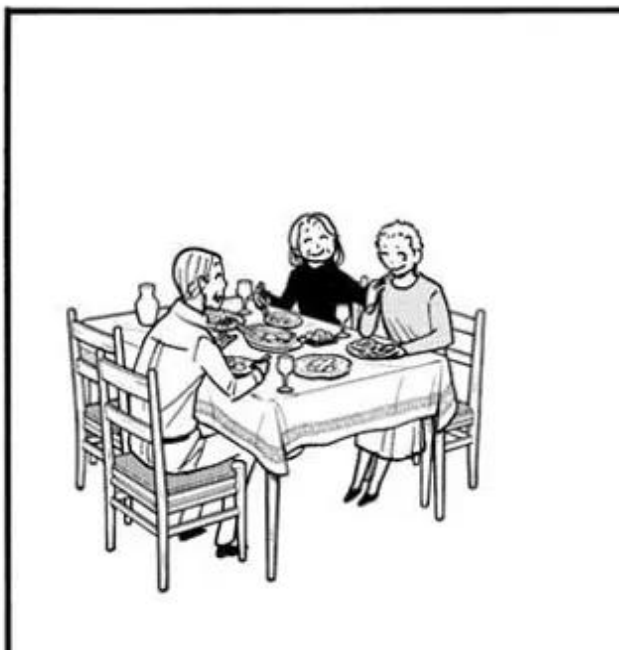


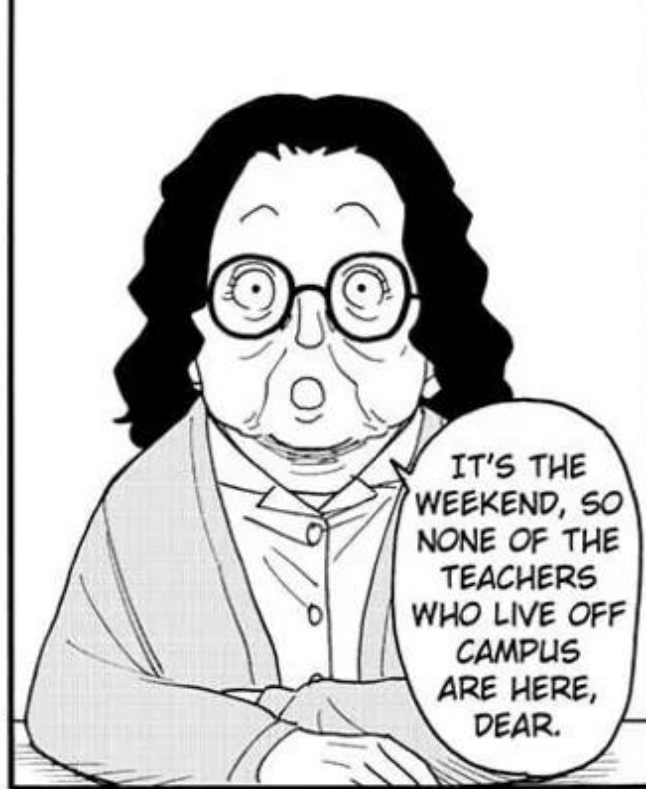
TRANSLATION: CASEY LOE

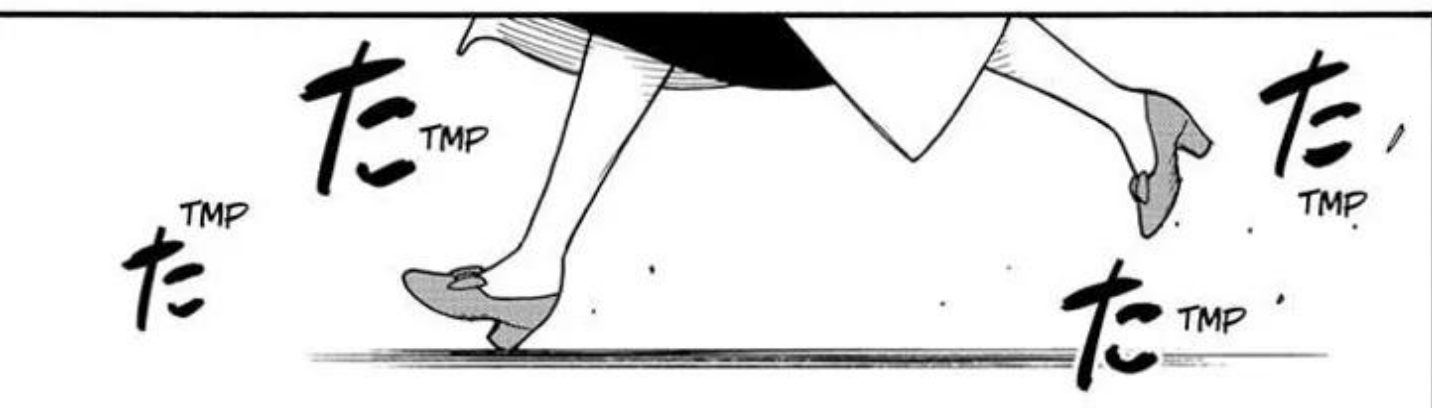
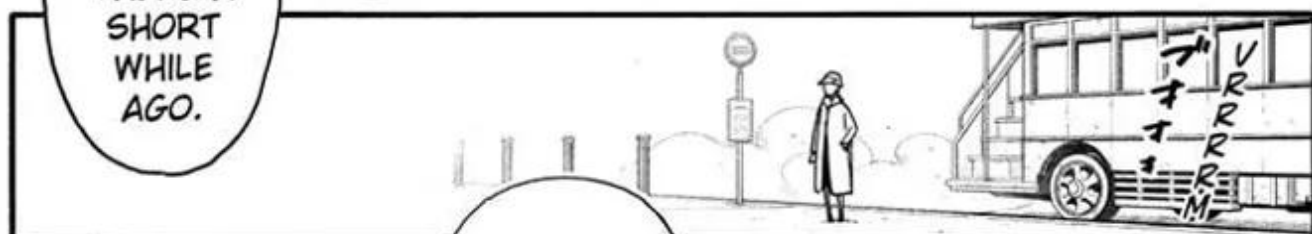
LETTERING: RINA MAPA





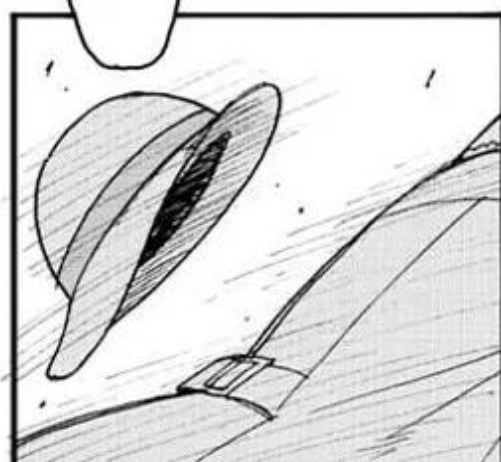
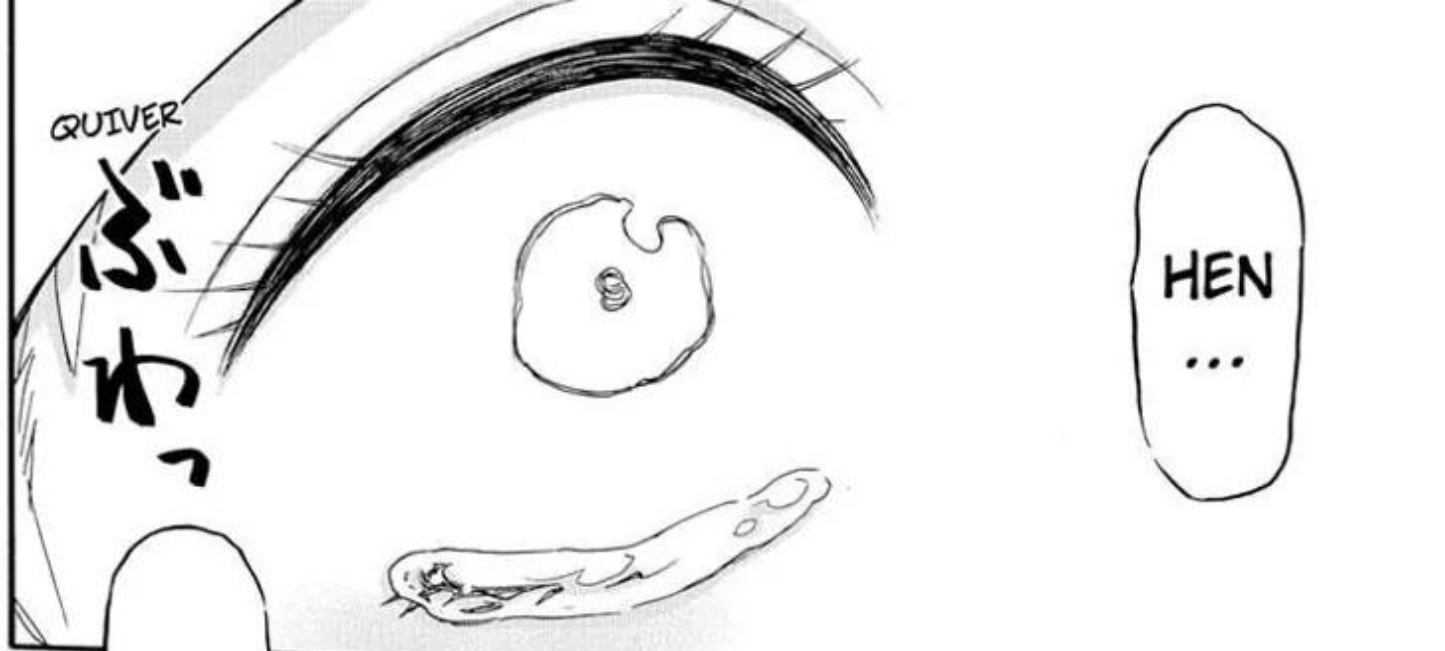


















**THAT
IS MY
WIFE.**

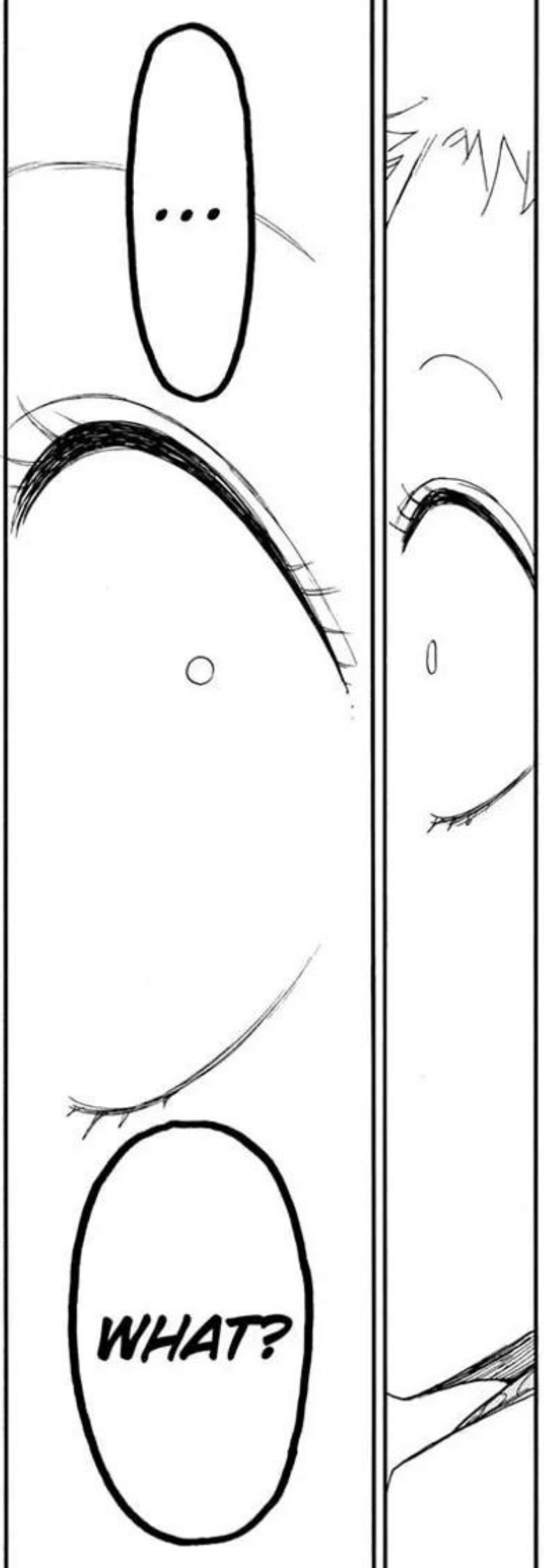
SHE'S JUST
RETURNED
FROM THE
WAR...

OH MY.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SERVICE.

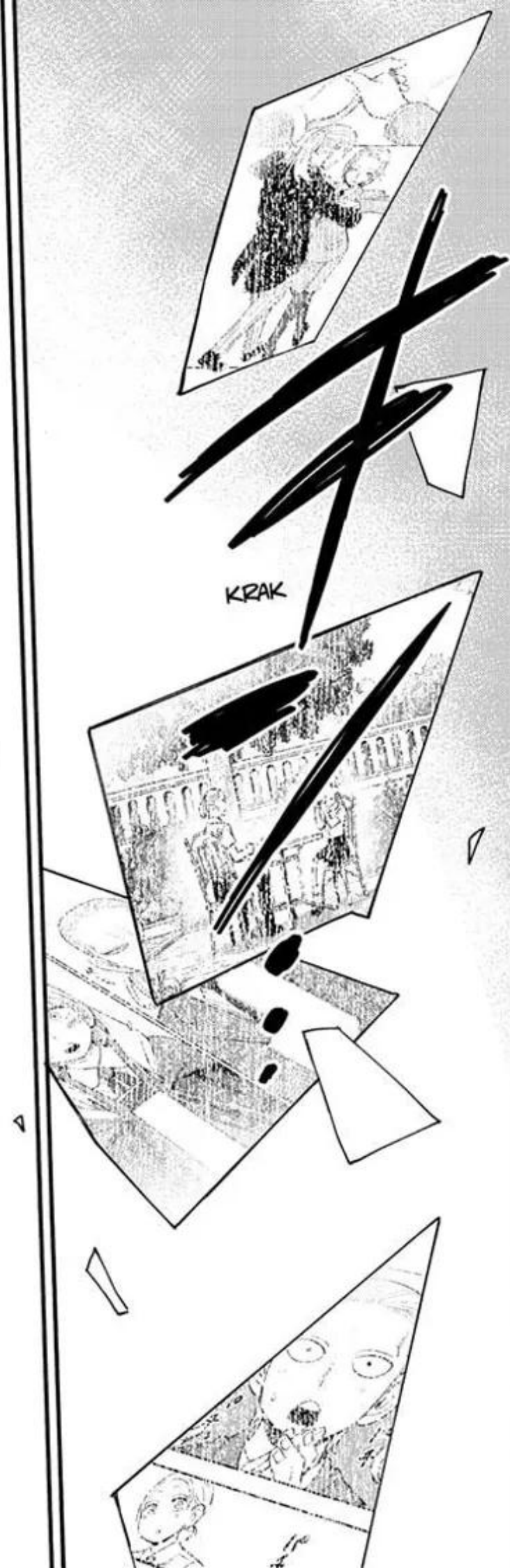
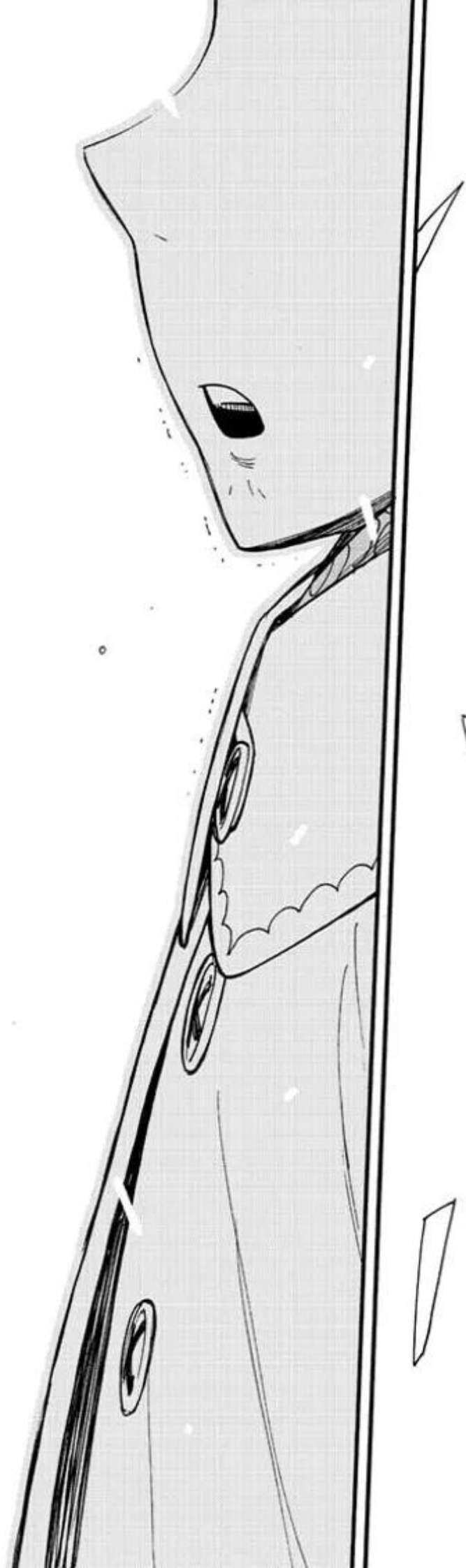
HENRY,
WHY NOT
INVITE HER
TO DINNER?

HENRY
...

WHO
IS
THAT?







KRAK

IT HURT ME
MORE THAN
ANY WOUND
I SUFFERED
DURING THE
WAR.

I JUST
COULDN'T
ACCEPT IT.

"IS THAT
SO?
CONGRATU-
LATIONS."



I
CURSED
OUR
ERA.

I
CURSED
MYSELF.

I REMEMBER
SOMEHOW
WRINGING
THOSE
QUAVERING
WORDS OUT
OF MYSELF.

AND WITH
THAT, MY
ADOLESCENCE
CAME TO
AN END.



THIS
CAN'T BE
HOW IT
ENDS!

NO!
THIS
SUCKS!



PLEASE
GET
AHOLD OF
YOURSELF,
YOUNG
MISS.



HOME
WRECK-
ING IS A
NO-NO,
YOUNG
MISS.

GASP
ふか
ふか

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
STEAL HIM
BAAAACK
?!

BUT...
BUT THAT
WOMAN!



...WAS,
IN FACT,
A VERY
FINE
PER-
SON.

THAT
WOMAN
...



NOOOO-
OOOO!!





AND IT WAS VEXING NOT BEING ABLE TO DANCE AS WELL AS I WANTED TO, ON ACCOUNT OF MY INJURIES.

I CERTAINLY WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT BEING MARKETING TO THE ORGANIZERS AS A SURVIVOR OF THE WOMEN'S BRIGADE.

THANKS TO THE GREAT EFFORTS OF HIS NIECE AND HER NEW HUSBAND, I WAS ABLE TO DANCE BALLET AT ONE OF THEIR CHARITY EVENTS.



HER UNCLE WAS A DISTINGUISHED MAN WHO WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION.

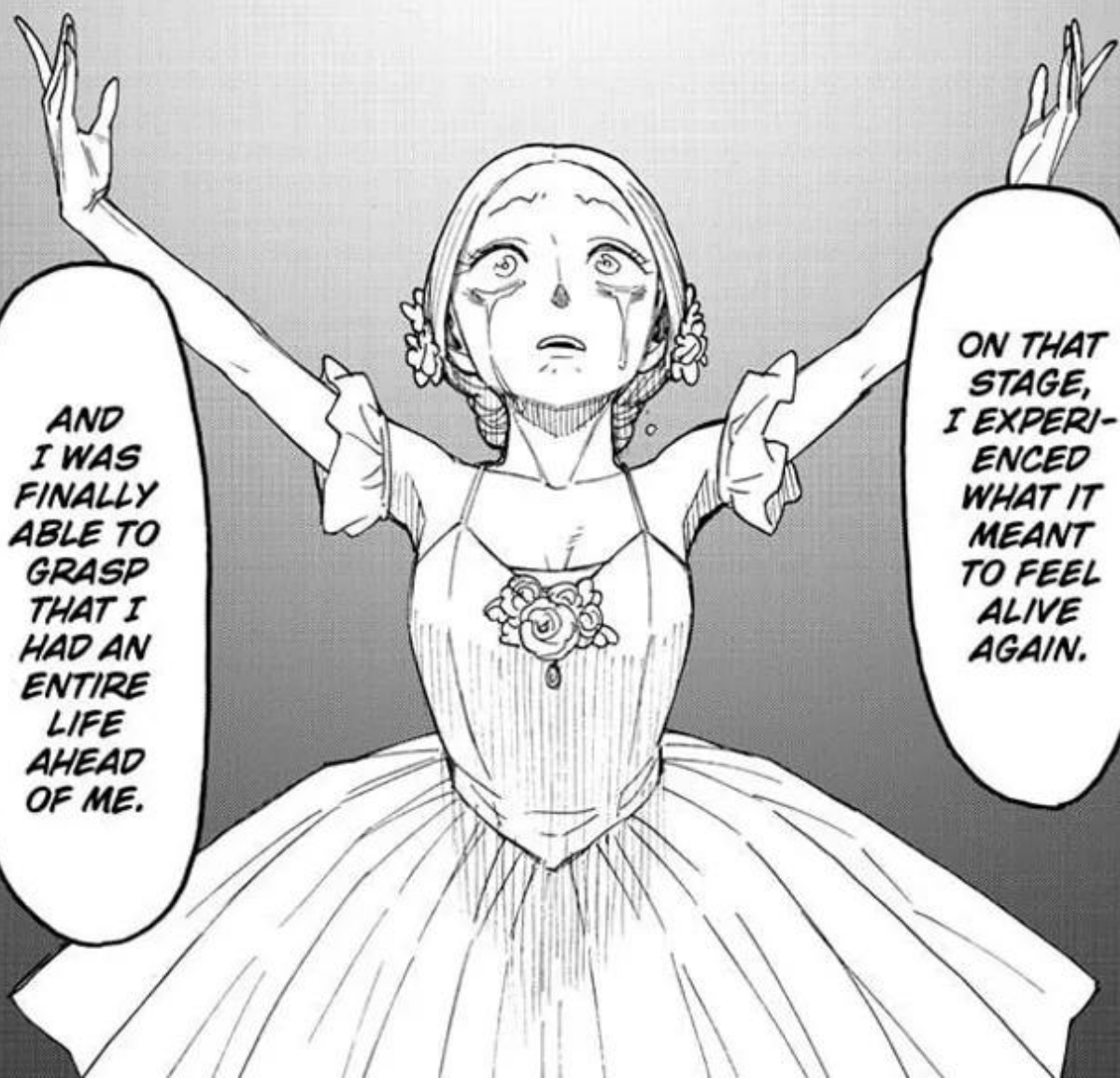
IT ALMOST FELT AS IF I'D PERFORMED IN A WORLD WHERE THE MARLOV BALLET STILL EXISTED, AND I HAD BEEN ABLE TO JOIN IT.



AND I WILL NEVER FORGET THE WARM APPLAUSE OF THE AUDIENCE.

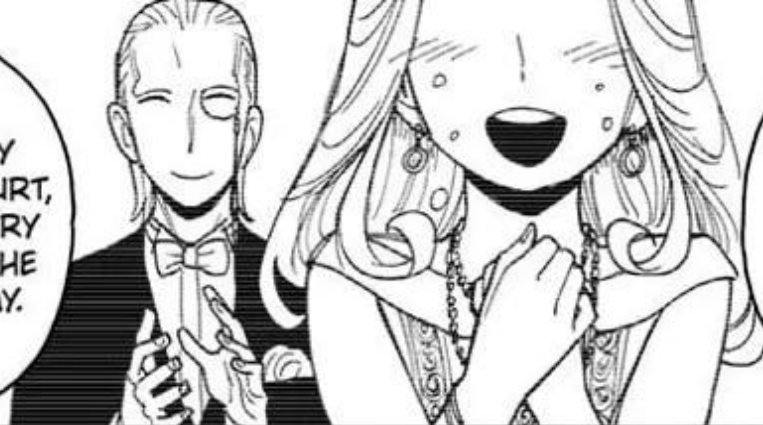
BUT I GOT TO PERFORM IN THE THEATER OF MY DREAMS.

AND I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GRASP THAT I HAD AN ENTIRE LIFE AHEAD OF ME.



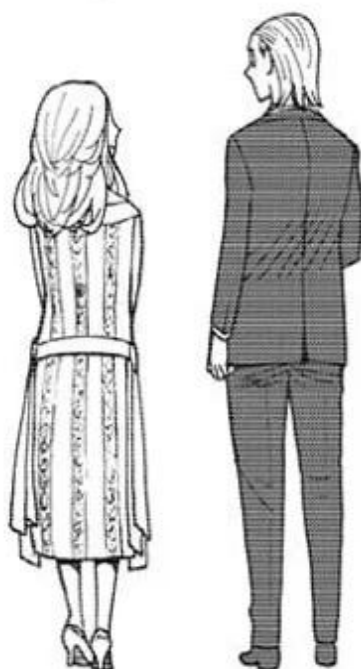
ON THAT STAGE, I EXPERIENCED WHAT IT MEANT TO FEEL ALIVE AGAIN.

AND WHILE MY
HEART STILL HURT,
IT MADE ME VERY
HAPPY THAT SHE
FELT THAT WAY.



AND SHE
WAS THERE
WATCHING, AS
HAPPY FOR ME
AS IF SHE HAD
BEEN THE ONE
ONSTAGE.

I FELT PRIDE
IN HAVING
LOVED SUCH
A GOOD AND
FAITHFUL
MAN.



AND **HE**
LOVED
HIS WIFE
DEARLY,
JUST AS A
HUSBAND
SHOULD.

THEY
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
DRAGGED
INNOCENTS
INTO IT WITH
THEM!

IF ALL THE
SNOOTY
ELITES
WANTED
WAR SO
MUCH, THEY
SHOULD
HAVE
FOUGHT!

YOUNG
MISS.

GAH! IF ONLY
THAT STUPID
WAR HADN'T
BROKEN OUT,
YOU MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO HAVE
YOUR DREAMS
AND YOUR
LOVE
FULFILLED.

AWWW...
I STILL
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THAT.

...THAT'S
HOW I WAS
ABLE TO FEEL
ABOUT IT
AFTER MANY
YEARS HAD
PASSED.

OR AT
LEAST
...



WHAT...
SORTS OF
THINGS?

Hmph!

IT'S FULL OF
ALL SORTS OF
THINGS THAT
INTERACT WITH
EACH OTHER IN
VERY COMPLI-
CATED WAYS.

THE WORLD
IS NOT SO
SIMPLE A
PLACE AS
THAT.

I'M SURE
THAT'S DUE
TO SOME
ANIMAL
INSTINCT
DEEP
WITHIN
US.

AH, YOU
SEE, IT'S
THE THINGS
THAT WE
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THAT MAKE
US FEEL
UNEASY.

IF I
KNEW, I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
ASKED!

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

SO WHAT
DID YOU
MEAN?
DON'T BE
SO VAGUE!
TELL ME!

YAWN

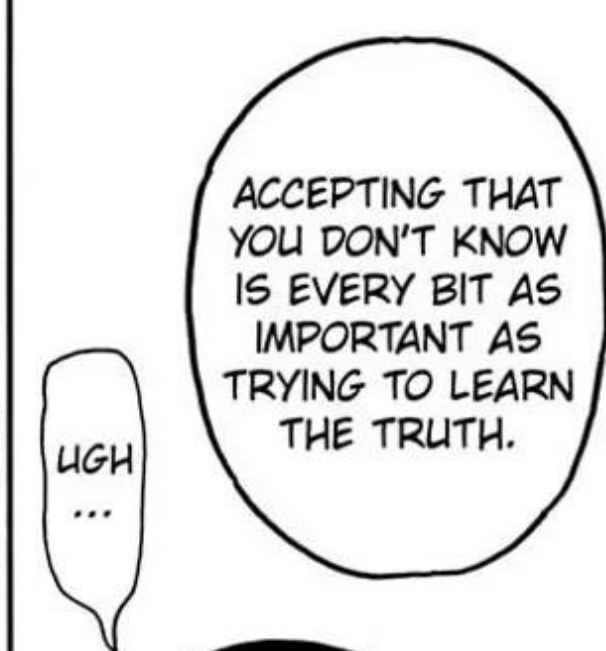
I'M NOT
ENTIRELY
CERTAIN
MYSELF.

BUT
LATCHING ON
TO SUCH
ASSERTIONS
AND PERSUADING
YOURSELF OF
THEIR TRUTHS—
THAT'S A CERTAIN
SORT OF
WEAKNESS.
AND IT'S A
DANGEROUS
ONE.

AND
MAYBE IT
IS THAT
SIMPLE.
AND
MAYBE IT
ISN'T.

"THE
PEOPLE
OF THAT
COUNTRY
ARE JUST
PLAIN EVIL."
OR "IT'S
THE ELITES
DOING
AS THEY
PLEASE
AGAIN."

SO WE
CONVINCE
OURSELVES
THAT WE **DO**
UNDERSTAND
THINGS WE
DON'T, IN
ORDER
TO MAKE
OUR-
SELVES
FEEL
BETTER.







HELLO,
HENRY.



MARTHA!



CAN YOU
BELIEVE
IT'S BEEN
15 YEARS?
HOW TIME
FLIES.

I BRING
THEM
BECAUSE IT
PLEASES
ME TO DO SO.

AND WITH
FLOWERS,
LIKE EVERY
YEAR...
THANK
YOU.



BUT I'LL
GRANT THAT
YOU'RE STILL
EVERY BIT
AS CHEEKY
AS YOU
WERE
BACK
THEN.

WHAT?

FLUSH

I
THOUGHT
MYSELF
MUCH
IMPROVED
SINCE THE
DAYS OF
LONG
AGO!



YOU BEING
A TERRIBLE
DANCER,
FOR
EXAMPLE.

THERE
ARE
SOME
THINGS
THAT
NEVER
CHANGE.



THE PAS-
SAGE
OF
TIME
IS A
CRUEL
THING.

WITH ALL
THESE
WRINKLES,
IT HAS
CERTAINLY
LEFT ITS
MARK
ON US.

SHAAAA



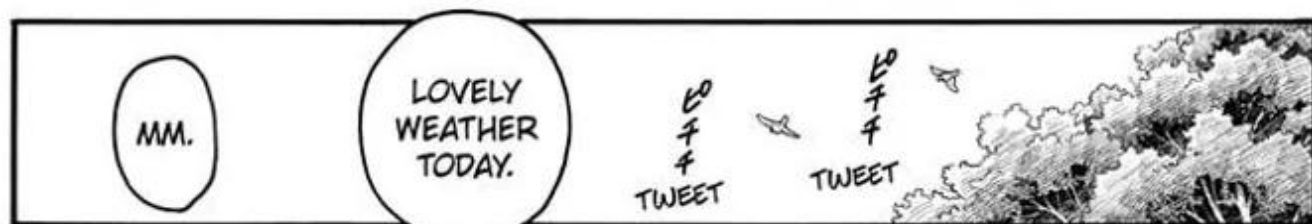
HAH

...



HEE
HEE
HEE

...

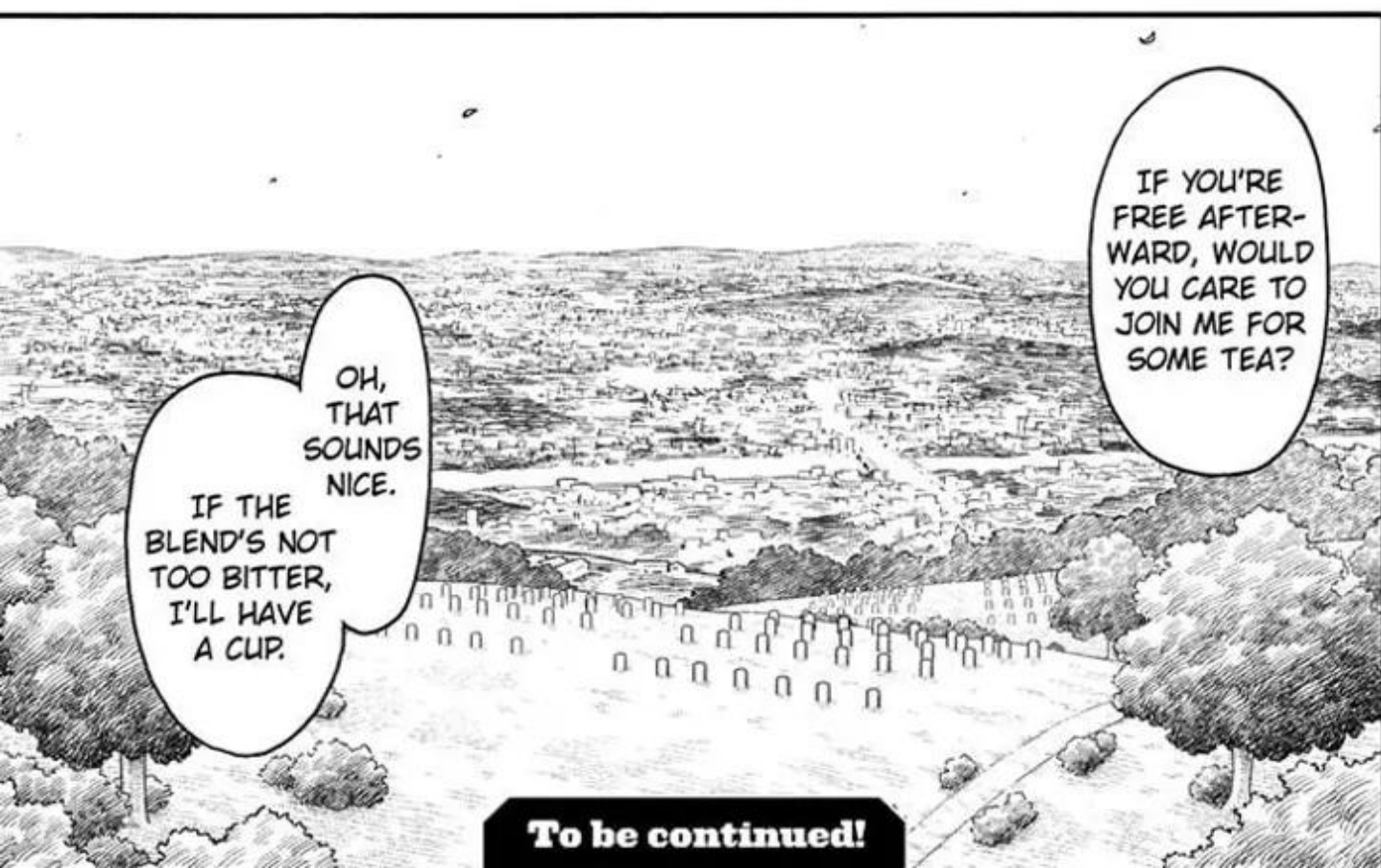


MM.

LOVELY
WEATHER
TODAY.

TWEET

TWEET



IF THE
BLEND'S NOT
TOO BITTER,
I'LL HAVE
A CUP.

OH,
THAT
SOUNDS
NICE.

IF YOU'RE
FREE AFTER-
WARD, WOULD
YOU CARE TO
JOIN ME FOR
SOME TEA?

To be continued!