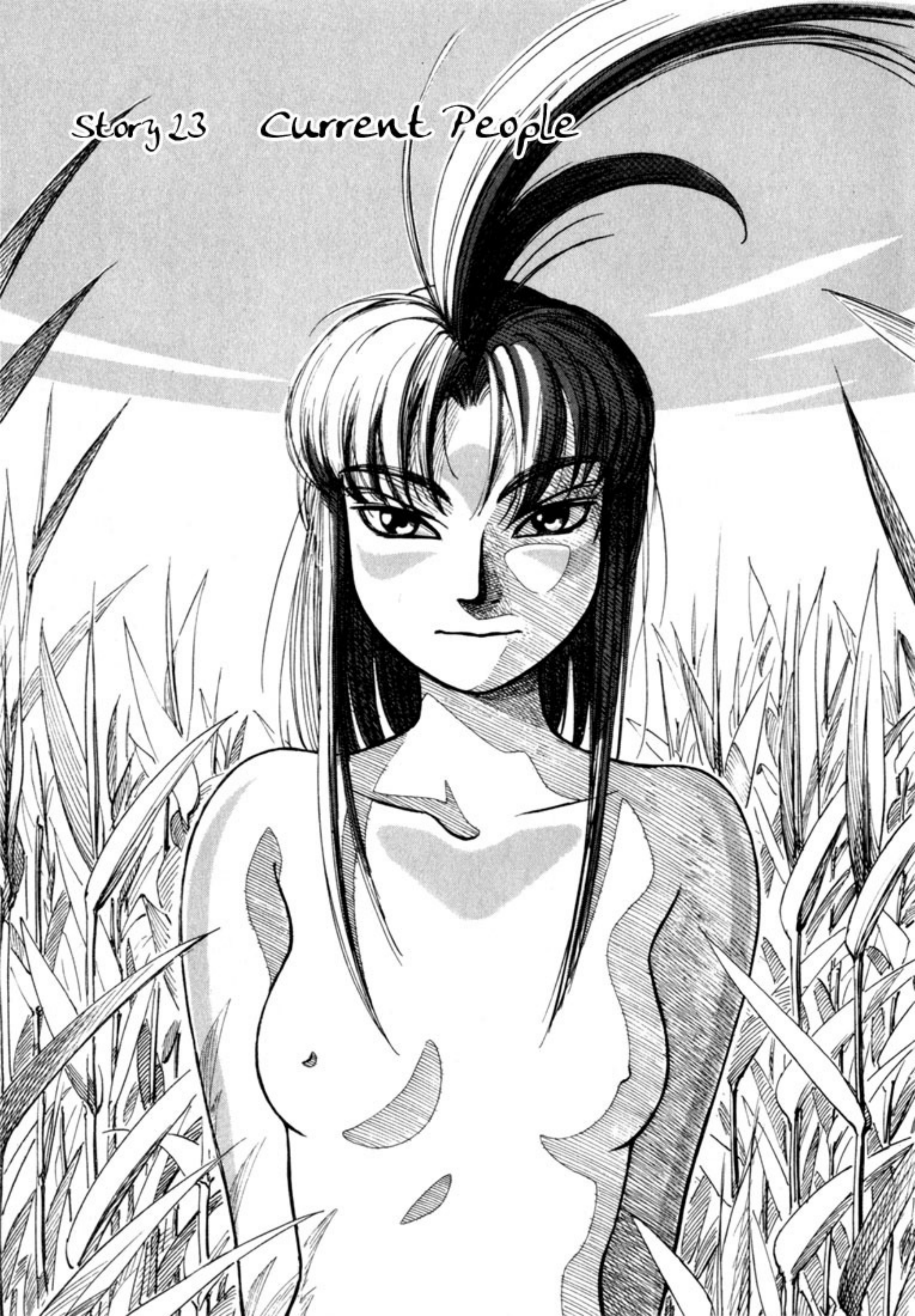
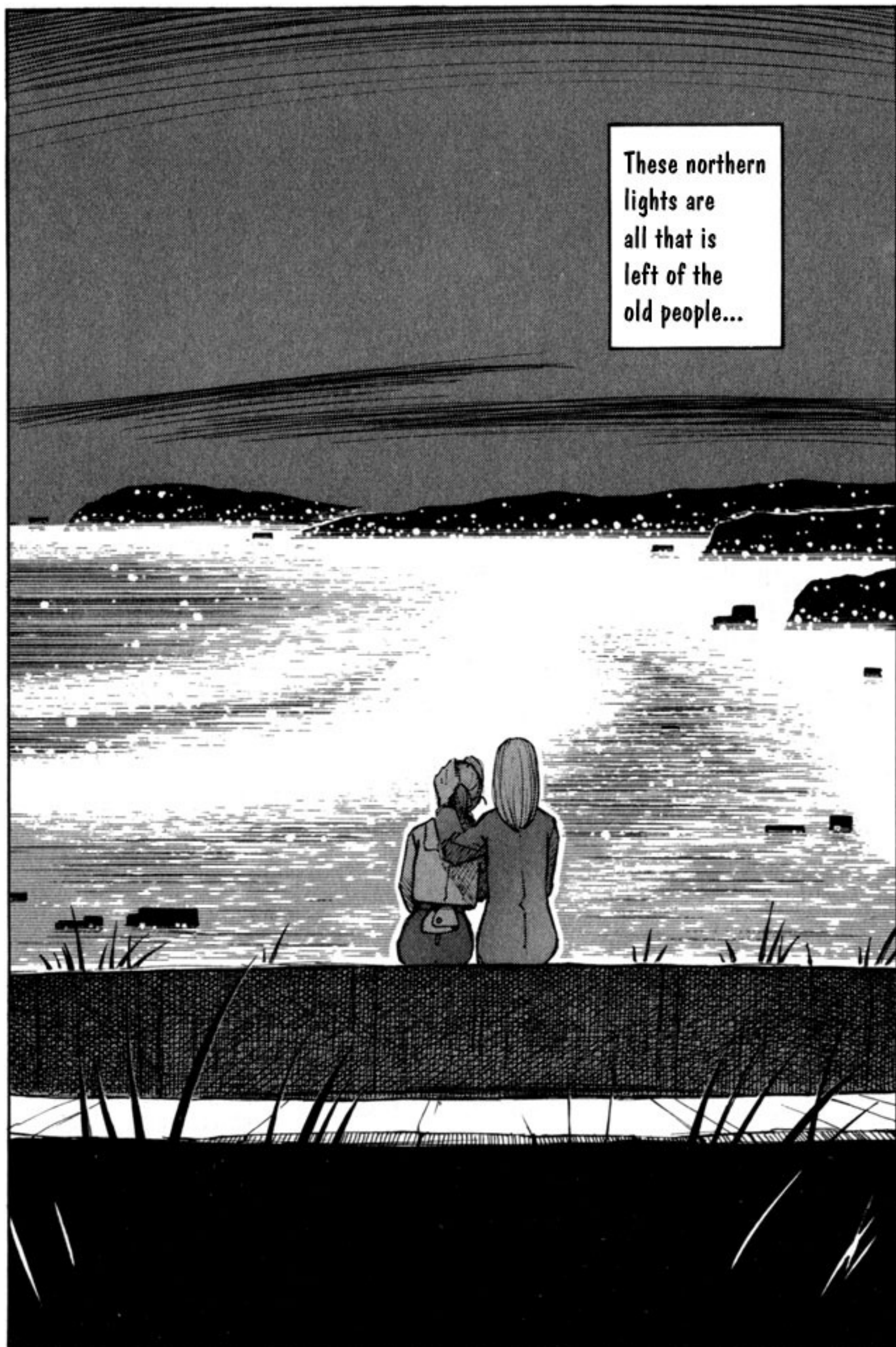
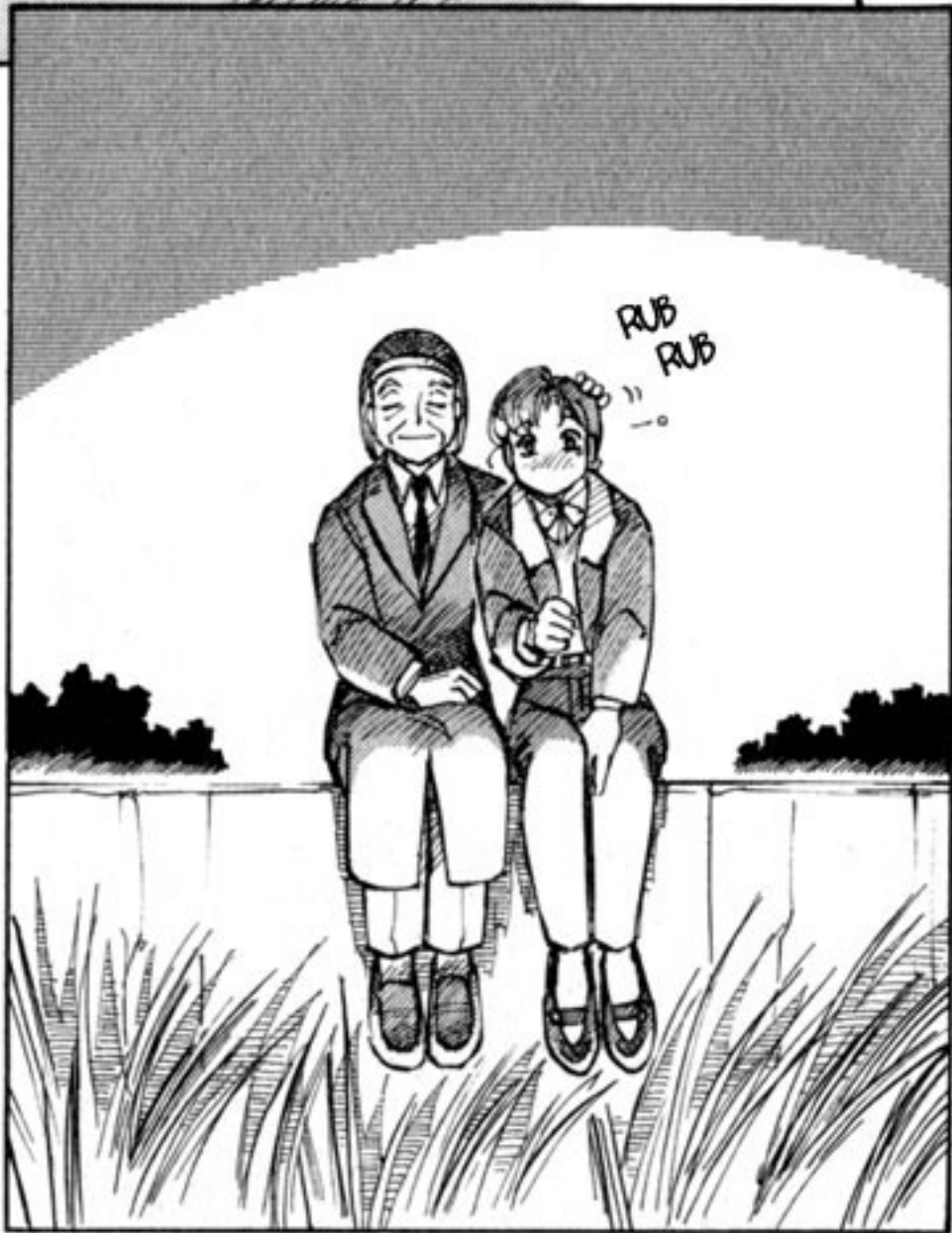
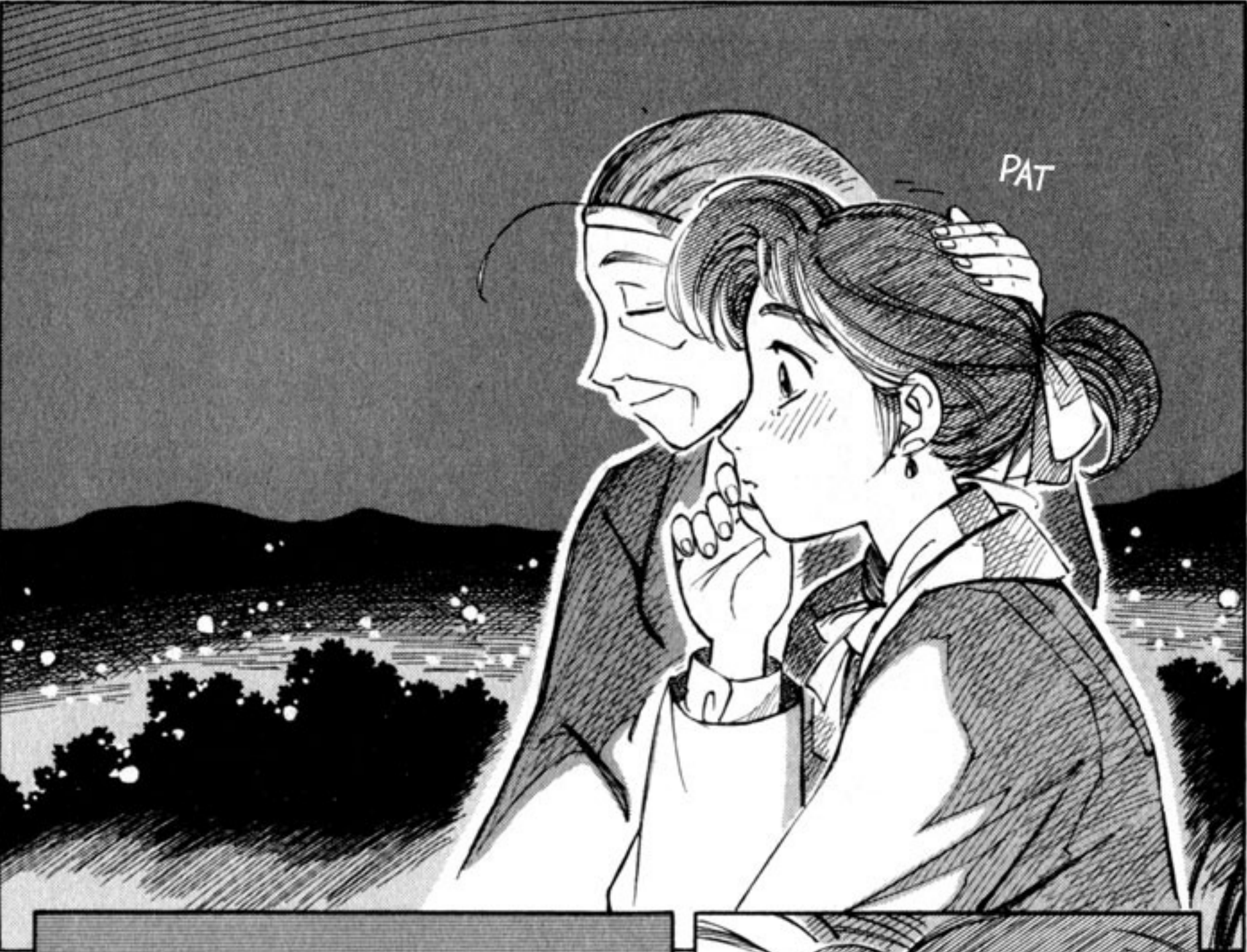


Story 23 *Current People*



These northern
lights are
all that is
left of the
old people...



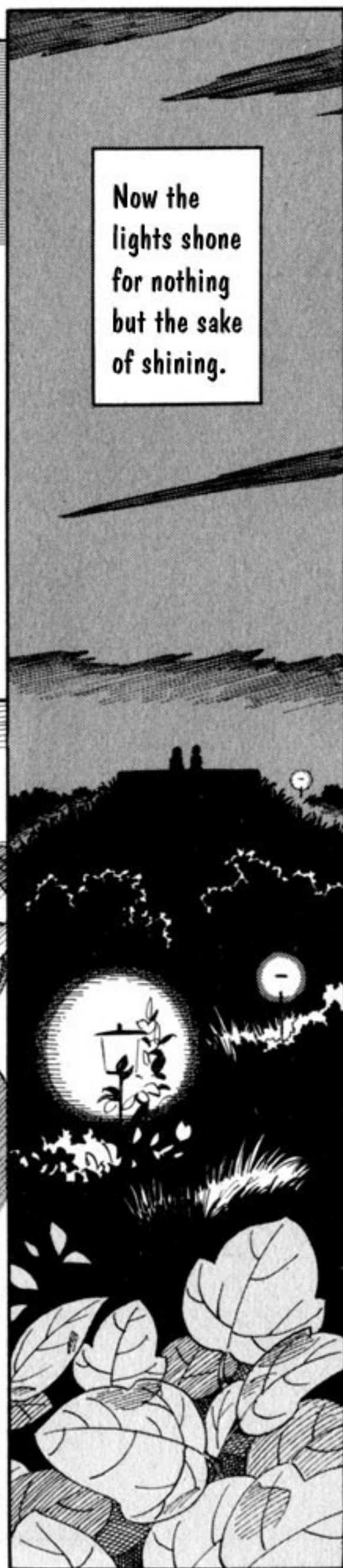




NOT MANY
PEOPLE
HAVE SEEN
THESE...

BUT
THESE
FLOWERS
ARE NICE,
AREN'T
THEY?

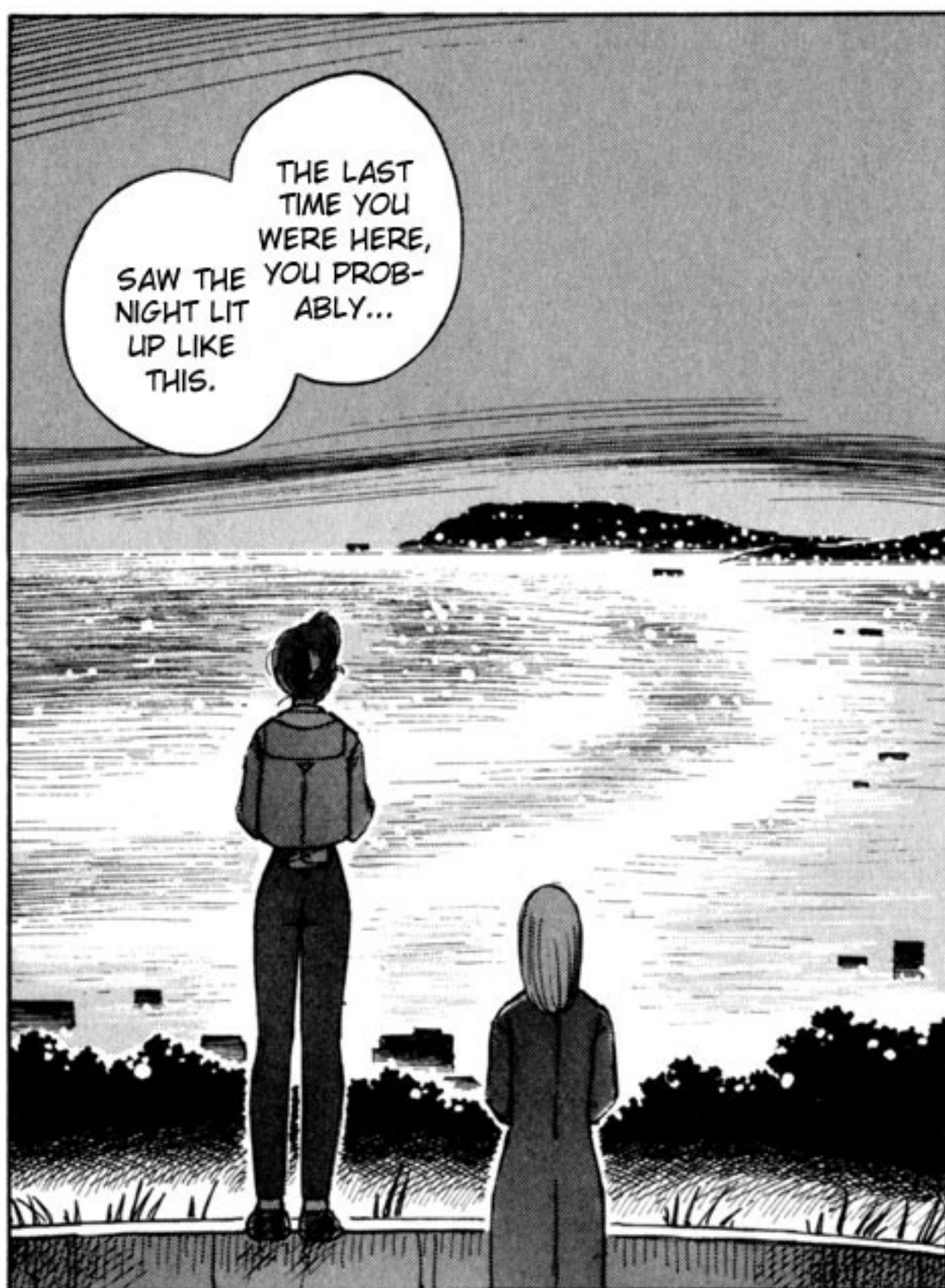
Now the
lights shone
for nothing
but the sake
of shining.





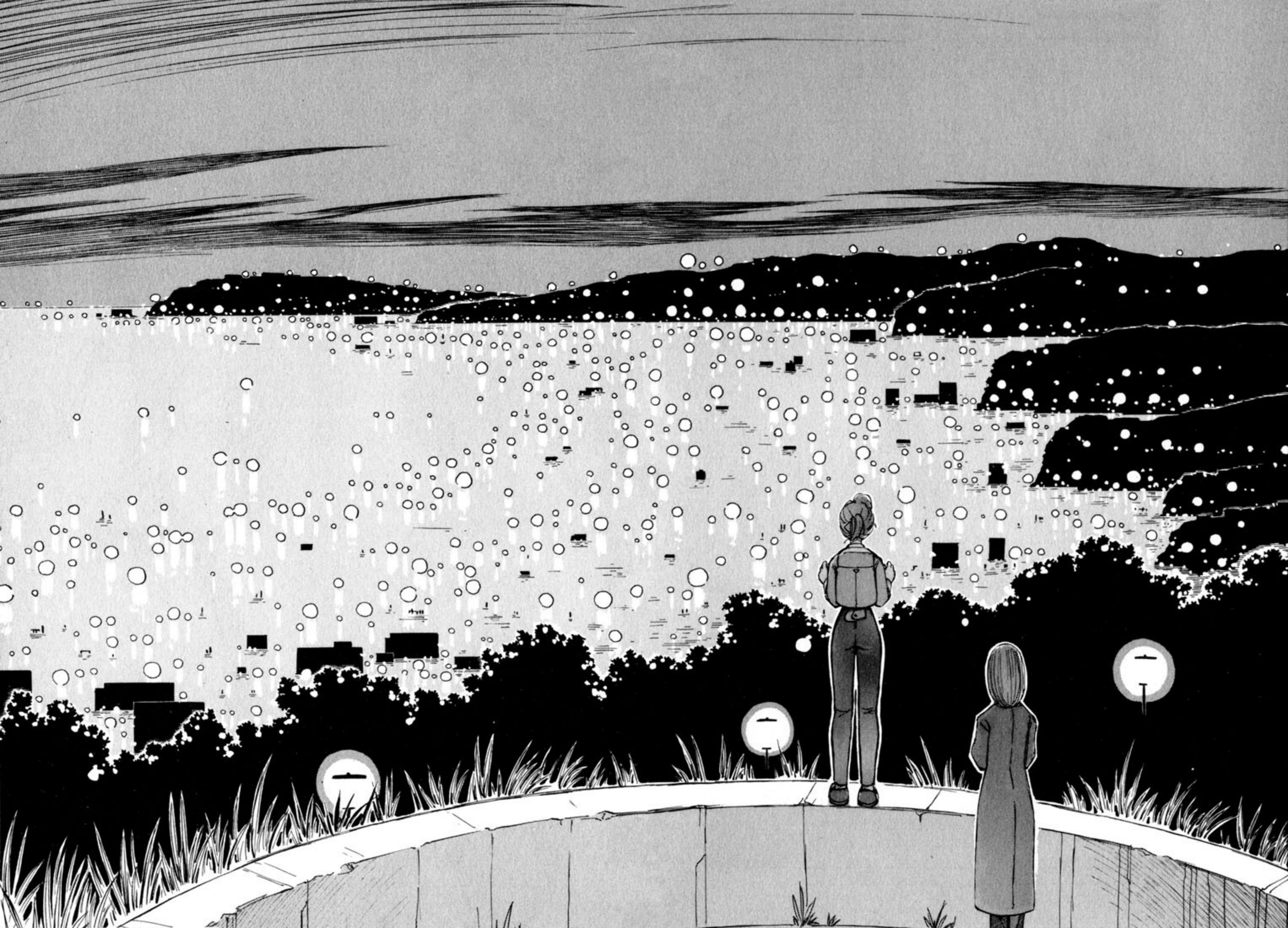
Where there had been only trees, or streetlights poking above the sea, there was light.

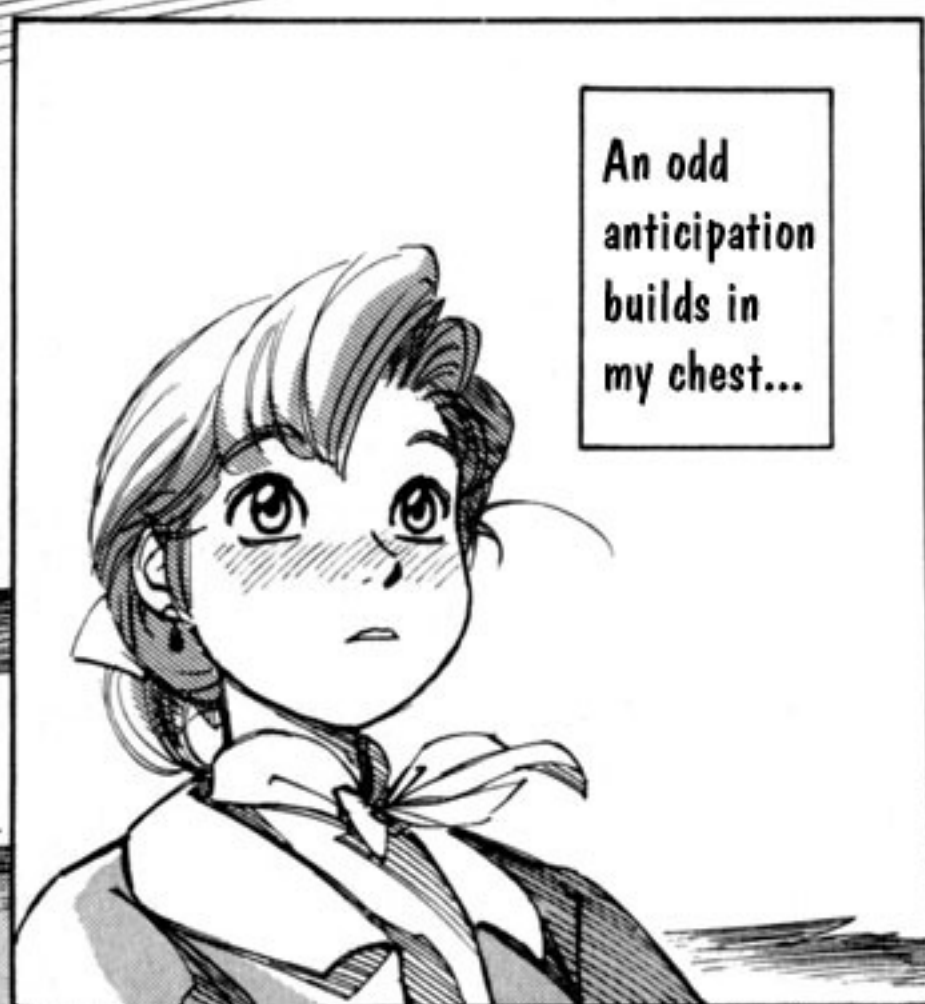
The streetlights shone without any practical purpose.



I- IT'S
SO...







An odd
anticipation
builds in
my chest...

As the sun sets...

I can't stop myself
from feeling excited...



I KNOW
THE
FEELING.

AH...

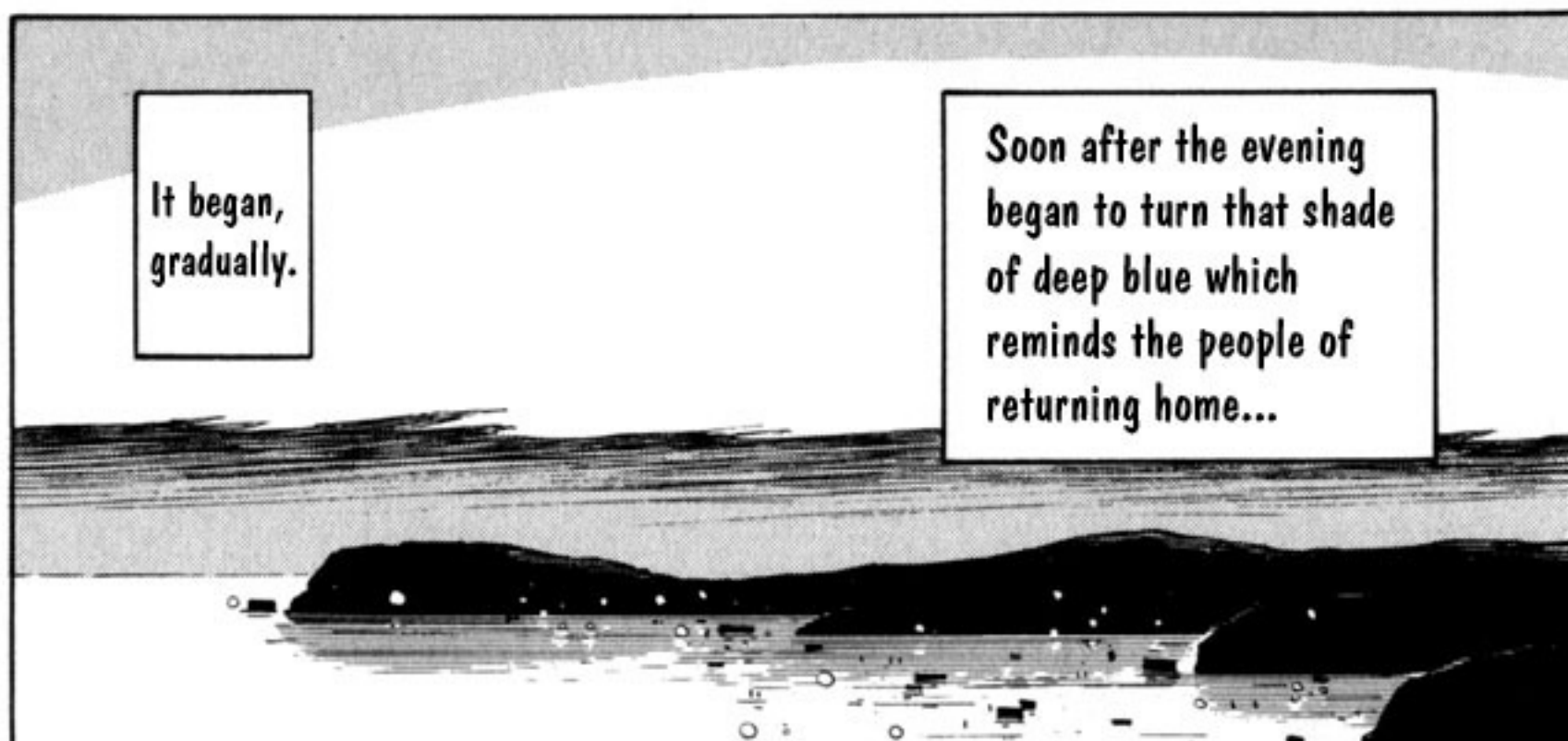


IT'S JUST
A LITTLE
TENSE
FOR SOME
REASON.

EH HEH
HEH...

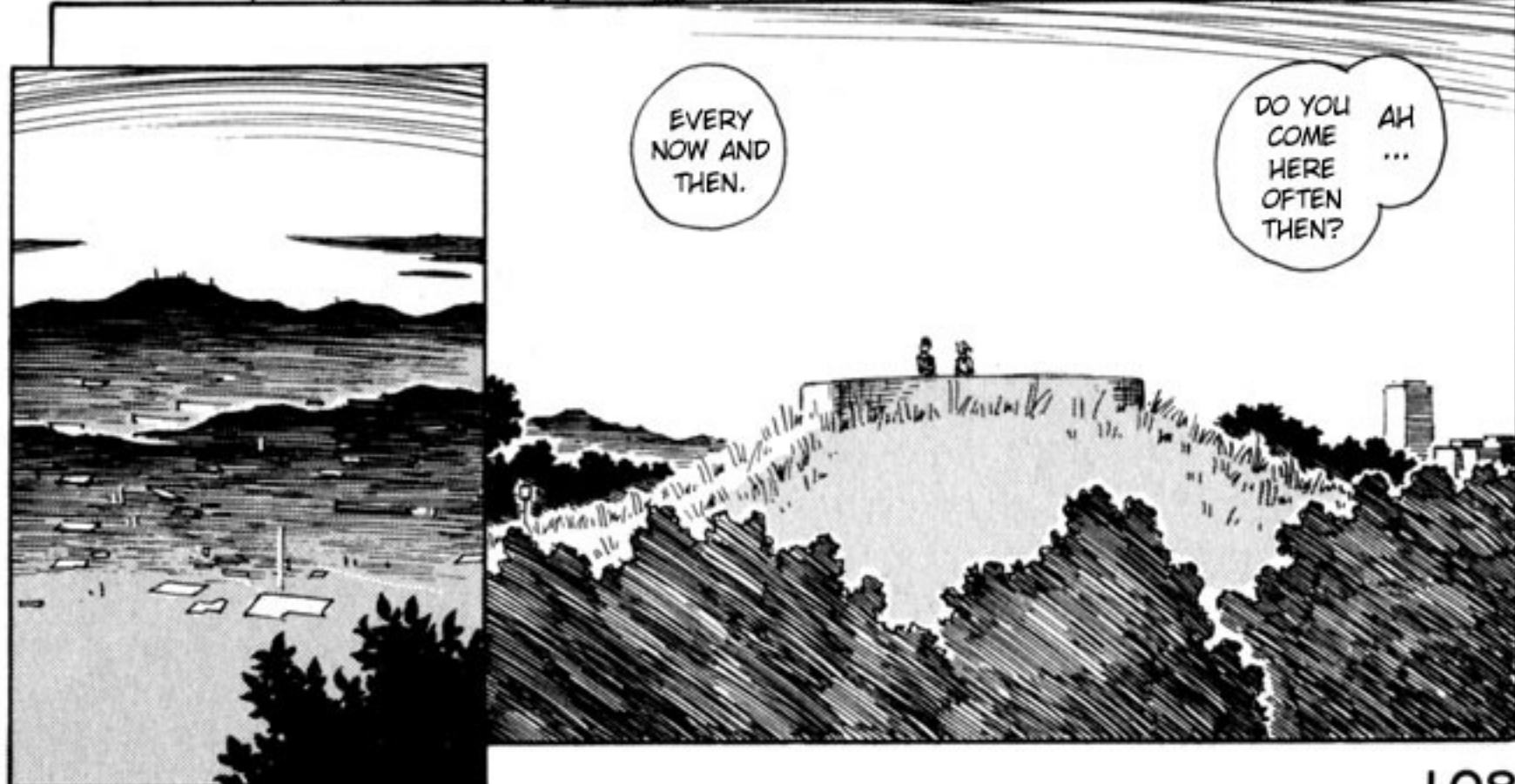
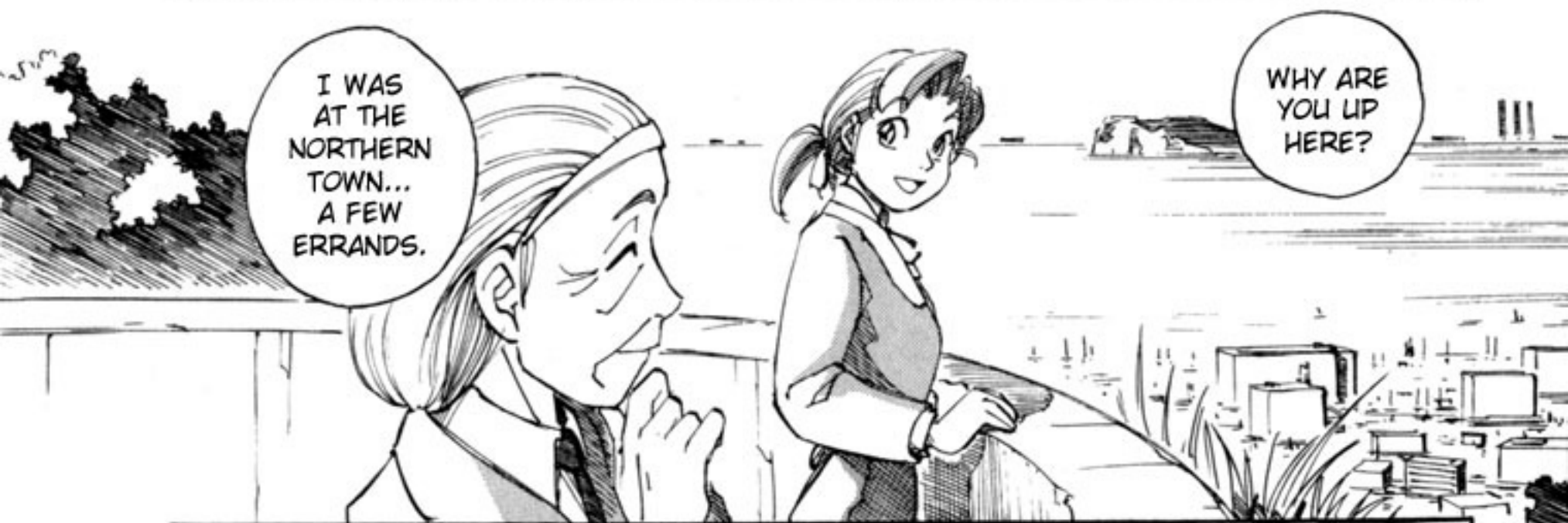
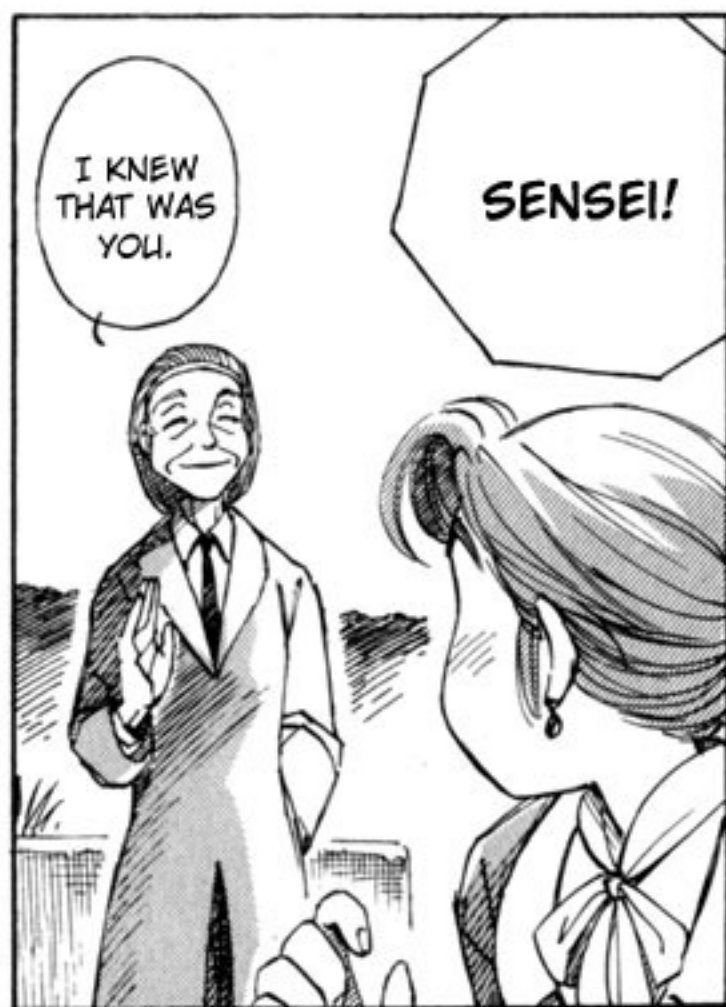
CHUCKLE

SOME-
THING
WRONG?



It began,
gradually.

Soon after the evening
began to turn that shade
of deep blue which
reminds the people of
returning home...



This is it.

It feels
a little
different,
but...

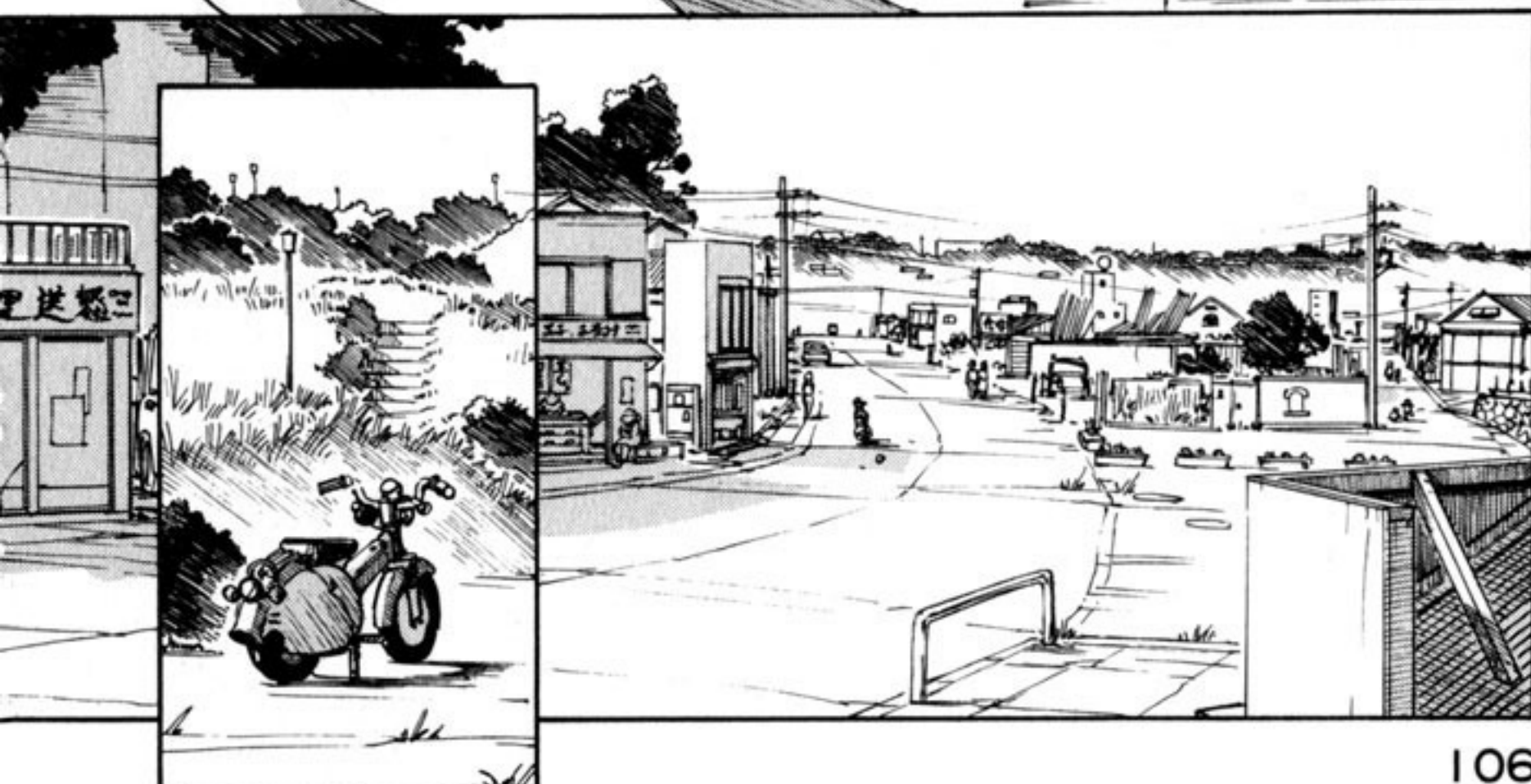
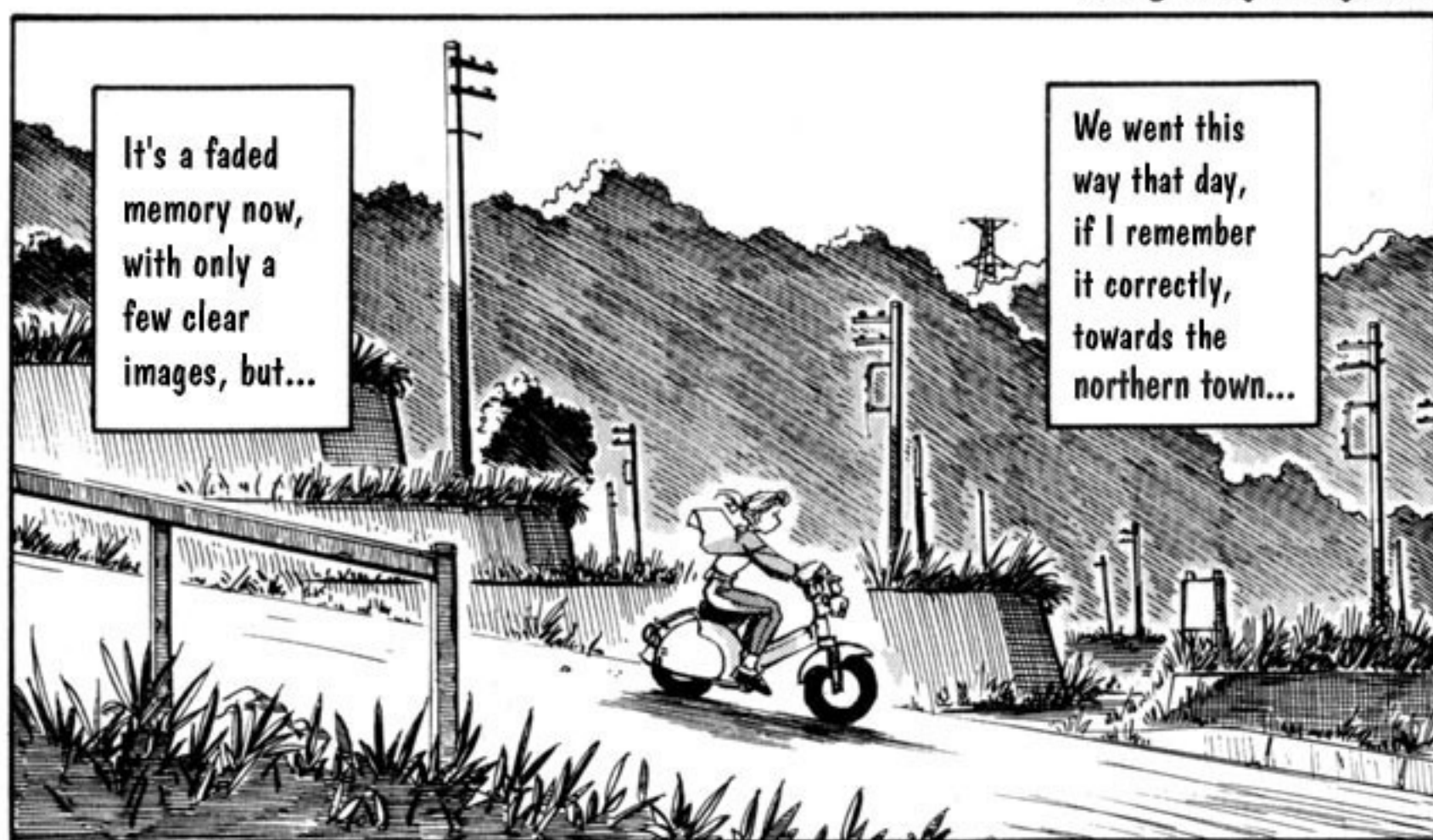
Here it is!
Just as I
thought...

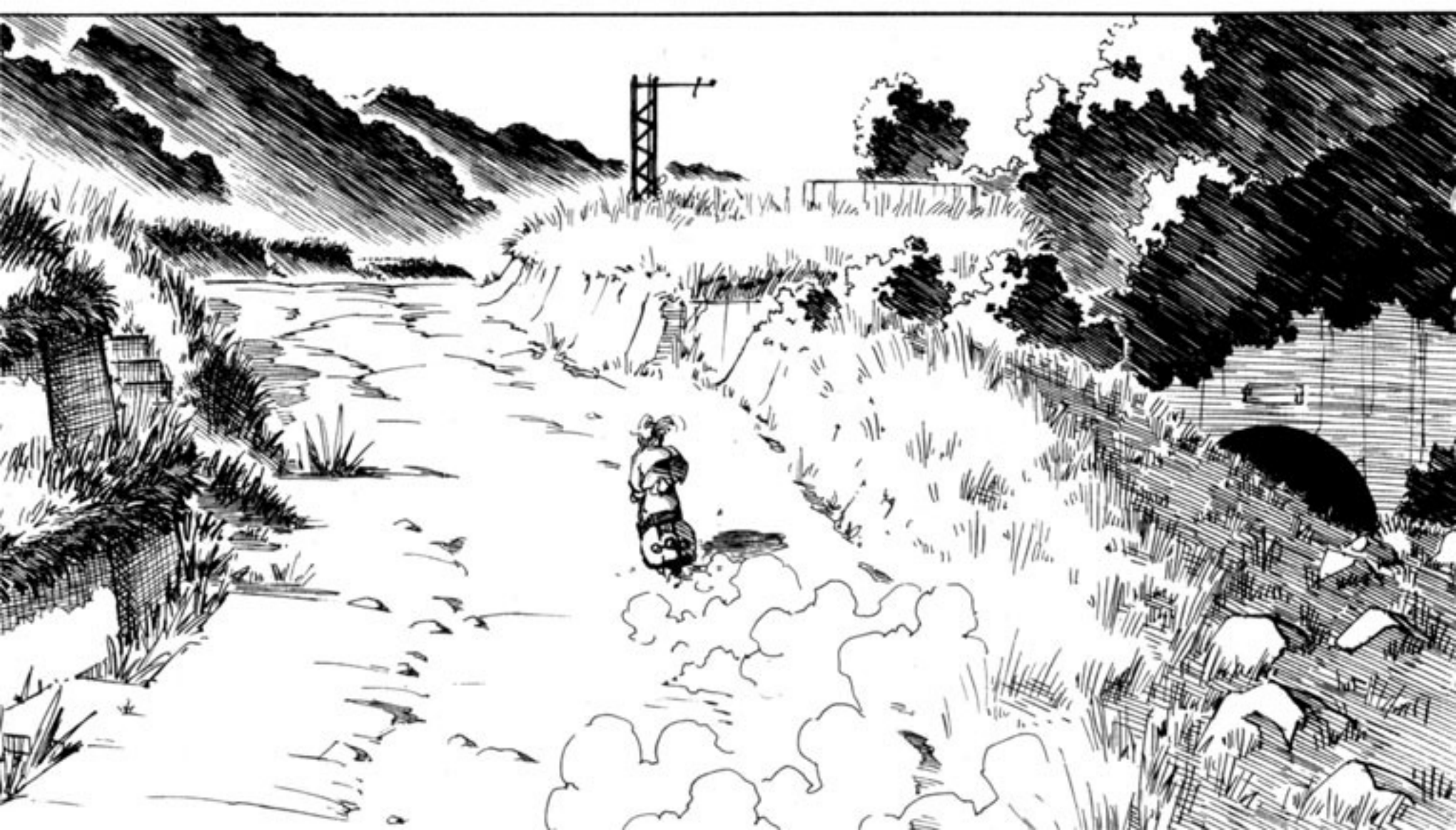


ALPHA-SAN?

JUMP





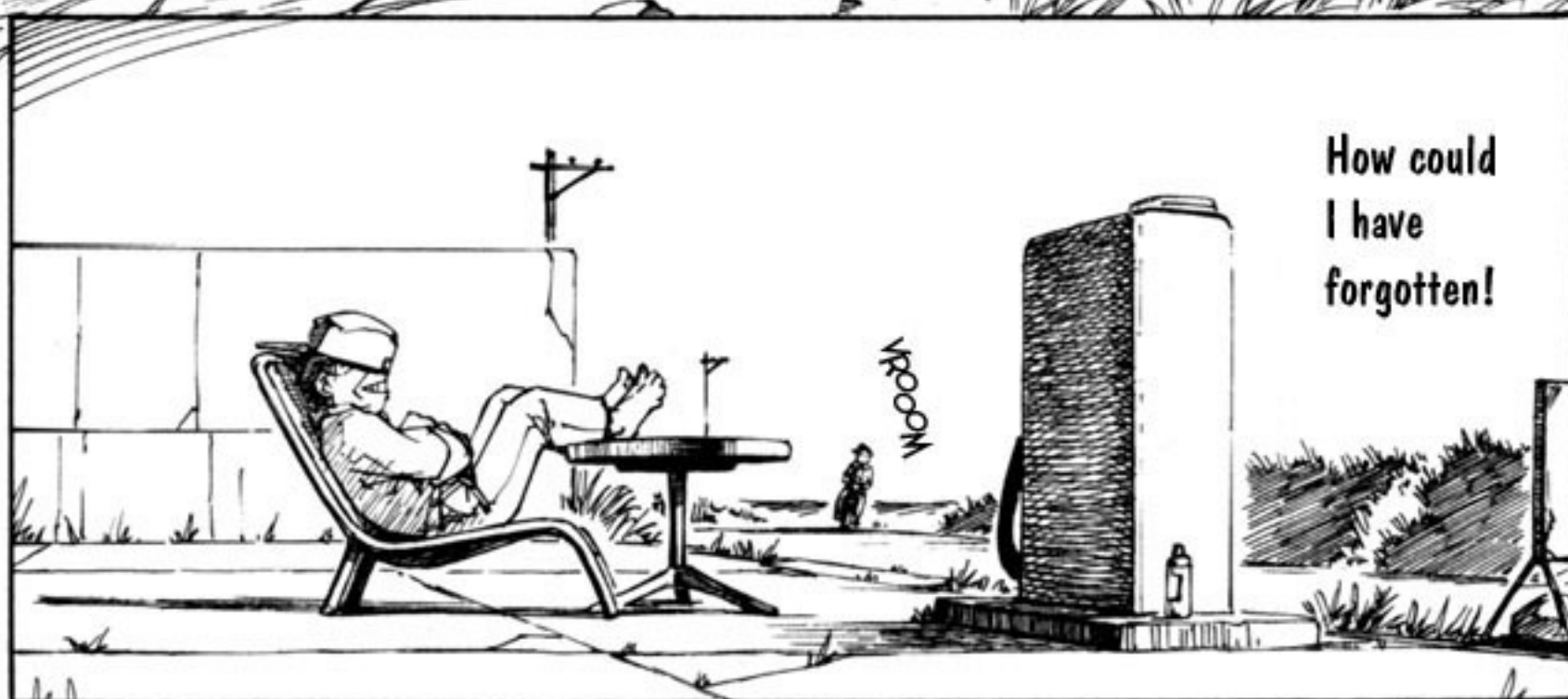


I just remembered!

My owner took
me there once,
just before leaving.



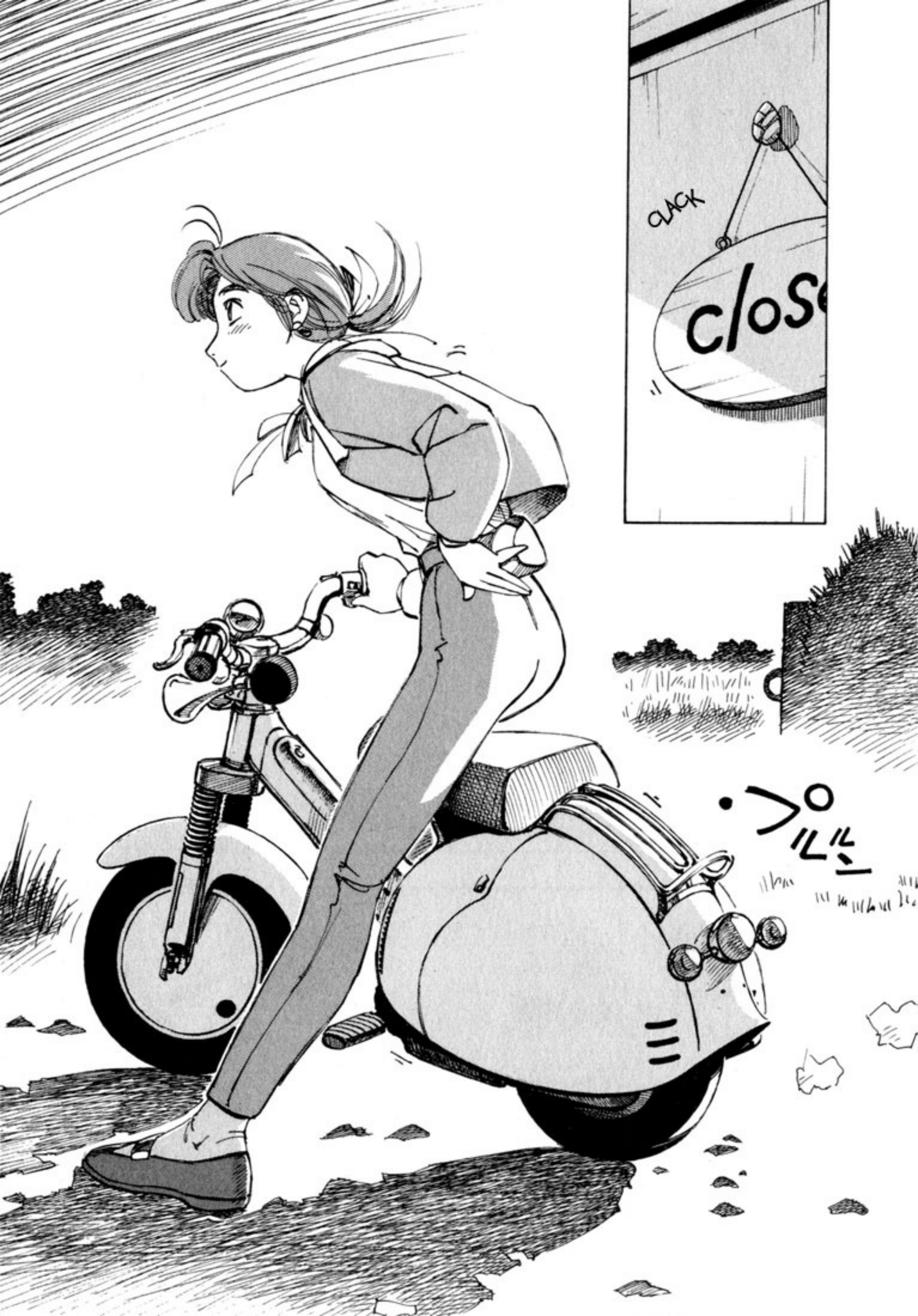
How could
I have
forgotten!



Huh?

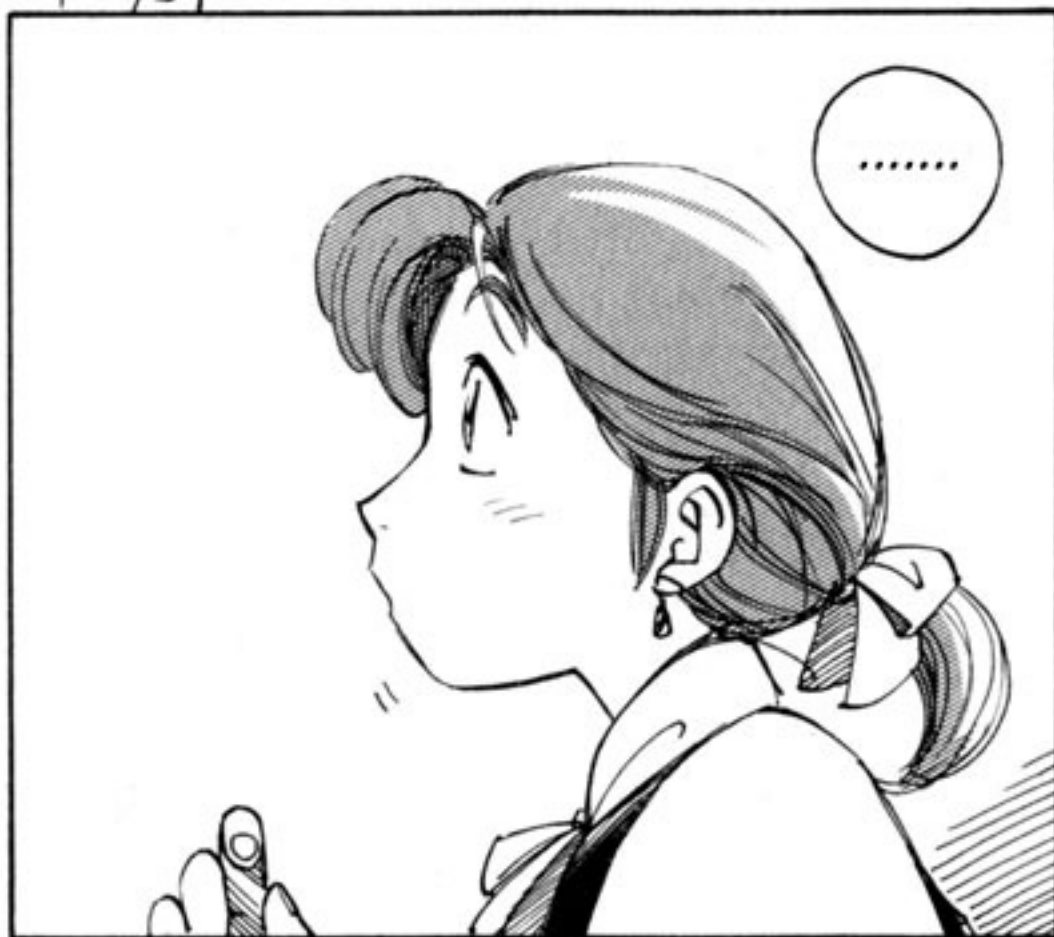
Ojisan!







///

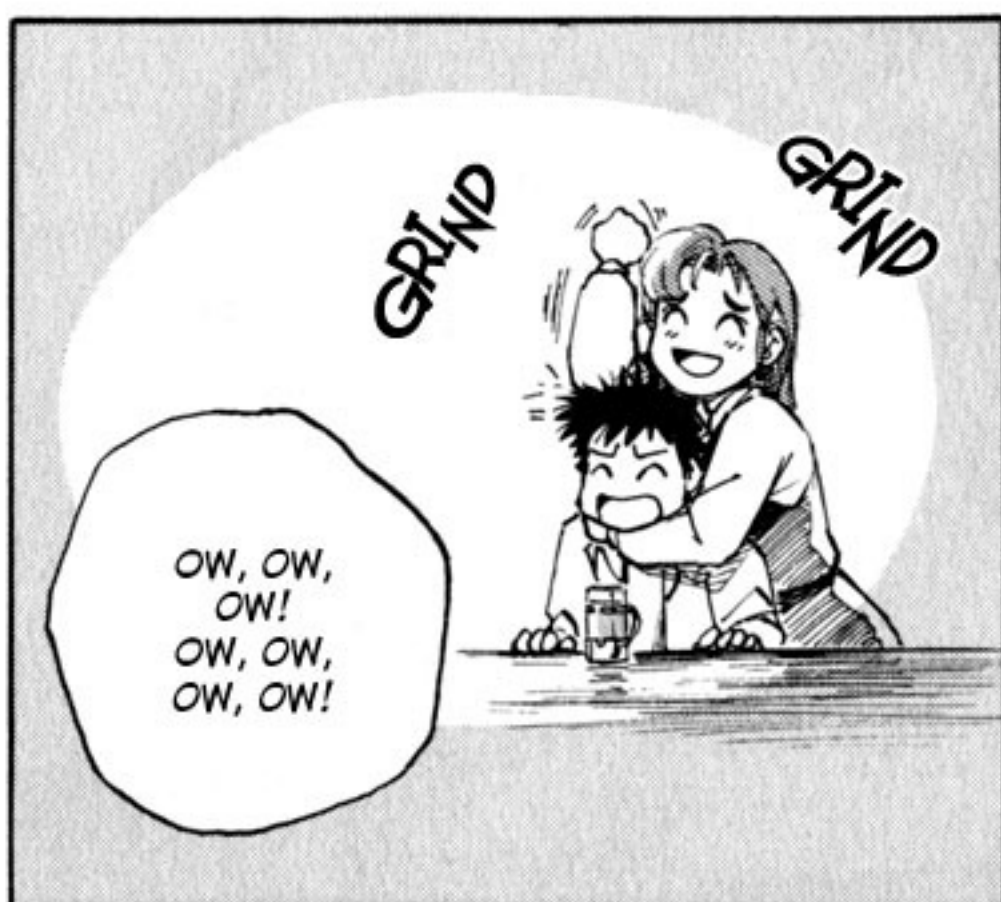
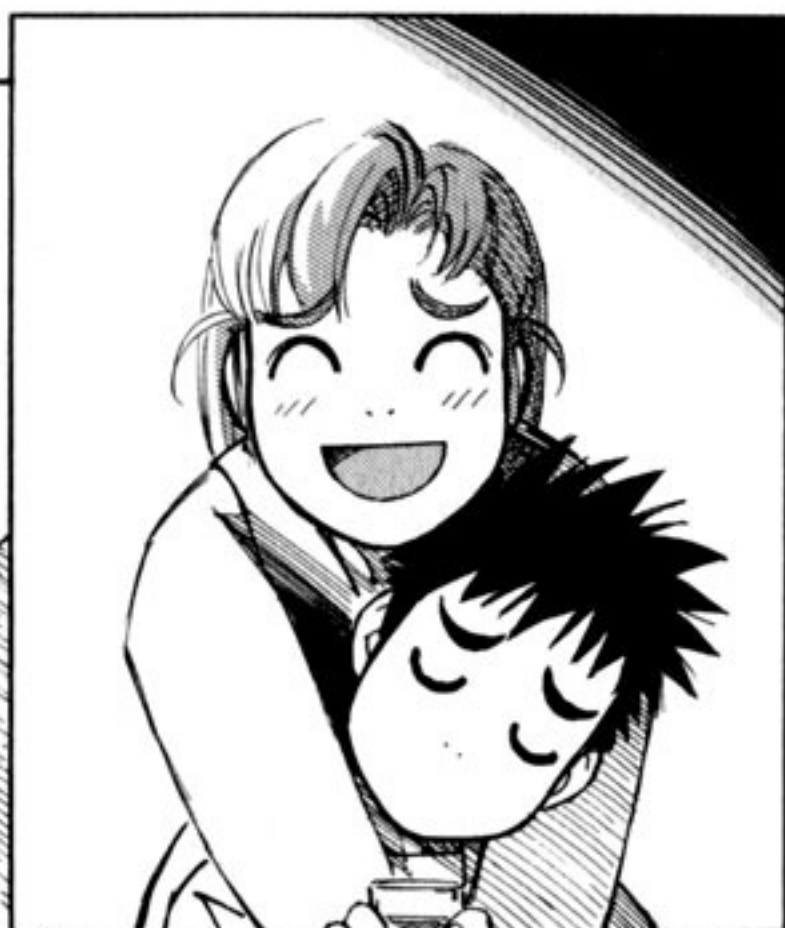


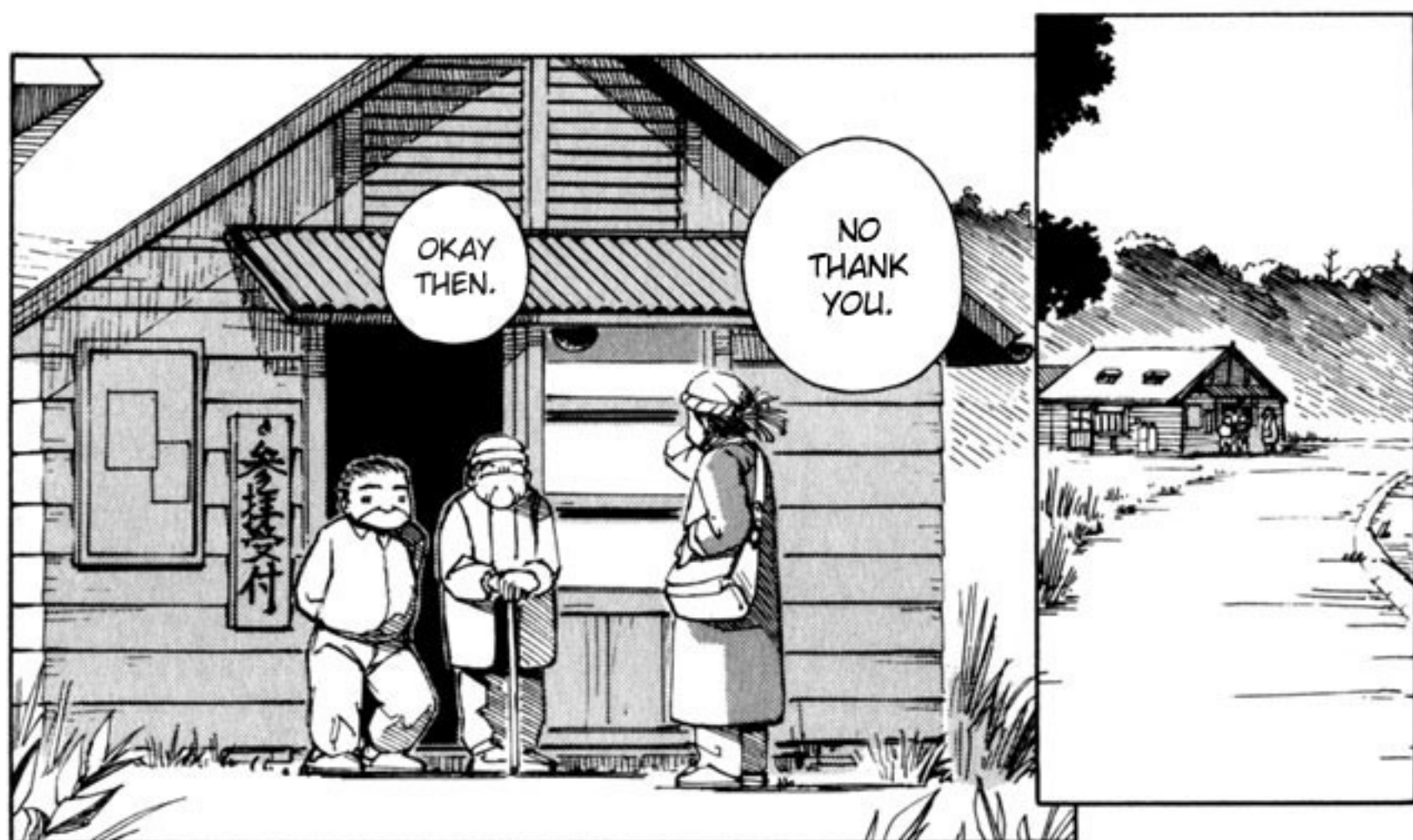
Story 22 Yokosuka Cruise















SINCE IT
WAS FOUND,
IT HASN'T
MOVED... IT
SEEMS A LOT
LIKE A
PAINTING.

LIKE
THAT OF
A HUMAN
CHILD.



"THE GOD
OF THE COVE"
THEY MEAN.

AROUND HERE,
THEY SAY THAT
IT'S KEEPING
WATCH ON
THE PEOPLE OF
THIS LAND...



It looked so
much like a
human...

And the face peered
out from tussled
hair as if it had just
woken up into the
bright light of day.

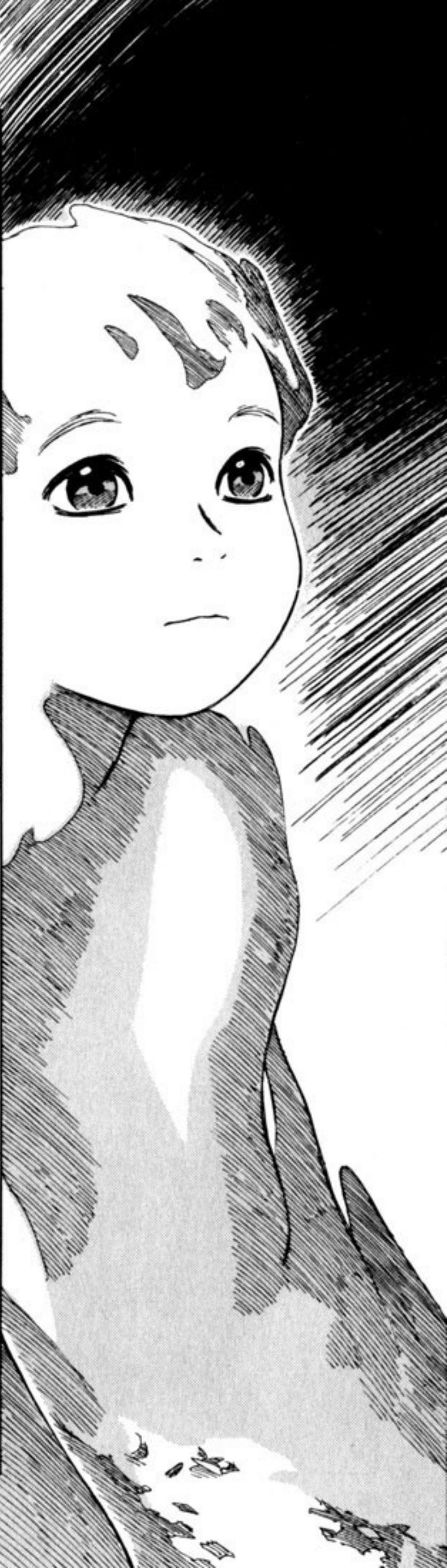
But the body
was like a
mass of white
cotton...



I- IT...



IS THE
WATER
GOD...





IT'S
MARBLE...
AND
PROBABLY
SOME
QUARTZ.

IT'S
WHITE,
ISN'T
IT?



UH...

THERE
YOU GO.



I
APOLOGIZE
FOR BEING
A BIT
RUSTY...



AH,
OKAY...

BUT NO
TOUCH-
ING,
PLEASE.

...GO
ON
OVER.



AHH...

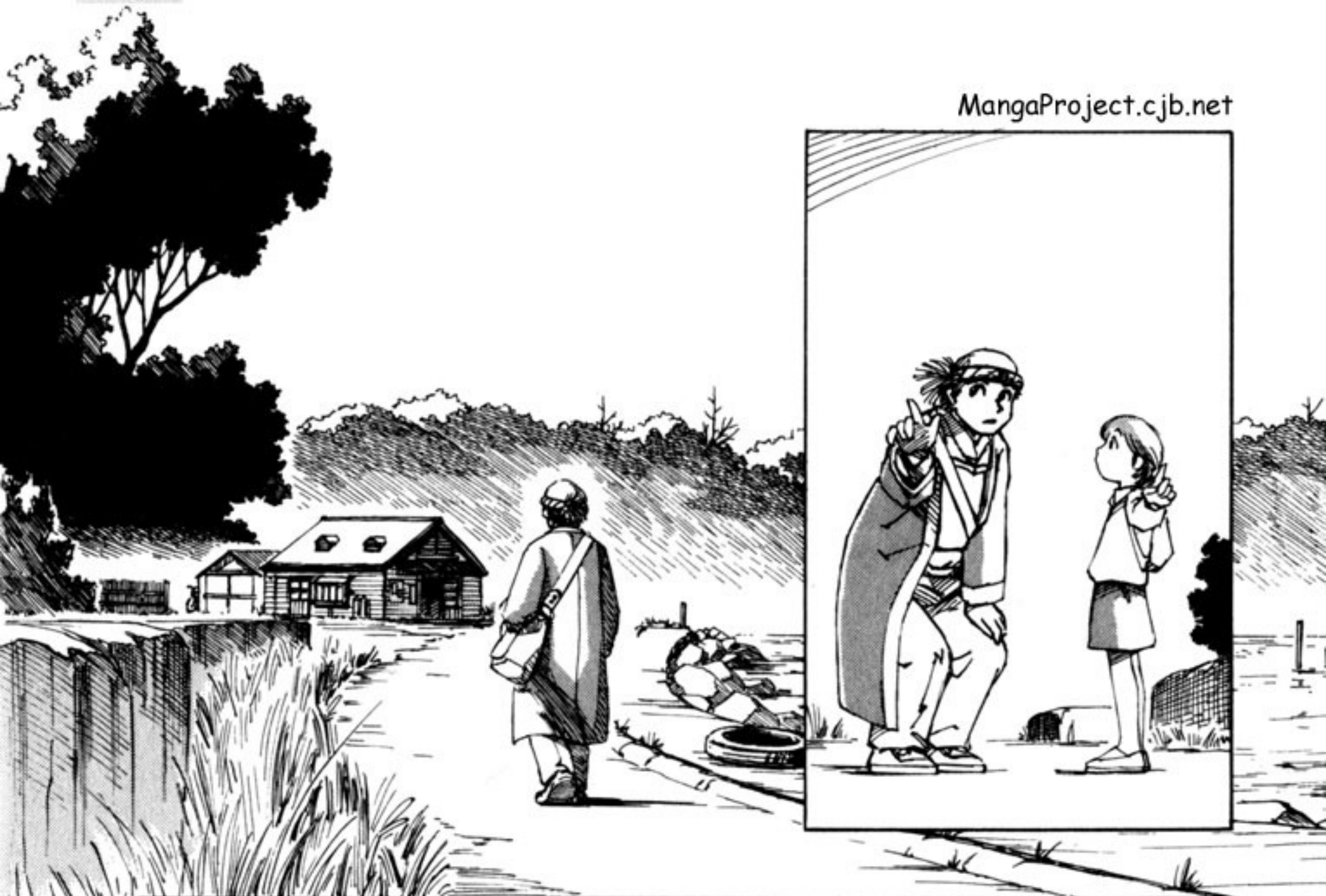
NO, SENSEI
MADE US
LEAVE IT IN
THE OPEN.

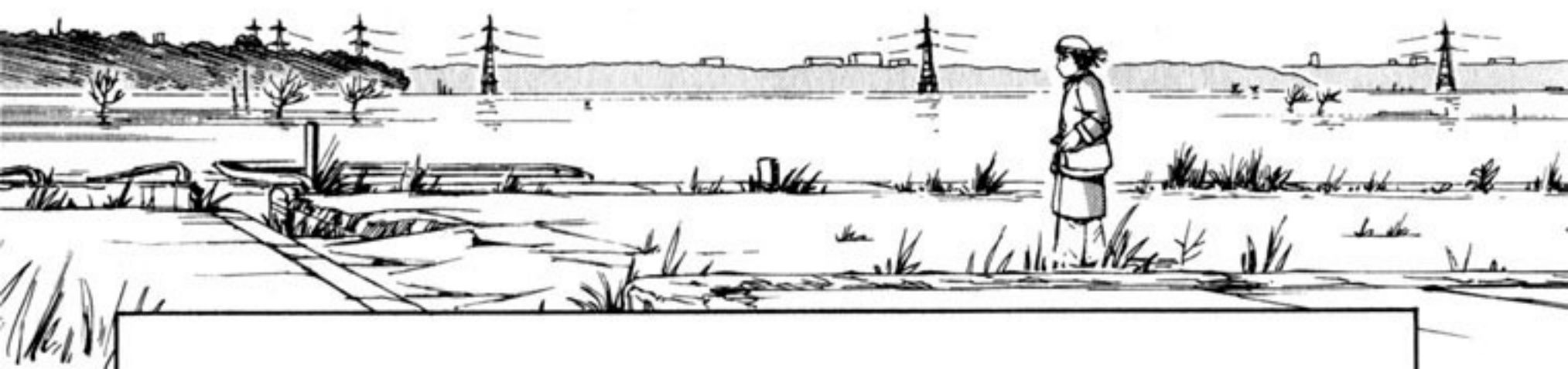


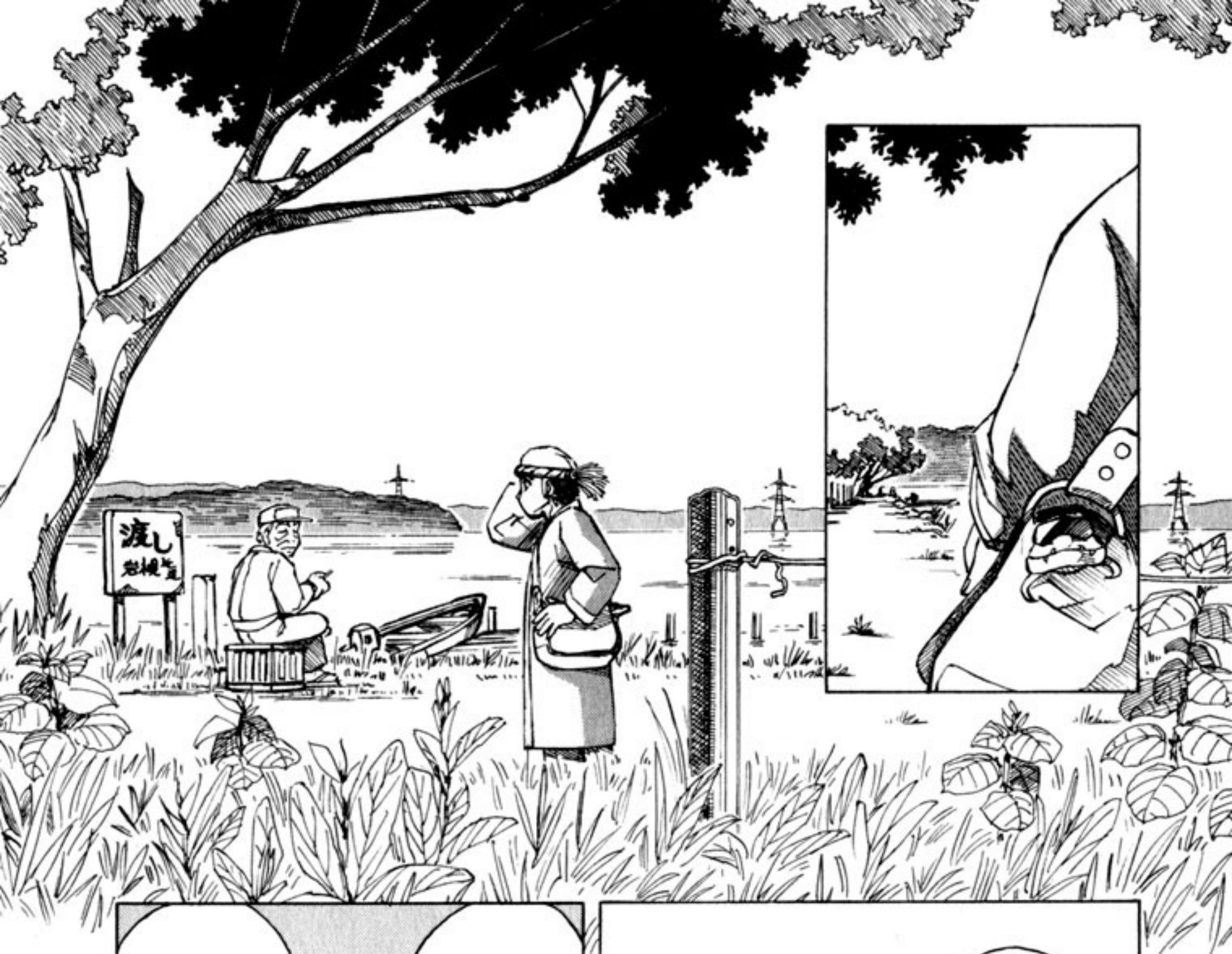
IT'S NOT
IN A
SHRINE?

ALMOST
THERE
NOW.









I'M
GONNA
PRAY
AT THE
WATER
GOD.

I'M
VISITING
OOMIYA.

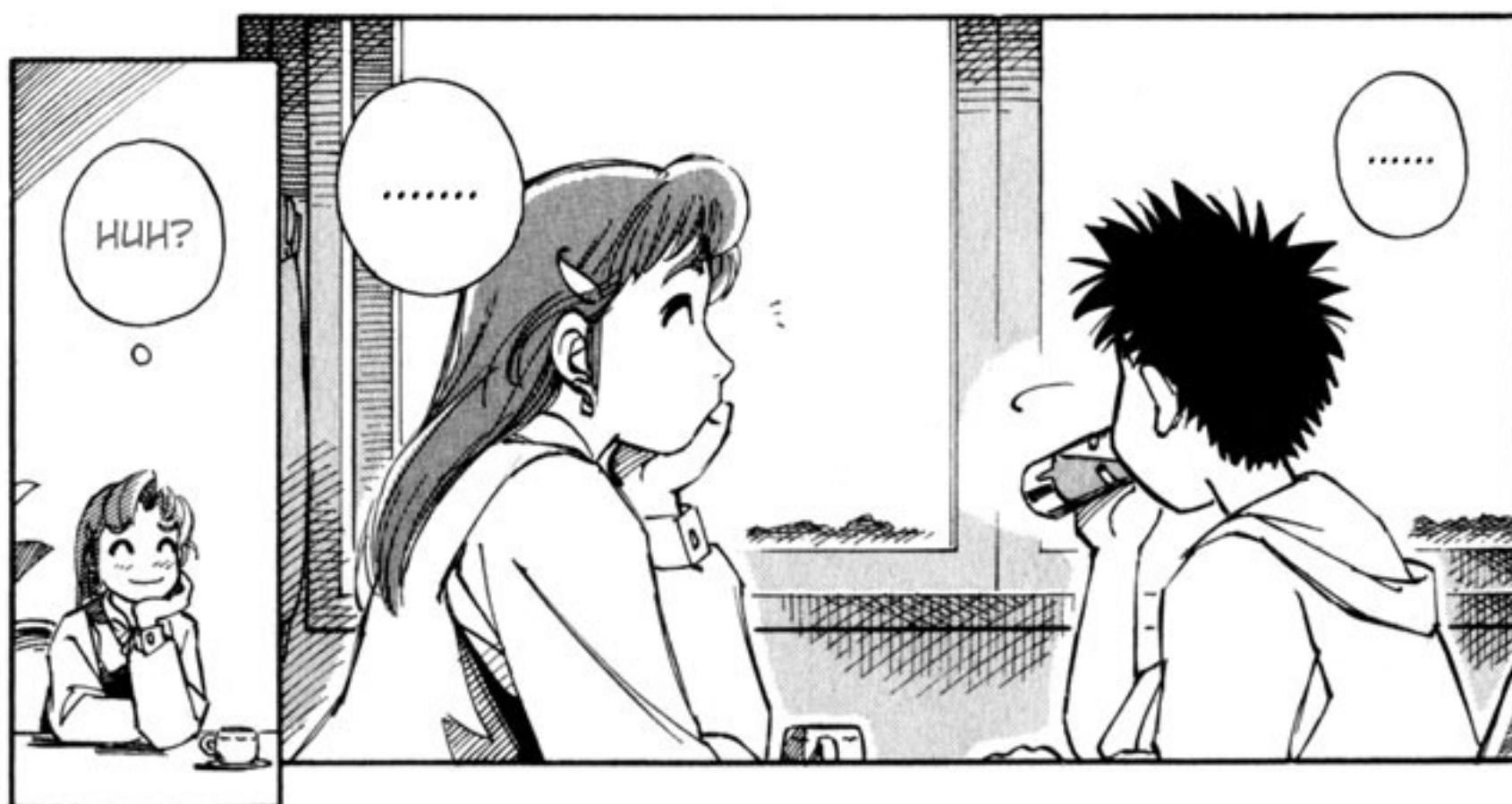
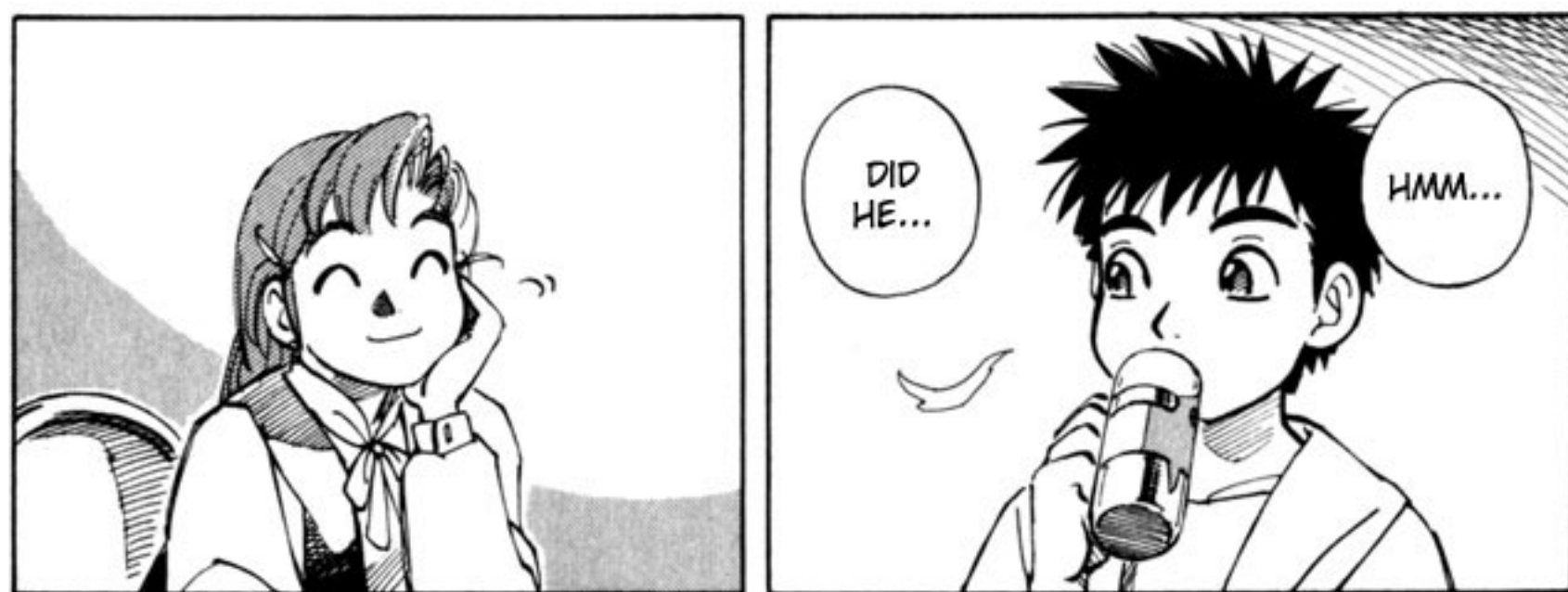
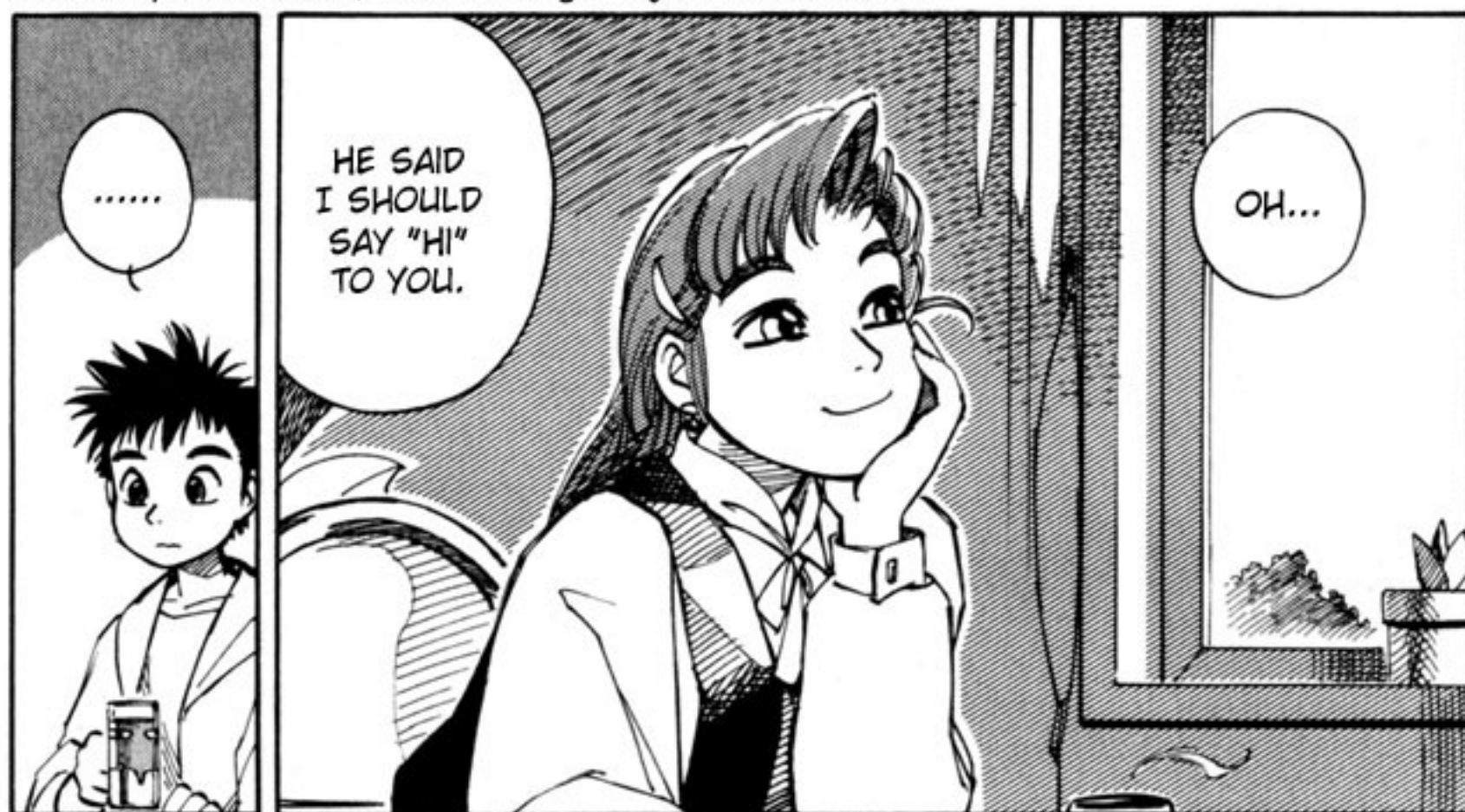


THE
BOAT'S
RIGHT
THERE.

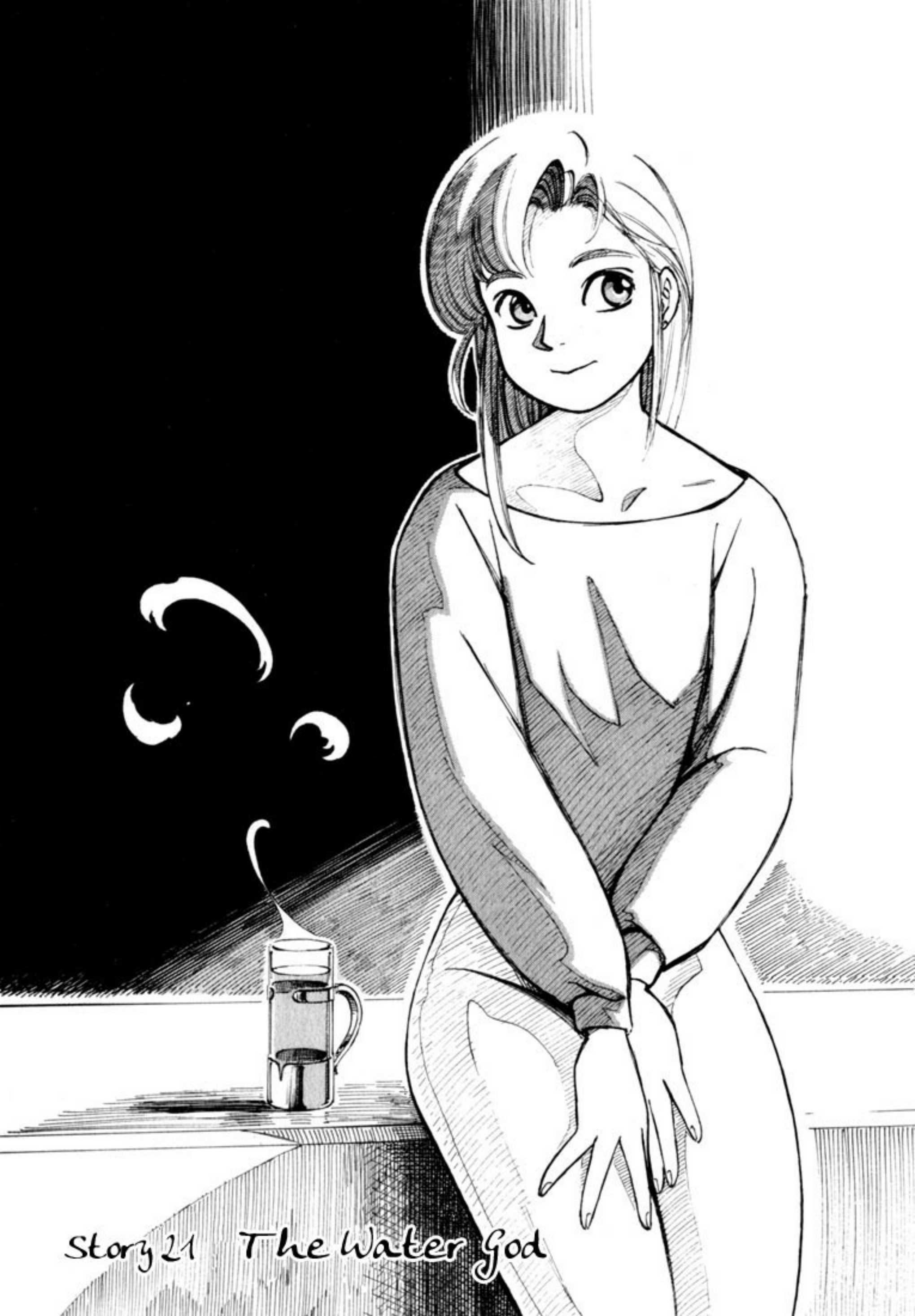
HEY, BRO!
IS THIS
IWATSUKI?

NAAH...

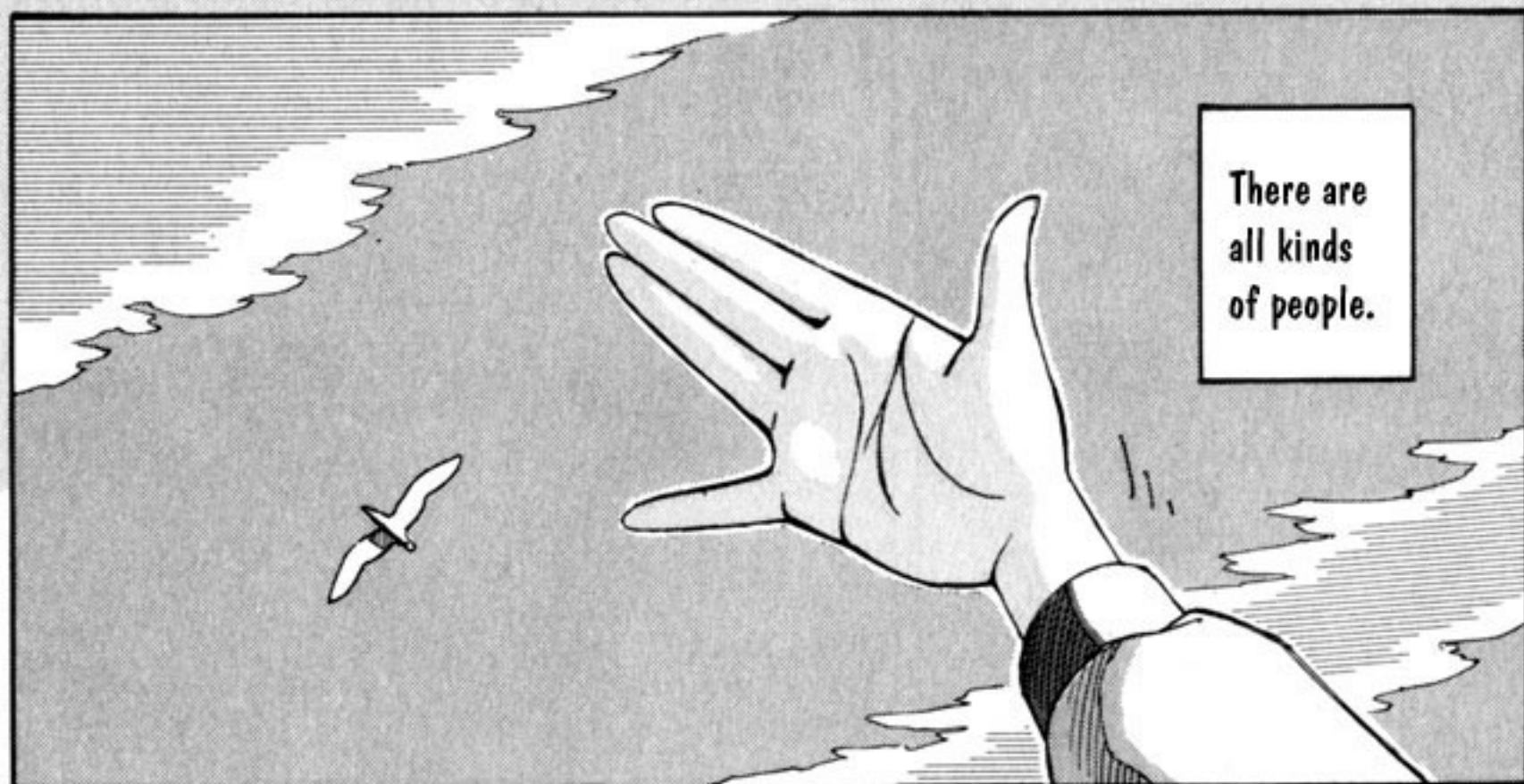






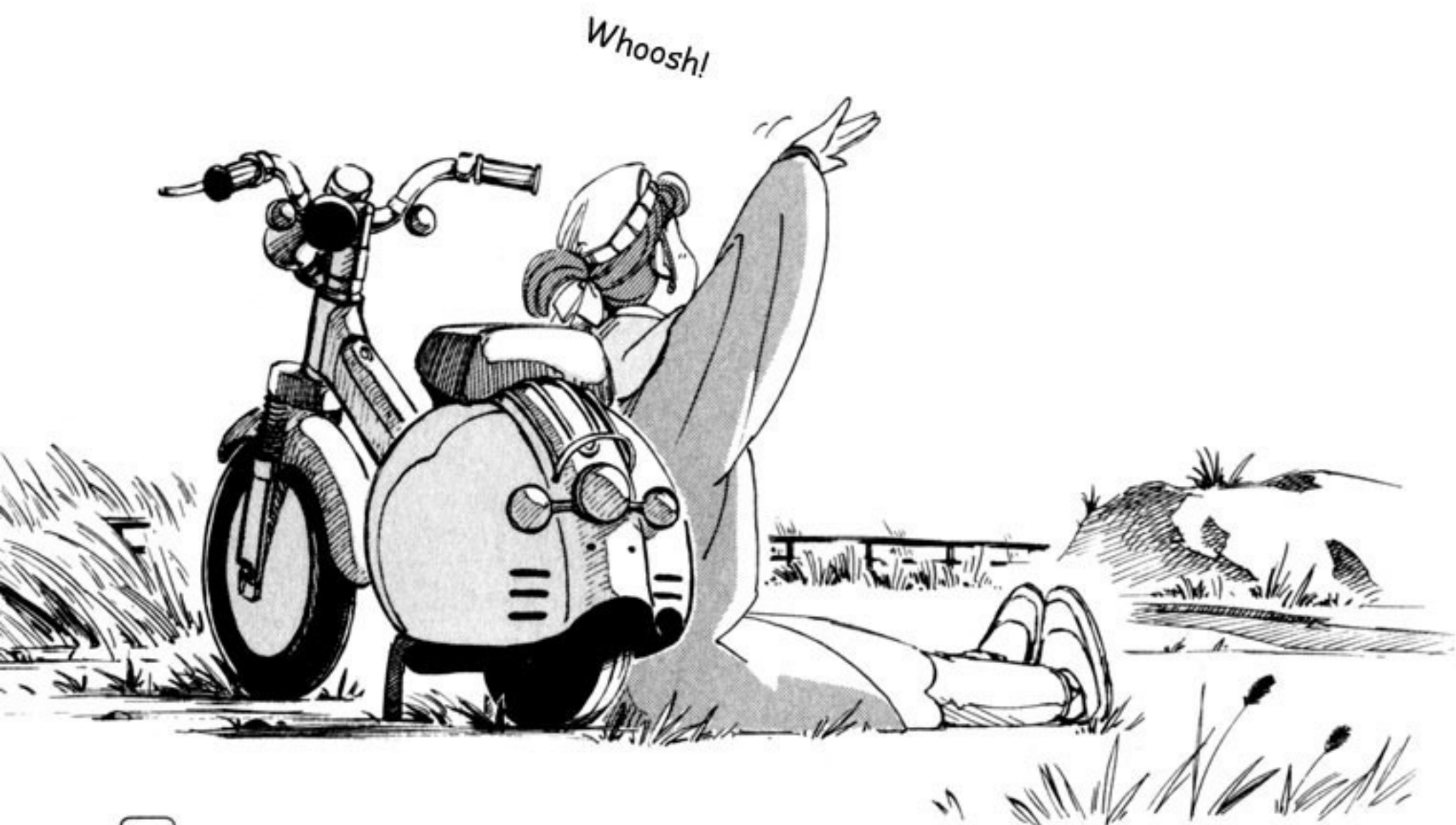


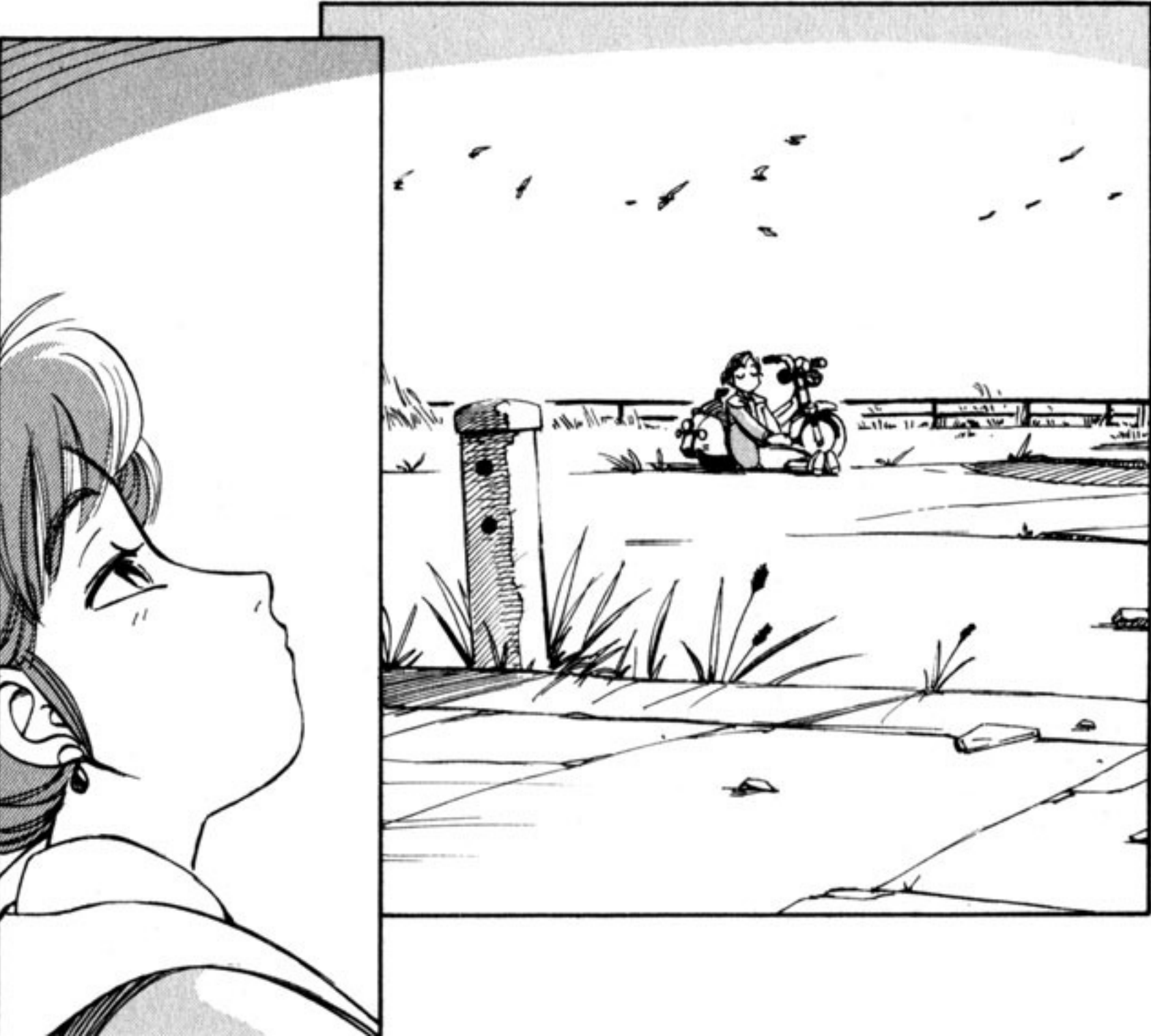
Story 21 The Water God



There are
all kinds
of people.

People who fly all the time.
People who walk all the time.





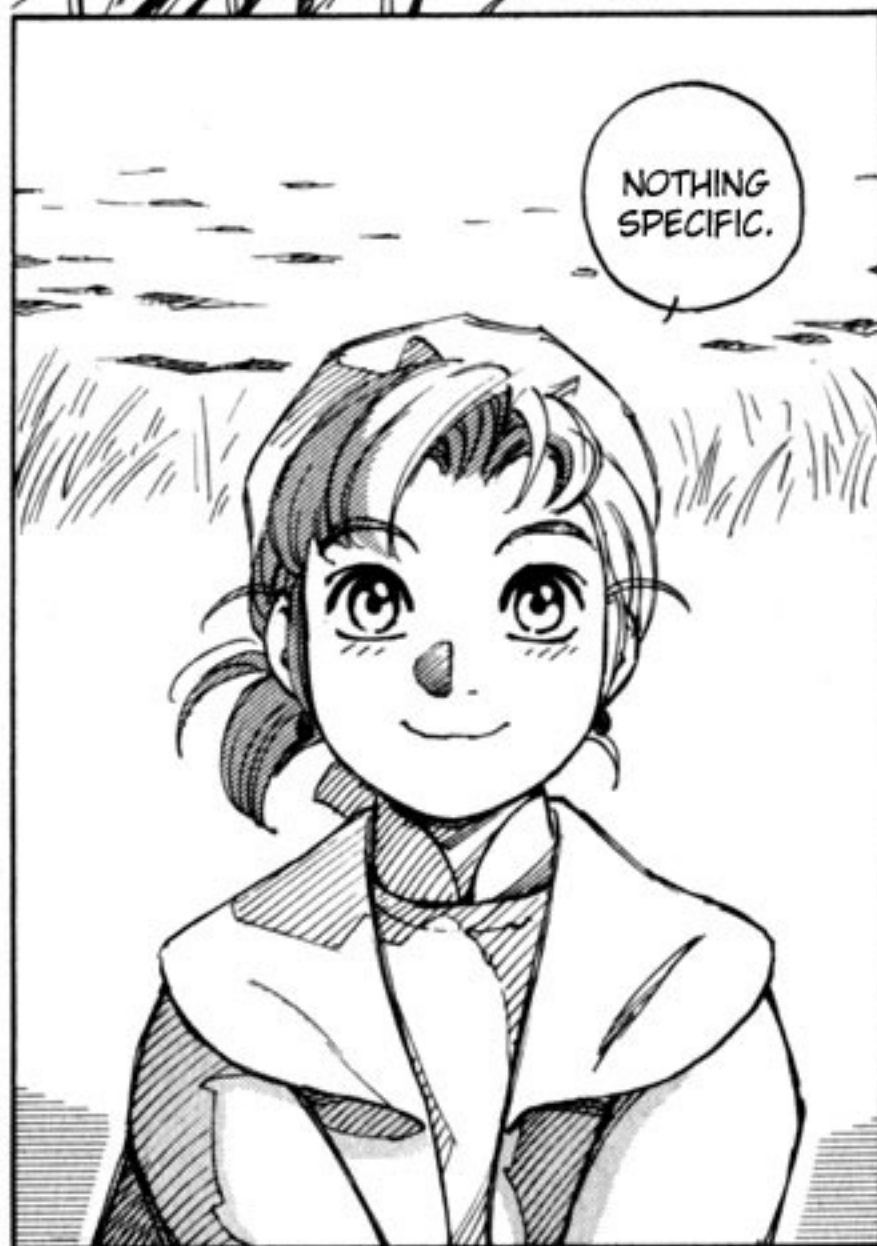
HMM?
WHAT
FOR?

UH,
THANK YOU
VERY
MUCH.



.....

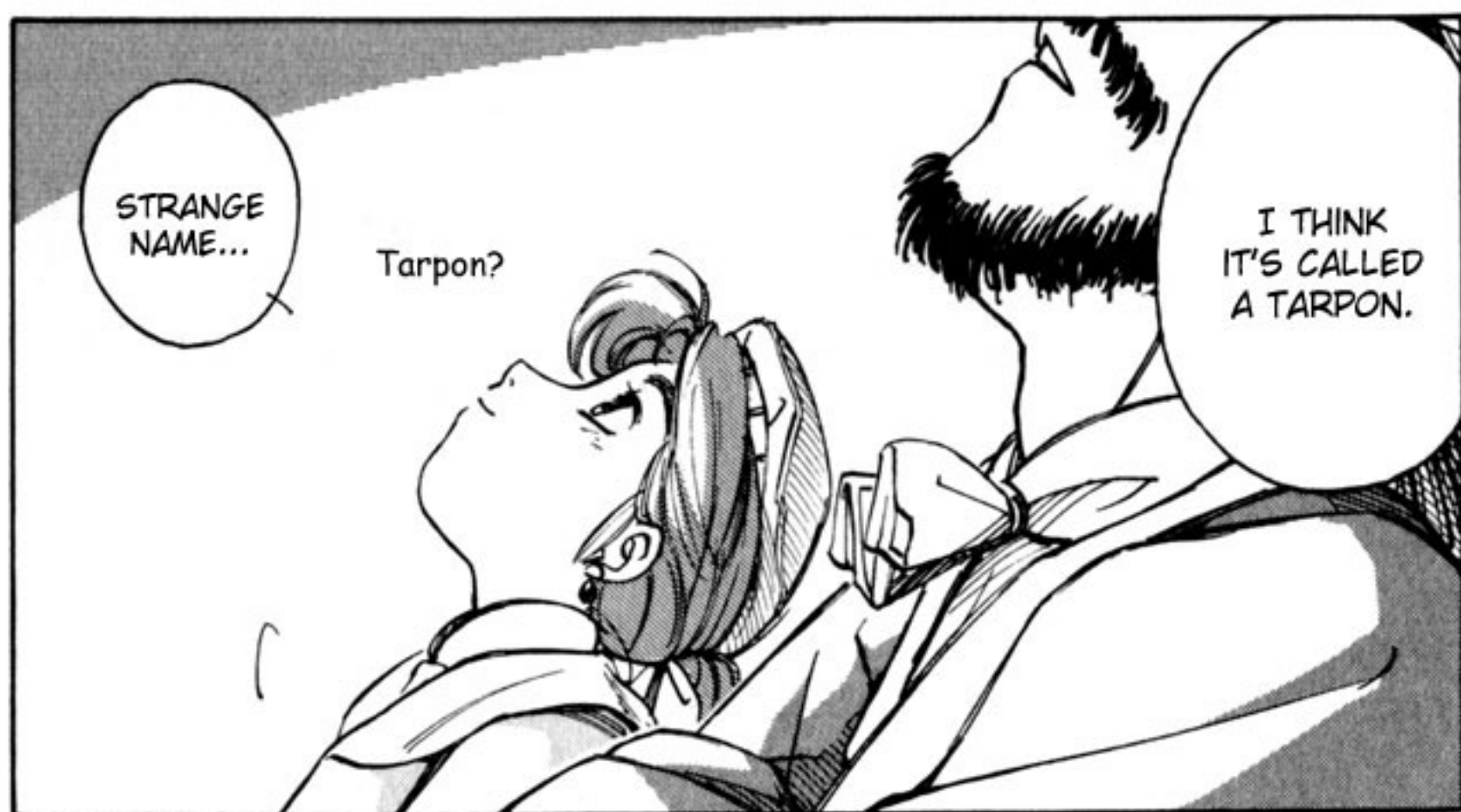
AH, JUST
HER PER-
SONALITY
...



NOTHING
SPECIFIC.



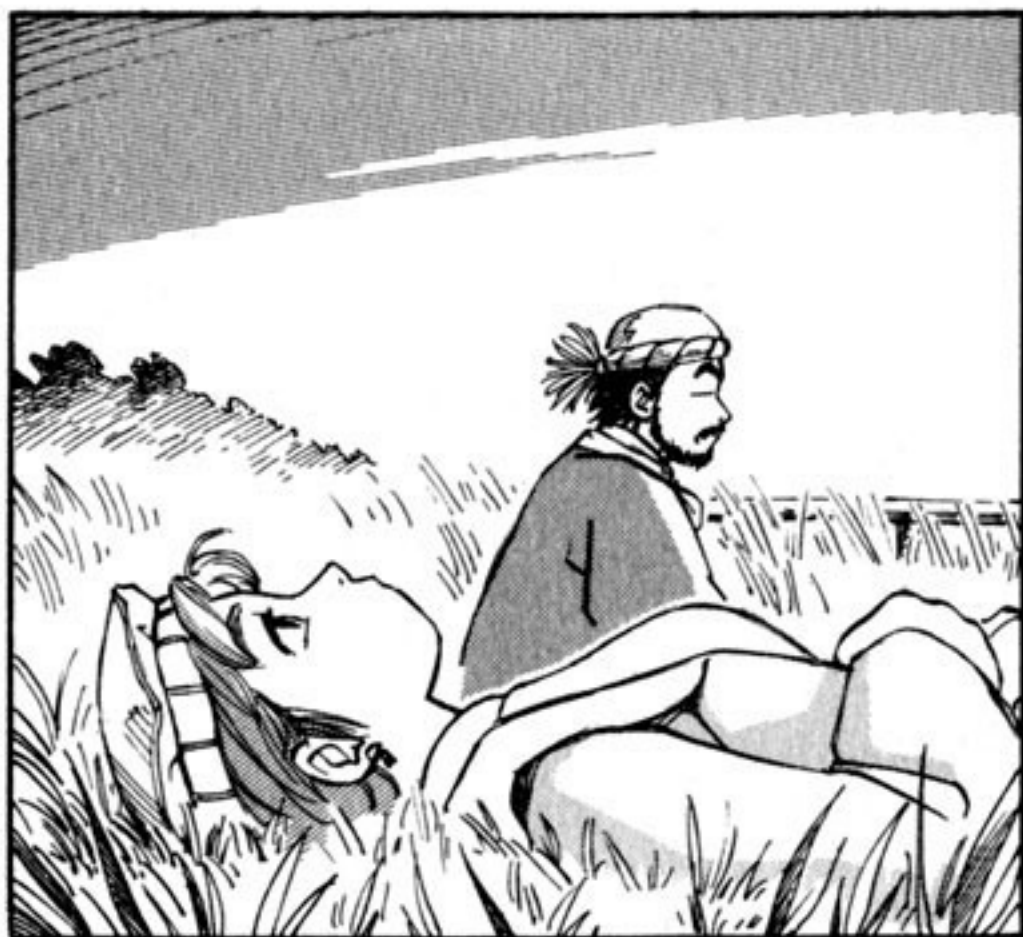












Ah!

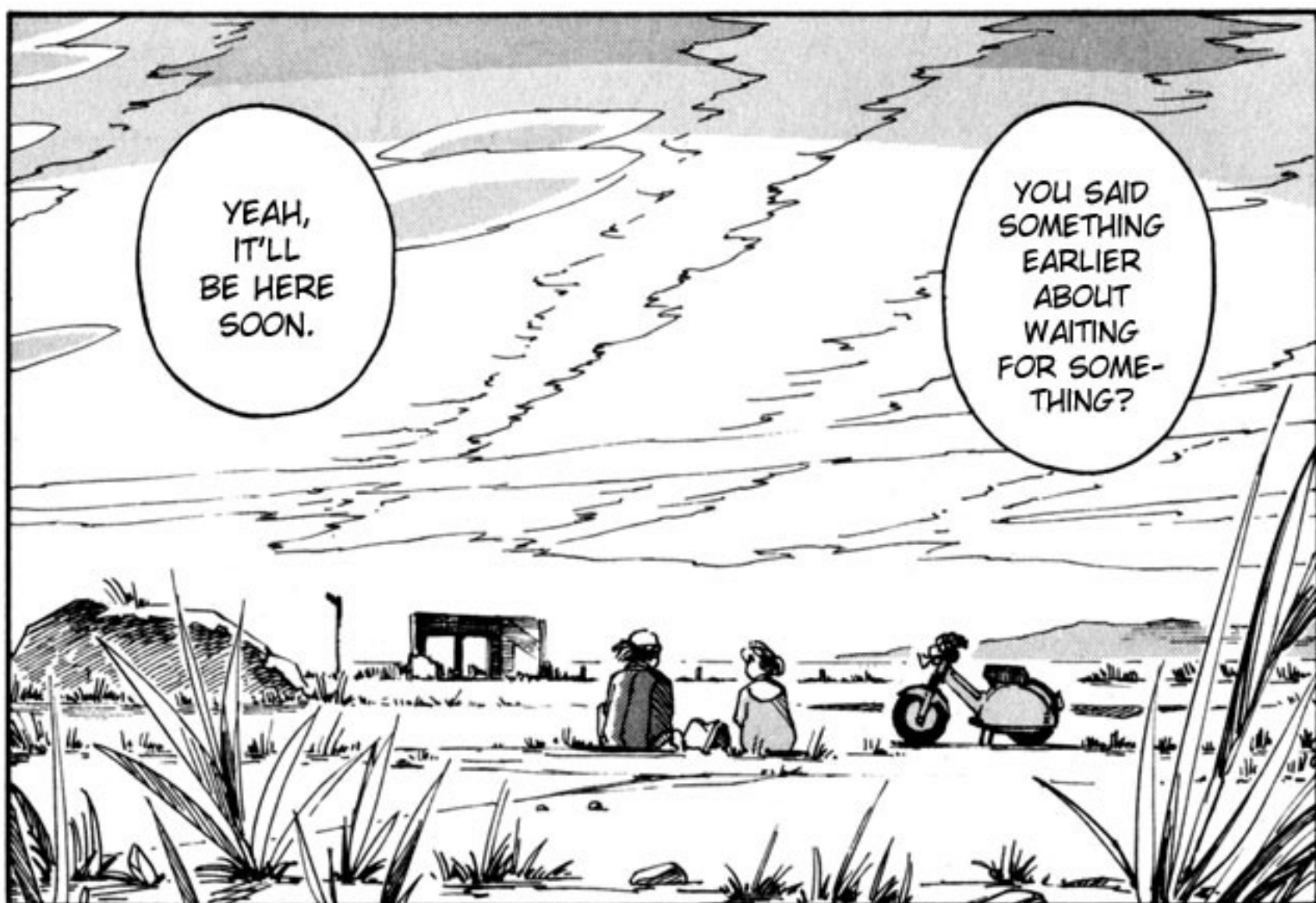
HERE IT
COMES.



HIGHER!
IT'S
BLUE...

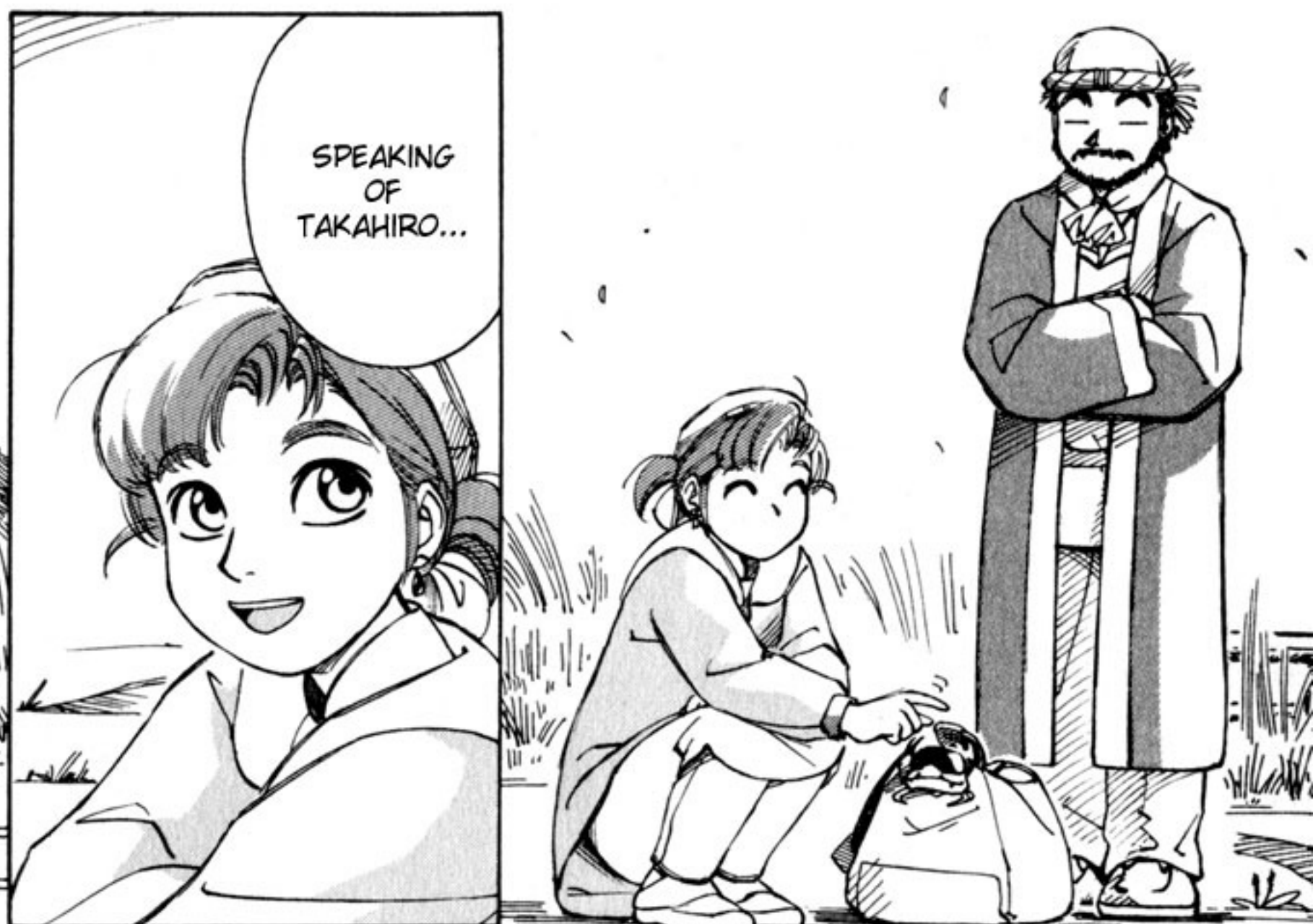
THE
BIRDS?











SPEAKING
OF
TAKAHIRO...

SHE'S
GOTTA BE
THE GIRL
HE TOLD
ME ABOUT
...

I DON'T
REMEMBER
HIM EVER
MENTIONING
YOUR FISH
TO ME.

Story 20

Phoenix (H0H)





WE HAD A
LITTLE RUN
IN WITH THE
MISAGO
LAST TIME...

I'M KNOWN
AS AYASE.



I CAN'T
KEEP MY
MOUTH
SHUT...



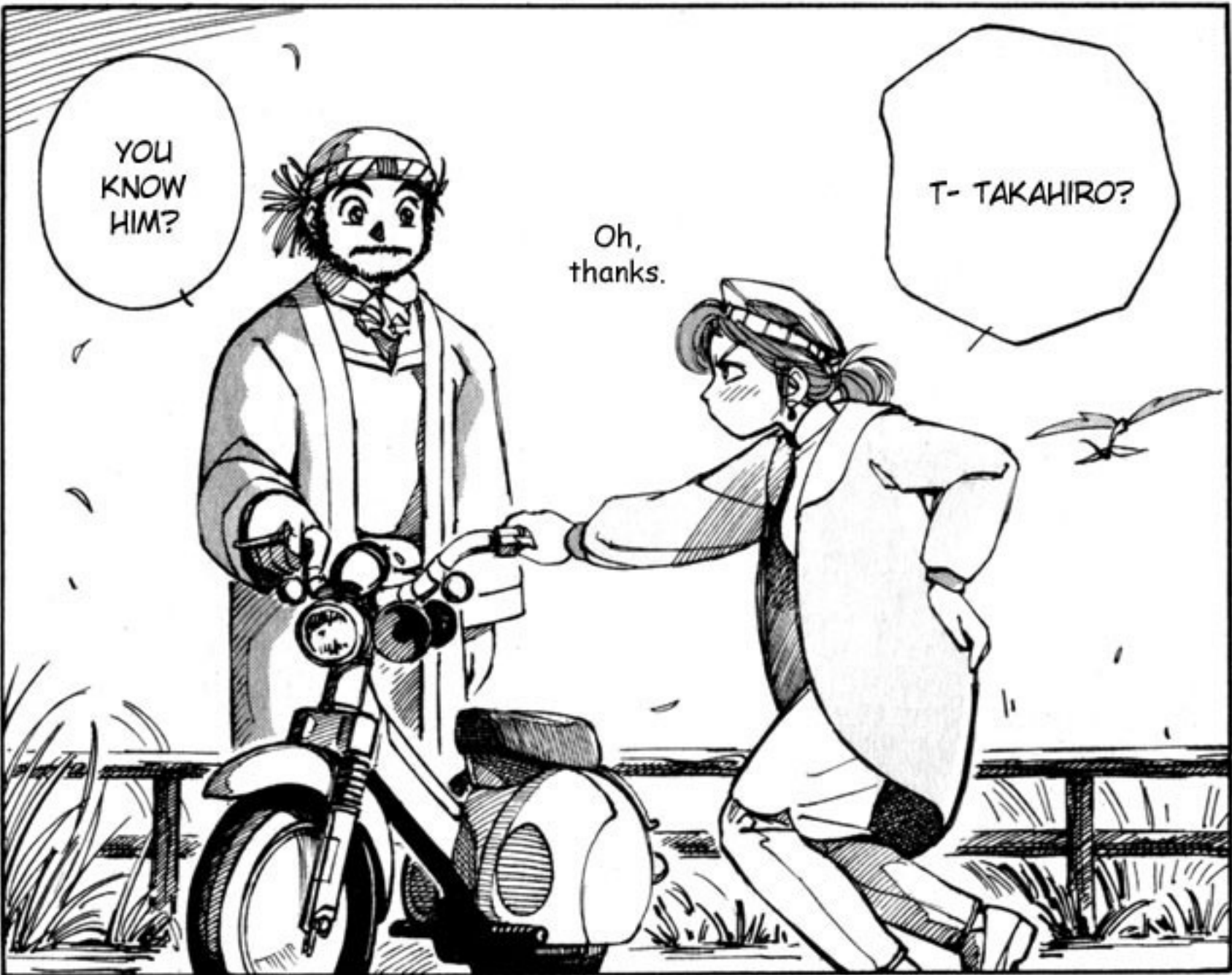
OH.



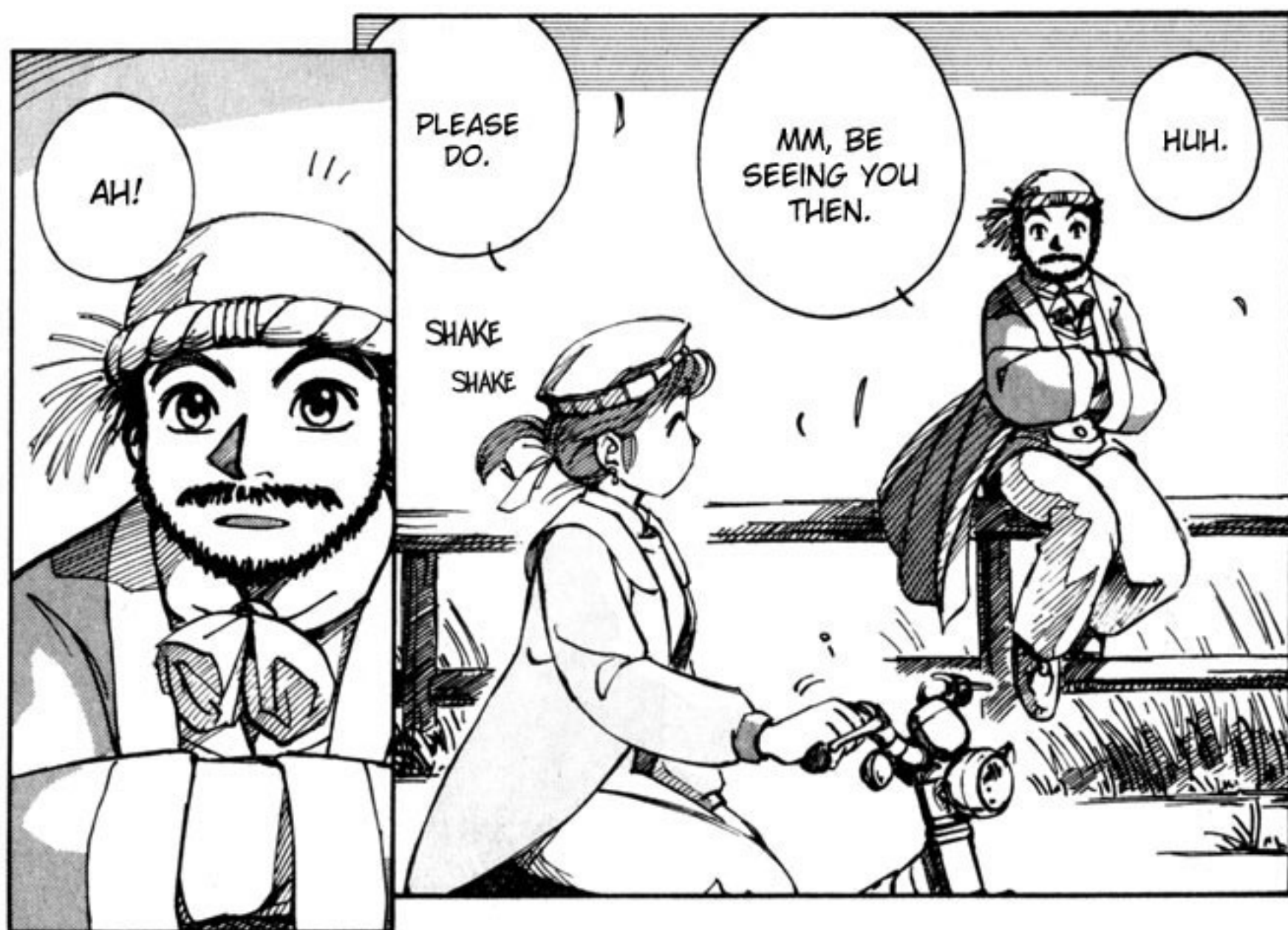
M- MISAGO?

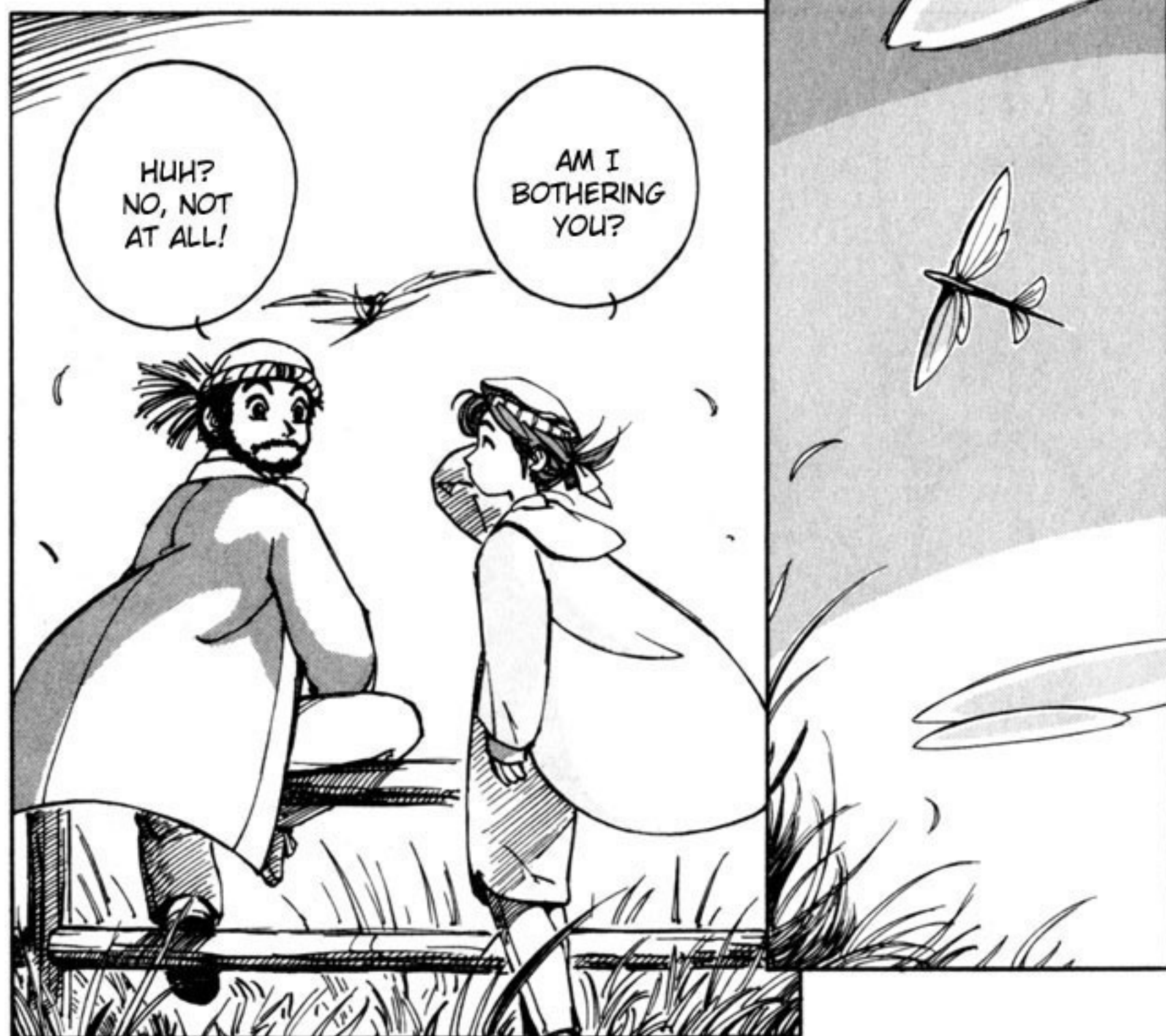


Story 19 - End

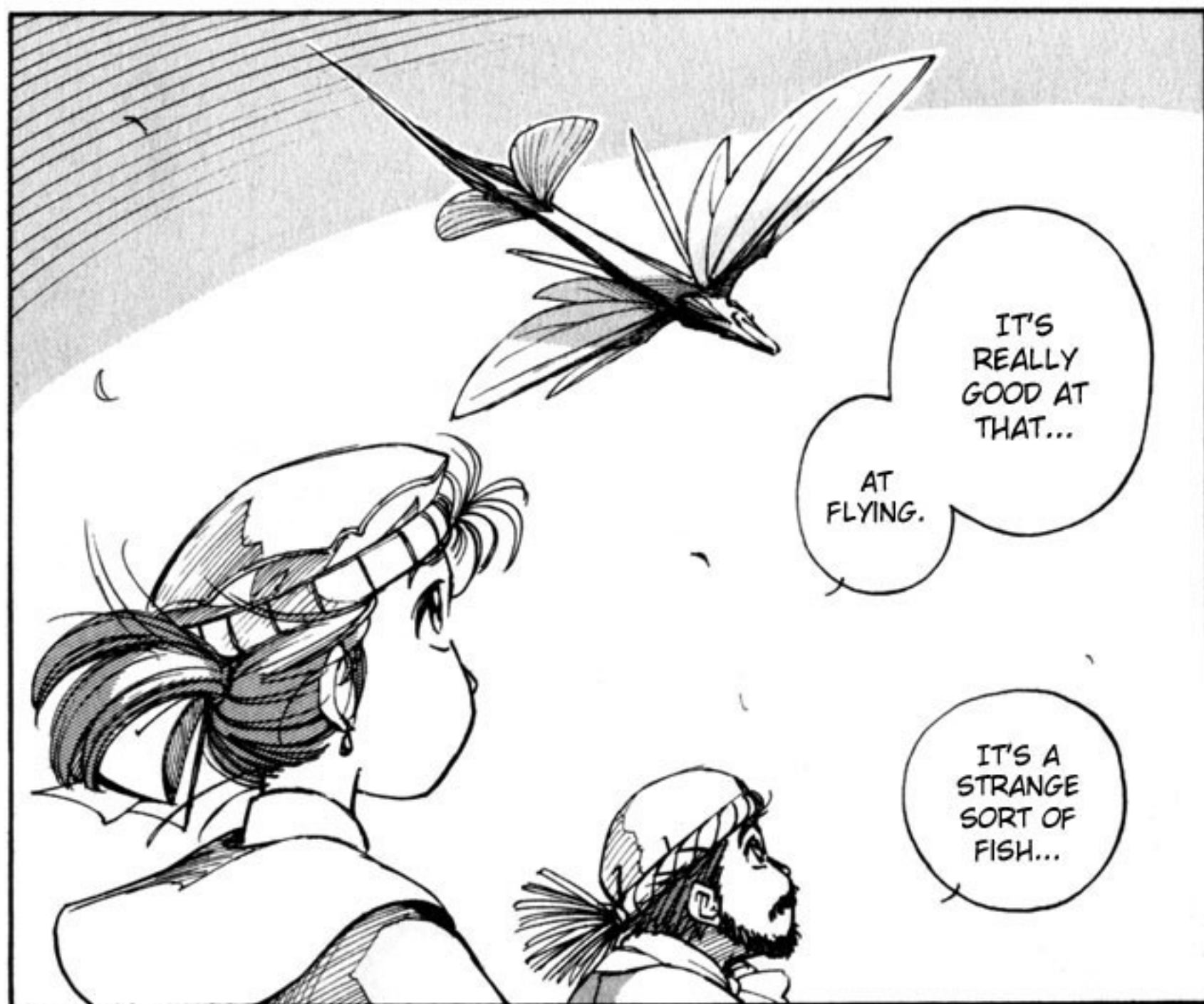






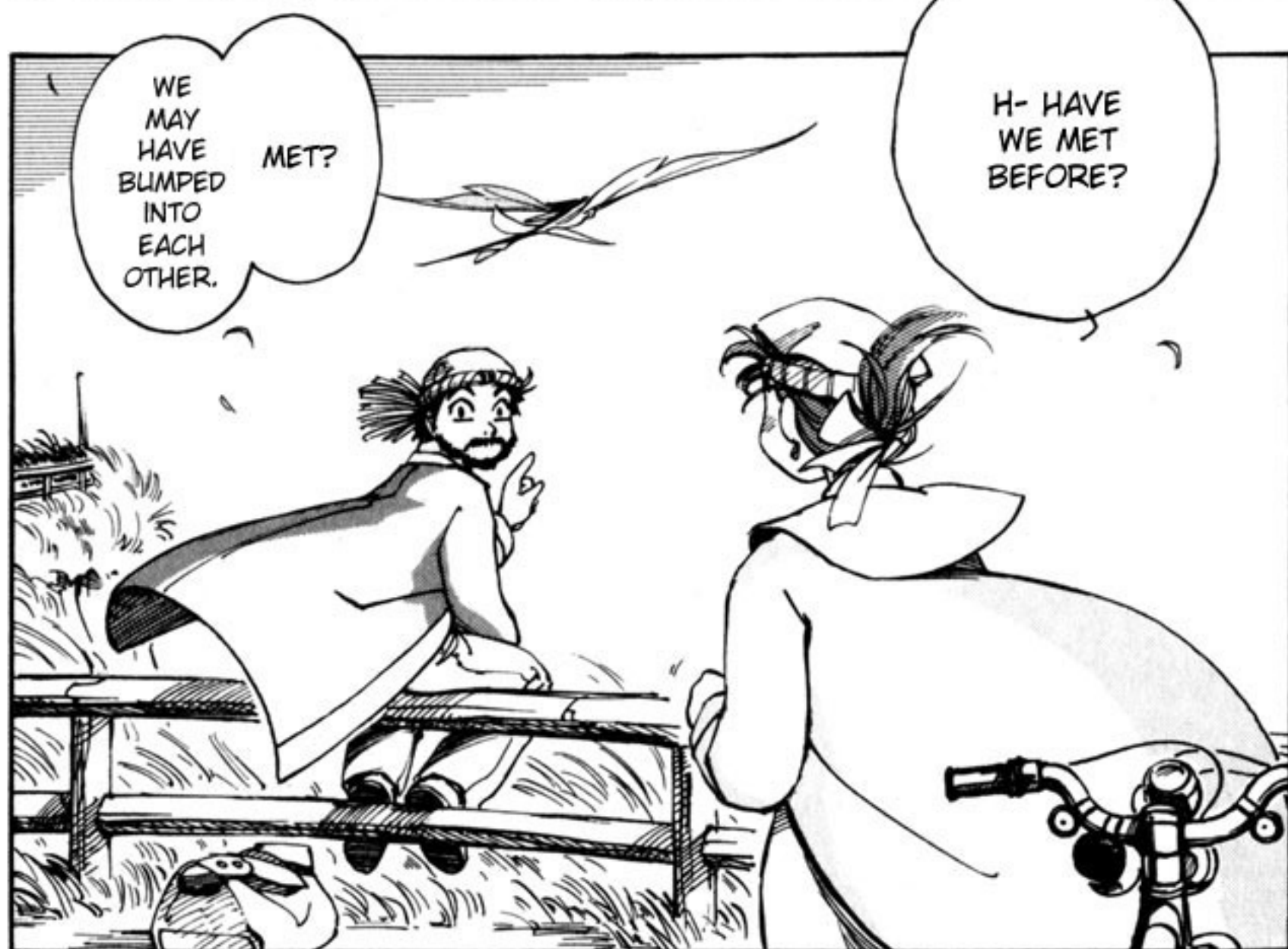
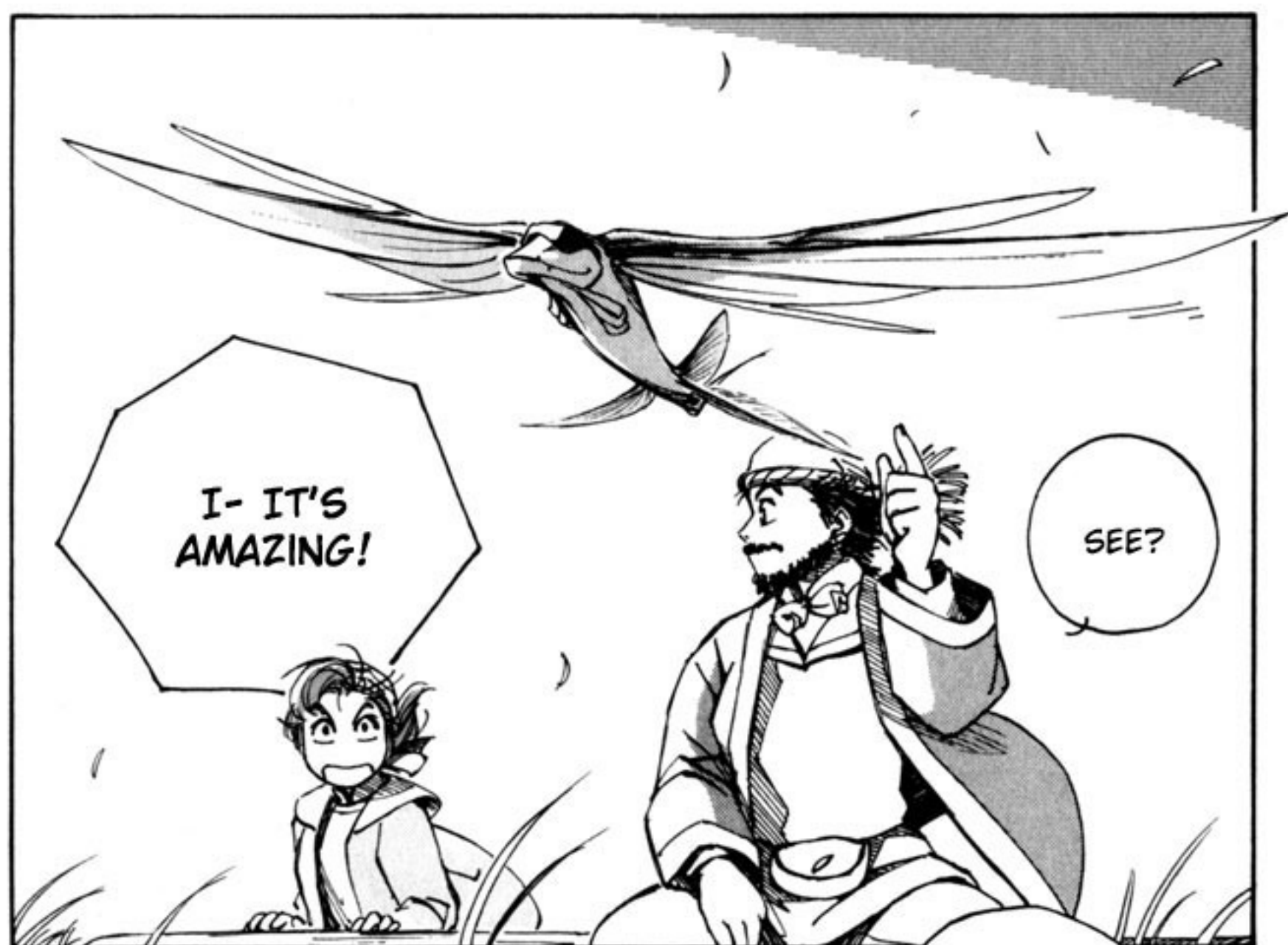


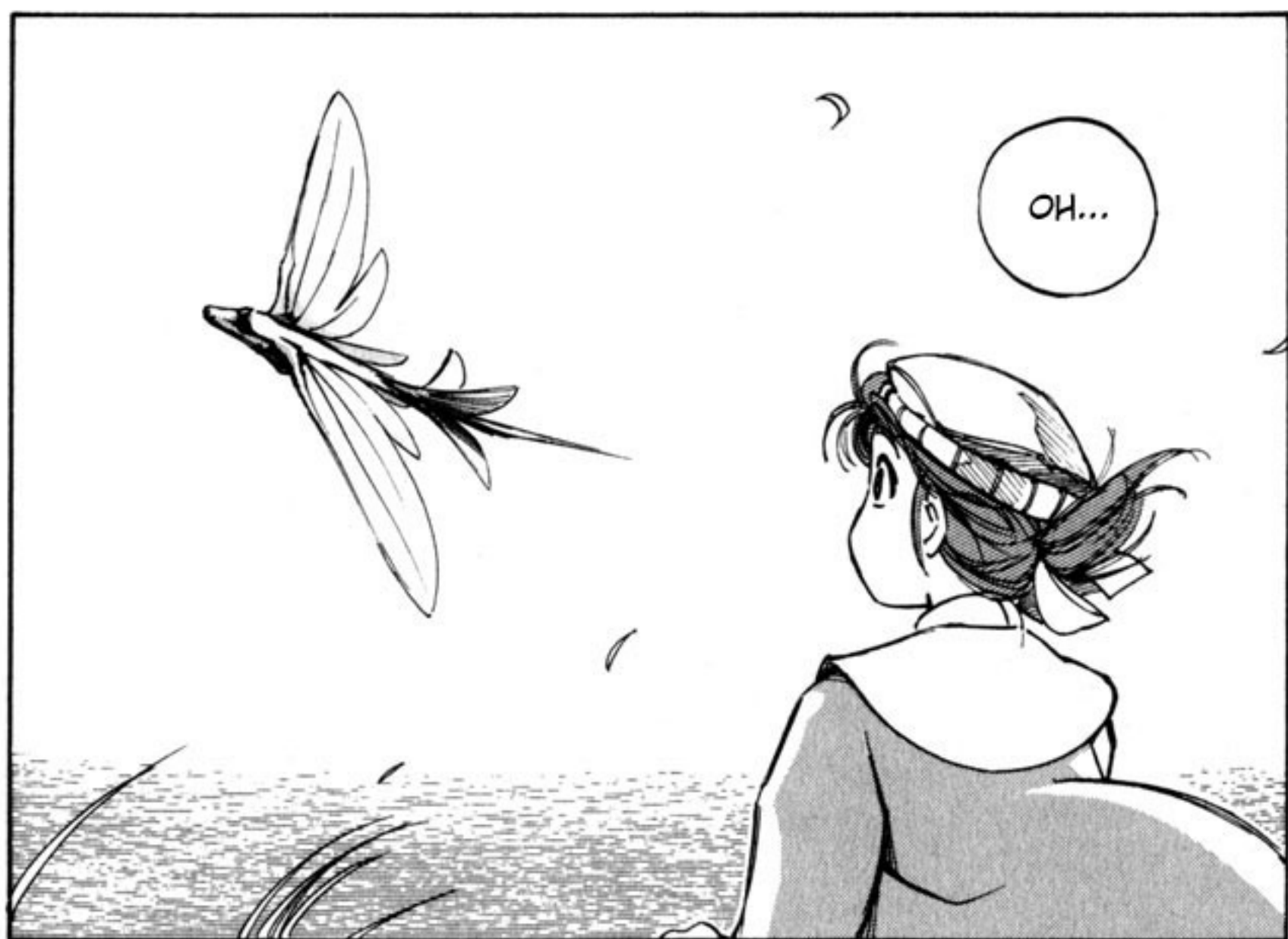
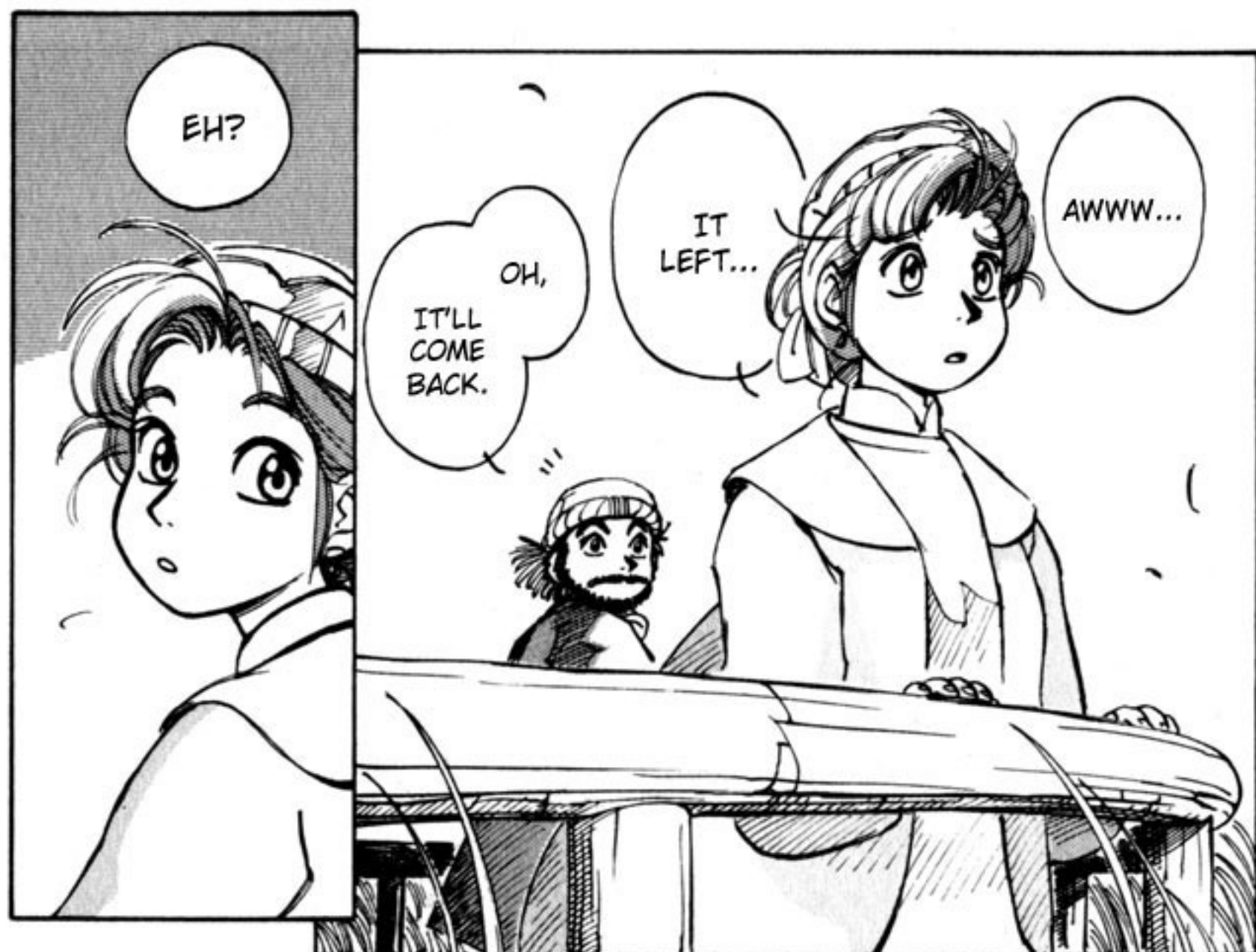






Oh...

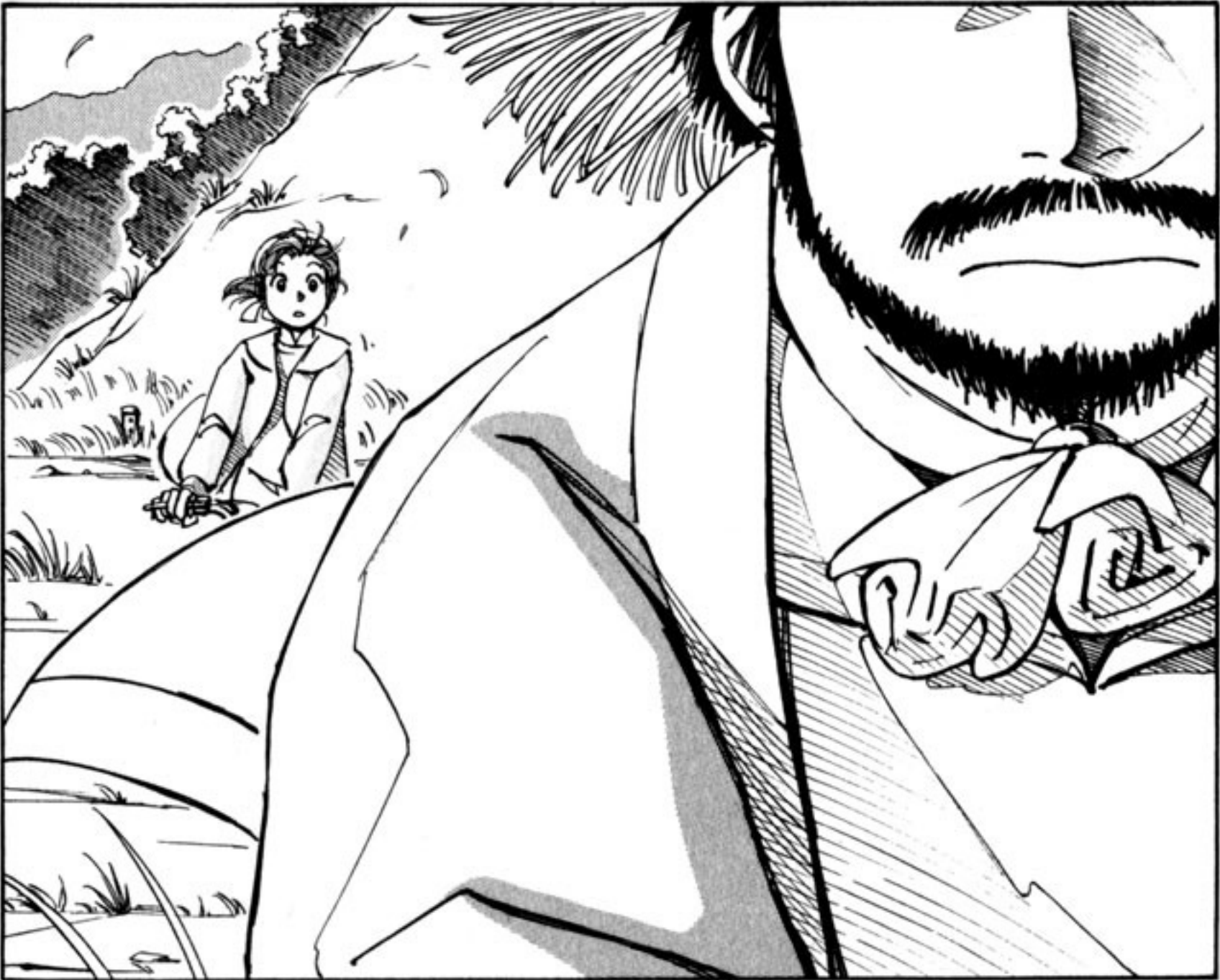








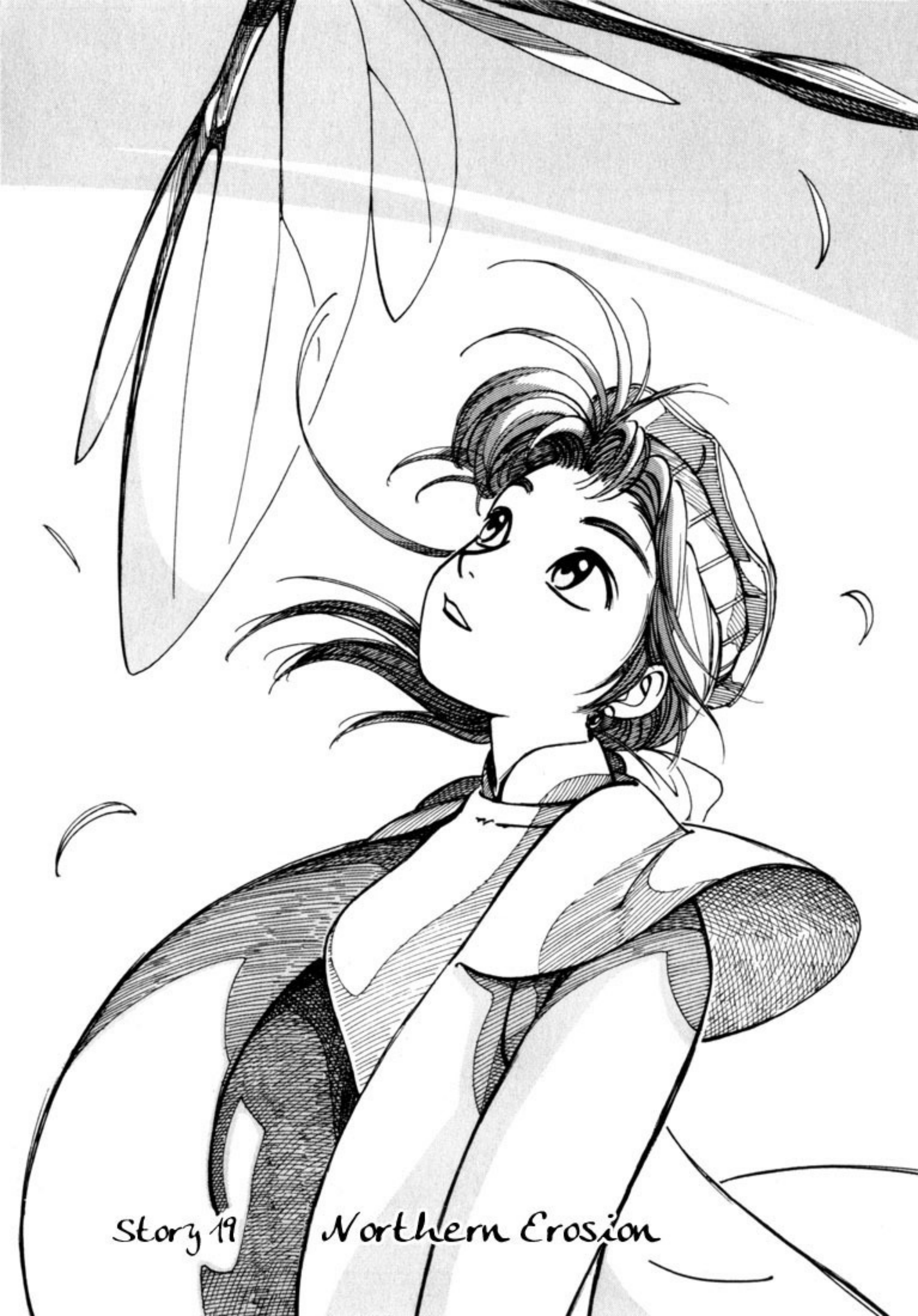




There, where
the sea wind
breaks...

The great
crumbling
North...





Story 19

Northern Erosion

Until we meet again...

Takatsu Kokone



WHAT A
VERY DEEP
THINKER...

I guess...

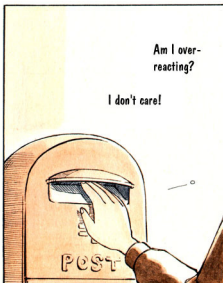
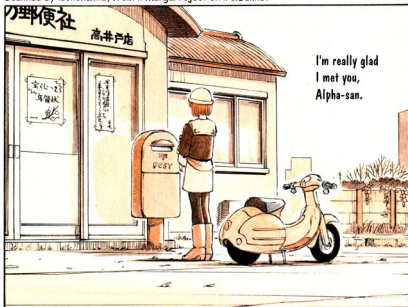


Story 18 - End

I'll come to
visit you again.

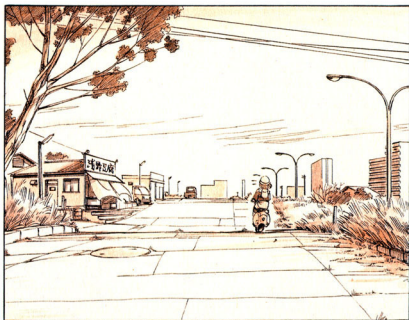
I promise!





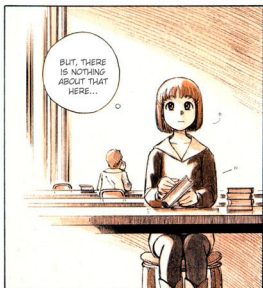
I think I'm
becoming
more relaxed
all round.

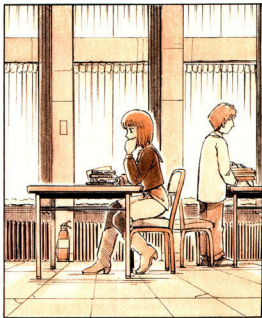
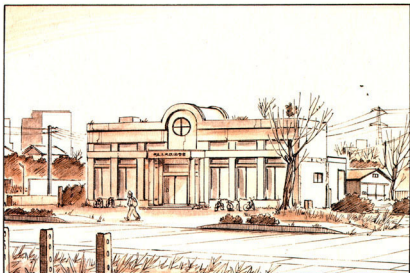
Recently, I've found
that I'm becoming a
little more comfortable
with this.





I now believe that
robotic behaviors
are just a part of
our personalities.

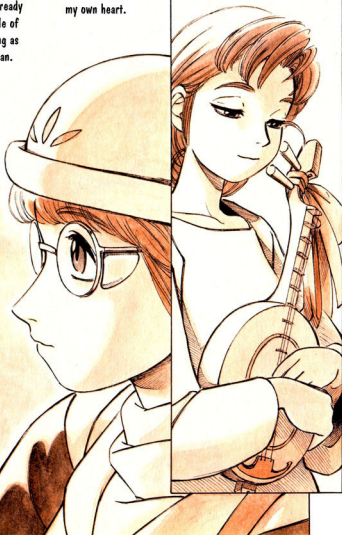


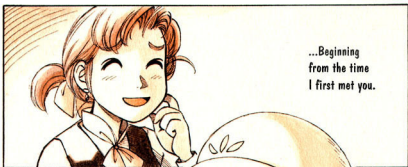


It seems
I'm already
capable of
passing as
a human.

I didn't need the
ability to act like
a human, since you
allowed me to find
my own heart.

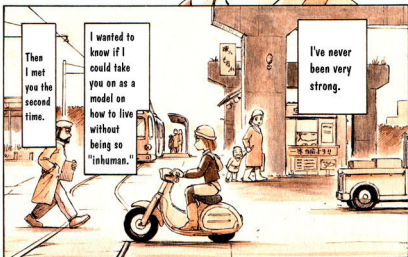
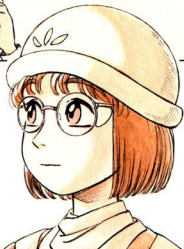
What happened
then was a
shock to me.





...Beginning
from the time
I first met you.

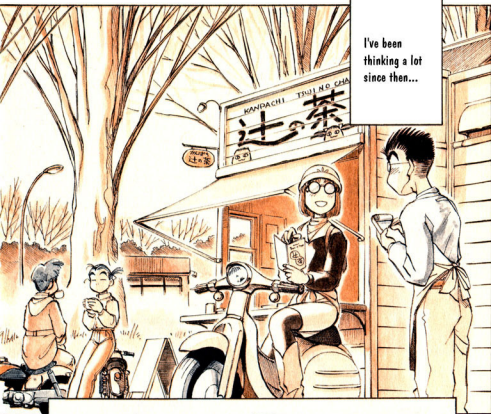
Before then, my
robotic qualities
were the more
noticeable ones...



Then
I met
you the
second
time.

I wanted to
know if I
could take
you on as a
model on
how to live
without
being so
"inhuman."

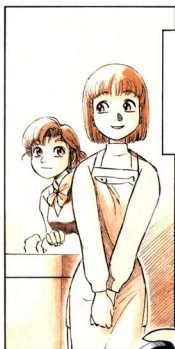
I've never
been very
strong.



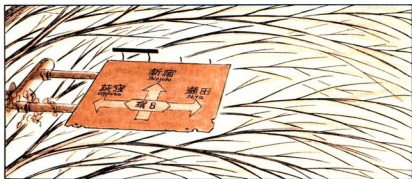
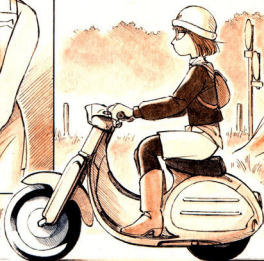
I've been
thinking a lot
since then...



I have also
started to act
"more human"...

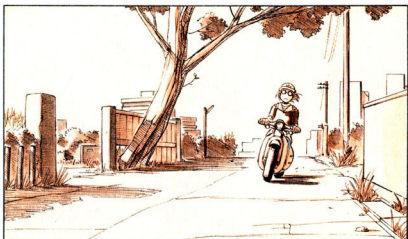
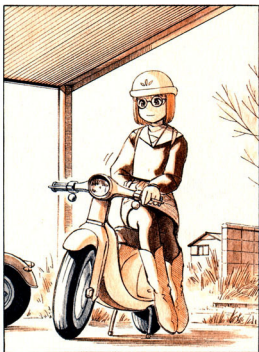


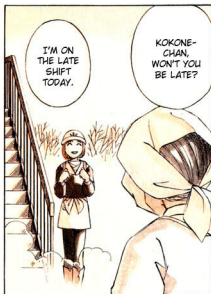
That single day
has become
very important
to me.

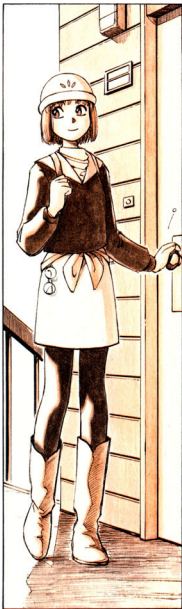
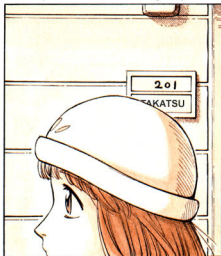






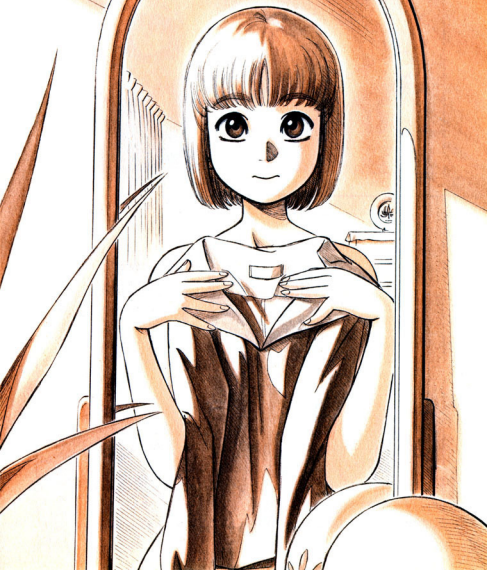


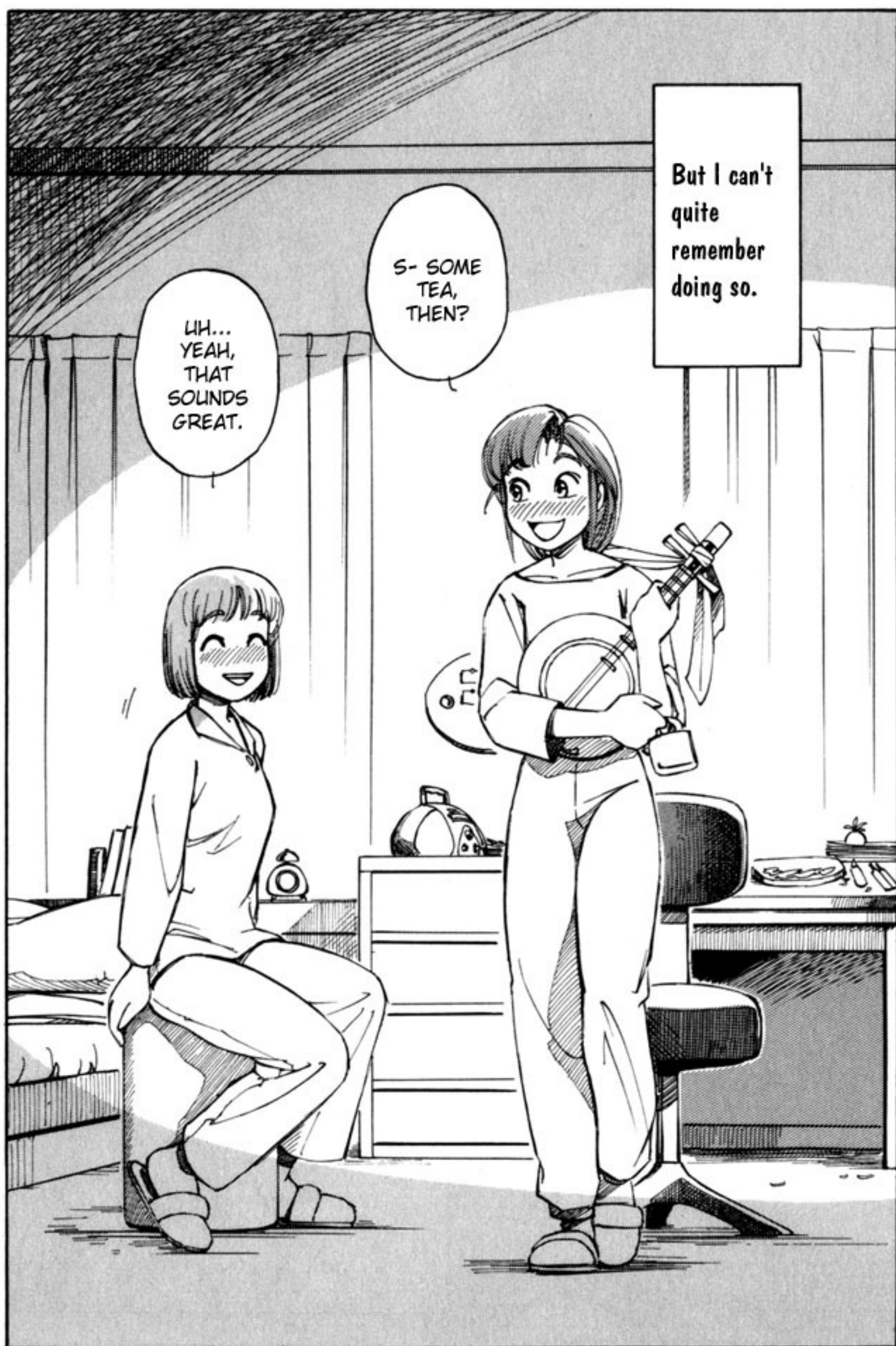


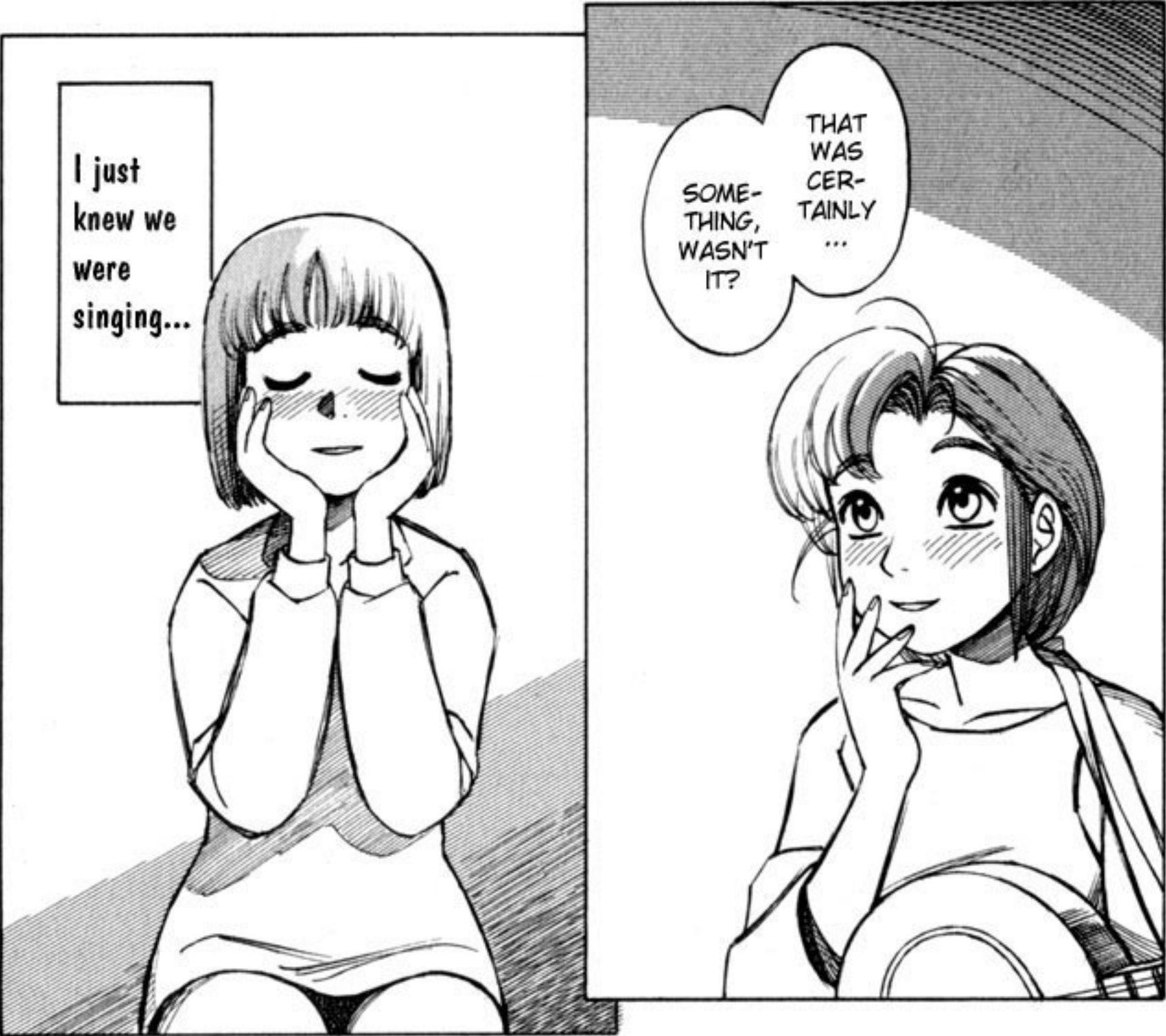
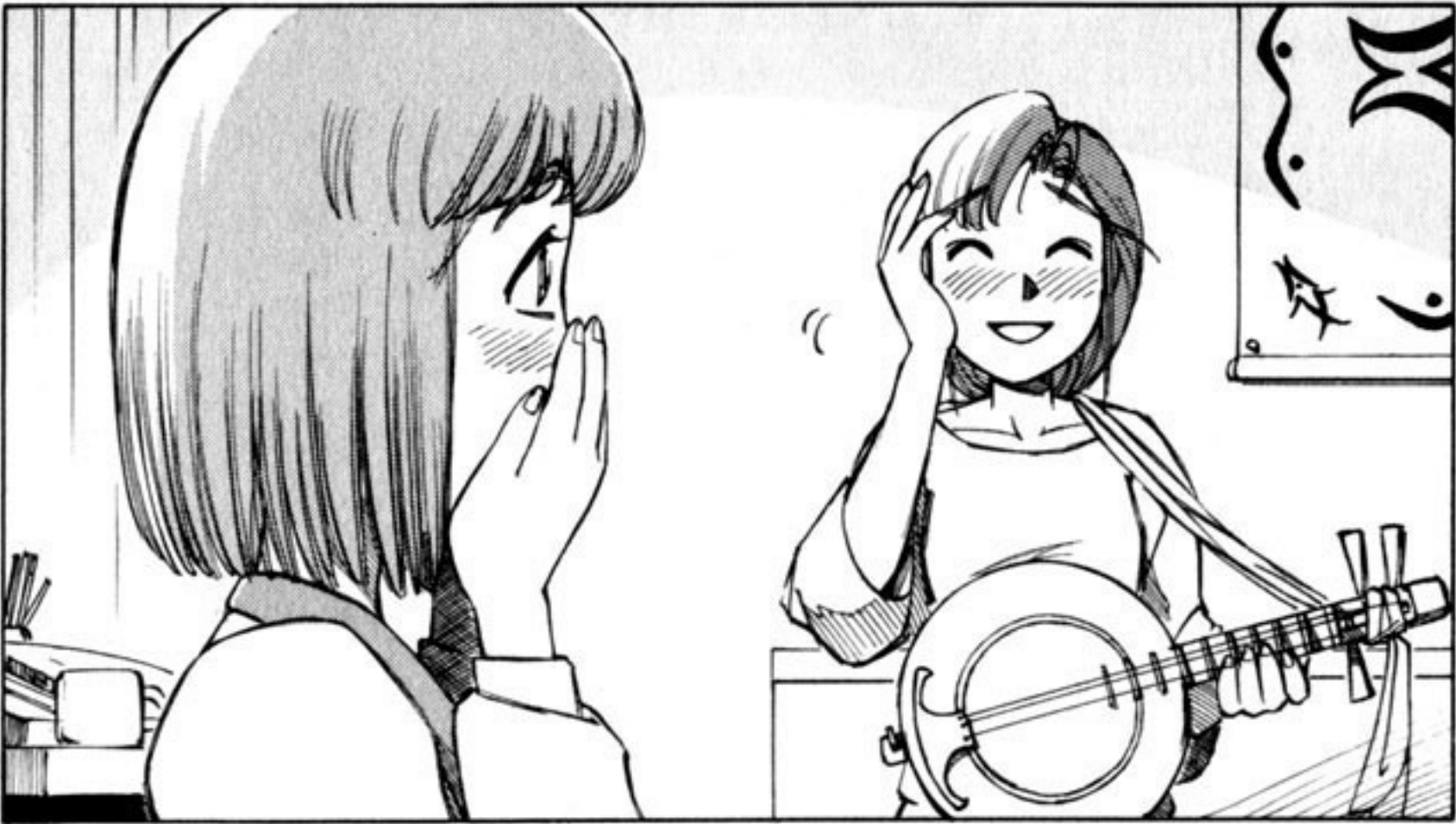


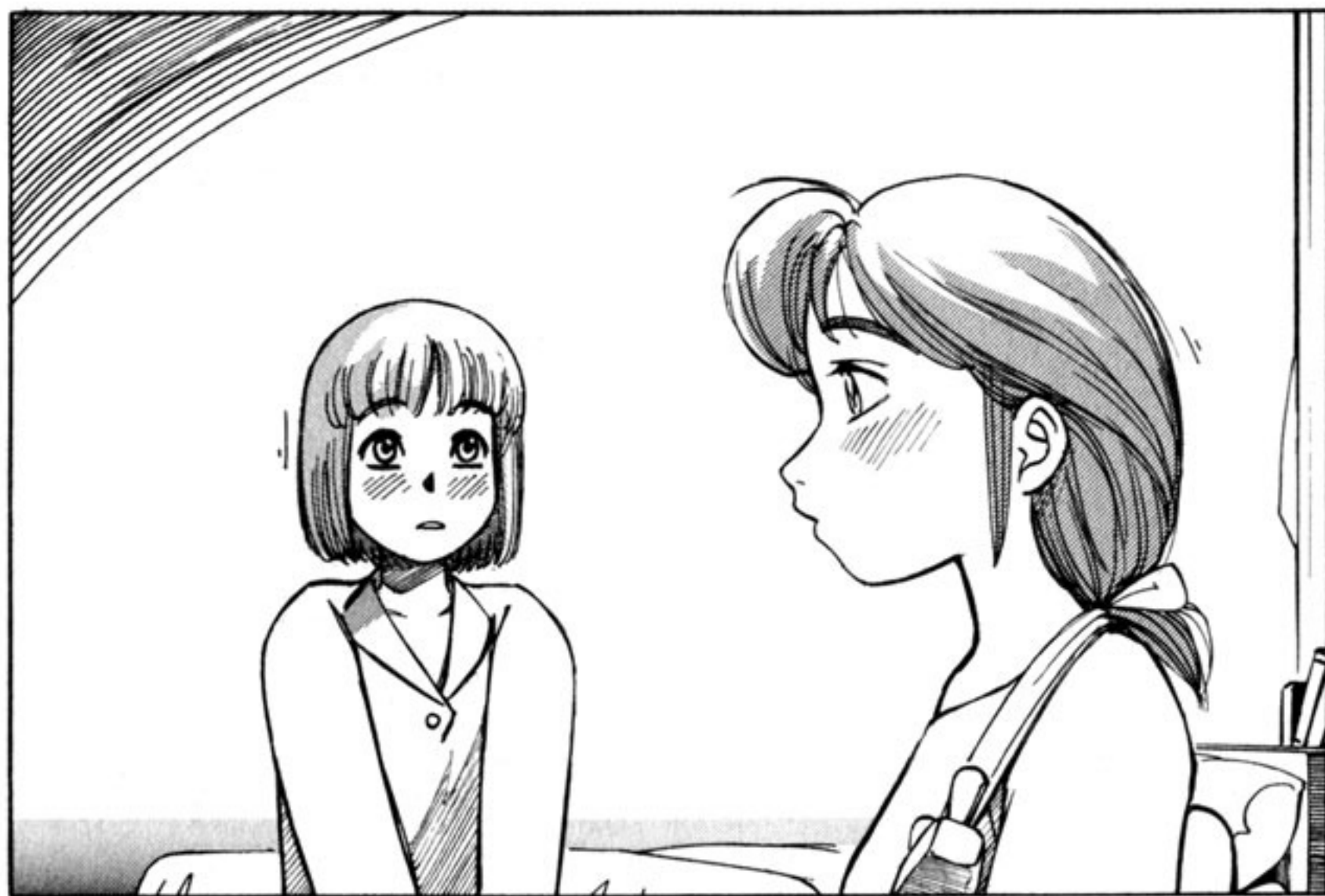
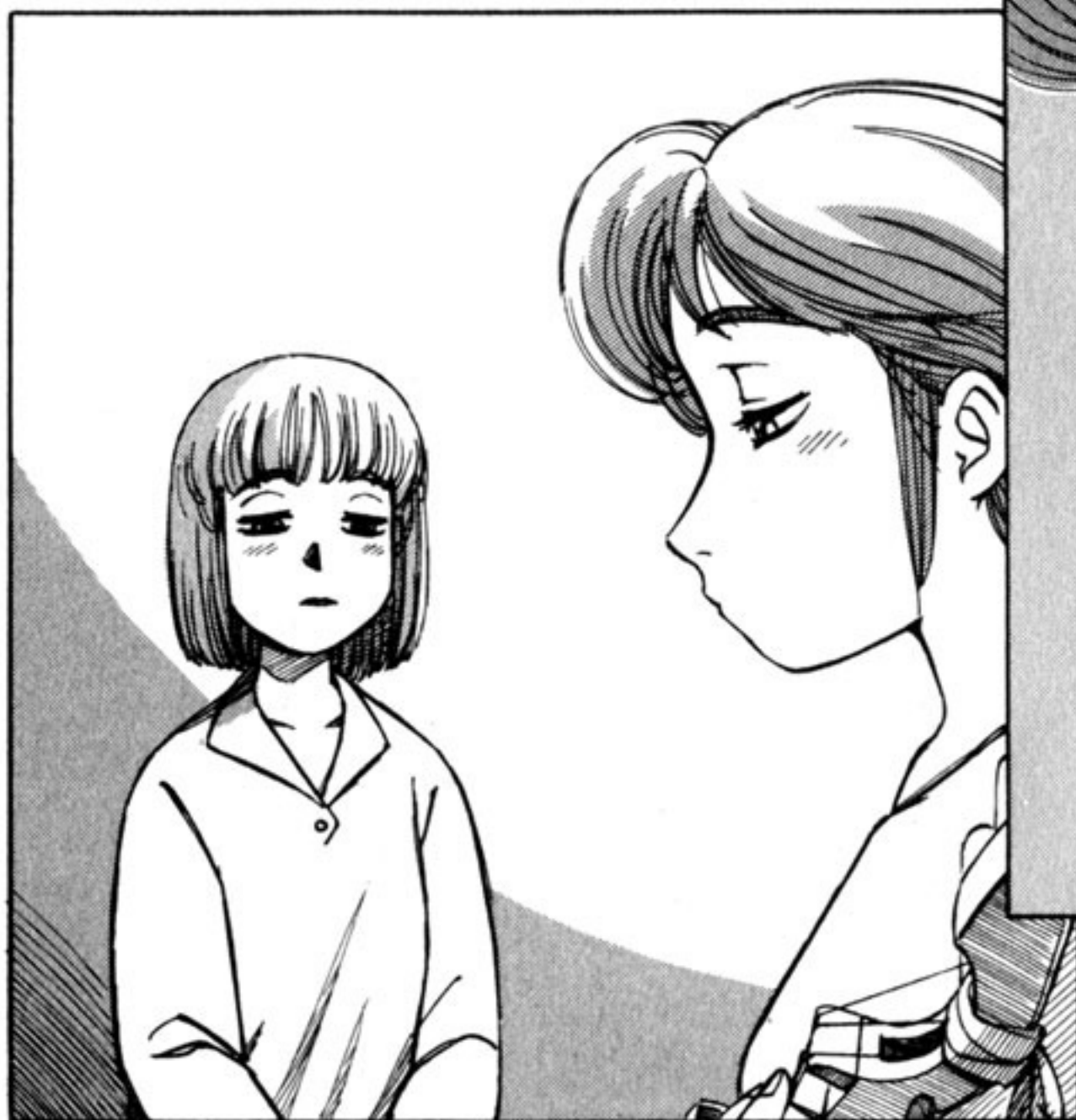
Story 18

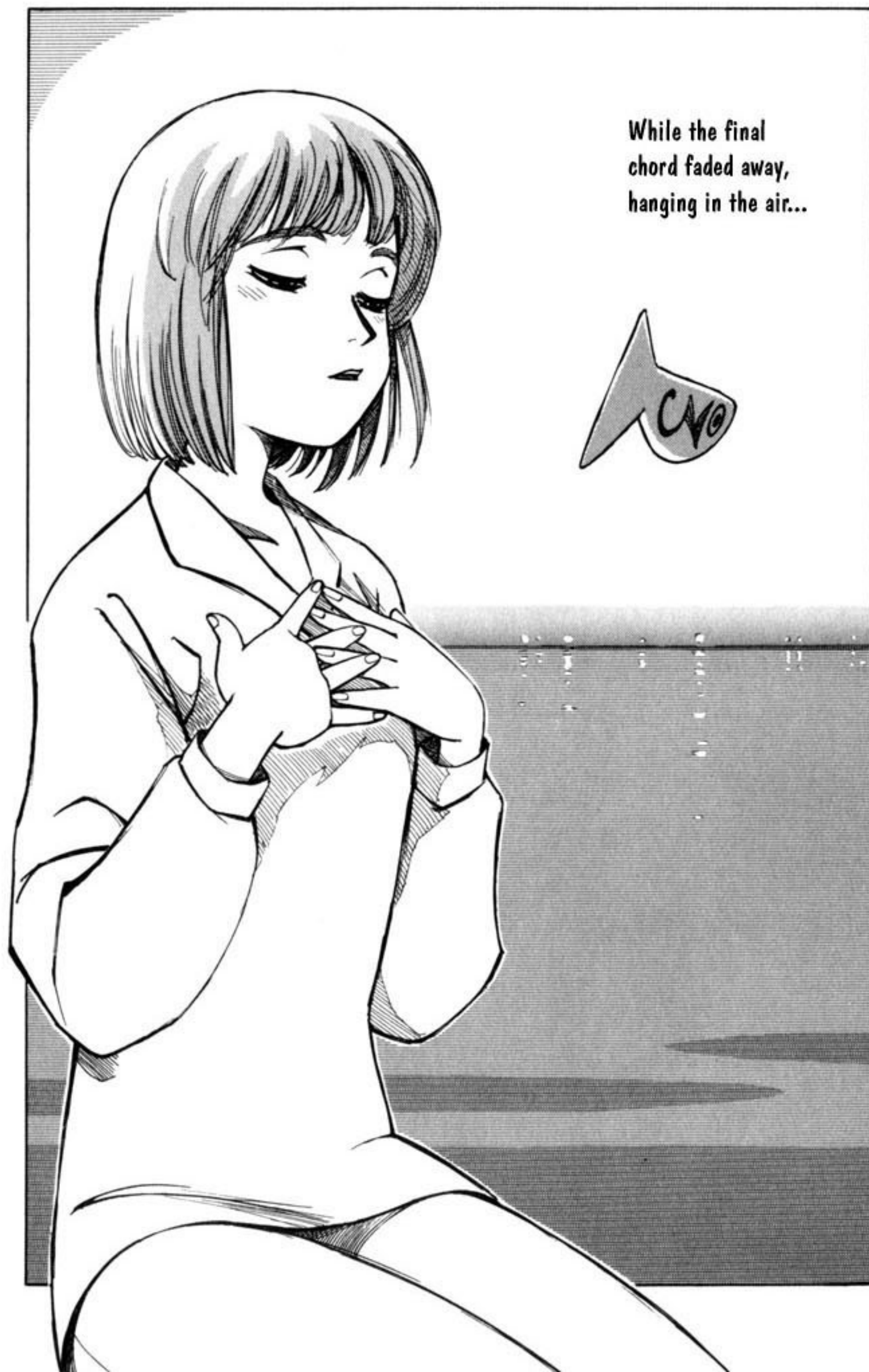
Musashino,
the Old Capital









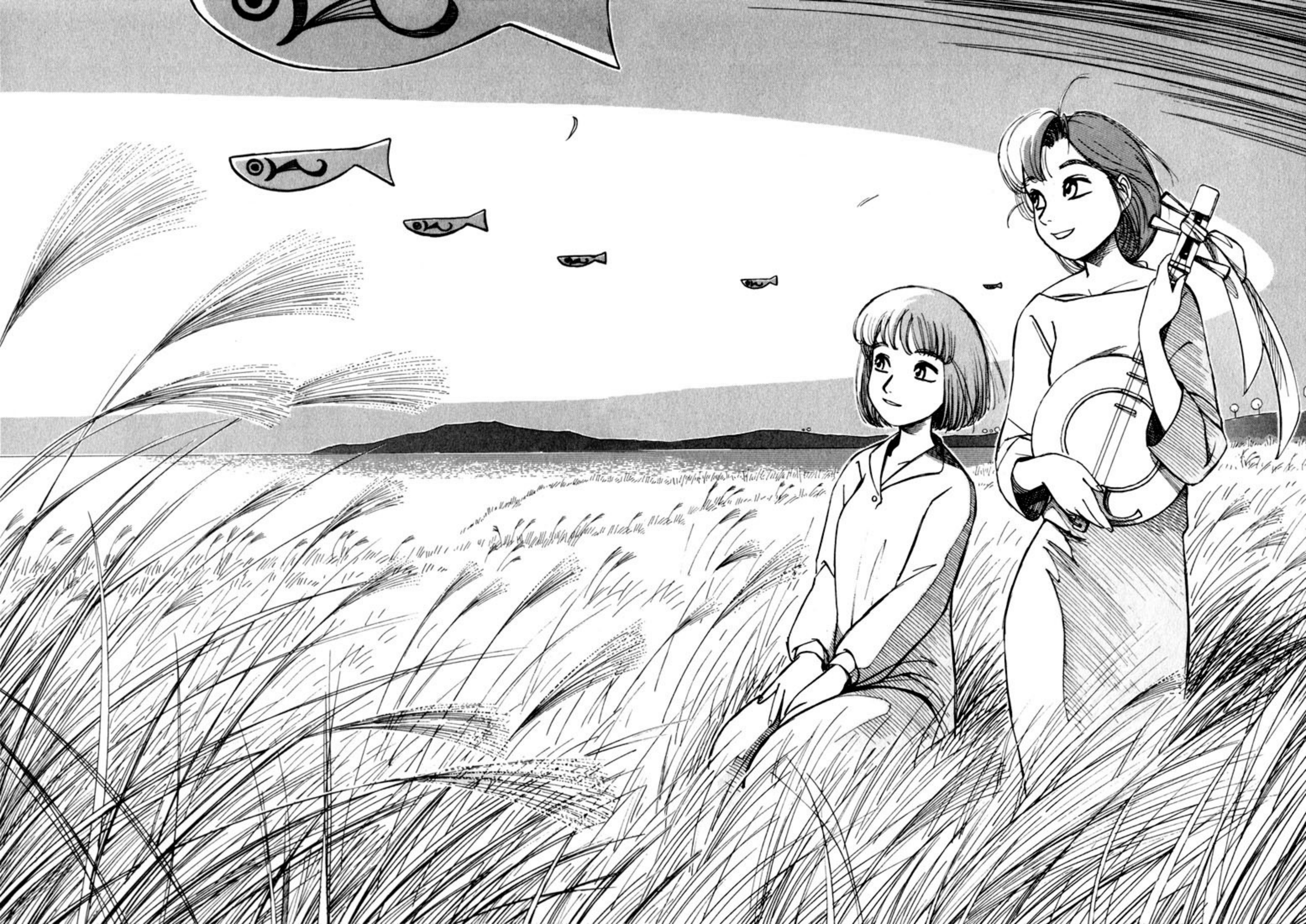


While the final
chord faded away,
hanging in the air...



I knew we were
breathing together;
singing in unison...

It was a magical
moment...





Alpha-san was
humming too...

The music
changed...

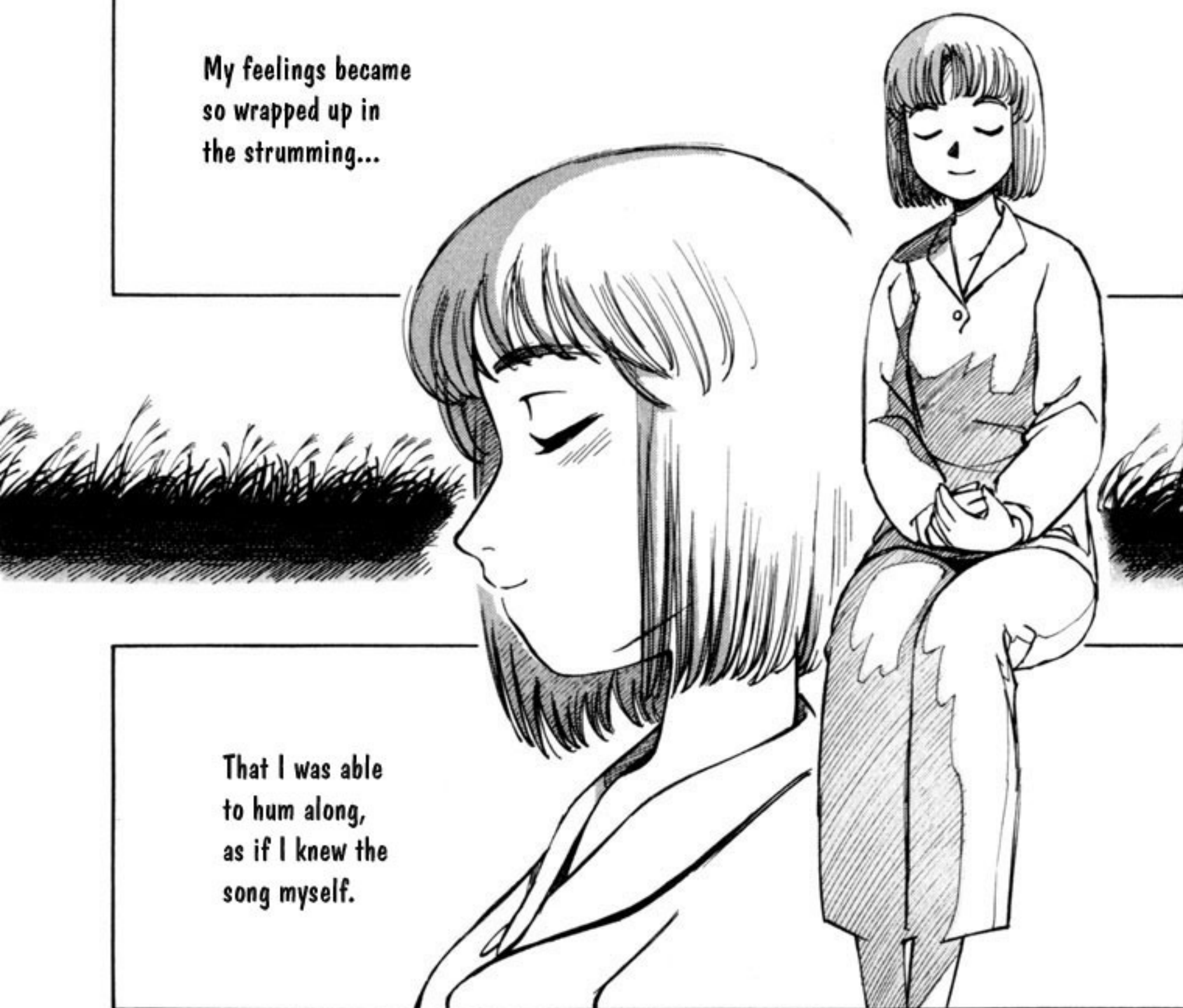


The three blended
together, leaving all
other sounds to
drop away..

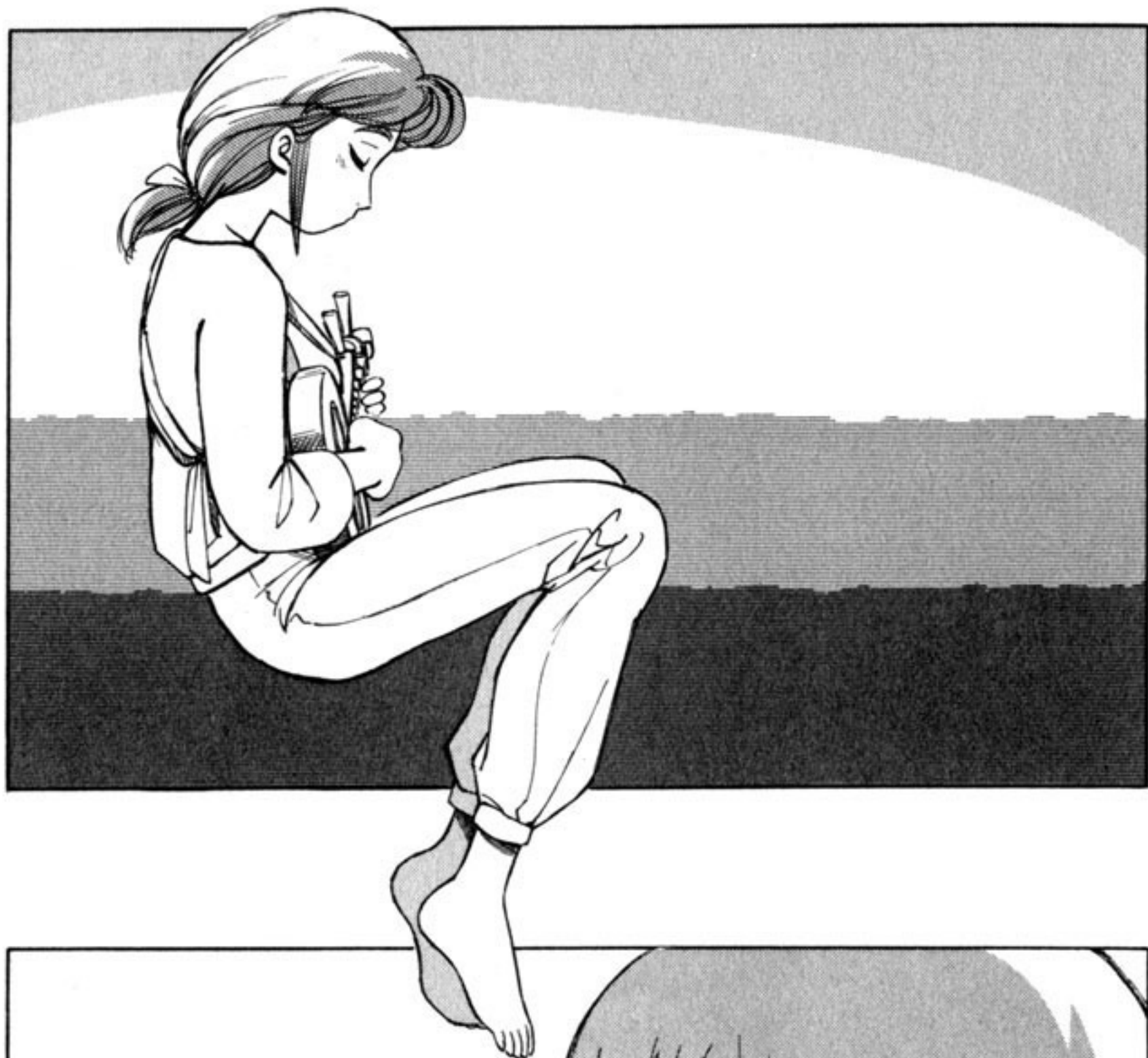
Two voices sang
with the Moon
Harp...



My feelings became
so wrapped up in
the strumming...

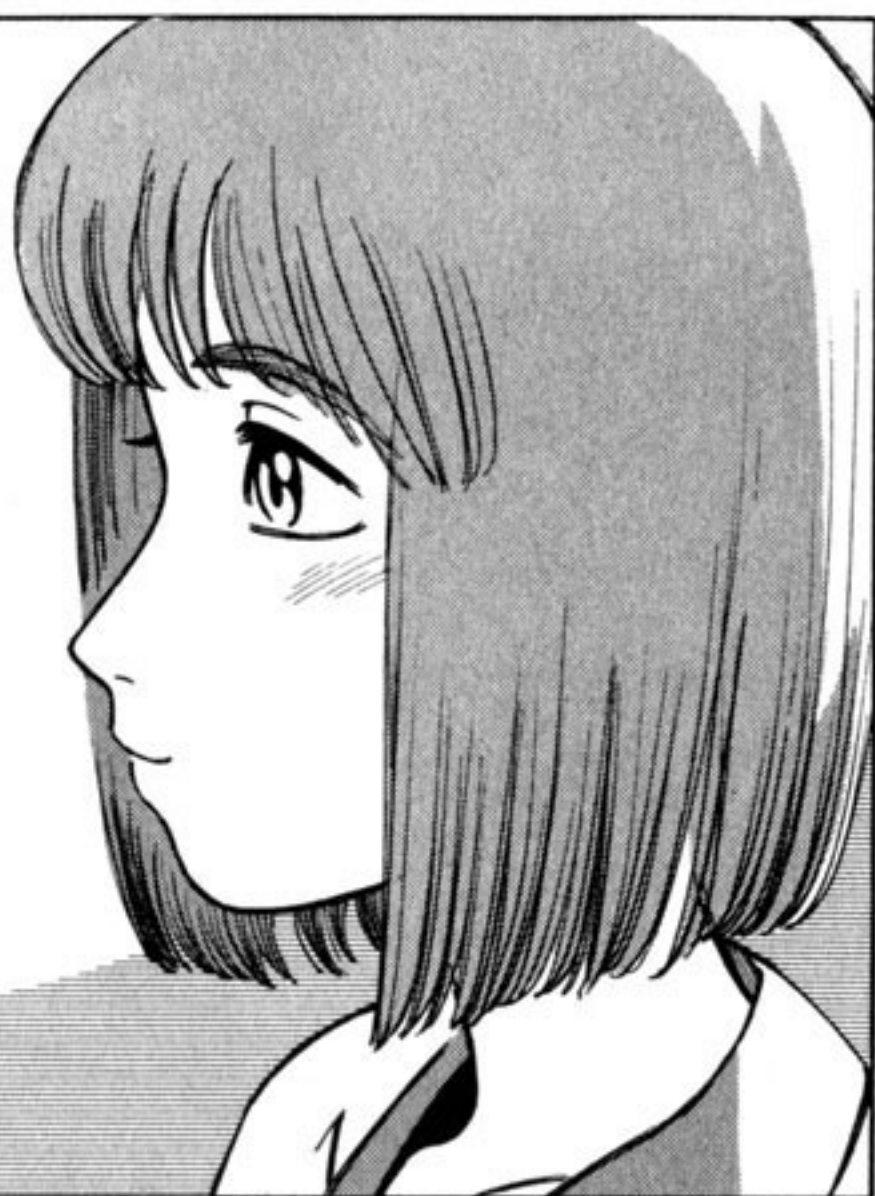


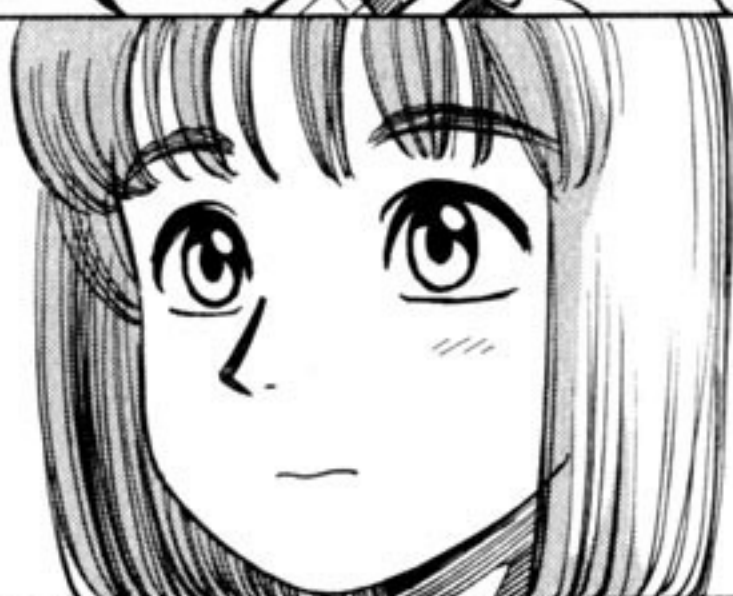
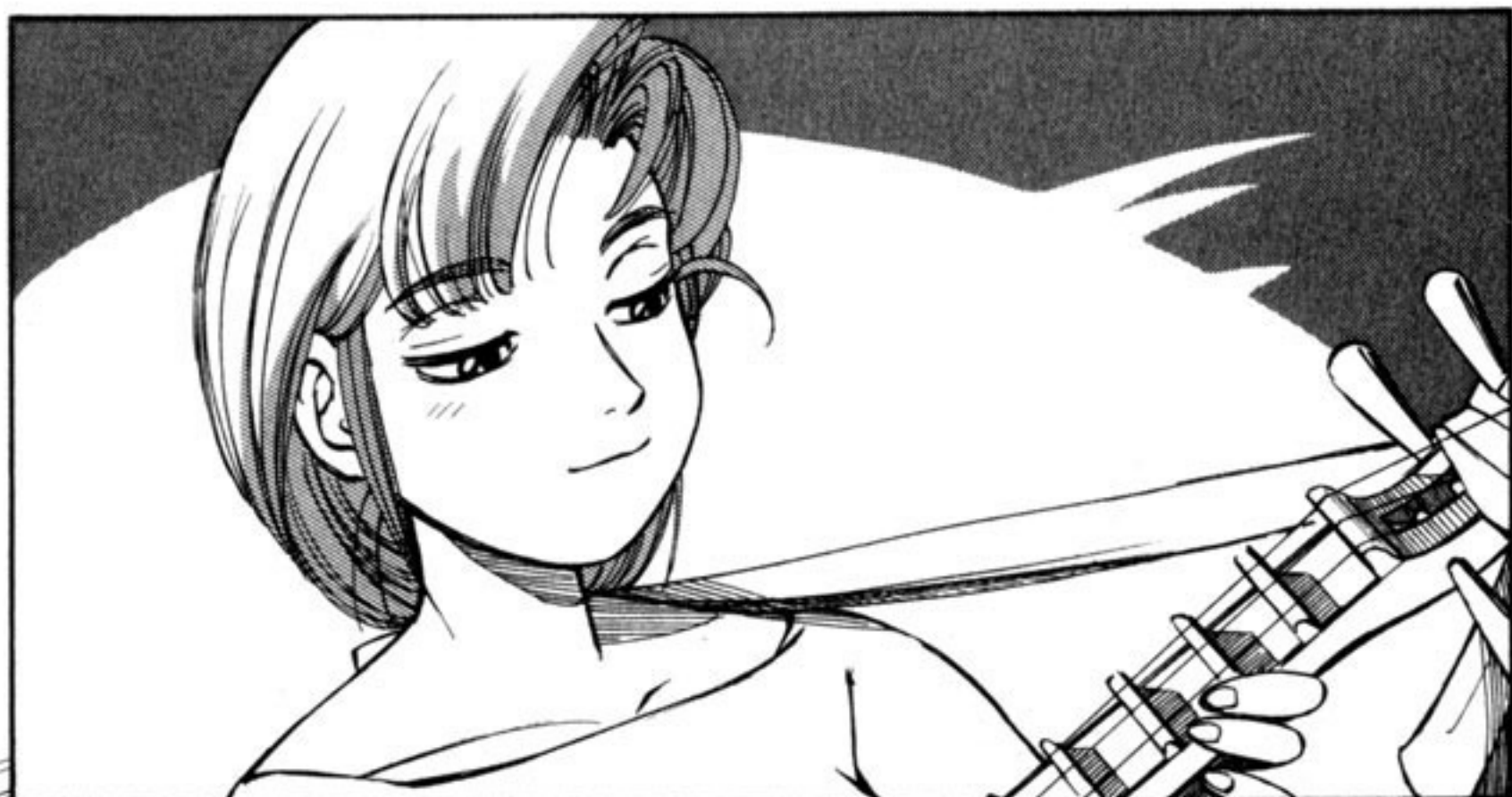
That I was able
to hum along,
as if I knew the
song myself.



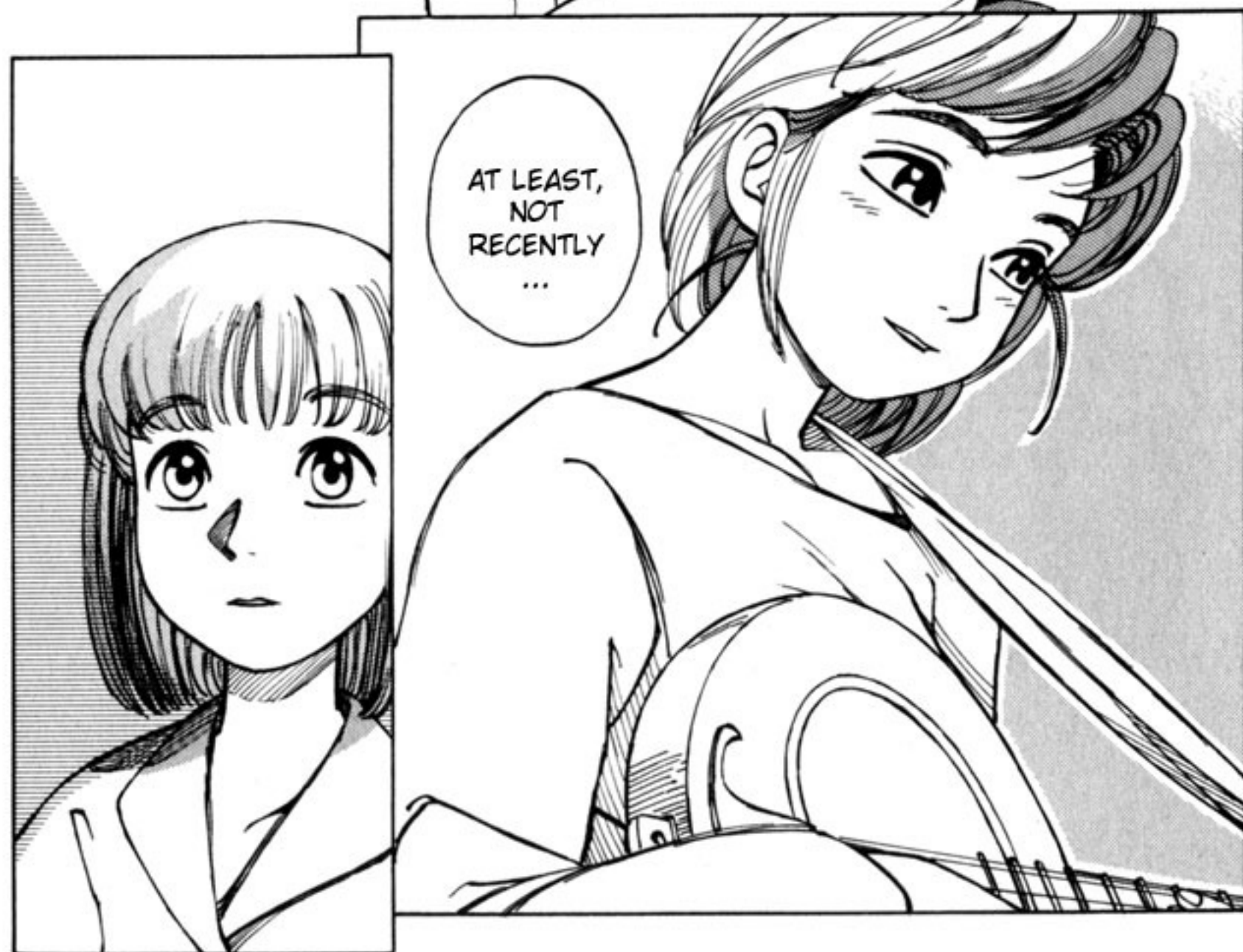
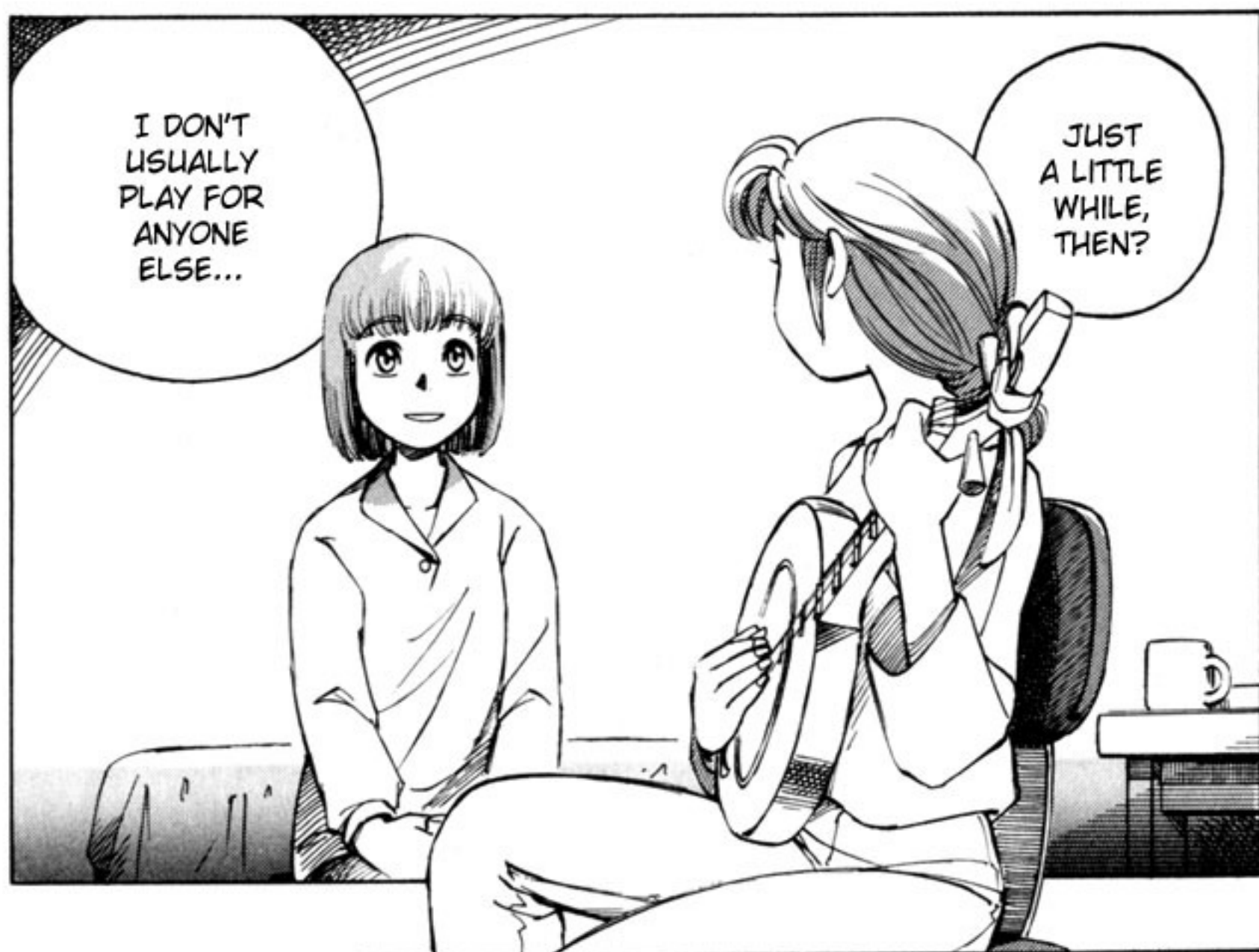
And then
there was
an added
Latin feel
beneath it.

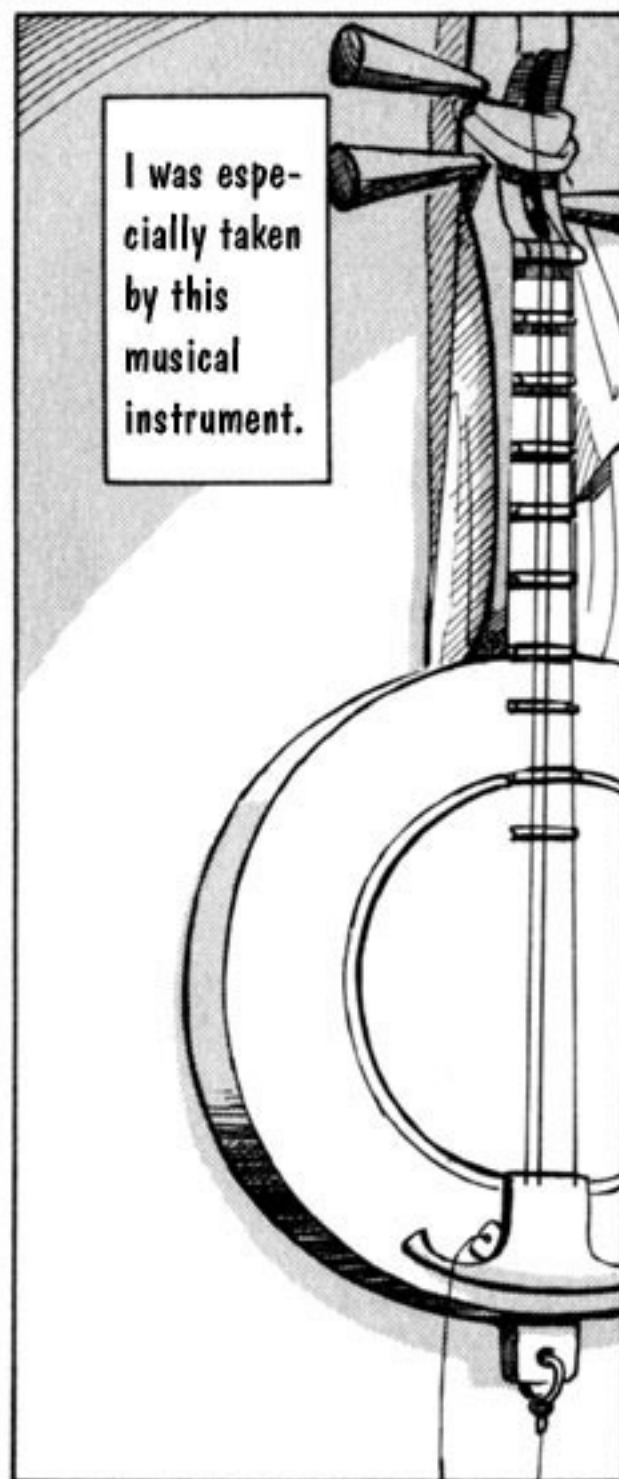
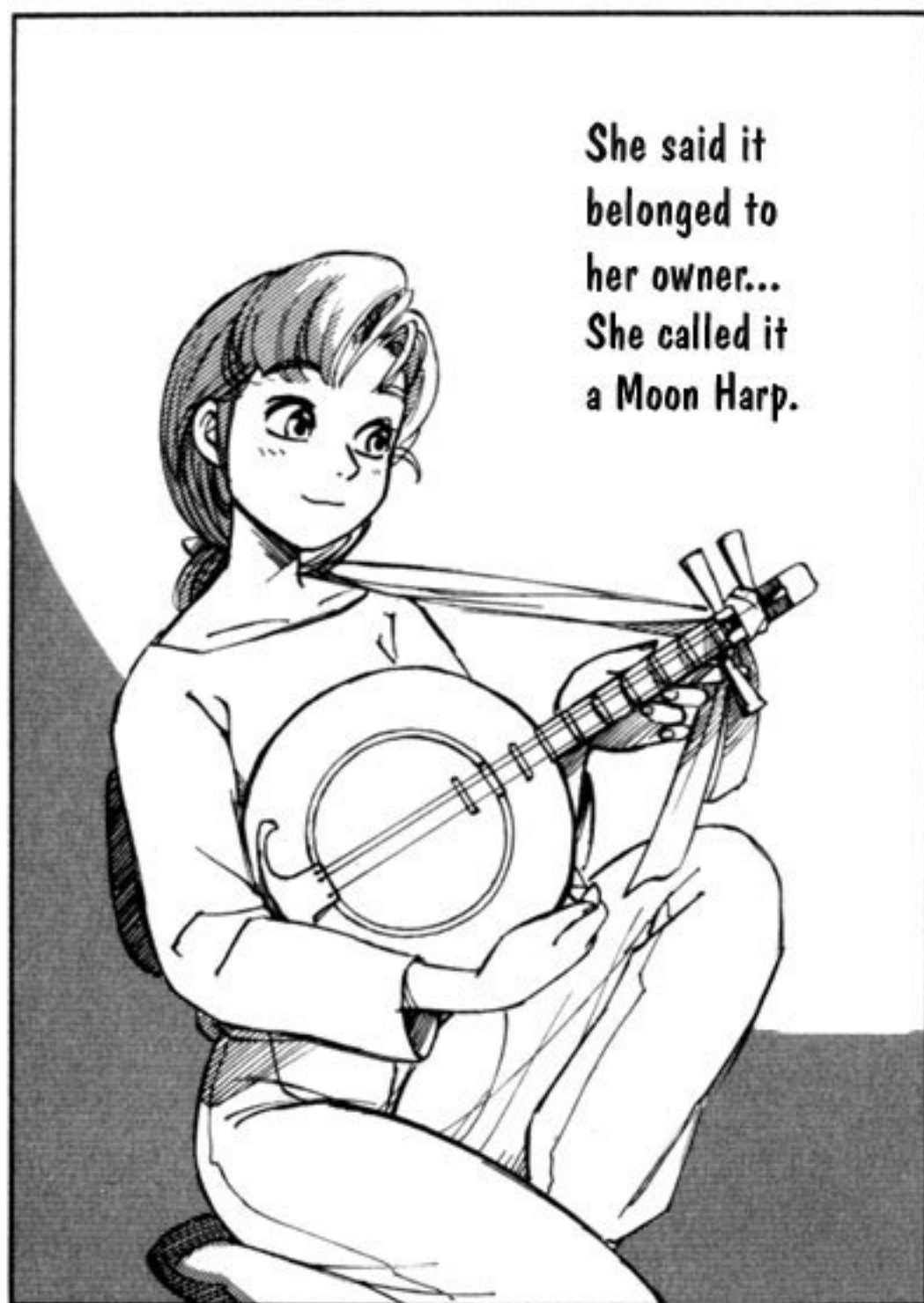
It sort of started
out like an old
children's song...

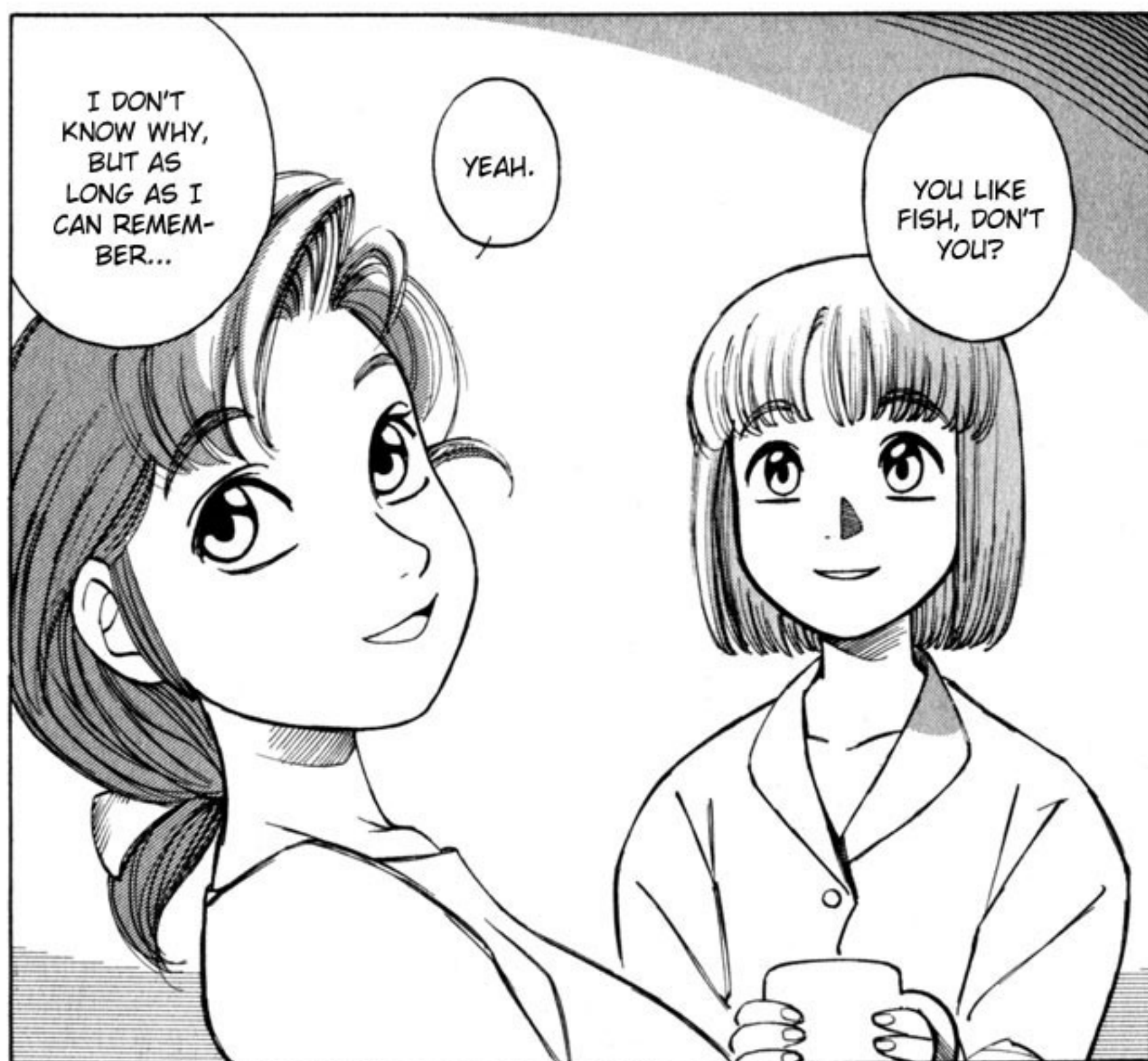
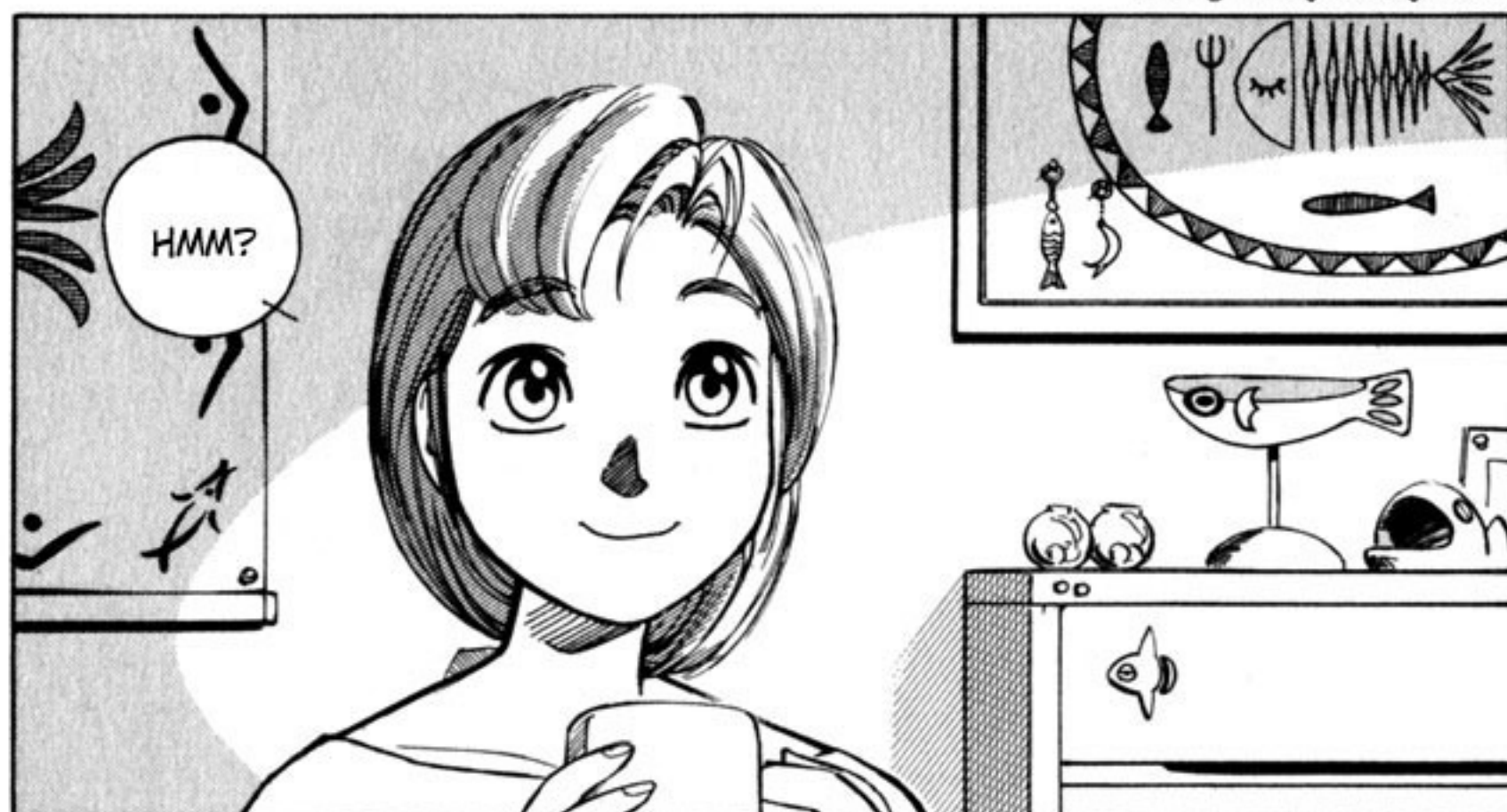


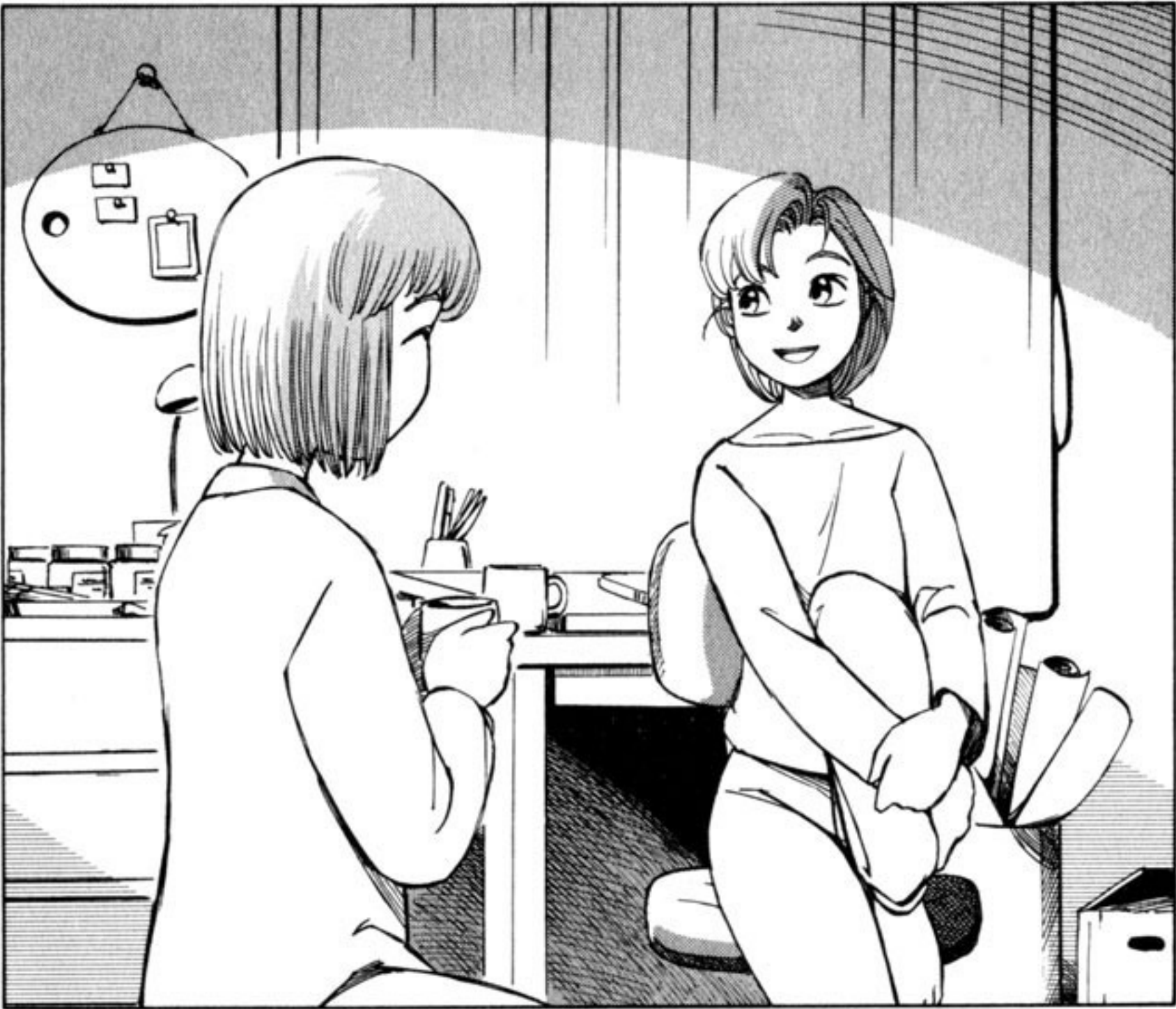


It was the first
time I had seen
her look like
this...

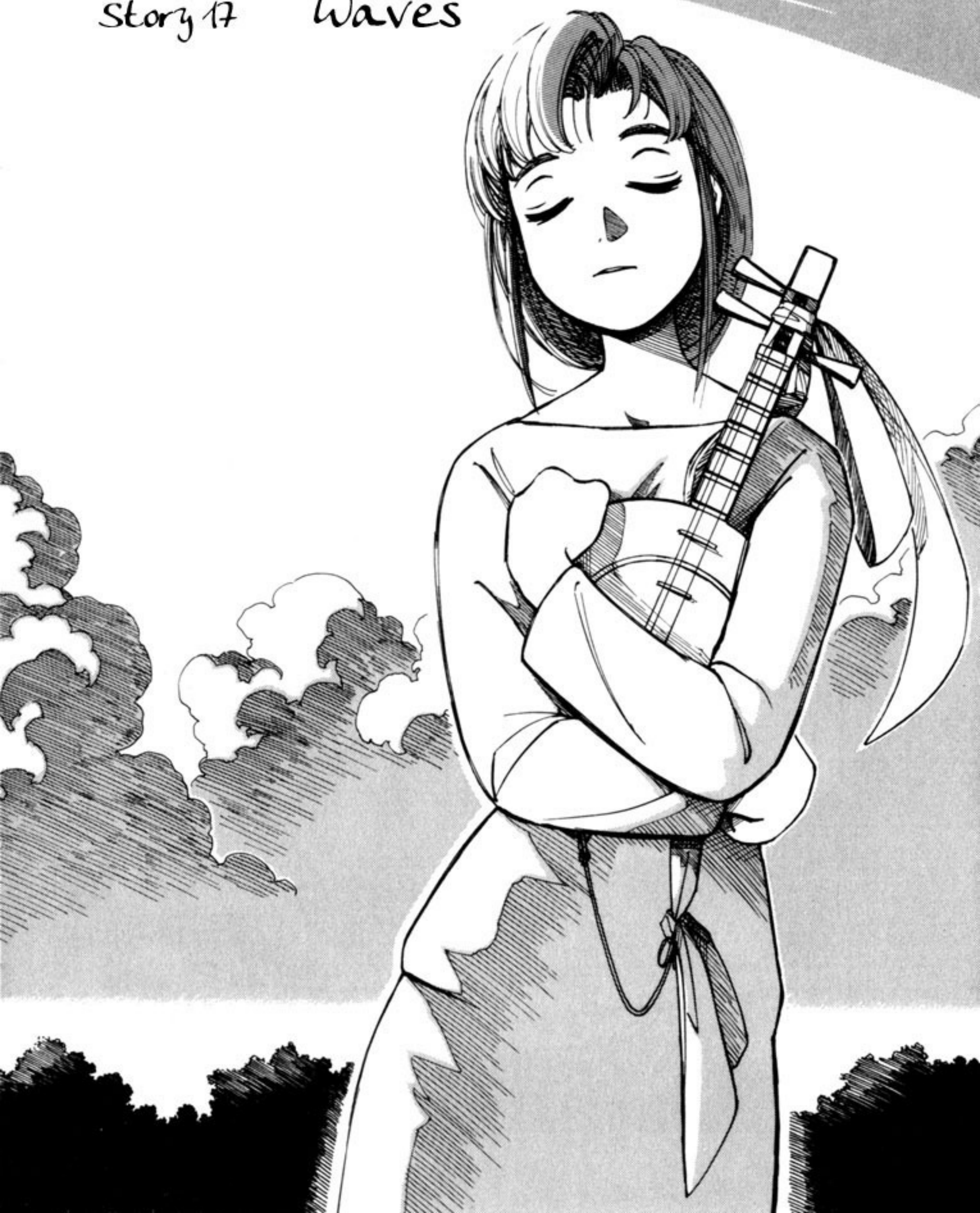






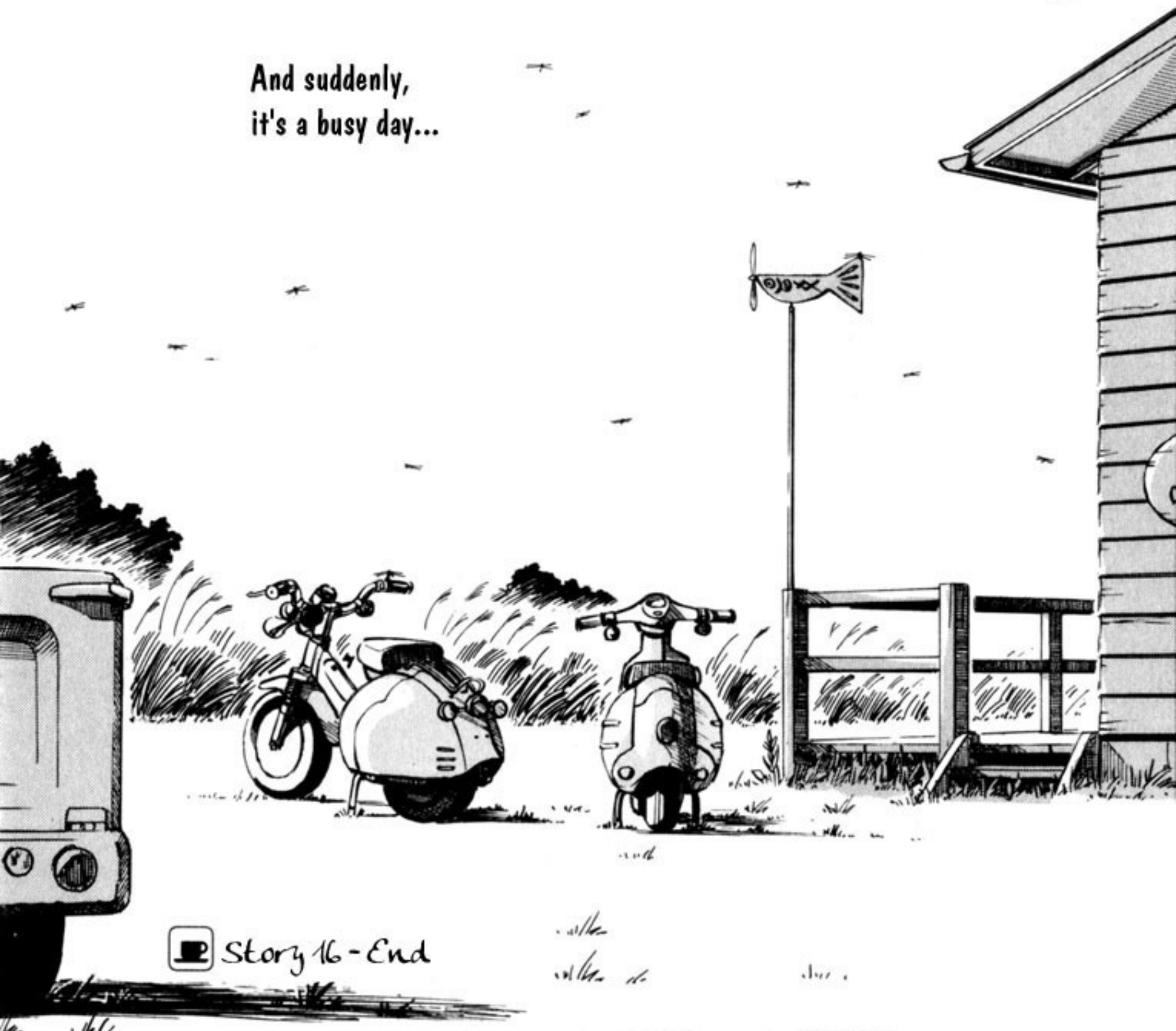


Story 17 Waves





And suddenly,
it's a busy day...



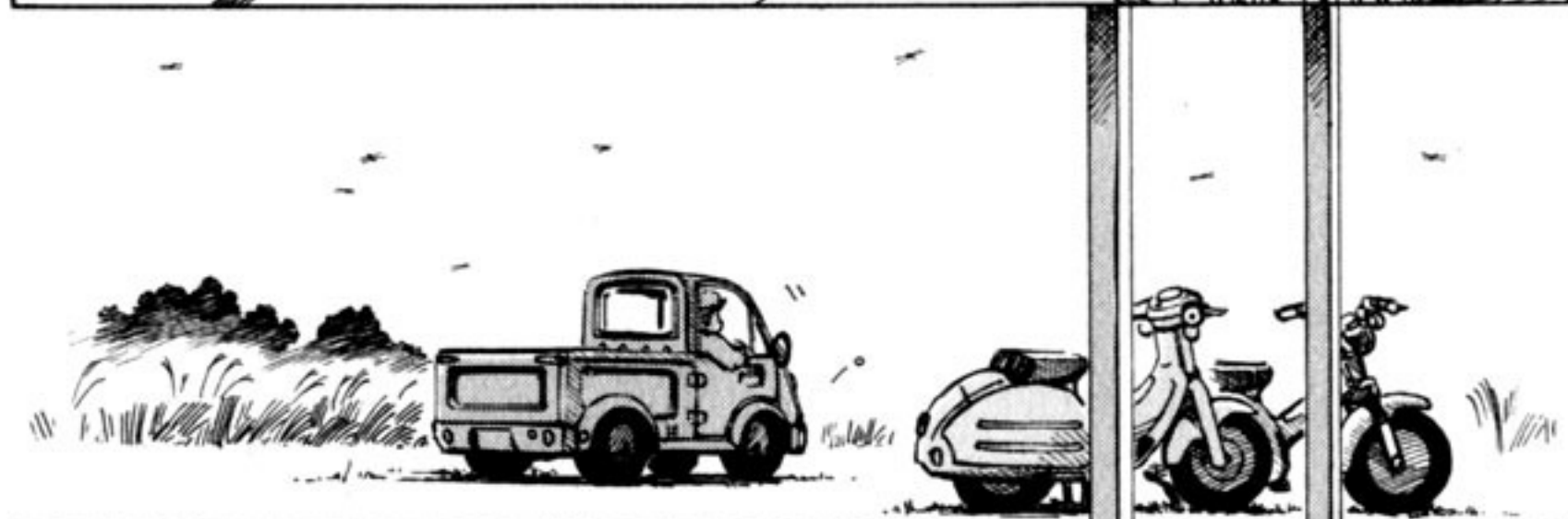


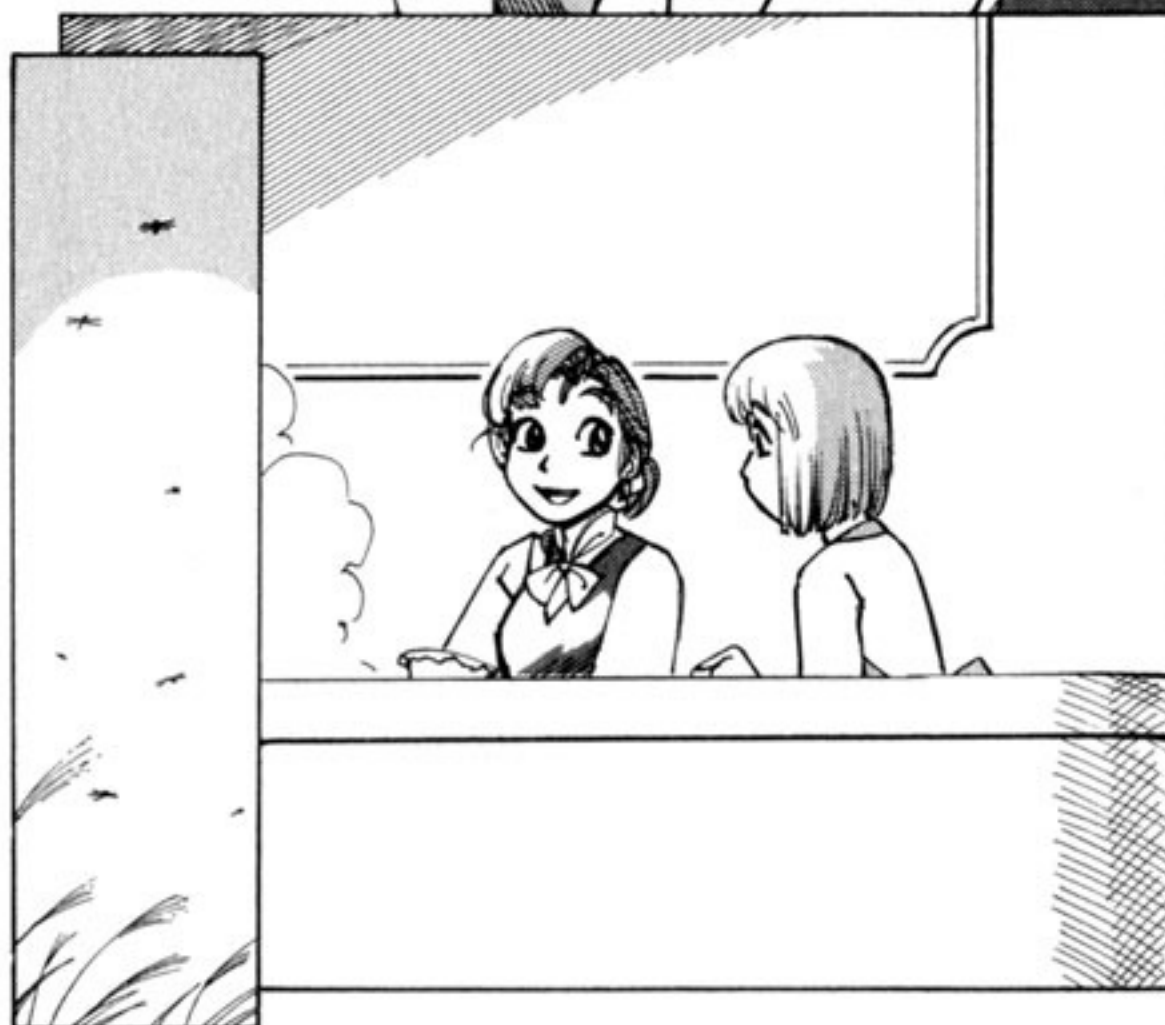
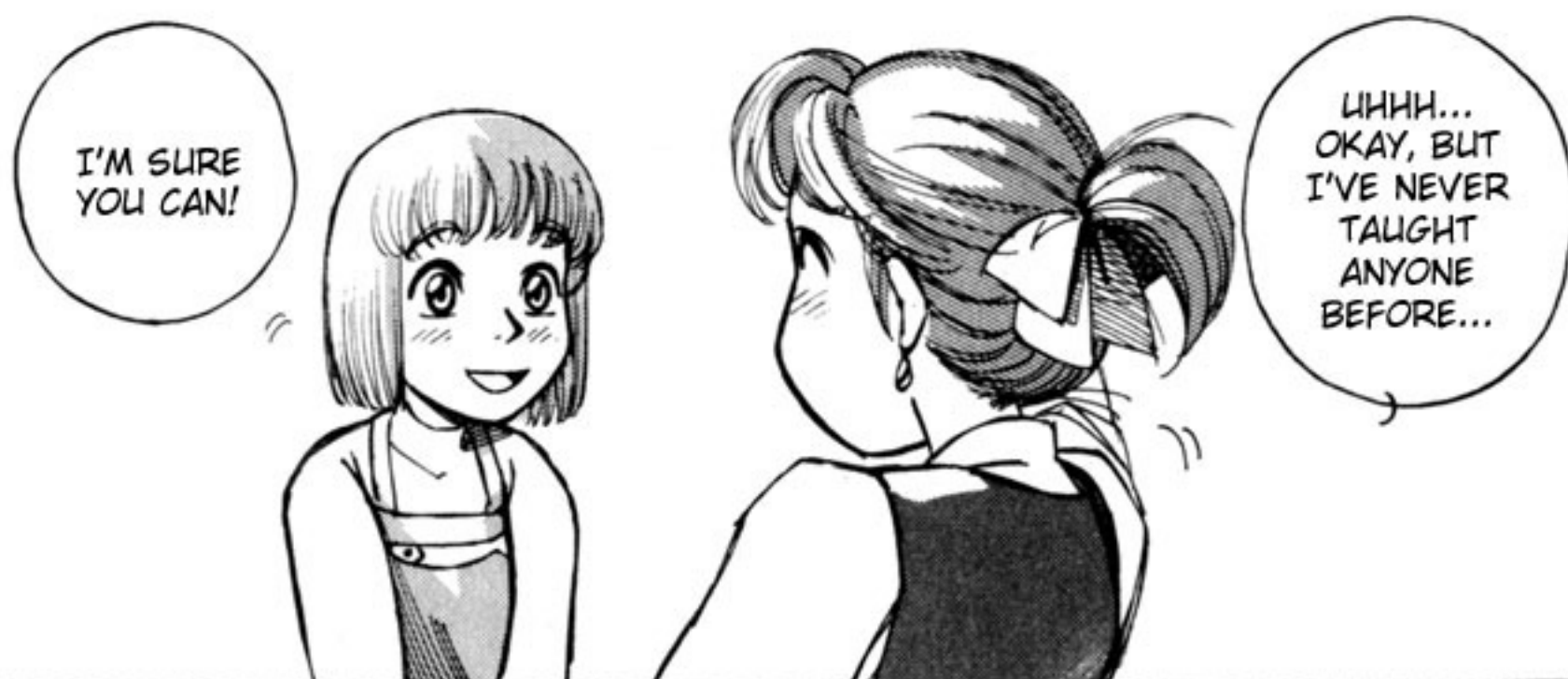
WELCOME!



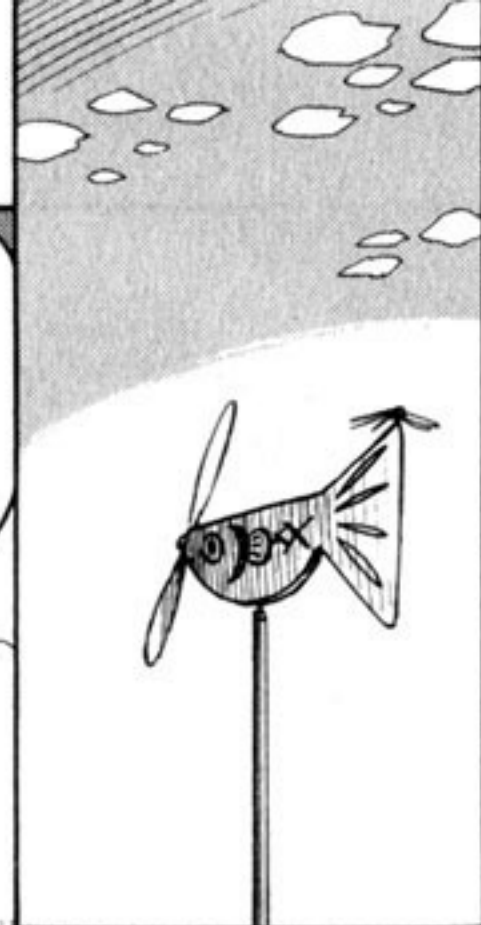
I JUST THOUGHT I HAD THE WRONG COFFEE SHOP FOR A SEC.

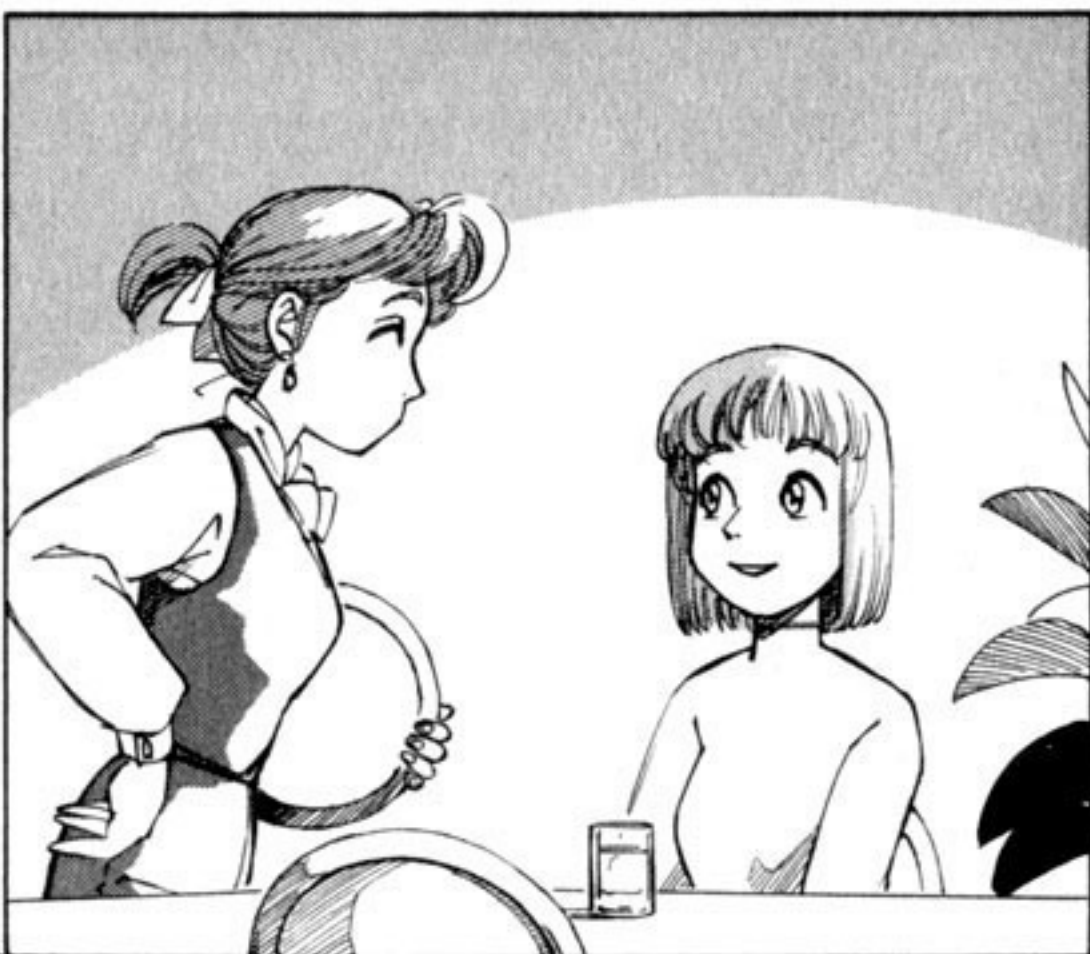


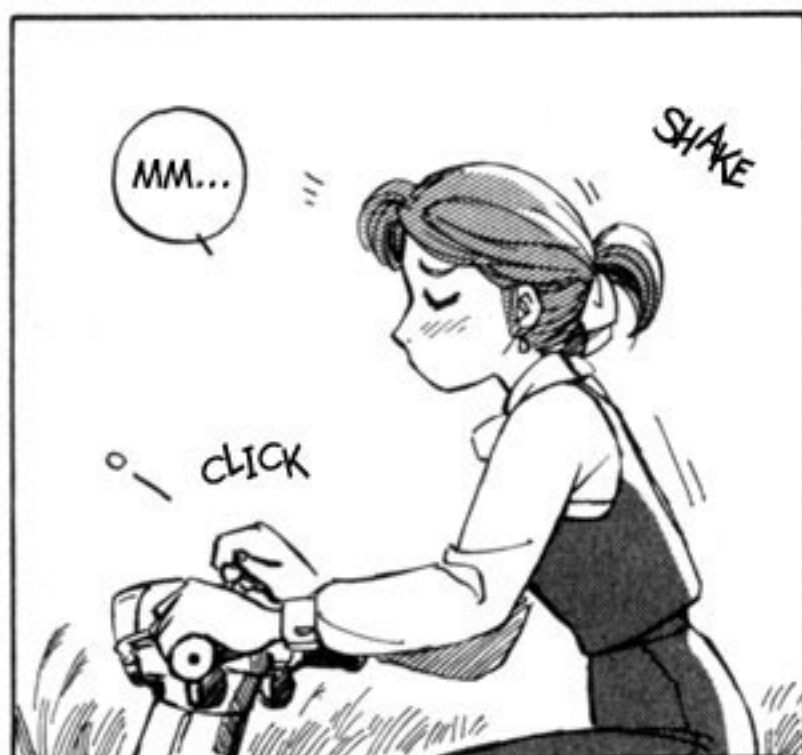
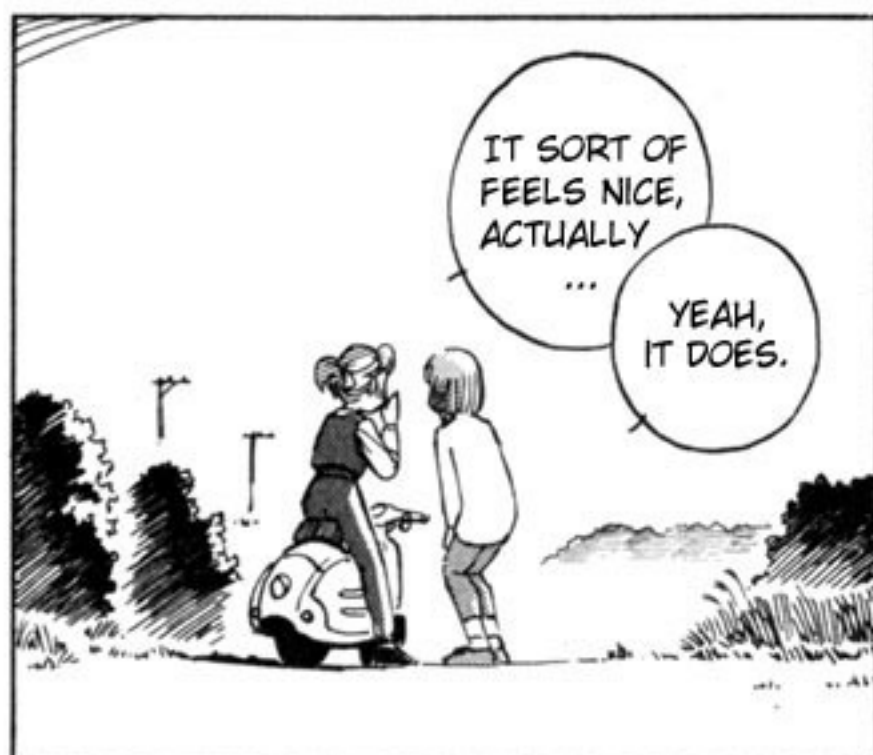


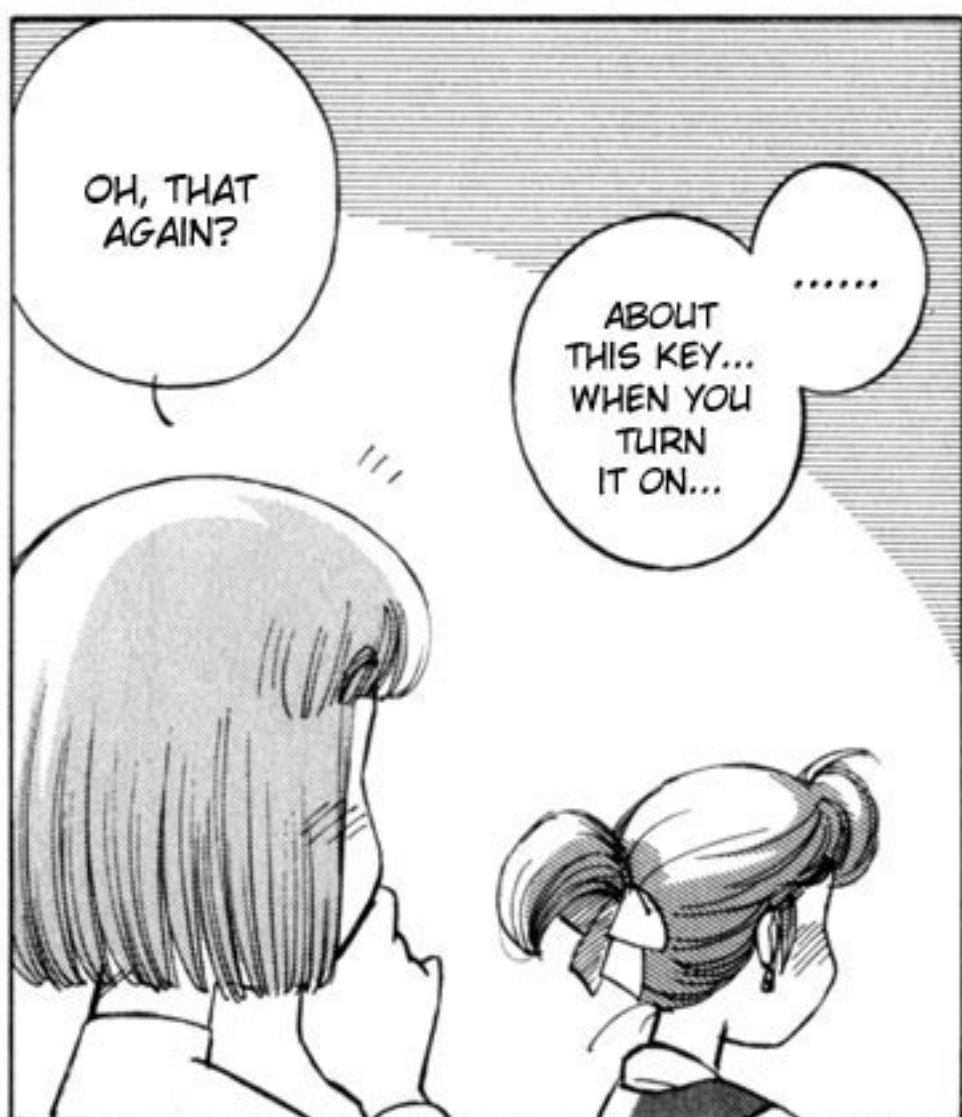
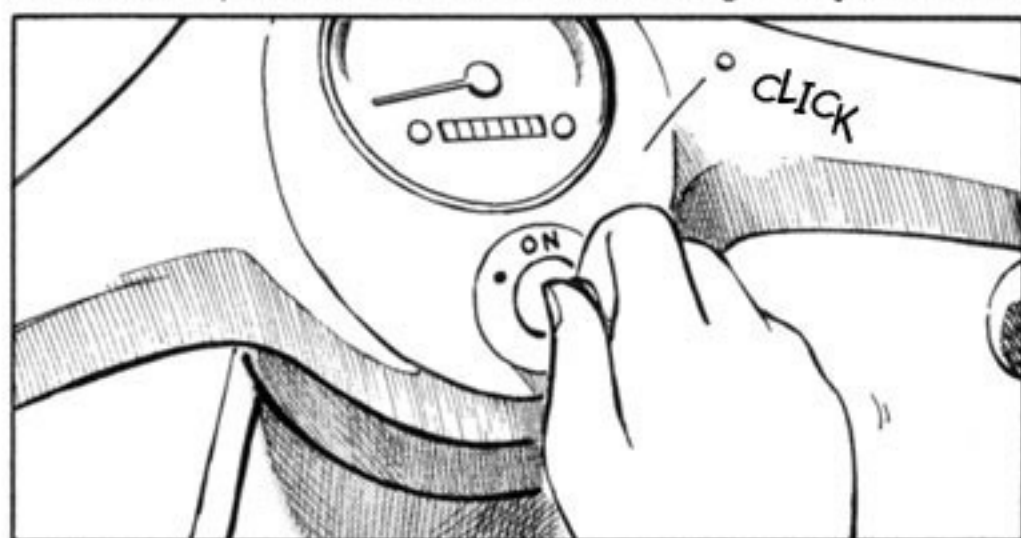


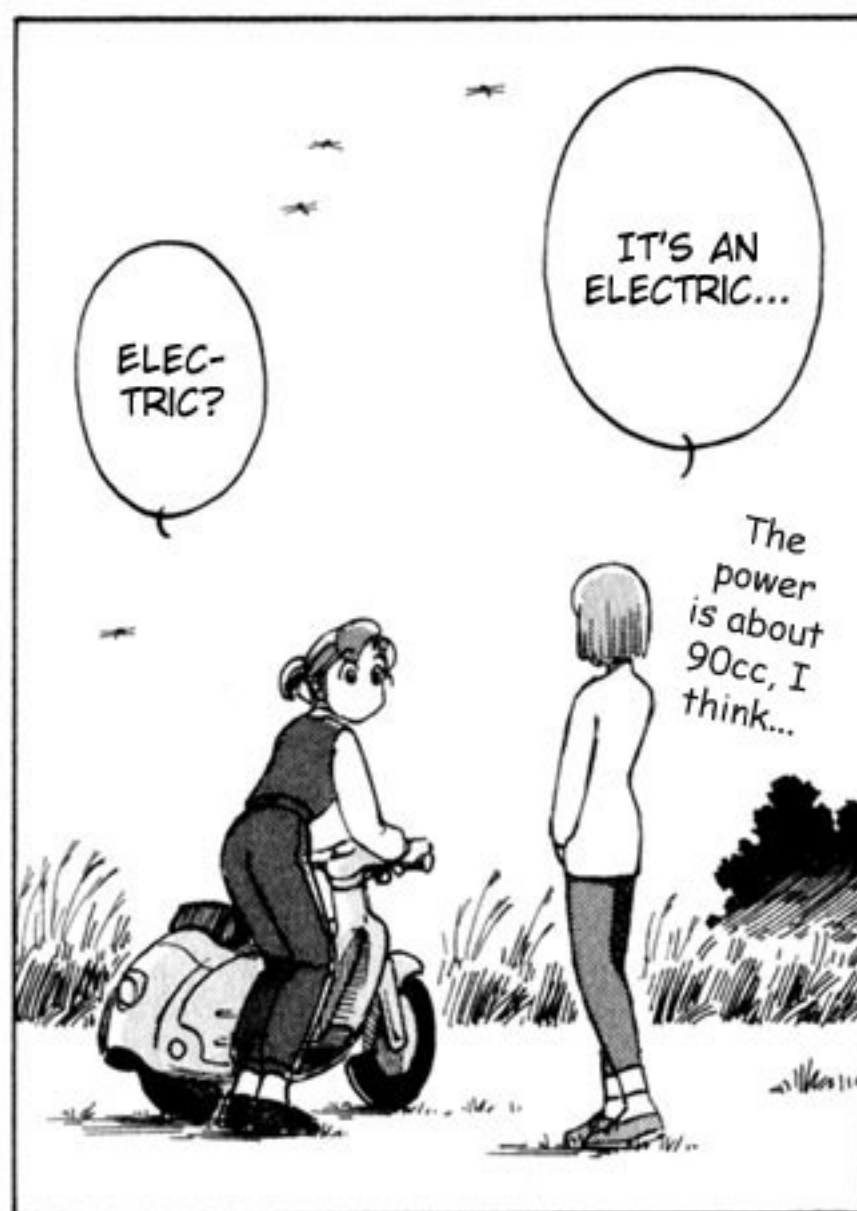
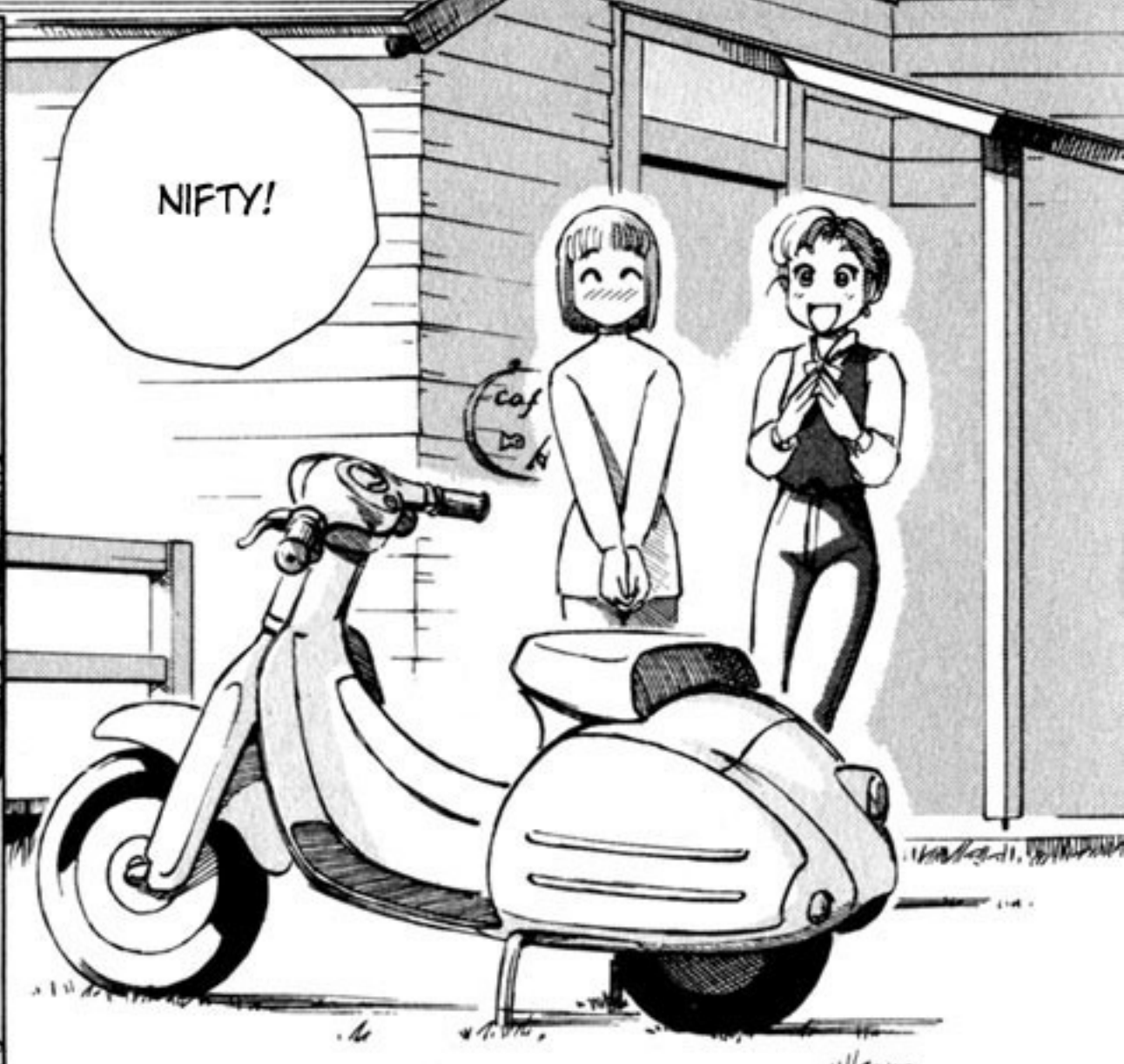


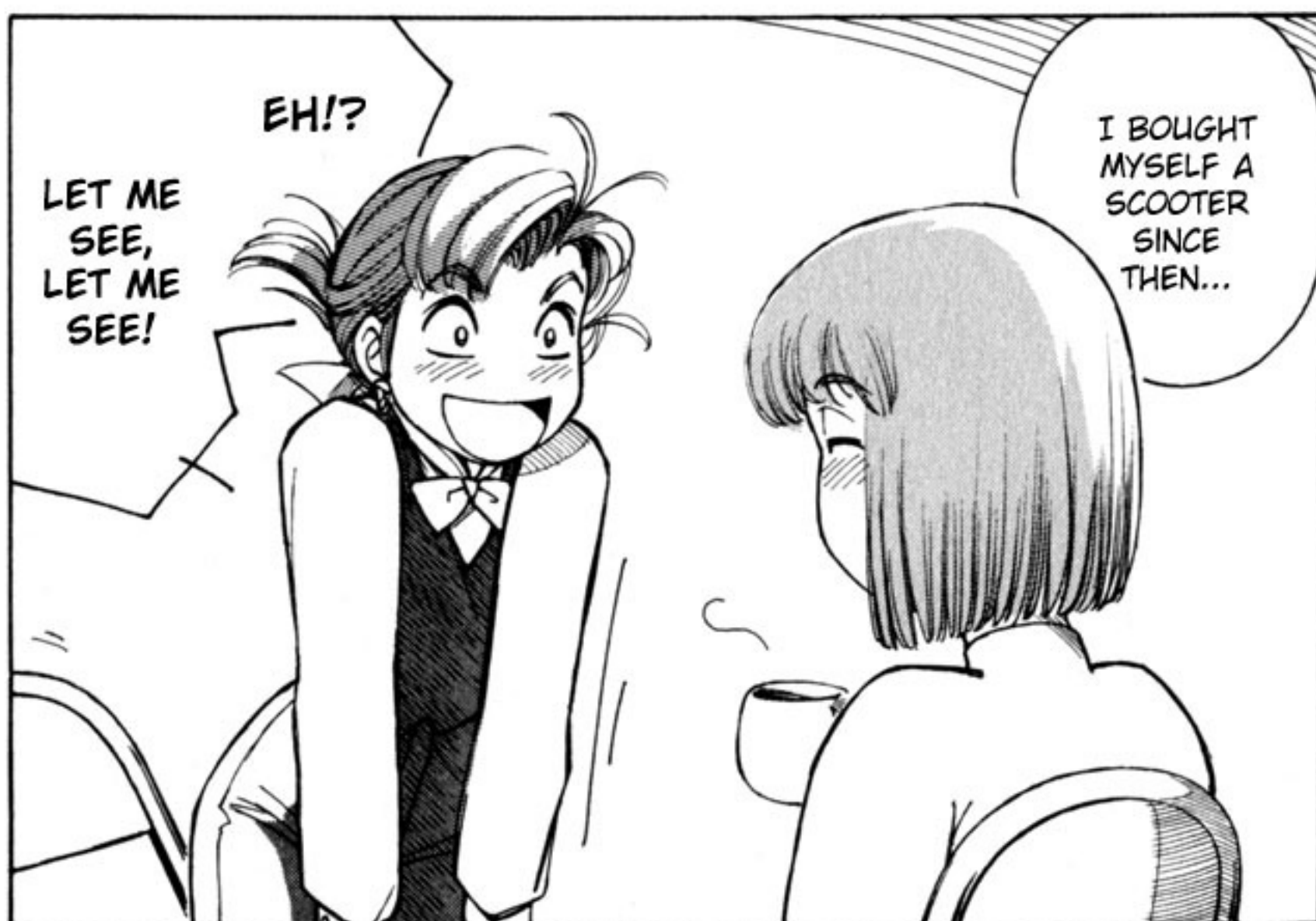












IT'S A
GREAT
TIME!

I HOPE
THIS IS
A GOOD
TIME...

FOR ME
TO DROP
IN...

AH
HA HA...
UM...

WOW....
THANKS FOR
COMING!

I WASN'T
EXPECTING
THIS!

I NEVER
SEE THE
MAIL CAR
THESE
DAYS...

AH...

AHH...

EH?

I SENT
A LETTER
ABOUT
10 DAYS
AGO...



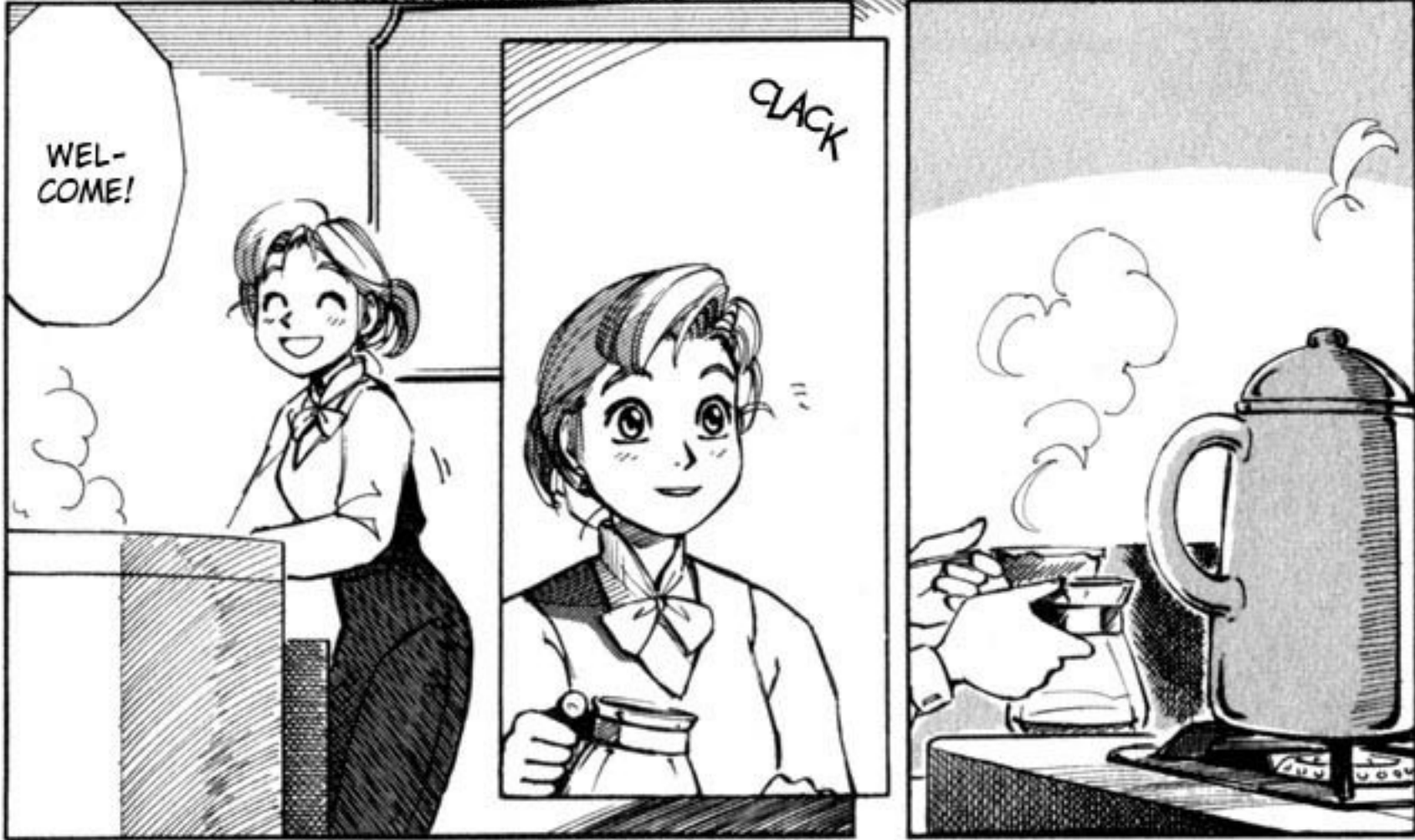
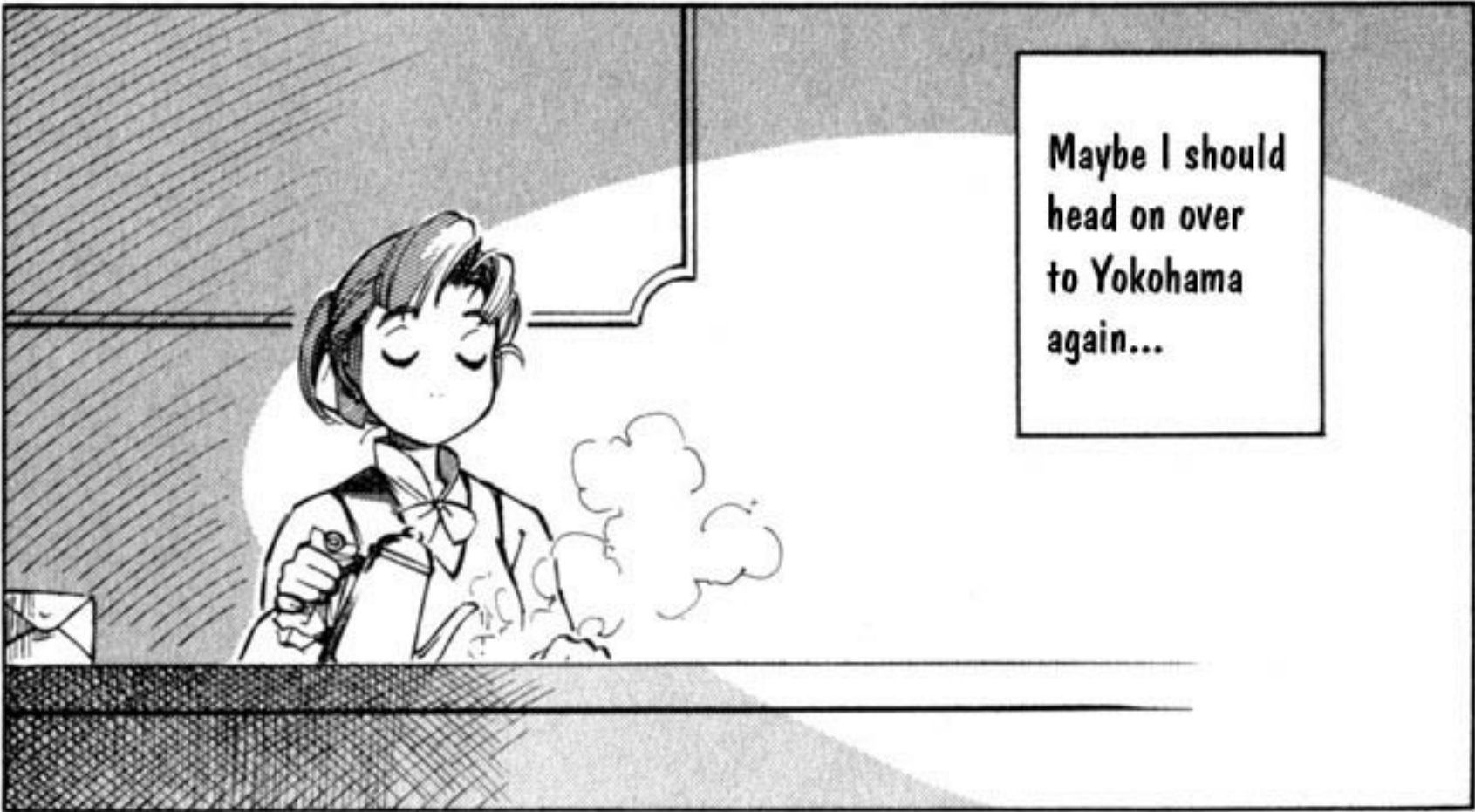
HELLO...

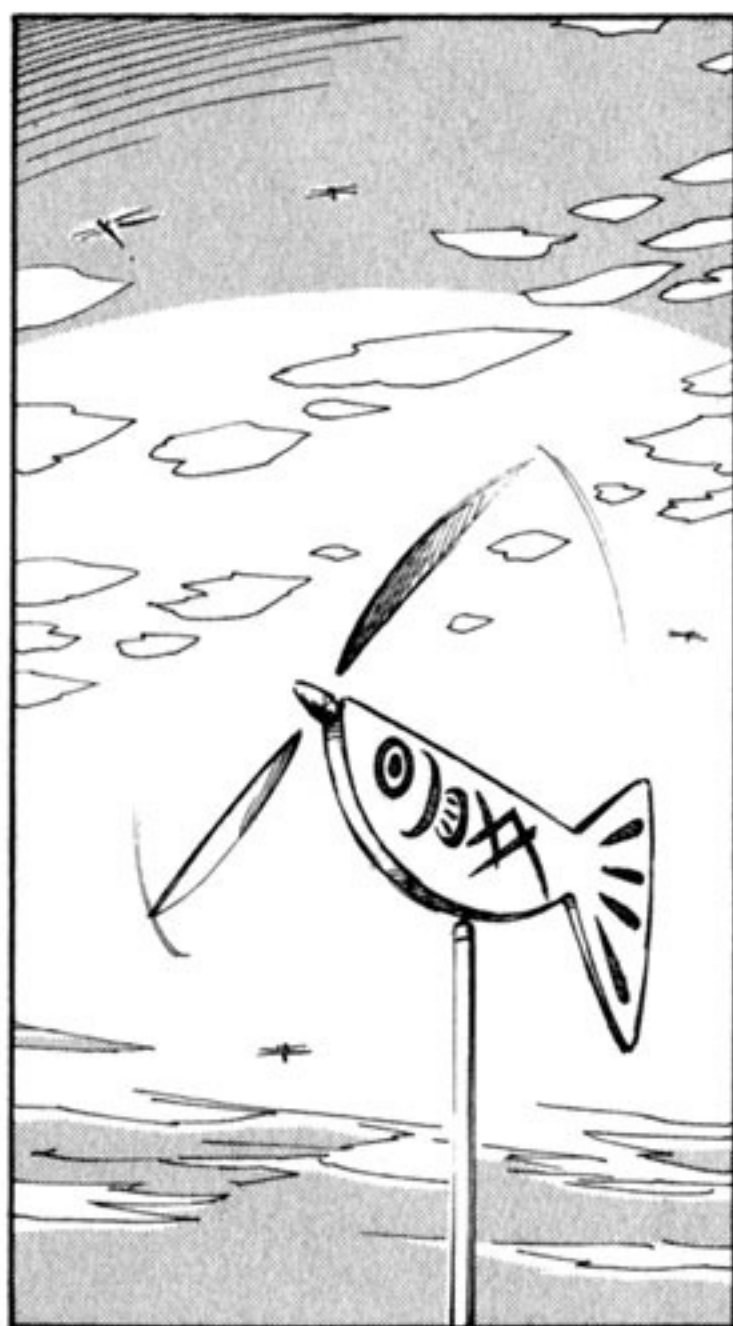
WOW!



WOWIEEE!







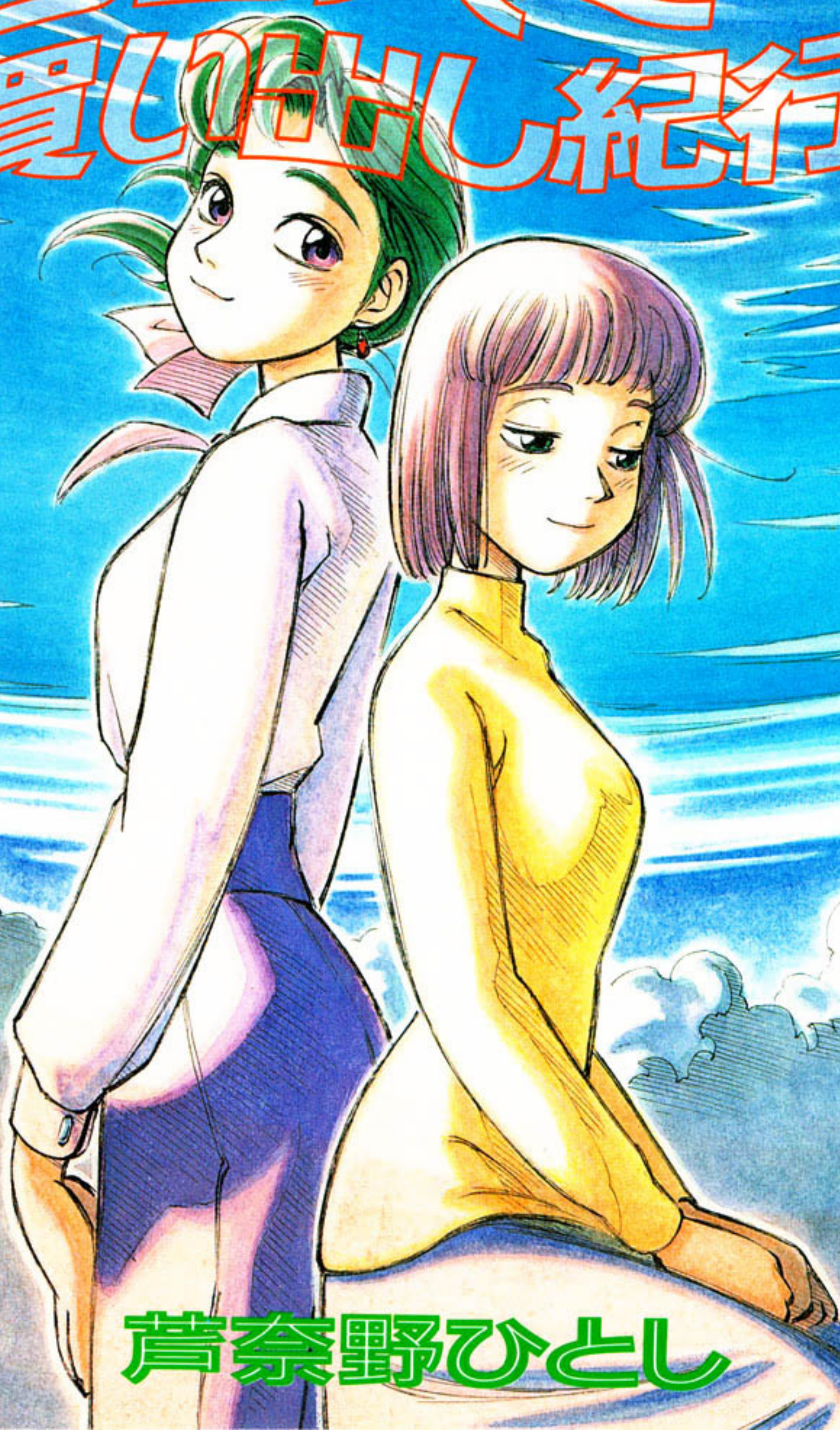
Story 16 Apron





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ヨコハマ 買い出し紀行



芦奈野ひとし