BLEACH
ブリーチ
SHONENJUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Tite Kubo
volume
1

久保帯人

Hello there. You are now holding the very first volume of Bleach. I worked really hard writing it. Please treat it kindly.
Sincerely,
Tite Kubo

Bleach is author Tite Kubo's second title. Kubo made his debut with *Zombie Powder*, a four-volume series for *Weekly Shonen Jump*. To date, *Bleach* has been translated into numerous languages and has also inspired an animated TV series that began airing in Japan in 2004. Beginning its serialization in 2001, *Bleach* is still a mainstay in the pages of *Weekly Shonen Jump*. In 2005, *Bleach* was awarded the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award in the *shonen* (boys) category.

BLEACH VOL. 1
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY TITE KUBO

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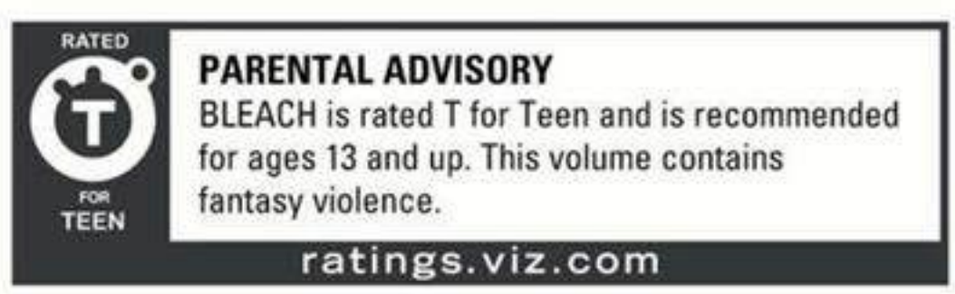

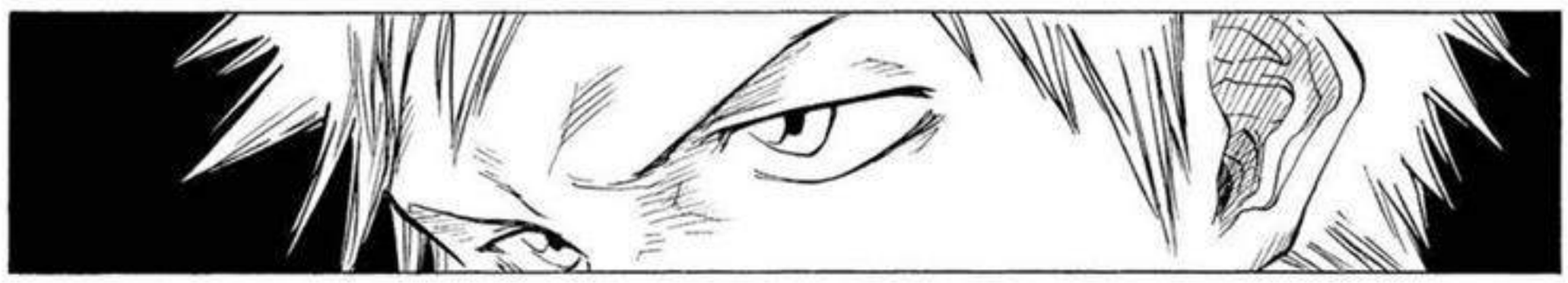

We fear that which we cannot see

BLEACH 1

STRAWBERRY AND THE SOUL REAPERS

Shonen Jump Manga

BLEACH

STRAWBERRY AND THE SOUL REAPERS

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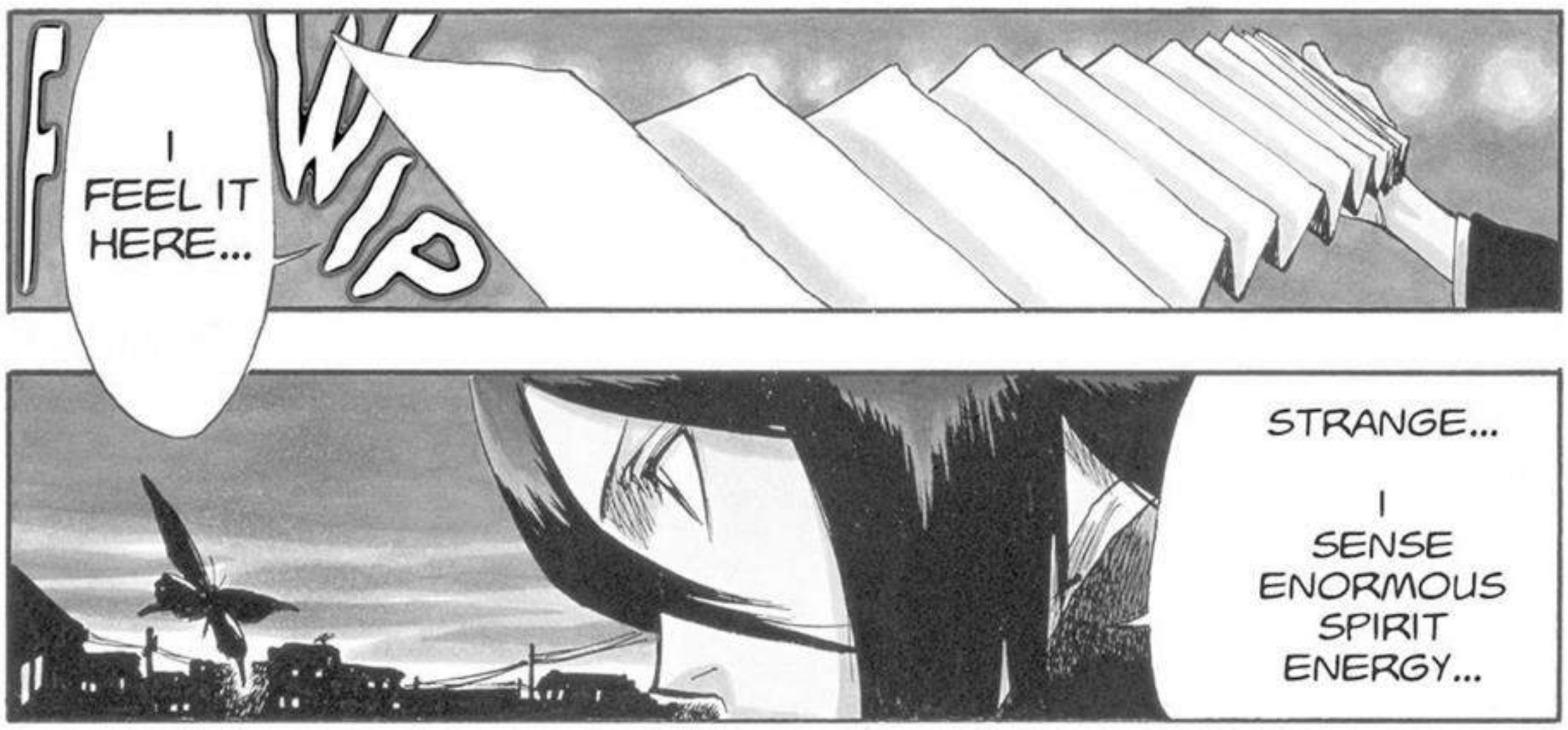
2:23 A.M., FRIDAY KARAKURA TOWN



1. DEATH & STRAWBERRY

AND SO FELL THE SWORD OF FATE.

BLEACH
ブリーチ

1. DEATH & STRAWBERRY

KARAKURA TOWN 7:30 P.M., FRIDAY

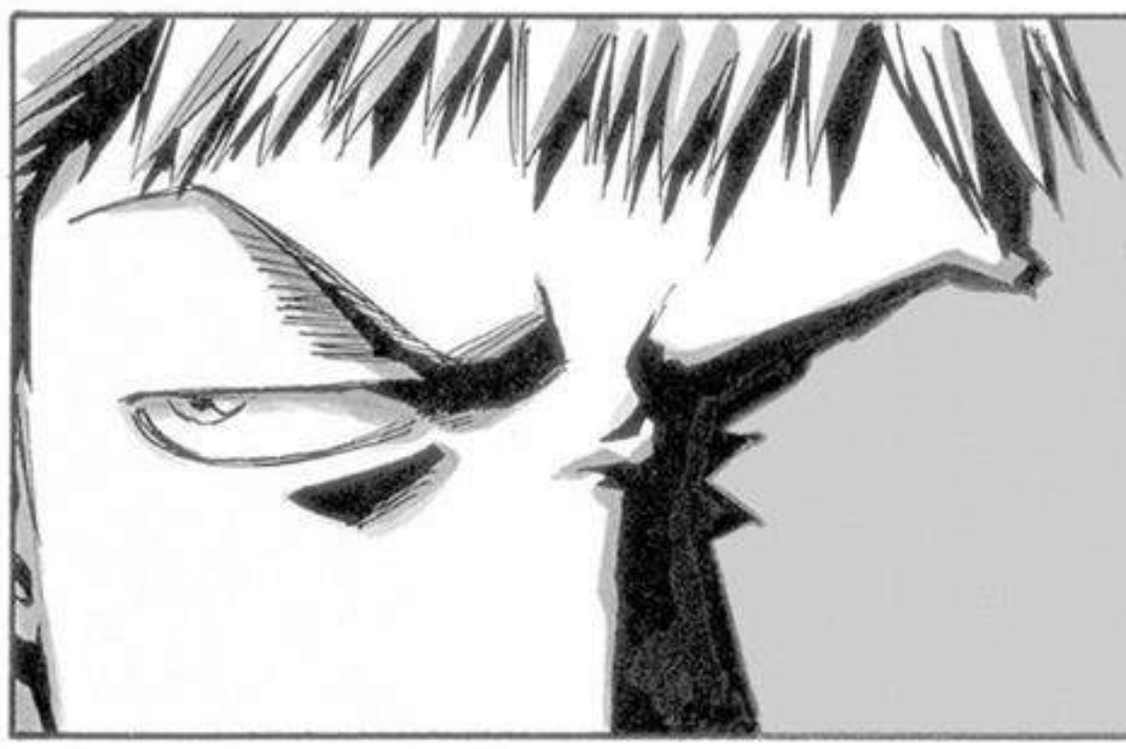
WHAT THE ...!?

YOU COME HERE, STOMP LI'L YAMA IN THE FACE, AND ORDER US OUT LIKE WE WAS DOGS?!

YOU CRAZY, PUNK?

GOT A DEATH-WISH?

SPEAK!



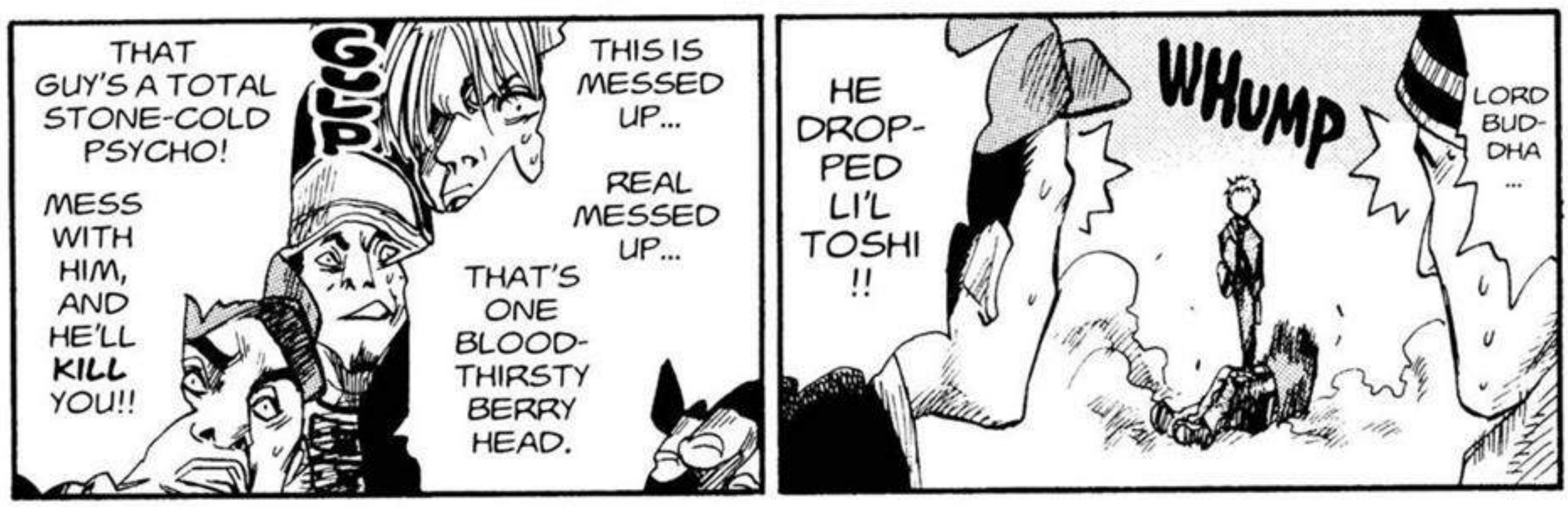
ICHIGO "STRAWBERRY" KUROSAKI:

15 YEARS OLD
HAIR: ORANGE
EYES: BROWN
OCCUPATION: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

SPECIAL SKILL:

OOF!

KABL



DA-DA-DA-DA-

ICHIGO "STRAWBERRY" KUROSAKI:
15 YEARS OLD

HAIR COLOR: ORANGE

EYE COLOR: BROWN

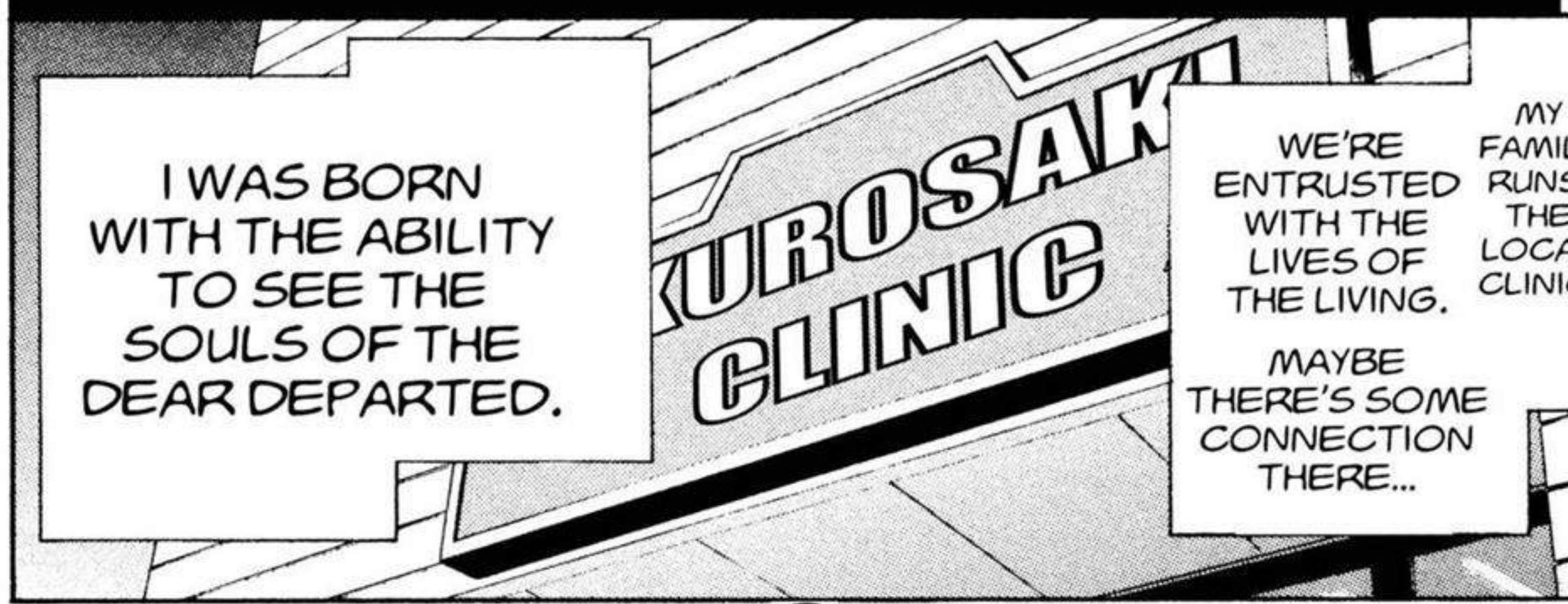
OCCUPATION:
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

SPECIAL SKILL...

"HE CAN SEE GHOSTS"

THEN YOU BETTER APOLOGIZE TO **HER**, HADN'T YOU !?

IT'S TRUE. I CAN SEE AND TALK WITH GHOSTS.



NO EXCUSES!

THE RULES OF MY HOUSE ARE IRON!

YOU BREAK 'EM, YOU GOTTA BLEED!!

JERK!

IS THAT HOW YOU GREET YOUR SON WHO JUST HELPED A GHOST FIND PEACE?!

DINNER IN THIS HOUSE IS AT 7 O'CLOCK SHARP, EVERY NIGHT!!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS, DELIN-QUENT?!

LET THEM FIGHT, YUZU.

LEAVES MORE FOR US.

DINNER'S GETTING COLD!

PLEASE STOP FIGHT-ING!

SHUT UP!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT!!

OR MAYBE YOU WANT TO RUB IT IN MY FACE THAT YOU CAN SEE GHOSTS AND I CAN'T!? WHY CAN'T I HAVE THE GIFT?!

WHY?!

BA-SMASH

GEEZ, WHEN DID YOU...?

HEY!

ICHIGO, I THINK YOU HAVE A NEW "FRIEND" HAUNTING YOU.

DECENT FATHERS DON'T MAKE THEIR TEENAGE SONS BE HOME BY 7:00!!

YOUR RULES ARE WAY TOO STRICT !!

WHOA!

A QUADRUPLE THREAT.

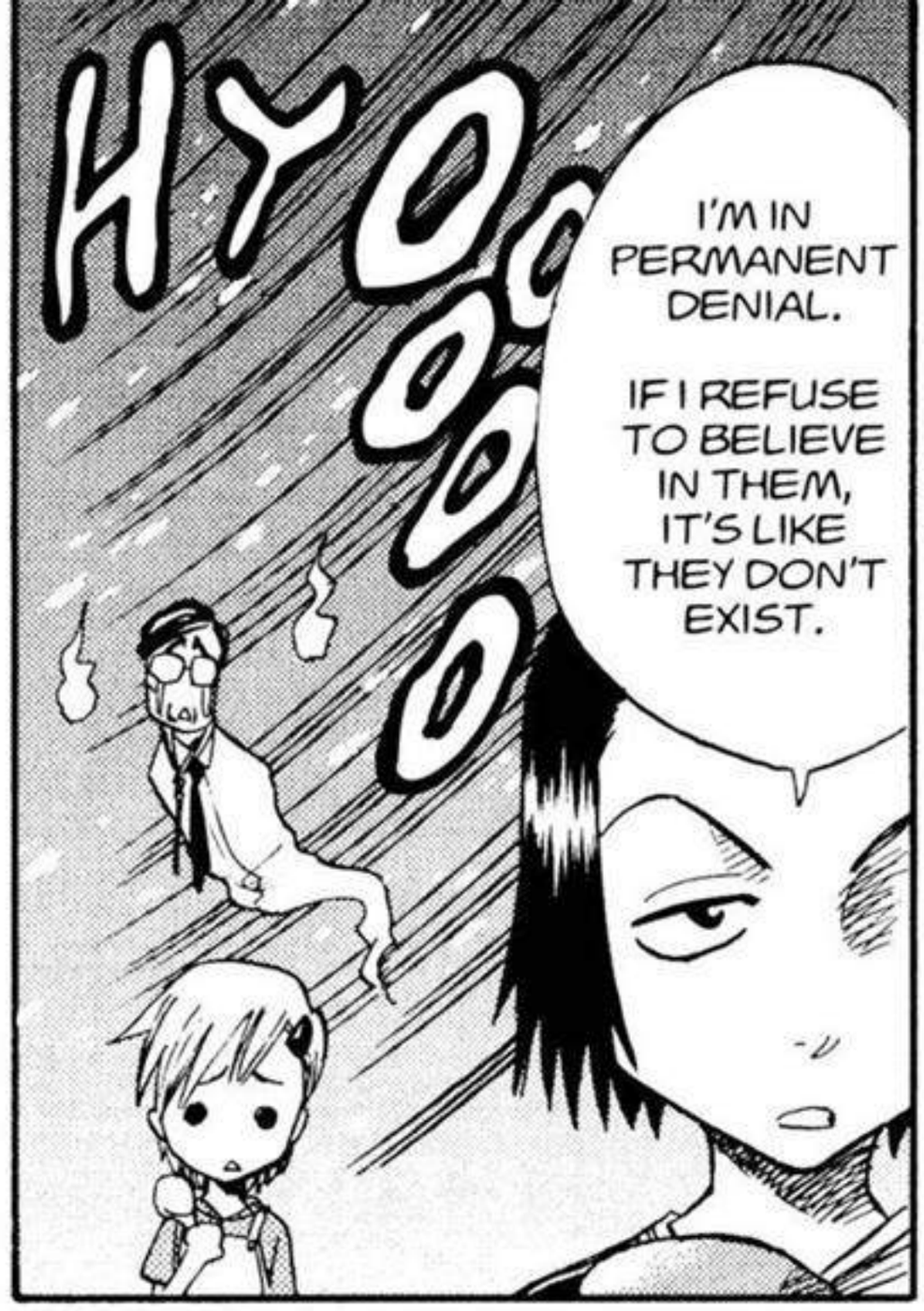
MUST BE A PAIN, STRAWBERRY, TO BE IN SUCH HIGH DEMAND.

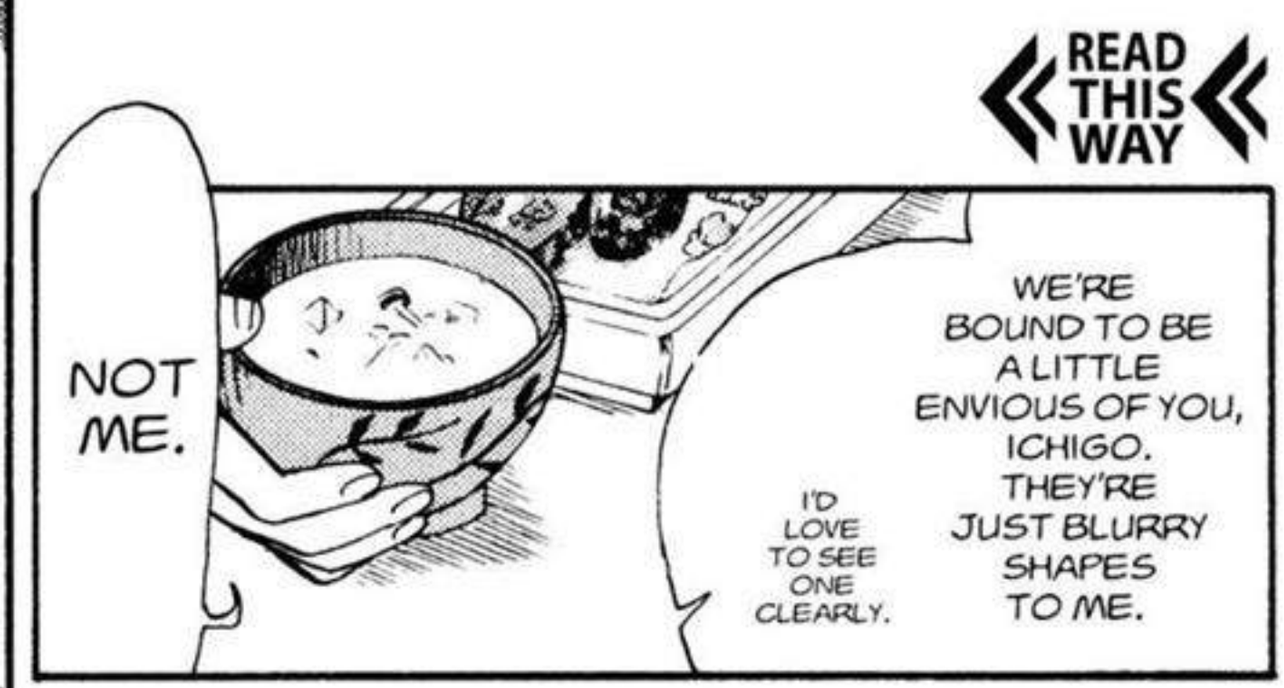
BUT YOU KNOW...

HE SEES THEM, TALKS TO THEM, TOUCHES THEM, AND CHANNELS THEM--

I EXORCISE ONE AND ANOTHER LATCHES ONTO ME!!

CRAP!!


HYO
I'M IN PERMANENT DENIAL.
IF I REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN THEM, IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T EXIST.


READ THIS WAY
NOT ME.
WE'RE BOUND TO BE A LITTLE ENVIOUS OF YOU, ICHIGO. THEY'RE JUST BLURRY SHAPES TO ME.
I'D LOVE TO SEE ONE CLEARLY.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS.
HUH? BUT YOU SEE THEM TOO, KARIN!
DUMMY.
ONLY DADDY CAN'T.

YOU'RE NOT MAKING MONEY OFF MY GRIEF!!
I'M NOT A FREAK-SHOW !!
DAMMIT, KARIN !!
CHERRY BLOSSOM WATCHING WAS LAST MONTH, RIGHT?
"WANT TO FLIRT WITH GHOSTS WHILE BEING CARESSED BY THE FIRST BREEZE OF SUMMER?
A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, THE KARUIZAWA GHOST PICNIC."

SO --
HERE'S MY LATEST PLAN.

FOR REAL...
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO SEE GHOSTS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
I SEE THE DEAD AS WELL AS I SEE THE LIVING.
?
K-
CRA

RA
DROP-PED YOUR GUARD !!
GA

SO...

WHAT ?!

HE TALKS ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT WITH YOU!!

ICHIGO'S BEEN UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE LATELY!

HE TOLD ME MORE GHOSTS THAN EVER HAVE BEEN HAUNTING HIM.

HE'S FED UP!

WHAT'D I DO?!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, DAD.

HE LEFT.

THAT'S IT! I'M GOING TO BED!!

TUMP TUMP TUMP

OH! ICHIGO !!

FIRST, TAKE DOWN THAT STUPID MEMORIAL PICTURE.

MASAKI FOREVER

AW ...

MOTHER... MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE HIT PUBERTY, BUT OUR DAUGHTERS TREAT ME LIKE DIRT...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I WOULDN'T BRING MY PROBLEMS TO YOU EITHER.

YOU'RE OVER 40 YET POSSESS THE EMOTIONAL MATURITY OF A PRE-SCHOOLER.

I'LL TAKE SOME SUPPER UP TO HIS ROOM LATER.

THAT BOY... WHY DOESN'T HE COME TO **ME** WITH HIS PROBLEMS?

ARE YOU SERI-OUS?

THE EXISTENCE OF SOUL REAPERS...

...

?

A BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY? WHERE'D IT COME FROM?

FLUTTER

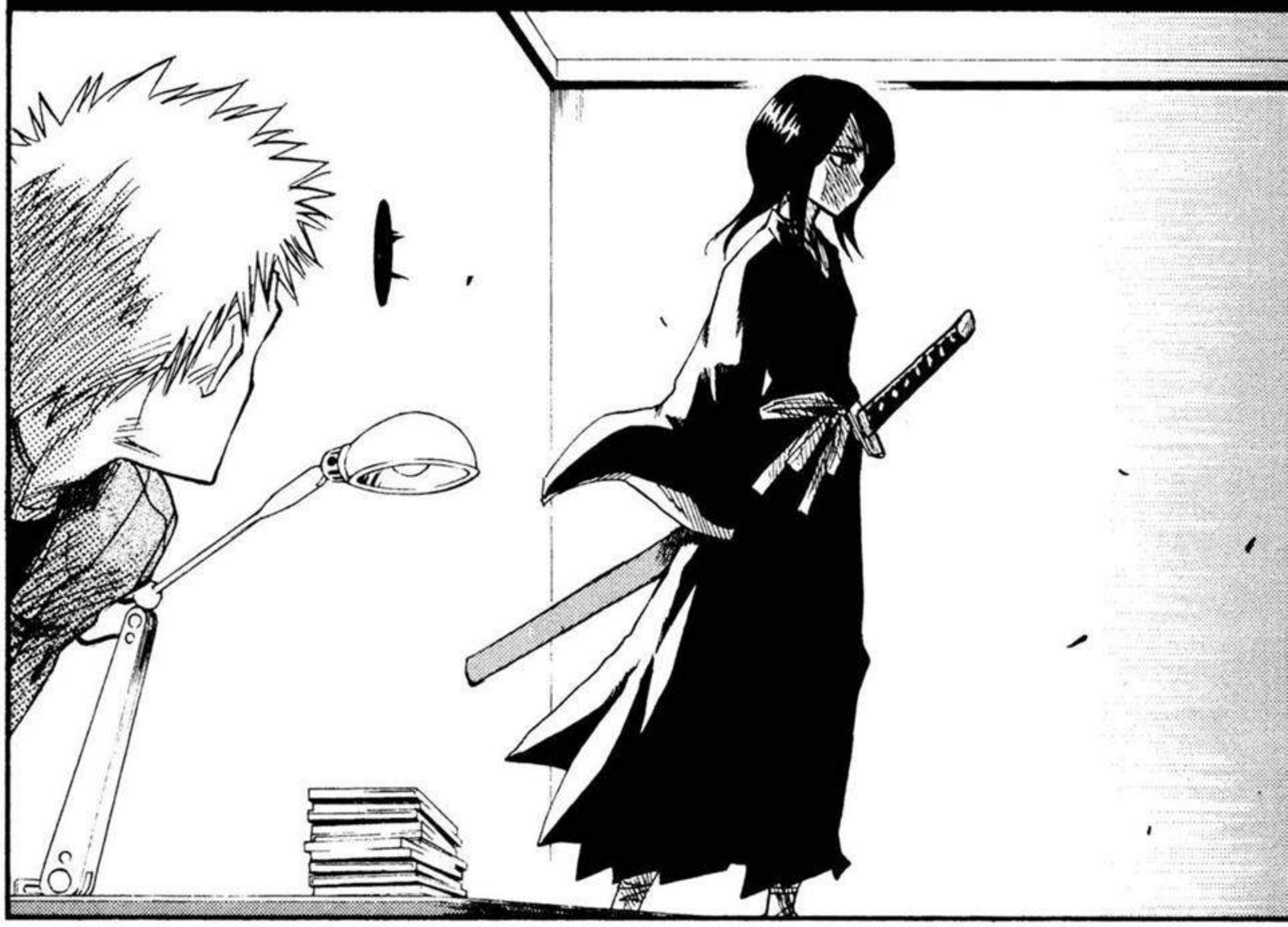
GEEZ...

WHY IS MY FAMILY SO WEIRD?

SLAM

15

HAD NEVER CROSSED MY MIND.



TP TP TP TP TP TP
READ THIS WAY
TUMPooo

GWOOo
IT'S CLOSE ...!

HOW'S THAT FOR CLOSE, JERK-OFF?!
WHACK

HECK YEAH I CAN SEE YOU...
HUH?
STOP YAMMER-ING!
YOU... YOU CAN SEE ME ?!!
AND... YOU KICKED ME!

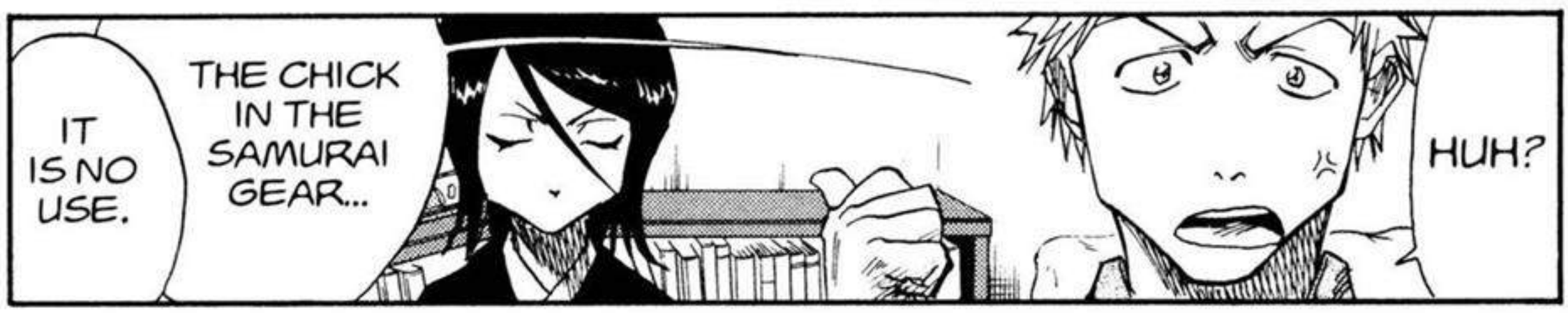
WHAT'S CLOSE?! THE SAFE? IS THAT BURGLAR-SPEAK OR SOMETHING ?!
? ? ?
PSH!!
PRETTY COCKY FOR A BURGLAR, AINTCHA ?!

CRA
HOW CAN I BE QUIET WHEN I'M SUBDUING INTRUDERS?!
NICE PUNCH!

KA
QUIET, BOY!
STOP JUMPING AROUND UP HERE !!
GOFPH!
DOW

WHAT?
LOOK AT WHO?

HUH?
LOOK AT THIS!
WHERE'S OUR HOME SECURITY !?

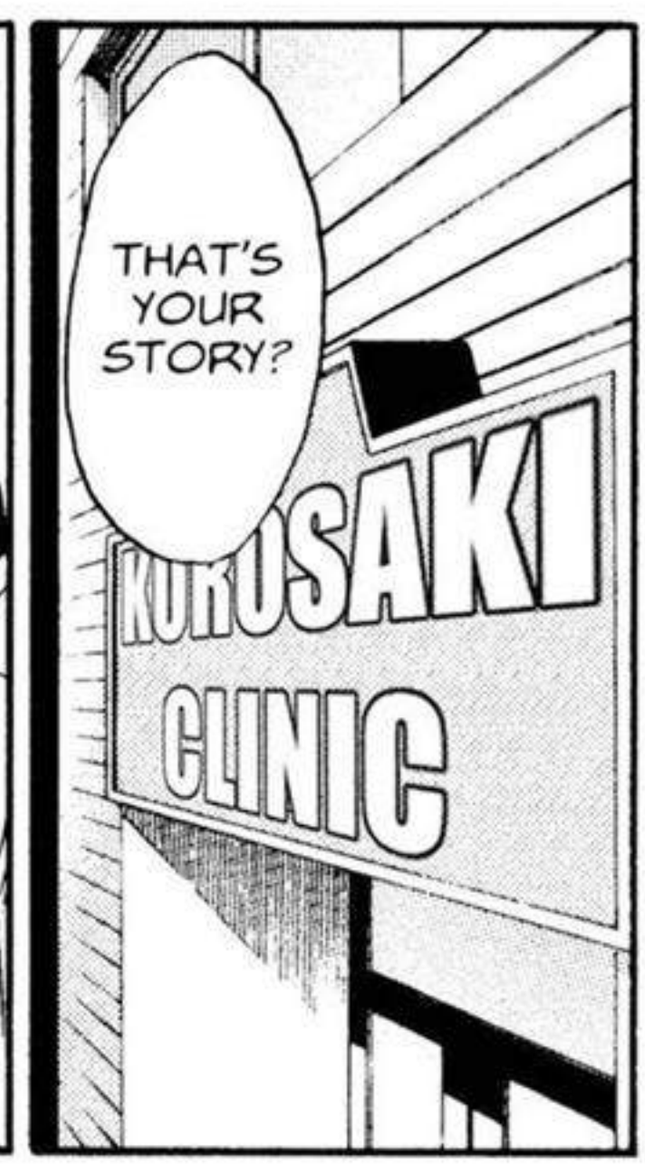

IT IS NO USE.
THE CHICK IN THE SAMURAI GEAR...
HUH?

SOUL REAPER.
I'M A...

NORMAL PEOPLE CANNOT SEE ME.

KER-SPLASH

GADUMP



I'VE NEVER SEEN A SOUL REAPER BEFORE.

OF COURSE NOT!

YOU INSOLENT...

YOU CAN SEE GHOSTS, YET YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN SOUL REAPERS?!

I DON'T BELIEVE **ANYTHING** UNTIL I SEE IT WITH MY OWN PEEPERS.

WHAT !?

KILA

CAUTION: FOR USE IN SIGHT GAGS ONLY!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR FREAK-ING MIND ?!

FEE

GR

RRR

SHOVE

BUT GO PLAY "SOUL REAPER" SOMEWHERE ELSE!

GOT THAT, YOU LITTLE SNOT?

SINCE DAD COULDN'T SEE YOU, YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT LIVING...

KL

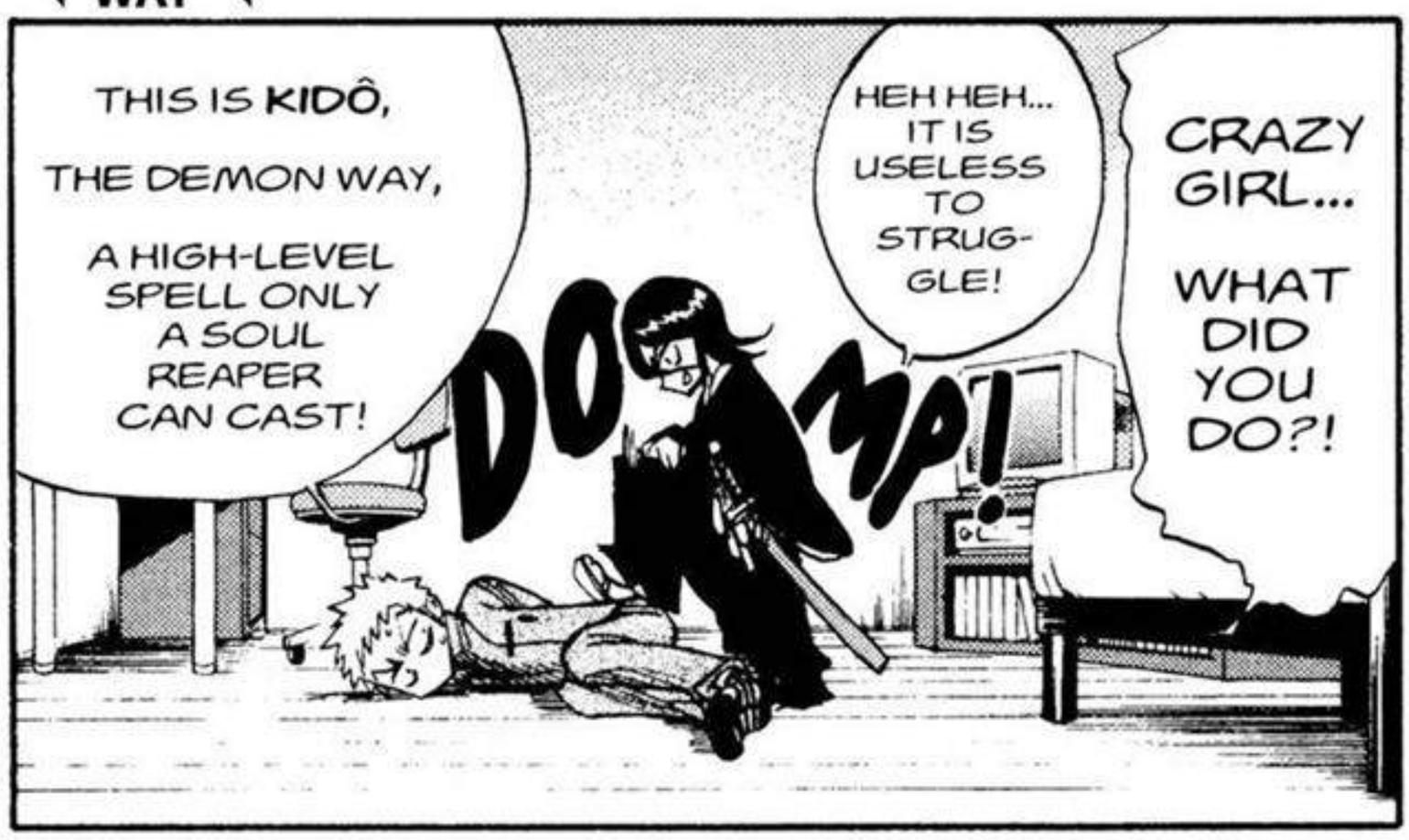
UFR-

KRA

YOU DARE SPEAK THAT WAY TO ME?

SAI !!

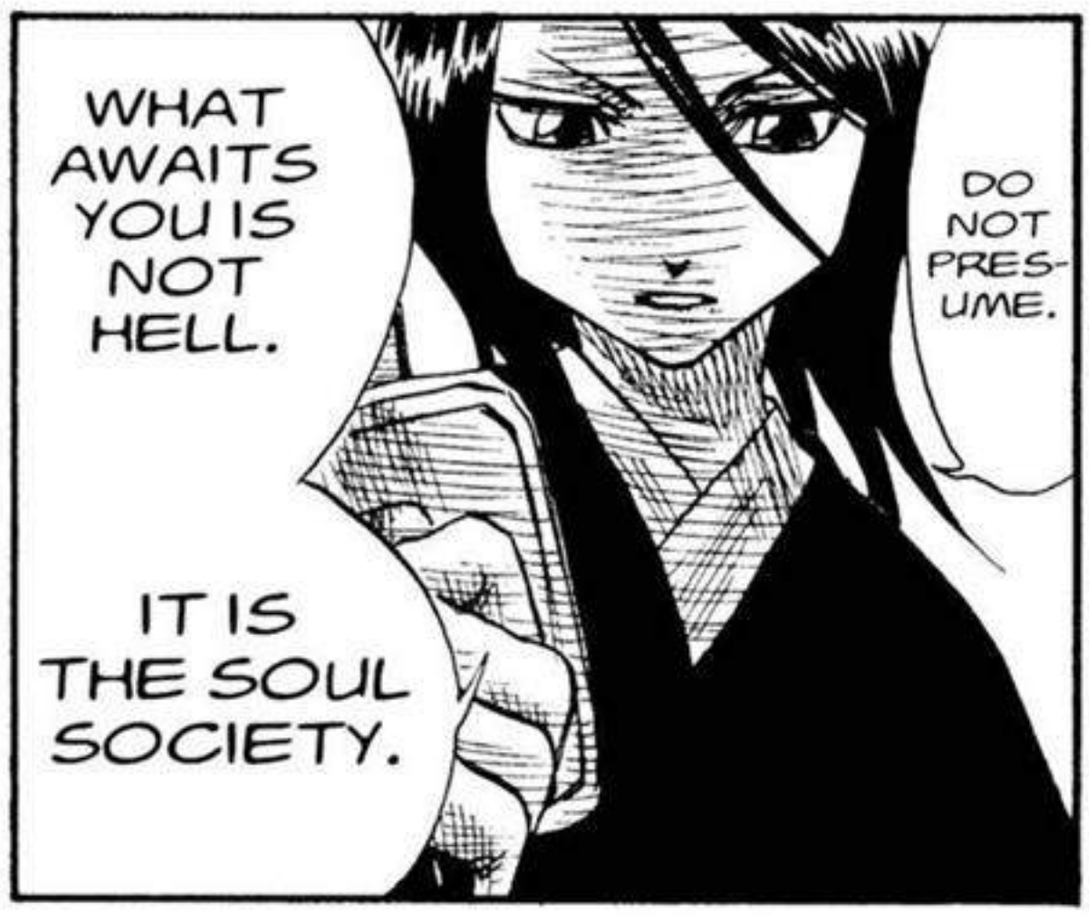
BIND-ING SPELL, THE FIRST !


THIS IS KIDÔ, THE DEMON WAY, A HIGH-LEVEL SPELL ONLY A SOUL REAPER CAN CAST!
HEH HEH... IT IS USELESS TO STRUGGLE!
DOMP!
CRAZY GIRL... WHAT DID YOU DO?!

OW OW OW OW OW !!
TUMBLE

I WOULD KILL AN INSOLENT FOOL LIKE YOU, BUT THE PROVISIONAL SPIRIT LAW FORBIDS UNAUTHORIZED EXECUTIONS.
YET YOU DARE TO CALL ME "LITTLE SNOT?"
DESPITE MY APPEARANCE, I HAVE LIVED TEN OF YOUR LIVES!

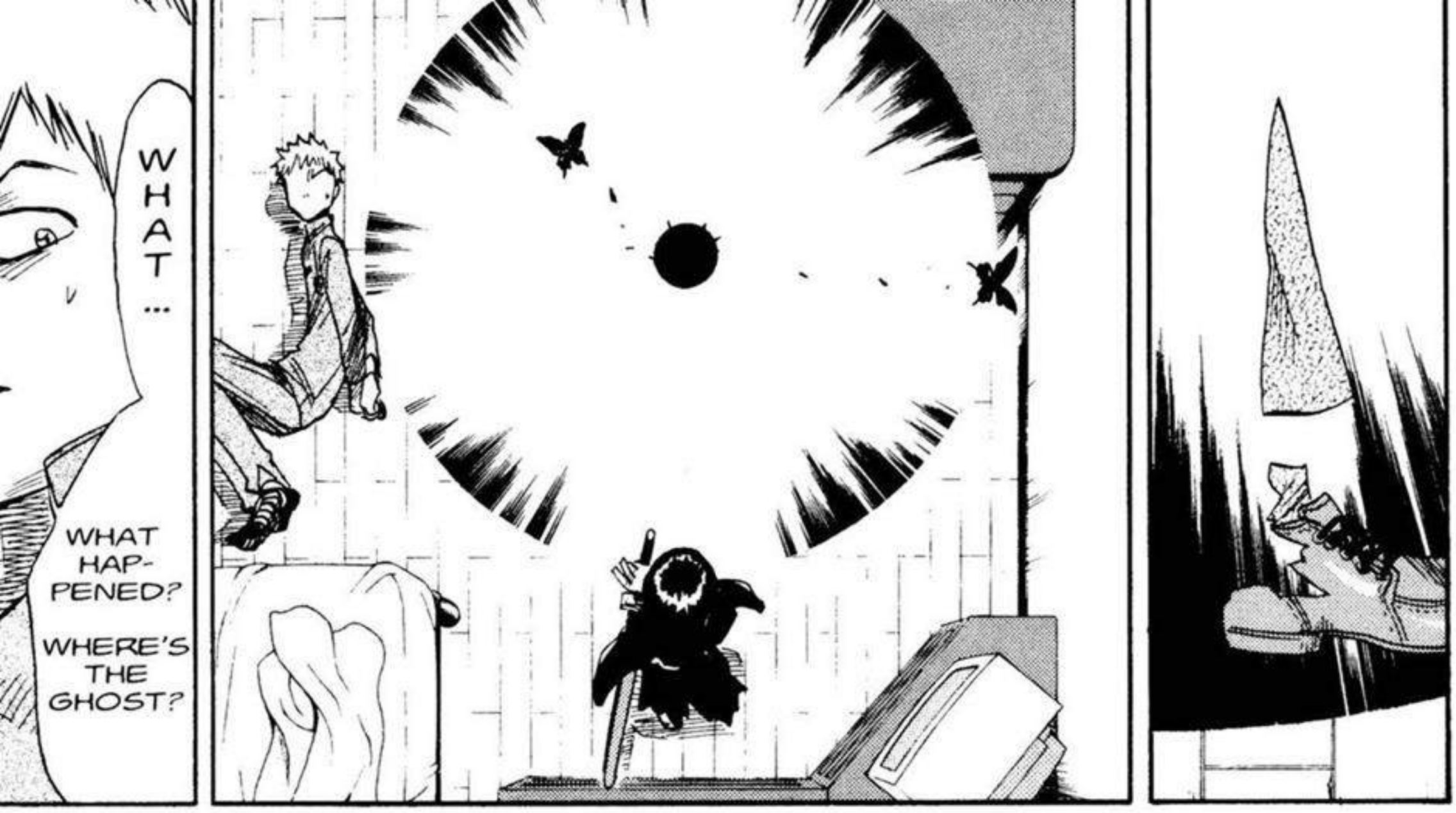
W-WAIT...
AND THIS...
...!
BE GRATEFUL, LITTLE SNOT!
I WILL LET YOU OFF WITH A MINOR CASE OF PARALYSIS THIS TIME.
HERR-GGG !!!
FREAKIN' WANNABE SAMURAI...

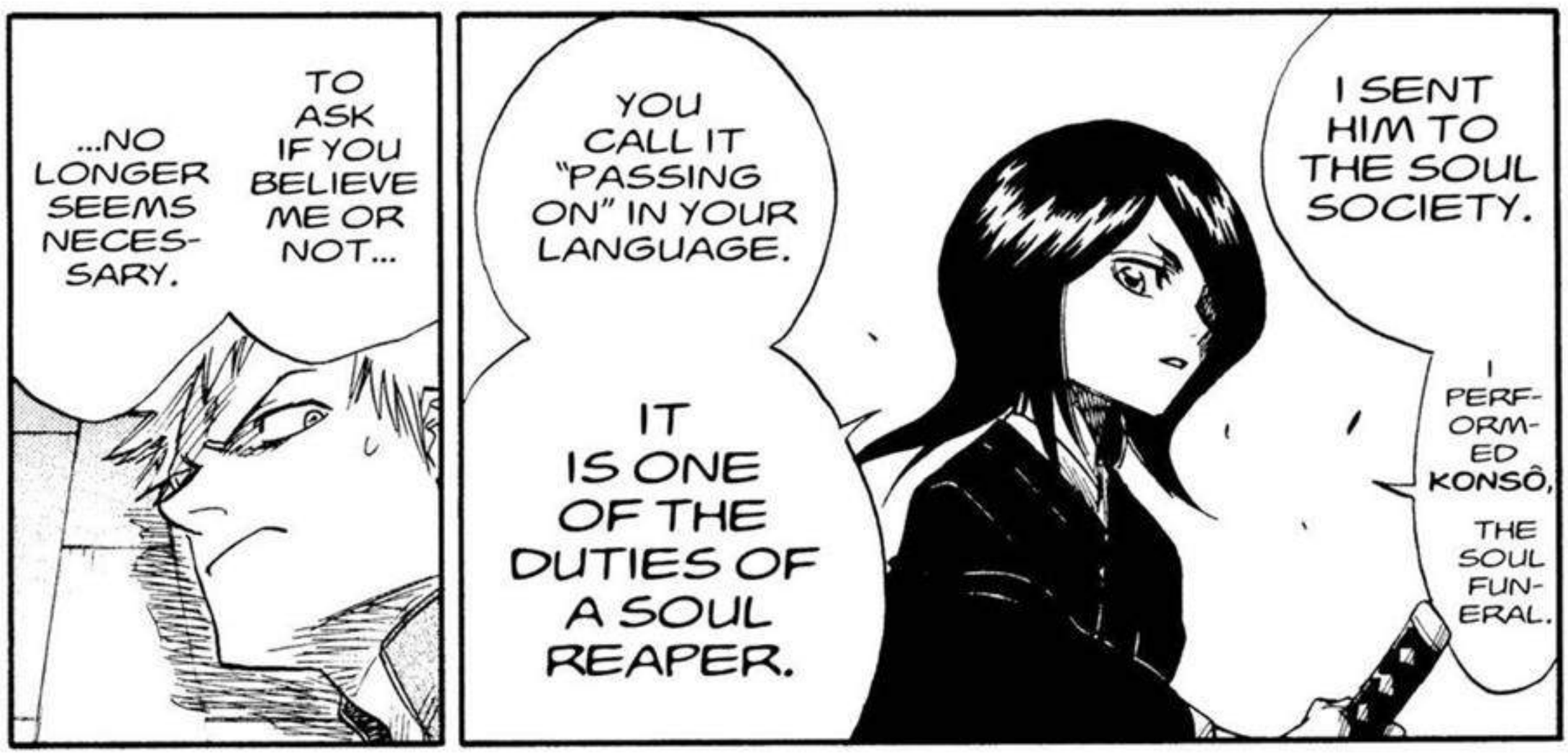

WHAT AWAITS YOU IS NOT HELL.
IT IS THE SOUL SOCIETY.
DO NOT PRES-UME.

NO...
I...
N...
DON'T WANT TO GO TO HELL!

WHA...?

IT IS A RESTFUL PLACE.
UNLIKE HELL...

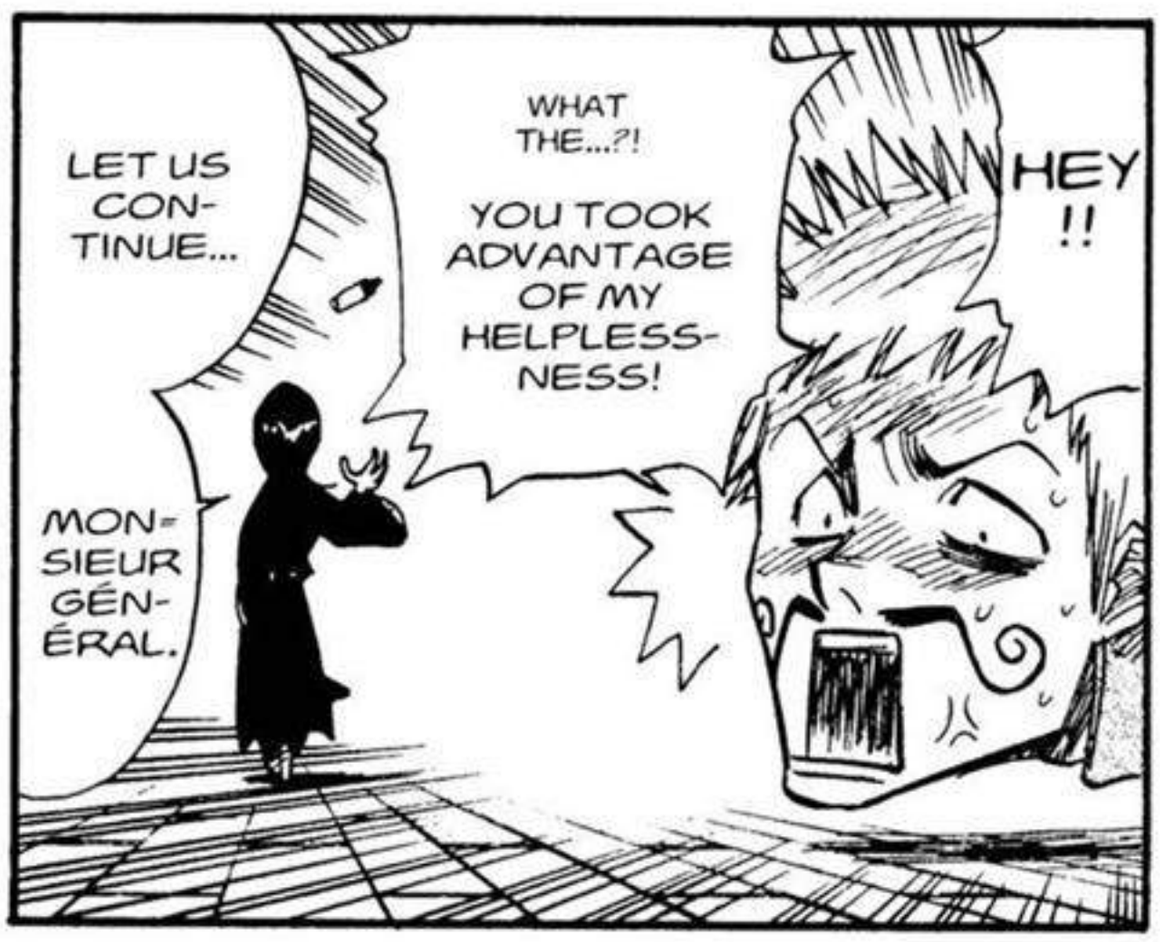

WHAT ...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
WHERE'S THE GHOST?


...NO LONGER SEEMS NECES-SARY.
TO ASK IF YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT...
YOU CALL IT "PASSING ON" IN YOUR LANGUAGE.
IT IS ONE OF THE DUTIES OF A SOUL REAPER.
I SENT HIM TO THE SOUL SOCIETY.
I PERF-ORM-ED KONSÔ, THE SOUL FUN-ERAL.

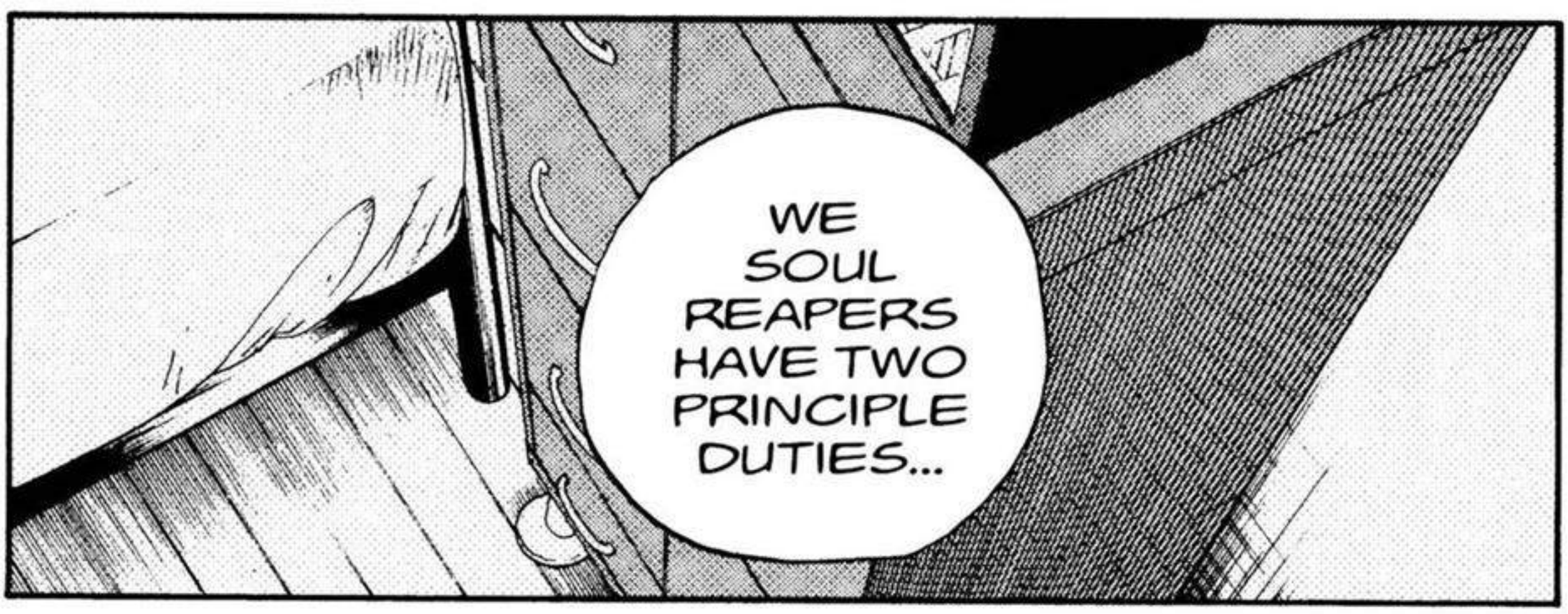
NOW...
IN THIS REALM, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SOULS.
I WILL EXPLAIN SO THAT EVEN A BRAT LIKE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.
BE SILENT AND LISTEN.

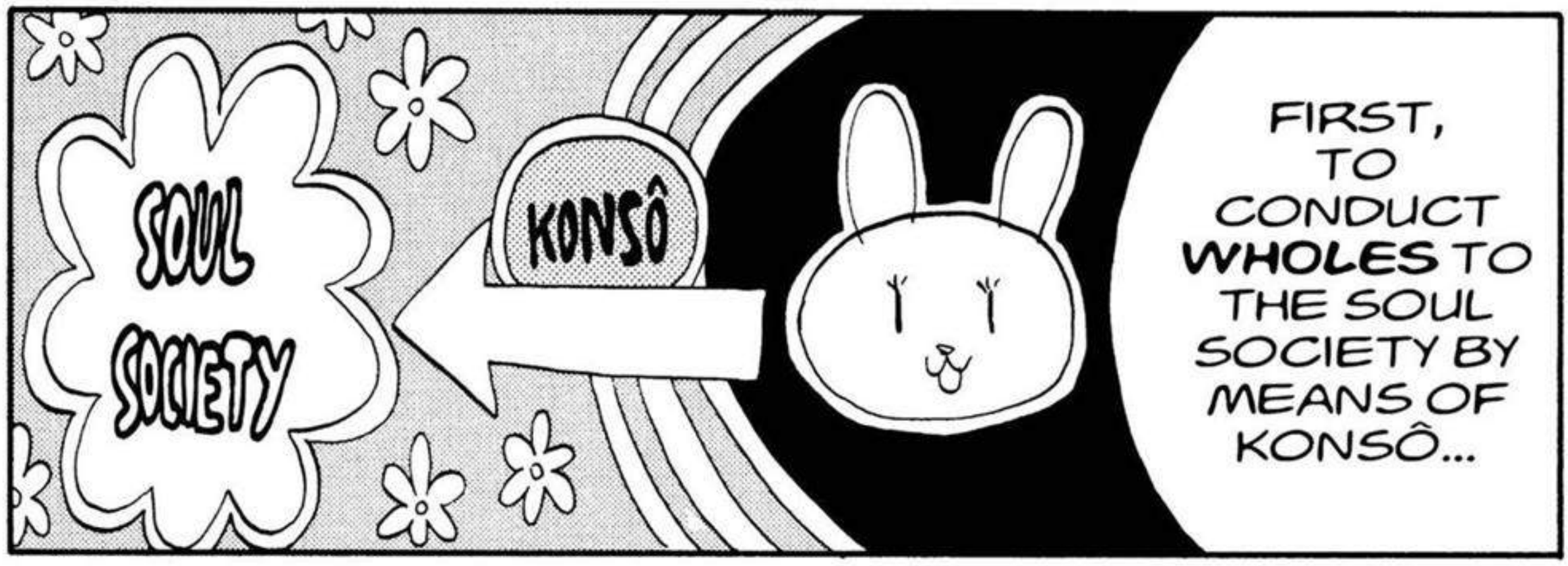
NOW THE OTHER TYPE...
WE CALL "HOLLOWS."
HOLLOWS ATTACK THE LIVING AND THE DEAD INDIS-CRIMINATELY, AND DEVOUR THEIR SOULS.
HOLLOW
BAD SPIRIT
HOLLOWS ARE "EVIL SPIRITS."

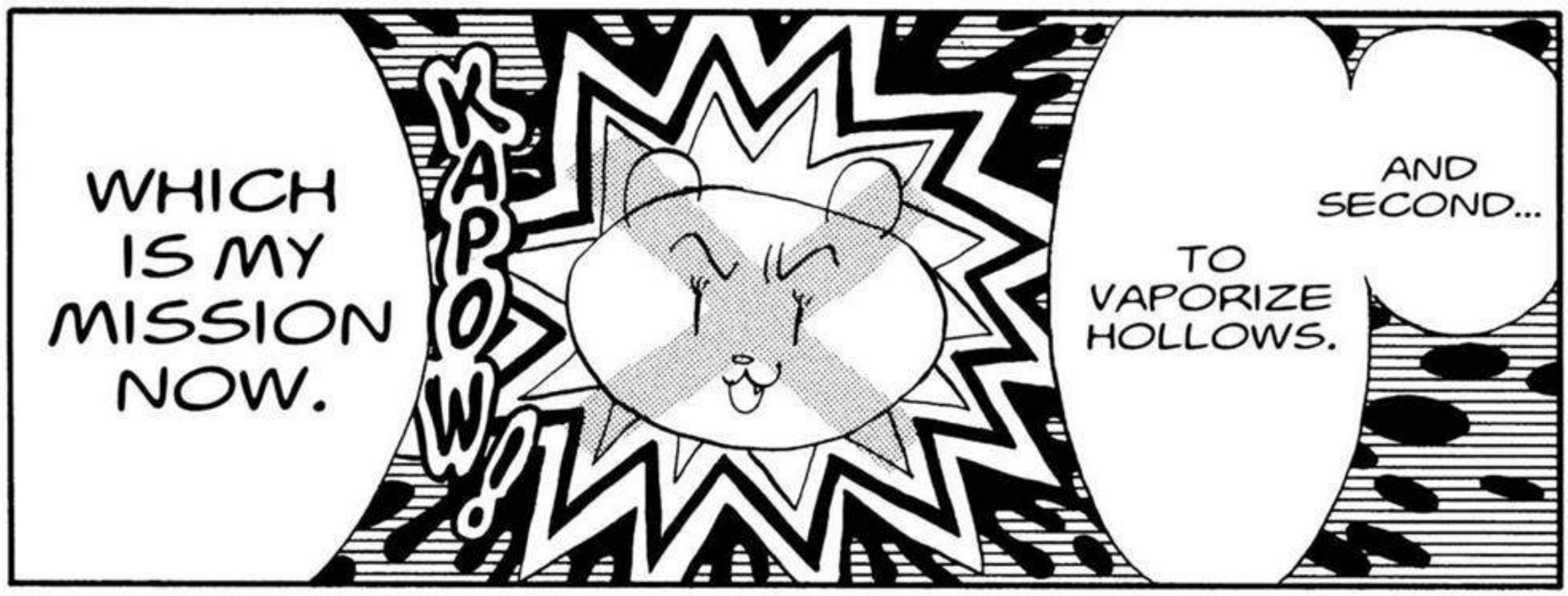
THE FIRST TYPE ARE THE "WHOLES," THE NORMAL SPIRITS.
THE GHOSTS YOU KNOW ARE OF THIS TYPE.
WHOLE
GOOD SPIRIT

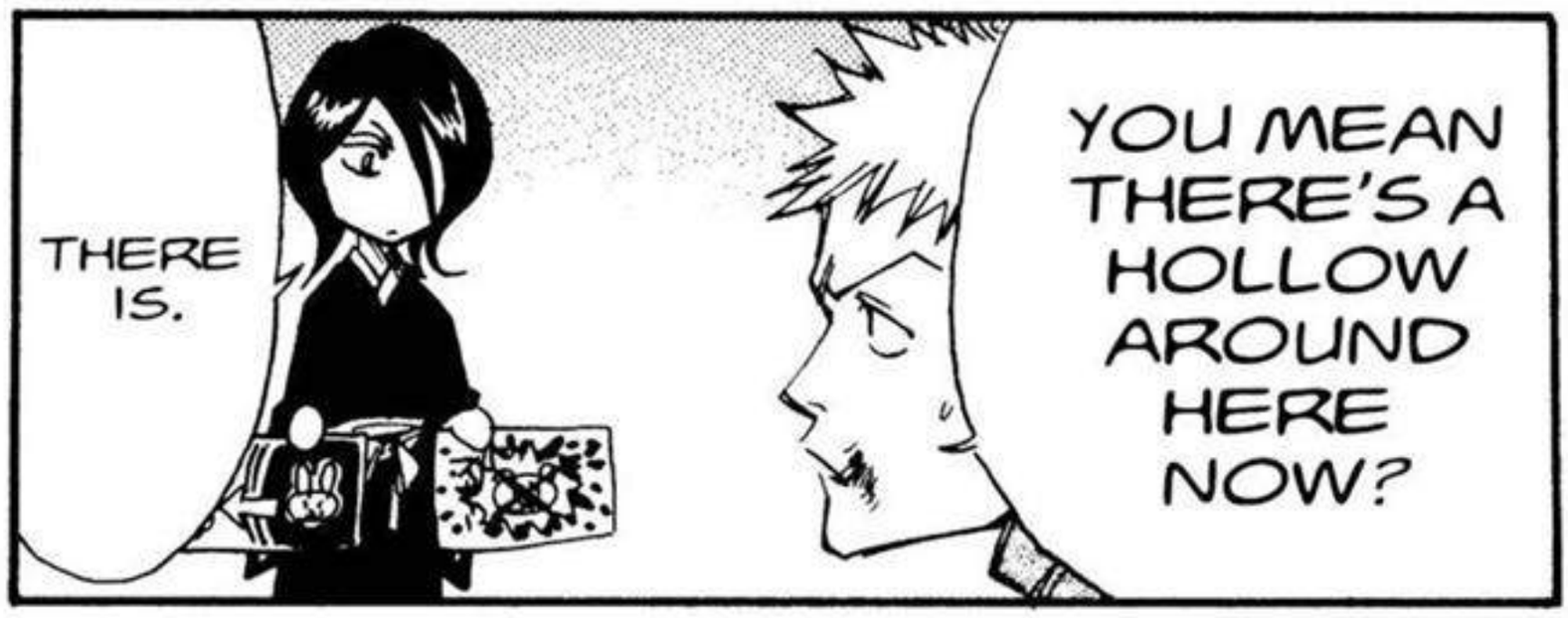

LET US CON-TINUE...
MON-SIEUR GÉN-ÉRAL.
WHAT THE...?!
YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY HELPLESS-NESS!
HEY !!

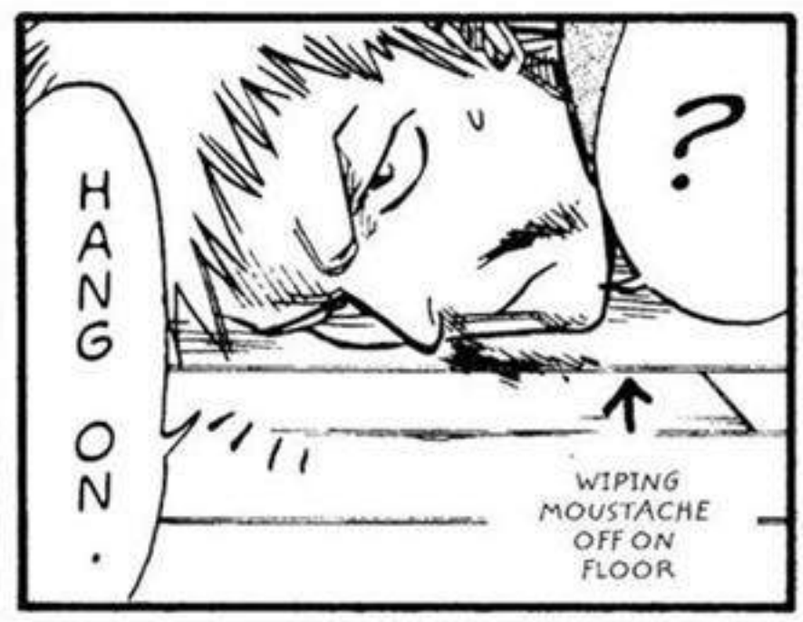
HMMM...
WHY DOES YOUR DRAWING SUCK SO BAD?
ANY QUESTIONS SO FAR?


WE SOUL REAPERS HAVE TWO PRINCIPLE DUTIES...


SOUL SOCIETY
KONSÔ
FIRST, TO CONDUCT WHOLES TO THE SOUL SOCIETY BY MEANS OF KONSÔ...


WHICH IS MY MISSION NOW.
KAPOW
TO VAPORIZE HOLLOWS.
AND SECOND...


THERE IS.
YOU MEAN THERE'S A HOLLOW AROUND HERE NOW?


HANG ON.
?
WIPING MOUSTACHE OFF ON FLOOR

WHA... WHY NOT?
WHAT'S THE ...
I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SENSE ITS PRESENCE FOR SOME TIME NOW.
ACT-UALLY... THAT IS...
ARE YOU STUPID!? DON'T STAND THERE YAPPING! GO VAPORIZE IT!

WOOO

AAOU UUU
BUT... IT'S LIKE I'M HEARING IT THROUGH SOME UNSEEN FILTER.
WHAT IS IT I'M SENSING !?
THAT WAS... THE CRY OF A HOLLOW !!
I HEARD IT !!
...HEARD THE HOWL BEFORE I SENSED IT!?
THIS ONE HAVE...
BUT HOW COULD...
THAT HORRIBLE NOISE WAS THE HOWL OF A HOLLOW !?
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING !?
DASH
THAT WAS YUZU!
CRASH!!
AAAAH!

UNDO YOUR SPELL !!

HOLD UP!!

NOW !!

THAT'S MY FAMILY BEING ATTACKED !!

I AM GOING TO KILL IT!!

YES!

STAY HERE !!

KER-CHACK

YOU'LL ONLY SUCCEED IN ADDING TO THE BODY COUNT!

BE QUIET AND LEAVE THIS TO ME!

UNDERSTAND ?!

DON'T BE A FOOL !!

THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO!

WHAT...

I DID NOT SENSE IT UNTIL NOW...

THIS SPIRIT ENERGY ?!

FWOO!!

...ARE YOU OKAY?

ICHIGO...

I...

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME !?

KARIN !!

THEN IT WENT FOR ME AND YUZU... SO FAST...

...IT HAPPENED SO FAST...

DAD'S BACK EXPLODED AND HE FELL...

... I THOUGHT... HAD TO WARN...

ICHIGO...

GOOD...

...IT HASN'T COME THIS WAY...

HURRY...

BE-FORE IT FINDS YOU...

...ICHIGO...

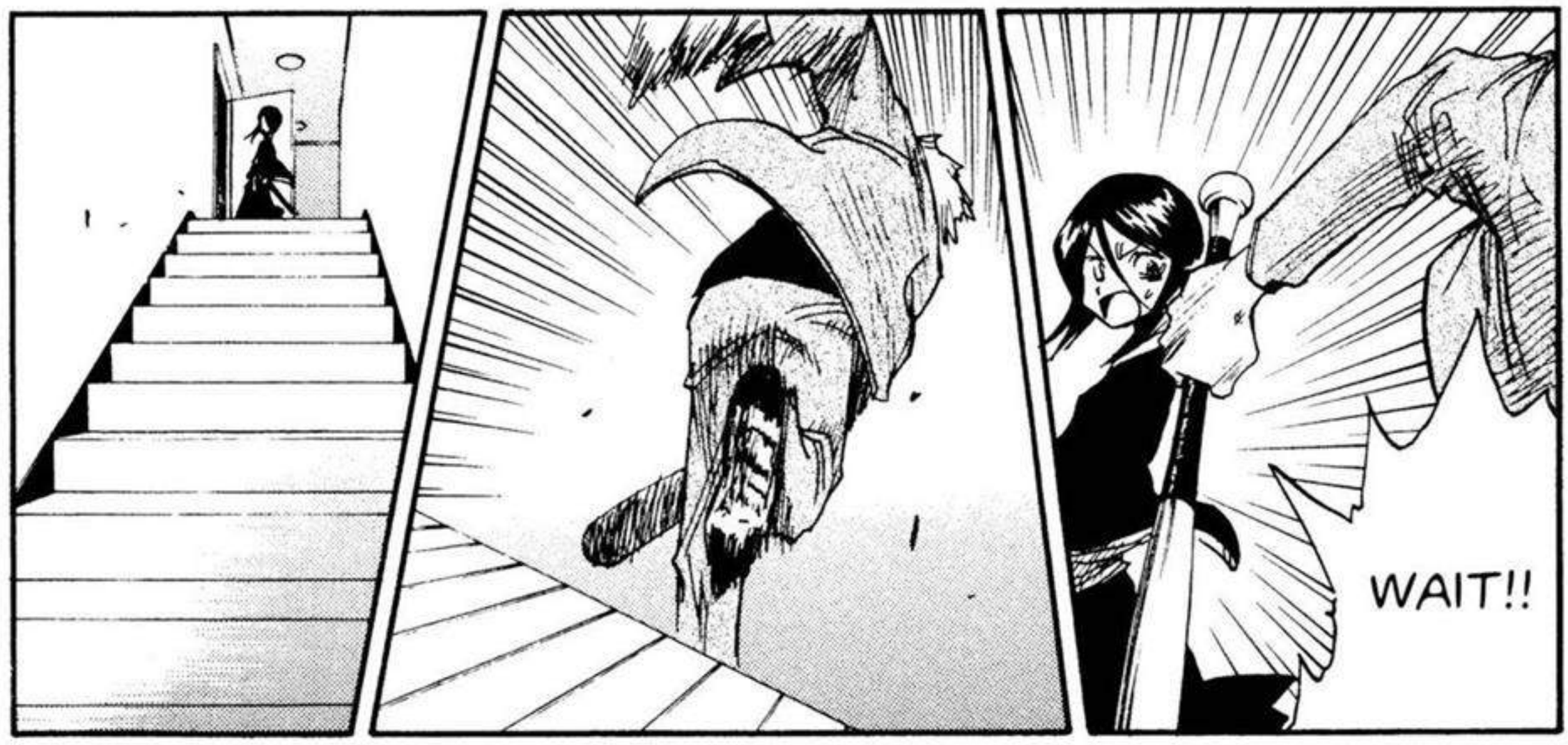
I DON'T THINK DAD AND YUZU COULD SEE IT...

WHAT IS IT ...?

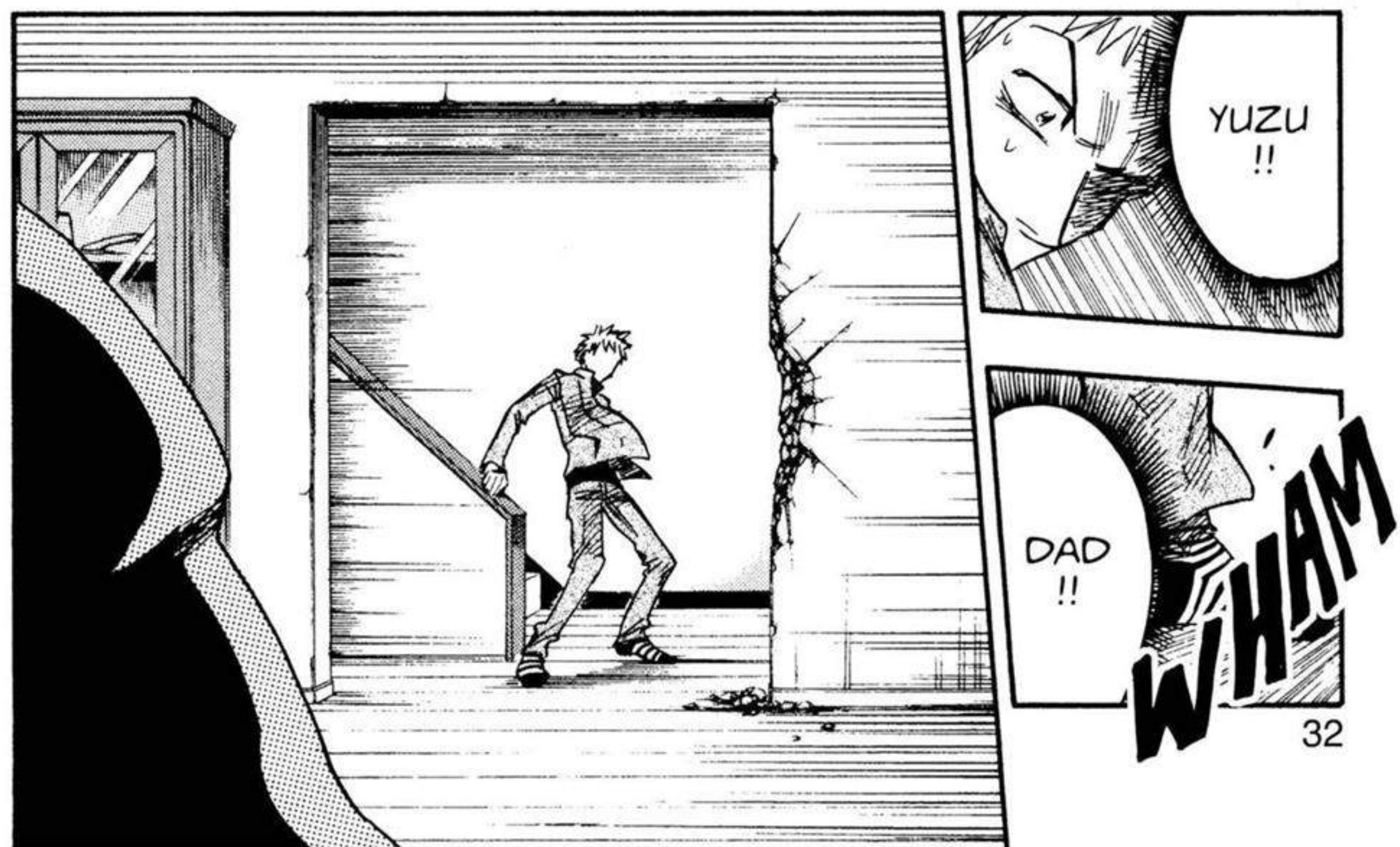
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK...

... RUN ...

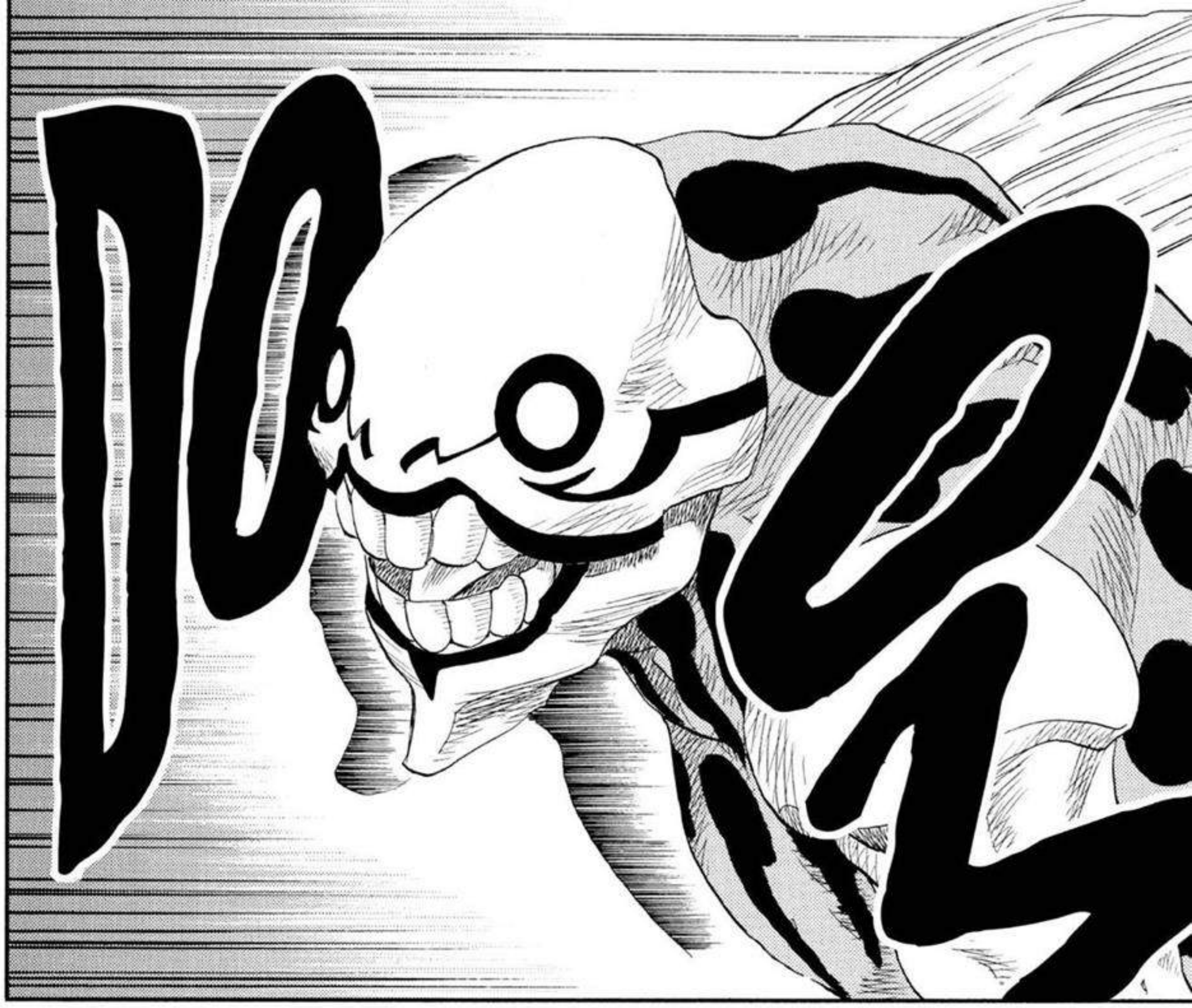
THAT CANNOT BE !!
HE BROKE THE KIDÔ BY HIS OWN POWER ?!
Impossible!!


WAIT!!

WHAT IS HE...?


YUZU !!
DAD !!
WHAM

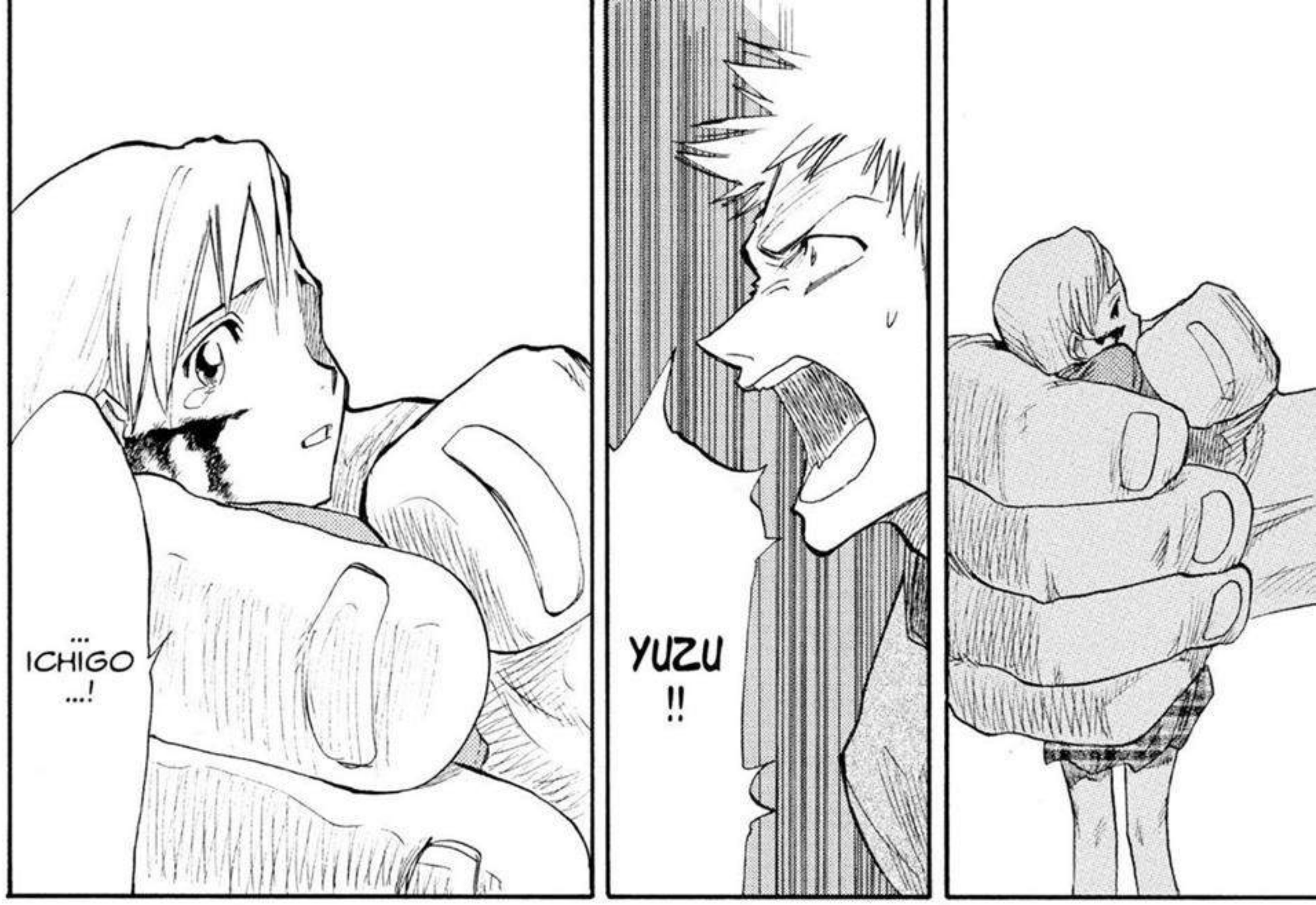
READ THIS WAY



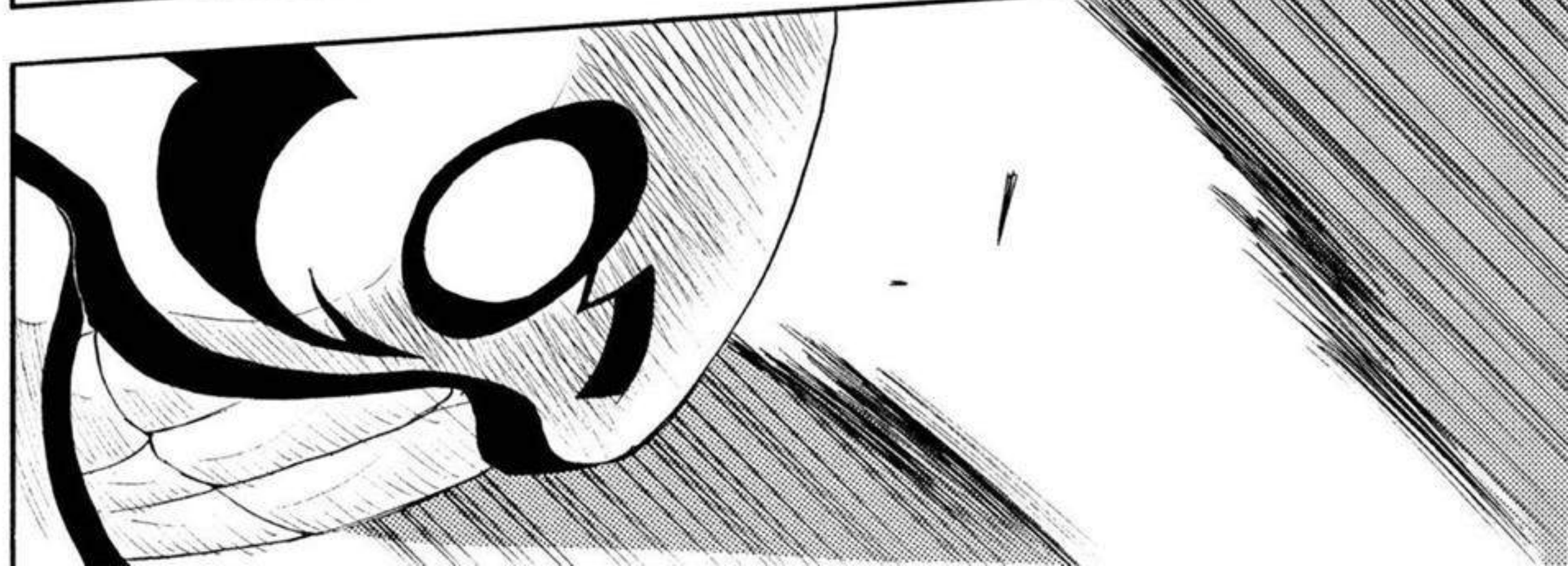
HOLLOW!!
IT'S A...

IT...

WHEN SHE SAID EVIL SPIRIT, I THOUGHT IT'D LOOK HUMAN...
...BUT IT'S A MONSTER!!
BOOO


...
ICHIGO
...!
YUZU
!!

AARGH!
WAP



KRK
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
!!
KREEK

YUZU
!!

SKIP

THE HOLLOW HAS NOT EATEN ANY OF YOUR FAMILY'S SOULS YET!

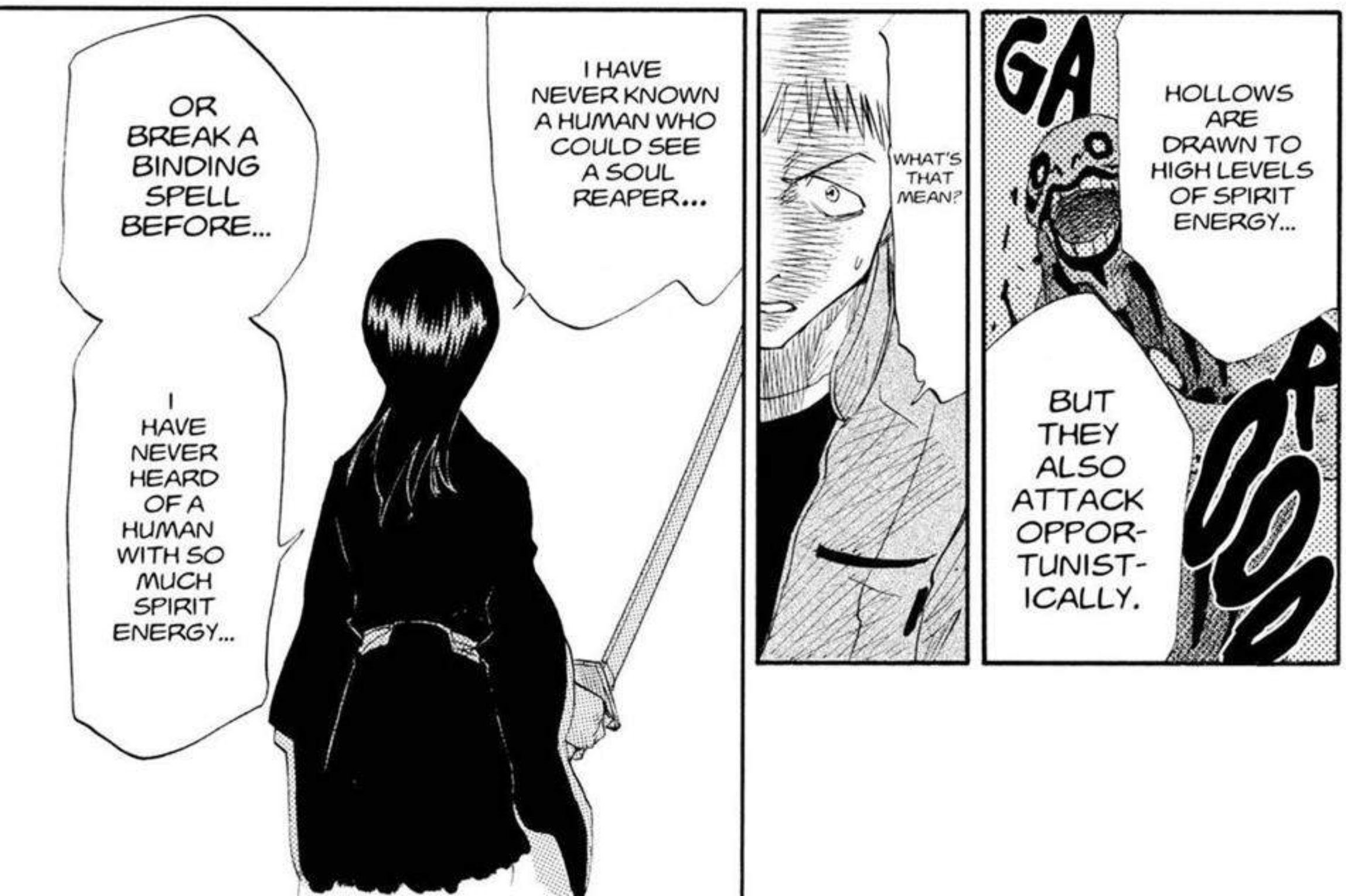
STAY CALM, BOY!

READ THIS WAY

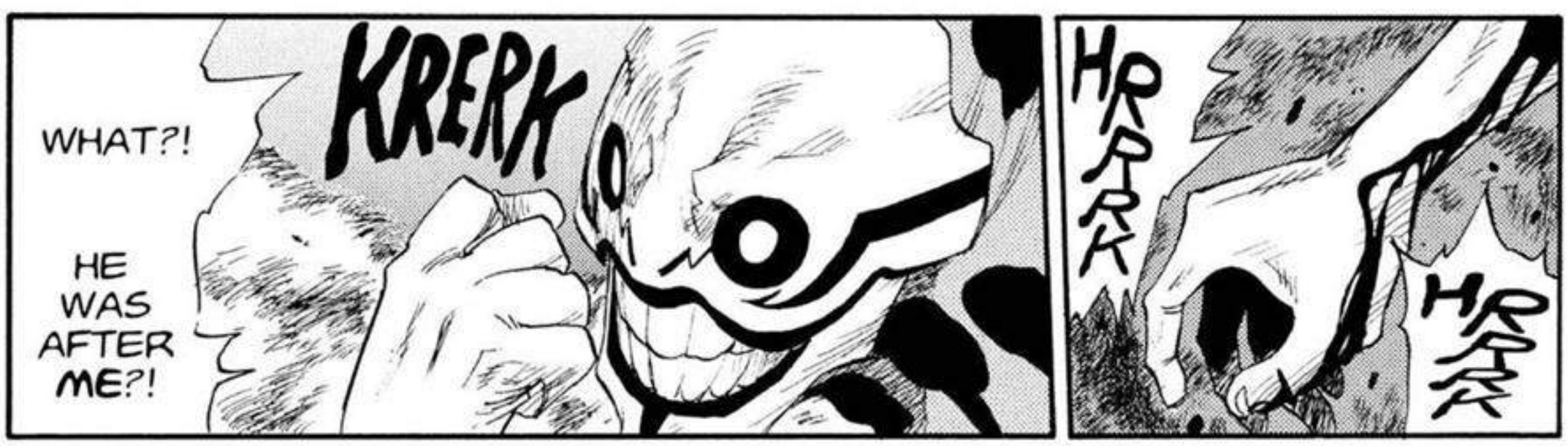
YUZU!

YOU OKAY!?

SHAKE SHAKE



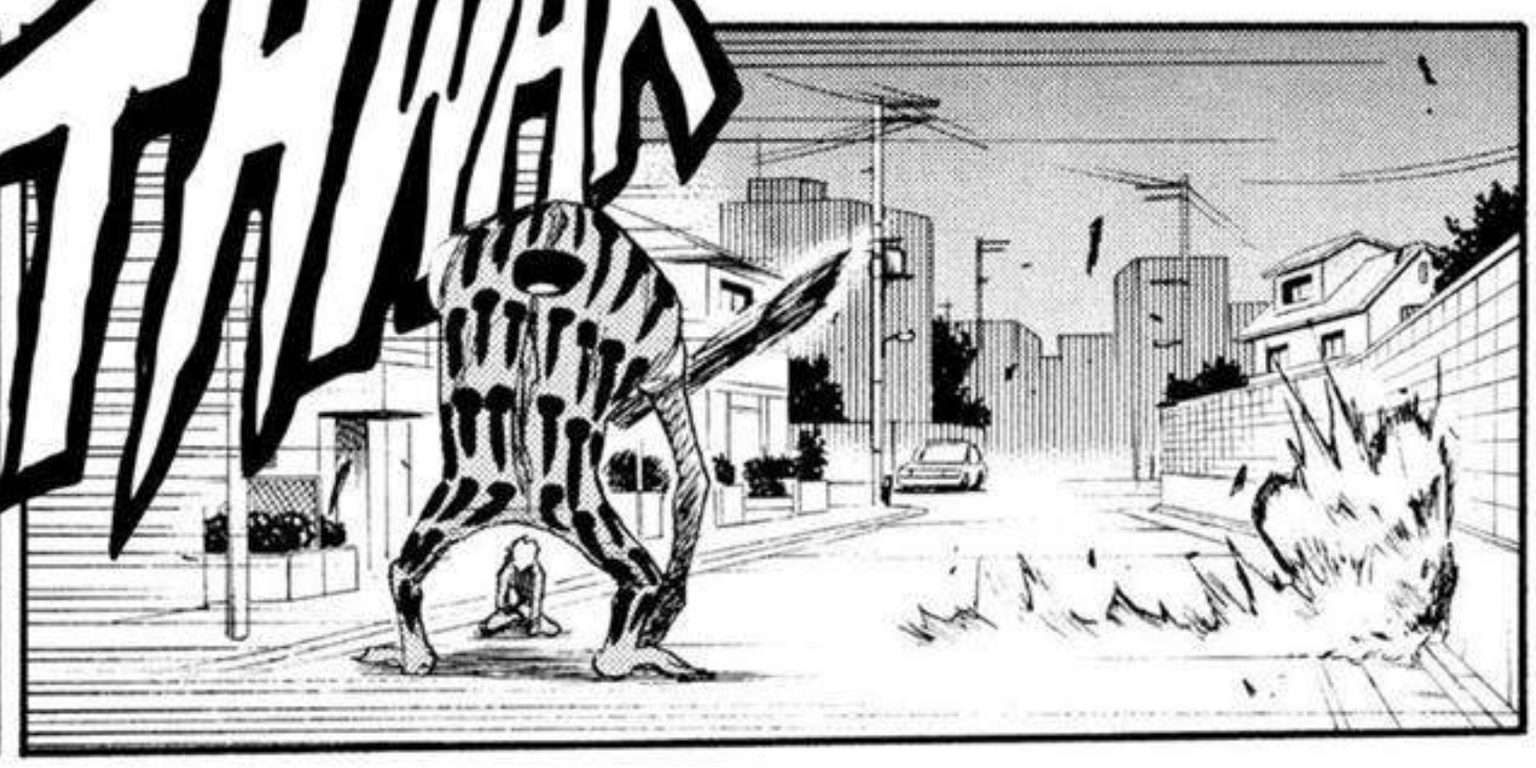
!
FOR YOU!
I BELIEVE HE WAS LOOKING...


WHAT?! HE WAS AFTER ME?!
KRERK
HRRRK
HRRRK

THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEANT...
WAIT...
MY DAD'S DYING OVER THERE...
KARIN ...
AND YUZU BLEEDING...
ALL OF THIS...
ALL THIS ...
WAS 'CAUSE OF ME?!

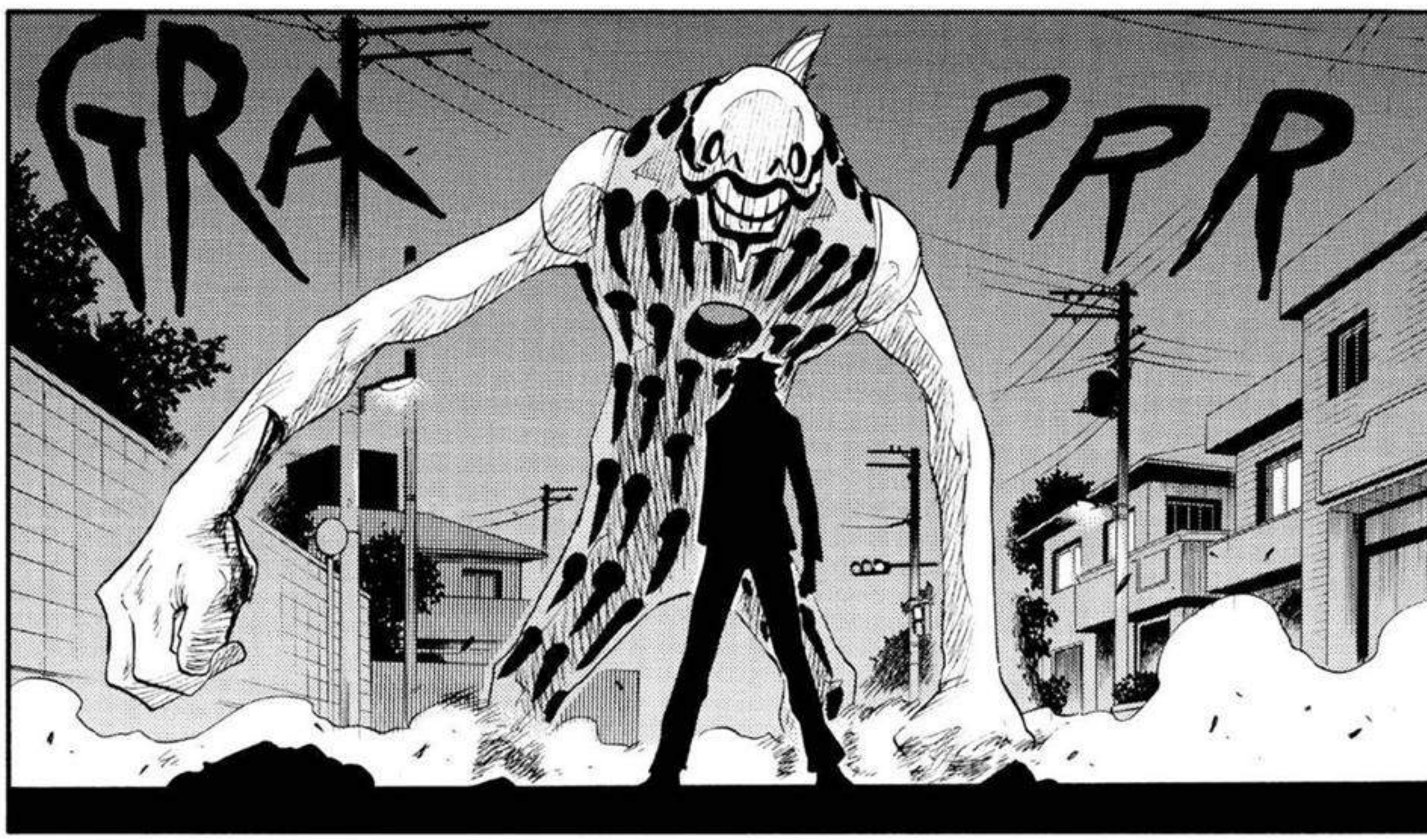
KA-THWAK

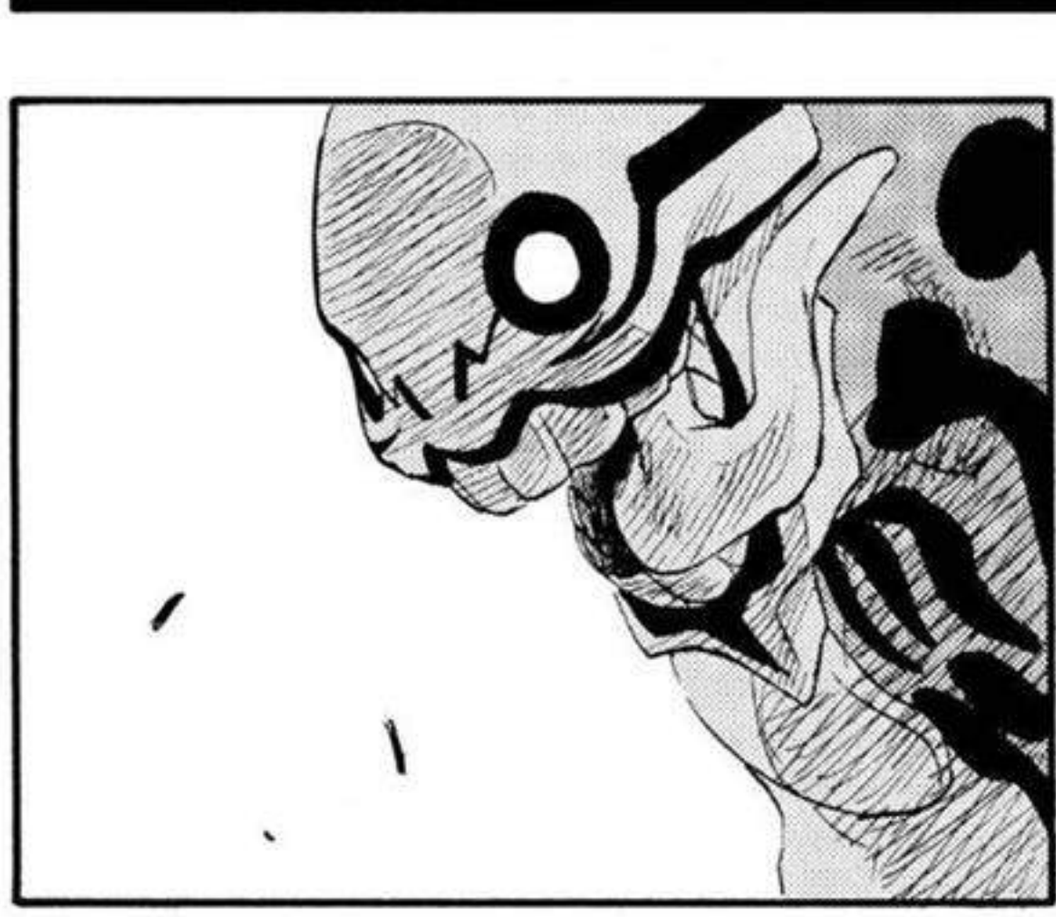
SOUL REAPER!



I FAILED TO GUARD MY FLANK...
HOW CARE-LESS.
SHAME-FUL...

READ THIS WAY
KOOSH
UNH...


GRA
RPP



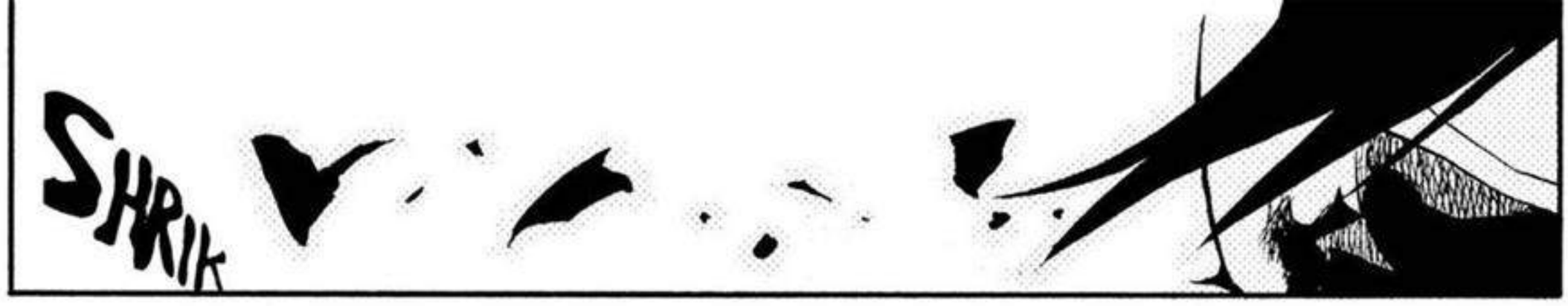
HEY...
UGLY...
YOU WANT MY SOUL?

FORGET THE OTHERS!!

IT'S ME YOU WANT!!

SO KILL ME!!

THEN FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!!


SHRIK

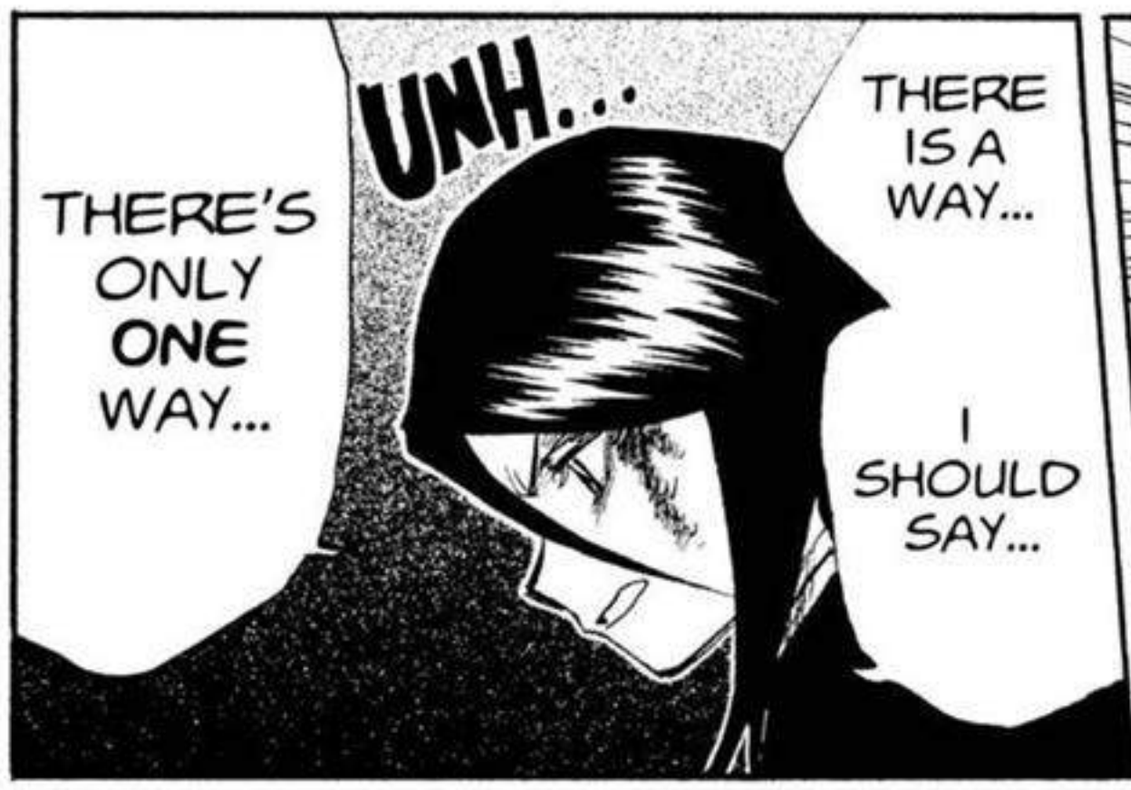
WHIG
MP
STRUM
RAP

WHA
...

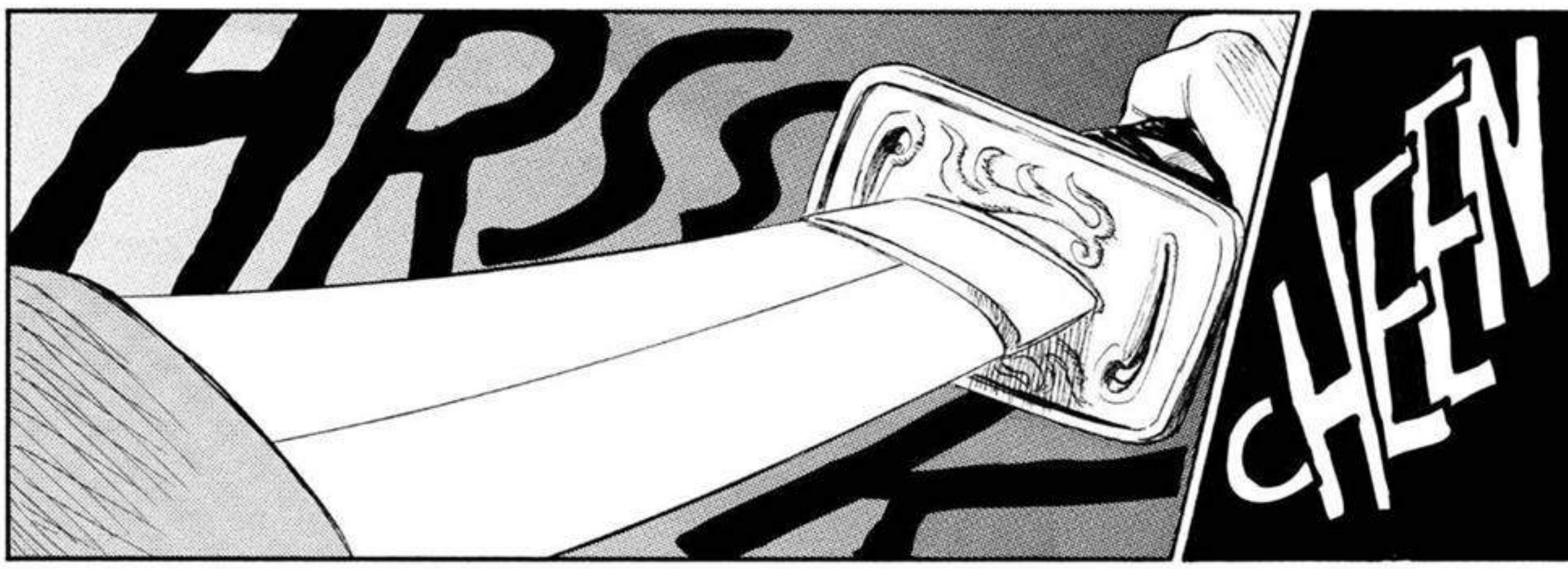
YOU...
FOOL...
HUFF
HUFF

TH
SOUL REAP-ER!!

READ THIS WAY
THEN YOU ARE A FOOL!
DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE OVER IF YOU GAVE HIM YOUR SOUL?
FOOL ...
I AM TOO BADLY INJURED TO FIGHT IT...
I FEAR... I CANNOT CONSOLE YOU...
I'M SORRY ...
I JUST WANTED TO...
UNTIL WE ALL BECOME ITS FOOD.
IT IS A MATTER OF TIME...
DO YOU WISH TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY?
HUFF
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

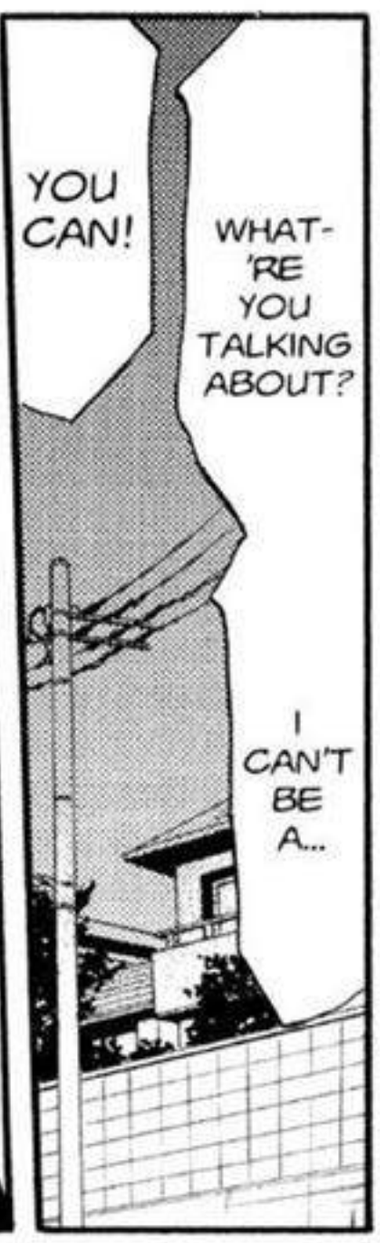

UNH...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...
THERE IS A WAY...
I SHOULD SAY...

!!
TELL ME !!
JUST TELL ME HOW!
I'LL DO ANYTHING!!


HPSS
CHEEN

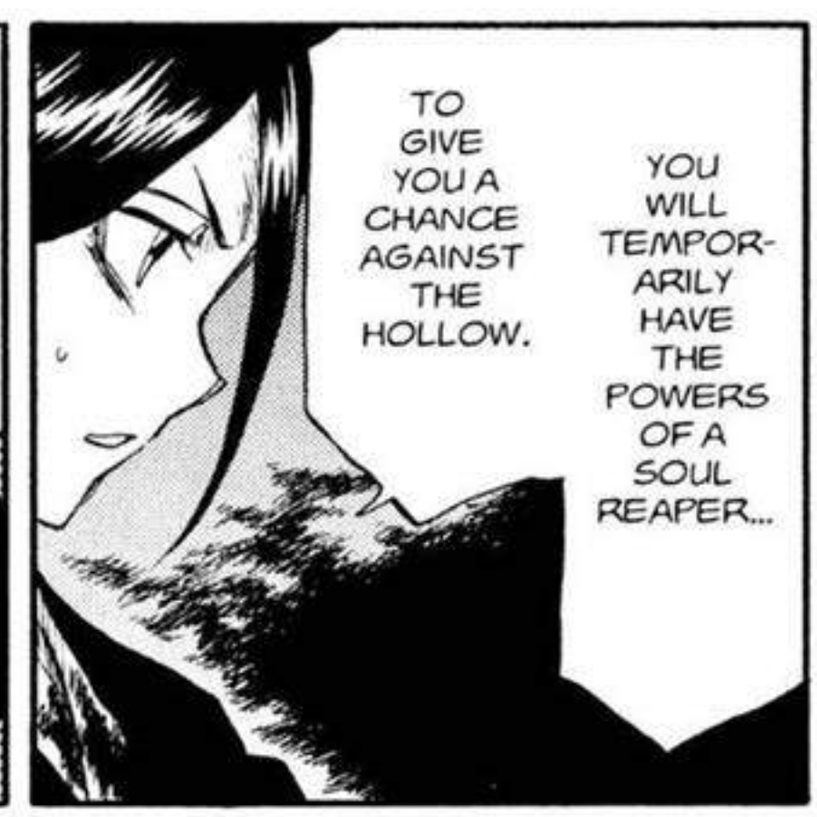
YOU MUST ...
... BECOME A SOUL REAPER !!
WHASH

AND I WILL INFUSE YOU WITH HALF OF MY SOUL REAPER POWERS--
MY DARK FORCE!
PLACE THE POINT OF ZANPAKU-TÔ, GHOST-CUTTER, OVER YOUR HEART...


YOU CAN!
WHAT-'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I CAN'T BE A...

!!
WHAT ...

THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS LOW, AND...
IF WE FAIL, YOU DIE!
PERHAPS, BECAUSE YOUR SOUL IS SO POWERFUL, BUT...
I DO NOT KNOW.
ARROOOOOO
ARE YOU SURE...
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?


TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE AGAINST THE HOLLOW.
YOU WILL TEMPORARILY HAVE THE POWERS OF A SOUL REAPER...

BA-BA-BA-

...ICHIGO...

!!

WHERE ARE YOU...?
...ICHIGO...

YUZU...
IS SHE HAVING A BAD DREAM?

DON'T COME...
DAN-GER...
...RUN...
...ICHIGO...

WORRYING ABOUT ME WHEN THEY WERE IN DANGER!

MY SIS-TERS ...

THIS IS SO BAD!

WE'LL TRY YOUR PLAN!
GIMME THE SWORD, SOUL REAPER!

I'D HAVE TO BE A REAL PUNK TO DO THAT !!

TO CONSIDER MY OWN SAFETY NOW...
Kpk

I AM RUKIA KUCHIKI.

NOT "SOUL REAPER."

LET'S PRAY THIS WON'T BE...

OUR LAST MEET-ING.

OH...

ICHIGO KUROSAKI, NICE TO MEETCHYA ...

WOOOOP
YES.
BA-BA-BA-BA-BA-BMP BMP BMP BMP BMP
READY?

BO
!?

SMASH
FWOOM

SPLAT

THAT ROOM WAS FULL OF SPIRIT ENERGY... FROM HIM.

THAT WAS WHAT CONFUSED MY SENSES!

THE ZANPAKU-TÔ RESPONDS TO DARK FORCE BY CHANGING SHAPE...

NEVER HAVE I SEEN A HUMAN BREAK A BINDING SPELL!

NEVER HAVE I HEARD OF A HUMAN WHO COULD SEE A SOUL REAPER!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN IT SO HUGE !!

SHIN

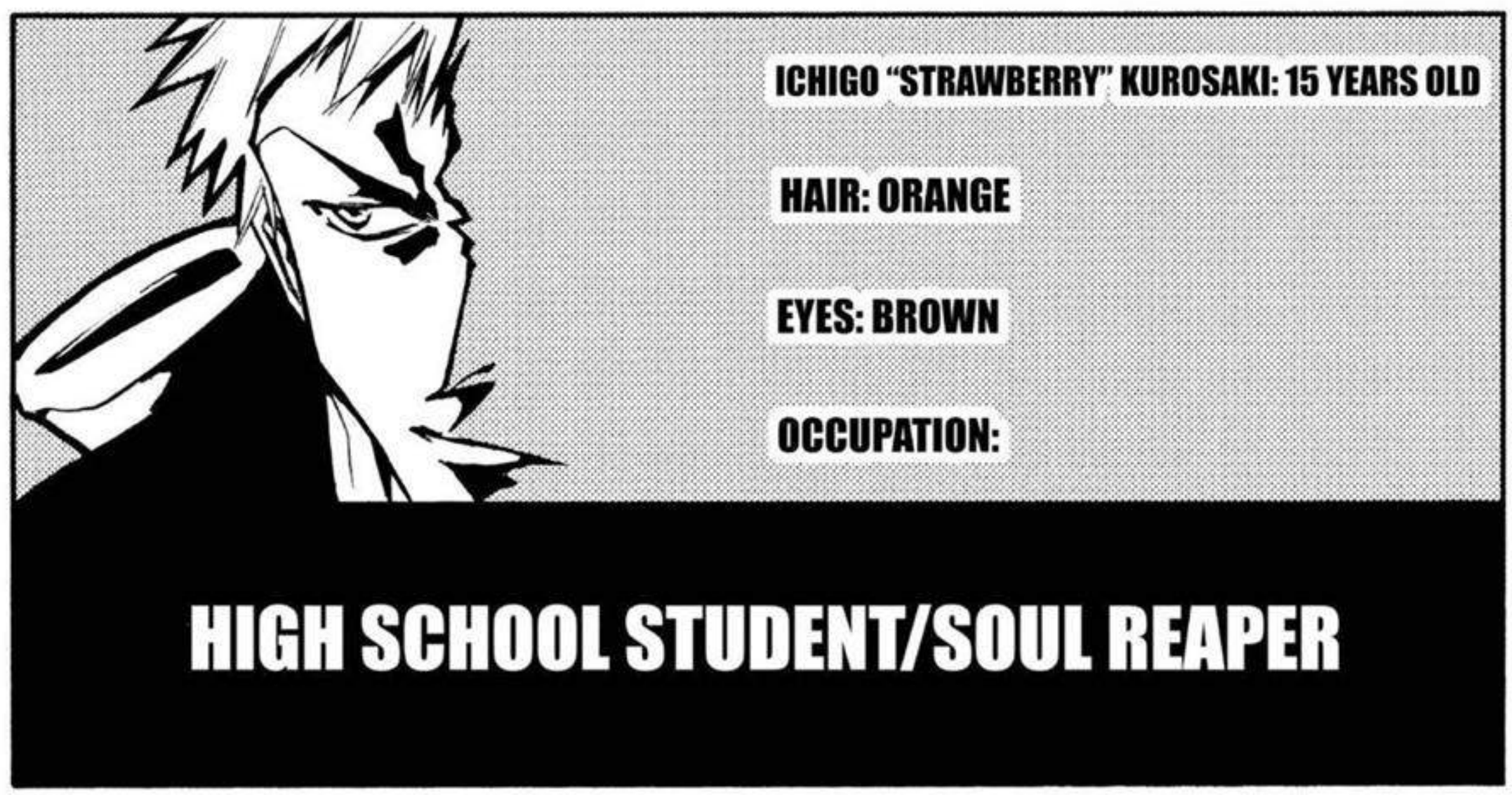
SHIN

SHIN

WHAT IN THE WORLD ...
YOU FISH-FACED FREAK!!
THAT'S FOR ATTACK-ING MY FAMILY --

SWIP
...IS THIS CHILD?

READ THIS WAY


ICHIGO "STRAWBERRY" KUROSAKI: 15 YEARS OLD
HAIR: ORANGE
EYES: BROWN
OCCUPATION:
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/SOUL REAPER