

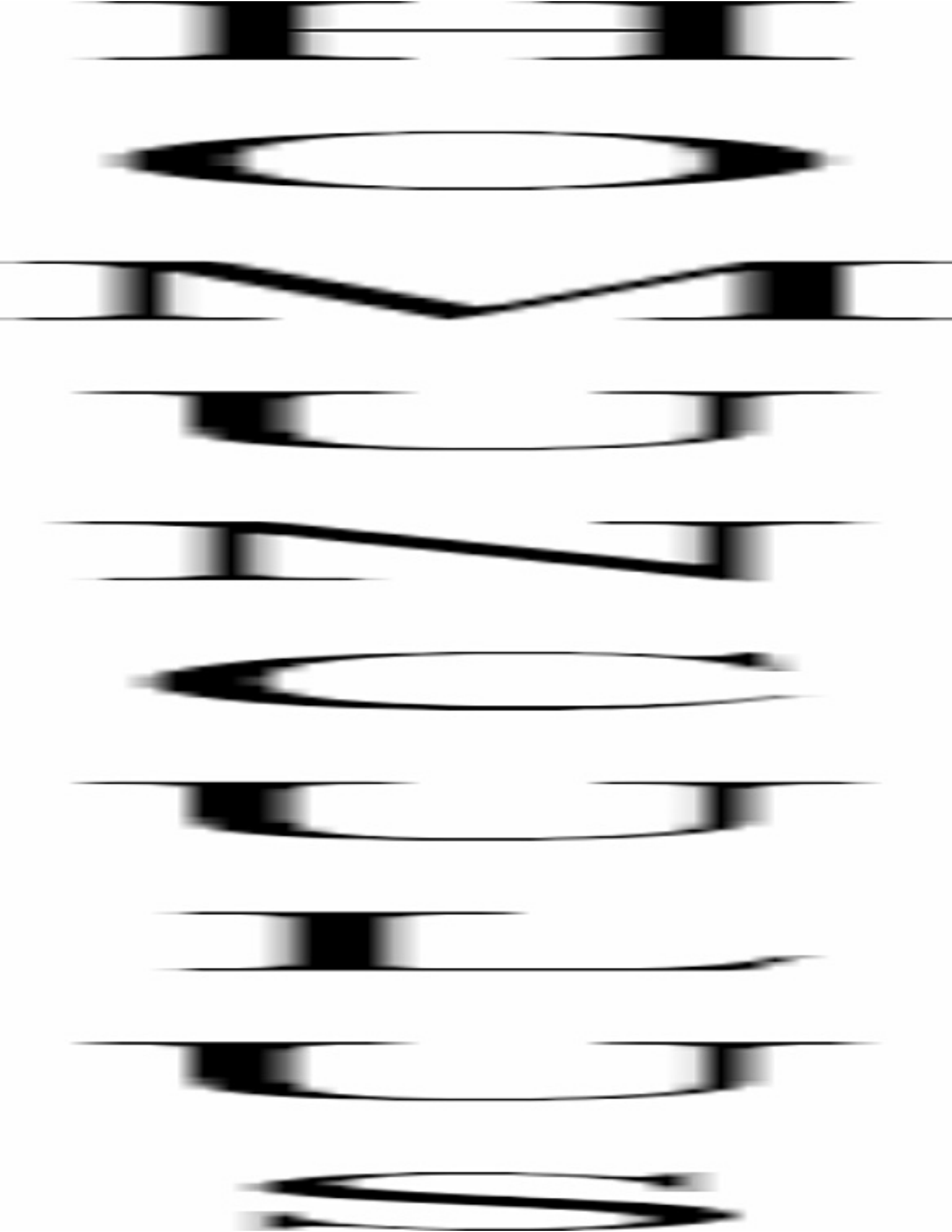
H O M U N C U L U S

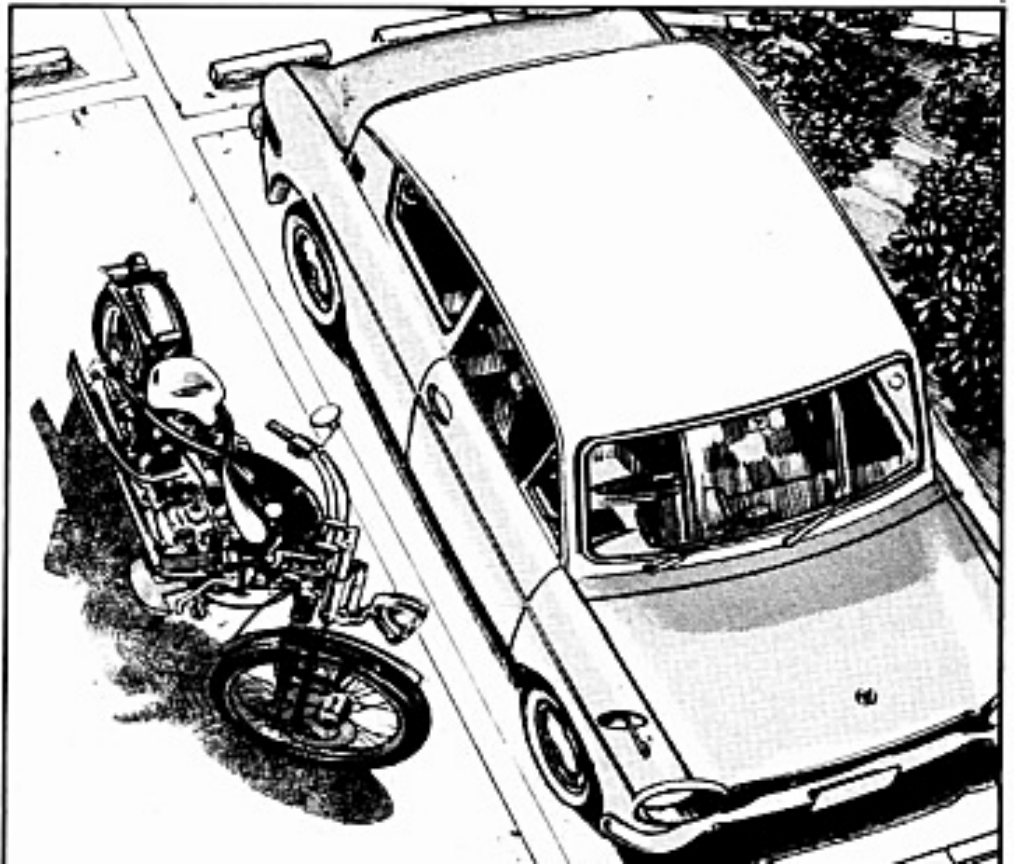
ホ ム ン ク ル ス



8

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









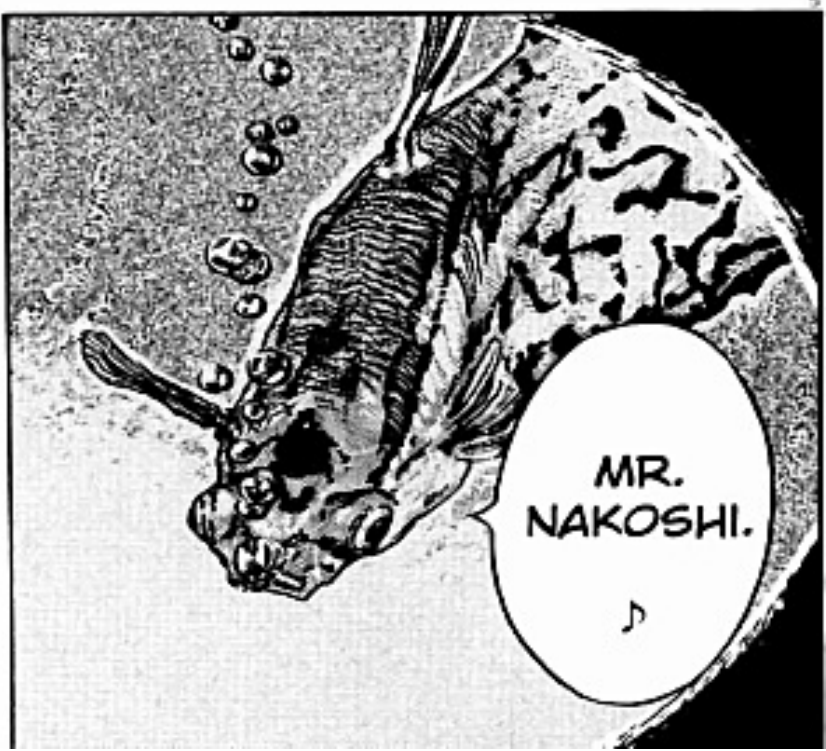




DON'T YOU
FIND IT
BEAUTIFUL?



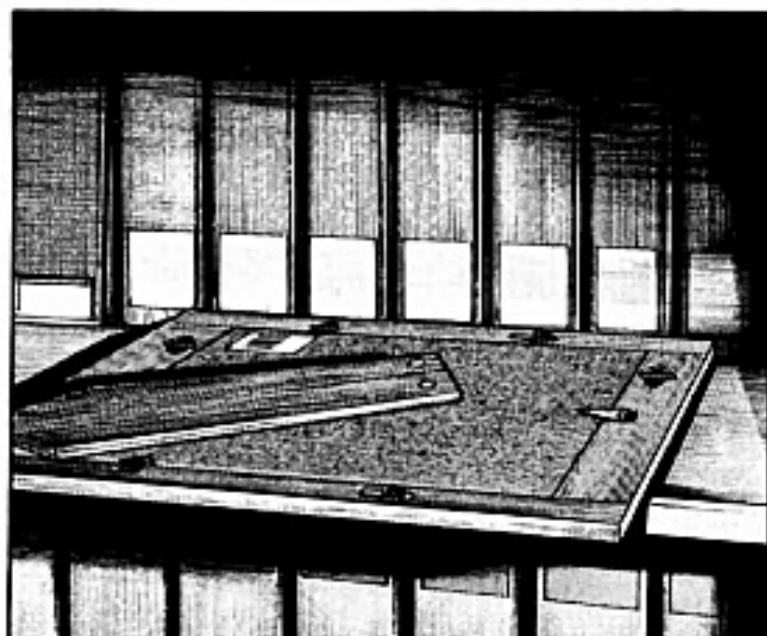
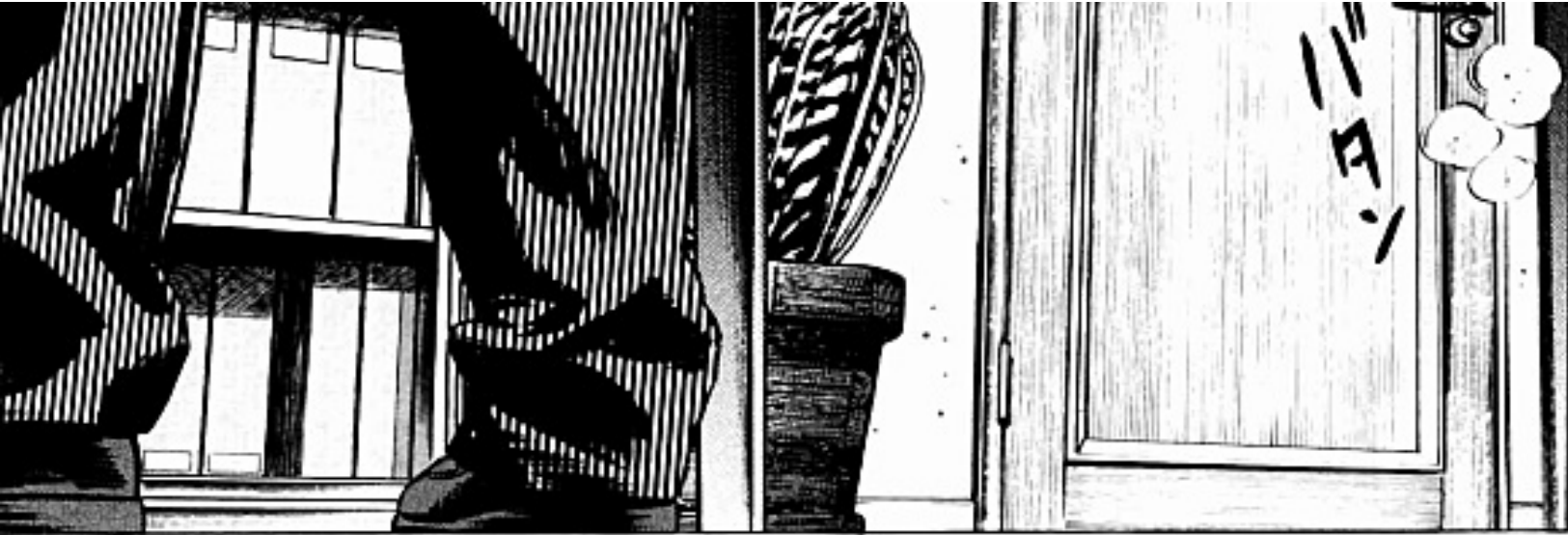
Y-YEAH
...



MR.
NAKOSHI.

♪





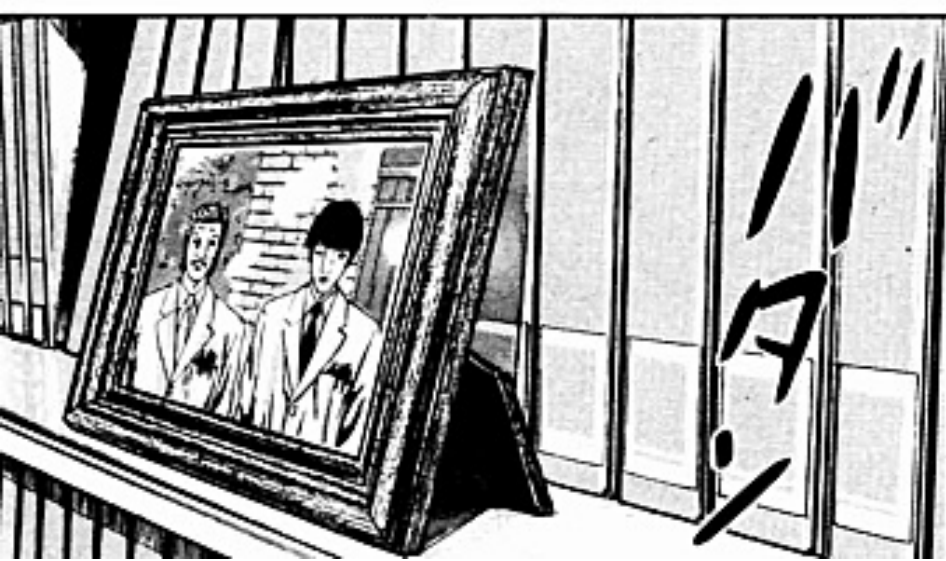




HAVE I
SEEN
HIM
BEFORE
...?



OH...
RIGHT.



I'M ALL
READY TO
GO, MR.
NAKOSHI.



HMM,
HMM-HMM.

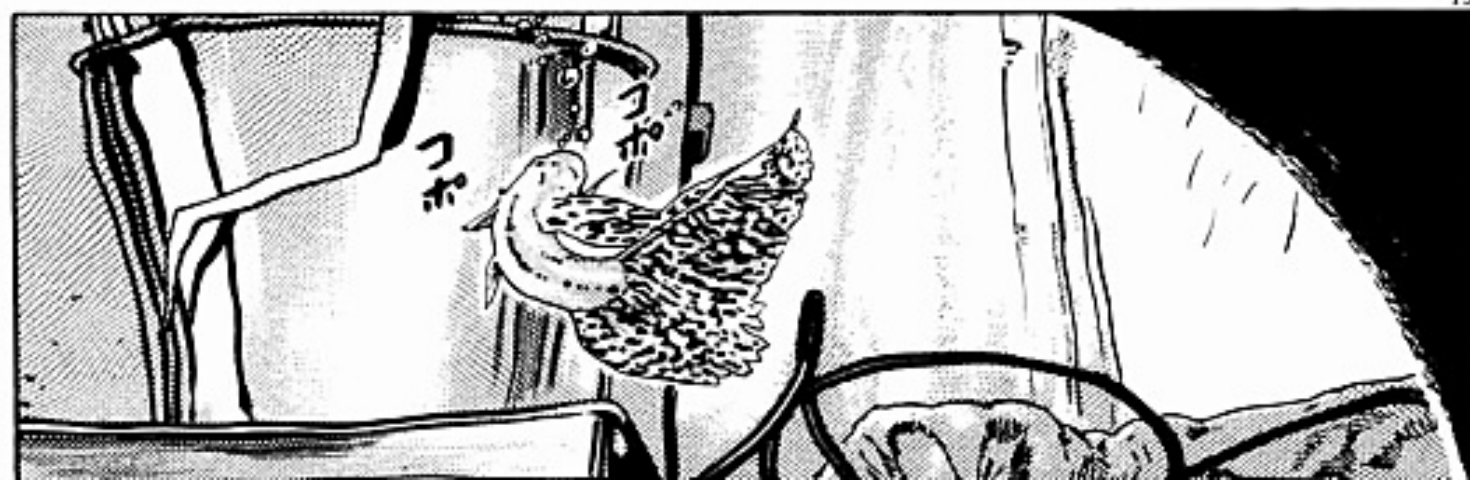
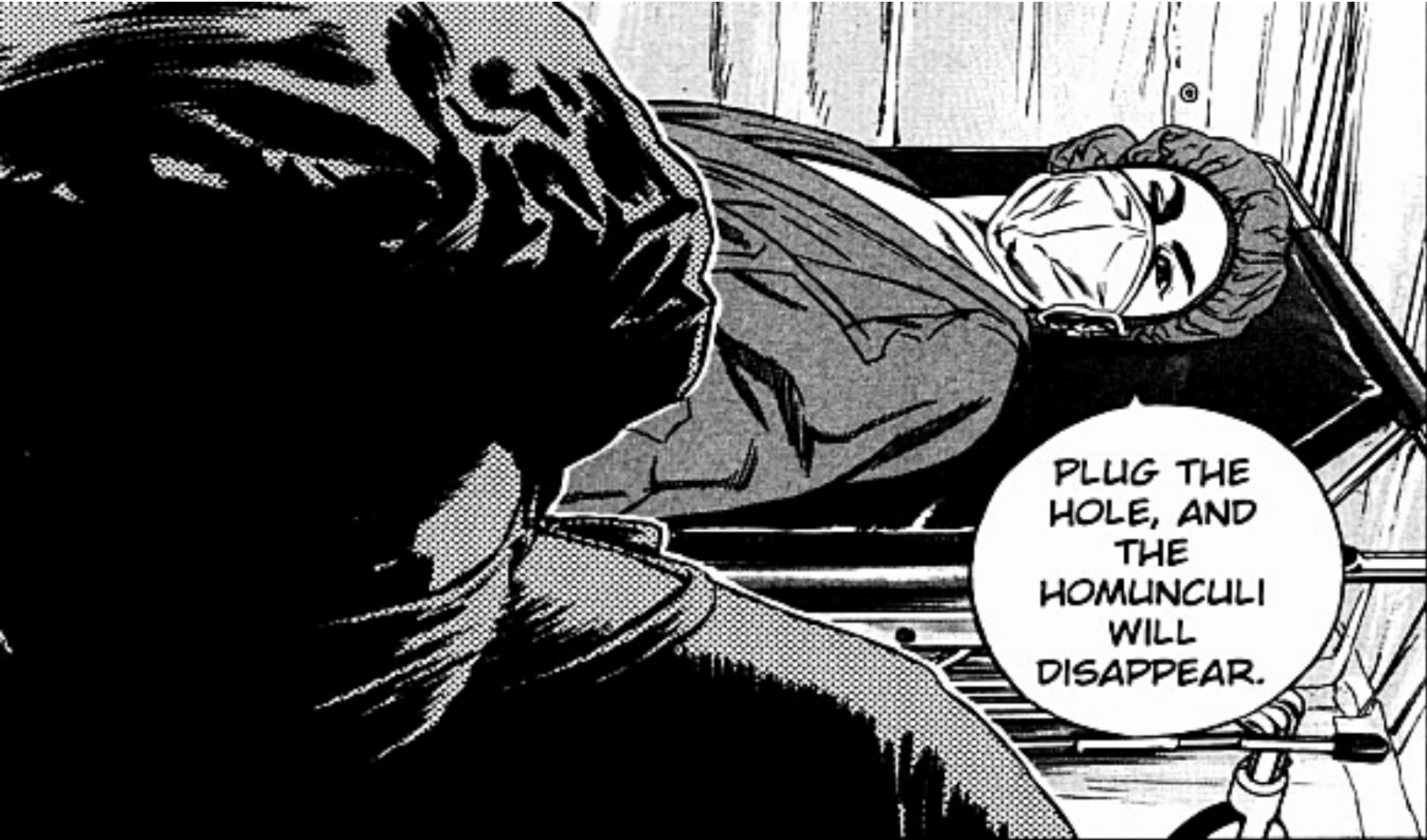
CLINK
CLINK



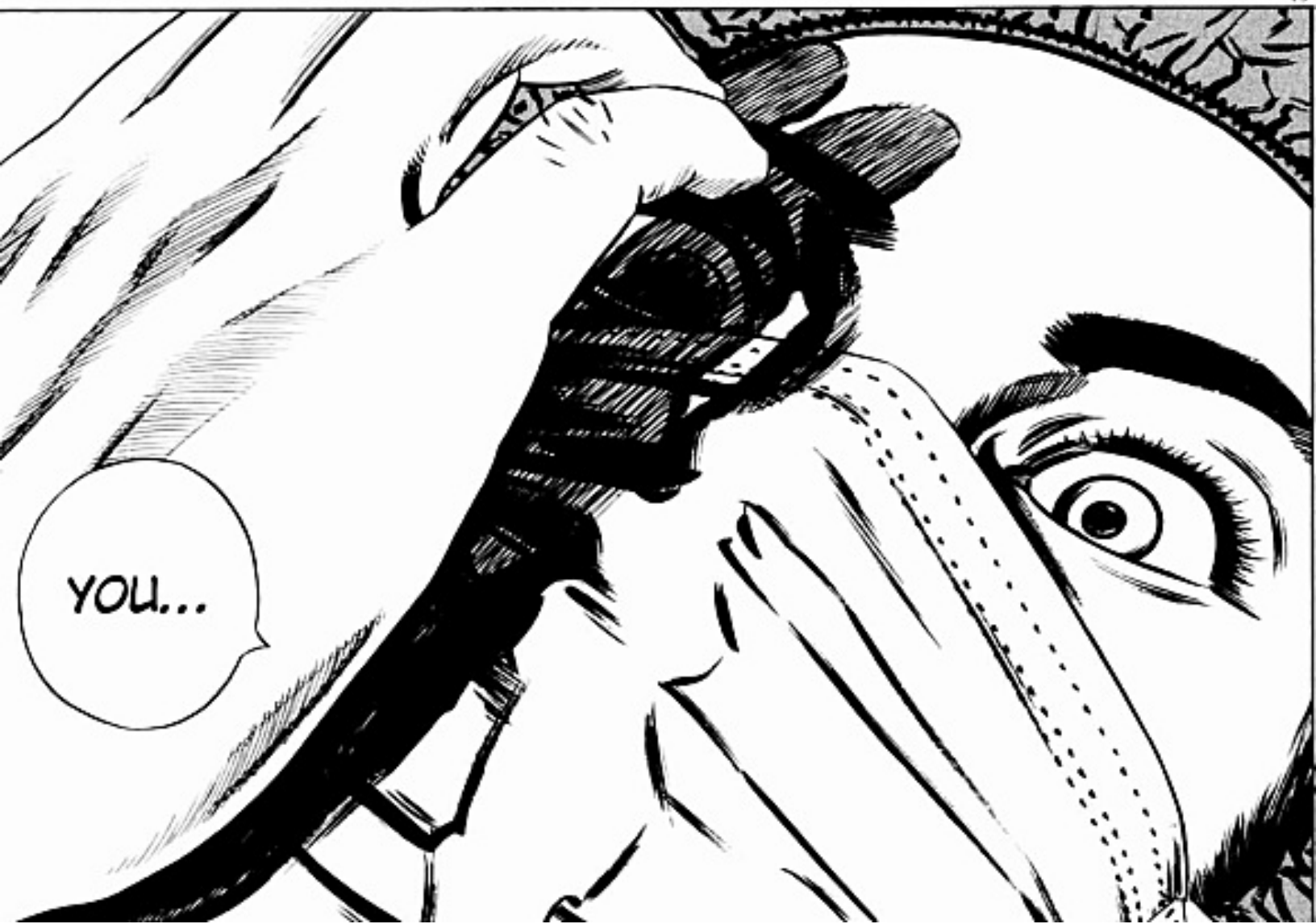


IT
WILL!





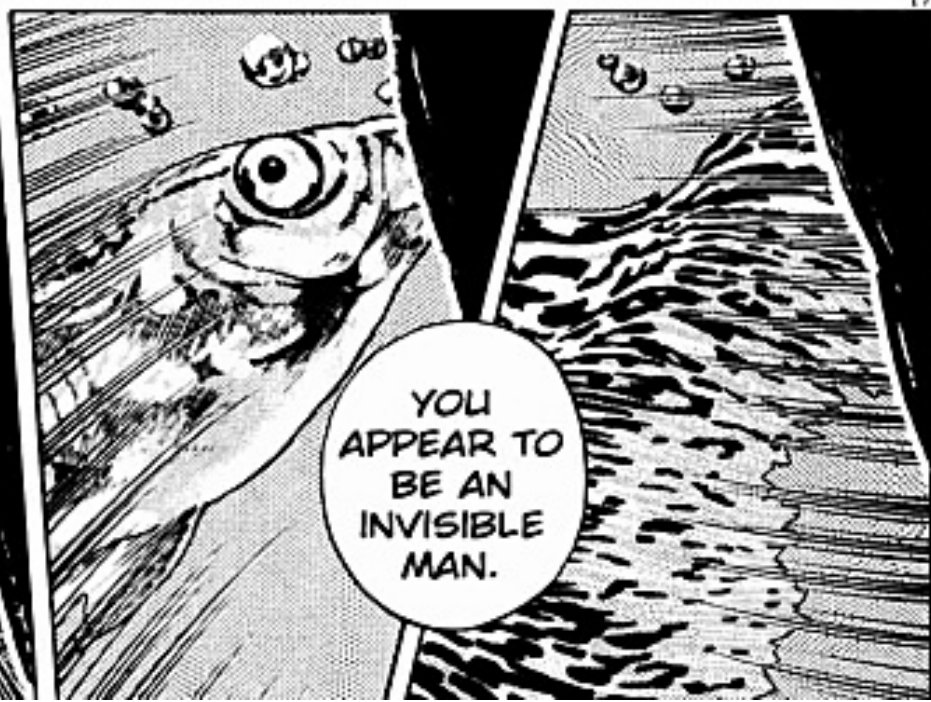
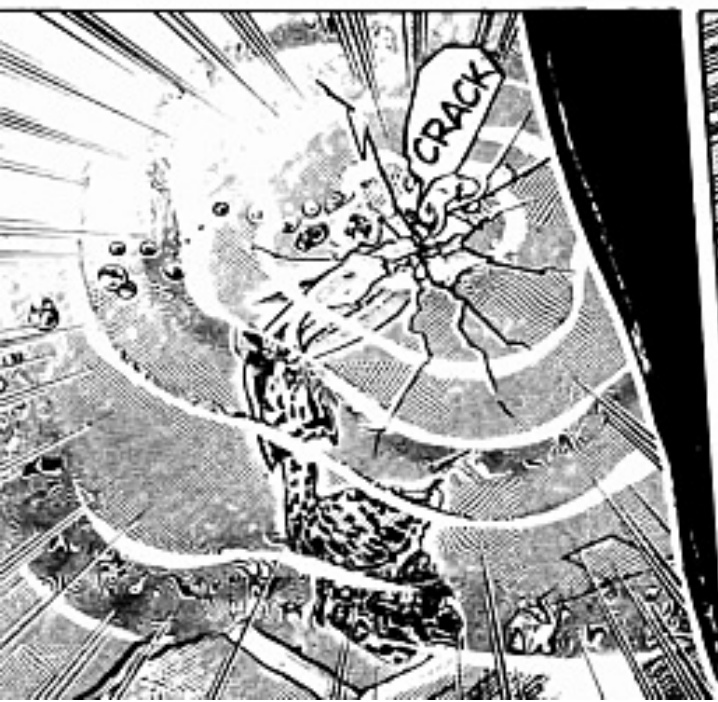
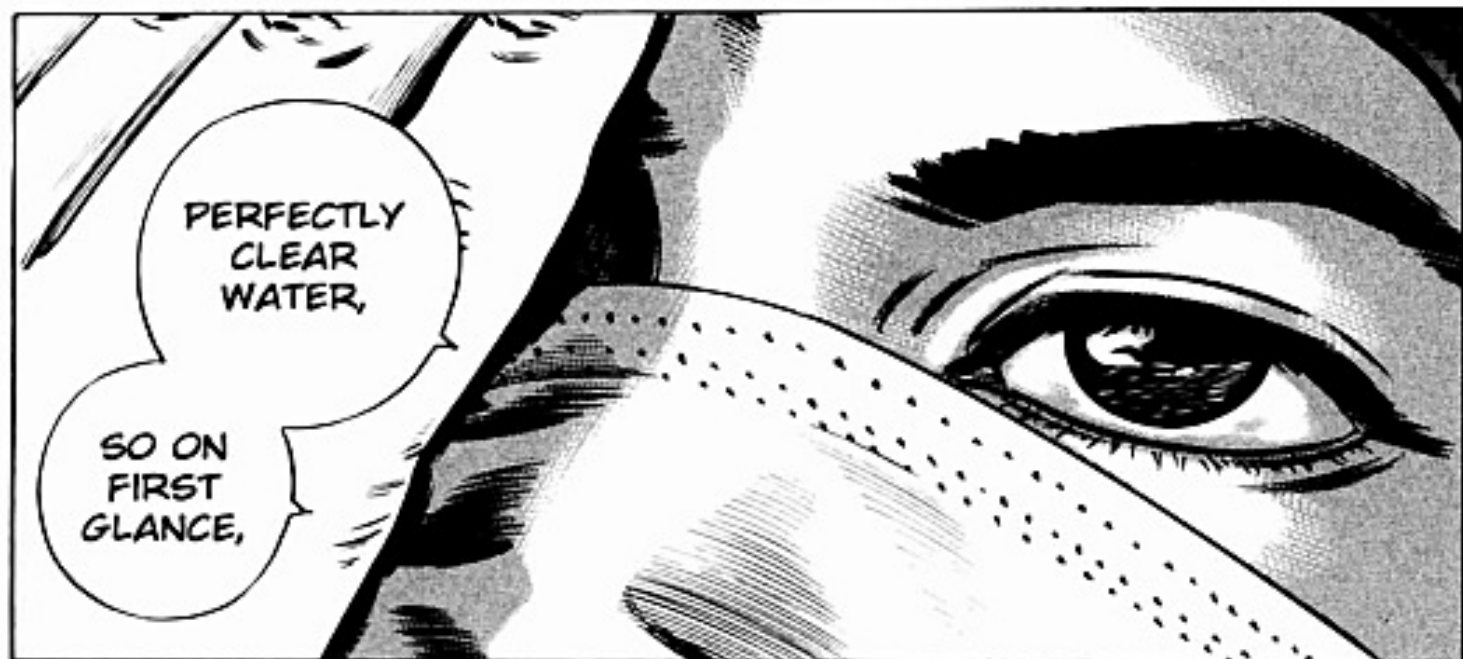


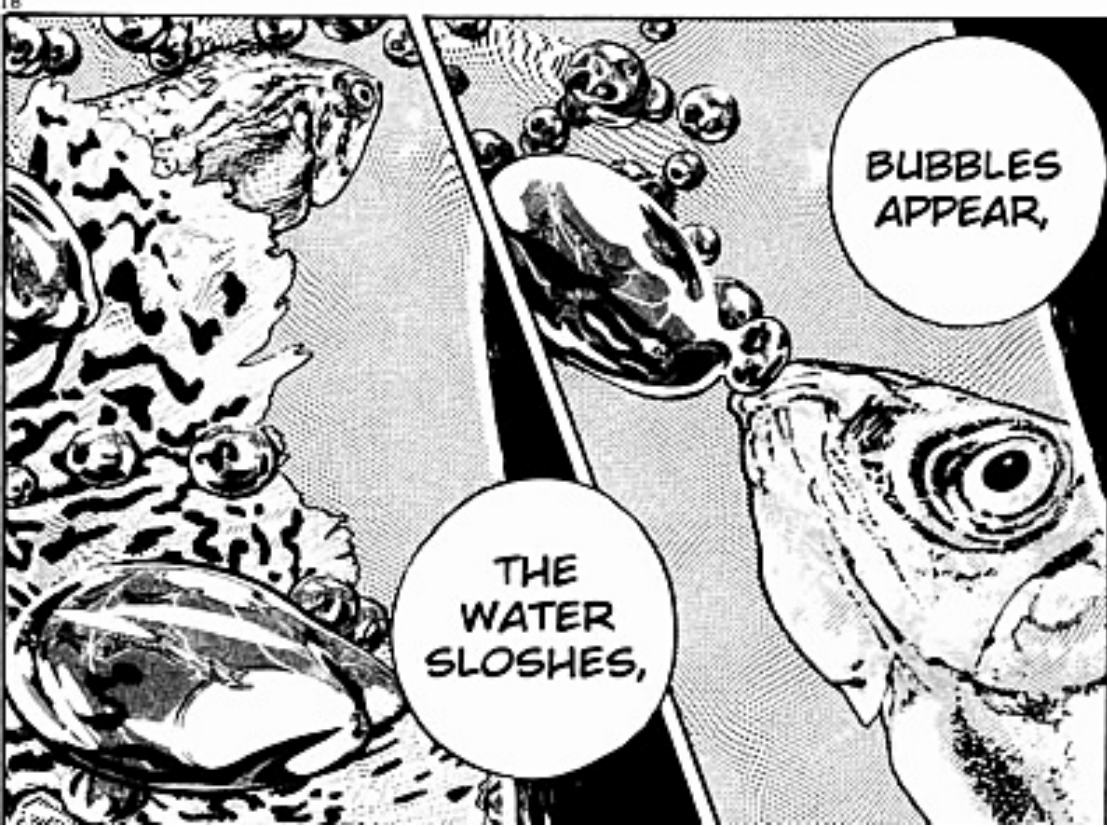
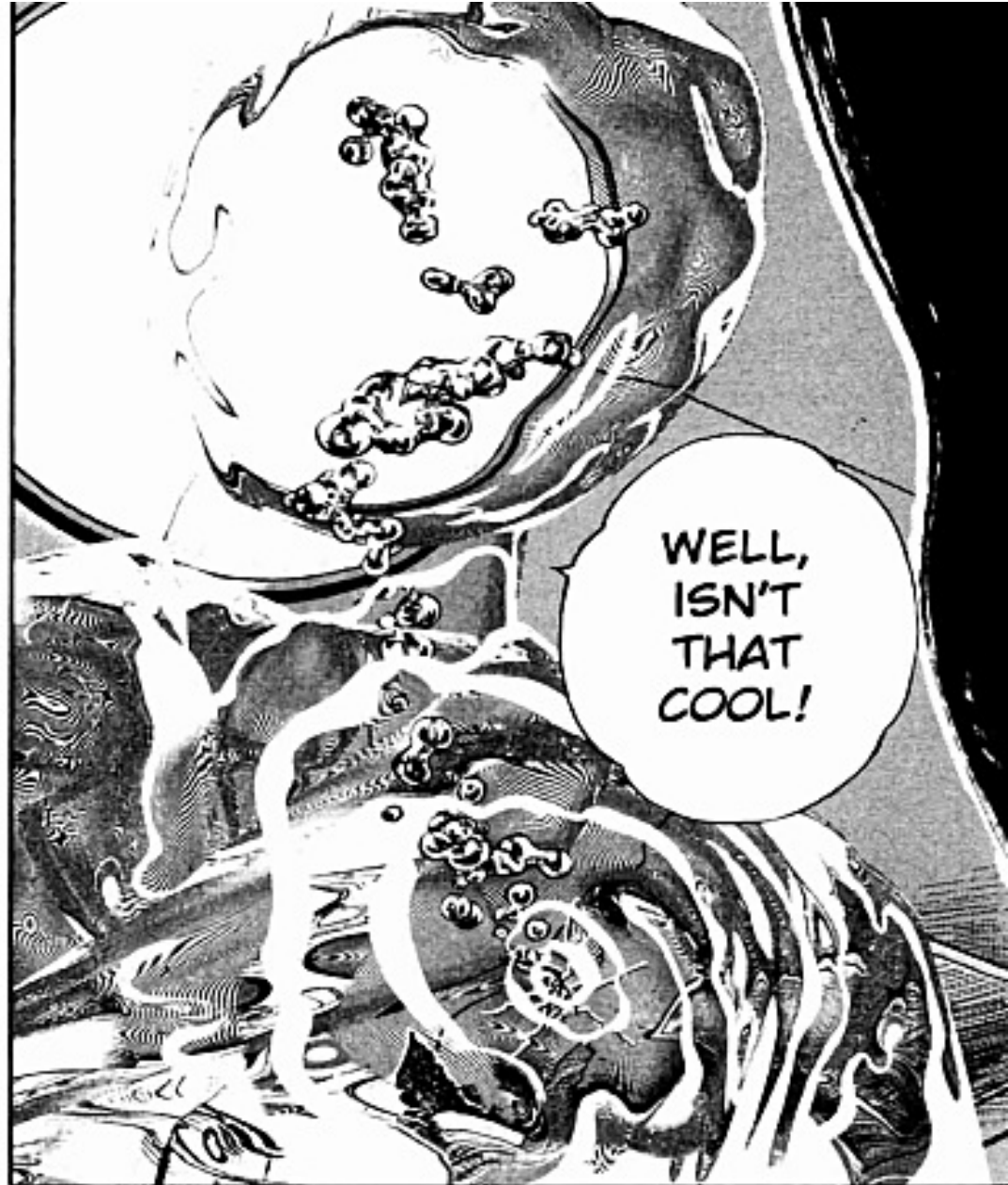


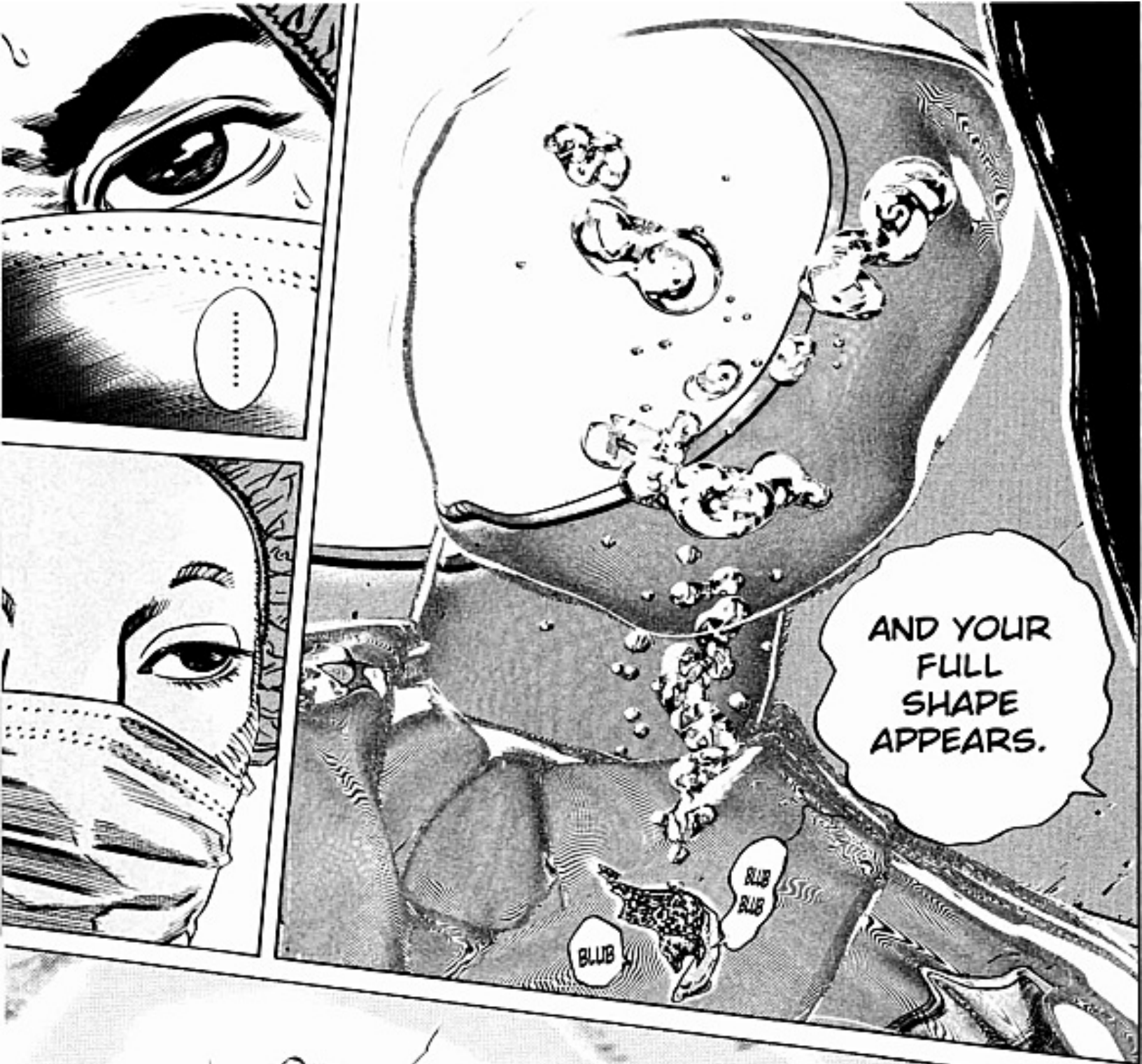


ARE
MADE OF
WATER.

HELP







AND YOUR
FULL
SHAPE
APPEARS.

BLUB

BLUB
BLUB



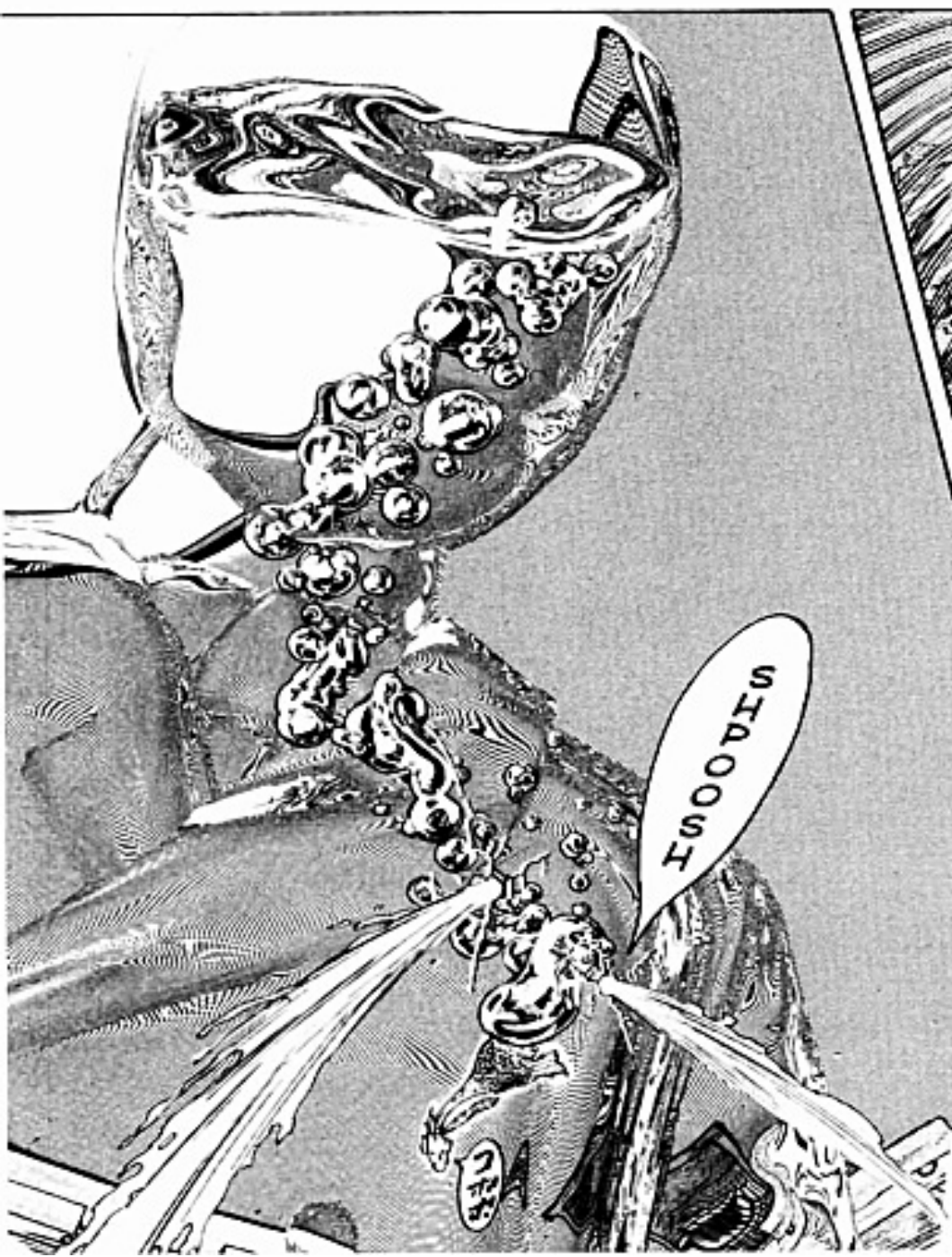
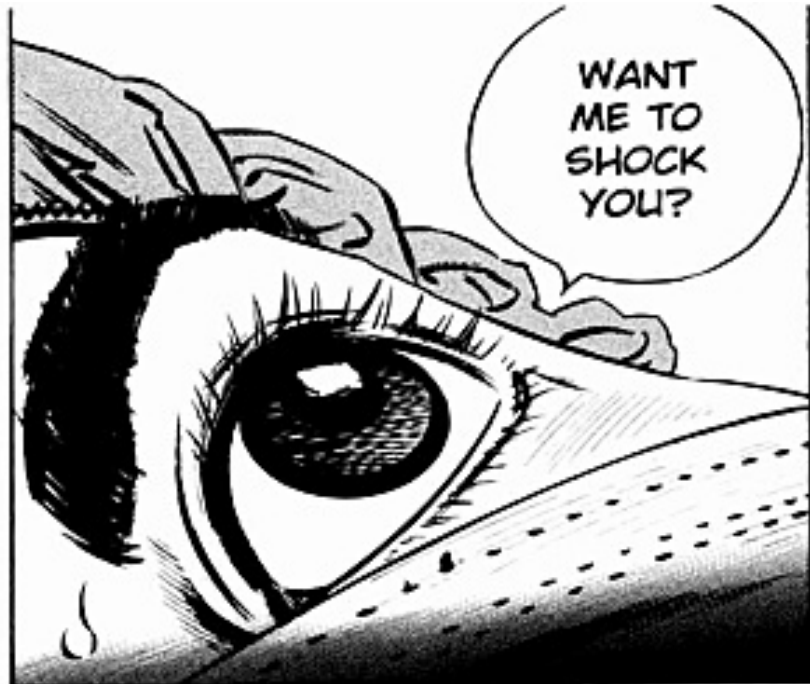
CRACK

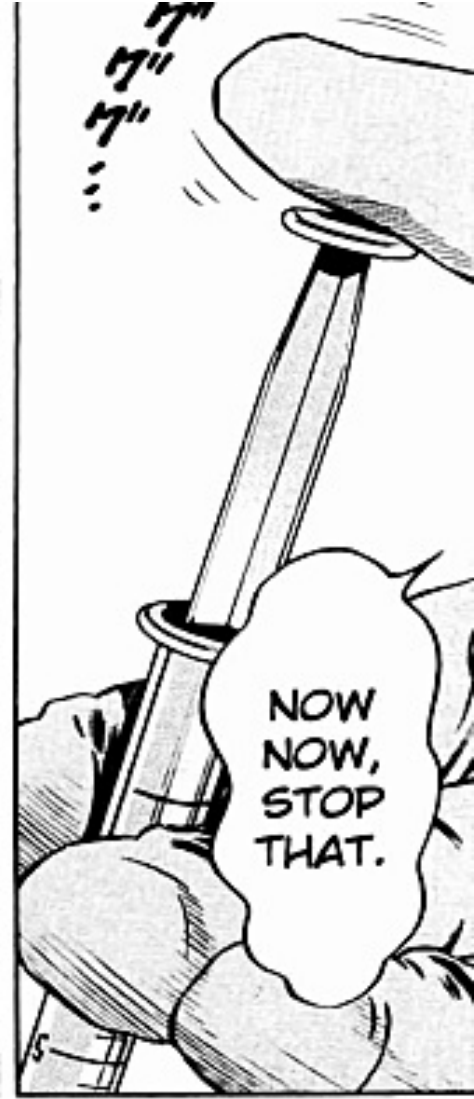
CRACK

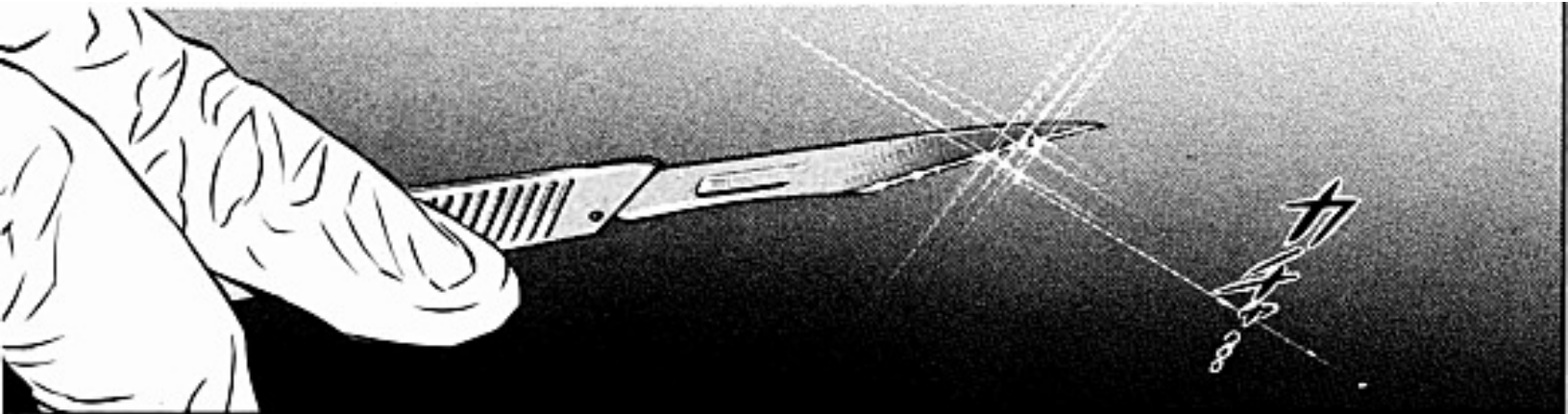
IS
THAT
RIGHT
?









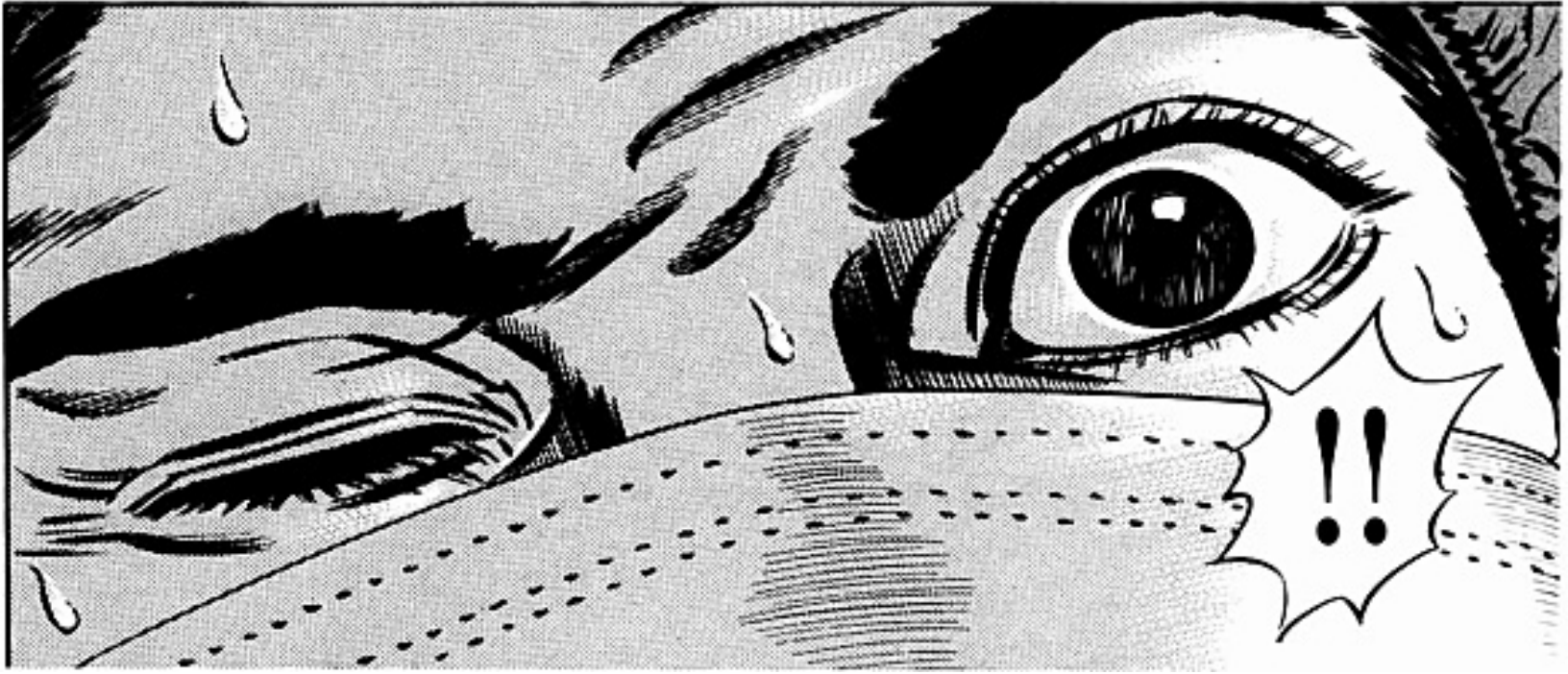






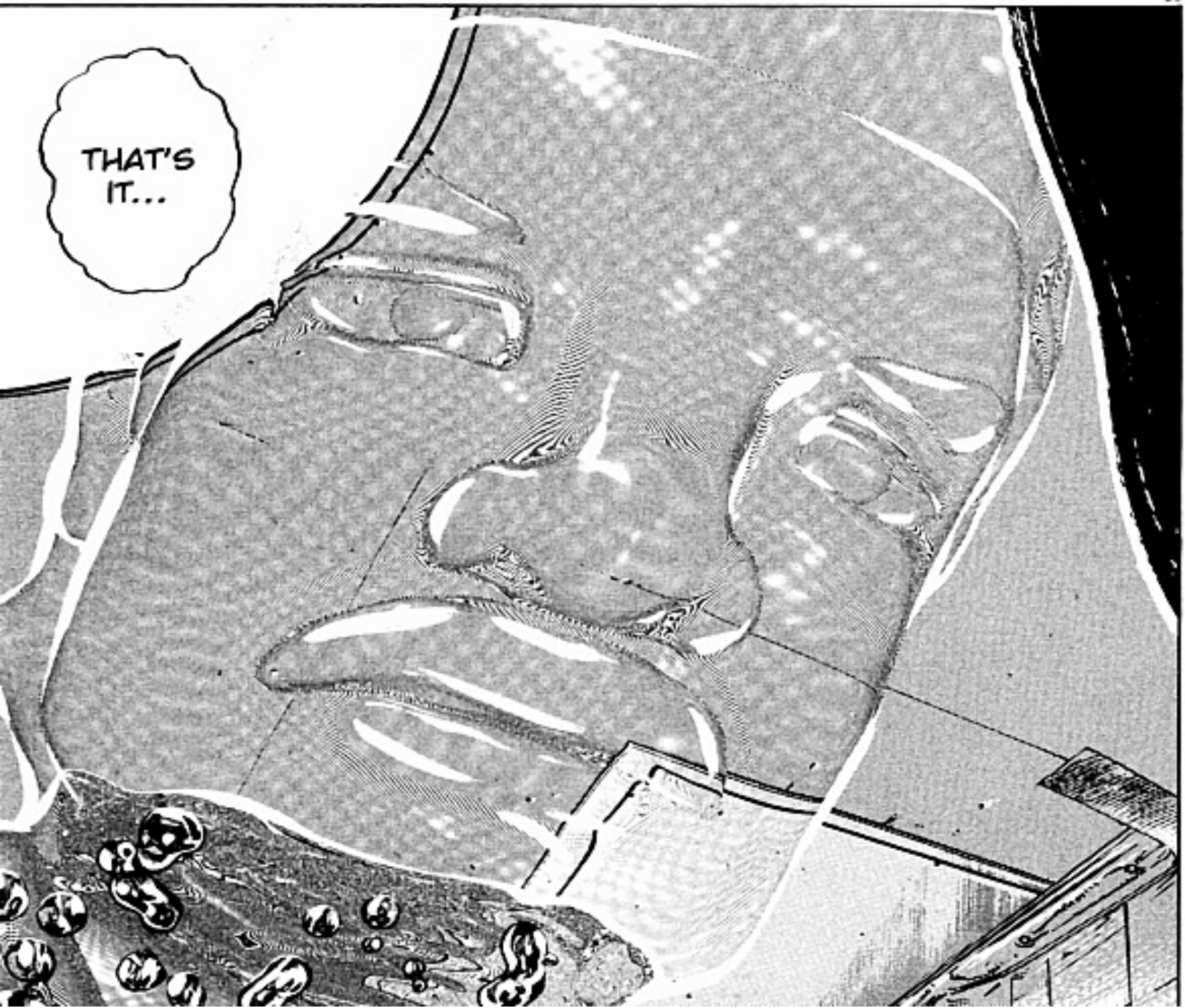


28

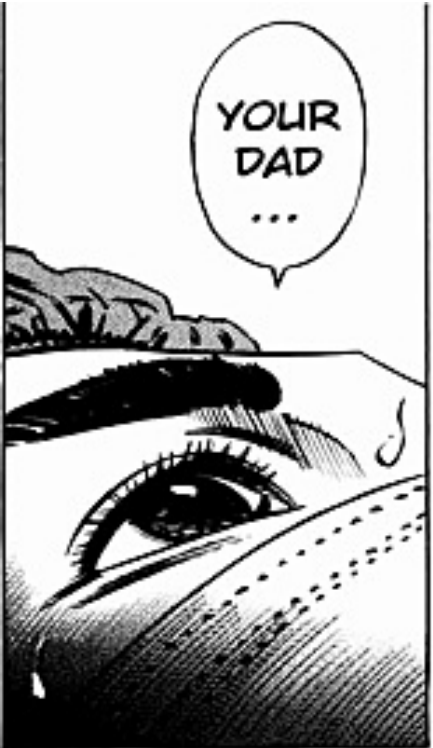




OH.



THAT'S
IT...



YOUR
DAD
...



IT
WAS
...



HUH?

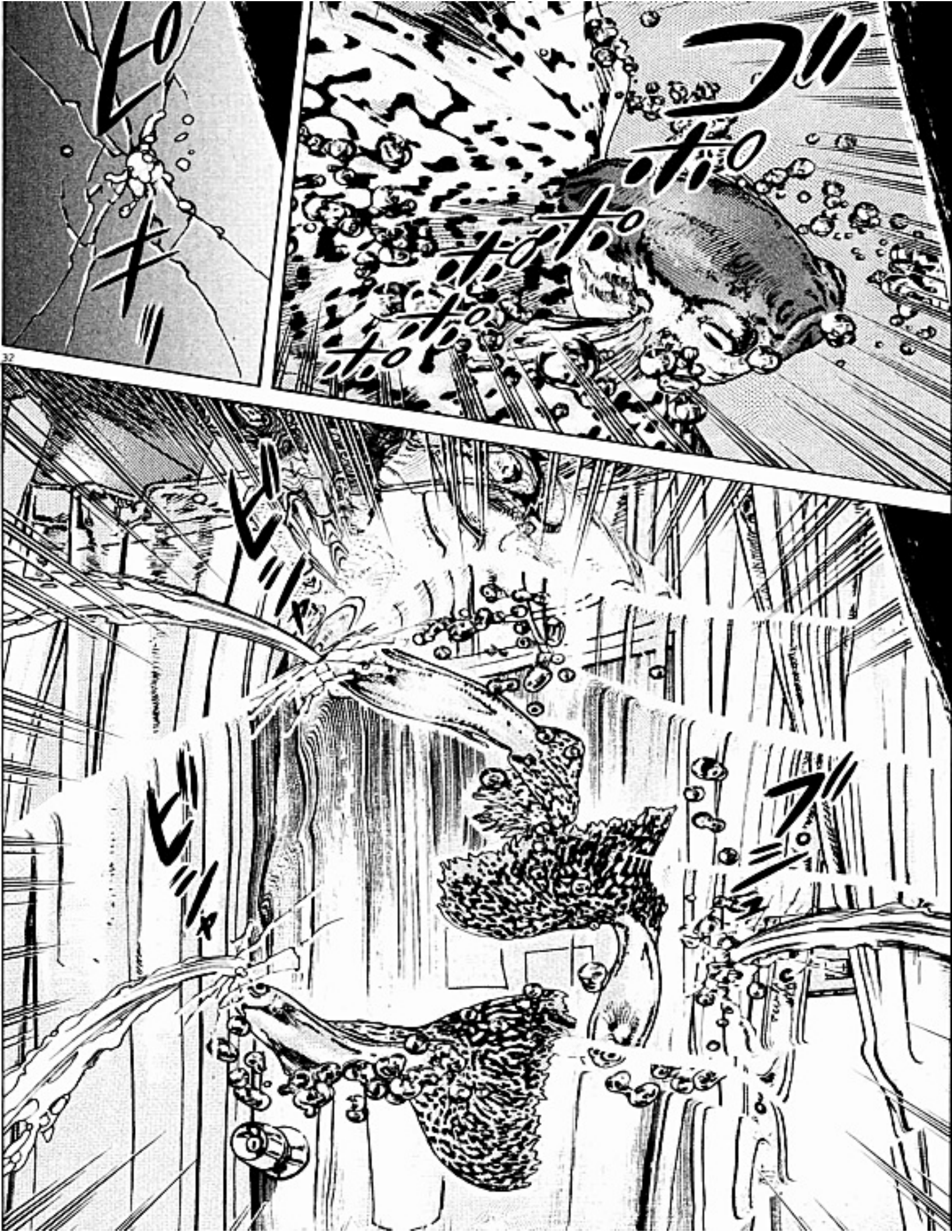


N-NO.



DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?







NGGH
...

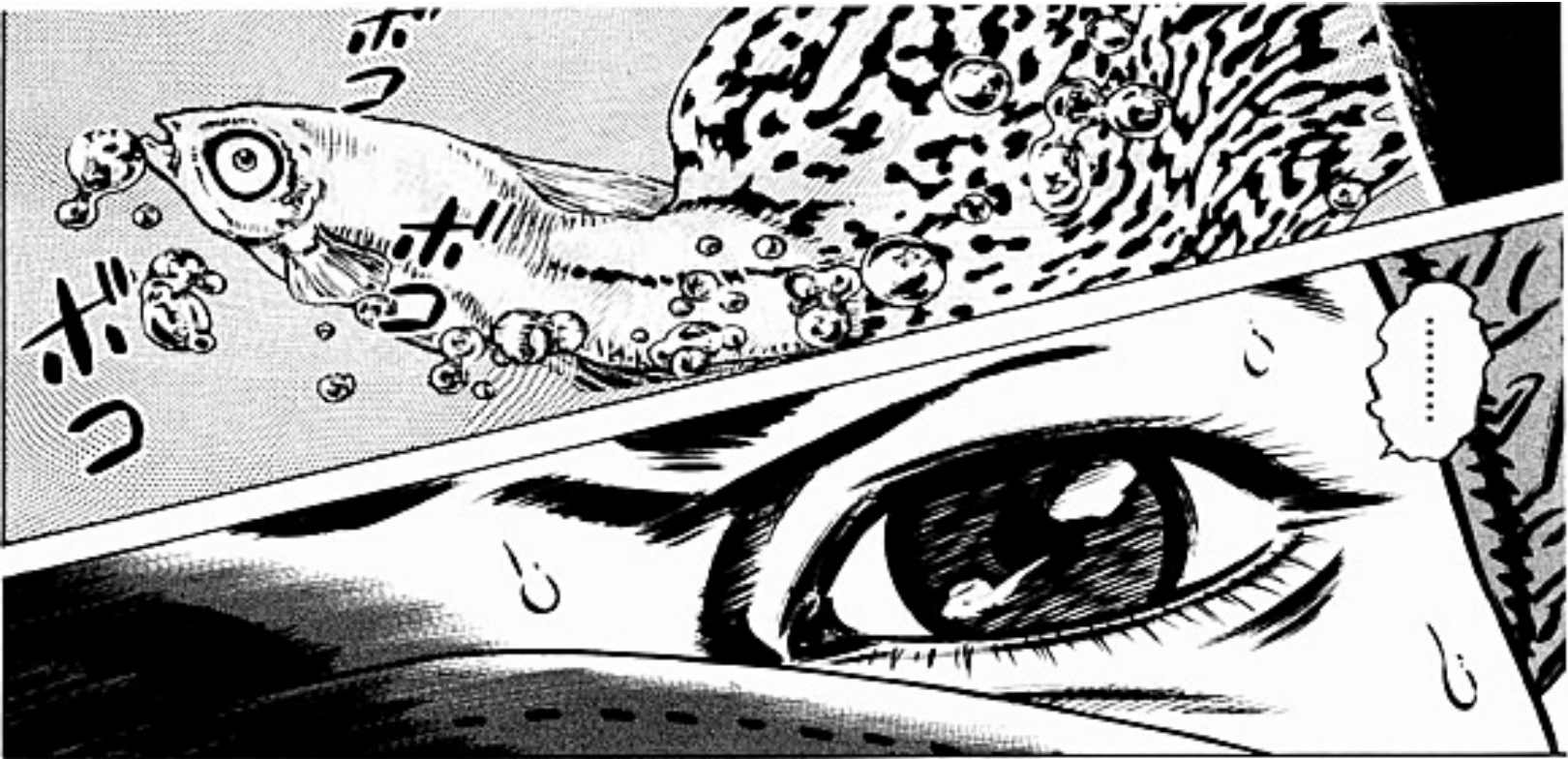


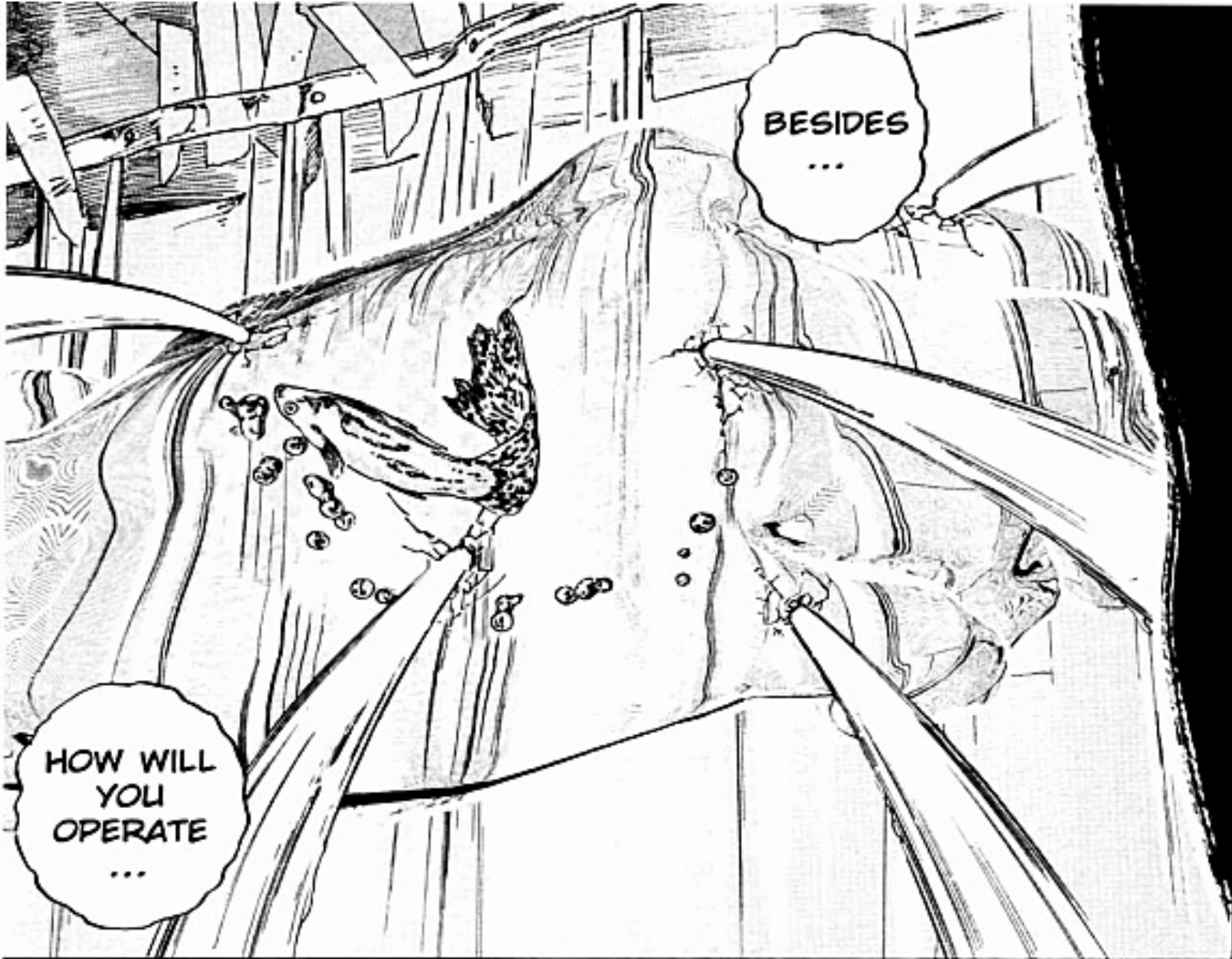
ARE YOU
SURE YOU
WANT ME
TO CLOSE
IT UP?

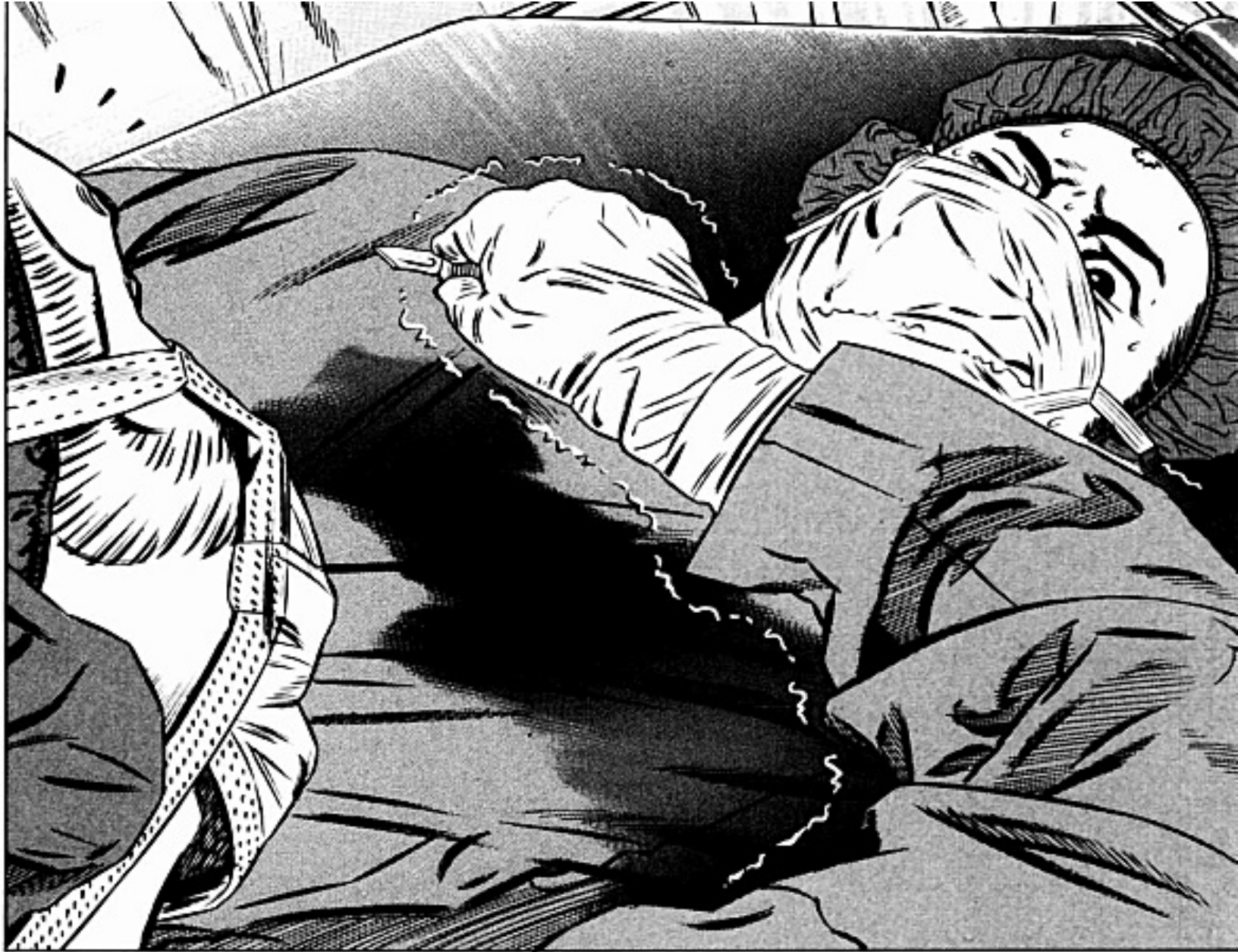


HUH?

MR.
NAKOSHI.

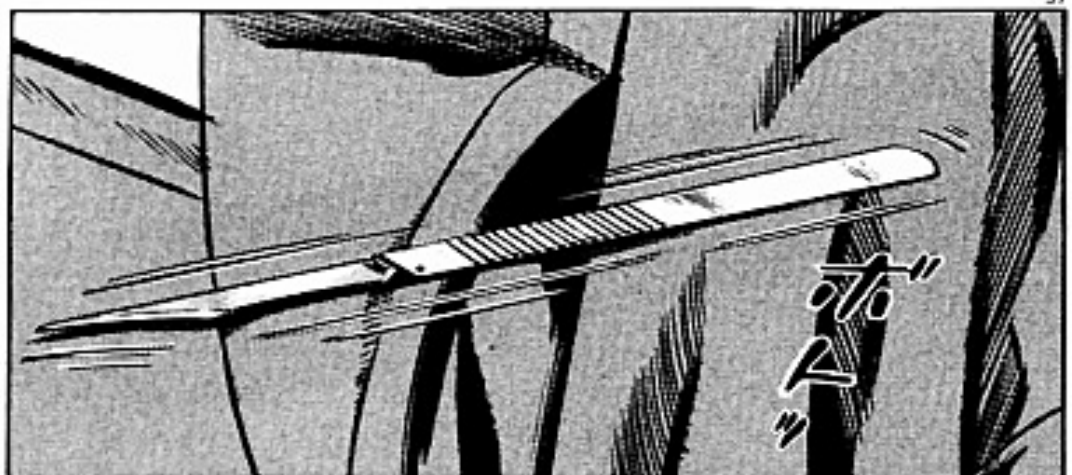
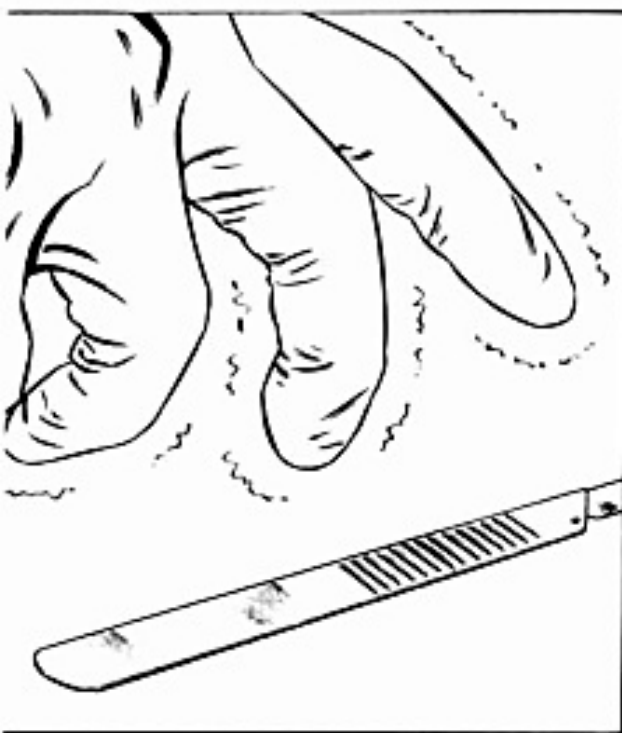






36











YOU CAN'T
ESCAPE
FROM ME.







43





IS THE
ONLY
THING

THAT
CONNECTS
YOU,



THIS
LITTLE
HOLE
HERE...



AND
ME.

44

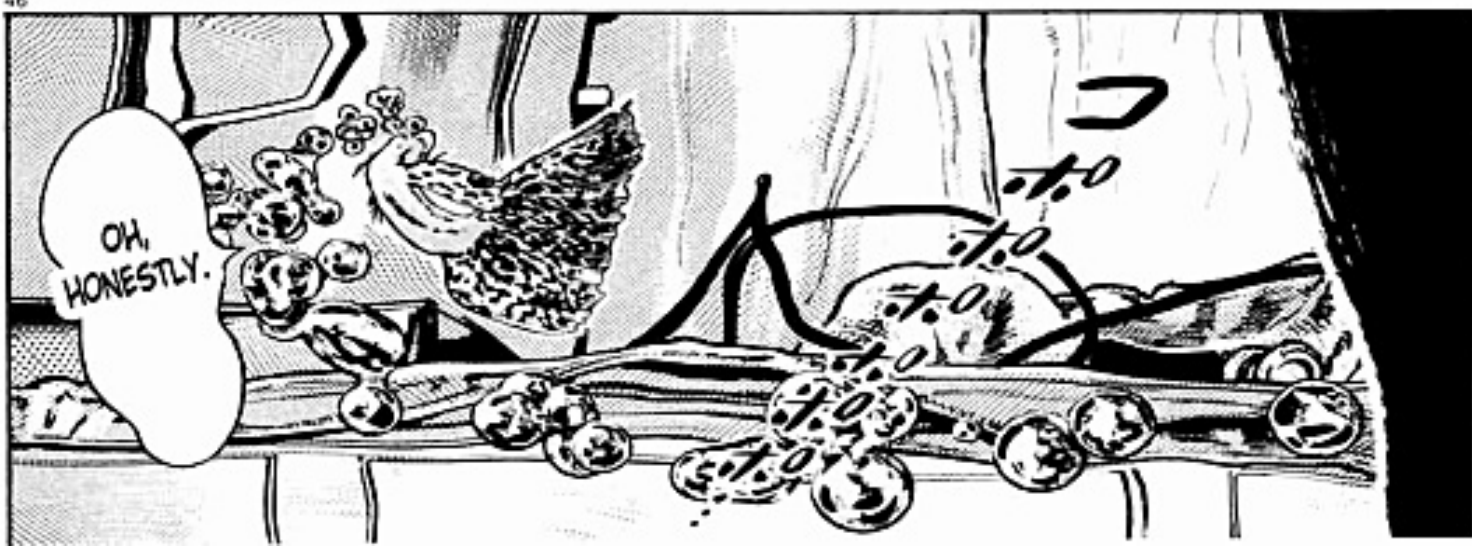
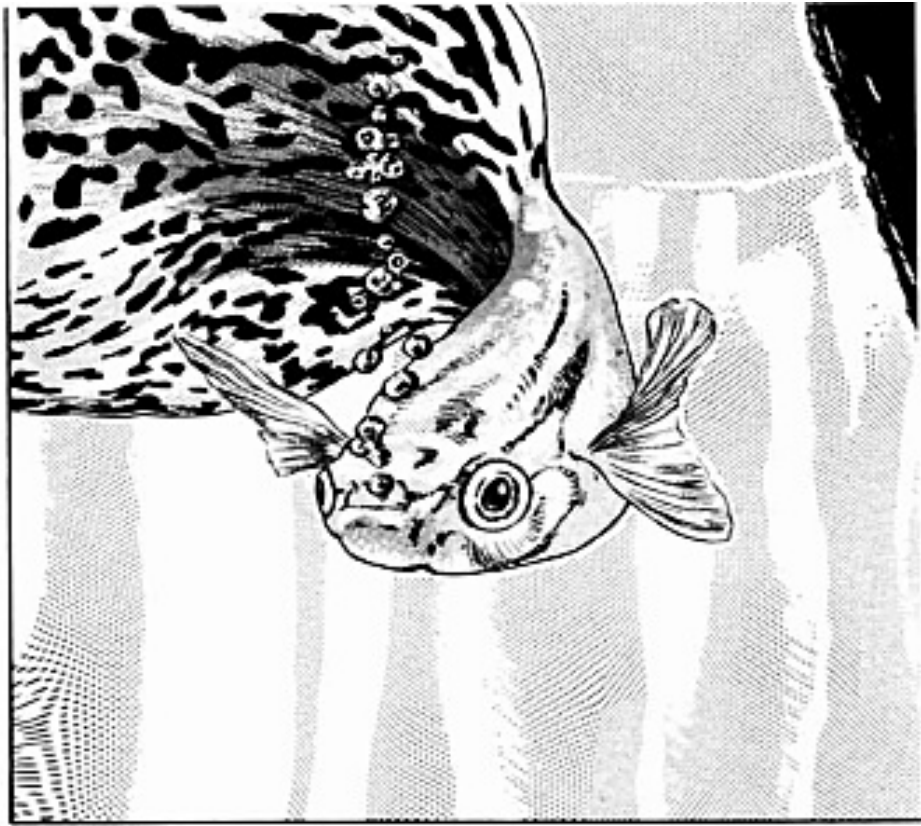


.....



WHETHER
YOU FILL
IT BACK IN
OR NOT

IS UP TO
YOU.

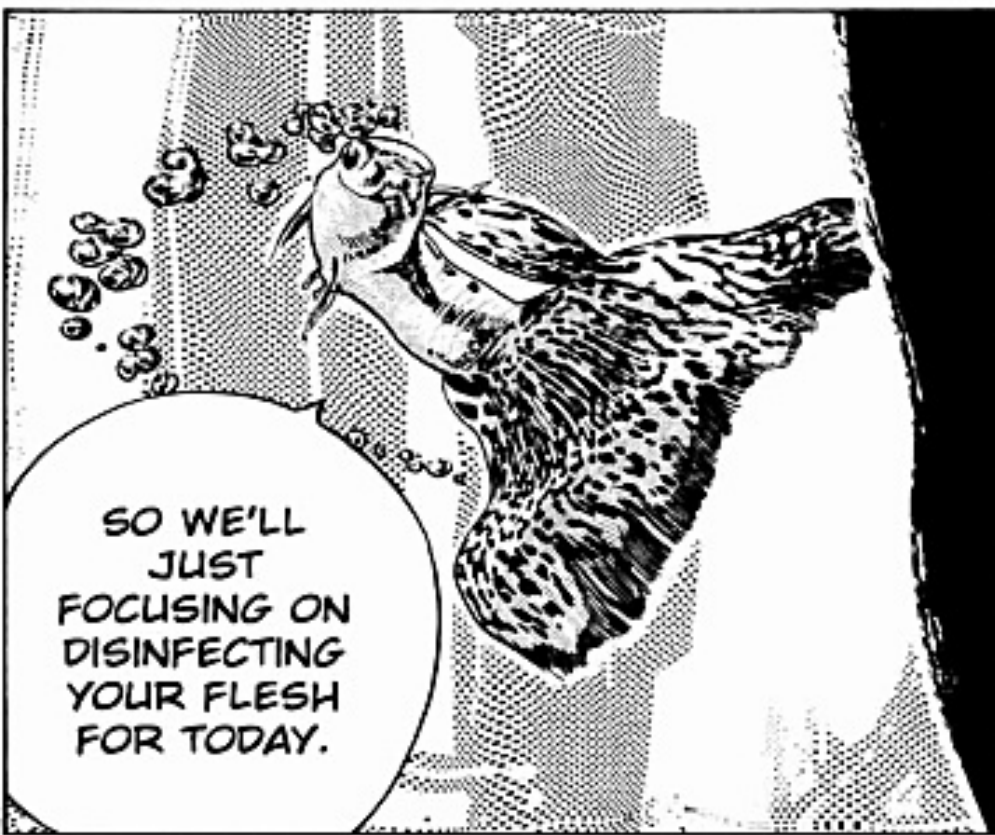






TOSS THAT!

カラン



SO WE'LL
JUST
FOCUSING ON
DISINFECTING
YOUR FLESH
FOR TODAY.

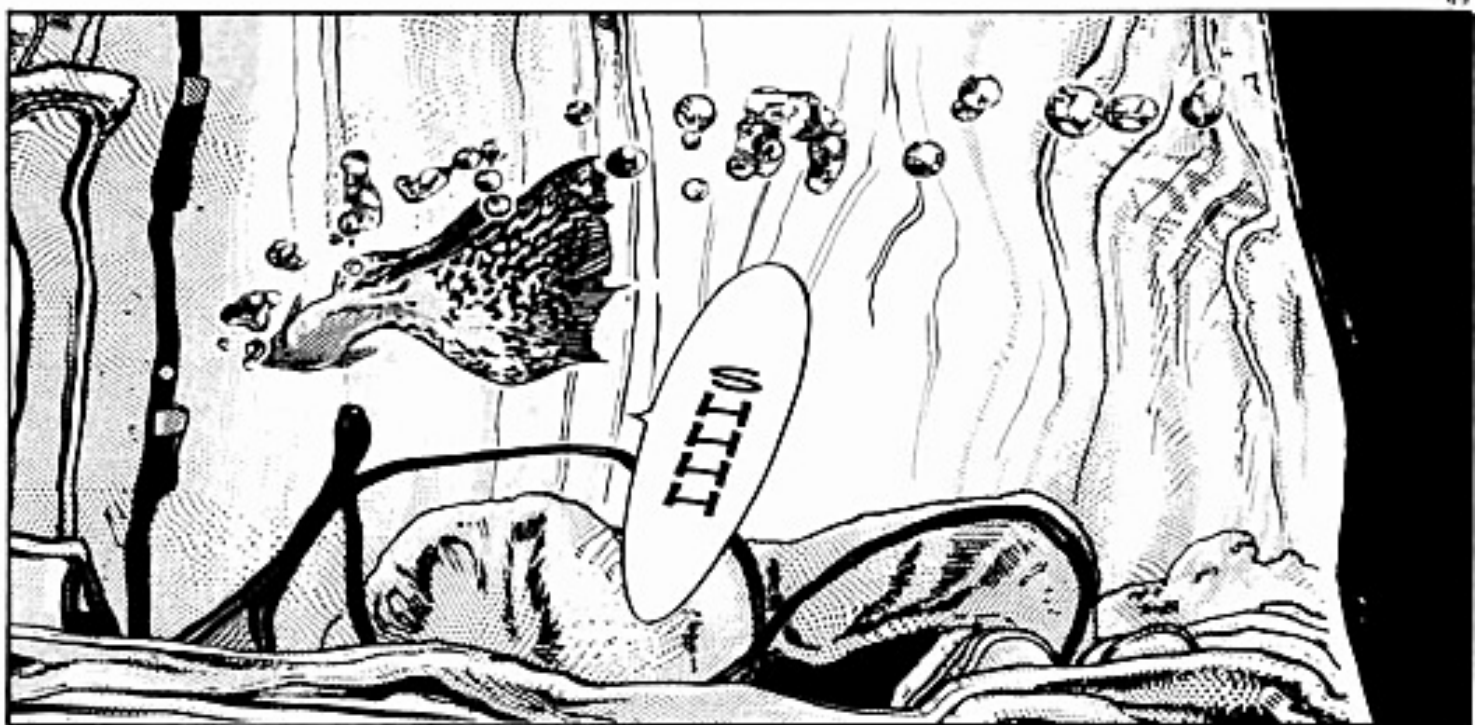


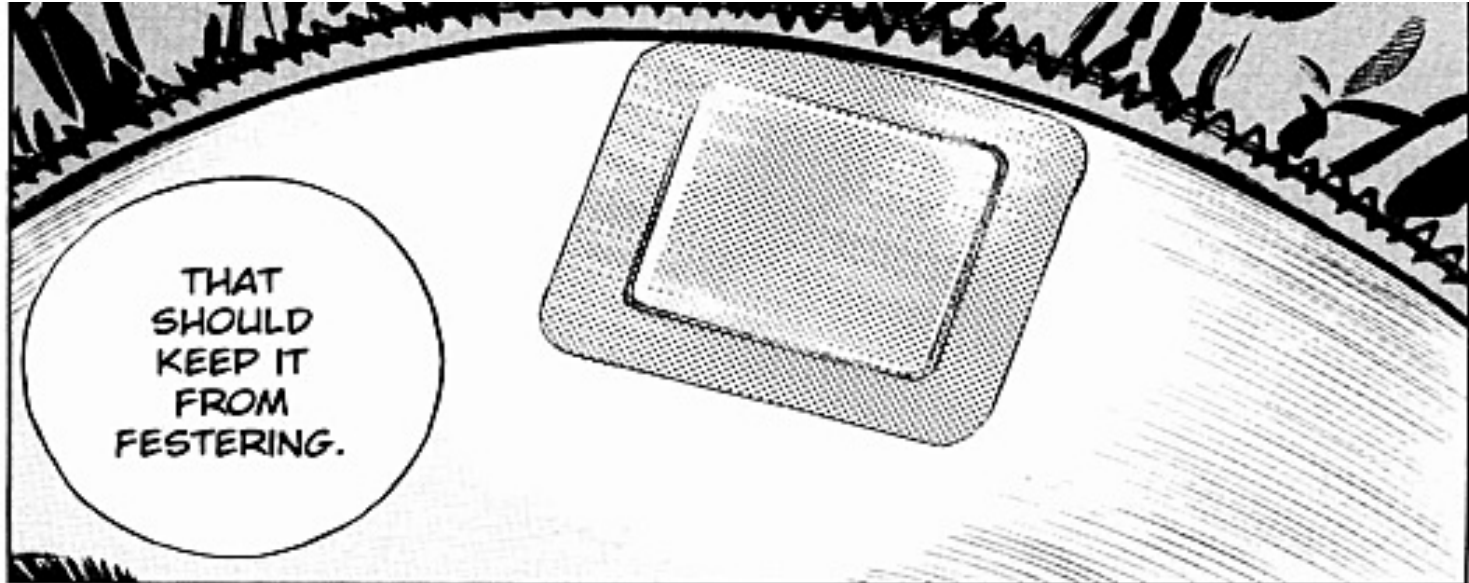
WELL, FILLING
IN THAT HOLE
IN YOUR
SKULL IS A
PRECISE
OPERATION,



WE CAN
FIX THAT
HOLE
ANYTIME.







THAT
SHOULD
KEEP IT
FROM
FESTERING.



HAVE NO
FEAR.



!

ONE
MORE
THING
...

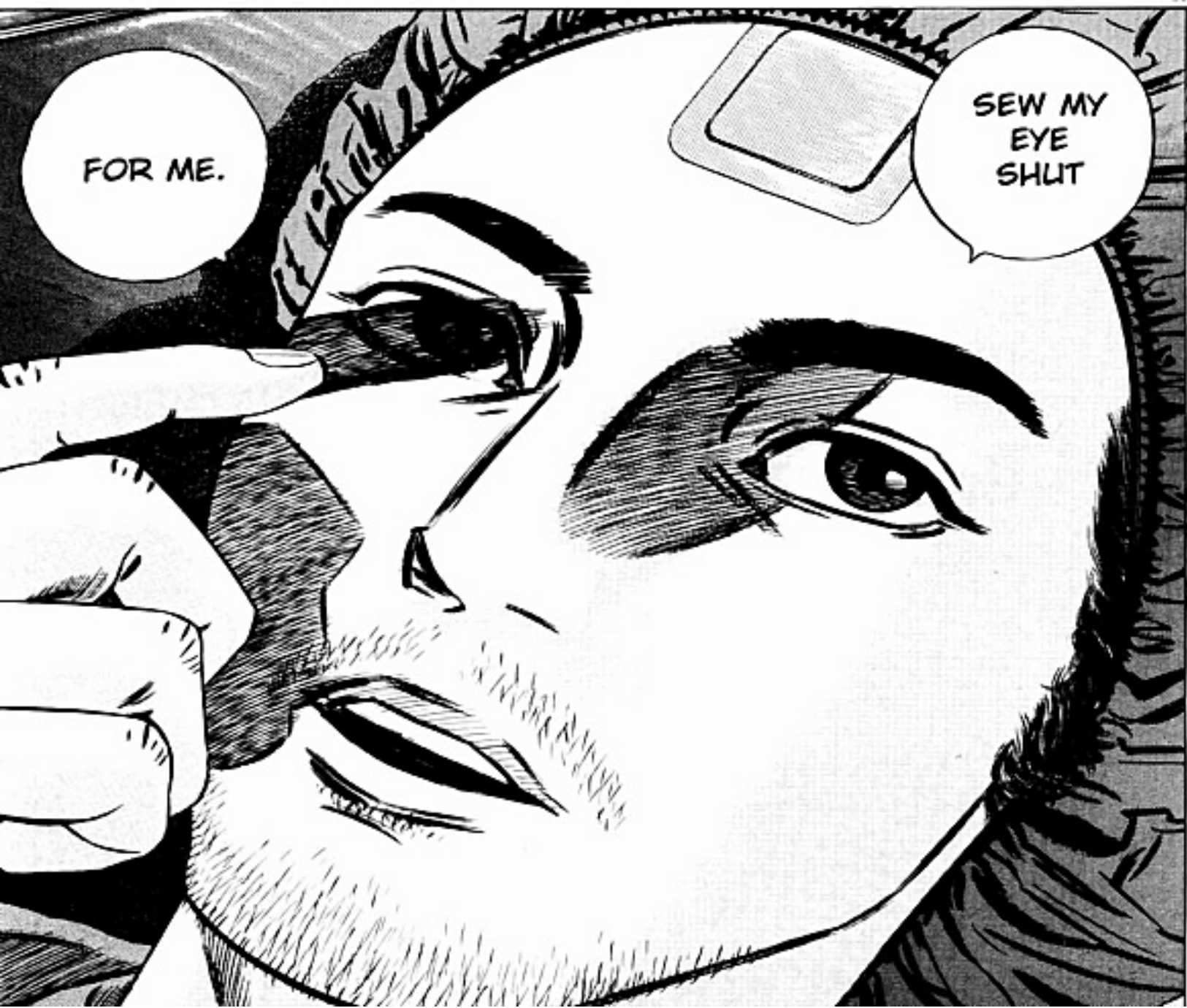


WHAT
?!



SEW MY
RIGHT EYE
FOR ME.

.....



FOR ME.

SEW MY
EYE
SHUT



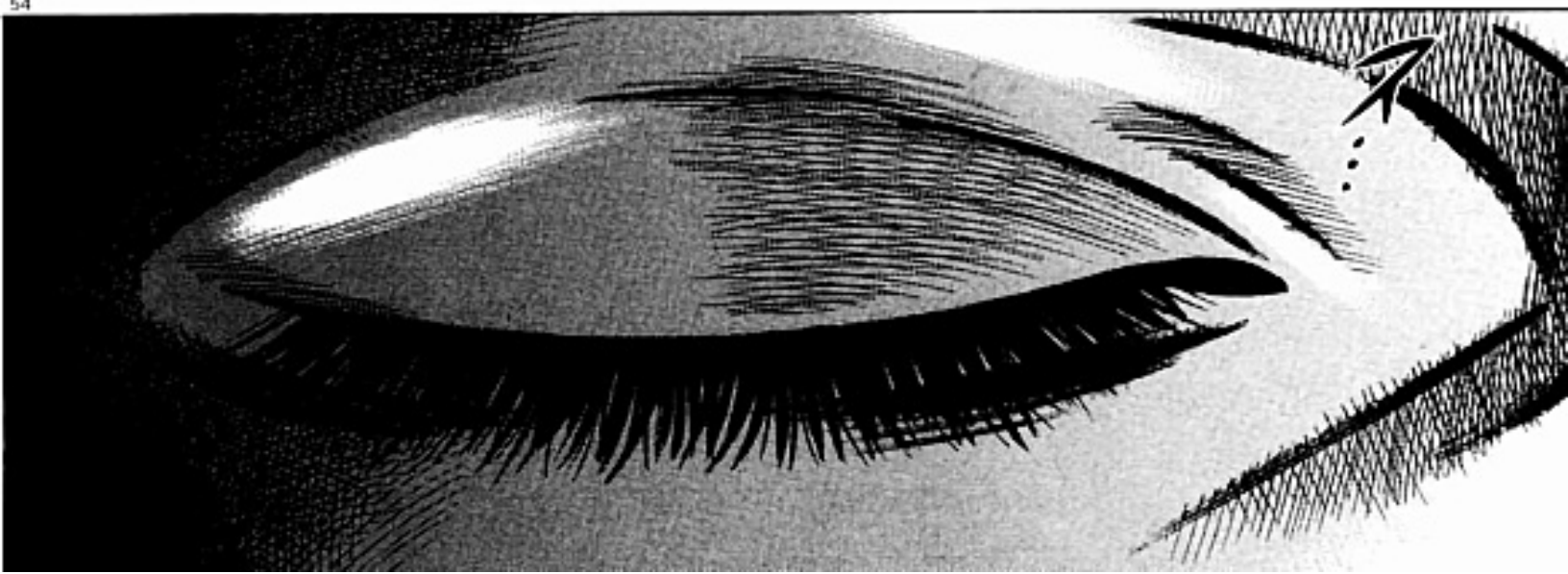
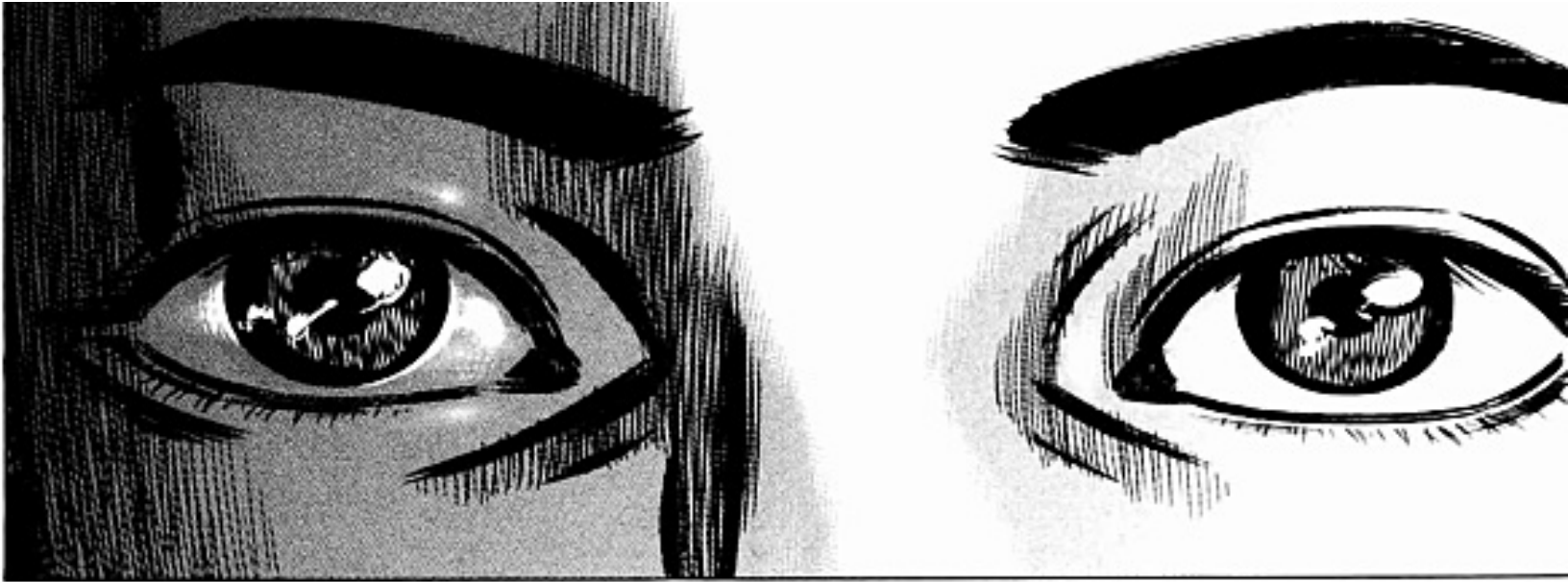
RUN A THREAD



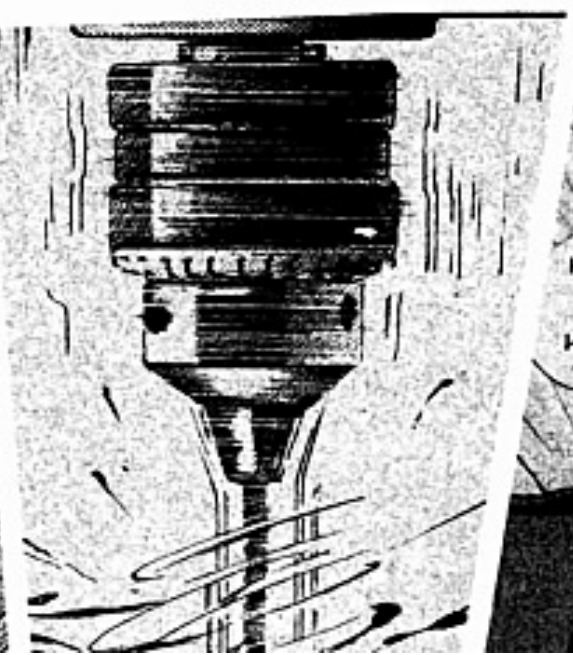
52

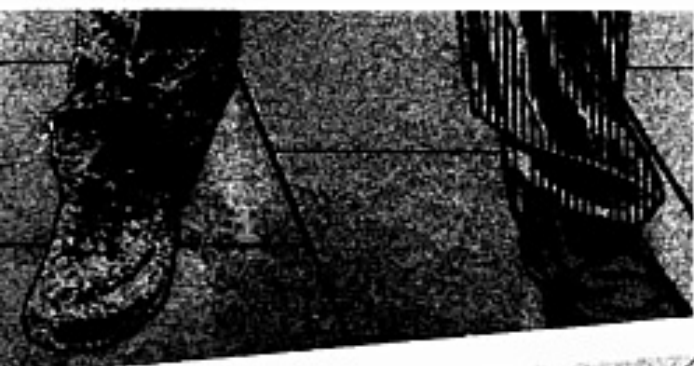




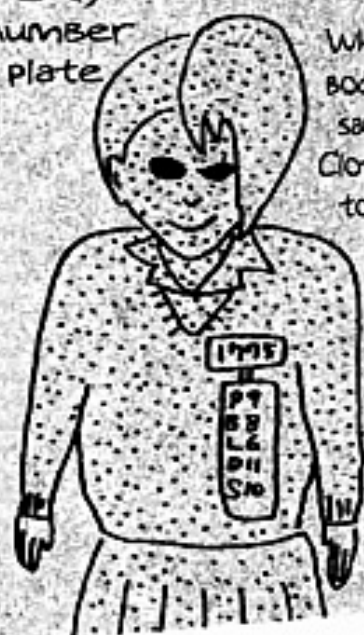








Only
number
plate



Whole
body is
send!
Clothes
too!

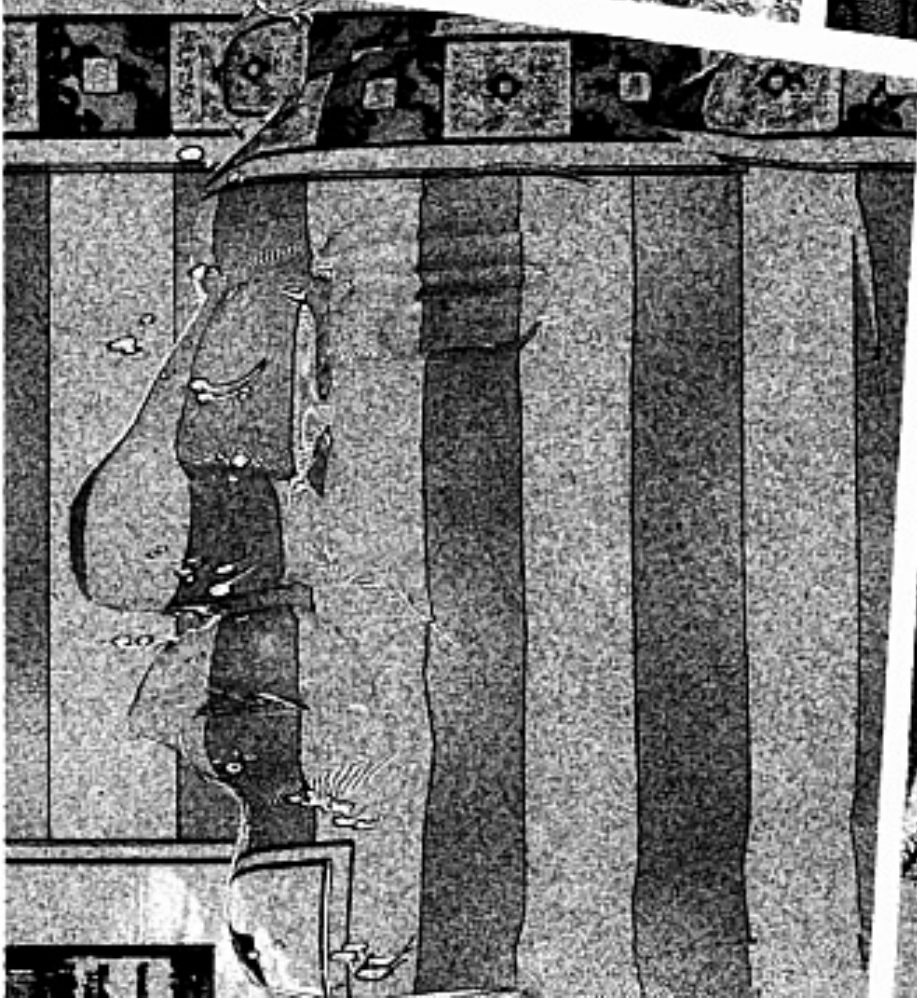
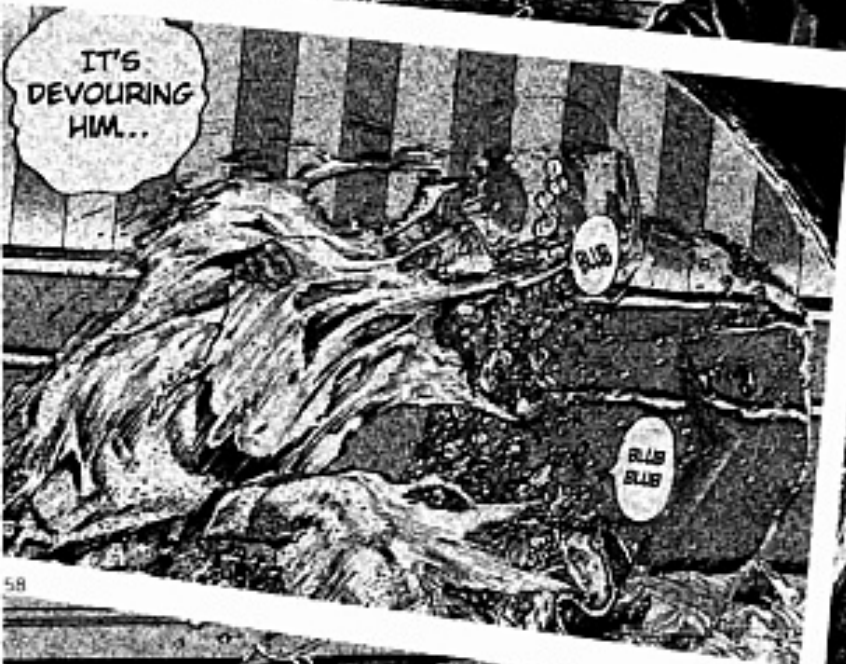


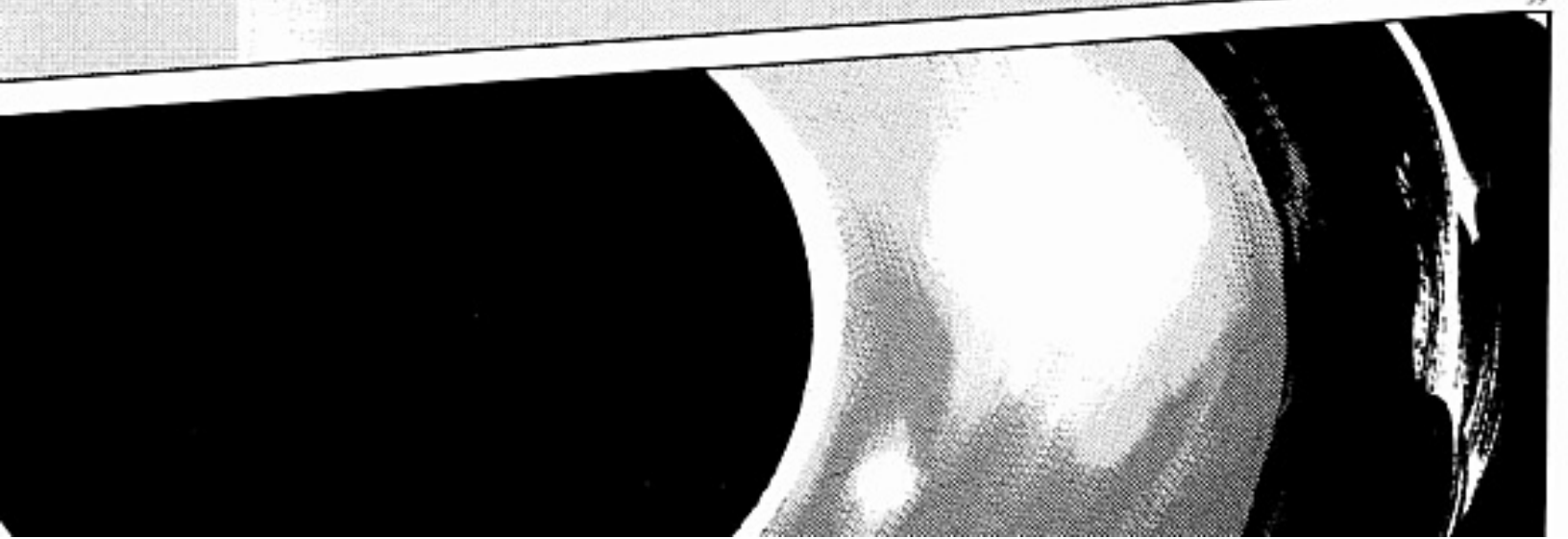
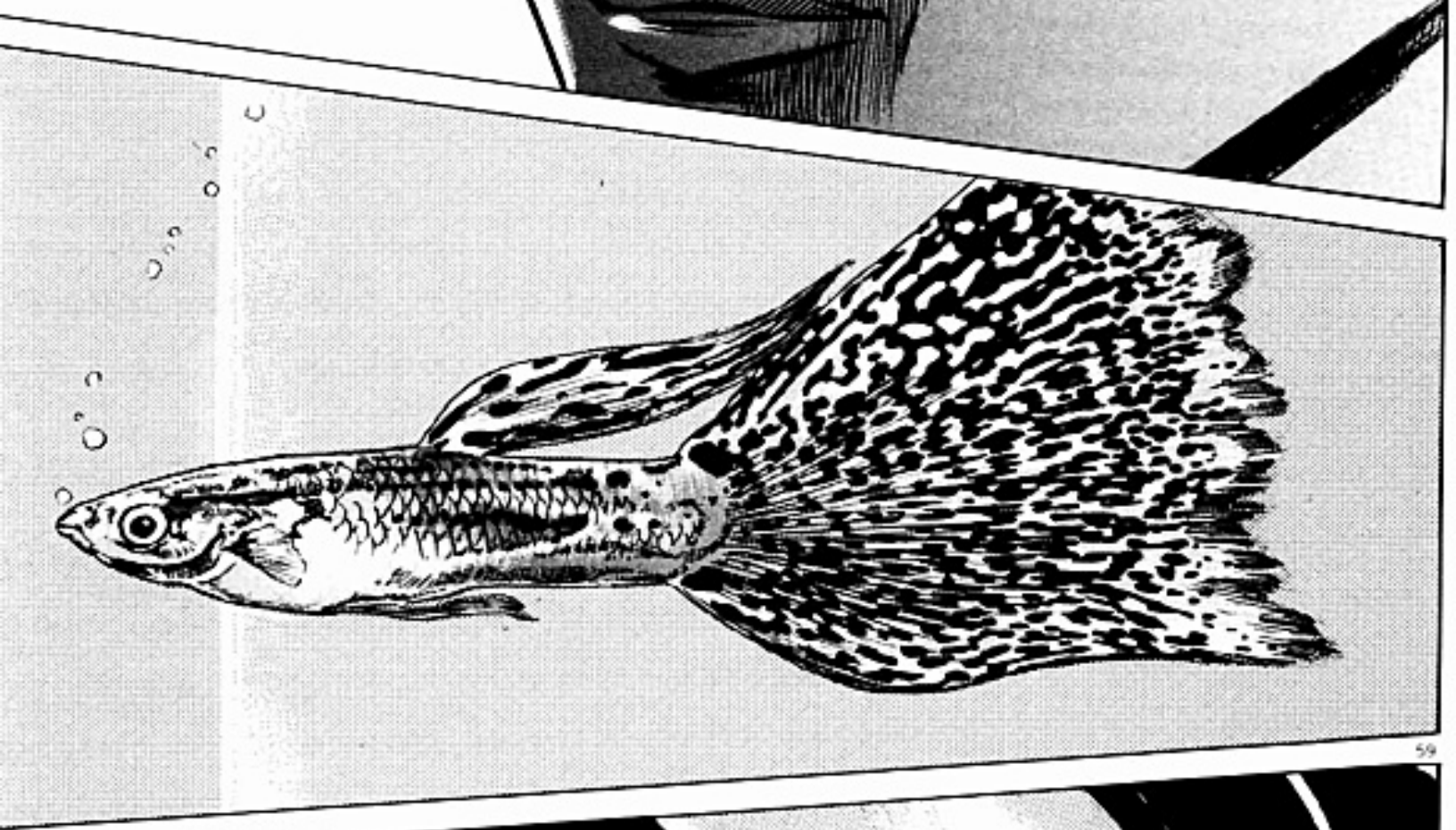
BLUBB

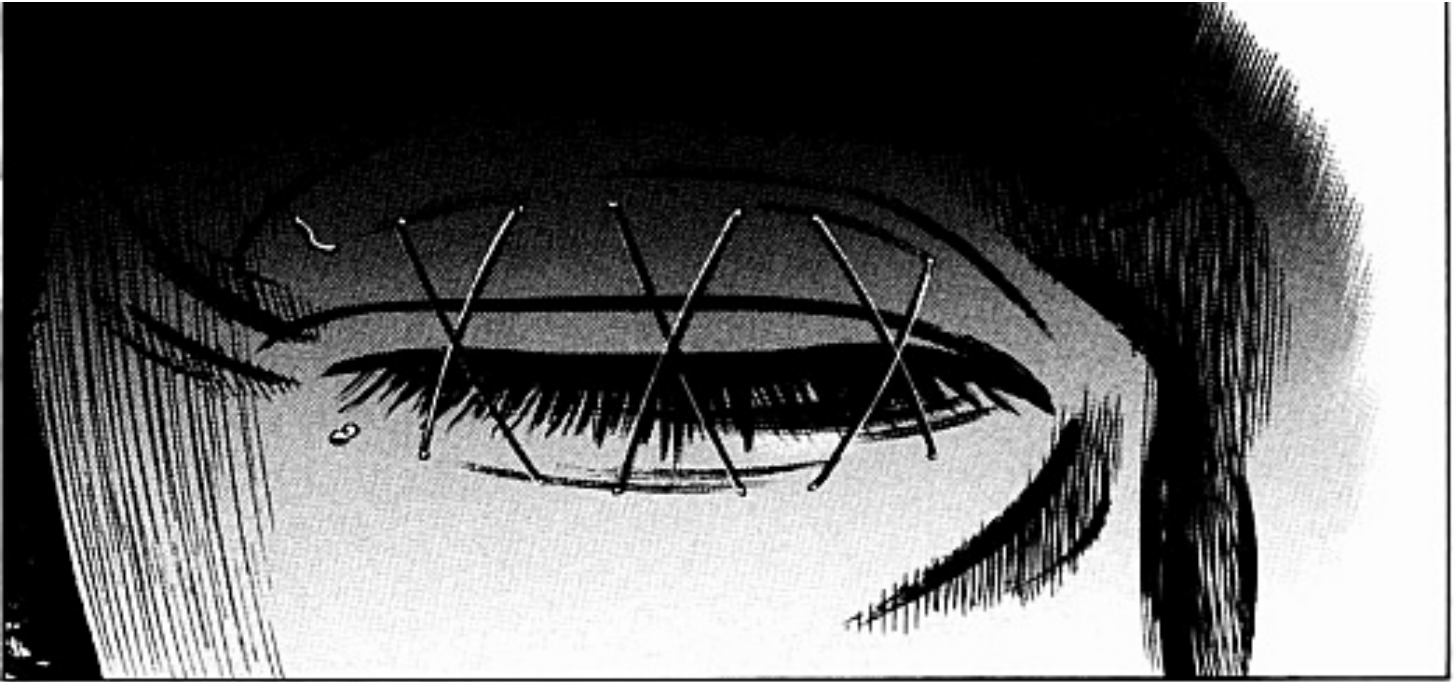
BLUE

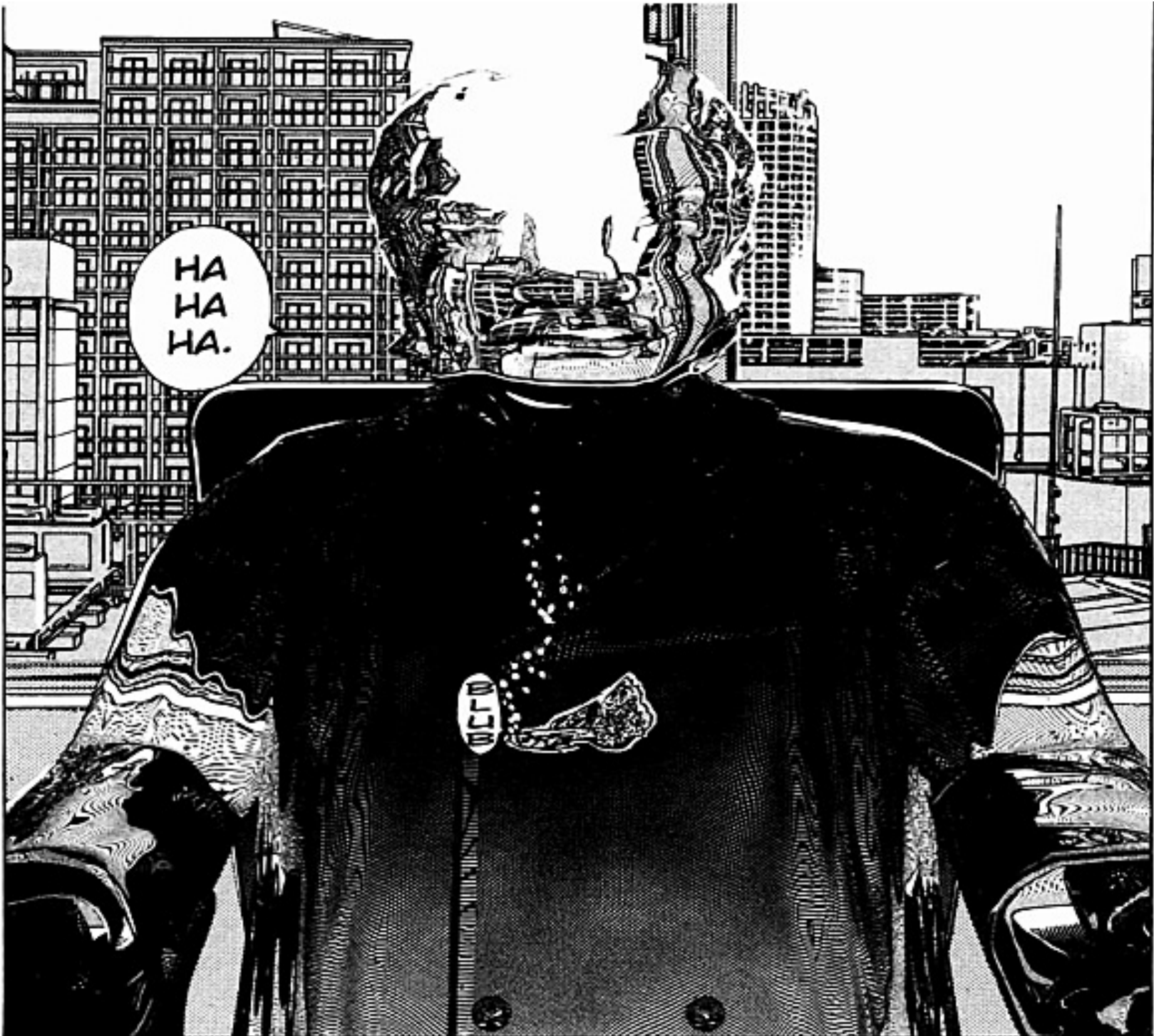


THAT YOU
YOURSELF
ARE A
HOMUNCULUS
...









HA
HA
HA.

0150

61



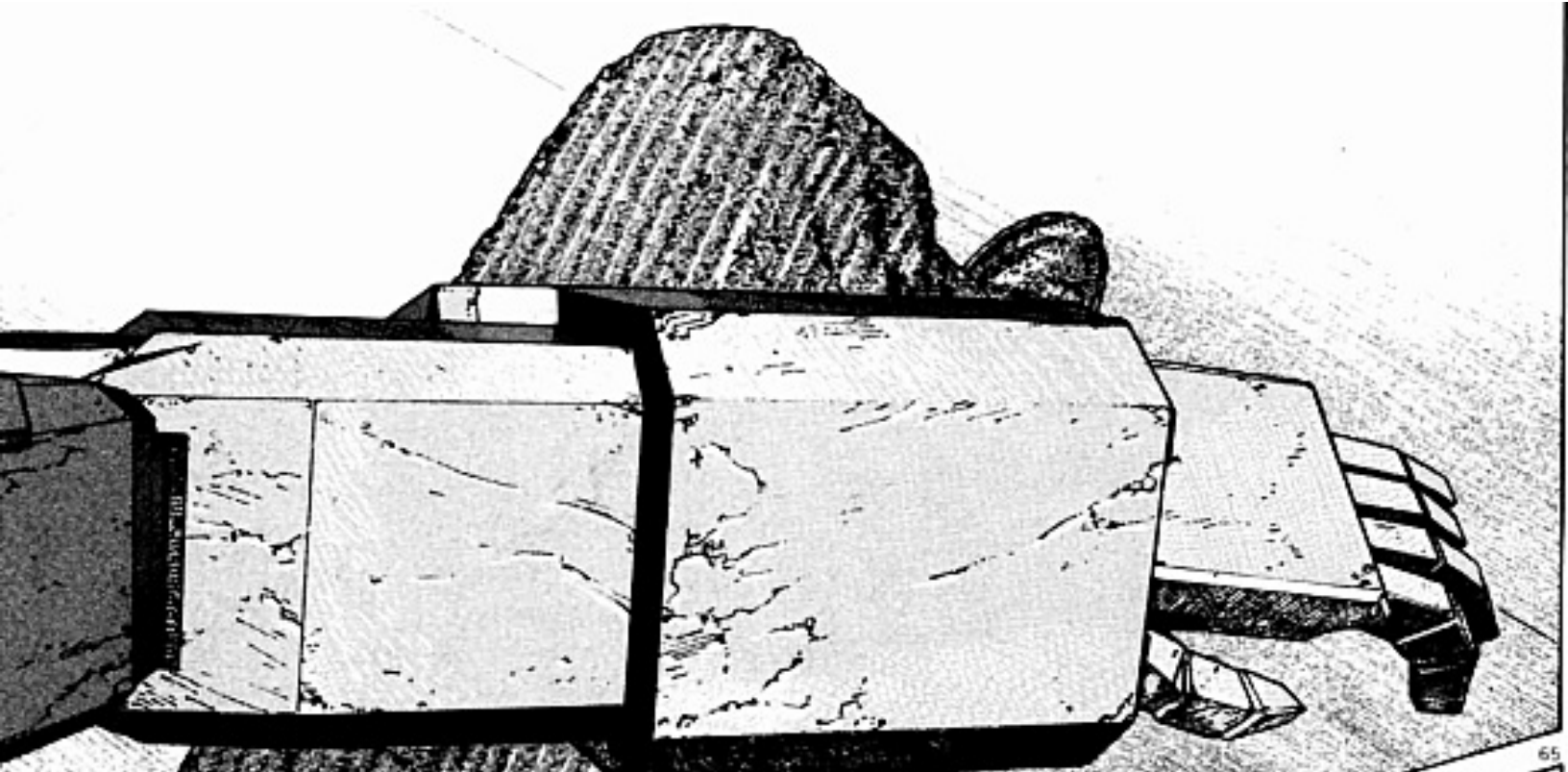
MR.
NAKOSHIIII.



WELCOME, TO
THE WORLD OF
ILLUSION. THE
WORLD OF
HOMUNCULI.







MR.
NAKOSHI
...





I THOUGHT
YOU HATED
SEEING
THEM.

WHAT ARE
THE
HOMUNCULI
TO YOU
NOW, MR.
NAKOSHI?



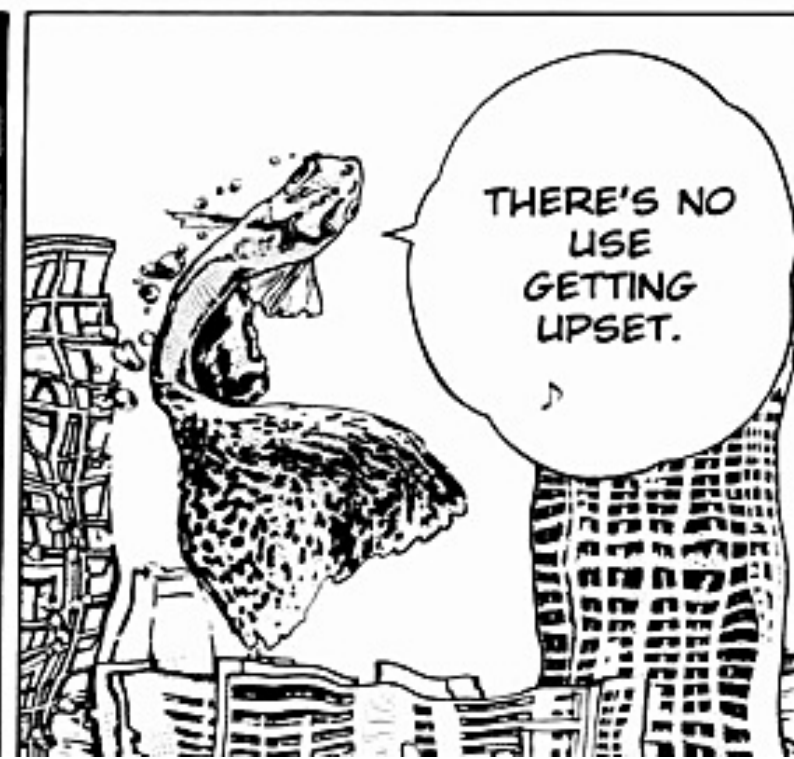
THEY'RE
DELUSIONS.



THEY AIN'T
HOMUNCULI.



.....



THERE'S NO
USE
GETTING
UPSET.



COME
NOW,
MR.
NAKOSHI.



ANYWAYS

...

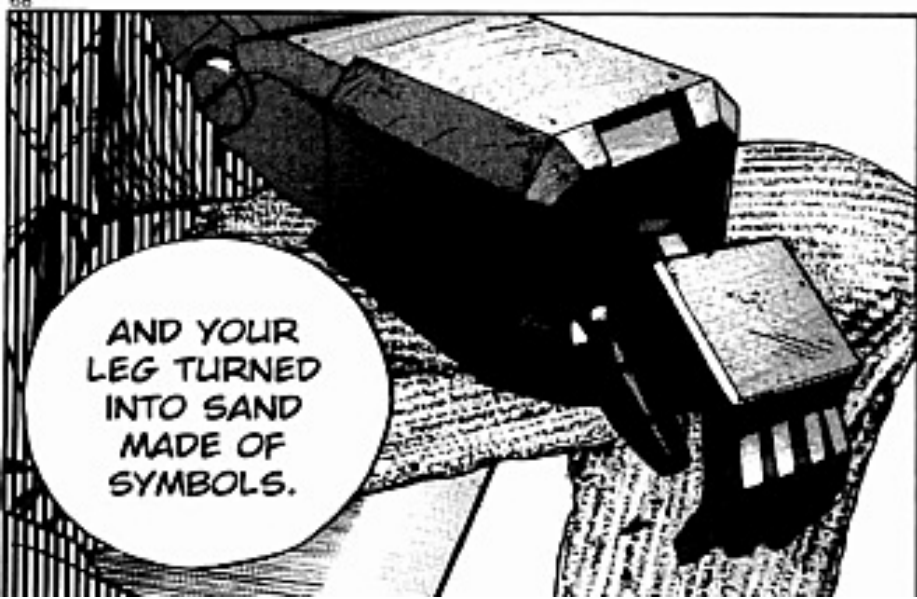
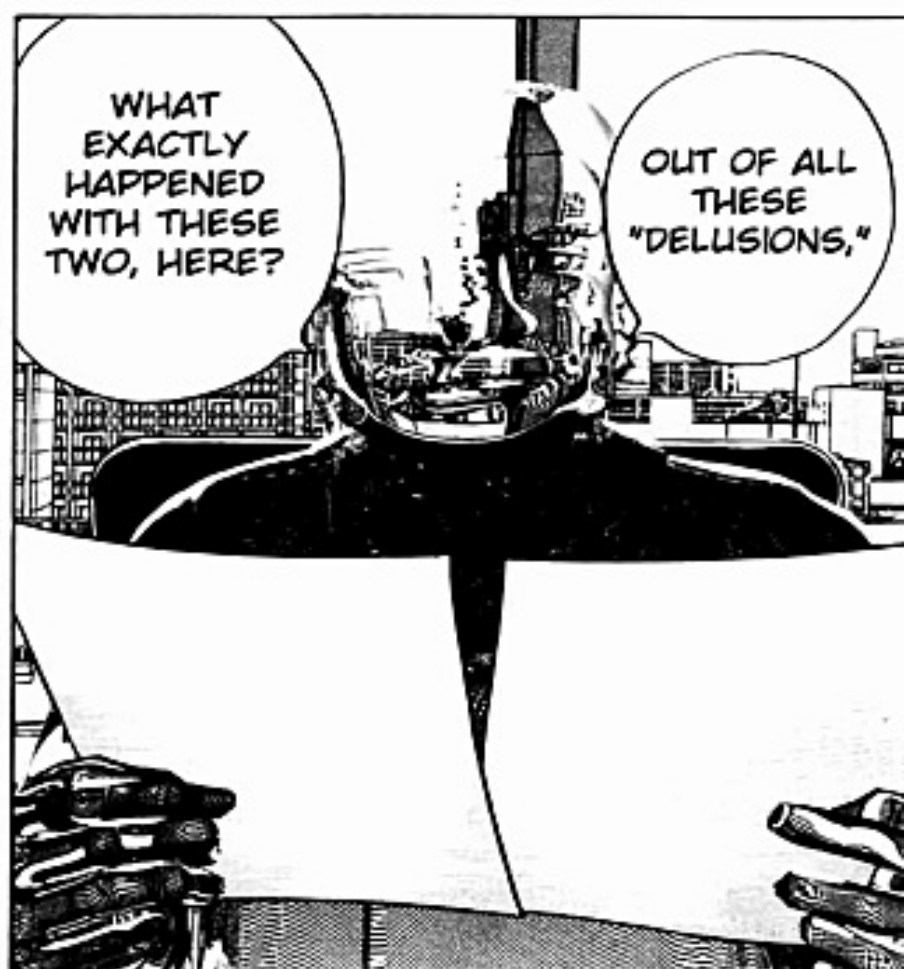


WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED WITH THESE TWO, HERE?

OUT OF ALL THESE "DELLUSIONS,"

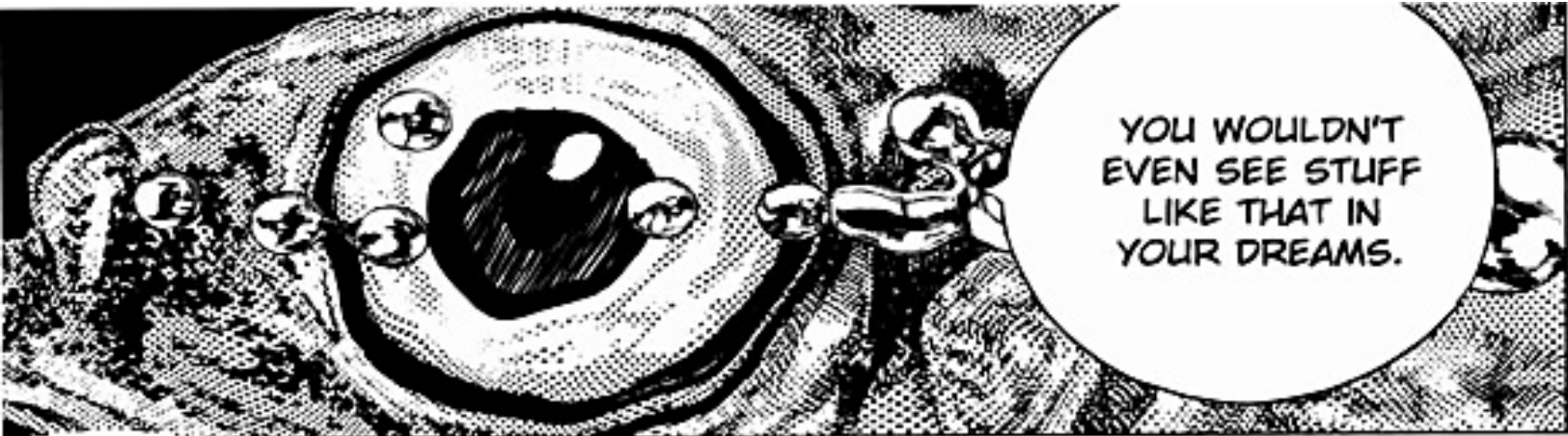


YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH THIS ROBOT YAKUZA BOSS,

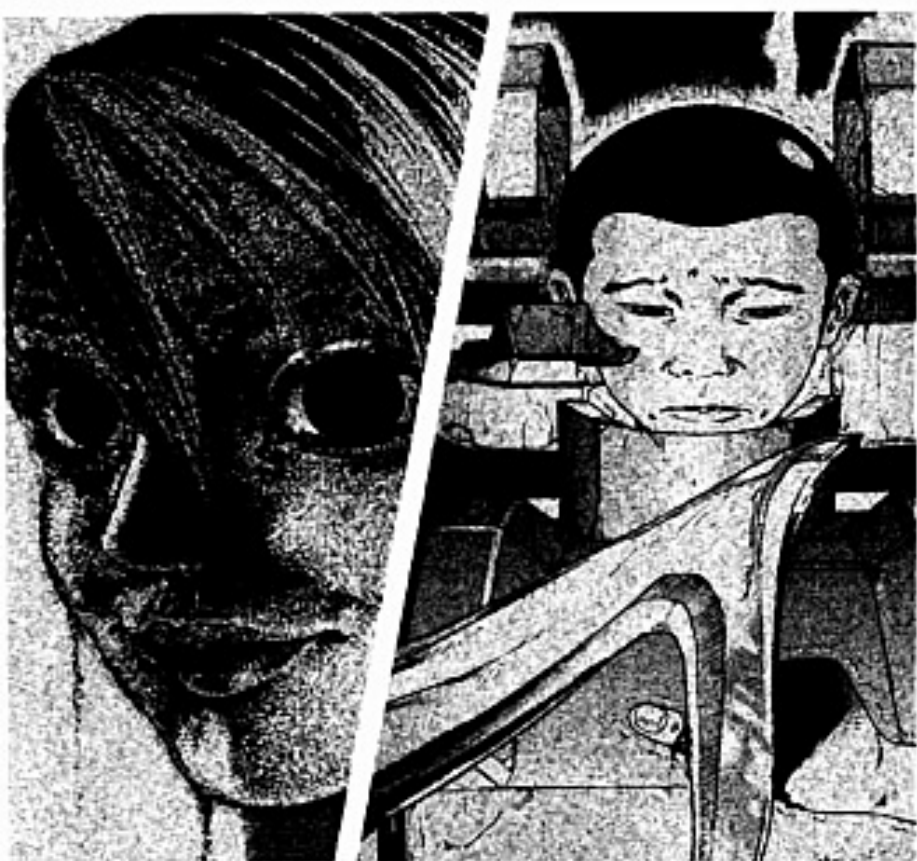


YOU GOT INVOLVED WITH THIS SAND TEENAGER,





YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN SEE STUFF
LIKE THAT IN
YOUR DREAMS.

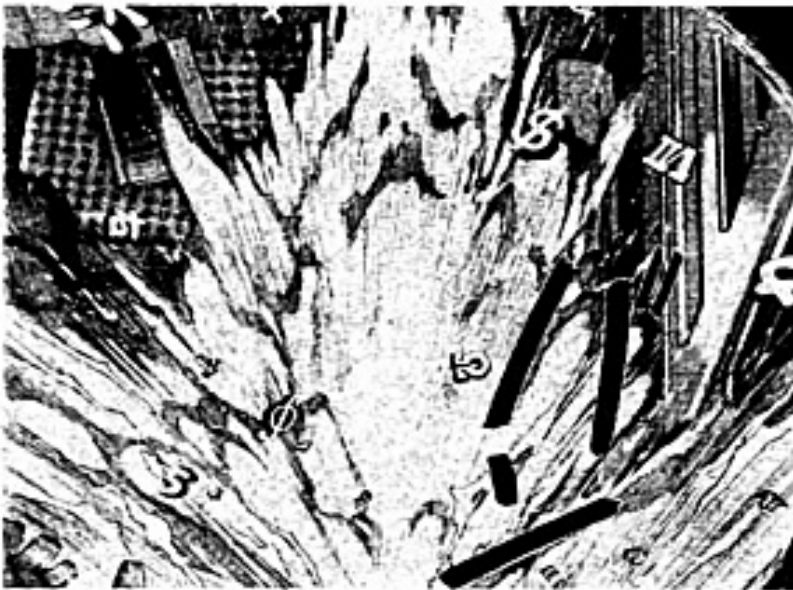


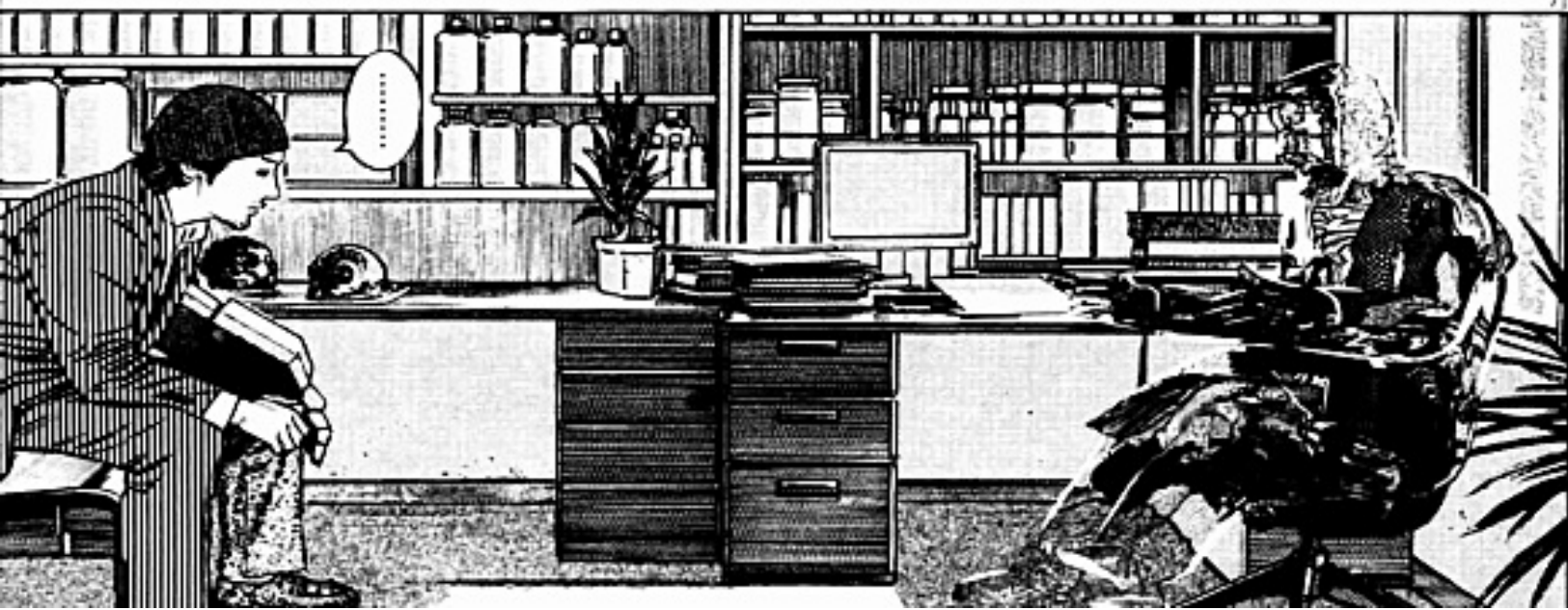
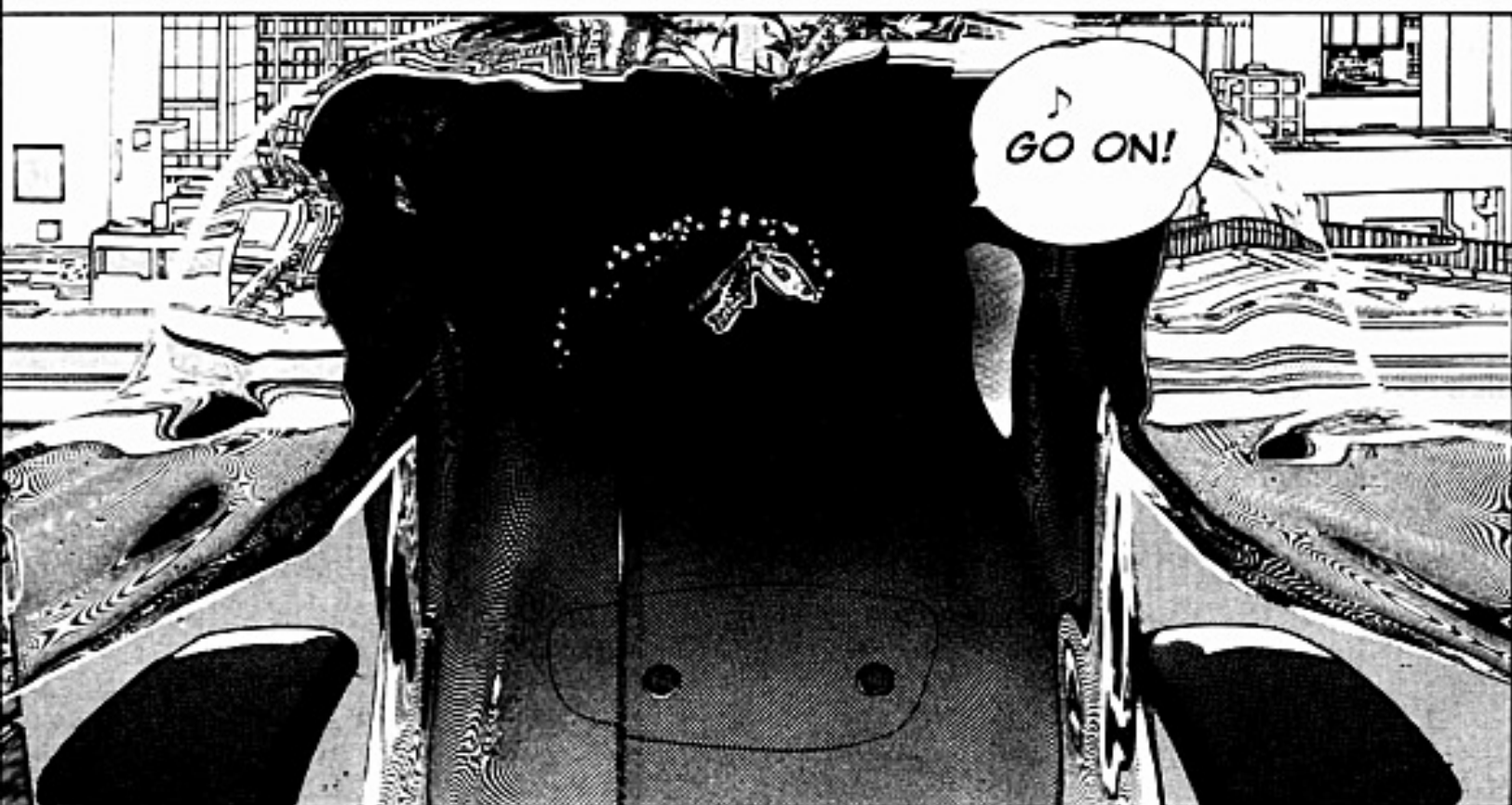
.....

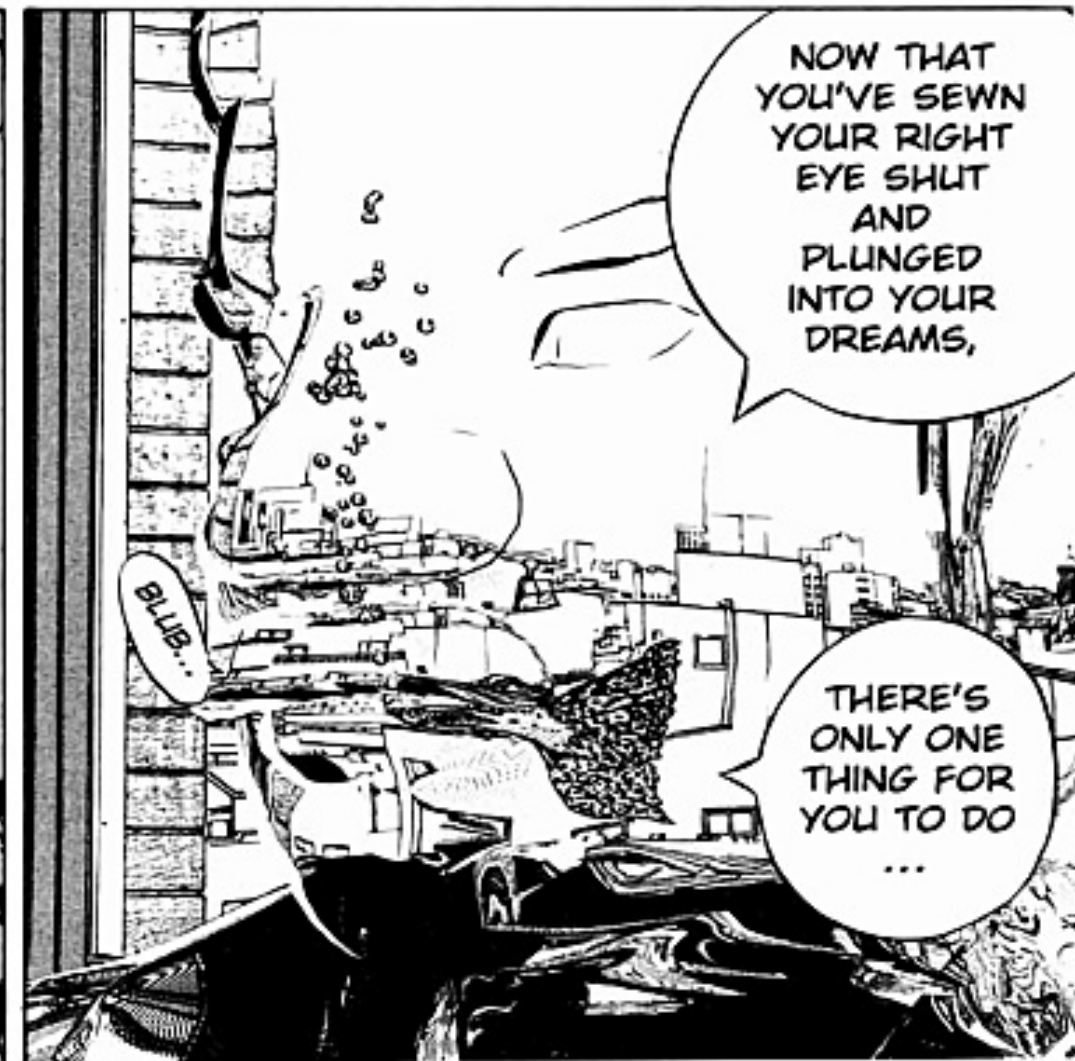


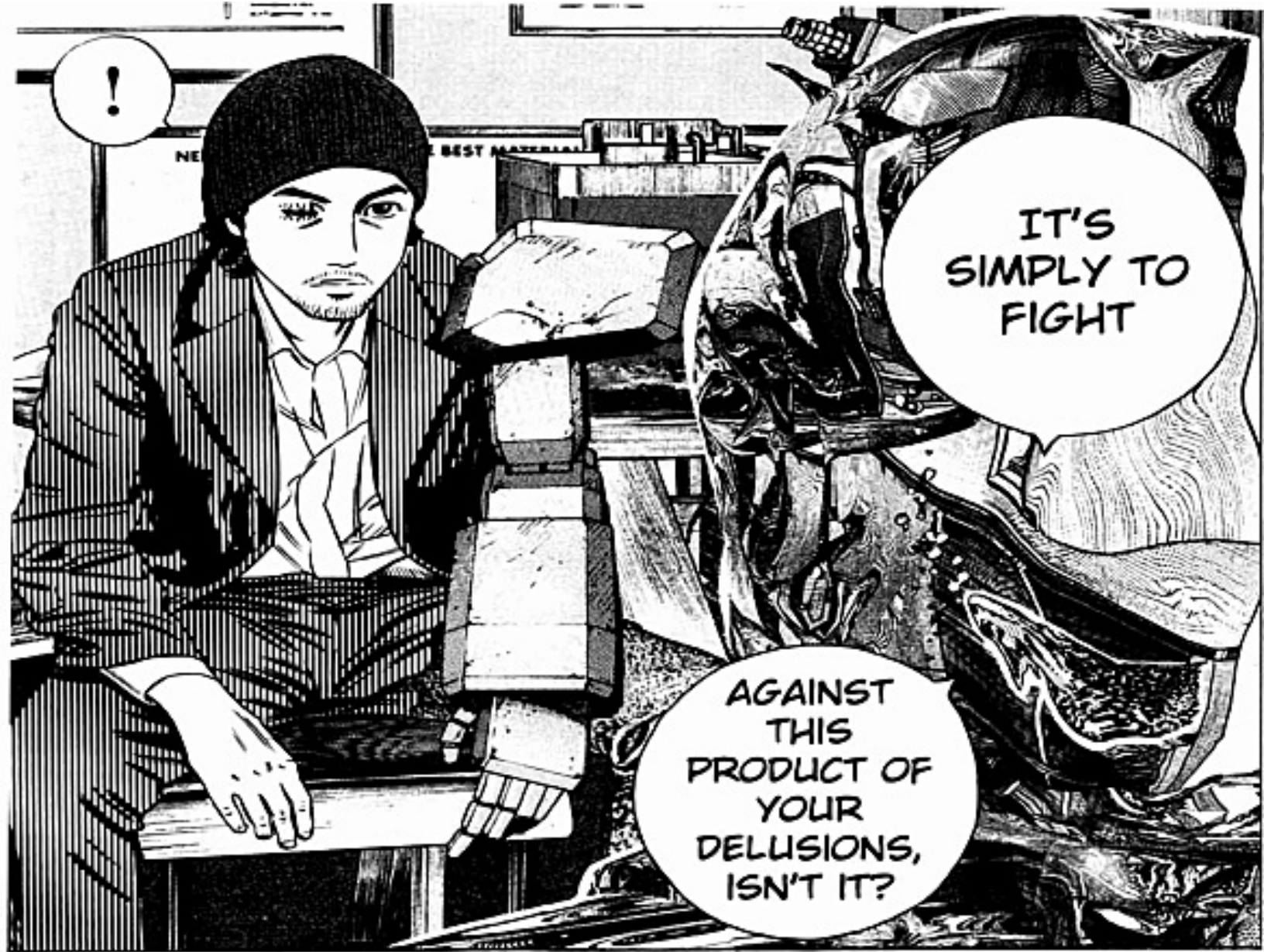
HOW DID
YOU GET
INVOLVED
WITH
THEM?

WHAT
HAPPENED
EXACTLY,
MR.
NAKOSHI?





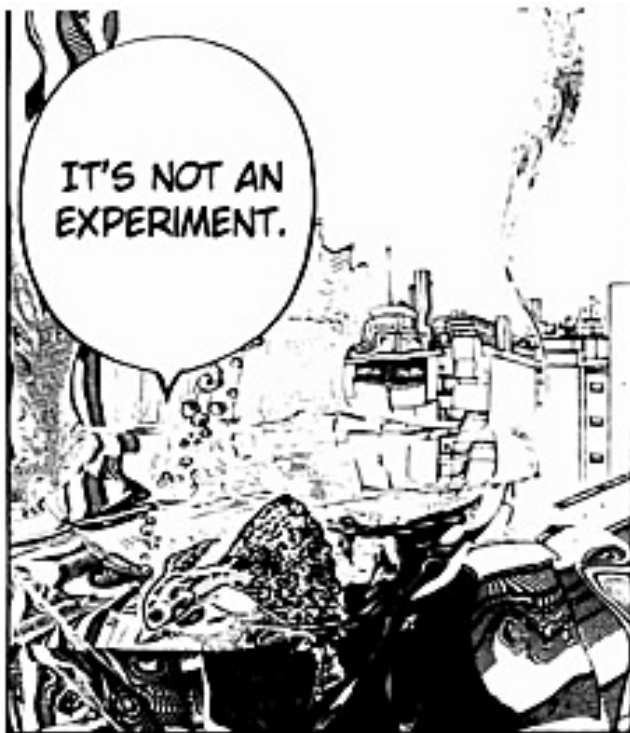






JUST A GAME.

♪



IT'S NOT AN EXPERIMENT.



THE EXPERIMENT'S OVER.



YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THAT BAD?



YES!



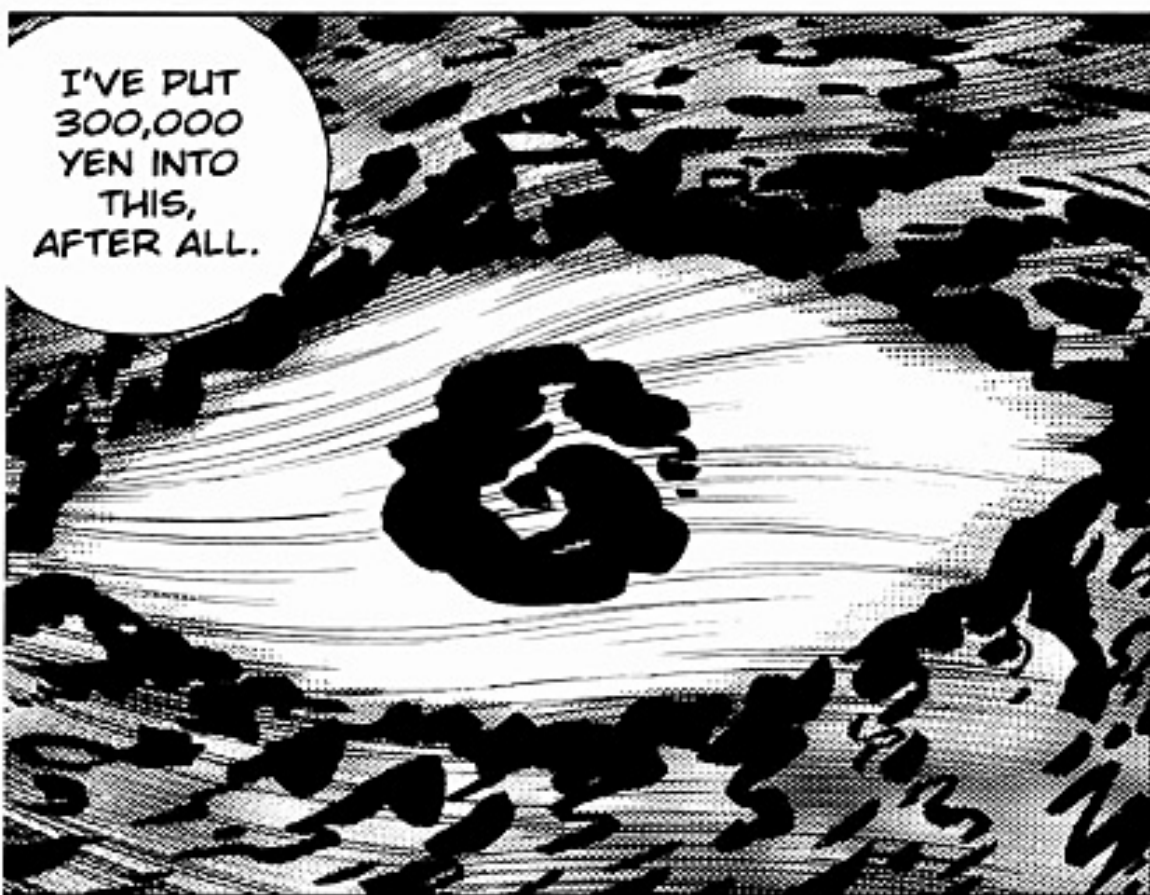
ABOUT THESE DREAMS,

FROM JUST THESE FEW DAYS...

I'M VERY
INTERESTED
TO KNOW.



I'VE PUT
300,000
YEN INTO
THIS,
AFTER ALL.



!?

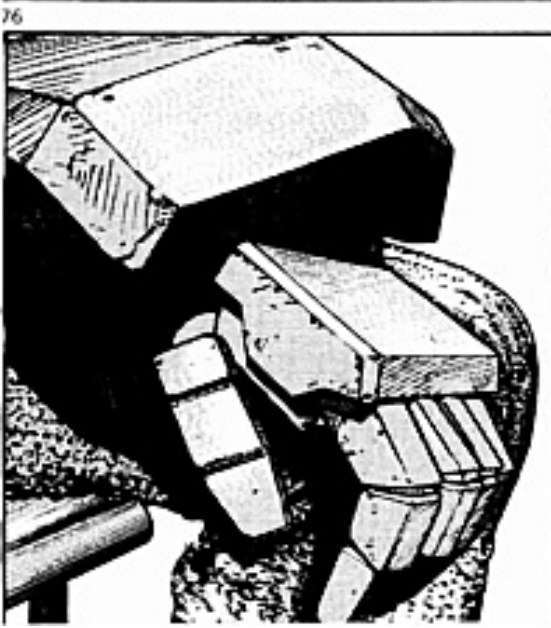
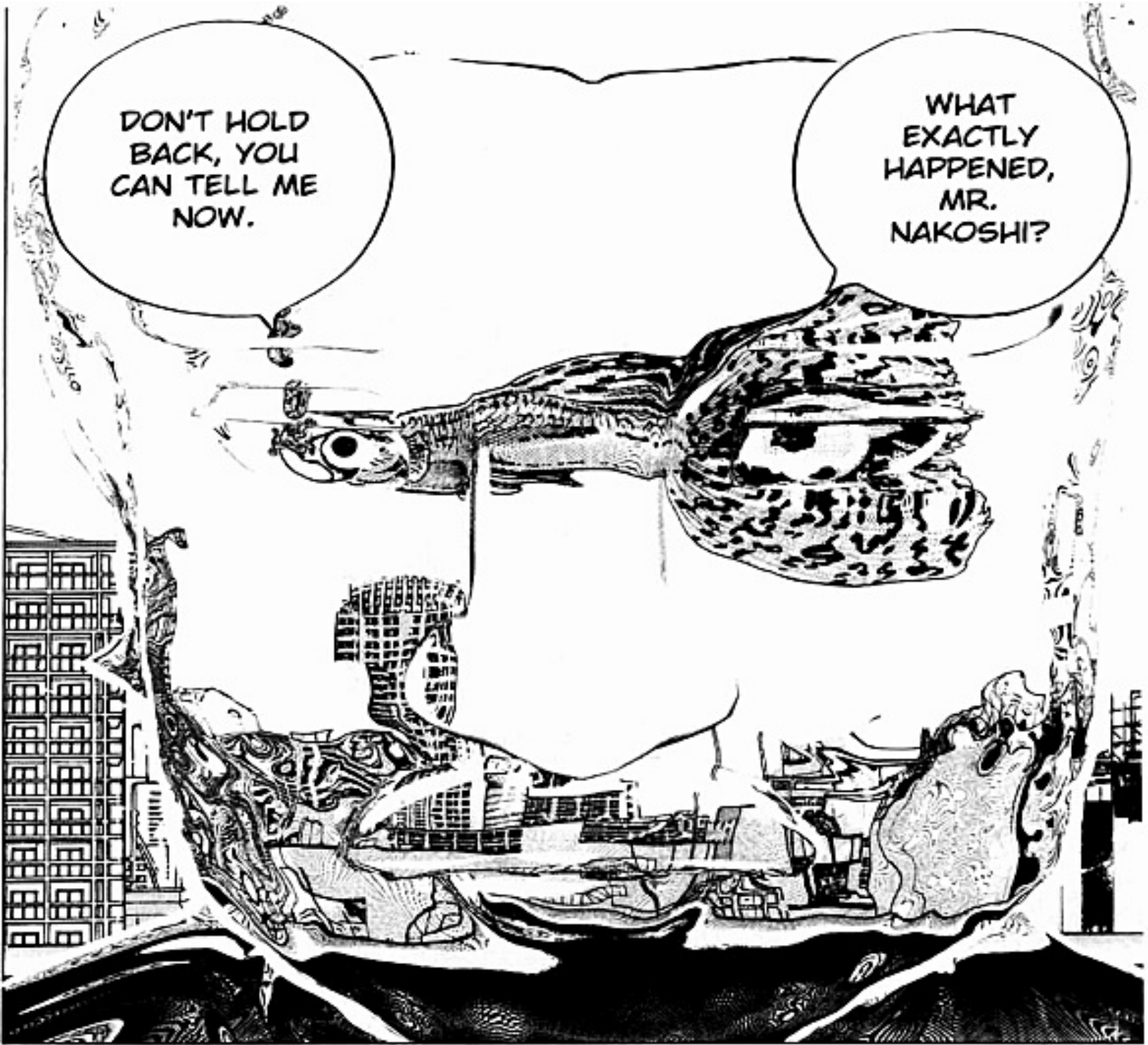


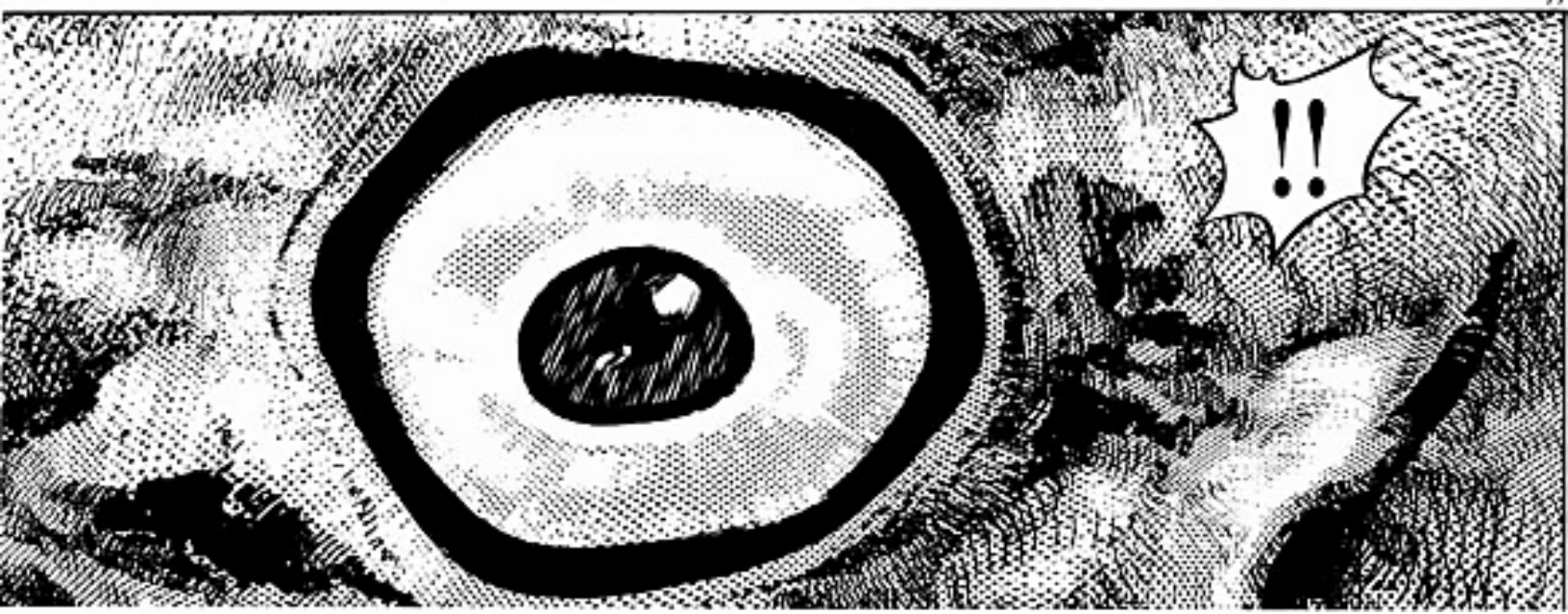
.....

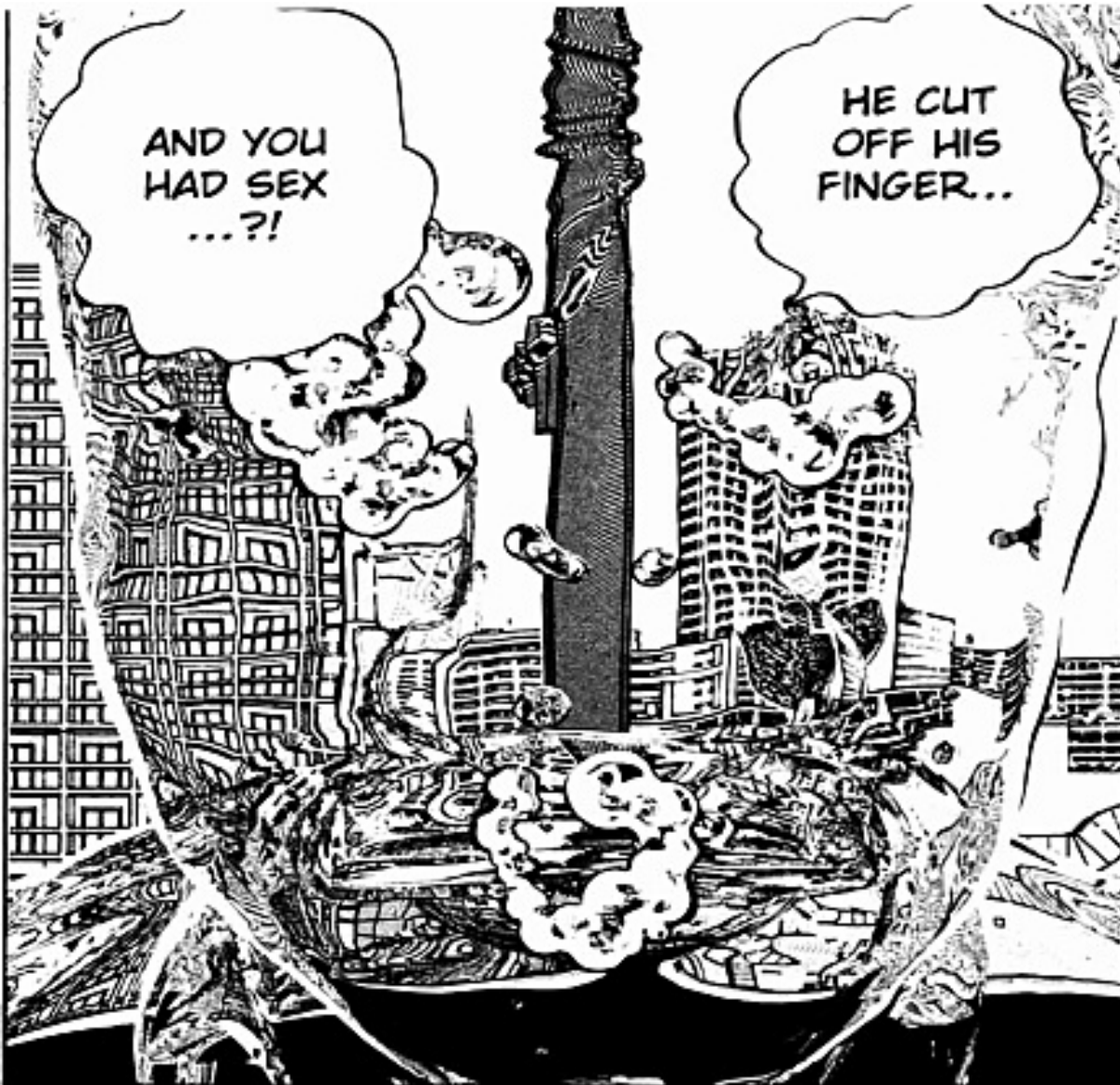


DON'T HOLD
BACK, YOU
CAN TELL ME
NOW.

WHAT
EXACTLY
HAPPENED,
MR.
NAKOSHI?










AND I'M NOT
THRILLED
ABOUT
LOSING A
FINGER,
EITHER.


I'M GOING
TO HAVE
TO DECLINE
SEX
WITH A MAN.






BEFORE YOU
DO ANYTHING,
MR. NAKOSHI
...

STARE



W-W-
WAIT UP
JUST ONE
SECOND...



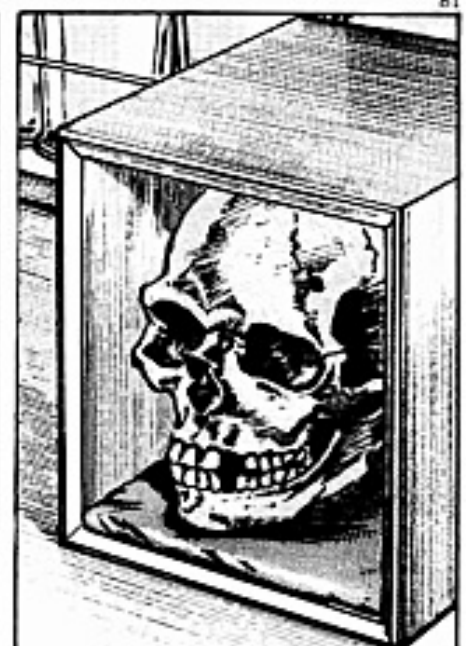
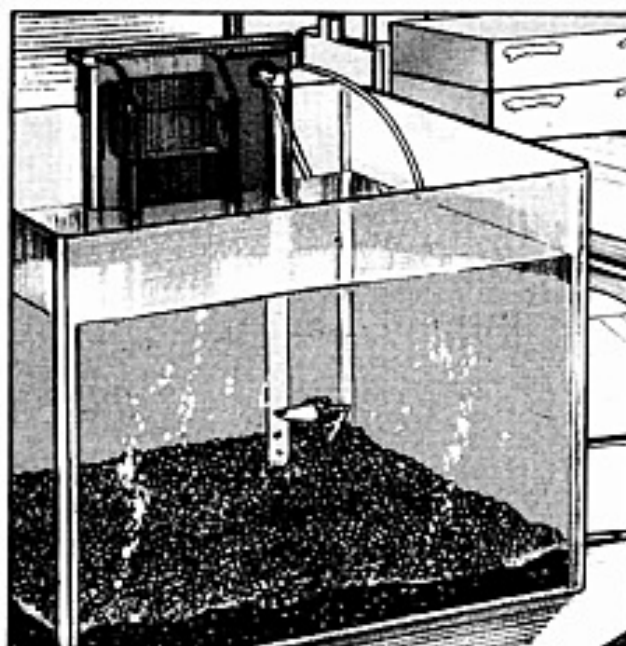
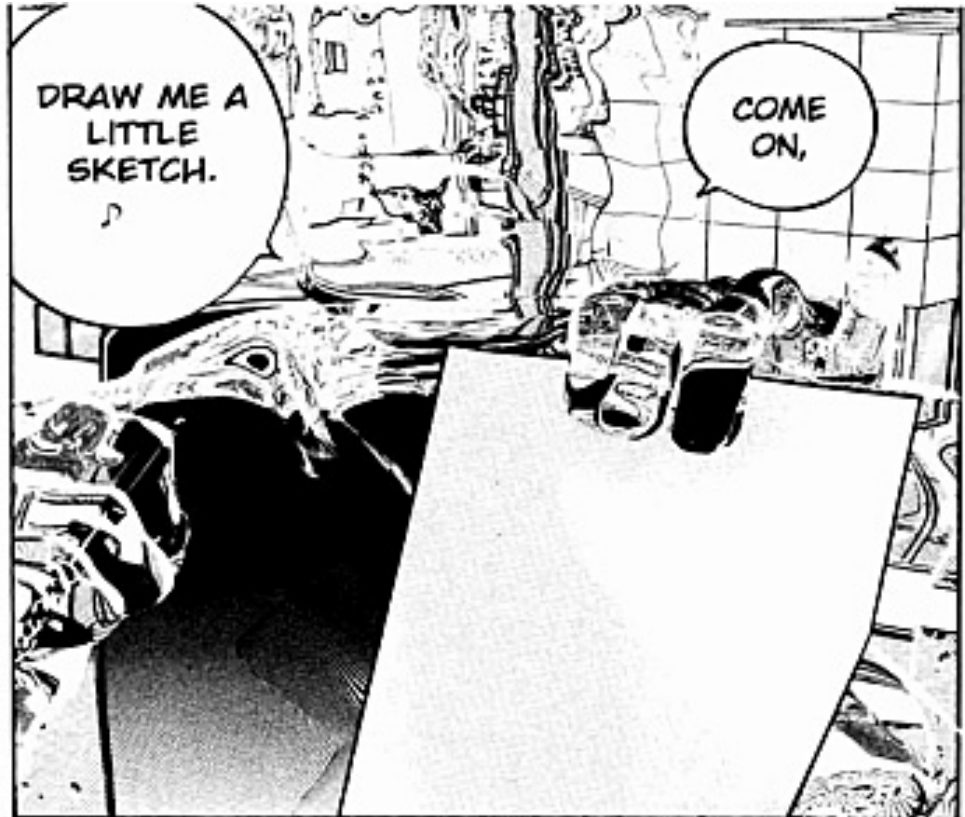
BUT WOULD YOU
MIND DOING ME
A FAVOR OF A
FREE
"HOMUNCULUS
SKETCH" ON THE
SIDE OF YOUR
300,000 YEN
BILL?

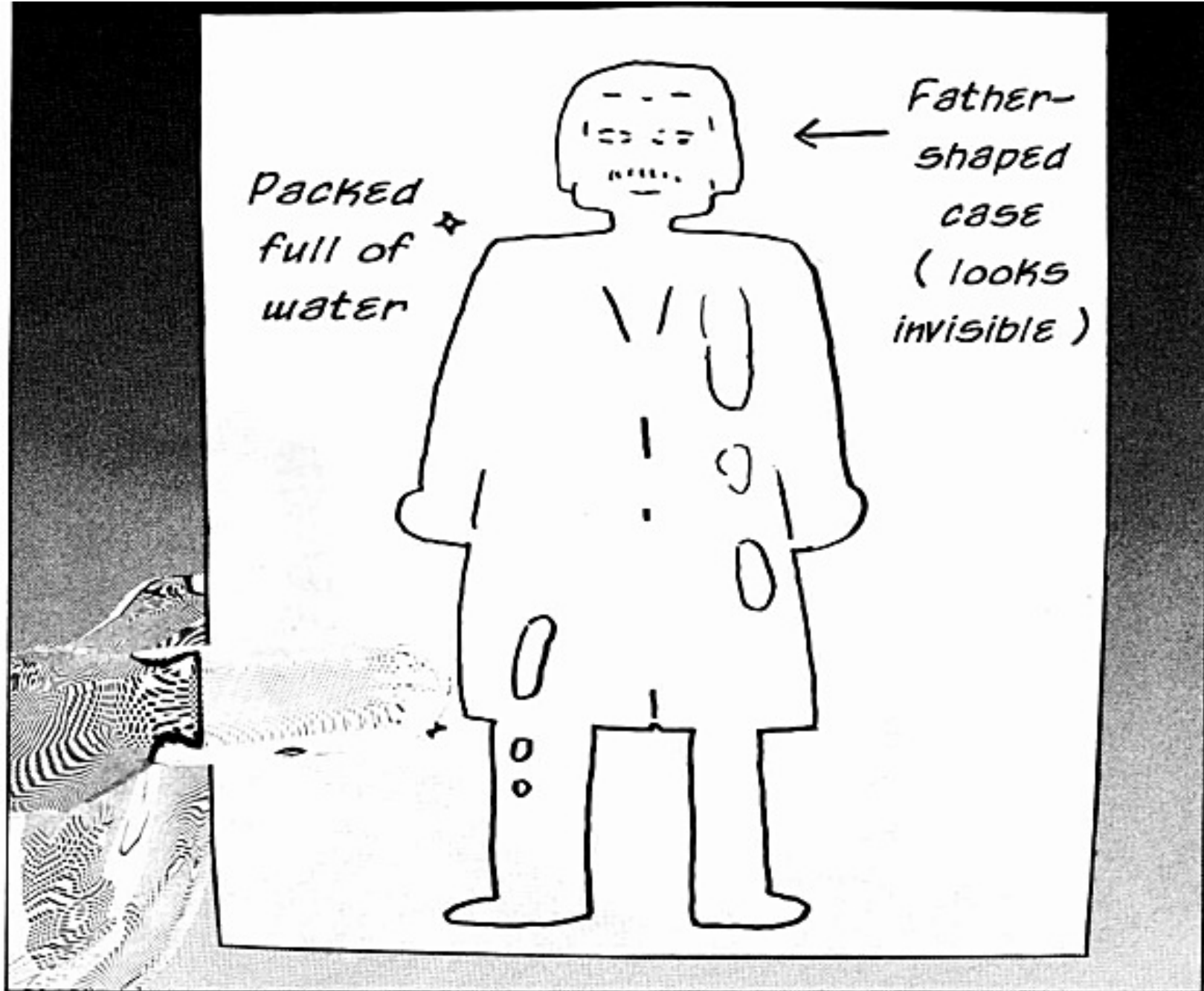


BEFORE
YOU DO
ANYTHING,
MR.
NAKOSHI
...



IN FACT,
I INSIST
YOU DO
IT.







THAT DOES SEEM TO BE MY FATHER...

TRUE,



PLEASE DON'T PLAY WITH MY PHOTOS.



BY THE WAY, MR. NAKOSHI,

!



SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS,

MY HOMUNCULUS IS LIKE THAT FISHTANK...



AND THAT I'M TRAPPED WITHIN A FISHTANK SHAPED LIKE MY FATHER...



?



THAT'S YOUR SYNOPSIS ?



HUH?



THE
GUPPY
...

IT'S
GONE
...!

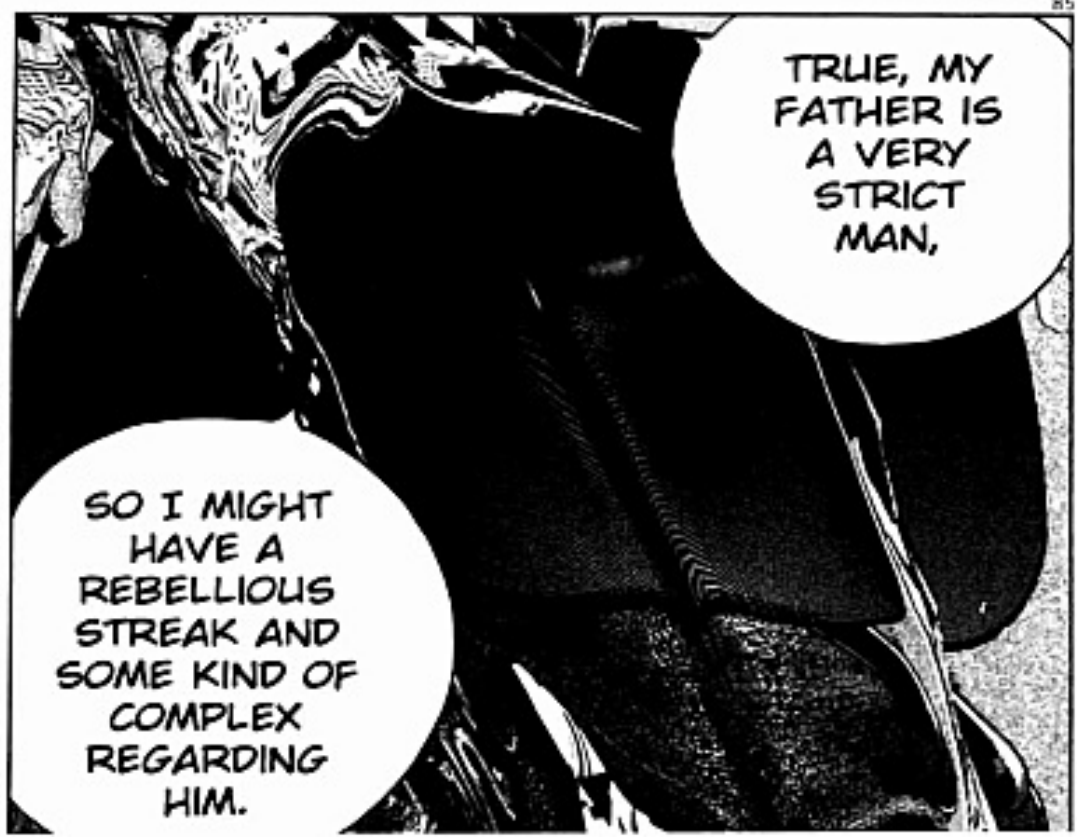


THAT
WOULD
MAKE ME
JUST
LIKE
#1775.



WHERE
IS IT?

WHERE'D
IT GO??



TRUE, MY
FATHER IS
A VERY
STRICT
MAN,

SO I MIGHT
HAVE A
REBELLIOUS
STREAK AND
SOME KIND OF
COMPLEX
REGARDING
HIM.

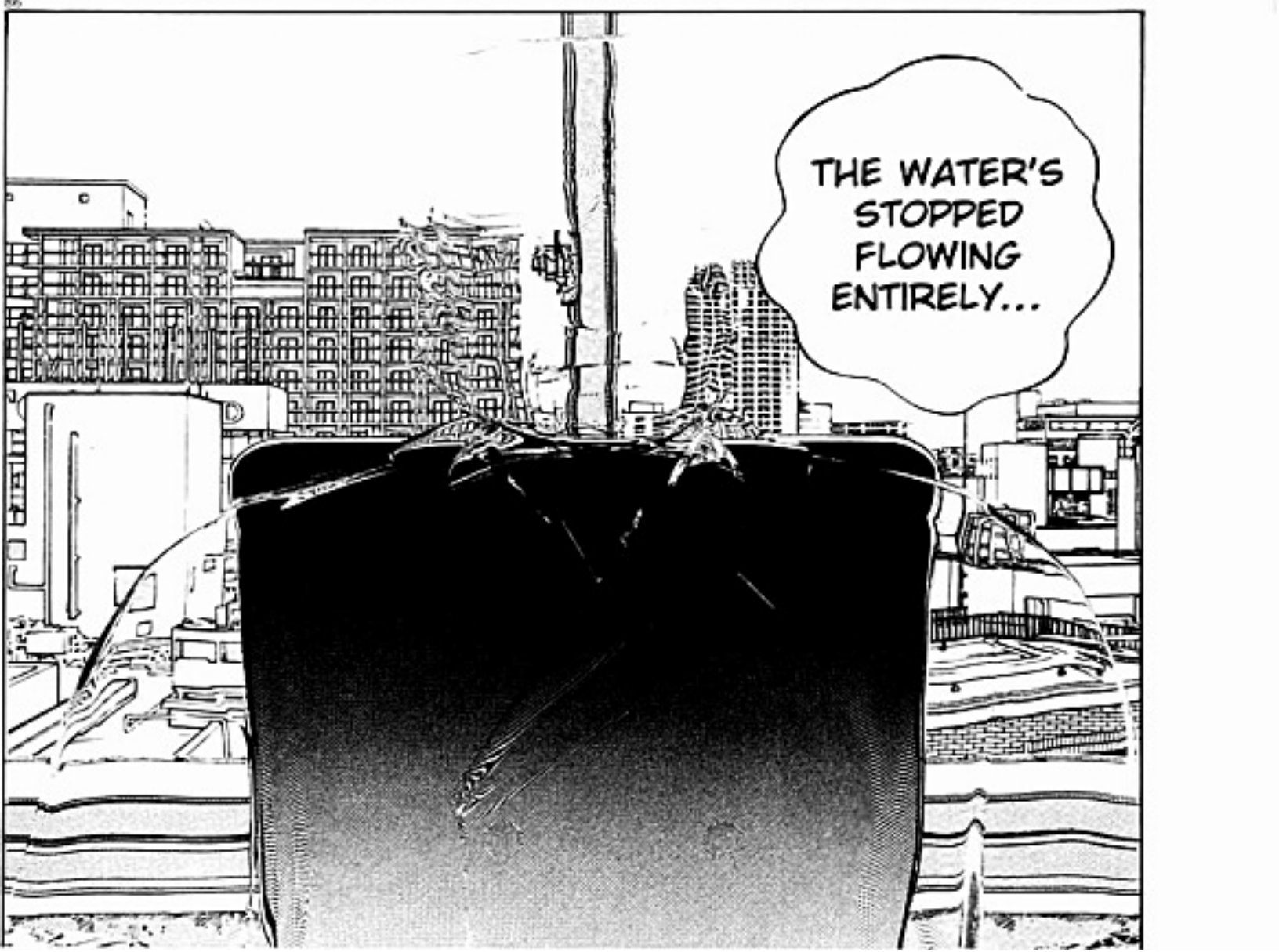


THEY'RE
GOING TO
QUESTION
YOUR
IMAGINATION,
MR. NAKOSHI.

.....



BUT THAT
WOULD BE TOO
SIMPLE, BLAND
AND GENERIC...
EVERYONE'S
HEARD THAT
ONE BEFORE.



THE WATER'S
STOPPED
FLOWING
ENTIRELY...



IT'S HUMAN
EGO THAT
CAUSES
THEM TO
GROW THAT
WAY.

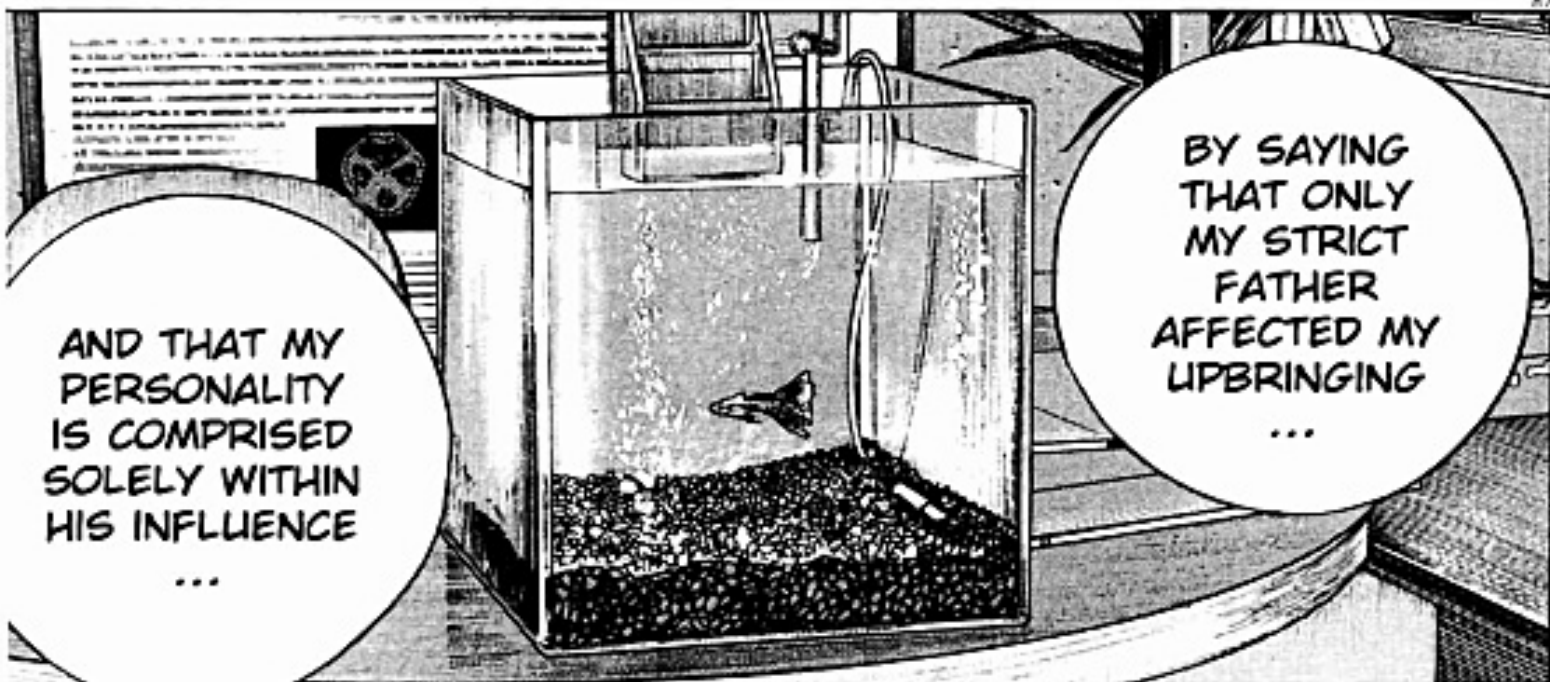
EVERY MAN
HAS ISSUES
WITH HIS
FATHER.

WE HAVE TO
FIND A
BALANCE
BETWEEN
STRICT
FATHERS
AND KIND
MOTHERS.

THAT'S
HOW WE
EARN OUR
PERSONALITIES.

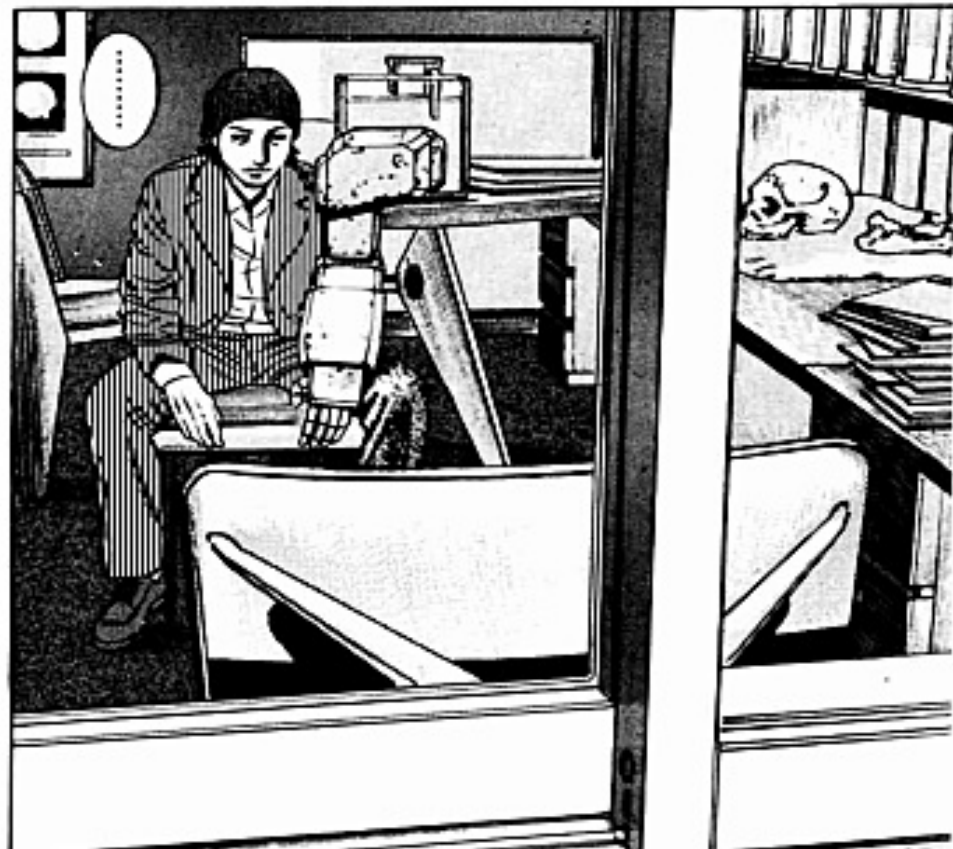
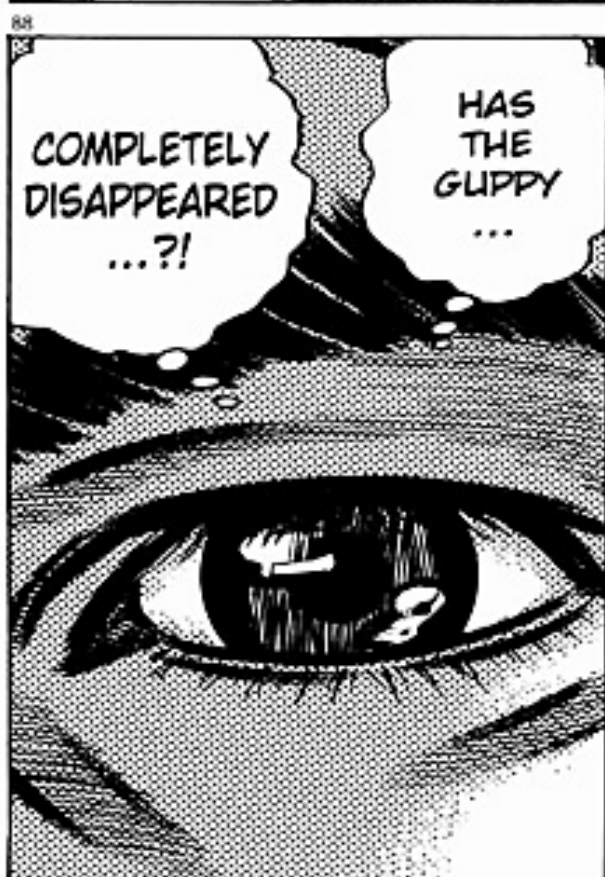
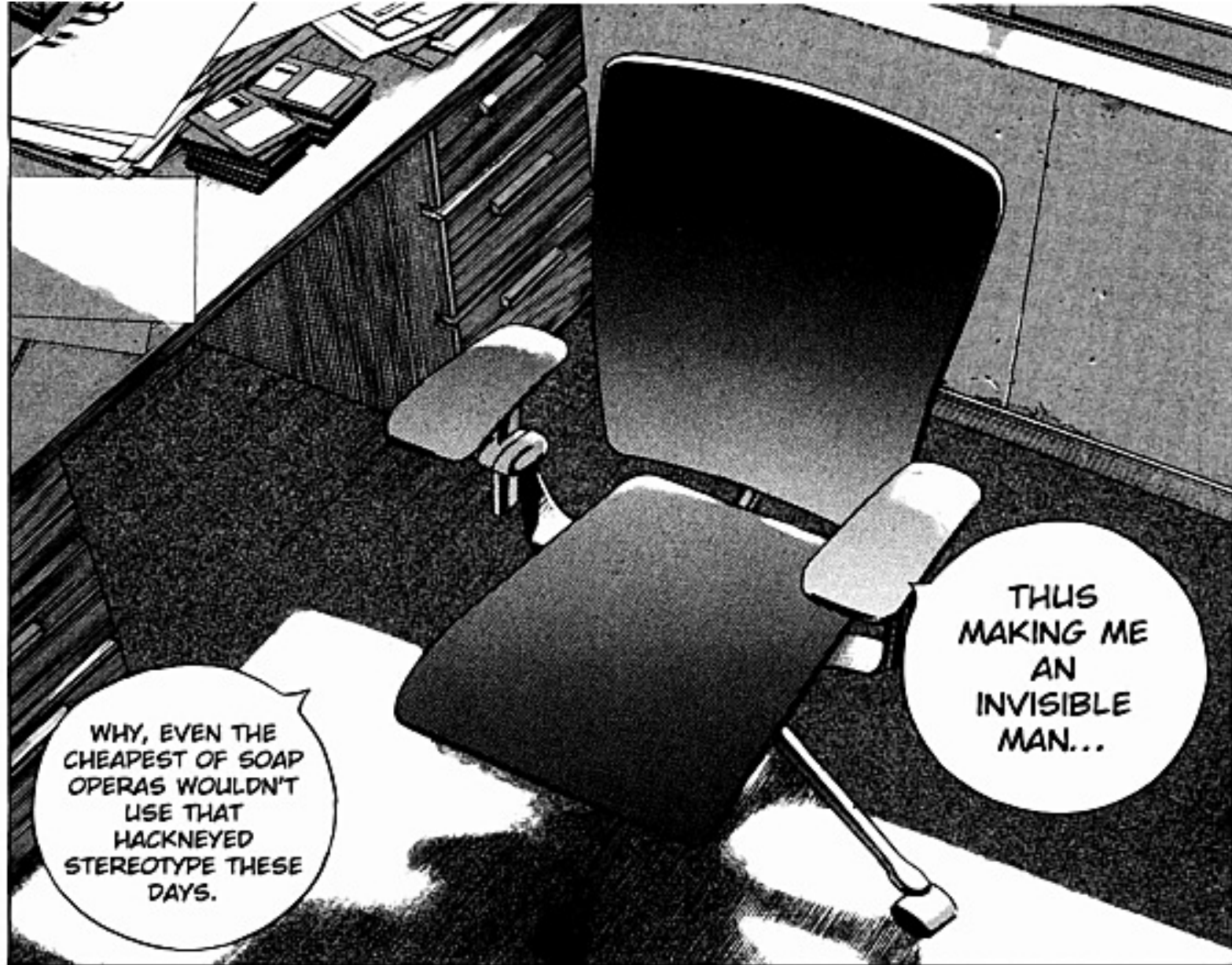


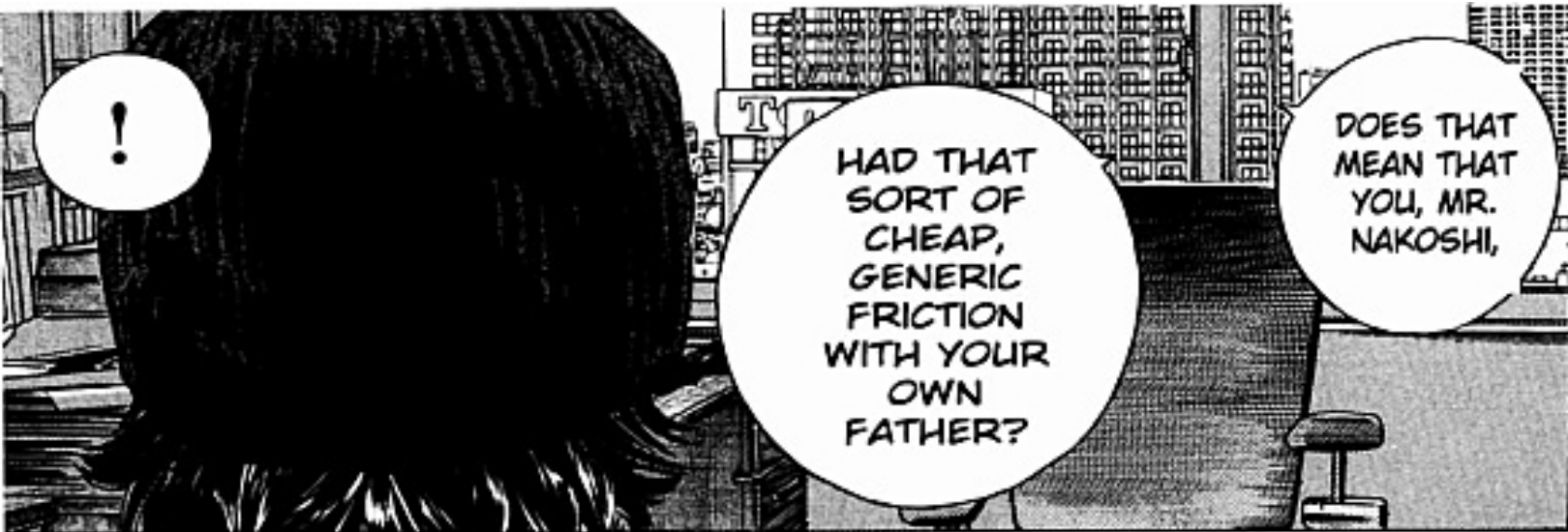
IS IT...
DEFENSE
?



AND THAT MY
PERSONALITY
IS COMPRISED
SOLELY WITHIN
HIS INFLUENCE
...

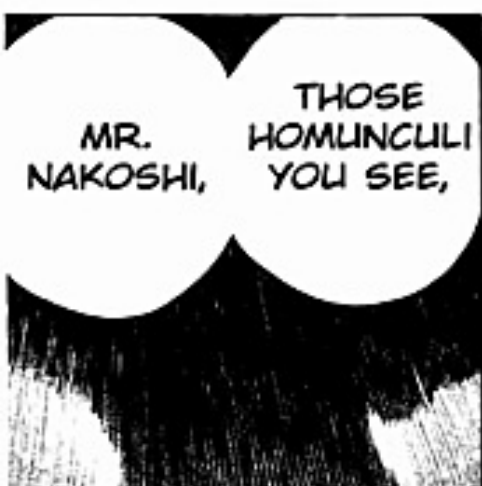
BY SAYING
THAT ONLY
MY STRICT
FATHER
AFFECTED MY
UPBRINGING
...





HAD THAT
SORT OF
CHEAP,
GENERIC
FRICTION
WITH YOUR
OWN
FATHER?

DOES THAT
MEAN THAT
YOU, MR.
NAKOSHI,



MR.
NAKOSHI,

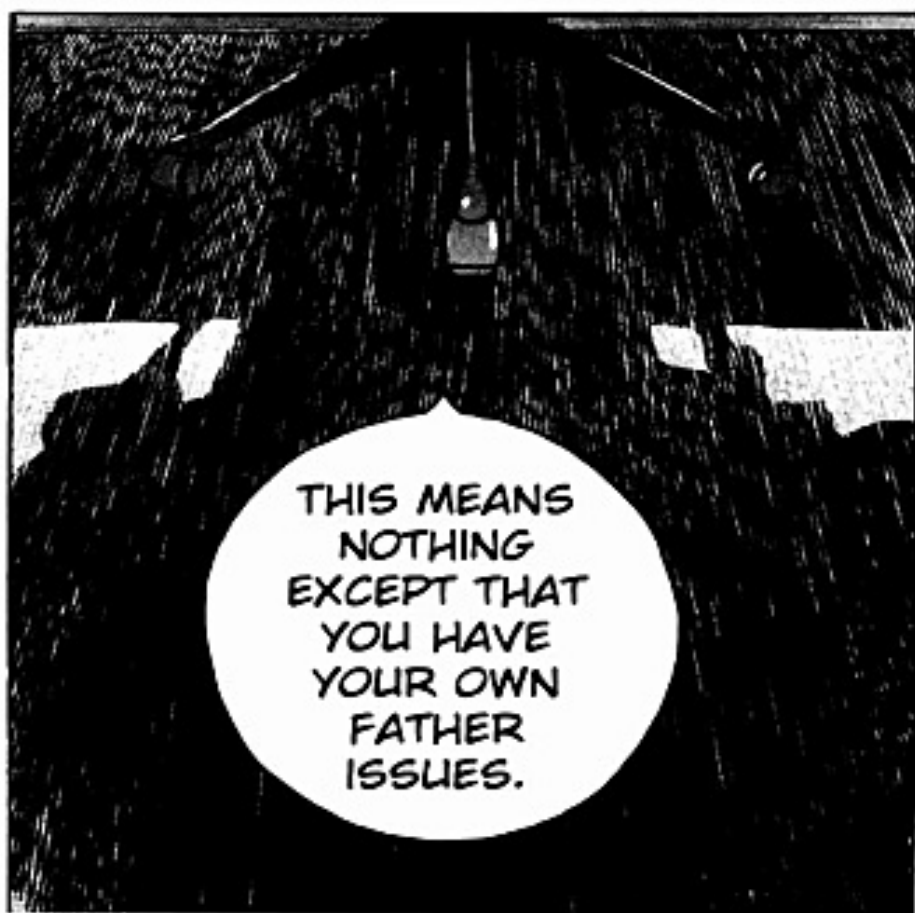
THOSE
HOMUNCULI
YOU SEE,

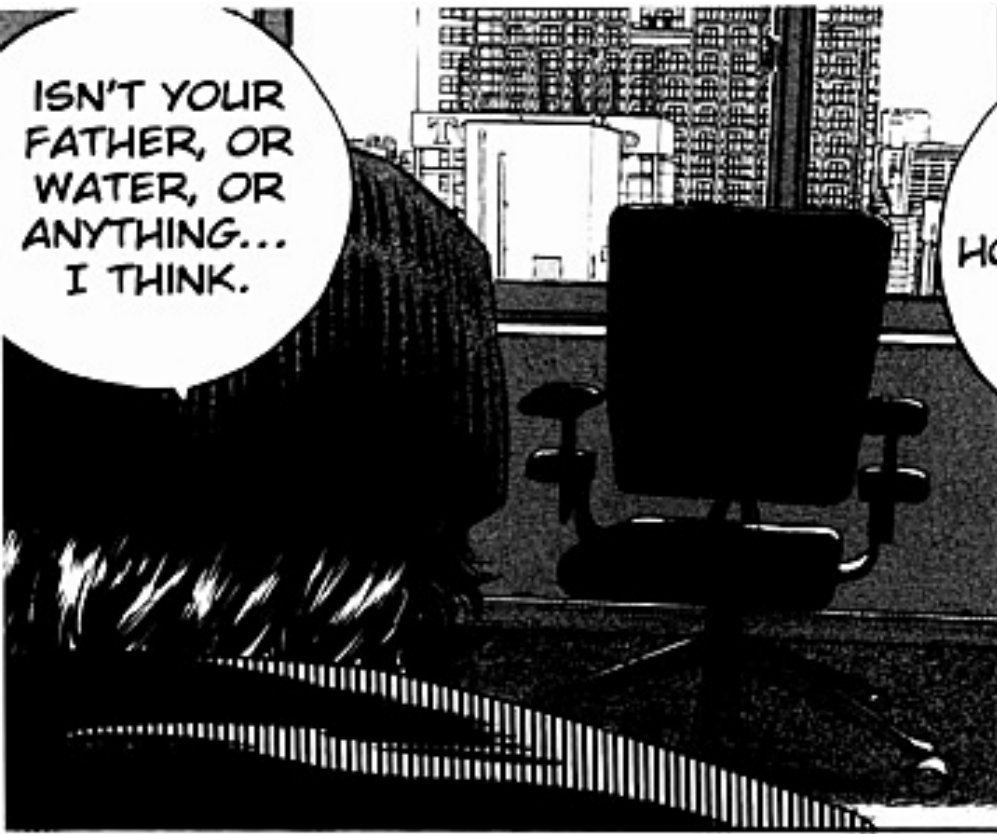


I'M SURE
YOU'VE
FIGURED
IT OUT.



ARE JUST A
MIRROR
SHOWING YOU
YOUR OWN
REFLECTION.



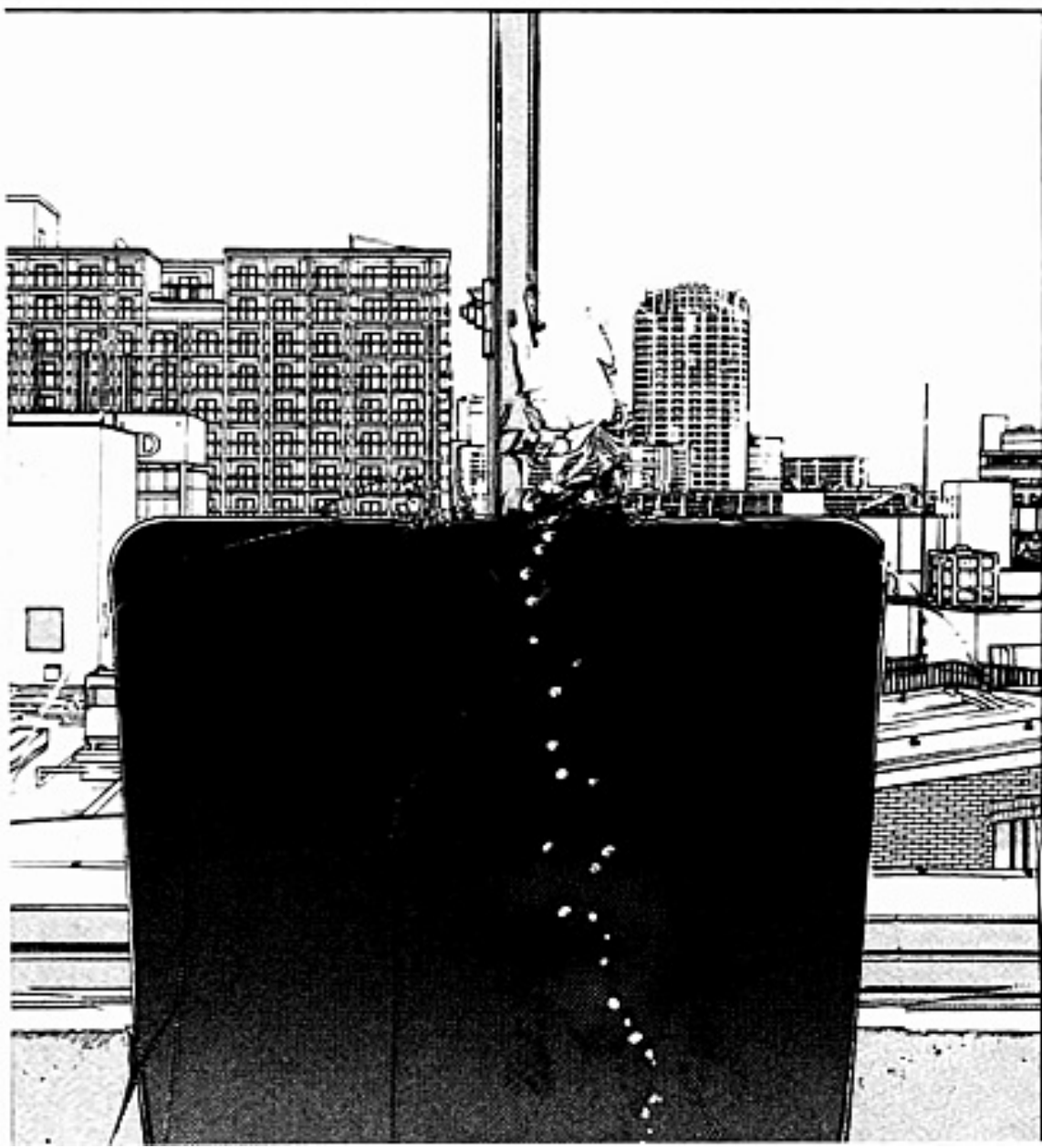


ISN'T YOUR FATHER, OR WATER, OR ANYTHING... I THINK.



YOUR HOMUNCULUS,


BUT...




BLUB BLUB



!?



DEFENSE
...?



YOUR DAD
AND THE
WATER ARE A
DEFENSE TO
HIDE YOUR
REAL SELF.



YOUR
"WATER IN
THE SHAPE
OF YOUR
DAD,"

YOUR
HOMUNCULUS
...



THE
YAKUZA'S
ROBOT,

WAS JUST
A BOY
COVERED IN
A ROBOT
BODY...

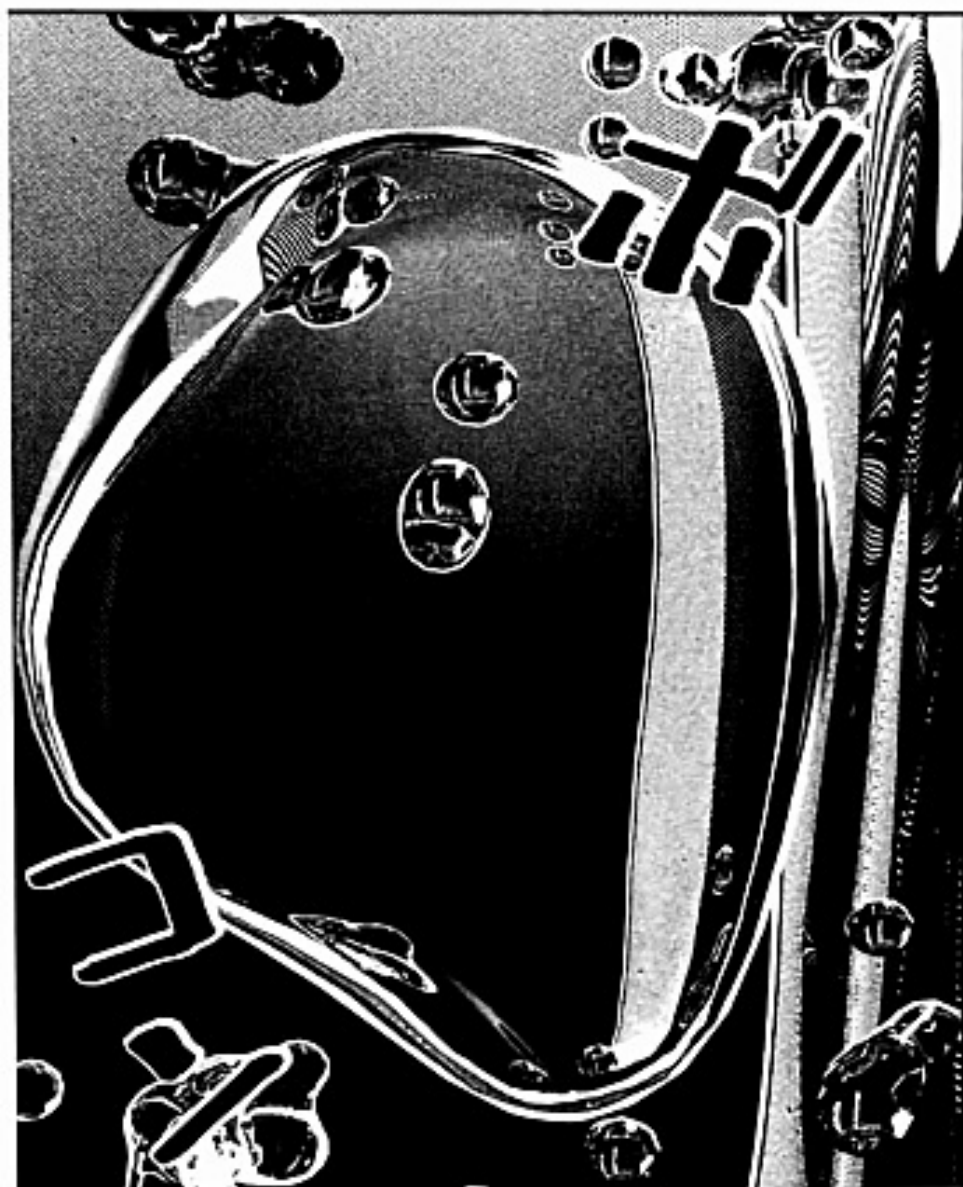


THE SAND
GIRL

WAS ALL
SYMBOLS
DISGUISED
AS SAND...



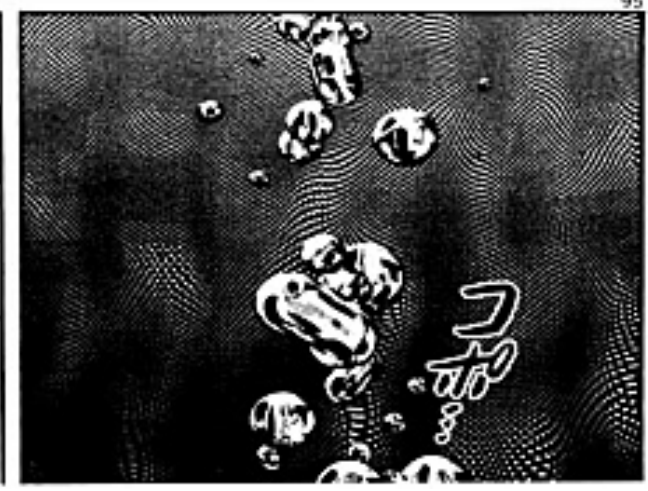
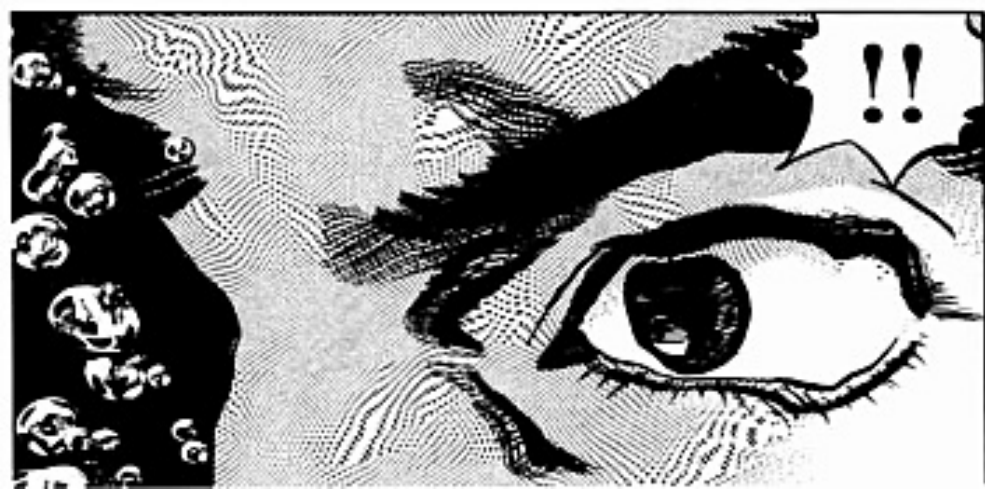
IS NOTHING
BUT A
FRONT TO
HIDE YOUR
TRUE SELF.



YOU'VE GOT
TO HAVE
SOMETHING
ELSE DEEP
DOWN!









96



LOOK
HOW
SMALL
IT IS...



HIDING
IN HIS
POCKET
...

THERE
IT IS...

BLUES

SO IT DIDN'T
JUST
DISAPPEAR.

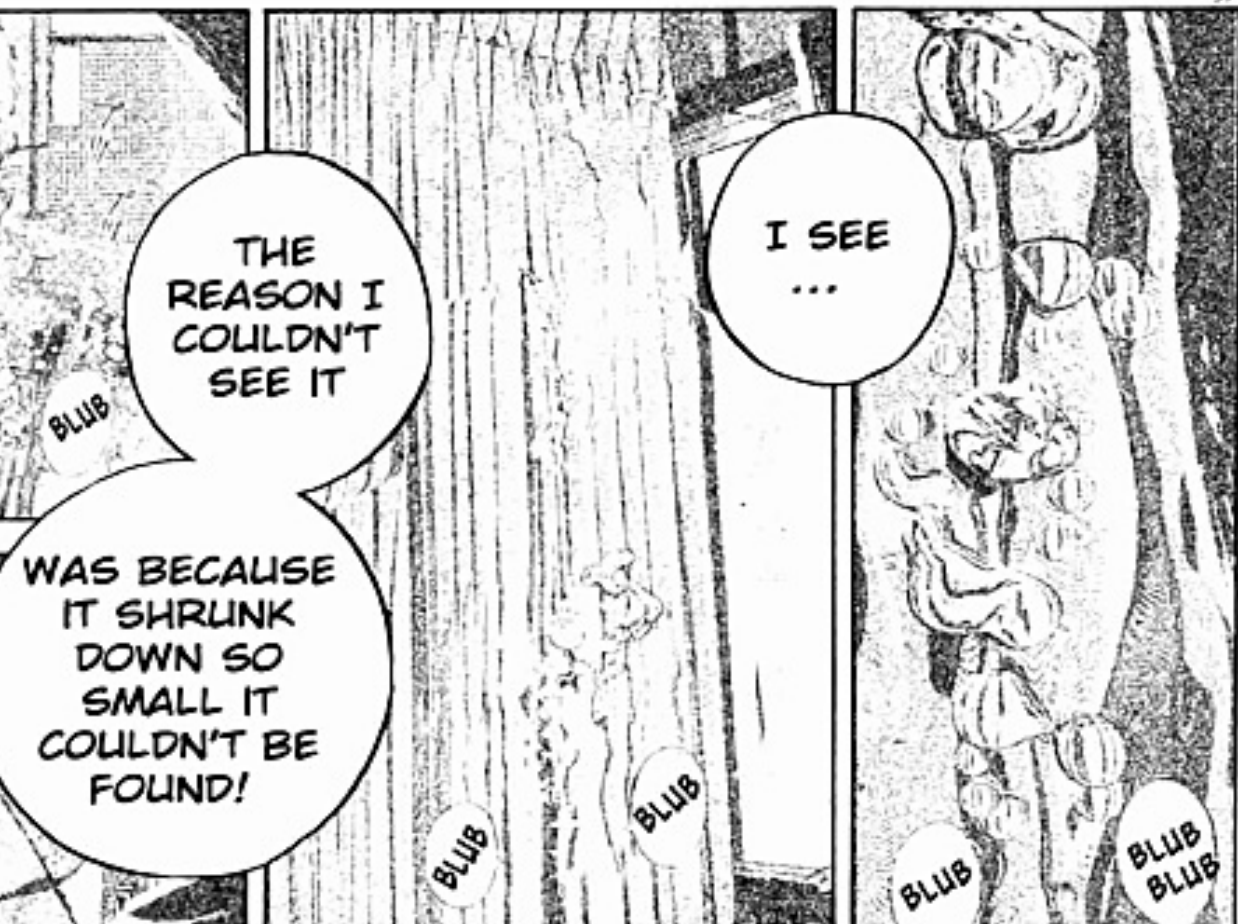


THE
REASON I
COULDN'T
SEE IT

BLUB

WAS BECAUSE
IT SHRUNK
DOWN SO
SMALL IT
COULDN'T BE
FOUND!

I SEE
...







HUH ?!

SHOW ME INSIDE YOUR POCKET.



HUH?



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

WAAAA



YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA ...?

NO WAY.

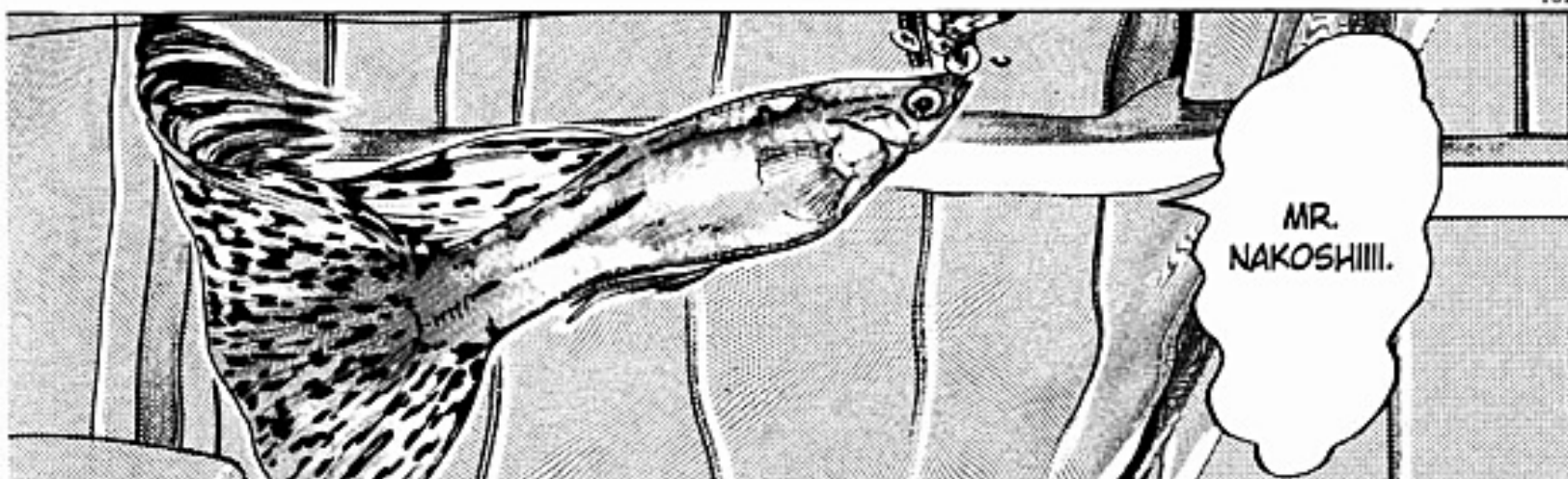
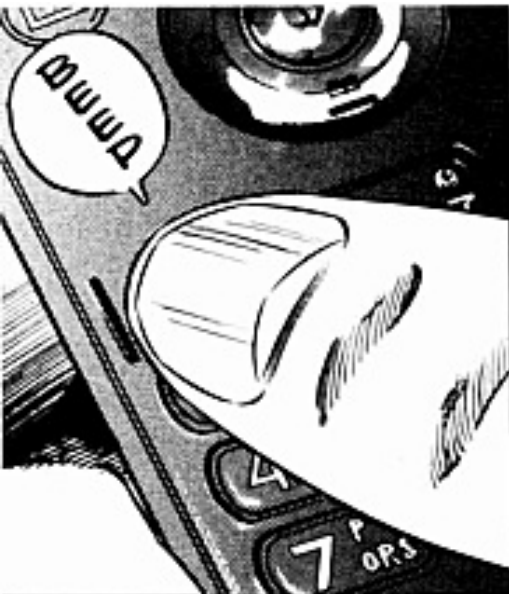


I DON'T WANT TO ...



JUST SHOW ME!











IT'S TRUE...
JUST A TOTALLY
NORMAL
COLLEGE
FRIEND, NOTHING
MORE.

LIAR!

WHO IS
SHE?!



JUST A
LADY
FRIEND
FROM
COLLEGE...



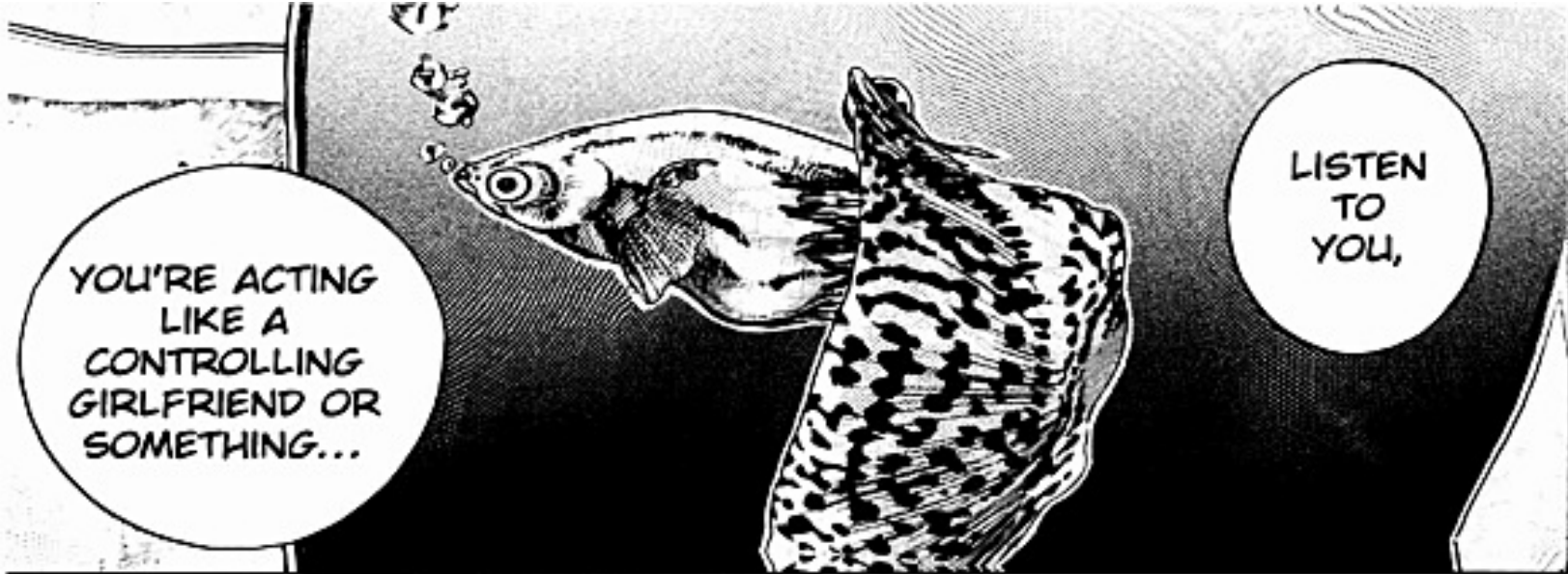
WHAT ARE
YOU HIDING
FROM ME?!

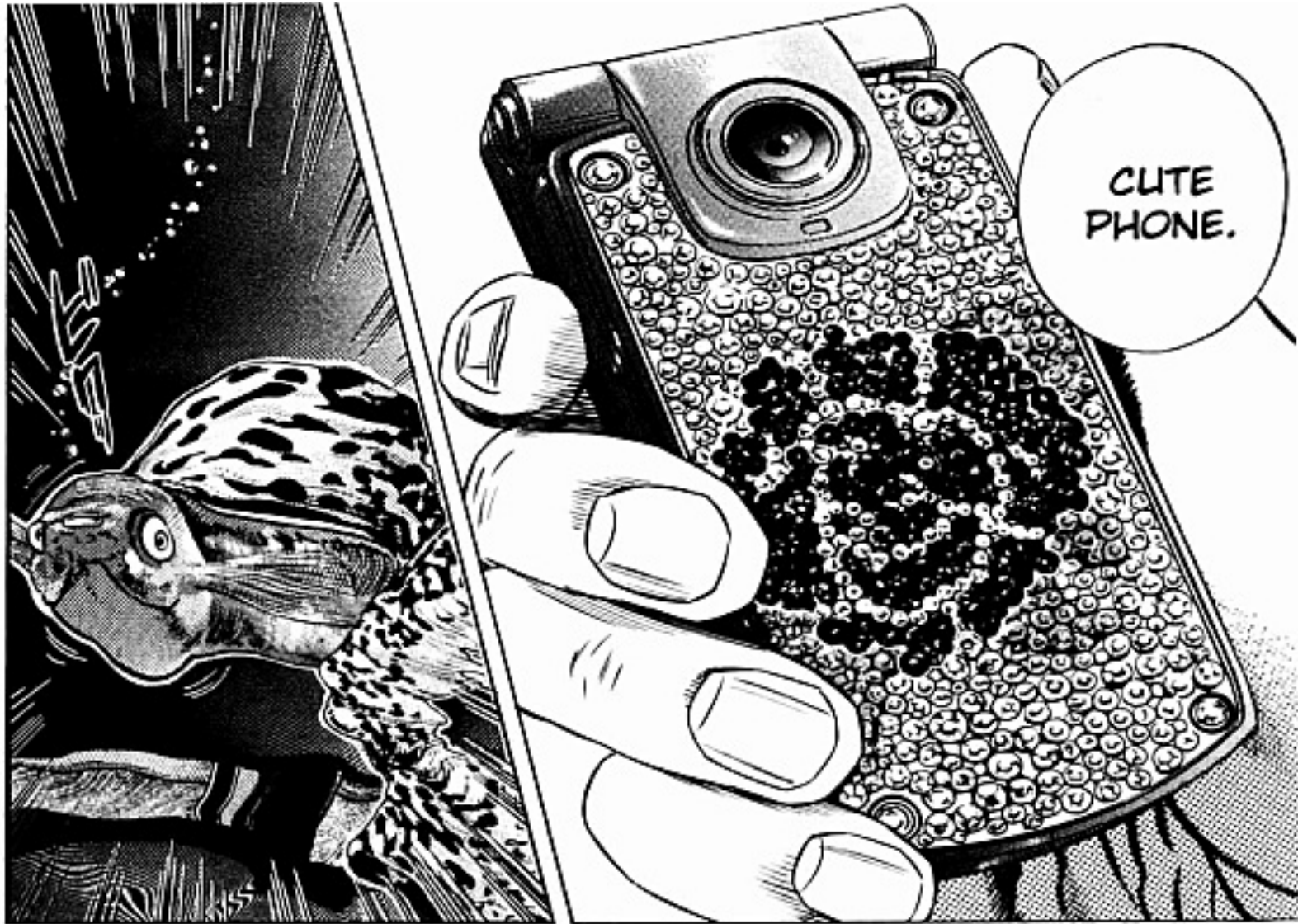
I
DON'T
BELIEVE
THAT!



MR.
NAKOSHI
!

PLEASE,
KNOCK
IT OFF,





CUTE
PHONE.



PHONE
...?

HUH?



BLEB

BLEB



!



???





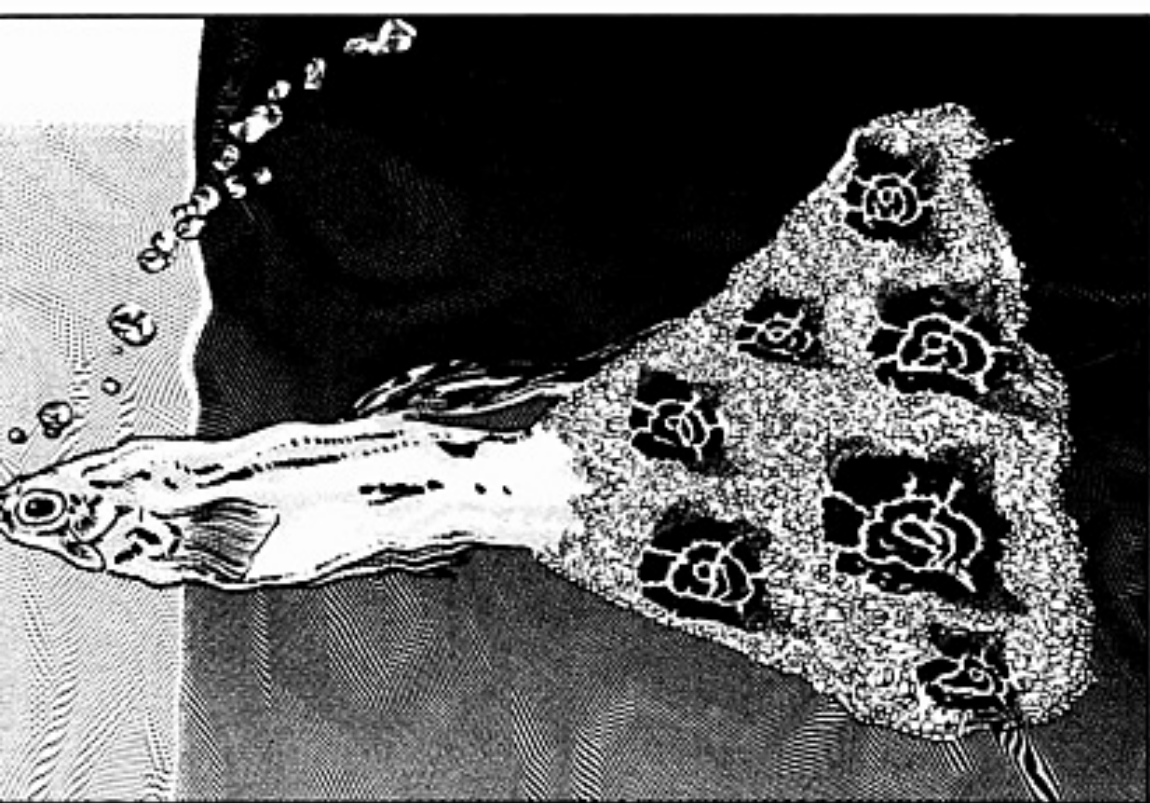
GEEZ
...



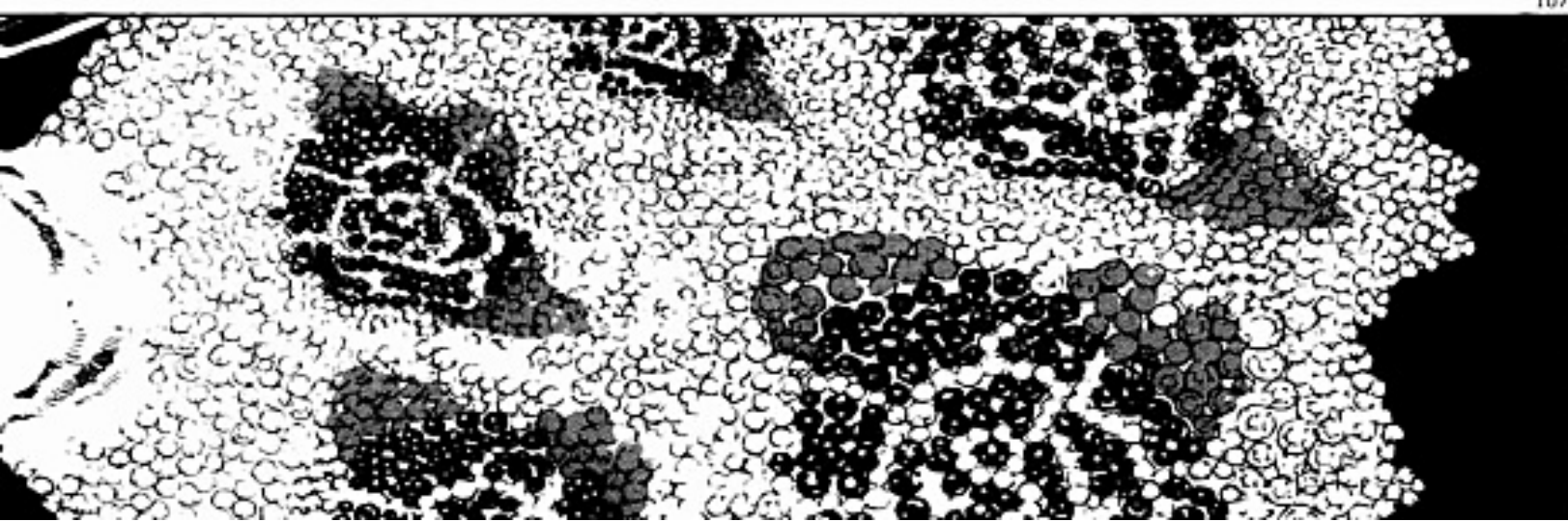
GIVE
THAT
BACK.

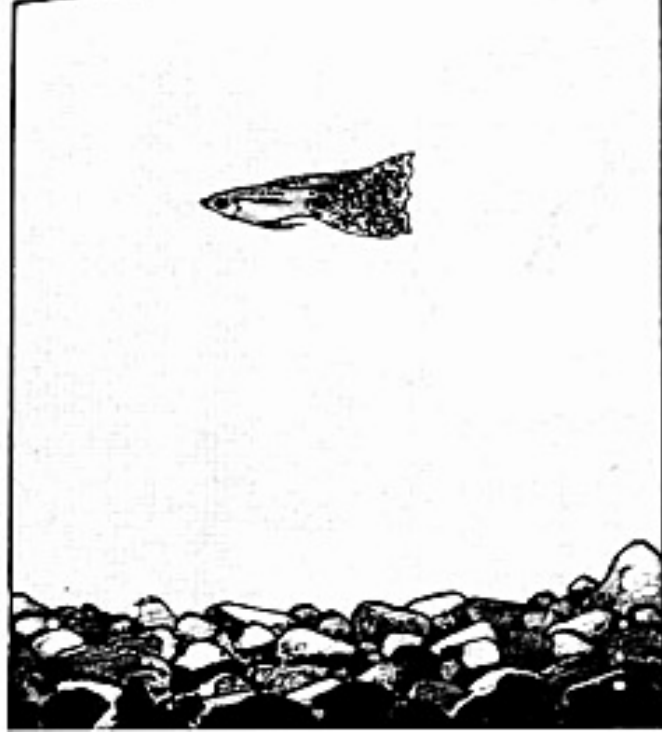
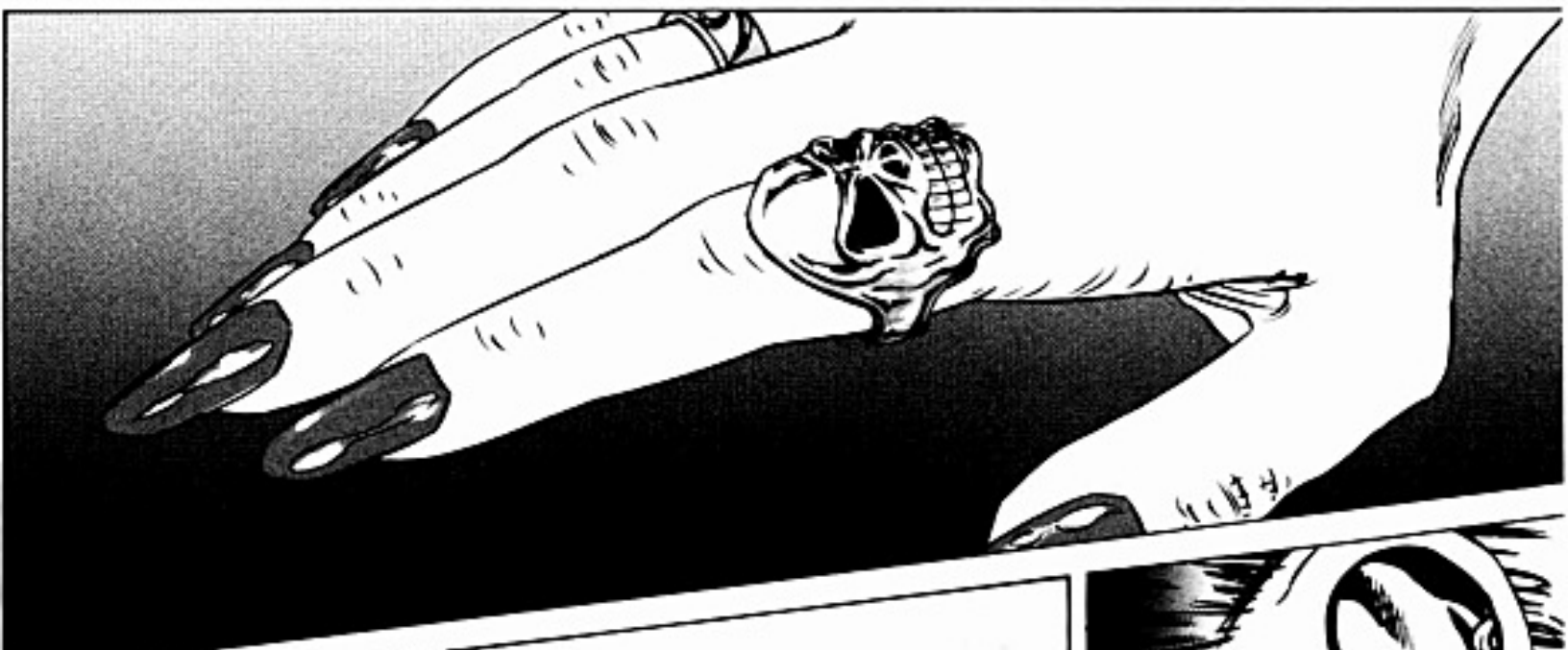
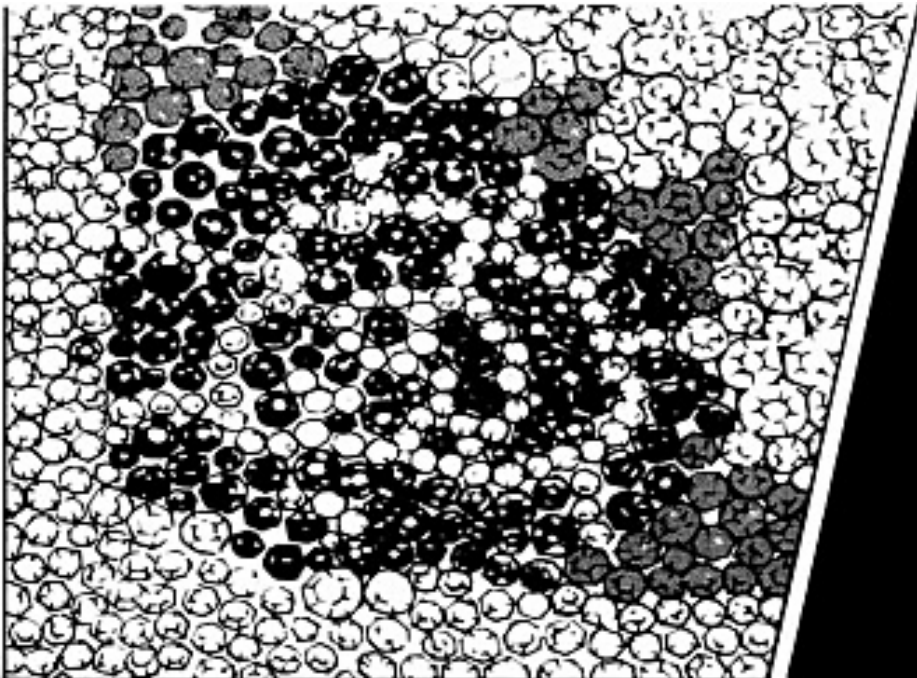


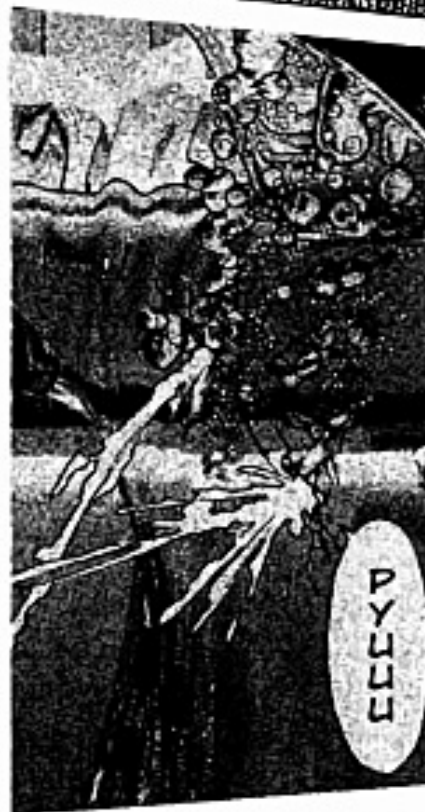
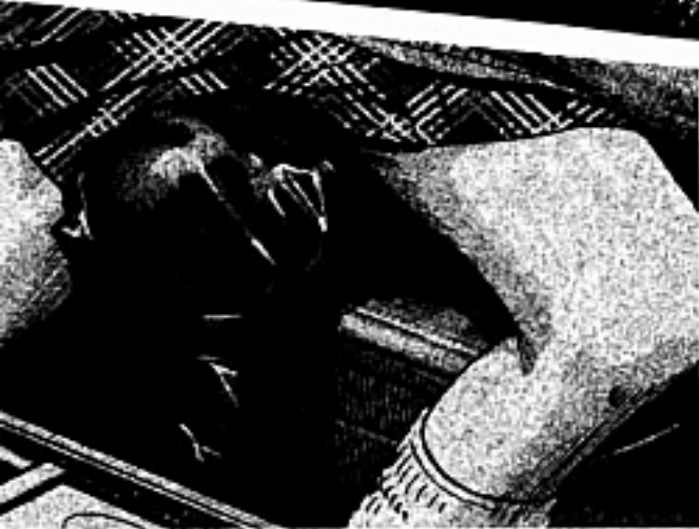
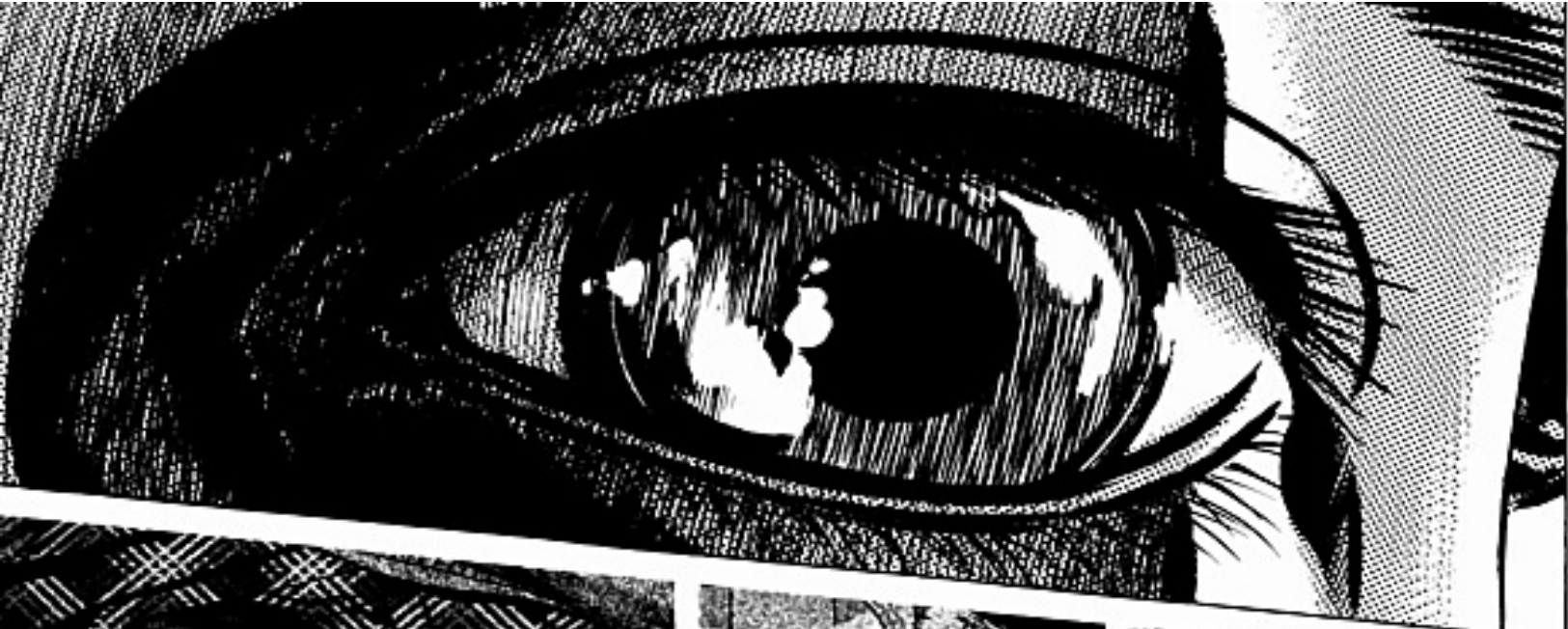
G...



!



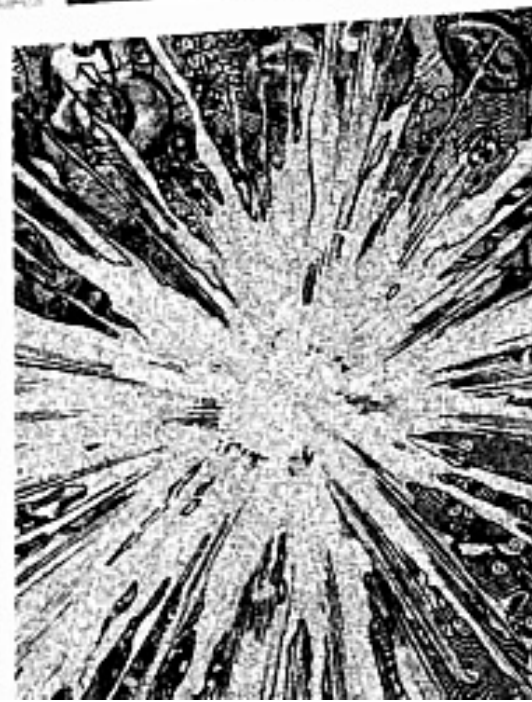
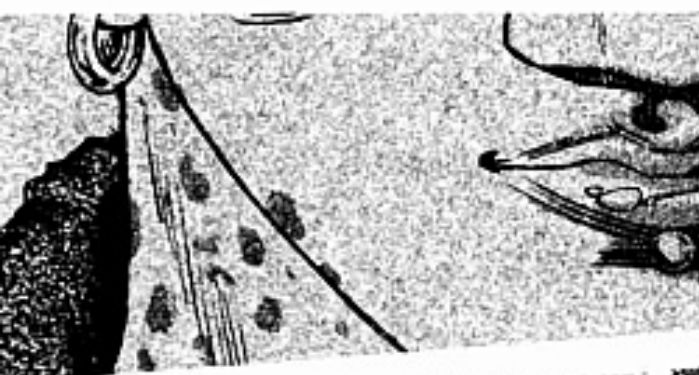




PYUUU

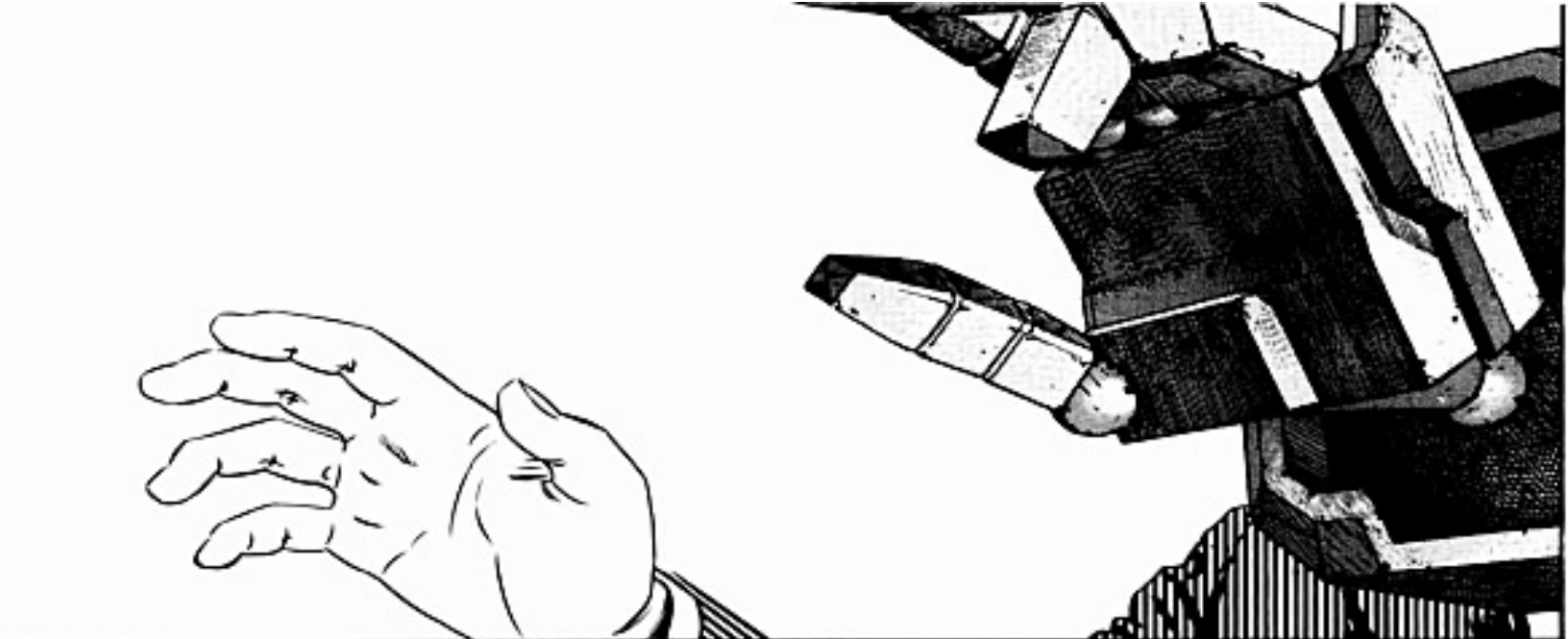


YOU'RE NOT LETTING ME TOUCH IT.

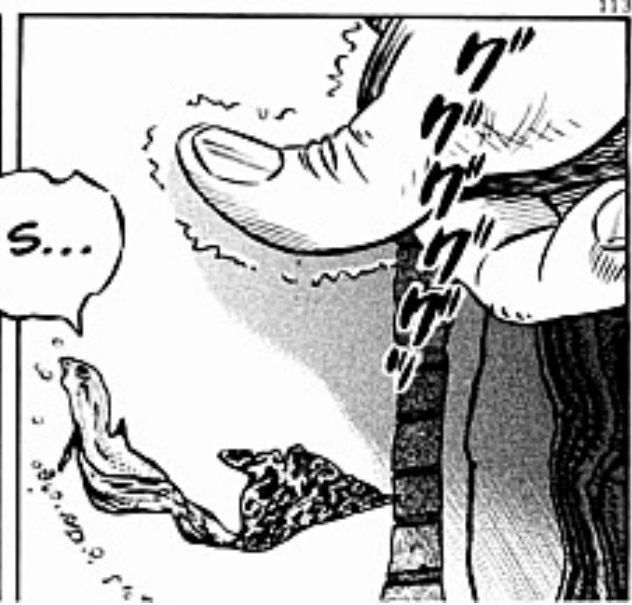
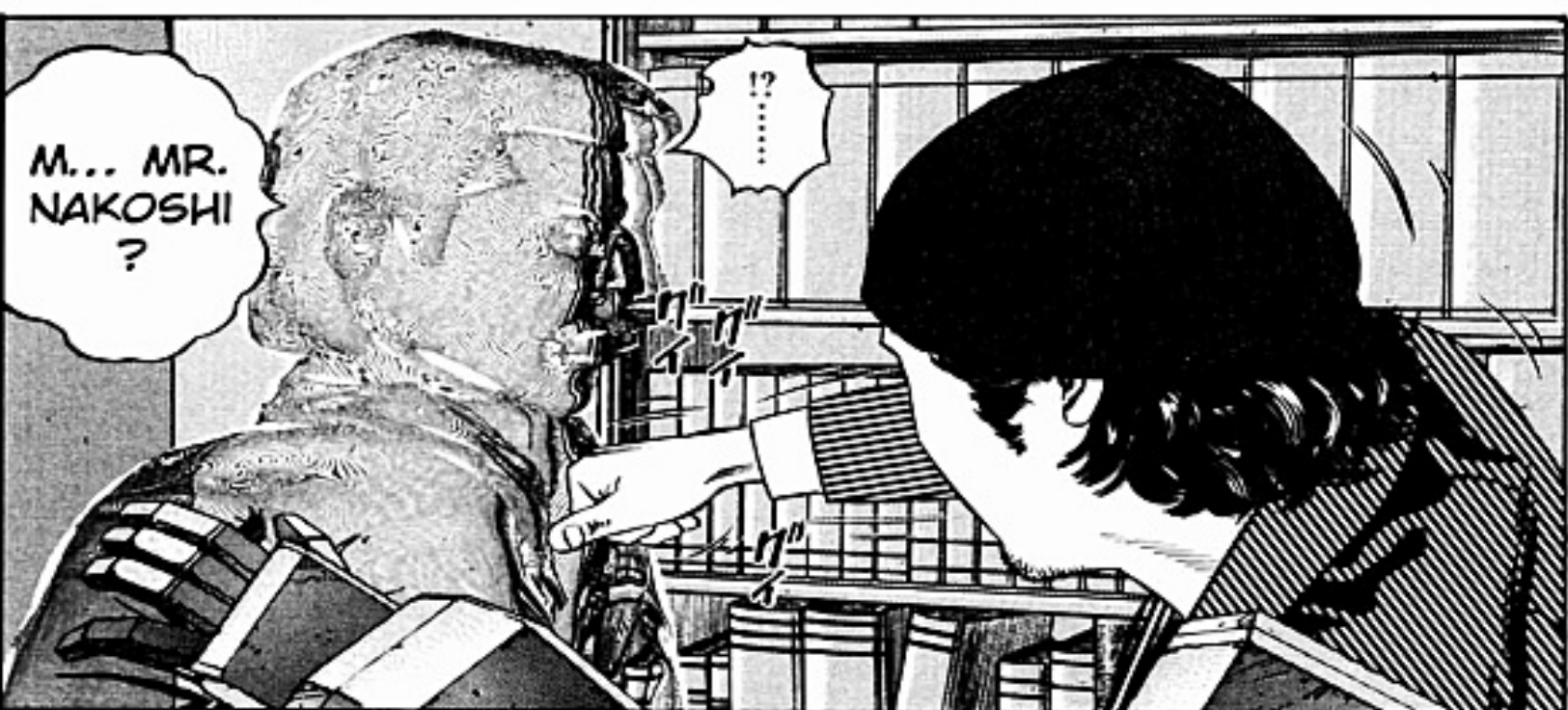


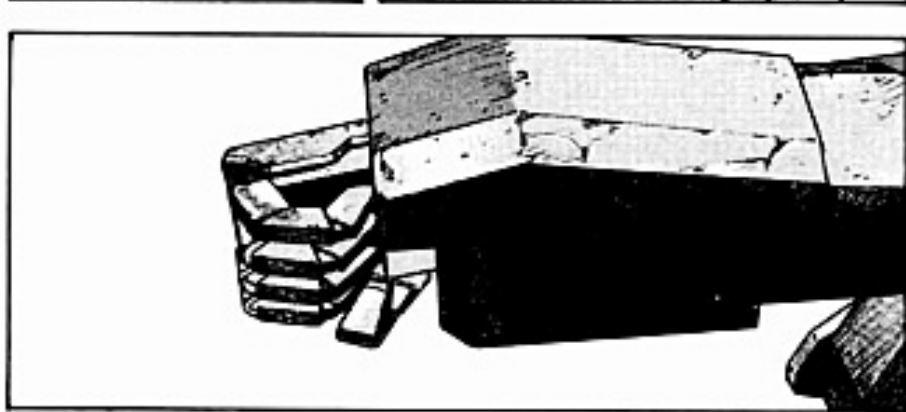
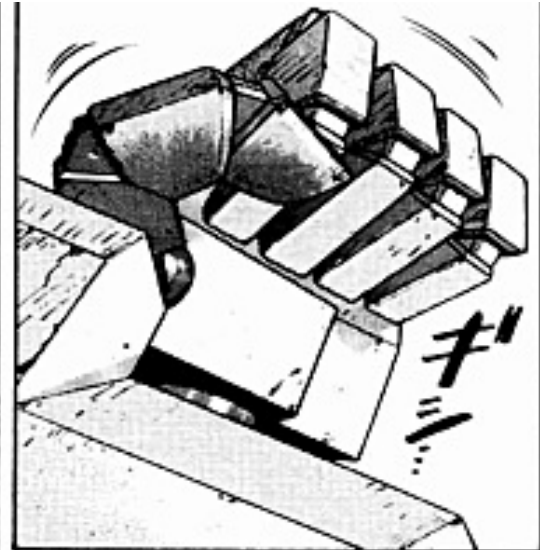
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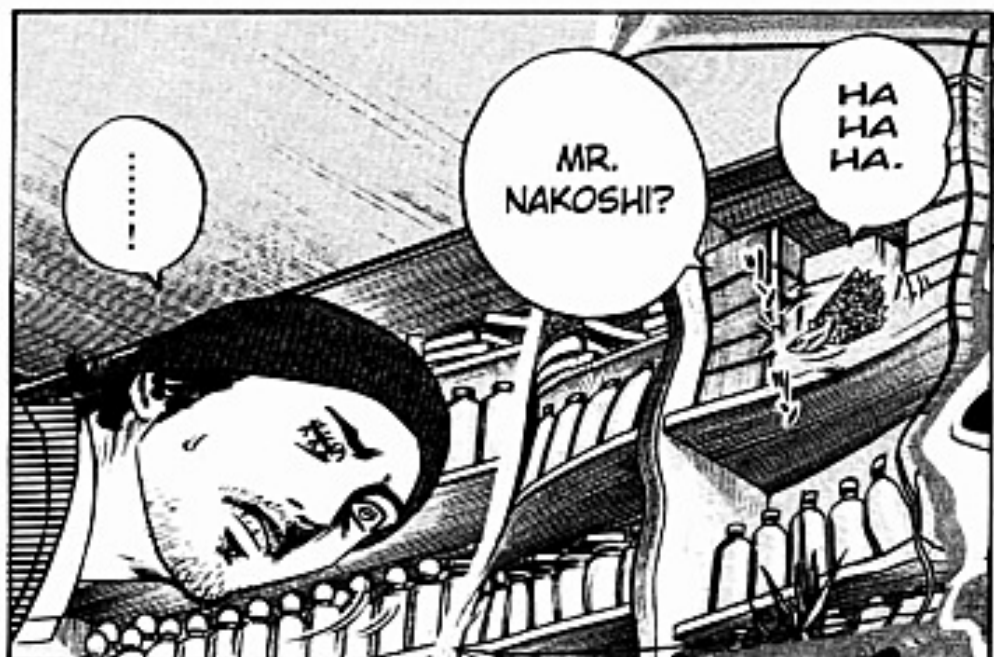
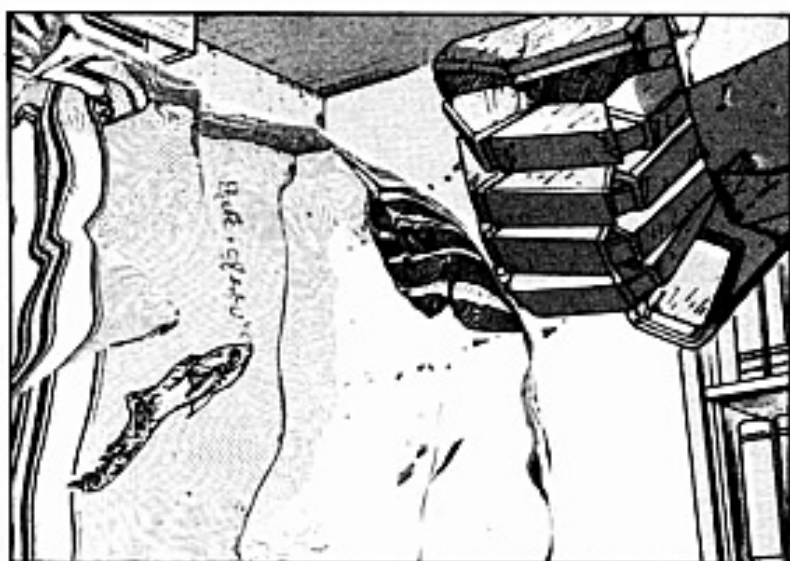


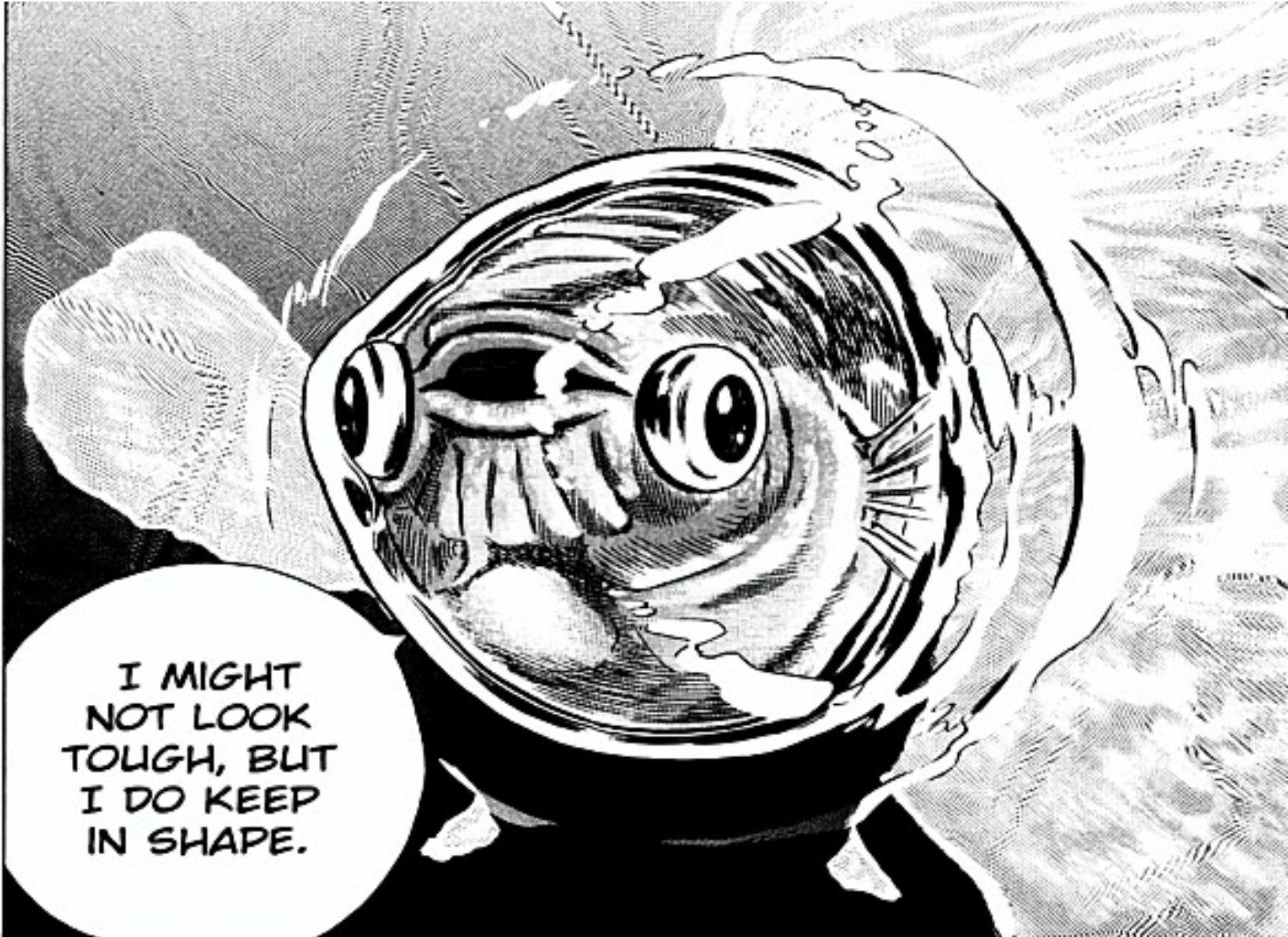




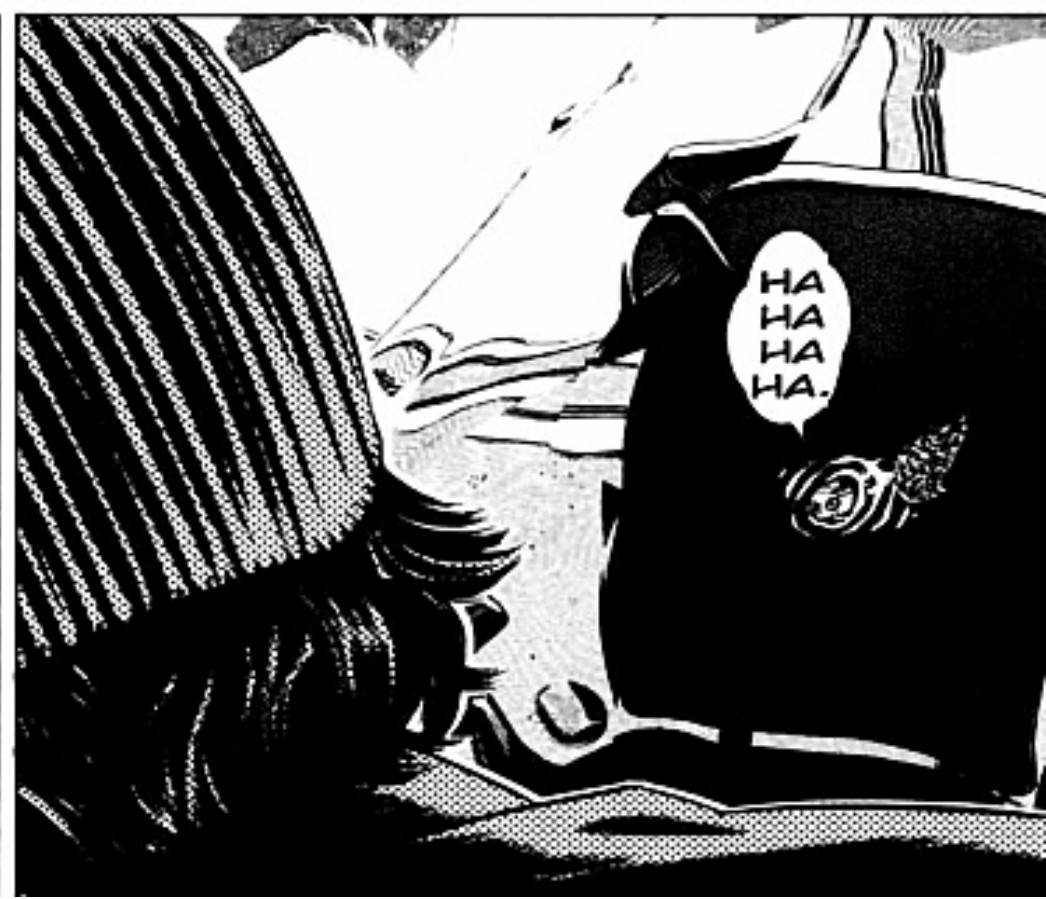




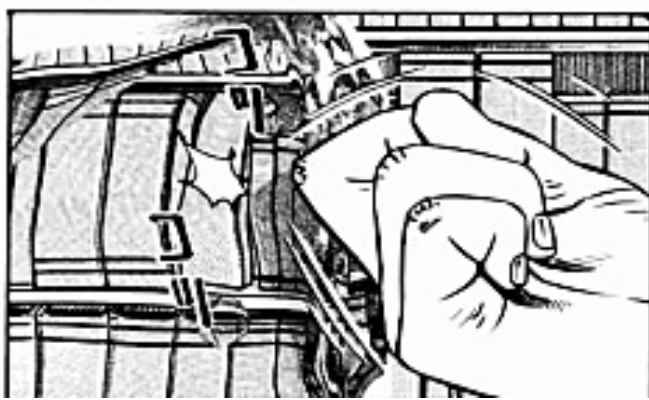
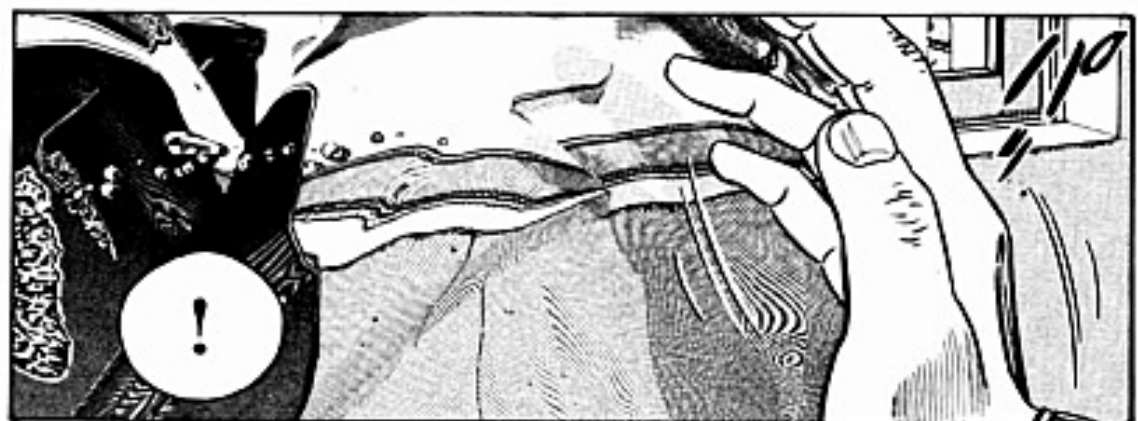
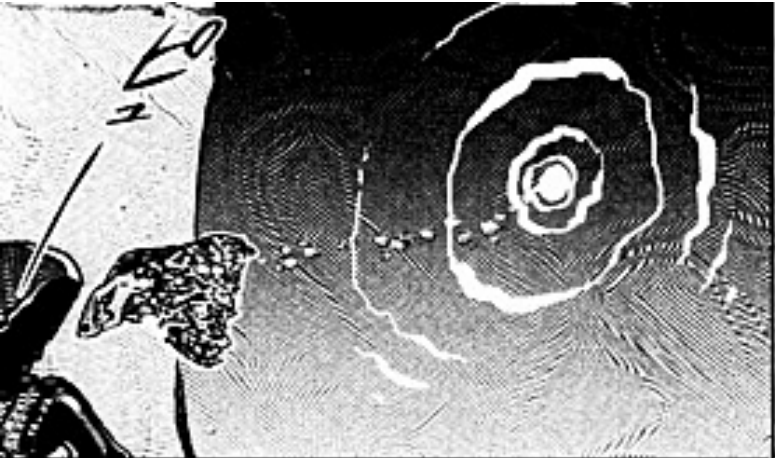


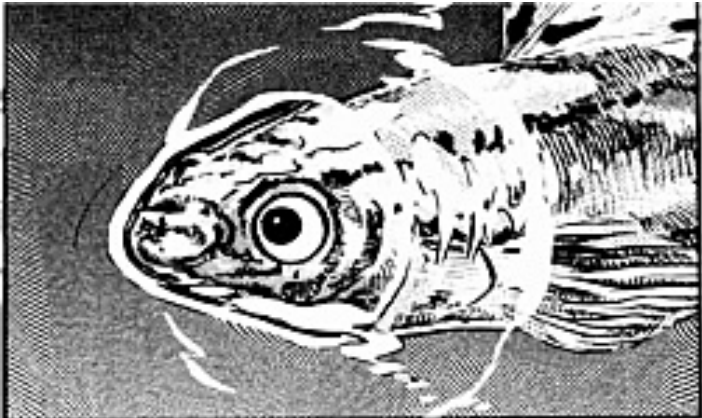


I MIGHT
NOT LOOK
TOUGH, BUT
I DO KEEP
IN SHAPE.

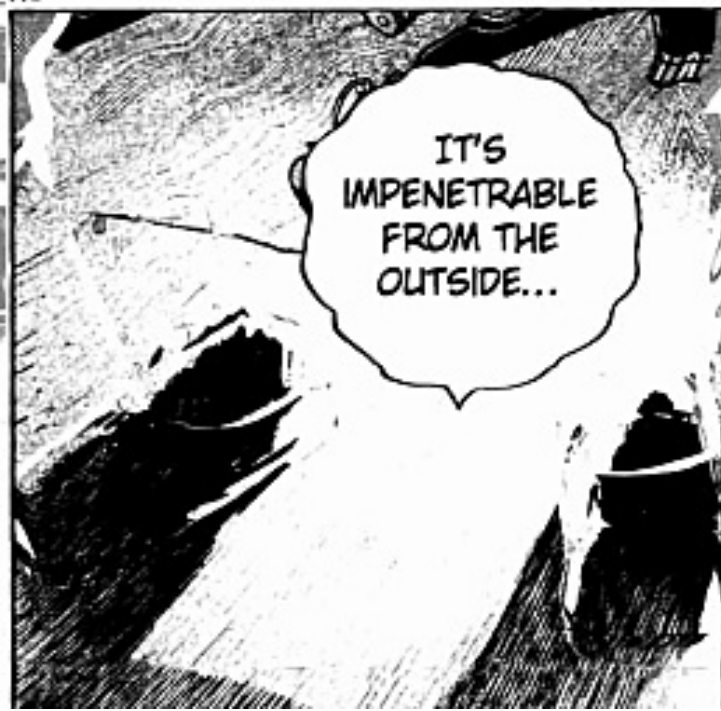


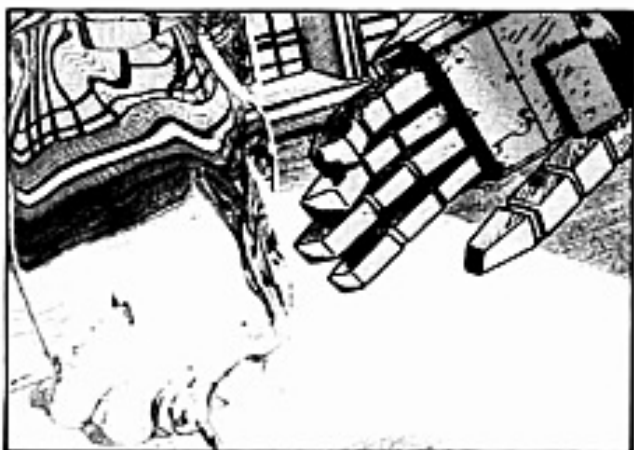
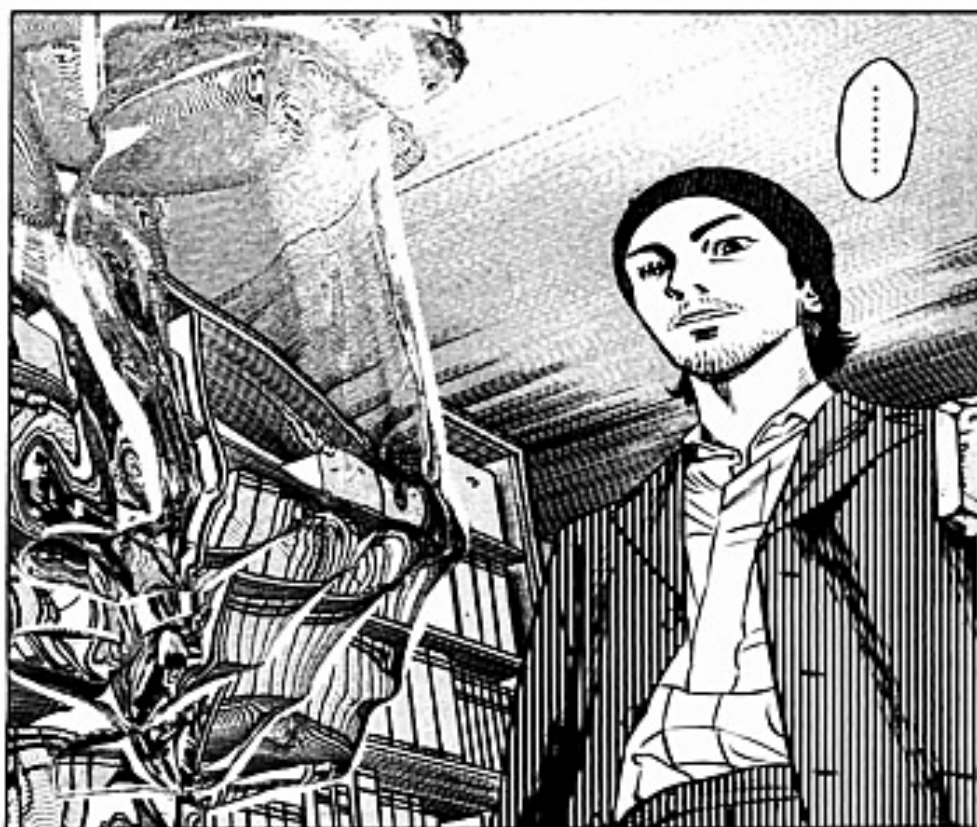
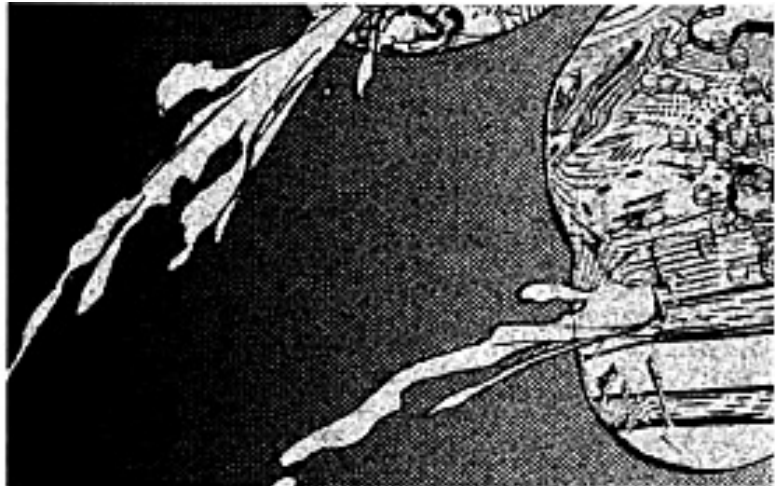
HA
HA
HA
HA.

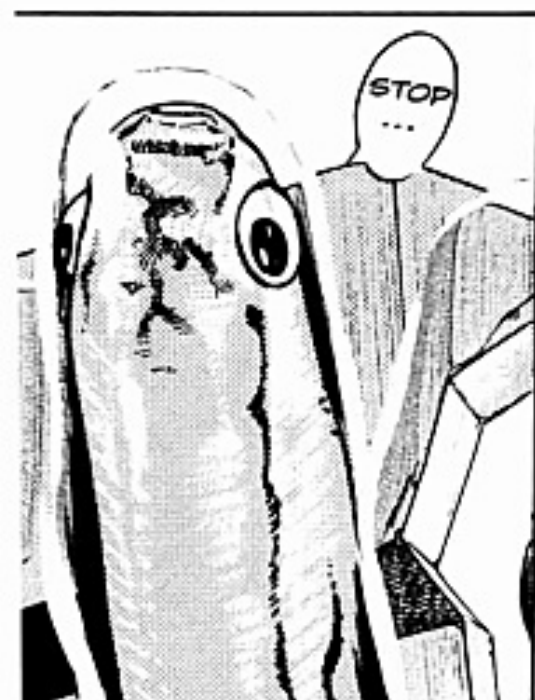


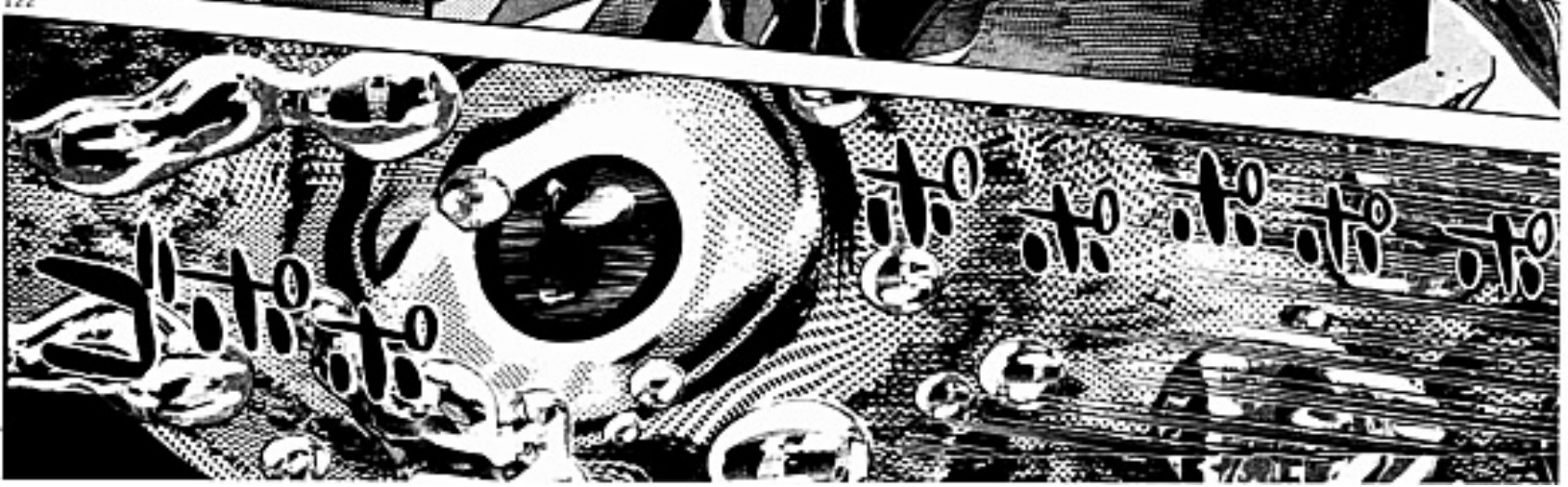
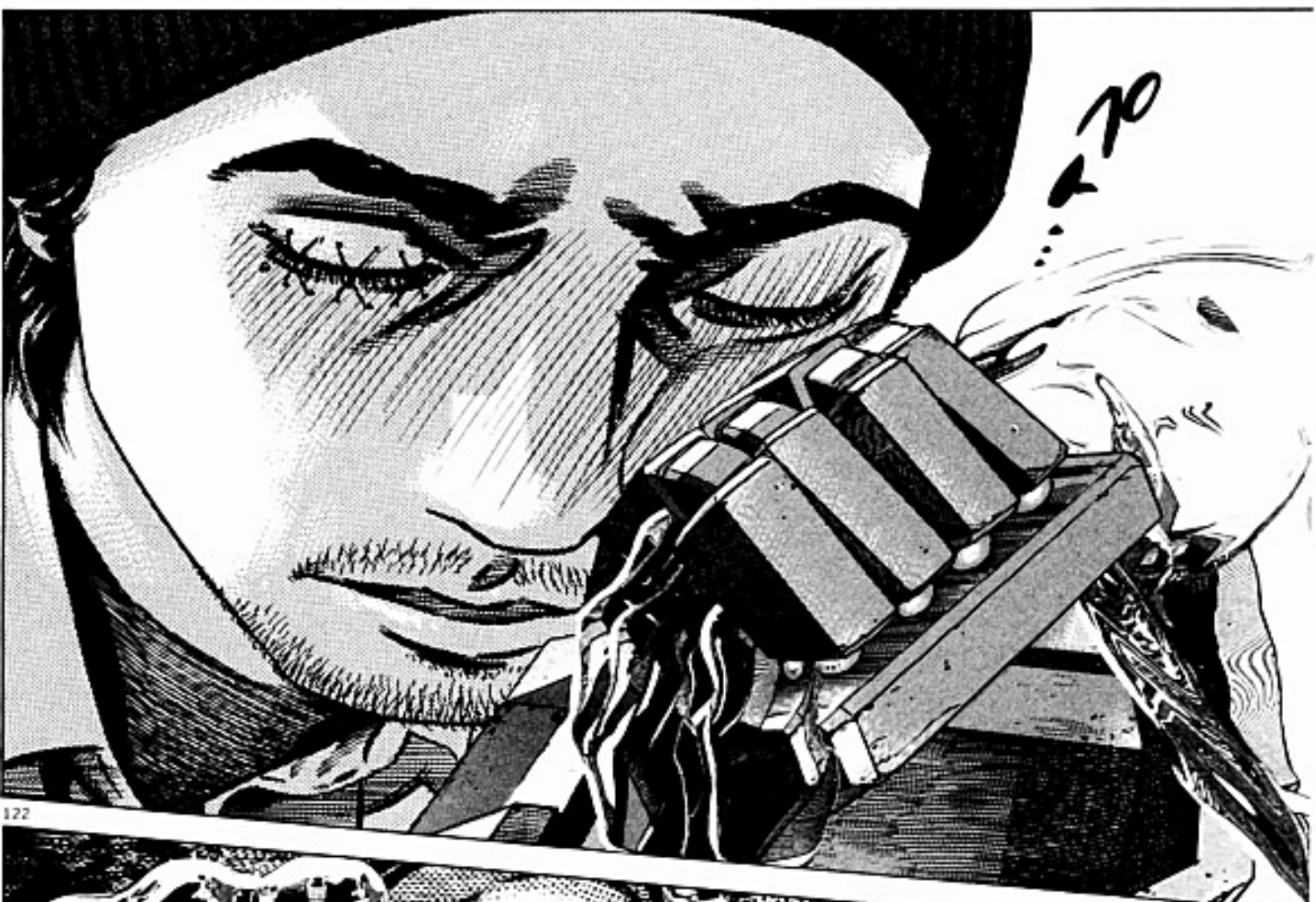


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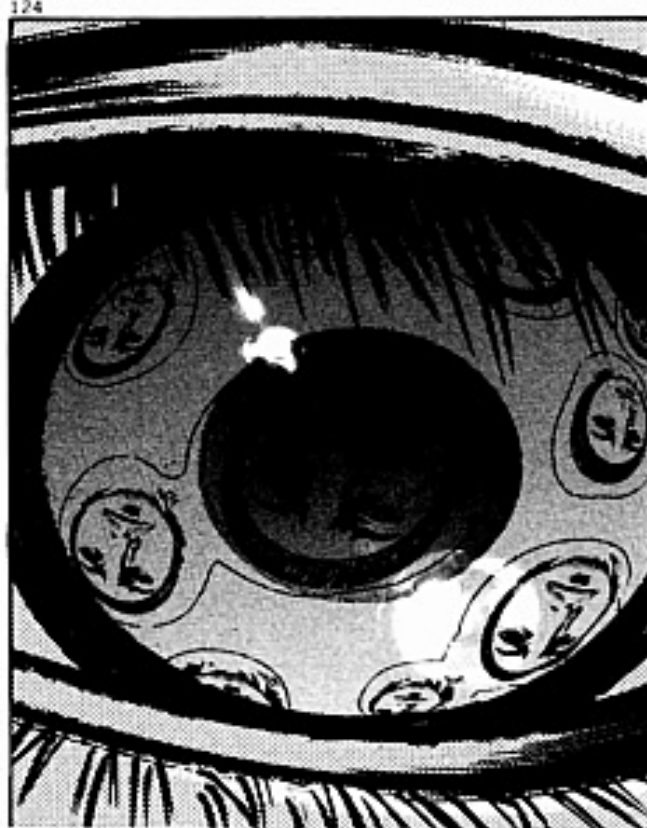
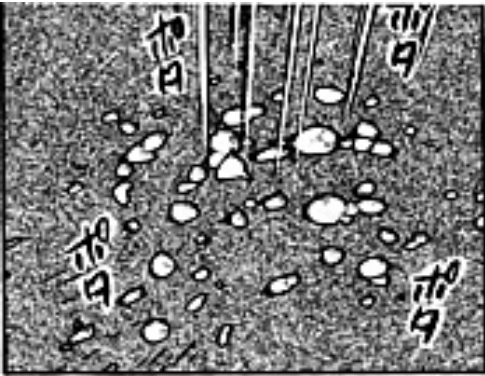






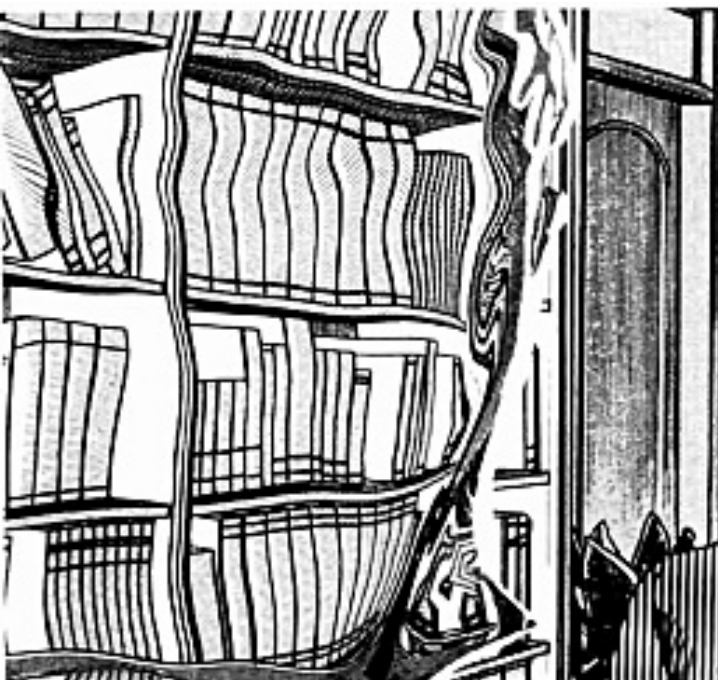






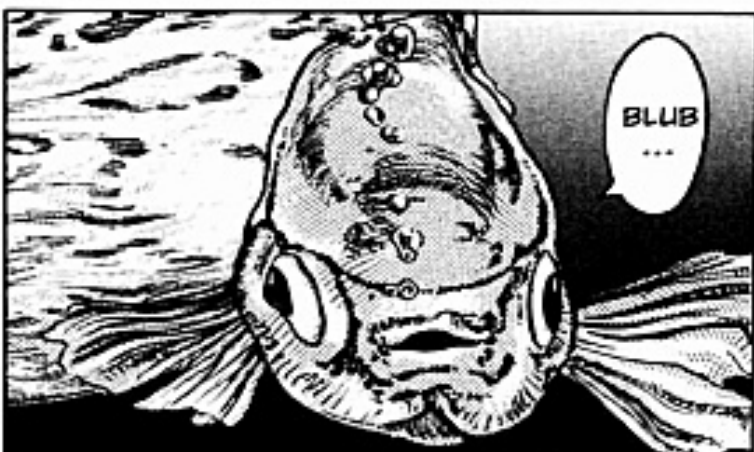








WHY DID YOU RUN?



BLUB ...



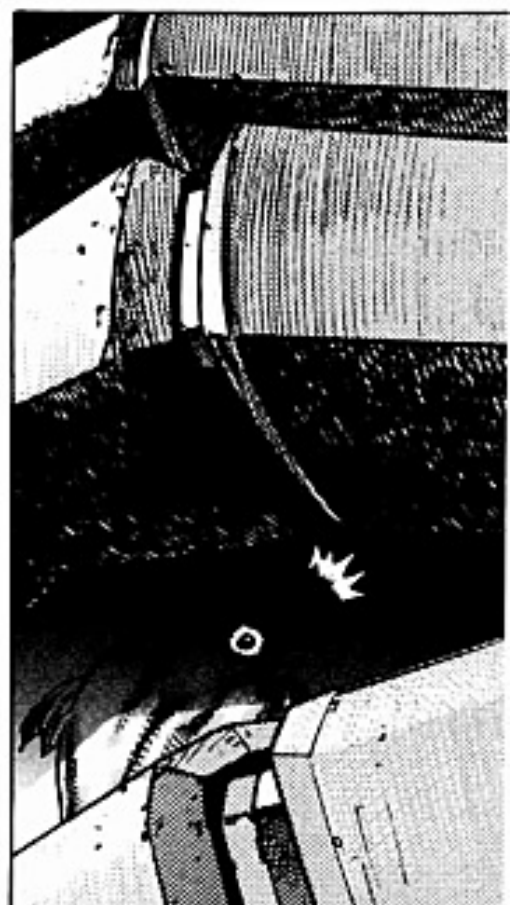
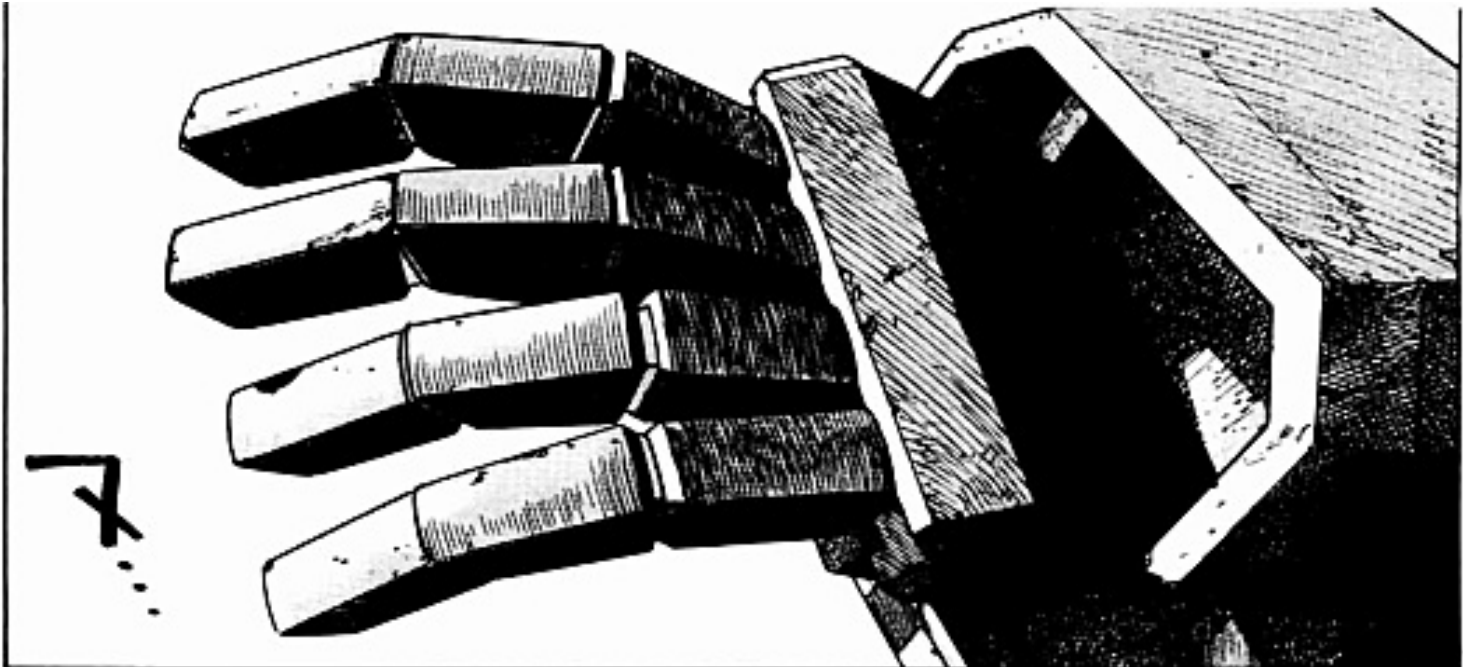
TO YOU.

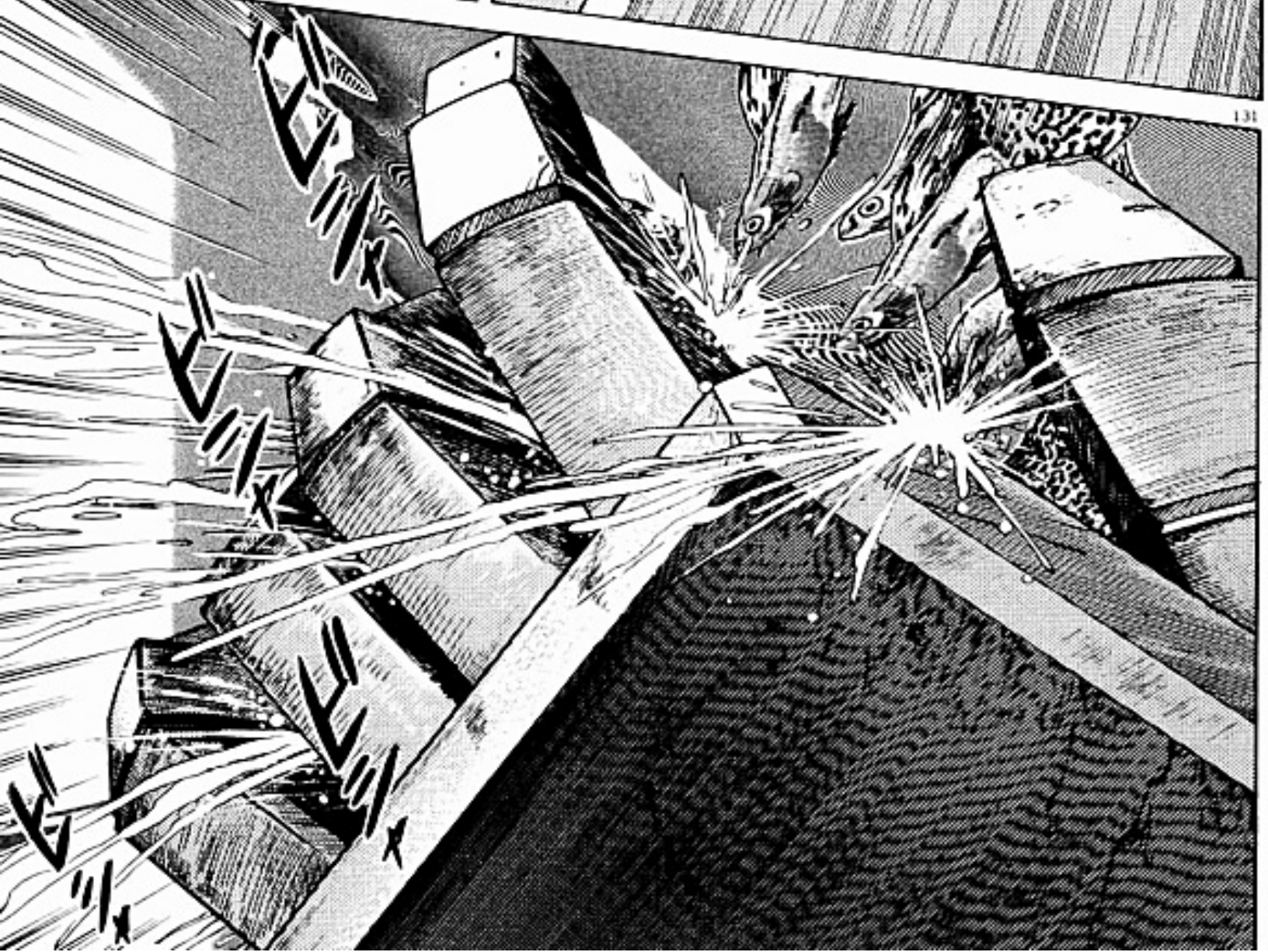
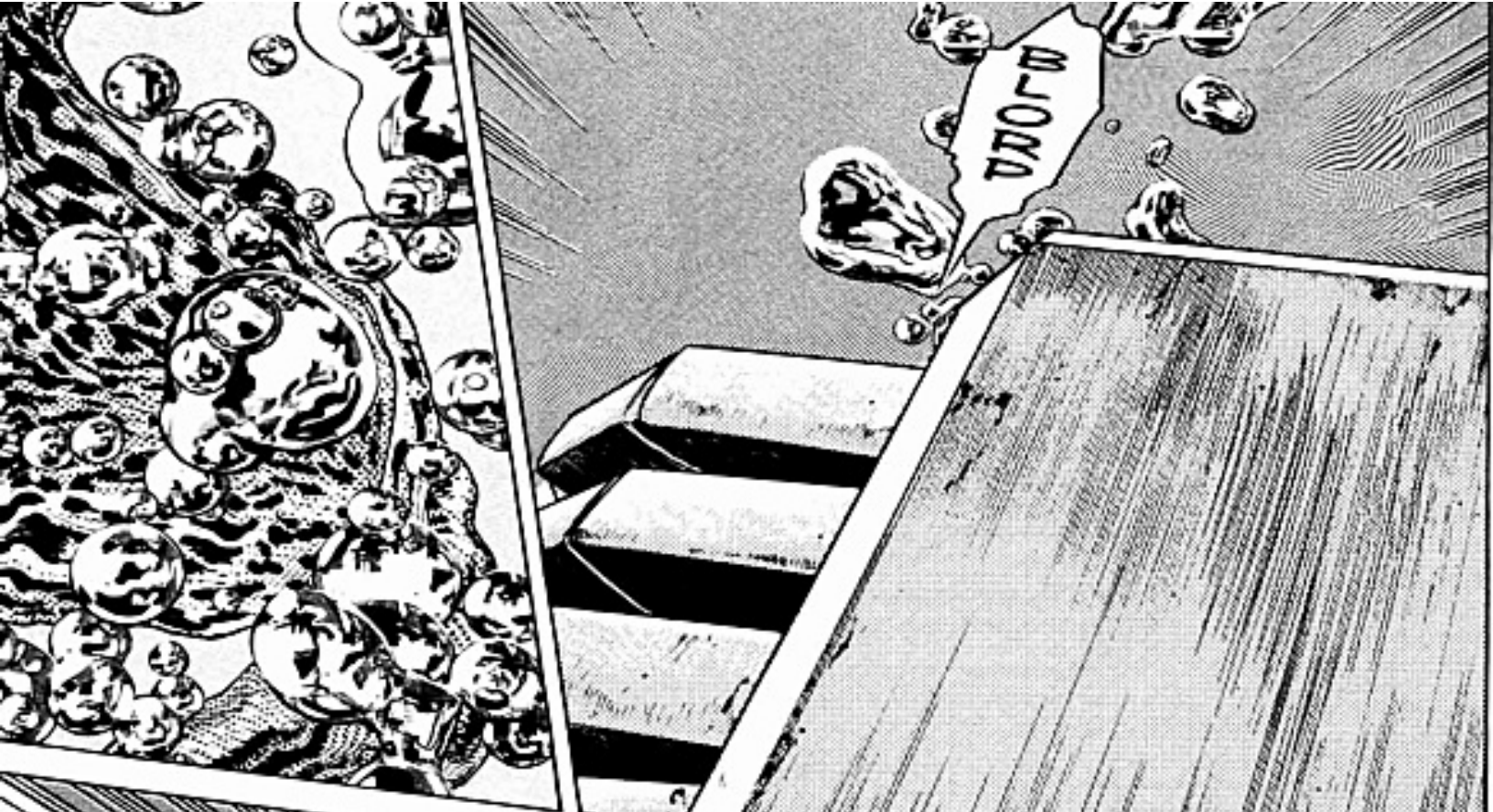


!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, MR. NAKOSHI? WHO ELSE IS EVEN HERE?



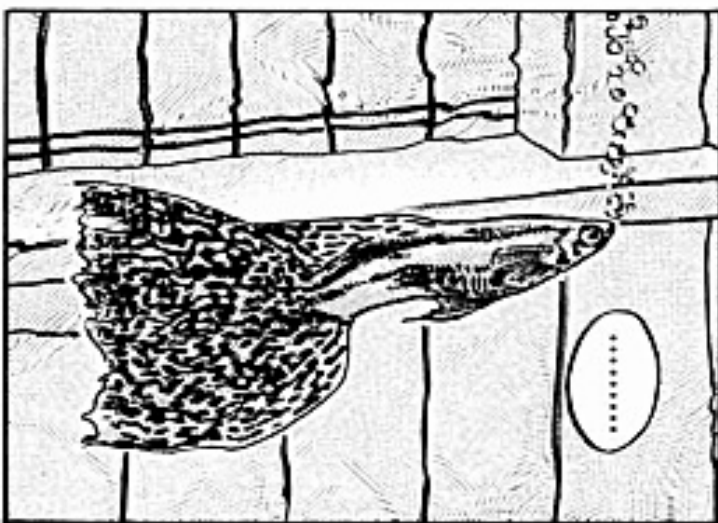






MR.
NAKOSHI,

THIS IS
GETTING
REALLY
SILLY NOW
...



.....



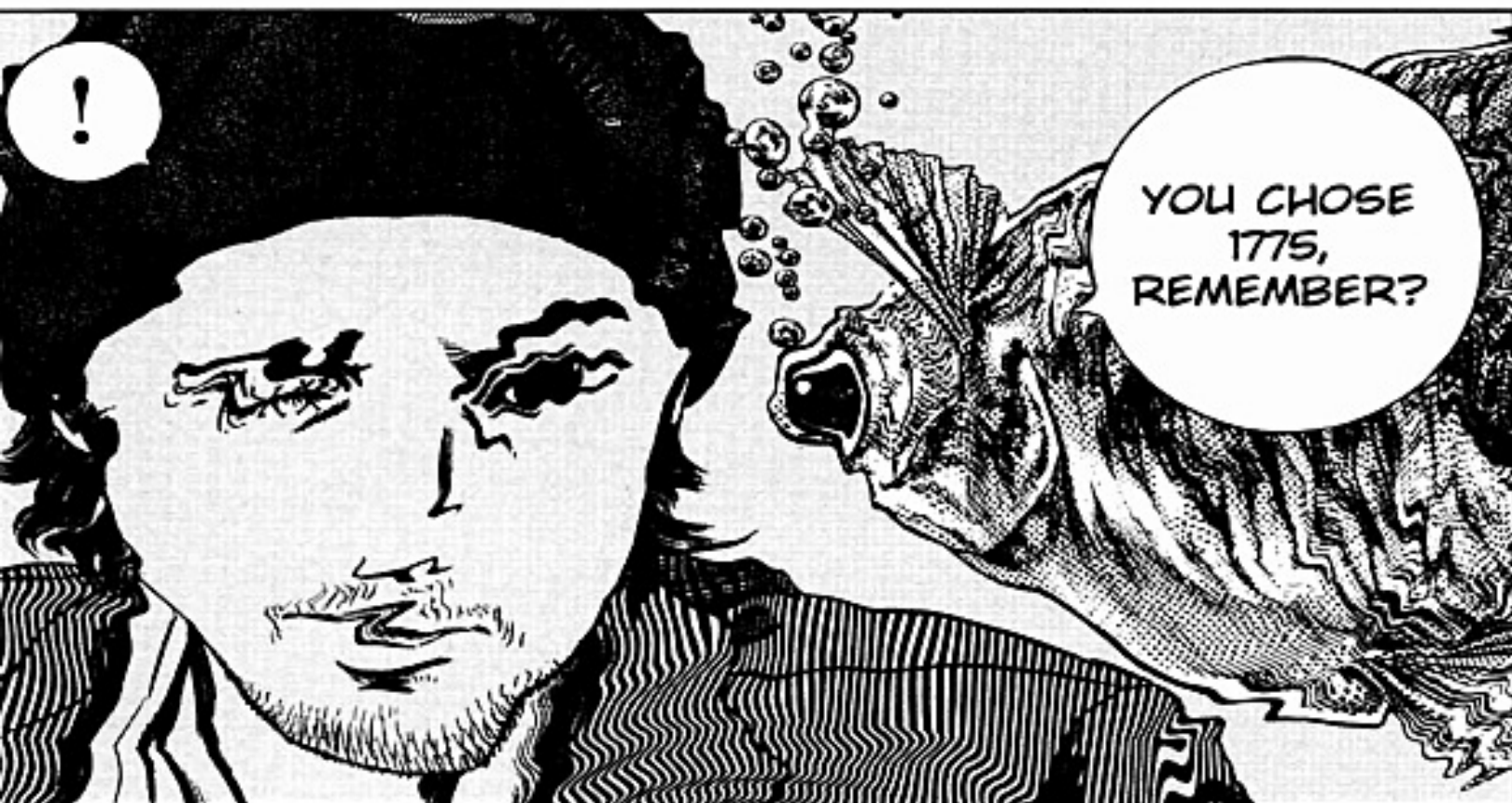
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
TOLD ME TO
TRY THIS.



CHOOSE
HER, OF
ALL OF
THEM...?

WHY
DID WE
...

WHY
...





1775
AND
YOU

MUST BOTH
BE CARRYING
THE SAME
"SOMETHING"
!



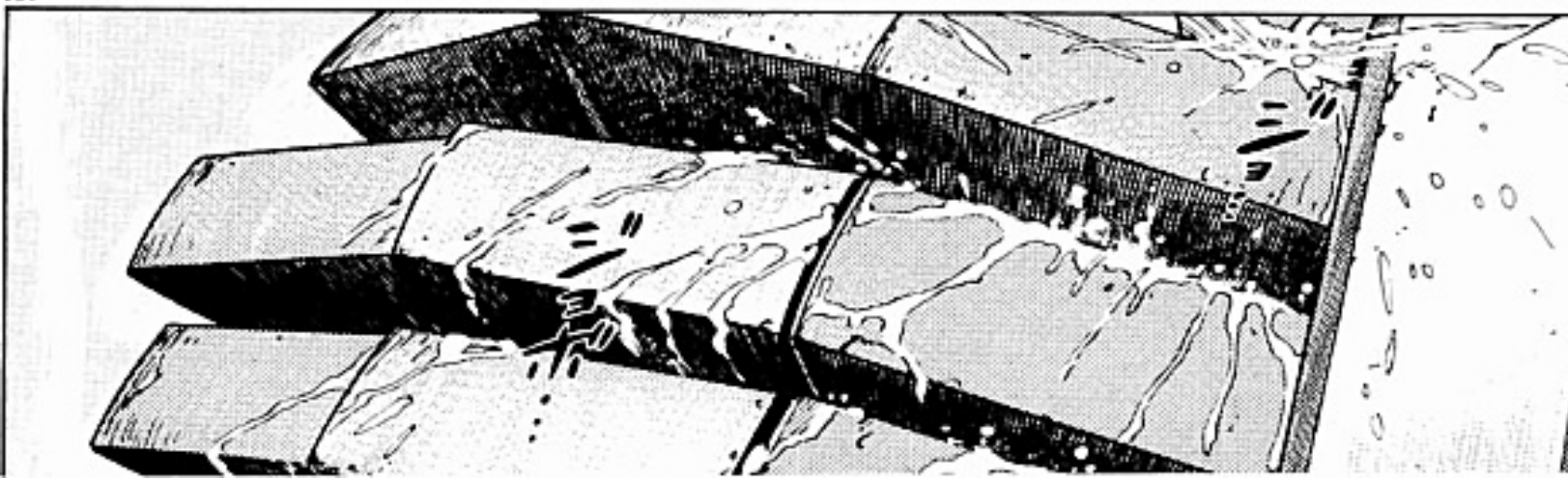
WHAT DREW
YOU TO HER?



!!



コ
コ
コ



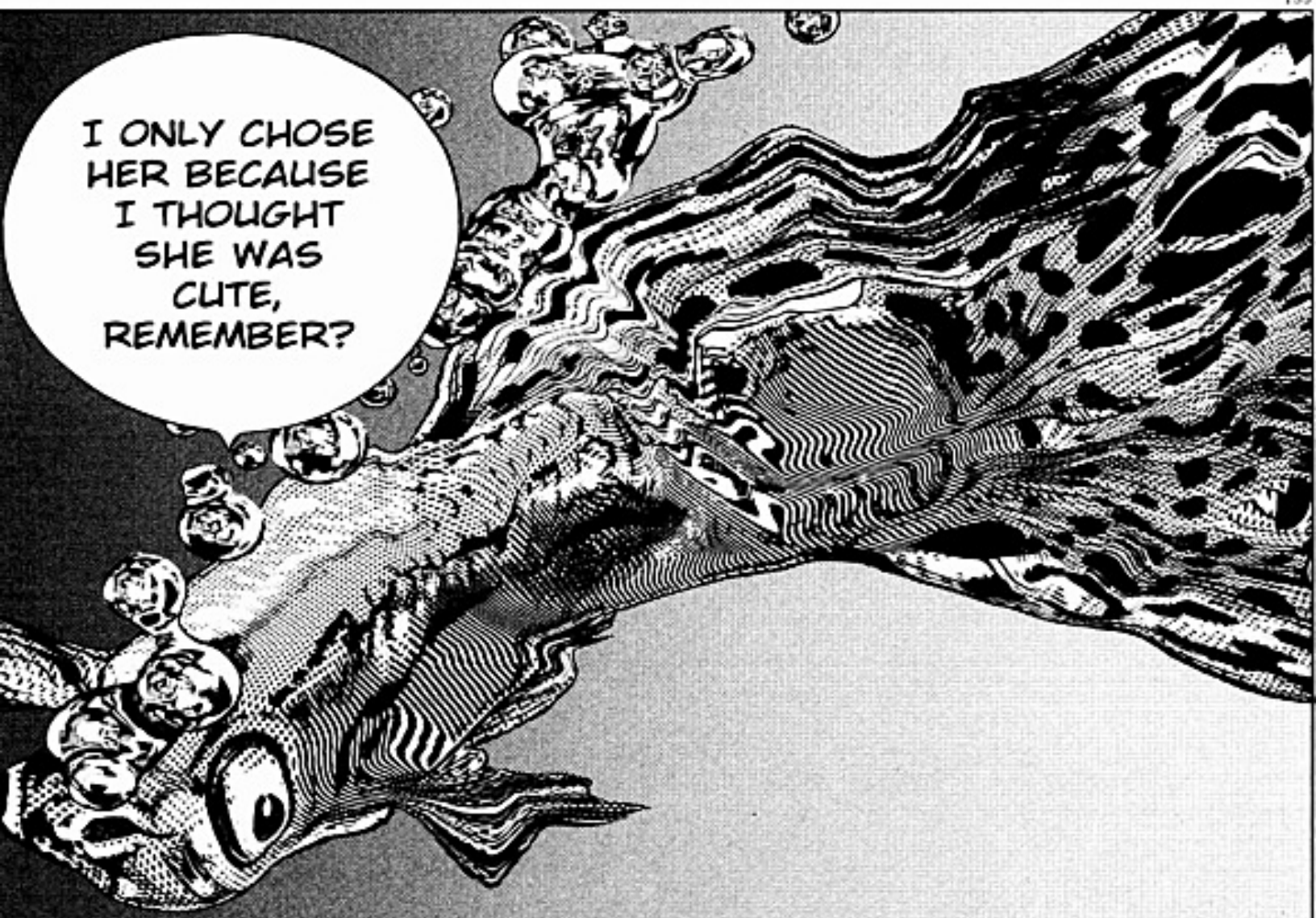


SHARE SOME
ELEMENTS
RELATED TO
PARENTAL
PRESSURE.

MR. NAKOSHI,
IT MIGHT BE
TRUE THAT
HER
HOMUNCULUS
AND MINE



HOWEVER
...



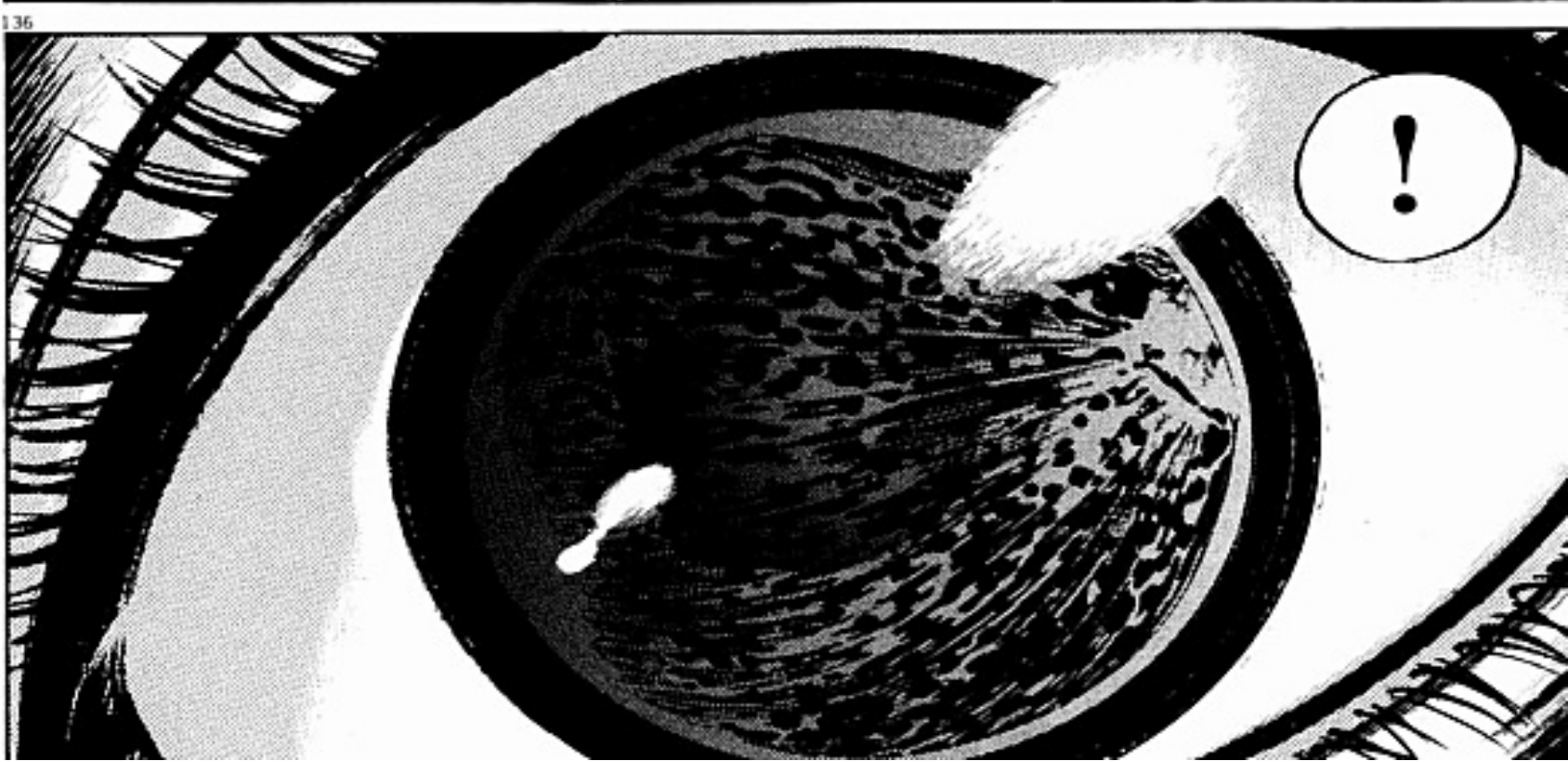
I ONLY CHOSE
HER BECAUSE
I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
CUTE,
REMEMBER?



I
MEAN,

SHE WAS
BEAUTIFUL,
WASN'T SHE?

IN THE
SIMPLEST
WAY.



!

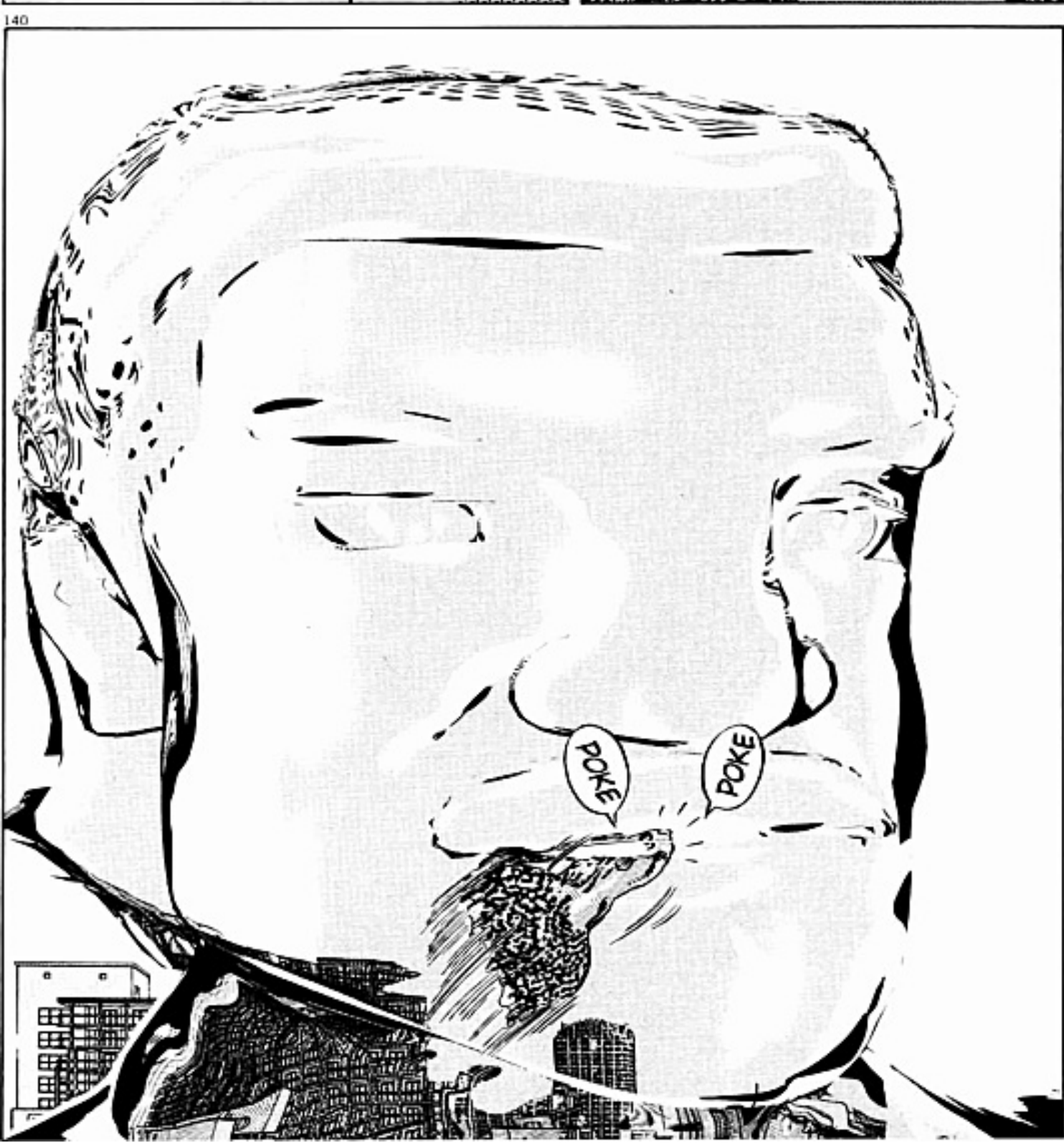
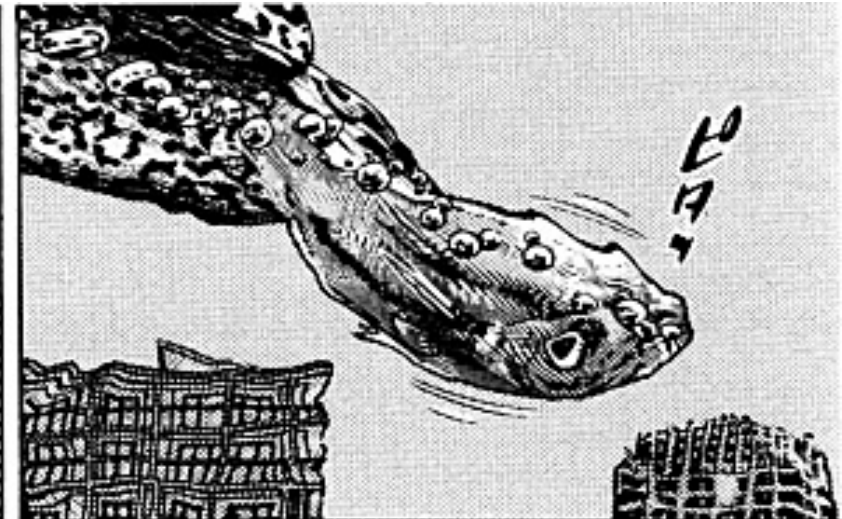


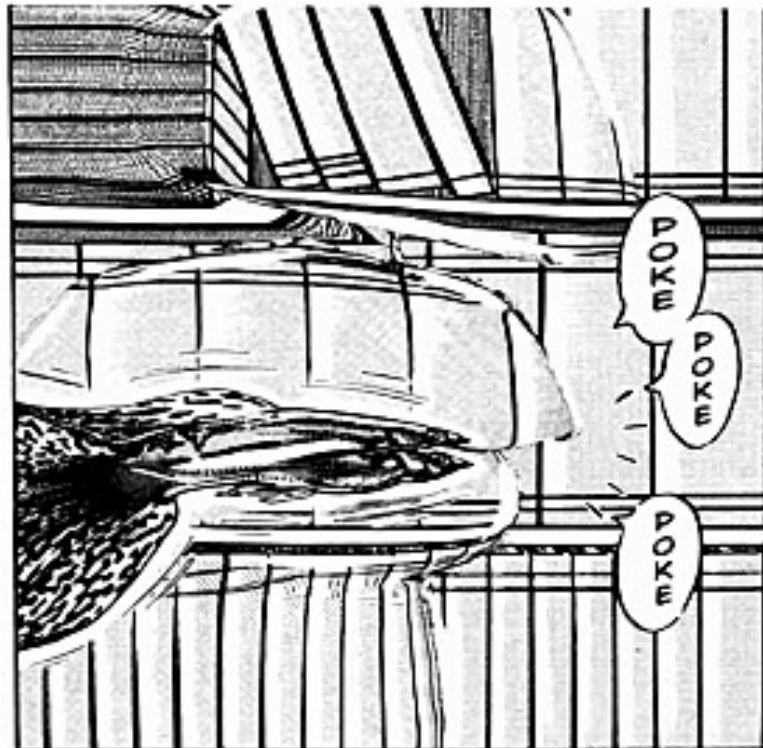



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BUT...



WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT NOW?



ARE ME MYSELF...
!



THE HOMUNCULI I SEE,



.....



YES?



YOU SAID ...



AS LONG AS IT ISN'T SEX ...

YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING, RIGHT?



YES.

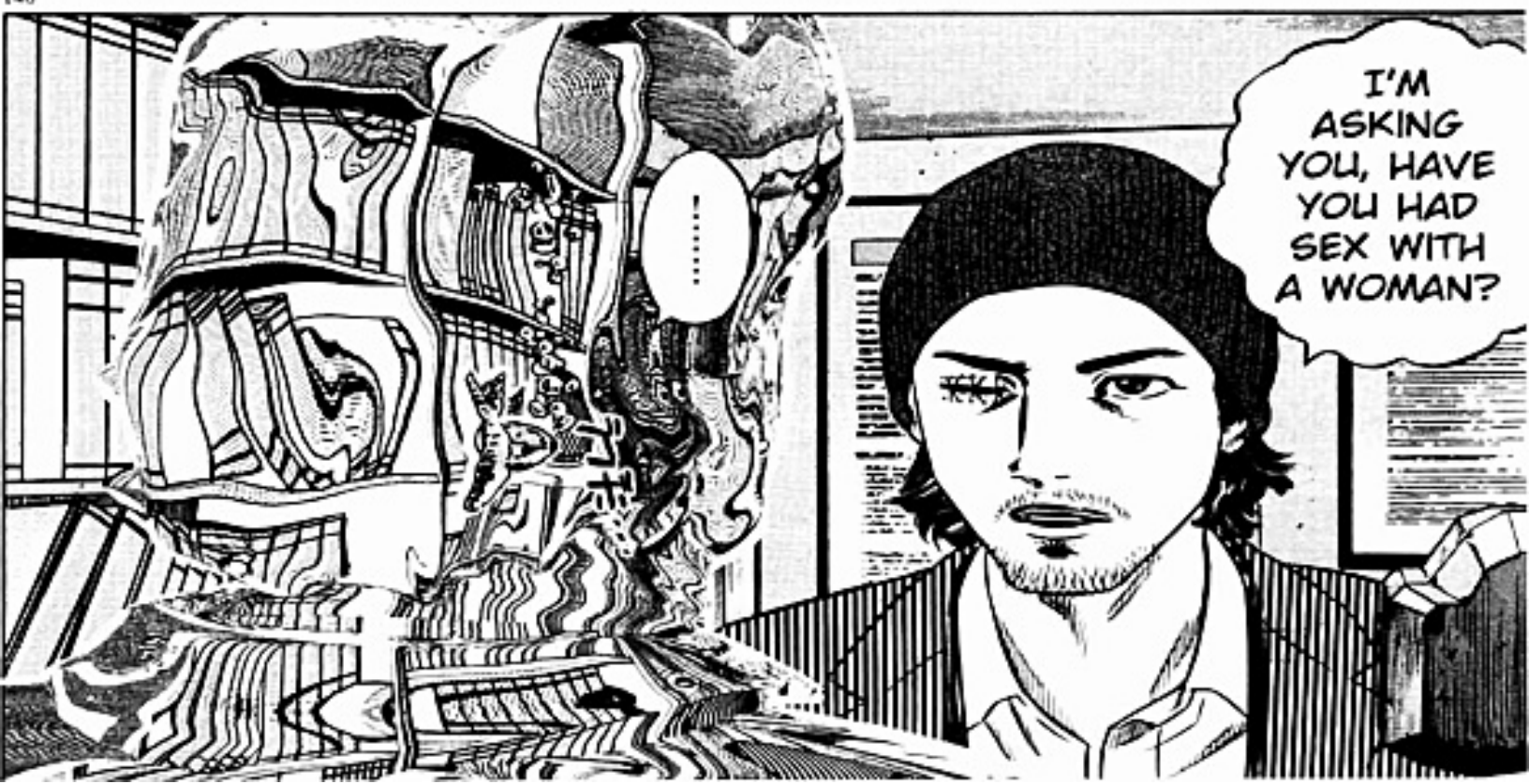
Y...



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YOU MIGHT
BE
SURPRISED
TO KNOW

THAT I
HAVE TO
BEAT THEM
OFF WITH A
STICK.



DON'T
MAKE
FUN OF
ME!

!



I'VE
NEVER
GONE FOR
WANT OF
FEMALE
COMPANY.



!



I'M NOT
LIKE
YOUUUUU.



MR.
NAKO
SHIIII.

!



1-3-1



ARE YOU
SURE IT
WASN'T
YOU,

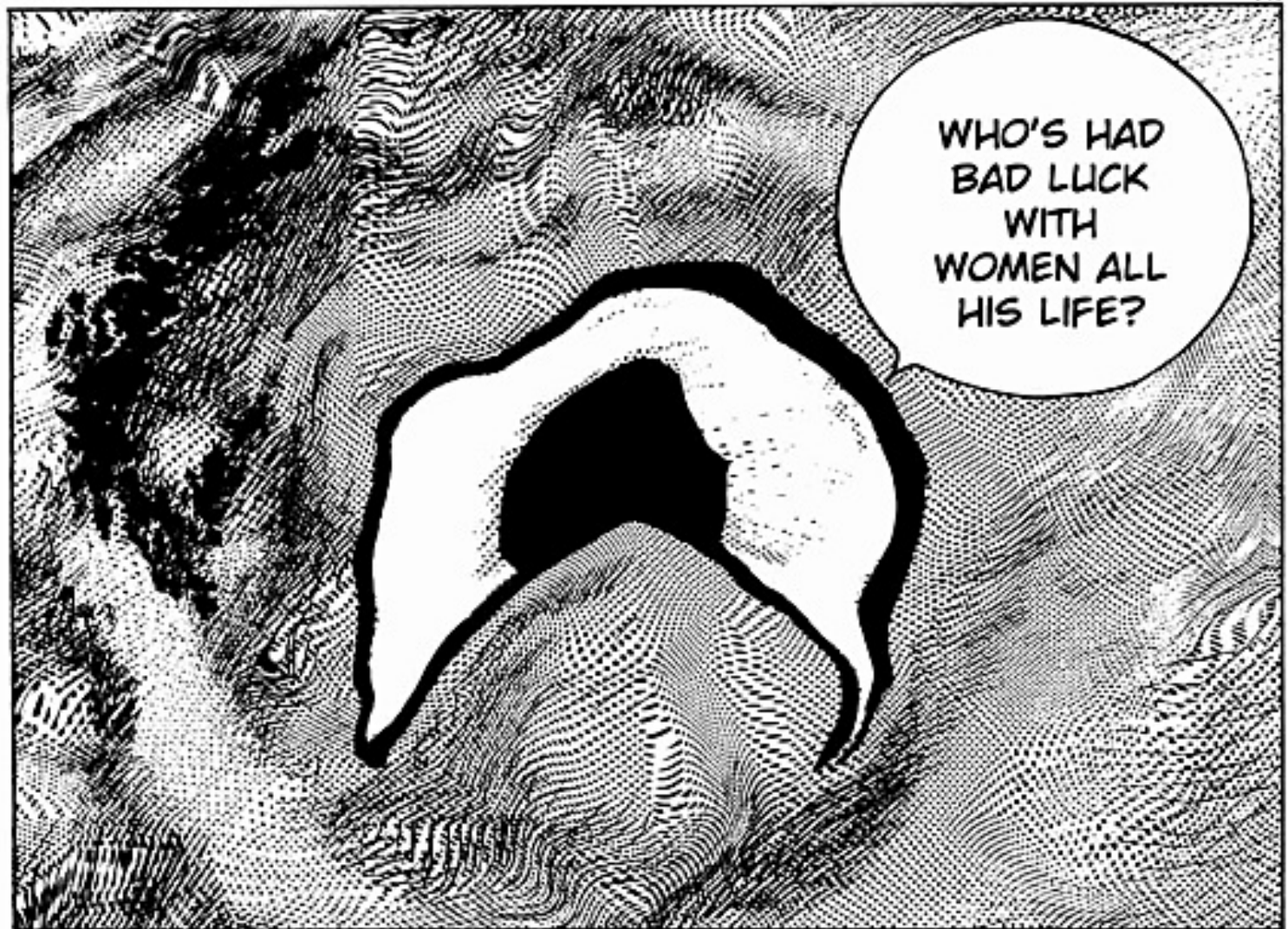


.....



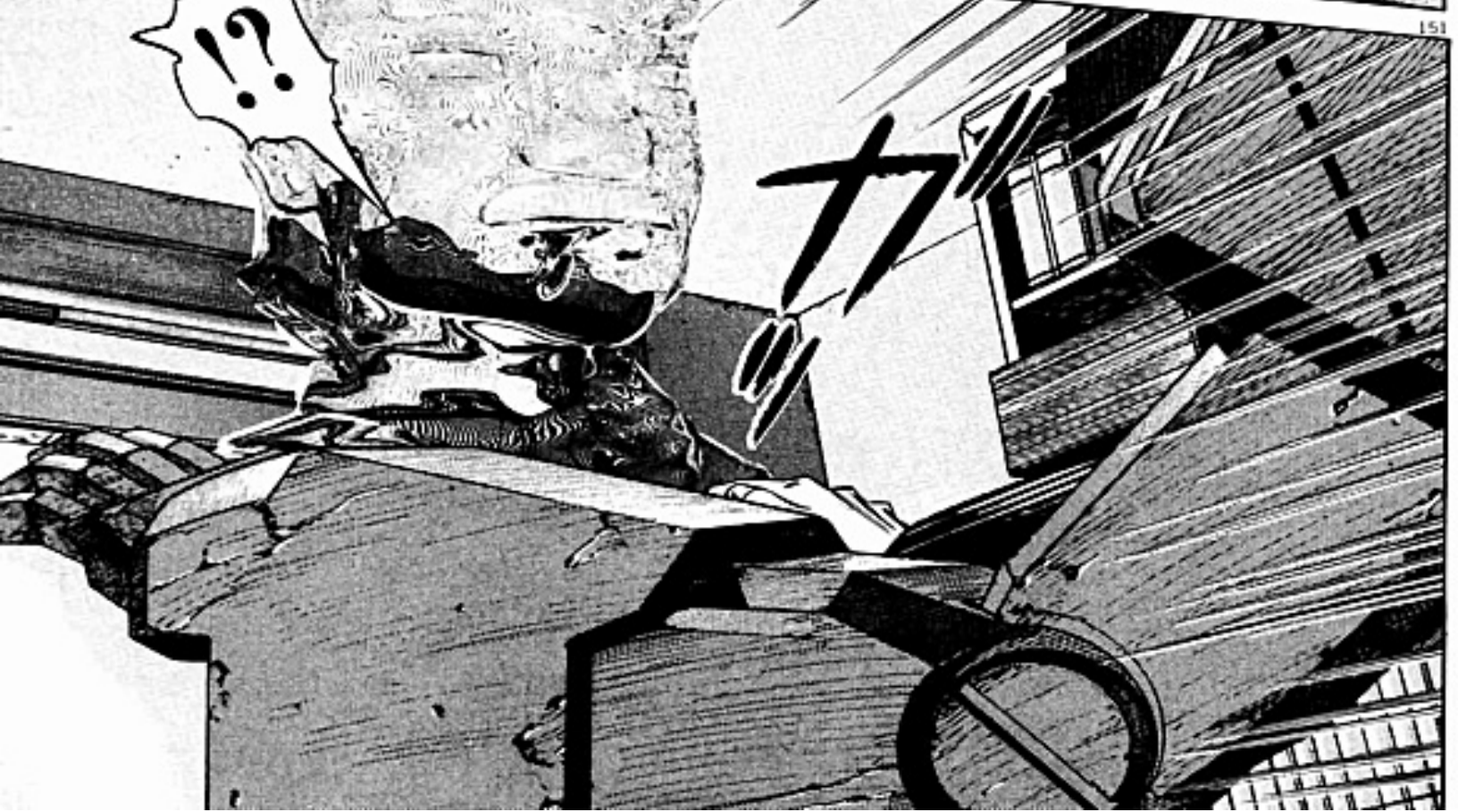
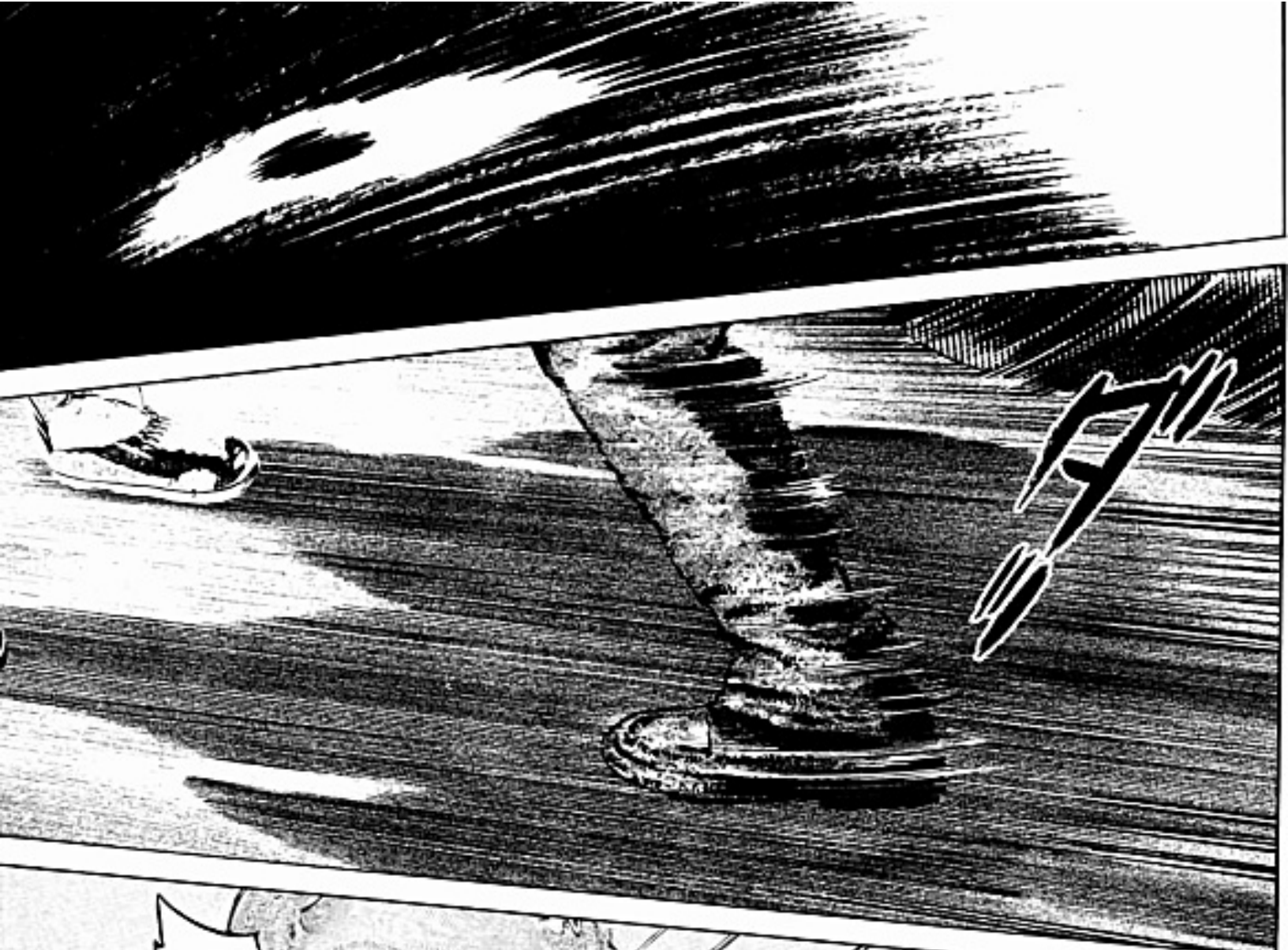
HUH?

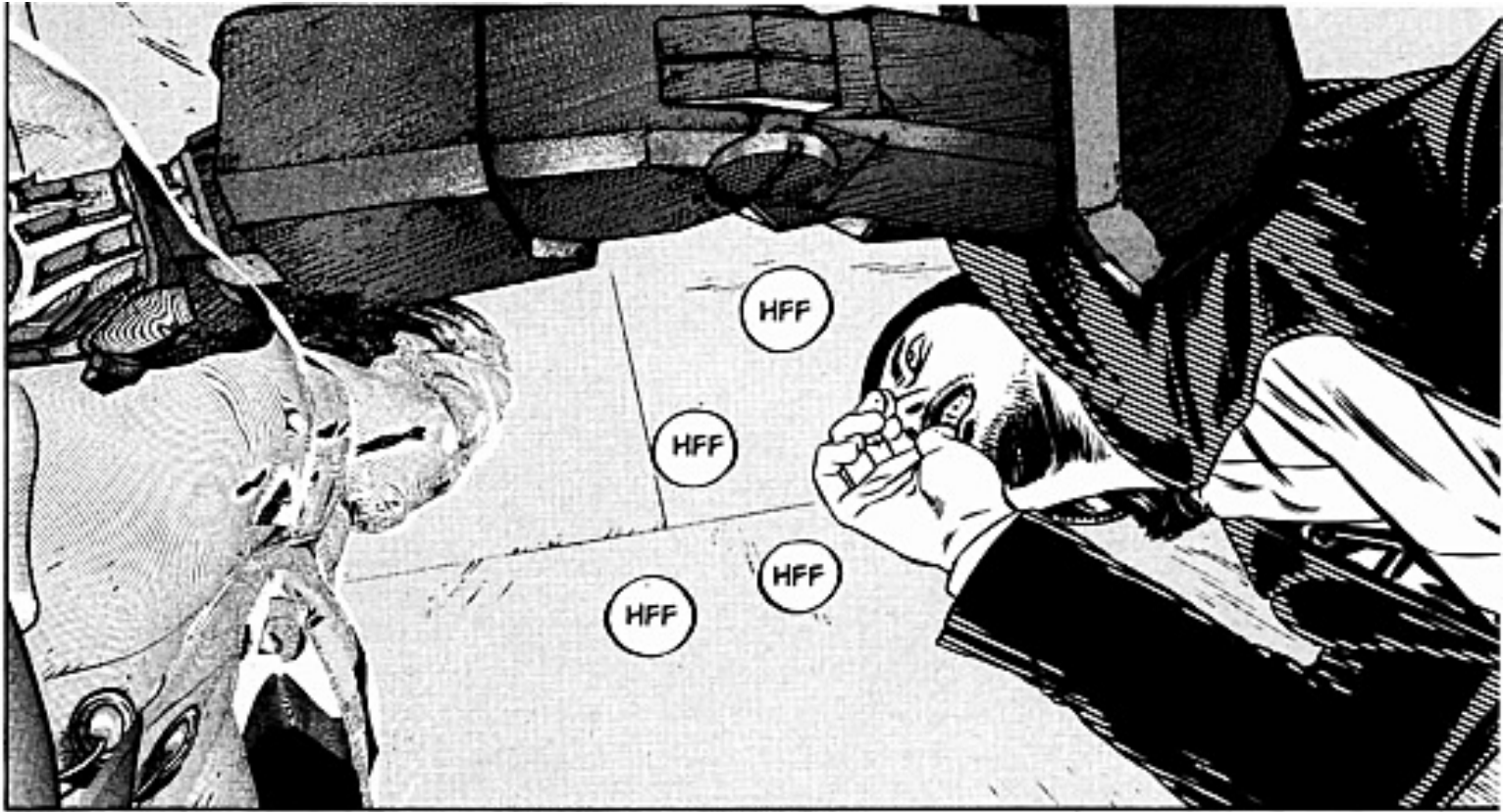
149



WHO'S HAD
BAD LUCK
WITH
WOMEN ALL
HIS LIFE?







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ANOTHER
WORD
ABOUT
THAT...

HFF

HFF

HFF

IF YOU
SAY...

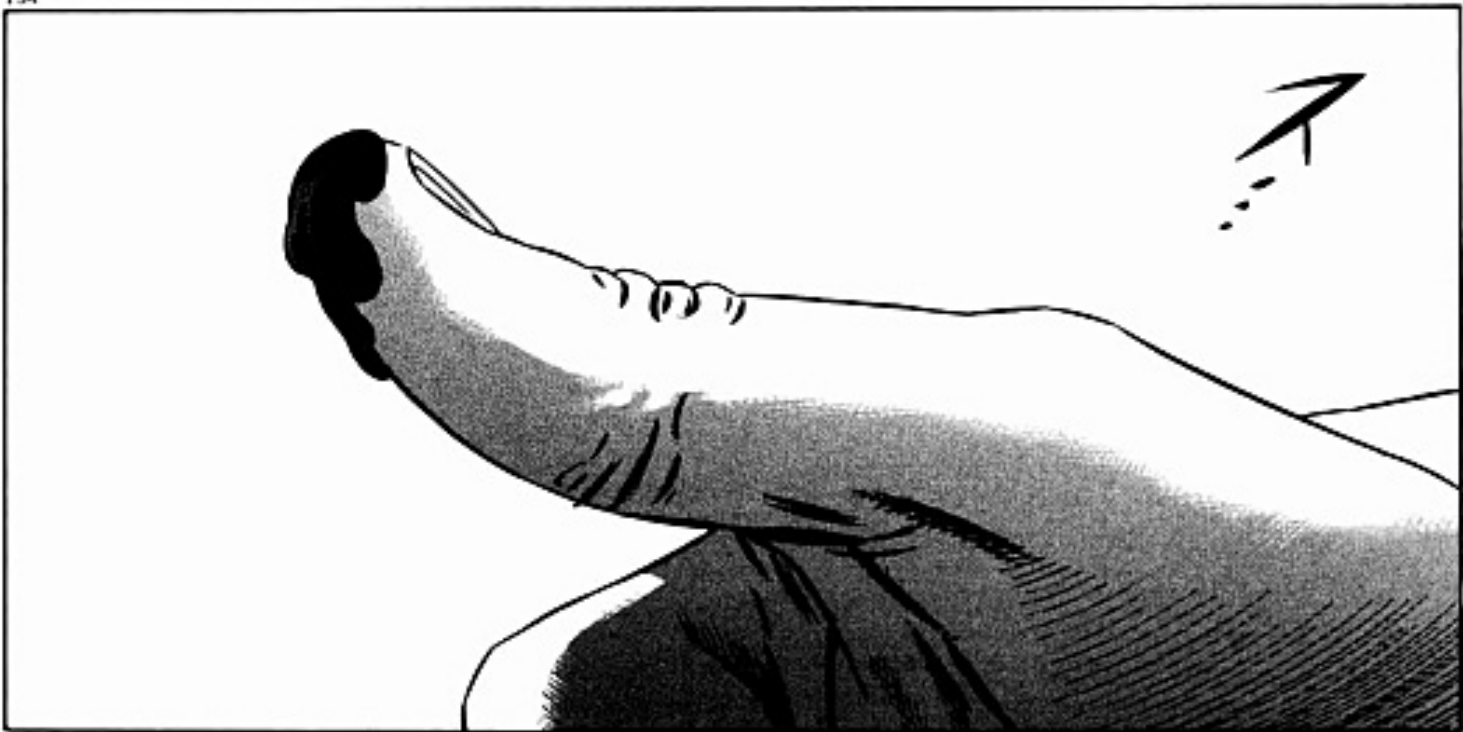
JUST SHUT
UP AND SIT
BACK...

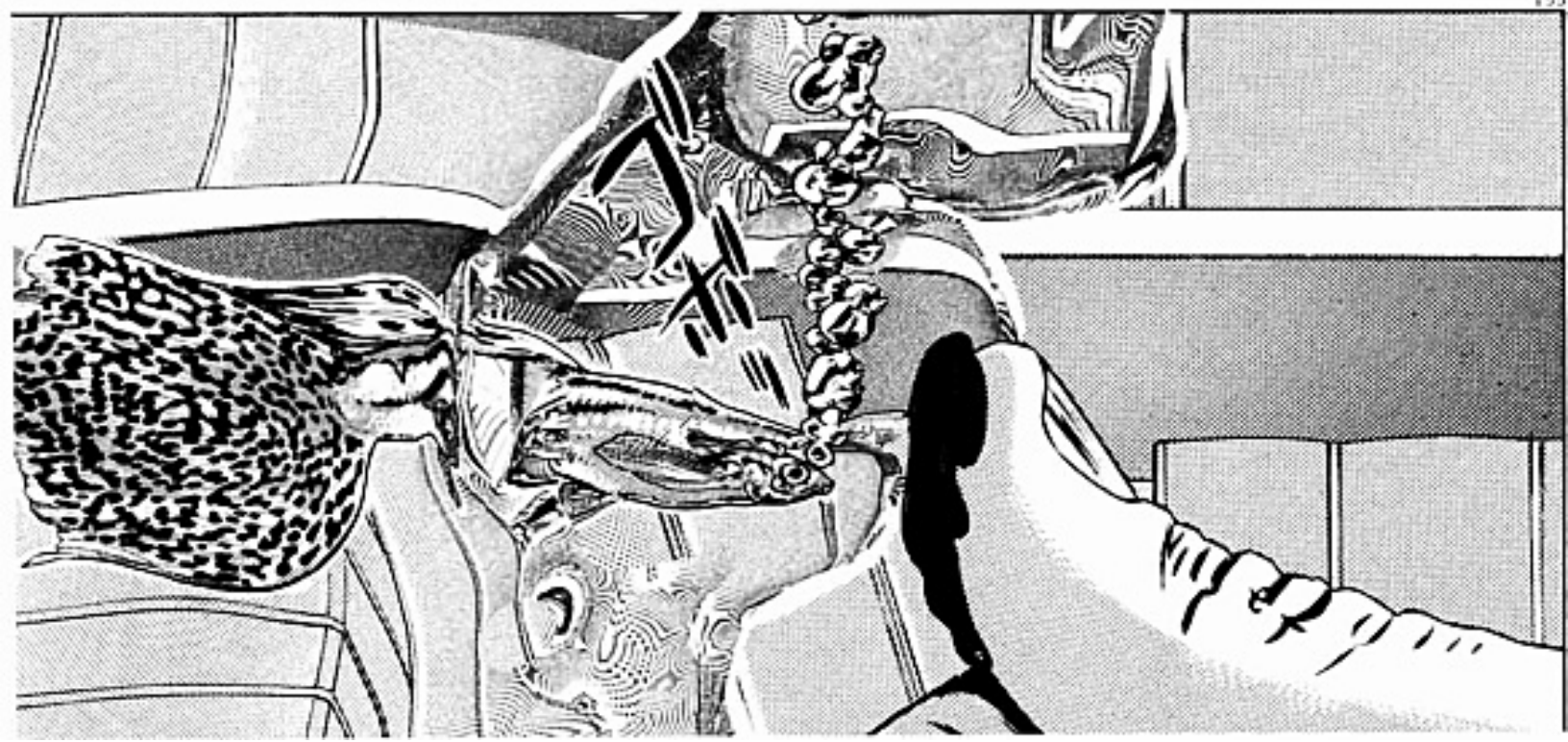
.....

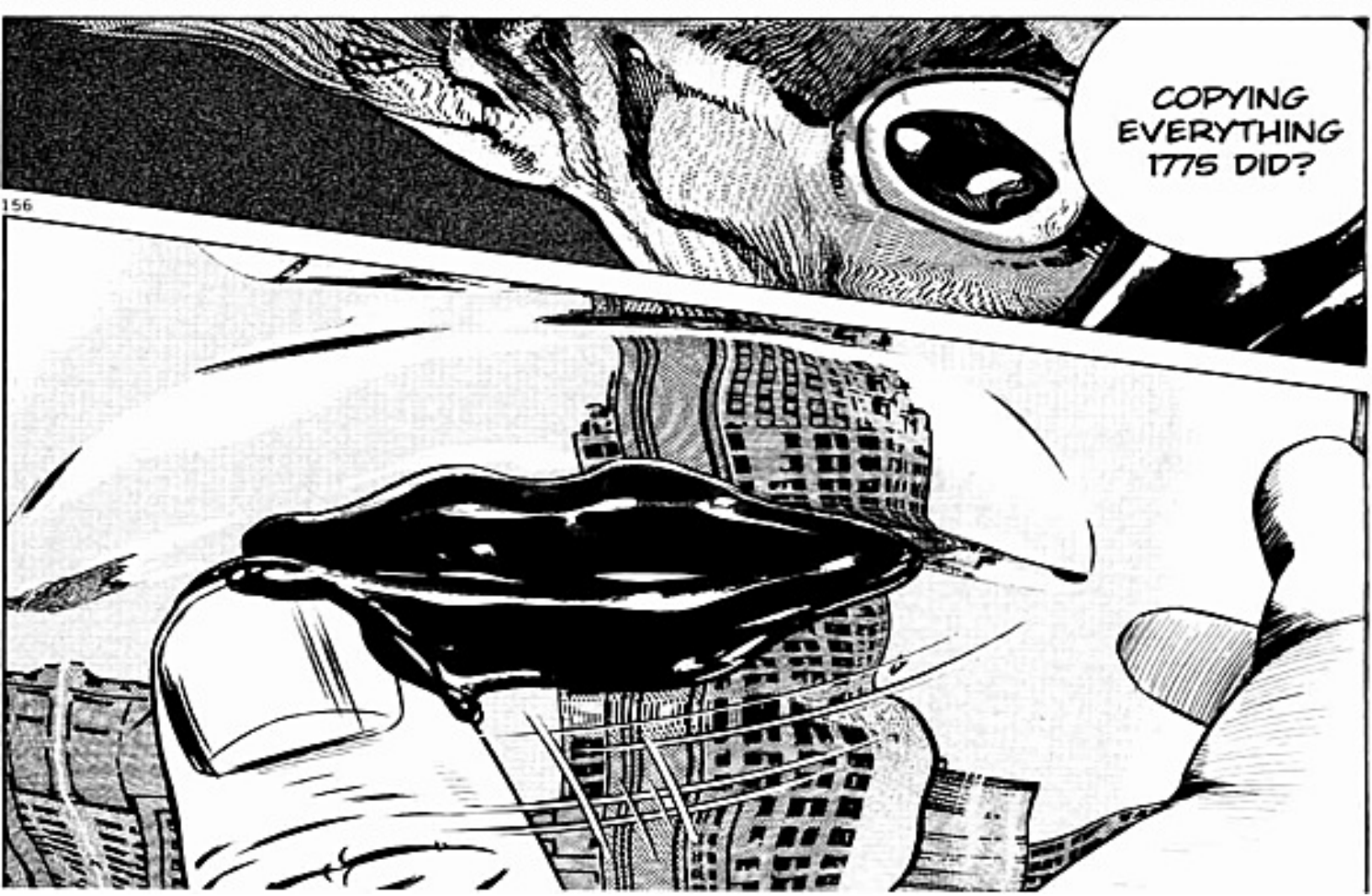
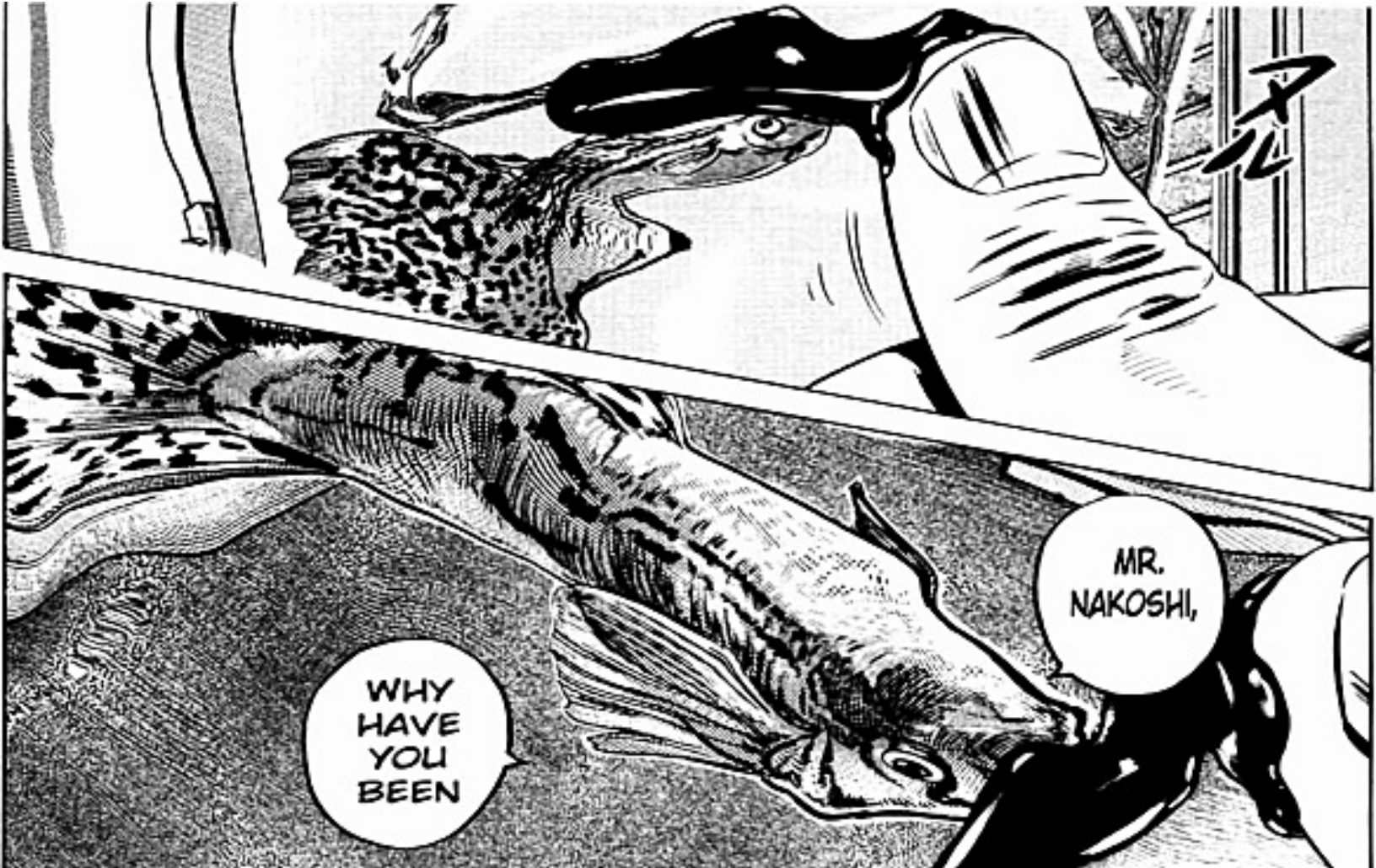
.....

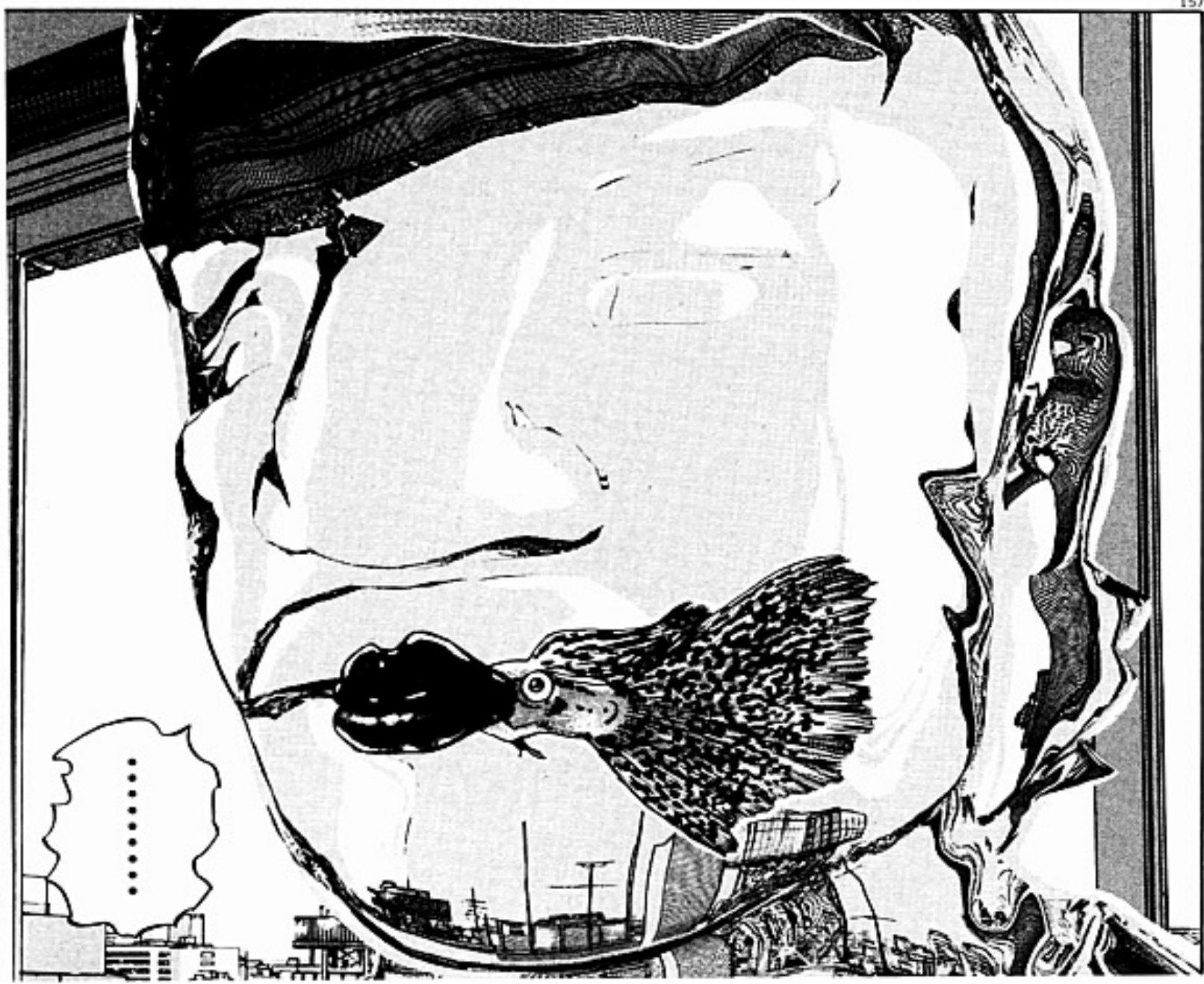
...OTE

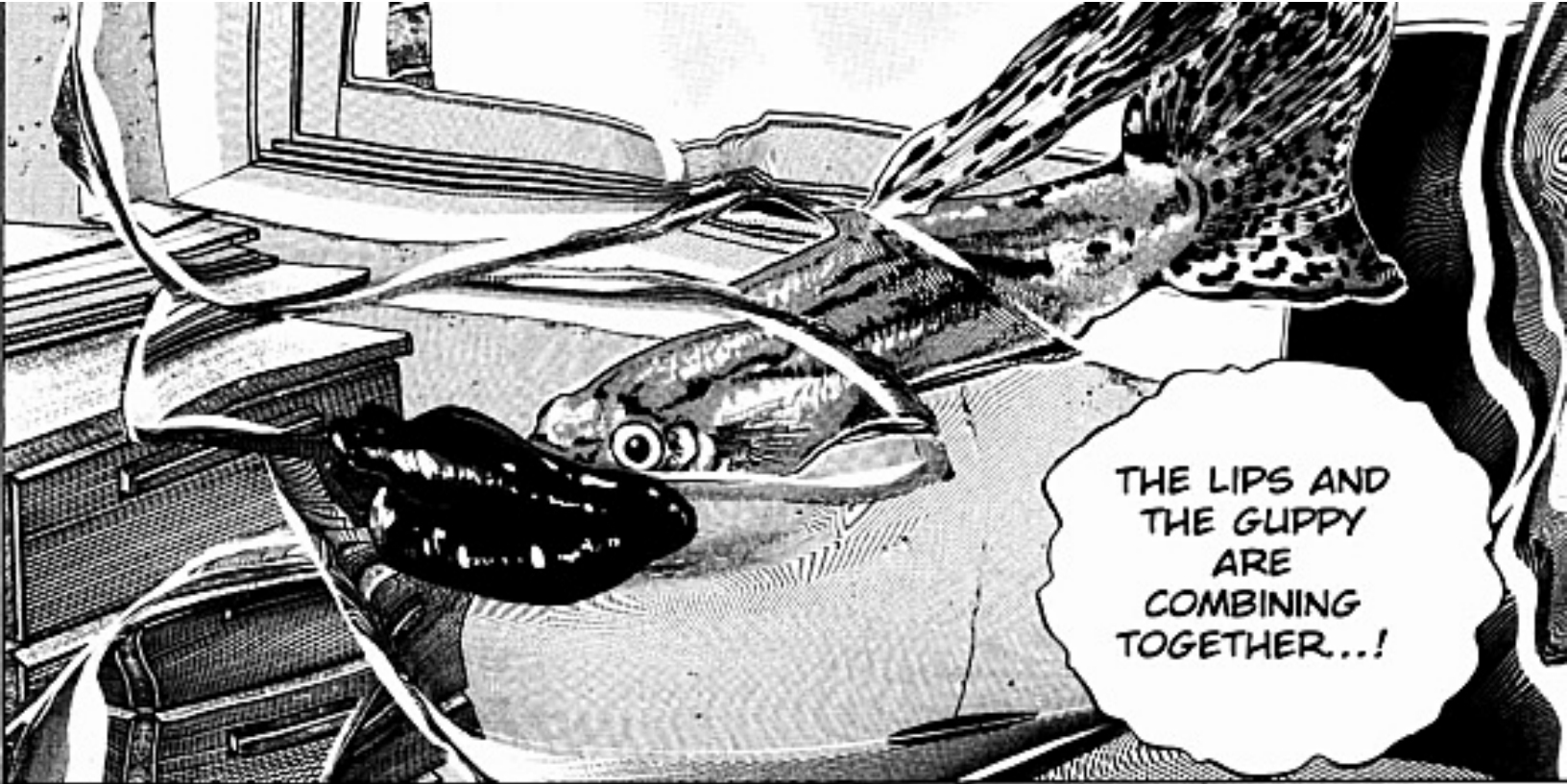
HFF











THE LIPS AND THE GUPPY ARE COMBINING TOGETHER...!



.....



I'D RATHER NOT KISS YOU.



COULD YOU TAKE IT EASY?



BY THE WAY, MR. NAKOSHI,



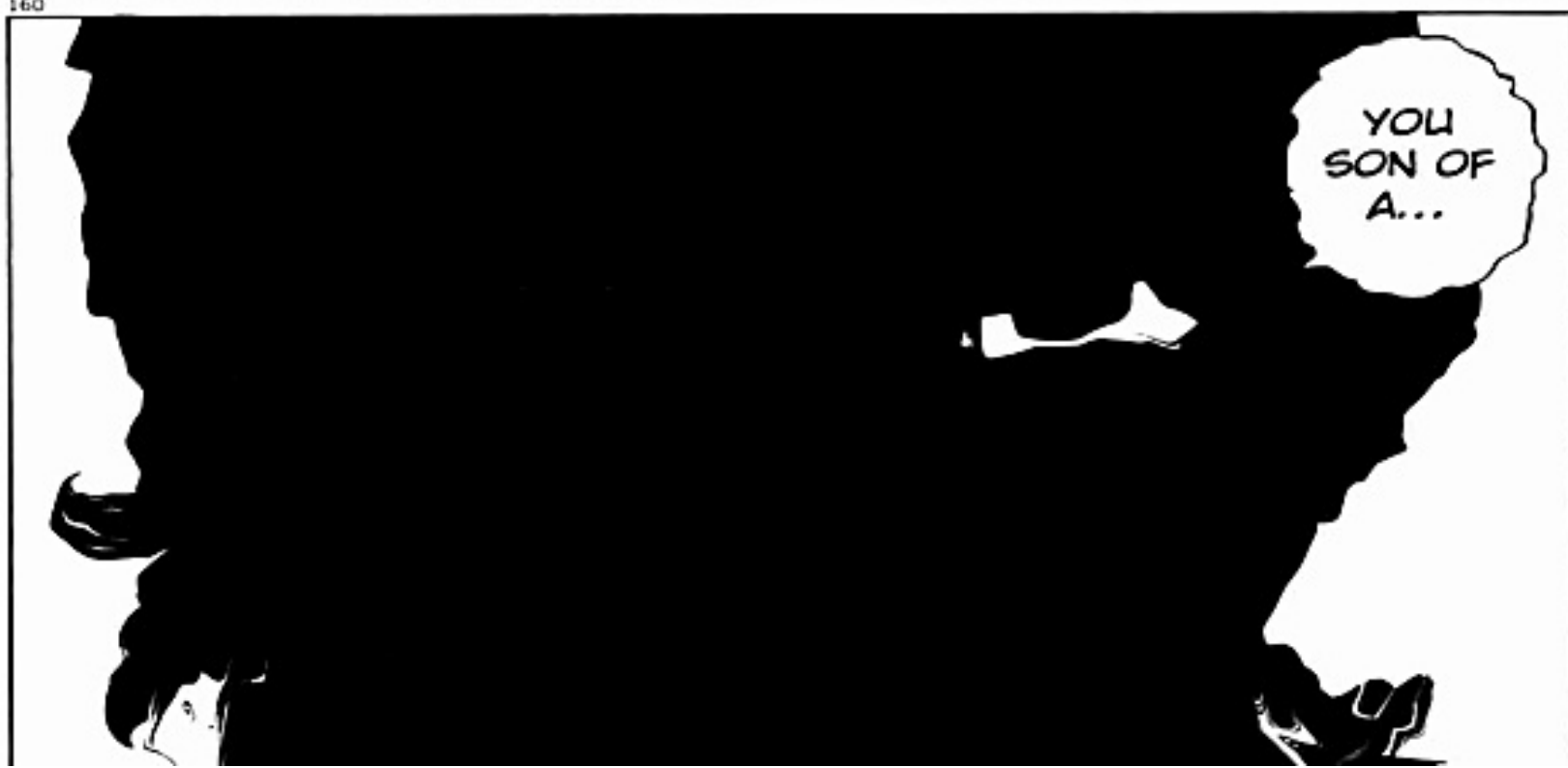
WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST KISS?

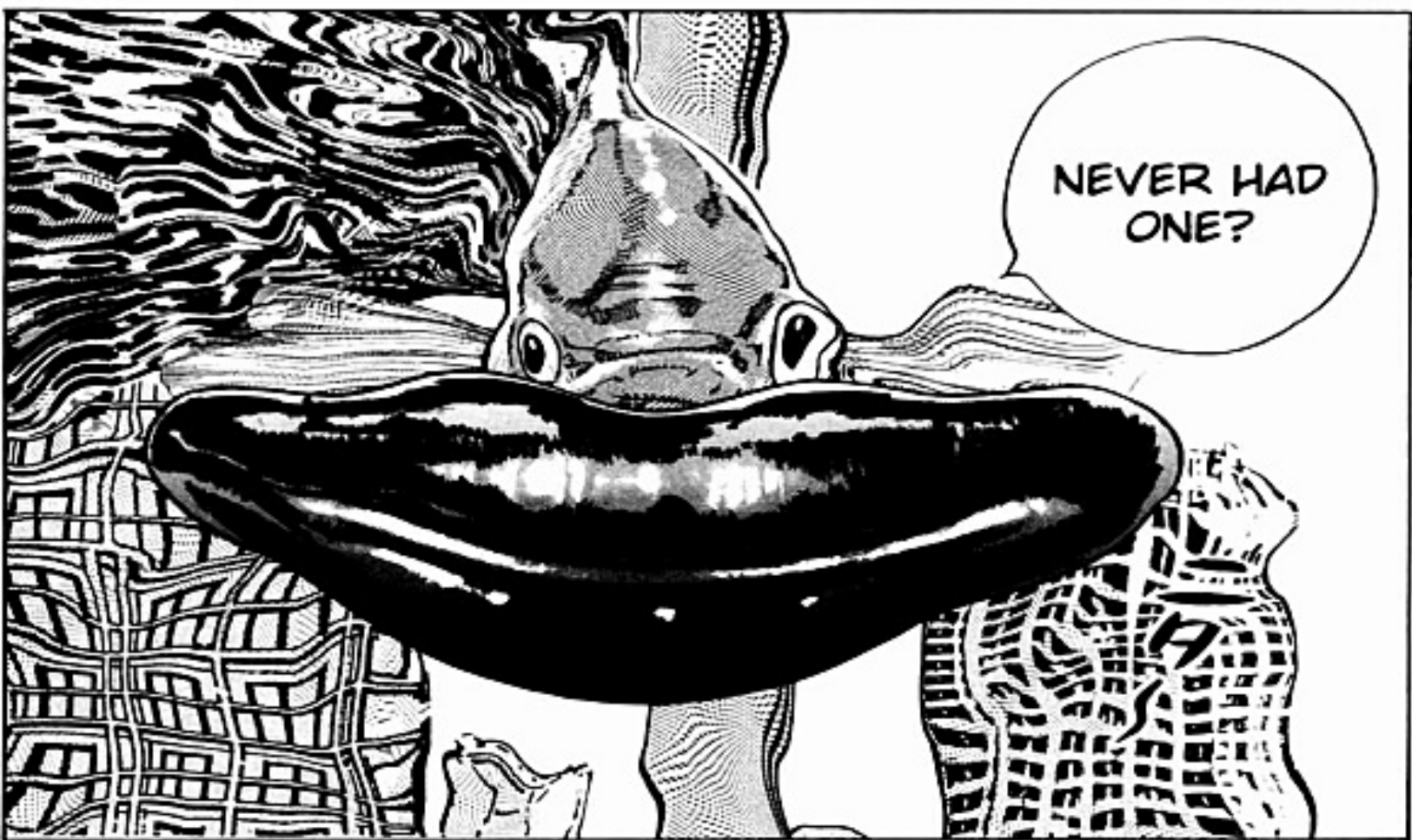
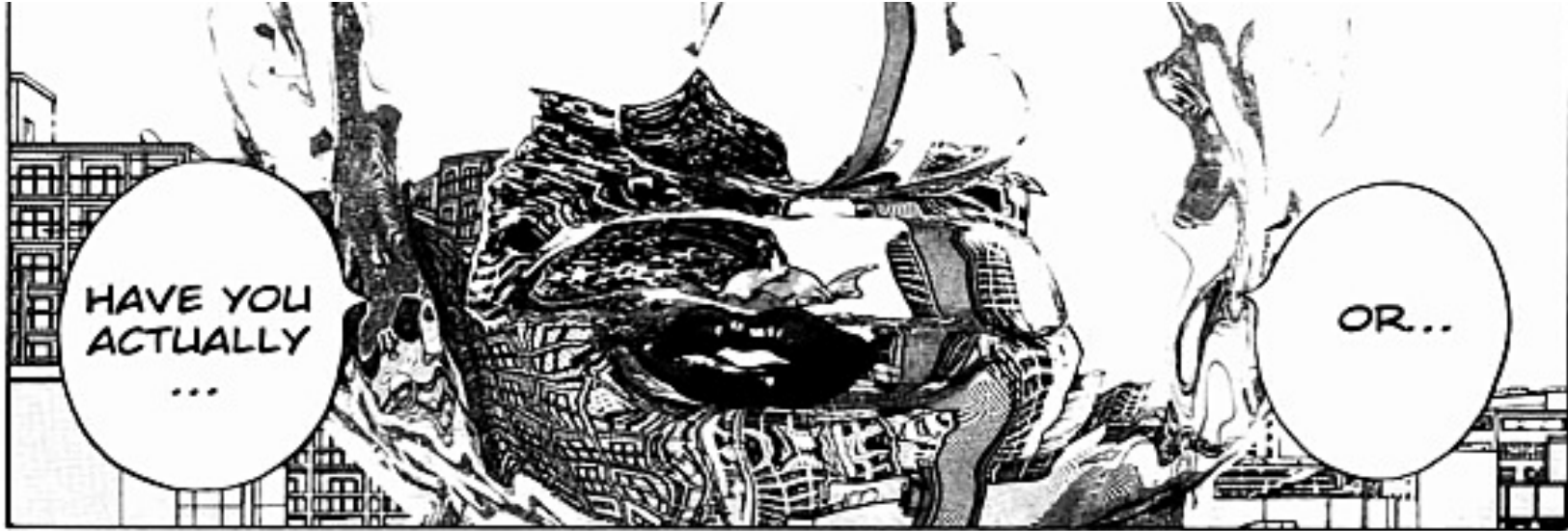
I'M SURE IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED LATE.





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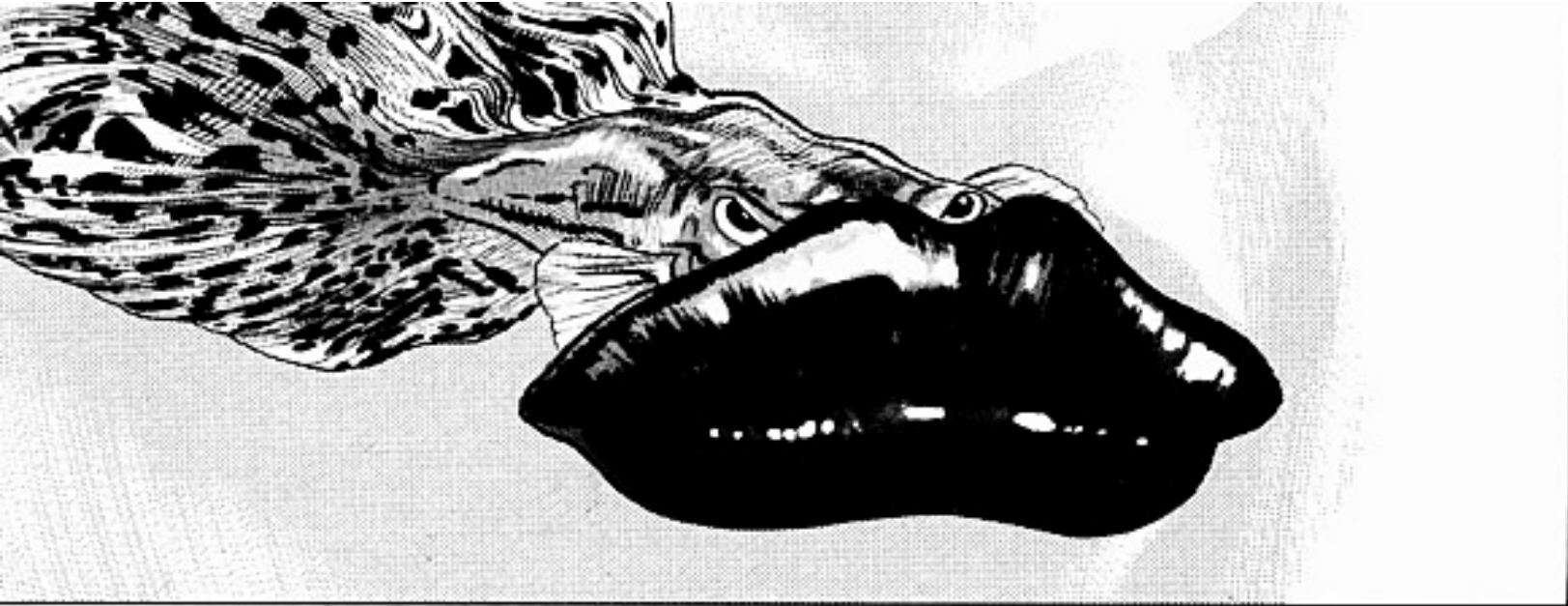
HEH.



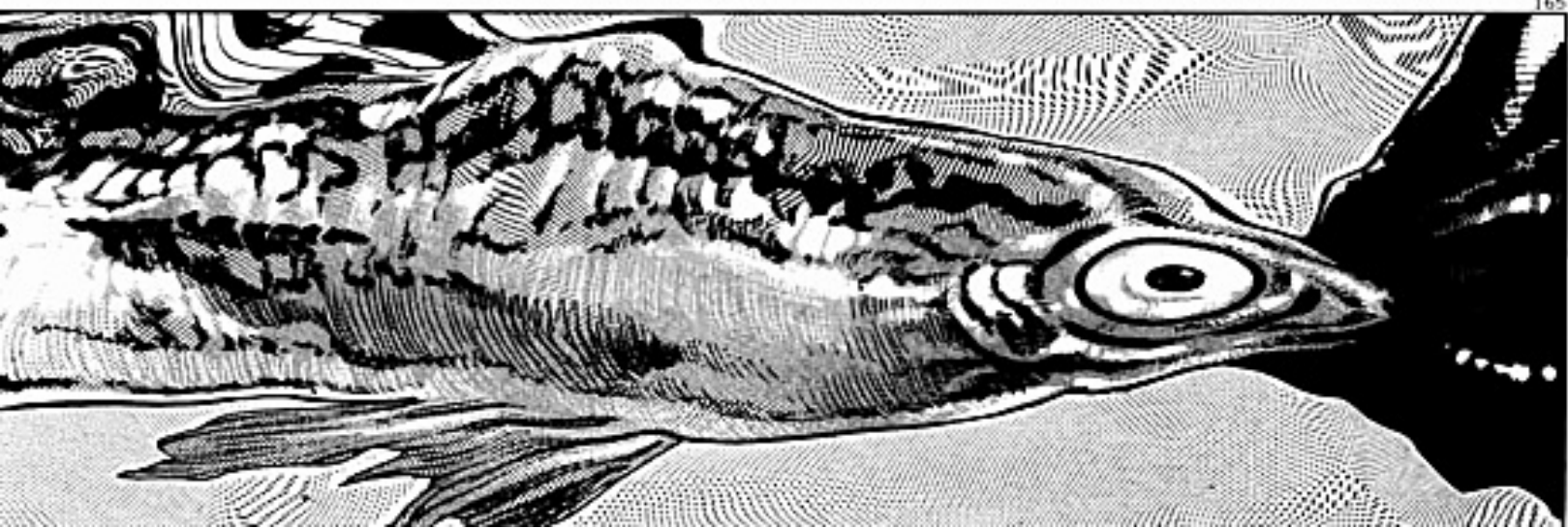
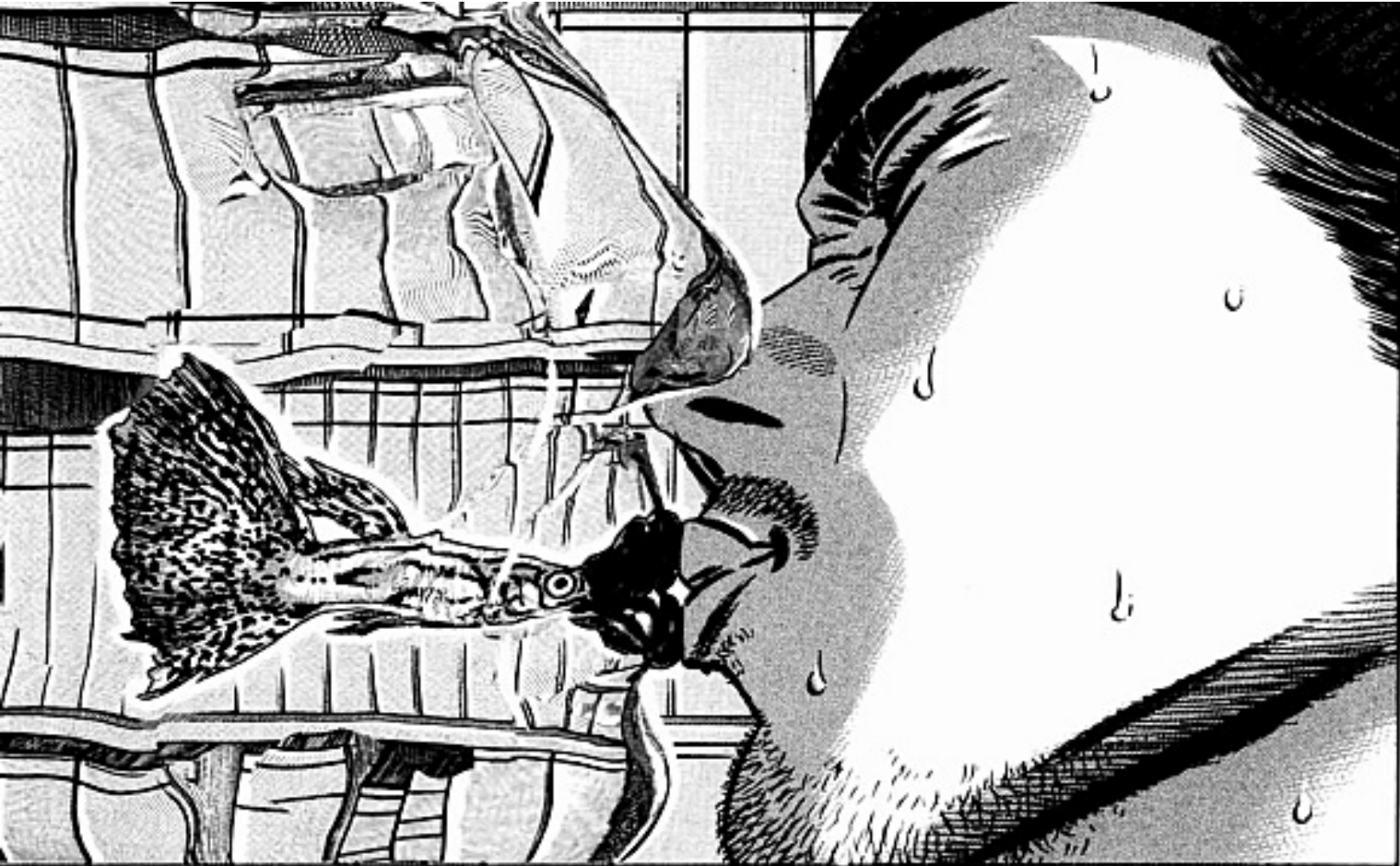
RIDICULOUS.

HA
HA
...

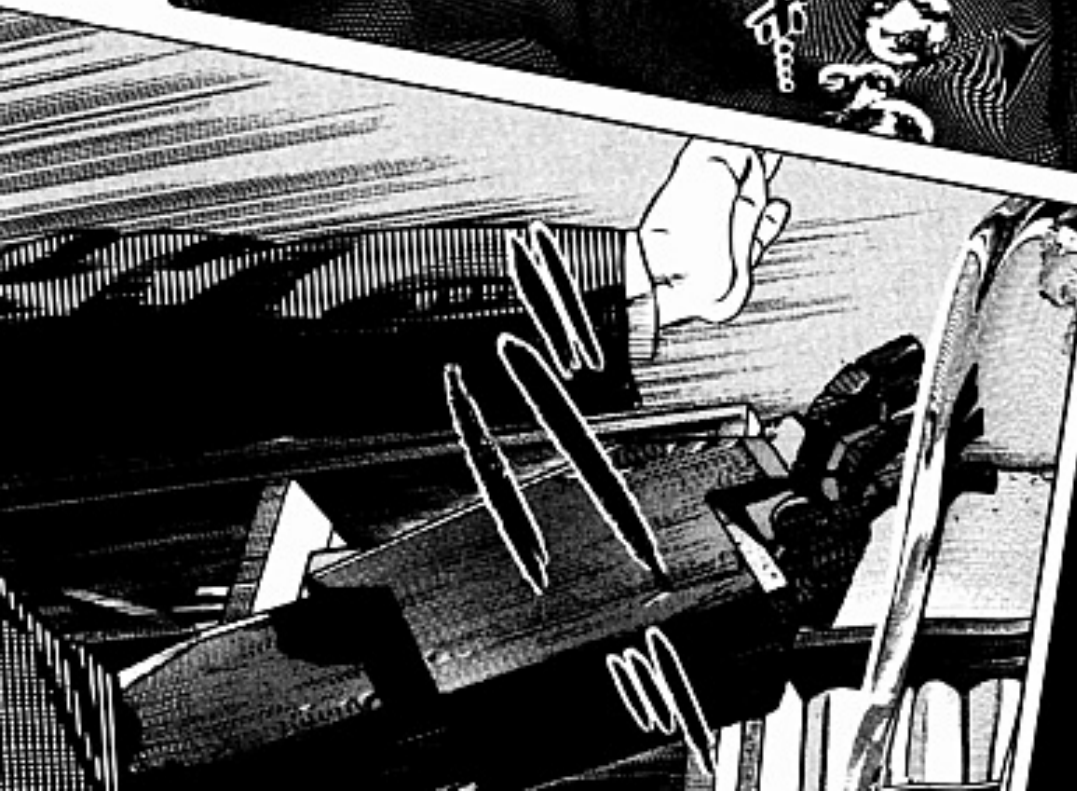
.....





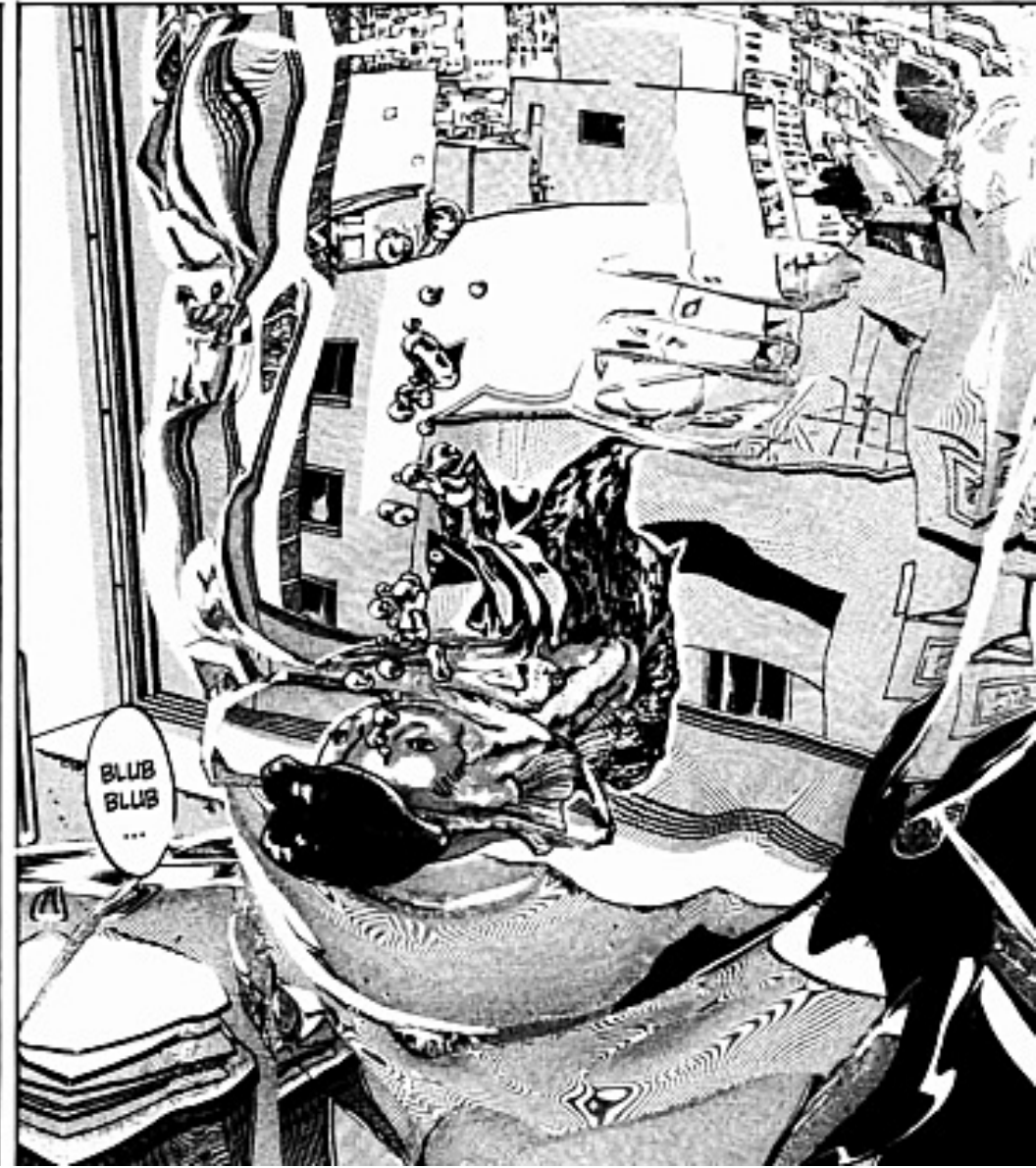








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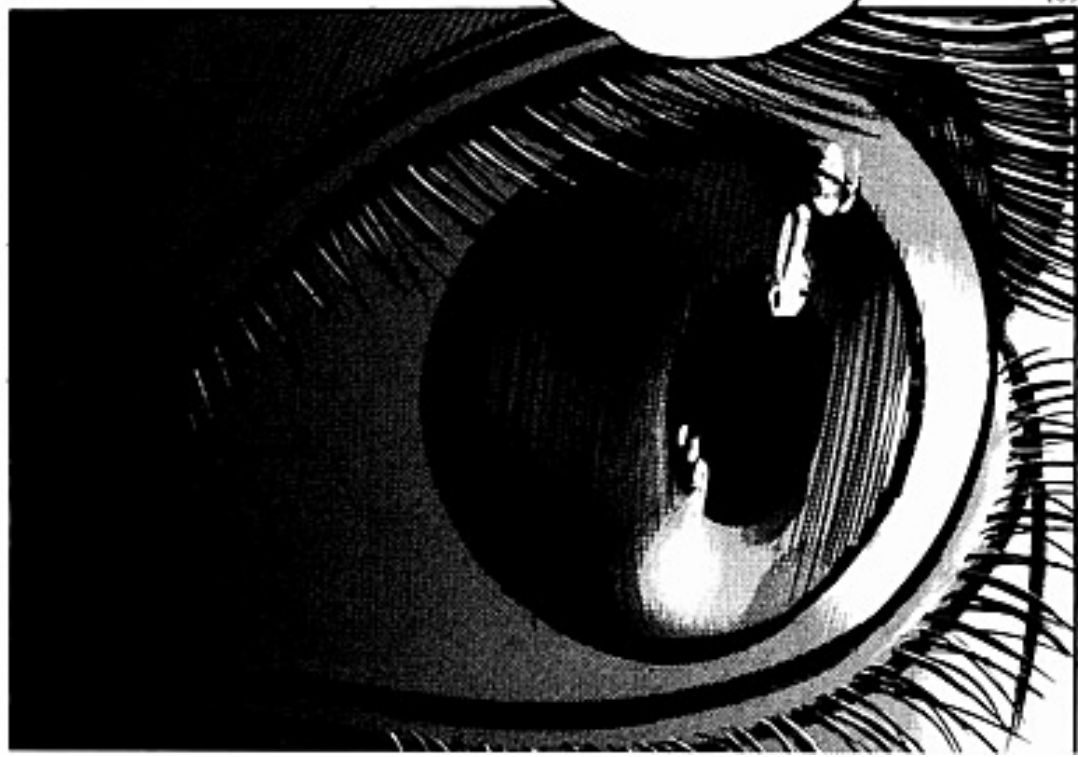




HUMAN-
FACED
FISH...?!

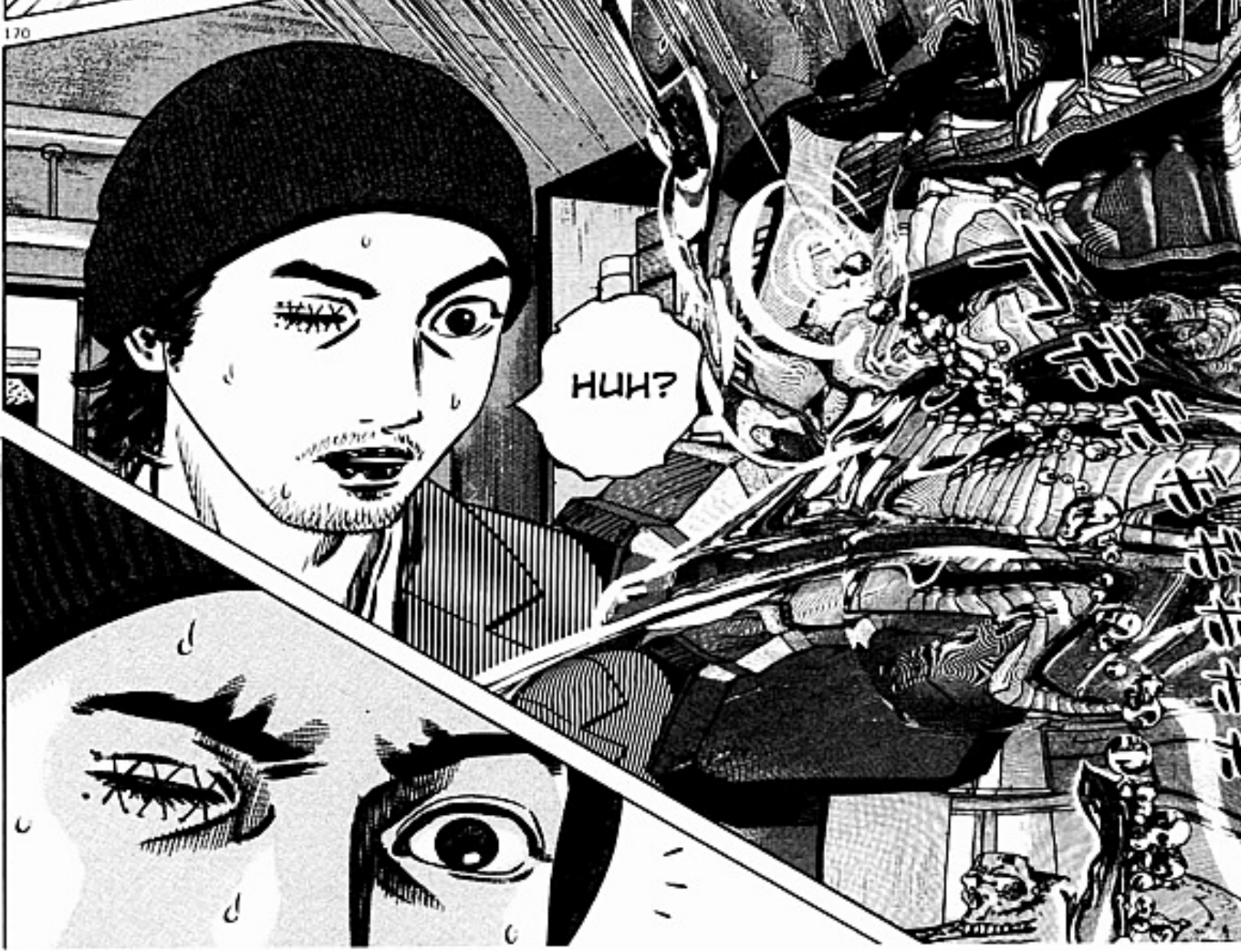


G...





GROSS,
DUDE...



HUH?







NO!
DAMN
...!

N...

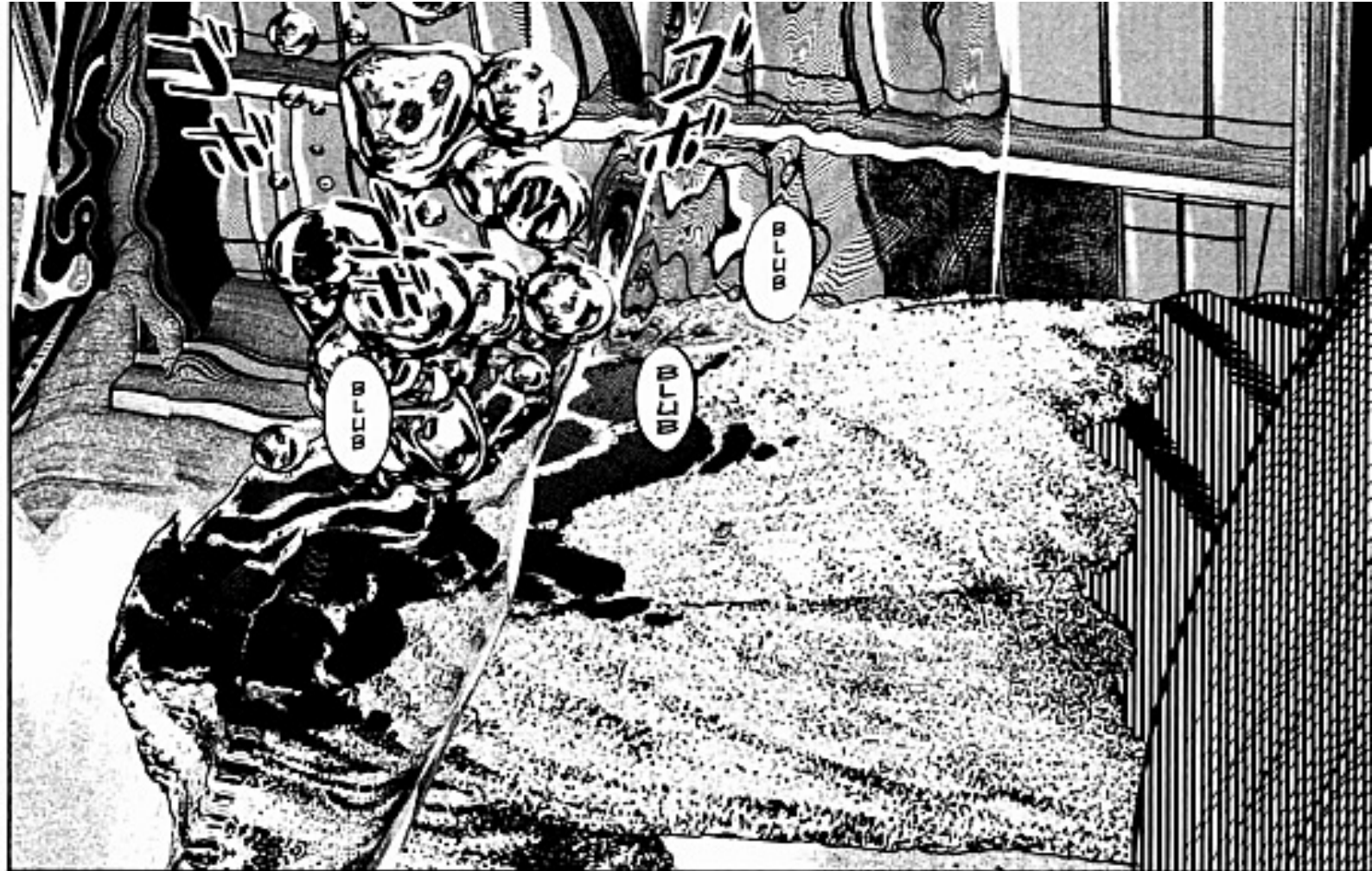
BLUB

カ
カ
カ

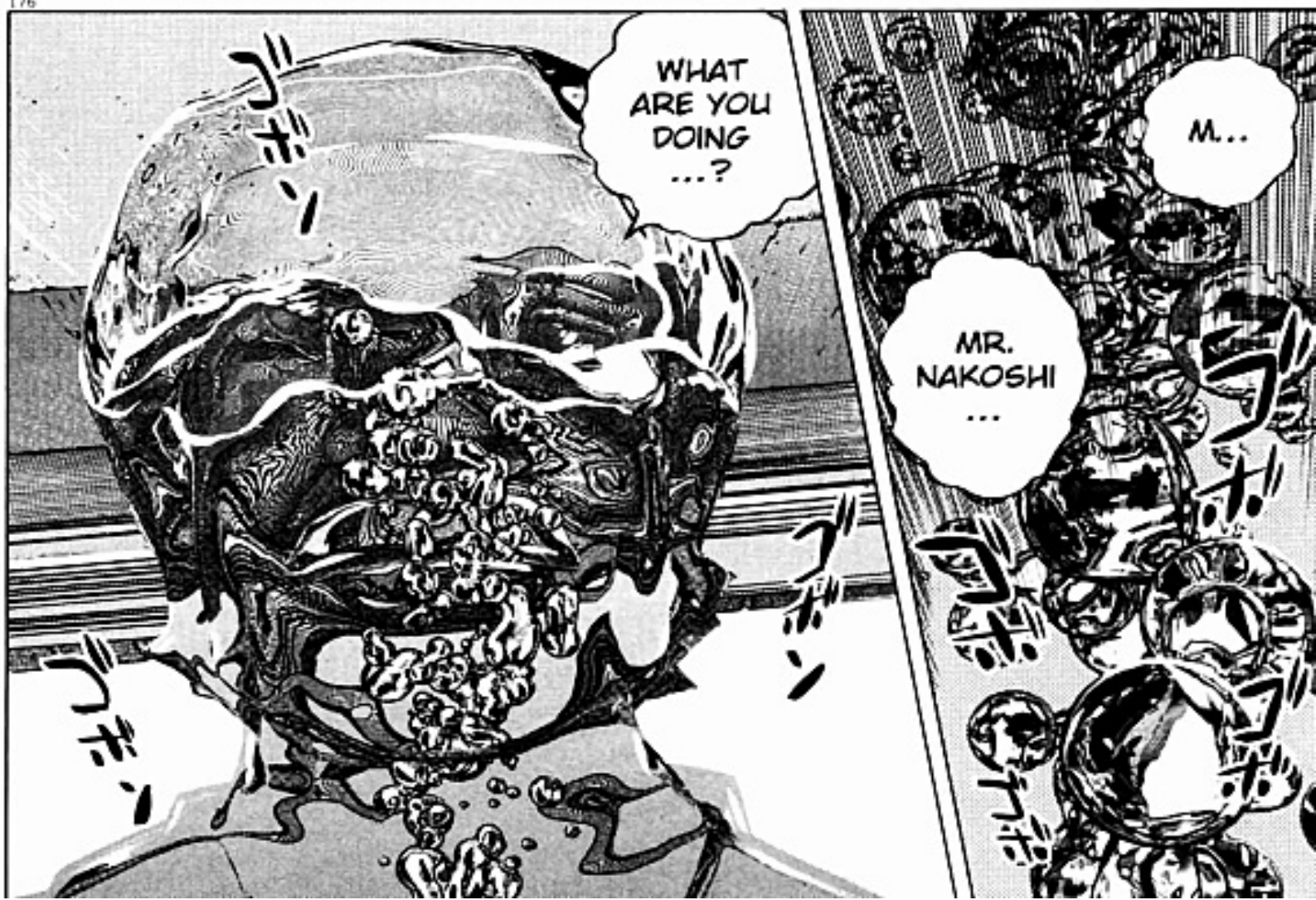


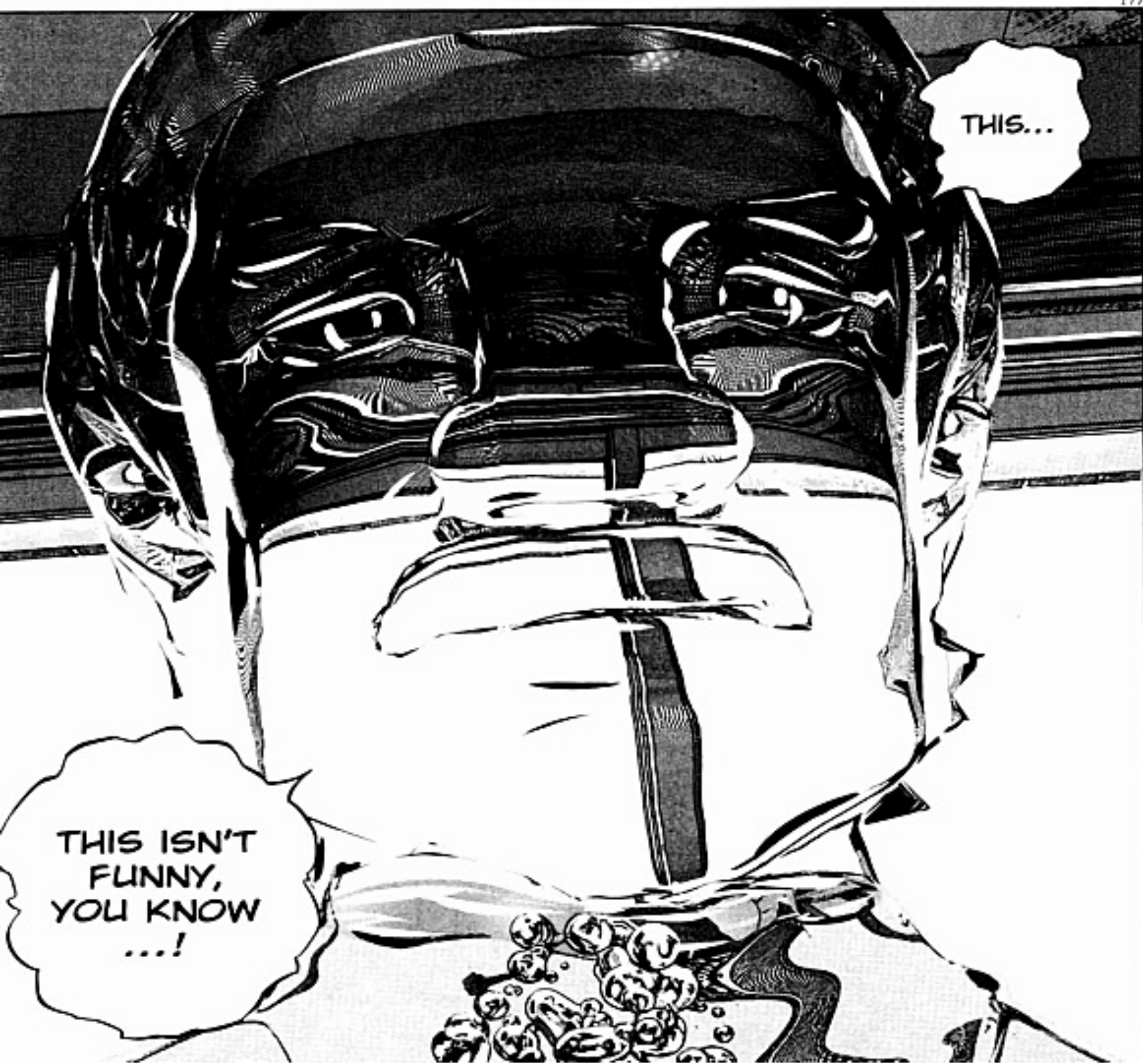


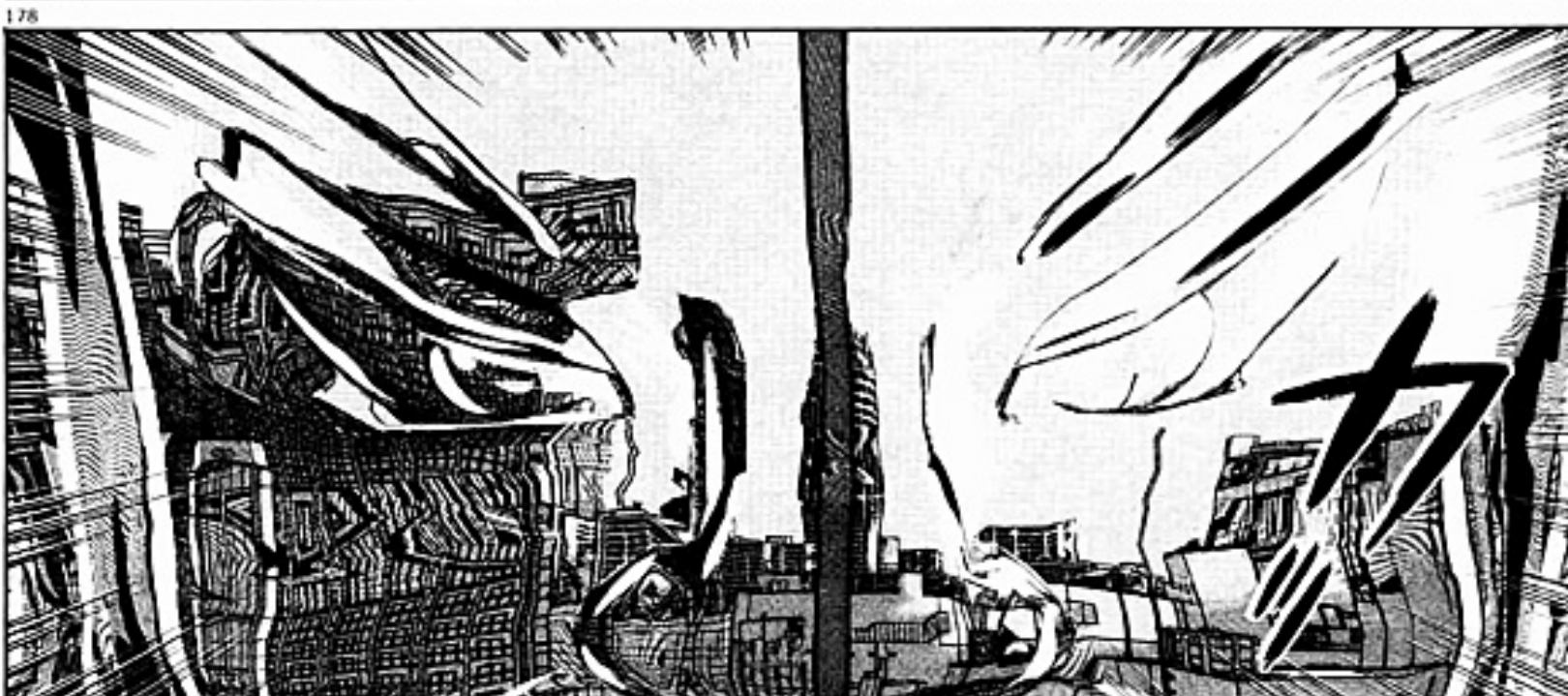
BLUB
BLUB
...

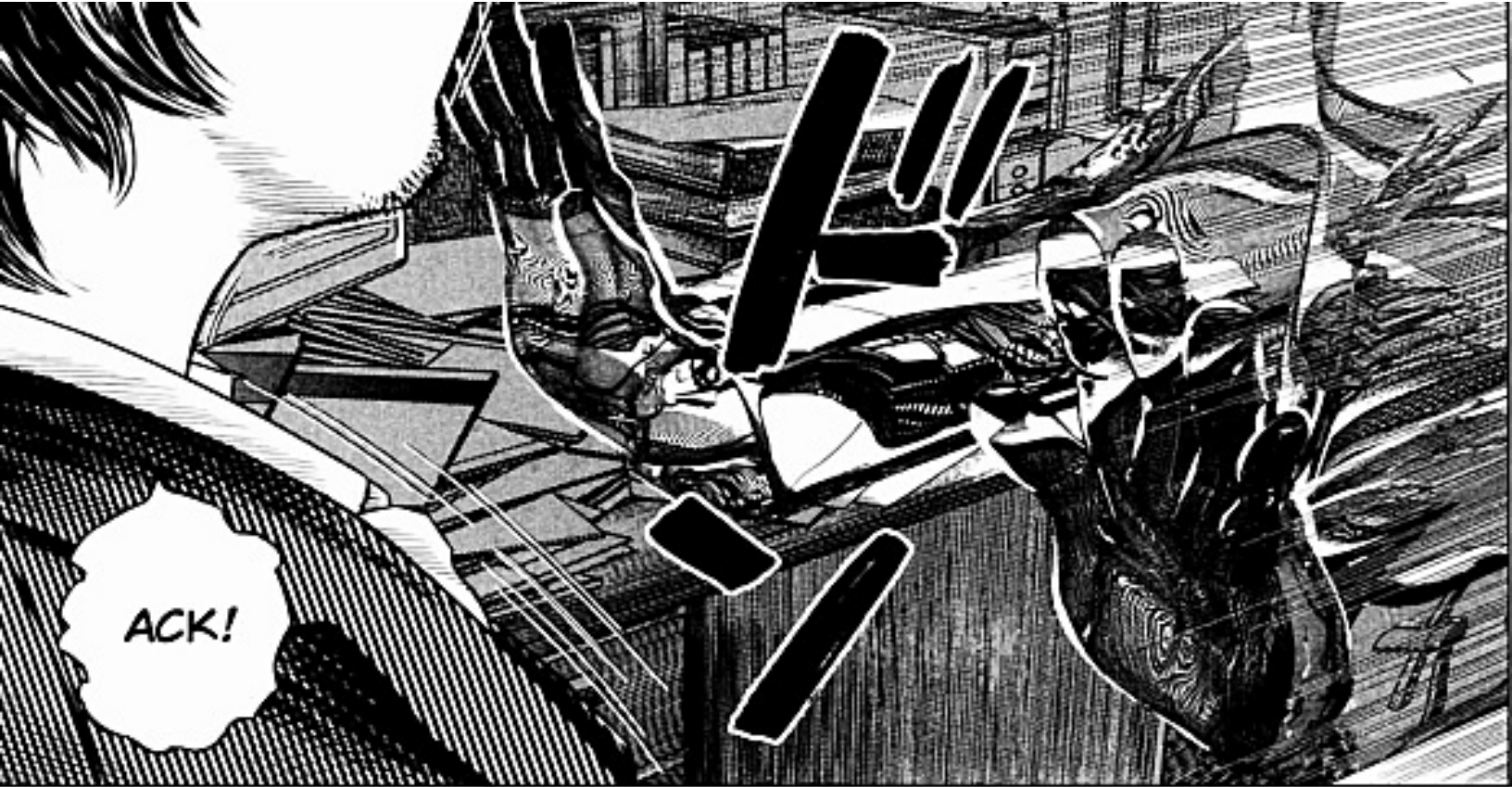


176

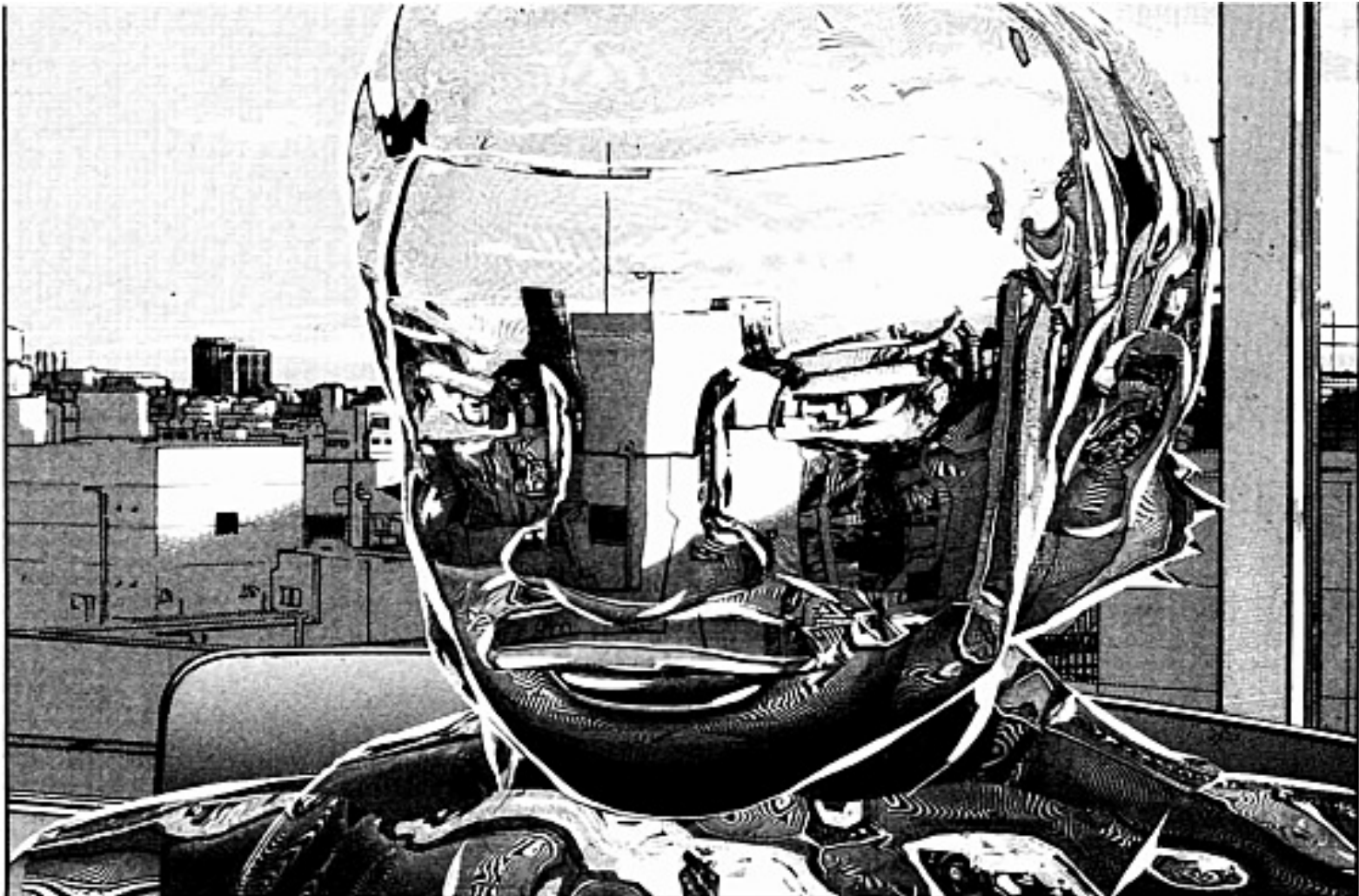










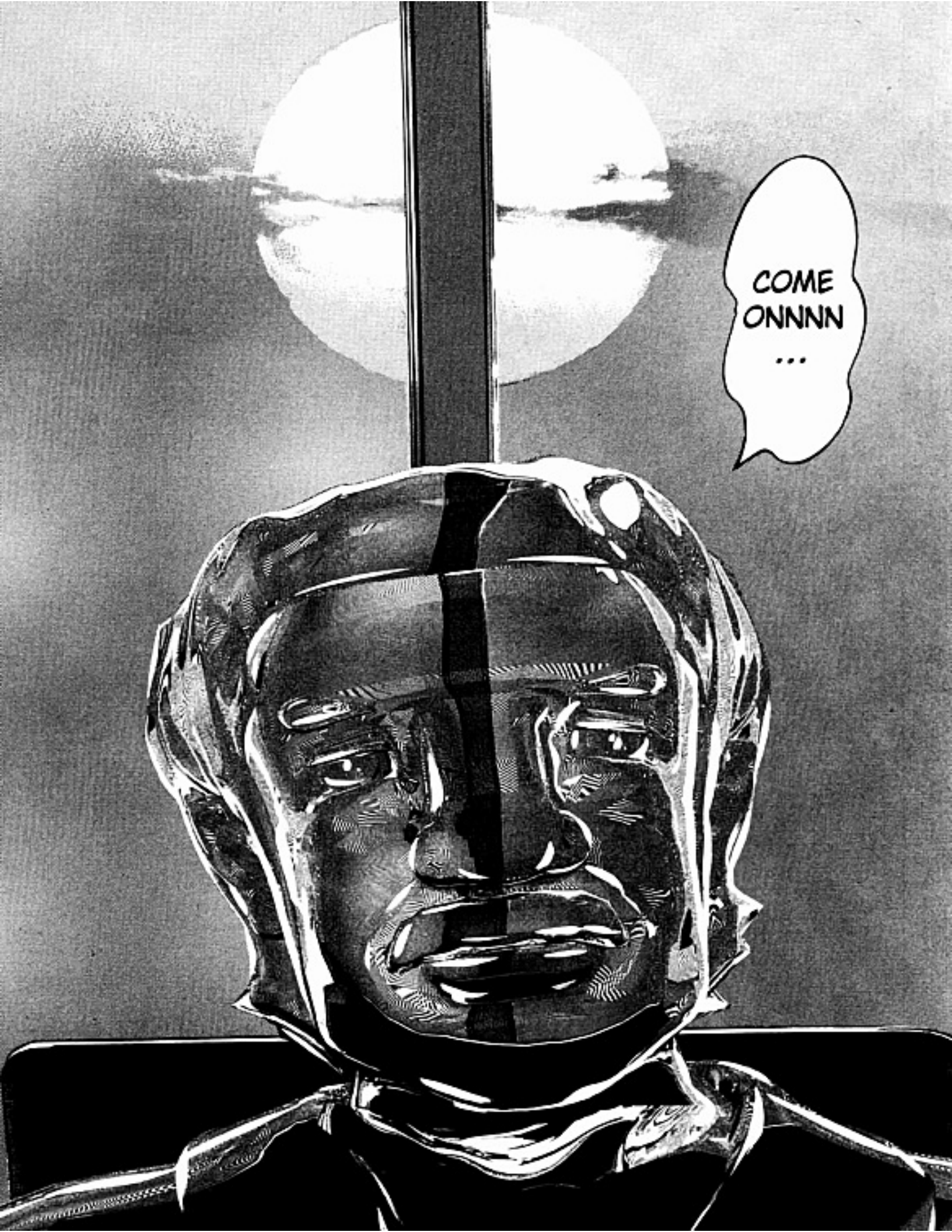


181







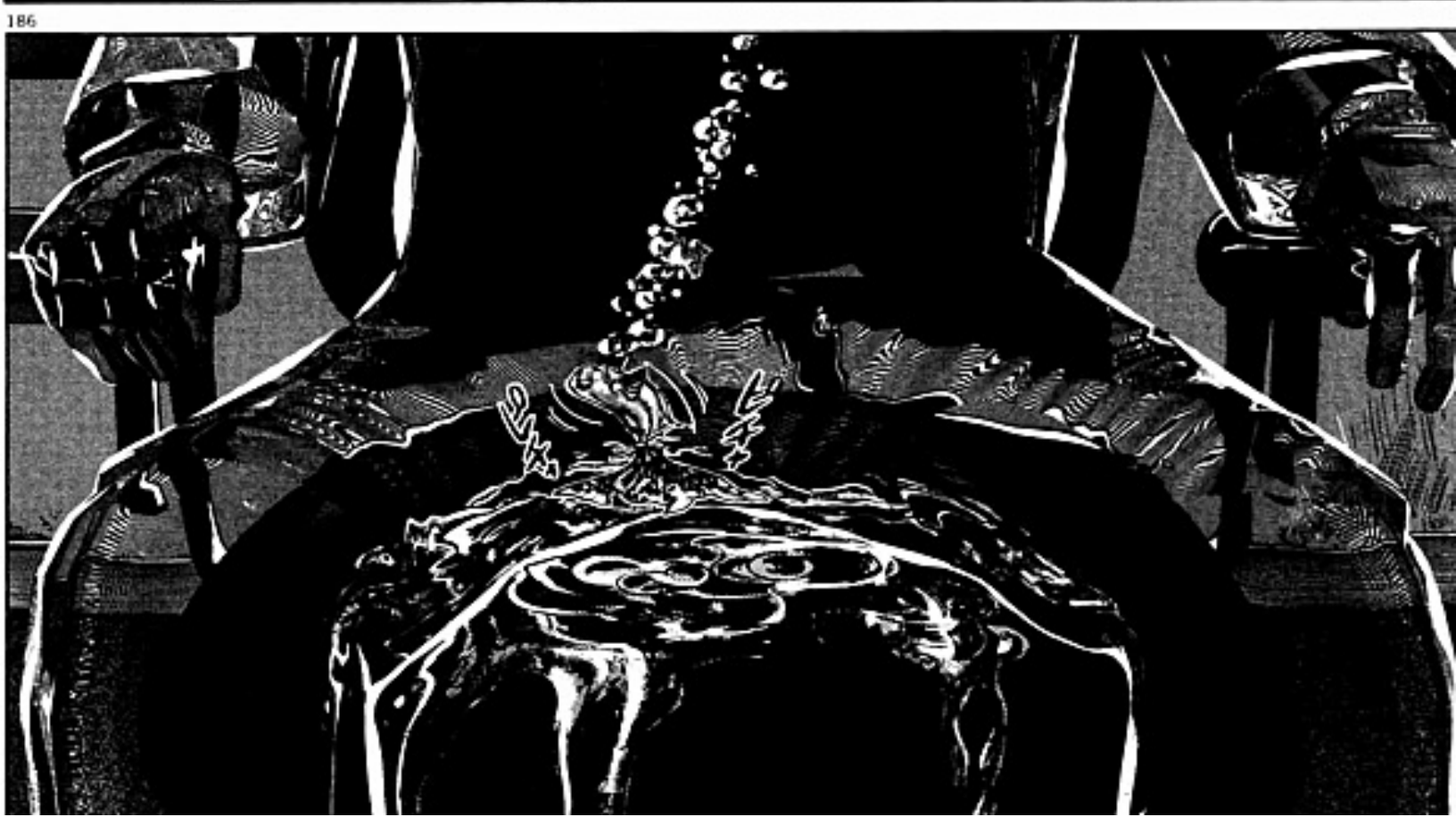


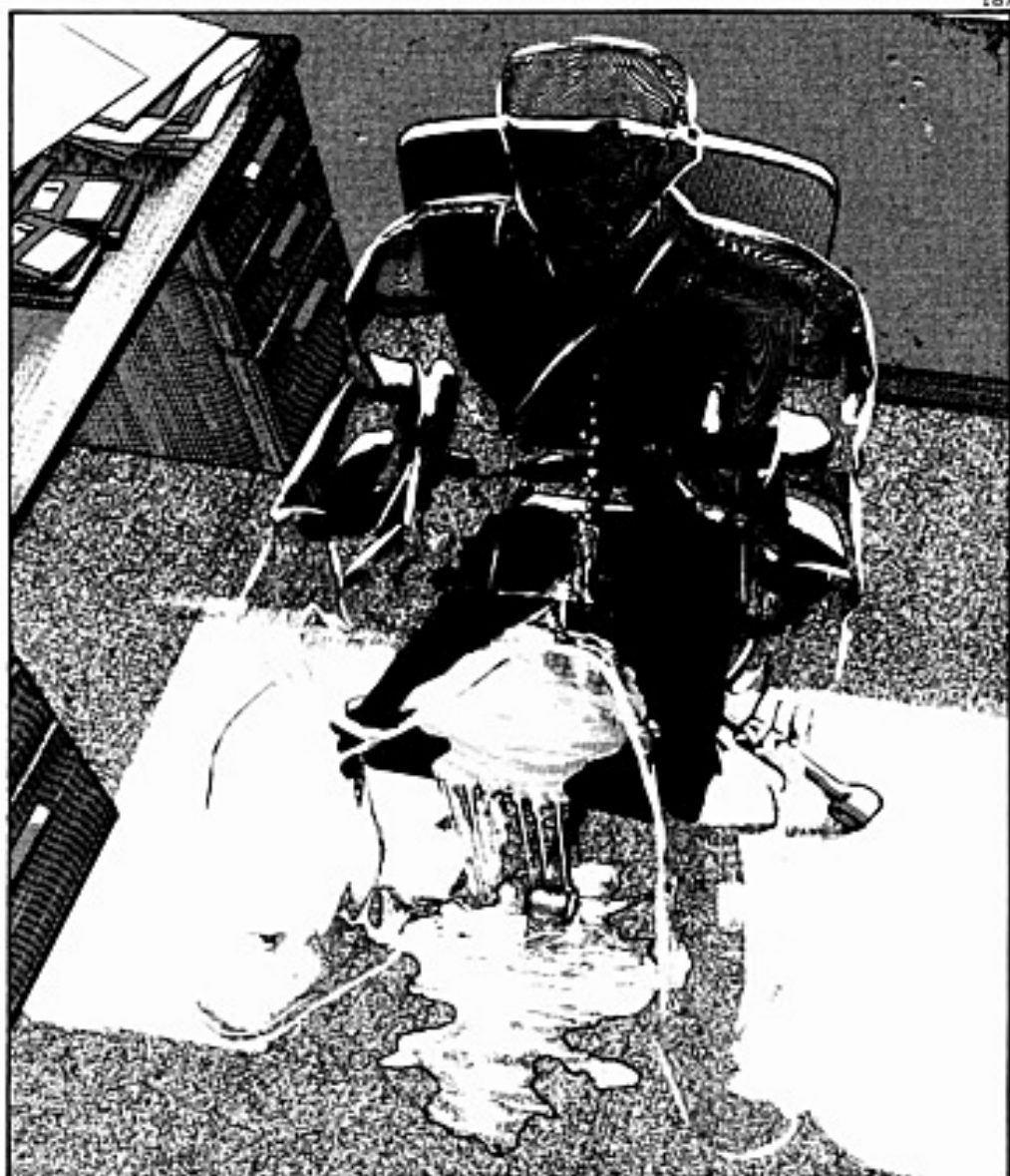
COME
ONNNN

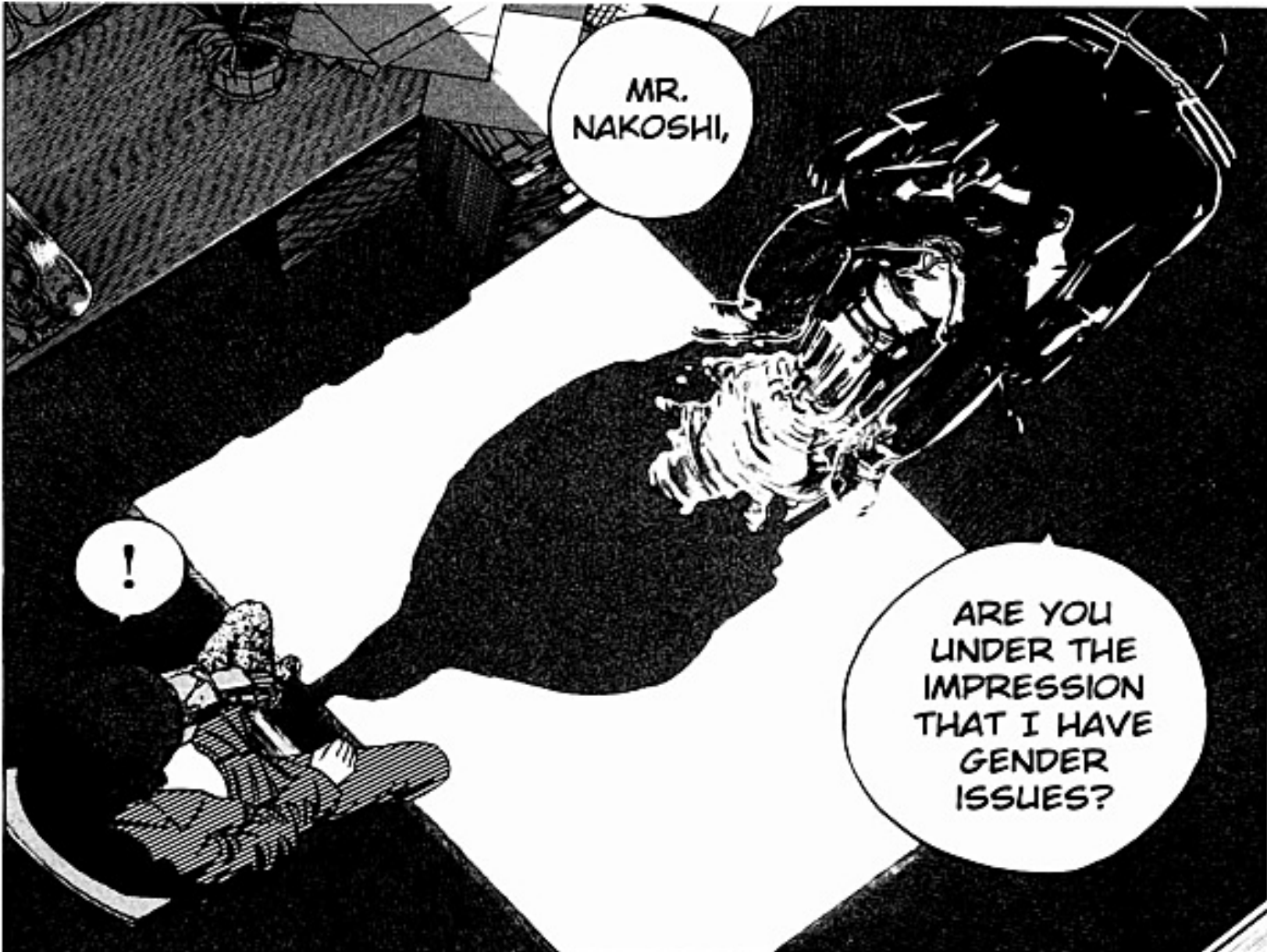
...



DID YOU THINK
YOU WERE
BREAKING ME
OUT OF MY
PATTERN OR
SOMETHING
...?







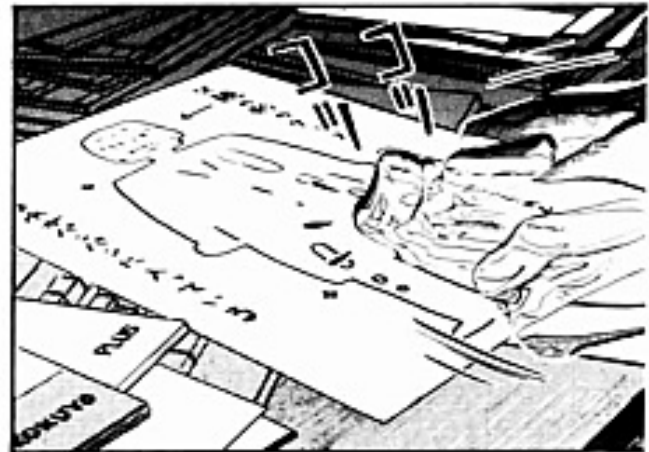
MR.
NAKOSHI,

ARE YOU
UNDER THE
IMPRESSION
THAT I HAVE
GENDER
ISSUES?

188



WHAT EXACTLY
ABOUT THIS
HOMUNCULUS IS
LEADING YOU TO
THAT CONCLUSION?

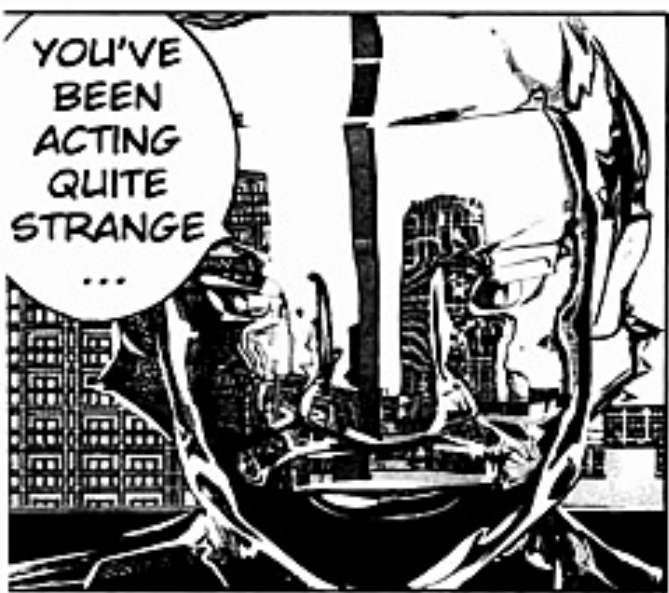




THAT
THIS
SKETCH
IS JUST
A LIE?



OR ARE
YOU
SAYING
...



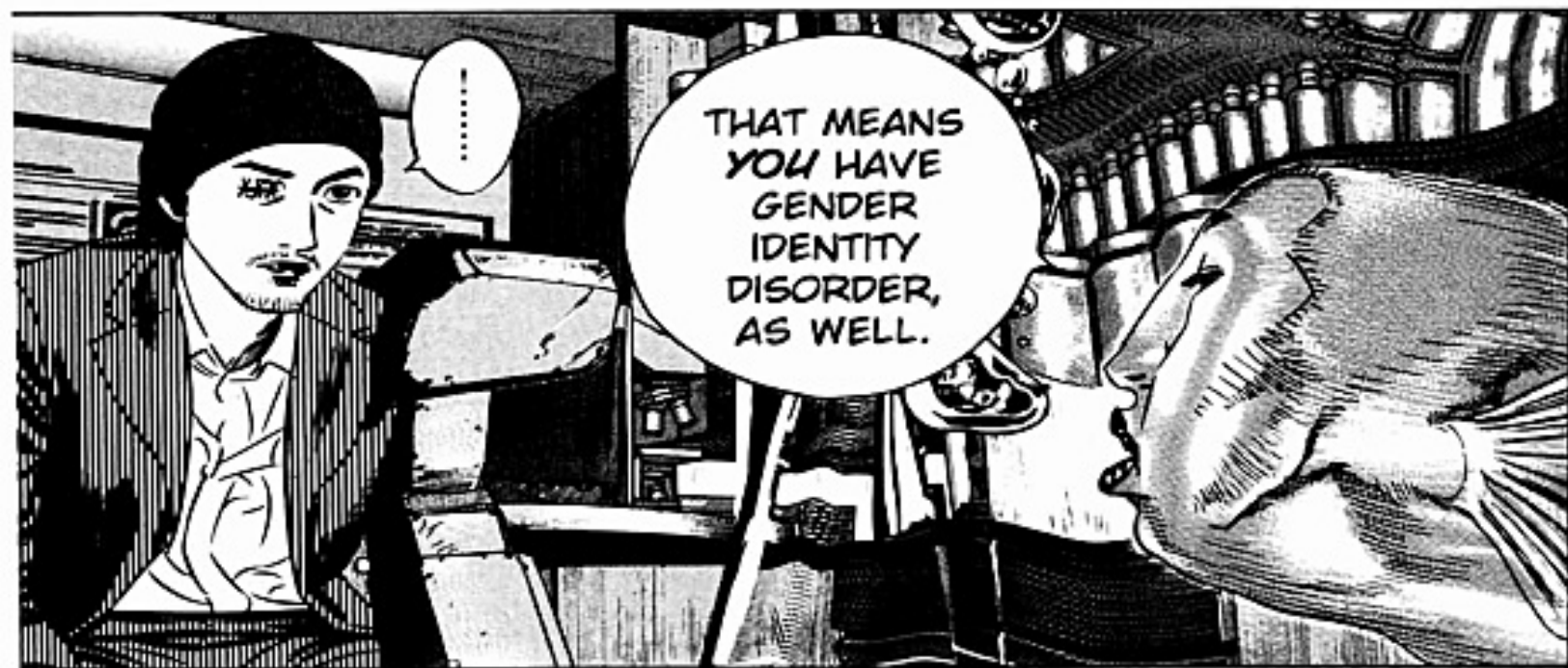
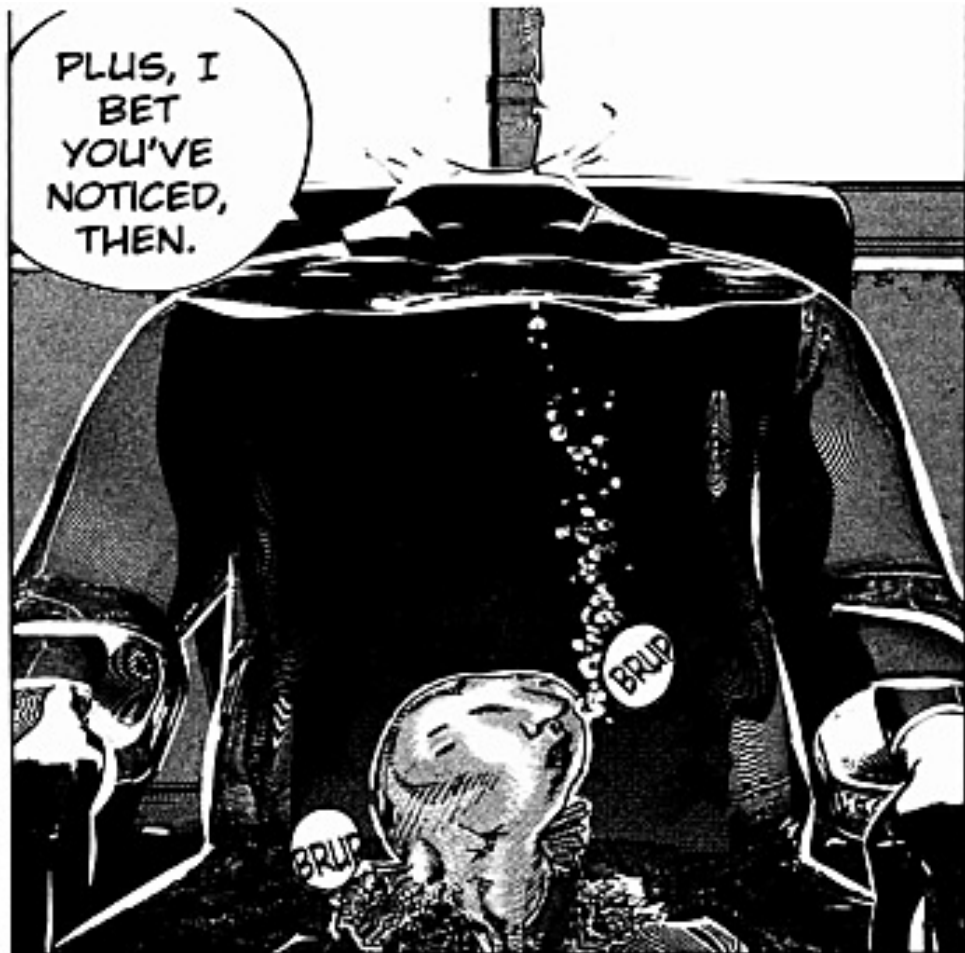
YOU'VE
BEEN
ACTING
QUITE
STRANGE
...

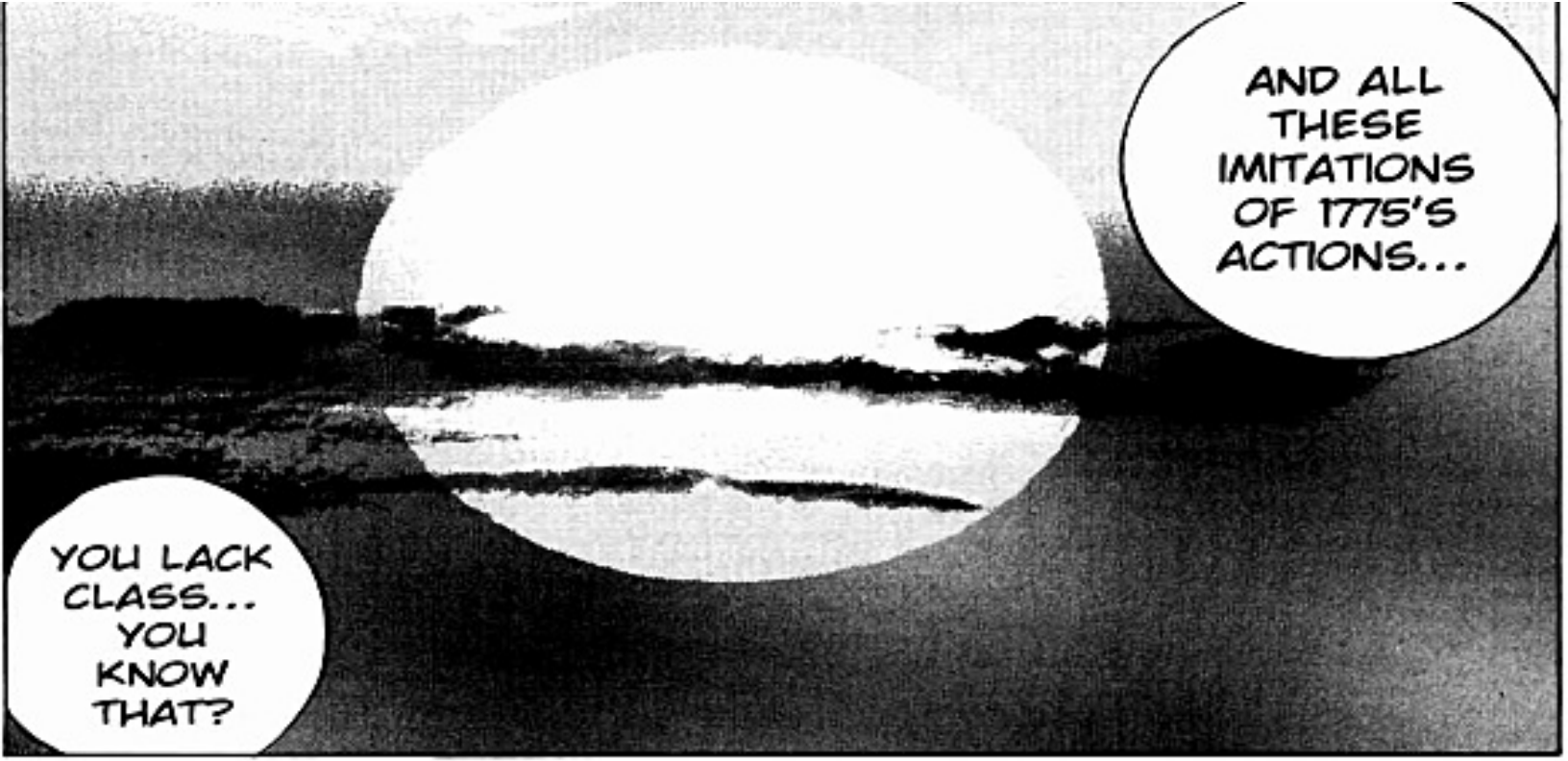


...





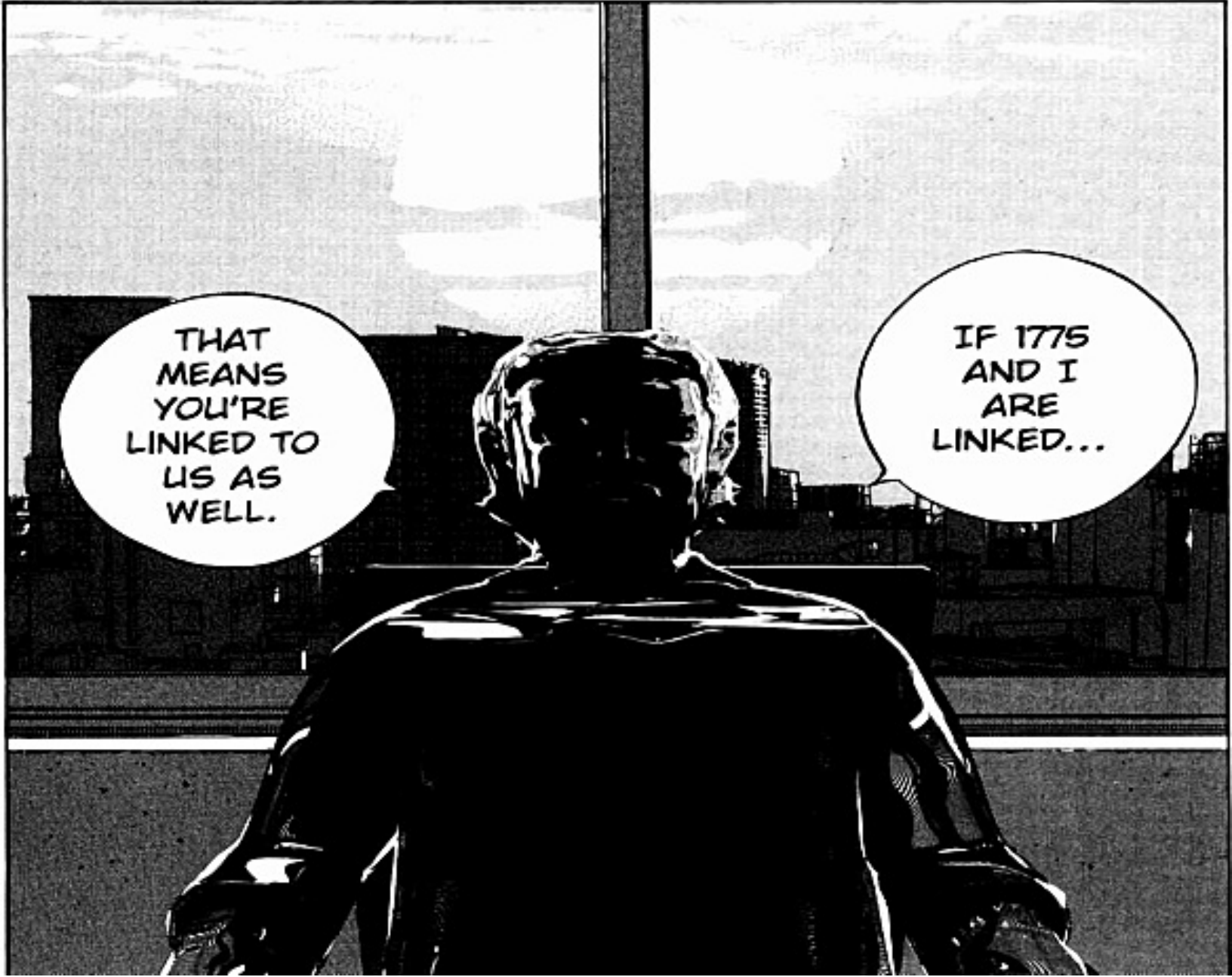




AND ALL
THESE
IMITATIONS
OF 1775'S
ACTIONS...

YOU LACK
CLASS...
YOU
KNOW
THAT?

192



THAT
MEANS
YOU'RE
LINKED TO
US AS
WELL.

IF 1775
AND I
ARE
LINKED...



ALL THREE
OF US ARE
LINKED BY
THE SAME
ISSUES.



THEY'RE
NOT LINKS
...



THEY'RE A
CHAIN!

194

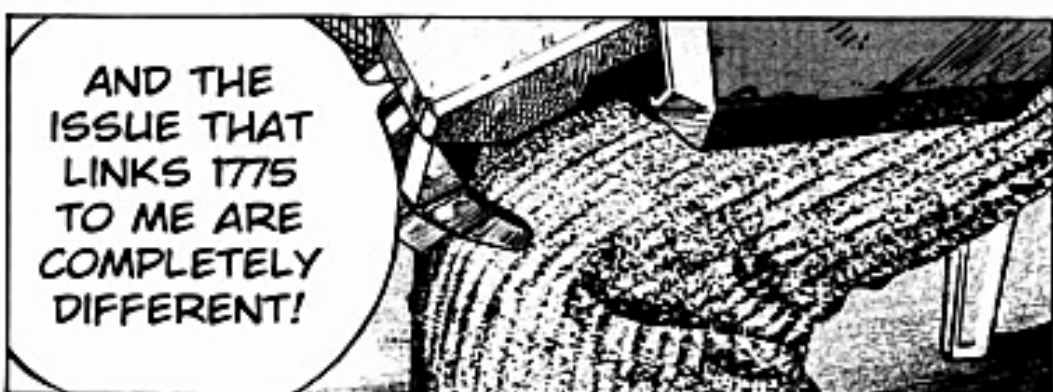




!?



THE ISSUE
THAT LINKS
YOU TO ME
...



AND THE
ISSUE THAT
LINKS 1775
TO ME ARE
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT!



SAME
WITH
THE
YAKUZA
...



THEY
FORM A
CHAIN...

THAT'S
WHAT I
FEEL
LIKE.

WHEN EACH
PERSON LINKS
THEIR ISSUE
WITH
ANOTHER,



YOU
AND I
ARE
...

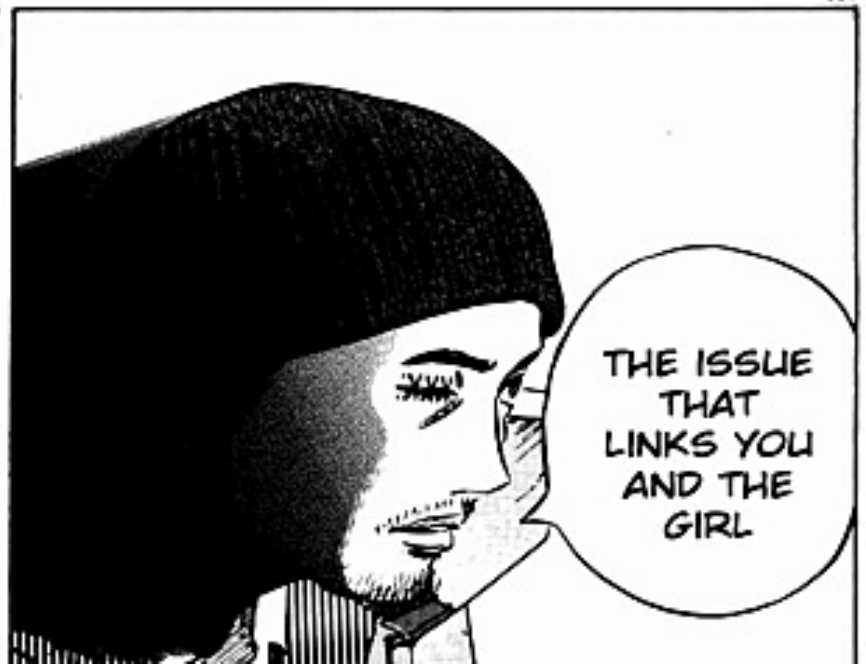
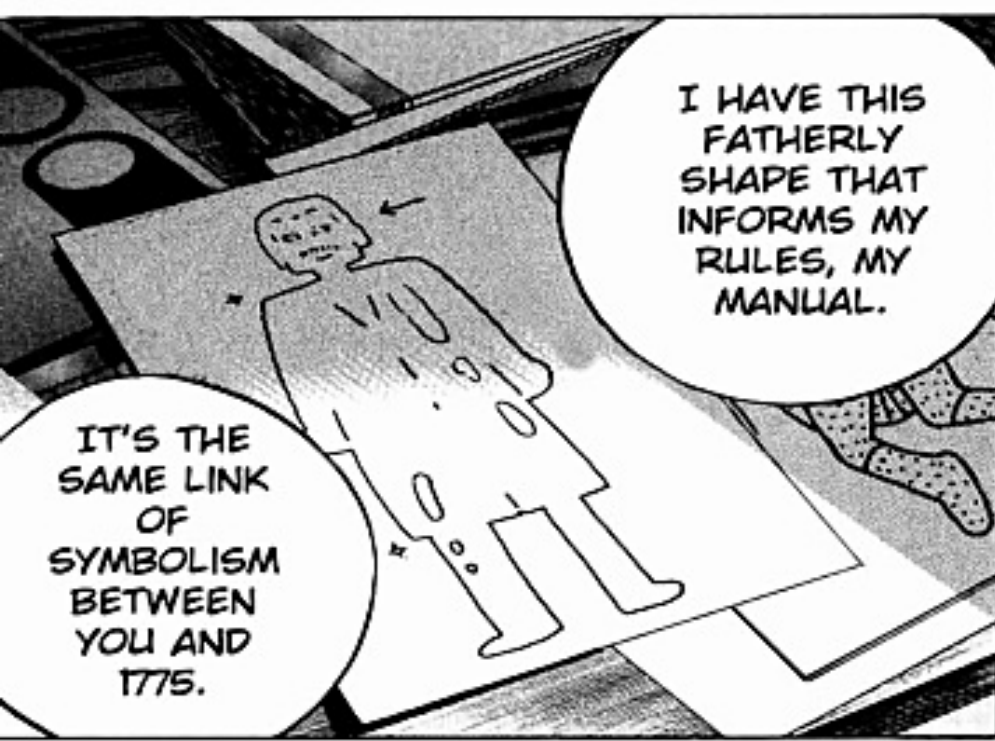



SYMBOLS,
KNOWLEDGE.

1775
AND I
ARE,



...





WELL, WHAT
THE HECK
LINKS 1775 TO
ME, THEN?



AND WHY
DID YOU
RUN AWAY
...?



WHY DID
YOU
CHOOSE
HER,



YOU
REALLY
CAN'T
TELL?



BECAUSE
SHE WAS
BEAUTIFUL
...

IT
WAS
JUST,

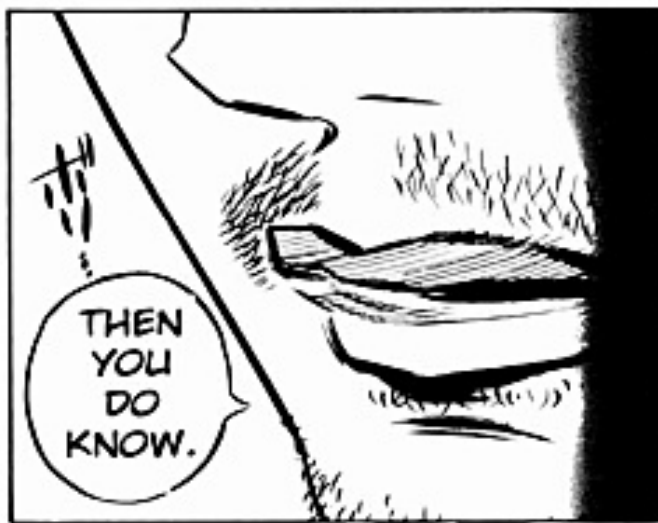


I TOLD
YOU
ALREADY.

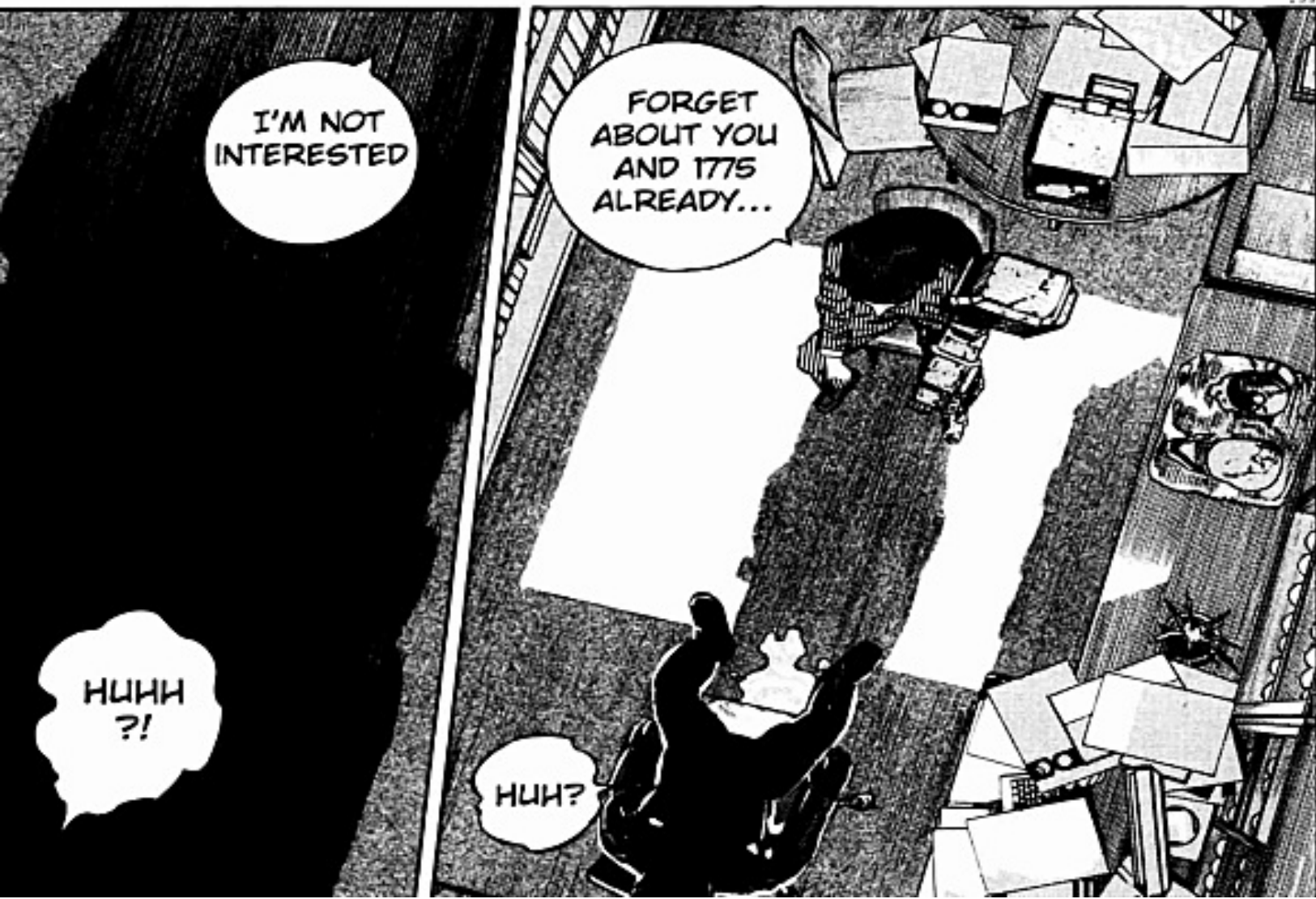


WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HUH?



THEN YOU DO KNOW.



I'M NOT INTERESTED

FORGET ABOUT YOU AND 1775 ALREADY...

HUHH ?!

HUH?



I'M NOT
INTERESTED IN
ANYTHING BUT
YOU, RIGHT
HERE AND
NOW!

200



IN MY
OWN
SELF!

I'M ONLY
INTERESTED



OH COME
ON, HANG
ON A
MINUTE...



.....

JUST
WHAT
ISSUE OF
MINE

ARE YOU
HOLDING?
WHAT IS IT
...?



201



!

OUT
WITH IT!



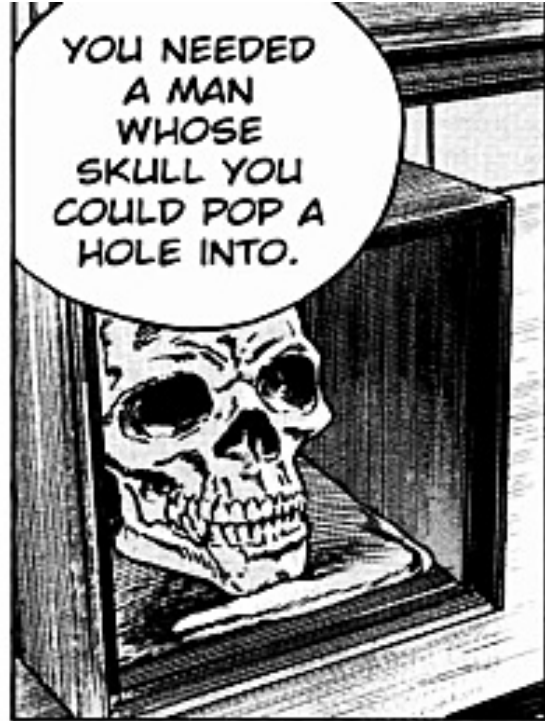


CHOOSE
ME?!



DID
YOU,

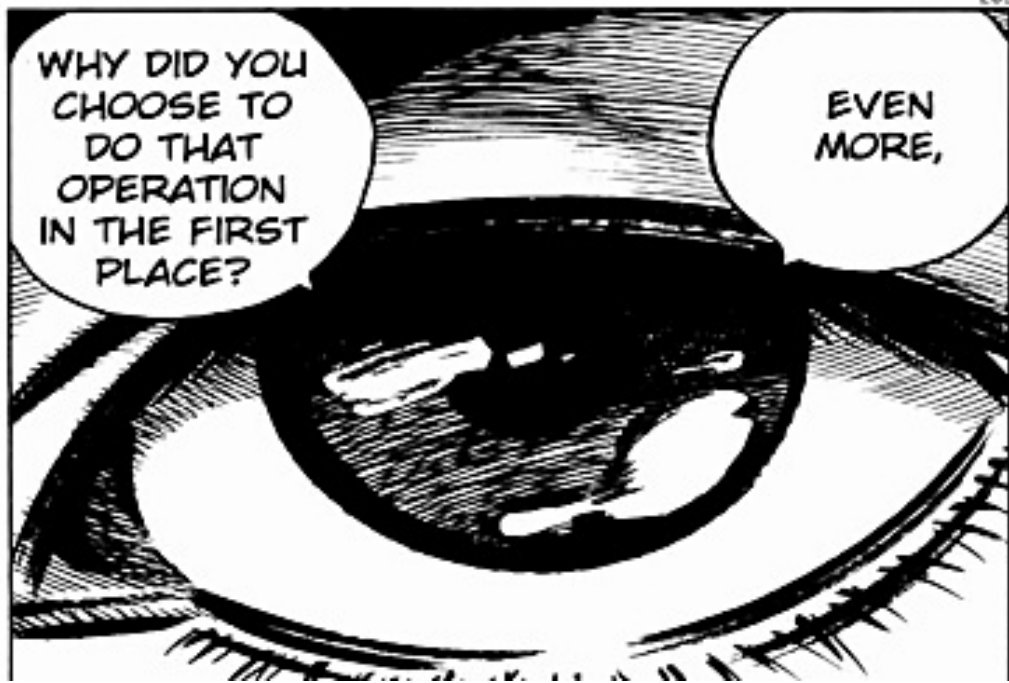
SO
WHY,



YOU NEEDED
A MAN
WHOSE
SKULL YOU
COULD POP A
HOLE INTO.



BLUB
...



WHY DID YOU
CHOOSE TO
DO THAT
OPERATION
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?

EVEN
MORE,




WHAT FOR?



IT'S JUST ONE OF THE WAYS AVAILABLE FOR ME TO STUDY THE HUMAN CONDITION...

DIDN'T I TELL YOU ALREADY ...?



THE EFFECTS OF YOUR TREPANATION HAVE PAID OFF SO...

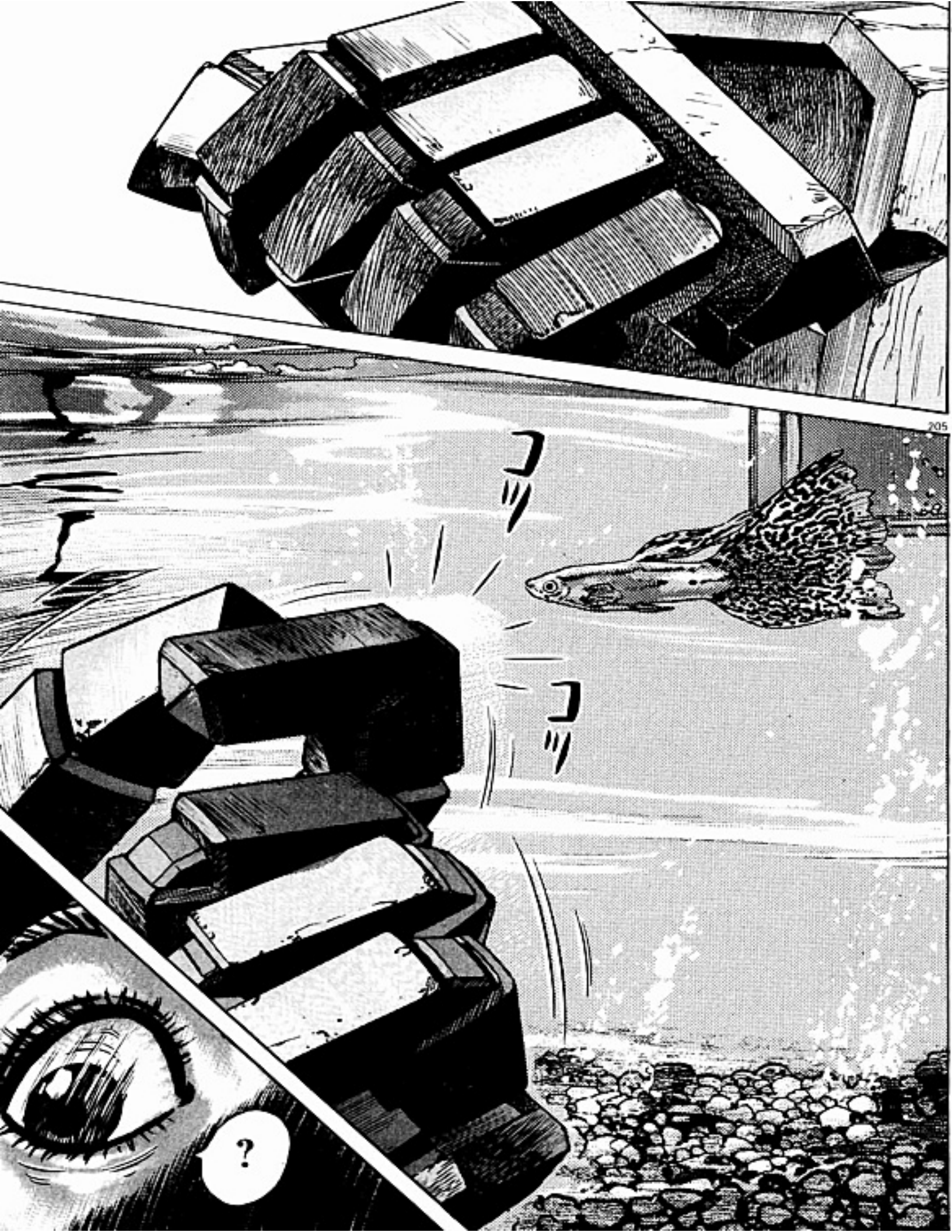
AND LOOK AT YOU NOW!



.....

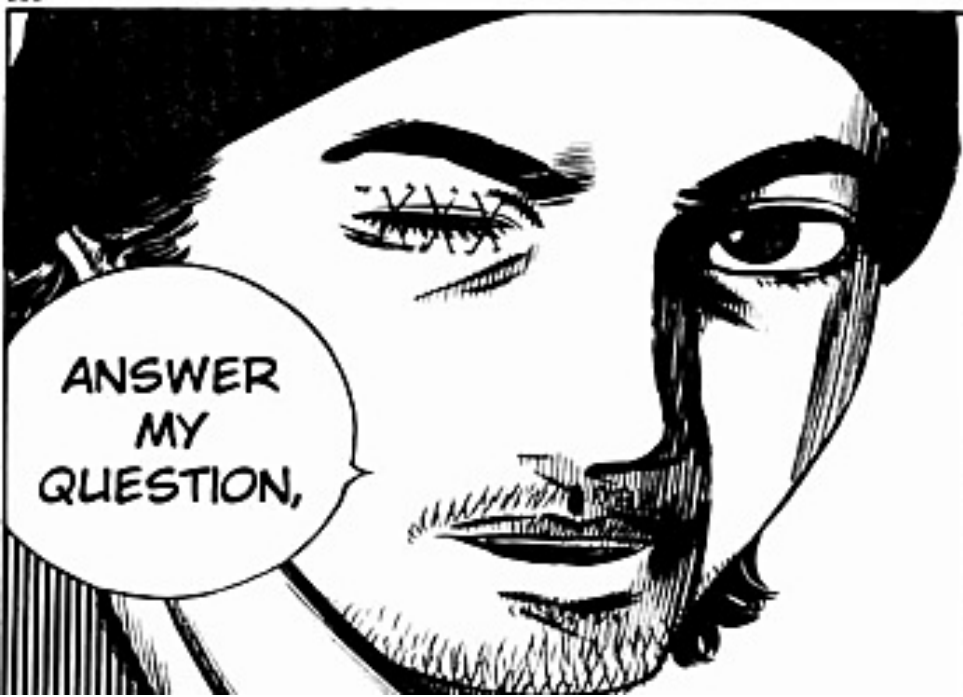


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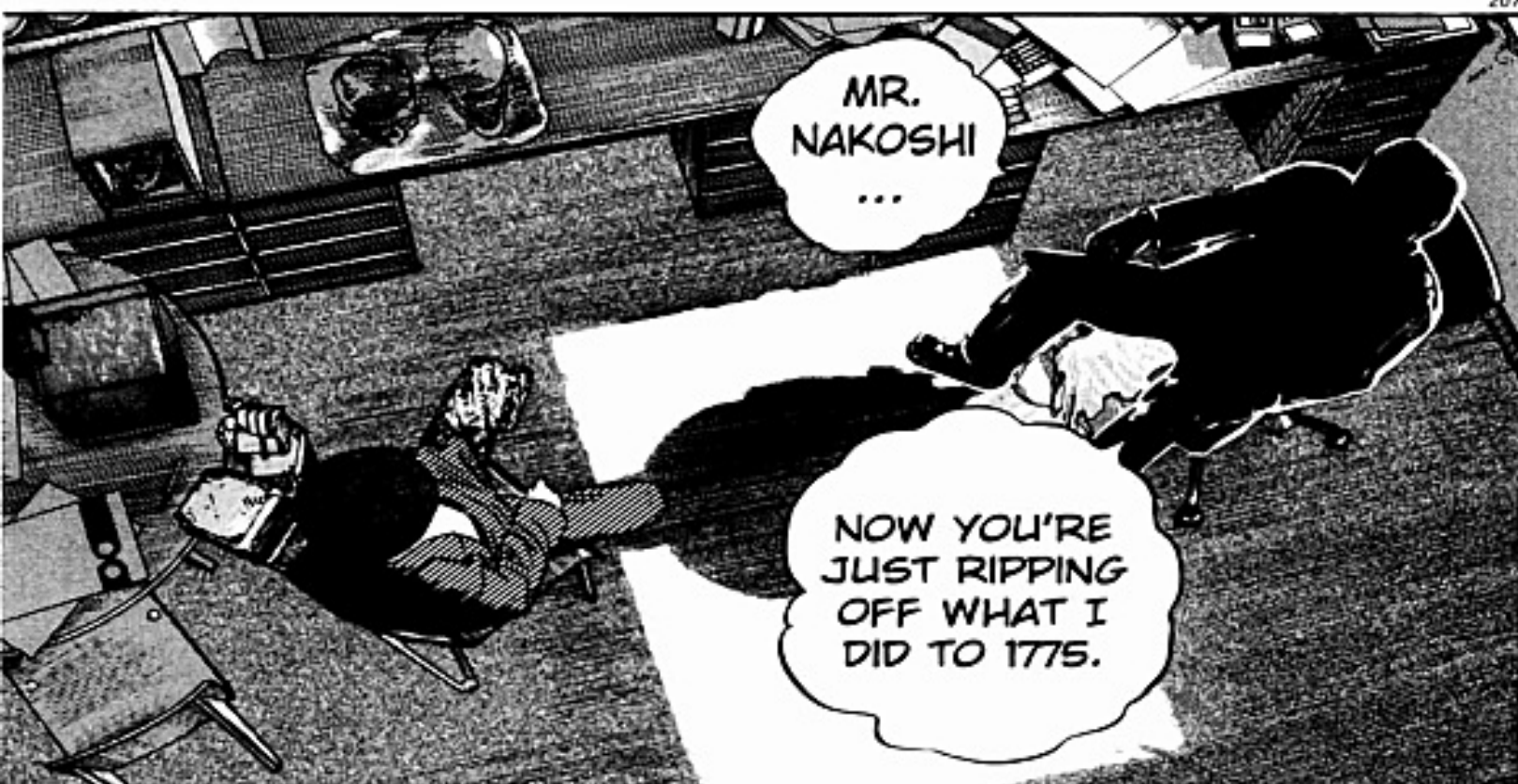
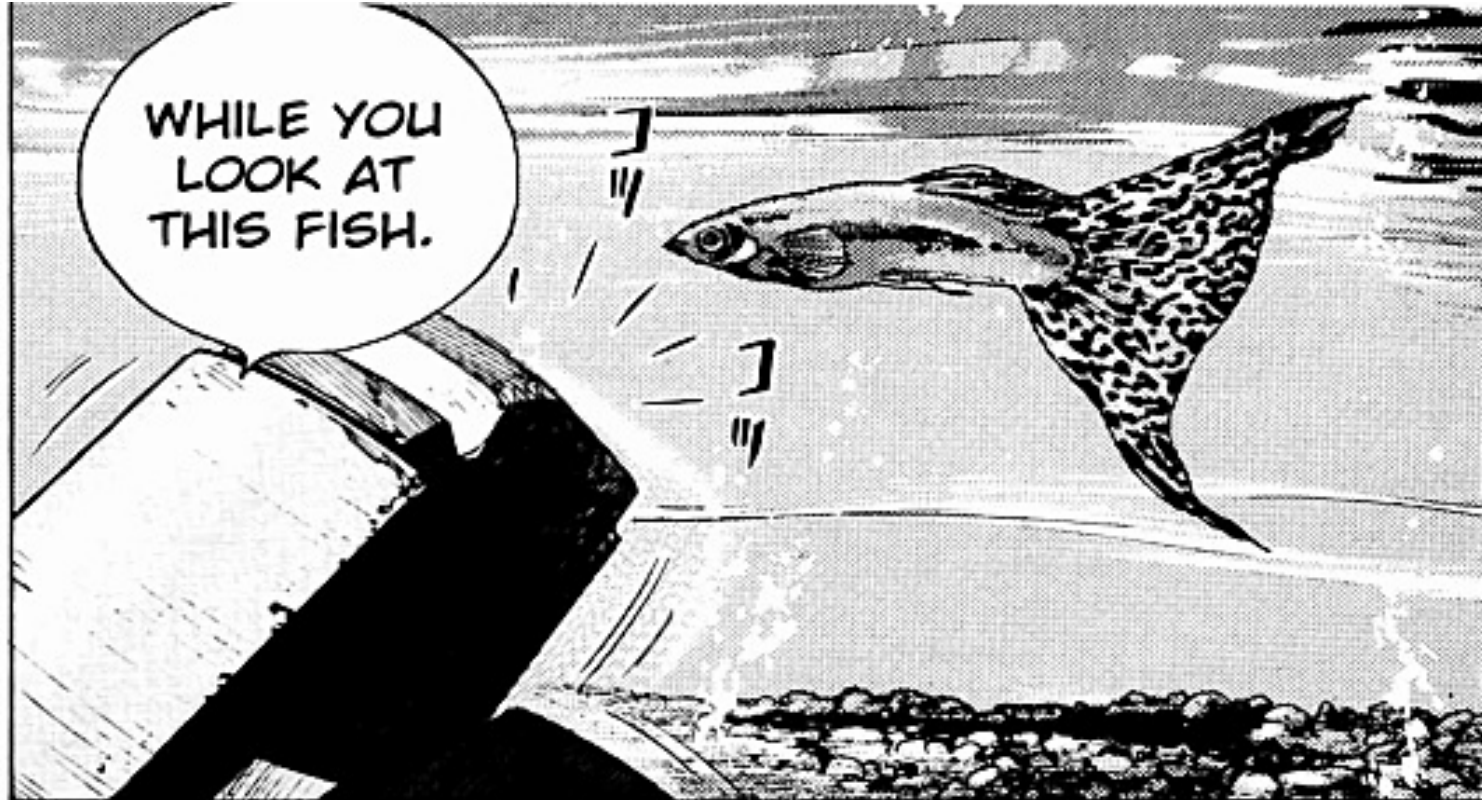
LOOK AT HIM AND ANSWER ME.



ANSWER MY QUESTION,



HUH?

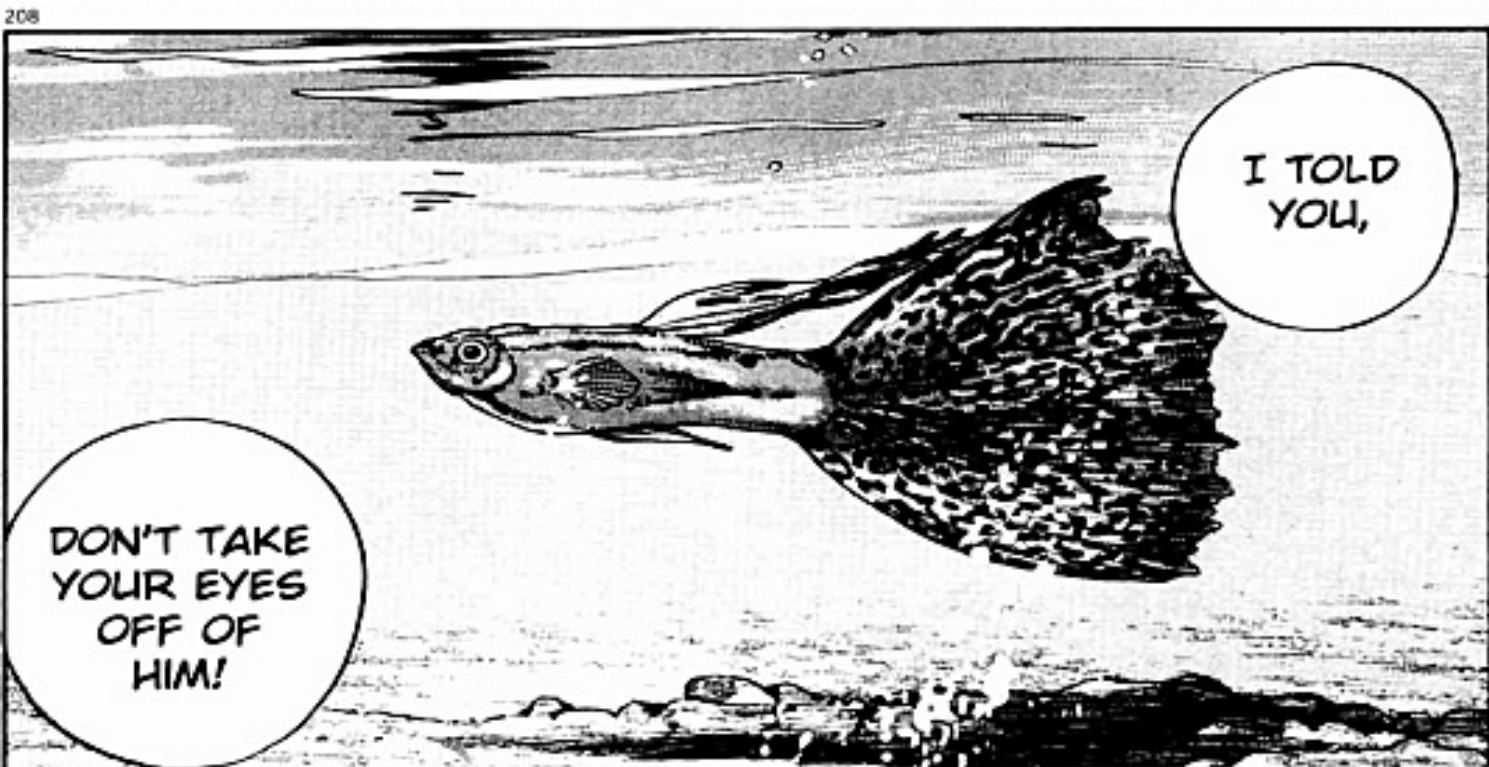
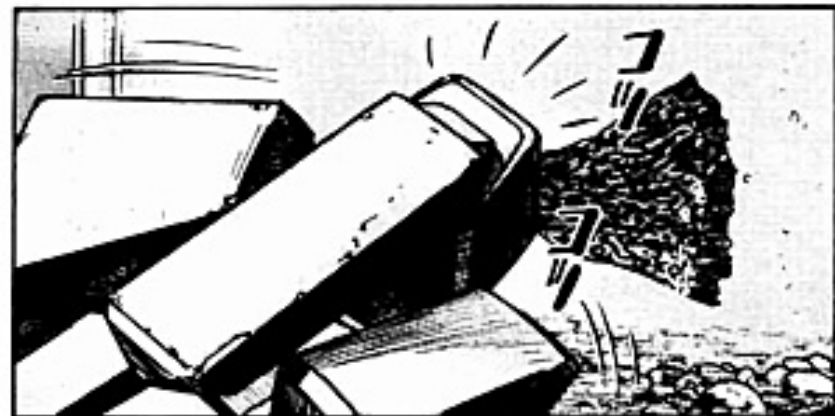
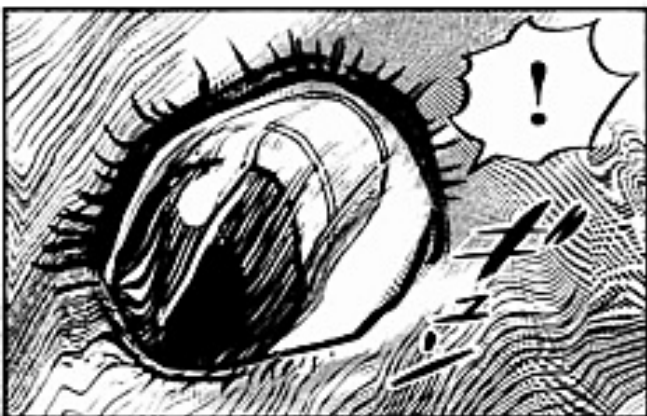


BUT I DON'T SEE WHY THAT MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO GET ANYTHING NEW OR DIFFERENT OUT OF MY...

SO I REALIZE THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME FOCUS MY ATTENTION TO MY RIGHT.

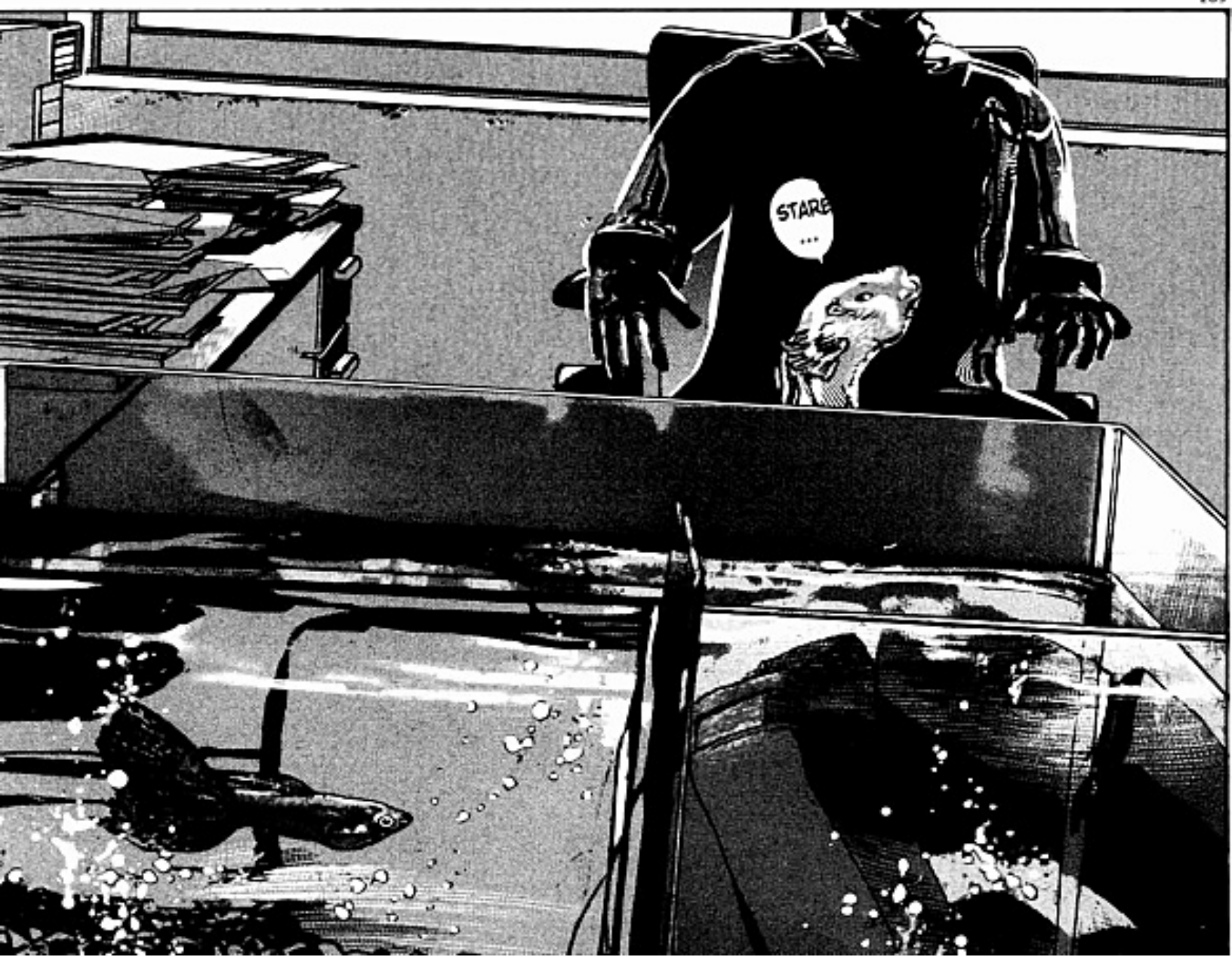
IN MY CASE, UNLIKE 1775, MY "CONSCIOUS SIDE" IS MY LEFT,

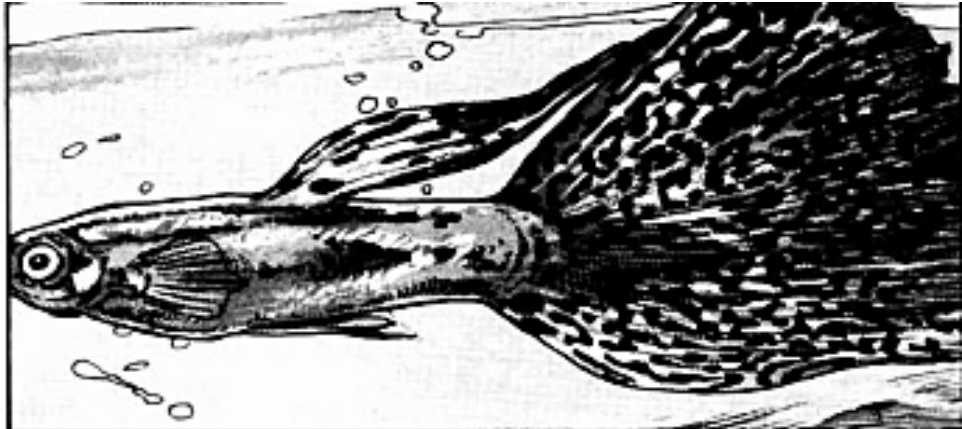
OKAY, TRUE,



DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF OF HIM!

I TOLD YOU,





JUST KEEP
YOUR GAZE
RIGHT AT
YOURSELF.

YEAH,



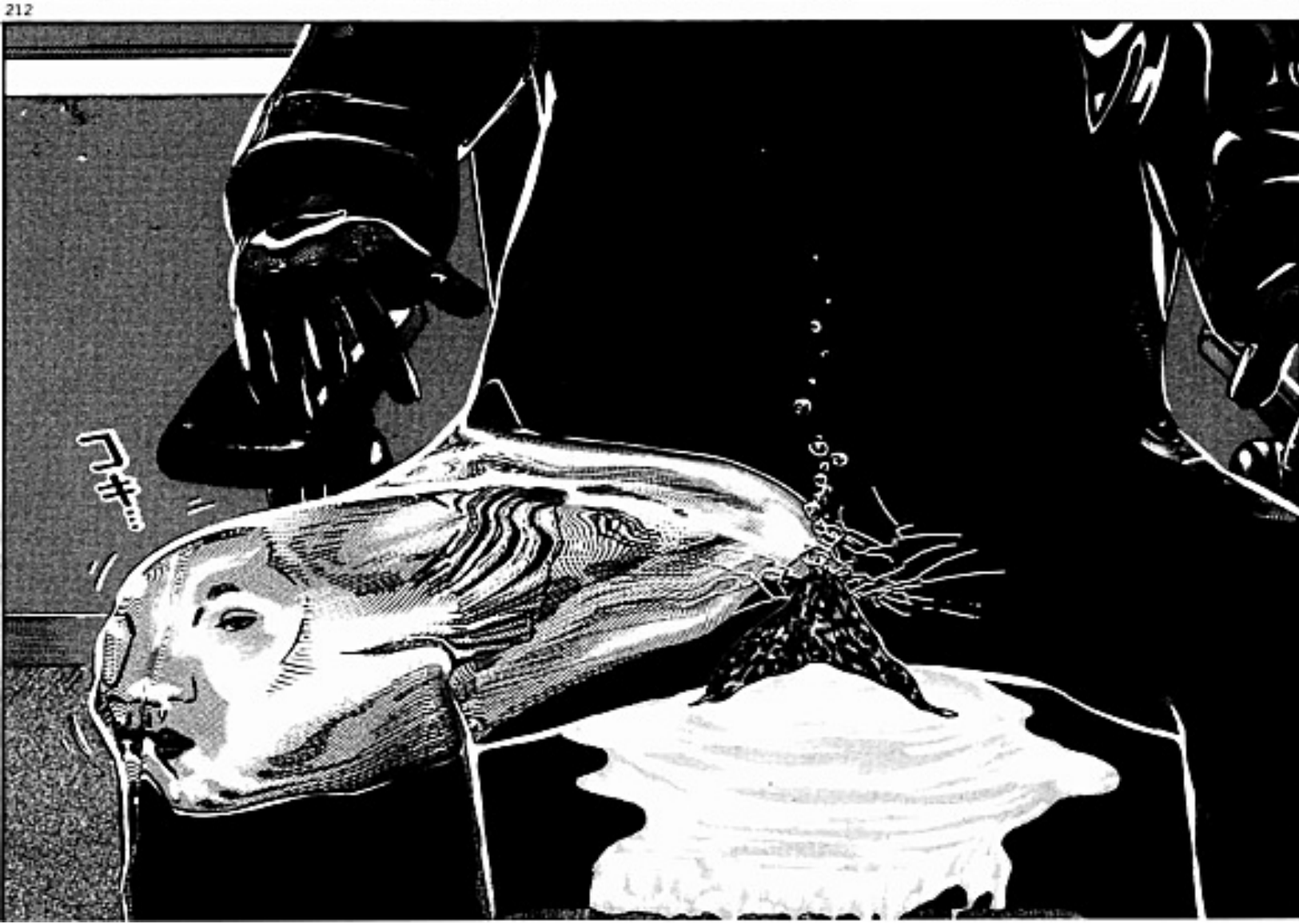
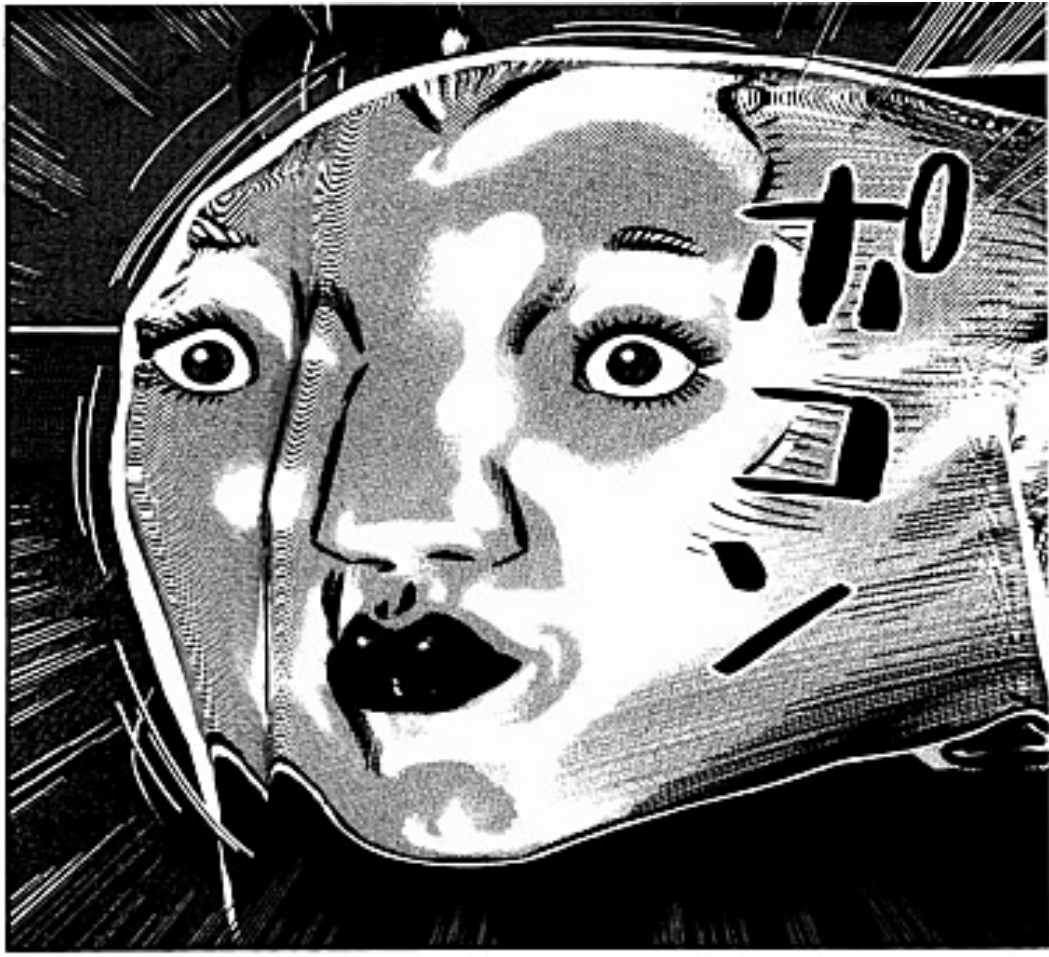
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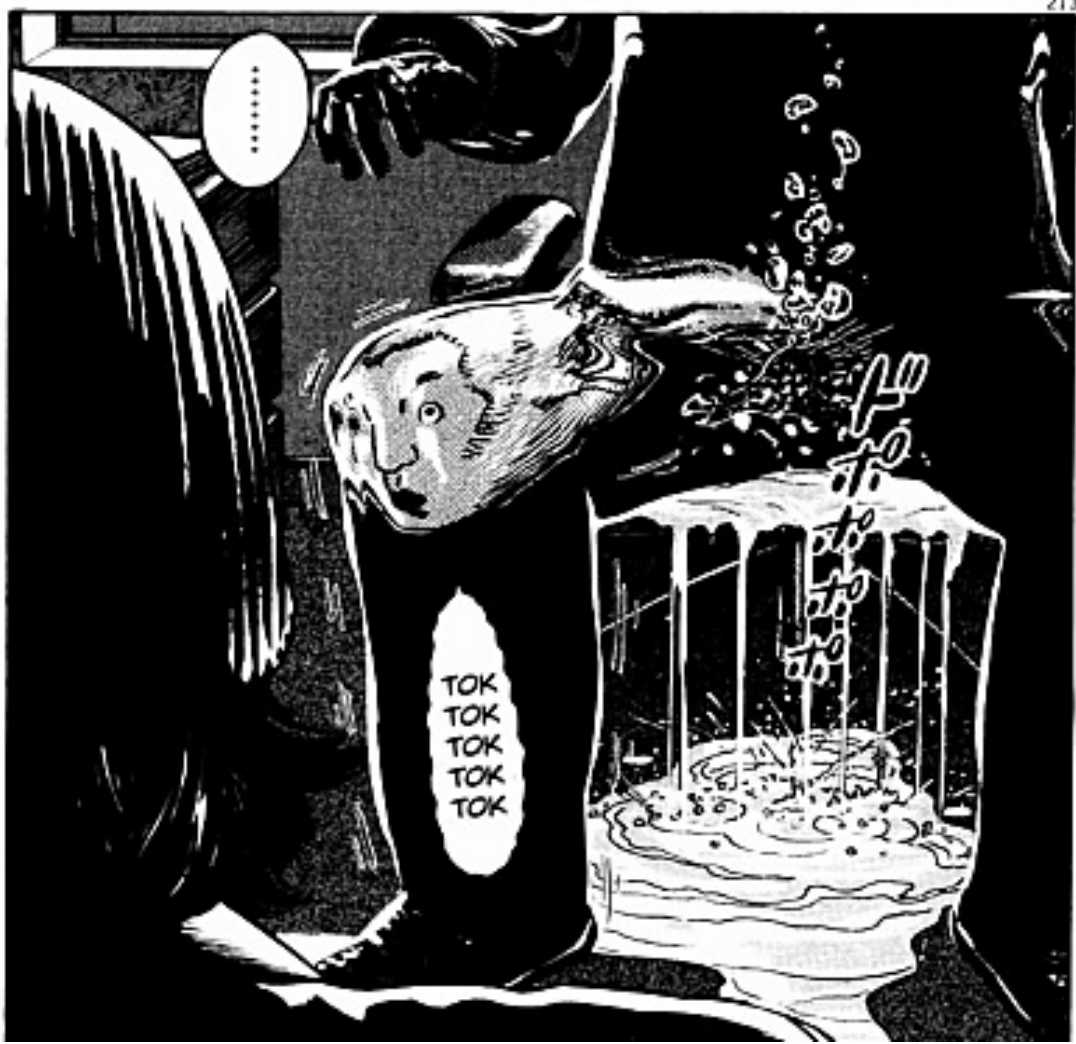
I DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTA
ND WHAT
IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO...

LOOK,
YOU'VE
BEEN
MUMBLING
ALL THIS
TIME.











HOMUNCULUS

HIDEO YAMAMOTO