

SPY FAMILY

MISSION 99

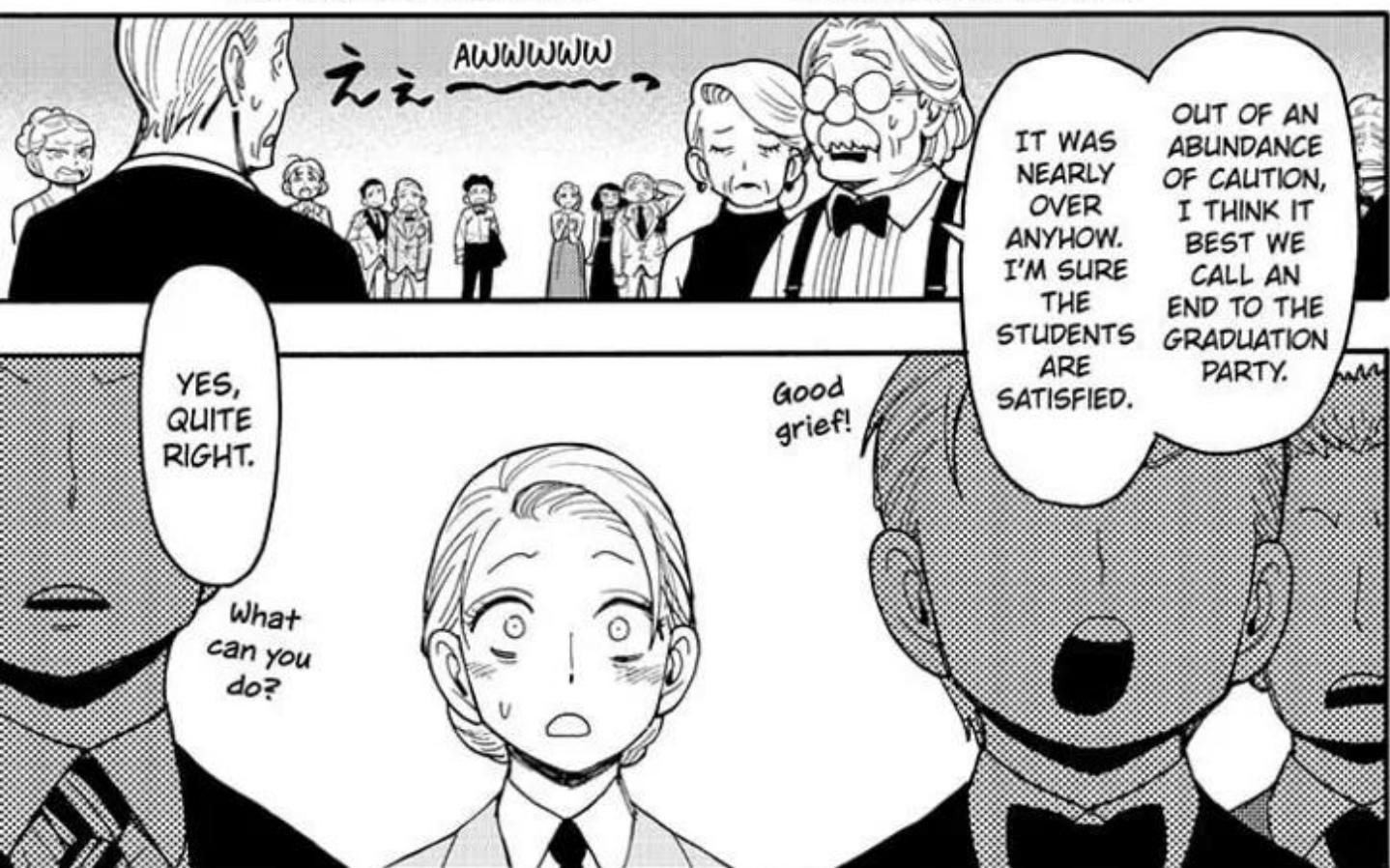
BY TATSUYA ENDO





TRANSLATION: CASEY LOE

LETTERING: RINA MAPA





LOOK, YOUR
UNCLE HAS
SENT A LETTER
FROM THE
BATTLEFIELD
TO HIS DEAR
NIECE!

COME,
DRY
THOSE
TEARS.

...
There's
still
time to
back
out.

BUT YOU
KNOW, I
COULDN'T
BEAR TO
SEE YOU
IN DANGER
TOO.

I DO
SO HOPE
MIGUEL
IS FARING
WELL
THESE
DAYS.

WAAAHHH!!

OH,
MARTHA!
WHATEVER
IS WRONG?

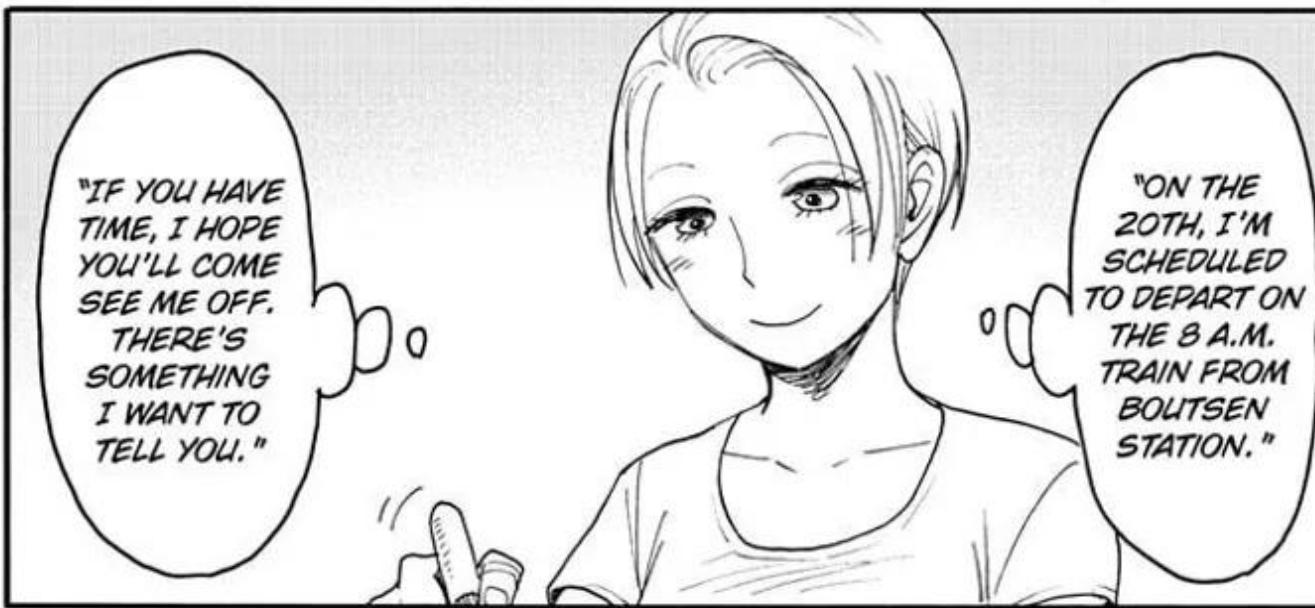
I'LL
WRITE A
LETTER!

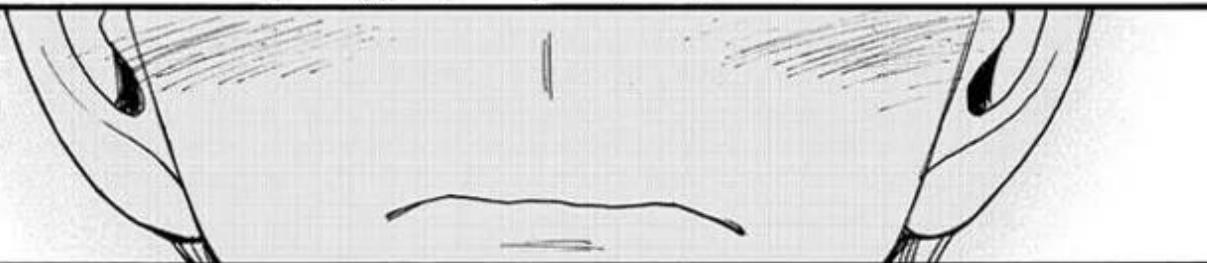
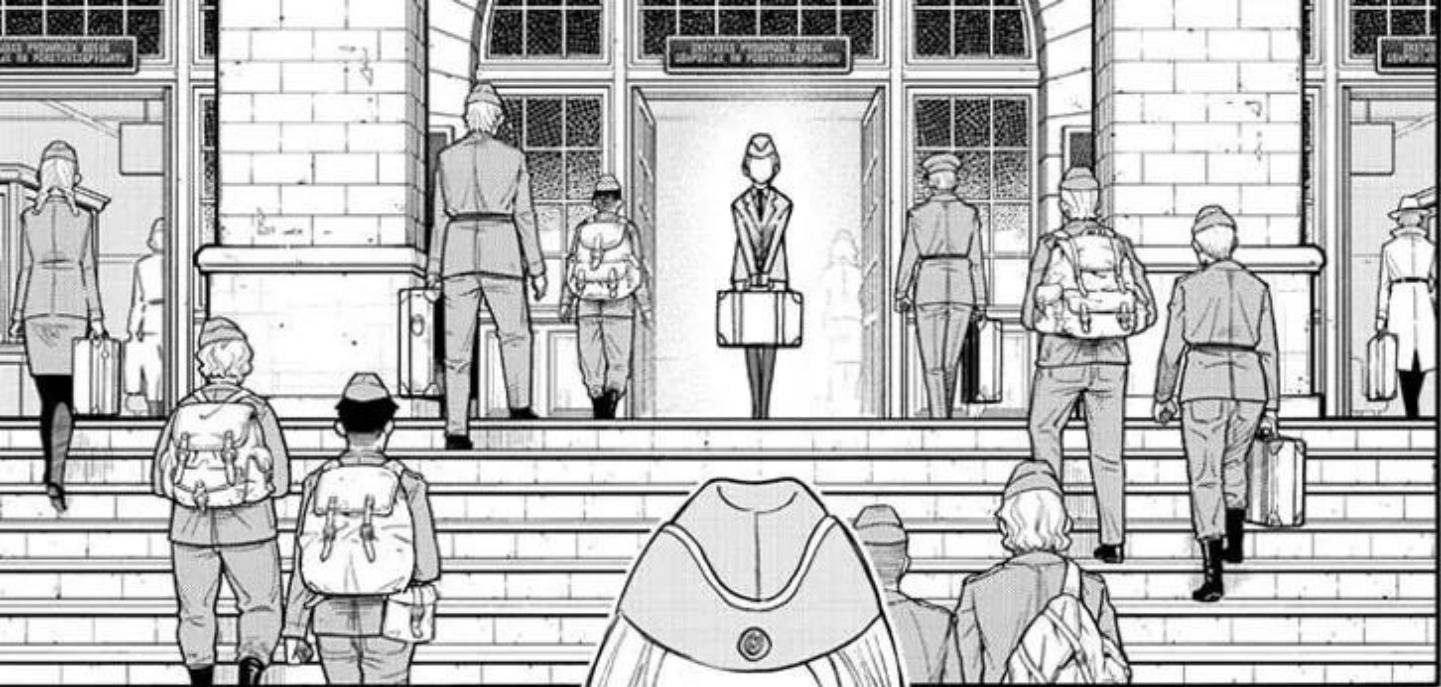
A LETTER!
THAT'S IT!

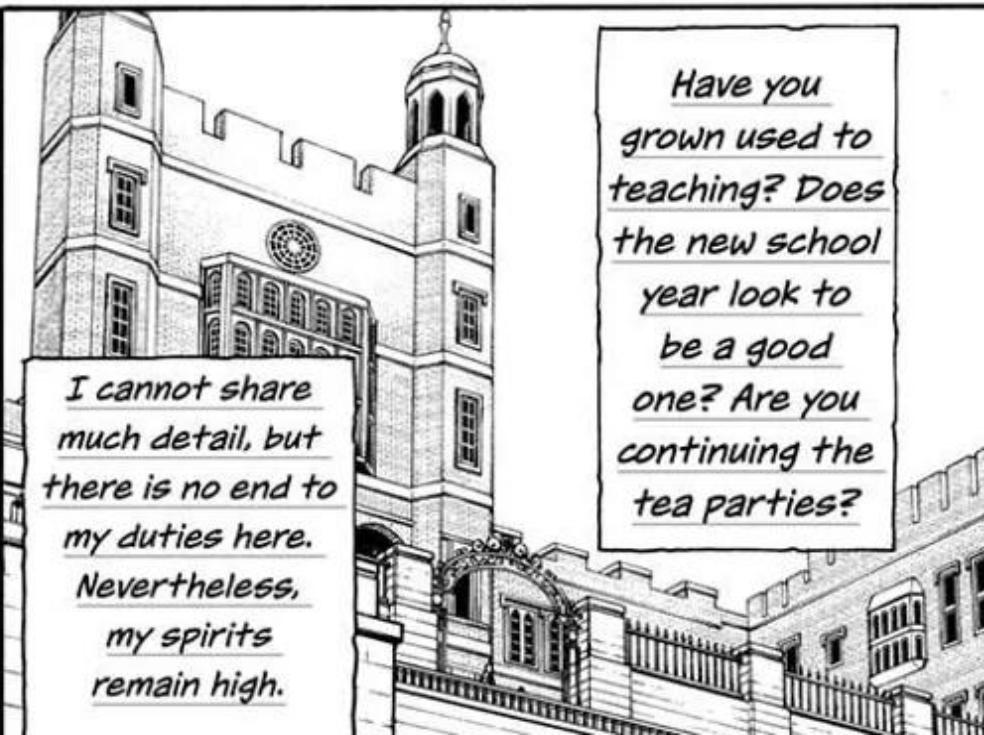
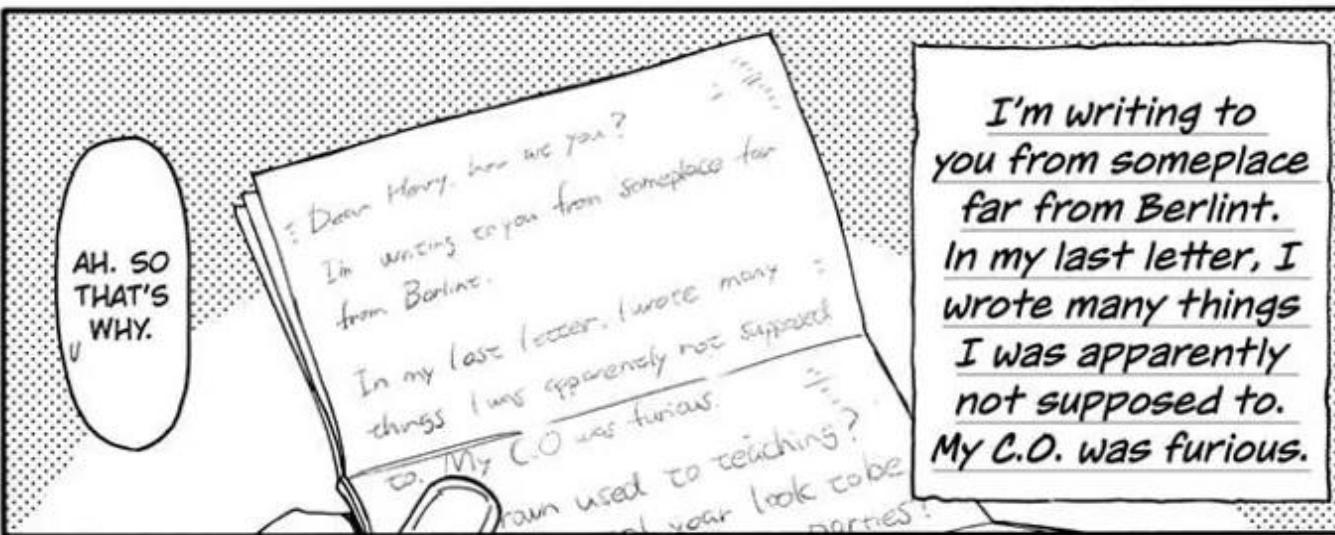
"MY
BELOVED
HENRY"...

力
ヰ
SKRIT
力
ヰ
SKRIT

H
art







"TO
MY DEAR
STUDENT,
MARTHA
..."

SWISH
SWISH

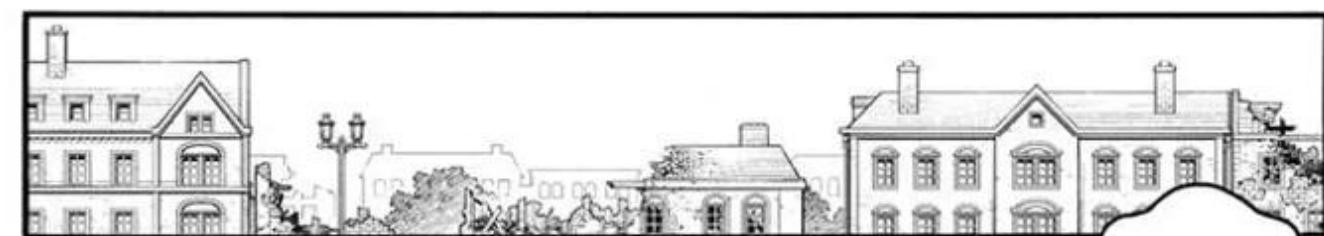
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THANK
YOU.

SUPPLY
DELIVERIES
ARE LIMITED,
HOWEVER,
SO WE WON'T
ALWAYS BE
ABLE TO
DELIVER THEM
PROMPTLY.

A LETTER
TO A SOLDIER
IN THE FIELD?
YES, OF
COURSE, WE
SEND THEM
ALONG WITH
THEIR UNIT'S
SUPPLIES.

POST OFFICE



AND SO,
MARTHA AND
I BEGAN A
REGULAR
CORRESPON-
DENCE.

I'LL
DO MY
BEST...
Could you
teach me
how?

OH, SO IT'S
A ONE-SIDED
ROMANCE?
TELL HIM HOW
YOU FEEL!

B
OOO:
THE
WHOLE
LETTER IS
BASICALLY
A LECTURE
...

AND HE
ADDRESSED
ME AS "MY
STUDENT."

MARTHA, I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. THE INSOLENT ONES REMIND ME OF YOU. THEY ARE GIVING ME NO END OF TROUBLE.

Dear Henry, my C.O. praised my performance the other day. If they give me enough star medals, I wonder if I'll become an Imperial Soldier? Get it? Ah, how I miss old Eden Academy.

It didn't work.

MARTHA, DINING WITH YOUR FELLOWS IS A VALUABLE WAY TO STRENGTHEN BONDS OF AMITY AND EXPAND ONE'S OWN VIEWS.

A strategy to make him jealous suggested by her friend

Henry, the other day a handsome guy in my regiment asked me out to dinner. Whatever shall I do?

...THIS CORRESPONDENCE MADE FOR AN ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT TO OUR TEA PARTIES.



FOR A TIME ...

...I RECEIVED LETTERS LESS AND LESS FREQUENTLY.

BUT AS THE WAR GREW MORE DIRE ...

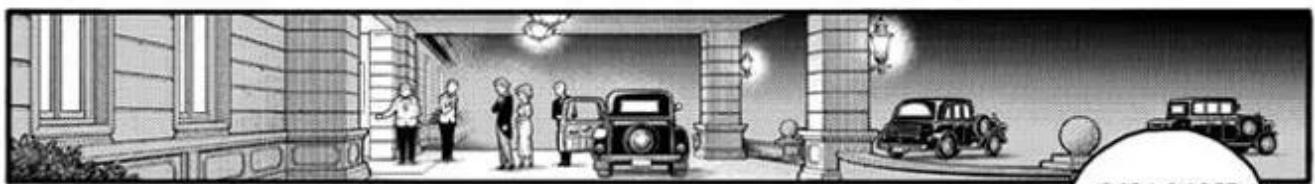


AT SOME POINT, MY DESIRE TO HEAR FROM HER BECAME A YEARNING.

I SEE.

THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY THIS MONTH.

ANY LETTERS?



THE LONGER THIS DRAGS ON, THE GREATER THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE PLUMMETING MORALE AT THE FRONT...

THESE GIRLS HAVE BEEN GIVEN RUDIMENTARY COMBAT TRAINING, HAVE THEY NOT?

THE MILITARY IS EVEN DOMINATING MY SOCIAL AFFAIRS THESE DAYS...

THEY HAVE, BUT...

ALL I CAN PROMISE IS TO RUN IT BY COMMAND.

IF WE MESSAGE THIS PROPERLY, IT COULD EVEN HELP BOOST MORALE!

WE JUST NEED TO BUY TIME FOR THE SIXTH BRIGADE TO WITHDRAW.

IF YOU DO DEPLOY THEM, PLEASE LET US AT BERLINT NEWS BREAK THE STORY!



THEY'LL CALL IT "VOLUNTEERING," BUT THEY'LL FORCE US INTO IT.

THAT WAS JUST A CHEAP THREAT! "IF YOU DON'T VOLUNTEER, WE CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY."

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY FAMILY AND WHAT THE CAPTAIN SAID...

I JOINED THE AUXILIARY TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY.

FORGET THAT!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR ANY OF US...

THE C.O.'S MY BOYFRIEND. HE TOLD ME THEY'RE EXECUTING DESERTERS LEFT AND RIGHT.

THEY WOULD NOT!

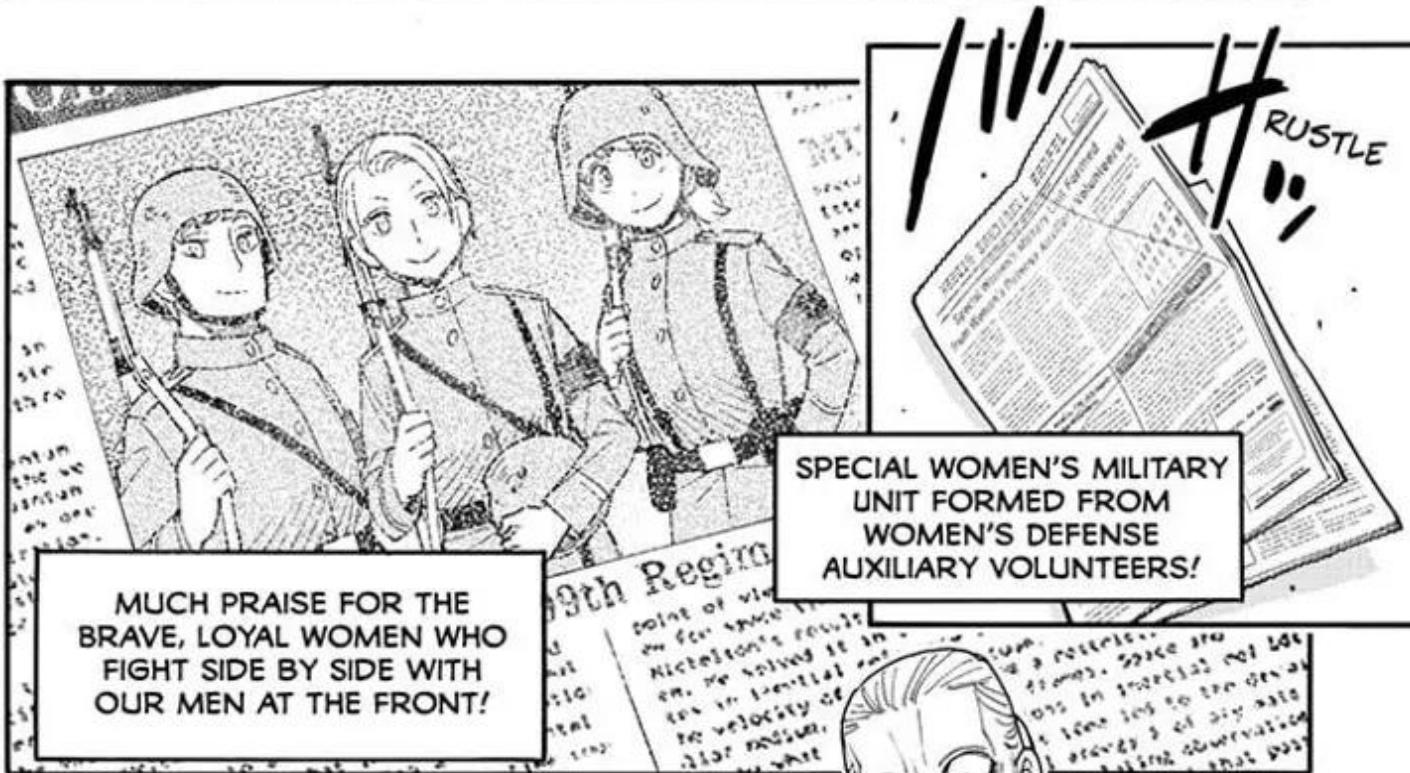
MAR-THA?!

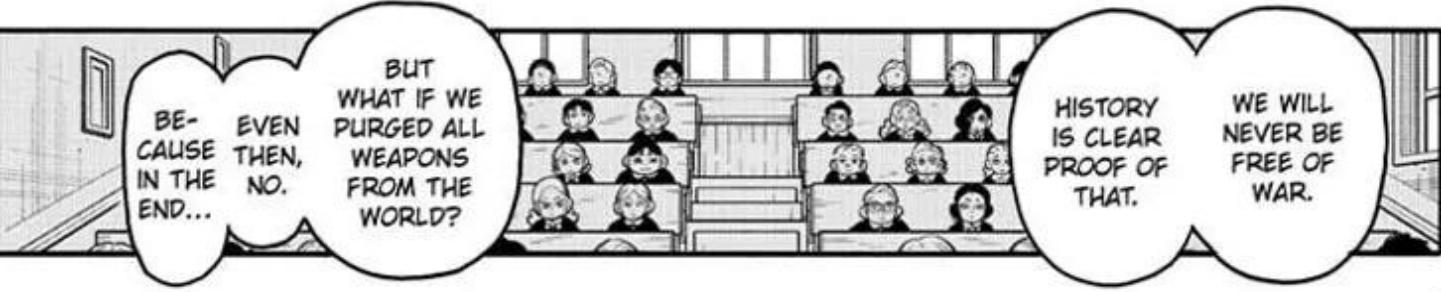
I'M GOING TO FIGHT.

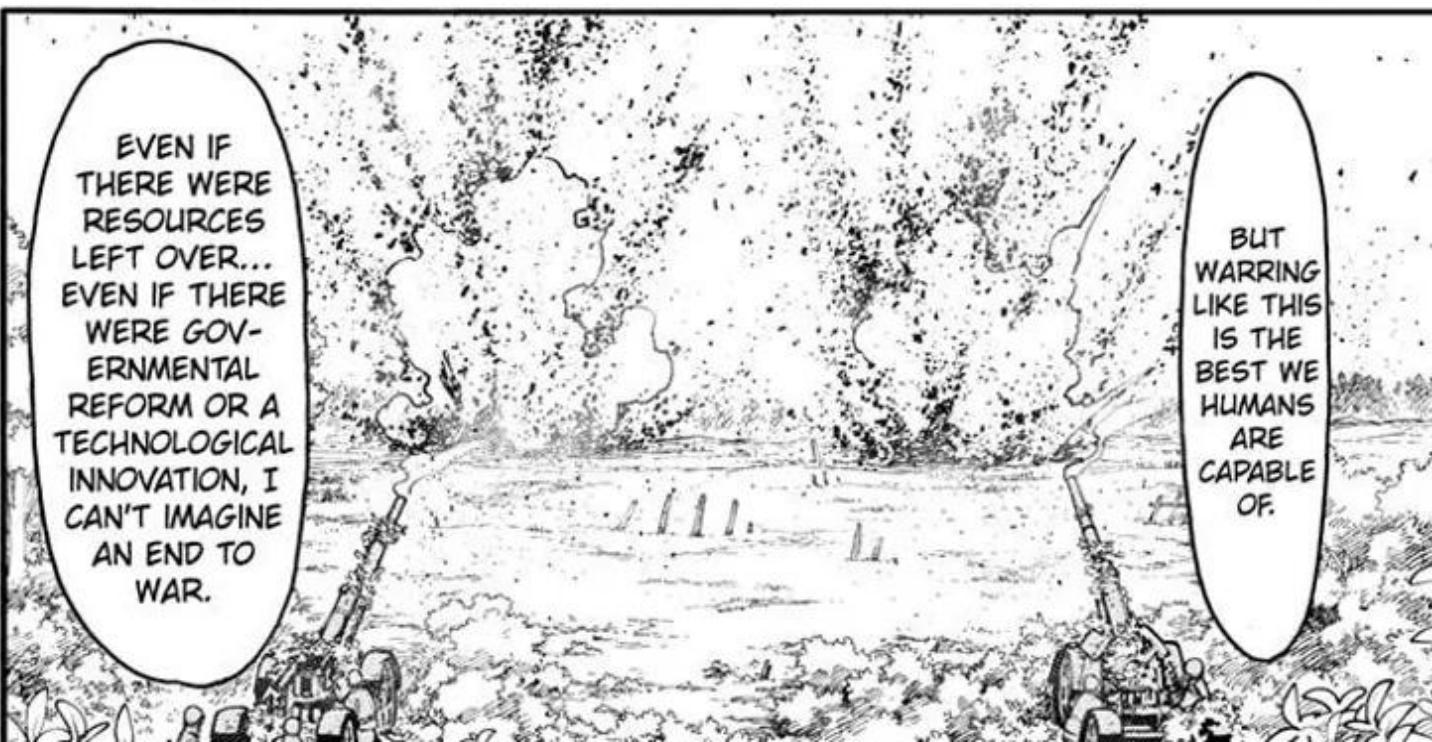
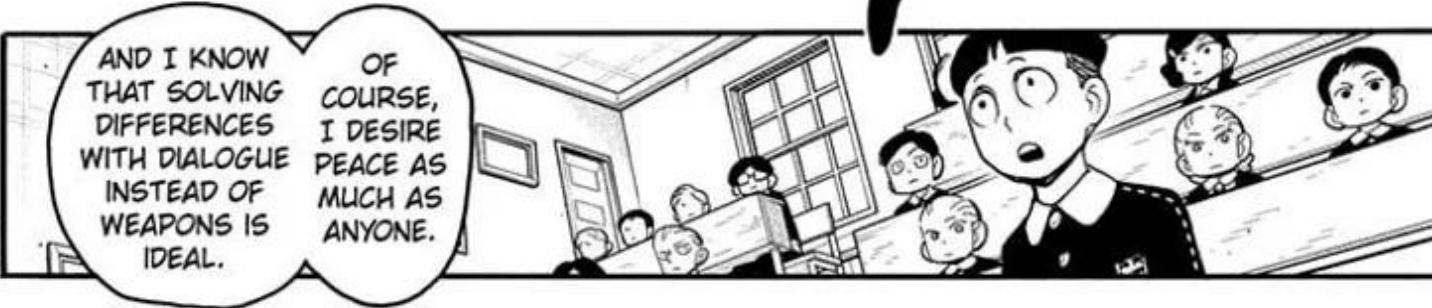
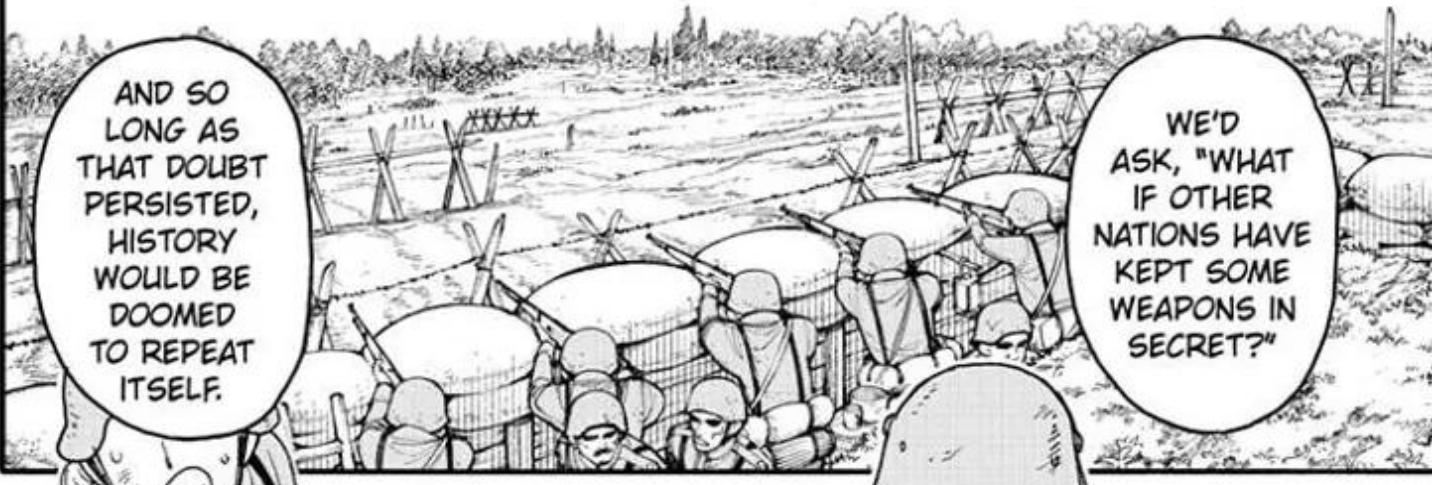
NO! THEY CAN'T DO THIS!

IF ALL OF US REFUSE, THEN...

...







...FOR
HEARING THE
EARNEST
ARGUMENTS
OF MY YOUNG
STUDENTS.

AT THAT
TIME, I
HAD NO
PATIENCE
AT ALL...



THANK YOU,
MR. DESMOND.
NOW, TO
ARGUE IN THE
AFFIRMATIVE
...

I haven't
been eating,
and lately...

I've not
been
very well
myself.

"
L
H
J
GRIP

Henry,
are
you
well?

MR. HEN-
DERSON,
YOU HAVE
A LETTER!

Henry, why
I've not been very well
I haven't been eating,
having the same bad dream
You're teaching at school
and all the students are holding
hands in a circle around you
I'm crying because my hands are
filthy, and I can't
join everyone.

YANK!
/ J H /
U
BWAH!

A black and white comic panel showing a woman with short hair from behind, pulling on the sleeve of a man's coat. The man, Mr. Henderson, is seated and looking down at a letter he is holding. The woman is shouting "BWAH!" and pulling with a lot of force, indicated by the word "YANK!" and motion lines.

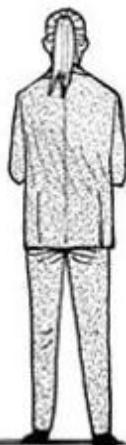
You're teaching at
school, and all the
students are holding
hands in a circle around
you. But I'm crying
because my hands are
filthy, and I can't
join everyone.

...I
keep
having
the
same
bad
dream.





"I
WISH I
COULD
SEE
YOU
TOO."



...BUT I
COULD
NOT, AND
THE ONLY
WORDS
I COULD
UTTER
WERE...

A
JUMBLE OF
EMOTIONS
SURGED
UP FROM
INSIDE OF
ME, AS IF
I MIGHT
VOMIT
THEM OUT.

I
TRIED
TO
FORCE
THEM
BACK
DOWN
...

BUT BY THE
TIME I RECOG-
NIZED THOSE
FEELINGS, IT
WAS TOO LATE.

I WANTED
TO PROTECT
HER.

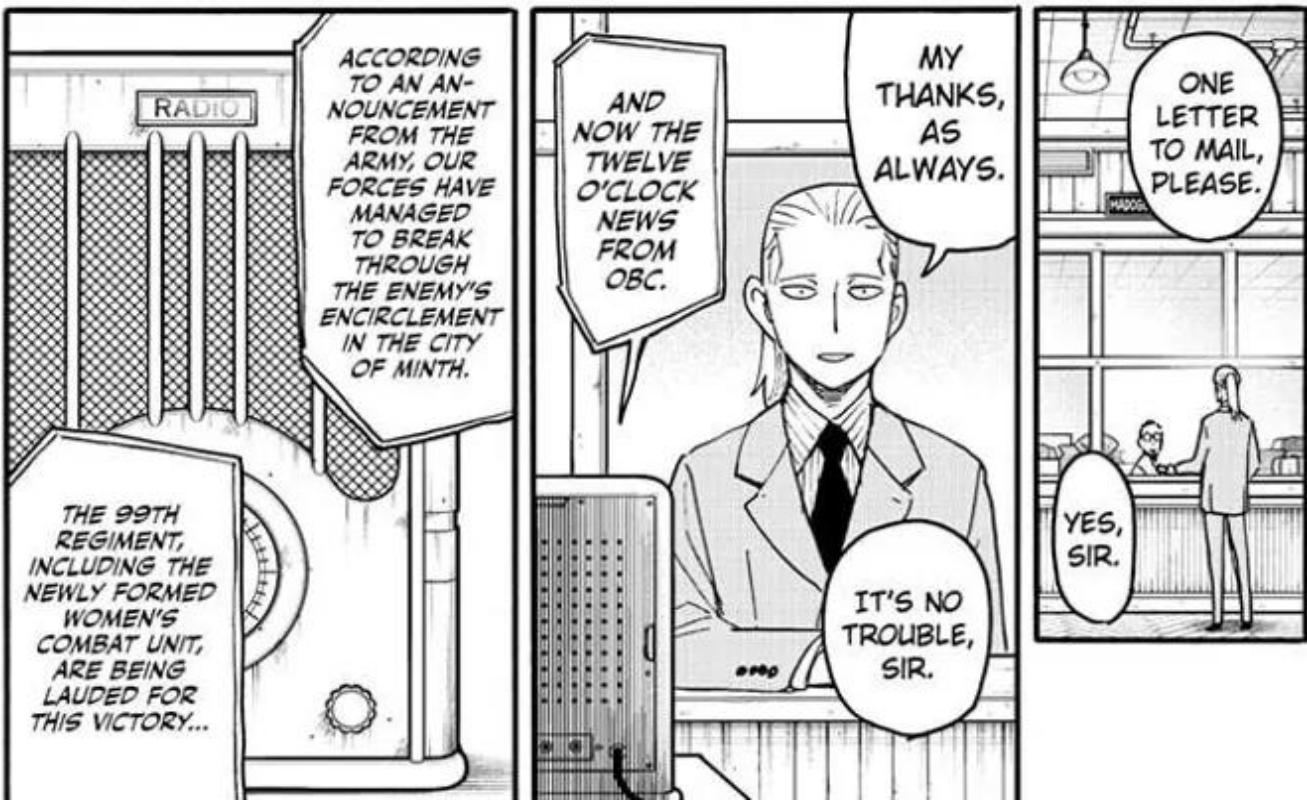
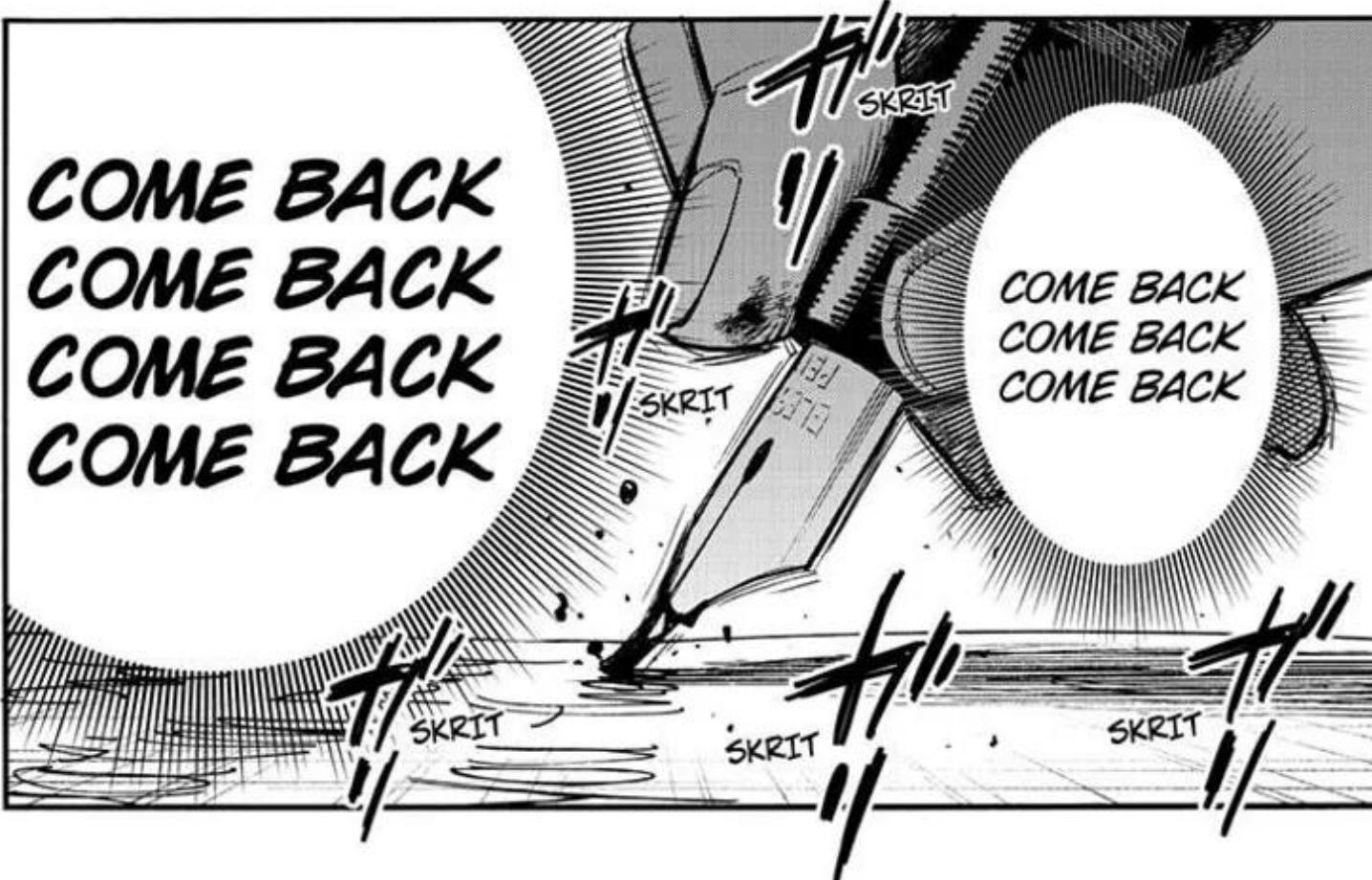
FOR THAT
WAS THE
LAST
LETTER
I EVER
RECEIVED
FROM
MARTHA.

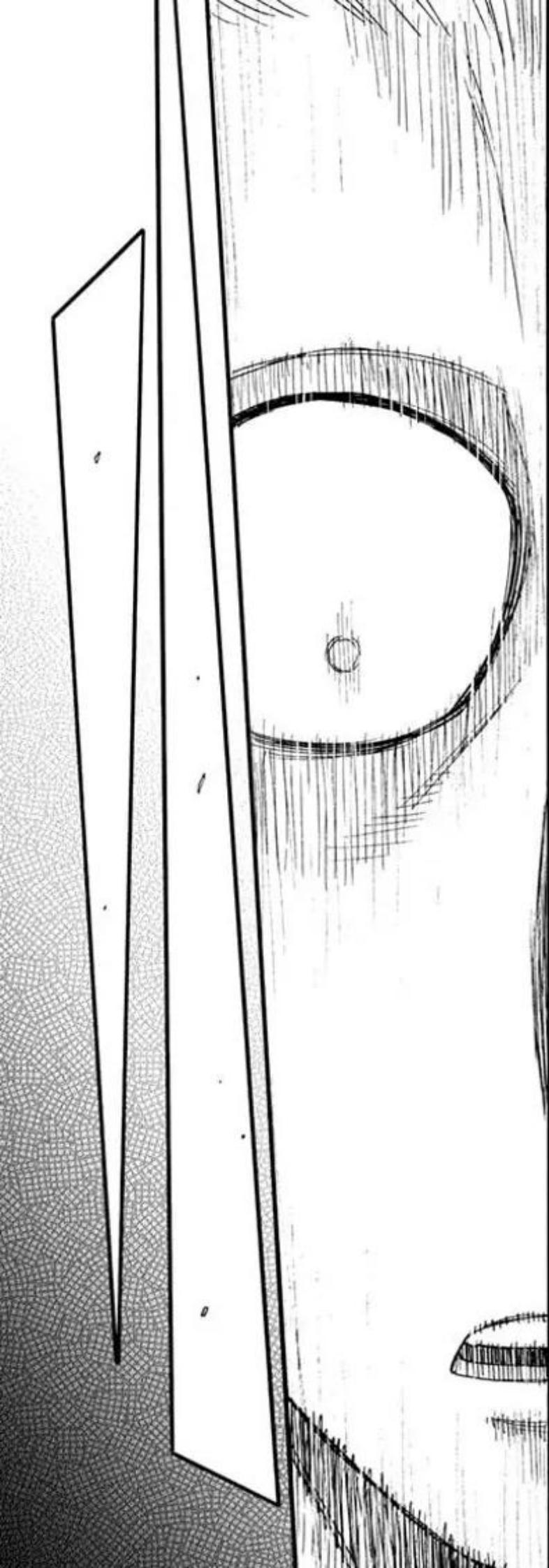
"I DO NOT KNOW IF
IT WILL BRING YOU
ANY COMFORT, BUT
I HAVE WIPE THIS
LETTER WITH THE
TEA LEAVES YOU
LOVED SO MUCH. I
CAN ONLY PRAY THAT
THEIR AROMA STILL
ENDURES UPON THE
BATTLEFIELD."

"I AM
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU. IT IS
ESSENTIAL
THAT
YOU EAT
PROPERLY."

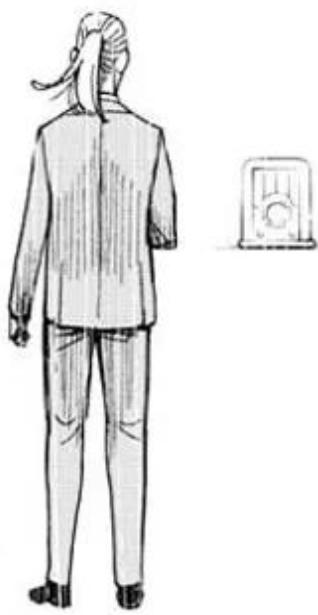


"MY
BELOVED
MARTHA
..."





...FOR
WHICH
THOSE
WOMEN
NOBLY
SACRI-
FICED
THEIR
LIVES.





YOU MADE
SACRIFICES
OF THEM!

CLENCH

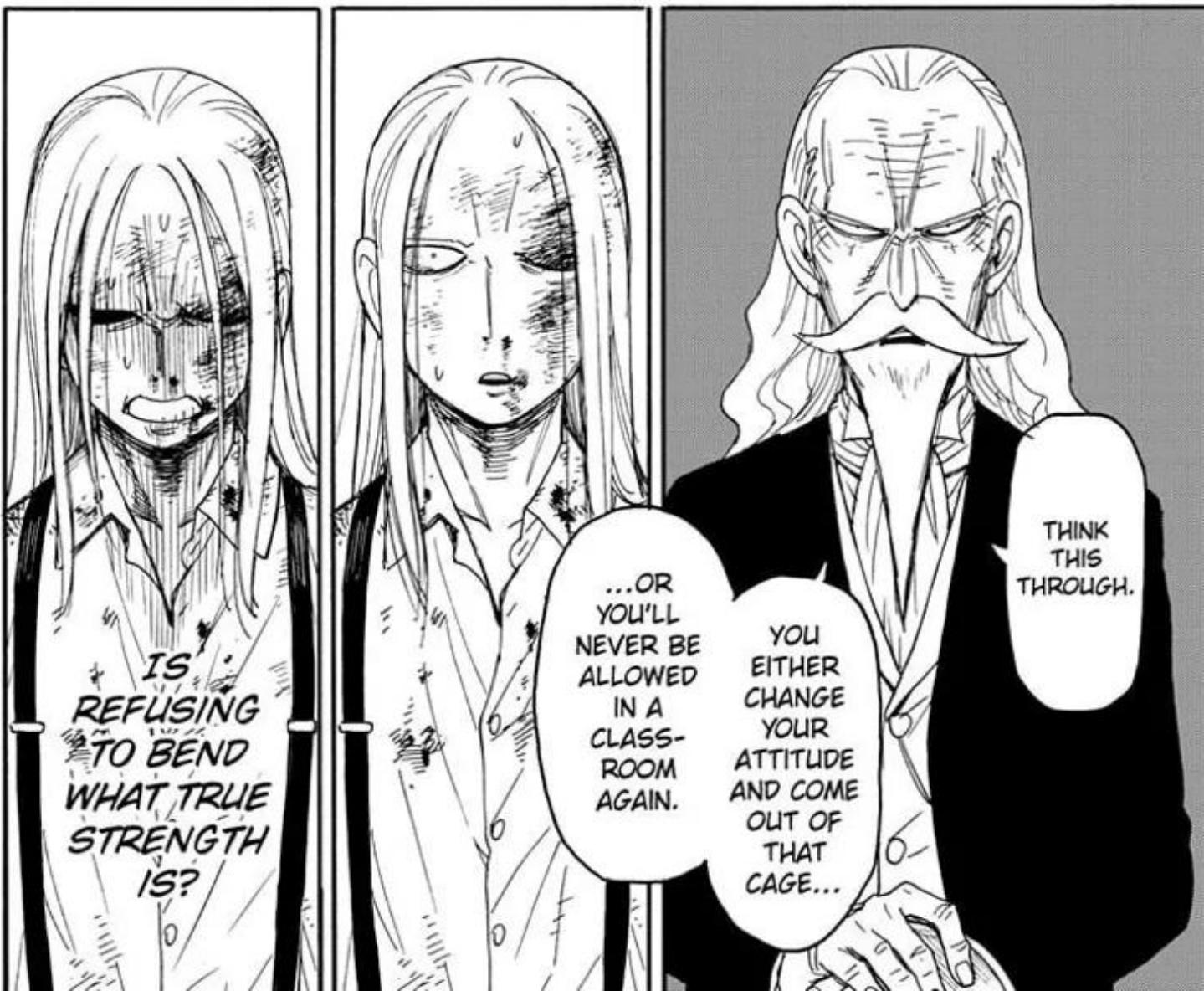
YOU INTEND
TO USE
EVEN THEIR
DEATHS AS
PROPAGANDA
?!

HEN-
DERSO,?
STOP!

YOU
SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES
FOR THIS
RIDICULOUS
WAR!

FWP
DRAG THAT
TRAITOR OUT
OF HERE.



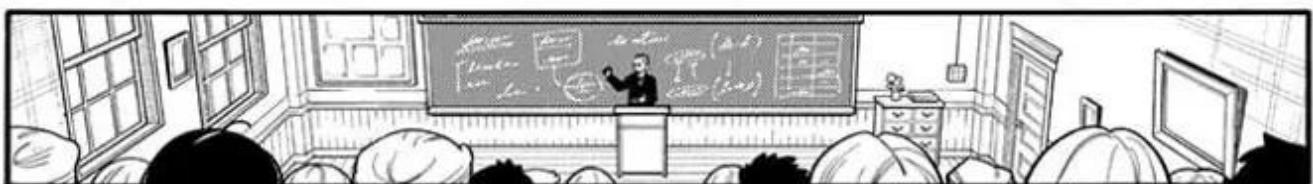


THAT
MATTERS
FAR MORE
THAN MY
PALTRY
PRIDE.

THE FUTURE
THAT'S TEN
YEARS,
NO...100
YEARS
HENCE!

NAY.

You're
teaching
at school
...
...and
all the
students are
holding hands
in a circle
around
you...



AND ONE
SHOULDN'T
EXPECT ANY-
THING OF
THOSE WHO, IN
THEIR FOOLISH-
NESS, HAVE
DISAPPOINTED
YOU ONCE
ALREADY.



H!
GASP

EXCUSE
ME FOR
SAYING
SO, BUT
YOU'RE
A FOOL.



I APOLO-
GIZE FOR
THAT, MR.
DESMOND.

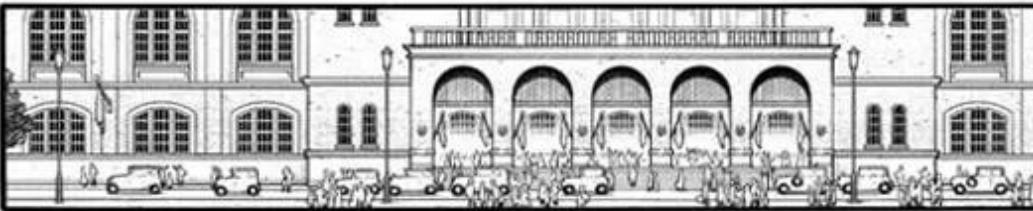
OUR CLASS
BARELY
PROGRESSSED
AT ALL WHILE
YOU WERE
IN JAIL, MR.
HENDERSON.



THE FIGHTING HAD TAKEN A GRIEVOUS TOLL ON BOTH SIDES, AND THE WAR SOON STAGGERED TO A PAINFUL END.

YES, SIR.

THEN I EXPECT YOU'LL STUDY HARD FOR TOMORROW'S CLASS.



BEFORE LONG, THE STREETS OF BERLINT WERE FULL OF DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS.

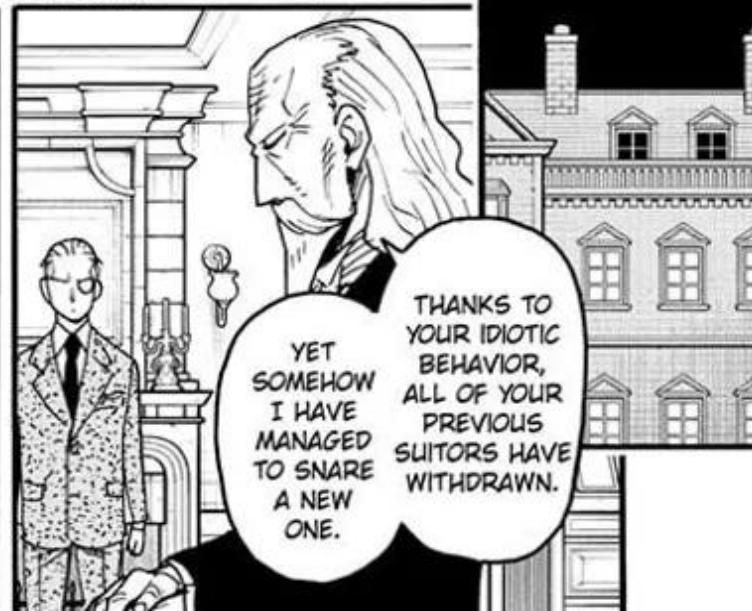
BUT THE ONE I'D BEEN WAITING FOR WAS NOT AMONG THEM.

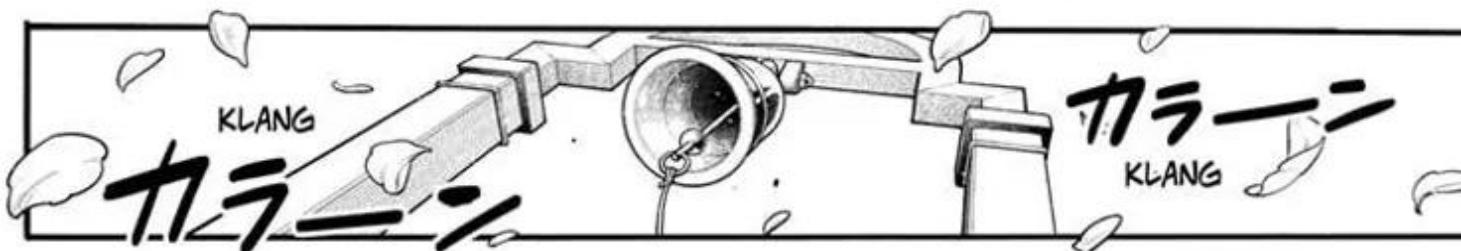
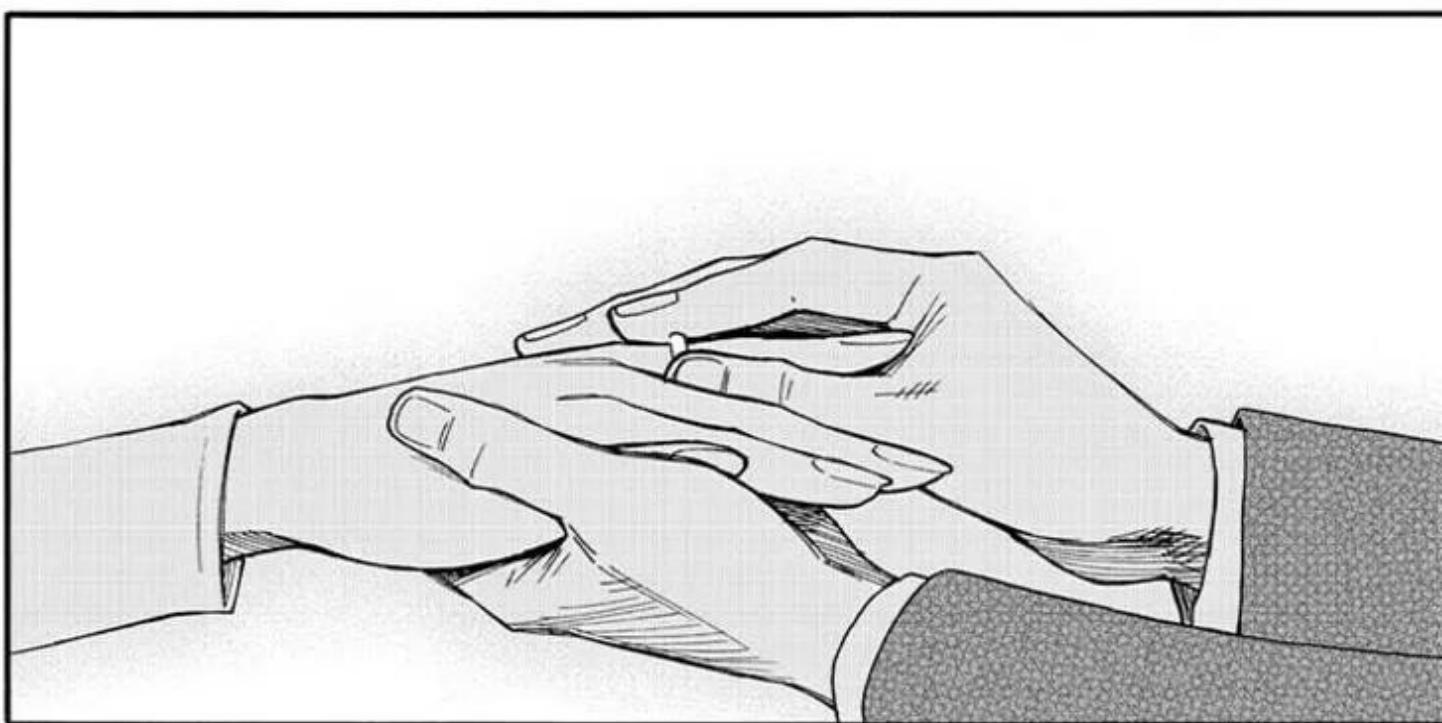


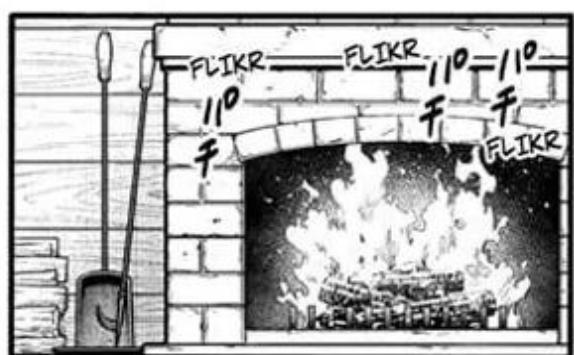
THIS IS YOUR FINAL CHANCE.
YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO REFUSE.

YET SOMEHOW I HAVE MANAGED TO SNARE A NEW ONE.

THANKS TO YOUR IDIOTIC BEHAVIOR, ALL OF YOUR PREVIOUS SUITORS HAVE WITHDRAWN.







To be continued!