


After we greet
one another, let us
sing together, let
this sound carry on
for a little while...

As we savor the
magical moment.





Do you think
you can see
or smell the
sound from
these strings?

Lost in the moment,
the sound of the
strings play with all
of your senses as
they strangely seem
to melt in the air
like water.

As this music
is born it
gives your
existence new
meaning.

Short Essay Improvised Song

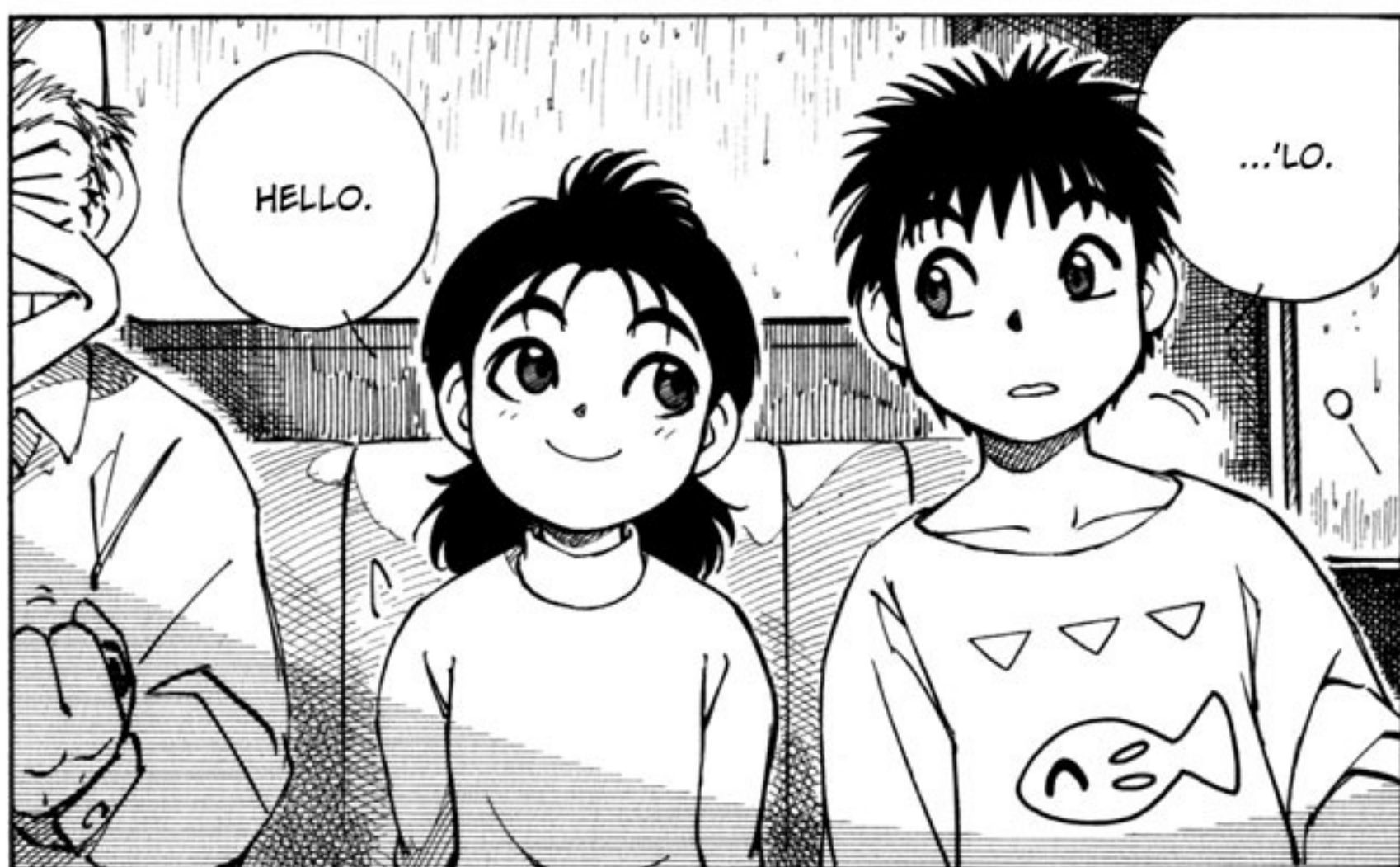
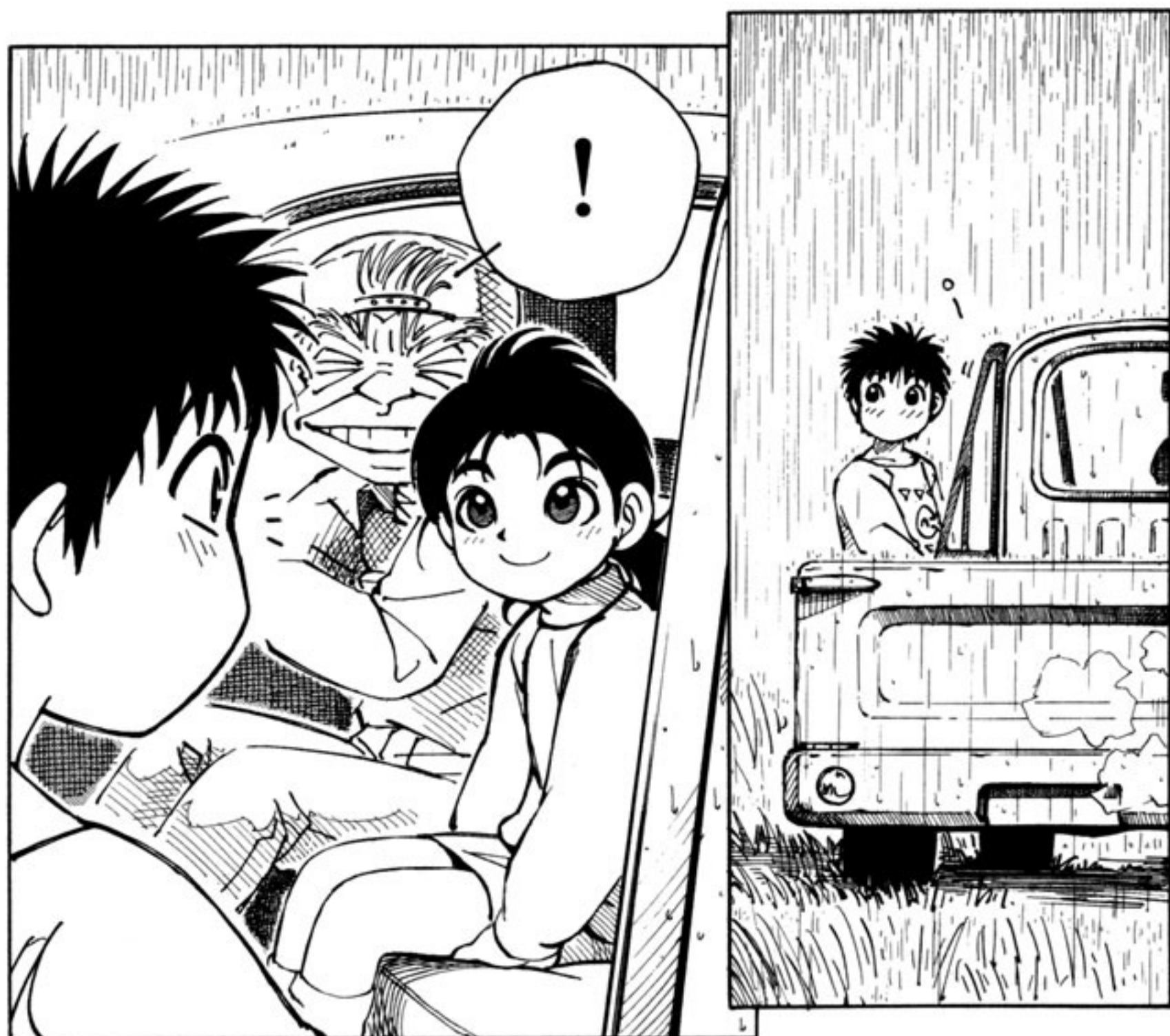
Today...
I think
I'm playing
for you.

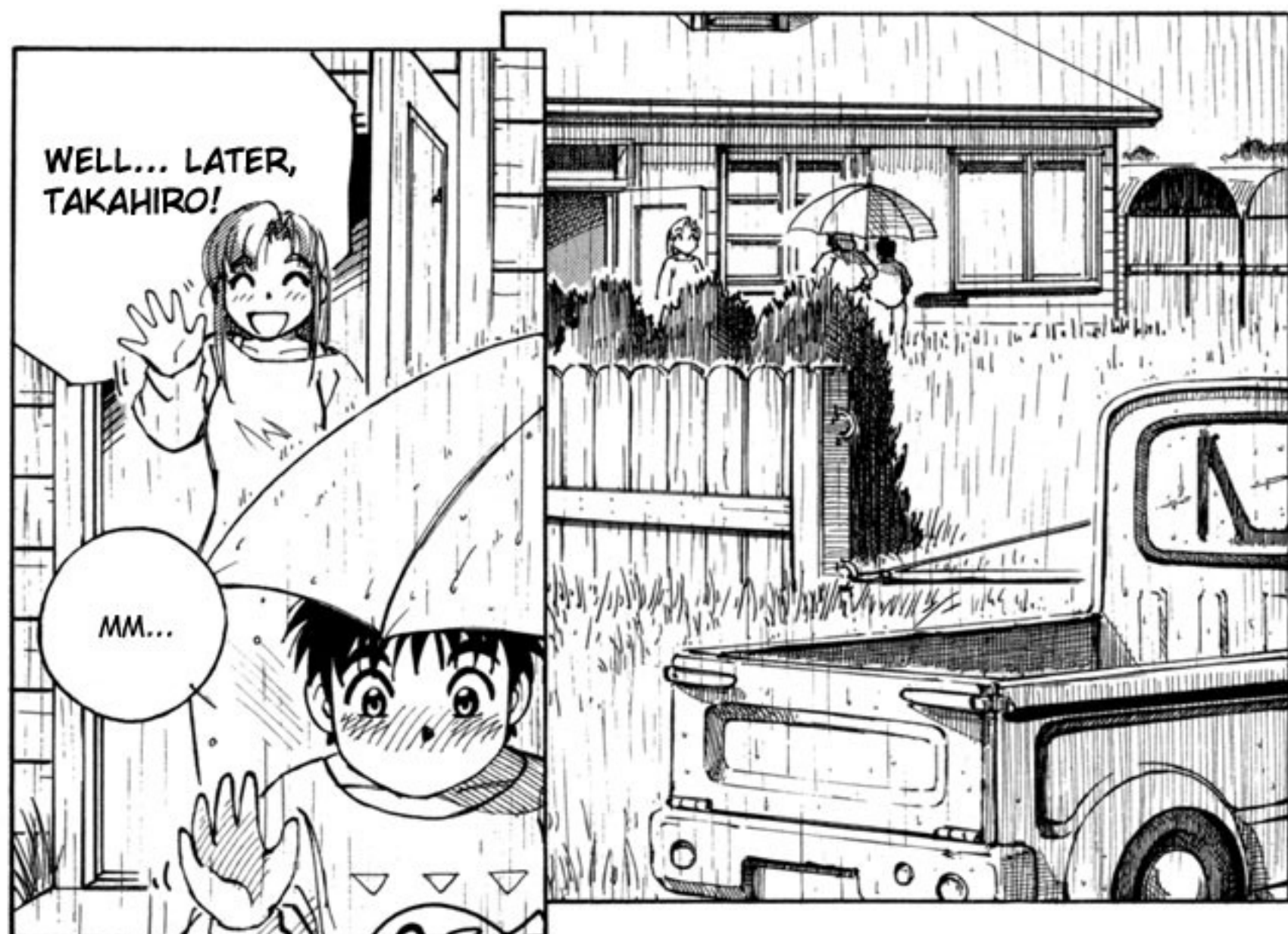
And at that
moment,
from the sea
came a soft
salty breeze...

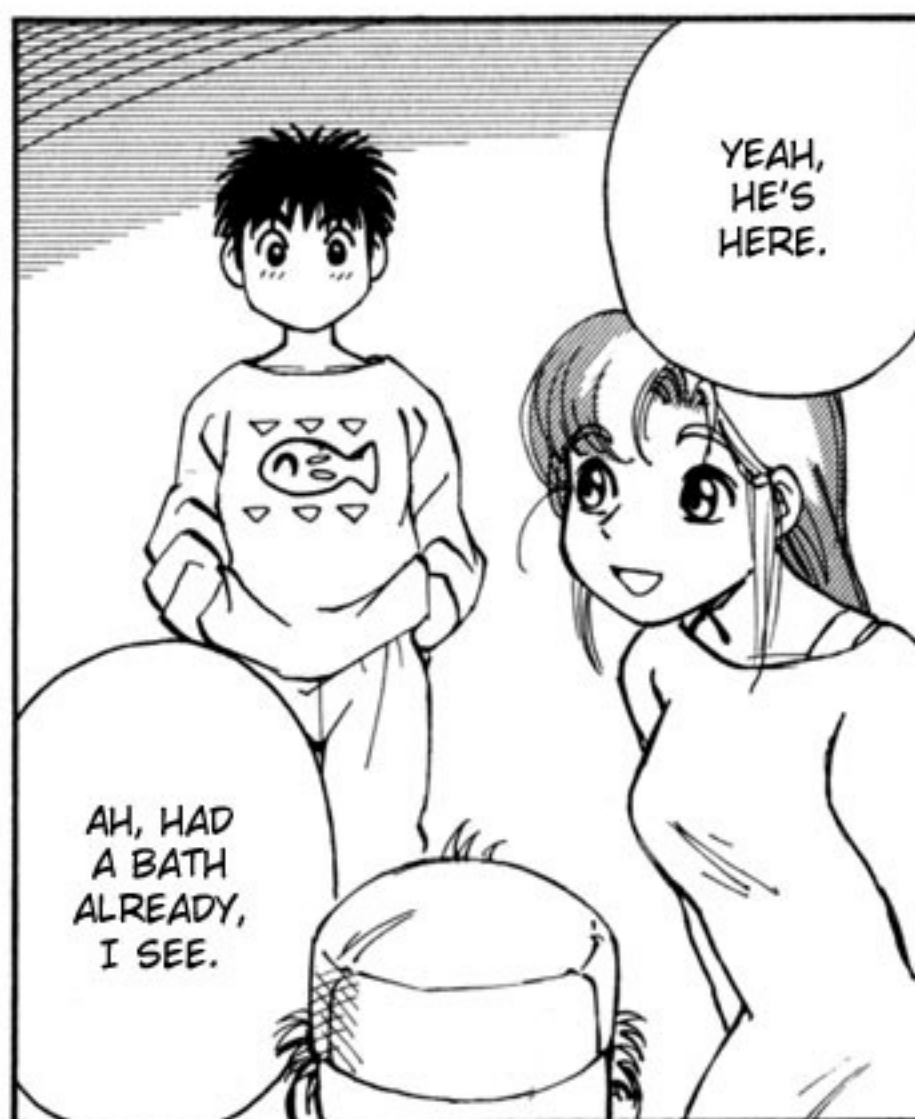


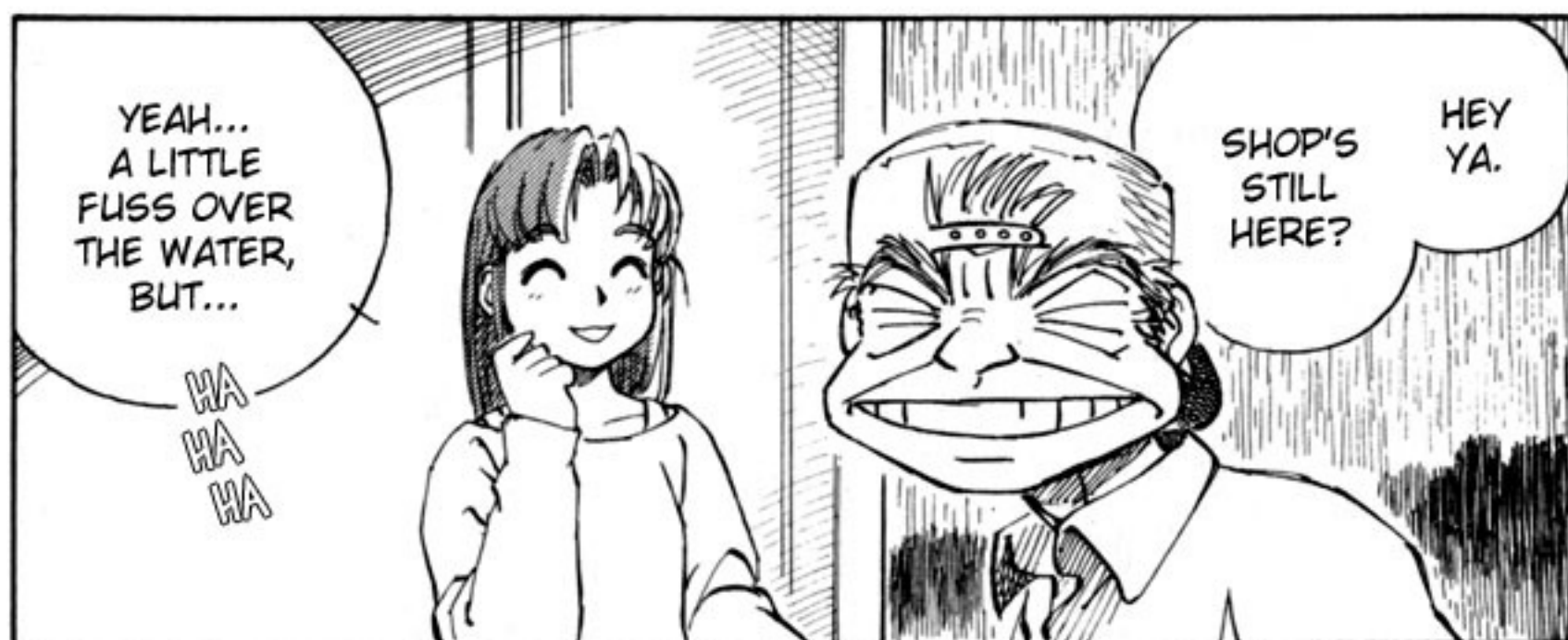


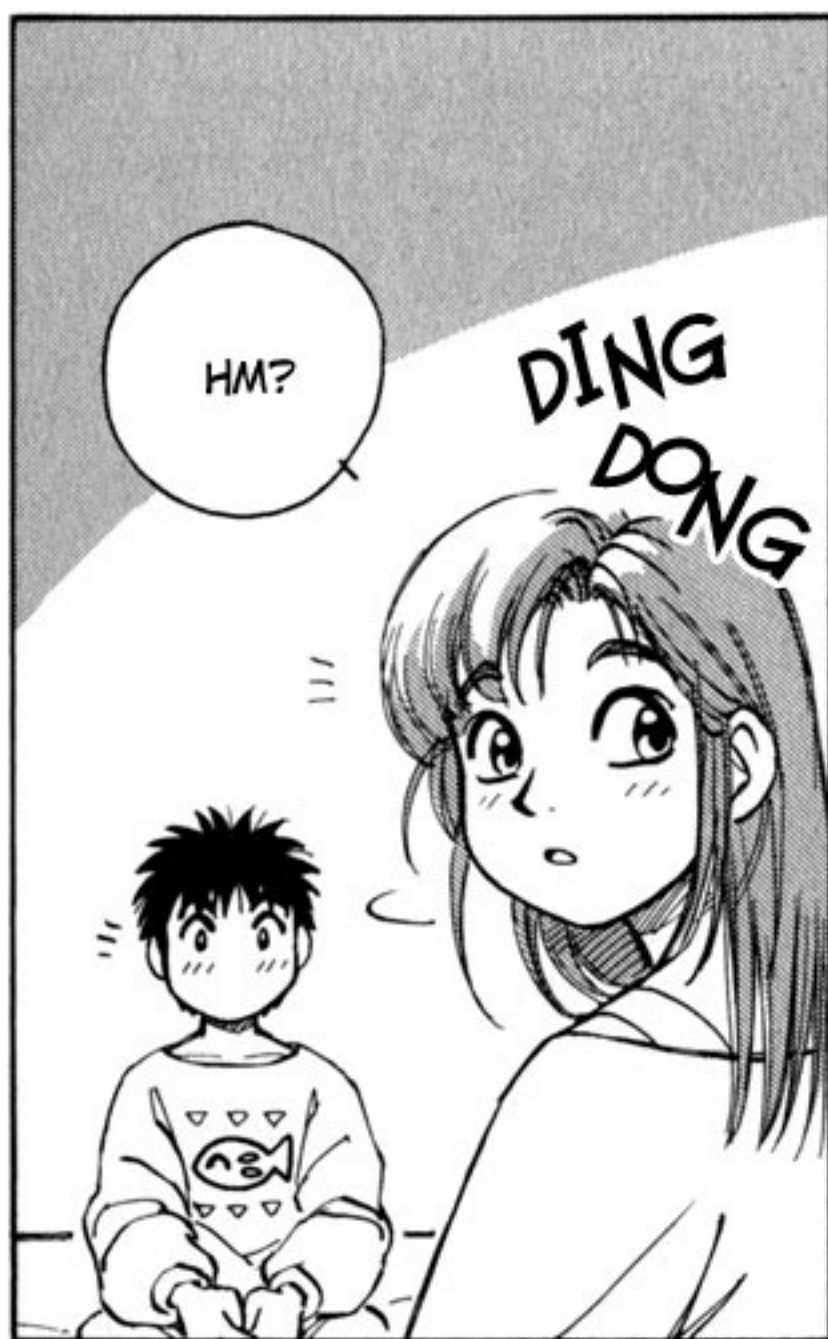
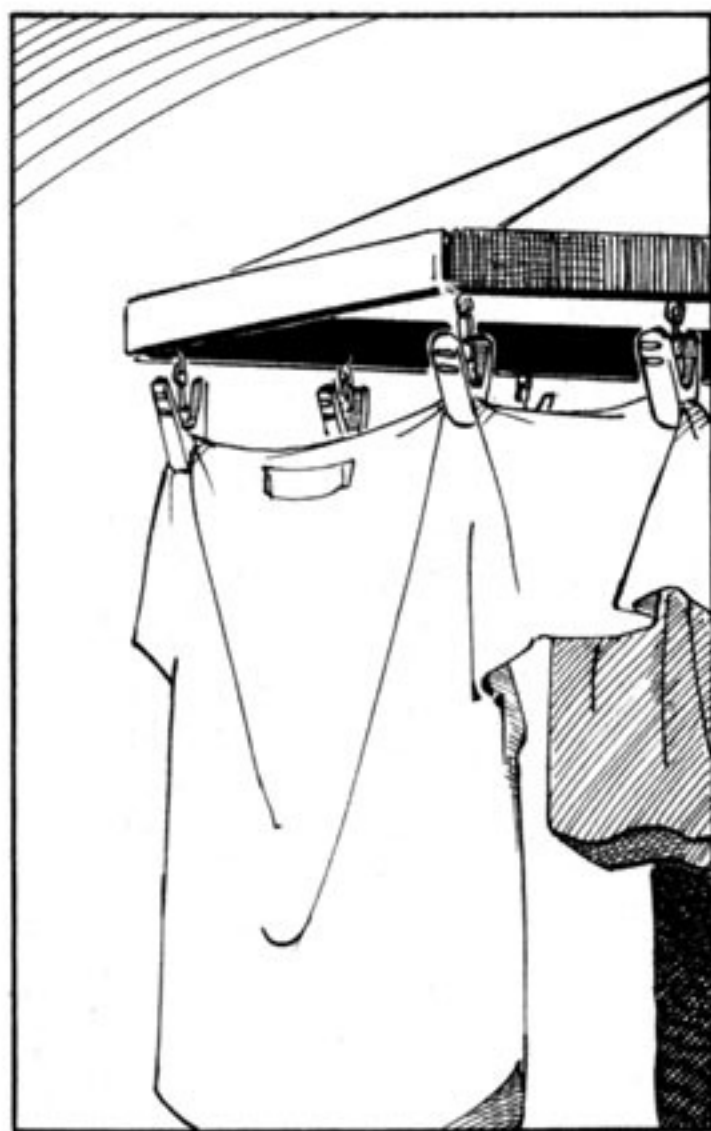


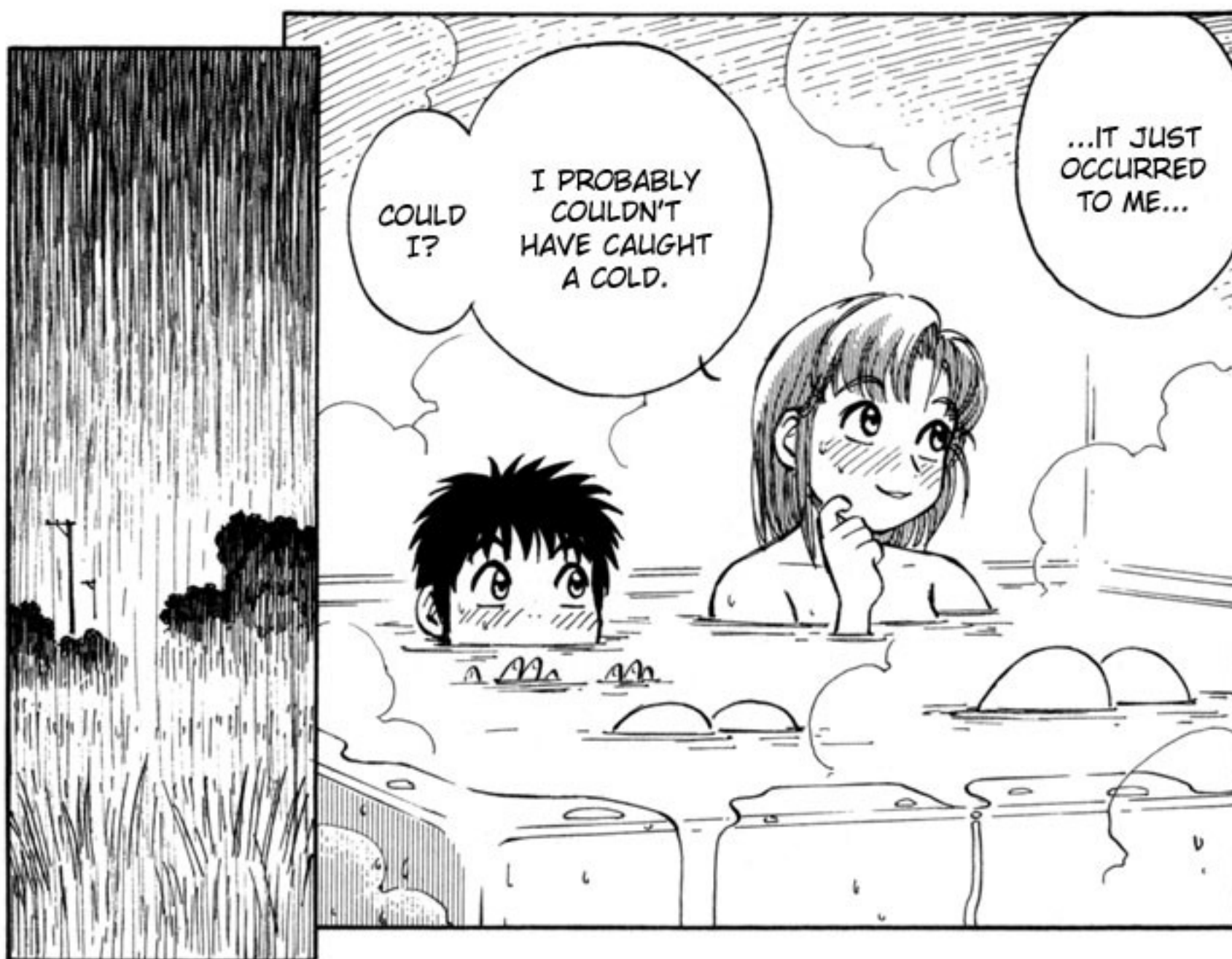


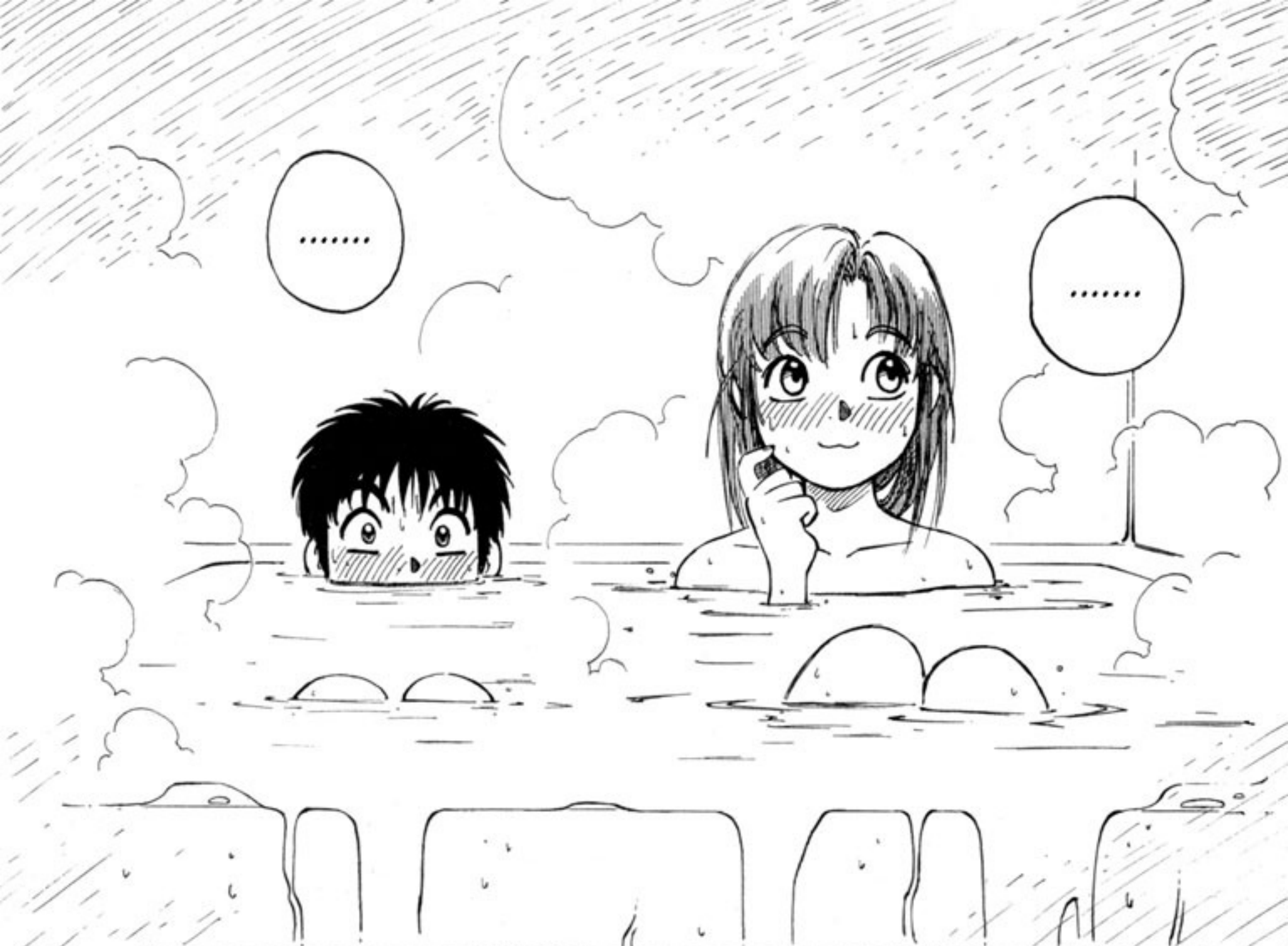


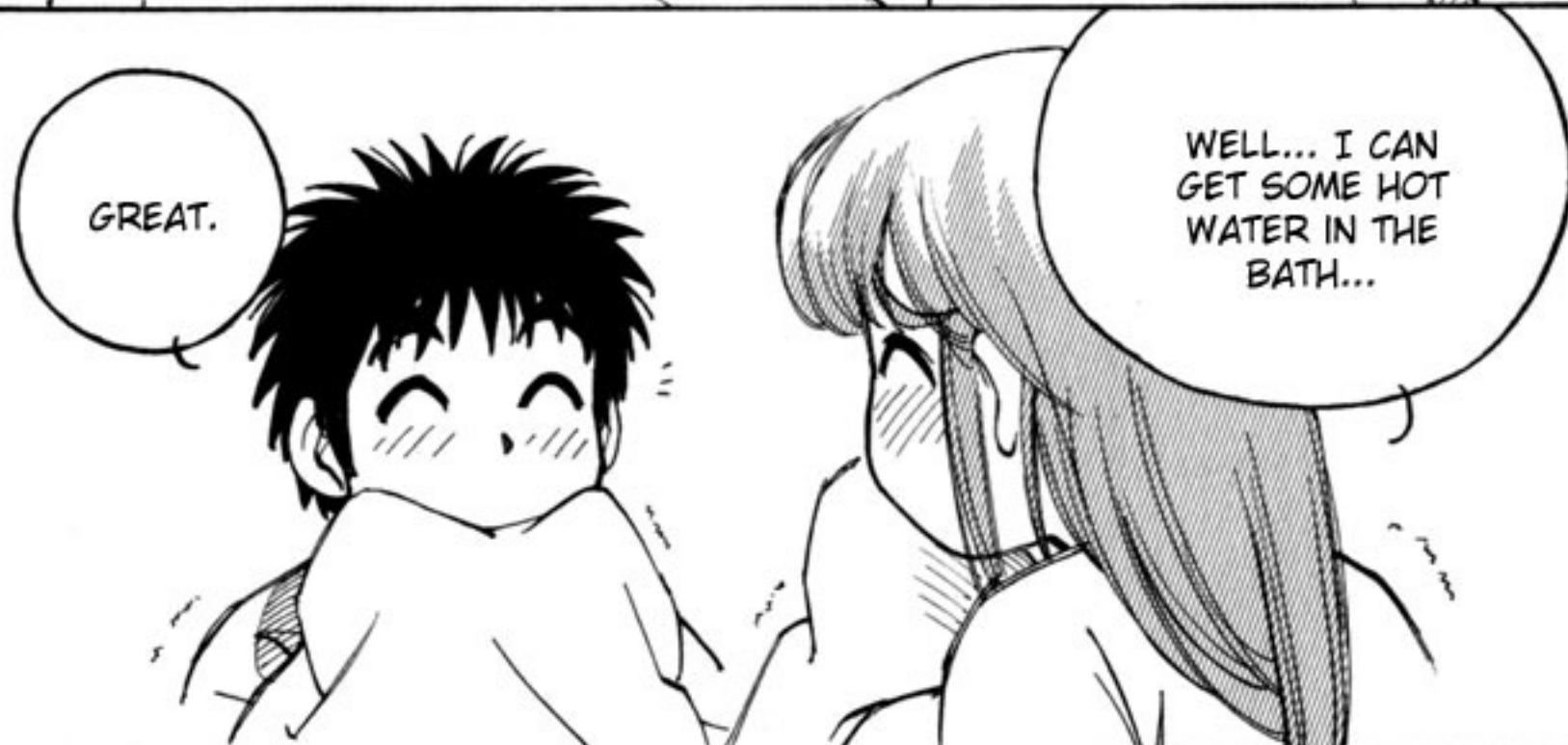


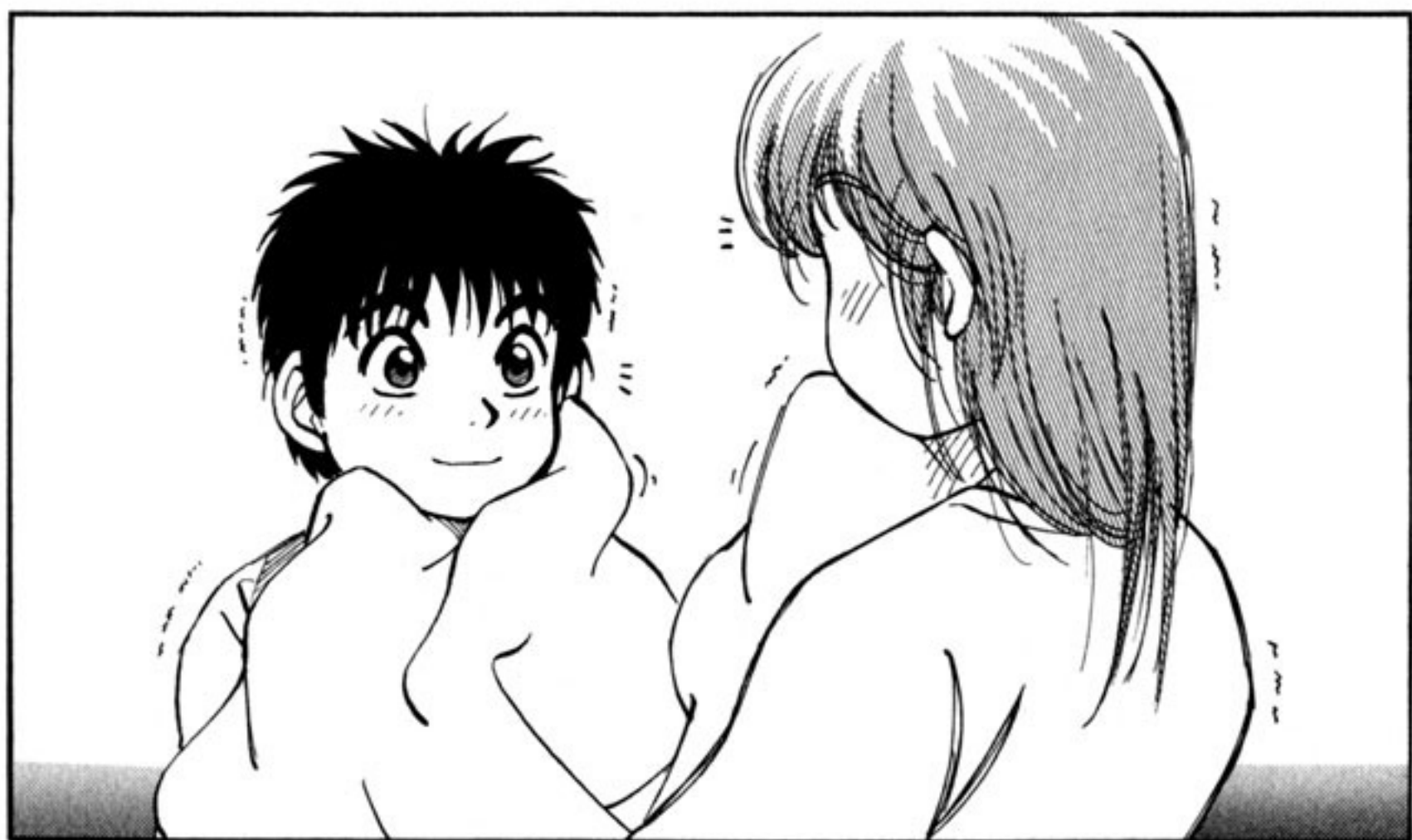
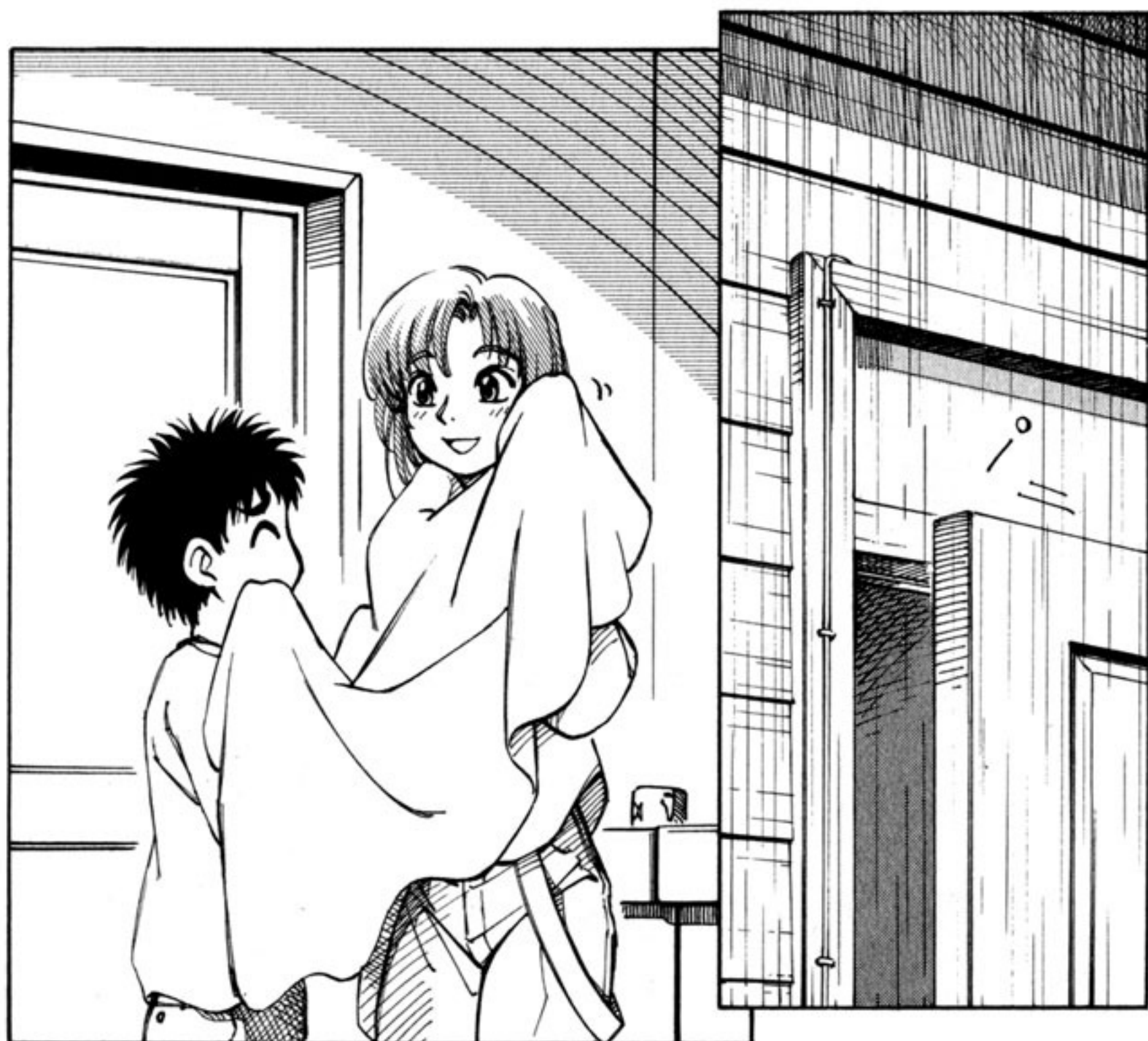
















ACK...
SORRY.

Ah?
heart
...?

I THINK
MY HEART
JUST
STOPPED
...



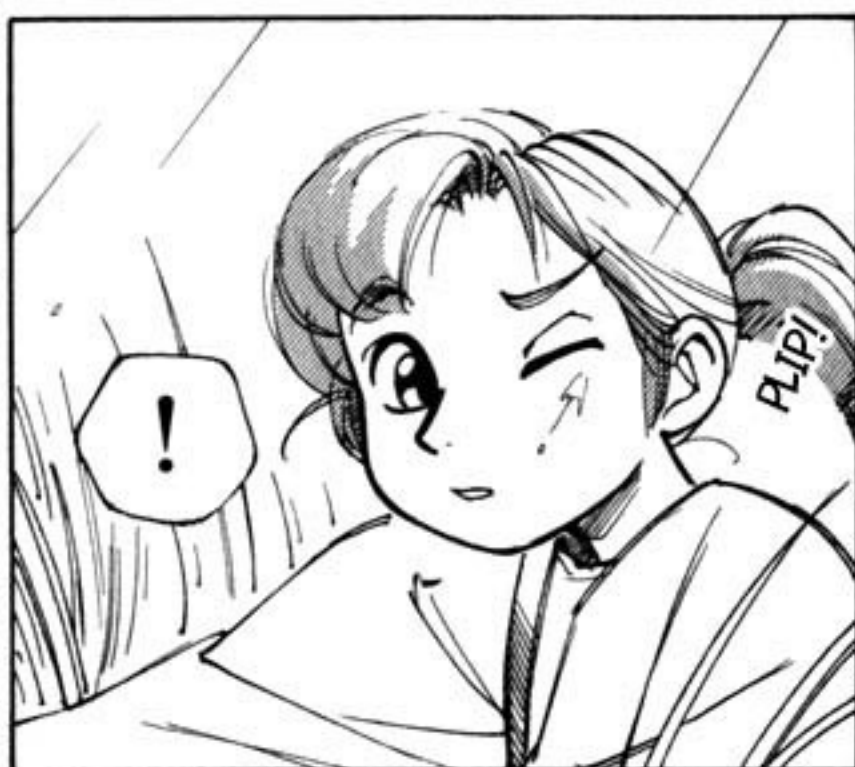
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME
COMING?

.....
TAKA-
HIRO!

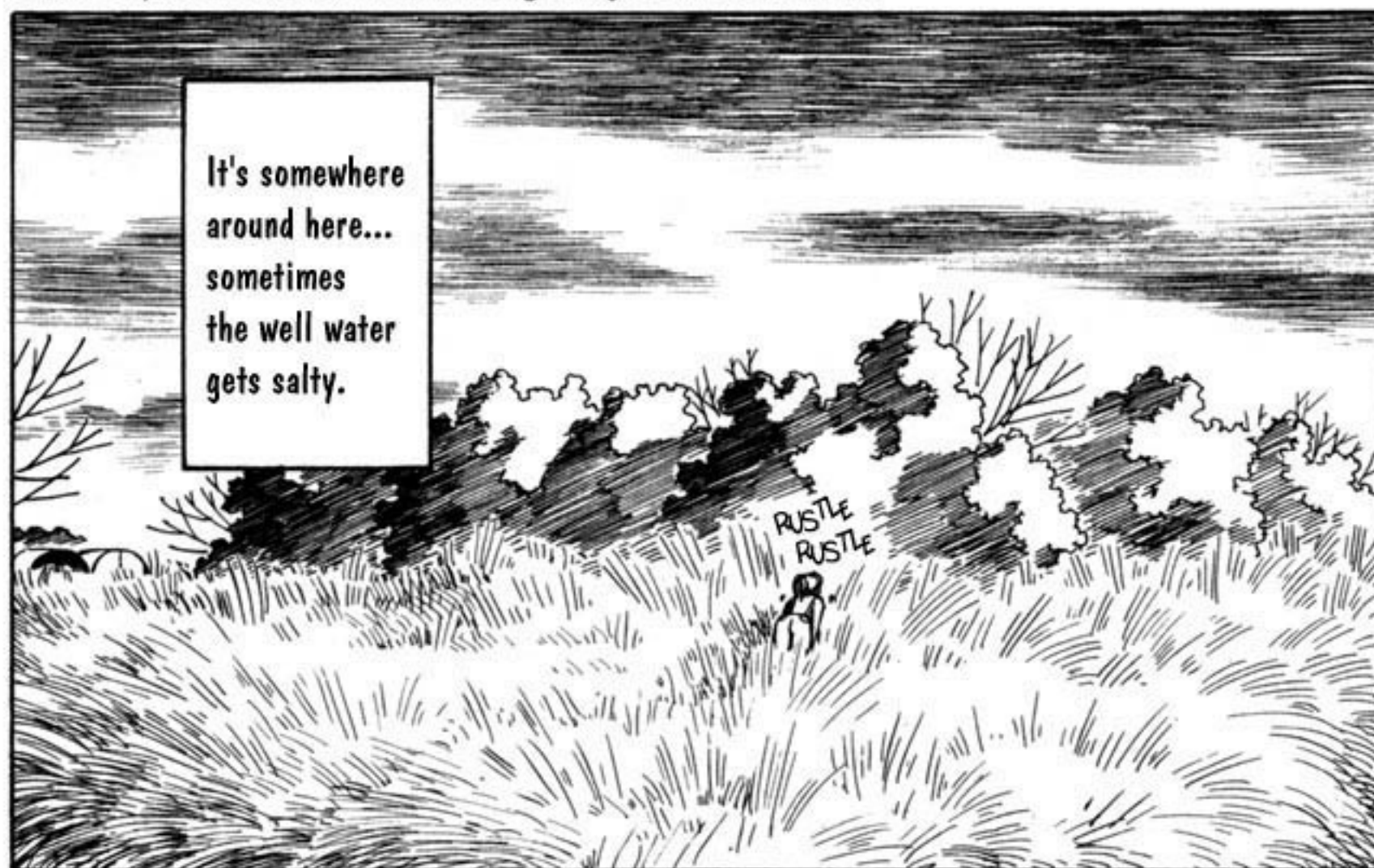


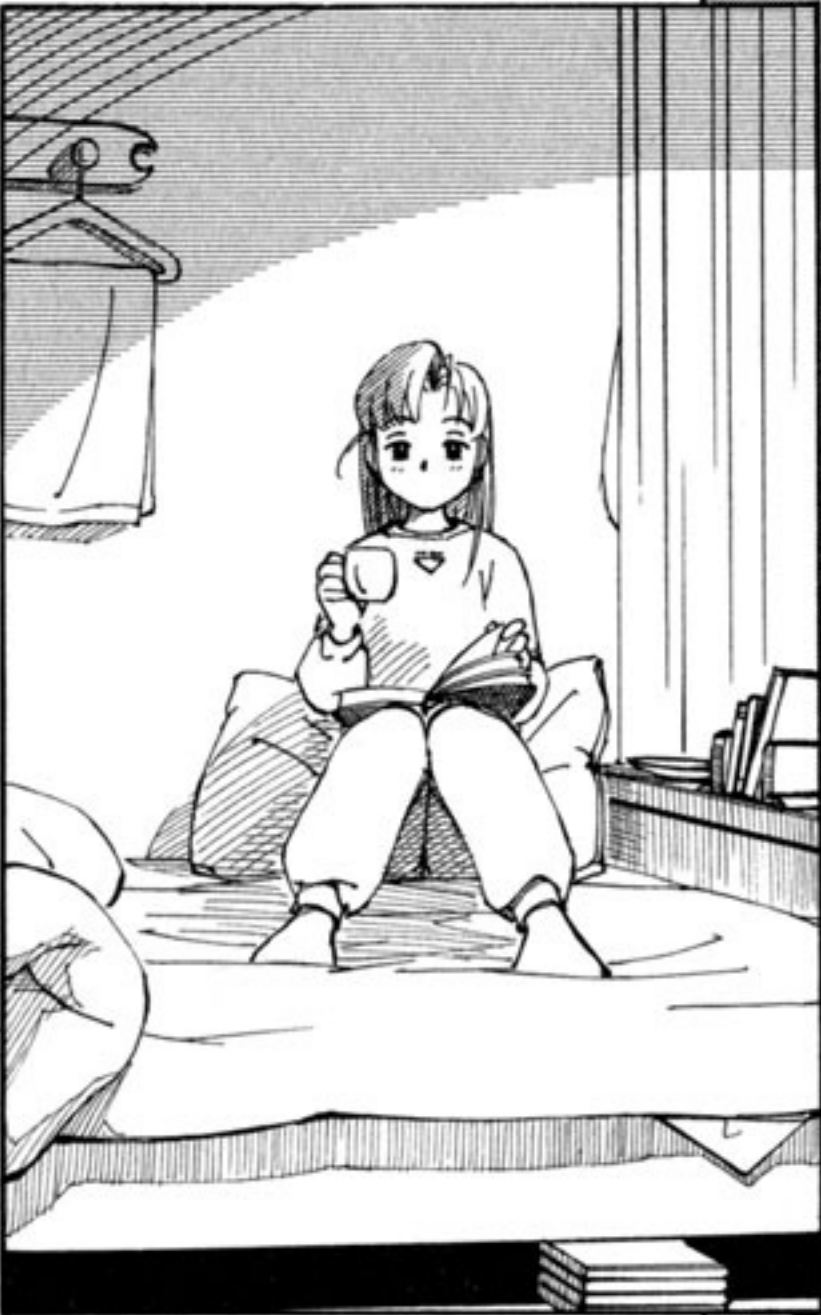
I've got to flip
this switch to
let it flow to
the house...

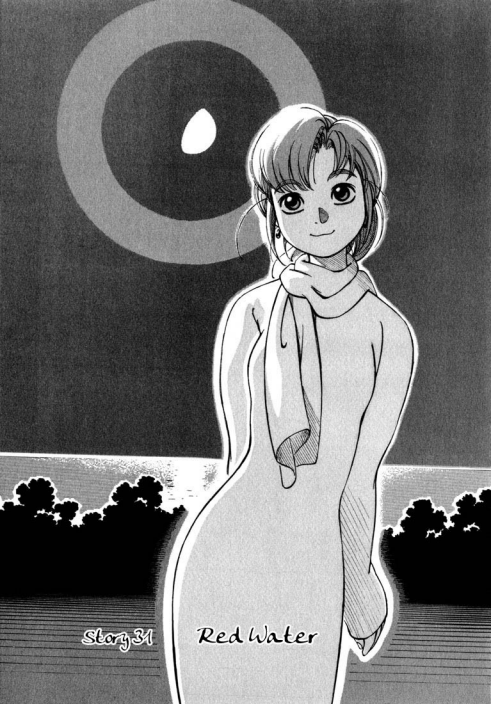




SFX: <POURING DOWN>







Story 31

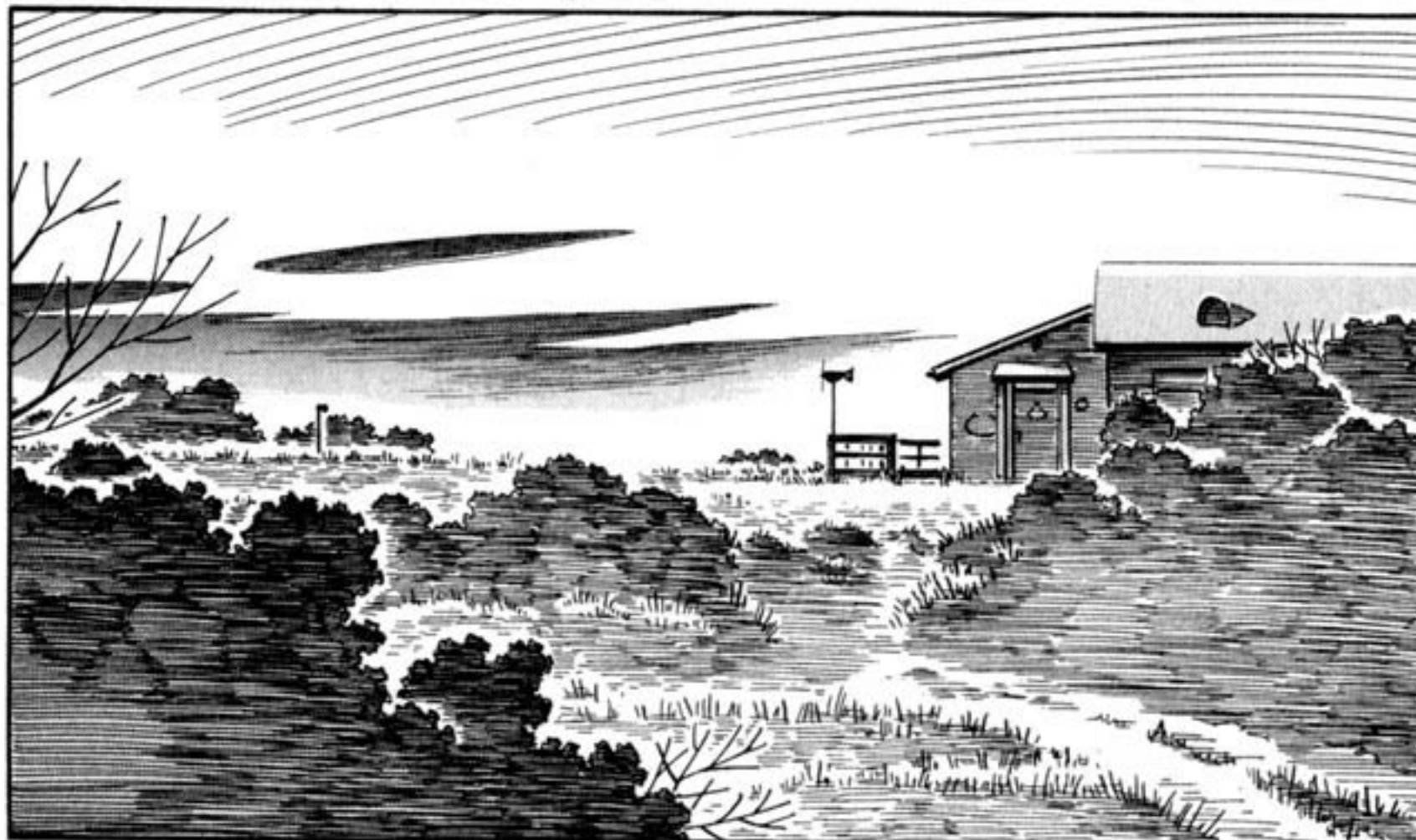
Red Water



And perhaps on
my next visit, I'll
be considered a
regular customer.



Story 30 - End



Yet...
despite all
this...
I'll probably
come again.

Her shop is
in a very
inconvenient,
far-away
place.





WELL,
PLEASE
COME
AGAIN!



THANKS
A LOT.



SURE.

OH, YOU'RE
LEAVING?

While I was here,
I saw no other
customers
besides myself.

WOULD
YOU LIKE
ANOTHER
CUP?

YES, VERY
MUCH SO.



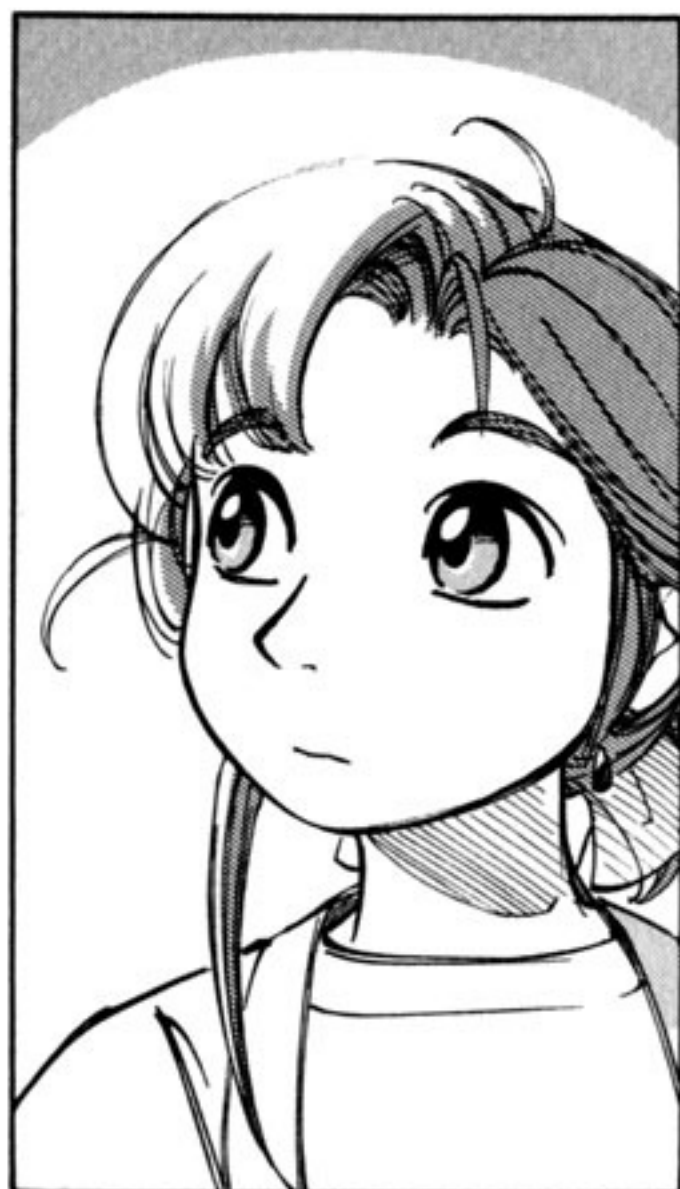
And the people who
have met her
certainly notice this.

Alpha-san is
probably not
thinking of
anything in
particular.



Her custom-
ers... I think
they most
likely come
here because
they want to
see her.





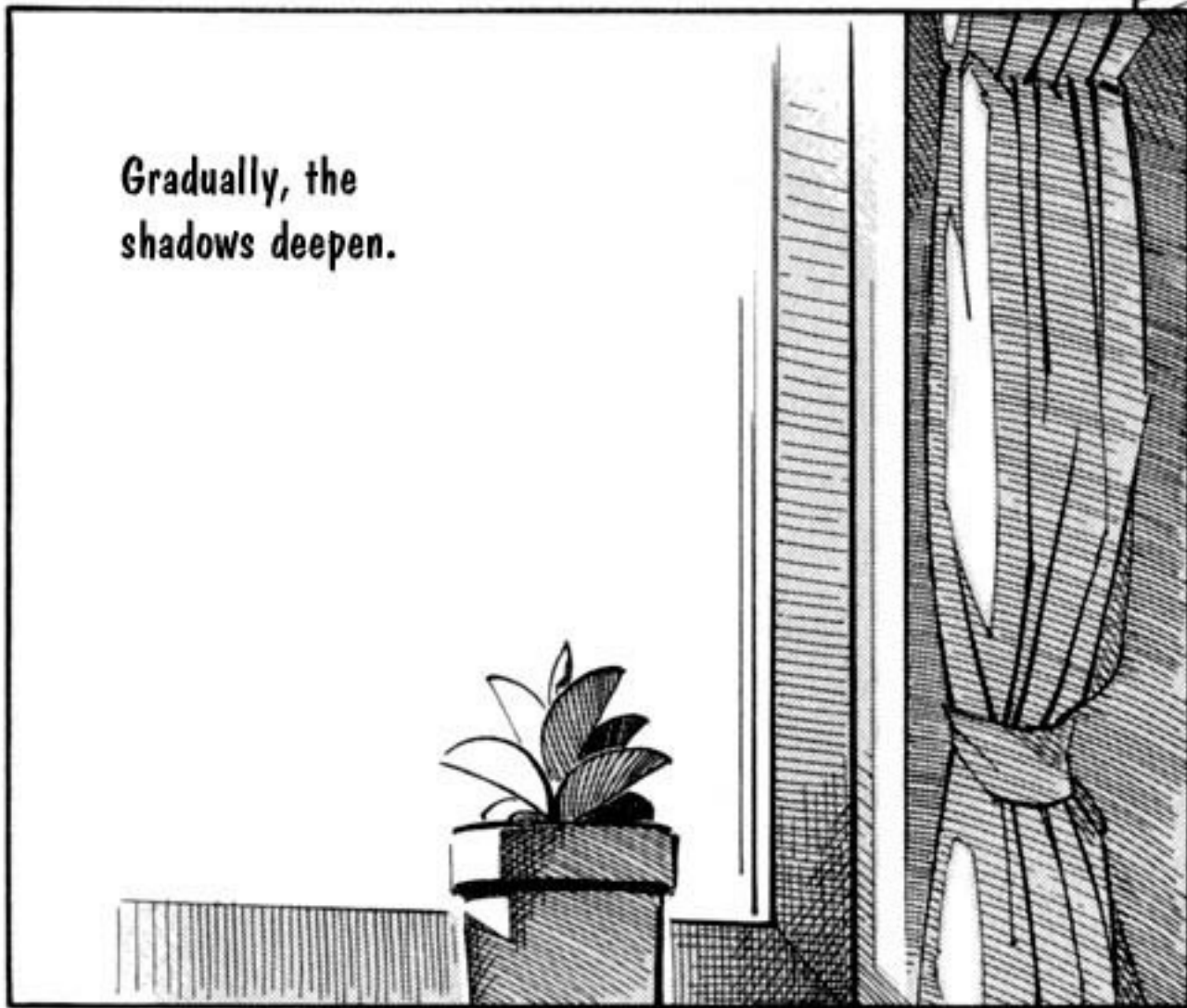
Lost in thought.



HUH?
NO, IT'S
FINE.



Gradually, the
shadows deepen.



No other customers
seem to be coming
as Alpha-san talks
with me happily.







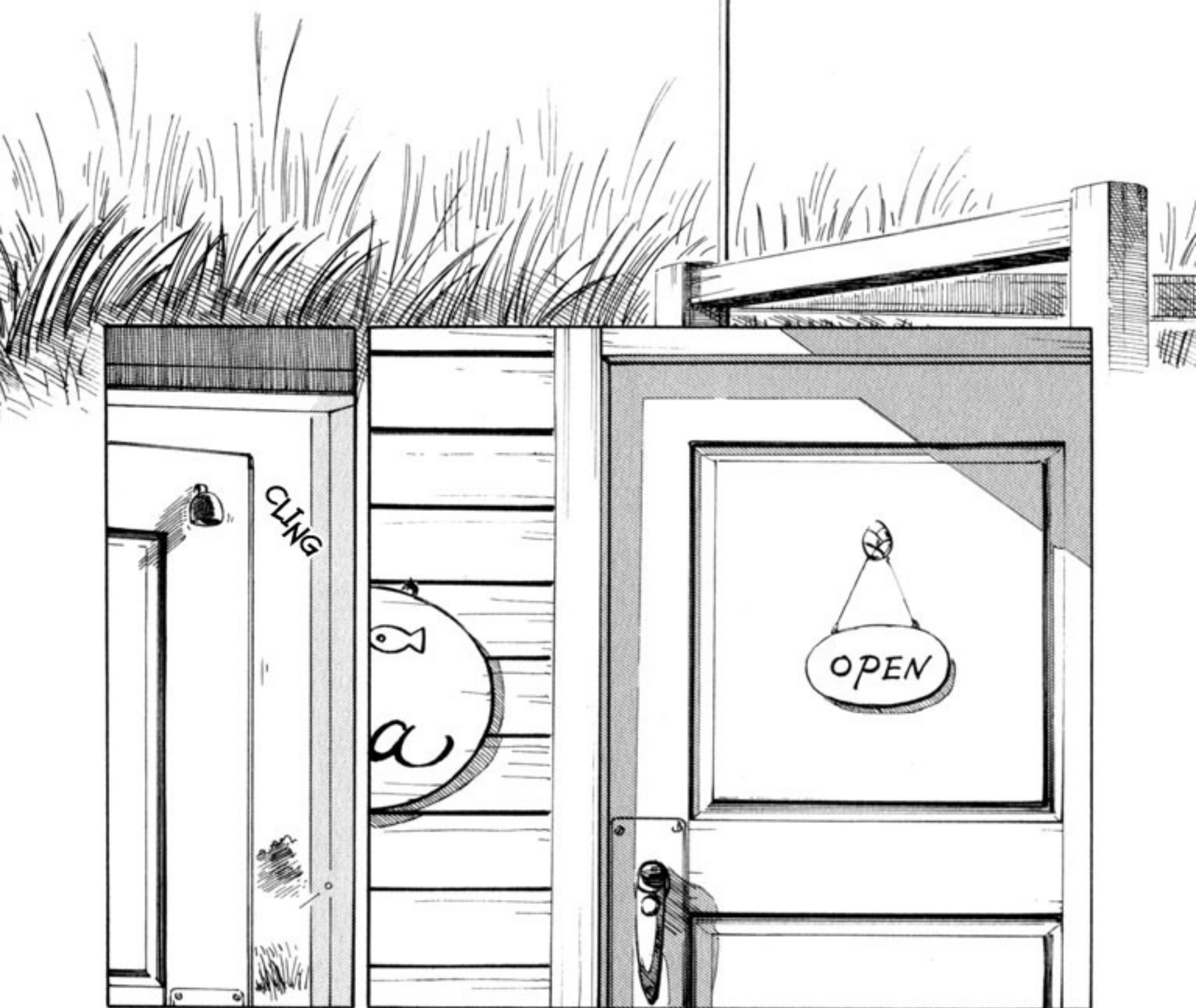




OH! WELCOME!

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

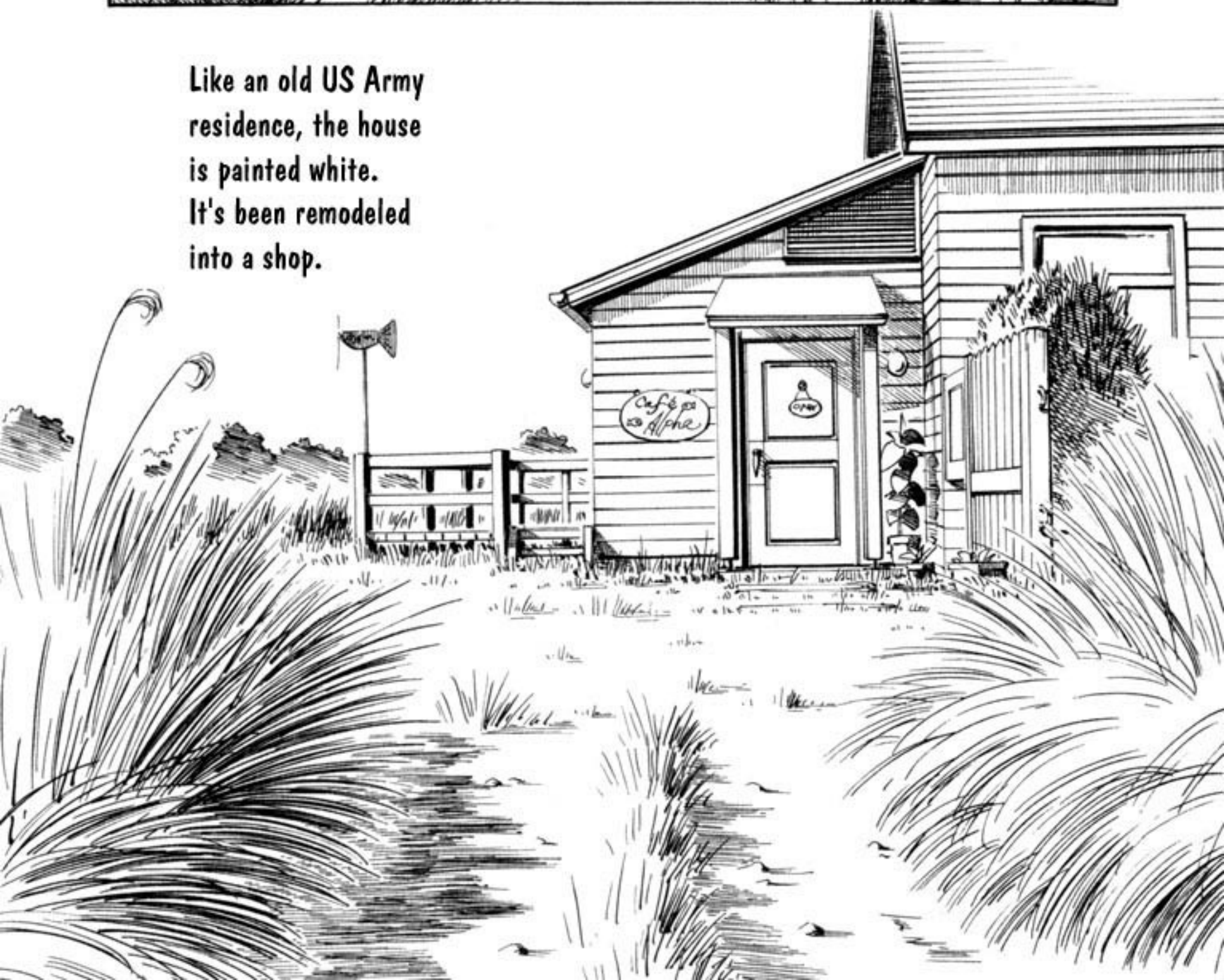
The field is
overflowing
with strong
and energetic
susuki grass.

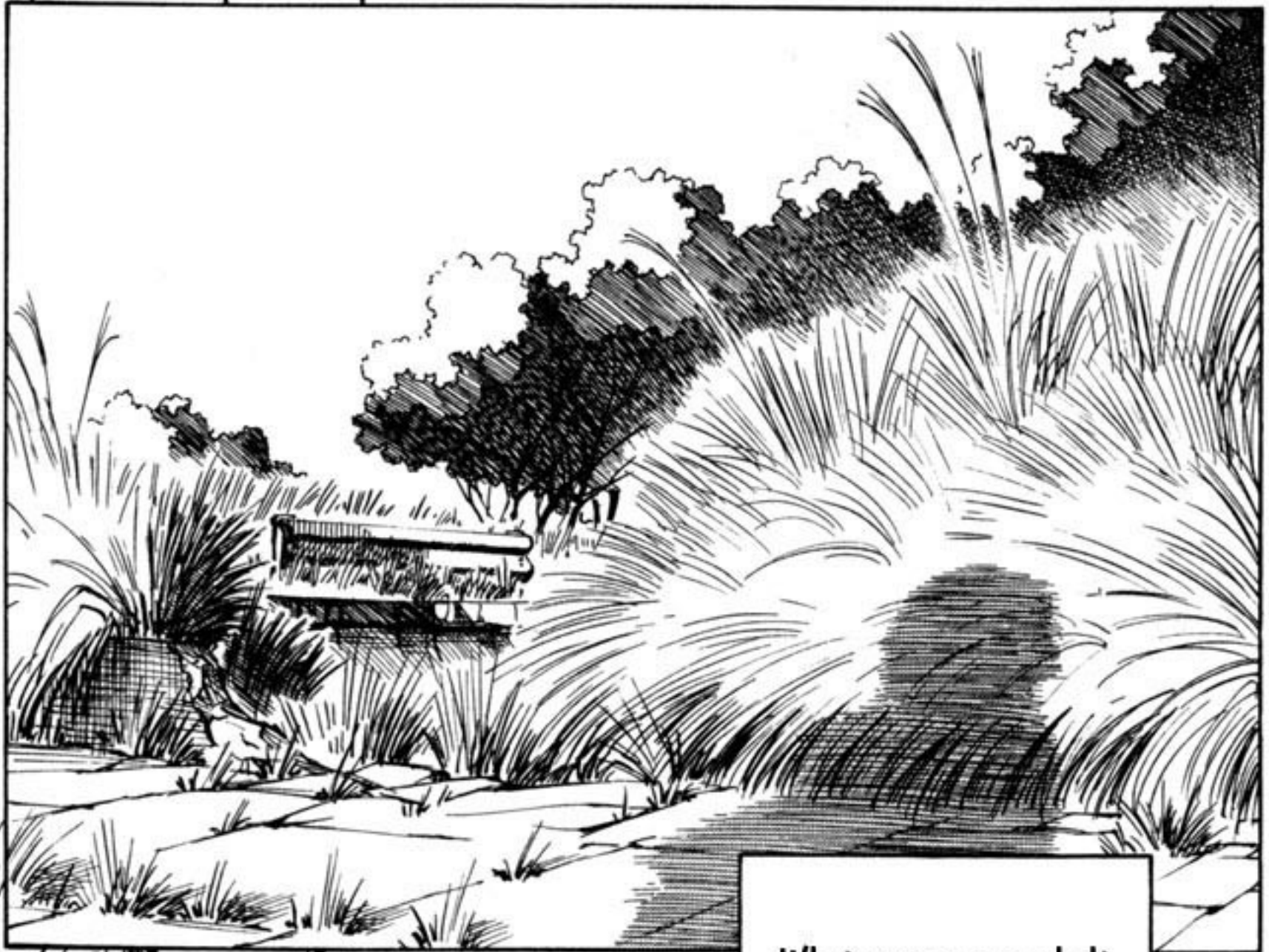


Never falter,
for ahead lies
a coffee shop.
Cafe Alpha...



Like an old US Army
residence, the house
is painted white.
It's been remodeled
into a shop.





What was once asphalt
pavement is now a
crumbling path...
Every time I pass this
way I am reminded of
its need for repairs...





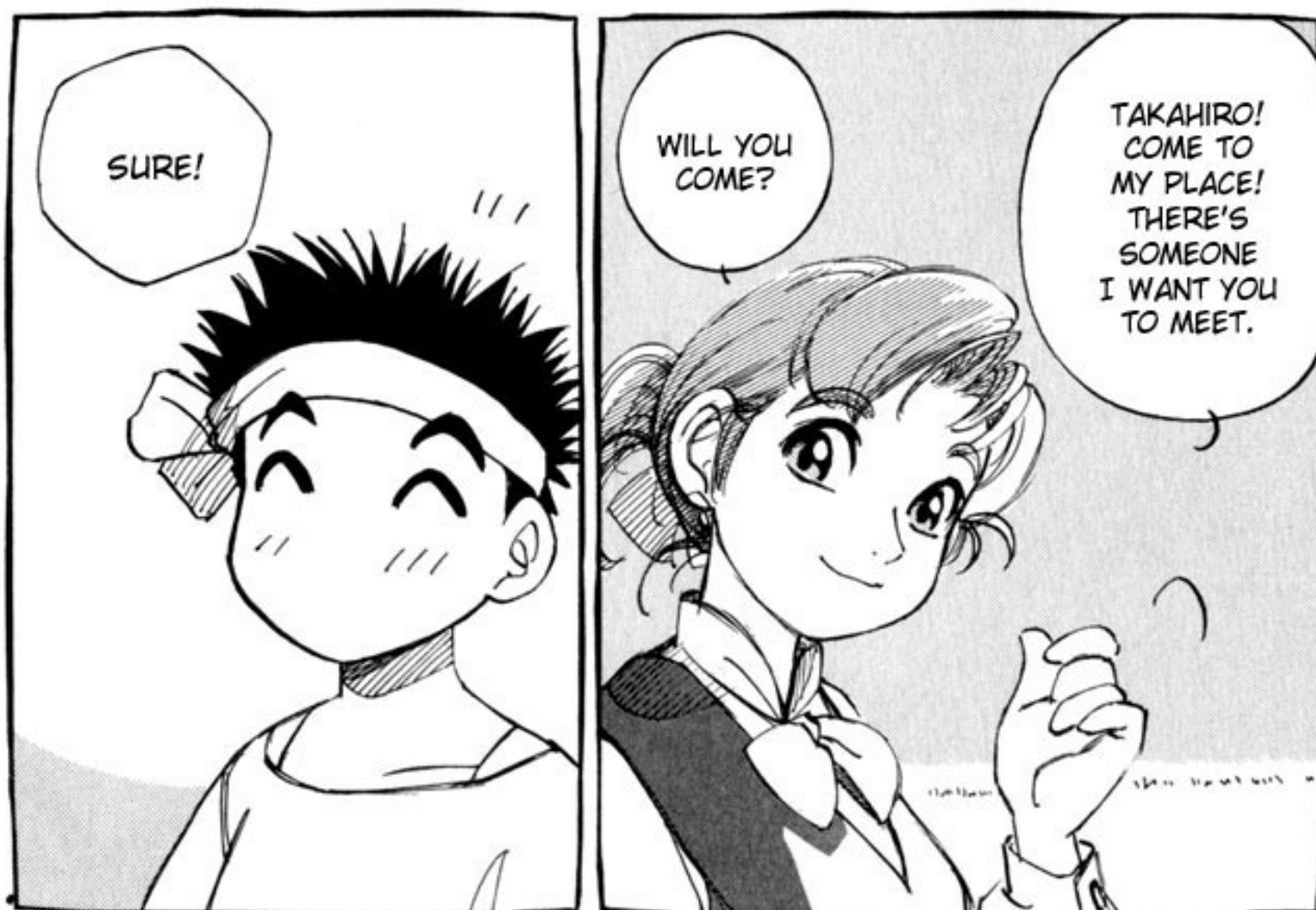
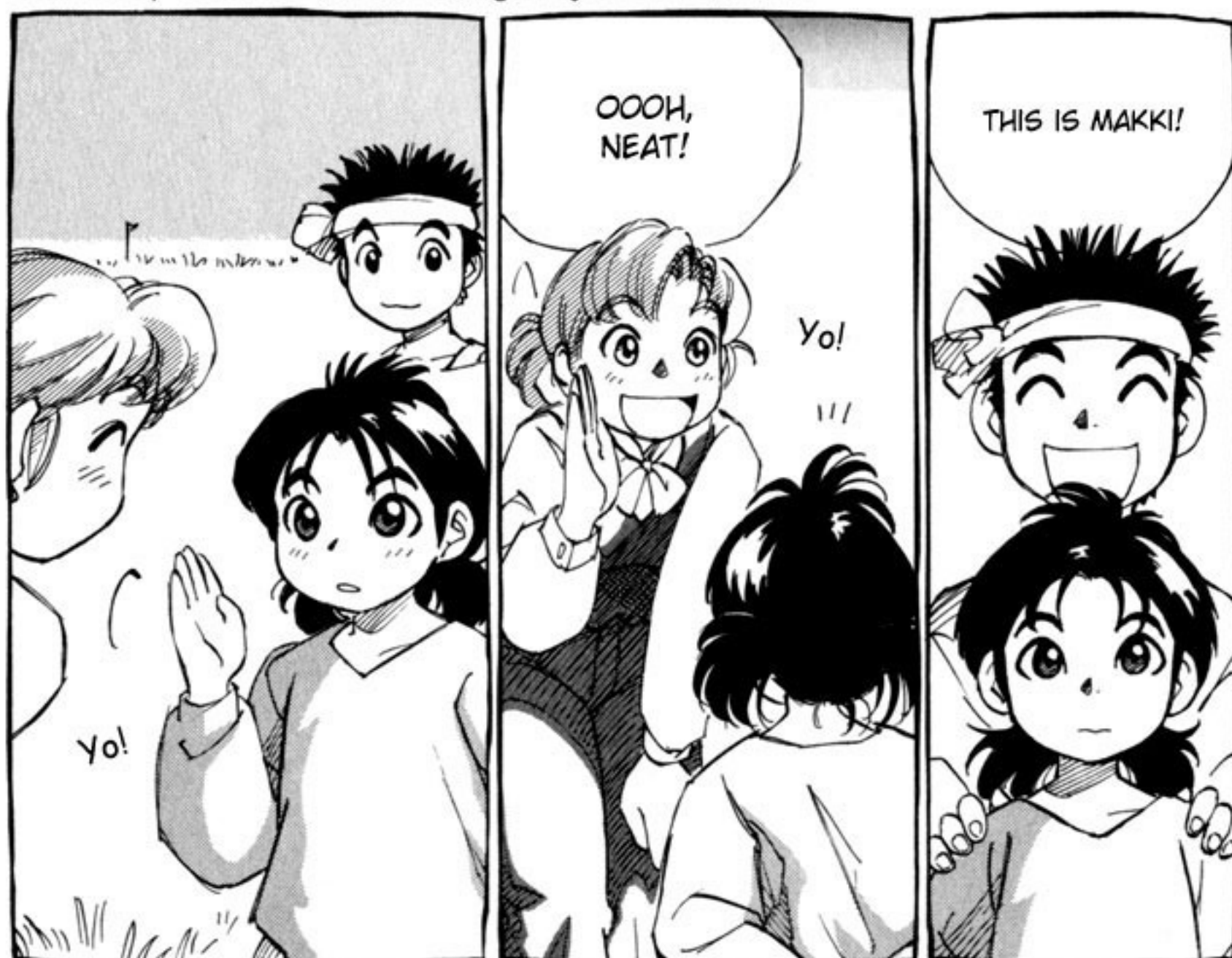
This road seems
to have been
made for a
summer home
that no longer
exists.

Story 30

Cafe Alpha









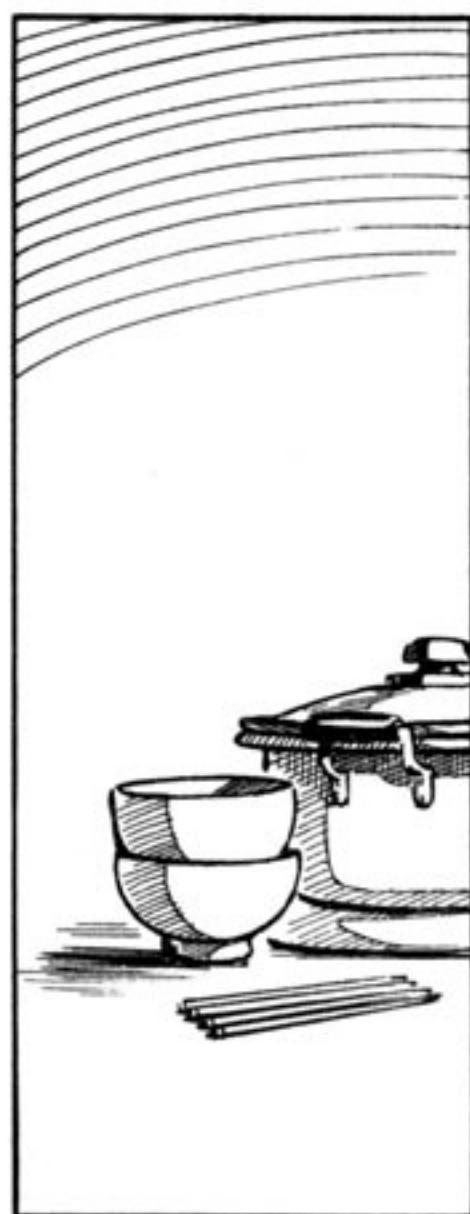
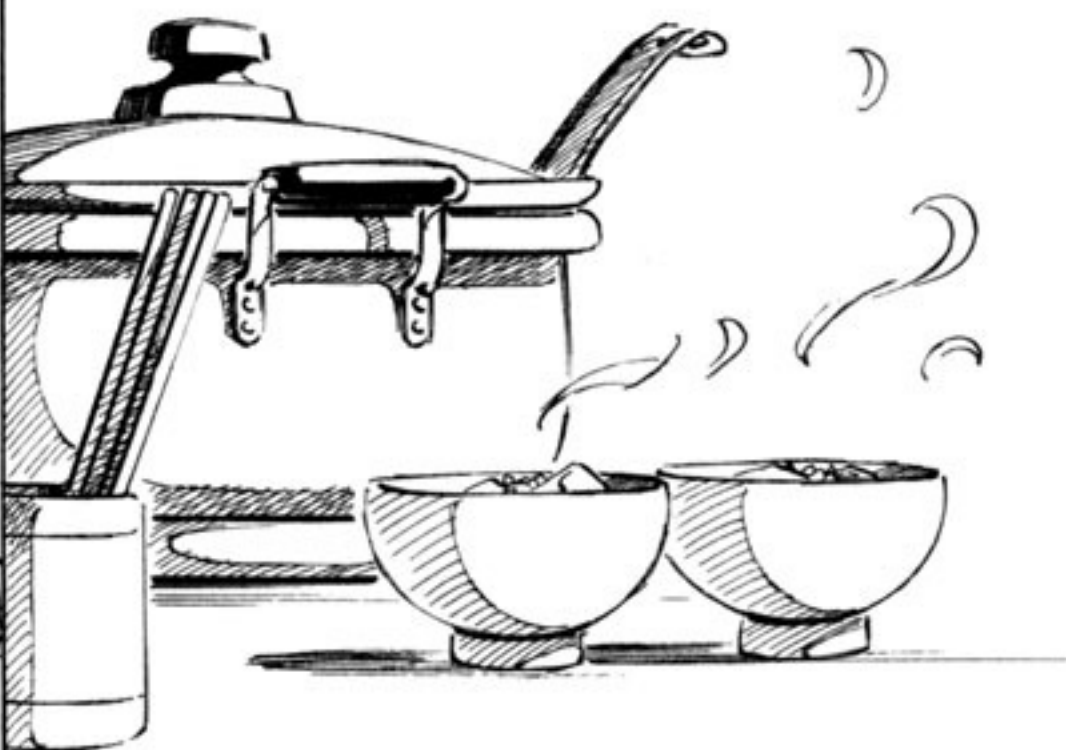
WELCOME.



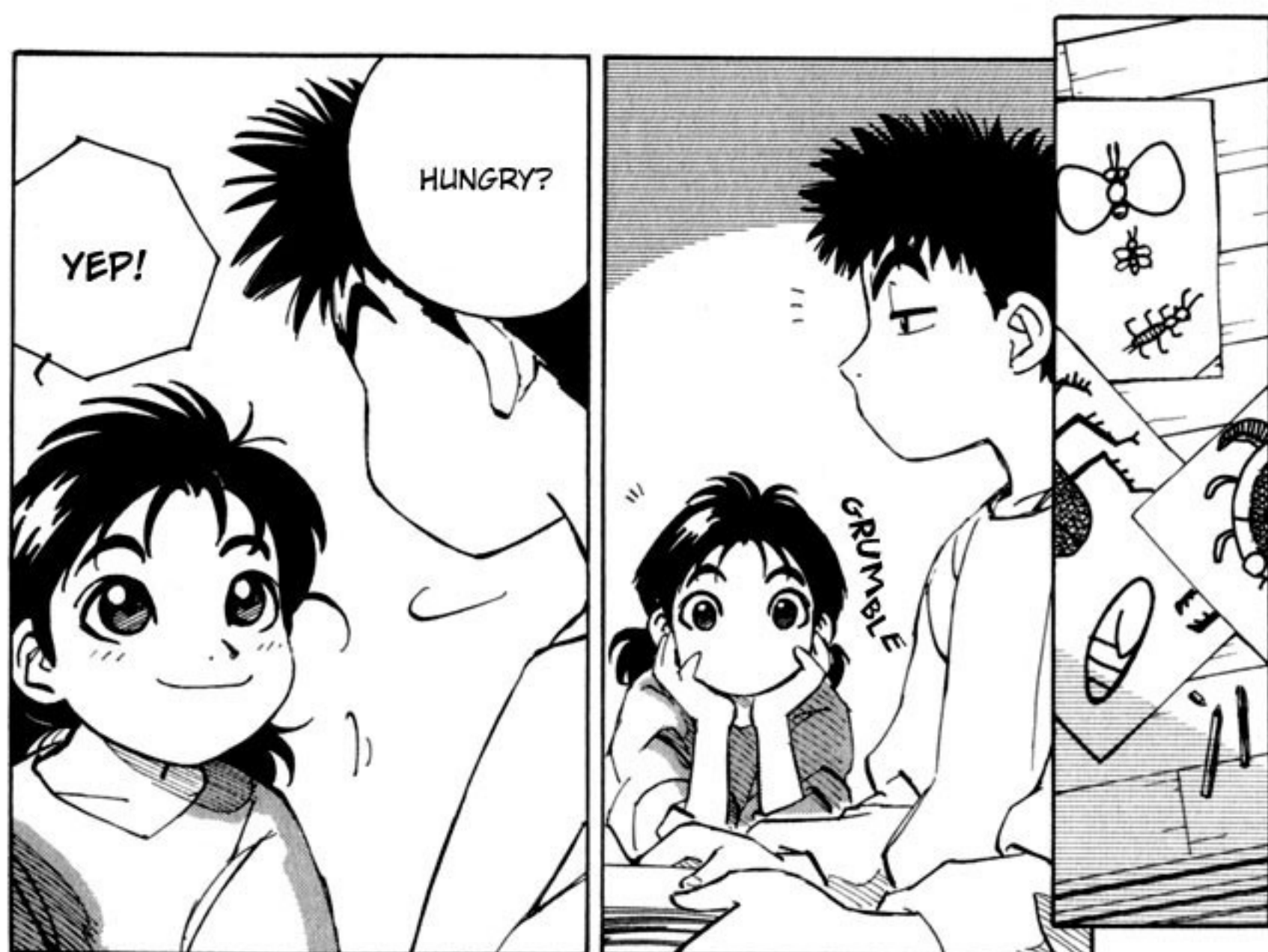


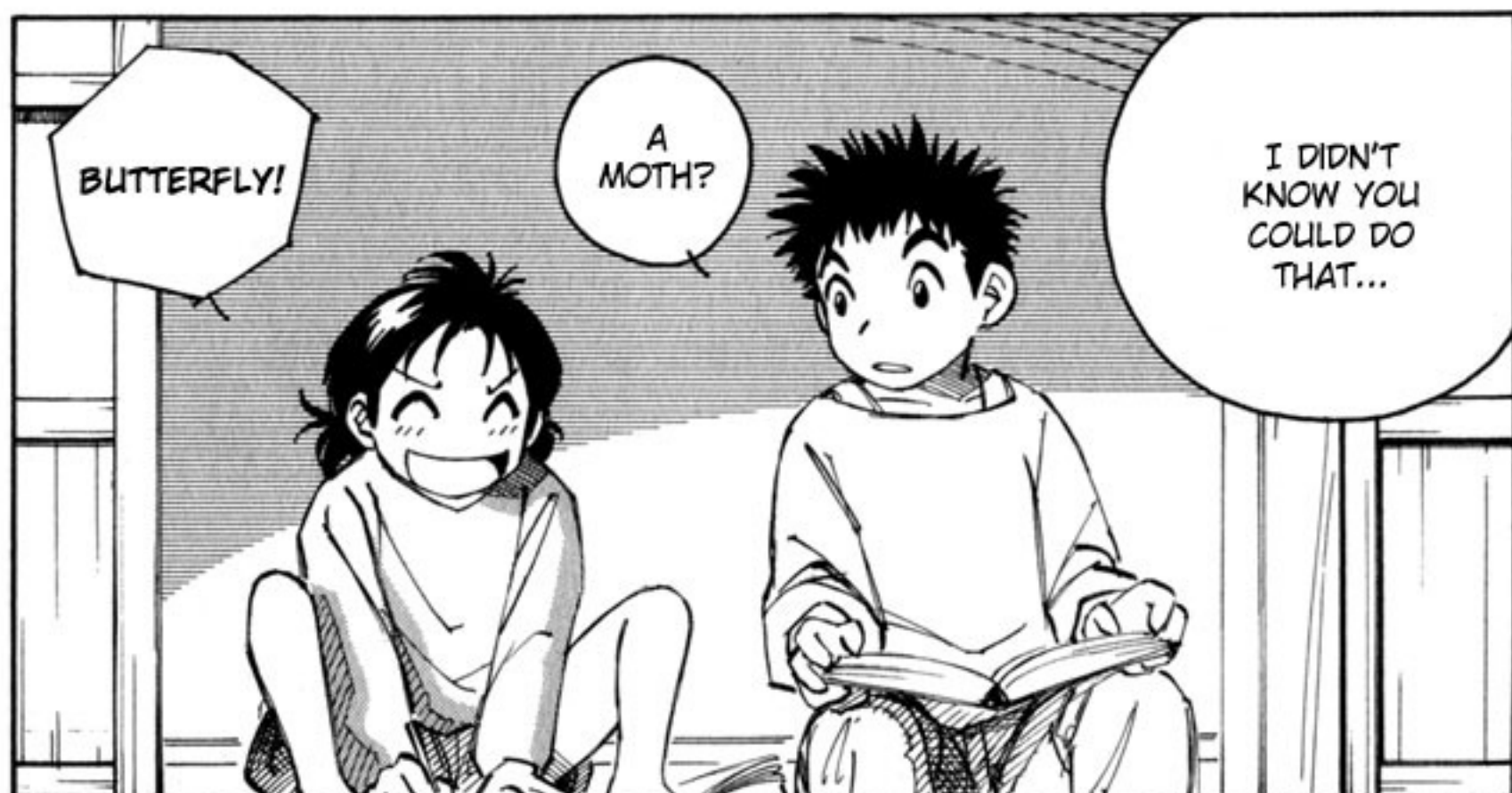
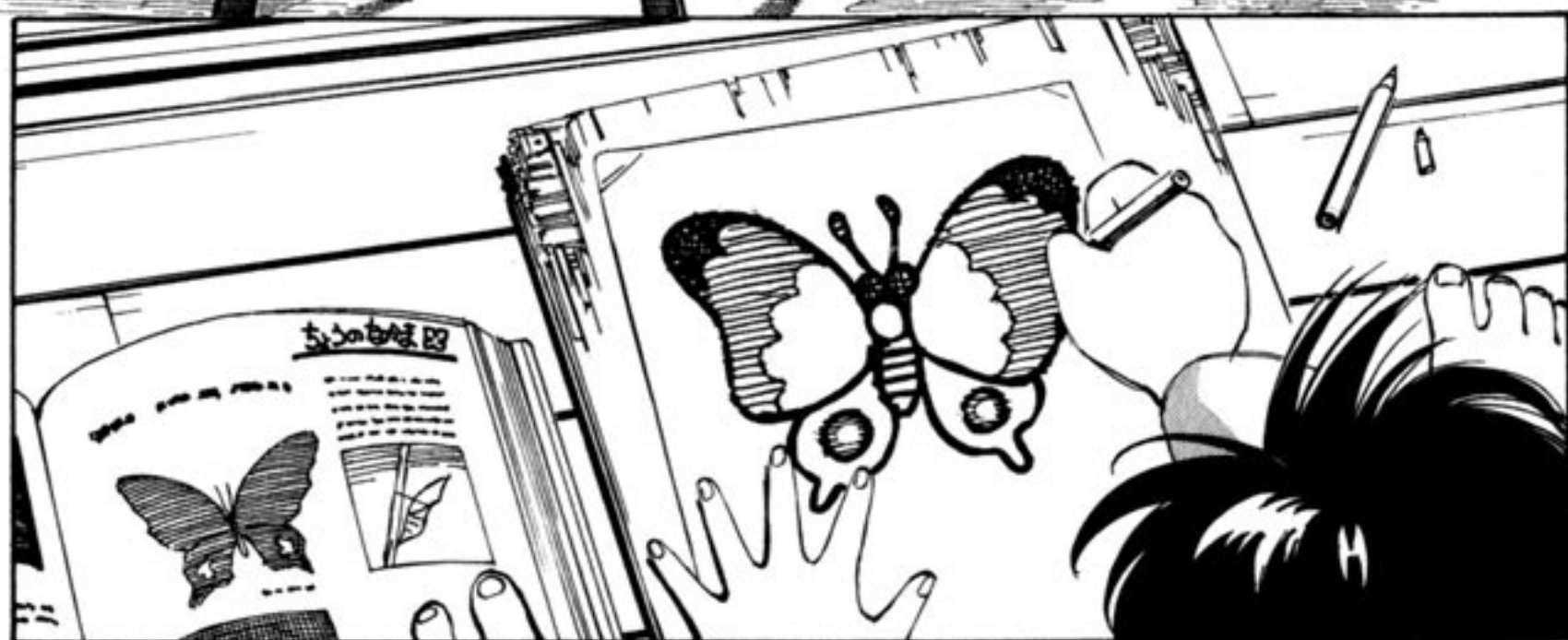
Miso soup
with potatoes
and onions.

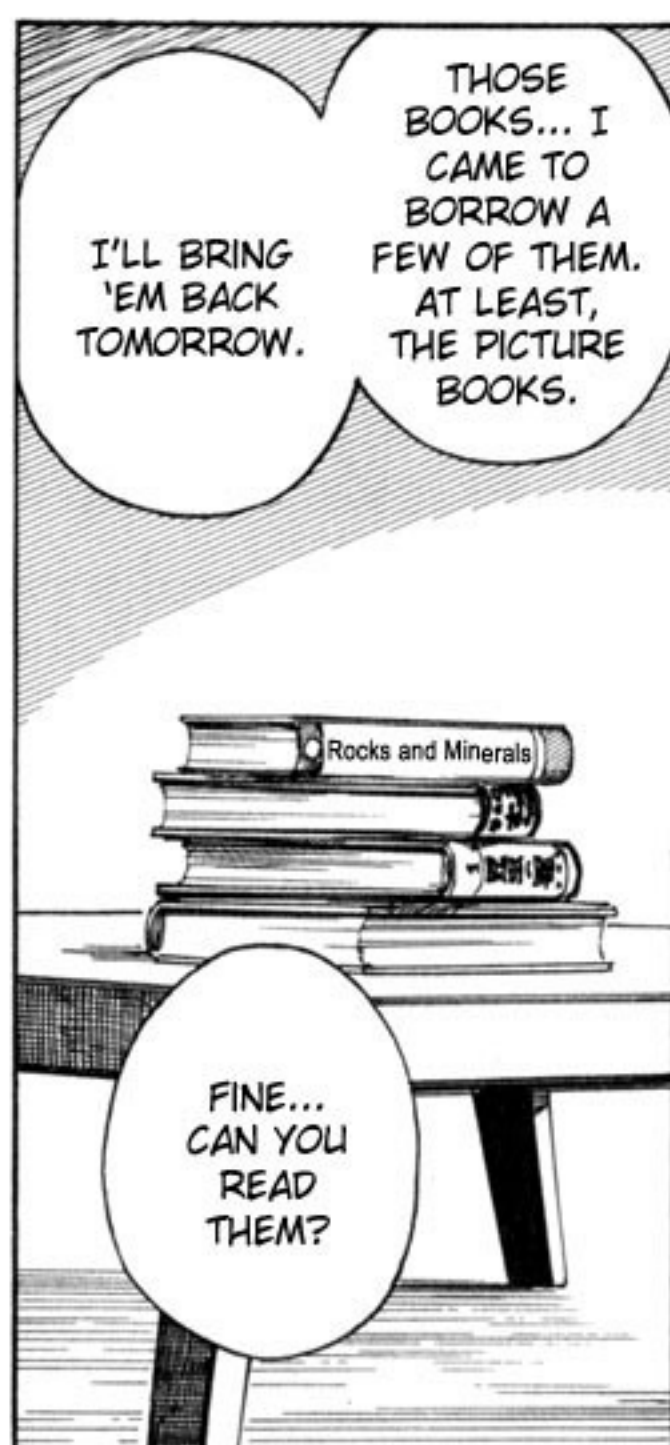
SI-I-IP

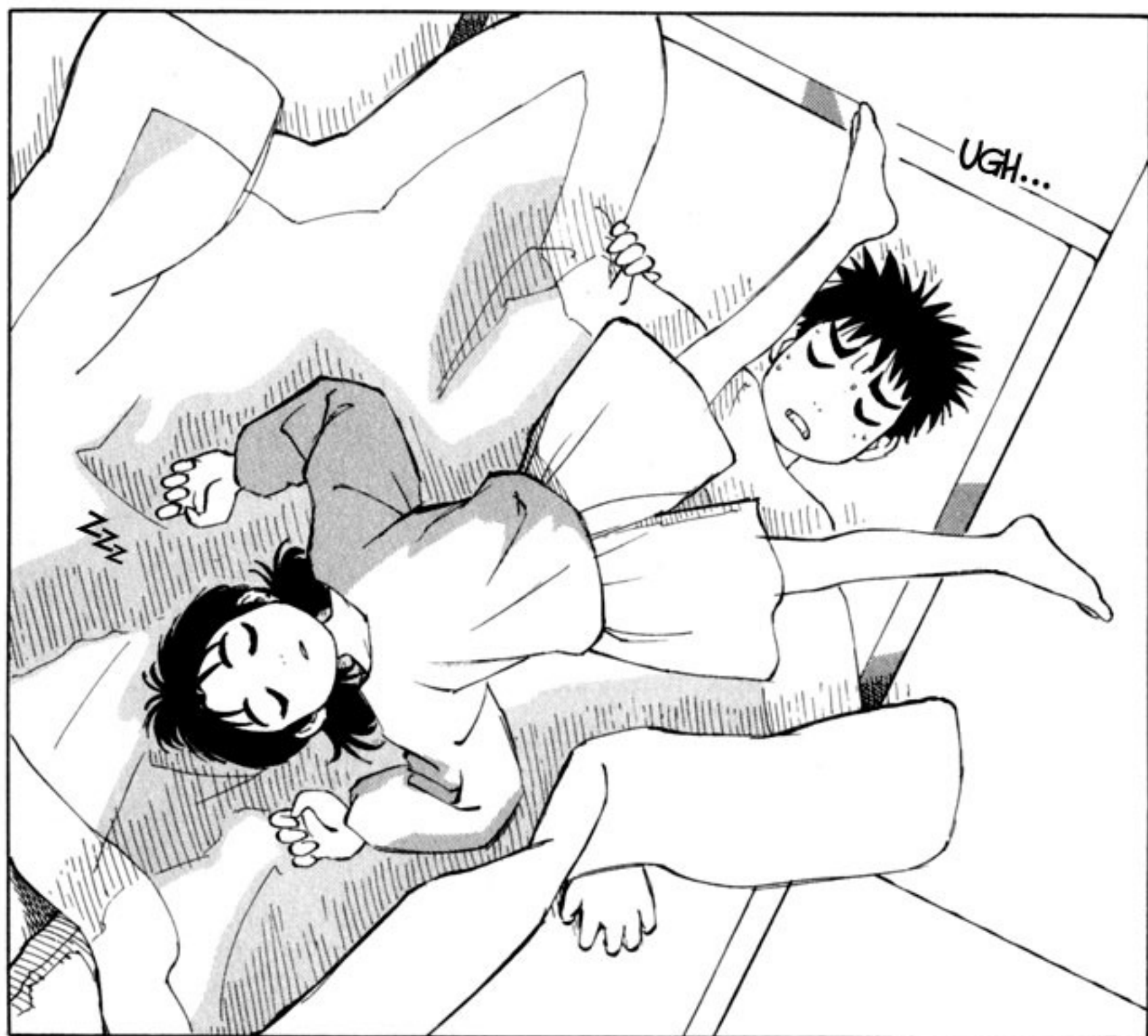


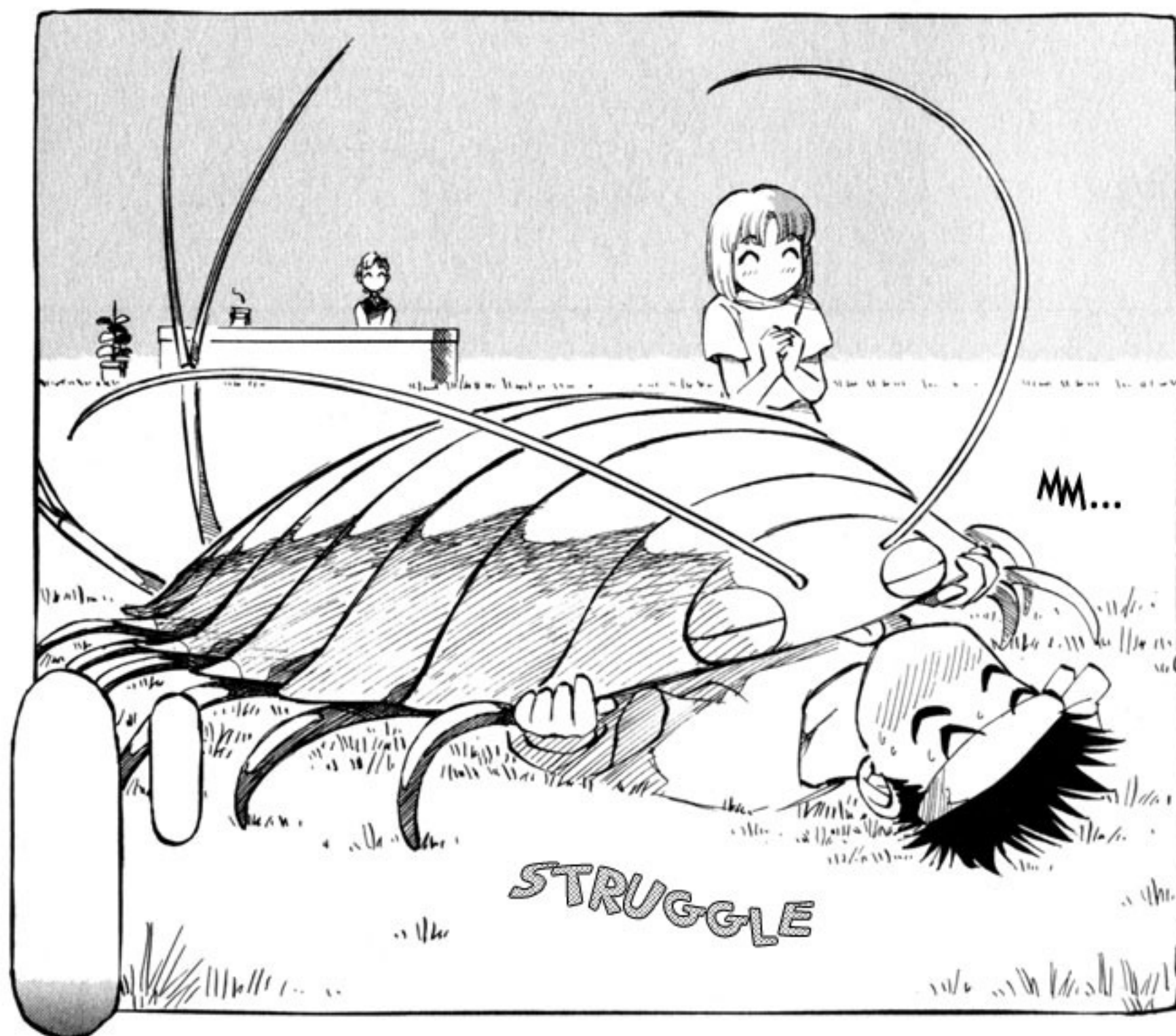
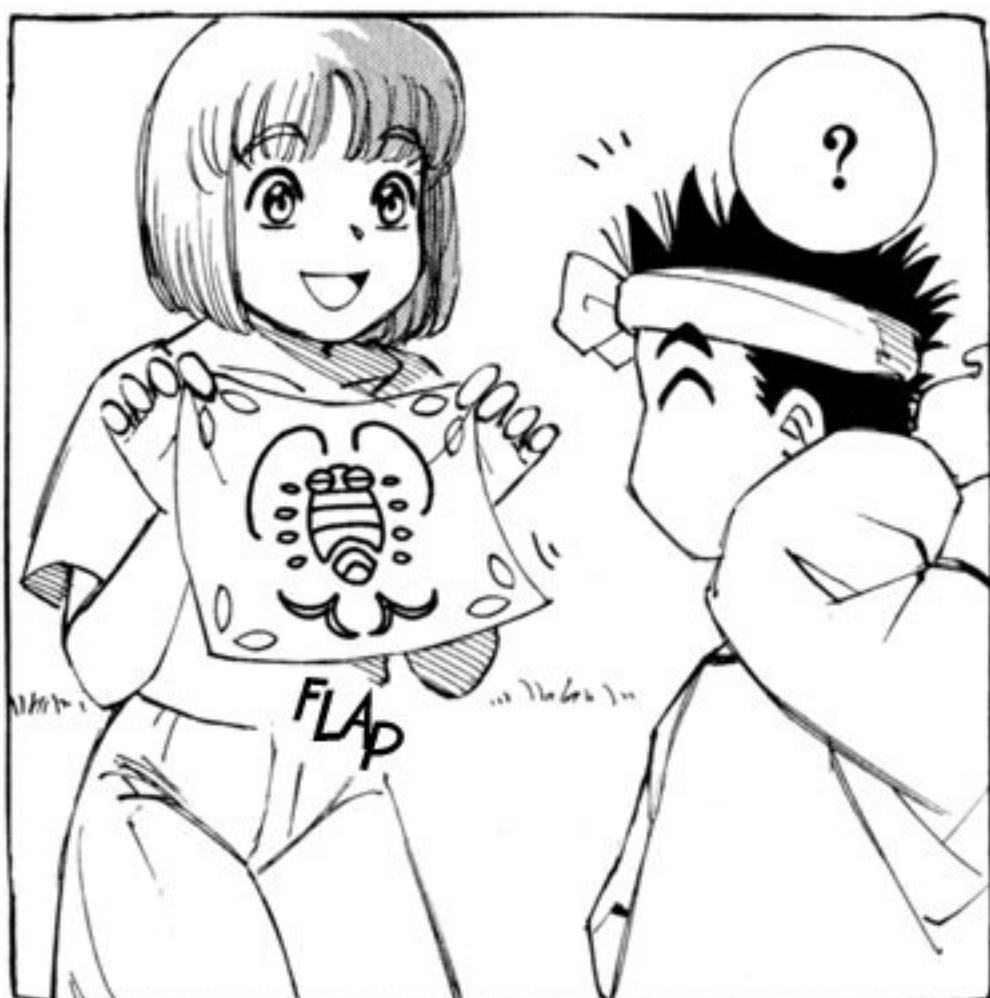




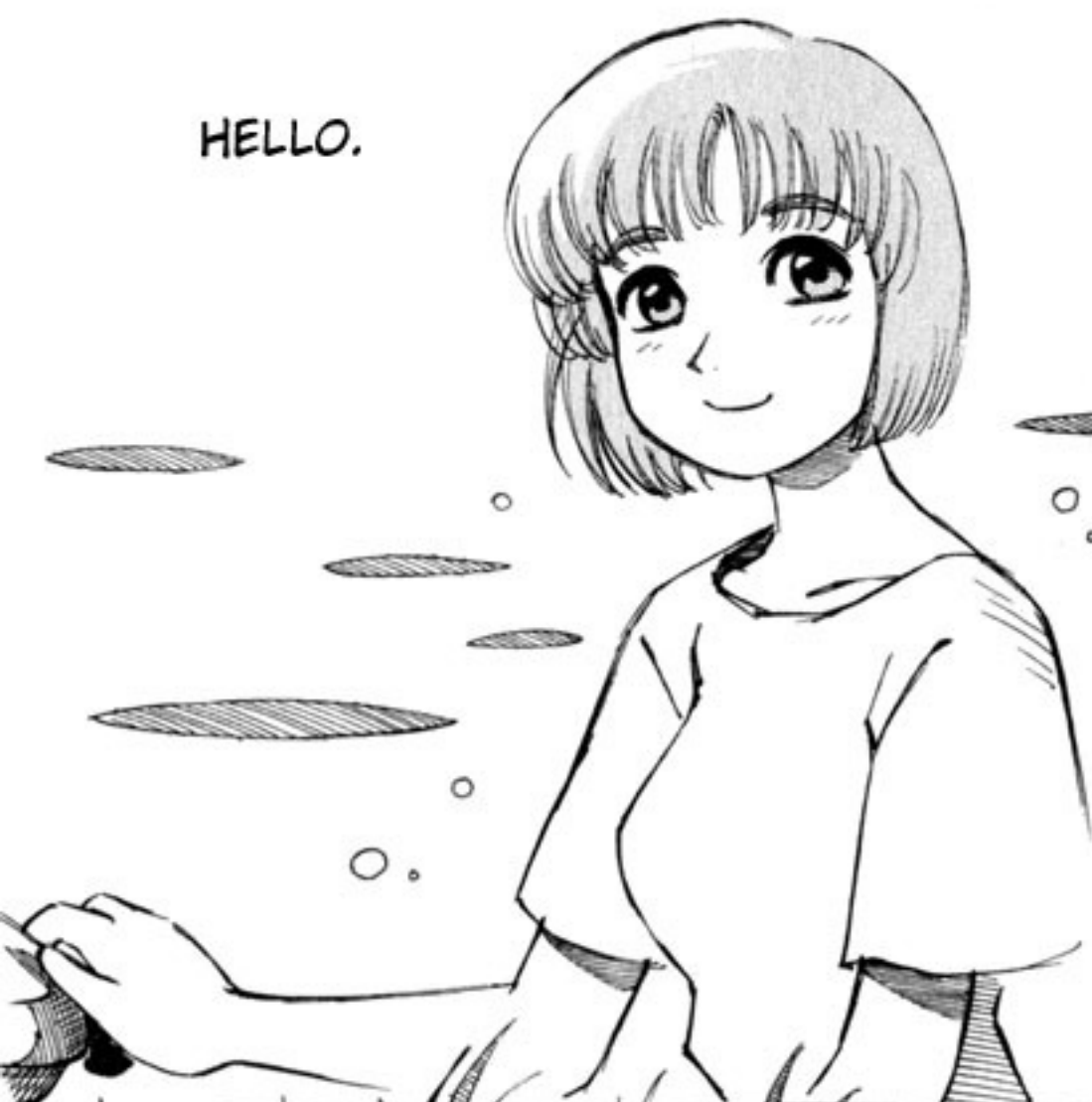






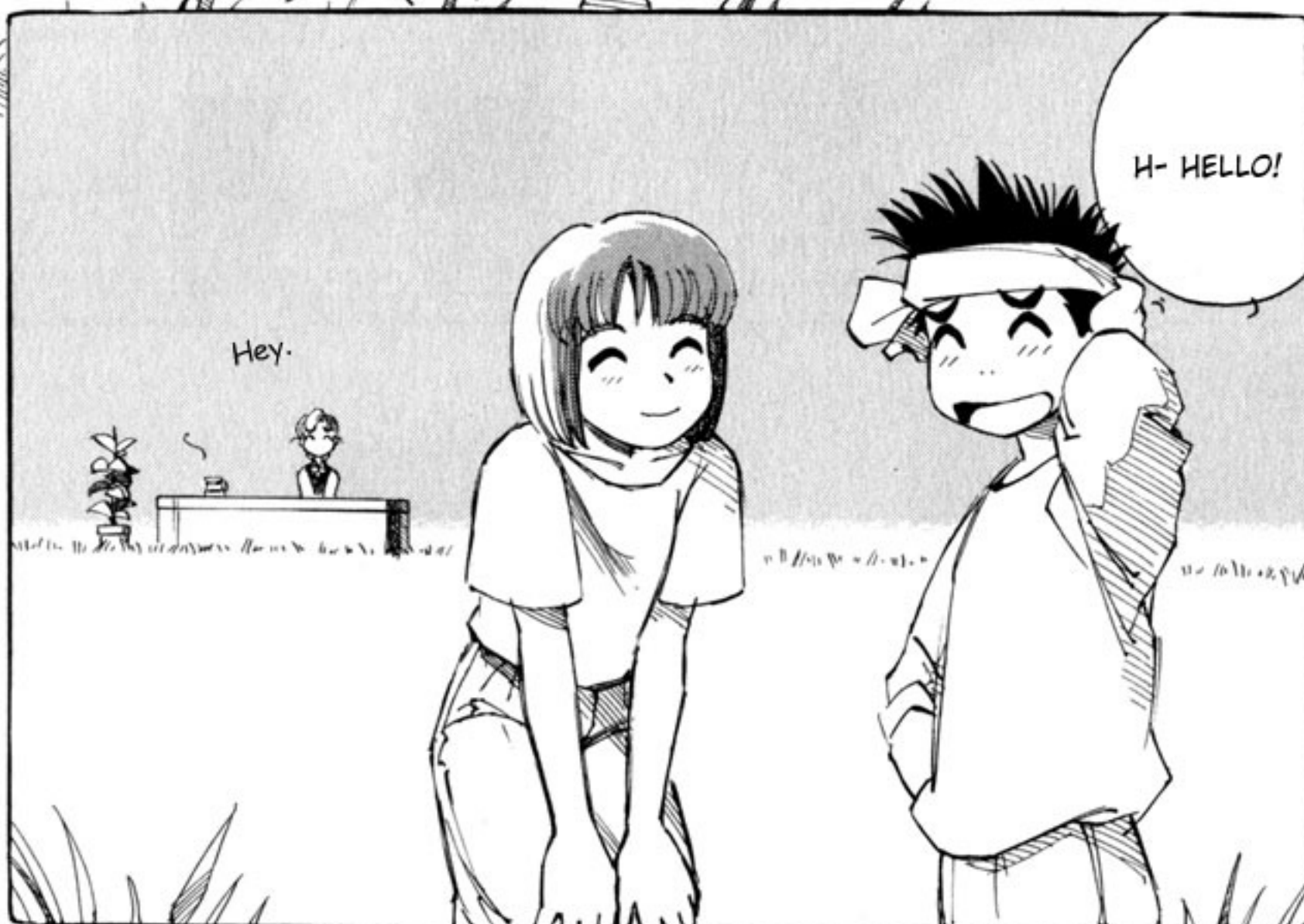


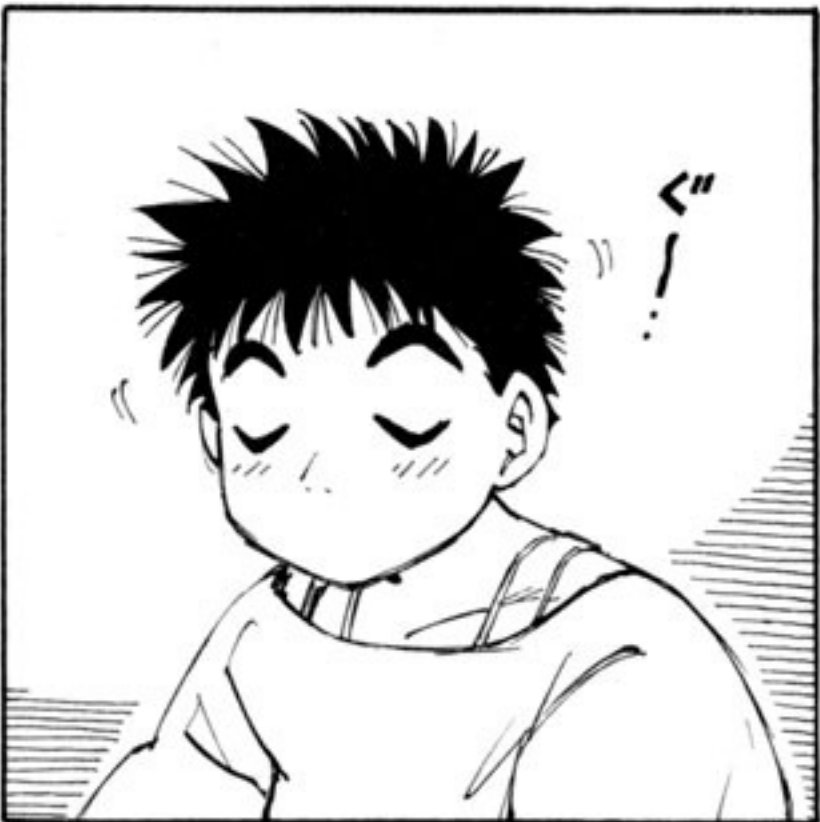
HELLO.

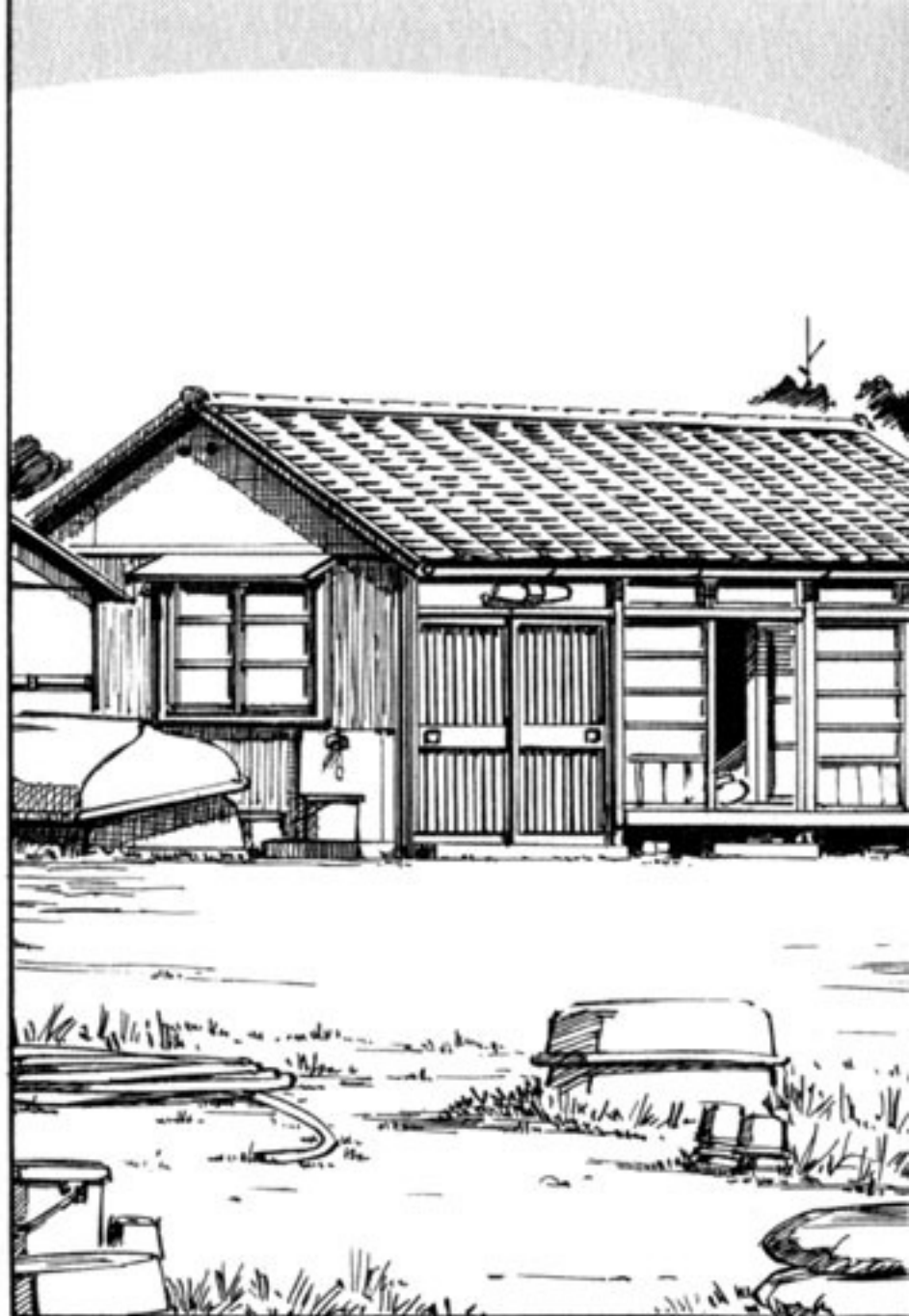


Hey.

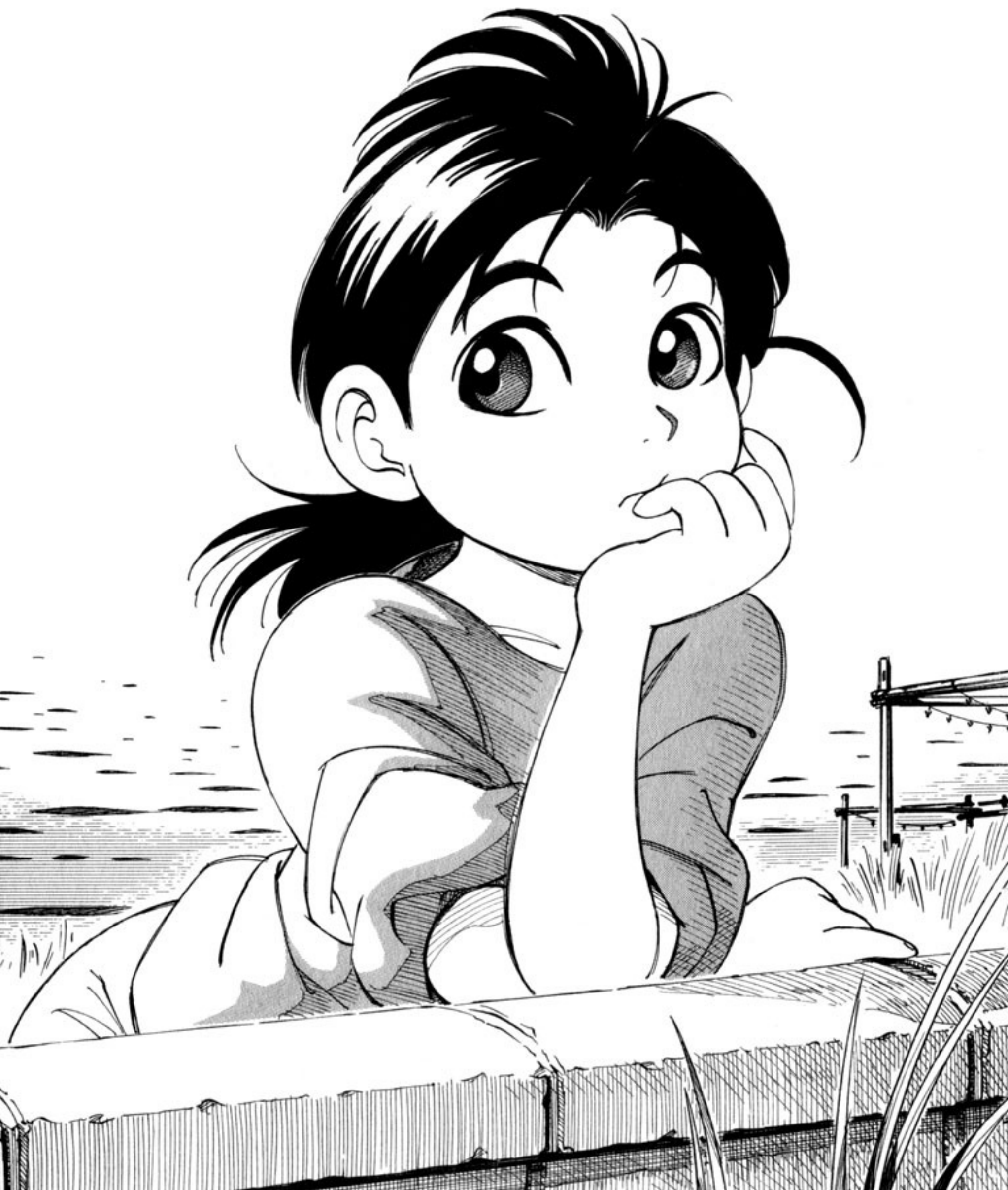
H- HELLO!







Story 29 In the Sun





I SORT OF
MEAN IT AS A
THANK YOU.



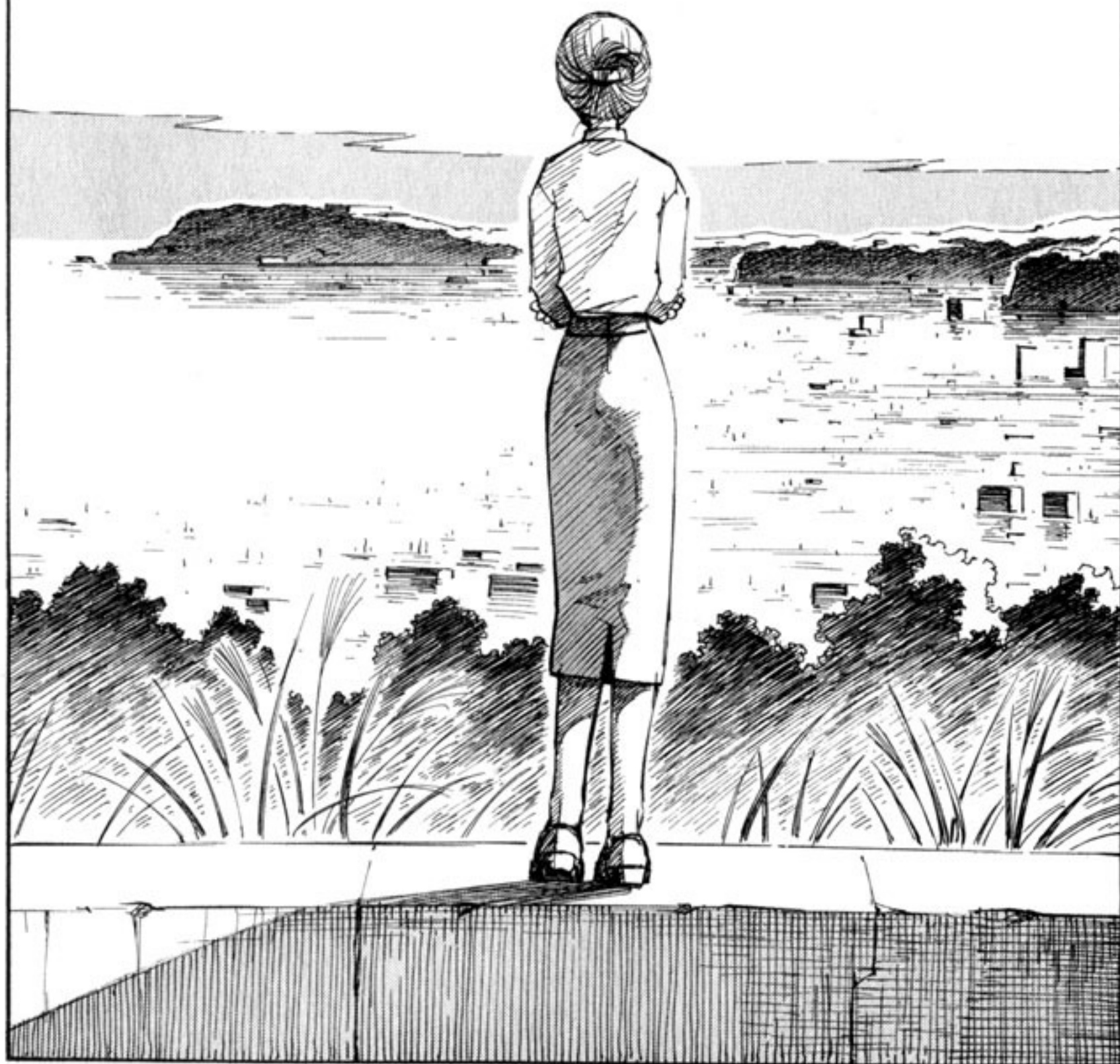
Alpha-san is...
still following
along that path
herself.



Story 28 - End

When the Alpha Type
was developed,
the experiences I've
gathered in life were
integrated as a very
important part of
their body.

Not much of
the data,
or indeed,
anything from
that day,
still exists.



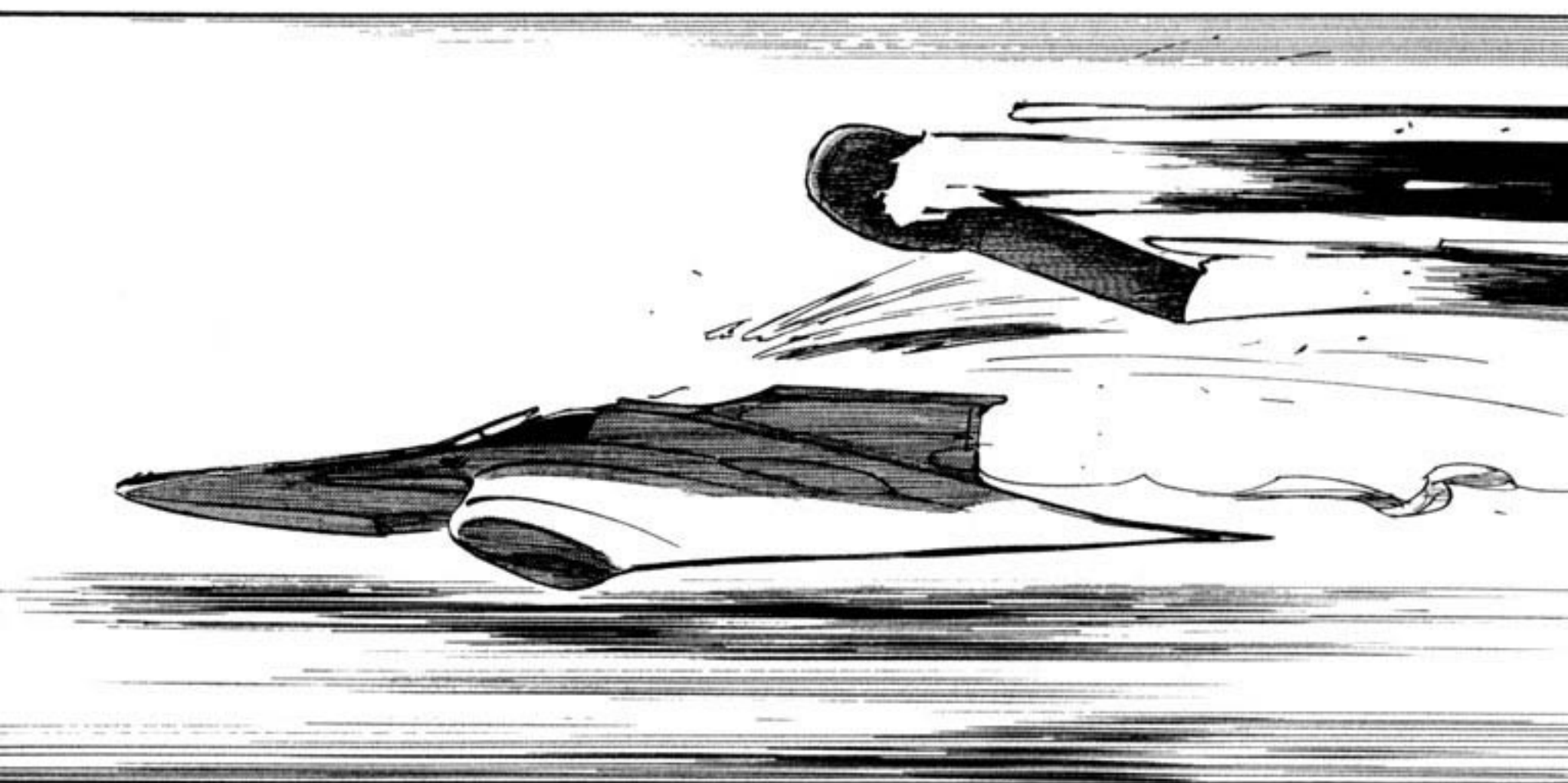
After all, there
wasn't much to their
intended use.

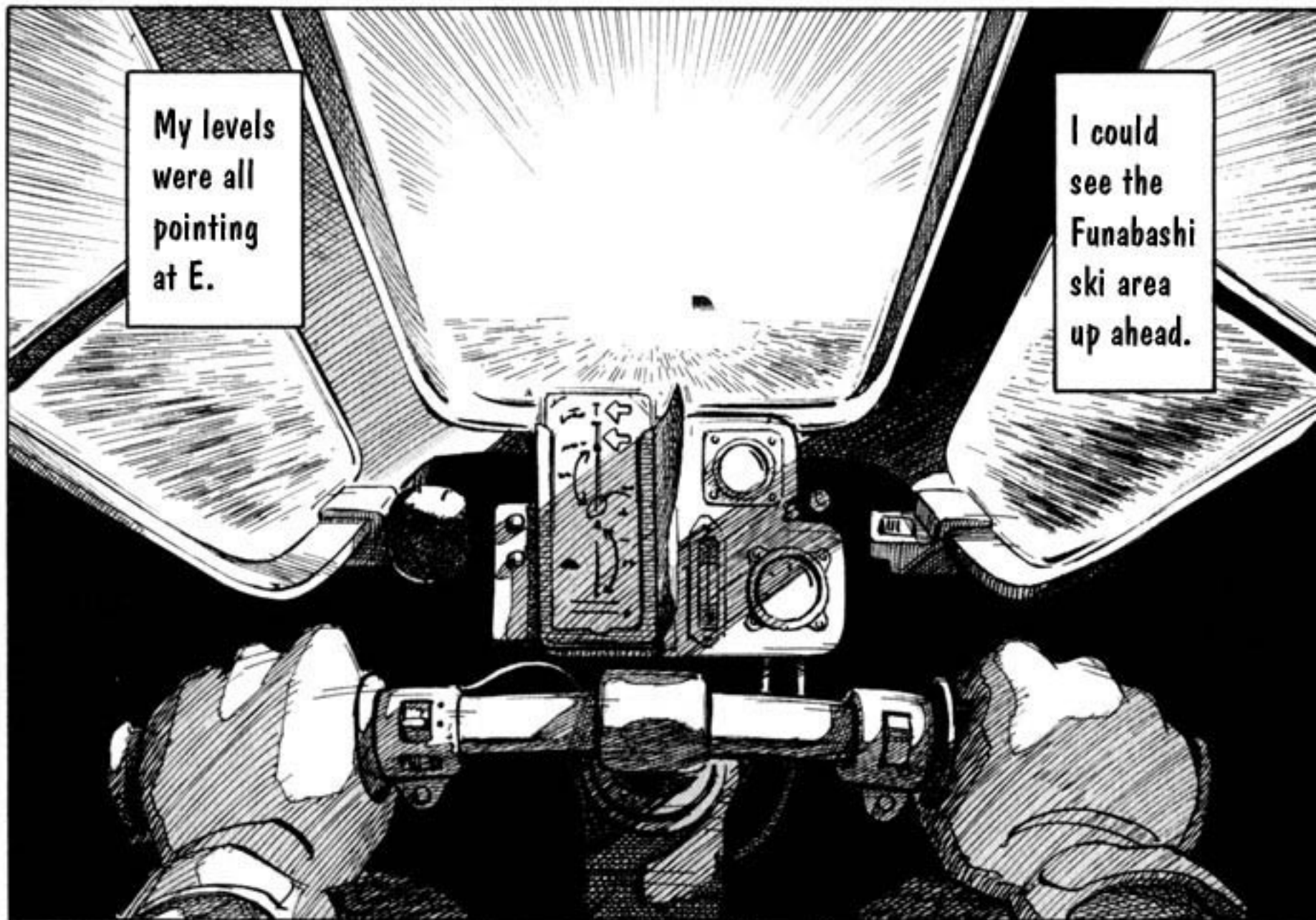
I think there's a
chance the data we
collected had a part
in producing a machine
which had free will.



Afterwards, since
we all had differing
interpretations of the
data, the Alpha Type
was born.







My levels
were all
pointing
at E.

I could
see the
Funabashi
ski area
up ahead.

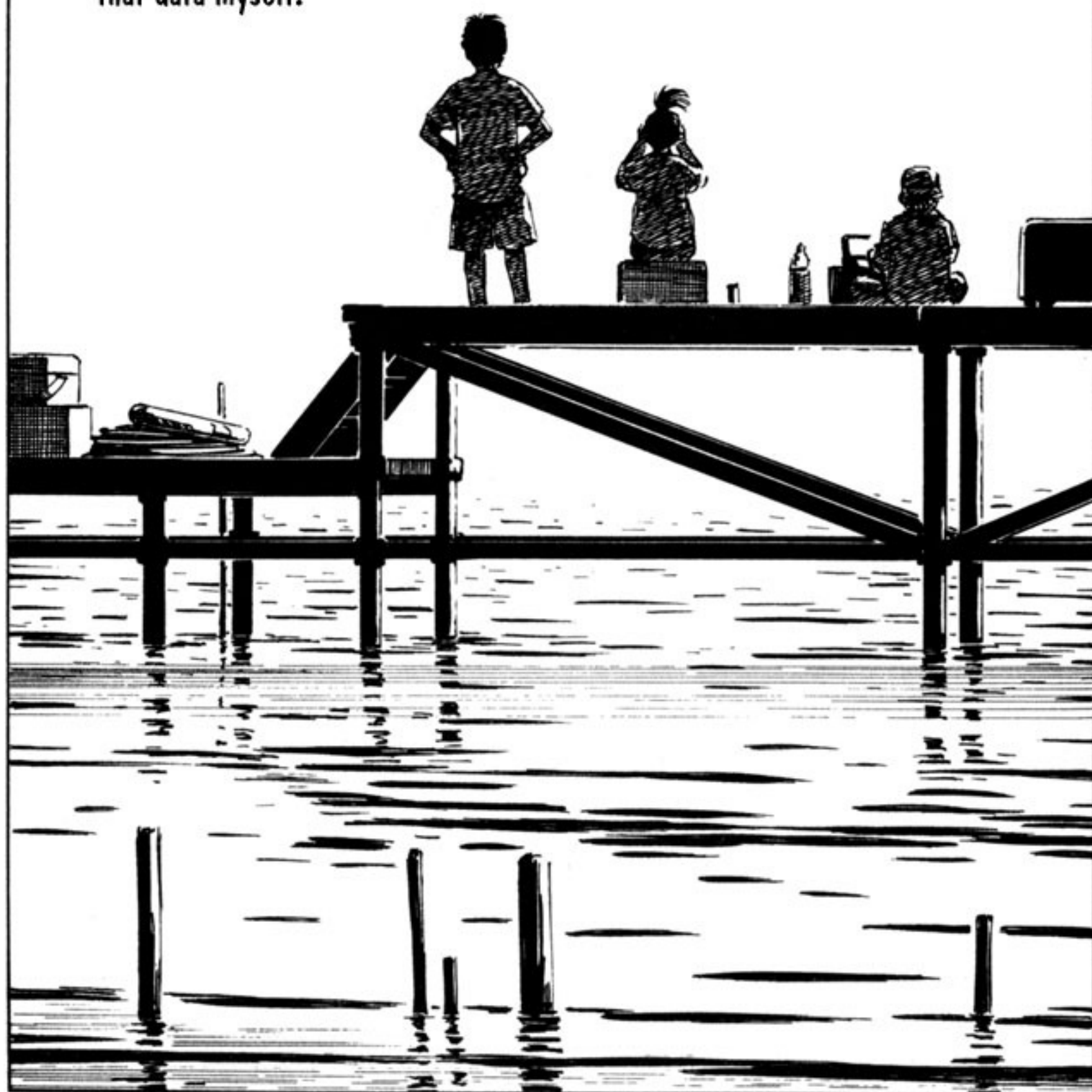


And
then
I hit
620...

I wanted to get that data...

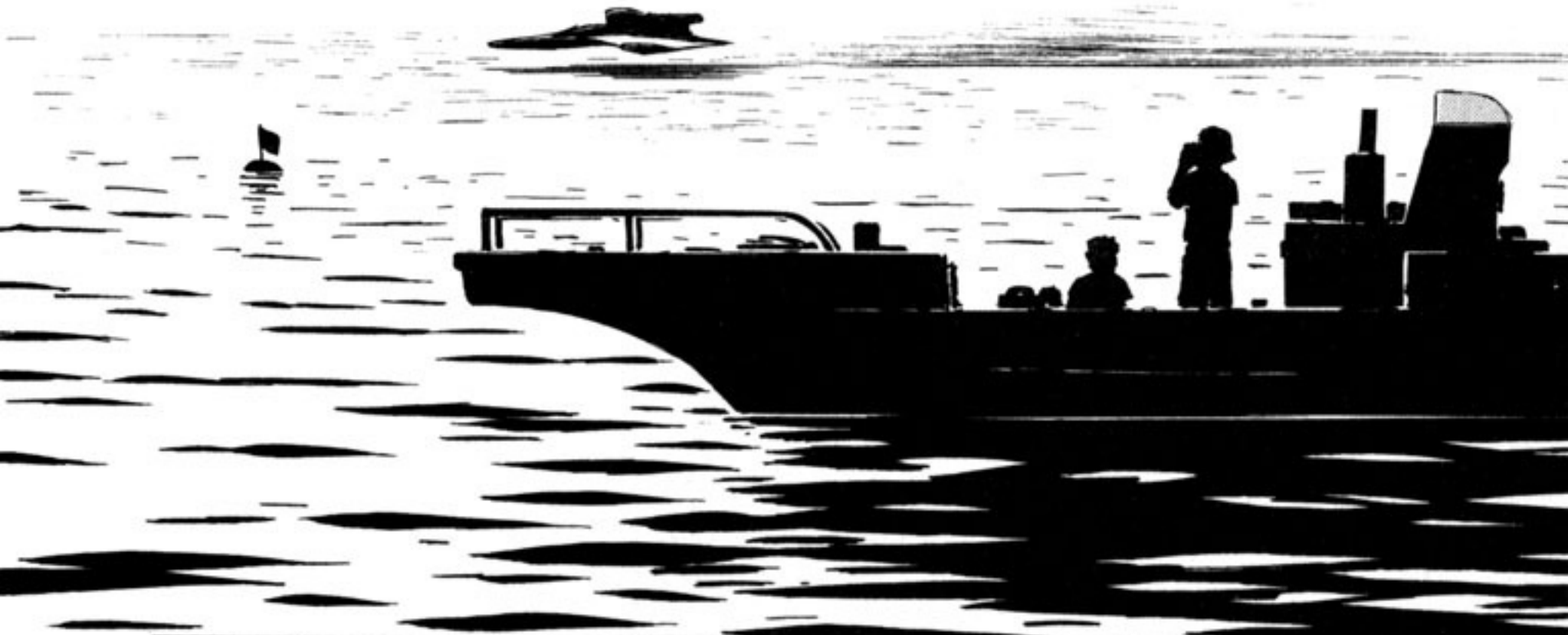
So I set off to collect
that data myself.

"At the utmost limits you
can challenge the boundaries
of human sensation.
There will be a time when
you can measure this."



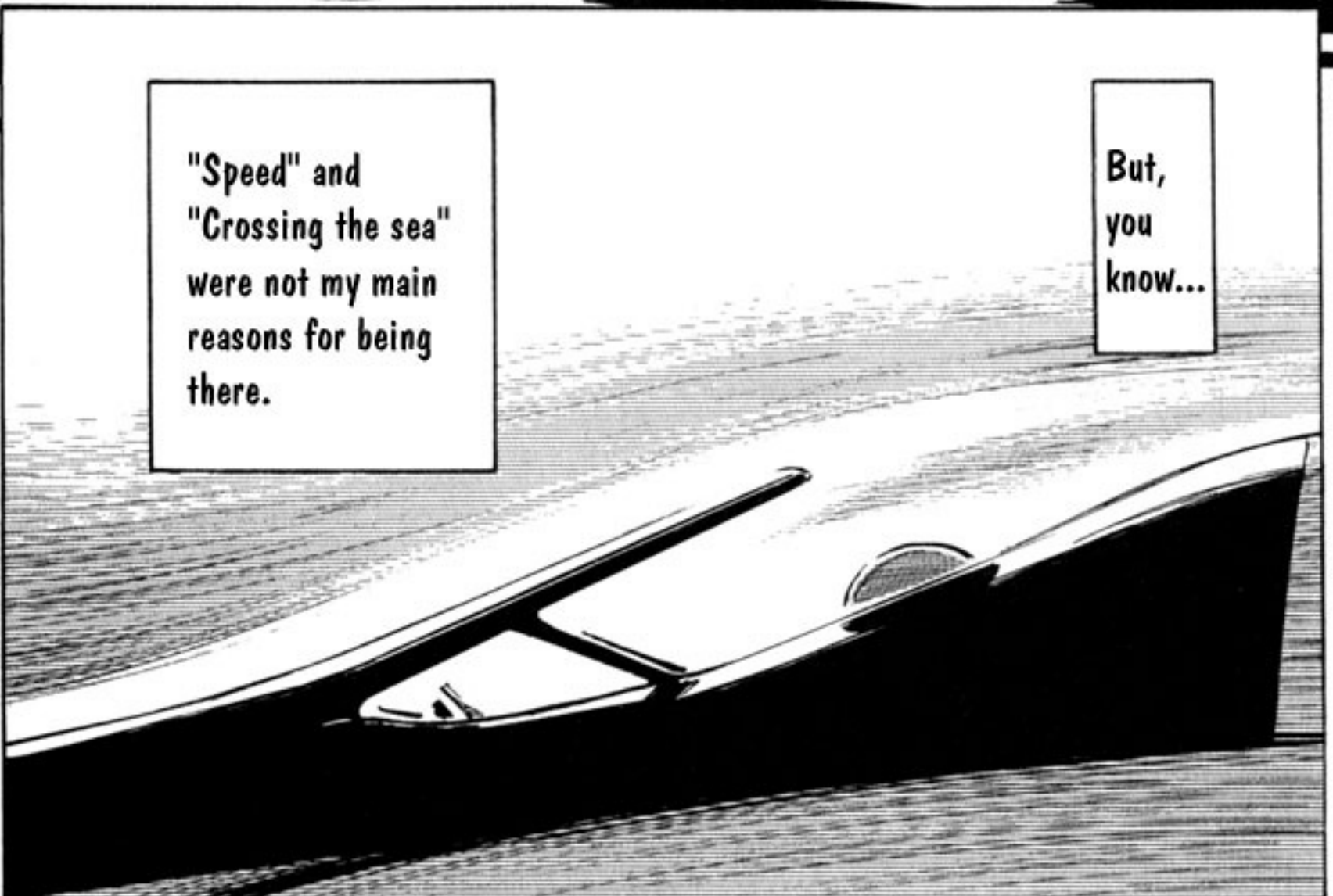
My speed couldn't
go above 600km.

As I sped past at
450km an hour,
patrol boats
monitored
for irregular
movement.



"Speed" and
"Crossing the sea"
were not my main
reasons for being
there.

But,
you
know...



The noise of
the turbine was
dangerously
loud.

I was
soon out in
the open.

Air filled the
Misago's belly
as it skimmed
the surface of
the water.

So they only gave
me enough fuel for
about 5 minutes.

When she wasn't
at full throttle,
she was unstable.

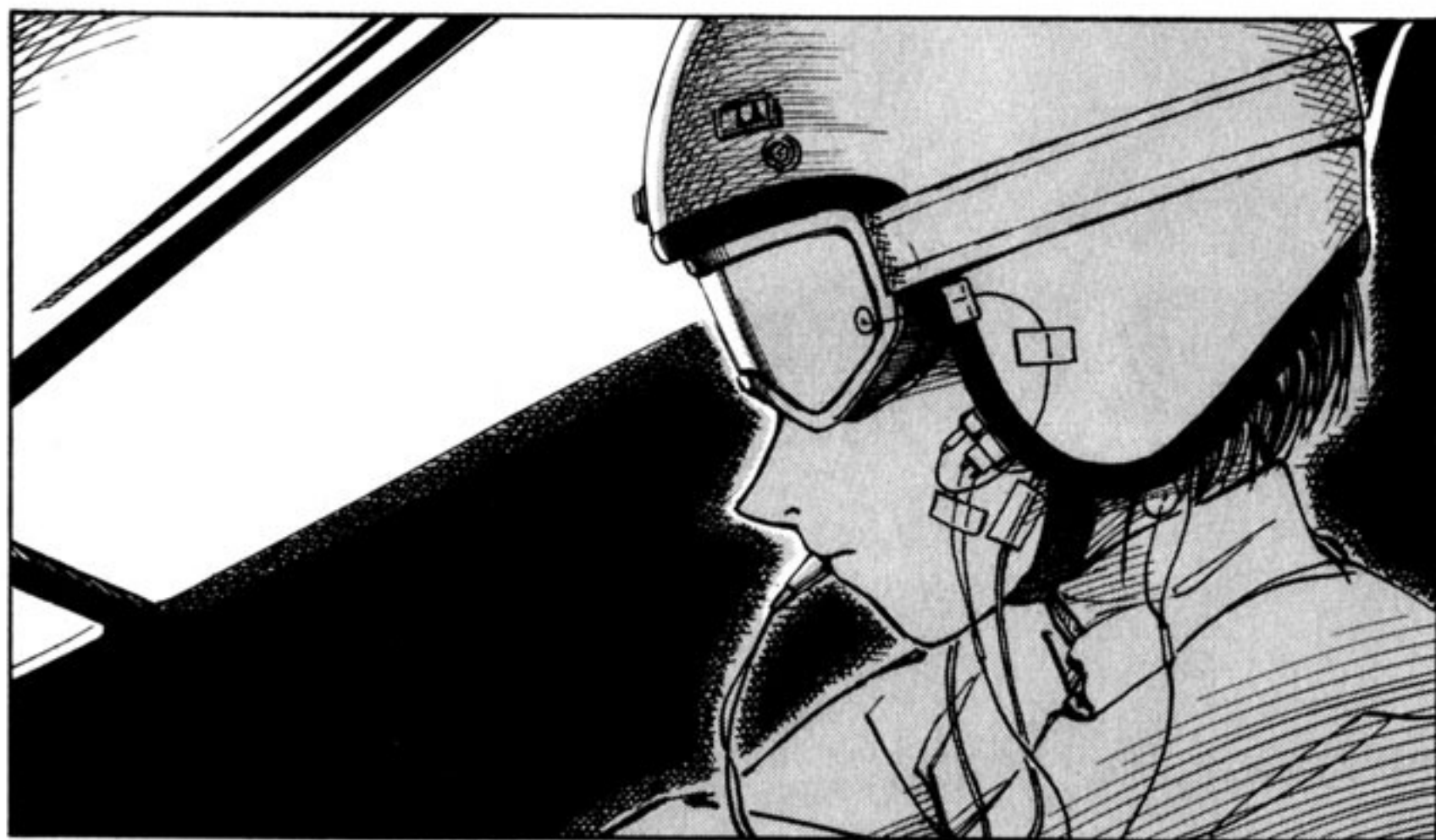
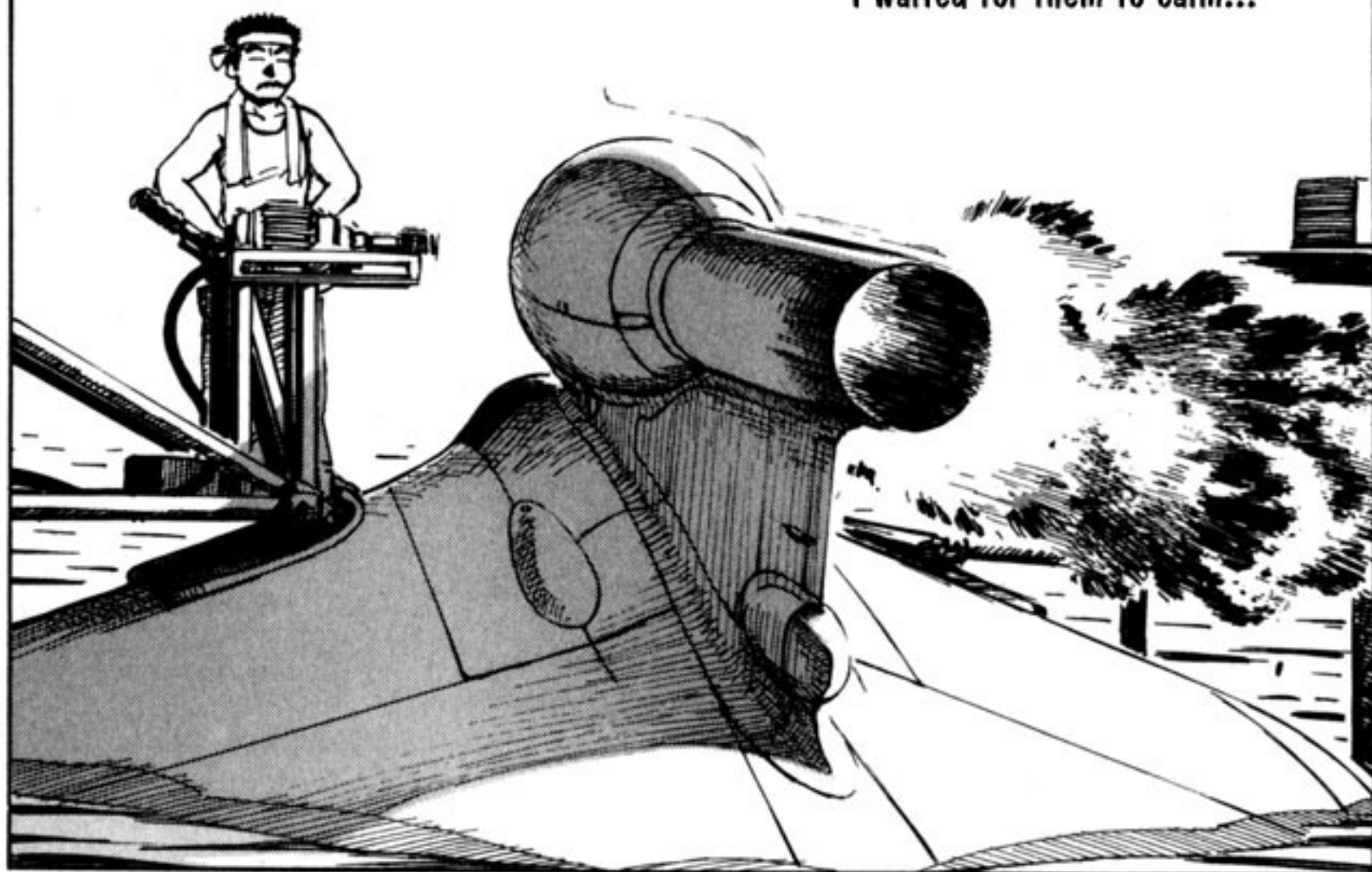
And thus, the
engine only ran for
those 5 minutes.

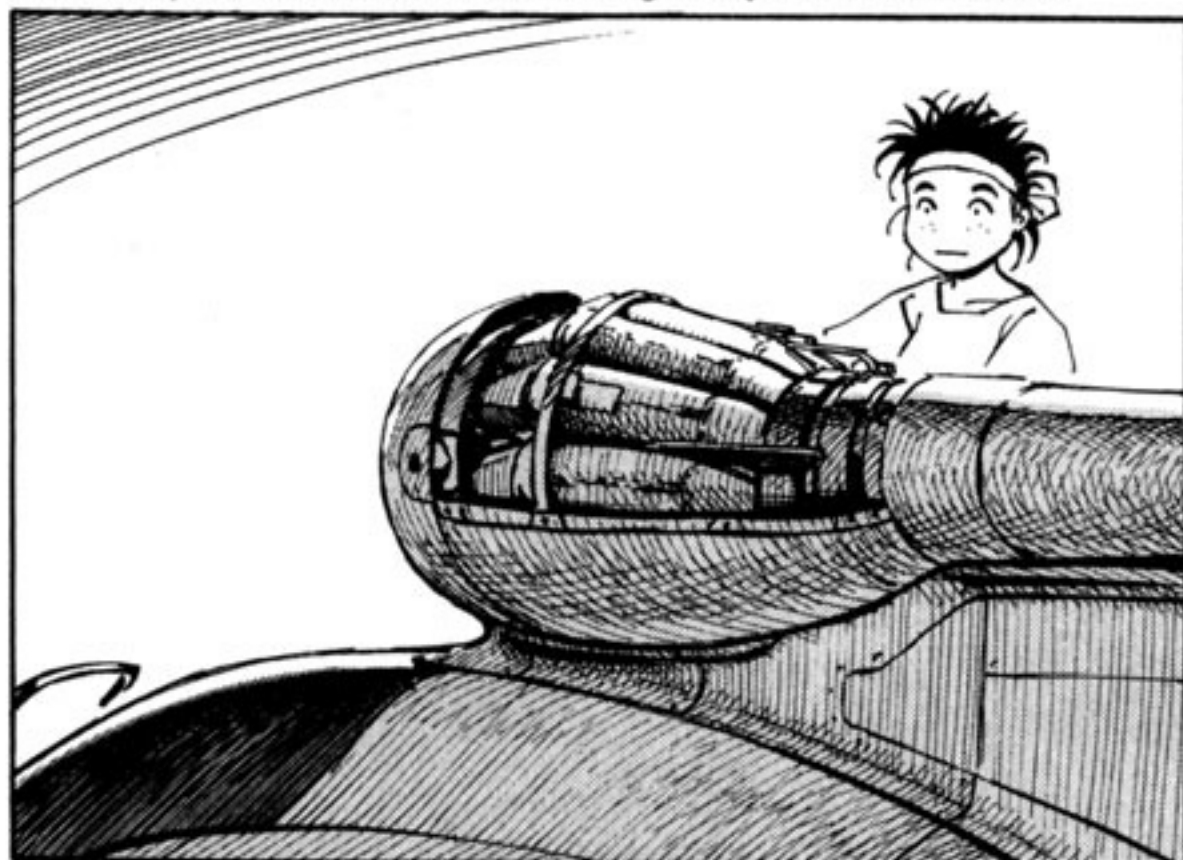
Start.



The engine started.

Rocked by silent waves,
I waited for them to calm...



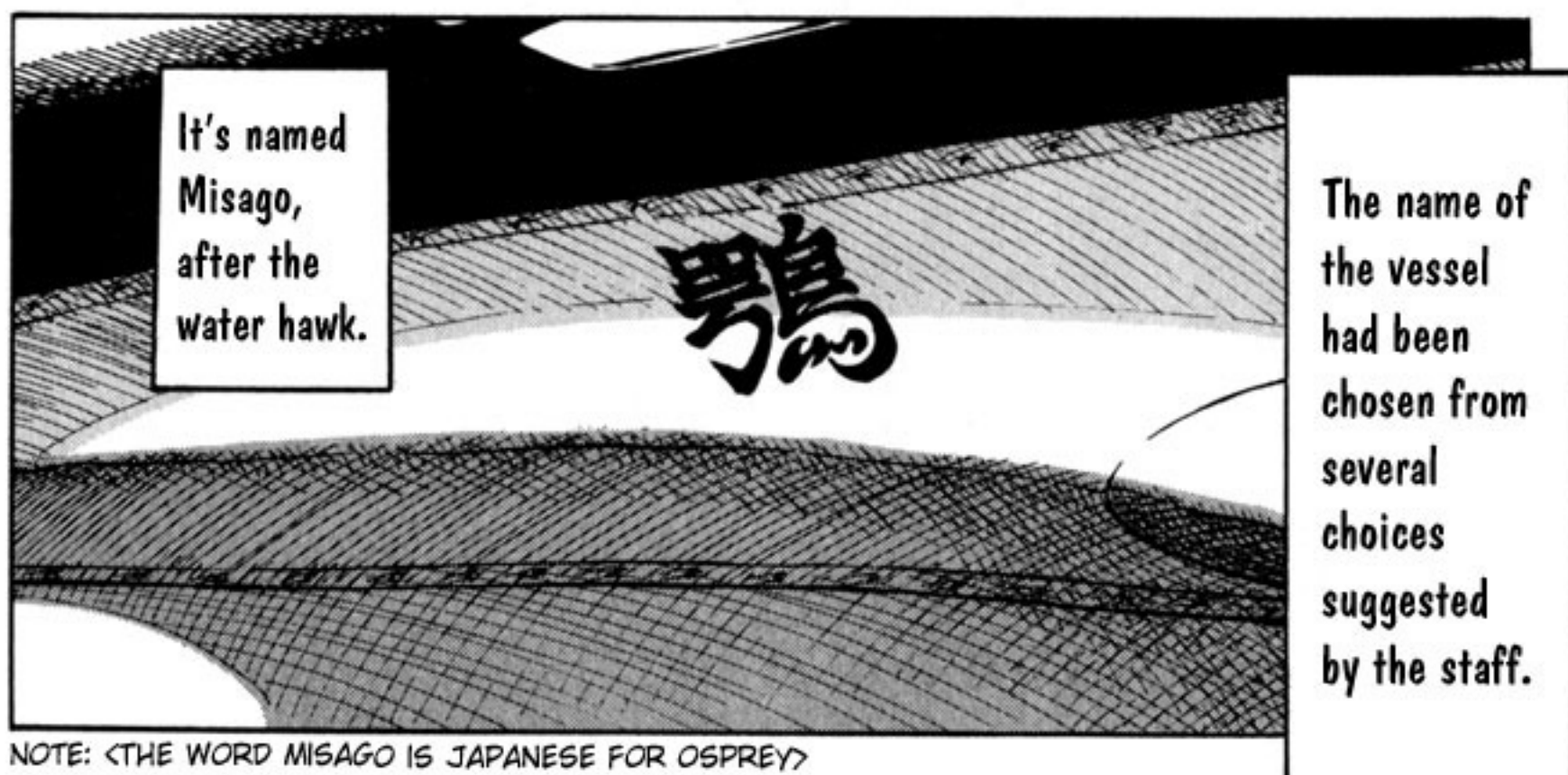


We were all walking on tiptoes.

It was propelled by a top charging hand-made jet engine we had just tuned up.

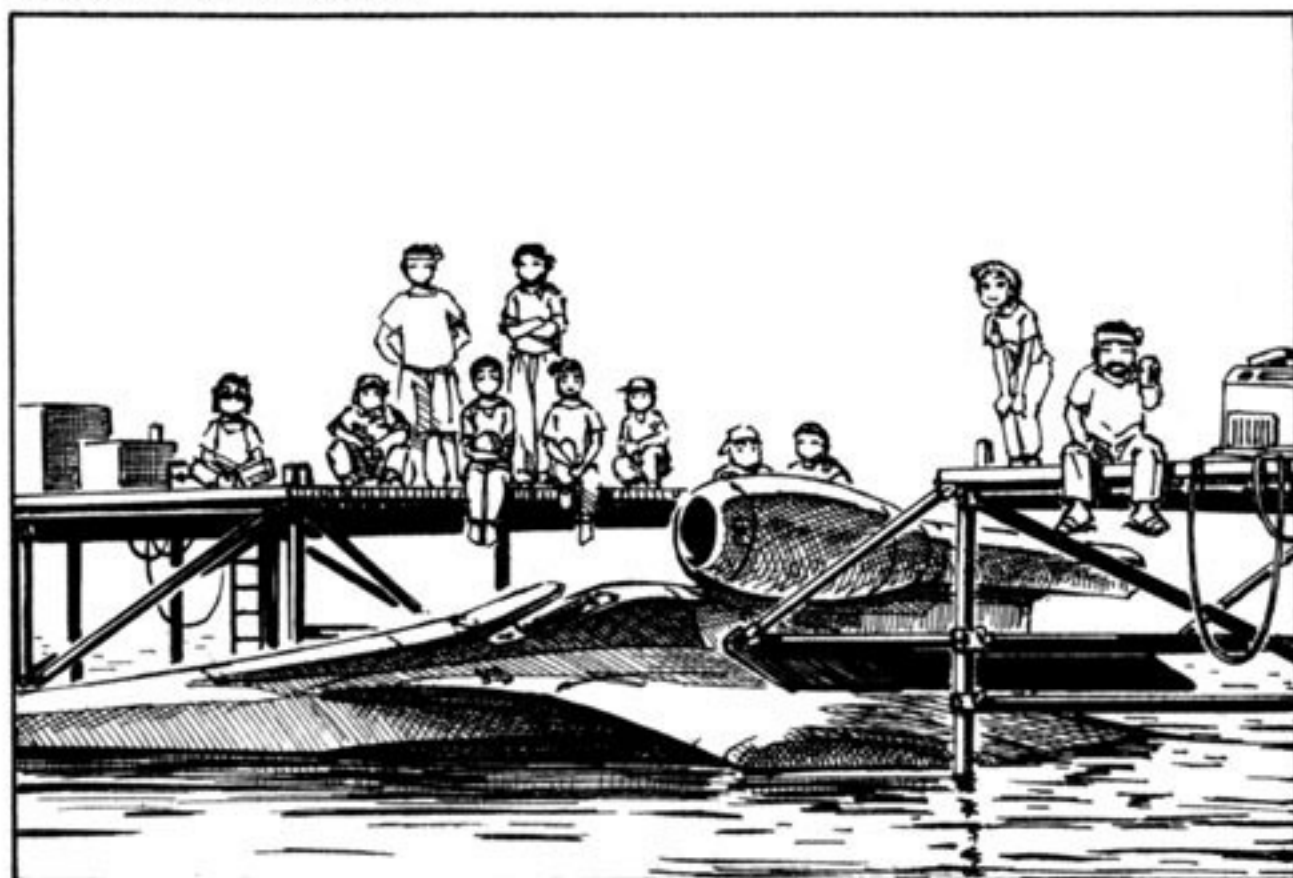
And I was in charge of the medical personnel.

The plane's body had been painted yellow.



It's named Misago, after the water hawk.

The name of the vessel had been chosen from several choices suggested by the staff.



The main inlet
of the harbor
had tentatively
reopened a
week ago.

We were running
a high speed test
flight directly from
the beach of Chiba
to the area of
Funabashi, 50km
away.





It was during this time when the first great tide had finally settled down, and we were starting to repair the town and harbor.

Kanagawa,
Yokusuka -
Mabori coast





The way she has
fun, and the love
she pours into
everything...
these can't be
explained by her
original specs.

Her hobby,
I suppose.
I'm always
surprised by the
way Alpha-san
lives her life.

Alpha-san...
she's an A7
Experimental
Mass Production
Model M2 with
a self-sufficient
3 body.

I wonder... how does
a robot make her
"heart her own?"
It's only supposed to
be a pleasing replica.

Although I do
remember there
being something
about a possible
chance of this...

That she's
still around...
I'm reminded
of a fading
memory of events
from long ago.

IF YOU
LIKE IT,
PLEASE
KEEP IT!

SENSEI...
UM...
I MADE
THIS...

Eheheh...



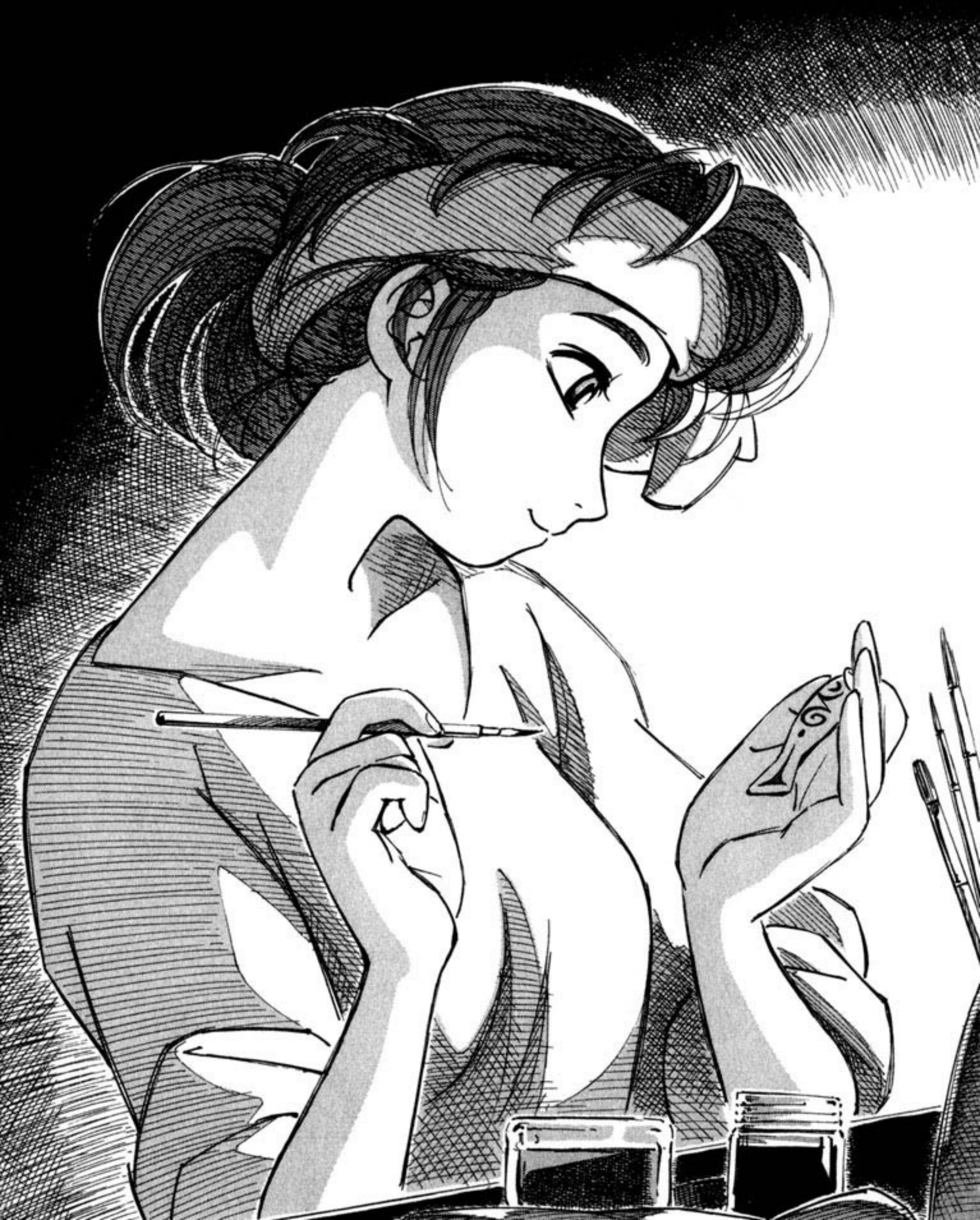
EHEHEH...
THE DESIGN...
IS IT A
LITTLE TOO
SIMPLISTIC?

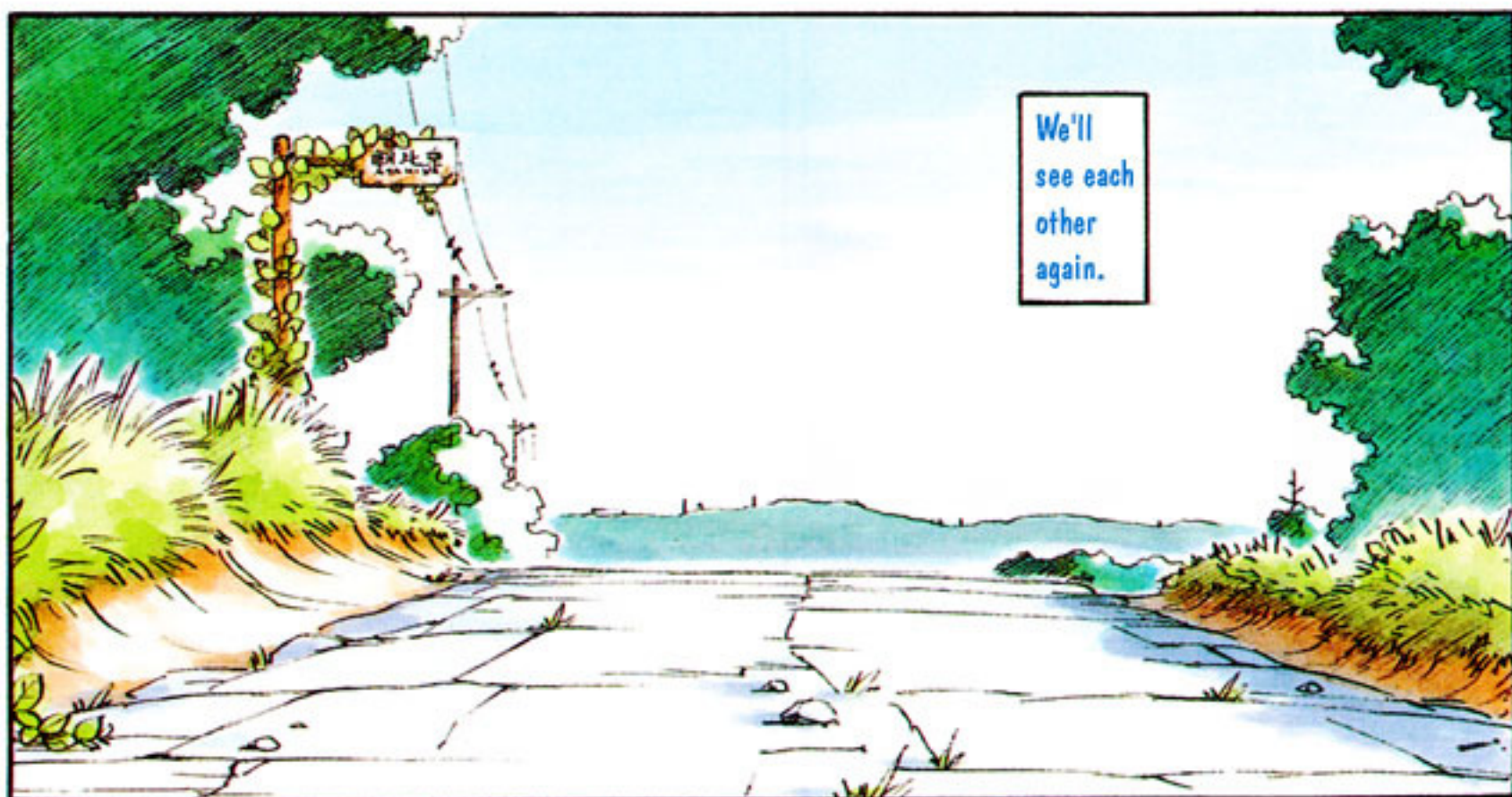
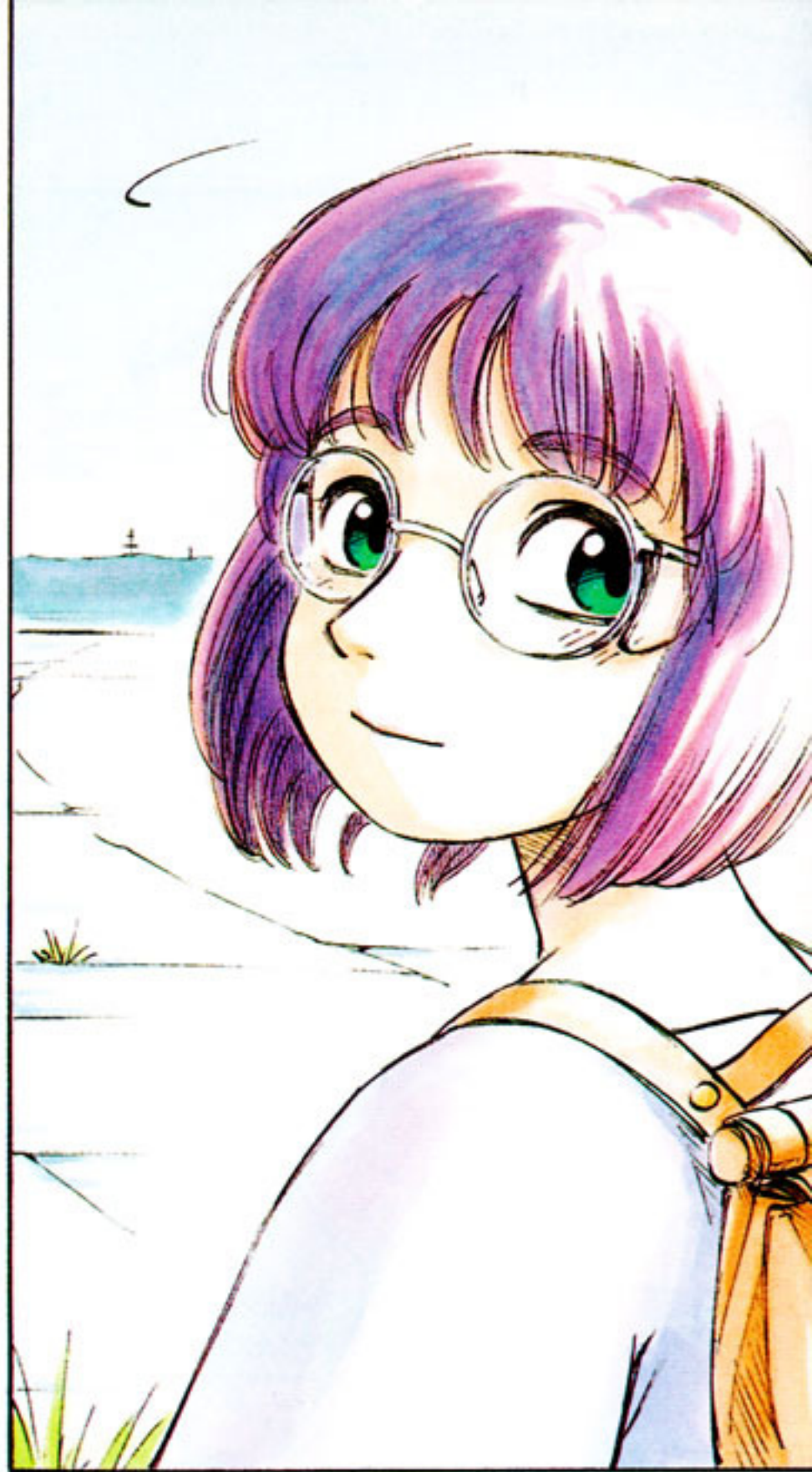
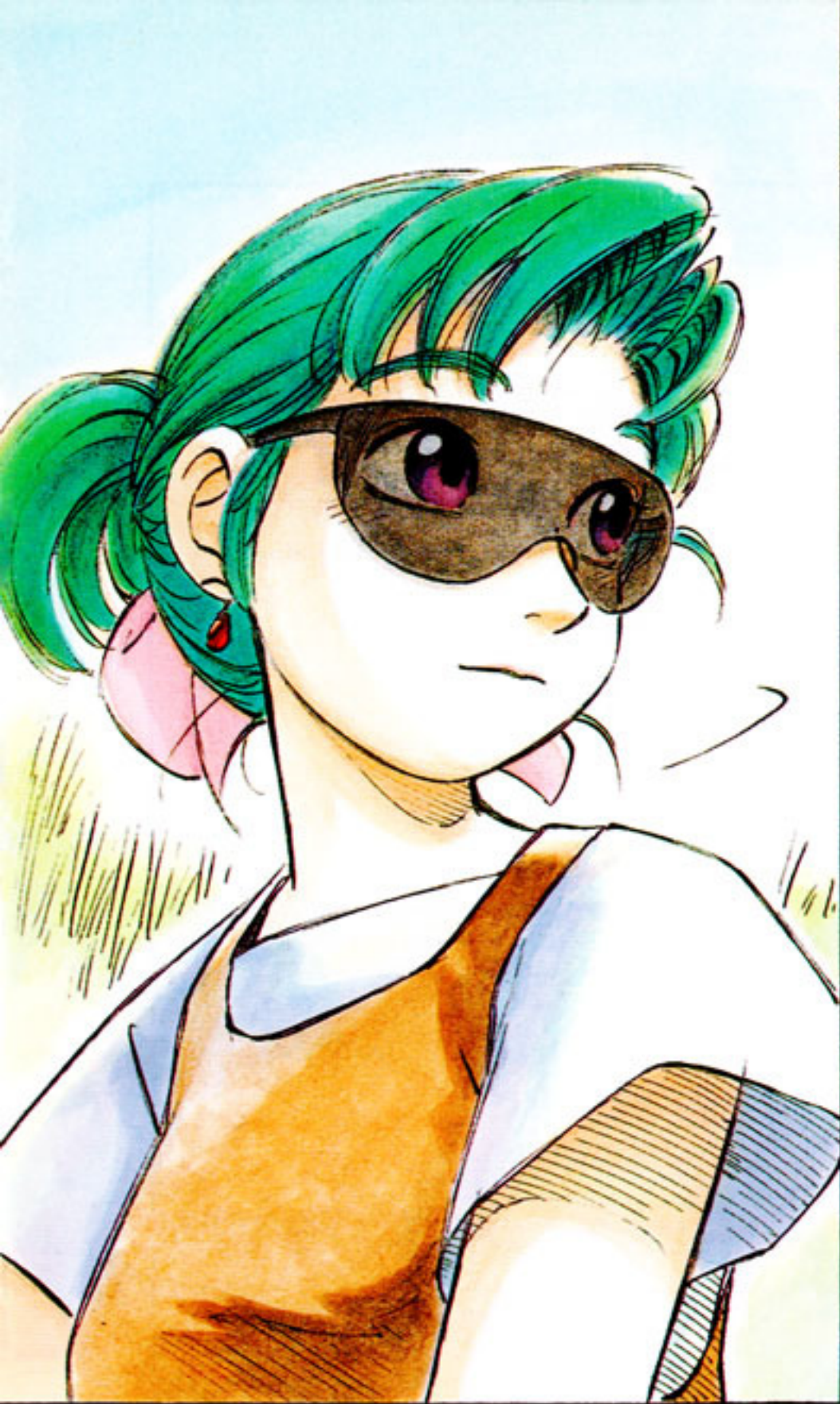
Alpha-san
likes making
things.

This key
chain...
Heh...

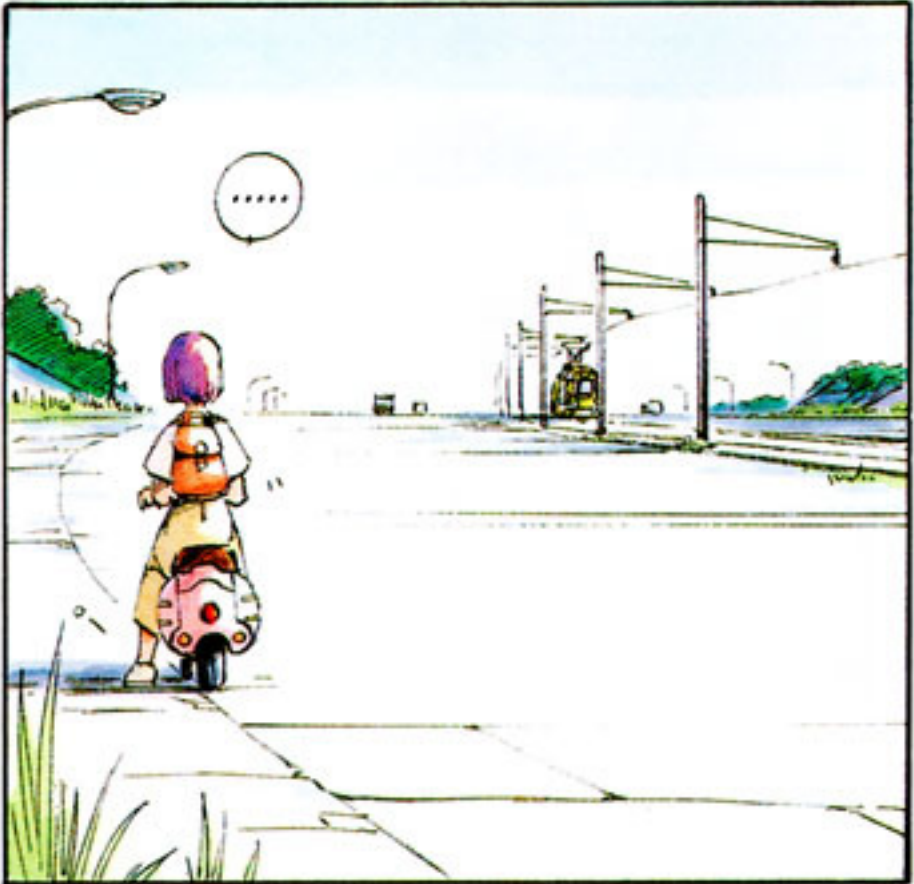
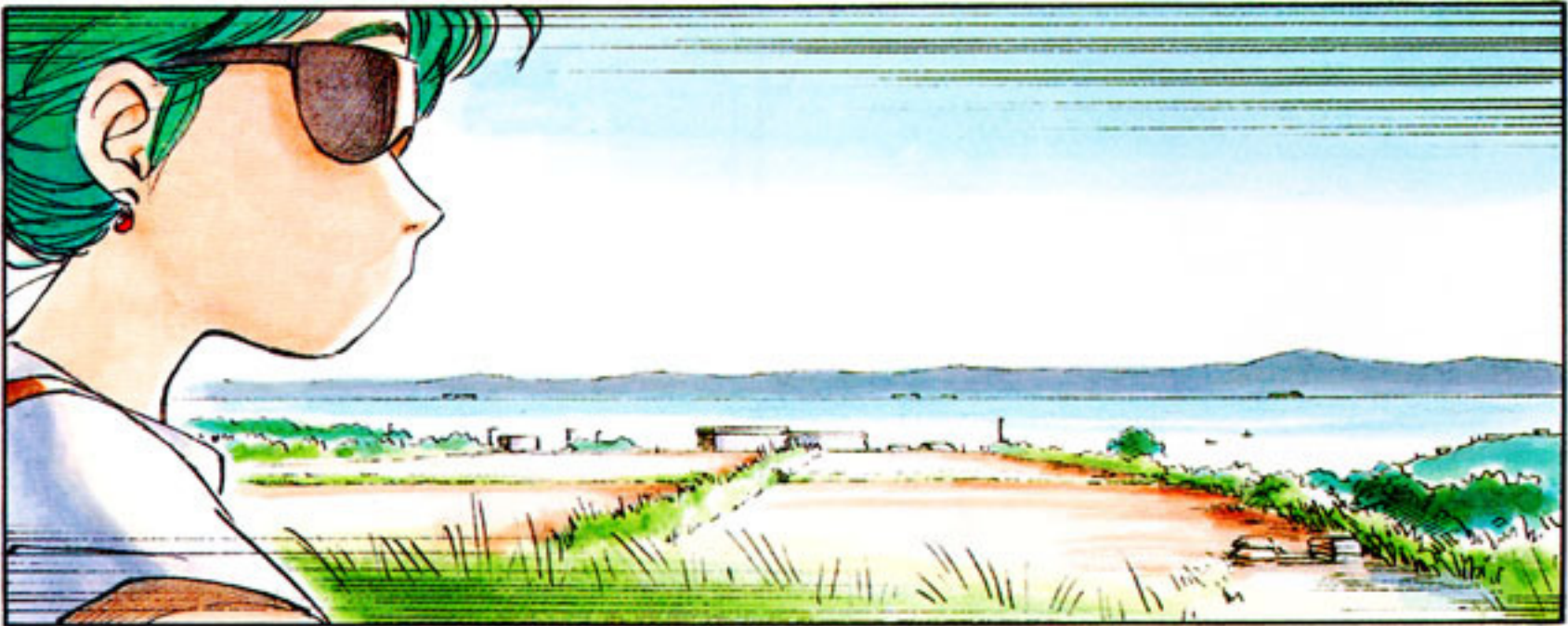
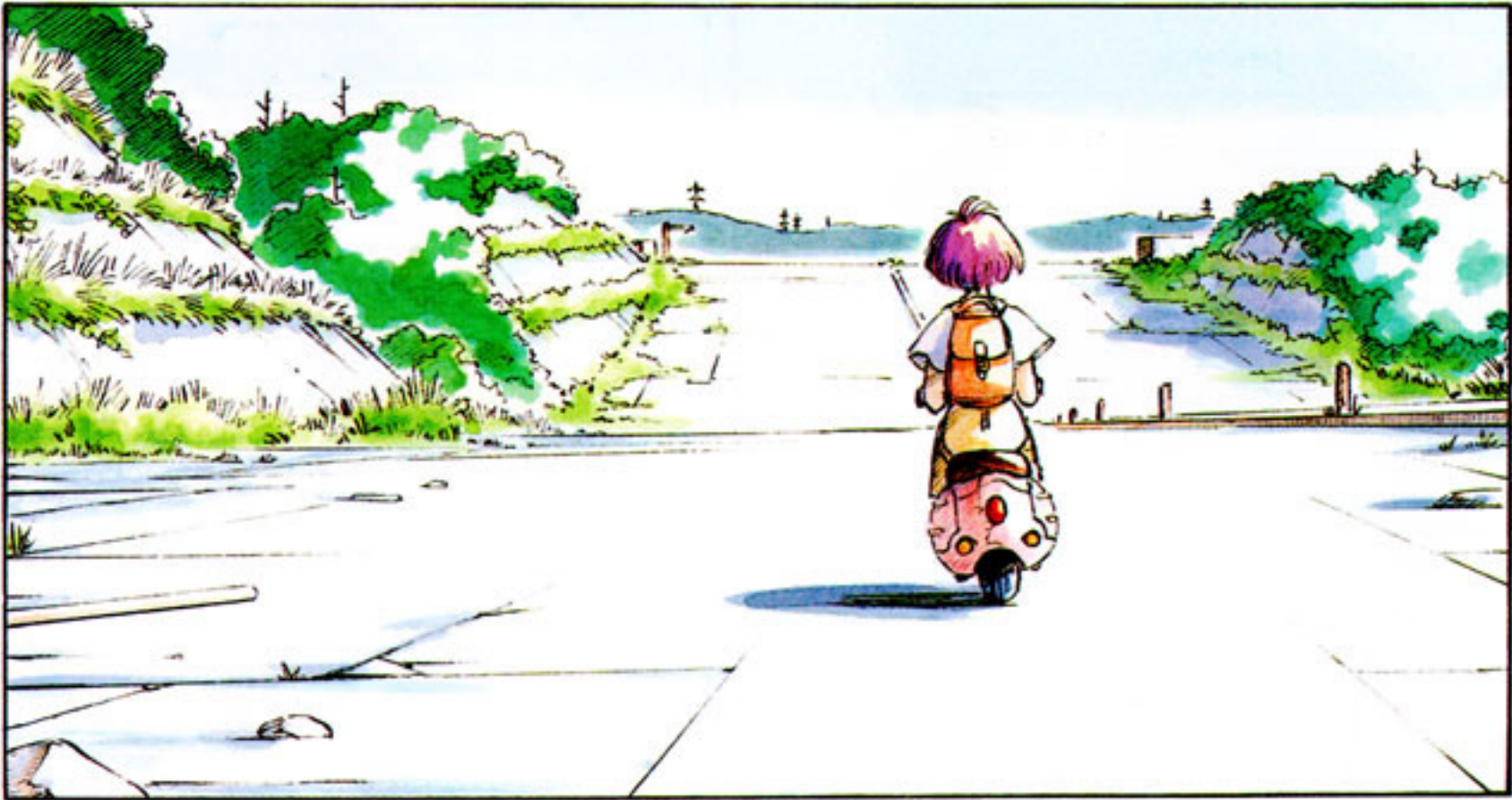


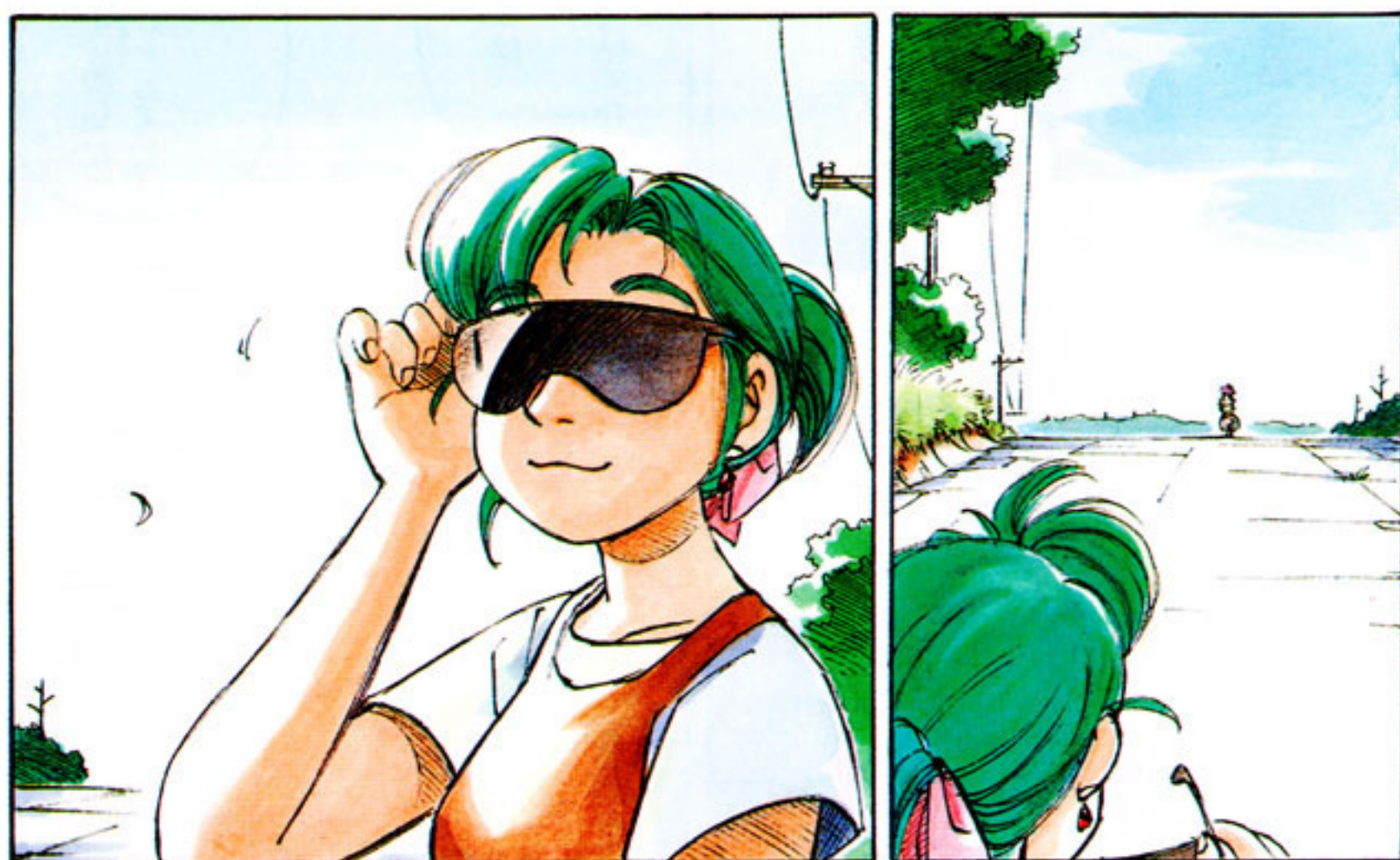
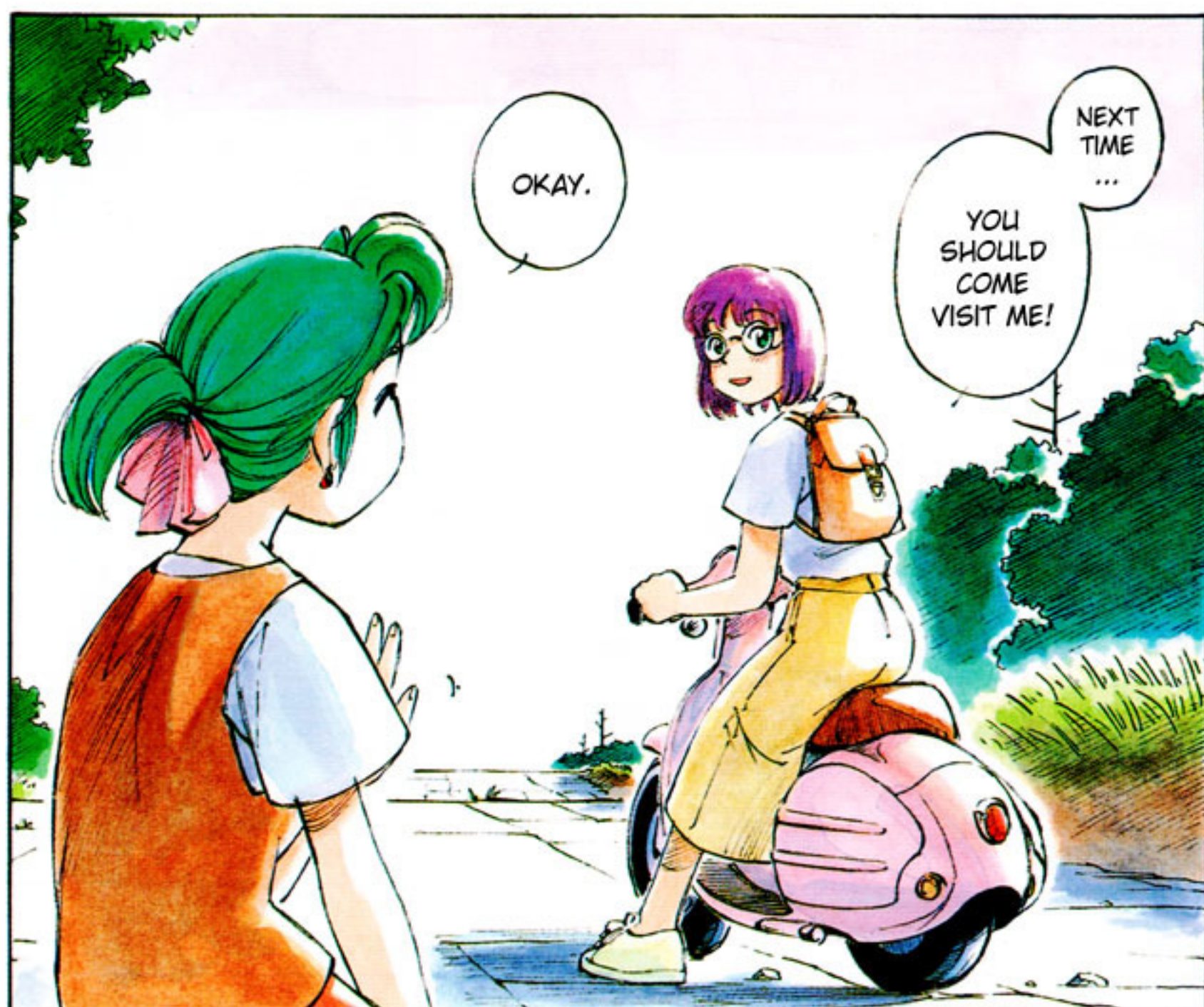
Story 28 Connection

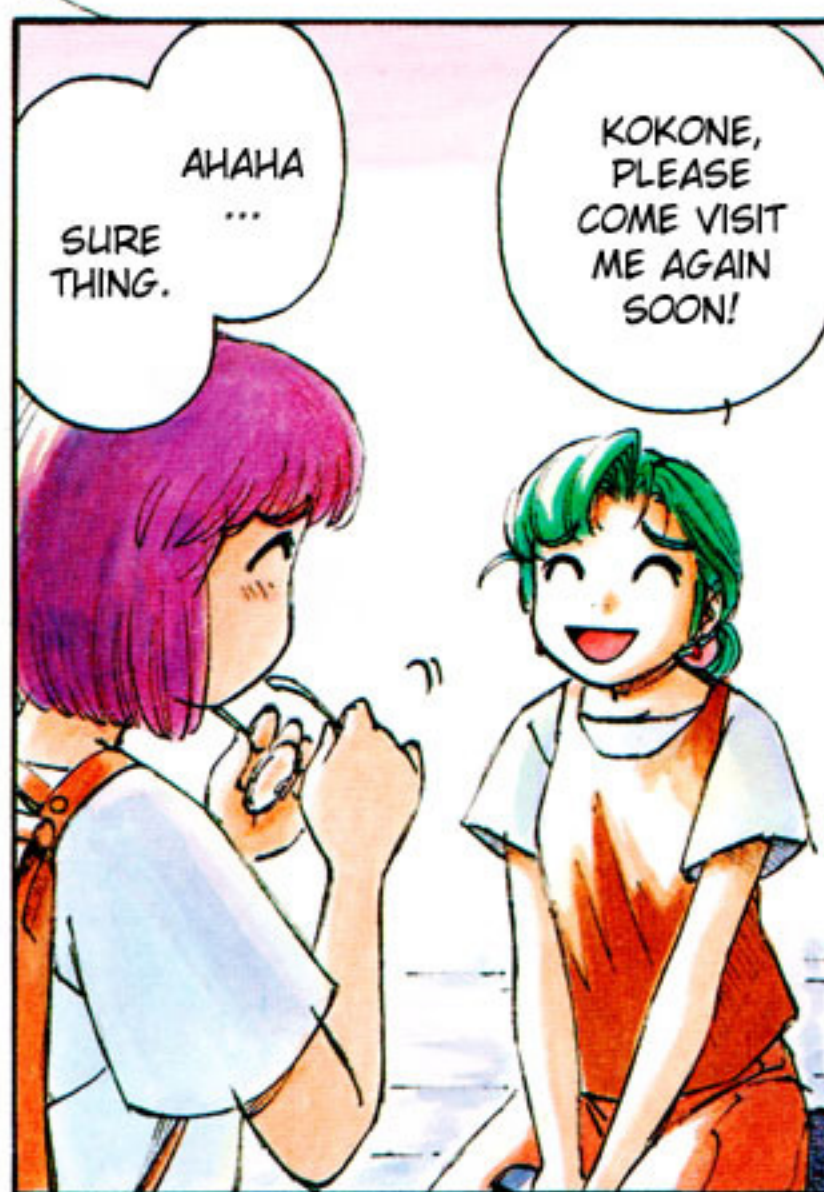
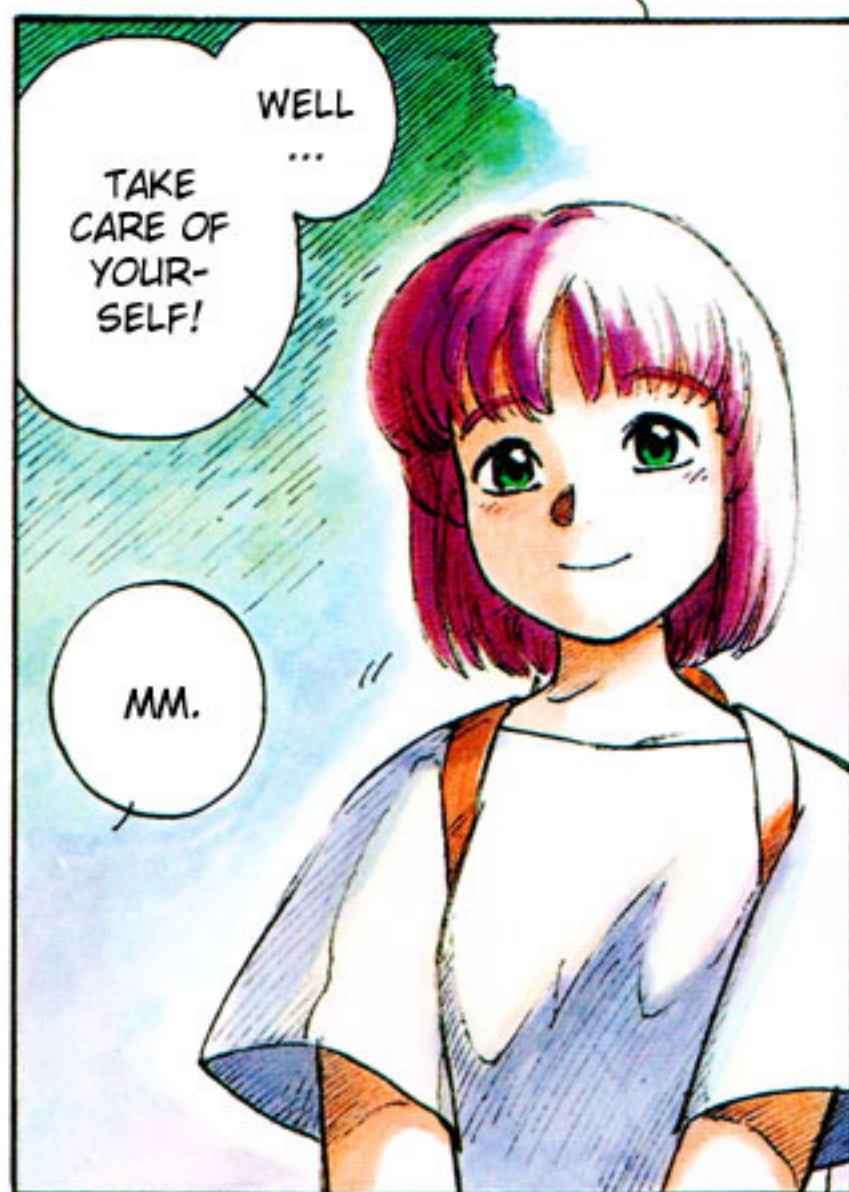
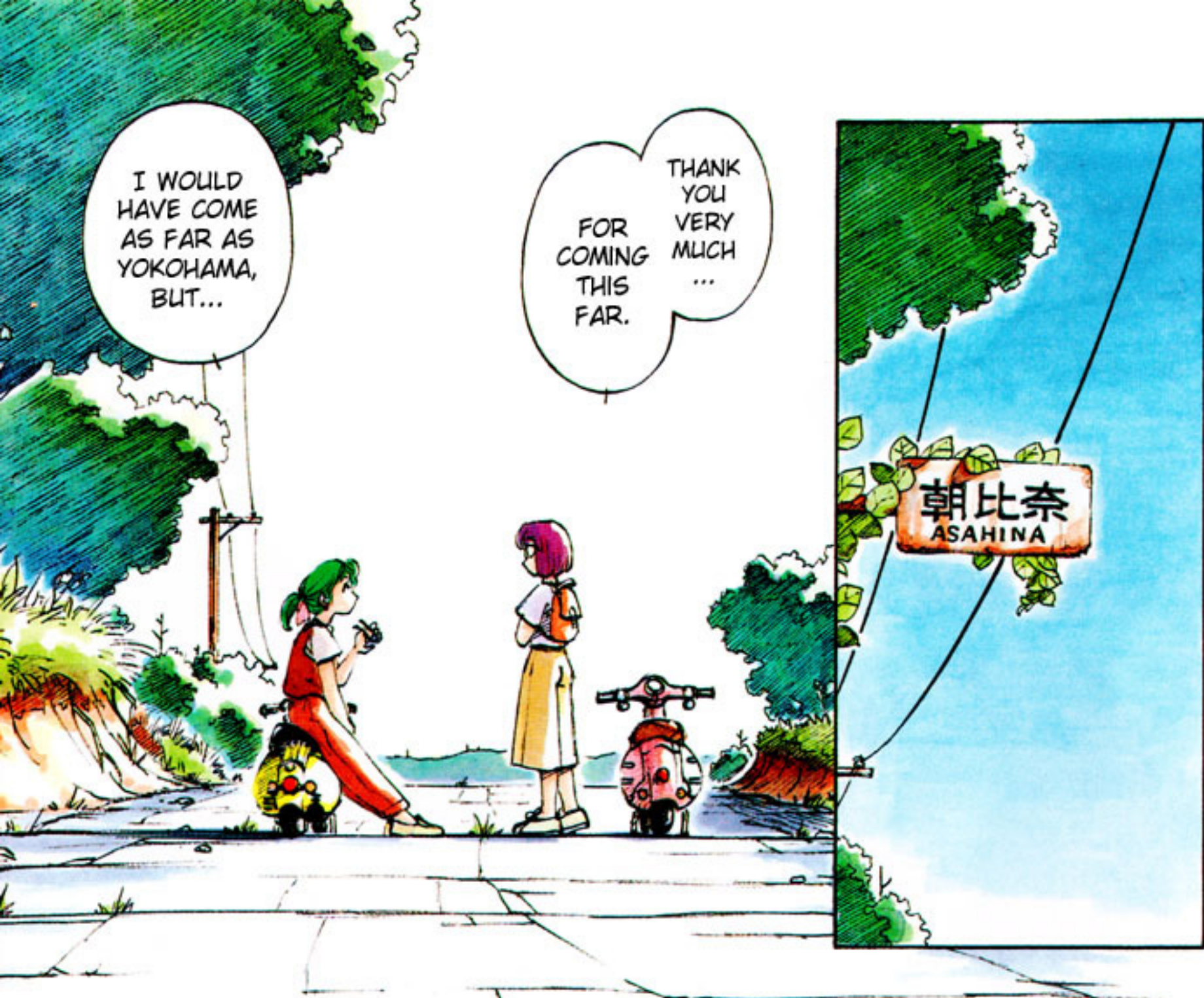


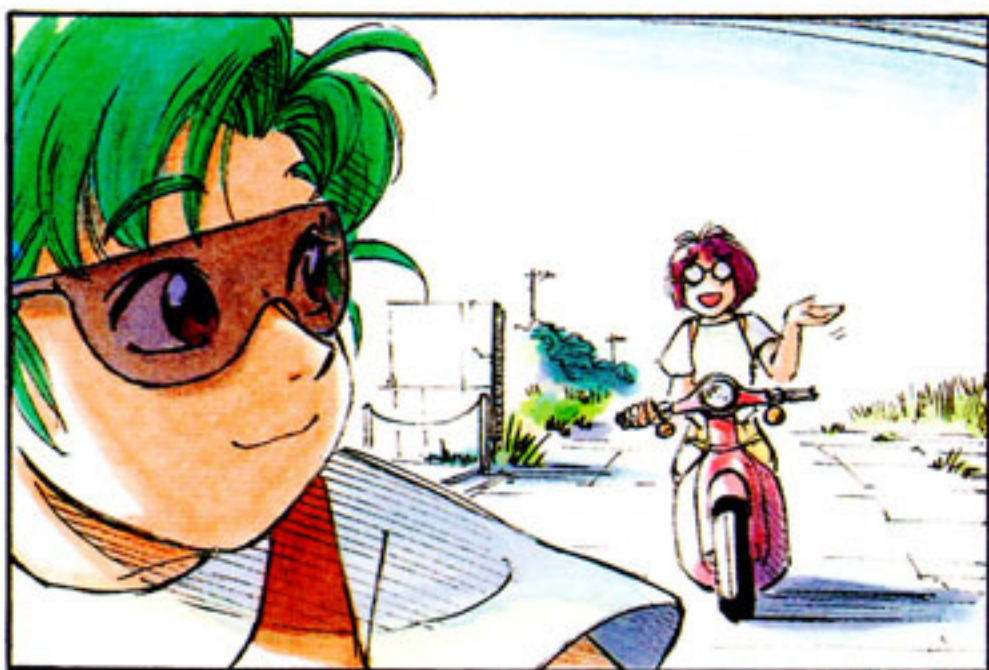


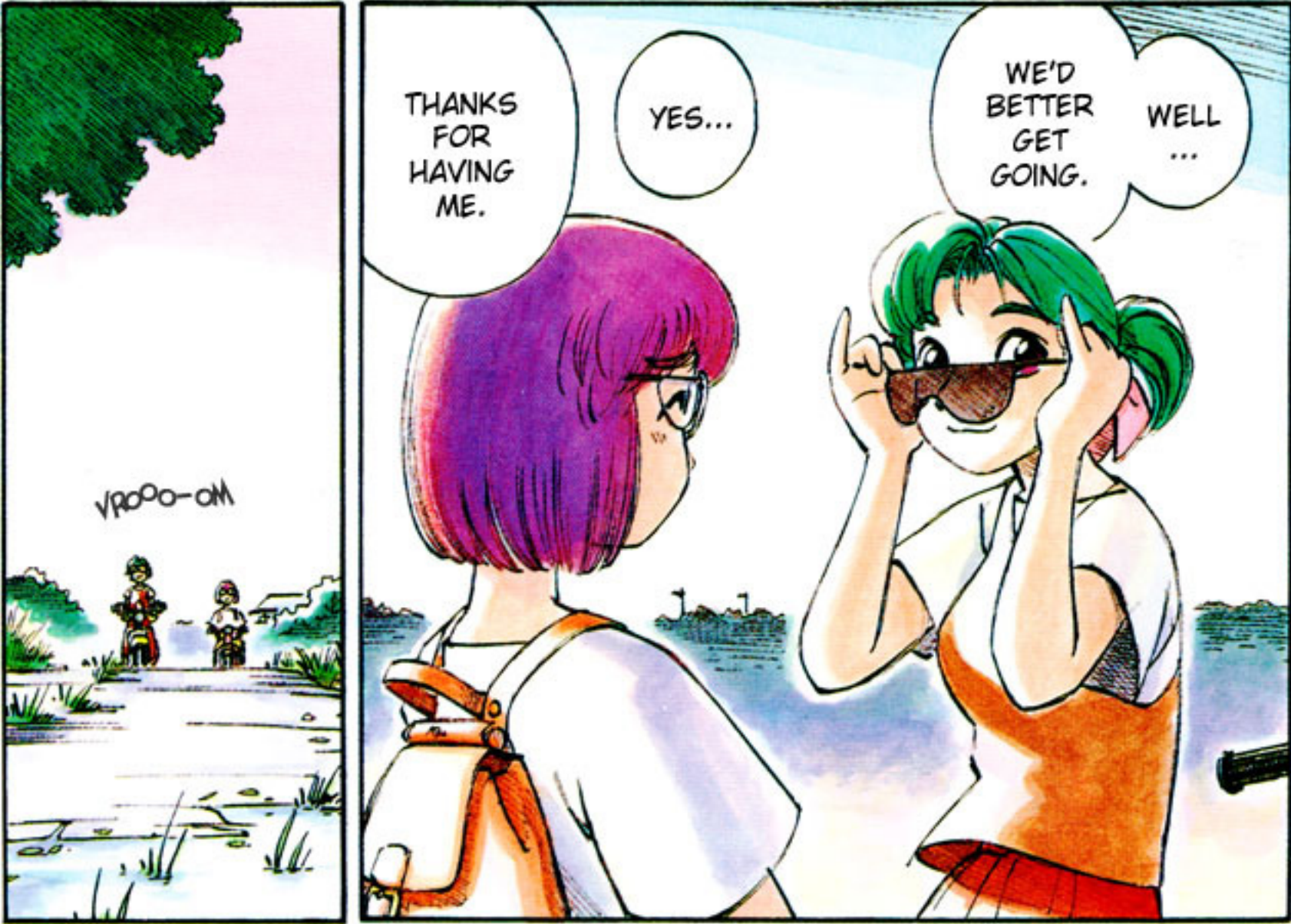
We'll
see each
other
again.





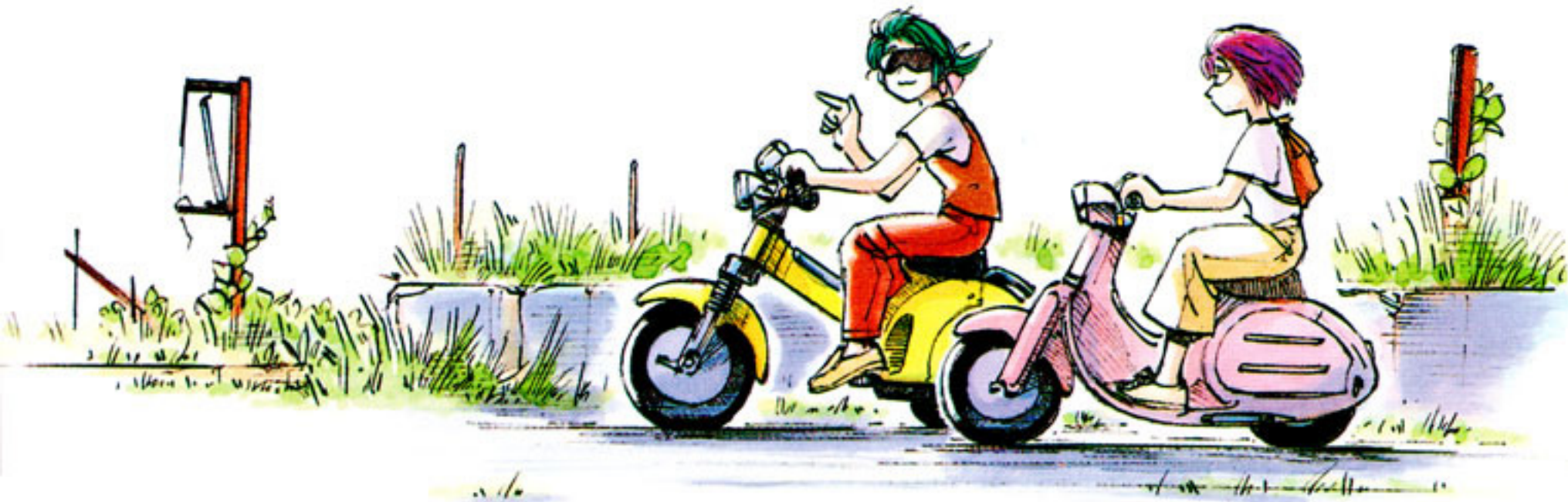


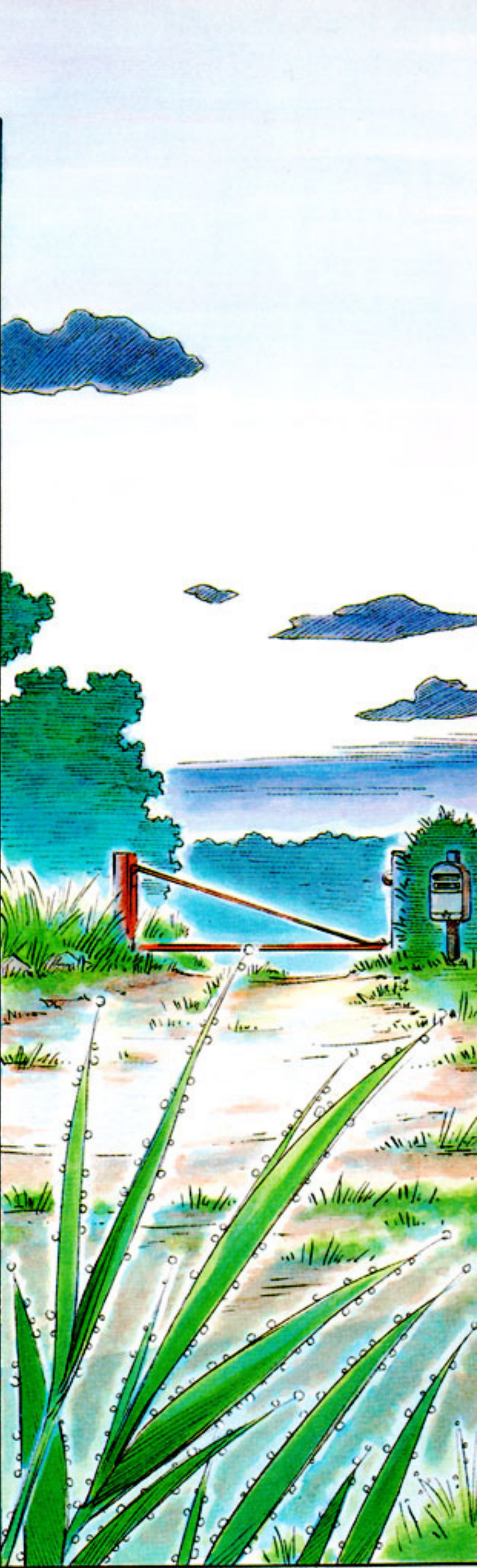
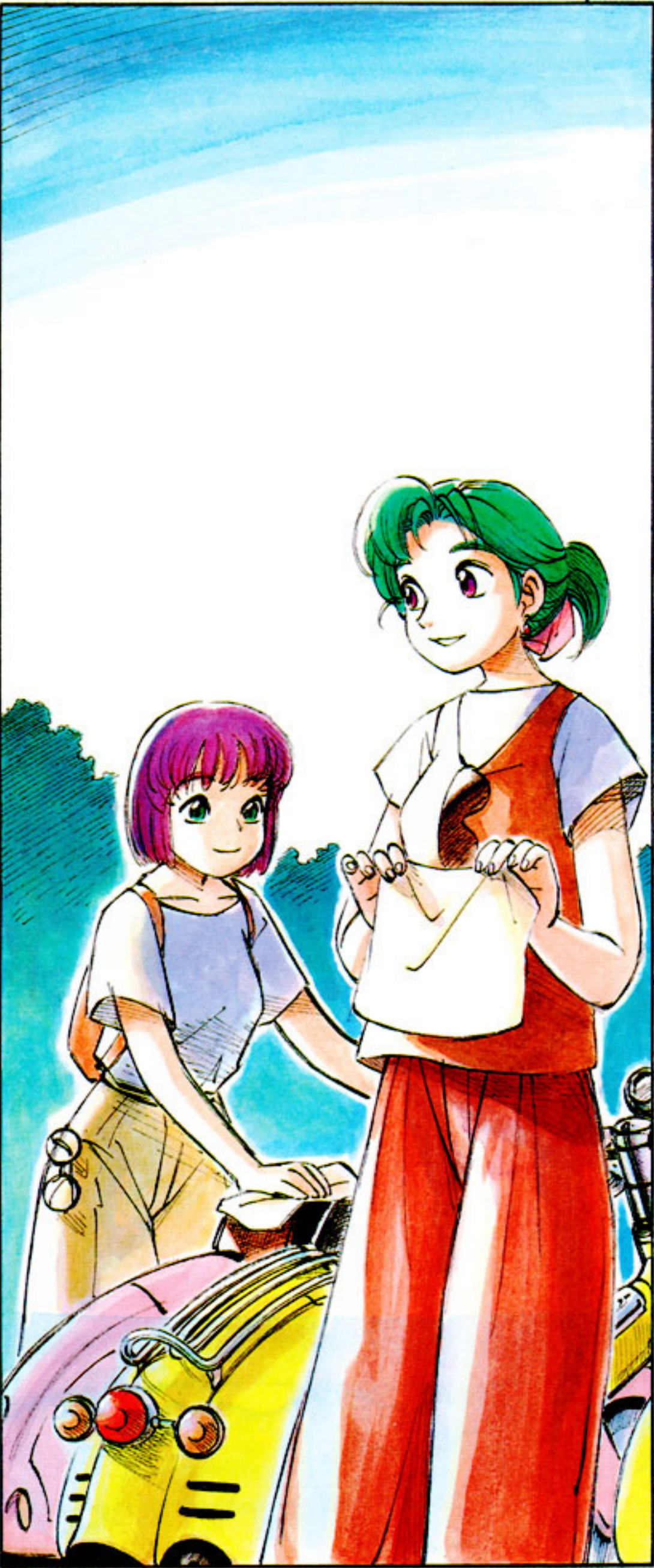


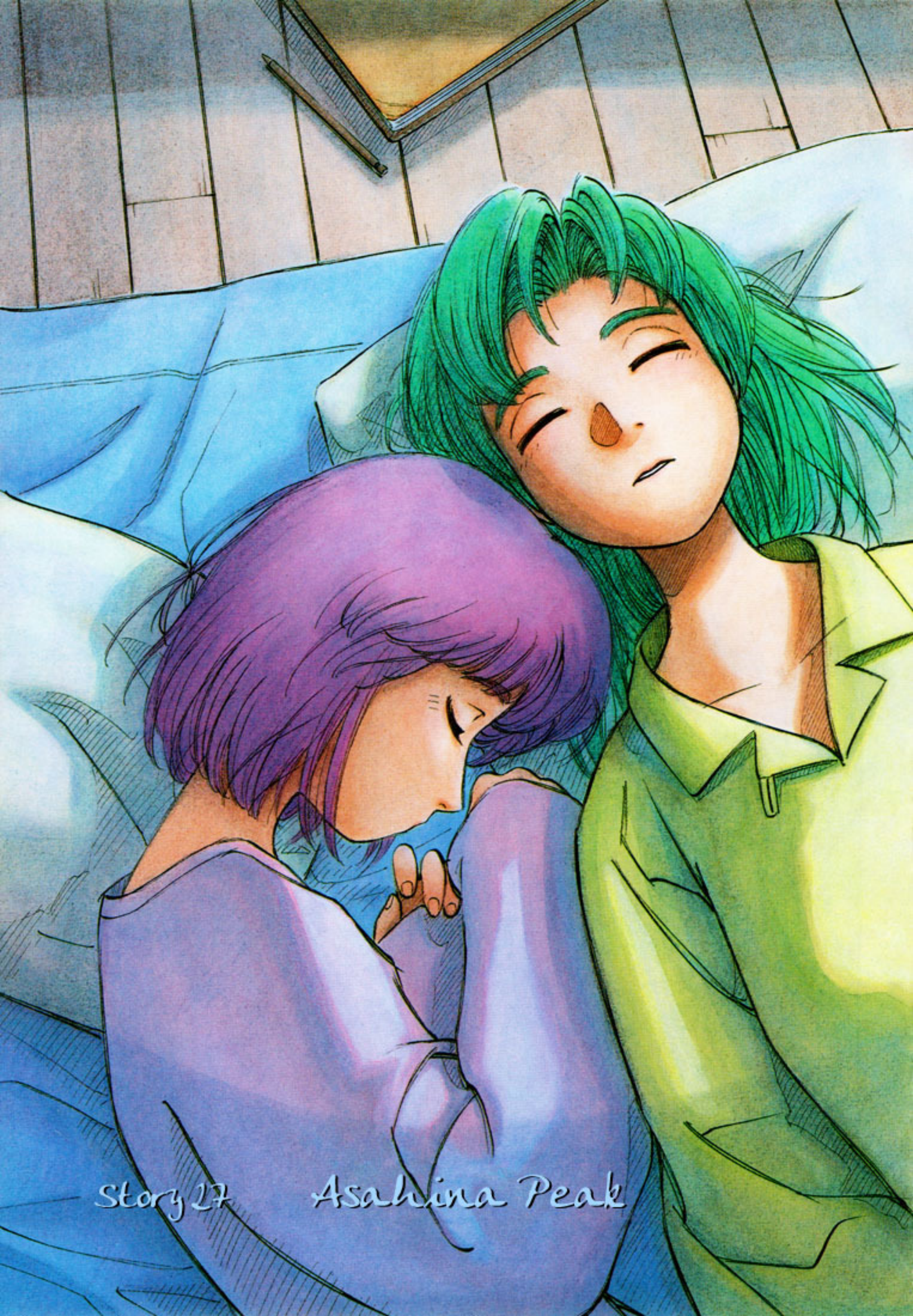


I tried to think of another time, but this was the first time the two of us had done this together.

Seeing Kokone off...

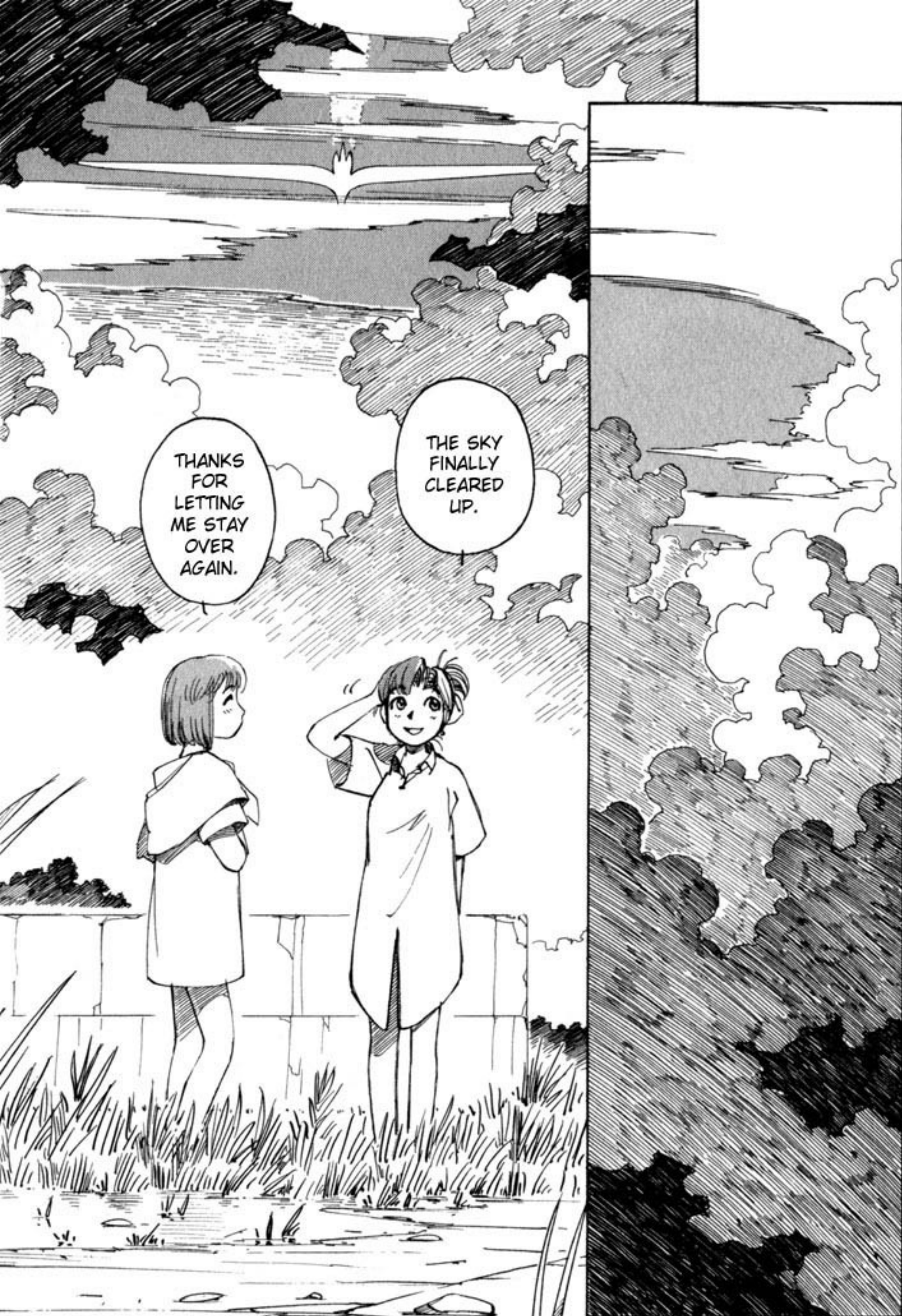






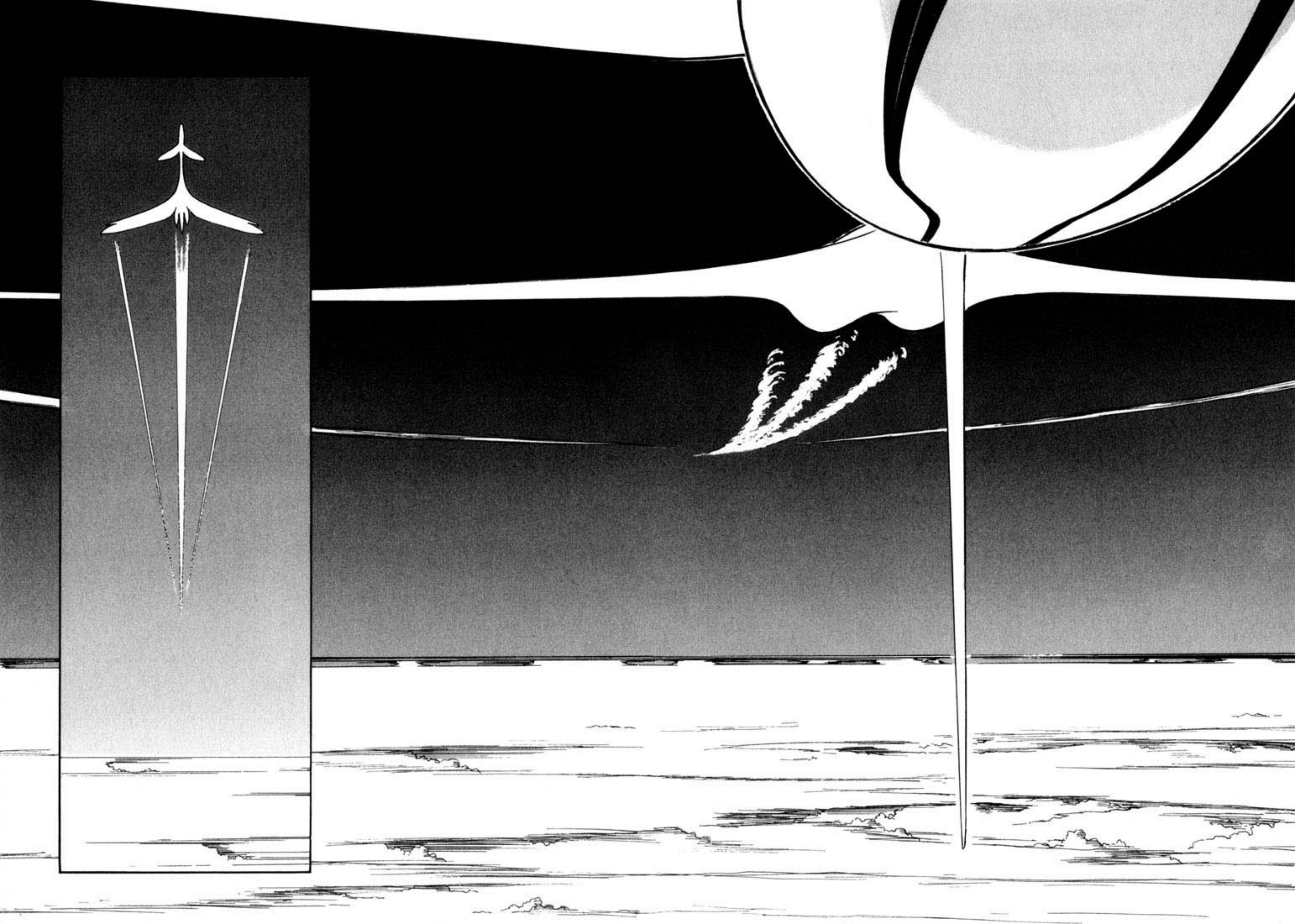
Story 27

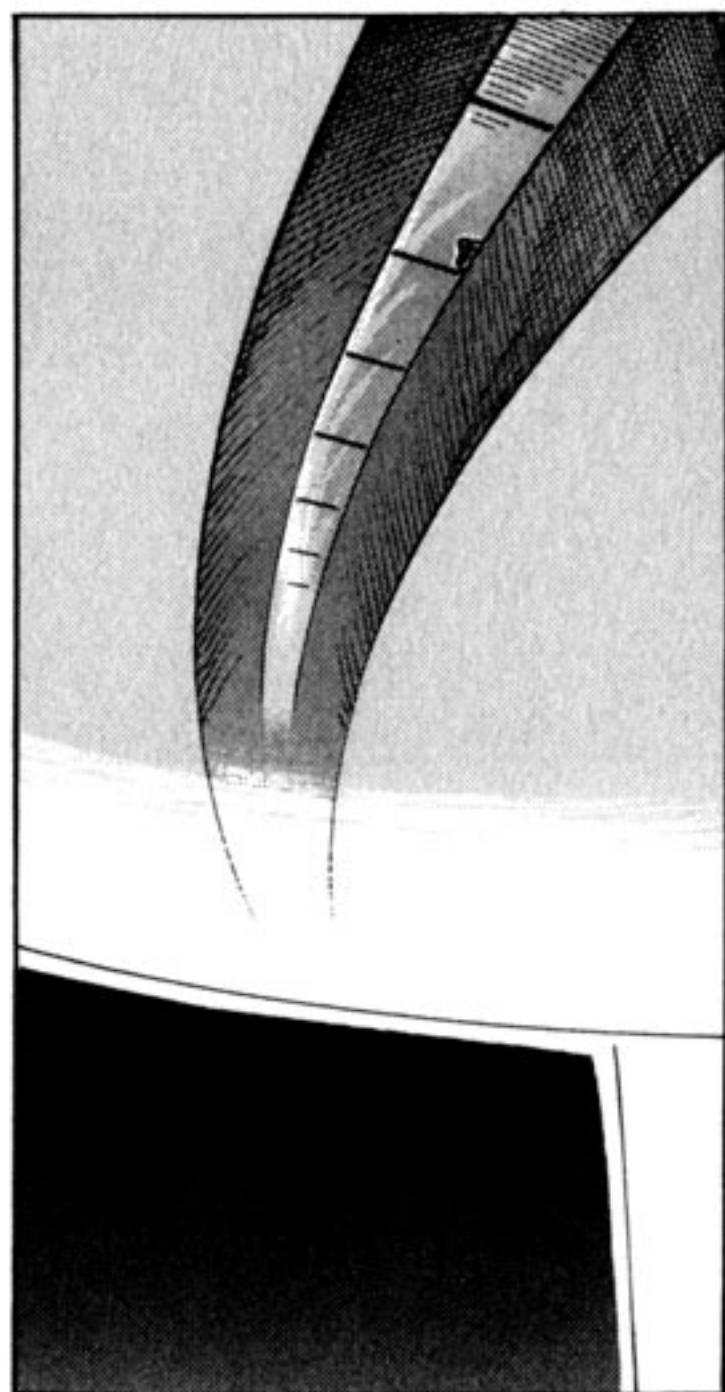
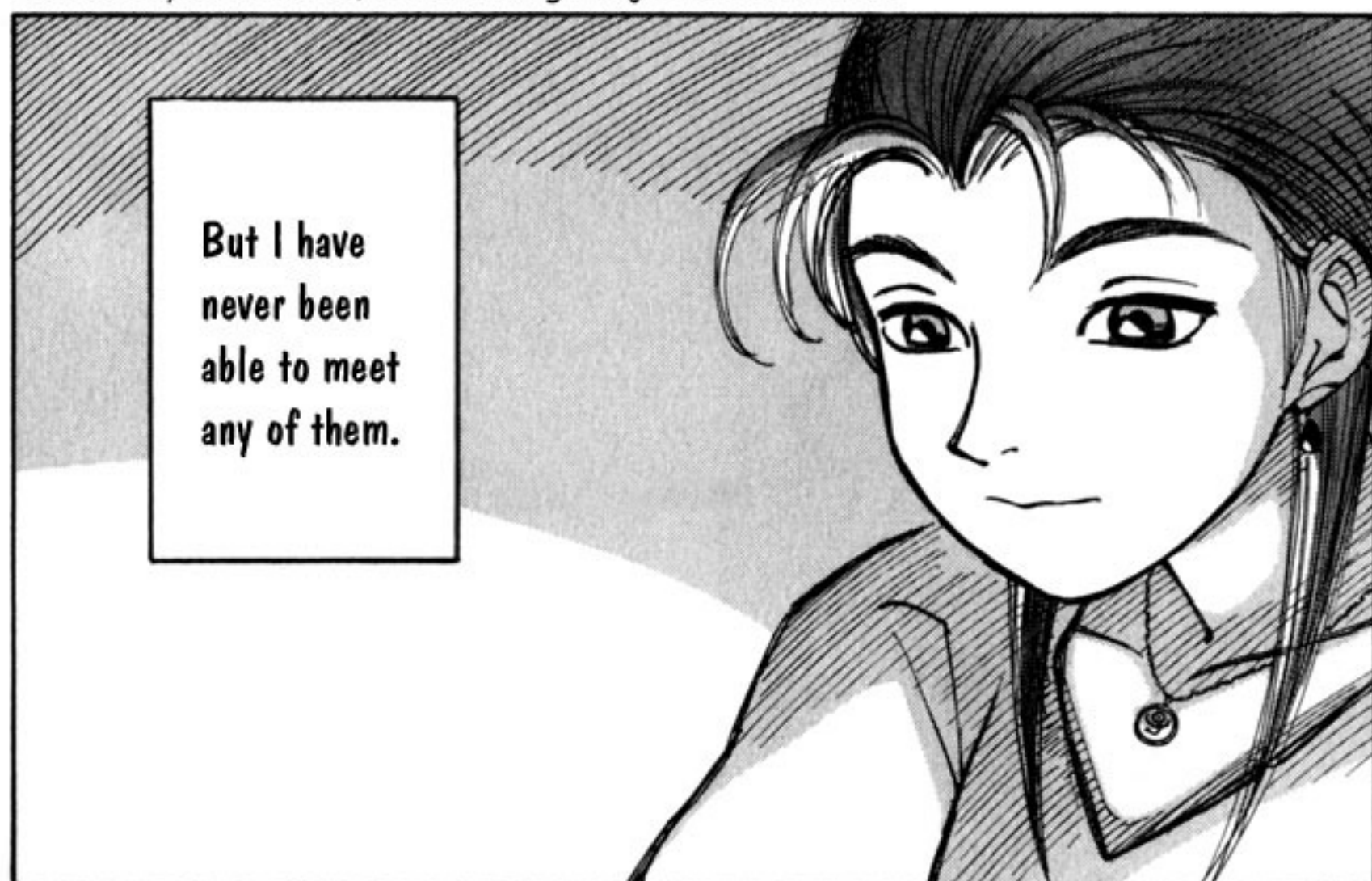
Asahina Peak

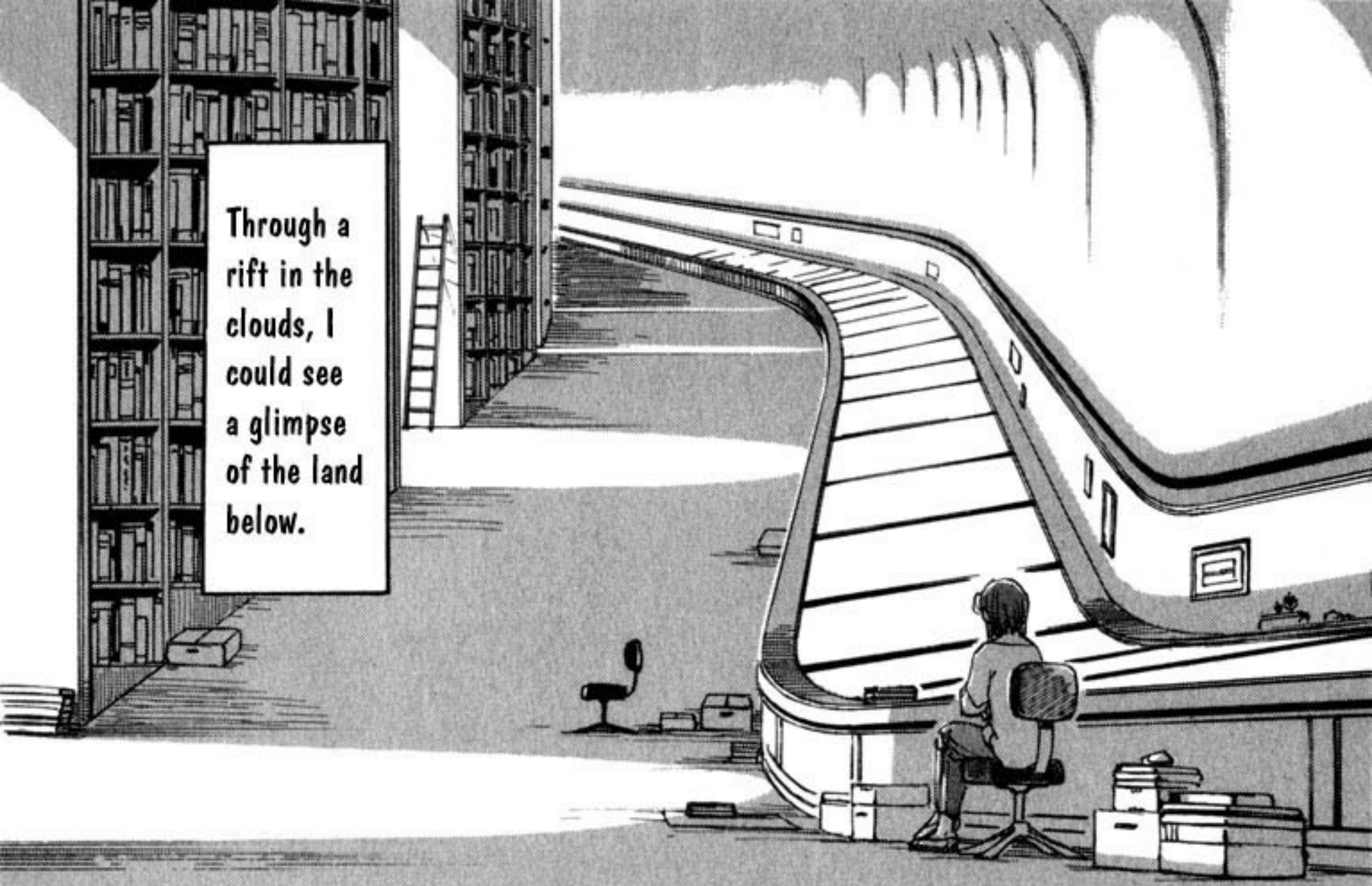


THANKS
FOR
LETTING
ME STAY
OVER
AGAIN.

THE SKY
FINALLY
CLEARED
UP.







Through a
rift in the
clouds, I
could see
a glimpse
of the land
below.



While I was once
down there, I
received word that
someone had made
me many little
brothers and sisters.





OH,
NO...
IT'S
PER-
FECTLY
OKAY.



I STILL
HAVE MY
MEMORIES
OF THAT
ONE TIME
...

I ONLY
MANAGED TO
SWIM IN THE
SEA ONCE.



YES.

OH, YOU WERE
BORN ON THAT
ISLAND BELOW
US, RIGHT?

Alpha-
san!

Room
monitor
Alpha.

Room
moni-
tor...

YES...

EH?

HELLOOOO
...?

WERE
YOU
LOOKING
DOWN?

OH,
SORRY
...

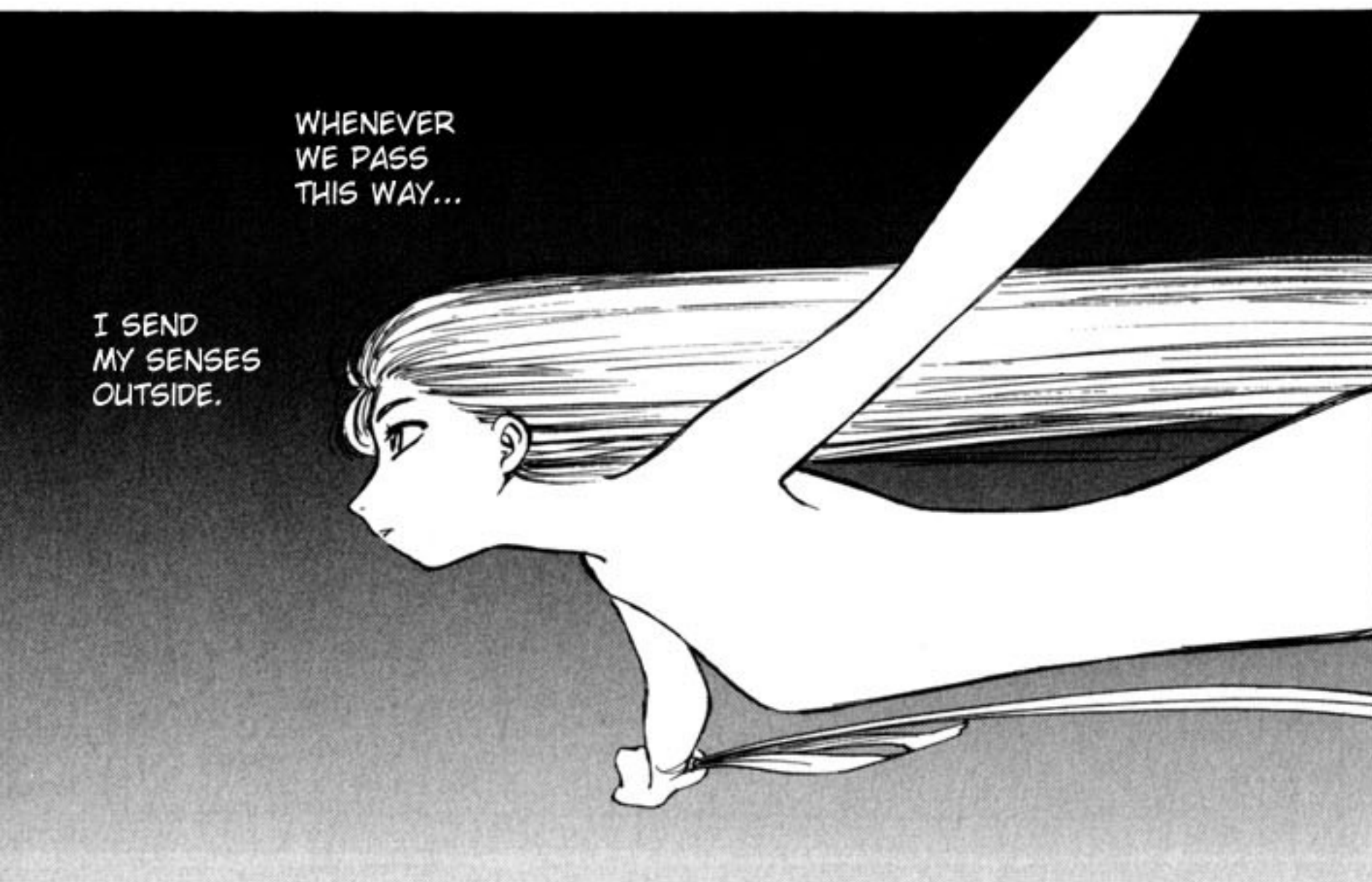


DOING THIS
FEELS...

...IT LOOKS
EXACTLY AS I
REMEMBER IT.

JUST LIKE
FLOATING
ON WATER.



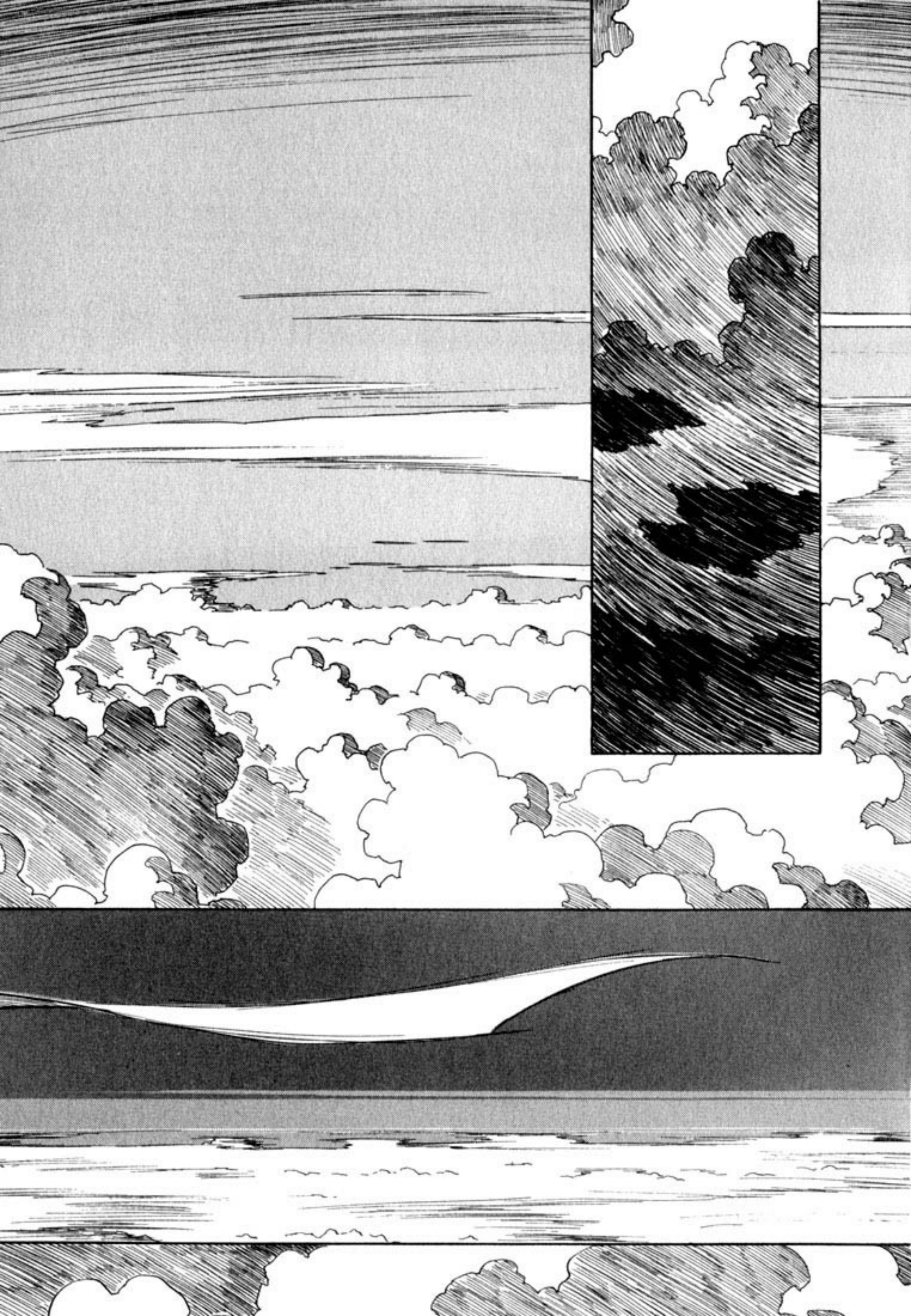


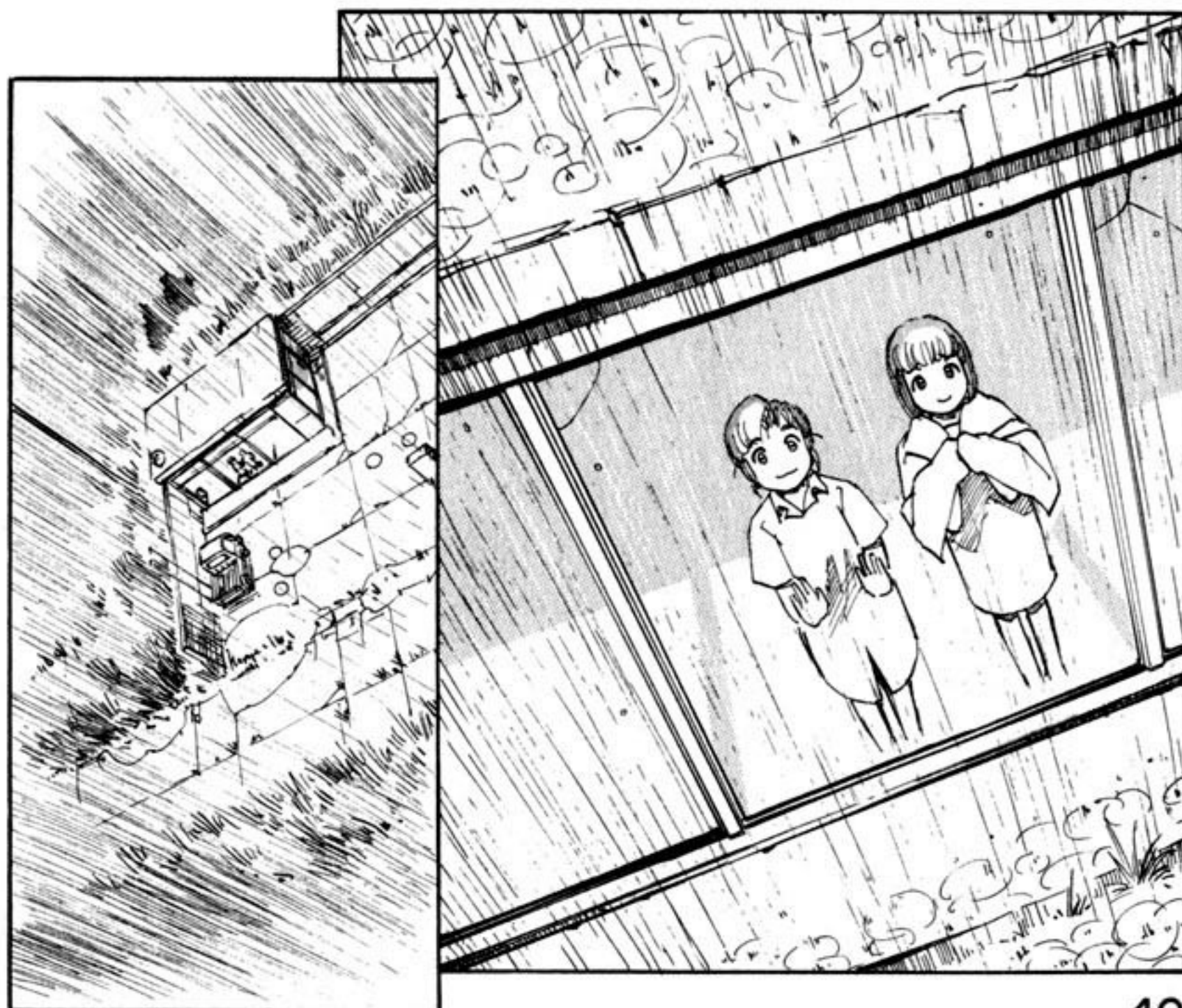
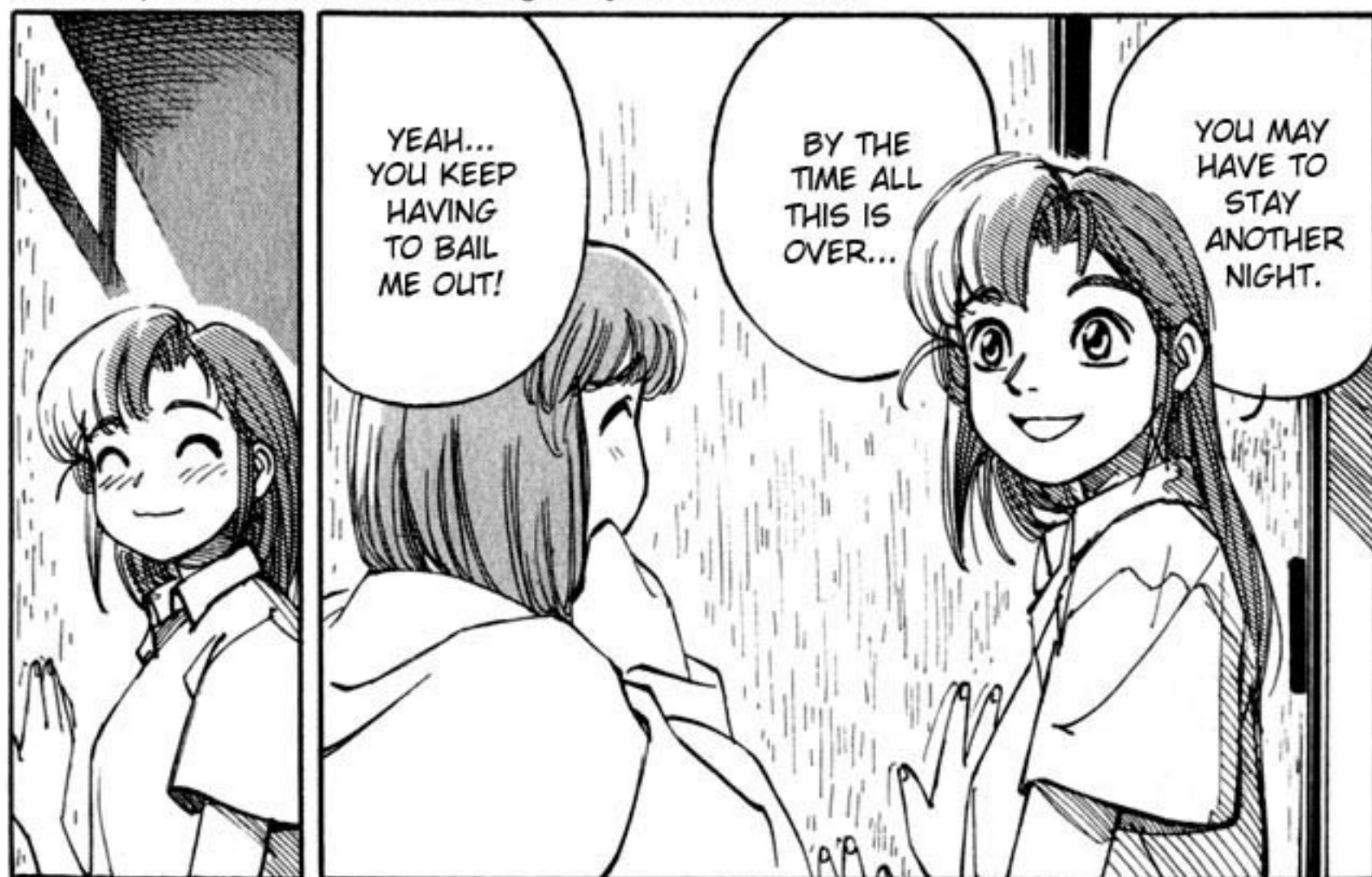
I SEND
MY SENSES
OUTSIDE.

WHENEVER
WE PASS
THIS WAY...

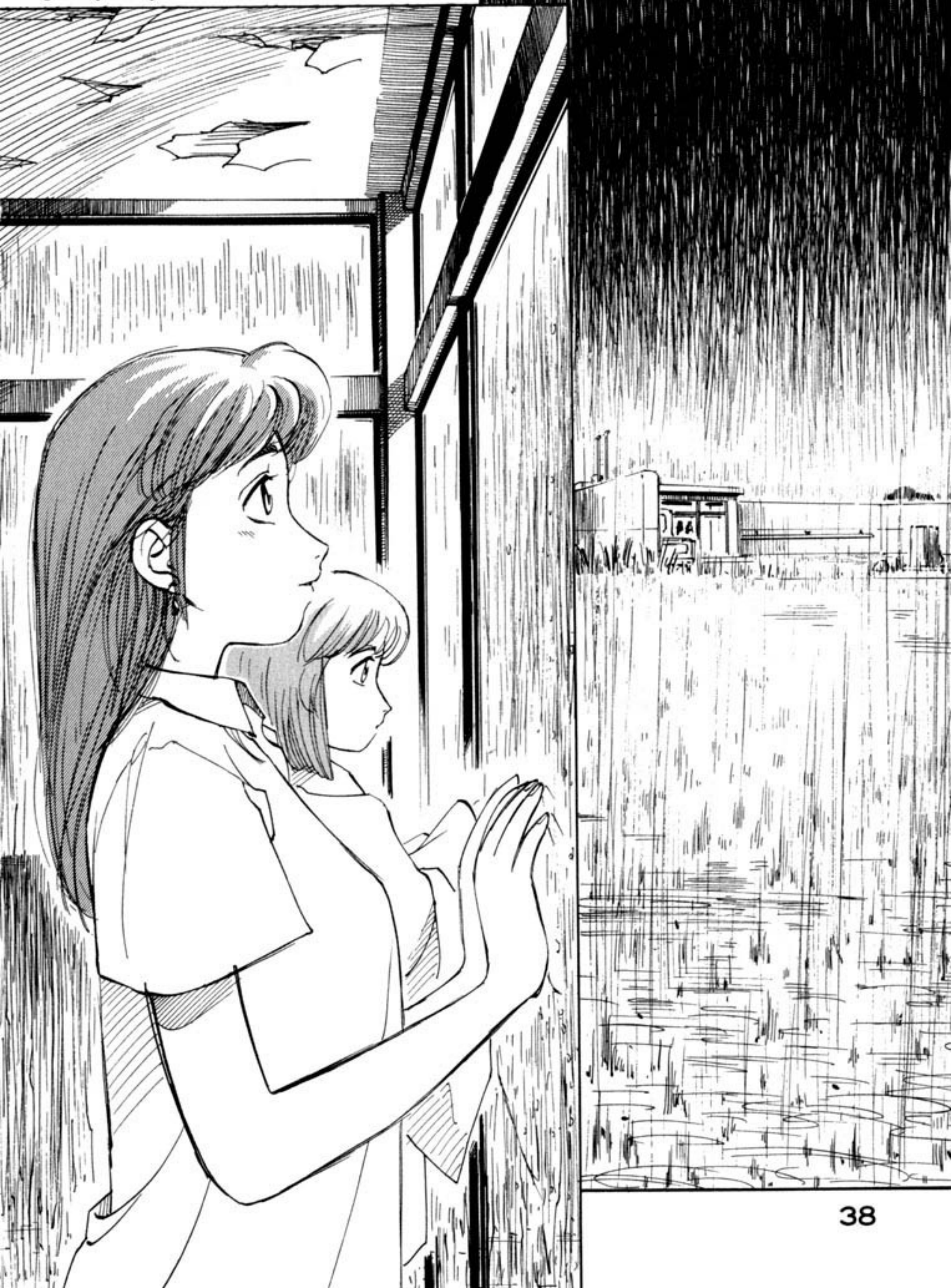
I CAN'T SEE
THE GROUND
BENEATH US.

THERE
ARE MANY
CLOUDS.



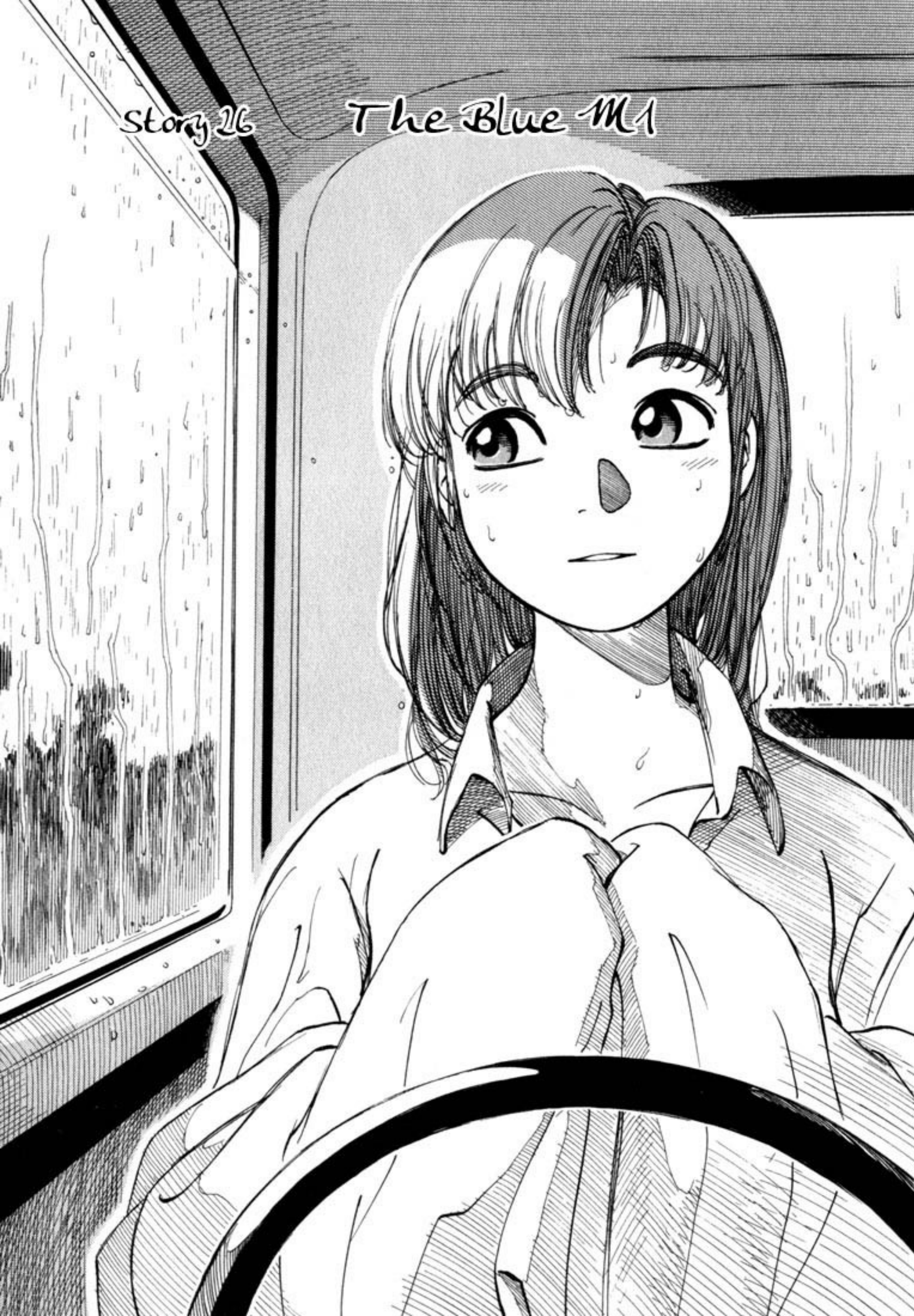


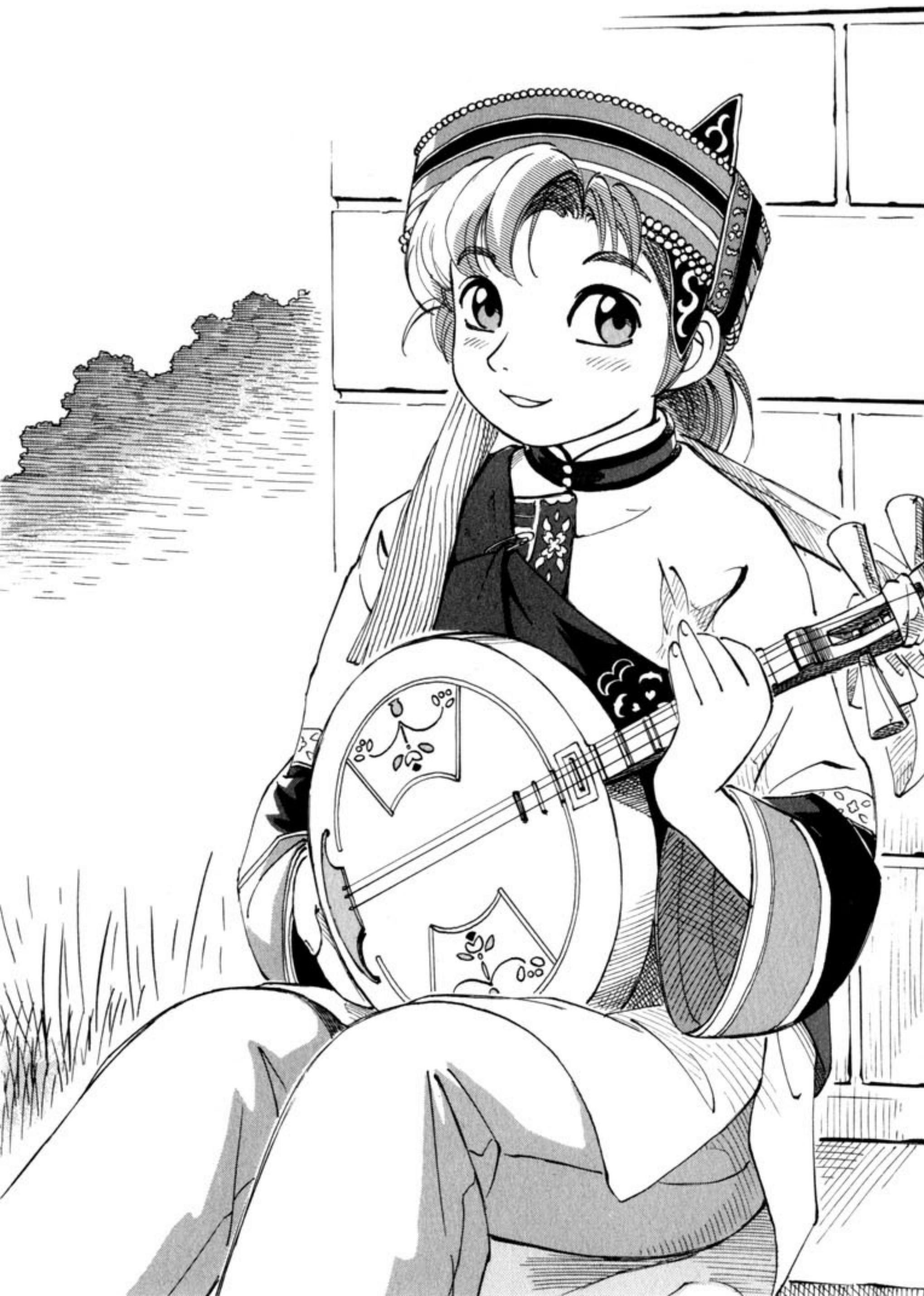




Story 26

The Blue M1





Q&A corner
『 "What is the Moon Harp?" 』



It's an instrument like the biwa!
The Moon Harp is imported from China.
It's called that for the simple reason that the round shape looks like the moon. Normally, the neck is shorter and there are four strings with some wonderful decorations all over it to make it look expensive, but I think mine was hand-made locally.

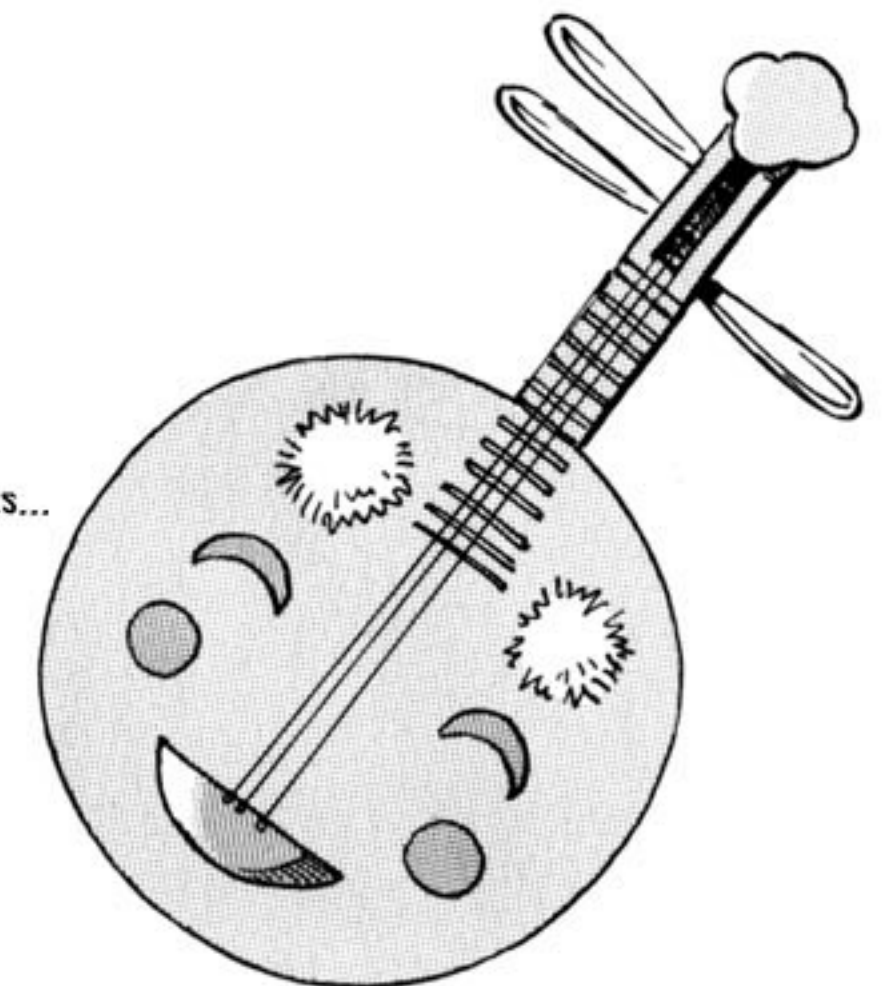
As for the sound, it's sort of like a ukelele, or a mandolin, or a banjo.
It's really supposed to be performed with tremolo, but I'm not an advanced enough player to do that.... I just let it flow... ploink, ploink!

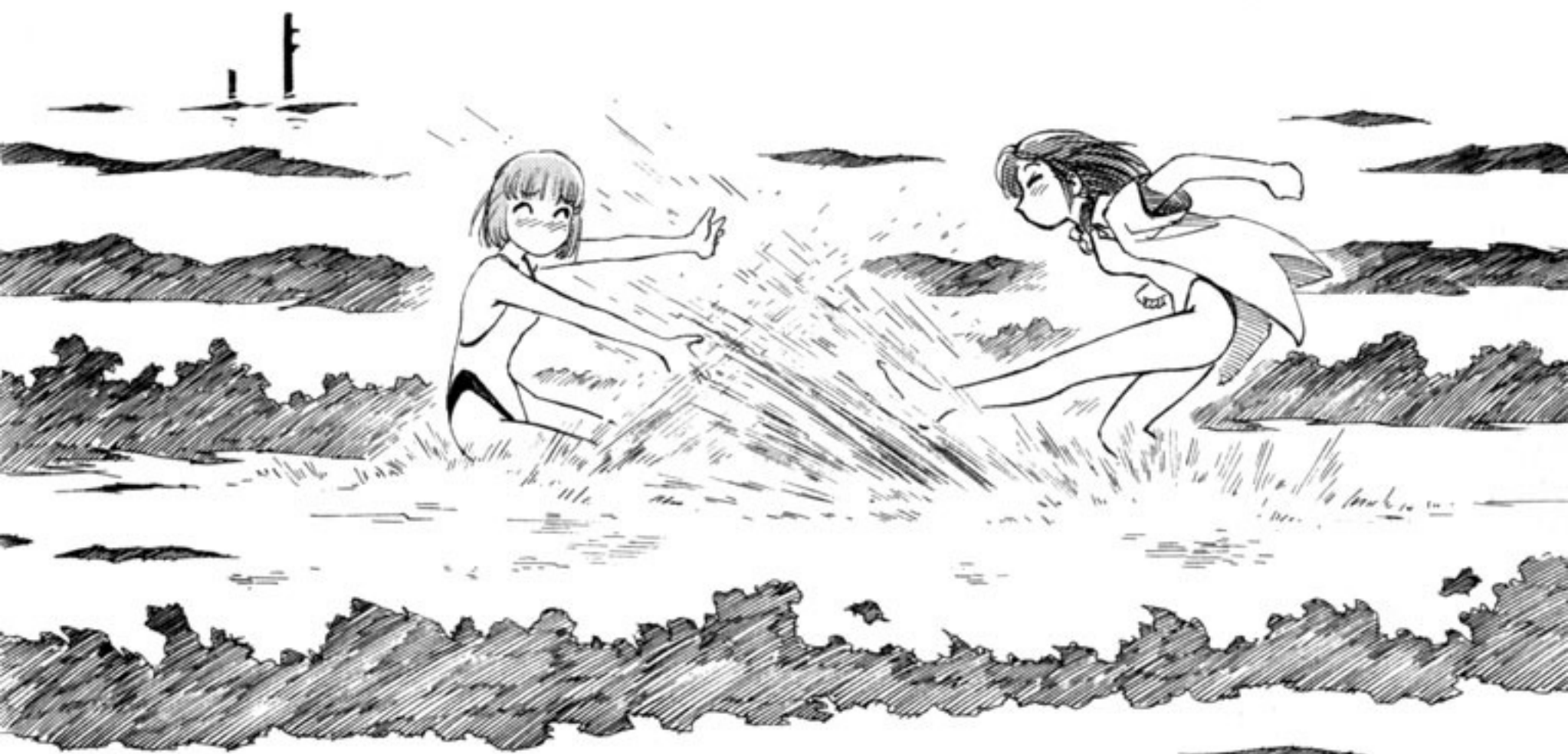
◀ On this page, could this be one of the people that made my Moon Harp?
She's wearing the clothes of a Chinese girl from the Sani family of Unnan.
Suits her, doesn't it?

This is the Moon Harp
that Gonchichi-san has.

This is the impression it gives...
At least, I think so.

Cute, isn't it?





But as nice as
this water felt...

I think it
allowed itself to
want us back.

Maybe it doesn't
look back on the
days when it was a
summer vacation
resort...

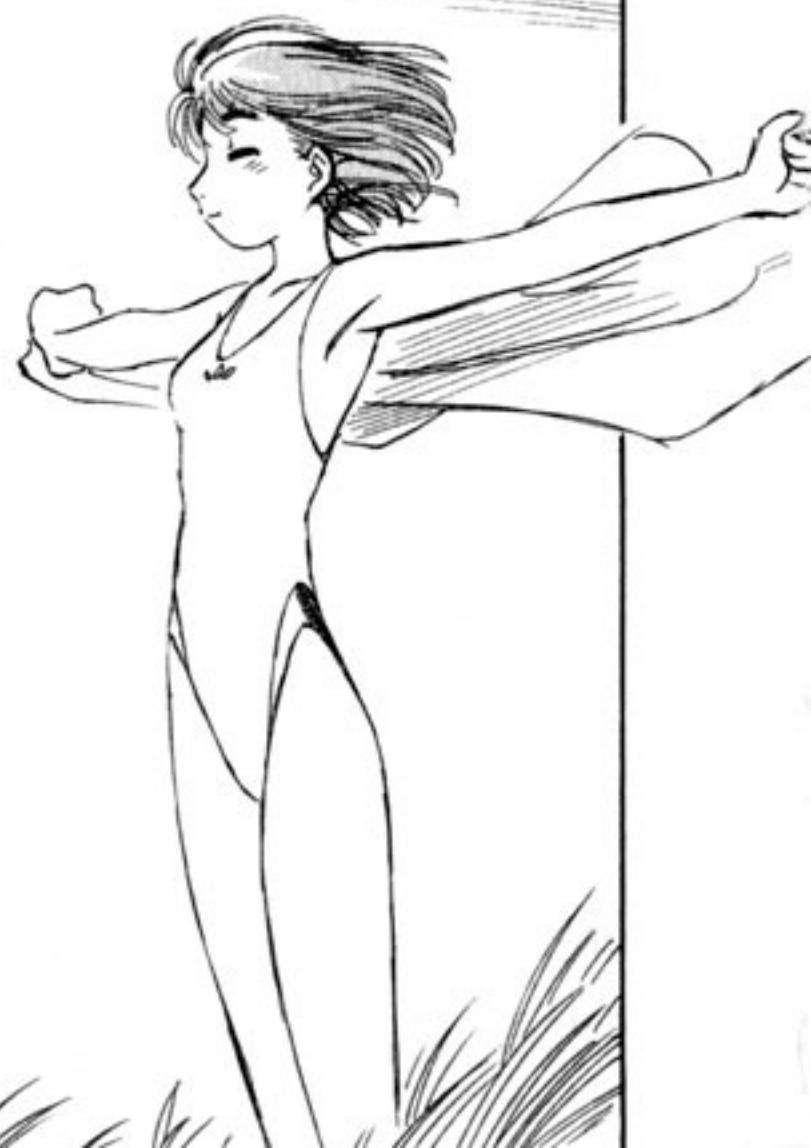
FLAP



MM...

WE'RE
THE ONLY
TWO
PEOPLE
HERE!

...I WAS
JUST
THINKING...





IT'S
KIND
OF...

LONELY.



JUST
SOMETHING
ABOUT
THE SEA.

OH...

EH?

WHAT?

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP



THIS IS
YOUR FIRST
TIME AT THE
SEA!

OH, I
SEE...

TRY AND
BE A
BIT LESS
SOMBRE...

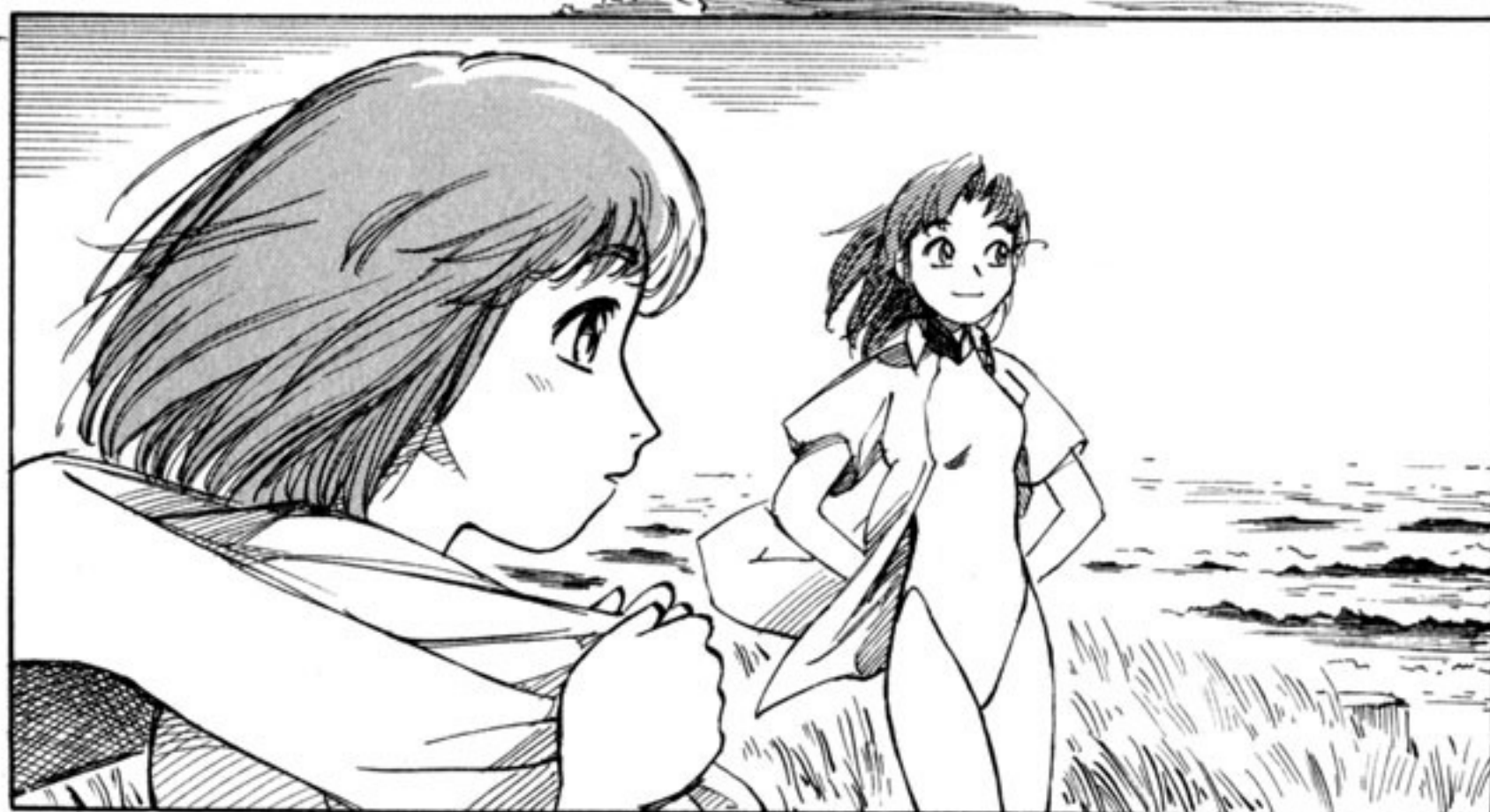
YES, AND
THEY RISE
AS WELL.

THE
WAVES GO
OUT AND THEN
COME BACK
IN, DON'T
THEY?

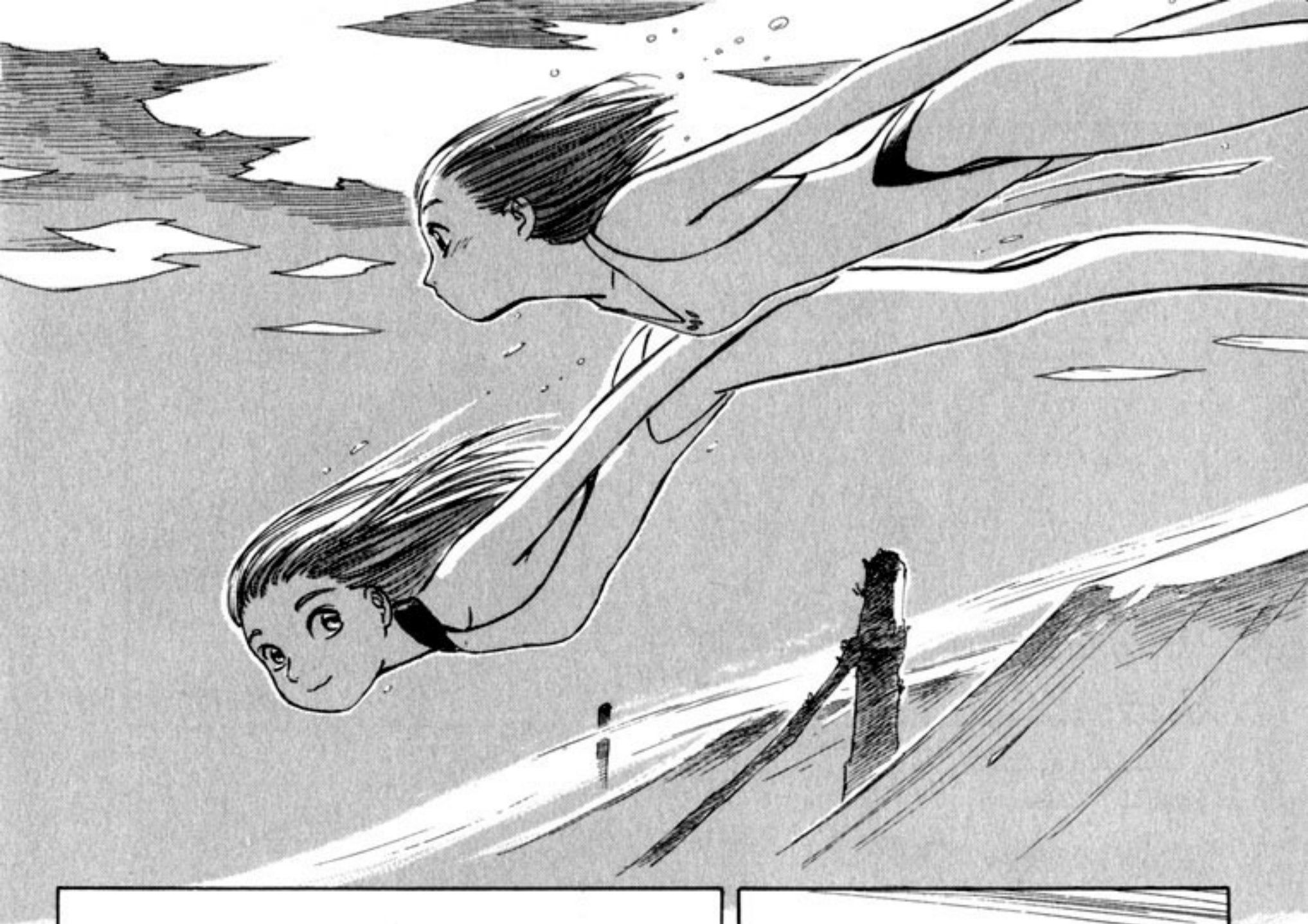


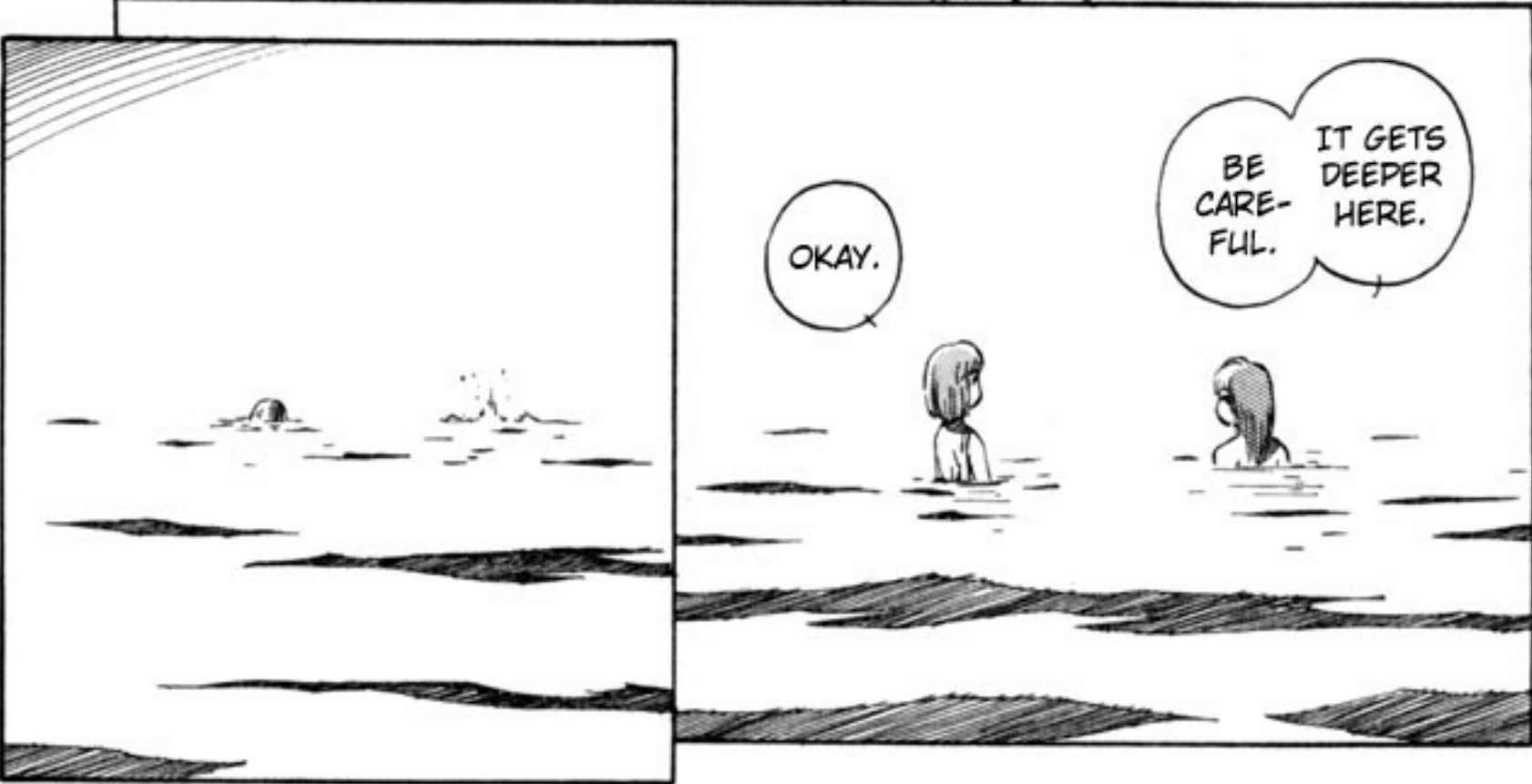
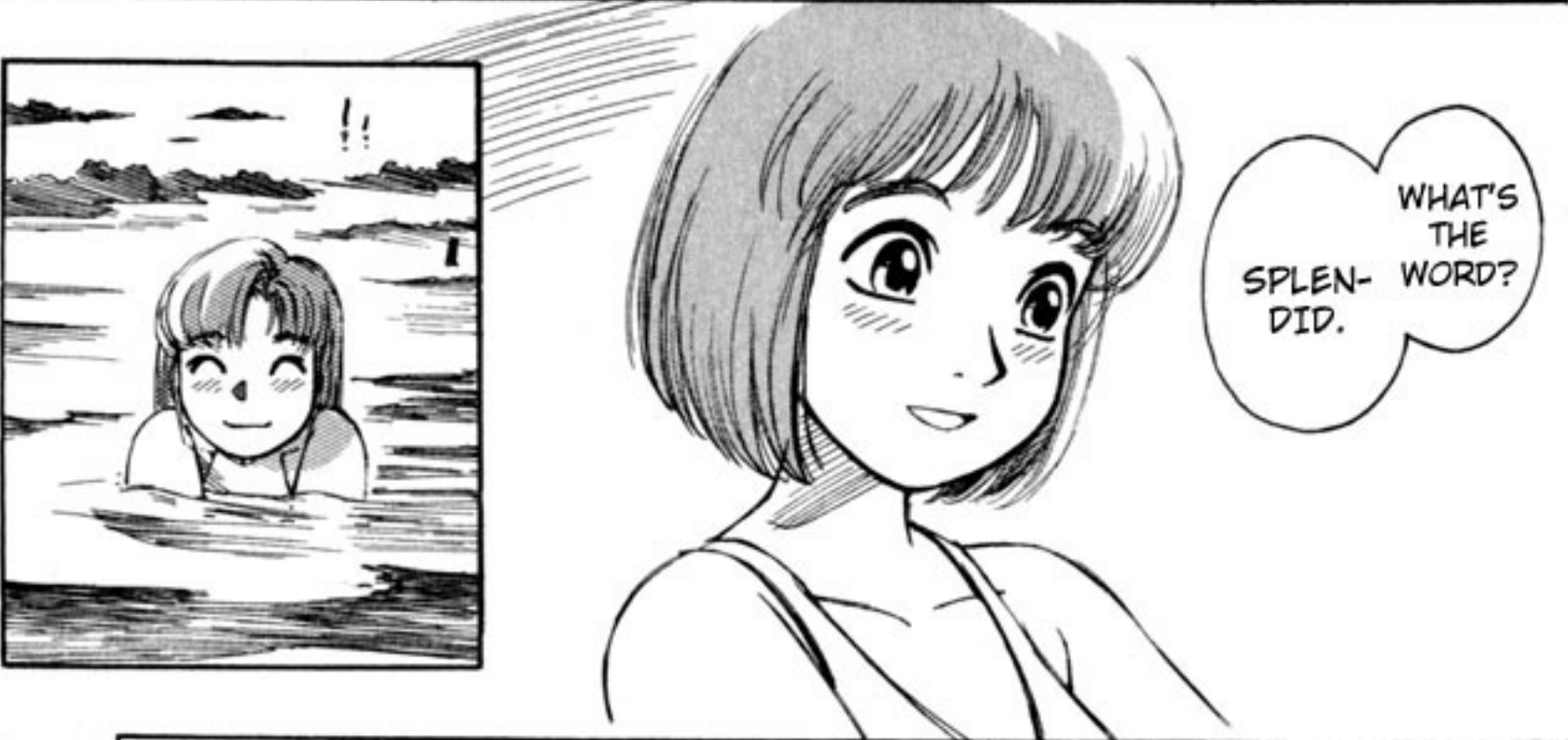
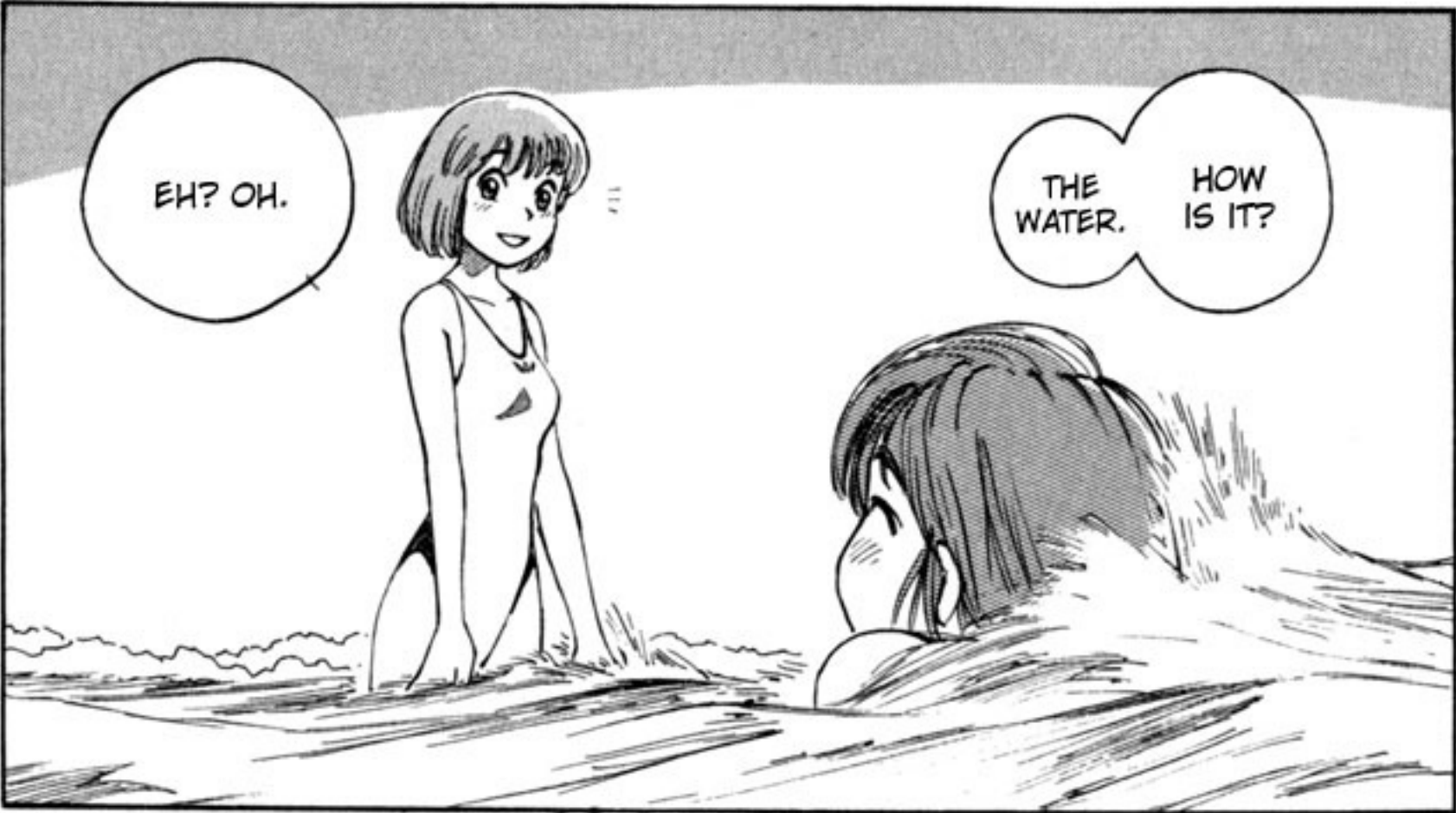
I know that
simply by
coming, it's
less likely to
feel wearisome.

It must
remember
summers long
ago when it
was busy...

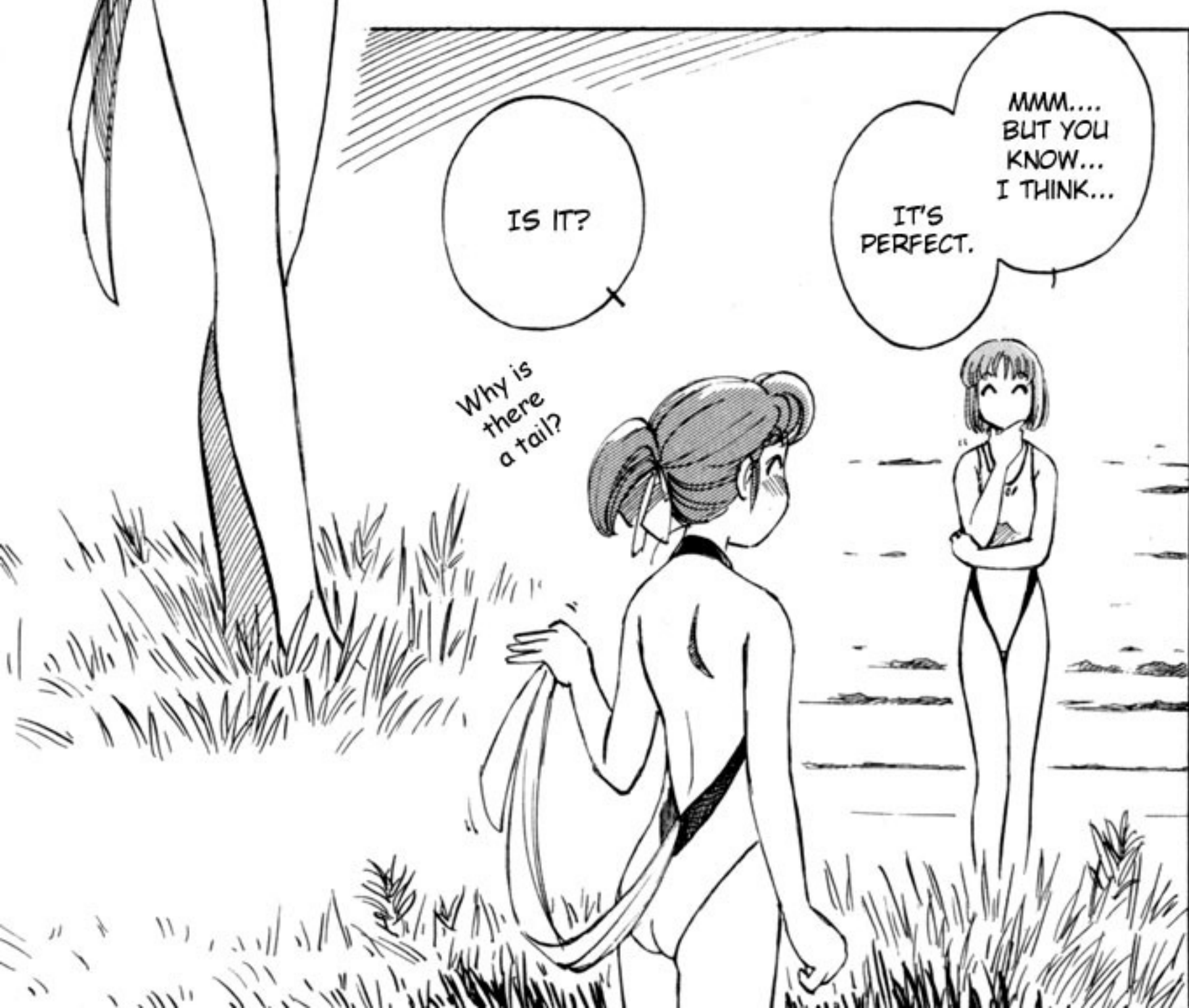


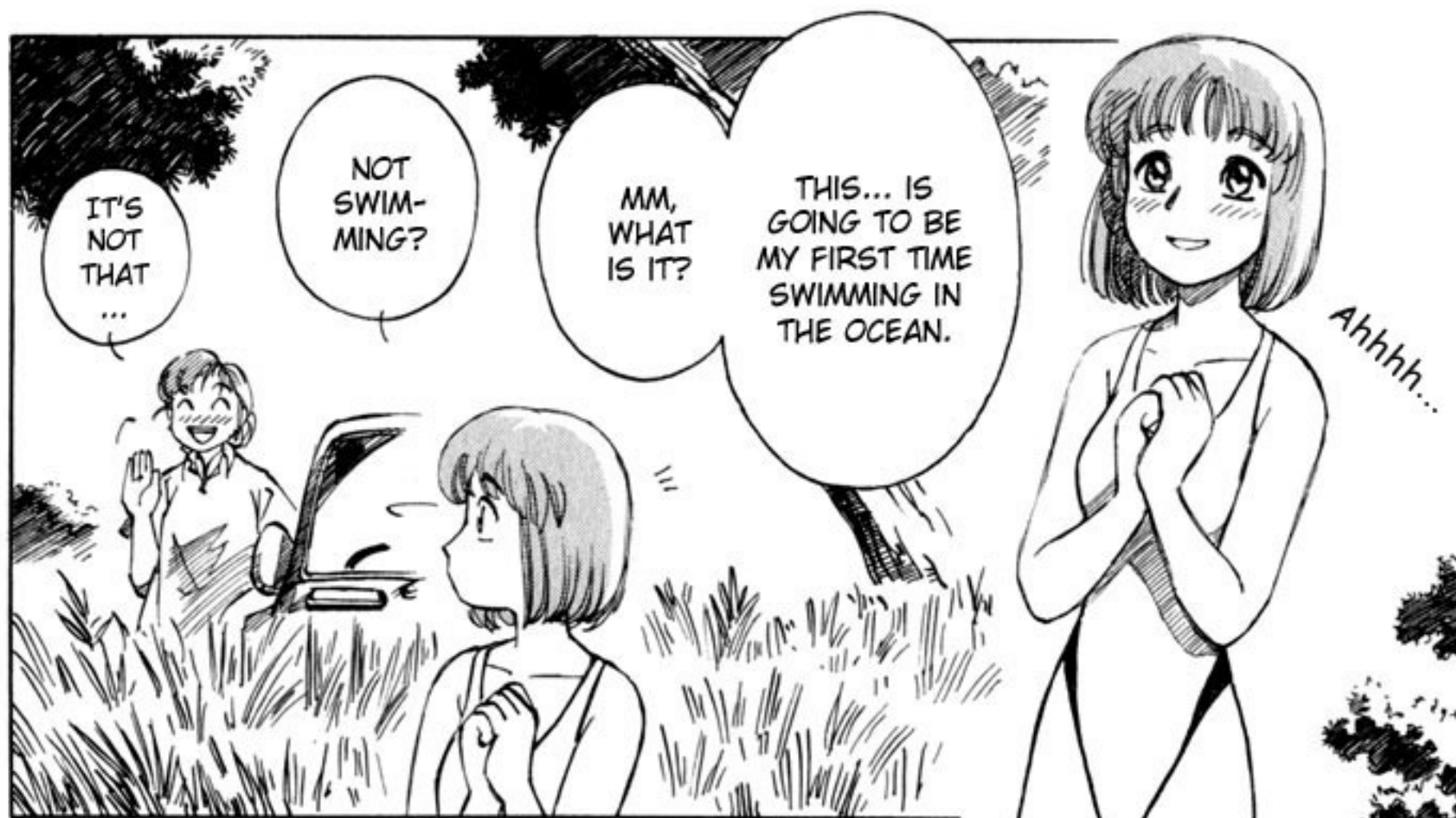






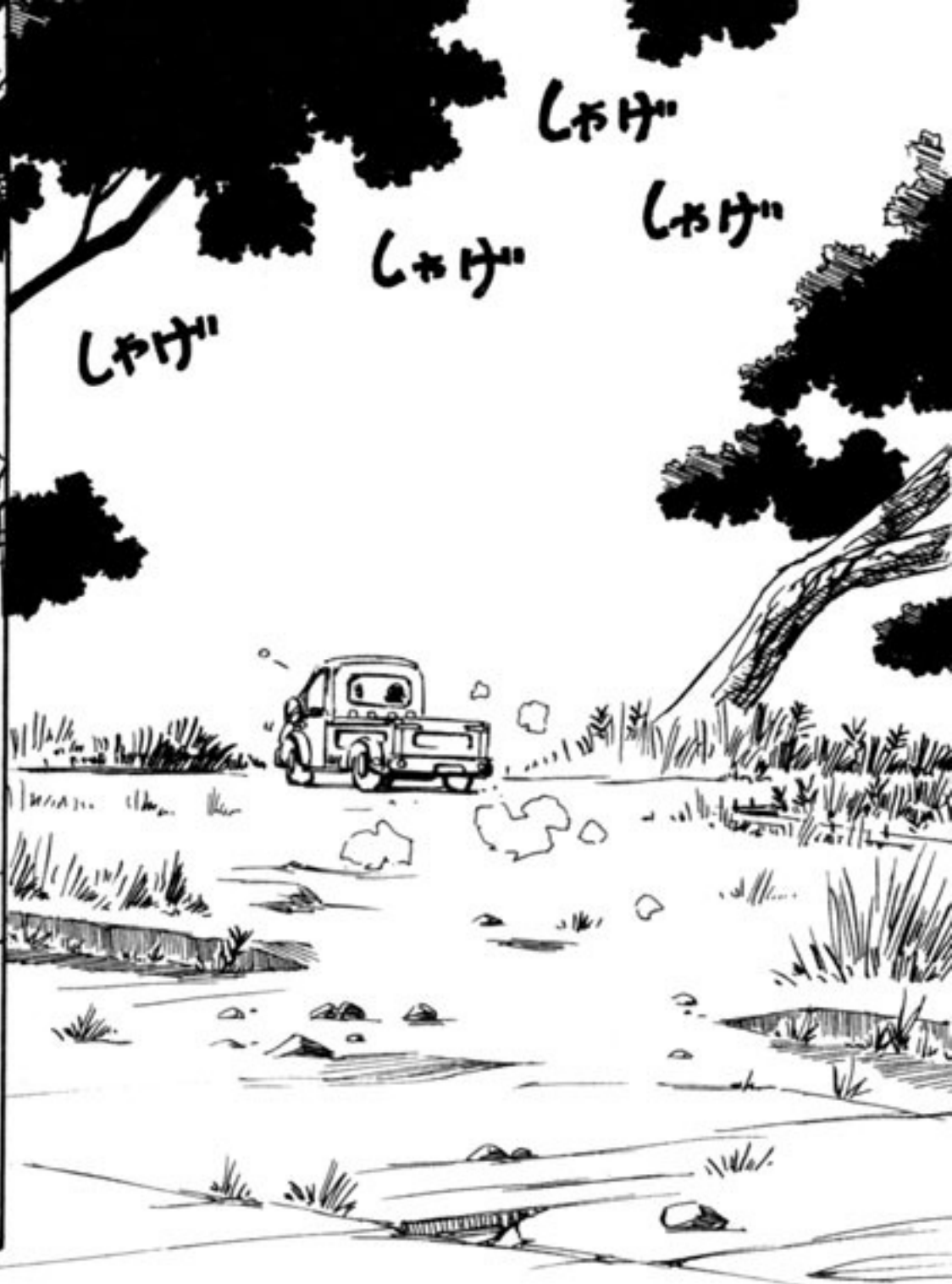








WOW!

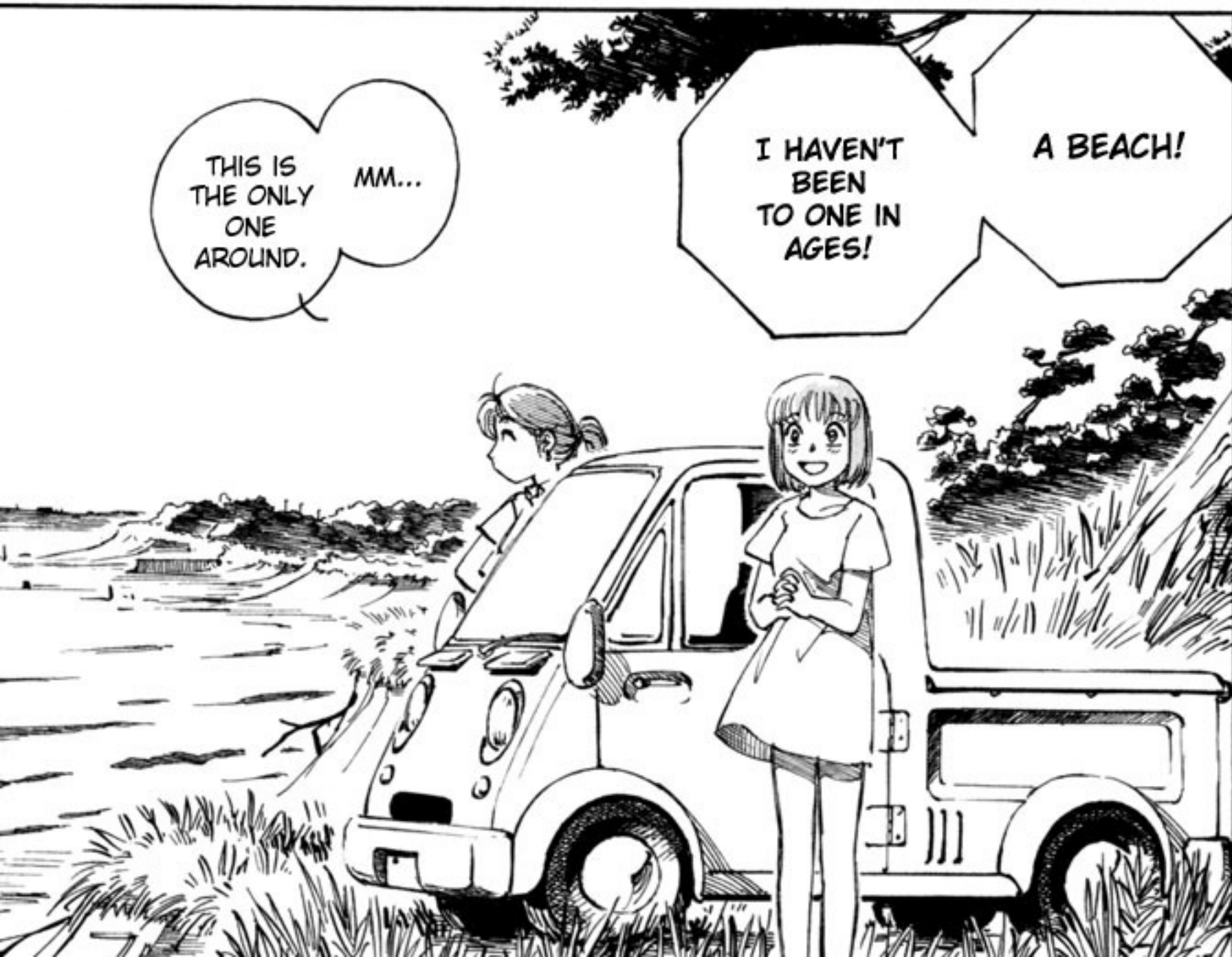


しゃけ

しゃけ

しゃけ

しゃけ



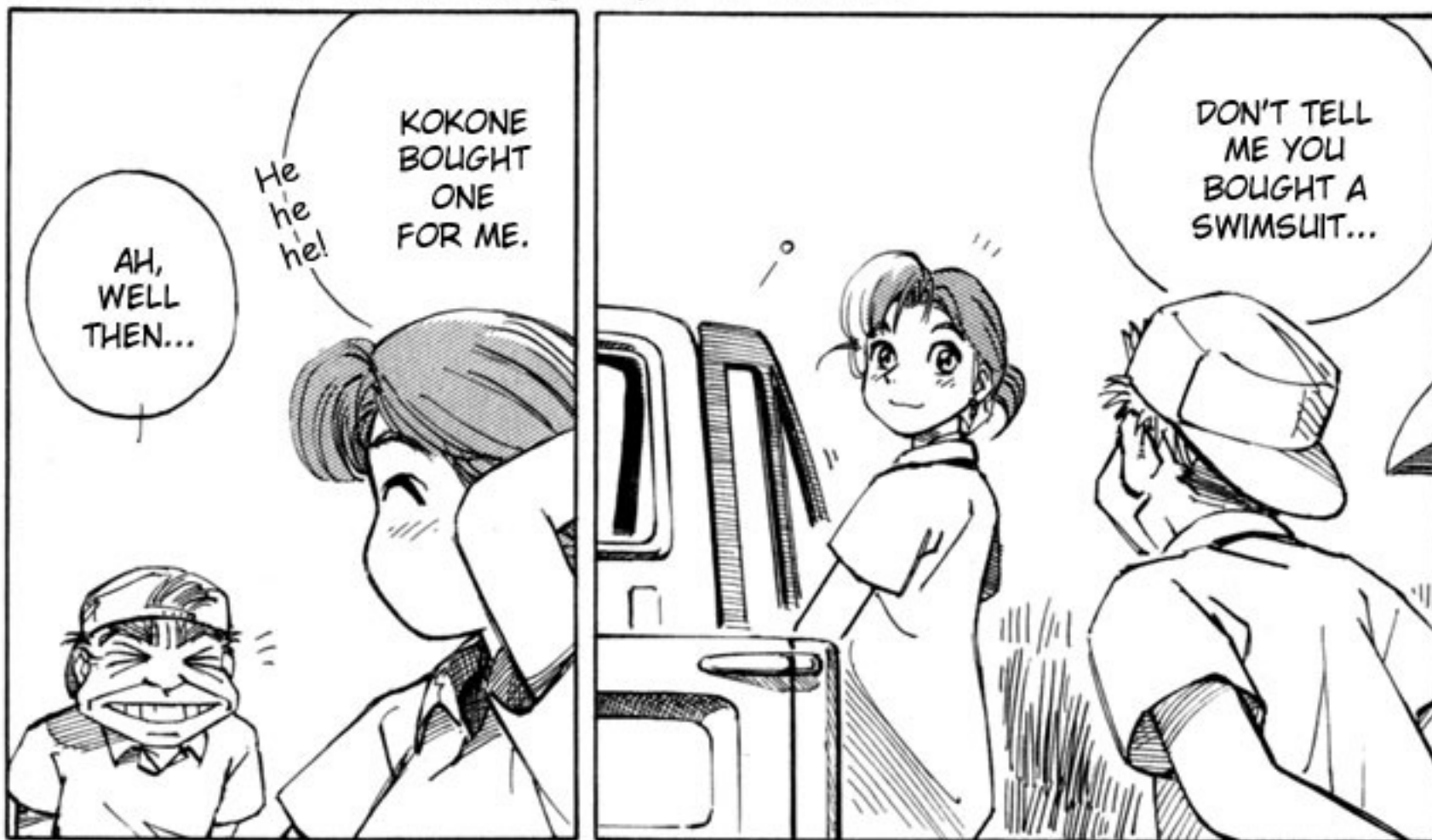
THIS IS
THE ONLY
ONE
AROUND.

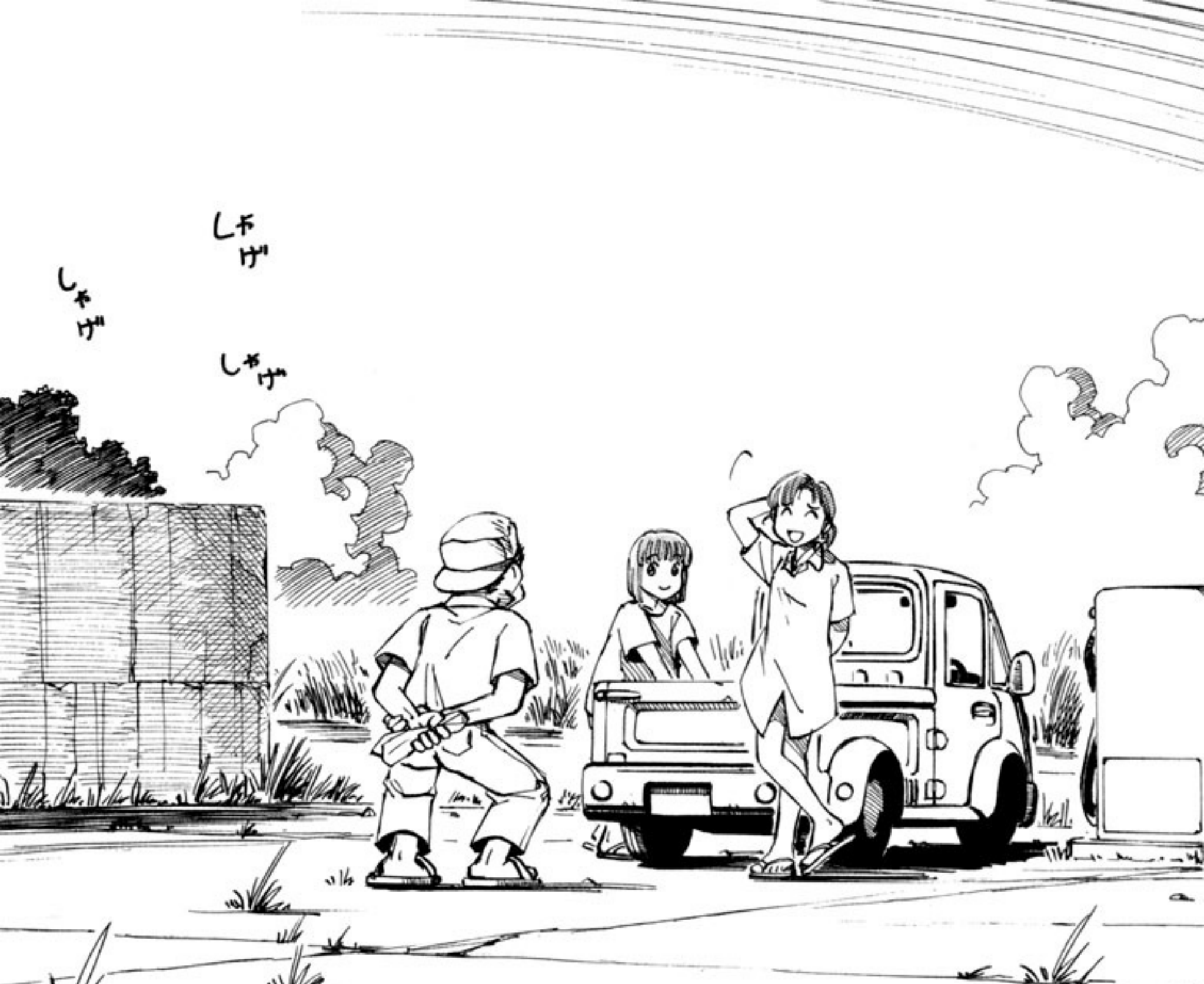
MM...

I HAVEN'T
BEEN
TO ONE IN
AGES!

A BEACH!









Story 25

Far-off Summer Holidays



♪ TAKAHIRO'S
A JERK! ♪

Oh yeah,
as for
Makki...

SWISH



Story 24 - End

She felt like
an older sister
returning from
a long trip.

MM...
JUST 2
OR 3
DAYS.

ARE YOU
STAYING
A WHILE,
KOKONE?

Yep!

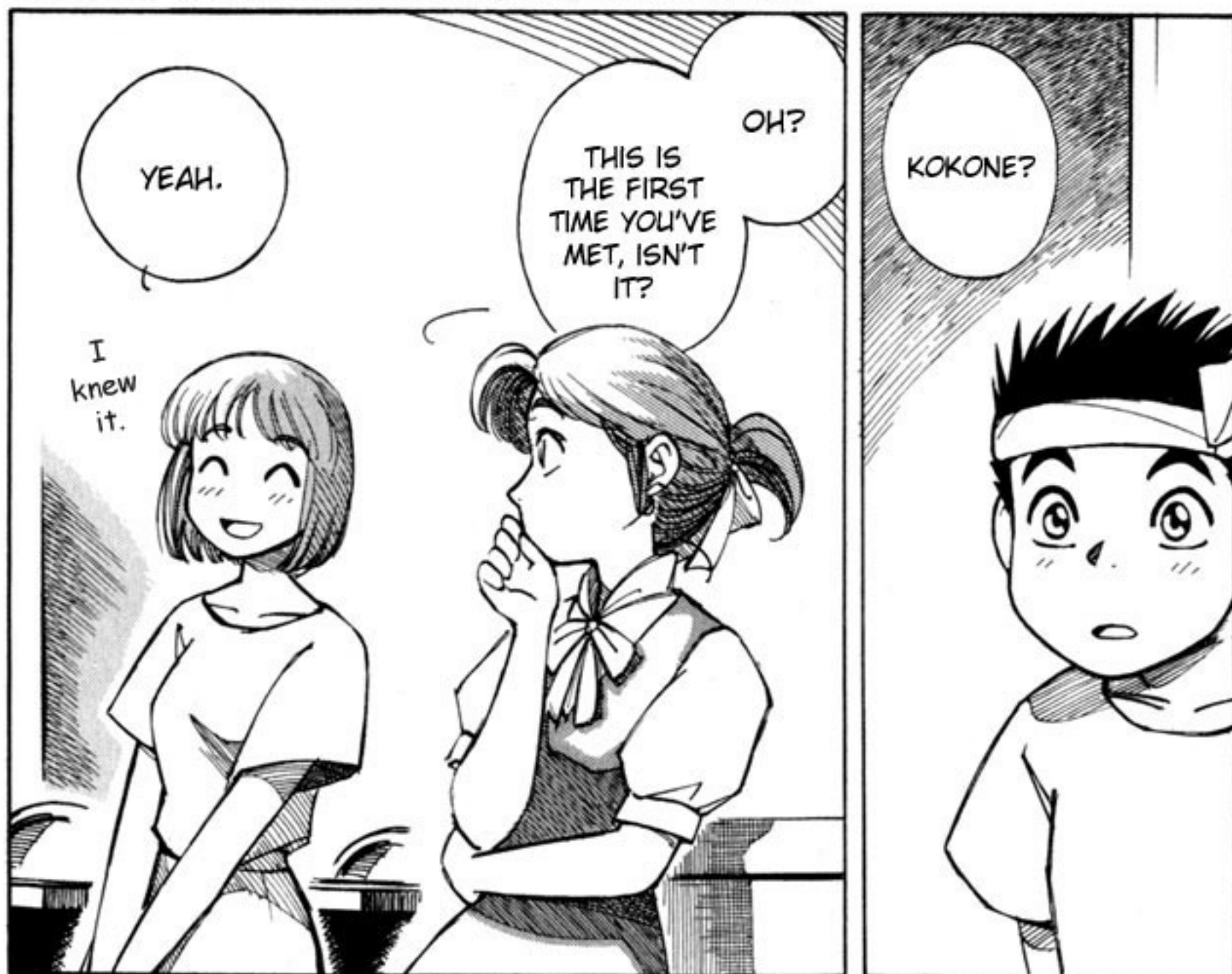
...MM.

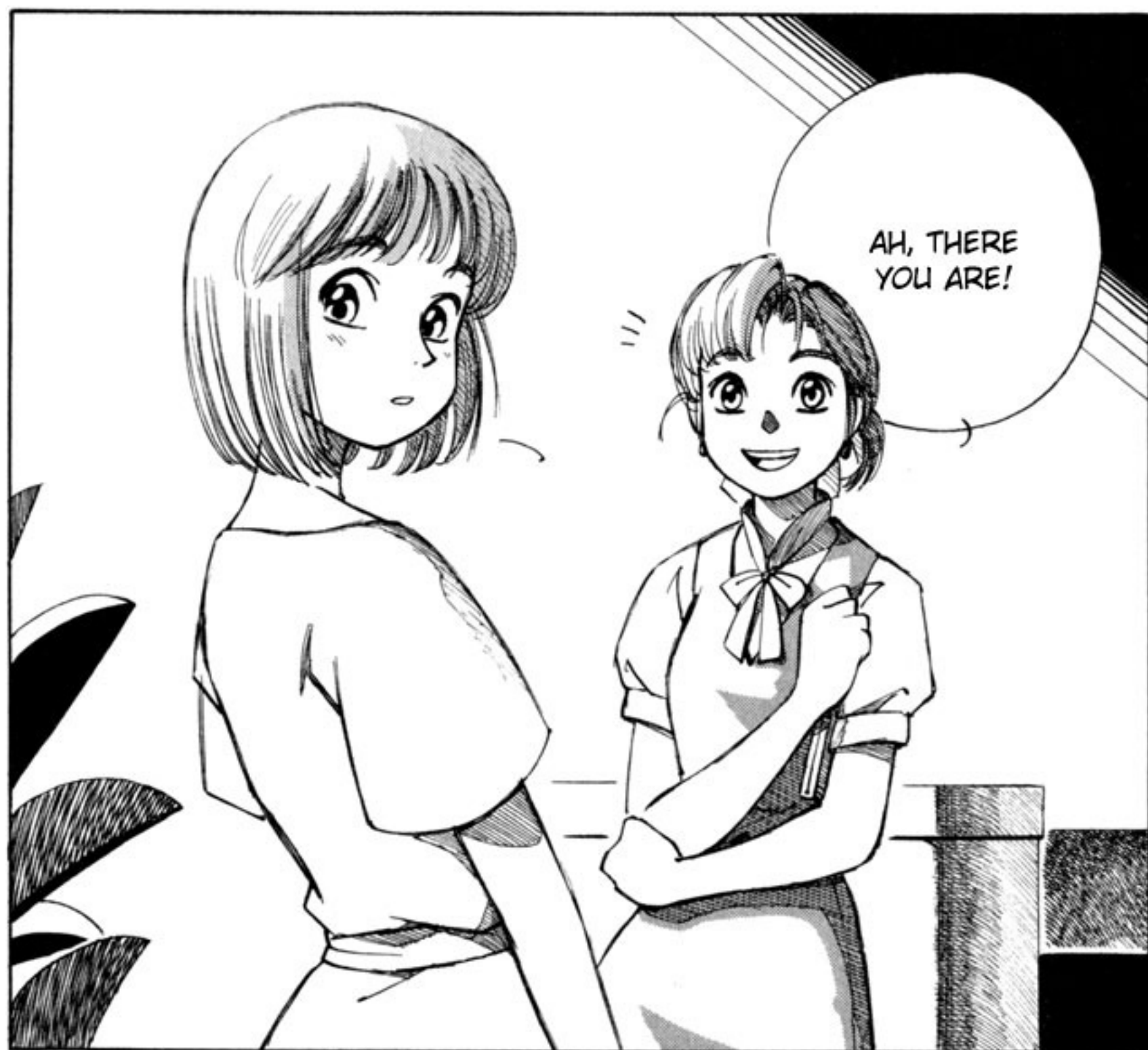
IT FEELS
LIKE I
KNOW YOU
ALREADY.

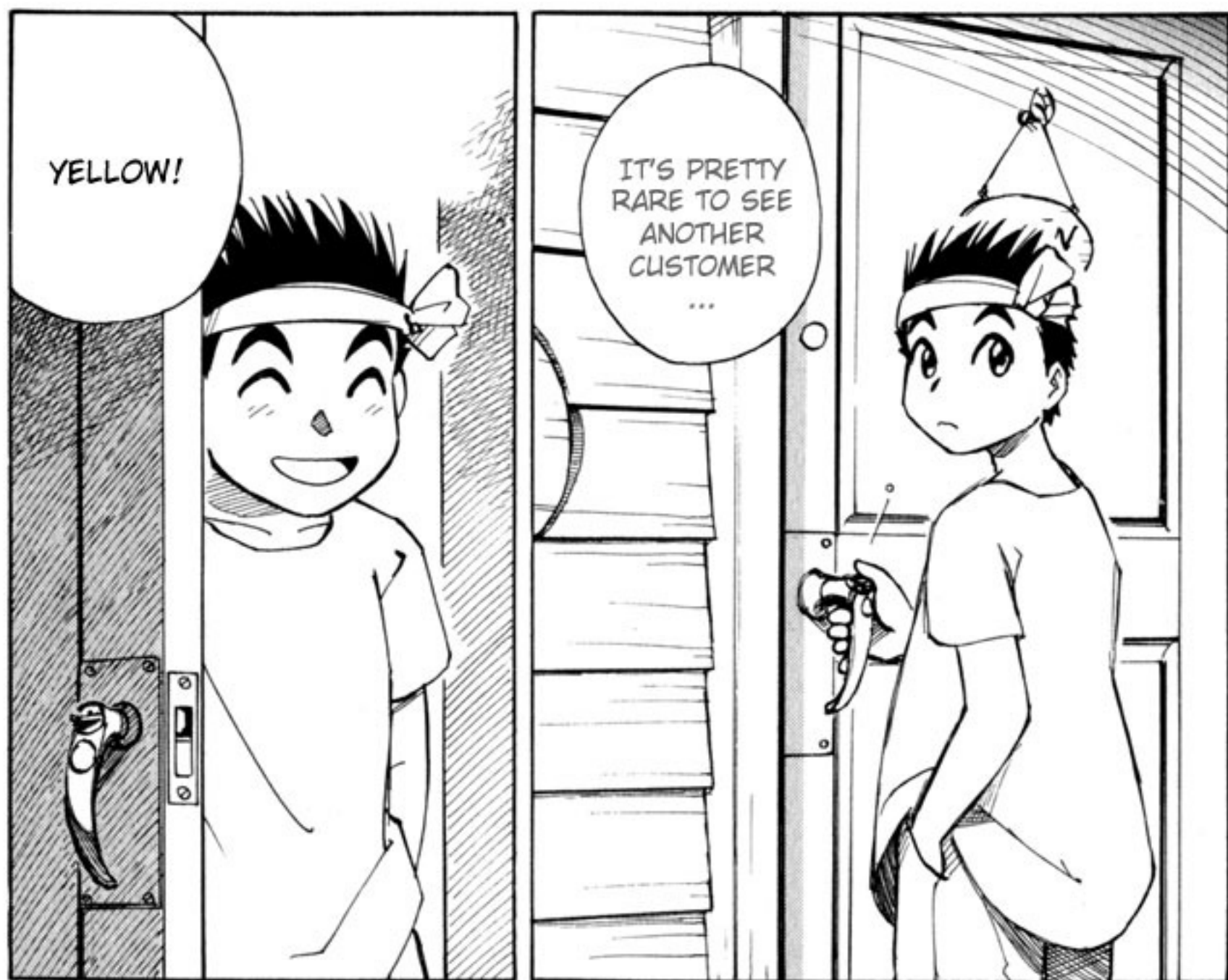
AH... YOU
TWO...

Mind if I
join you?

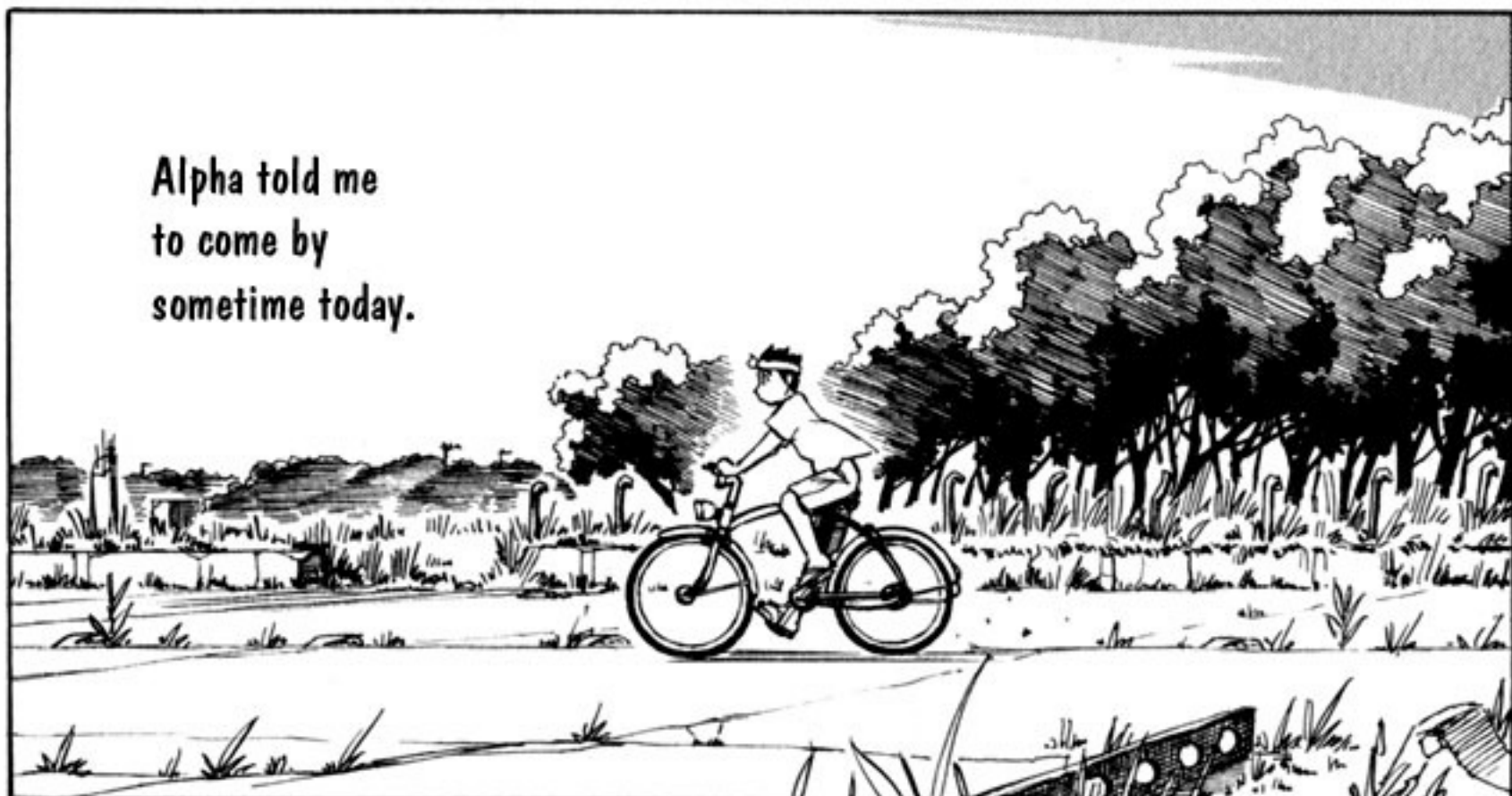








Alpha told me
to come by
sometime today.

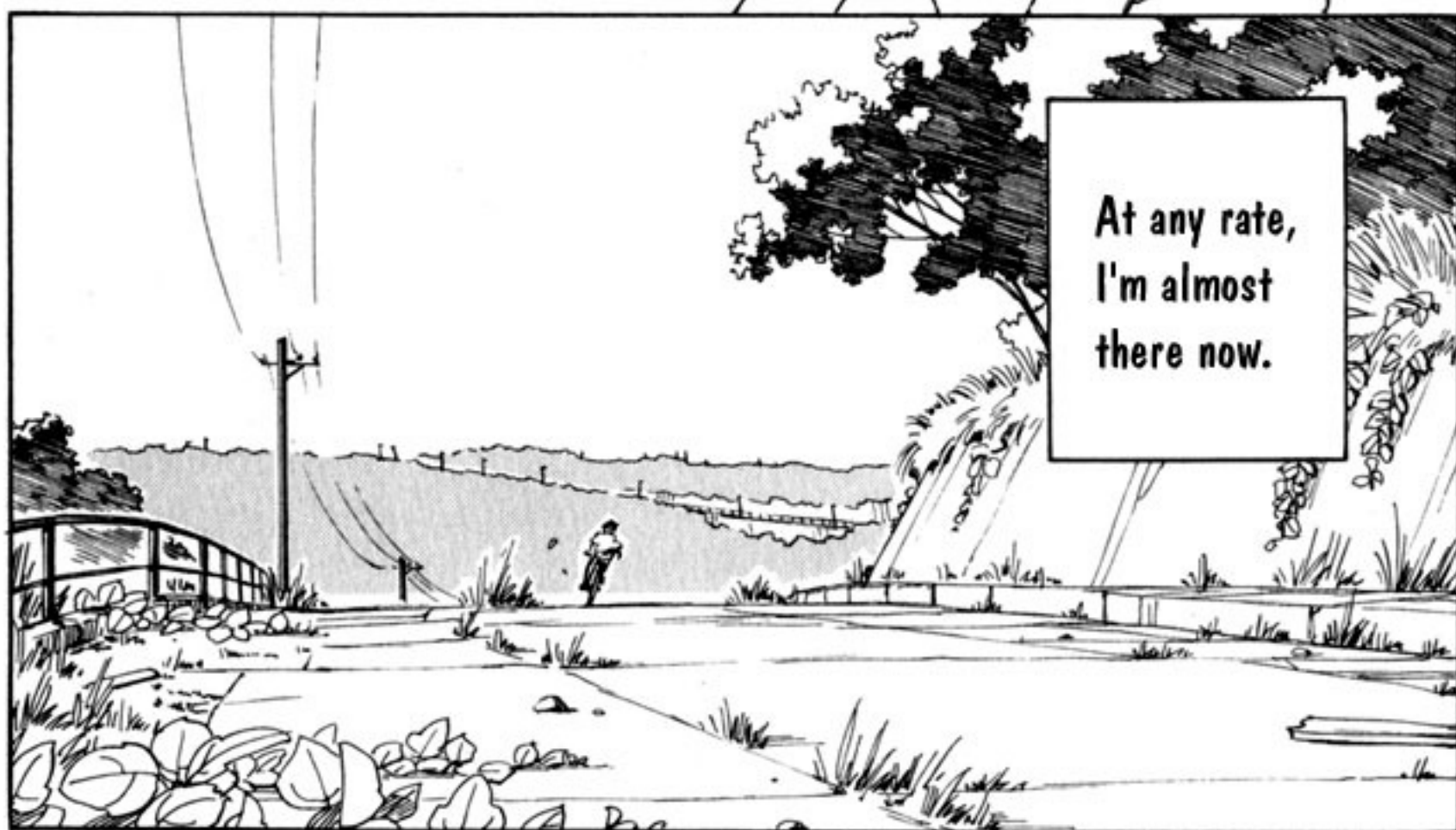


I really could've
gone with Makki,
but...

But I hadn't
really promised
I'd stop by.

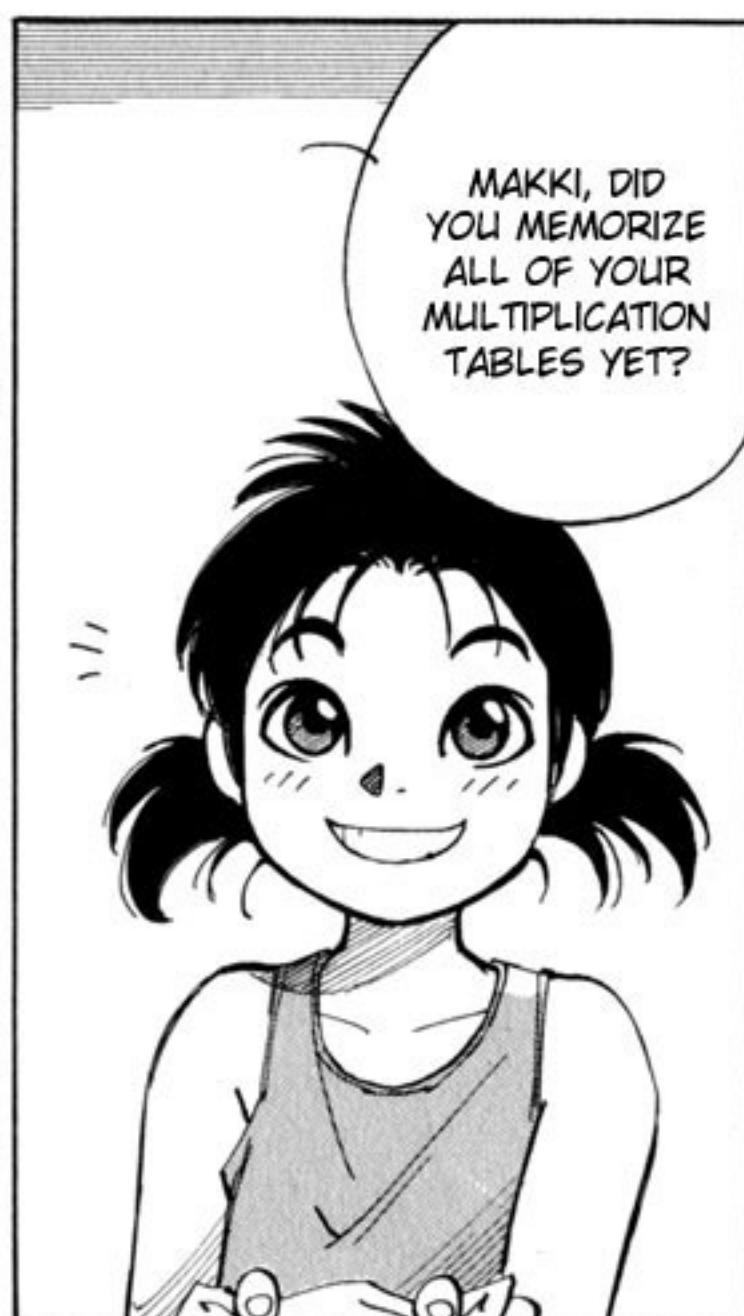


At any rate,
I'm almost
there now.

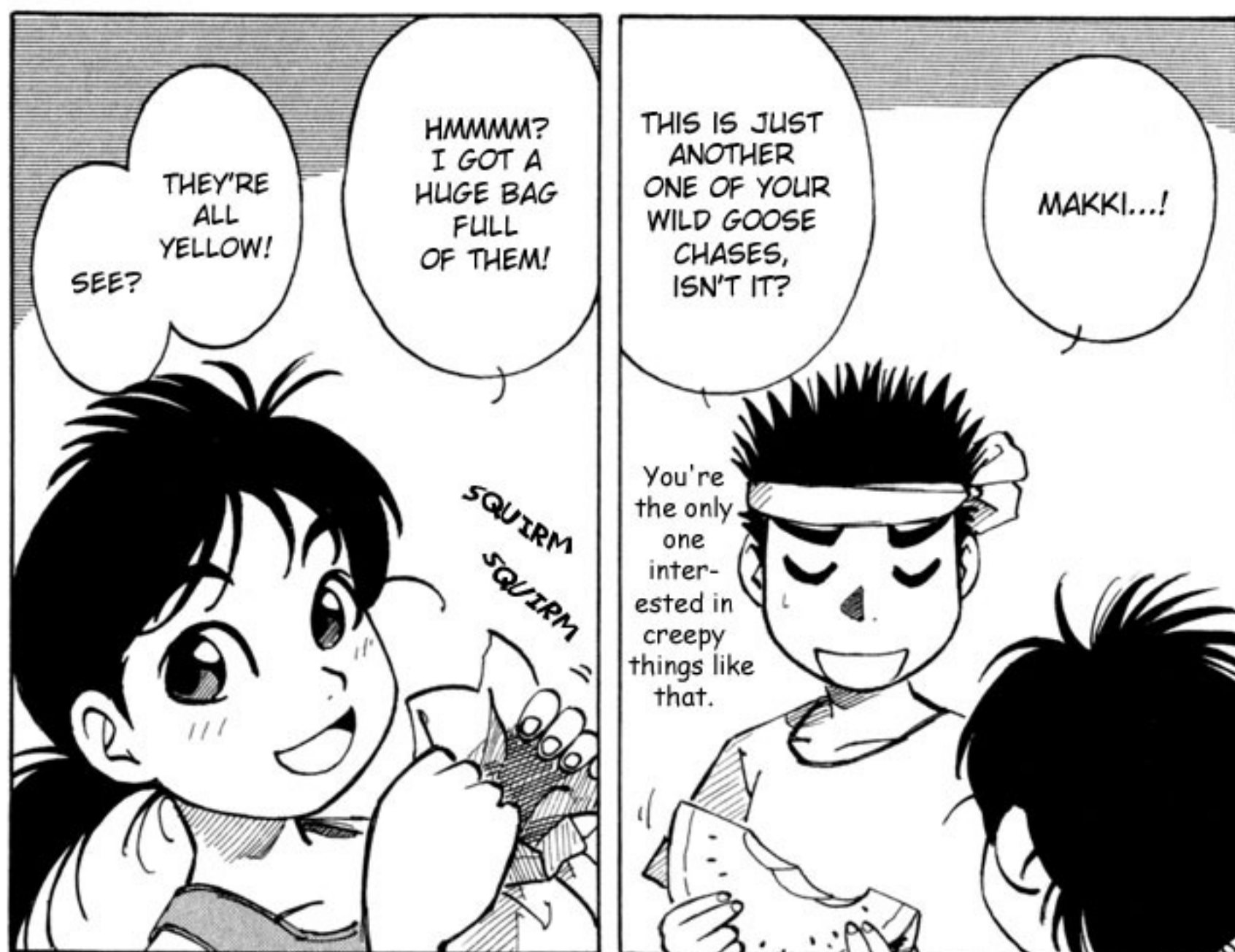




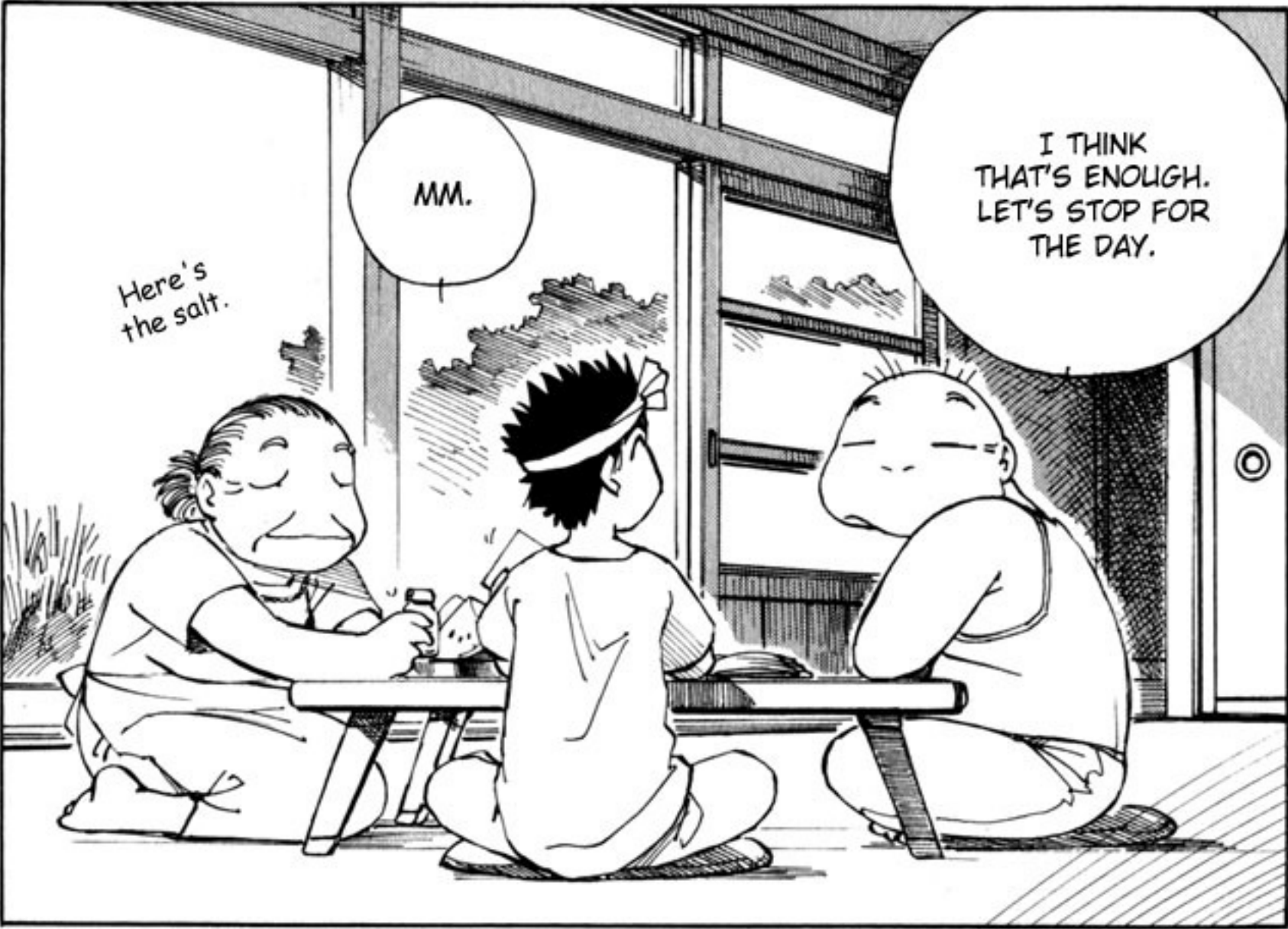


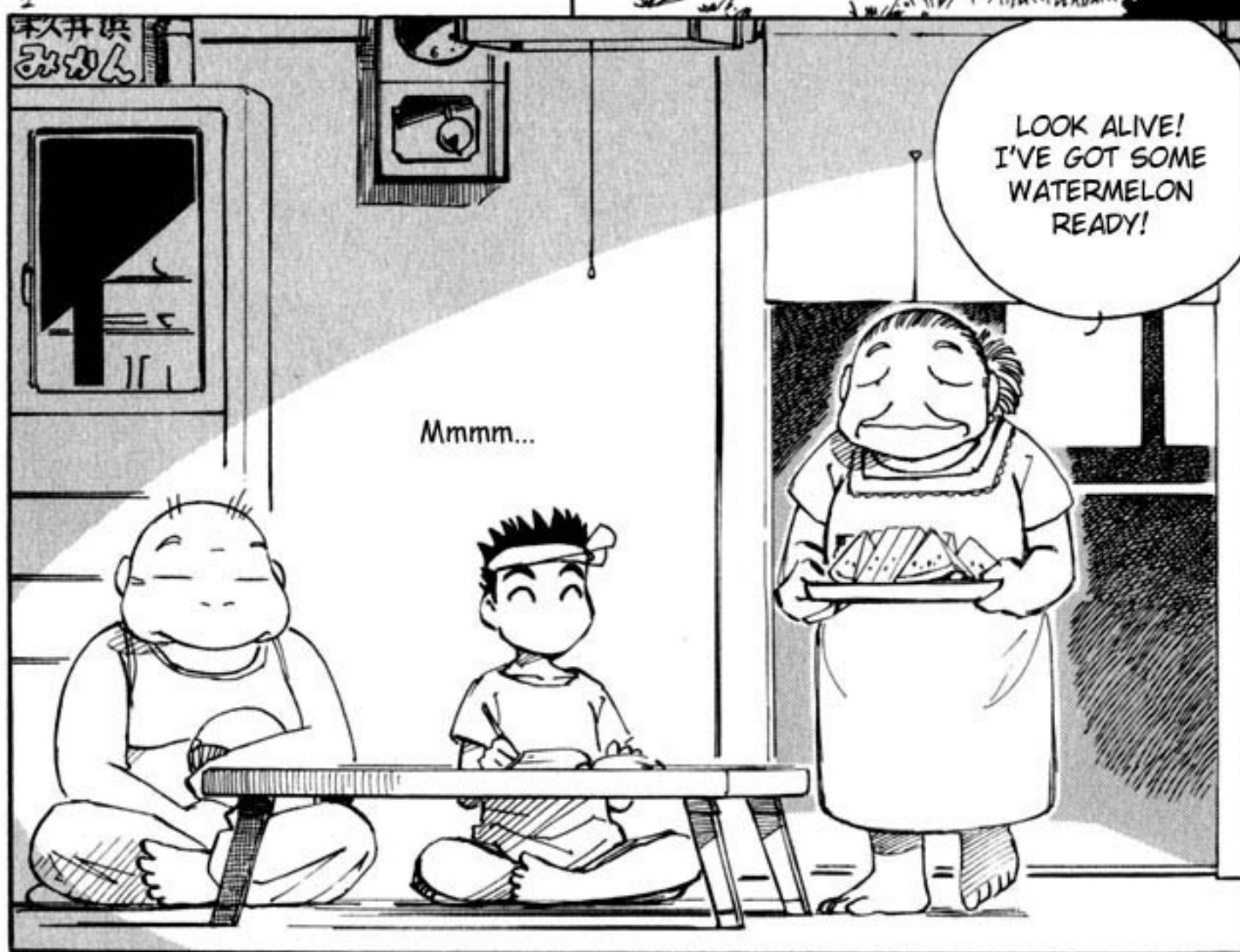












Story 24

Kids on an Average Day





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ヨコハマ 買い出し紀行

芦奈野ひとし

