



OH...  
YEAH,  
THAT WAS  
FINE.

BOSS...

WAS THAT  
SKETCH I  
SHOWED YOU  
YESTERDAY  
FOR THE NEW  
ILLUSTRATION  
OKAY?

AND GET ME  
THE FINAL FILE  
FOR THAT  
PHOTO SHOOT  
BY 2:00 P.M.



OH, AND  
TANEDA...  
YOU'VE BEEN  
PRETTY  
WIPED OUT  
RECENTLY.

IT'S  
STARTING  
TO AFFECT  
YOUR WORK.  
ARE YOU TRYING  
TO TELL ME  
SOMETHING?



DAMN...  
HONESTLY,  
WORK IS  
SUCH A  
PAIN IN  
THE ASS...

HFF...

NO  
MATTER  
HOW MANY  
PIECES I DO,  
I ONLY GET  
PAID BY THE  
HOUR...

HMM...  
ANOTHER  
MINDLESS  
ASSIGN-  
MENT...

leasts



Brimming Summer



HFF...

# 8



What I do know is that this forest is surrounded by an insurmountable wall, and there are no exits.

HFF...

HFF...

How long have I been walking, anyway? I feel like I've been wandering for years.

NOT ANOTHER DEAD END?!



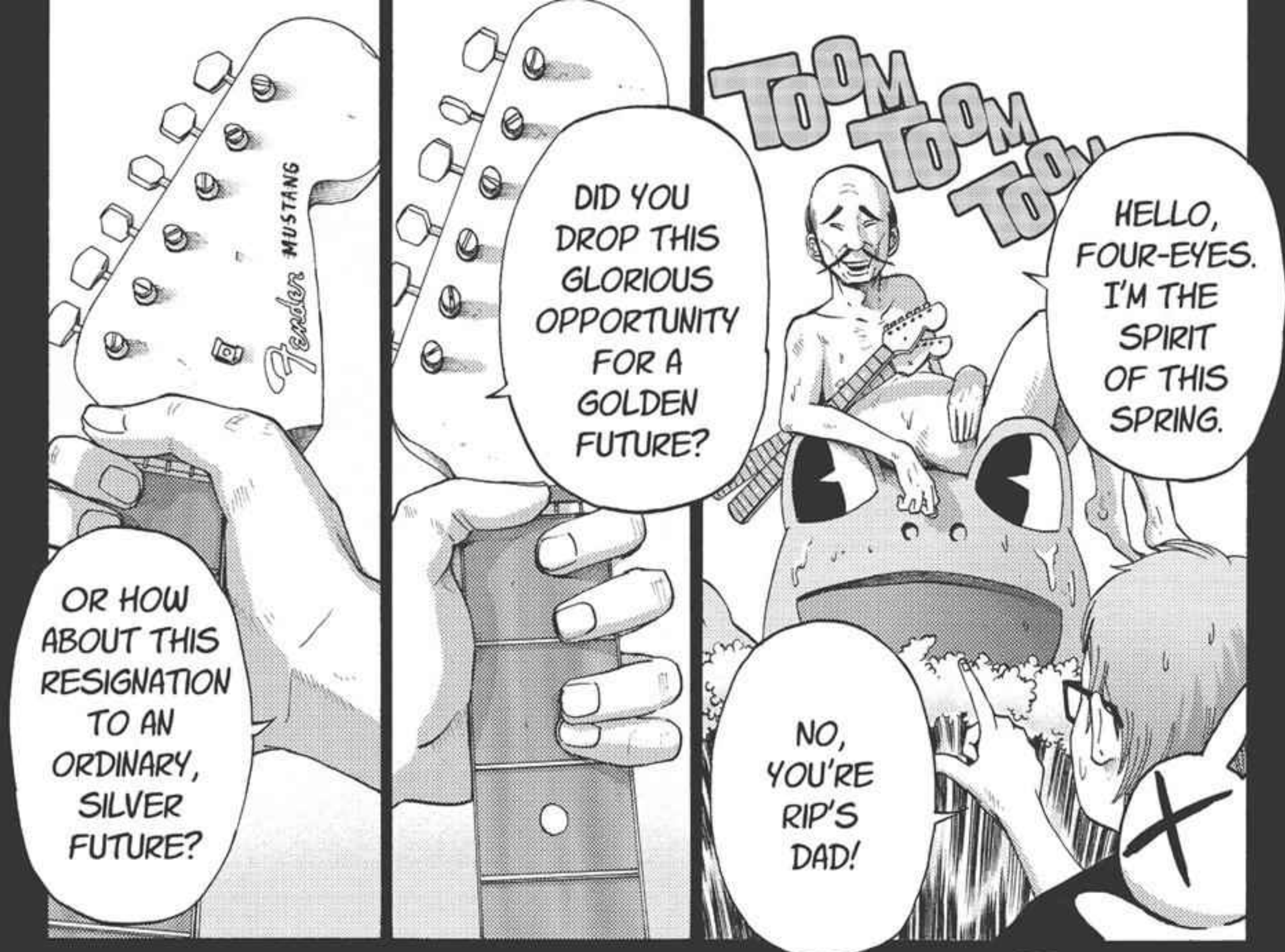
AARGH!

UH, UH...

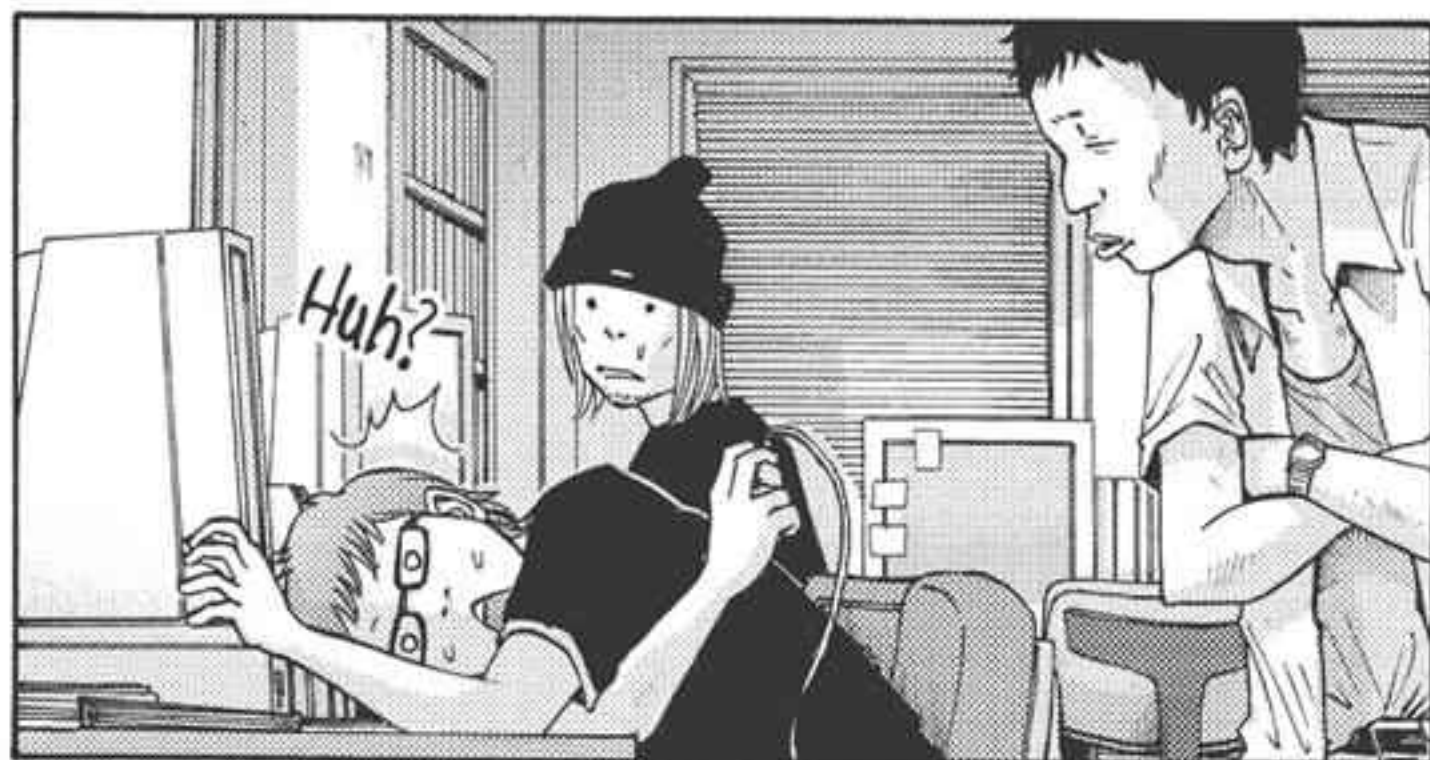
The weight on my back has been getting gradually heavier, and finally I've reached the limit of my stamina.



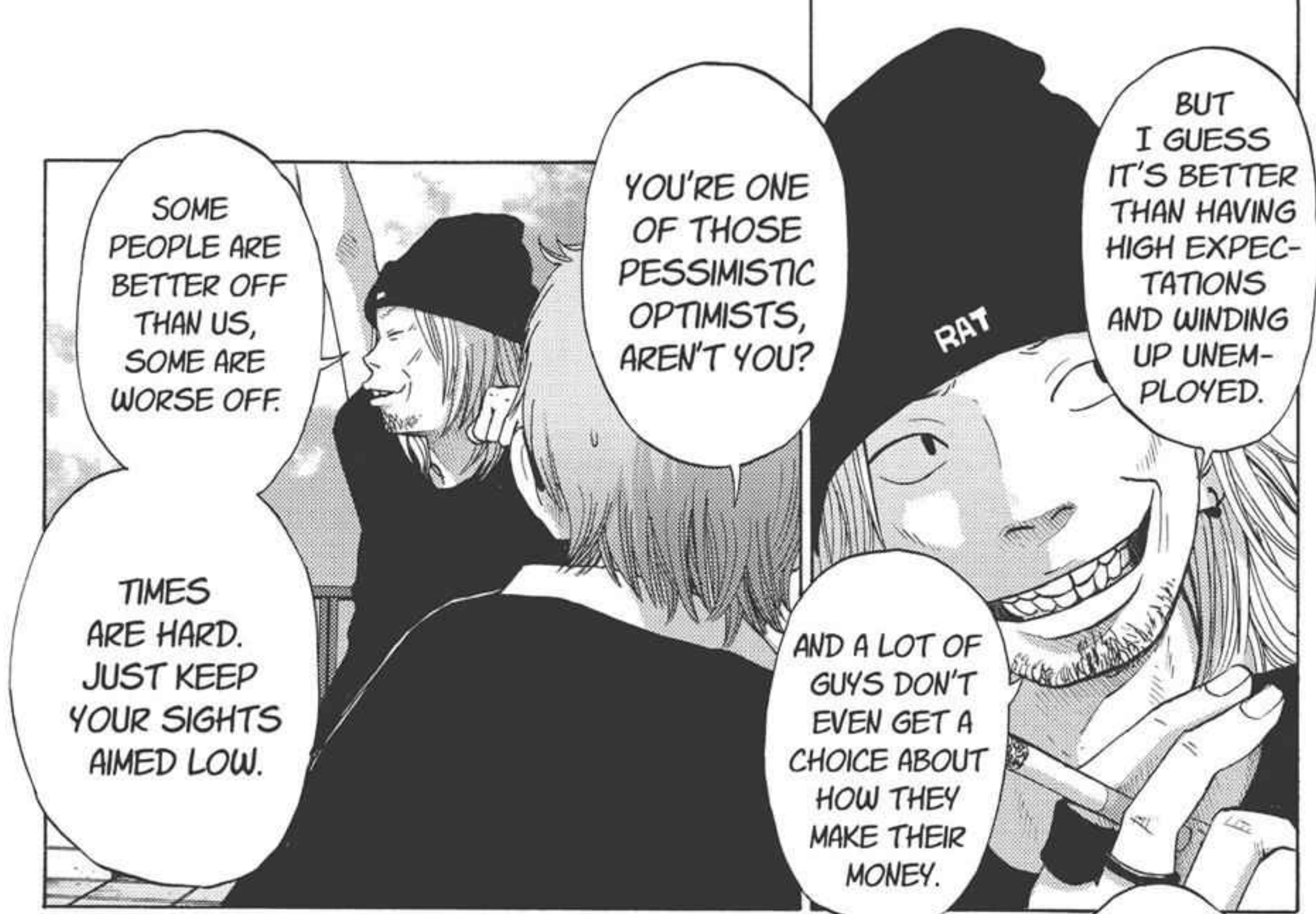












SOME  
PEOPLE ARE  
BETTER OFF  
THAN US,  
SOME ARE  
WORSE OFF.

YOU'RE ONE  
OF THOSE  
PESSIMISTIC  
OPTIMISTS,  
AREN'T YOU?

BUT  
I GUESS  
IT'S BETTER  
THAN HAVING  
HIGH EXPECT-  
TATIONS  
AND WINDING  
UP UNEM-  
PLOYED.

TIMES  
ARE HARD.  
JUST KEEP  
YOUR SIGHTS  
AIMED LOW.

AND A LOT OF  
GUYS DON'T  
EVEN GET A  
CHOICE ABOUT  
HOW THEY  
MAKE THEIR  
MONEY.



YA  
THINK?

SO WE'VE  
GOT LESS  
THAN A MONTH  
TO TAKE IT  
EASY...

I BET  
THAT  
ASSHOLE  
PLANS TO  
SHOVE ALL  
THE EXTRA  
WORK  
ONTO US.

BY  
THE WAY,  
THE PREZ  
ANNOUNCED  
HE'S  
EXPANDING  
BUSINESS  
IN SEPTEMBER  
WITH A WEEKLY  
MAGAZINE AND  
A WEBSITE.



TANEDA  
...

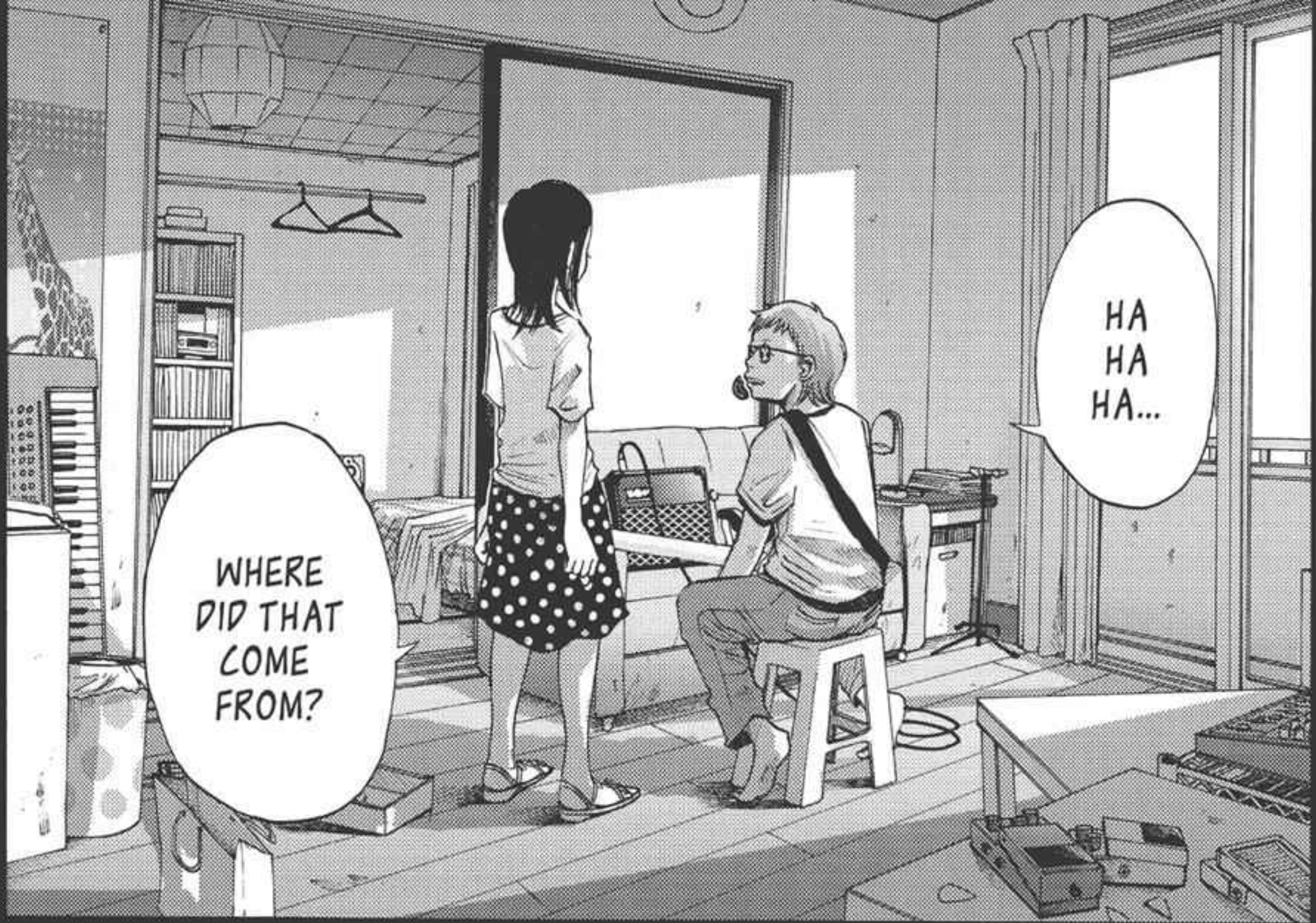
...GET  
YOUR BAND  
BACK  
TOGETHER.

HA  
HA  
HA.

WE CAN  
ONLY PRAY  
THAT HIS  
BAD HABITS  
WILL FINALLY  
KILL HIM.

THEN WE  
CAN TAKE  
OVER THE  
BUSINESS.









BUT YOU'LL  
NEVER KNOW  
IF YOU'RE  
GOOD OR  
BAD...

...IF YOU  
DON'T  
GET OUT  
THERE  
AND PLAY,  
RIGHT?

YOU'RE  
SCARED  
OF BEING  
CRITICIZED...

...FOR THE  
MUSIC YOU  
LOVE SO  
MUCH!



...WHAT  
WILL  
YOU  
DO?

IF I  
SUCK...

WILL  
YOU DIE  
WITH  
ME?

...WE'LL  
DEAL WITH  
IT WHEN  
THE TIME  
COMES...

AND...  
IF YOU  
ACTUALLY  
SUCK...



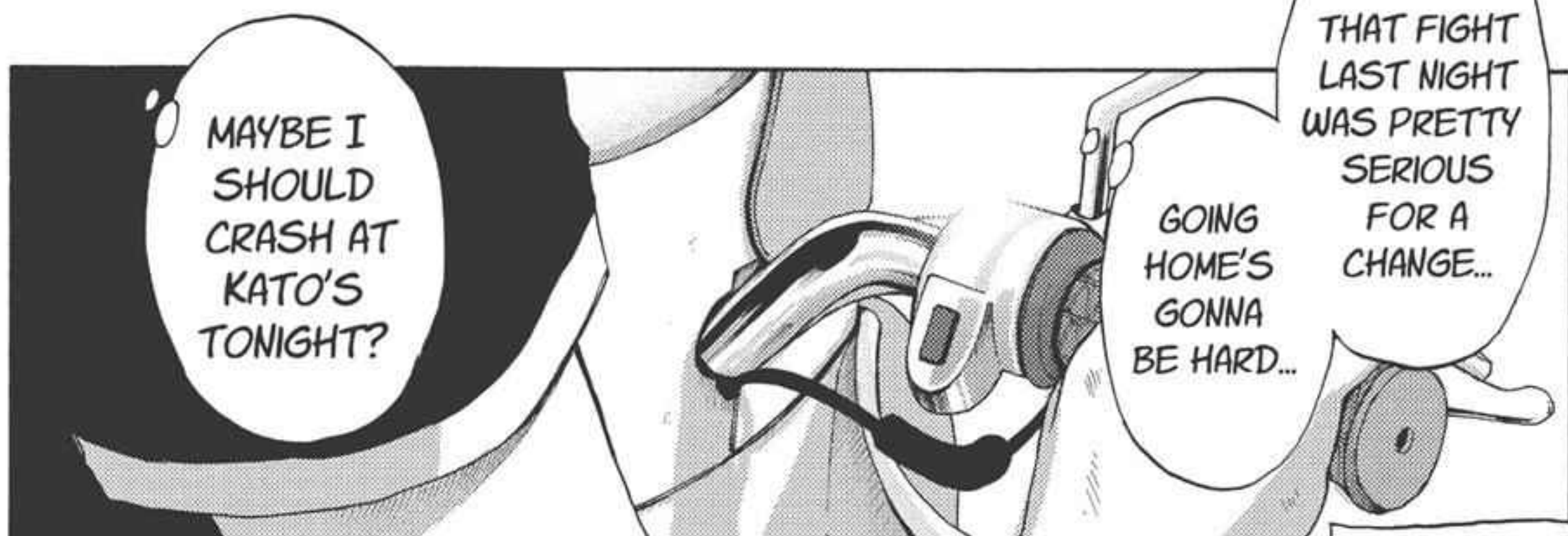




I'M  
GOING  
FOR A  
WALK.

SORRY...

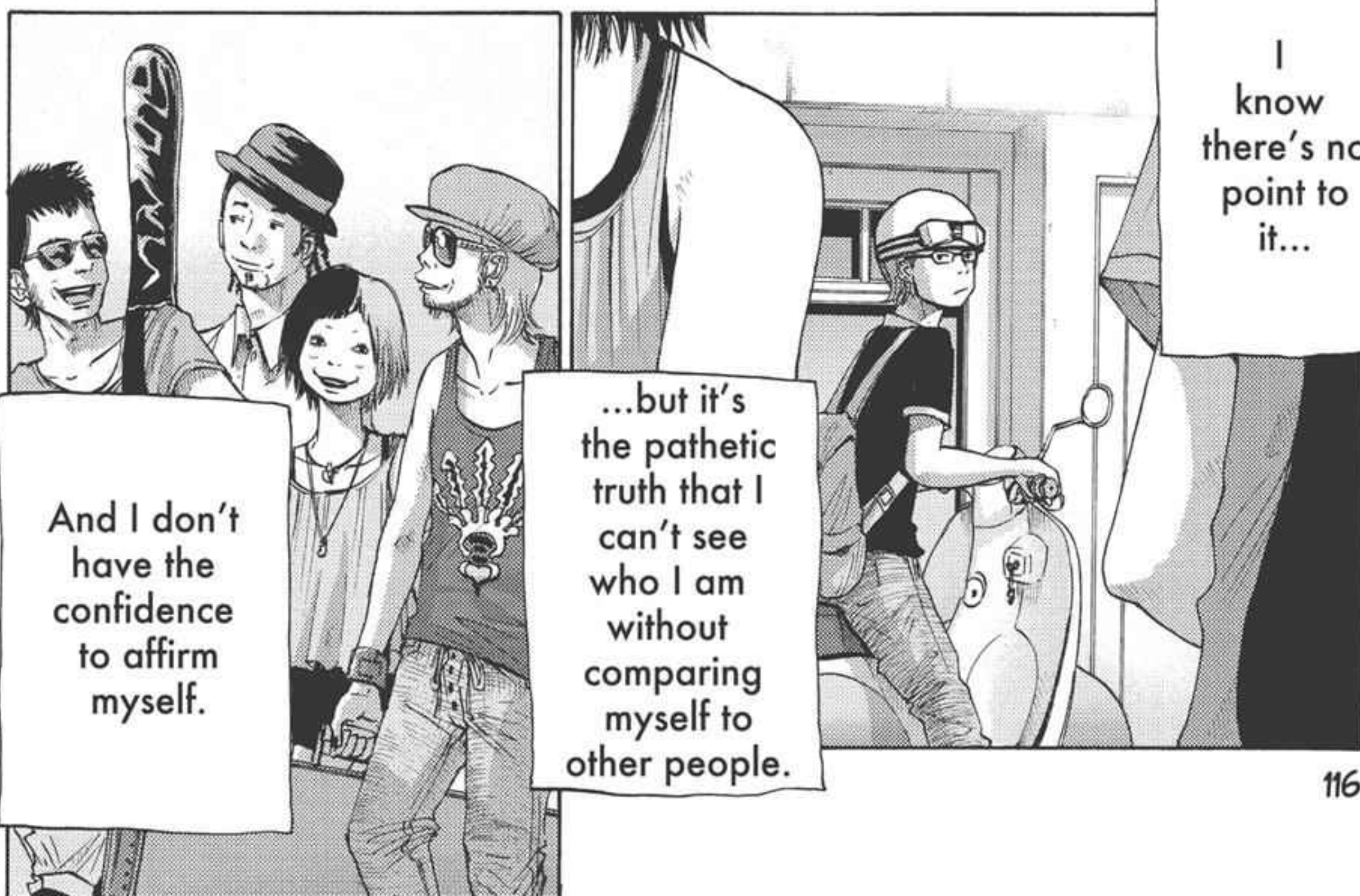
JUST  
KIDDING...



MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
CRASH AT  
KATO'S  
TONIGHT?

GOING  
HOME'S  
GONNA  
BE HARD...

THAT FIGHT  
LAST NIGHT  
WAS PRETTY  
SERIOUS  
FOR A  
CHANGE...

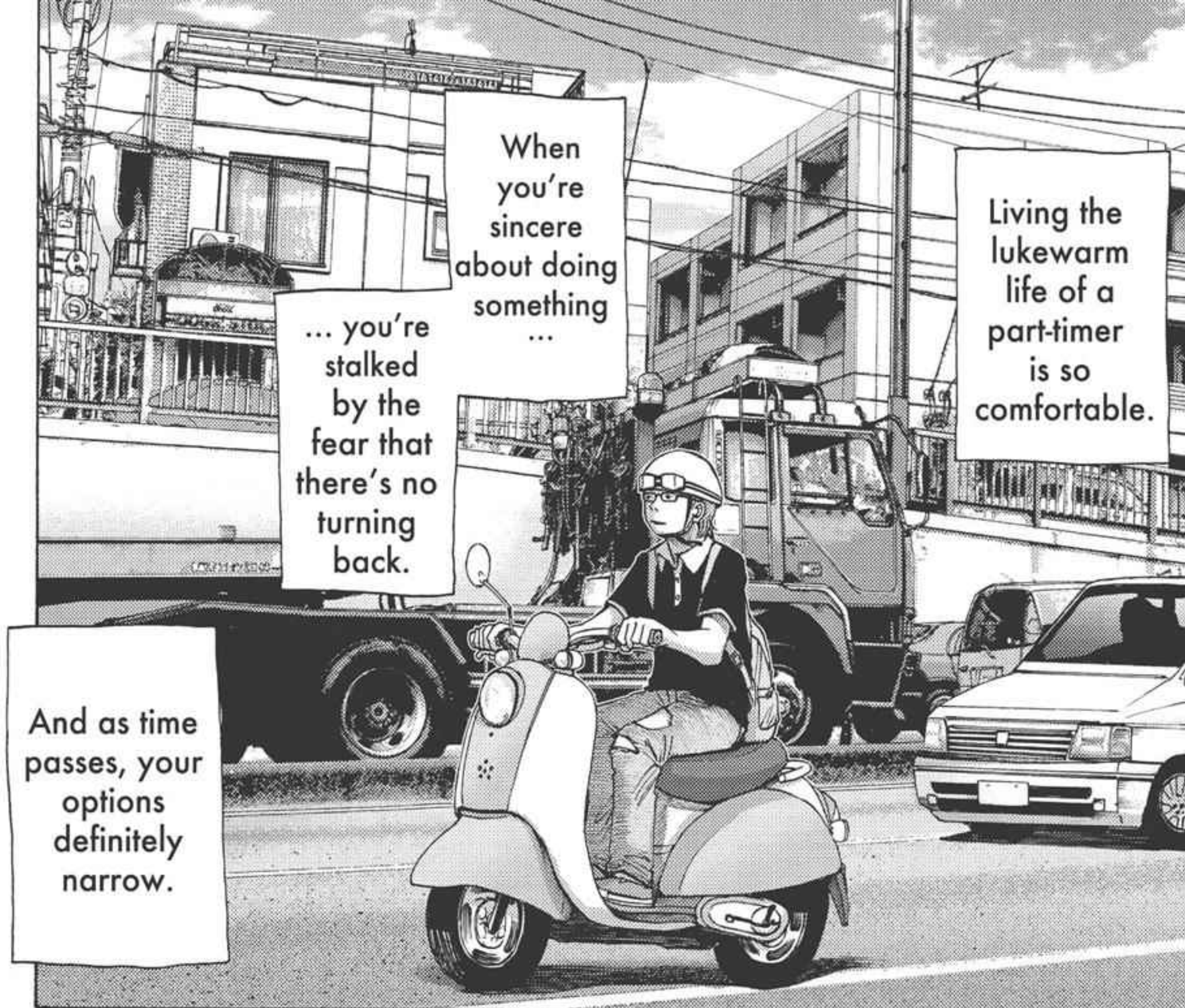


And I don't  
have the  
confidence  
to affirm  
myself.

...but it's  
the pathetic  
truth that I  
can't see  
who I am  
without  
comparing  
myself to  
other people.

I  
know  
there's no  
point to  
it...





I want  
to play  
it on  
a huge  
amp!

Ooh...  
I want to  
play my  
guitar!







