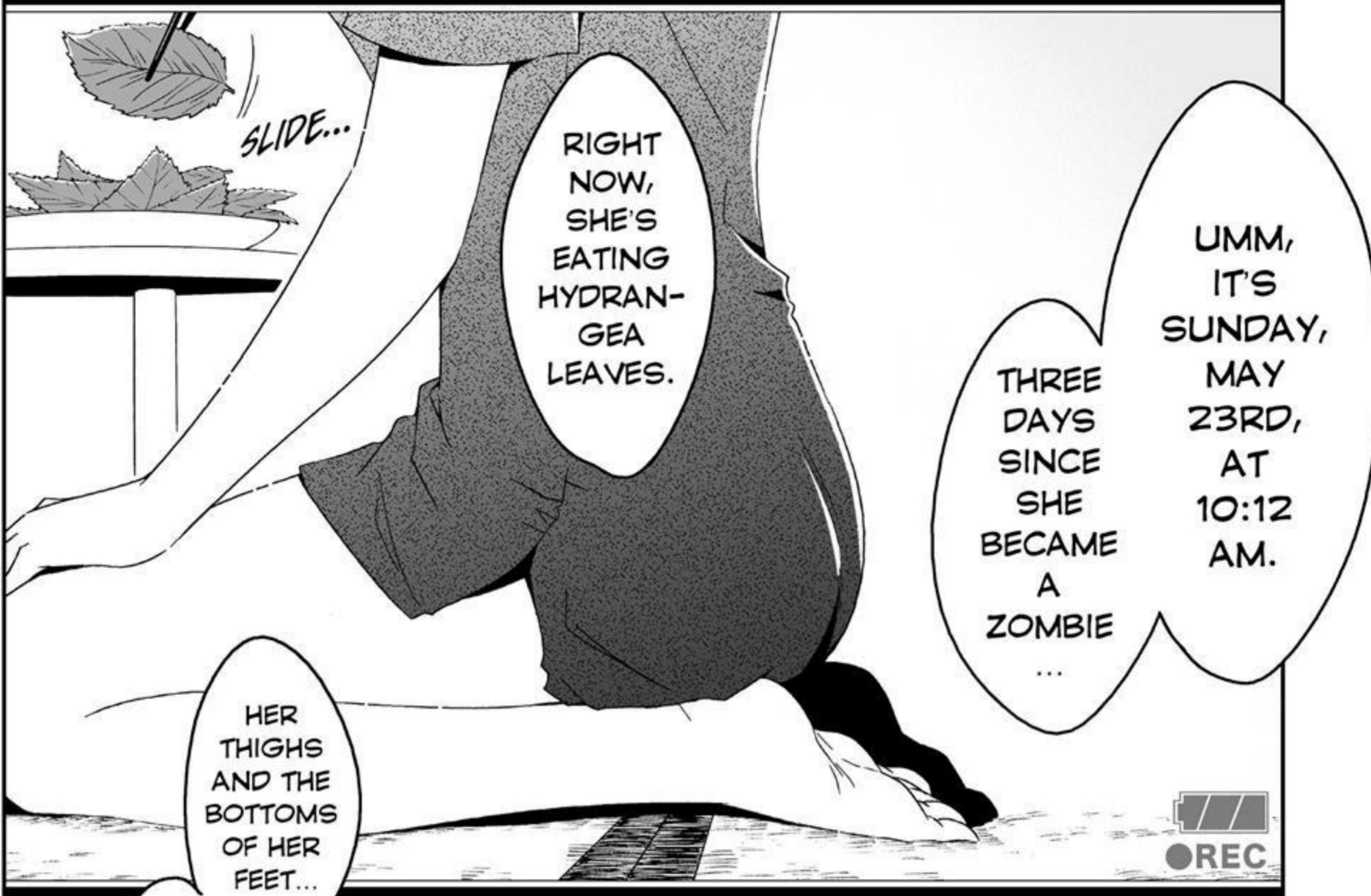




7

A FALSE... FREEDOM...

♦ ♦ DAWN OF THE DEAD ♦ ♦



IT'S
SORT
OF...
REALLY
EMBARR-
ASSING...

BLUSH

WHAT?
NO
WAY
...

NO, NO,
THIS IS
FOR YOUR
OWN
GOOD,
REA.

ORE

HMM?
MAKING A
RECORD OF
MY ZOMBIE
OBSERVA-
TIONS.

FURUYA-
KUN,
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
...?

STARE

Video camera he borrowed from his dad.

WHAAT?

GRIN GRIN GRIN



GRIN GRIN GRIN

FROM
TODAY ON
I'M GOING
TO COLLECT
EVERYTHING
(AND I MEAN
EVERYTHING)
ABOUT YOU
ON THESE
VIDEOS
!!

THERE ARE
SEVERAL THINGS
I'VE REALIZED
SINCE I STARTED
OBSERVING
HER.



meow



C'MON,
SHOW
ME
MORE!!
SHOW
ME!!

hoooot
hoooot

THAT EXTRA TIME COULD BE PRETTY USEFUL, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND IT SEEMS BORING, BECAUSE I STILL FALL ASLEEP.

FIRST OFF, IT SEEMS THAT ZOMBIES DON'T REALLY NEED SLEEP.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE EFFECTS OF THE ELIXIR, SHE EATS HYDRANGEA LEAVES EVERY FEW HOURS OR SO...

HEY, YOU GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM?
HUH?
ALSO, IT SEEMS SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T NEED TO GO NUMBER 1 OR NUMBER 2.

STARE



BUB SPIT UP A BALL OF ROLLED-UP HYDRANGEA THAT HE HAD EATEN, JUST LIKE COUGHING UP A HAIRBALL. SO REA IS PROBABLY DOING THE SAME THING...?!

OOH ?!

ROLL



HUH?
...YOU'LL
DO
WHAT
I ASK
YOU
TO DO,
RIGHT
?

W...
WELL
THEN,
IN
RETURN
FOR
LETTING
YOU
FILM
ME...

ISN'T
SOM-
THING
GONNA
COME OUT
OF YOUR
MOUTH
?

IF SO,
THEN I
WANT TO
CAPTURE
THAT
MOMENT
...

What
does
he
want
from
me...
?

conan
HD

WHEE
WHEE

HUH?
HUH?

...BY
WHICH
YOU
MEAN
?

THINGS
THAT
"NORMAL
GIRLS"
DO.

WELL,
FURUYA-
KUN?

HOW
ABOUT
THIS
?

WOOOS!

I AM
CHOO-
SING
CLOTH-
ING,
AFTER
ALL...

HUMPH

PLEASE
LOOK
MORE
CARE-
FULLY
!!

HUMPH

NO... I
MEAN... ^

COME
ON,
FURUYA-
KUN!!

HUH?
YEAH,
THAT
ONE'S
FINE.



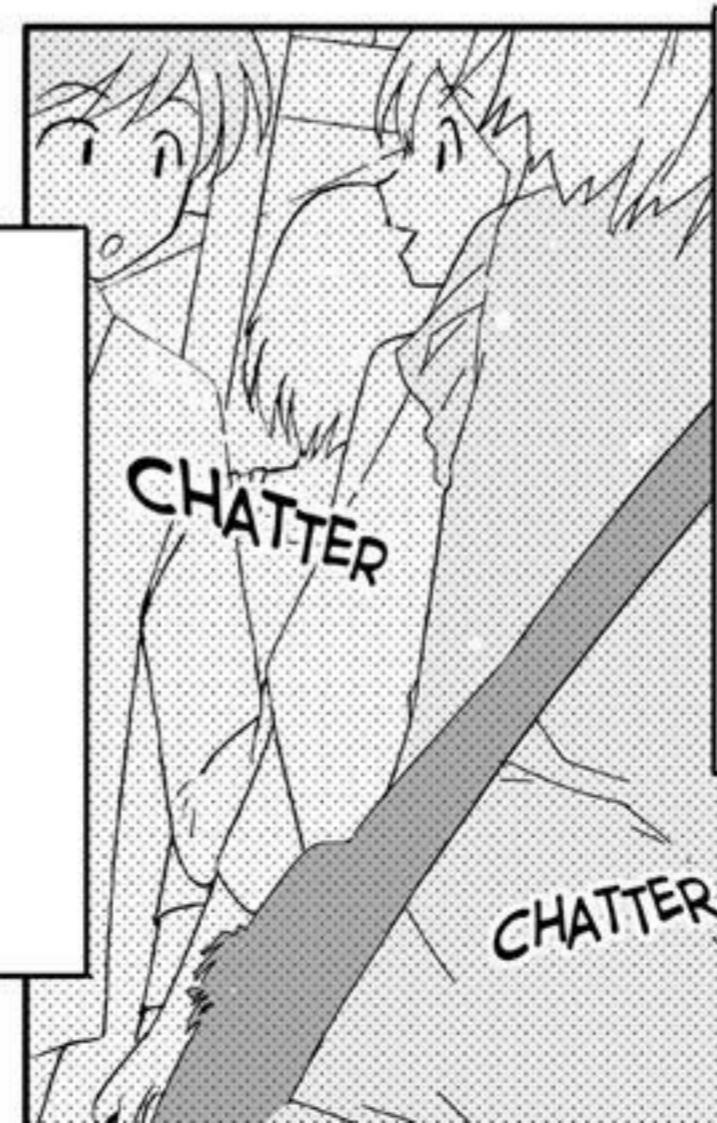
FOR A WHILE NOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CHOOSING ANYTHING AT ALL.

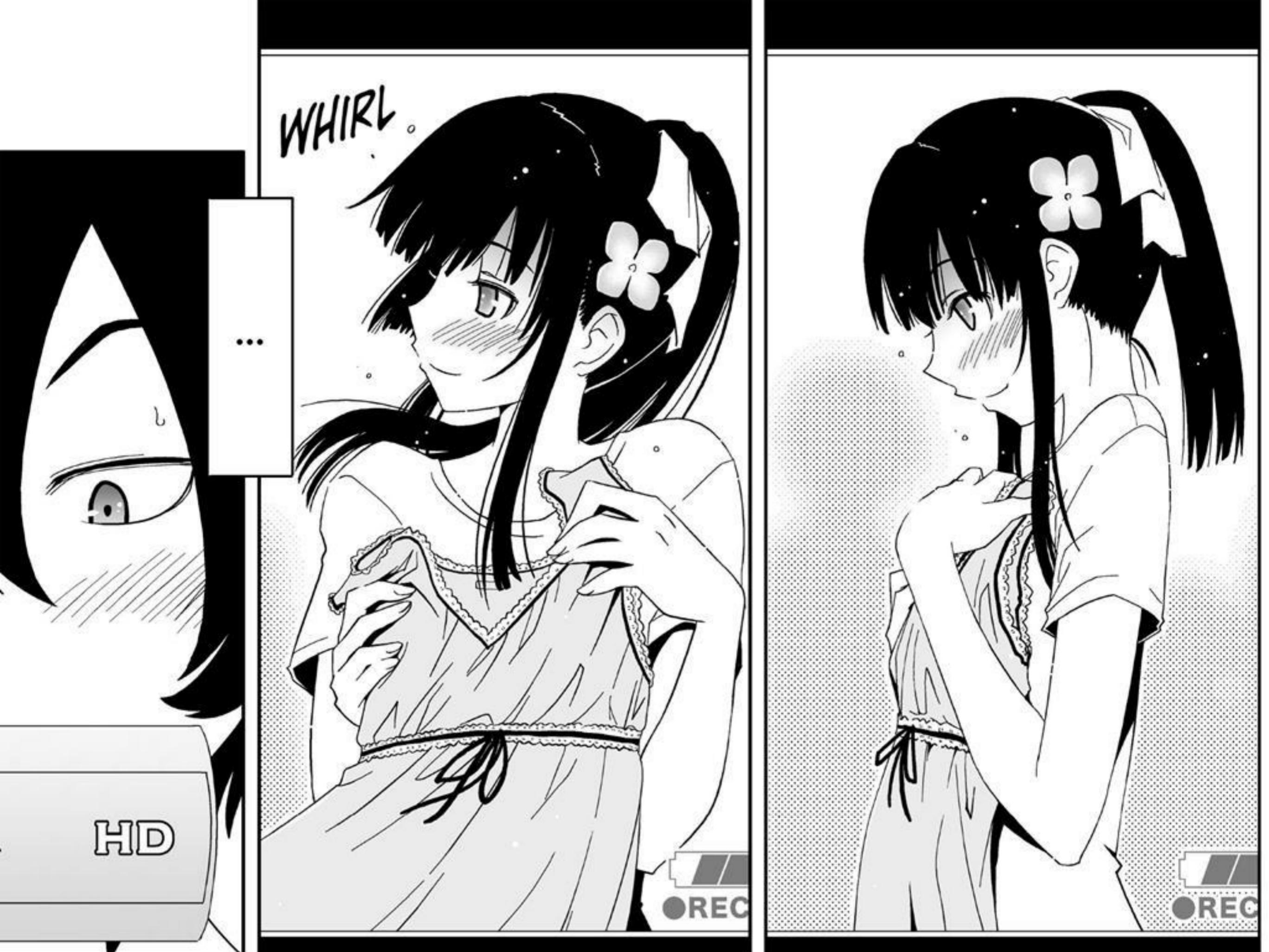
We've been going around for more than half an hour.

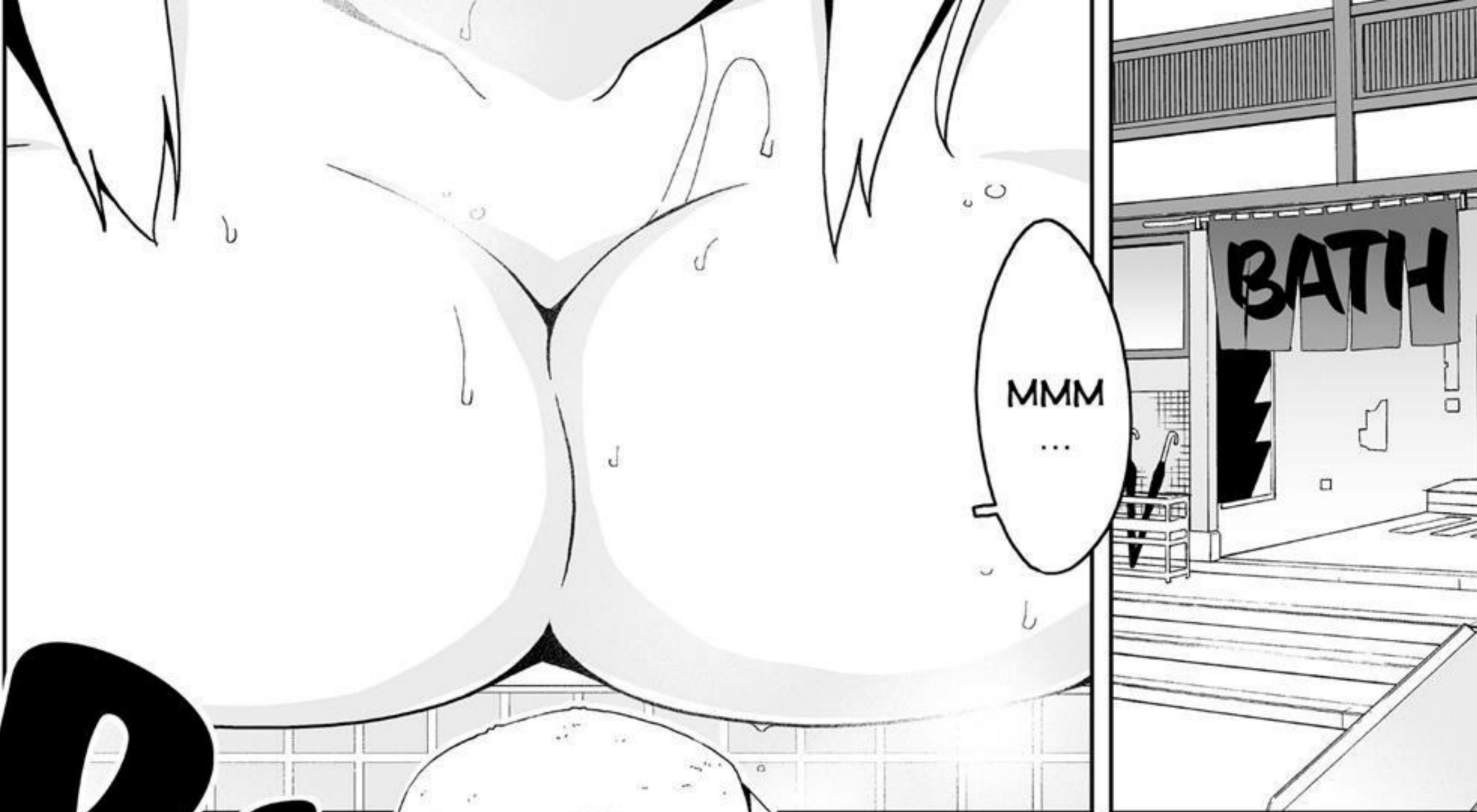


THAT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH SHE WANTS TO GO SHOPPING...

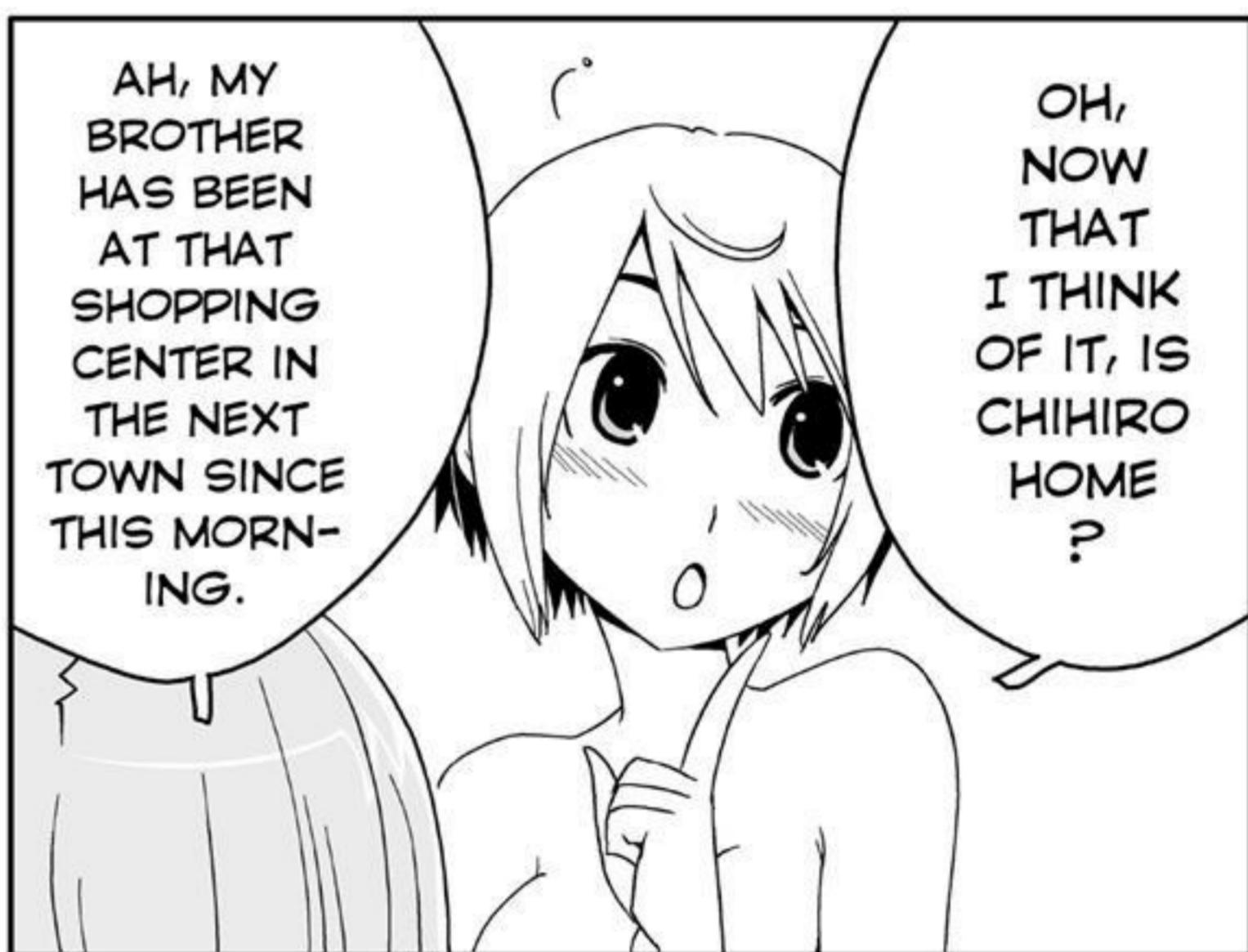
I MEAN... SHE'S OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY... EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HER IT WOULD JUST SPEED UP THE DAMAGE TO HER BODY...











I'LL
GO
IN THE
BATH
ONCE
MORE
WITH
YOU,
MERO-
CHAN
!!

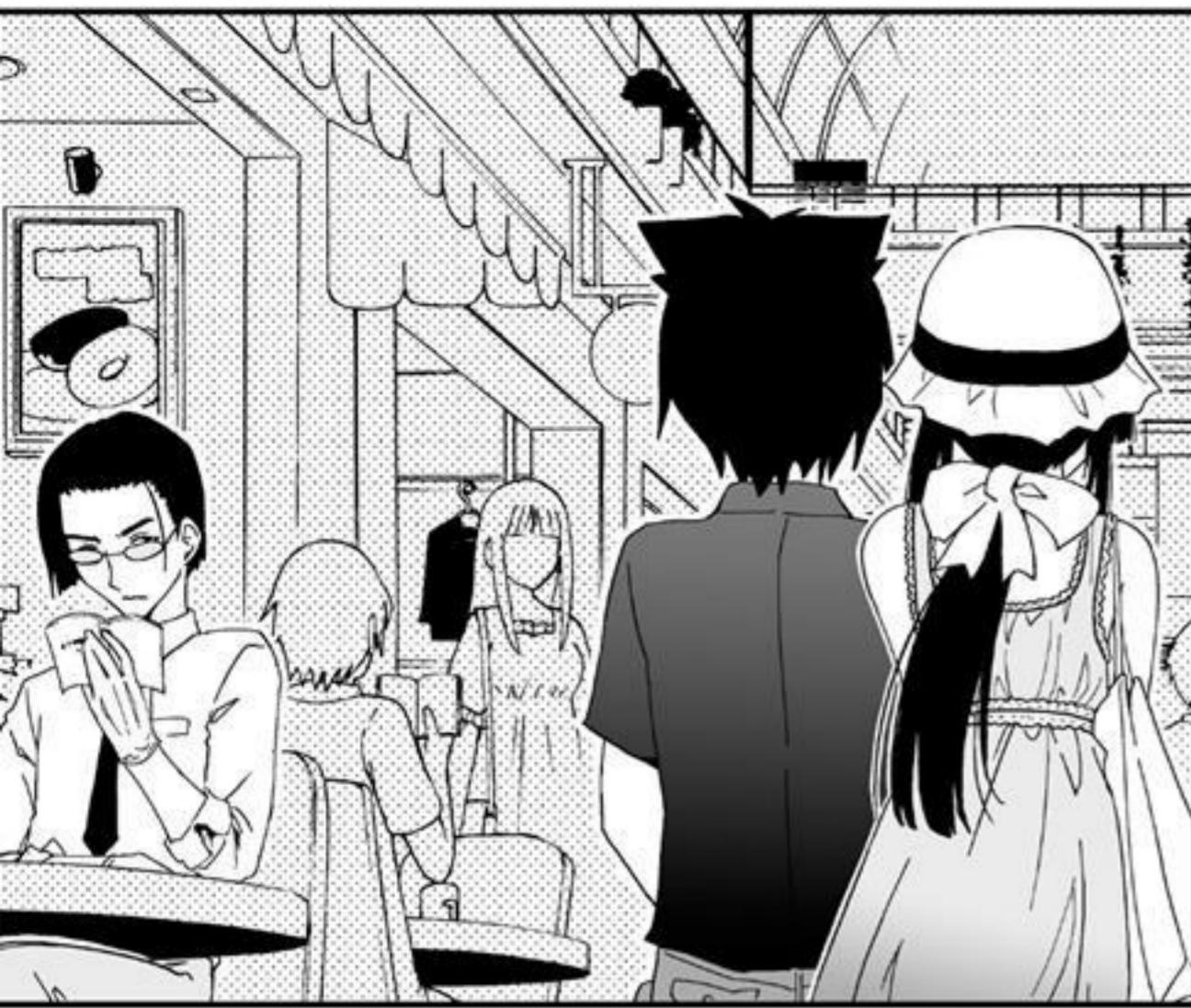














MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
YOU'RE
REALLY
PRETTY
CALM WITH
ALL THIS
STUFF,
AREN'T
YOU?

LIKING
ZOMBIES
AND HORROR
MOVIES AND
LIKING THIS
KIND OF
THING ARE
ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT,
I'M TELLING
YOU...

HM
?

I'D
NEVER
EXPECTED
YOU TO
HATE
HAUNTED
HOUSES,
FURUYA-
KUN...!

S-
SHUT
UP!

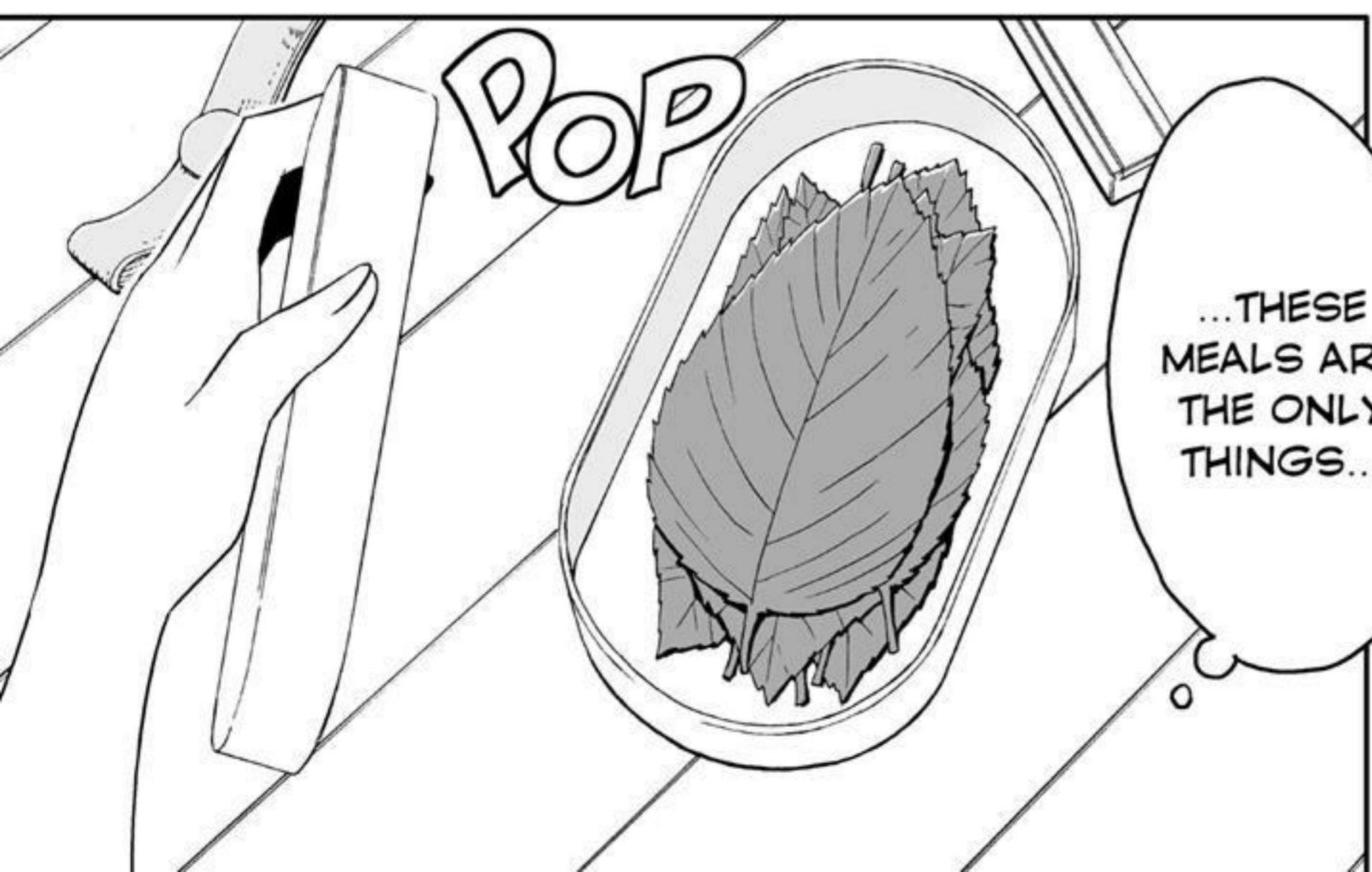
BUT YOU
WITHSTOOD
ALL THAT
JUST TO
GO IN
WITH ME.

W...
WHAT
IS IT?
ARE YOU
MAKING
FUN OF
ME?!

Tee
hee
hee.

FLOOR

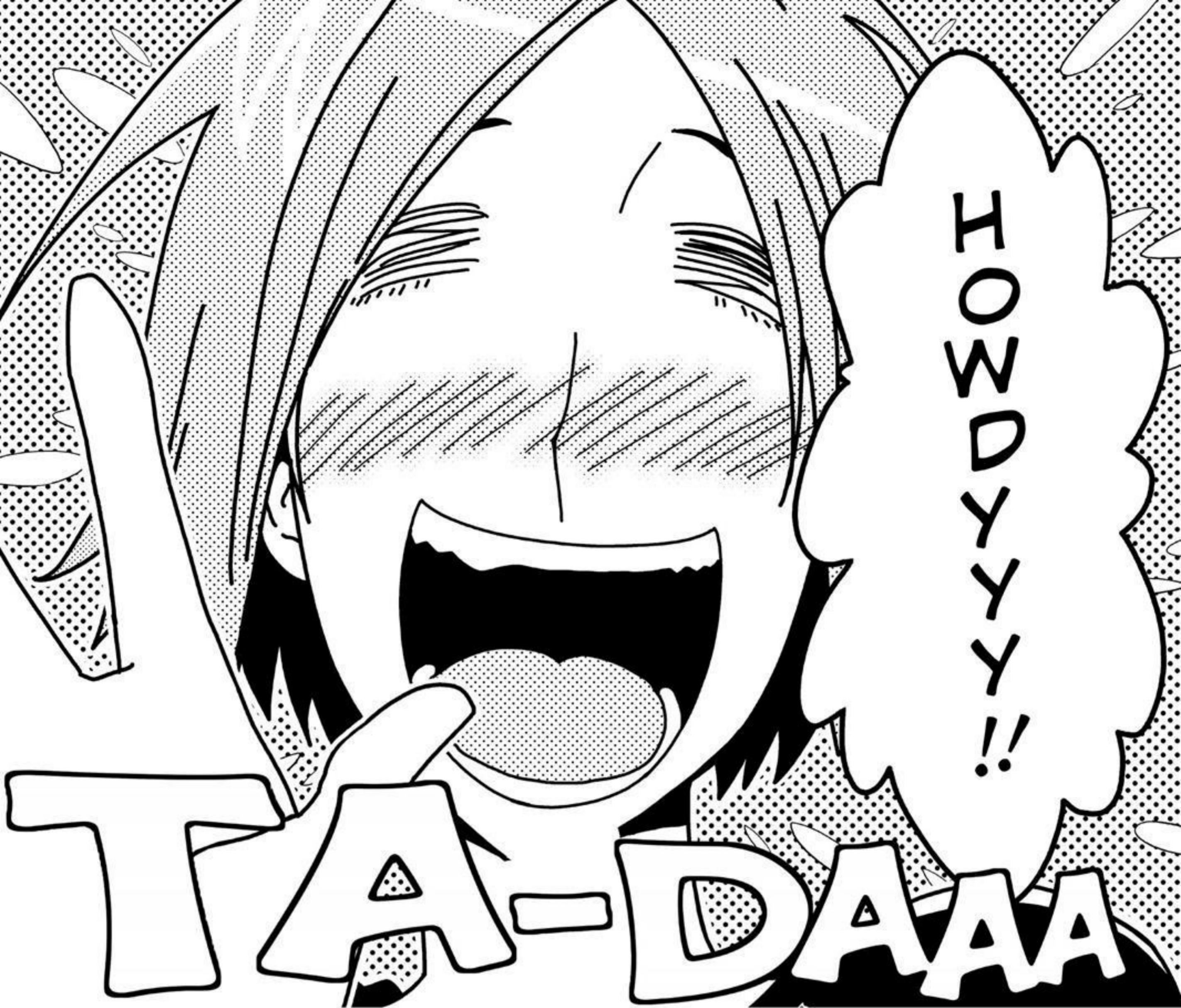


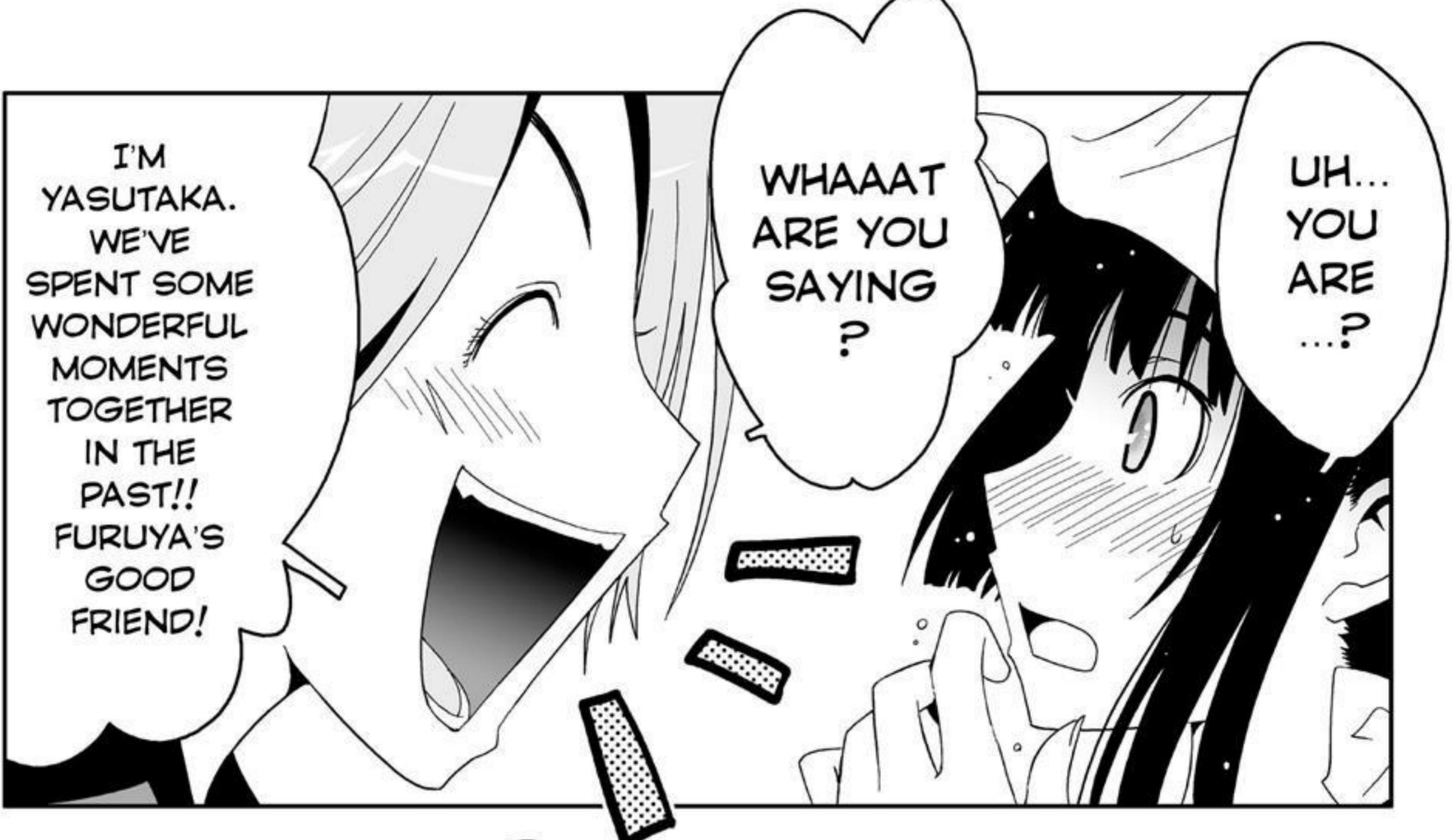


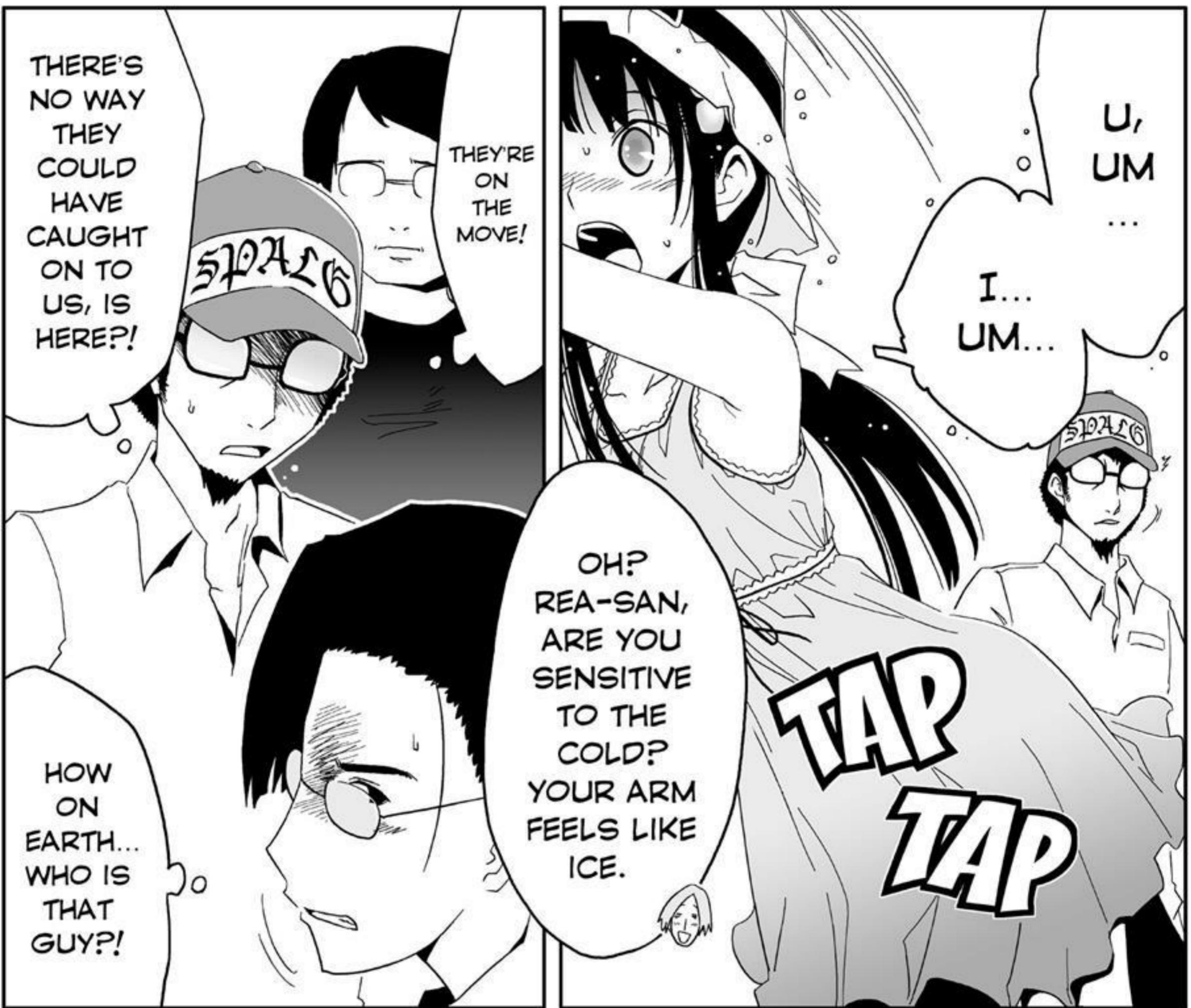
...THESE
MEALS ARE
THE ONLY
THINGS...

































SANKAREA ANECDOTES

About the Setting

2

This time I'll talk about the setting of this story, the town of Shiyoh.

Even outside of "Sankarea," I always base the settings of my published works on actual locales (though the names and the details of the terrain are made up). Just as with my previous works, this time around I used a real place as a model for the setting again.

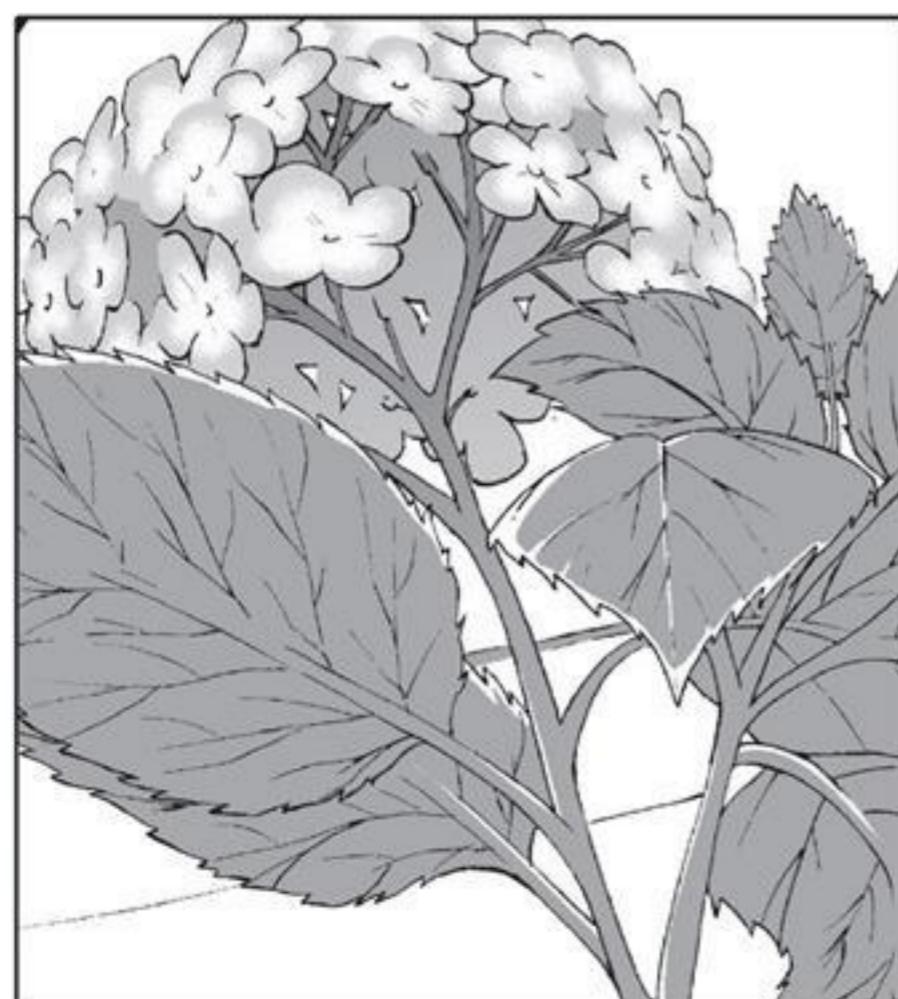
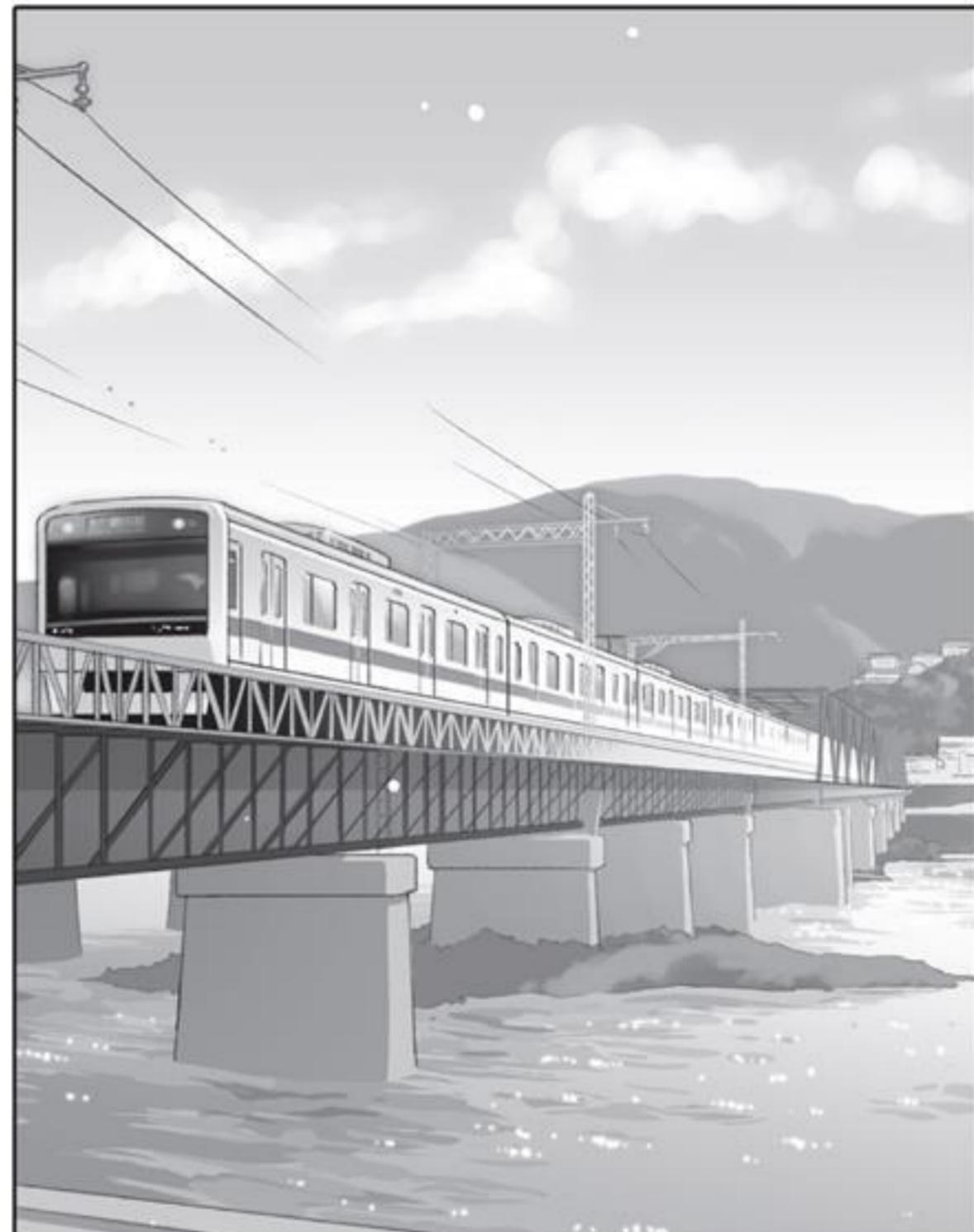
The chance for this occurred when I was on vacation, traveling. I happened to pass this place by train and thought, "Wow." It's not that it had any particular characteristics, but for some reason the place had something that stayed inside of me.

A while later, it came time for me to begin a new comic about zombies. Though I considered a lot of different ideas, none of them really took shape, and I nearly decided to give up on the subject.

It was then that I suddenly remembered the area I just mentioned. I had a vague thought, like, "I don't know if I can gain something from this, but let's go there, and I can take a breather, too!" Without any concrete plans, I left suddenly on the first train towards the place.

Anyway, while taking pictures, I hung around the area with no real purpose at all. I'm the type who enjoys just walking around an area I don't know, and it felt good to take a break from work. The town, the nature, the lives of the local people...

While looking at all sorts of things, I started to feel more and more like, "Oh, I think I can use this," "That place is great, huh." All kinds of ideas came bubbling up, and just as though my writer's block had never happened, I was completely ready to go as soon as I got home!! Ah, it's the first time I've gotten so much out of location hunting. (Heh!)



Hydrangeas are so connected to this story because when I went, they just happened to be having a hydrangea festival nearby, and so I ended up thinking that having zombies made from hydrangea toxins was a surprisingly weird but possibly good idea. When I looked down at the town from an herb garden on top of the mountain, the character of a daughter of a famous family living in a mansion on the mountain, semi-isolated from the outside world, who dies and becomes a zombie because she wants to be free came bubbling up.

So that place that became the setting for "Sankarea" . . . any bored people out there, why not try to investigate where it is? Though I think if you search a little you'll find it right away. (Heh.)