



YOU STILL
SOUND VERY
AMATEURISH,
BUT...

...THAT'S
WHAT
CAUGHT
OUR
ATTENTION.

I
LISTENED
TO THE CD
YOU SENT.

IT'S
QUITE
GOOD.



I
CALLED
YOU IN FOR
ANOTHER
REASON.



YOU
IN THE
MIDDLE...
YOU THE
VOCALIST?

UH,
YES.

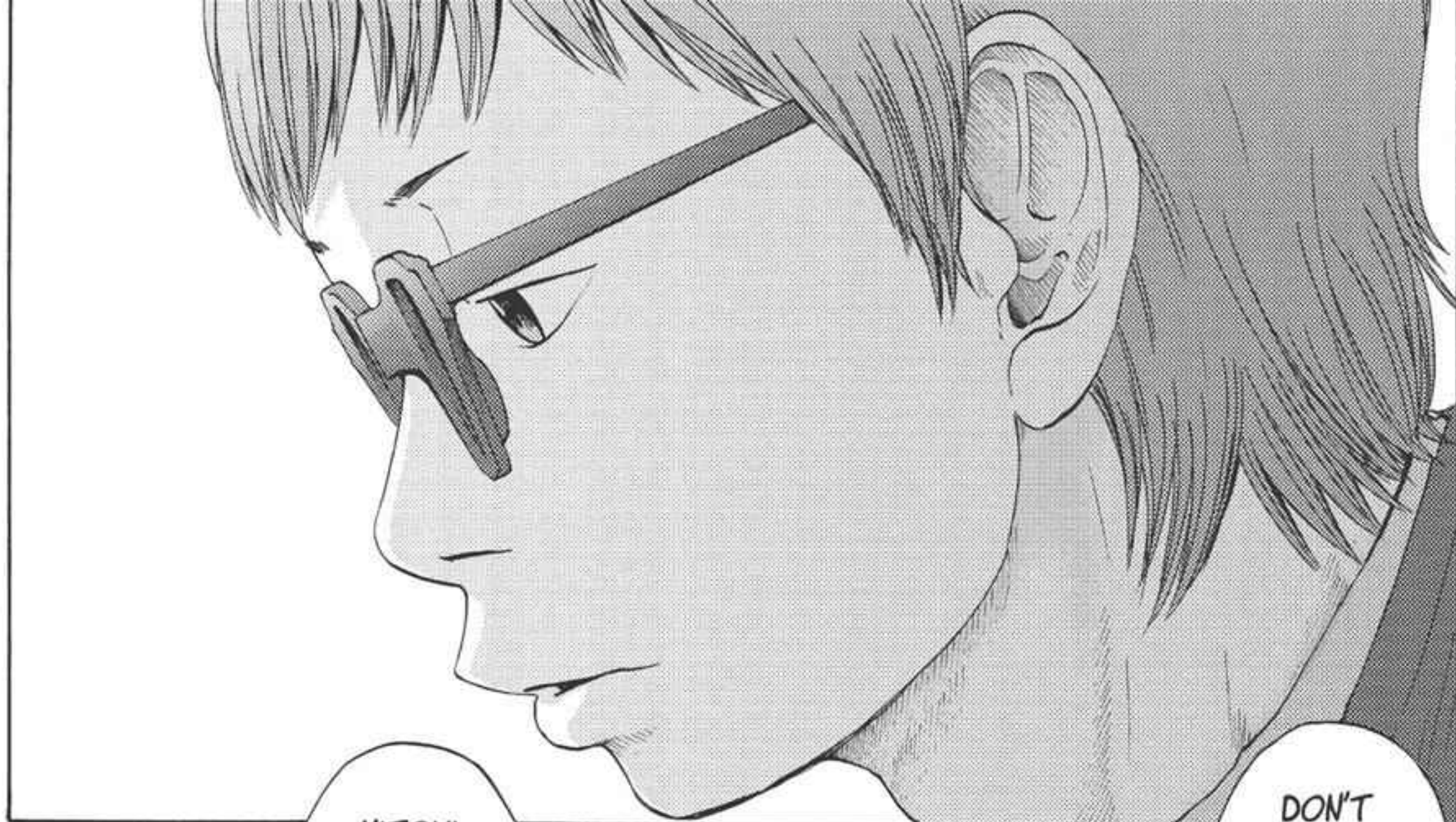


I WANT
YOU TO
FORGET
ABOUT
SINGING.

OKAY.
HERE'S
THE
THING...

11





SHE'S
GOING TO
WRITE HER OWN
SONGS, AND
WE'LL MARKET
HER AS A
SINGER/
SONGWRITER.

HITOMI
USED TO
PERFORM
IN HER HIGH
SCHOOL
BAND AT
SCHOOL
FESTIVALS.



SHE
WANTS
THINGS TO
SOUND LIVE,
EDGY.

DON'T
WORRY.
WE'RE NOT
PLANNING TO
TURN HER INTO
A PATHETIC
PLASTIC
SINGER.

WELL...
CAN YOU
HAVE AN
ANSWER
READY IN FIVE
MINUTES?

TANEDA...

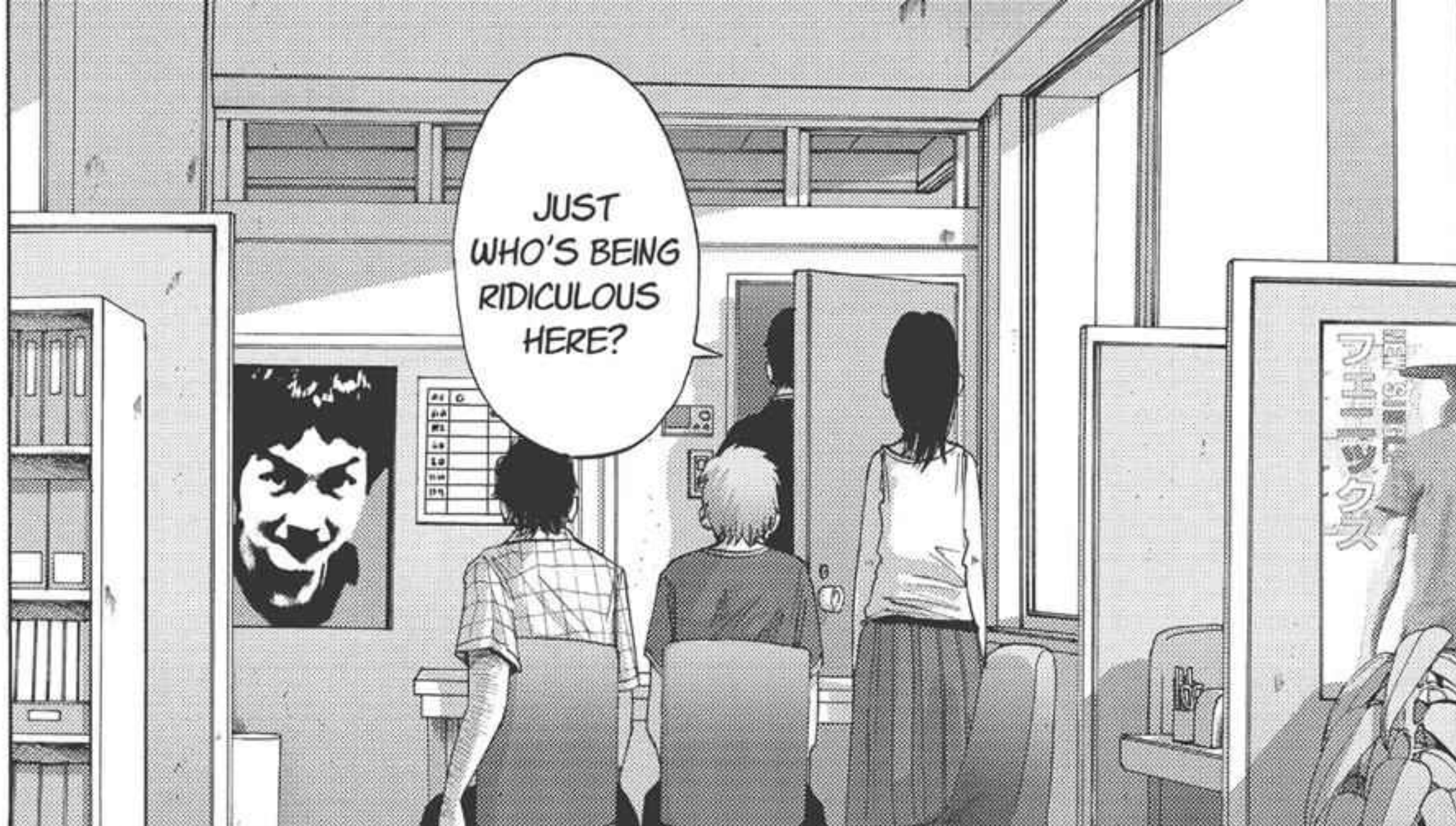


NO,
I...



BY
THE WAY...
ARE YOU
IN THE
BAND
TOO?









WE WERE
AN INDIE BAND
THAT COULDN'T
ADAPT TO THE
MAINSTREAM.

I STILL
LISTEN
TO THEM
SOMETIMES.

I
HAVE
ALL OF
YOUR
CDS.

WE
BROKE
UP FIVE
YEARS
AGO.

SO,
SOME
PEOPLE
STILL
REMEMBER.



...YOU'RE ONE
OF THE REASONS
I DECIDED TO
GO INTO MUSIC
IN HIGH SCHOOL.

IT
SOUNDS
LAME,
BUT...

...BUT
THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT
WAS SO COOL
ABOUT IT.

YOUR MUSIC
WAS HEAVILY
WESTERN-
INFLUENCED,
AND THAT'S
NOT POPULAR
WITH THE
AVERAGE
JAPANESE...



WHY...

...IS
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU
ACTING LIKE
A TOTAL
CORPORATE
SELL-OUT
NOW?!

SO I
HAD AT
LEAST ONE
ENTHUSIASTIC
FAN...



THE CDS AND
CONCERTS THE
RECORD COMPANY
PRODUCED FOR
US STOPPED
FEELING REAL.

I WASN'T
MADE TO STAND
BACK AND LET
OTHERS TAKE
THE LEAD.



SO IS
MONEY THE
ONLY THING
THAT FEELS
REAL TO
YOU?!

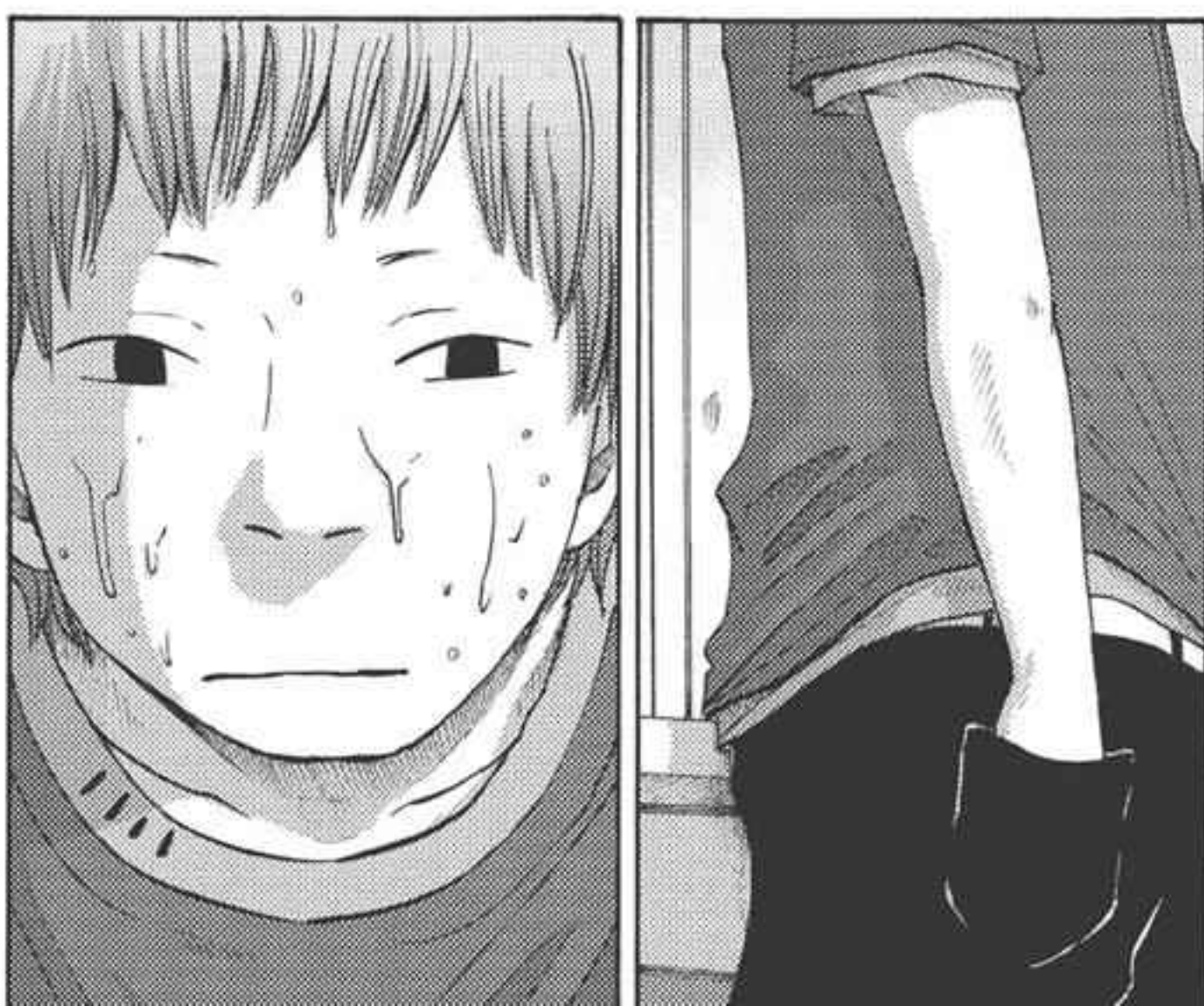


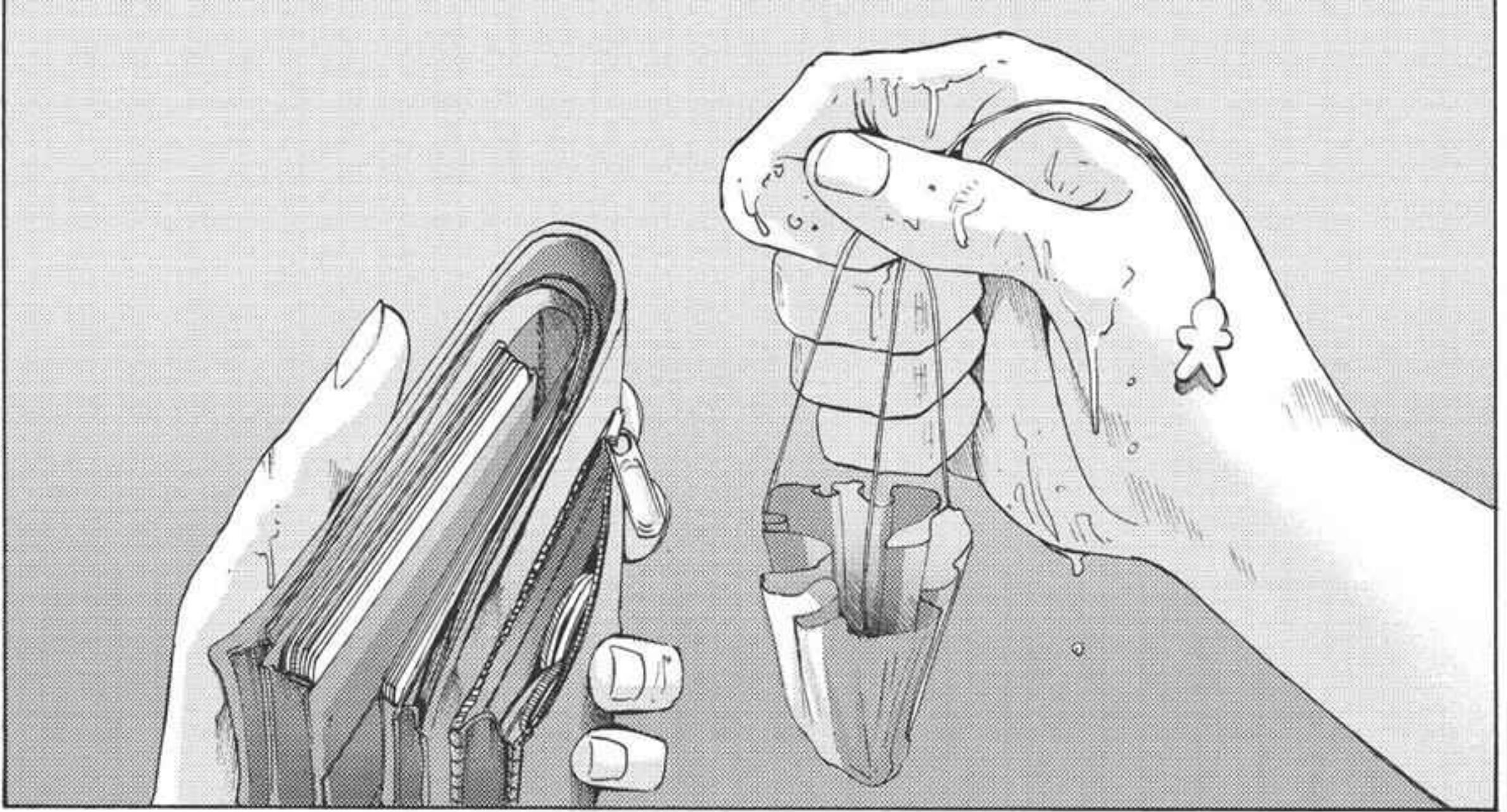
YOU AND
I ARE A
LITTLE
ALIKE.

...AND
LOOKED TO
SOMETHING
MORE
IMPORTANT.

I
STOPPED
FOCUSING
ON MY
PRIDE...

MY
PRIORITIES
CHANGED.





...can
throw quite
a curve ball.

Sometimes
the god of
chance...

I hardly
know what
to say.

...I wonder
what things
would be
like now.

If I
hadn't
said
anything
then...

OH!
THERE, IN
THE SKY!

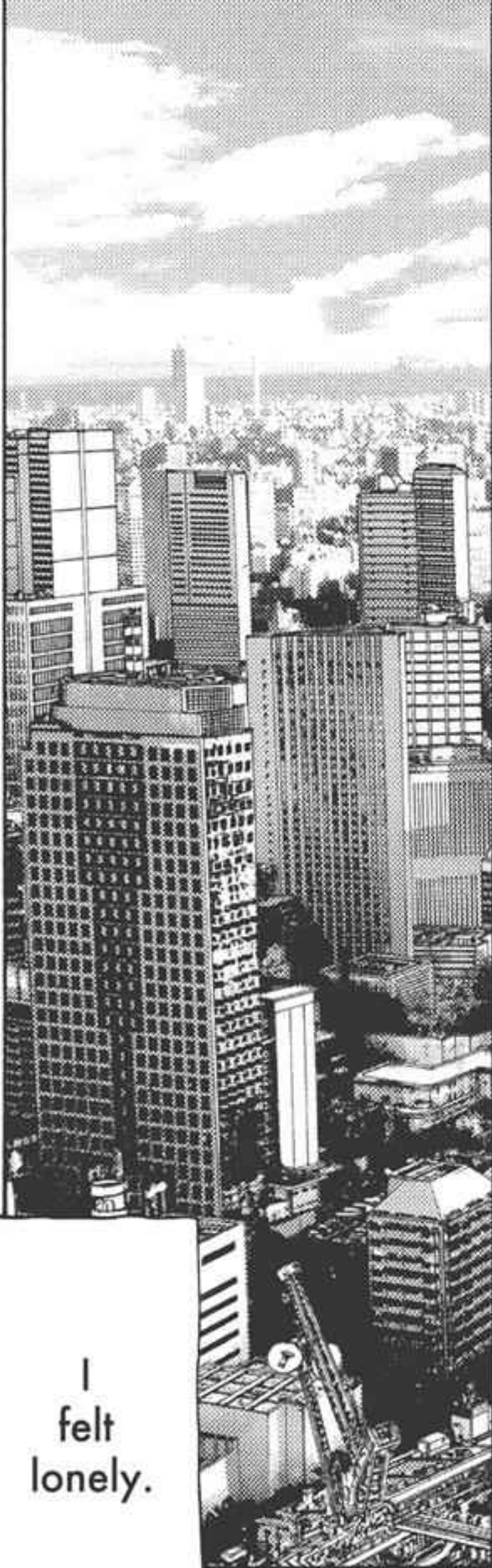
HMPH,
IT'S
NOTHING
BUT A
LITTLE
UFO.

WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
CALL IT
WHAT IT IS—
A TOY PARA-
TROOPER?

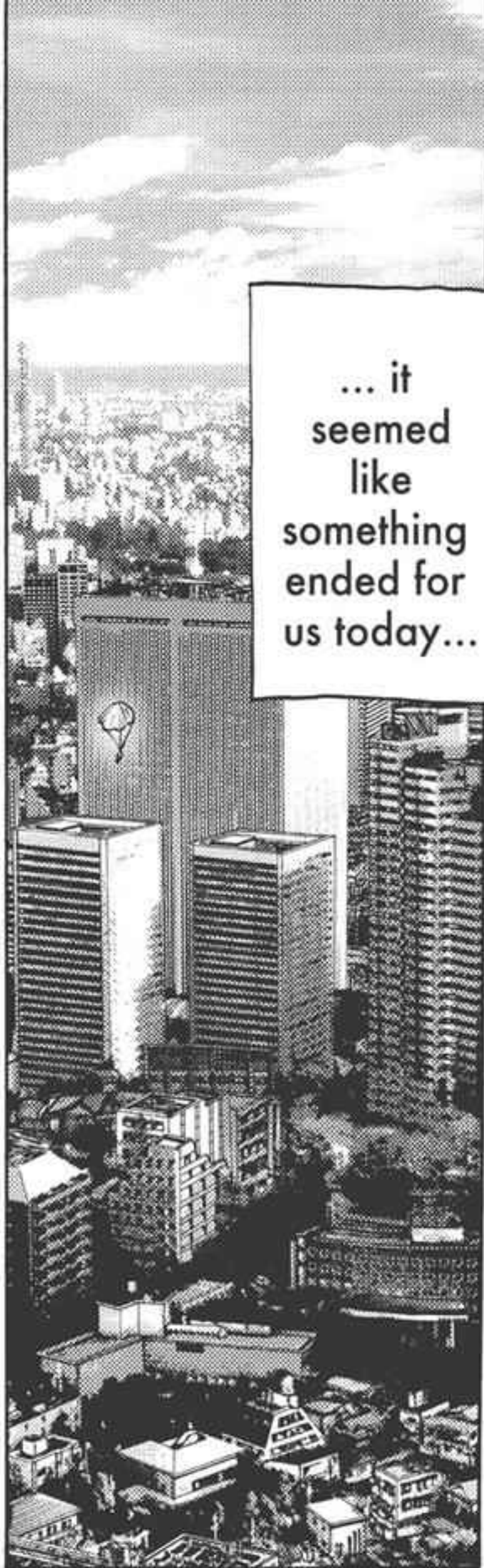
RIP...

WHERE?
WHERE?!

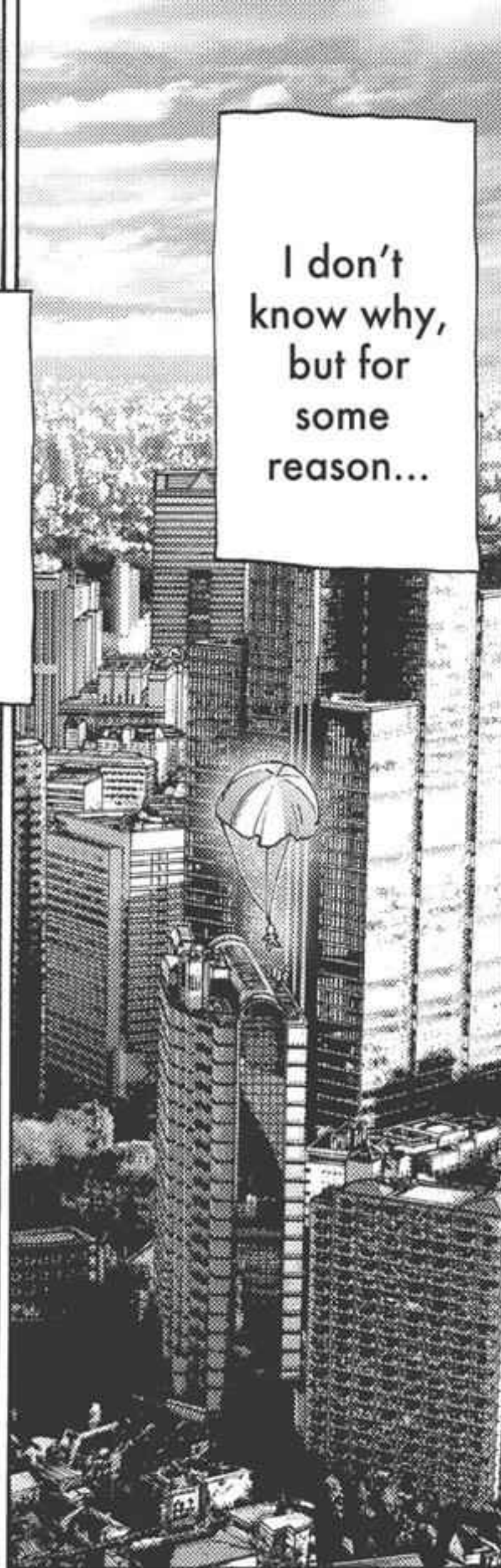




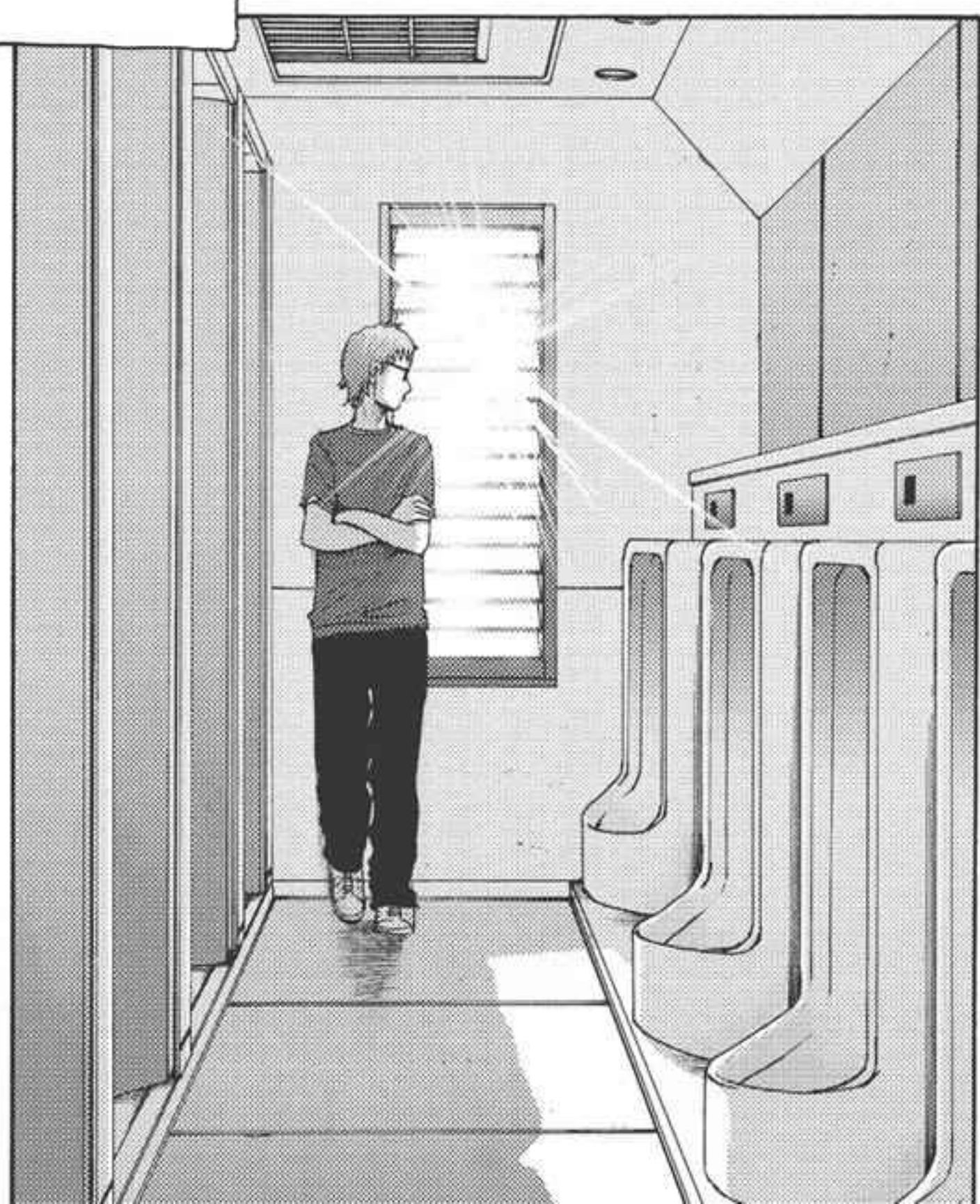
I
felt
lonely.



... it
seemed
like
something
ended for
us today...



I don't
know why,
but for
some
reason...





... when
we'd be
able to
look back
at this
day and
laugh.

... that
the time
would
come ...

...I
secretly
prayed ...

With
Taneda
acting so
upbeat...

