

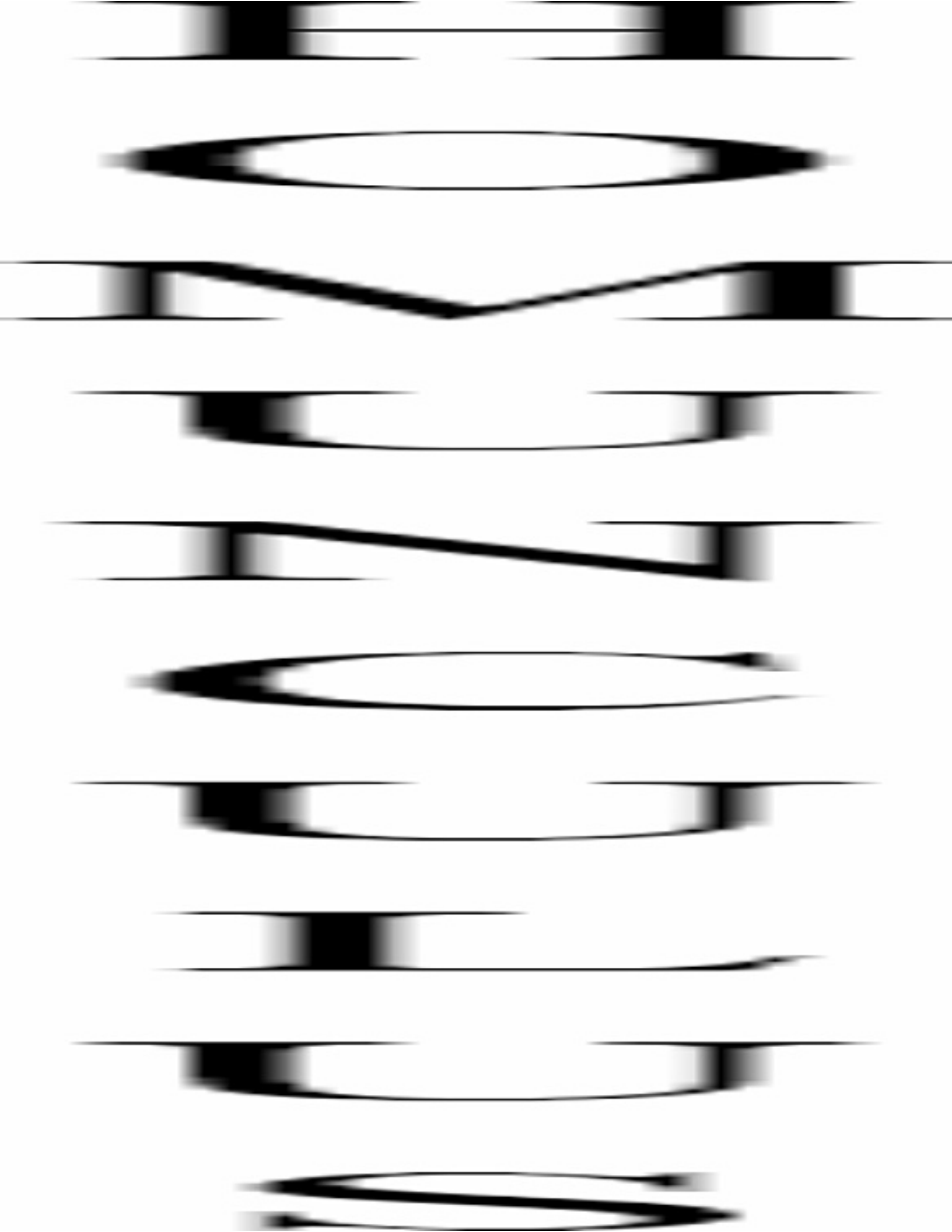
H O M U N C U L U S

ホ ム ン ク ル ス



10

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











WELCOME,  
MR. NAKOSHI.

HELLO.



!

EXCUSE  
ME.



IS THIS THE  
WINE YOU  
DESIRED?

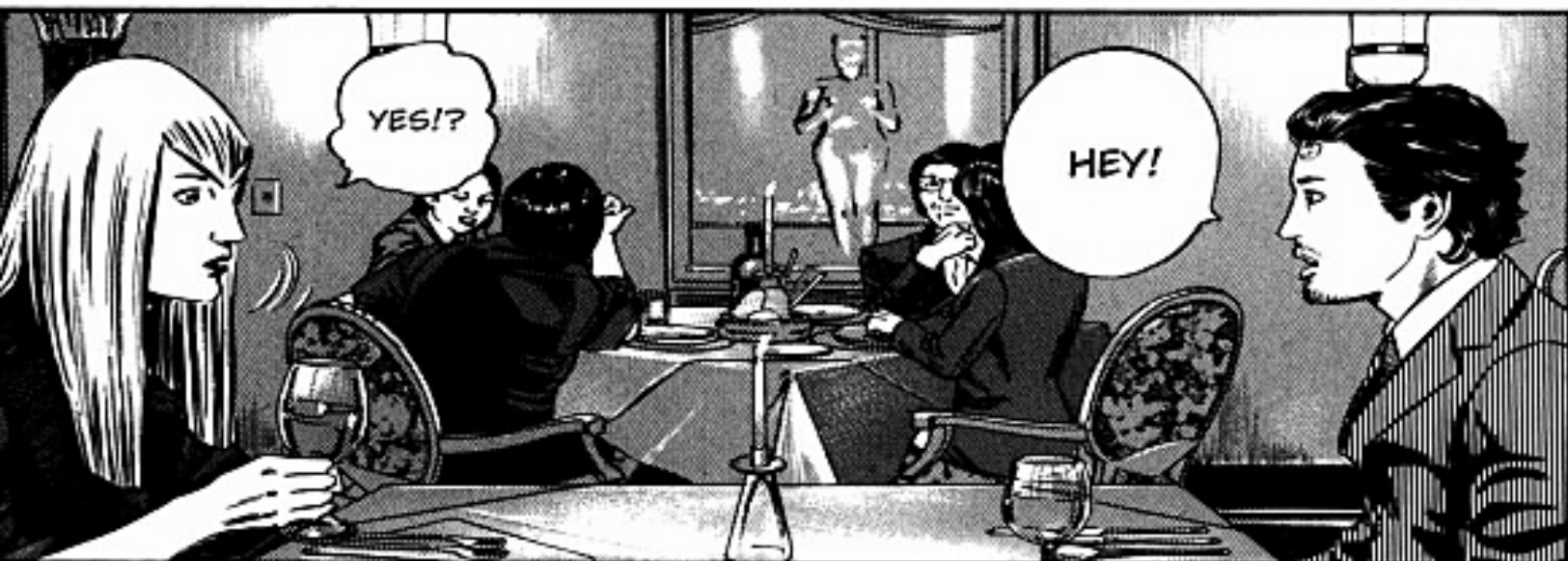
YES.

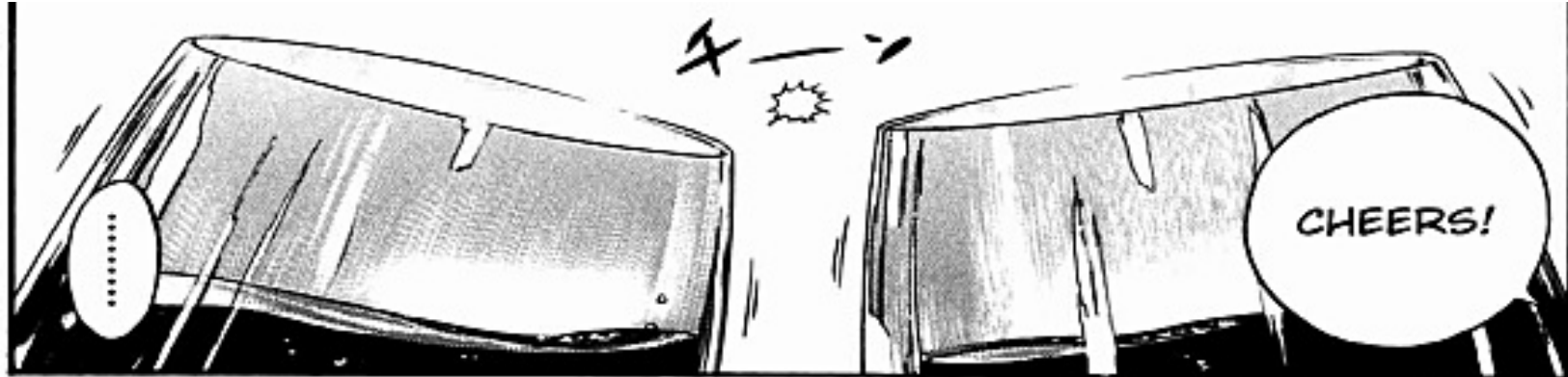


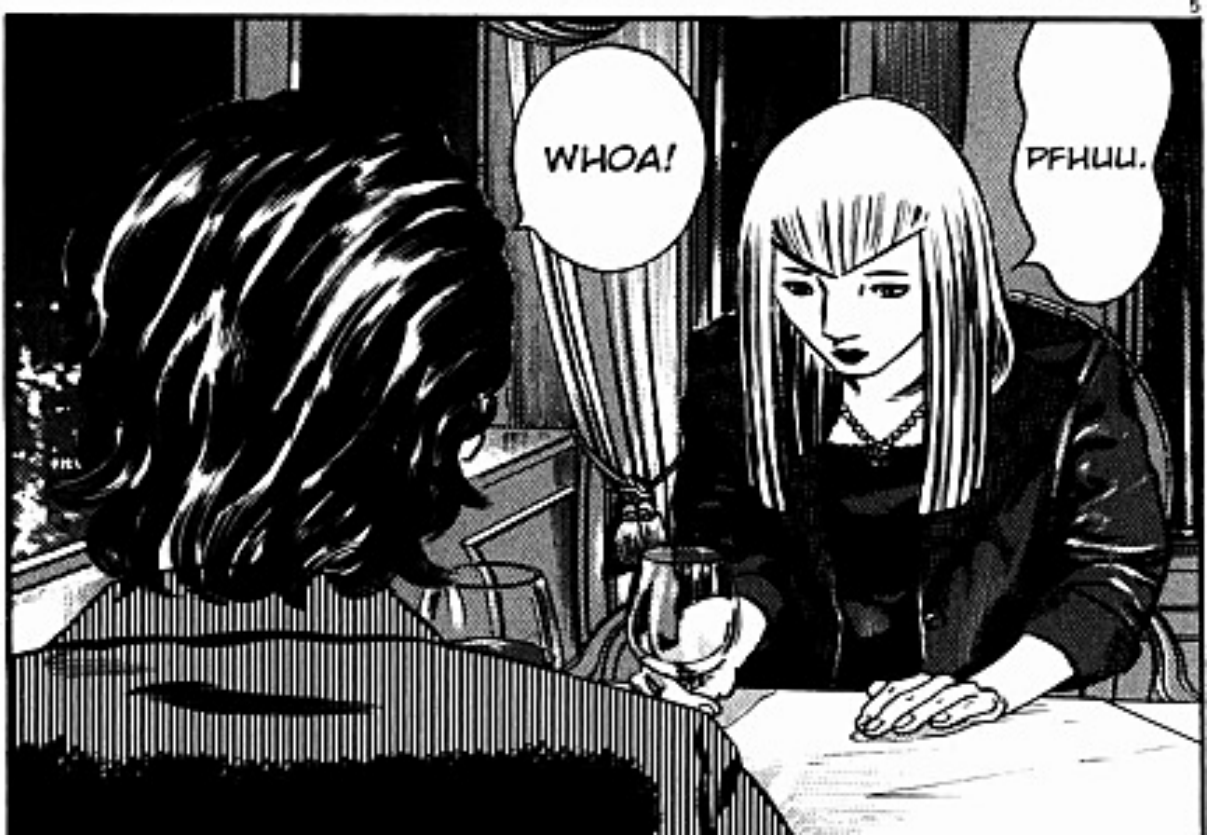
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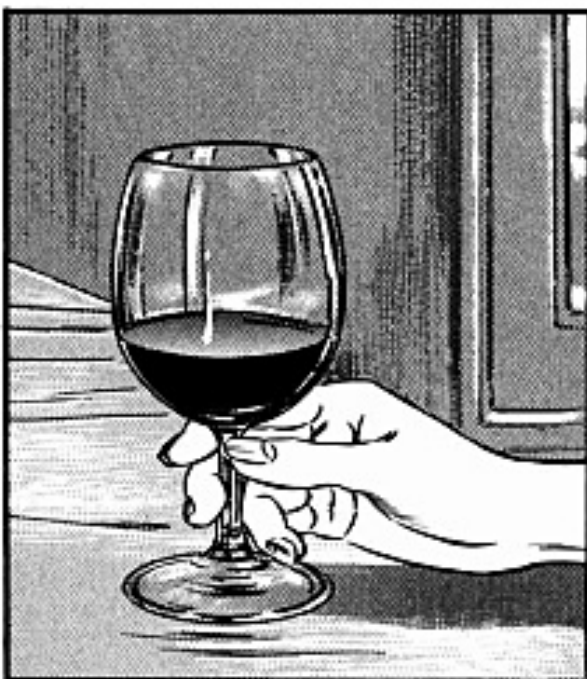
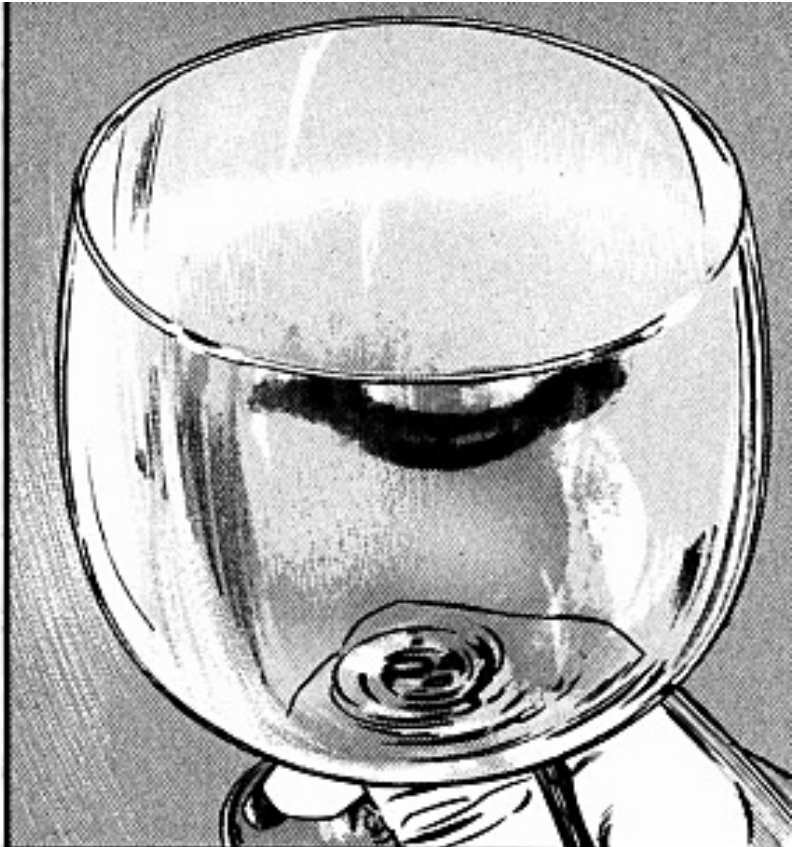
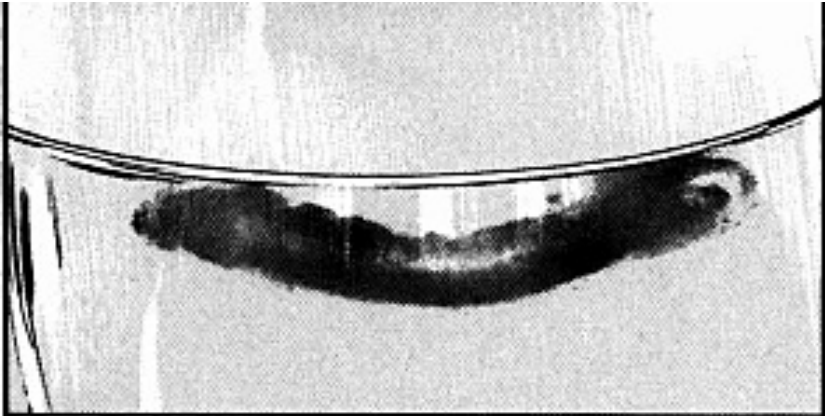


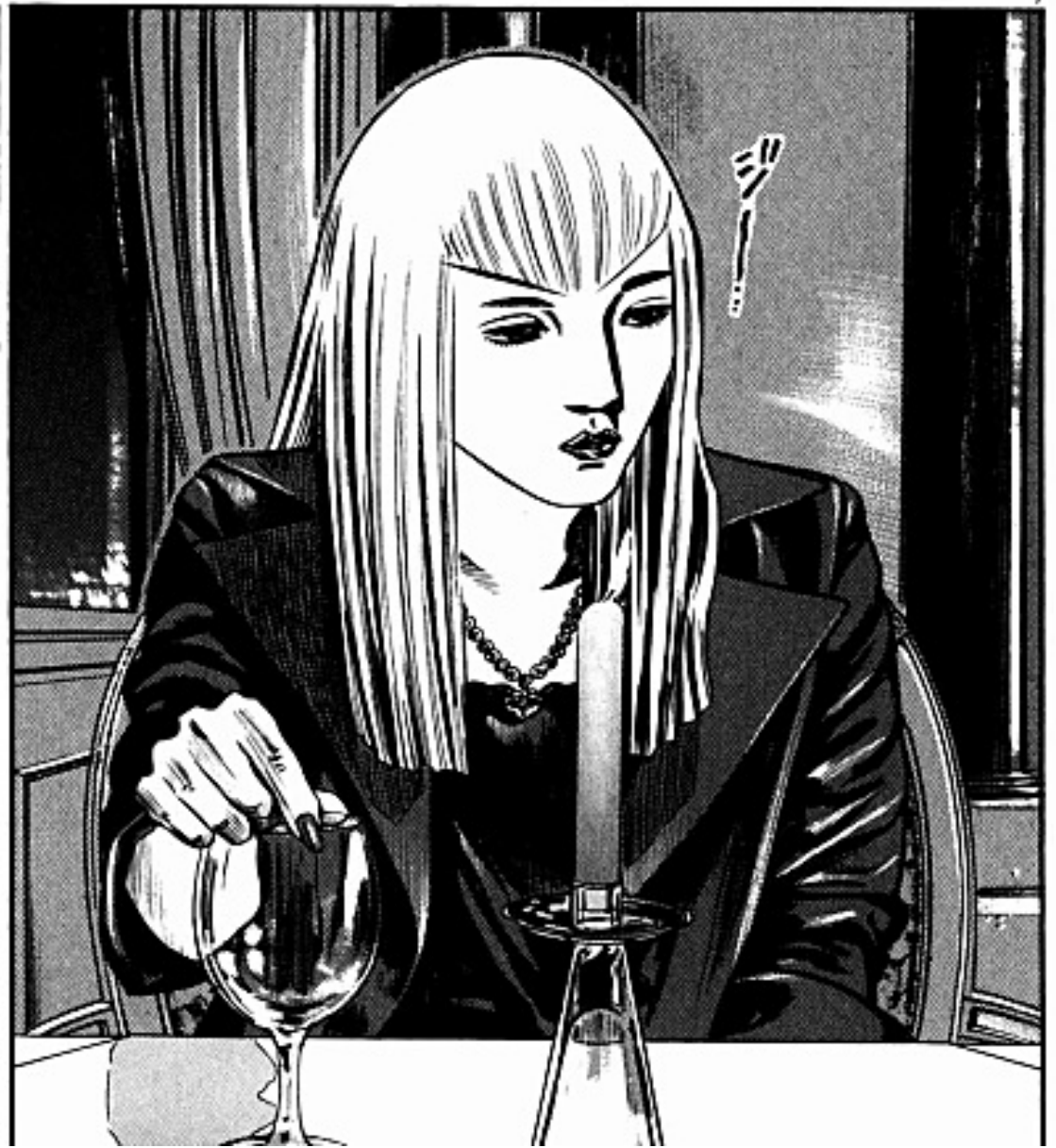




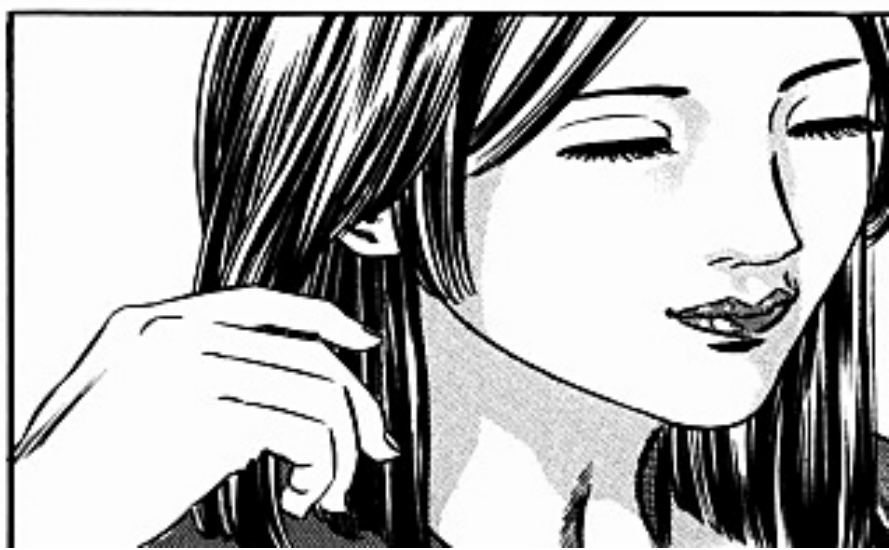
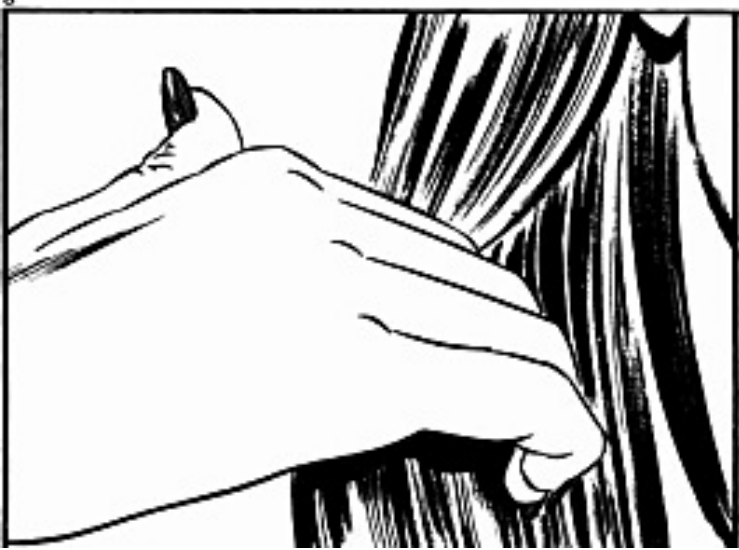
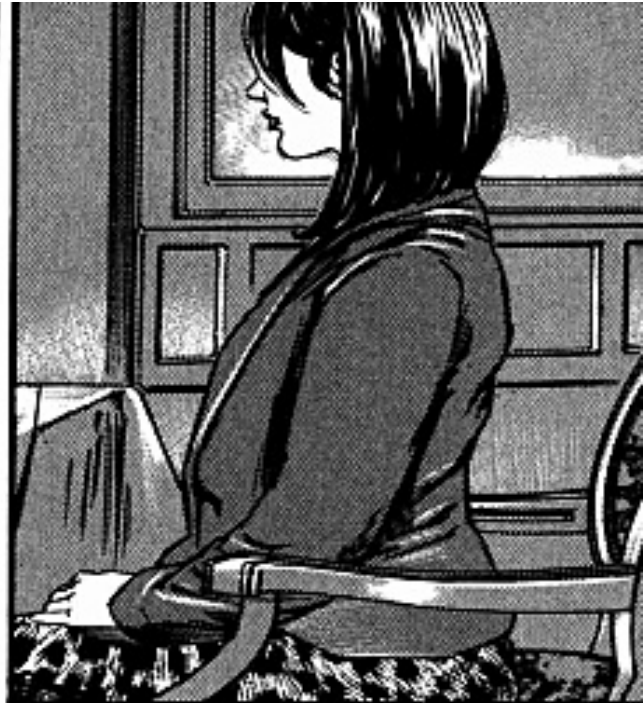
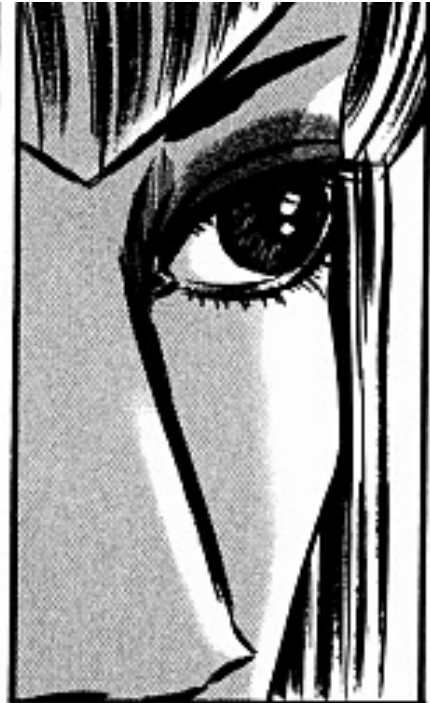


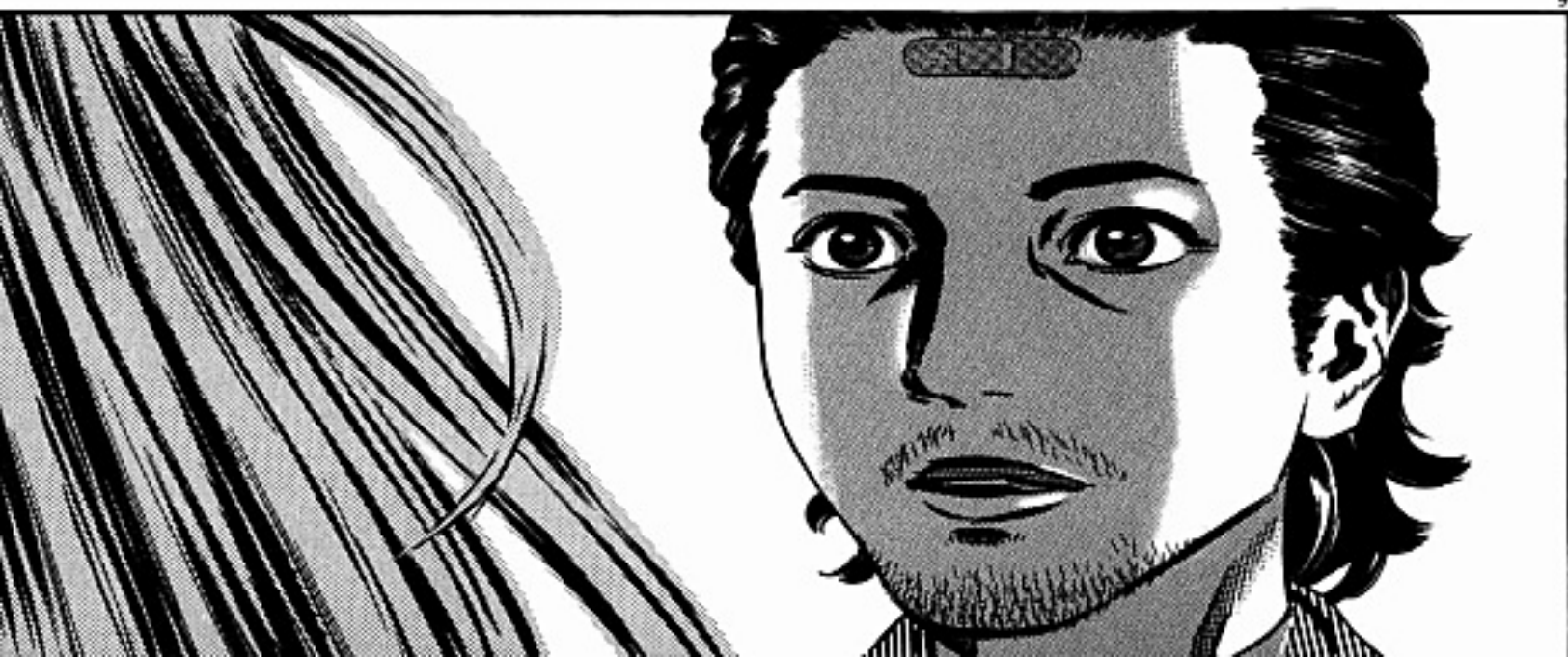


















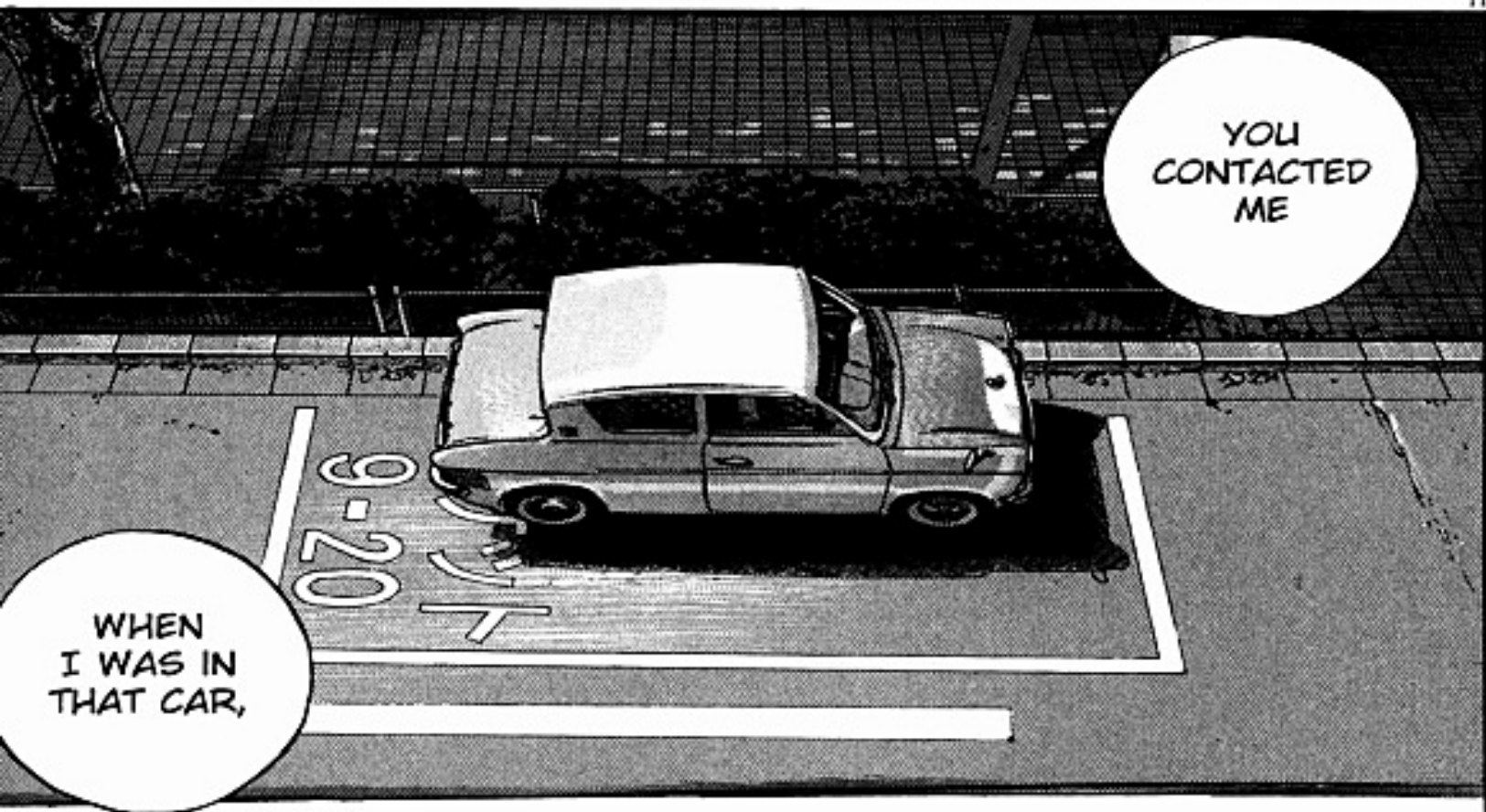
!

THAT'S  
WHERE  
EVERYTHING  
STARTED.



NOR RETURN  
BACK TO THIS  
HOTEL.

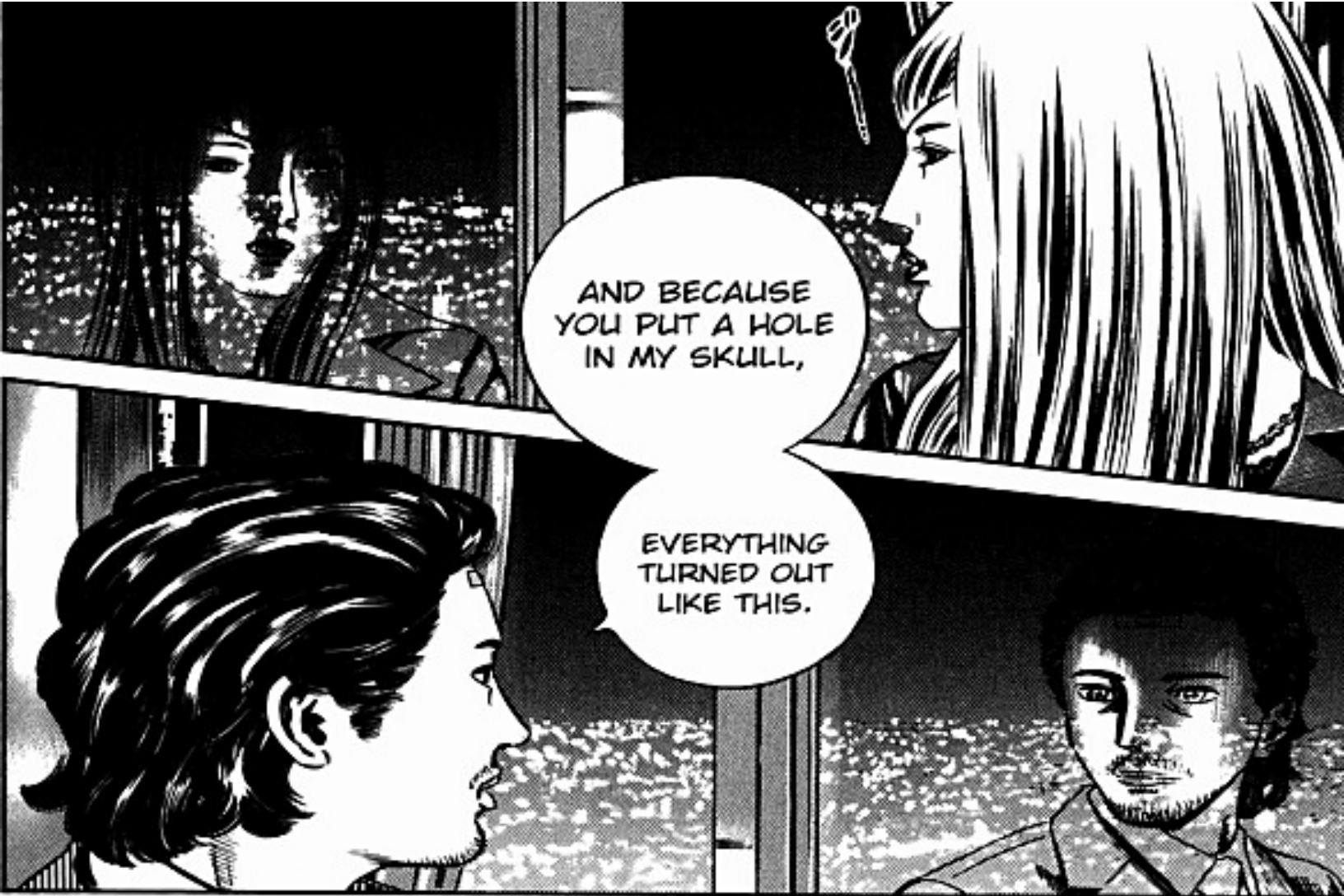
I WAS  
UNABLE TO  
ENTER THAT  
PITCH BLACK  
PARK,



WHEN  
I WAS IN  
THAT CAR,

YOU  
CONTACTED  
ME





AND BECAUSE  
YOU PUT A HOLE  
IN MY SKULL,

EVERYTHING  
TURNED OUT  
LIKE THIS.





HUH?



I KNEW IT...  
SPLIT-ENDS...



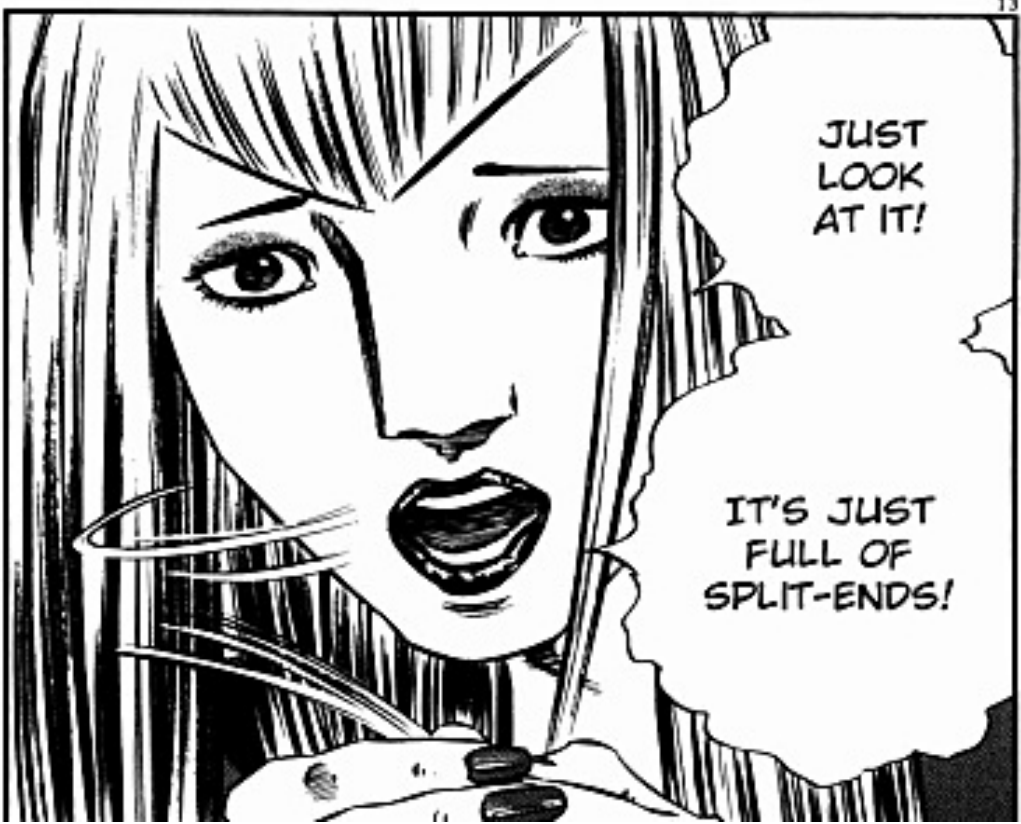
WHAT!?

WHY DID  
YOU CHOOSE  
THIS WIG~?

MR.  
NAKOSHI,



.....



JUST  
LOOK  
AT IT!

IT'S JUST  
FULL OF  
SPLIT-ENDS!



THAT'S WHY  
EVERYONE  
IS LOOKING  
AT ME...

COULDN'T YOU  
HAVE PICKED  
ONE WITHOUT  
AS MANY  
SPLIT-ENDS!?



HONEST-  
LY...

YOU  
HAVE NO  
TASTE-



HUH?



AVOID  
PEOPLE  
"LOOKING  
AT YOU"  
SO MUCH?

WHY  
DO YOU





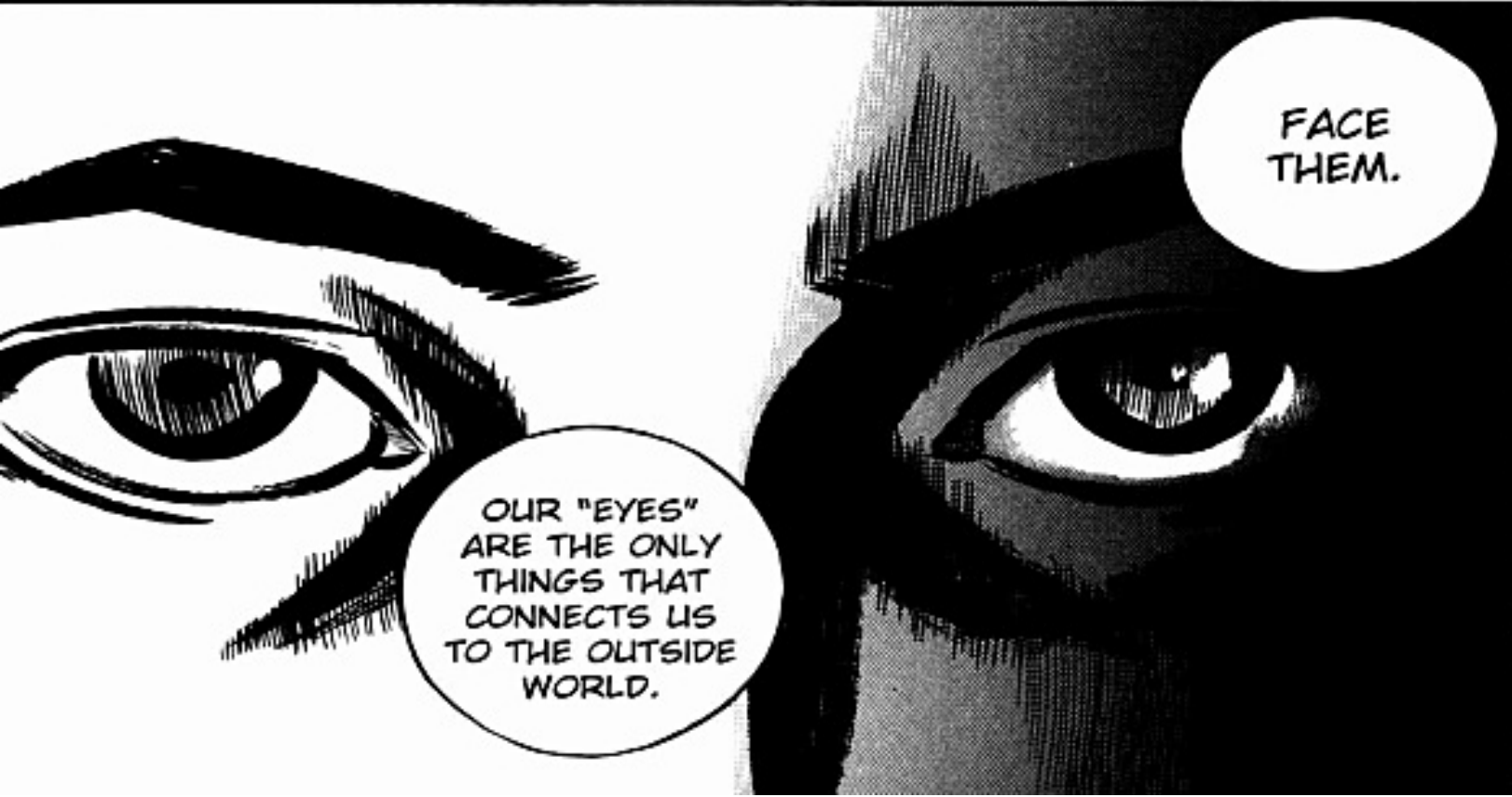
AND THESE  
SPLIT-ENDS...

WHY ELSE!?  
LOOK AT HOW  
YOU DRESSED  
ME UP!



AND NO  
ONE IS  
LOOKING  
DOWN ON  
YOU.

NO ONE  
IS LOOKING  
AT YOUR  
SPLIT-ENDS



OUR "EYES"  
ARE THE ONLY  
THINGS THAT  
CONNECTS US  
TO THE OUTSIDE  
WORLD.

FACE  
THEM.

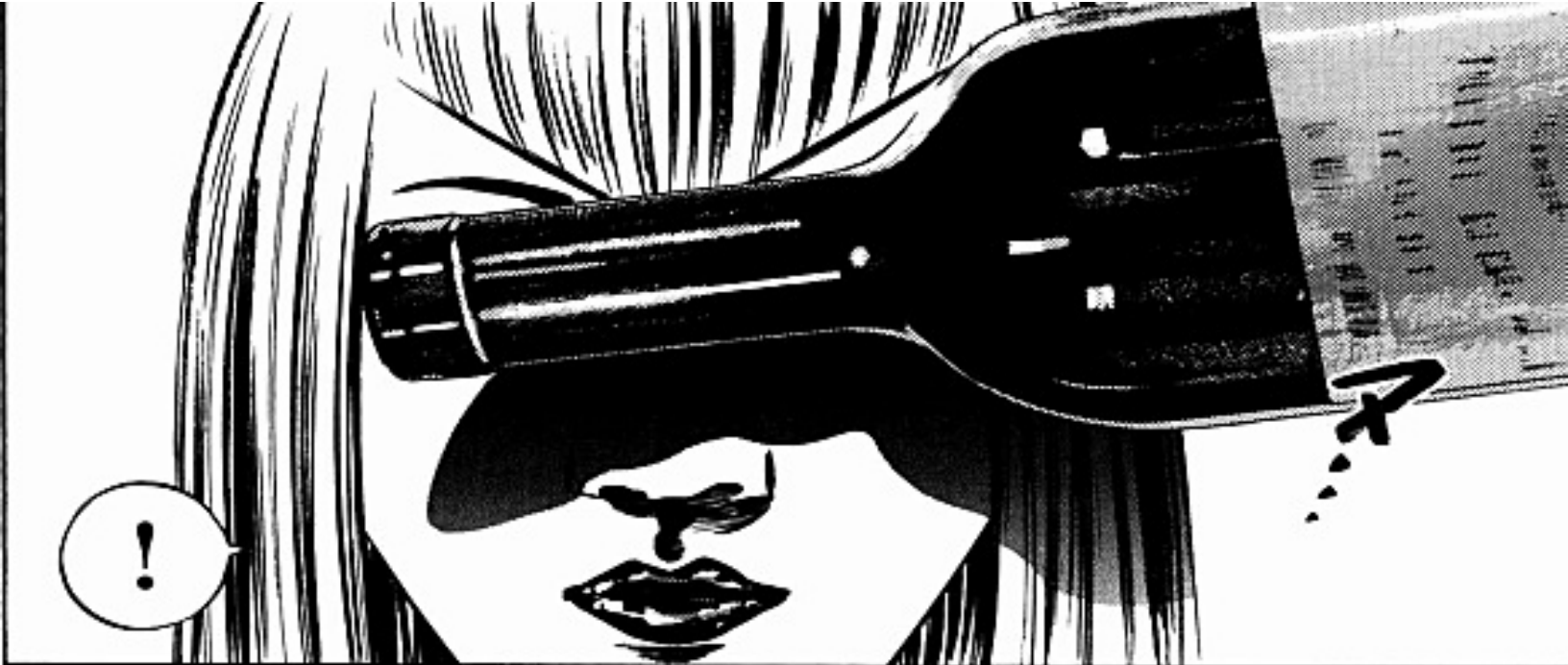


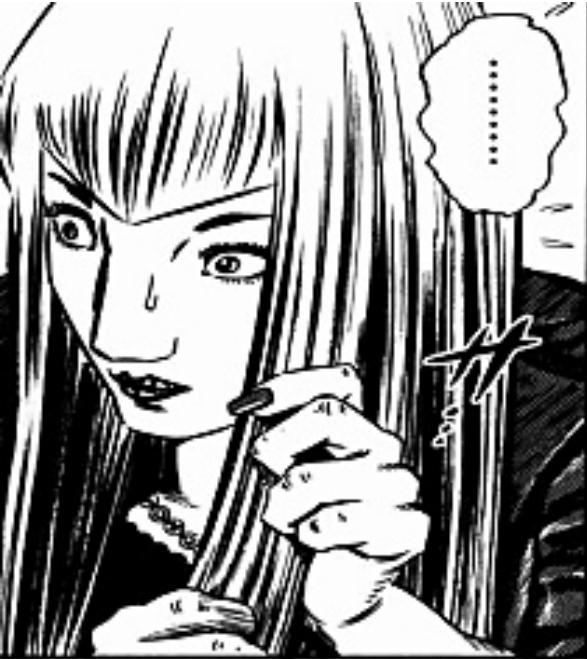
YOU SHOULD  
NEVER LOOK  
AWAY.

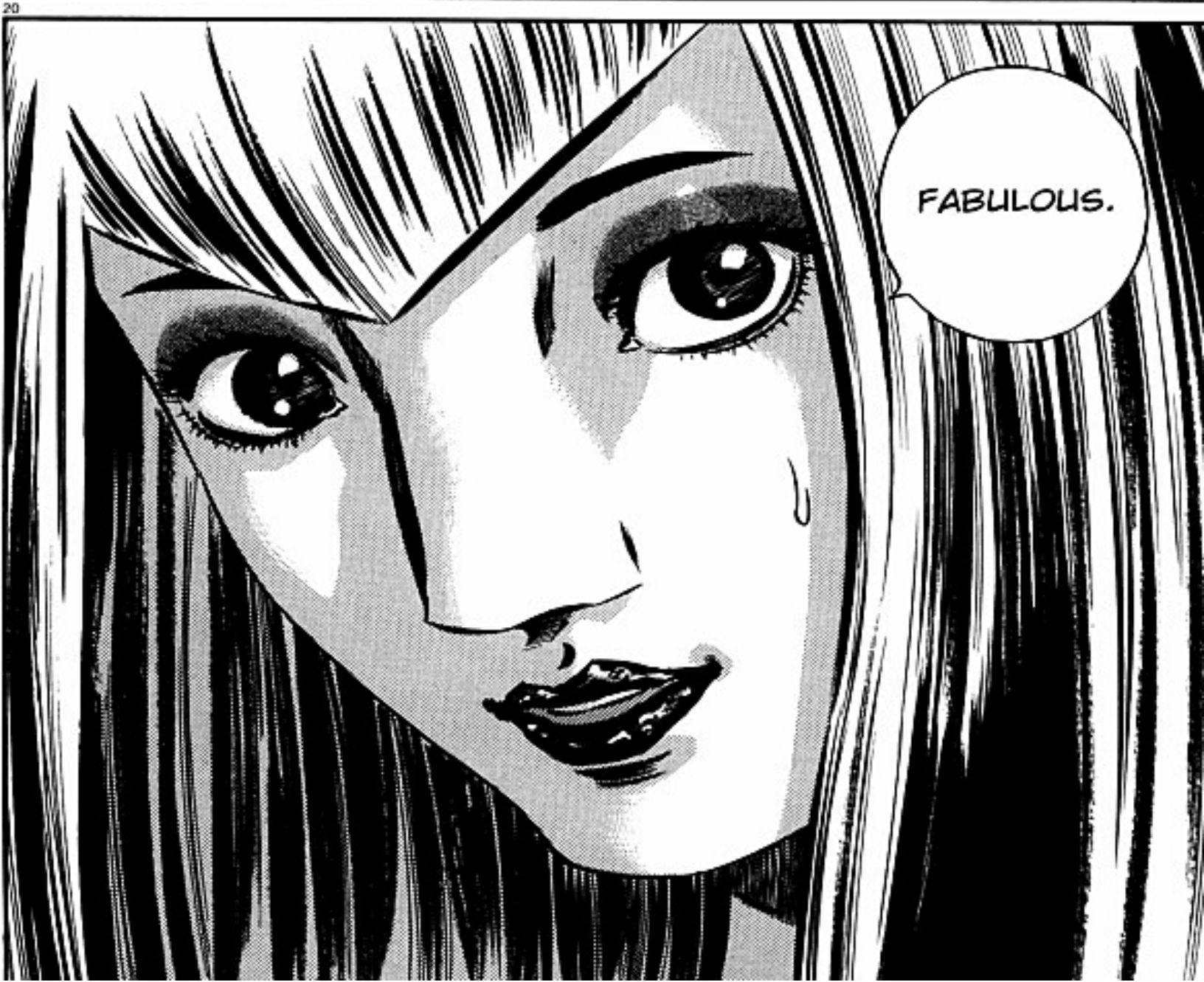






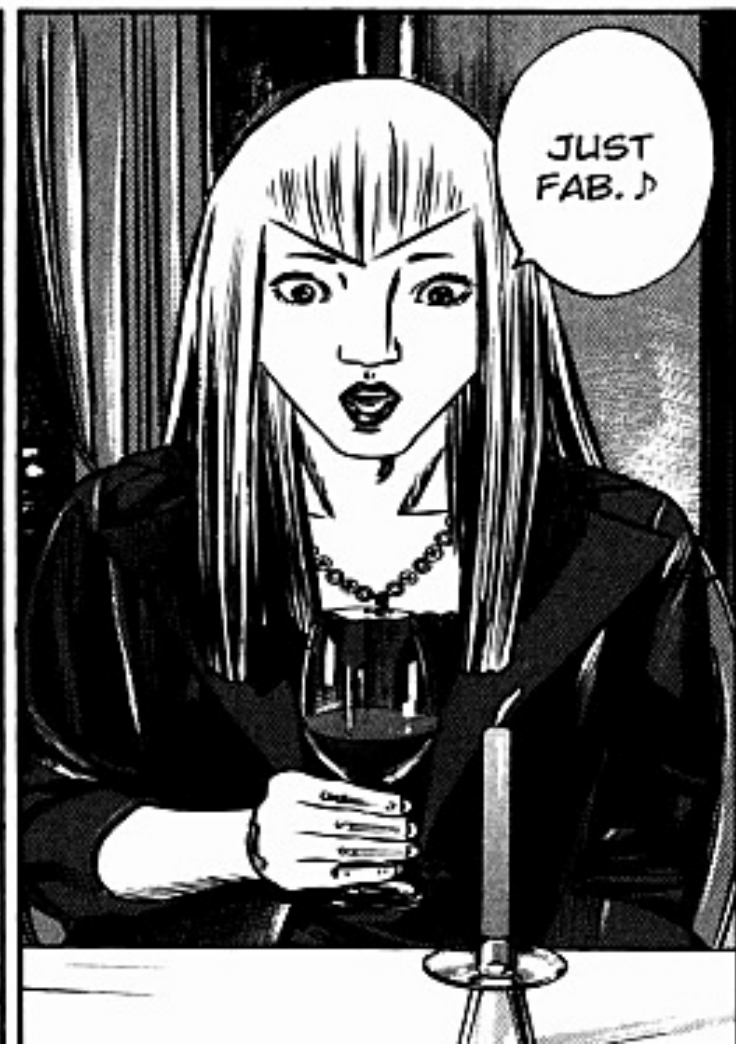






FABULOUS.



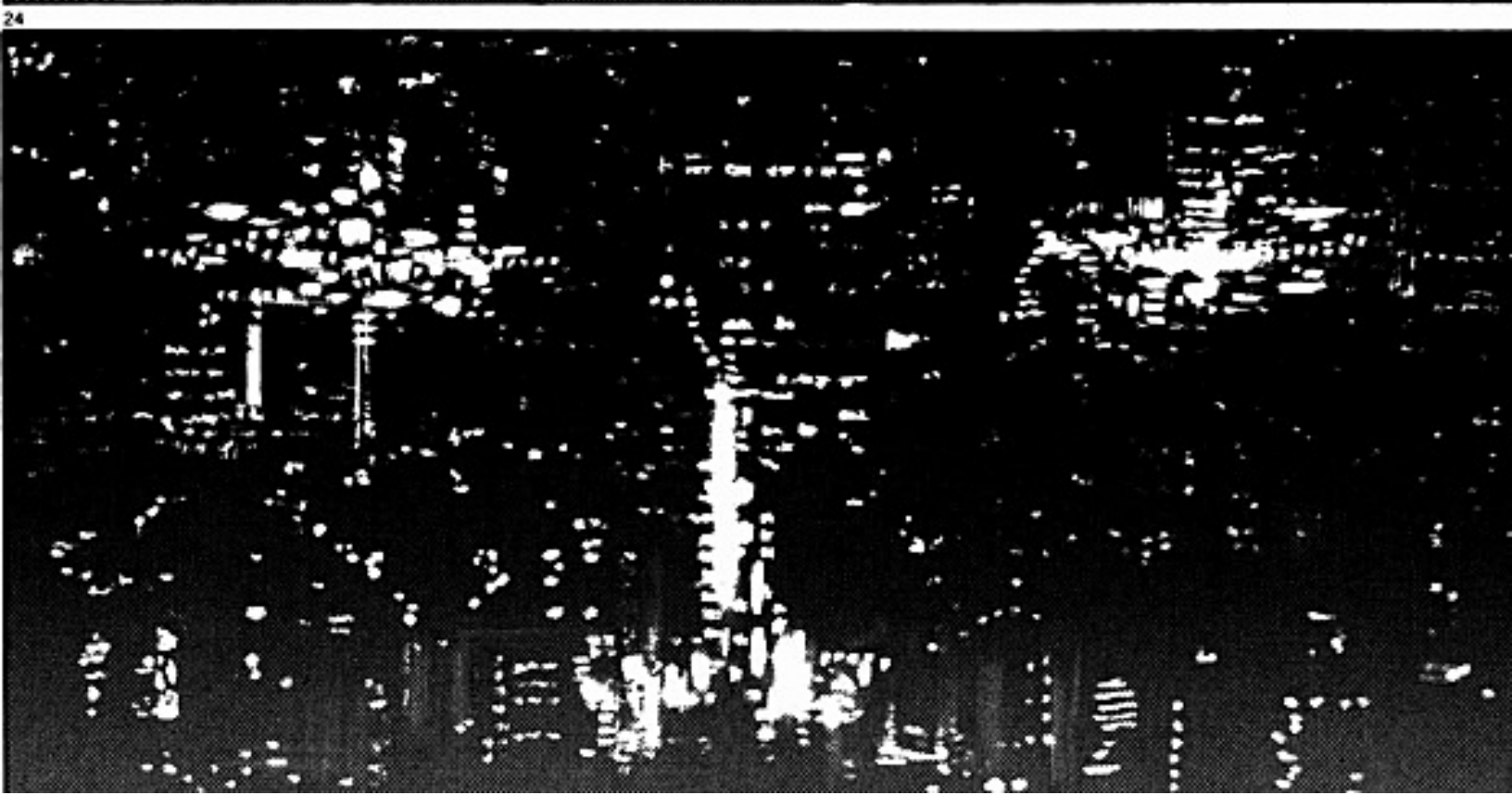


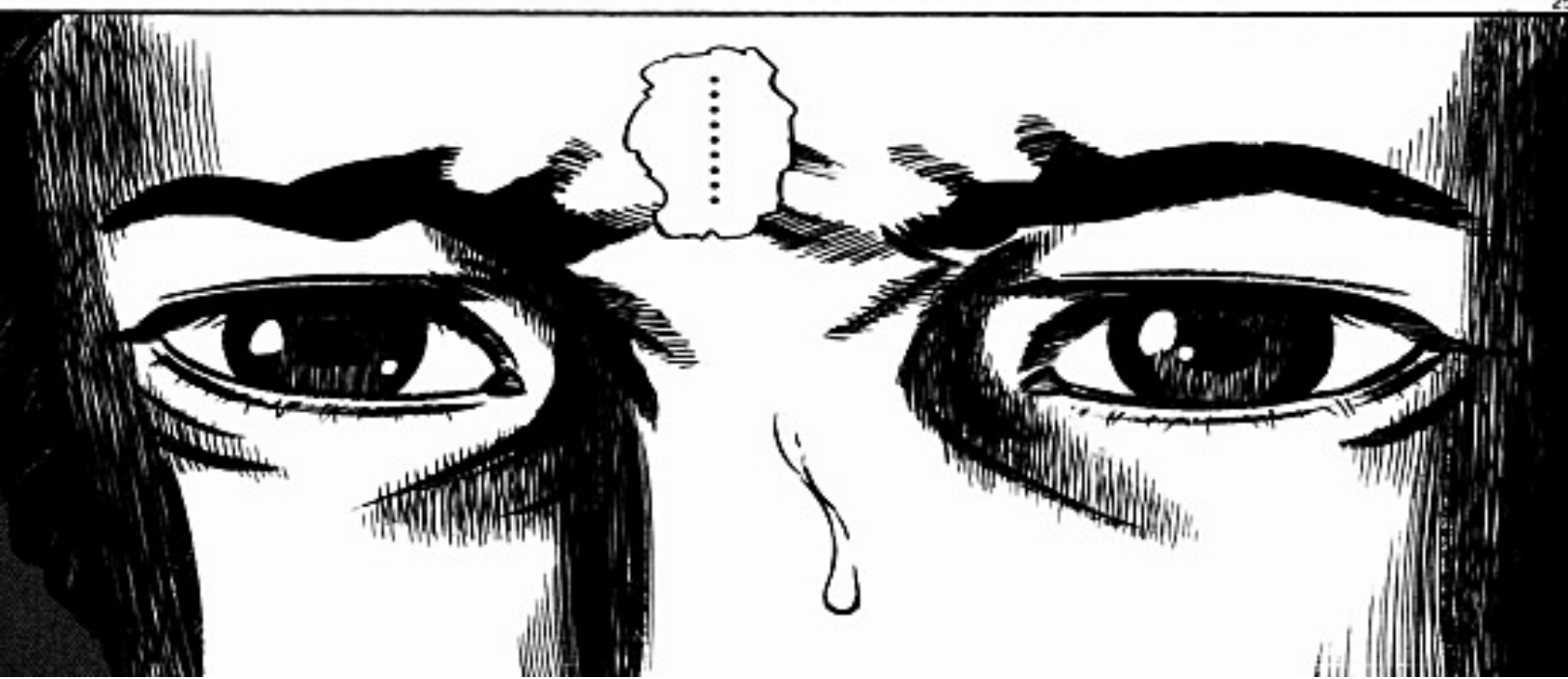






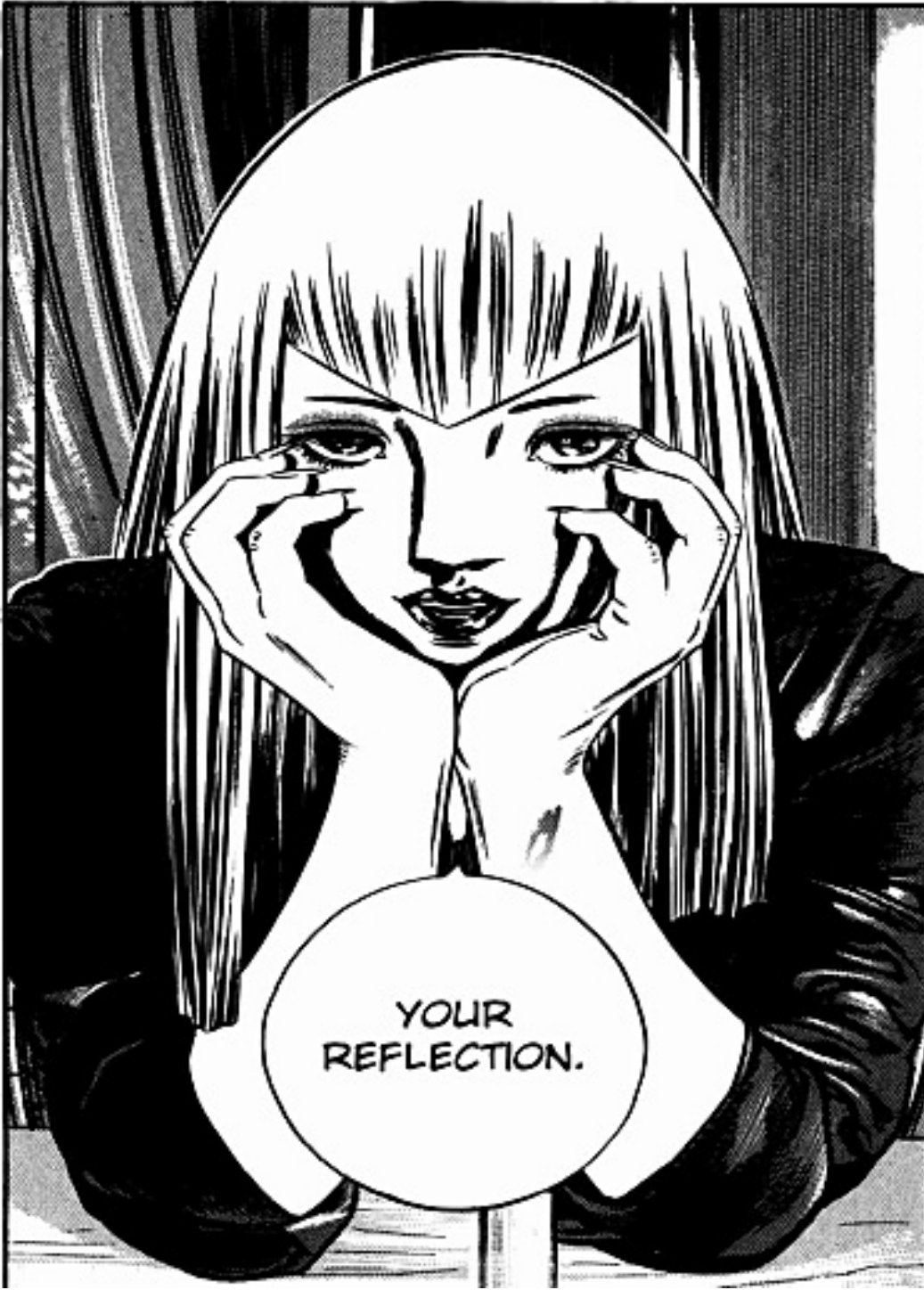








YOU  
WON'T FIND  
IT THERE,



YOUR  
REFLECTION.

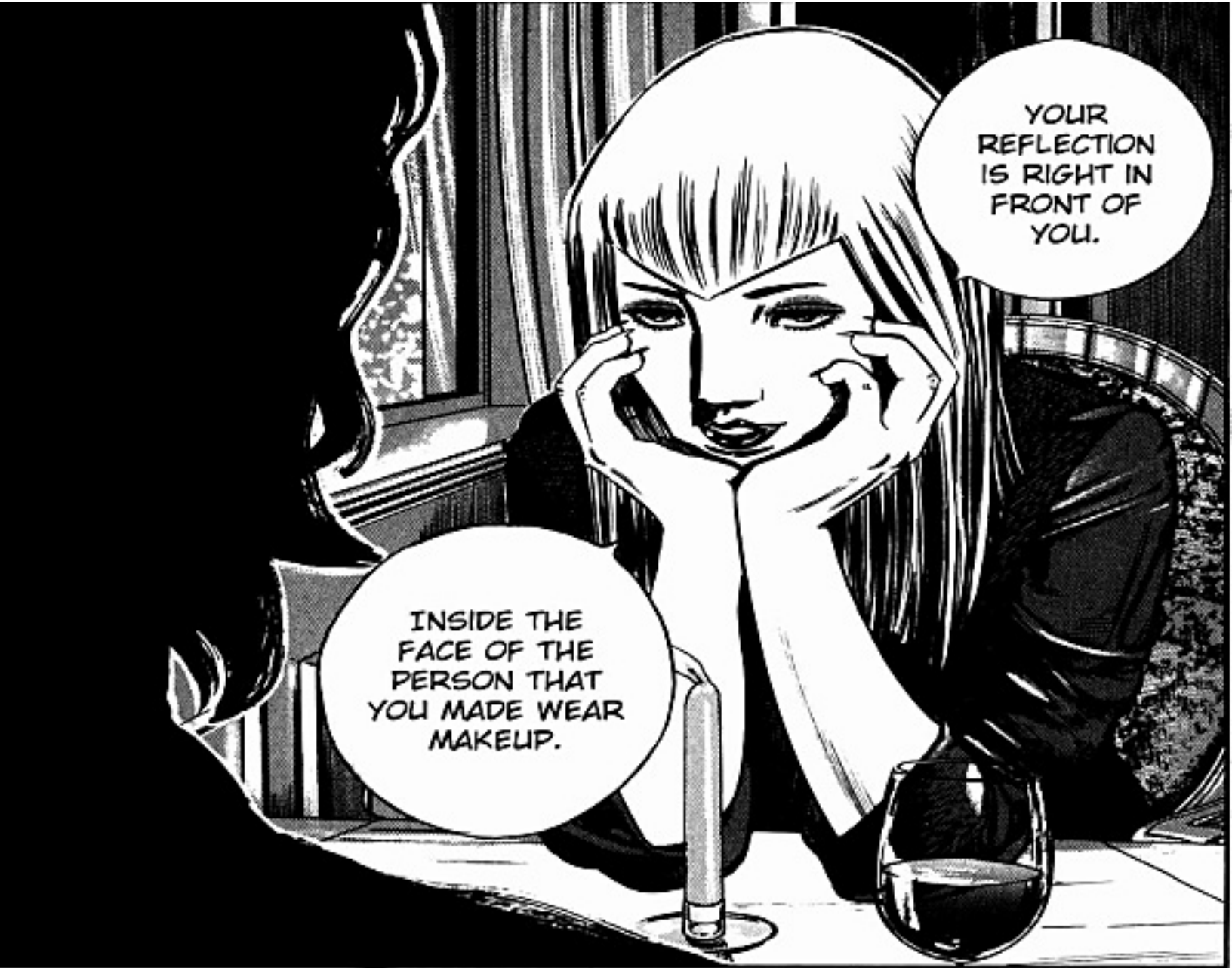


MR.  
NAKOSHI.



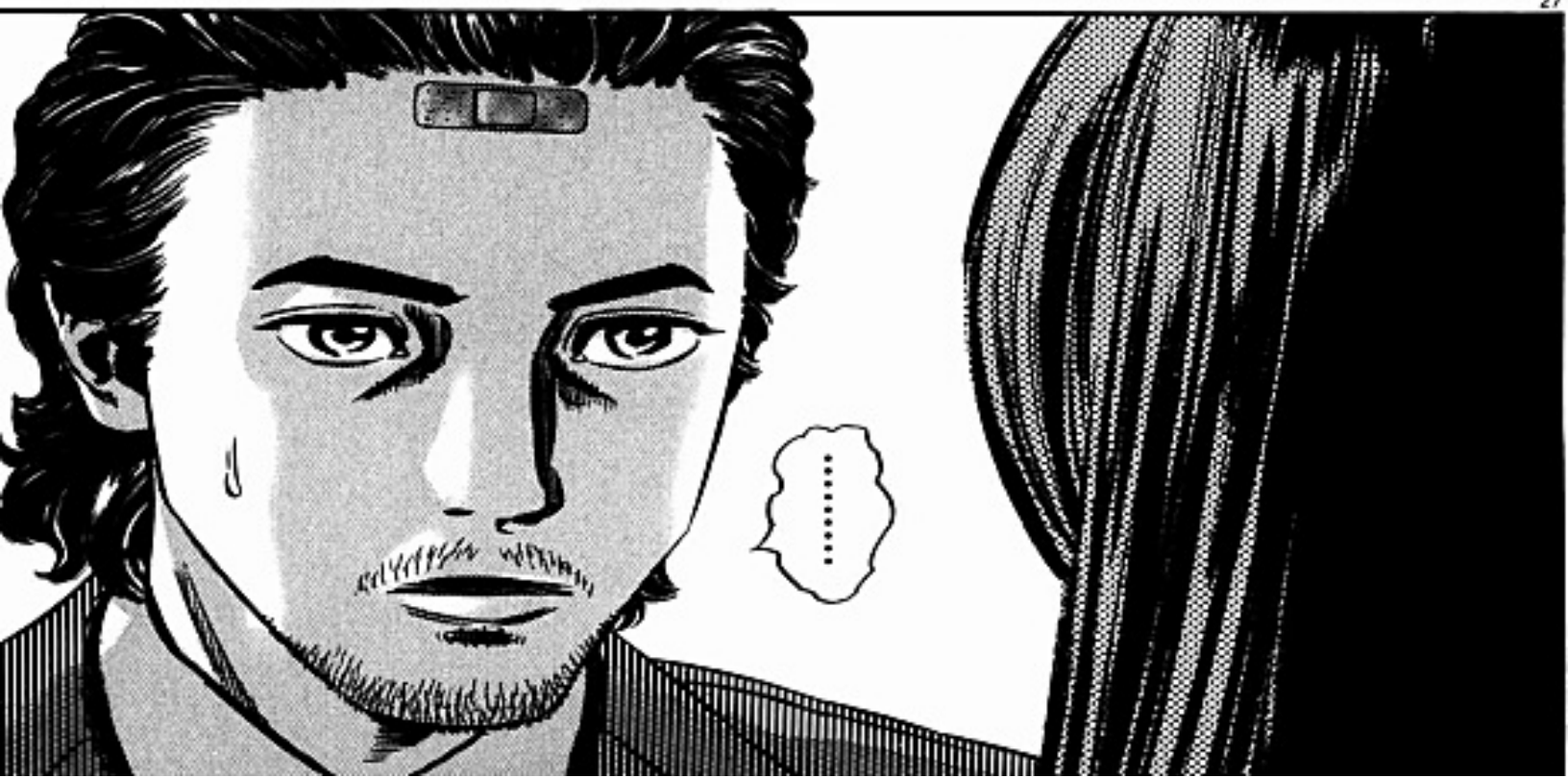
?





INSIDE THE  
FACE OF THE  
PERSON THAT  
YOU MADE WEAR  
MAKEUP.

YOUR  
REFLECTION  
IS RIGHT IN  
FRONT OF  
YOU.

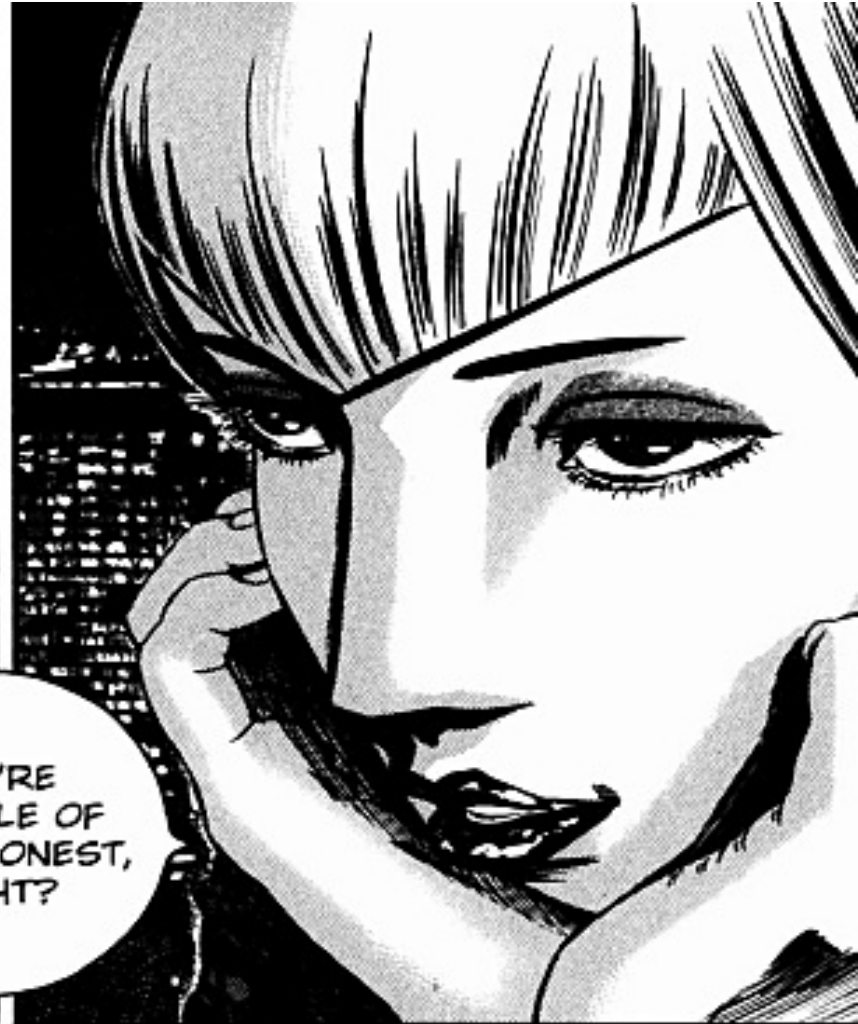
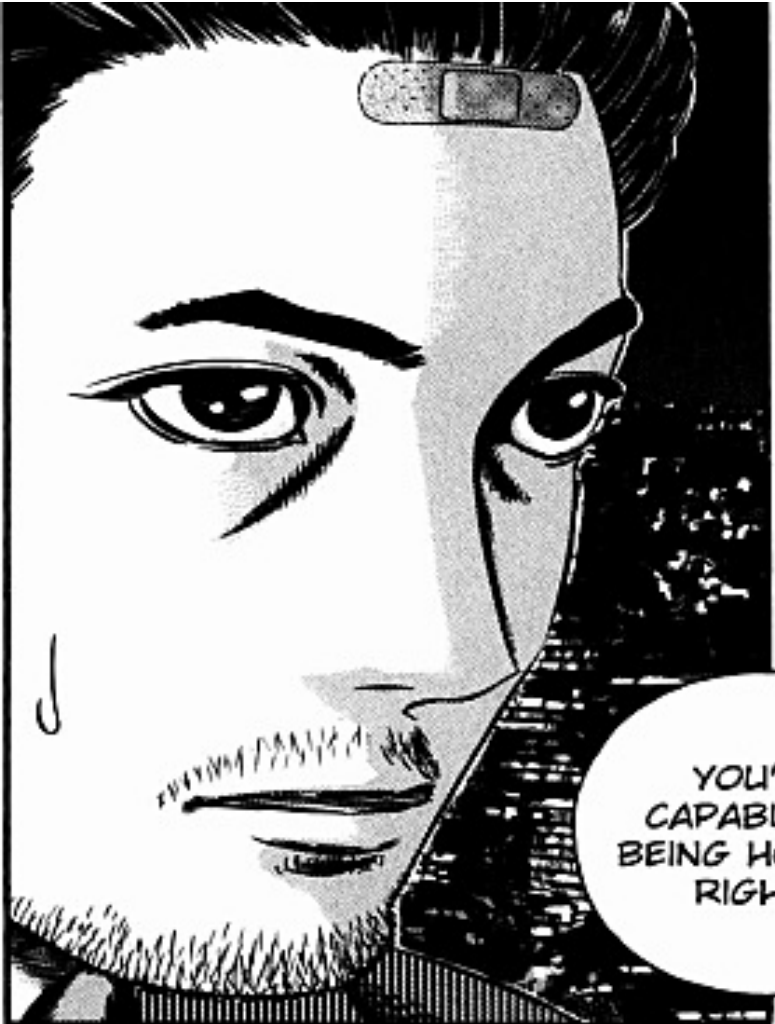


...









YOU'RE CAPABLE OF BEING HONEST, RIGHT?

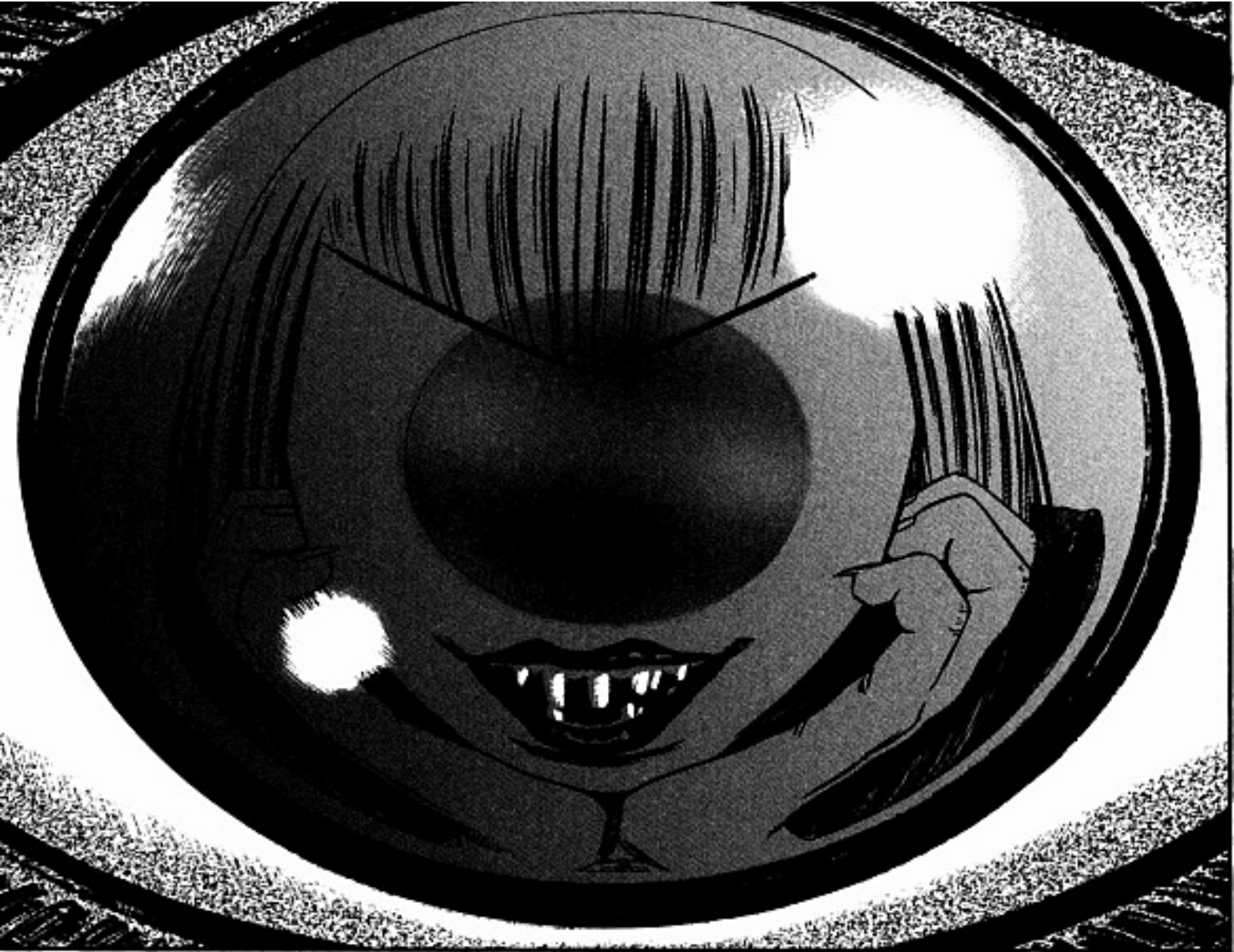


!

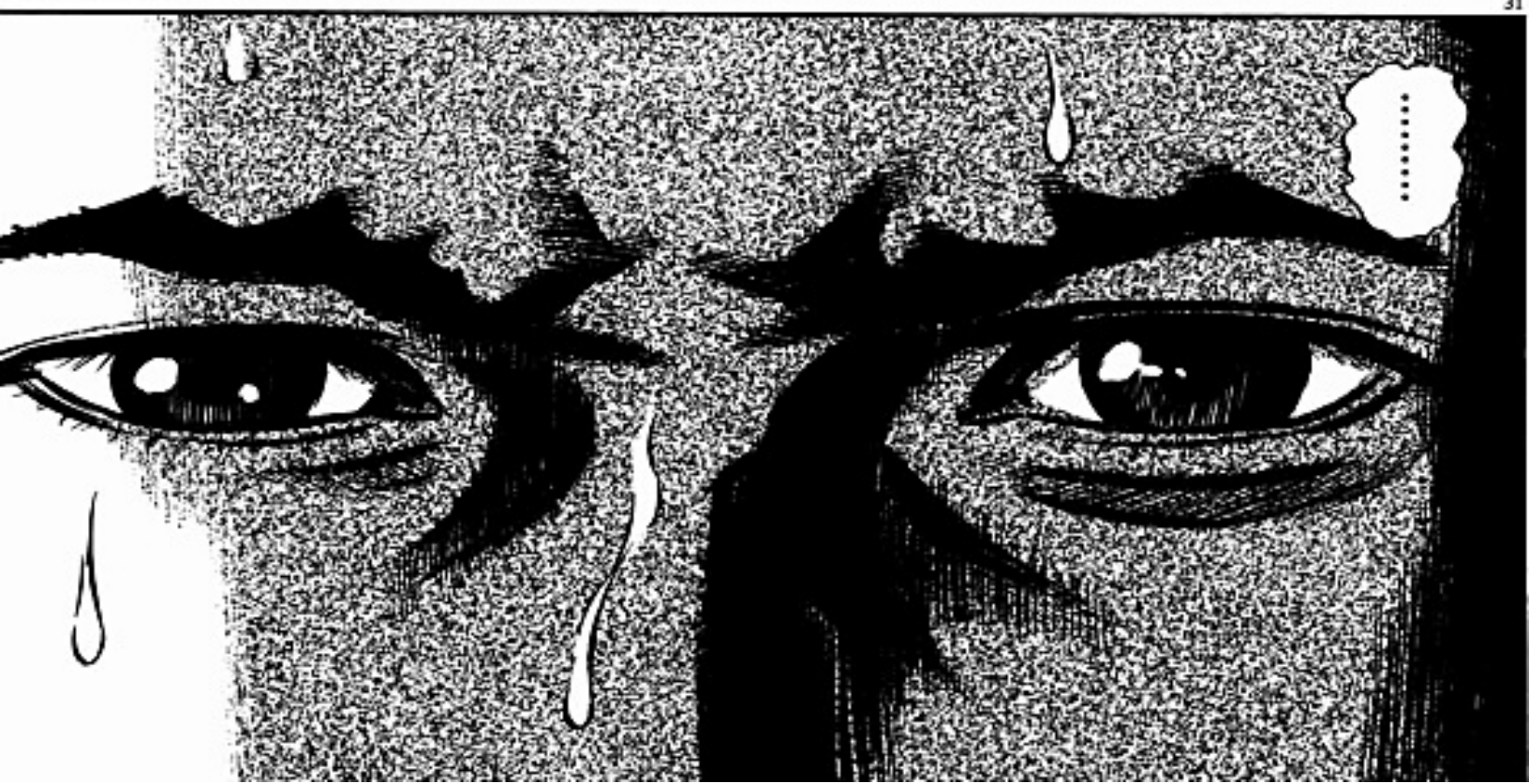
INSIDE THE MIRROR, INSIDE THIS FACE.



SO TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU SEE.



31







MISSE-  
TER  
NAKOSHI.

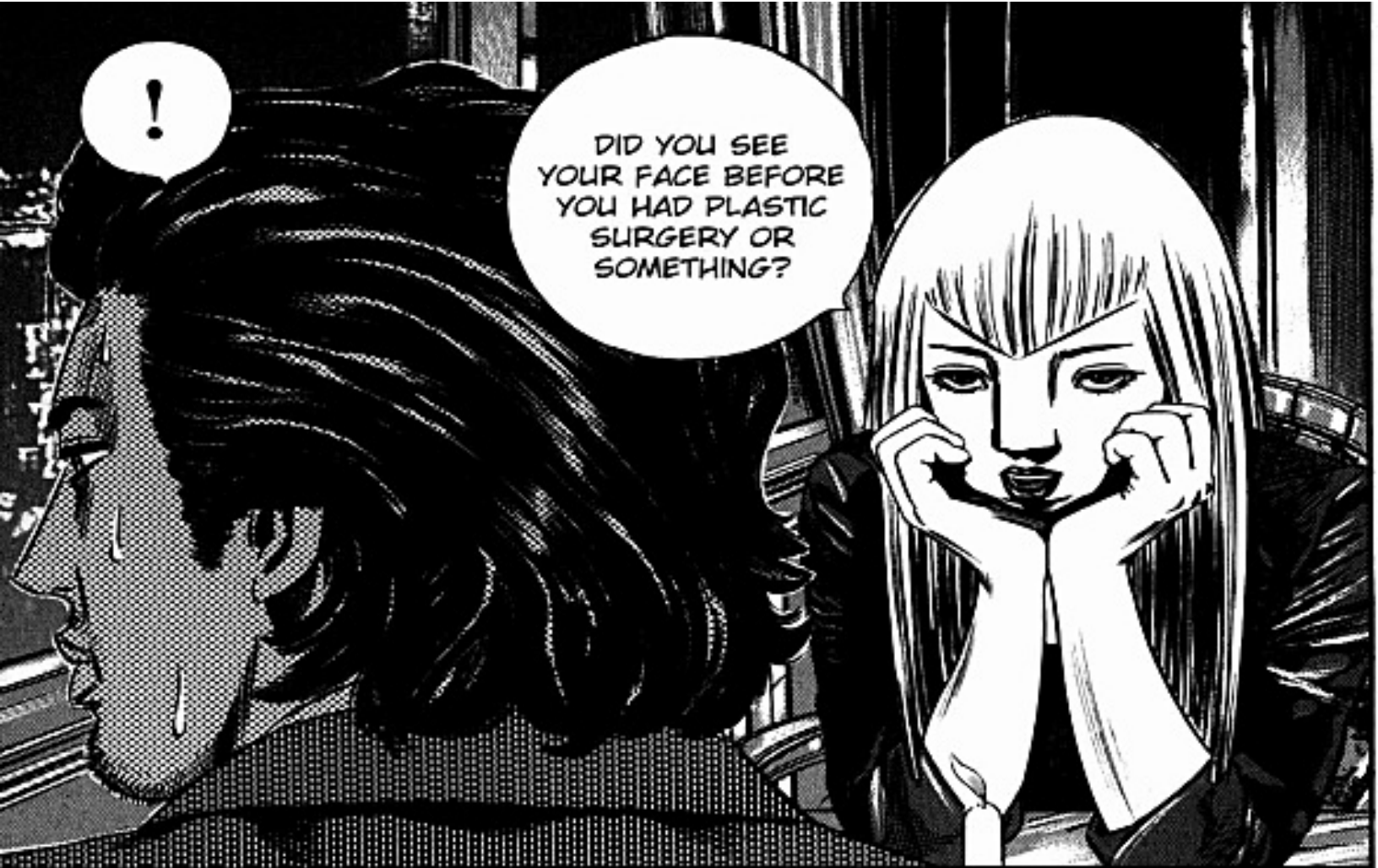


! WASN'T  
IT YO~~~~U

WHO WAS  
JUST TELLING ME  
YOU SHOULDN'T  
RUN AWAY FROM  
PEOPLE'S "EYES"?







DID YOU SEE  
YOUR FACE BEFORE  
YOU HAD PLASTIC  
SURGERY OR  
SOMETHING?



.....



WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU?



WHY DID YOU  
HAVE IT DONE  
ANYWAY?

MR.  
NAKOSHI.



PARDON?

...MEMBER...



EH?

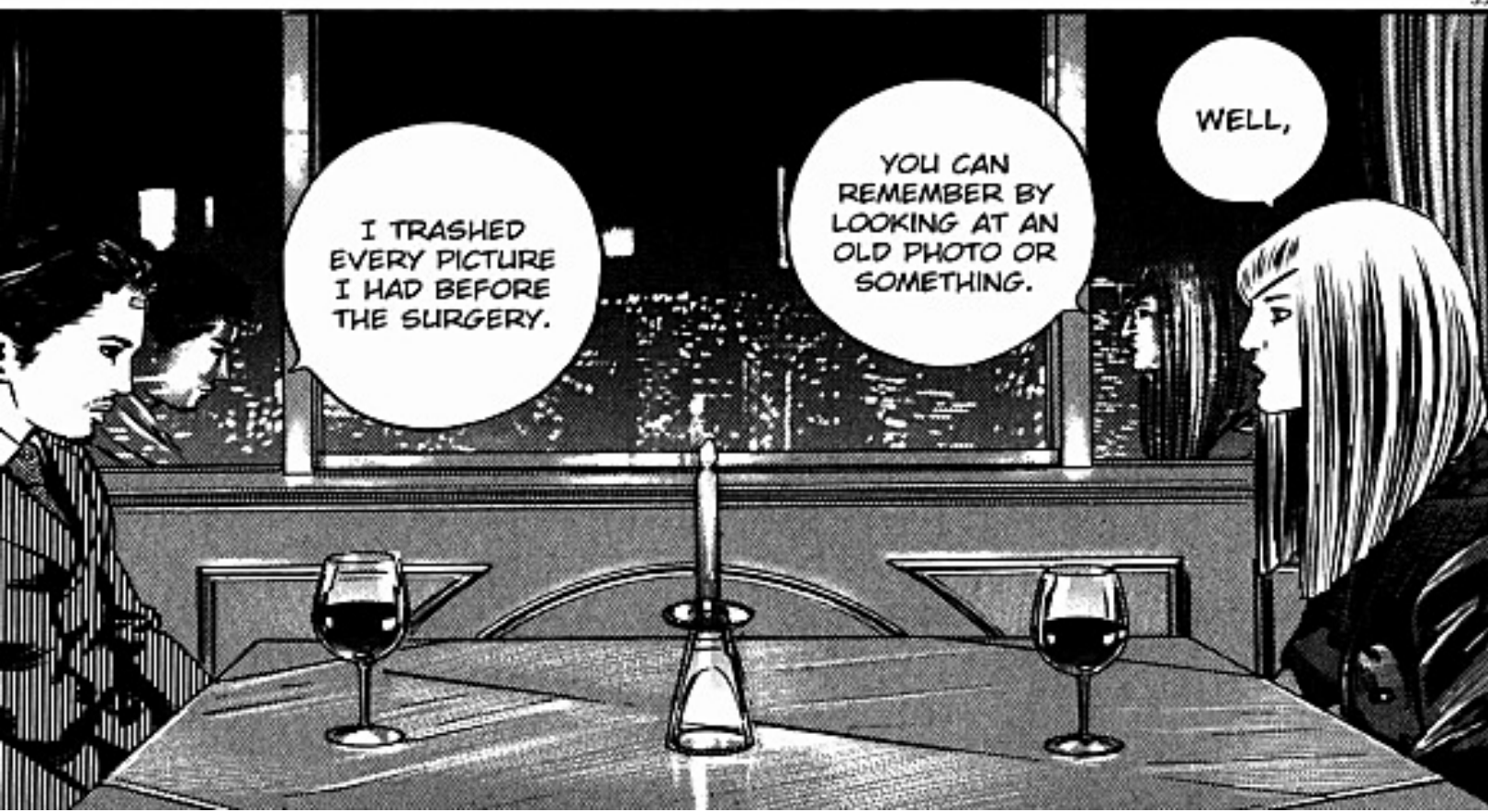


I CAN'T  
REMEMBER...



I CAN'T  
REMEMBER...

WHAT  
MY FACE  
LOOKED  
LIKE.







YEAH...

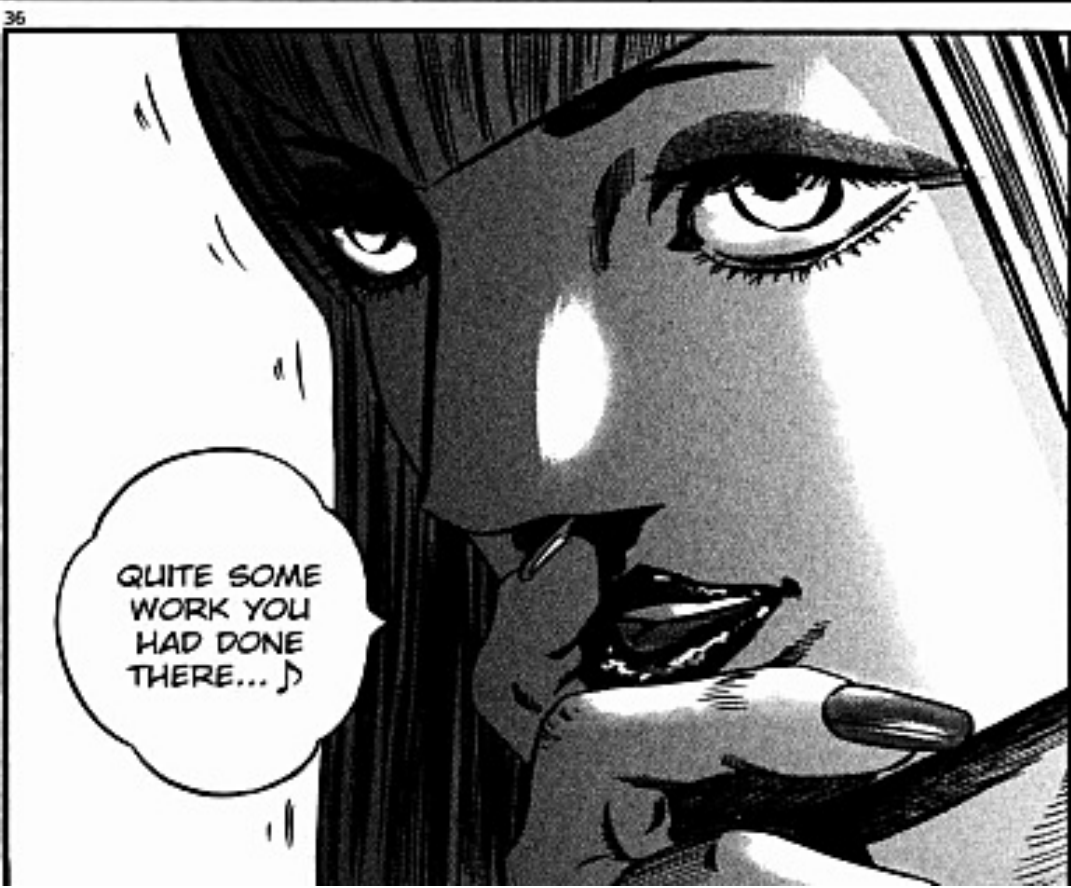


YOU  
REALLY CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
WHAT YOUR  
OWN FACE  
LOOKED LIKE?

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?



EVEN MEMORIES  
OF ME WHEN I WAS  
A KID HAS ME WITH  
A YOUNGER VERSION  
OF THIS FACE...



QUITE SOME  
WORK YOU  
HAD DONE  
THERE... ♪



.....


I'M DYING  
TO KNOW  
WHAT TRAUMA  
YOU WENT  
THROUGH.

MR.  
NAKOSHI,


IT WAS  
OBVIOUSLY  
SOMETHING  
SO BAD THAT  
YOU WANTED TO  
SUPPRESS IT,

TO FORGET  
YOUR OWN  
FACE.

I REALLY  
DON'T KNOW...



PEOPLE ARE SO  
INTERESTIN~G.♪

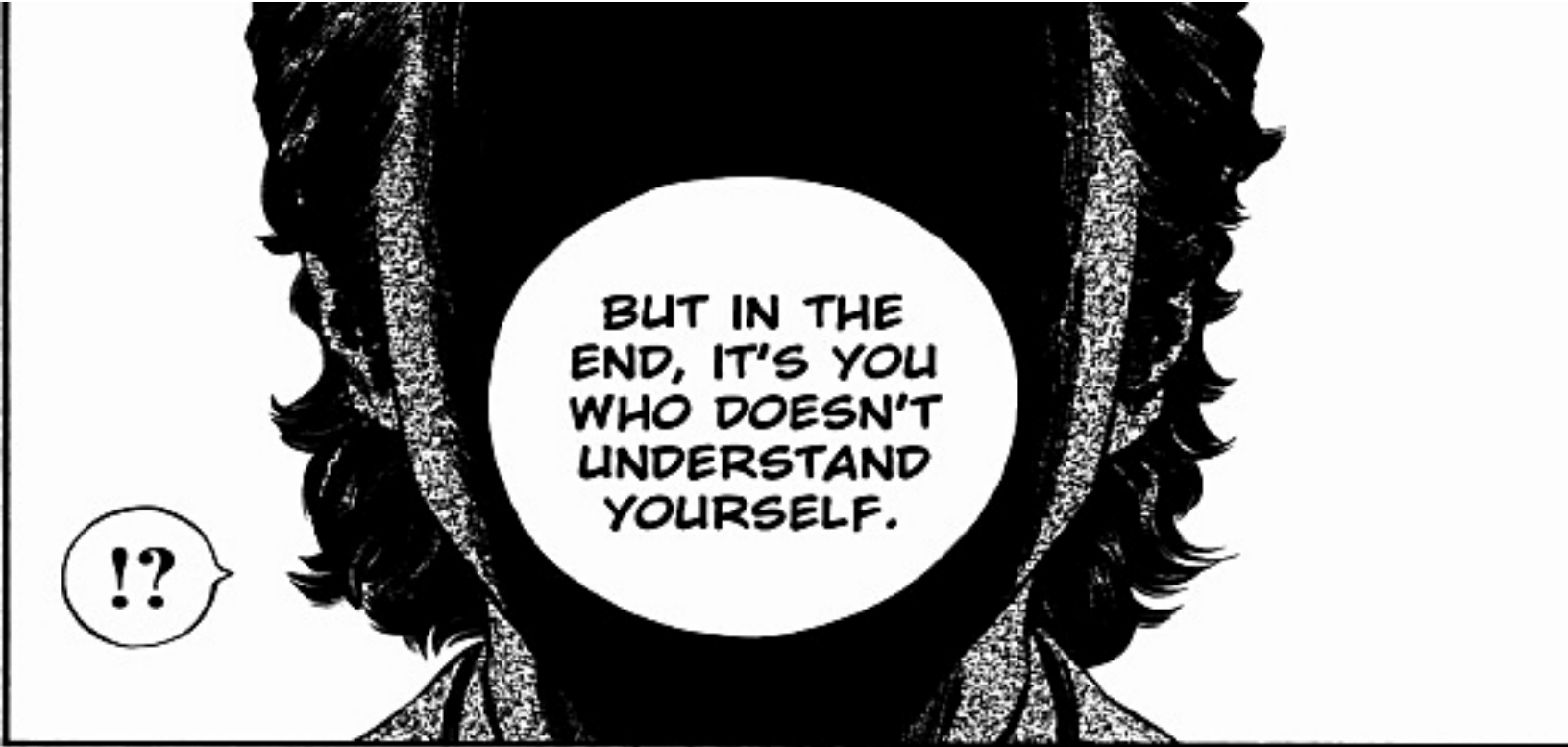


OH, WAIT.  
NO, IT'S JUST  
YOU WHO'S  
INTERESTING,  
MR. NAKOSHI.









BUT IN THE  
END, IT'S YOU  
WHO DOESN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
YOURSELF.

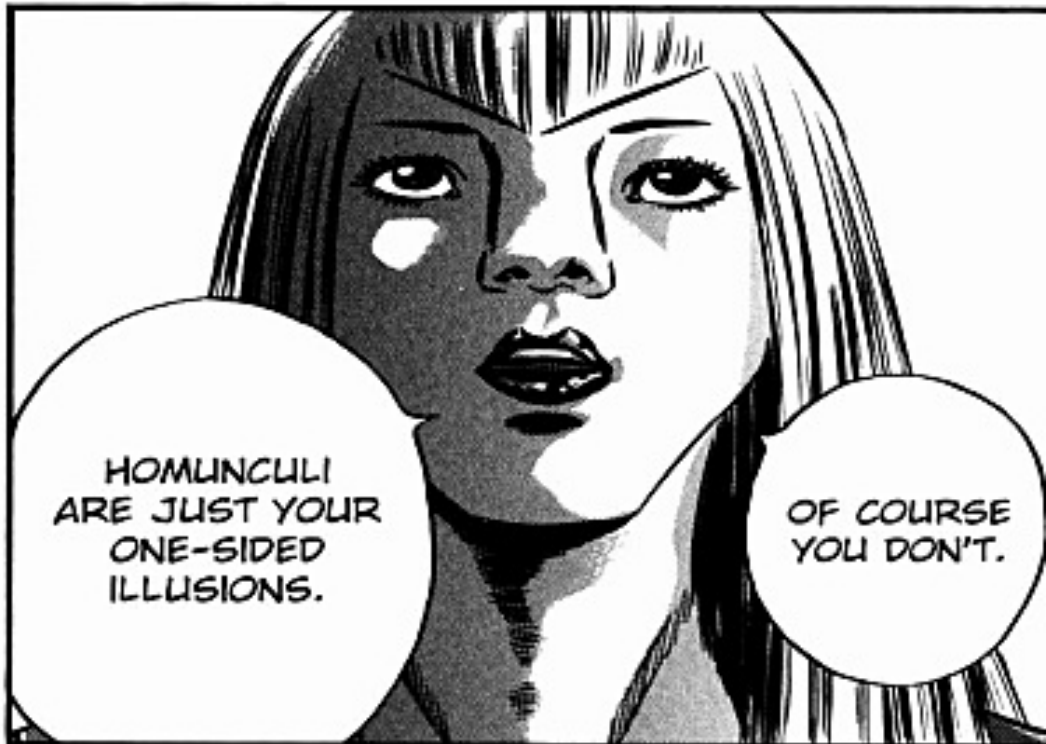


!?




.....

HOMUNCULI  
ARE JUST YOUR  
ONE-SIDED  
ILLUSIONS.



OF COURSE  
YOU DON'T.



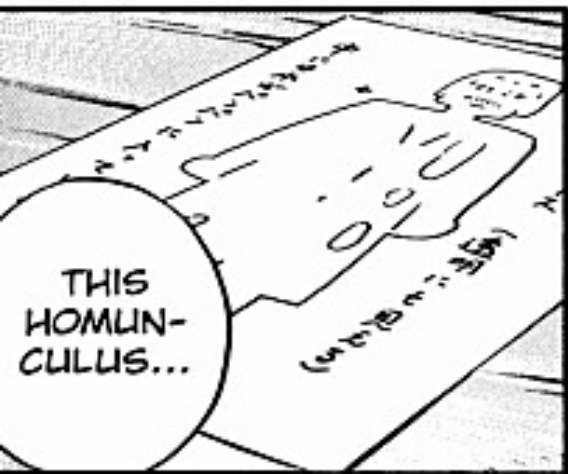
.....

YOUR EGOTISTIC  
DELUSIONS THAT  
HAVE NOTHING TO  
DO WITH OTHER  
PEOPLE.



SO IN SHORT,

YOU AND I  
HAVE NOTHING  
IN COMMON!

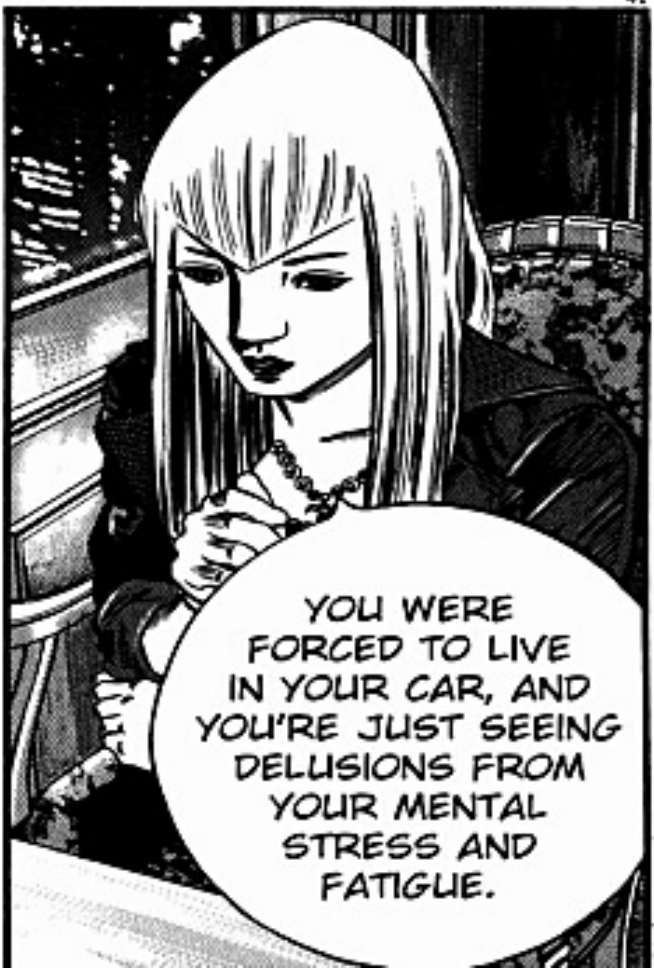


THIS  
HOMIN-  
CULUS...



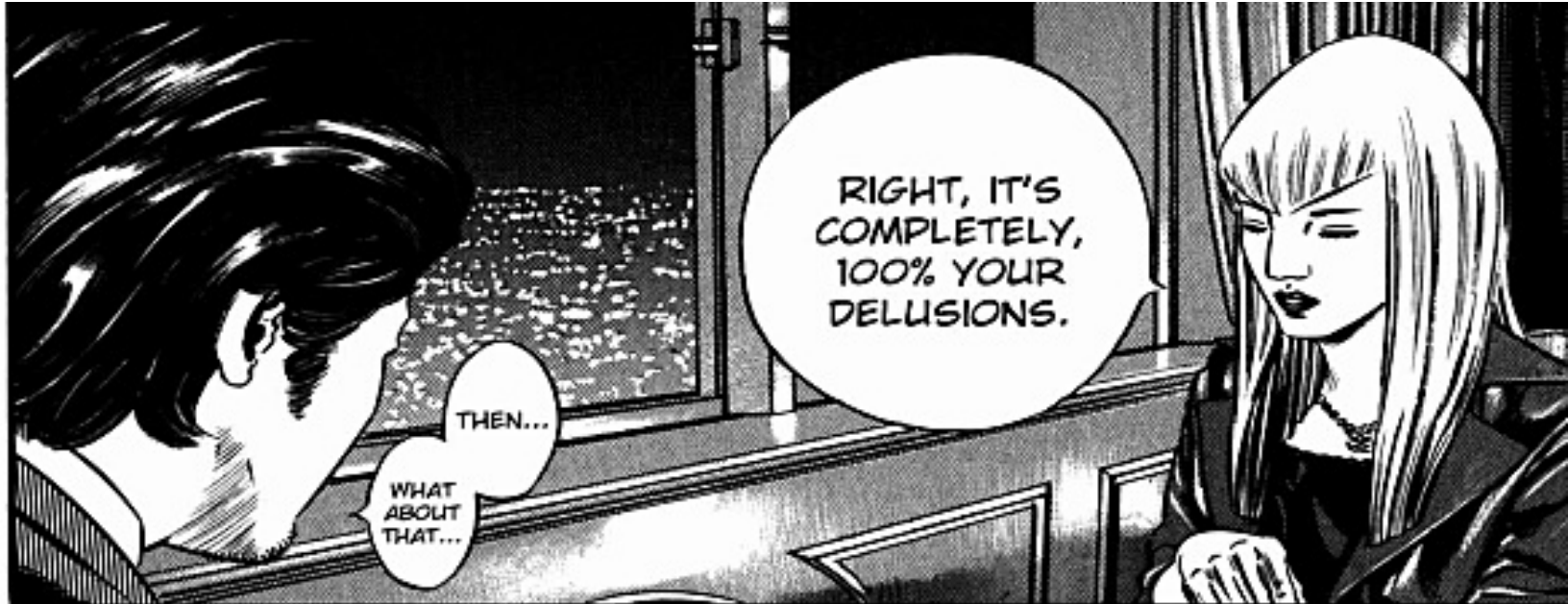
WITH  
YOU...?

HAS  
NOTHING  
TO DO...



YOU WERE  
FORCED TO LIVE  
IN YOUR CAR, AND  
YOU'RE JUST SEEING  
DELUSIONS FROM  
YOUR MENTAL  
STRESS AND  
FATIGUE.





THEN...  
WHAT ABOUT THAT...

RIGHT, IT'S COMPLETELY, 100% YOUR DELUSIONS.



THEN...  
THE...

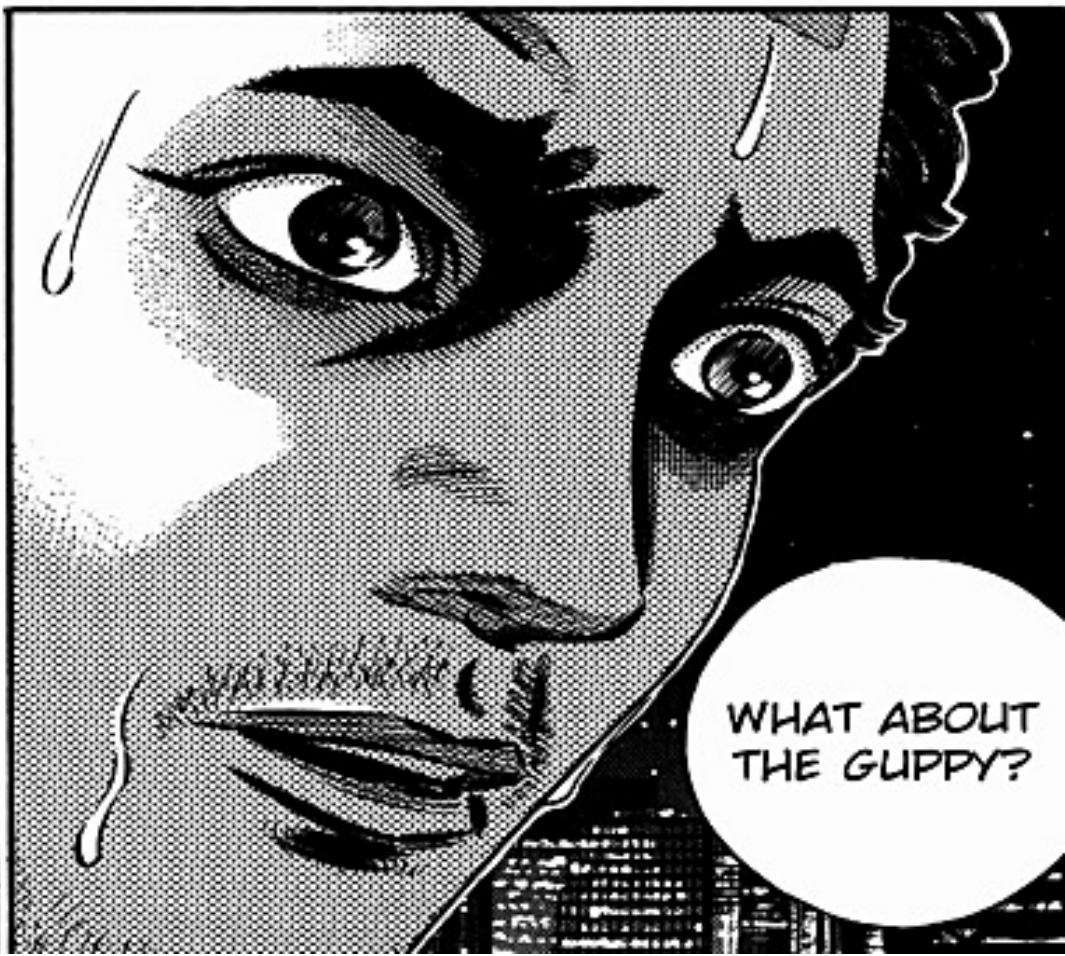


WHAT WAS THAT?

HUH?



EXCUSE ME?



WHAT ABOUT THE GUPPY?



WHY...

DO YOU HAVE  
A GLUPPY AS  
A PET?



WHY  
ARE YOU  
BRINGING  
THAT UP  
NOW?



LHH...



THAT  
WAS MY  
FIRST  
ONE.



NO, I  
HAVEN'T.



WELL, YOU  
OWNED ONE  
BEFORE...

OH,

RIGHT?



I'VE NEVER OWNED ONE EITHER...  
HMMM, THEN WHAT'S WITH THAT HOMUNCULUS...?

YOU'RE LYING...



I'M LYING?



!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?



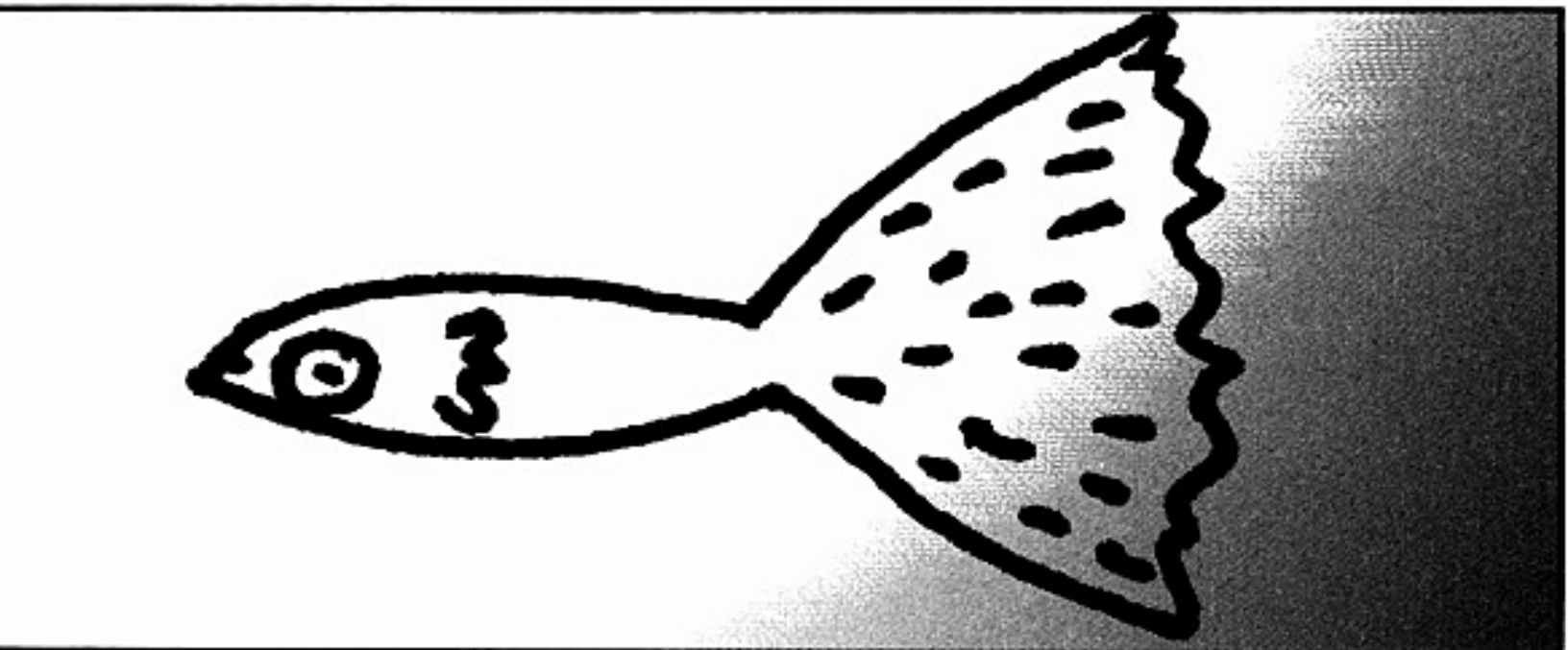
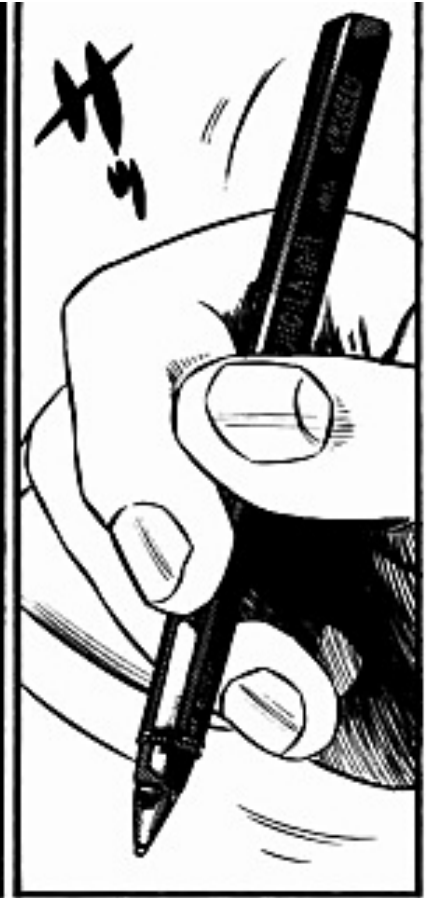
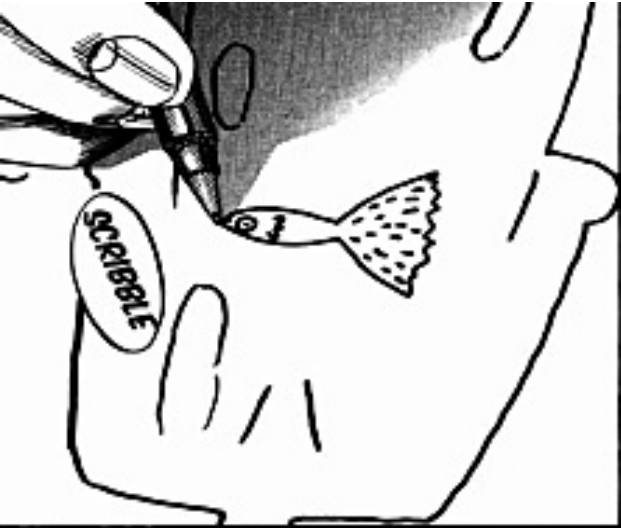
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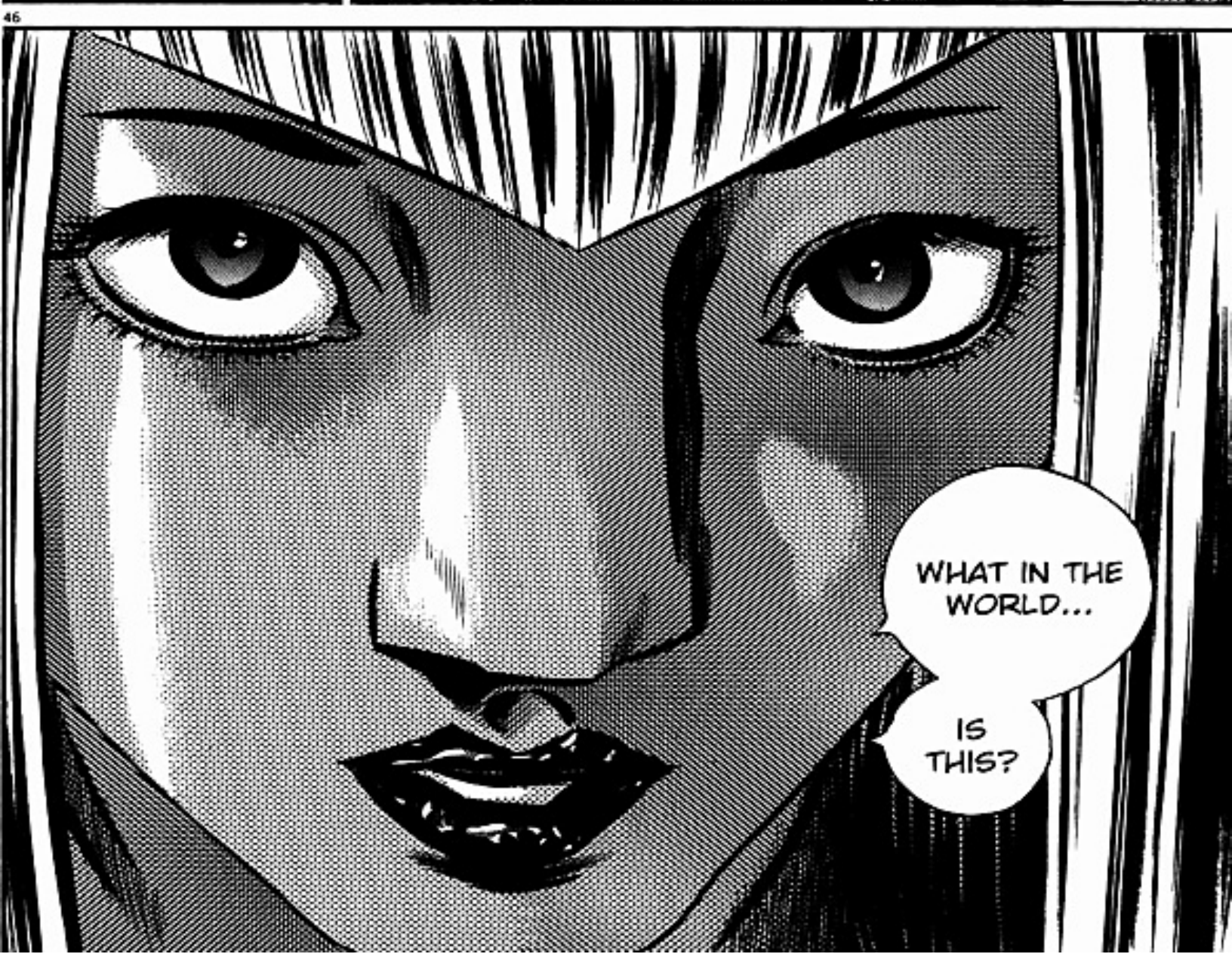
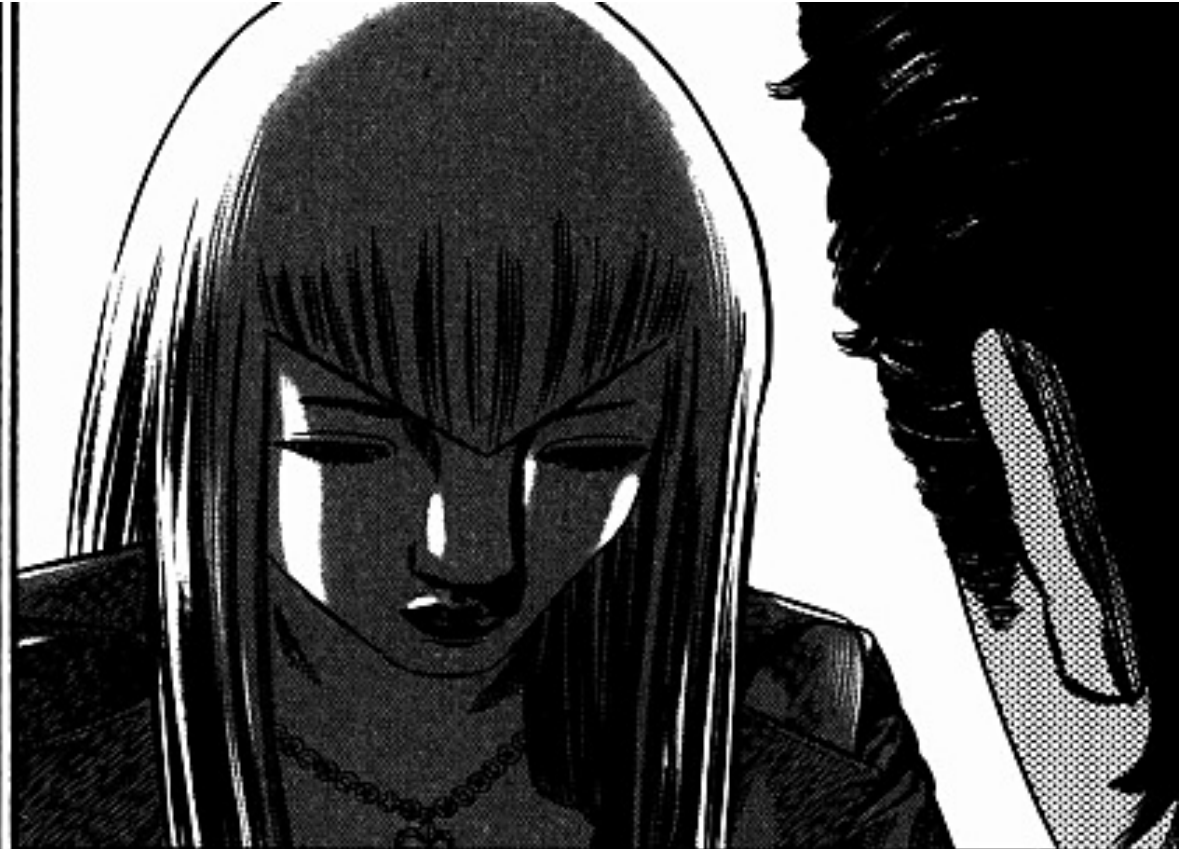


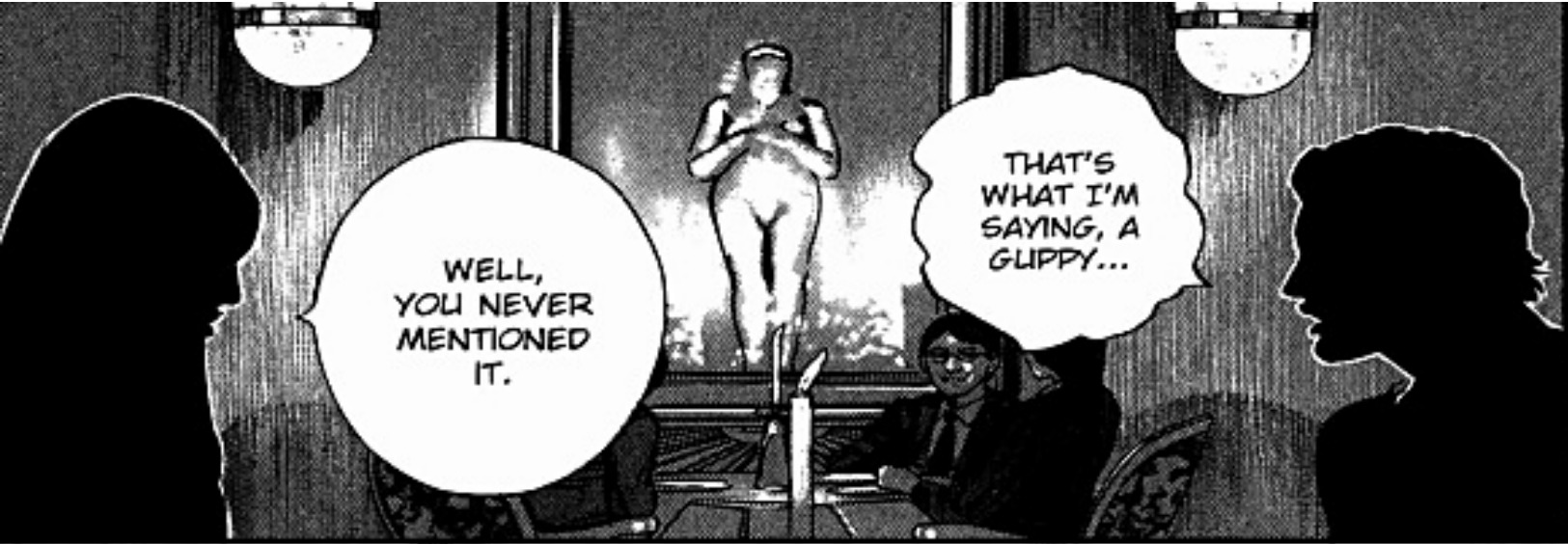
YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT A GUPPY...

WHAT ABOUT IT?



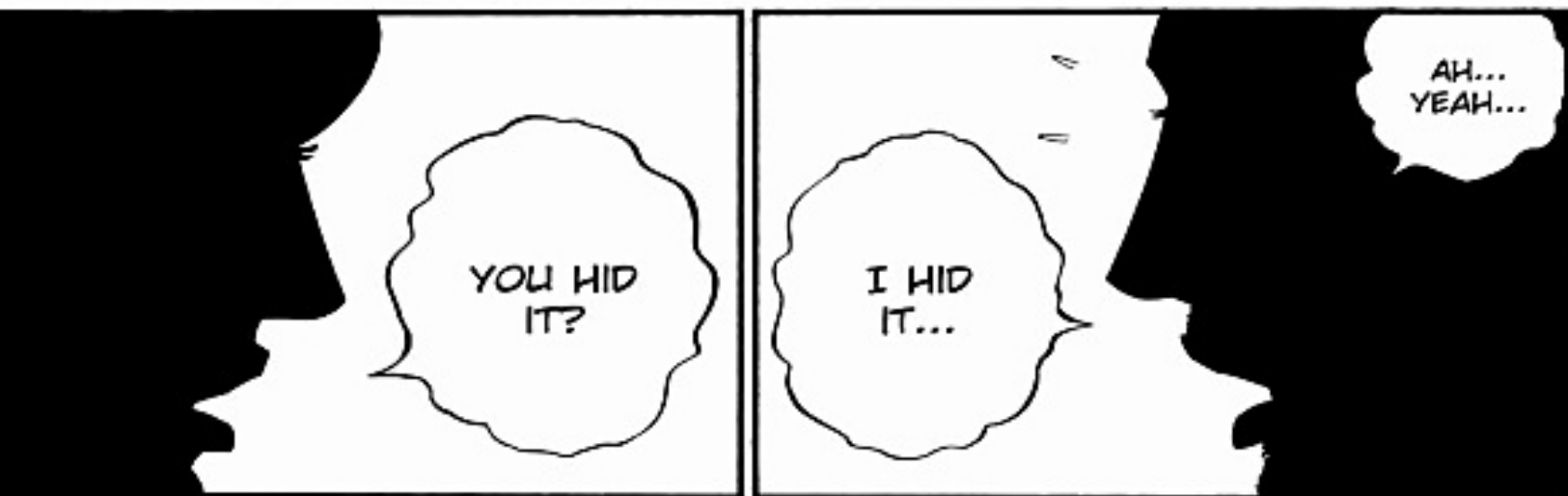






WELL,  
YOU NEVER  
MENTIONED  
IT.

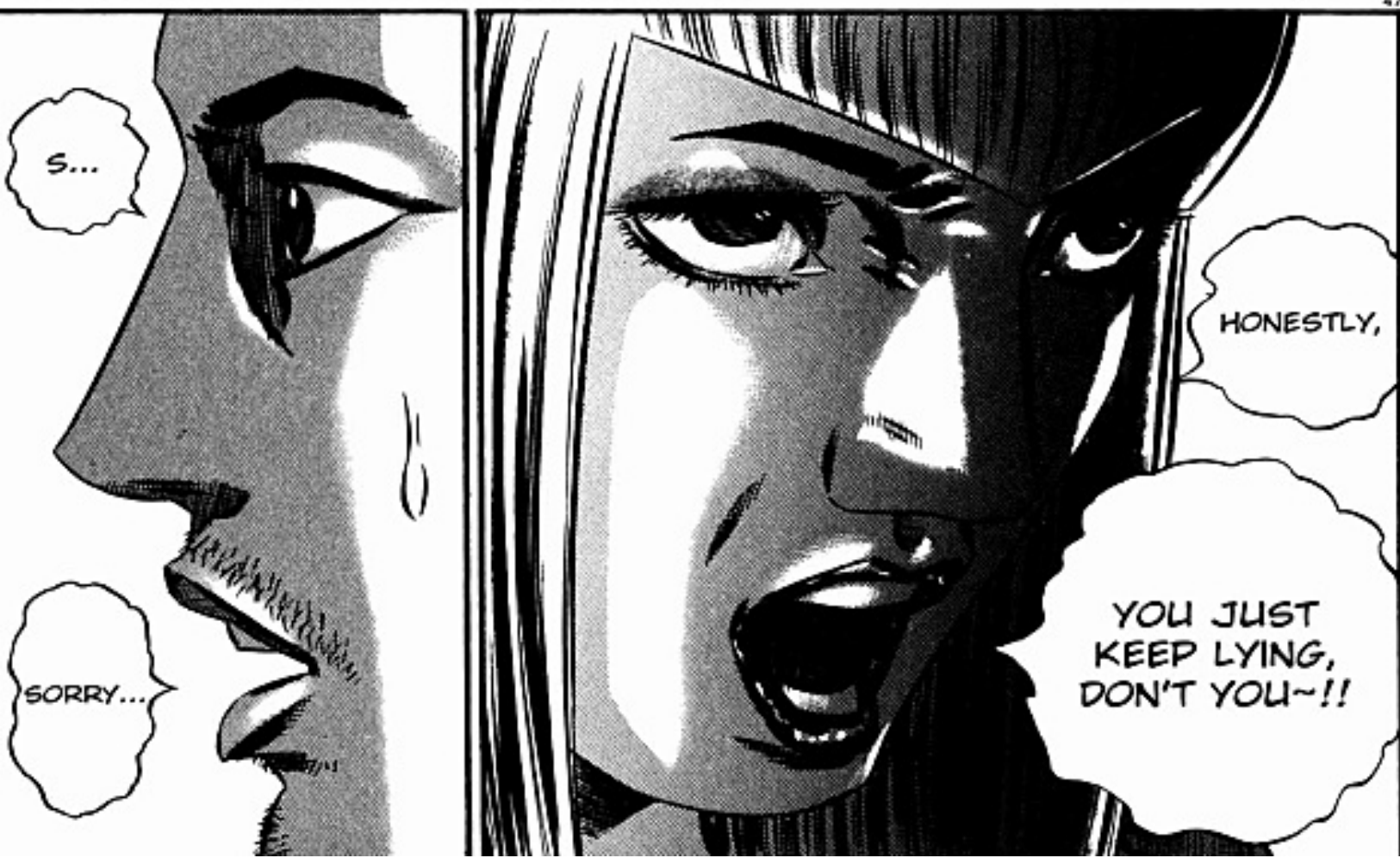
THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
SAYING, A  
GUPPY...



YOU HID  
IT?

I HID  
IT...

AH...  
YEAH...



S...

SORRY...

HONESTLY,

YOU JUST  
KEEP LYING,  
DON'T YOU~!!





ARE YOU LISTENING!?



IT WAS INSIDE YOUR HOMUNCULUS.

WELL...



AS IF THAT GUPPY HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH ME...

AND YOU SAY IT



WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF I OWN A GUPPY!?



I SAID

NOTHING BUT YOUR ILLUSIONS!!

THAT IT'S



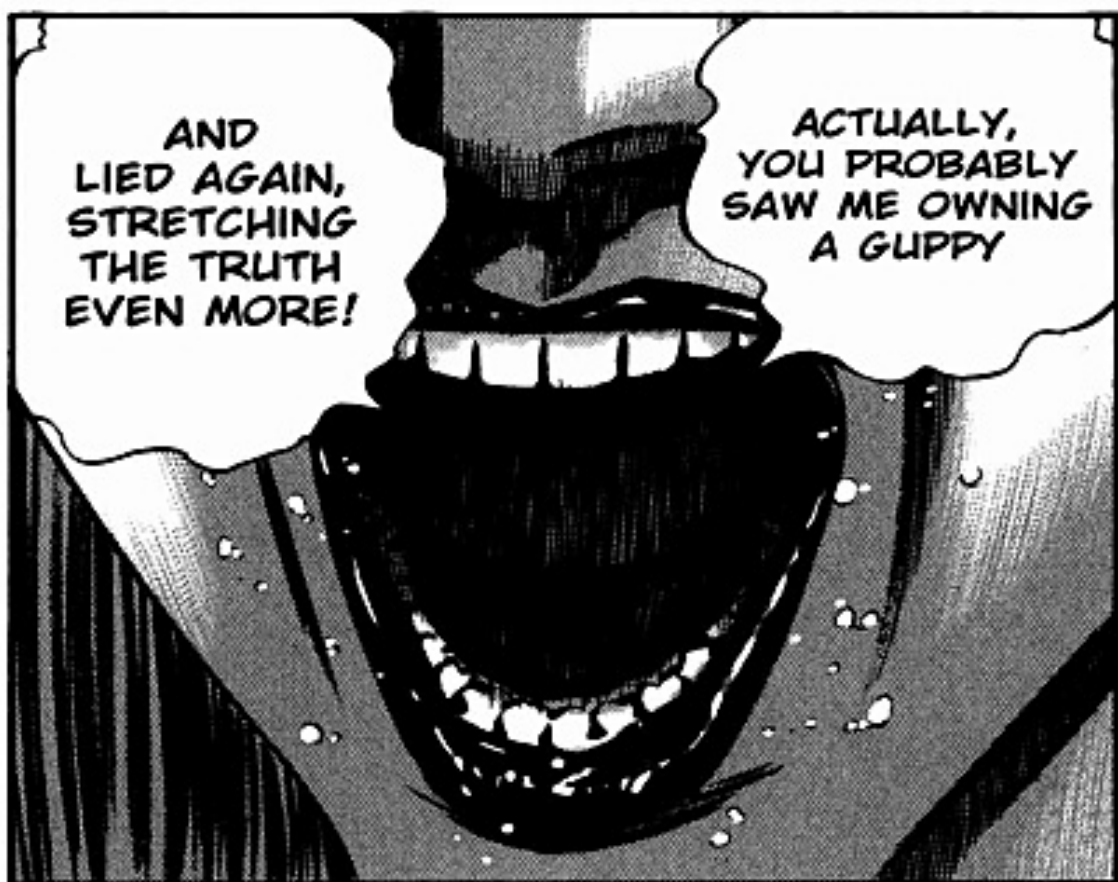
THERE'S  
NO REASON  
FOR THAT...

THERE  
...



GOING  
TOO  
FAR...

NOW  
THAT'S...



AND  
LIED AGAIN,  
STRETCHING  
THE TRUTH  
EVEN MORE!

ACTUALLY,  
YOU PROBABLY  
SAW ME OWNING  
A GUPPY



HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH ME!

THAT THE  
HOMUNCULI  
THAT YOU ARE  
SEEING

NOT TO  
MENTION  
I JUST  
TOLD YOU

I'VE NEVER  
OWNED ONE  
EITHER...

BUT...



THUS  
THERE IS NO  
RELATION  
BETWEEN ME  
AND THAT  
GUPPY!



AH!







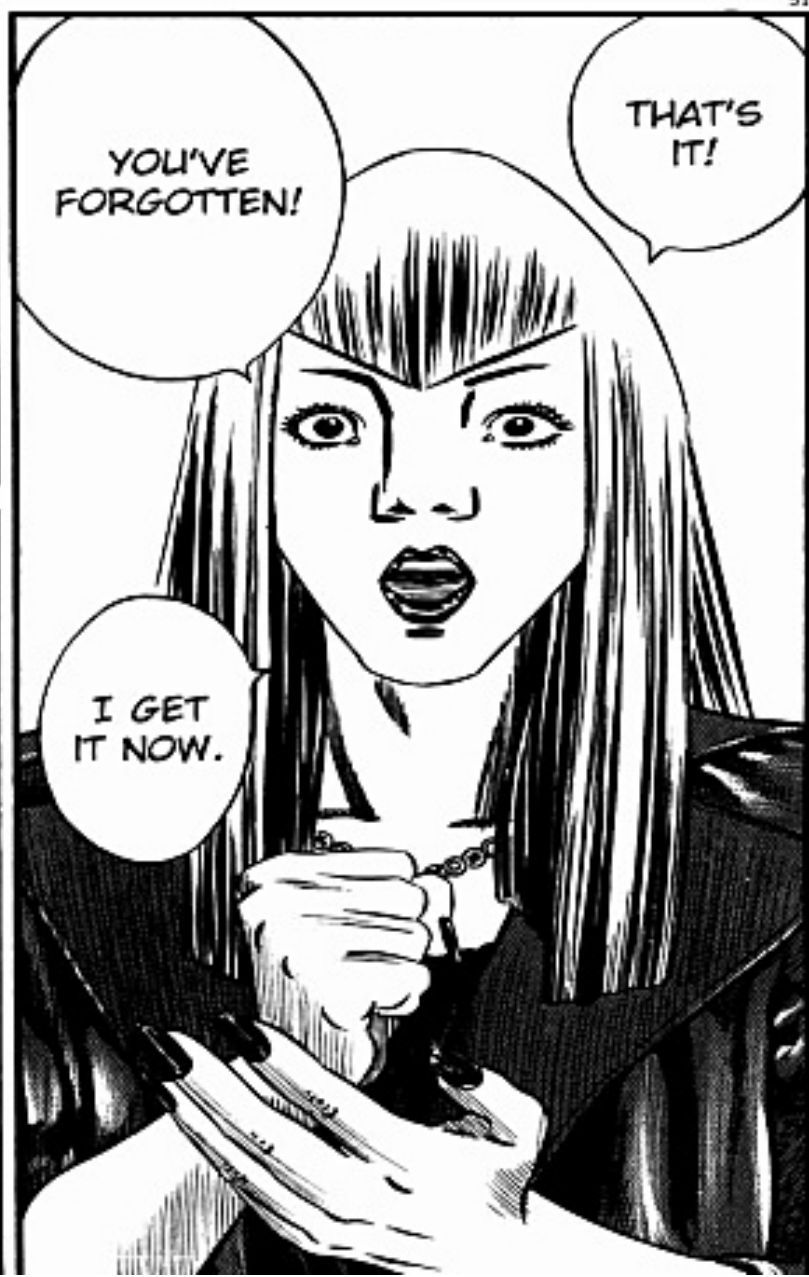
EH?

COULD IT  
BE YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN?

MR.  
NAKOSHI,



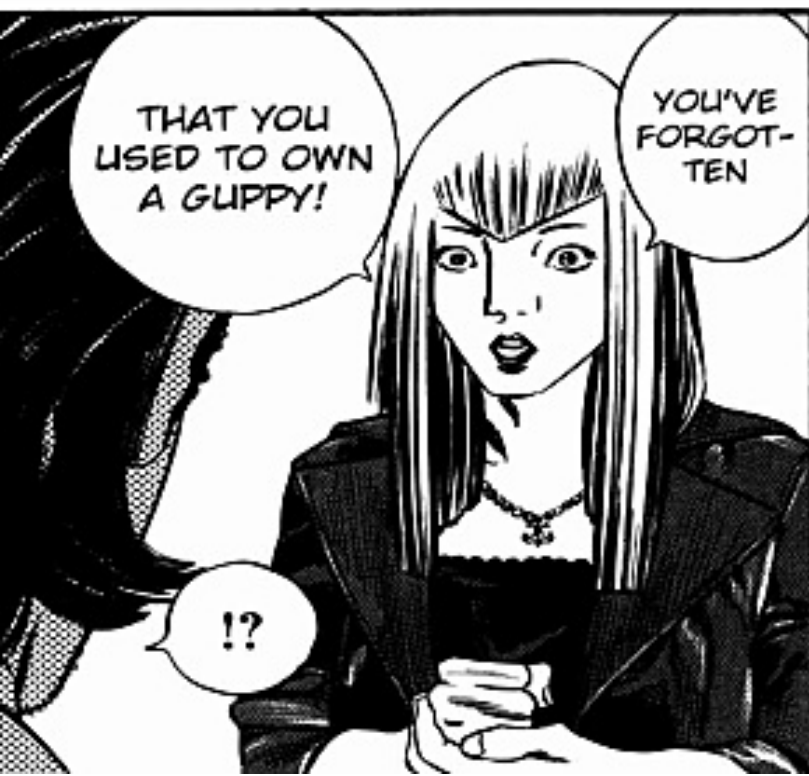
?



YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN!

THAT'S  
IT!

I GET  
IT NOW.



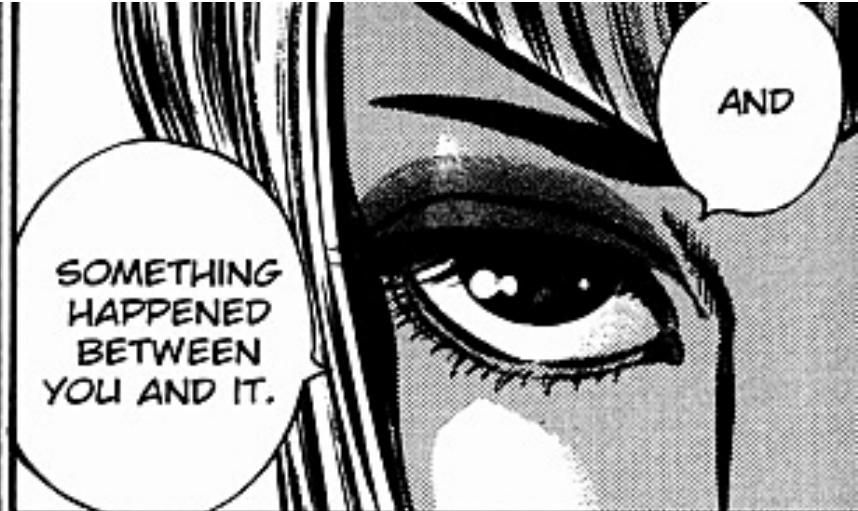
THAT YOU  
USED TO OWN  
A GUPPY!

YOU'VE  
FORGOT-  
TEN

!?



THAT'S  
ABSURD.



AND

SOMETHING  
HAPPENED  
BETWEEN  
YOU AND IT.



JUST LIKE  
YOU DID WITH  
THAT FACE OF  
YOURS.

YOU'VE JUST  
FORGOTTEN IT.



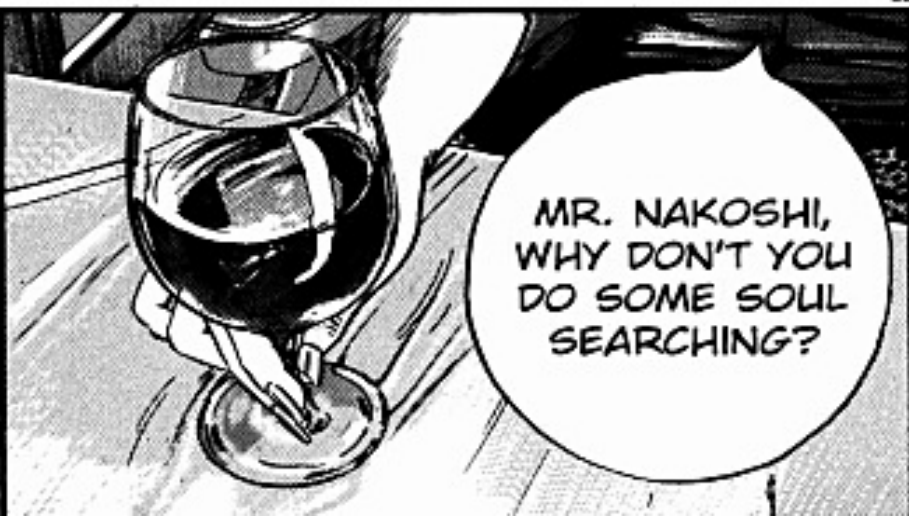
!!



YOU'VE  
SUPPRESSED  
THAT MEMORY  
AND FORGOT IT.



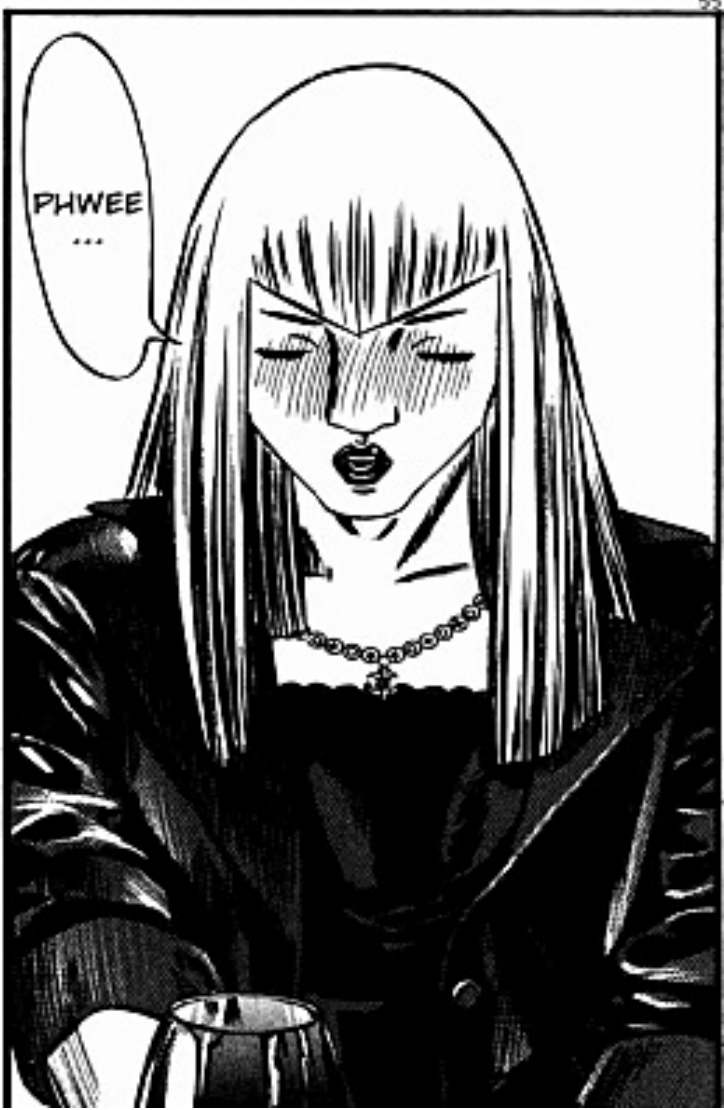
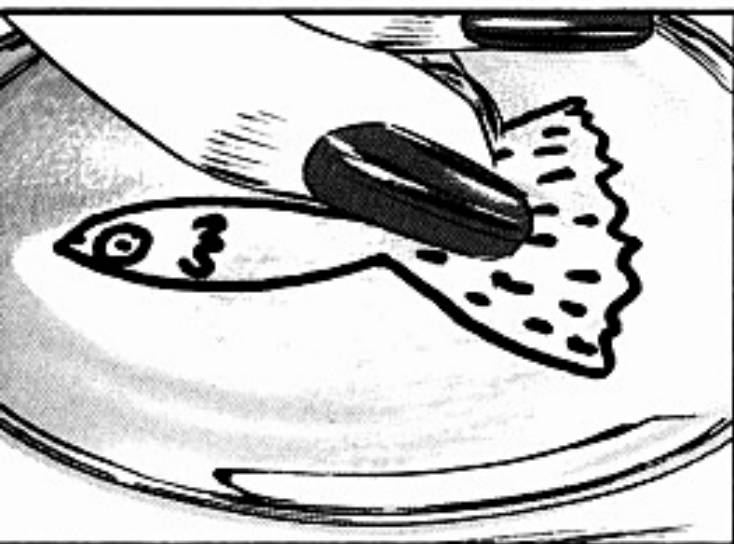
I  
DOUBT  
THAT...

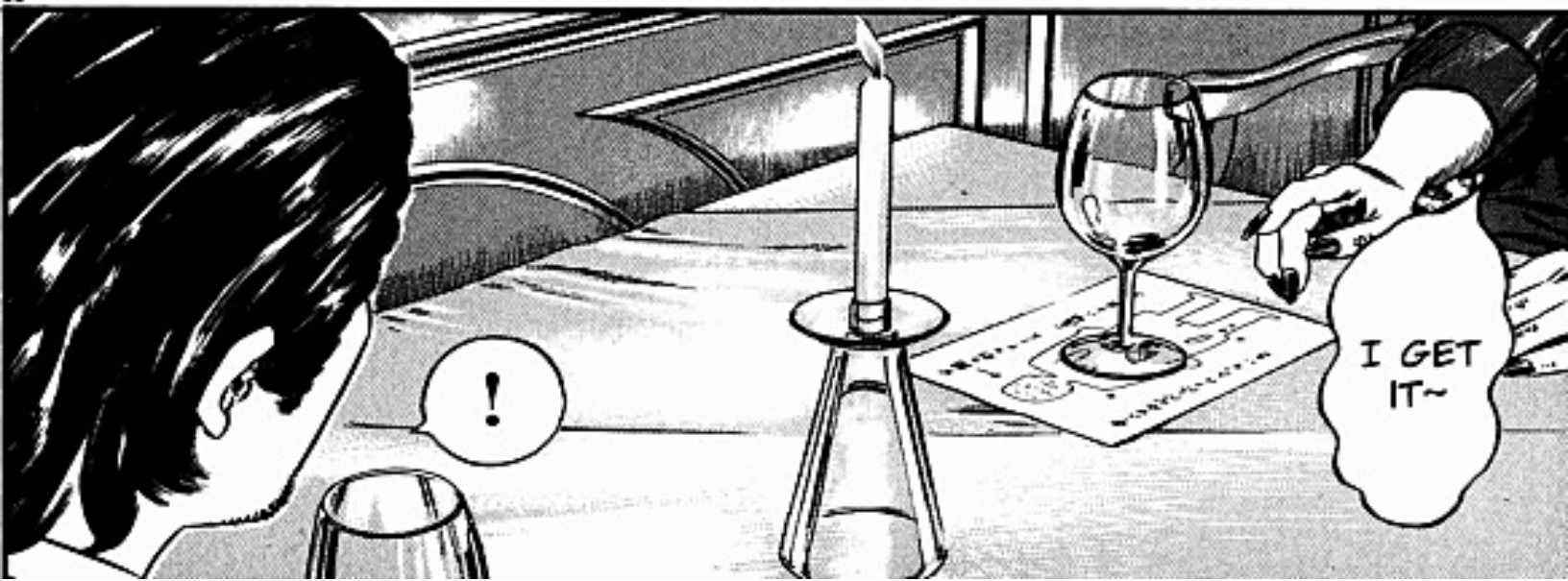
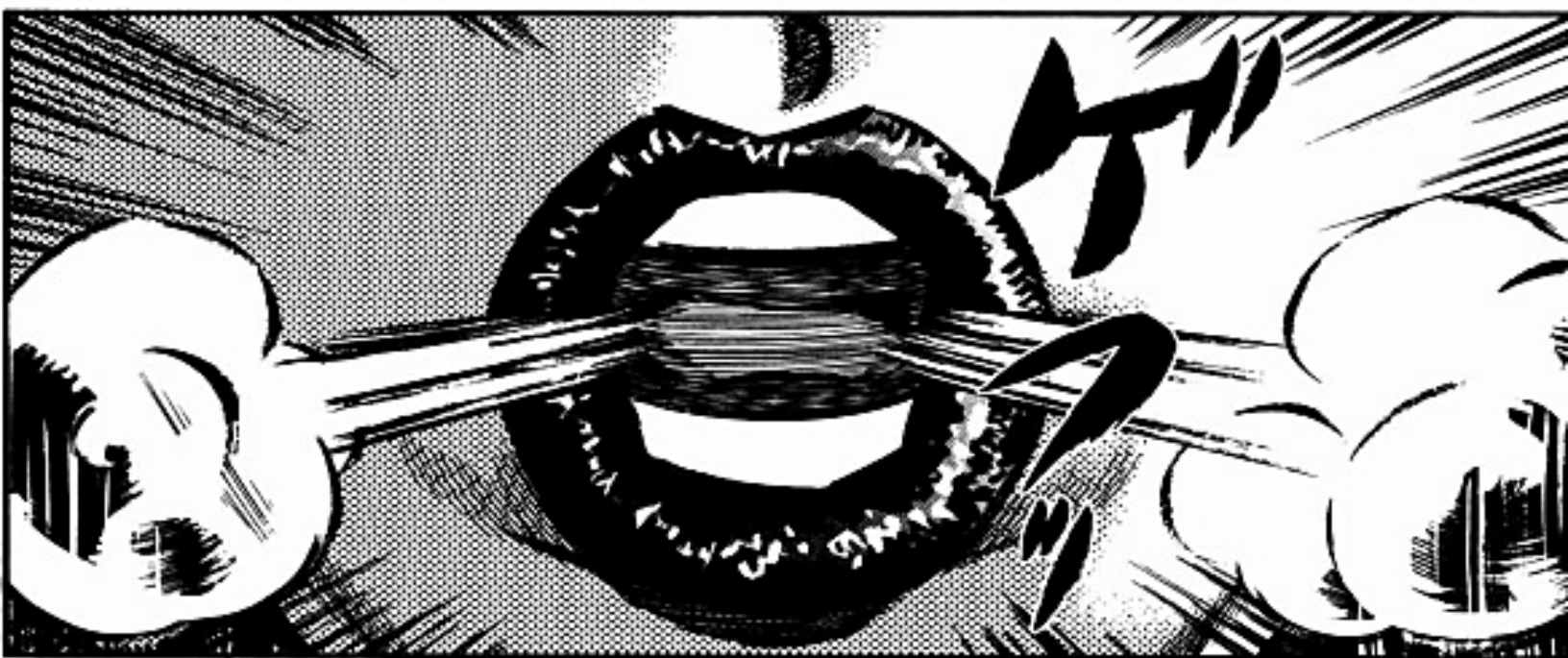
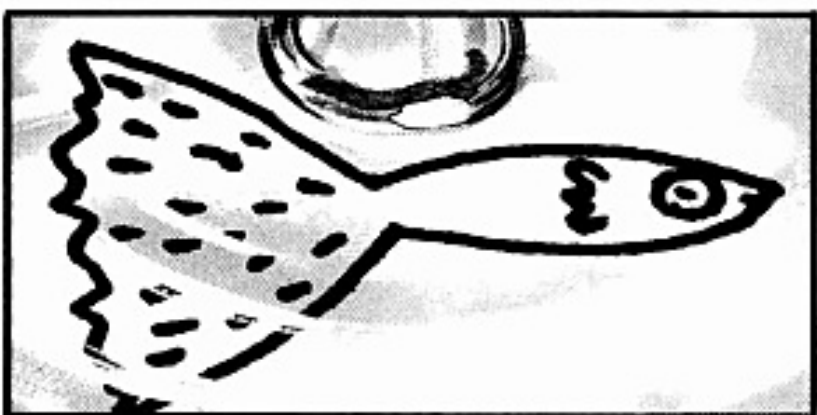


MR. NAKOSHI,  
WHY DON'T YOU  
DO SOME SOUL  
SEARCHING?











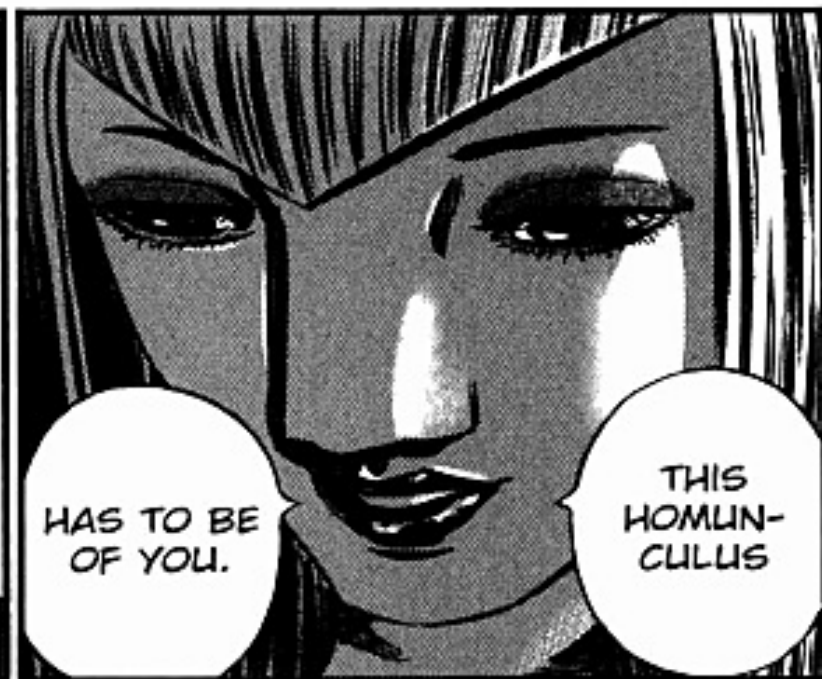


THE  
MATTER OF  
THE GUPPY  
FROM ME~

WHY  
YOU  
HID



!!



HAS TO BE  
OF YOU.

THIS  
HOMUN-  
CULUS



.....  
?



GUPPY BEING  
THE HIDDEN  
KEYWORD THAT  
PROVES THIS.



DESIRE  
TO LOOK  
NICE.



THE GUPPY BEING  
THE SYMBOL OF  
YOUR DESIRE TO  
LOOK COOL,



MR. USED-TO-  
BE-UGLY?

YOU HAD  
SURGERY  
BECAUSE  
YOU WANTED  
TO BE LIKE A  
GUPPY, RIGHT,





AFTER THE SURGERY.

SO HOW WAS IT?



SH...



DID THE WORLD CHANGE?





...SHUT  
UP...

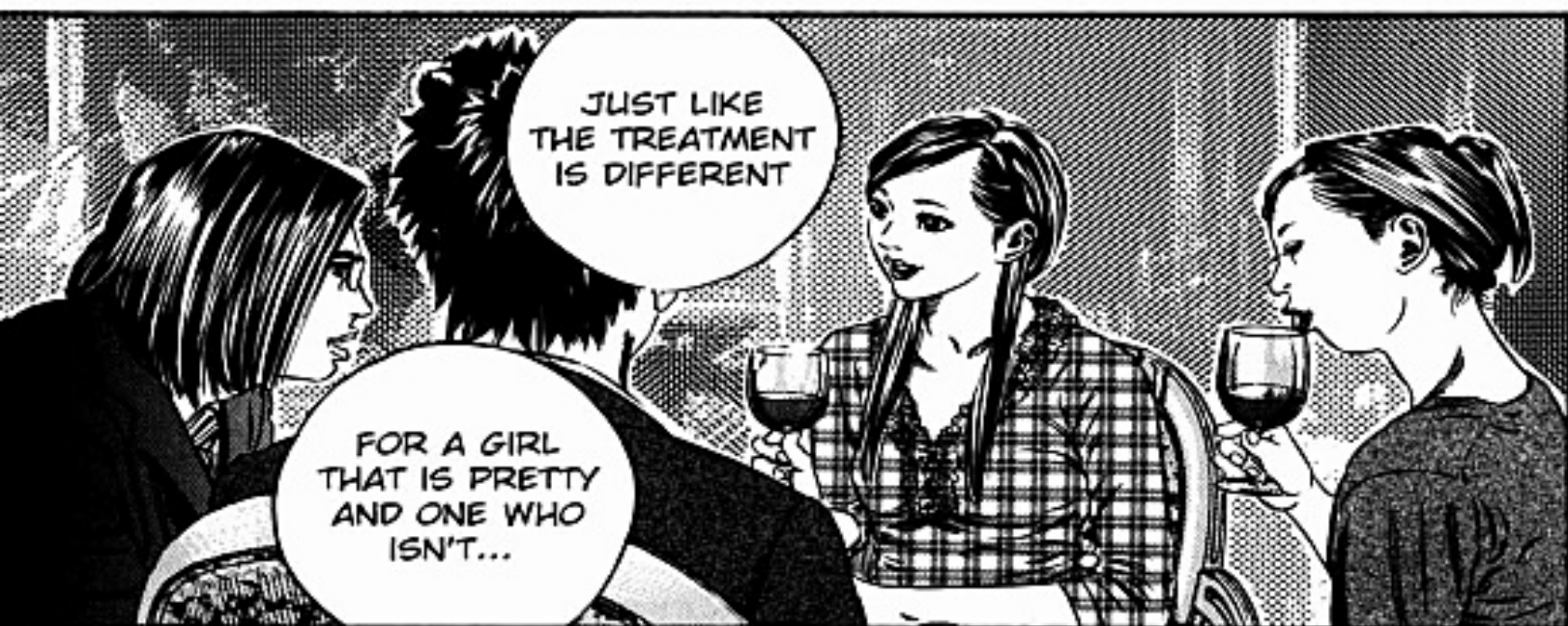


WELL,  
DIDN'T IT?



THE WORLD  
AROUND YOU  
JUST GLOWED,  
DIDN'T IT?

MONEY, WOMEN,  
POSSESSIONS...




JUST LIKE  
THE TREATMENT  
IS DIFFERENT

FOR A GIRL  
THAT IS PRETTY  
AND ONE WHO  
ISN'T...



APPEARANCE

DOES  
THAT.



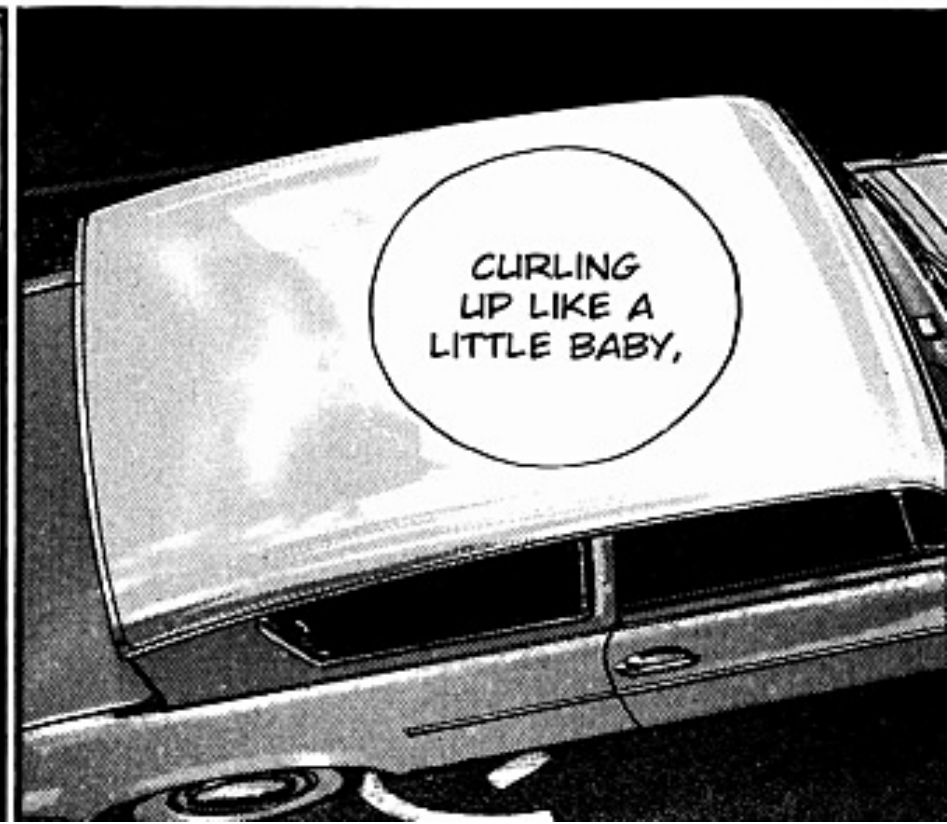
SO YOU GAVE UP  
THE MONEY, WOMEN,  
POSSESSIONS AND EVEN  
THOUGH YOU RAN AWAY  
TO THE MIDDLE OF THE  
HOTEL AND PARK YOU  
STILL COULDN'T FIND  
THAT FEELING.

HOWEVER,  
LIVING A LIE  
TOOK AWAY  
THE FEELING  
OF LIVING,

62

"BUT I WANT  
MY OLD SWELF  
BWACK. J"

SLEEPING  
WITH YOUR  
THUMB IN  
YOUR MOUTH  
AND THINKING



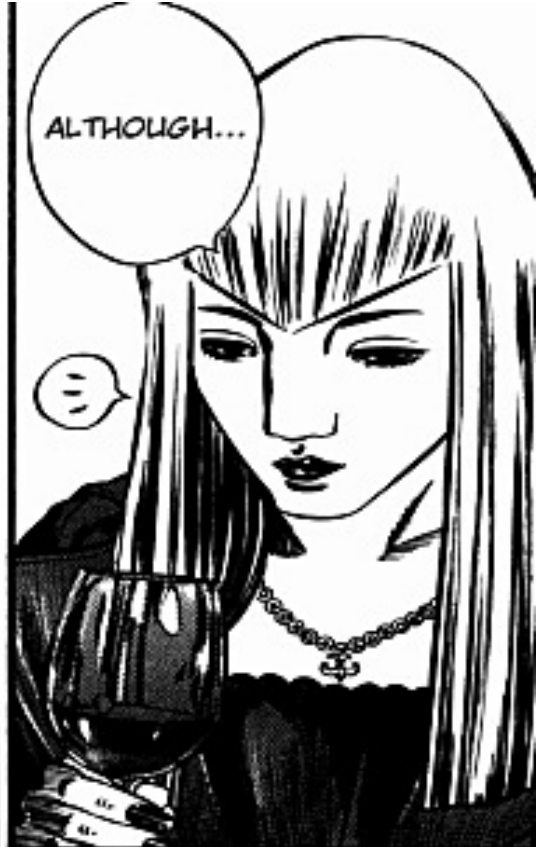
CURLING  
UP LIKE A  
LITTLE BABY,







JUST LIKE WITH THE GUPPY...



...

ALTHOUGH...



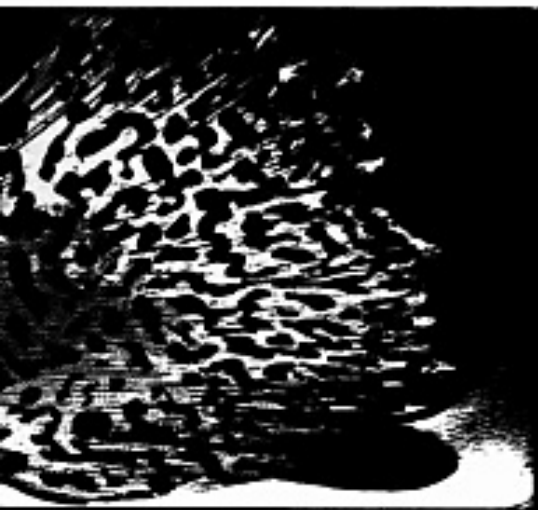
OR WHAT YOU DID.

HOW YOU LOOKED,

YOU CAN'T REMEMBER



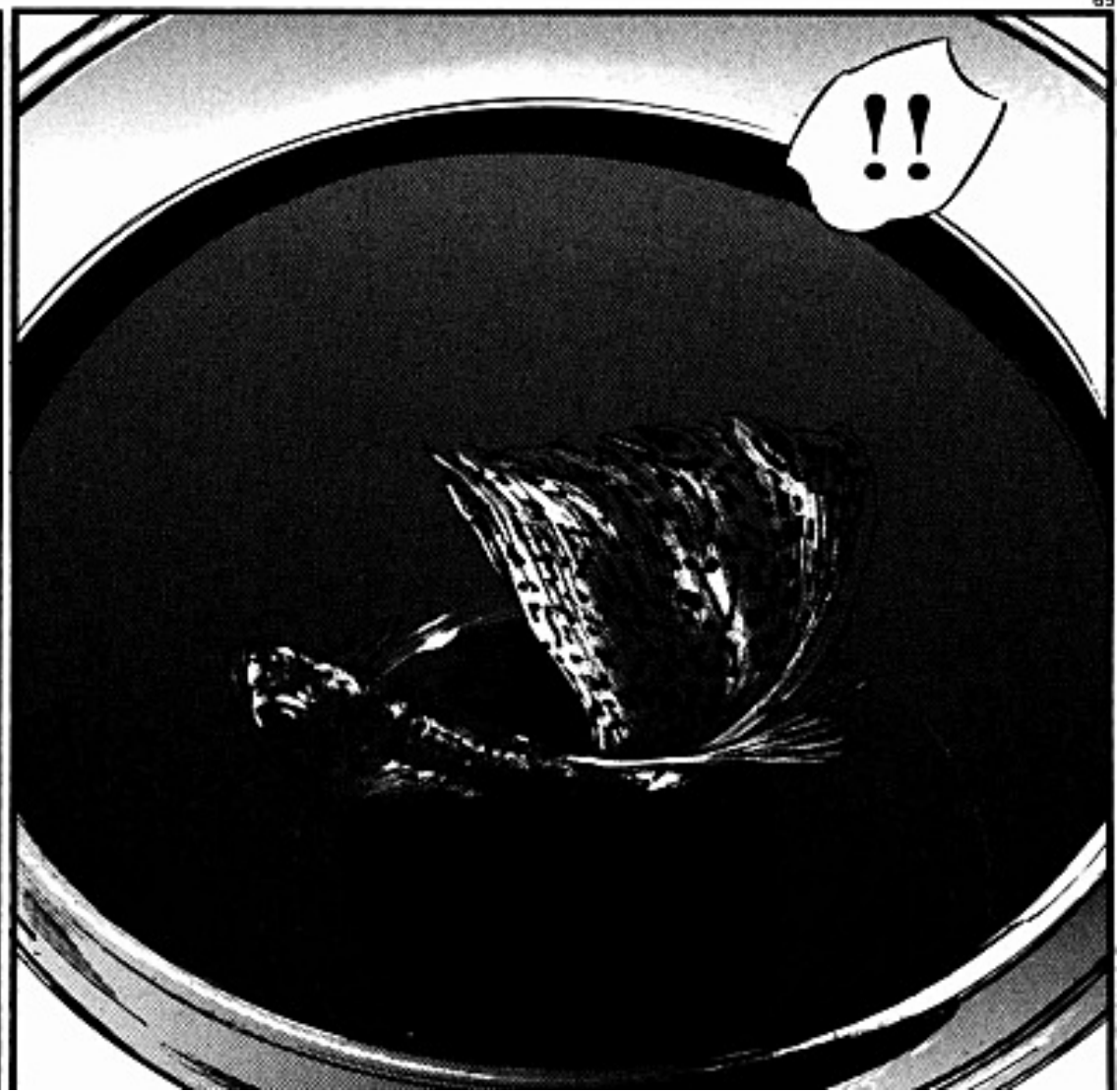
.....



BEFORE THAT SURGERY...?



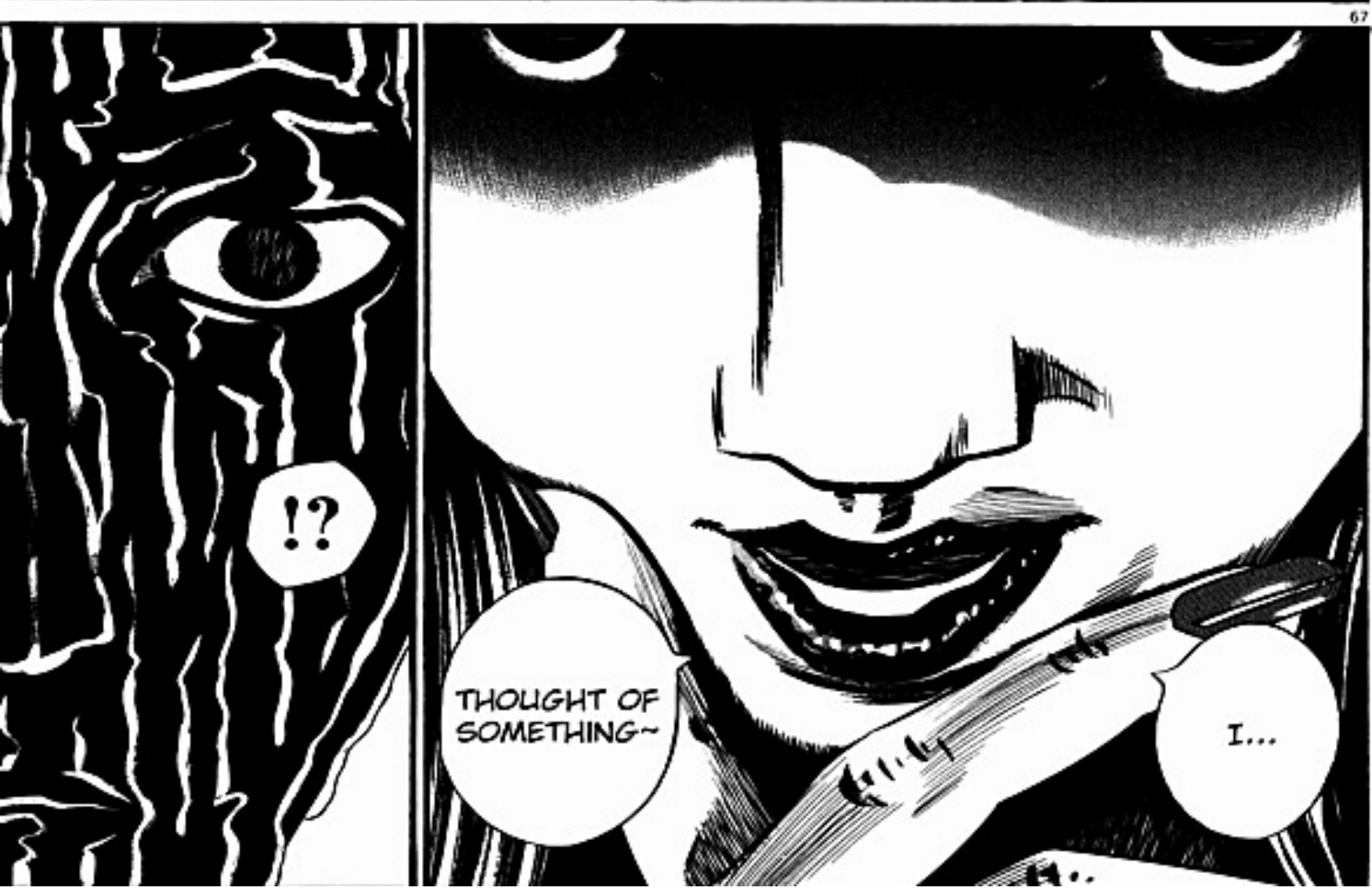
WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED ...

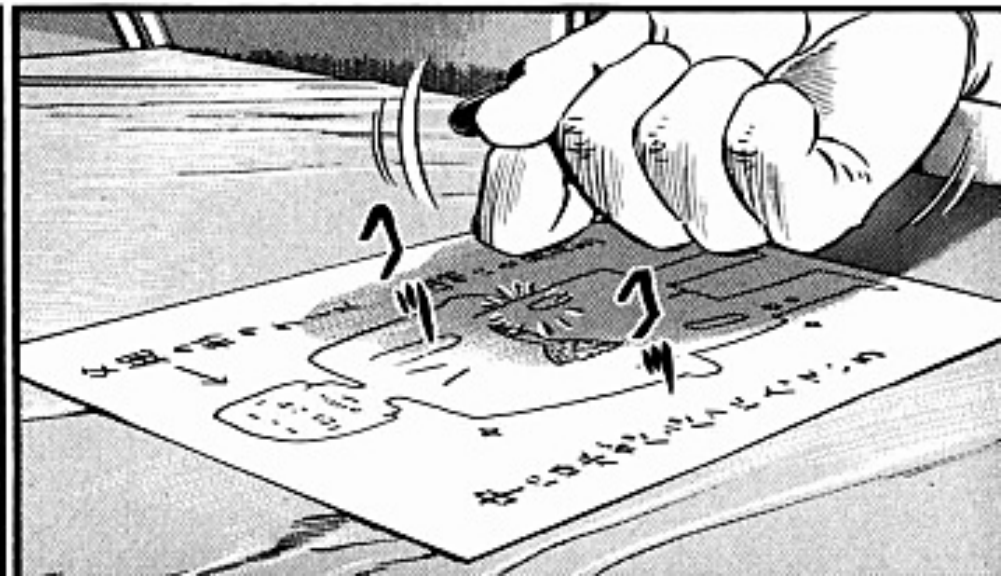
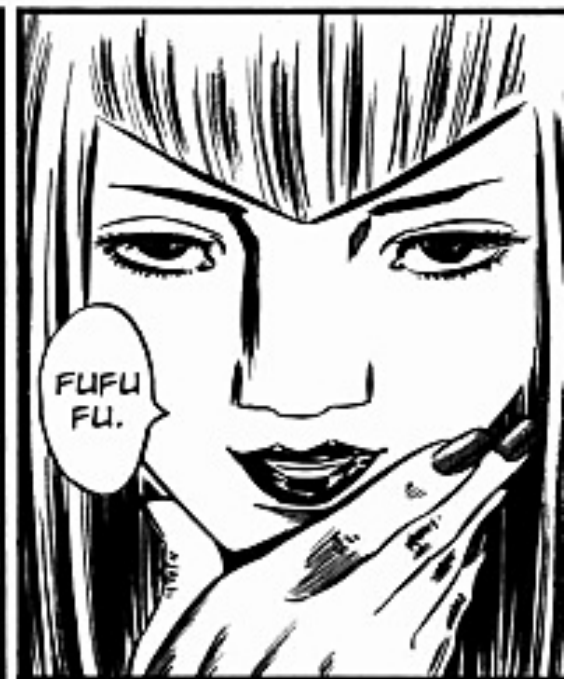


!!













WE~LL  
ISN'T IT EASY  
ENOUGH TO  
FIGURE OUT?



!?  
.....



BEFORE THE SURGERY...



?



THAT DIDN'T ALLOW YOU TO ASSERT YOURSELF.



YOU GREW UP IN A STRICT FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

YOU WERE LIKE THIS GLASS, AN INVISIBLE MAN.



SOUNDS LIKE A WOMAN'S ...?

HIS VOICE...



THAT'S GOTTA BE IT♪

YEAH,



YOUR FATHER WAS EXCEPTIONALLY STRICT.



THIS FACE INDICATES

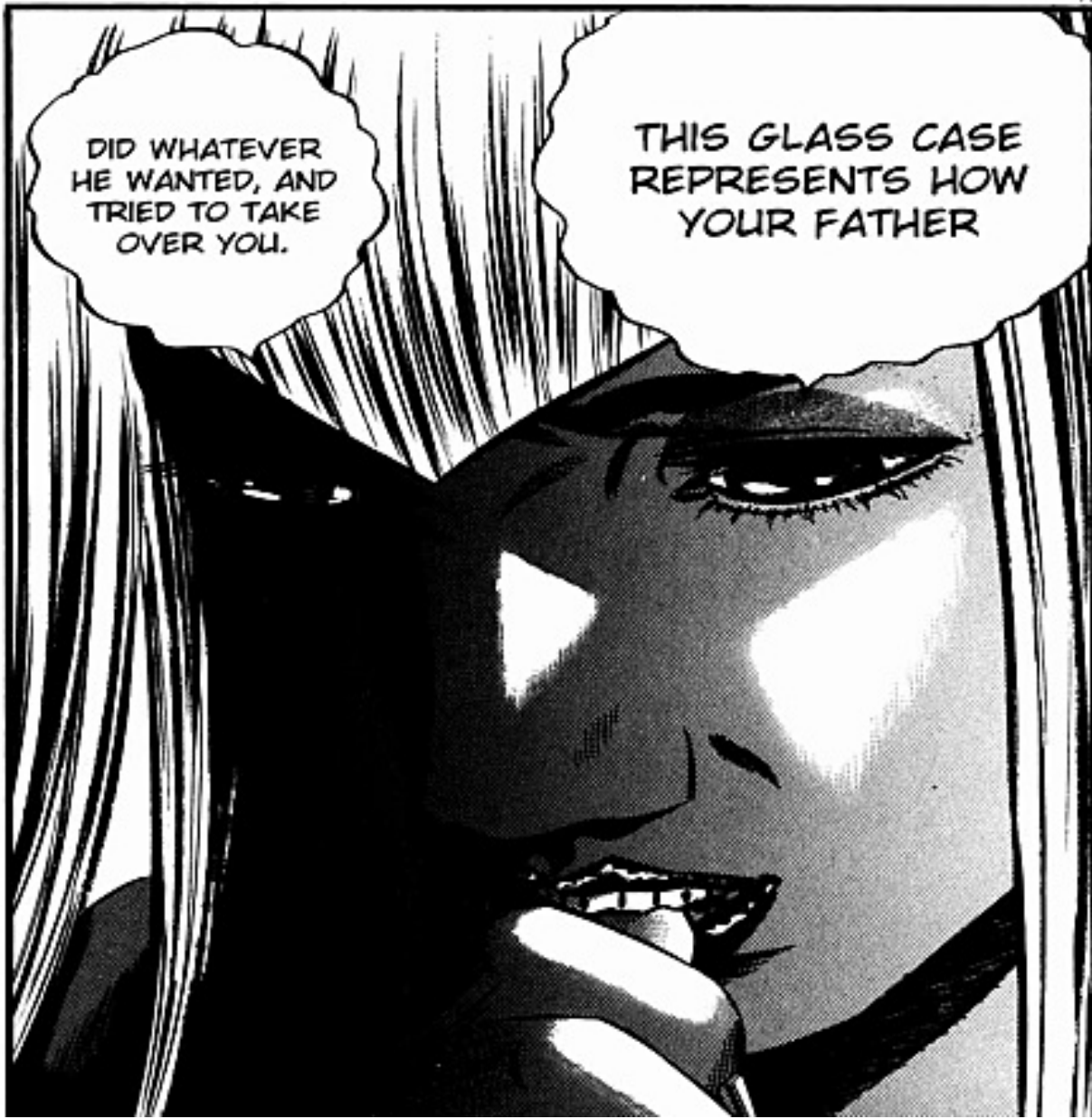
AND HERE,



EH...?



I...



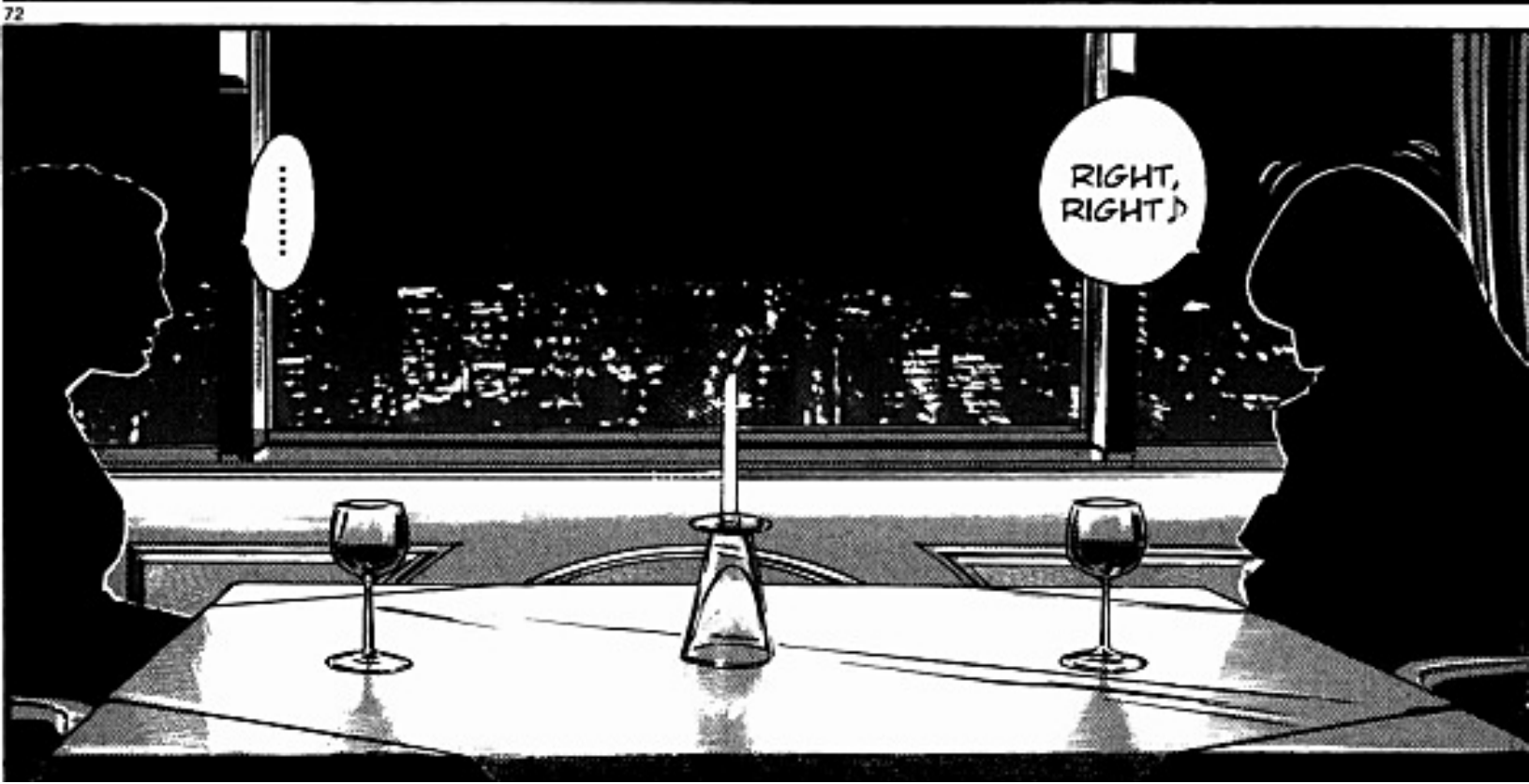
DID WHATEVER HE WANTED, AND TRIED TO TAKE OVER YOU.

THIS GLASS CASE REPRESENTS HOW YOUR FATHER



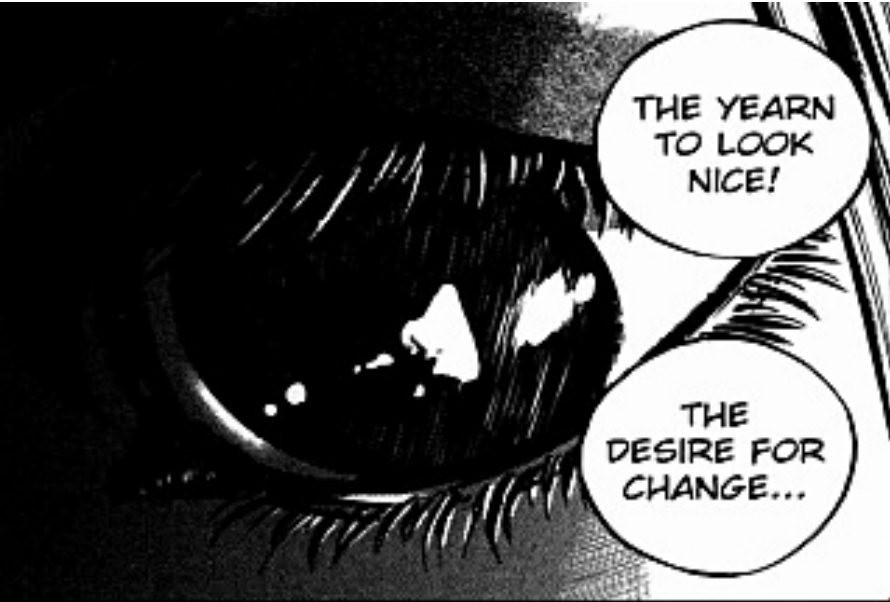


I THOUGHT I  
TOLD YOU THAT  
I DIDN'T HAVE  
A FATHER...!



.....

RIGHT,  
RIGHT ♪



THE YEARN  
TO LOOK  
NICE!

THE  
DESIRE FOR  
CHANGE...

IS A  
SYMBOL OF  
YOURSELF!

AND THE GUPPY  
INSIDE HERE



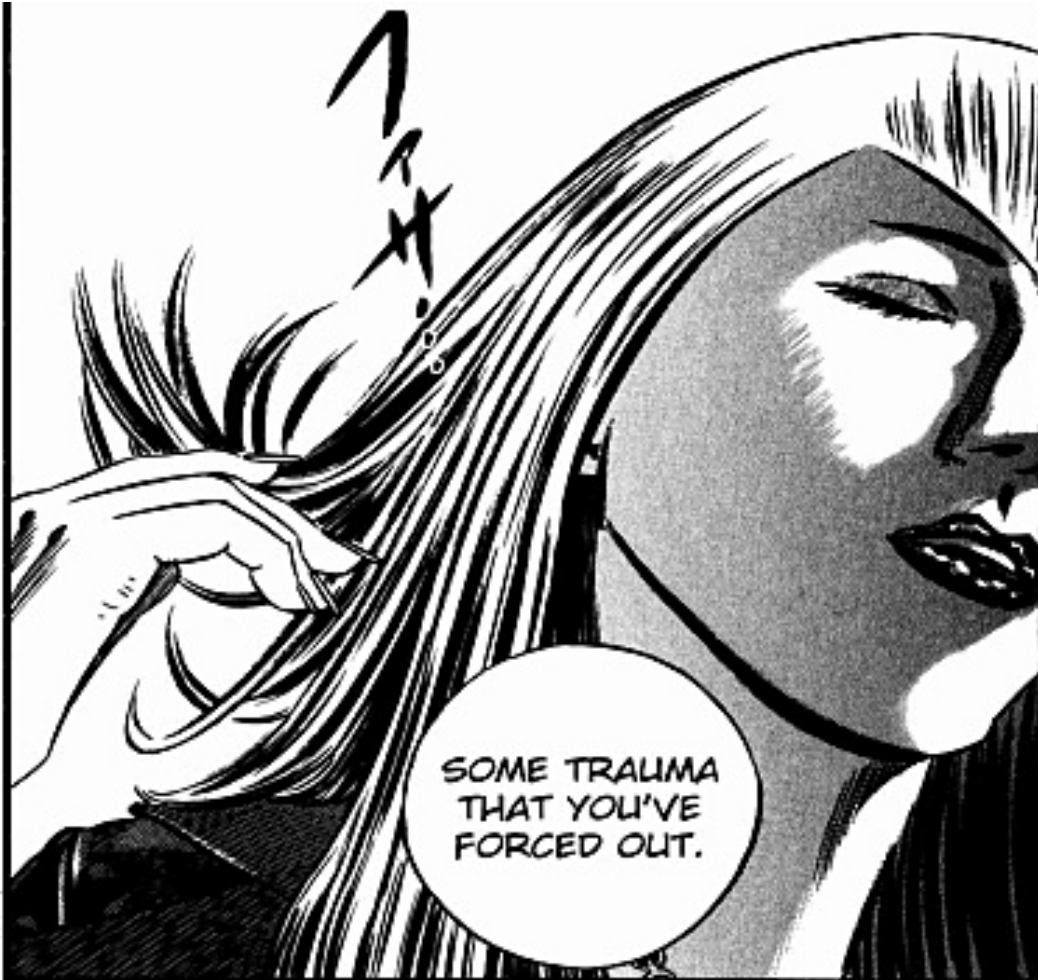
...STILL,

I'VE NEVER  
OWNED A  
GUPPY.



FUFU...

YOU'VE JUST  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT THAT  
IMPORTANT  
GUPPY.



SOME TRAUMA  
THAT YOU'VE  
FORCED OUT.

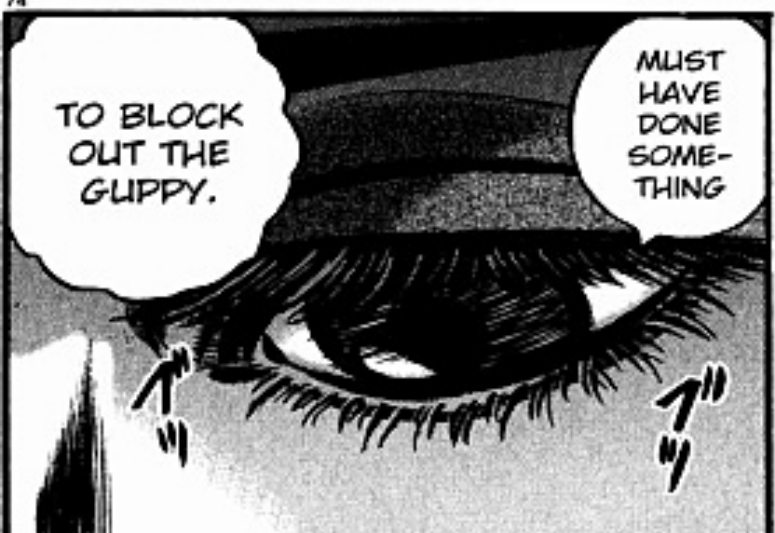


SOMETHING MUST  
HAVE HAPPENED THAT  
RELATES TO THE WORDS  
"GUPPY" AND "FATHER."



EXCUSE  
ME.

OH  
MY...



TO BLOCK  
OUT THE  
GUPPY.

MUST  
HAVE  
DONE  
SOME-  
THING




YEAH,

THE  
"FATHER"  
...







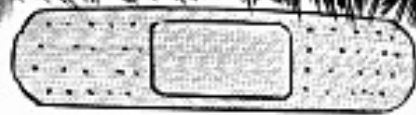
WAS KILLED BY  
YOUR FATHER?

DO YOU  
THINK MAYBE  
YOUR PET  
GUPPY

MR.  
NAKOSHI ♪

CARELESSLY  
TALKING ABOUT  
HIMSELF!

HE'S...







COVER

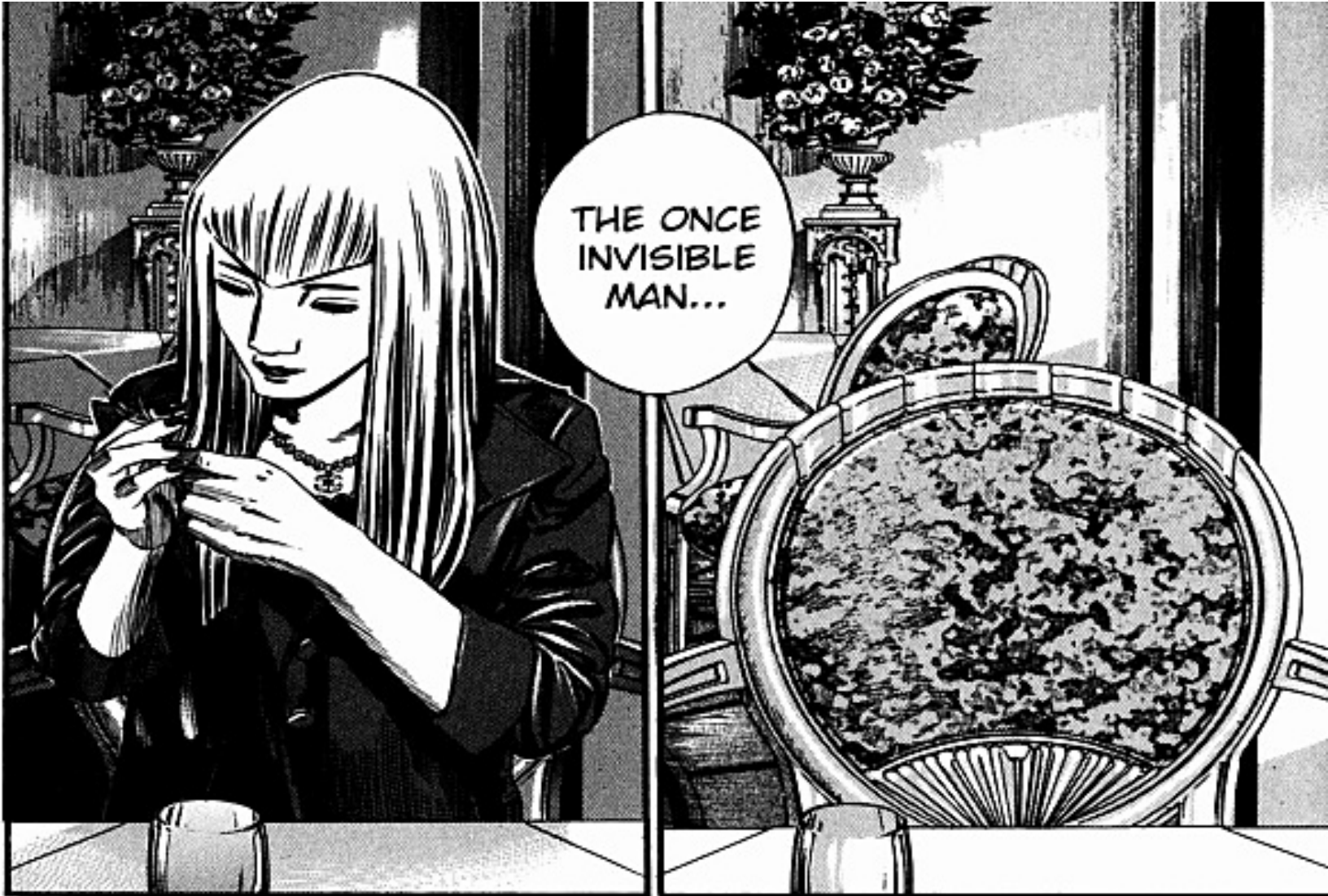


I'M SURE  
OF IT.

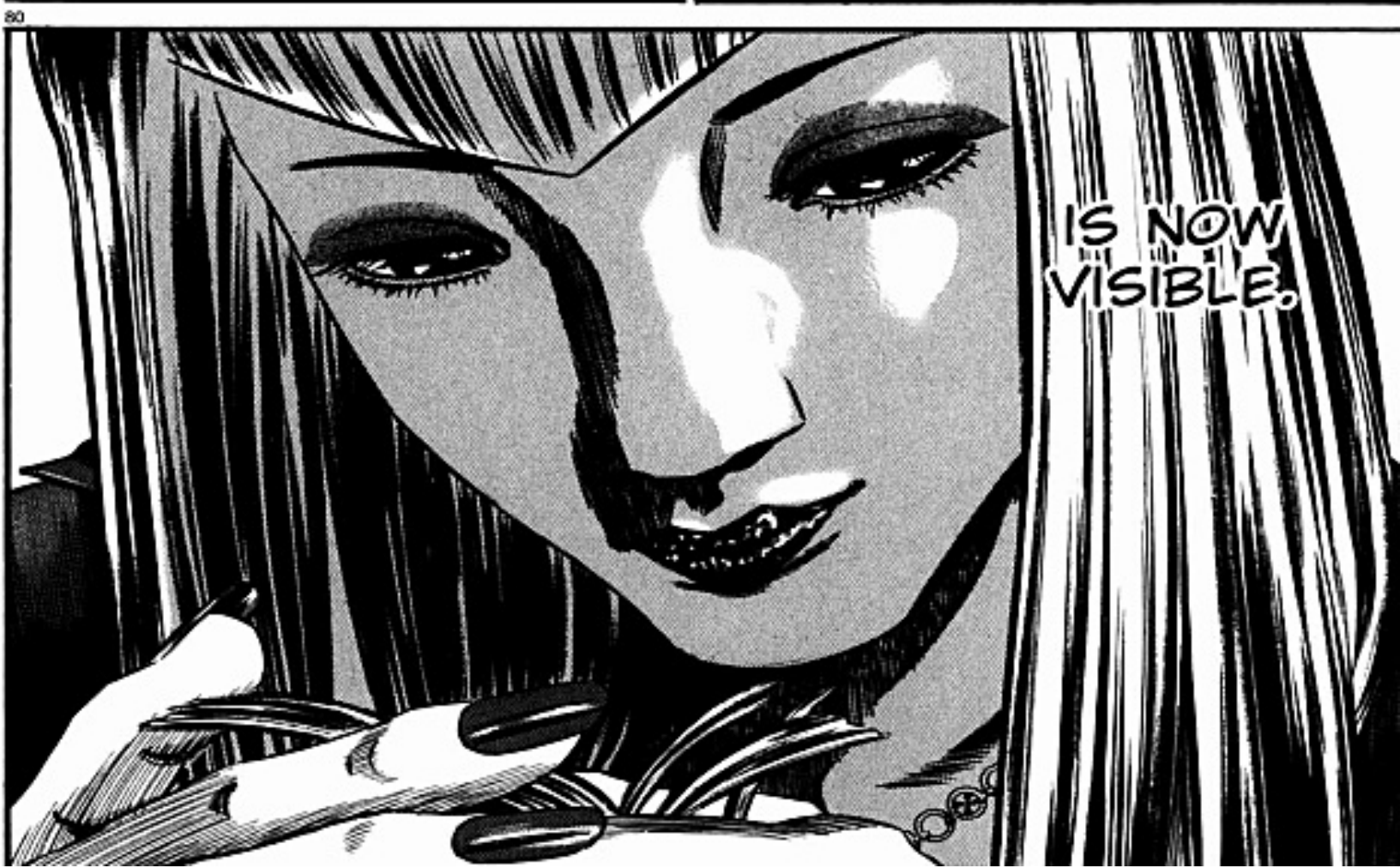
FU  
FU  
FU.

THAT'S  
GOTTA  
BE IT.





THE ONCE  
INVISIBLE  
MAN...

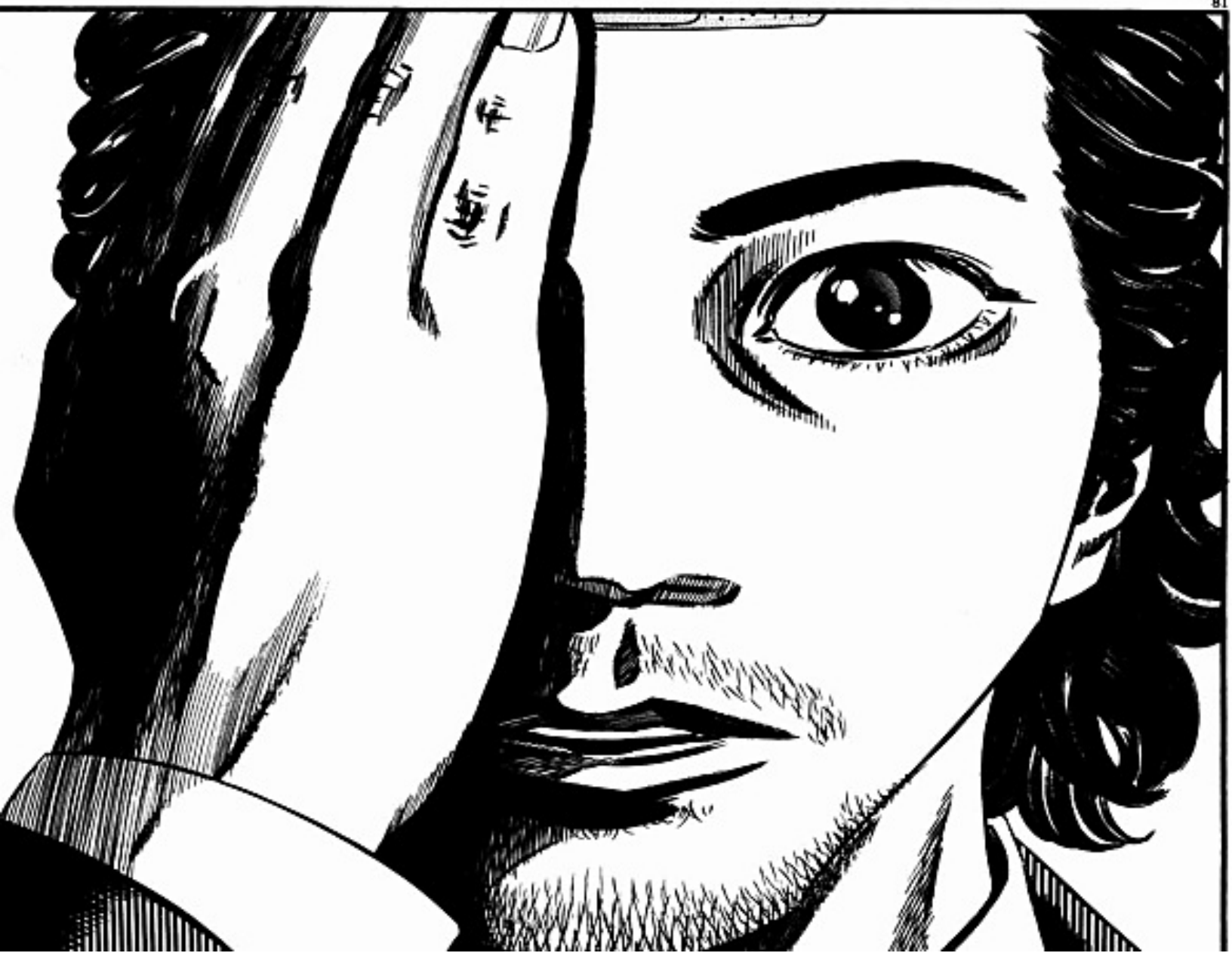


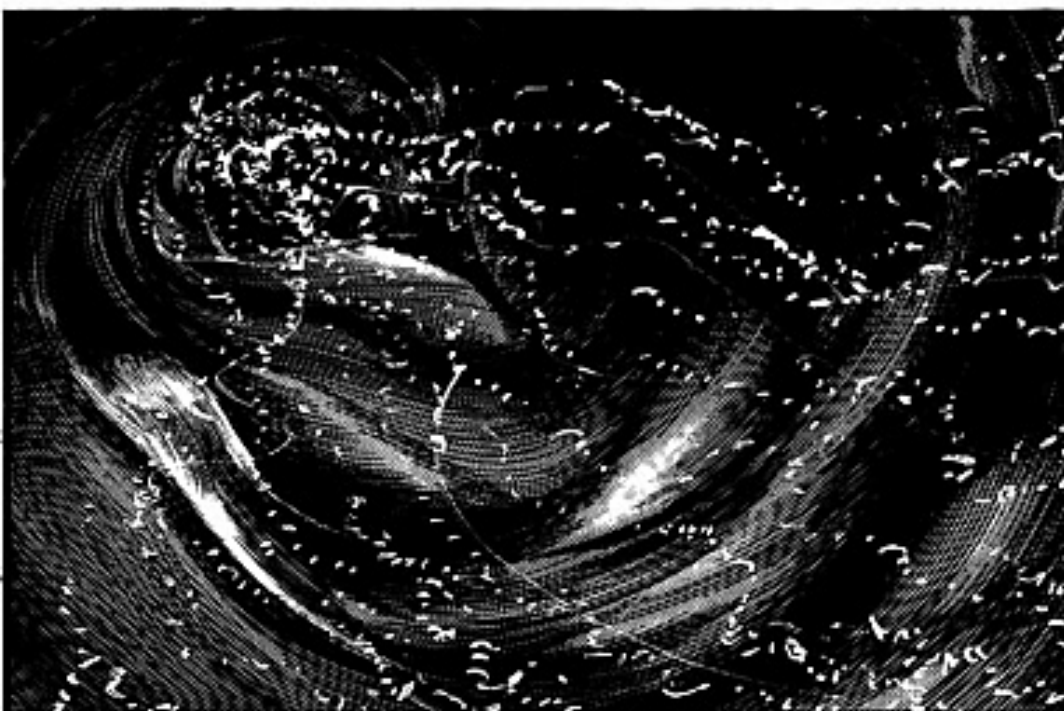
IS NOW  
VISIBLE.

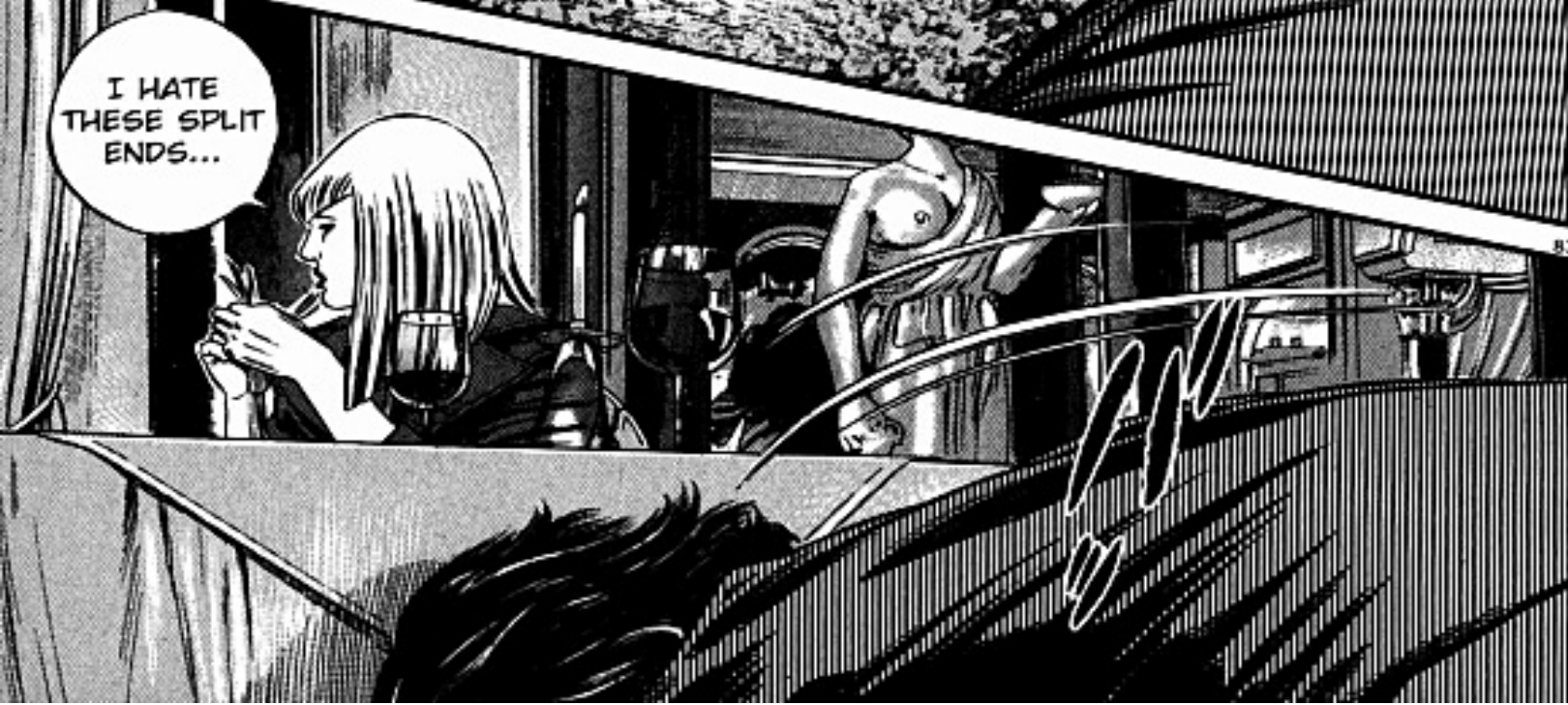




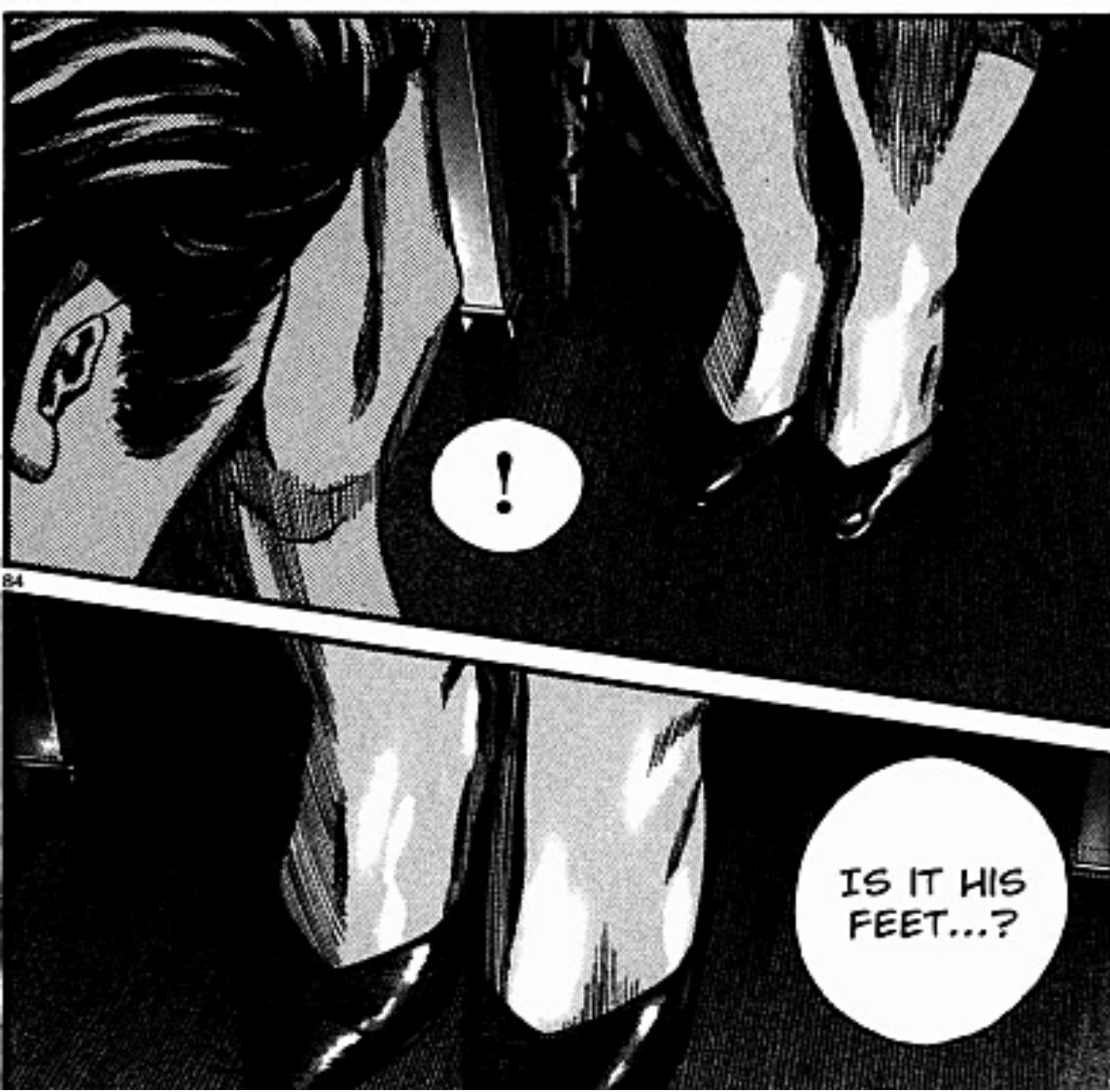
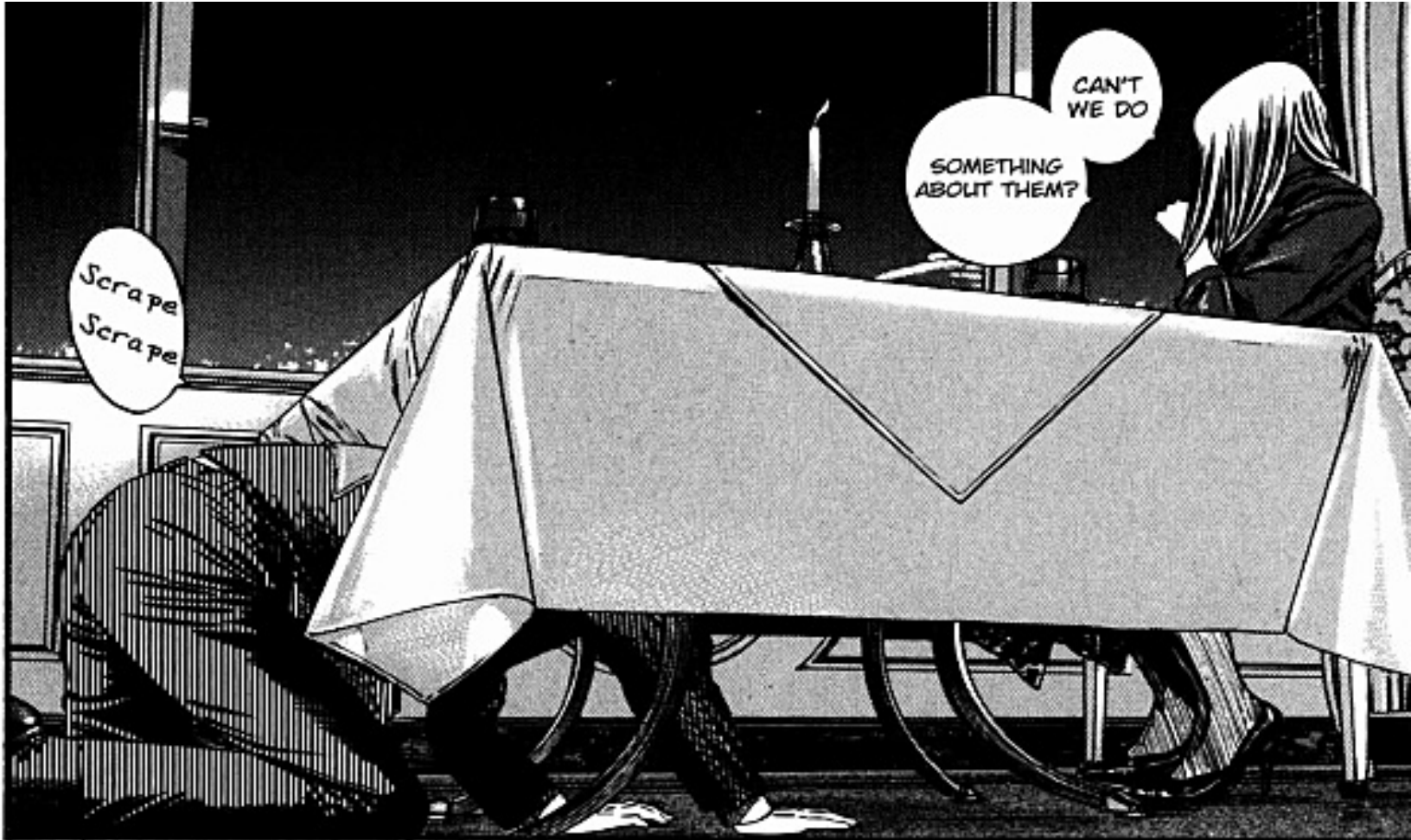
I CAN  
SEE HIM...













THAT  
REEKS!





















HIS  
FEET...



THAT'S  
IT...



!



!



MINE...

UNLIKE  
HIS FEET,

THEY'VE  
LOST ALL LIFE  
TO THEM...

LACK SMELL,  
WEIGHT AND  
WARMTH.





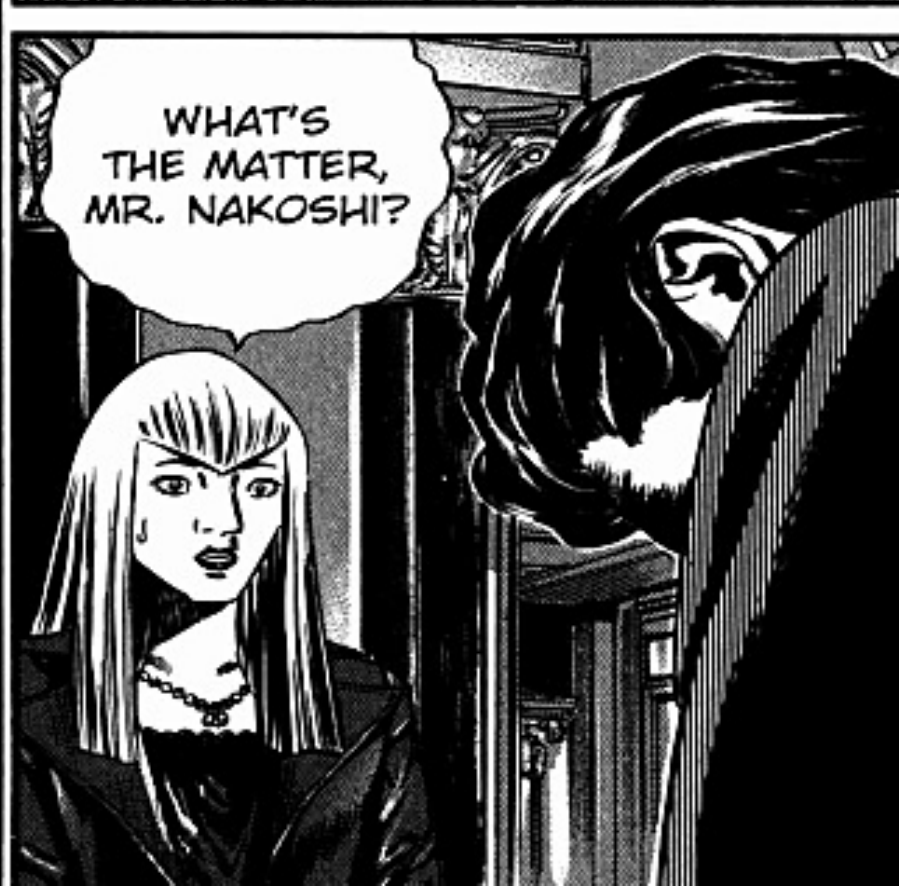
THAT HAD  
ANY LIFE TO  
THEM...

THE BOTTOMS  
OF MY FEET  
WERE THE ONLY  
THINGS LEFT...



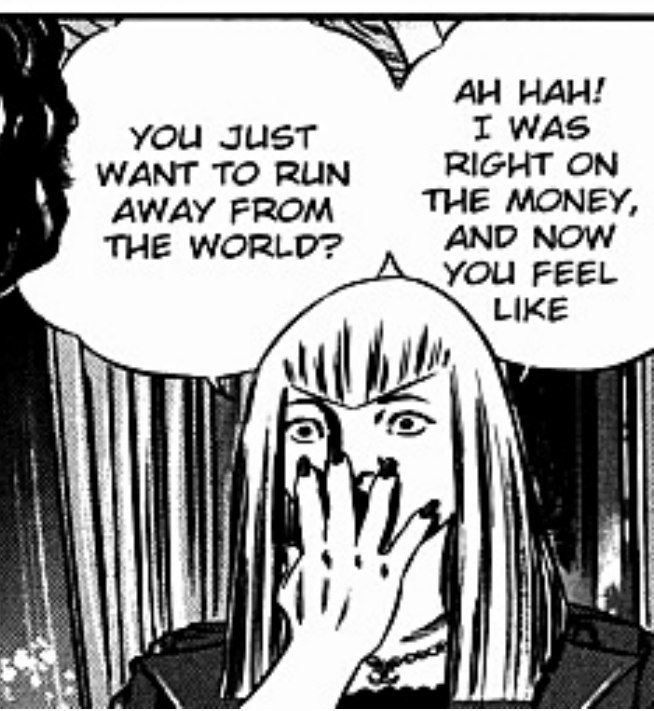
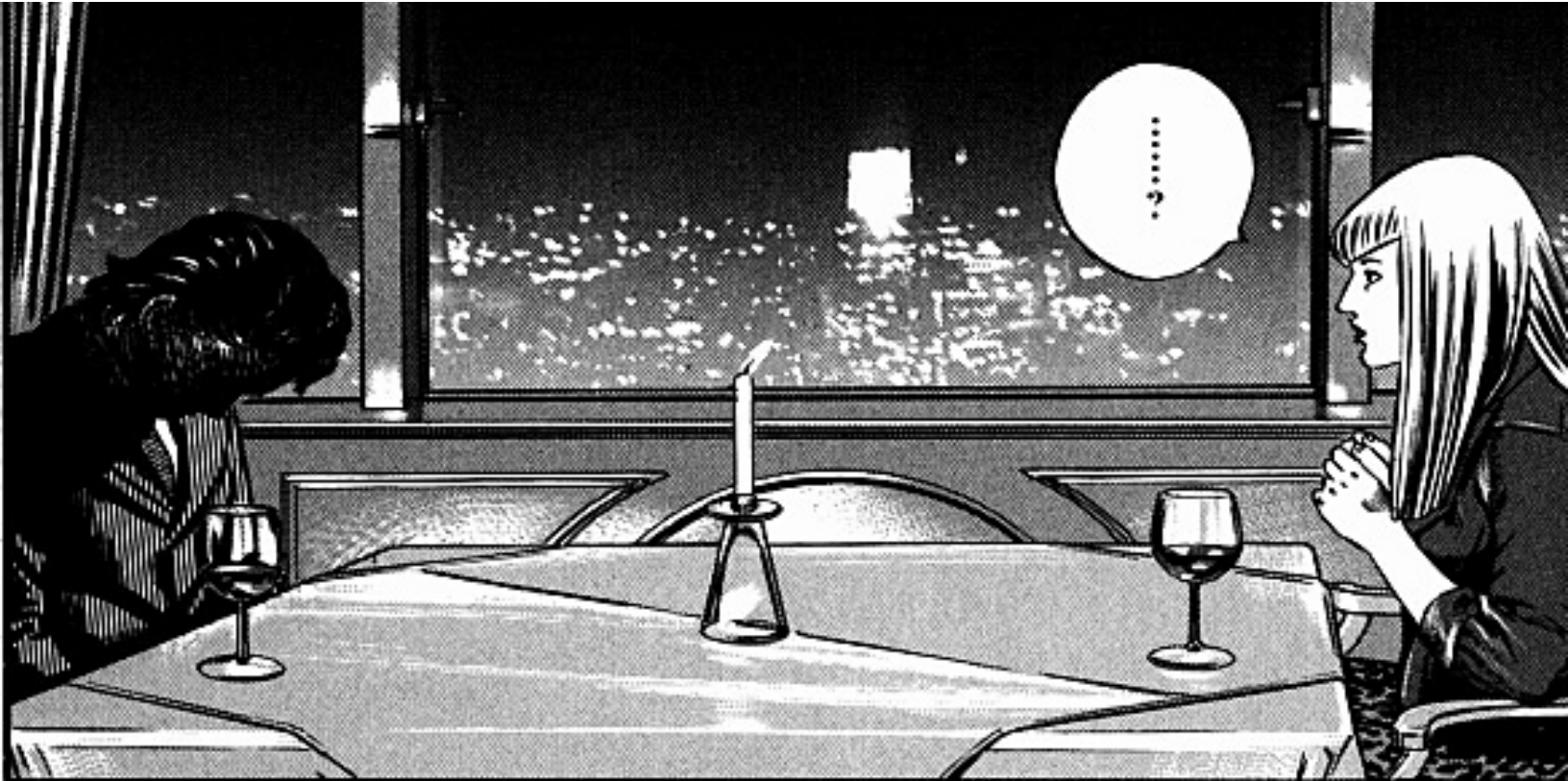














EH?



SHUT  
UP...



EXCUSE  
ME?



YOAR FEET  
BE REEKIN'  
UP DA  
PLACE...



WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER  
...

NAKOSHI-  
WOSHY?



SO WUT IF  
YOUS GOT FEET  
THAT SMELL,  
FEEL WEIGHT N'  
HAVE WARMTH.



OH MY,  
OH MY...

WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH THIS  
BOY...?



DON'T YA BE  
ALL HIGH N'  
MIGHTY JUST  
'CUZ YA GOT LIFE  
IN DEM FEET.





SO COME ON, LOOK AT ME.

YOU'RE SCARING ME,



HEY NOW...



WE SHOULD LOOK EACH OTHER IN THE EYES?

WASN'T IT YOU WHO SAID



Flow

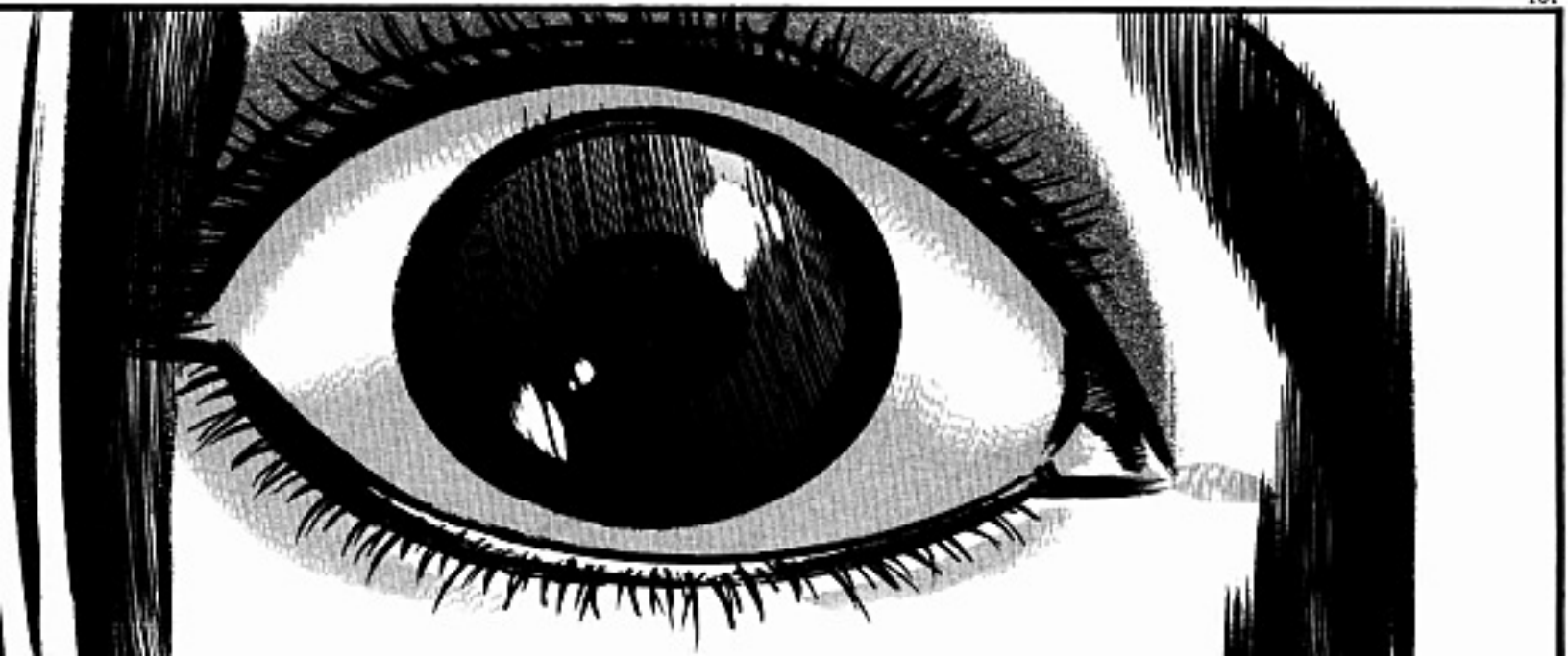


YOU WASN'T  
LYIN' 'TIL  
JUS' NOW!!

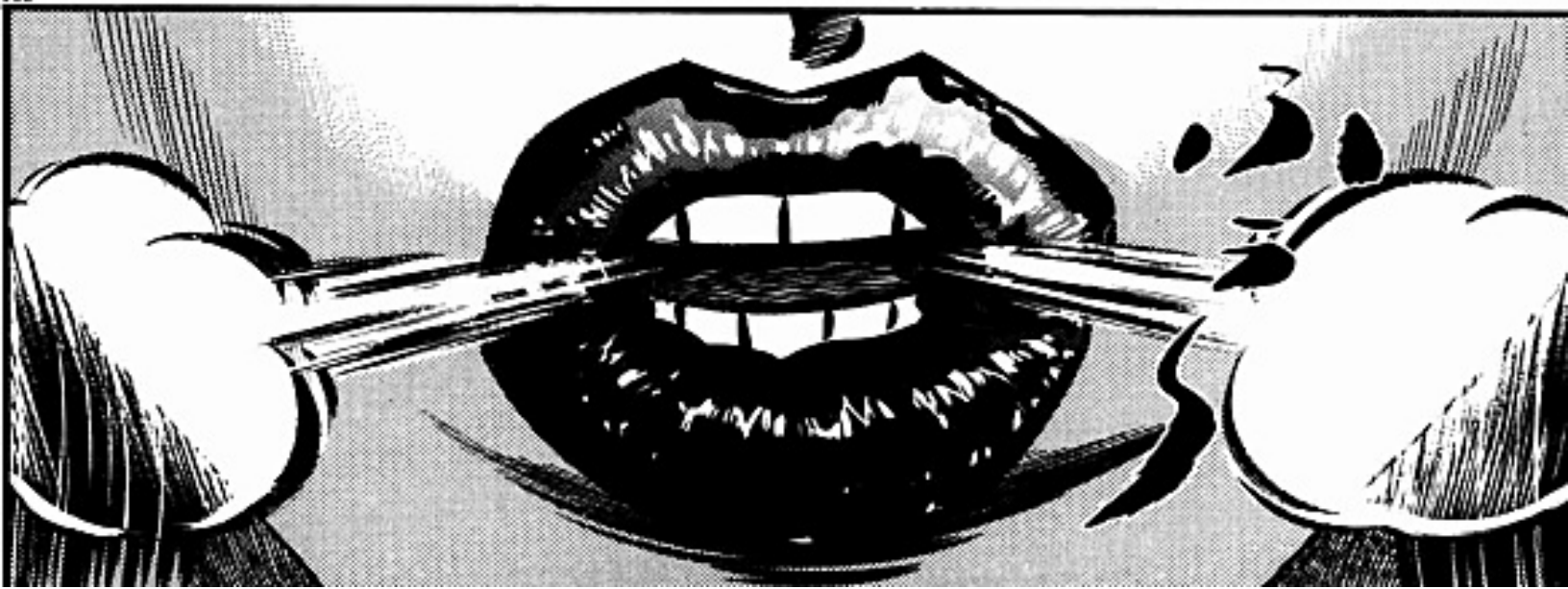
AH AIN'T DA  
ONLY ONE DAT  
WUZ LYIN' TAH  
MAHSELF...

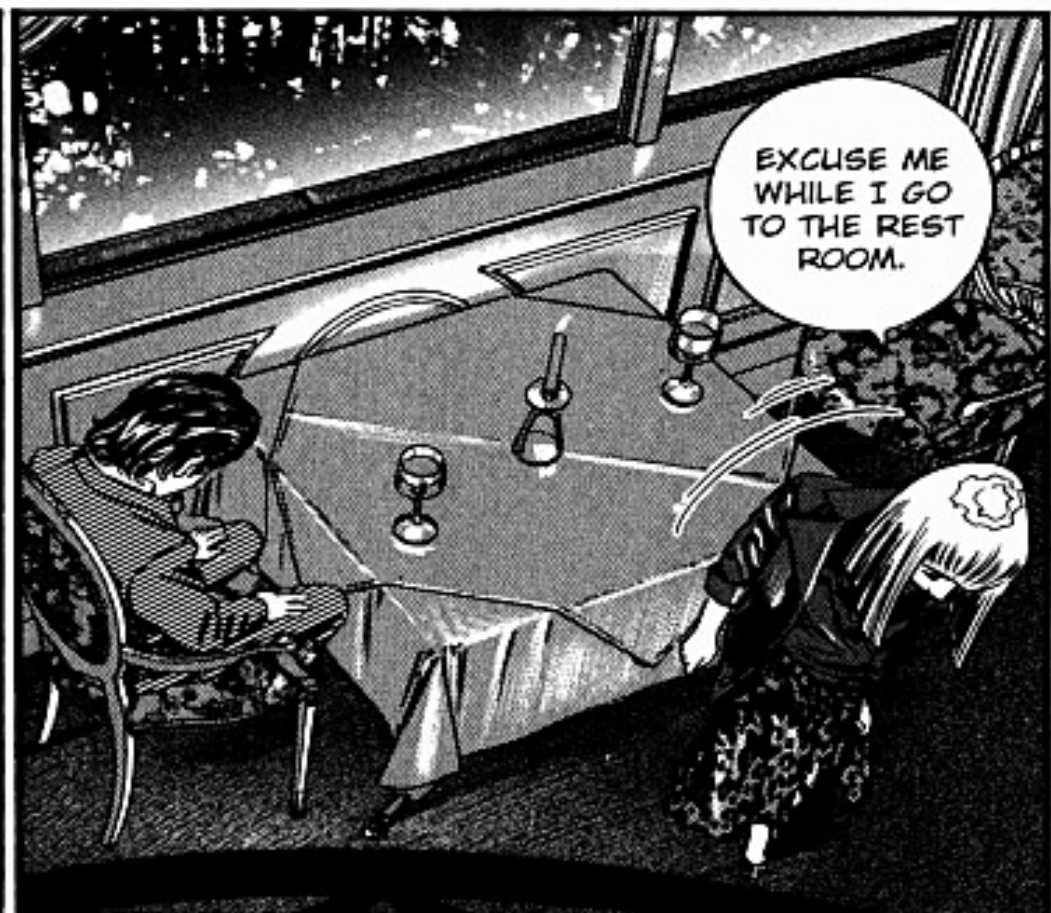


WHAT?





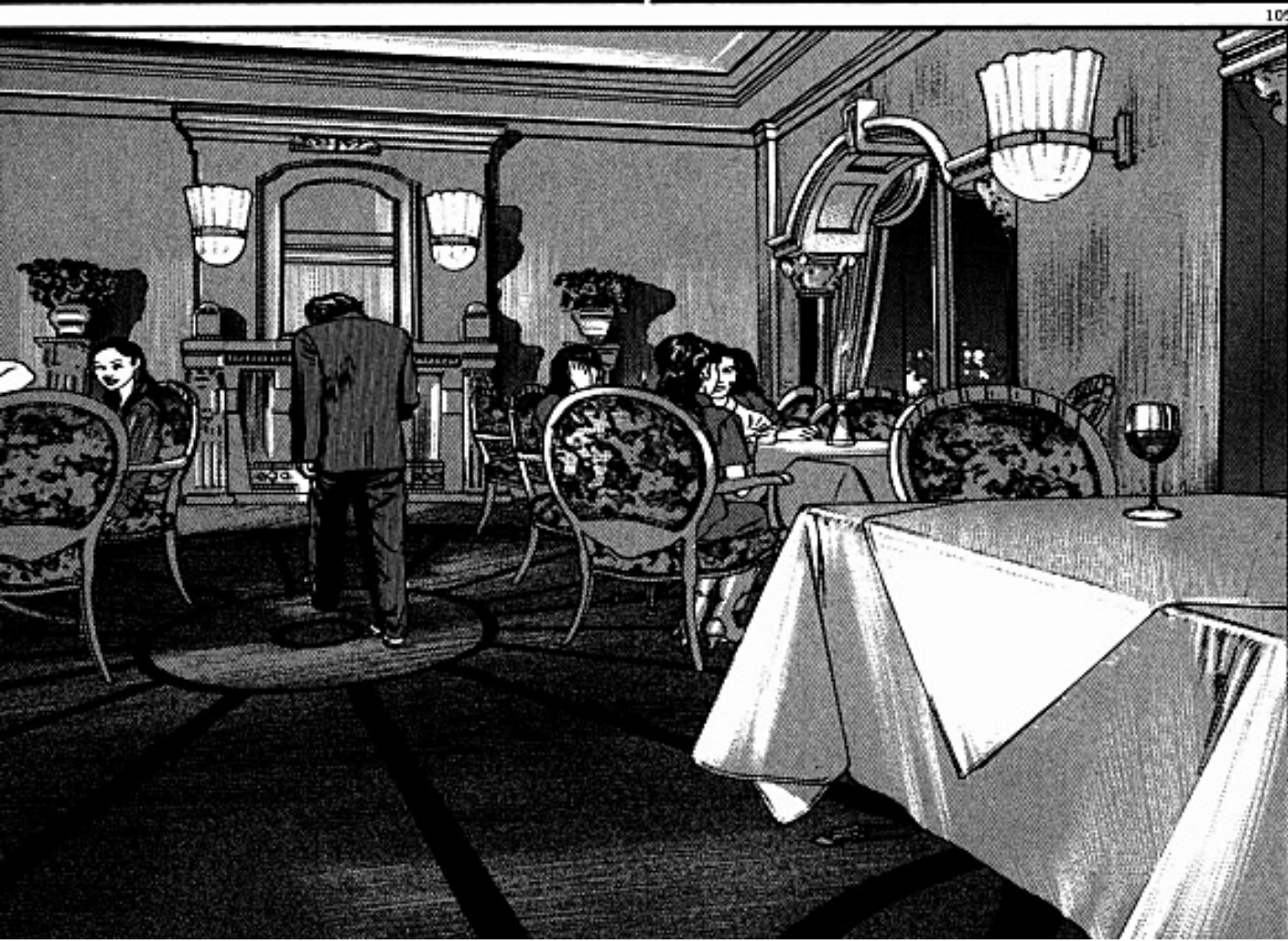






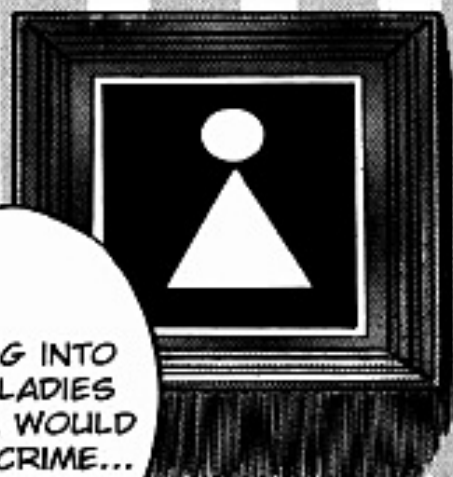




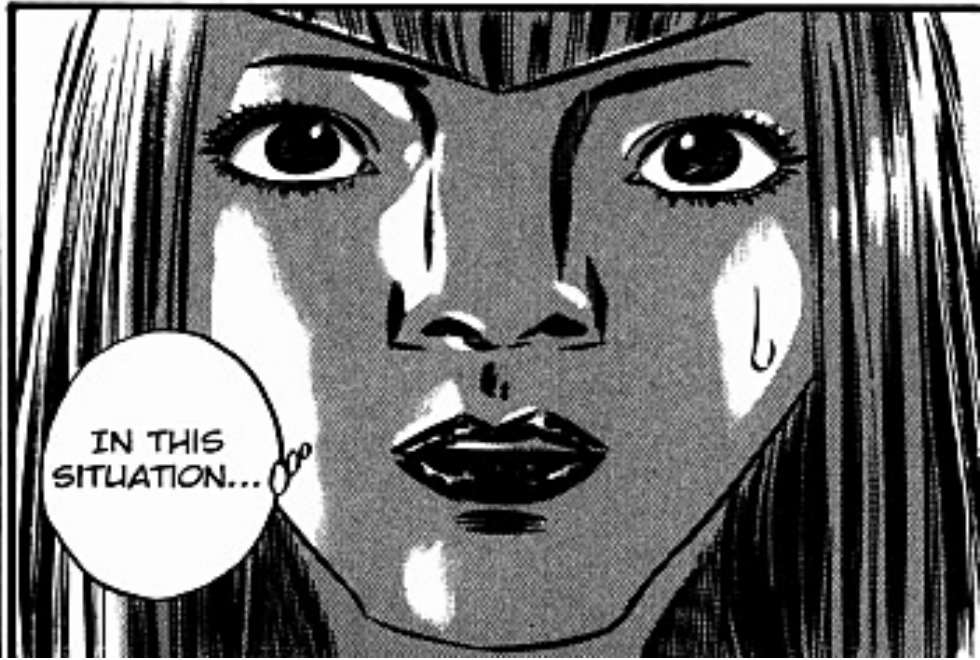




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GOING INTO  
THE LADIES  
ROOM WOULD  
BE A CRIME...



IN THIS  
SITUATION...

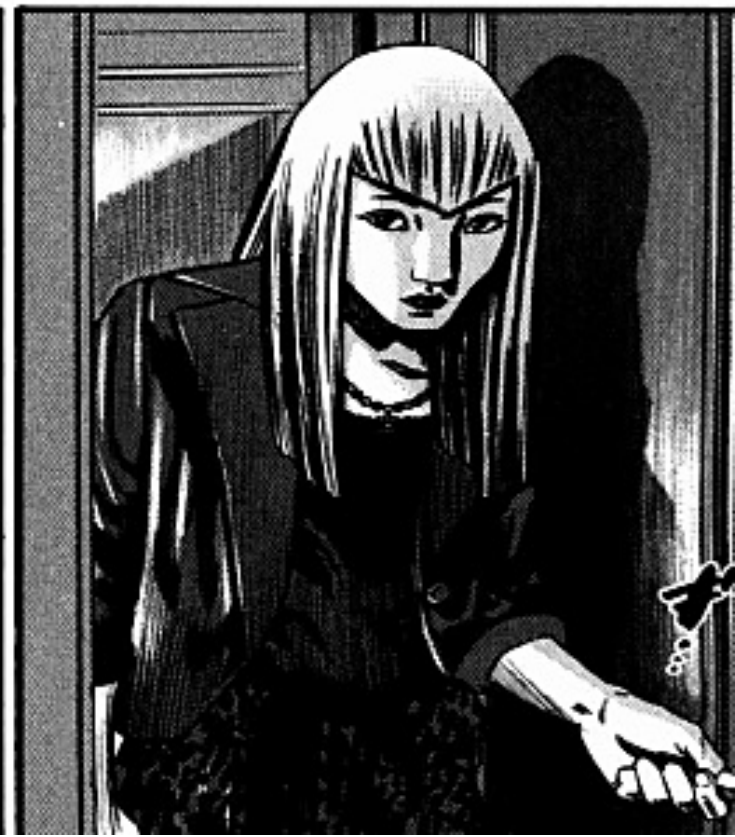


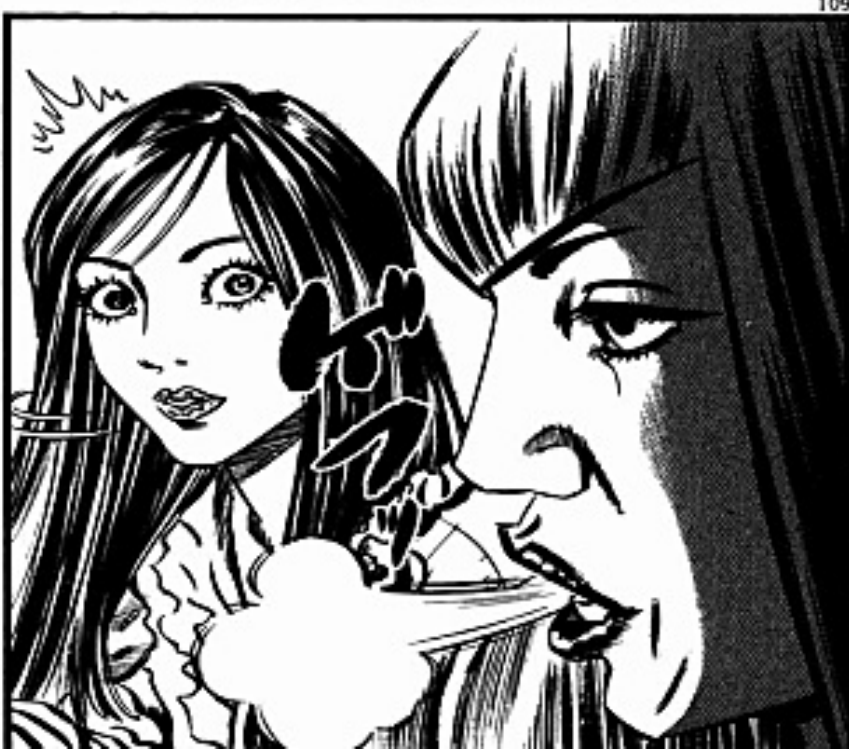
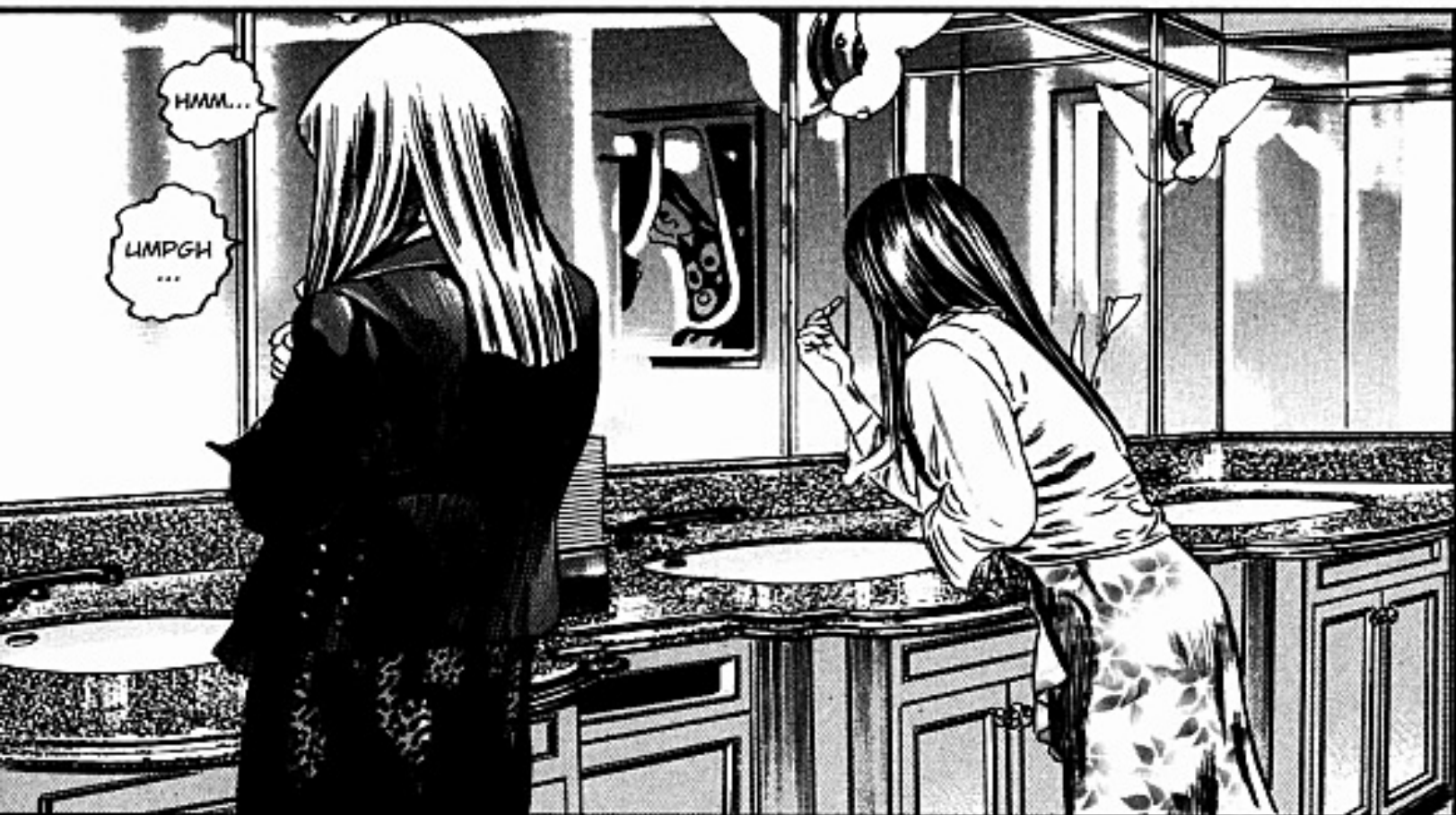
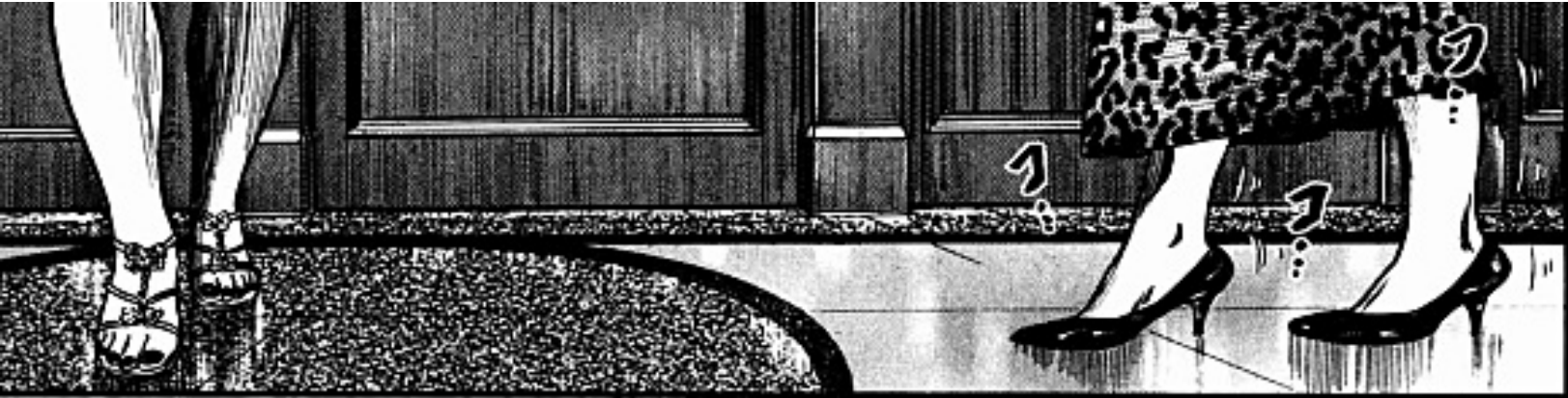


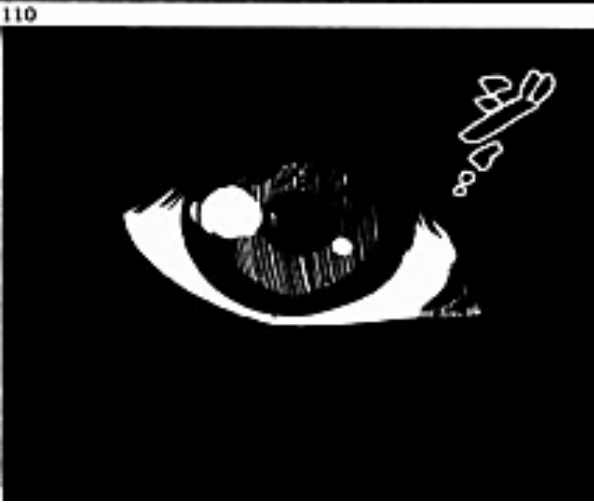




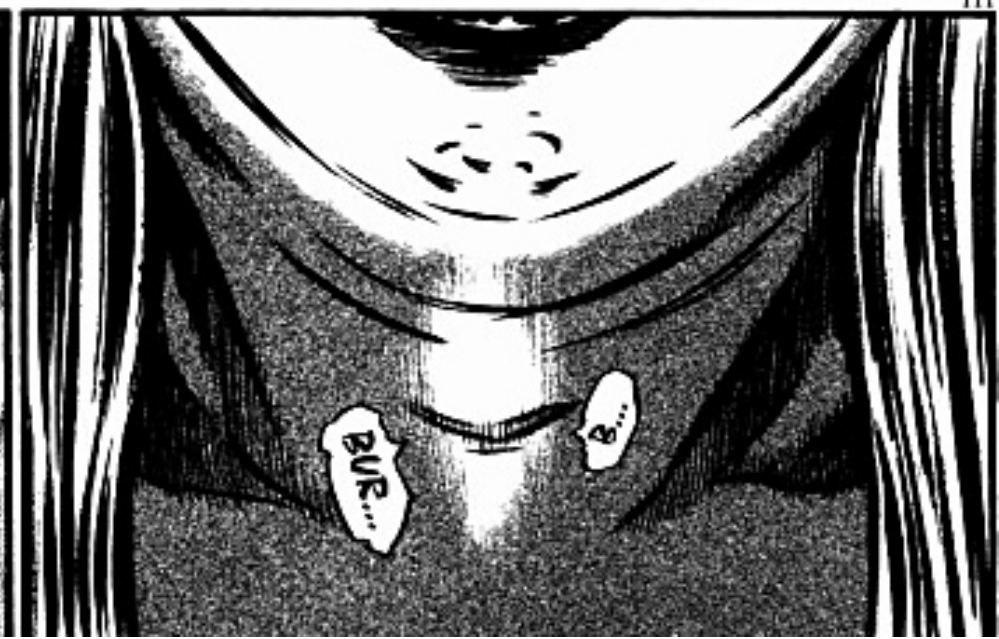
108

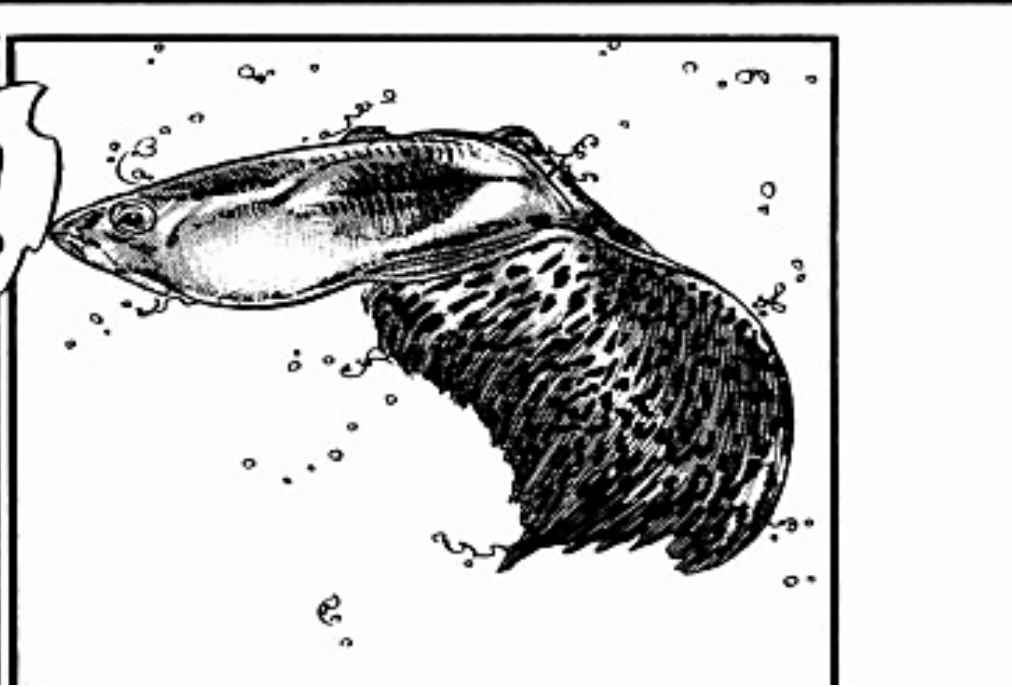










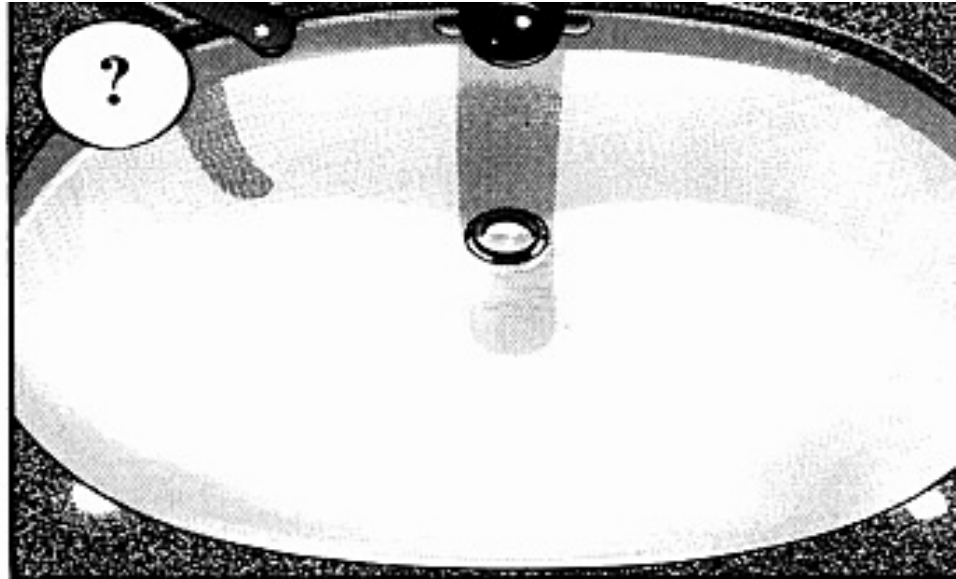








HUH...?



?

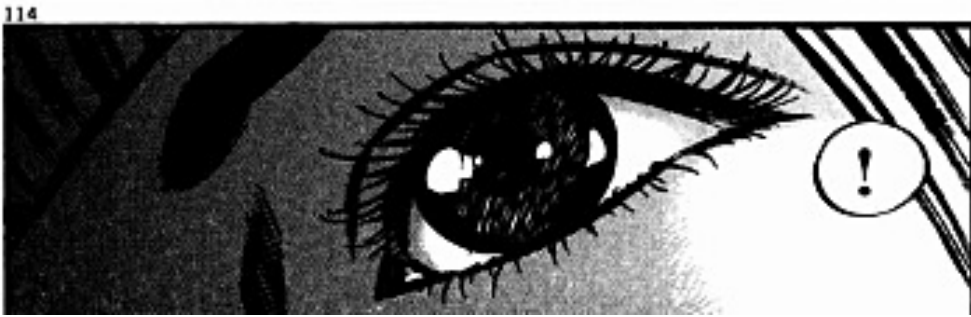


I FEEL SO REFRESHED~

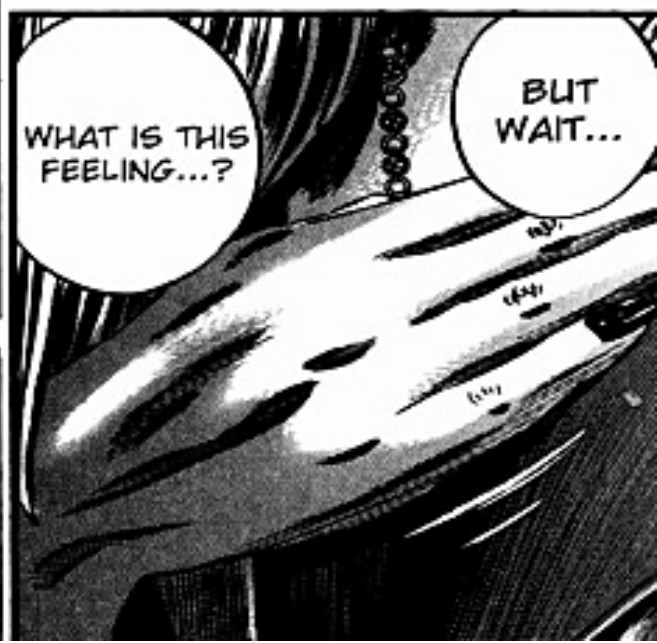


MAYBE I'M DRUNK...

.....

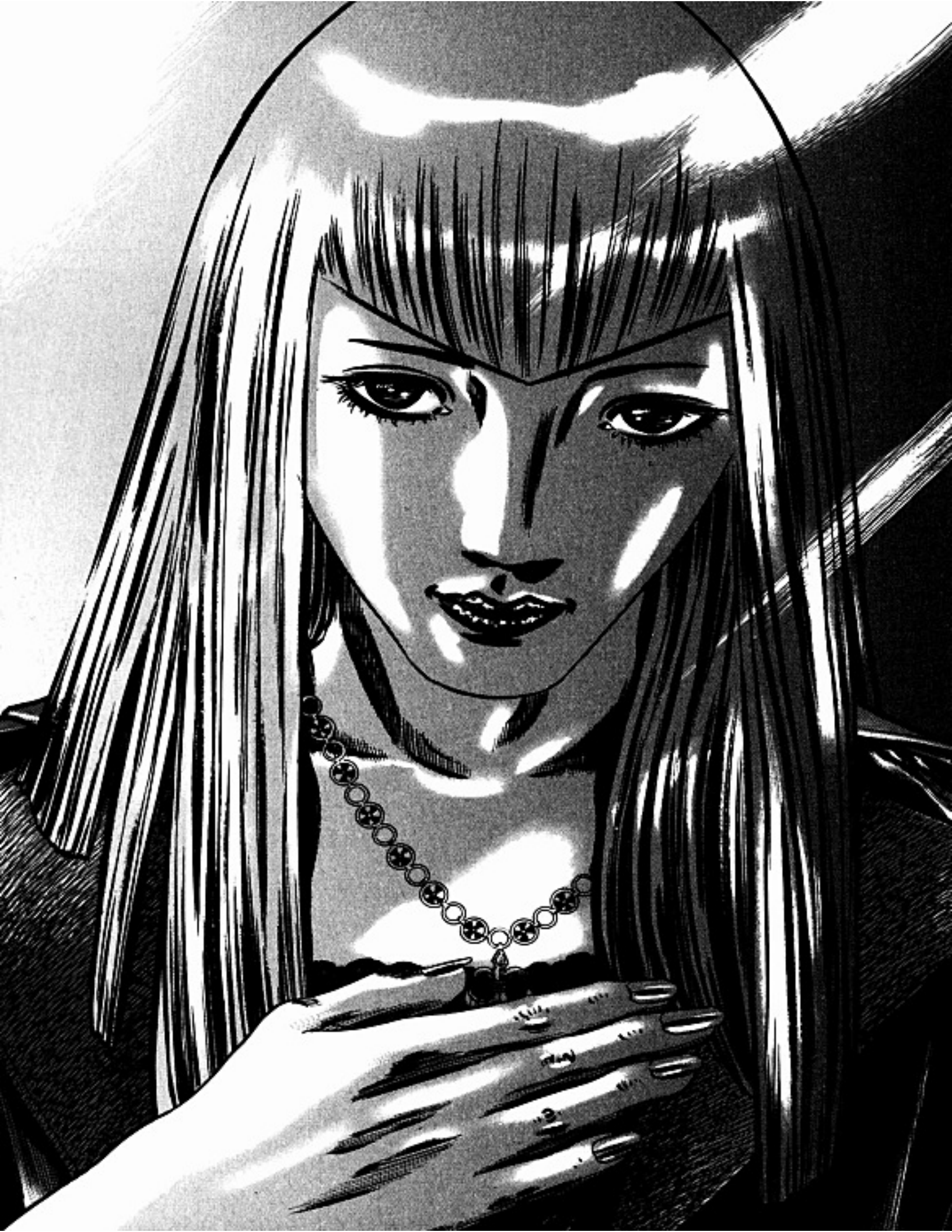


!

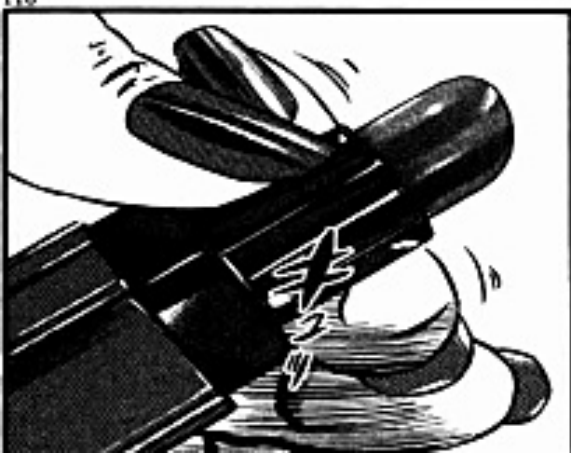
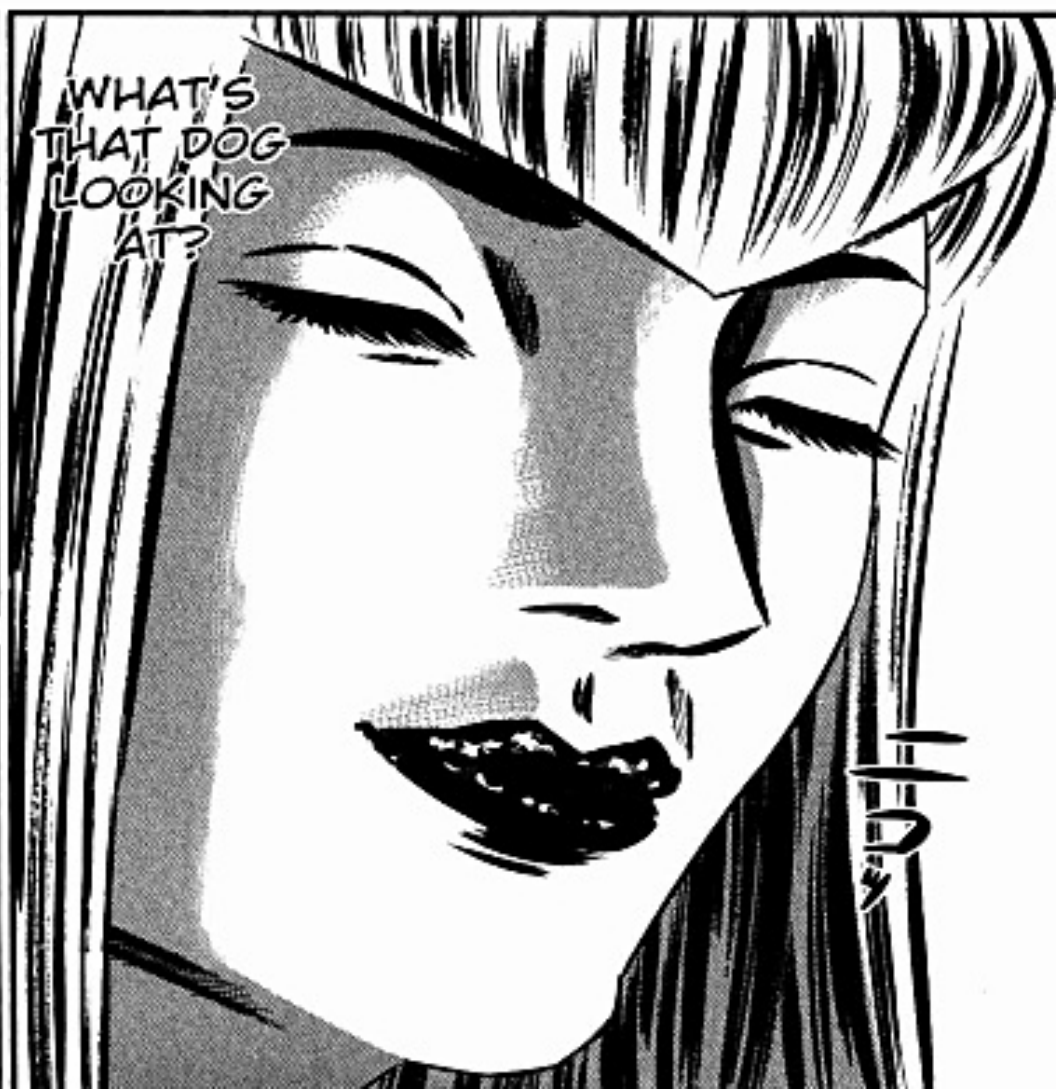
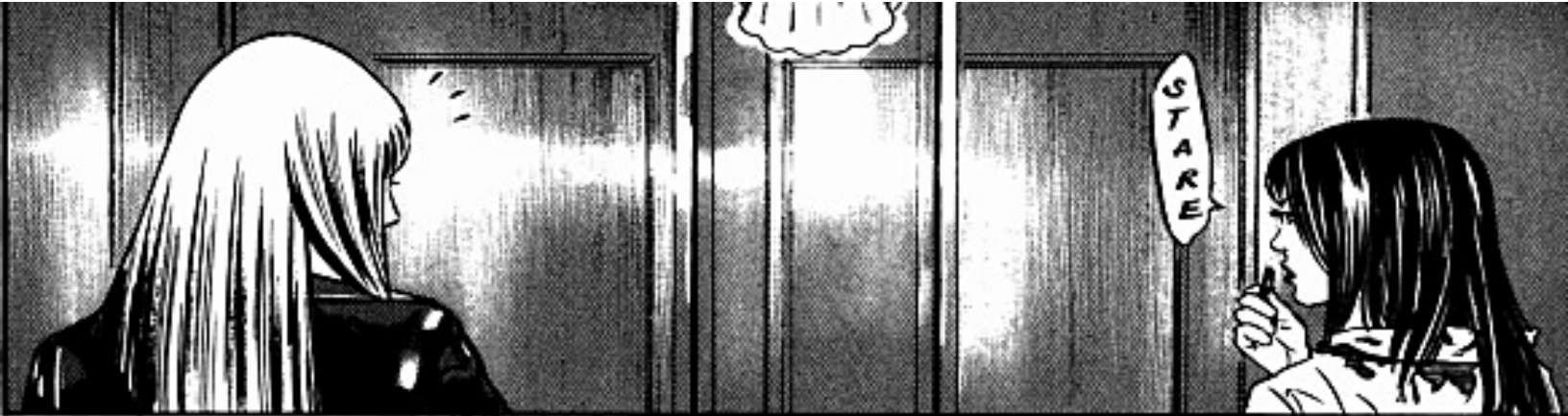


WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?

BUT WAIT...







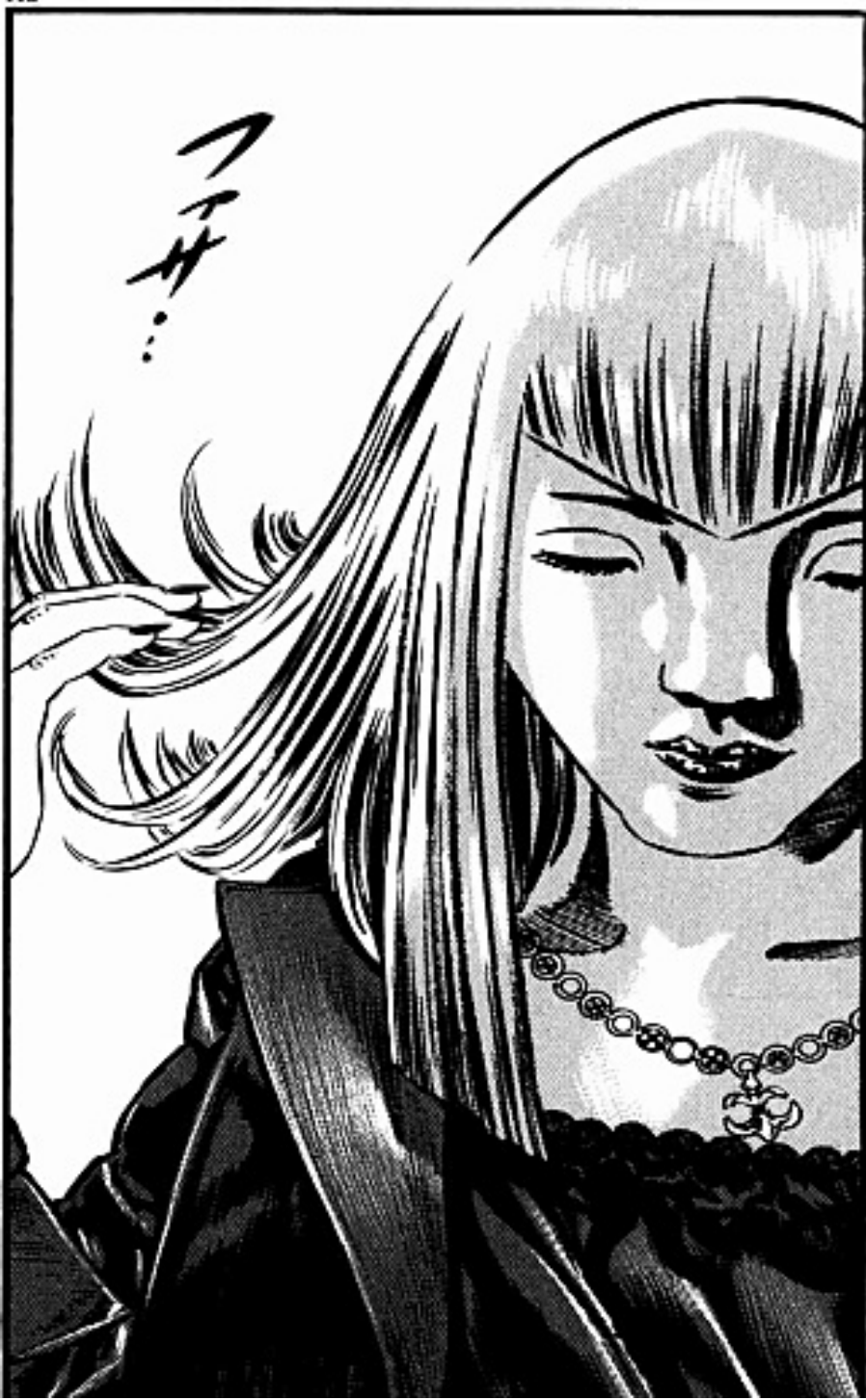




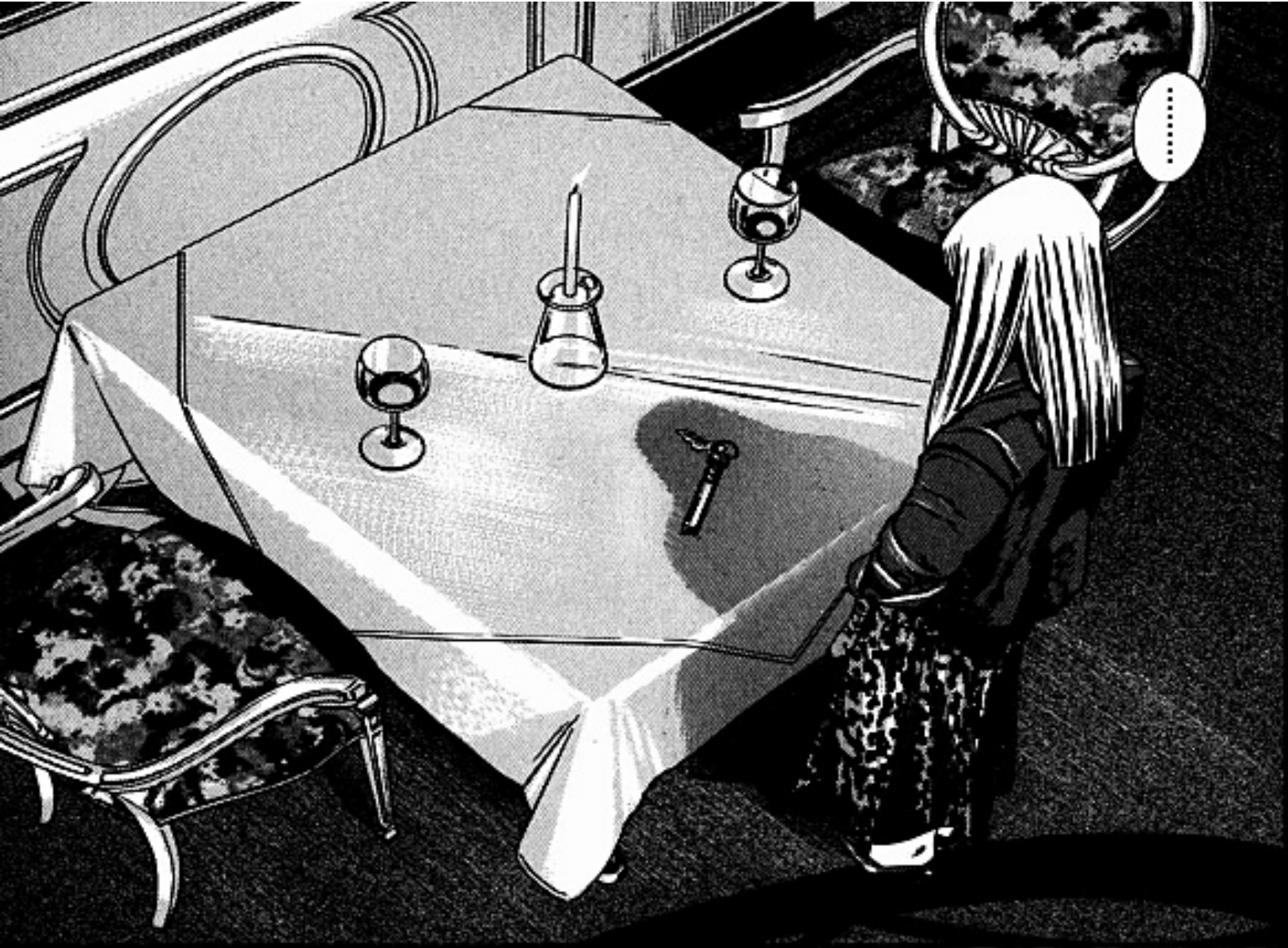
♪ LALA ♪  
LALA.  
♪



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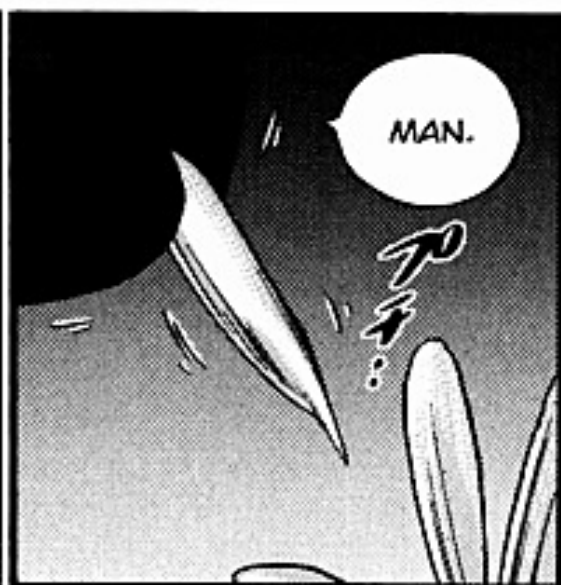




SO IRRE-  
SPONSIBLE.







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MAN.

WOMAN.

MAN.

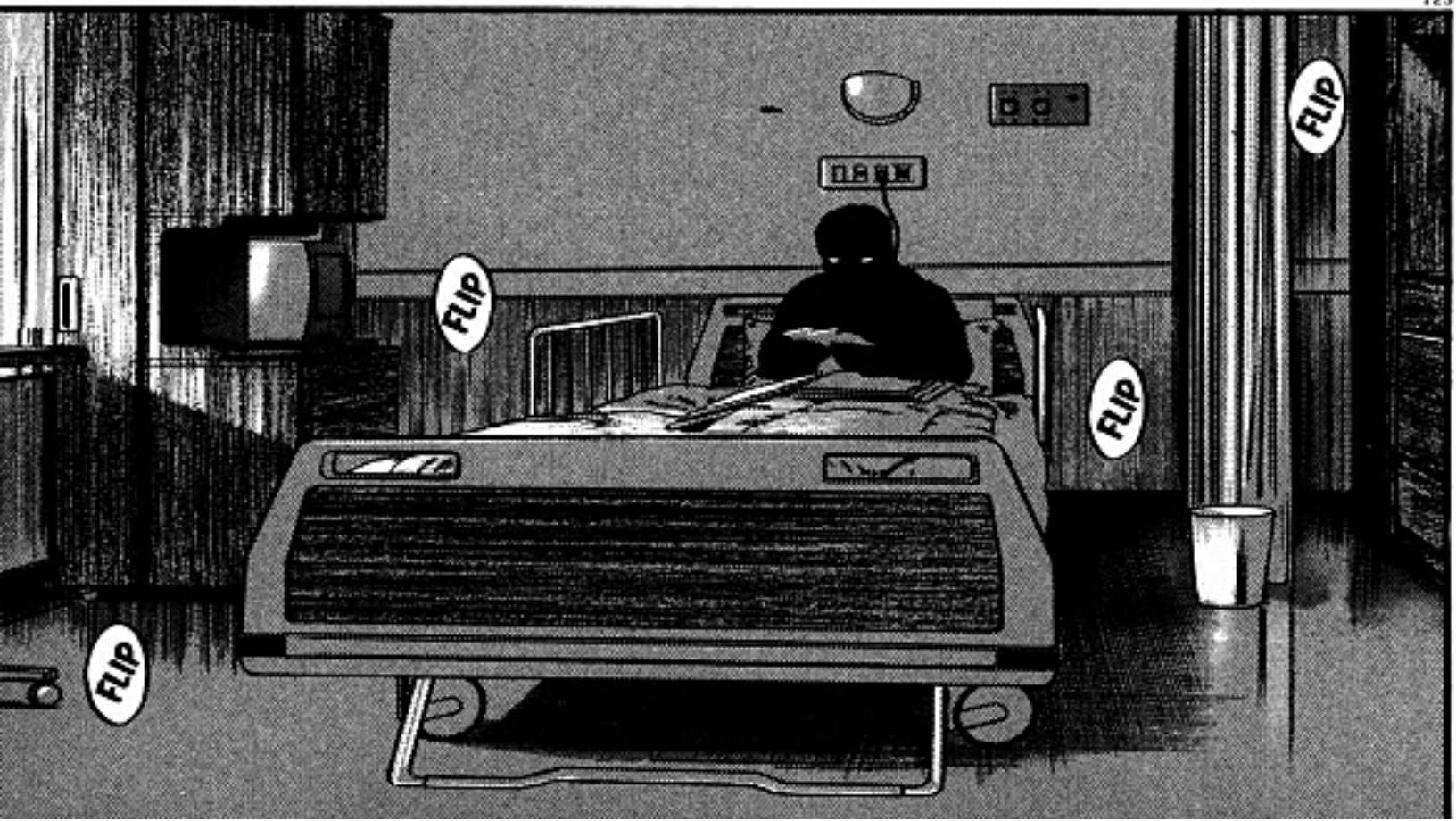
WOMAN.

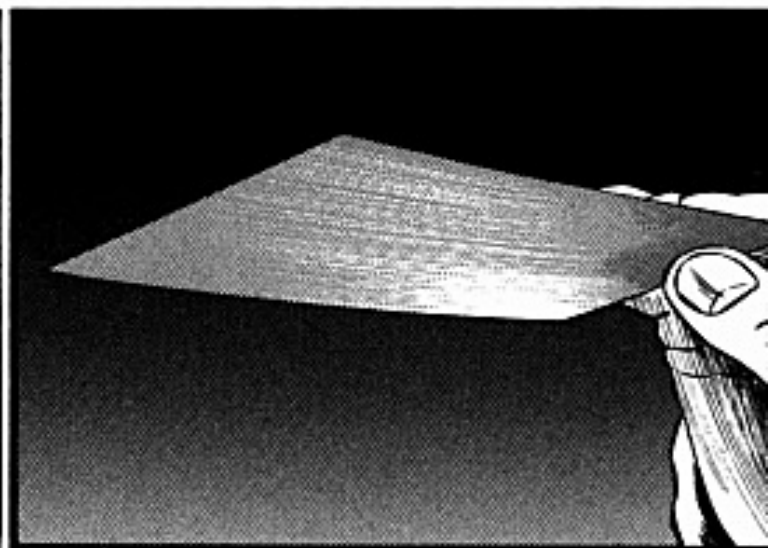


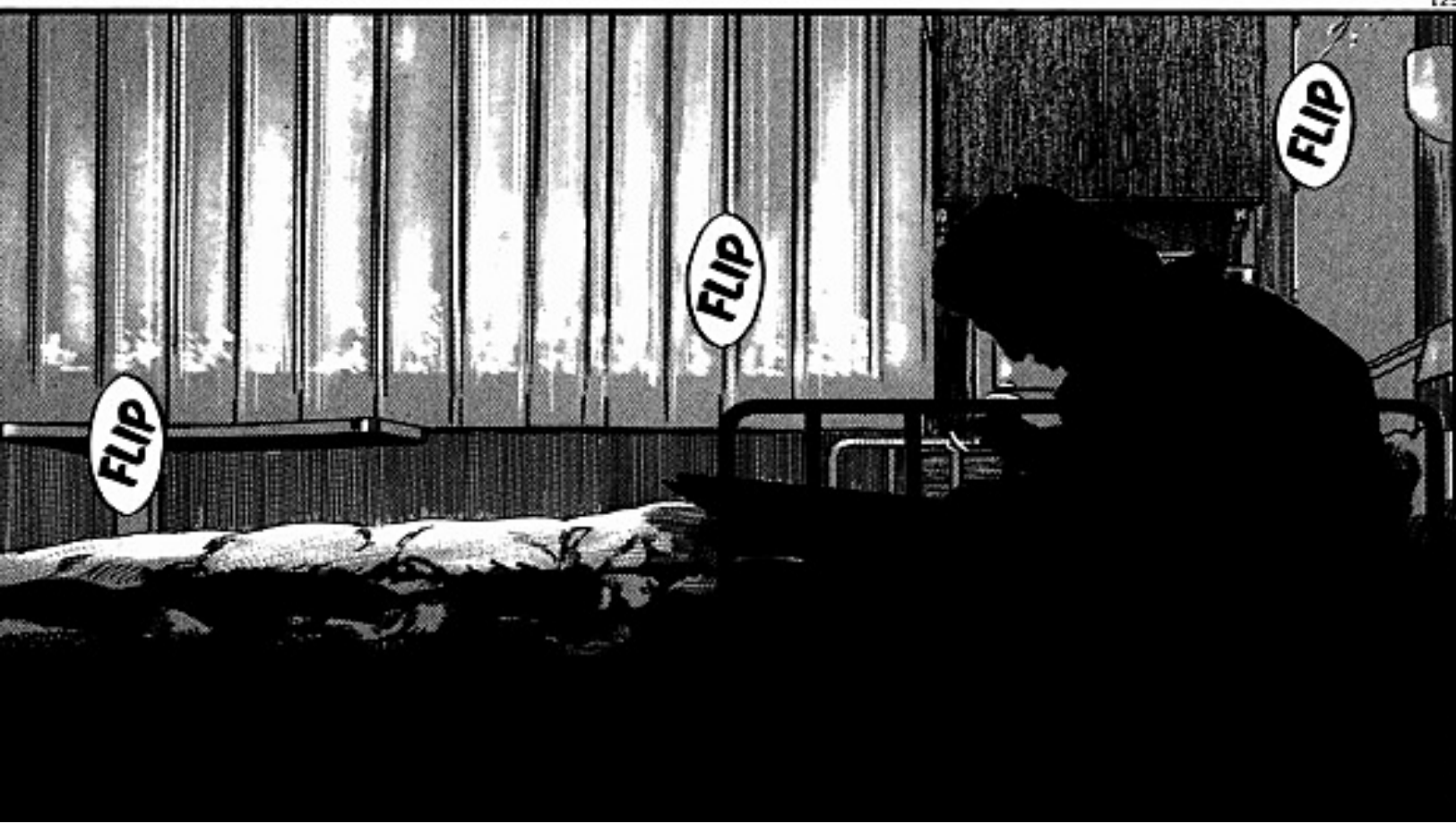
122



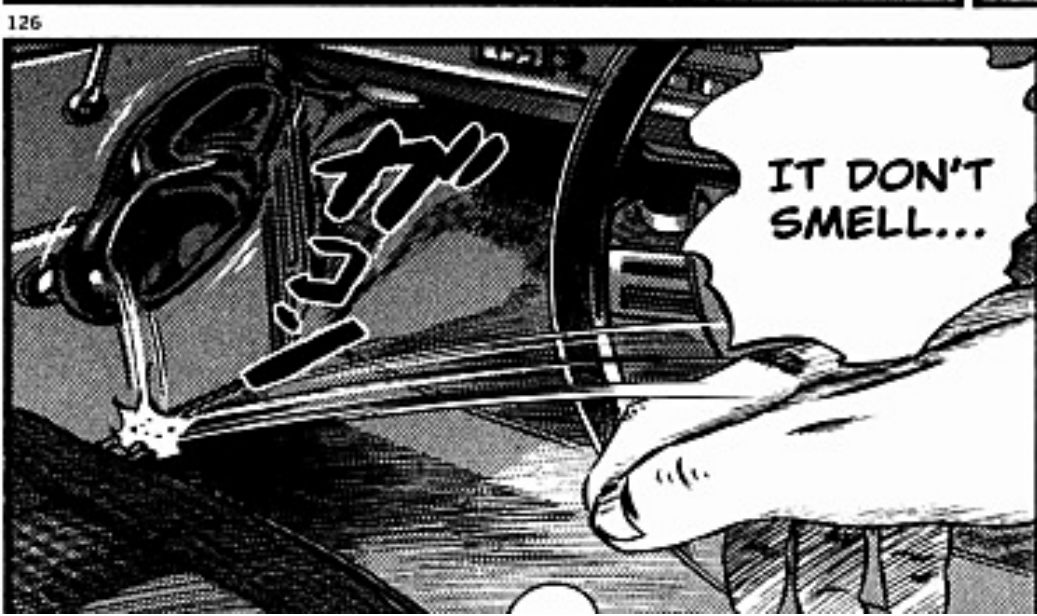
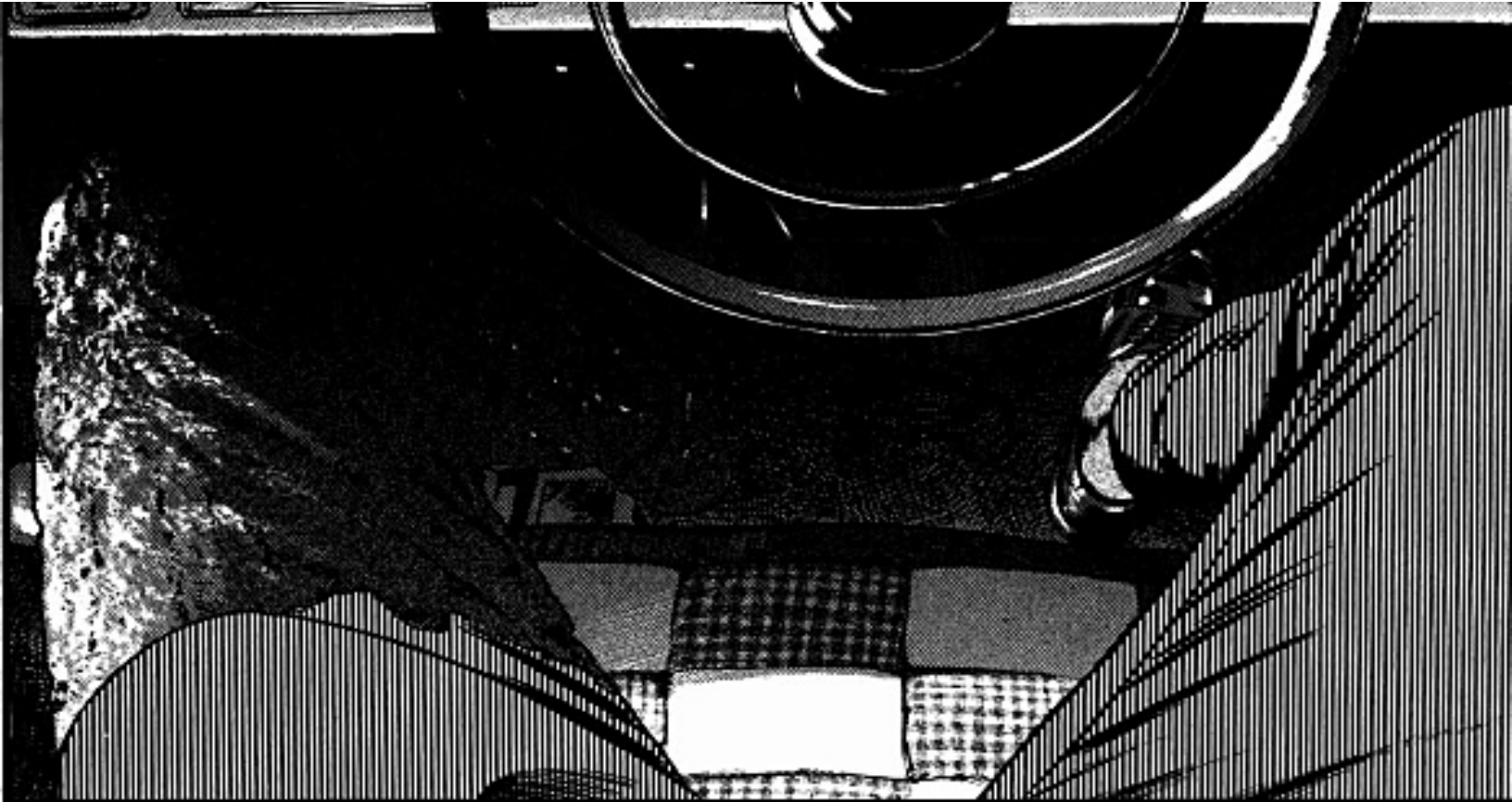




















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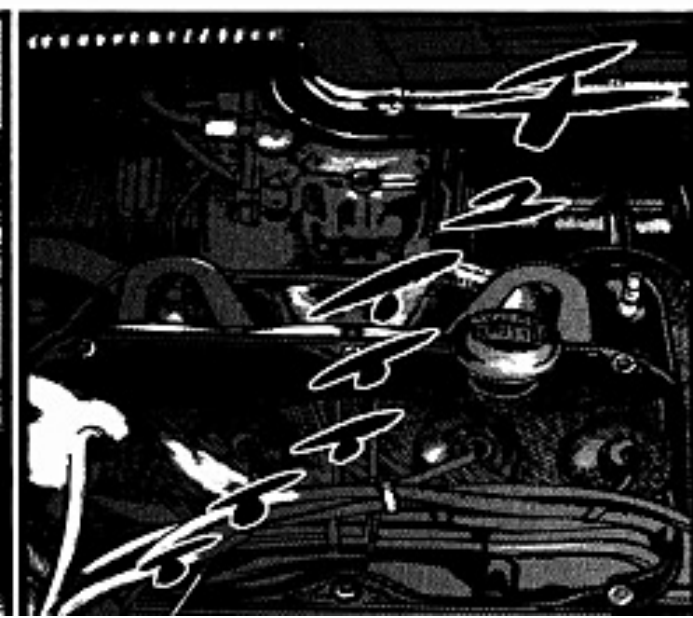
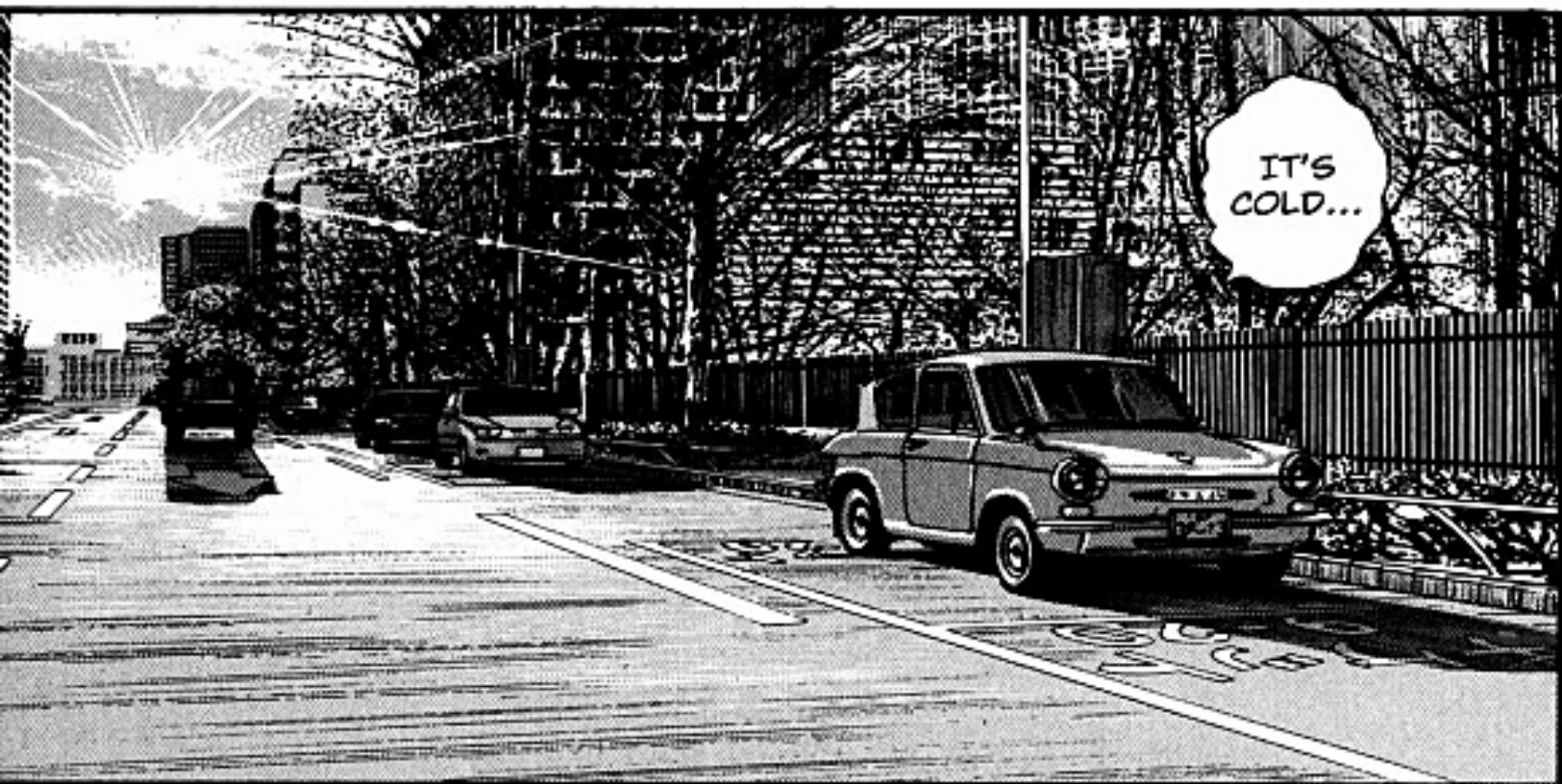










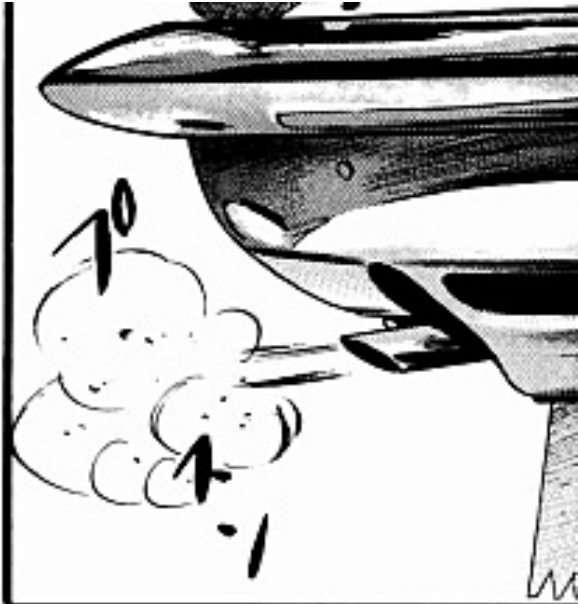
















NICE TO SEE YOU KEN.

HEY,



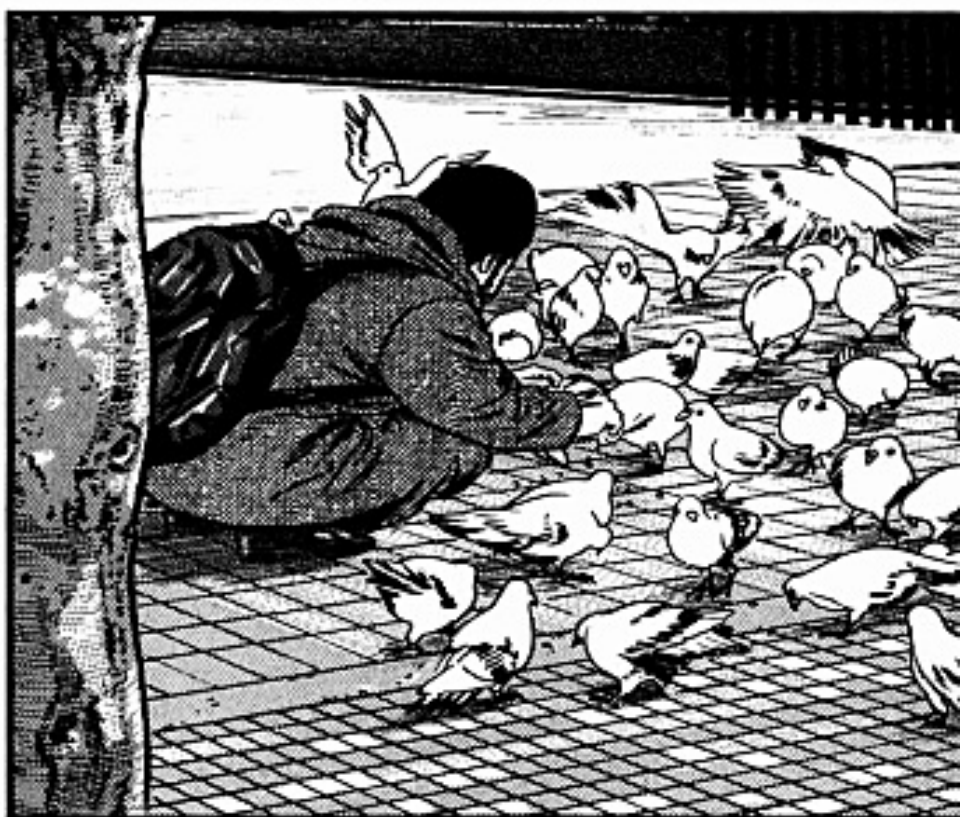
OH, IT'S THE CAR GUY!



MORNING.

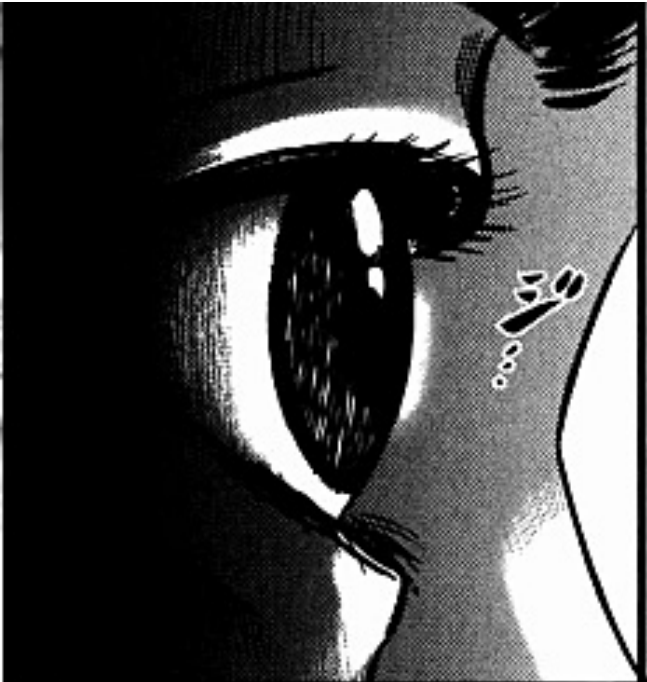














A close-up, high-contrast black and white illustration of a man's eyes. The eyes are wide and staring, with heavy, dark eyelids. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the eyelashes and the intensity of the gaze.

I CAN'T  
REMEMBER.

A circular reflection, resembling an eyeball, showing a man in a suit and tie. The man in the reflection has a serious, somewhat menacing expression. The background of the reflection is dark with some light spots.

ARE MY  
EYEBALLS...

I GUESS THE  
ONLY THING  
THAT'S NOT  
DIFFERENT

A black and white illustration of a man's face. He has a mustache and is wearing a suit. He is covering the left side of his face with his hand, with his fingers spread. His right eye is looking directly at the viewer with a somber expression.

.....



IT'S NOT JUST  
MY FACE THAT'S  
DIFFERENT...



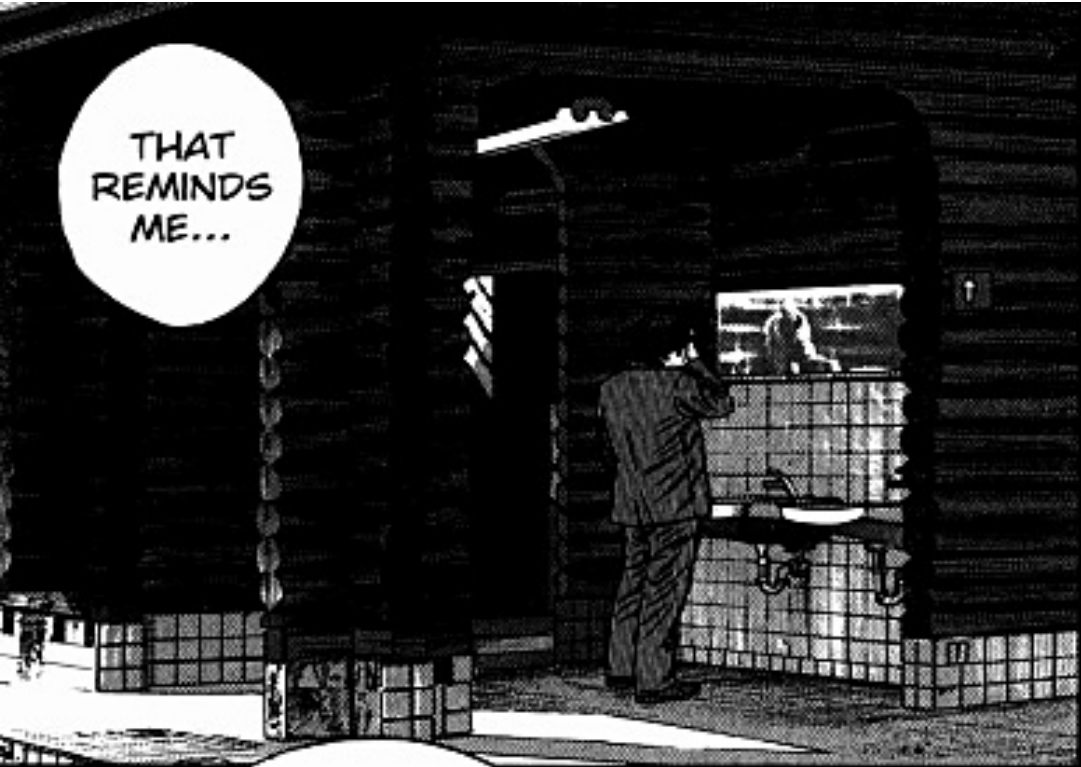
JUST HOW  
DISTORTED  
MUST I GET!?



BUT OTHER  
PLACES TOO...



THAT  
REMINDS  
ME...



I WONDER  
IF HIS HAS  
STILL YET TO  
CHANGE...?

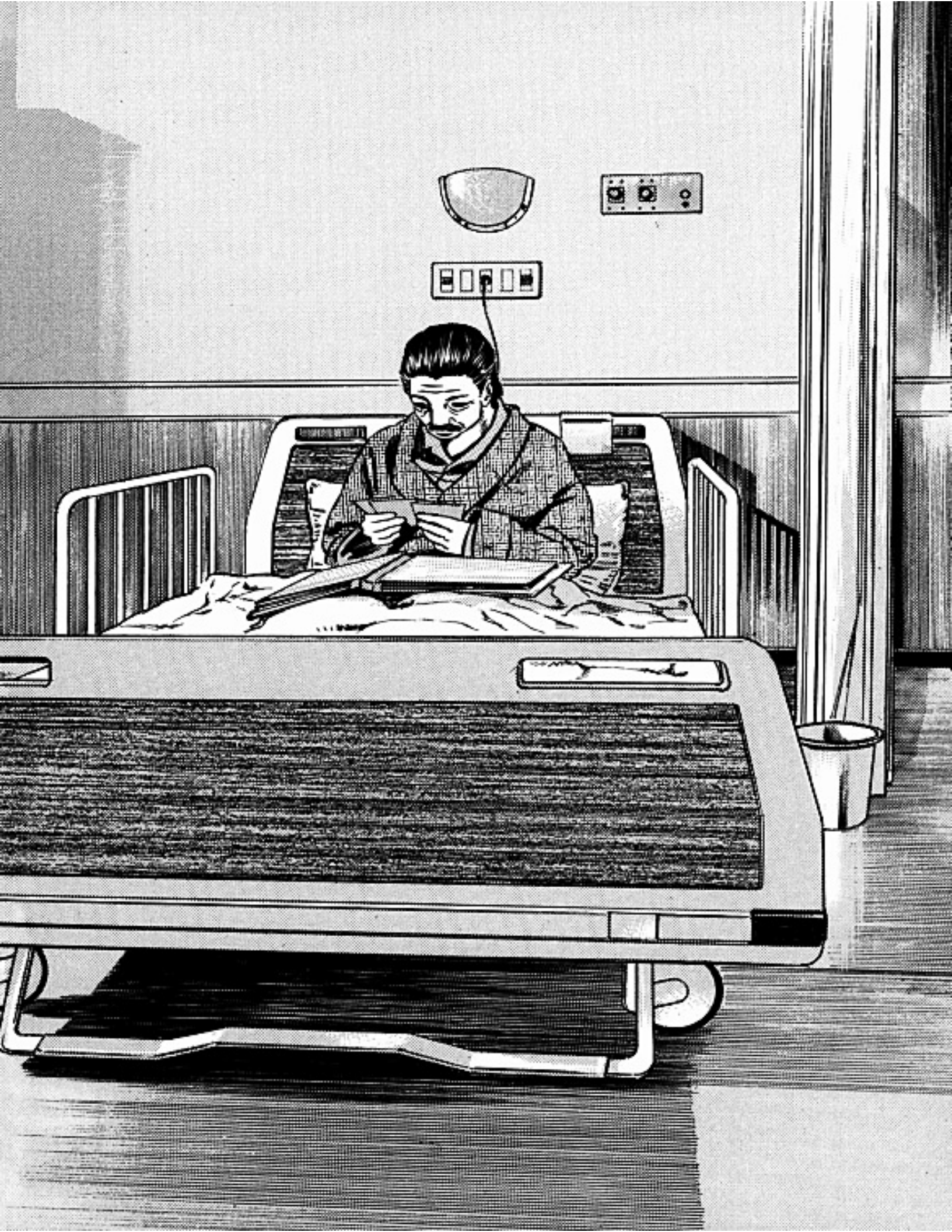






FATHER,

HOW  
IS IT?



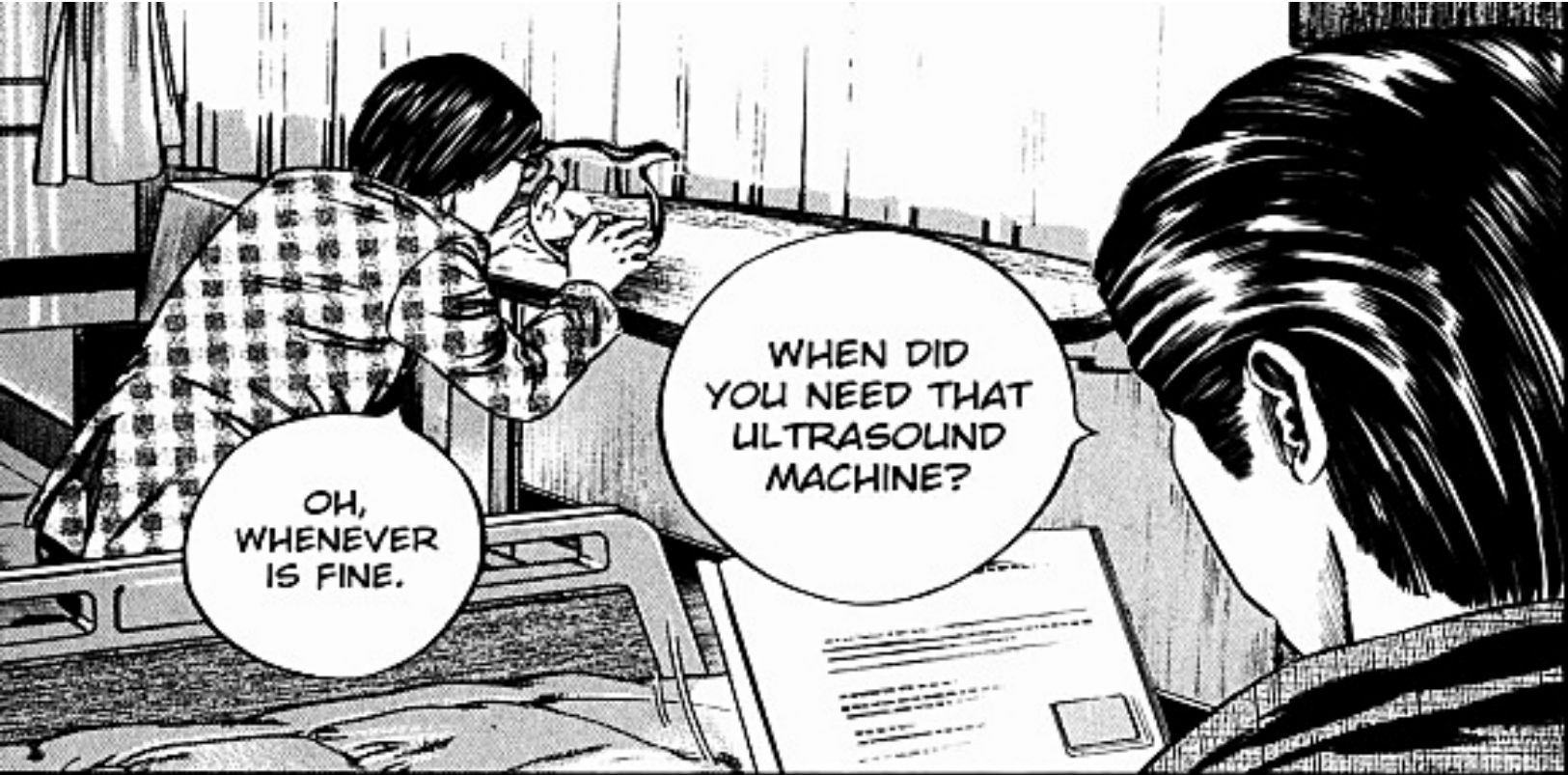


A black and white comic book panel showing a close-up of a woman's face. She has short dark hair and is wearing glasses. A snake is coiled around her head, with its head resting on her nose. The woman has a neutral expression. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of her face.

ISN'T IT  
BEAUTIFUL?







OH,  
WHENEVER  
IS FINE.

WHEN DID  
YOU NEED THAT  
ULTRASOUND  
MACHINE?



I MAY  
NOT EVEN  
NEED IT.

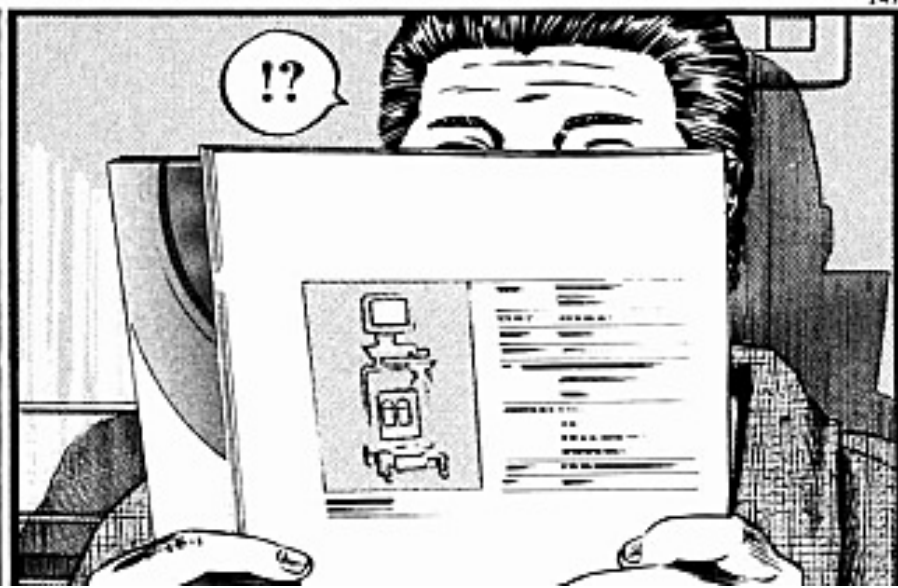
ACTU-  
ALLY,



WHENEVER  
YOU CAN.



.....



!?



WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,

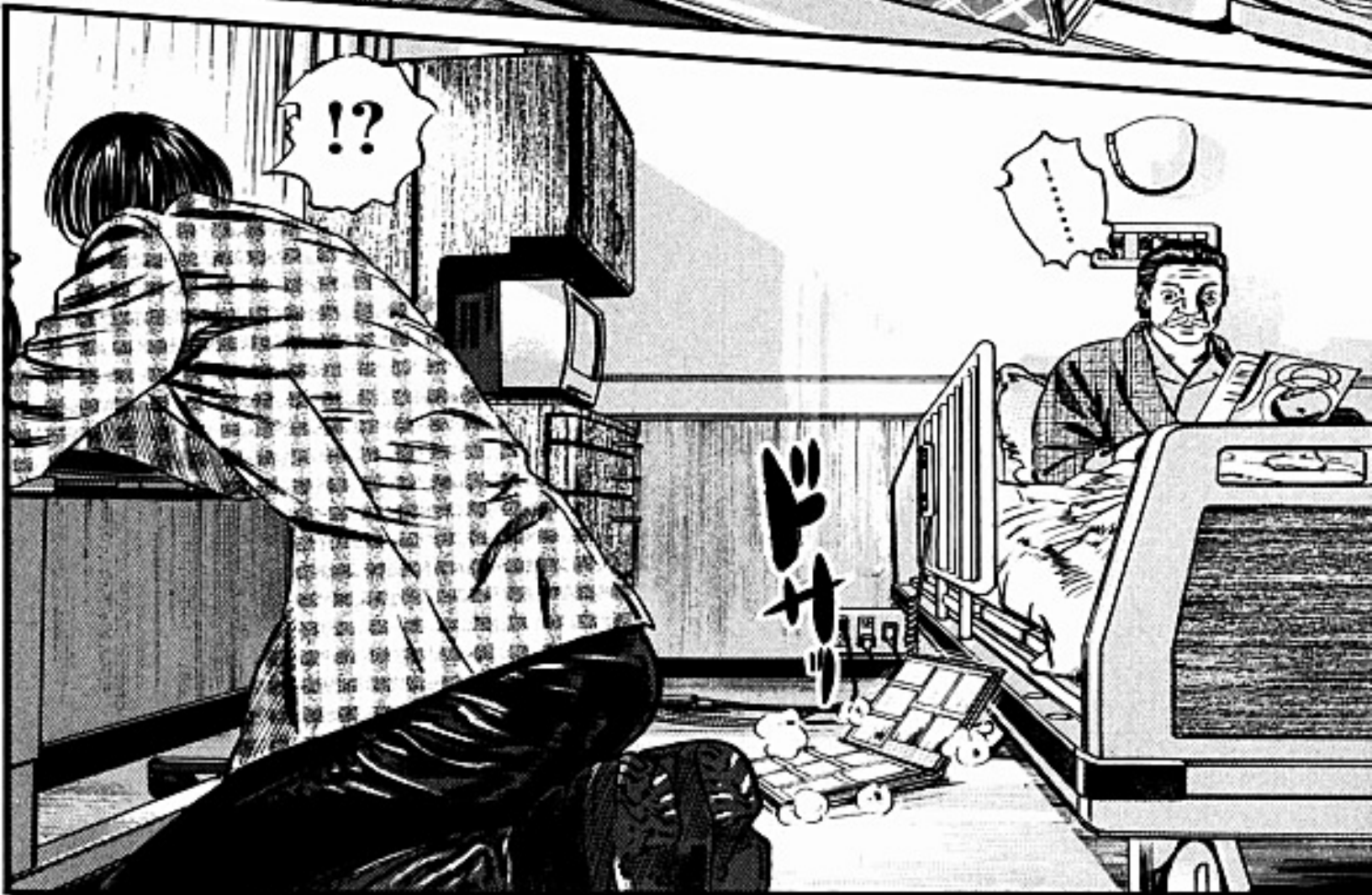


ISN'T  
SIESTA  
CLUTE? ♪

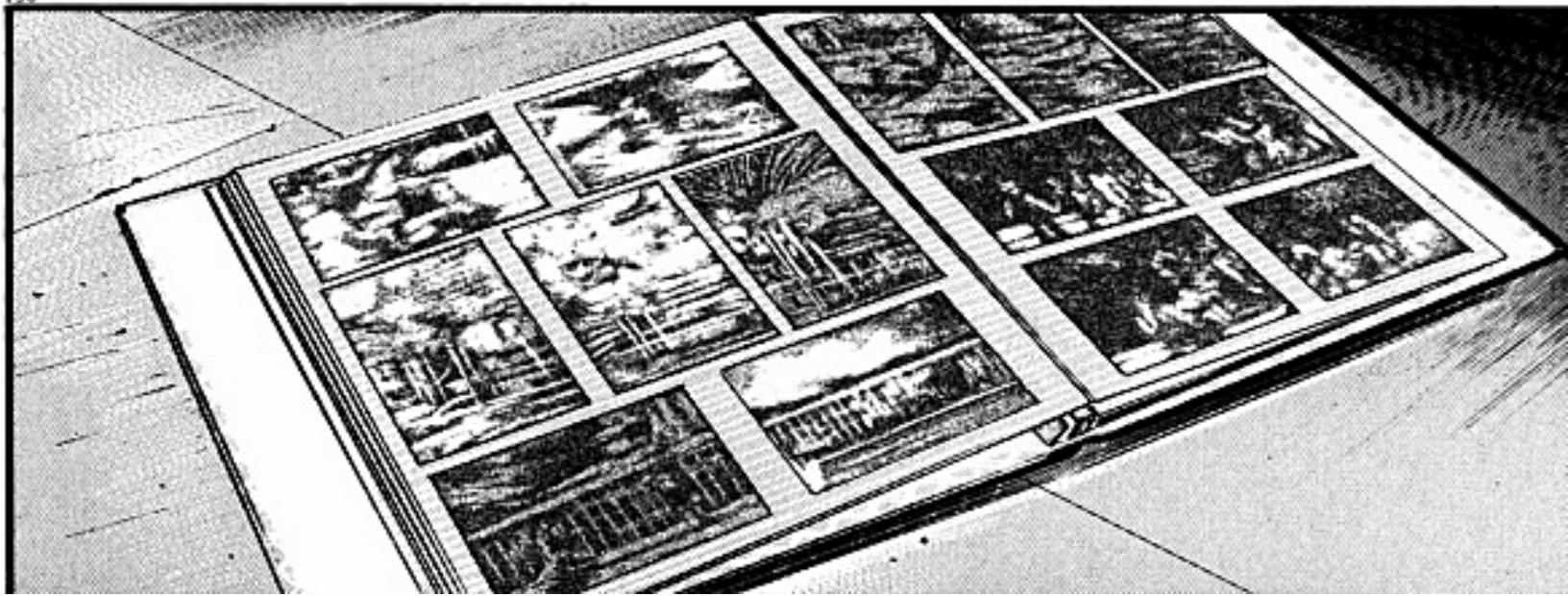








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THIS IS MY  
ALBUM.



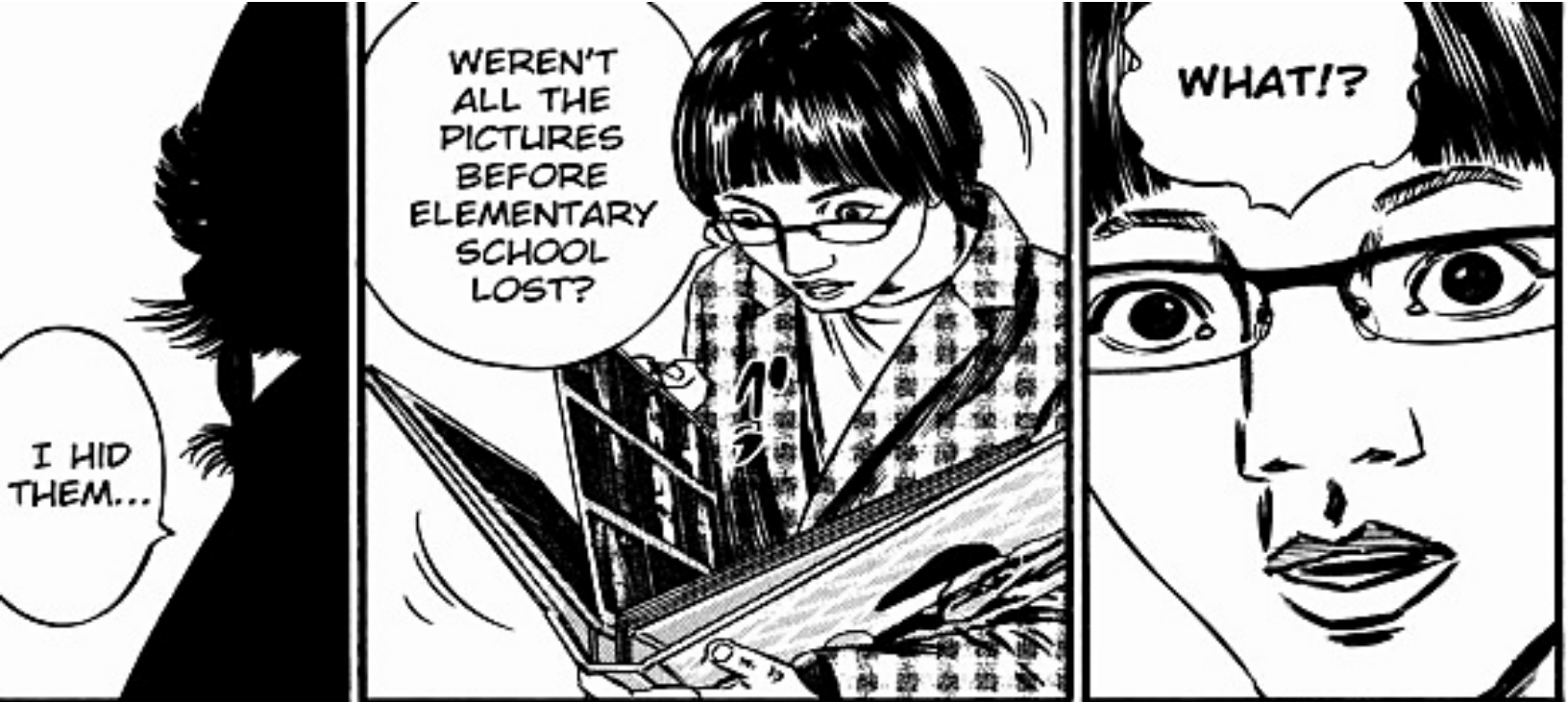




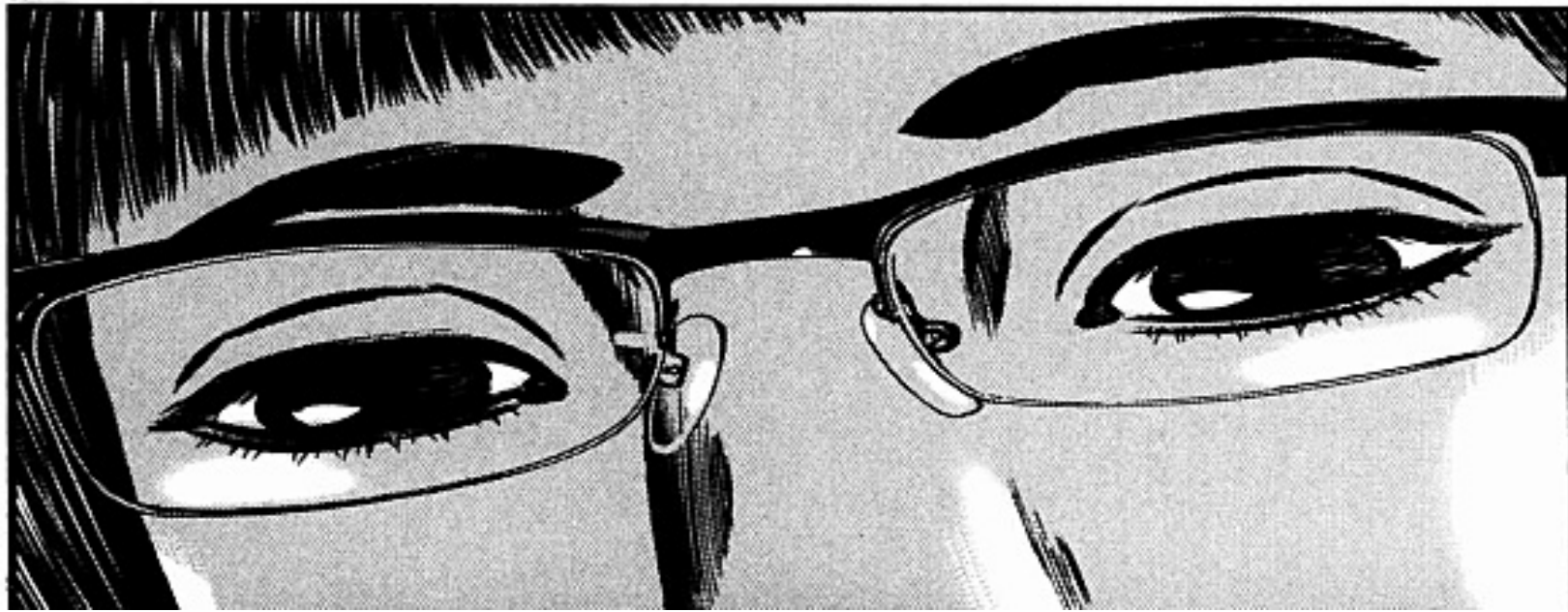
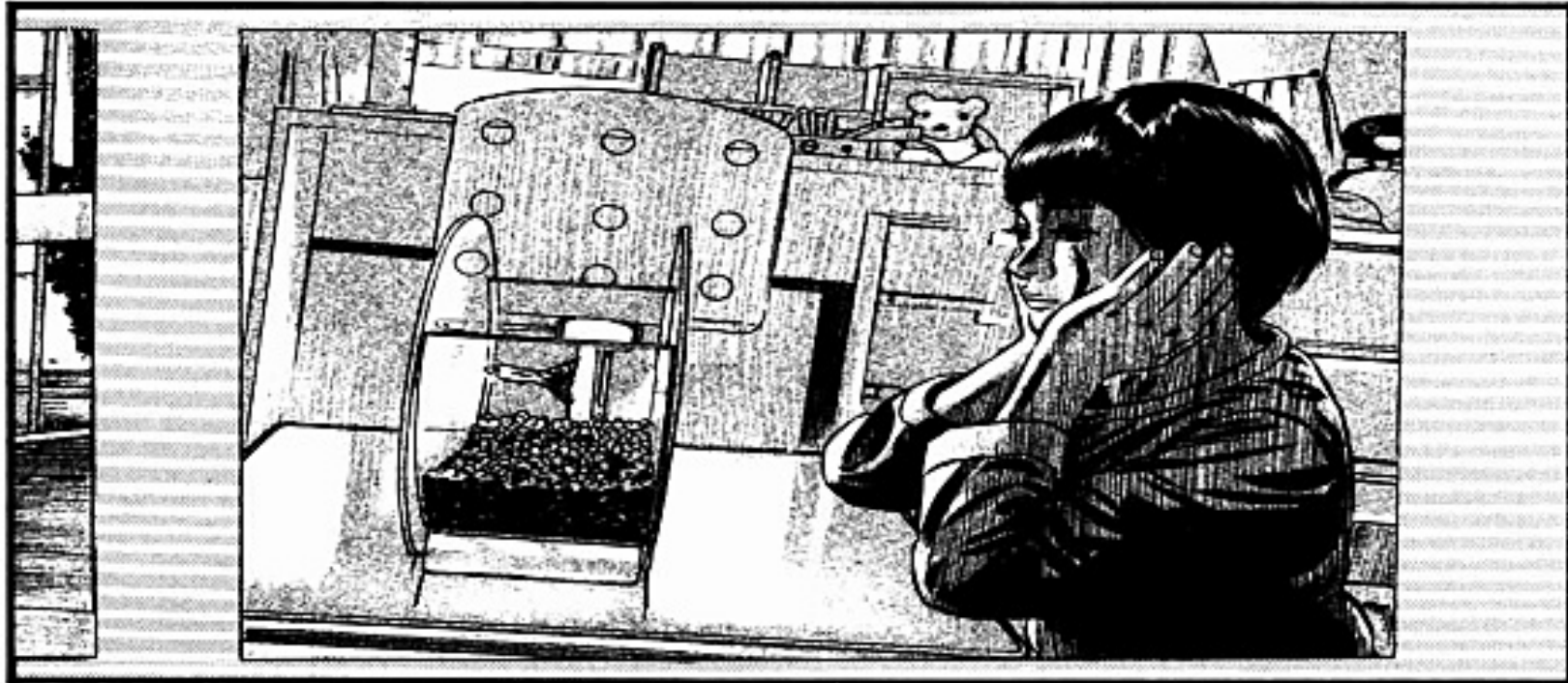
THAT'S...

YOU.











SORRY...

157



WHY ARE YOU  
APOLOGIZING?





WAIT...

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GUPPY...?

WE OWNED A...





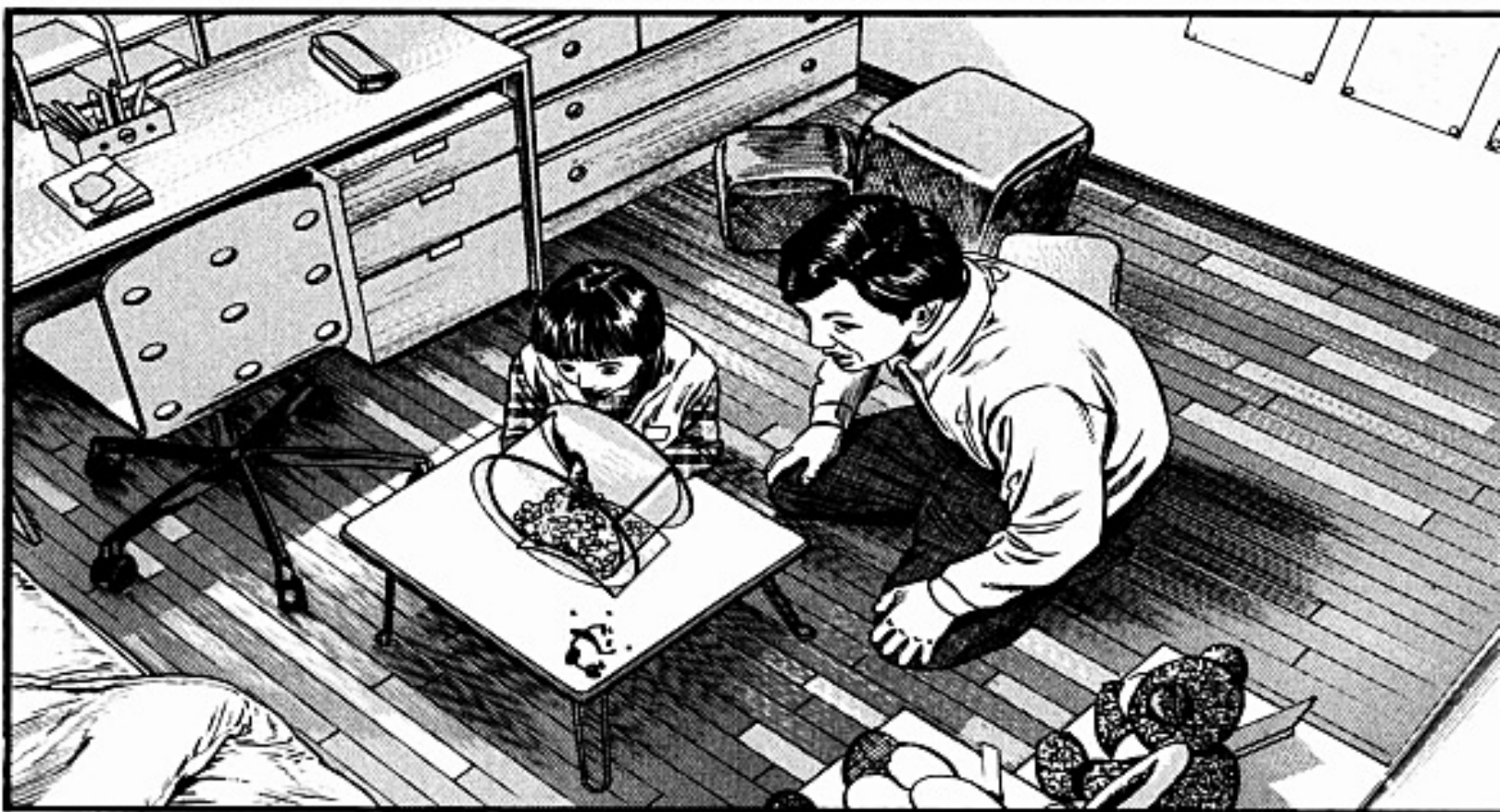
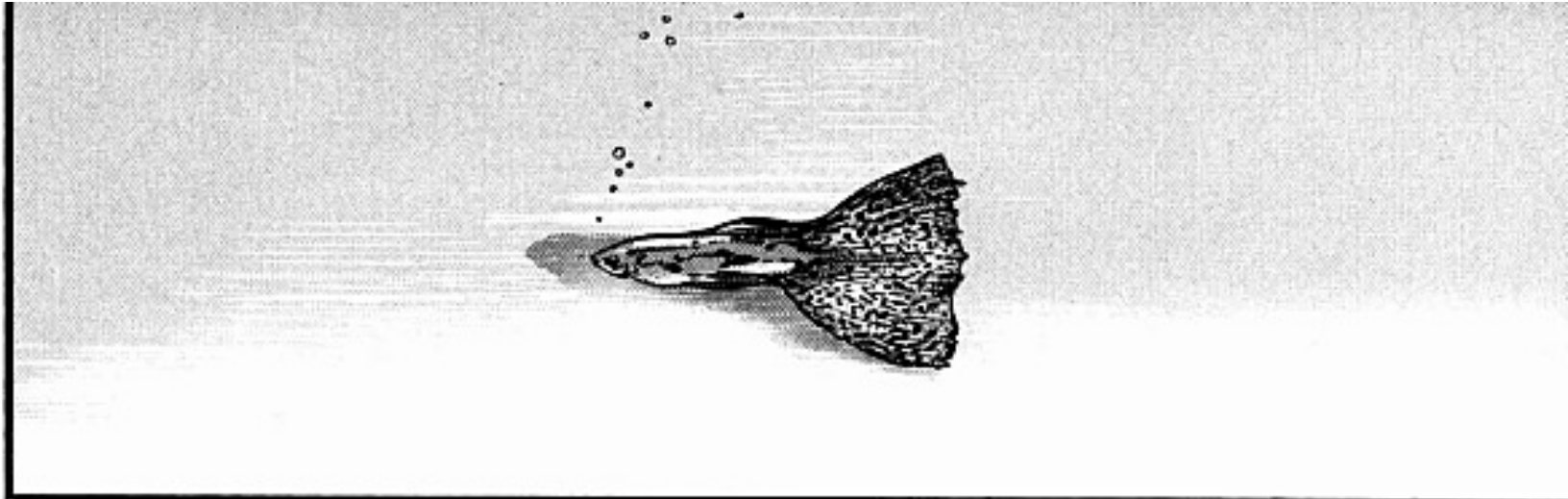
I WANTED TO  
SAY SORRY...  
ABOUT SIESTA...

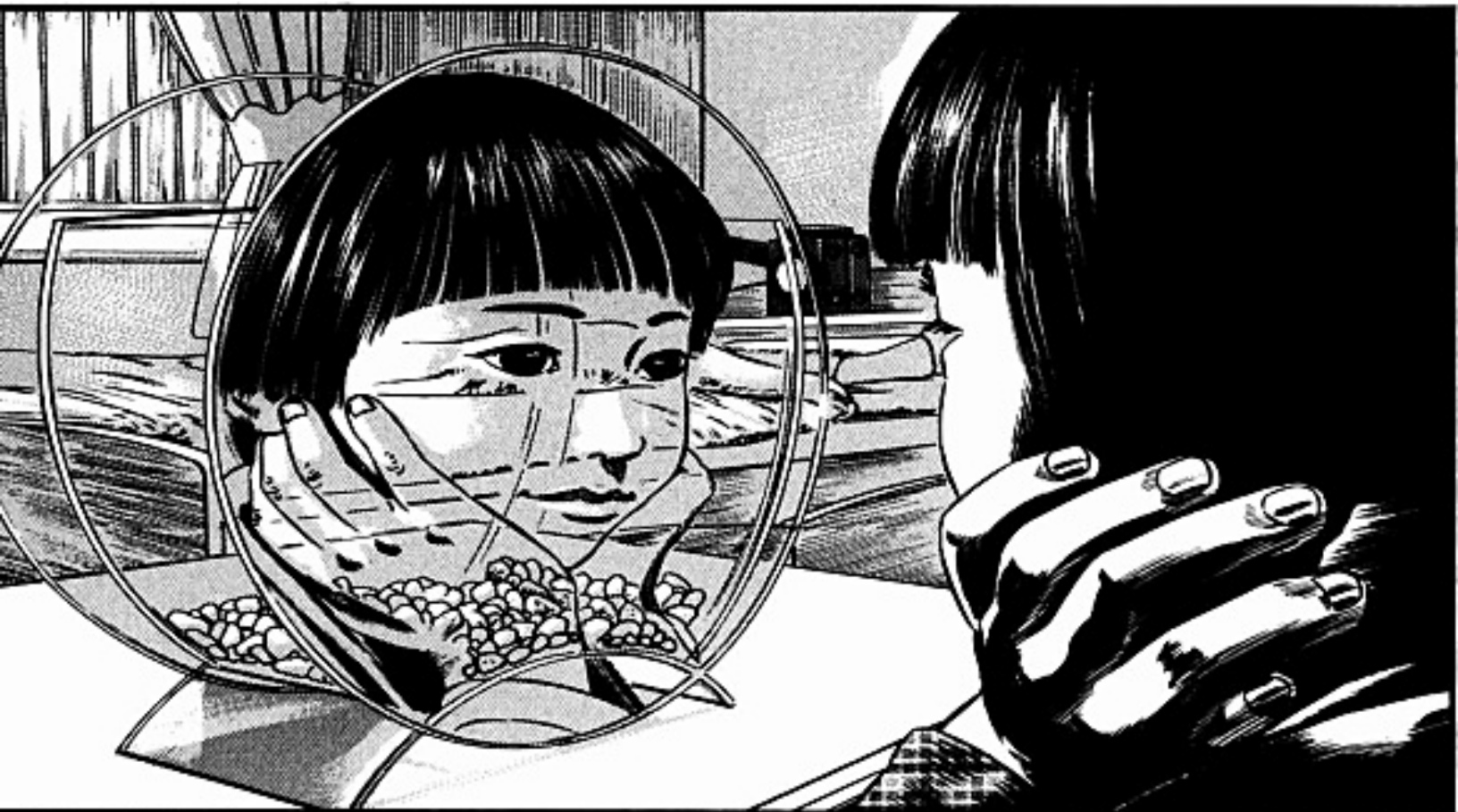
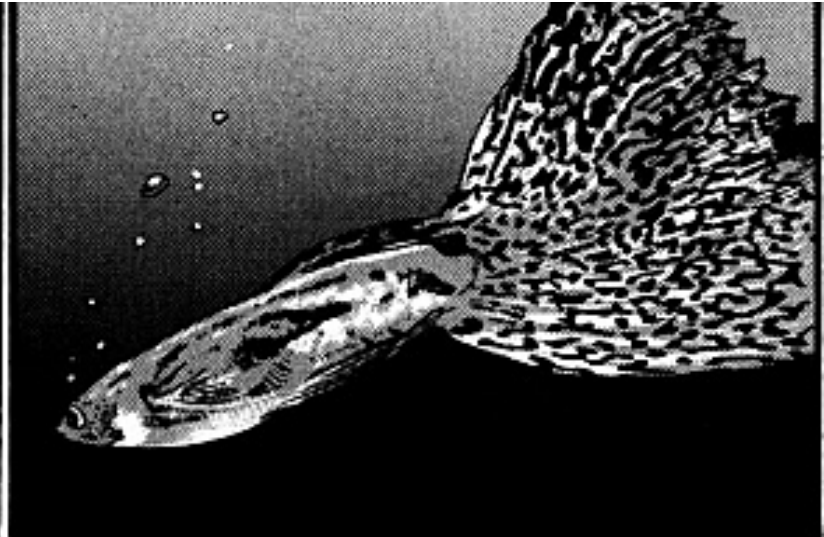
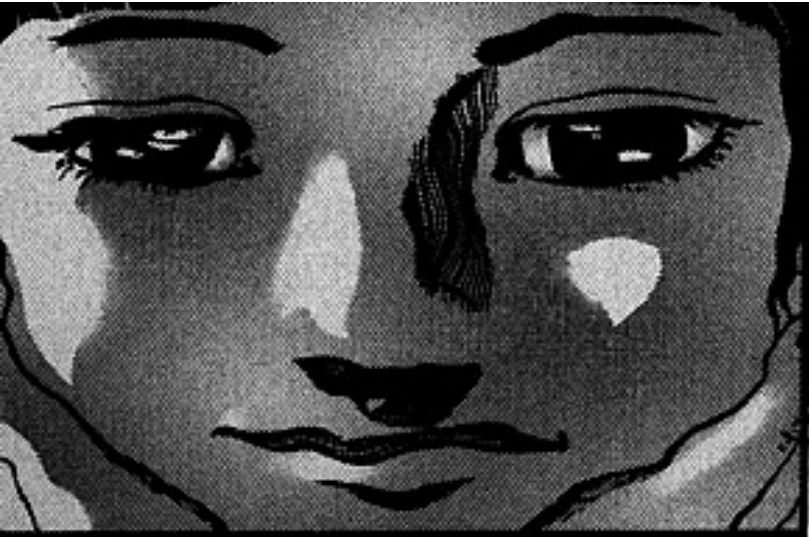




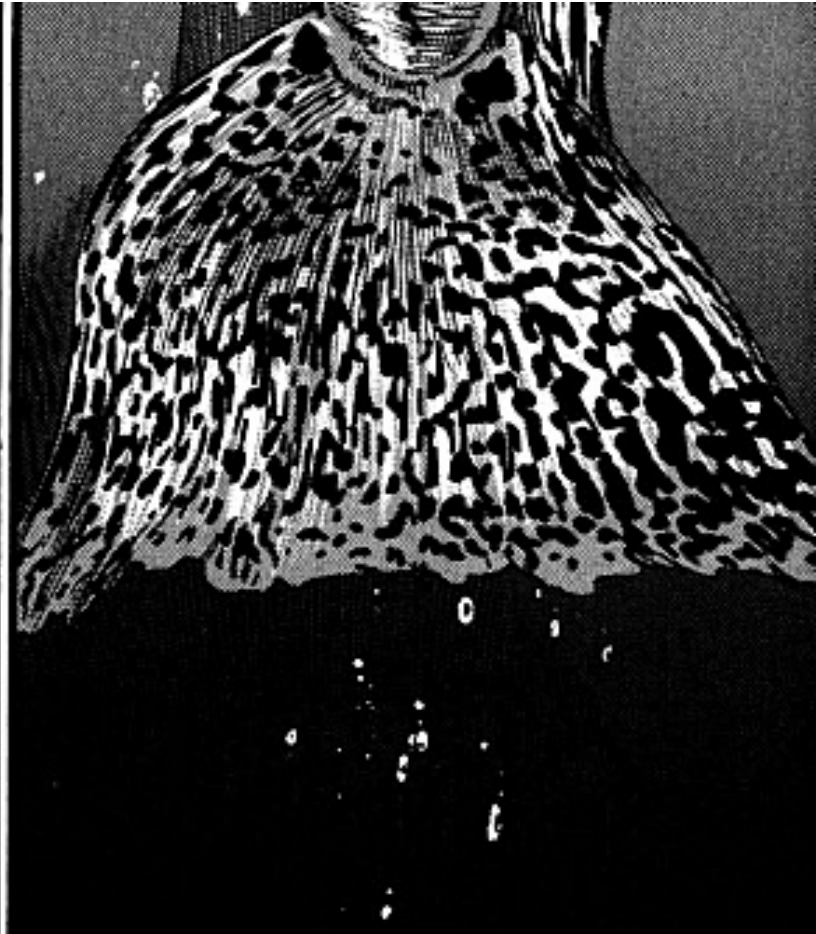




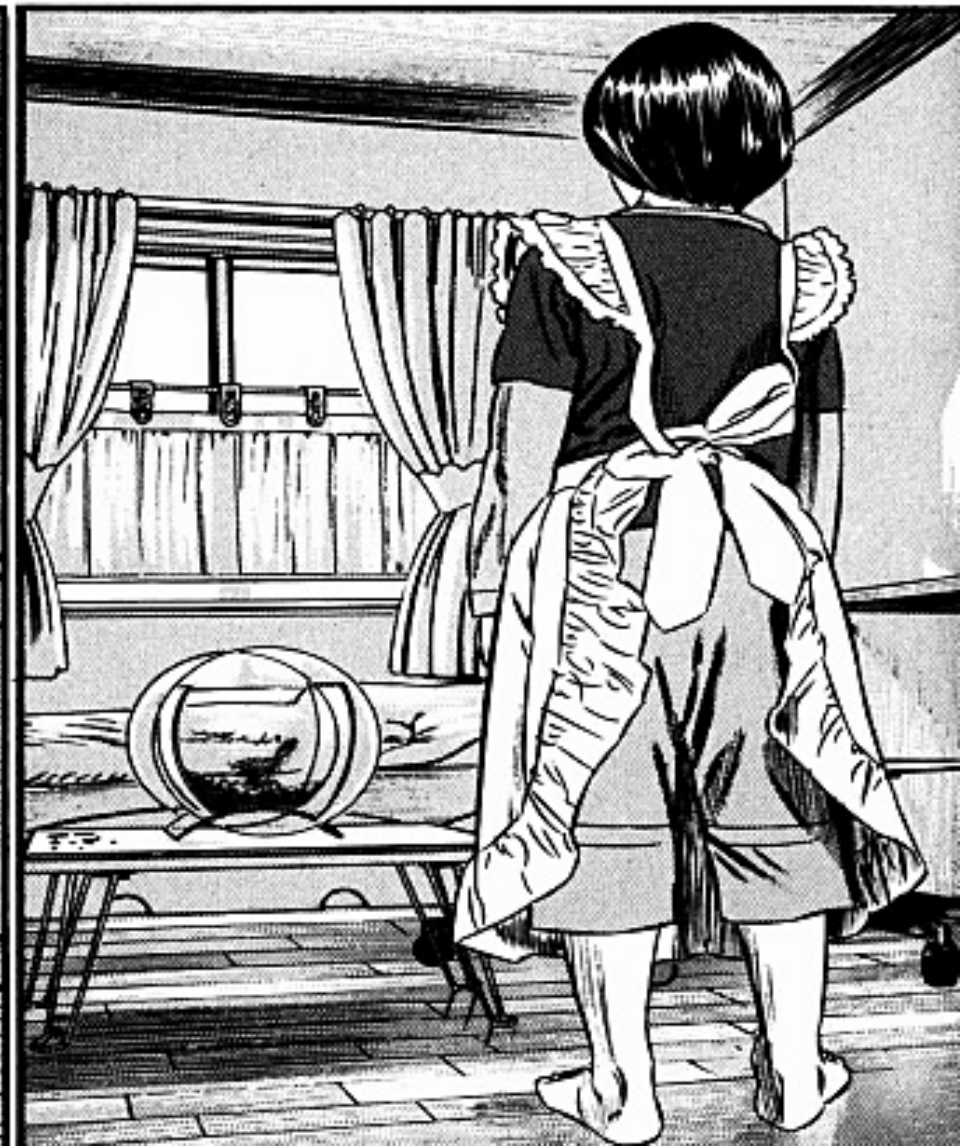




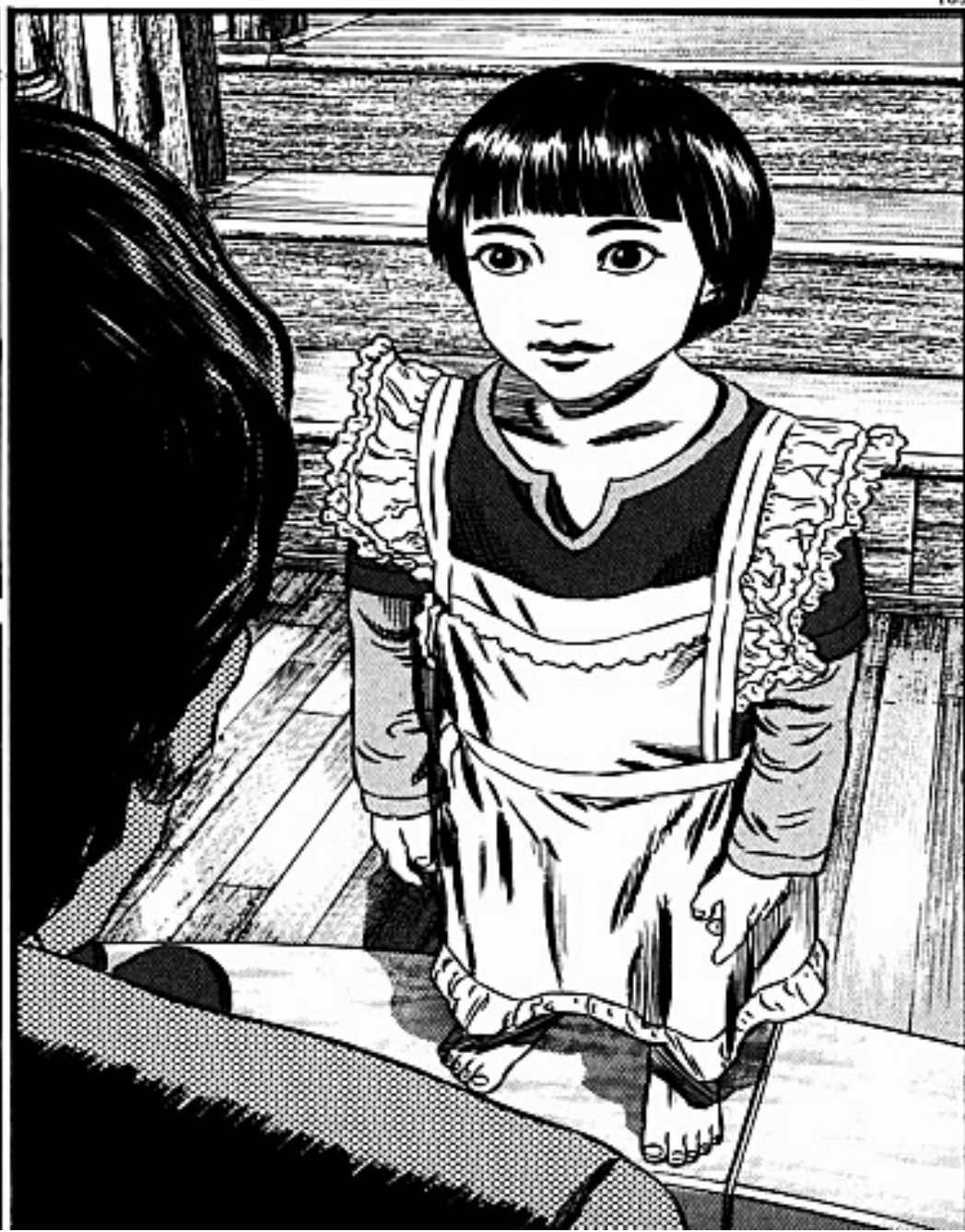


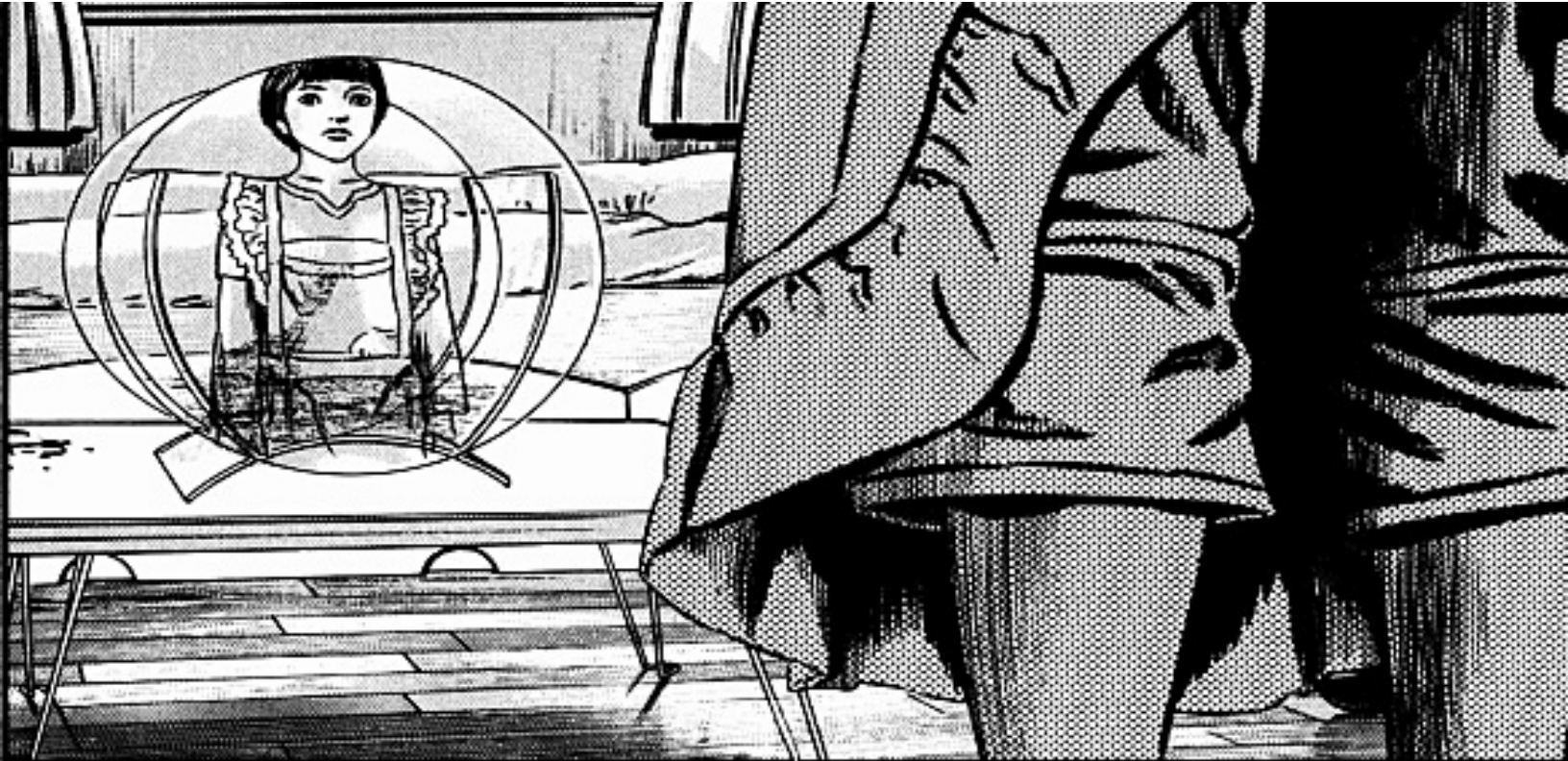


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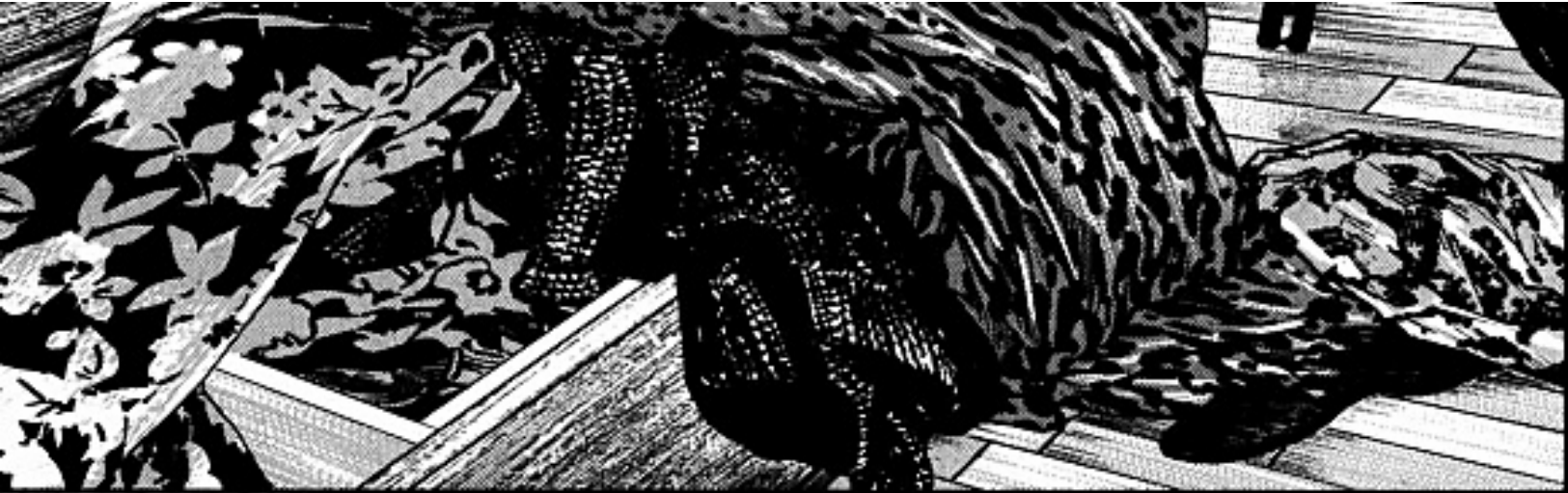




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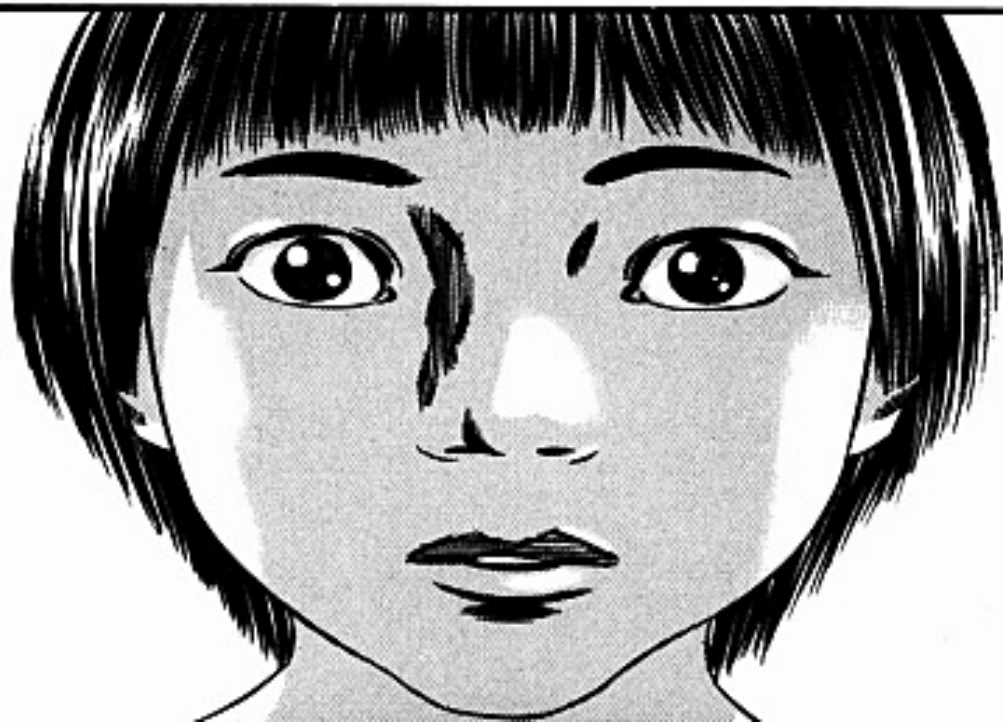


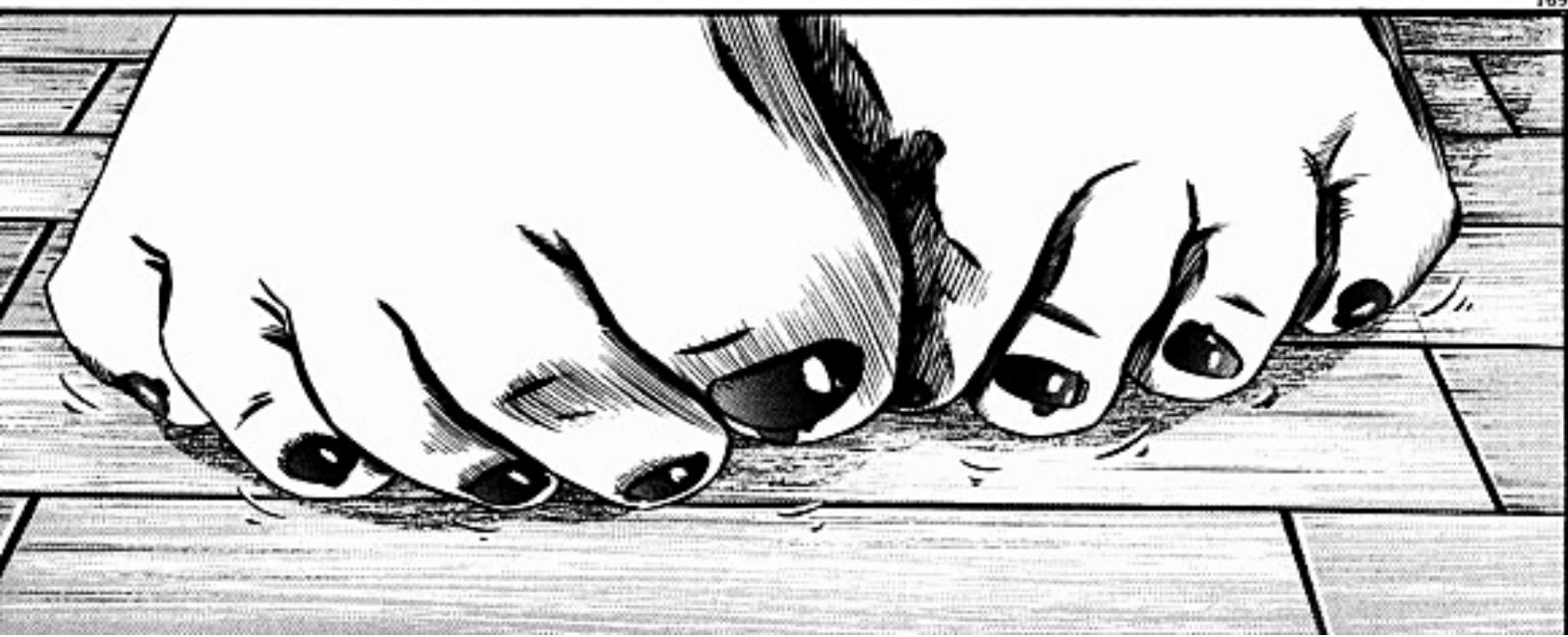




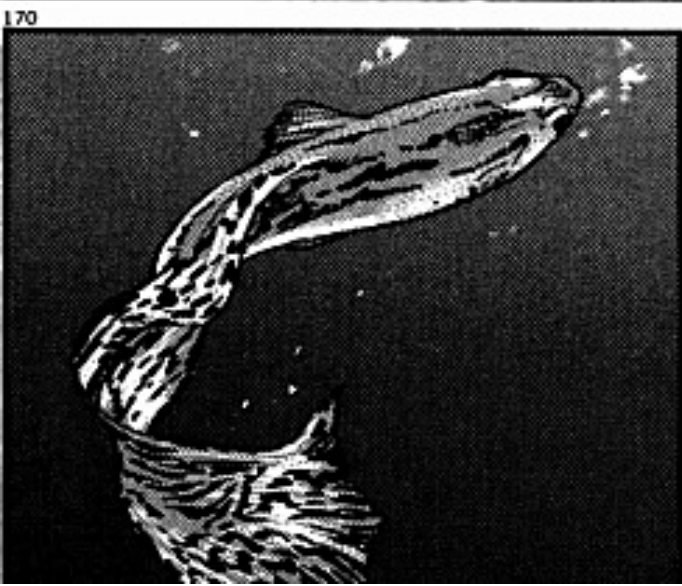
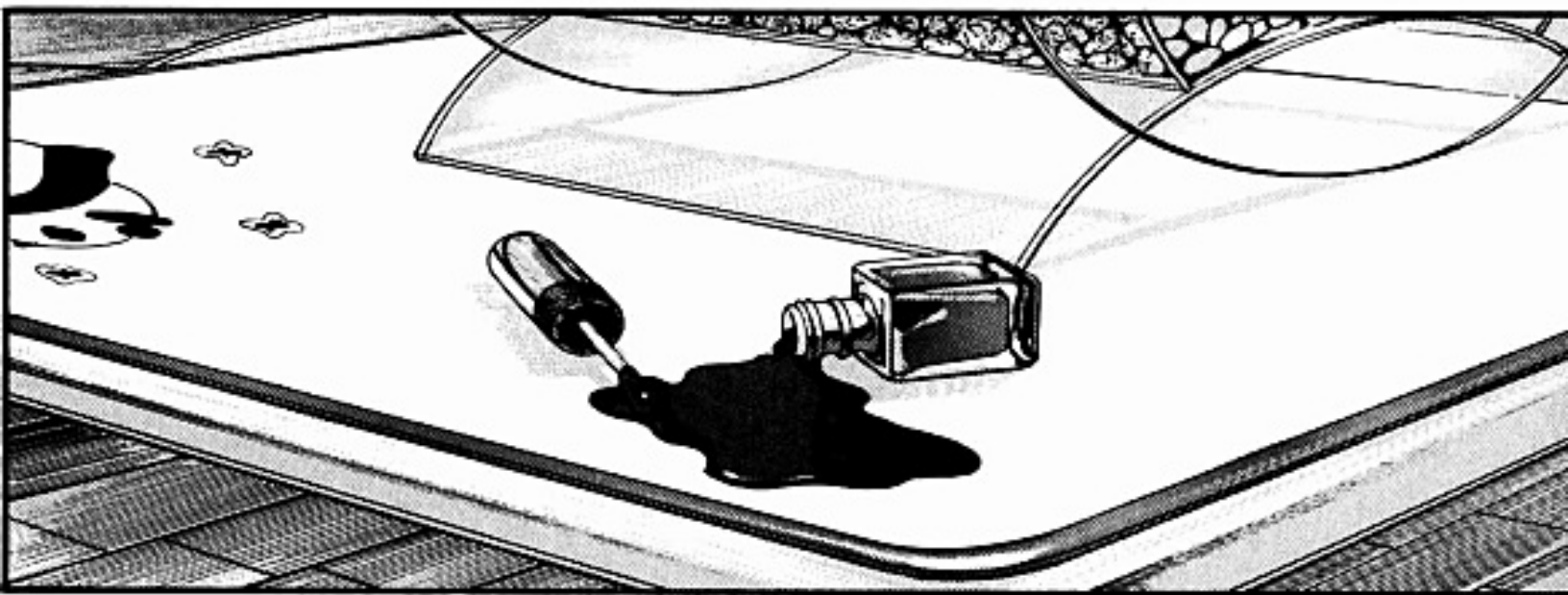
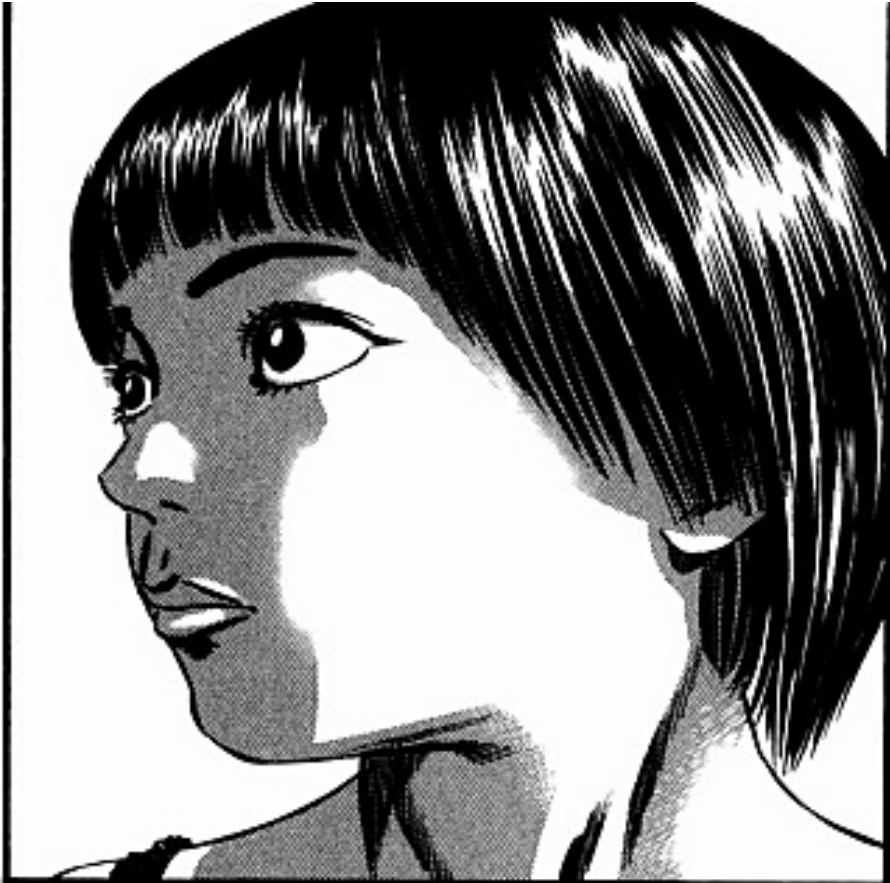


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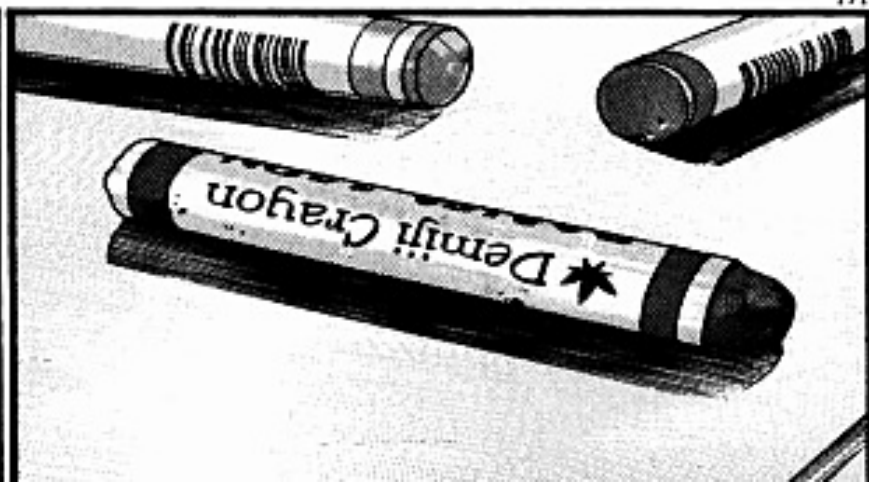
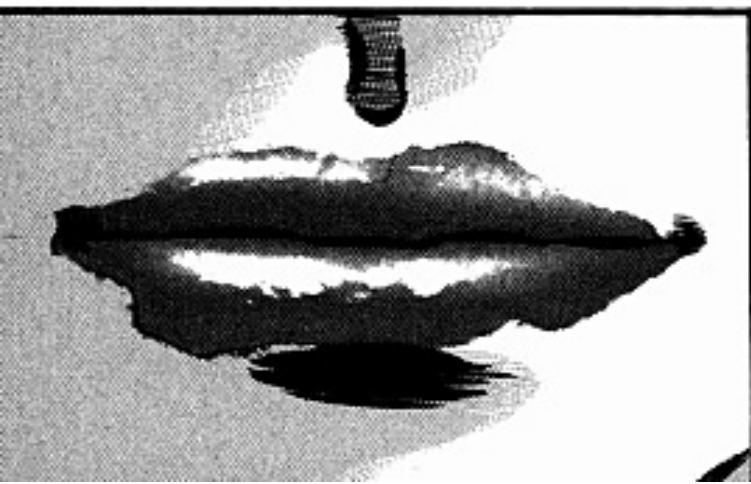
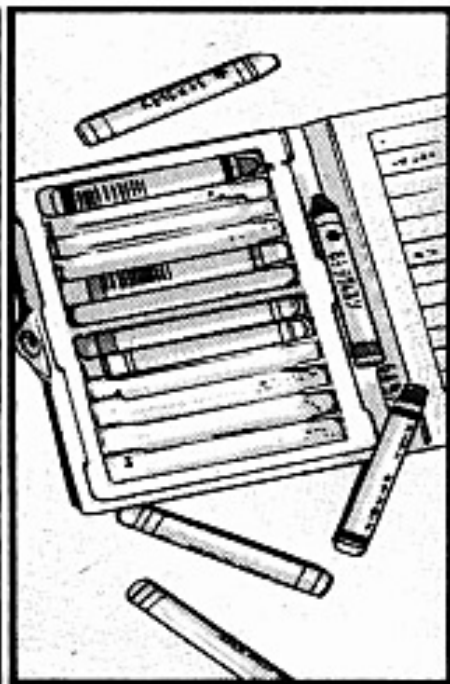
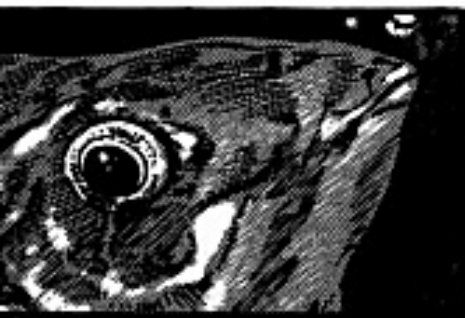
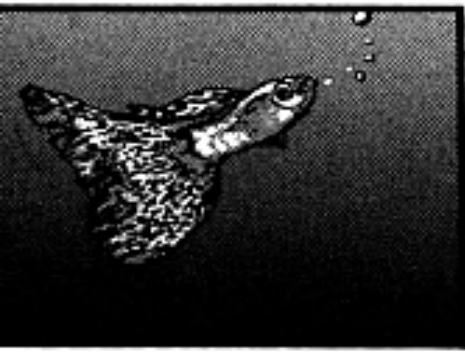
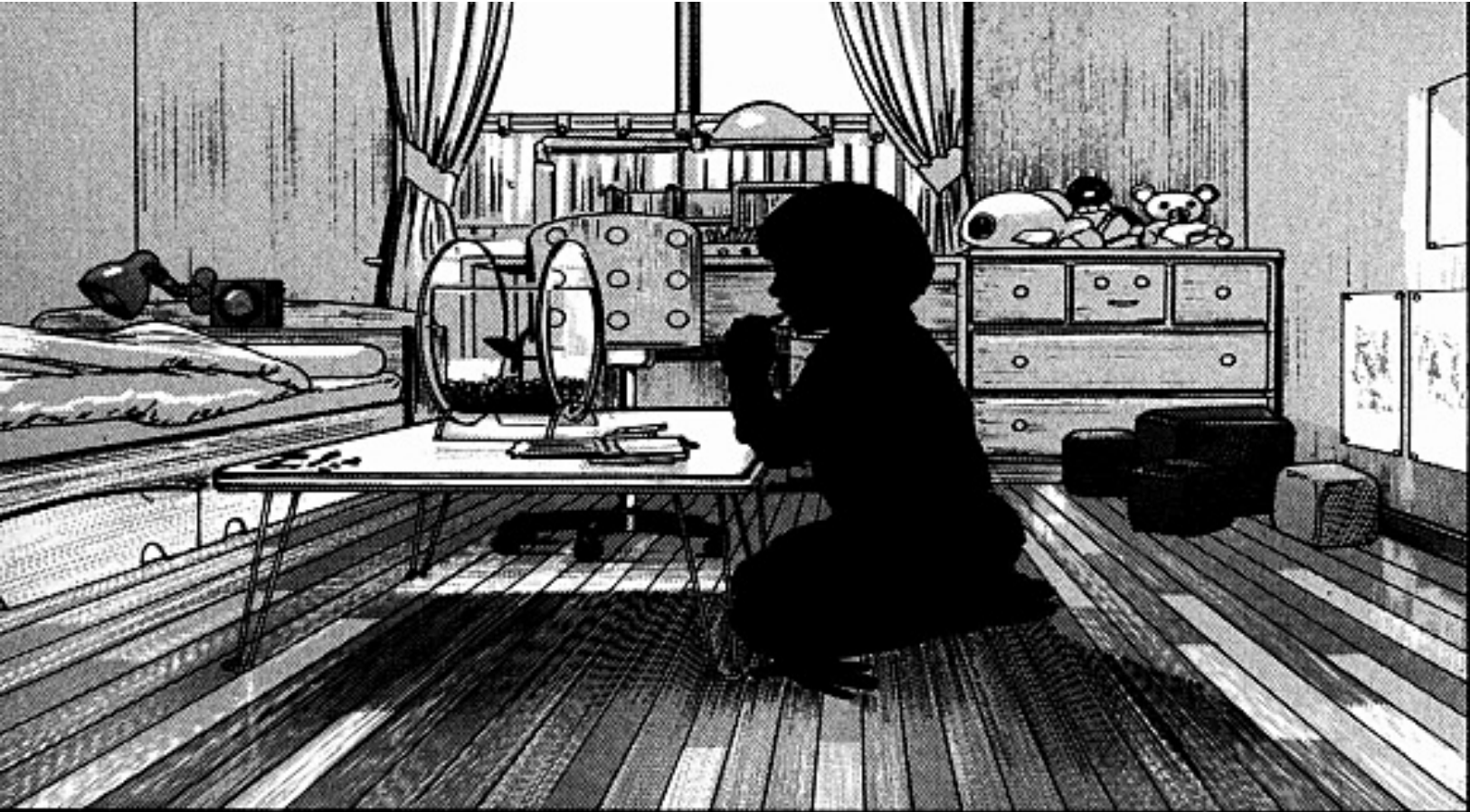






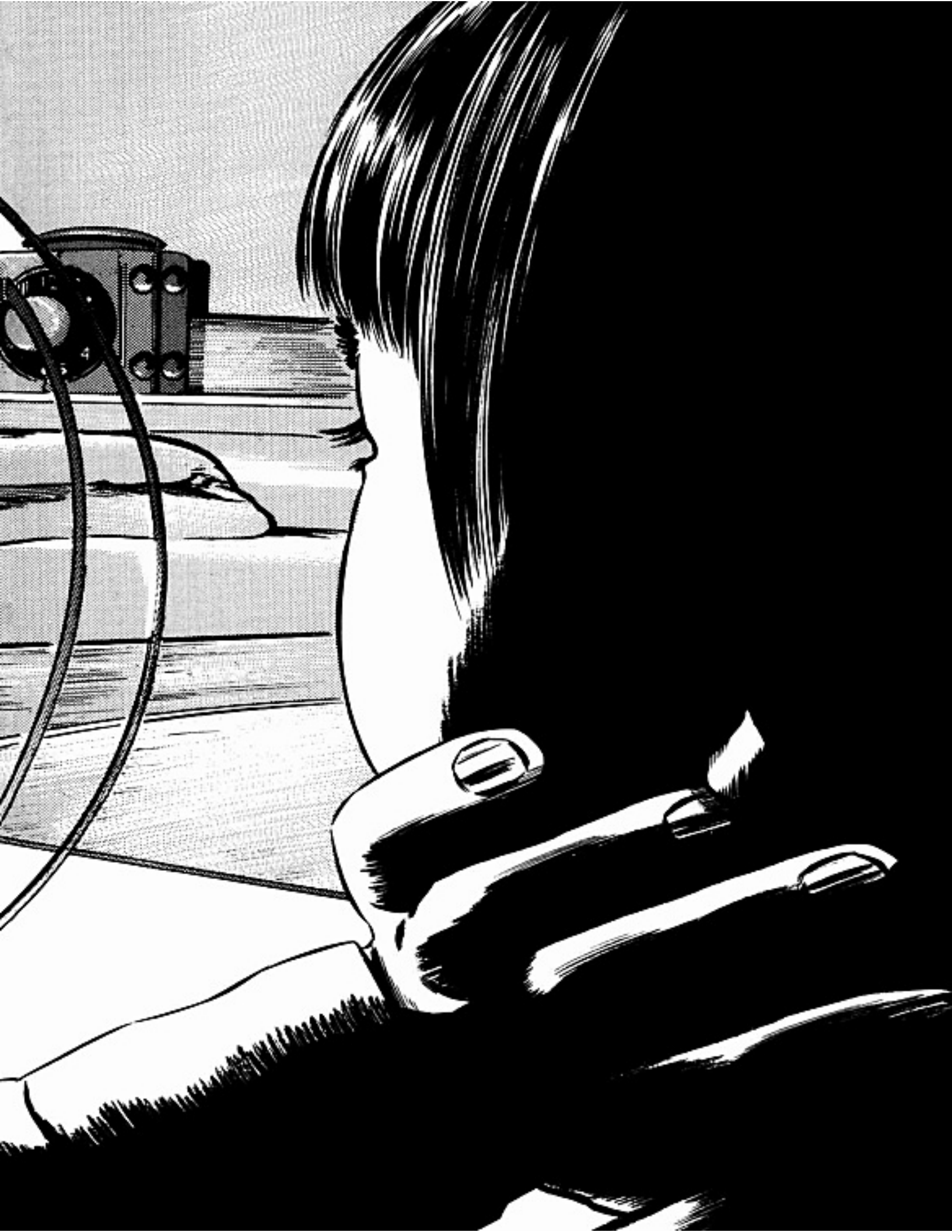






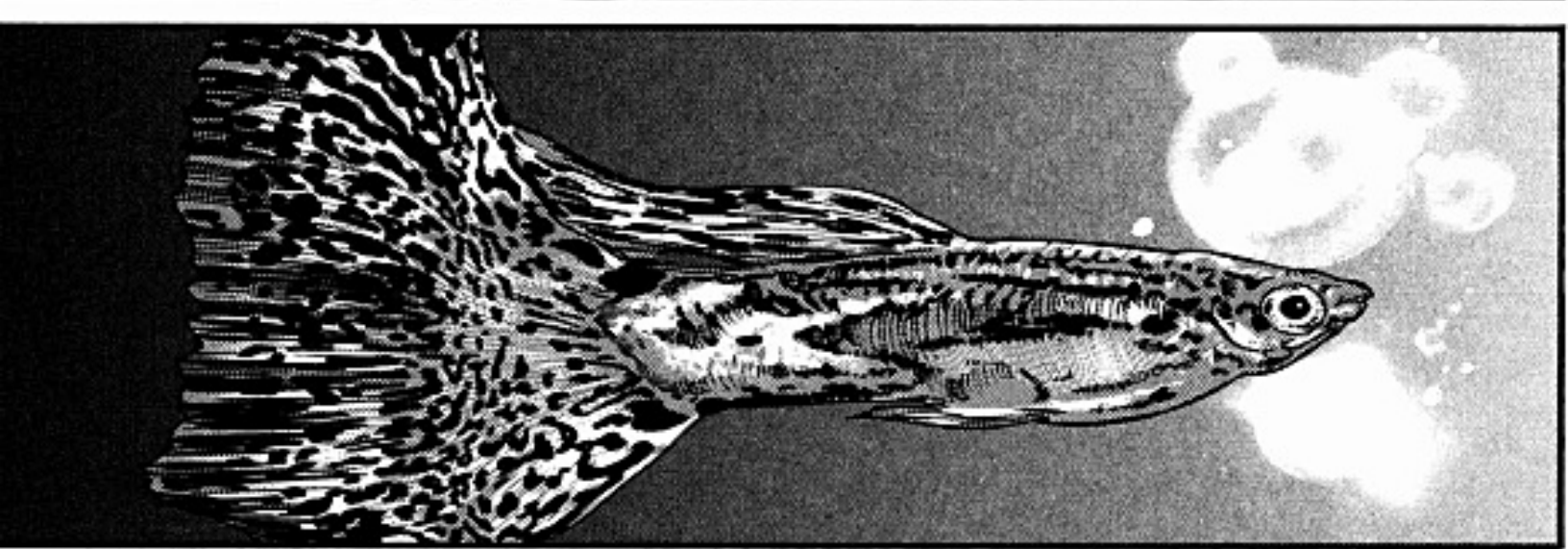




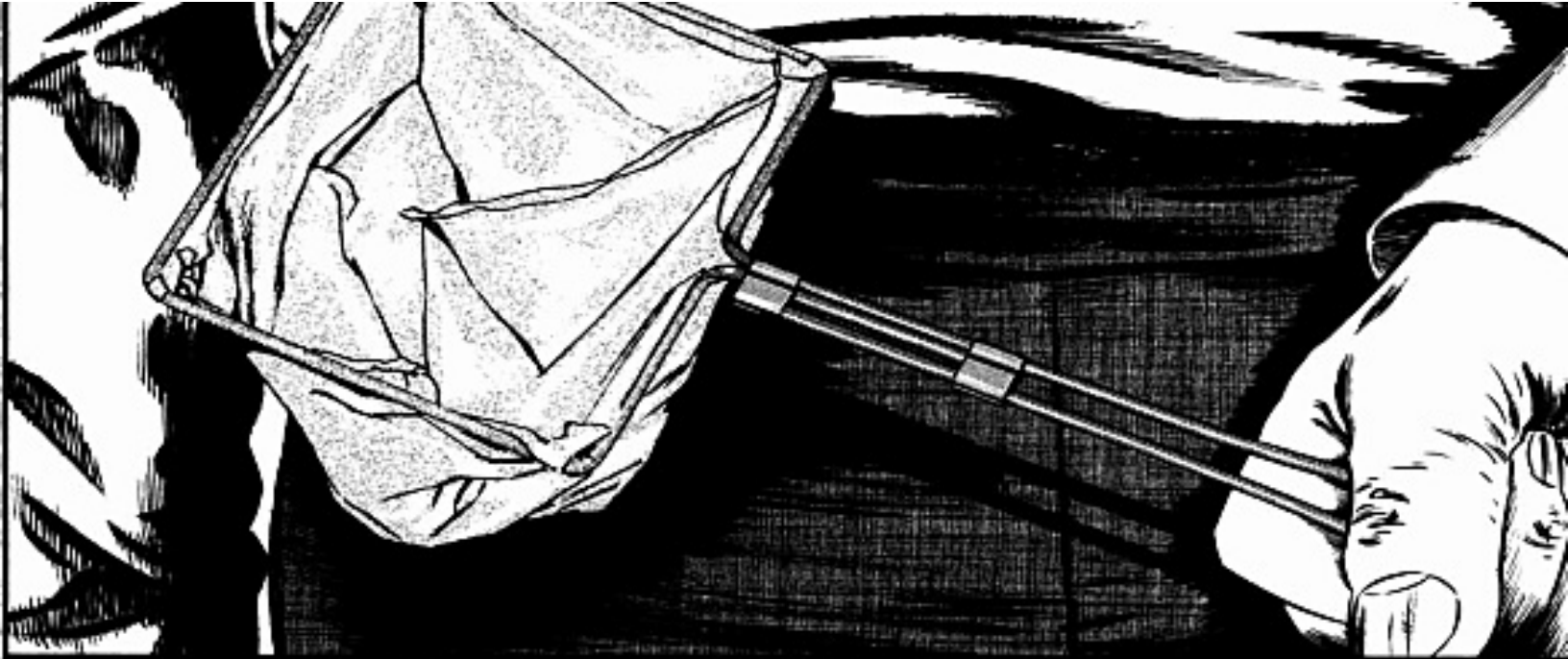








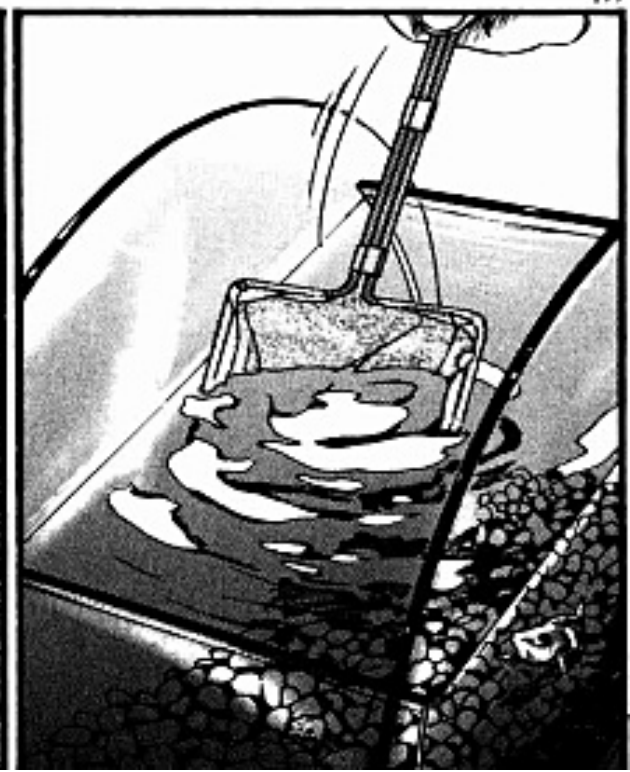
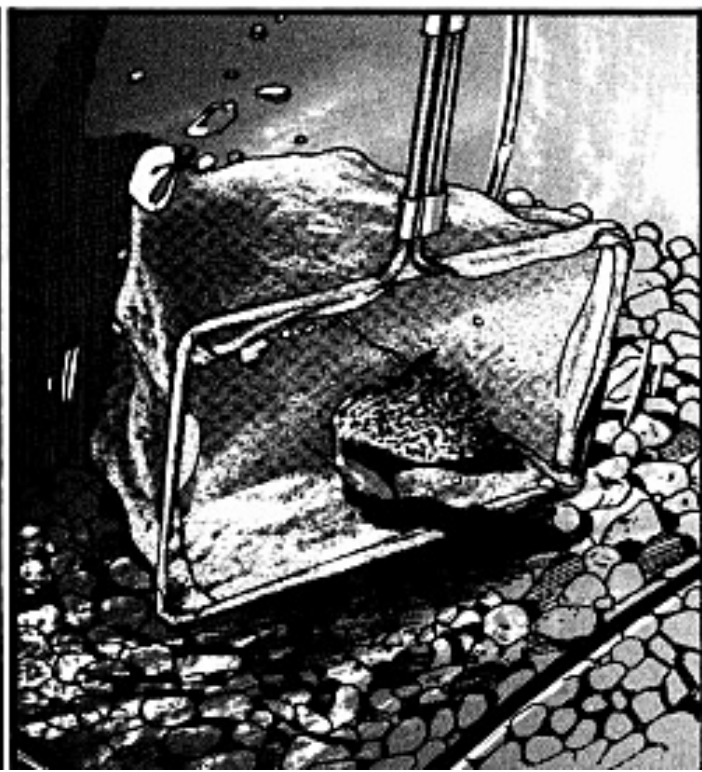
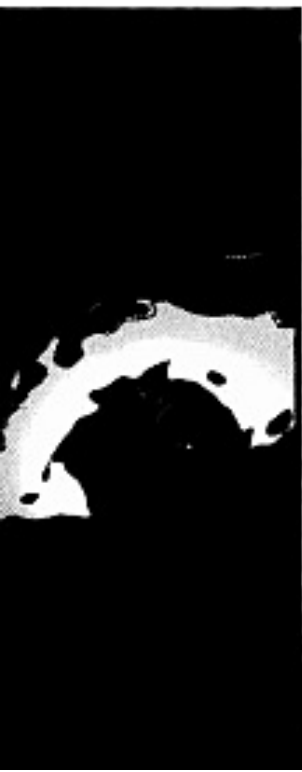
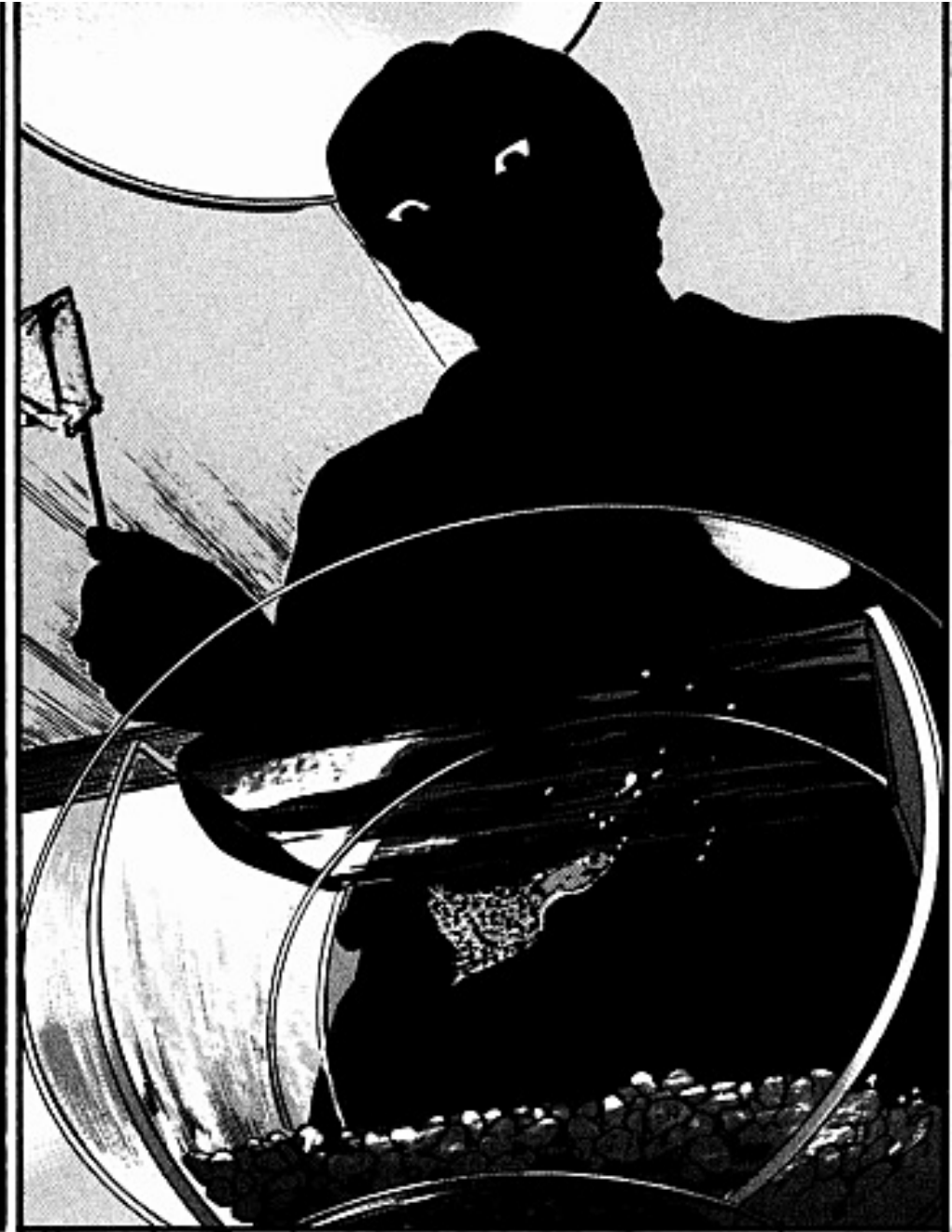




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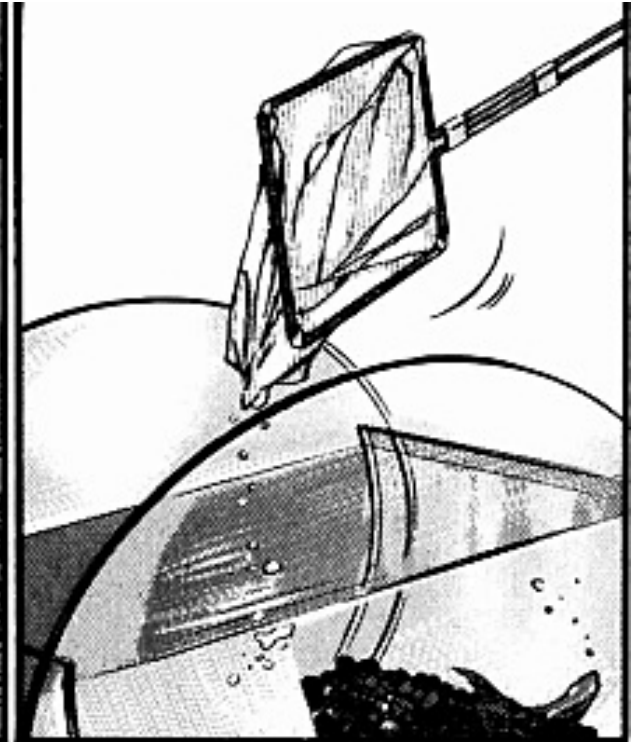




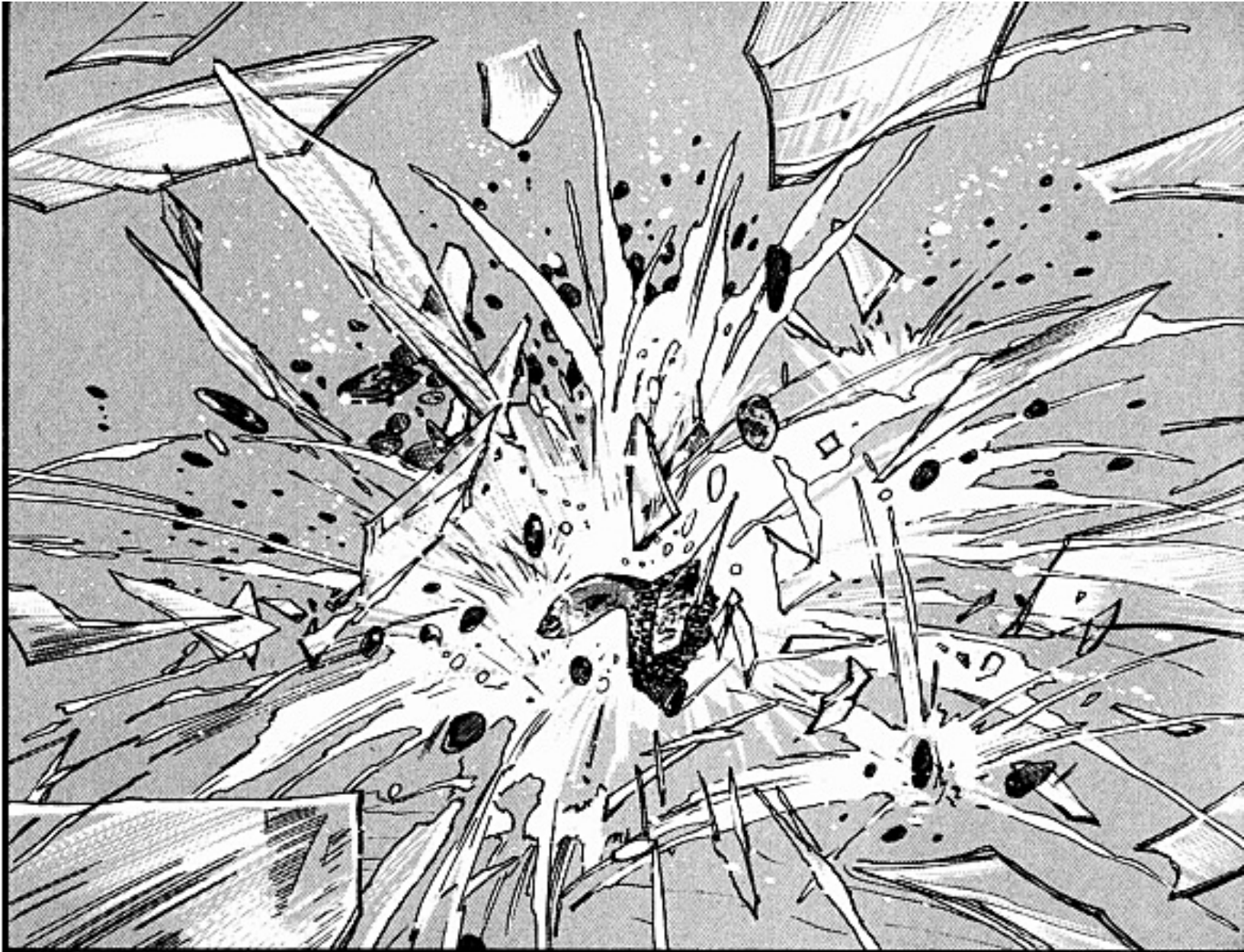


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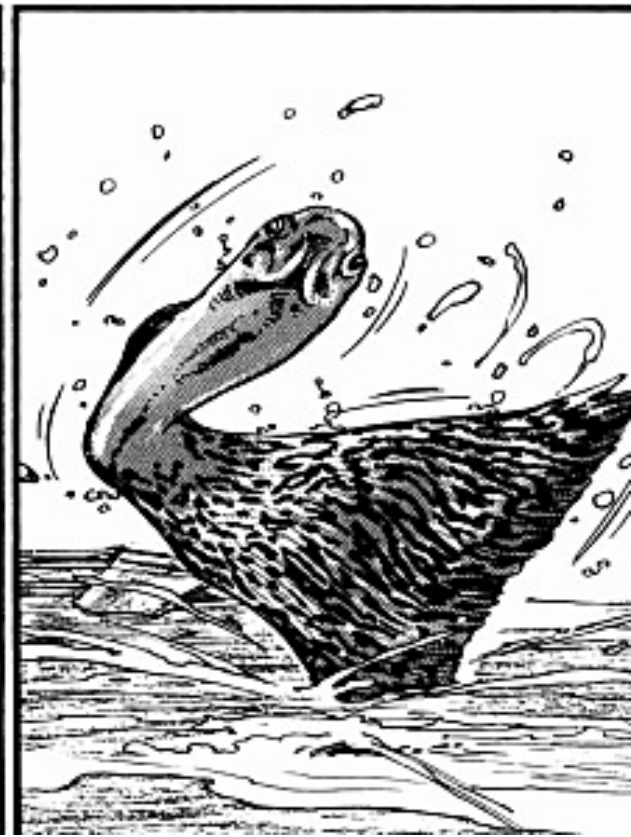
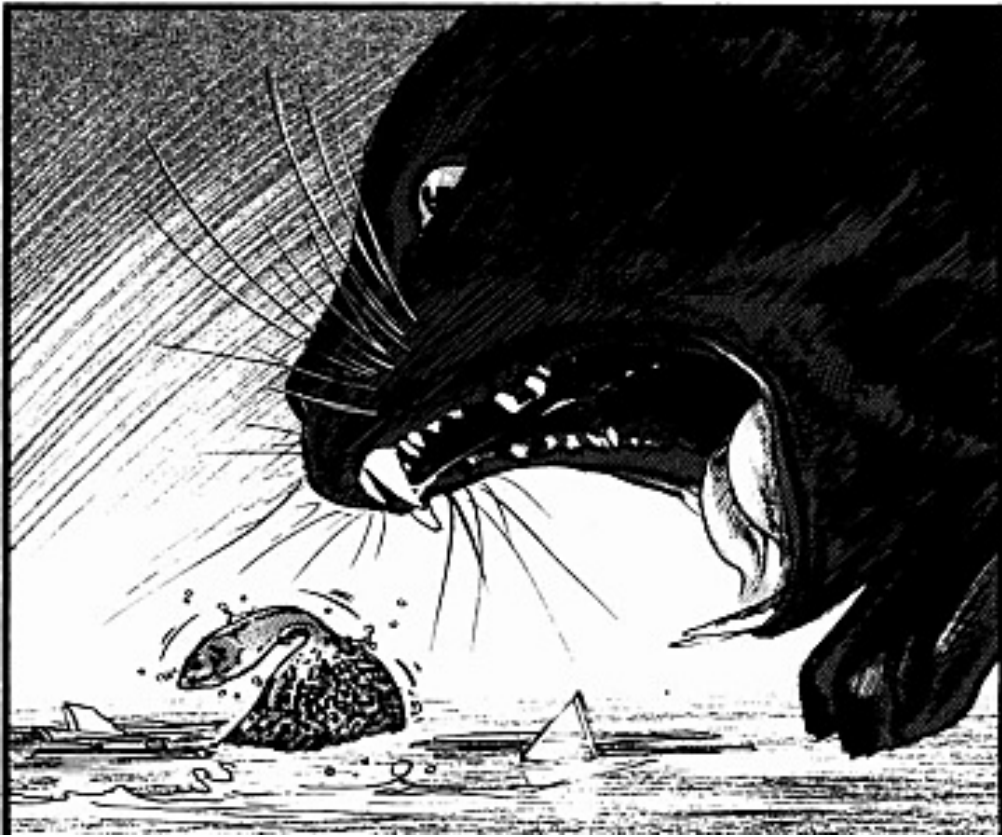






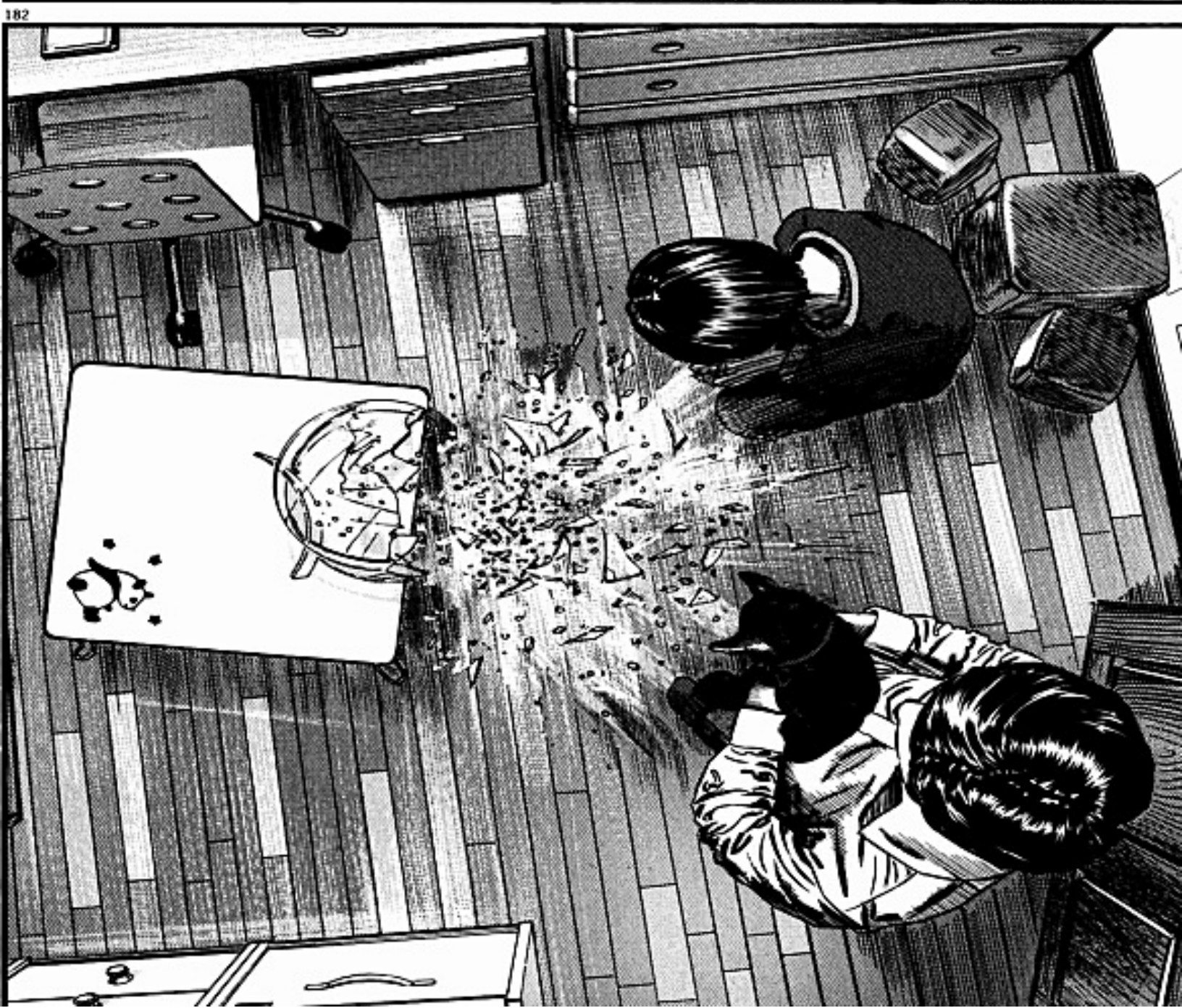
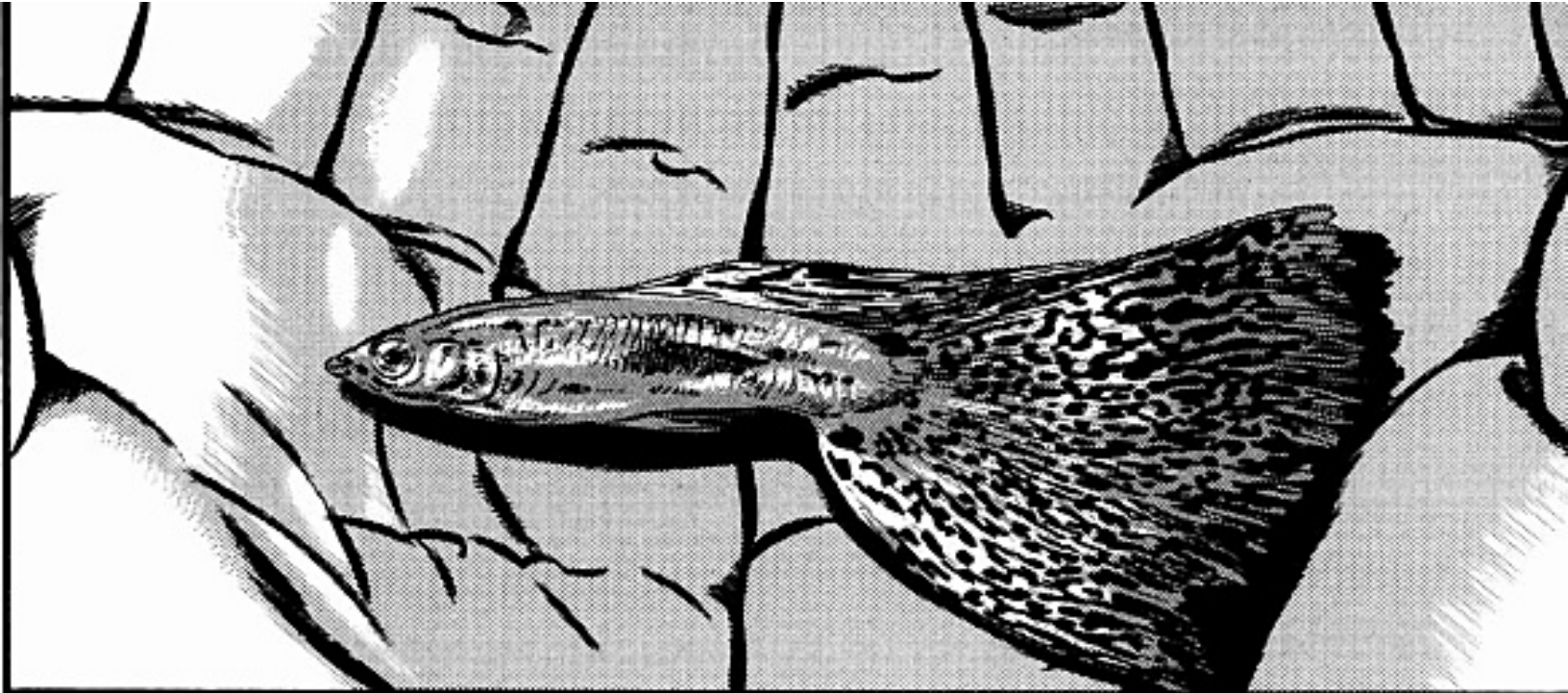


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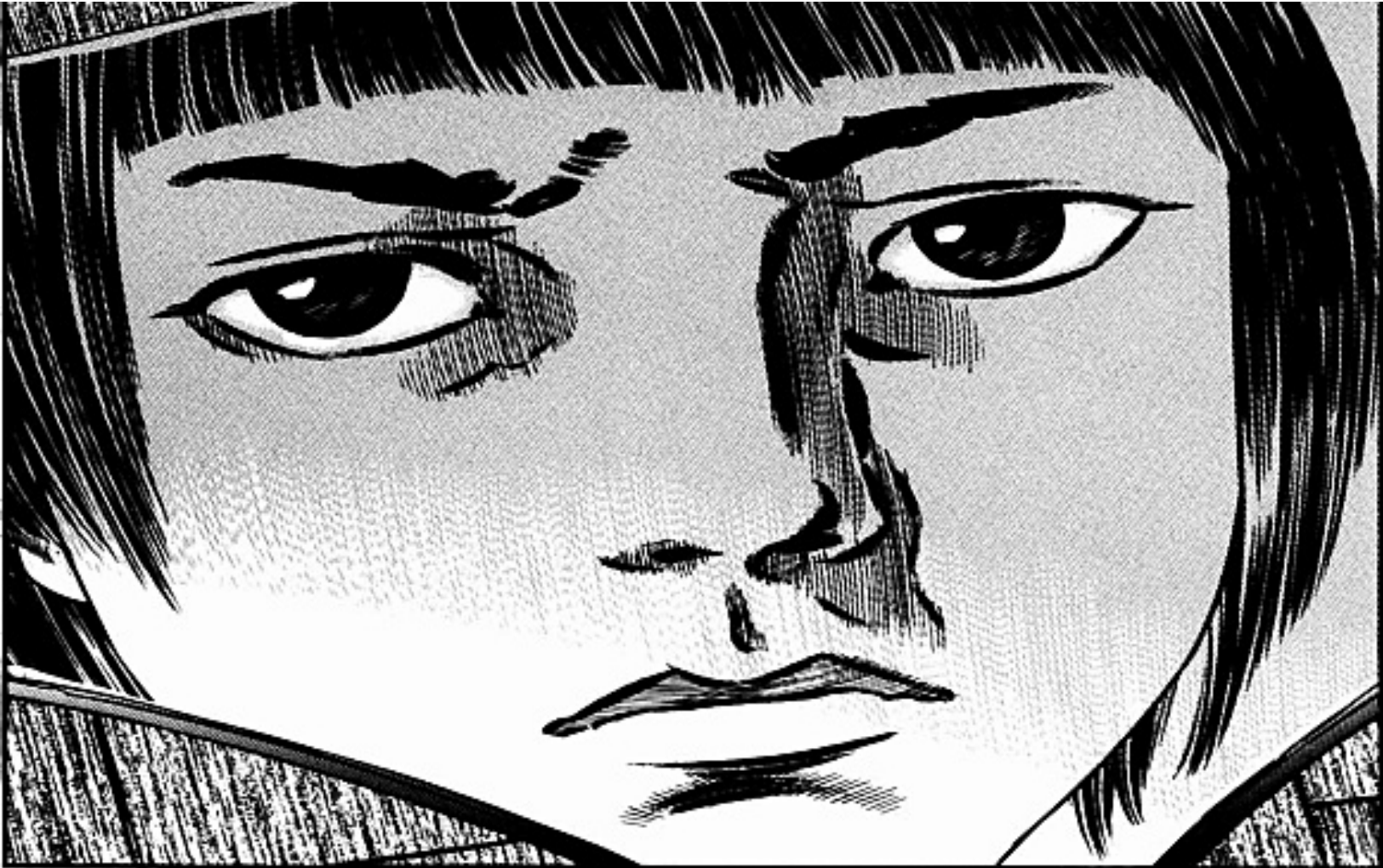












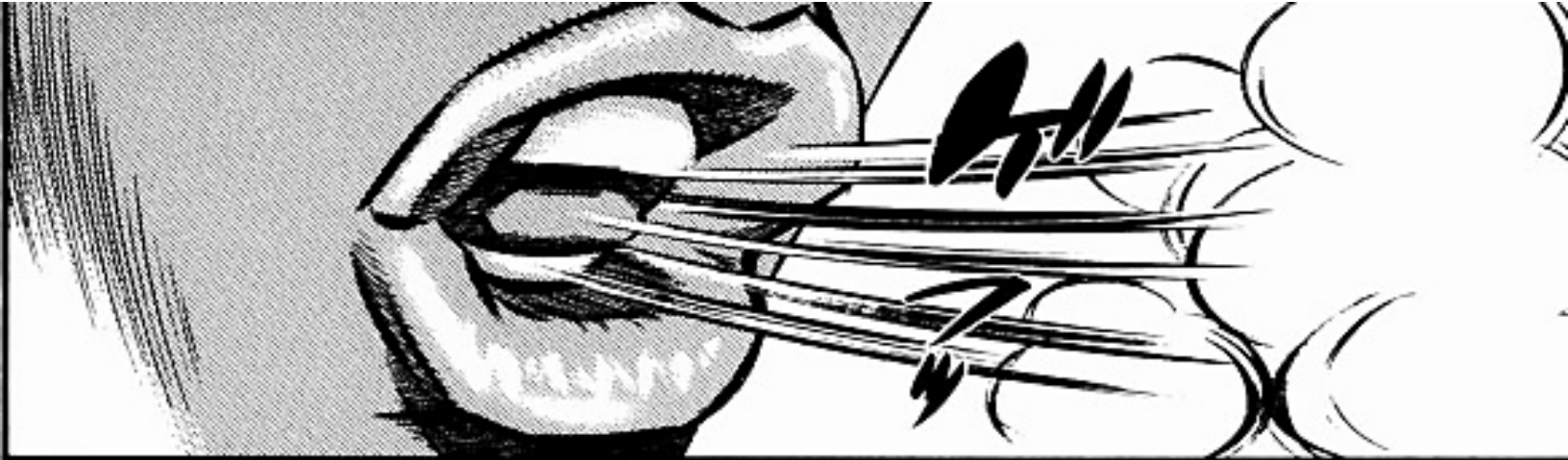
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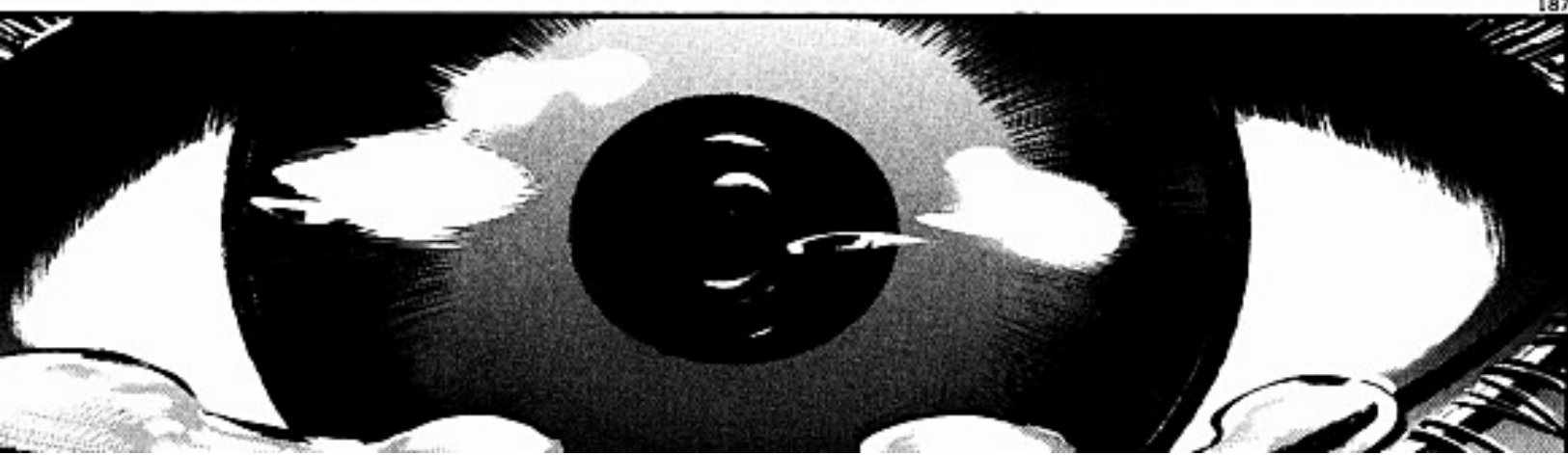
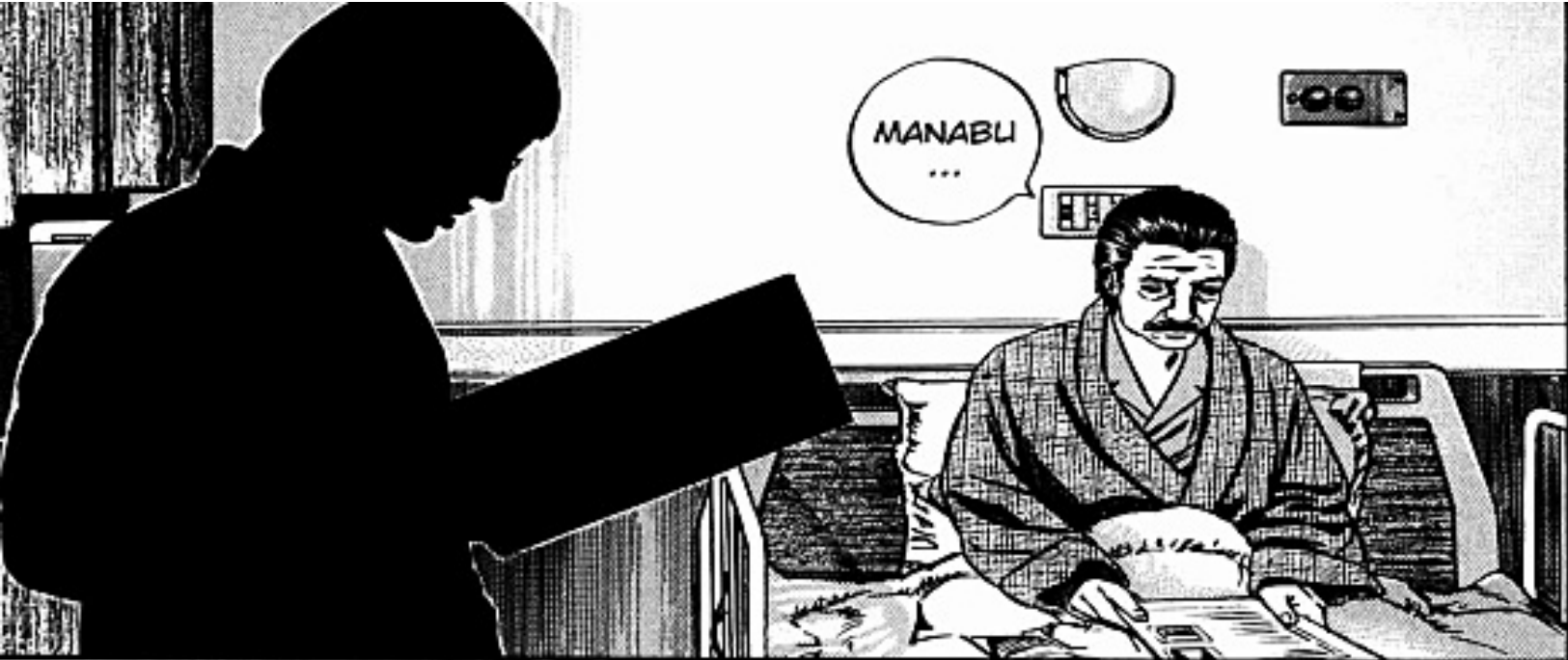




















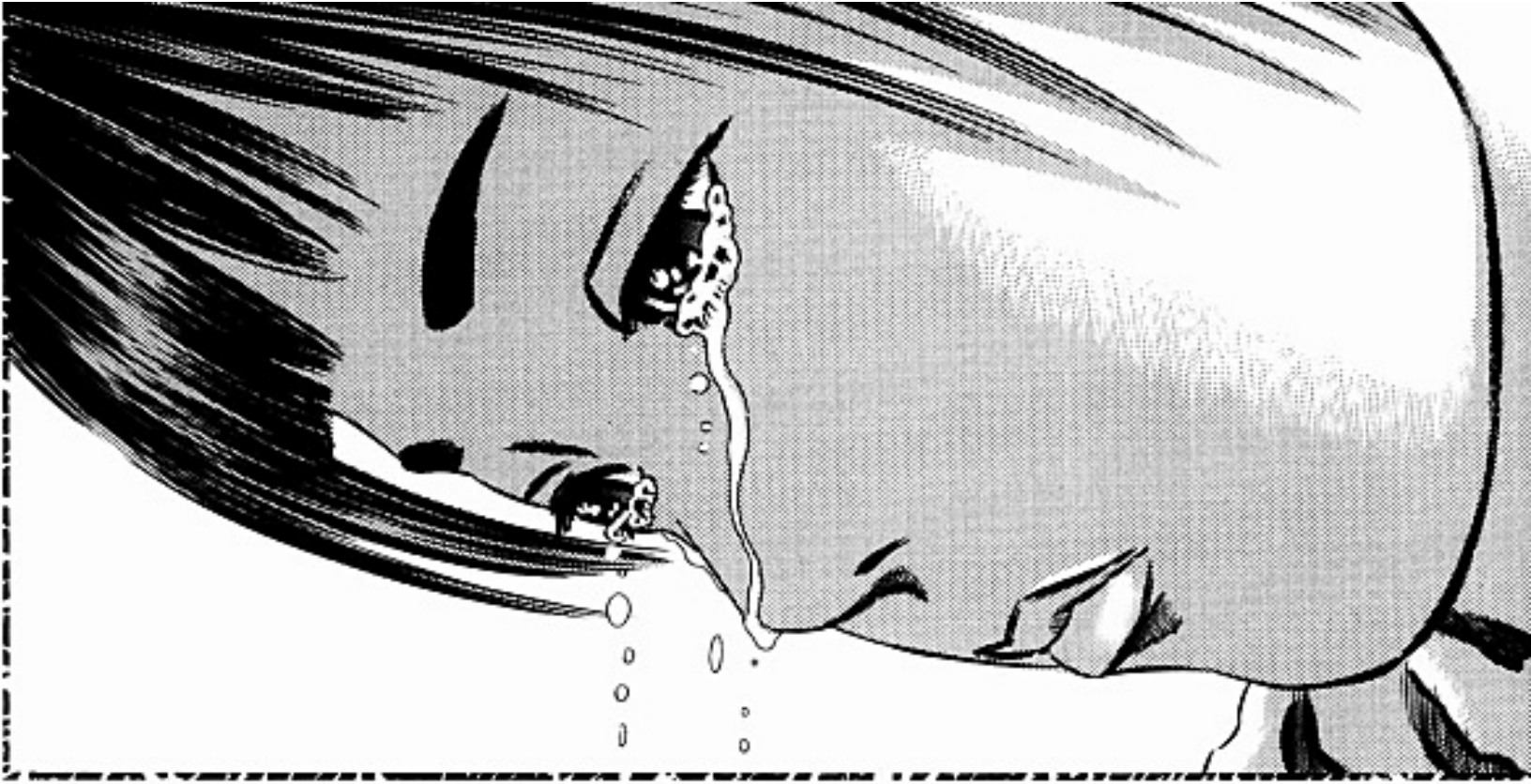
I'M SORRY...  
MANABU...

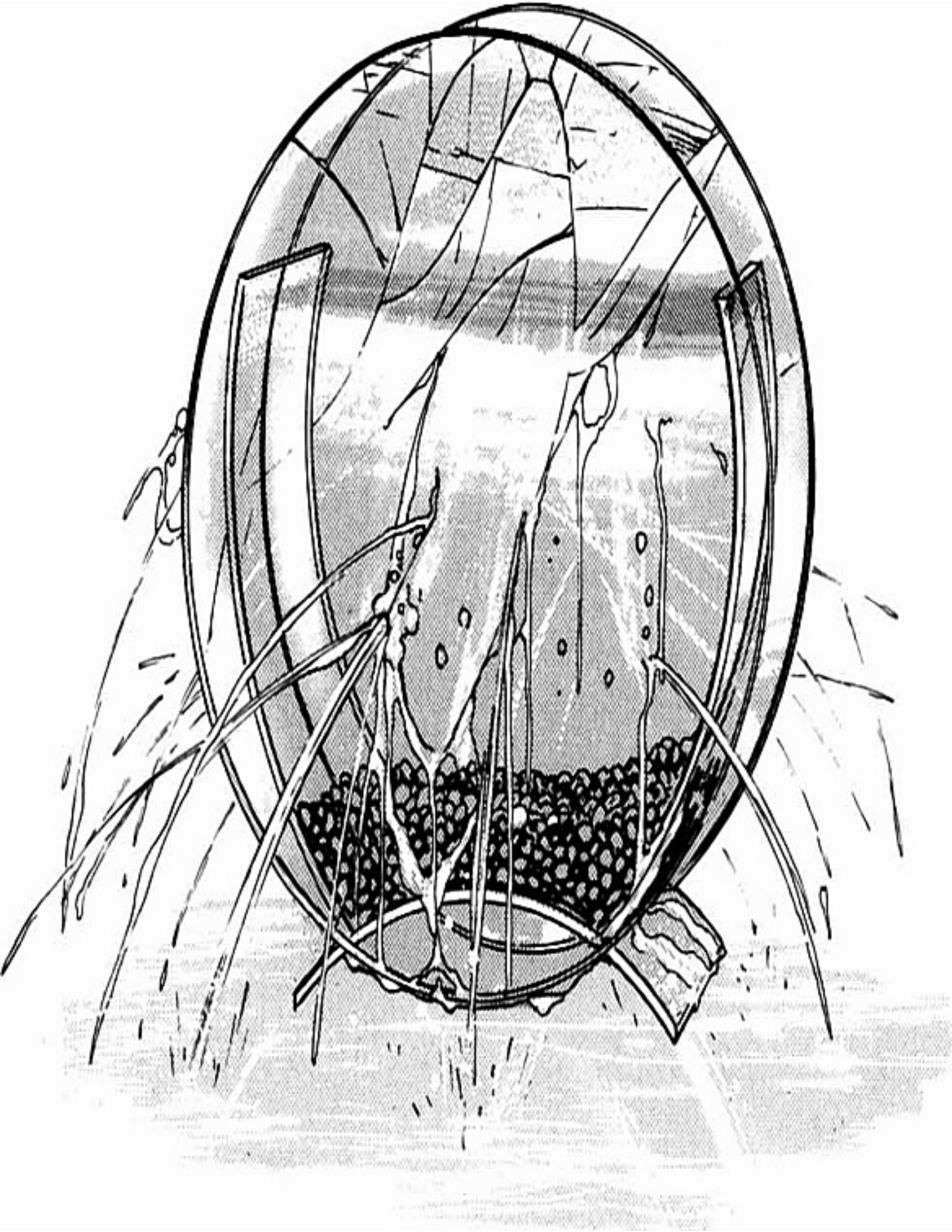






















BEFORE YOU  
CHANGED  
YOUR FACE.

THERE MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
A REAL YOU



BEFORE THE  
SURGERY...



WHAT  
WAS IT...?



SOMETHING  
MUST HAVE  
HAPPENED...





AND MY  
MEMORIES  
ARE THE...



THE ONLY  
CLUE I  
HAVE

TO HELP ME  
REMEMBER  
MY FACE





HOMUNCULLI







FLAG: FLEA MARKET







WHO'S  
THE ONE...



THE ONE  
THAT KNOWS  
MY FACE?



THE ONE  
THAT CAN  
PROVE I  
LIVED...

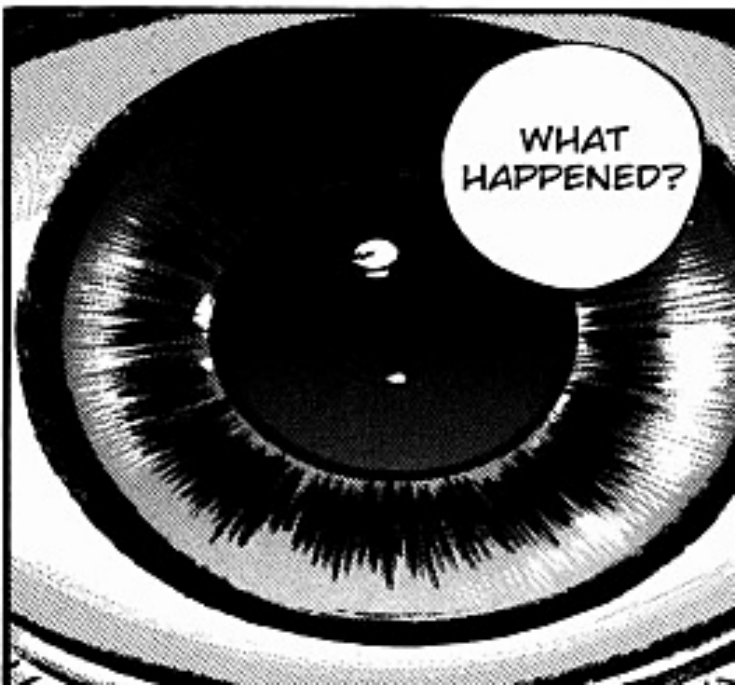


WHERE'S THE PERSON THAT KNOWS THE REAL ME?



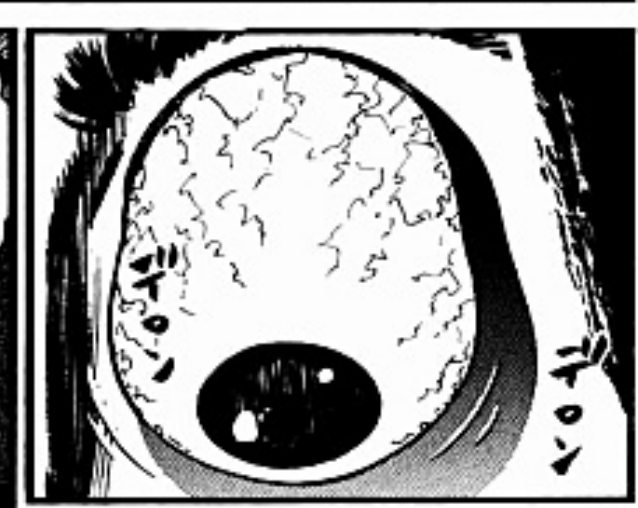
BEFORE MY SURGERY...?

WHAT IN THE HELL HAPPENED TO ME



WHAT HAPPENED?

















HOMUNCULUS

HIDEO YAMAMOTO