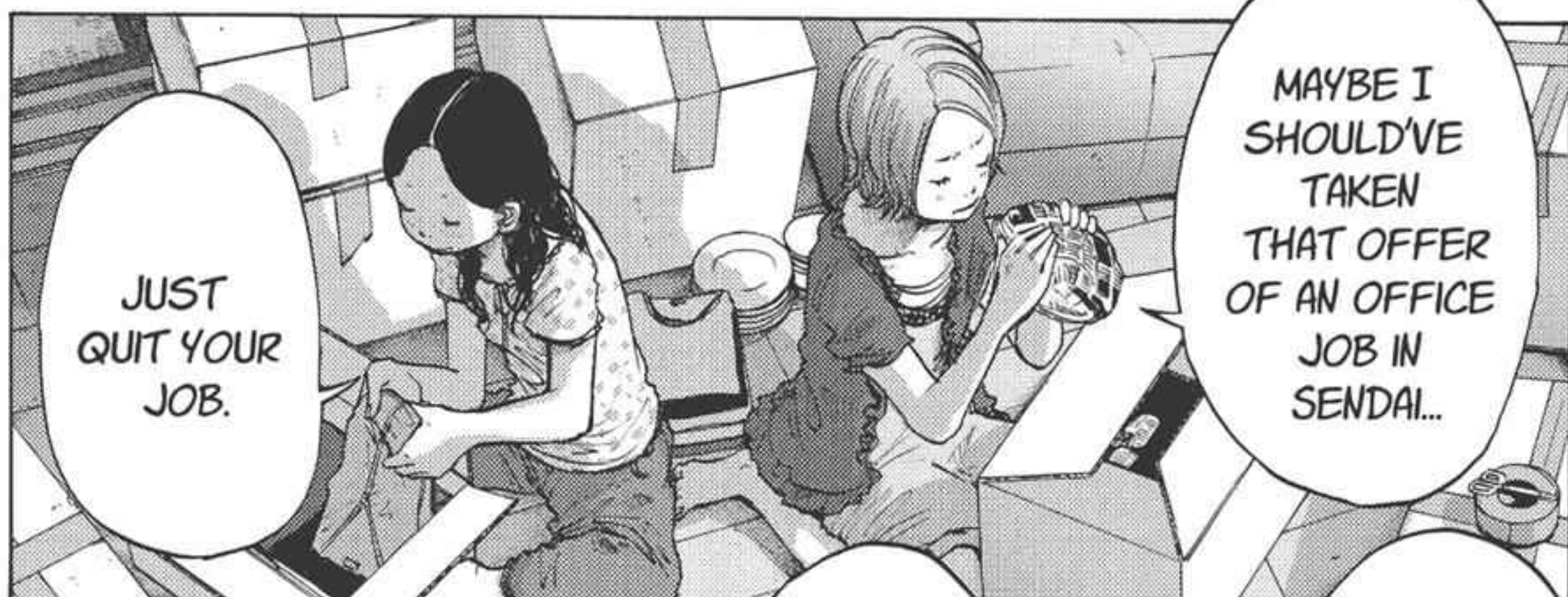




IT
JUST
DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT,
STAYING ON
AT MY JOB
NOW.



JUST
QUIT YOUR
JOB.

MAYBE I
SHOULD'VE
TAKEN
THAT OFFER
OF AN OFFICE
JOB IN
SENDAI...



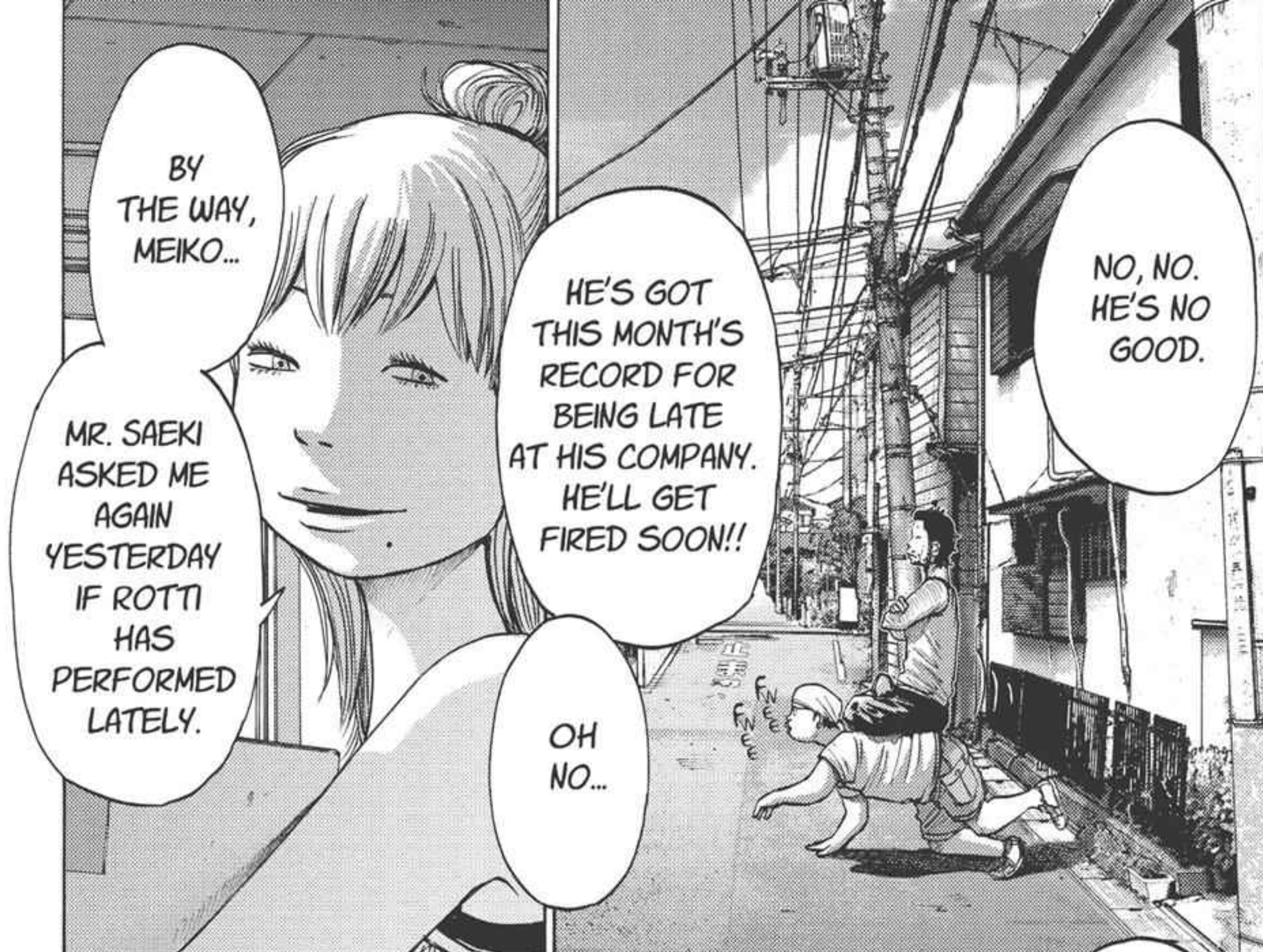
Yeah,
right...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
HE'S CRAZY
ABOUT
YOU.

"OH, WELL...
SHALL I
MARRY YOU,
THEN?"
HE SAYS.

I DIDN'T
DECIDE TO
STAY IN
TOKYO
BECAUSE
OF HIM!!

BUT WHAT
REALLY
PISSSES ME
OFF IS
KATO'S
CONCEIT!



BY
THE WAY,
MEIKO...

MR. SAEKI
ASKED ME
AGAIN
YESTERDAY
IF ROTTI
HAS
PERFORMED
LATELY.

HE'S GOT
THIS MONTH'S
RECORD FOR
BEING LATE
AT HIS COMPANY.
HE'LL GET
FIRED SOON!!

OH
NO...

NO, NO.
HE'S NO
GOOD.



MISS
INOUE...
YOU'RE
NOT DOING
ANY MORE
LIVE
CONCERTS?

HMM...
MAYBE
SOMEDAY,
IF I FEEL
LIKE IT...



HE SEEMS
TO BE
PRETTY
INTERESTED
IN YOU
GUYS.



WELL...

I
COULD
TEACH YOU
THAT...

I'M JUST
A BEGINNER,
AND BESIDES,
I CAN'T WRITE
SONGS...

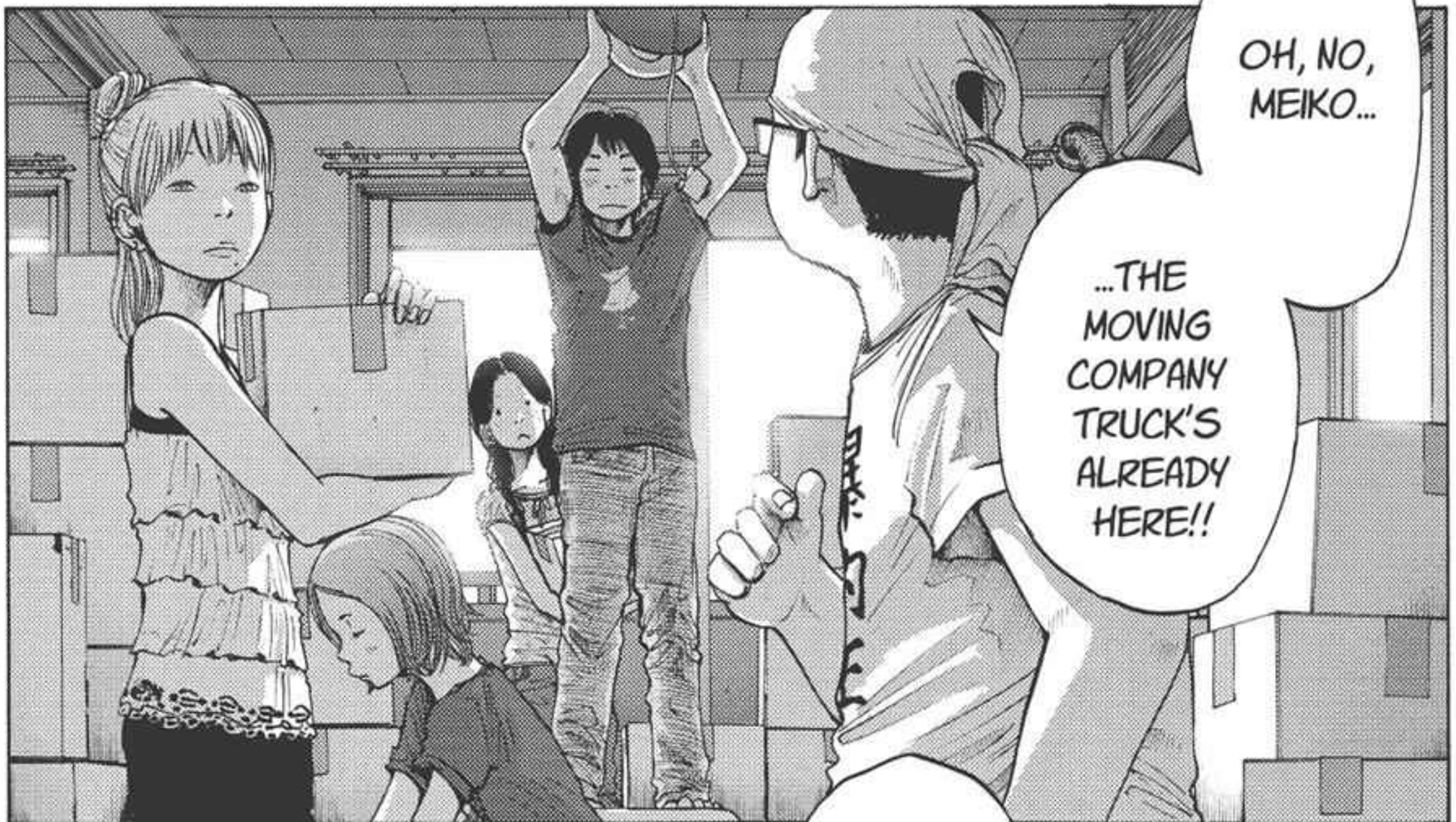
...
beginning
to smell
like
summer.

...
gradually
it's...

Outside...

Time's
gone by
so
quickly.

I can't
believe it's
been six
months since
that live
concert...



OH, NO,
MEIKO...

...THE
MOVING
COMPANY
TRUCK'S
ALREADY
HERE!!

MEIKO,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

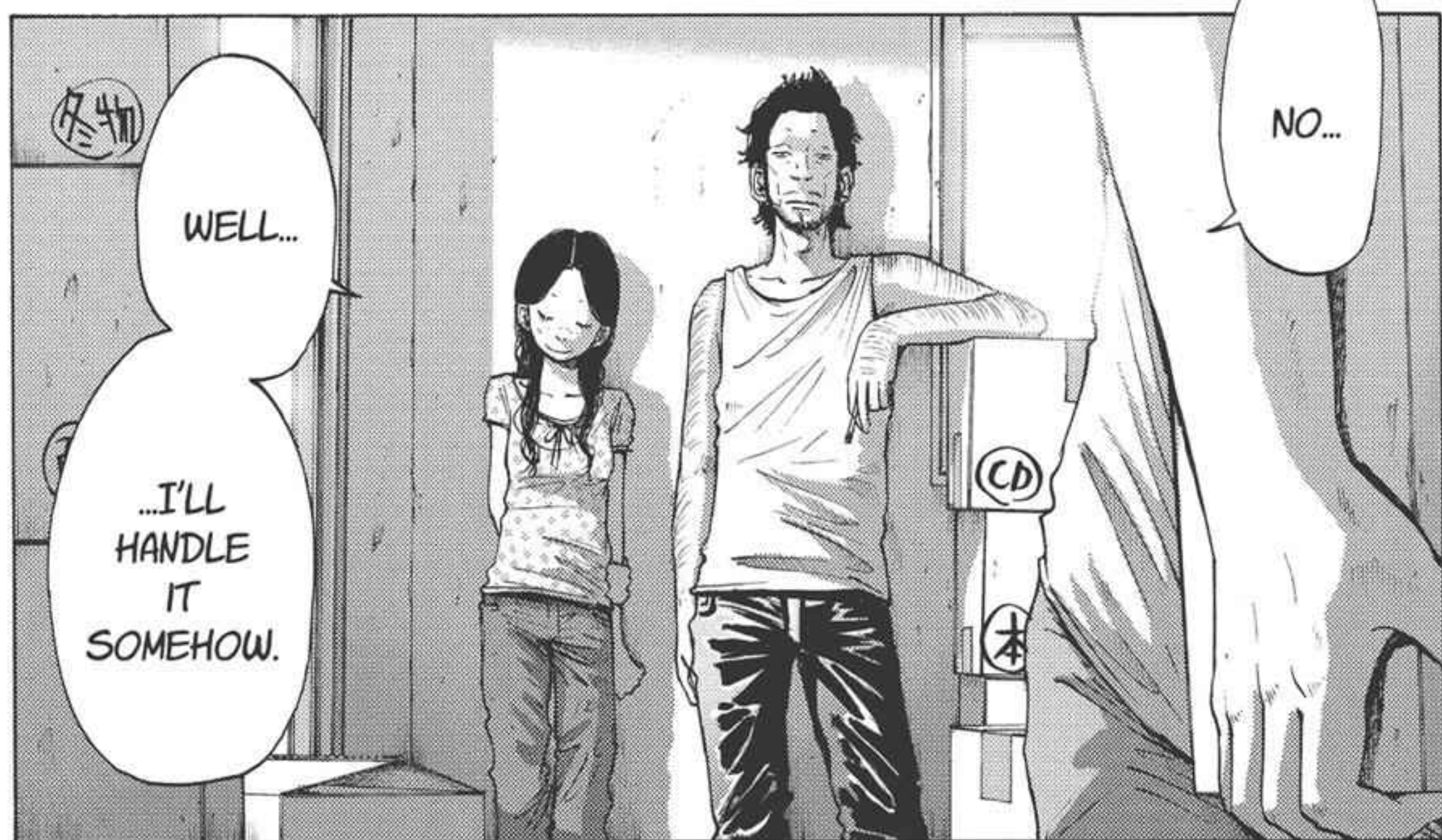
As
for the
band...

...somehow
or other,
we've been
managing
to practice
in the
studio twice
a month.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

As for
how
everyone's
doing...

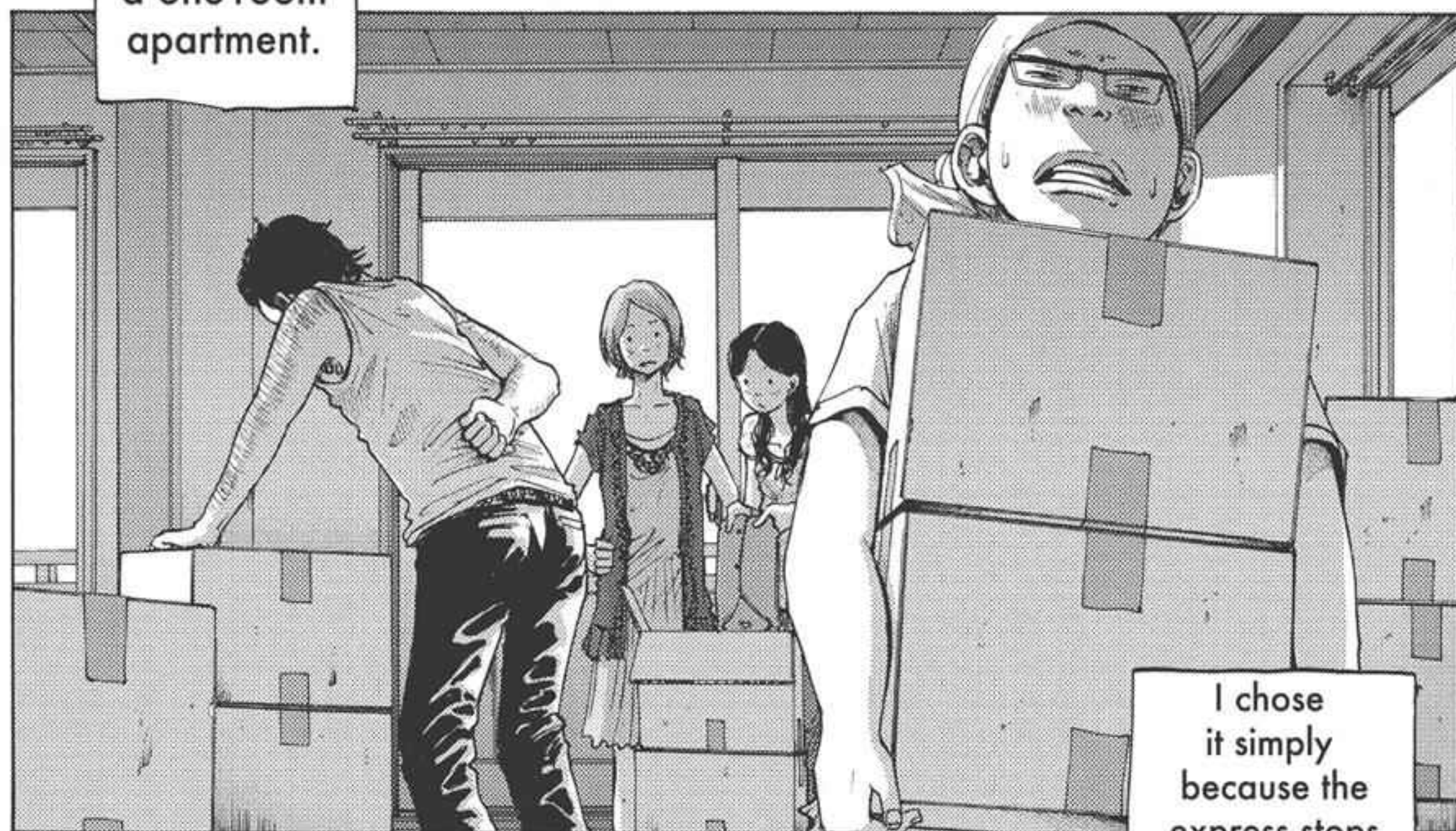
We all
seem a
little busier
than before,
but we
haven't
really
changed
much.





This apartment was just too big for me.

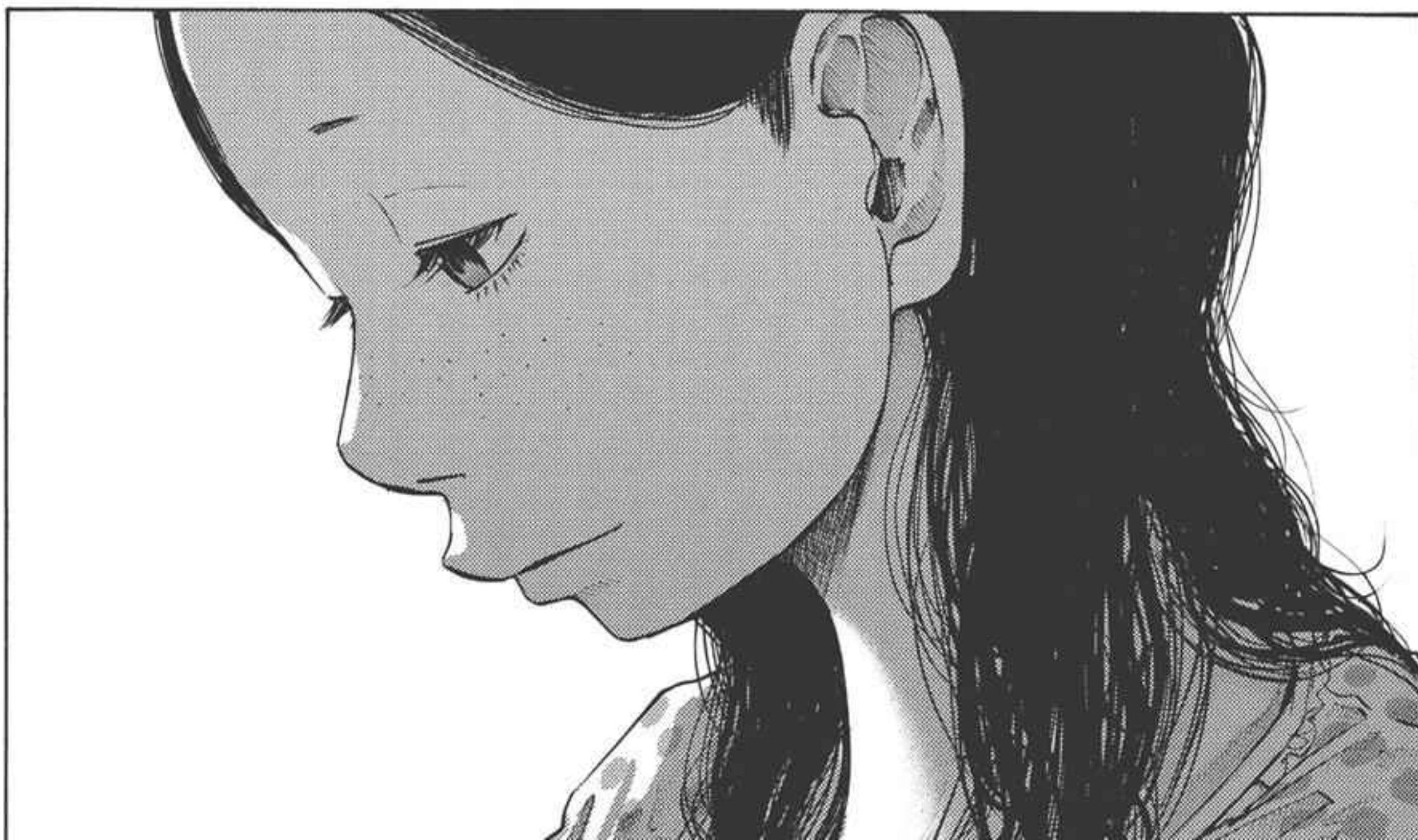
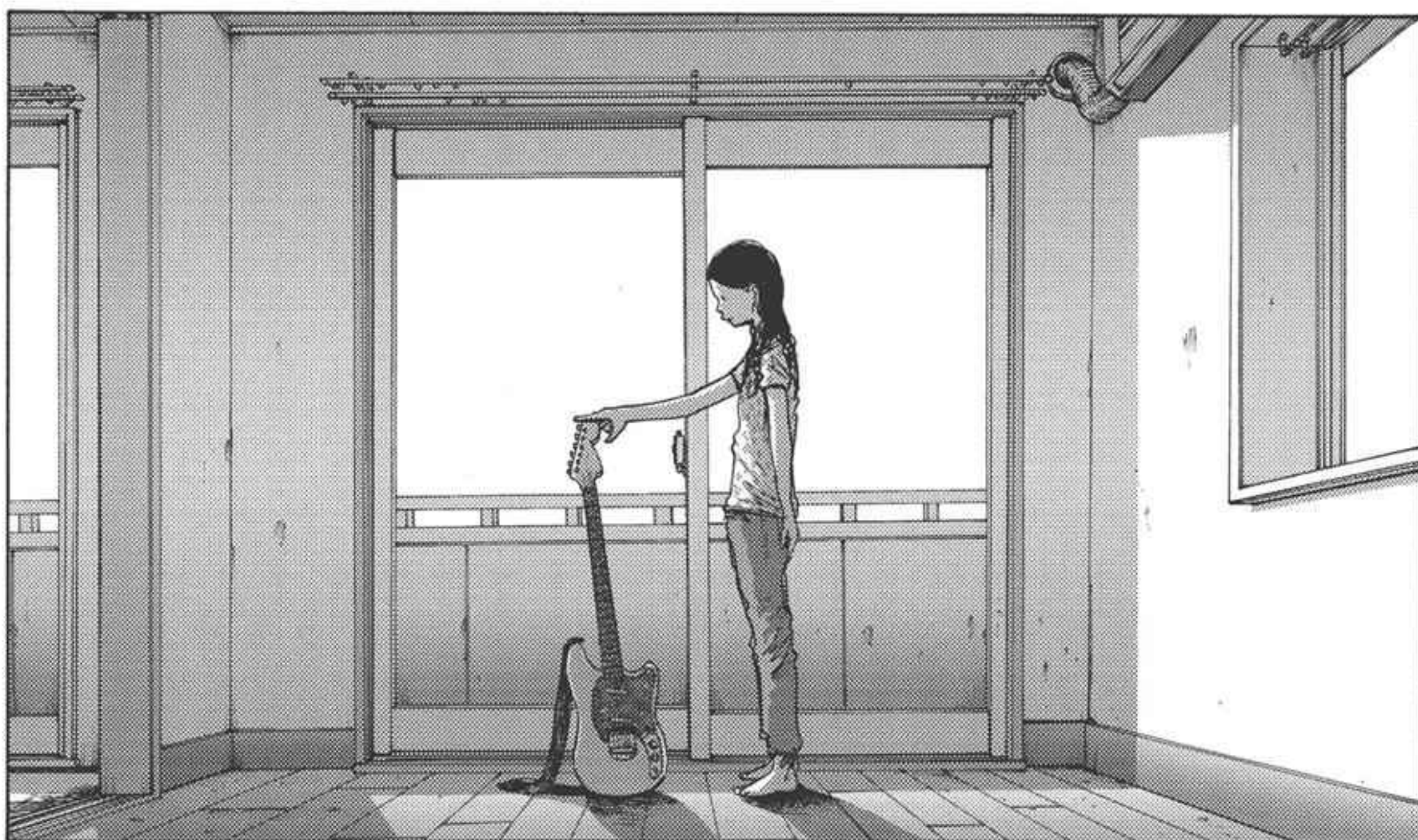
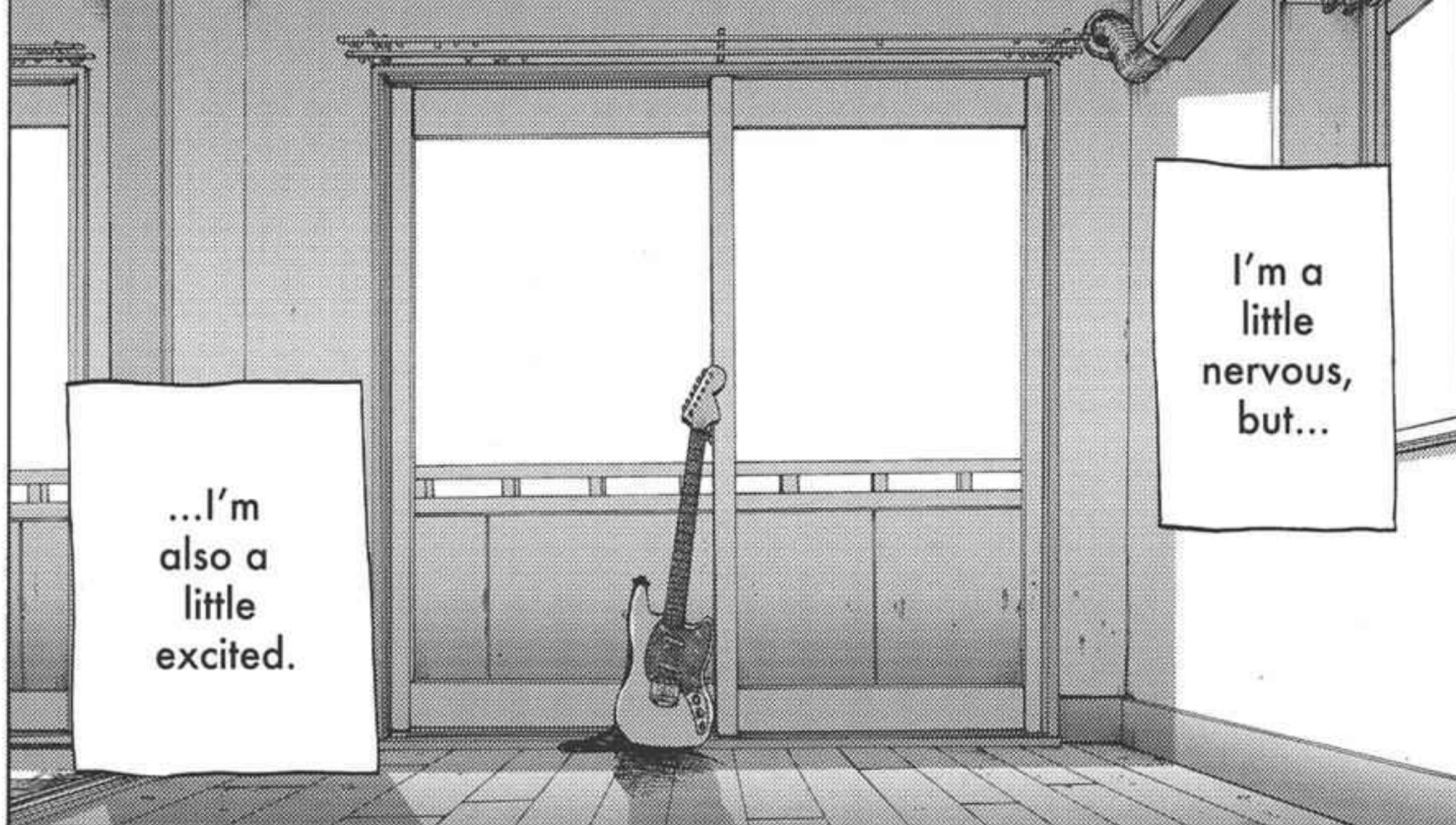
I decided to move across the river, into a one-room apartment.

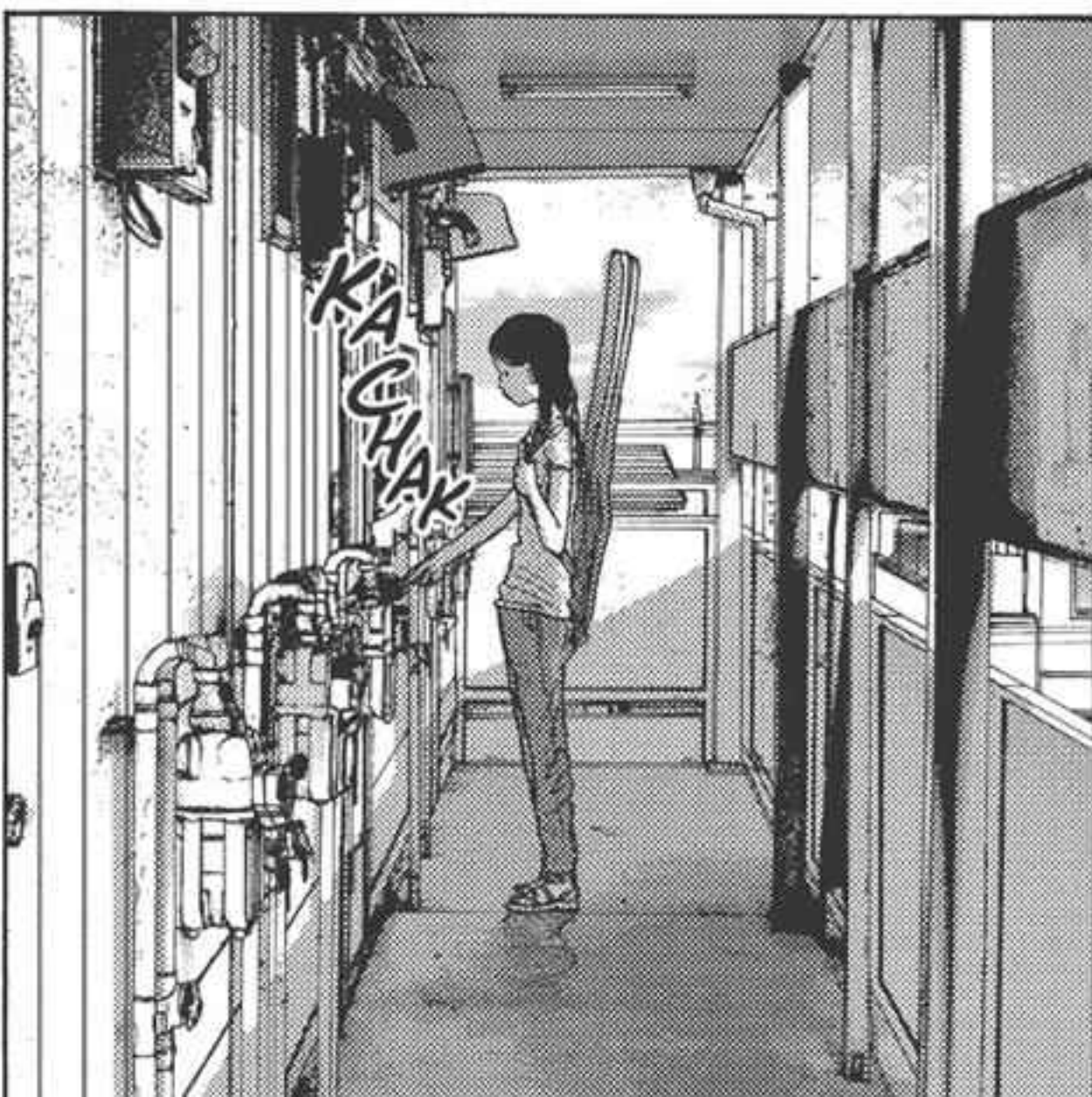
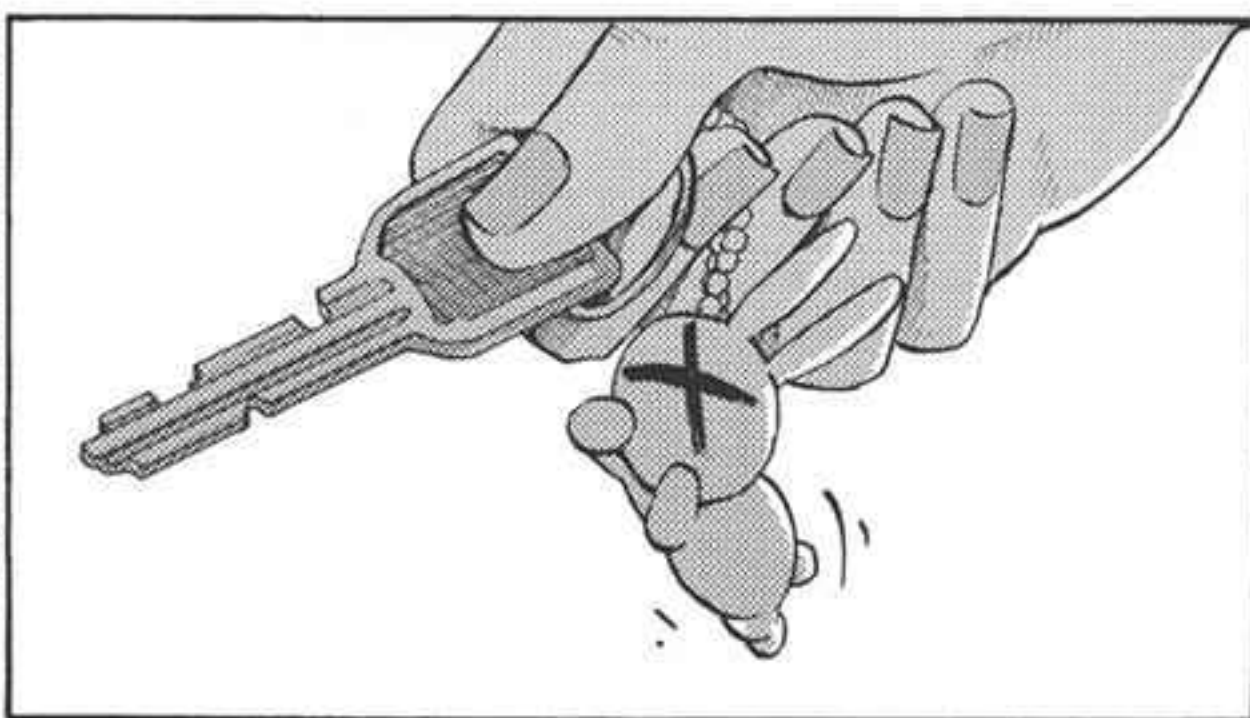
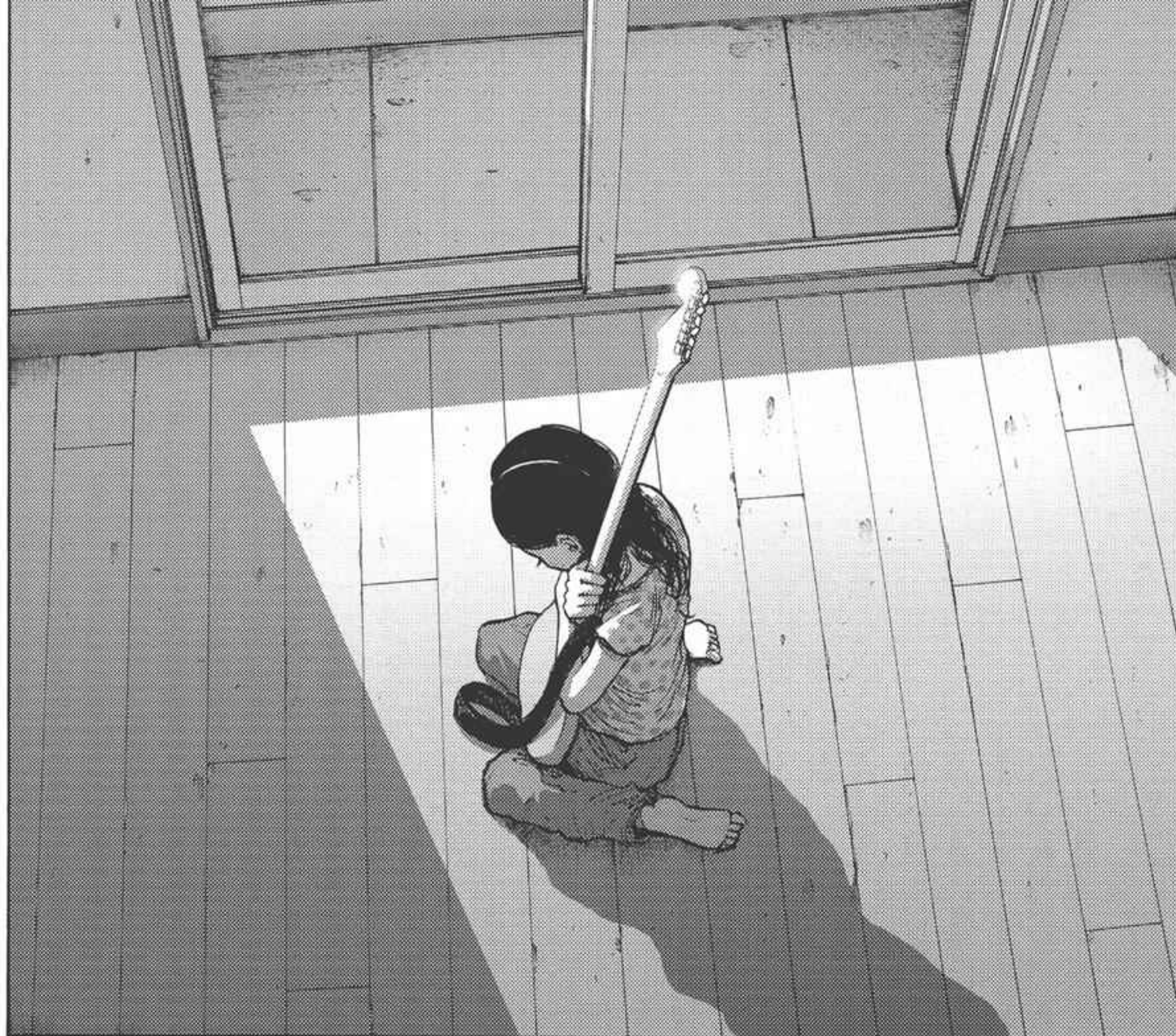


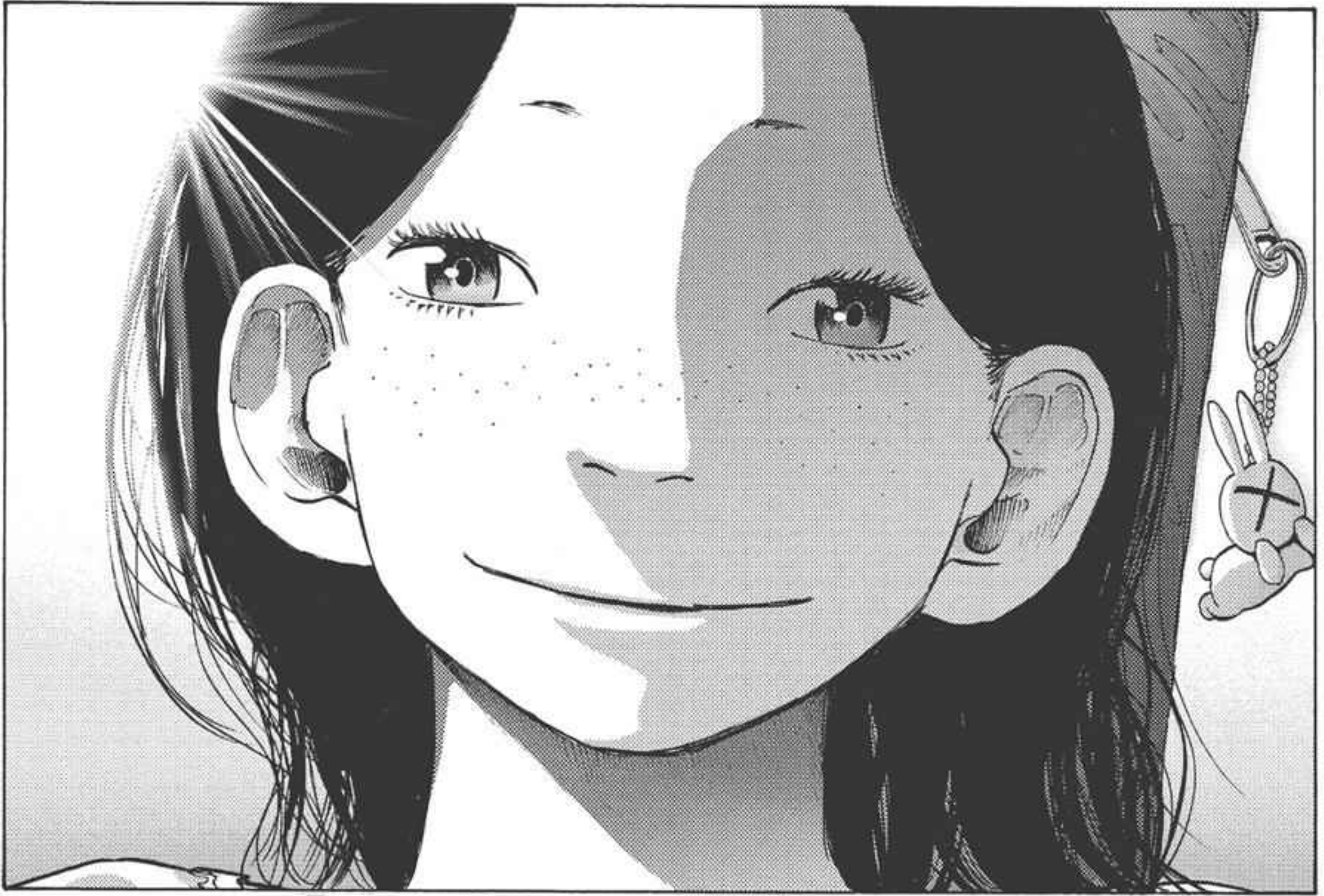
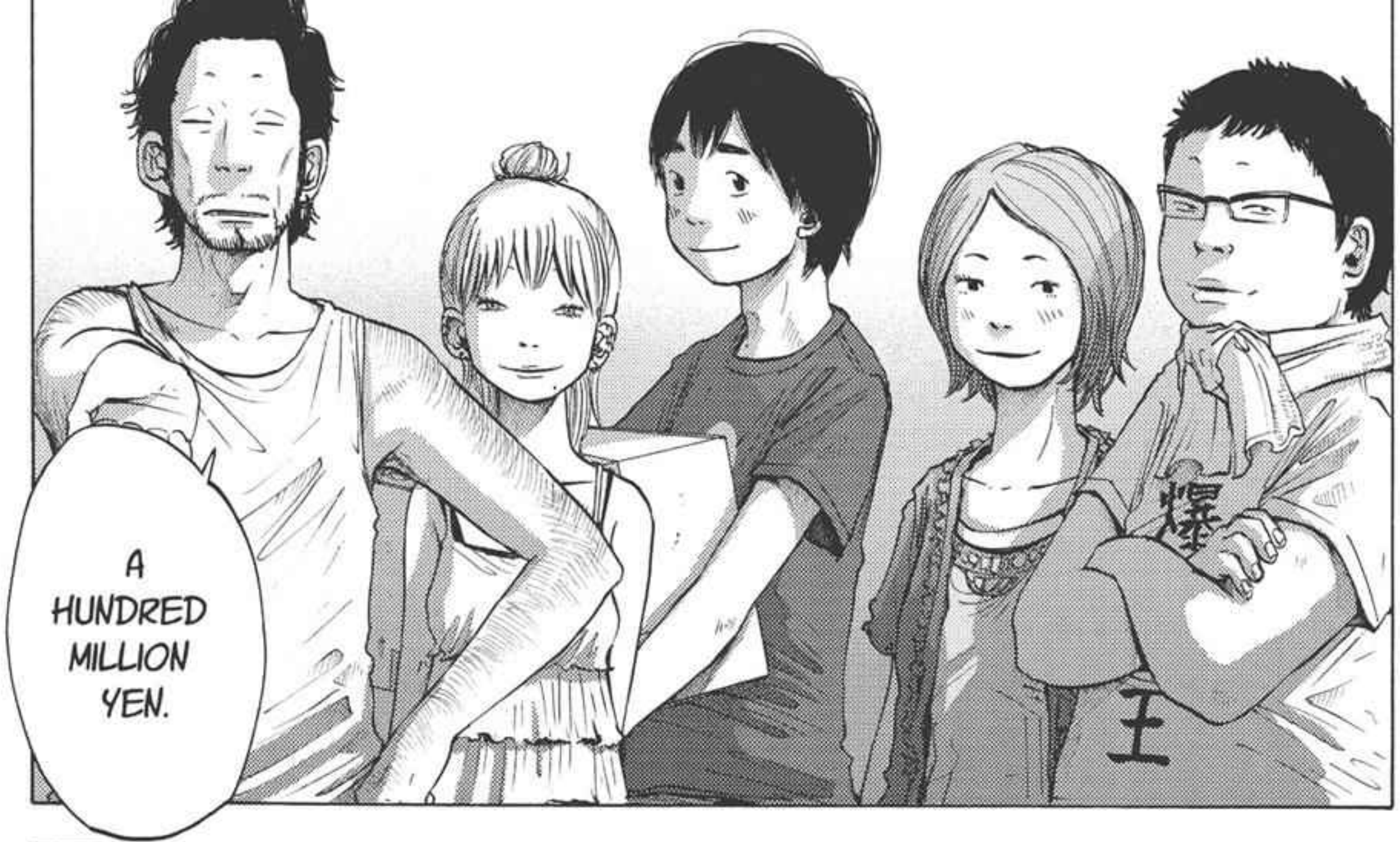
I chose it simply because the express stops at the nearby station, and it would be a little more convenient.

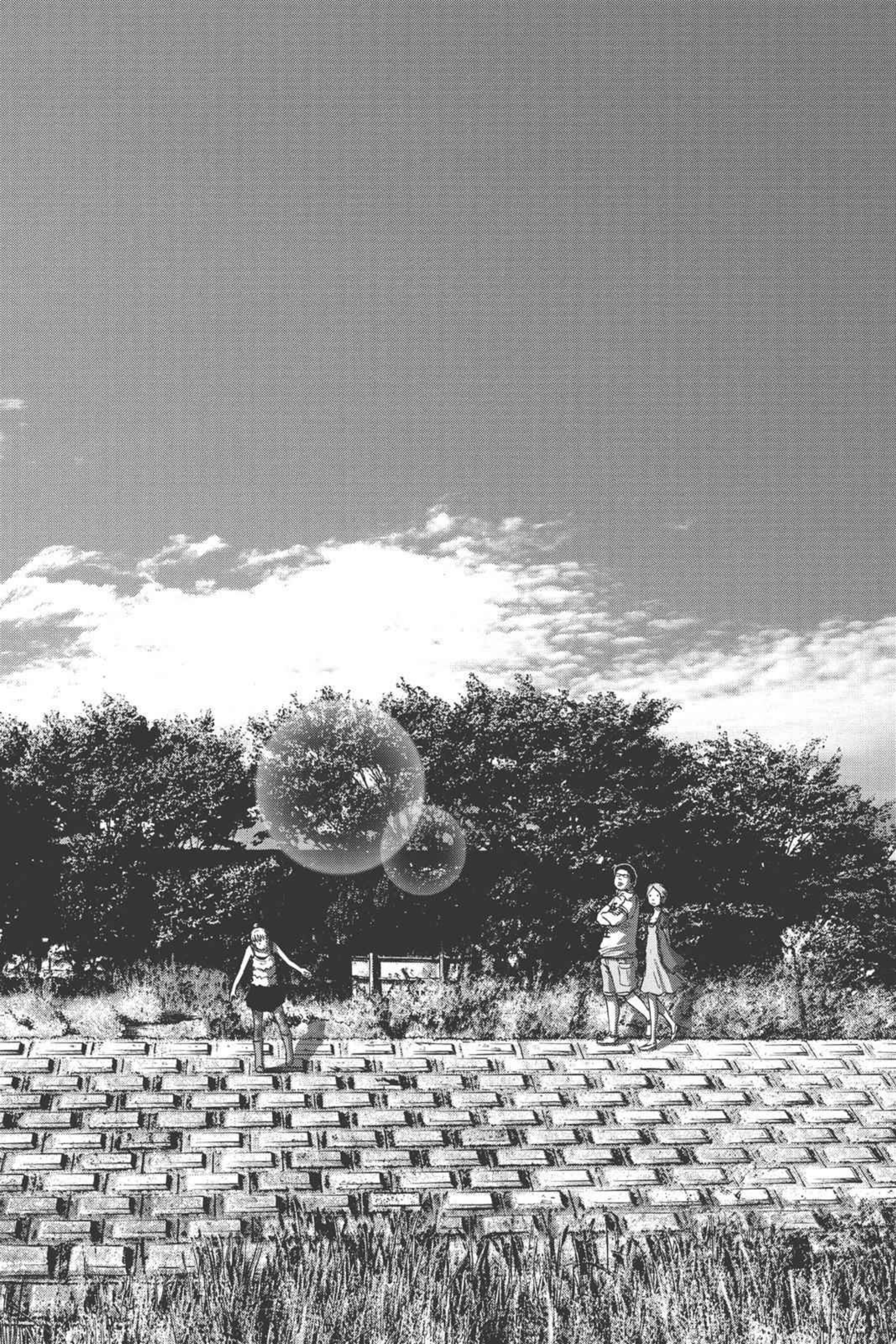


It's a neighborhood I know absolutely nothing about.







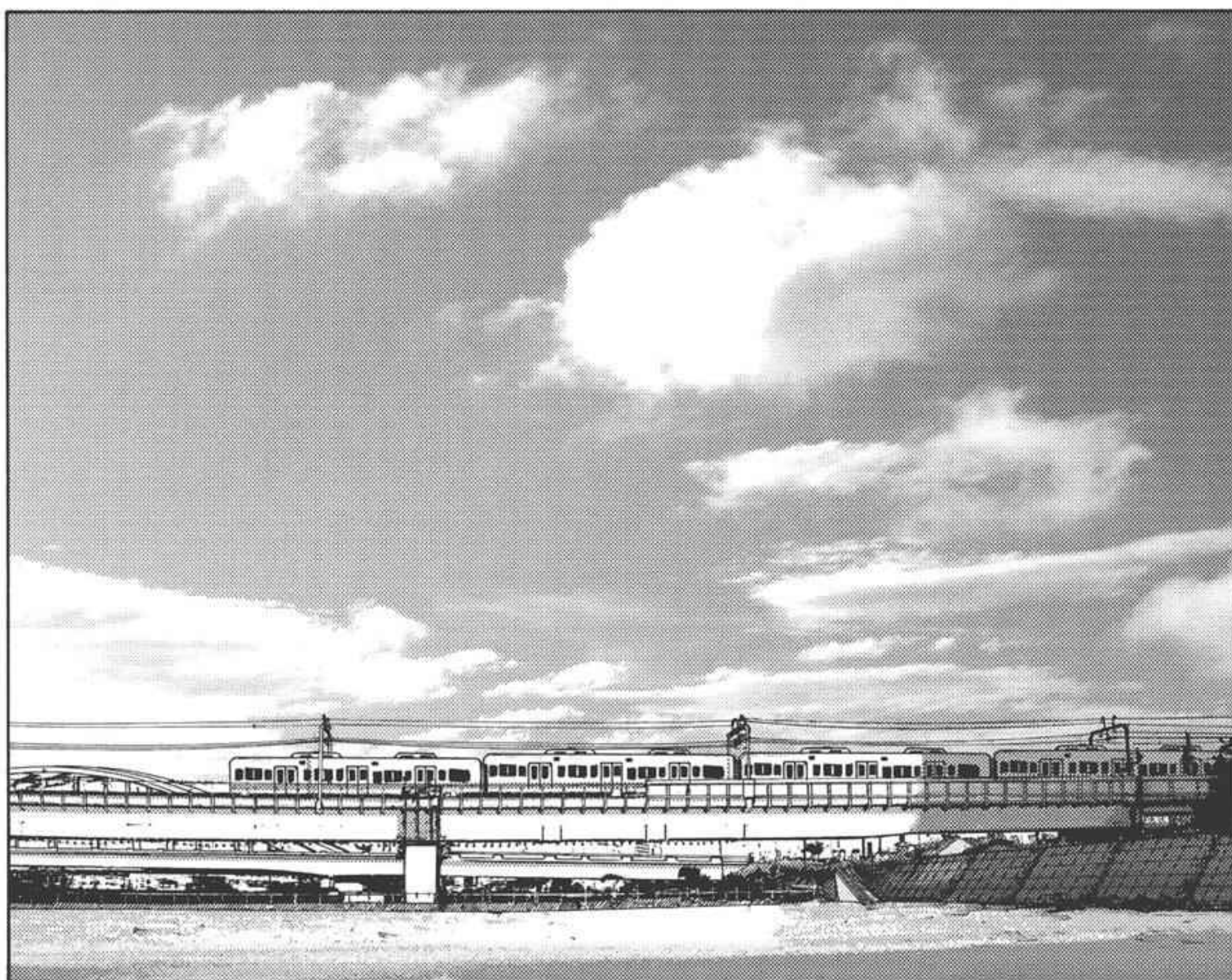




...and there
were lovers
paddling boats
on the Tama
River.

...and the
Odakyu line
was running
as usual...

The
weather
was pretty
nice today...



I thought
it would
be nice if it
went on
forever...

But it's hard
to believe that
kind of thing is
happening when
you look at this
peaceful scene.

Many
people
are
being
killed.

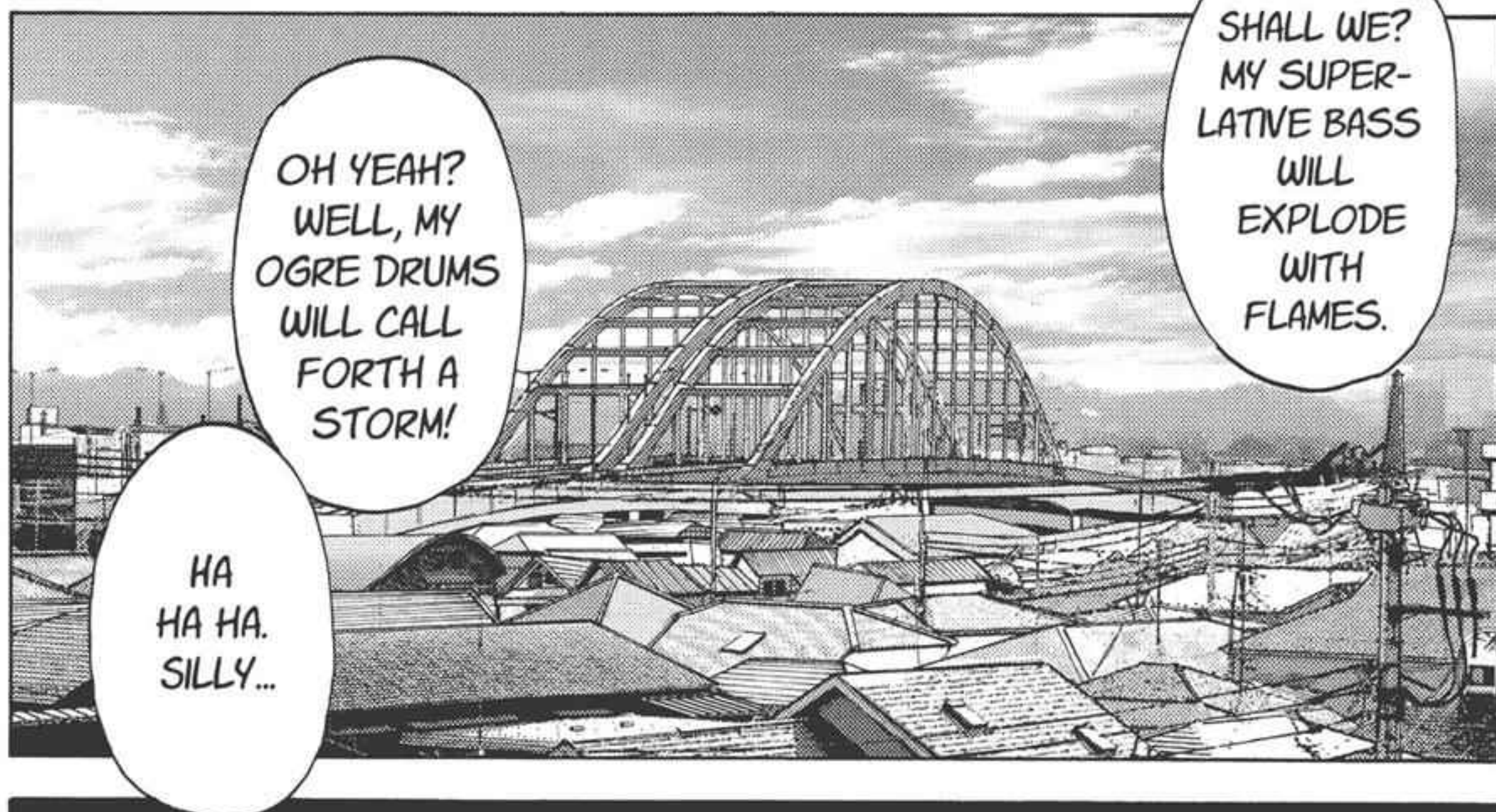
There's a
war being
fought
somewhere
today.



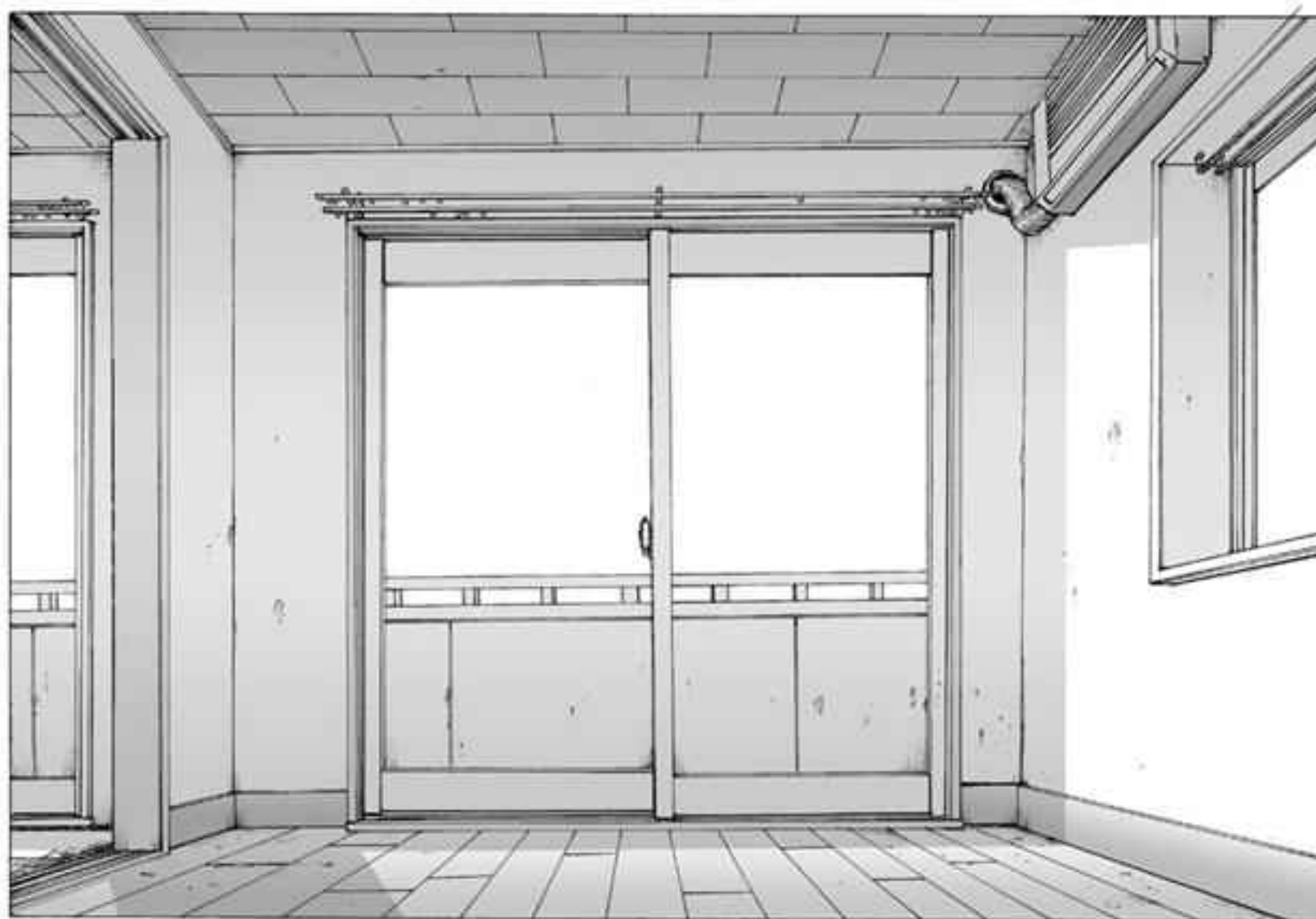
...today, I think I'll be satisfied if I can be together with everyone until then.

...even if there comes a day when I can no longer see this scene...

But...



The End



solanin

Inio Asano

Drawing
Assistants

Yuichi Watanabe
Takashi Kondo

Gofer

Satoshi Yamada

Special
Thanks

Kumatto, Shigeru,
Mr. and Mrs. Inoue,
Hisashi, Iwama, Junichi,
Nonsan, Becky, Charlie



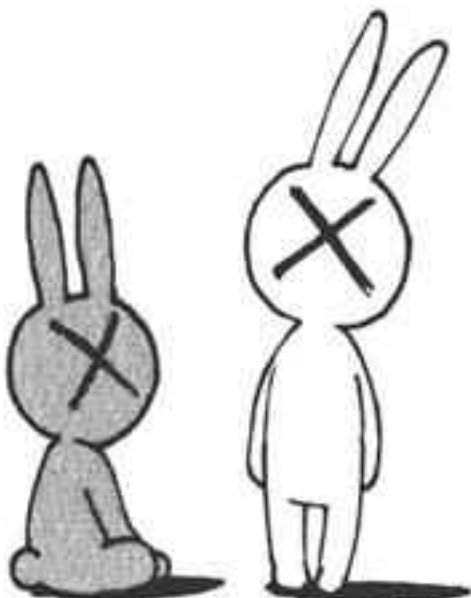
AFTERWORD

I drew *solanin* when I was about 20 years old. I had just graduated from college and was feeling a bit insecure about my ability to succeed as a manga artist and whether I would be able to continue to draw manga that were true to myself. In my anxiety and impatience, I felt that all I could do in my manga was try to get a true depiction of the times as experienced by my generation.

Over friends, money, jobs, a society with an unclear future, one's own pride. Writhing in these multiple entangling factors, perhaps they are unable to draw any conclusions. Perhaps this instant—now—is just a small part of their futile daily lives. The only thing that's certain is that they can never return to the days gone by.

There's nothing cool about these characters. They're just your average somethings who blend into the backdrop of the city. But the most important messages in our lives don't come from musicians on stage or stars on television. They come from the average people all around you, the ones who are just feet from where you stand. That's what I believe.

Shinji Nio Sano



solanin

STORY AND ART BY INIO ASANO

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