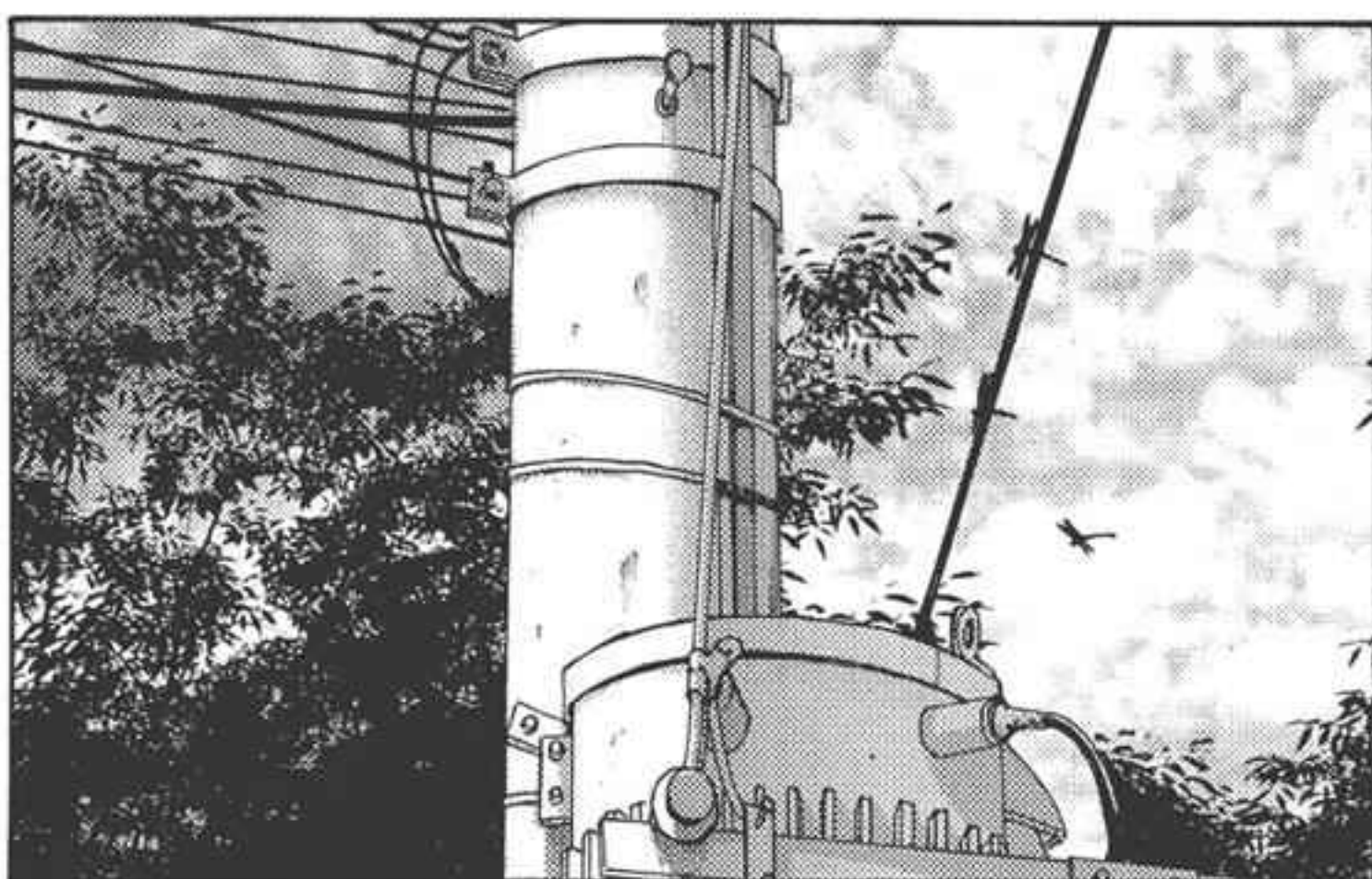
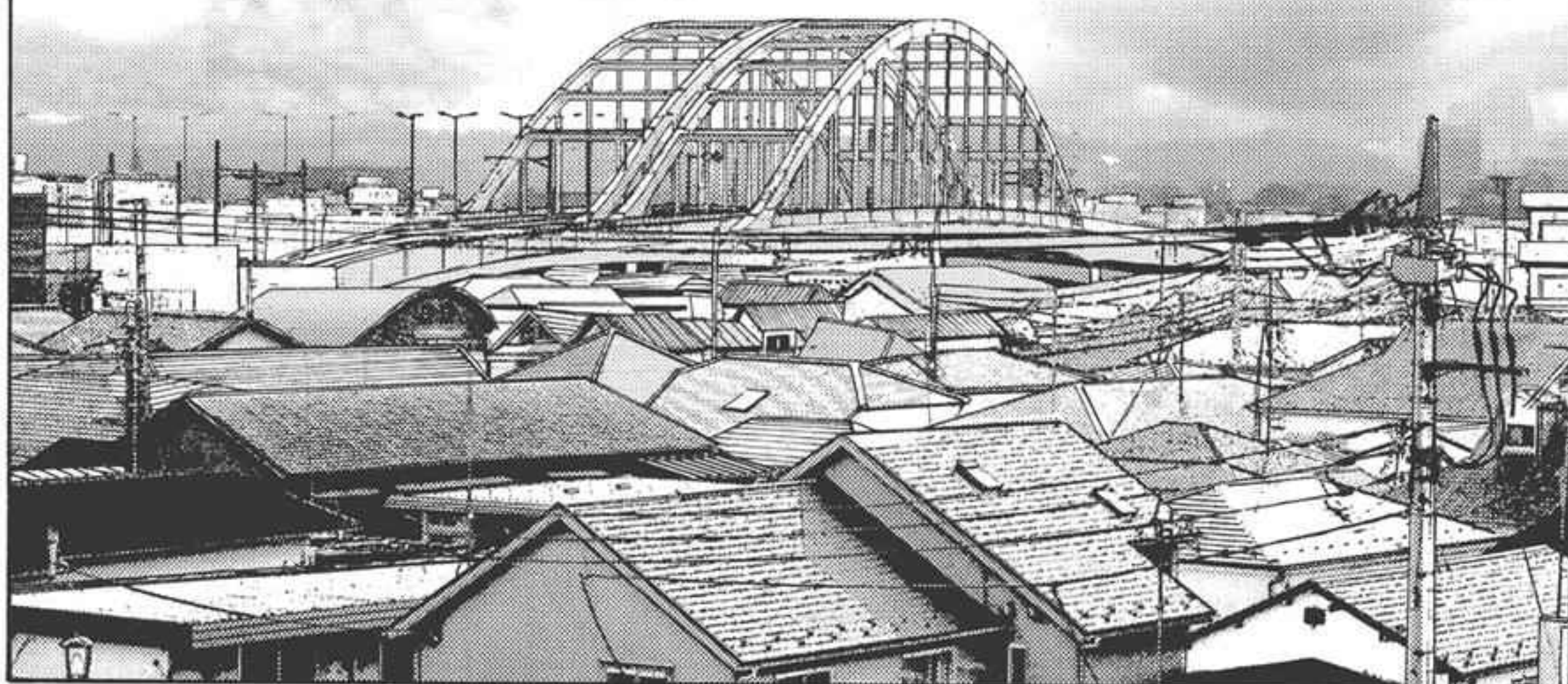


#16





DON'T
EXAG-
GERATE.



AND NOW
THE FIRST NEW
PART-TIMER
HIRED IS YOU,
MISS INOUE...

...I
FIGURED
I'D NEVER
MEET A GIRL...
IT'S BEEN
SIX MONTHS.

NO,
SERIOUSLY.
WORKING
AT A
FLORIST'S
IN A SORRY
SHOPPING
ARCADE...



THAT'S
YOUNG.

YOU MEET
LOTS OF
GIRLS IN
COLLEGE,
DON'T
YOU?

I'M 18.

HOW
OLD ARE
YOU,
OHASHI?

I SAID
YOU'RE
MAKING
TOO MUCH
OF IT.

I WAS
REALLY
MOVED.
I EVEN
TREMBLED.



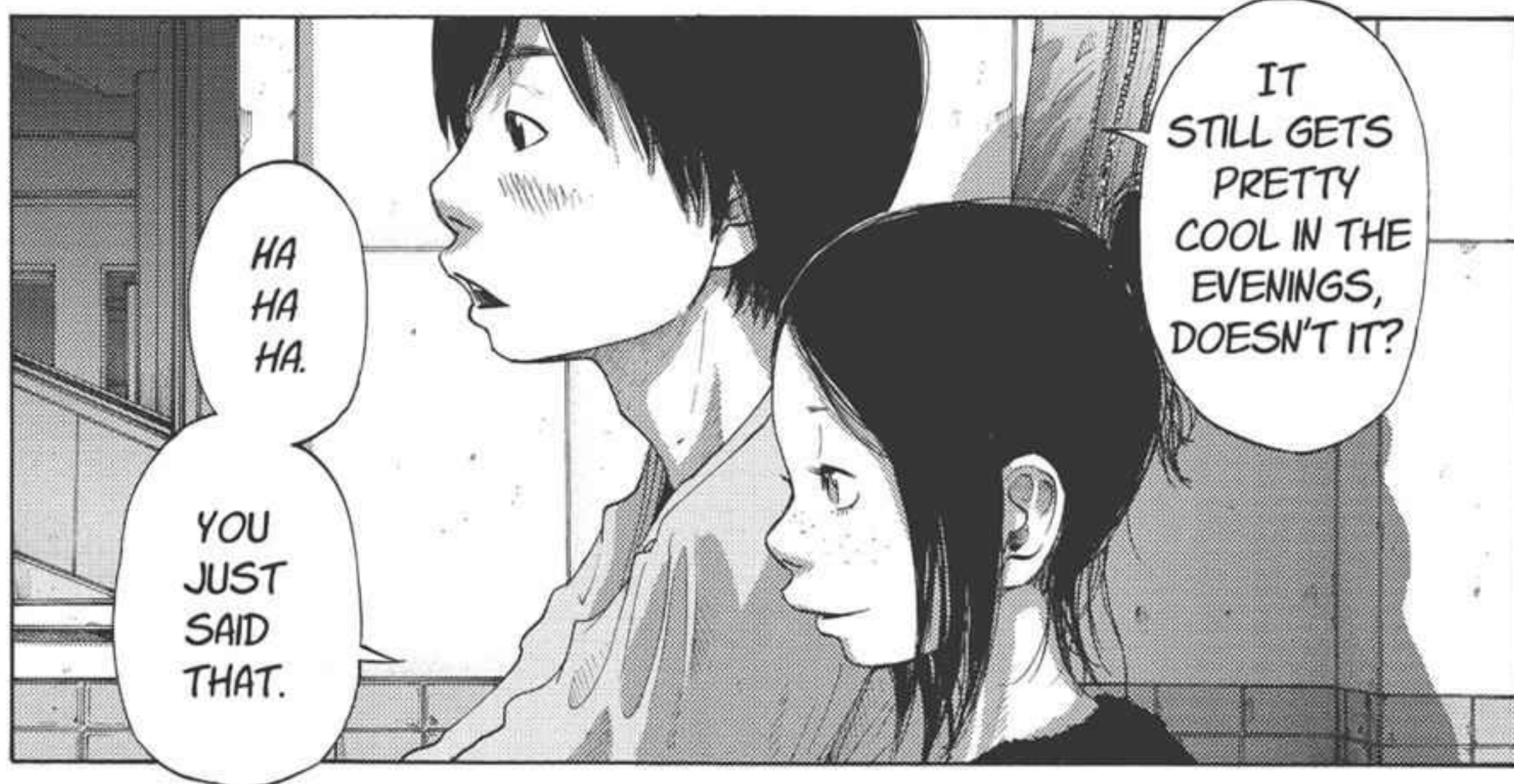
...and the shop happened to be nearby, but...
...because I happened to see an ad in a magazine...
I started working at the florist's ...



HEH
HEH.

WE STILL
DON'T HAVE
ALL THE
MEMBERS,
BUT..

OHASHI,
ARE YOU
IN A
BAND?



HA
HA
HA.

YOU
JUST
SAID
THAT.

IT
STILL GETS
PRETTY
COOL IN THE
EVENINGS,
DOESN'T IT?

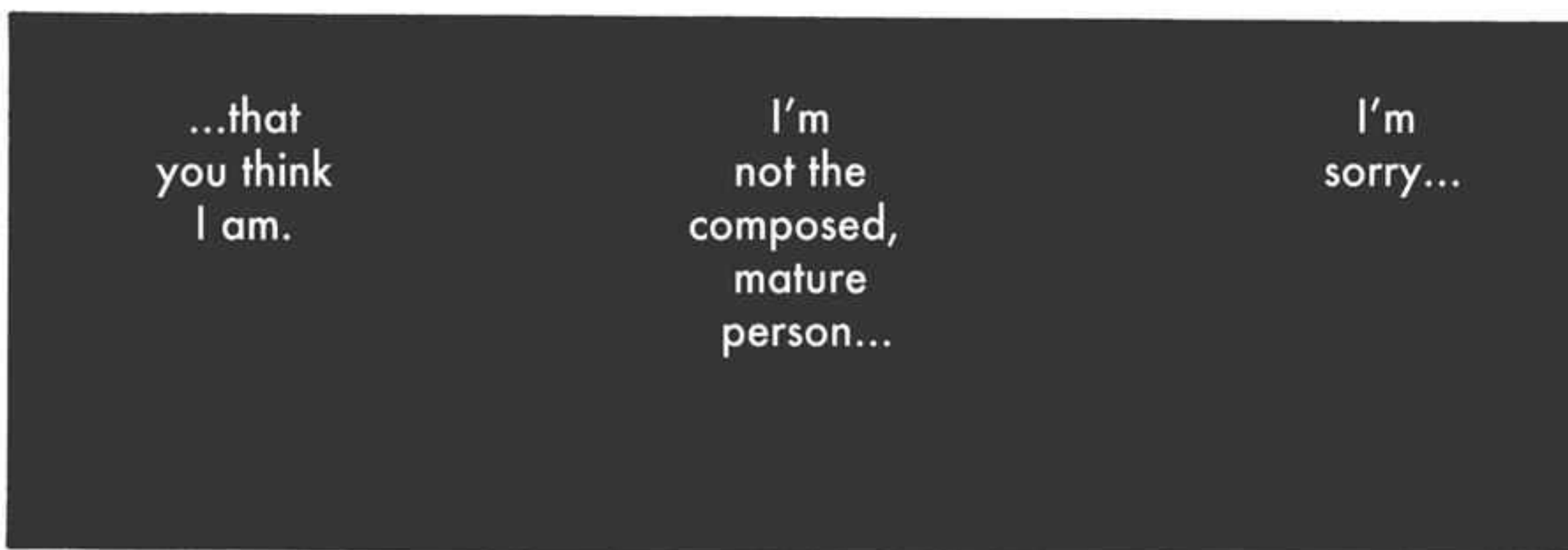
MISS
INOUE,
CAN I
TAKE YOU
HOME?

I
suddenly
remembered
that.

...I used
to want
to work
in a flower
shop or a
bakery.

...when
I was
young
and
innocent...

...when I
was
little...





WELCOME
HOME...

...drift
in and
out of my
mind.

Incoherent
thoughts...

...blow
much more
meaninglessly
than last
year.

The
cold
winds...

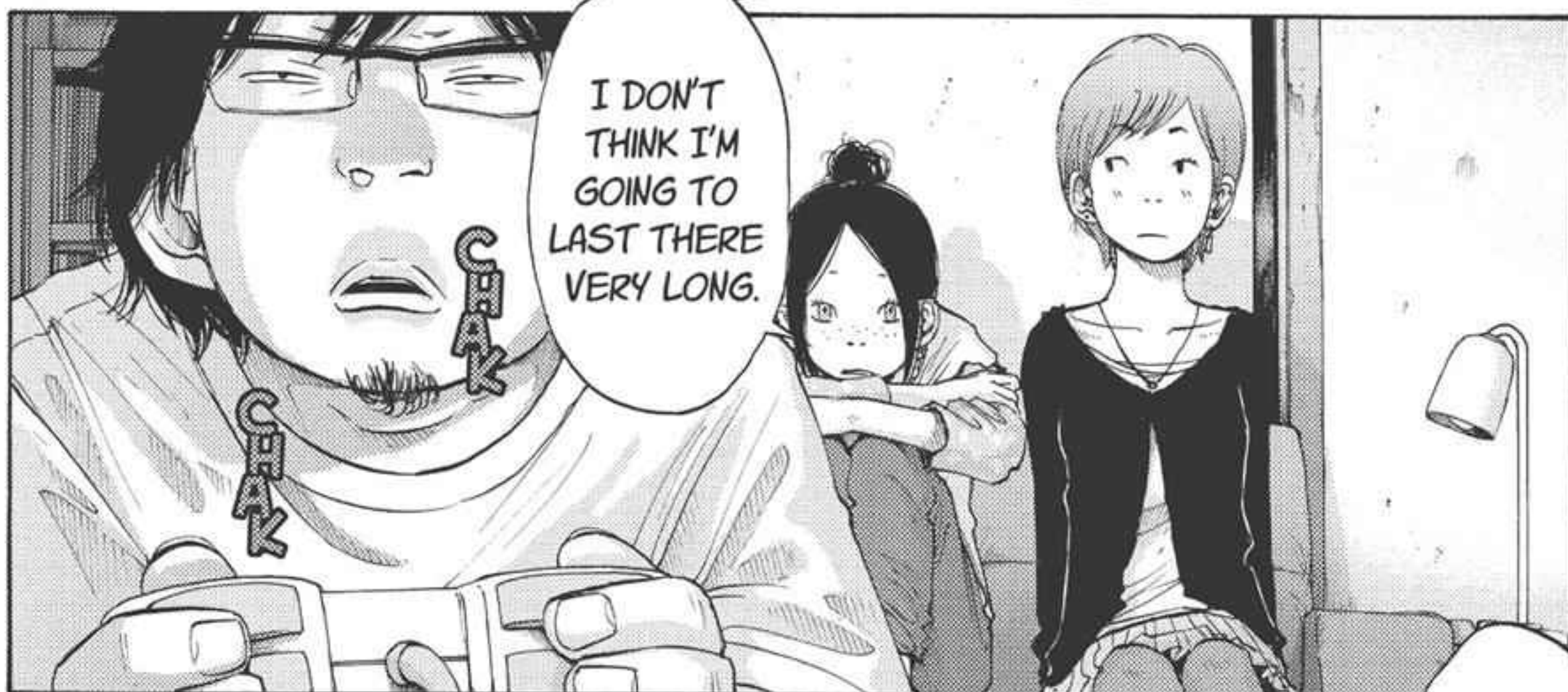


HOW
WAS YOUR
FIRST DAY
ON THE
JOB?

SMOOSH



THE OTHER
PART-TIMER
IS... WELL,
HE'S A
REALLY
GOOD KID,
BUT...



I DON'T
THINK I'M
GOING TO
LAST THERE
VERY LONG.



THAT'S
RIGHT.

YES,
MA'AM.

HUMPH...
YOU'VE
GOT TO
TRY TO
LIKE IT.

YOU CAN
DECIDE IF
YOU REALLY
CAN'T TAKE
IT LATER.

WELCOME
HOME,
MEIKO.

WOW...
HOW MANY
BOXED
LUNCHES DID
YOU BUY?
LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE NEVER
GOING TO
COOK FOR
YOURSELF.

HI.







IT'S
ONLY BEEN
TWO MONTHS,
AFTER ALL.

I
GUESS
YOU CAN'T
BLAME
HER...



TANEDA...



Ass...



It was
so unfair
of you...

...to
die.



