





HE ACTUALLY
GOT DOWN ON
HIS KNEES AND
BEGGED YOU
TO GIVE HIM
TIME TO
RECORD?

WELL,
I'M
SHOCKED.



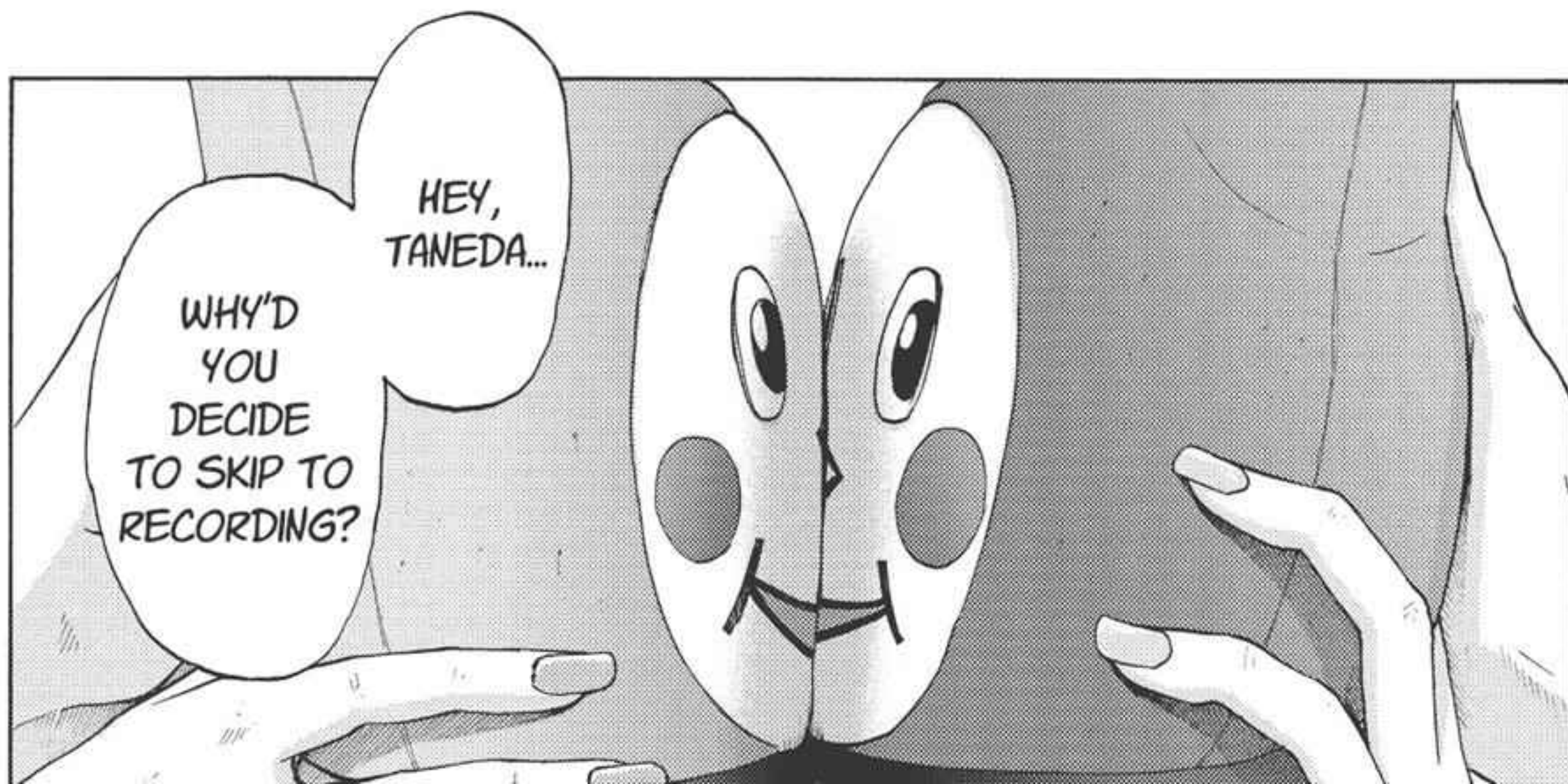
I GUESS
THAT TALK
WITH TANEDA
DID THE
TRICK.

ONE
THING
TANEDA
DOESN'T
LACK IS
PRIDE.

WHO'D
HAVE
THOUGHT
HE'D EVER
BEND HIS
NECK...

SO...
WHY IS
YOUR FACE
TWITCHING?

WELL...






FOR ONE,
WE CAN'T
COUNT ON
DRAWING THE
COLLEGE
CROWD LIKE
WE USED
TO, RIGHT?

THERE
ARE LOTS
OF
REASONS...



SHOULDN'T
WE DO SOME
LIVE SHOWS
FIRST TO GET
A FEEL FOR
THINGS, INSTEAD
OF JUMPING
STRAIGHT TO
THE CD?



AND WE
HAVE ALL THIS
ENERGY WE'VE
BUILT UP OVER
THE YEARS OF
STRUGGLING.



POW!

HMM...

SO YOU
WANT TO
TRAP THAT
INSTANT
ON OUR
CD...?

ONE
BURST
OF
POWER.



I
GET
IT.

THEN,
WE'LL
WAIT FOR
THEIR
RESPONSES.

WE'LL SEND
IT OUT TO
THE LIVE
VENUES AND
RECORD
COMPANIES
THAT ACCEPT
DEMO CDS.





...I finally gave in and bought us a shaved ice maker.

Unable to bear the record-breaking heat and the relentlessly shining sun...

Suddenly it's August.

Ever since we graduated from college, the days seem to be going by faster.



OH, WHAT...? YOU'RE WRITING A SONG?

Yay! Yay!

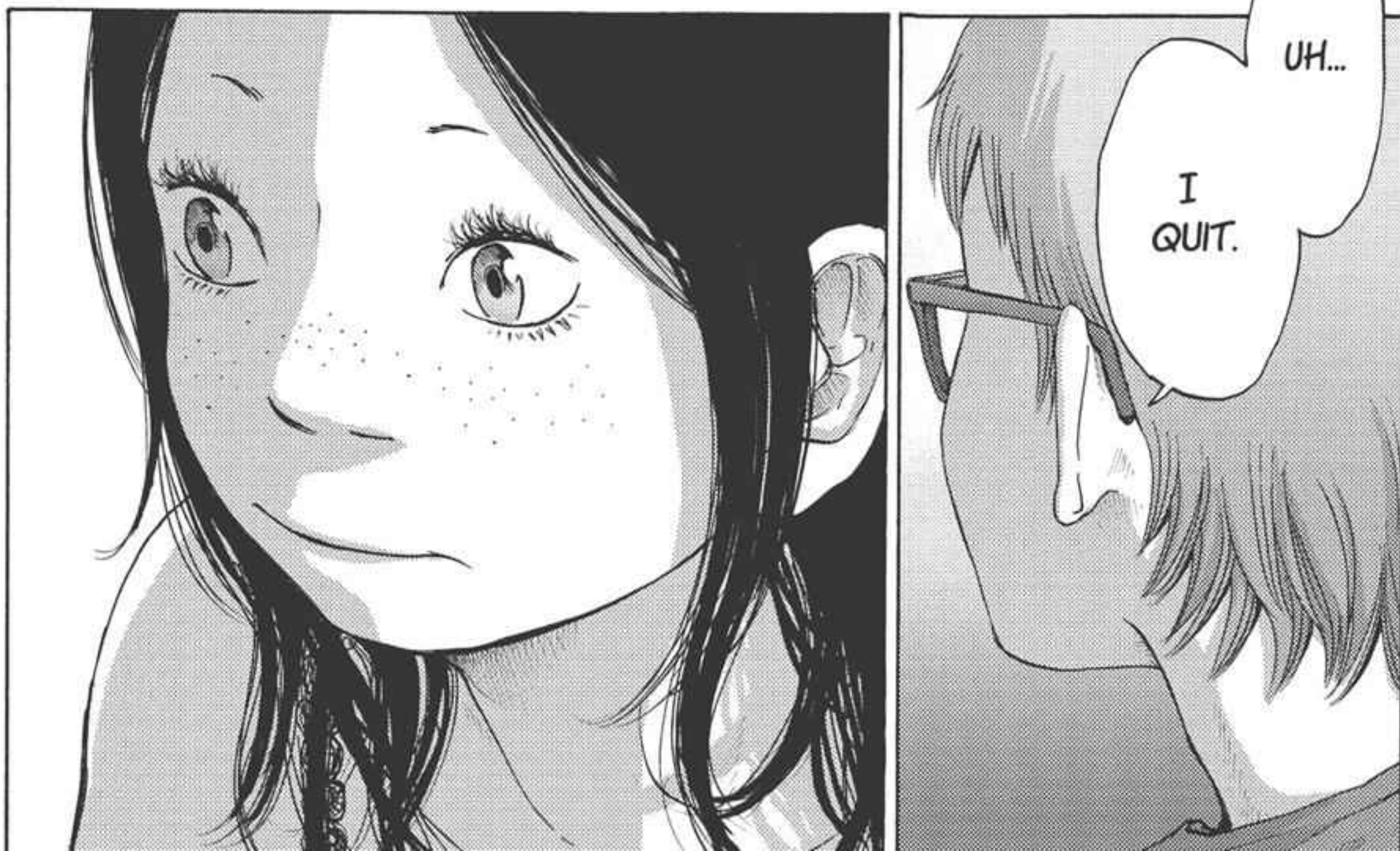
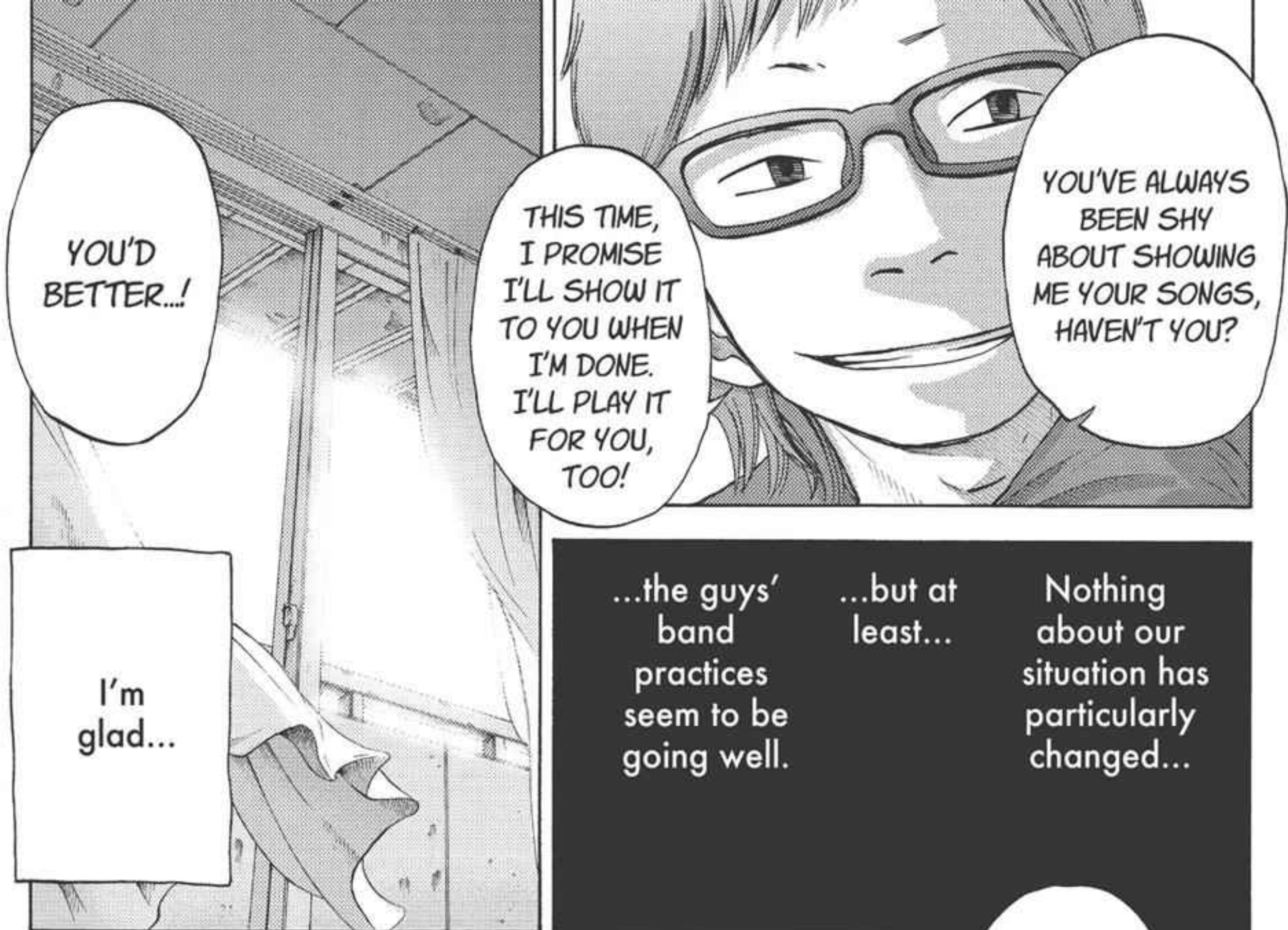
LOOK AT THIS! I GOT THIS AT THE FLEA MARKET FOR 800 YEN!



...the strange animation that's been lighting Taneda's face recently.

It's because of...

The impatience that plagued me has vanished.



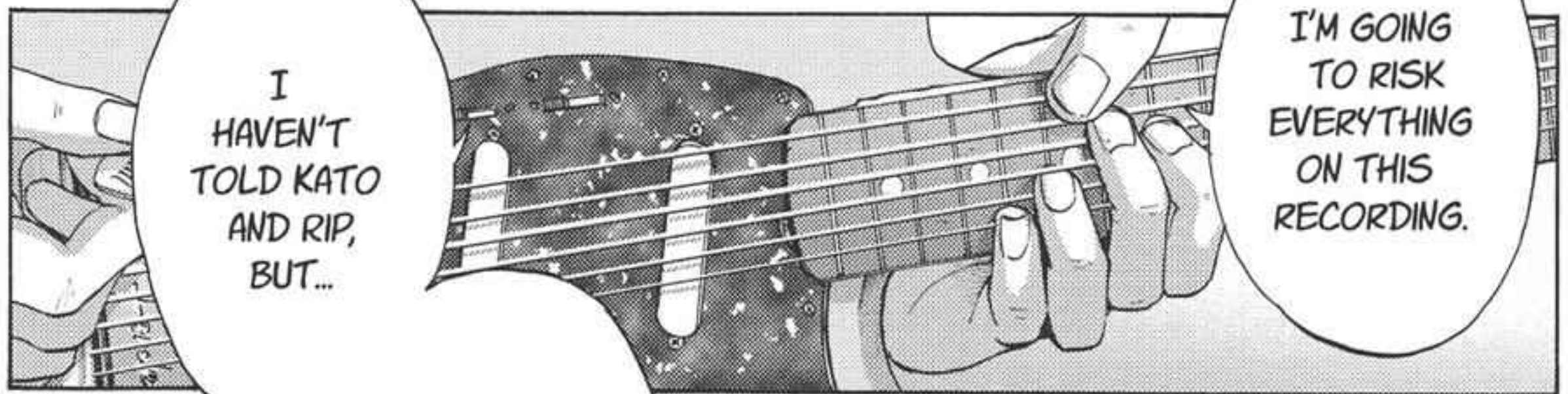


BUT
I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
QUITTING
MY JOB
FOR A
WHILE.

I
REALLY
WANTED TO
CONCENTRATE
ON THIS
RIGHT NOW.

DON'T WORRY...!
I SWEAR I'M
NOT DELUDING
MYSELF THAT
WE'LL MAKE A
LIVING OFF
OUR BAND.

WAIT A
MINUTE...
TANEDA...



I
HAVEN'T
TOLD KATO
AND RIP,
BUT...

I'M GOING
TO RISK
EVERYTHING
ON THIS
RECORDING.



...IF WE DON'T
GET SOME KIND
OF RESPONSE
THIS MONTH,
I'M GOING
BREAK UP
THE BAND.



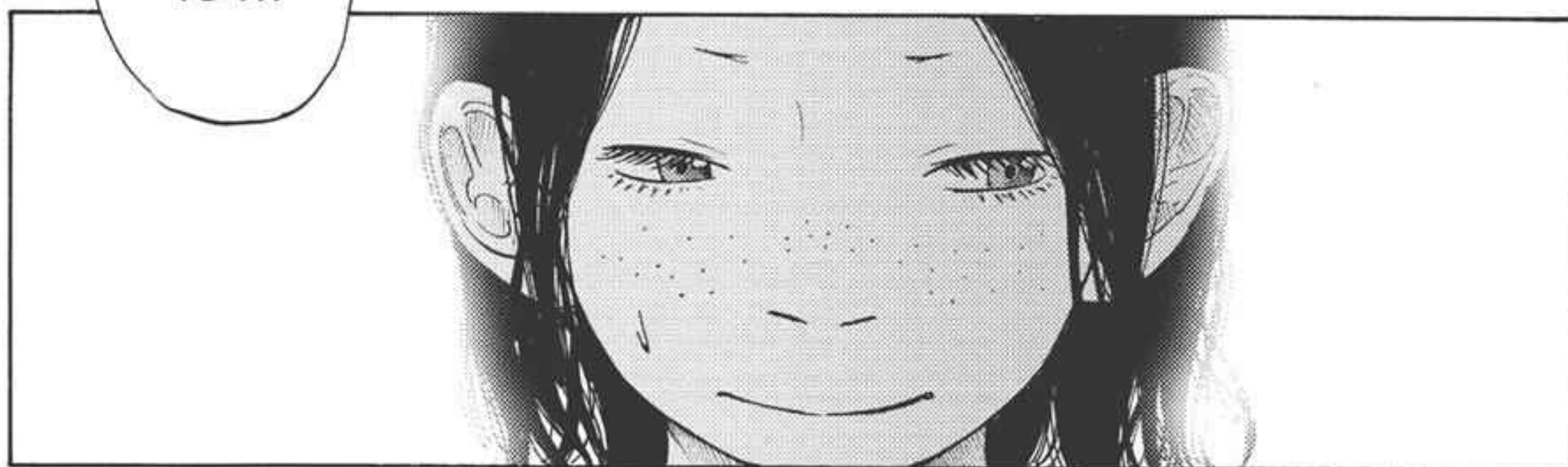
MEIKO.

BUT...



...WHEN
WE GET
TO IT.

WE'LL
CROSS
THAT
BRIDGE...

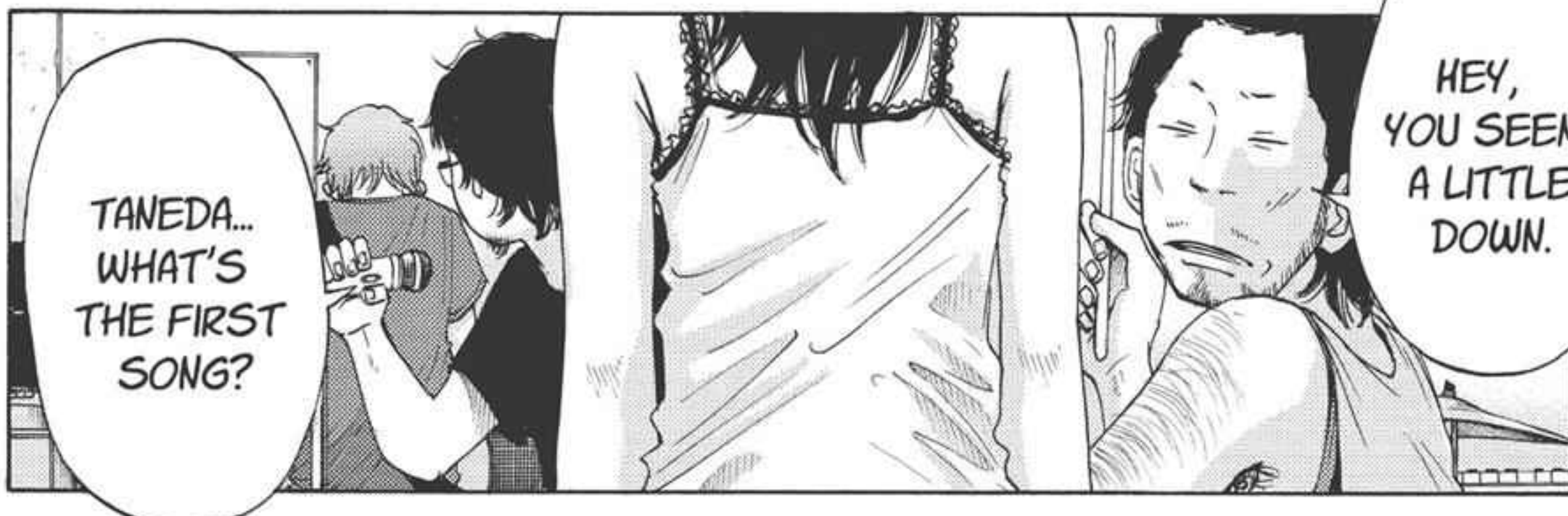


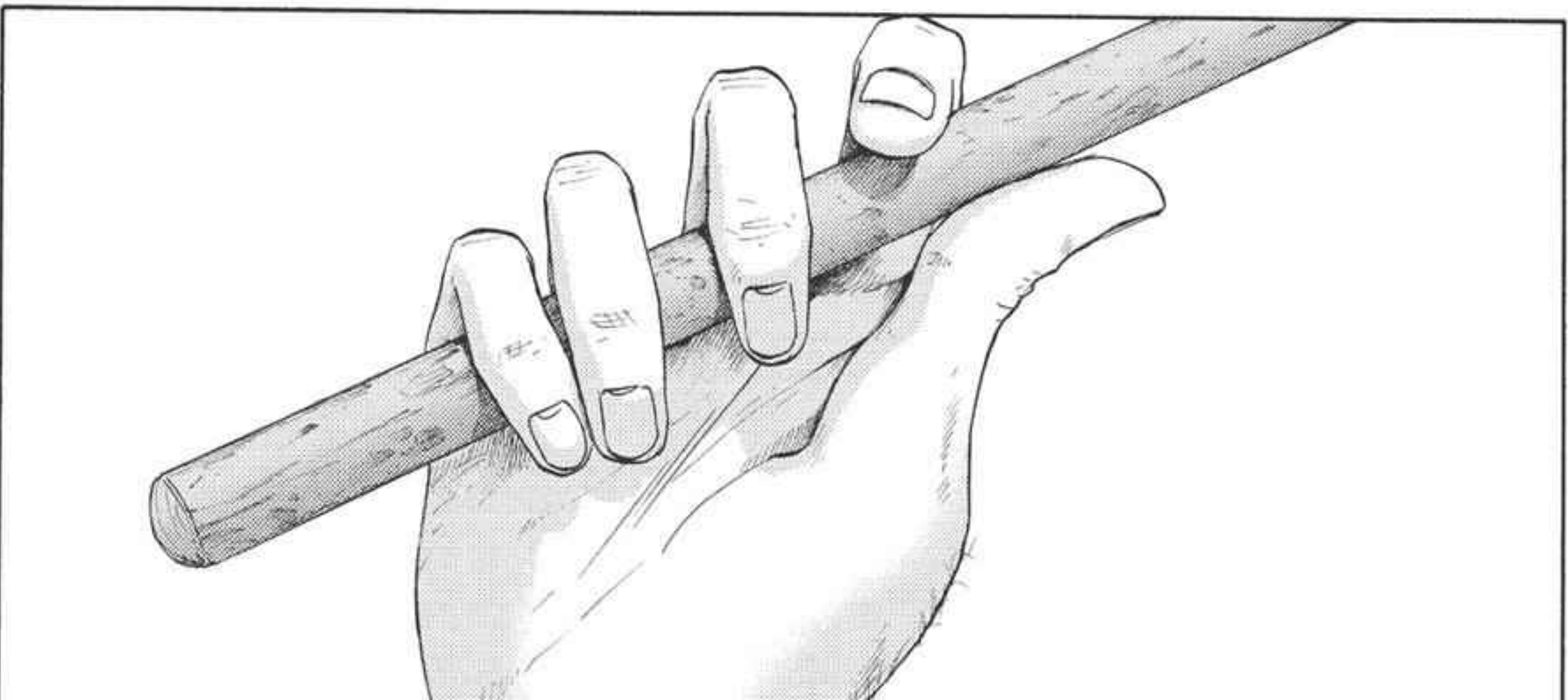
I
BROUGHT
HER SINCE
THIS IS
OUR FINAL
REHEARSAL.

DID
YOU
CURL
YOUR
HAIR?

OH,
MEIKO...
YOU'RE
HERE.

STUDIO & HALL
ROMANTIC







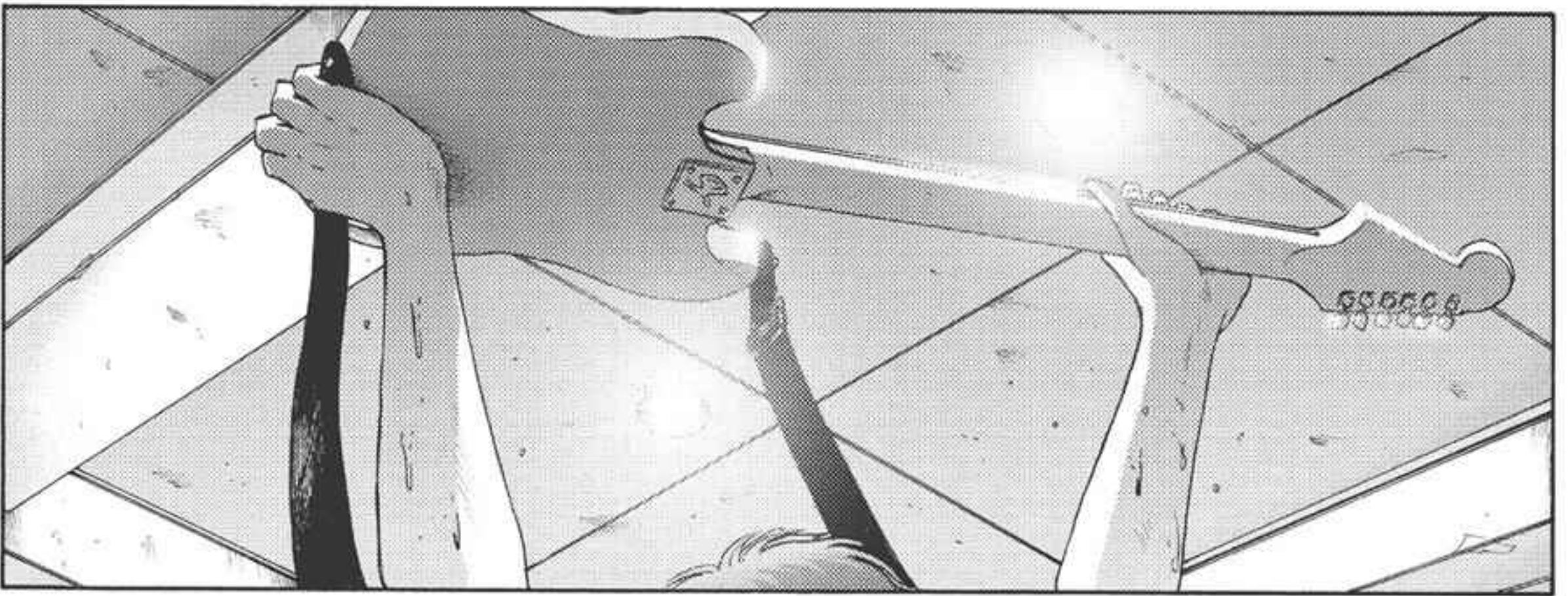


Ah...



His
eyes are
shining,
just like
a kid's.

Look
at
Taneda...



This is
how it
should be.

Hmm...
Yes.

