

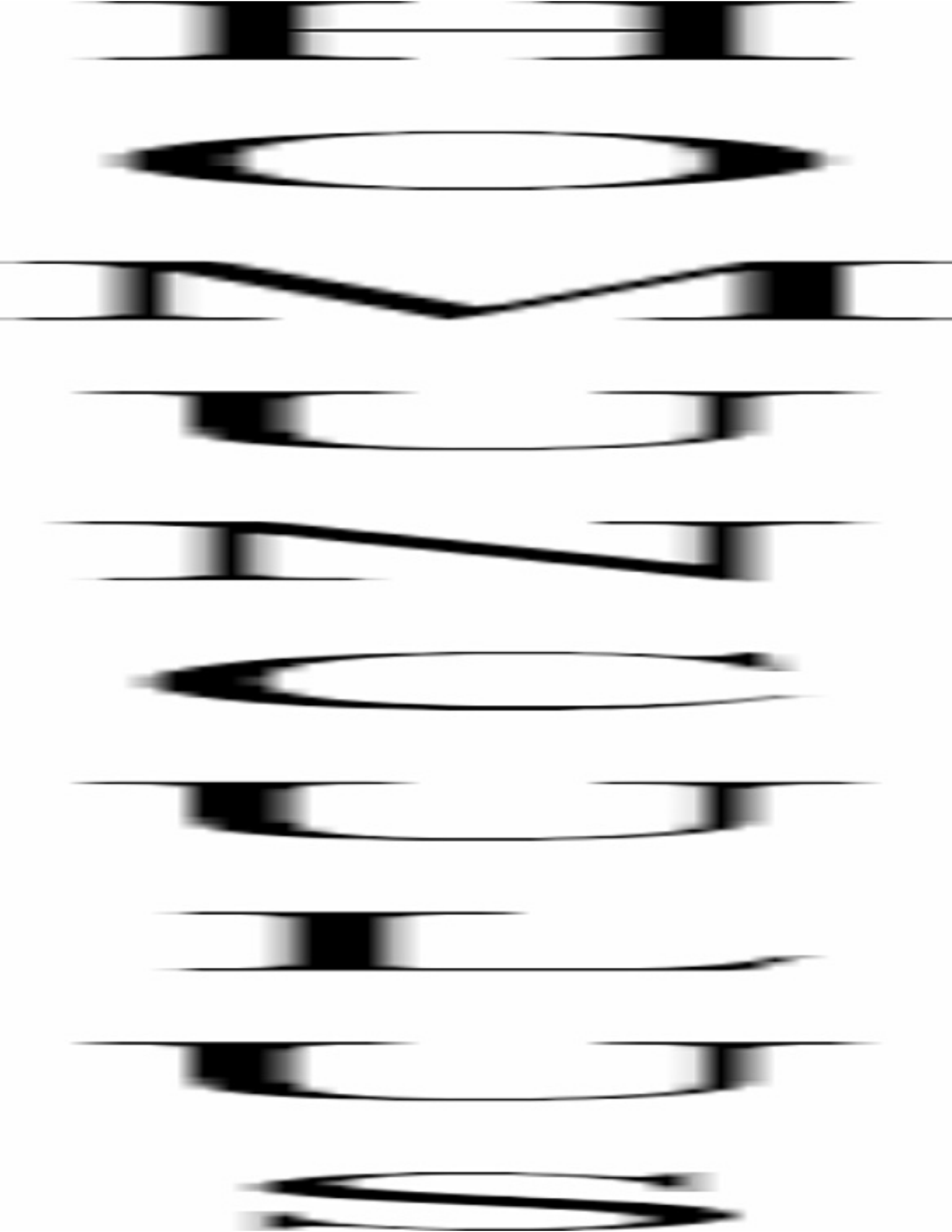
H O M U N C U L U S

ホ ム ン ク ル ス



7

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



HUH?

FOR
EXAMPLE
...

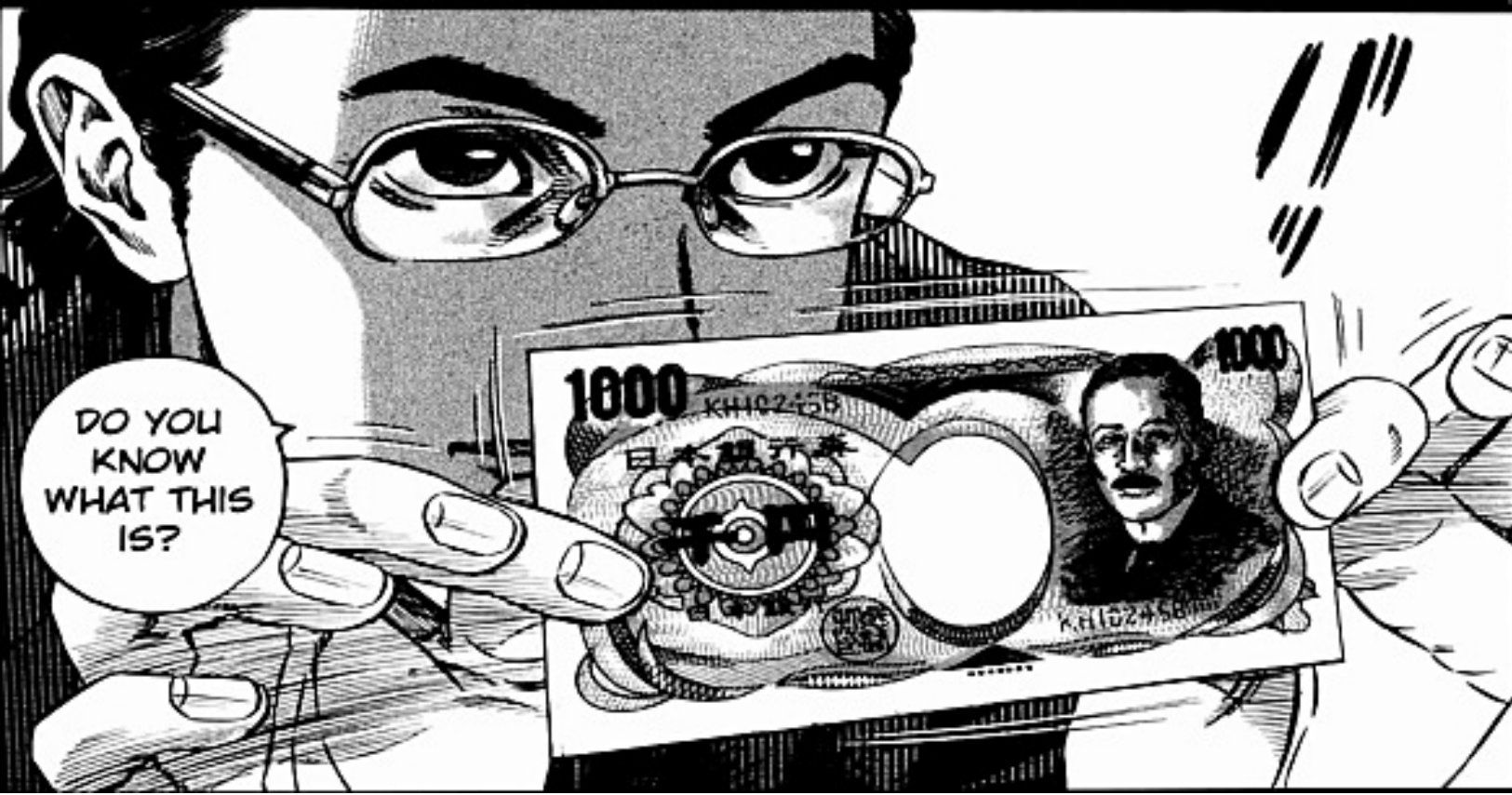
DO YOU
HAVE A
1,000
YEN
BILL?



THANK
YOU.



HERE...



DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT THIS
IS?

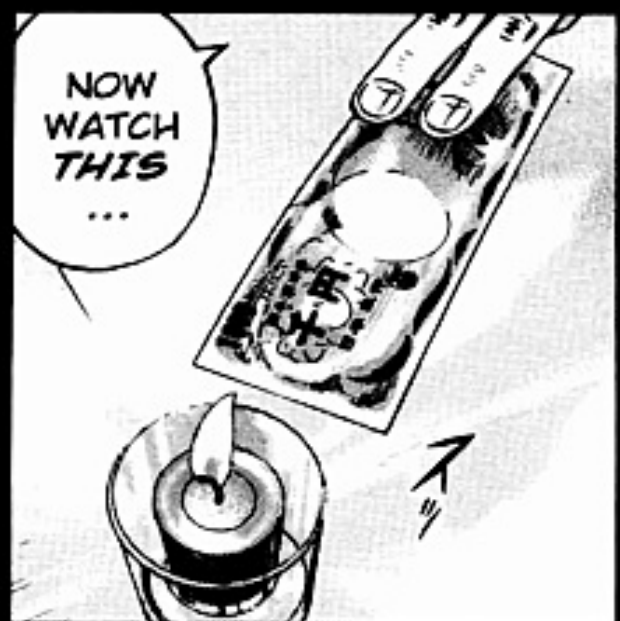


I GUESS YOU FERRIS ACADEMY GIRLS



JUST A SCRAP OF PAPER?







OUCH
...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WHA-!

NOOOO
!



AWWW
...

AW
...



ALL THIS
MEANS IS
THAT ONE
PROMISSARY
NOTE HAS
DISAPPEARED
FROM THE
WORLD.





OH MY GOD!



HUH ?!

IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.



WOW!

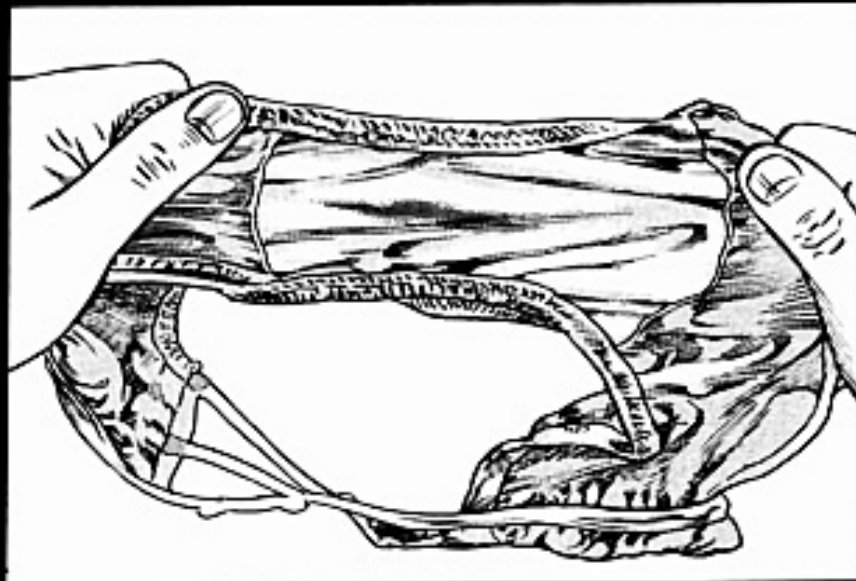
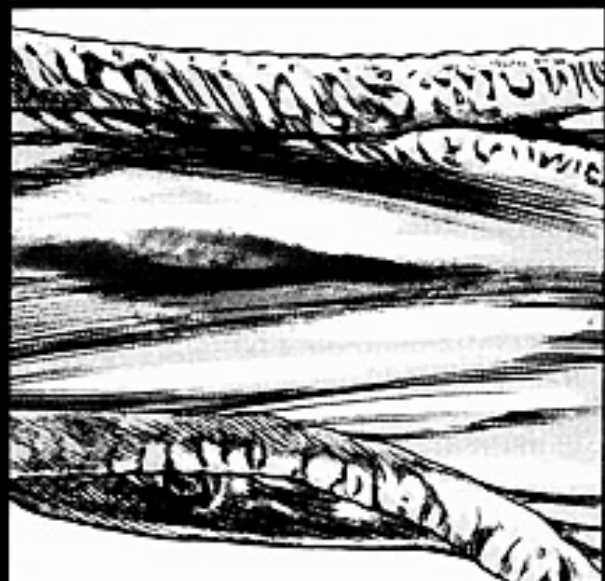


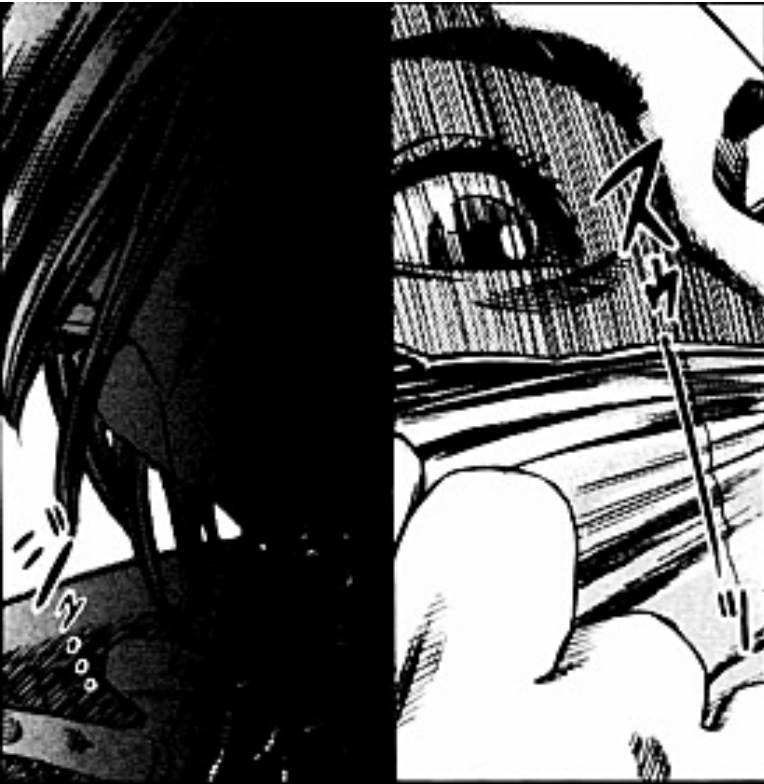
AND IT'S MONO-GRAMMED!



THIS MUST HAVE BEEN EXPENSIVE !!



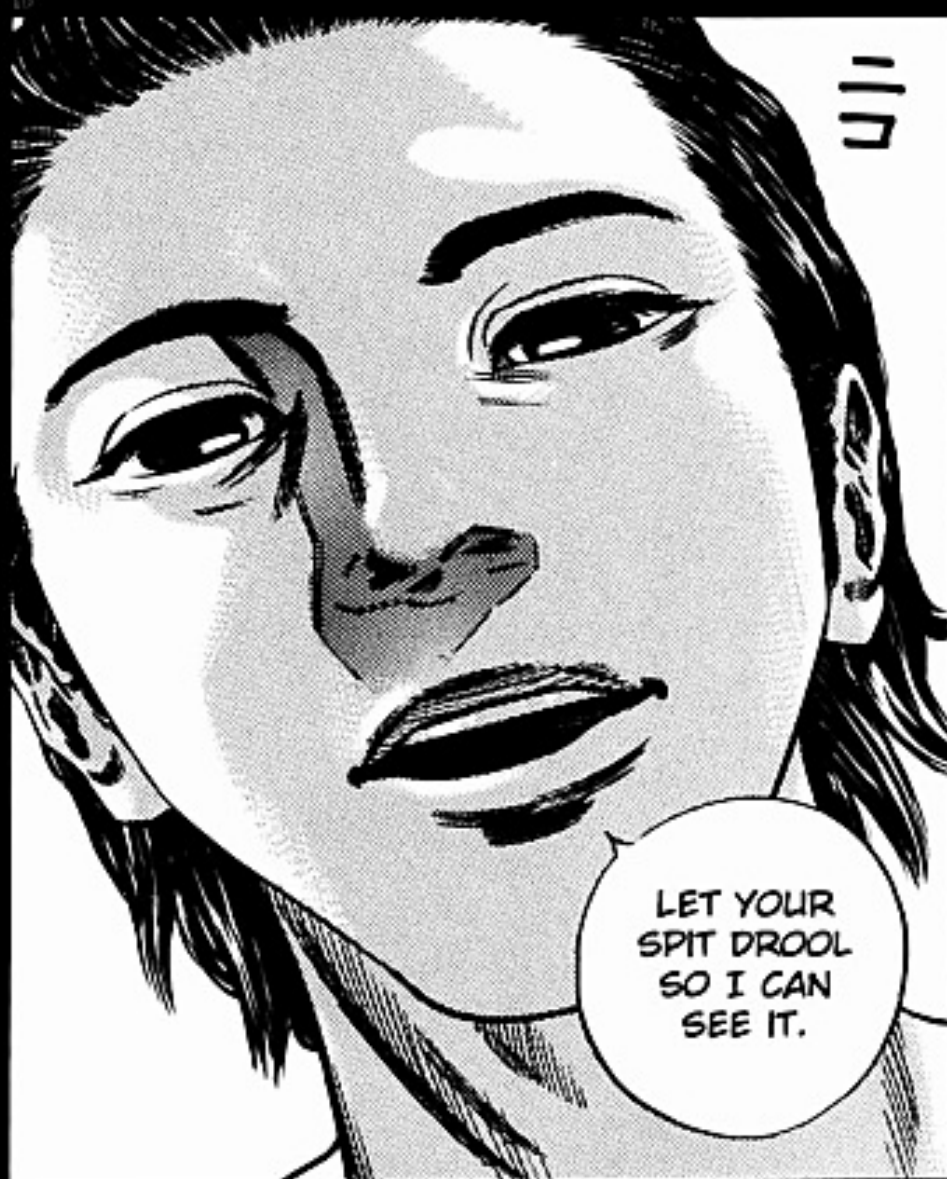
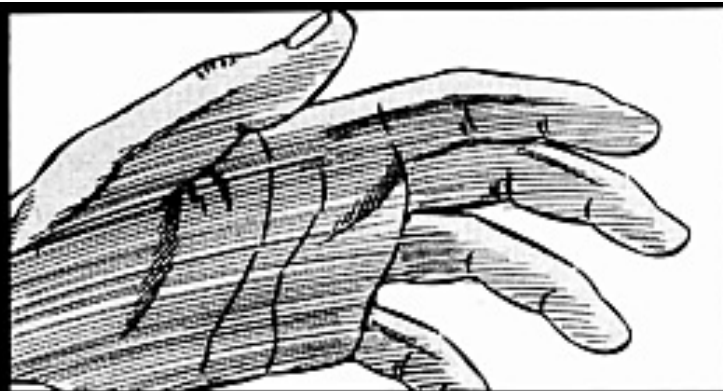




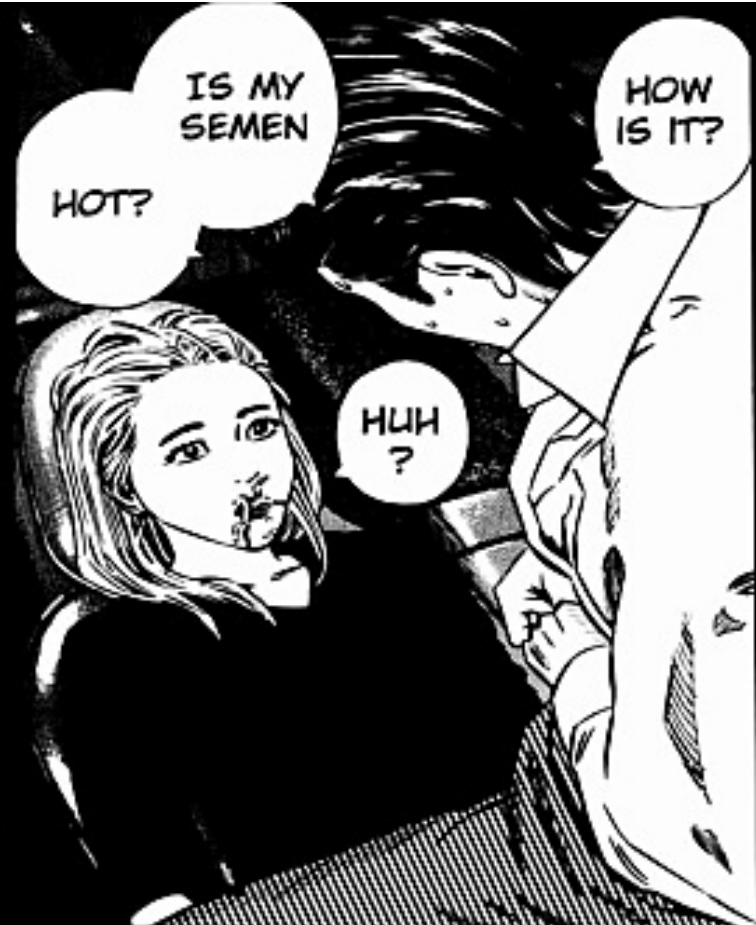
CAN'T
SMELL
ANYTHING
...

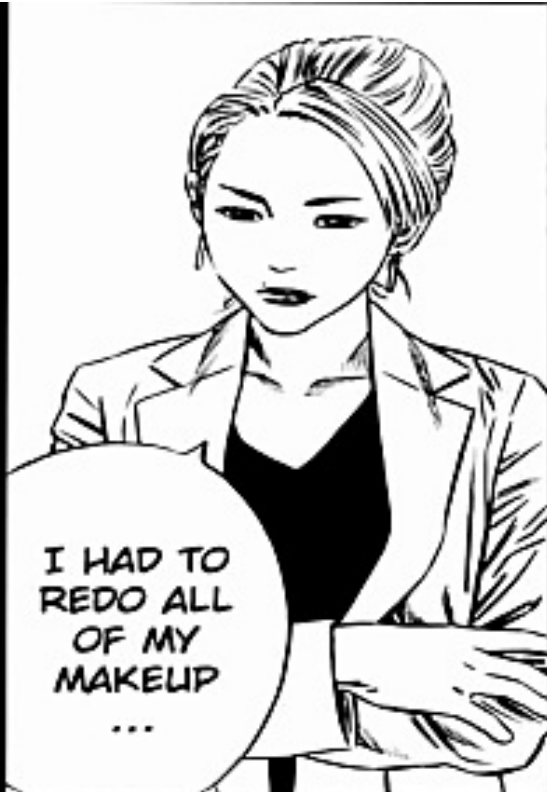
CAN'T
FEEL
ANYTHING
...







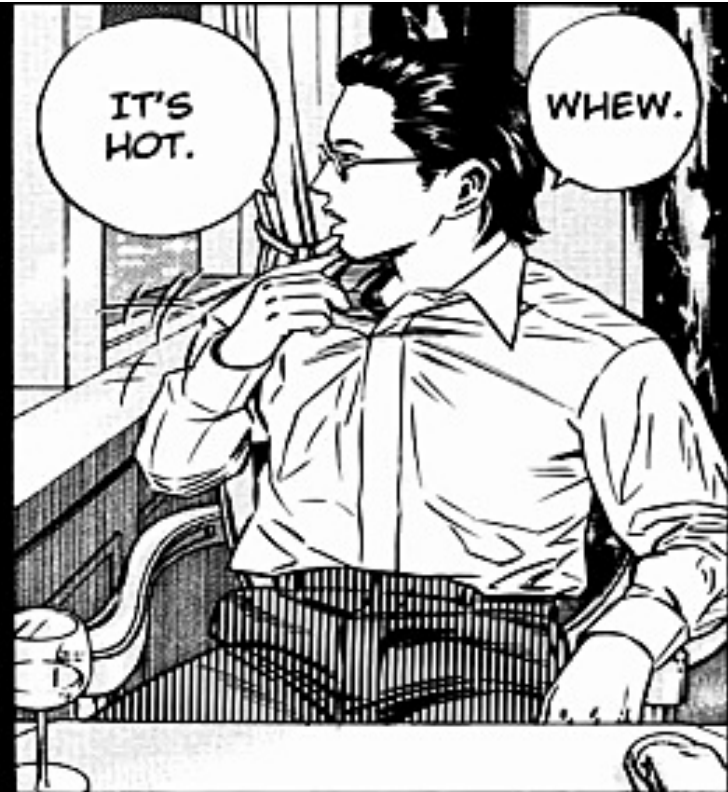




I HAD TO
REDO ALL
OF MY
MAKEUP
...



HONESTLY



IT'S
HOT.

WHEW.



WELL, I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
GET YOUR
CLOTHES
DIRTY,

OR MY
CAR
EITHER,
FOR THAT
MATTER.



PIG...

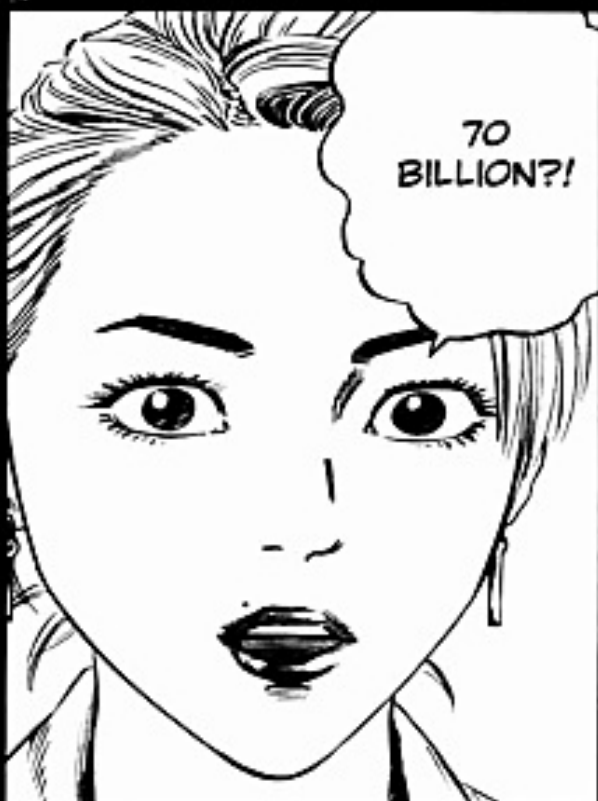
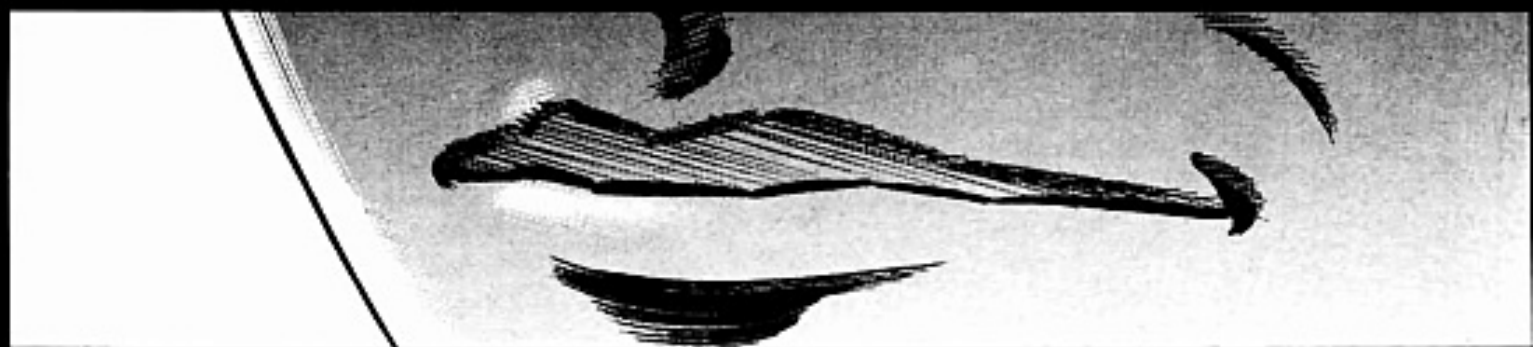


THAT
JUST
LEAVES
YOUR
FACE.



OOH!
DOM PERI!

YOUR
CHAMPAGNE.



70
BILLION?!



SHALL
WE
DRINK
TO
THAT?

I CLEANED
UP A
COMPANY
WORTH 70
BILLION YEN
TODAY.



CHEERS!



YOU ALWAYS
TALK ABOUT
HOW YOU
TOOK DOWN
THIS COMPANY
OR THAT.



WHEWWW.



IS IT REALLY
THAT EASY TO
DESTROY A
COMPANY?



?

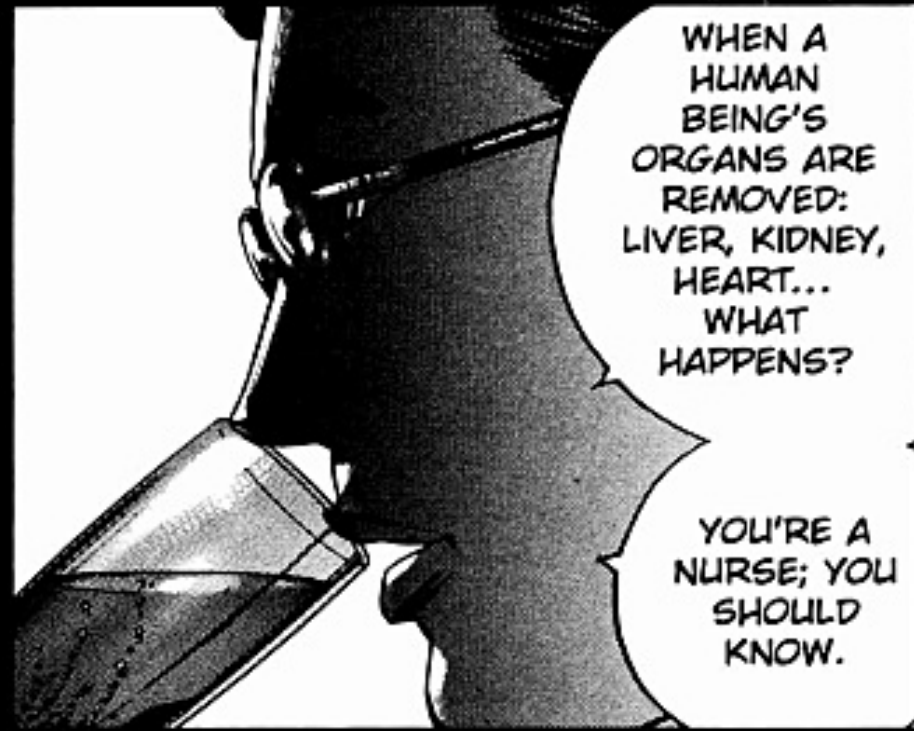


IT'S A
CRIME TO
KILL A
MAN,

BUT NOT A
CORPORATION.

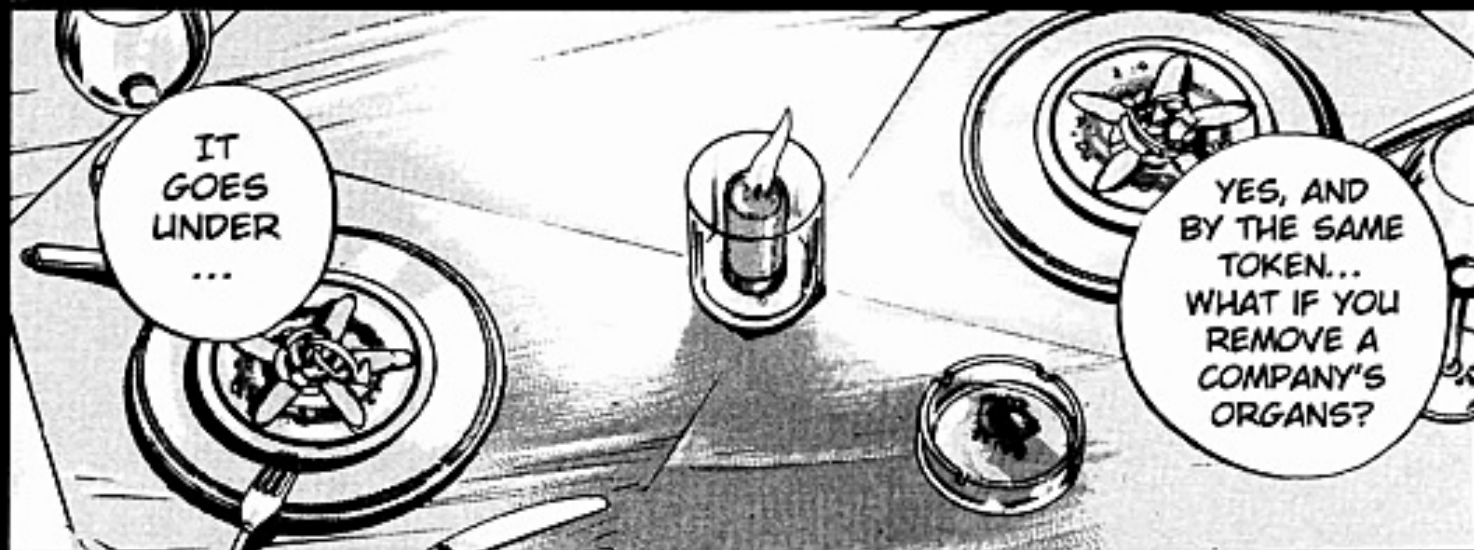


...YOU
DIE.



WHEN A
HUMAN
BEING'S
ORGANS ARE
REMOVED:
LIVER, KIDNEY,
HEART...
WHAT
HAPPENS?

YOU'RE A
NURSE; YOU
SHOULD
KNOW.



IT
GOES
UNDER
...

YES, AND
BY THE SAME
TOKEN...
WHAT IF YOU
REMOVE A
COMPANY'S
ORGANS?



ANYTHING THAT'S WORTH MONEY.

ITS ASSETS. STOCK, LAND, SECURITIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE...



AND IF YOU SELL OFF THE COMPANY'S ORGANS, YOU MAKE ENORMOUS BANK.

AND IT'S NOT A CRIME.



COMPANY'S ORGANS?



BUT WHAT THEY WANT IS MONEY.



BUT HOW CAN YOU SELL OFF OTHER COMPANIES' ASSETS?



EVERY COMPANY TALKS ABOUT EXPANSION OF BUSINESS AND ALL THAT.



OH,
I SEE.

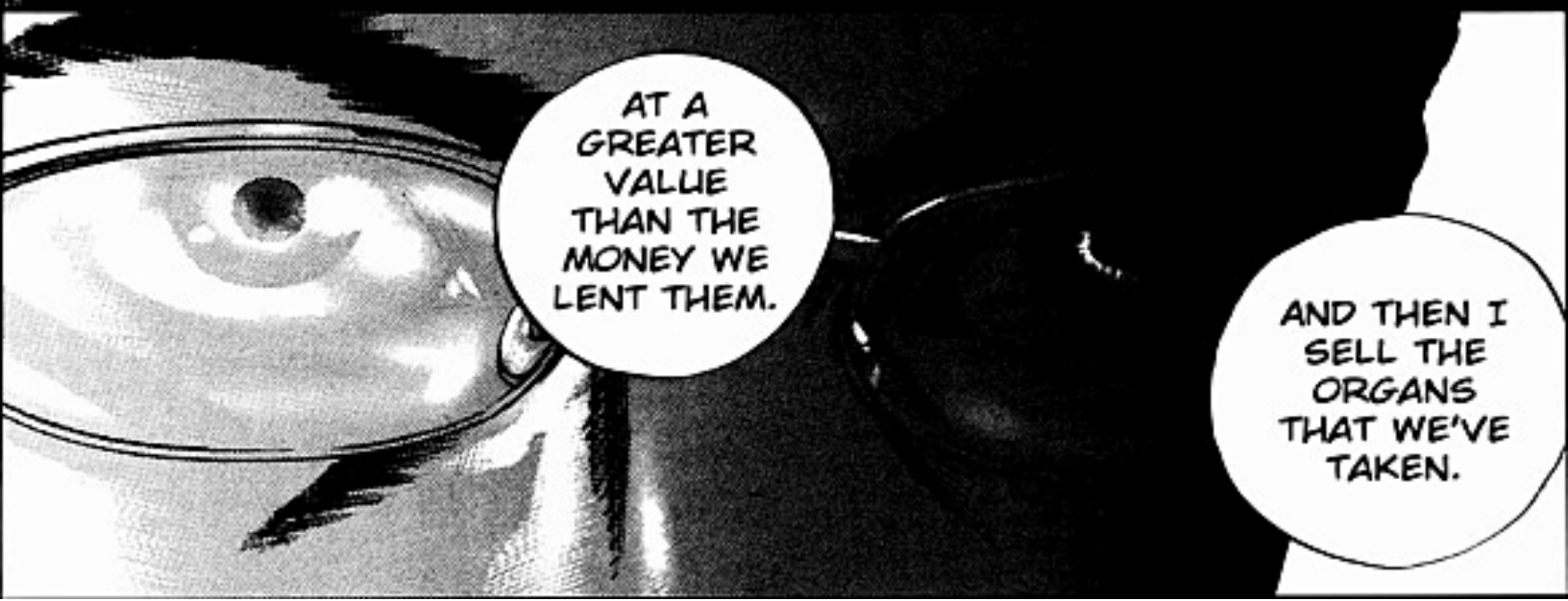


IN COMES A
BANK WITH A
HUGE NAME LIKE
OURS.



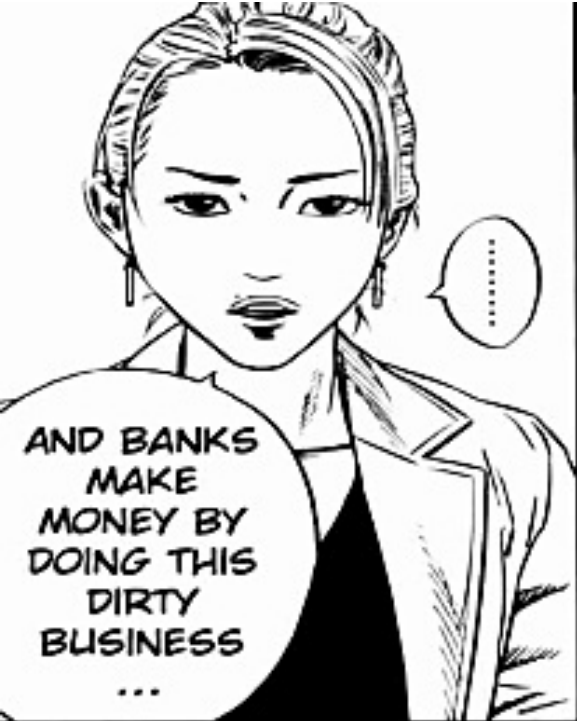
BINGO!

YOU TAKE
THEIR
"ORGANS" AS
COLLATERAL
AND LEND
THEM MONEY.



AT A
GREATER
VALUE
THAN THE
MONEY WE
LENT THEM.

AND THEN I
SELL THE
ORGANS
THAT WE'VE
TAKEN.





WHY WOULD I?



BUT DON'T YOU EVER GET STRESSED OUT FROM DOING THAT ALL THE TIME?

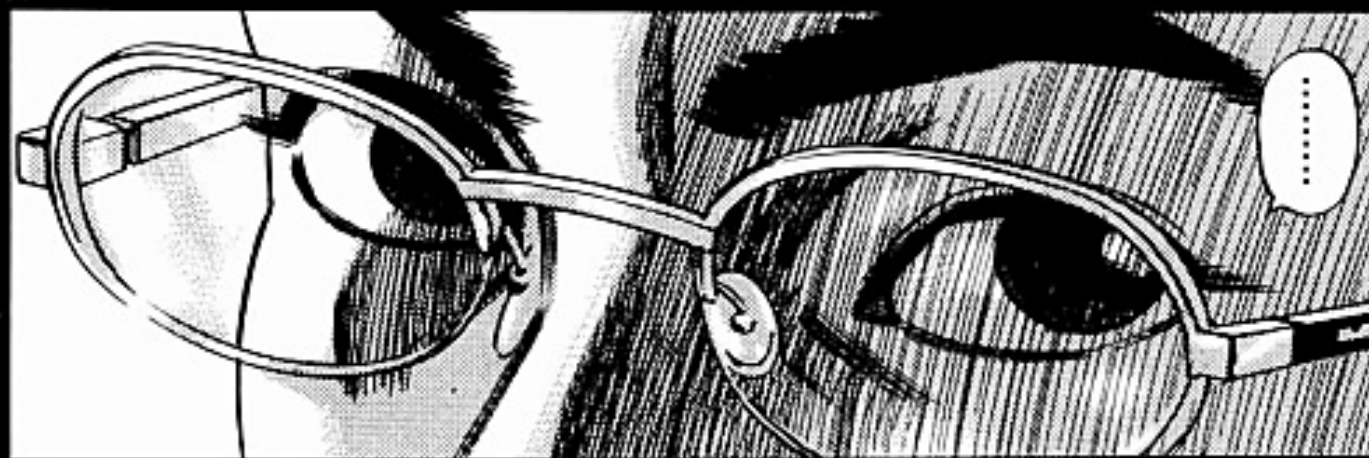
I KNOW IT'S YOUR JOB,

!

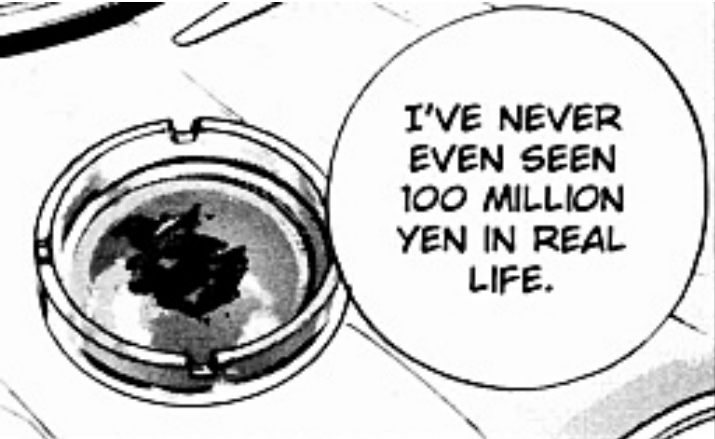


IT MEANS THAT HUNDRED OR THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOSE THEIR LIVELIHOODS.

I MEAN, IF THE COMPANY GOES OUT OF BUSINESS,



.....



I'VE NEVER
EVEN SEEN
100 MILLION
YEN IN REAL
LIFE.



I JUST
FIDDLE WITH
THE NUMBERS
BEFORE MY
EYES.



WHAT I DO
IS LIKE A
GAME.



WHATEVER
HAPPENS
TO PEOPLE
BEYOND
THAT,

IS NONE
OF MY
BUSINESS.



I'LL
NEVER
SEE IT.



IF I
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT IT,



HA
HA.

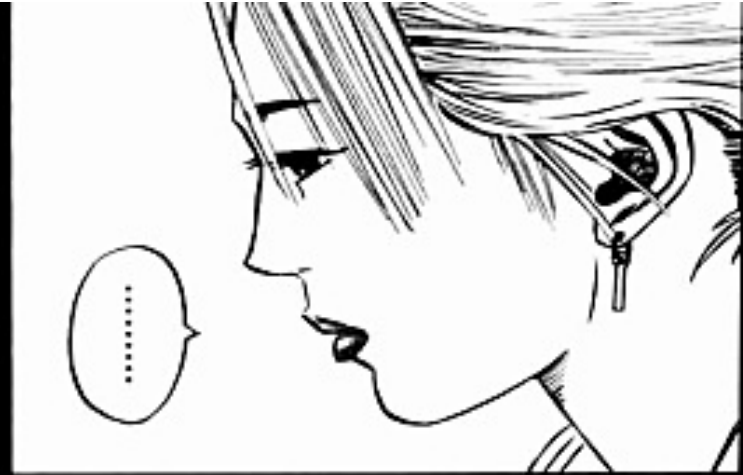


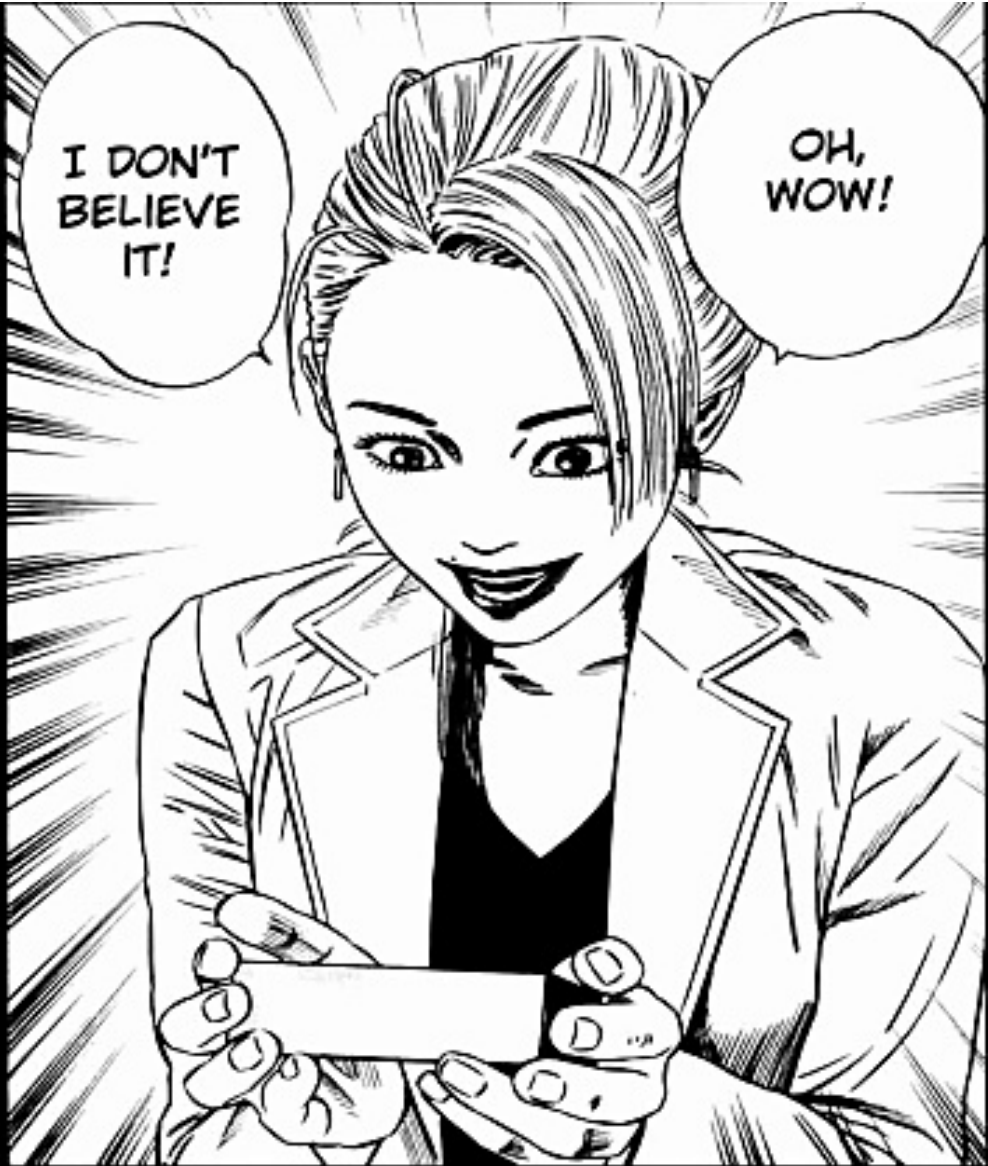
I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENS TO
ALL THE
PEOPLE

IN THE
COMPANIES
YOU'VE
CRUSHED
...



I BET
THEY'RE ALL
HOMELESS,
DOWN IN
THAT PARK.





I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

OH, WOW!



♪
OOOOH!



IT'S GORGEOUS!
♪



IF YOU'RE GIVING OUT THINGS LIKE THIS EVERY TIME YOU BUST ON MY FACE, WE SHOULD DO IT MORE OFTEN!!







Nako Baby ♪

Good morning!!
I'm taking off for work.

P.S You did it again~
You know what that means!
I'll be waiting ♡











THAT
BENCH
...



HMM?

SAY,
KEN...



YOU KNOW
THE OLD GUY
WHO USED
TO SIT ON
THAT BENCH?



AHA!

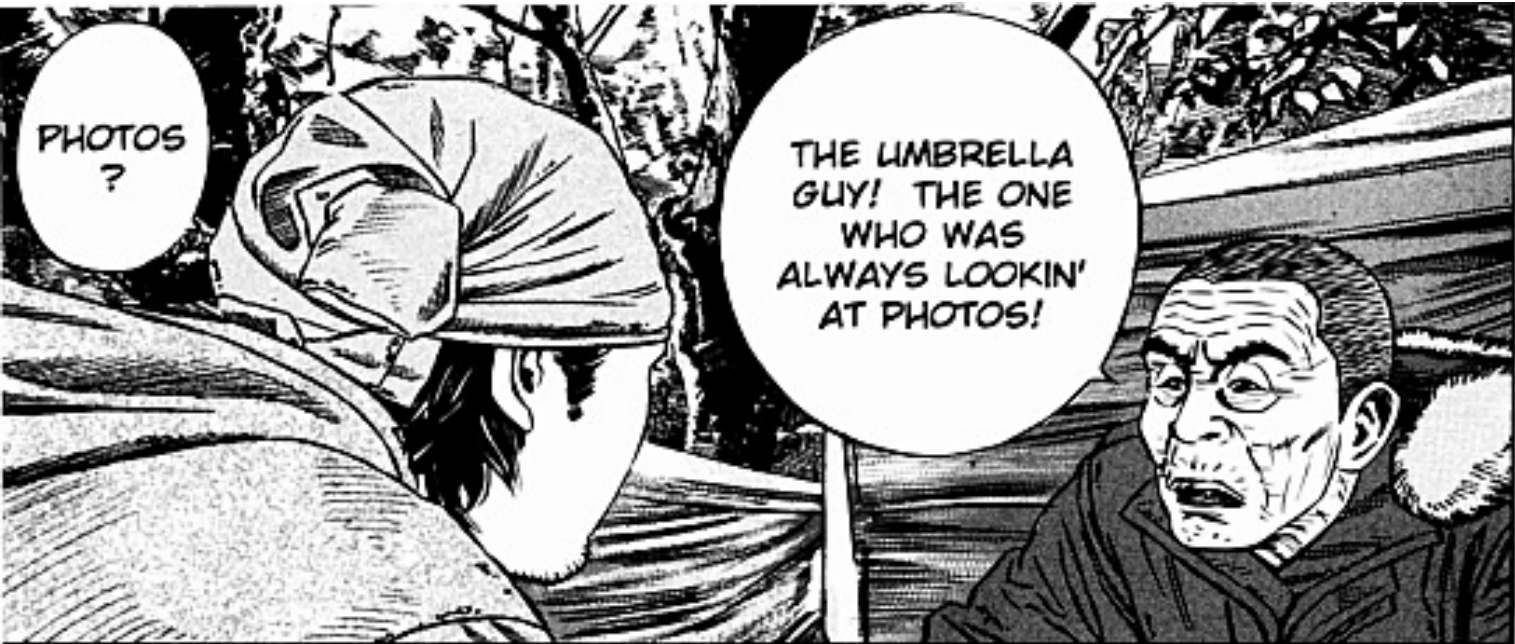


AND SIT
THERE
READING
A BOOK
...

HE'D
BRING HIS
UMBRELLA
JUST ABOUT
EVERYDAY,



MMMM
?

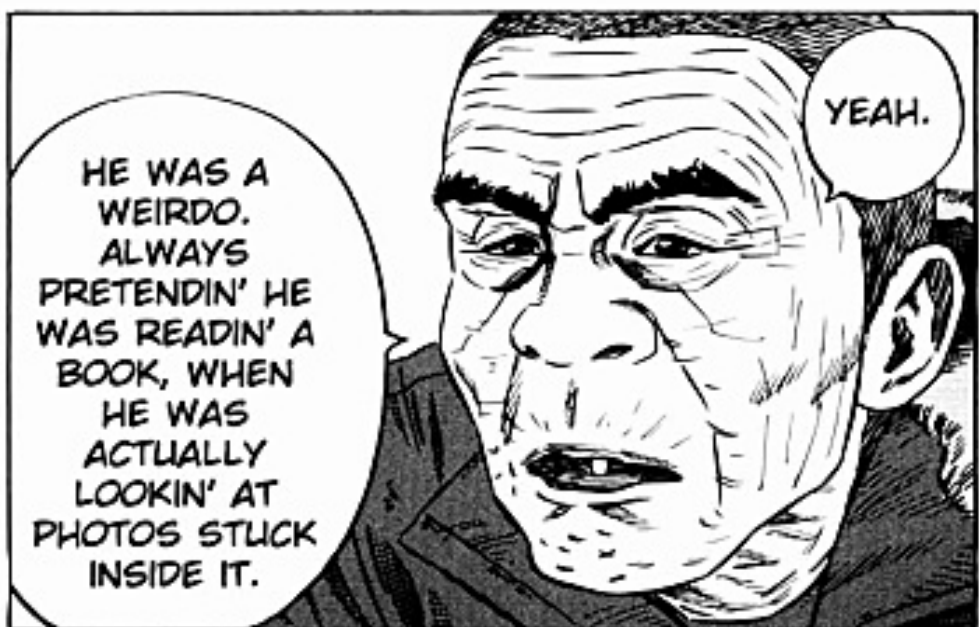


PHOTOS?

THE UMBRELLA GUY! THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS LOOKIN' AT PHOTOS!

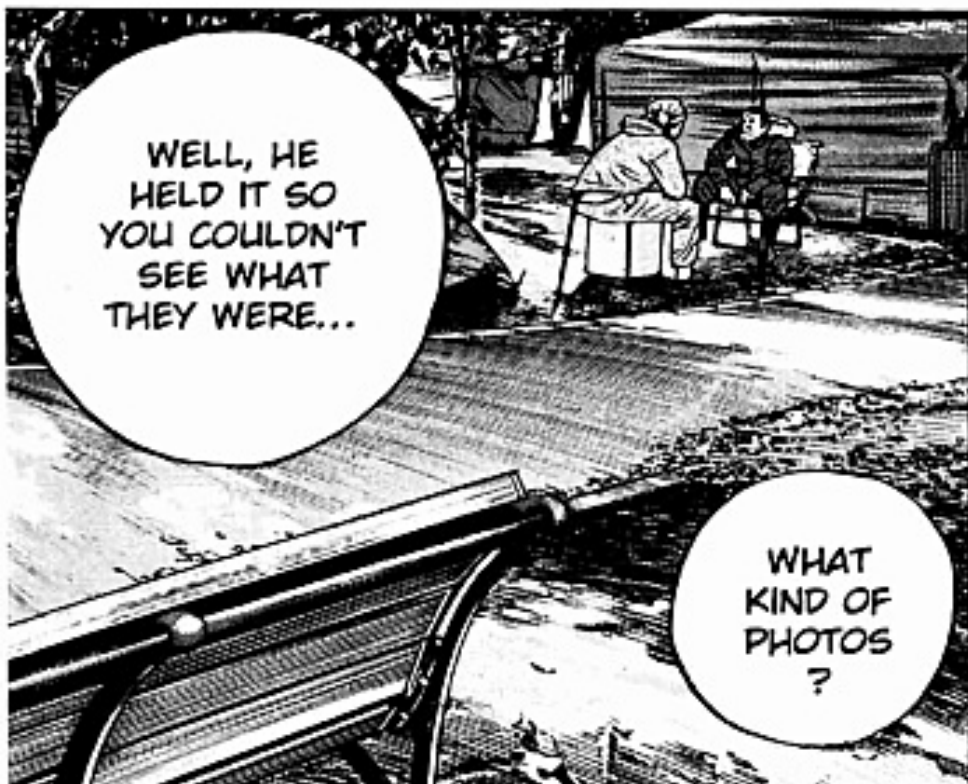


.....



YEAH.

HE WAS A WEIRDO. ALWAYS PRETENDIN' HE WAS READIN' A BOOK, WHEN HE WAS ACTUALLY LOOKIN' AT PHOTOS STUCK INSIDE IT.



WELL, HE HELD IT SO YOU COULDN'T SEE WHAT THEY WERE...

WHAT KIND OF PHOTOS?



ALL THE WAY UNTIL SUNDOWN ...



BUT THEY
MUSTA BEEN
NICE PHOTOS
FROM WHEN HE
WAS YOUNGER.



I JUST
SAW HIM A
LOT.



YOU
KNEW
HIM?

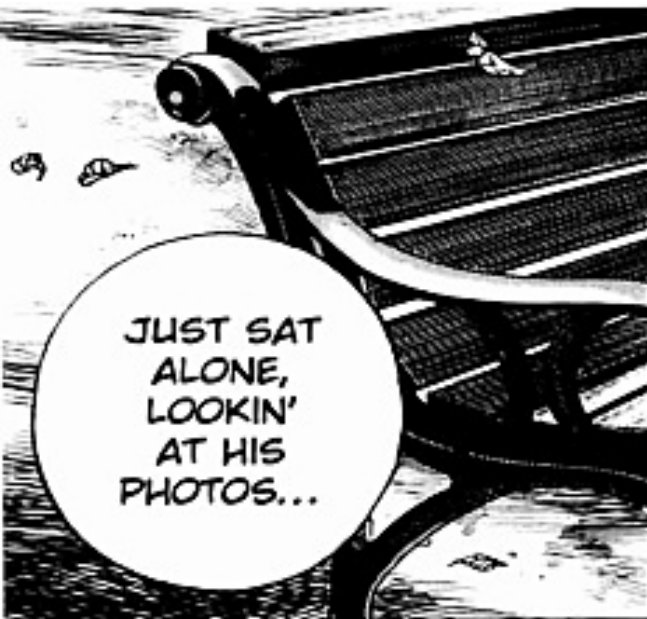


NO...



GUESS HE
STOPPED
COMING JUST
BEFORE YOU
SHOWED UP.

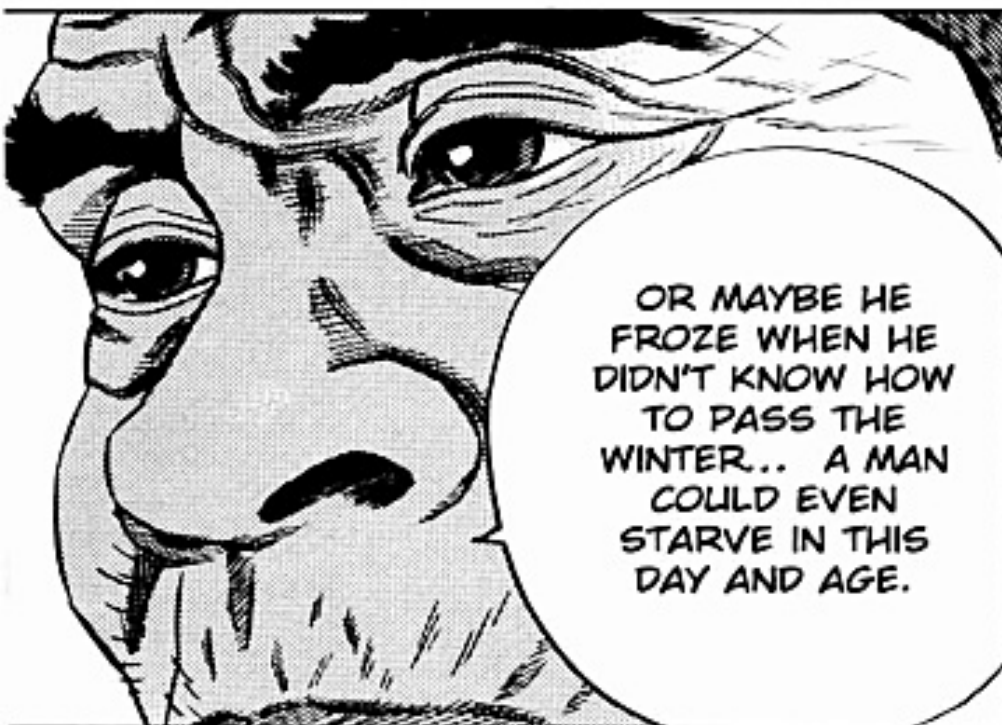
HMM.
DON'T SEE
HIM
ANYMORE.



JUST SAT
ALONE,
LOOKIN'
AT HIS
PHOTOS...



HE TRIED
PUTTIN' UP A
TENT HERE, BUT
FER SOME
REASON HE
NEVER FIT IN.



OR MAYBE HE
FROZE WHEN HE
DIDN'T KNOW HOW
TO PASS THE
WINTER.. A MAN
COULD EVEN
STARVE IN THIS
DAY AND AGE.



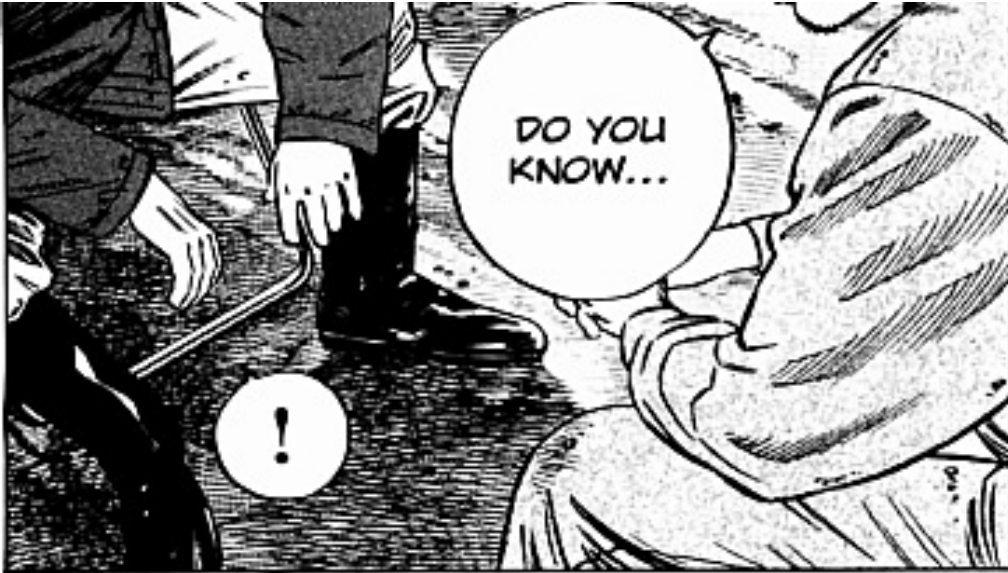
OR WENT
BACK TO
THE REAL
WORLD...

MAYBE HE
DRIFTED
SOMEWHERE
ELSE,

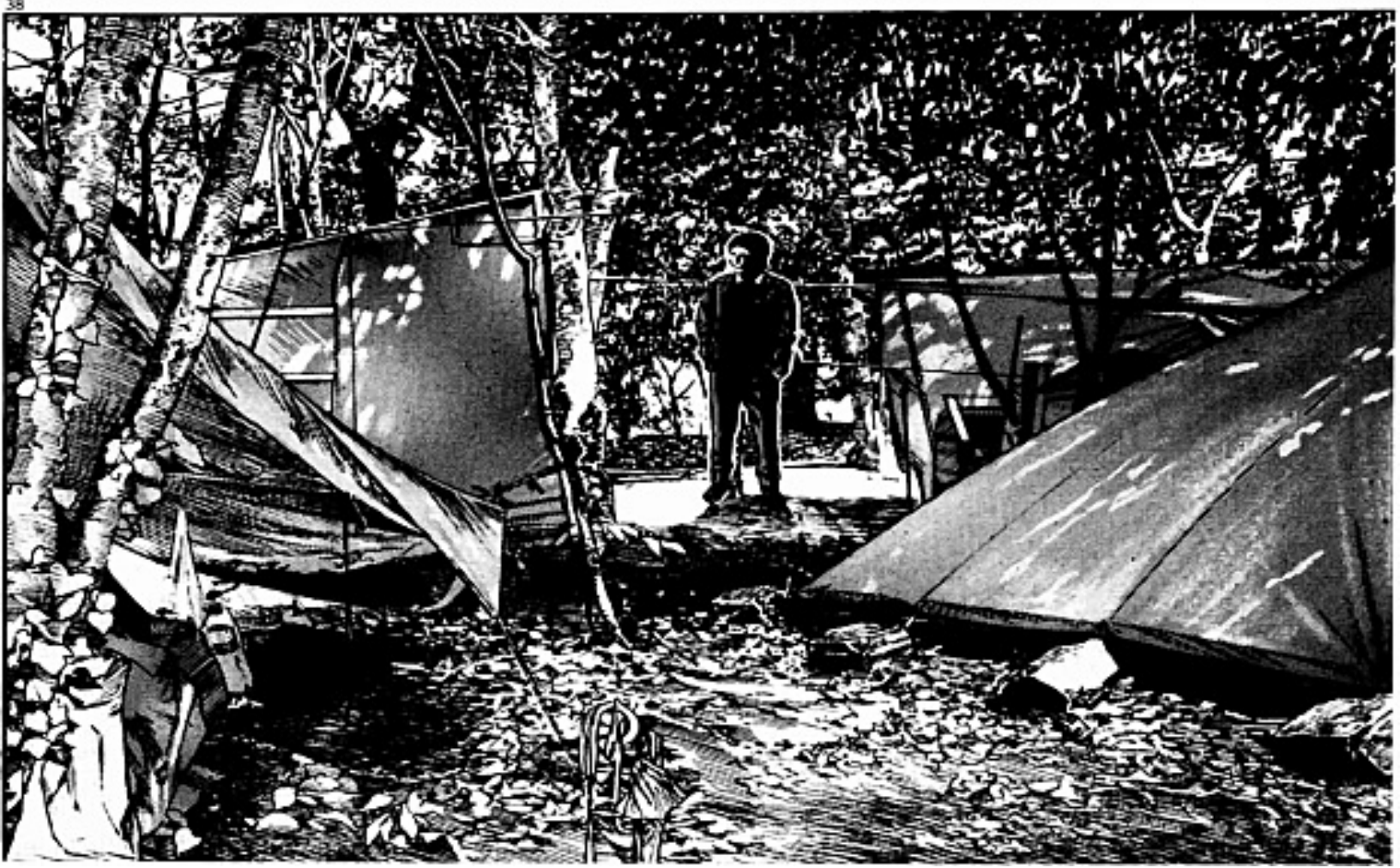
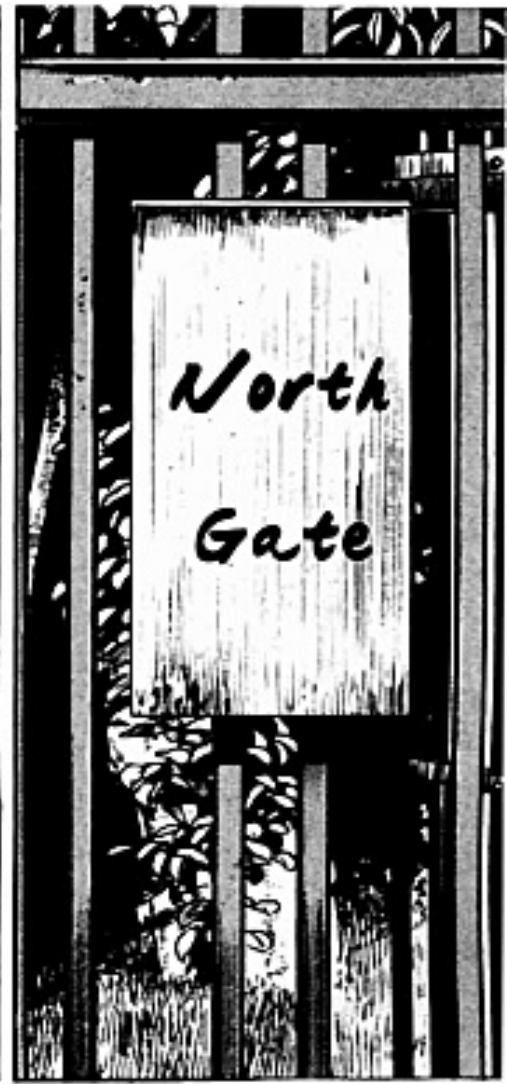


IN THE END
SOME TENT-
CRASHER
ENDED UP
TAKIN' IT OVER.

LAST YEAR, THERE
WAS A GODAWFUL
STENCH COMIN'
FROM A TENT, BUT
NO ONE EVER
THOUGHT TO CHECK
EVEN THOUGH IT
SMELT SO BAD...









EXCUSE ME.



IT'S THE CAR GUY.



Hi...

OH!



YOU DON'T COME IN HEER!

'EY, FLUCK YOO!



YOO THAT GUY!
YEAH!

OHHHH SHIT.



MWAAH?

LOOK, IT'S JUST THE GUY WHO BRINGS US BOOZE, MAN.



I HEARD HE WAS AROUND THIS PART.

THE GUY WITH THE UMBRELLA, WHO READ A BOOK EVERYDAY AT THE BENCH IN FRONT OF KEN'S TENT...

!



!



OVER THERE, THE TENT WITH THE UMBRELLAS.

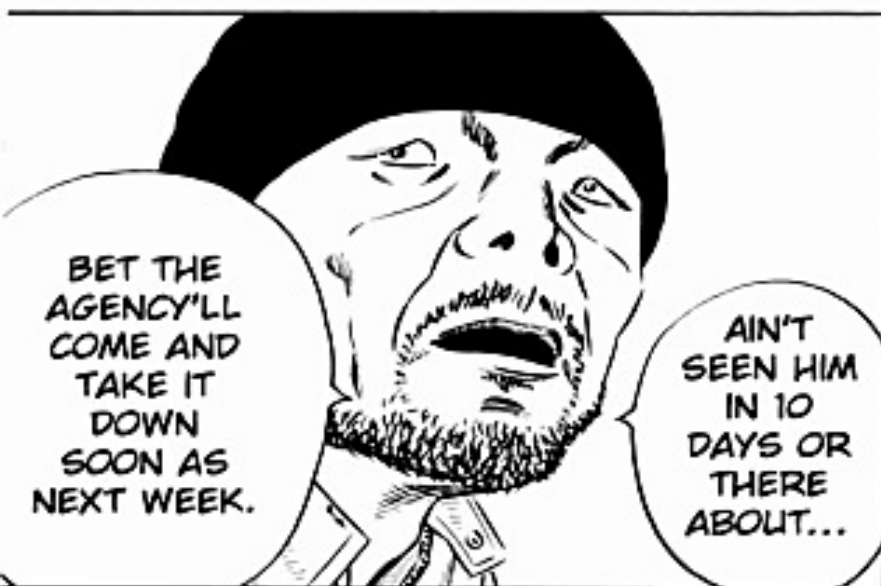
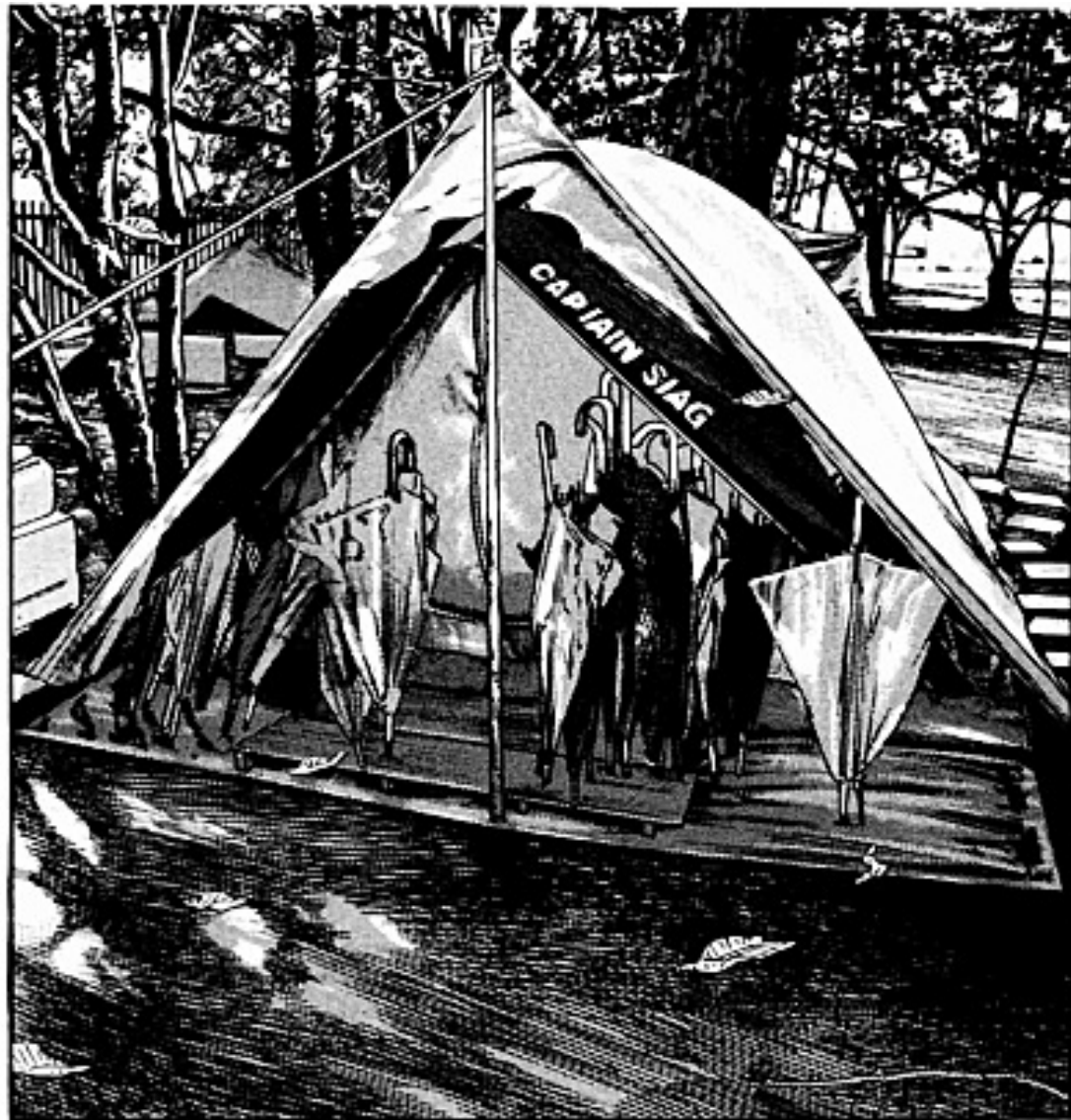


OH HH.

THAT'S TOMIDA.



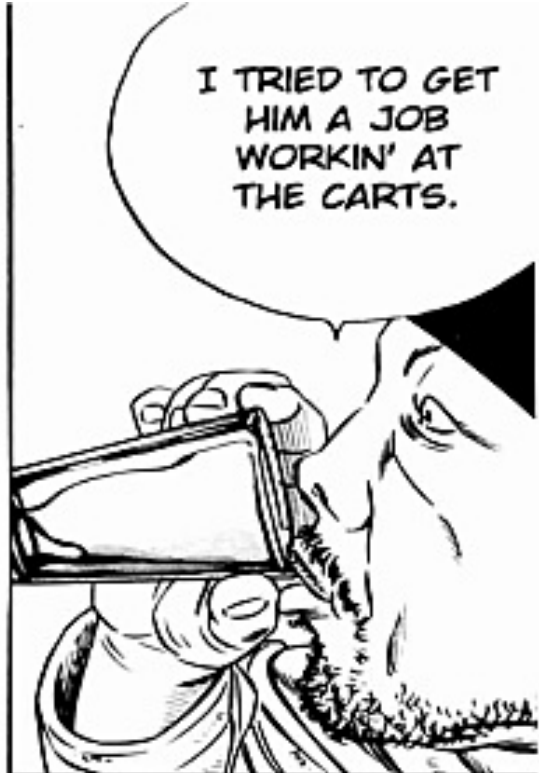
TOMIDA ...





JUST TO MAKE
A QUICK BUCK,
NOT THAT IT
DID.

BUT HE'D JUST
COLLECT ALL
THE UMBRELLAS
HE FOUND, THEN
SELL 'EM IN THE
PARK WHEN IT
RAINED.



I TRIED TO GET
HIM A JOB
WORKIN' AT
THE CARTS.



SO HE
COULDN'T
LIVE OFF IT
ANYMORE
...

BUT PEOPLE
DON'T COME
'ROUND THE
PARK SO MUCH
IN THE WINTER,



WONDER
WHERE HE
WENT.



!

!!

LRR
RP...



HE
DEAD
!!



I KNOWS
IT.

I SEEN
'UM
BEFORE.

YEP!

HAD THAT
LOOK, YEP.

HE WAS
LOOKIN
FOR
PLACE TA
DIE.



IT'S THE
SUMMER
TIME WE
DO...

WE DON'T
DIE IN
THE
WINTER.



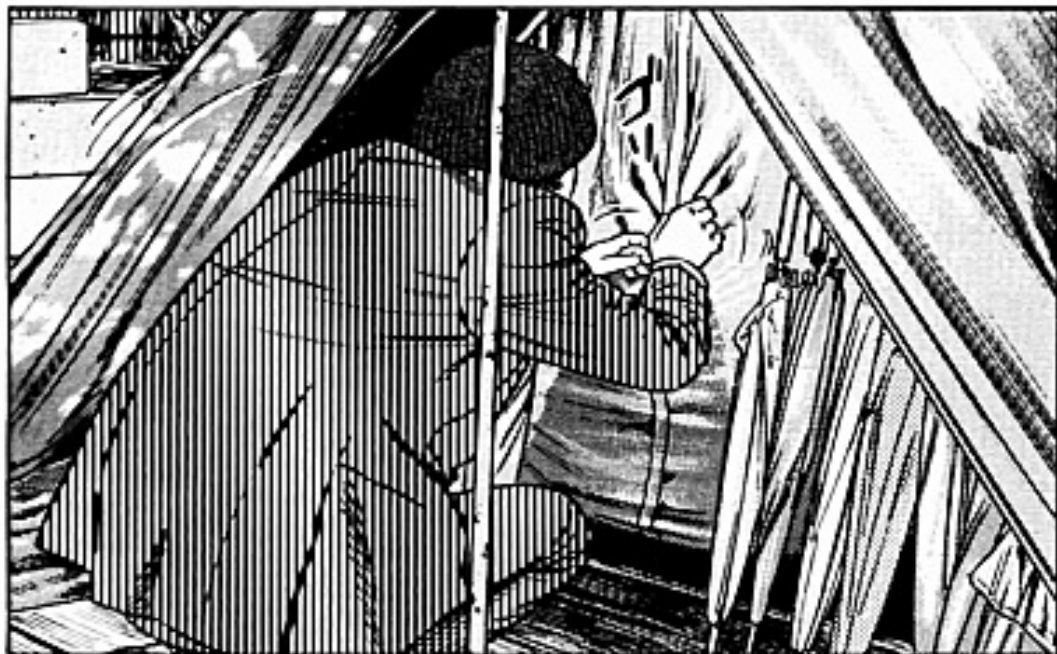
DON'T BE
SAYIN'
THAT
NOW,

YOCCHAN.



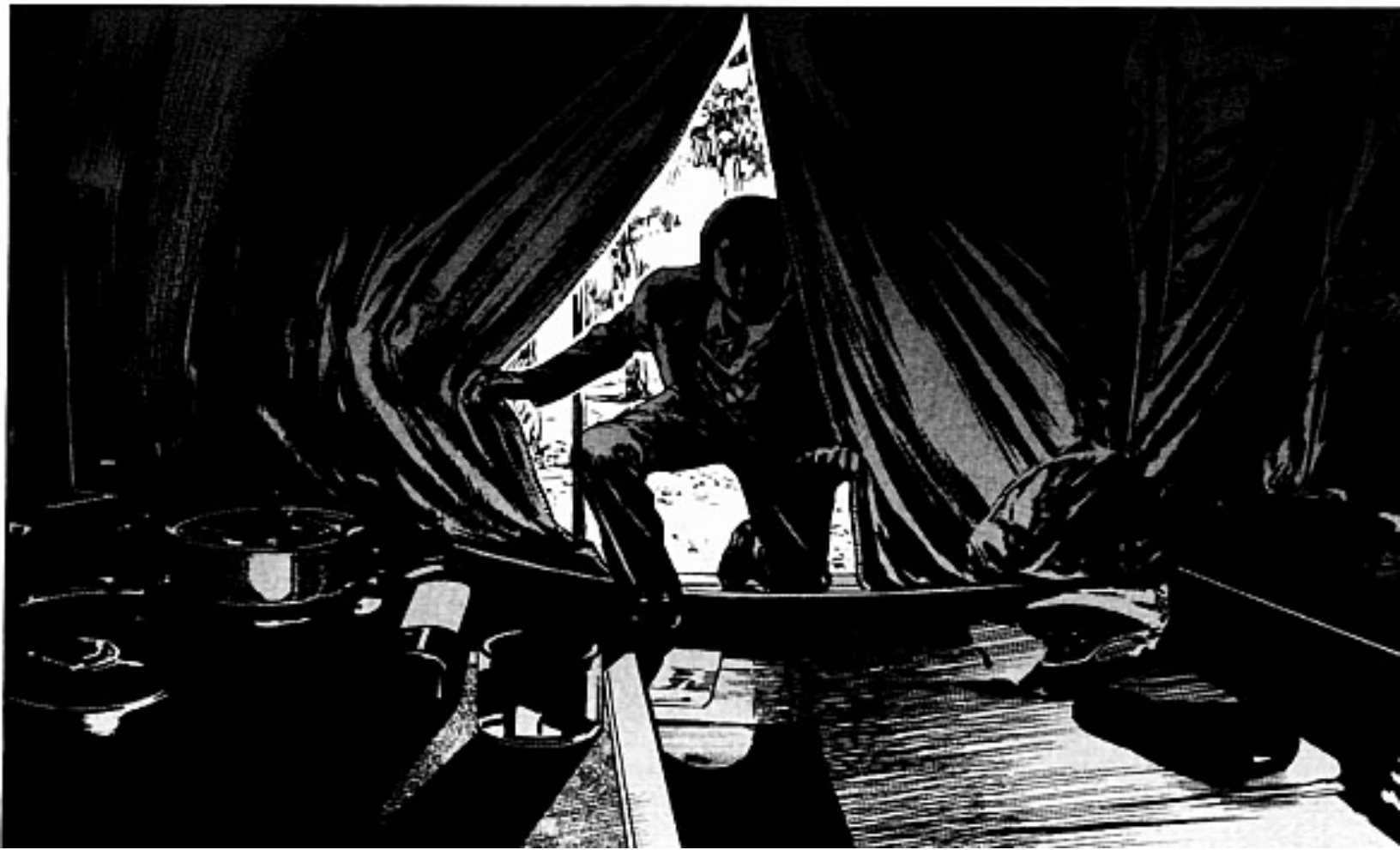
44

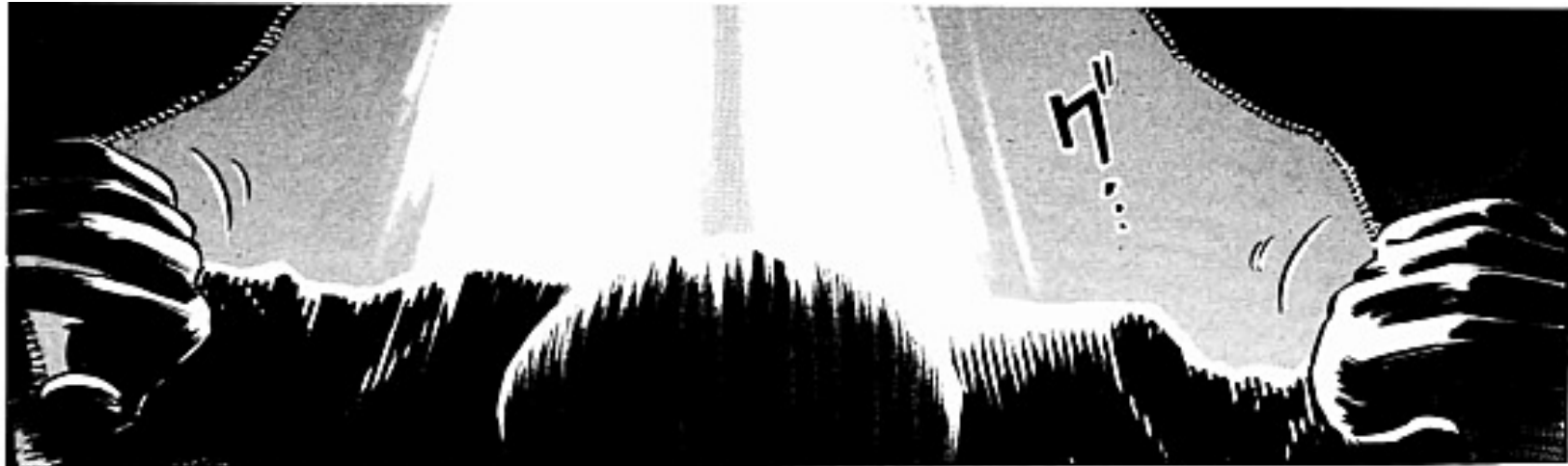




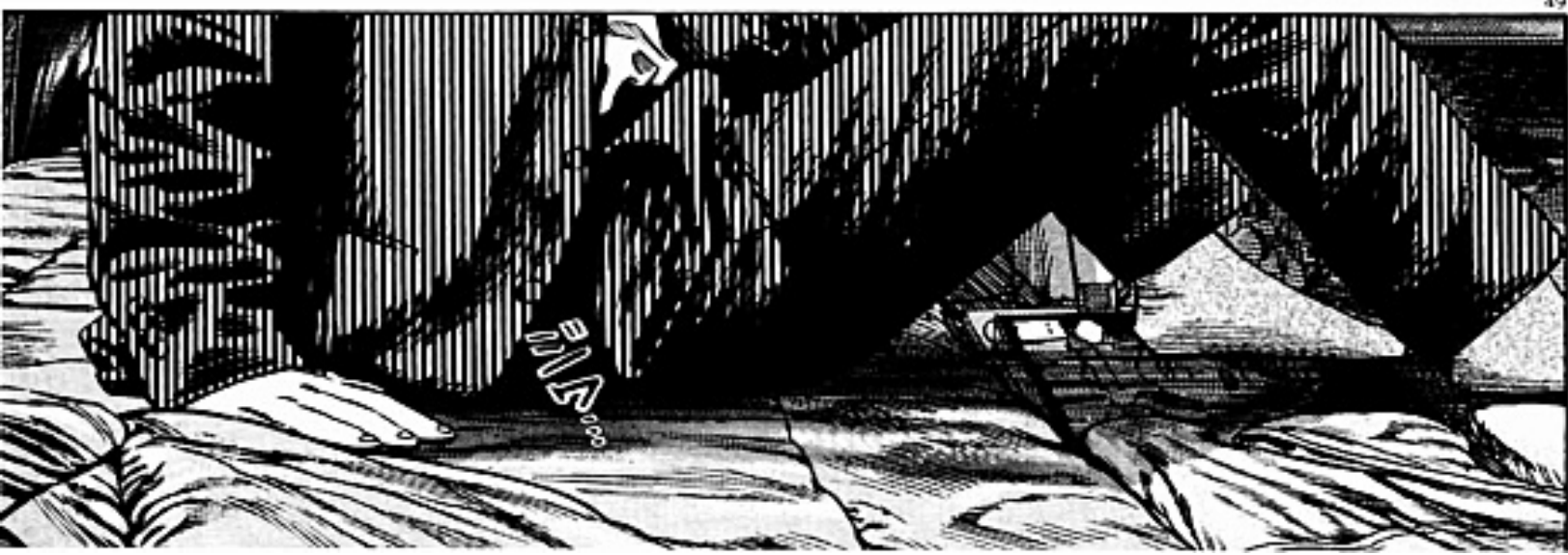


46

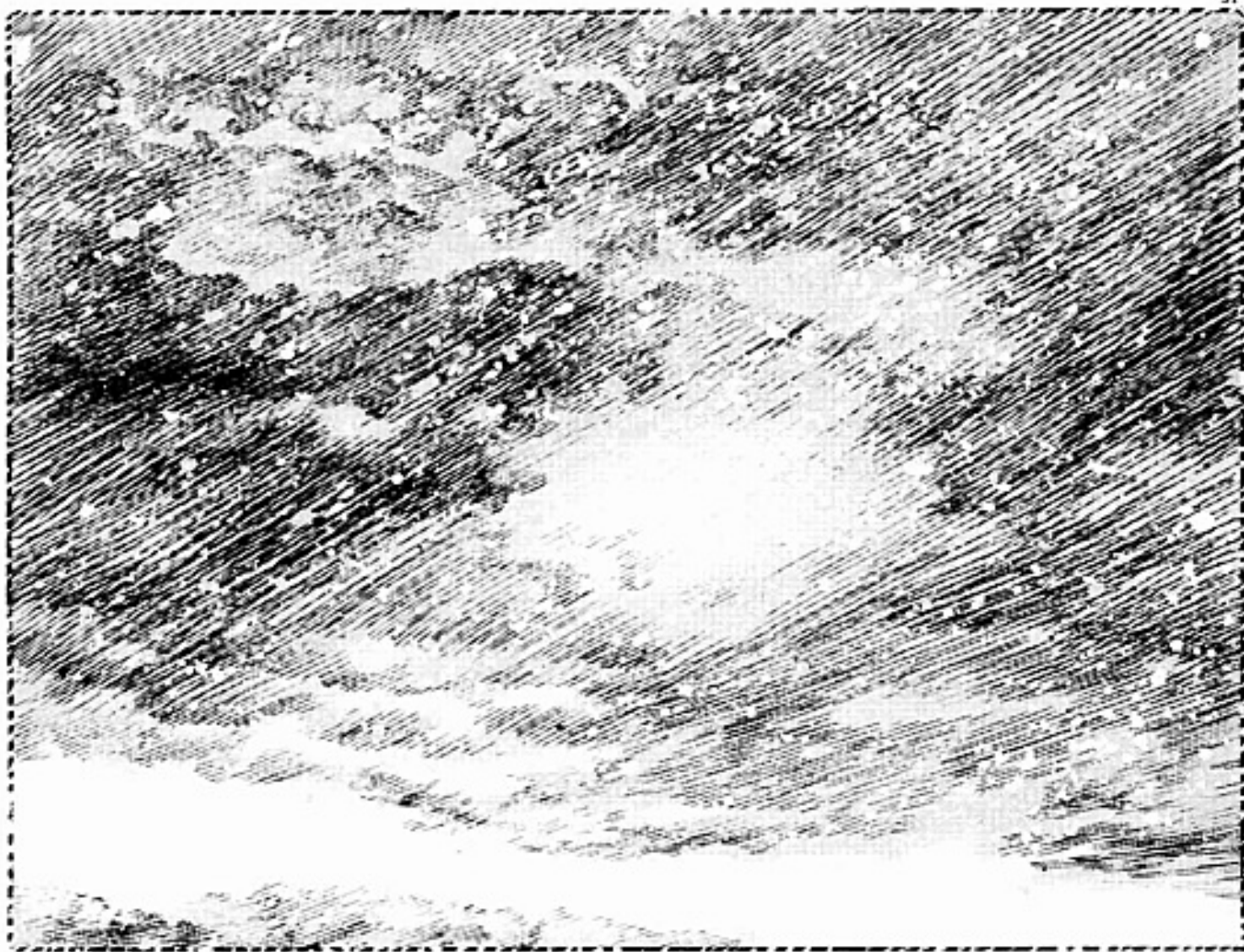


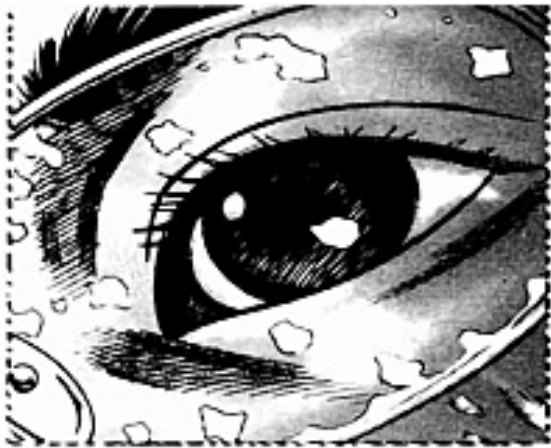


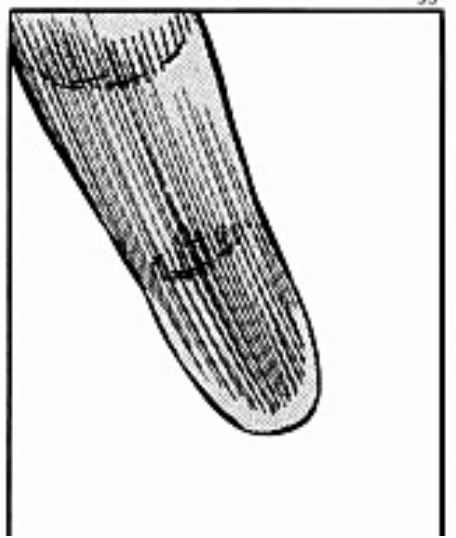
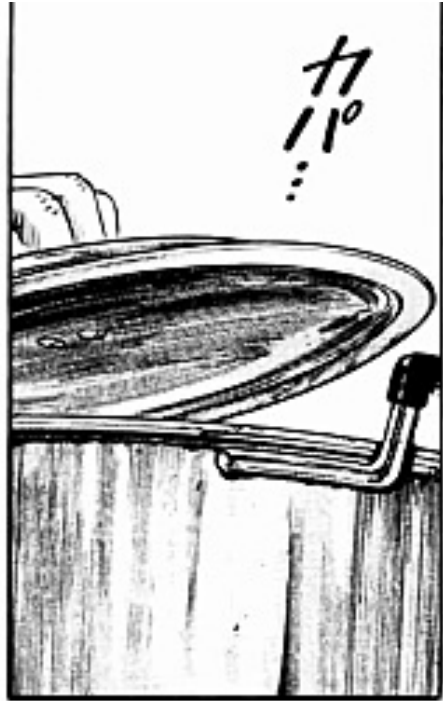






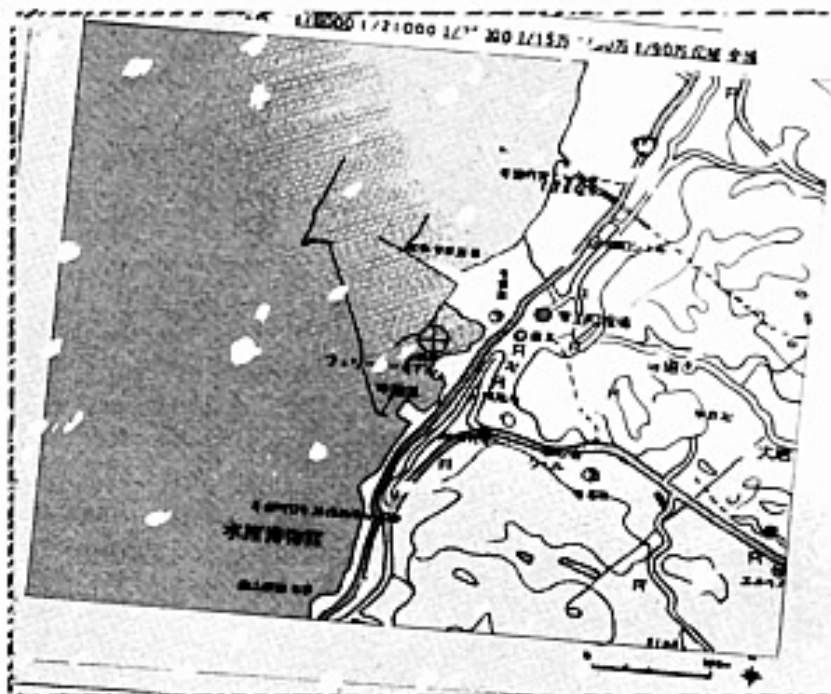


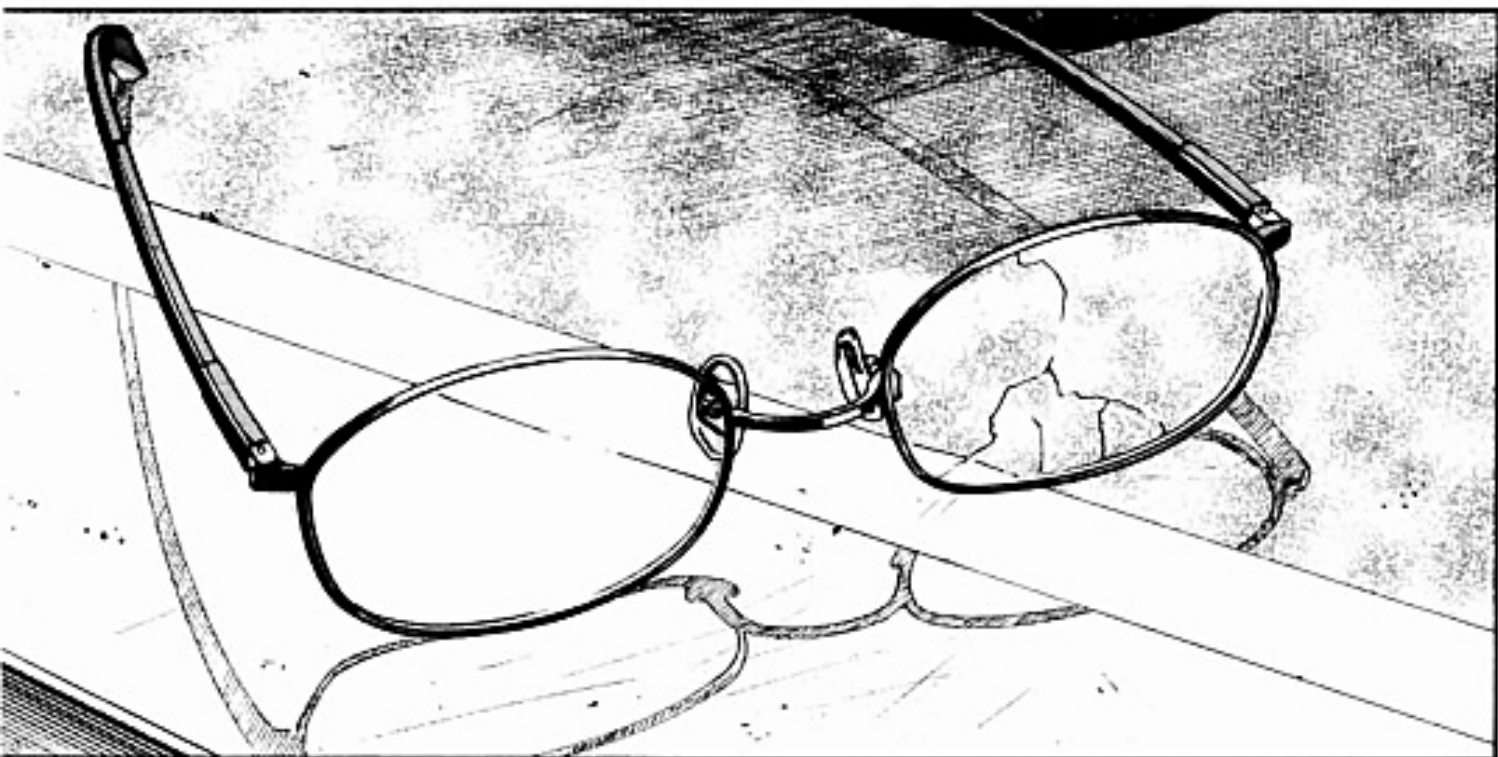
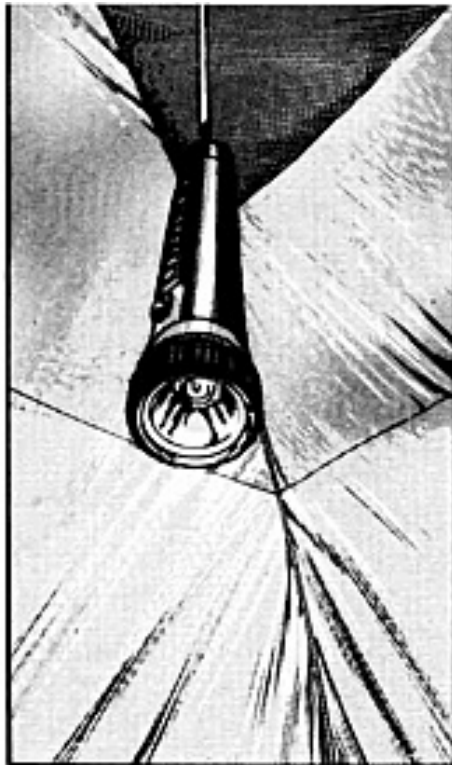




山形駅

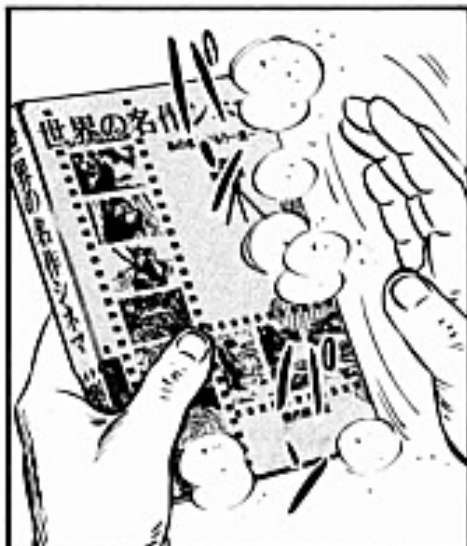
YAMAGATA STATION

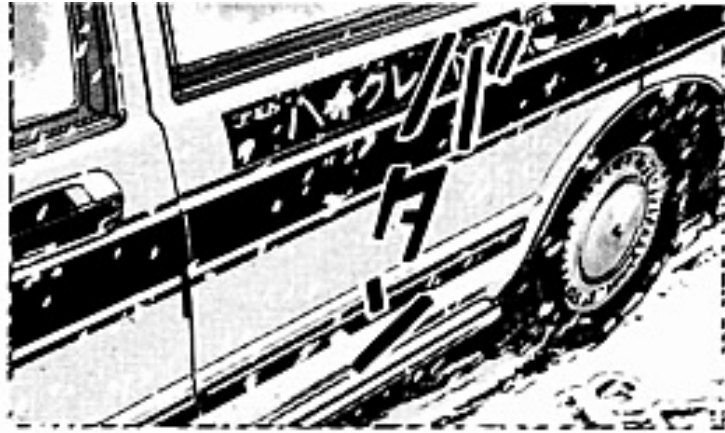


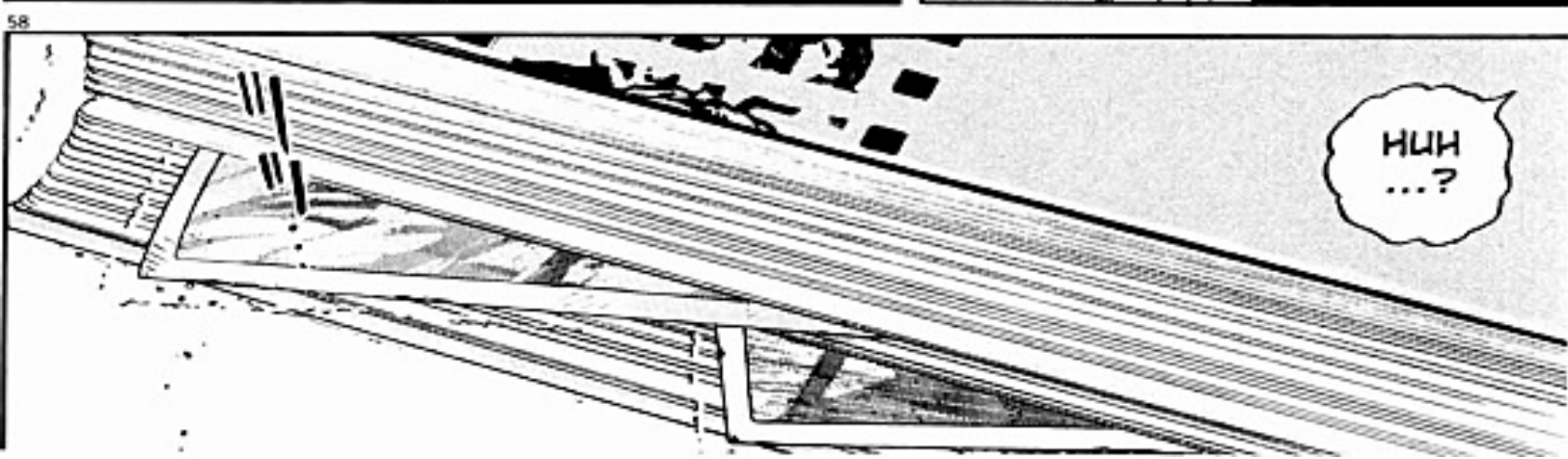
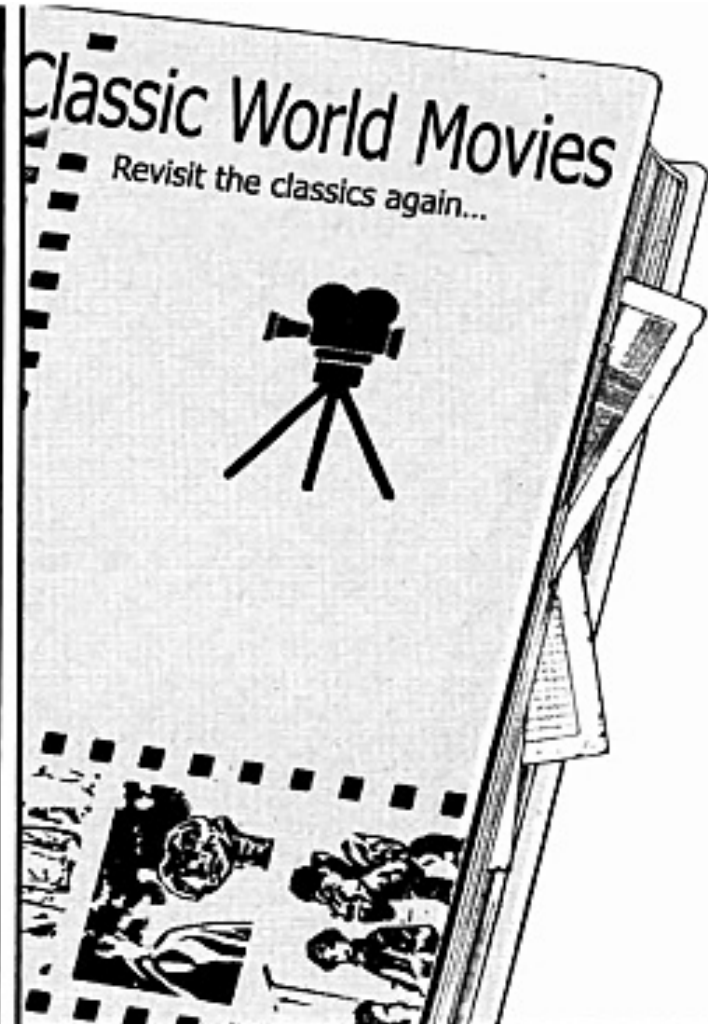




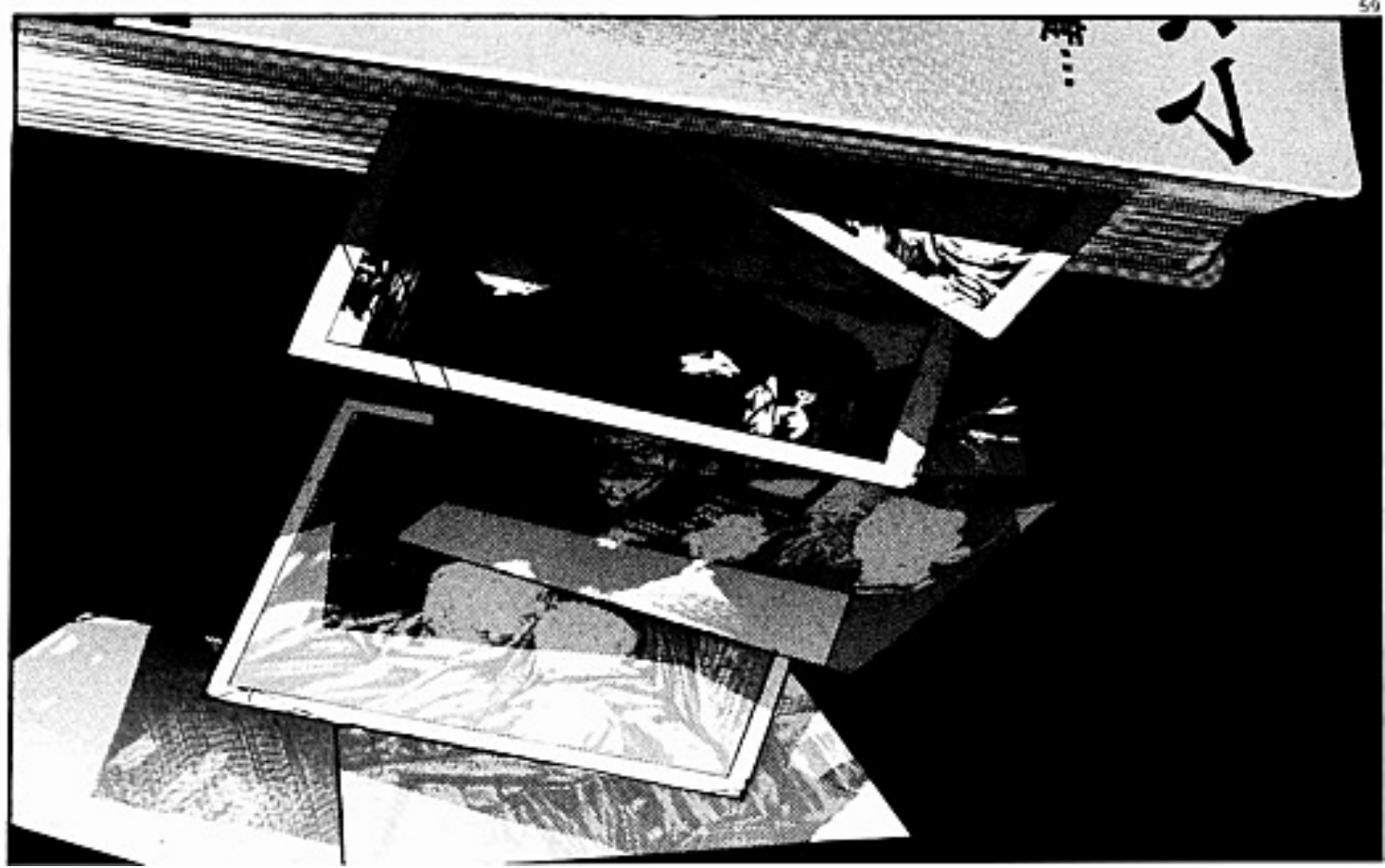
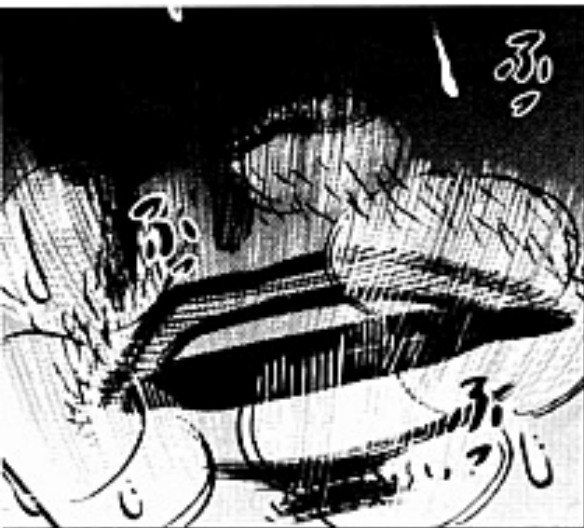
56







HUH
...?









WHERE YOU FROM, PAL?



WHAT DO YOU WANT,

ALL THE WAY OUT IN TOBISHIMA?

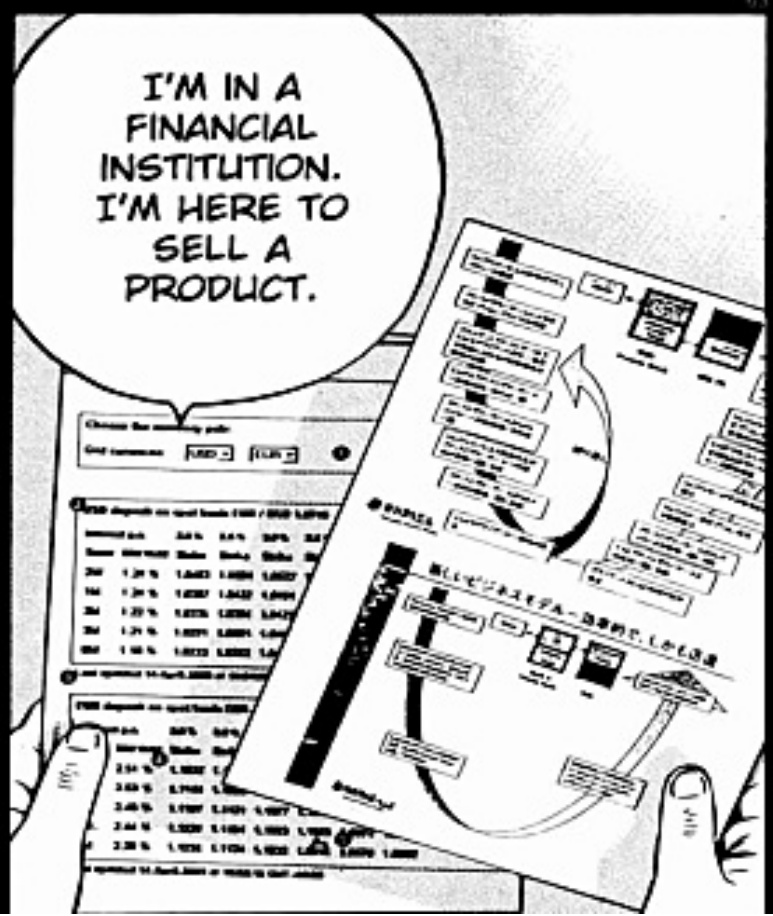


TOKYO.



WHAT KIND?

A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION?!



I'M IN A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. I'M HERE TO SELL A PRODUCT.



A BANK.



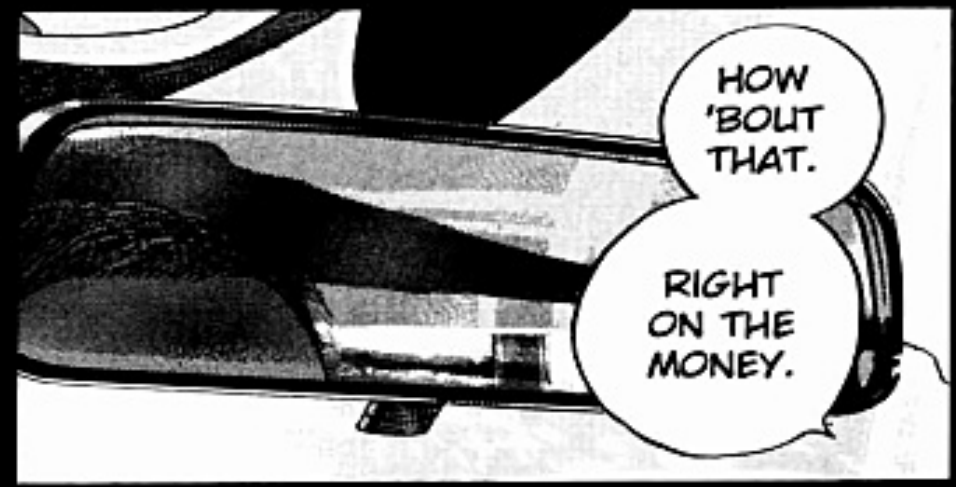




YAMASAN
SECURITIES
...?



WAS IT
...



HOW
'BOLT
THAT.

RIGHT
ON THE
MONEY.



.....





SO NOW I'M A
TAXI DRIVER IN
MY OLD HOME
TOWN IN
YAMAGATA.

COMPANY
WENT UNDER,
AND MY WIFE
DIVORCED ME.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



CAN'T
WORK IN
TOKYO.

HA
HA
HA.



YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO
KEEP
WORKING IN
TOKYO?



TOO MANY
FORMER CO-
WORKERS AND
PEOPLE I
KNOW AROUND
THERE.



HOW'S
YOUR
INCOME?



PRETTY
SHABBY, IF
I SAY SO
MYSELF.



AND HE
HELPS ME
MEET ENDS
EVERY
MONTH.



BUT MY
SON GOT
A JOB
AROUND
HERE,



SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
HAVE A
GOOD
SON.



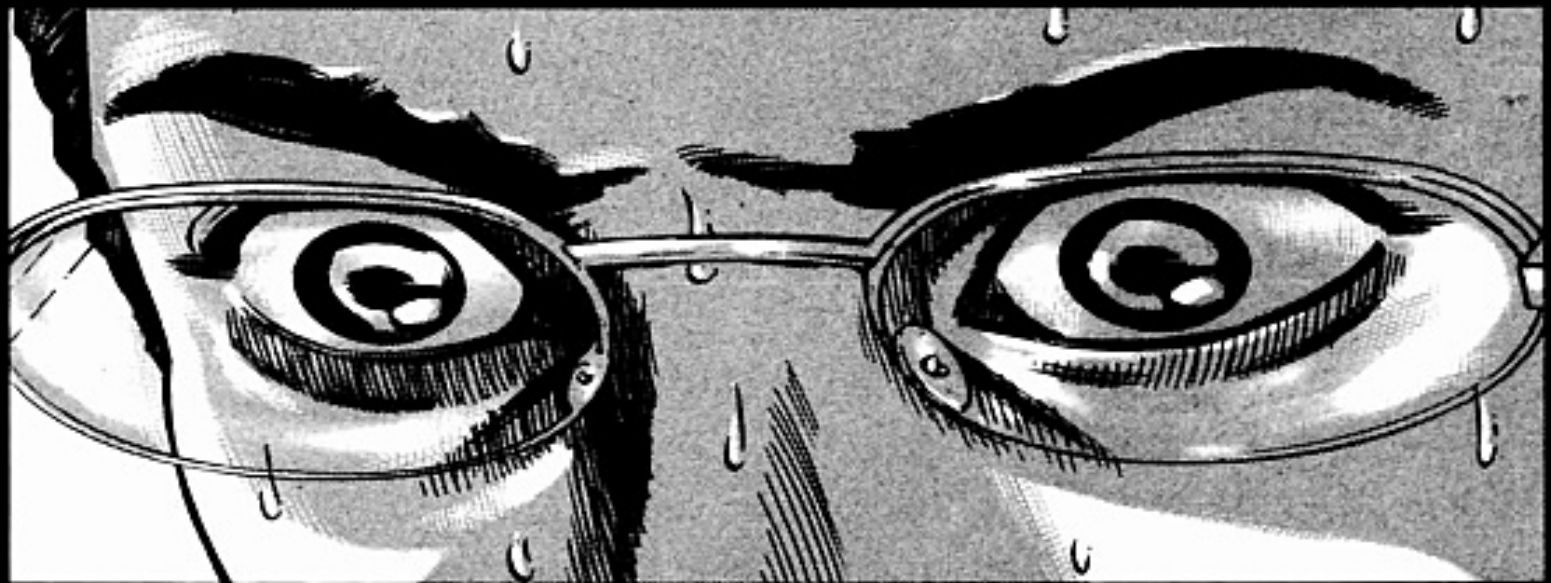
I JUST
CAN'T
LIVE...



IF I
HADN'T
BEEN
PUSHED
OUT OF A
JOB...



LIKE I
USED
TO,
THAT'S
ALL...



I COULD
HAVE GOTTEN
A BETTER
ONE FOR MY
BOY.



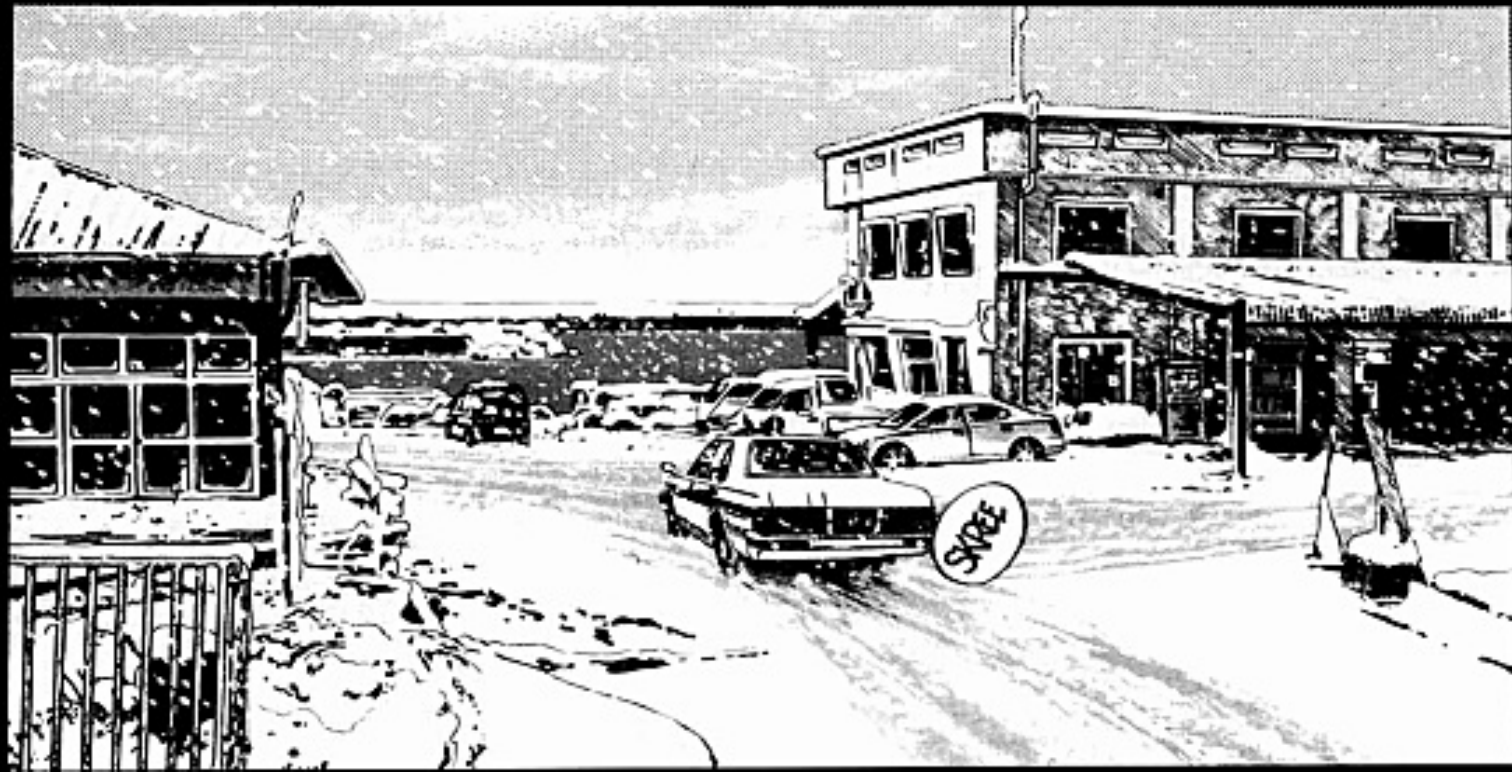
WE HARDLY
TALK AT
HOME,
ANYMORE...

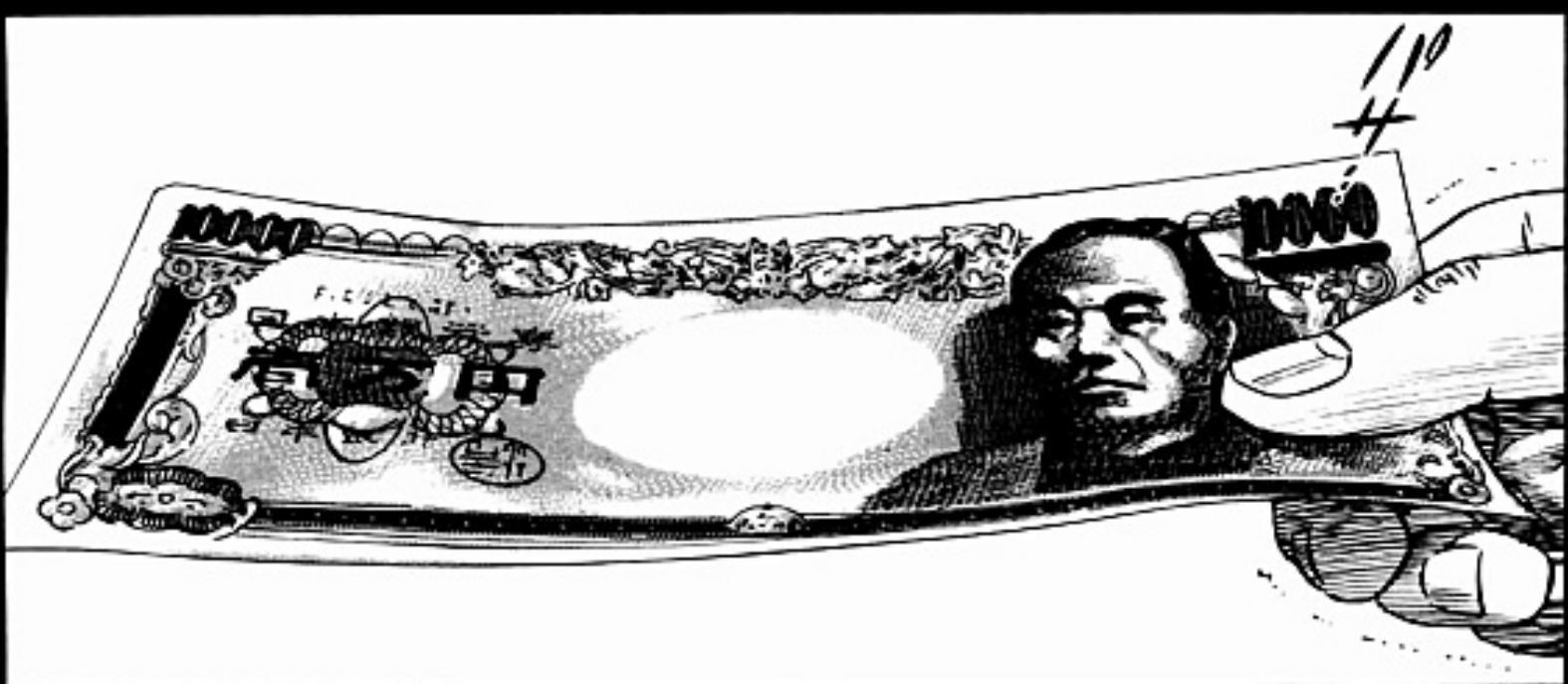
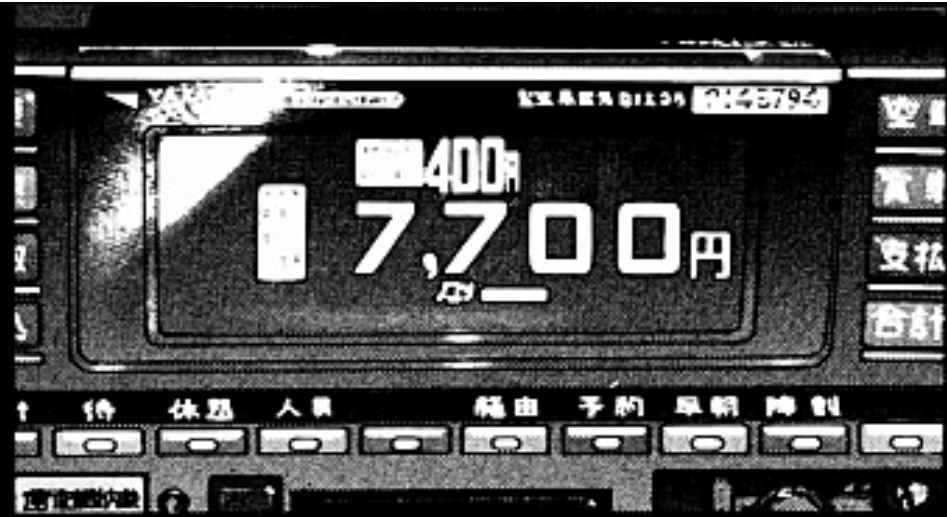


I THINK
HE'S LOST
ALL
RESPECT
FOR ME...



THAT'S
THE
HARDEST
PART...









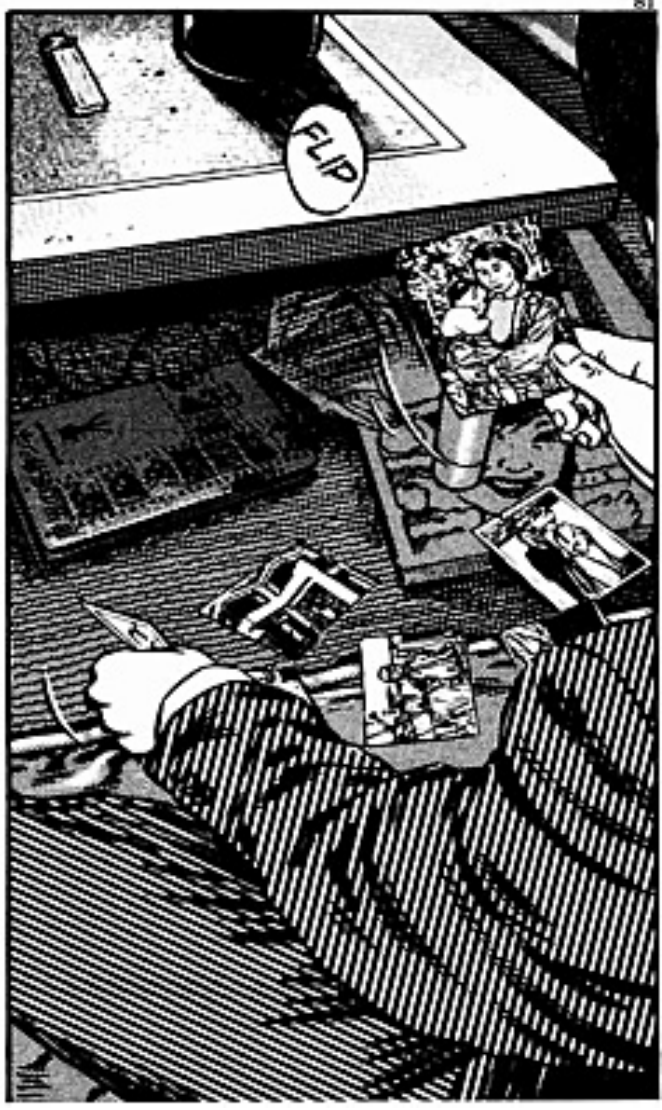














7

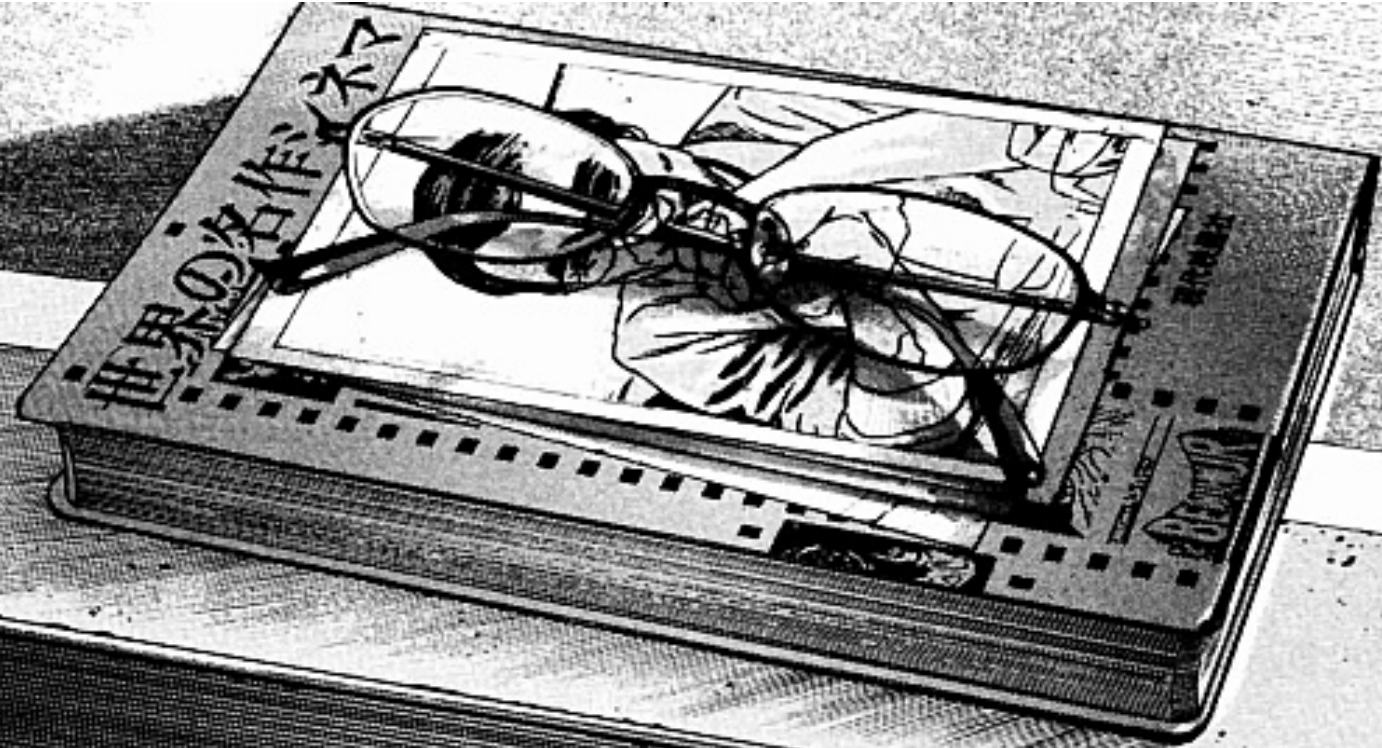
7

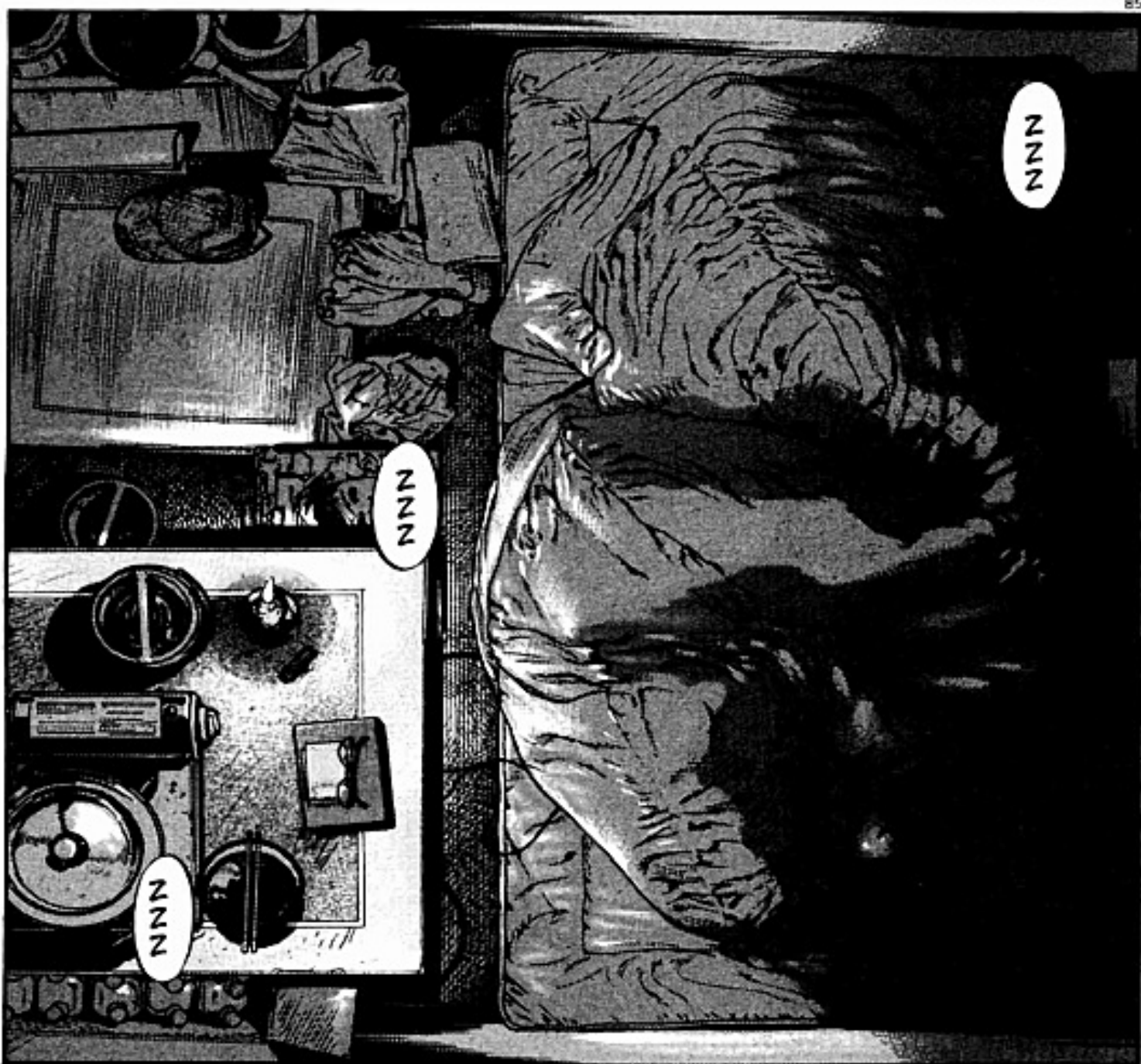
7

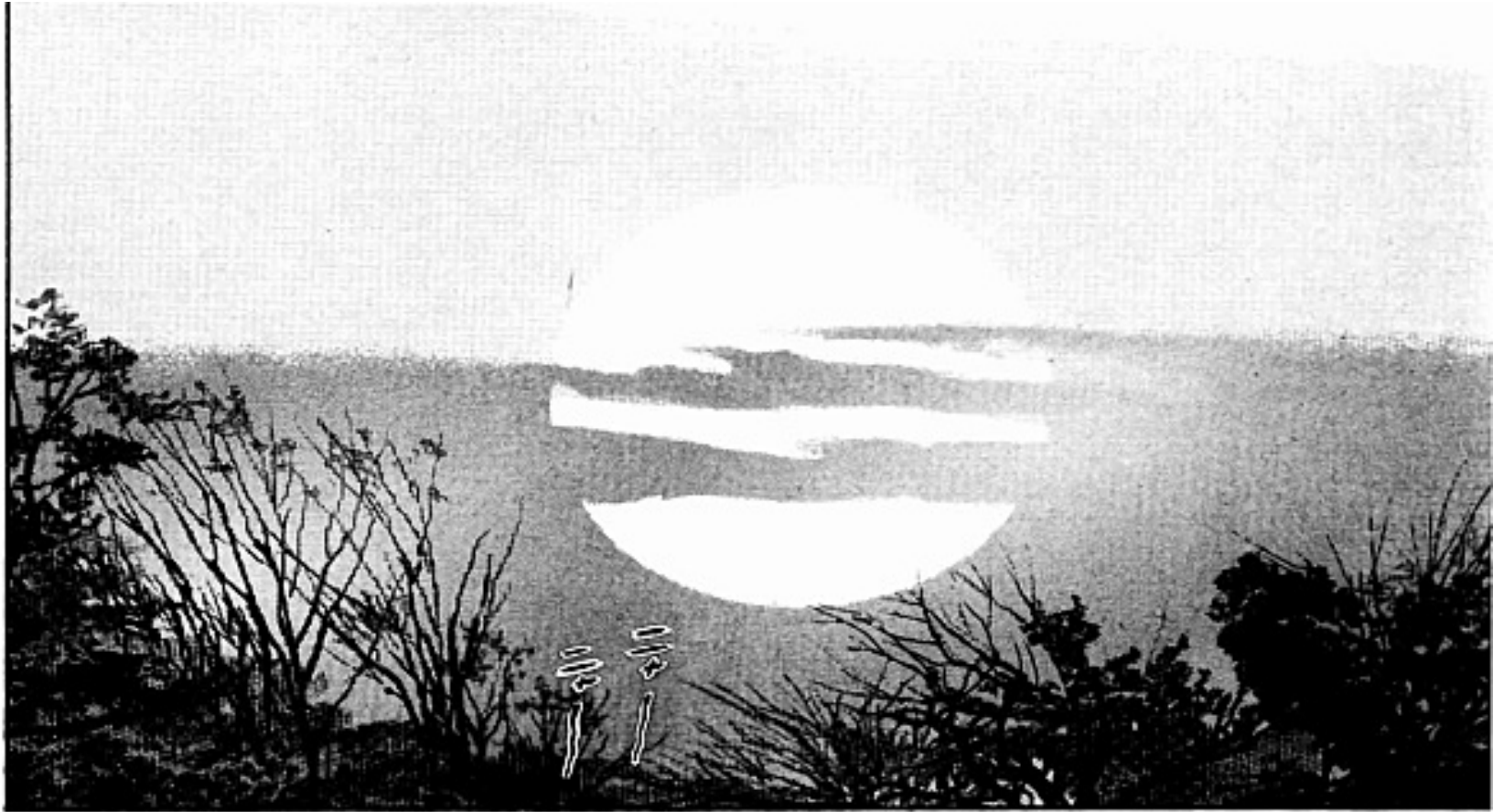


2

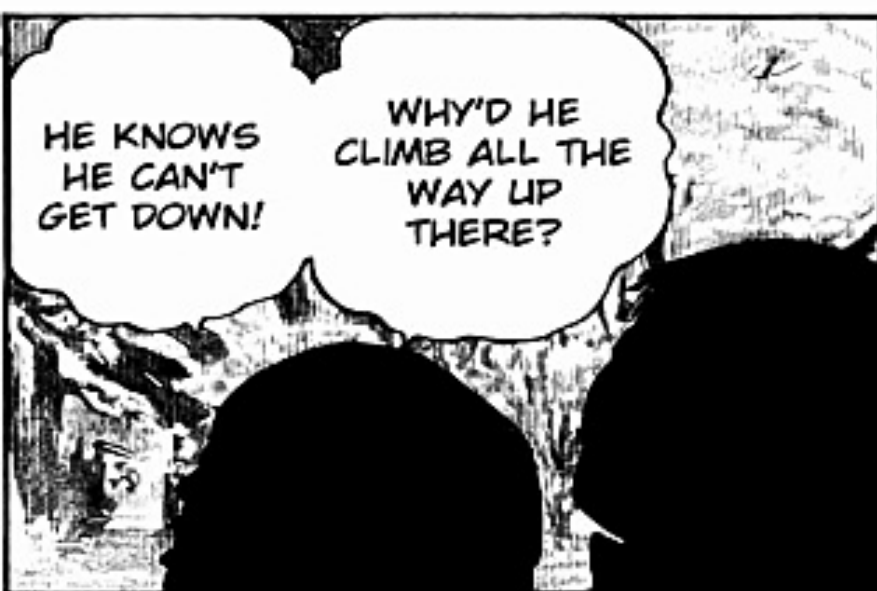
2













CAREFUL
GUY, HE'S
REAL SCARED.



A'RIGHT.

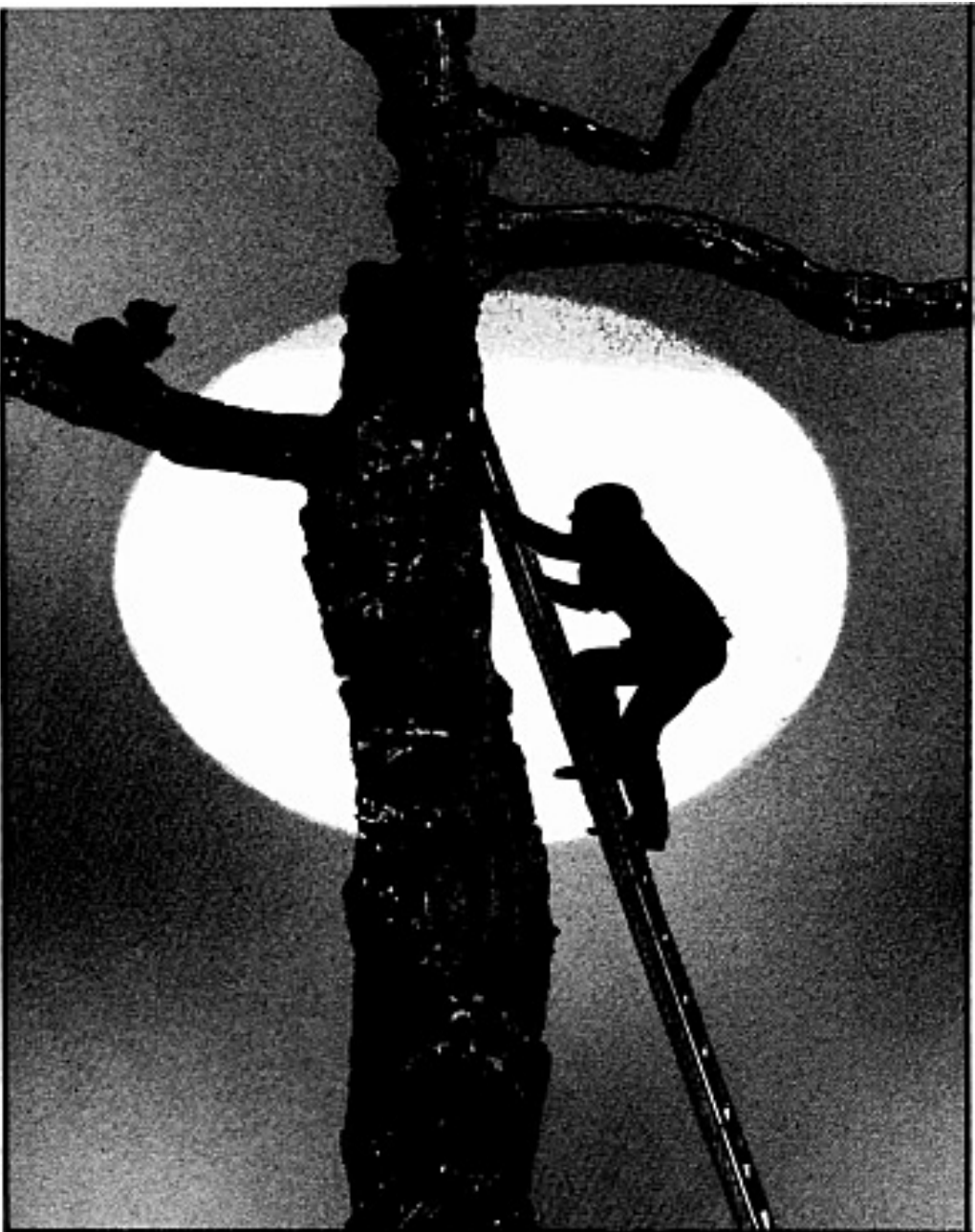


SETTLE
DOWN.



COME
ON
NOW.

HISSES

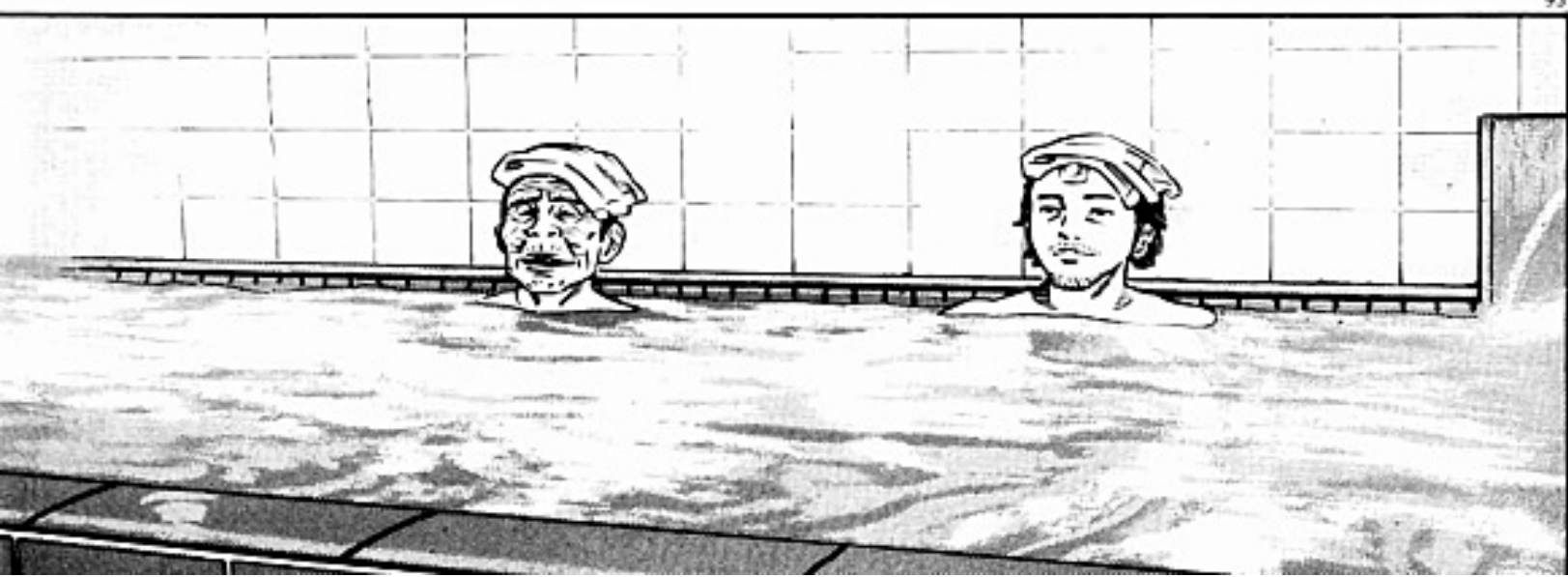


COME
TO ME.

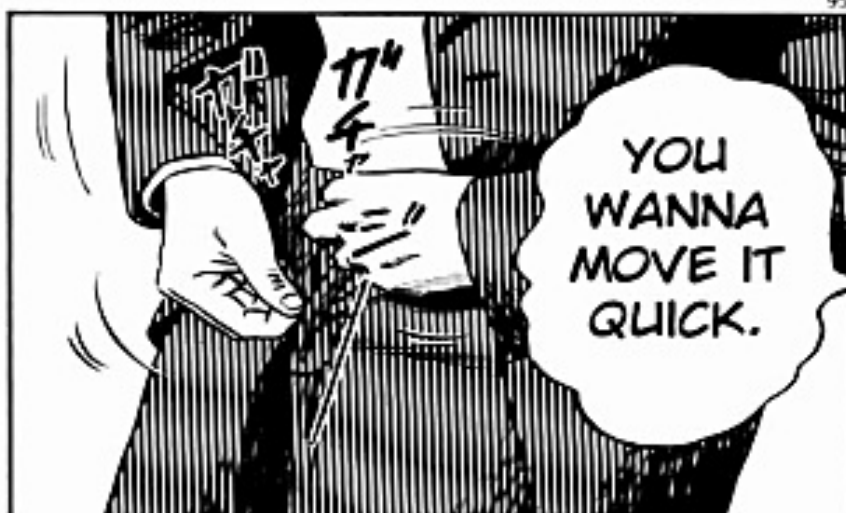












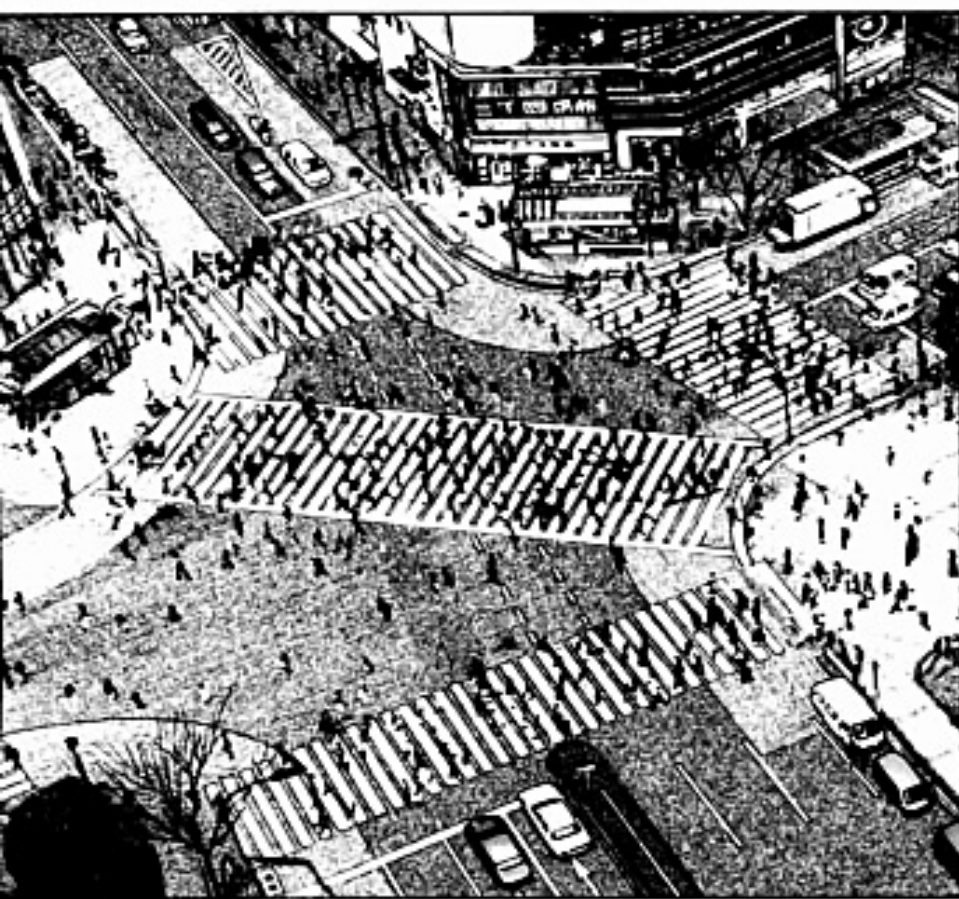


WHEW

THAT
WAS
CLOSE











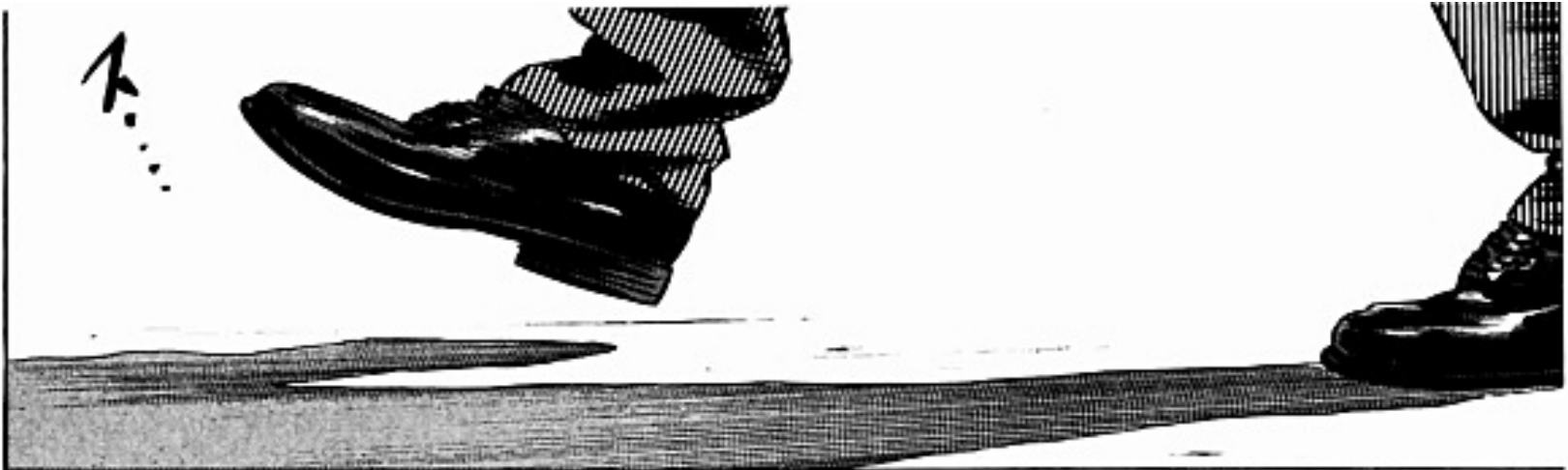






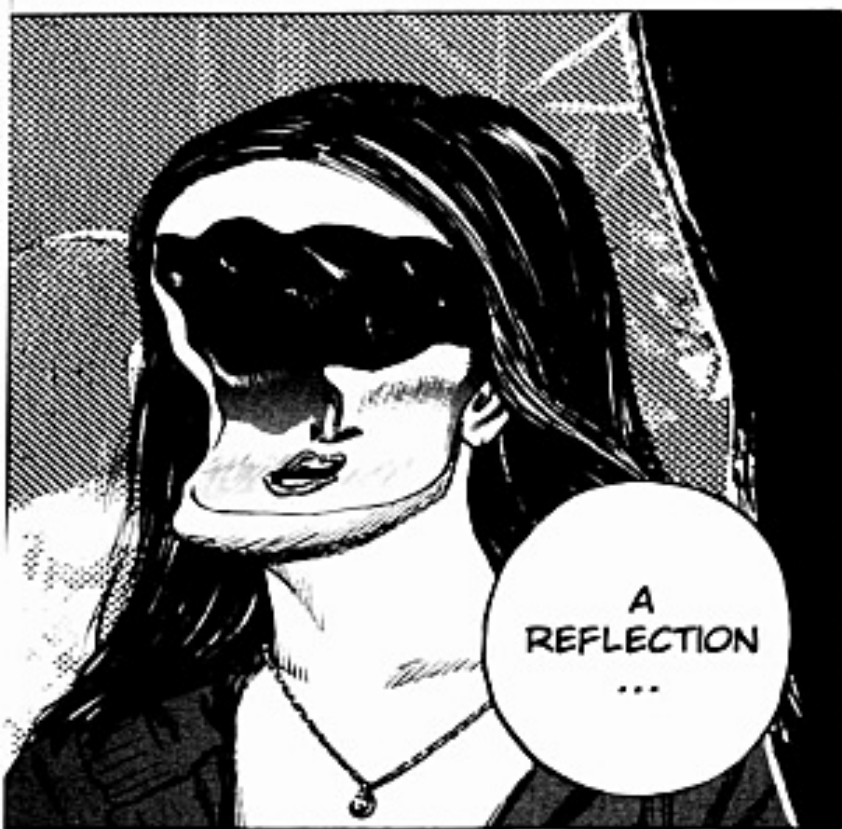


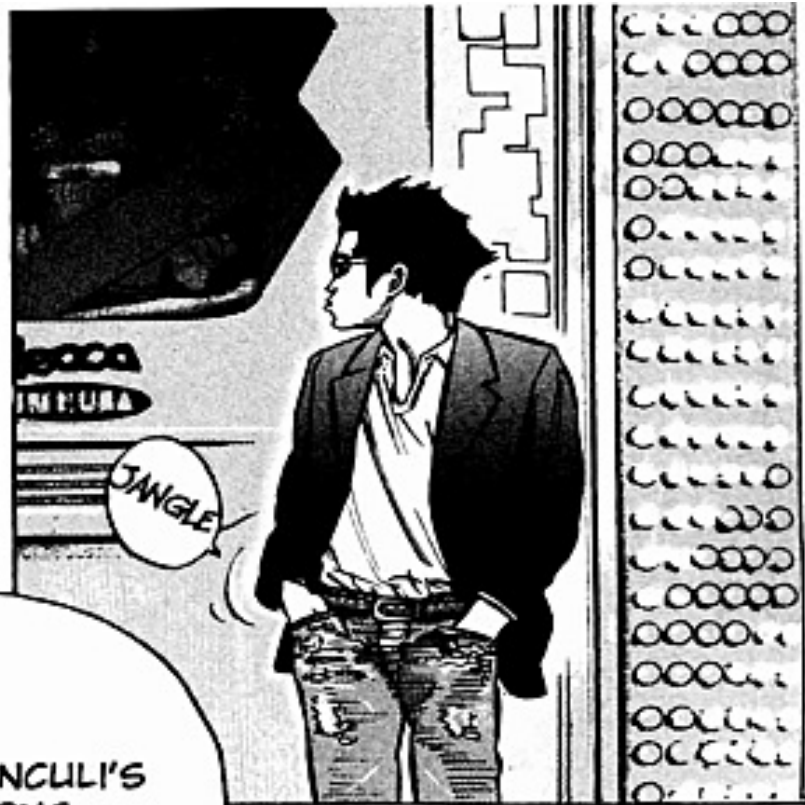
THEY'RE ALL
OVER..



106







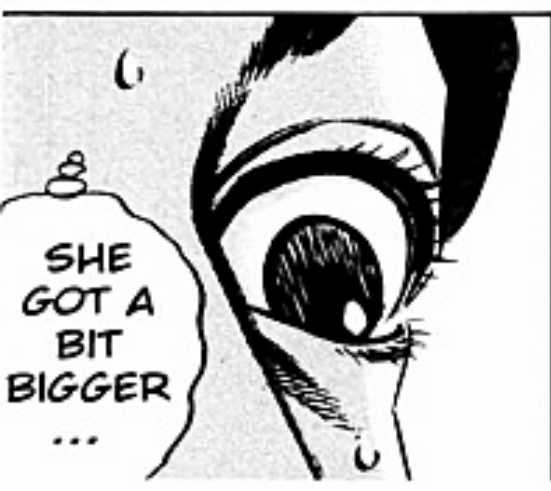
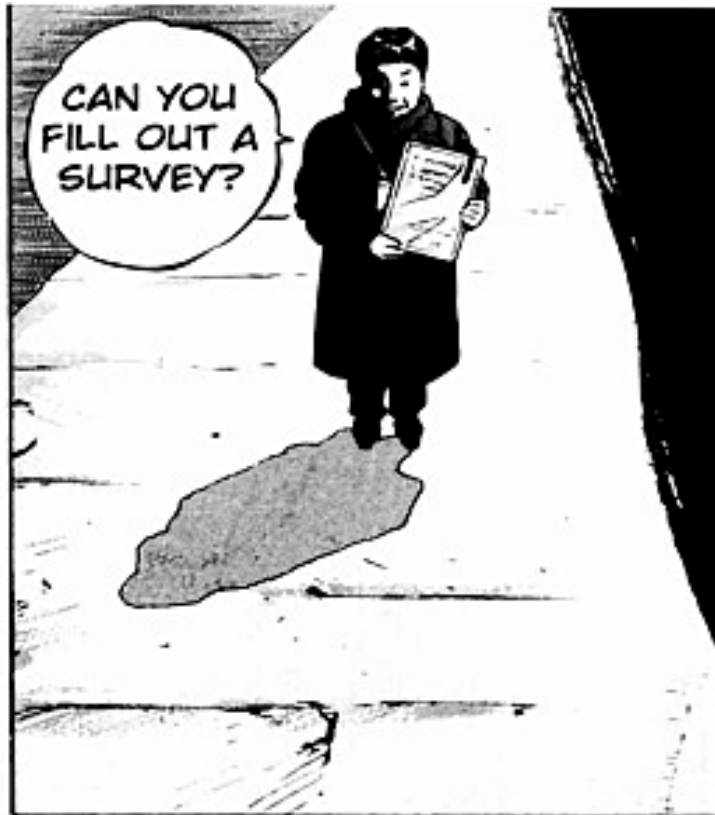
THE HOMUNCULI'S
DISTORTIONS...
ARE MY
DISTORTIONS.





WELL I'LL
TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK,
THEN!







.....

JUST COME TO A BUILDING NEARBY, ANSWER SOME SIMPLE QUESTIONS, AND THEY'LL GIVE YOU A GIFT CERTIFICATE.



A DRINK SURVEY.

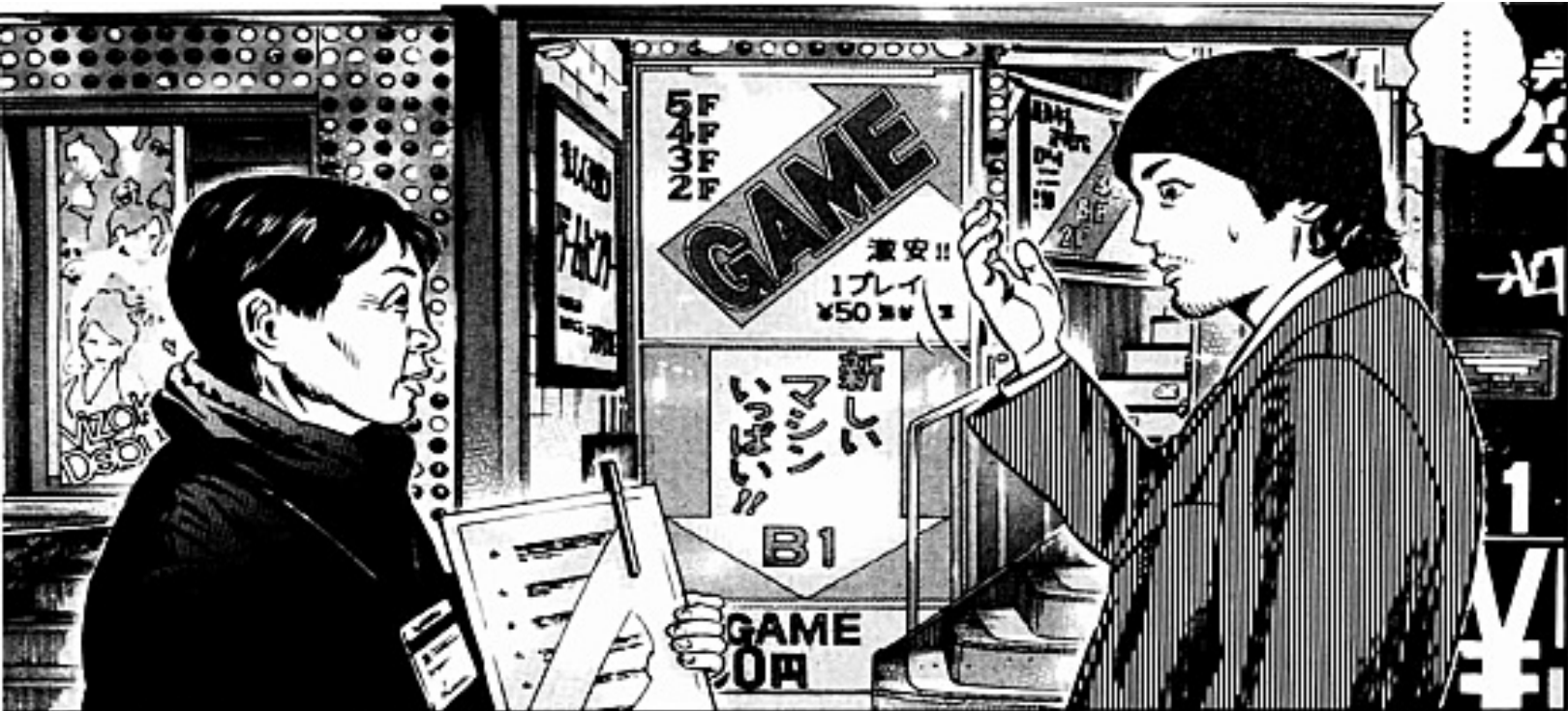


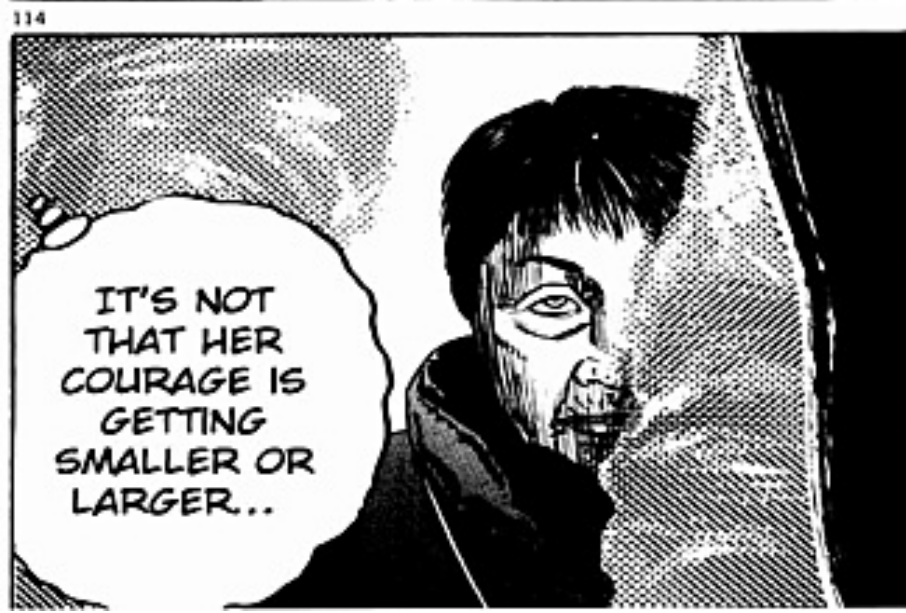
WHAT KIND OF SURVEY?

WH...



CAN YOU DO THAT?







IS A SIGN OF
DISTANCE...
IT'S
EXPRESSING
PERSPECTIVE.

HER
SIZE...

115



I'M
SORRY.

AWWW
...





116

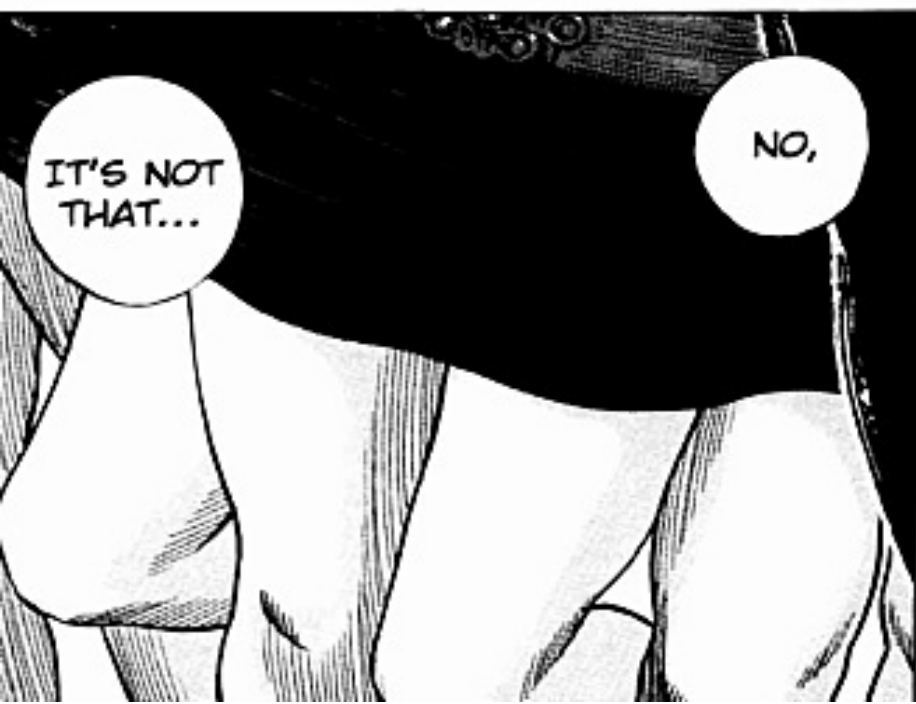




SEVEN
LEGS...



117



IT'S NOT
THAT...

NO,



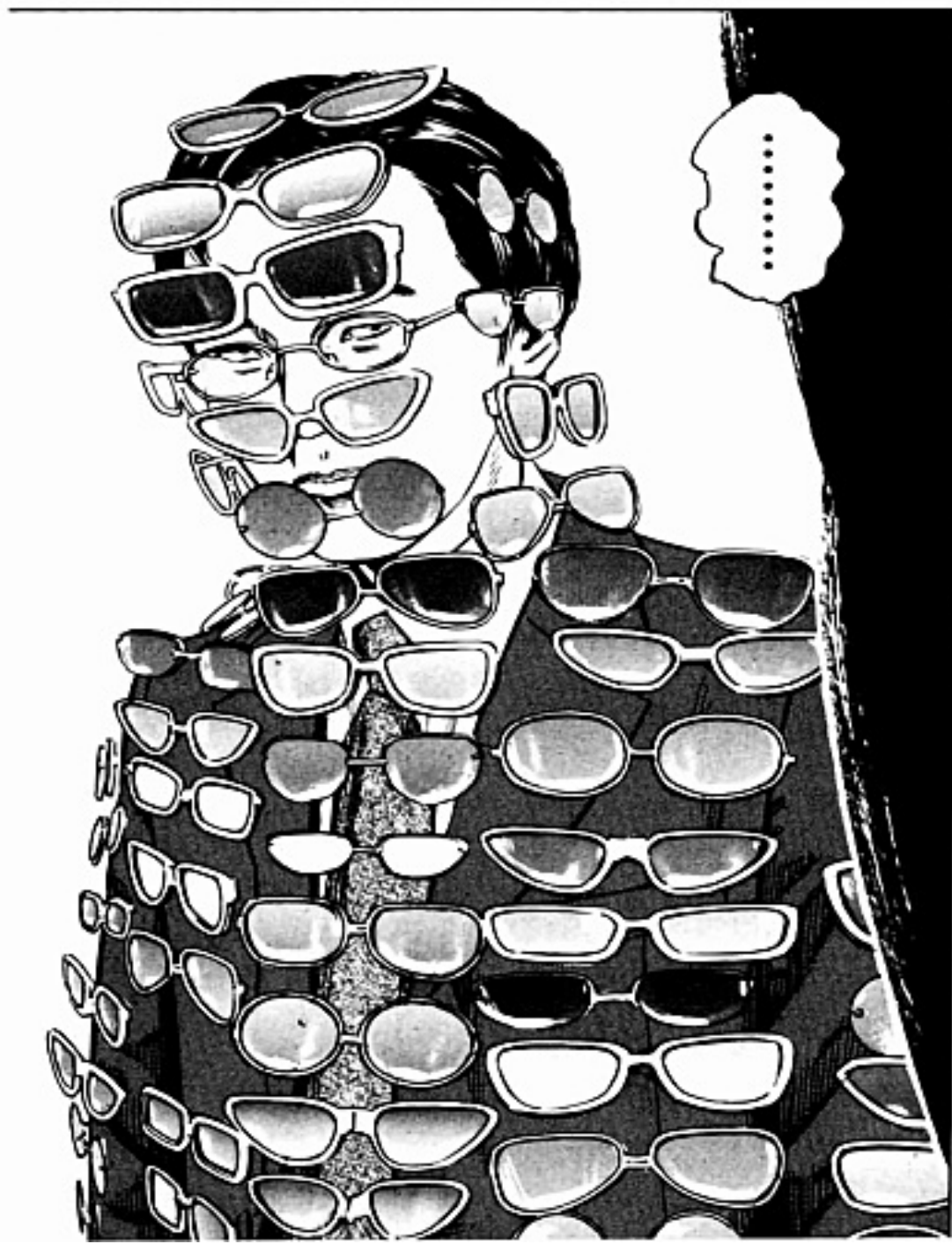
IS THAT
EXPRESSING
PRIDE IN HER
LEGS...?





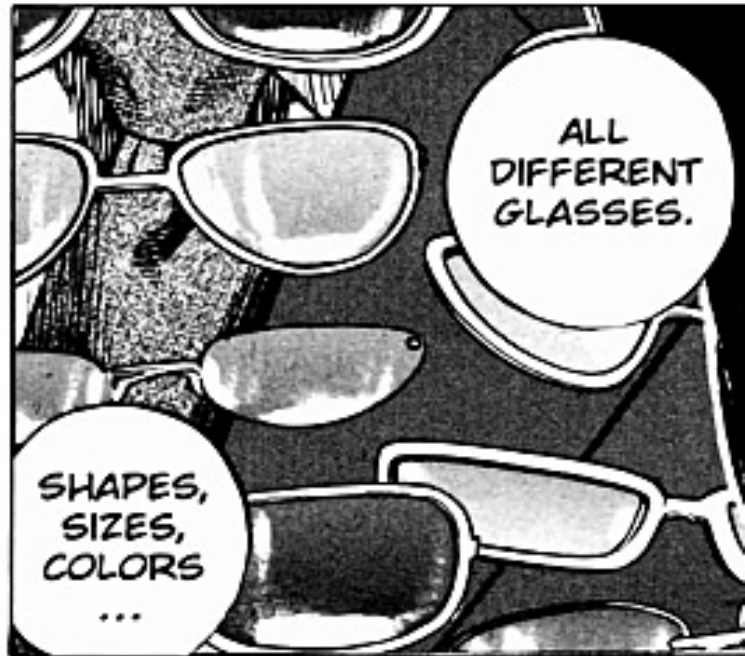
OH,

PARDON
ME.





HE'S COVERED WITH GLASSES ...



ALL DIFFERENT GLASSES.

SHAPES, SIZES, COLORS ...



HE SEES PEOPLE THROUGH DIFFERENT-COLORED GLASSES?











I GET IT...



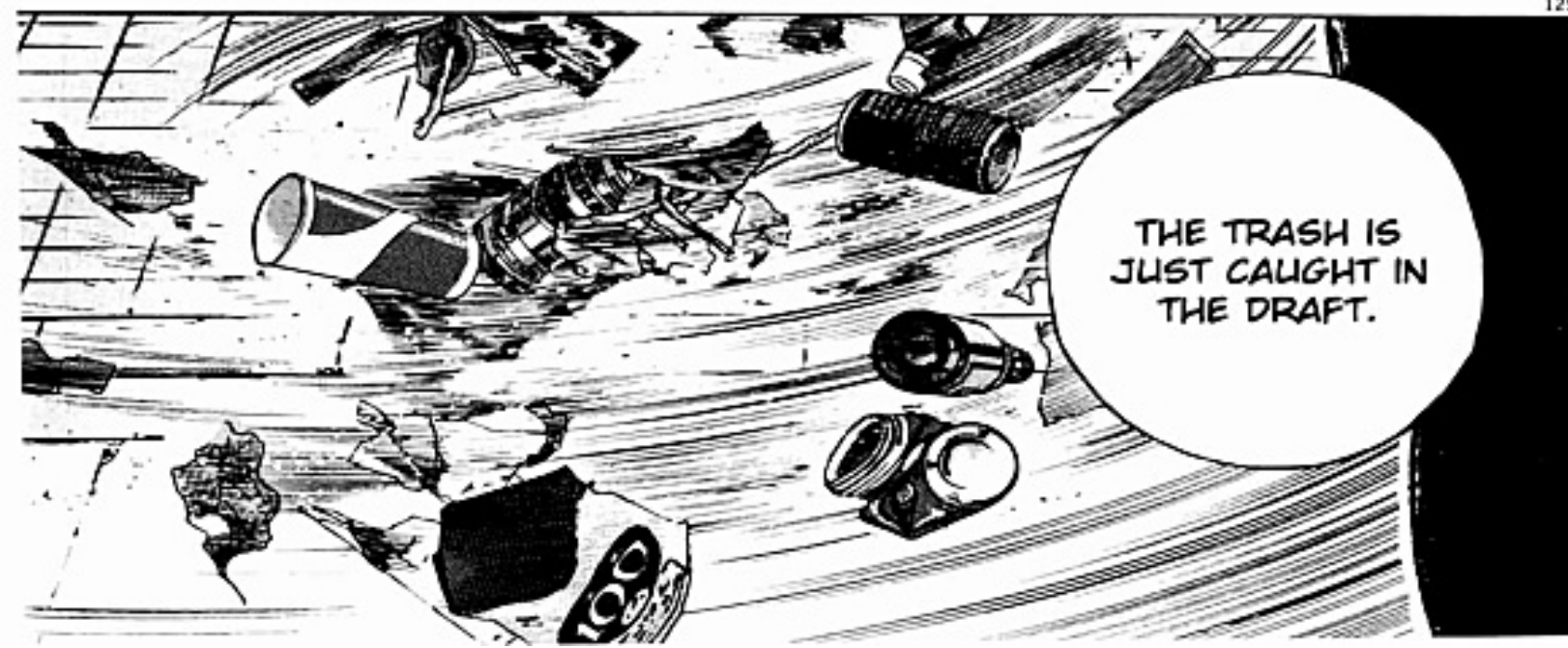
OH!



DRAWING ATTENTION TO HERSELF.

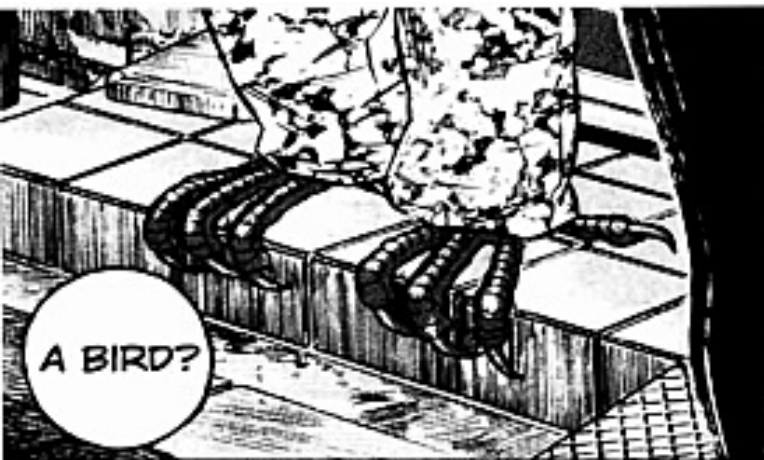


SHE MAKES THE WIND BLOW,



THE TRASH IS JUST CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT.





A BIRD?



HE
WANTS
TO
FLY?



!



HE WANTS
TO CLUTCH
THE
GROUND.



NO...









SOME ARE
EASY TO
FIGURE OUT,



SOME
ARE
MUCH
HARDER!!









WHY A
GIRAFFE
...?

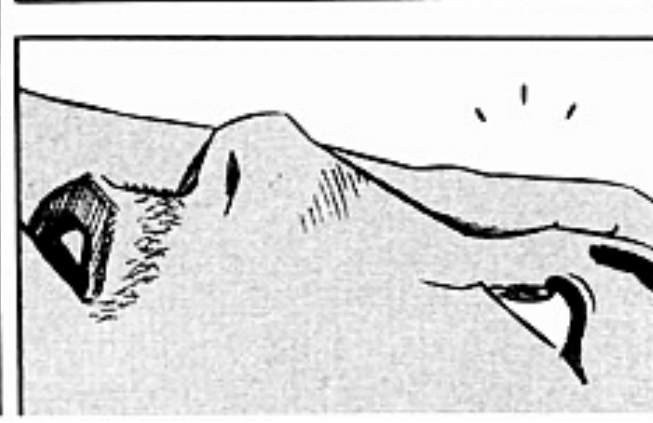


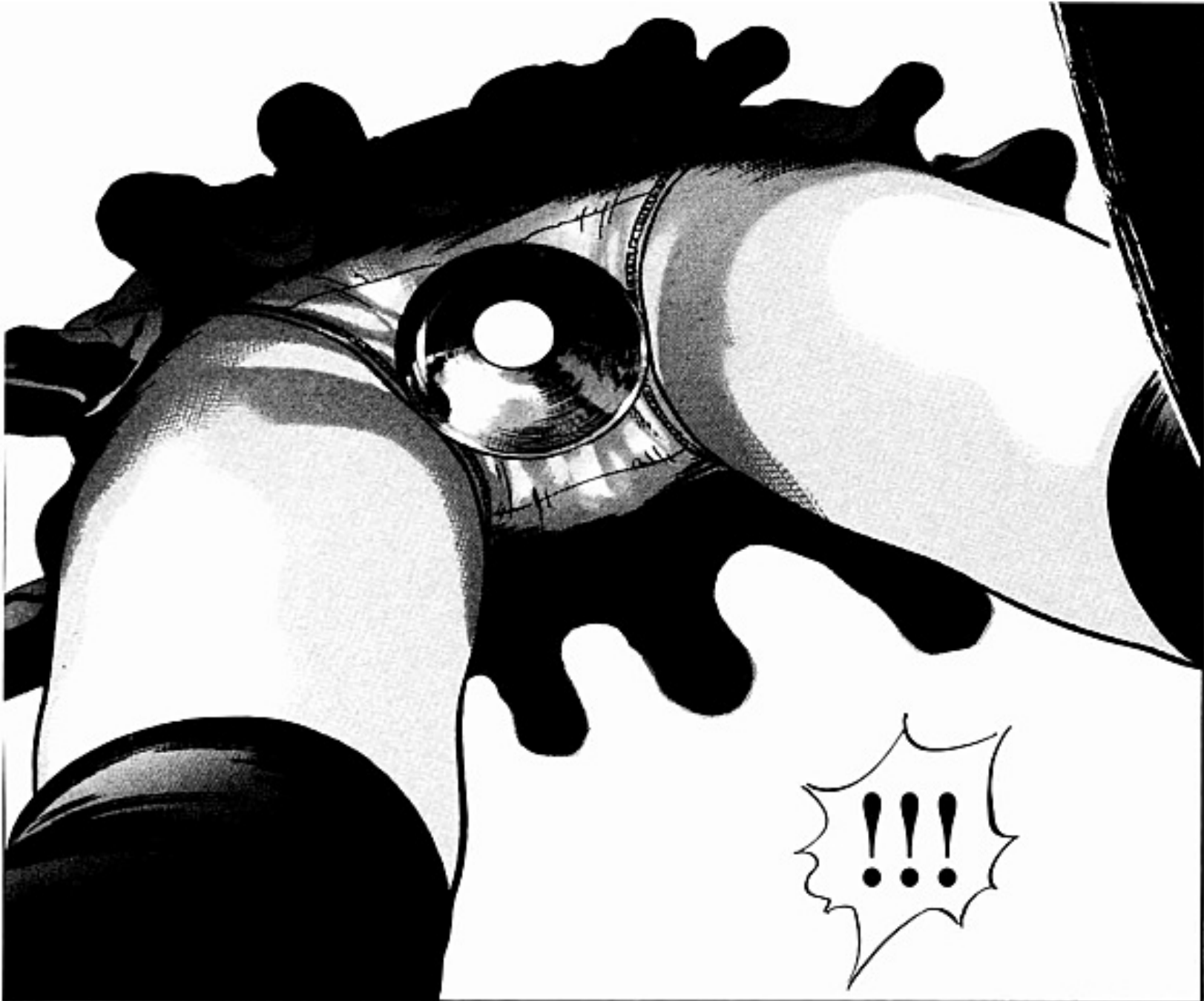
BUT...

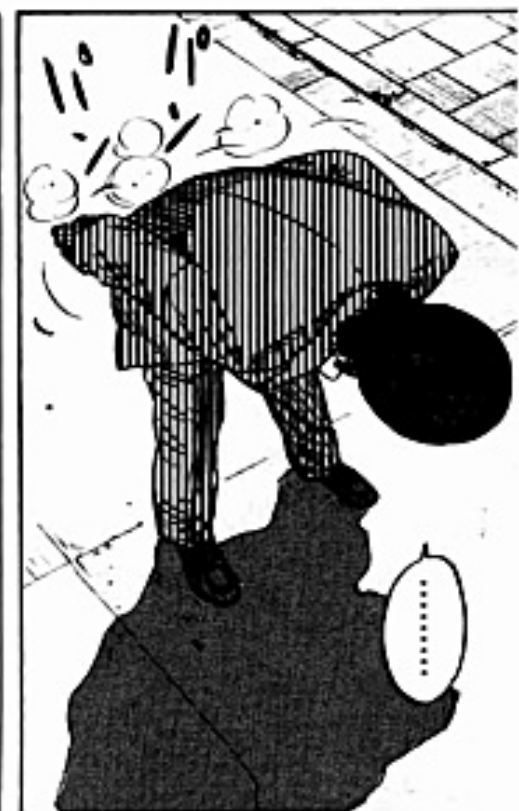
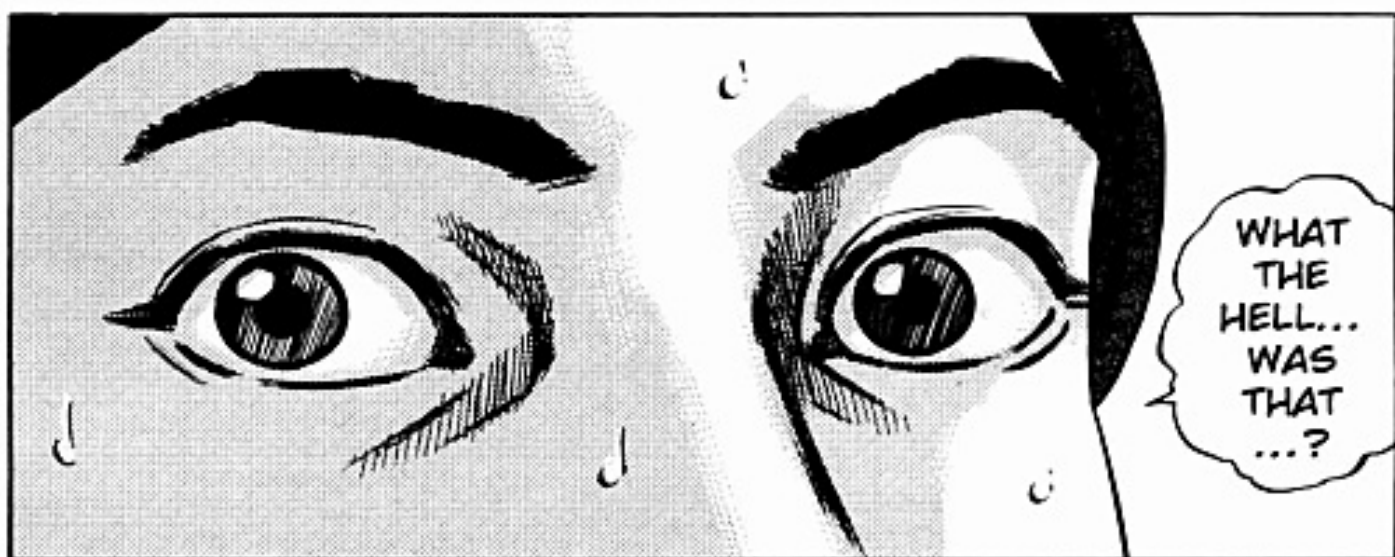
134







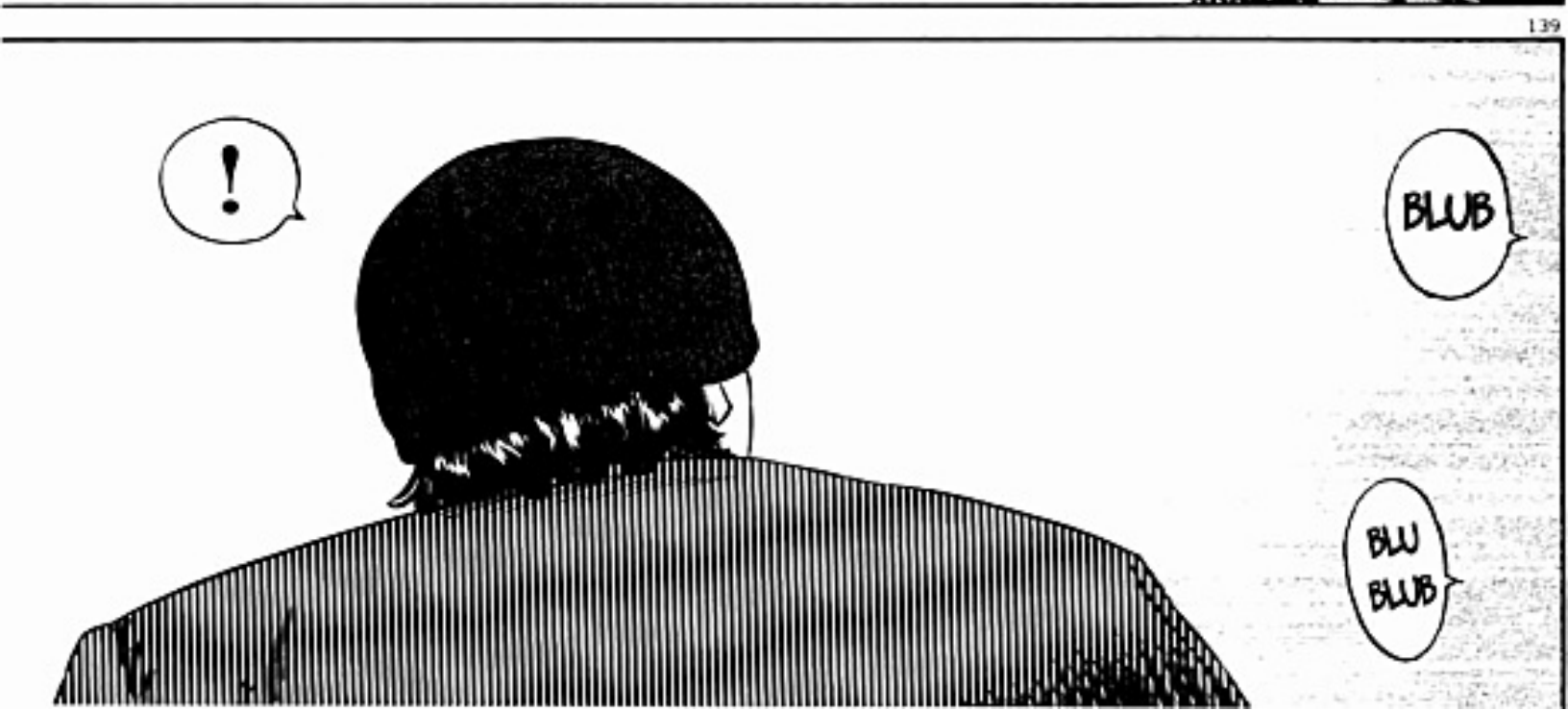






THE MORE I
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE
HOMUNCULLUS,

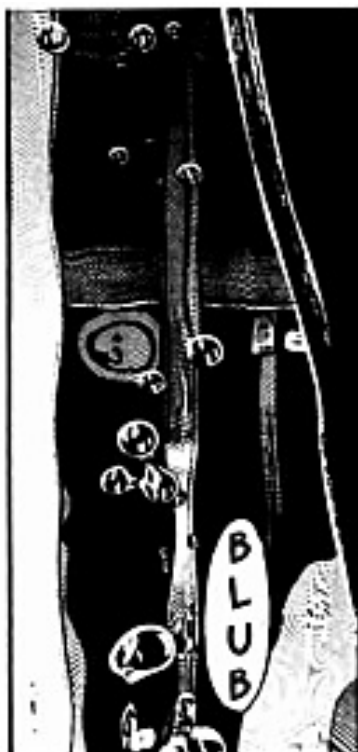
THE
MORE I
CAN
SMELL
MYSELF.



!

BLUB

BLU
BLUB





NOT
QUITE
...

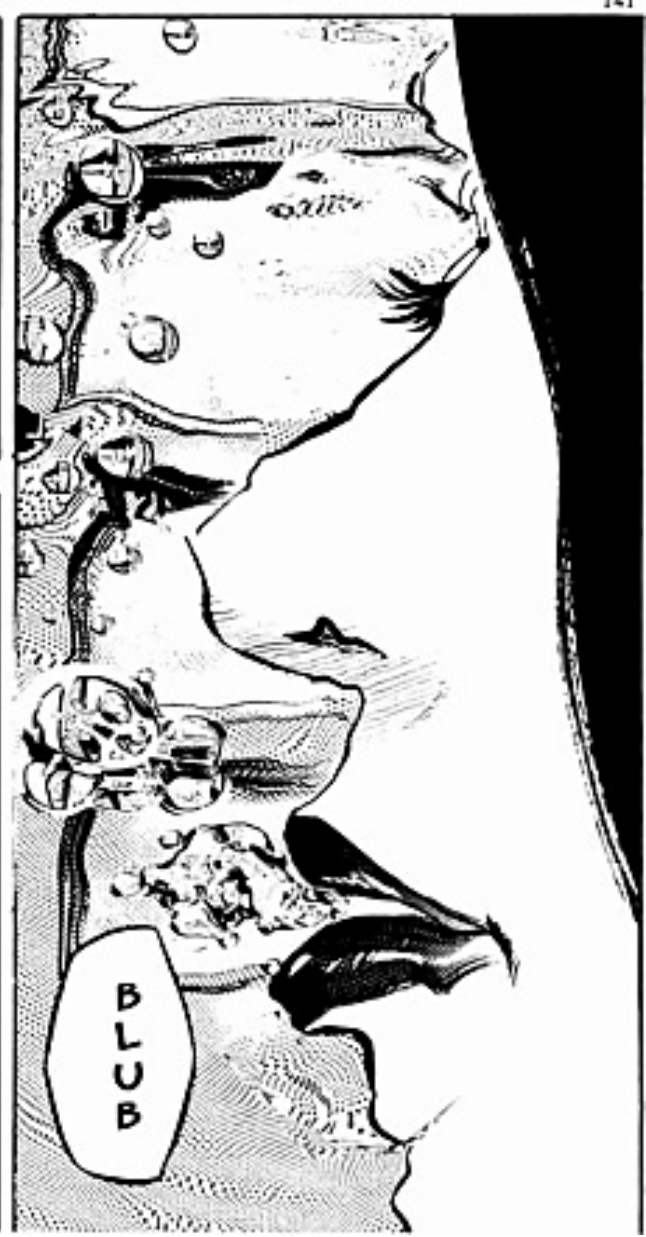
NO...

WATER
...?



AHA!

GOT IT.



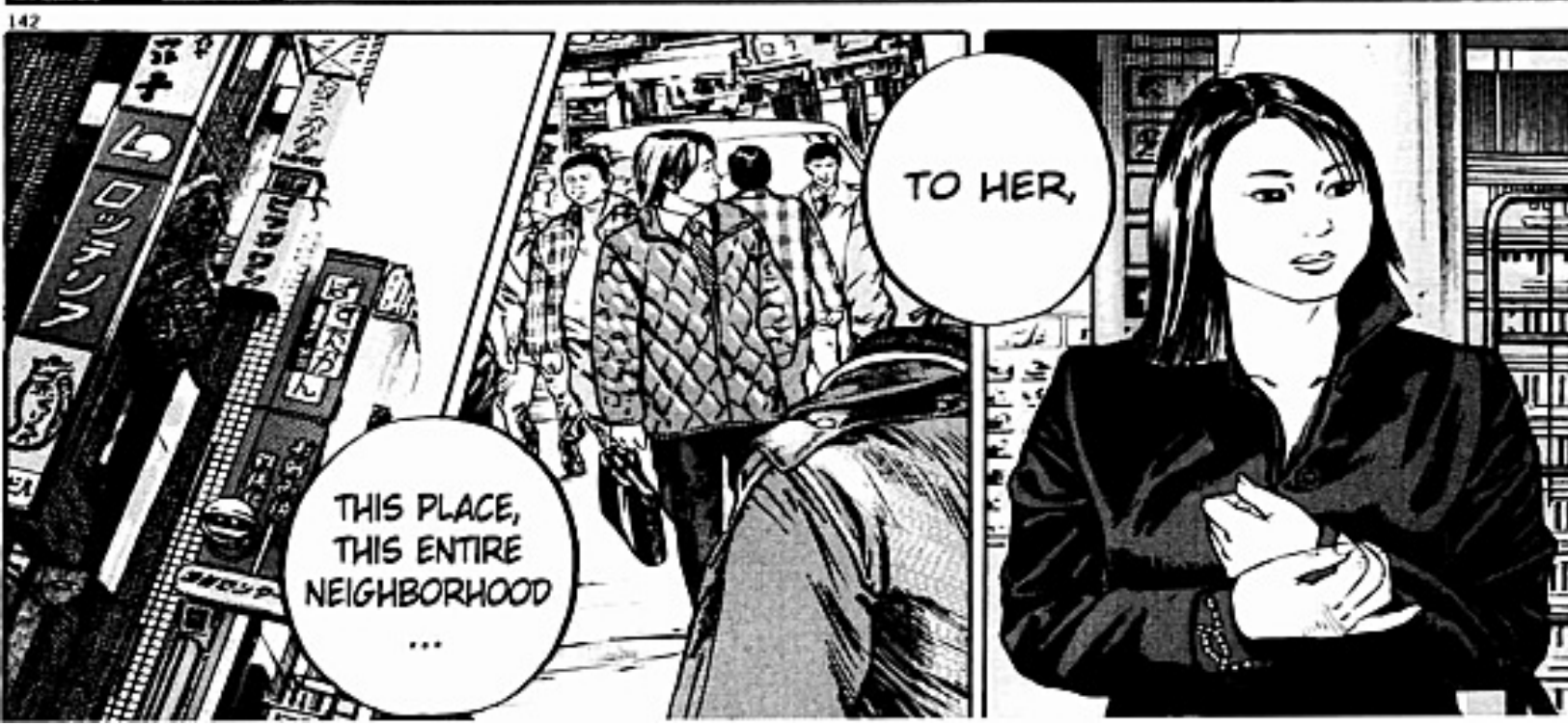
B
L
B



SHE'S NOT
MADE OF
WATER...

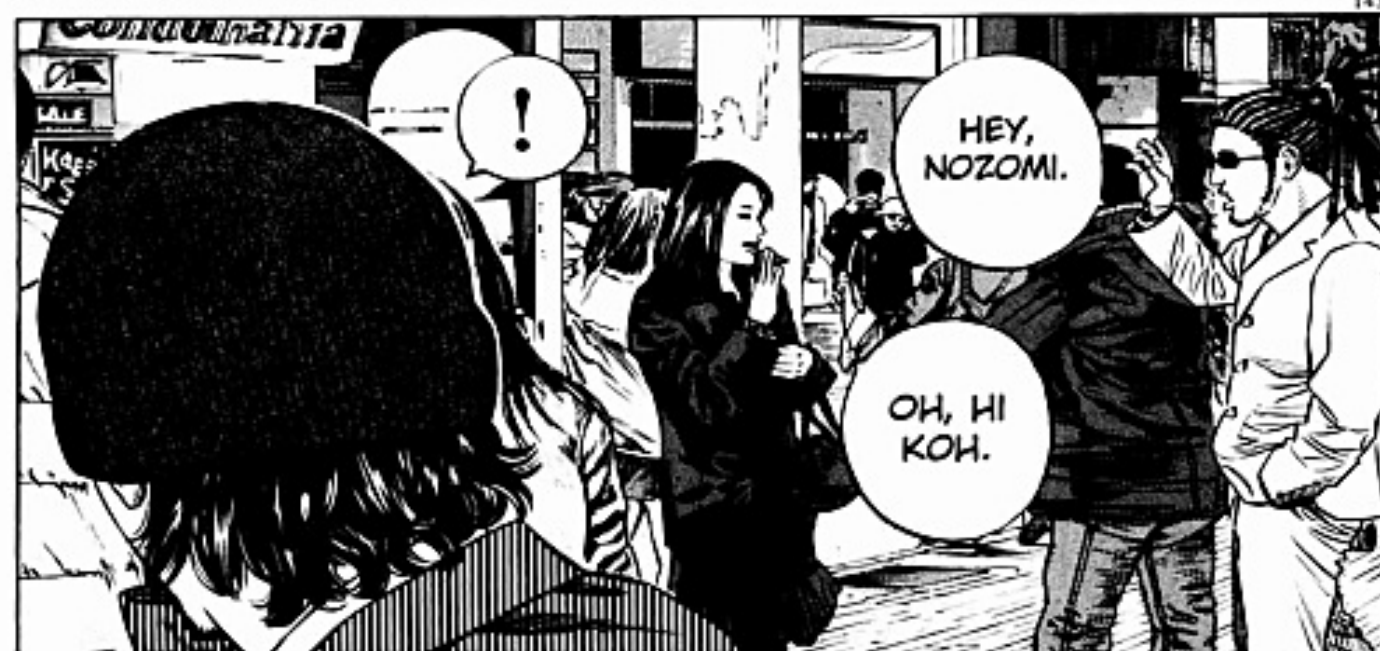


SHE'S
IN
WATER
!



TO HER,

THIS PLACE,
THIS ENTIRE
NEIGHBORHOOD
...





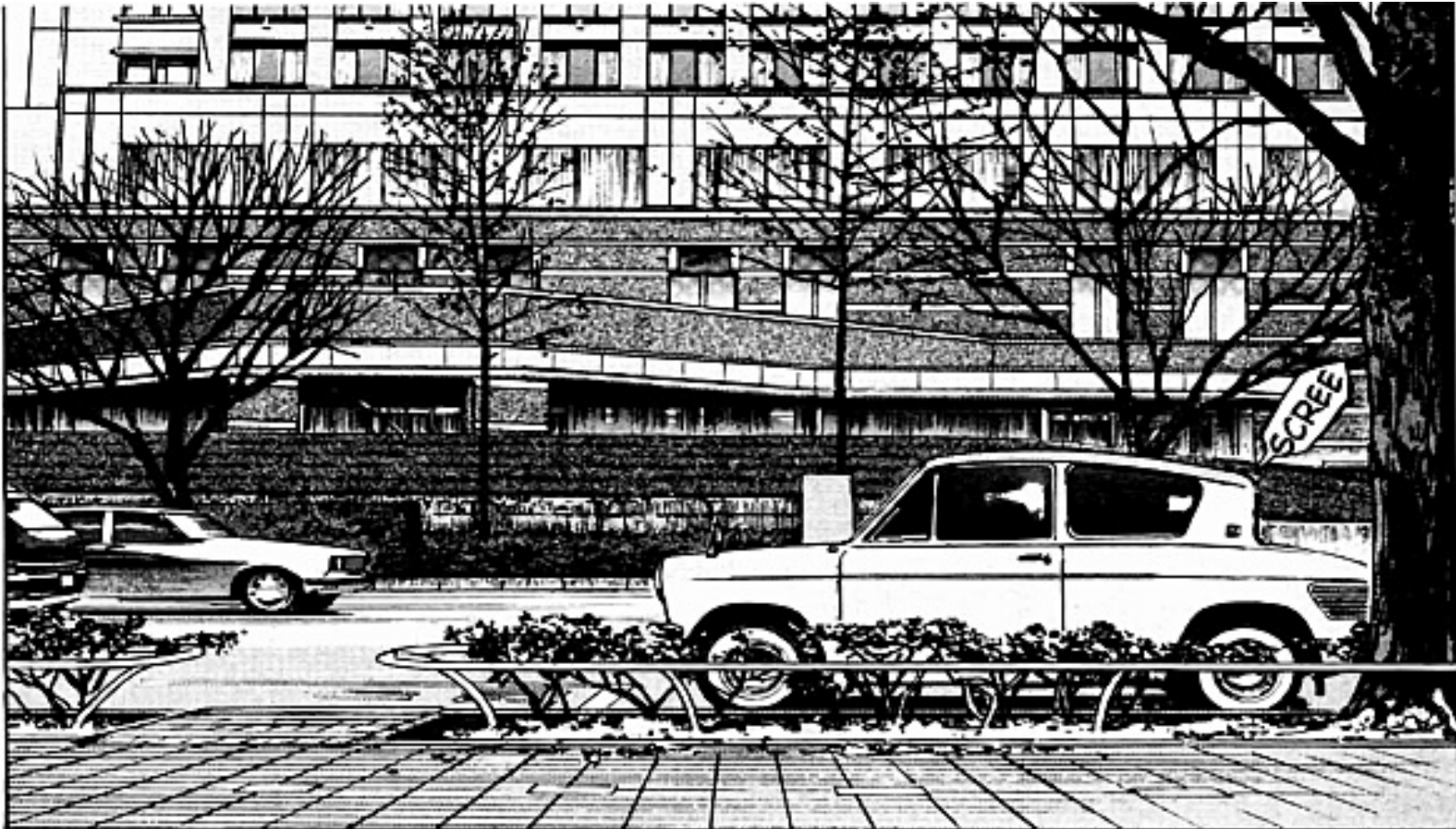




146

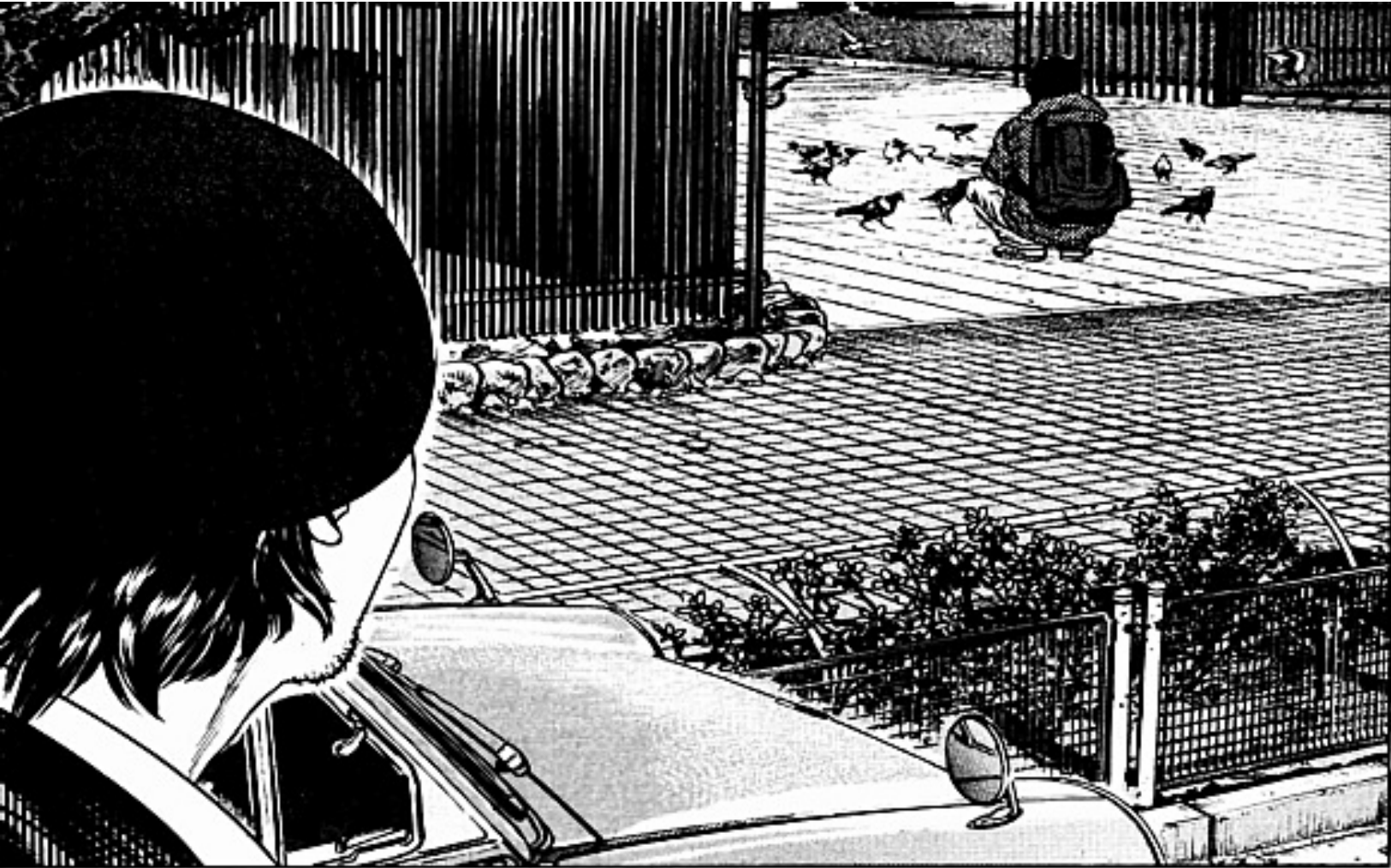




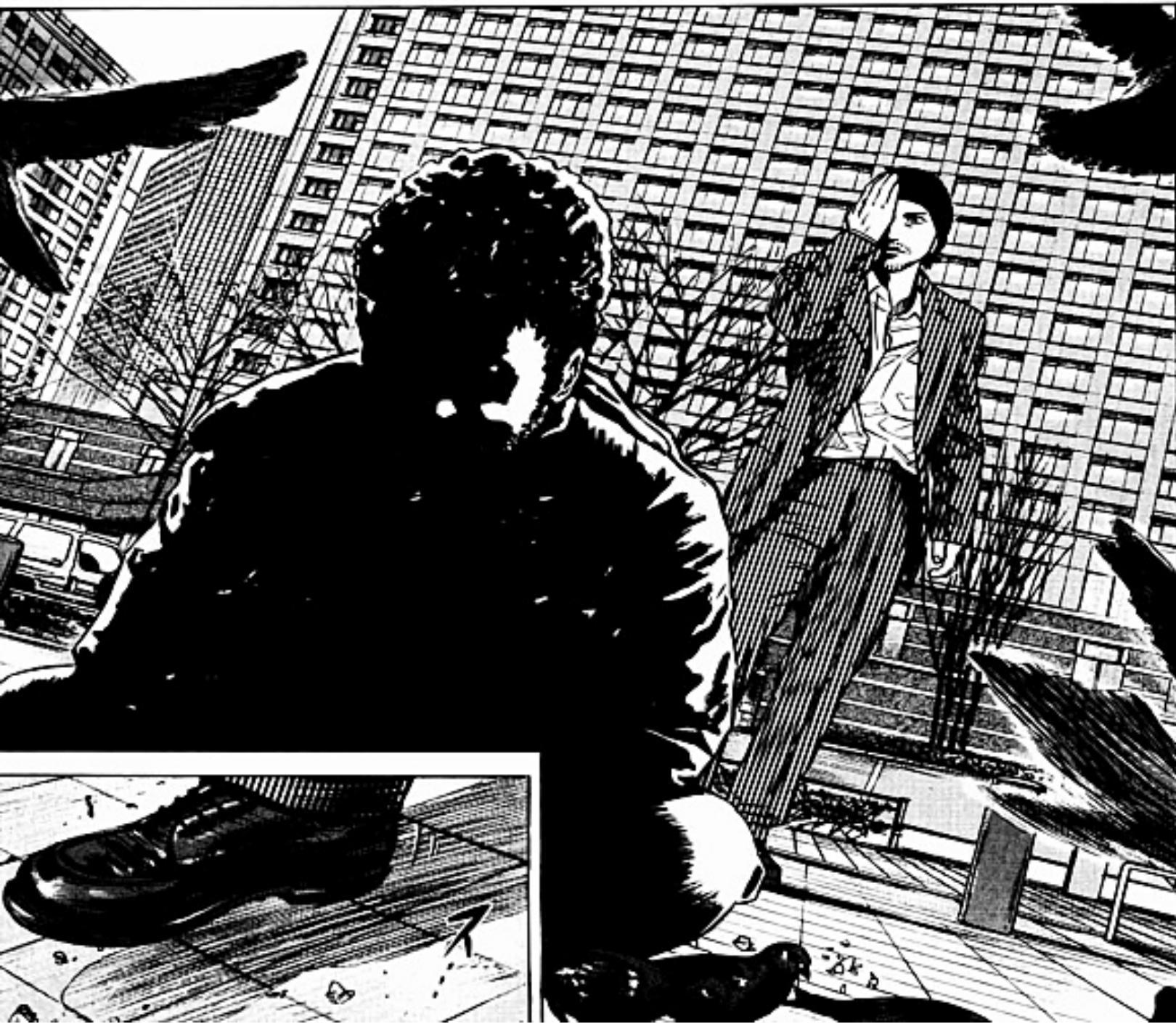


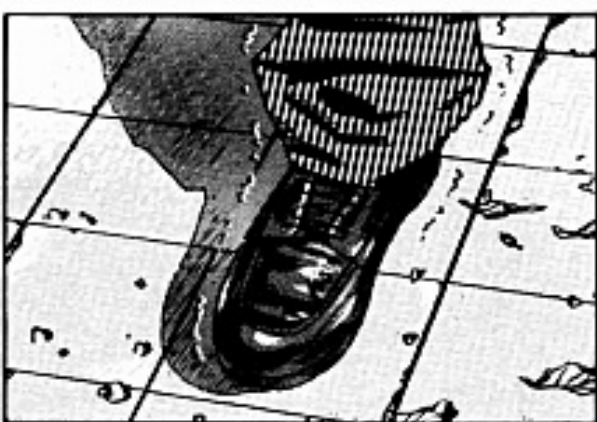
148





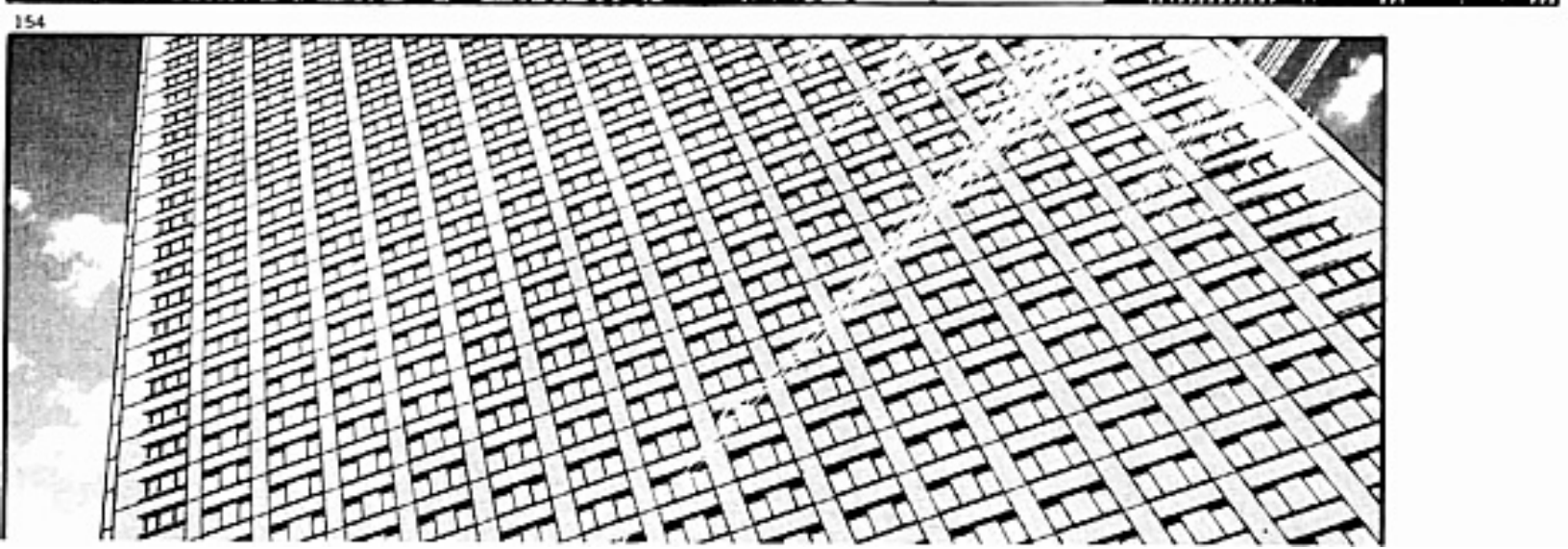
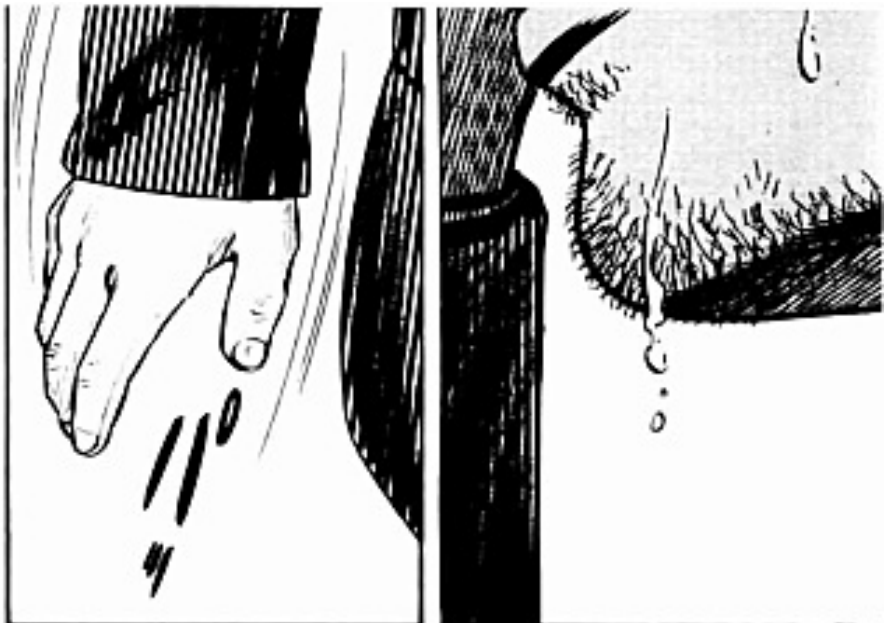
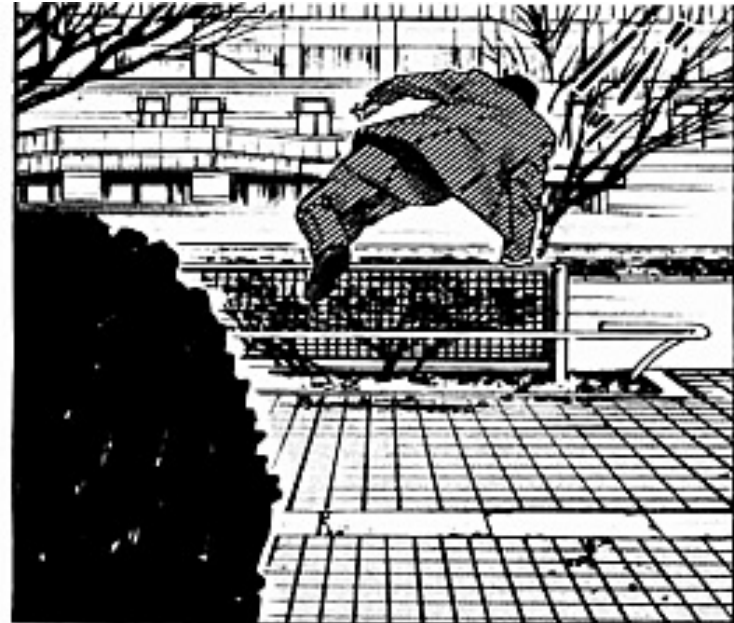


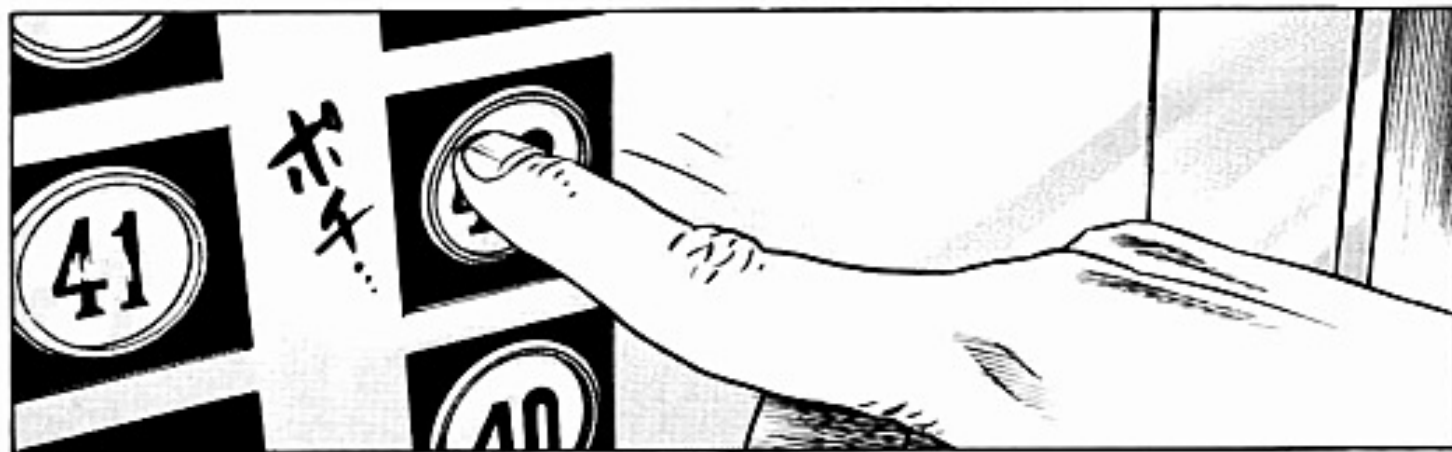


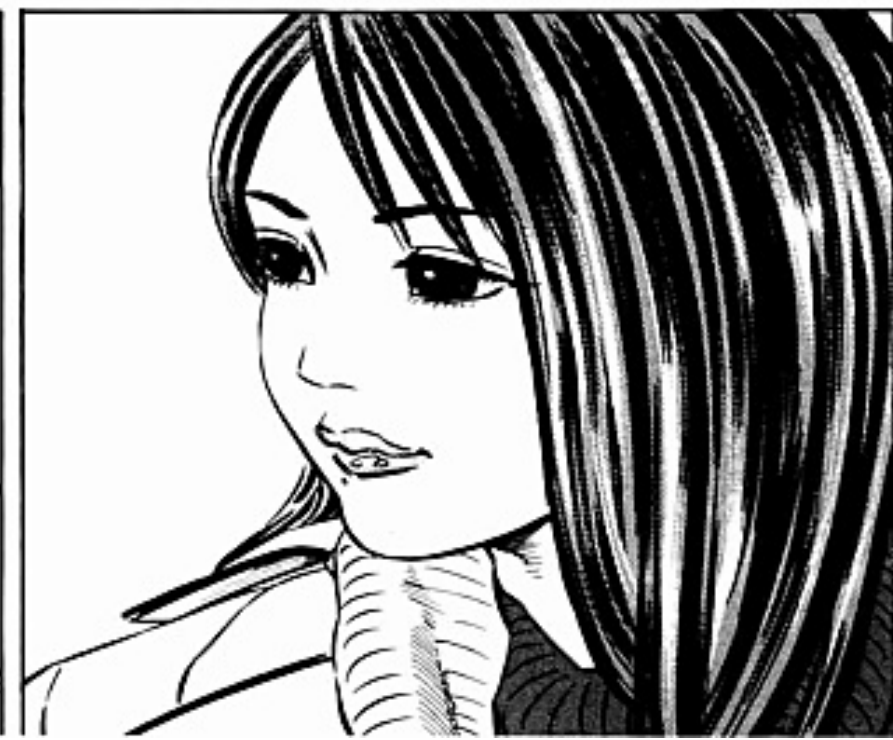
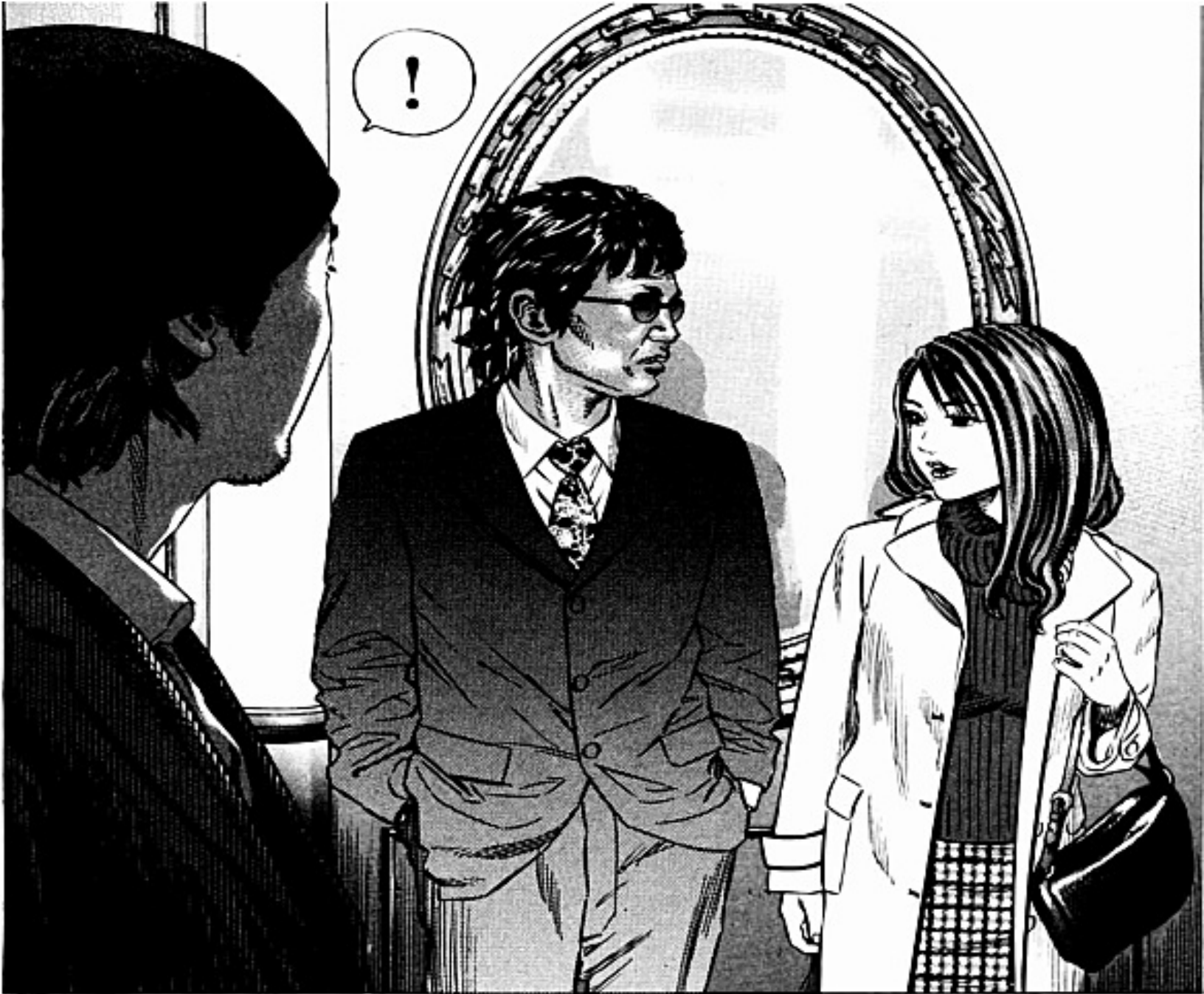


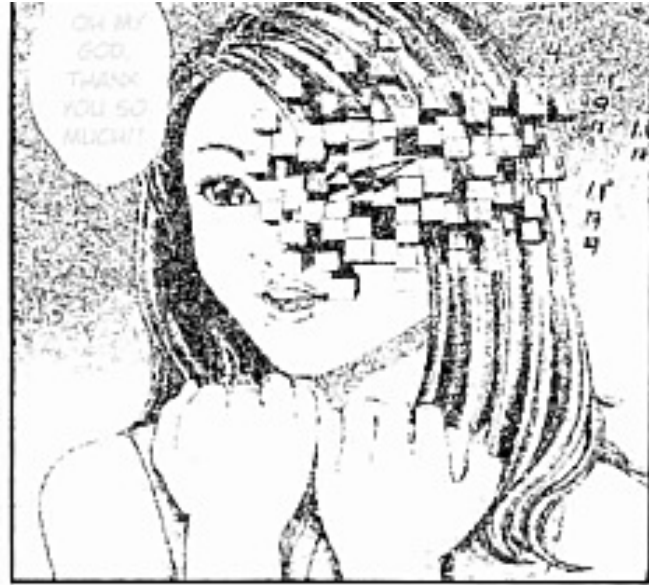
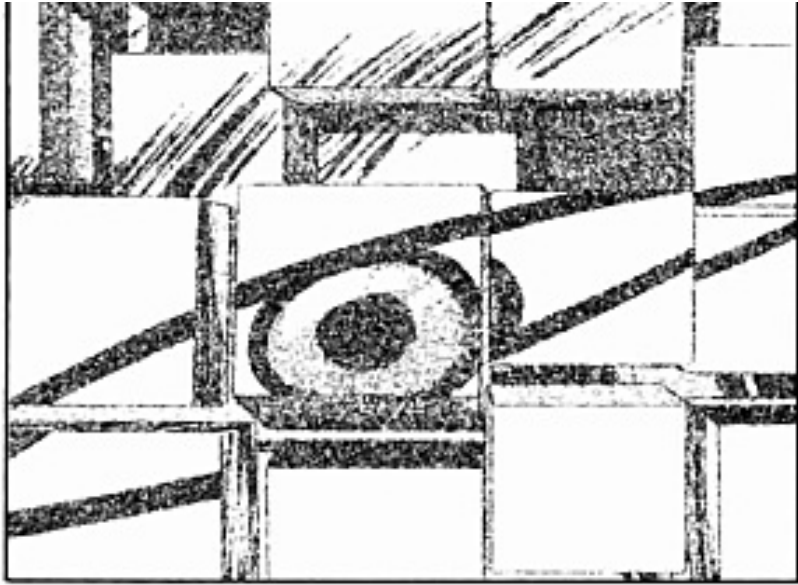


I CAN'T
EVEN STEP
CLOSER...!

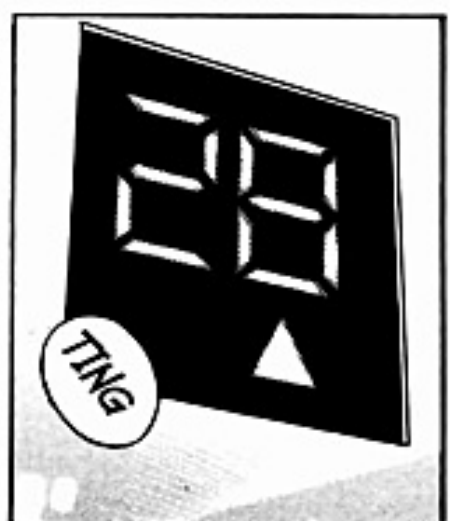










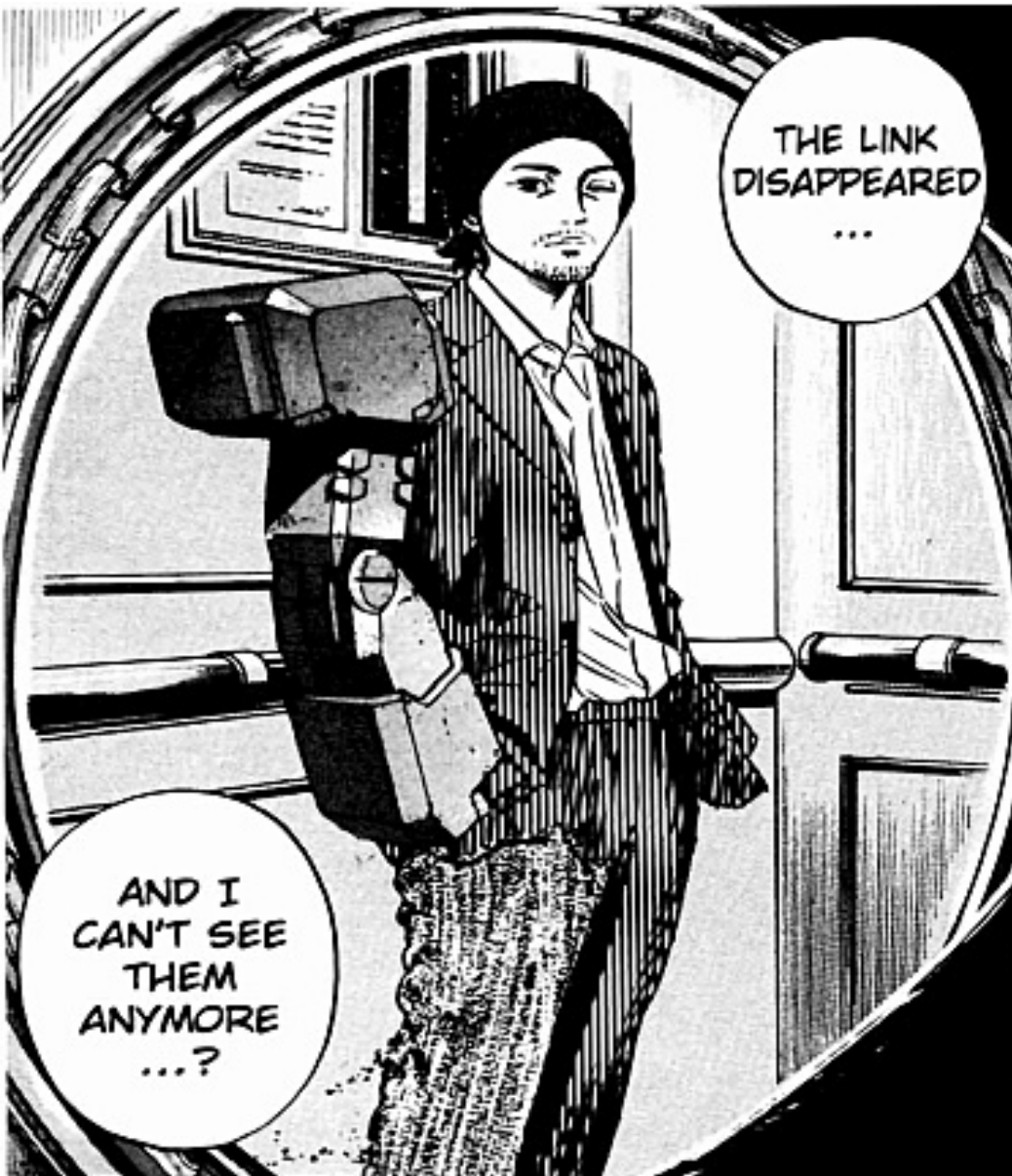


SHE WAS
LIKE SOME
WEIRD
CUBE
MONSTER...

BEFORE
...

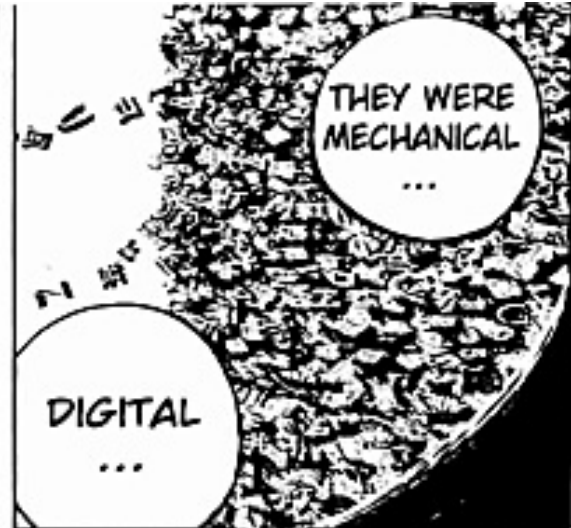
THAT'S
SO
STRANGE
...





THE LINK
DISAPPEARED
...

AND I
CAN'T SEE
THEM
ANYMORE
...?

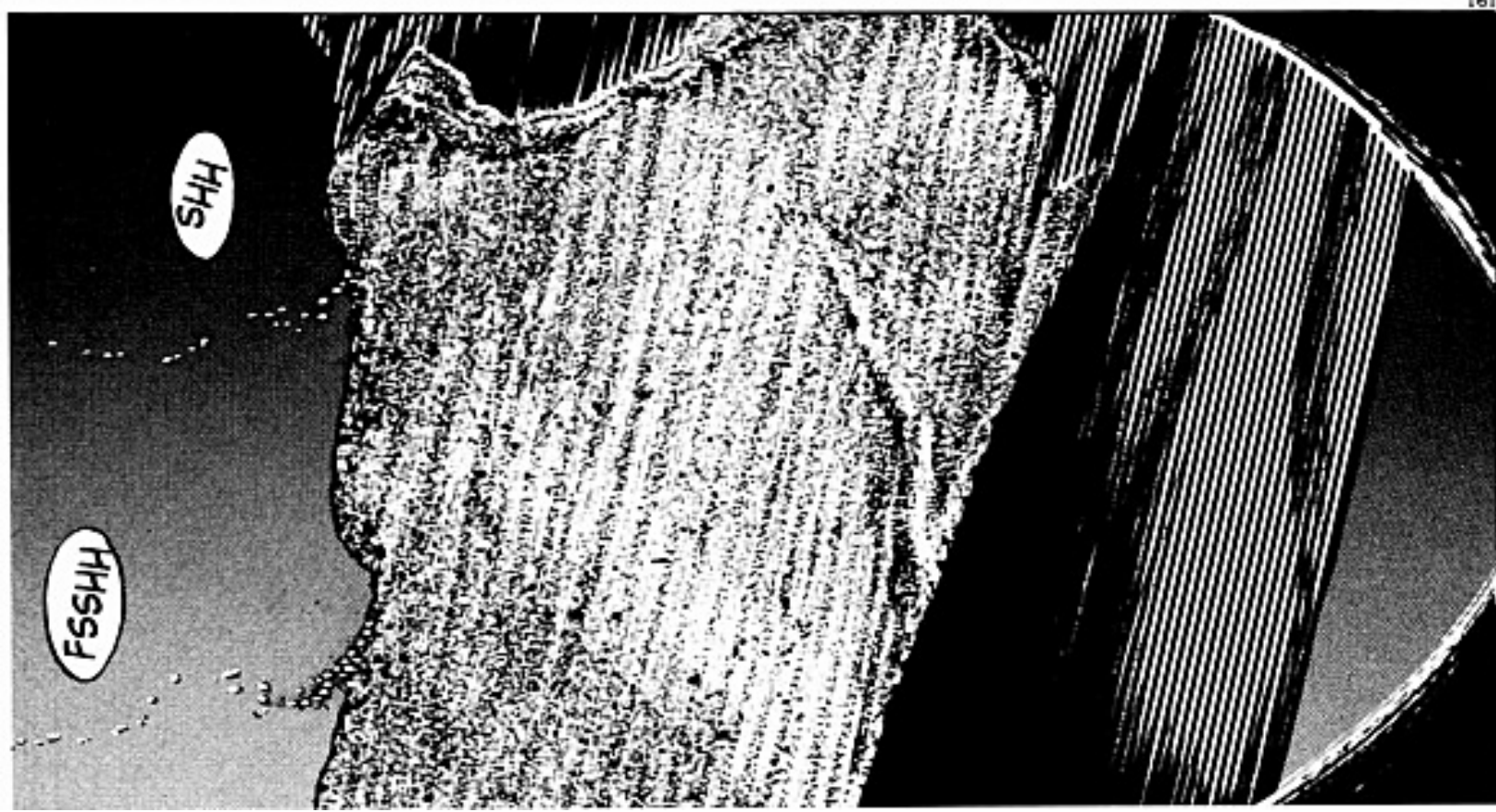


THEY WERE
MECHANICAL
...

DIGITAL
...



WHICH
MEANS
...



SHH

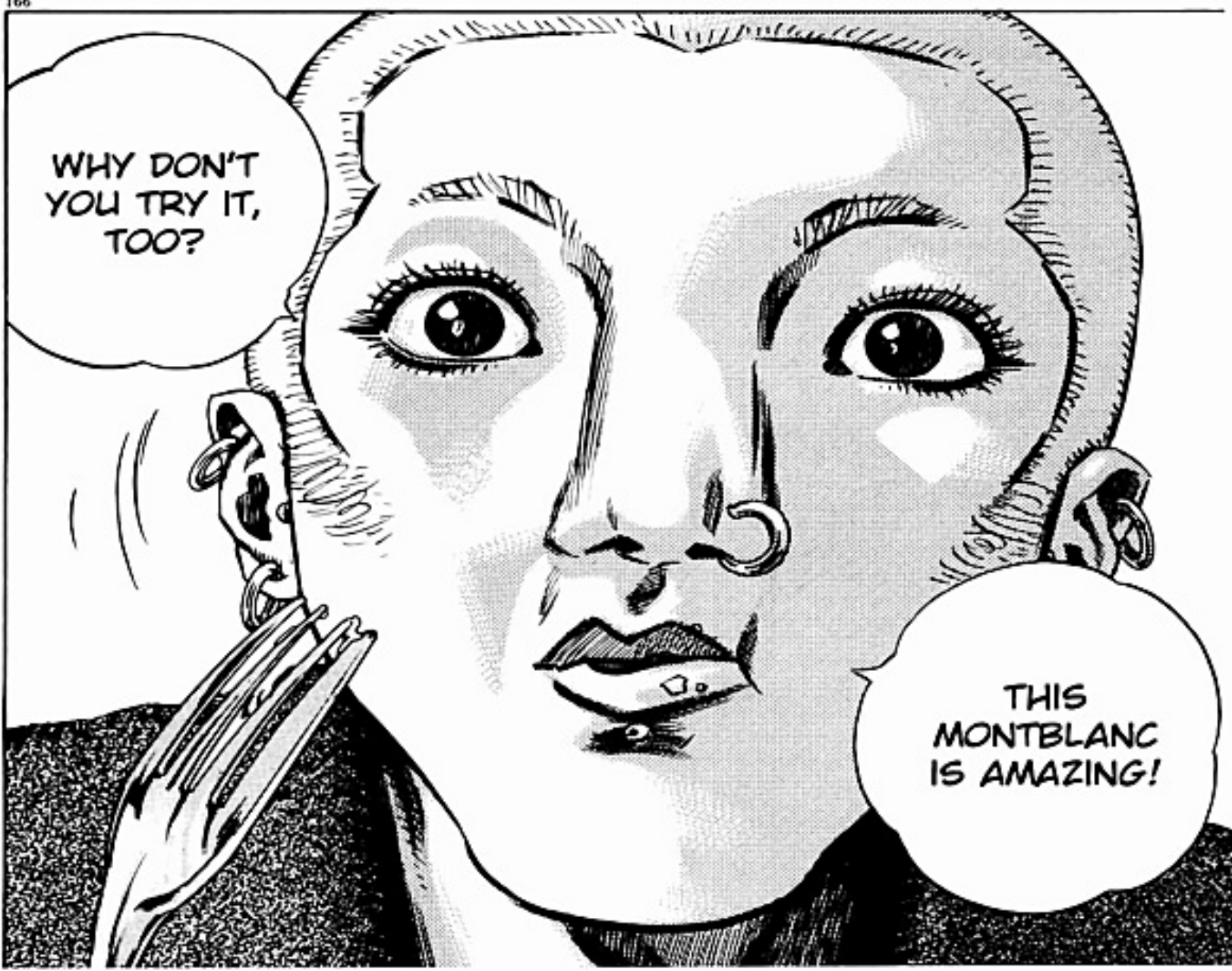
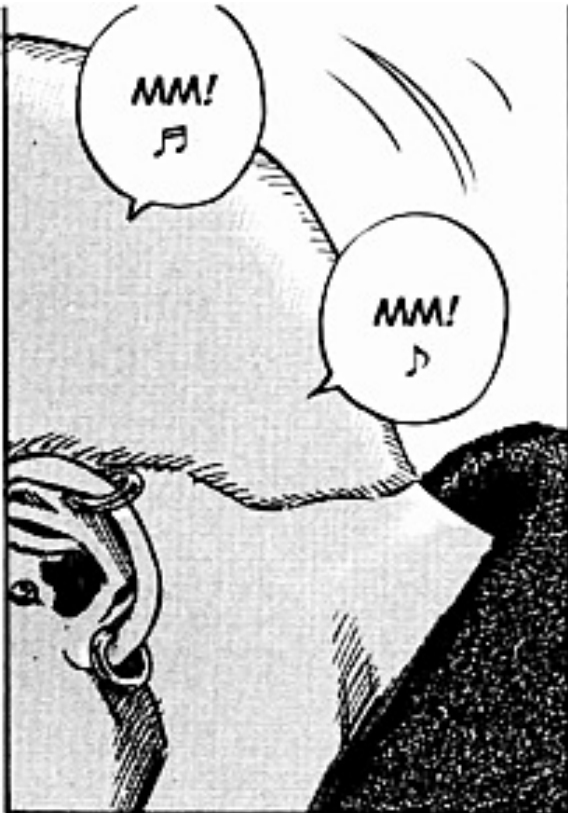
FSSSH

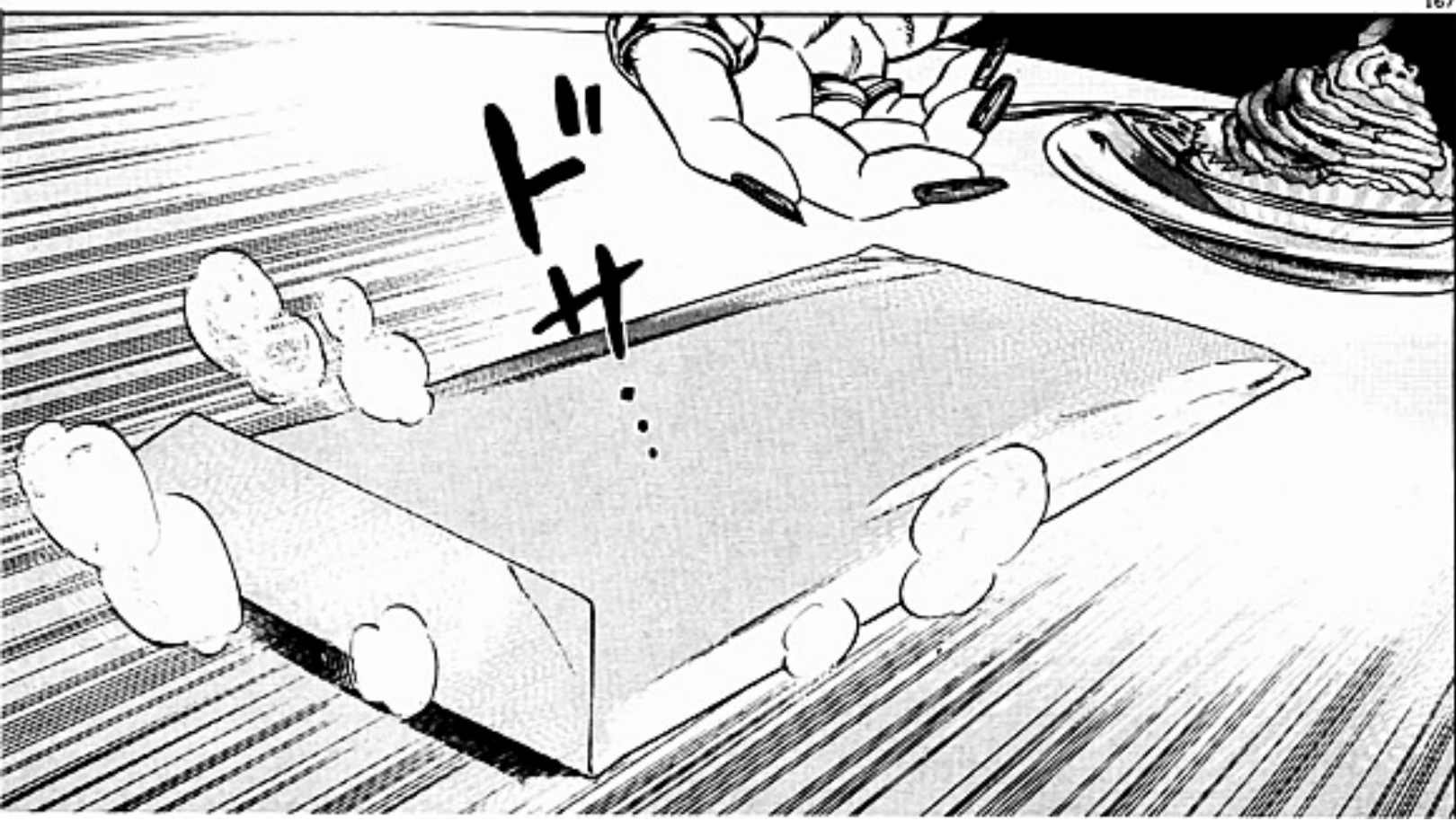
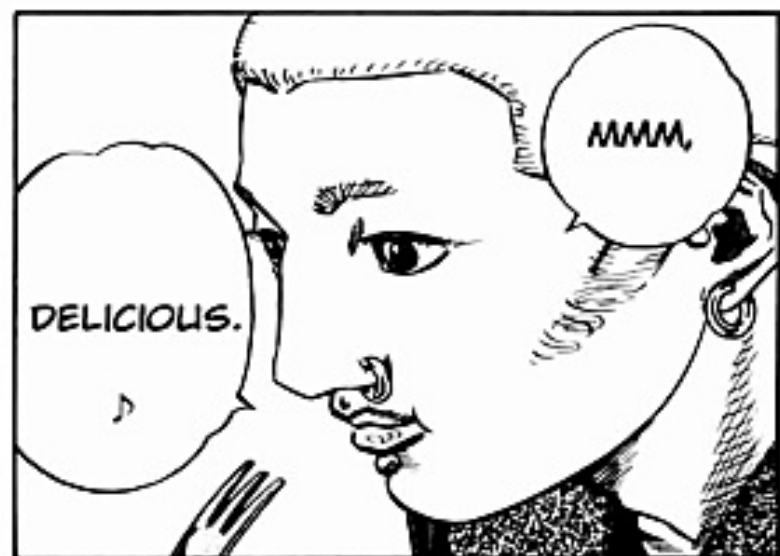


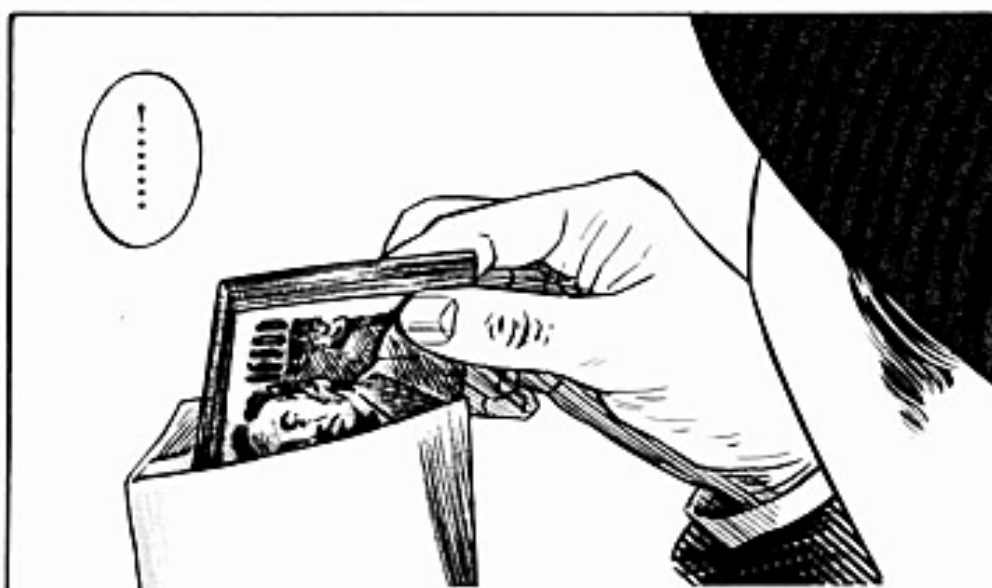
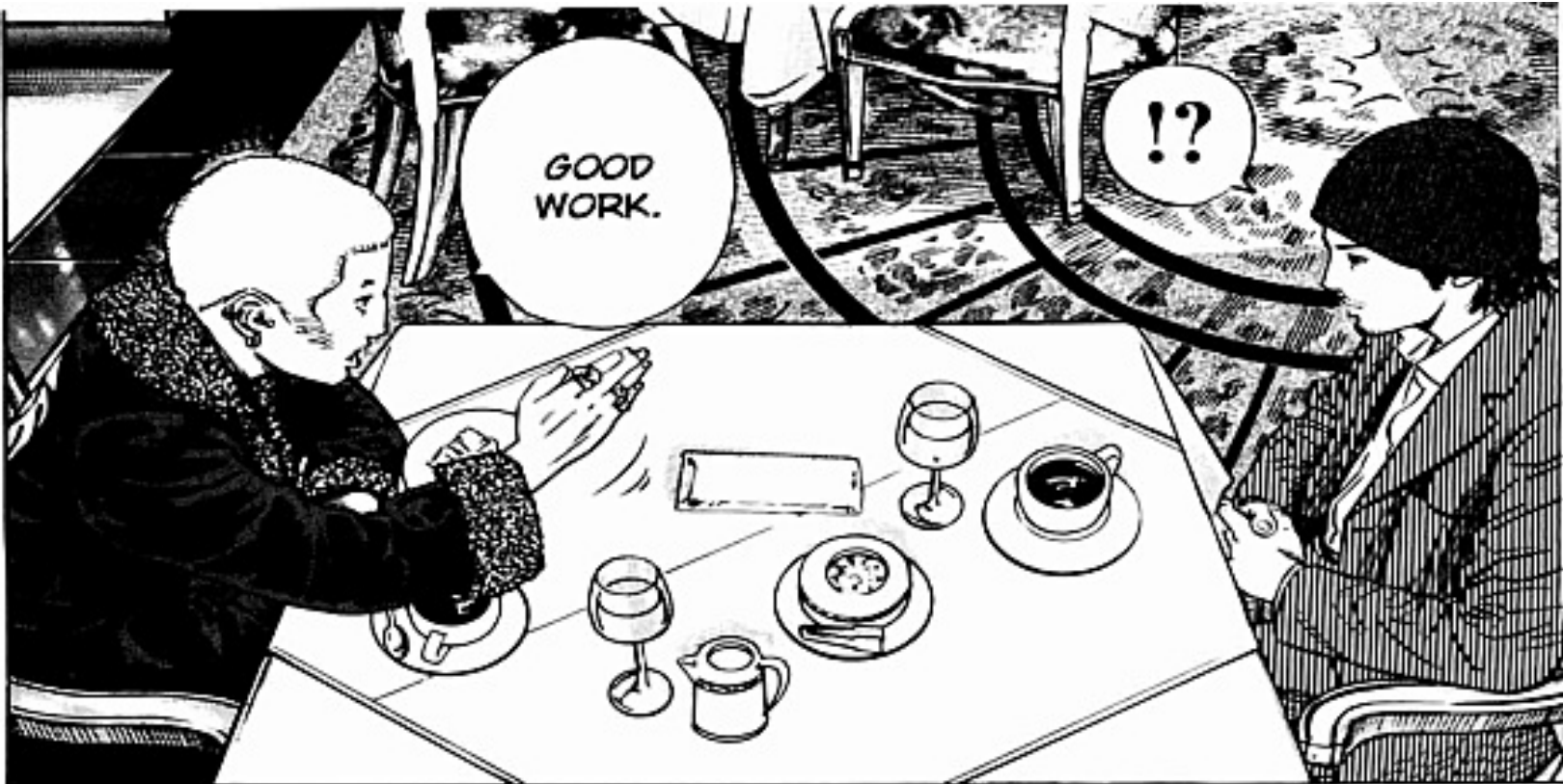
















I'VE GIVEN
YOU THE
FULL
700,000
WE AGREED
ON, HAVEN'T
I?



FINISHED
...?

WHEN
EVERYTHING'S
STILL HALF-
DONE AND
INCOMPLETE...
?



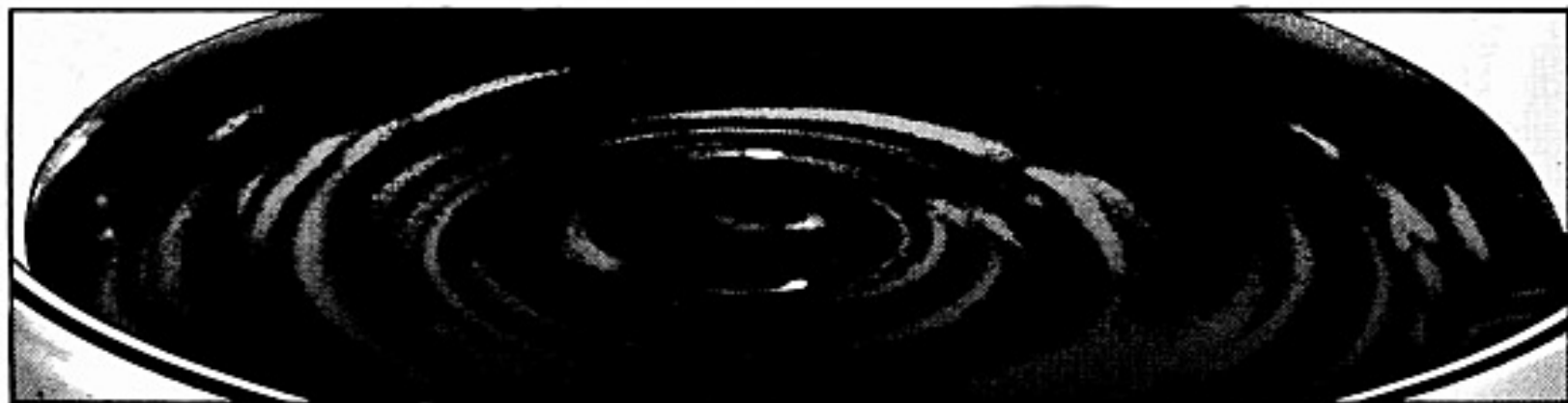
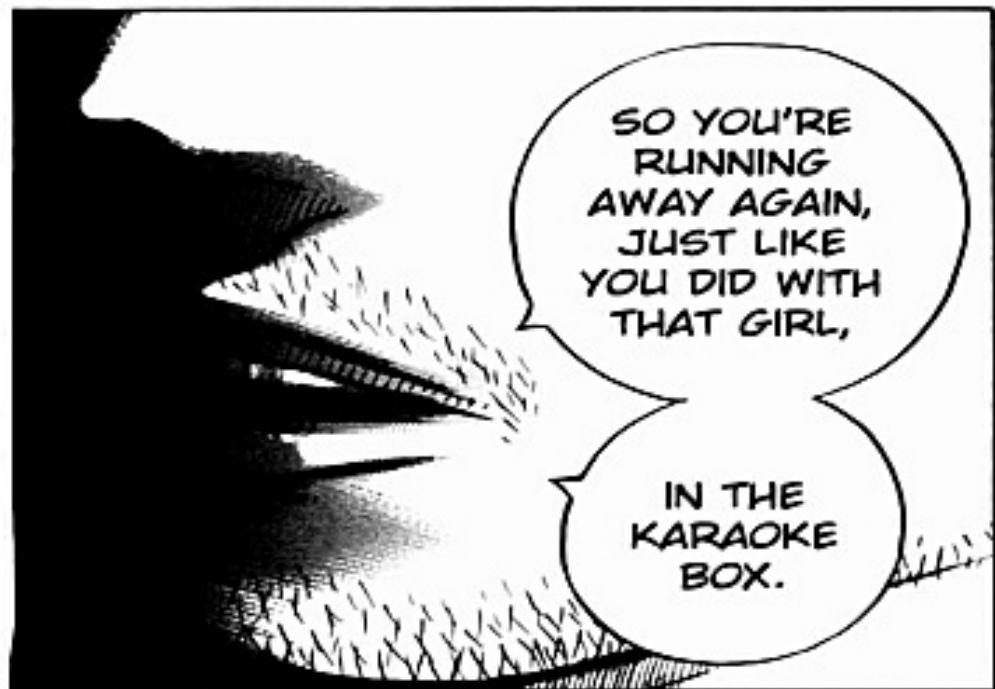
.....

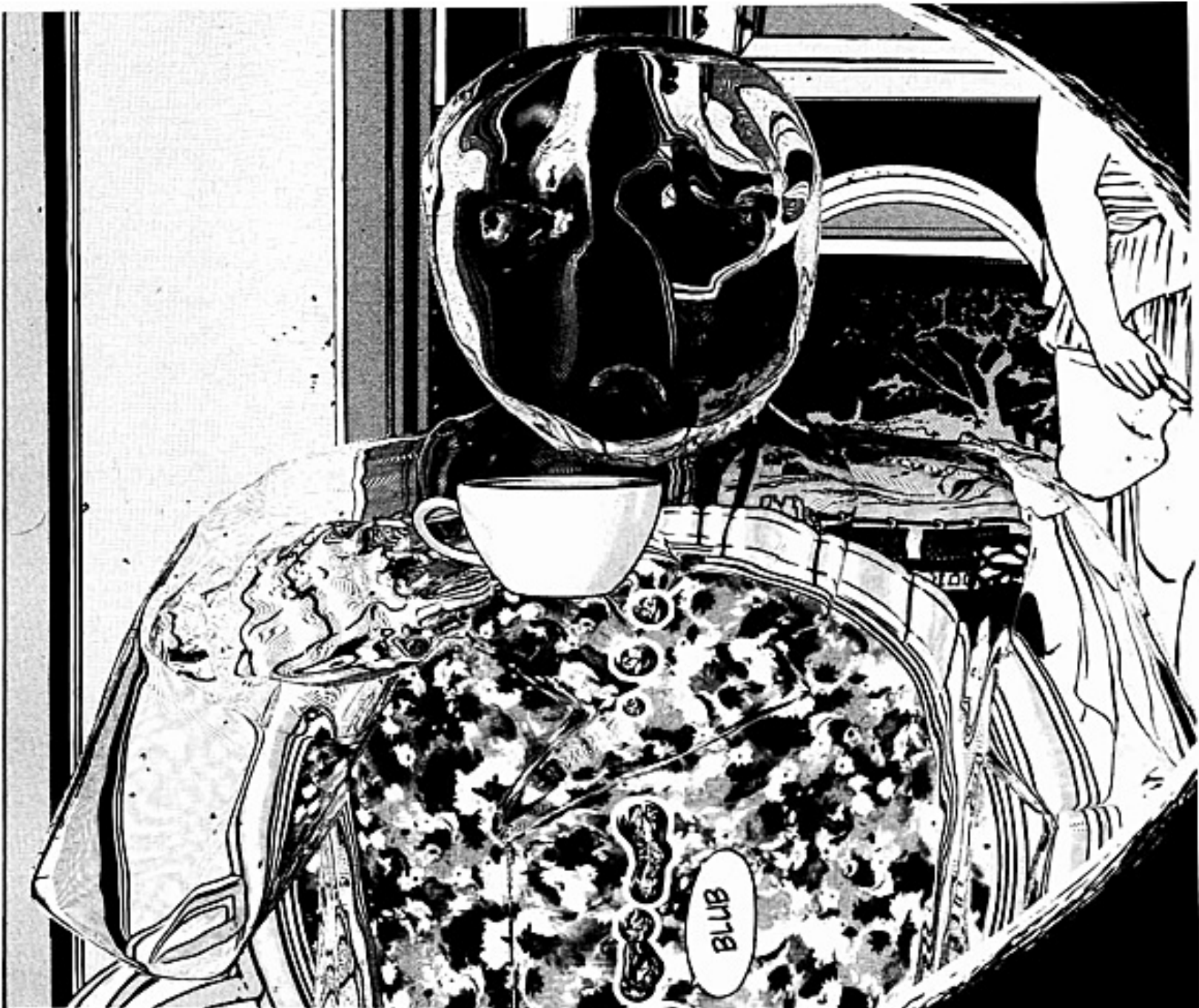
THERE'S NO
PROBLEM
WHATSOEVER.

IN FACT, THIS
SHOULD SUIT
YOU JUST
FINE.

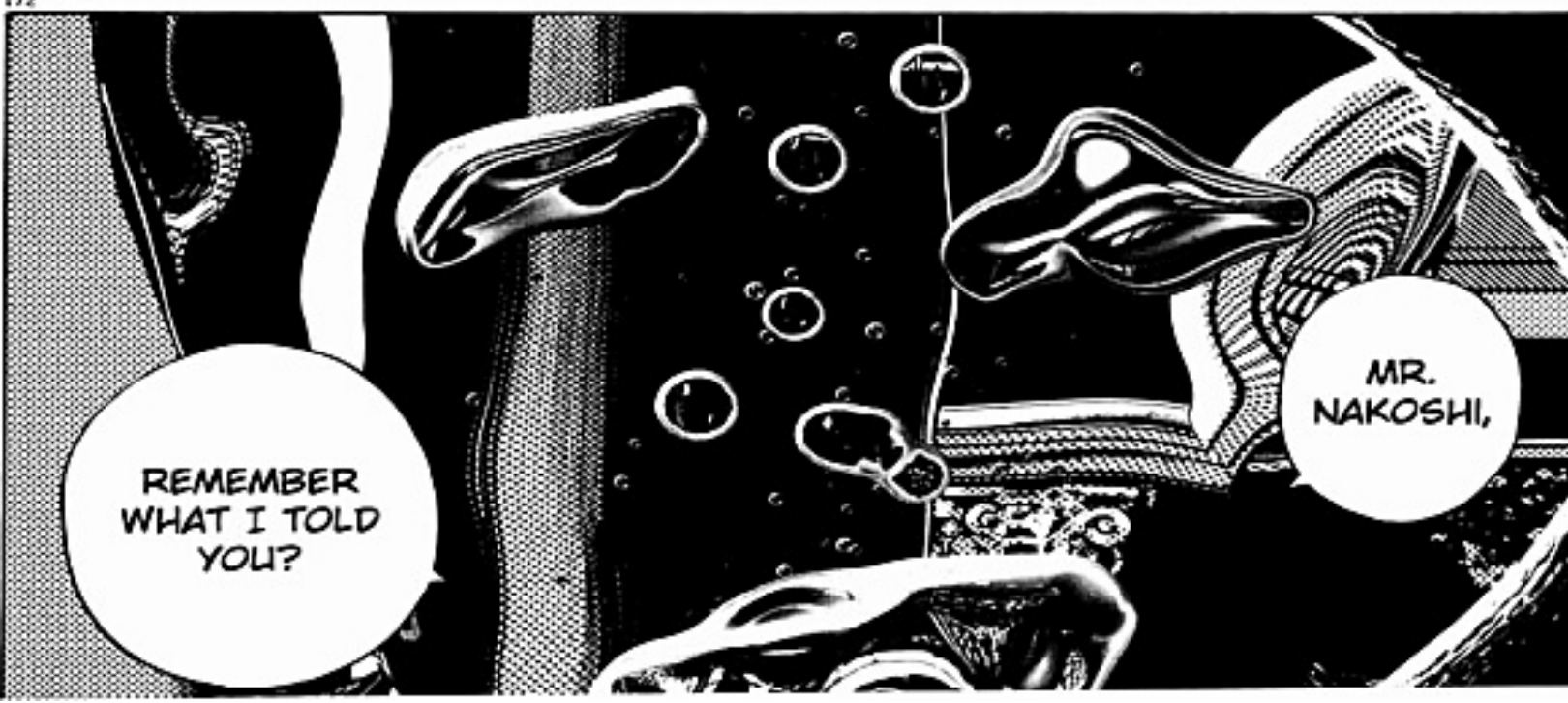


WHEW
WW...



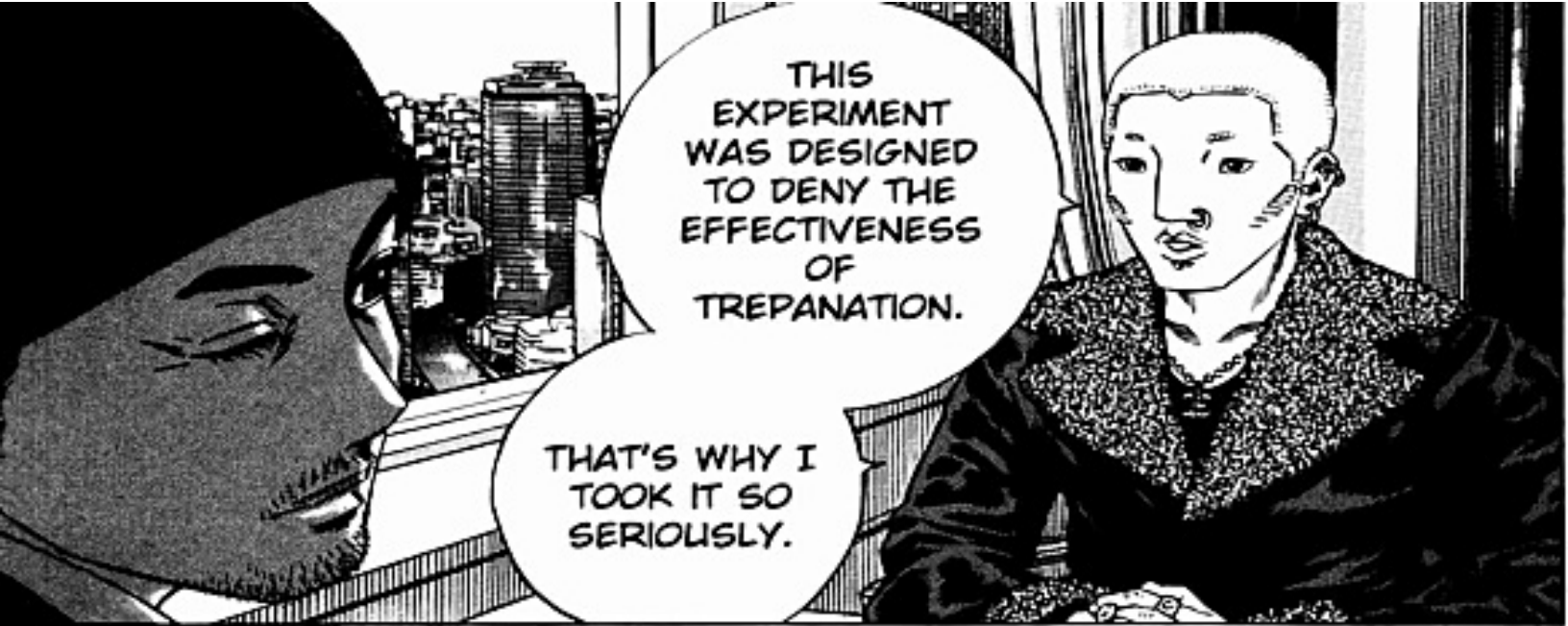


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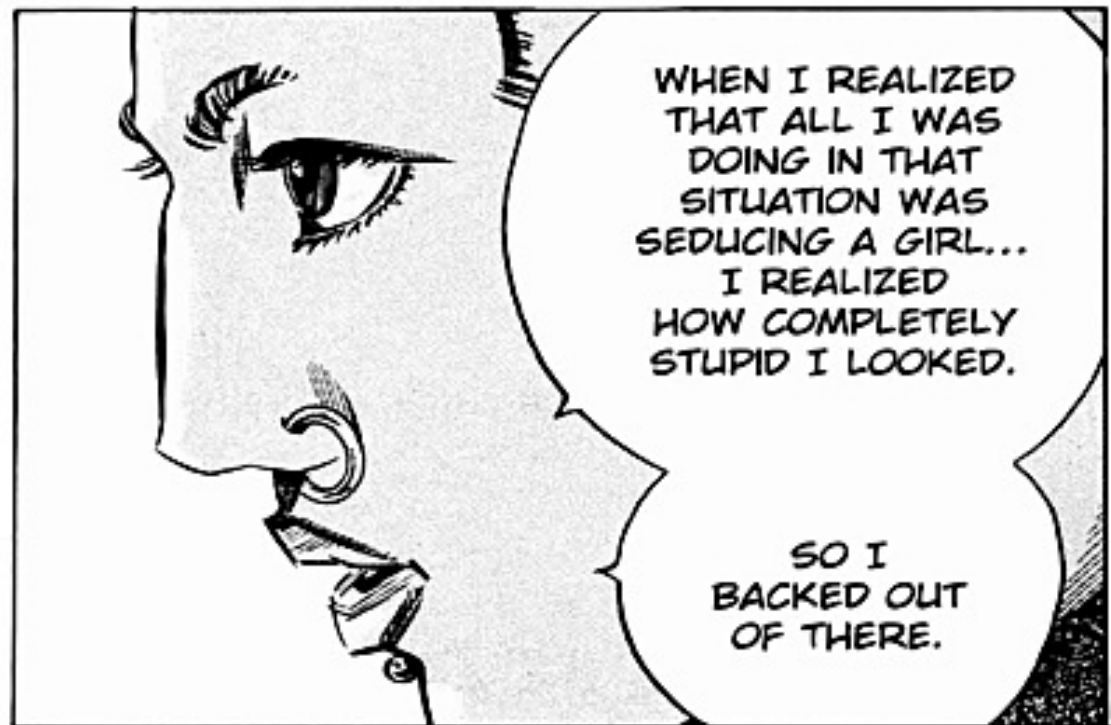
REMEMBER
WHAT I TOLD
YOU?

MR.
NAKOSHI,



THIS
EXPERIMENT
WAS DESIGNED
TO DENY THE
EFFECTIVENESS
OF
TREPANATION.

THAT'S WHY I
TOOK IT SO
SERIOUSLY.



WHEN I REALIZED
THAT ALL I WAS
DOING IN THAT
SITUATION WAS
SEDUCING A GIRL...
I REALIZED
HOW COMPLETELY
STUPID I LOOKED.

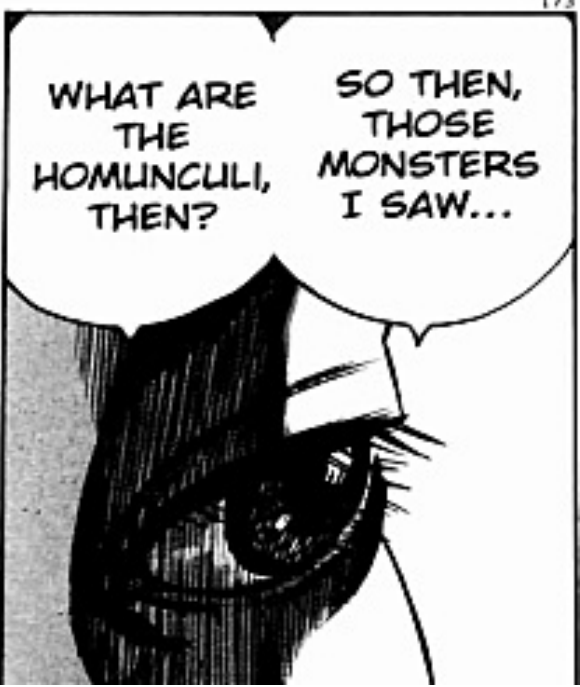
SO I
BACKED OUT
OF THERE.



WHAT
?!



JUST
SIMPLE
ILLUSIONS.



WHAT ARE
THE
HOMUNCULI,
THEN?

SO THEN,
THOSE
MONSTERS
I SAW...



JUST LIKE
THIS
DELICIOUS
SNACK.

I ALWAYS
GET TIRED
BEFORE
THE LAST
BITE,



.....



IT'S
JUST THAT I
TEND TO
GROW BORED
QUICKLY
...

IN EVERYTHING
I DO, I HAVE A
MOTTO.
"BELIEVE IN IT
FROM THE
START."



I DON'T
WANT TO
WASTE MY
TIME.

MR. NAKOSHI,
I WANT TO
STUDY THE
"HUMAN
BEING."



THERE ARE
PLENTY OF
OTHER THINGS I
COULD BE DOING
TO FURTHER
THAT GOAL.

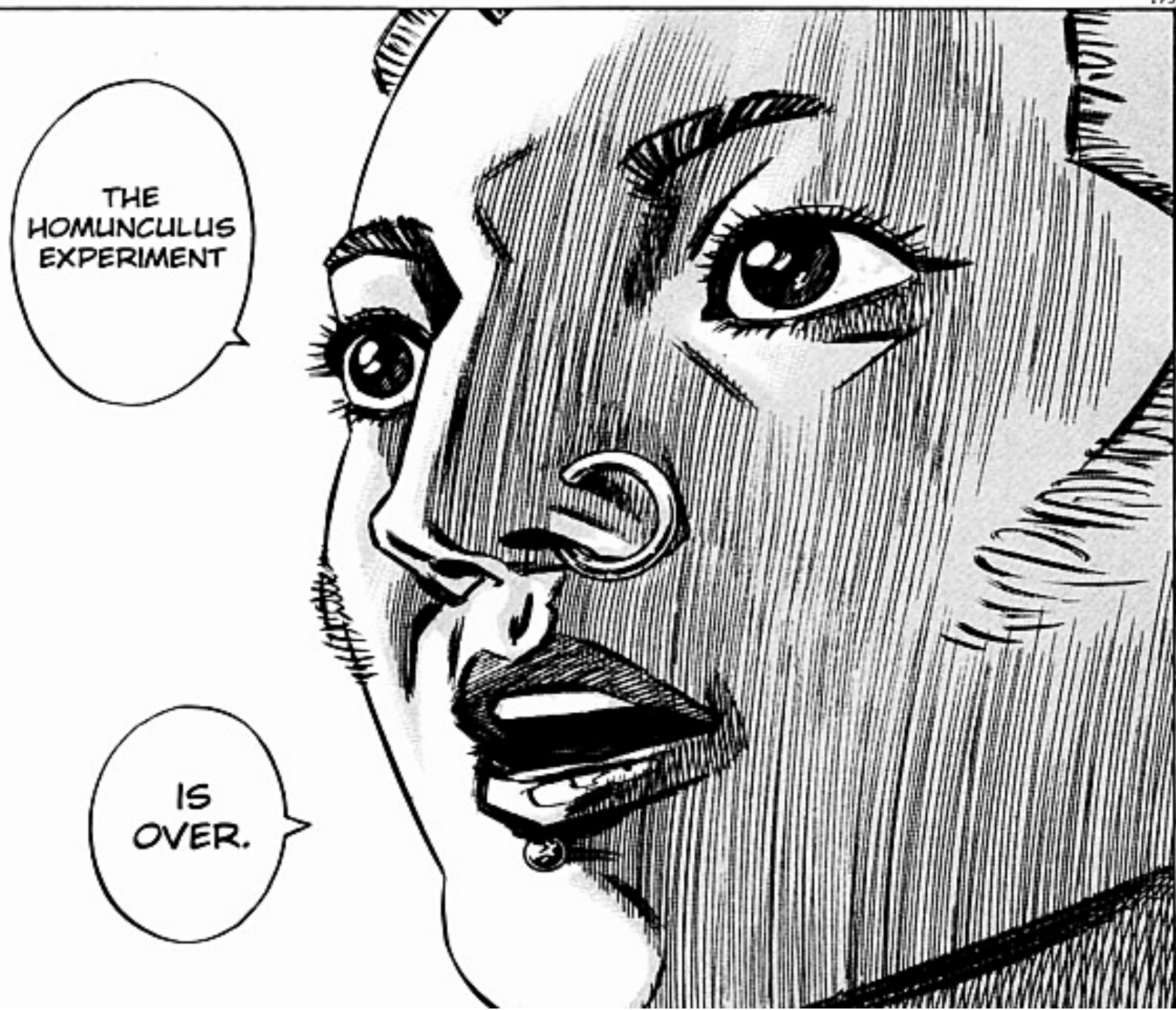


THESE LAST
TWO DAYS, I'VE
BEEN INDULGING
MYSELF IN
HYPNOSIS
THEORY.



THERE.

175



THE
HOMUNCULUS
EXPERIMENT

IS
OVER.

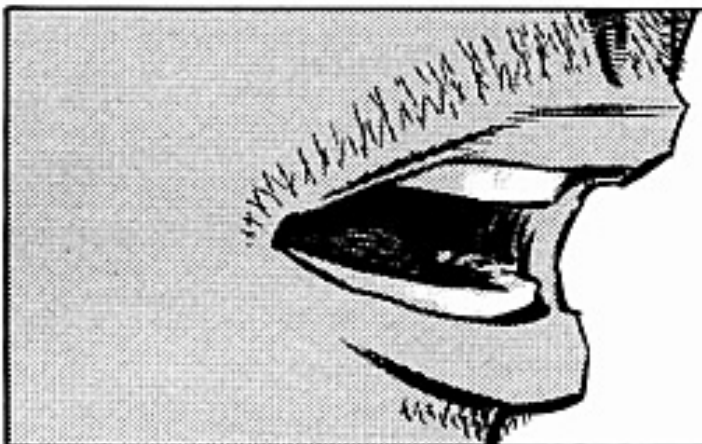


I HAVE SOME INTEREST IN THE HALLUCINATIONS YOU SEE,

BUT THE HALLUCINATION THEME COULD STAND TO COME A BIT LATER...



...



IS YOU, SPOUTING A BUNCH OF IRRESPONSIBLE HORSESHIT...

WHAT I'M HEARING RIGHT NOW,



DID YOU NEED TO EXPERIMENT BY OPENING A HOLE IN MY SKULL?

SO WHY THE HELL ...



TREPANNING IS JUST ONE FACET OF THAT RESEARCH.



I JUST TOLD YOU.

TO RESEARCH THE HUMAN BEING.



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME?



I TOLD YOU THAT ALREADY, TOO.





WHY DID YOU NEED SOMEONE HALFWAY?



YOU WERE STUCK BETWEEN THE HOTEL AND THE PARK.

YOUR HALFWAY STATE SUITED MY PURPOSE.



YOU WANT TO KNOW "YOURSELF."

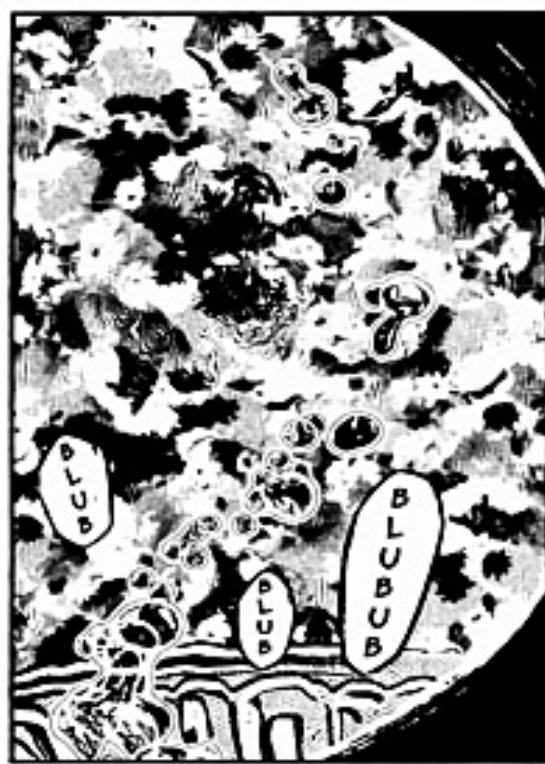


BASICALLY MEANS...

THE FACT THAT YOU "WANT TO KNOW THE HUMAN BEING"



OH, COME ON...

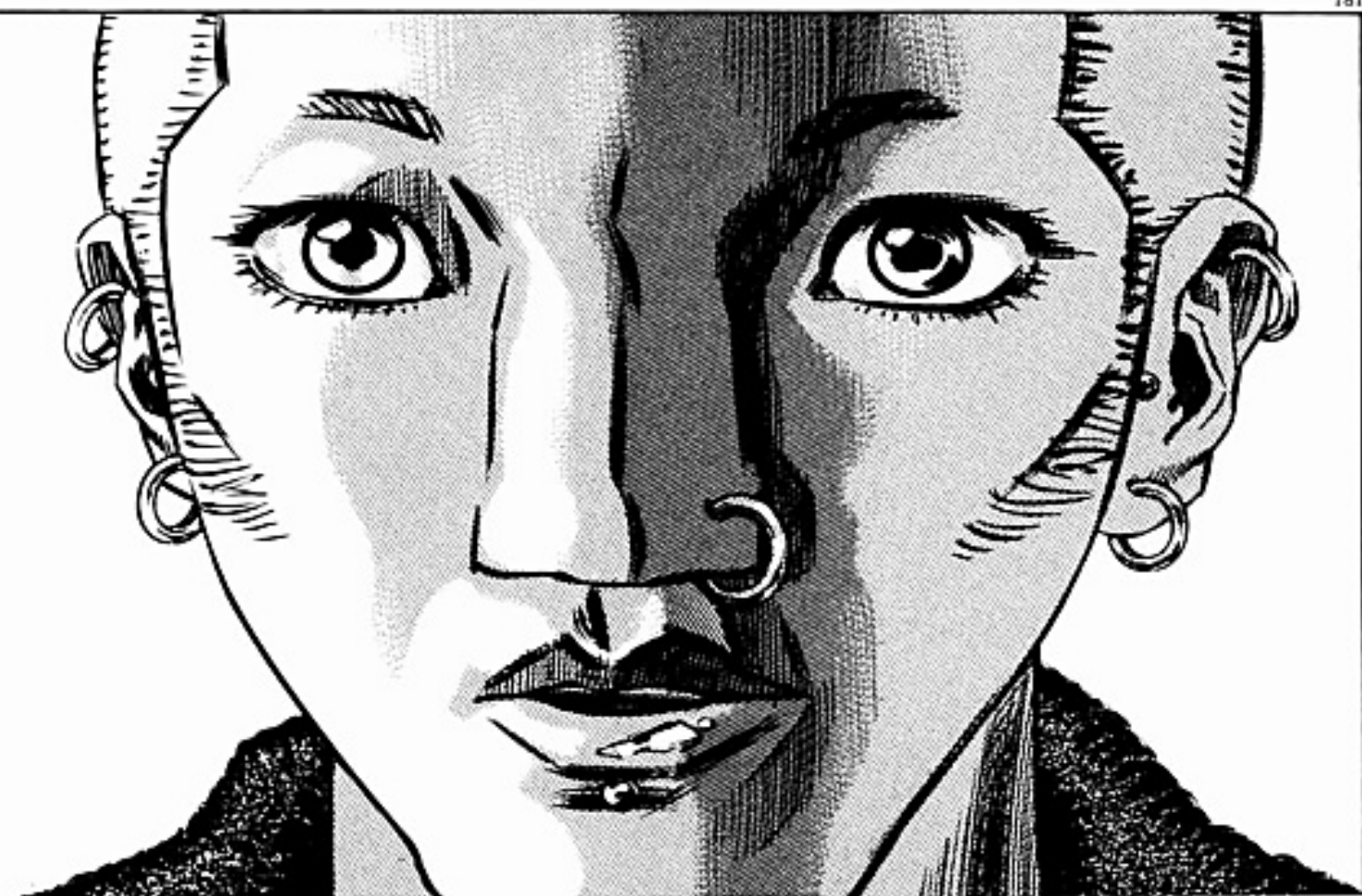




WHAT
EXACTLY
ARE YOU
STUCK
BETWEEN?

180





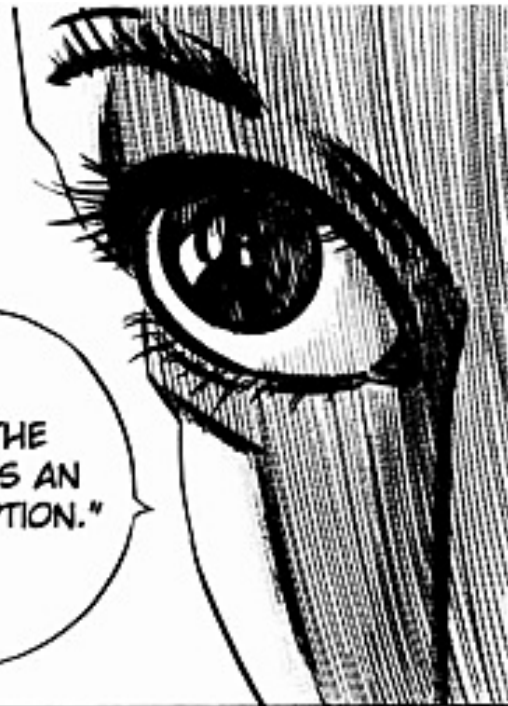


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IT'S THE SAME AS AN "ASSUMPTION."



YEAH ...



.....



WAS THE "PLACEBO EFFECT."



THE TRUE THEME OF THIS EXPERIMENT,



I WANTED
TO PROVE
THAT.



HUMANS
CAN BE
MADE TO
BELIEVE IN
ANYTHING...



YOU, MR.
NAKOSHI,
HAVE
GAINED THE
POWER...

HOW
EVER,



YOU GAIN A
SIXTH SENSE BY
OPENING A HOLE
IN YOUR SKULL?

TREPA
NATION
...



TO SEE THE
ILLUSIONS
KNOWN AS
HOMUNCULI.

DO YOU REALLY
BELIEVE IN
SOMETHING
THAT BIZARRE
AND
UNSCIENTIFIC?
IT'S
PREPOSTEROUS
...



ILLUSIONS
...?



WHAT IT MEANS,

IS THAT YOU FELL UNDER MY POWER OF SUGGESTION, THAT'S ALL.



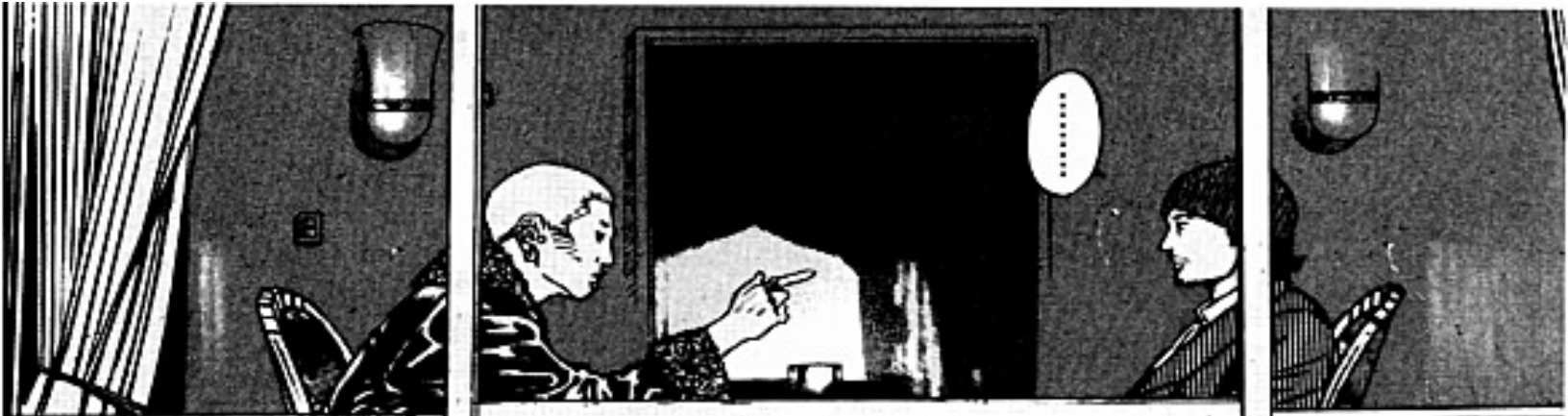
YOU FELL FOR THE PLACEBO EFFECT,

EXACTLY AS I HAD EXPECTED YOU WOULD.



WASN'T IT PERFECT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



THAT'S
WHAT
KIND OF
ANIMAL
WE ARE.

MY
OBJECTIVE
HAS BEEN
COMPLETED.

AT ANY
RATE,

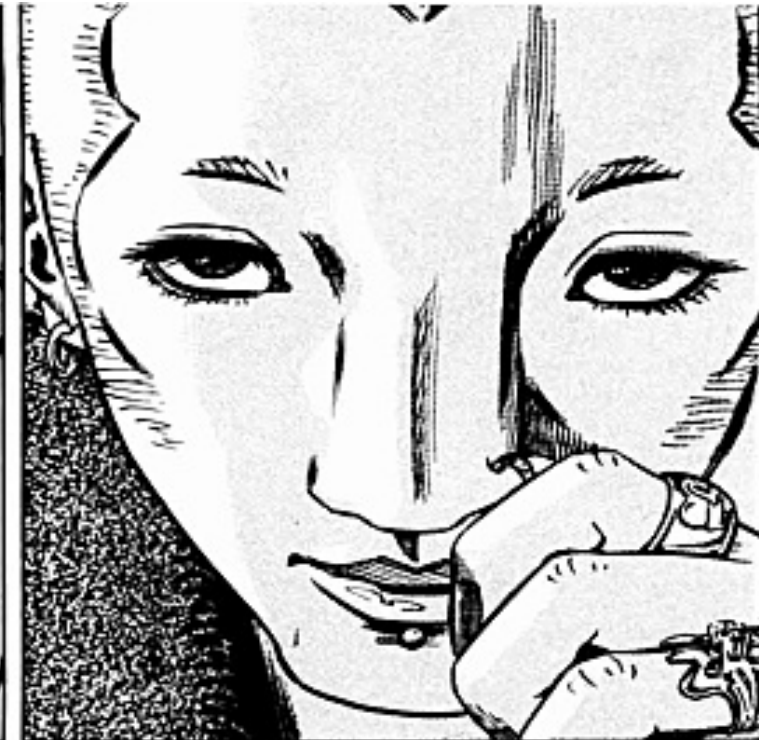
PEOPLE WILL
BELIEVE
JUST ABOUT
ANYTHING
YOU TELL
THEM...

WHEN
UNDER
SUGGESTION,

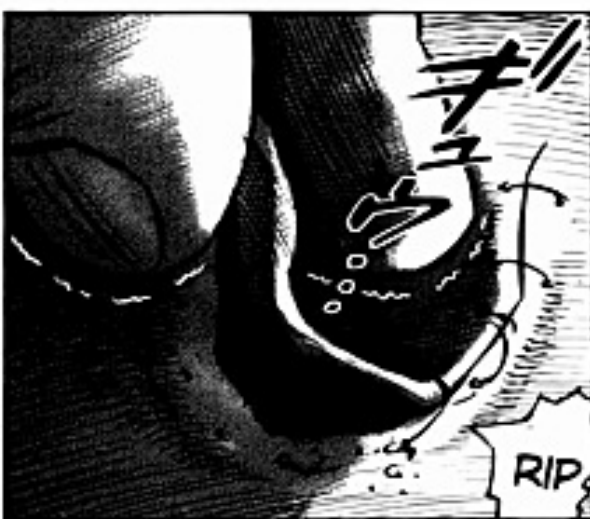
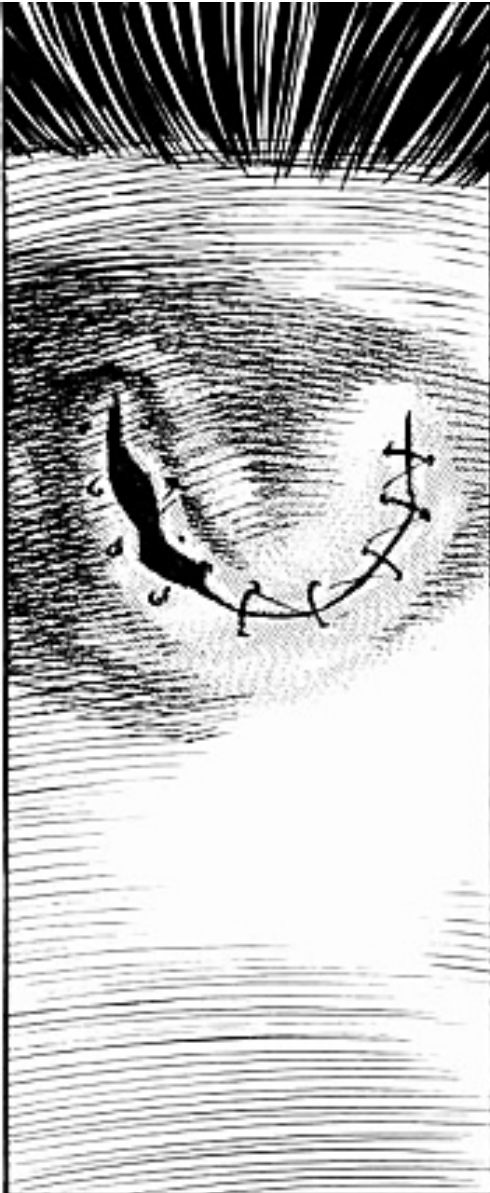
YES...

PLACEBO,
HUH...?

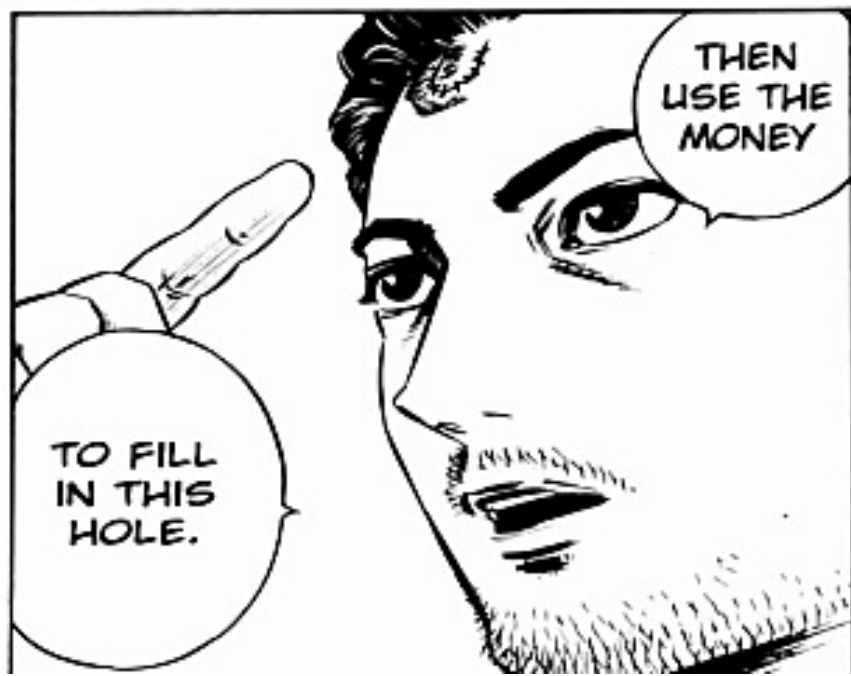




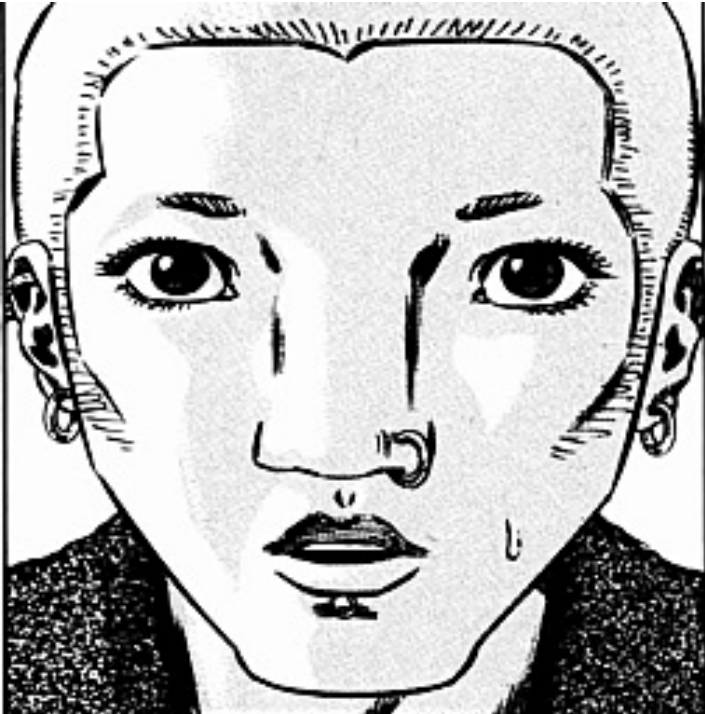




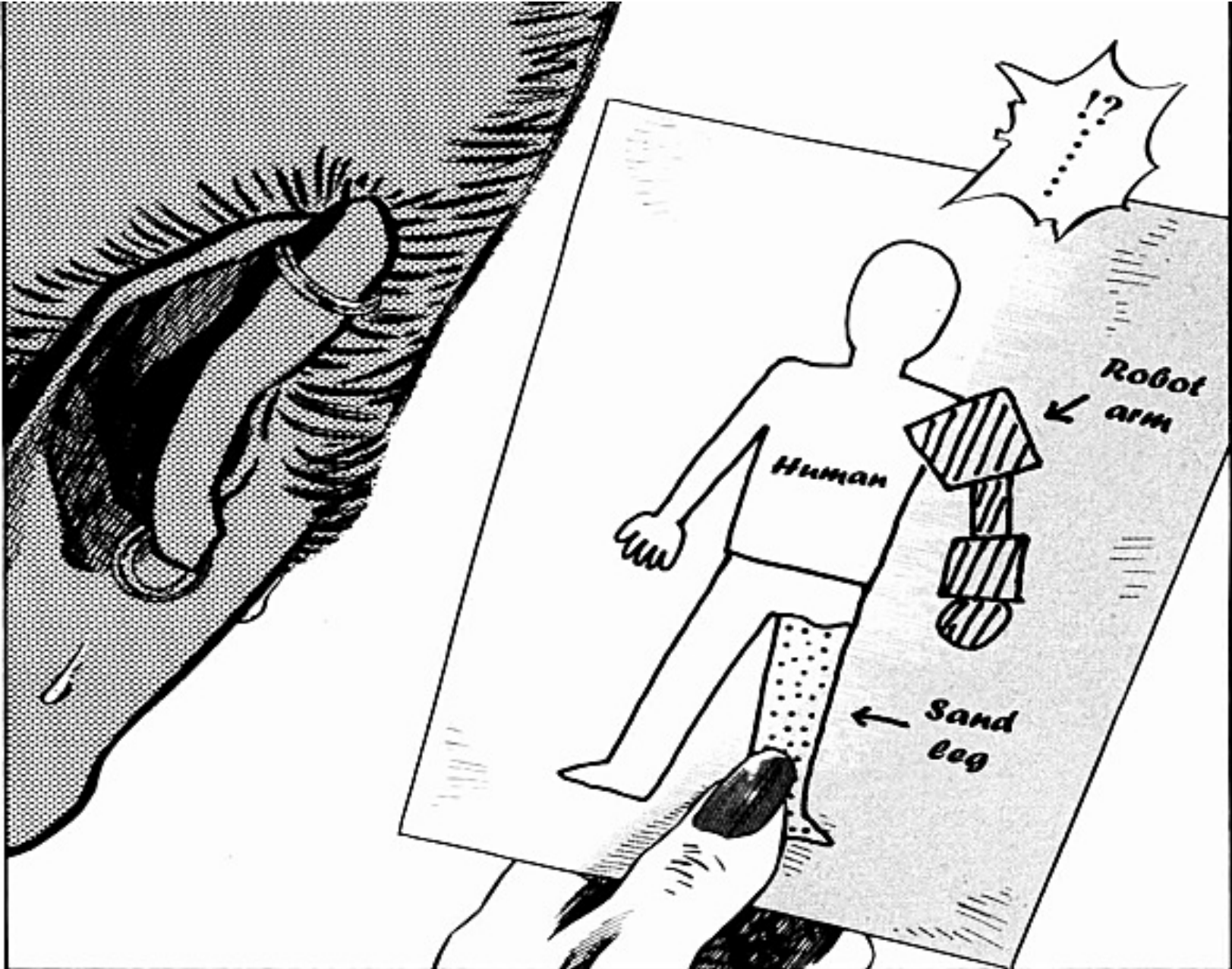




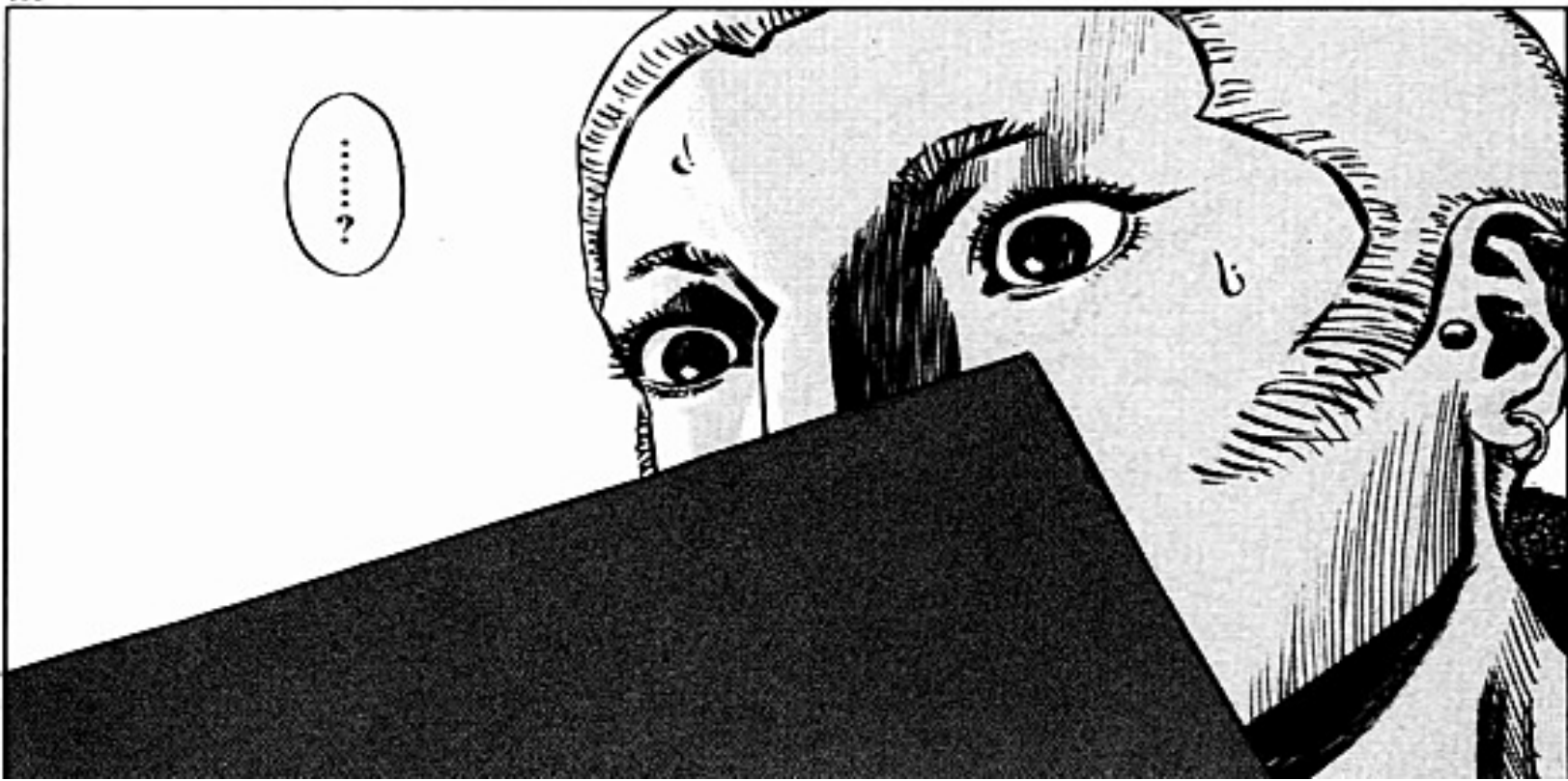








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IT'S
NOT...
ME...?

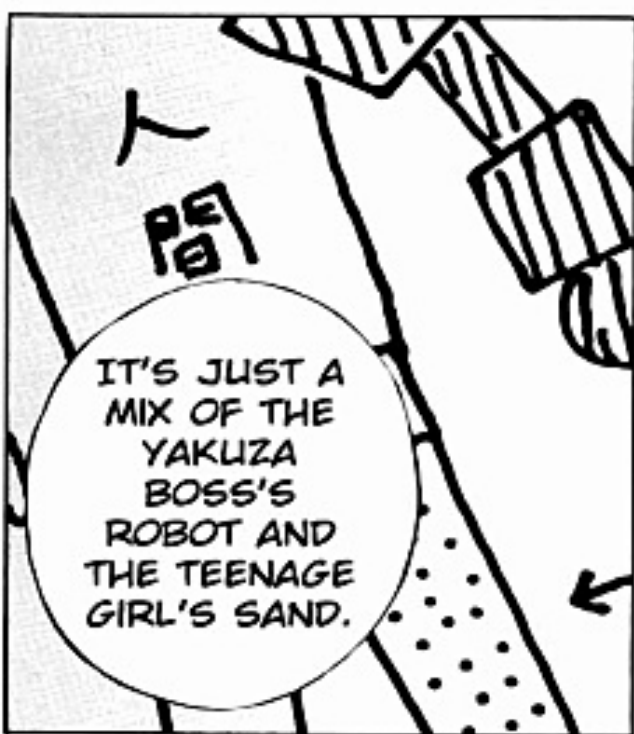
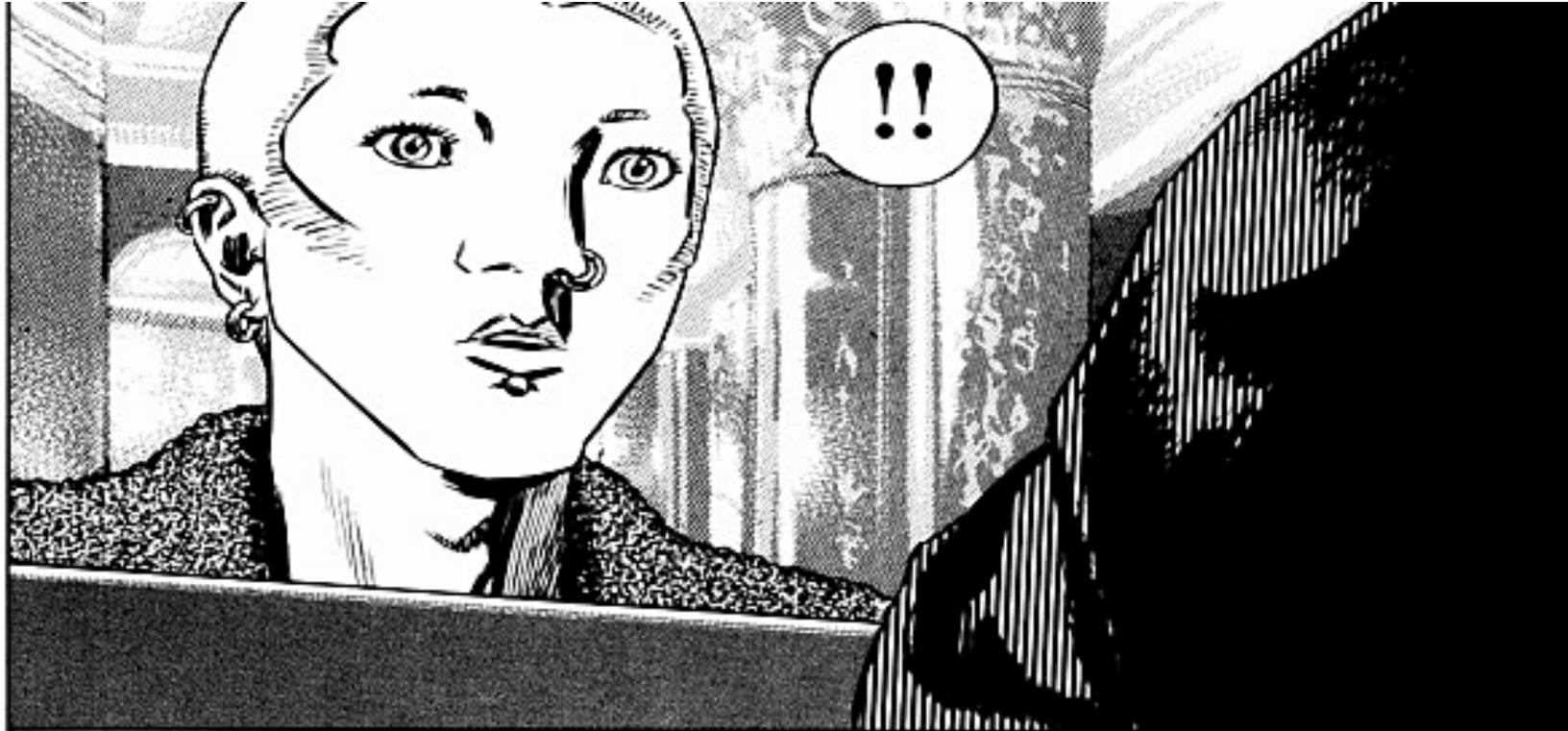


WHO DO
YOU THINK
THAT IS?

HUH
?!



IT'S
ME.



IT'S JUST A
MIX OF THE
YAKUZA
BOSS'S
ROBOT AND
THE TEENAGE
GIRL'S SAND.



WHAT
IS THIS
...?



HA
HA
...



THAT'S
RIGHT.



THE INSTANT I
GOT INVOLVED
WITH THE ROBOT
YAKUZA AND IT
DISAPPEARED
FROM HIM, IT
APPEARED ON MY
ARM.

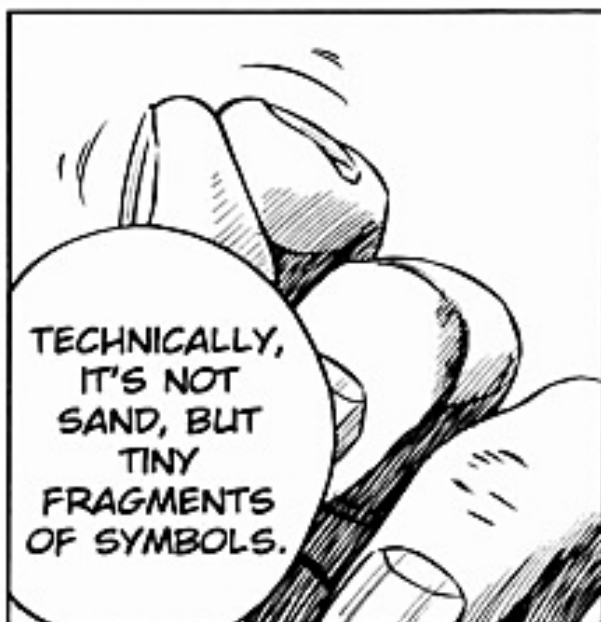




THE INSTANT THE
SAND
DISAPPEARED
FROM THE GIRL,
IT APPEARED ON
MY LEG.



TECHNICALLY,
IT'S NOT
SAND, BUT
TINY
FRAGMENTS
OF SYMBOLS.



.....

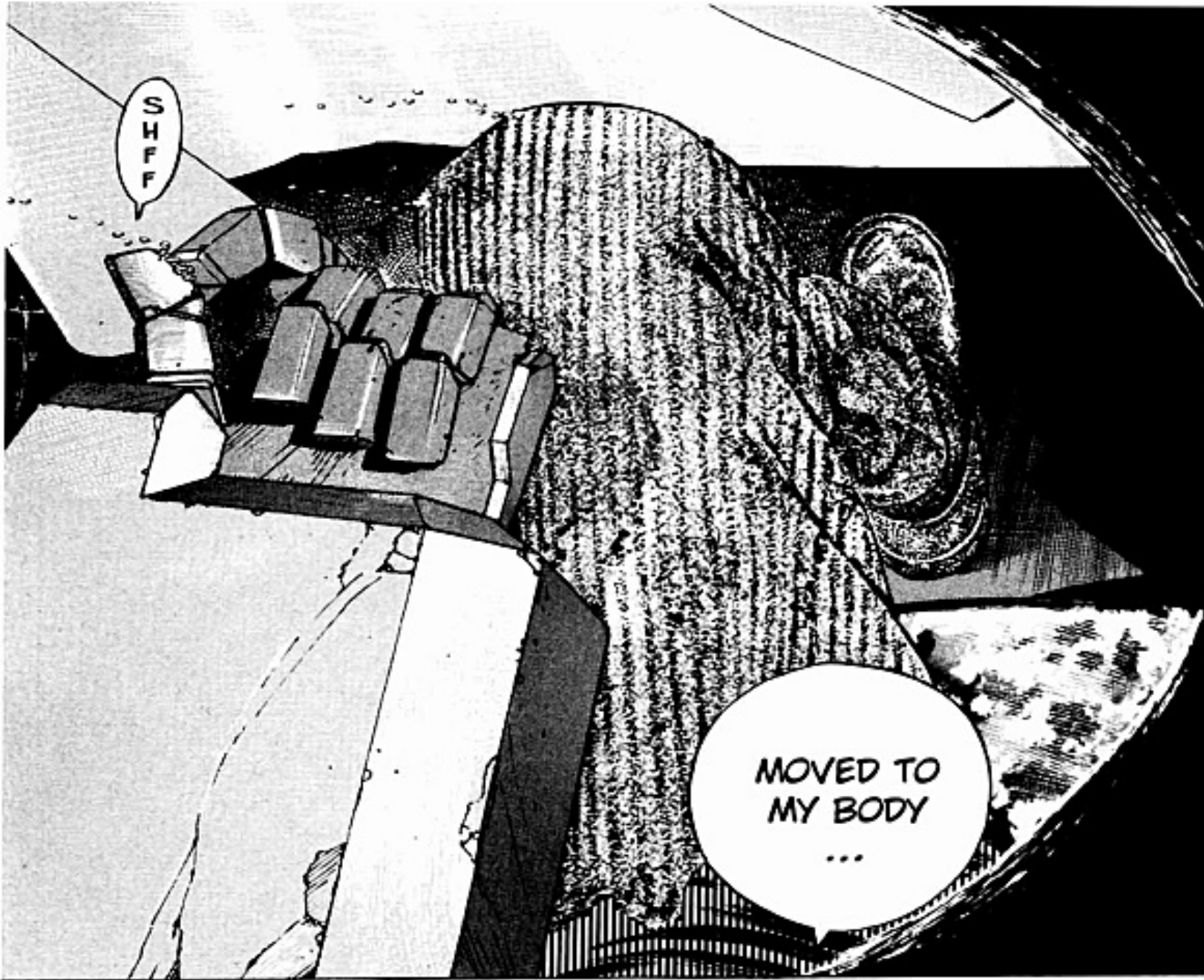
200



A PART OF
THEM...



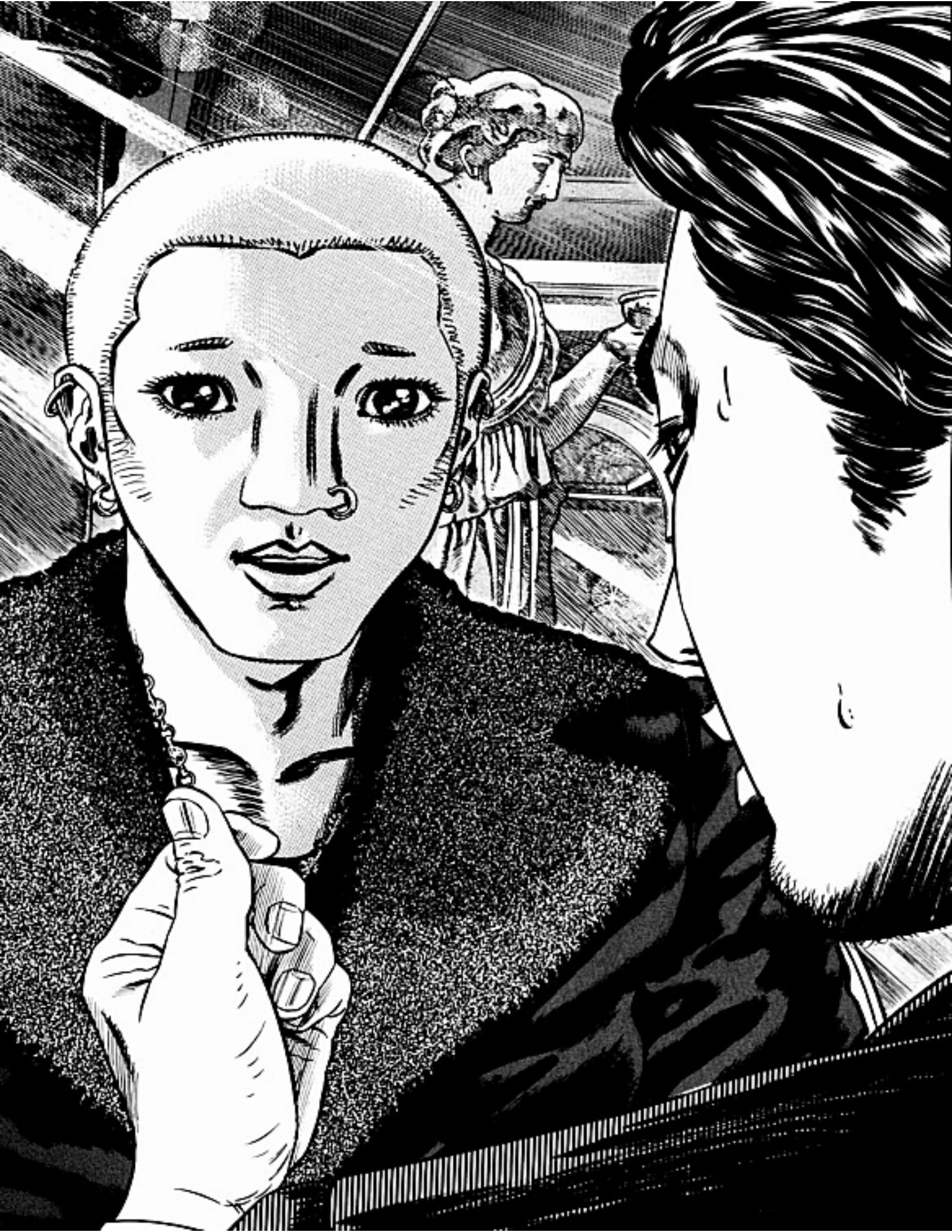
WHEN I GOT
INVOLVED WITH
THOSE
MONSTERS,

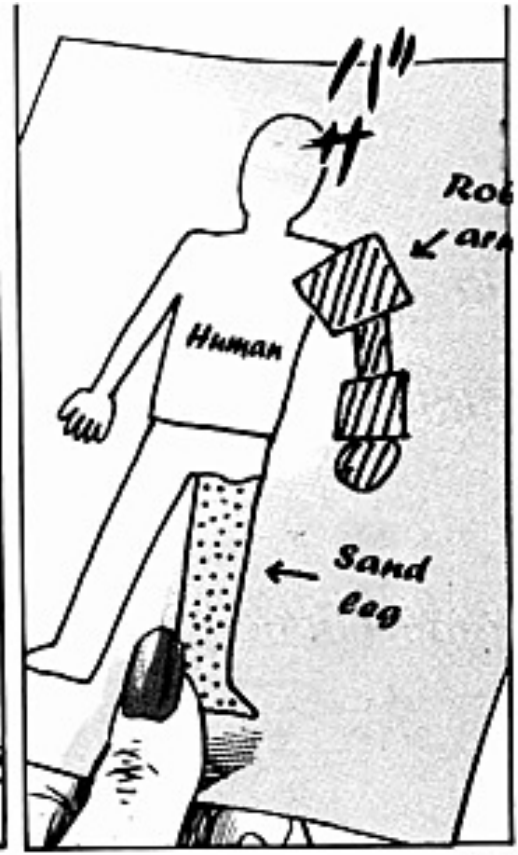


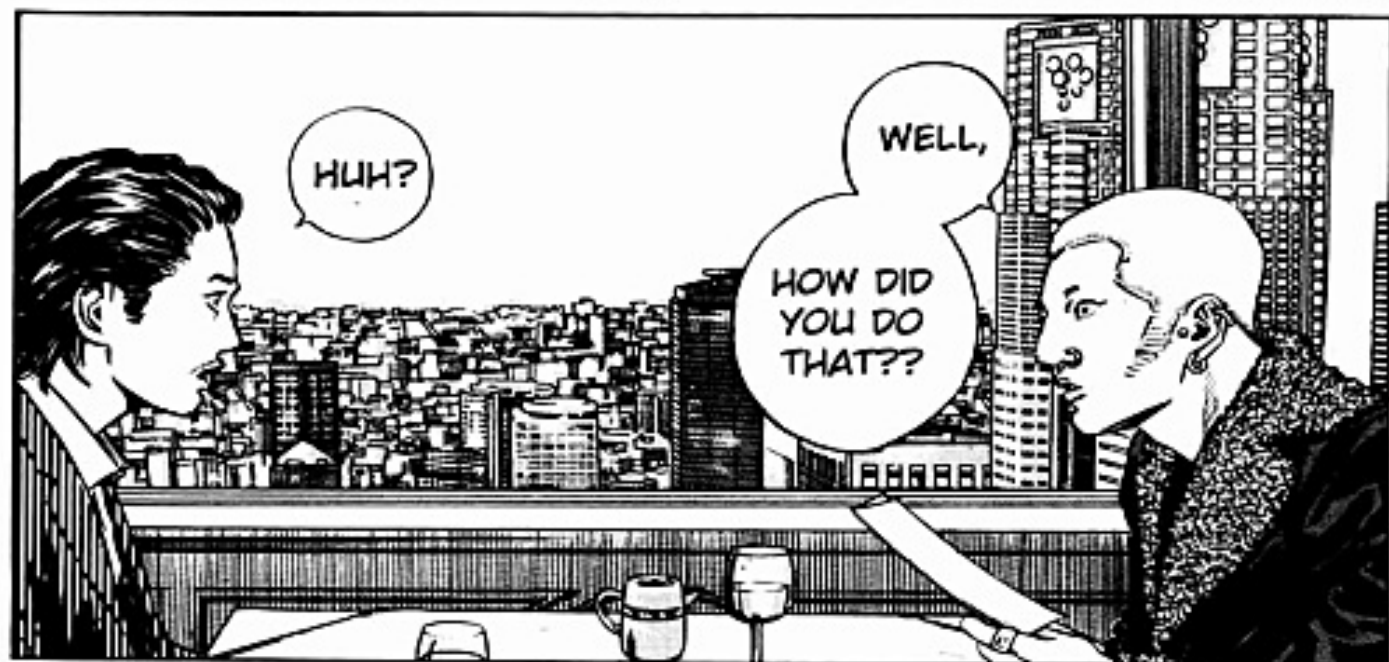
201



...
THAT IS THE
ILLUSION
I'M GETTING
...



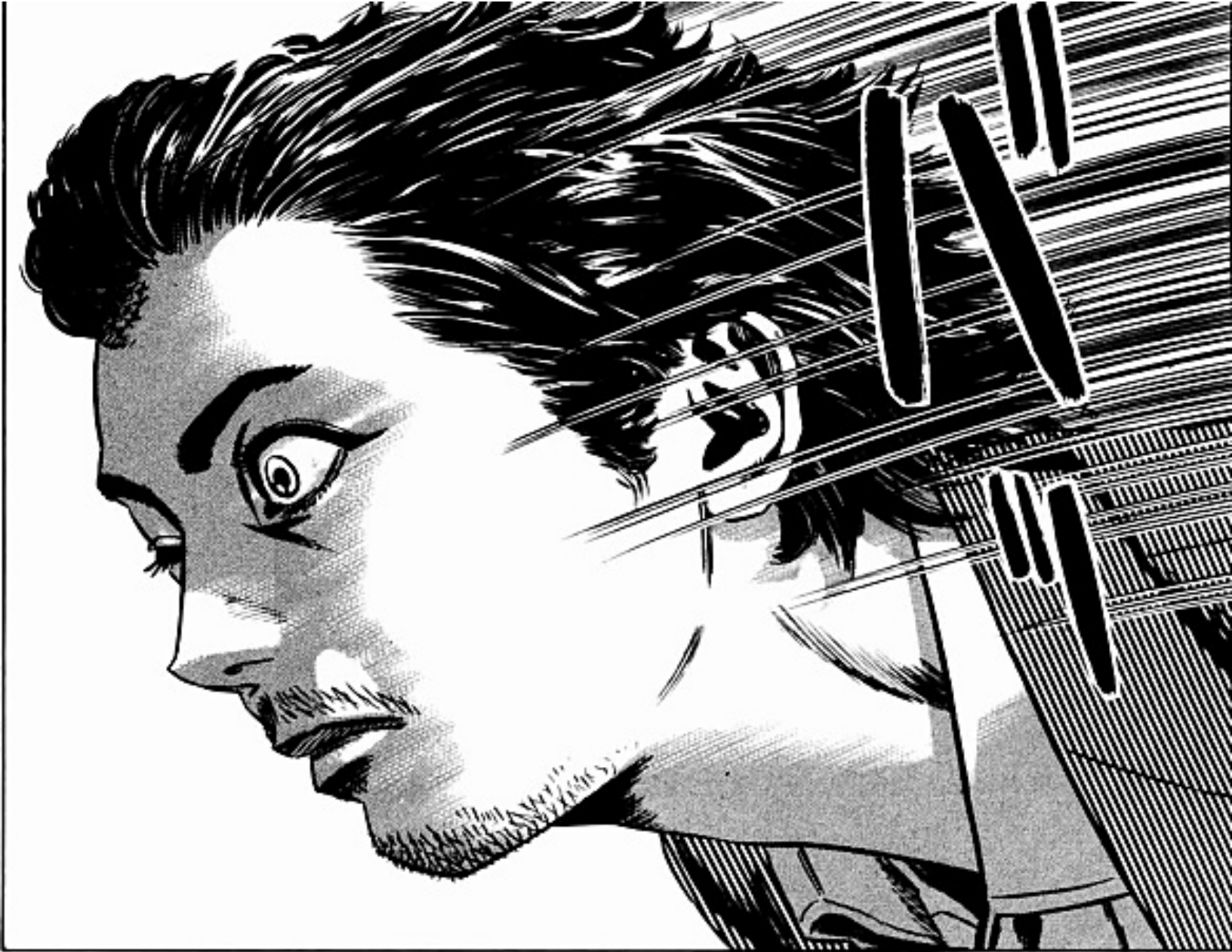


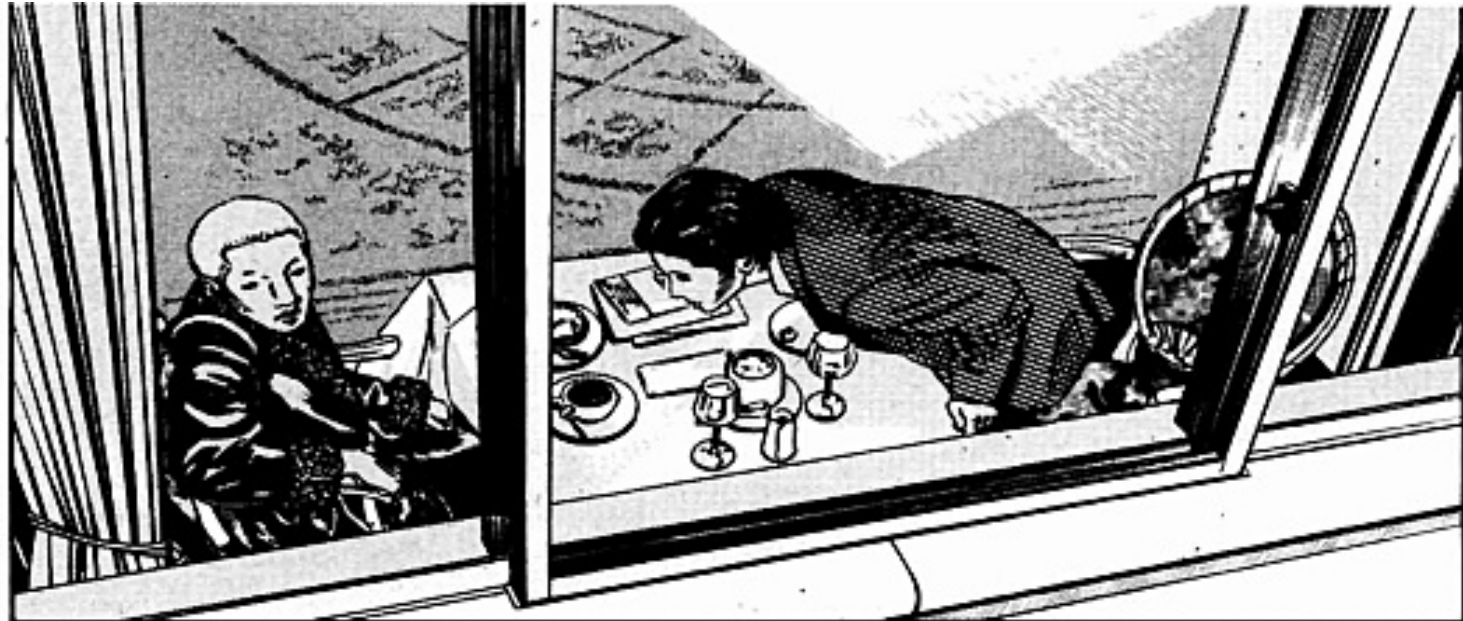


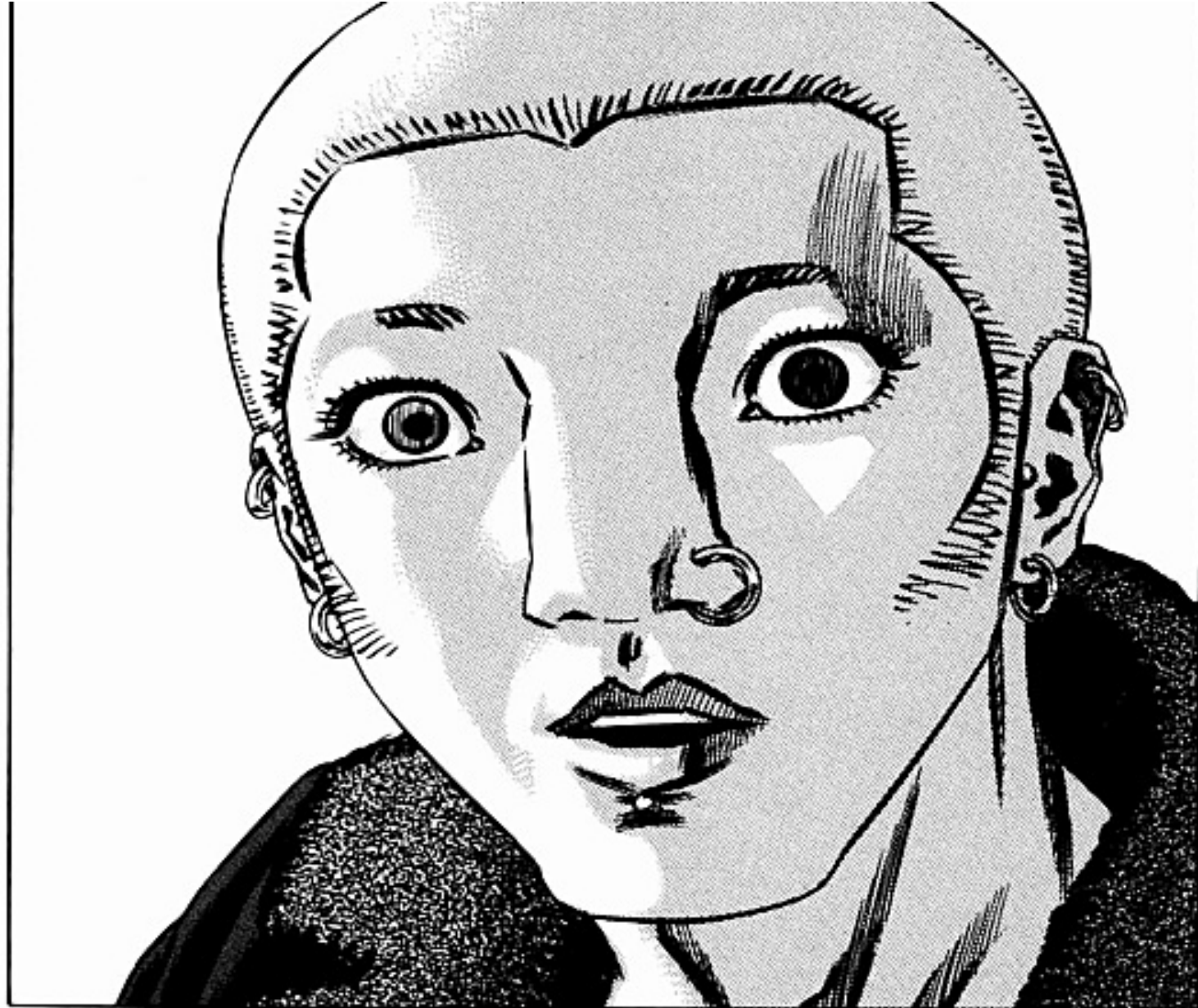
204





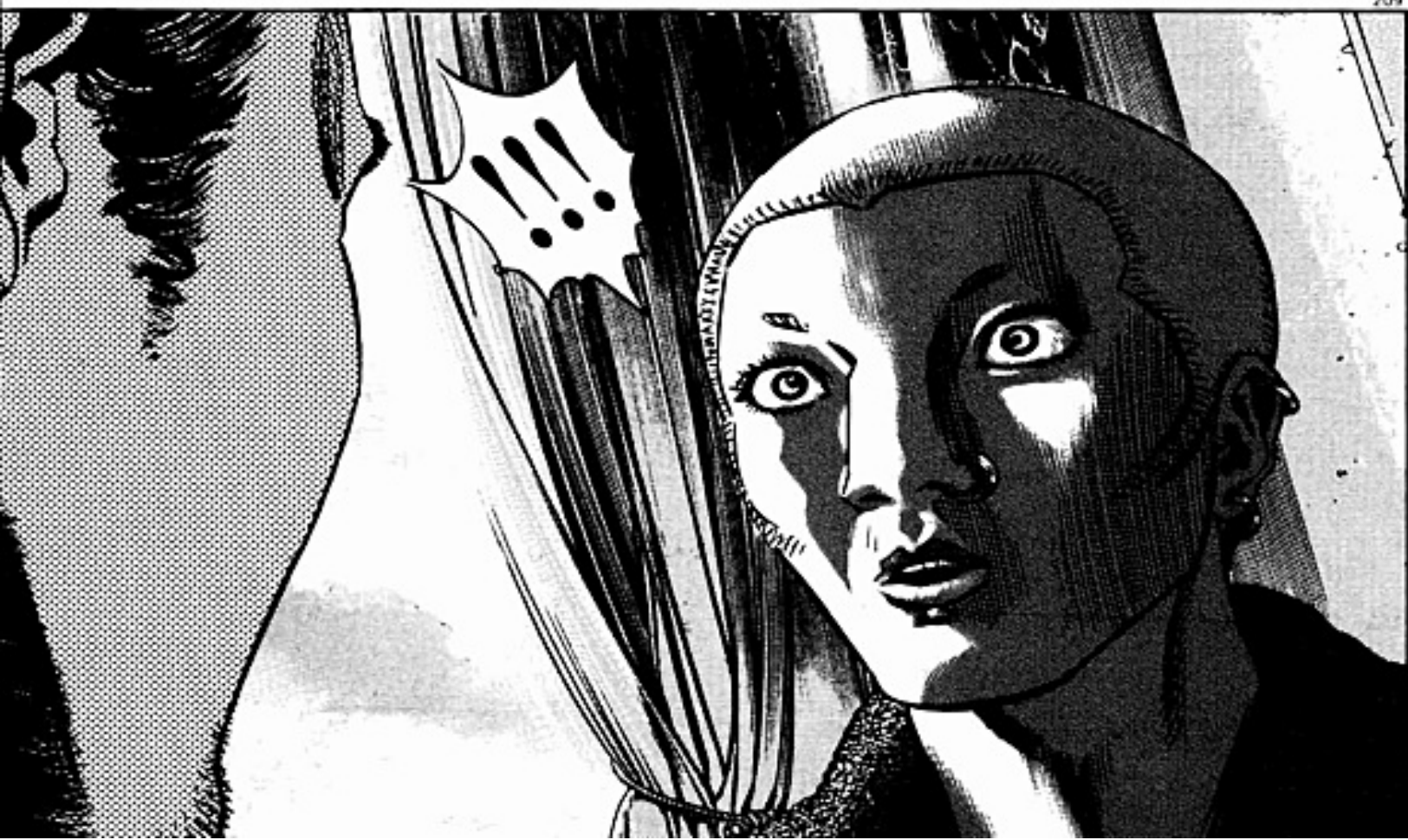
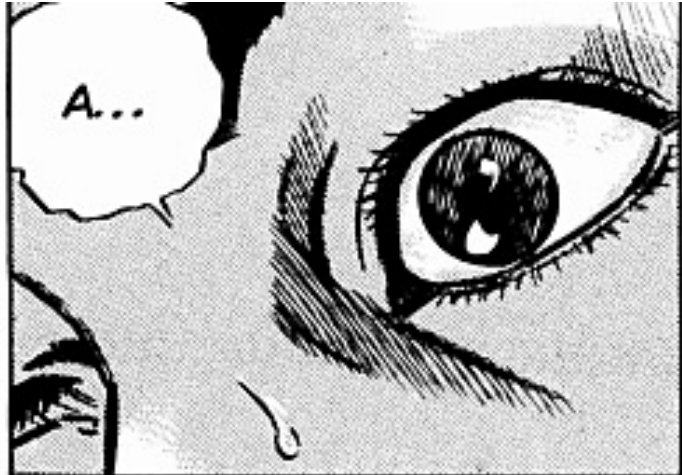


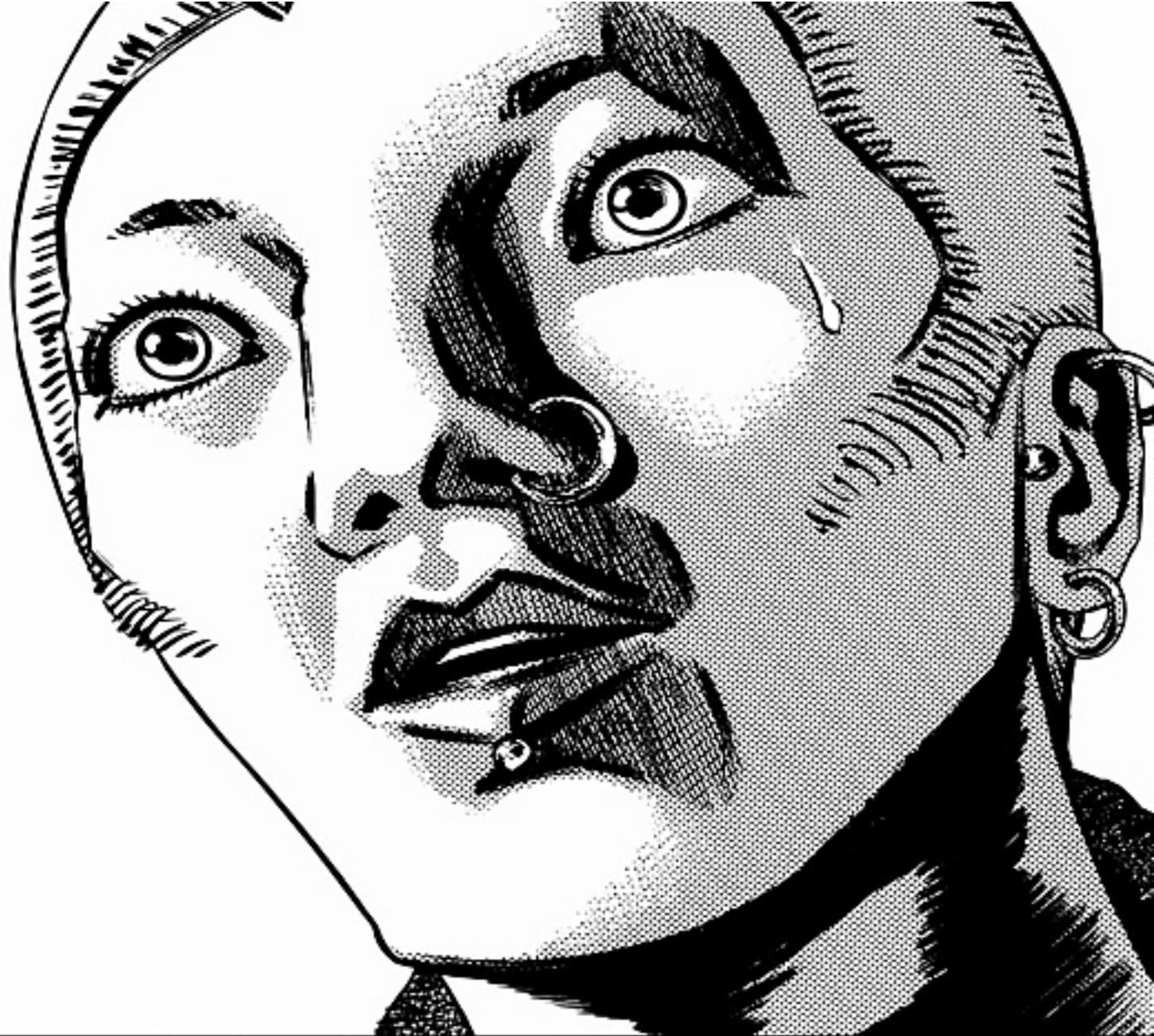




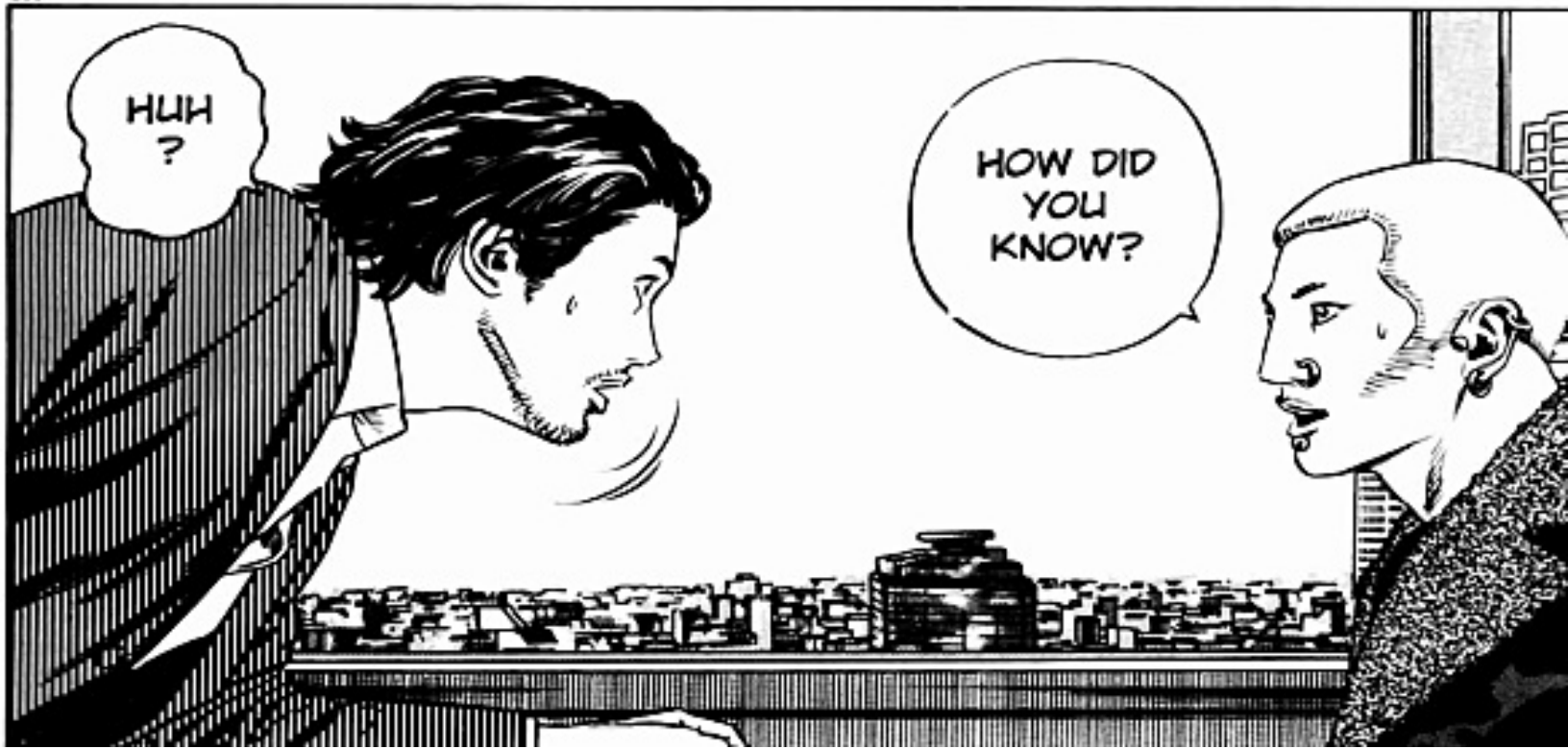
208





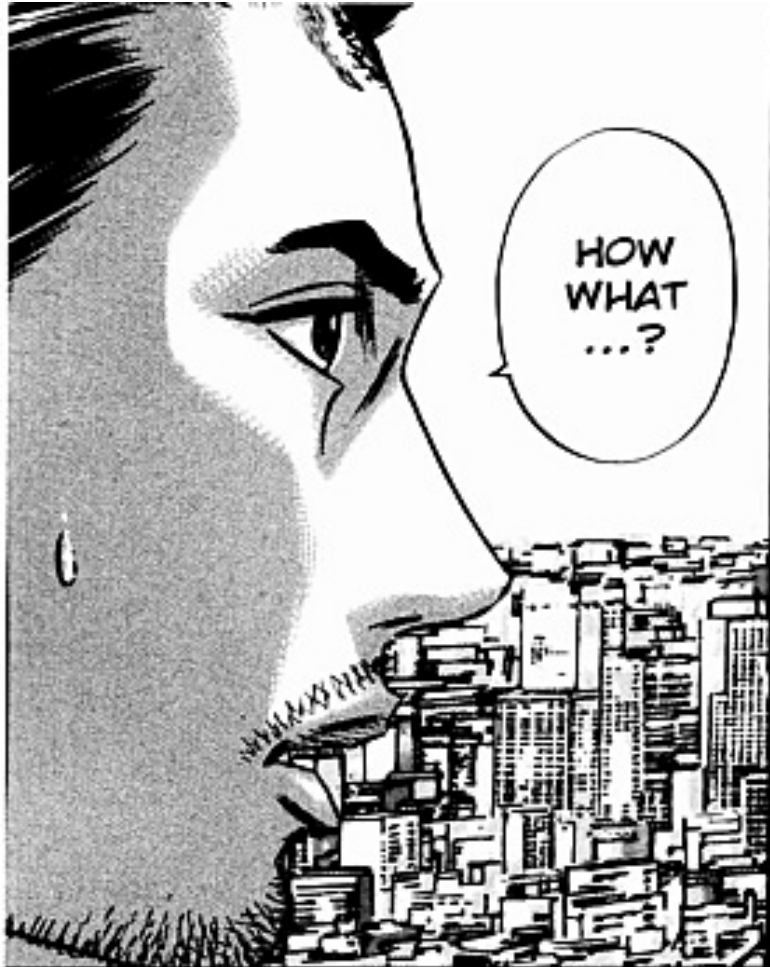


210

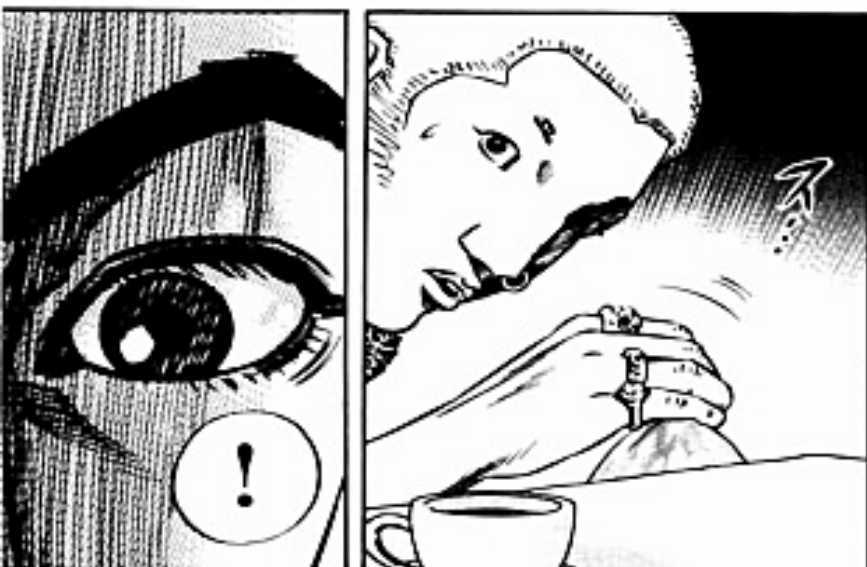


HUH
?

HOW DID
YOU
KNOW?



211



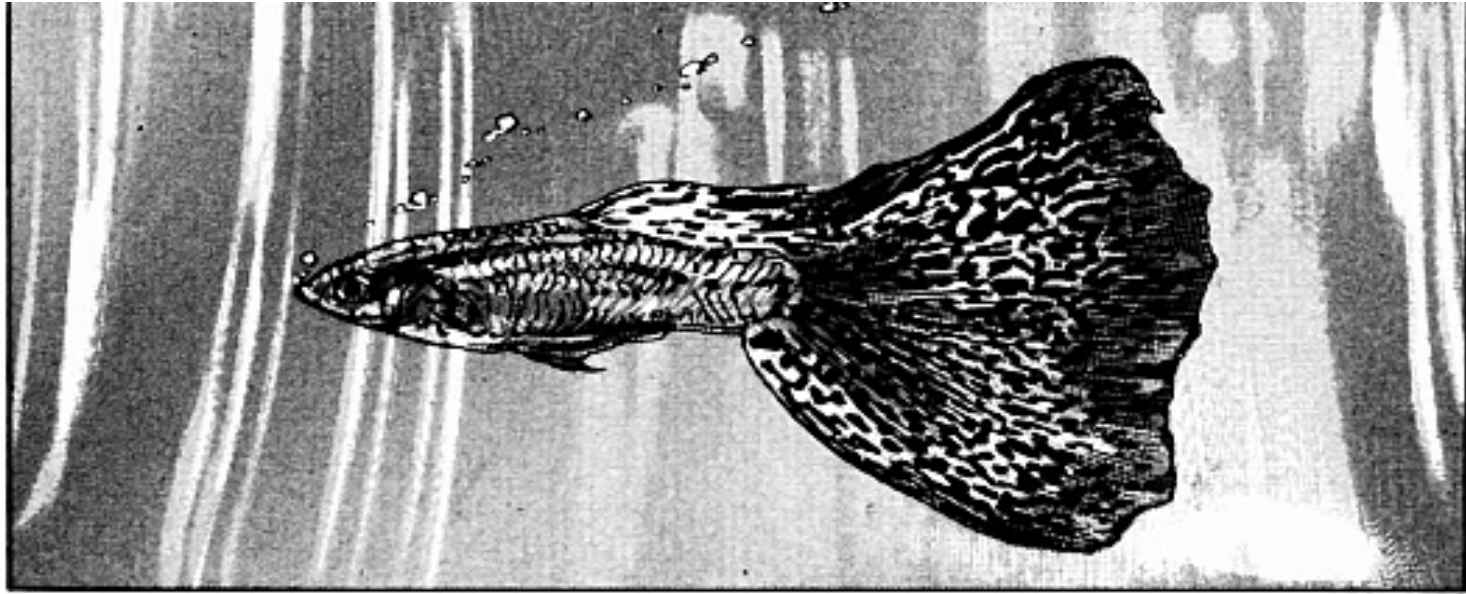


HOW DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS A GUPPY IN MY BAG?



DID YOU SEE ME BUYING THIS FISH AT THE TROPICAL FISH STORE BEFORE I CAME HERE?







LOOK, I
JUST WANT
THIS HOLE
FILLED IN.



WHAT DID
YOU SAY?

HUH?

NOTHING.



Y,

YES...



IF YOU
CAN
FILL IT.



LET'S GO.

HOMUNCULUS

HIDEO YAMAMOTO