



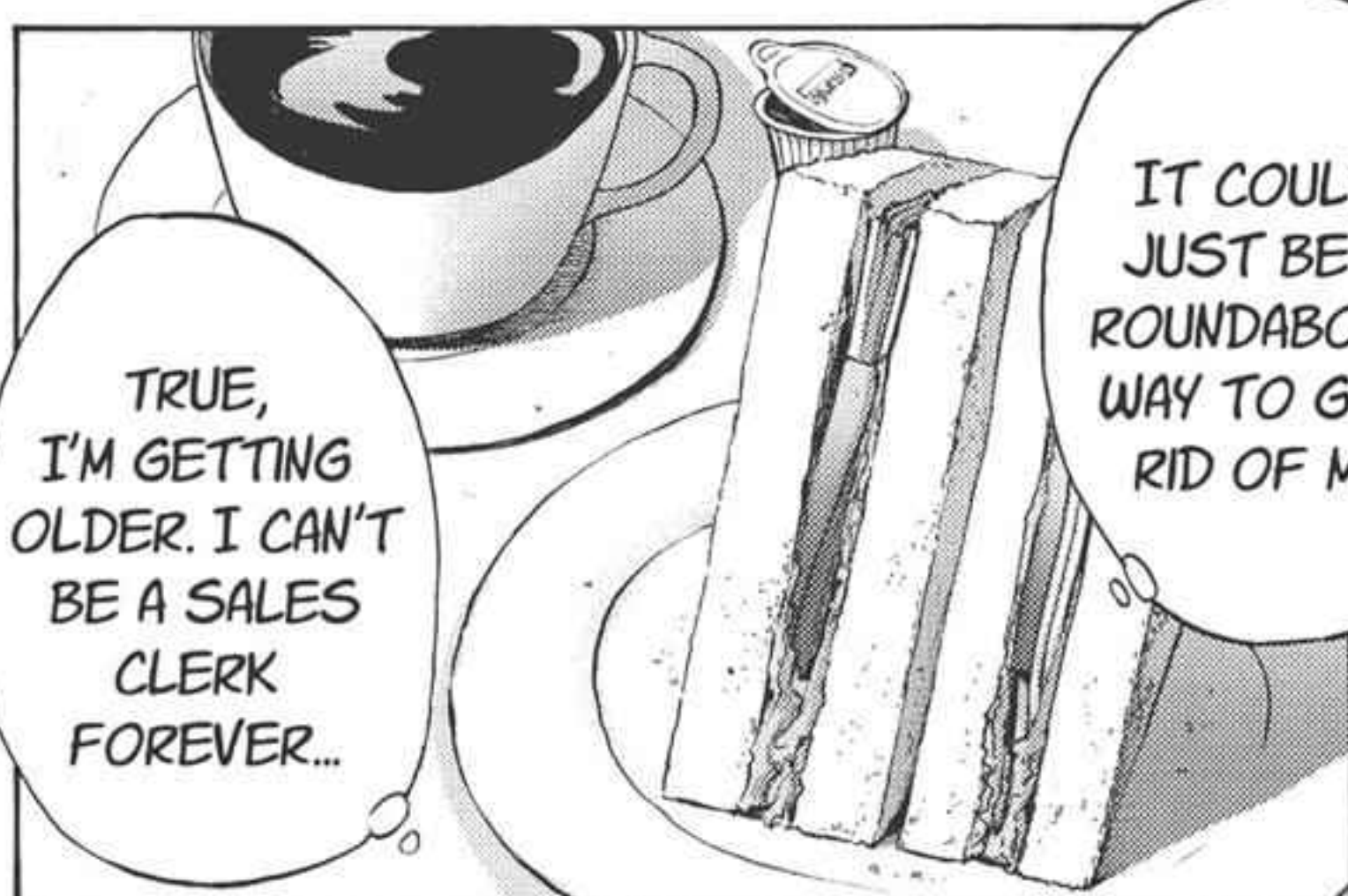
MISS  
KOTANI...

...CAN I  
SEE YOU  
A MINUTE?



WHAT  
IS IT,  
SIR?

Your  
nipple's  
showing.



TRUE,  
I'M GETTING  
OLDER. I CAN'T  
BE A SALES  
CLERK  
FOREVER...

IT COULD  
JUST BE A  
ROUNDAABOUT  
WAY TO GET  
RID OF ME.

He asked me if  
I was interested  
in giving up my  
sales position  
next spring and  
moving to the  
Sendai head  
office.



I  
WONDER  
IF I CAN  
DEAL WITH AN  
OFFICE JOB  
AND A LONG-  
DISTANCE  
RELATION-  
SHIP...

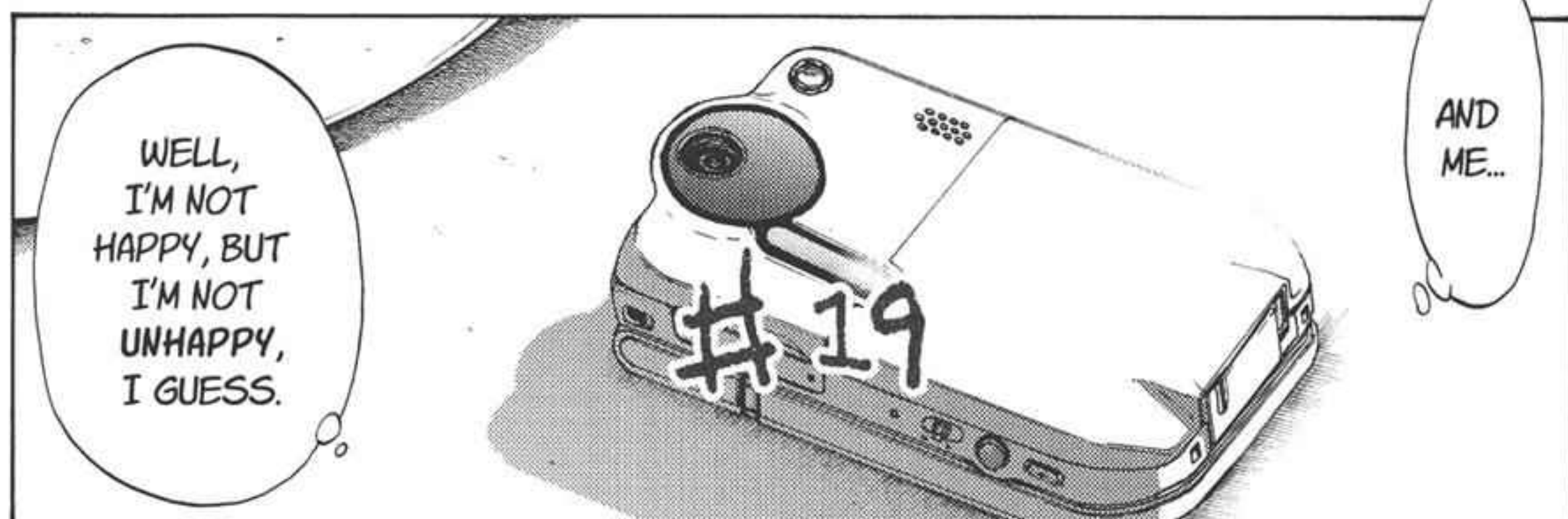




I  
WONDER  
HOW MANY OF  
THEM CAN SAY  
THEY ARE  
SINCERELY  
HAPPY.

THE CITY  
IS JUST  
OVERFLOWING  
WITH  
PEOPLE...

...BUT  
I'LL BET  
ALL OF  
THEM HAVE  
PROBLEMS,  
BIG AND  
SMALL...



WELL,  
I'M NOT  
HAPPY, BUT  
I'M NOT  
UNHAPPY,  
I GUESS.

AND  
ME...

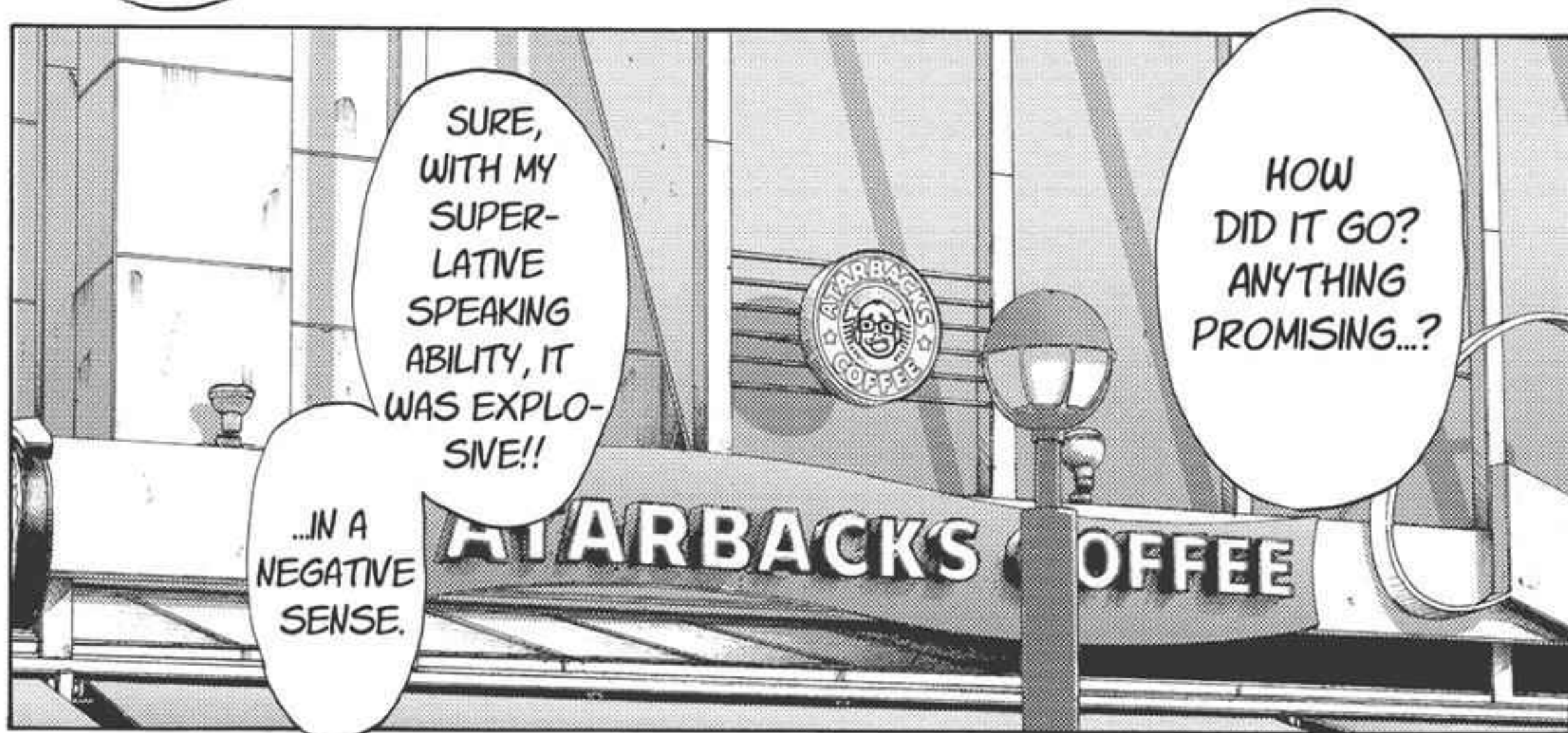


SORRY  
TO KEEP  
YOU  
WAITING...



I  
WONDER  
IF IT WAS  
EVEN WORTH  
CALLING KATO  
OVER TO  
DISCUSS  
THIS.









YOU  
WERE SO  
OPPOSED  
TO WORKING,  
AND THEN ALL  
OF A  
SUDDEN...

YOUR ROUGH  
EDGES HAVE  
REALLY BEEN  
SMOOTHED OUT,  
HAVEN'T THEY?

I  
CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU'RE  
JOB  
HUNTING...

OF COURSE,  
YOU'VE ALWAYS  
BEEN TUBBY.

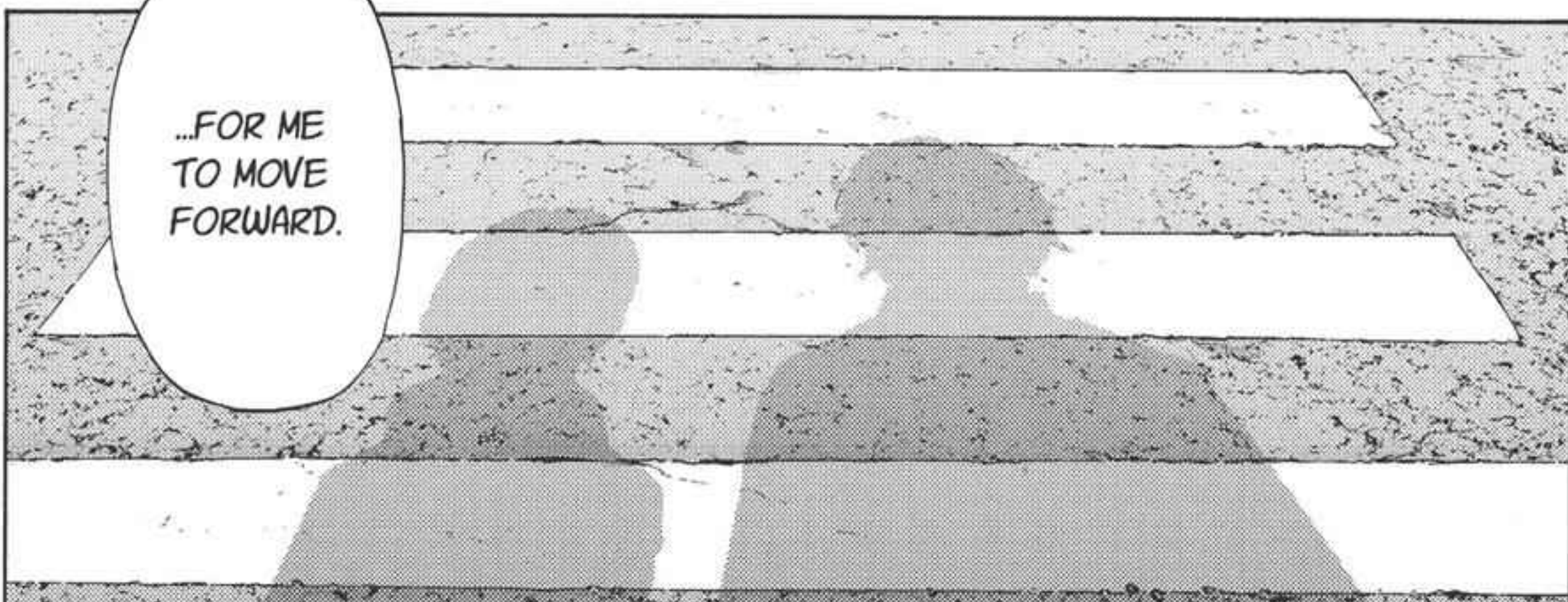


HMM...  
IT'S  
STRANGE.



WHEN WE  
LOSE  
SOMETHING,  
I THINK WE  
GET AN URGE  
TO FIND  
SOMETHING  
ELSE TO FILL  
THE VOID.

AND...  
I  
GUESS  
IT'S  
TIME...



...FOR ME  
TO MOVE  
FORWARD.





I CAN'T  
JUST STAND  
HERE DOING  
NOTHING WHEN  
THAT GUY  
IGNORED THE  
STOPLIGHT...

...IN HIS  
HURRY TO  
GET TO  
THE OTHER  
SIDE.



OF  
COURSE...  
HE DIDN'T  
MAKE IT  
ACROSS.



UH OH...  
LET'S  
TAKE  
ANOTHER  
ROUTE!

THIS  
LIGHT IS  
LONG.



I MEAN—  
HEY, ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO MAKE  
IT BACK IN  
TIME?

OH...  
MY LUNCH  
BREAK WILL  
BE OVER  
IN FIVE  
MINUTES...

..I can't  
say a  
thing.

I can see  
that Kato's  
pushing  
himself  
too hard,  
but just  
like her...

I guess  
I can't take  
the moral  
high ground  
around Meiko  
anymore.



At first,  
I didn't  
like him  
at all.

...until  
I  
finally  
gave  
in and  
started  
dating  
him.

He  
kept  
after  
me to  
go out  
with  
him...

HMM...  
MAYBE.

WAIT,  
KATO!!

ISN'T  
THIS THE  
LONG WAY  
AROUND?!

LIKE I  
SAID...

I'M NOT  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THE WAY  
WE'RE  
GOING!

HEY...  
KATO!!

ARE YOU  
REALLY  
SURE?!

Kato is  
always  
Kato.

That's  
probably  
what  
it is.

WHAT  
IS IT?

Sometimes  
I wonder...

...what do  
I like about  
this dumpy,  
indecisive  
guy?





DO YOU  
REALLY THINK  
THE BAND CAN'T  
GO ON WITHOUT  
TANEDA...?

JUST  
BECAUSE  
YOU CAN'T  
PLAY IN  
THE BAND  
ANYMORE...

...DOESN'T  
MEAN THAT  
FILLING THE  
VOID WITH A  
JOB IS THE  
RIGHT MOVE...

ISN'T  
THERE  
SOME  
OTHER  
WAY?!



SORRY...

...I wonder  
if we aren't  
slowly losing  
our selves.

As we go  
round in  
circles like  
this...

















