

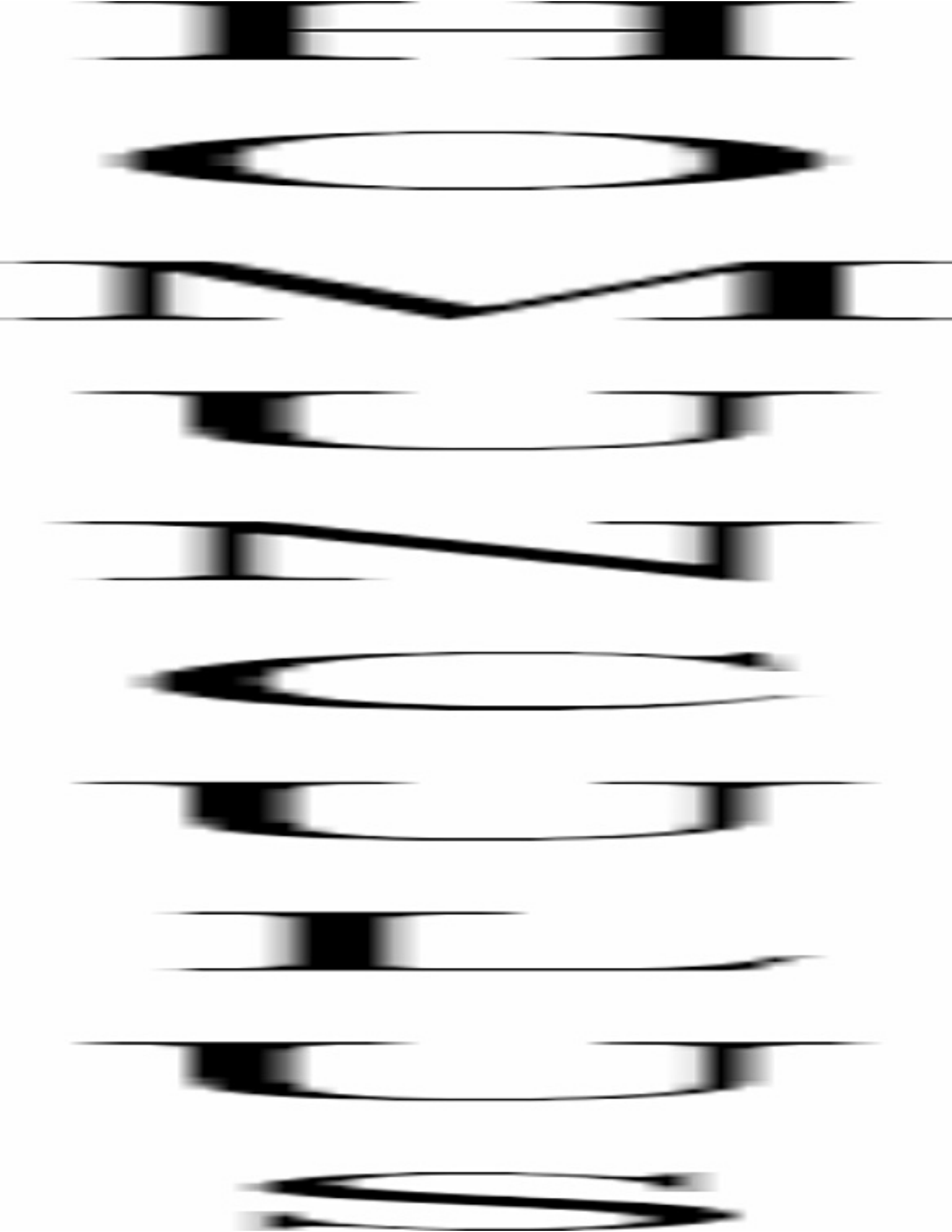
H O M U N C U L U S

ホ ム ン ク ル ス

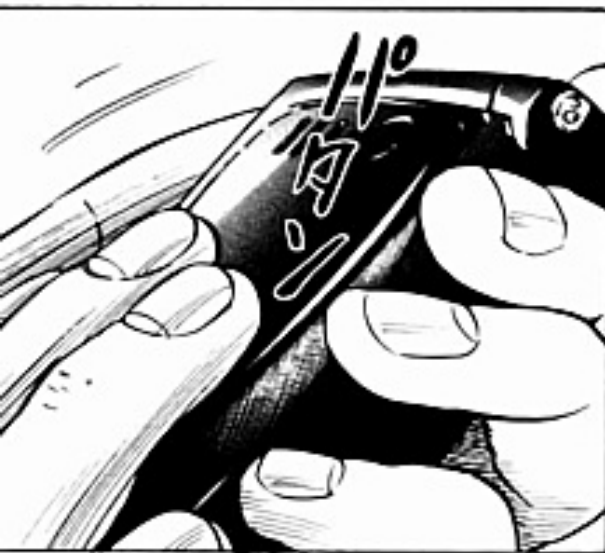


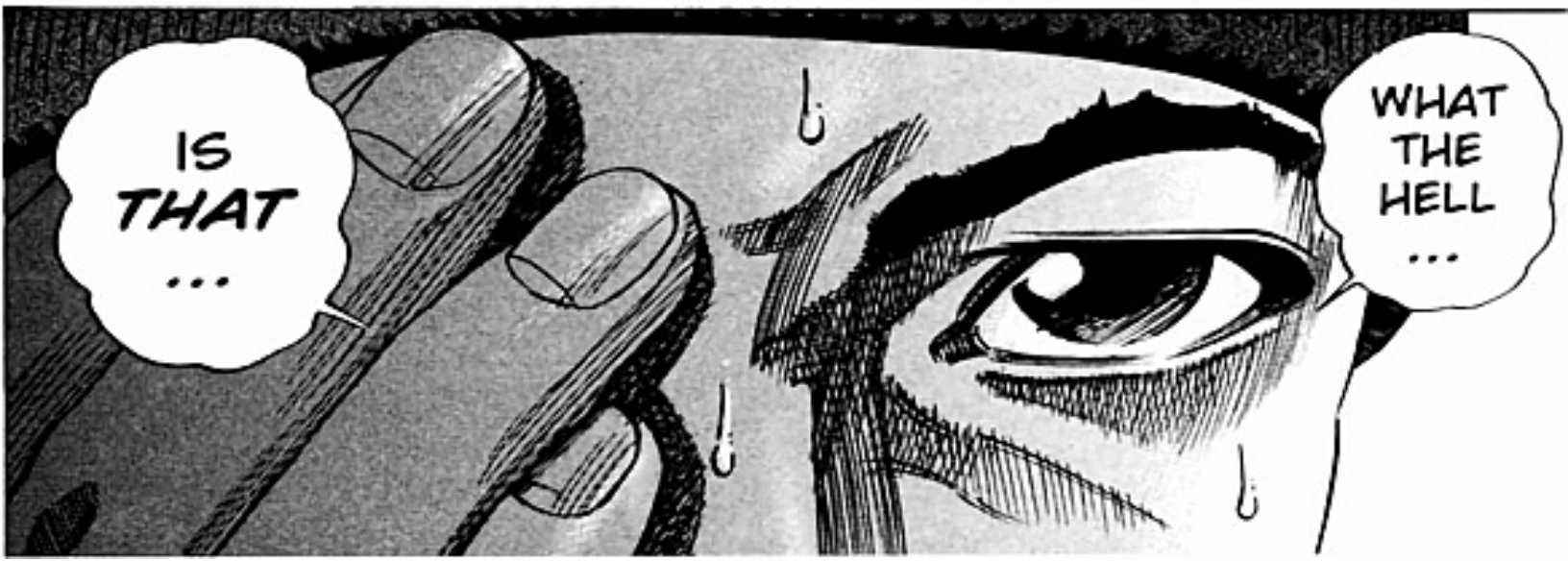
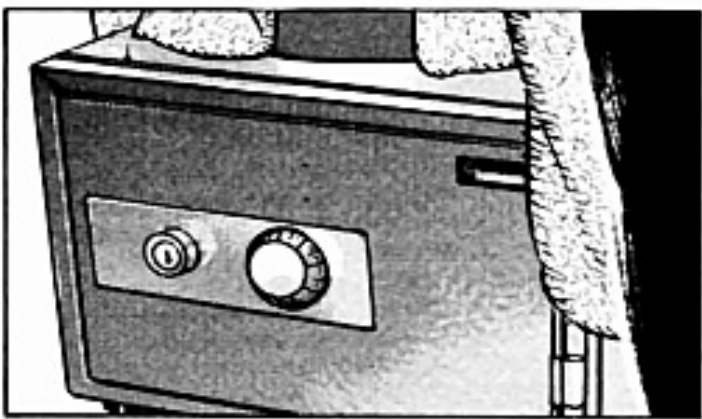
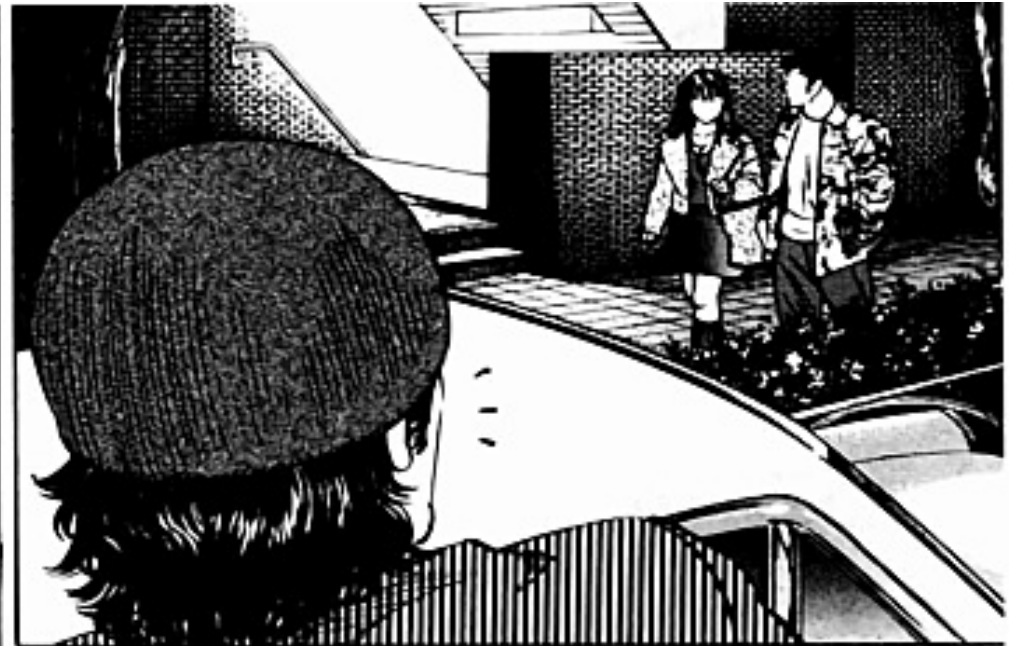
2

H I D E O Y A M A M O T O

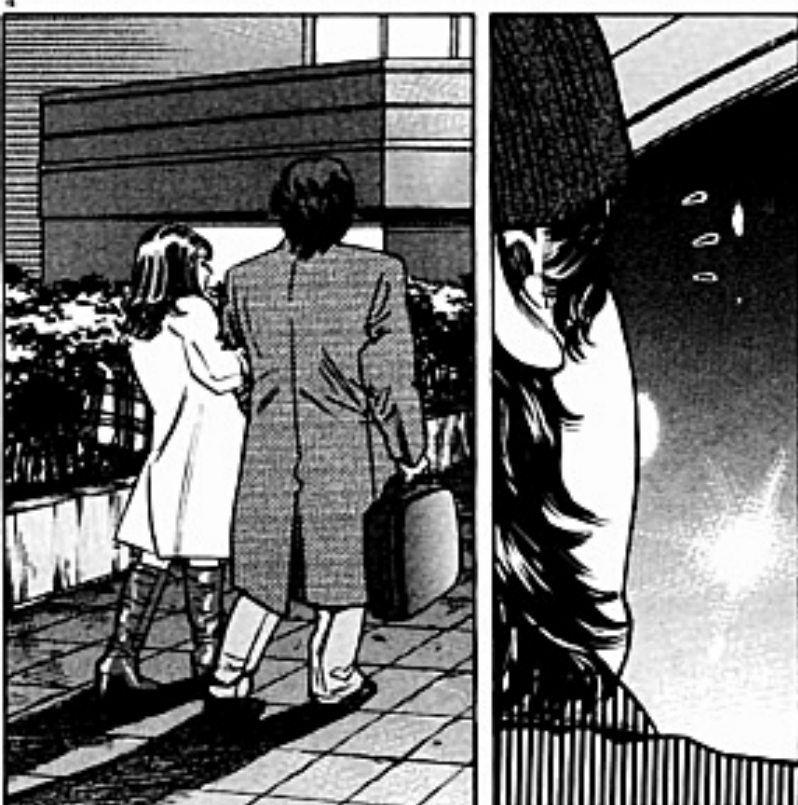
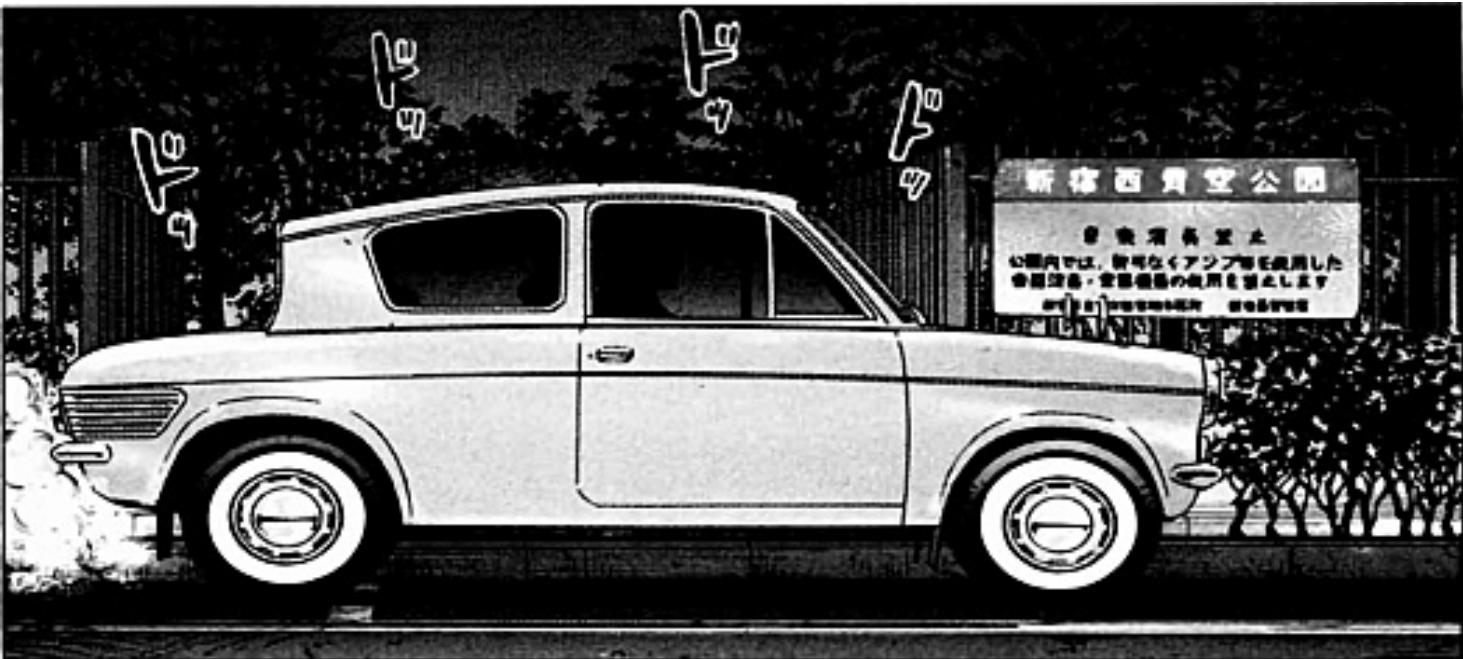






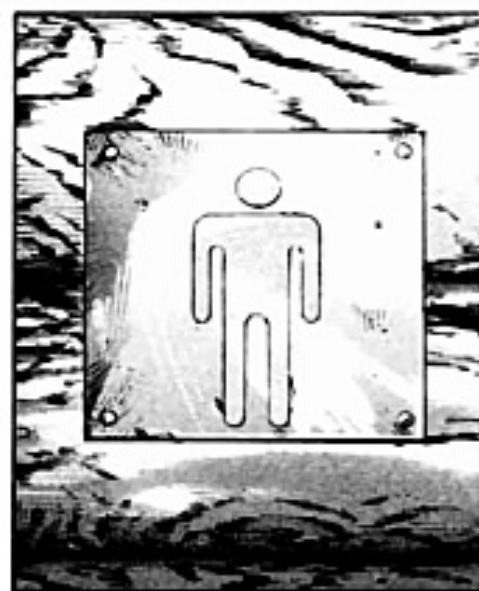


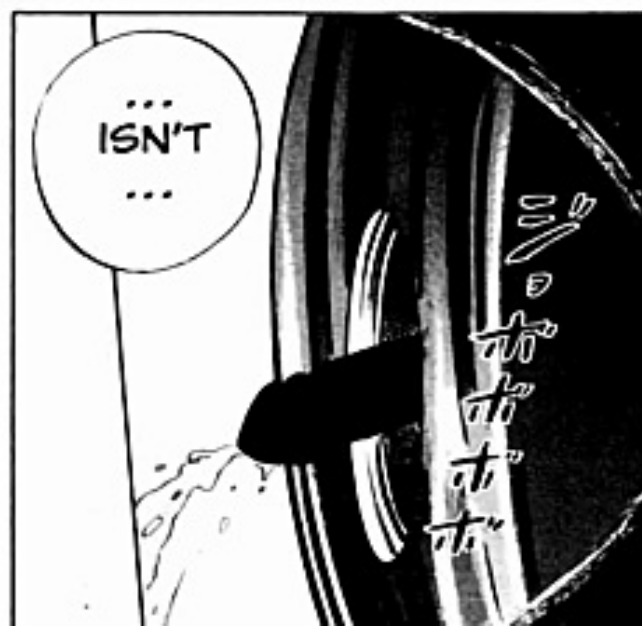














PLISH  
PLINKA  
PLINK



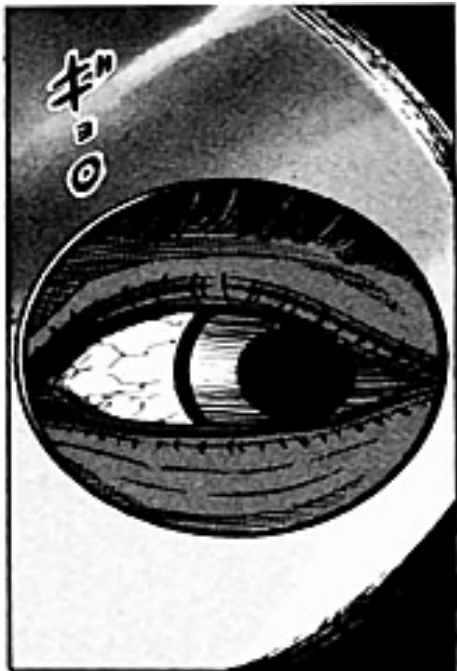
I HAD TO  
TAKE THE  
CAR IN FOR  
REPAIRS...



YOU  
WEREN'T AT  
THE PARK  
YESTERDAY,  
BUDDY.

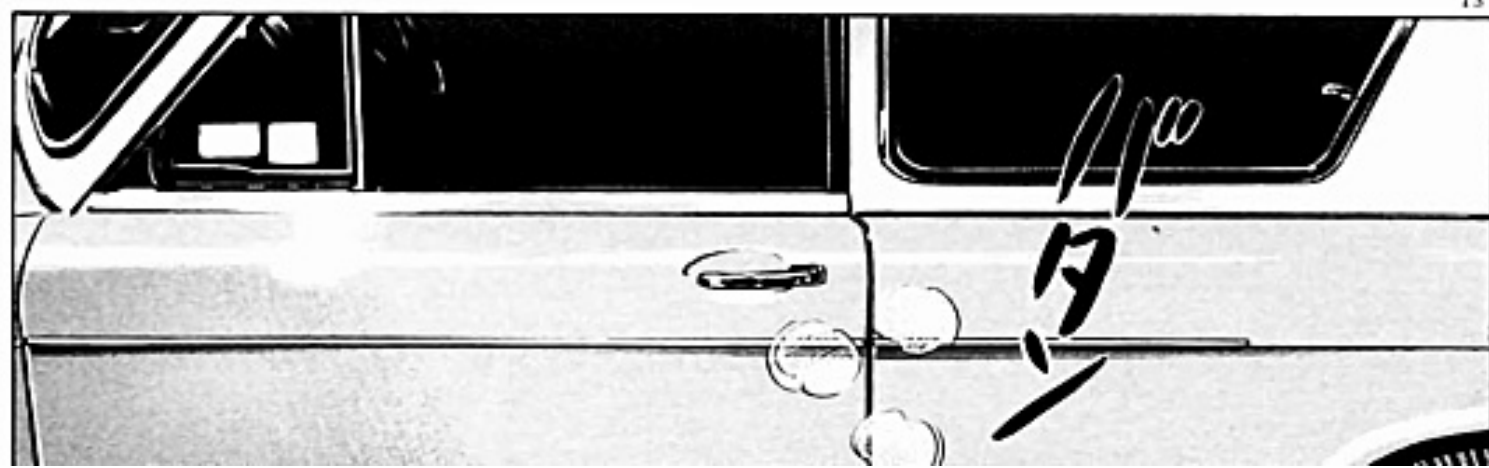
AH...  
RIGHT.



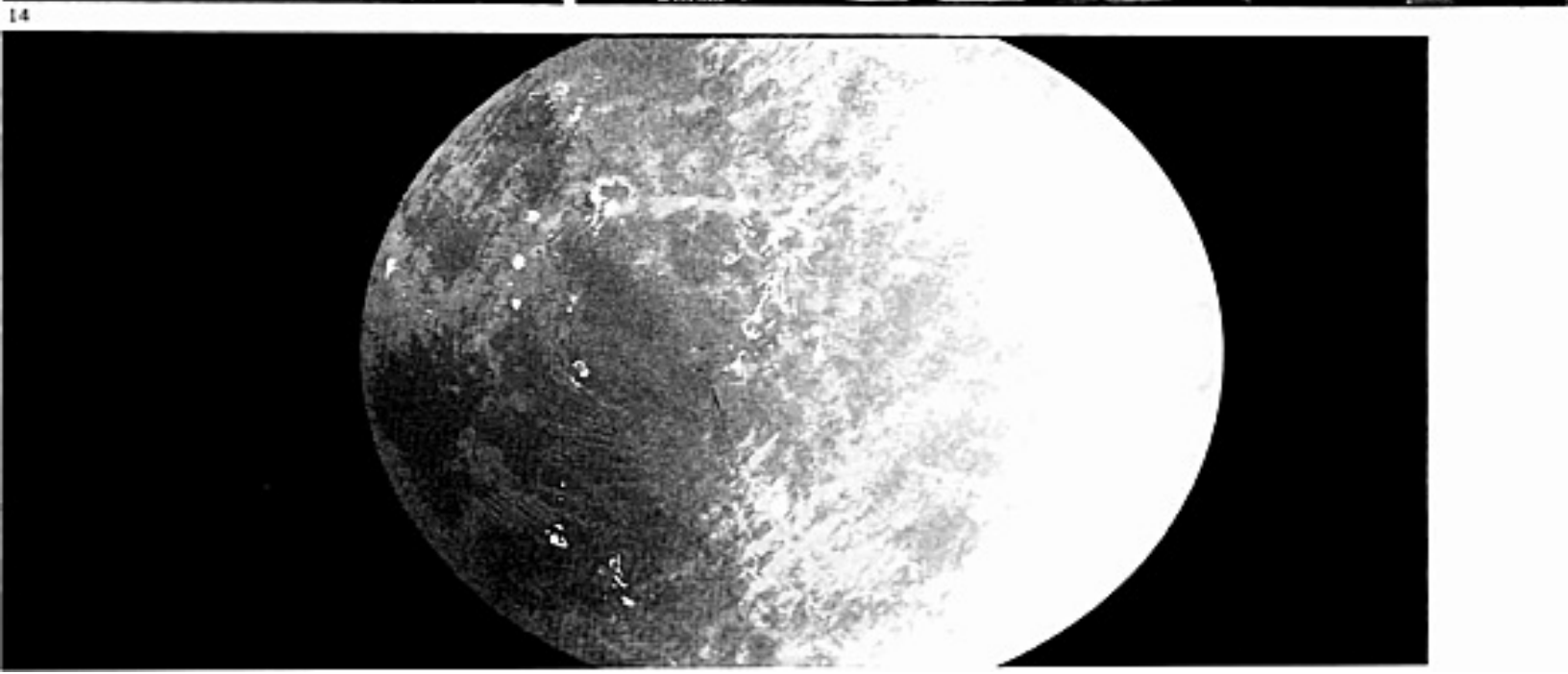










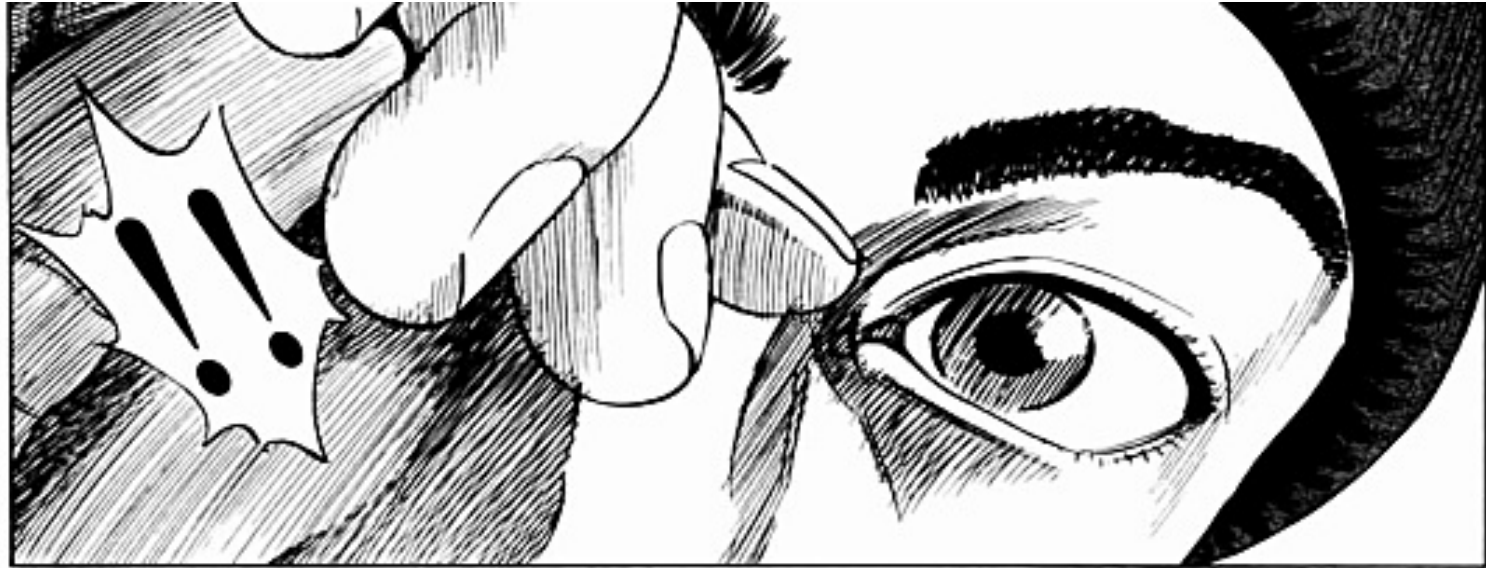






16








LET'S HAVE  
SOME LUNCH  
AND DISCUSS  
TODAY'S  
PROCEEDINGS.



YOU  
DON'T LOOK  
VERY  
GOOD, MR.  
NAKOSHI.

YEAH  
...



♪  
♪  
♪



WHAT  
WAS  
...

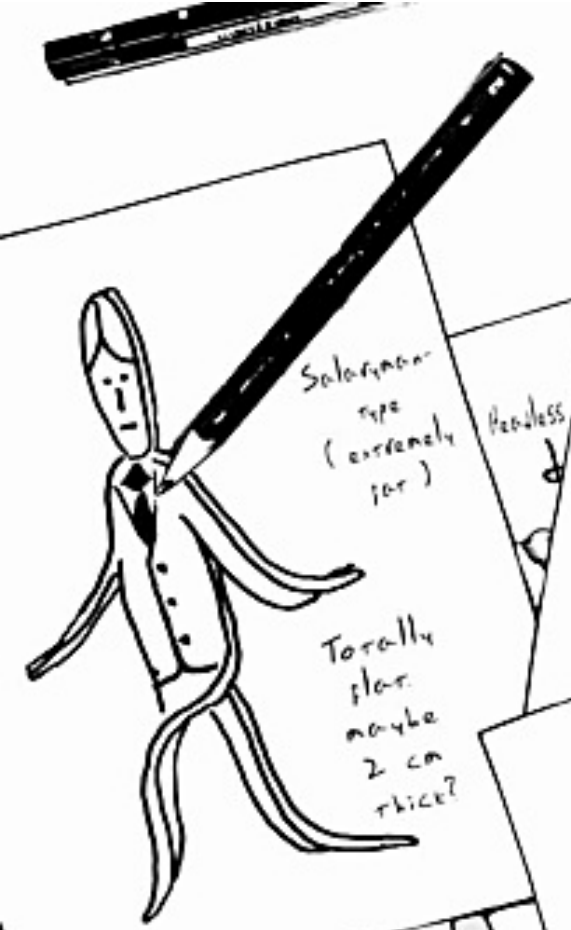


YOU  
BET.



DID  
SOME-  
THING  
HAPPEN  
?





Salariano  
type  
(extremely  
far)

Totally  
flat  
maybe  
2 cm  
thick?

Headless



Arms on  
the  
outside  
as well

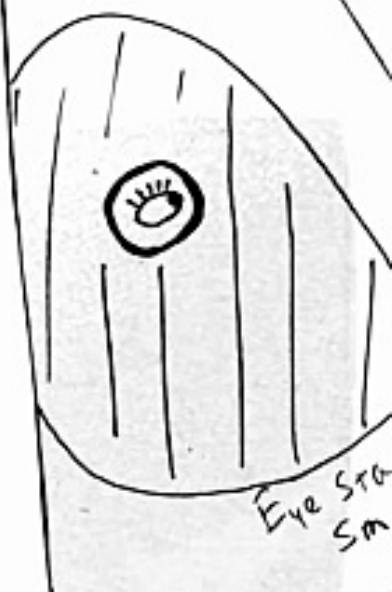
Body  
split in  
two  
Sides  
reversed  
holding  
hands



Missing lack of head  
inorganic



Boy inside a robot?  
Curling his left pinky finger  
with sickle-tipped right hand



Eye Str  
Sm

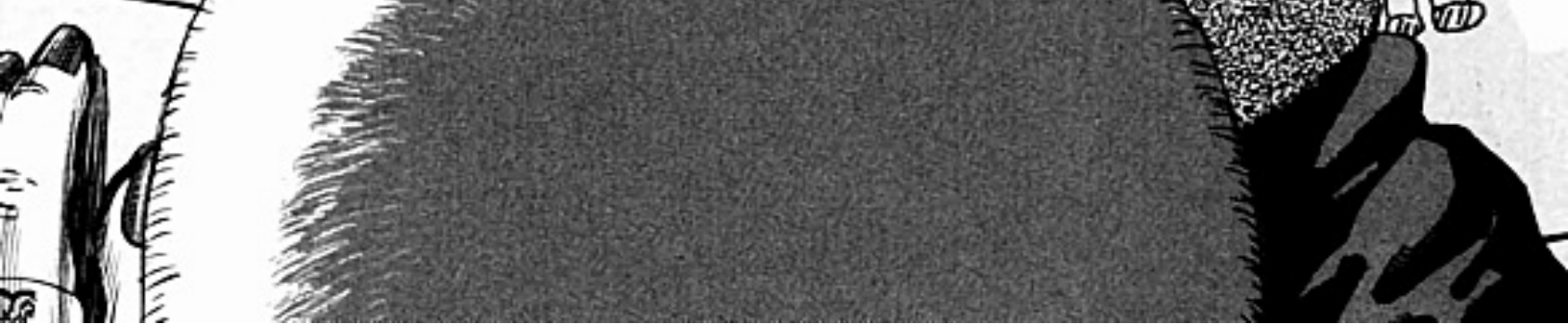


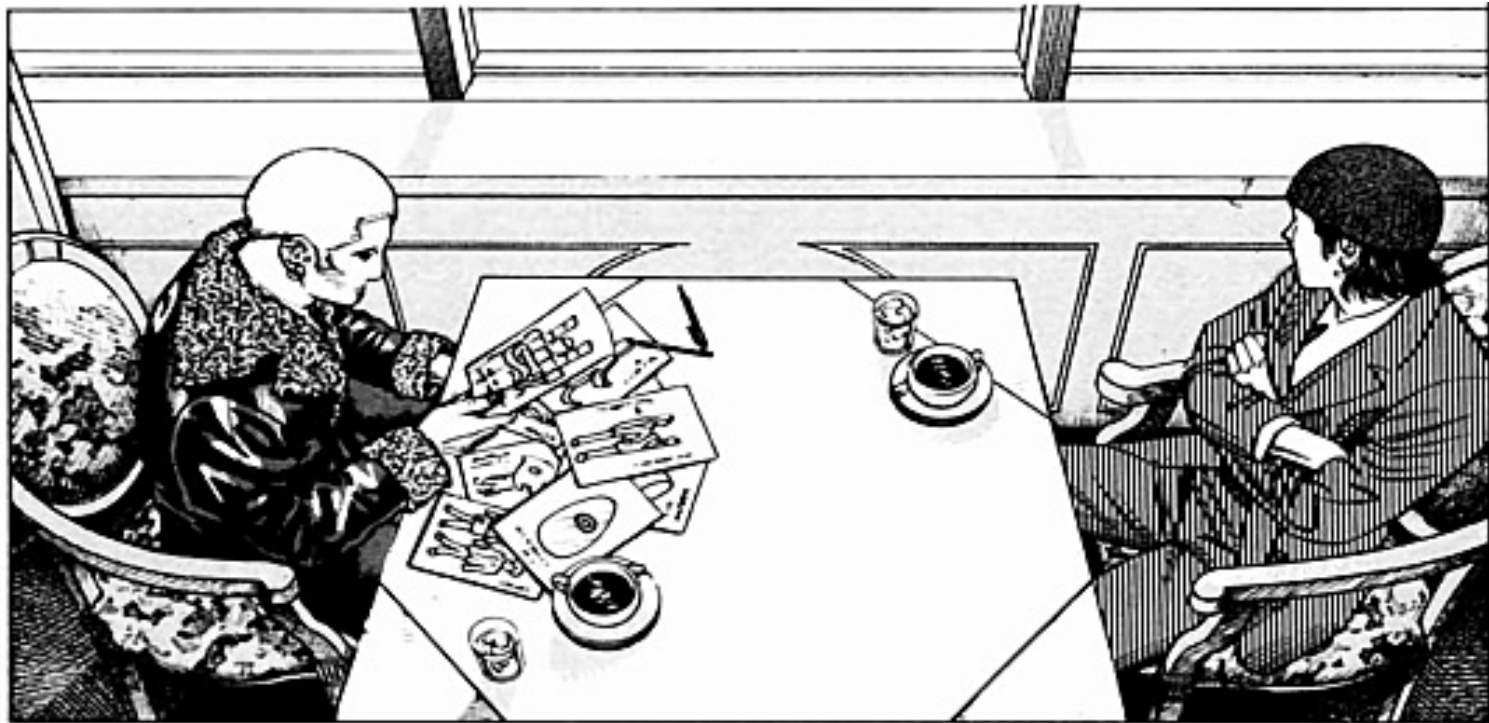
Girl  
split  
into six  
round  
slices

Hipster  
Only  
waist  
rotates



Head  
is a  
penis









WAIT...  
JUST  
A  
MINUTE

"YES" IS  
NOT THE  
ANSWER  
I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR.

AM I  
HALLUCINATING  
WHEN I CLOSE  
MY RIGHT EYE  
AND LOOK WITH  
MY LEFT?!



LET ME  
HEAR  
MORE.



DO YOU  
REALLY  
BELIEVE  
ALL THAT  
...?



MR.  
NAKOSHI  
...



FLAP





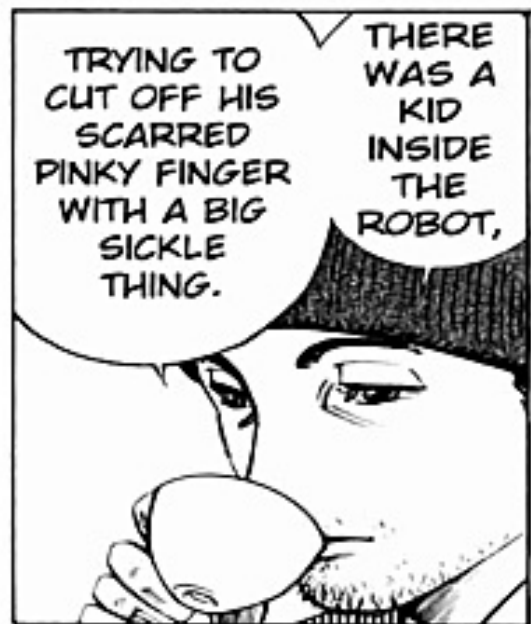
.....



LET'S START BY BELIEVING.



AND THEN, THE BOSS HIMSELF BEGAN TO CRY...



TRYING TO CUT OFF HIS SCARRED PINKY FINGER WITH A BIG SICKLE THING.

THERE WAS A KID INSIDE THE ROBOT,



I CAN STILL IMAGINE HIM ON THE VERGE OF TEARS...



AND THE ONLY MONSTER YOU PHYSICALLY INTERACTED WITH WAS THIS ROBOT ... A YAKUZA BOSS?

YEAH ...

少年?



IN  
RETROSPECT,  
I HAD TO  
HAVE GONE  
MAD.

HE WAS A  
YAKUZA,  
WITH A  
KNIFE.



YEAH.



WHY DID  
I SAY  
THOSE  
THINGS  
...?



BUT I  
TREATED  
HIM THE  
WAY I  
SAW HIM.

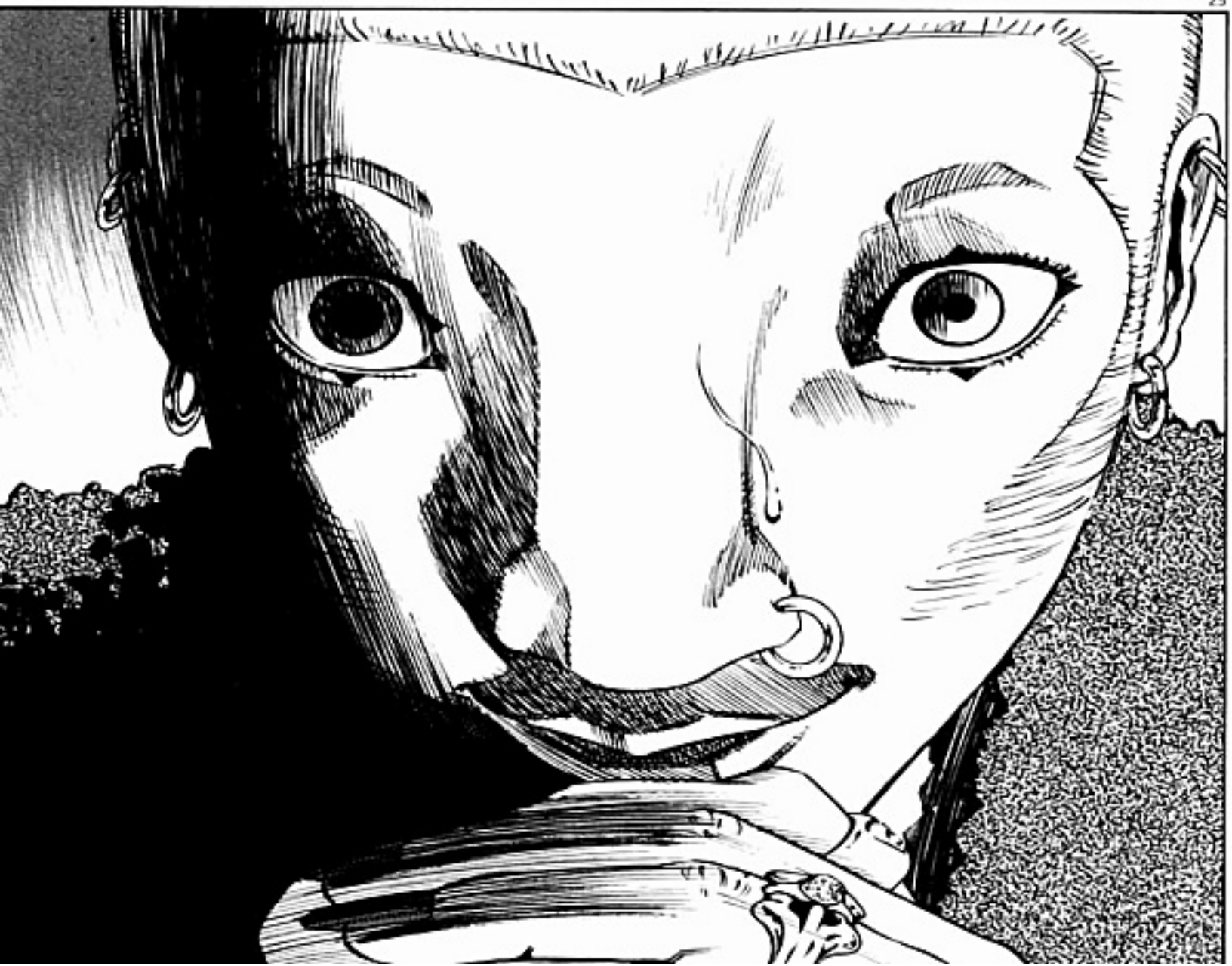
I KNEW  
IT WAS  
STUPID,



I JUST  
COULDN'T  
TAKE MY EYES  
OFF THE KID  
...



.....





OH,  
NO, NO  
...

NOT AT  
ALL...

YOU THINK  
THIS IS  
RIDICULOUS,  
TOO...?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GRINNING  
ABOUT?



WHAT  
RATIO?

ABOUT  
FIFTY-FIFTY,  
I'D SAY.



NOW, YOU SAID  
THERE WERE  
PEOPLE WHO  
LOOKED LIKE  
MONSTERS,  
AND PEOPLE  
WHO LOOKED  
NORMAL.



YEAH  
...

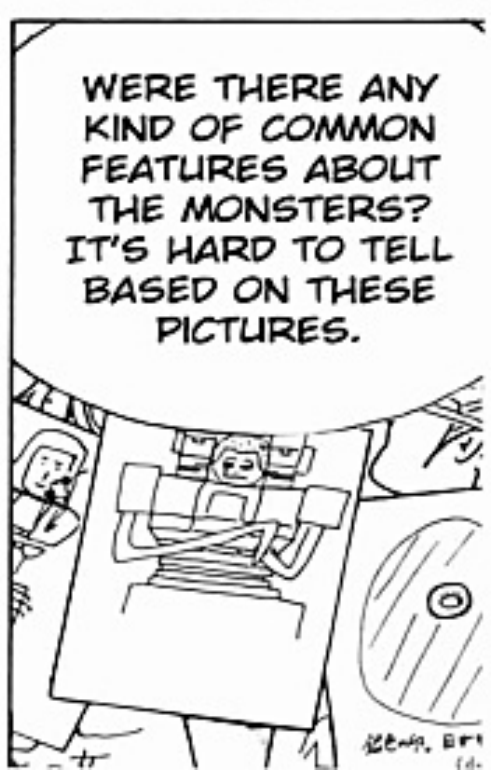


ANY-  
THING.

FOR  
INSTANCE,  
SHAPE, OR  
COLOR, OR  
FEEL...

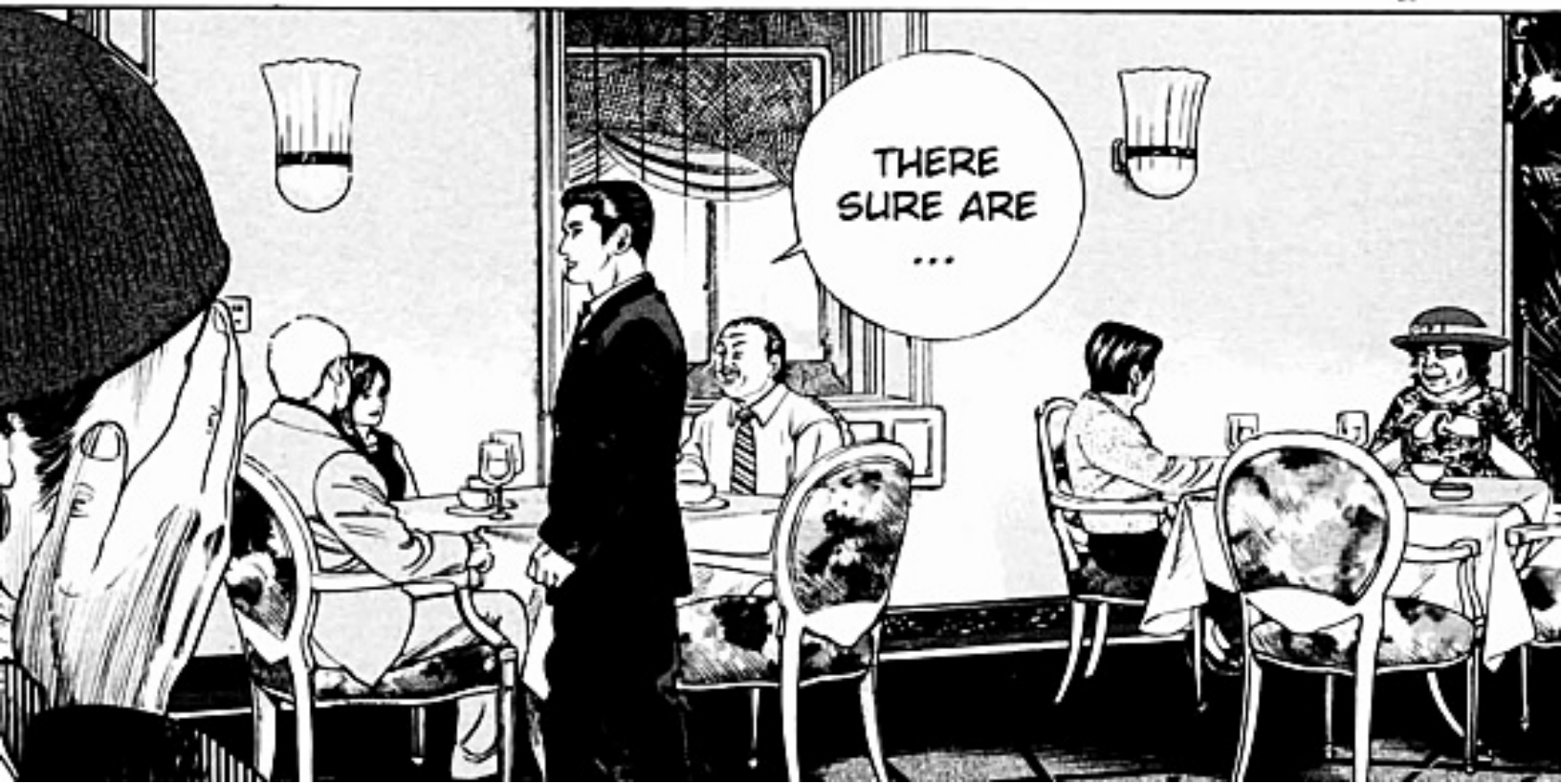


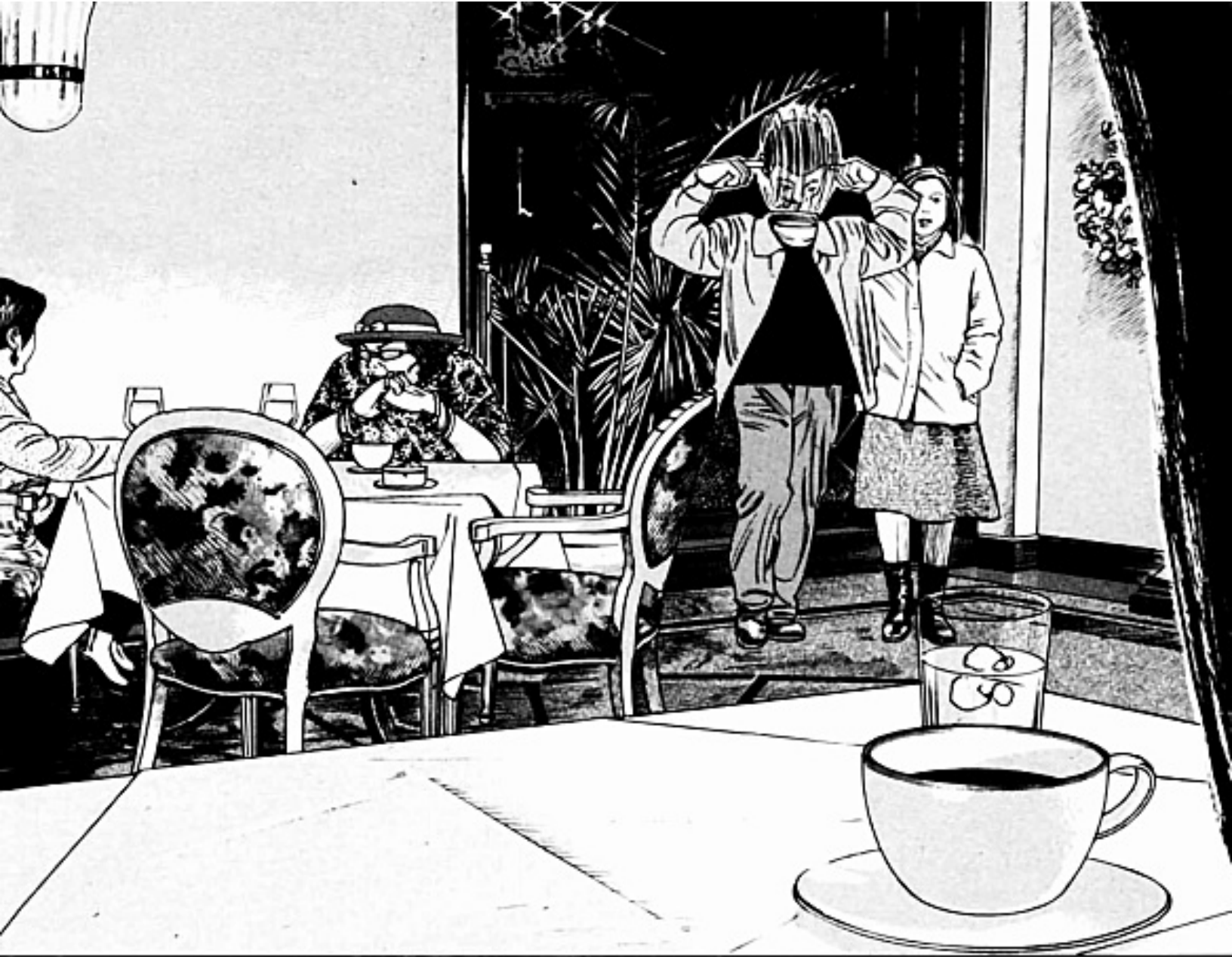
COMMON  
FEATURES  
...?



WERE THERE ANY  
KIND OF COMMON  
FEATURES ABOUT  
THE MONSTERS?  
IT'S HARD TO TELL  
BASED ON THESE  
PICTURES.







YEAH  
...



THERE  
ARE  
SOME IN  
HERE,  
TOO...?

TH...





IF I HAD  
TO NAME ONE  
COMMONALITY,  
IT WOULD BE  
...



LET'S  
SEE...



THEY WERE  
LESS  
MONSTERS  
TURNING INTO  
HUMANS...

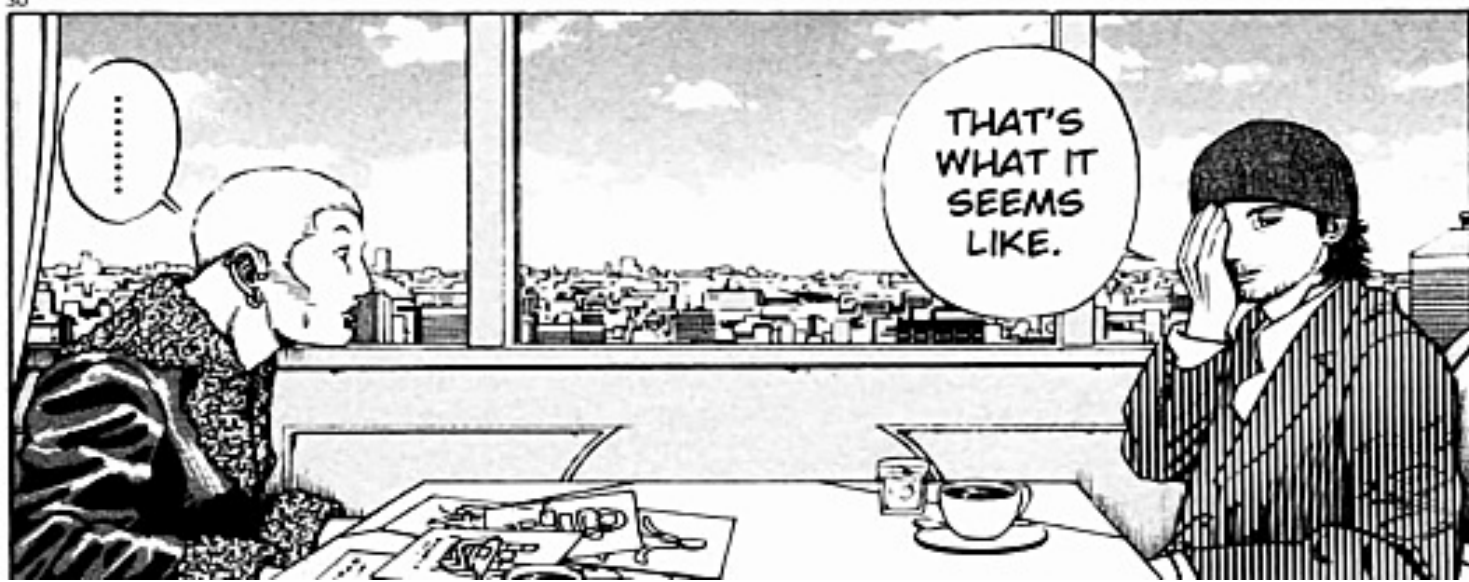
THAN  
THEY WERE  
HUMANS  
TAKING THE  
FORM OF  
MONSTERS  
...



NO...



THEIR  
INORGAN-  
ICNESS  
...



THAT'S  
WHAT IT  
SEEMS  
LIKE.

.....



YEAH  
...

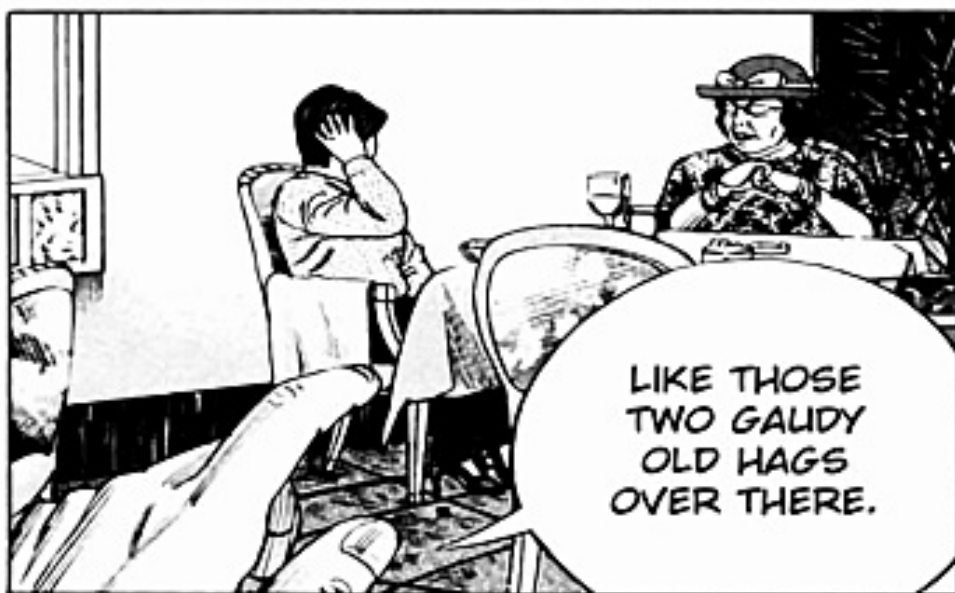


RIGHT NOW,  
CAN'T YOU...?

YOU CAN SEE THEM...



YES?



LIKE THOSE TWO GAUDY OLD HAGS OVER THERE.



WITH GLASSES  
...

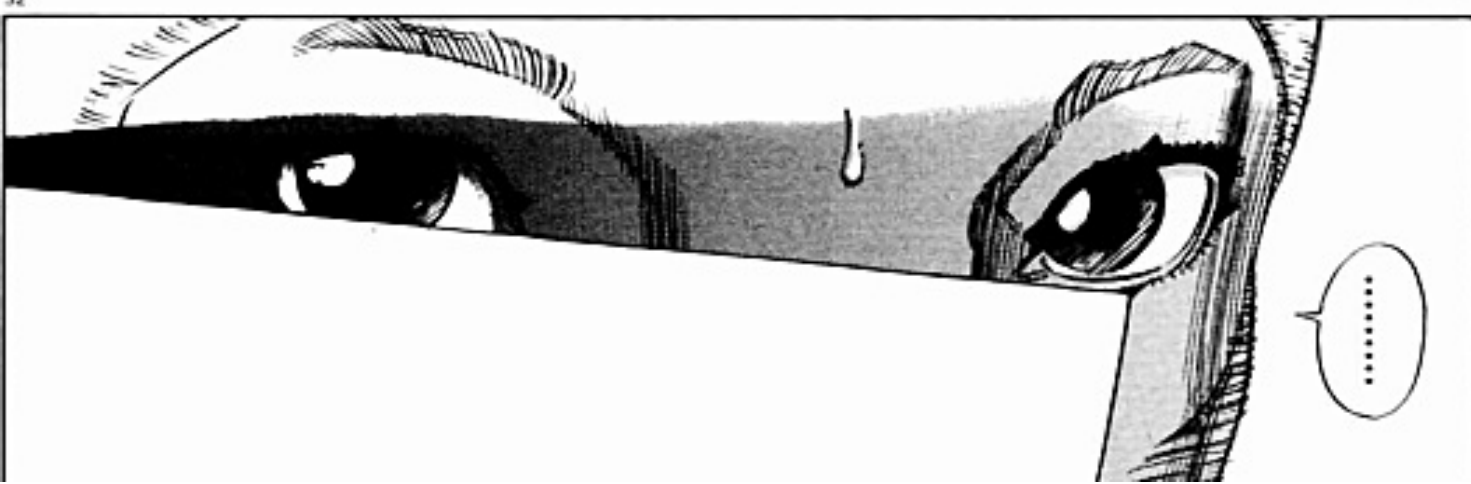
THE ONE FURTHER AWAY...

SCRIBBLE



THE CLOSER ONE... WITH SHORT HAIR...  
SHE'S NORMAL  
...



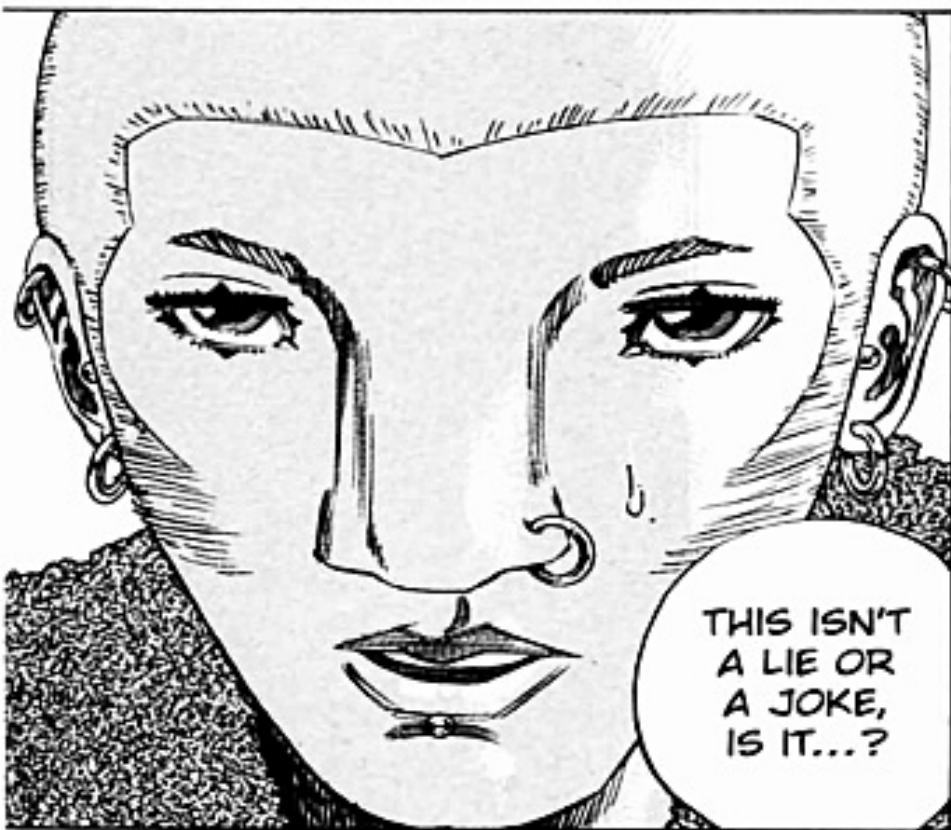




MR.  
NAKOSHI  
...



IT'S A  
BIG  
FARCE.



THIS ISN'T  
A LIE OR  
A JOKE,  
IS IT...?



I HAVE  
A BASIC  
TRUST IN  
YOU, YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND...



IF THEY'RE  
TRUE OR  
FAKE...



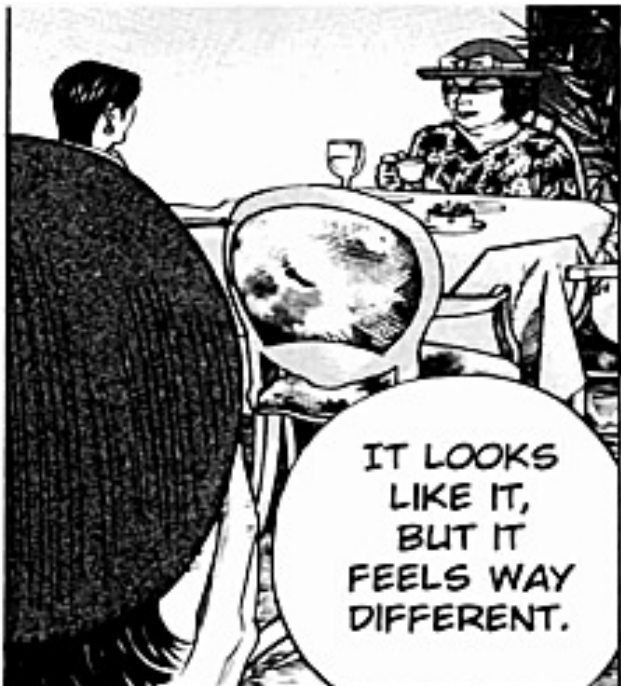
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
THE THINGS  
I'M SAYING...



I DON'T  
REALLY  
UNDER-  
STAND  
EITHER...



DUNNO  
...



IT LOOKS LIKE IT, BUT IT FEELS WAY DIFFERENT.



I MEAN, THIS JUST LOOKS LIKE JAMIRA...

No neck!



NOTE: JAMIRA IS A MONSTER WHO APPEARED IN EPISODE 23 OF THE ORIGINAL ULTRAMAN TV SERIES.



SHE'S PROTECTING HER NECK ...



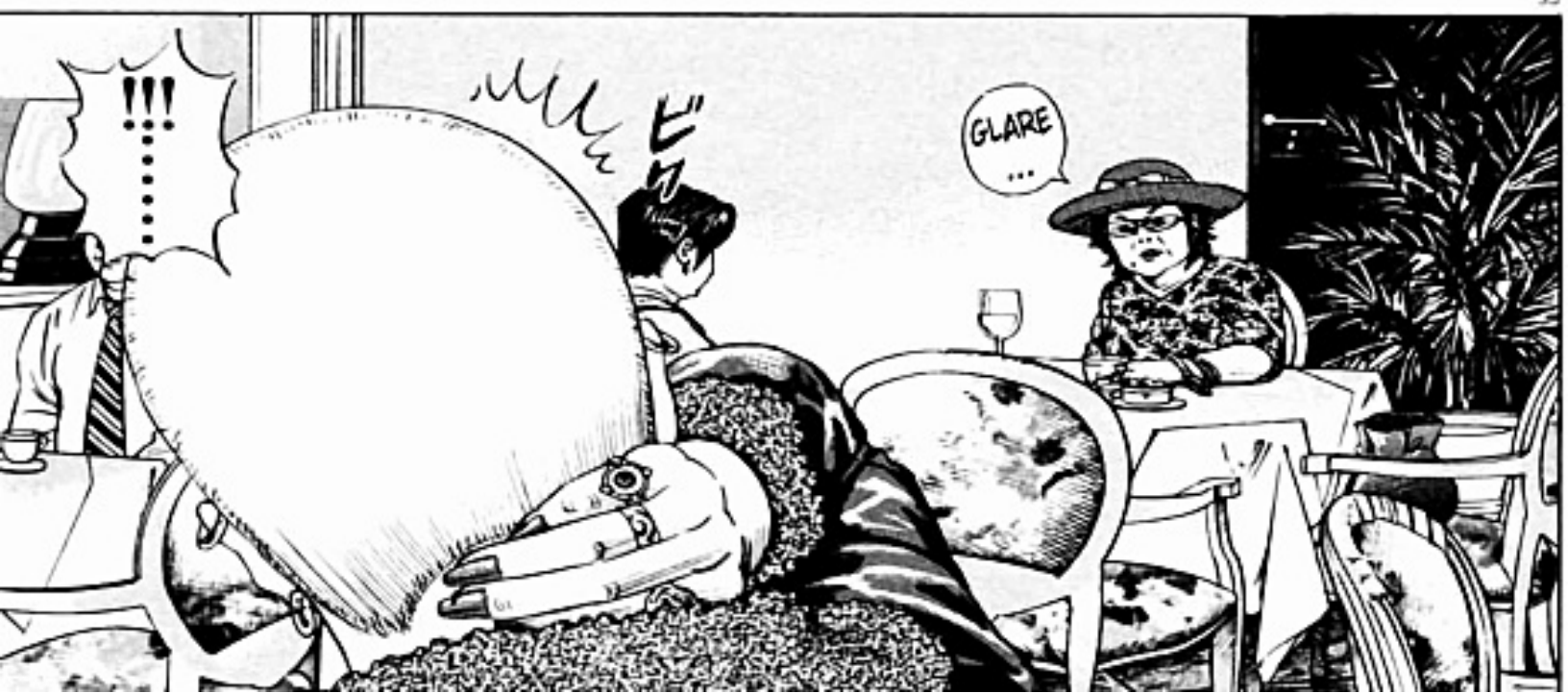
IT'S LIKE ...



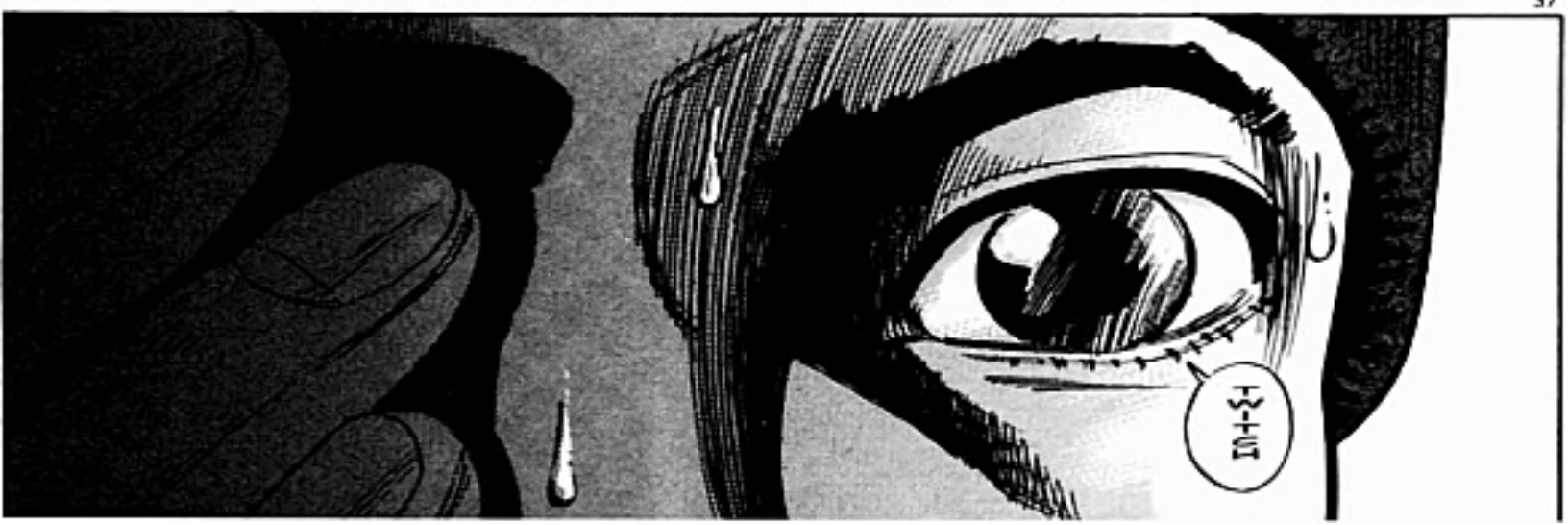
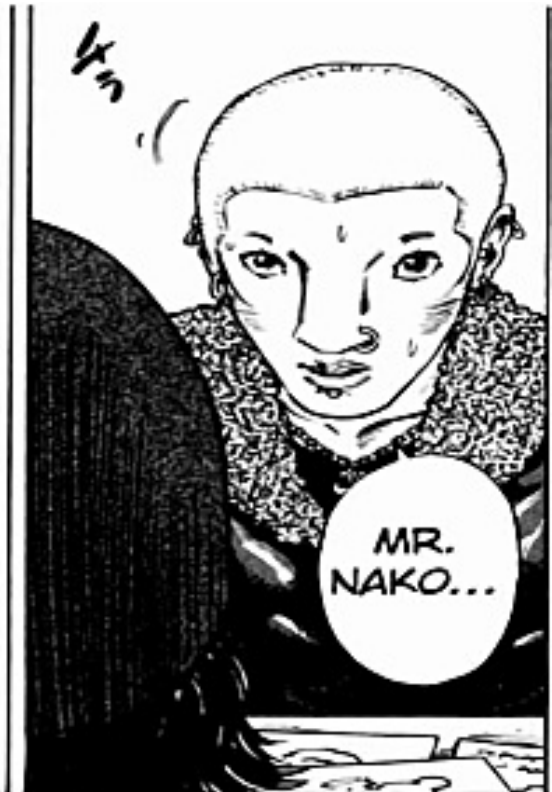
!? ...



THAT'S HOW IT FEELS.

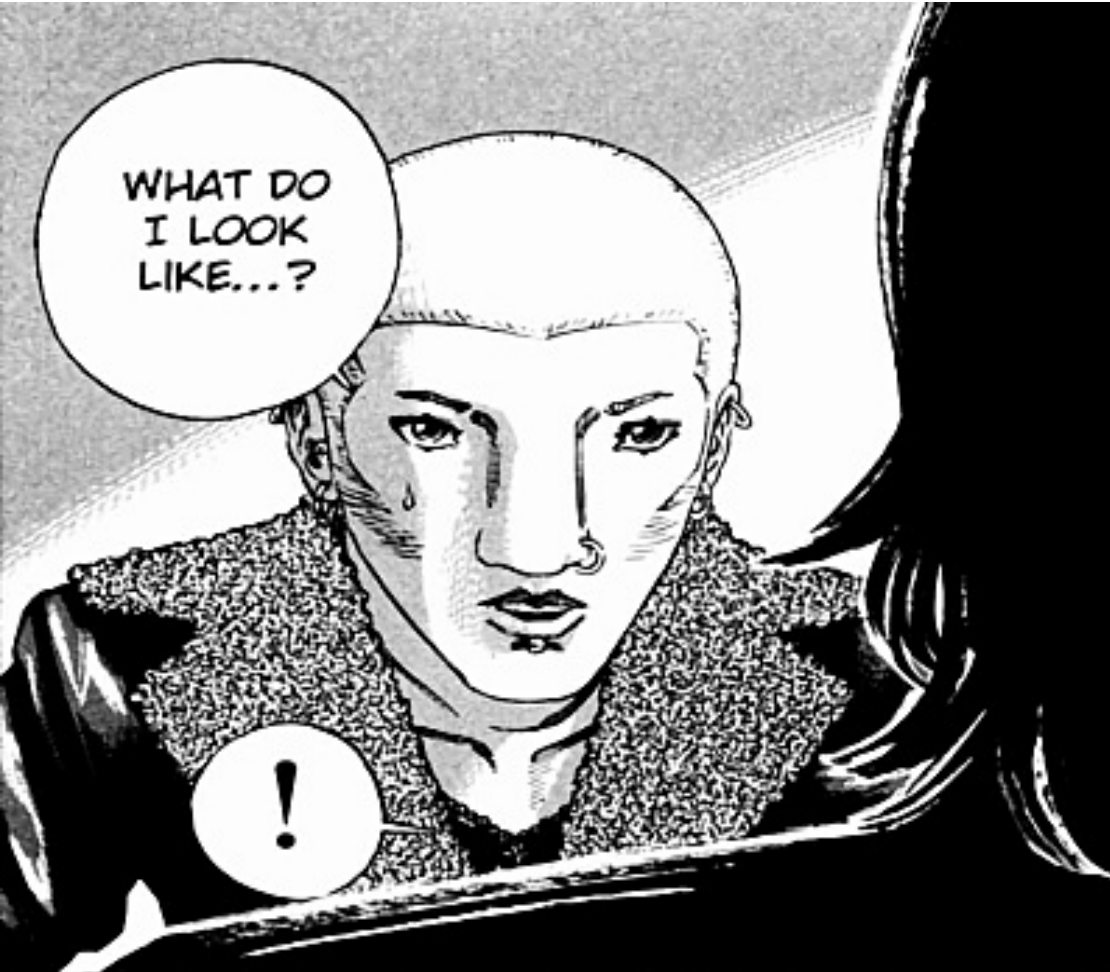












WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE...?

!



LAST OF ALL, MR. NAKOSHI ...

Wanda!

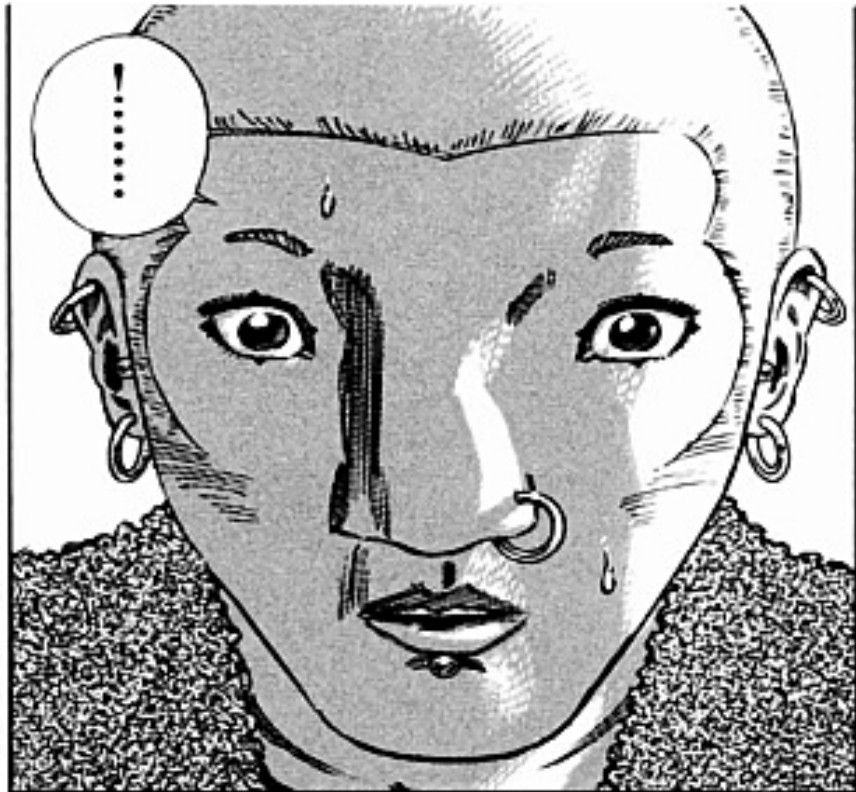


WELL, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU ALL THIS TIME ...

1/0  
1/4  
JUNE



BUT I SEE  
NOTHING  
DIFFERENT  
...

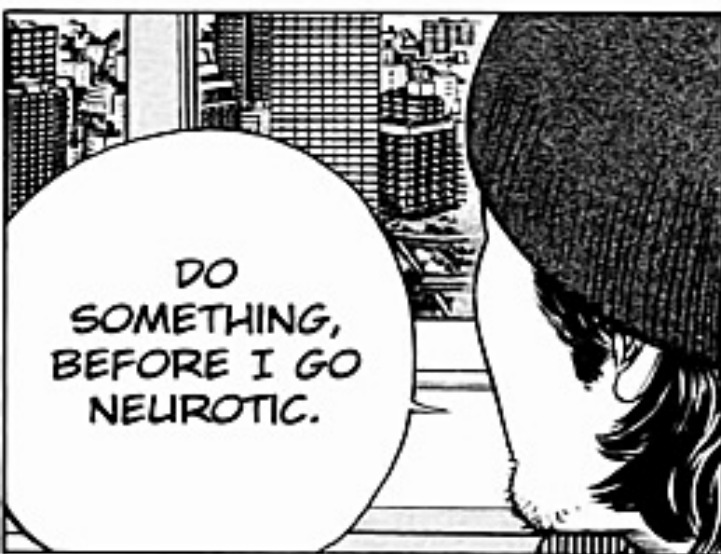




THAT'S ALL  
I WANT TO  
KNOW.

BOTTOM  
LINE, HAVE  
I JUST  
GONE  
CRAZY, OR  
WHAT...?

!



DO  
SOMETHING,  
BEFORE I GO  
NEUROTIC.



OR IS IT  
REAL...?

AM I  
SEEING  
ILLUSIONS  
?

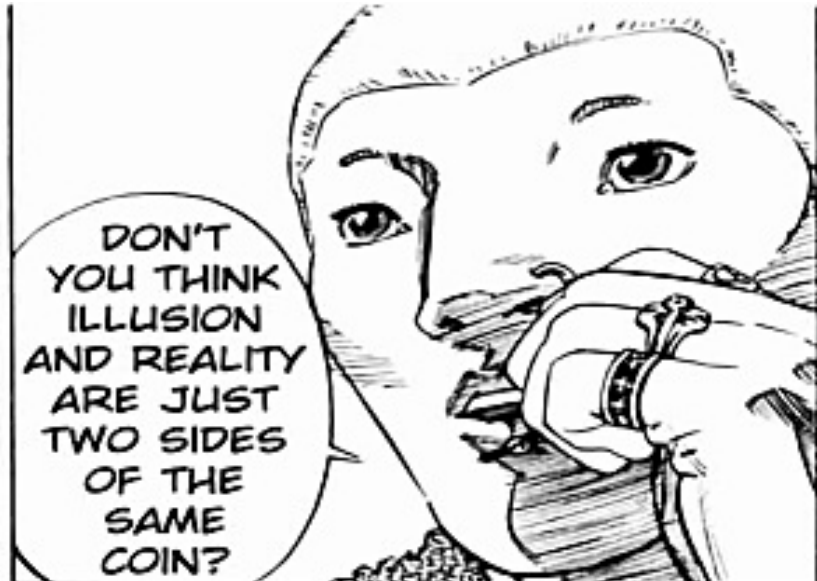


MR.  
NAKOSHI  
...



YOU DID THIS,  
YOU TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR IT.

OH,  
NO  
YOU  
DON'T.



DON'T  
YOU THINK  
ILLUSION  
AND REALITY  
ARE JUST  
TWO SIDES  
OF THE  
SAME  
COIN?



.....



IT IS  
EQUALLY  
EASY FOR  
ILLUSION TO  
BECOME  
REALITY.

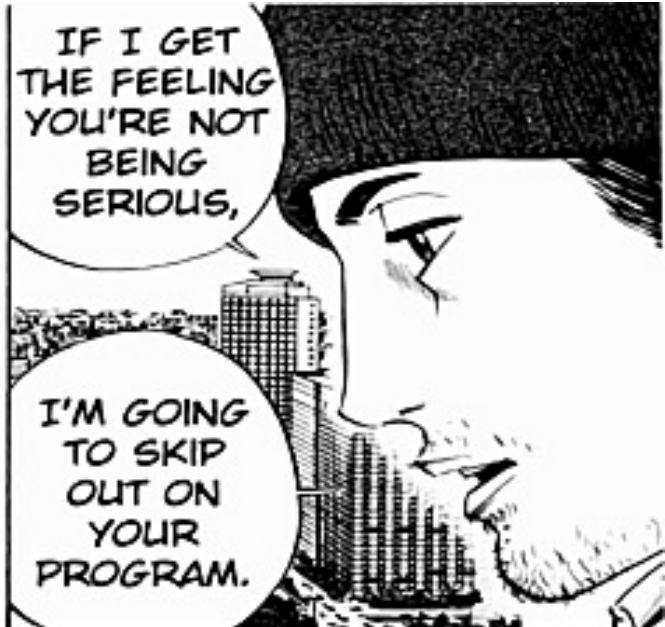
AS SIMPLE AS  
IT IS FOR  
REALITY TO  
TURN INTO  
ILLUSION,



LEAVE  
IT TO  
ME!



LEAVE  
IT ALL  
TO ME  
...





MR. NAKOSHI,

I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT.

1/4



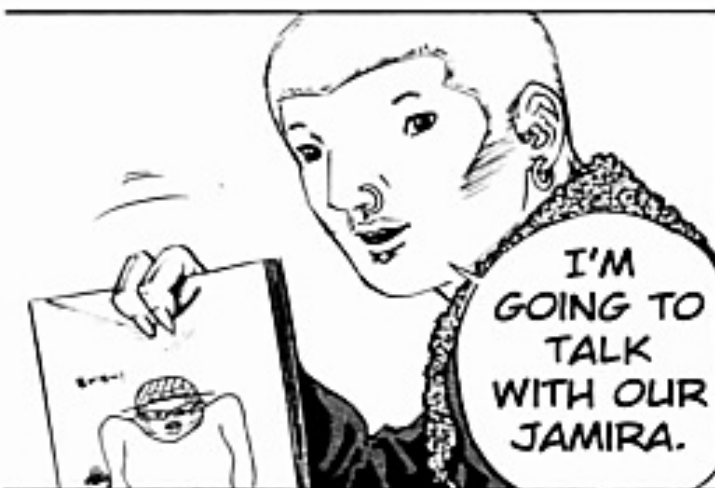
AHA!

CLUNK



I'LL LOOK OVER THE PAST MATERIALS AND FIND A NEW EXPLANATION.

GIVE ME A BIT MORE TIME.



I'M GOING TO TALK WITH OUR JAMIRA.



HEY.

WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH?



AHM ...

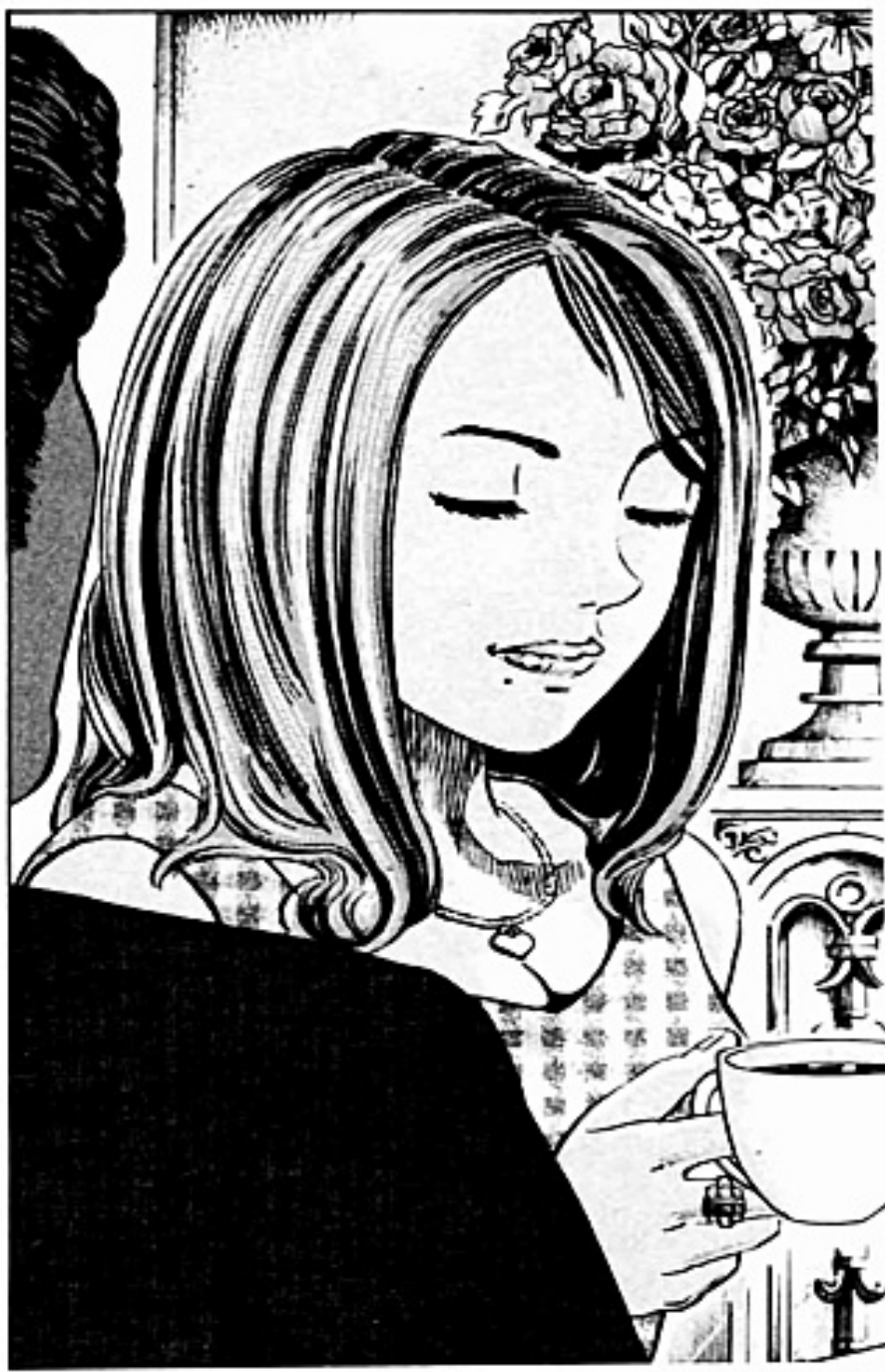
WHAT IS IT?



FWIP



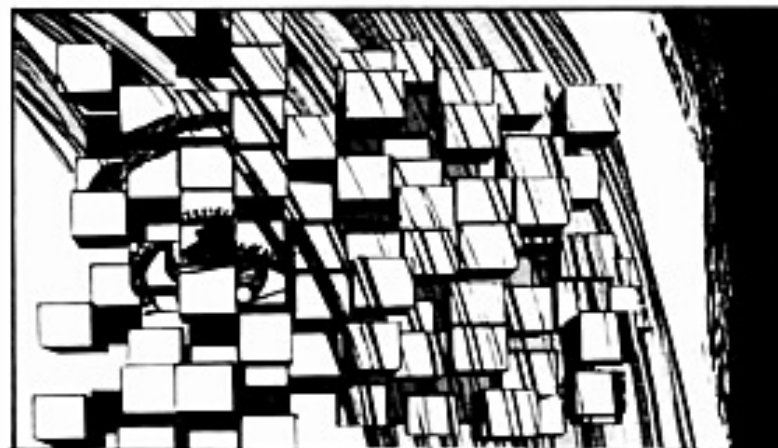
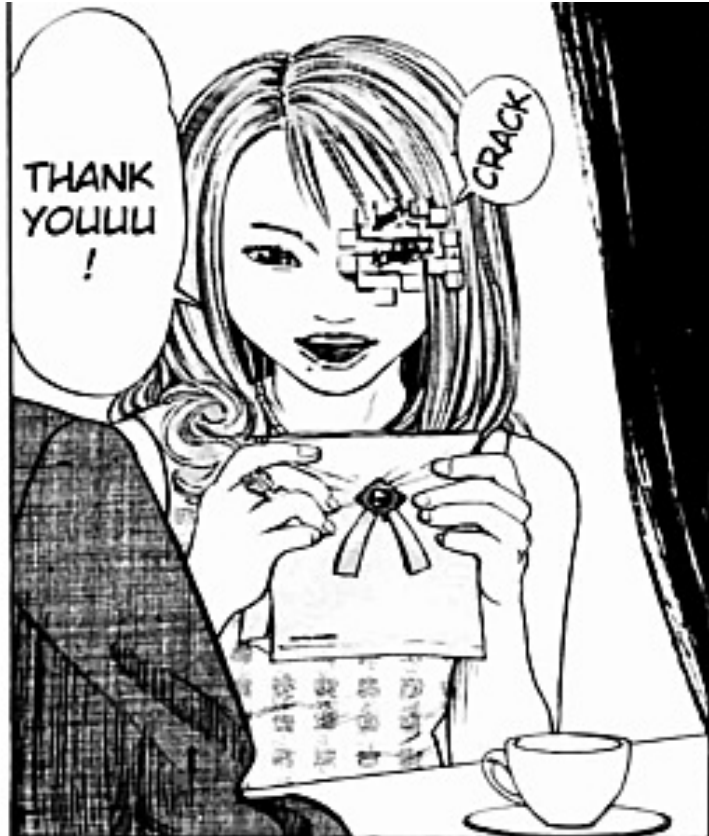




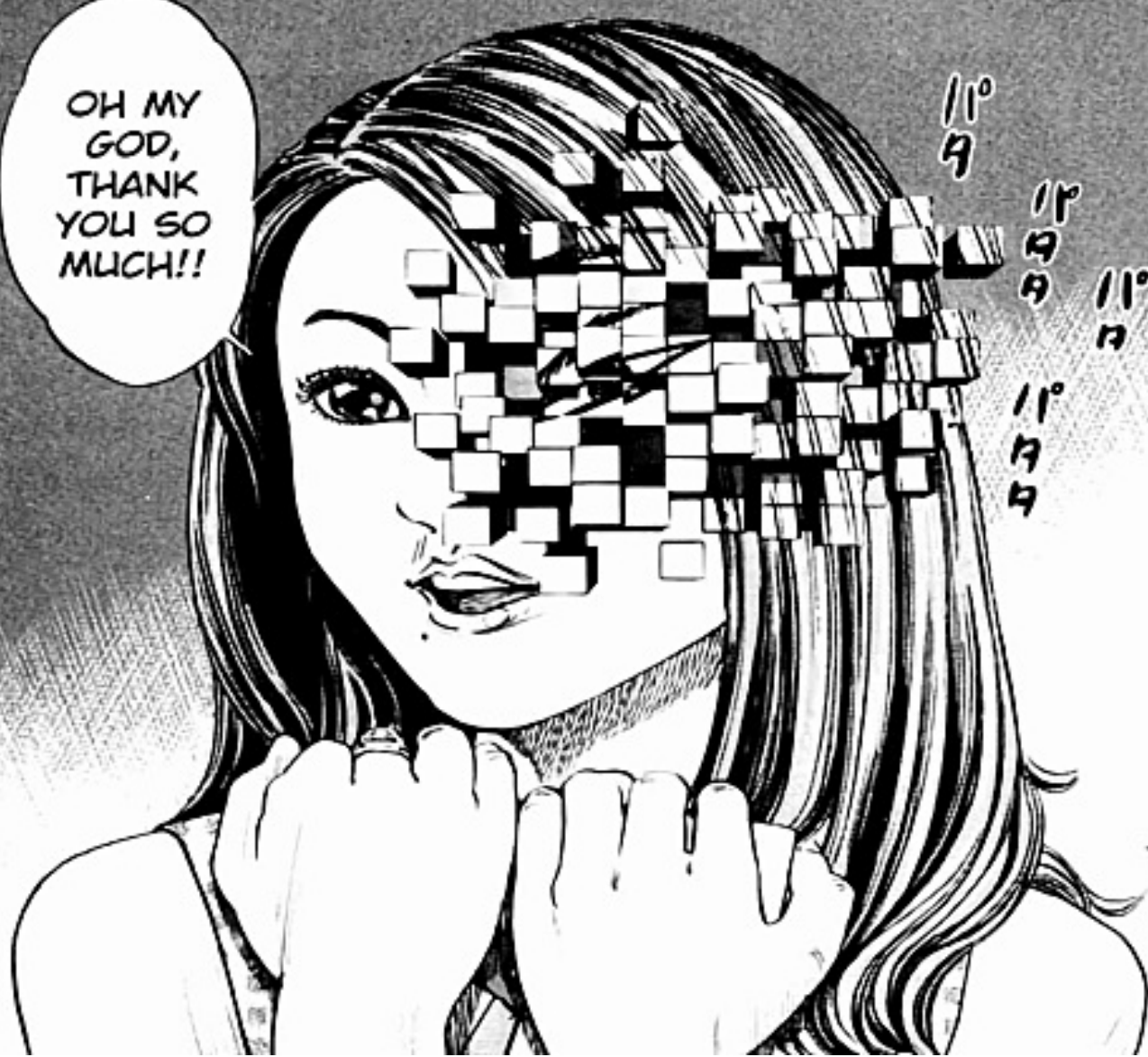


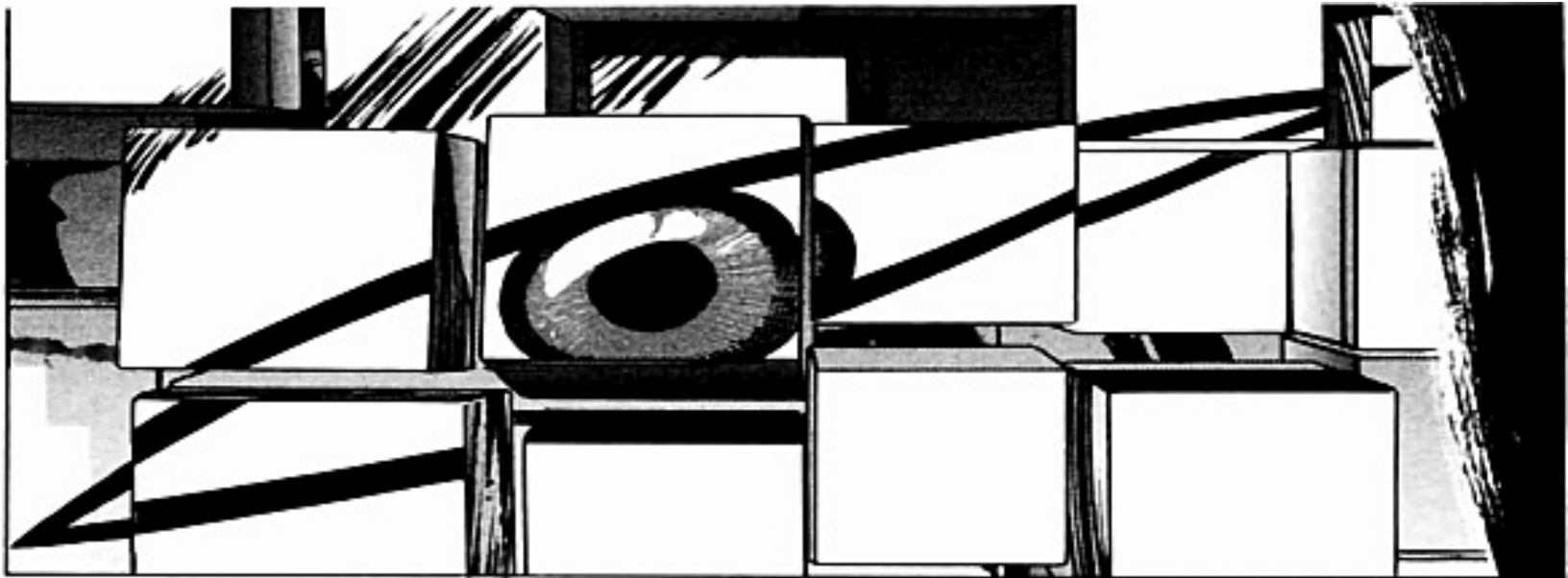
THANK  
YOUUU  
!

CRACK



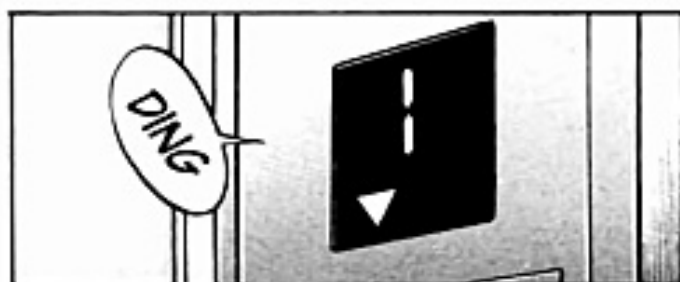
OH MY  
GOD,  
THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!!



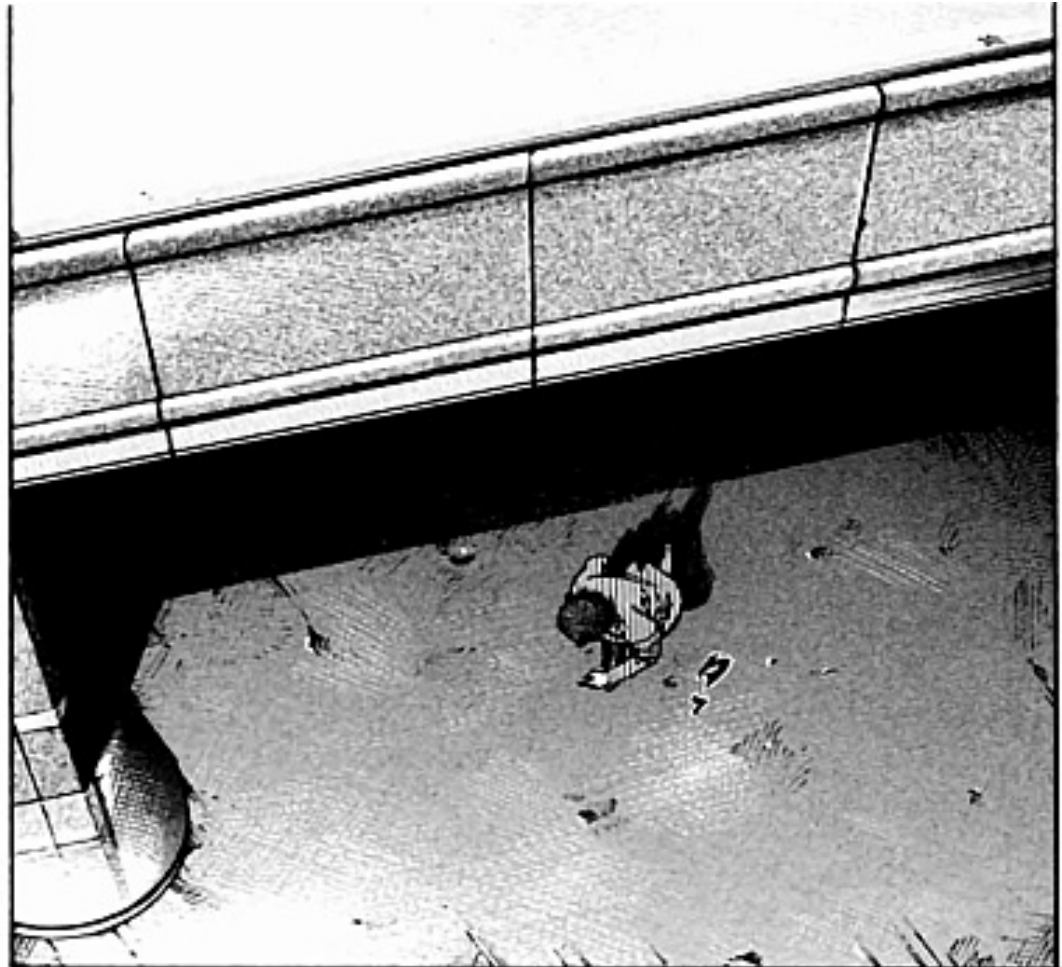




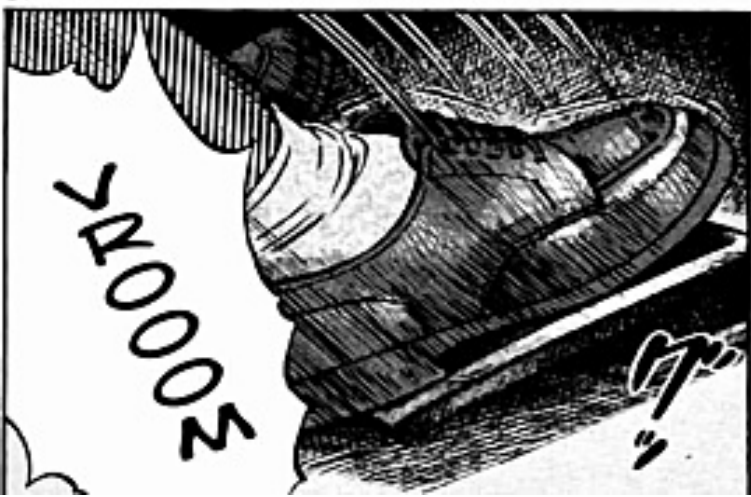
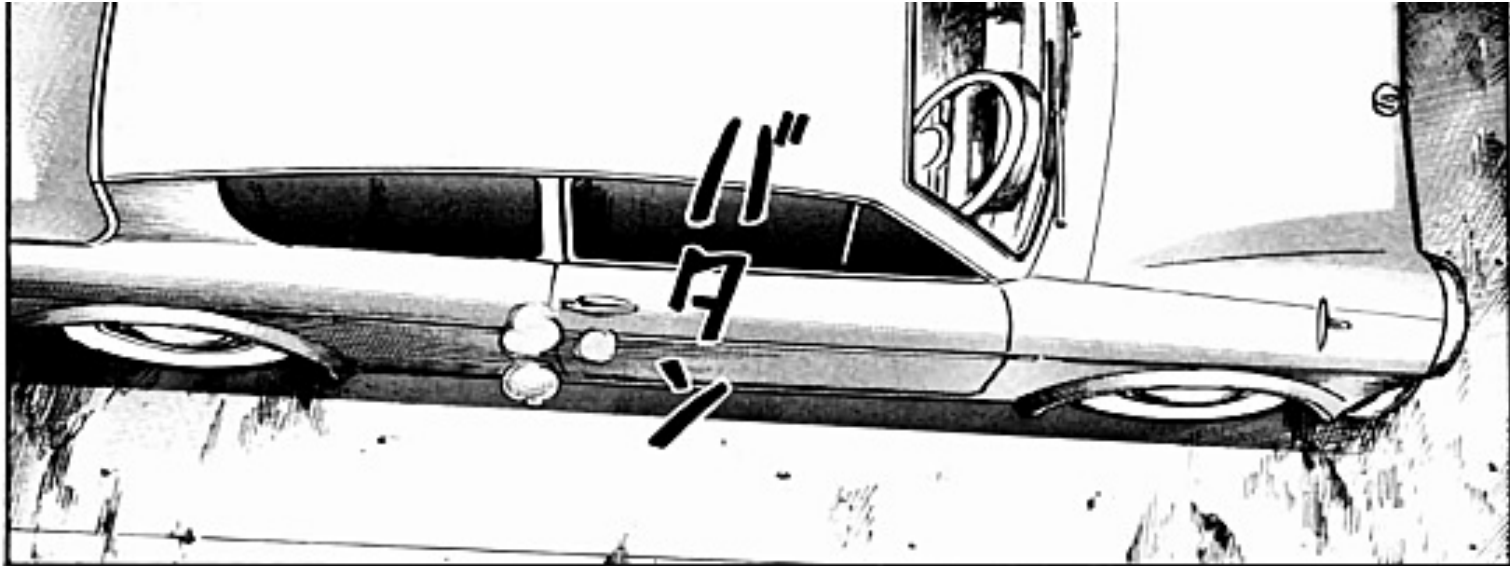


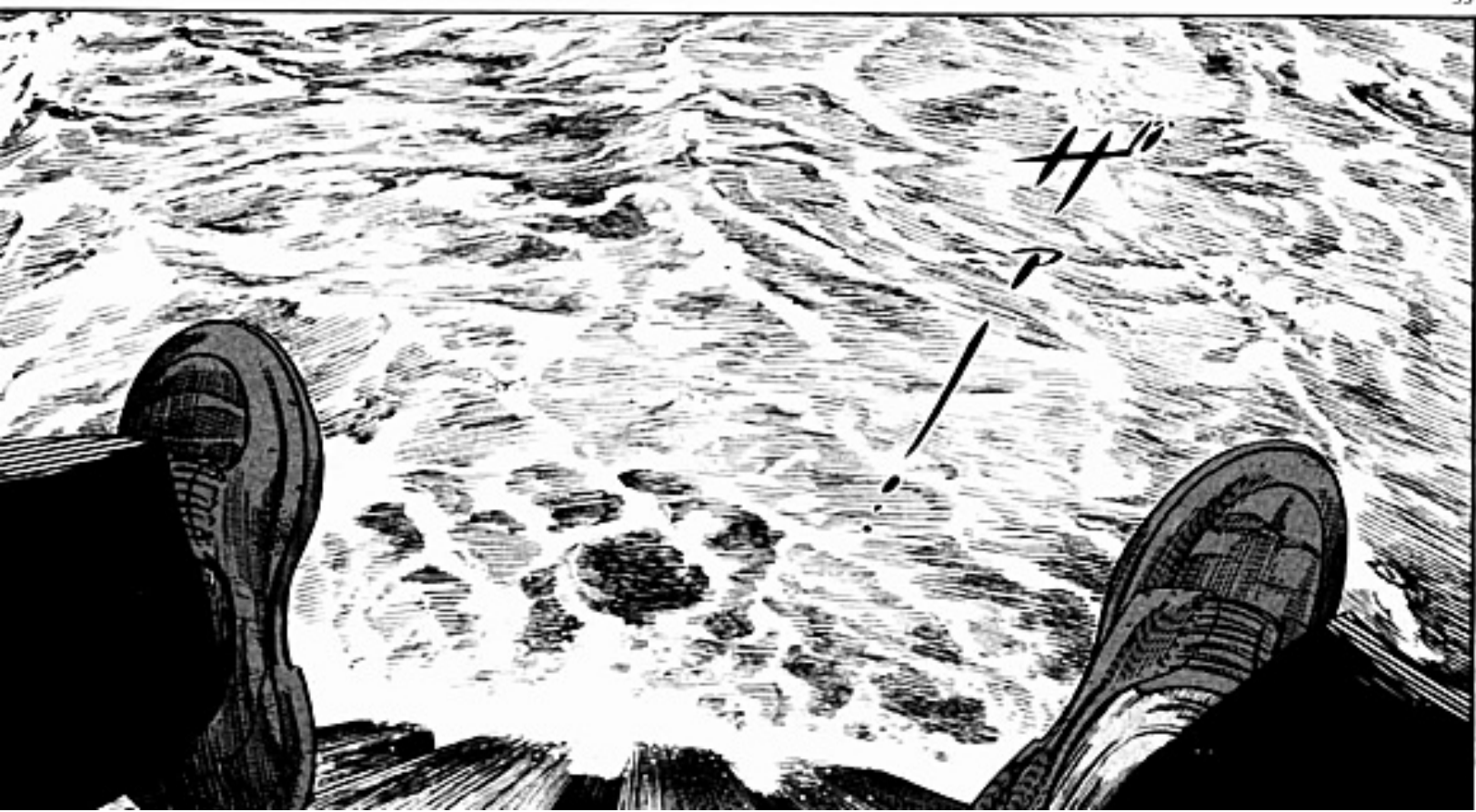


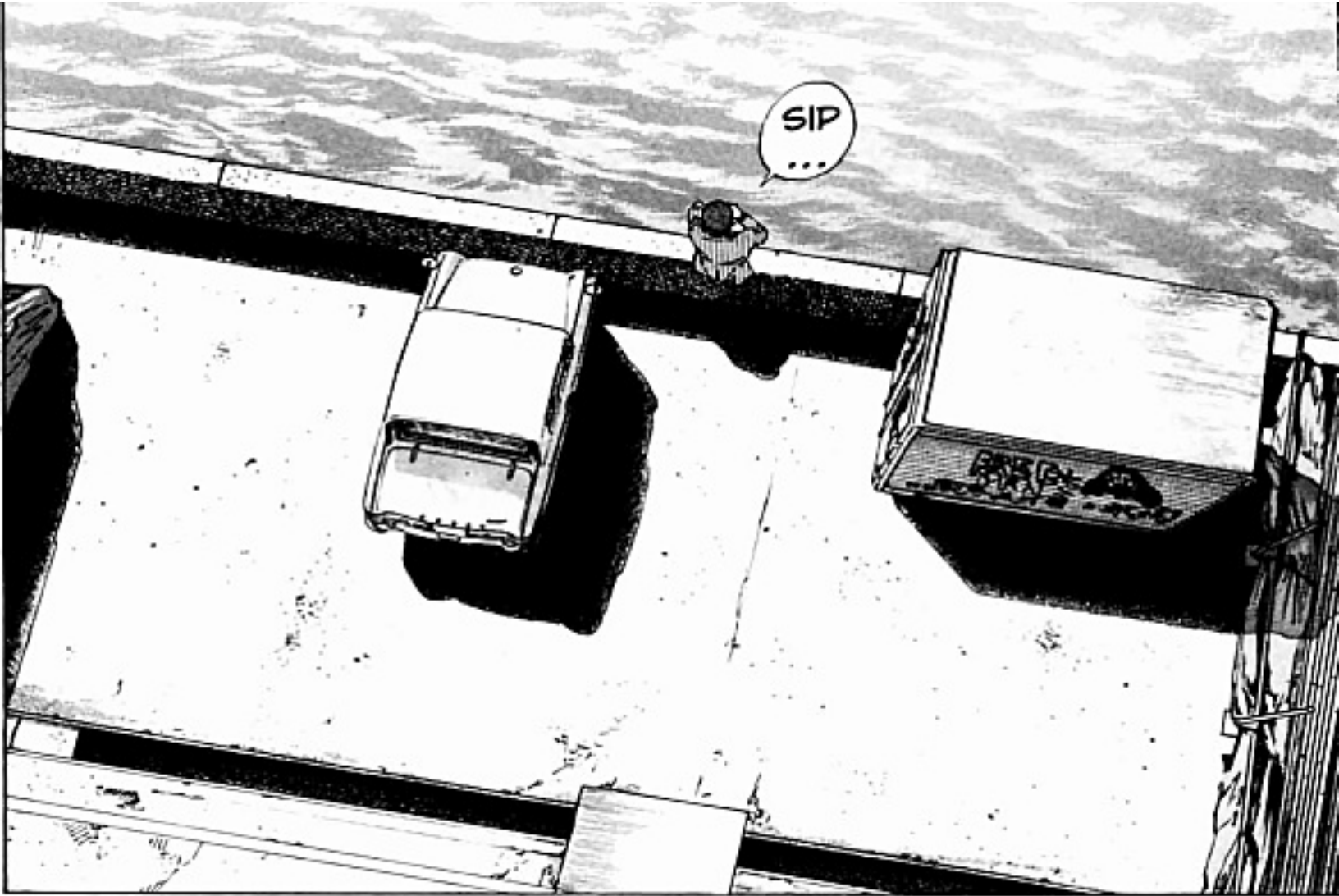








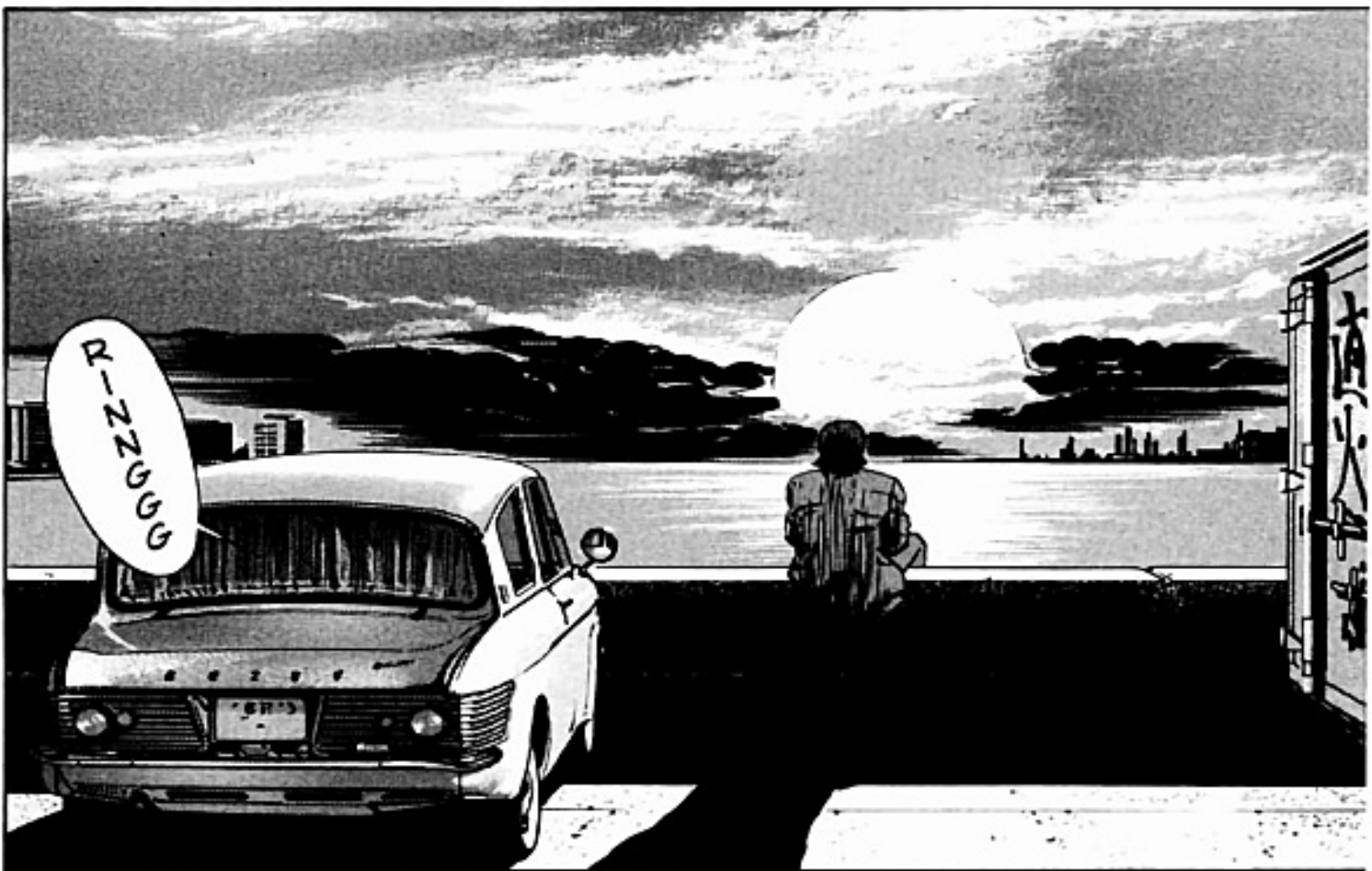




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IT'S ME,  
MR.  
NAKOSHI.

WHAT'S  
UP?



HELLO  
...?



.....  
?

I  
FIGURED  
IT OUT!!



!?



I KNOW  
WHAT  
THOSE  
MONSTERS  
ARE!

Connected



THEY'RE  
HOMUN-  
CULI!



HOMUNCULI  
...?



BEEP

I'M A BIT  
OUT OF  
THE WAY.

I'LL  
CALL YOU  
BACK  
WHEN I  
GET  
CLOSER  
TO TOWN.

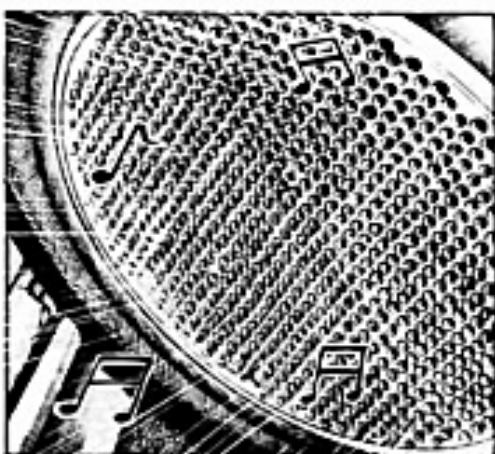
WHERE  
ARE  
YOU  
NOW?

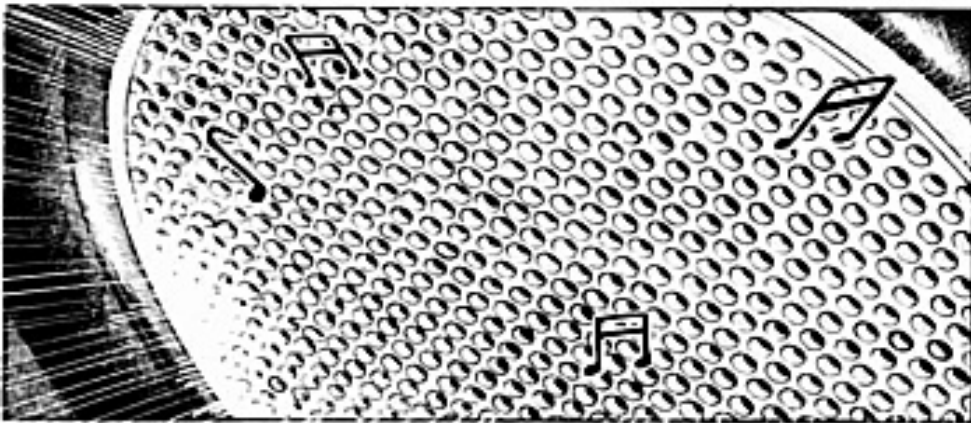
I CAN TELL  
YOU ALL THE  
DETAILS THE  
NEXT TIME  
WE MEET.













THE STREET WAS MY SPACE.

EVERYTHING WAS ON THE STREET BACK THEN...

NOTE: CHORO Q ARE THOSE LITTLE SQUARE-ISH CARS THAT YOU WIND UP ON THE GROUND AND THEN LET GO.



DREAM ON THE STREET

KICK THE CAN, CHORO Q, SKATEBOARDING ...



PLAY ON THE STREET

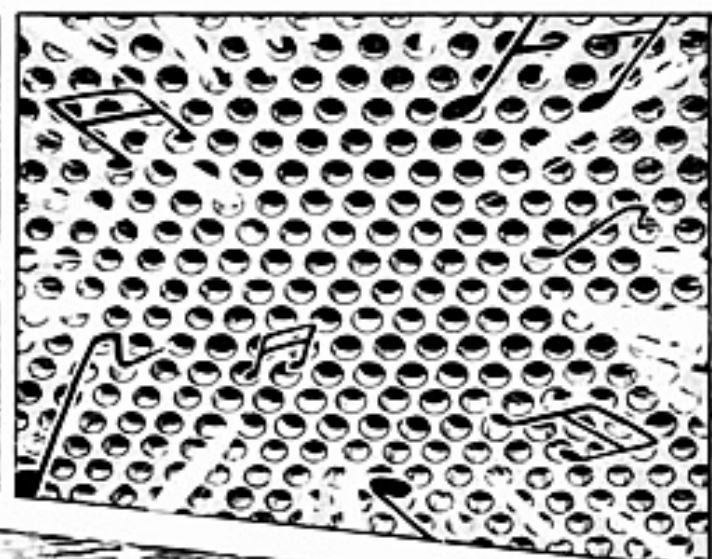
I'D MAKE FRIENDS ON THE STREET ...

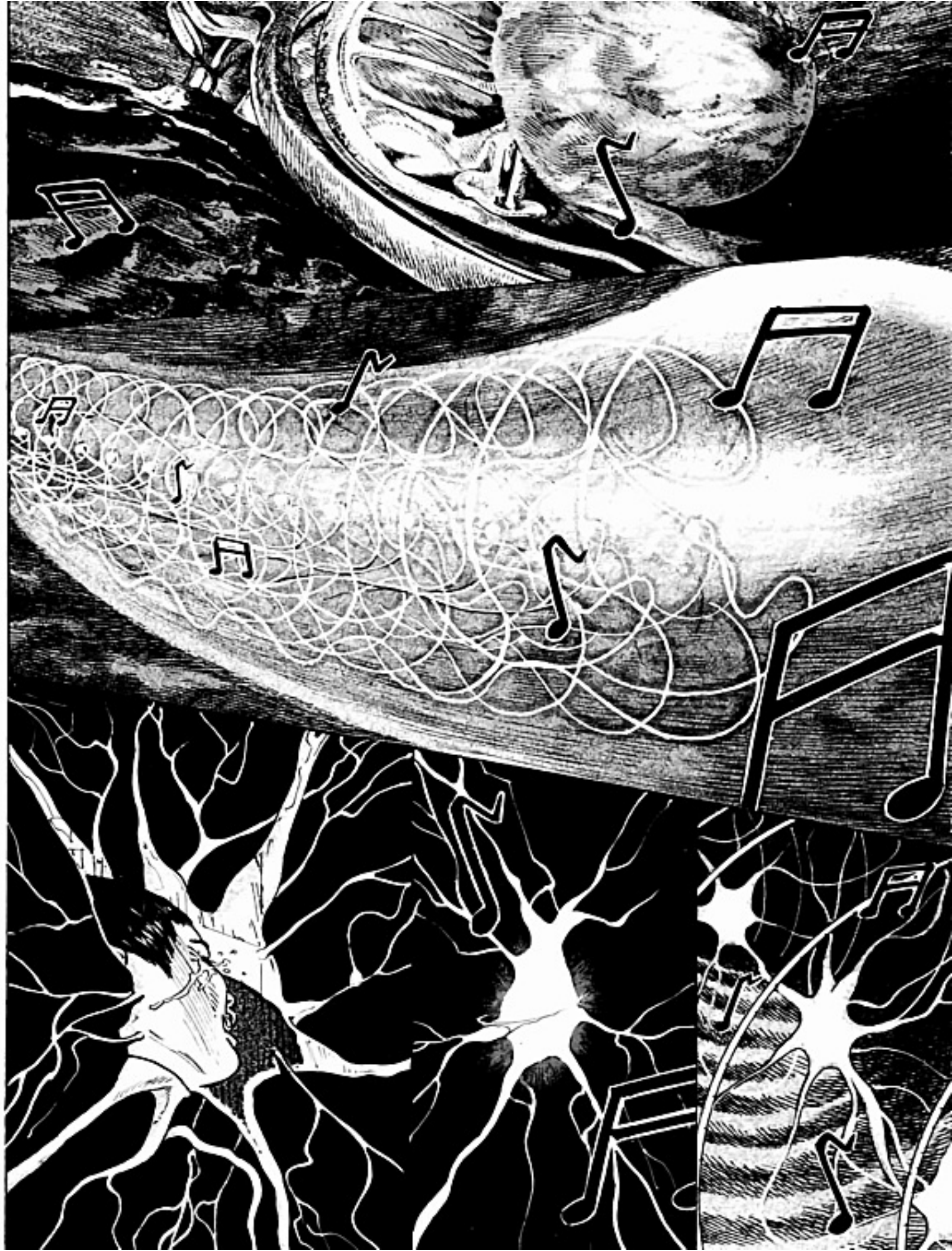


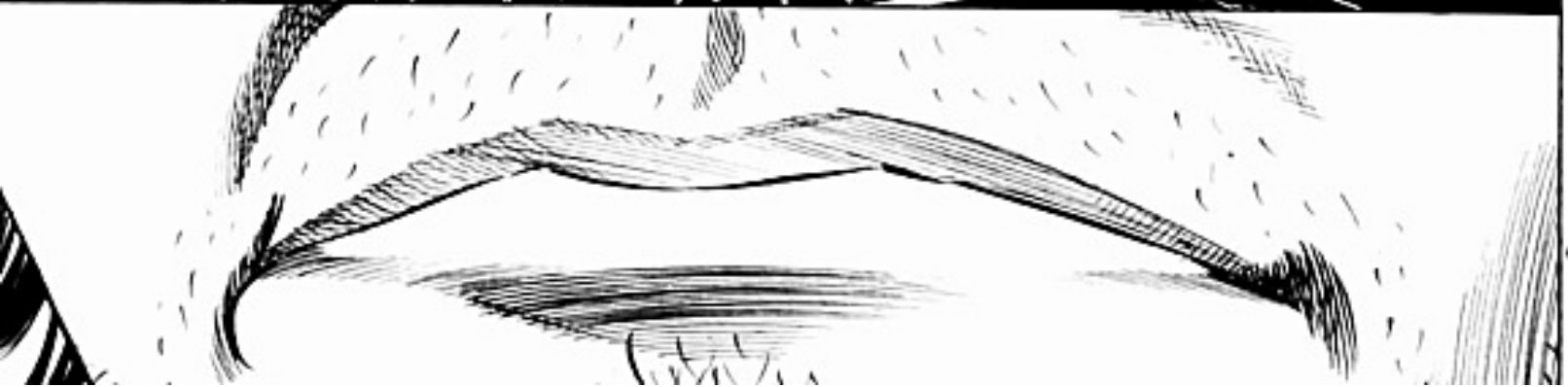
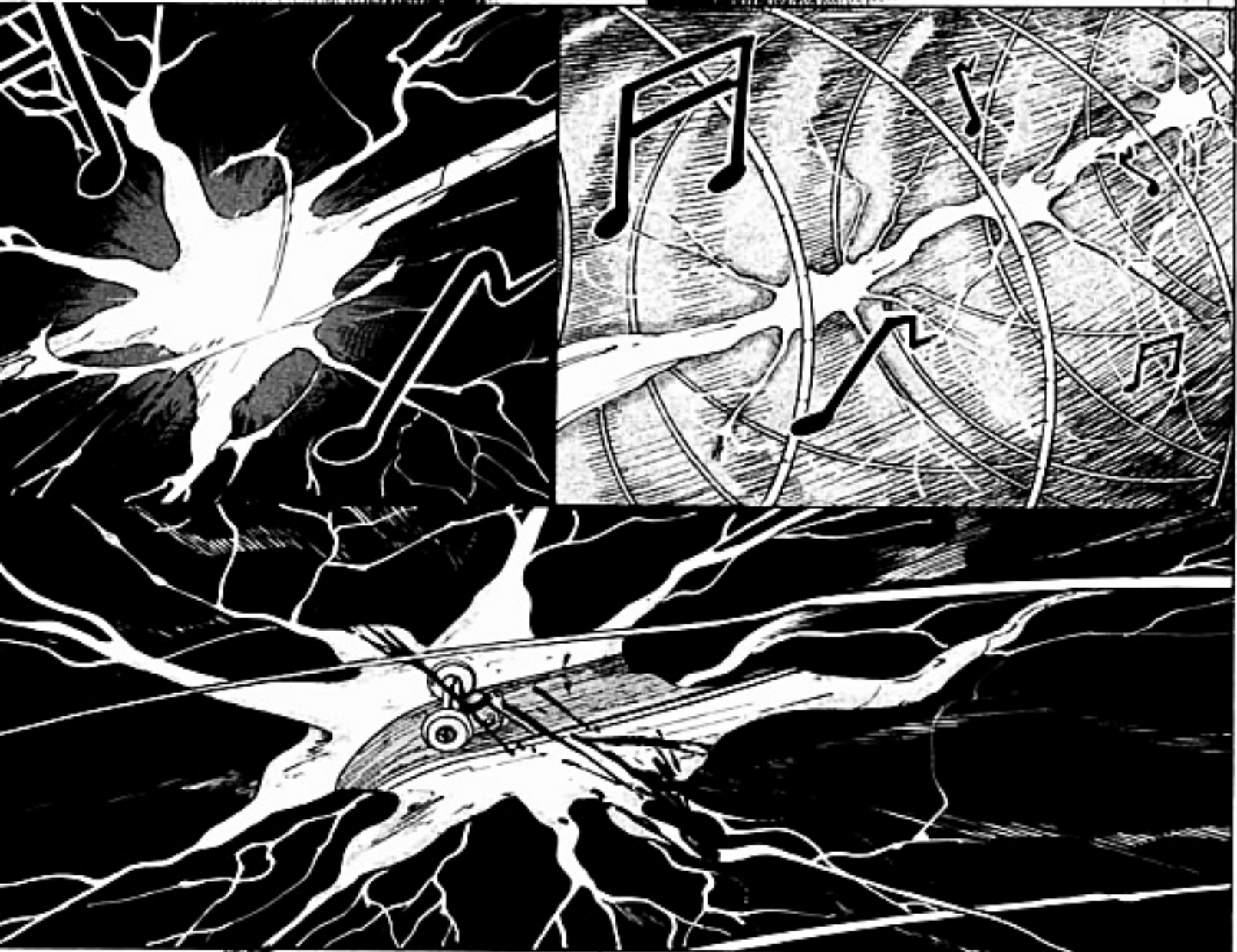
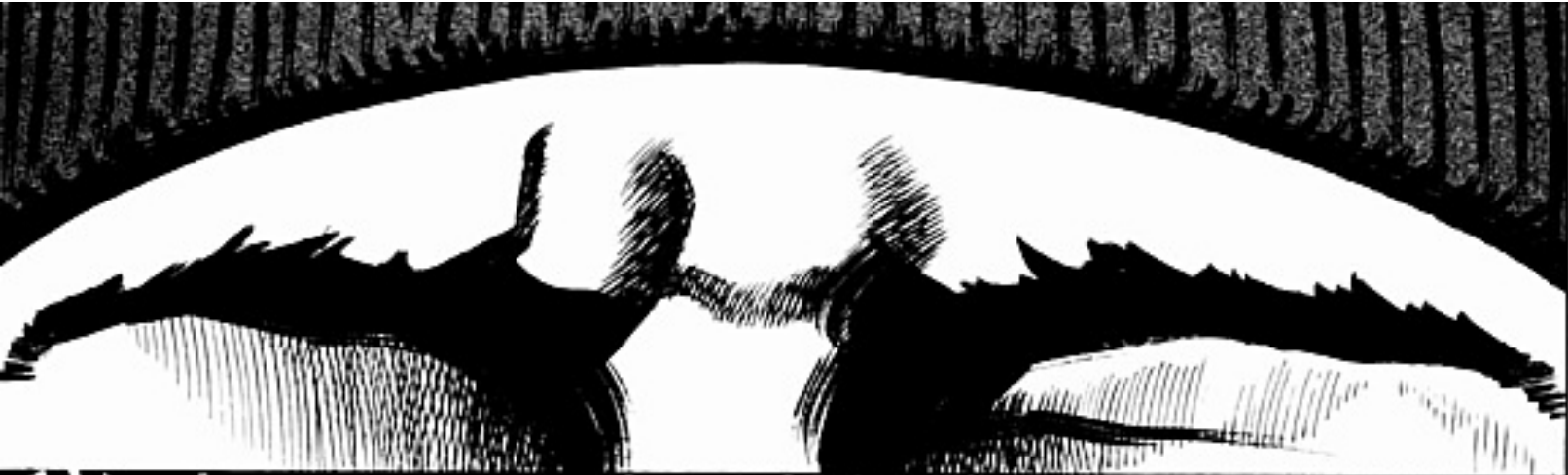
SKATEBOARDING ...



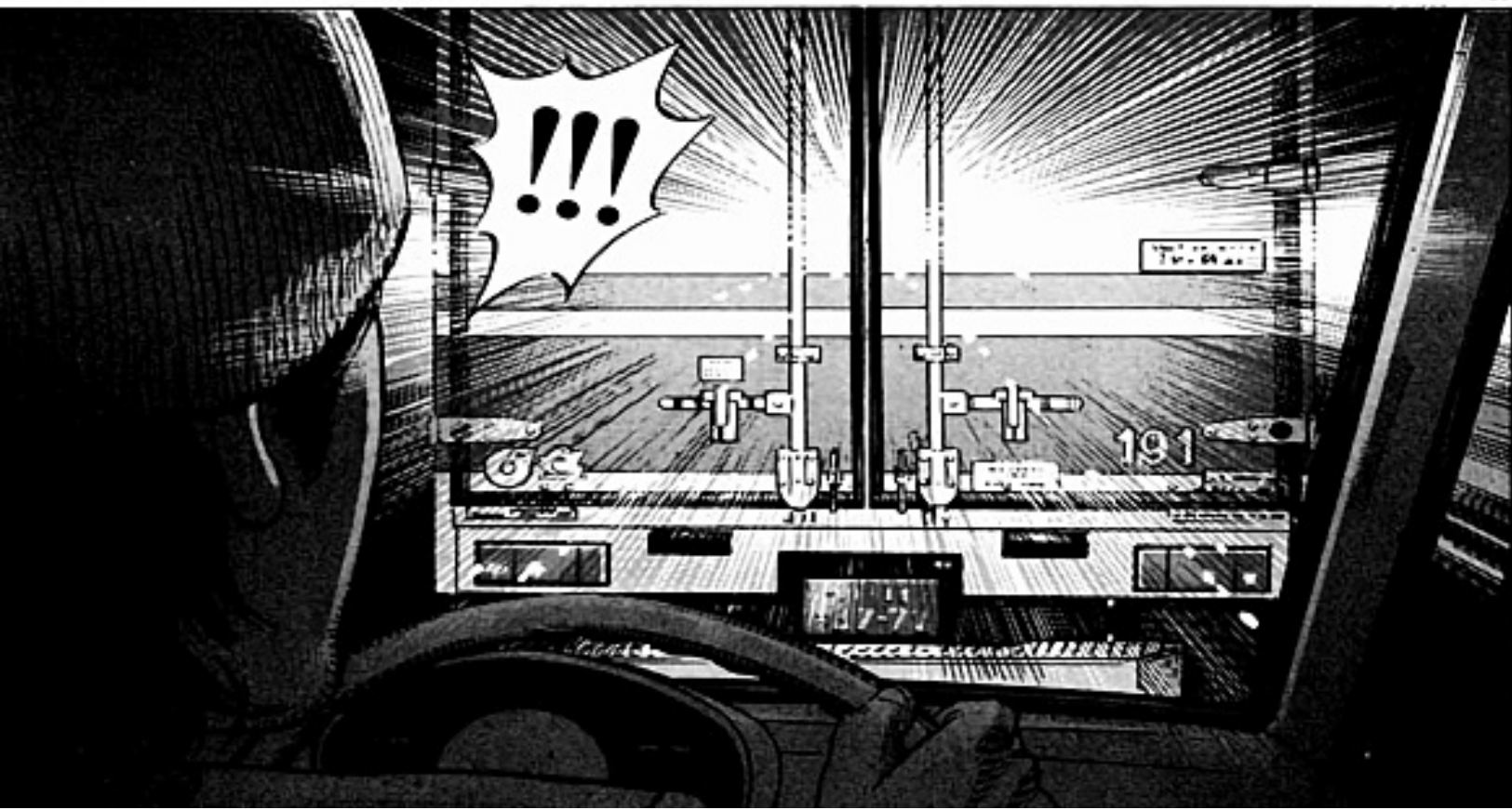
STOP



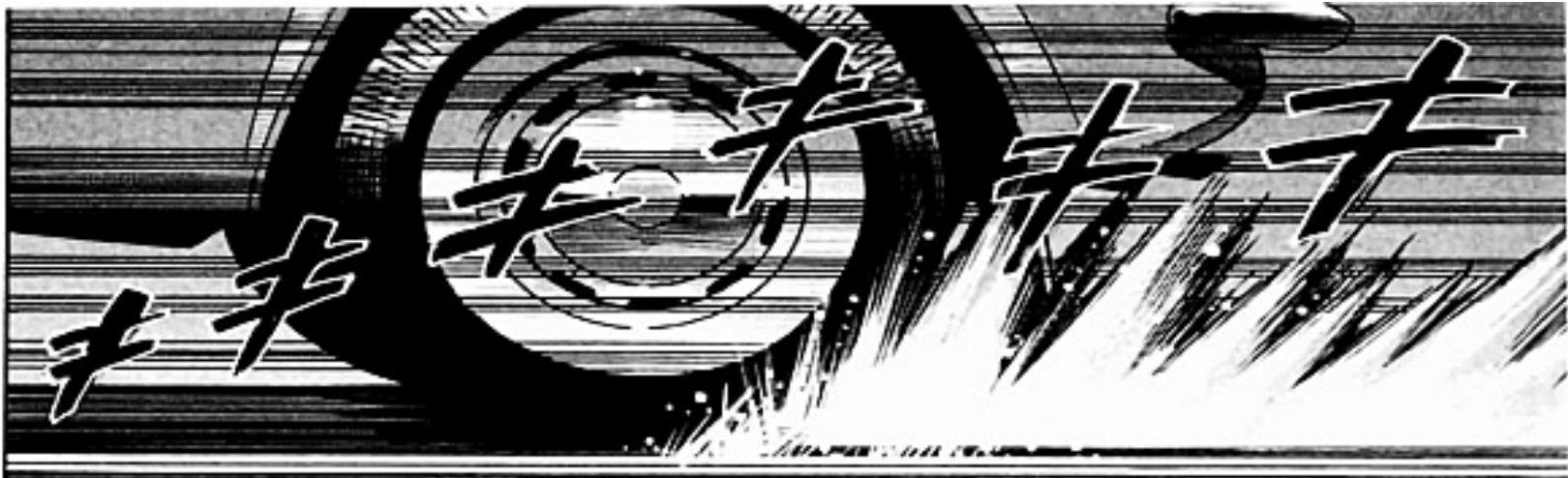












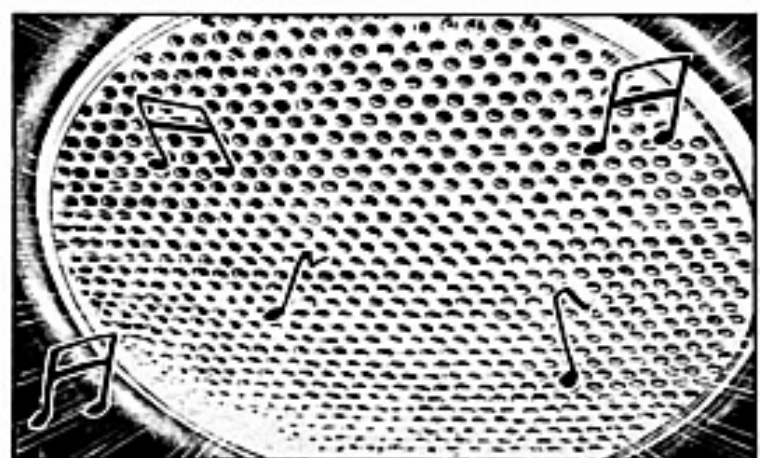
70

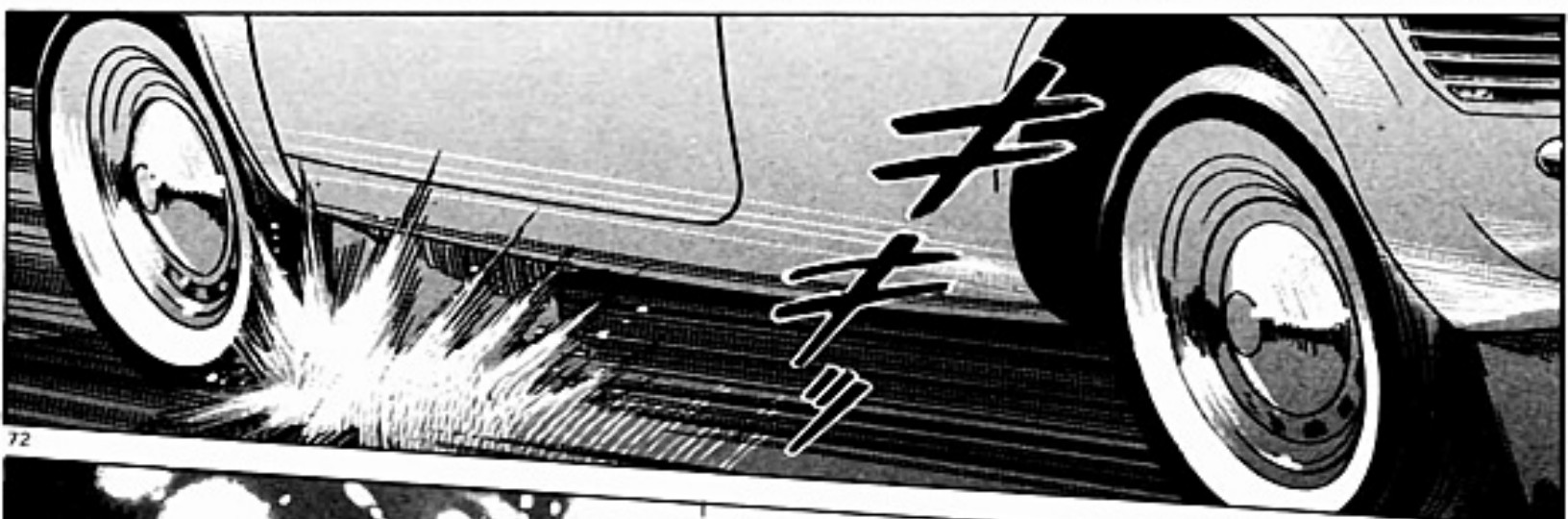




THAT YAKUZA  
WAS CRYING  
IN RESPONSE  
TO THE  
THINGS I  
SAID...

MAYBE I  
AIN'T JUST  
IMAGININ'  
THINGS.













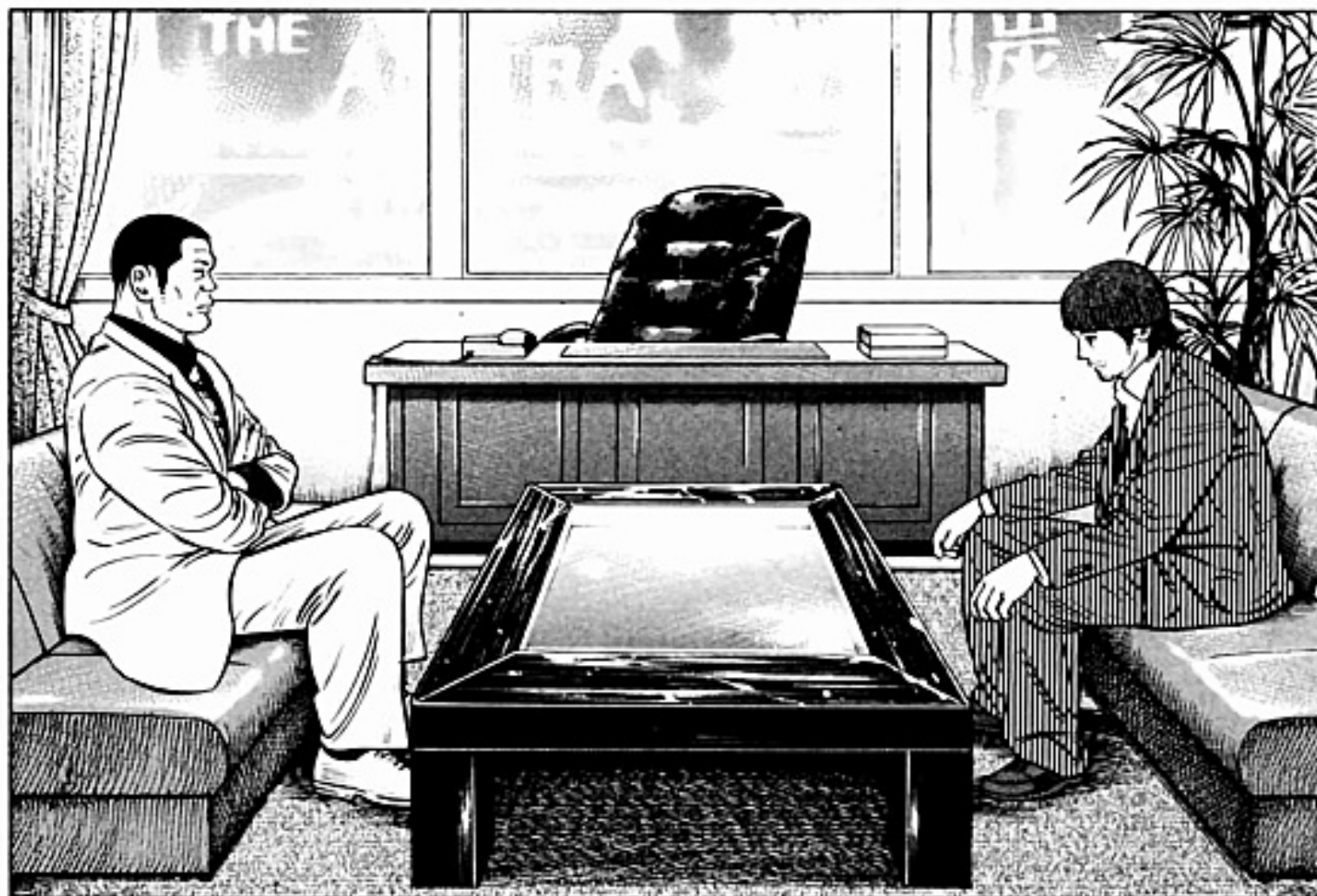






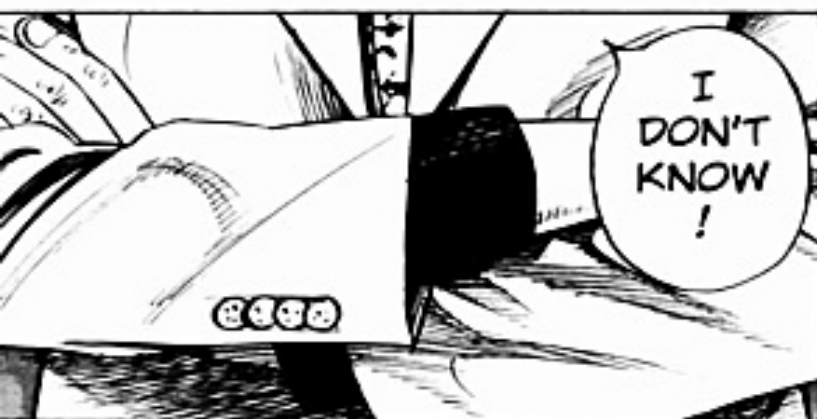


PRESIDENT



80









JUST ...?



I JUST ...

I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING...



!



SAW.



HMMM ...



SAW WHAT ...?

SAW ?!



MANY THINGS.



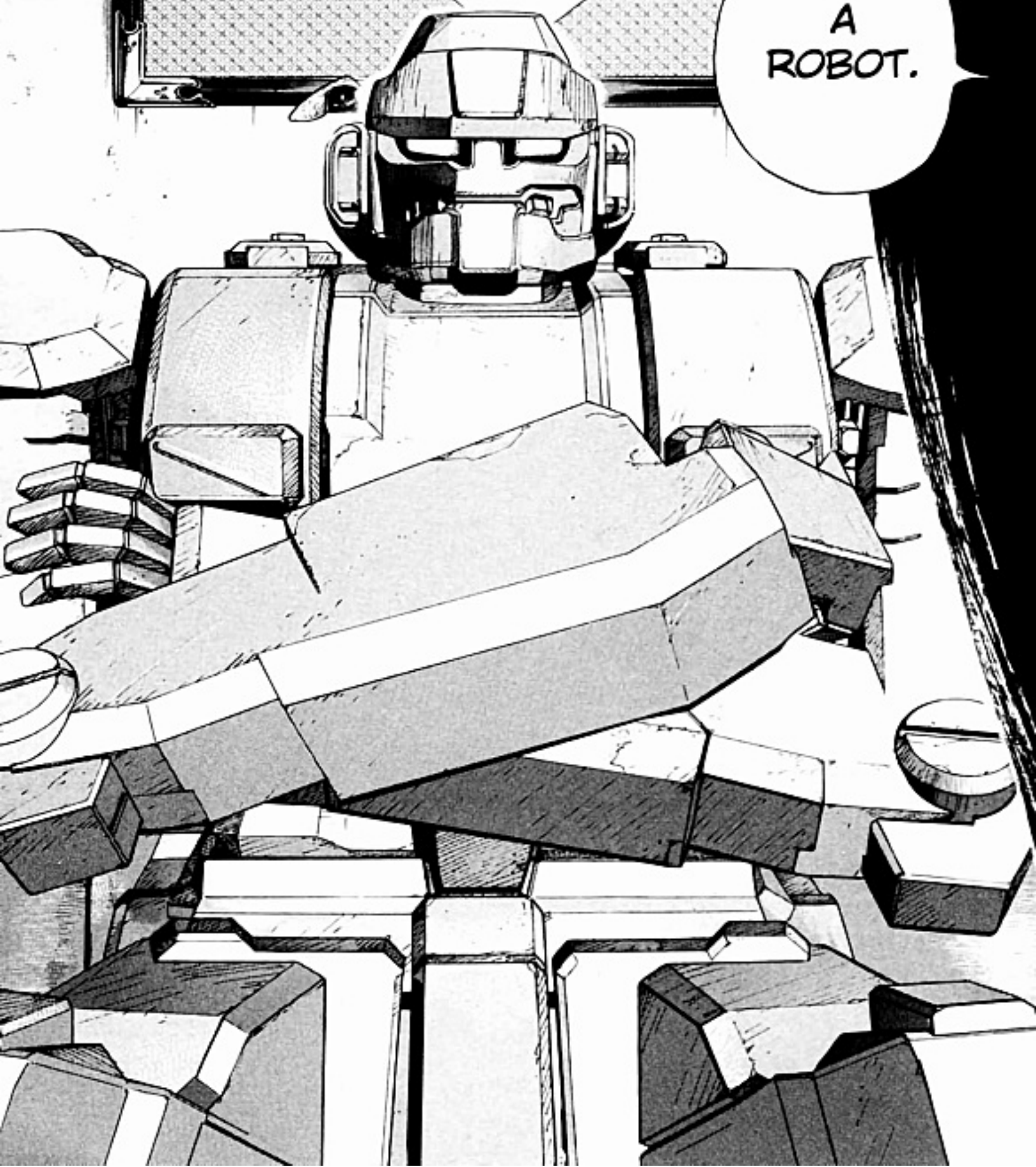






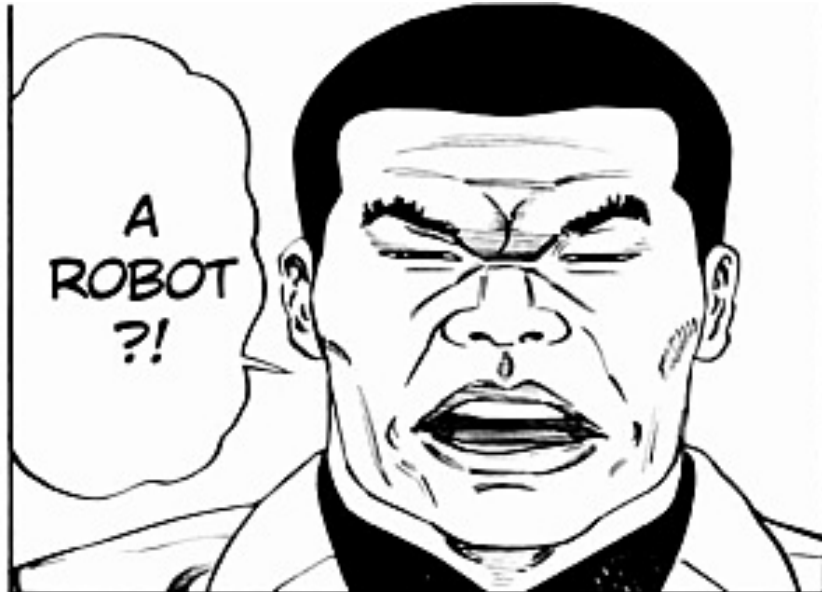
我

A  
ROBOT.

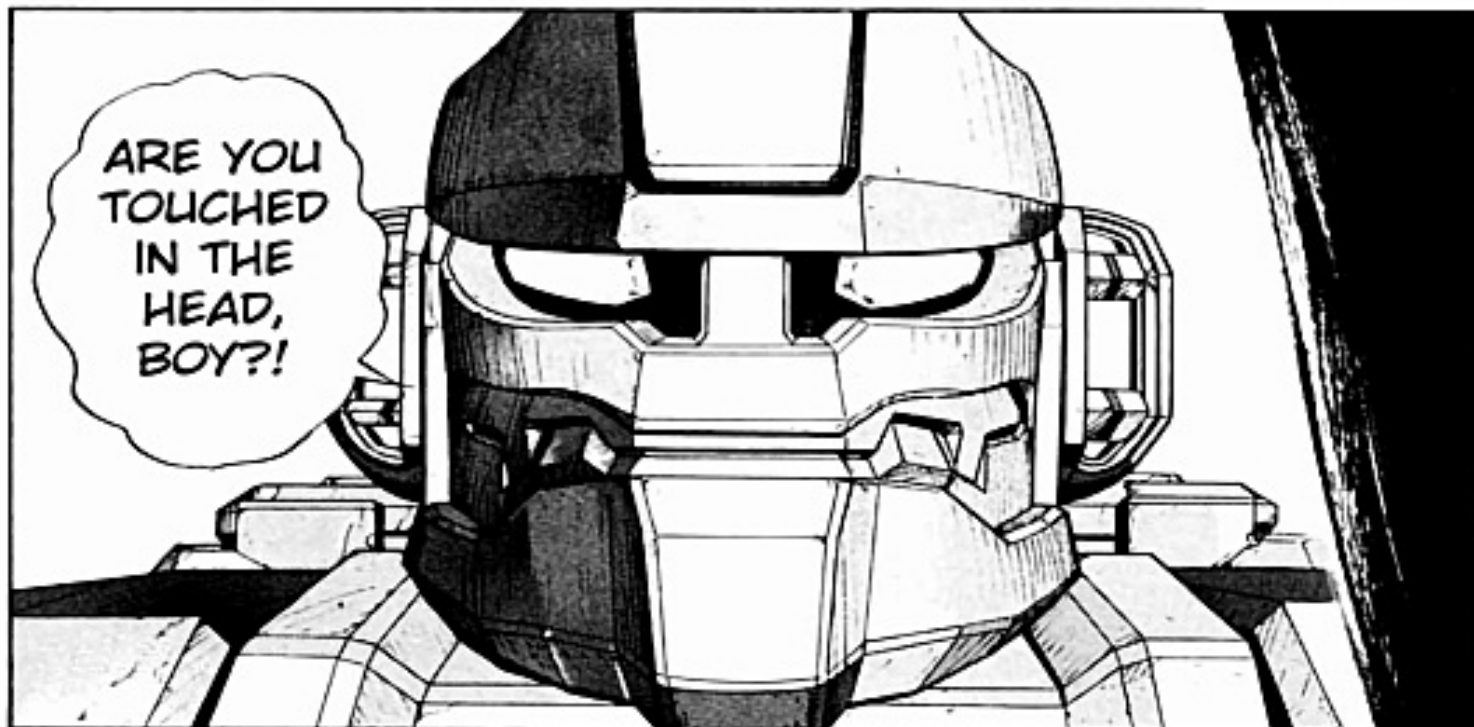




YES  
...



A  
ROBOT  
?!



ARE YOU  
TOUCHED  
IN THE  
HEAD,  
BOY?!



!

YOU  
COVERED  
YOUR EYE  
LIKE THAT  
YESTERDAY  
...

AND STARTED  
SAYING A BUNCH  
OF CRAP LIKE  
"SICKLES" AND  
"DON'T CUT OFF  
YOUR FINGER."



"PINKY FINGER,"

OR  
"SICKLE"  
...



WHAT  
?

DOES  
THAT  
RING ANY  
BELLS?



HMMMM  
...



NOT  
AT  
ALL.

PINKY  
FINGER  
...

SICKLE  
...?



YEAH  
...

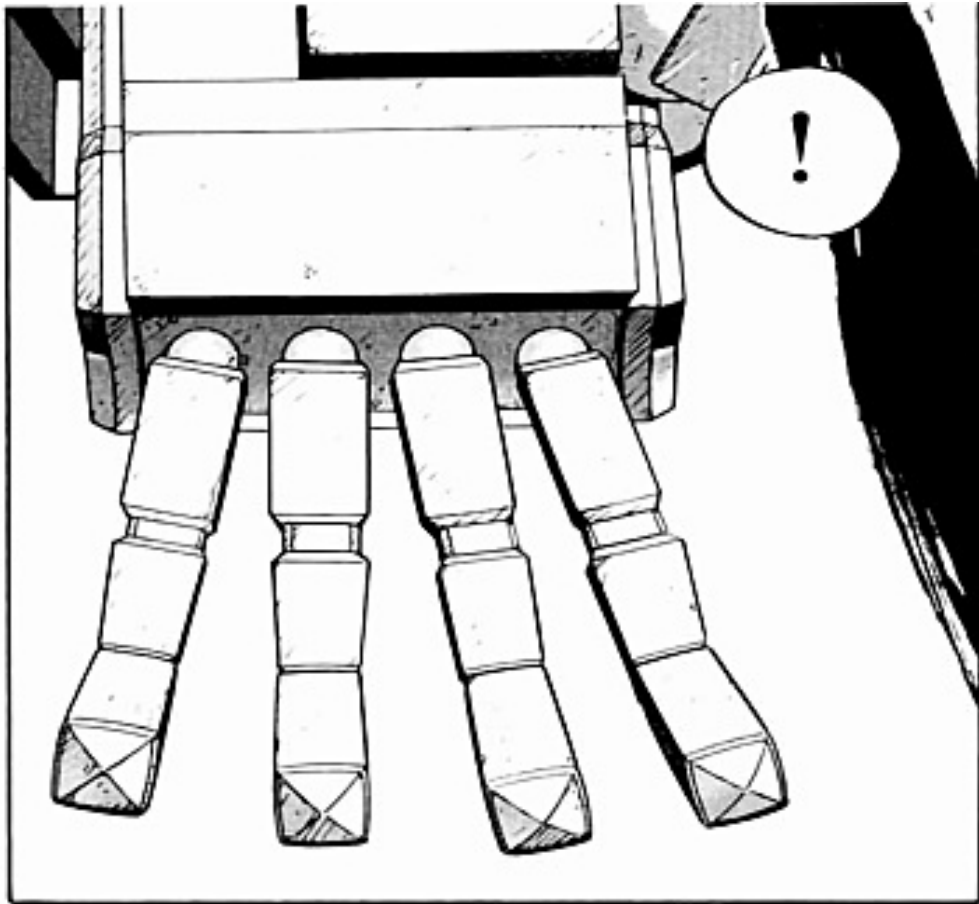


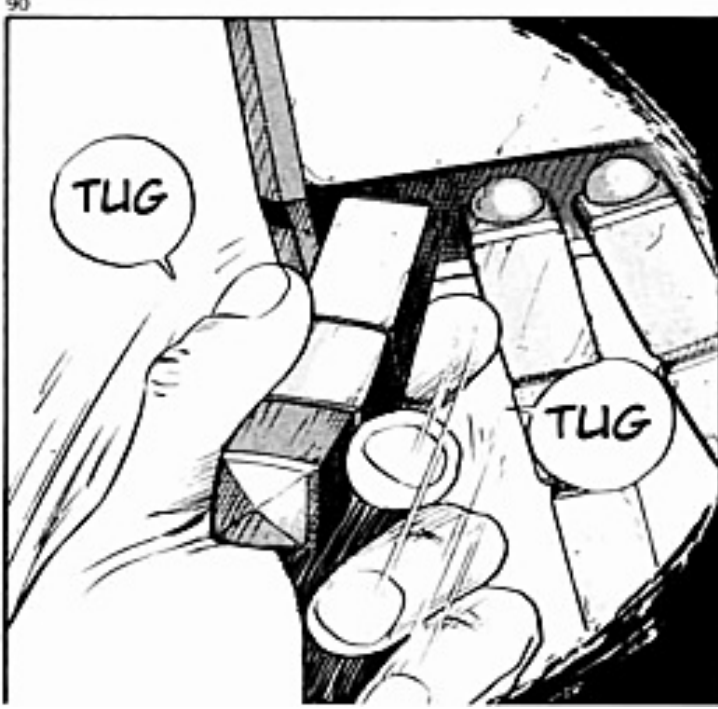
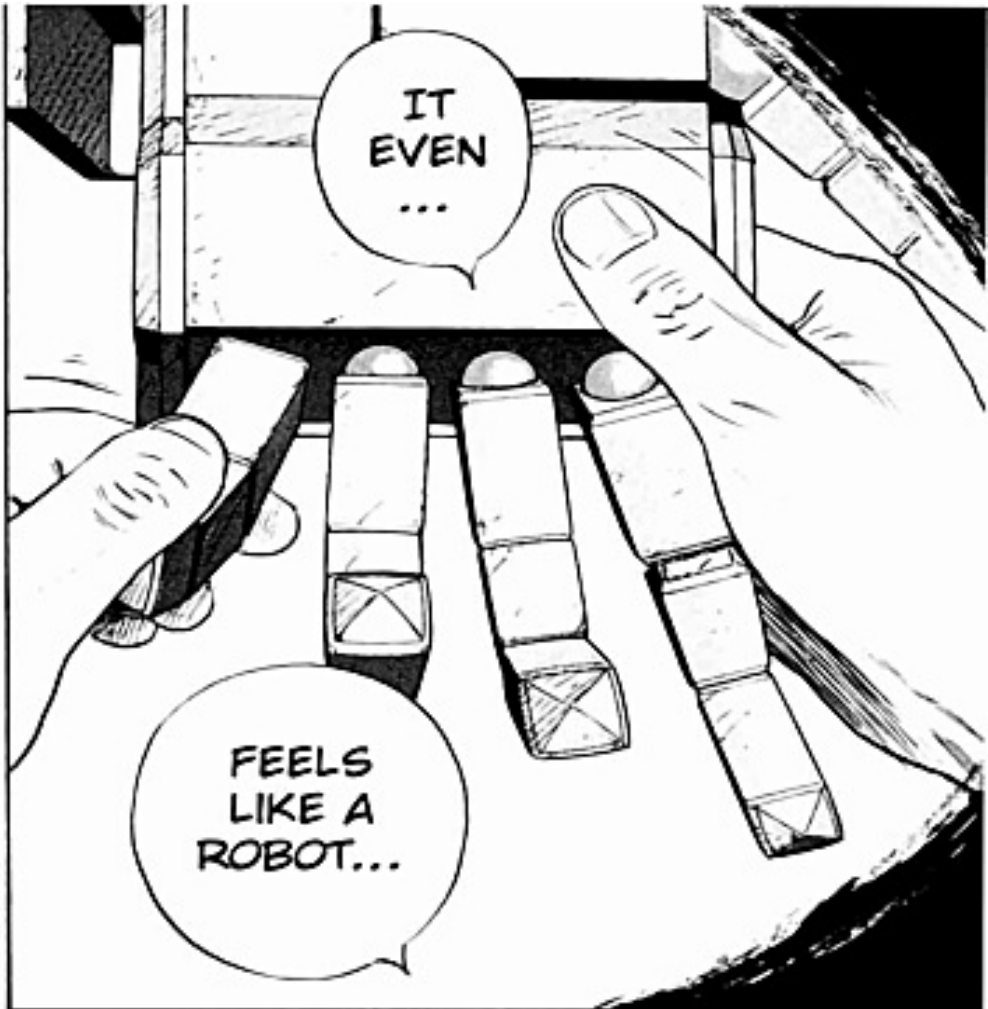
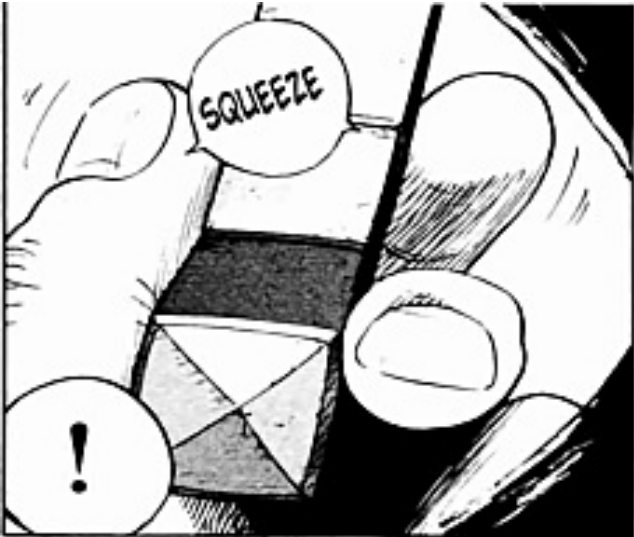
...?  
?



EXCUSE  
ME...

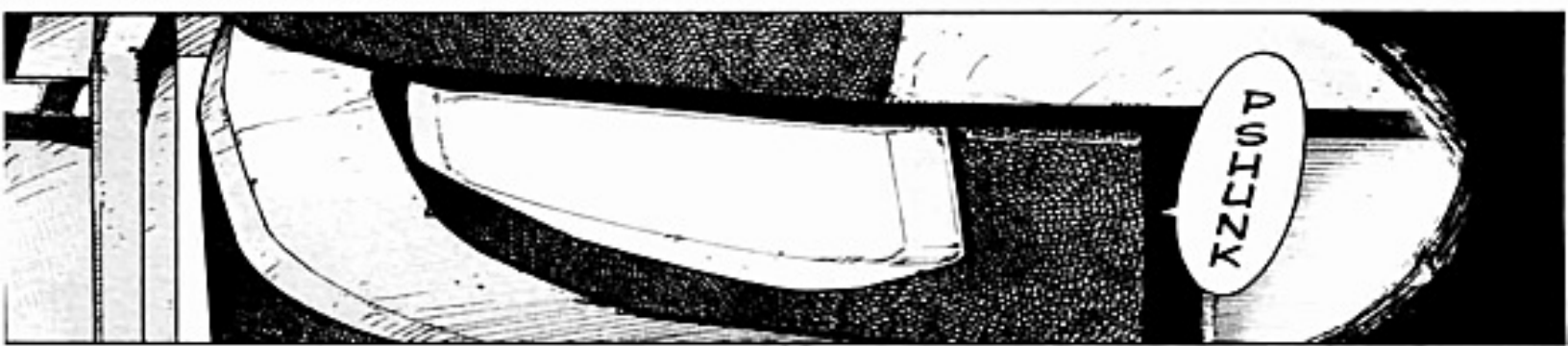
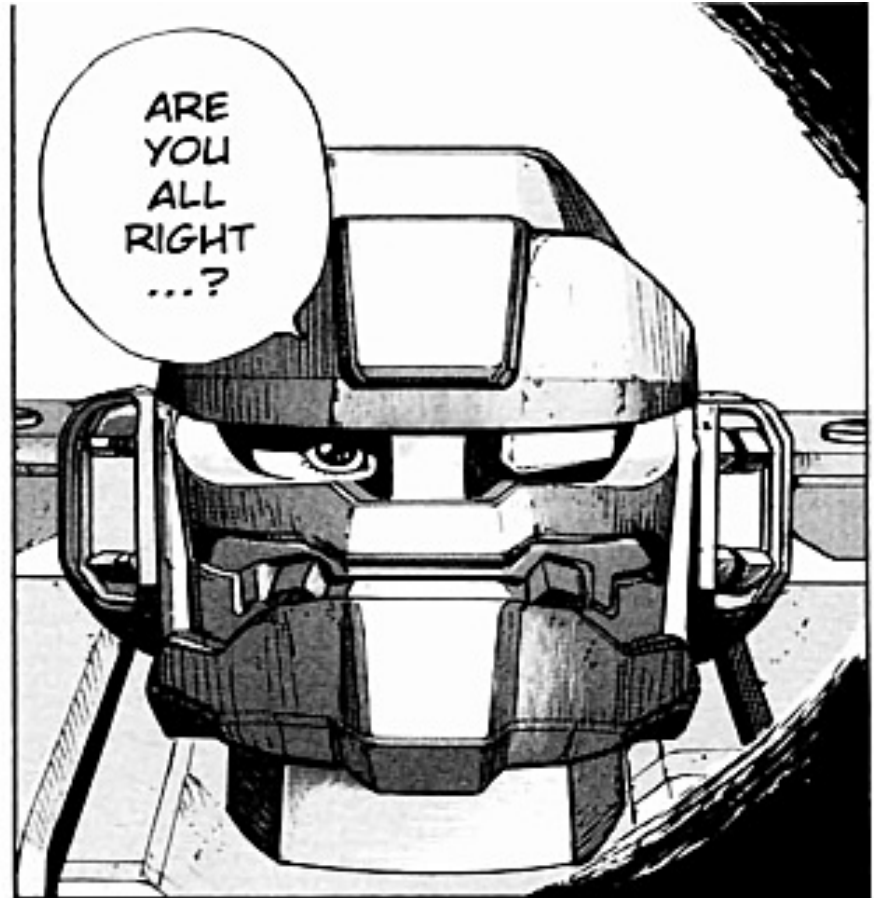
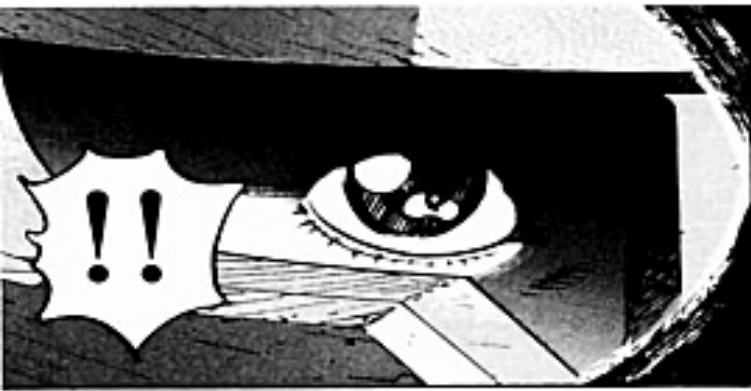
MAY I  
SEE YOUR  
LEFT  
HAND?





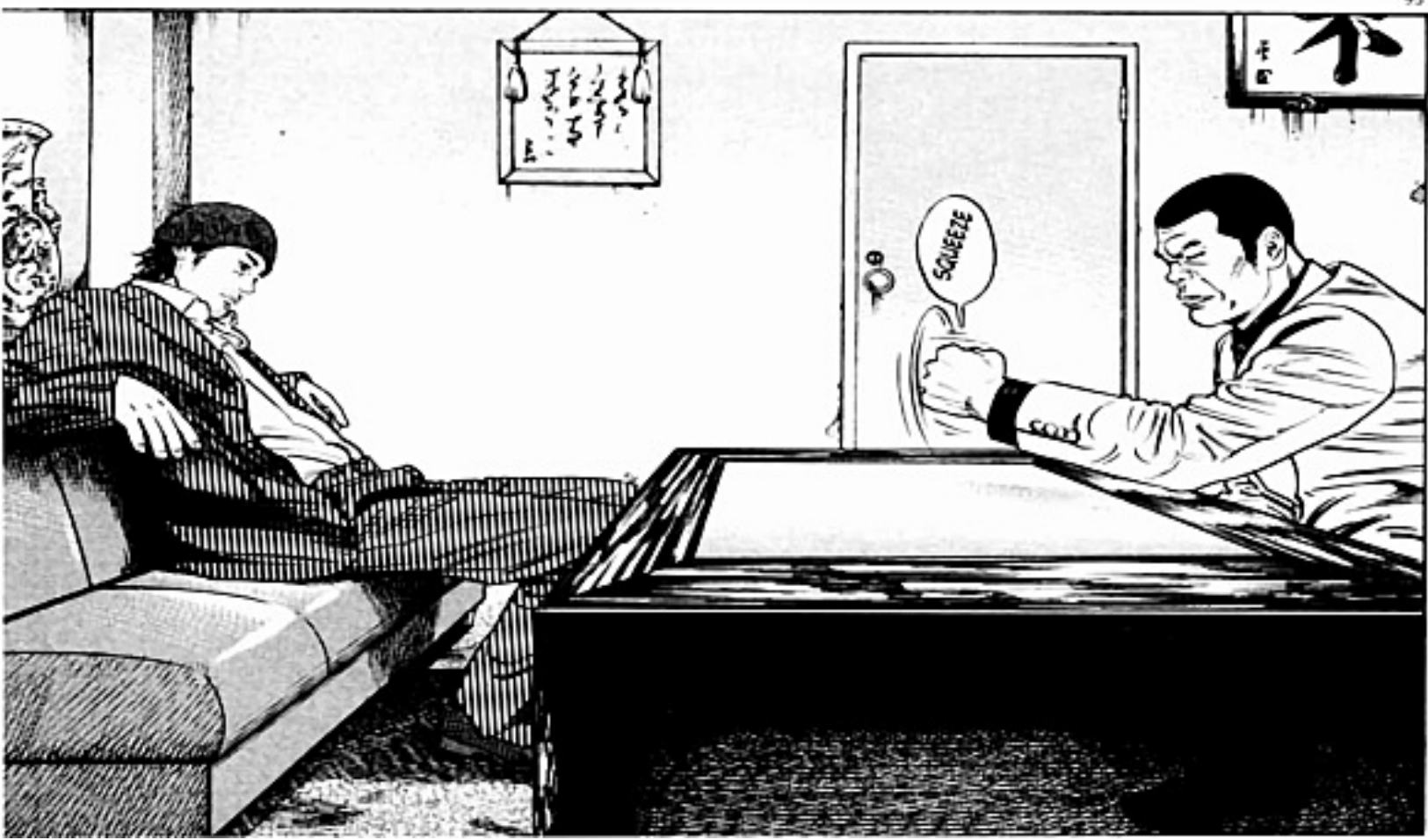














I CAN  
FIGURE  
THIS  
OUT.

I  
THINK  
...

DO I LOOK  
LIKE I'M  
JOKING...?

PUNK.

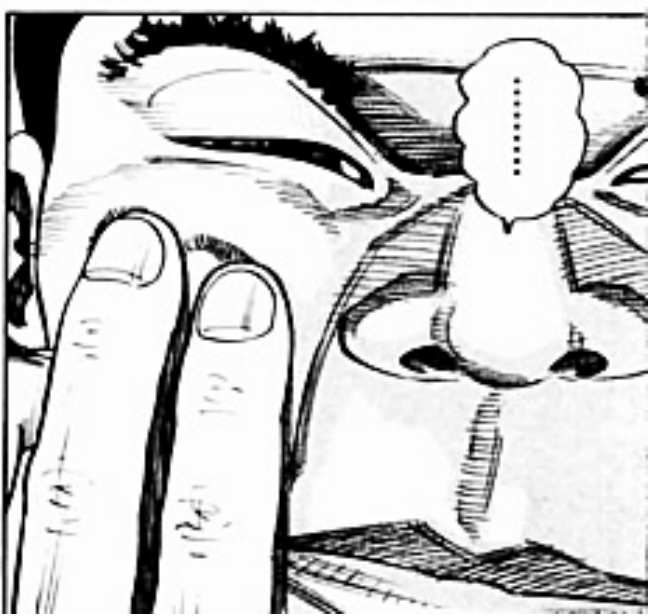
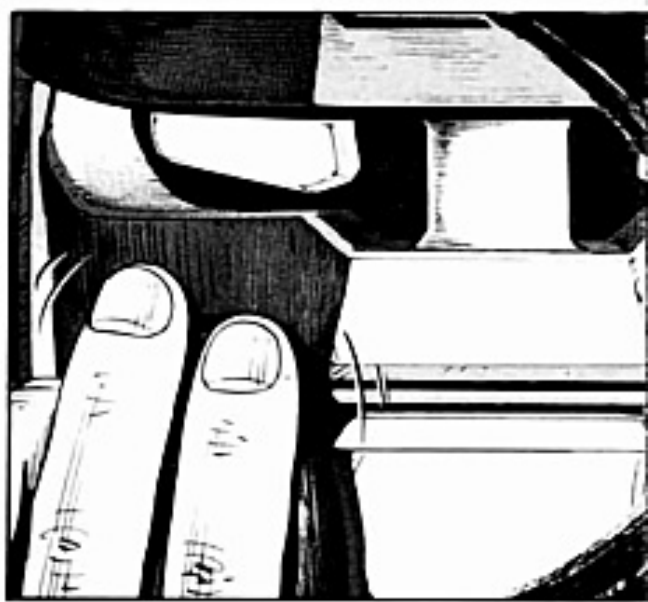
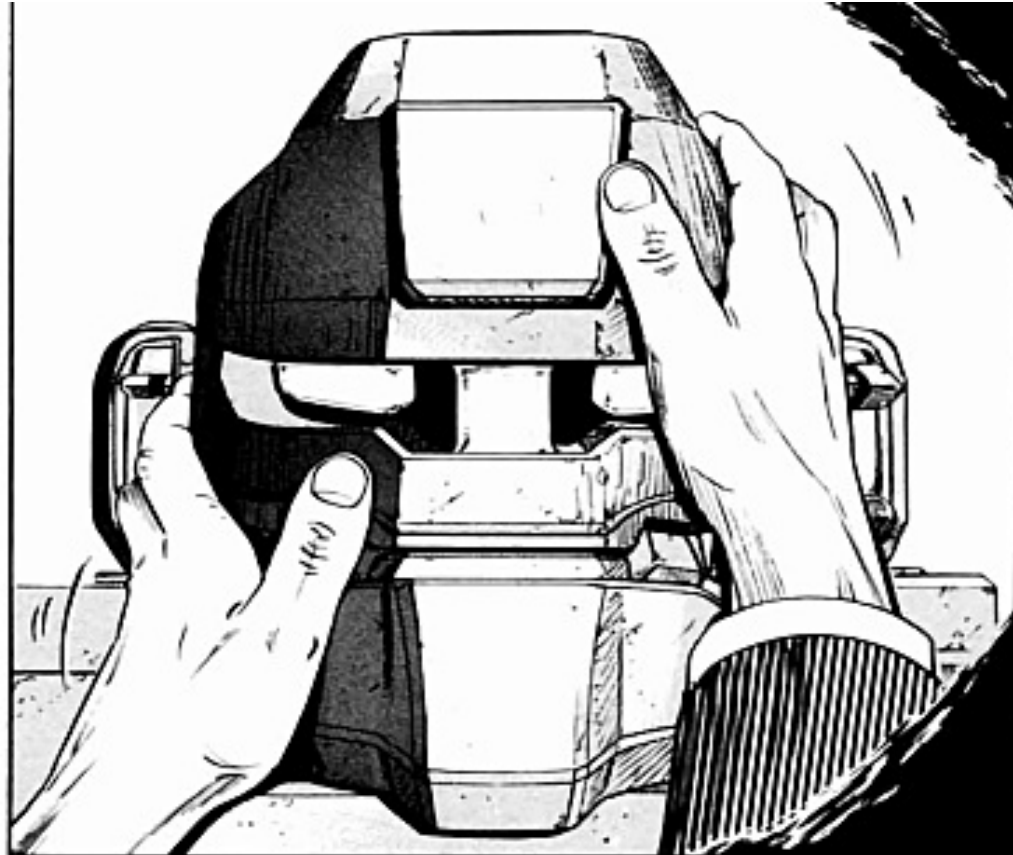
NO  
MORE  
JOKES  
...

I'M NOT  
INTO MEN, I  
WOULDN'T BE  
TOUCHING  
ONE WITHOUT  
GOOD  
REASON.



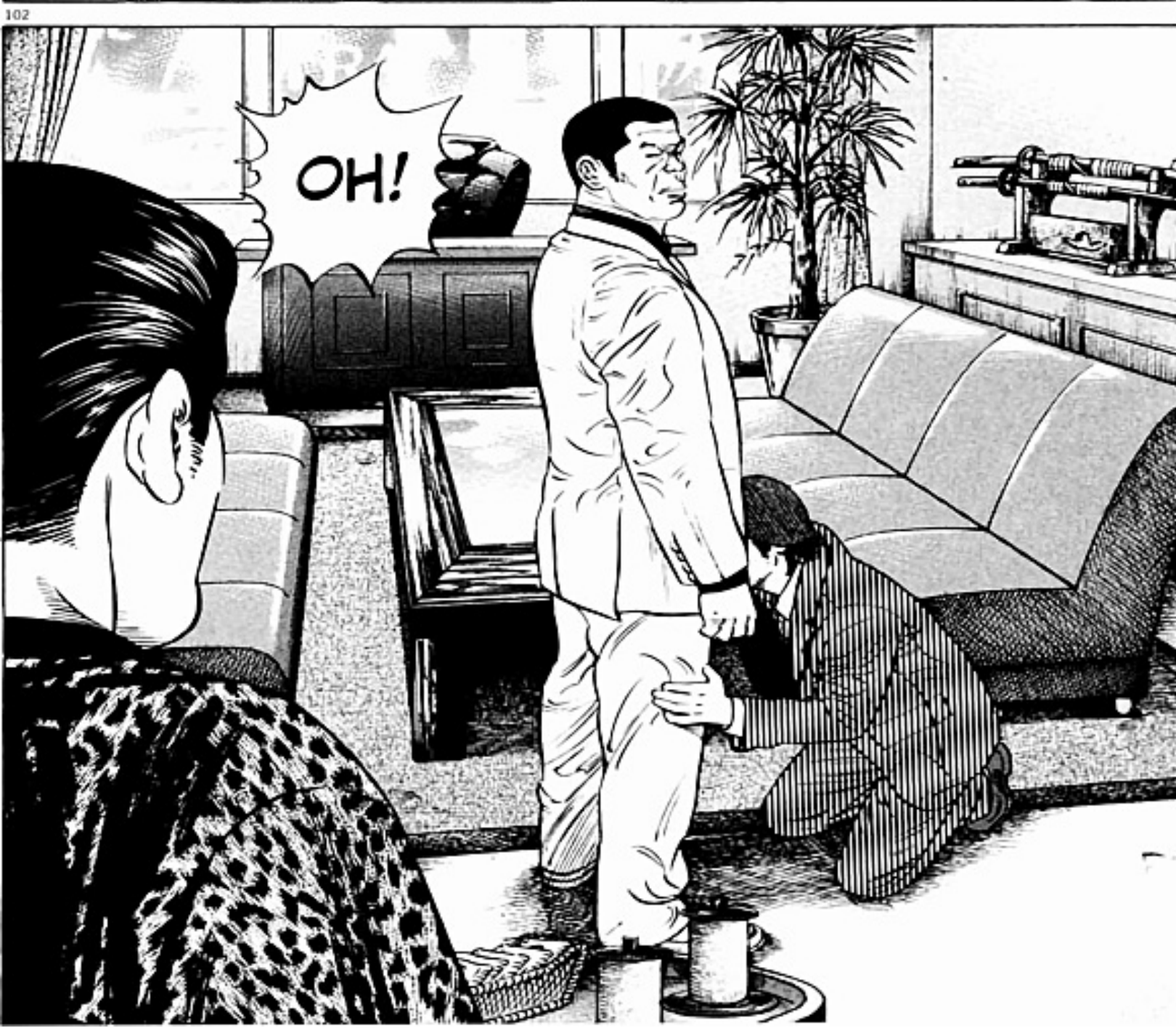
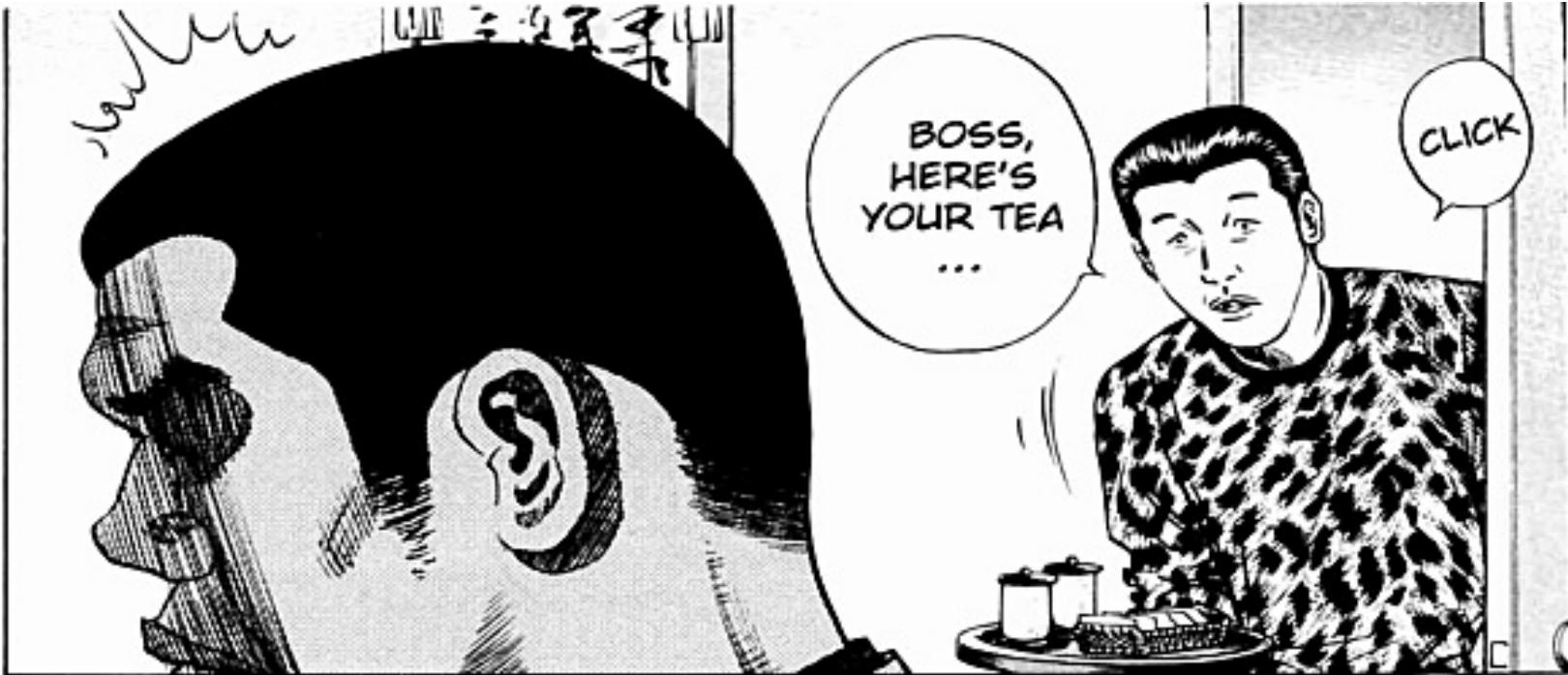


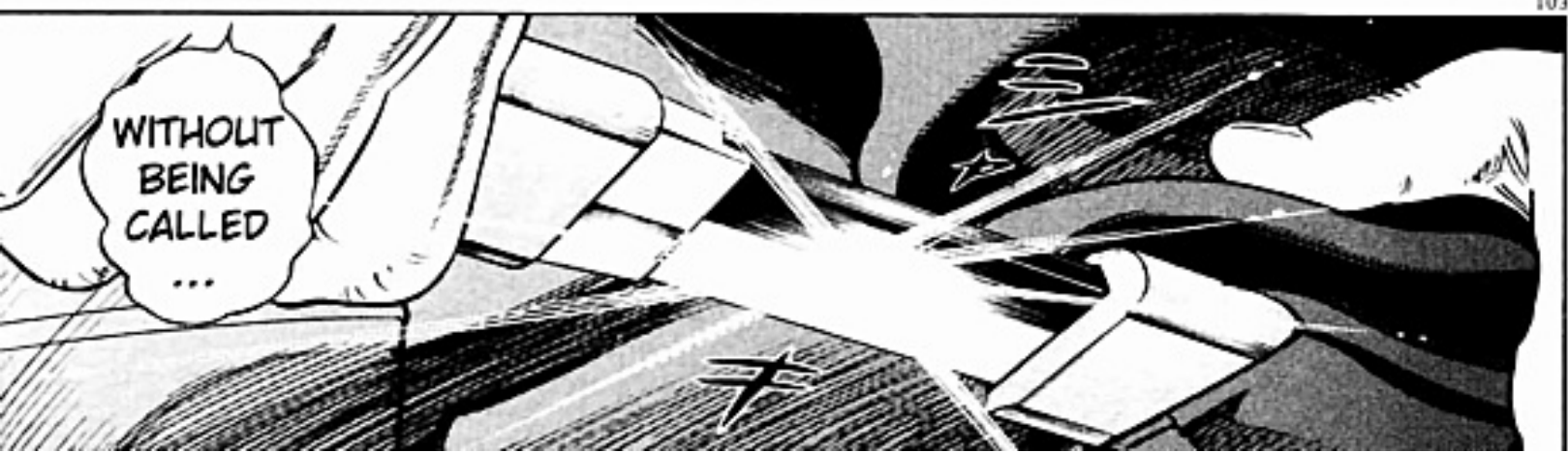












A large, high-contrast black and white close-up of a man's face. He has a serious, intense expression with a slight, menacing smile. A knife is held against his throat, with the blade pointing upwards. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights.

YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO  
PAY.

104

A black and white illustration of a man in a light-colored shirt being threatened with a knife by a man in a leopard-print shirt. The man in the light shirt is looking away with a distressed expression. In the background, another man in a dark suit sits on the ground, looking on. The scene is set in an outdoor or semi-outdoor environment.

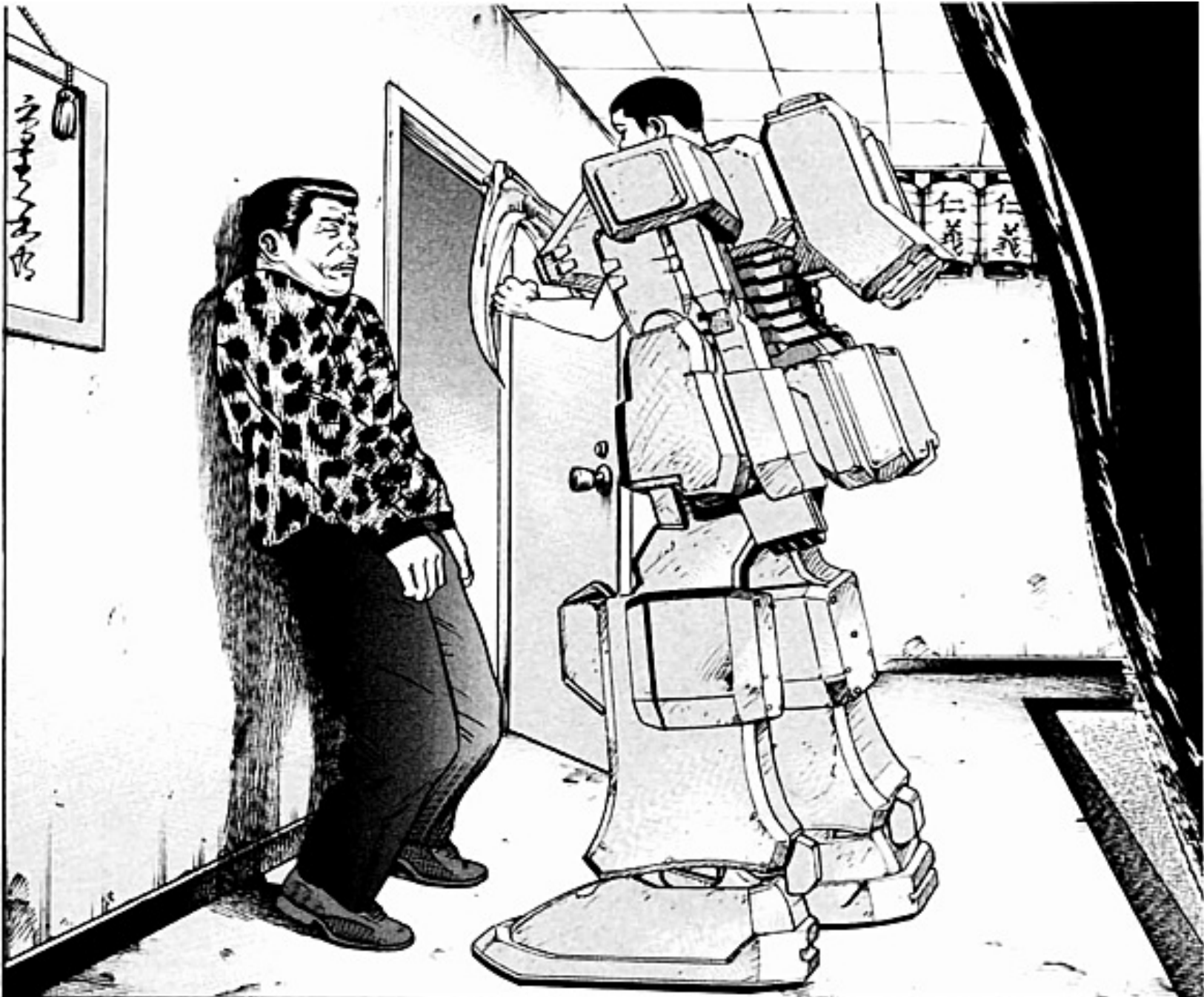
I...  
I WON'T  
TELL  
ANYONE, I  
SWEAR..

EEEP  
...

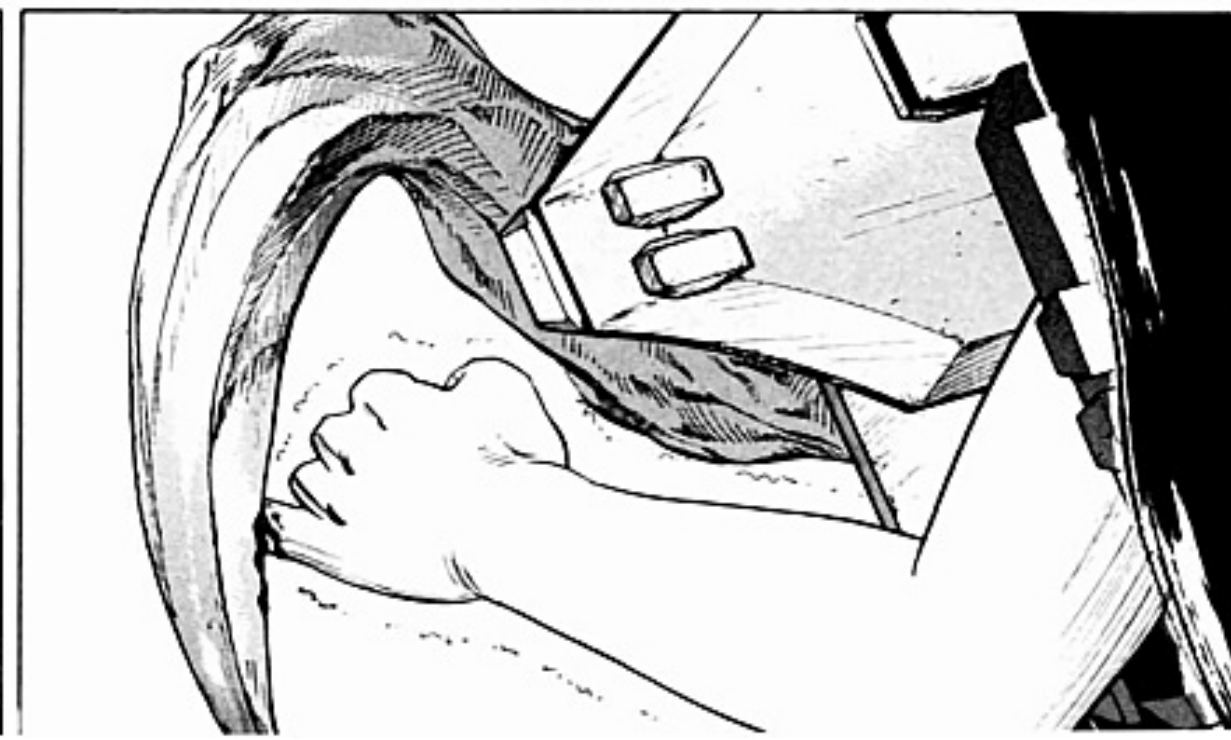


105





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THERE  
IT IS!



**YOU  
STAY  
OUT OF  
THIS!**



**STOP  
!!**

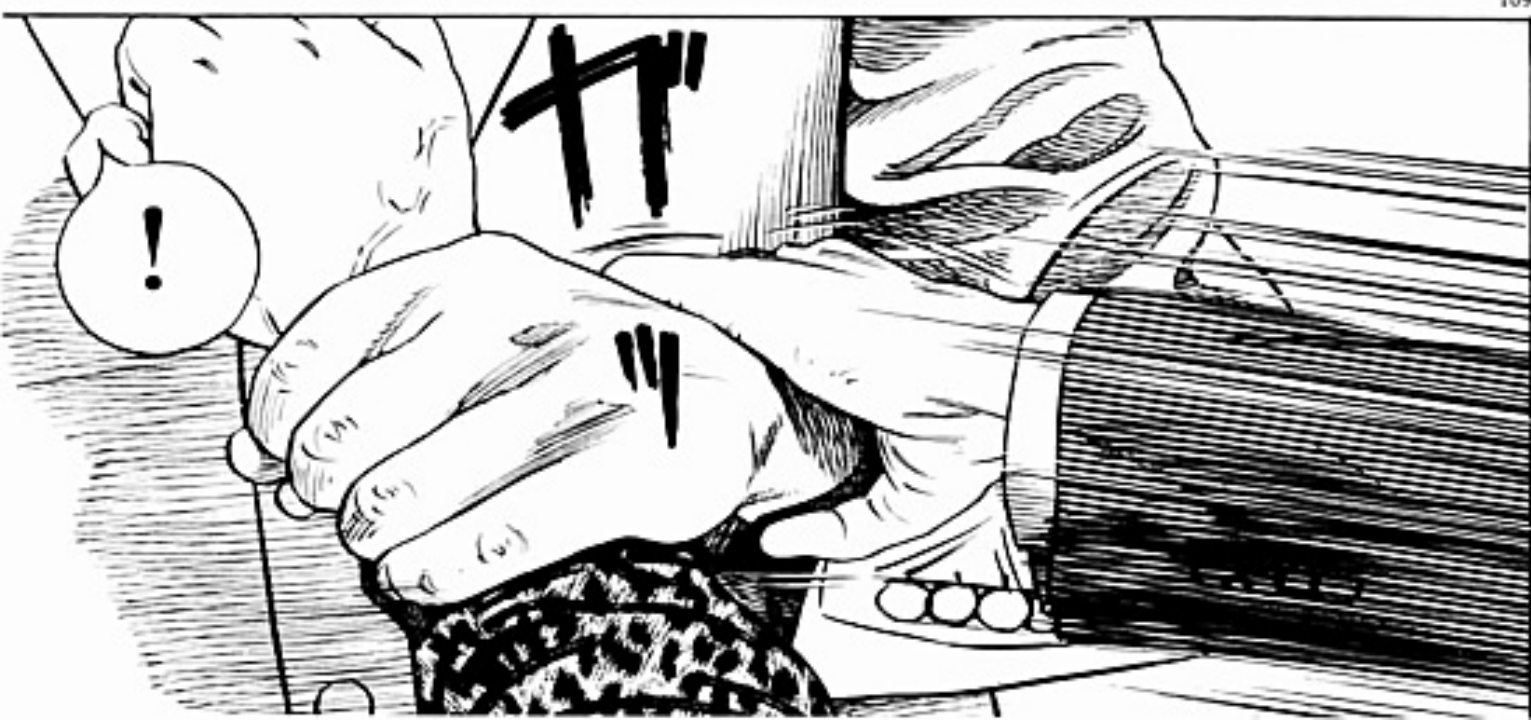


PLEASE,  
NO!

PLEASE,  
NO!

THIS IS  
COMING  
OFF.





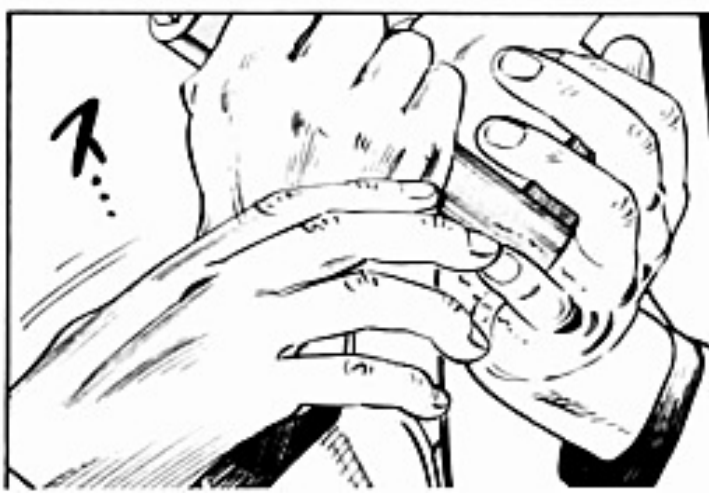
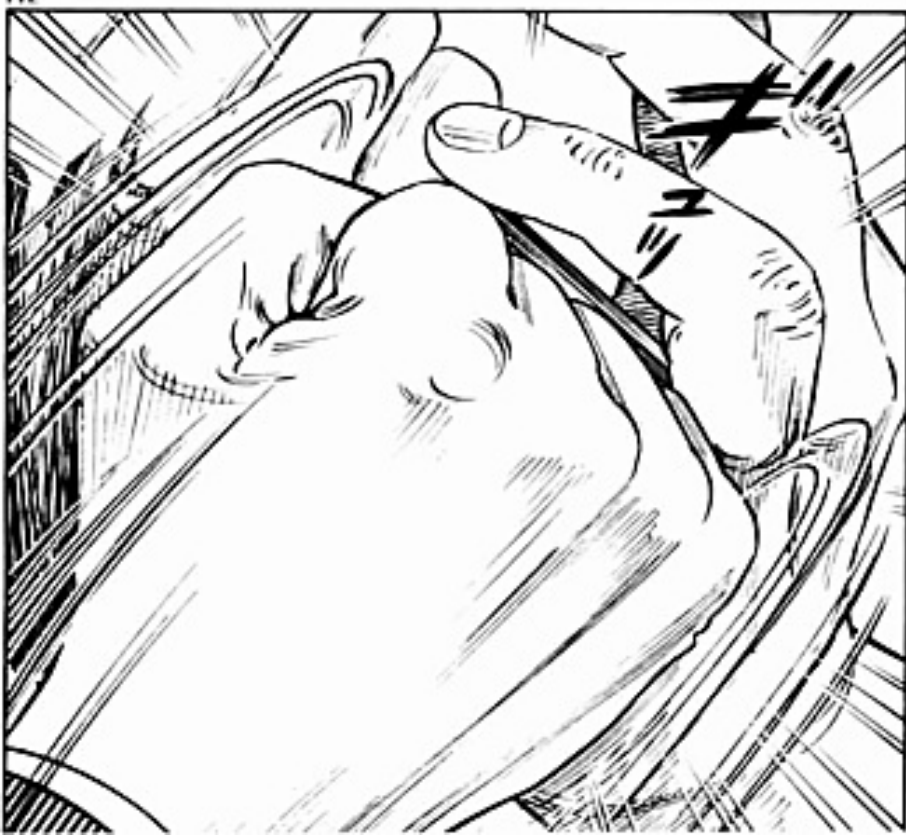


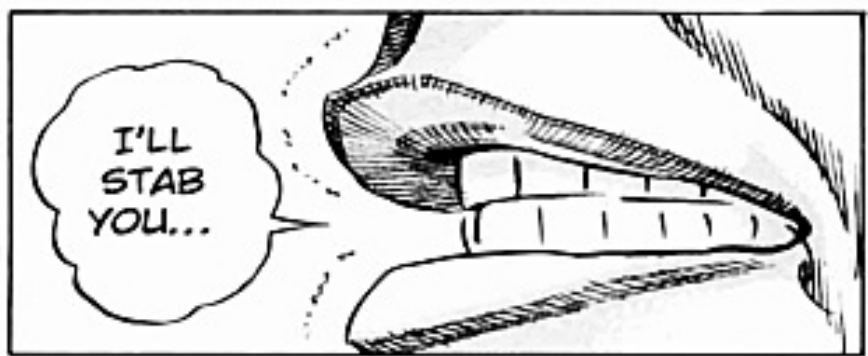






112





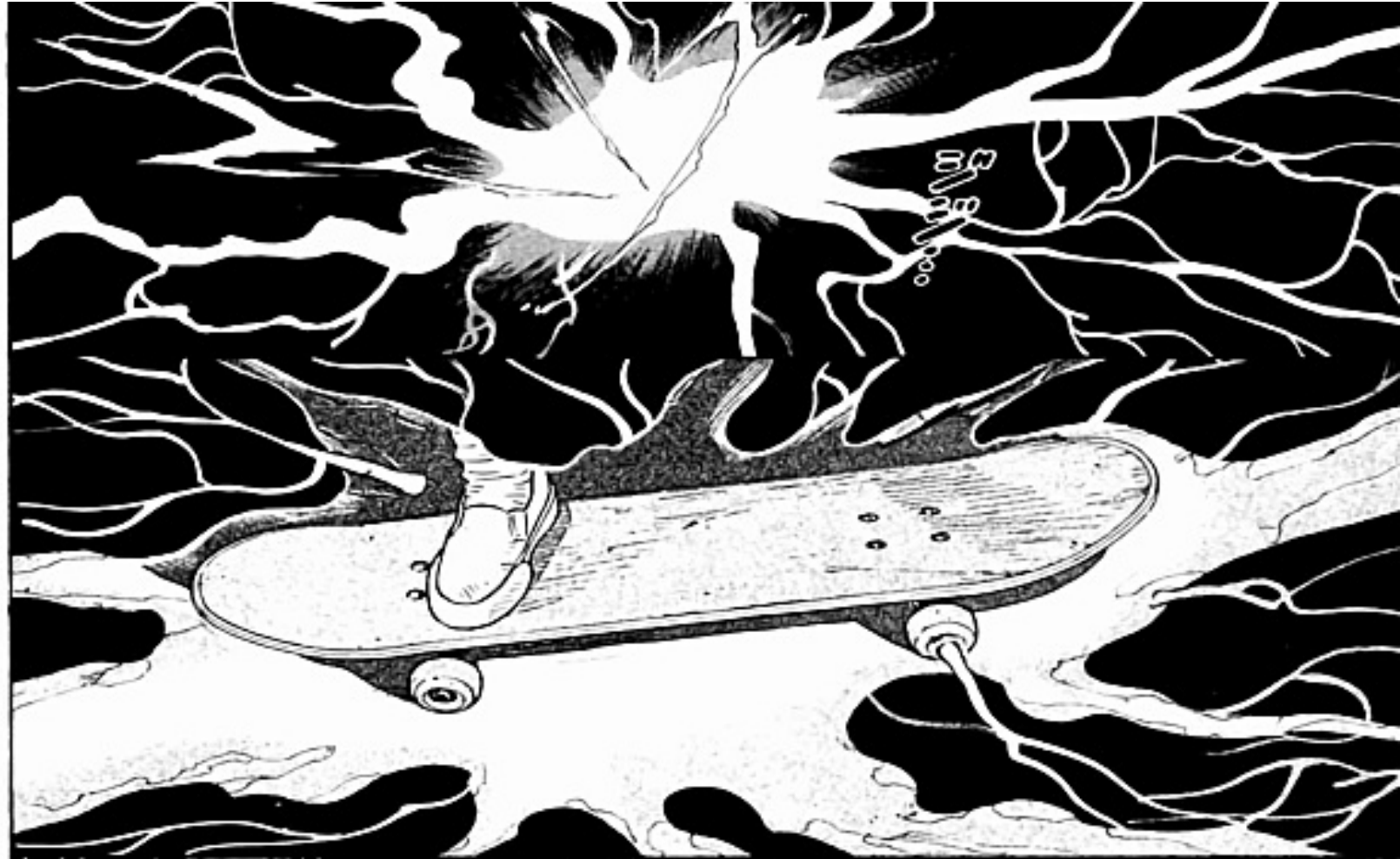










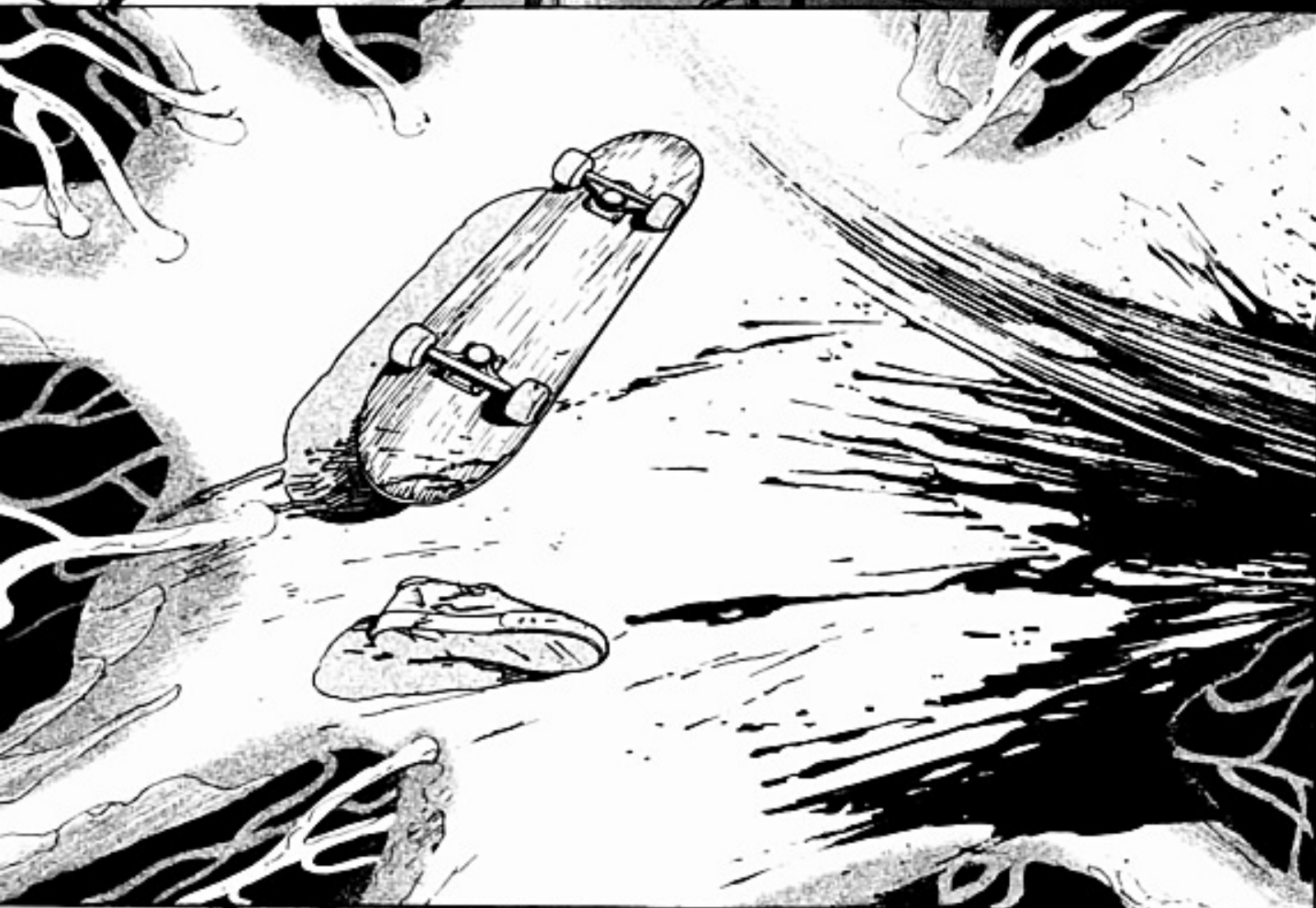


IT  
REMINDS  
ME...



THIS  
FEELING  
...

IS...



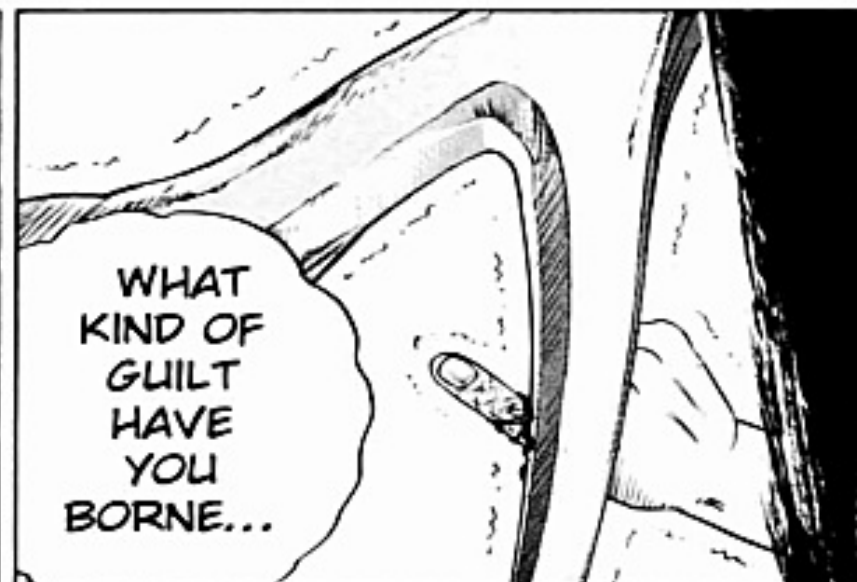
GUILT  
...?

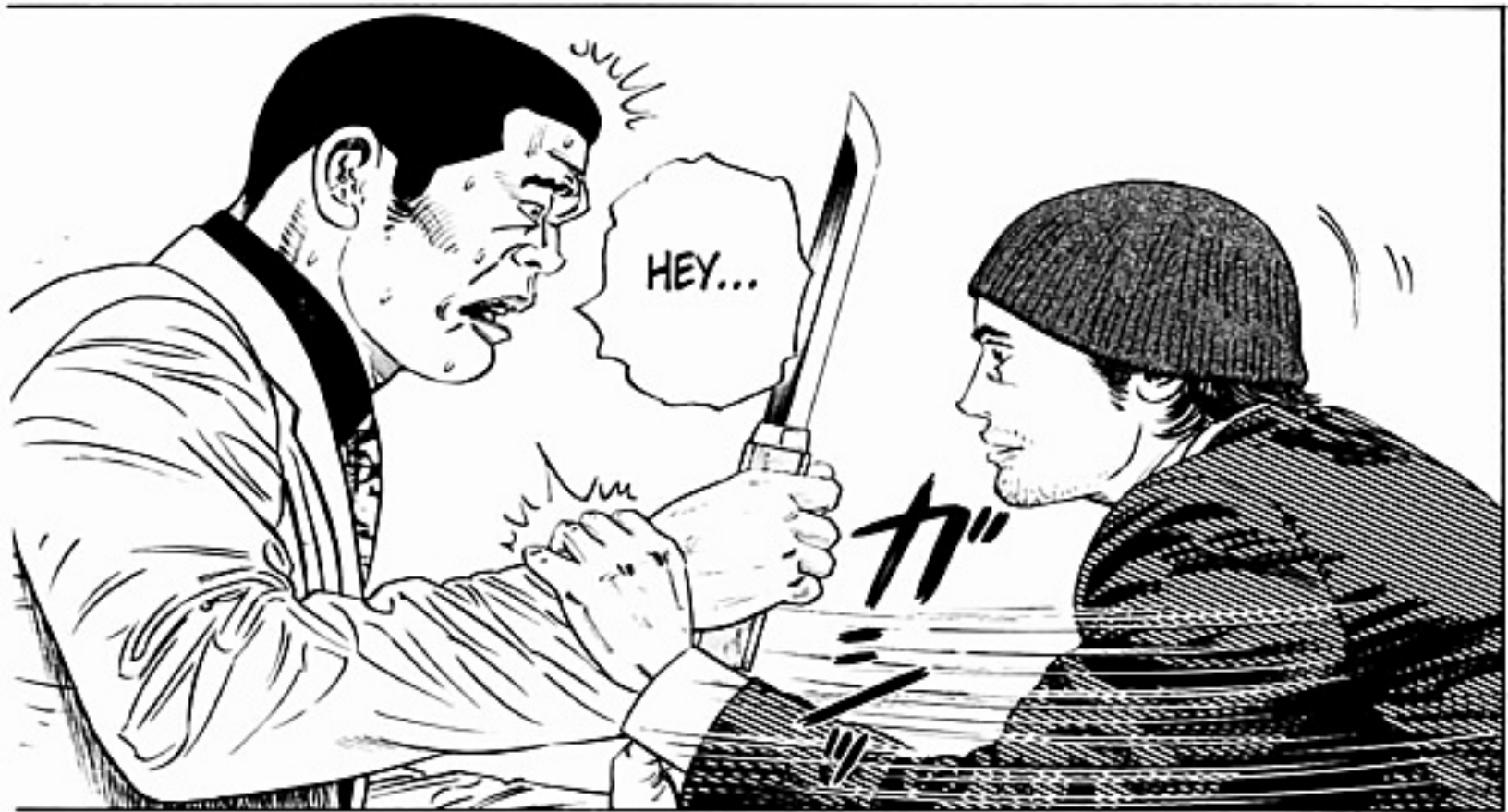
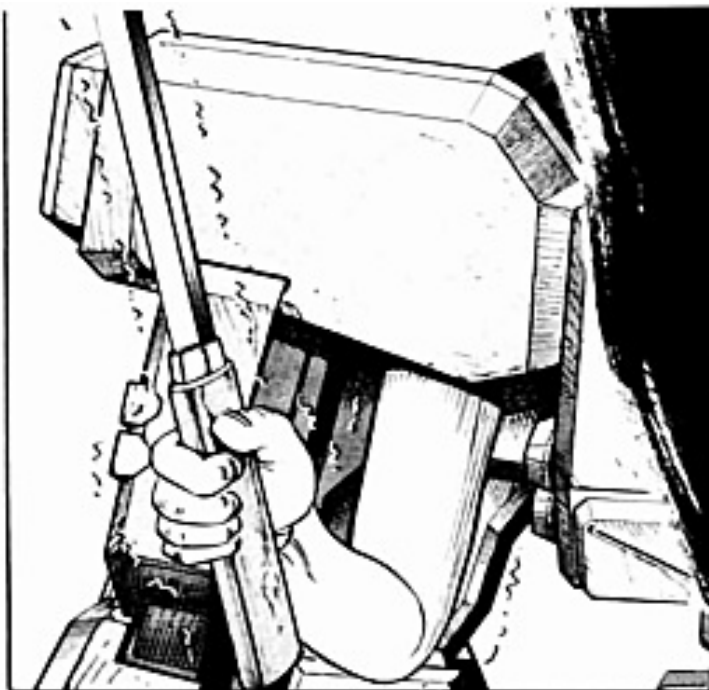


120

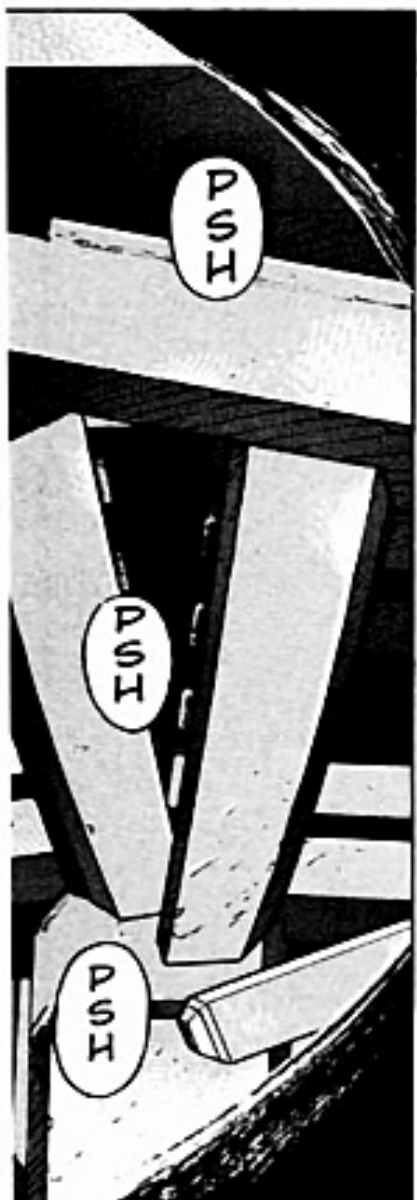




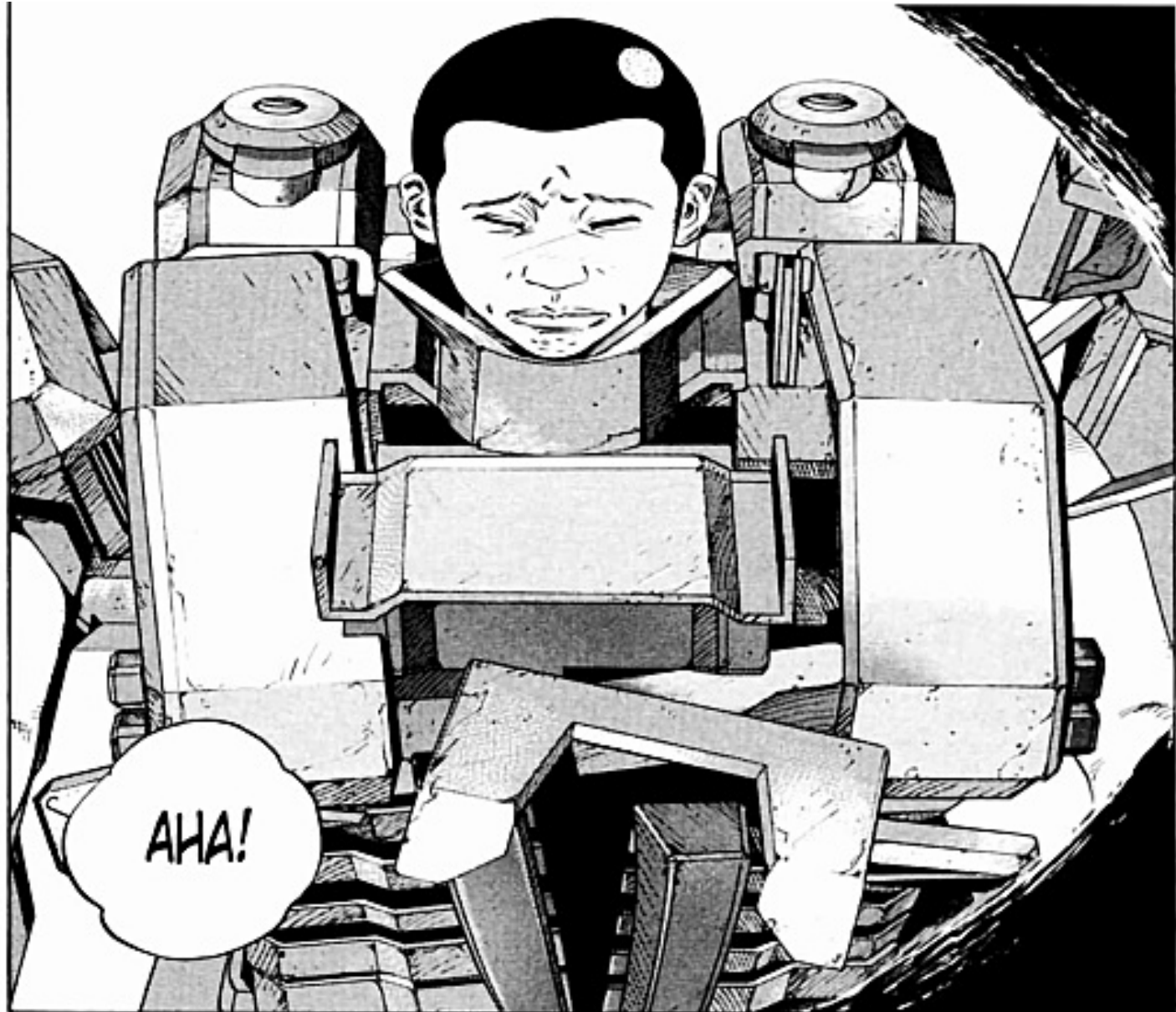




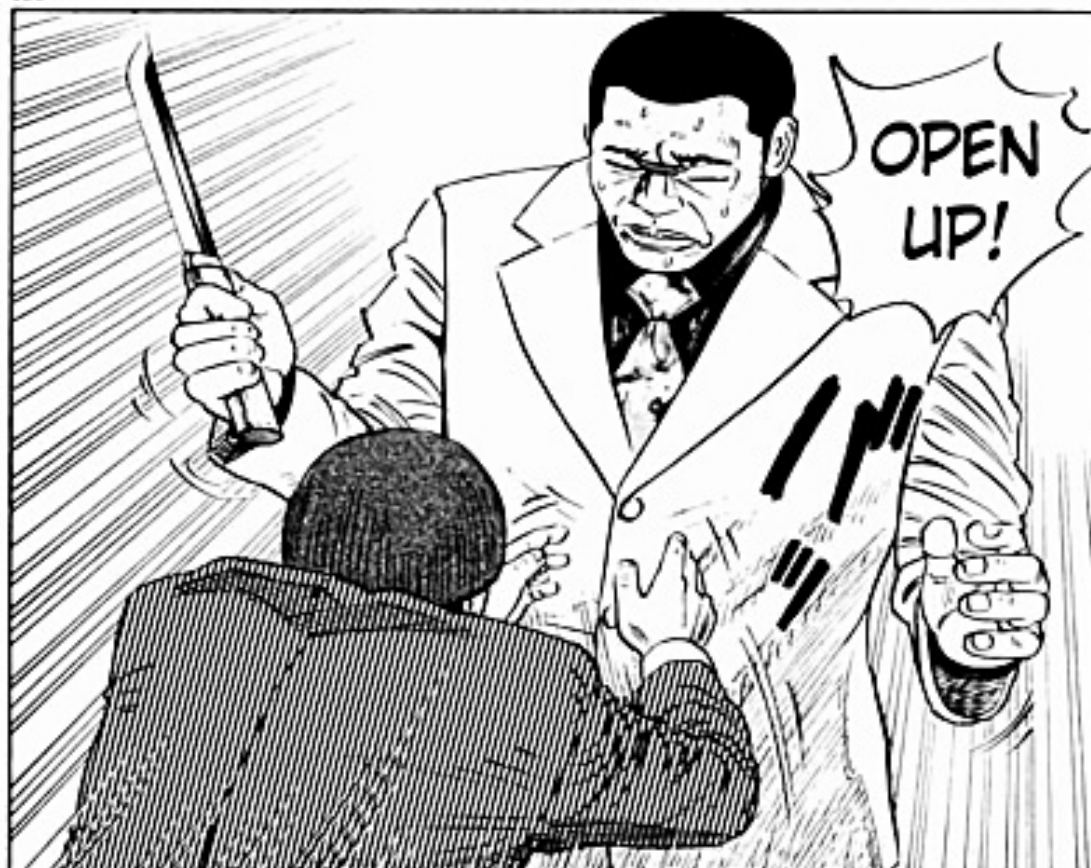


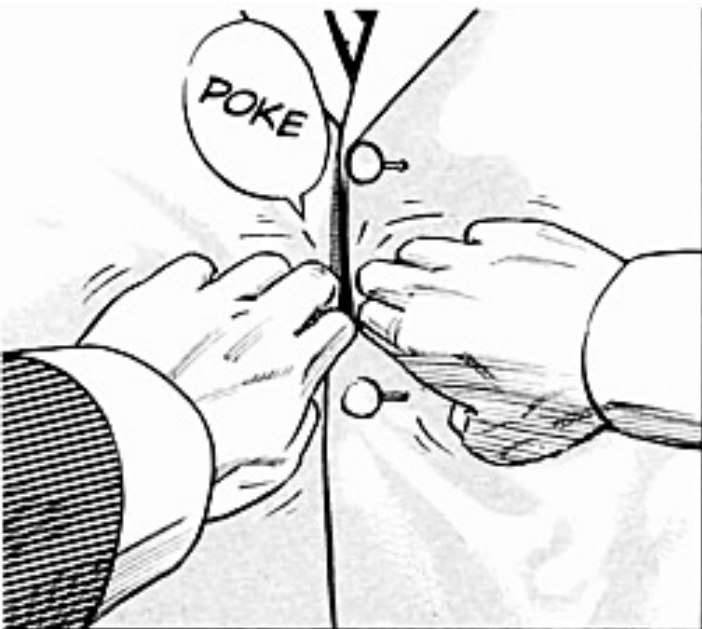


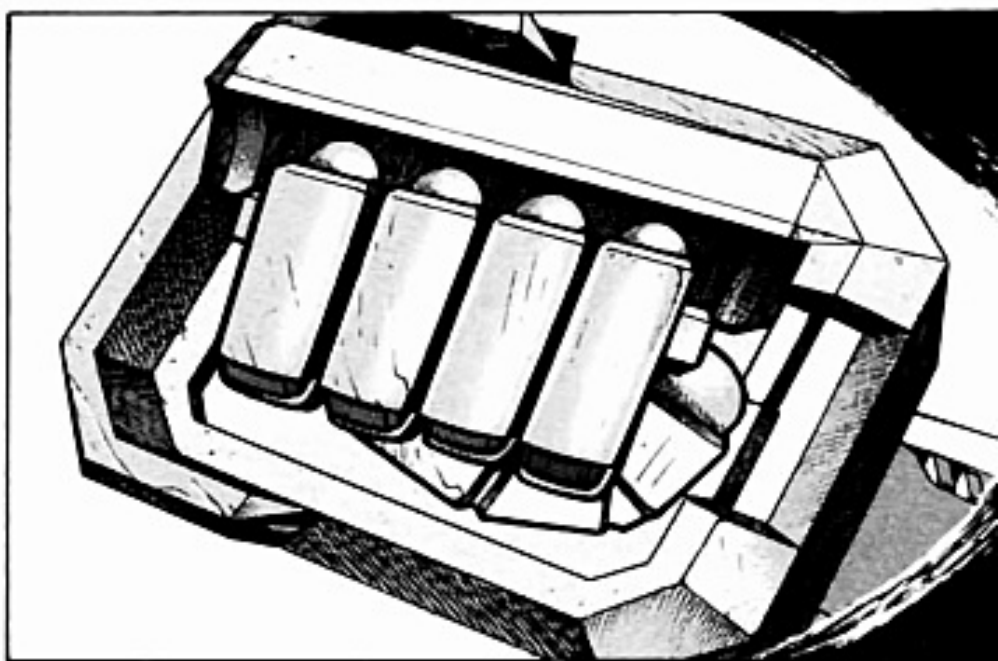
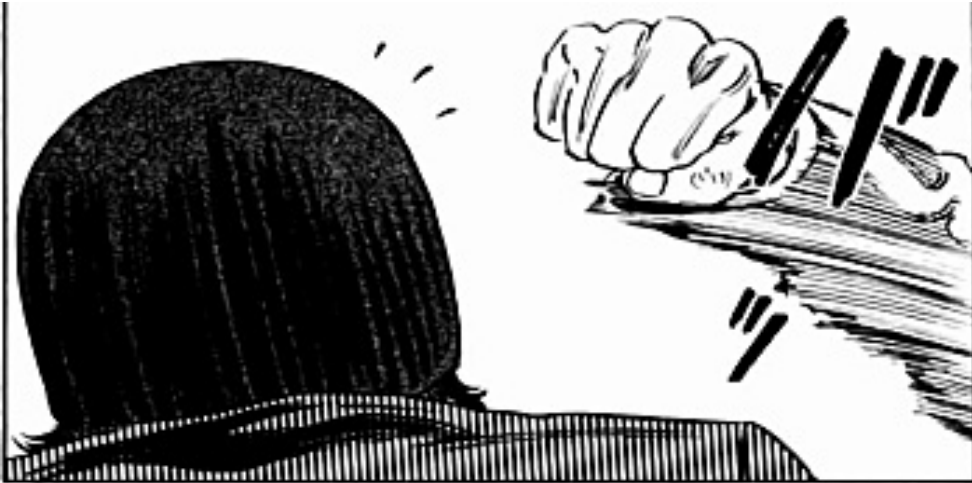




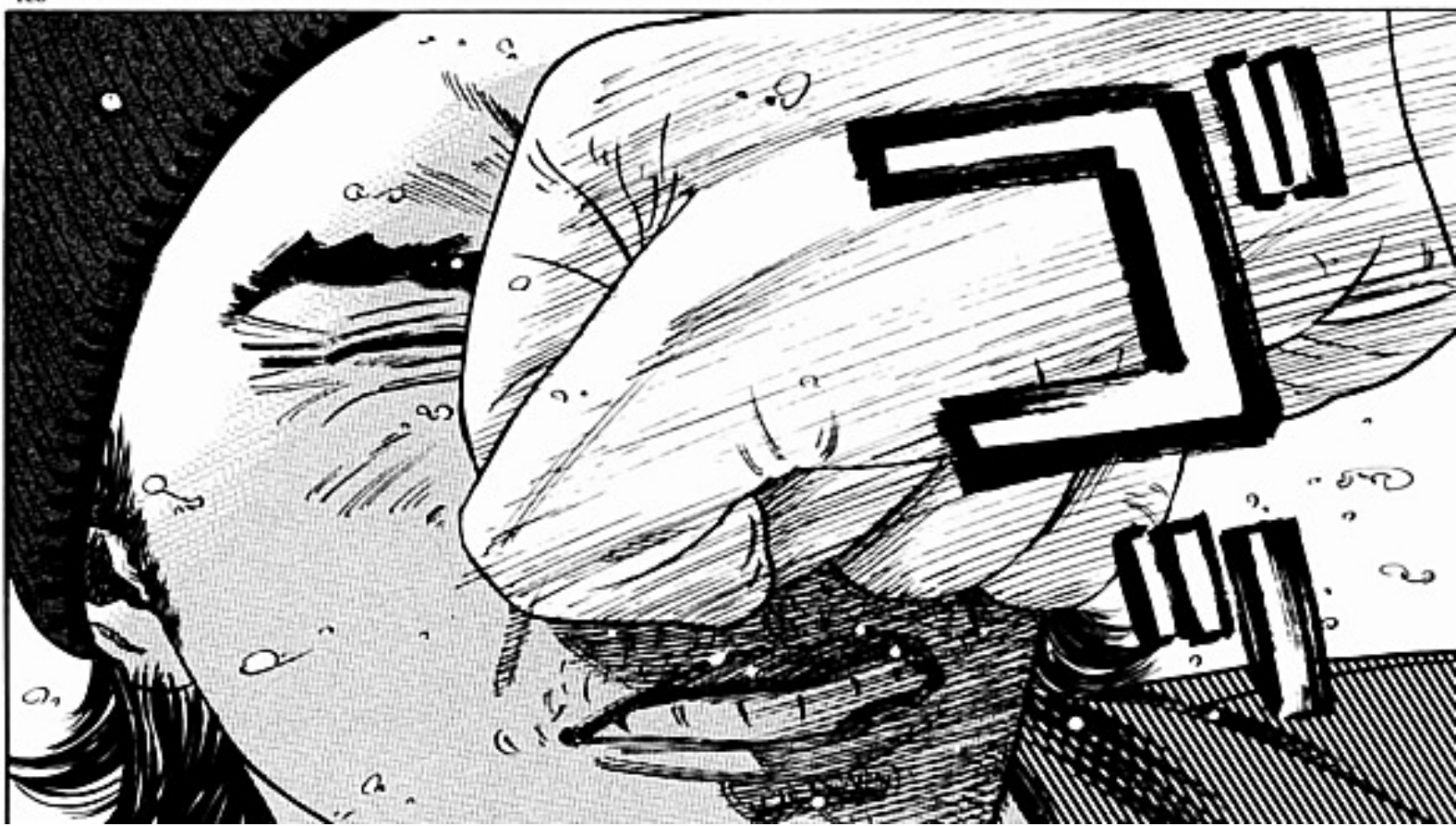
126

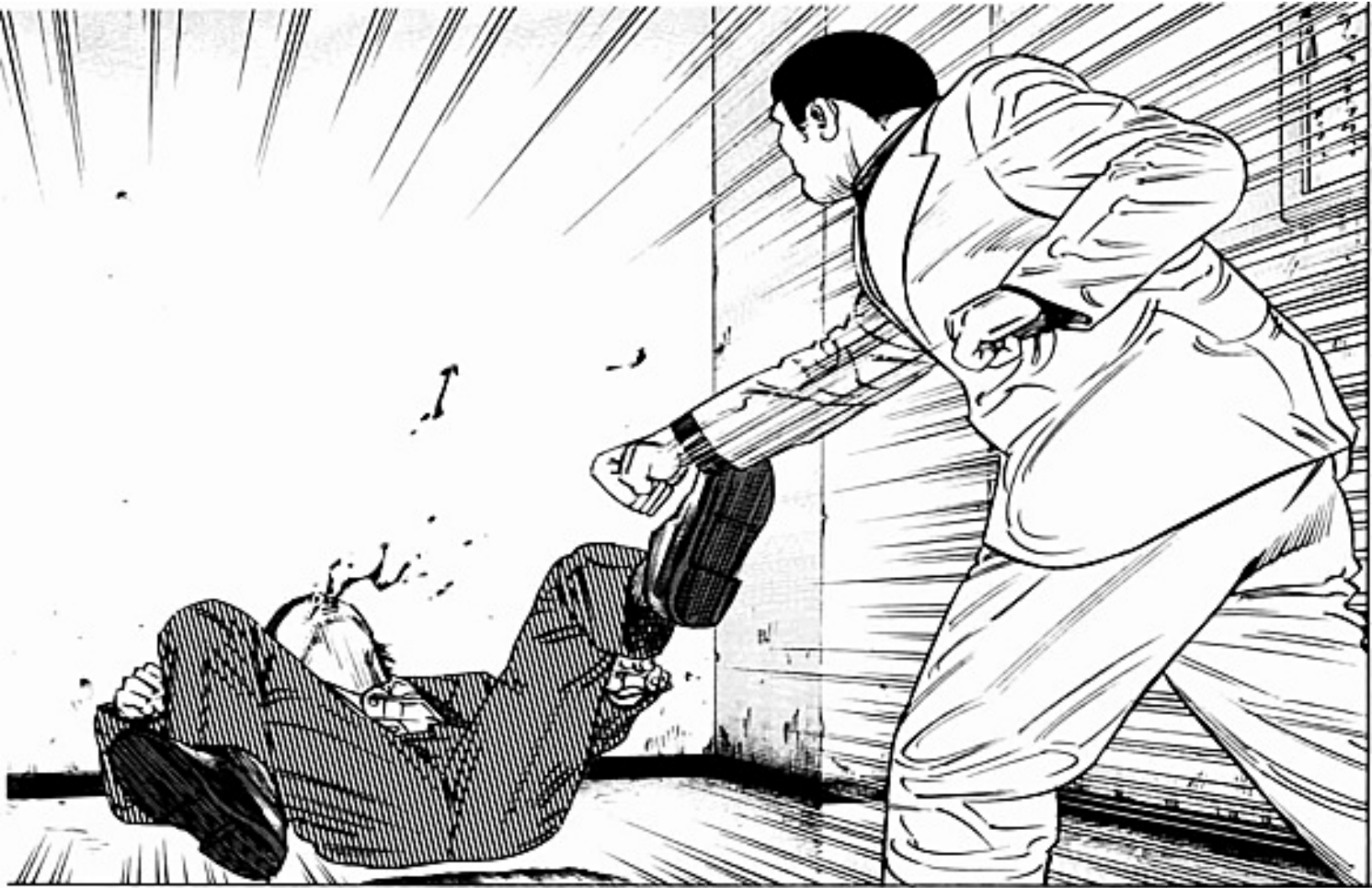


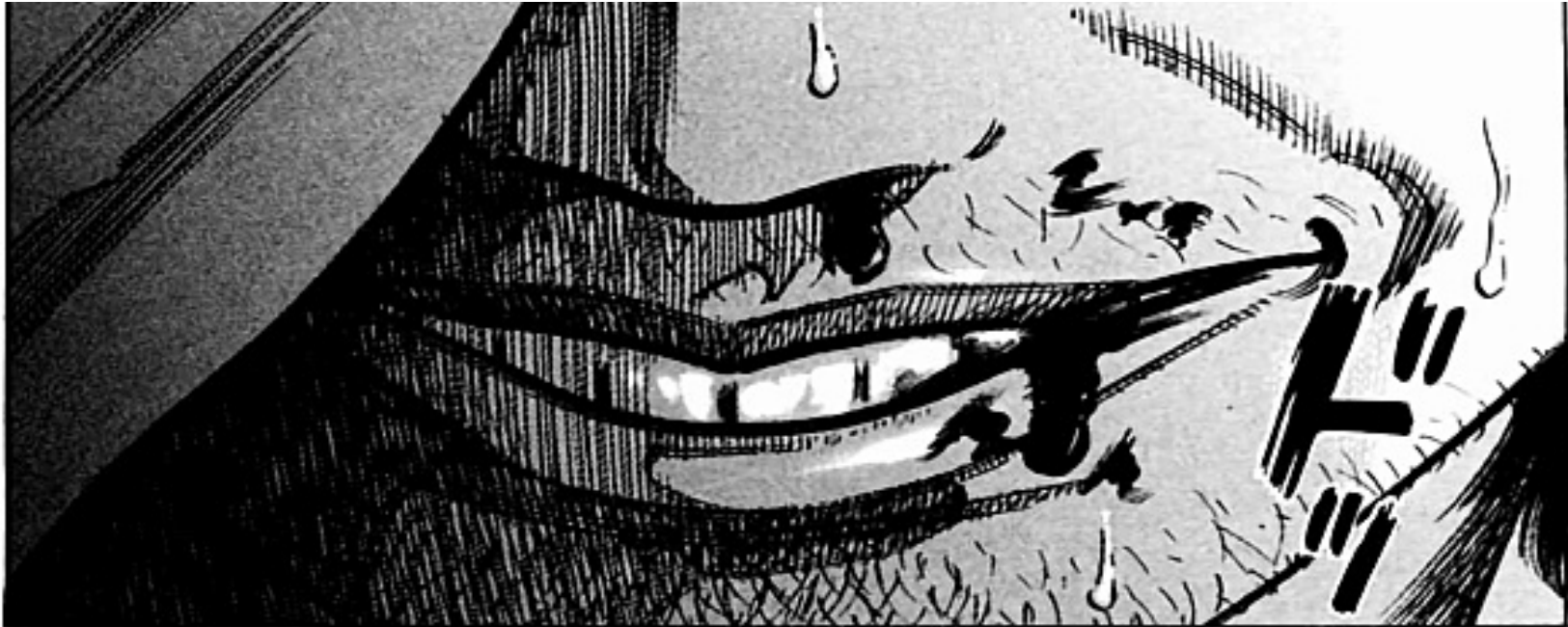




128







130



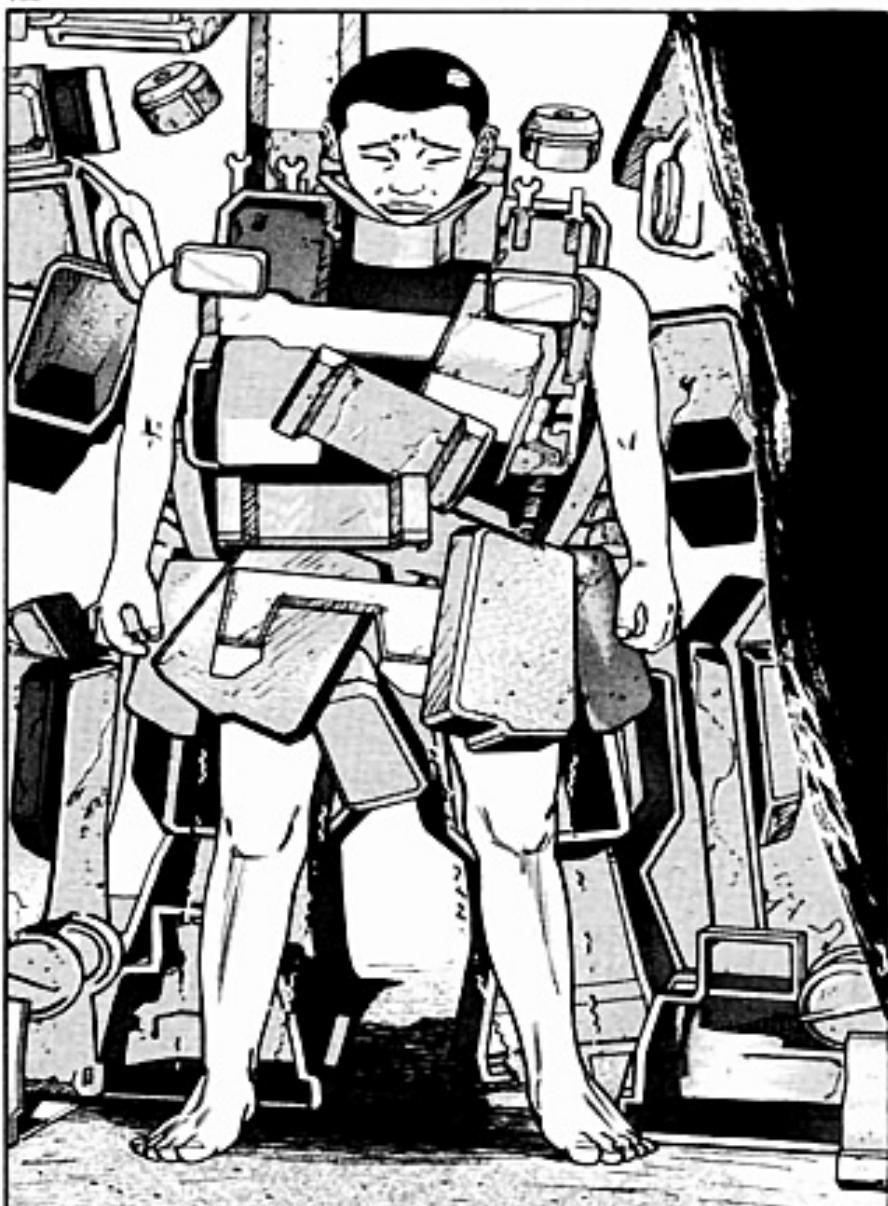




WHAT ARE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT...?



132









AND I  
PUSHED  
HIM.  
IT WAS  
JUST A  
JOKE.

WE WERE  
SKATIN'  
TOGETHER,



BUT KEN  
FELL  
BACKWARD  
...

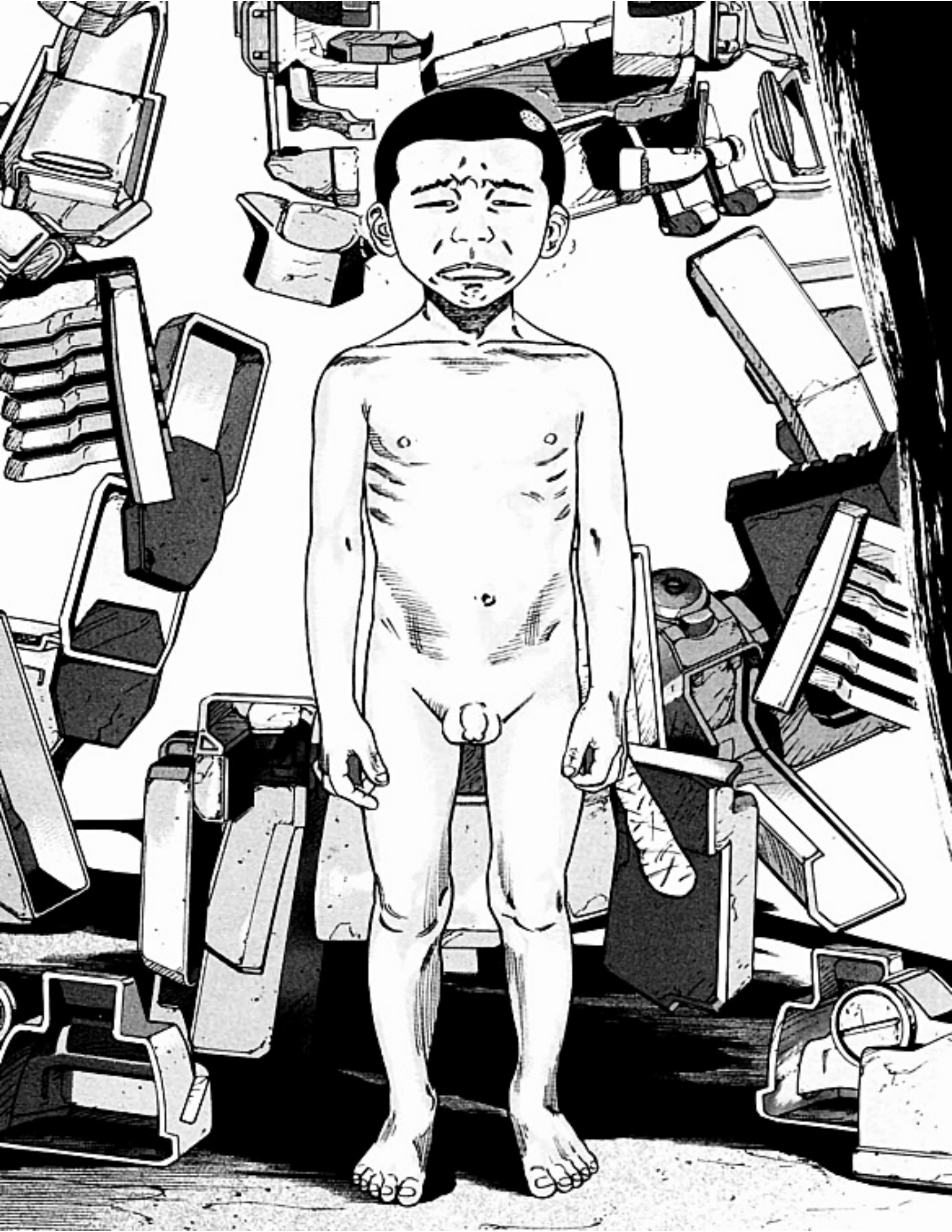


S...

AND THERE  
WAS A  
TRUCK...











138

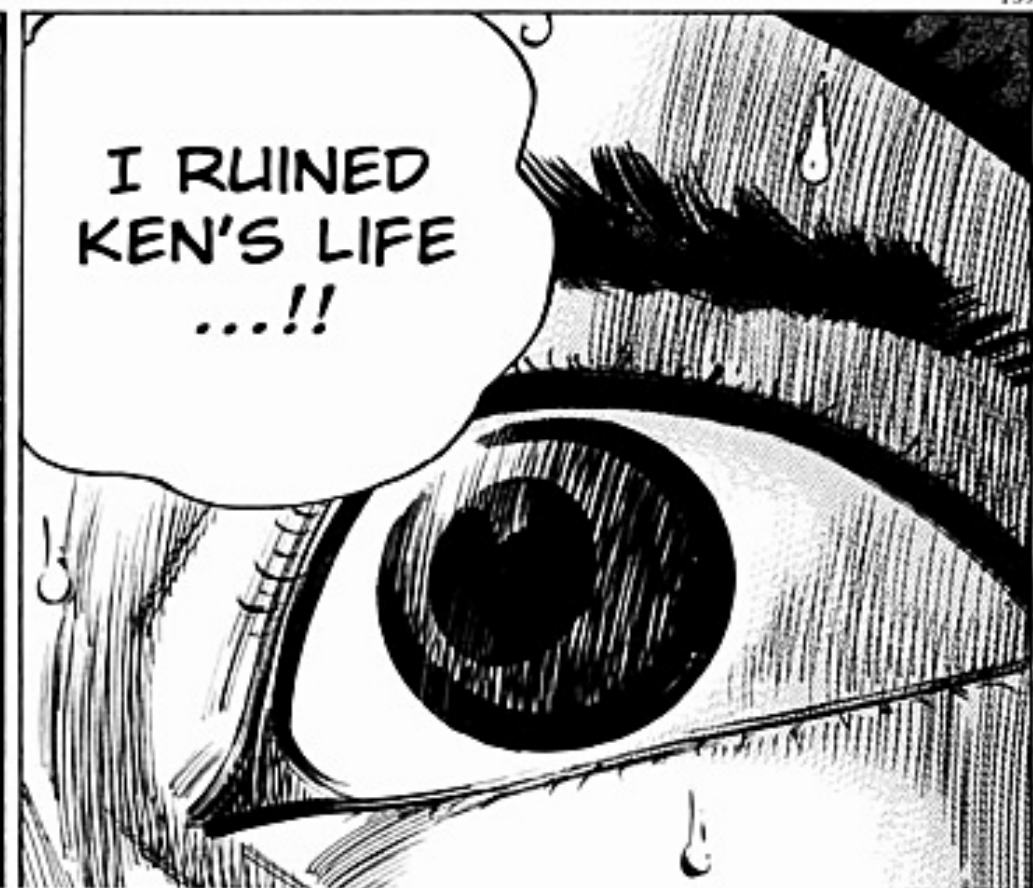


K... KEN  
COULDN'T  
WALK  
NORMAL  
ANymore...



KAZUO

...

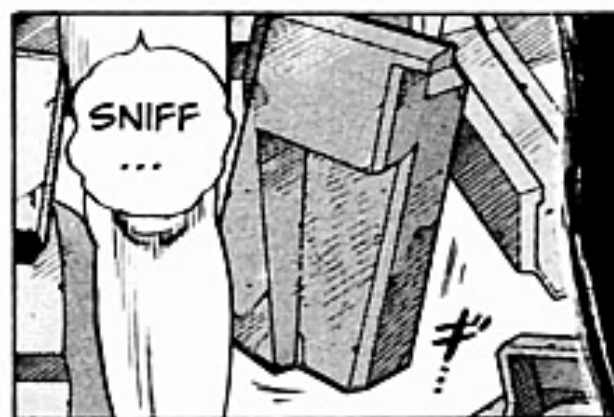


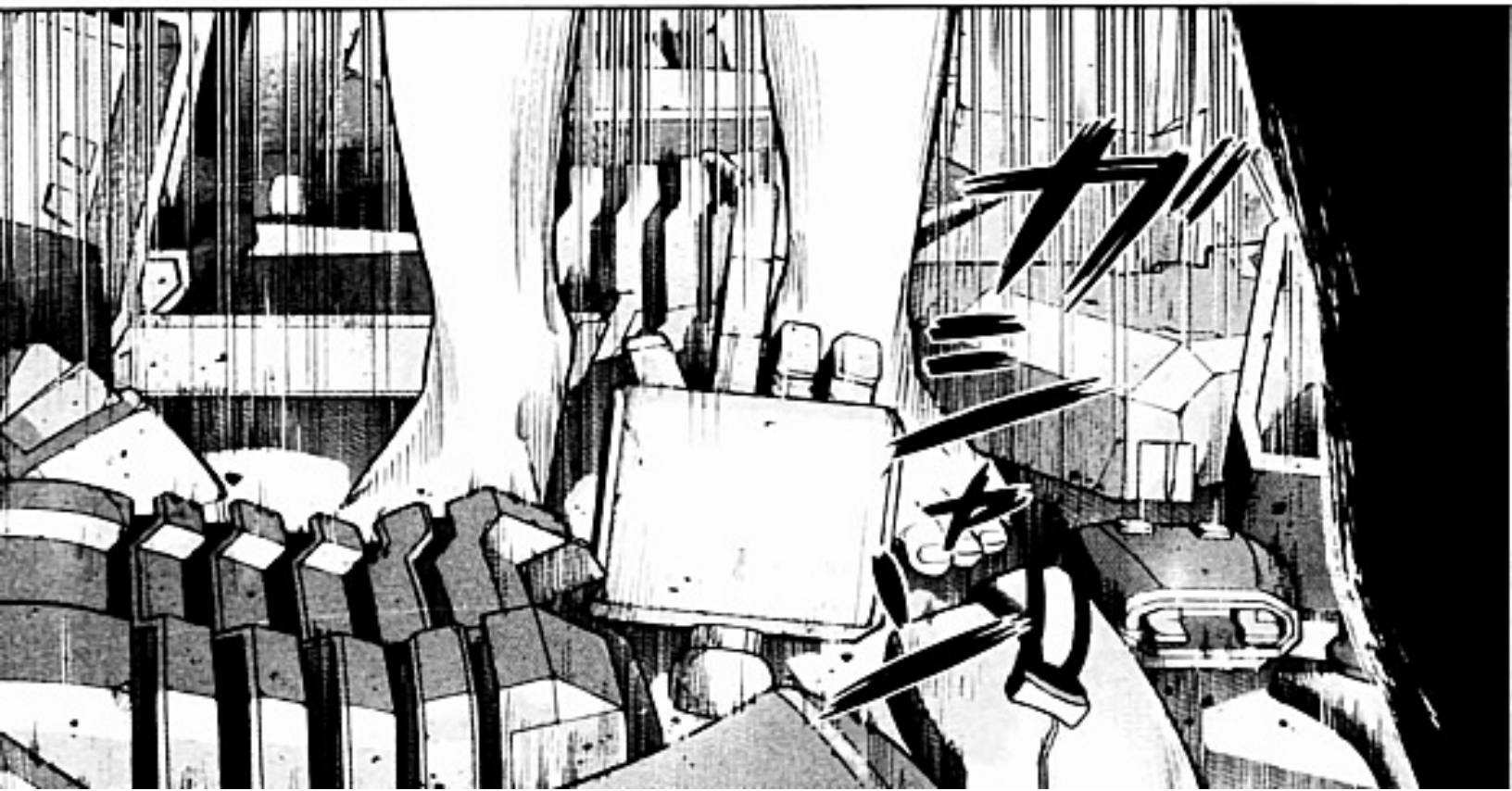


わ  
ん











うわ

ああ

あ

あ

あ

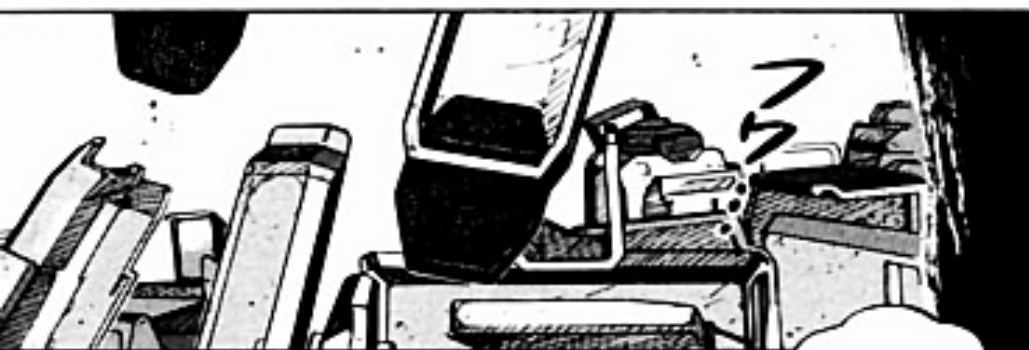
あ



KAZUO...

I'M  
SORRY  
...

145



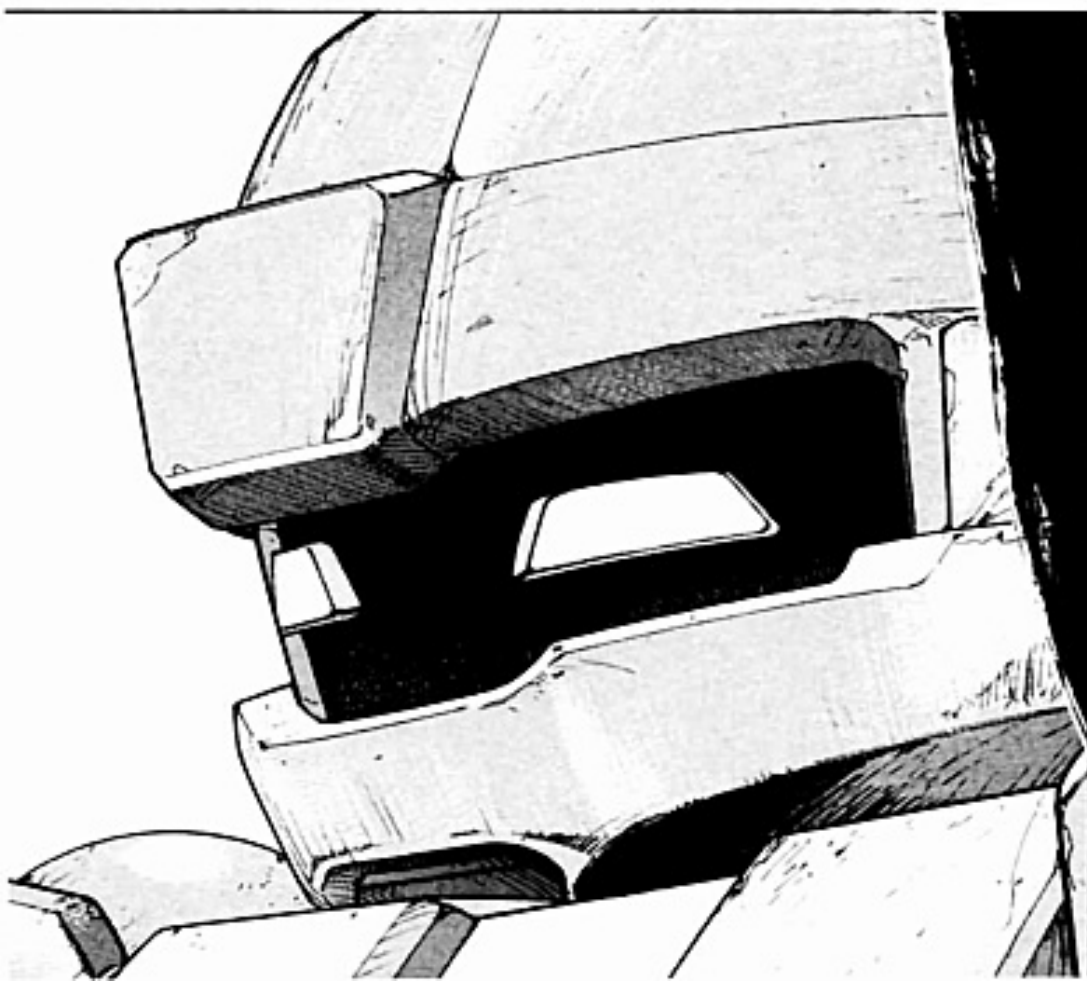
KAZUO  
...

I'M  
SORRY  
...



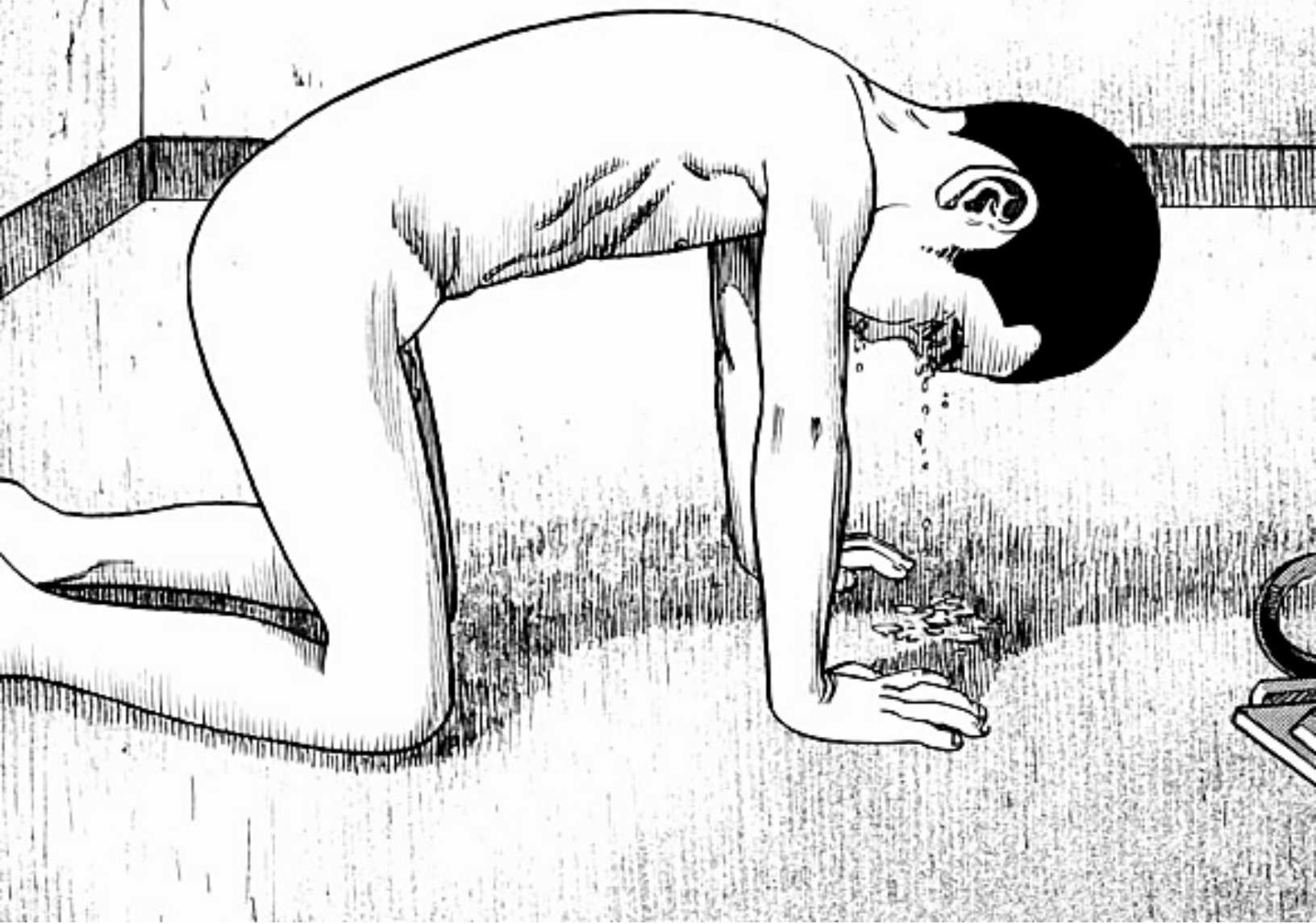
!

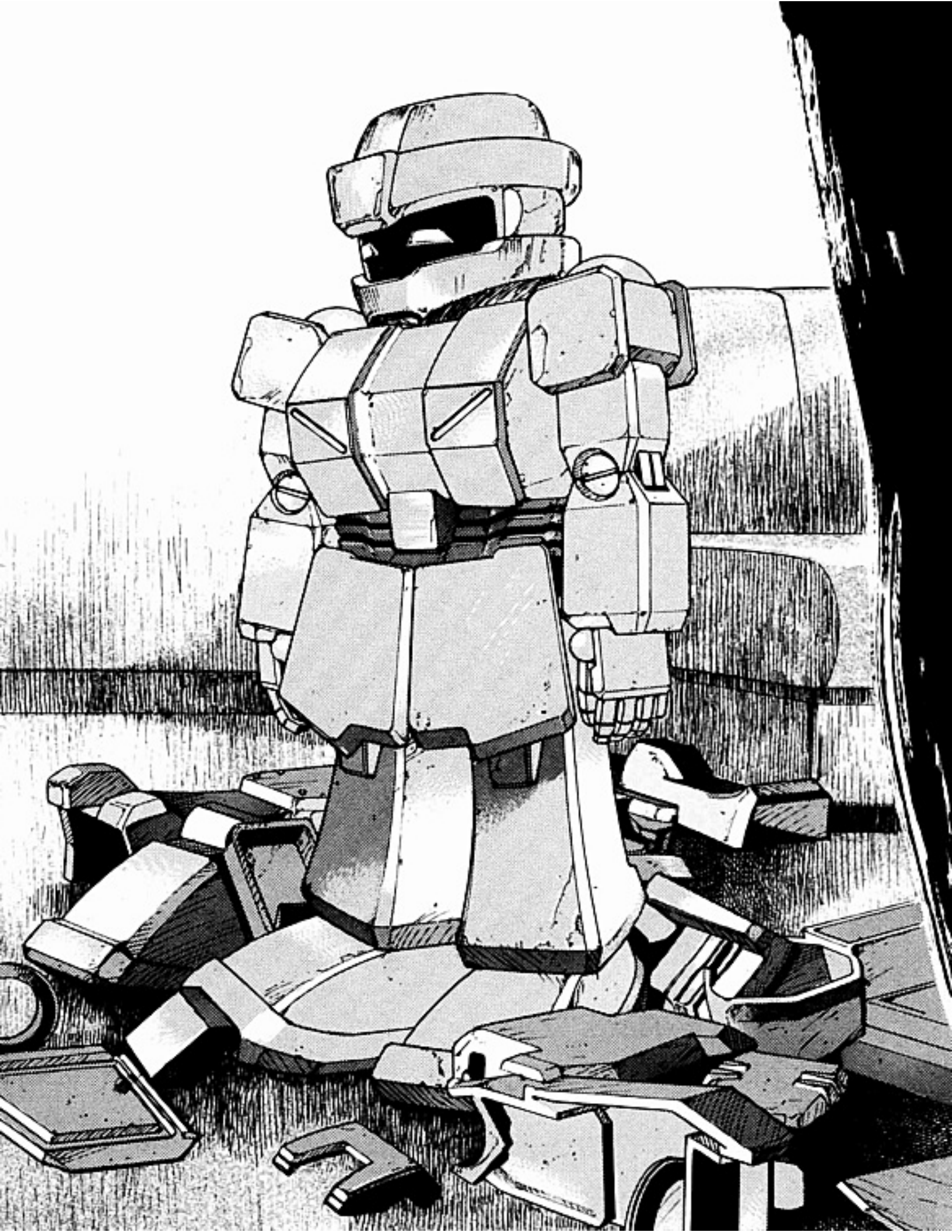




I'M  
SORRY

...



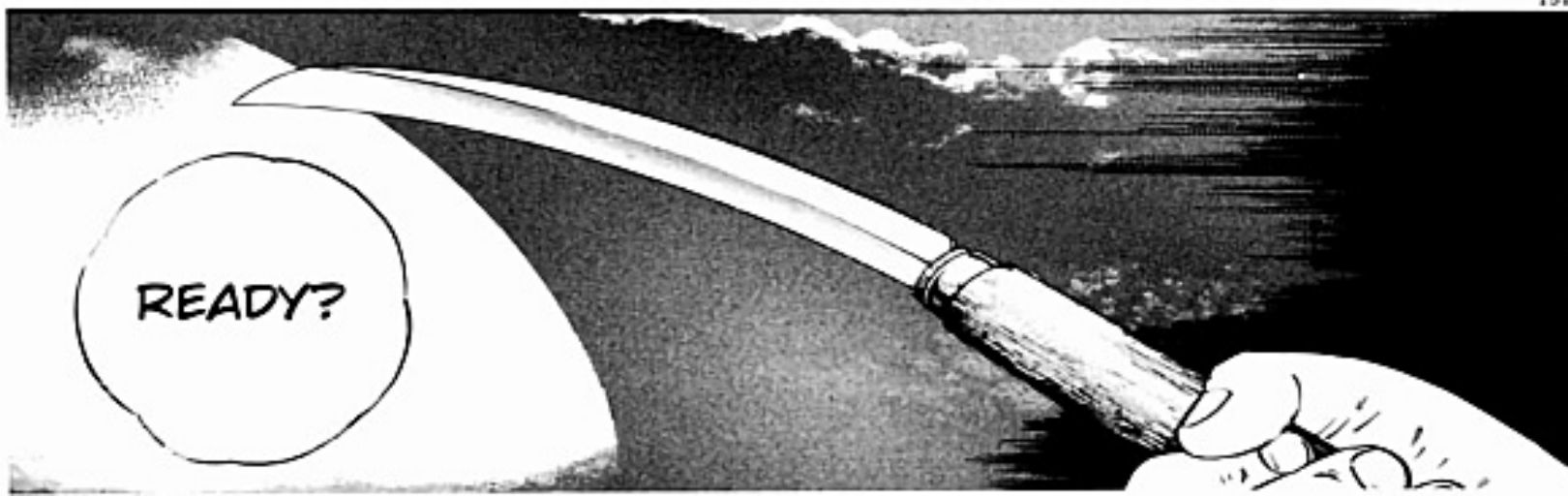
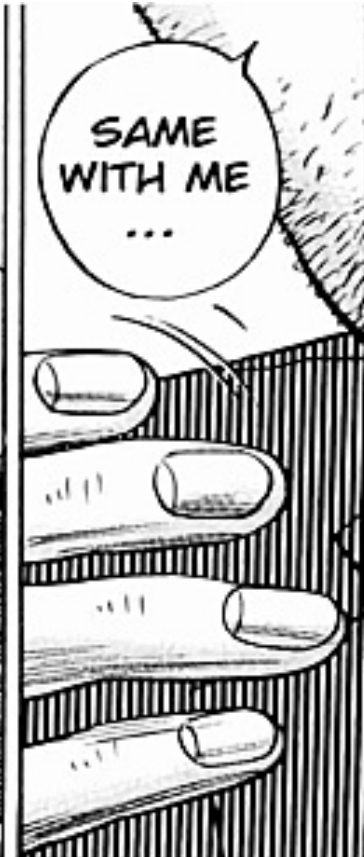


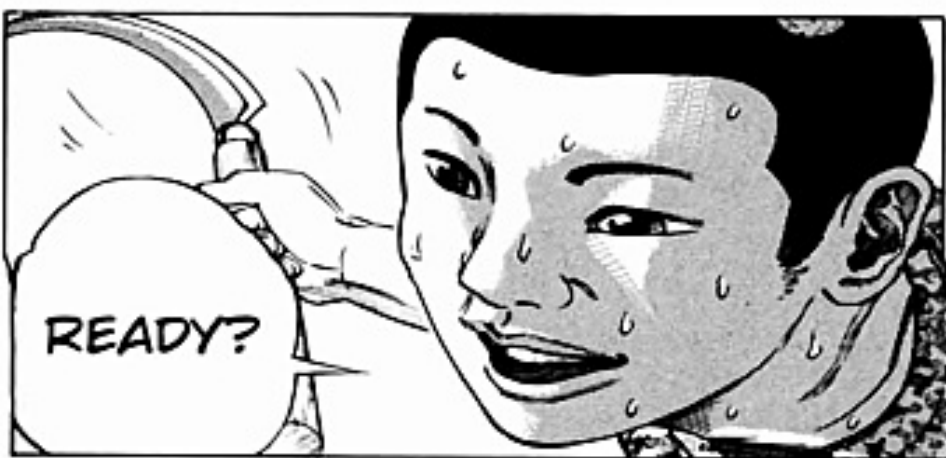




150











I WAS TOO  
SCARED  
TO SAY  
ANYTHING  
...



ALL I  
COULD DO  
WAS RUN  
AWAY...



SOB  
...



REGRET  
AND  
GUILT...

ASSAULTED  
ME, DAY  
AFTER DAY.



SOB  
...



I BELIEVED  
I WAS A MAN  
WHO WAS  
ALLOWED TO  
HURT OTHERS  
...



IN ORDER  
TO ESCAPE  
THOSE  
TERRIBLE  
FEELINGS,



AND I  
USED  
THAT...



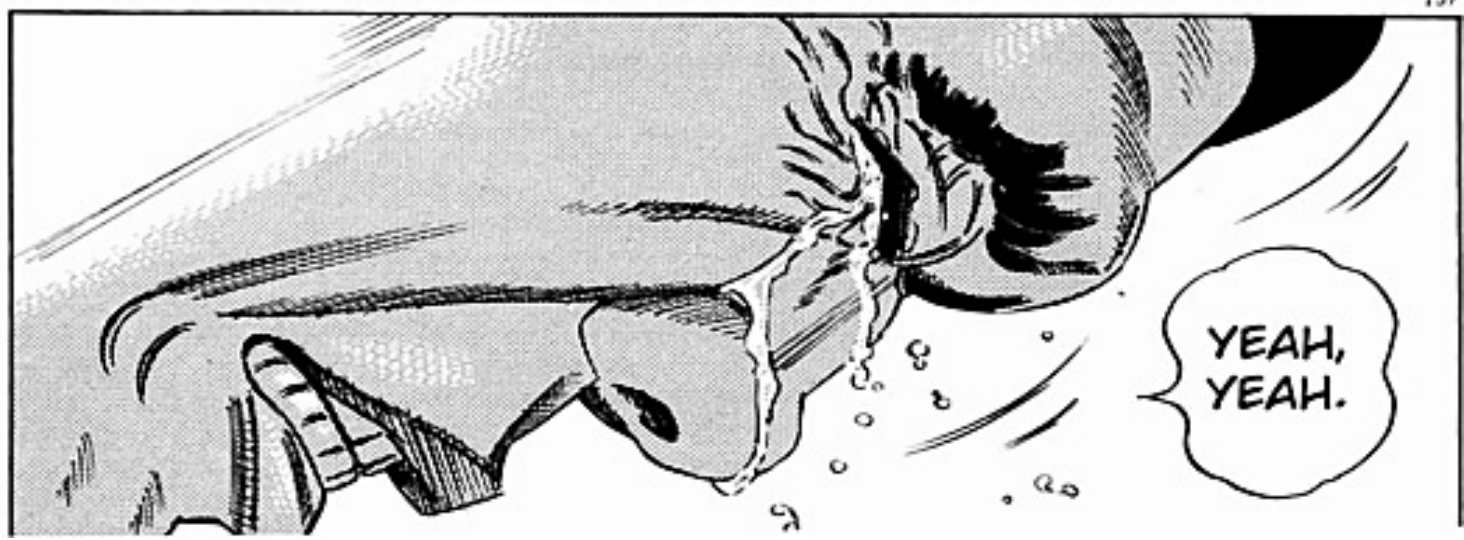
TO  
COVER  
UP THE  
GUILT.

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I'VE HURT  
MANY  
PEOPLE  
SINCE THEN  
...



I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH  
OF  
FRIENDS,  
REGRET,  
AND GUILT.

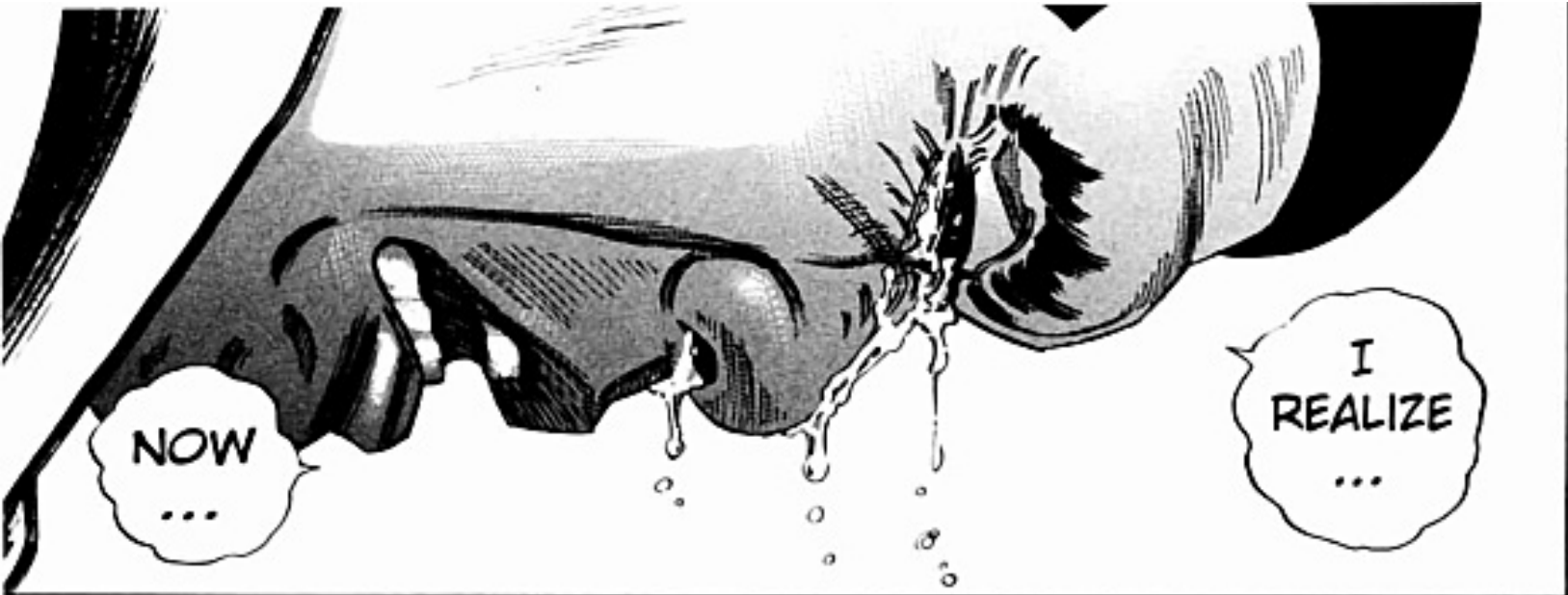


YEAH,  
YEAH.



I SOUGHT  
THIS  
SOLITUDE  
...



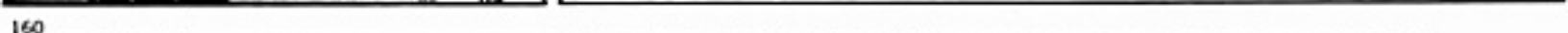




YOU  
MIGHT  
BE  
RIGHT.

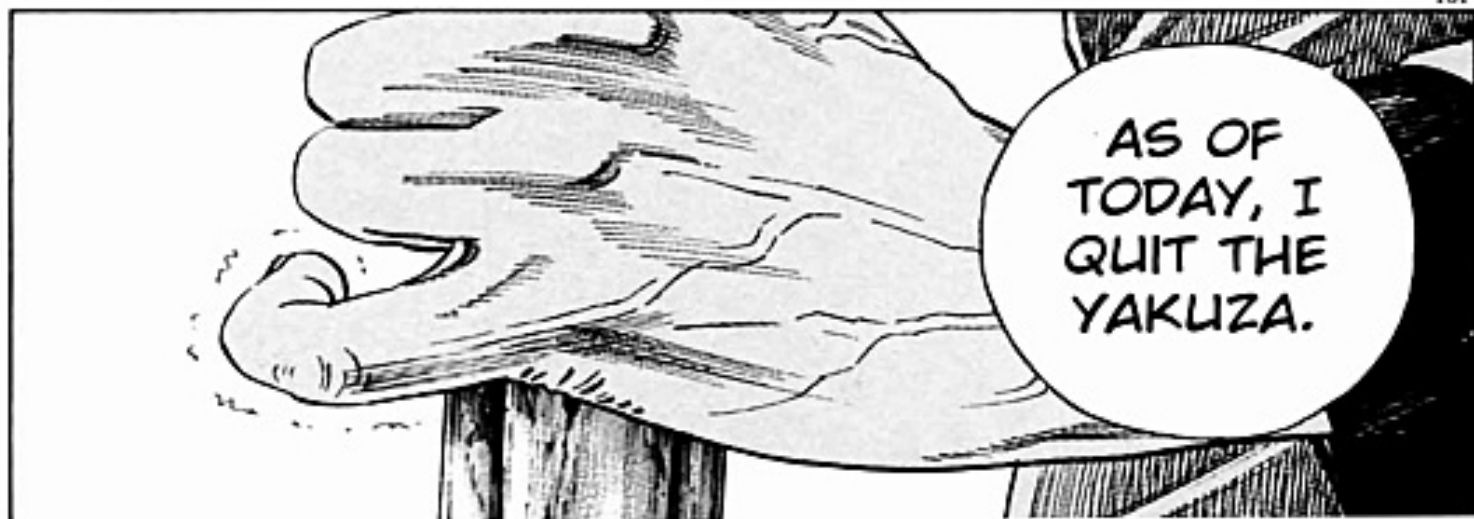


YEAH  
...



BOSS  
!!

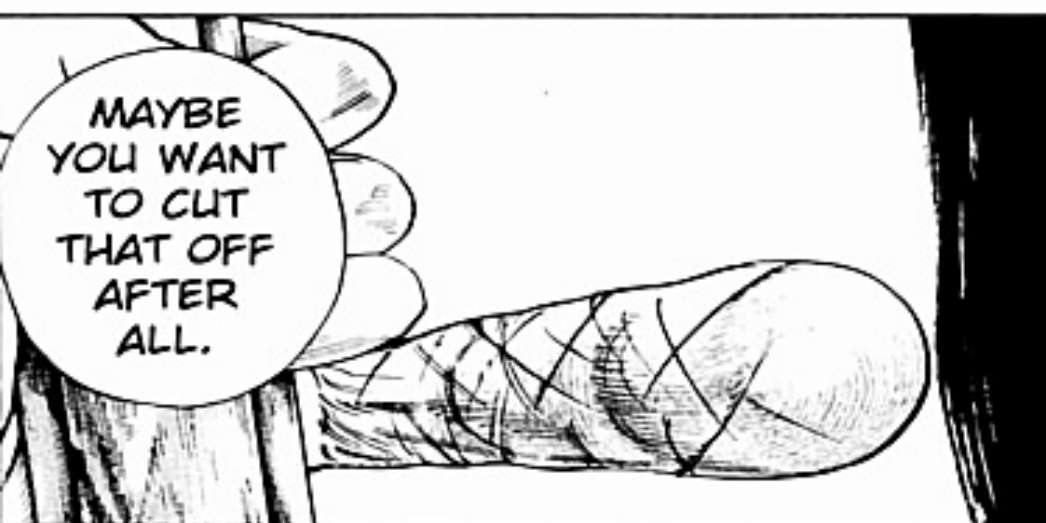
!







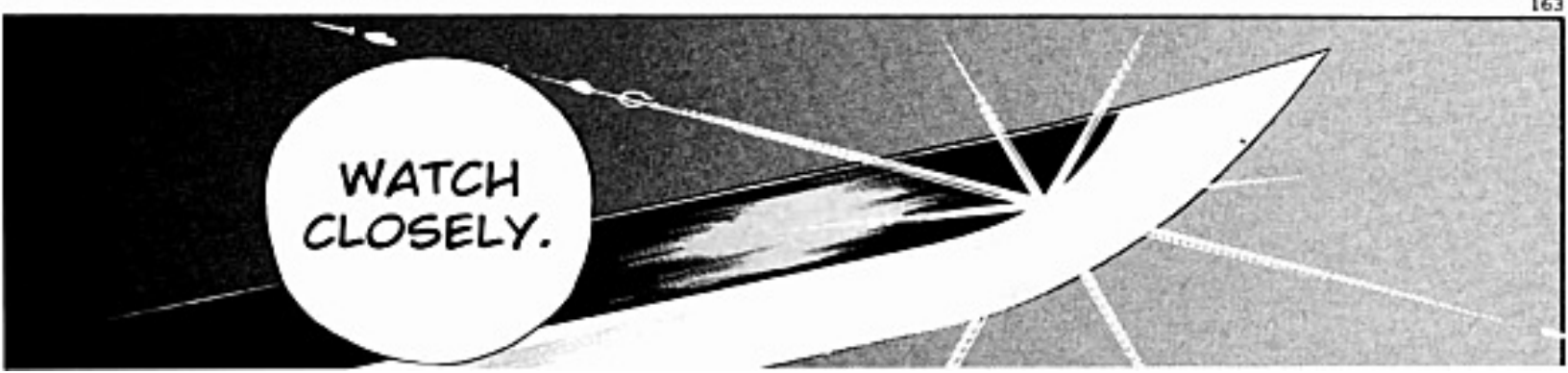
OH...



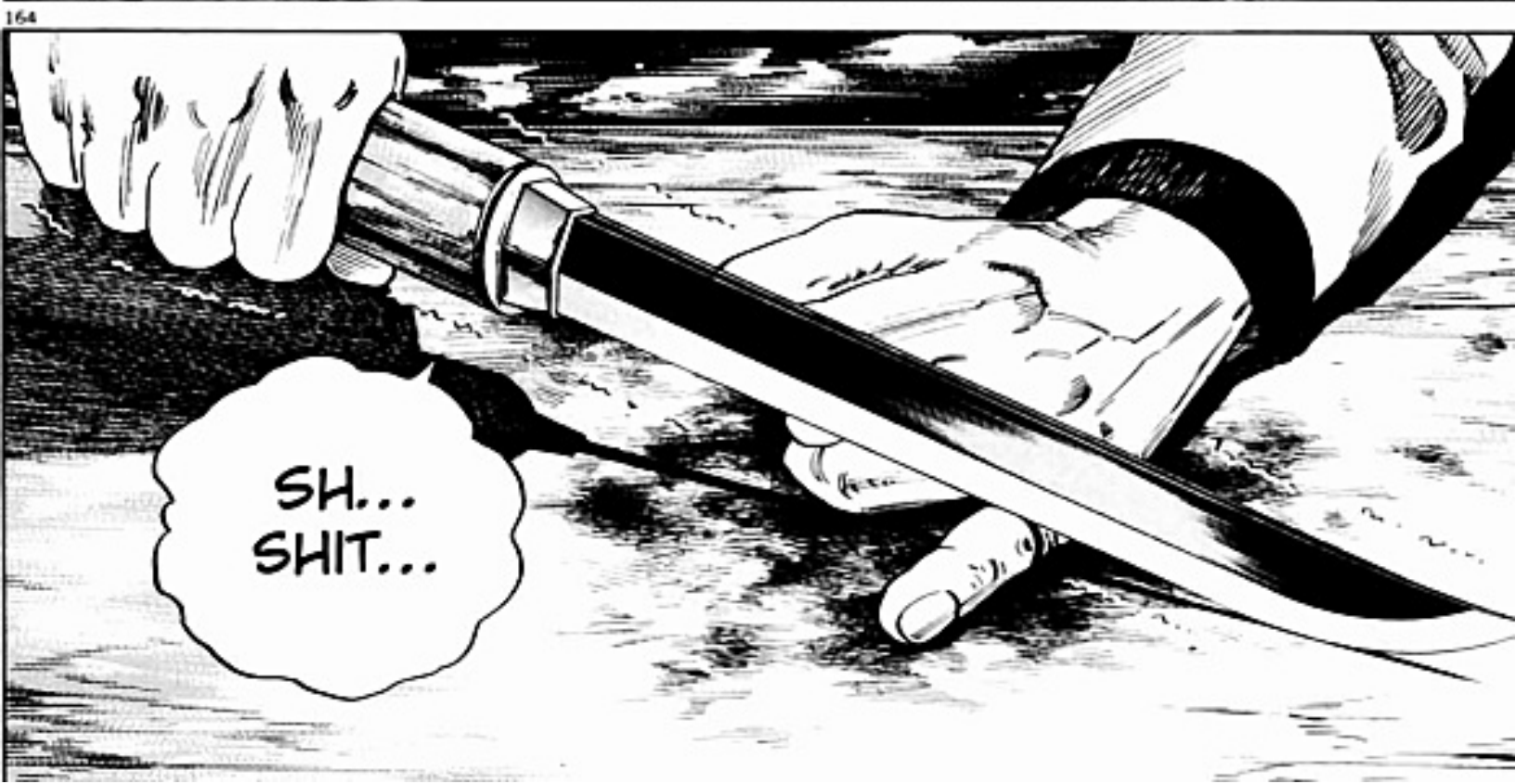
MAYBE  
YOU WANT  
TO CUT  
THAT OFF  
AFTER  
ALL.



ALL OF  
YOU  
WHOSE  
FINGERS I  
TOOK...



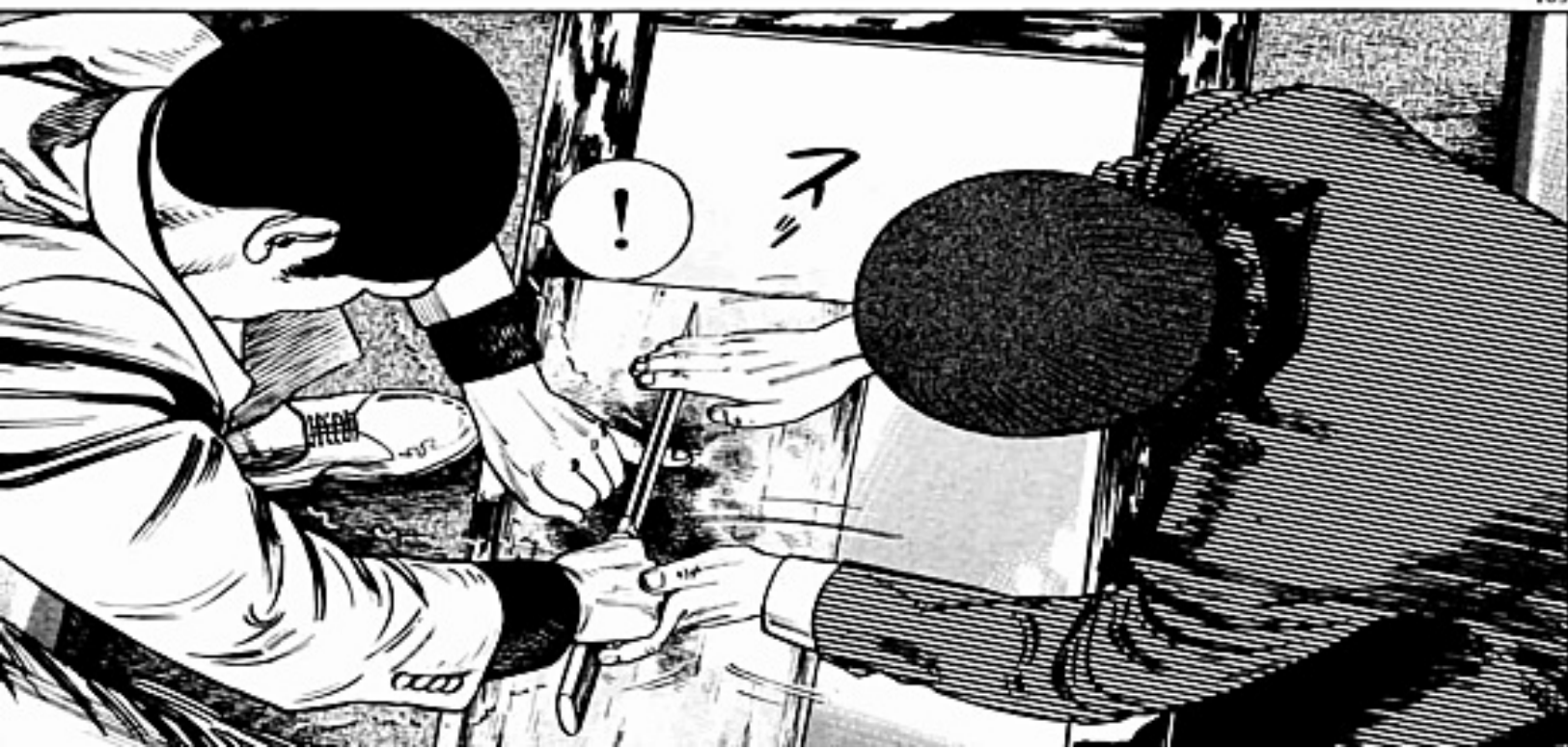
WATCH  
CLOSELY.



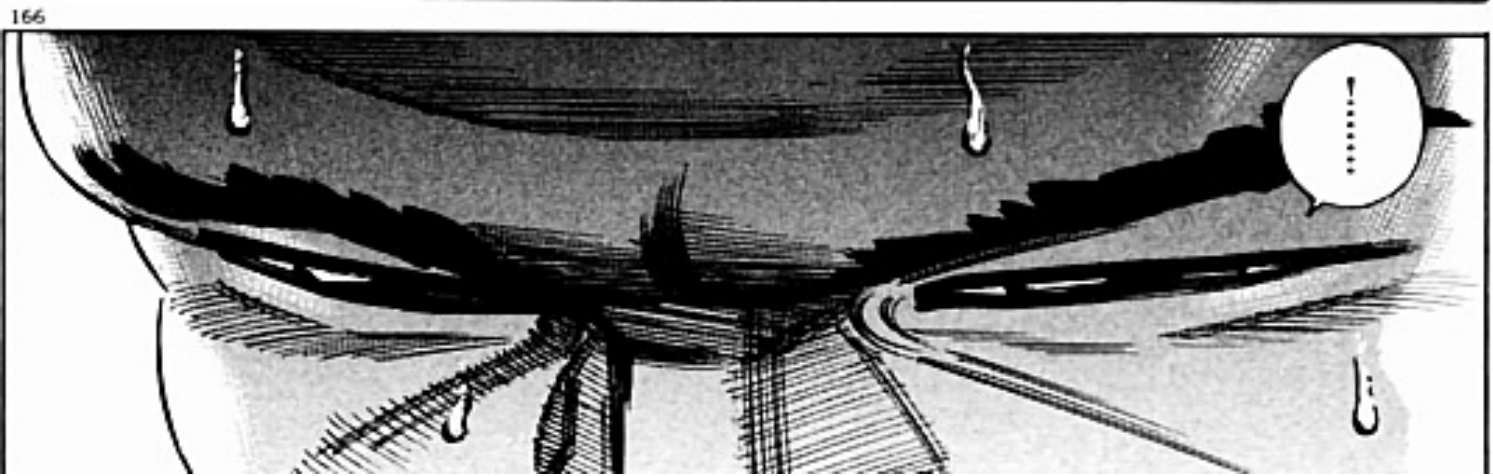
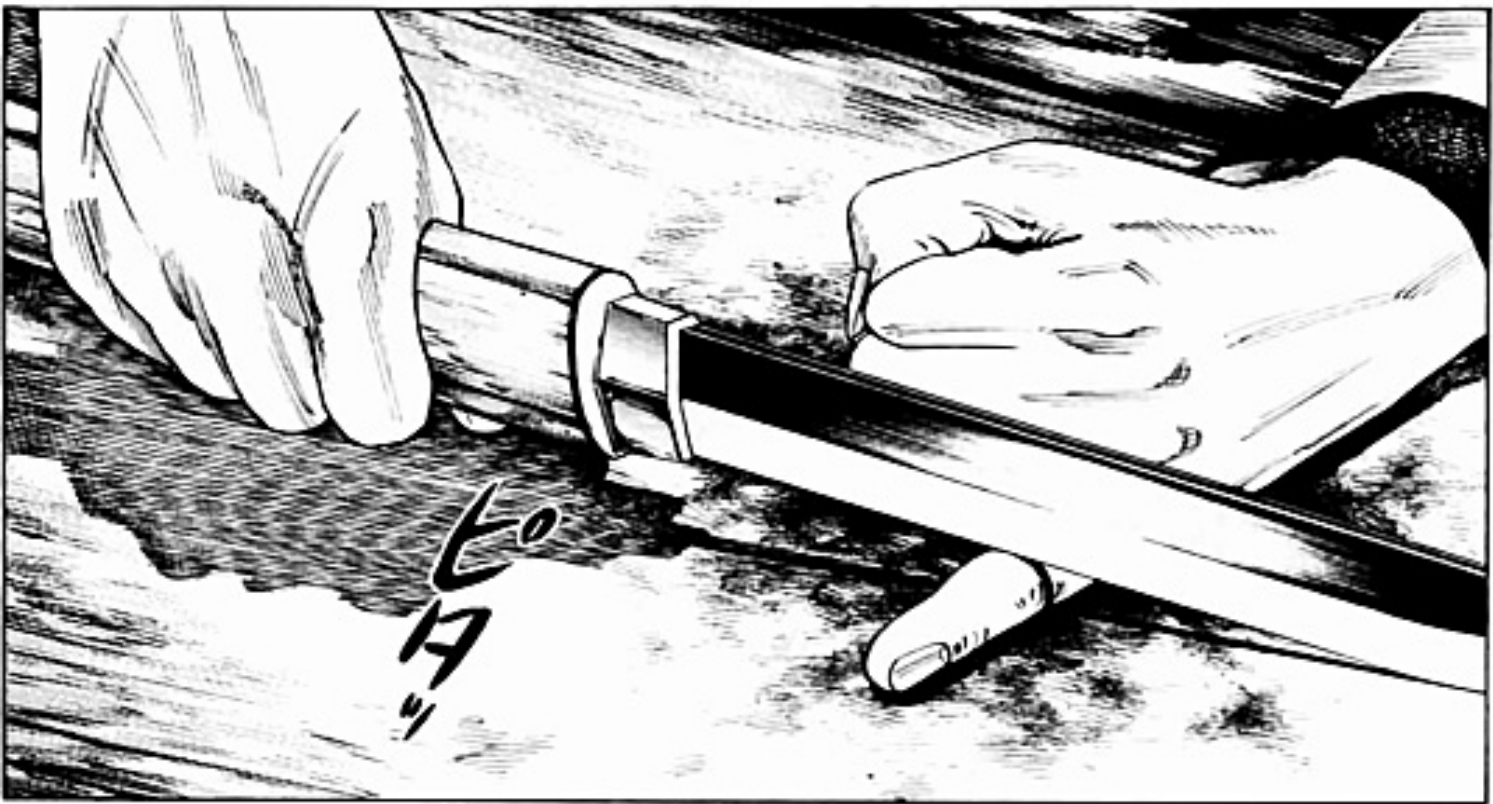


I'M  
TREMBLING  
SO MUCH I  
CAN BARELY  
HOLD THE  
KNIFE...

THIS IS  
PATHETIC  
...





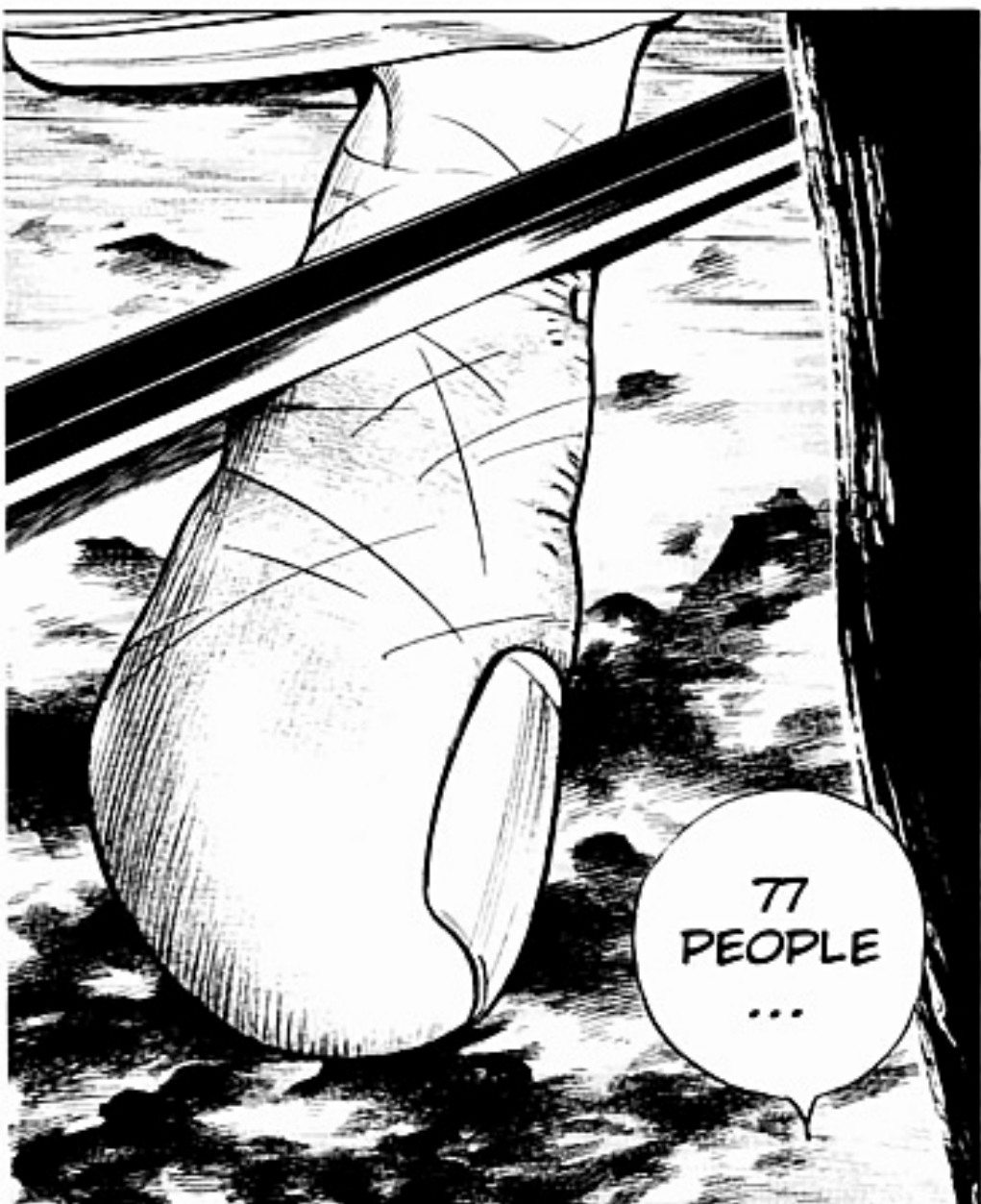




AND THE  
LAST  
ONE IS  
MY OWN  
...



THE  
77TH  
...



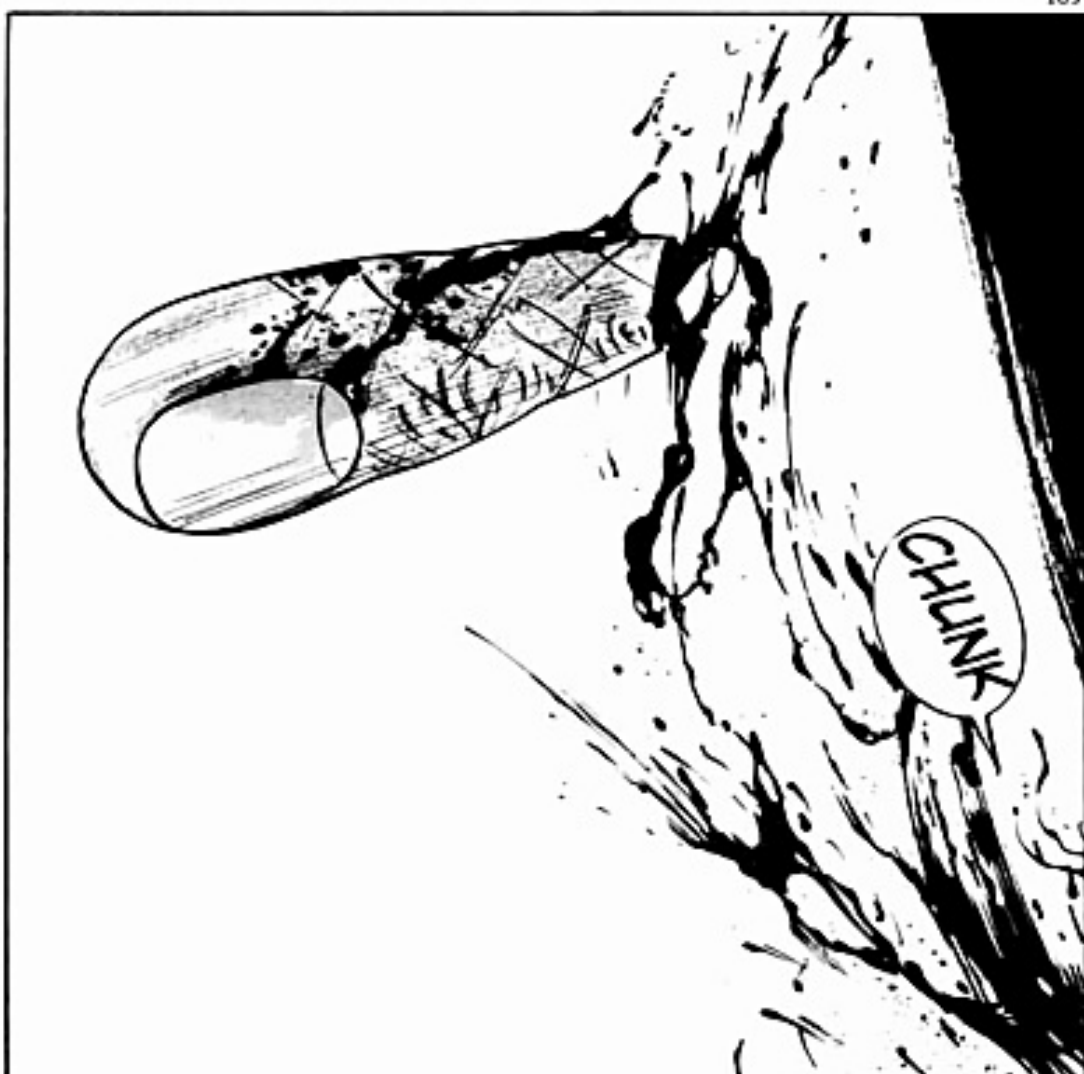
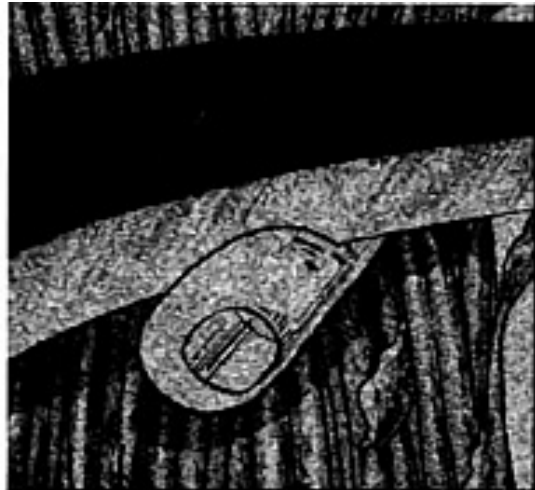
77  
PEOPLE  
...





YOU'VE  
SUFFERED  
ENOUGH.





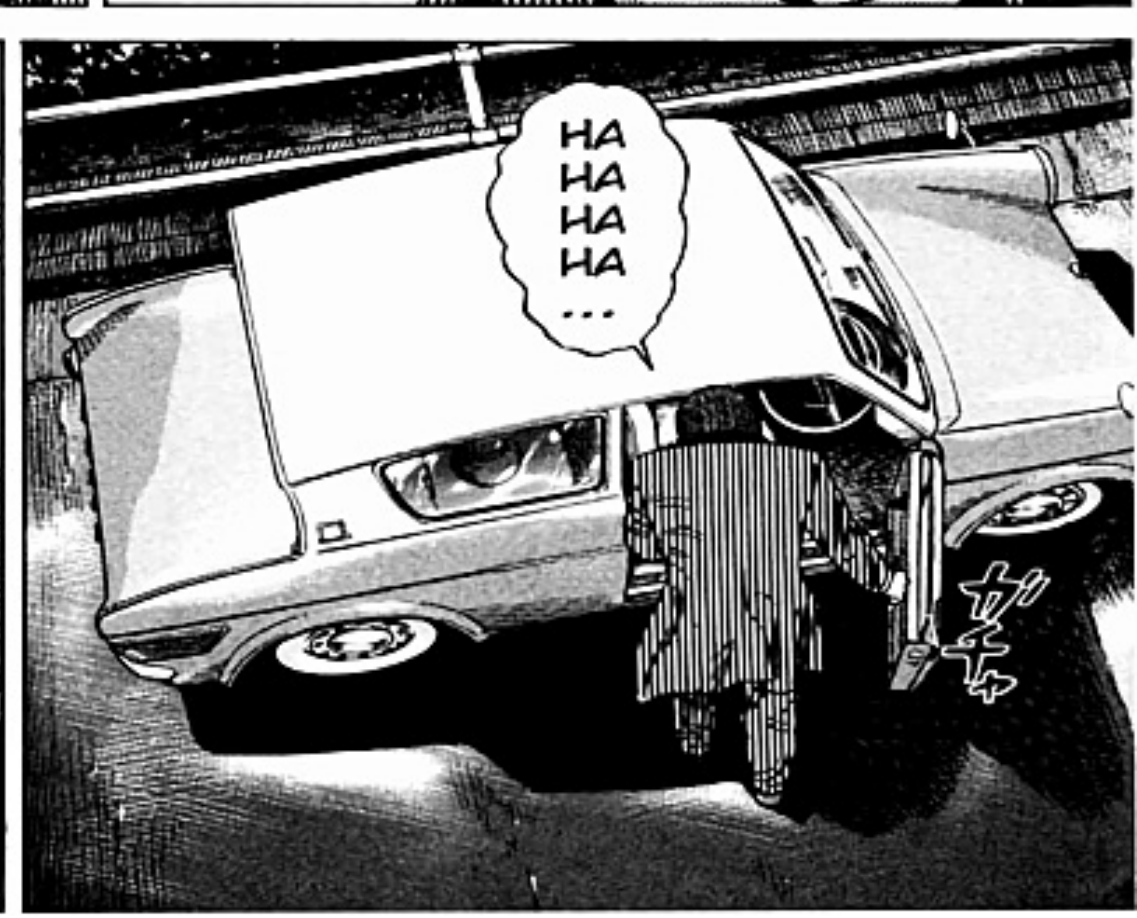


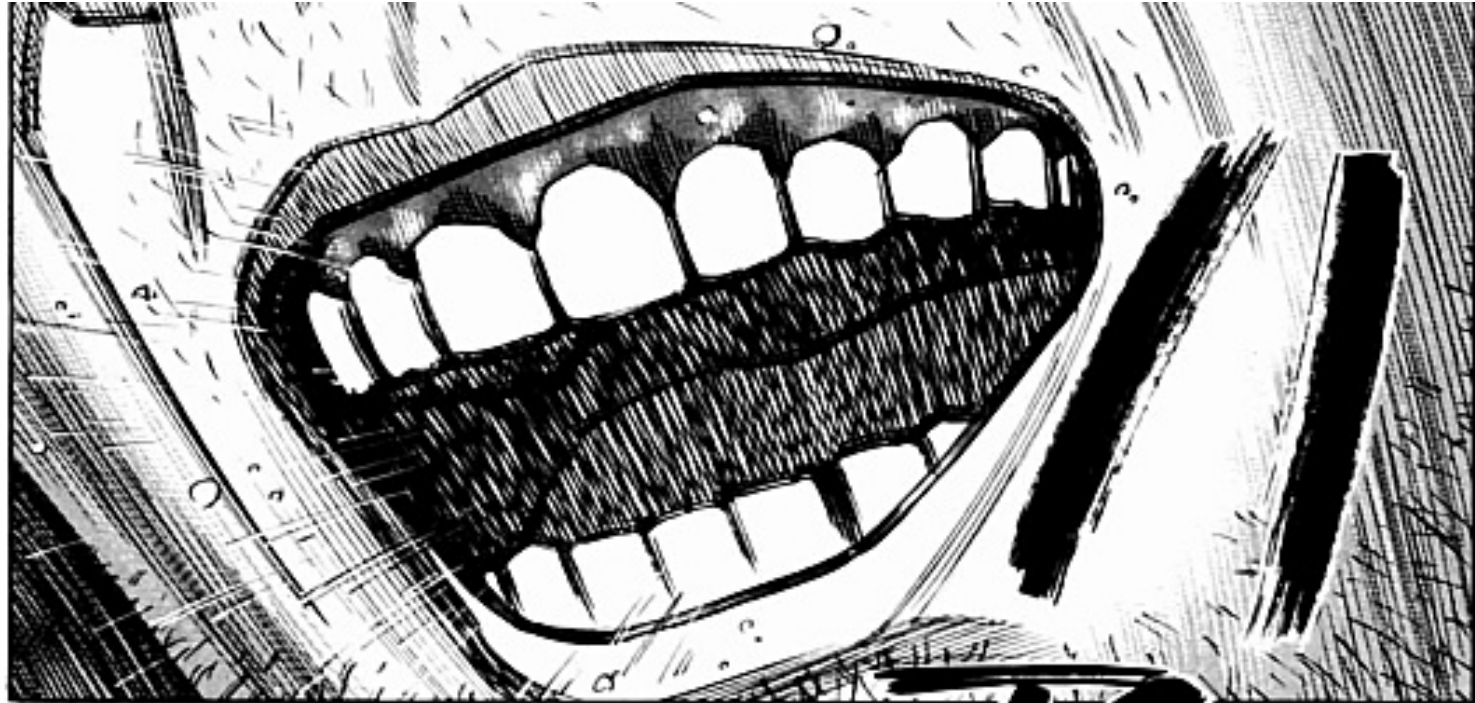














HE BECAME A  
YAKUZA, ALL  
BECAUSE OF A  
PUNY LITTLE  
BIT OF GUILT?!

HOLY SHIT,  
THAT GUY  
WAS  
HILARIOUS!



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FUCKIN'  
LAUGH  
RIOT.



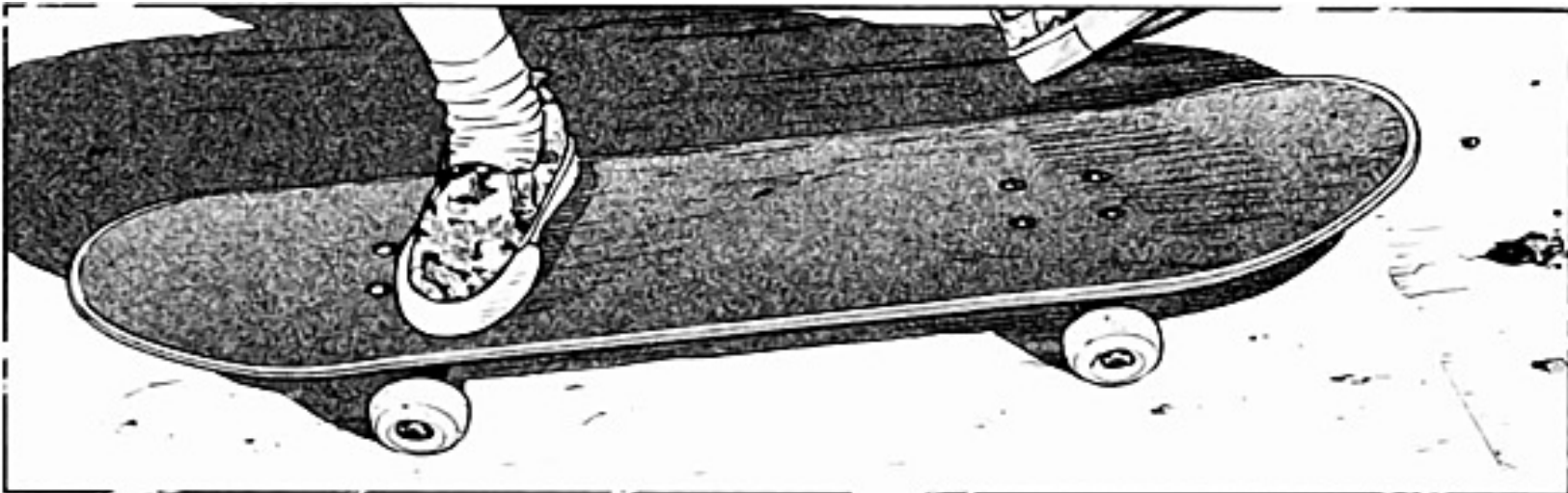


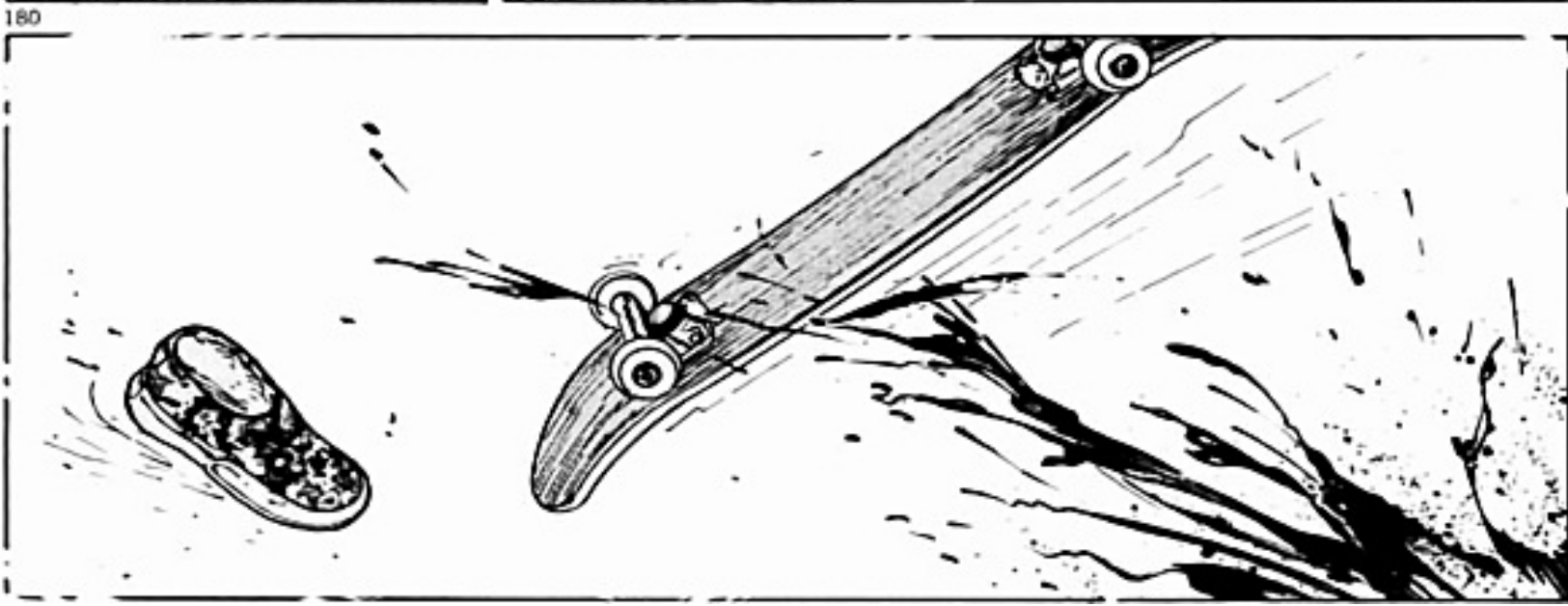
WH...

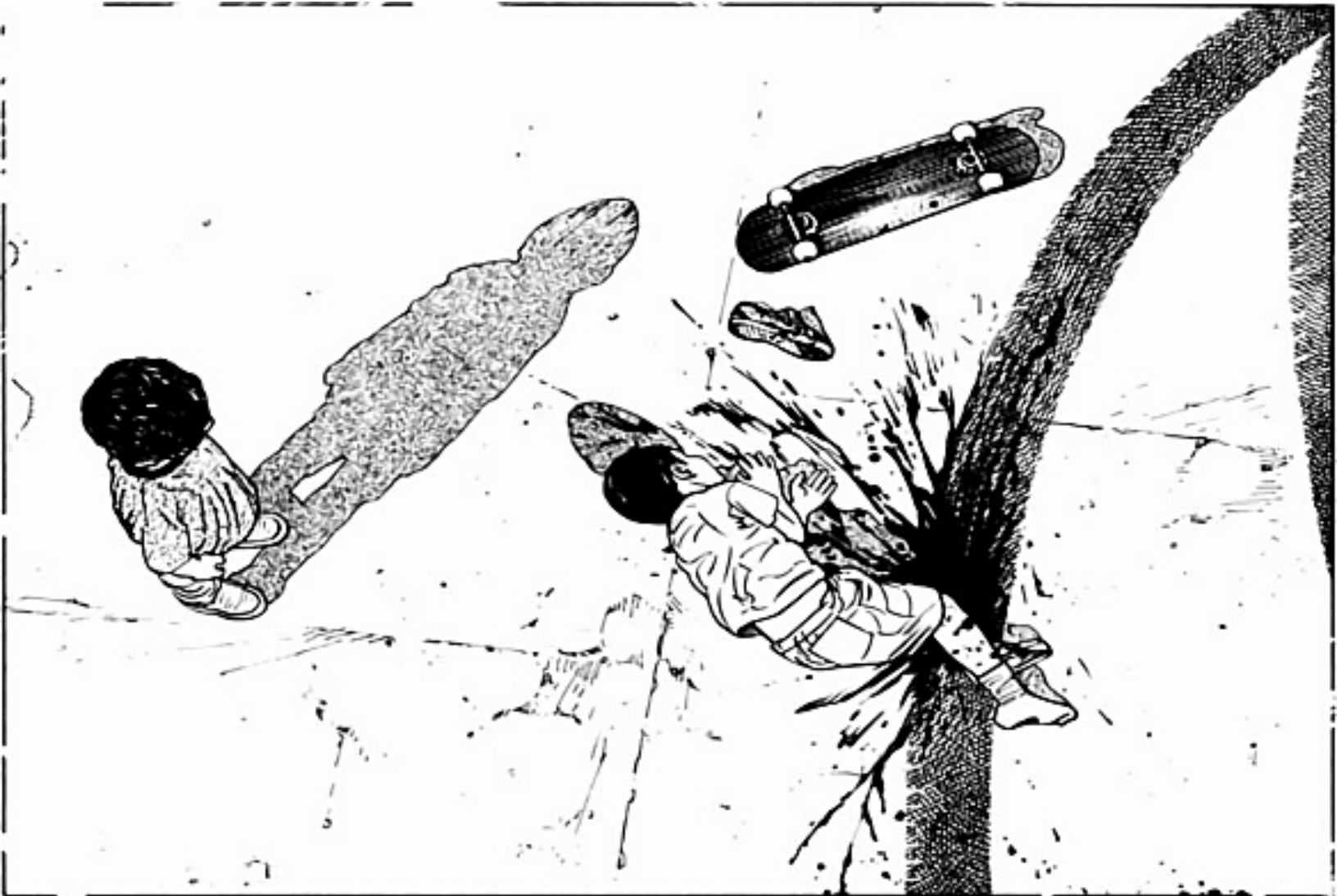
WHAT  
THE  
HELL  
...?



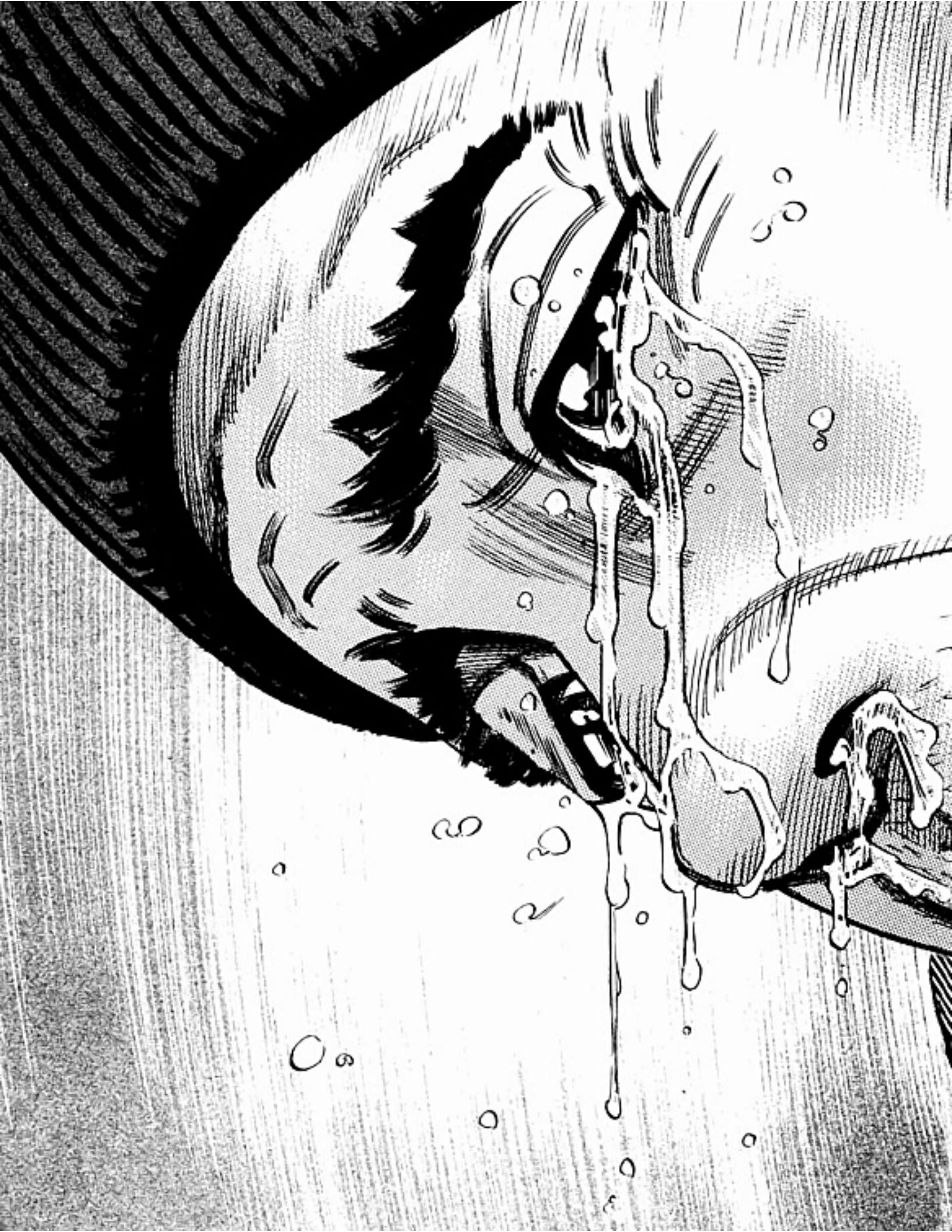
HNNG  
...

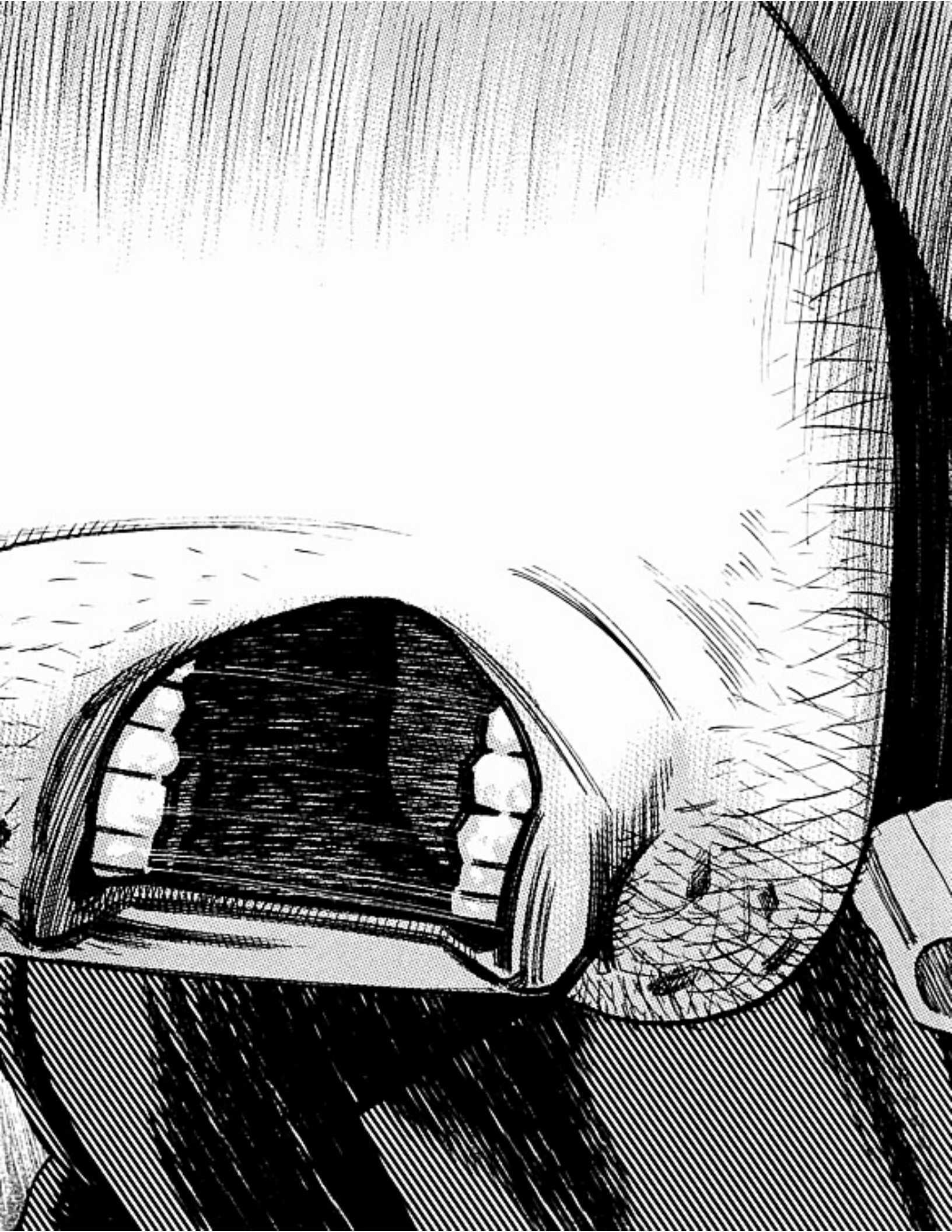




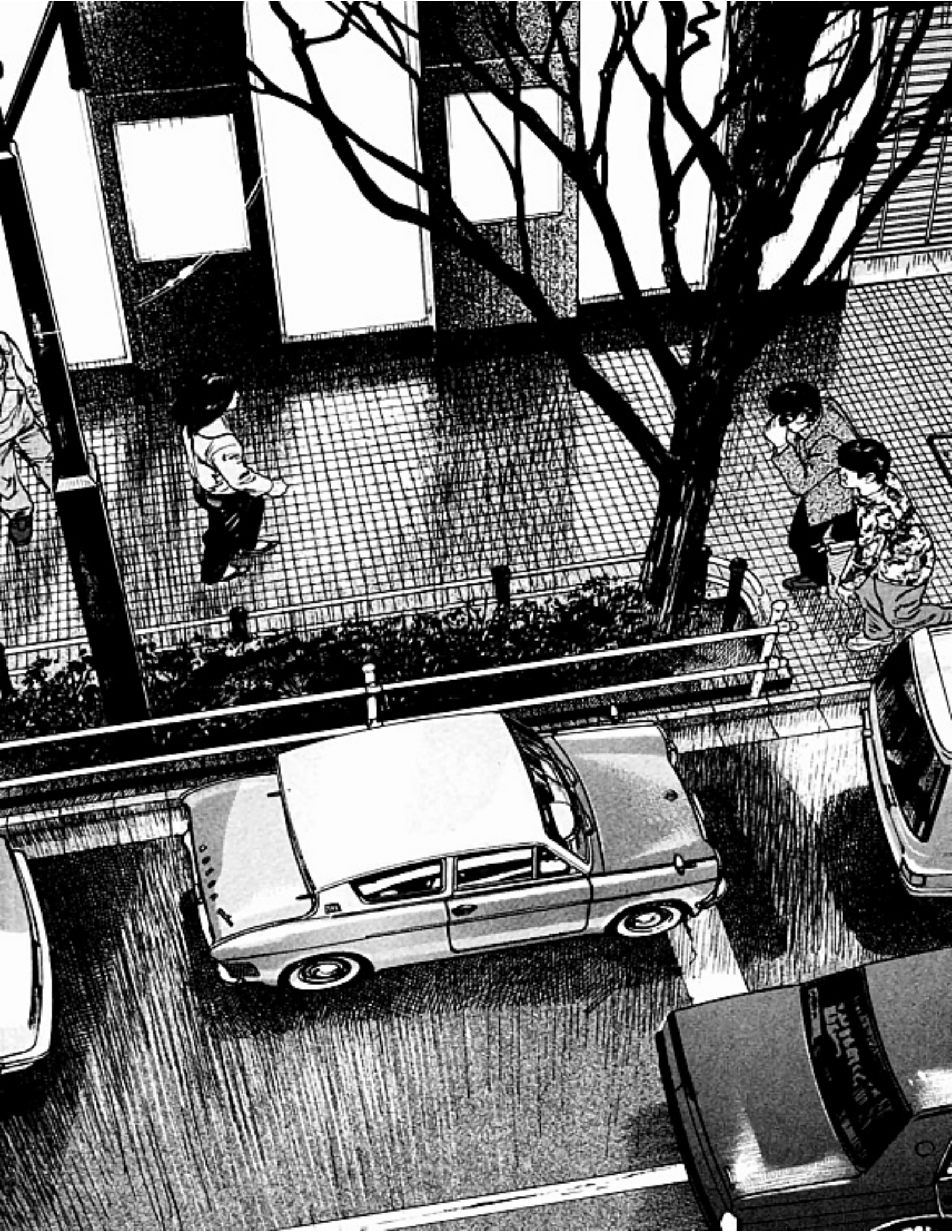


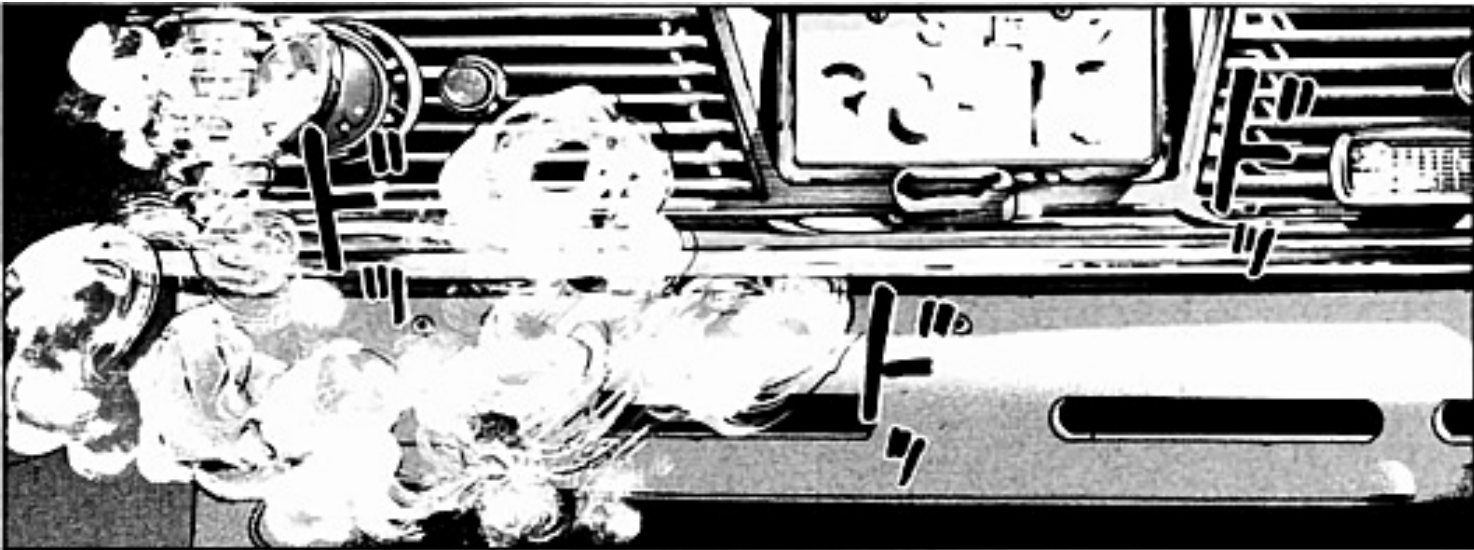












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I'M  
SORRY

...







HOMUNCULUS

HIDEO YAMAMOTO