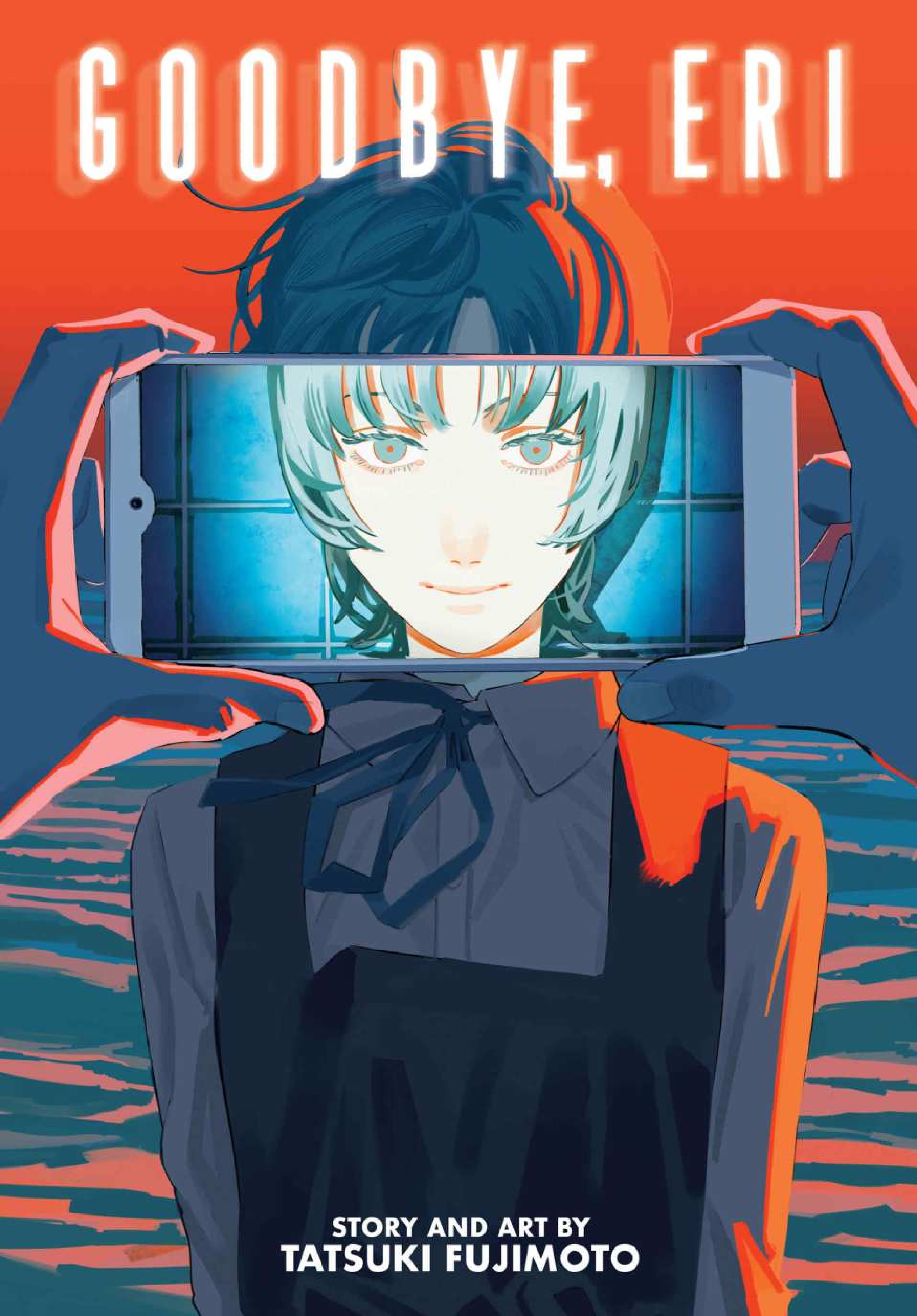

GOODBYE, ERI
STORY AND ART BY
TATSUKI FUJIMOTO

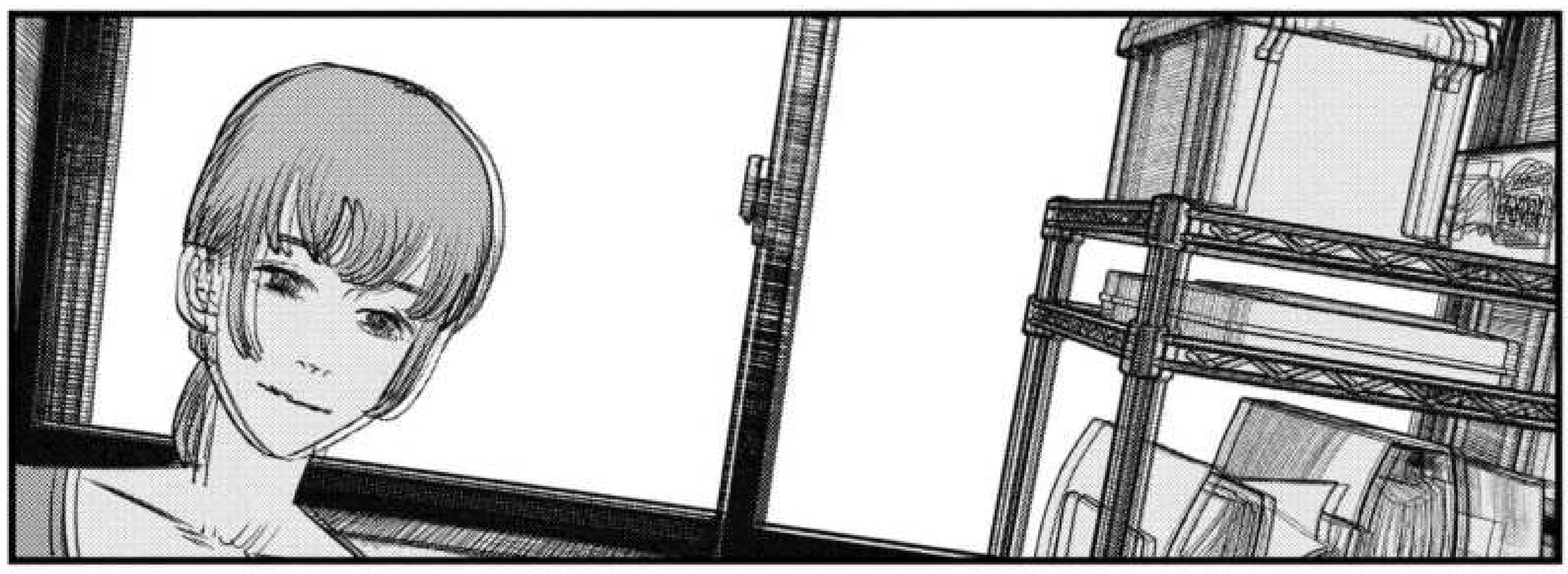
GOODBYE, ERI

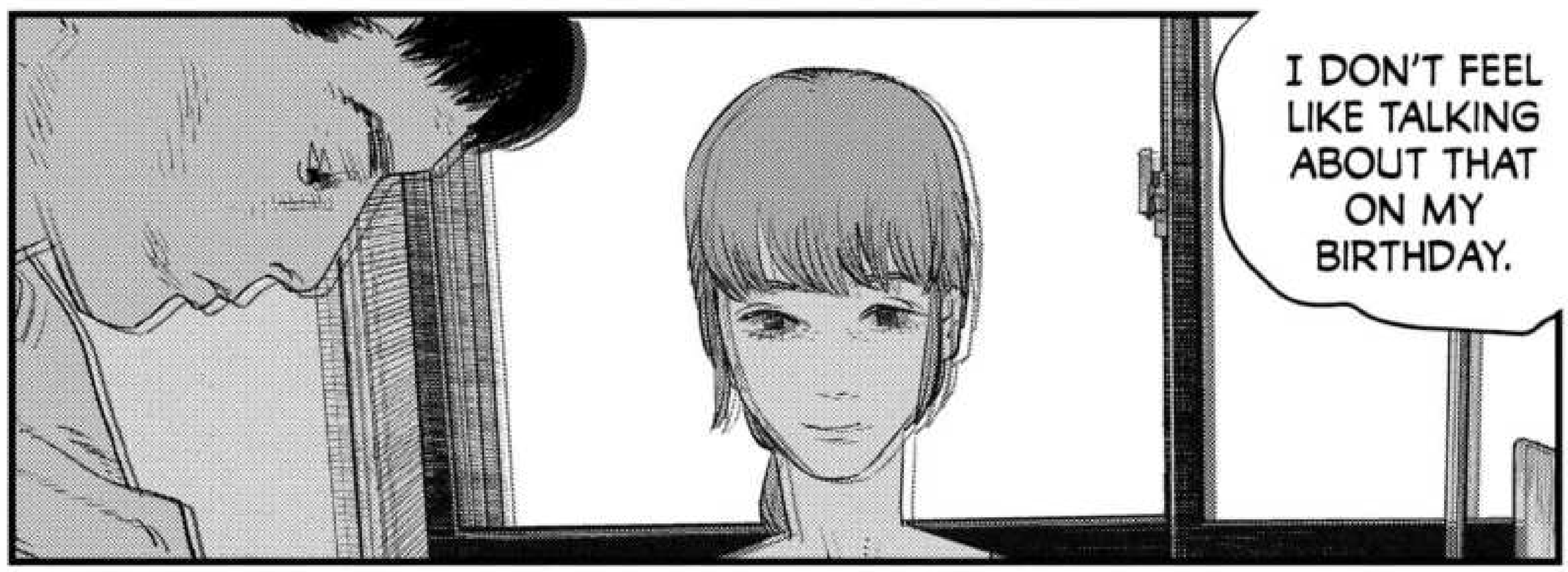
STORY AND ART BY
TATSUKI FUJIMOTO

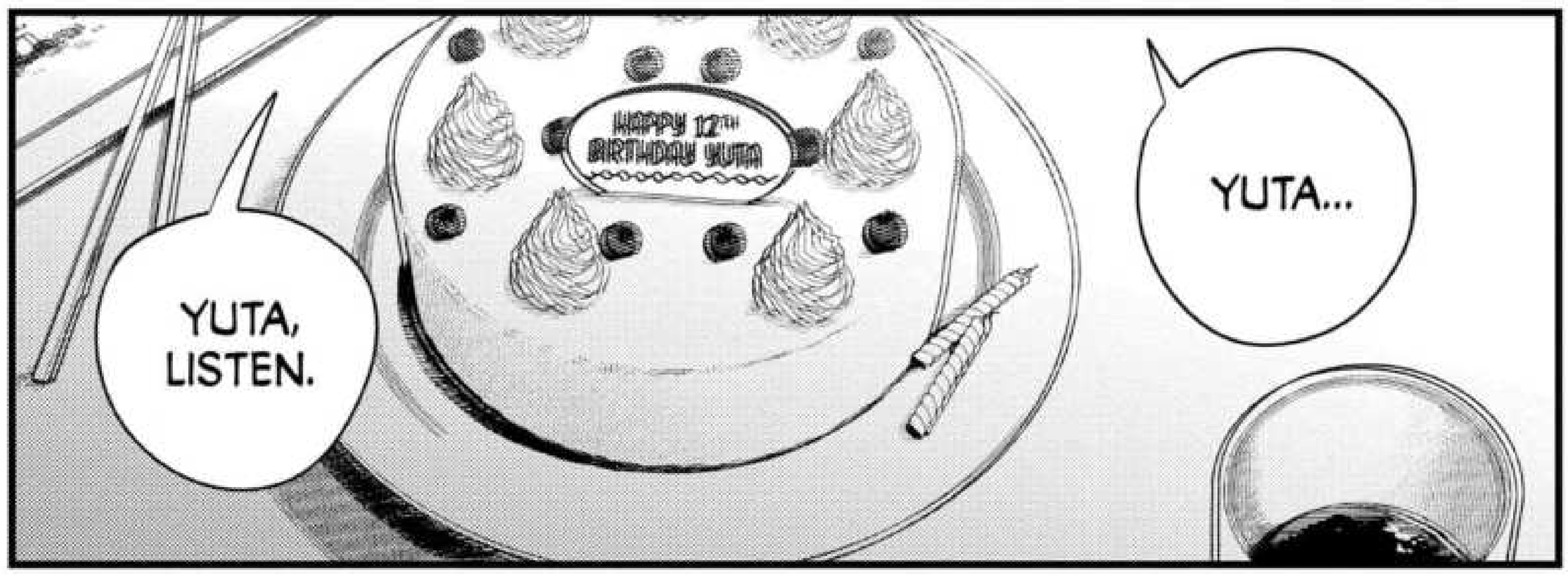
GOODBYE, ERI

THIS IS MY MOM AND DAD.
I GOT A SMART-PHONE FOR MY BIRTHDAY.
WOOT!
TA-DAA!
AND THIS IS ME. I JUST STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY YUTA
IT'S SHORTCAKE WITH WHIPPED CREAM.
HERE'S MY BIRTHDAY CAKE.
...CAN I MAKE A SMALL REQUEST?
HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY YUTA
LISTEN. AS YOUR MOM...
YUTA.

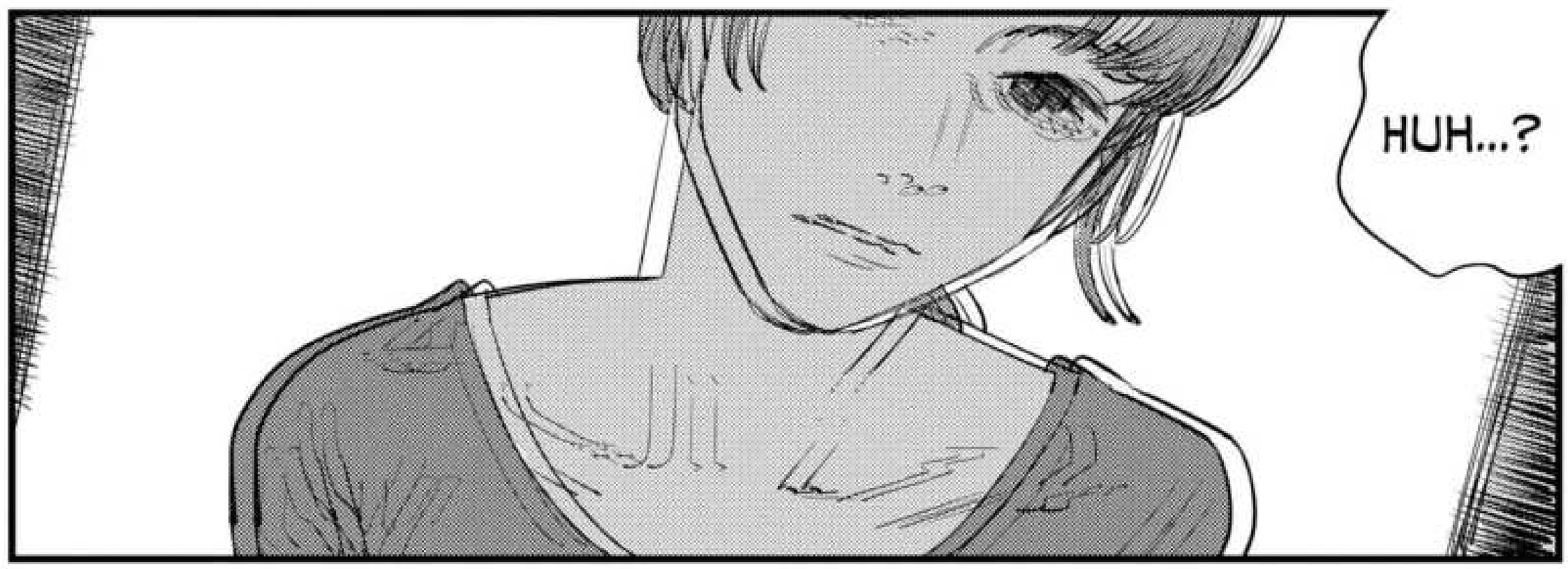
HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
YOU KNOW HOW I COULD DIE FROM MY ILLNESS?
HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY YUTA



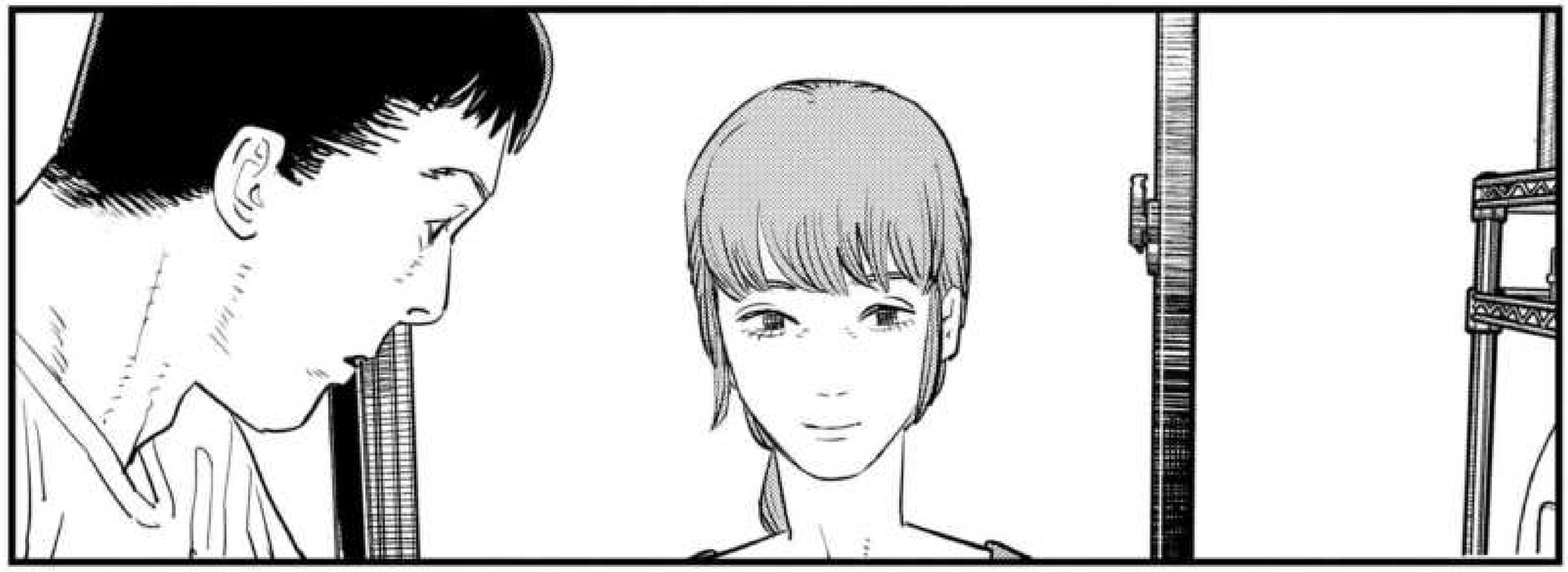

I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT THAT ON MY BIRTHDAY.

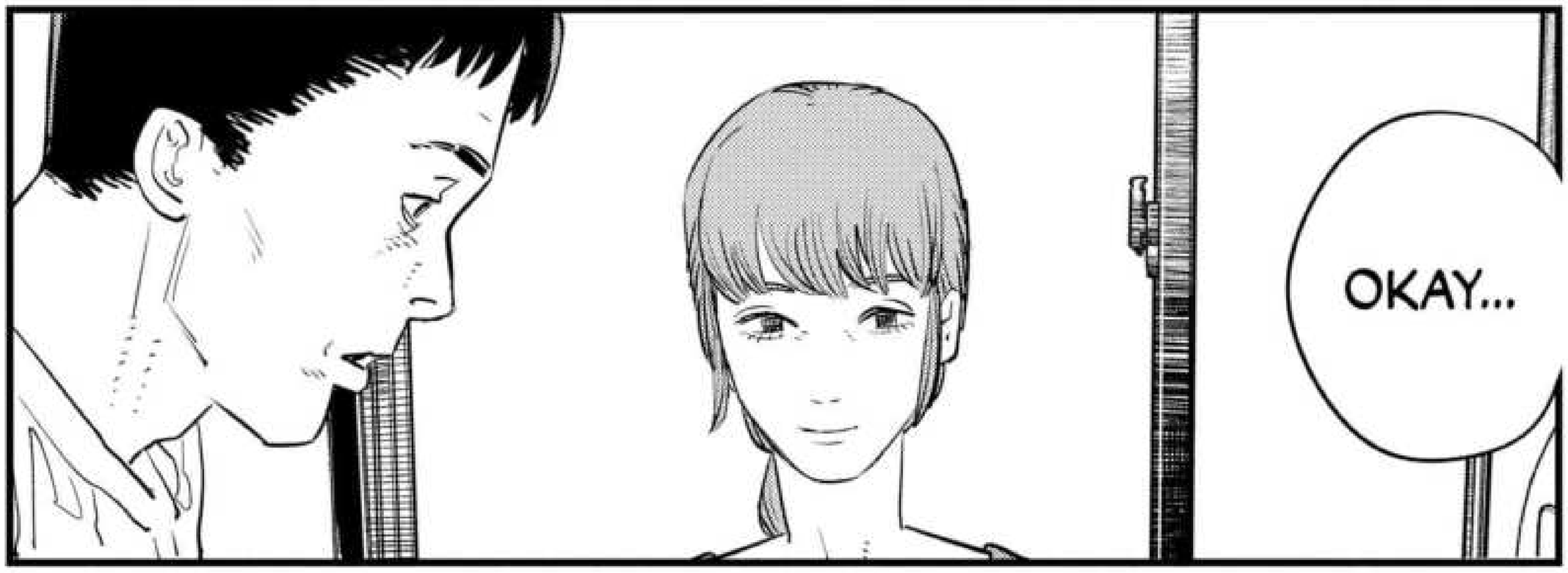

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY YUTA
YUTA, LISTEN.
YUTA...

HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY YUTA
...SHOOTING VIDEOS OF ME.
I WANT YOU TO...
I WANT YOU TO START...

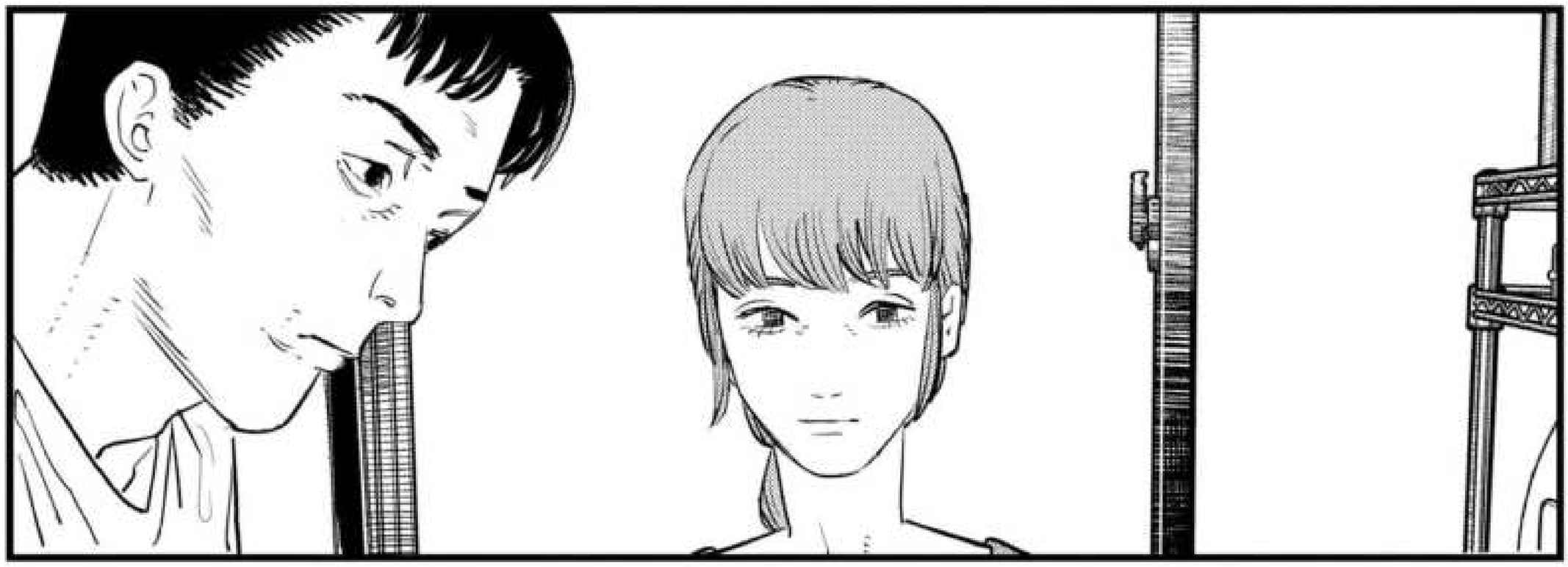

HUH...?

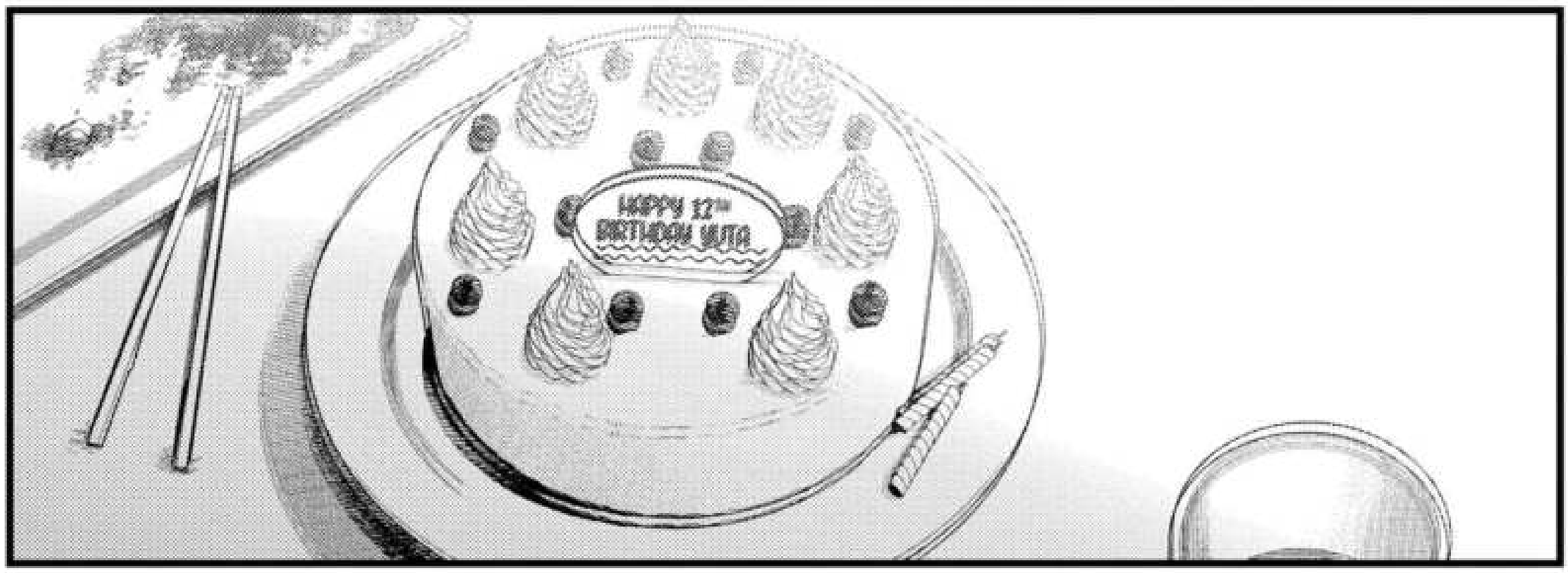
CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
THAT WAY, EVEN IF I'M GONE, YOU CAN STILL REMEMBER ME.
ON VIDEO, YOU CAN HEAR MY VOICE AND SEE ME MOVE.



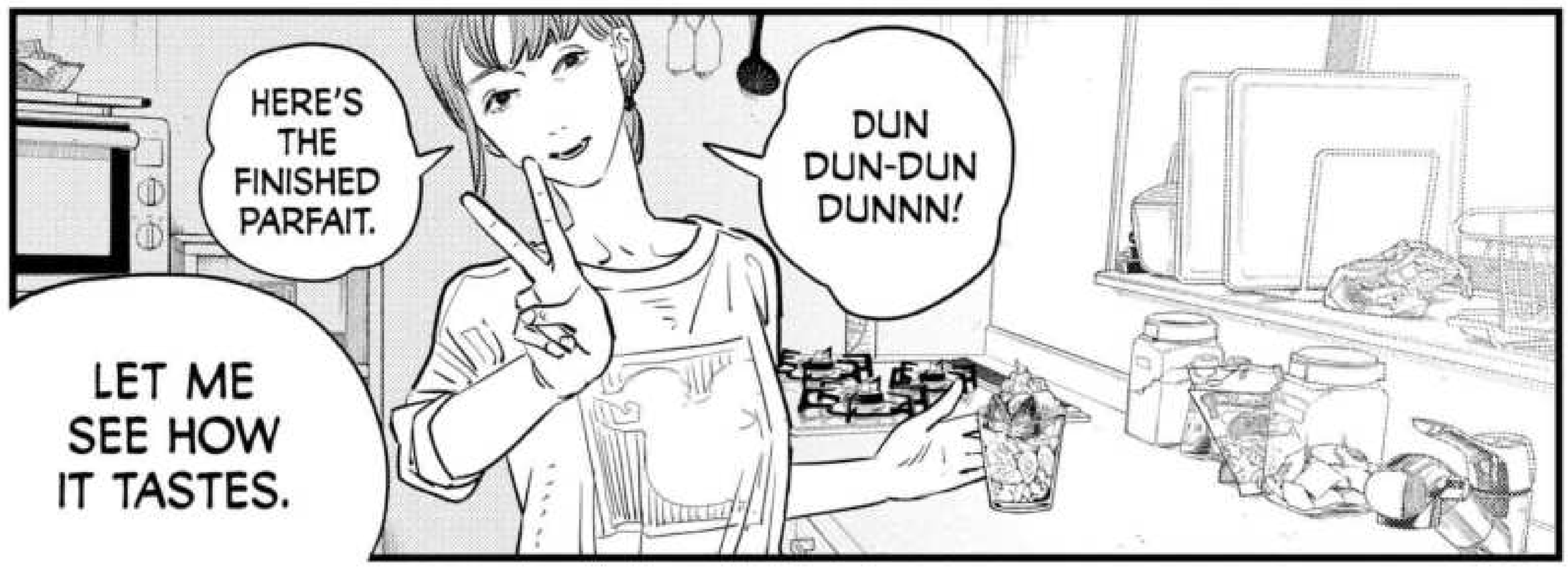

OKAY...

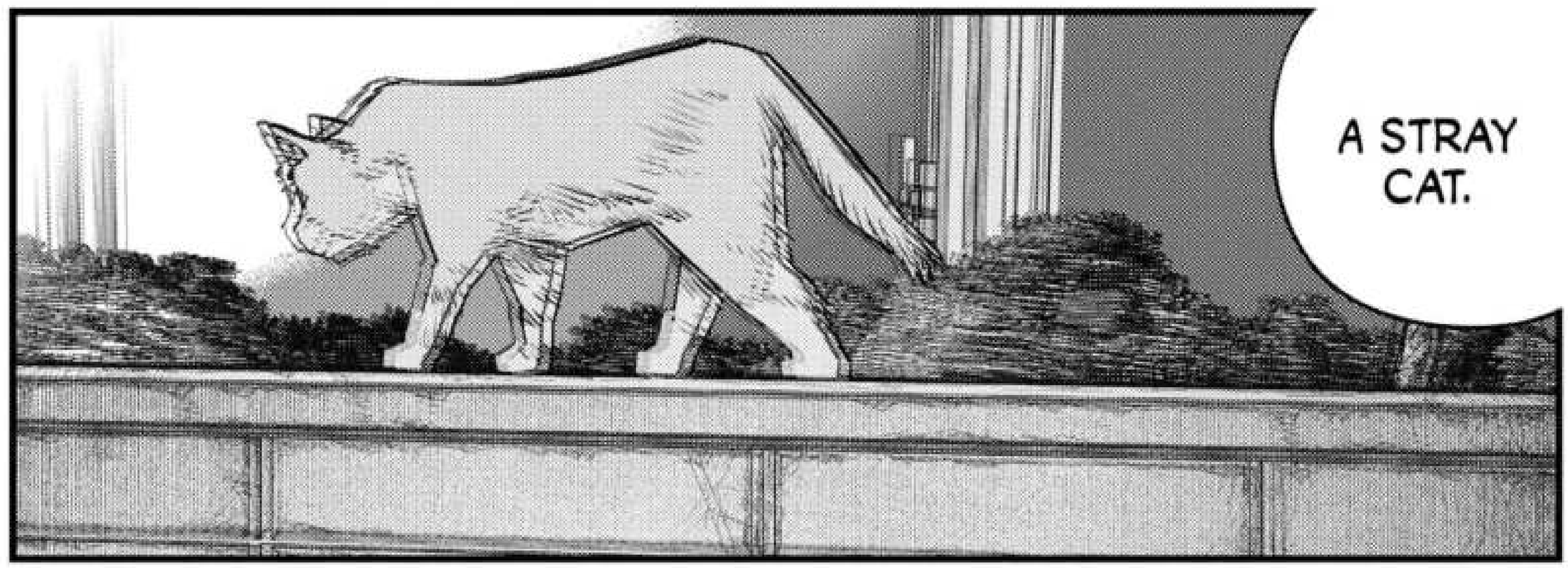
THANK YOU.

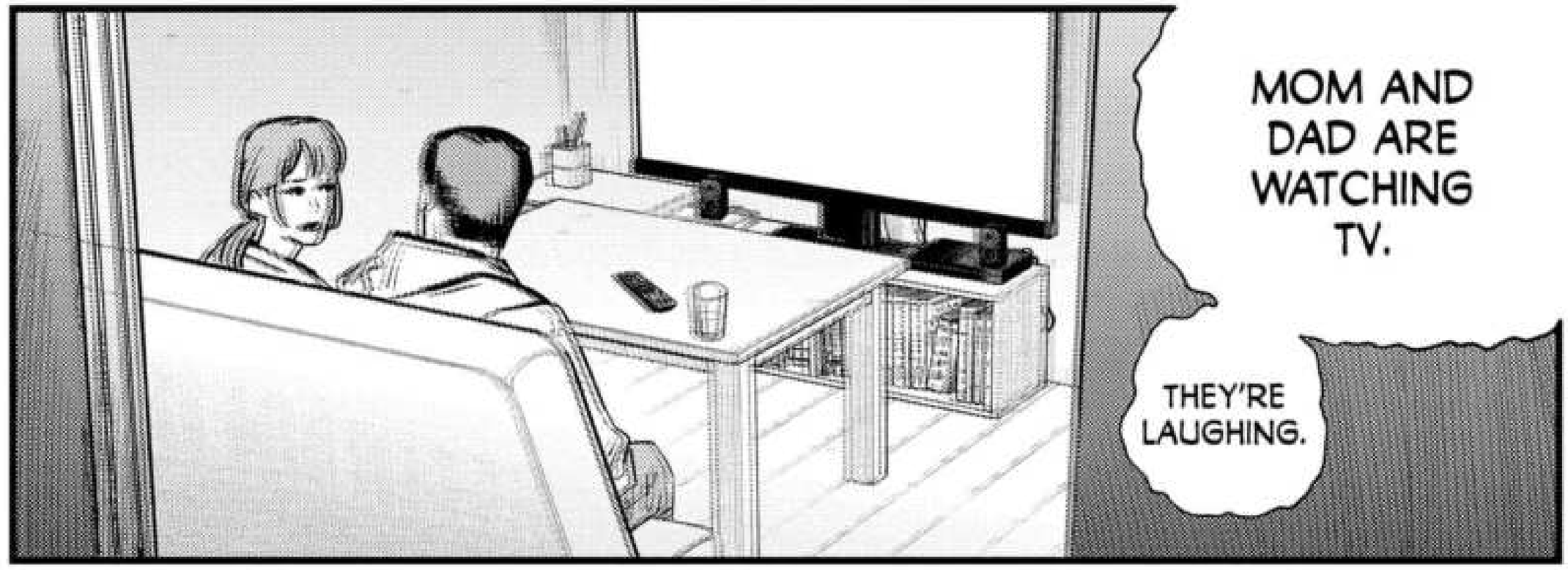



HAPPY 17th
BIRTHDAY YUTA

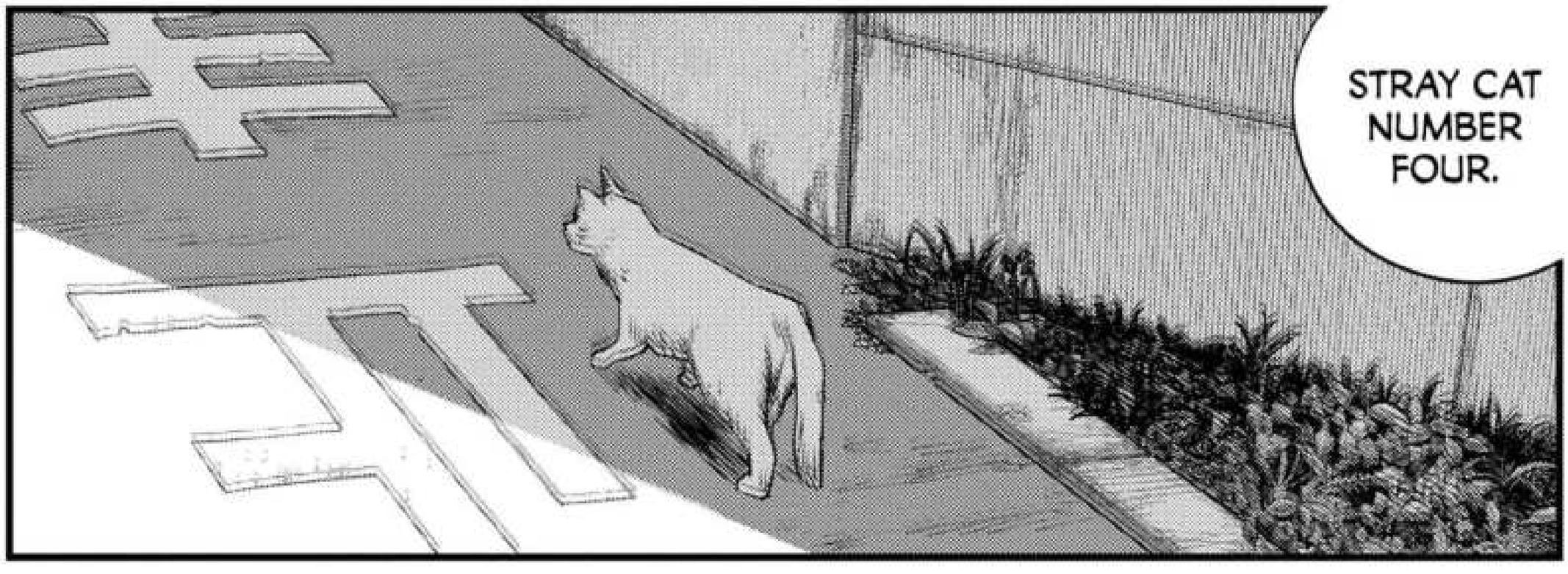
DAD'S HERE TOO CUZ HE'S OFF WORK.
WE'RE ON A FAMILY TRIP TO THE AQUARIUM.

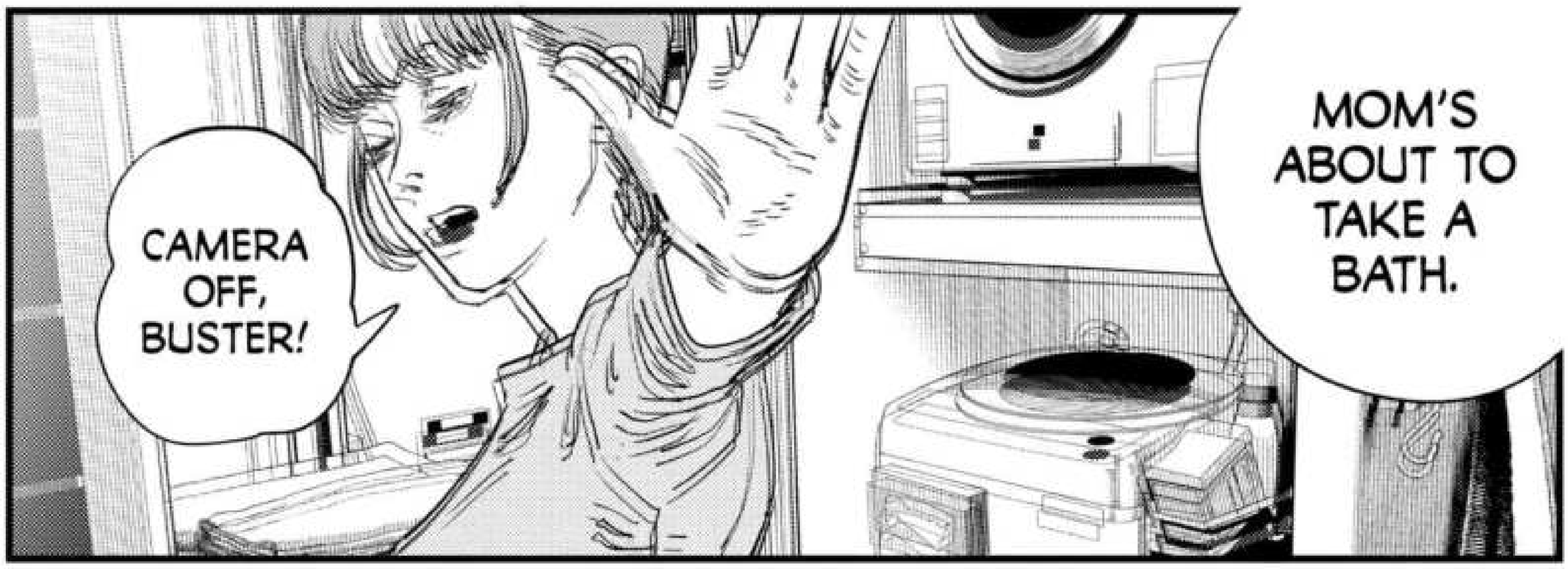

HERE'S THE FINISHED PARFAIT.
DUN DUN-DUN DUNNN!
LET ME SEE HOW IT TASTES.

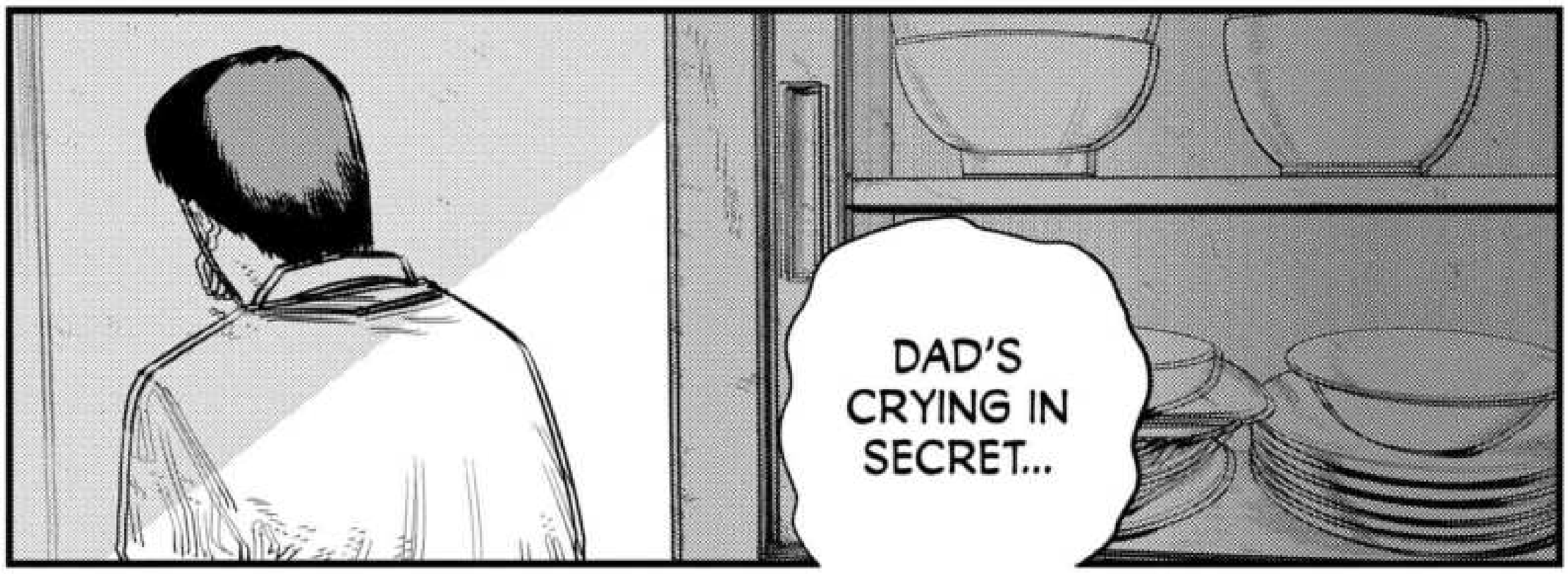

A STRAY CAT.


MOM AND DAD ARE WATCHING TV.
THEY'RE LAUGHING.

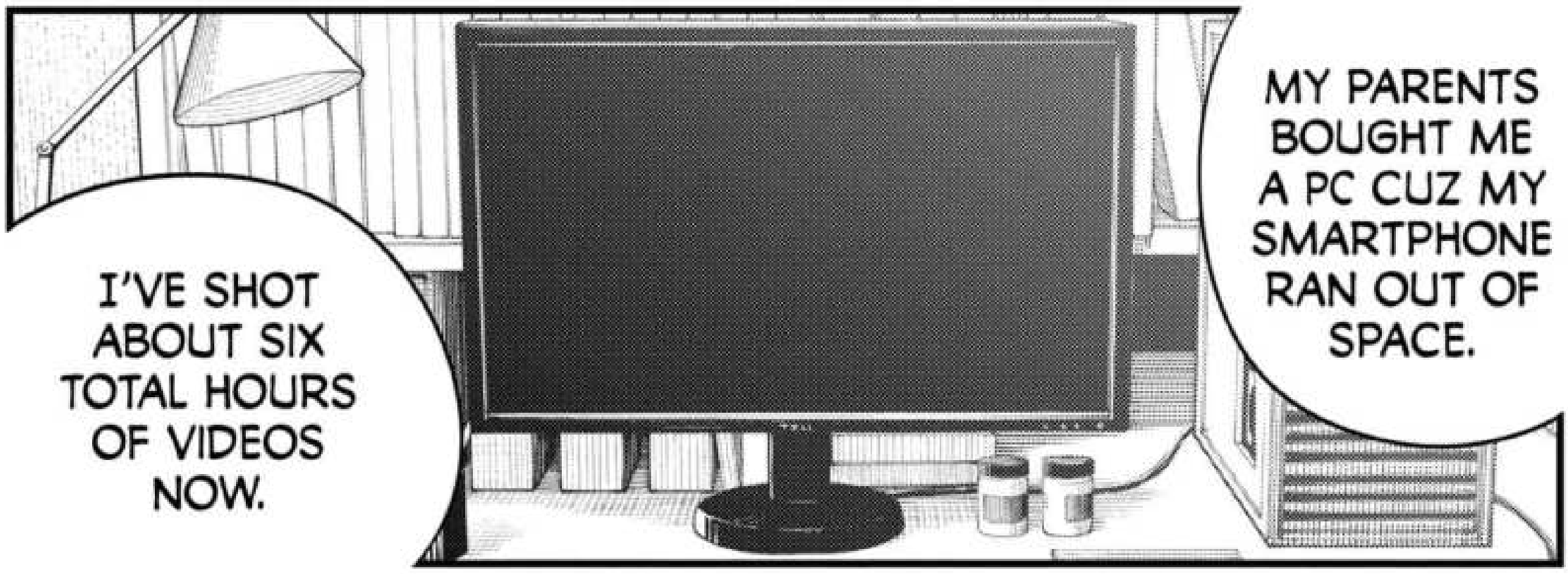
MOM'S GONNA POO.
NO FILMING IN HERE!


STRAY CAT NUMBER FOUR.


MOM'S ABOUT TO TAKE A BATH.
CAMERA OFF, BUSTER!

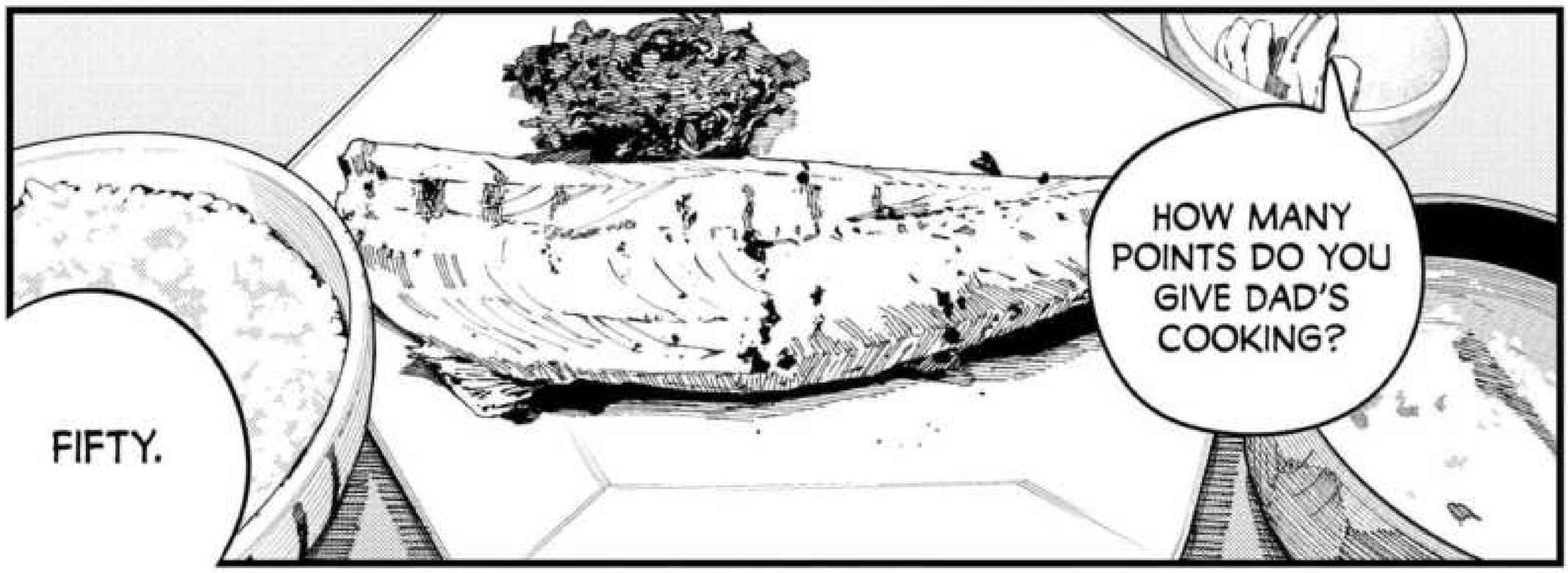

DAD'S CRYING IN SECRET...

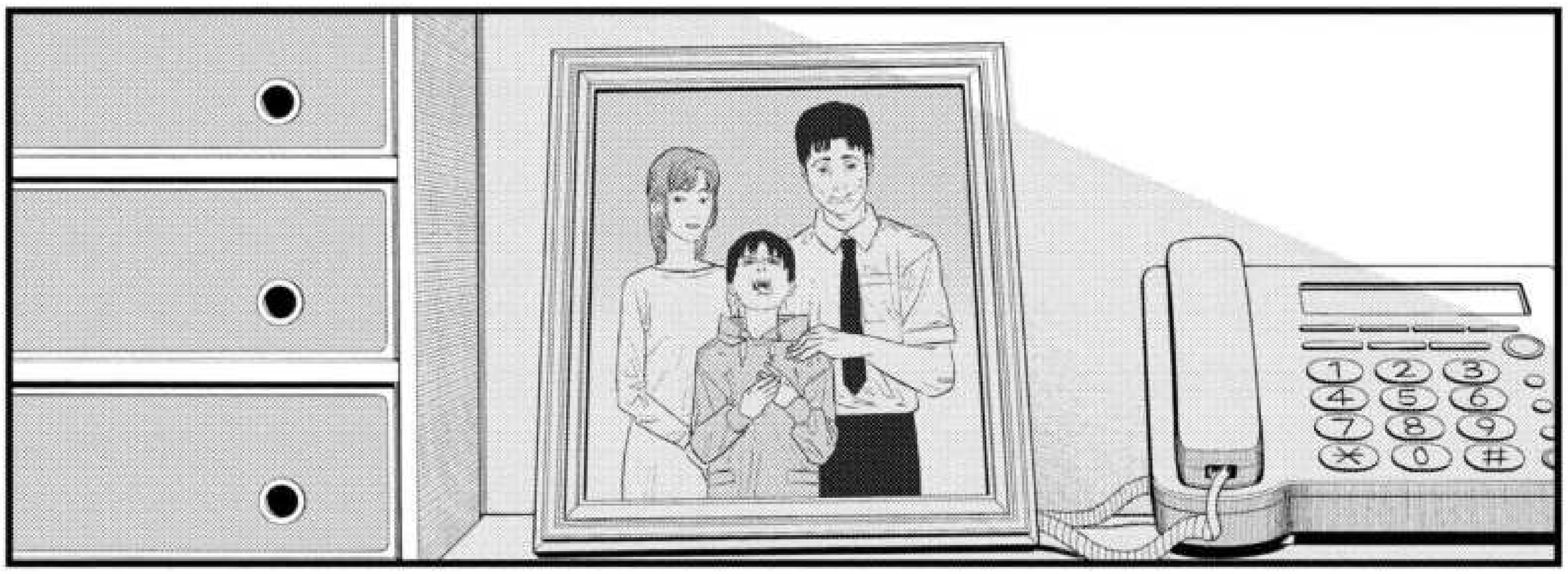
MOM TOO.
DAD'S ASLEEP.
I'M KEEPING WATCH IN CASE SHE DIES IN HER SLEEP.


I'VE SHOT ABOUT SIX TOTAL HOURS OF VIDEOS NOW.
MY PARENTS BOUGHT ME A PC CUZ MY SMARTPHONE RAN OUT OF SPACE.

IT'S DATE NIGHT!
THIS IS MOM ALL DRESSED UP.

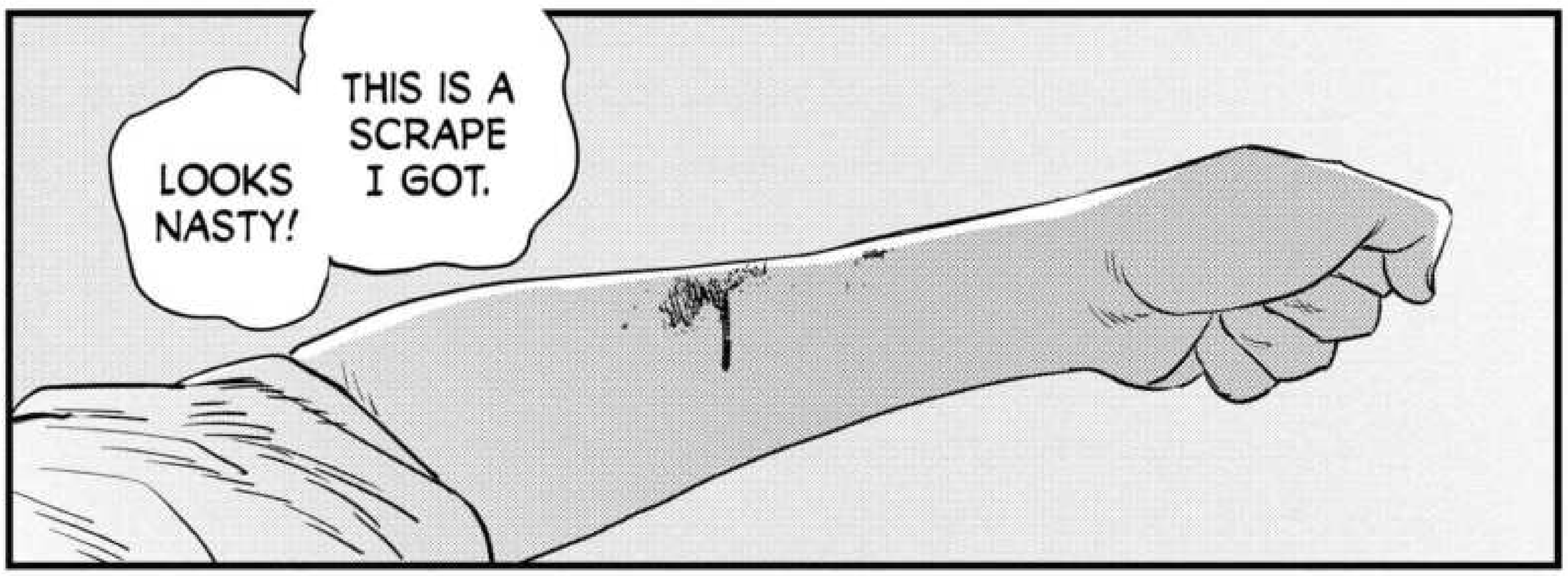
IT'S SURPRISINGLY COMFY HERE.
I'M IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TESTS.

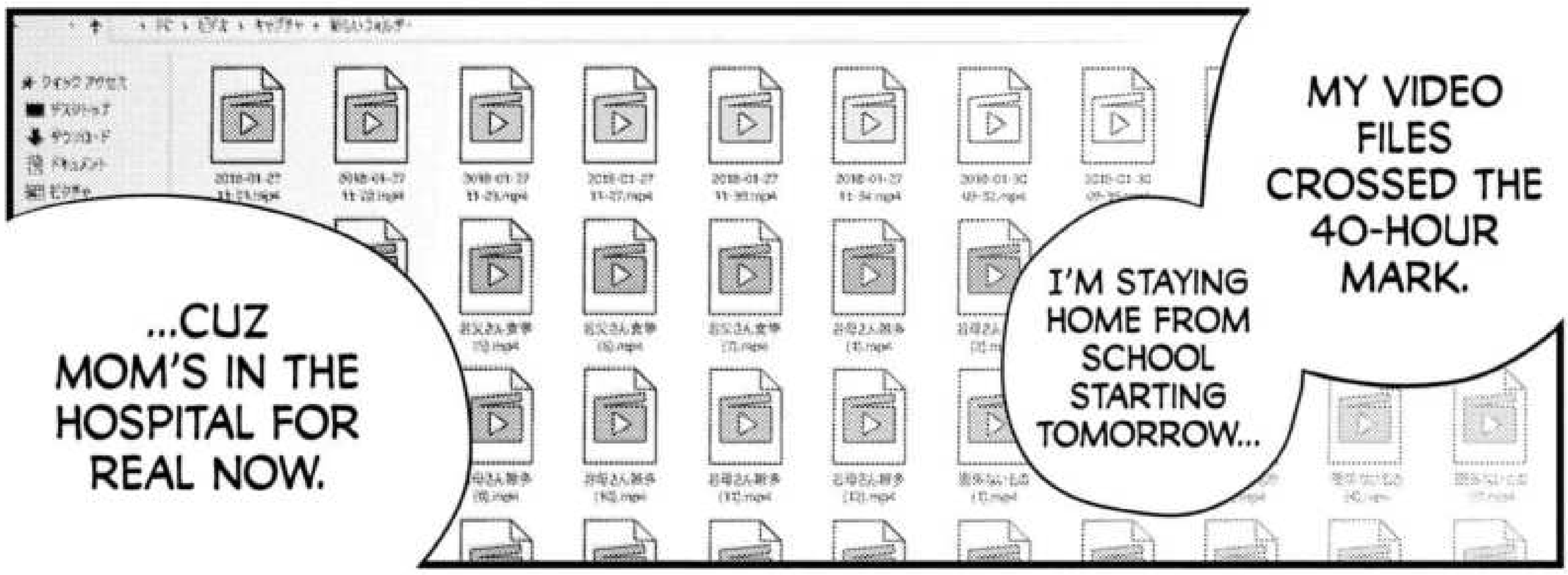

FIFTY.
HOW MANY POINTS DO YOU GIVE DAD'S COOKING?



DAD'S CRYING.

FLU PREVENTION
IT'S TAUCHI.
THIS IS TAGUCHI, THE NURSE.
SHE'S CLOSE TO MY MOM.

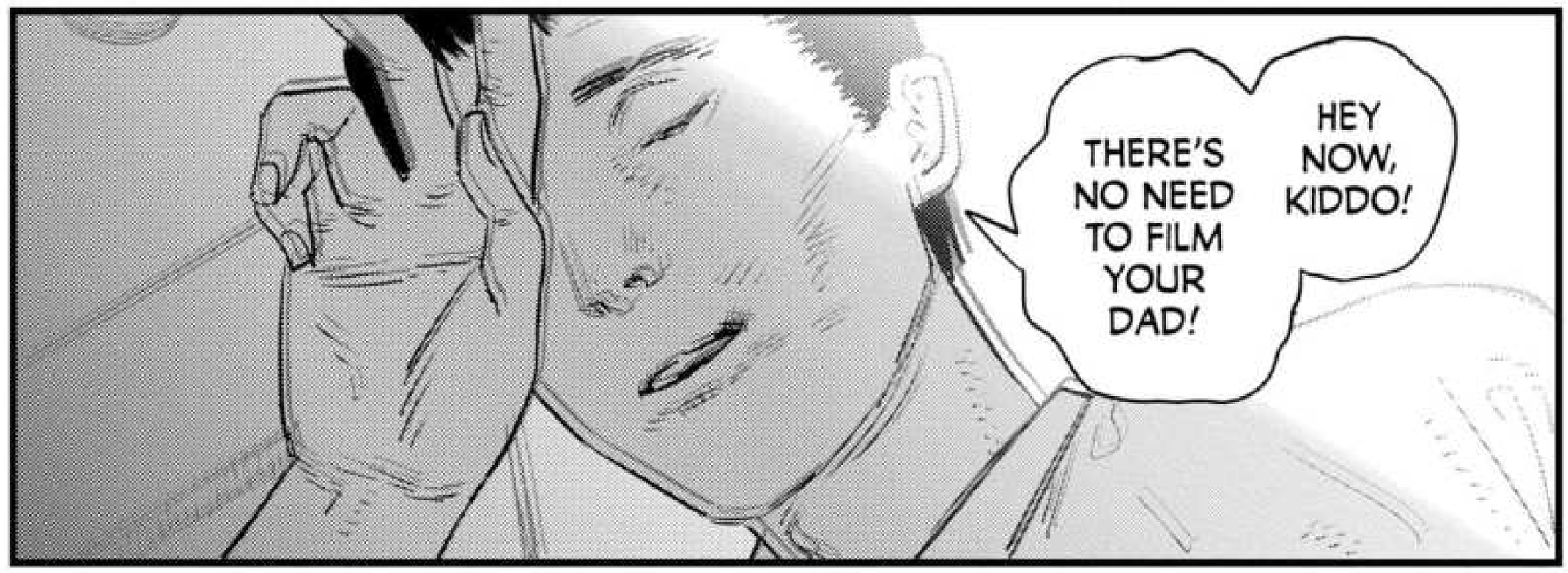

LOOKS NASTY!
THIS IS A SCRAPE I GOT.


...CUZ MOM'S IN THE HOSPITAL FOR REAL NOW.
I'M STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL STARTING TOMORROW...
MY VIDEO FILES CROSSED THE 40-HOUR MARK.

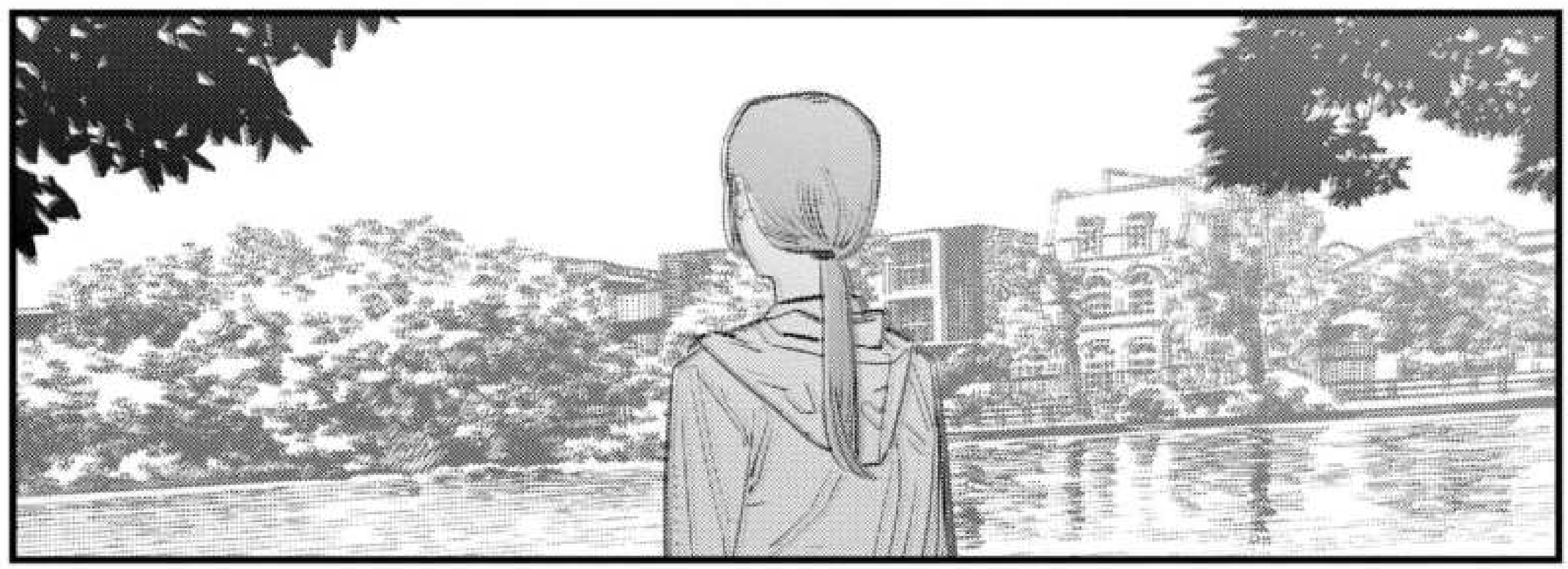
THIS IS MY FACE RIGHT NOW.

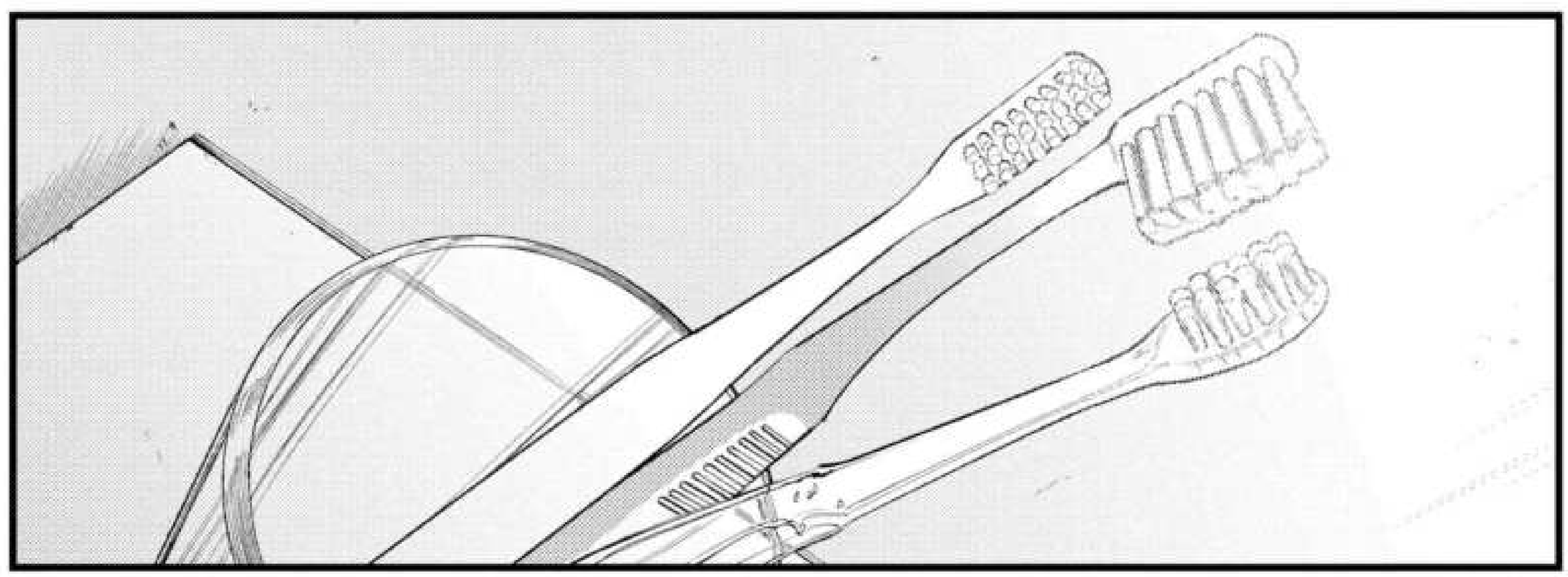
IT FEELS LIKE THIS MIGHT LAST UNTIL I DIE...
I'M UNWELL ALL THE TIME NOW.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE FOOD OR MY TASTE BUDS.
IT TASTES BLAND.
THIS IS THE HOSPITAL FOOD.

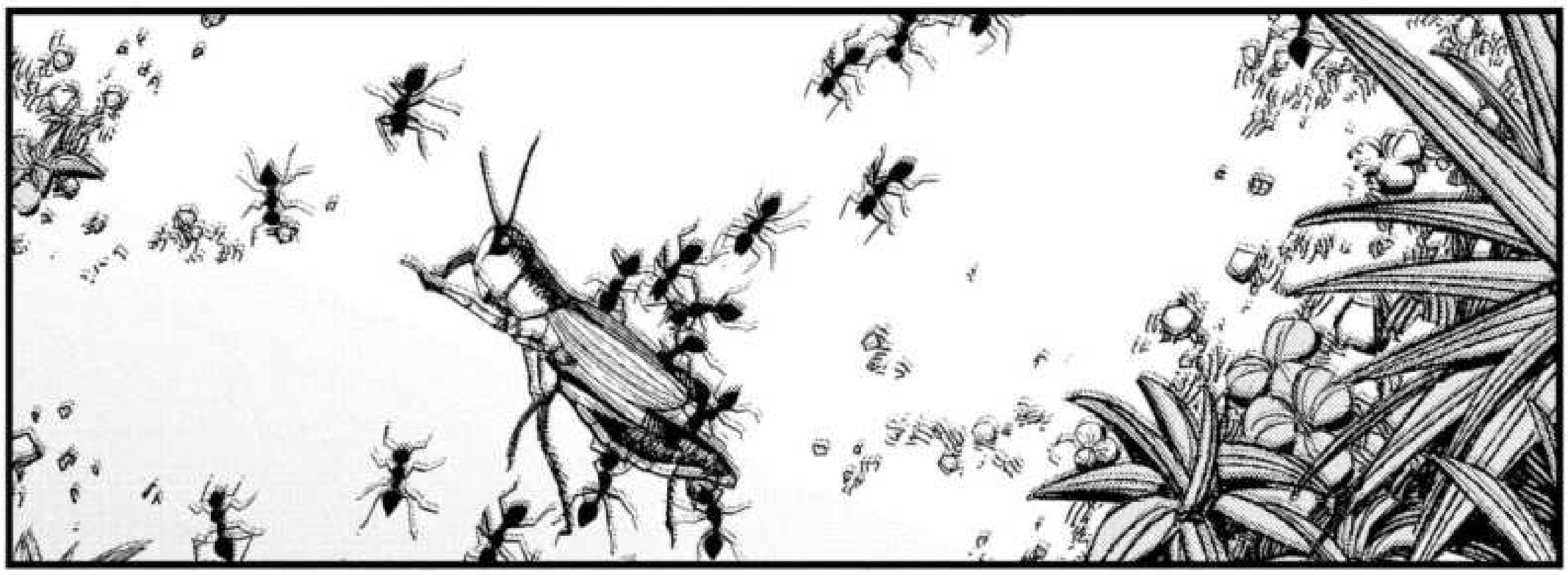

THERE'S NO NEED TO FILM YOUR DAD!
HEY NOW, KIDDO!

HOW MANY POINTS DO I GET?
I COOKED THIS.
TWO.



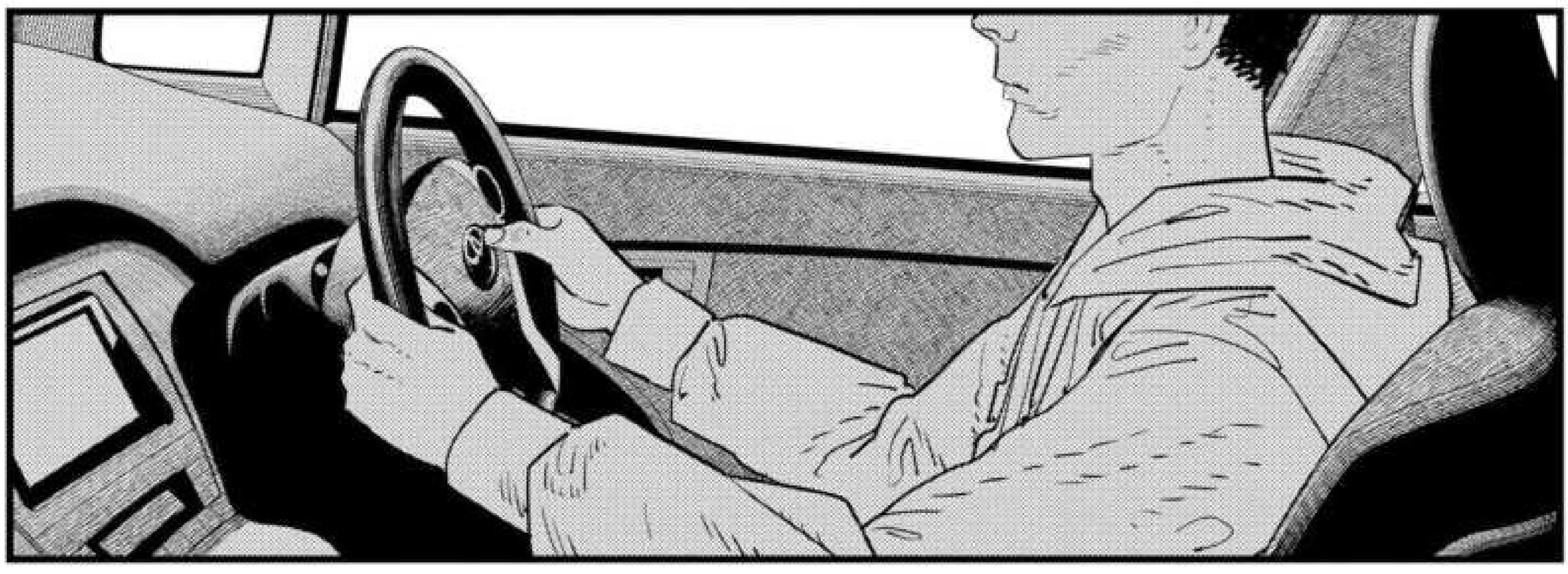


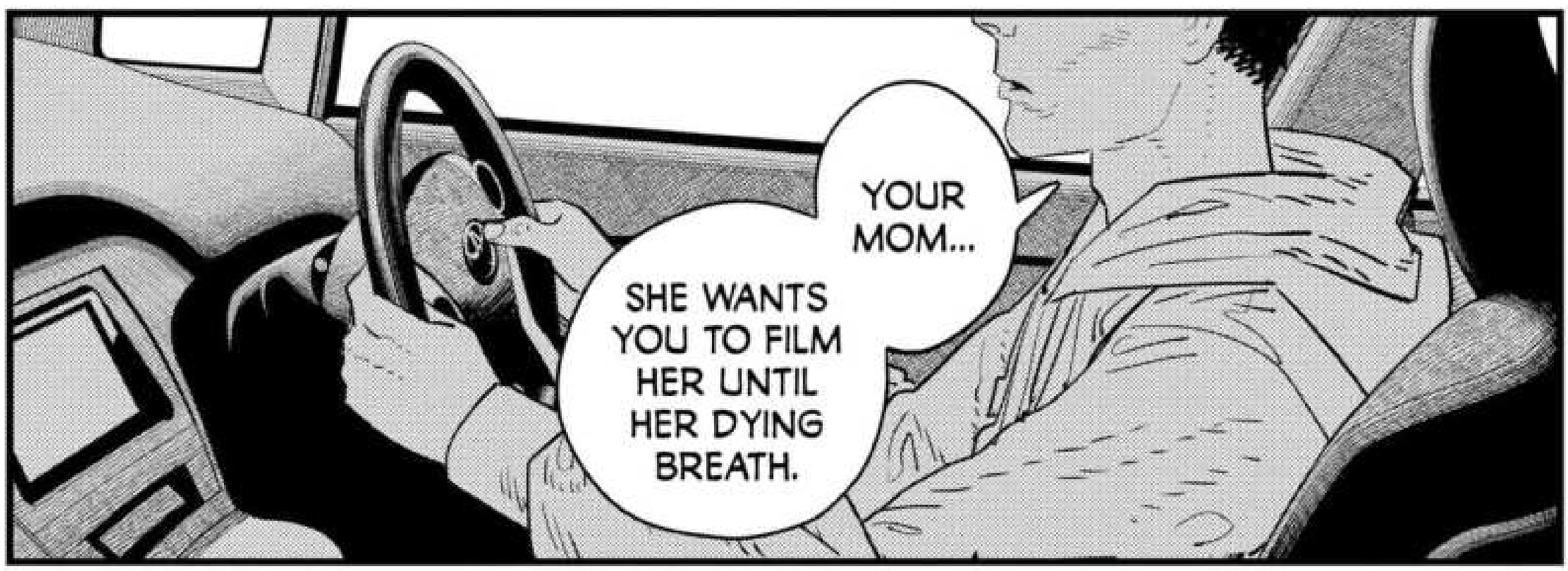
I HAVE OVER 100 HOURS OF VIDEO FILES NOW.
ALSO ...
ALSO, I GUESS MY MOM MIGHT NOT HAVE LONG NOW...
I AM.
NO... I'M SAD.
I...
SO I'M NOT EVEN SAD ABOUT IT...
I STILL CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND IT...

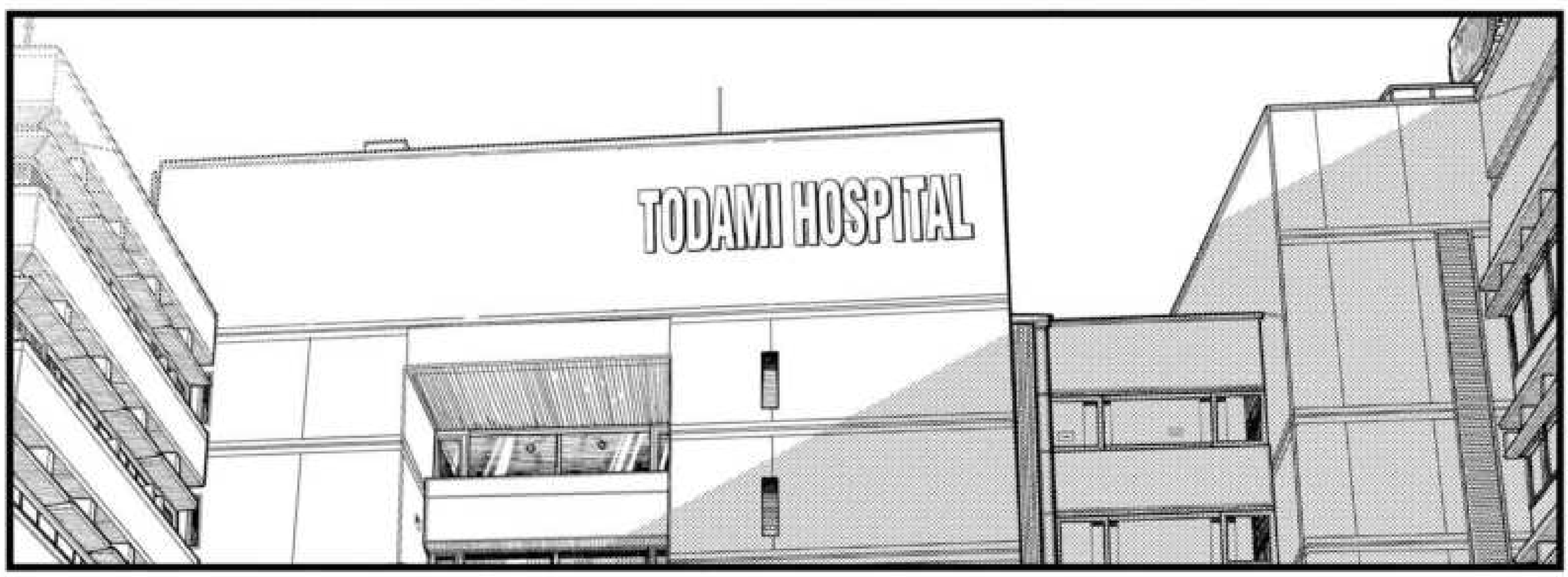


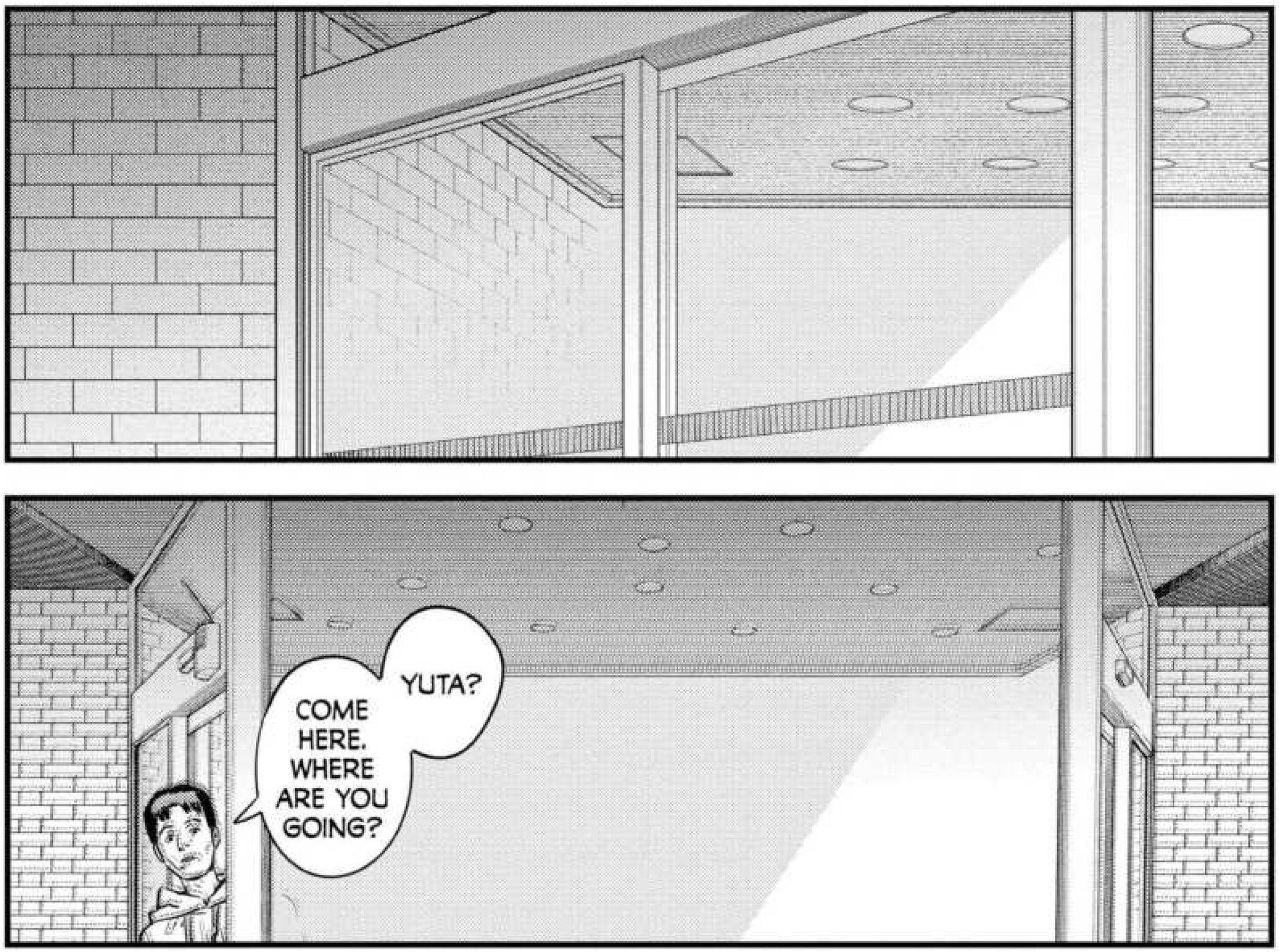
YUTA.

YUTA-
IT'S TIME TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
YOUR MOM'S IN HER FINAL MOMENTS NOW.

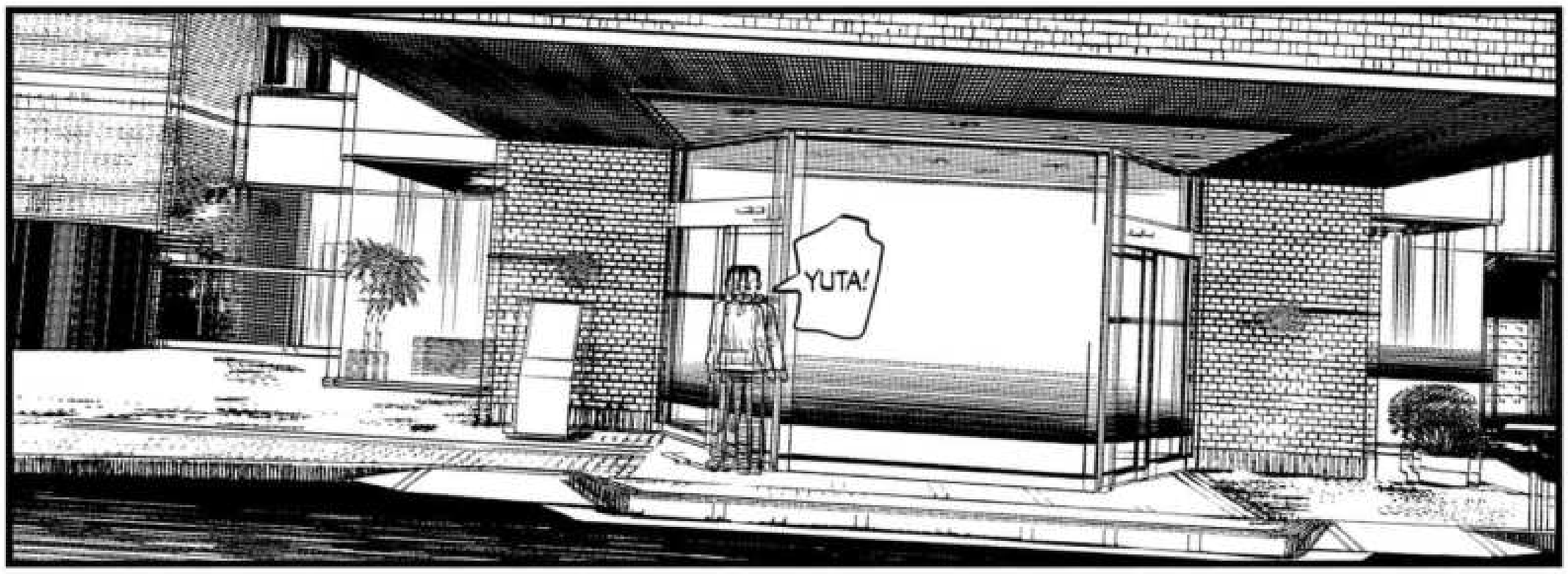


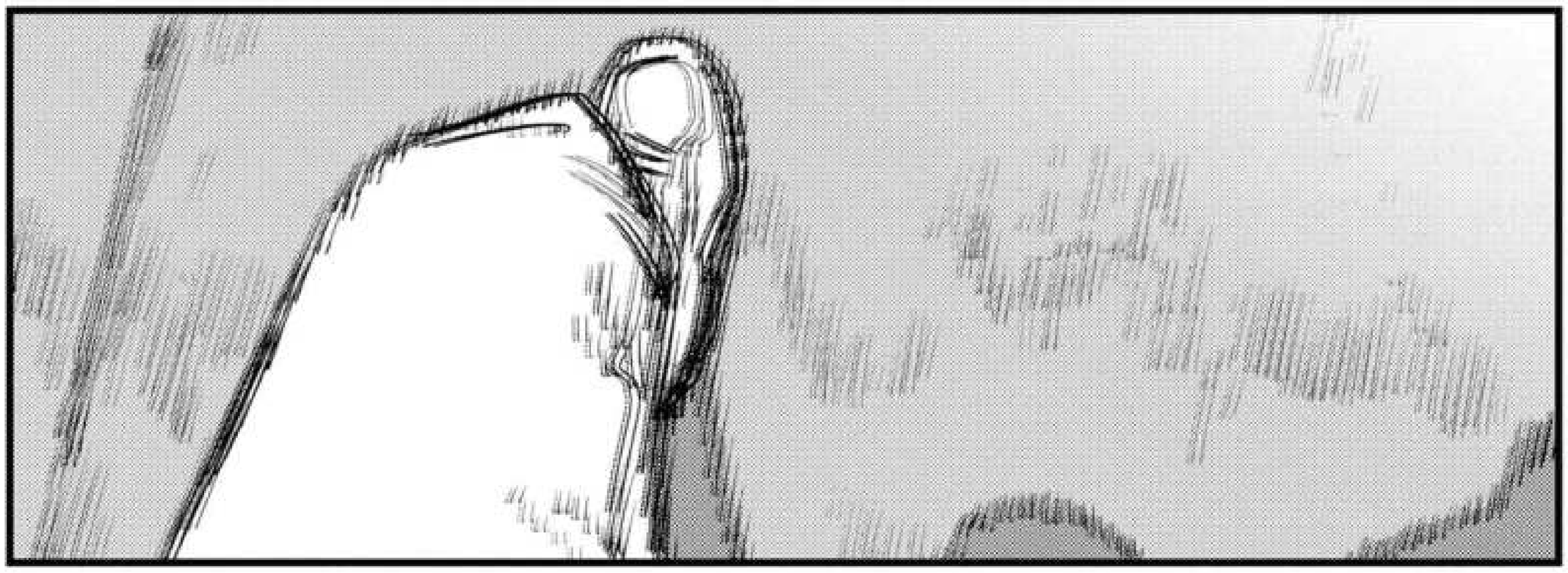

YOUR MOM...
SHE WANTS YOU TO FILM HER UNTIL HER DYING BREATH.

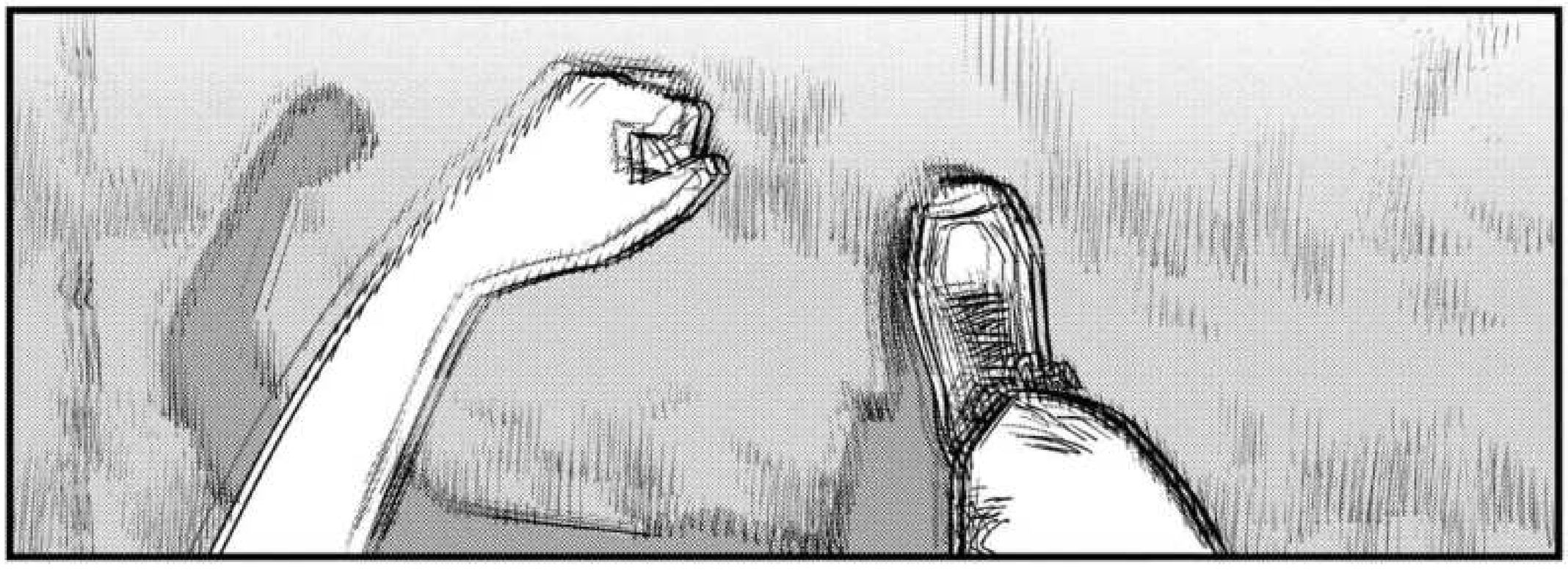

TODAMI HOSPITAL

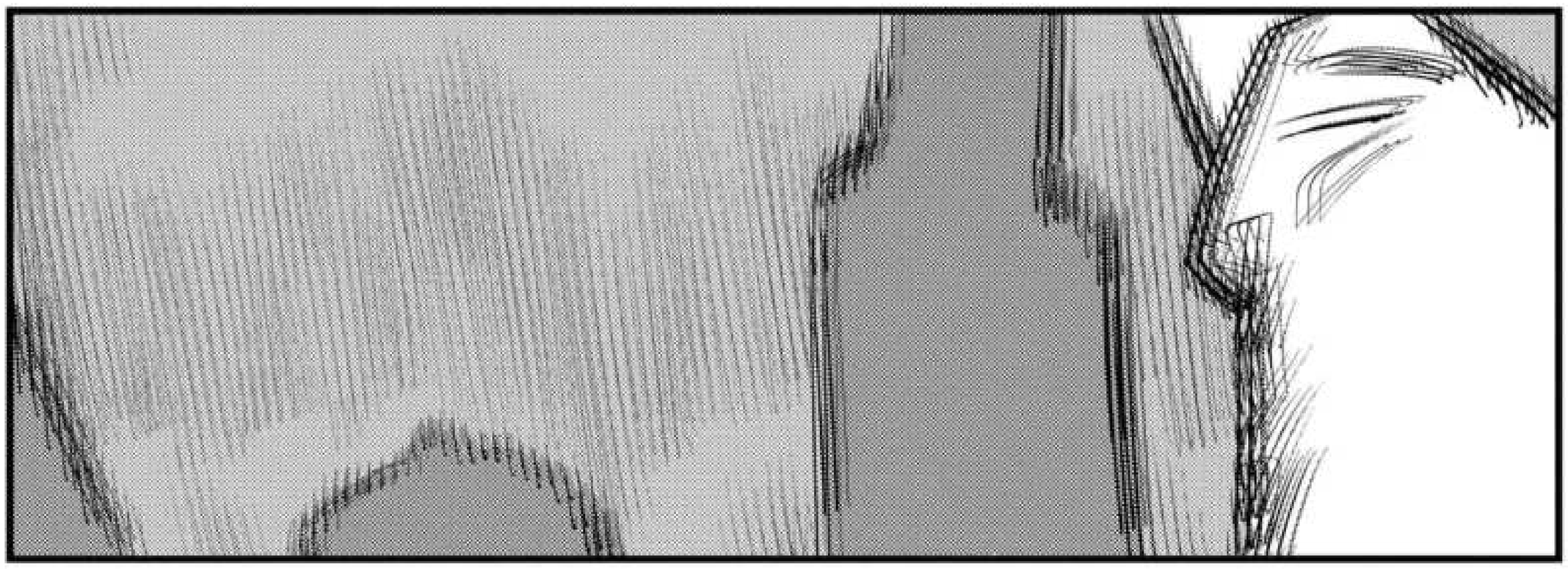

YUTA?
COME HERE. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YUTA!
YUTA?! HEY! YUTA!
COME BACK!


YUTA!

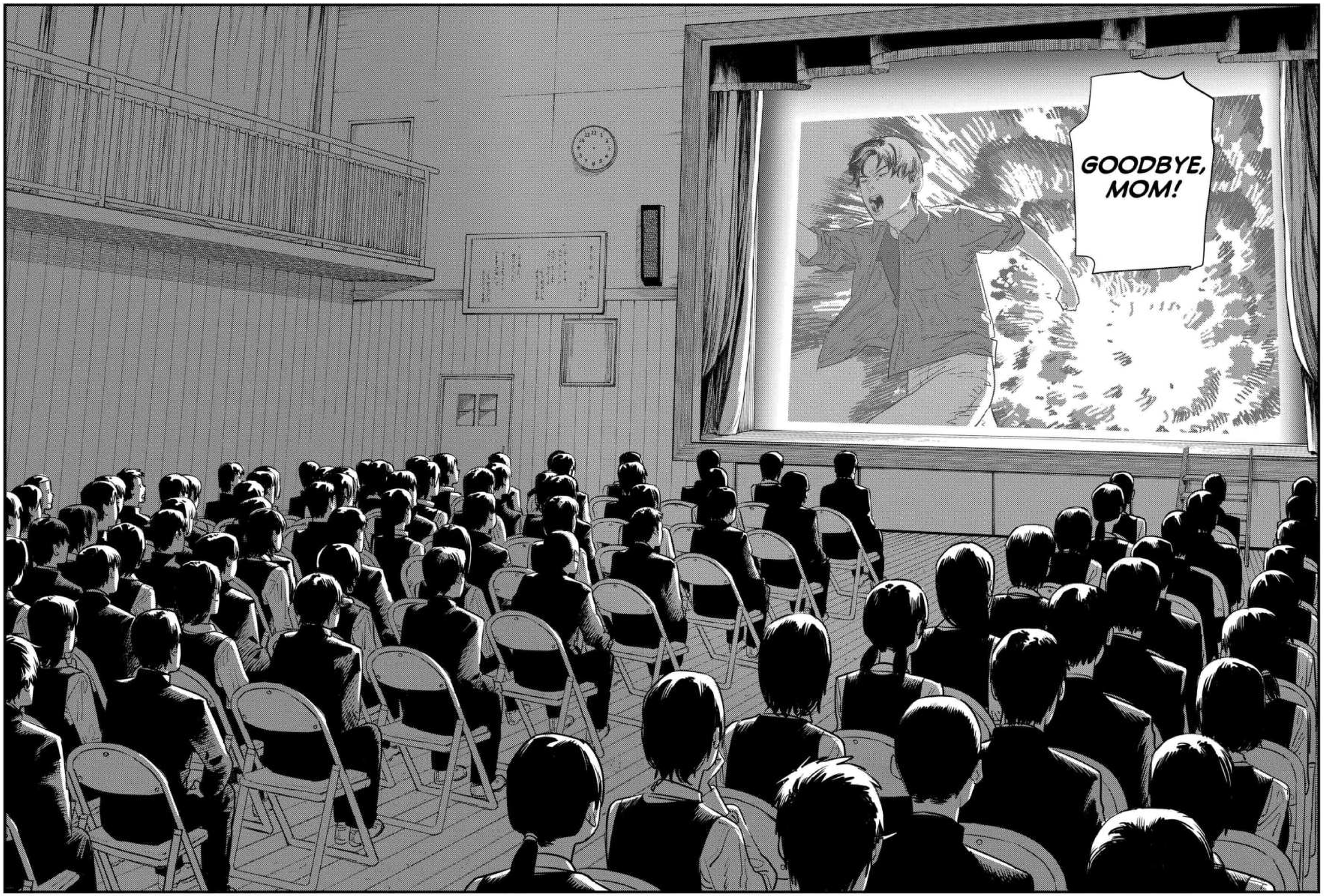


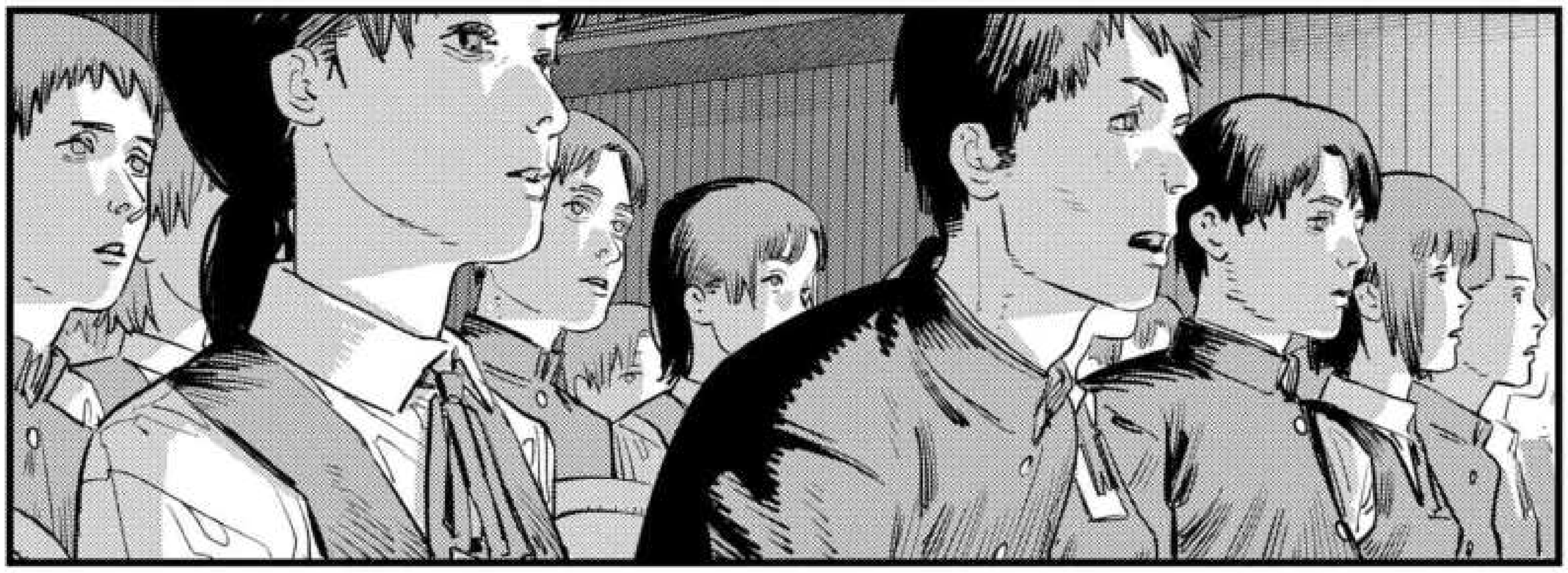


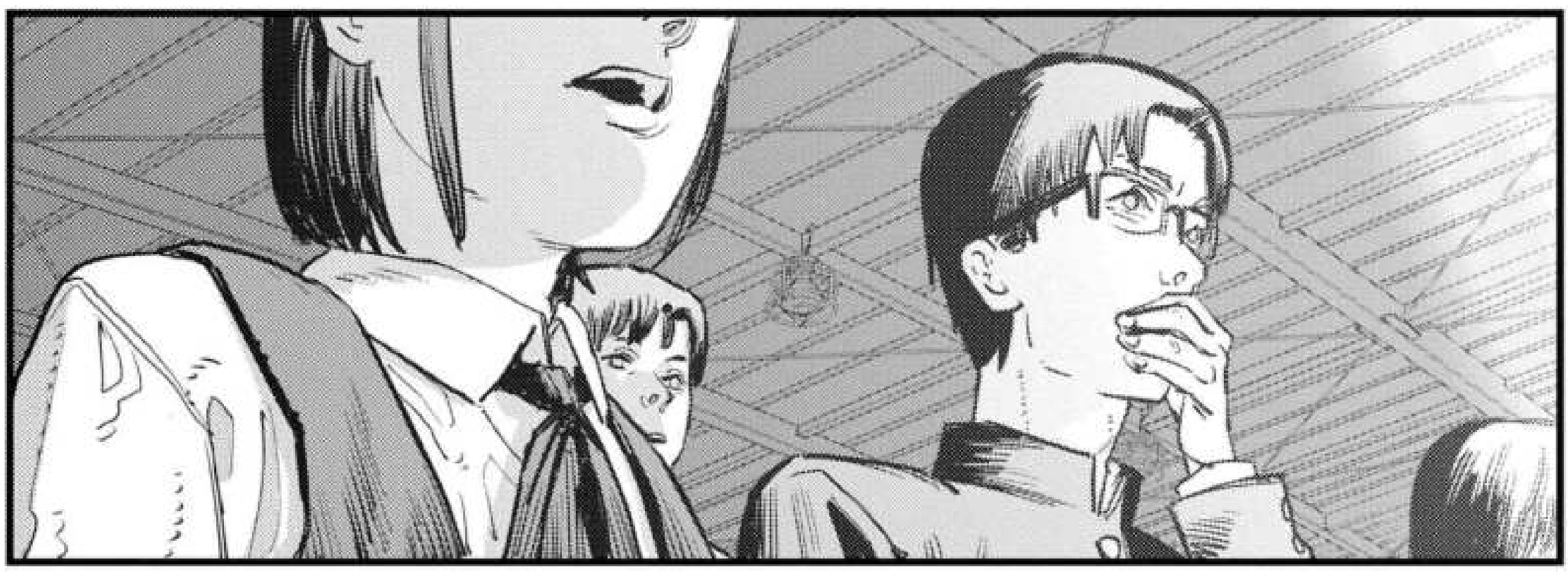


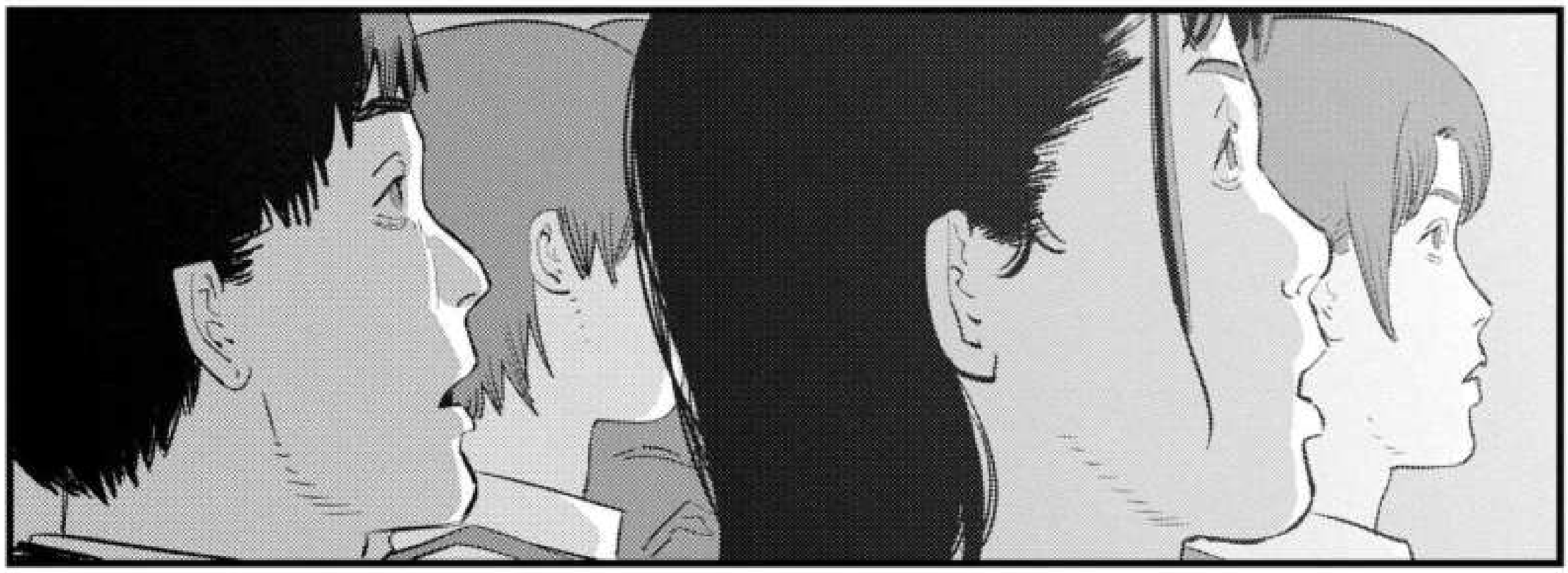
TODAMI HOSPITAL

HOSP


GOODBYE, MOM!



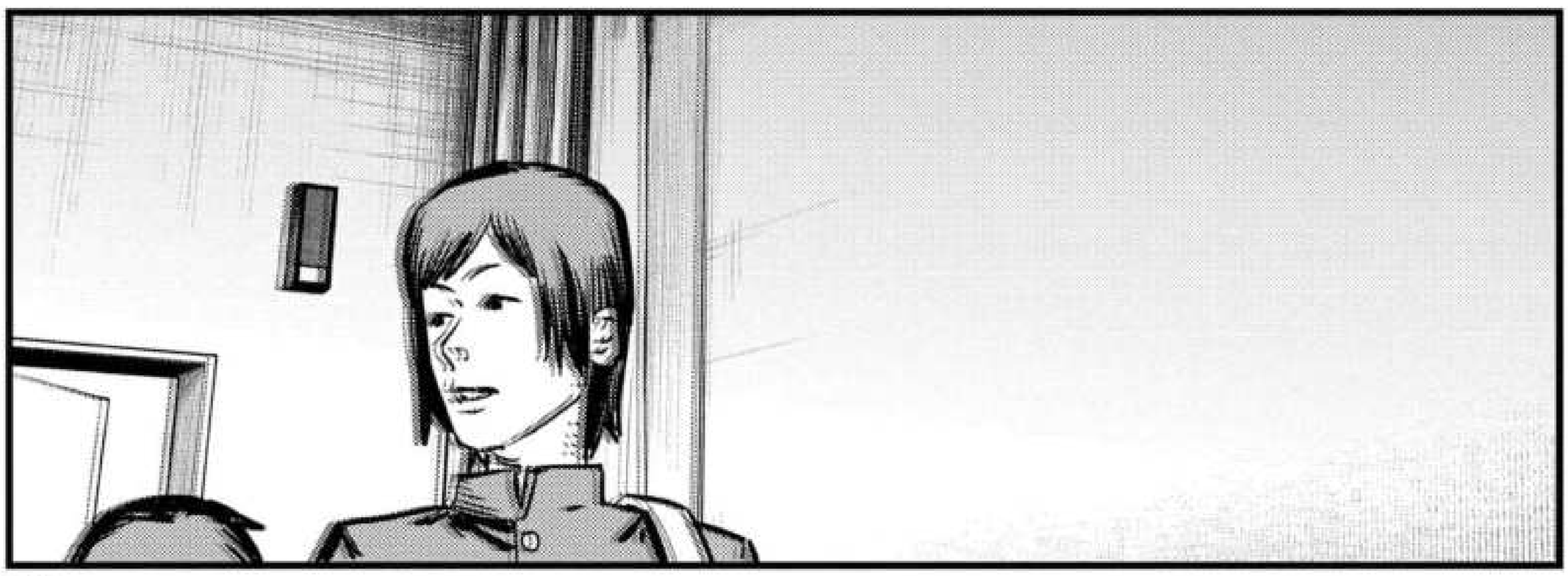




DEAD EXPLOSION MOTHER.
THAT WAS A DOCU-MENTARY FROM CLASS 1-B'S YUTA ITO.
THAT WAS...

NEXT UP IS A PERFOR-MANCE BY THE POP MUSIC CLUB.
NEXT-

LET'S SEE WHAT EVERYBODY THINKS.
MY MOVIE JUST FINISHED PLAYING.



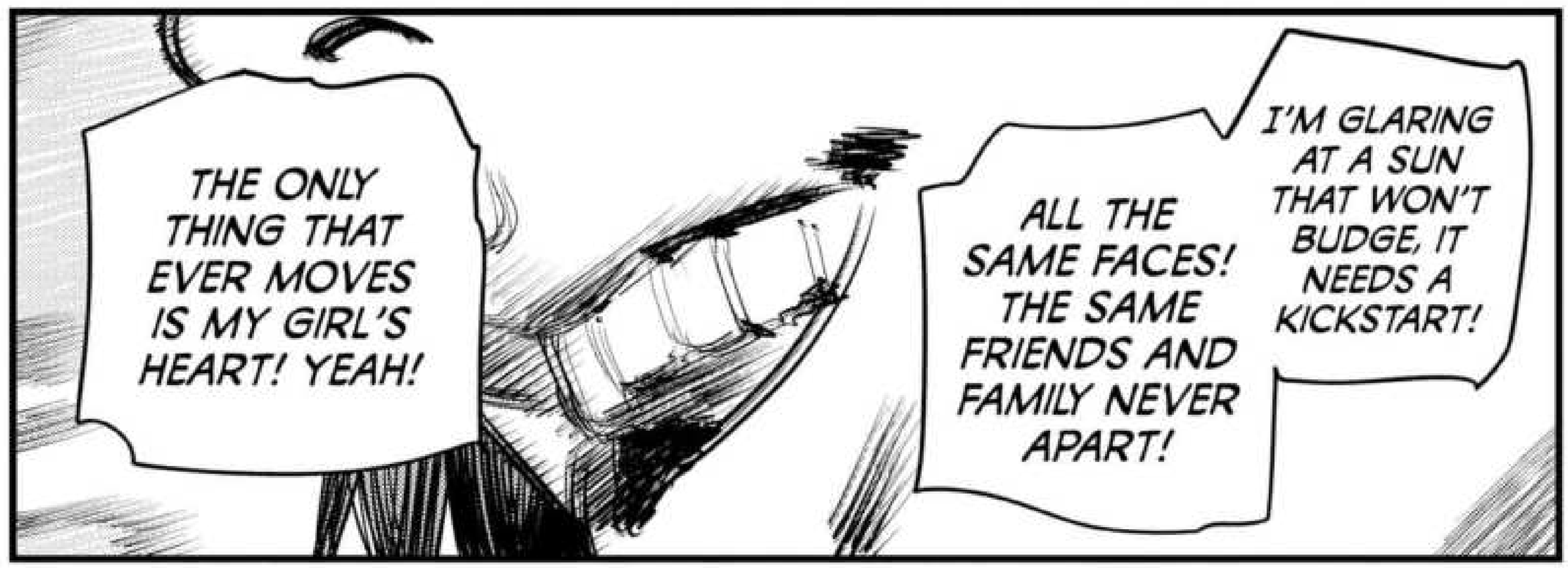
...I HAVE, LIKE, NO IDEA WHAT THE HECK WE JUST WATCHED.
AHEM... I THINK, UH-
I THINK I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY...

AH HA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!
HA HA!
AH HA HA!
HEE!
HA HA!

REAL TALK, IT'S HARD TO SING AFTER WATCHING SUCH A CRAPPY MOVIE!

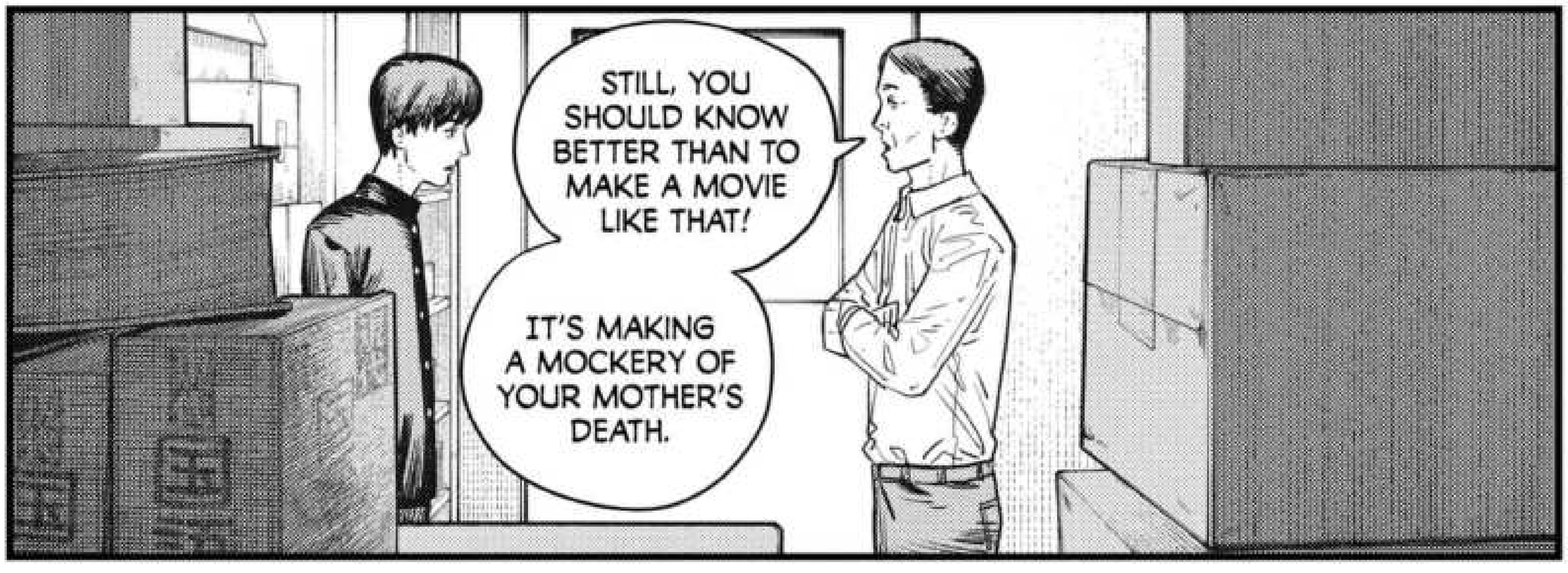
HA HA!
HA HAW!
AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
BWAH!
HUH...?
AH HA!

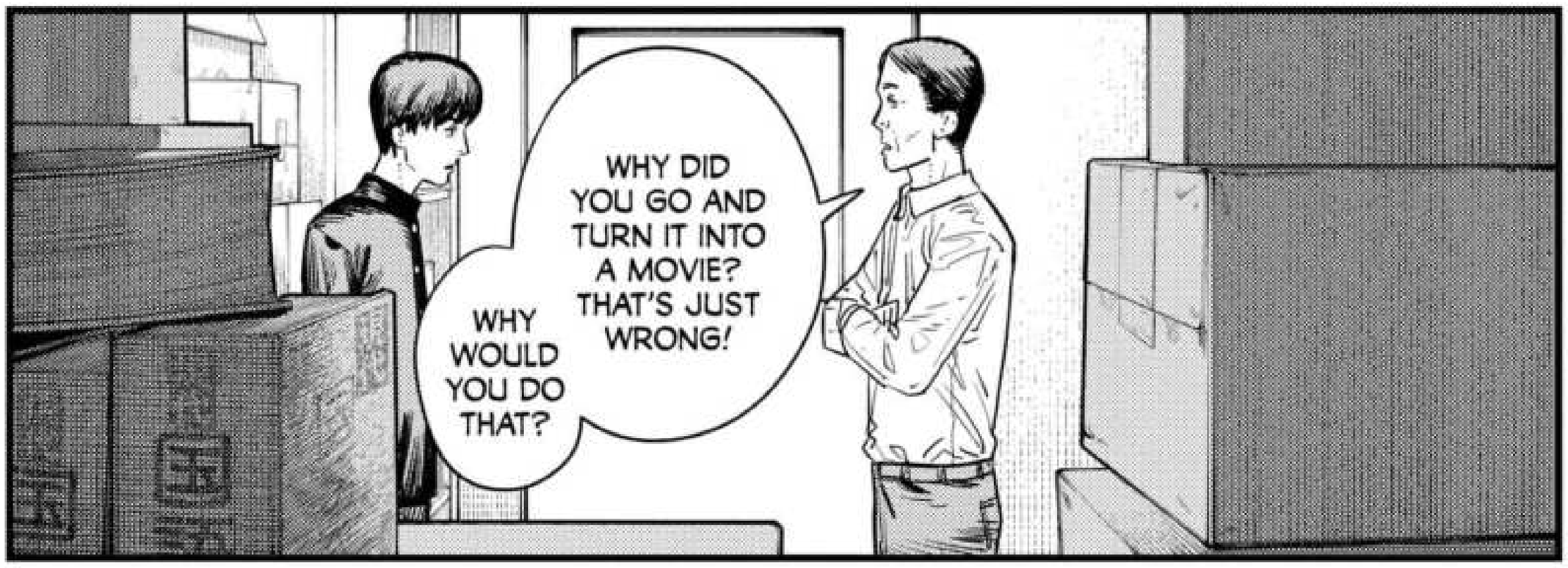
"STOP SUN"!
HERE'S OUR FIRST SONG!
HA HA HA! OKAY, YOU GUYS, LET'S GET BACK ON TRACK!

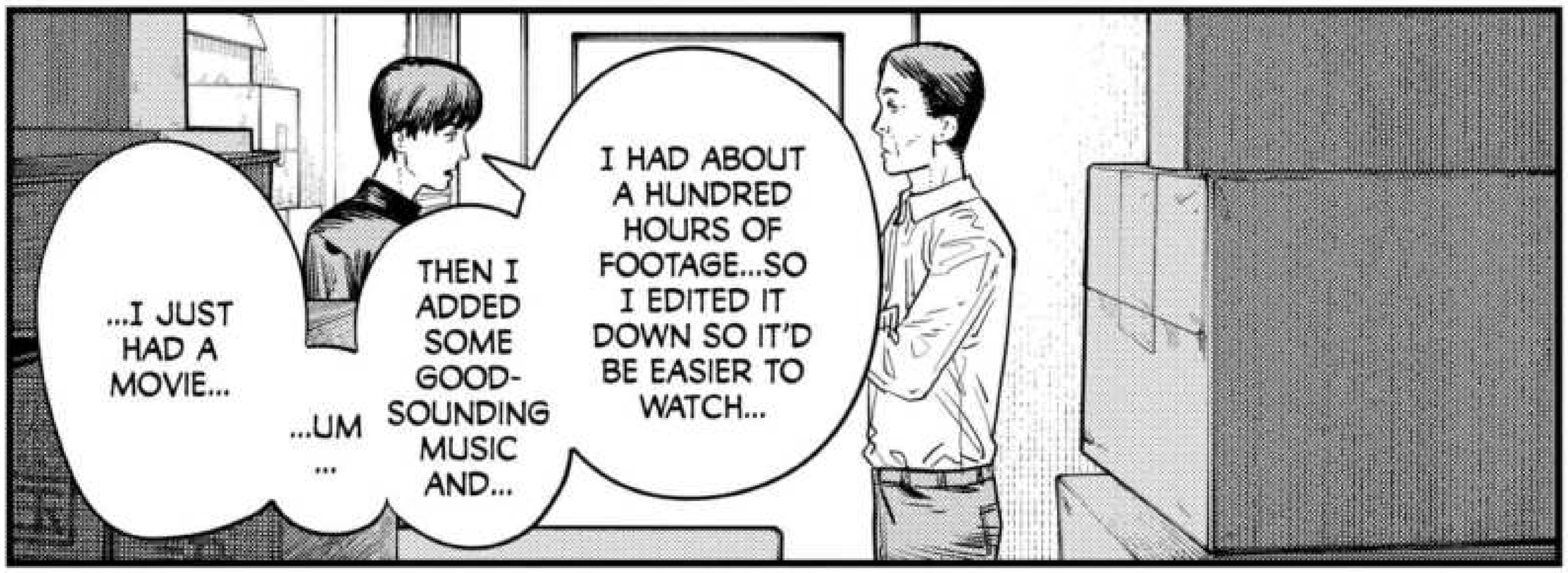

THE ONLY THING THAT EVER MOVES IS MY GIRL'S HEART! YEAH!
ALL THE SAME FACES! THE SAME FRIENDS AND FAMILY NEVER APART!
I'M GLARING AT A SUN THAT WON'T BUDGE, IT NEEDS A KICKSTART!

HEY! STOP RECORDING! PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY!
HEY!
YUTA-
YUTA, COME WITH ME.

I'M PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR NOT SCREENING IT BEFOREHAND.


STILL, YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO MAKE A MOVIE LIKE THAT!
IT'S MAKING A MOCKERY OF YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH.


WHY DID YOU GO AND TURN IT INTO A MOVIE? THAT'S JUST WRONG!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

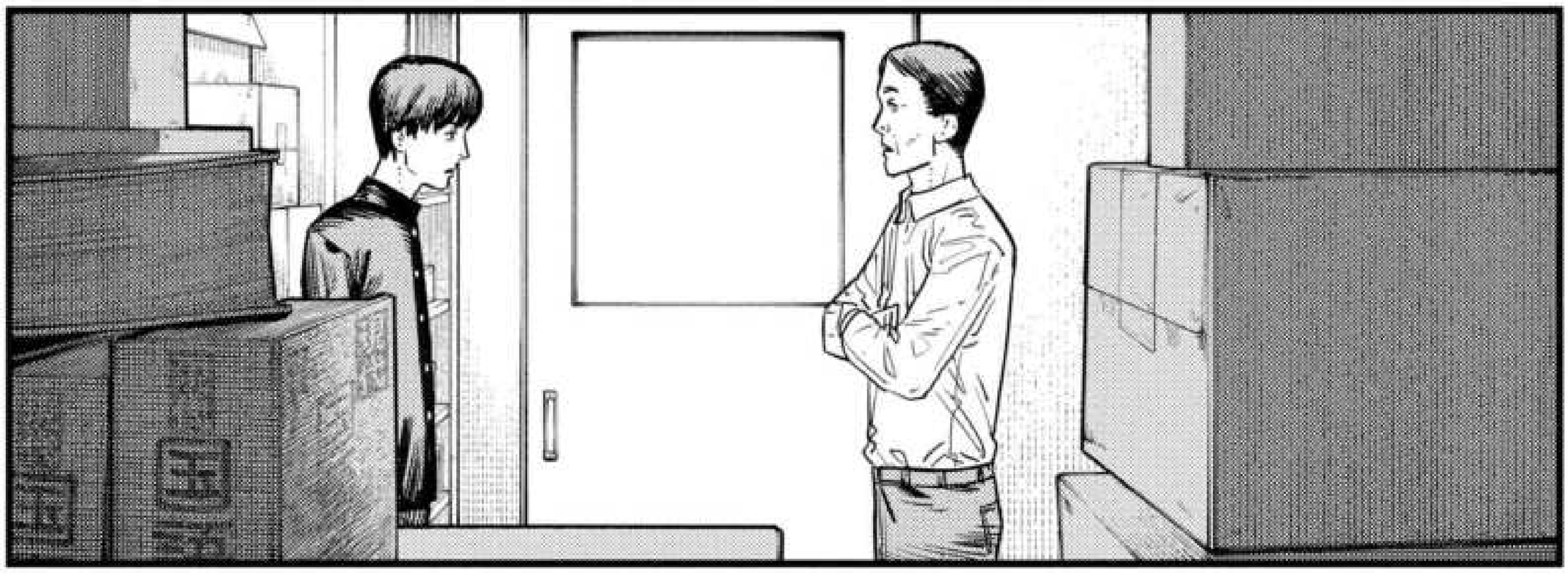

I HAD ABOUT A HUNDRED HOURS OF FOOTAGE...SO I EDITED IT DOWN SO IT'D BE EASIER TO WATCH...
THEN I ADDED SOME GOOD-SOUNDING MUSIC AND...
...UM ...
...I JUST HAD A MOVIE...

DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR YOUR LATE MOTHER, SHOWING A VIDEO LIKE THAT?

DO I FEEL BAD?
I... UM-
NO?

THAT ENDING... WHY DID YOU HAVE THAT EXPLOSION AT THE END?

THAT WAS AWESOME, RIGHT?



WHOA!
DO YOU THINK A PERSON'S DEATH IS "AWESOME"?! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

IT MADE ME SICK TO MY STOMACH.
THE ENDING SUCKED...
WHAT DID I THINK?

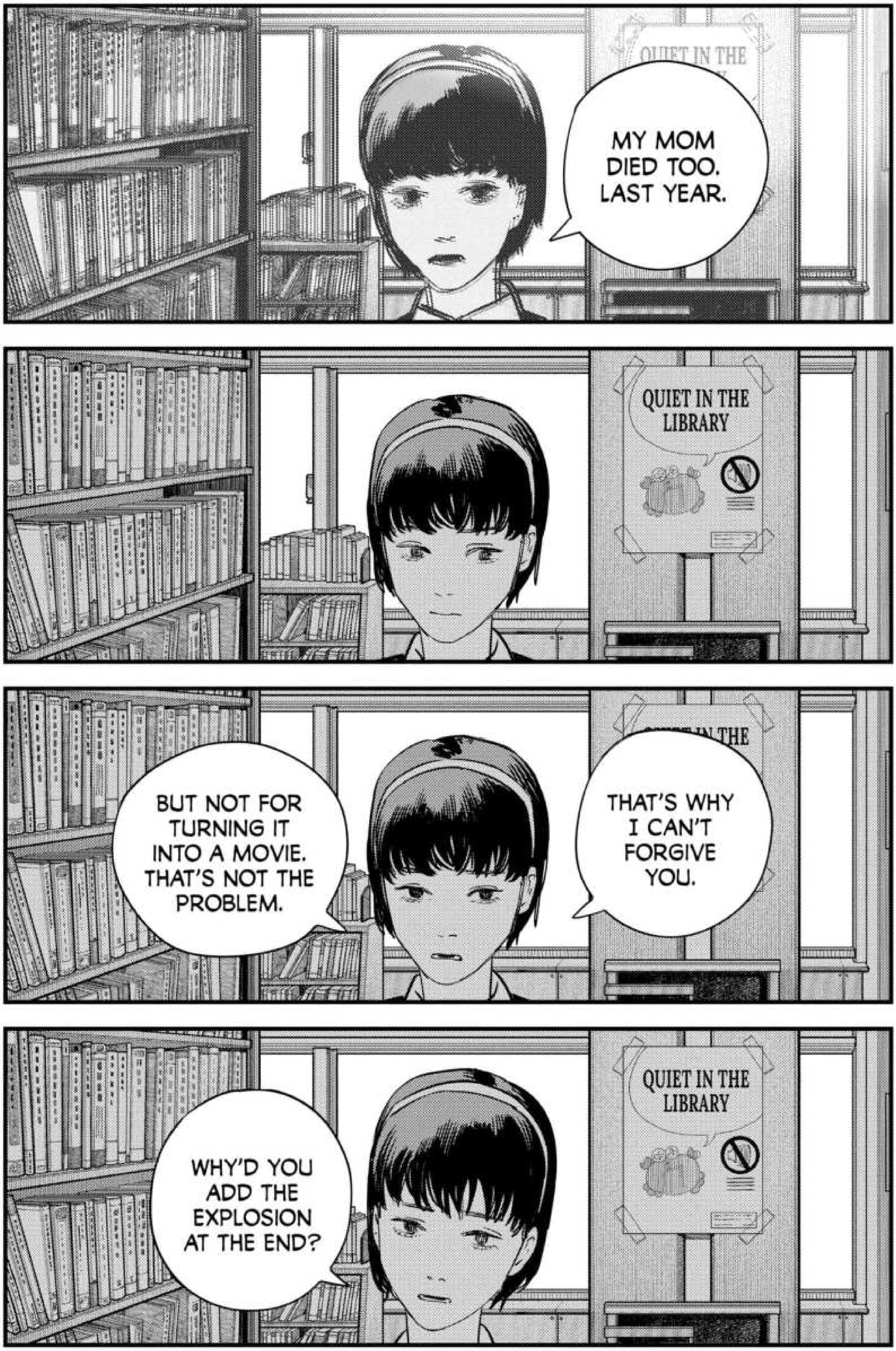
I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR SENSE OF MORALS.

YOU'RE DESPI-CABLE.
PUT YOURSELF IN YOUR MOM'S SHOES.

WHY WOULD YOU TURN THAT INTO A MOVIE?
WHY?

IT WAS ONE BAD MOVIE!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!

IT WAS SH...
...SHIT.


QUIET IN THE
MY MOM DIED TOO. LAST YEAR.
QUIET IN THE LIBRARY
BUT NOT FOR TURNING IT INTO A MOVIE. THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU.
WHY'D YOU ADD THE EXPLOSION AT THE END?
QUIET IN THE LIBRARY

THIS ONE GOES OUT TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE FUN OF ME.
HEY, ALL.

...THEN I'M ALREADY DEAD. I'VE COMMITTED SUICIDE.
IF YOU'RE WATCHING THIS...

BY JUMPING OFF THE ROOF OF THE HOSPITAL WHERE MY MOM DIED.

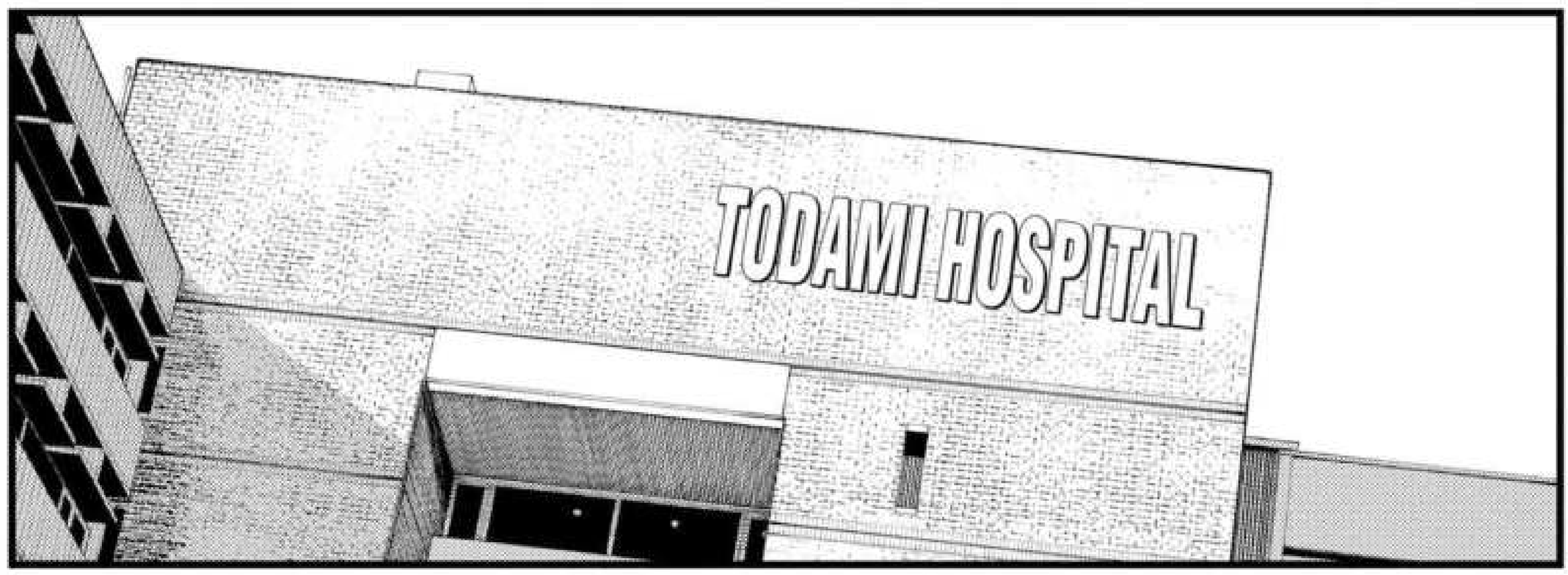
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IT FEELS TO HAVE IT GET MOCKED?
I PUT THE ENTIRETY OF MY MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE INTO MAKING THAT MOVIE.

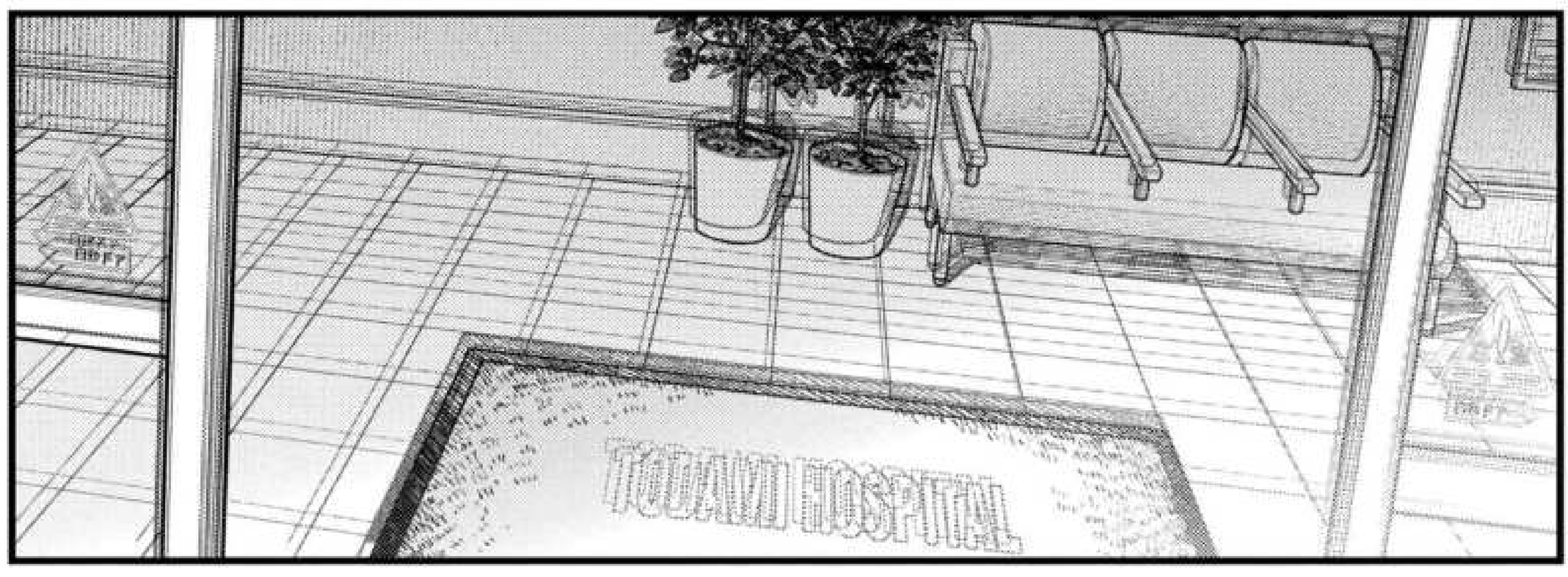
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, *YOU* DESERVE TO DIE TOO.
ARE YOU THINKING, "WHY WOULD YOU KILL YOURSELF OVER THAT?"

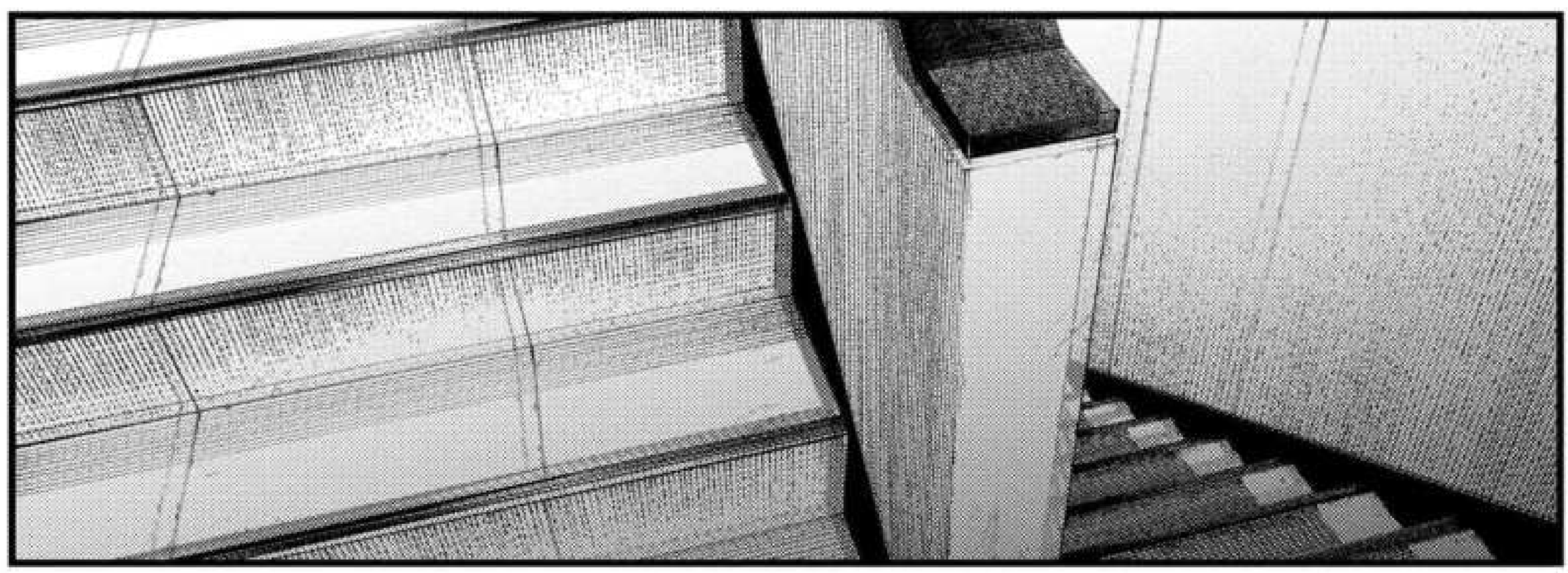
PLEASE DON'T BE SAD.
OH.
DAD, WHEN YOU FIND THIS VIDEO, I HAVE A REQUEST.

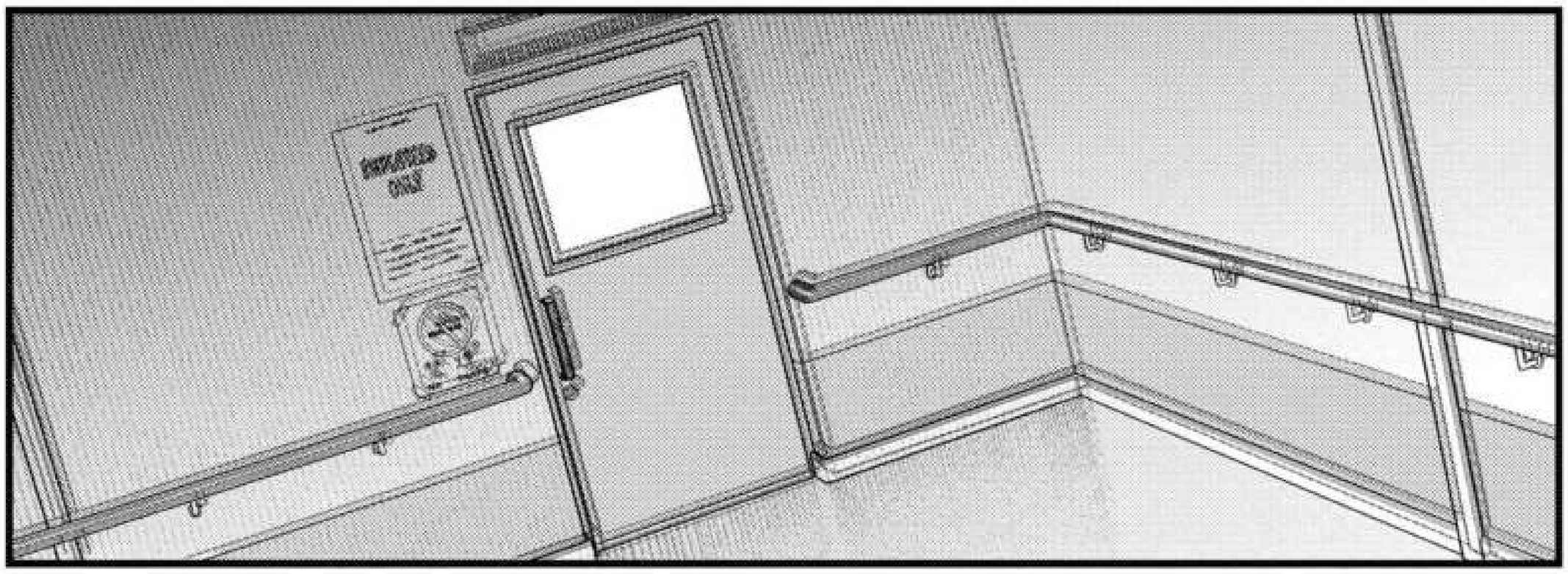
MAKE THEM REMEMBER ME FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
SHOW THIS VIDEO TO THE JERKS WHO MADE FUN OF ME.

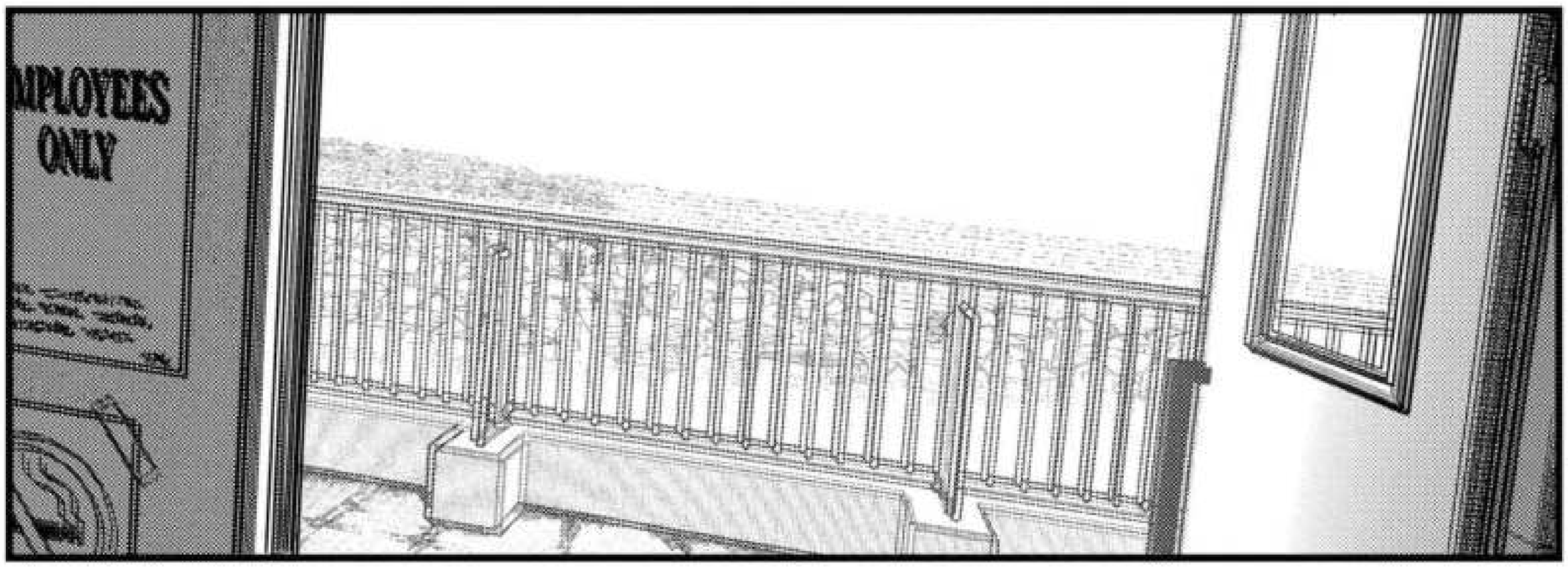
GOODBYE.
MEMENTO MORI.
THIS WORLD IS FILLED WITH DEATH.
THIS IS YUTA, SIGNING OFF.

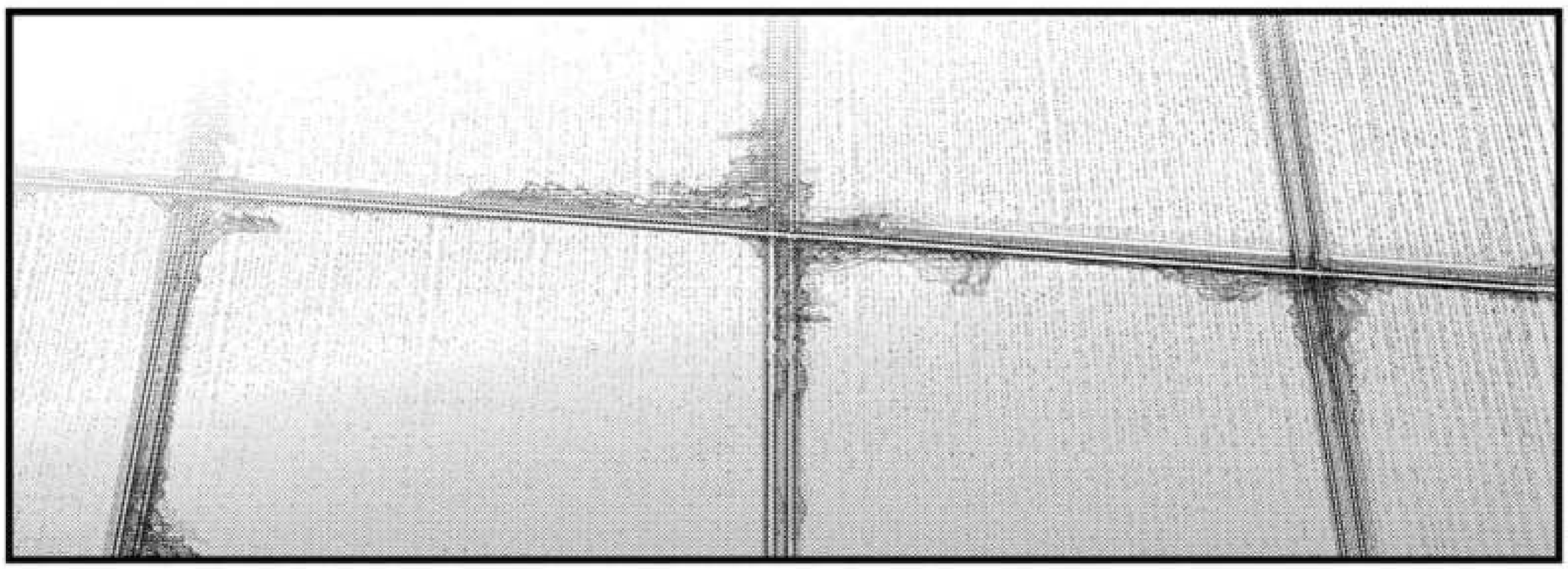

TODAMI HOSPITAL

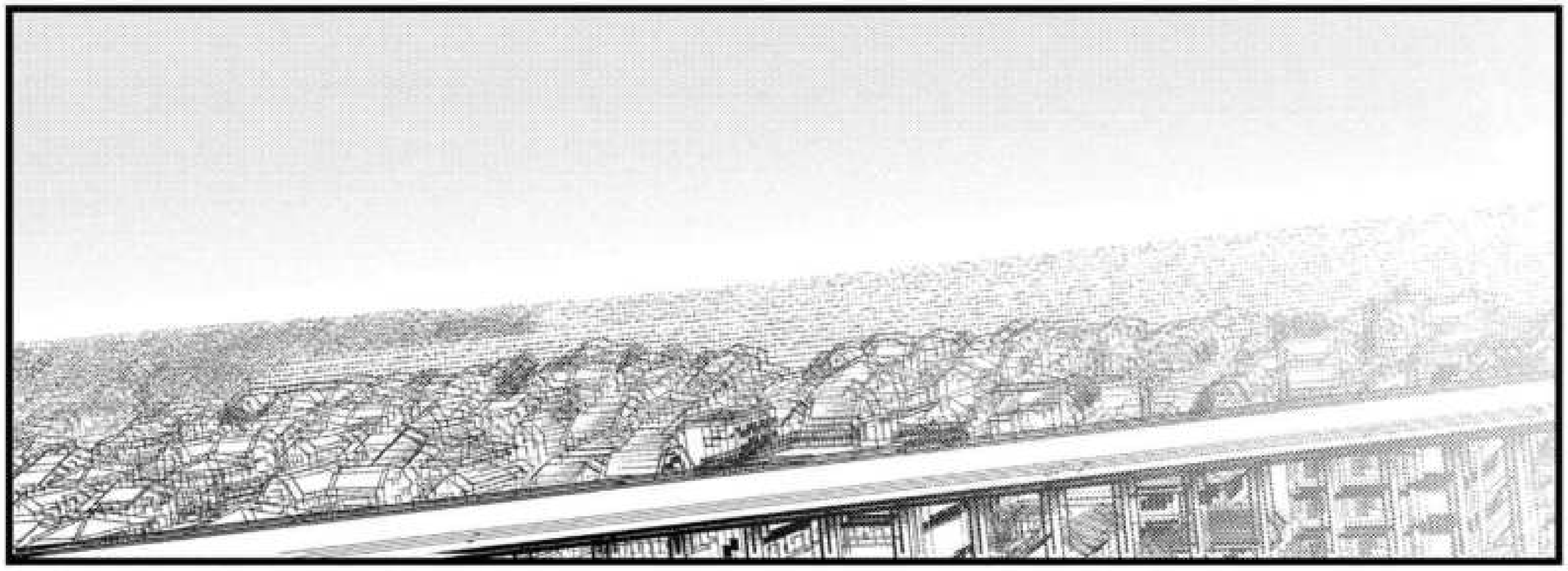

TODAMI HOSPITAL

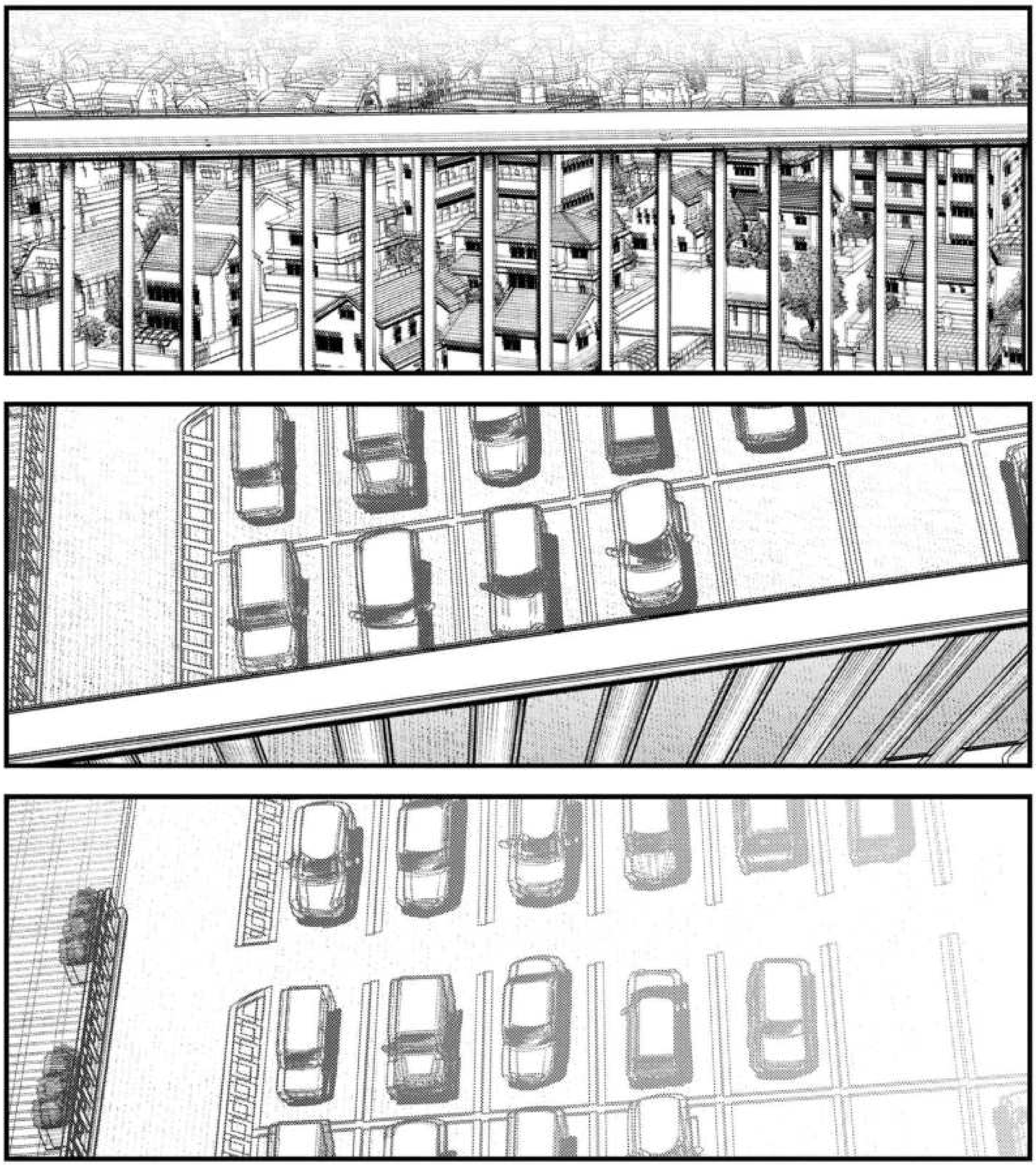


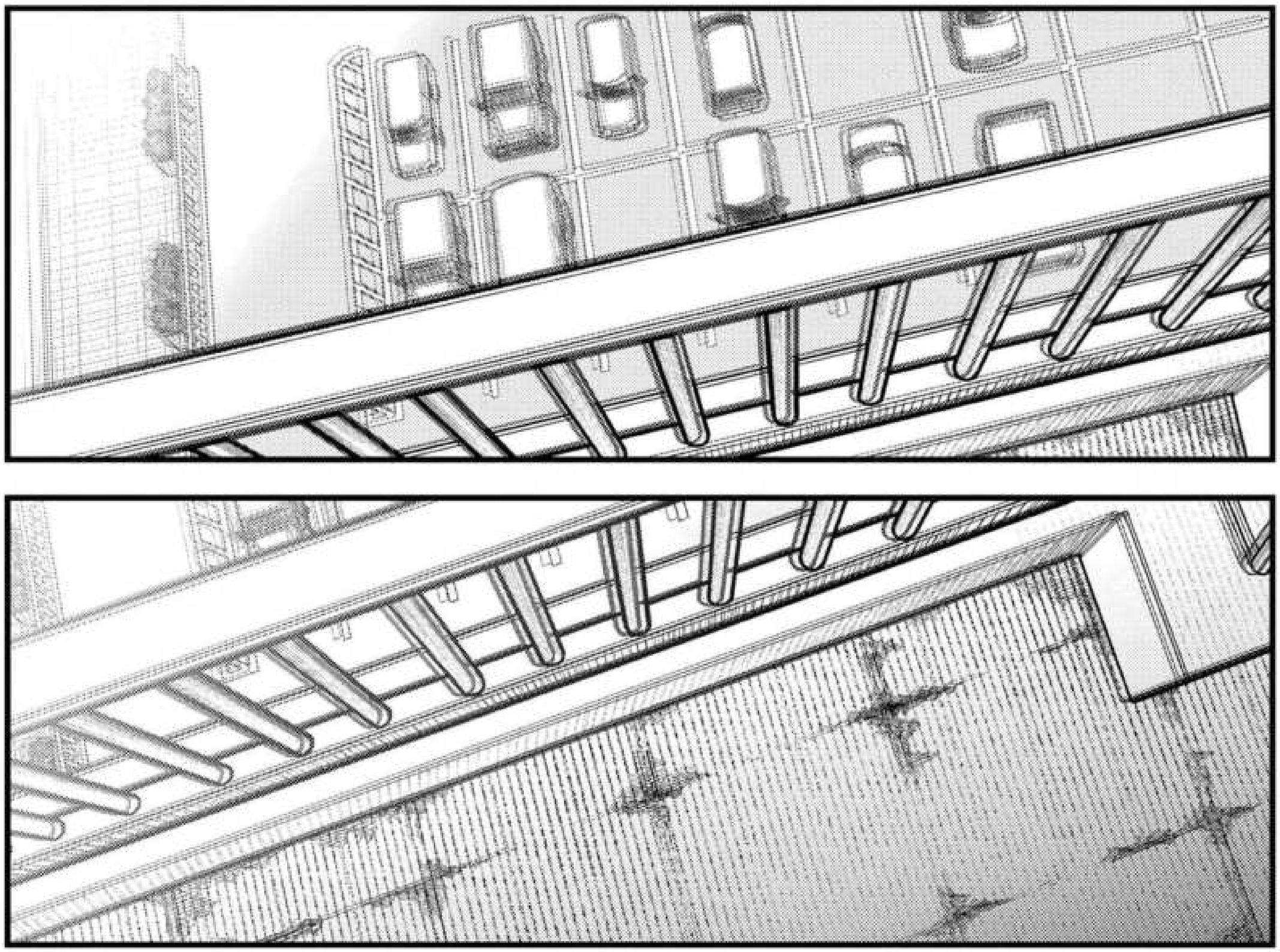


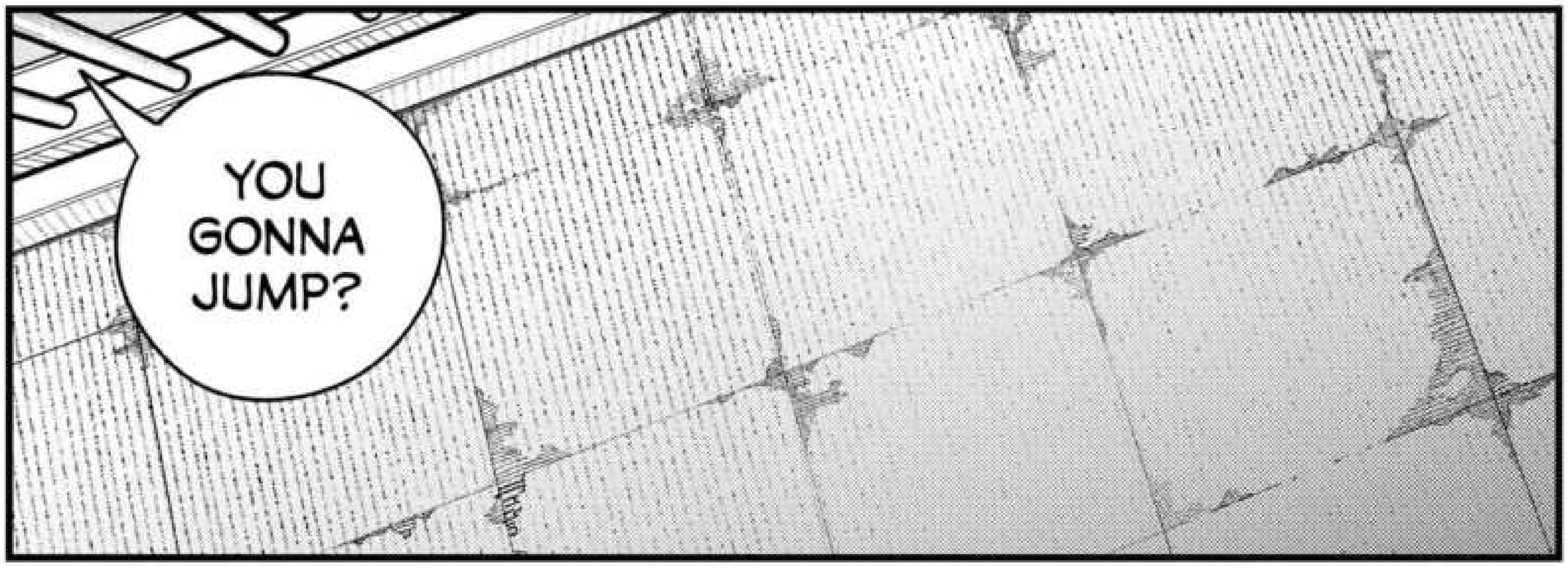

MPLOYEES
ONLY

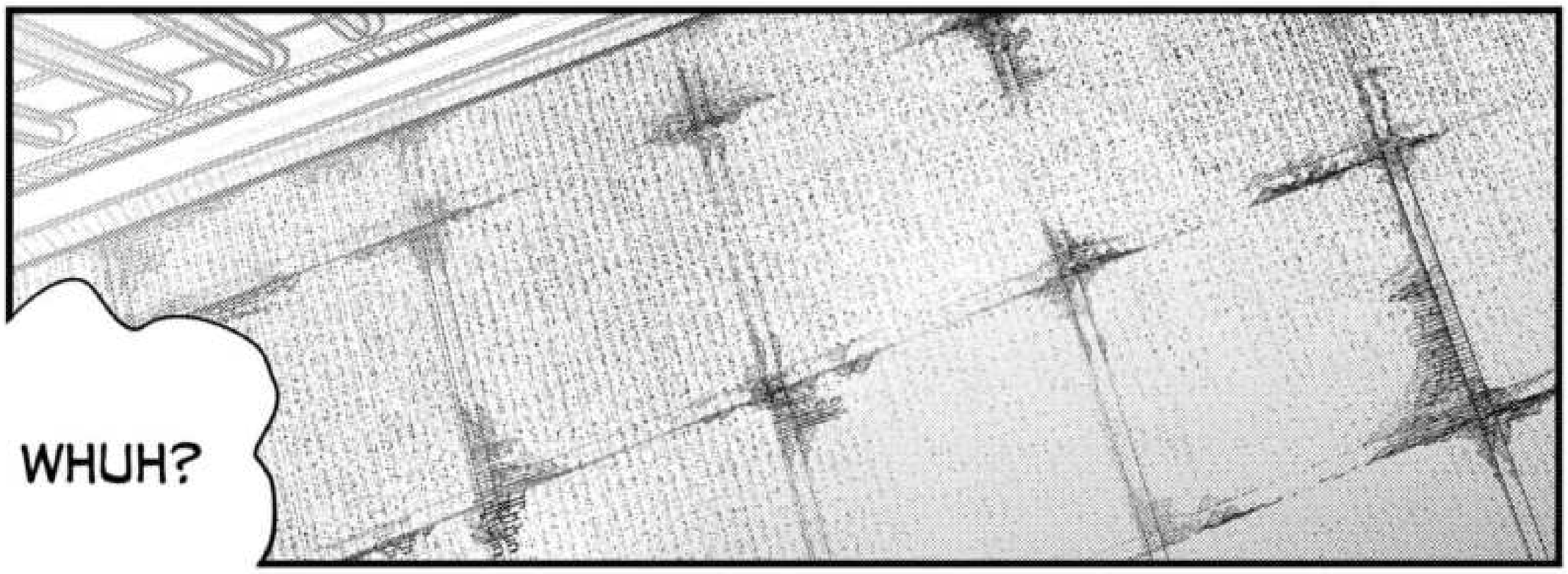









YOU GONNA JUMP?

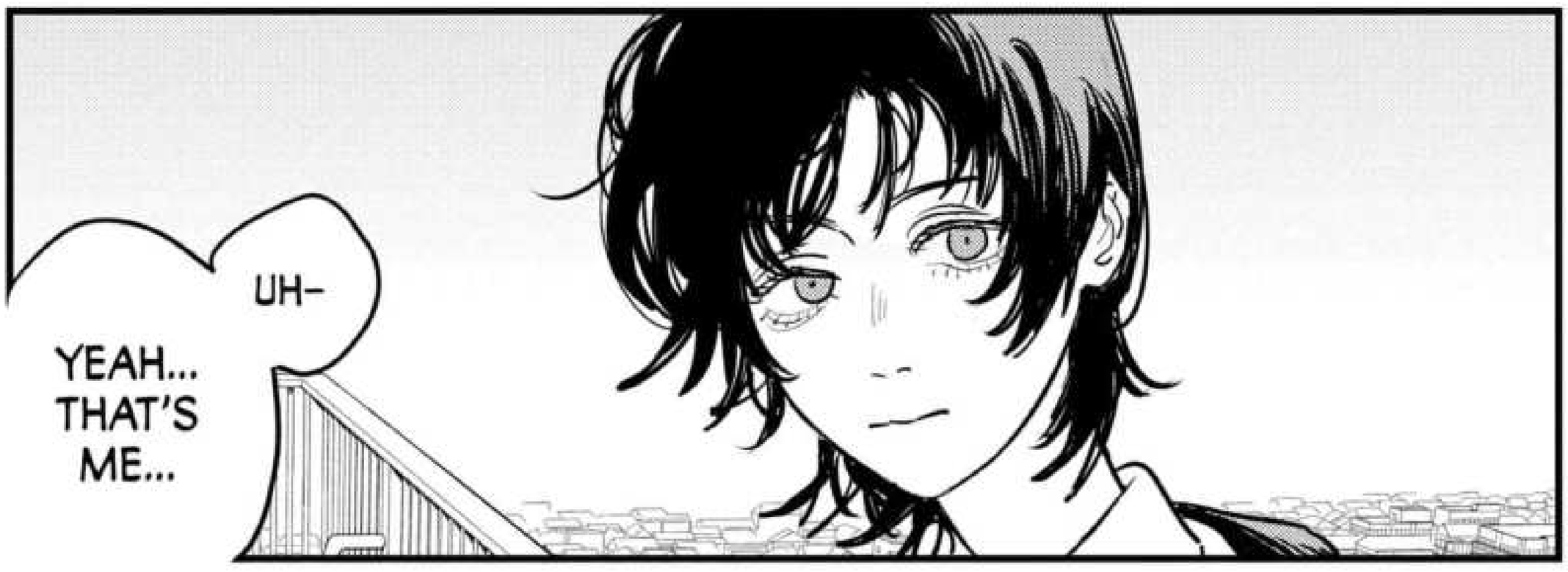

WHUH?

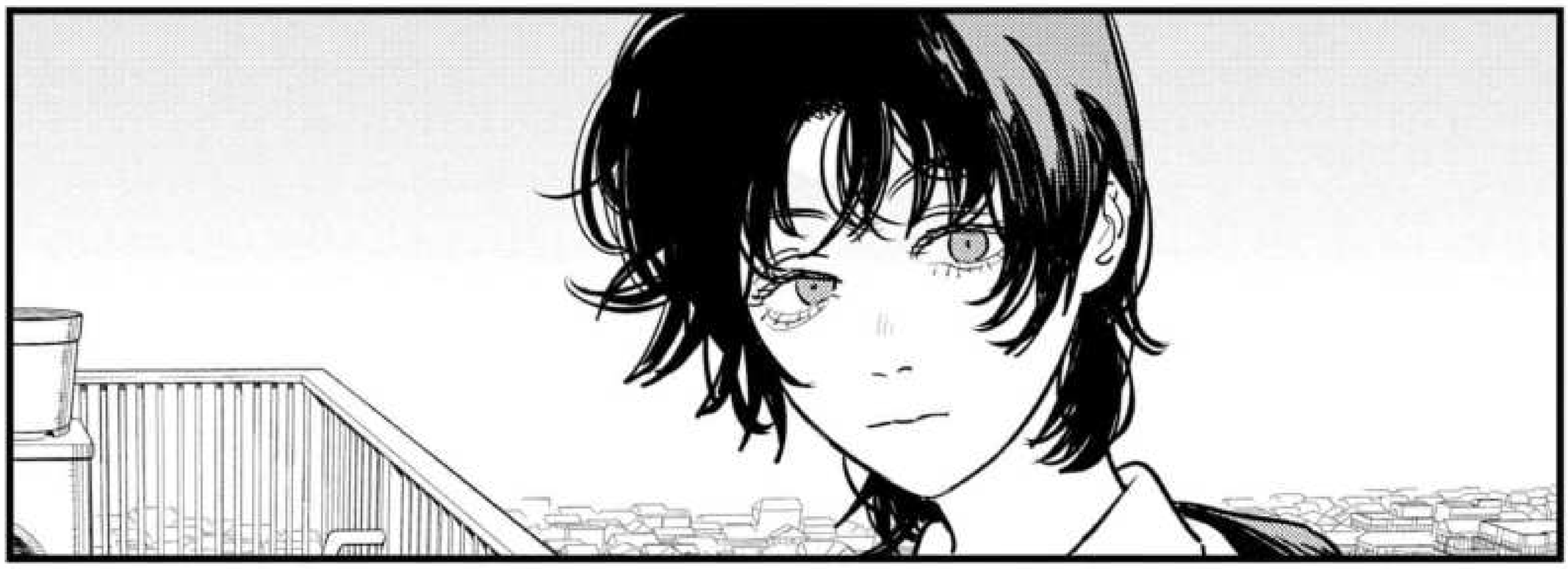
YOU'LL HURT THE HOSPITAL'S REPUTATION.
IF YOU WANT TO DIE, DON'T DO IT HERE.

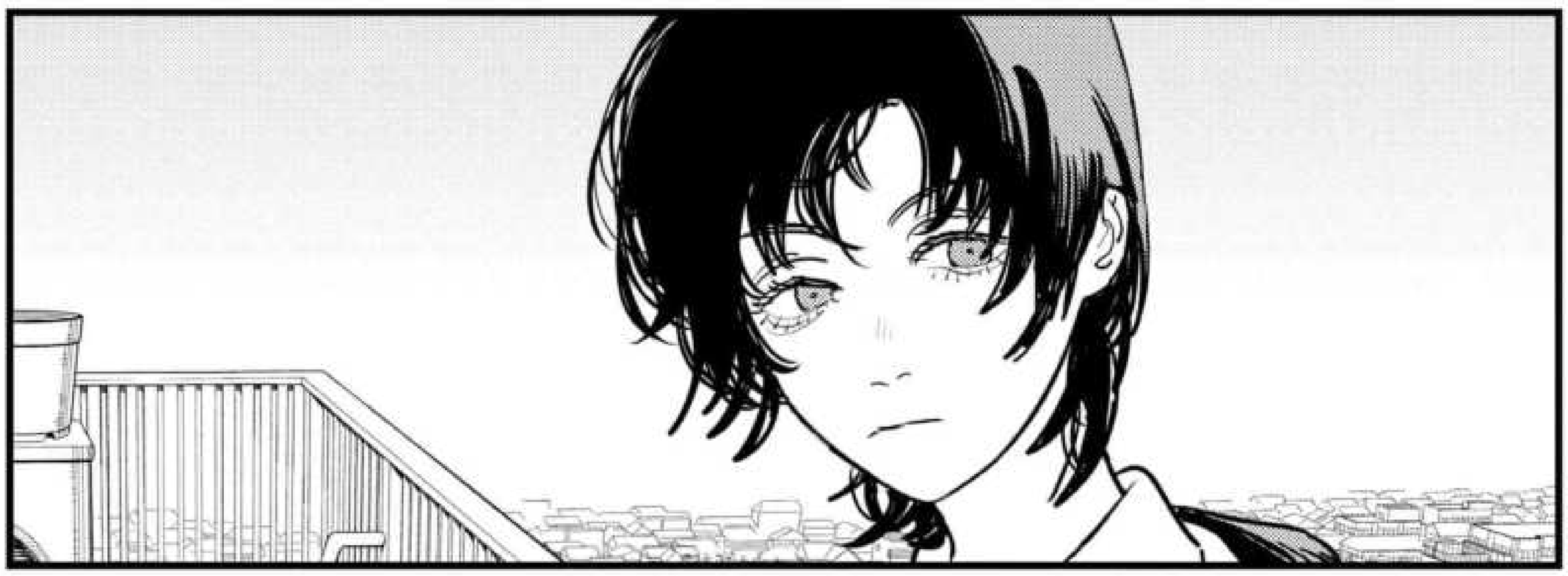
DO IT THERE.
THE DOCTORS THERE ARE TOTAL JERKS.
GO DIE AT THE HOSPITAL NEAR THE STATION.

...THE MONEY IN YOUR WALLET...
ALSO, IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT DYING...

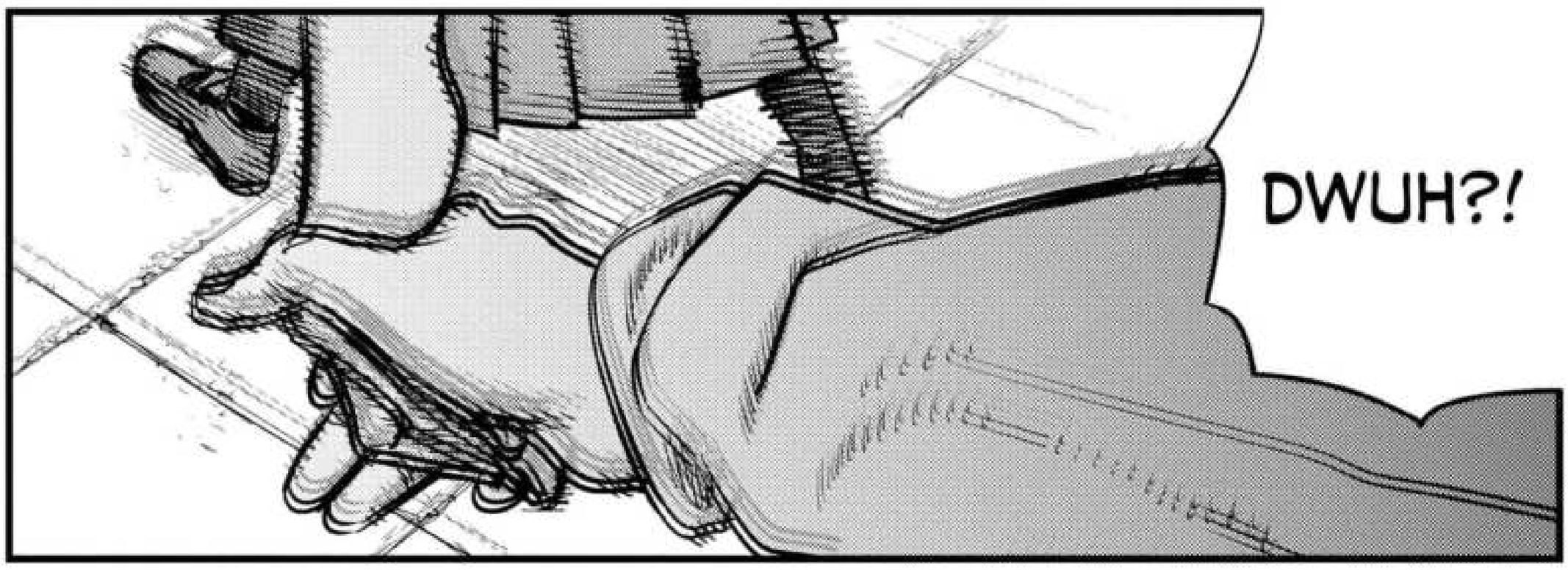
...YUTA ITO FROM *DEAD EXPLOSION MOTHER*?
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE...
HUH? WAIT A SEC. NO WAY.

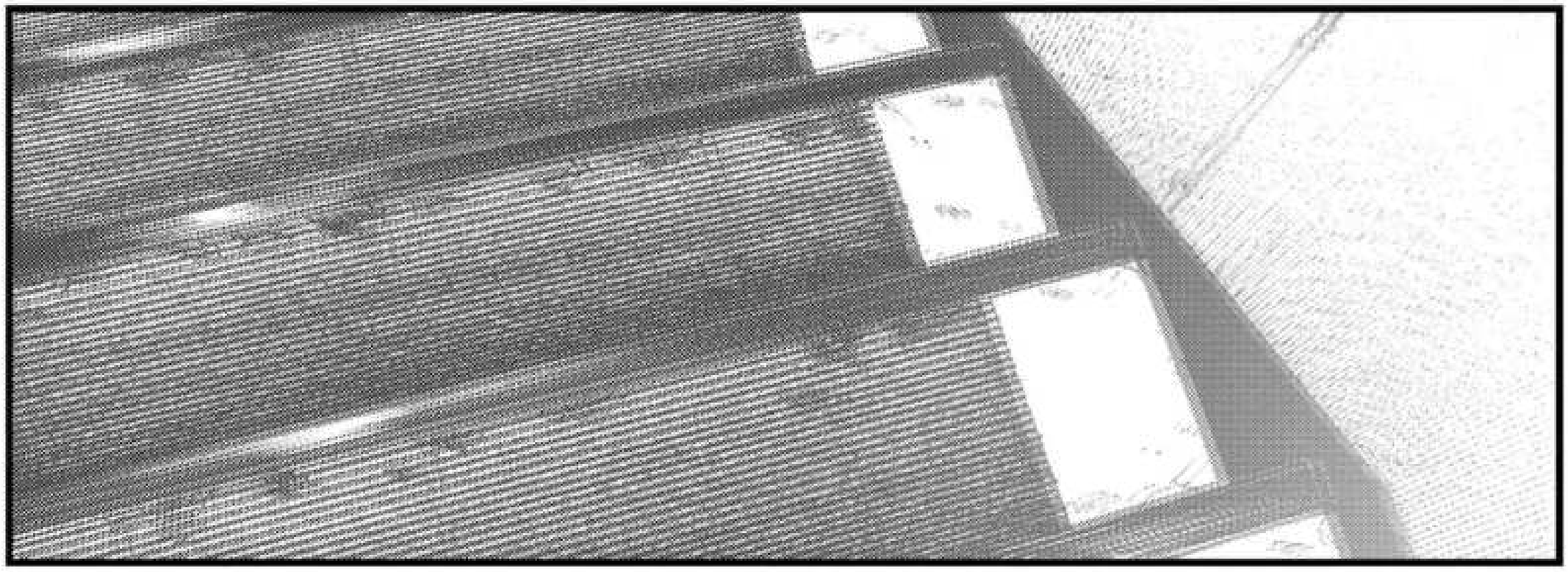

UH–
YEAH... THAT'S ME...

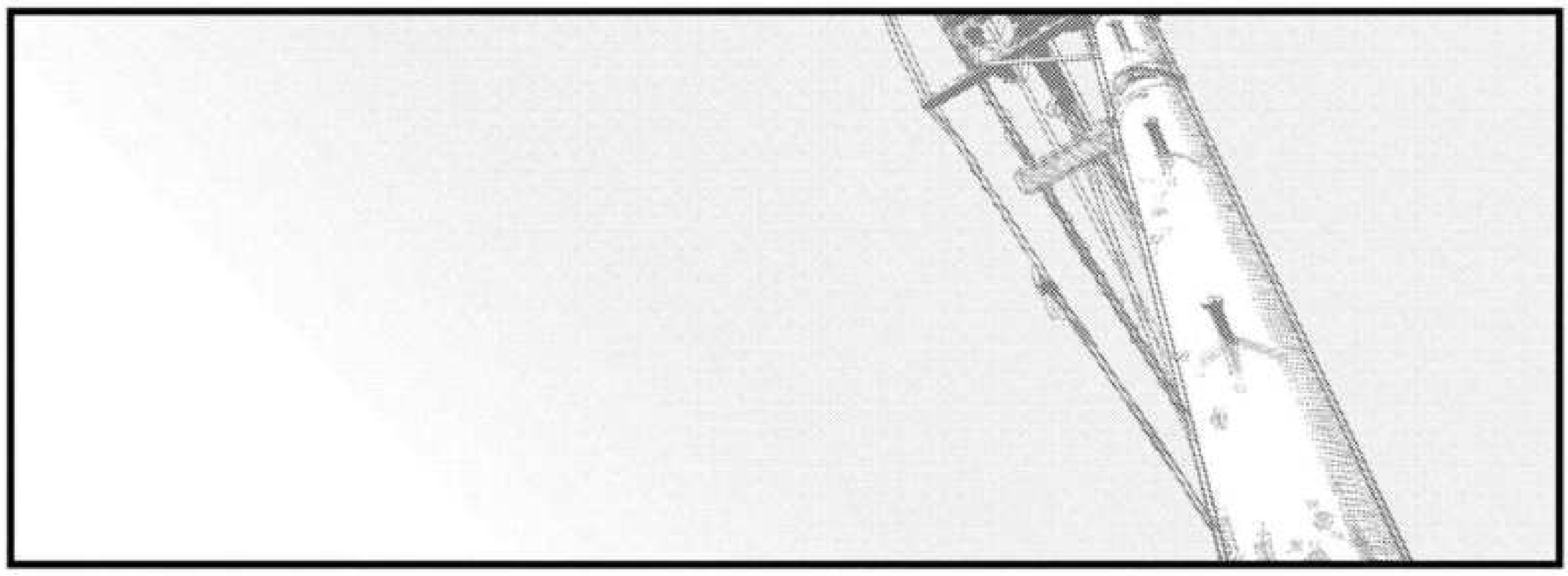


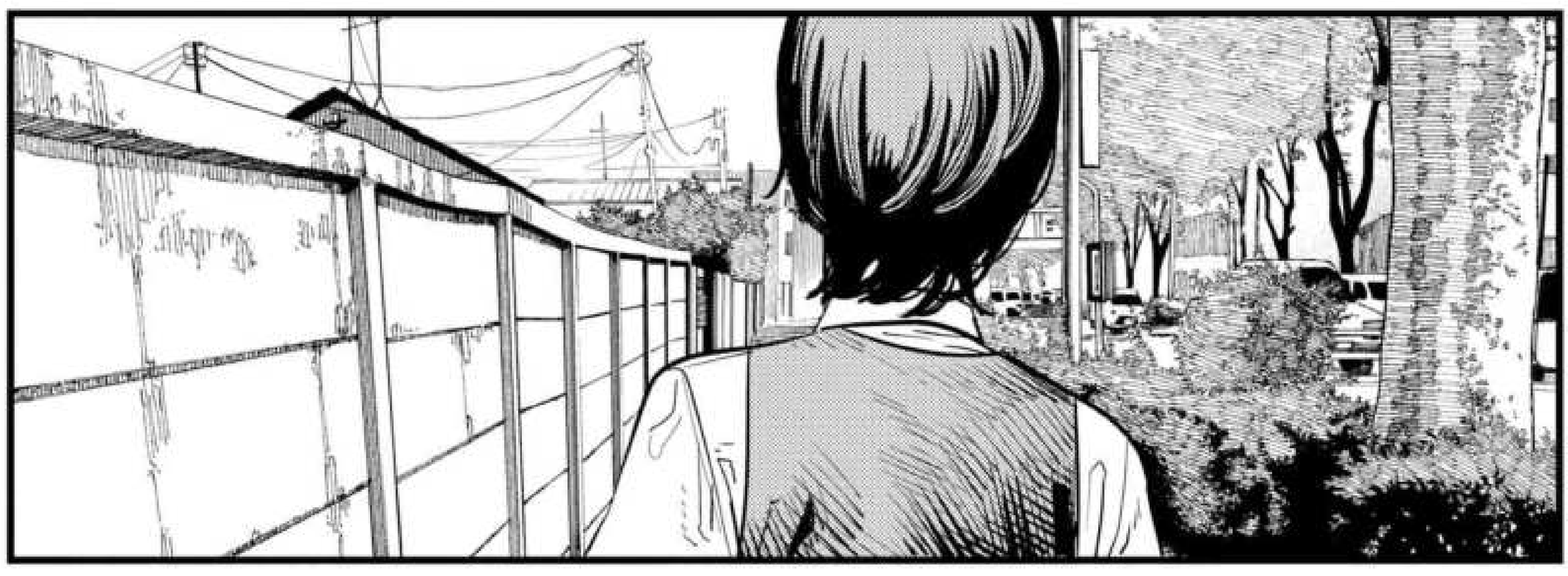


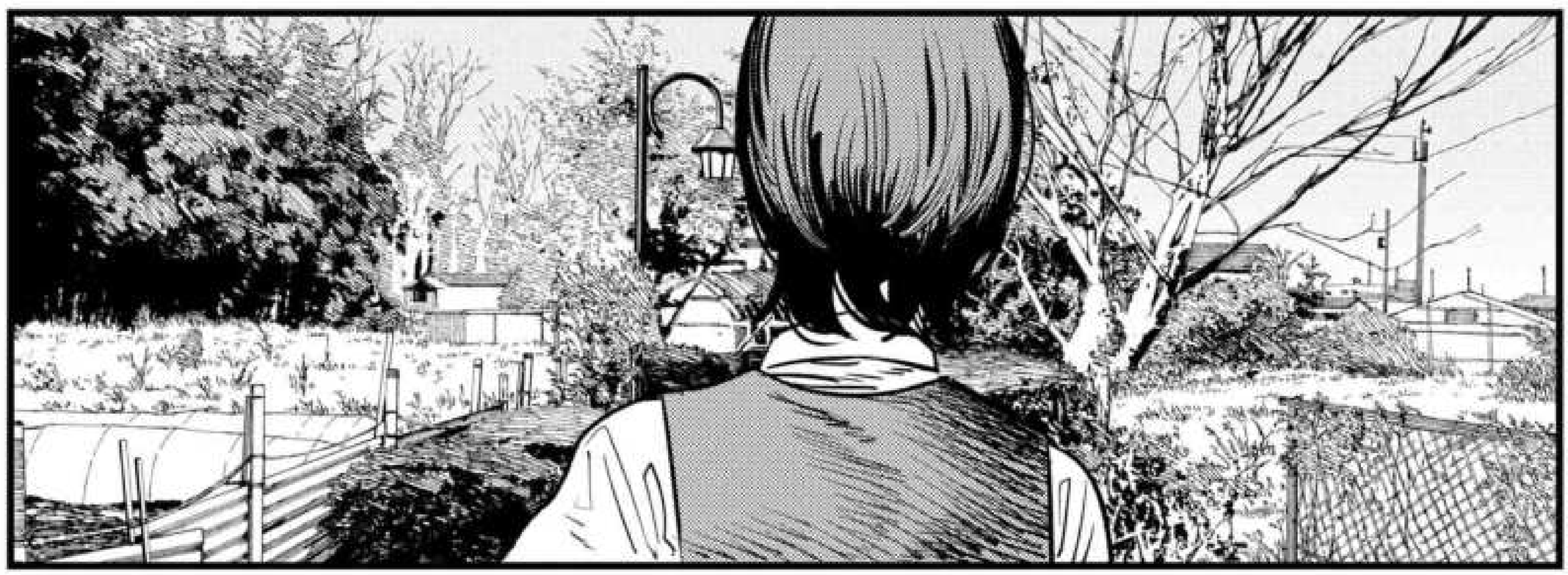
COME WITH ME.

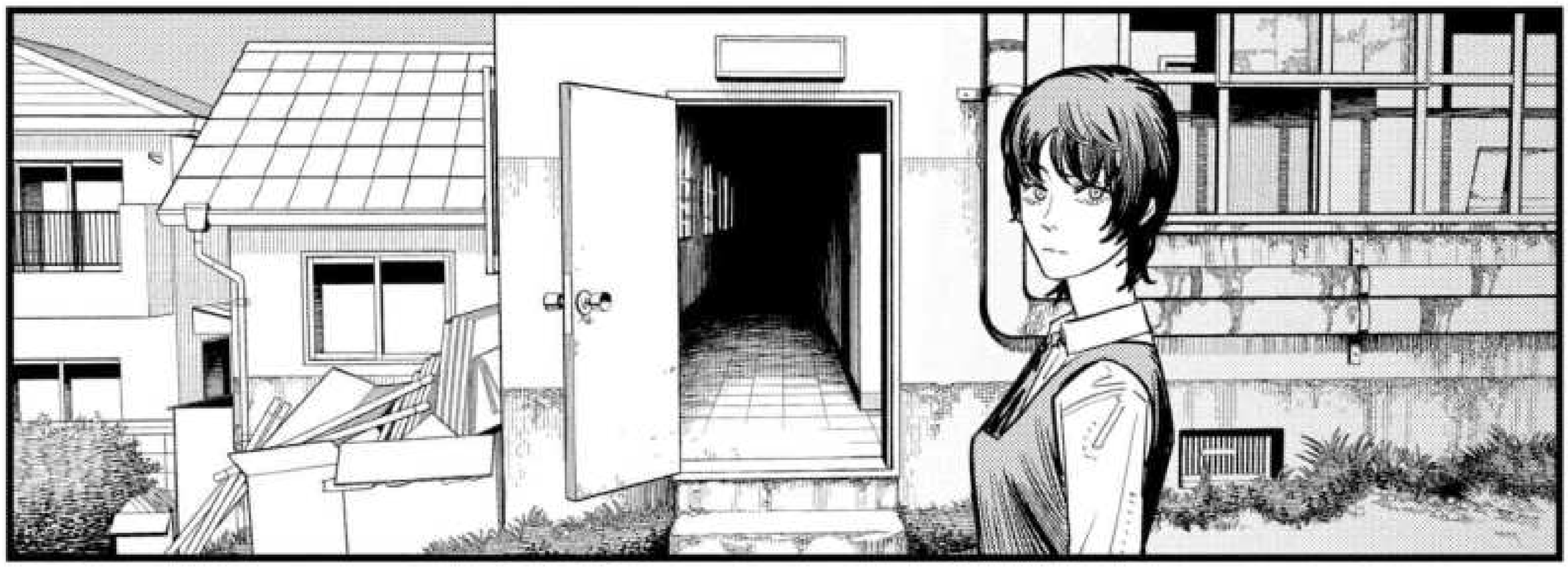

DWUH?!

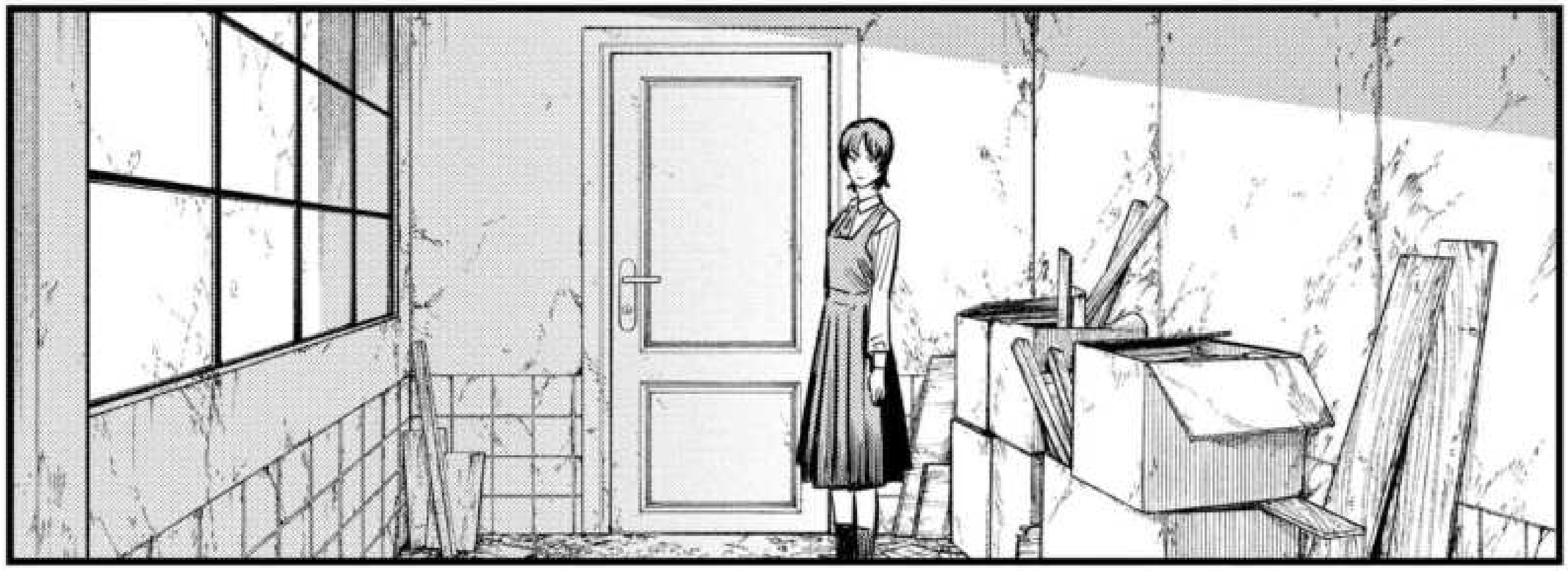


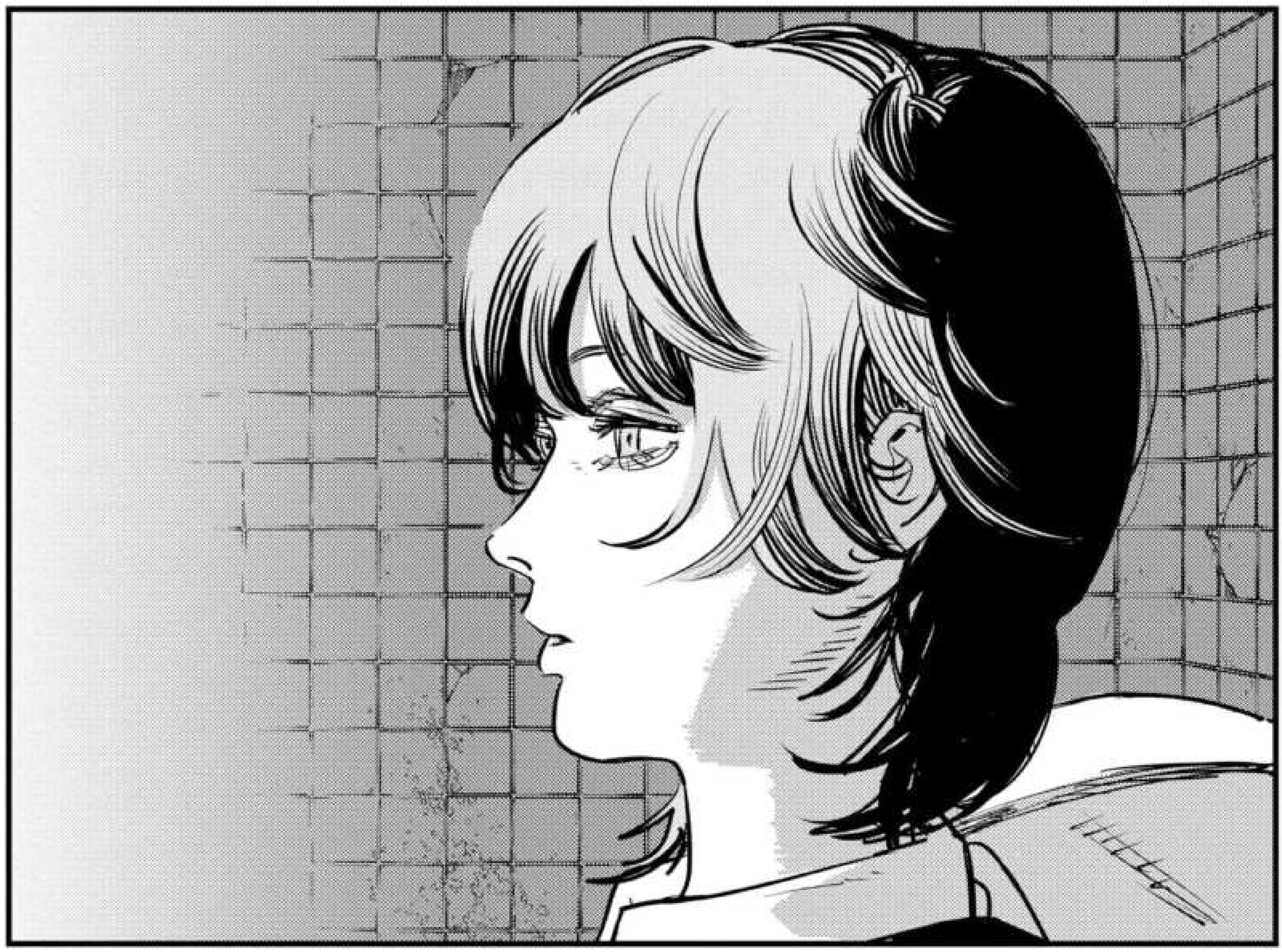


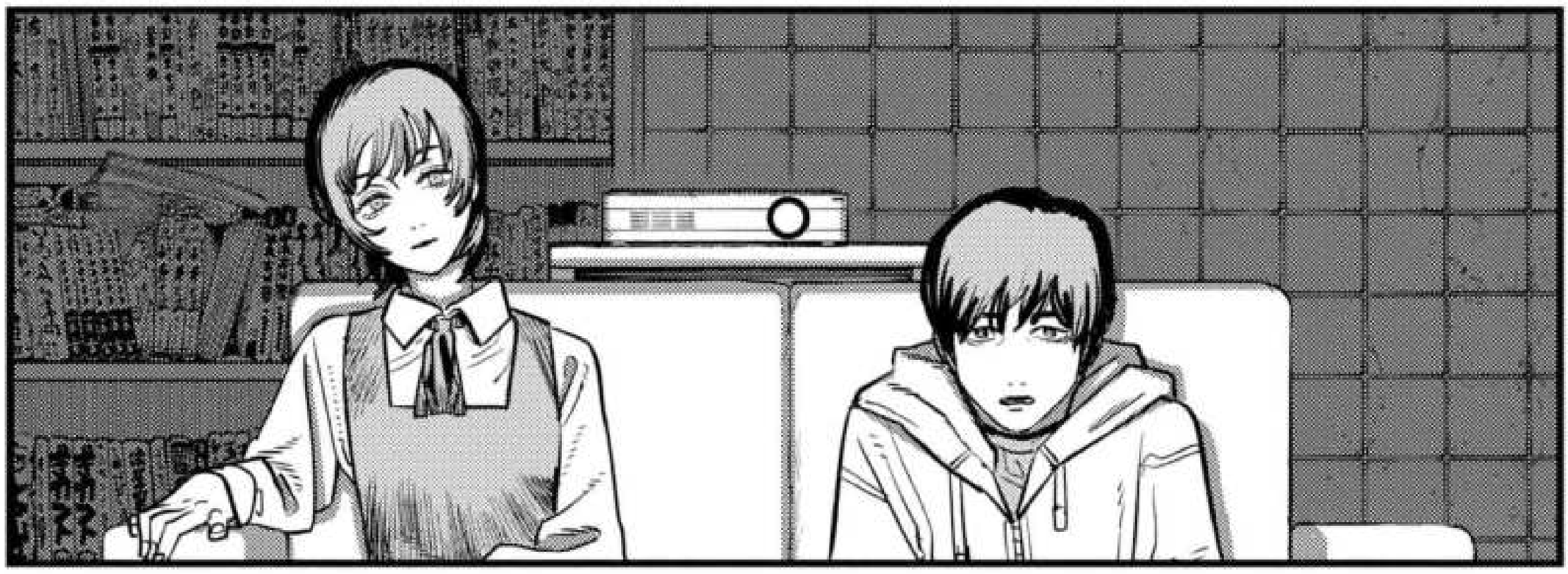


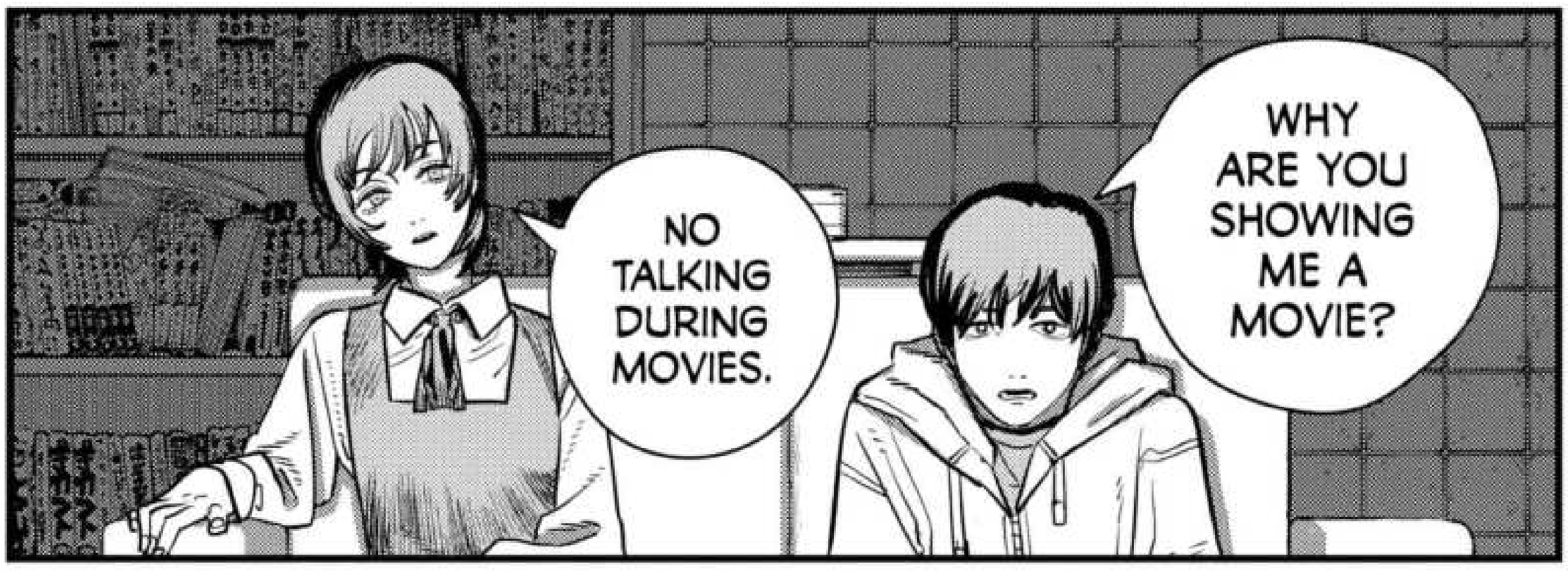


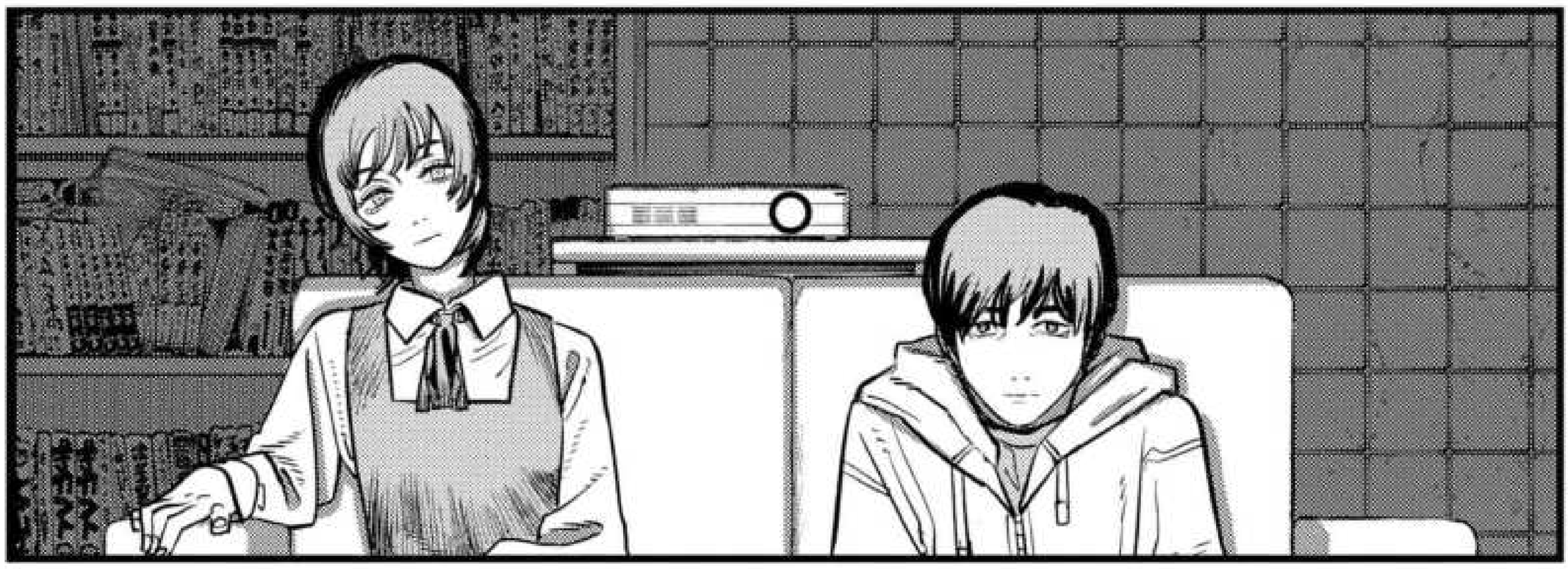


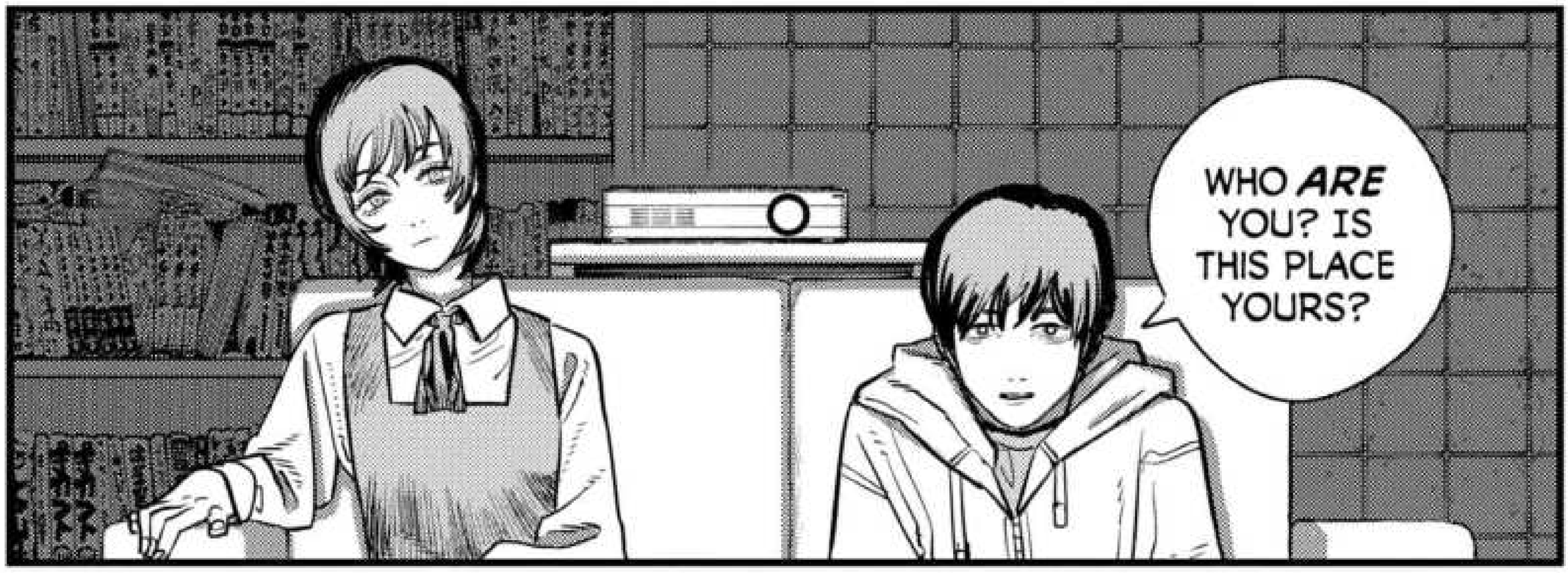




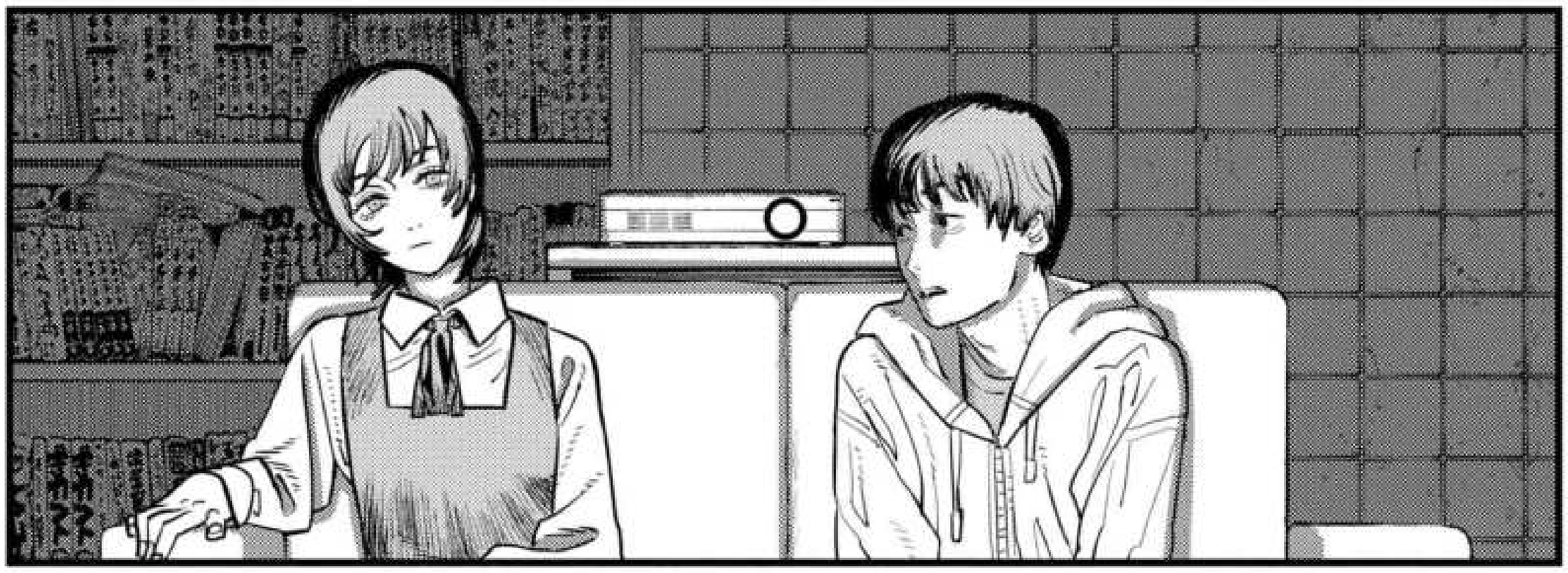


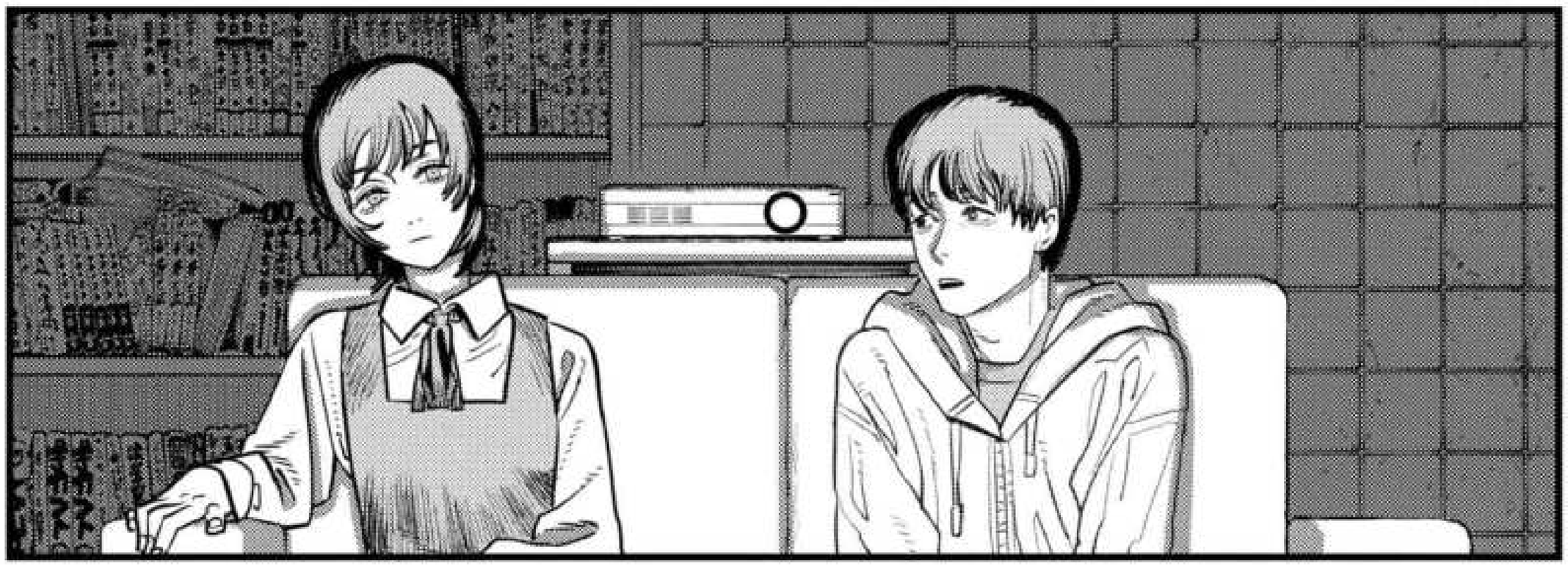

NO TALKING DURING MOVIES.
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME A MOVIE?




WHO *ARE* YOU? IS THIS PLACE YOURS?

AFTER THIS MOVIE, WE'RE WATCHING FOUR MORE.
I'LL TELL YOU IF YOU KEEP QUIET FOR THE NEXT NINE HOURS.
WE'RE TRESPASS-ING IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING. I BROUGHT THE PROJECTOR.
AND NO, IT'S NOT MY PLACE.

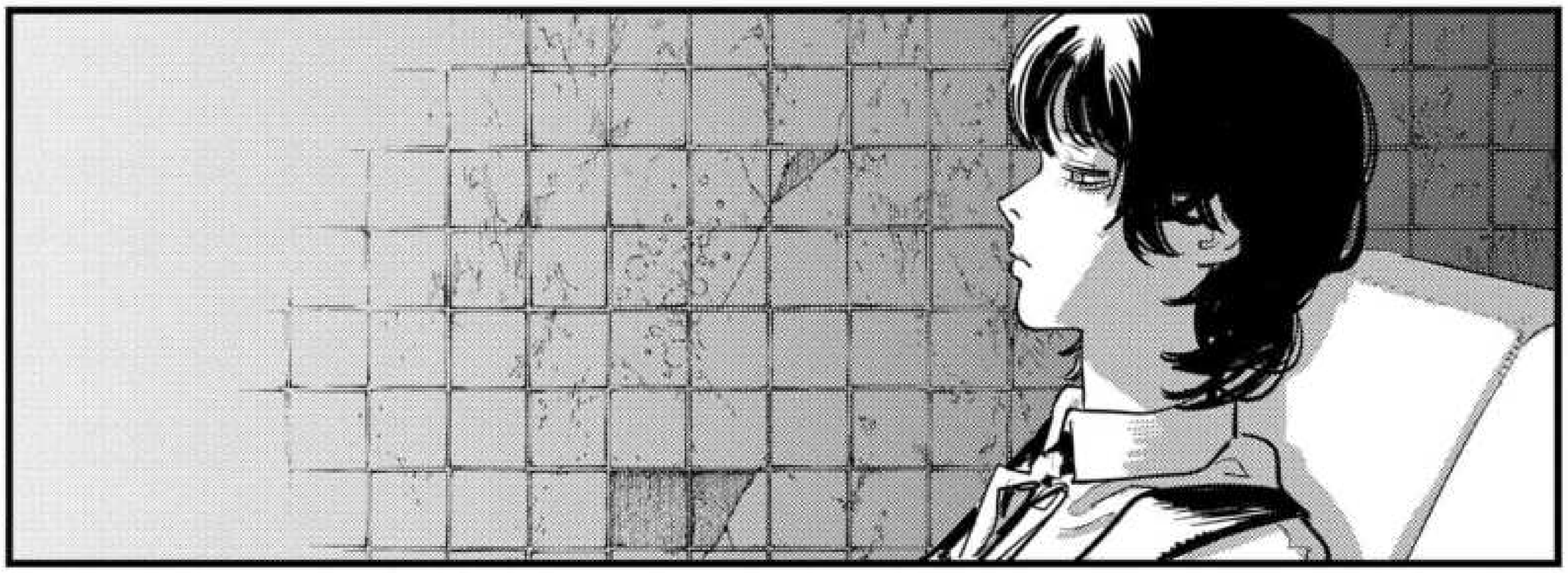




UH, WHY ARE YOU RECORDING ME?
IT'S 2 A.M. I'M LEAVING.
THANKS FOR THE CHARGER.

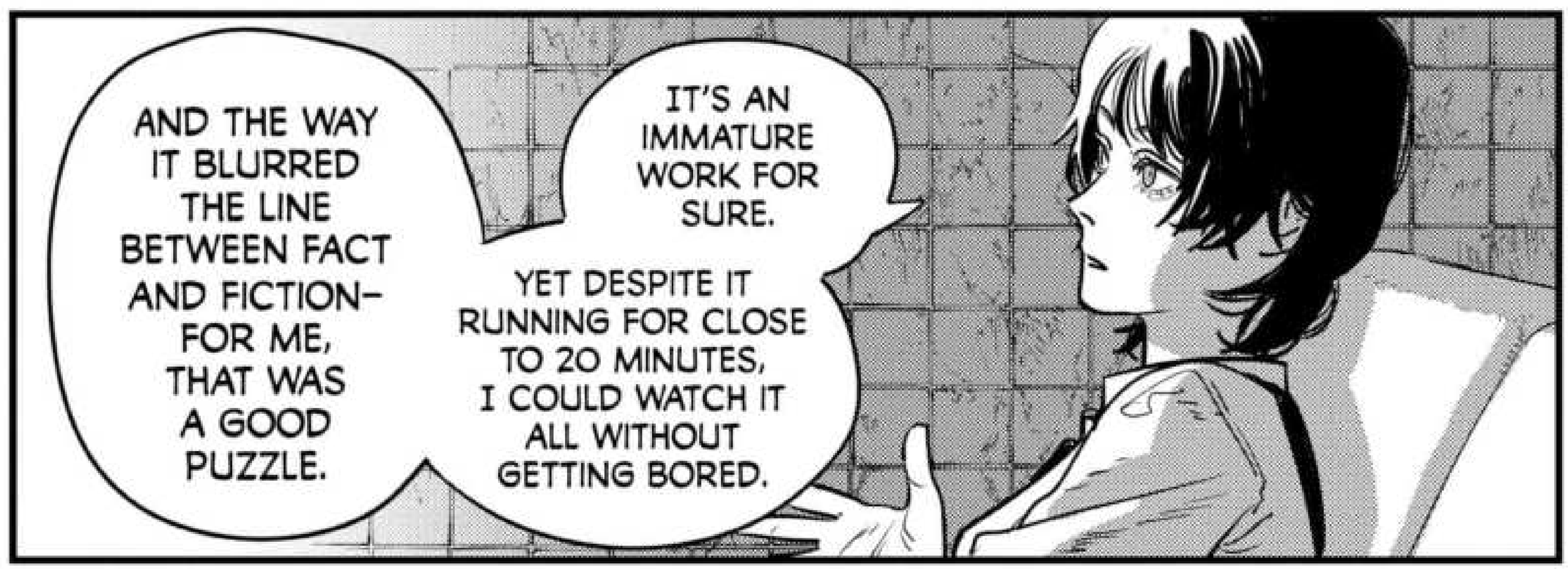
BIGGER QUESTION– THE MOVIES WERE GOOD AND ALL, BUT WHO ARE YOU AND WHY'D YOU SHOW THEM TO ME?

YOU DIDN'T!
I DIDN'T TELL YOU ALREADY?
NO!

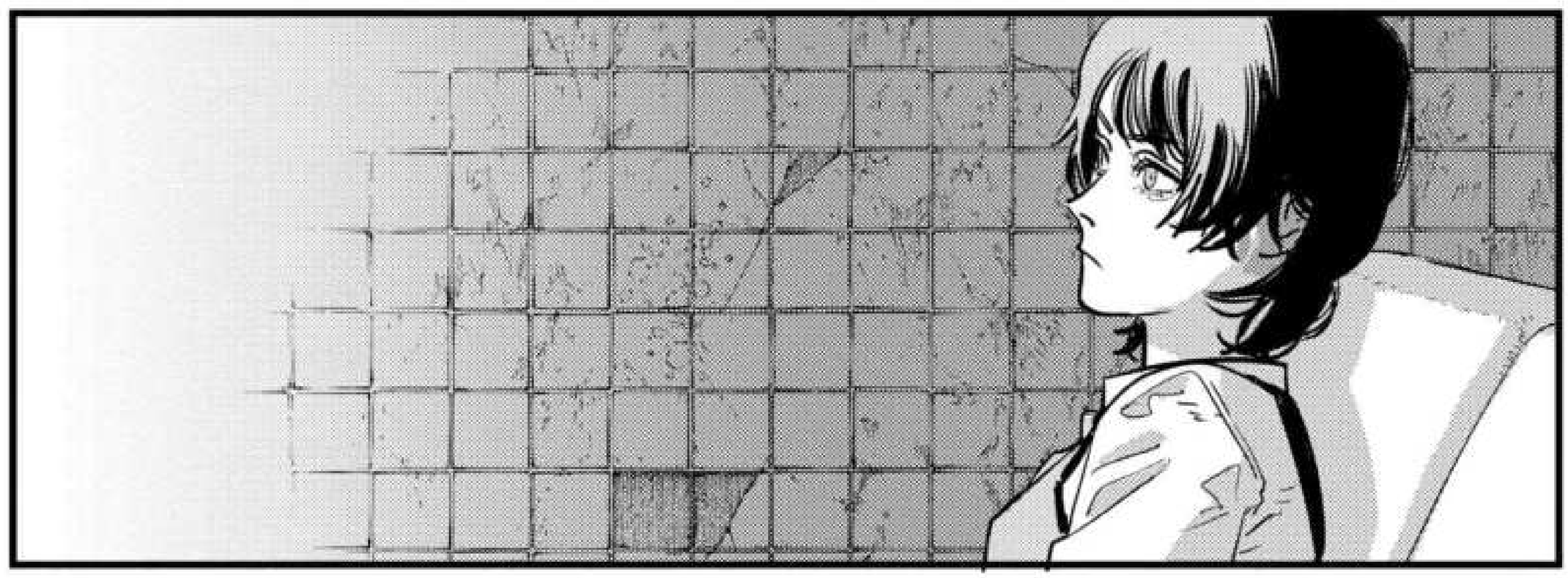


YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THAT MANY MOVIES, HAVE YOU?
I'VE SEEN THE MOVIES THEY PLAY ON TV...
THAT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.
YOU HAVE TO WATCH MORE.
WHY?
CUZ YOU CAN'T MAKE A FILM EVERY-ONE WILL LIKE UNLESS YOU'VE WATCHED A TON OF THEM.
OH, GREAT. ARE YOU...
...ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY MOVIE?

...IT HAD AN EDGE YOU RARELY SEE, AND THE SURPRISES OUTNUMBERED ITS FAULTS.
BUT ...
OH, I HAD PLENTY OF PROBLEMS WITH IT.


AND THE WAY IT BLURRED THE LINE BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION– FOR ME, THAT WAS A GOOD PUZZLE.
IT'S AN IMMATURE WORK FOR SURE.
YET DESPITE IT RUNNING FOR CLOSE TO 20 MINUTES, I COULD WATCH IT ALL WITHOUT GETTING BORED.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED ME.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

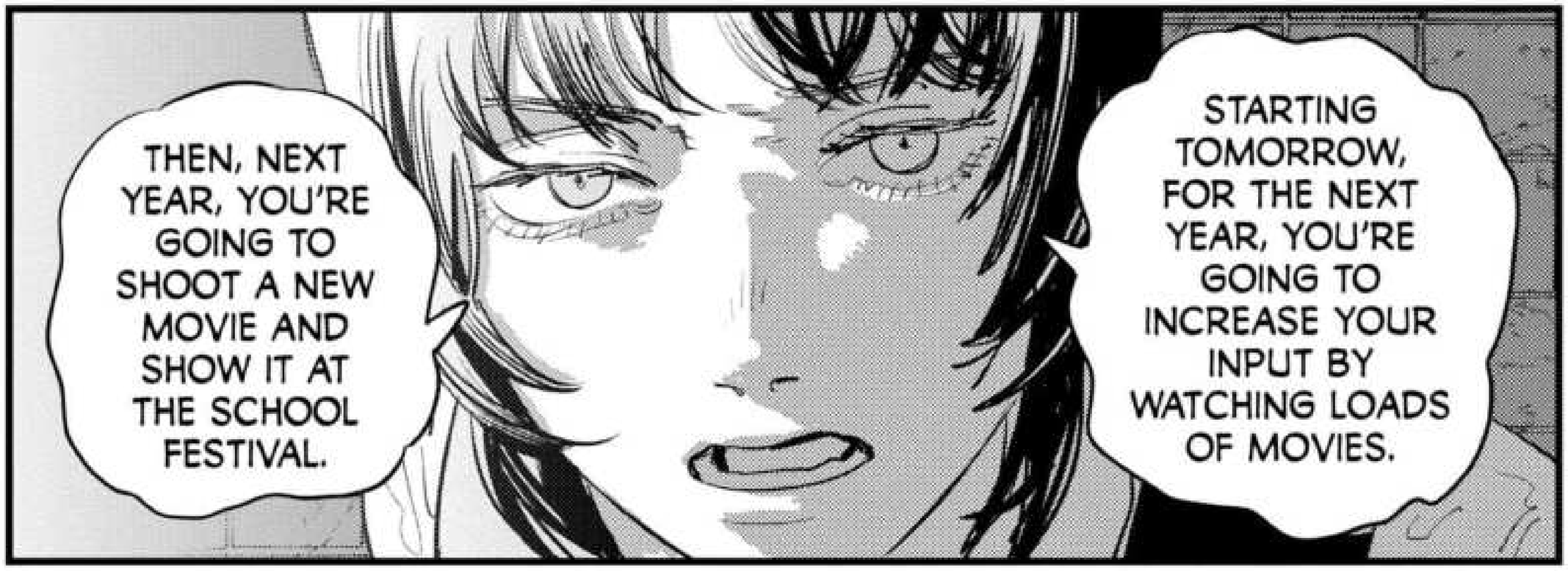


YOUR MOVIE...
...WAS SUPER AWESOME!

BUT IT WAS JUST AS FRUSTRATING AS IT WAS GOOD!

AND THAT *REALLY* PISSED ME OFF!
EVERYONE ELSE USED IT AS MATERIAL FOR THEIR JOKES!
I WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN THAT GYM WHO WAS CRYING!

...YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER MOVIE!
THAT'S WHY...


THEN, NEXT YEAR, YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT A NEW MOVIE AND SHOW IT AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
STARTING TOMORROW, FOR THE NEXT YEAR, YOU'RE GOING TO INCREASE YOUR INPUT BY WATCHING LOADS OF MOVIES.

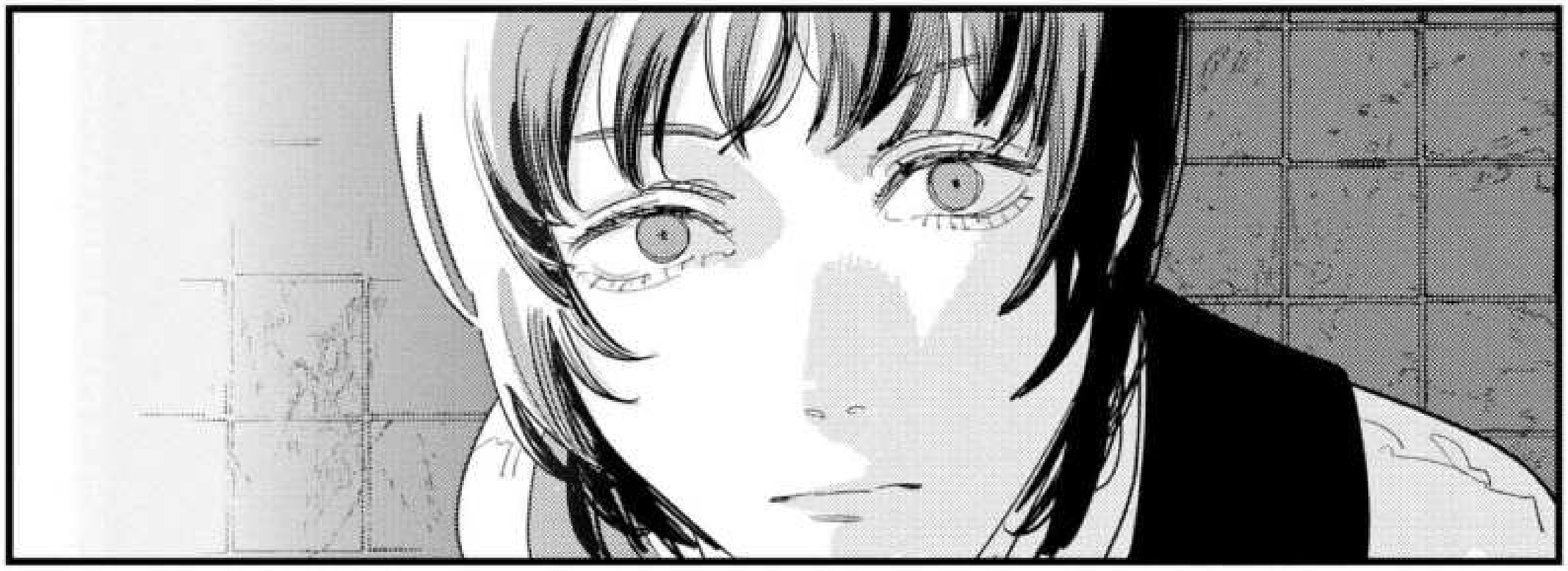
NEXT TIME, DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE THEM ALL BAWL THEIR EYES OUT?

I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

I'LL BE YOUR MANAGER.

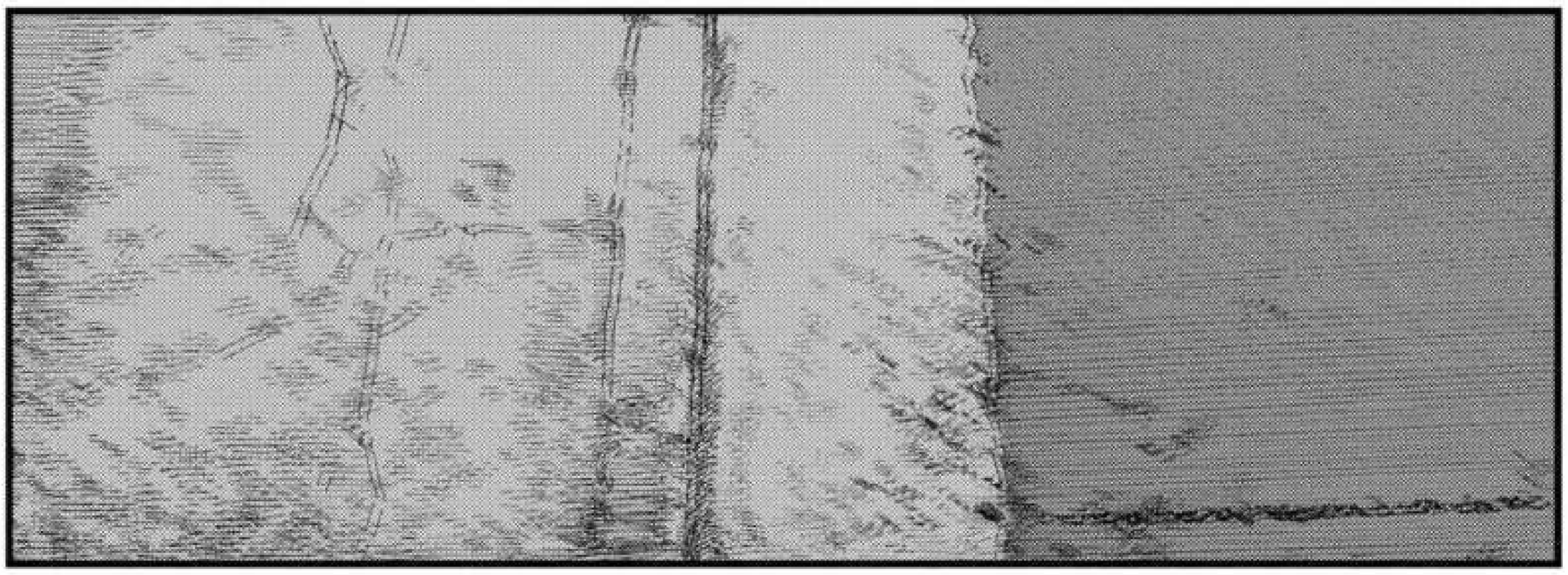
I'M CONFIDENT I WATCH MORE MOVIES THAN ANYONE IN THIS TOWN.
DON'T WORRY!

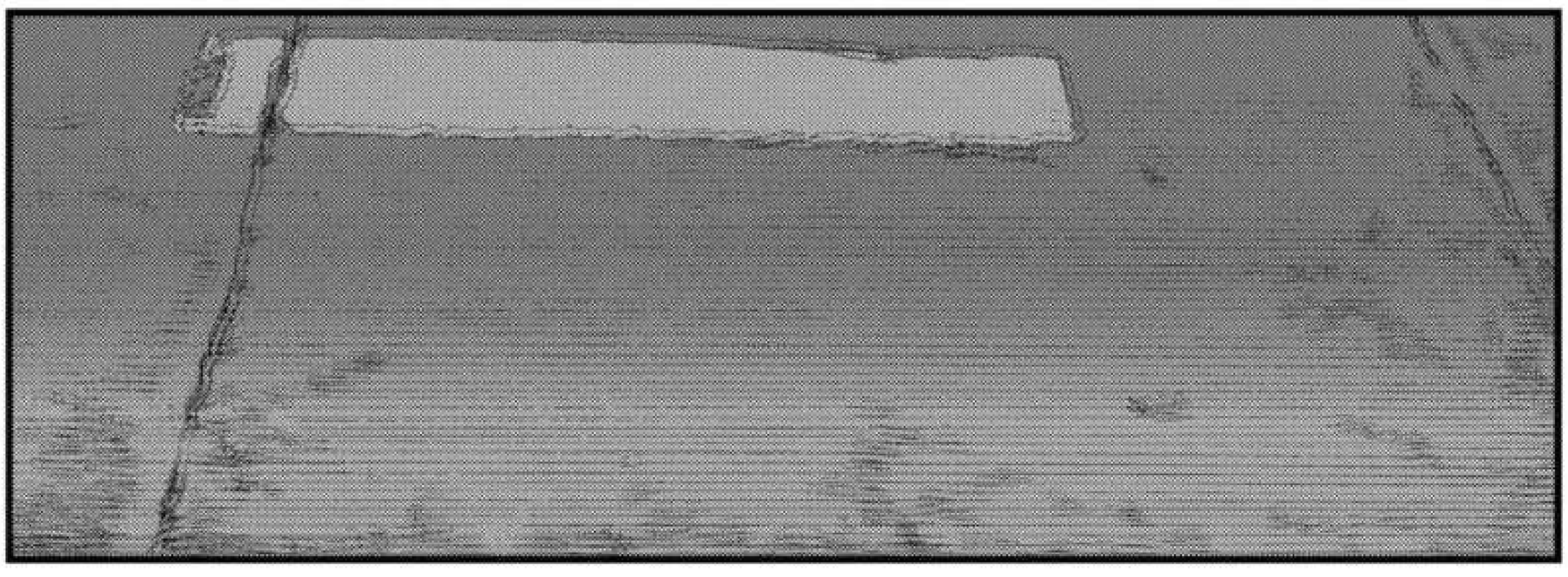
BUT WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
OKAY. I THINK I GET IT NOW.



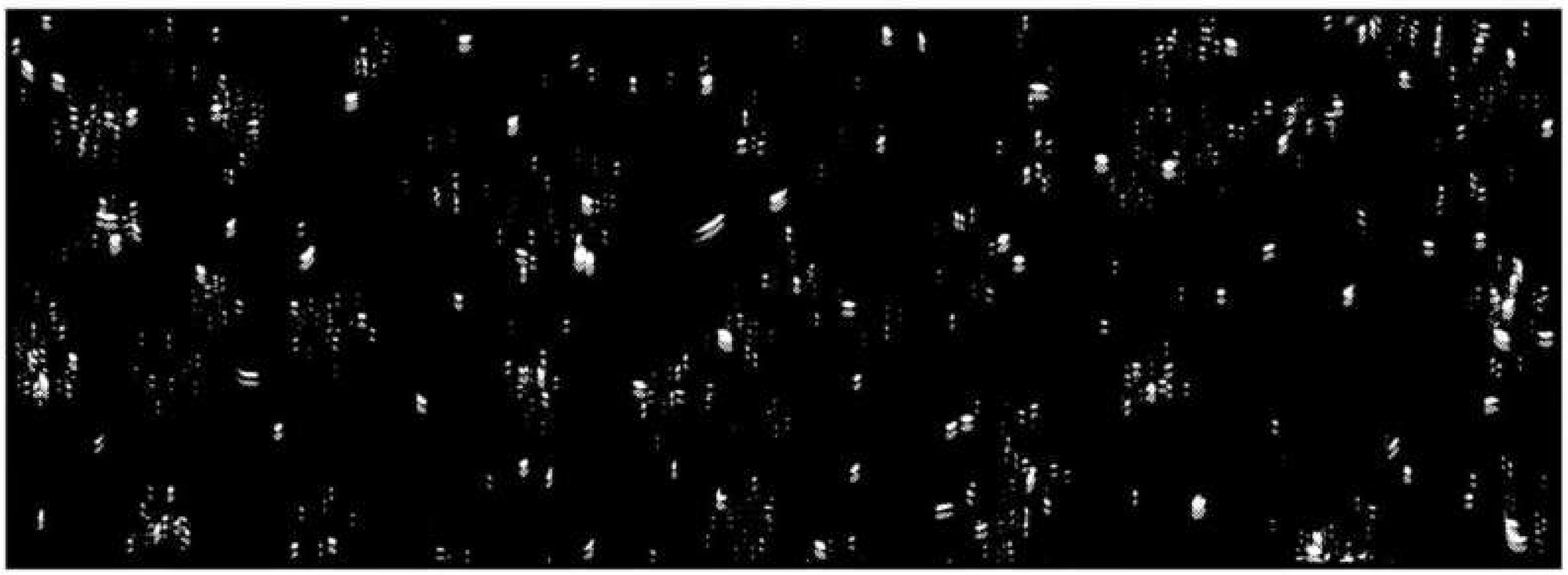
PUT 'ER THERE?
I'M ERI.

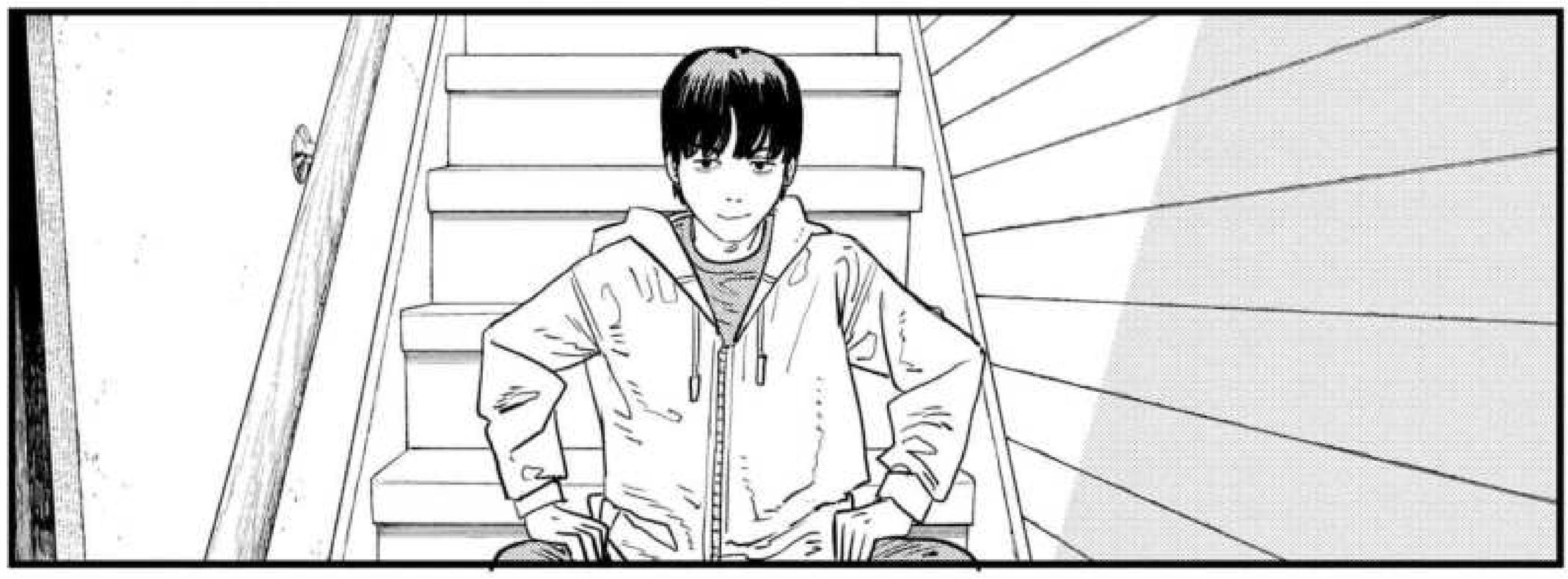
YEAH.





THE STARS ARE OUT...





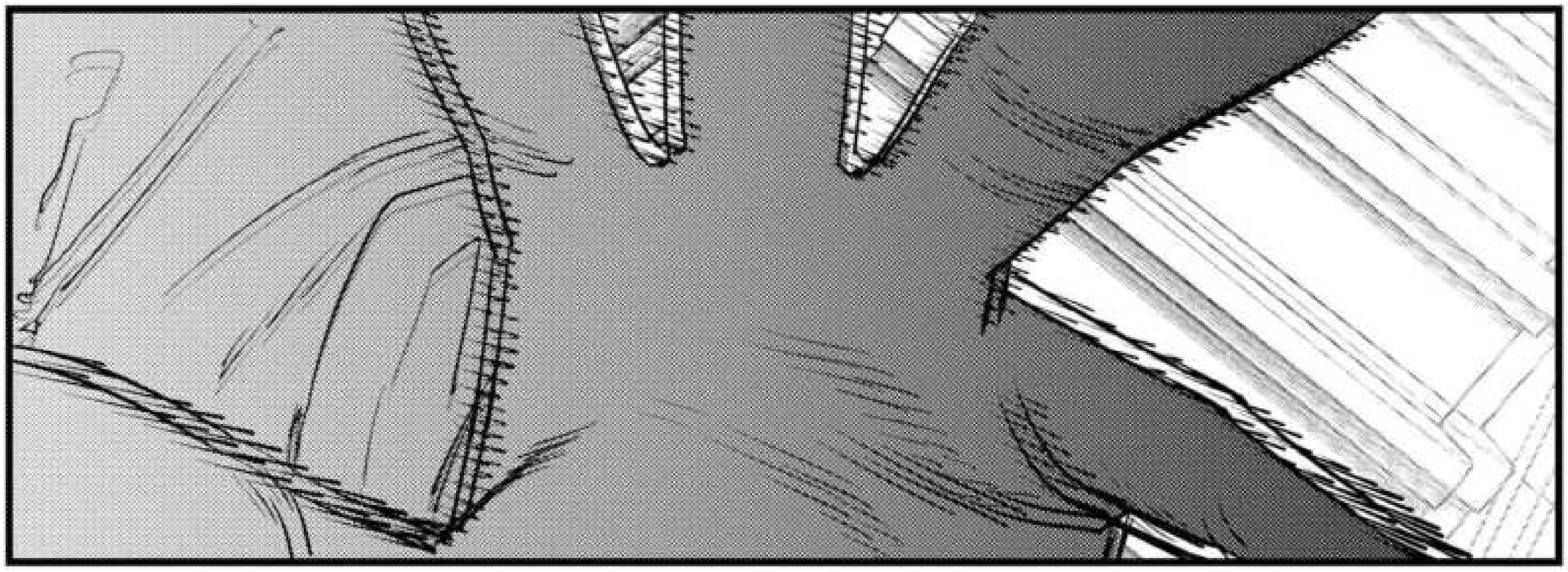
WE'RE BACK, FOLKS.

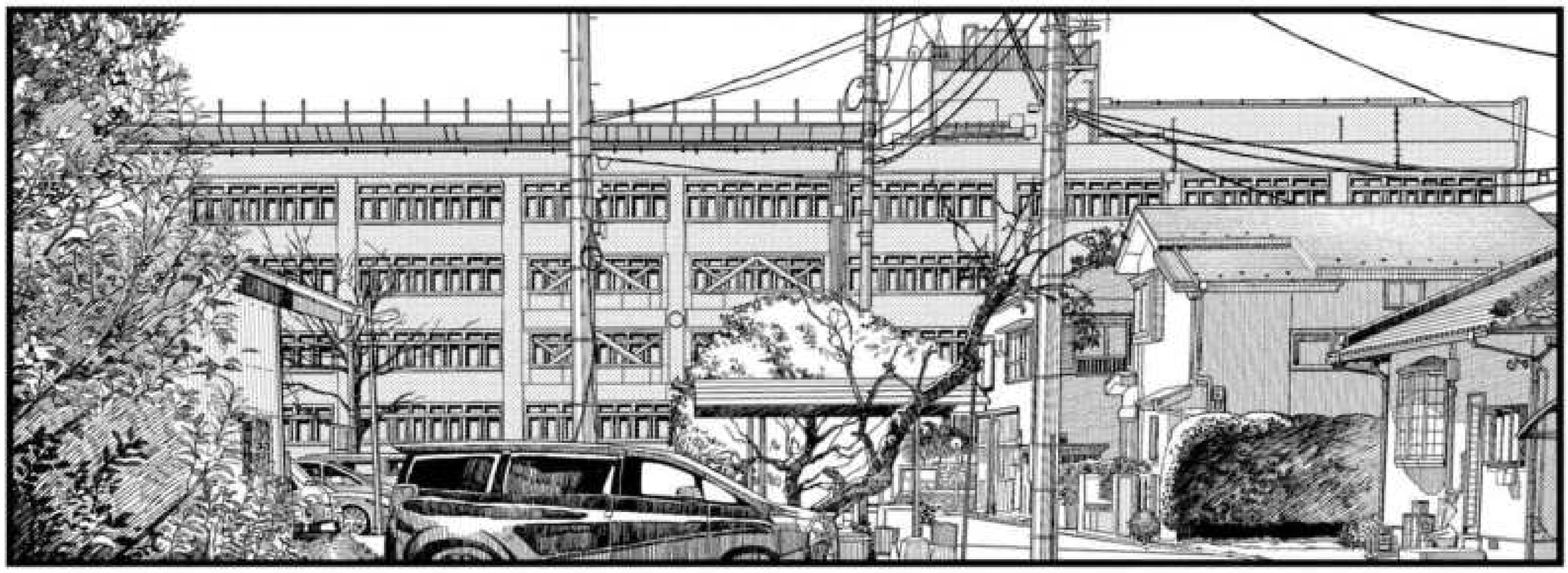
DWUH...? OH... WELCOME HOME...
DAD! I'M HOOOOME!

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT...AND PURE.
YOU GUYS... DID YOU KNOW...?
YOU GUH-

WE ALL DIE ONE DAY. YOU SHOULD GIVE LIFE A TRY UNTIL YOUR NUMBER COMES UP.
TO ANYONE CONSIDERING SUICIDE! DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY!

GOODBYE.
WISHING YOU ALL WELL. THIS IS YUTA, SIGNING OFF.
THANKS.





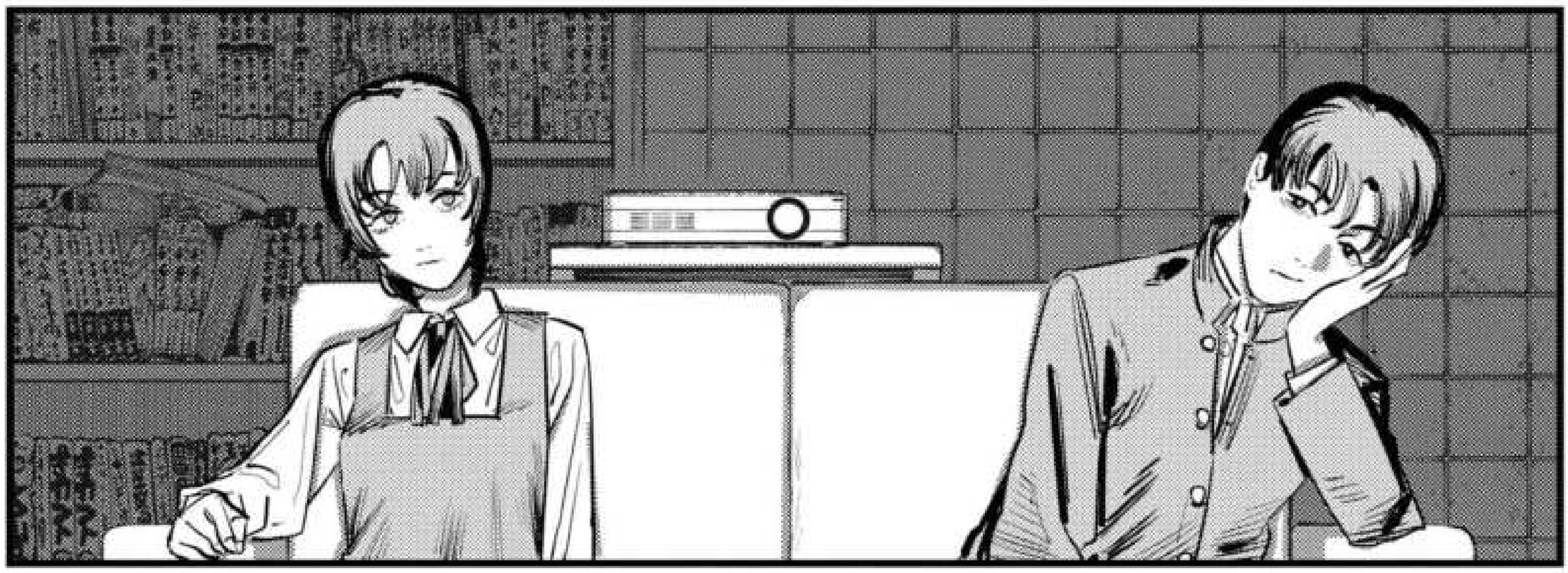
DURING CLASS, I WANT YOU TO SUMMARIZE THE FIVE MOVIES WE WATCHED YESTERDAY IN ONLY ONE SENTENCE EACH.

I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR ANSWERS AFTER SCHOOL.
ONCE YOU'VE MANAGED THAT, BREAK THEIR STORIES DOWN INTO EXPOSITION, RISING ACTION, CLIMAX, AND RESOLUTION IN A WAY YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO ME.

DON'T YOU TRUST HOLLY-WOOD?
THIS IS HOW THEY DO IT IN HOLLYWOOD.
IF I DO THAT, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A GOOD MOVIE?

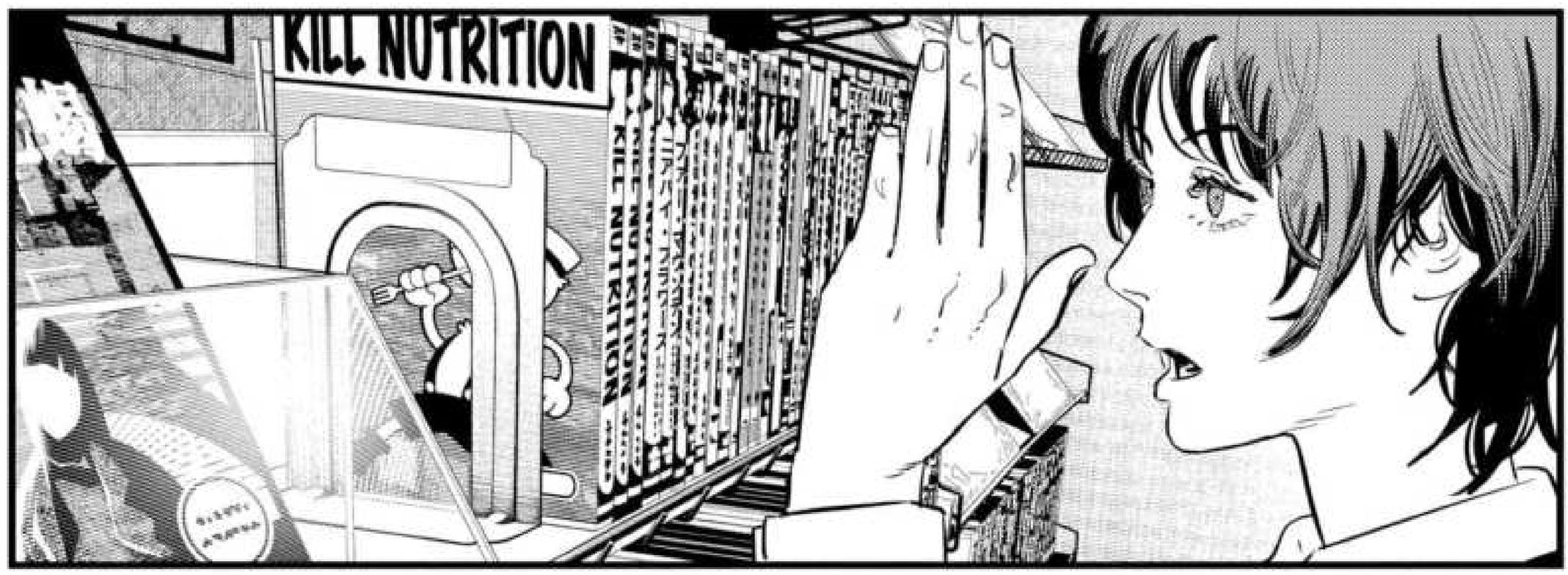
...AND AFTER THAT, IN THE LAST SCENE...
...THE PROTAGONIST IS ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. THE END.
DID I DO THAT RIGHT?
SIGH...
I GUESS THAT'S THE BEST I CAN EXPECT AT THE START...
I'LL ACCEPT IT.
COME ON, WHAT'S WITH THAT?
LET'S BUY DINNER AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
AFTER SCHOOL, WE'LL WATCH THREE MOVIES MINIMUM EVERY DAY AT THAT SPOT.

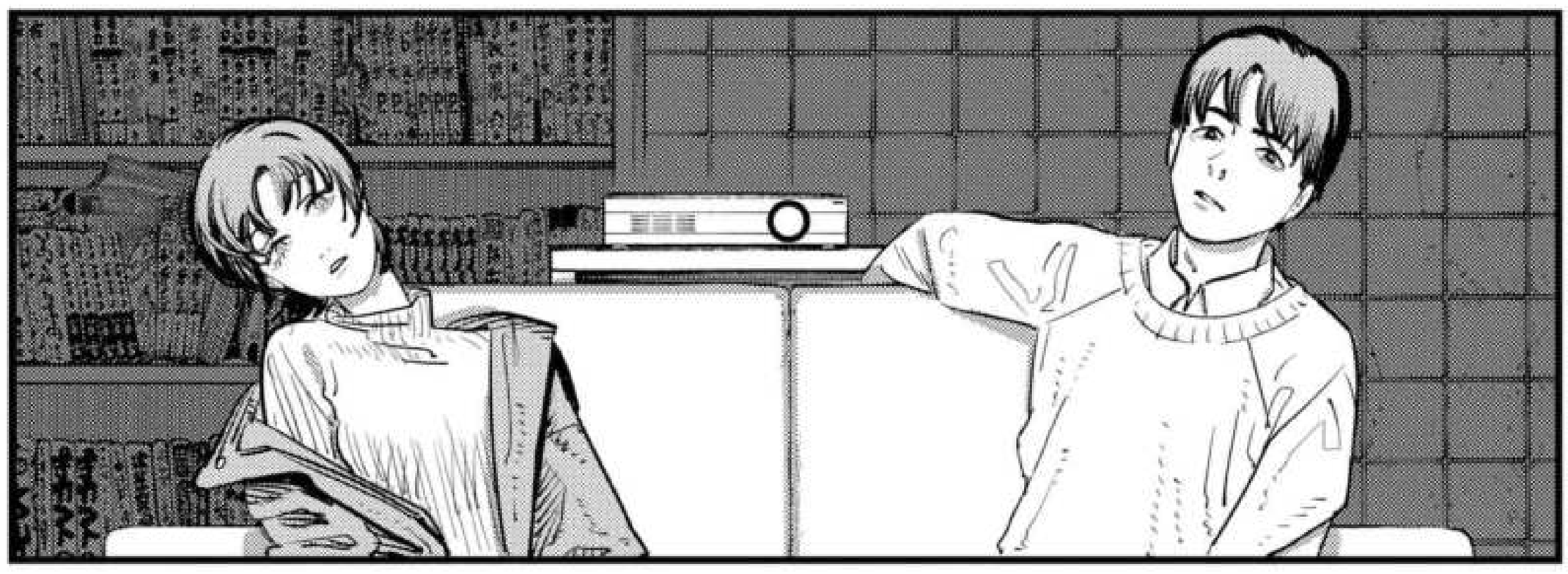
IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL PUT ON WEIGHT ANYWAY.
YEESH, YOU'RE REALLY GONNA EAT ALL THAT?!

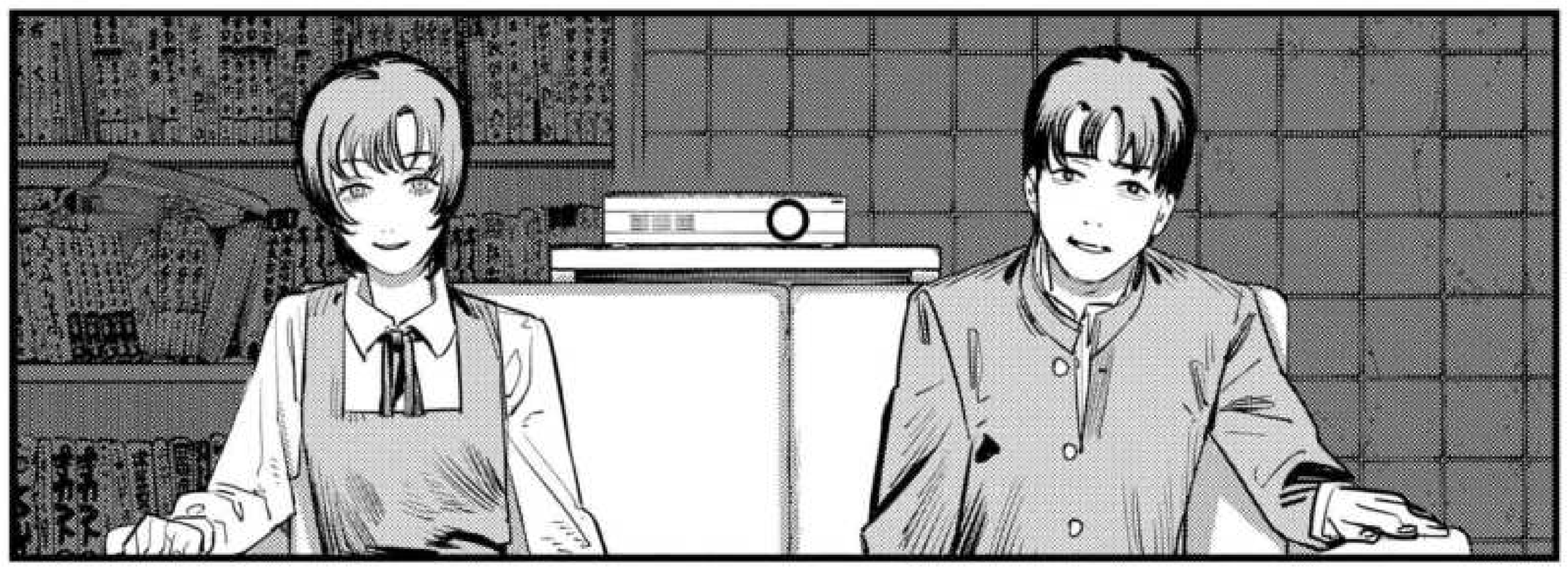


MEET ME HERE AGAIN TOMORROW AT 9 A.M. SHARP.
BYE!

IF YOU HAVE AN EXTRACUR-RICULAR IN THE WAY, THEN QUIT IT.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD YOU GET TO SPEND ALL DAY WITH A BABE LIKE ME!
WHAT, YOU DON'T WANT TO?
HUH? WE'RE WATCHING MOVIES ON DAYS OFF SCHOOL TOO?


KILL NUTRITION





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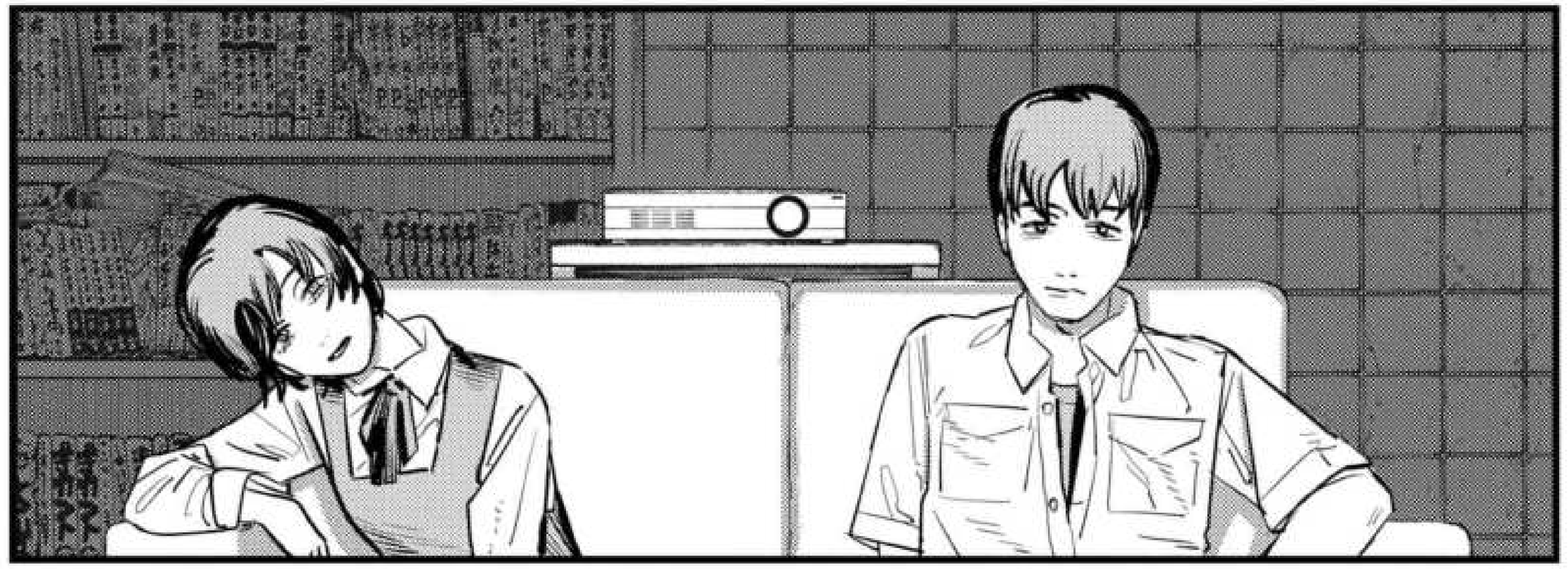
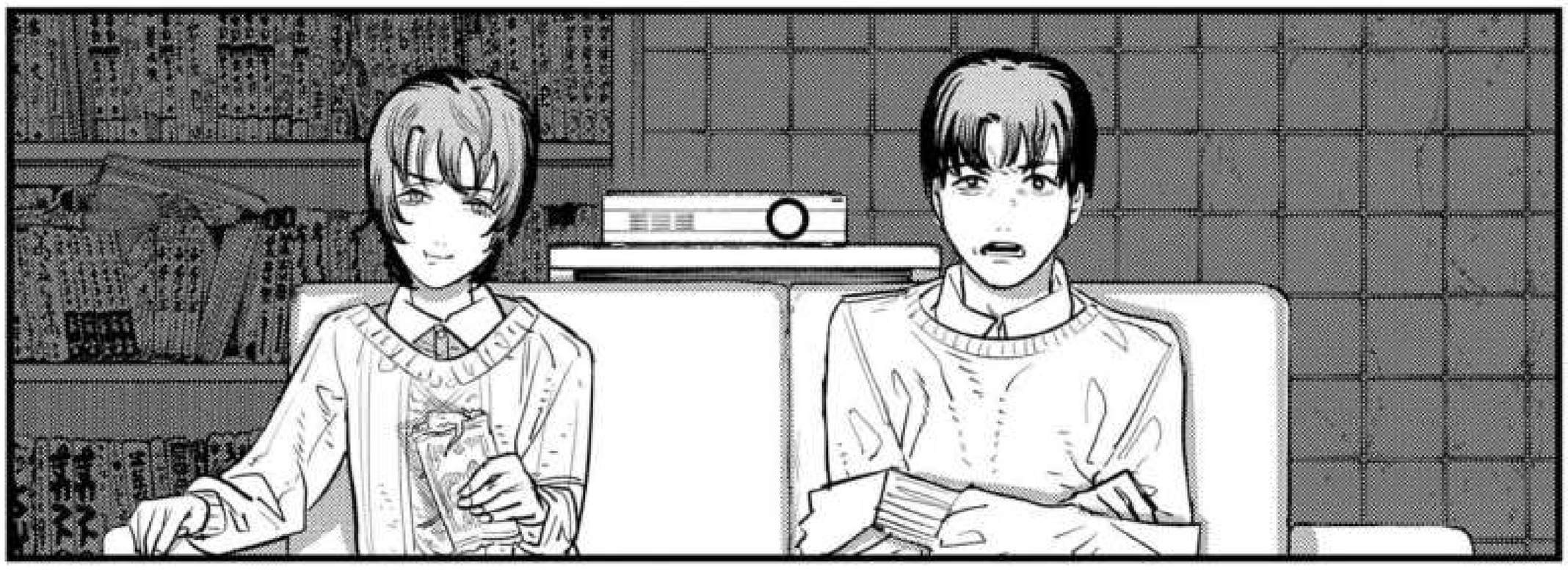
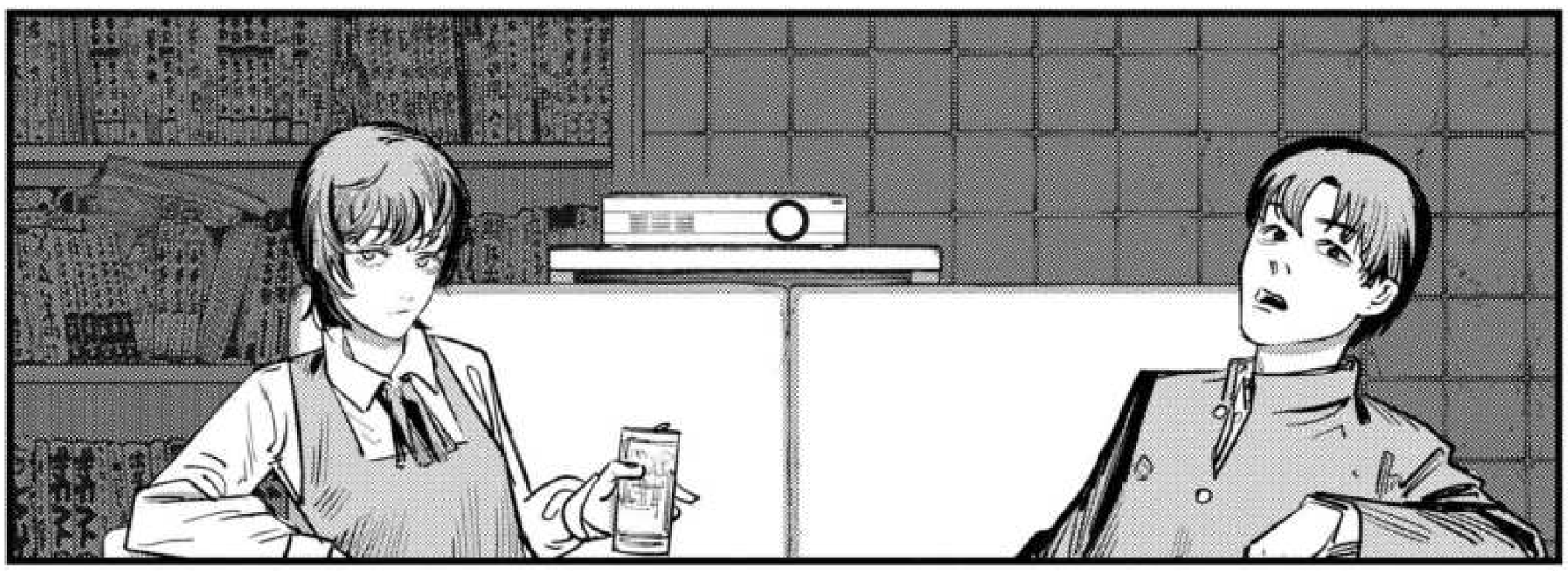
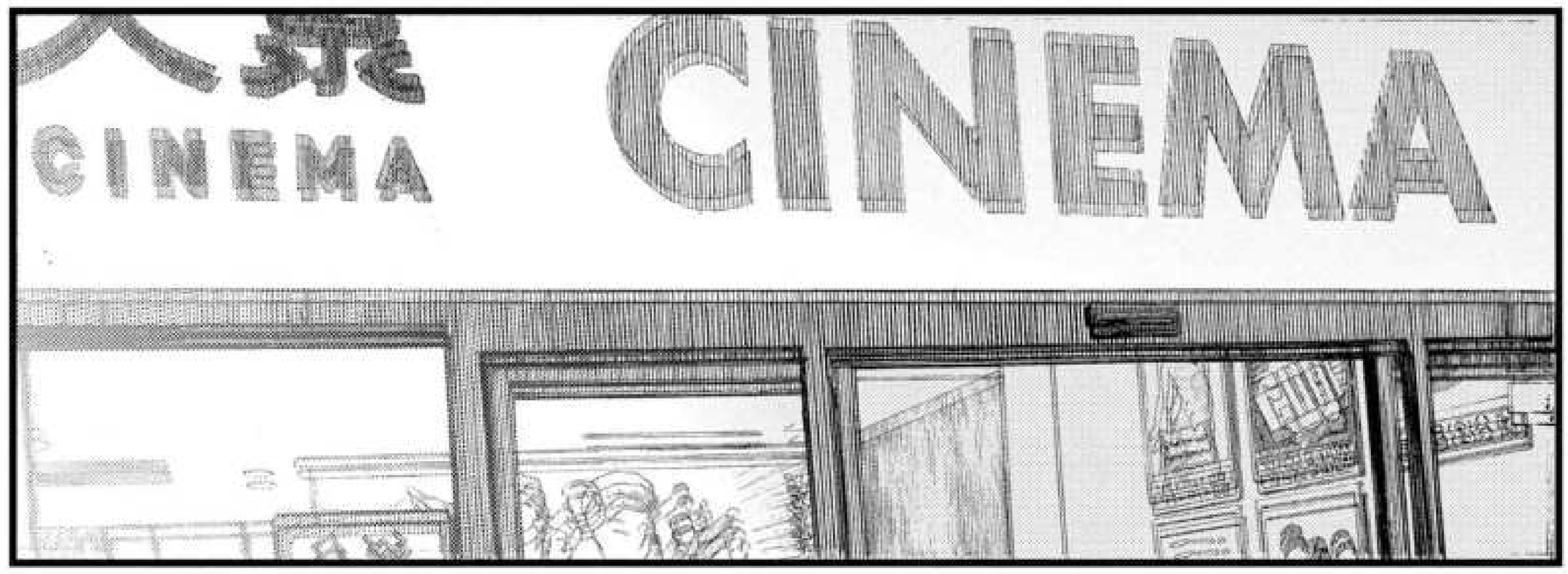
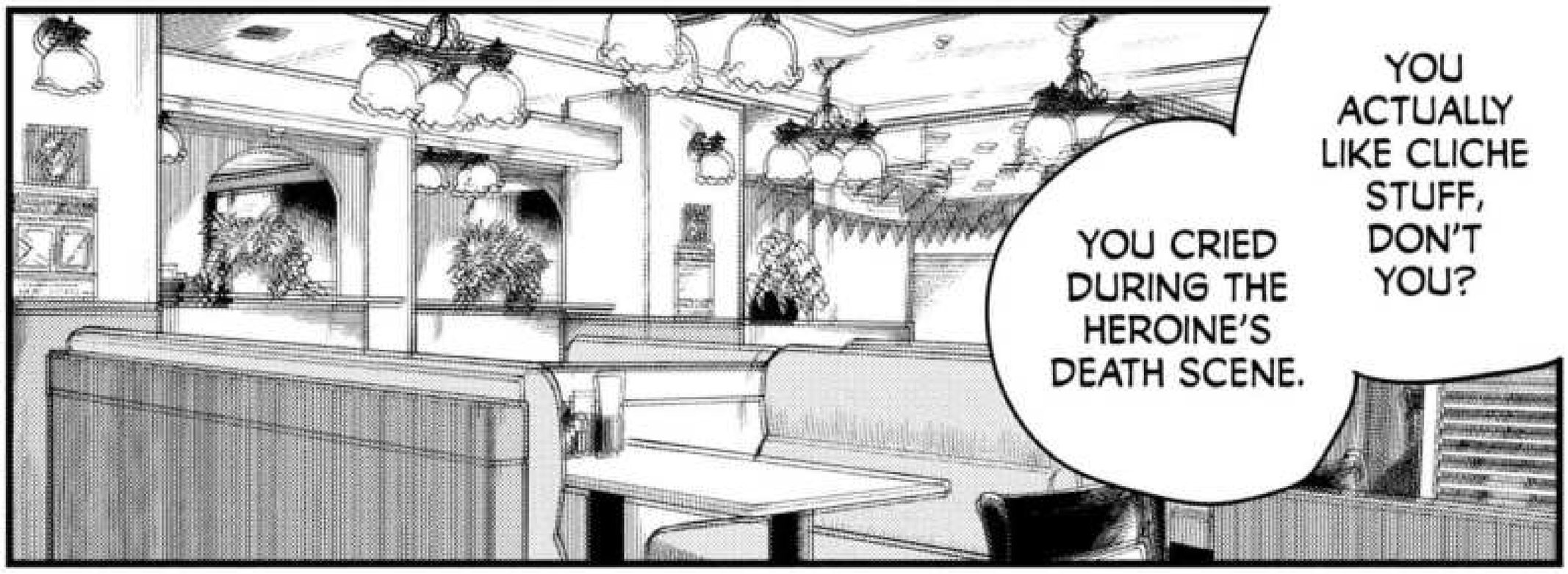
NEW

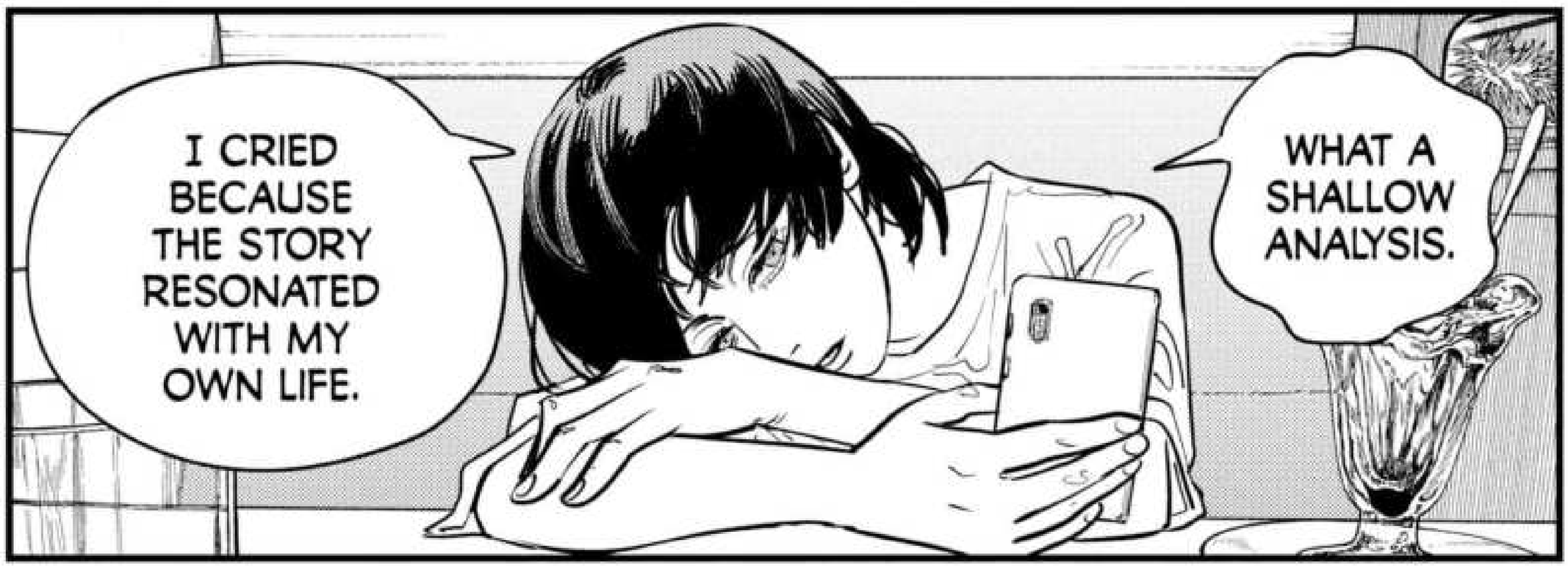


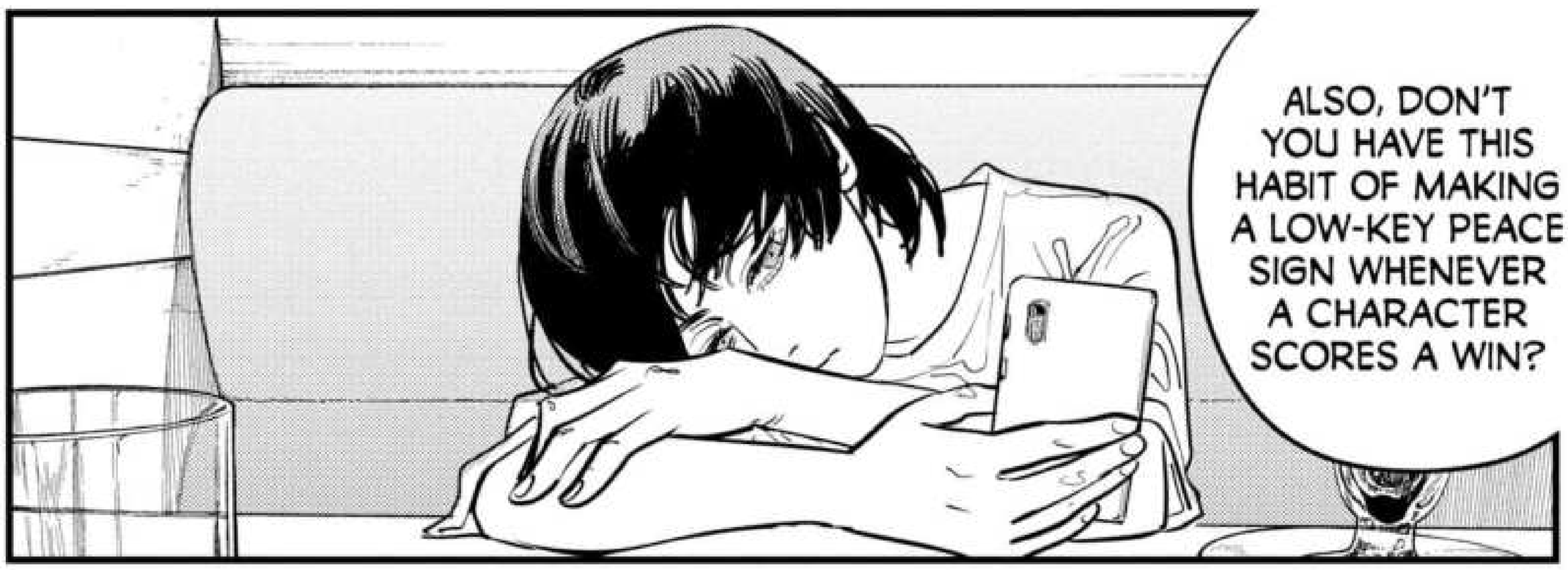


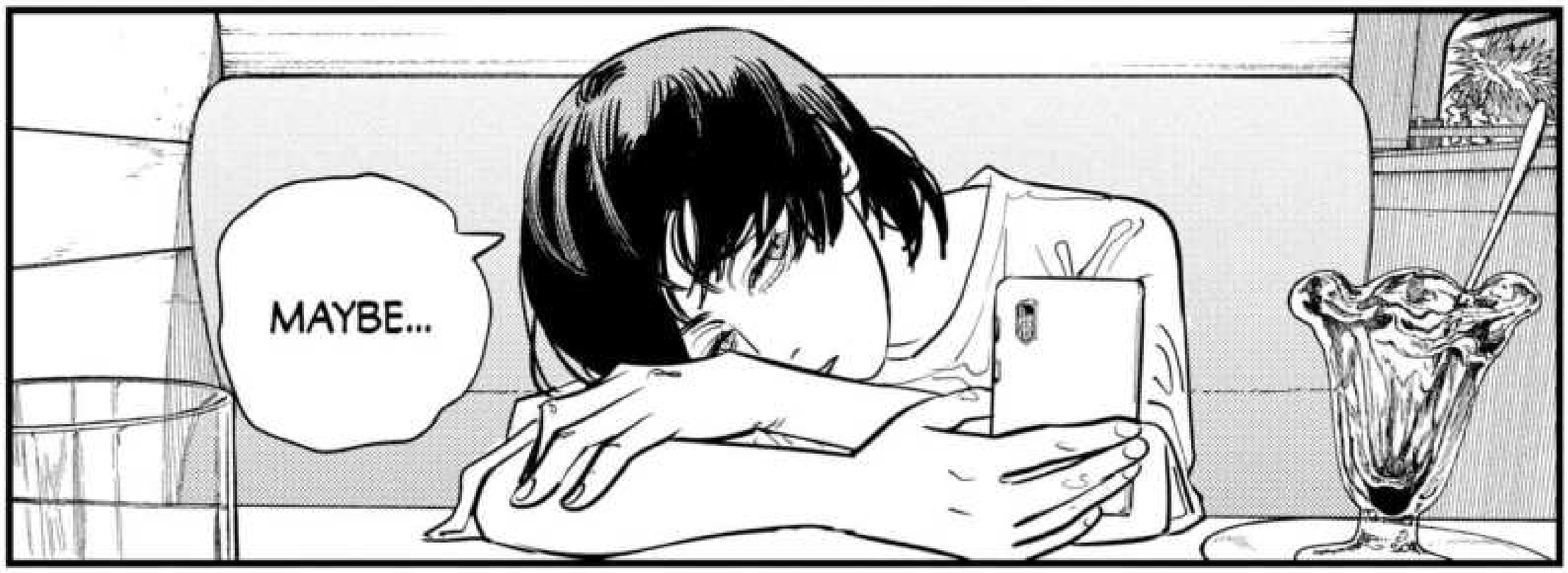



CINEMA
CINEMA


YOU CRIED DURING THE HEROINE'S DEATH SCENE.
YOU ACTUALLY LIKE CLICHE STUFF, DON'T YOU?


I CRIED BECAUSE THE STORY RESONATED WITH MY OWN LIFE.
WHAT A SHALLOW ANALYSIS.

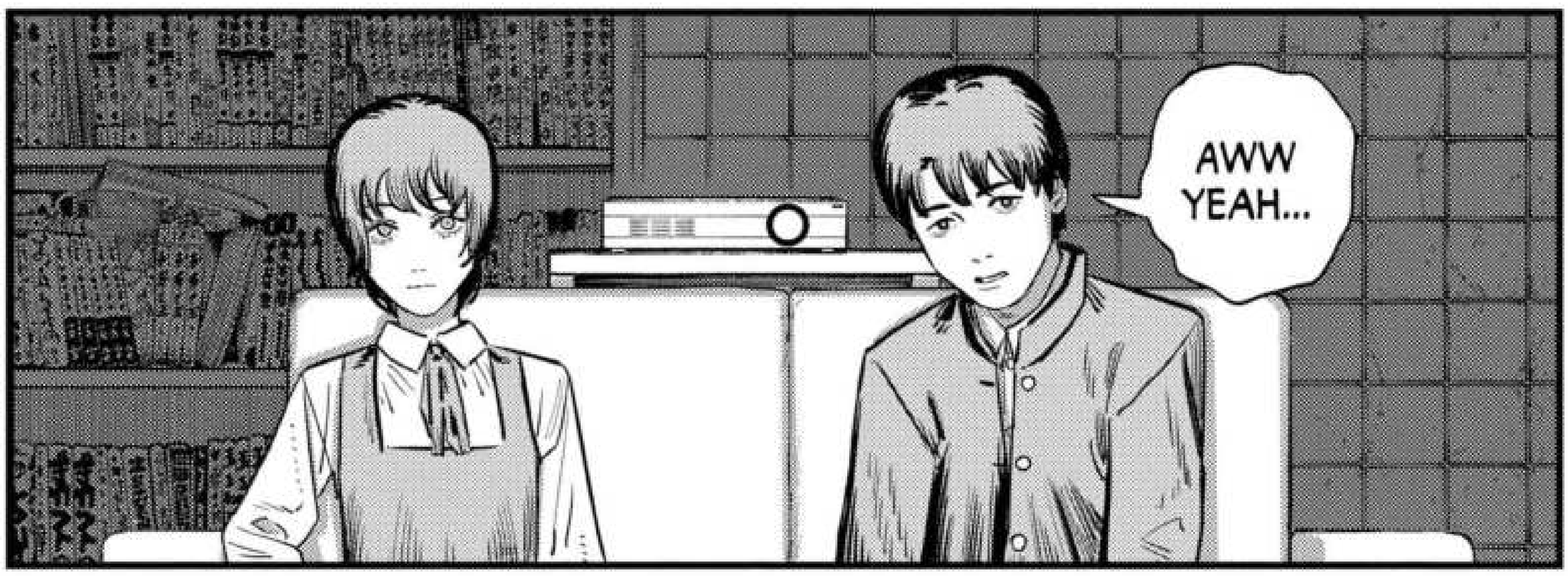

ALSO, DON'T YOU HAVE THIS HABIT OF MAKING A LOW-KEY PEACE SIGN WHENEVER A CHARACTER SCORES A WIN?

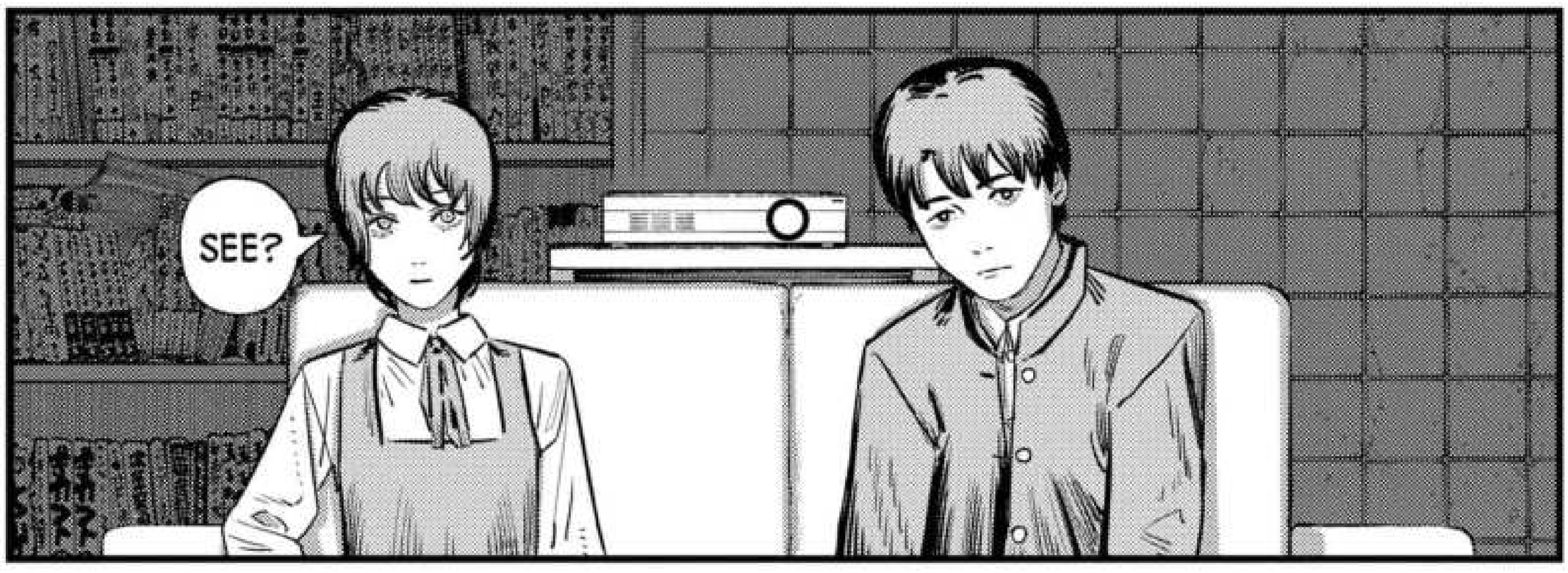

MAYBE...

DO TOO.
DO NOT.
WELL, YOU SAY "AWW YEAH" EVERY TIME THERE ARE NIPPLES ON THE SCREEN.

MAYBE YOU'RE SAYING IT UNCON-SCIOUSLY.
I DON'T.
I WOULDN'T BE THAT CRUDE.

DO TOO.
DO NOT.
DO TOO.
DO NOT.
OH, YOU SAY IT ALL RIGHT.
REALLY, I DON'T SAY IT.


AWW YEAH...

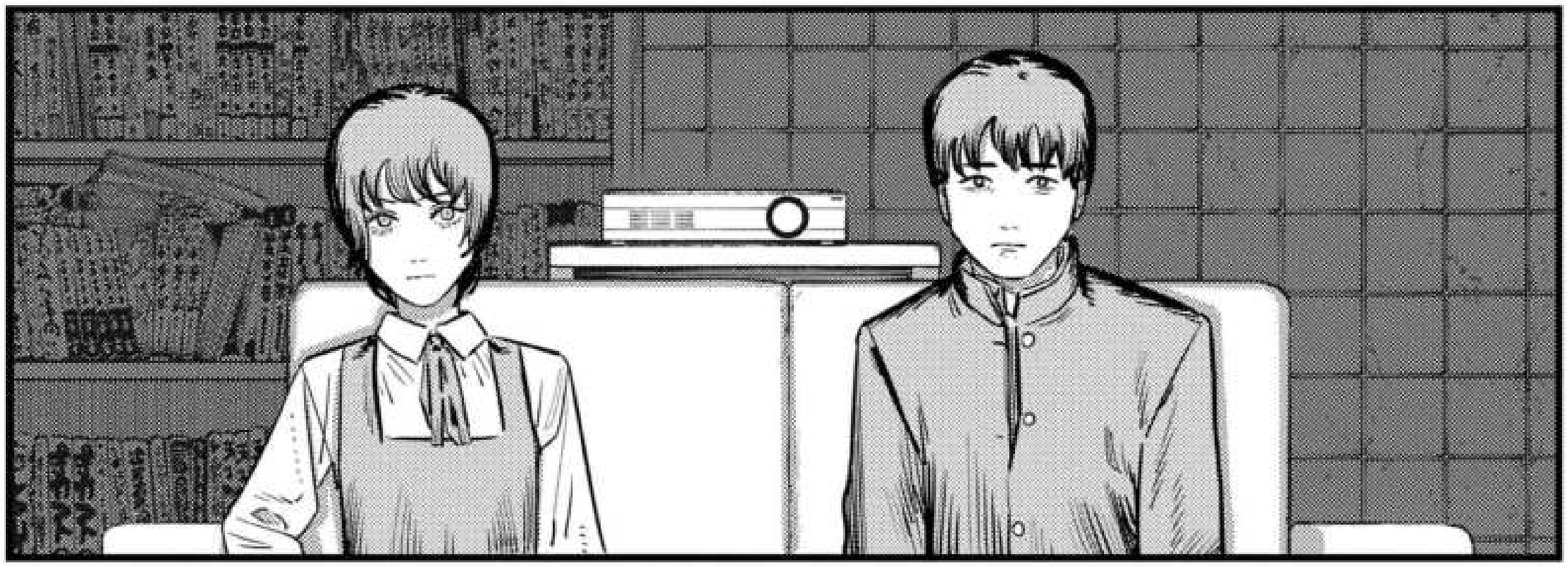

SEE?

NOTHING ...
SEE WHAT?

NEVER MIIIND.
NO, REALLY, WHAT?

FORGET IT. IT'S NOTHING.
WHAT? COME ON, TELL ME.

BE QUIET!
IT HAS TO BE *SOMETHING*, RIGHT? WHAT IS IT?! YOU'RE FREAKING ME OUT.



SHUT UP ALREADY!
IT'S BUGGING ME SO MUCH I CAN'T FOCUS ON THE MOVIE.

PLOT IT OUT? WHAT'S THAT?
I THINK YOU'RE READY TO PLOT OUT YOUR NEXT MOVIE.
OH, HUH.
IT'S DECIDING THE BASIC OUTLINE OF THE STORY BEFORE YOU WRITE THE SCREENPLAY.
NO DUH.
AND *I'M* COMING UP WITH THIS?

YOU WATCH MORE MOVIES THAN ME.
YOU COULD COME UP WITH A BETTER STORY THAN I COULD, ERI.
HEY, LIKE... WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR SOME-ONE ELSE TO WRITE IT?

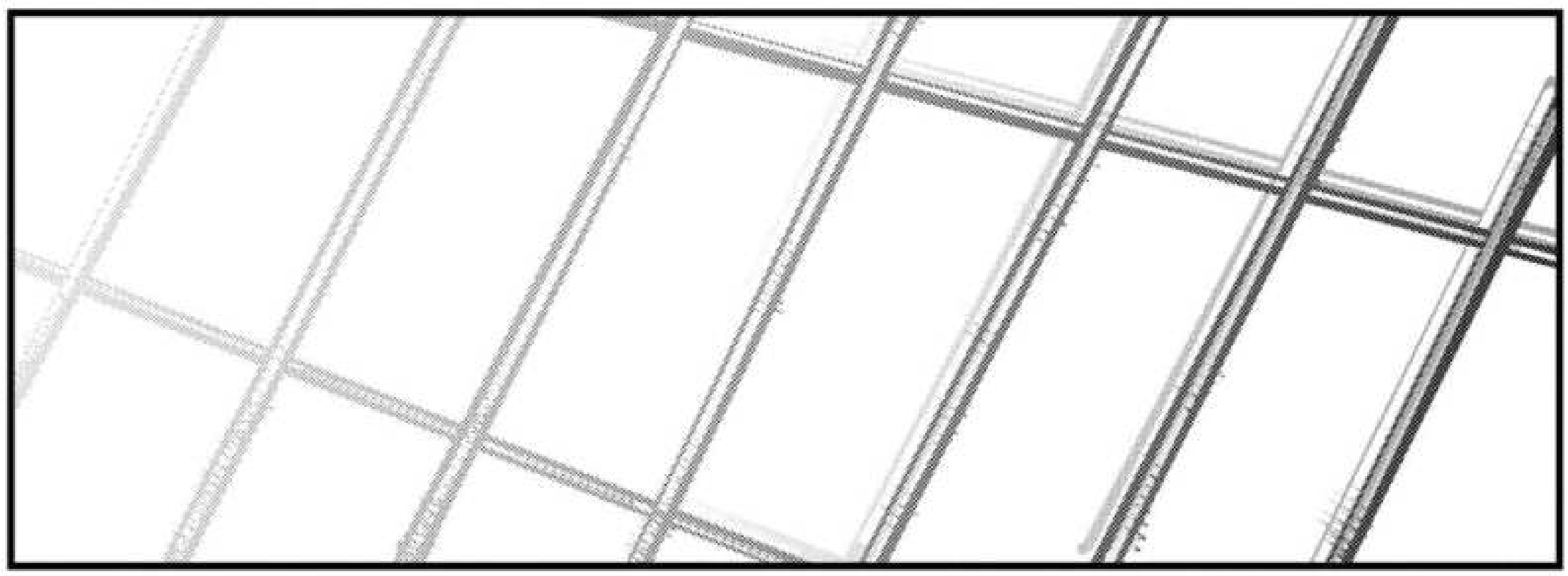
WHY?
IT HAS TO BE YOU.

CUZ I'M IN LOVE.
I WANT TO WATCH *YOUR* MOVIE.

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOUR *MOVIES.*
NO, YOU IDIOT!
DID YOU JUST CONFESS TO ME?!

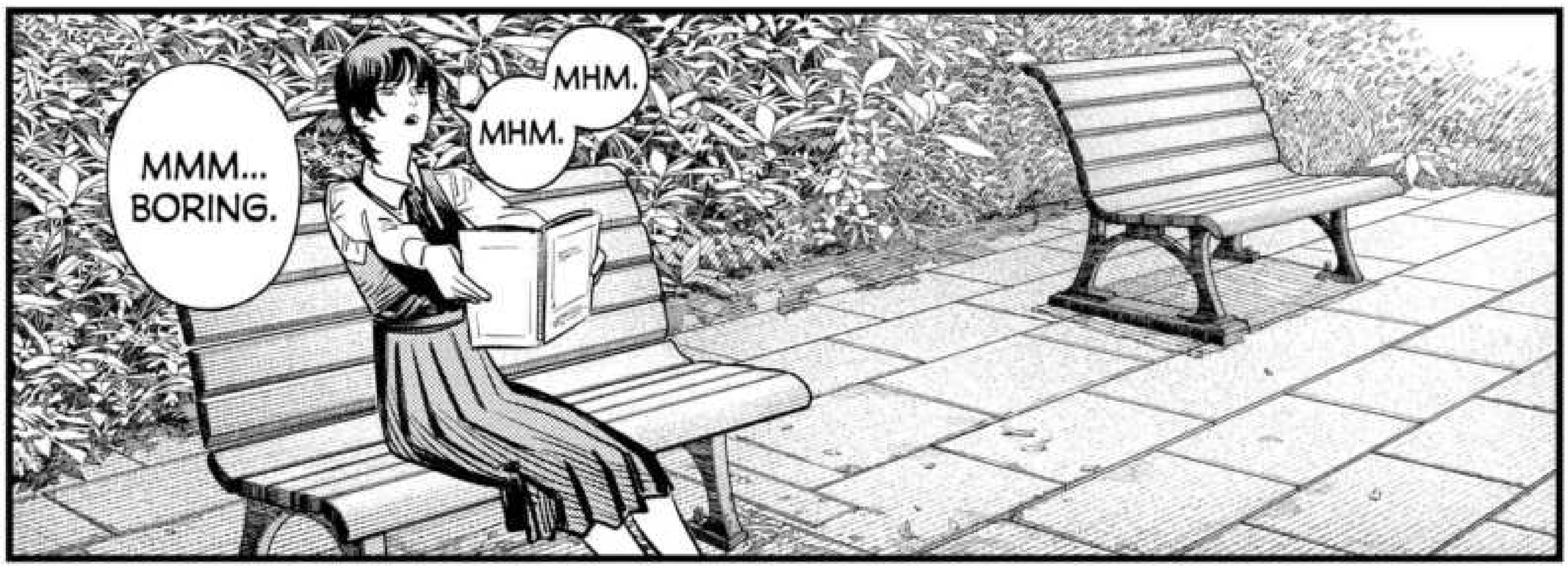
OH, RIGHT... OH...OH YEAH.
BESIDES, IF *I* MADE THE MOVIE, IT WOULDN'T BE A SCHOOL FESTIVAL REMATCH.

HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU A POTATO STICK. NOW GO THINK UP A PLOT.



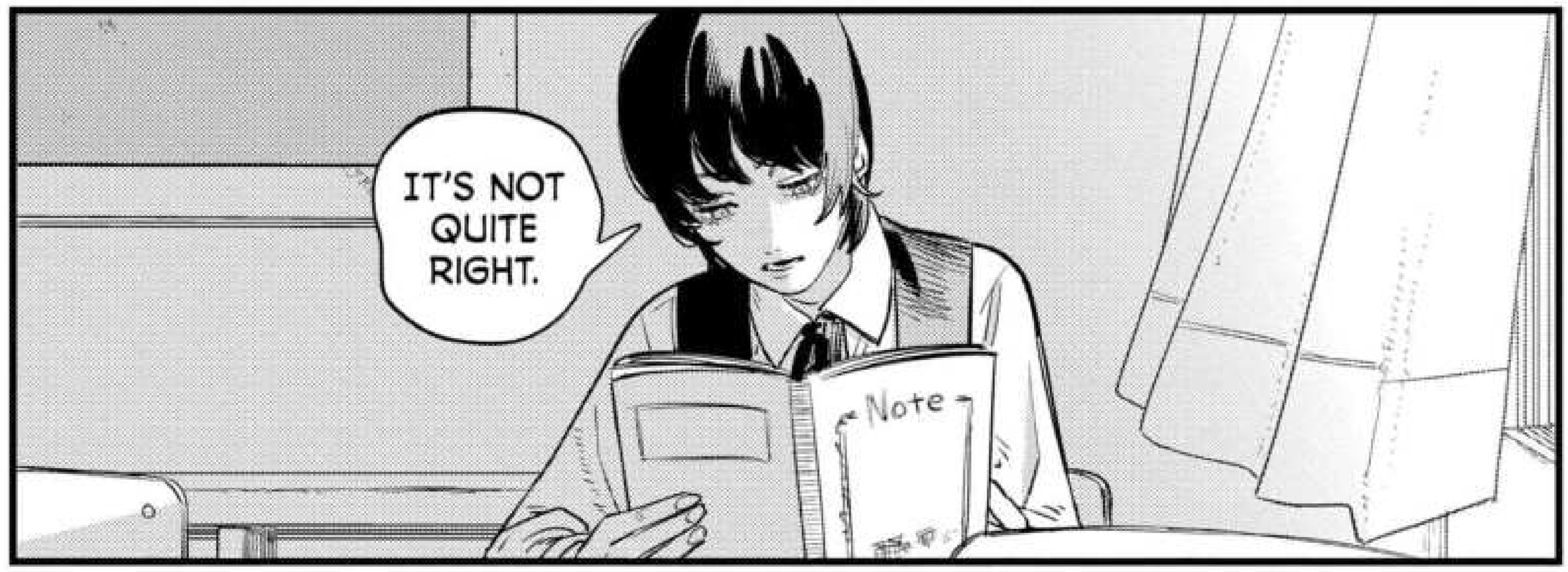
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE.
IT'S... HOW CAN I PUT THIS... AVERAGE?
MM.

TOO NORMAL.

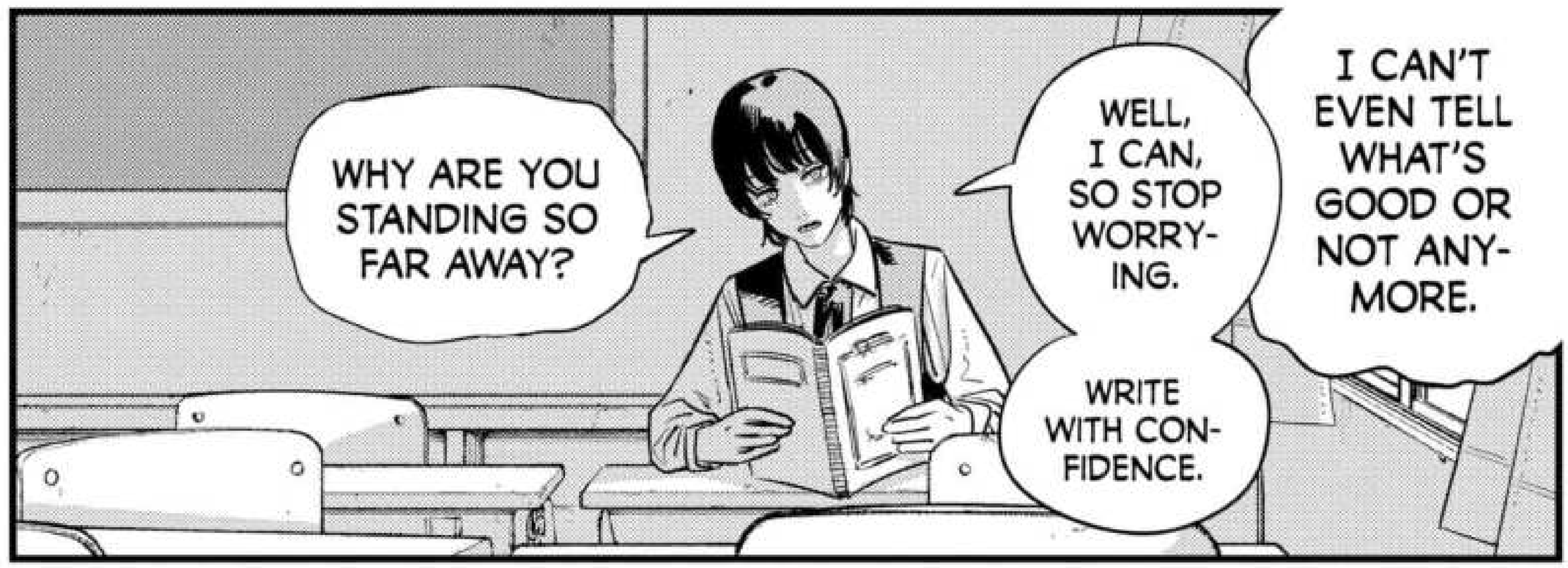

MMM... BORING.
MHM.
MHM.

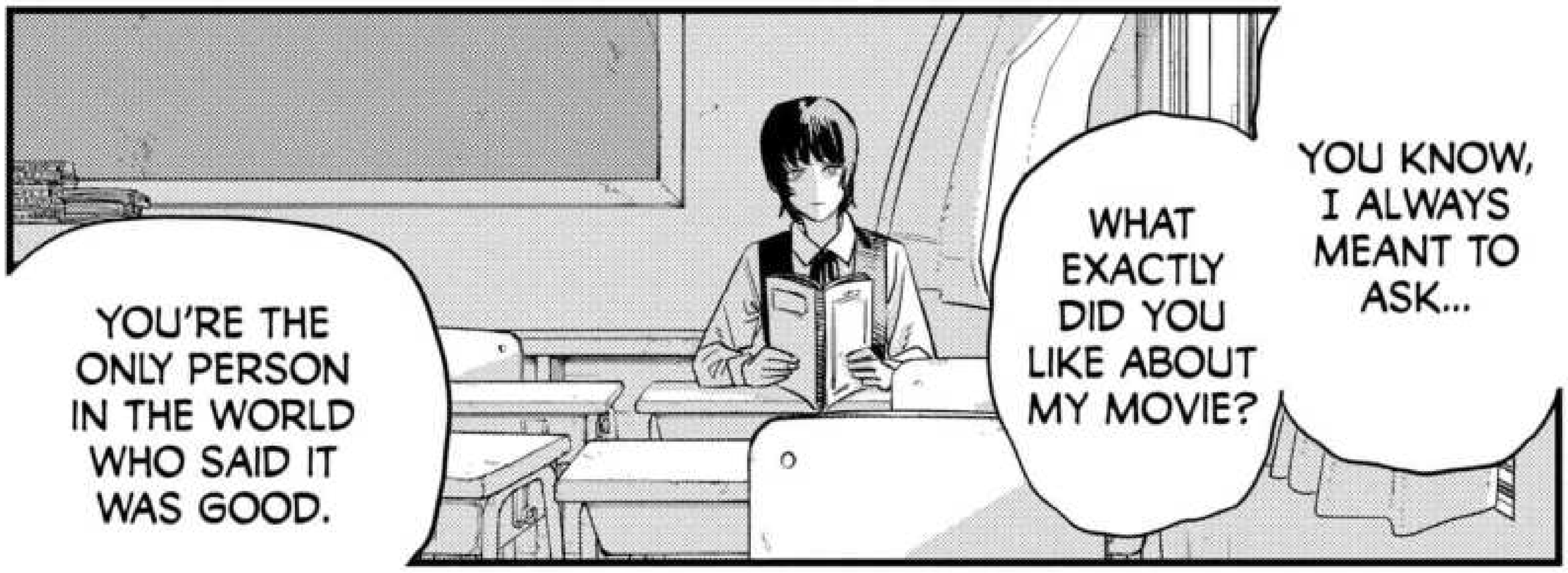
BOOORING!

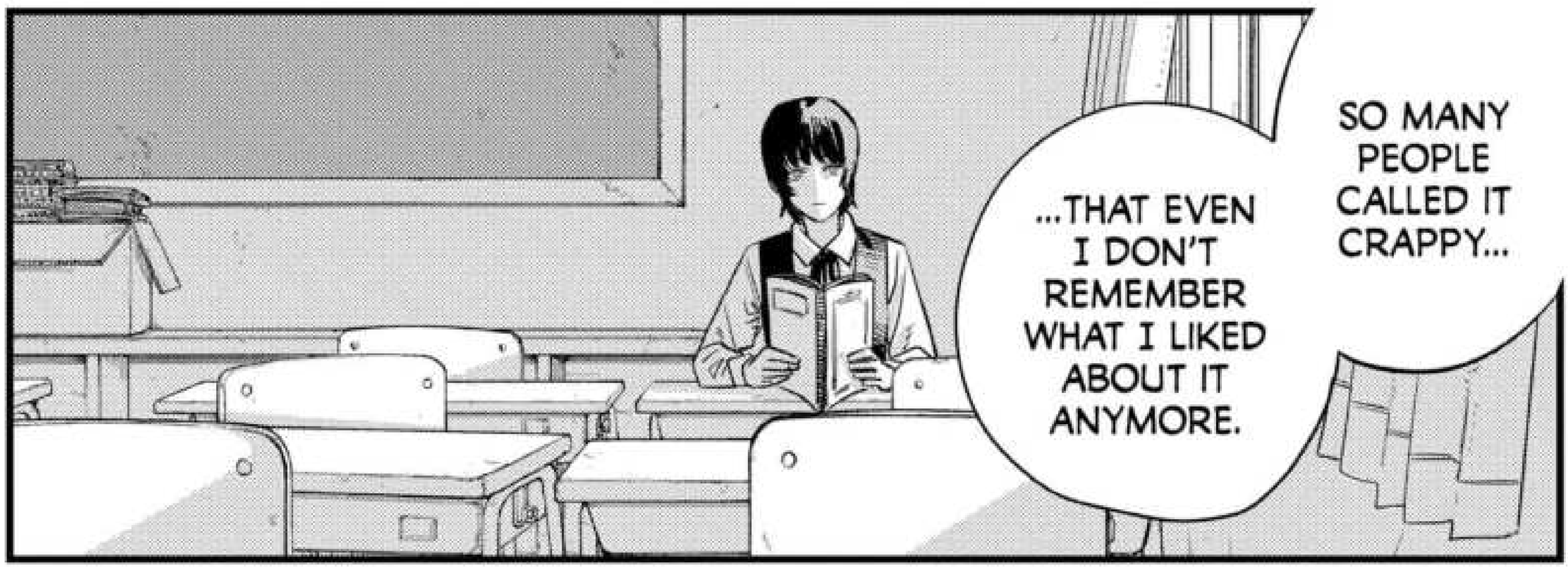
IT'S NOT BAD, BUT IT'S NOT GOOD EITHER.
AVERAGE.
BRING ME SOMETHING ELSE.
Notes


IT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.
Note

GAH...
MY HEART'S A SLUSHY MESS AT THIS POINT.
I GIVE UP! I SURRENDER! I CRY UNCLE!
BLAR-RARGH!
Note


WHY ARE YOU STANDING SO FAR AWAY?
WELL, I CAN, SO STOP WORRY-ING.
WRITE WITH CON-FIDENCE.
I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHAT'S GOOD OR NOT ANY-MORE.

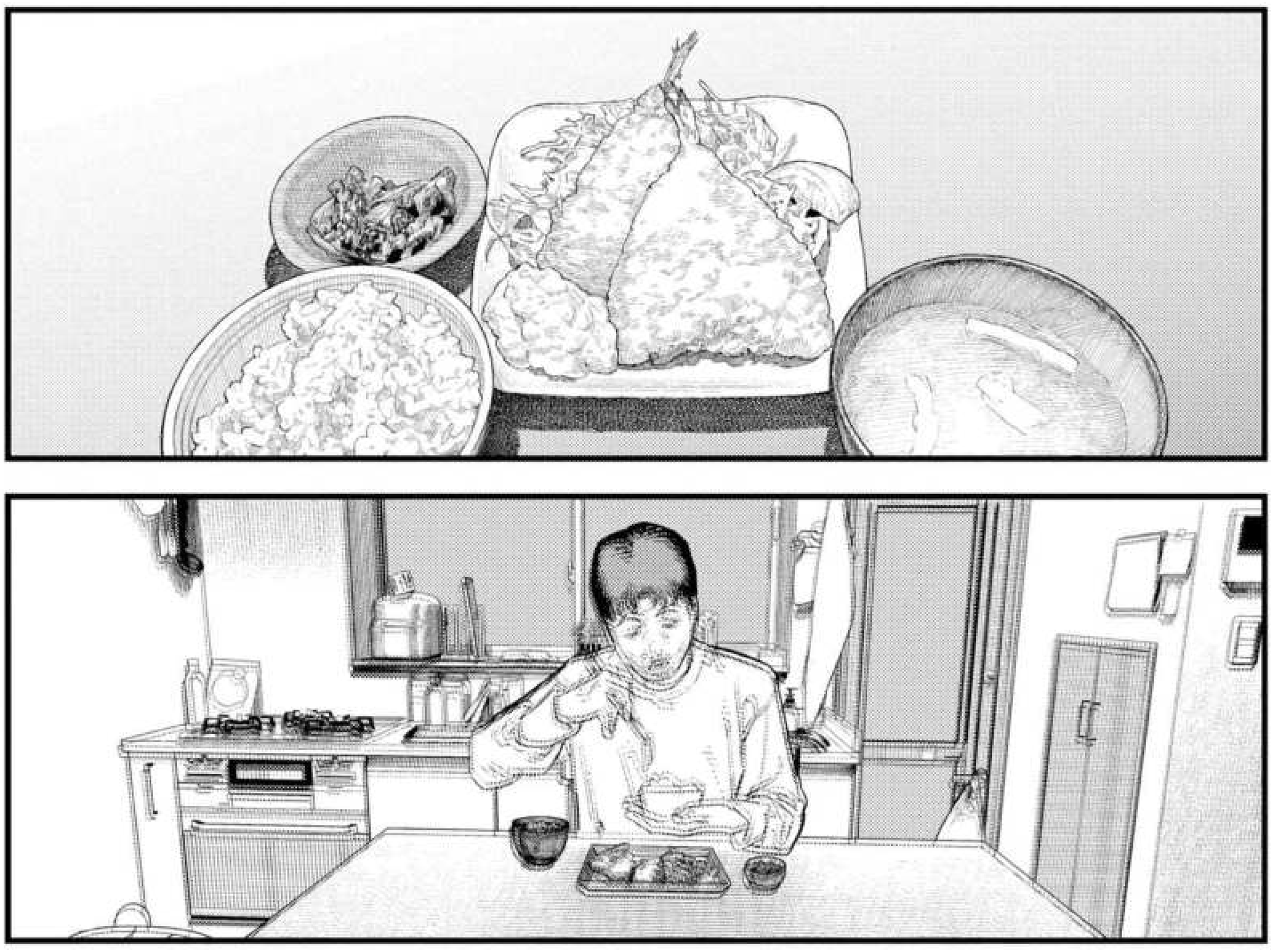

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO SAID IT WAS GOOD.
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU LIKE ABOUT MY MOVIE?
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS MEANT TO ASK...


...THAT EVEN I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I LIKED ABOUT IT ANYMORE.
SO MANY PEOPLE CALLED IT CRAPPY...

FIRST OF ALL, THE PART WHERE YOU RUN AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL.

...BUT SERIOUSLY, ASKING YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGED SON TO RECORD HIS OWN MOTHER'S DEATH? ISN'T THAT JUST CRUEL?
IN YOUR MOVIE, THE PLOT PROG-RESSED LIKE A TOUCHING STORY...

SO WHEN YOU RAN AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL AS IT EXPLODED, IT FELT CATHARTIC TO ME.
IF IT WERE ME, I'D BE REALLY HAPPY HAVING SOMEONE CAPTURE ME THAT BEAUTIFULLY.
THE NEXT THING THAT MOVED ME WAS HOW BEAUTIFULLY YOU ALWAYS SHOT YOUR MOTHER.
EVEN THOUGH YOUR MOTHER IS THE ONE IN THE TITLE, YOU ARE THE MOST LIKABLE CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE.
HE'S GOOD.
ALSO, I LIKE YOUR MAIN CHARACTER.
I WANT TO SEE *YOUR* STORY.
SO IN YOUR NEXT MOVIE, I DON'T WANT TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE'S STORY...

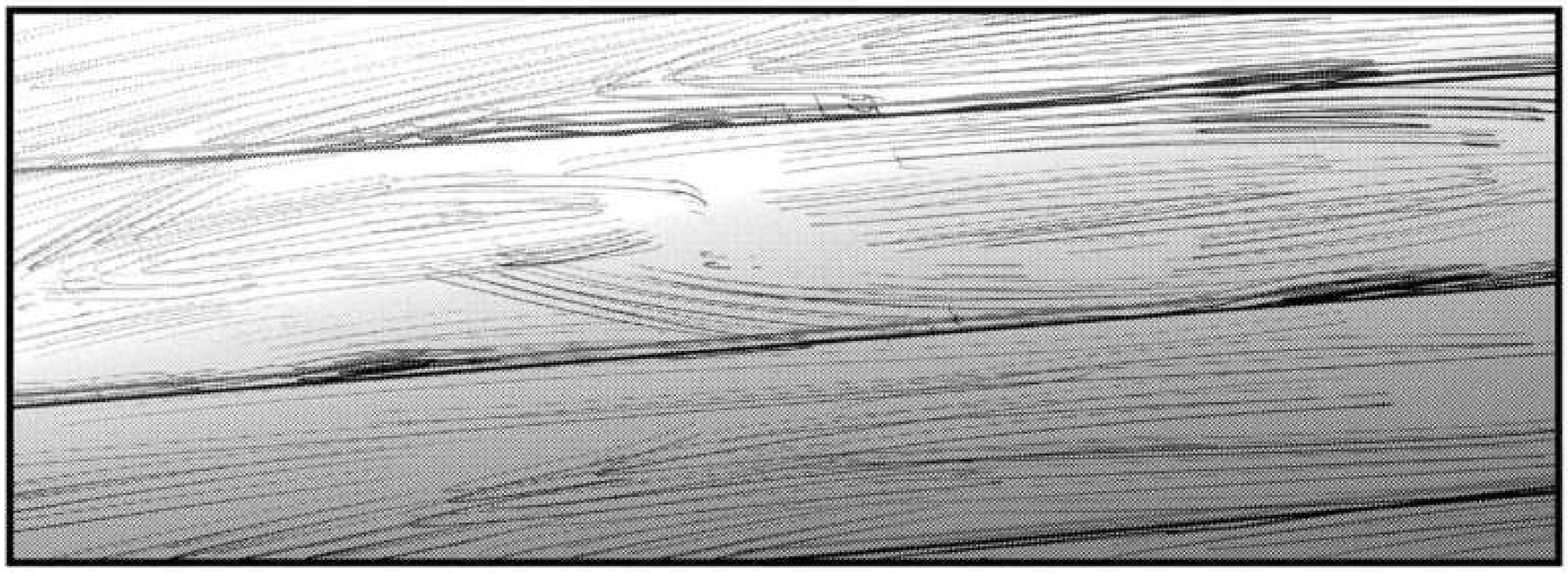

DAD, WHEN YOU THINK OF ME, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND?
MOVIES, I GUESS.
I'D SAY YOU'RE ALL ABOUT... MOVIES...?
AND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT MY MOVIES, WHAT COMES TO MIND?
UH-HUH.

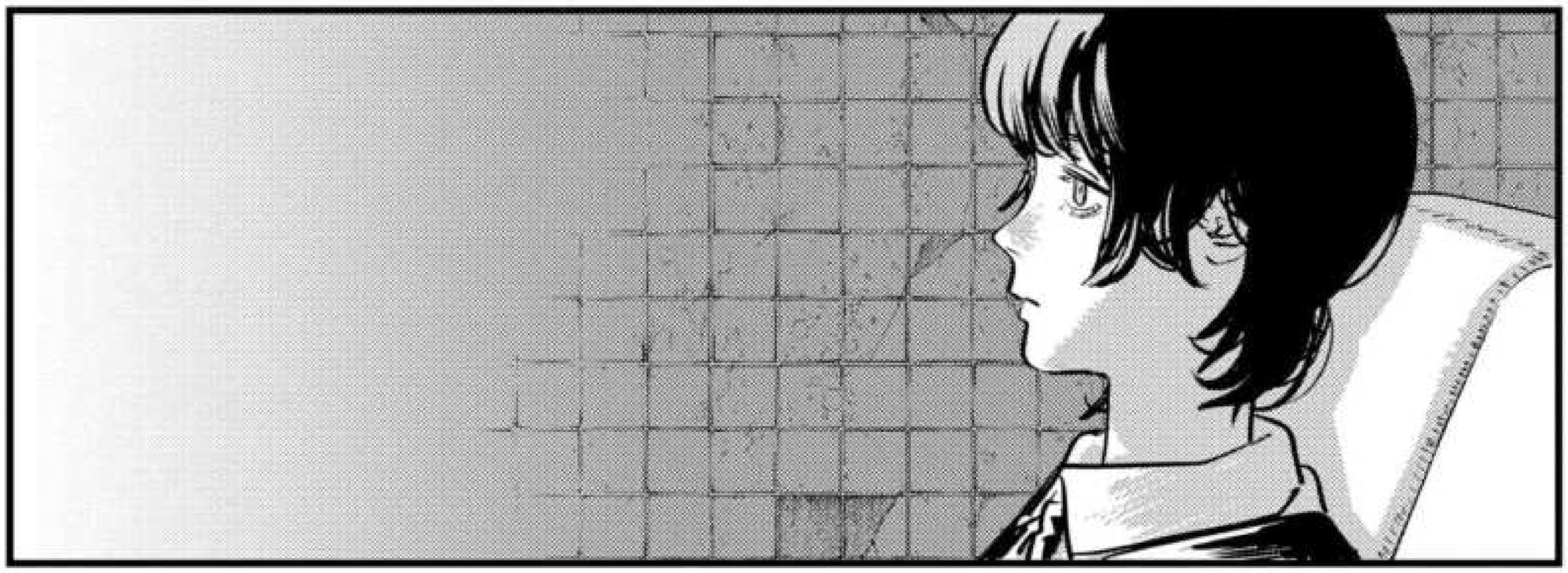
EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU'VE ALWAYS SPRINKLED A PINCH OF FANTASY INTO EVERYTHING.
HMM... EXPLOSIONS? YEAH, MAYBE EXPLOSIONS...

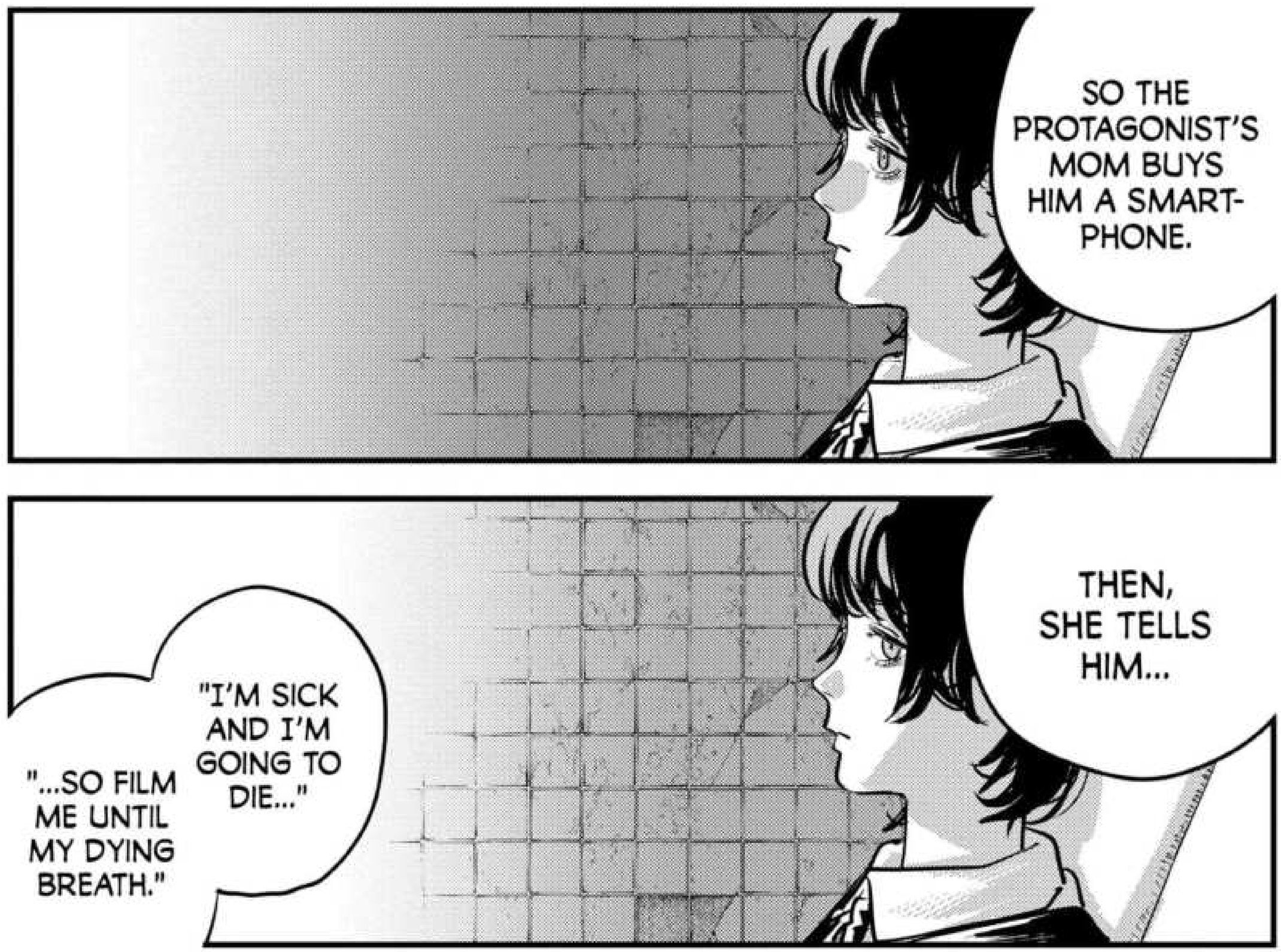
A PINCH OF FANTASY?
THAT'S RIGHT.

THAT TIME WE TOOK A FAMILY TRIP TO THE ZOO, YOU WERE TALKING TO THE GIRAFFE THE ENTIRE TIME.
LIKE WHEN YOU DREW ME IN KINDERGARTEN. YOU GAVE ME A DRAGON'S FACE.

HEY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HOW COME YOU'RE RECORDING RIGHT NOW?
OH!






SO THE PROTAGONIST'S MOM BUYS HIM A SMART-PHONE.
THEN, SHE TELLS HIM...
"I'M SICK AND I'M GOING TO DIE..."
"...SO FILM ME UNTIL MY DYING BREATH."
THEN, PARTWAY THROUGH THE MOVIE...
WAIT, ISN'T THAT THE SAME STORY AS YOUR LAST MOVIE?
THERE'S MORE.
THE PROTAGONIST COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO FILM HIS MOTHER'S DEATH. THEN HE MAKES A CRAPPY MOVIE AND GETS RAGGED ON BIG-TIME FOR IT.
SO...OUR WOUNDED PROTAGONIST...
...DECIDES TO JUMP TO HIS DEATH FROM THE HOSPITAL ROOF.
THEN, WHEN HE GETS UP TO THE ROOF...

...ENTER *VAMPIRE GIRL*.
THE PROTAGONIST GETS ABDUCTED AND TAKEN TO THIS BUILDING.

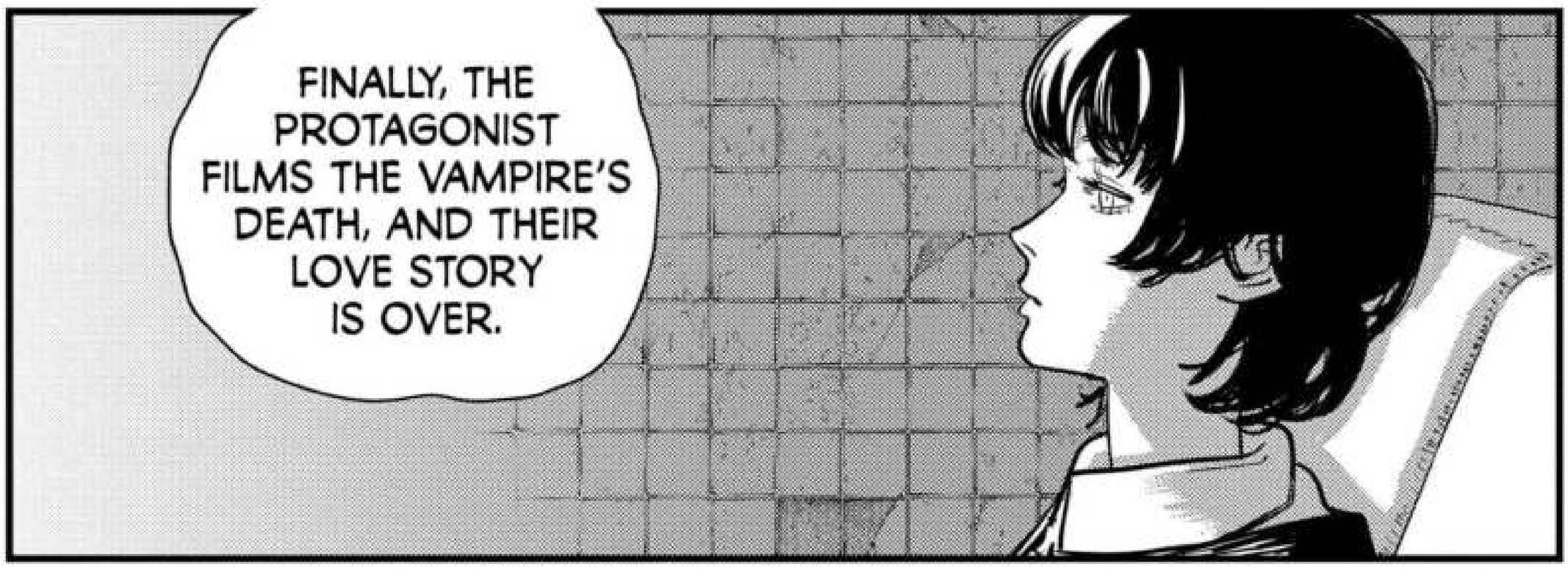
AND THEN THE VAMPIRE ORDERS THE PROTAGONIST TO MAKE A MOVIE?
JUST WHEN HE THINKS SHE'S GOING TO DRINK HIS BLOOD, SHE MAKES HIM WATCH A BUNCH OF MOVIES.
RIGHT.

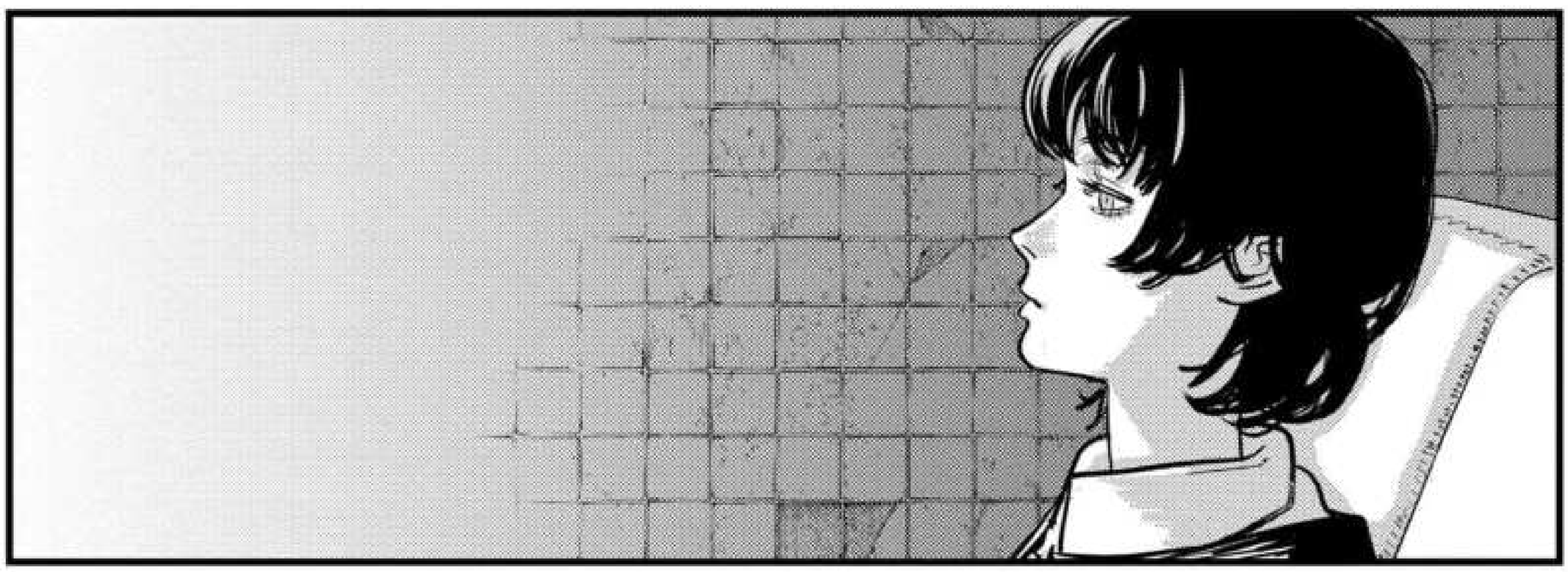
COME UP WITH IT RIGHT NOW.
AFTER THAT, THE TWO OF THEM WATCH TONS OF MOVIES, COME UP WITH A PLOT, AND...
AND I HAVEN'T COME UP WITH THE REST YET.

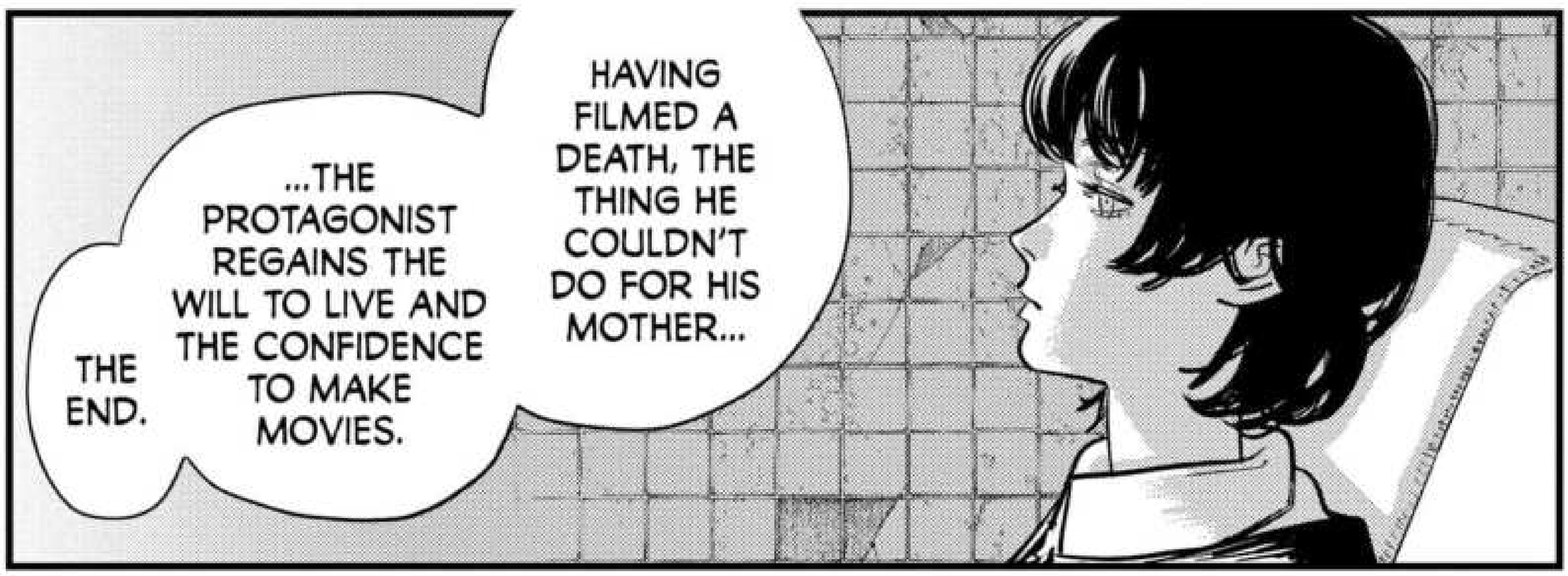
HMMM...

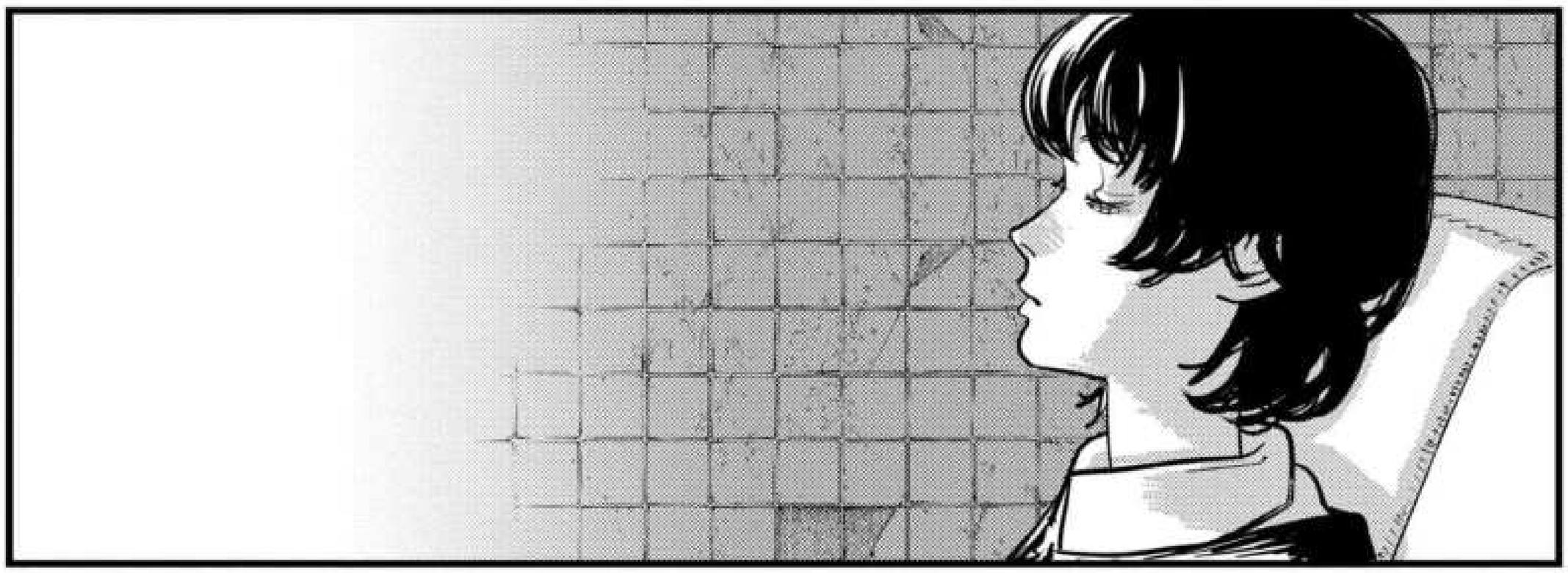
...PROBABLY... ISN'T THE FACT THAT HIS FILM GOT MADE FUN OF...
THE PROTAGONIST'S PROBLEM...
THAT'S IT! THE TRUTH IS, THE PROTAGONIST REGRETS RUNNING AWAY!
AND THEN! AND THEN! YEAH!
MAYBE IT'S THAT HE DIDN'T RECORD HIS MOTHER'S DEATH?
SHE'S LIVED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, BUT SHE'S ABOUT TO DIE FROM AN ILLNESS OR SOME-THING!
THE VAMPIRE ACTUALLY DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE!
SO THE VAMPIRE WANTS THE PROTAGONIST TO SHOOT A MOVIE FOR HER TO BE IN!
DESPITE LIVING FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, SHE'S AFRAID OF BEING FORGOTTEN!

...BUT THE VAMPIRE'S GROWING WEAKER AND WEAKER...
AS THEY SHOOT THE MOVIE, THE PROTAGONIST AND THE VAMPIRE FALL IN LOVE...


FINALLY, THE PROTAGONIST FILMS THE VAMPIRE'S DEATH, AND THEIR LOVE STORY IS OVER.

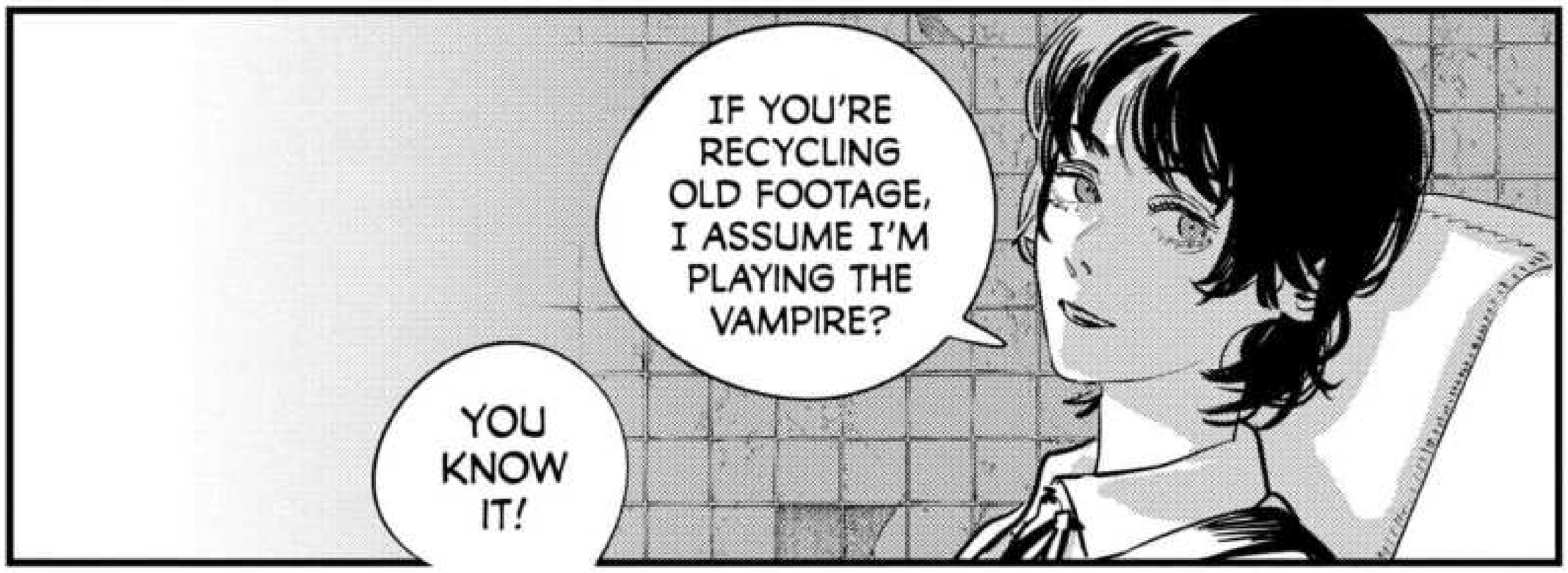



HAVING FILMED A DEATH, THE THING HE COULDN'T DO FOR HIS MOTHER...
...THE PROTAGONIST REGAINS THE WILL TO LIVE AND THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE MOVIES.
THE END.



IT'S SEMI-AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, SO IF I USE MYSELF AS THE PROTAGONIST, I THINK THE META ASPECT WILL GO OVER WELL WITH THE STUDENTS WHO SAW MY MOVIE LAST YEAR!
RIGHT?!
SOUNDS LIKE IT COULD BE GOOD.

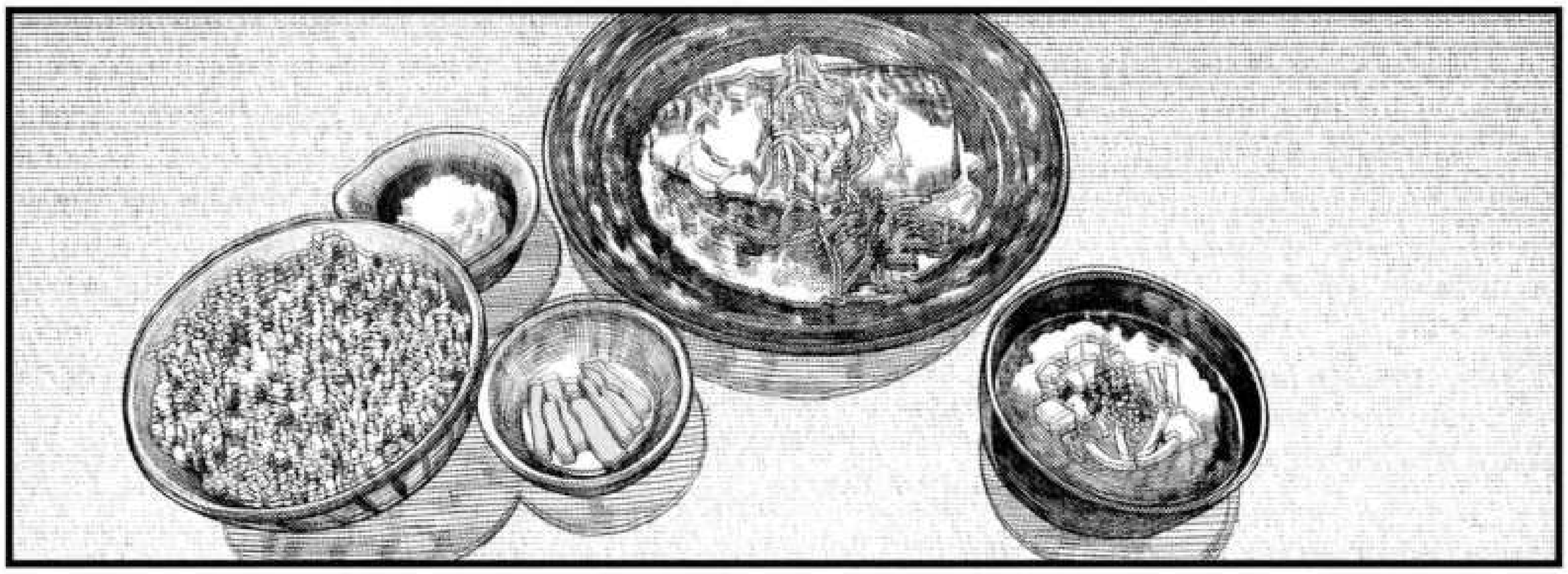
PLUS, THE VIDEOS OF MY MOM AND THE SCENES OF PEOPLE TRASH-TALKING ME ARE ALL REAL, SO I CAN USE UNSCRIPTED, UNACTED LINES!


IF YOU'RE RECYCLING OLD FOOTAGE, I ASSUME I'M PLAYING THE VAMPIRE?
YOU KNOW IT!

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO WRITE DOWN THE PLOT IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL, AND I BET YOU COULD WHIP UP A SCREENPLAY IN NO TIME.
SOUNDS GOOD!

OH! RIGHT! BEFORE I WRITE THE SCREENPLAY, WILL YOU MEET MY DAD?
WHEN I TOLD HIM WE WERE SHOOTING A MOVIE, HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET YOU!
SURE.

MY DAD'S A CHATTERBOX. HE'S GONNA TALK YOUR EAR OFF!



AS YUTA'S FATHER, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO GET OFF MY CHEST.
LOOK, I'M SORRY TO RUIN THIS NICE MEAL, BUT...

I WANT YOU TO STOP PUSH-ING YUTA TO MAKE THIS MOVIE.
ERI...

LET HIM TALK.
DAD, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I SAW HOW MUCH IT HURT HIM WHEN HE MADE THAT MOVIE TO VENT HIS FEELINGS TOO.
I SAW HOW MUCH YUTA WAS HURT BY HIS MOTHER'S PASSING.

BUT EVEN SO...
EVEN SO, IF MAKING THIS NEW MOVIE HURTS HIM AGAIN...
MY SON'S BEEN HAPPIER SINCE MEETING YOU. AND FOR THAT, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

I ONCE AIMED TO BE A CREATOR MYSELF, SO I KNOW HOW IT GOES!
THIS TIME IT MIGHT DAMAGE BEYOND REPAIR HIS ABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD!

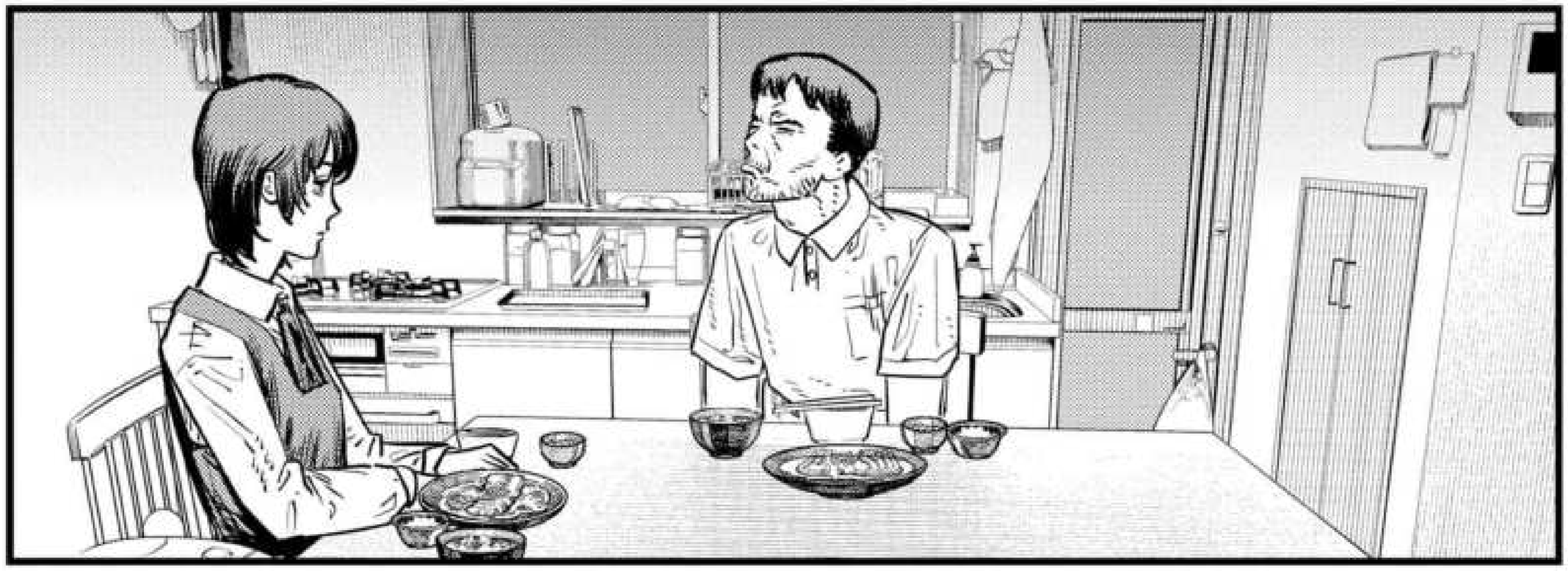
WHEN YOU CREATE A WORK YOU'RE CONFIDENT IN, AND OTHERS TAKE YOUR CREATION AND MOCK IT AND TREAT IT LIKE A PLAYTHING, IT... IT MESSES YOU UP!

BUT DAD, I CHOSE TO-
YUTA, YOU BE QUIET!

I DON'T WANT YOU COMING NEAR YUTA EVER AGAIN, DO YOU HEAR ME?!
ERI! GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!

I'M-
YOU LEAVE OUR FAMILY ALONE!
I PROMISED MY LATE WIFE THAT I'D PROTECT THIS FAMILY!

I'M BEGGING YOU, JUST LEAVE US BE!



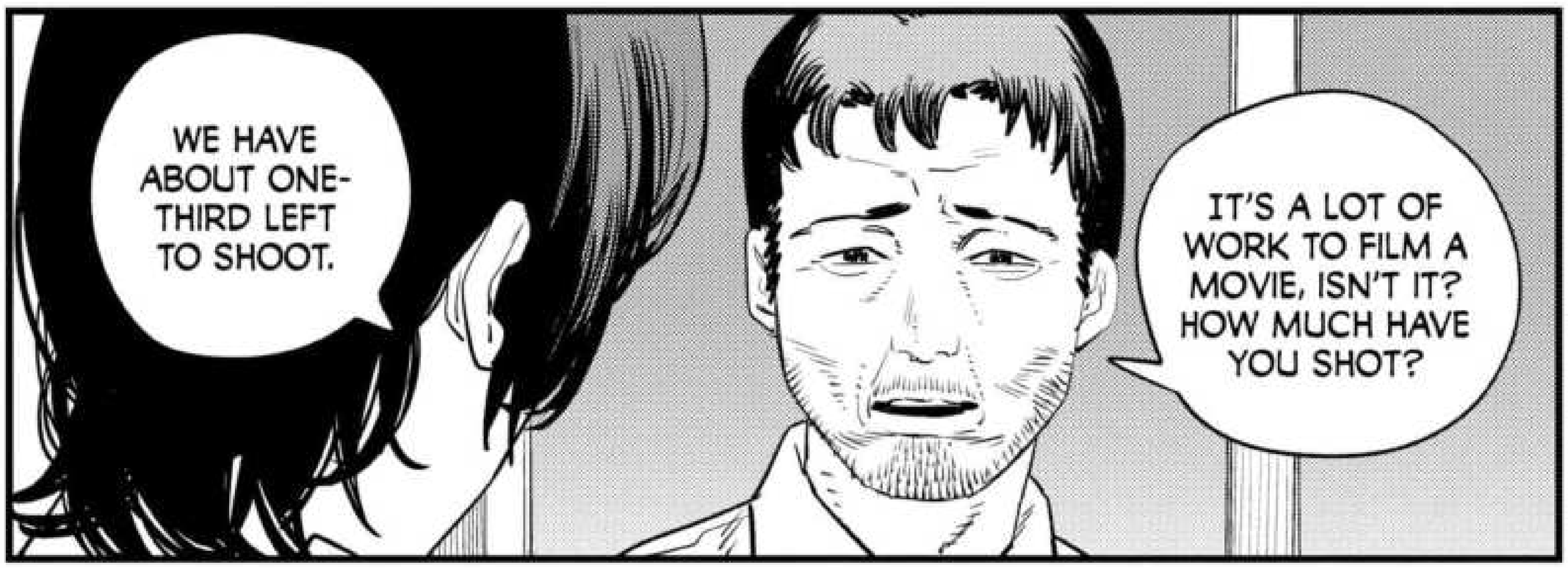
AND CUT!

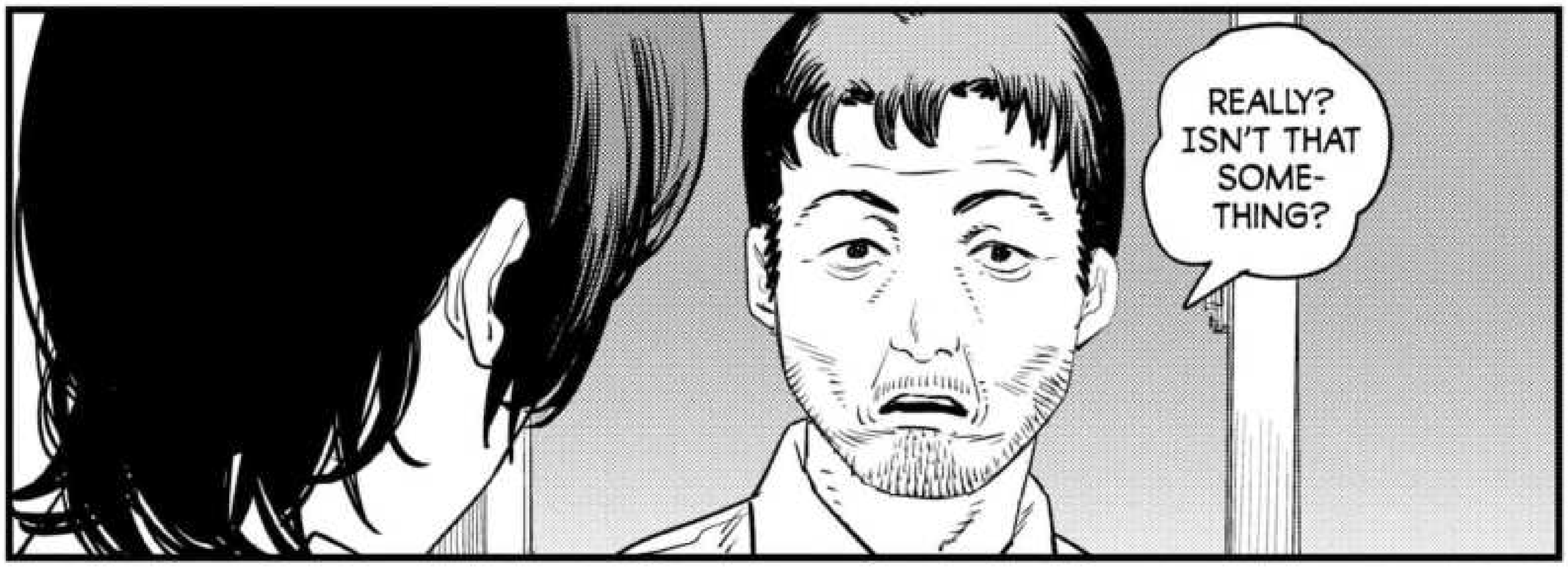
HOW'D I DO? M-MY ACTING WASN'T TOO STIFF?
H...
PHEW!

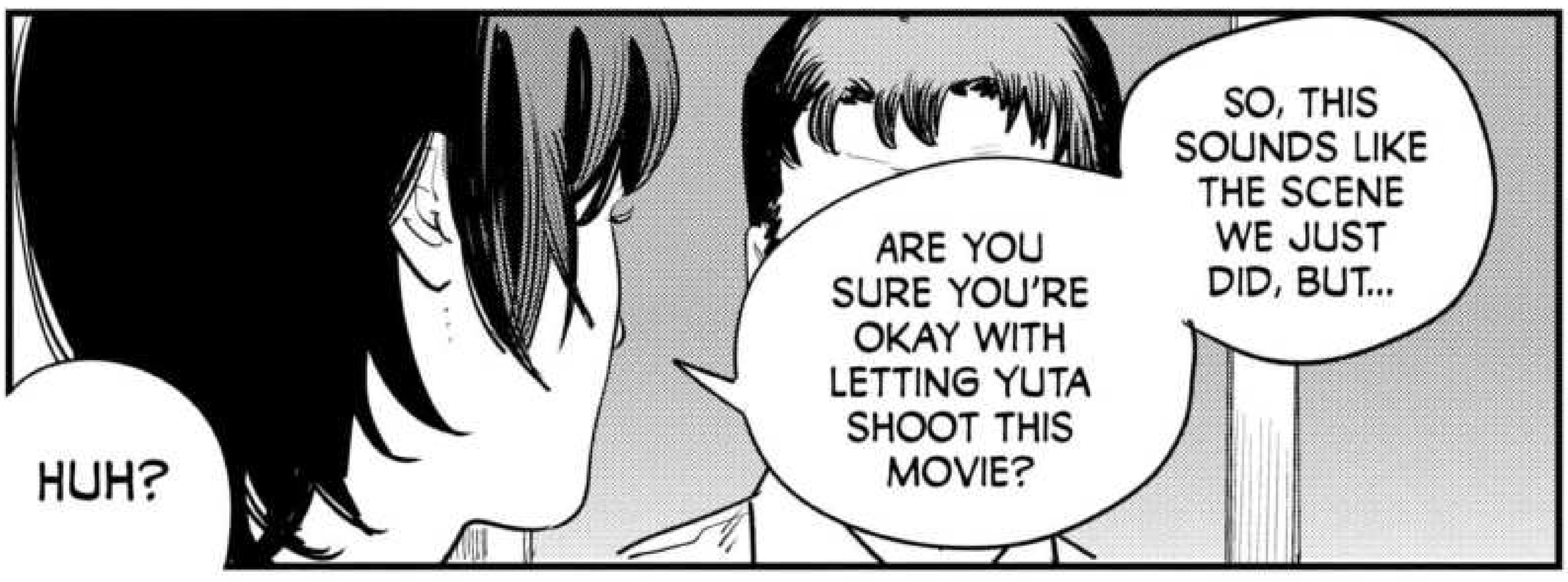
OH!
NO, SIR, YOU WERE VERY GOOD!

I UP AND QUIT WHEN I DIDN'T SUCCEED RIGHT AWAY THOUGH...
I DID SOME THEATER WITH MY FRIENDS AFTER COLLEGE!
GLAD TO HEAR IT!

NOT AT ALL! I'M GLAD TO.
...FOR SPENDING SO MUCH TIME WITH YUTA! I MEAN IT!
REALLY, THOUGH, ERI! THANK YOU...

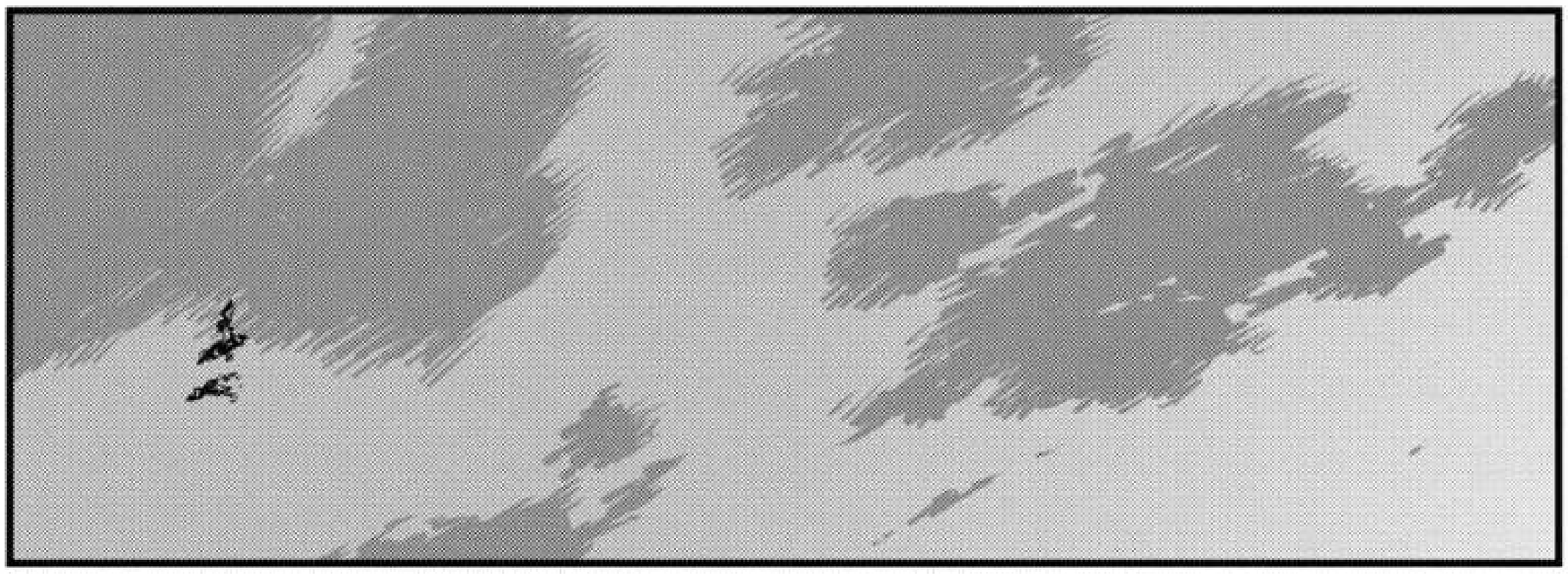

WE HAVE ABOUT ONE-THIRD LEFT TO SHOOT.
IT'S A LOT OF WORK TO FILM A MOVIE, ISN'T IT? HOW MUCH HAVE YOU SHOT?

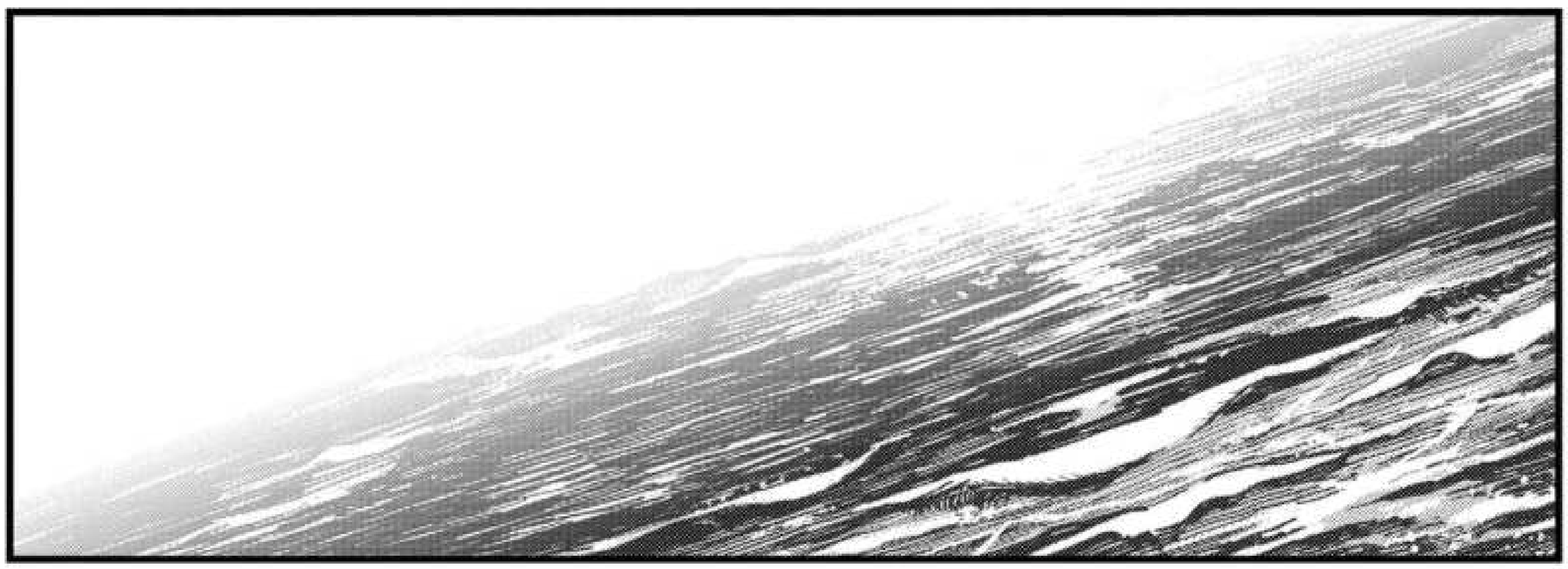

REALLY? ISN'T THAT SOME-THING?

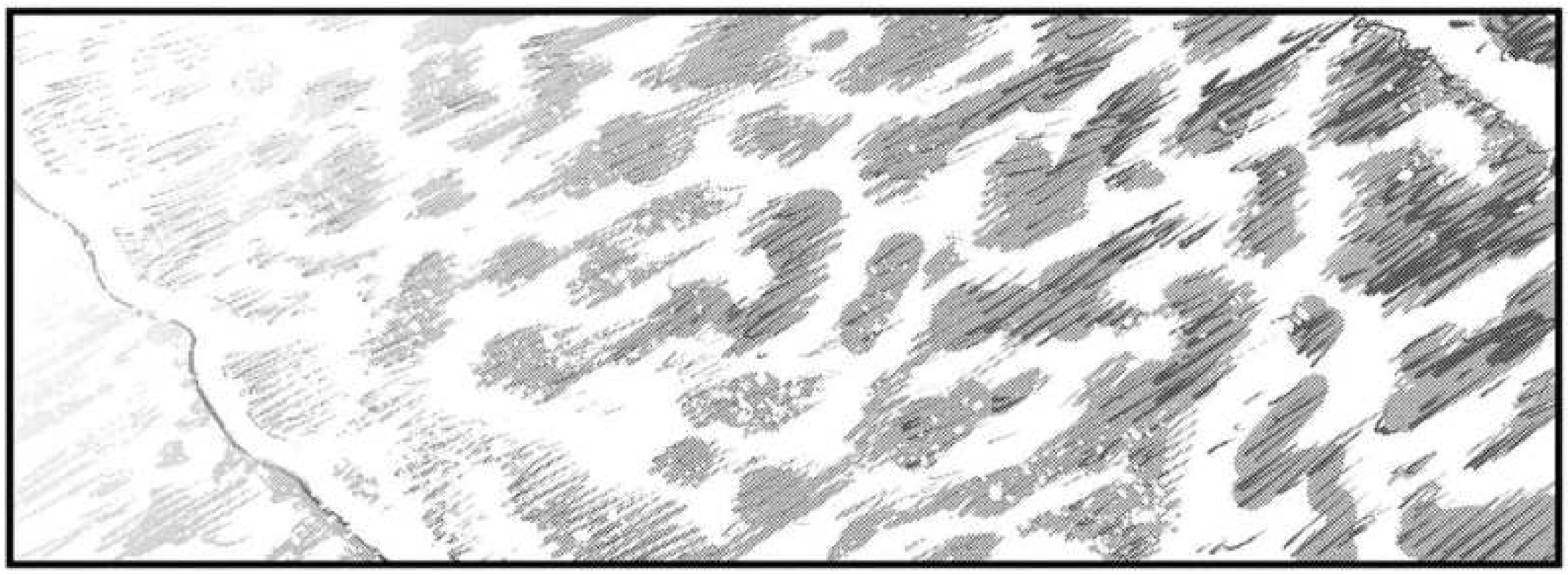

SO, THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE SCENE WE JUST DID, BUT...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH LETTING YUTA SHOOT THIS MOVIE?
HUH?

ME AND YUTA... AND YOU TOO, WON'T WE ALL GET HURT?
IF HE MAKES A BAD MOVIE, IT REALLY WILL GET MOCKED AND TREATED LIKE A PLAYTHING.
HM... WELL...
HRRRM...
THIS COMES FROM A FRIEND OF MINE, BUT...
WELL, IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR IF CREATORS DIDN'T GET HURT TOO, WOULD IT?
CREATION IS ALL ABOUT GETTING INTO THE AUDIENCE'S PROBLEMS TO MAKE THEM LAUGH AND CRY, RIGHT?

YES! ABSO-LUTELY!
SHOULD WE SHOOT ANOTHER TAKE OF THAT?
THAT WAS A GOOD LINE, RIGHT?



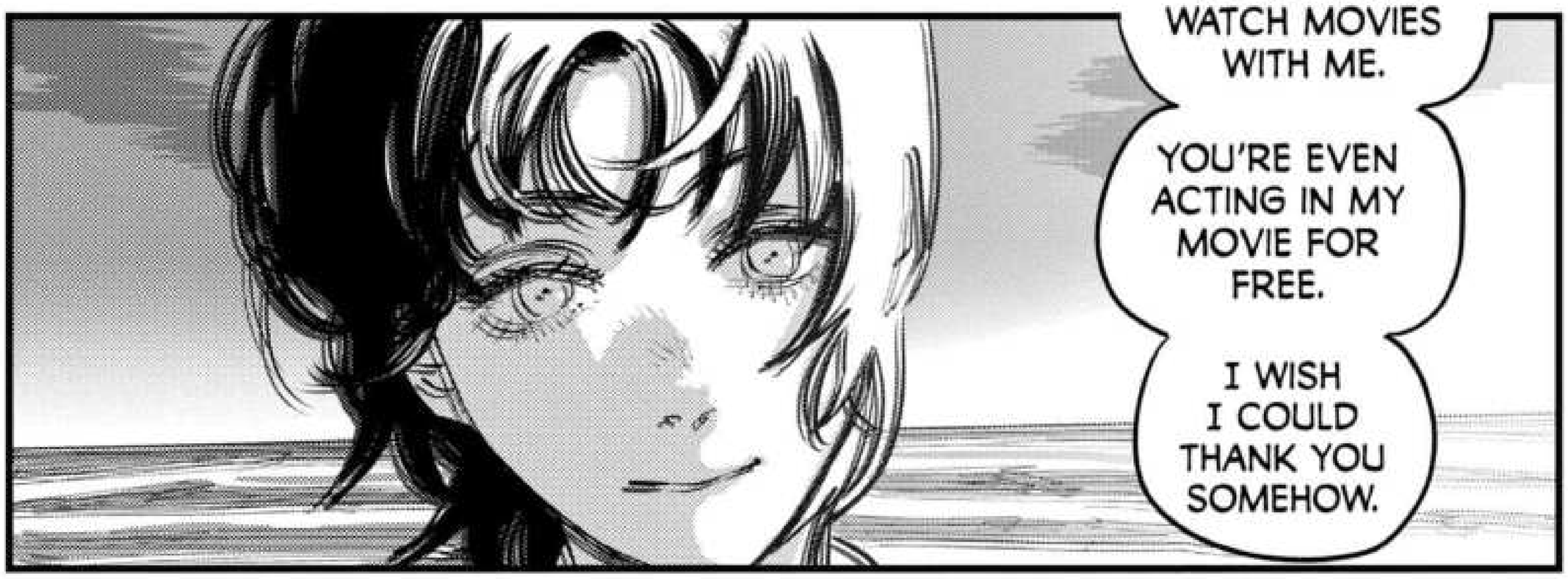




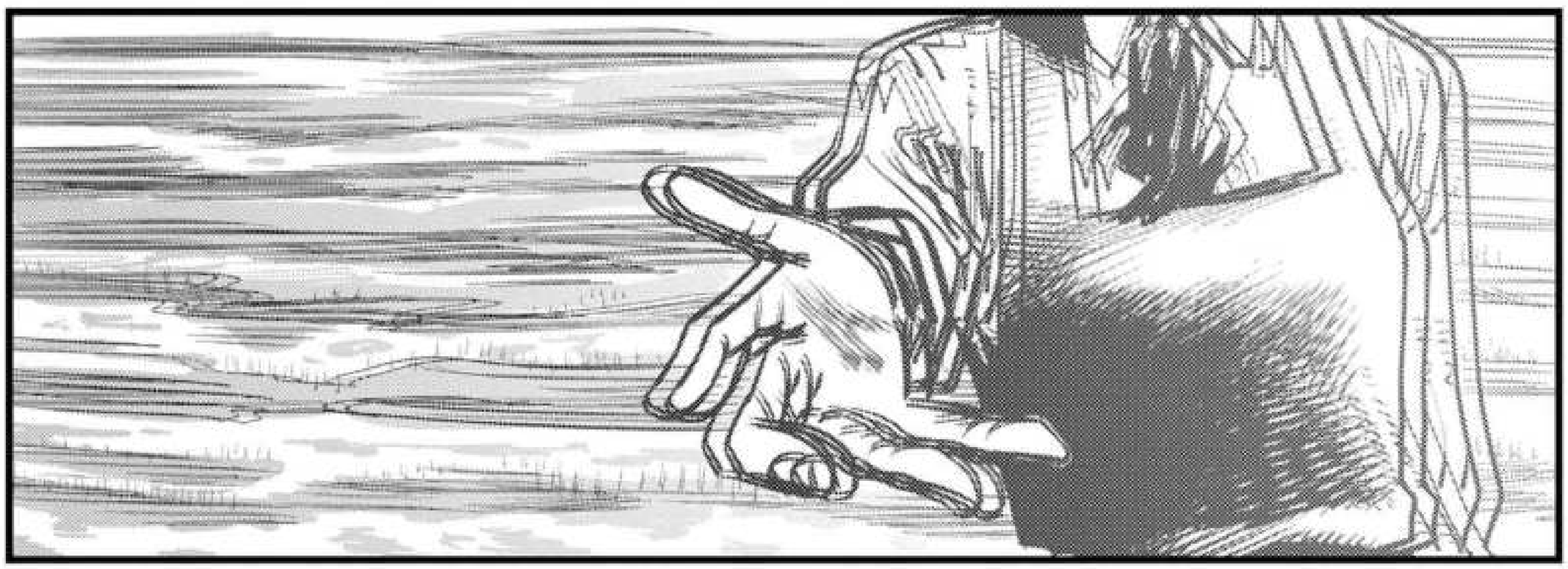
ERI, IF YOU'RE A VAMPIRE...
...HOW CAN YOU BE OUT IN THE SUNLIGHT?
A LITTLE BIT DOESN'T HURT.
I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME INSIDE WATCHING MOVIES.
OKAY, THEN DO GARLIC AND CROSSES NOT AFFECT YOU?
I HATE GARLIC.
I HATE SCALLIONS AND ONIONS TOO.

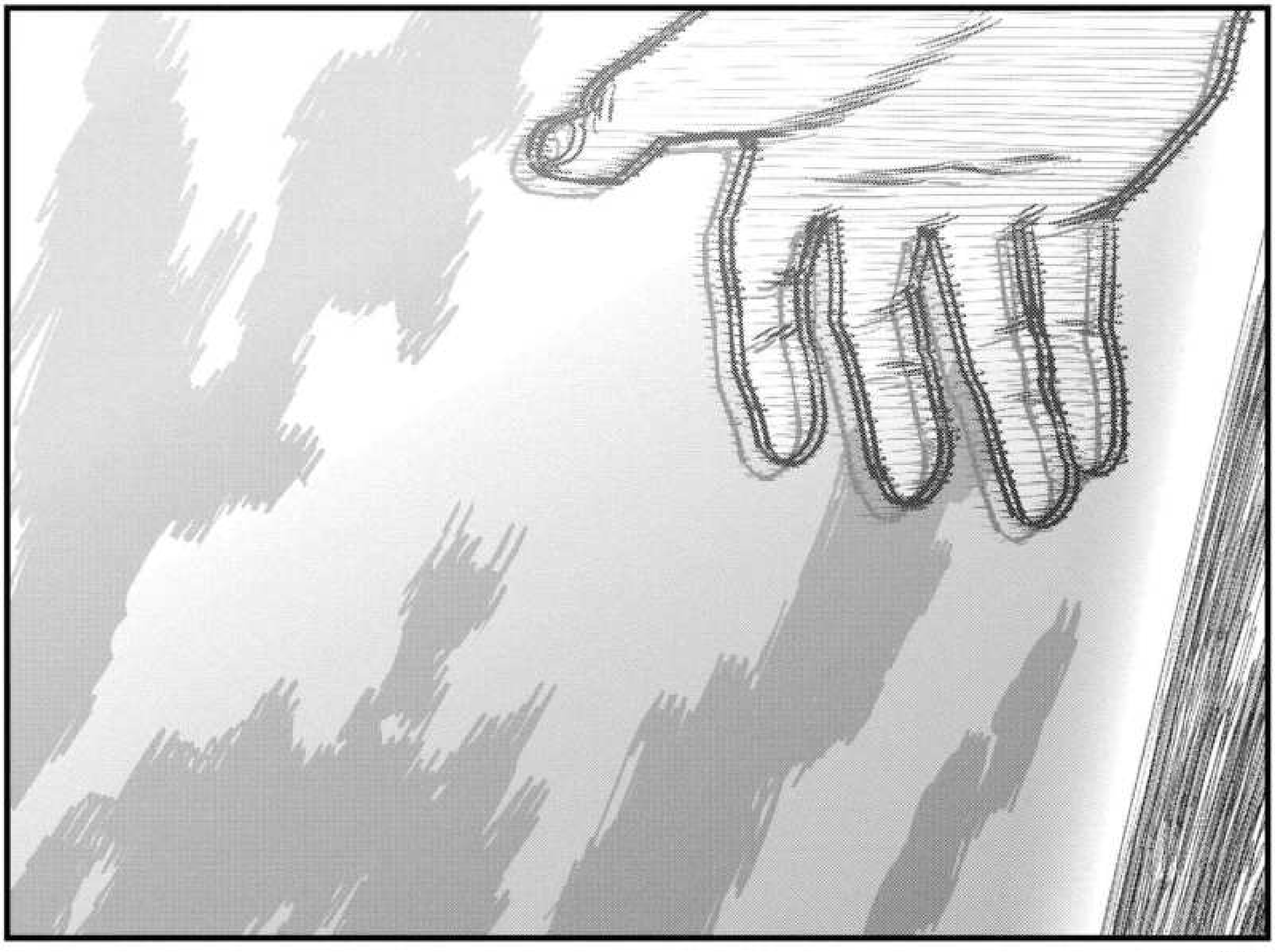
HOW OLD ARE YOU? YOUR REAL AGE.
HMM... I'M ABOUT...
...1,200 YEARS OLD?
OVER YOUR LONG LIFE, HAVE YOU GONE THROUGH ANY STRUGGLES?
IT MAKES ME SAD THAT EVERYONE I KNOW WILL DIE BEFORE ME.
HUMANS DIE IN A SCANT 100 YEARS.

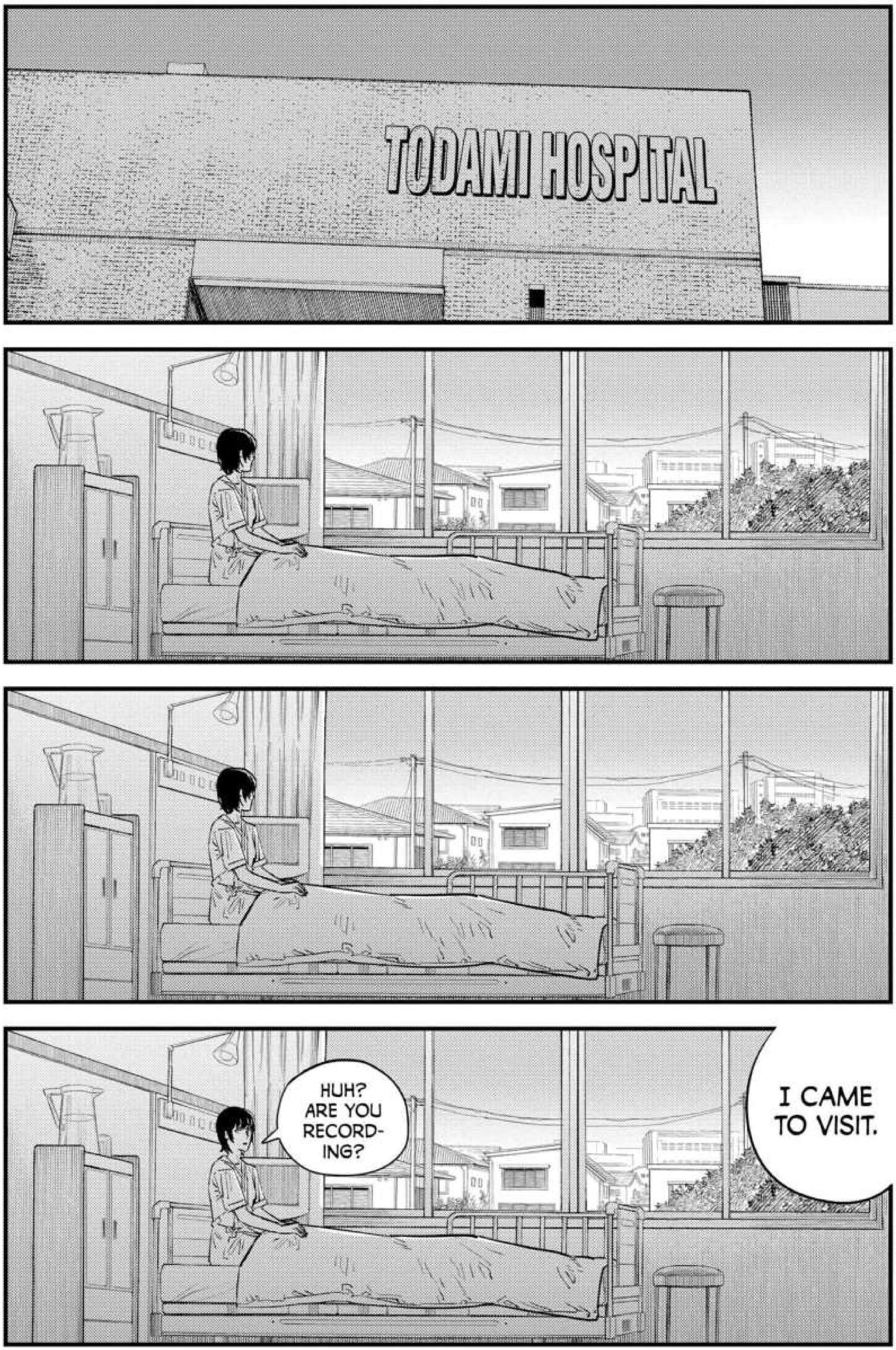
THAT'S WHY I ENVIED YOU.
HUH?
IF YOU WATCH YOUR MOVIE, YOU GET TO SEE YOUR MOTHER AGAIN, DON'T YOU?
ISN'T THAT AN INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL THING?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO PRAISES ME, ERI.
HEE HEE!


YOU ALWAYS WATCH MOVIES WITH ME.
YOU'RE EVEN ACTING IN MY MOVIE FOR FREE.
I WISH I COULD THANK YOU SOMEHOW.

THEN LET ME DRINK YOUR BLOOD.






TODAMI HOSPITAL
HUH? ARE YOU RECORD-ING?
I CAME TO VISIT.

REALLY? WHAT IS IT?
I SENT YOU A GET-WELL VIDEO.

...I'M RECORDING THIS VIDEO OF ME POOPING. FOR POSTERITY.
SO JUST TO BE SAFE...
I NEVER GOT TO RECORD MY MOM GOING TO THE BATHROOM.

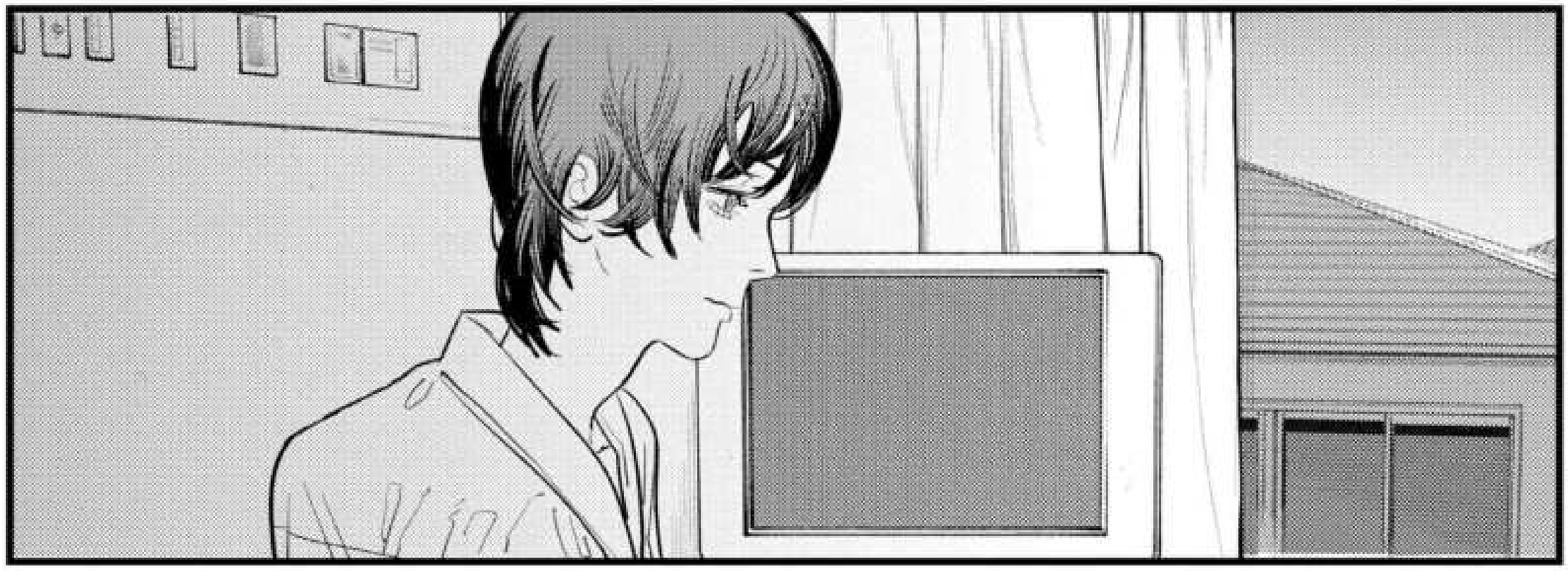
AH HA HA HA!
EWWWW!
HEE!

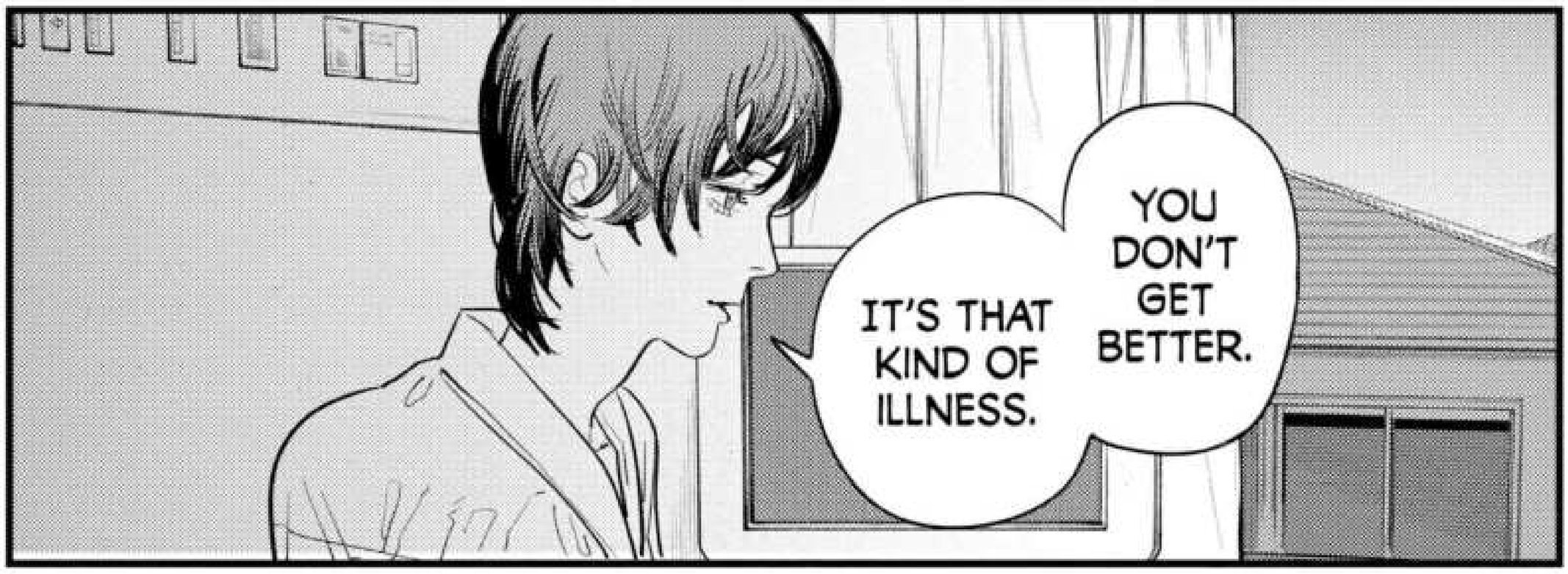
OF COURSE NOT! THAT'S GROSS!
HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A VIDEO OF SOMEONE POOPING BEFORE?

I'LL SHOW THEM TO YOU ONCE YOU'RE BETTER.
I HAVE LOTS OF EVEN NASTIER VIDEOS.

YOU DON'T GET BETTER.

HUH?

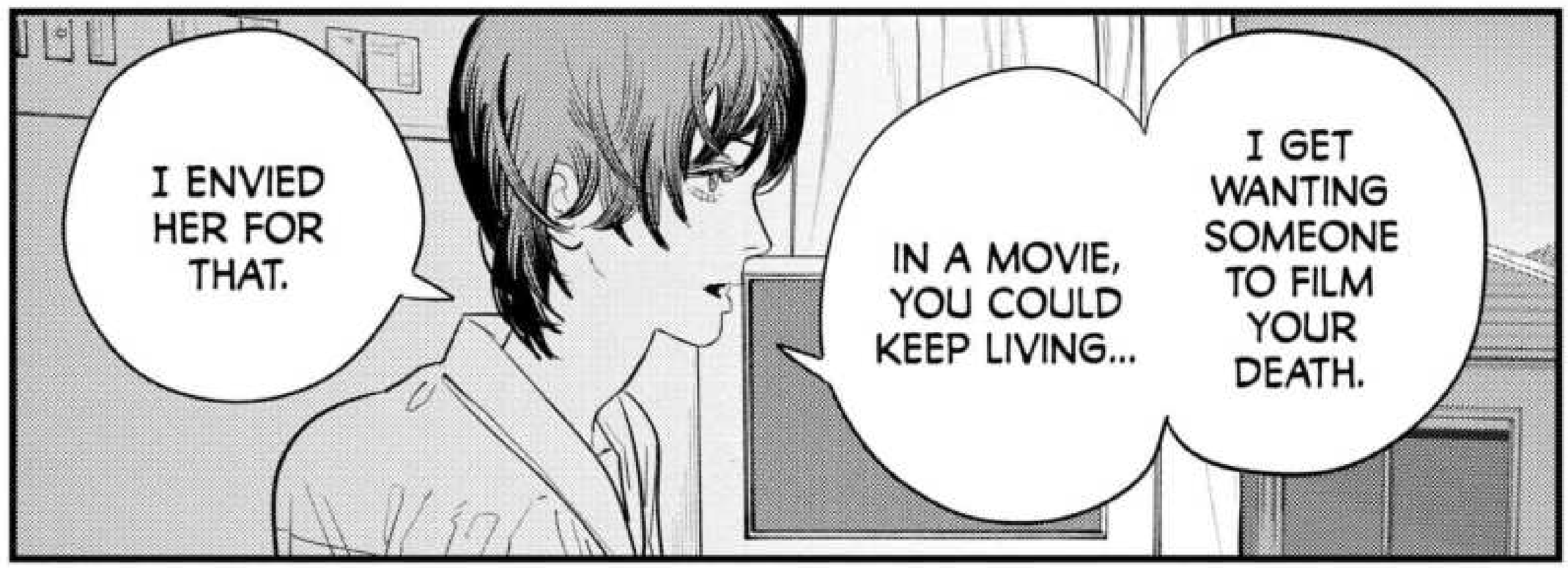



IT'S THAT KIND OF ILLNESS.
YOU DON'T GET BETTER.

I THOUGHT I HAD MORE TIME.
I KNEW, I JUST...

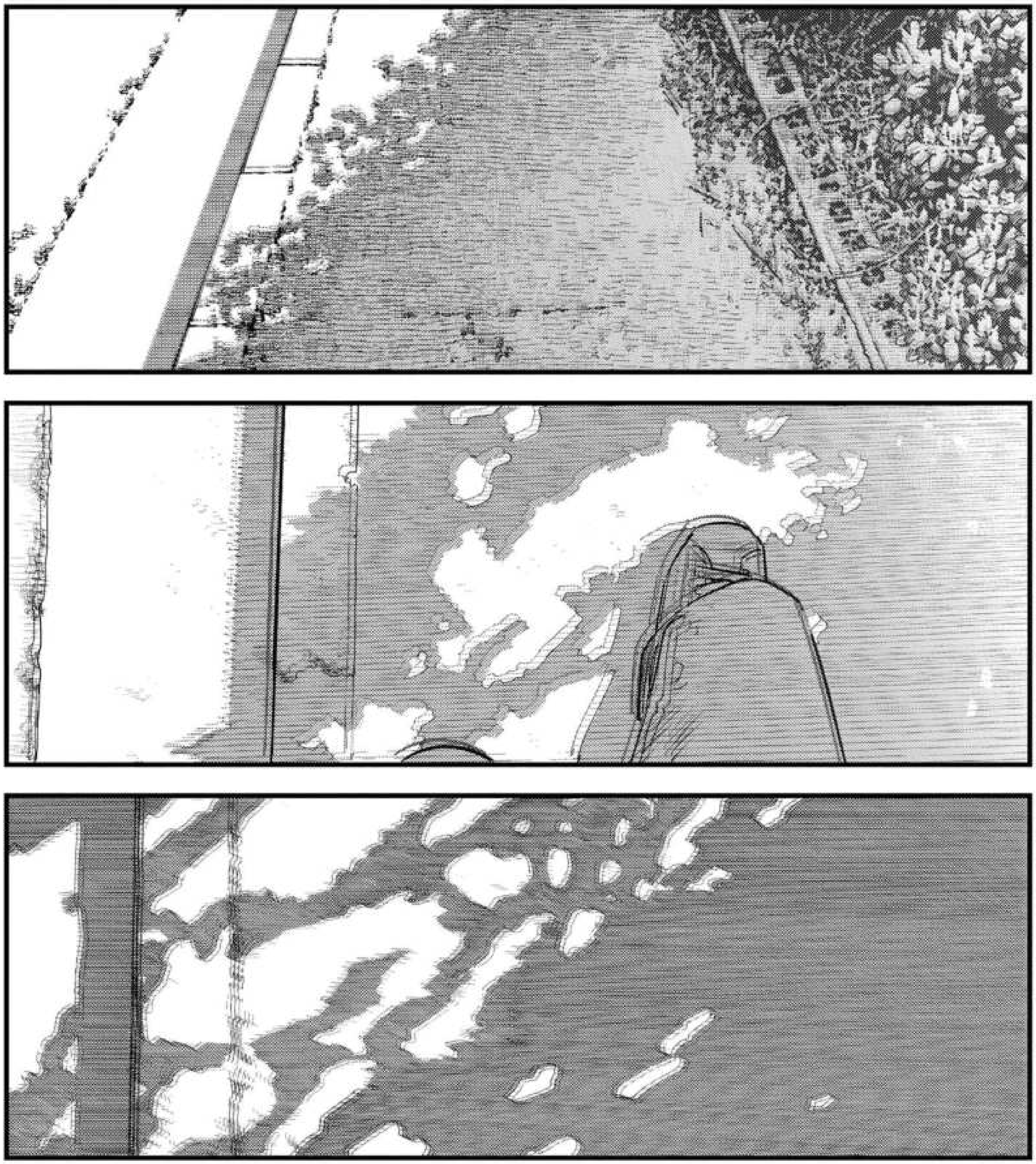
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE MOVIE, IS IT?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?
WHY...

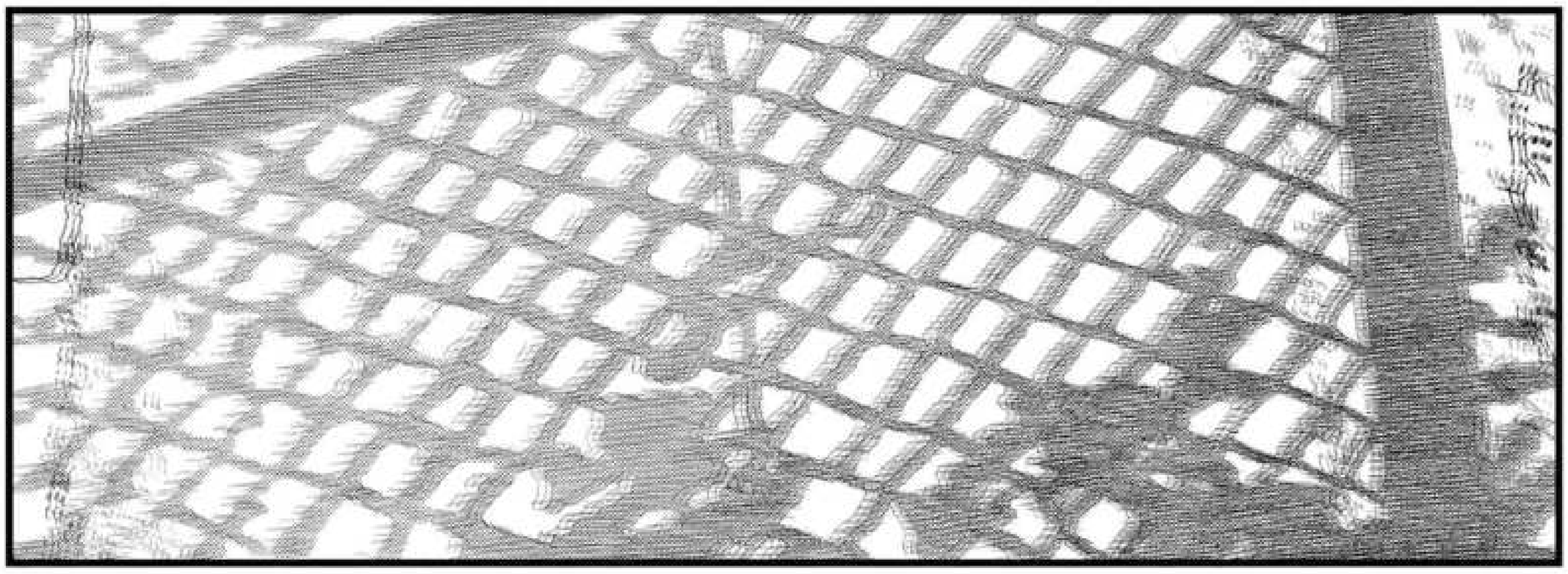
...THE TRUTH IS, I RELATED TO YOUR MOM.
I...
WHEN I SAW YOUR MOVIE...

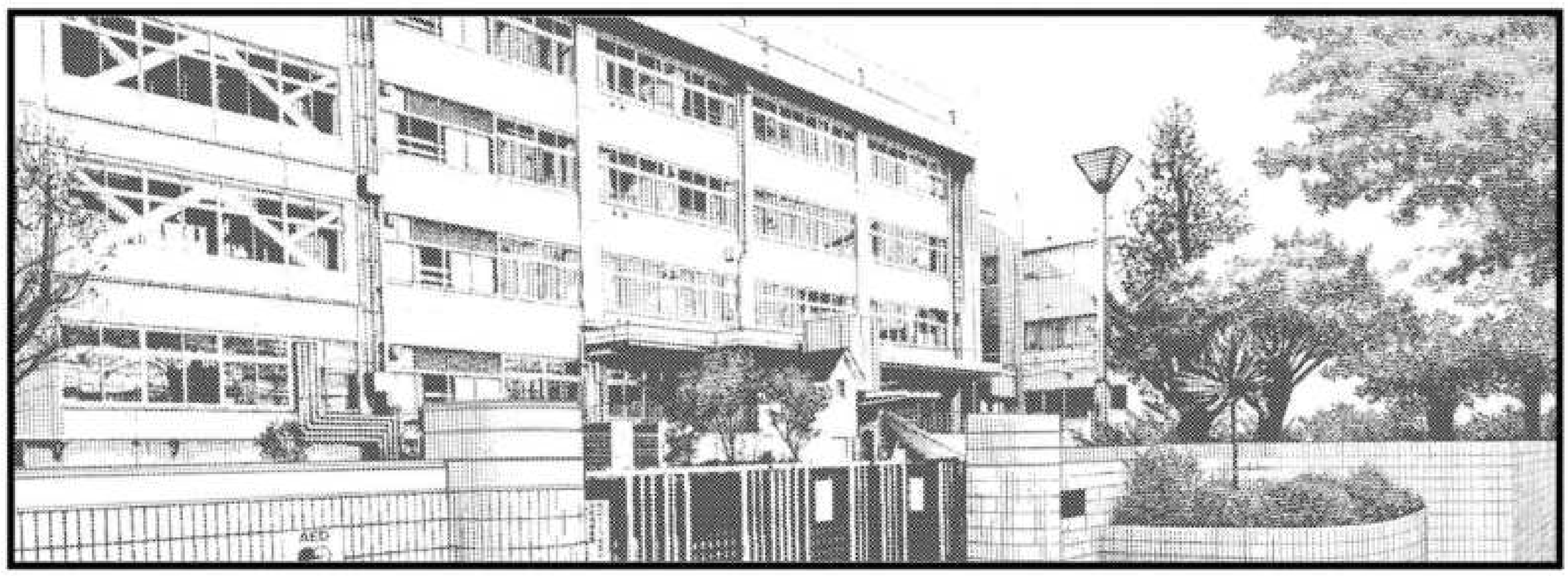

I ENVIED HER FOR THAT.
IN A MOVIE, YOU COULD KEEP LIVING...
I GET WANTING SOMEONE TO FILM YOUR DEATH.

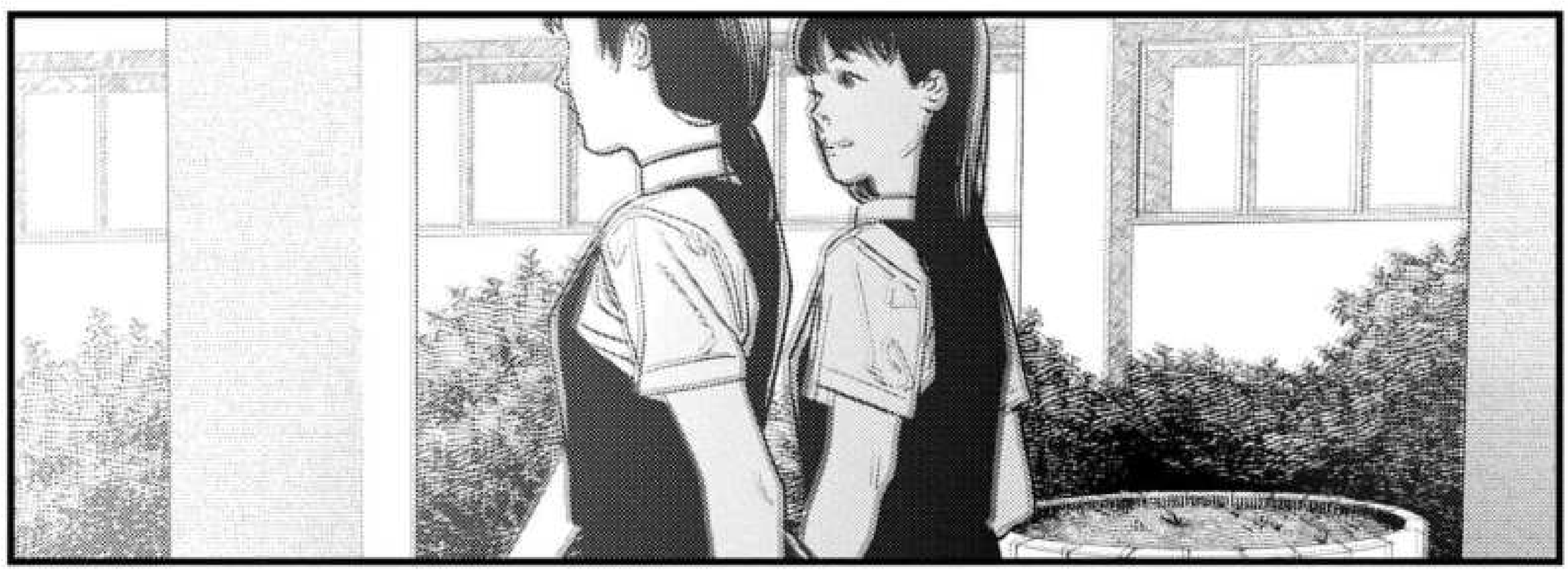
I HAVE A REQUEST.
WILL YOU?
JUST LIKE IN THE PLOT YOU CAME UP WITH.
I WANT YOU TO FILM ME UNTIL THE MOMENT OF MY DEATH.

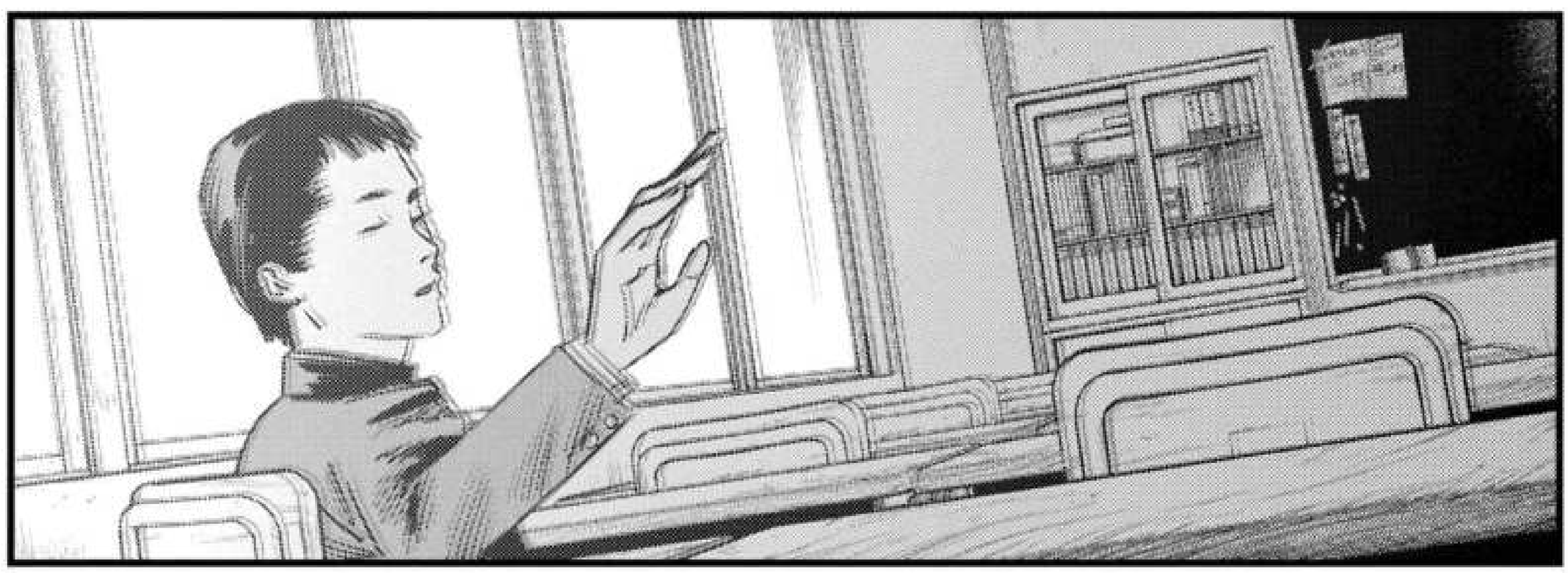
WHAT THE HELL...?
UM.
HOW CAN Y...
WHO WOULD WANT TO DO THAT?
HOW CAN YOU ASK ME TO DO THAT?
I MEAN.

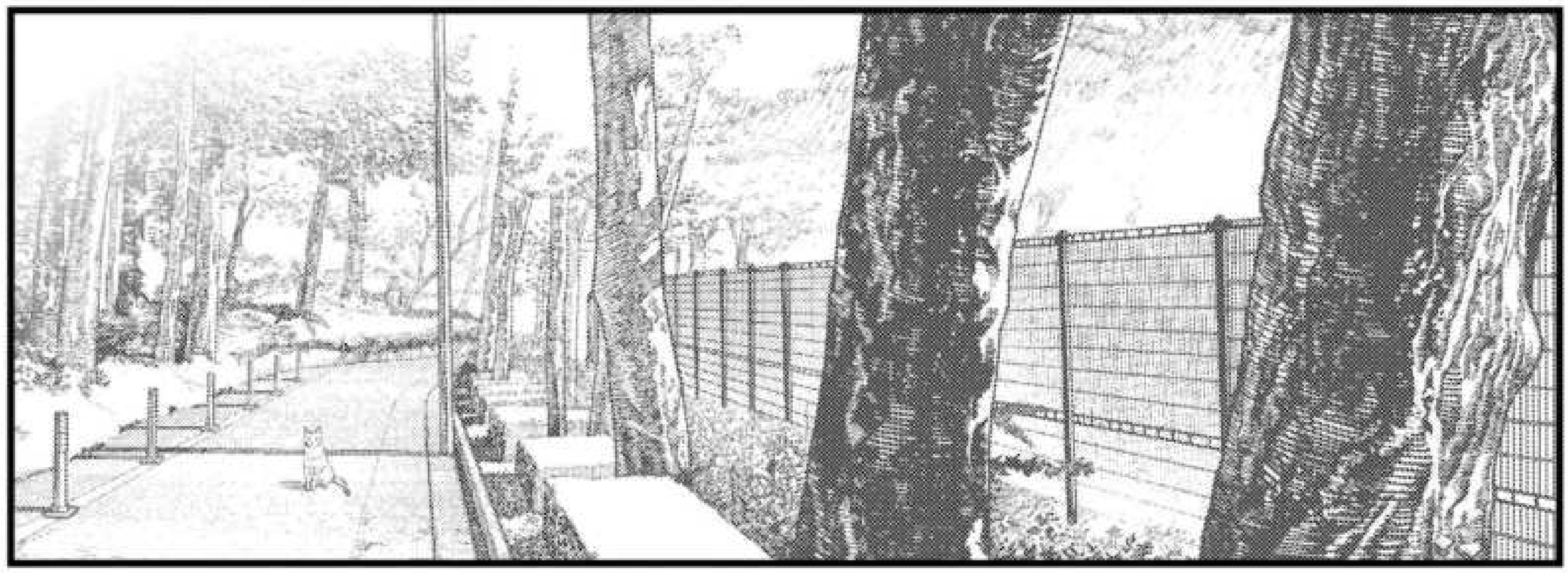


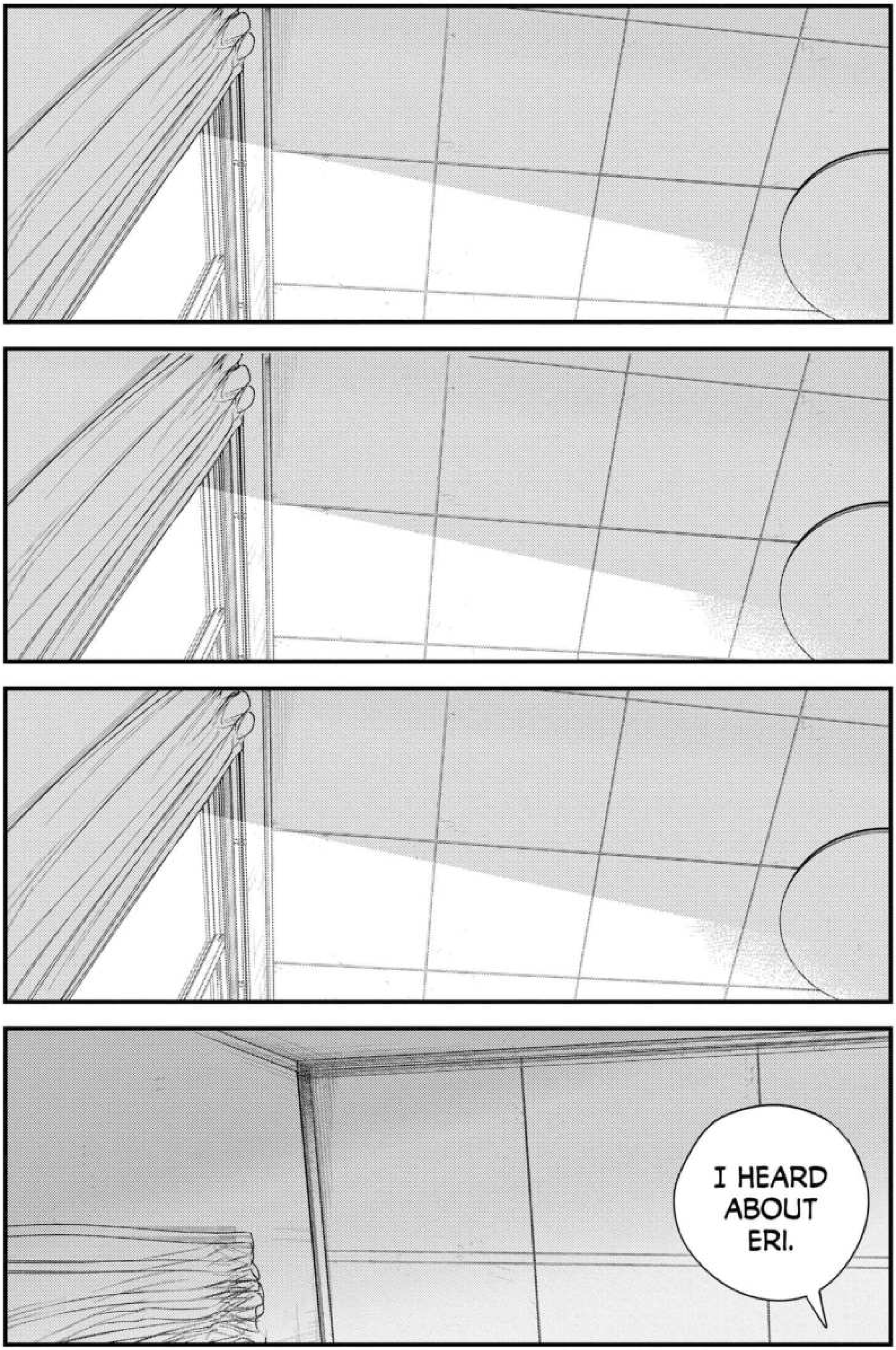




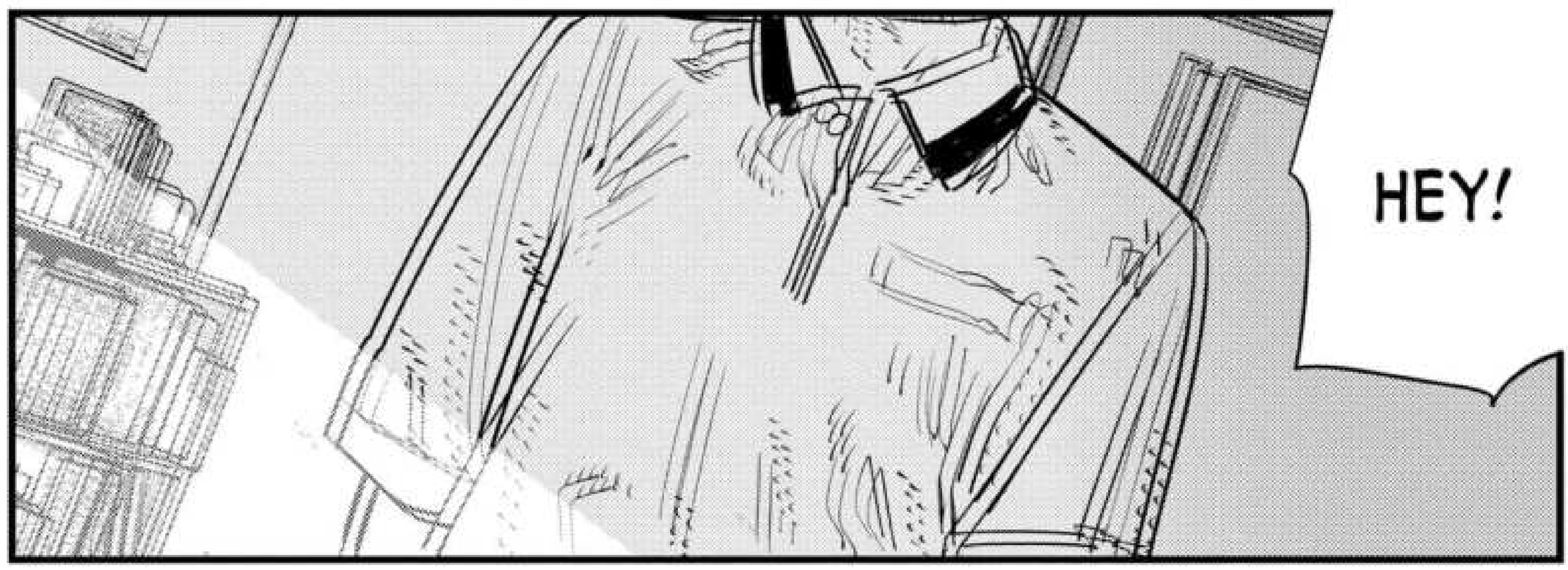







I HEARD ABOUT ERI.

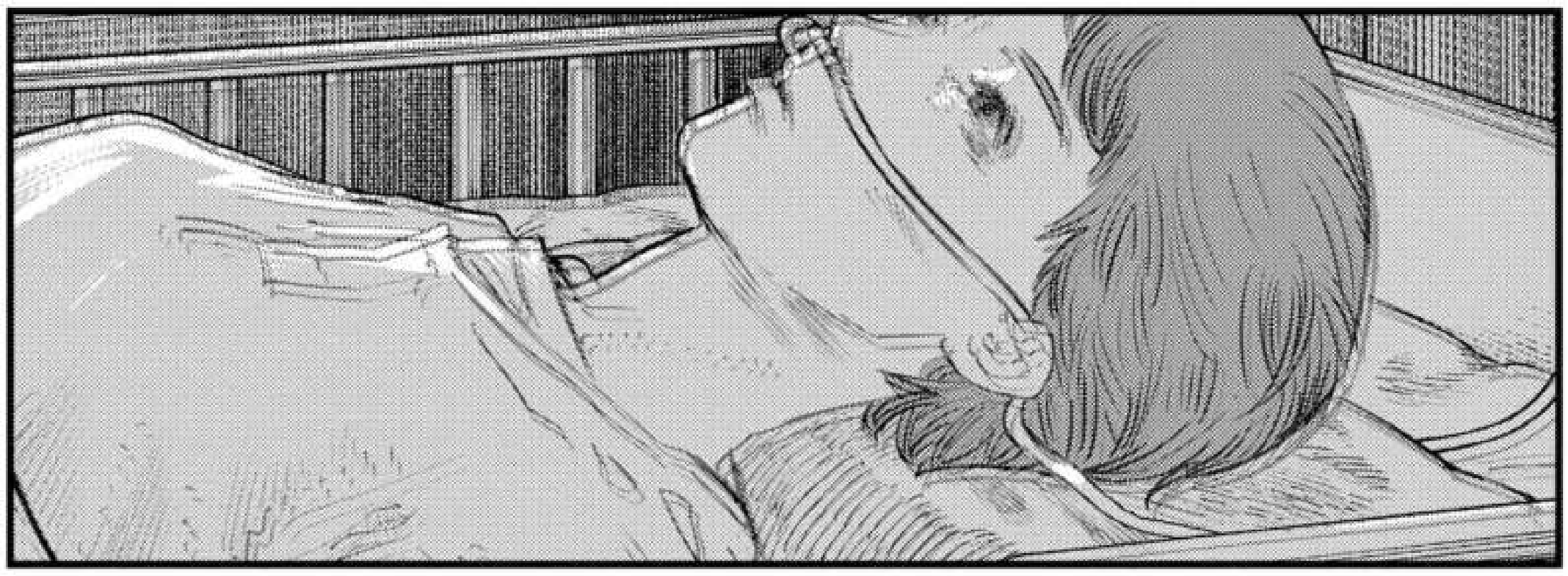
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GO TO SCHOOL?
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.


HEY!

YUTA.
WHAT ?!

GET OUT OF MY ROOM ALREADY!

I RECORDED THEM.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE?
YOUR MOM'S FINAL MOMENTS...



UHH...
ERM... YUTA WON'T COME OUT OF THE CAR...

ERRRM, SO...
SINCE IT'S YOUR WISH...
UHH... I'LL BE RECORD-ING...

WHY ISN'T YUTA HERE?
WHY?

OKAY... OKAY...
SO...HE COULDN'T MAKE IT THIS FAR...
YUTA... HE DOESN'T WANT HIS MOM TO DIE.

OKAY...

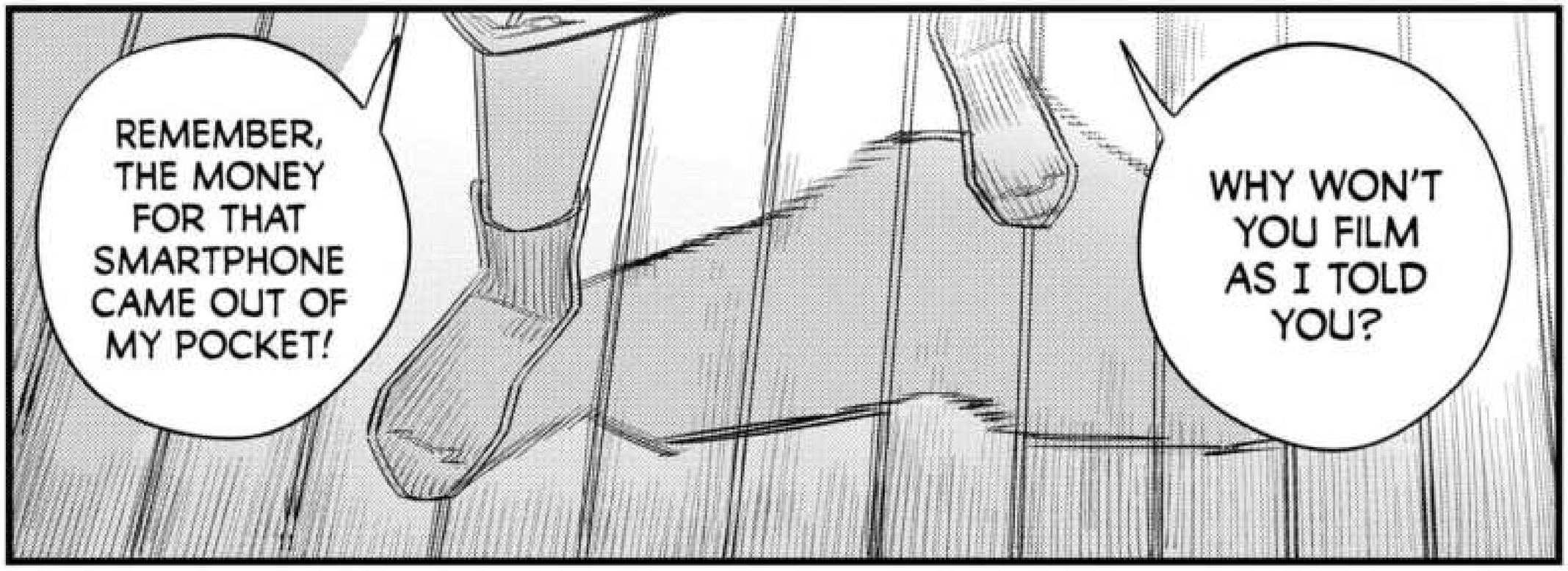
OKAY... RIGHT...

THAT BOY WAS USELESS TO THE VERY END...

DON'T YOU REALIZE I COULD DIE?
YUTA, HURRY UP AND RECORD.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

DO YOU *WANT* EVERY-ONE TO LAUGH AT HOW UGLY I AM?
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
I'D LOOK UGLY IN A SHOT FRAMED LIKE THAT.

ARE YOU STUPID?
THERE'S NO POINT IN FILMING CATS.
DELETE THAT.


REMEMBER, THE MONEY FOR THAT SMARTPHONE CAME OUT OF MY POCKET!
WHY WON'T YOU FILM AS I TOLD YOU?

YOU REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER WAS A TV PRODUCER, RIGHT?
SHE'D PLANNED TO MAKE A TV DOCUMENTARY ABOUT HER BRAVE BATTLE AGAINST ILLNESS AFTER SHE RECOVERED...
SINCE I WAS AT WORK DURING THE DAY, SHE HAD YOU SHOOT THE VIDEOS.

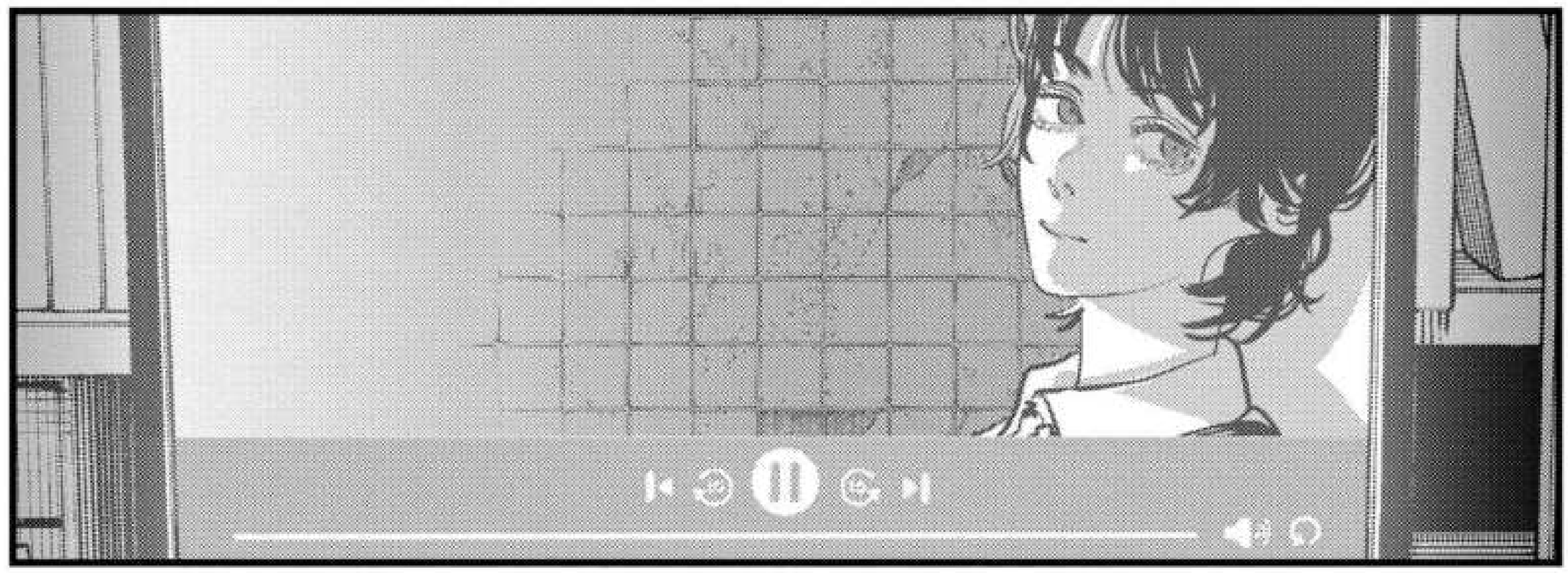
I KNEW IT WAS HORRIBLE, WHAT SHE WAS DOING TO YOU.
SON... I...

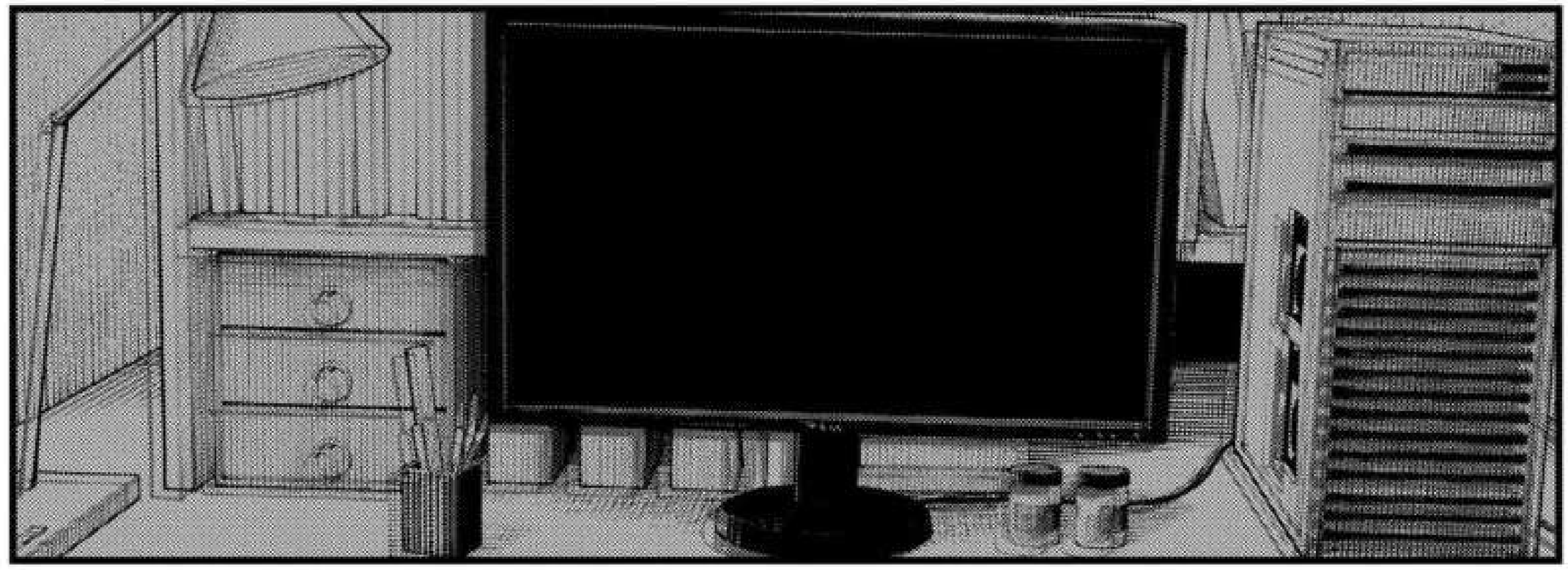
I'M SORRY...
I ACTED LIKE EVERY-THING WAS OKAY...
BUT I-
I PRETENDED NOT TO SEE IT. I RAN AWAY...

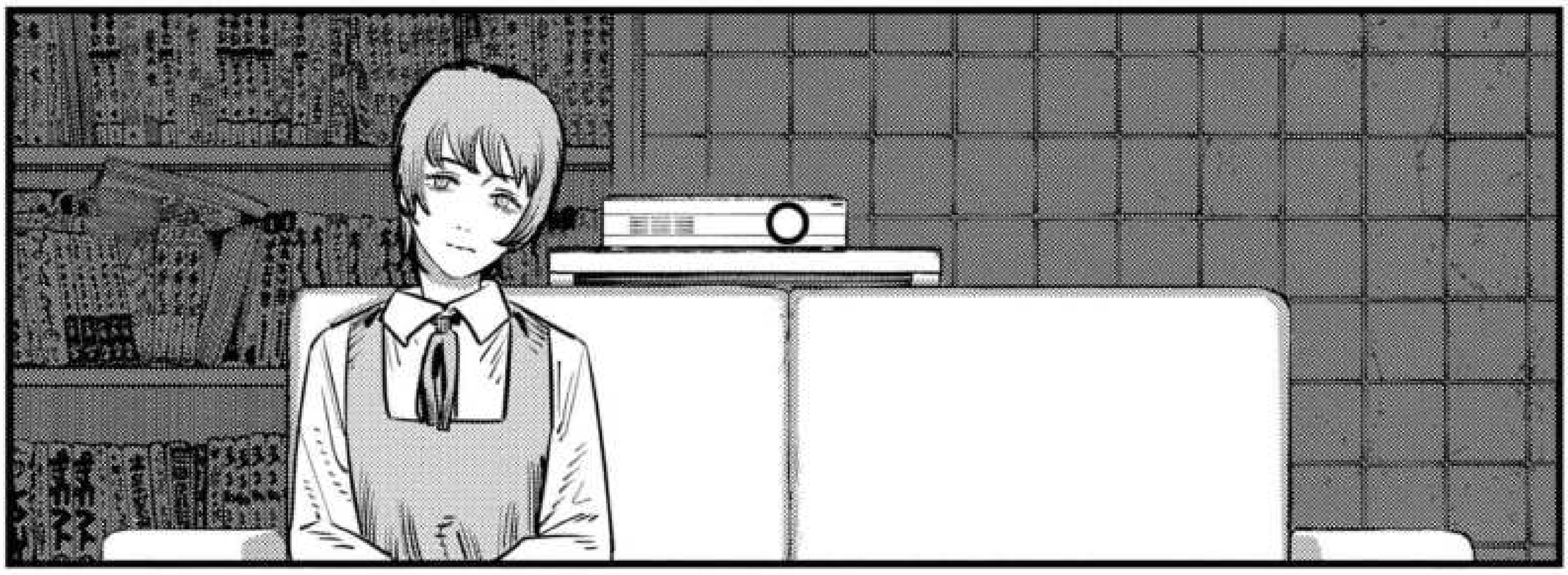
I'M SO SORRY...

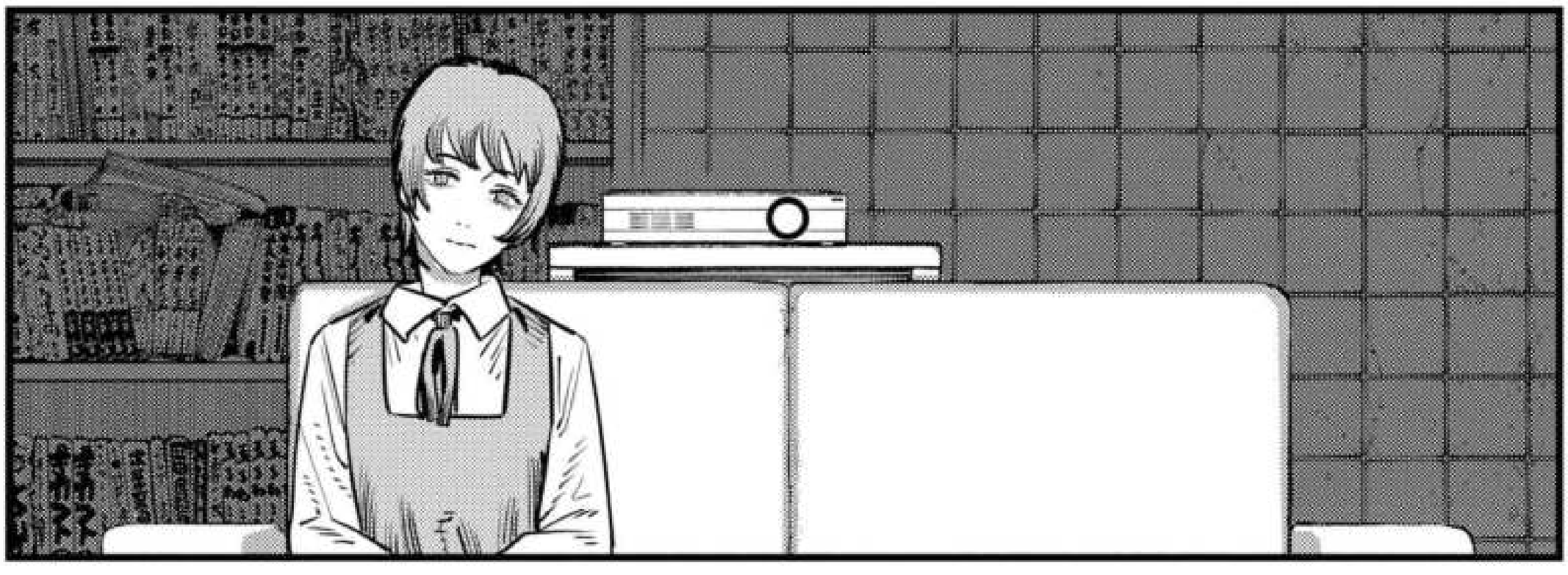
THAT'S WHY, WHEN I WATCHED YOUR MOVIE, I WAS SHOCKED!
THAT'S WHY...
I COULD ONLY SEE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS ABOUT HER...
SHE WAS A GOOD MOM.
IN THE MOVIE, YOUR MOM WAS...
AND SHE NEVER PRAISED ME FOR ANYTHING, BUT...
WHEN MOM WAS IN A BAD MOOD, SHE'D GIVE ME THE SILENT TREATMENT.

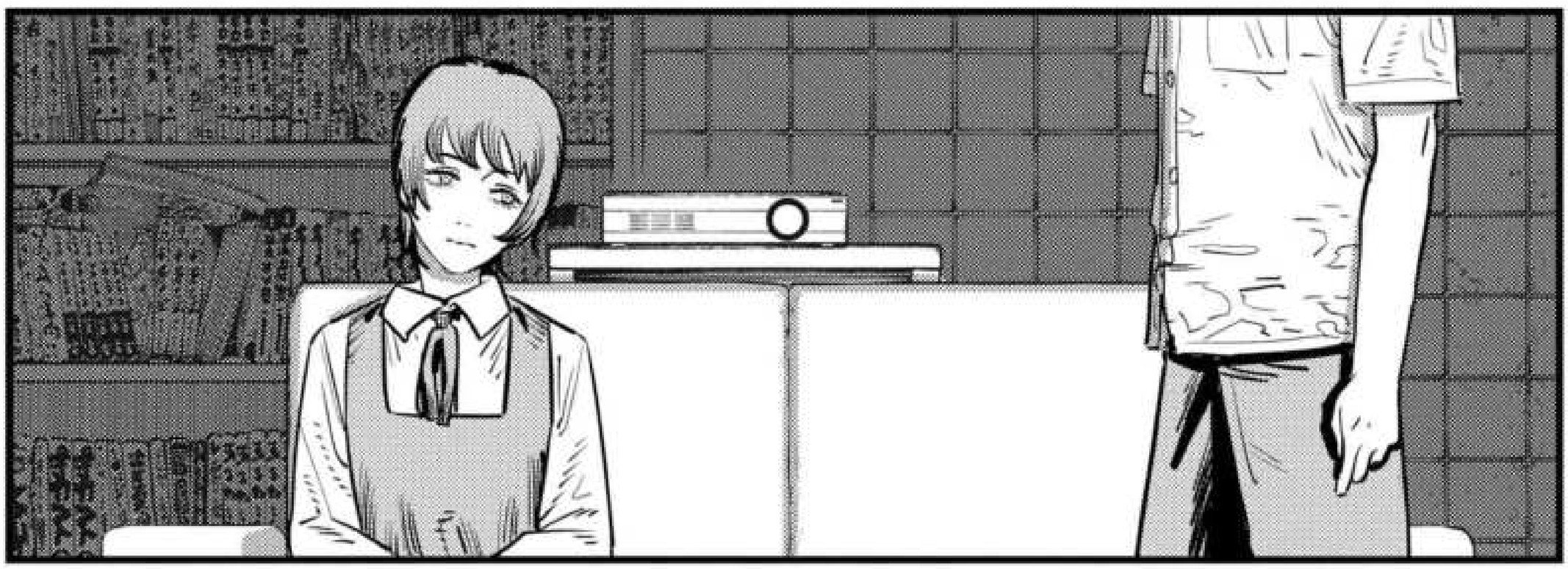
...I WANTED MY MEMORIES OF HER TO BE BEAUTIFUL...
THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE THING.
...HOW YOU'LL REMEMBER SOMEONE.
YUTA, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF...
...TO CHOOSE HOW SHE'LL BE REMEMBERED.
I THINK MAYBE ERI WANTS YOU...

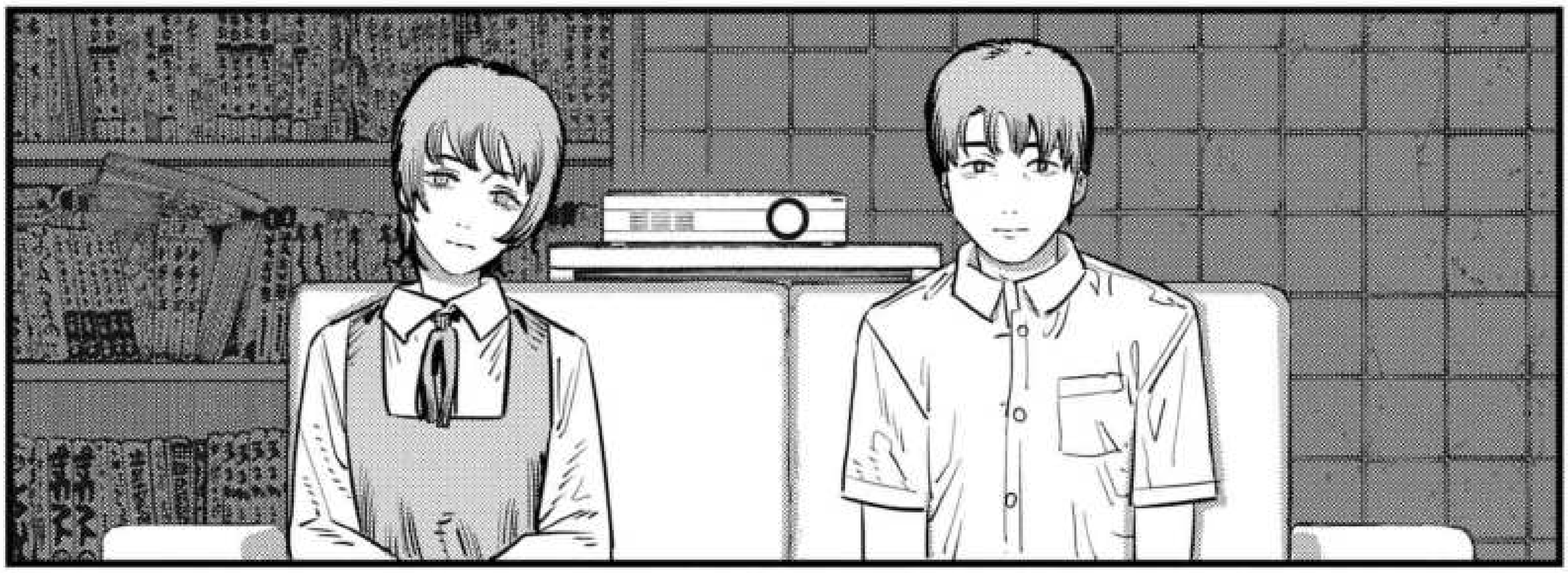


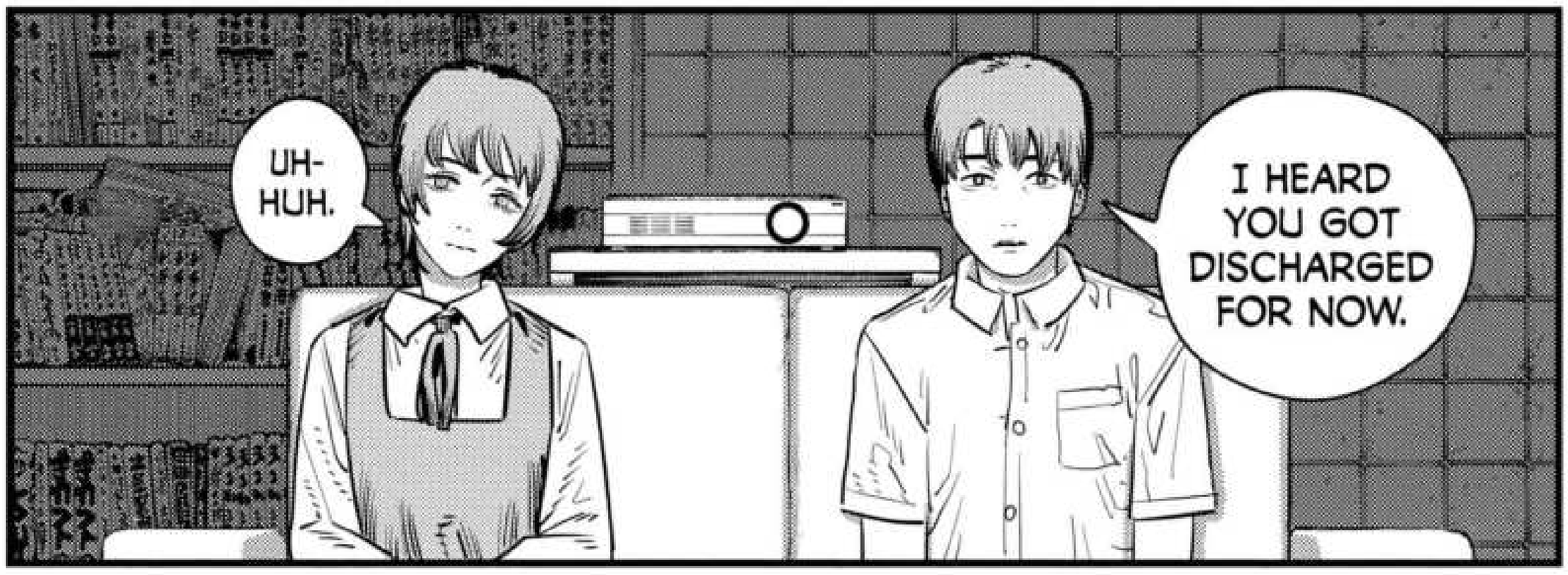


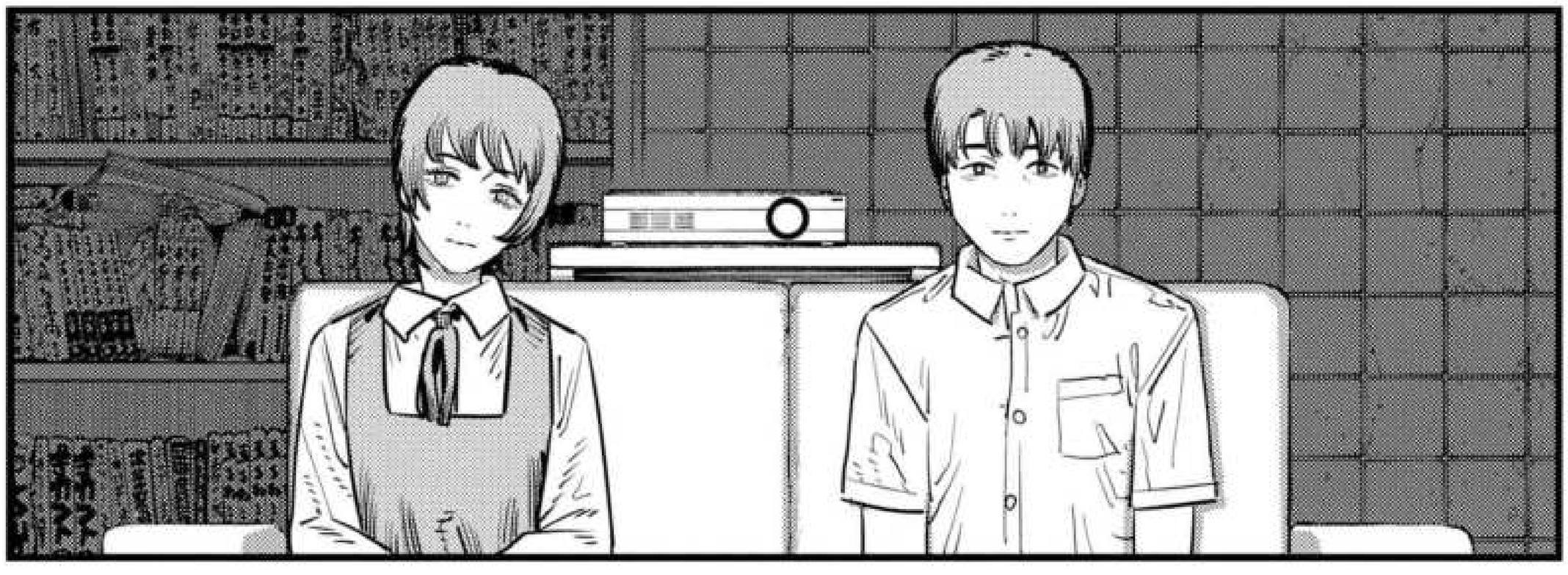


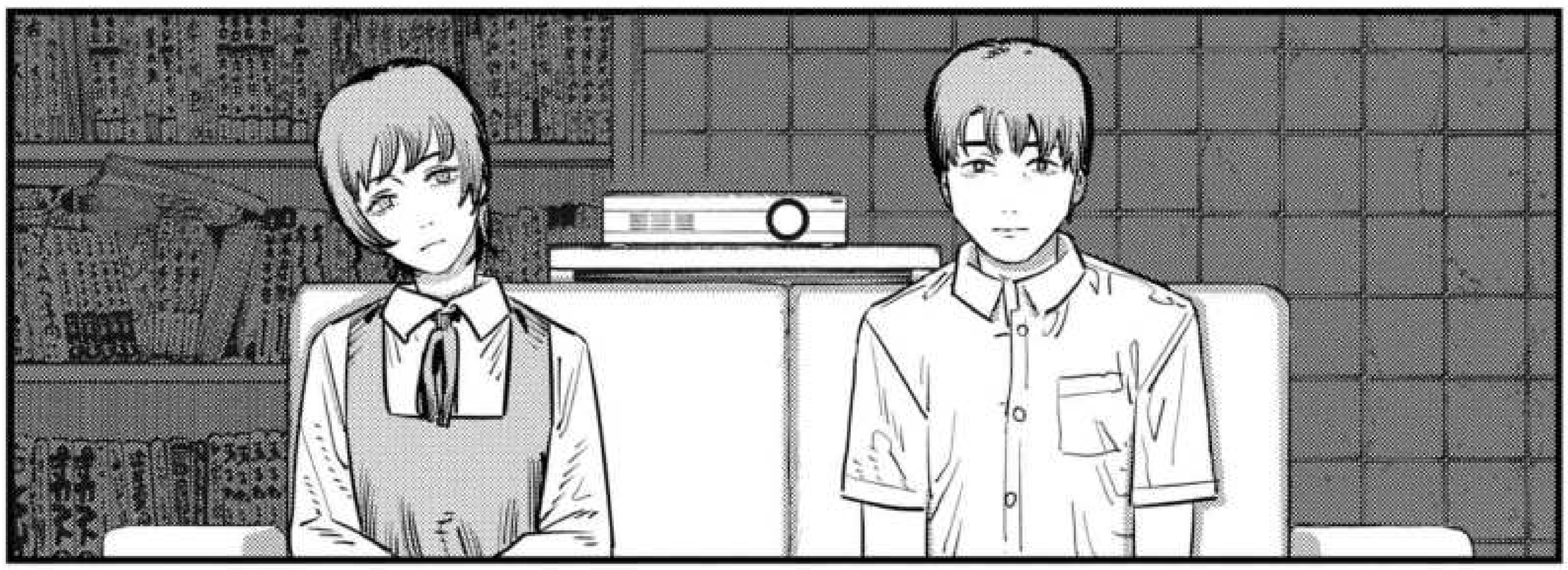


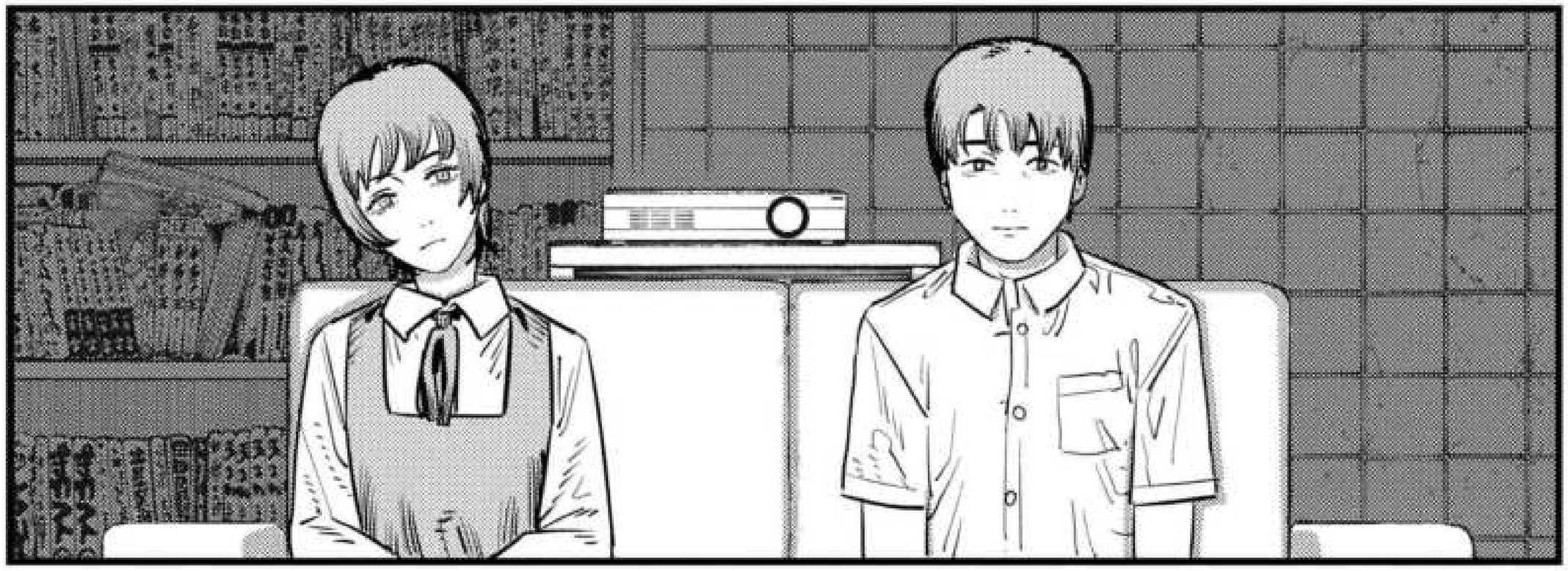


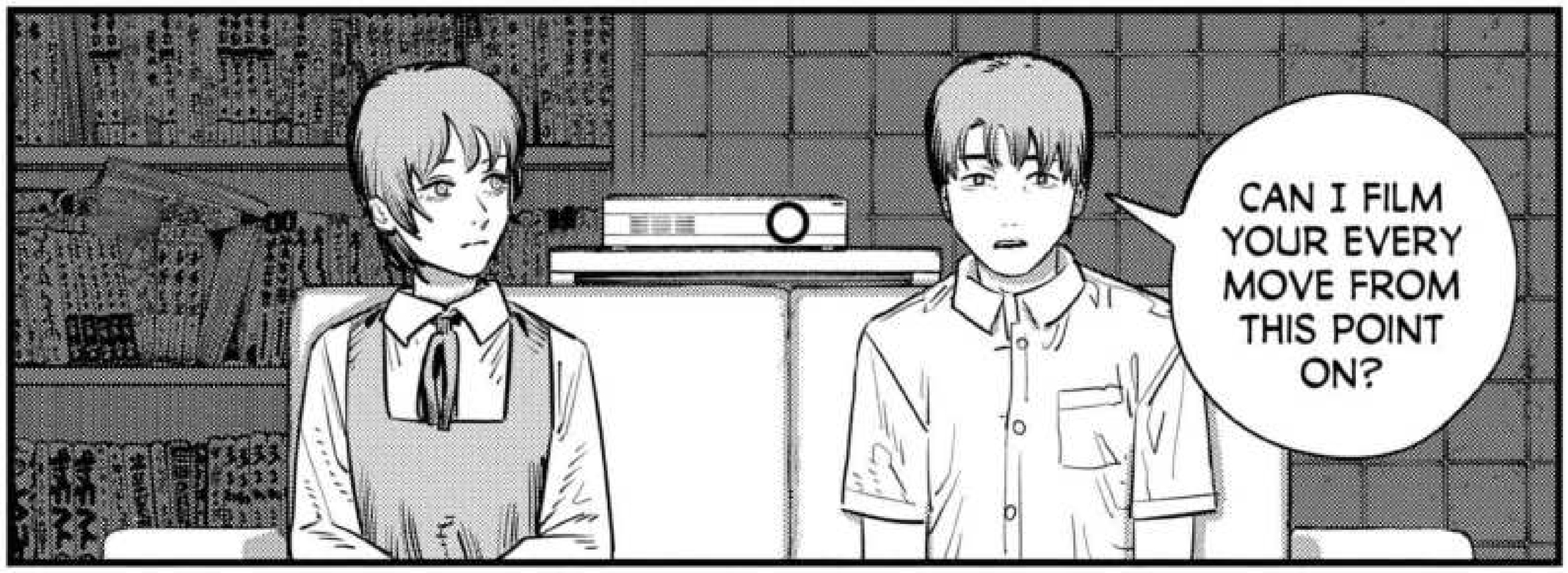


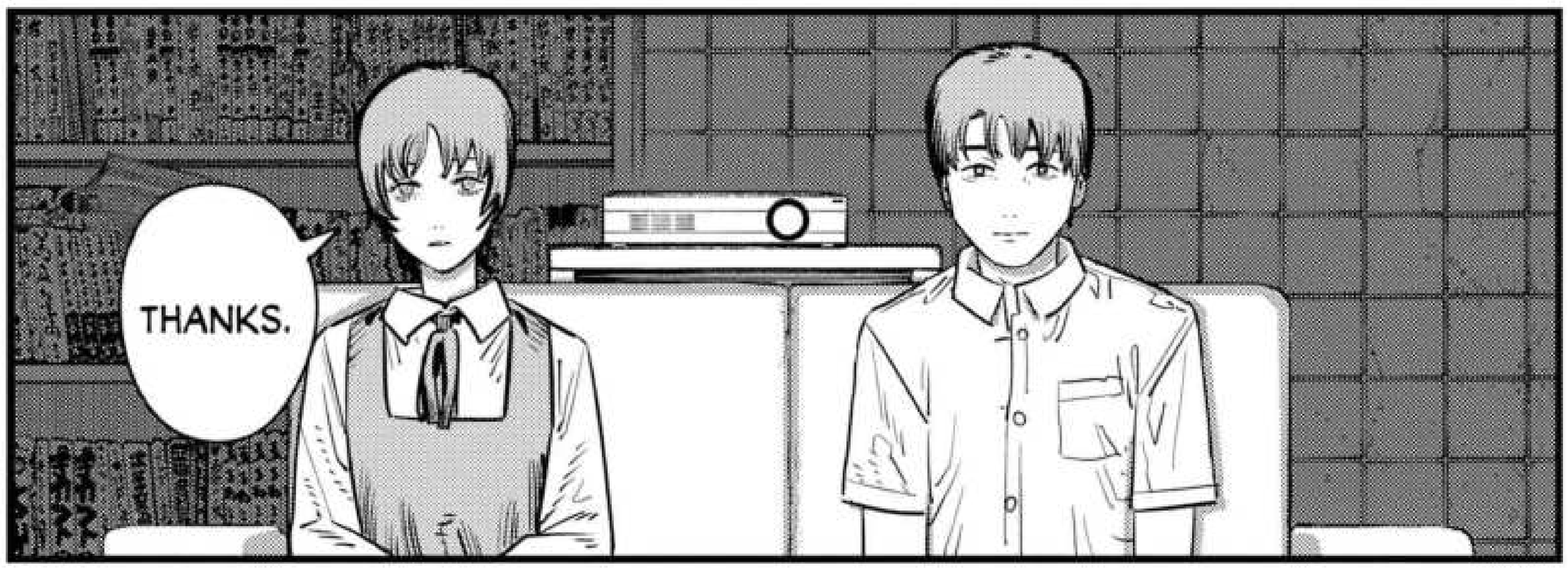

UH-HUH.
I HEARD YOU GOT DISCHARGED FOR NOW.

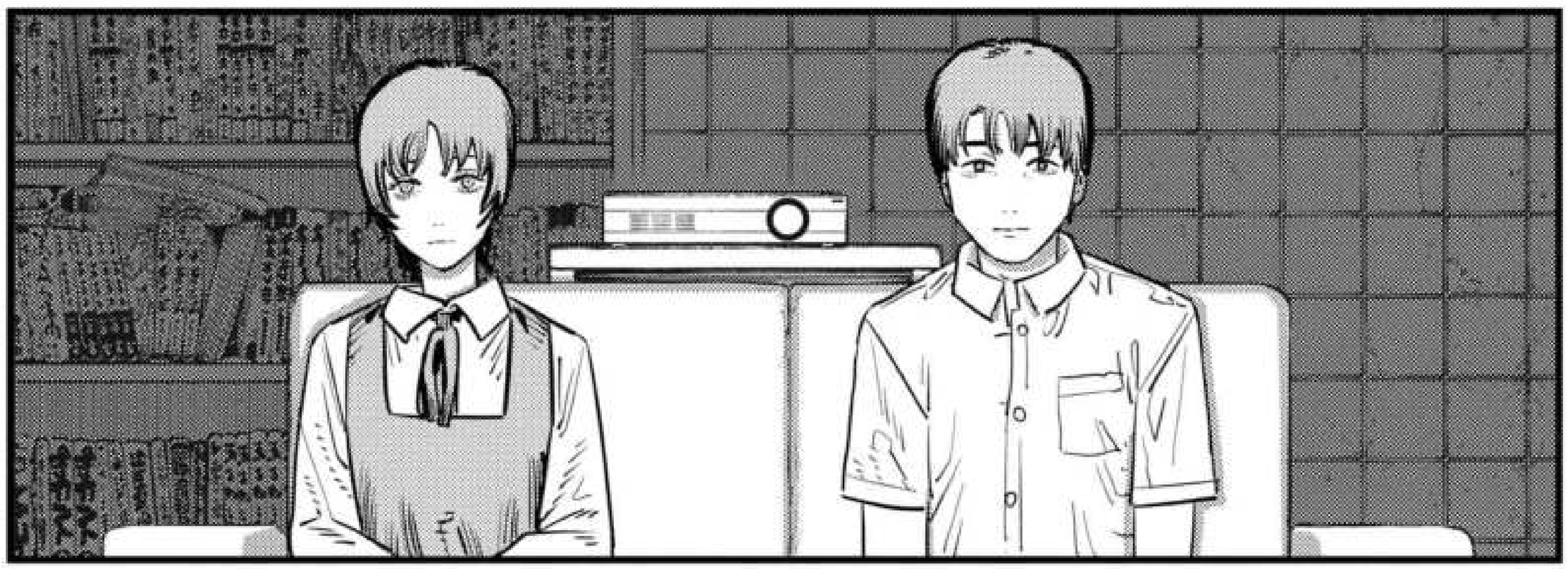




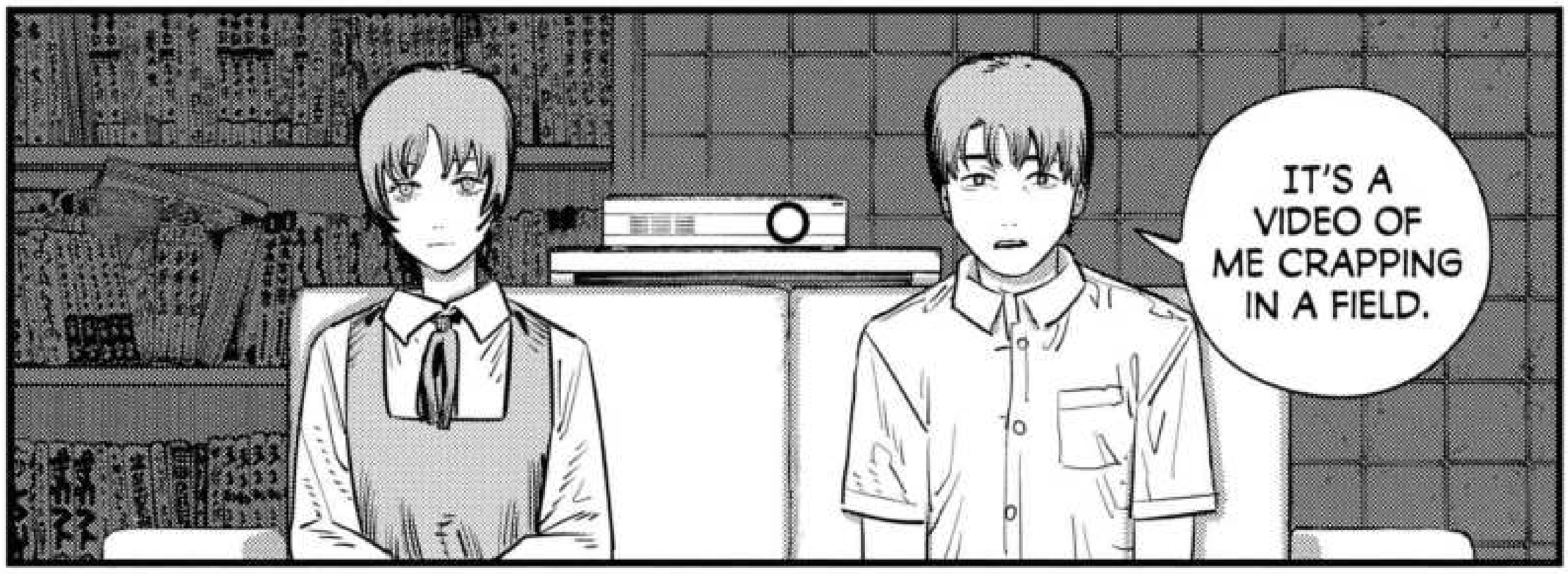


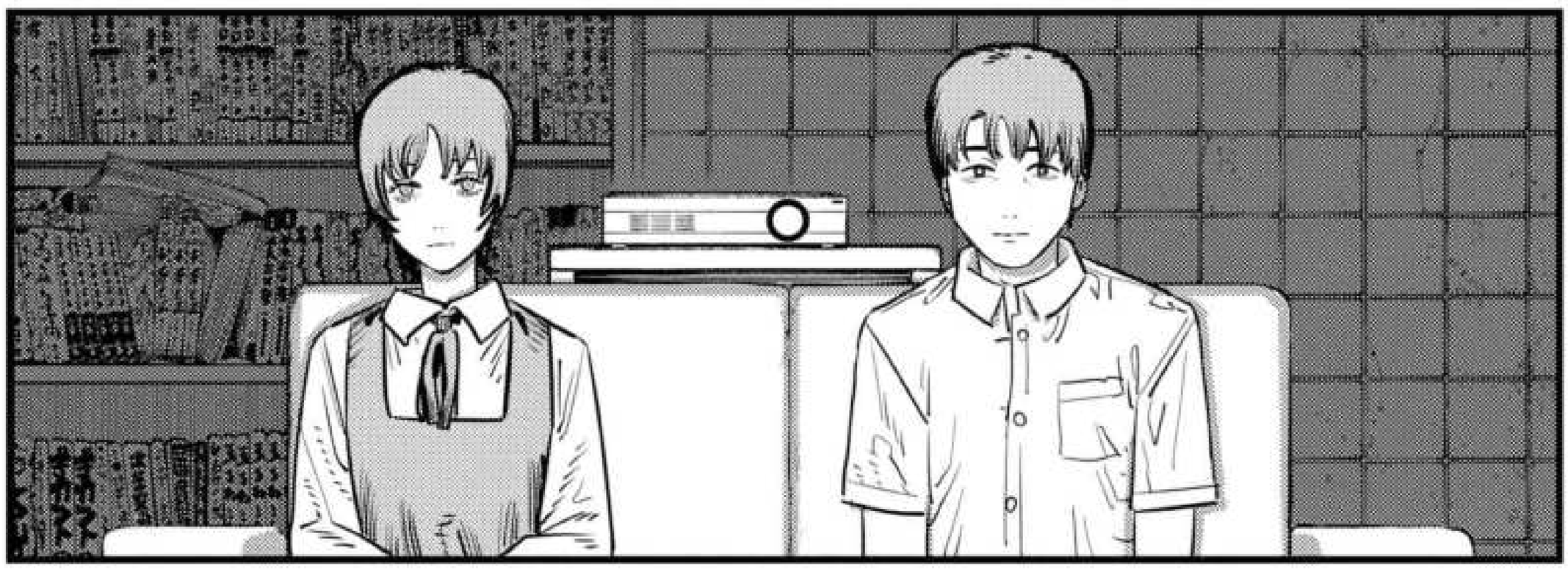

CAN I FILM YOUR EVERY MOVE FROM THIS POINT ON?

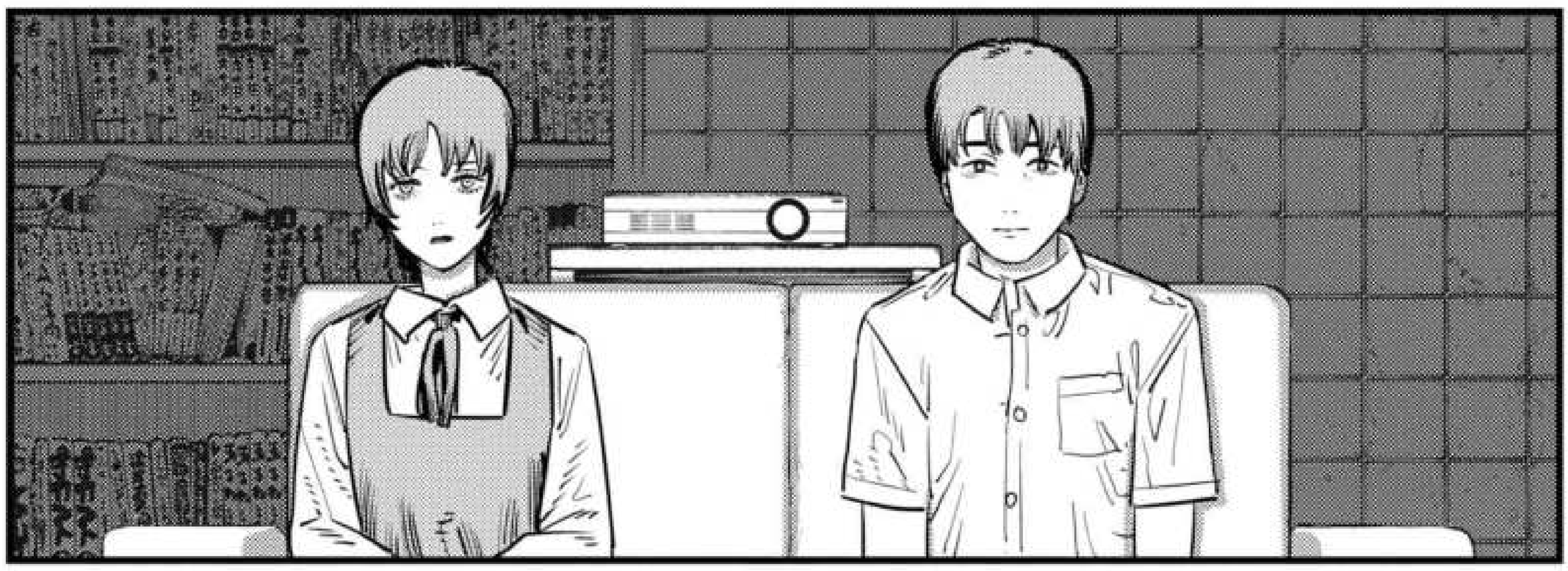

THANKS.



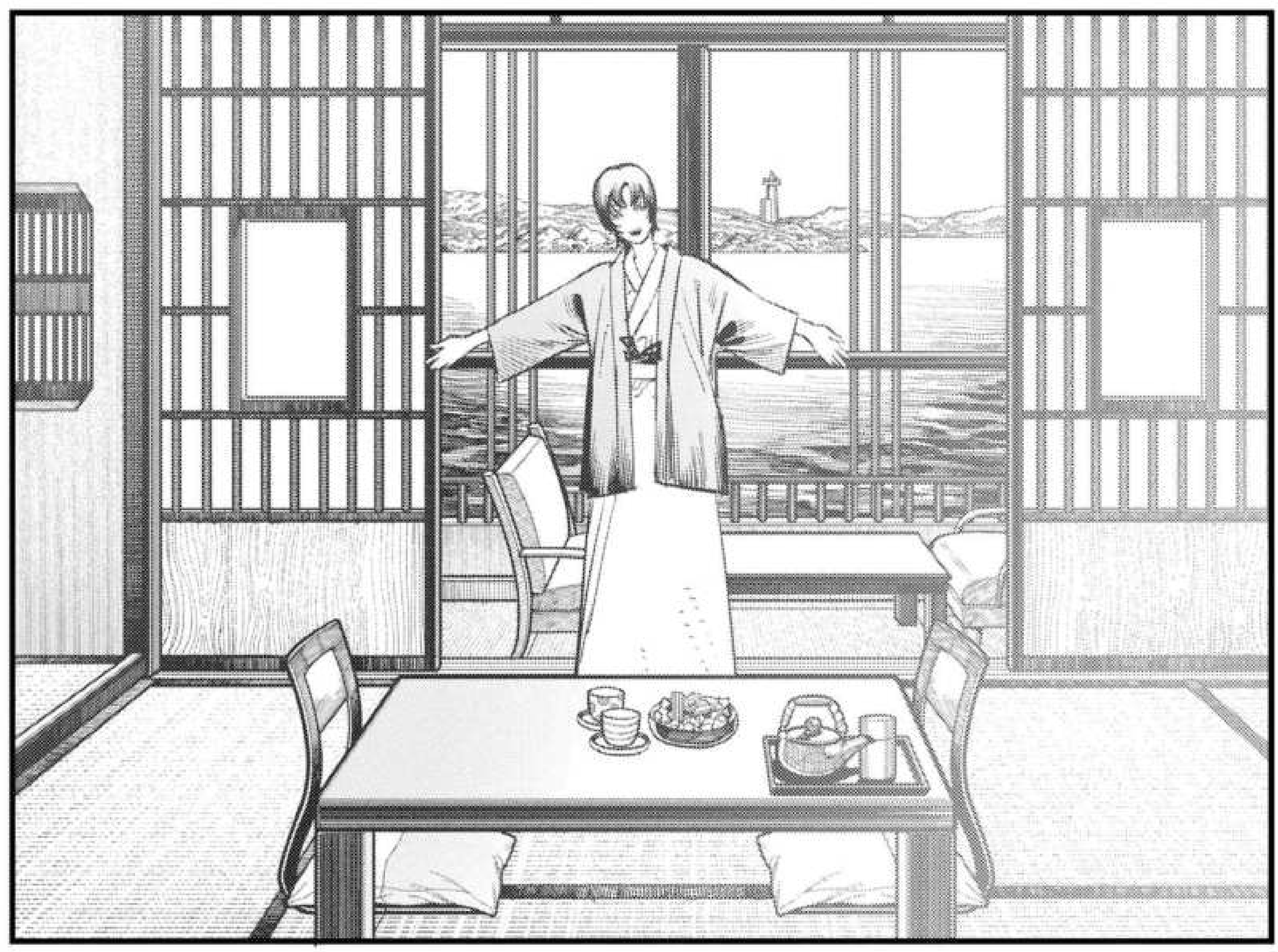
BY THE WAY. WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS VIDEO?

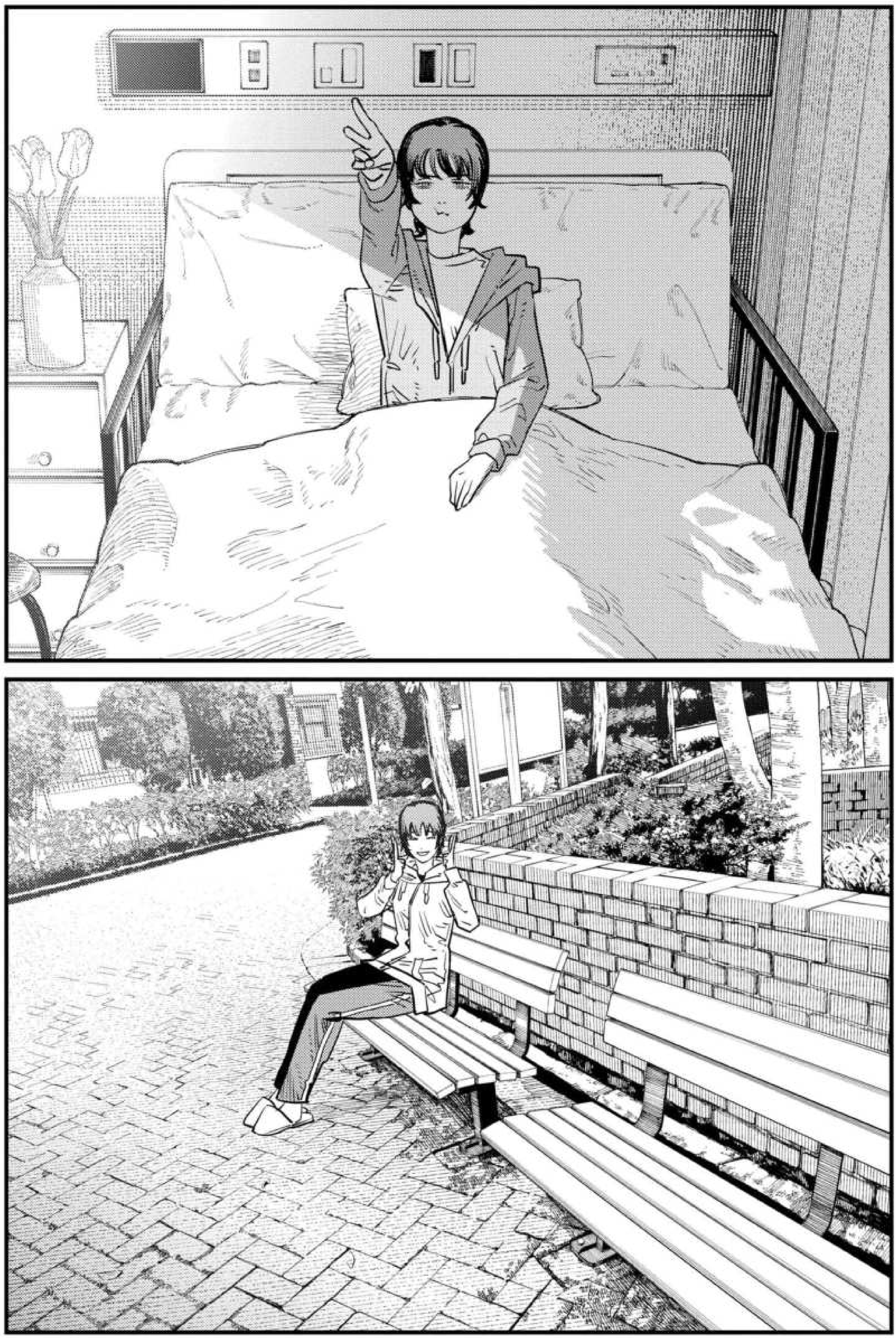

IT'S A VIDEO OF ME CRAPPING IN A FIELD.

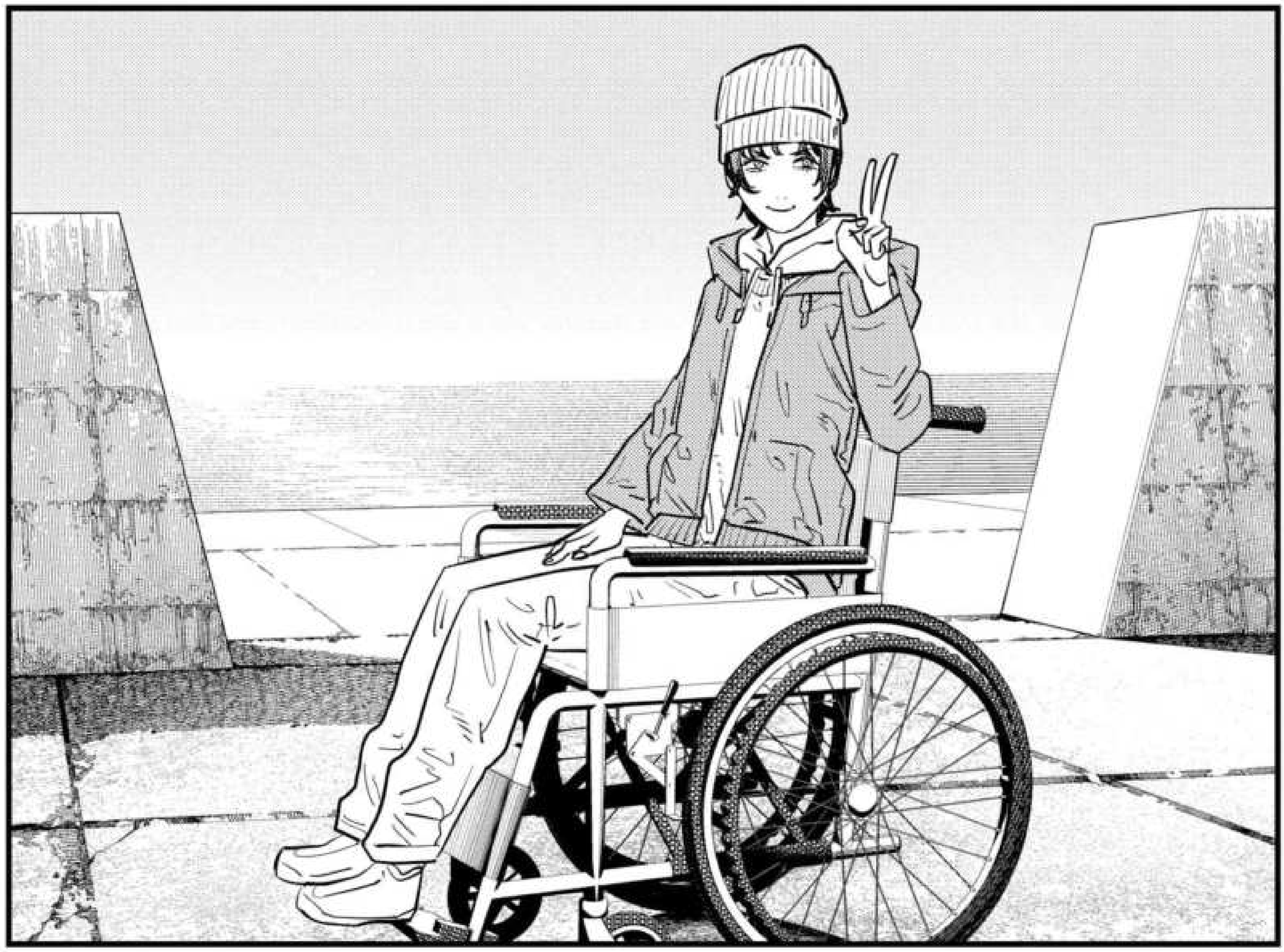


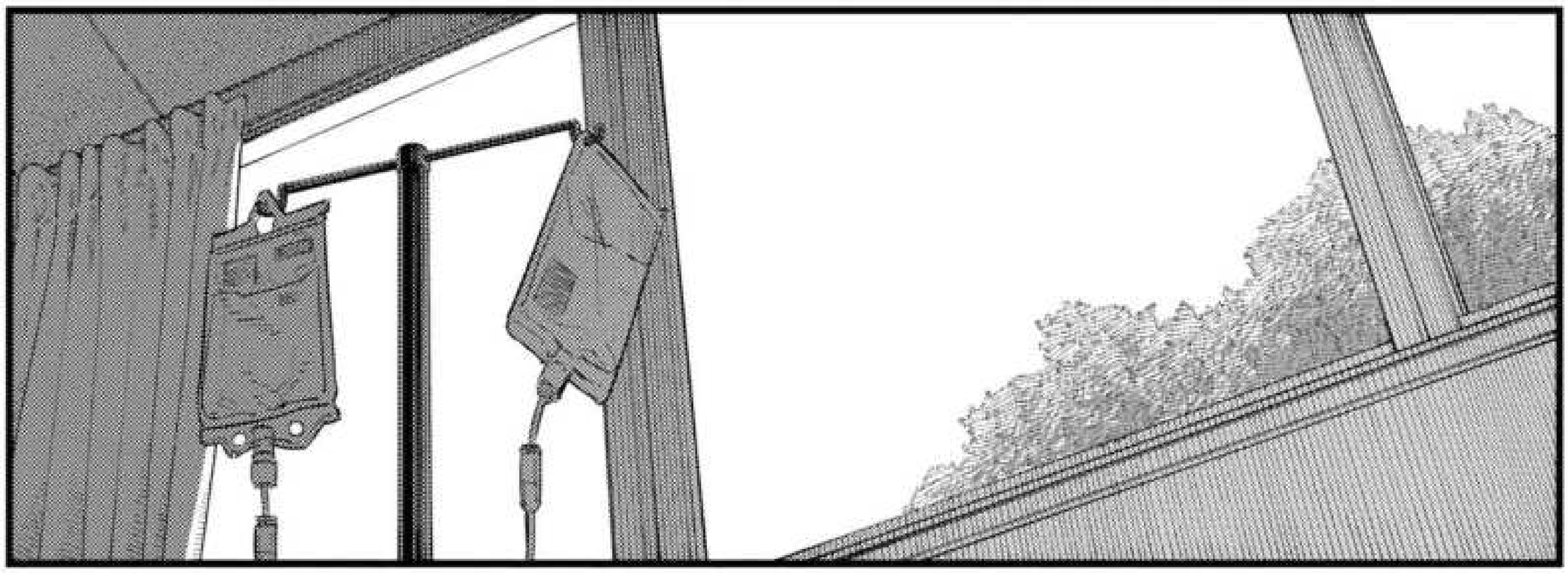


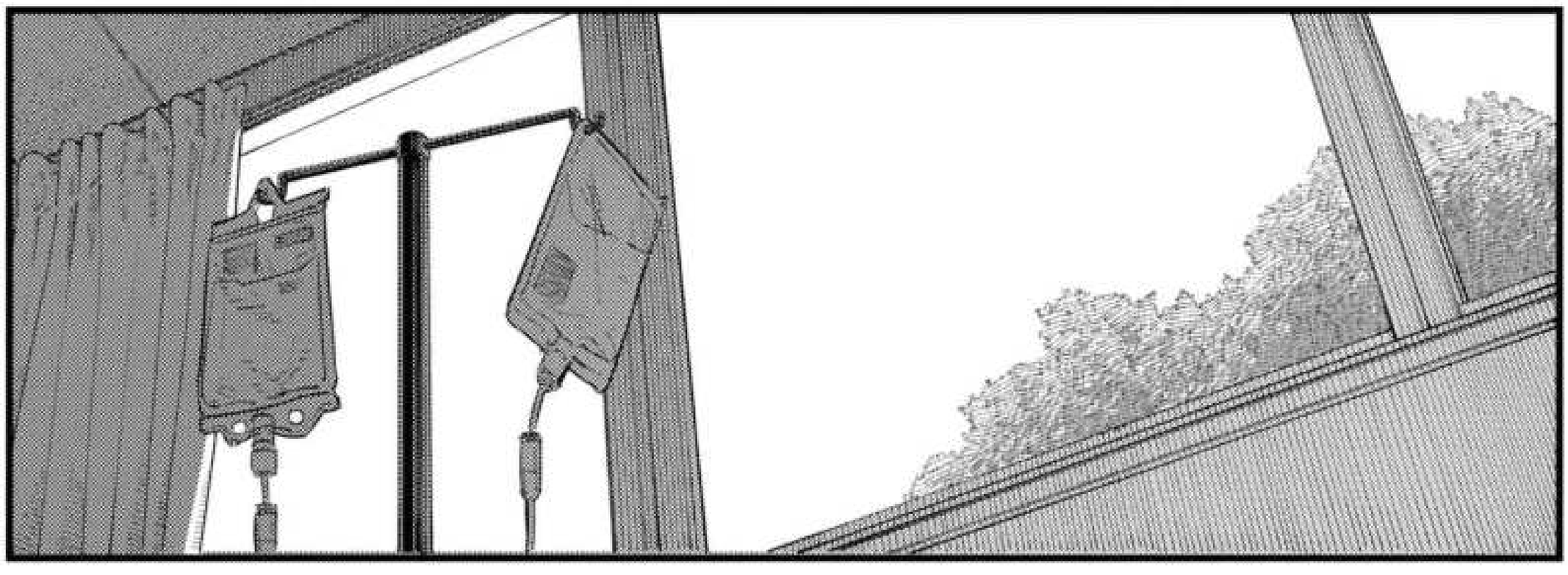
YOU DID IT *THERE* ?!

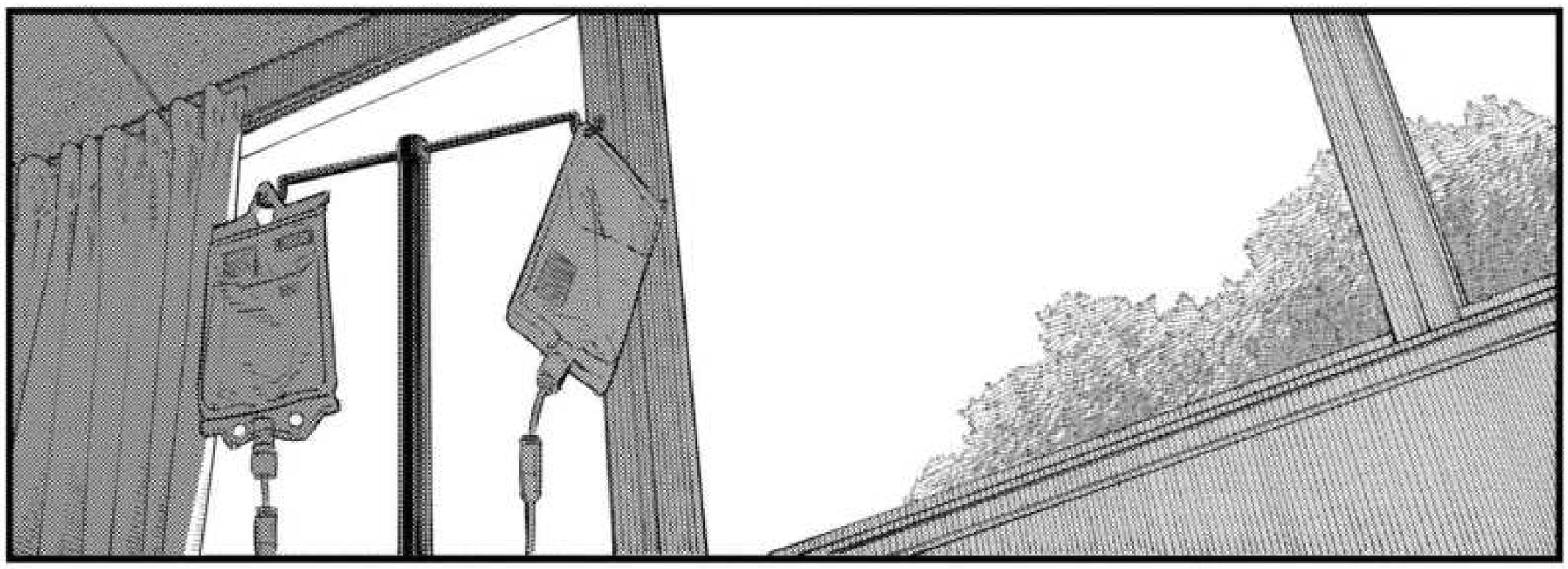


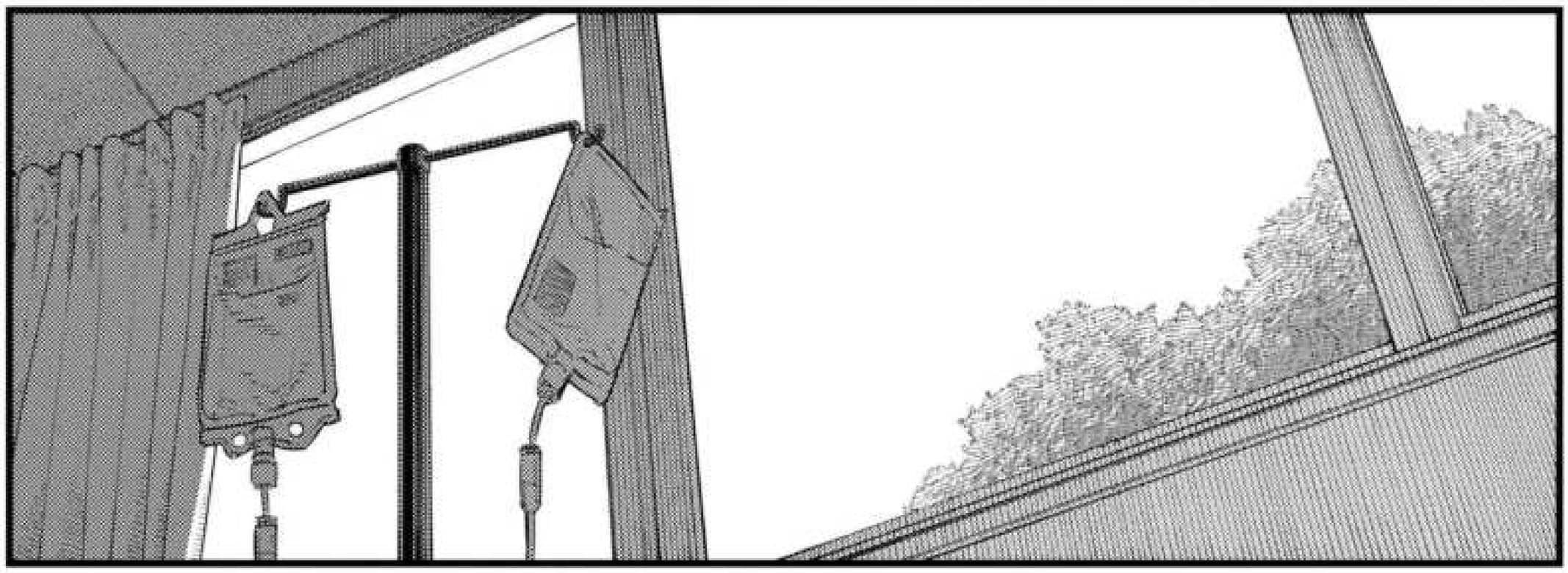


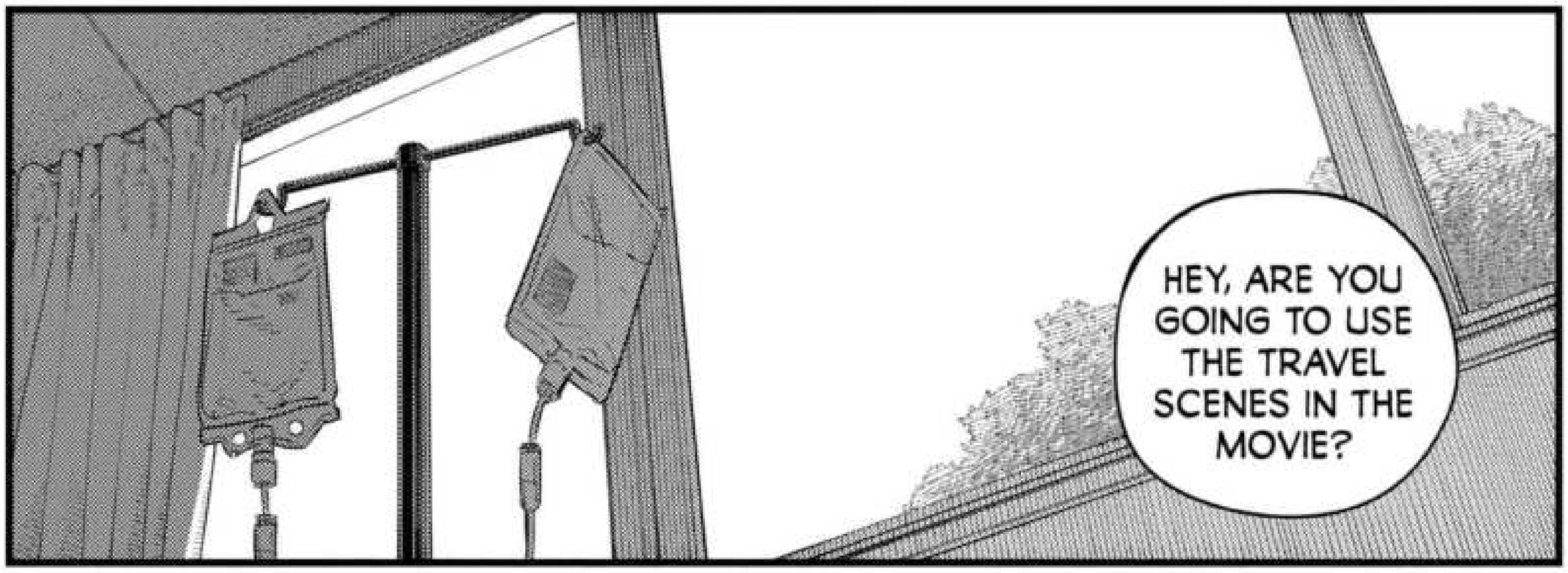


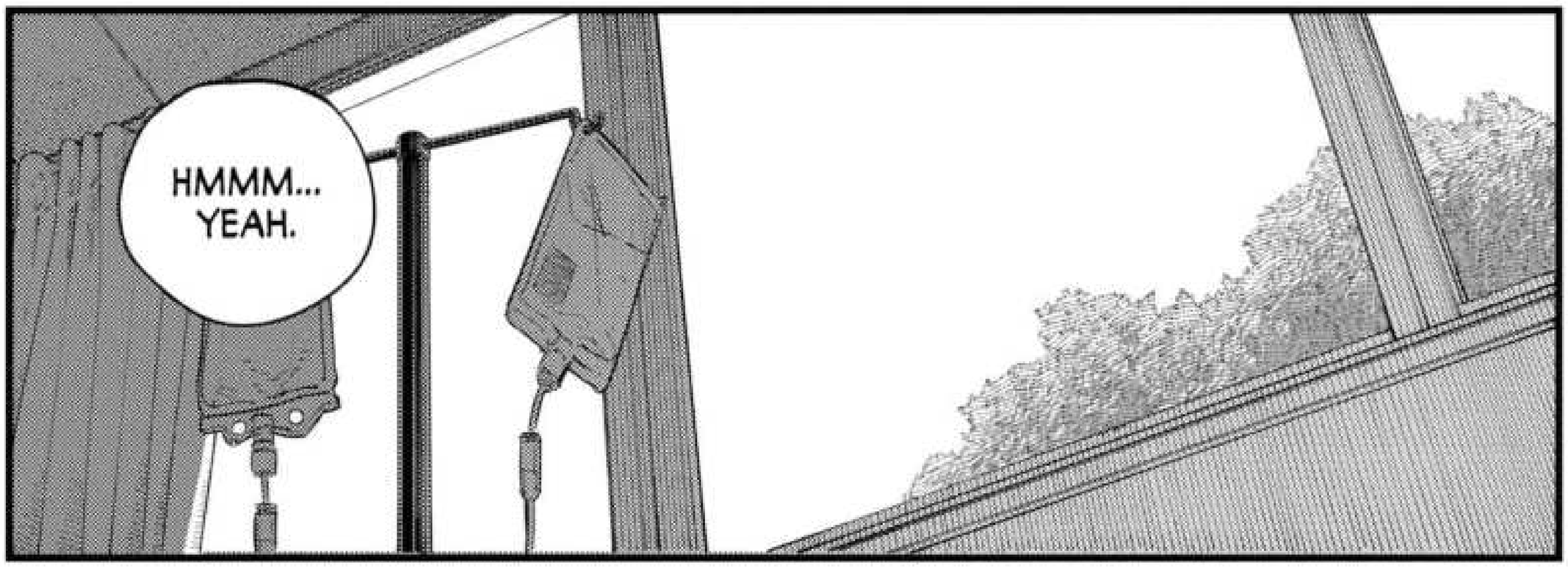


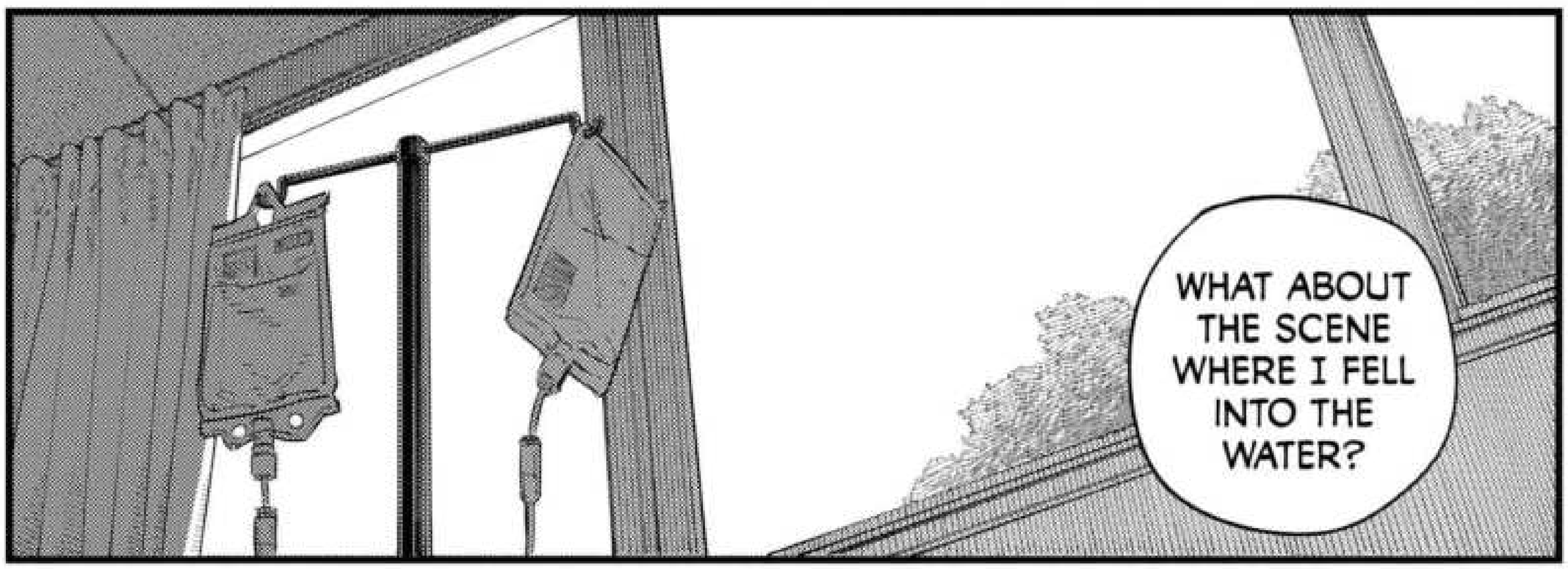


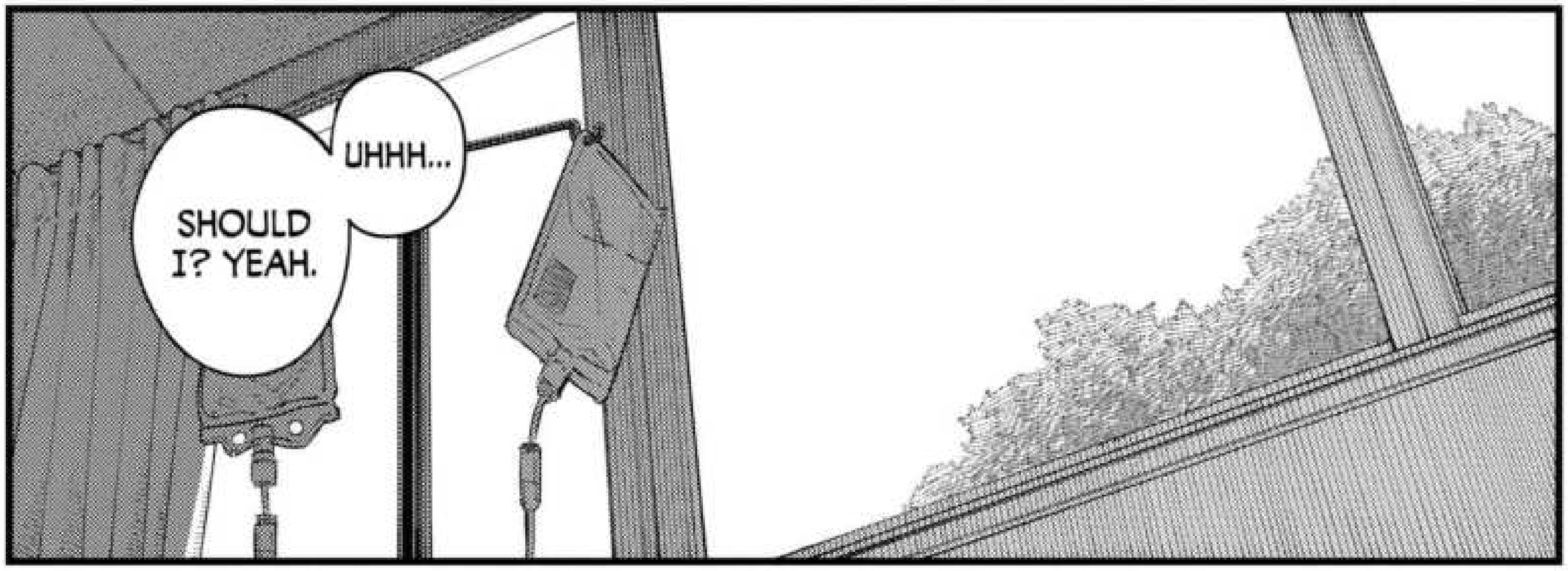


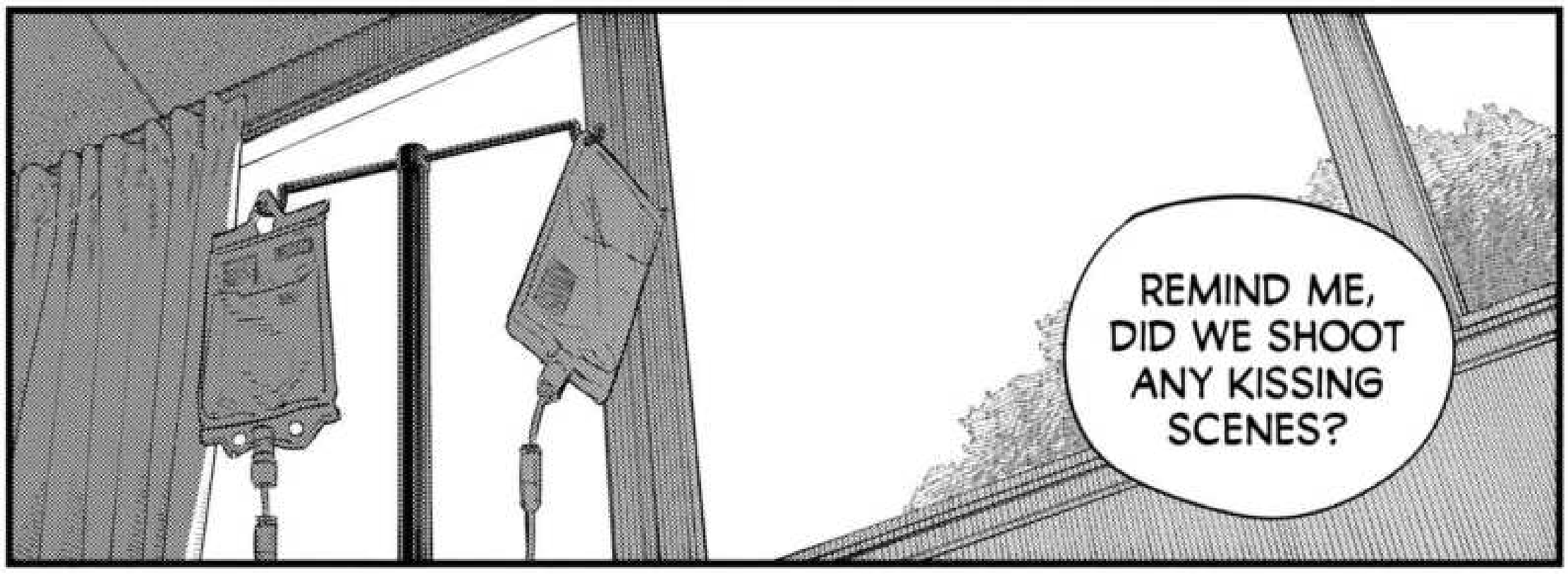


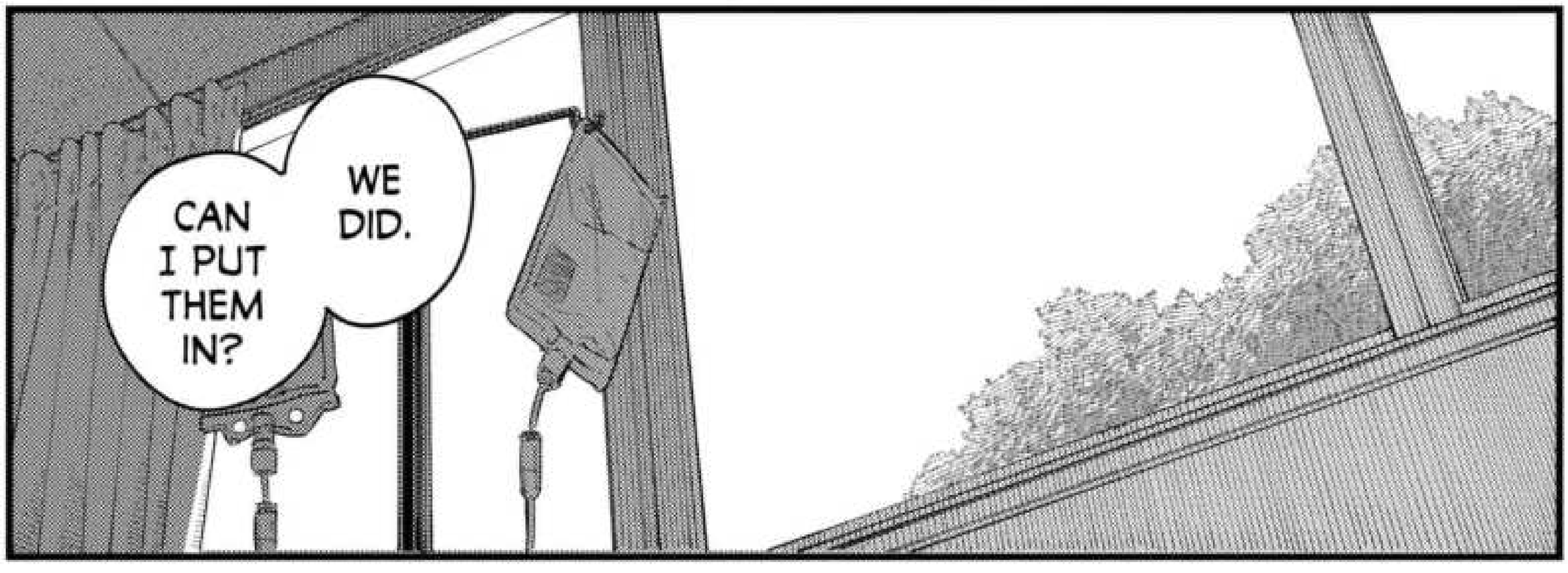

HEY, ARE YOU GOING TO USE THE TRAVEL SCENES IN THE MOVIE?

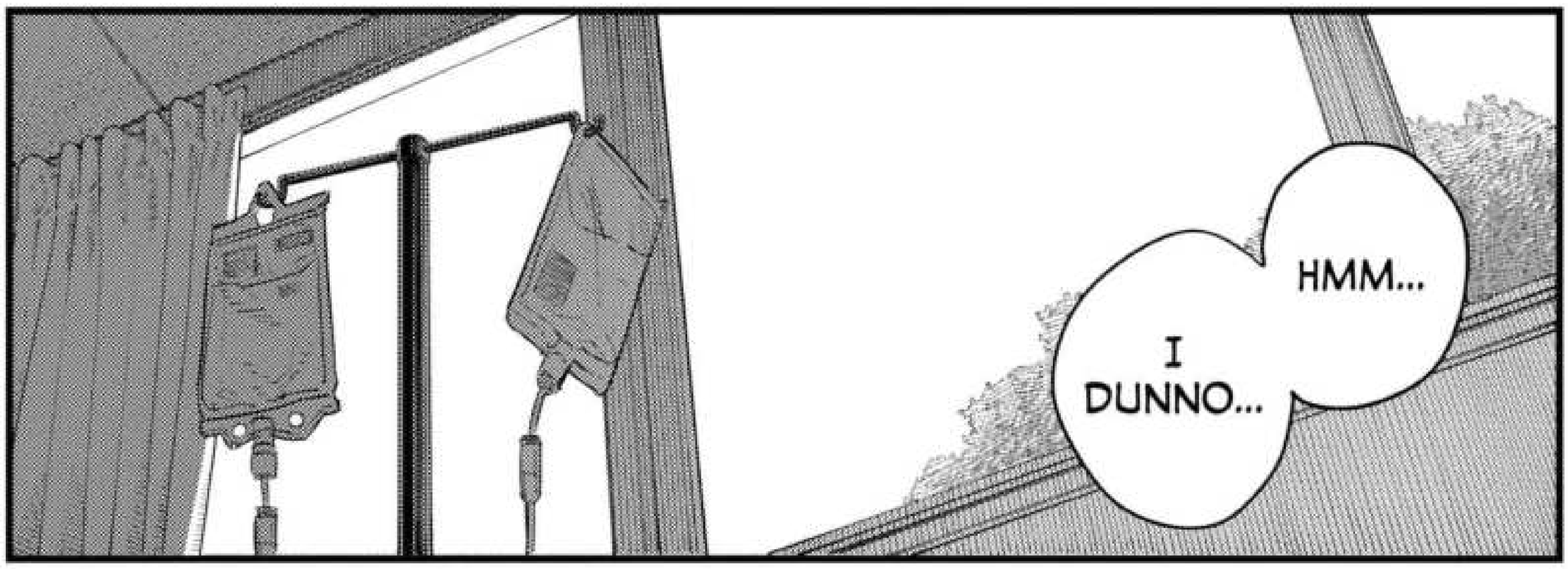

HMMM... YEAH.

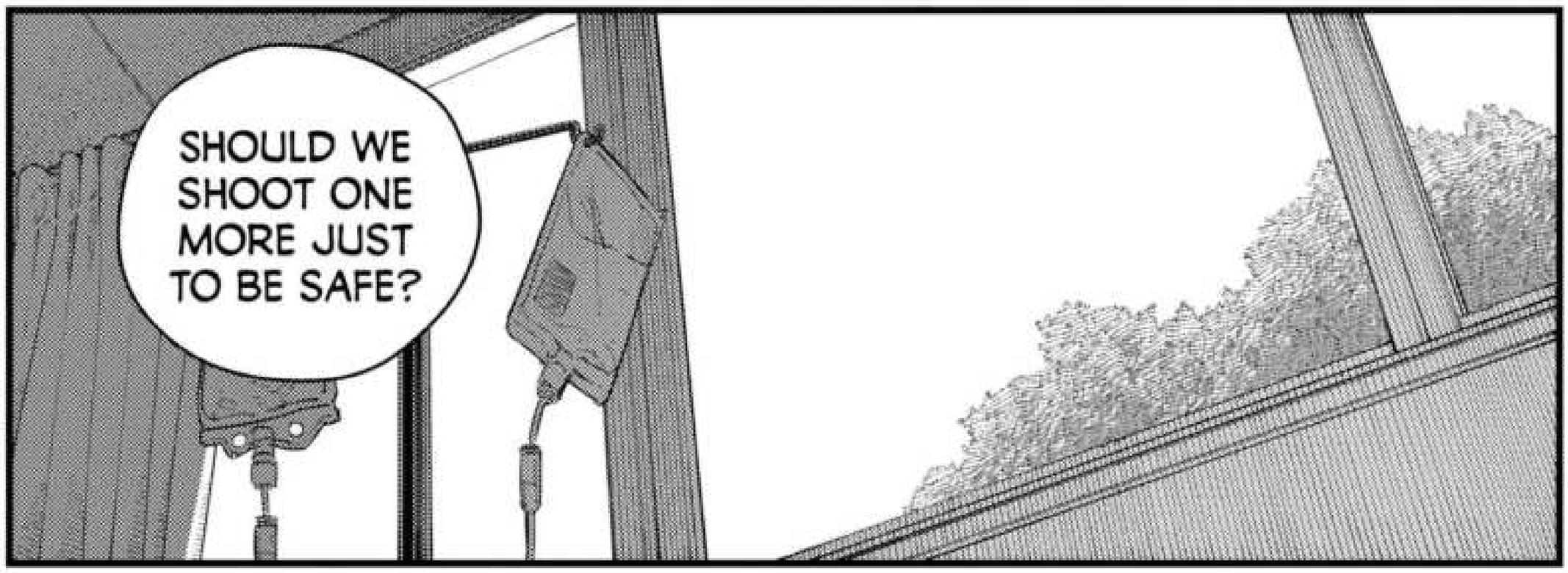

WHAT ABOUT THE SCENE WHERE I FELL INTO THE WATER?

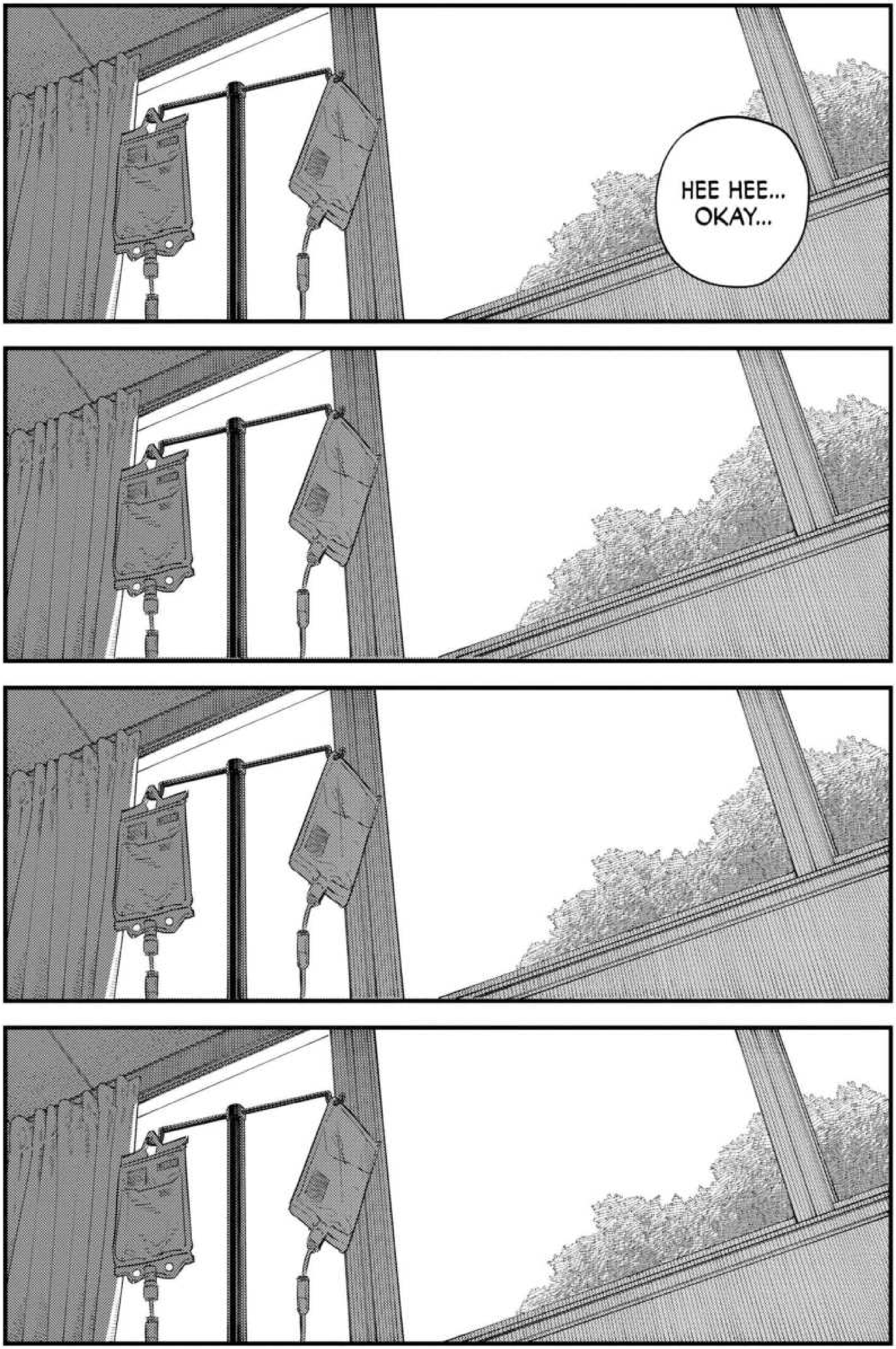

UHHH...
SHOULD I? YEAH.

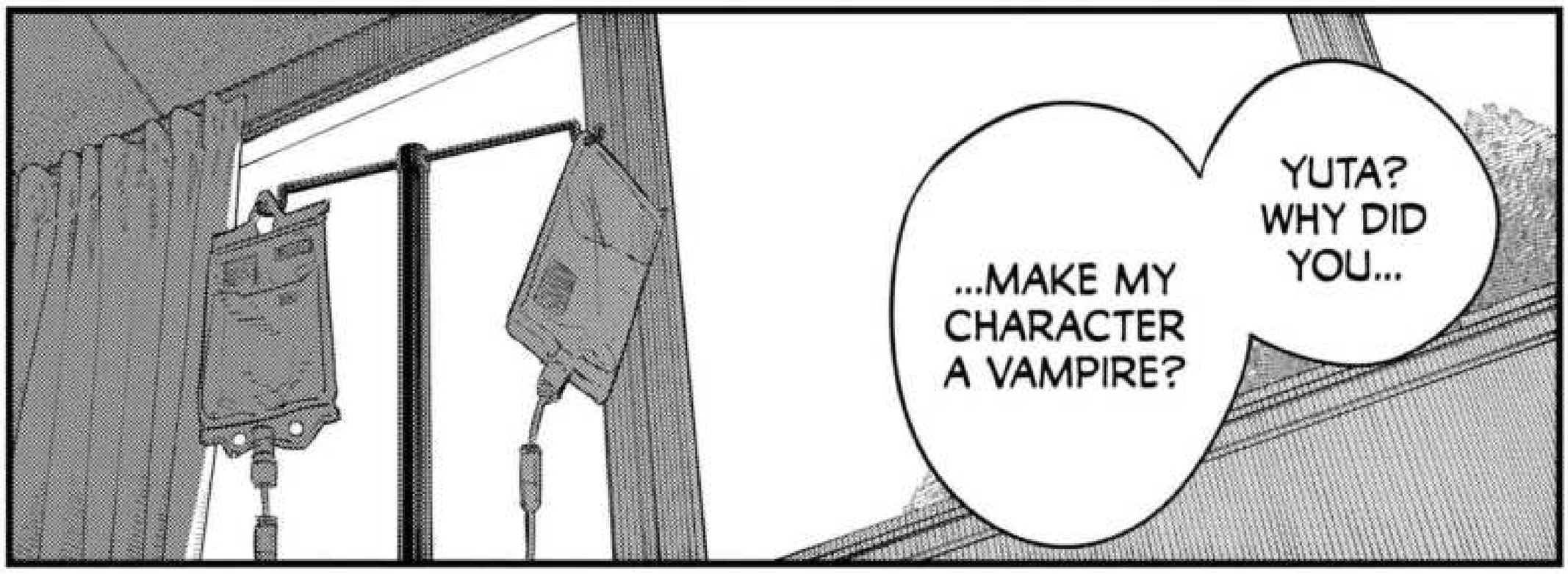

REMIND ME, DID WE SHOOT ANY KISSING SCENES?


CAN I PUT THEM IN?
WE DID.

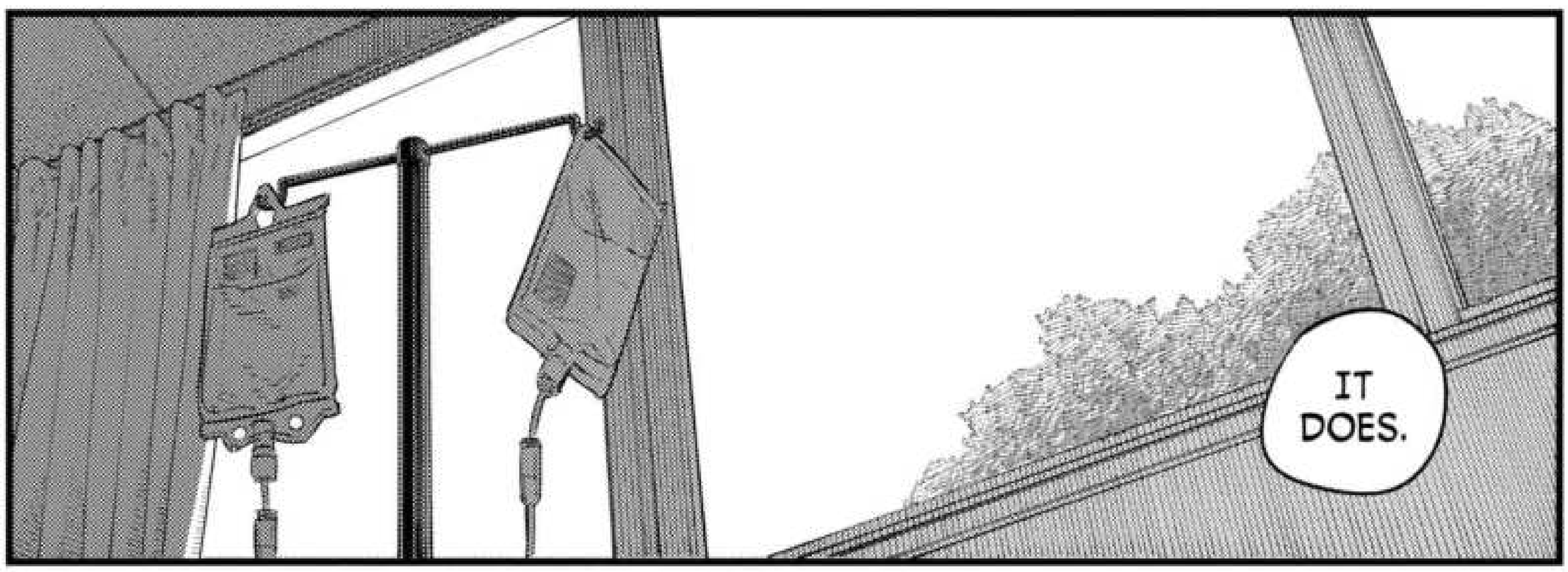

HMM...
I DUNNO...

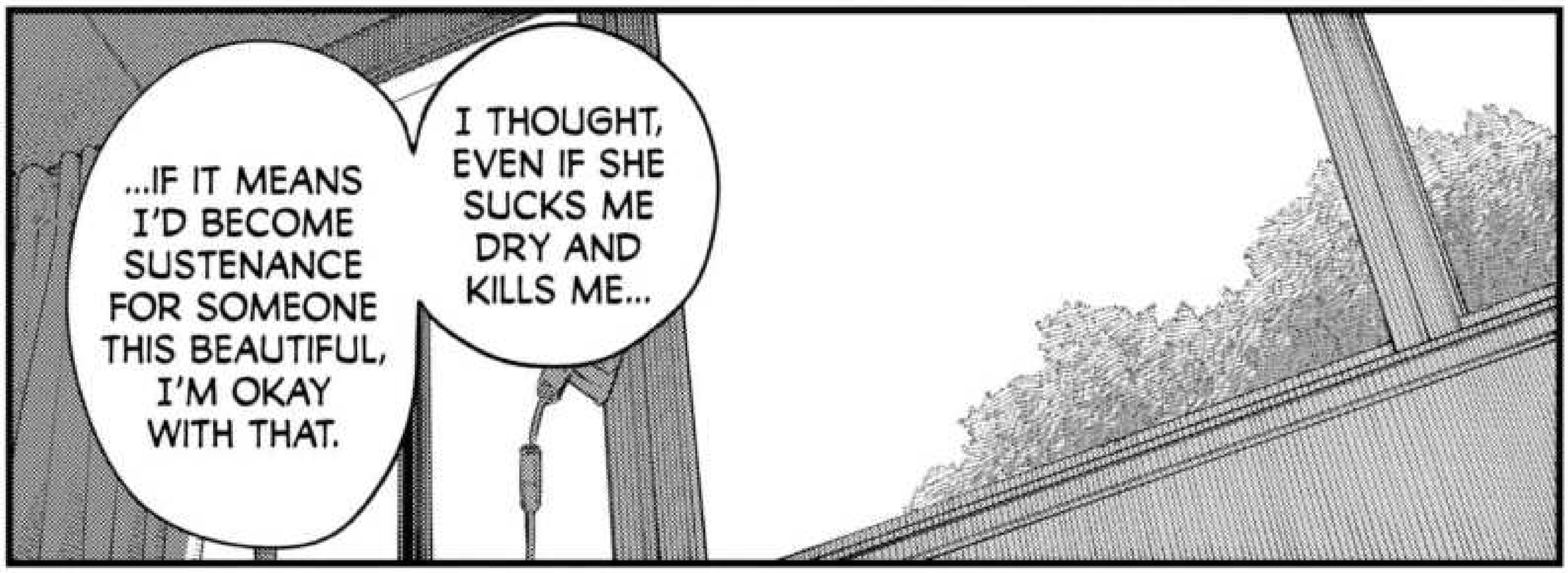

SHOULD WE SHOOT ONE MORE JUST TO BE SAFE?

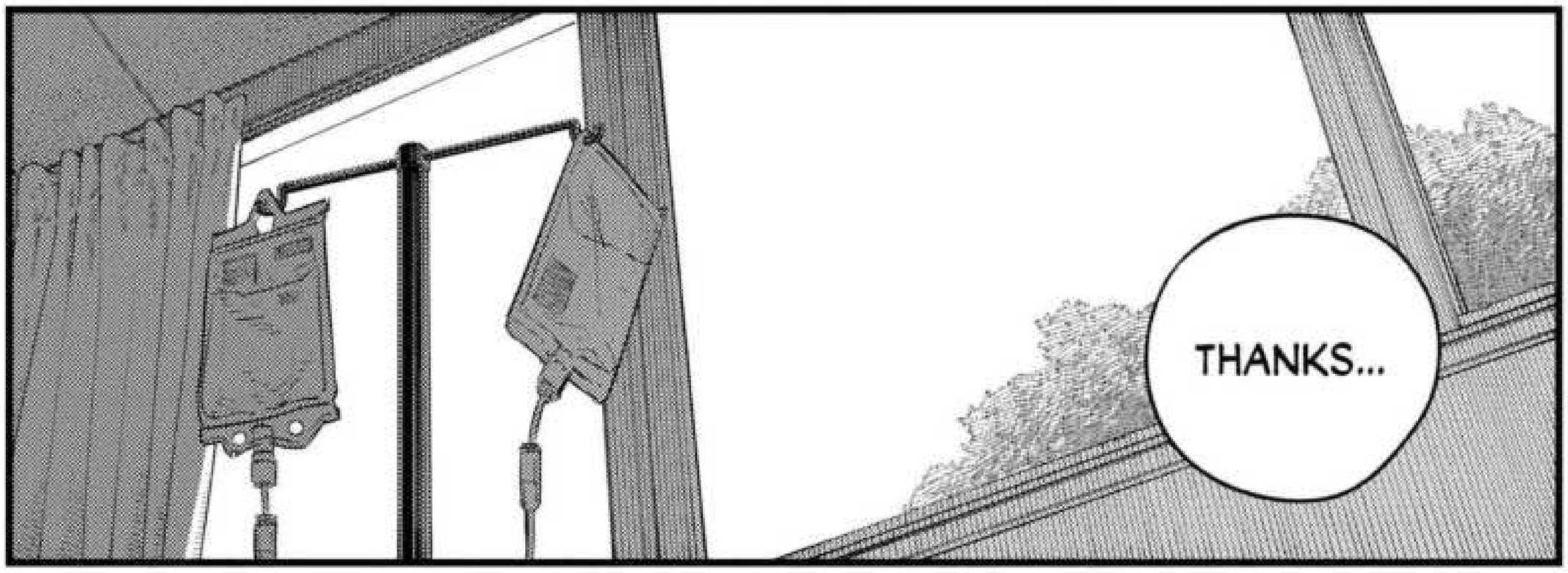

HEE HEE...
OKAY...

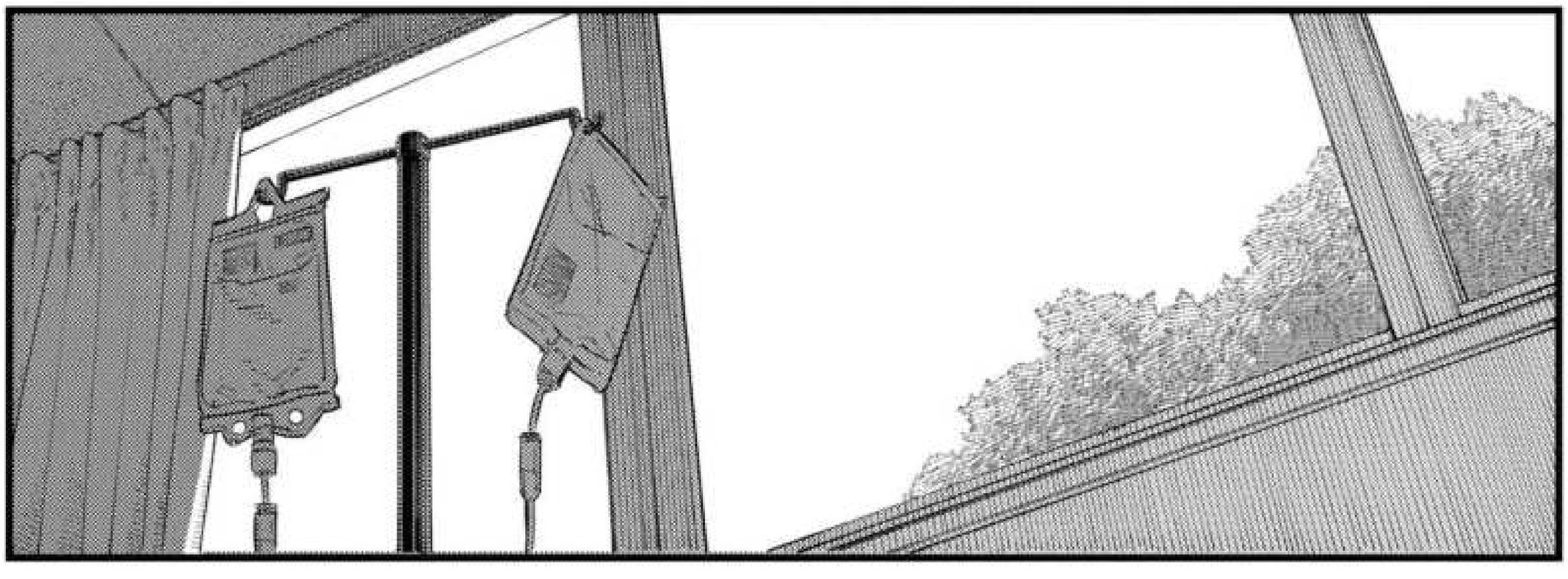

YUTA? WHY DID YOU...
...MAKE MY CHARACTER A VAMPIRE?

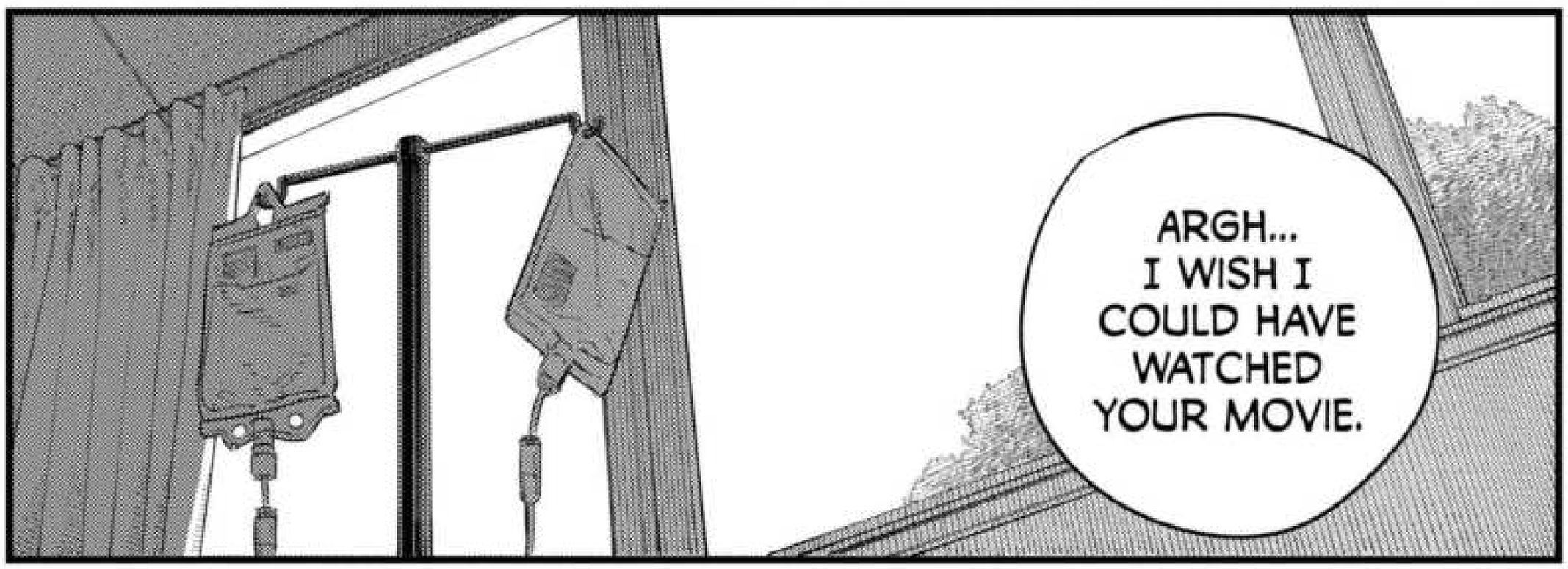
PLUS, THE FIRST TIME WE MET, YOU DRAGGED ME TO AN ABANDONED BUILDING. DOESN'T THAT SEEM LIKE SOMETHING A VAMPIRE WOULD DO?
I GUESS... I WANTED TO SPRINKLE IN A PINCH OF FANTASY.

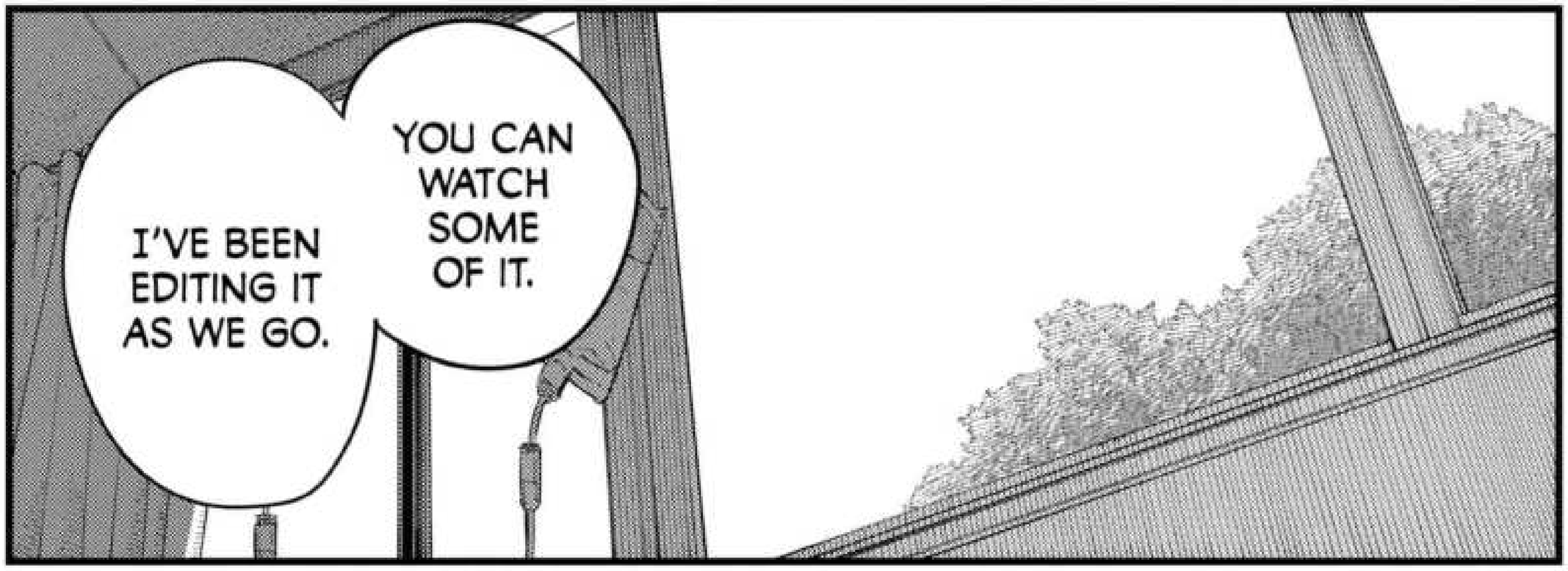

IT DOES.

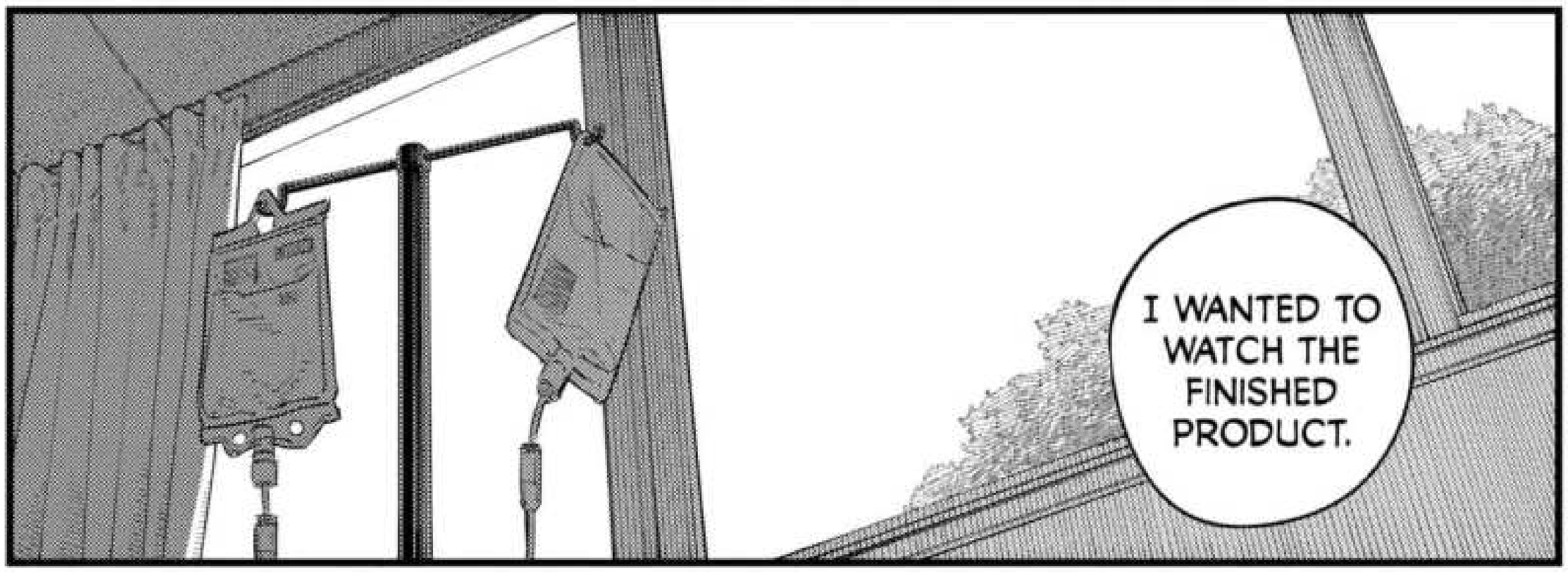

...IF IT MEANS I'D BECOME SUSTENANCE FOR SOMEONE THIS BEAUTIFUL, I'M OKAY WITH THAT.
I THOUGHT, EVEN IF SHE SUCKS ME DRY AND KILLS ME...

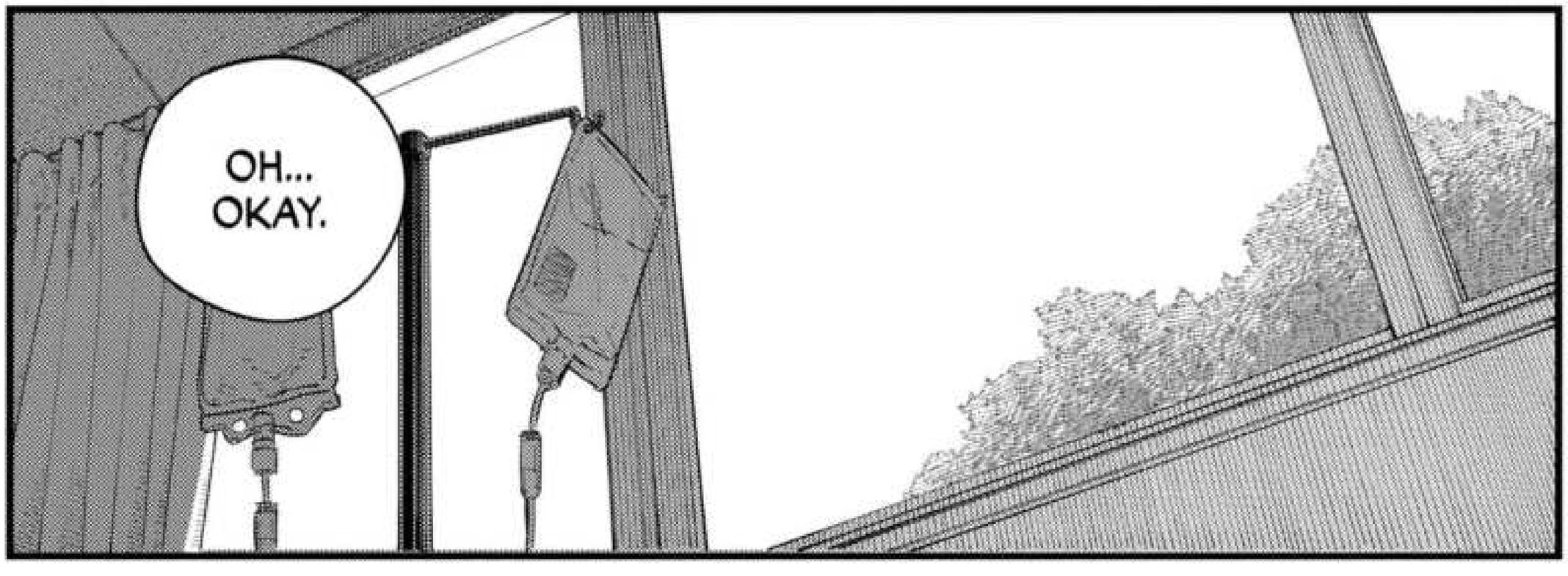

THANKS...

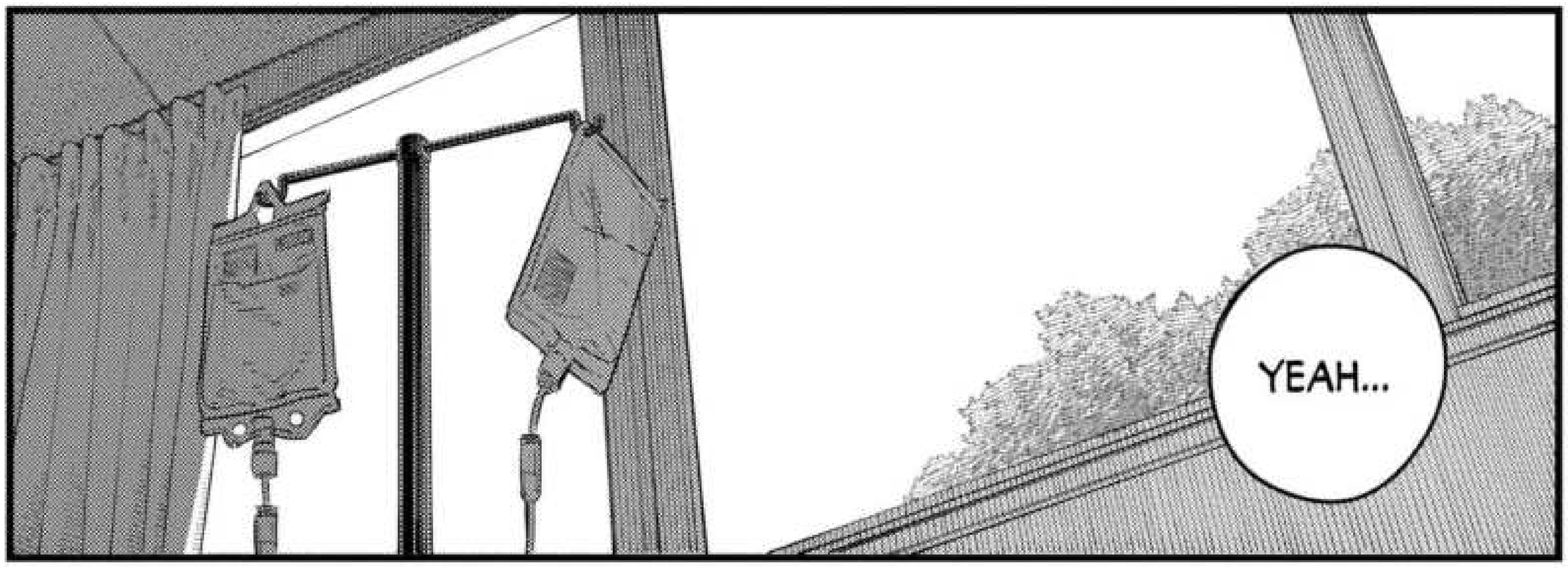


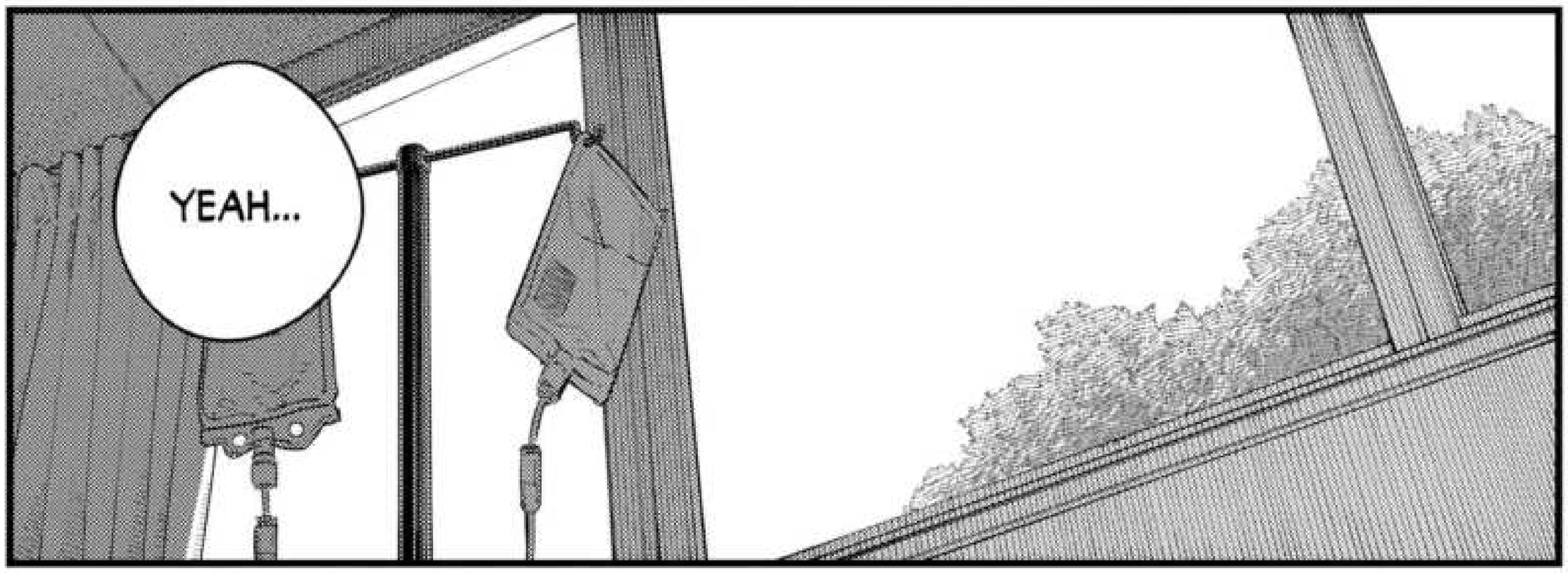

ARGH...
I WISH I
COULD HAVE
WATCHED
YOUR MOVIE.

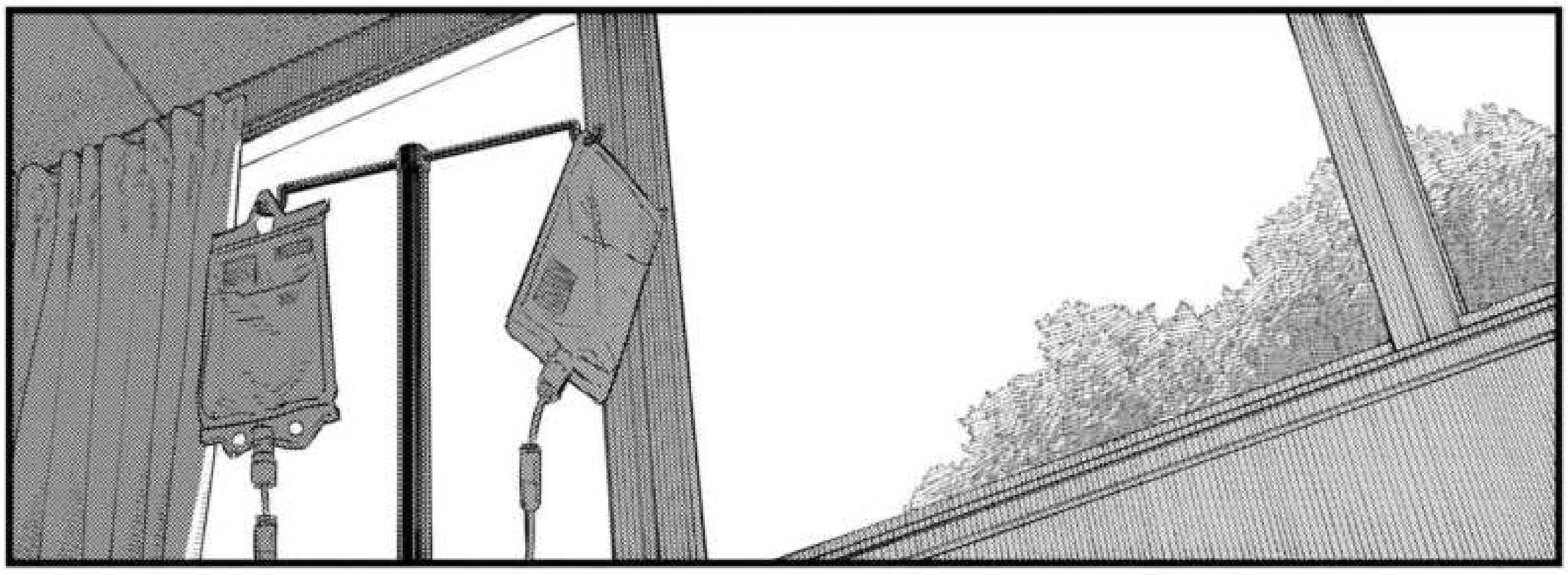

YOU CAN
WATCH
SOME
OF IT.
I'VE BEEN
EDITING IT
AS WE GO.

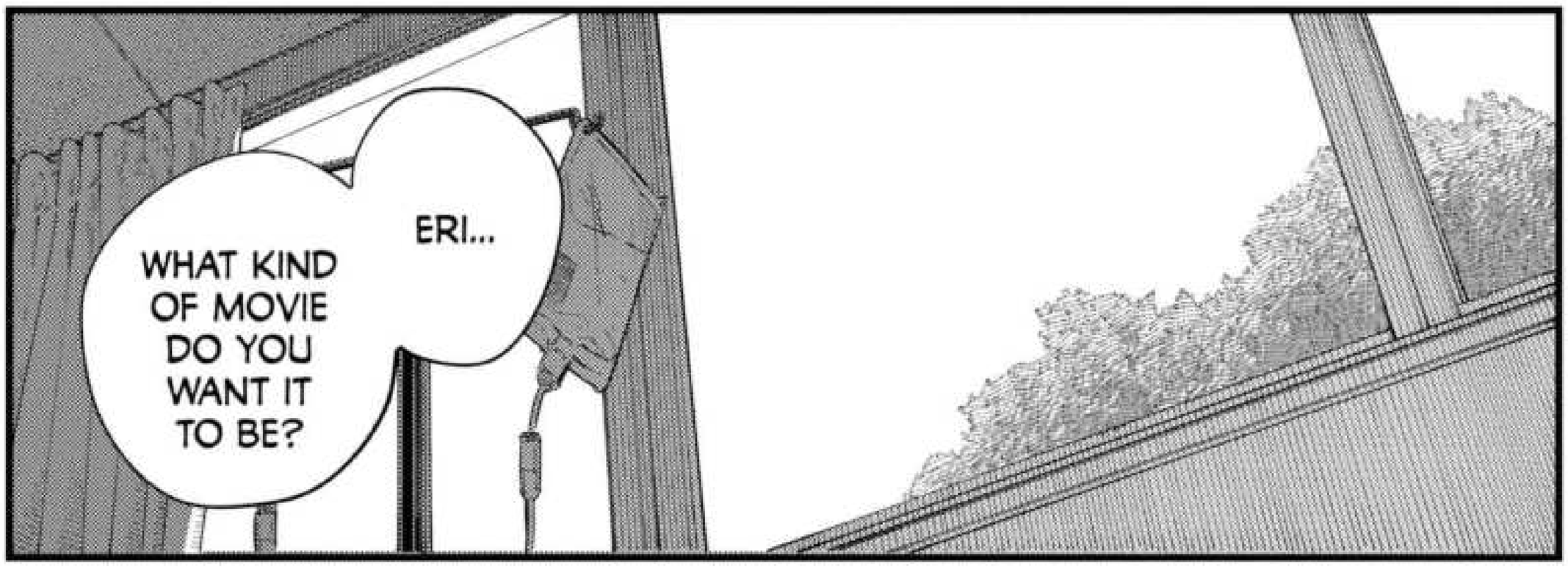

I WANTED TO WATCH THE FINISHED PRODUCT.

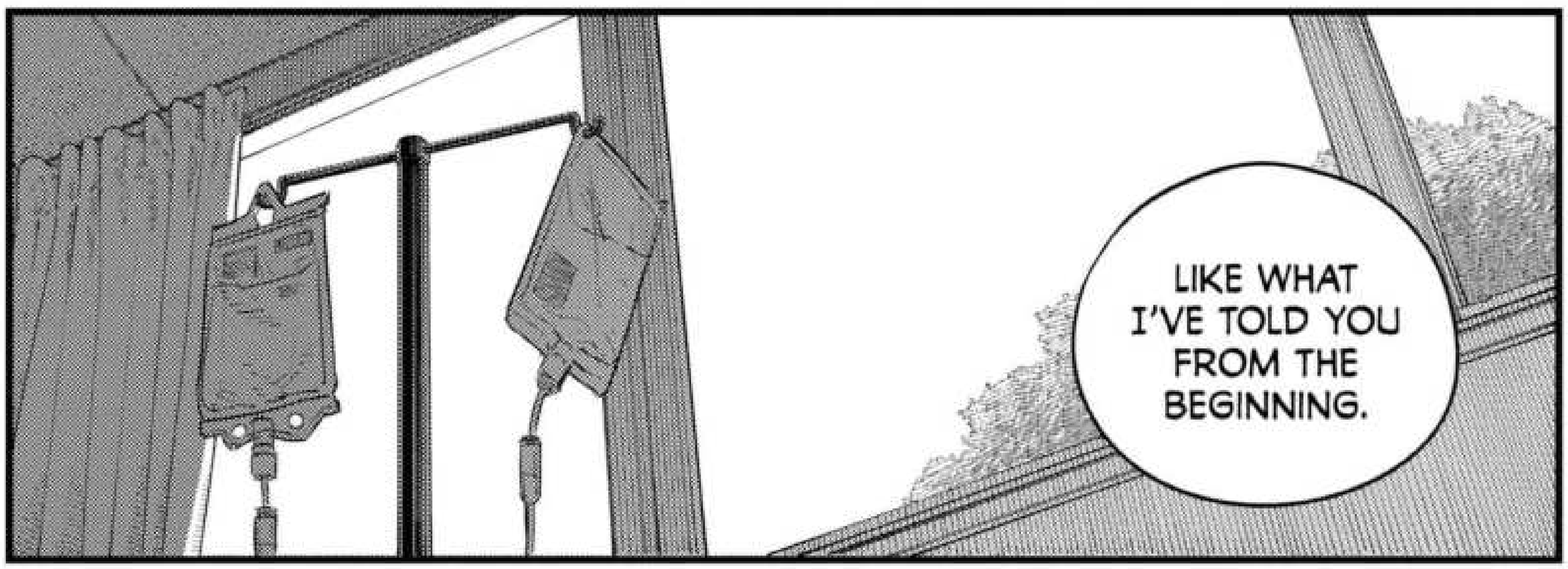

OH... OKAY.

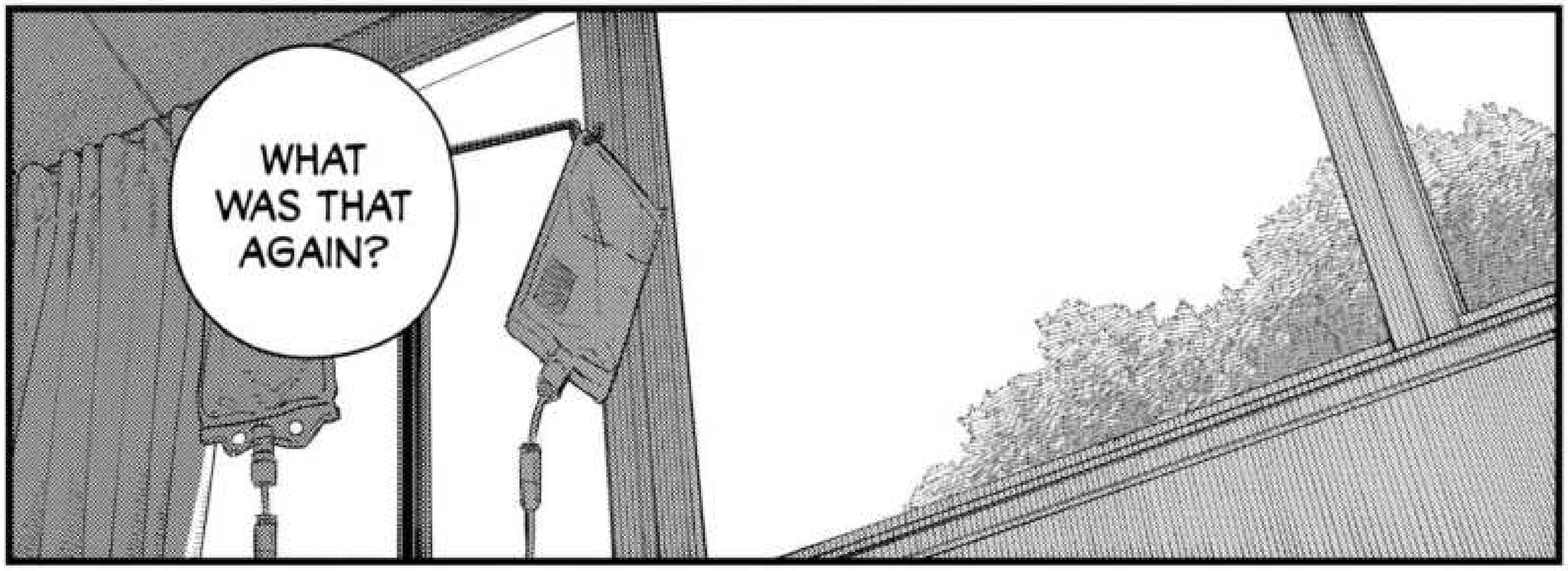

YEAH...

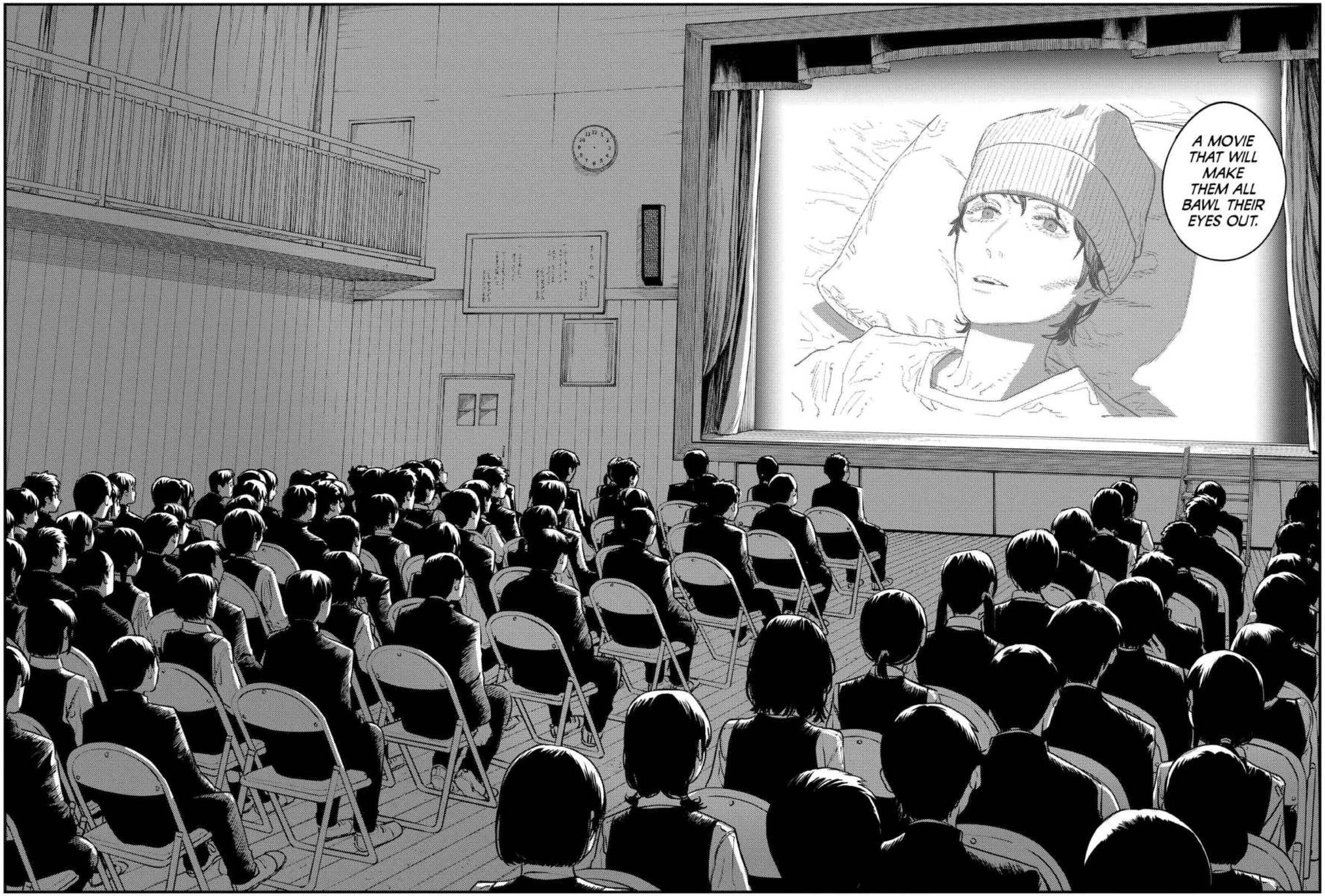

YEAH...

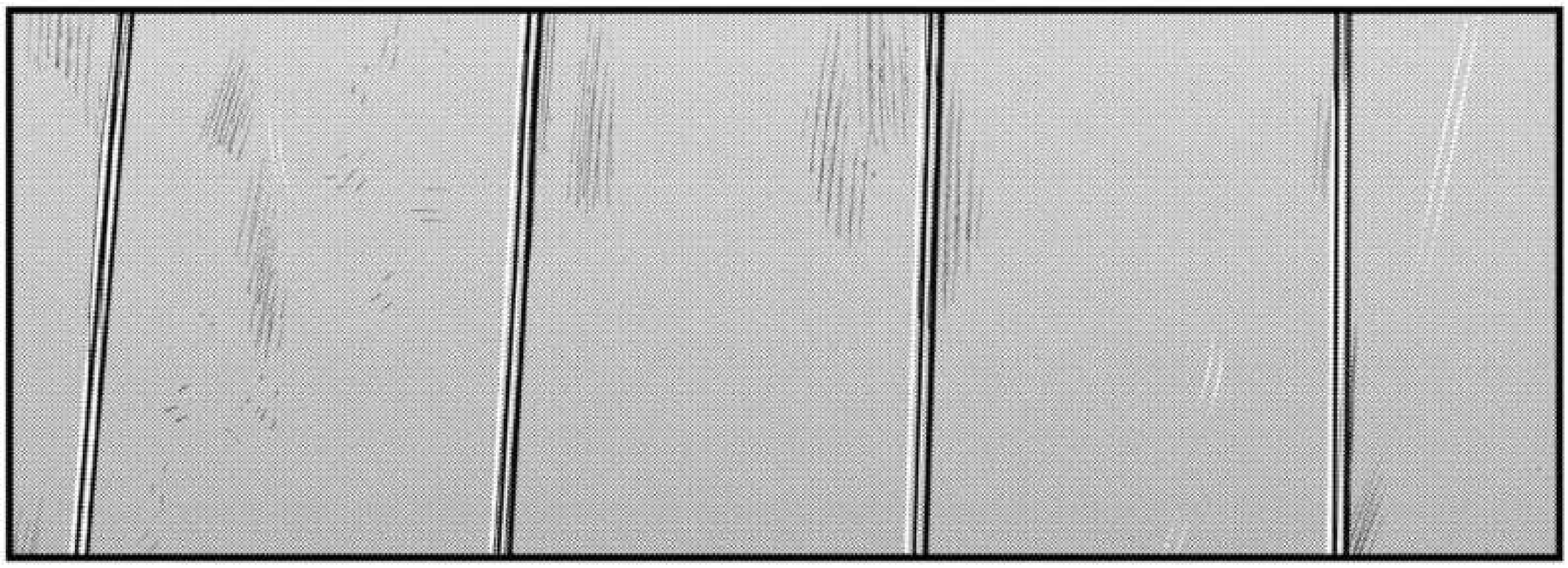


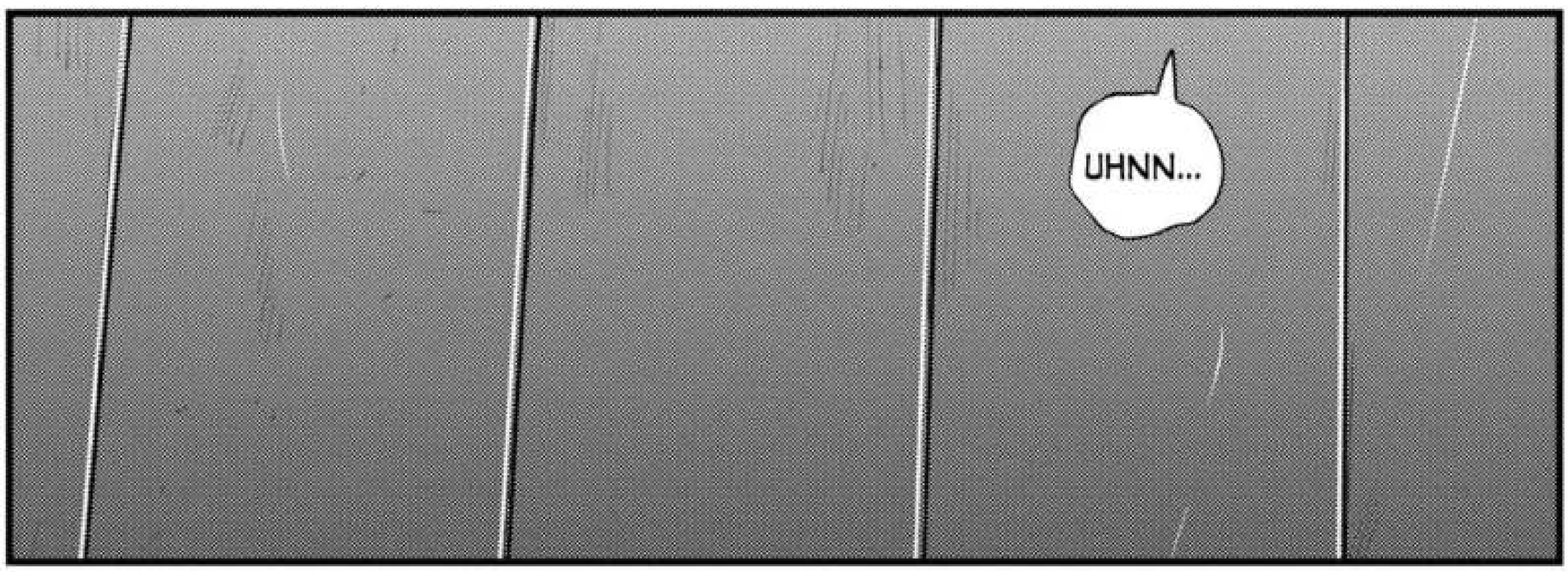

ERI...
WHAT KIND OF MOVIE DO YOU WANT IT TO BE?

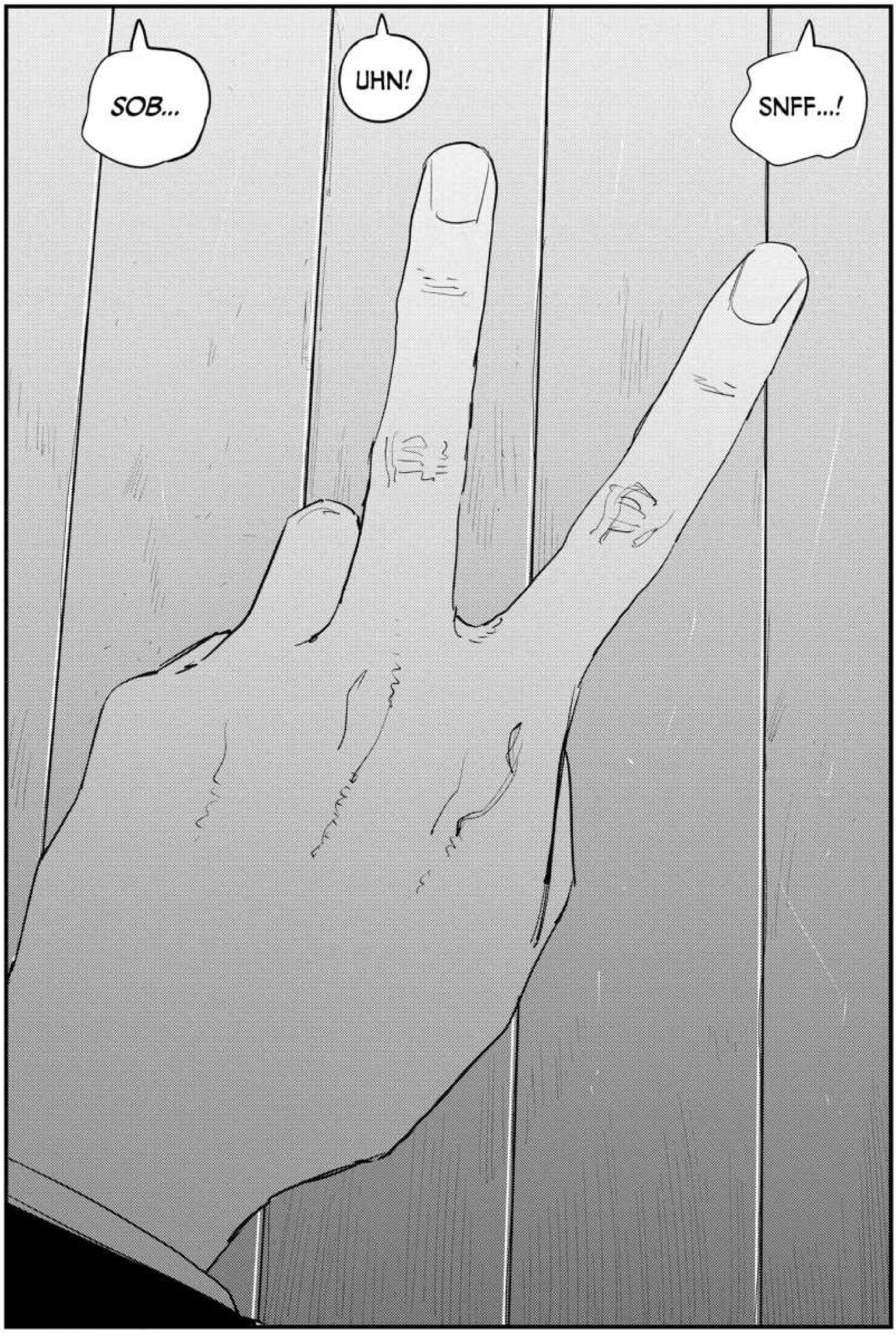

LIKE WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.

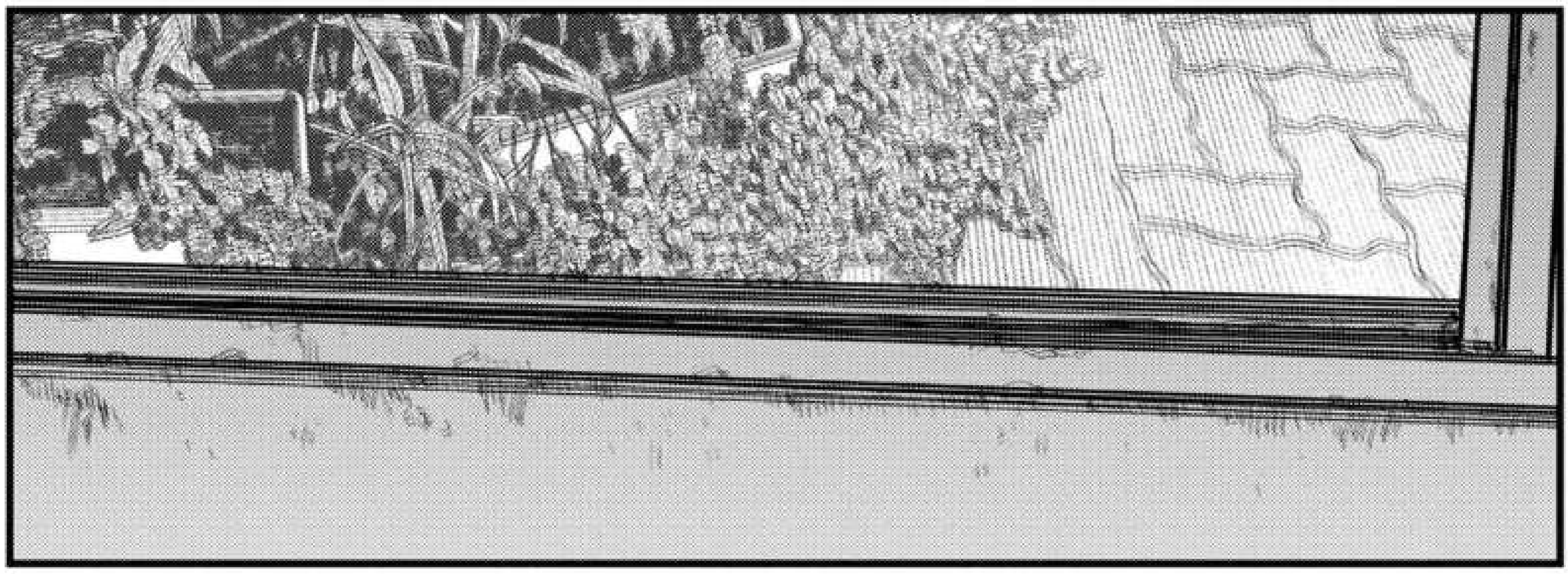

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

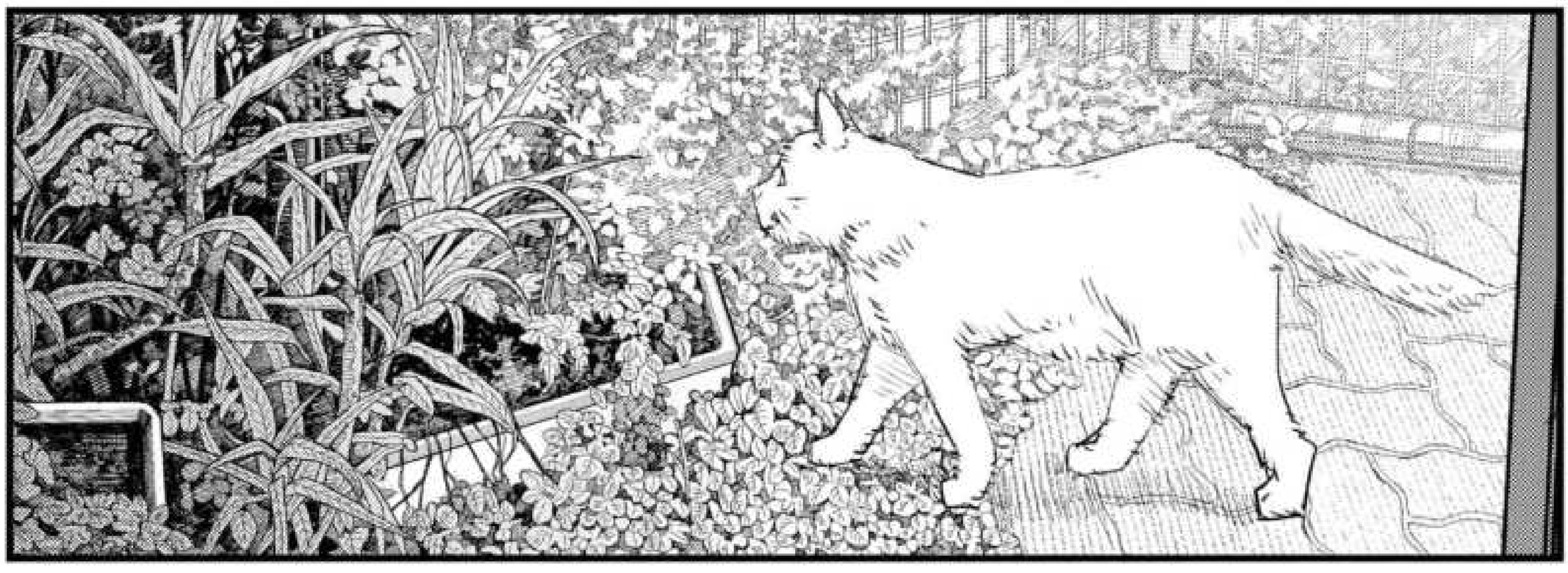

A MOVIE THAT WILL MAKE THEM ALL BAWL THEIR EYES OUT.


UHNN...


SOOOB...
HIC...
HIC... UHN...


SOB...
UHN!
SNFF...!





YUTA.

YES...?

UM...
WHAT ARE YOU RECORDING?
A CAT.
LISTEN...
DIDN'T ERI WEAR GLASSES?

THAT ALSO CAME OFF, AT HER REQUEST.
WHAT ABOUT HER DENTAL RETAINER?
I FILMED HER WITHOUT THEM AT HER REQUEST.

SO YOU JUST MINDLESSLY OBEYED YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

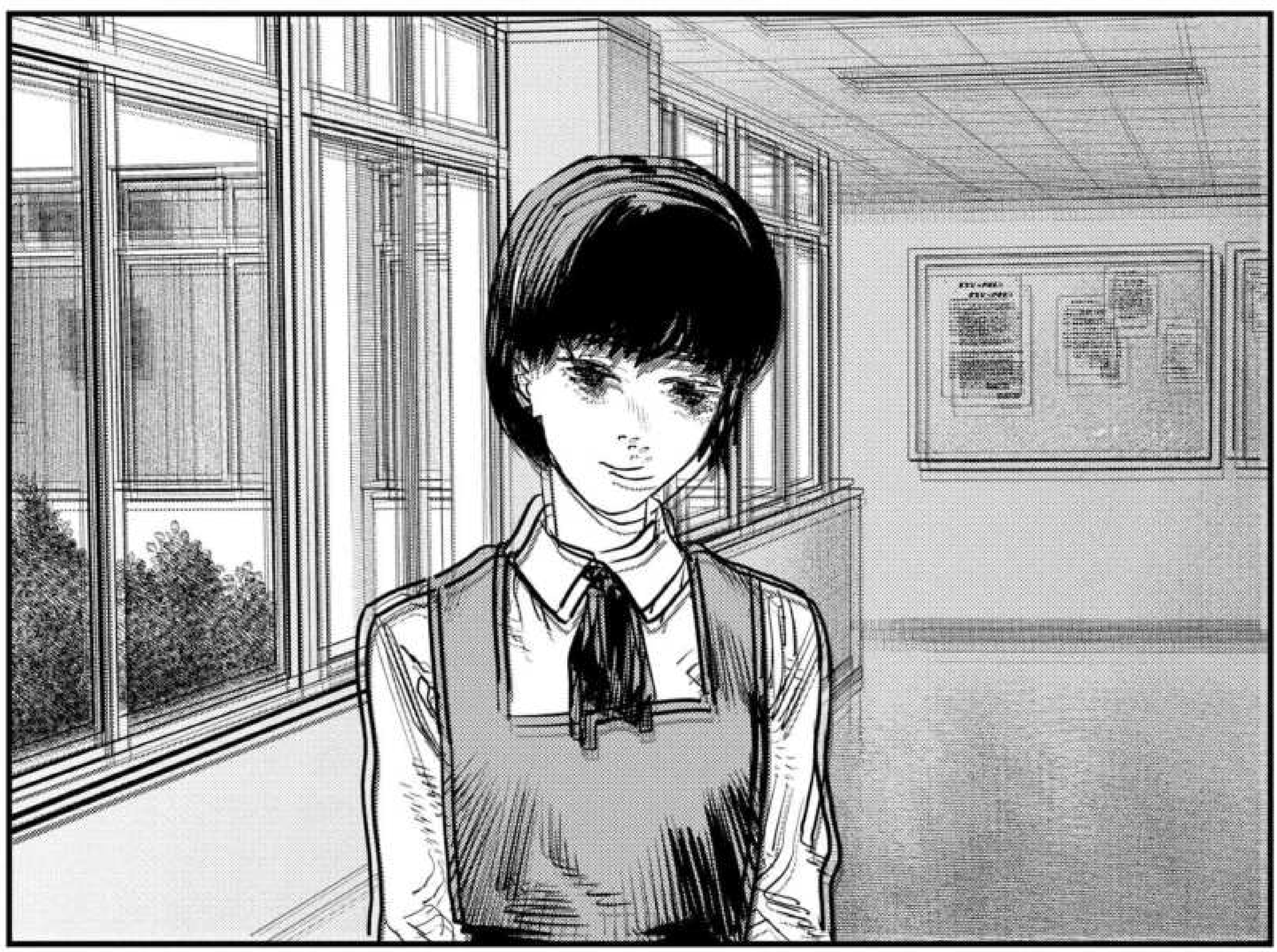
I DID ASK HER OUT, BUT SHE REJECTED ME.
WE WERE ONLY A COUPLE IN THE MOVIE.
I NEVER DATED ERI.

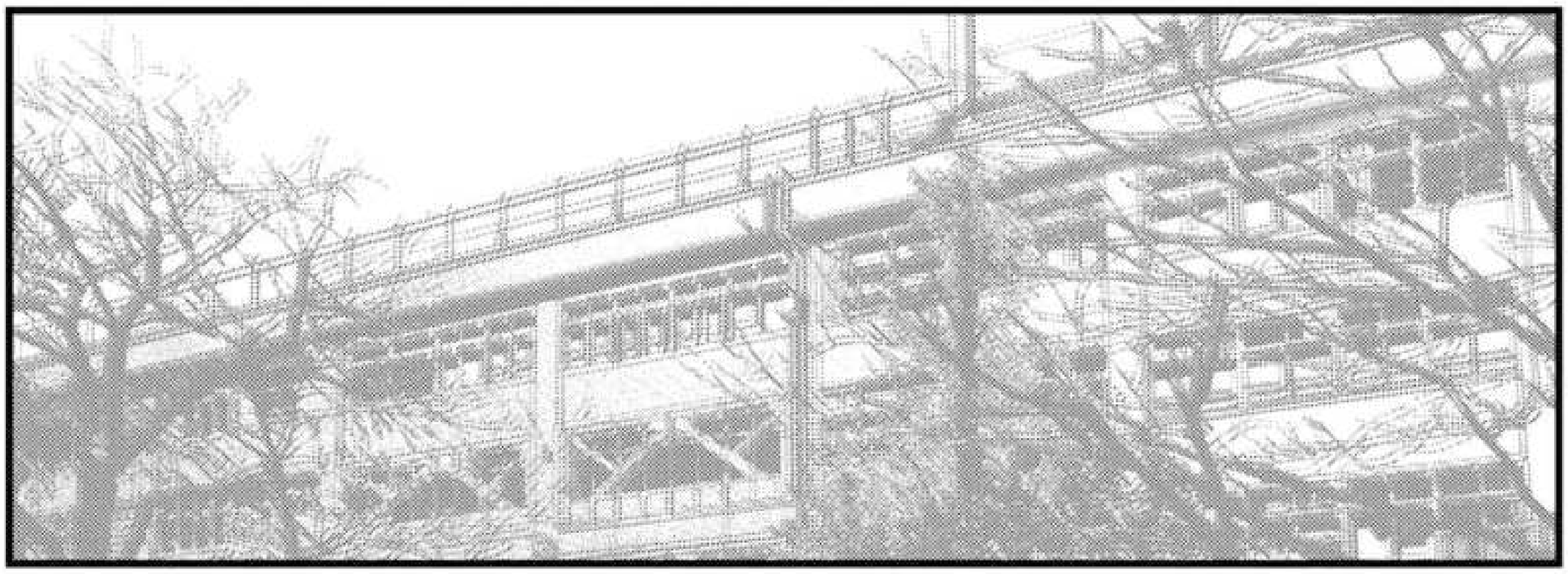
WASN'T SHE ACTUALLY A PRETTY BIG BITCH?
...BUT ERI HAD A TEMPER. SHE WAS SELF-ABSORBED.
YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT FROM THAT MOVIE...

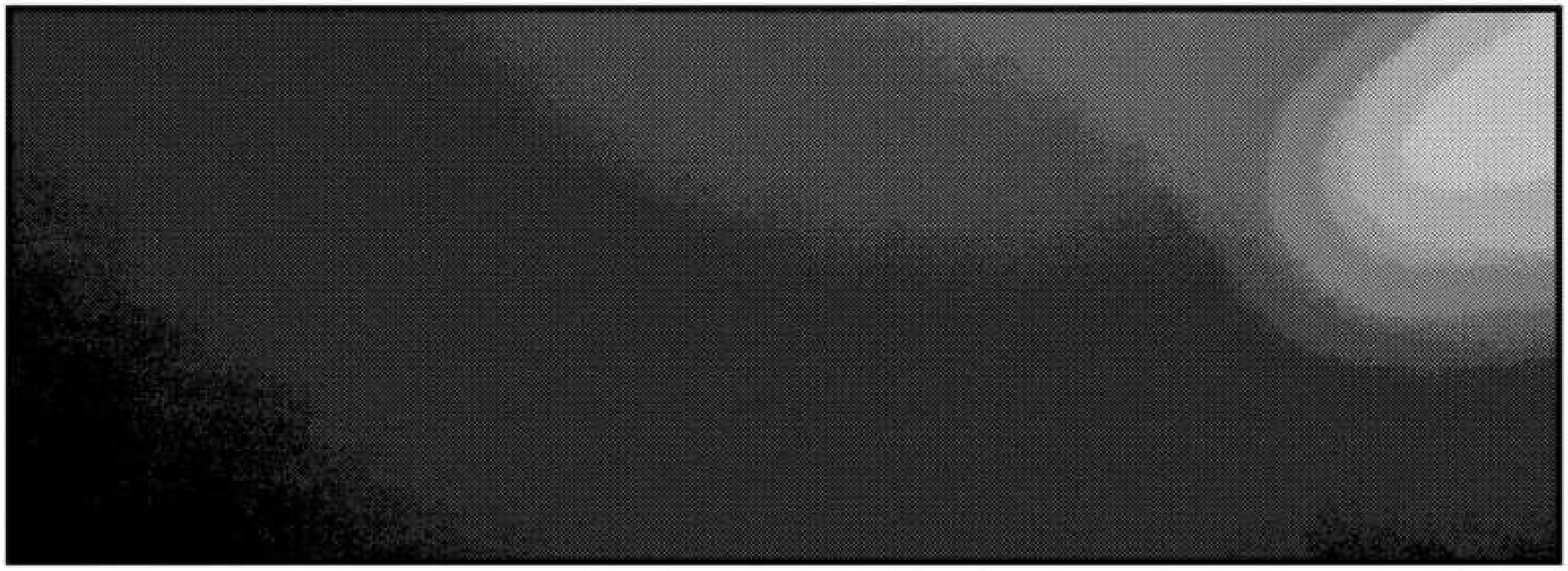
SHE SAID THAT'S WHY YOU AND I WERE HER ONLY FRIENDS.
YUP.

YUP.
MOVIE ERI WAS A LITTLE OVERIDEALIZED.

THANKS.
BUT...
...I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER LIKE THAT.







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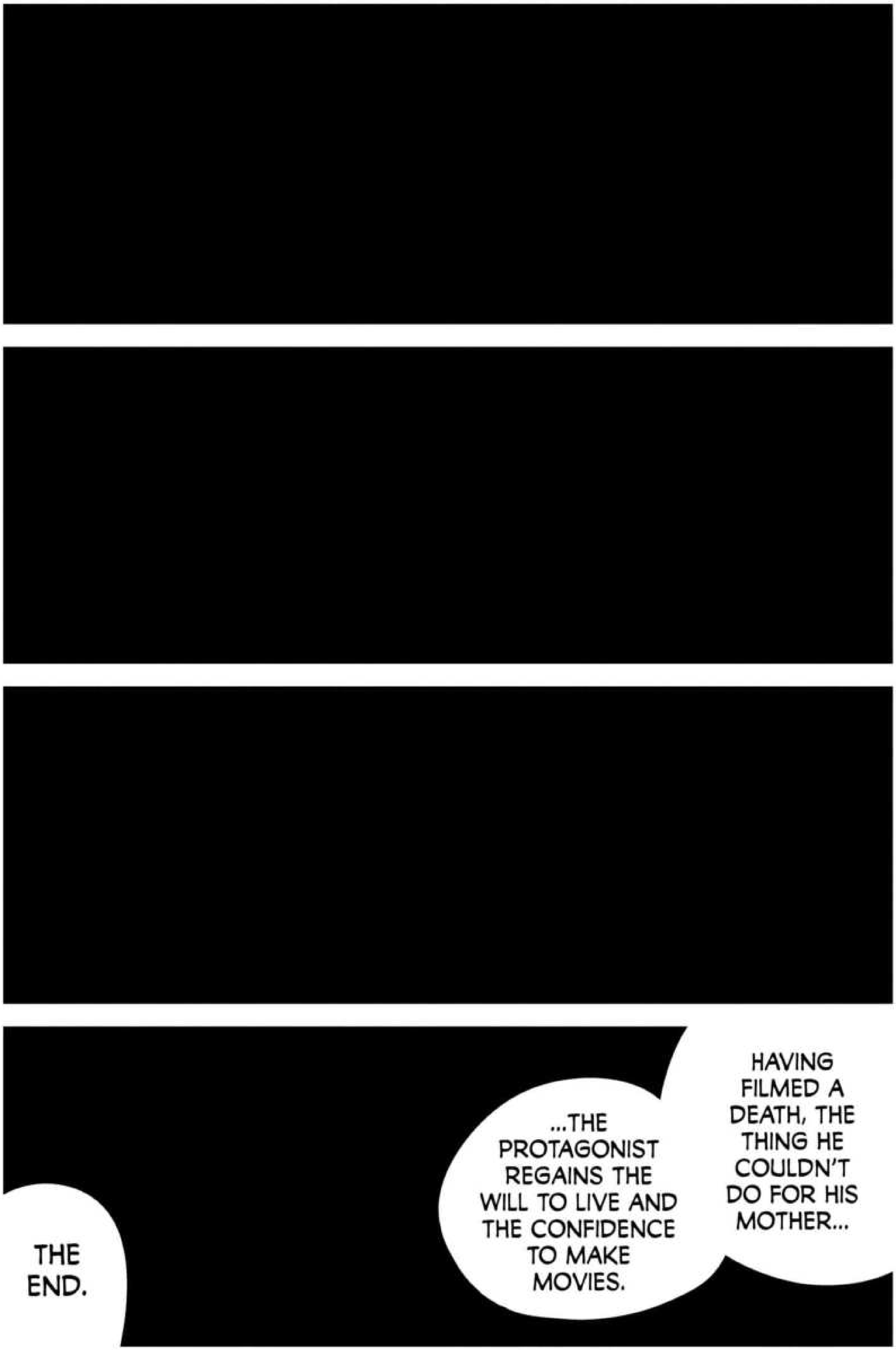
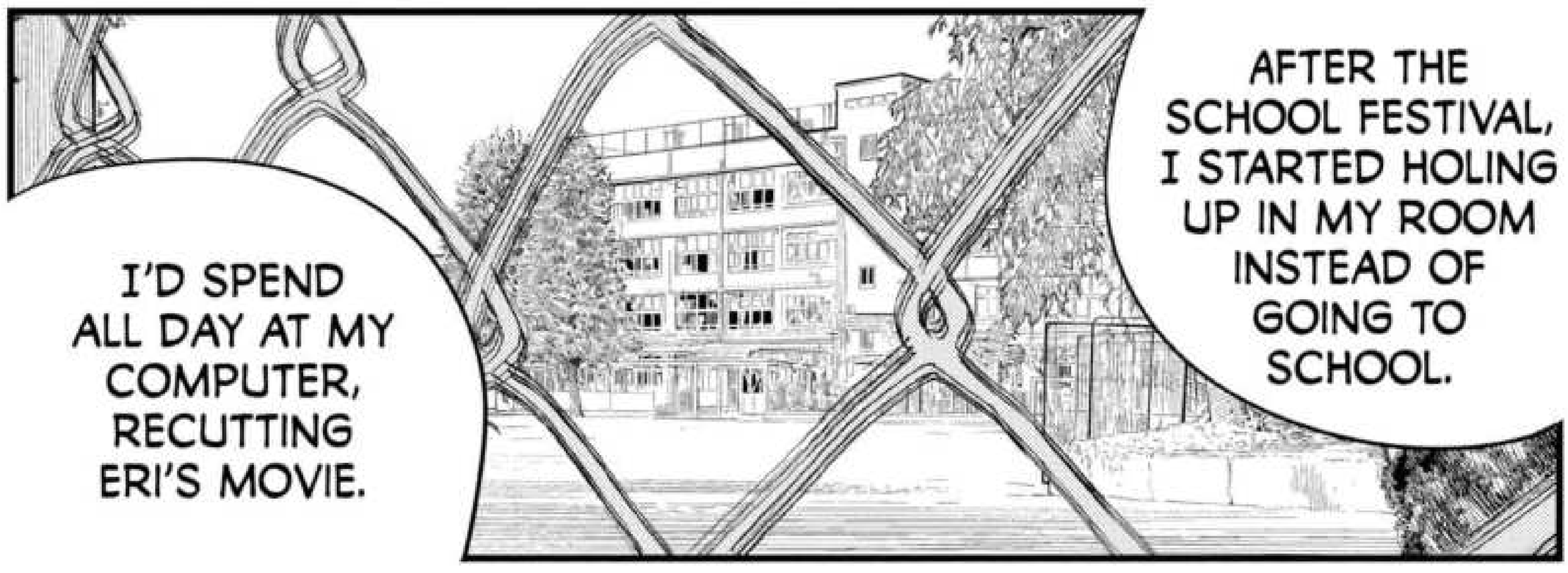
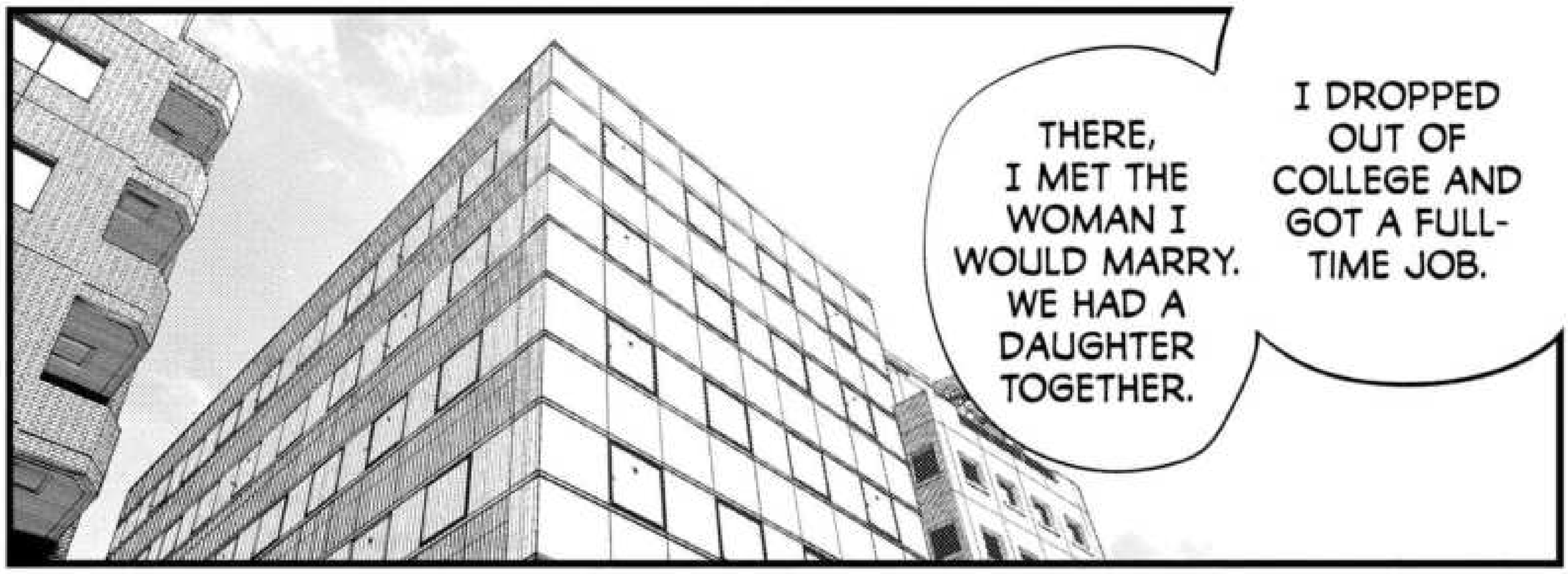

HAVING FILMED A DEATH, THE THING HE COULDN'T DO FOR HIS MOTHER...
...THE PROTAGONIST REGAINS THE WILL TO LIVE AND THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE MOVIES.
THE END.

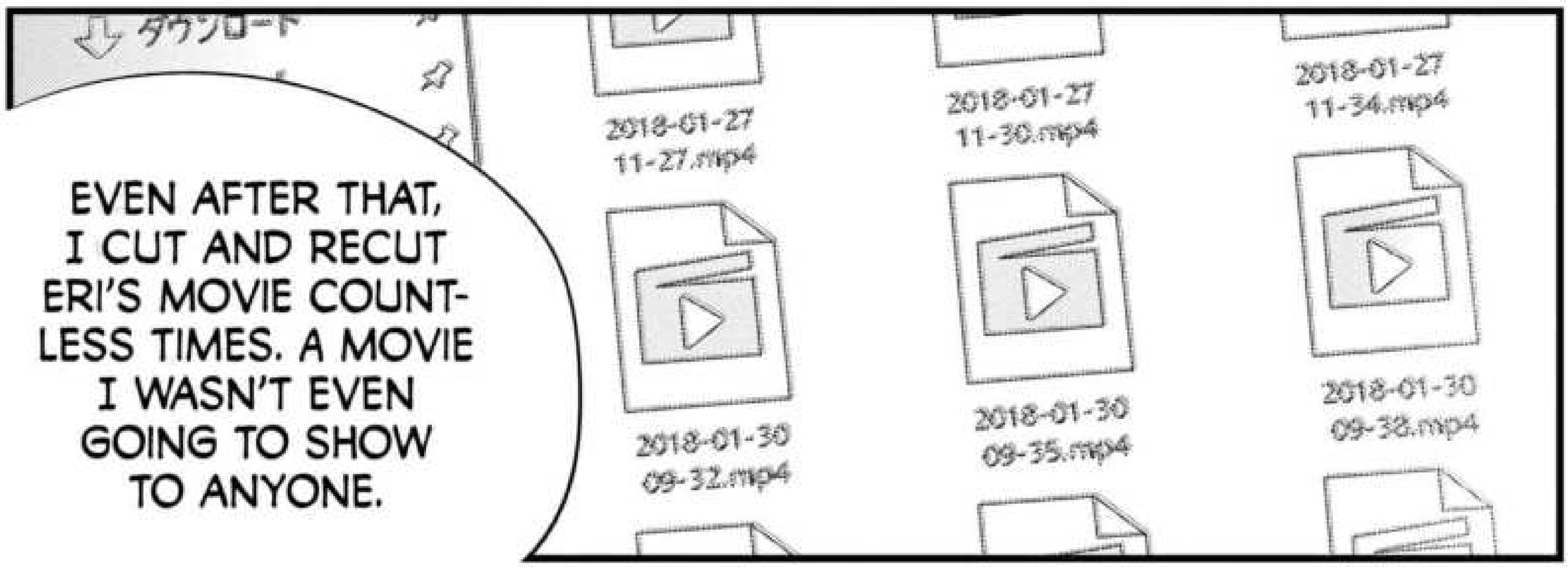
IN THE REAL WORLD, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT SO SMOOTHLY FOR ME.
THAT WAS MY CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE.


I'D SPEND ALL DAY AT MY COMPUTER, RECUTTING ERI'S MOVIE.
AFTER THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, I STARTED HOLING UP IN MY ROOM INSTEAD OF GOING TO SCHOOL.

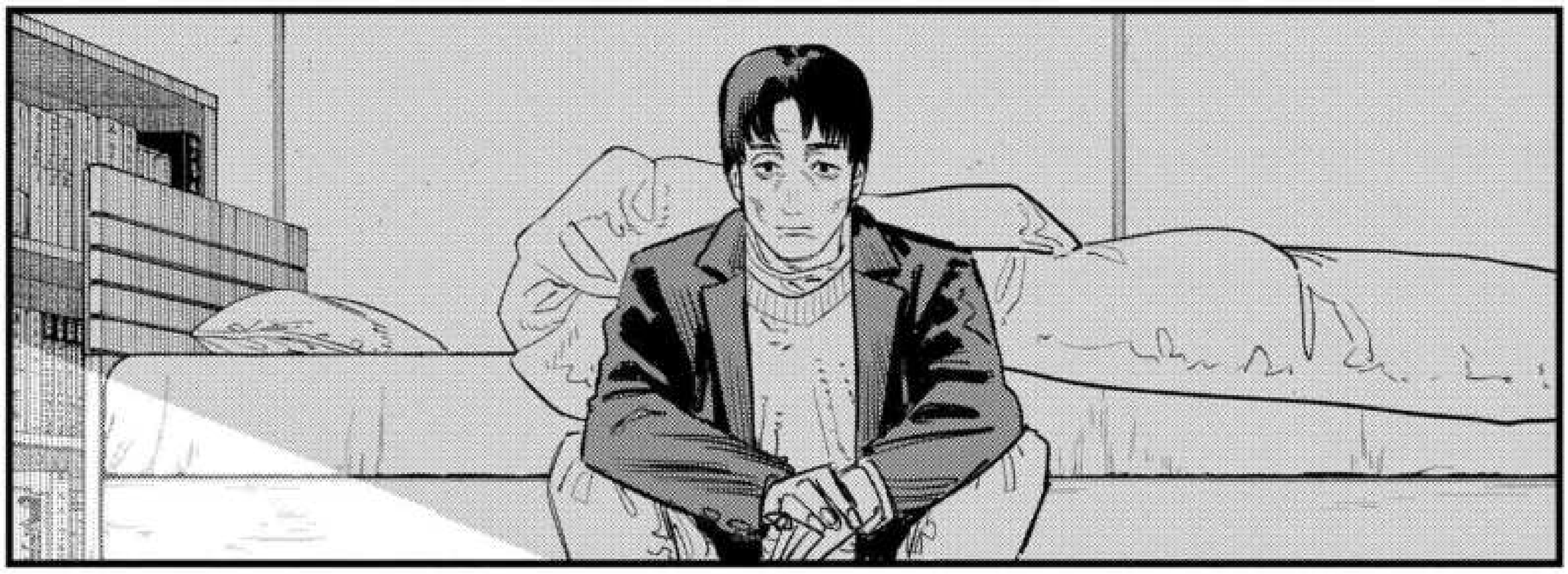
MY HUNCH WAS THAT I WOULD FIND THE ANSWER IN THE 2,728 HOURS OF FOOTAGE FROM MY TIME WITH ERI.
GOODBYE, ERI
EVEN THOUGH THE MOVIE HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED, I COULDN'T SHAKE THIS NAGGING FEELING THAT IT WAS MISSING SOMETHING.

...AND WHEN I GOT HOME, I'D END THE DAY TINKERING WITH MY ERI VIDEOS.
I'D TAKE CLASSES, GO TO MY PART-TIME JOB...
I CONTINUED THE RECUTS EVEN AFTER I STARTED COLLEGE.


THERE, I MET THE WOMAN I WOULD MARRY. WE HAD A DAUGHTER TOGETHER.
I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE AND GOT A FULL-TIME JOB.


EVEN AFTER THAT, I CUT AND RECUT ERI'S MOVIE COUNTLESS TIMES. A MOVIE I WASN'T EVEN GOING TO SHOW TO ANYONE.
ダウンロード
2018-01-27 11-27.mp4
2018-01-27 11-30.mp4
2018-01-27 11-34.mp4
2018-01-30 09-32.mp4
2018-01-30 09-35.mp4
2018-01-30 09-38.mp4

IF THOSE DAYS HAD LASTED UNTIL I DIED A SUITABLE DEATH, I THINK I'D HAVE LED A HAPPY LIFE.
IT'S NOT THAT I WAS UNHAPPY WITH MY FAMILY.



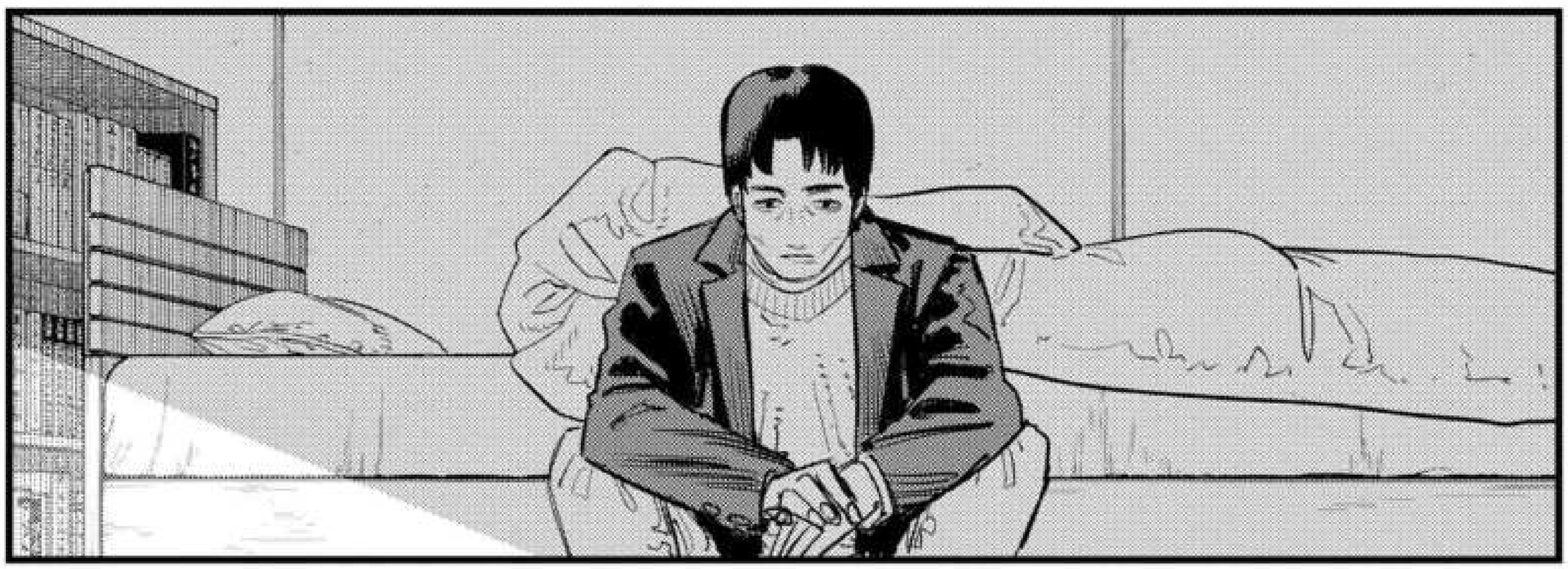
THAT DAY, MY WIFE, DAUGHTER, AND FATHER... AND MYSELF... WERE ALL IN THE CAR.
THAT DAY...

I WAS DRIVING.

THE NEXT THING I SAW WAS THE CEILING OF A HOSPITAL ROOM.
IN AN INSTANT, EVERYTHING WENT DARK, LIKE TURNING A TV OFF.

IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ME THAT THERE'D BEEN AN ACCIDENT IN FRONT OF US, AND OUR VEHICLE HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN IT...

...AND THAT I WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF MY FAMILY WHO'D SURVIVED.

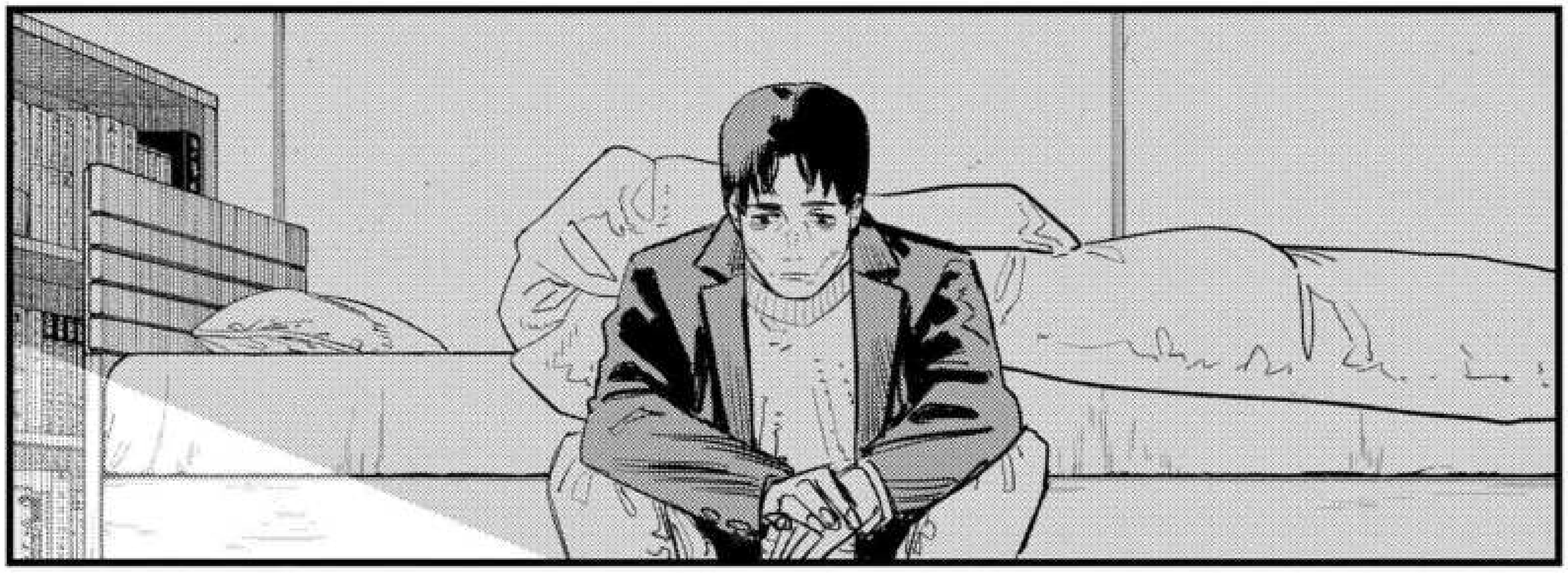


IT FELT LIKE I WAS WATCHING A SHOCKINGLY TRAGIC SCENE IN A MOVIE.
I COULDN'T PROCESS IT.

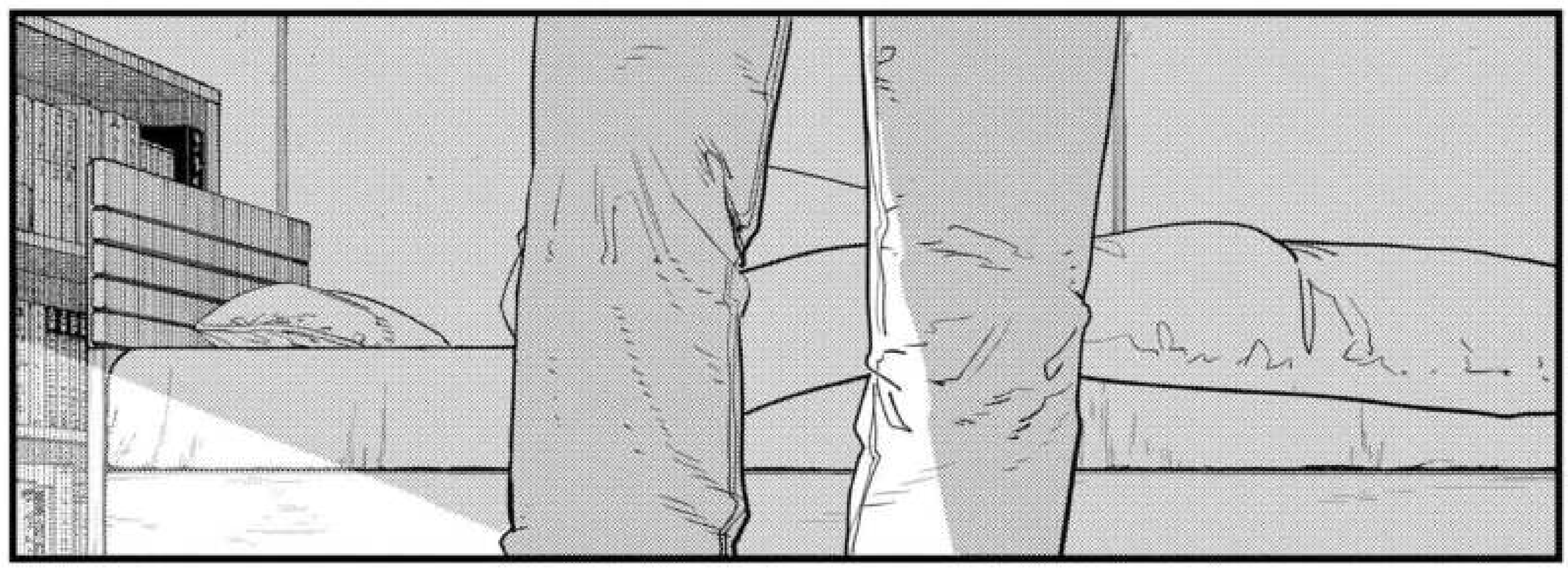
I HAVE THIS BAD HABIT OF VIEWING THE PROBLEMS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME FROM AN OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE.
THINKING BACK, IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

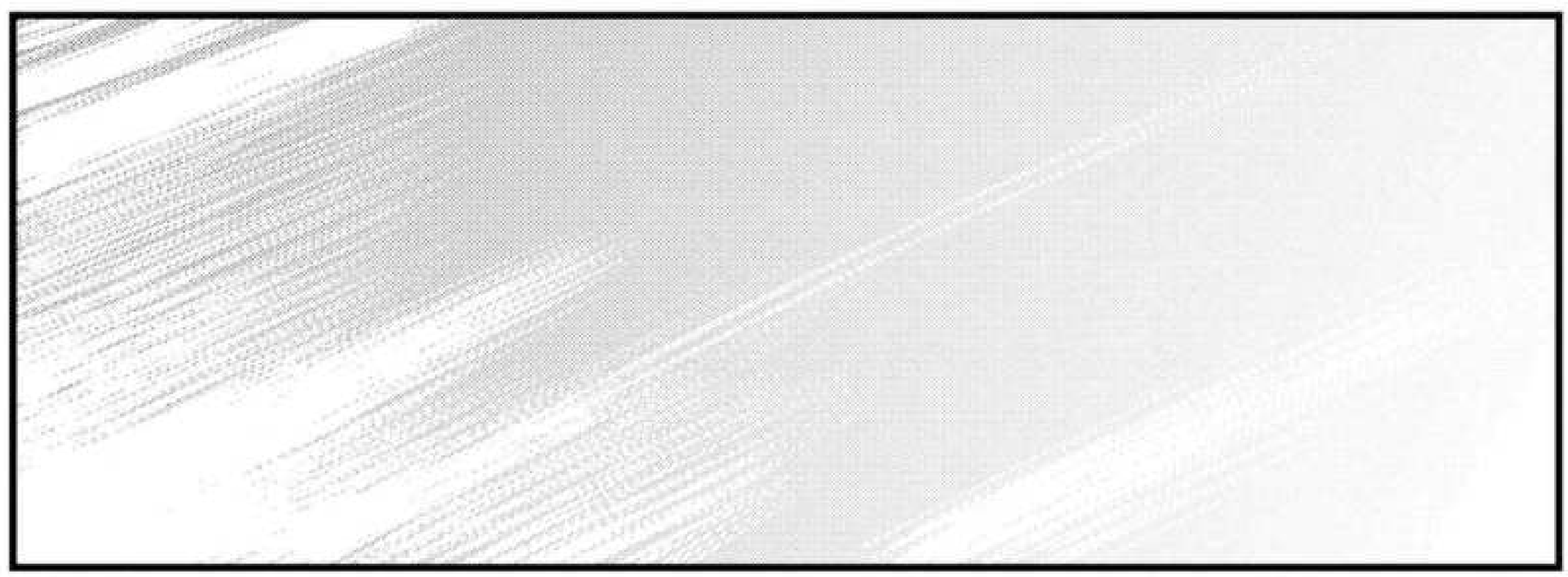
MY MOTHER'S DEATH. ERI'S. I WATCHED THEM BOTH THROUGH A CAMERA.

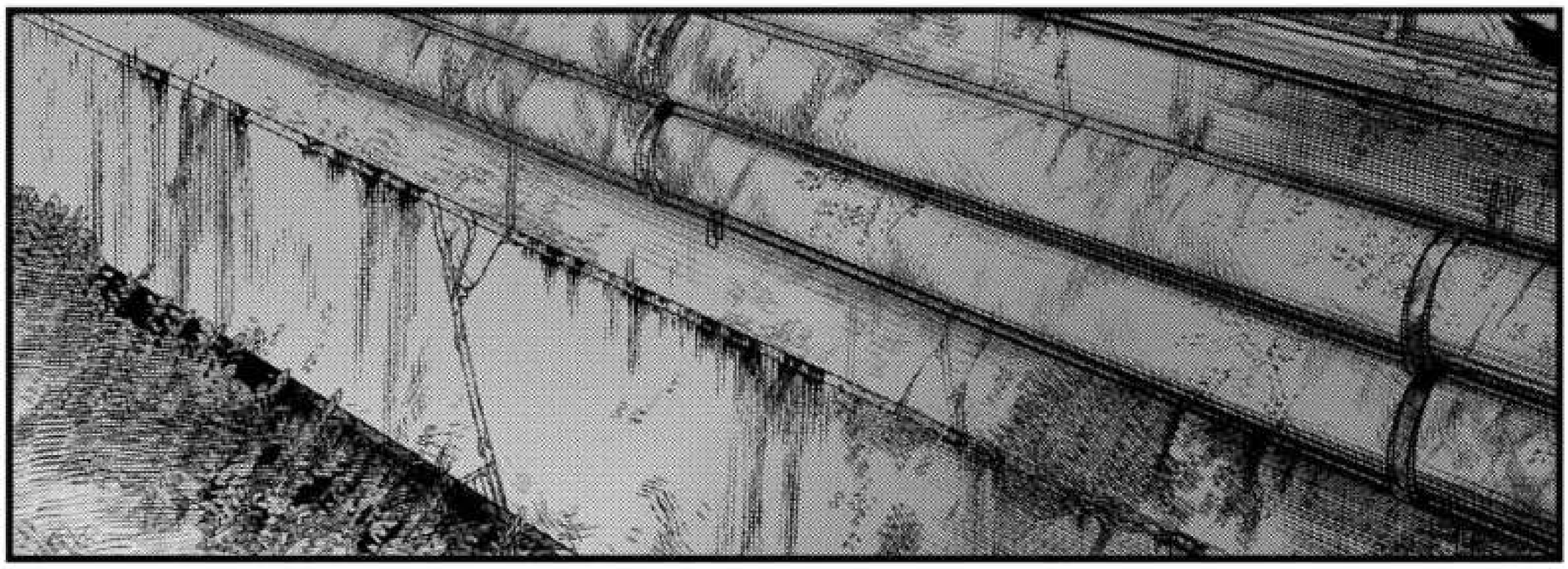
I COULD ONLY FACE THE FACTS FROM BEHIND A CAMERA.
IT WAS THE SAME BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHEN I WAS CONSIDERING SUICIDE JUST LIKE NOW.

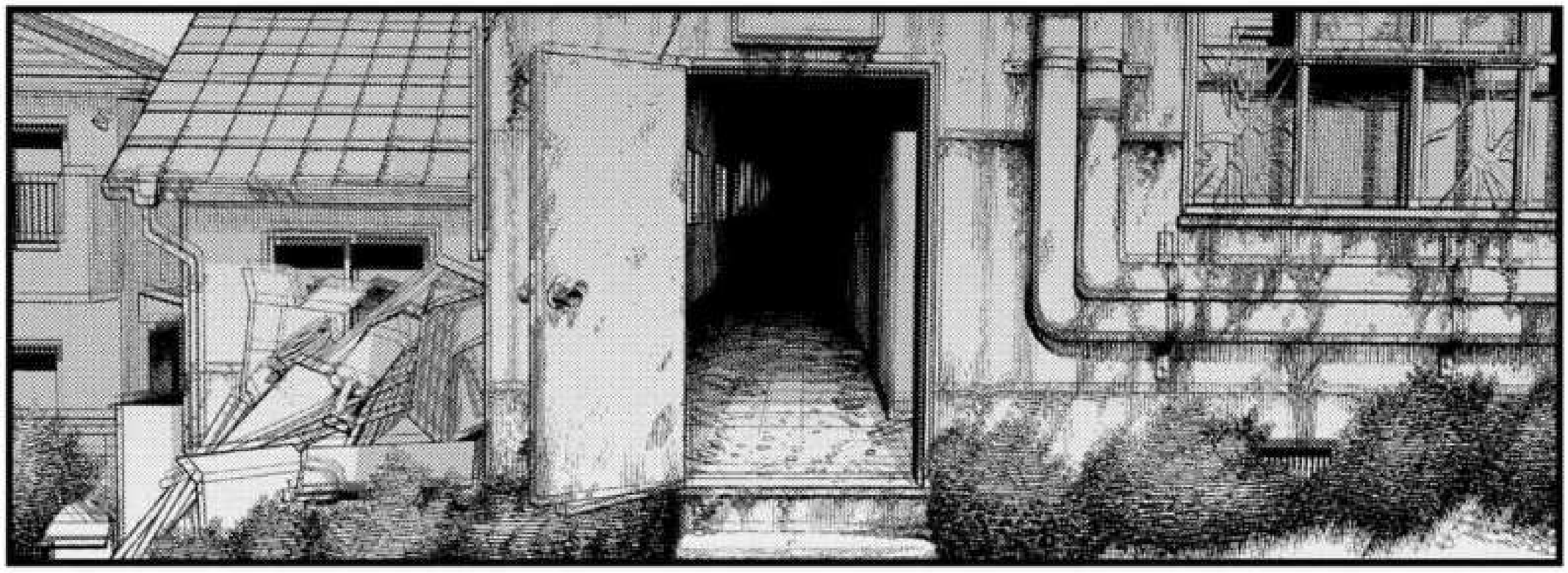


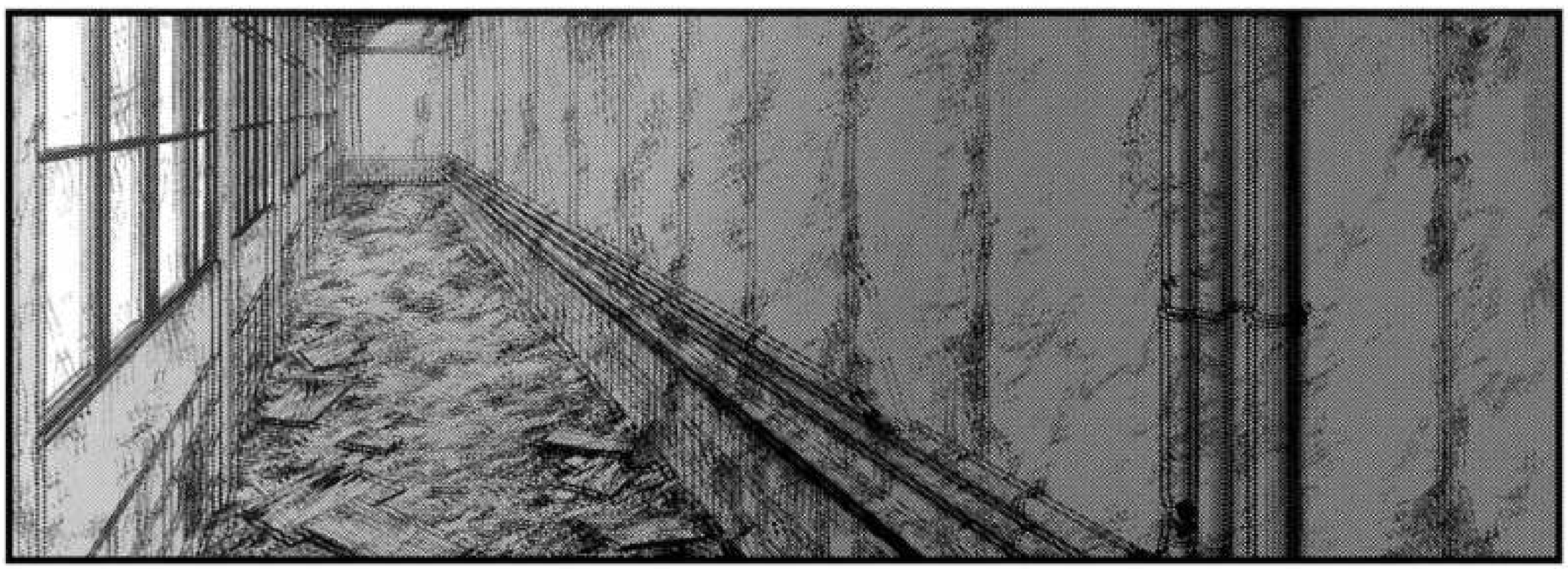
THE END.
I'LL DIE IN A PLACE THAT HOLDS MEMORIES FOR ME.
AS A RESULT...
...I'VE REALIZED I NO Llonger HAVE ENOUGH SOUL LEFT TO ENDURE ANY MORE DEATHS.

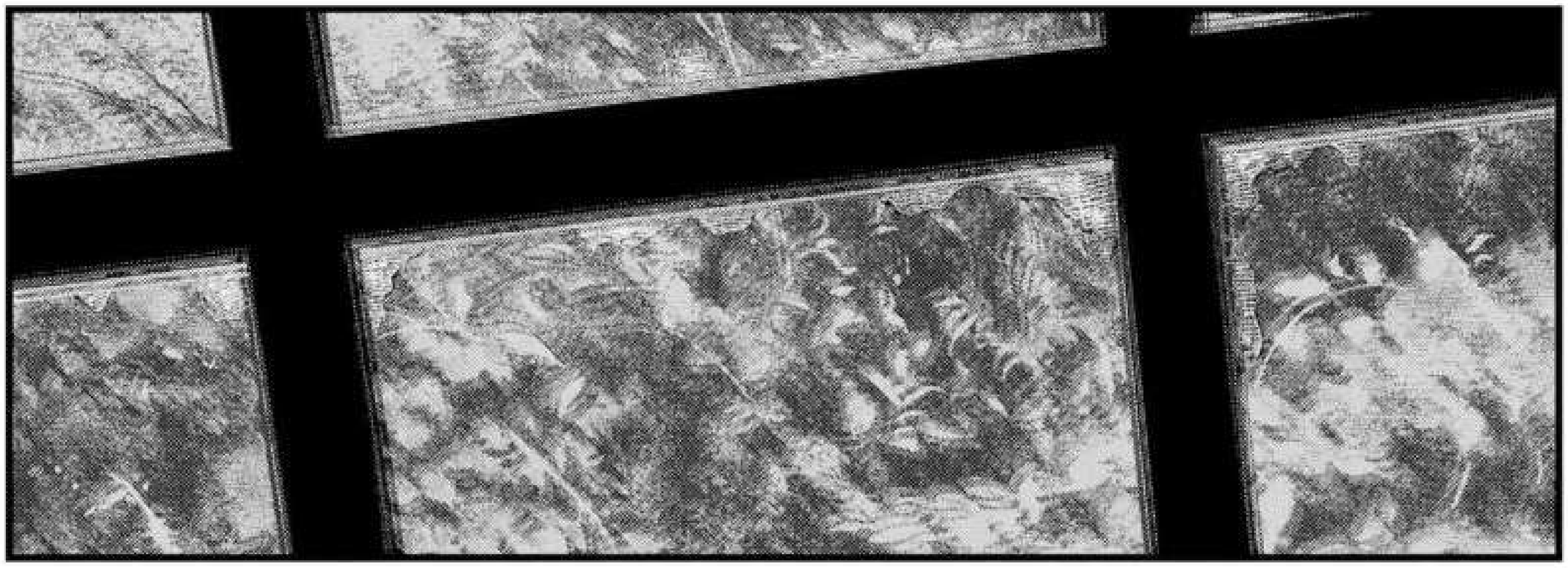


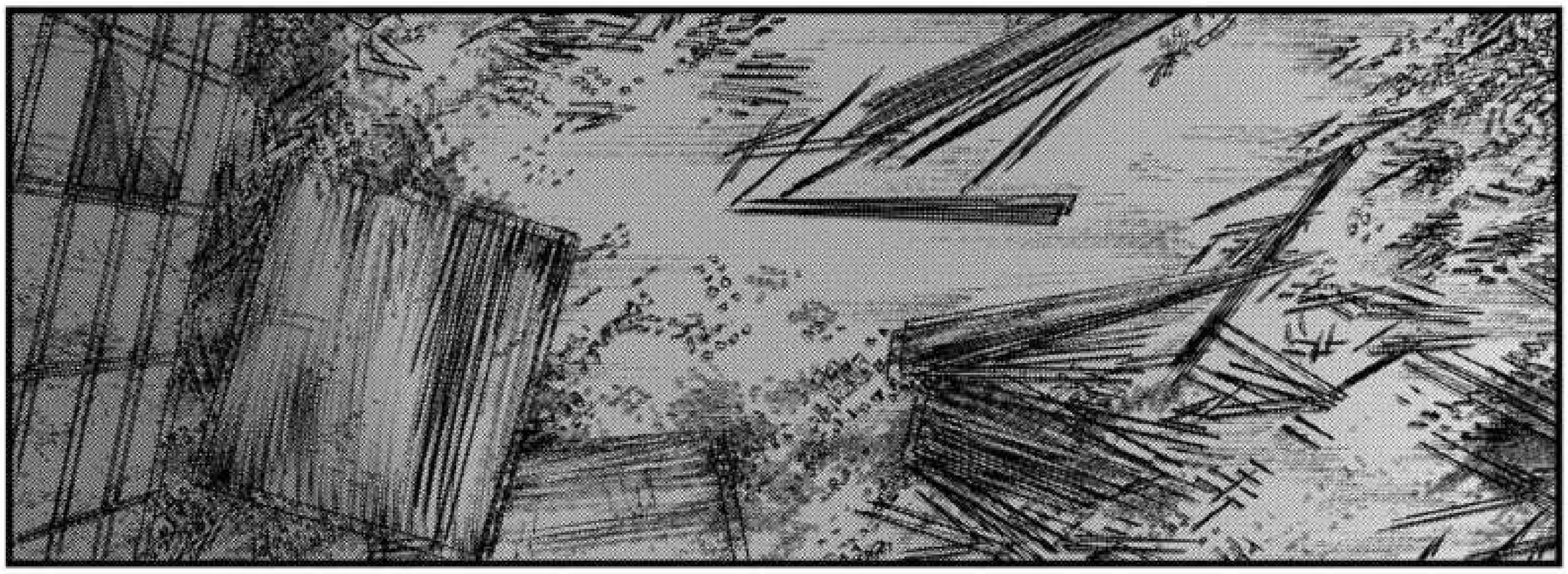


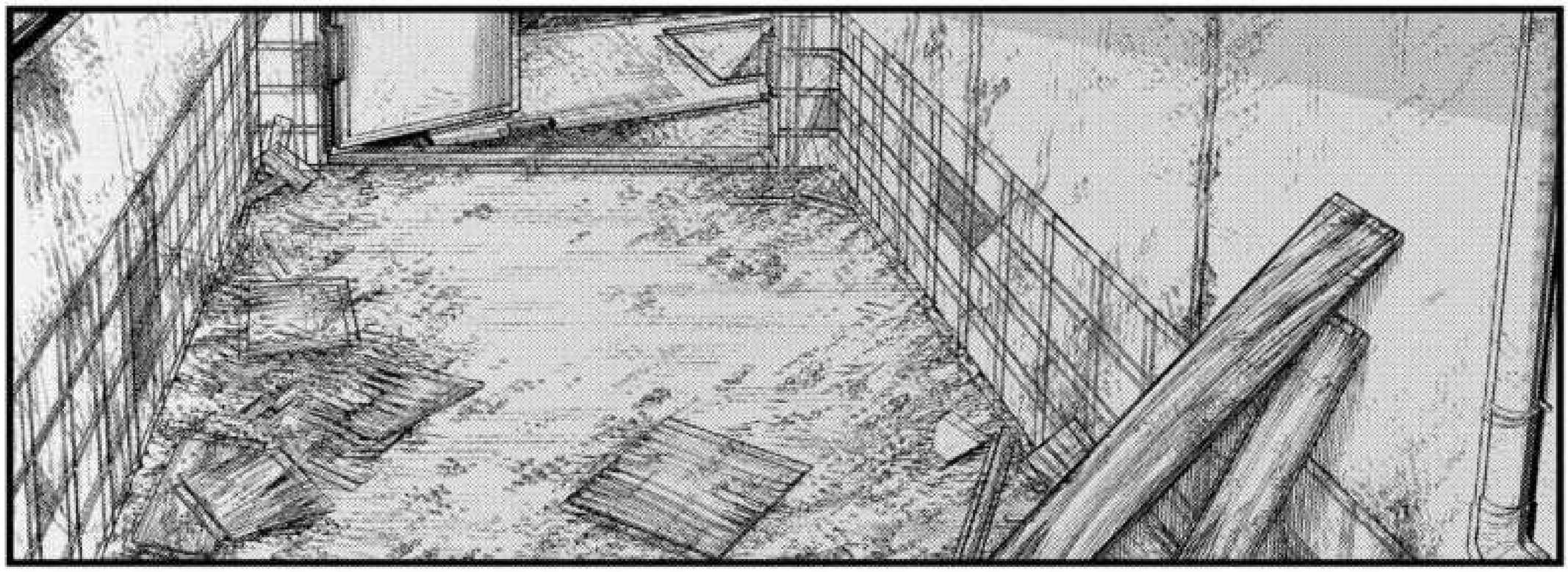


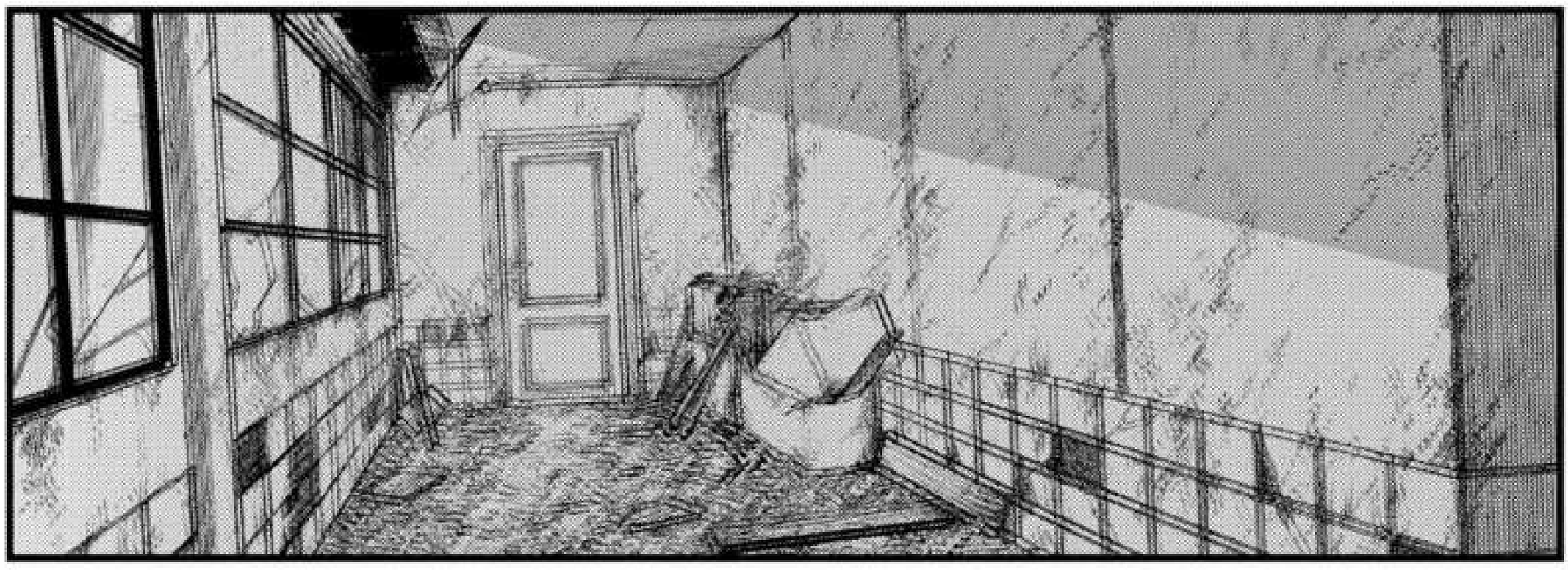


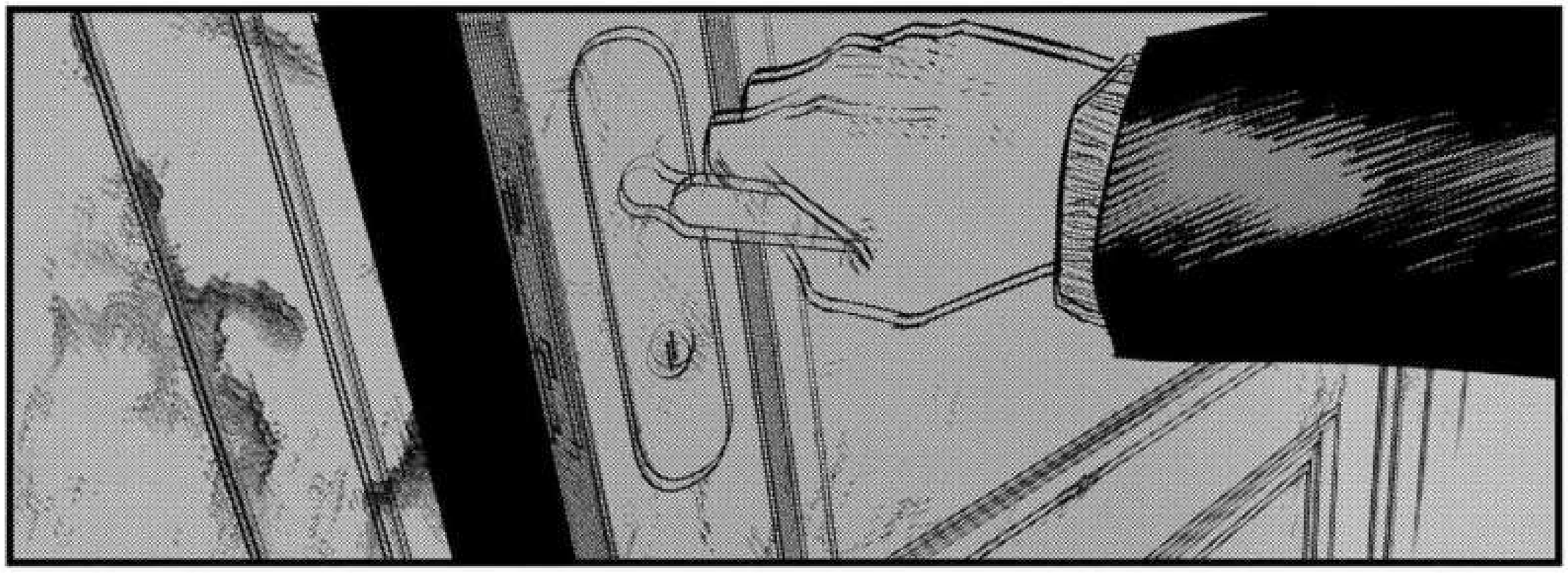


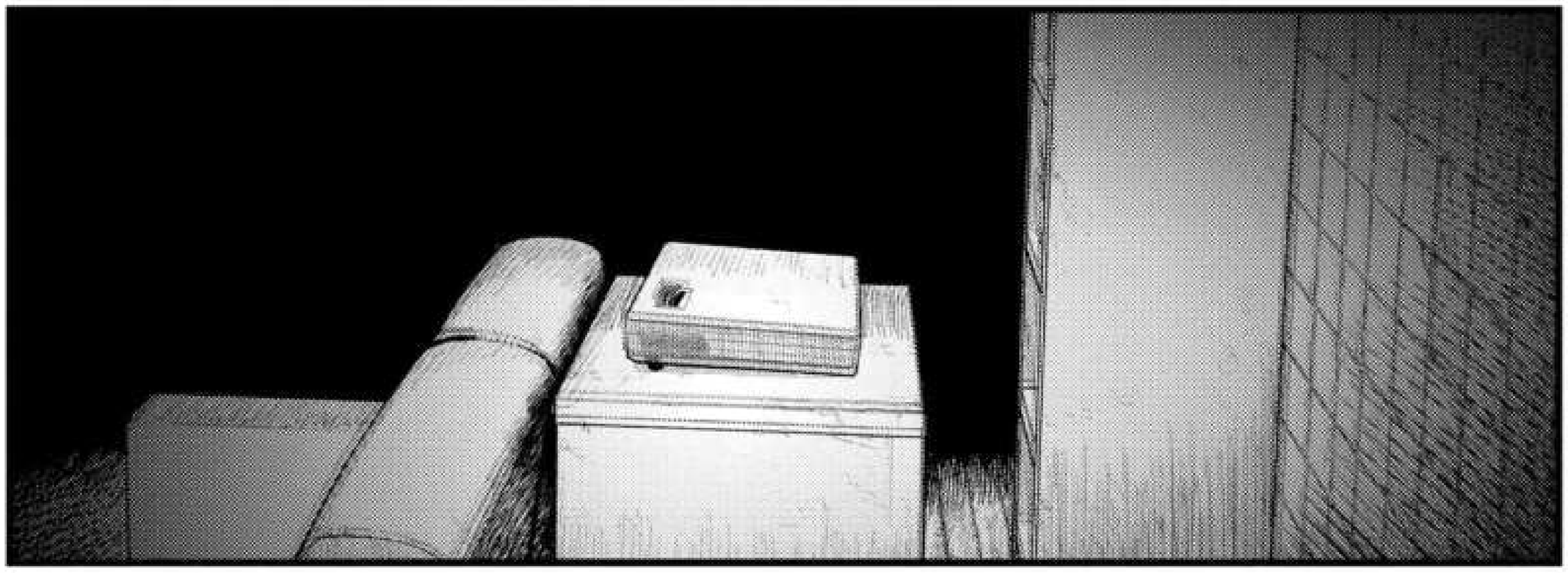


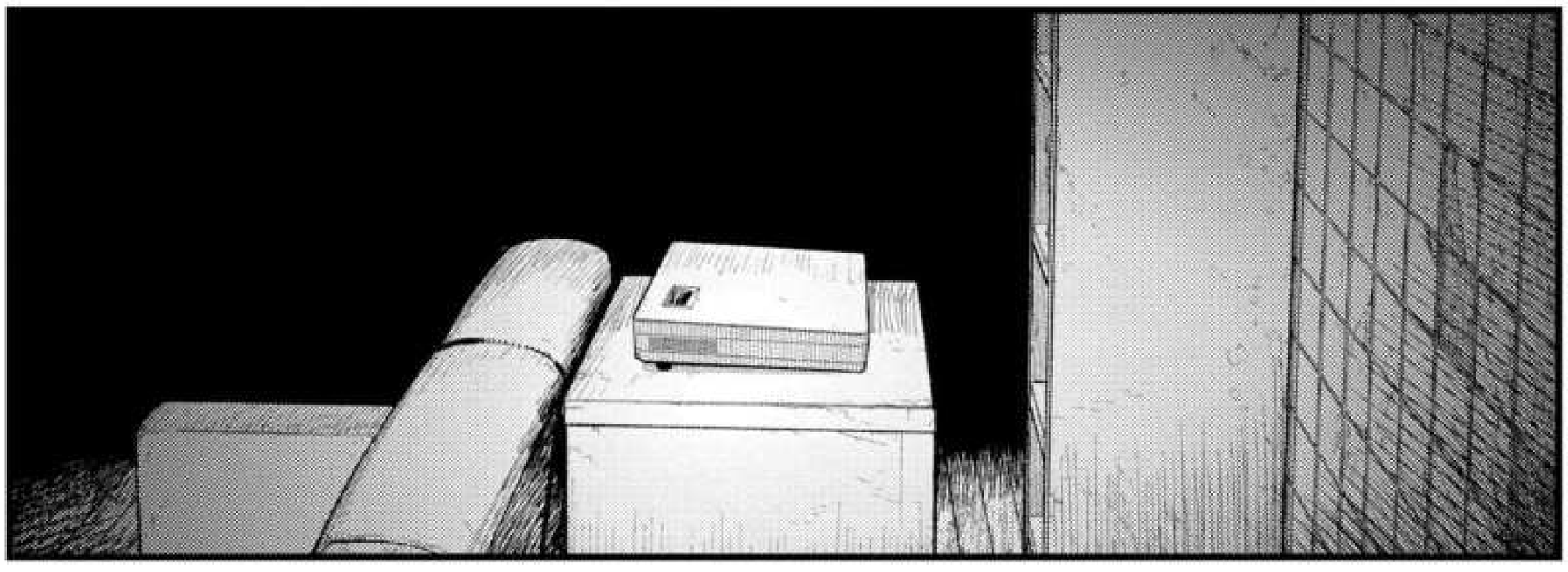


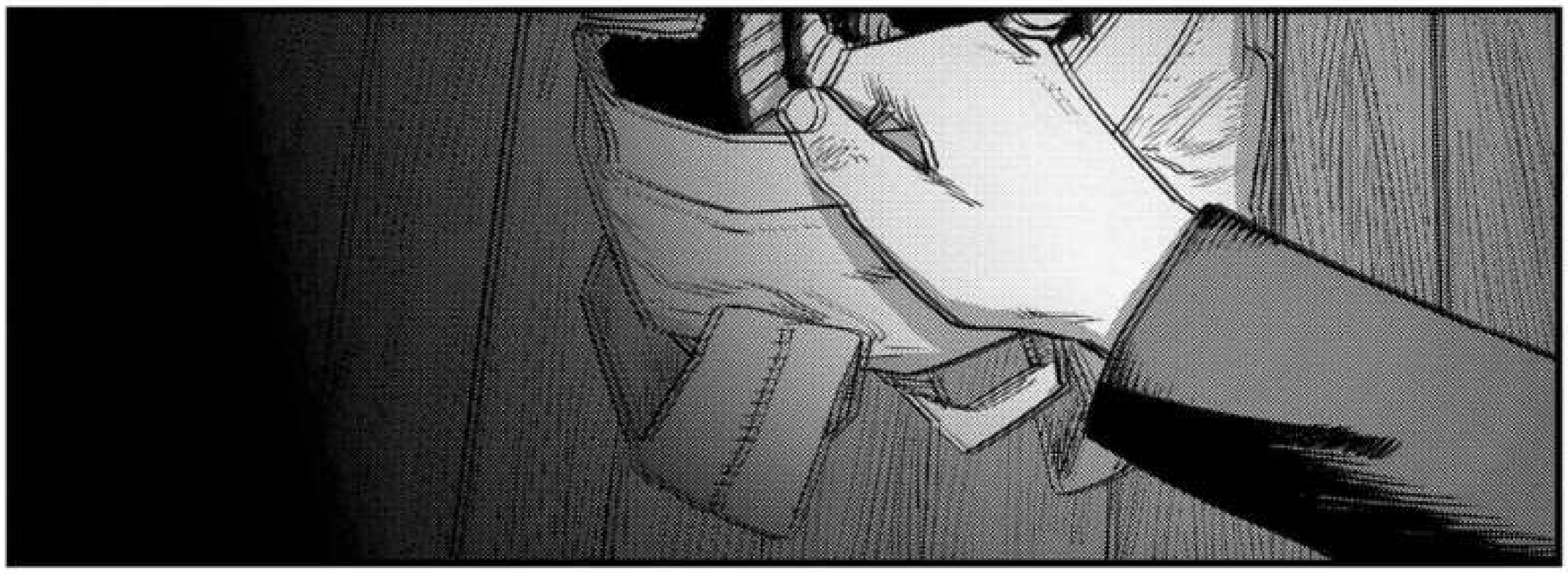


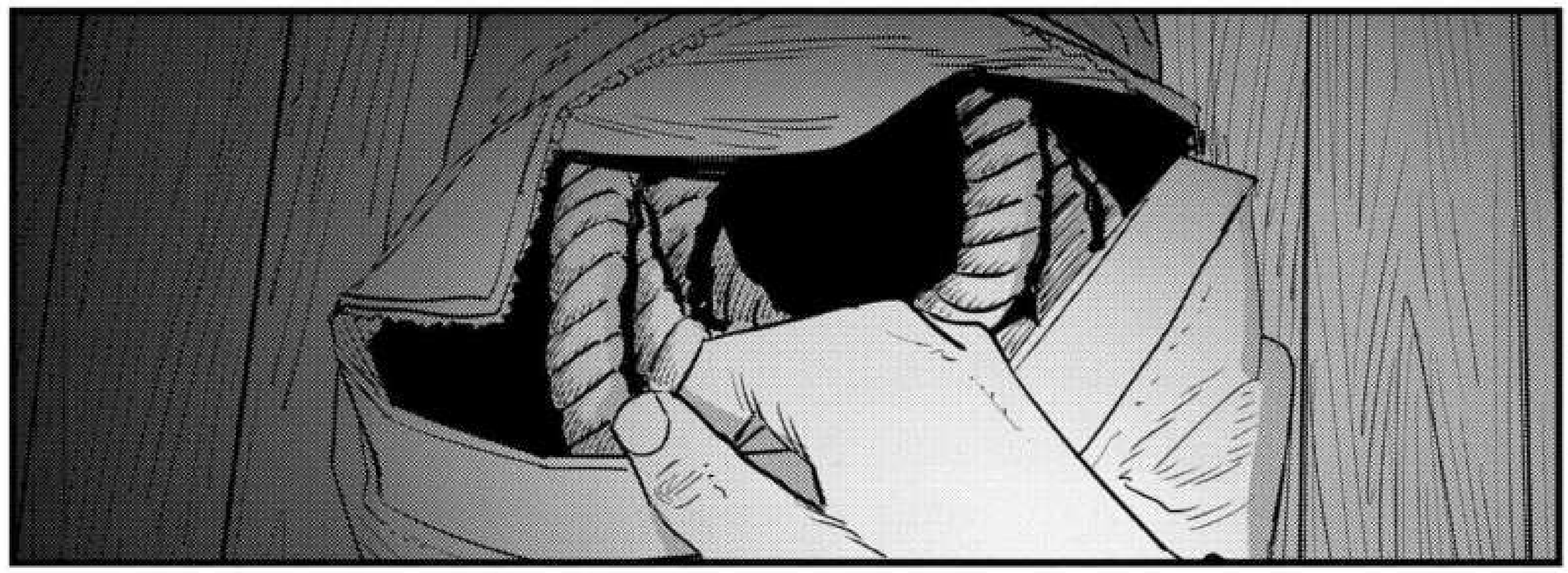


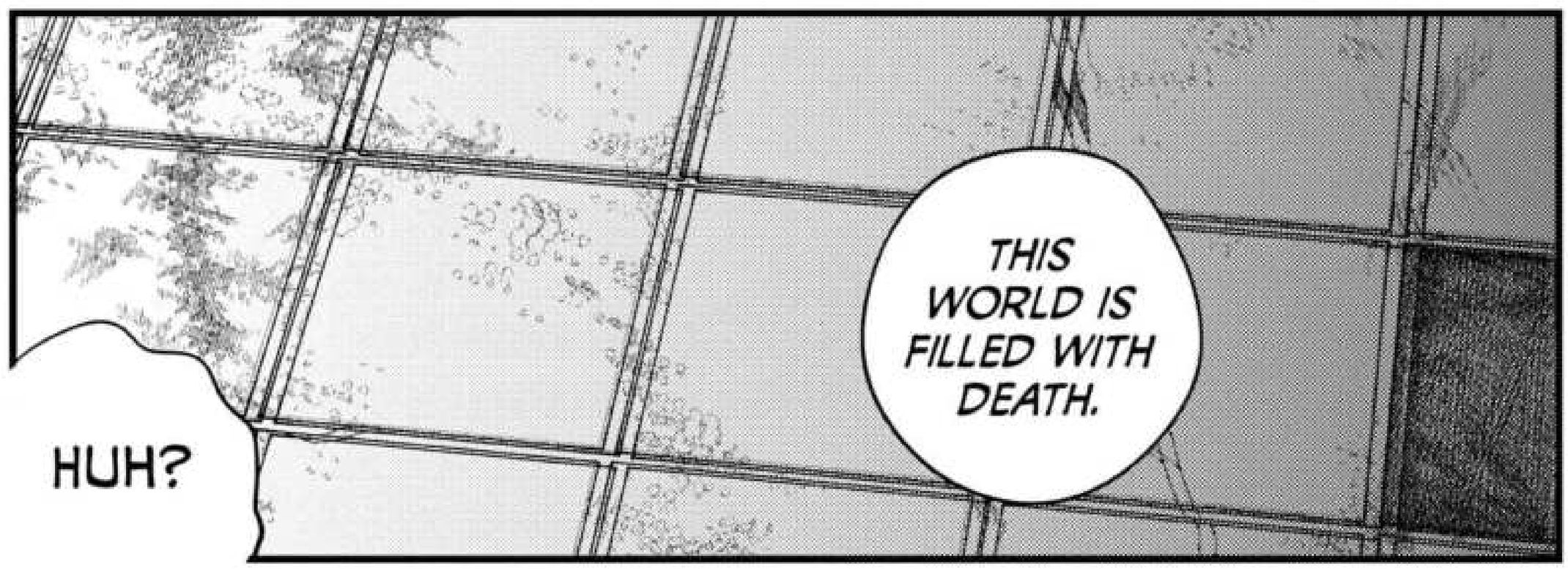






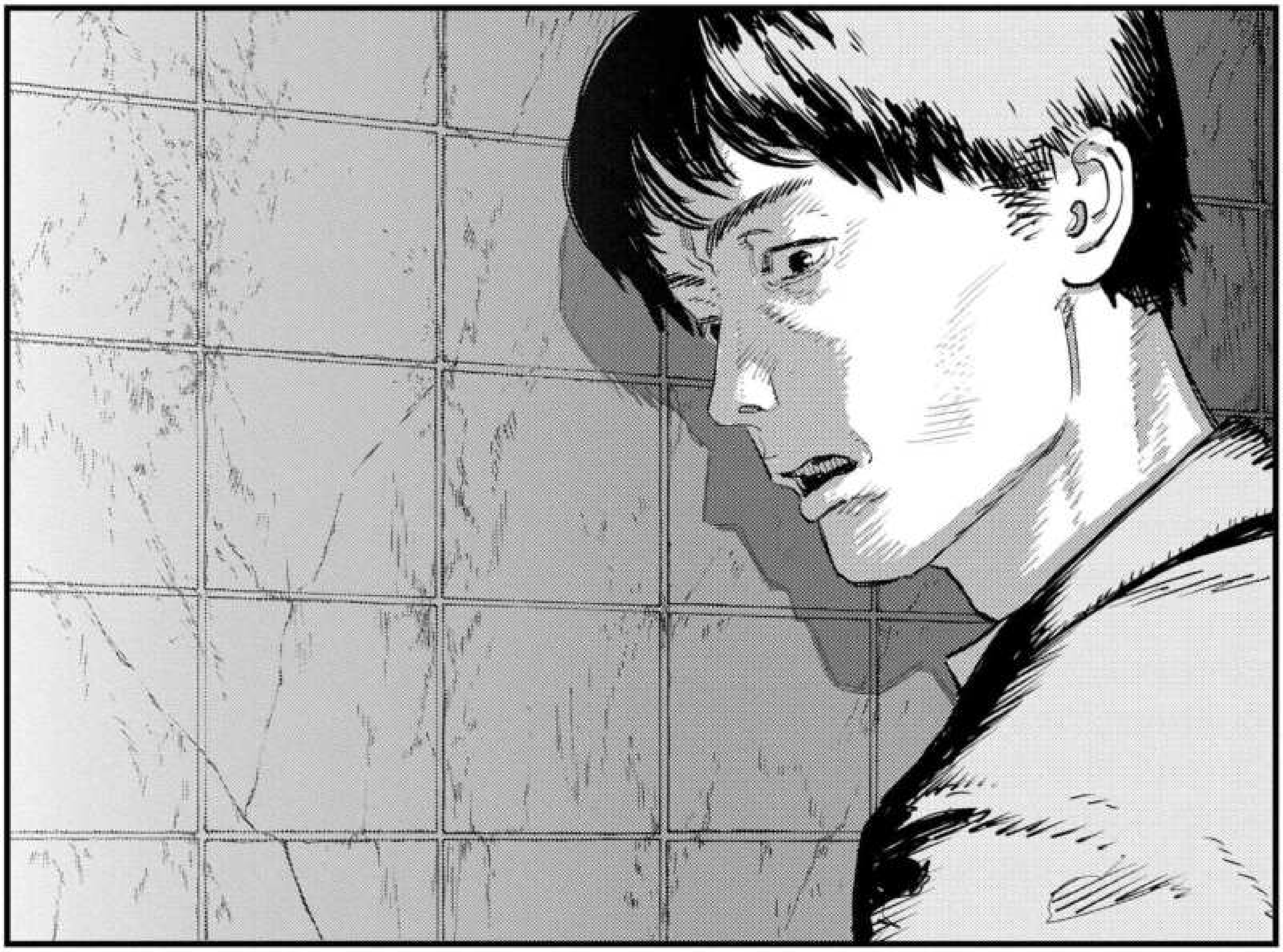


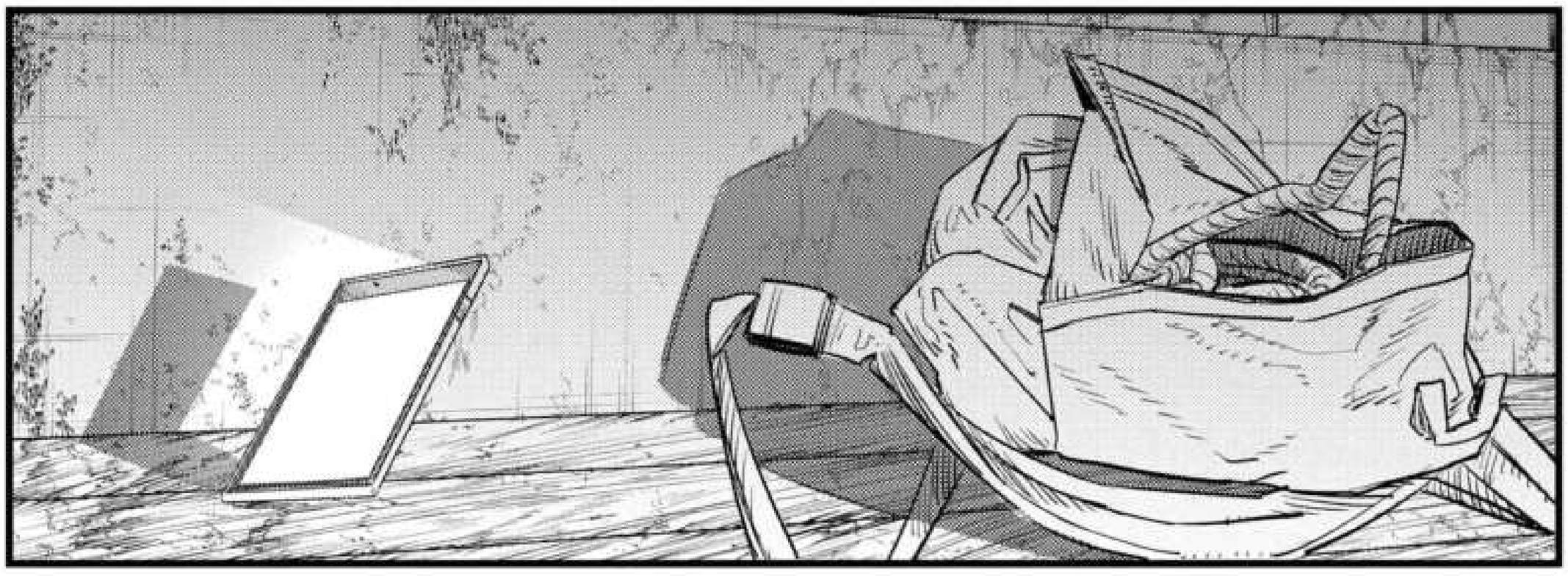


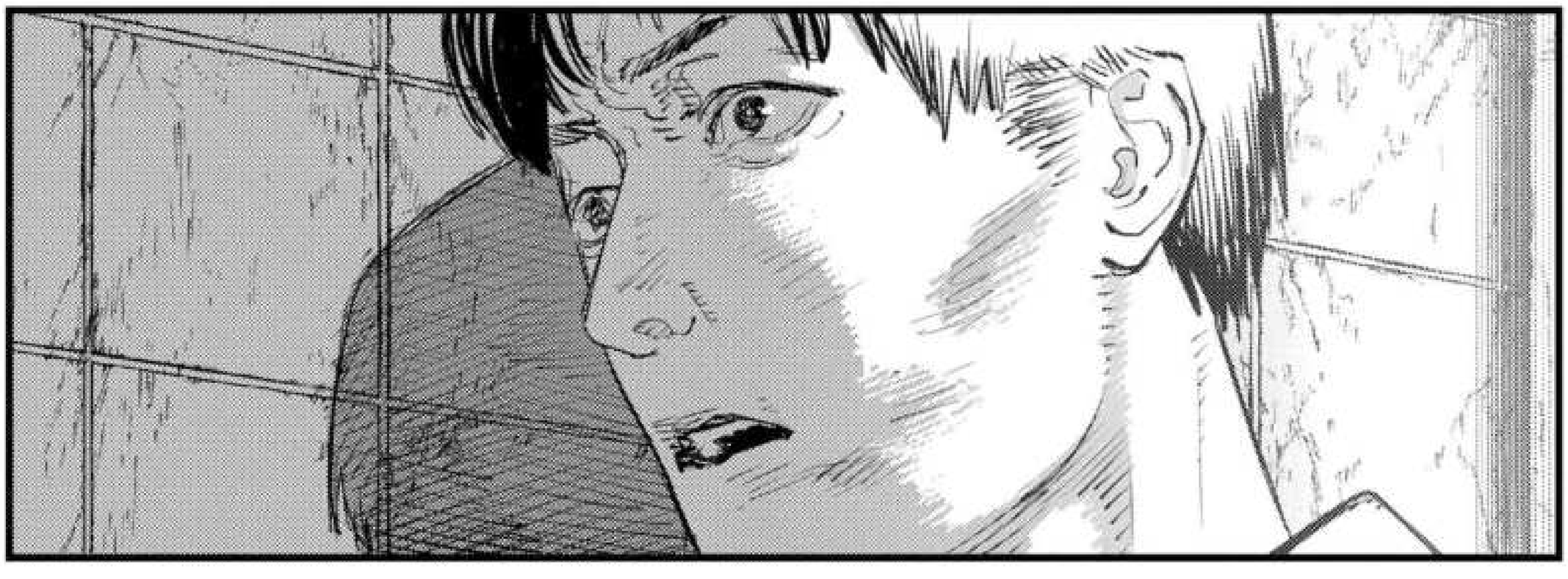

THIS WORLD IS FILLED WITH DEATH.
HUH?

MEMENTO MORI.
GOOD-BYE.
THIS IS YUTA, SIGN-ING OFF.

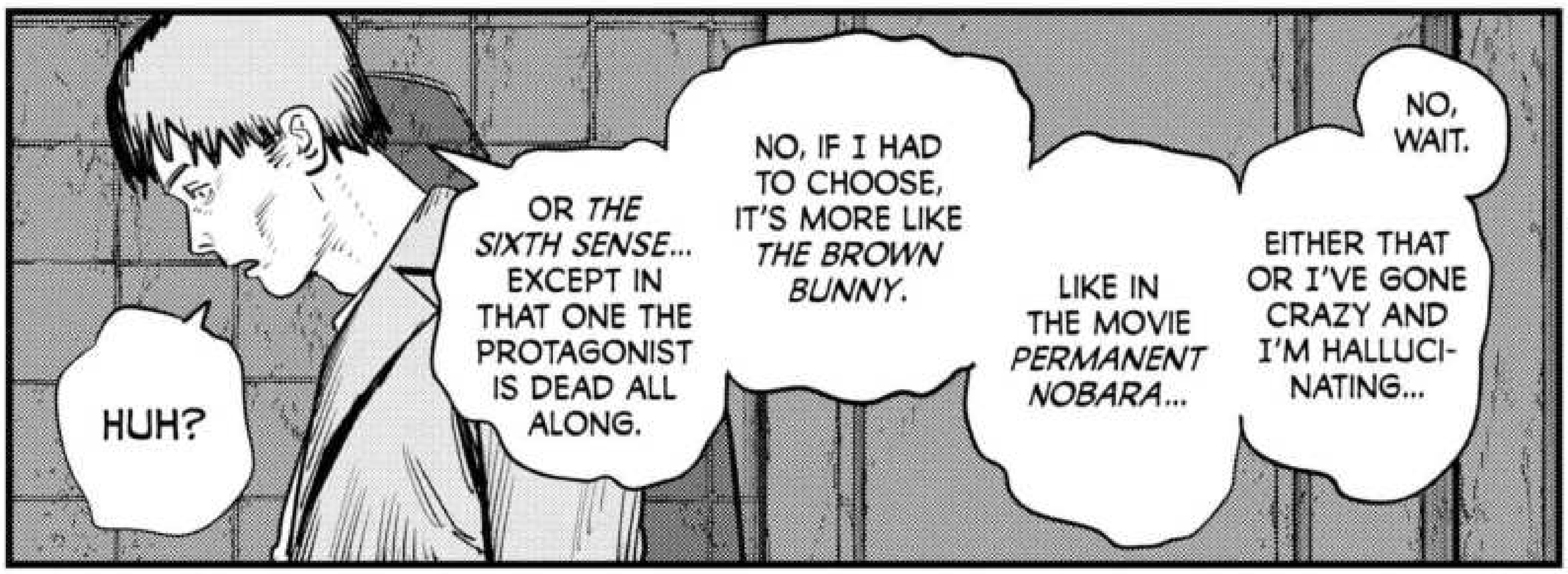
YOU'RE A LOT OLDER THAN YOU WERE BACK THEN.





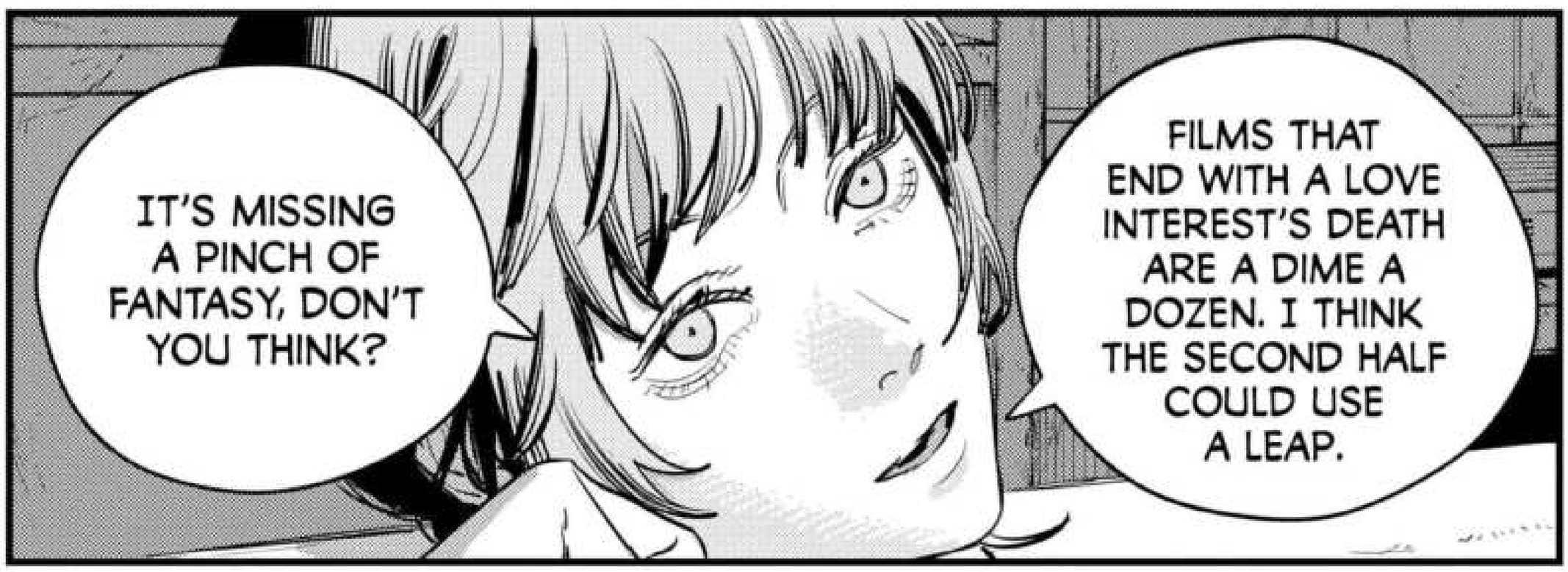


THIS IS A DREAM ...
RIGHT.
OH.
I SEE.
OKAY...


HUH?
OR *THE SIXTH SENSE*... EXCEPT IN THAT ONE THE PROTAGONIST IS DEAD ALL ALONG.
NO, IF I HAD TO CHOOSE, IT'S MORE LIKE *THE BROWN BUNNY*.
LIKE IN THE MOVIE *PERMANENT NOBARA*...
NO, WAIT.
EITHER THAT OR I'VE GONE CRAZY AND I'M HALLUCI-NATING...

THIS MOVIE'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK, BUT IT'S NOT QUITE THERE.

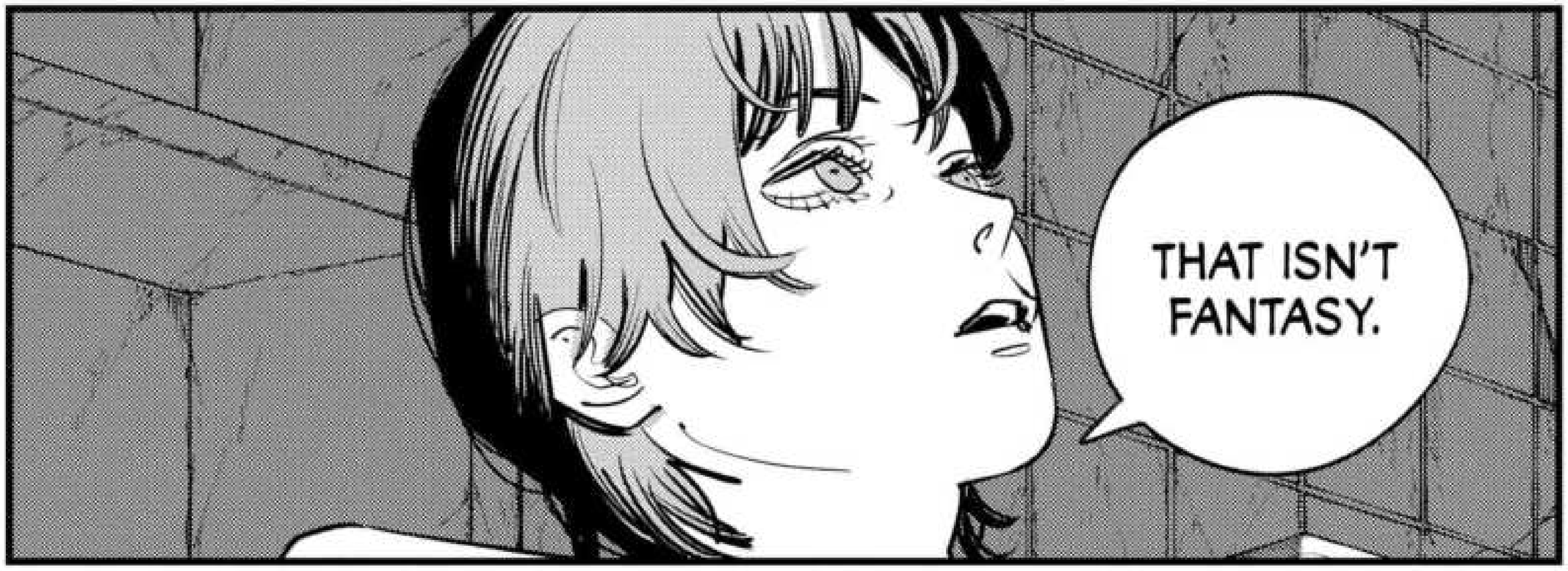
WHAT?
UM... HUH...?
HUH? SURE.


IT'S MISSING A PINCH OF FANTASY, DON'T YOU THINK?
FILMS THAT END WITH A LOVE INTEREST'S DEATH ARE A DIME A DOZEN. I THINK THE SECOND HALF COULD USE A LEAP.

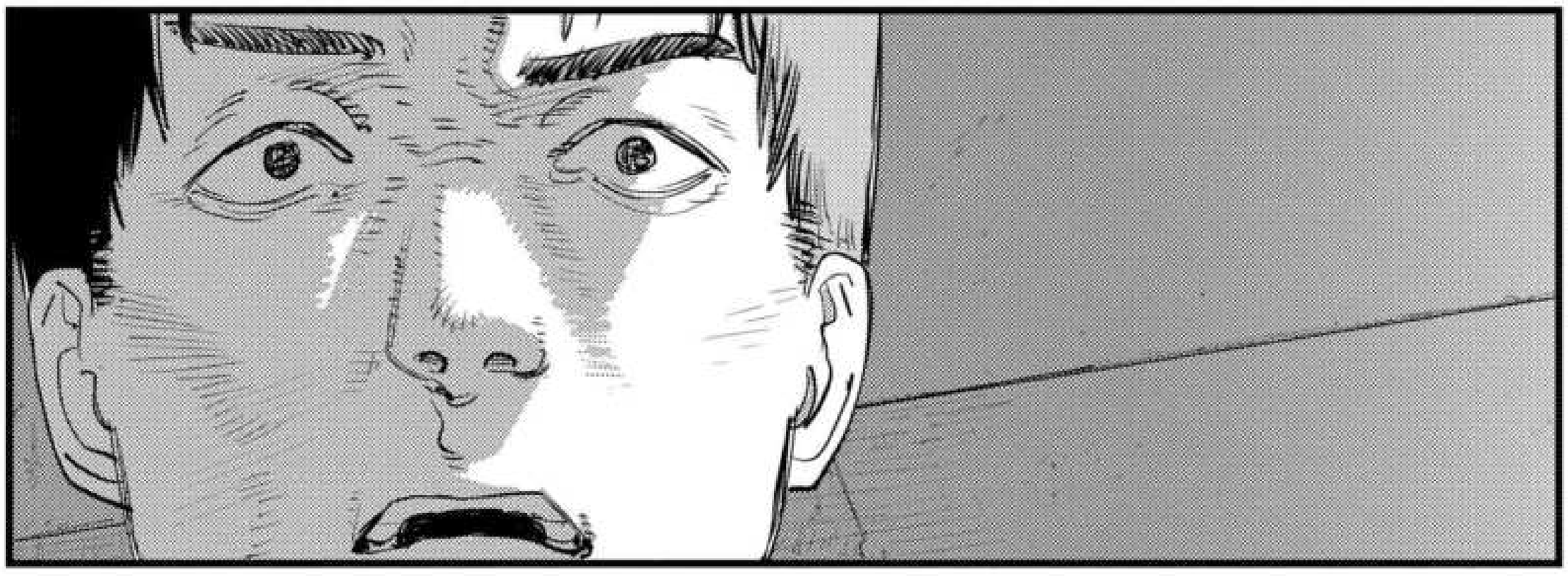
YOU'RE TALKING TO ME?

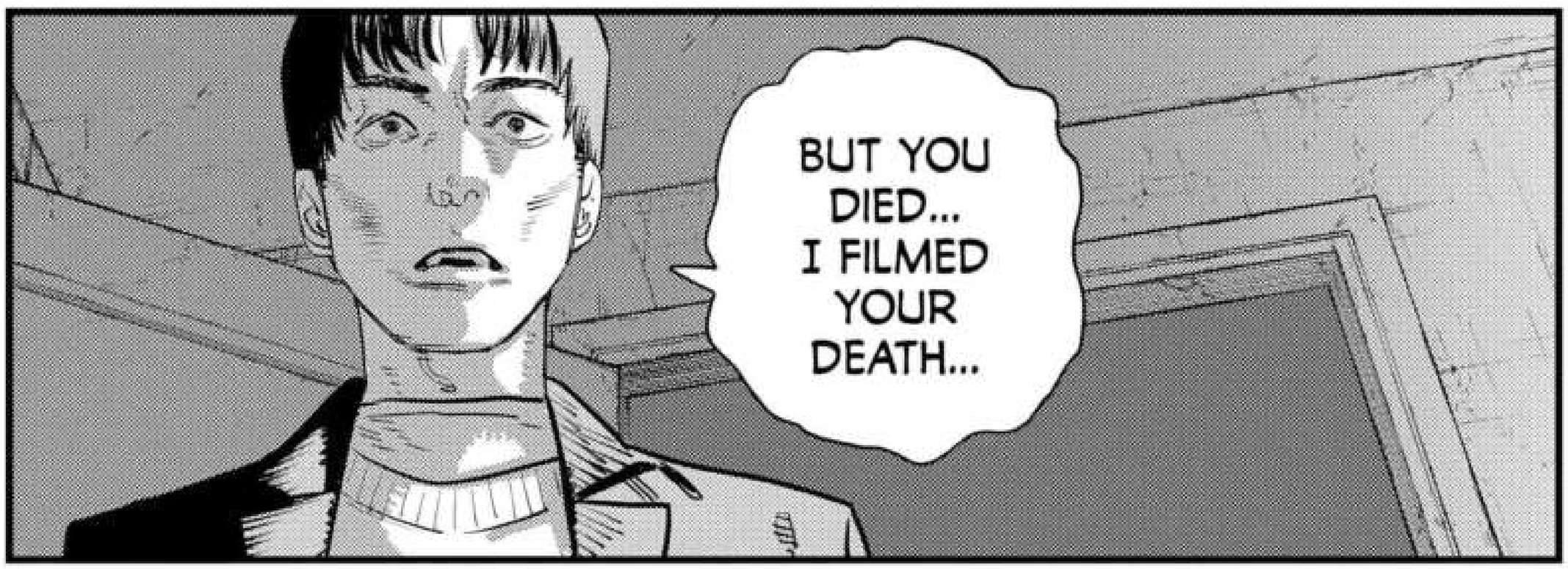
YES, I'M TALKING TO YOU.

I MADE YOU A VAMPIRE...
IT DOES HAVE FANTASY...


THAT ISN'T FANTASY.

I REALLY AM A VAMPIRE.
THE PROOF'S RIGHT HERE. I'M STILL YOUNG, AREN'T I?




BUT YOU DIED... I FILMED YOUR DEATH...

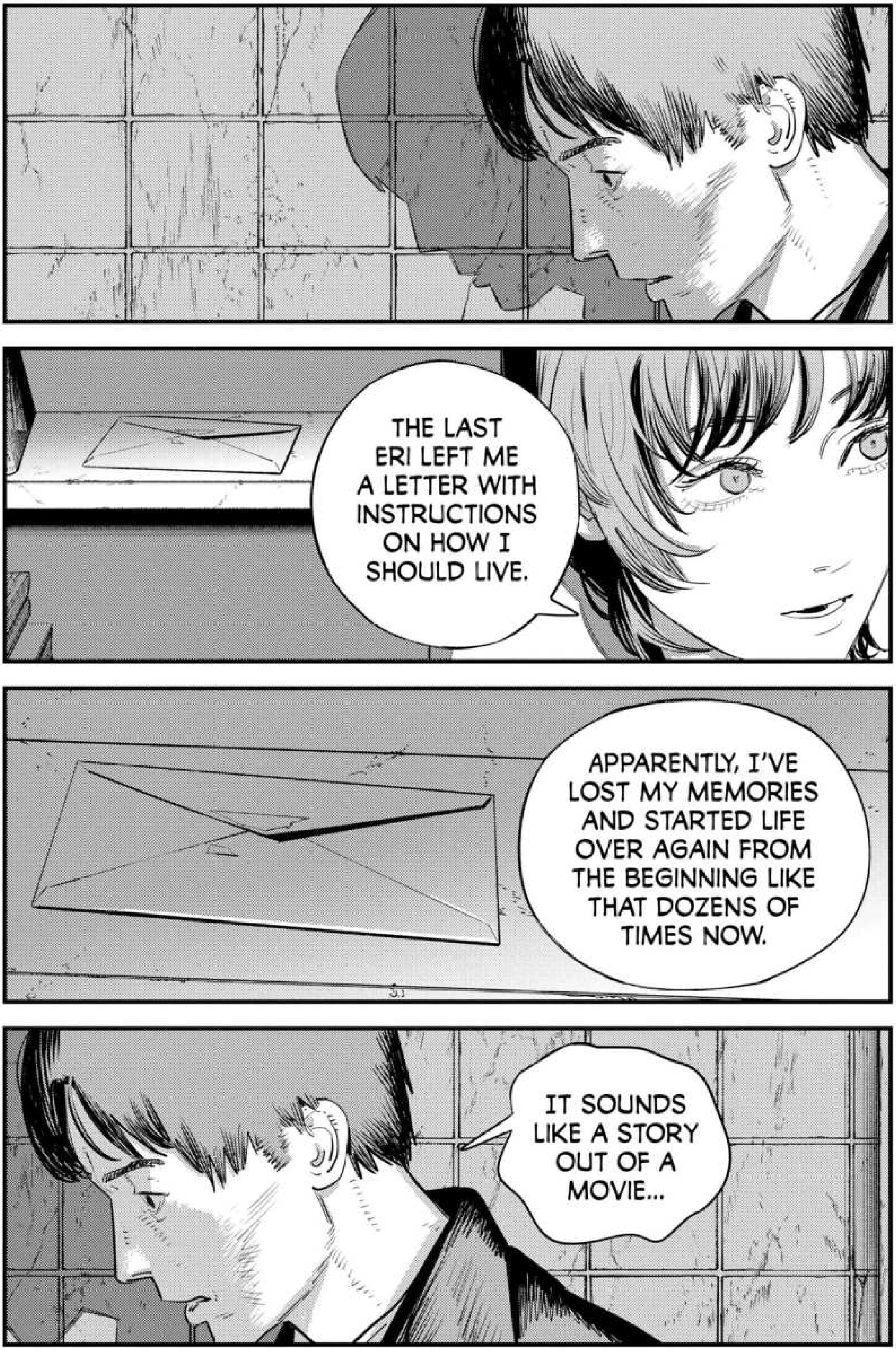
YUP. I DIED.
BUT ONLY UP HERE.

...THE BRAIN HAS LIMITED STORAGE SPACE, JUST LIKE A HARD DRIVE?
DID YOU KNOW ...

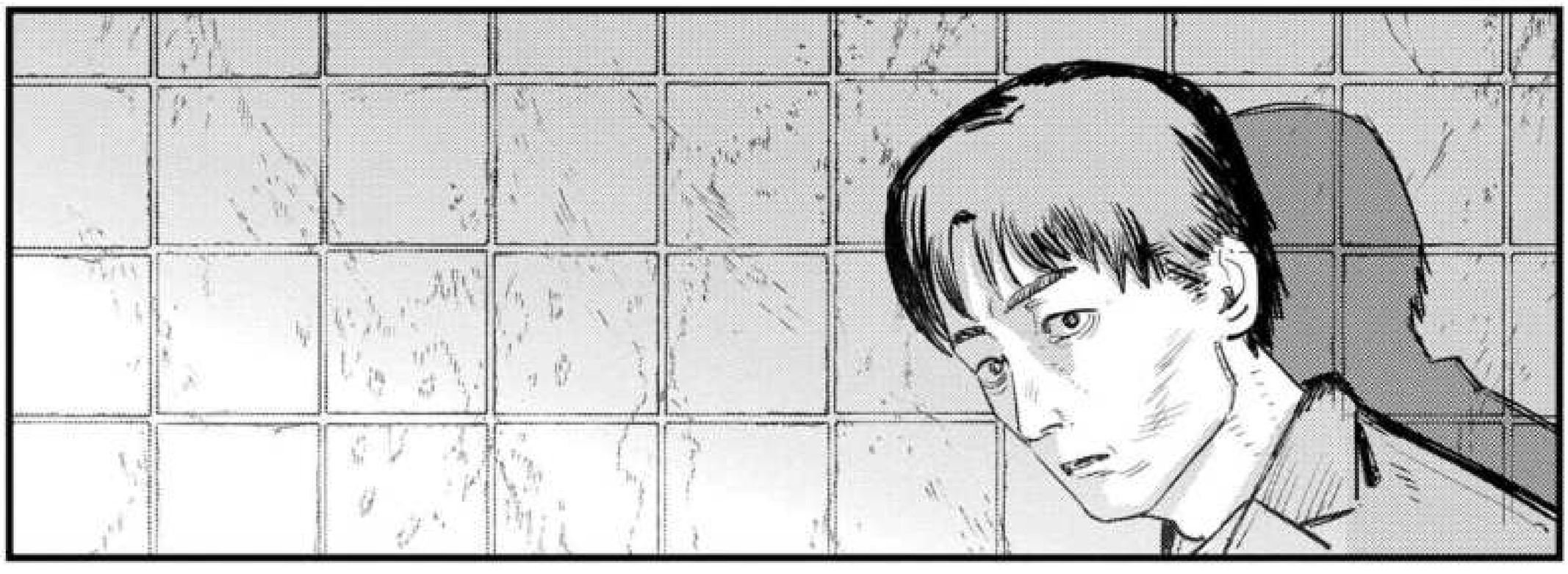
LIKE THE ERI IN THIS MOVIE.
AFTER 200 YEARS OF LIFE, A HUMAN'S BRAIN WOULD FILL TO BURSTING AND KILL THEM.

AS LONG AS MY HEART'S INTACT, I'LL NEVER DIE.
BUT THE REAL ME IS A VAMPIRE, NOT A HUMAN.

...WITH ALL MY MEMORIES GONE.
I REVIVED THREE DAYS LATER...


THE LAST ERI LEFT ME A LETTER WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW I SHOULD LIVE.
APPARENTLY, I'VE LOST MY MEMORIES AND STARTED LIFE OVER AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING LIKE THAT DOZENS OF TIMES NOW.
IT SOUNDS LIKE A STORY OUT OF A MOVIE...

THIS MOVIE WAS LEFT WITH IT.
EXACTLY.
THIS TIME, I HAD MORE THAN JUST A LETTER.



THE MOVIE SHOWED ME WHAT KIND OF PERSON...
...THE LAST ME WAS.

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THIS?

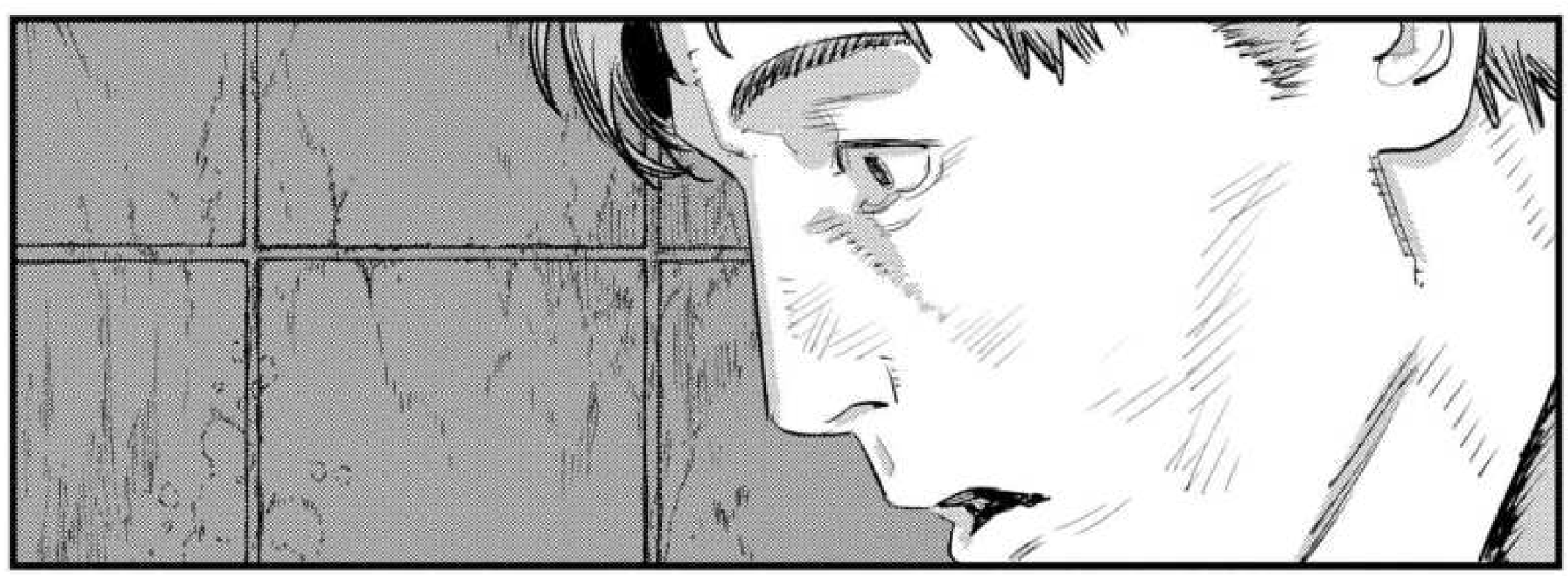
EVERYONE YOU LOVE WILL DIE BEFORE YOU DO...

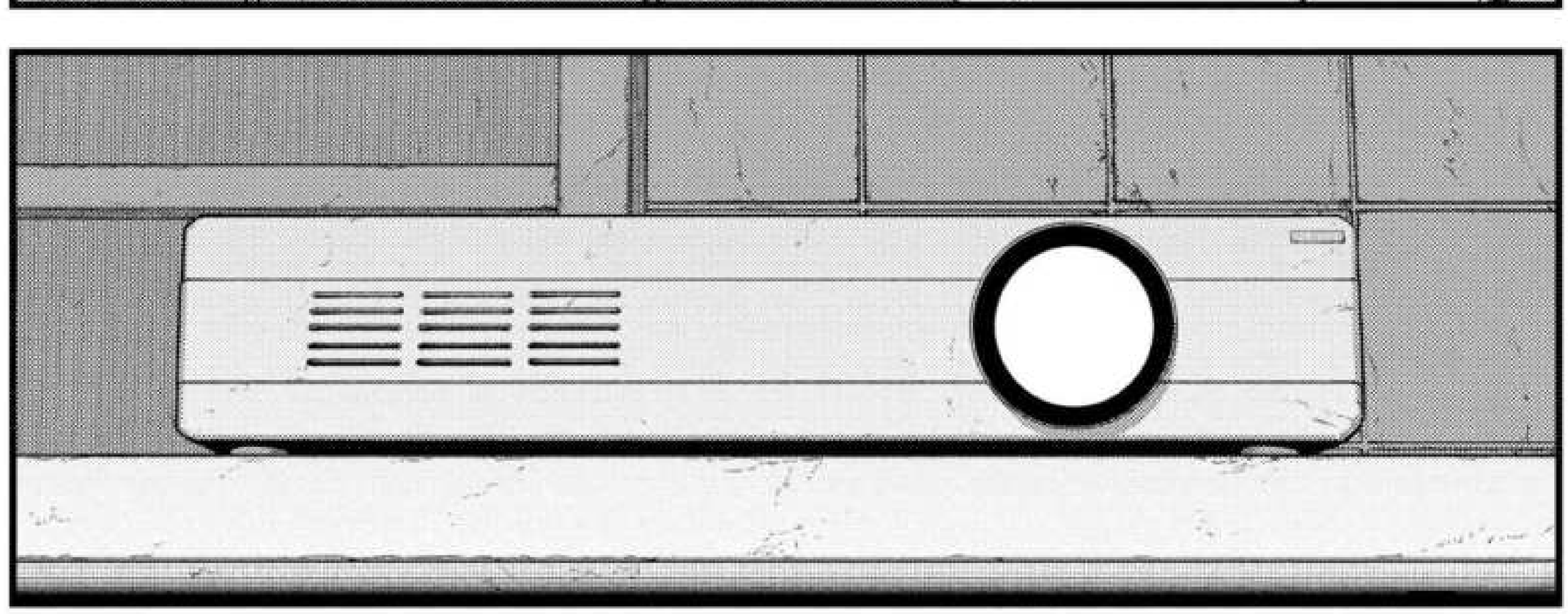
YOUR PARENTS, SWEETHEARTS, FRIENDS, YOU'LL WATCH THEM ALL DIE.

WON'T LIVING LIKE THAT DRIVE YOU TO DESPAIR?

BUT I'LL BE FINE.
I THINK THE LAST ERI MUST HAVE BEEN IN DESPAIR, YES...

BECAUSE I HAVE THIS MOVIE.

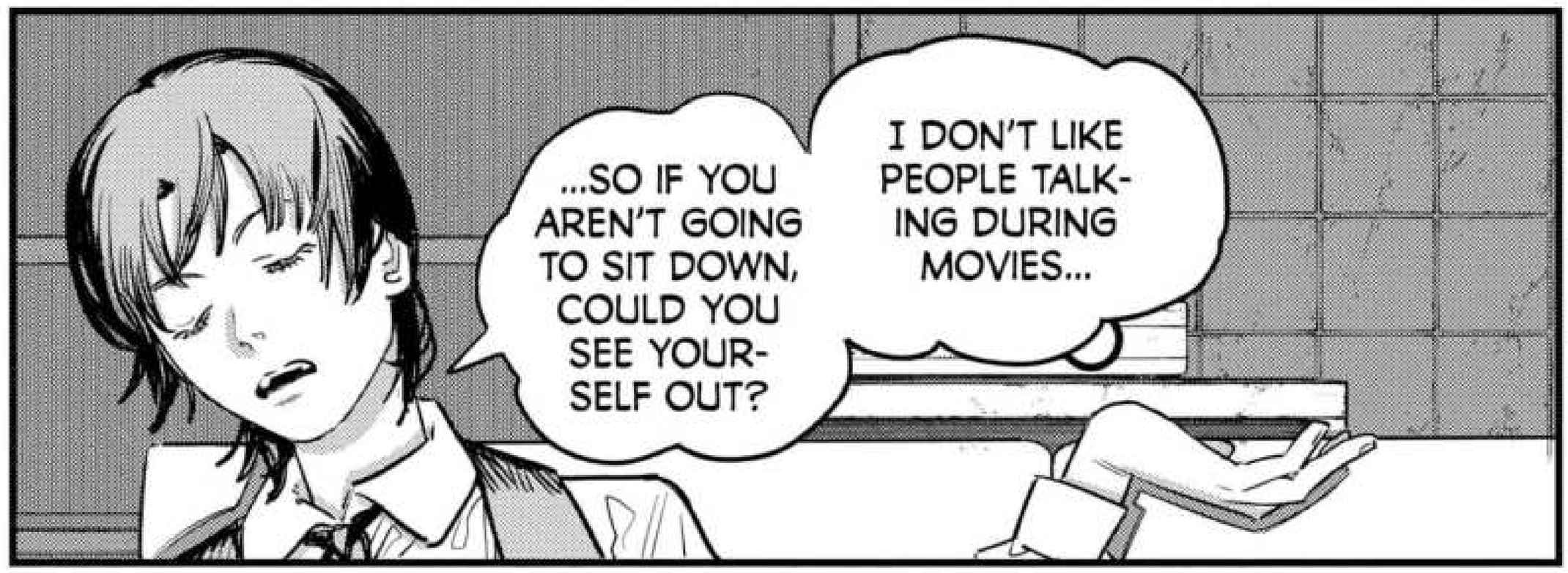




I'LL GET TO SEE YOU EVERY TIME I WATCH IT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I FORGET YOU...
...I'LL REMEMBER YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.

ISN'T THAT BEAUTIFUL?

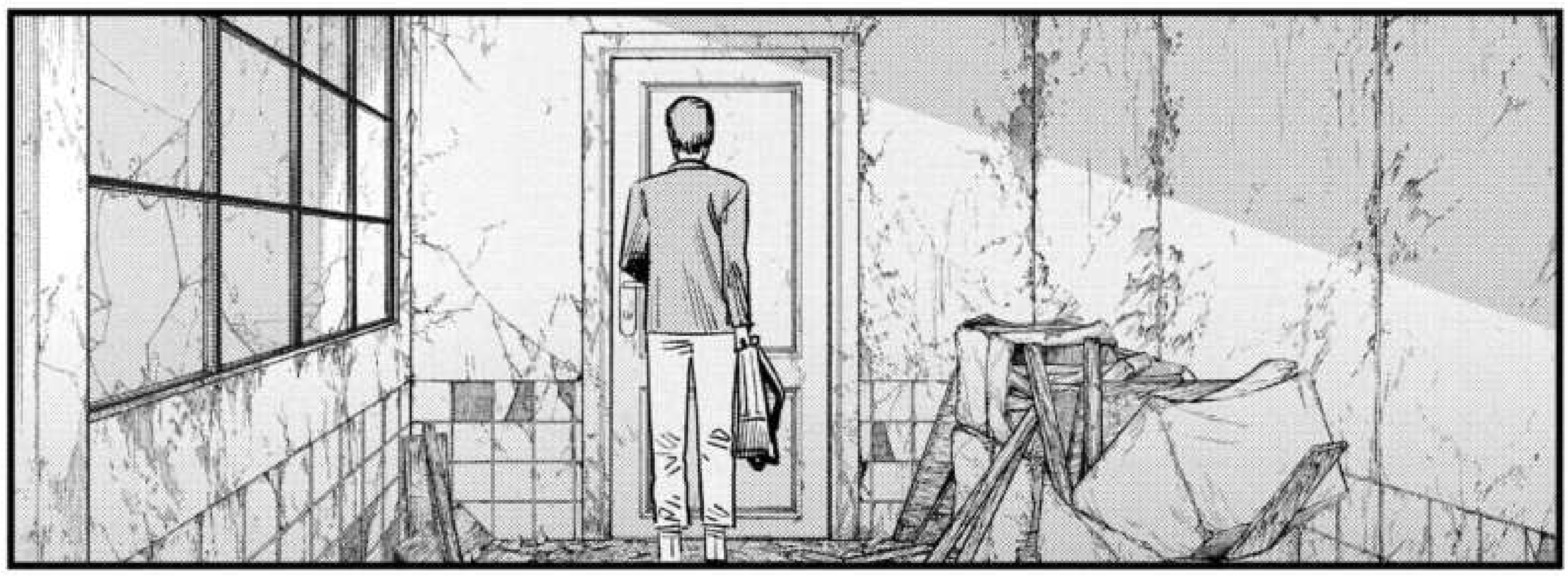
YEAH,
IT IS...
YEAH...

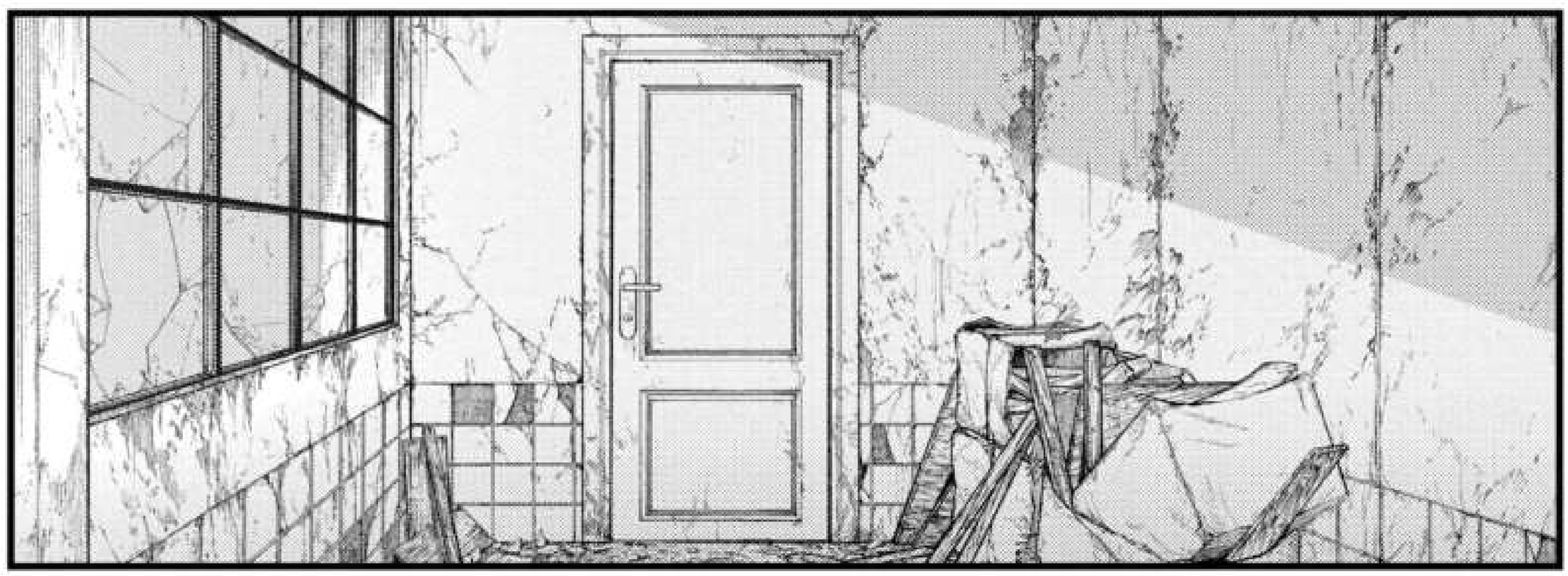

...SO IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO SIT DOWN, COULD YOU SEE YOUR-SELF OUT?
I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TALK-ING DURING MOVIES...

YEAH... I WILL...

GOODBYE...

YEAH...
GOODBYE.





I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN AFTER THAT.

YOU SEE, I'D FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT. THE REASON I'D RECUT THAT FILM SO MANY TIMES.

IT'S MISSING A PINCH OF FANTASY, DON'T YOU THINK?

THE END

CREATOR TATSUKI FUJIMOTO

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TORU KURAMORI
RONI
MISAKI YOSHIMURA
AIMI URYU
ATSUKA YAMAGATA
SOU NISHIDA
HAJIME YAMAMOTO

GOODBYE, ERI

TATSUKI FUJIMOTO won Honorable Mention in the November 2013 Shueisha Crown Newcomers' Awards for his debut one-shot story, "Love Is Blind." His first series, *Fire Punch*, ran for eight volumes. His breakout hit *Chainsaw Man* began serialization in 2018 in *Weekly Shonen Jump*. The award-winning *Look Back* was published in 2021.

GOODBYE, ERI

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, June 2023

PARENTAL ADVISORY
GOODBYE, ERI is rated T+ and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains death and suicidal ideation.