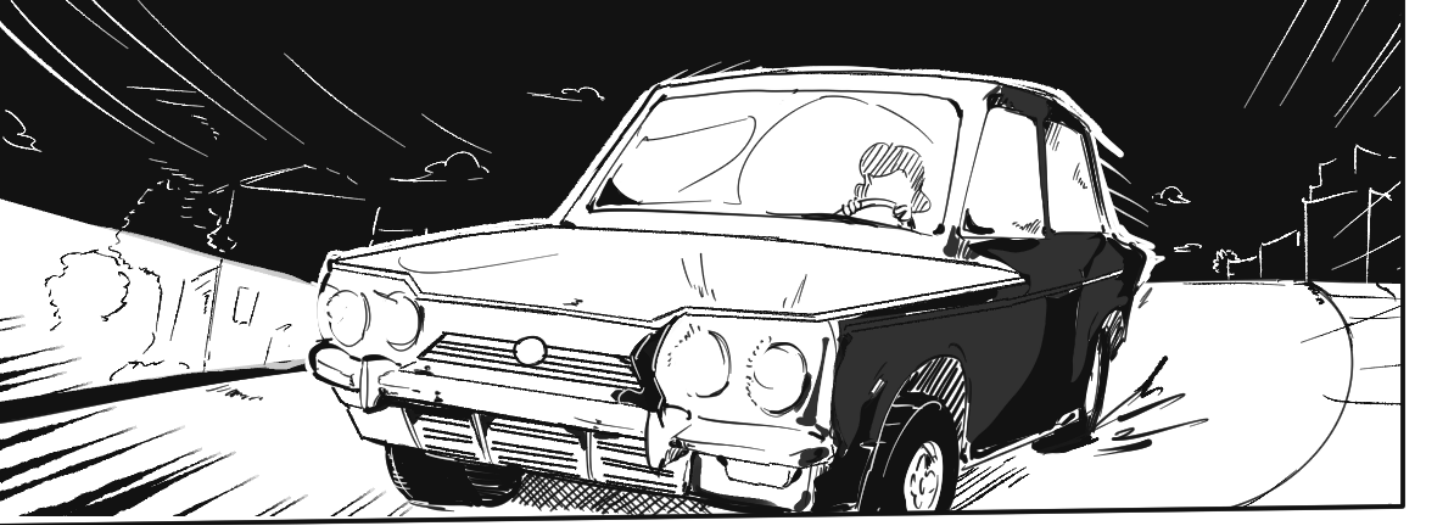

LISTEN, I'LL BE BACK LATER TONIGHT.
I'VE GOT LEFTOVERS IN THE FRIDGE.
JUST DON'T LEAVE 'CAUSE I ONLY GOT ONE KEY.


BROTHER... WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?


I HOPE HE BRINGS BACK SOME FOOD.
HARDLY ANYTHING HERE IS EDIBLE.
KENICHIRO HAS BEEN GONE FOR OVER AN HOUR.


KENNY!!!
KENNY IS IN TROUBLE!
BANG
BANG


I'LL EXPLAIN, JUST COME WITH ME!
I HAVE HIS KEY!!!
I'LL LOCK THE DOOR!
WHERE IS HE?!
WHAT?!
THIS WAY!
I'LL DRIVE US THERE!
TAKE ME TO HIM.
SF
SLAM




NO!!!
THEN WE FORGOT THEM! LET'S GO B-
HE HAD ME GO TO HIS PLACE TO PICK UP... SWORDS? JAPANESE SWORDS.
ACTUALLY KENNY TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
HE ALREADY LOST ONE SO HE WANTED ME TO GET THE REST.
HE WANTED THEM FOR... YOU'LL SEE!


I'M BETTY.
NICE TO MEET YOU. OR NOT.
R-RYUNOSUKE...
I KNOW.


I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM!



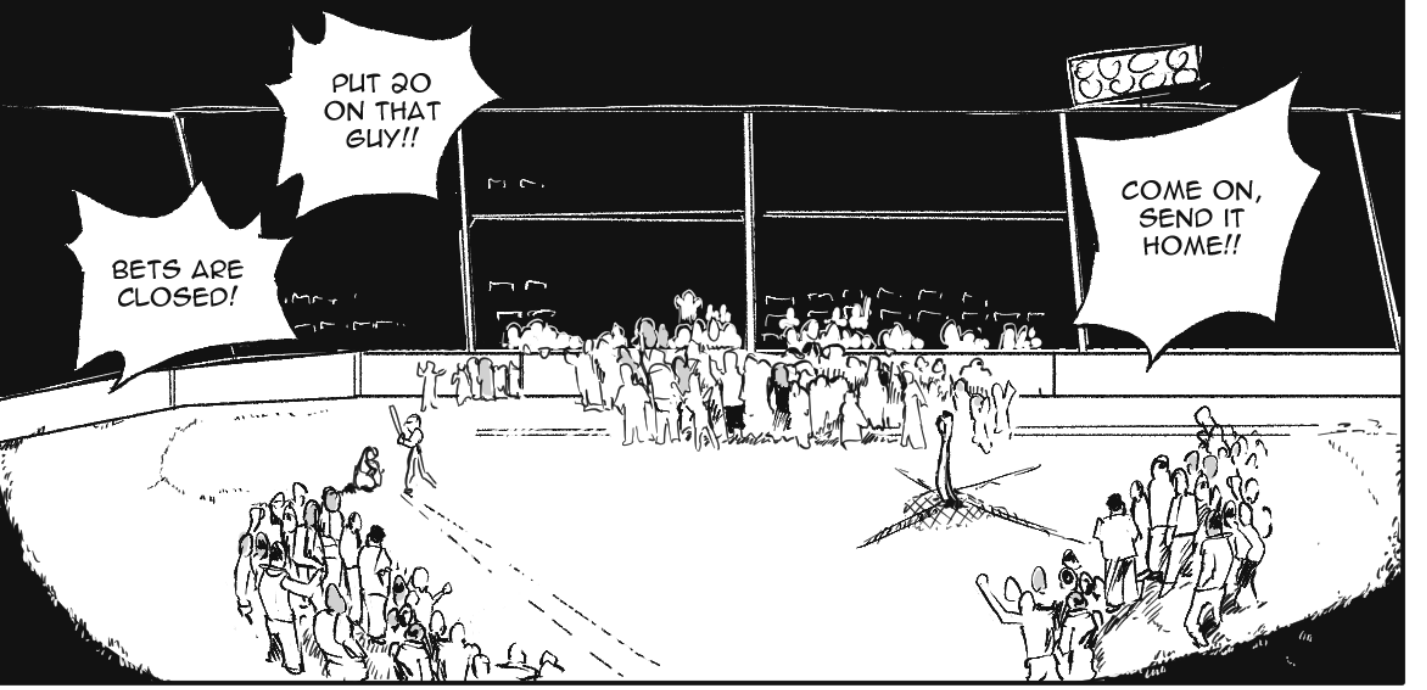

SO LISTEN CAREFULLY.
NO OFFENSE...
BUT YOU CLEARLY LOOK *FRESH OFF THE BOAT.*
WE'RE AT *GOLDEN PARK.*

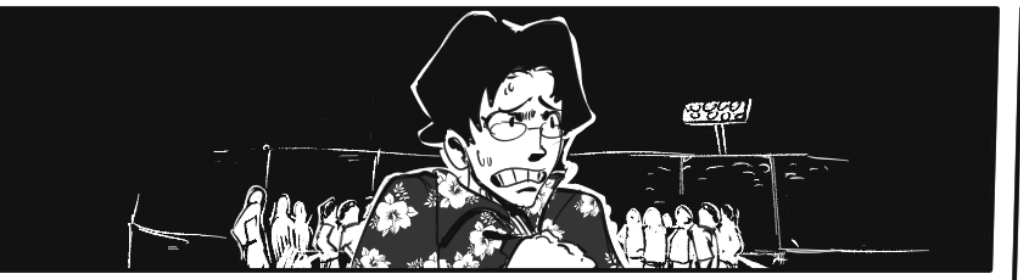

HE TOLD ME TO GO GET THEM AND LIE IF YOU ASK QUESTIONS!
BUT TONIGHT, KENNY BROUGHT A SWORD AND USED IT AS COLLATERAL!


MAKE SURE NOBODY GETS IN TROUBLE.
I GO TO THESE GAMES TO KEEP AN EYE ON PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR *THE PUFFINS.*
CORPORATE JUST KINDA IGNORES WHAT GOES ON HERE.


TWO NIGHTS A WEEK, THERE'S A BETTING GAME THAT GOES ON HERE,
YOU BET MONEY, YOU SWING, YOU WIN.
OR LOSE.
YES HE DOES!
ALSO, BEFORE YOU ASK.
KENICHIRO DOESN'T GAMBLE.


THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HIM IF HE RACKS UP EVEN MORE DEBT!
THESE GUYS DON'T PLAY AROUND...







AMERICA IS...

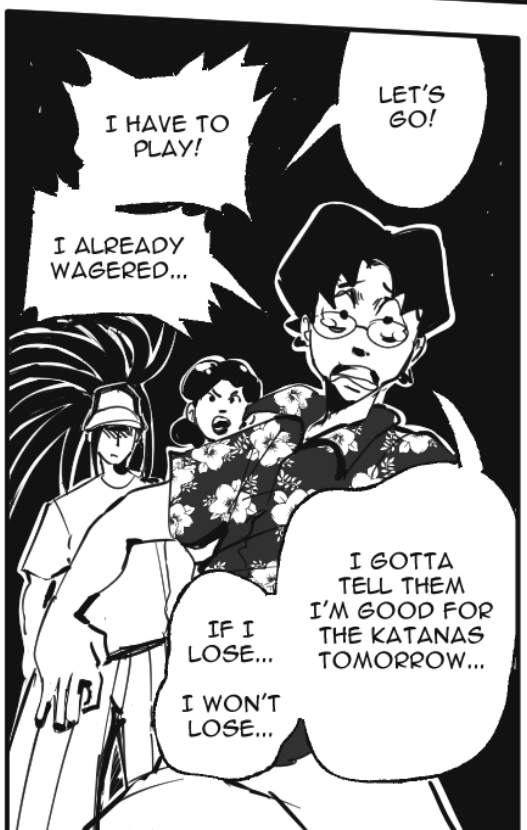
MUCH MORE *FAST PACED* THAN I THOUGHT.

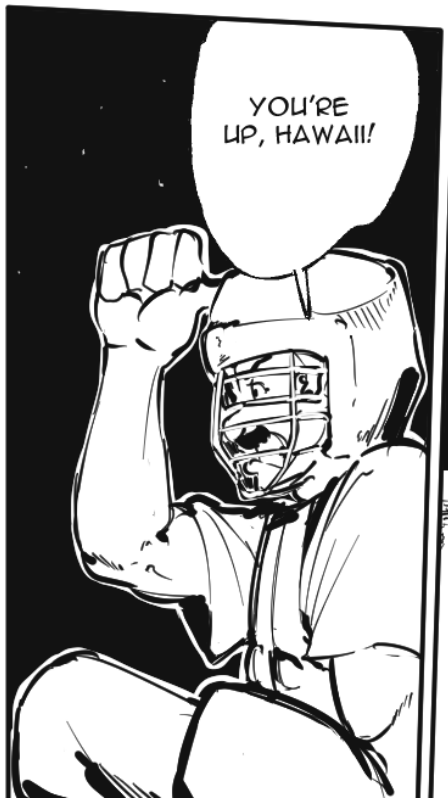





I CAN WIN AND MAKE TEN TIMES WHAT THEY'D GO FOR AT A PAWN SHOP!
I CAN'T!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST BRING THEM?!




I HAVE TO PLAY!
LET'S GO!
I ALREADY WAGERED...
I GOTTA TELL THEM I'M GOOD FOR THE KATANAS TOMORROW...
IF I LOSE...
I WON'T LOSE...

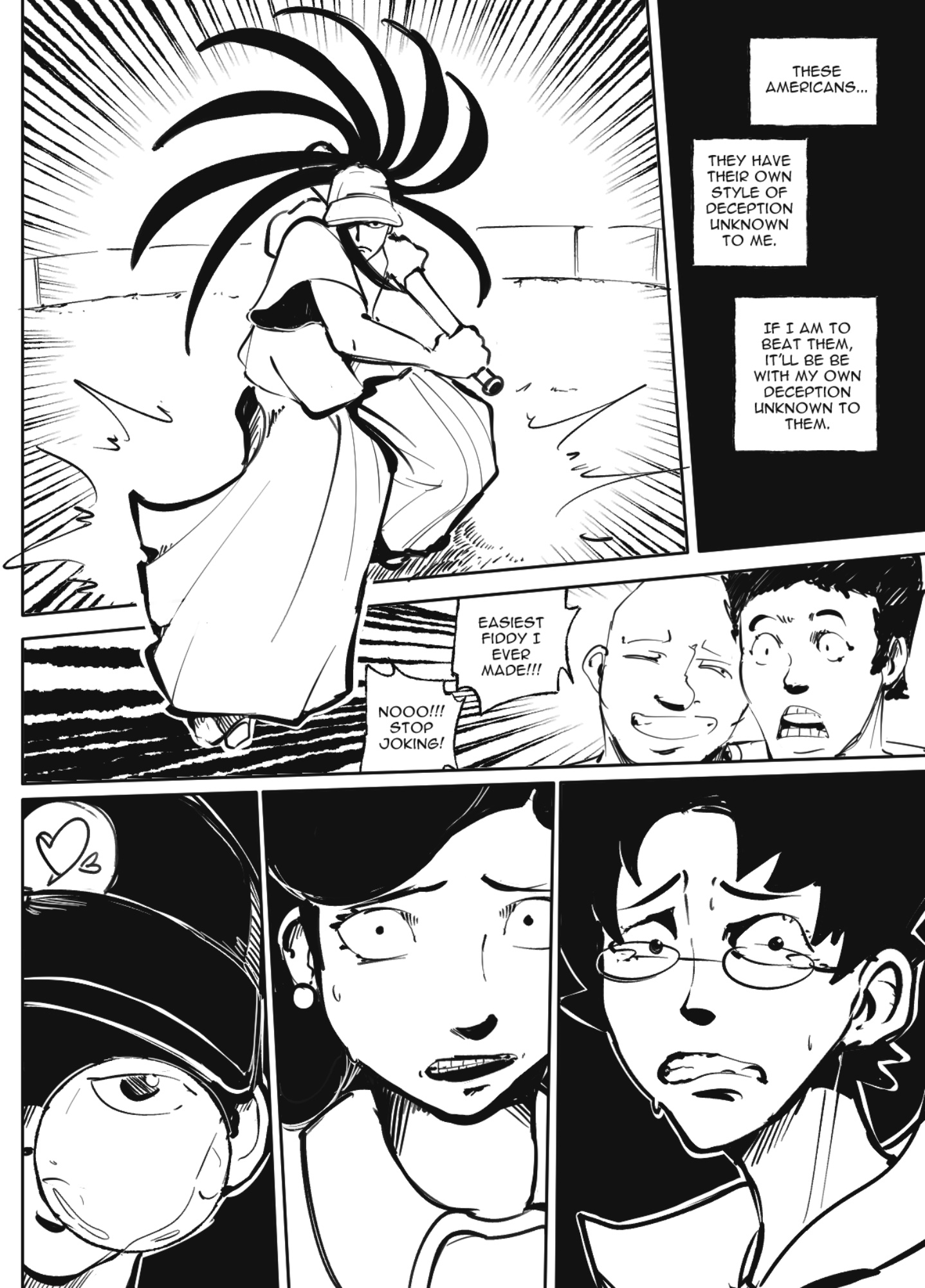

YOU'RE UP, HAWAII!


YOU'RE OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S THREE, BUDDY!
NAHAHA!
GIMME MY MONEY!
YO!


WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO, AGAIN?
HIT THE BALL ONCE.
HE GETS THREE CHANCES.
I'M TOUCHING IT MAN-
HEY BUDDY,
STAY ON THE PLATE.
IS KENICHIRO GOOD AT BASEBALL?
...
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO HIT A HOMERUN.
JUST TOUCHING THE BALL IS A WIN.
STRIKE ONE!
NOOO!!
MY $100!!!


Y-YES.
HE'S MY BROTHER.
SF
I WILL PLAY FOR HIM.
YOU WILL, HUH?
HAWAII, YOU DOWN WITH THIS?
HOLD IT!
BETTINGS CLOSED FOR THIS RUN, BUDDY!


WHICH SIDE DO YOU SWING FROM?
LEFT OR RIGHT?
AY AY AY...
EVER PLAY BASEBALL BEFORE?
YOU'RE NOT ABANDONING YOUR BROTHER!
OH NO YOU DON'T!
I'LL GO GET THE KATA-
LEFT FEELS MORE NATURAL-
STRIKE 2!
...
I ONLY HAVE TO HIT IT ONCE,
RIGHT?
?!?
THE BALL WAS PITCHED!
WE SAW IT! HAHA!
DIDN'T GO VERY FAR, BUT YOU STILL SWUNG!
ONE CHANCE LEFT, BUD!


THESE AMERICANS...
THEY HAVE THEIR OWN STYLE OF DECEPTION UNKNOWN TO ME.
IF I AM TO BEAT THEM, IT'LL BE BE WITH MY OWN DECEPTION UNKNOWN TO THEM.
EASIEST FIDDY I EVER MADE!!!
NOOO!!! STOP JOKING!

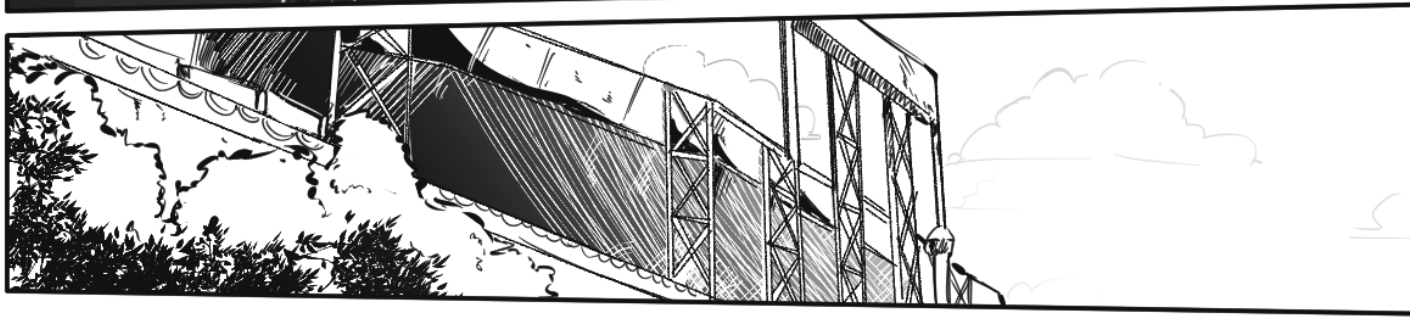

THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE.
DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M GETTING MY MONEY TONIGHT.
POP
DOES HE THINK THIS IS A JOKE?


FASTBA


CRACK

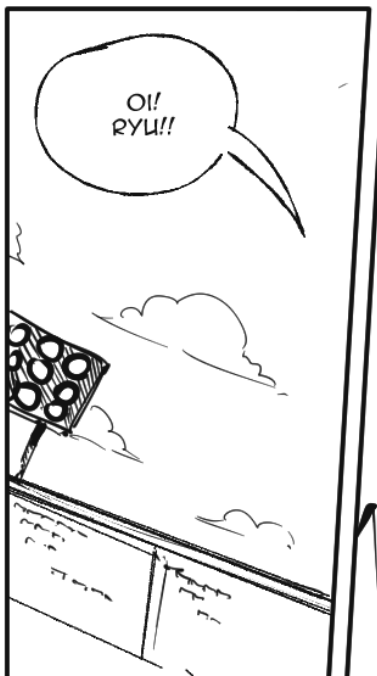

F-
FOUL!
WHERE'S THE BALL?!
I'M NOT CALLING A HIT IF WE CAN'T FIND THE-
...
OUTTA SIGHT.
WHOA...
THAT WAS...

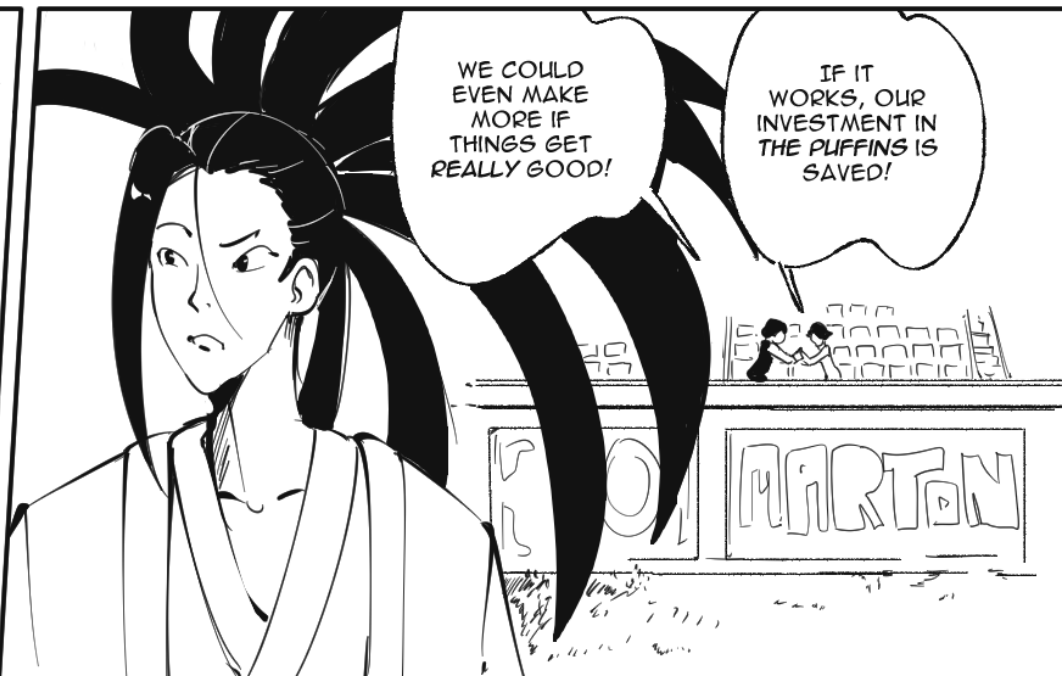

SCOUTING THESE GAMES FINALLY PAID OFF...
HE WON $500 AND GOT HIS SWORD BACK.
KENNY AND I WATCHED RYUNOSUKE HIT 10 CONSECUTIVE SWINGS THAT NIGHT.




I'M THINKING THE SAME THING AS YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE ME.
HE JUST NEEDS TO LEARN THE RULES!
HE'LL DEFINITELY DO IT!


IT ALL DEPENDS ON HIM...


OI! RYU!!


WE COULD EVEN MAKE MORE IF THINGS GET REALLY GOOD!
IF IT WORKS, OUR INVESTMENT IN THE PUFFINS IS SAVED!
MARTON


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH US!
ABOUT BASEBALL?
I'M SURE YOU FIGURED IT OUT, BUT BETTY'S BEEN TALKIN' ABOUT ADDING YOU TO THE TEAM...
I HEARD A LOT ABOUT YA!
WELCOME TO THE USA!
PUFFIN
DOWN HERE!
I LOVE AMERICAN BASEBALL!
AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO PLAYING WITH YOU ALL!
END