

The
year is 200X.
The world has
been enveloped
in the flames of
nuclear war!

OH?!

OH?!

OH
OH
OH?!

That's not
what really
happened. It's
another peaceful
day in Japan.

UH OH,
I'D BETTER
GET GOING
TO THE
STUDIO.

HEY,
TANEDA...

I'M
GETTING
BORED
WATCHING
YOU PLAY
THIS GAME.

KABOOM.

OKAY,
I GOT IT.
I CLEARED
THE
FOURTH
LEVEL.



15



If we're
lucky, we
avoid disasters
and terrorist
attacks, living
a quieter
future than
we once
dreamed of.

We're not
living in
some
futuristic
colony.
There are
no flying
cars.

No messiah
has appeared
to save an
Earth
devastated
by radiation.



HEY,
TANEDA!!

THEY SAID
WE'D BETTER
WRAP IT UP
OR THEY'LL
CHARGE US
EXTRA.

Oh
oh
oh

SO
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
OF IT...?

THIS
IS THE
21ST
CENTURY,
THIS IS
REALITY...

TAMA



TO-MORROW'S THE FAREWELL CONCERT.

HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

HEY, WHAT'S UP, MEIKO?

GOOD JOB, EVERYBODY!



WE JUST NEED TANEDA TO WRITE SOME LYRICS FOR OUR NEW SONG.

WELL, WE'VE BEEN PLODDING ALONG FOR THREE YEARS NOW, SO WE SHOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM.



WE'RE ALL JUST GETTING PART-TIME JOBS BUT YOU'RE GONNA BE...

...WORKING YOUR BUTT OFF IN SOME OFFICE DOWNTOWN COME APRIL.

MAN... GRADUATION IS FINALLY HERE!!

KATO, DON'T YOU HAVE TO STAY ANOTHER YEAR?



HA HA HA... IT IS SO BORING...

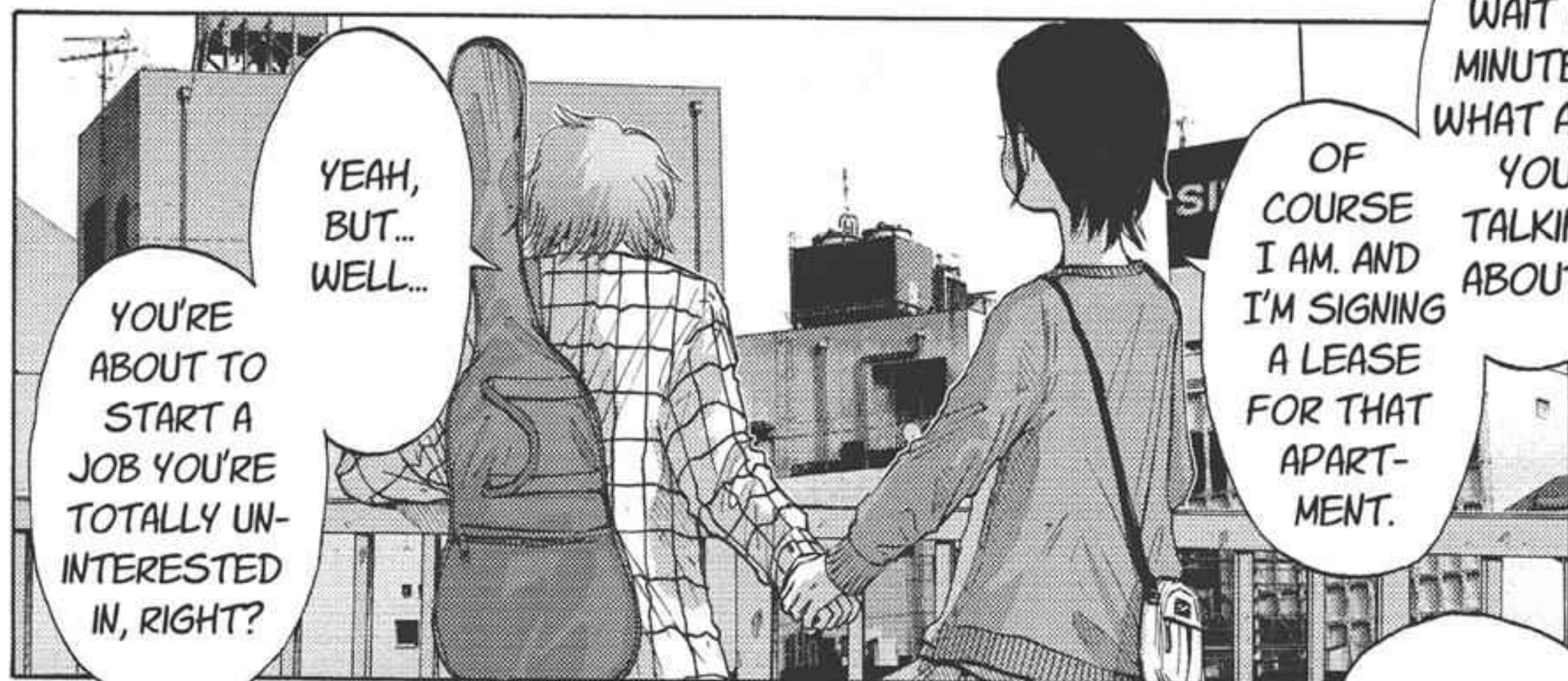
YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED TRAINING, RIGHT? SO HOW'S IT GOING?



WHAT?



MEIKO,
ARE YOU
REALLY
GOING TO
WORK IN
THAT
OFFICE?



YEAH,
BUT...
WELL...

YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
START A
JOB YOU'RE
TOTALLY UN-
INTERESTED
IN, RIGHT?

OF
COURSE
I AM. AND
I'M SIGNING
A LEASE
FOR THAT
APART-
MENT.

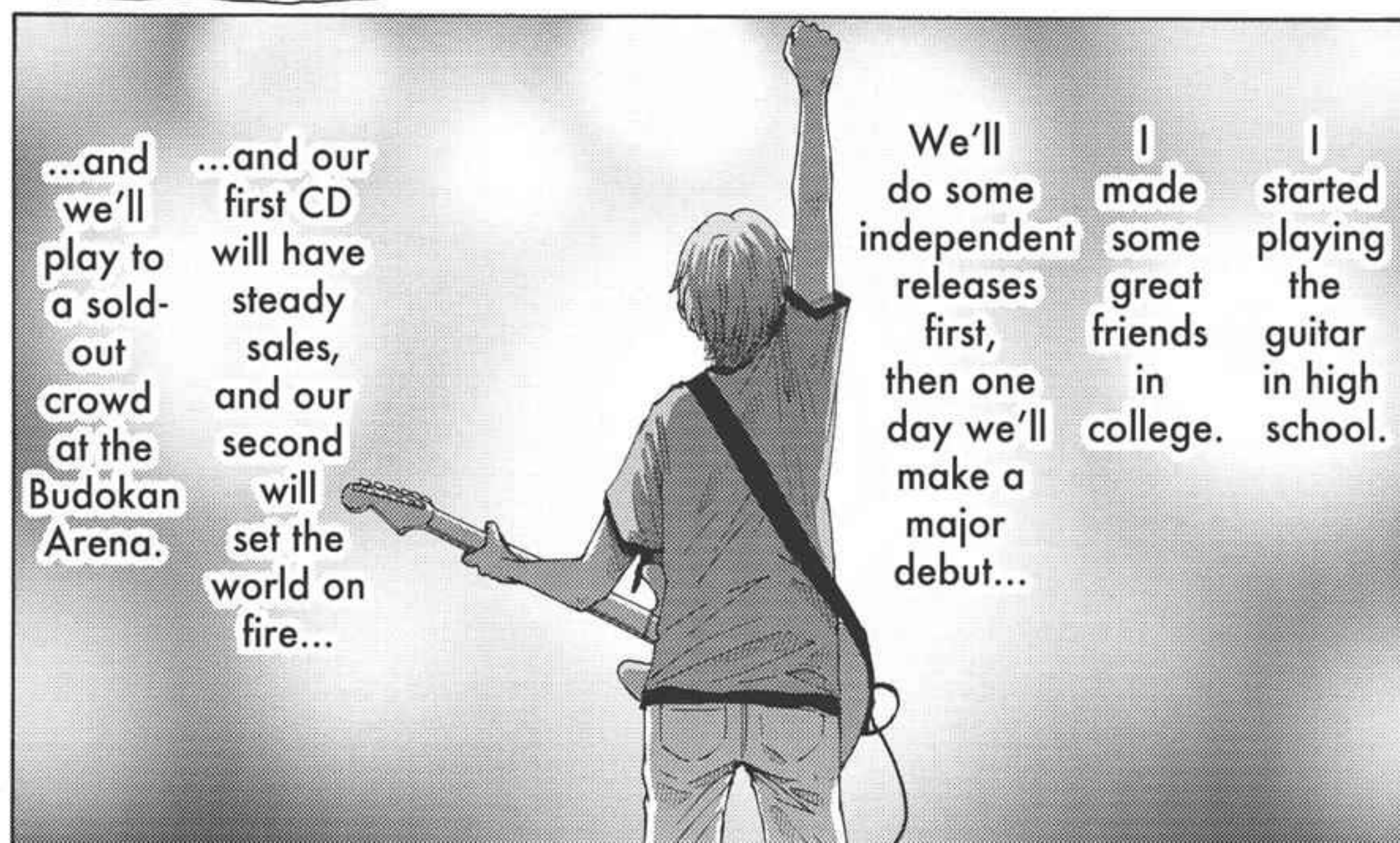
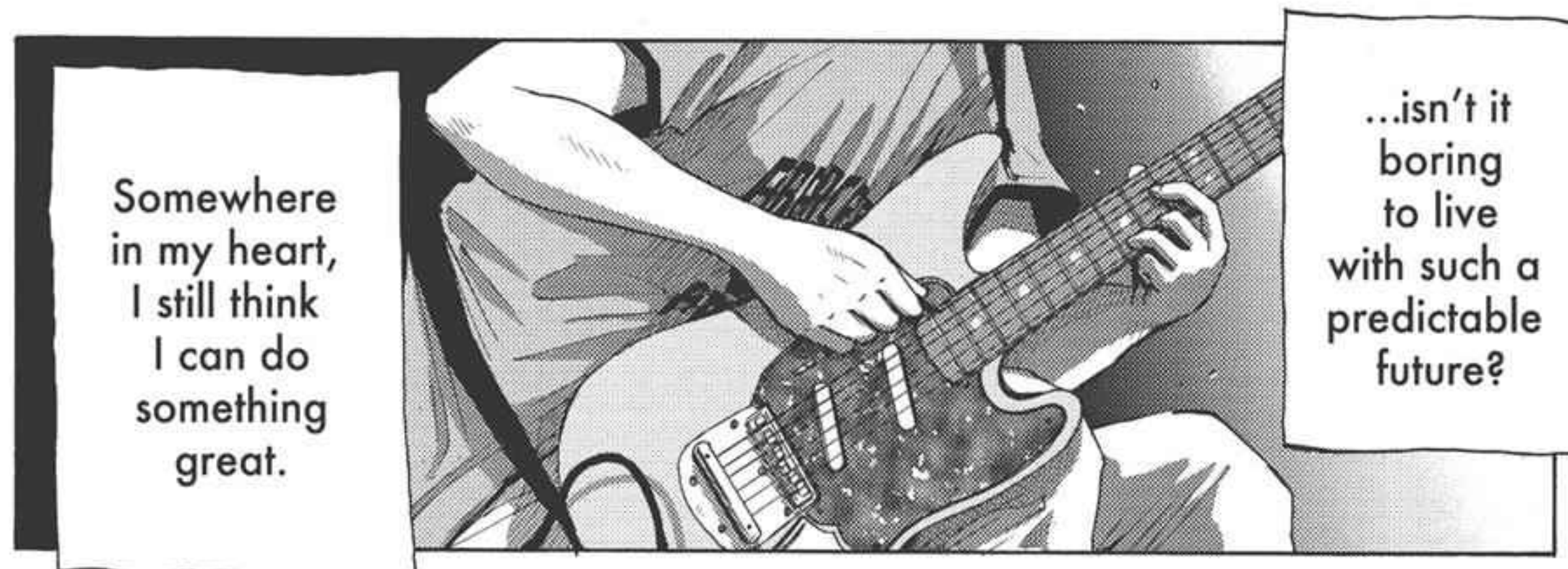
WAIT A
MINUTE...
WHAT ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



...I
WOULDN'T
WANT TO
RUSH INTO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

NO MATTER
HOW TIGHT
THE JOB
MARKET IS...

THERE'S NO
WAY YOU WERE
BORN TO JUST
POUR TEA AND
WAIT ON
CLIENTS.



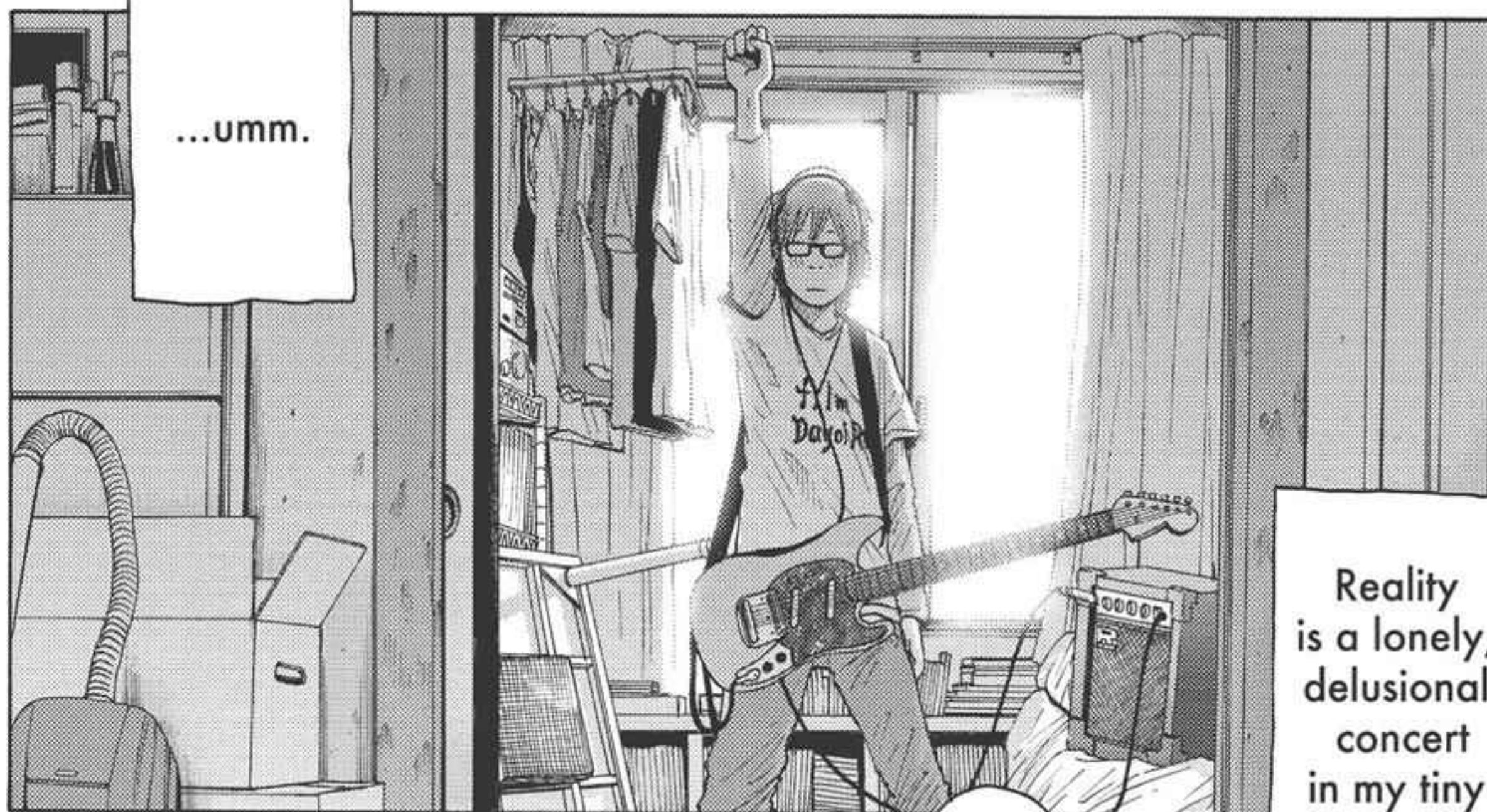
...then
pump my
right fist
high in
the air!



...I'll
keep
twanging
that A
maj 7
chord
on my
Mustang...

When
our
last
song
ends...

...umm.



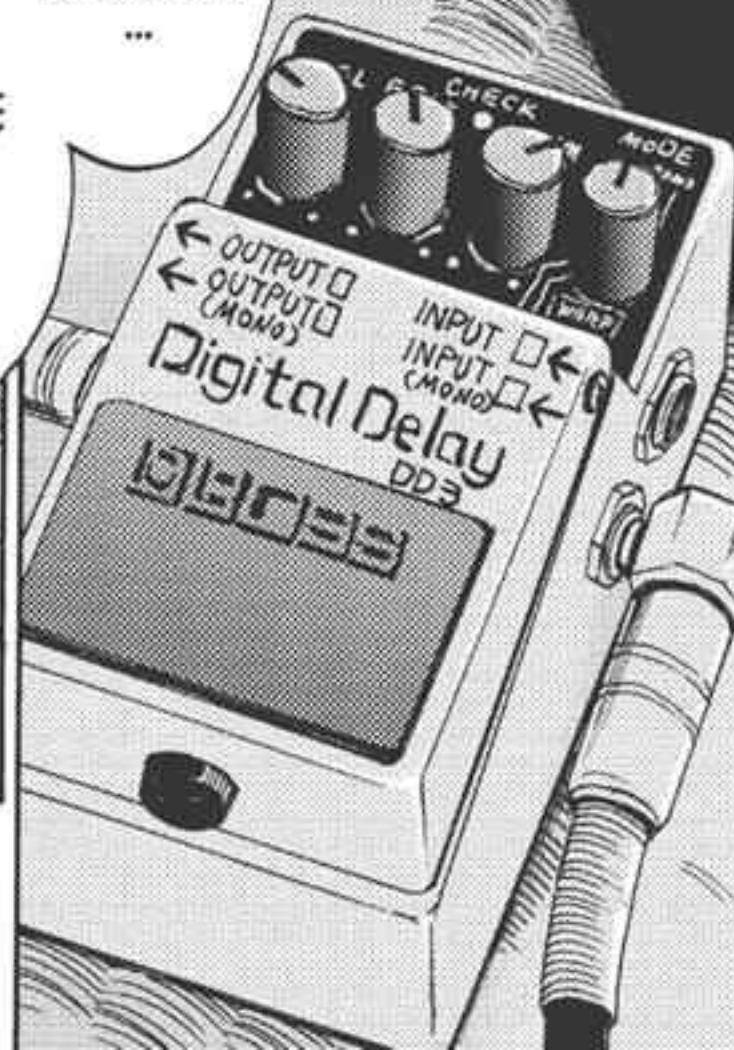
Reality
is a lonely,
delusional
concert
in my tiny
apartment.

NOT A
LOVE
SONG...

NOBODY
CARES
WHAT
I THINK
ABOUT
LOVE.

I'D
BETTER
HURRY UP
AND WRITE
THOSE
LYRICS.

MAYBE
I'M JUST
NOT
TALENTED
ENOUGH
...





HERE'S
YOUR STUFF
FROM MEIKO.
SHE ASKED
ME TO
BRING IT
OVER.

HAVEN'T
YOU GUYS
HEARD OF
THE DOOR?



JAPAN TODAY...
YOU CAN FLIP
IT THE BIRD
AND YOU STILL
GET NOWHERE.

I WANT
SOMETHING
MORE...
ANTI-
ESTAB-
LISHMENT...

BUT
WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN,
ANYWAY?



HEY
NOW!!

YOU SOUND
WEIRD
MUTTERING
TO YOURSELF
LIKE THAT,
TANEDA.



YOU
GUYS HAD
ANOTHER
FIGHT
TODAY
DIDN'T
YOU?

I GUESS
WHEN
YOU'VE BEEN
TOGETHER
FOUR YEARS,
IT'S BOUND
TO HAPPEN.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

Ahh...
If only I
had thrown
rock...

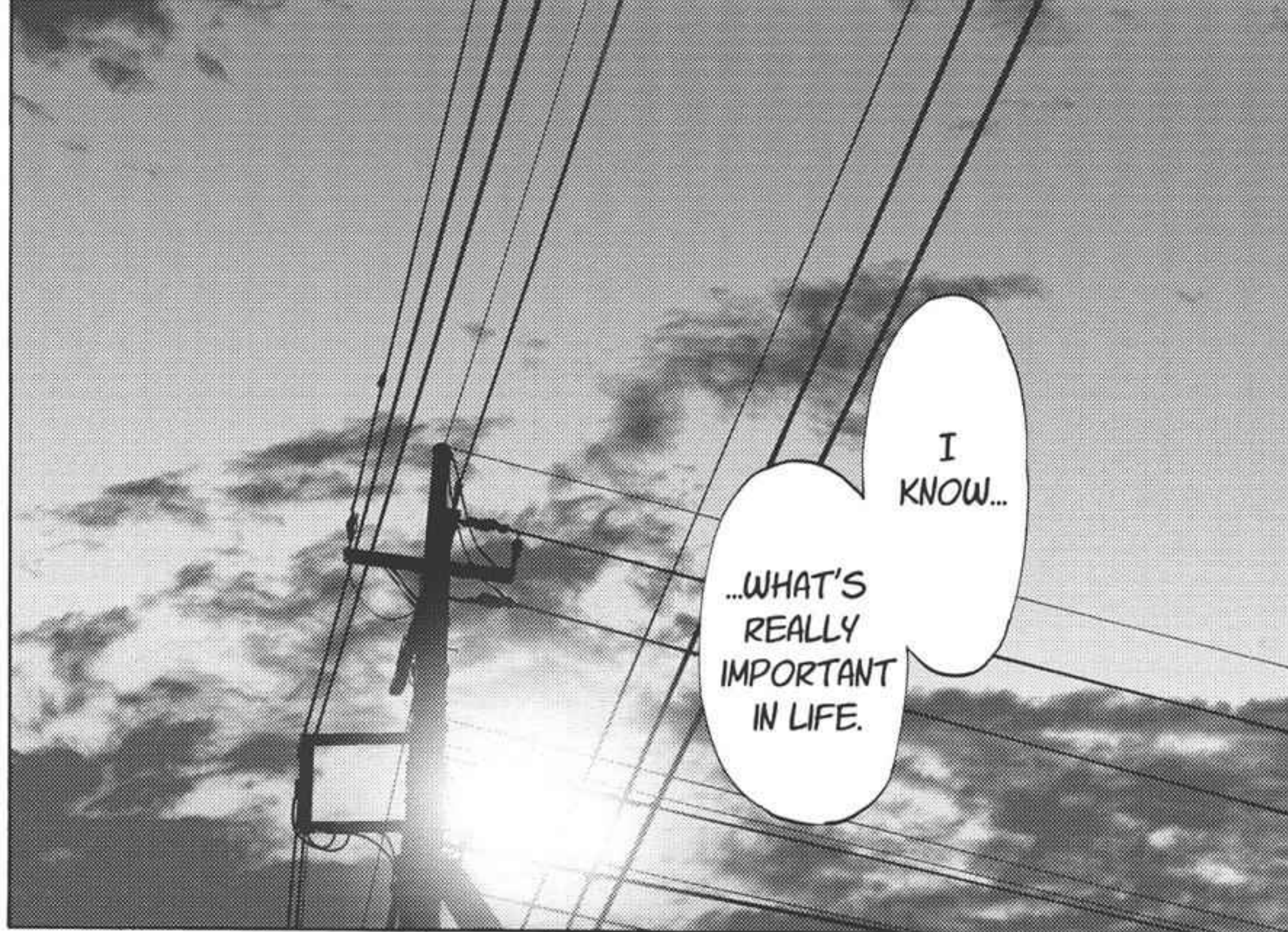
SO
MEIKO'S
FINALLY
MOVING...

ARE
THINGS
GONNA
BE OKAY
WITH YOU
TWO?



YOU
KNOW
YOU'RE NO
GOOD
WITHOUT
MEIKO.

BE
CAREFUL OF
SEASONAL
MOOD SWINGS
AND STUFF.



WELL,
THAT MIGHT
BE NICE...
PUT OFF
ADULTHOOD
A LITTLE
LONGER.

HMM...

REALLY.

AND WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING AFTER
GRADUATION,
TANEDA?

WHO
KNOWS...?
I'LL PROBABLY
JUST STAY
AT MY PART-
TIME JOB.

SORRY.
TANEDA'S
BEEN
POS-
SESSED.

OR
MAYBE
YOU'VE GOT
AN "ADULT
SWITCH"
SOMEWHERE
ON YOUR
BODY?!

What?!

YOU DYE
YOUR
BLEACHED
HAIR BLACK
AND GET A JOB,
AND SUDDENLY
YOU'RE ALL
GROWN UP?!

WHOA,
DON'T CONDE-
SCEND
TO ME
LIKE
THAT,
OKAY?!

WHO
WANTS TO
HEAR YOU
ASSHOLES
PLAY?

WE'LL LET
YOU GO FIRST
SO YOU CAN
SEE OUR HOT
PERFORMANCE.
WARM UP THE
CROWD FOR
US, OKAY?

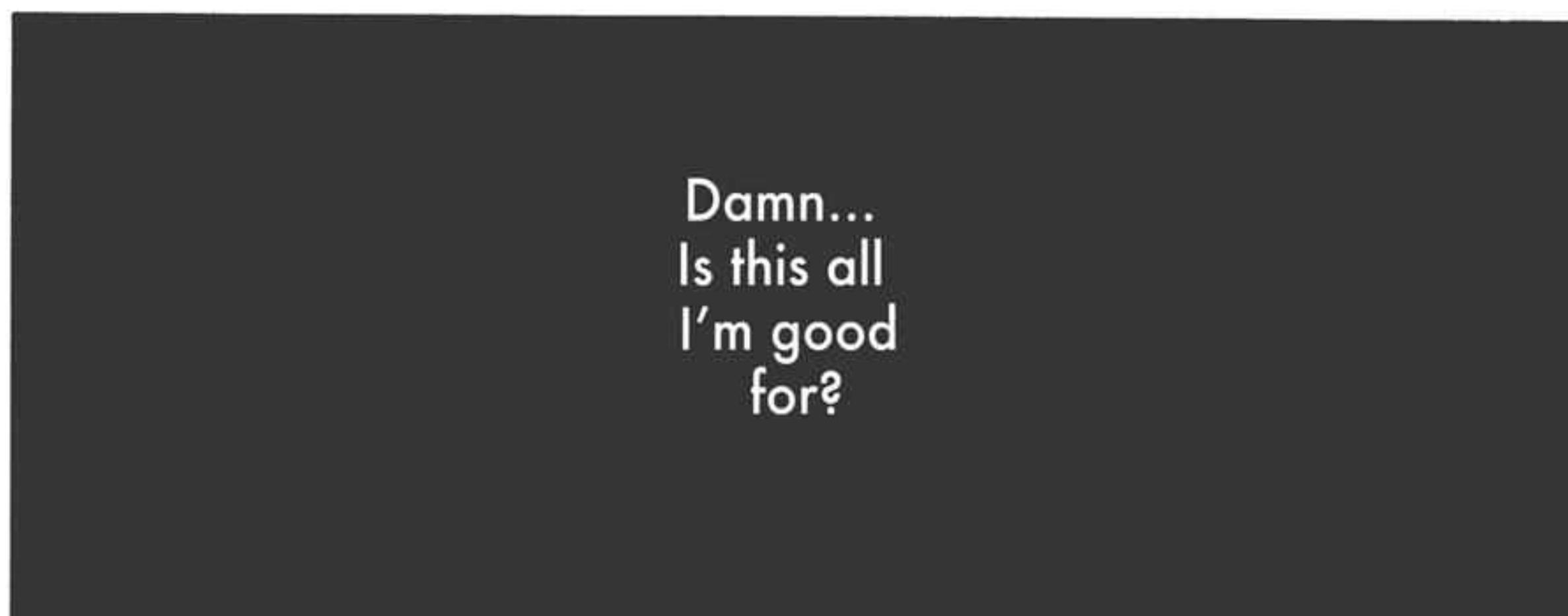
TANEDA...
WE'RE 22.
YOU
SHOULDN'T
LET
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
UPSET
YOU.

Probably
not.

Does
anyone
want to
hear our
performance?

Wait a
minute...









Oh...

I
forgot
the
lyrics.



AH...

AH...



OH,
HELL!
I DON'T
NEED
LYRICS!!

UMM...

I'LL
JUST
TELL YOU
EVERYTHING!!

TANEDA!





...THERE'S
AN AWFUL
PART OF ME
THAT FEELS
BAD, BUT KIND
OF EXCITED!!

WHEN A
PLANE
PLOWS
INTO A
BUILDING,
WHEN WAR
ERUPTS...

LISTEN UP!
CAN I TELL
YOU
SOMETHING
REALLY
MESSED
UP?!



IT WON'T
BE DRAMATIC,
JUST ONE
BORING DAY
AFTER
ANOTHER!!


I SEE
NO LIGHT
OF HOPE
IN OUR
FUTURE!!



EVERYBODY!!
CONGRAT-
ULATIONS ON
GRADUATING
FROM
HUMANITY!!

...WHO ACTS
SATISFIED
WITH A TEPID
HAPPINESS!!

I'LL
NEVER
BECOME
AN ADULT...

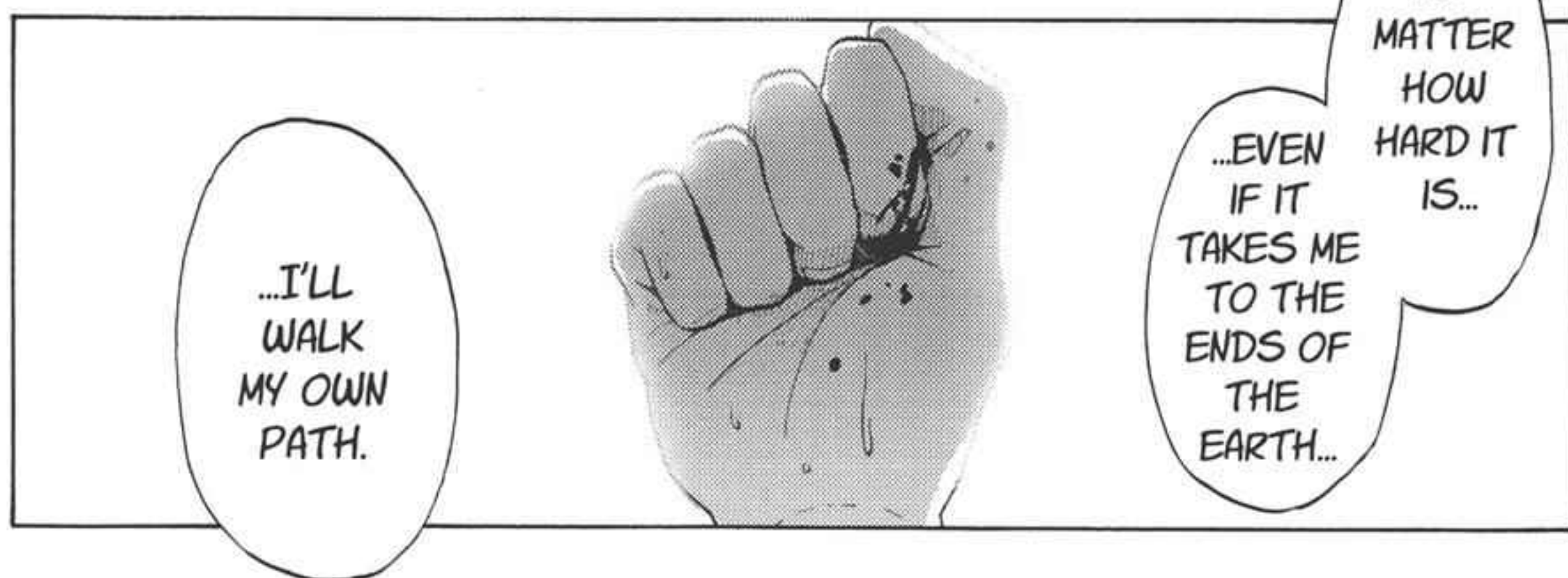


BUT
I...!
I...



...TO
FIND AN
ANSWER.

...NEED
A LITTLE
MORE
TIME...



...I'LL
WALK
MY OWN
PATH.

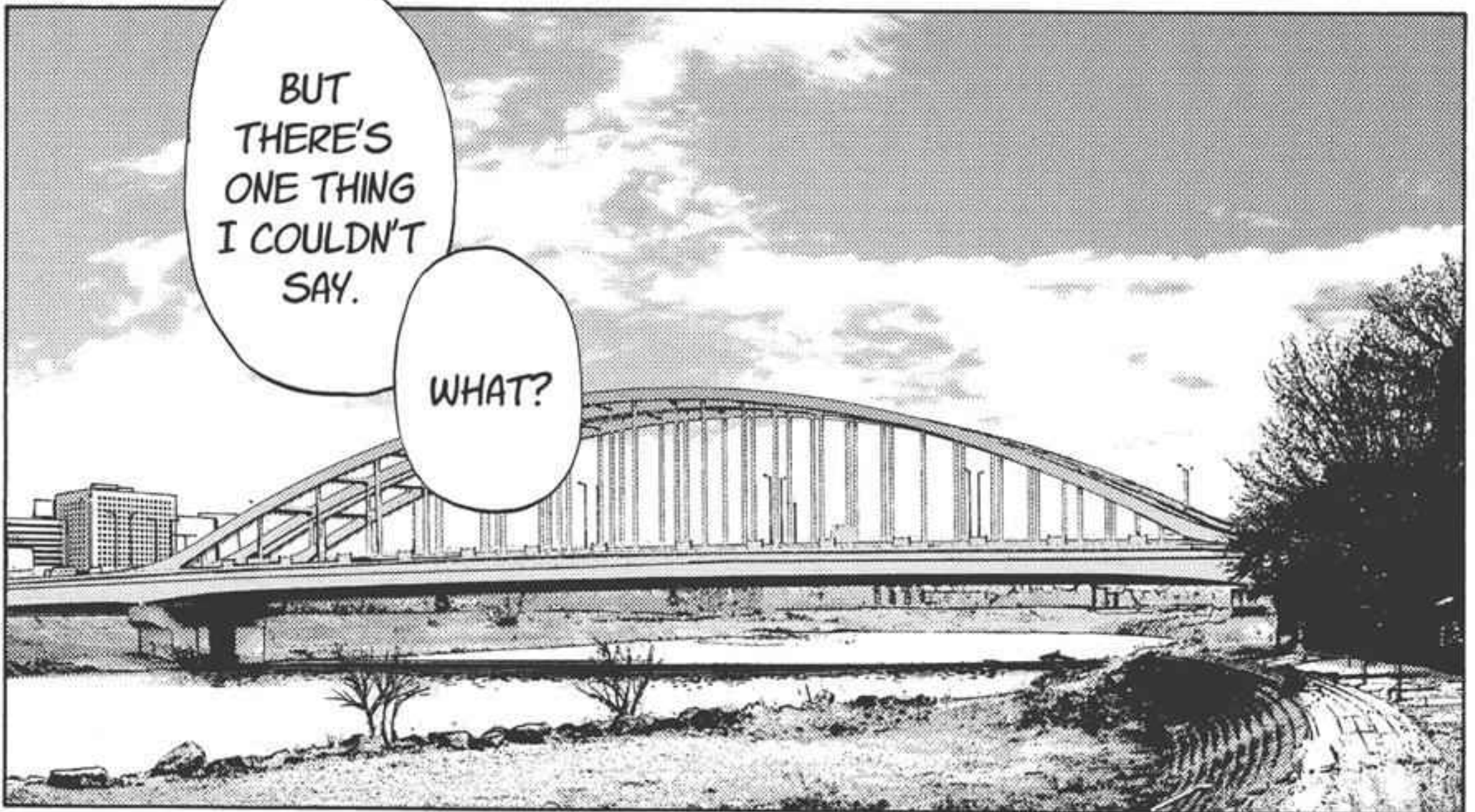
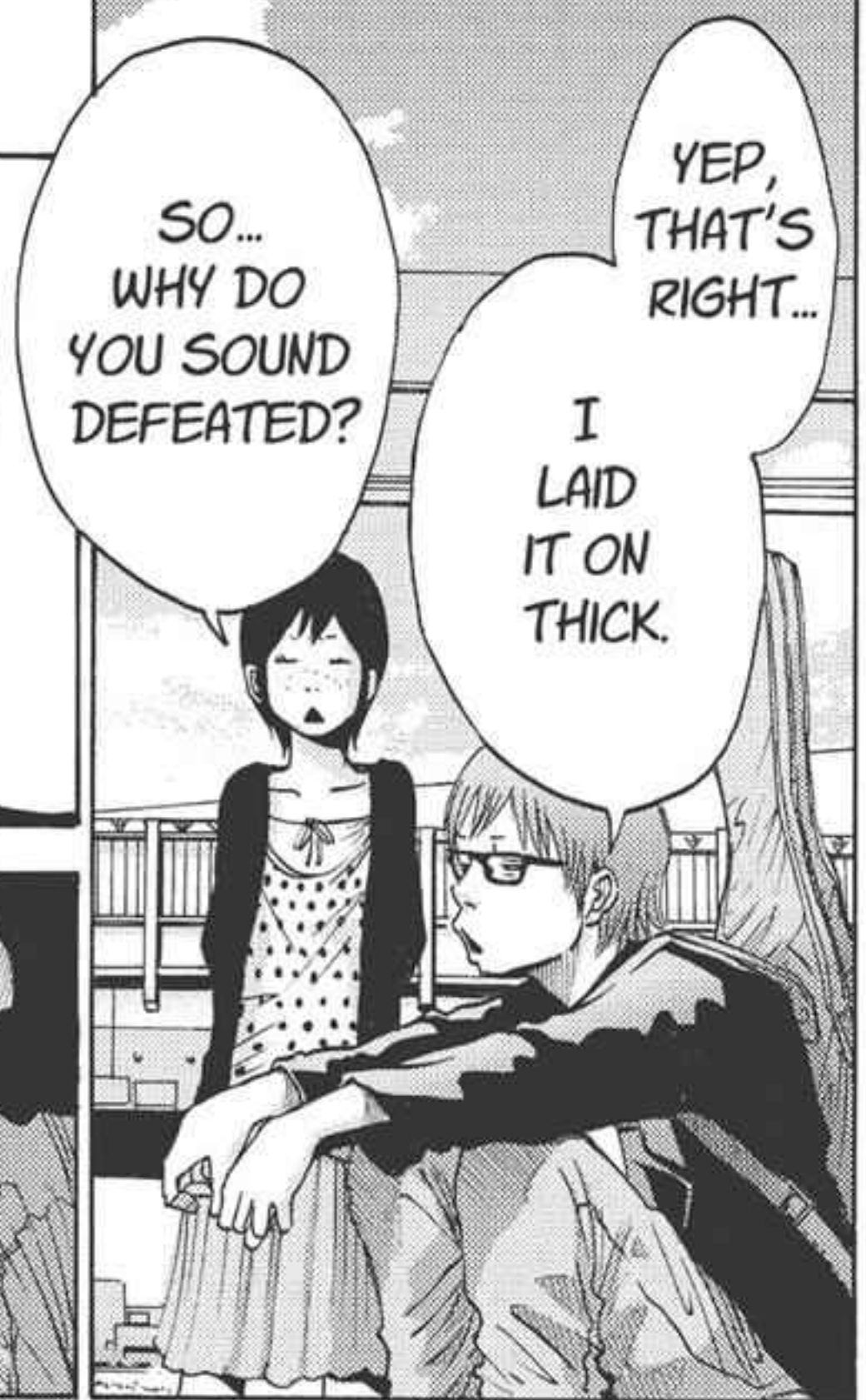
...EVEN
IF IT
TAKES ME
TO THE
ENDS OF
THE
EARTH...

NO
MATTER
HOW
HARD IT
IS...

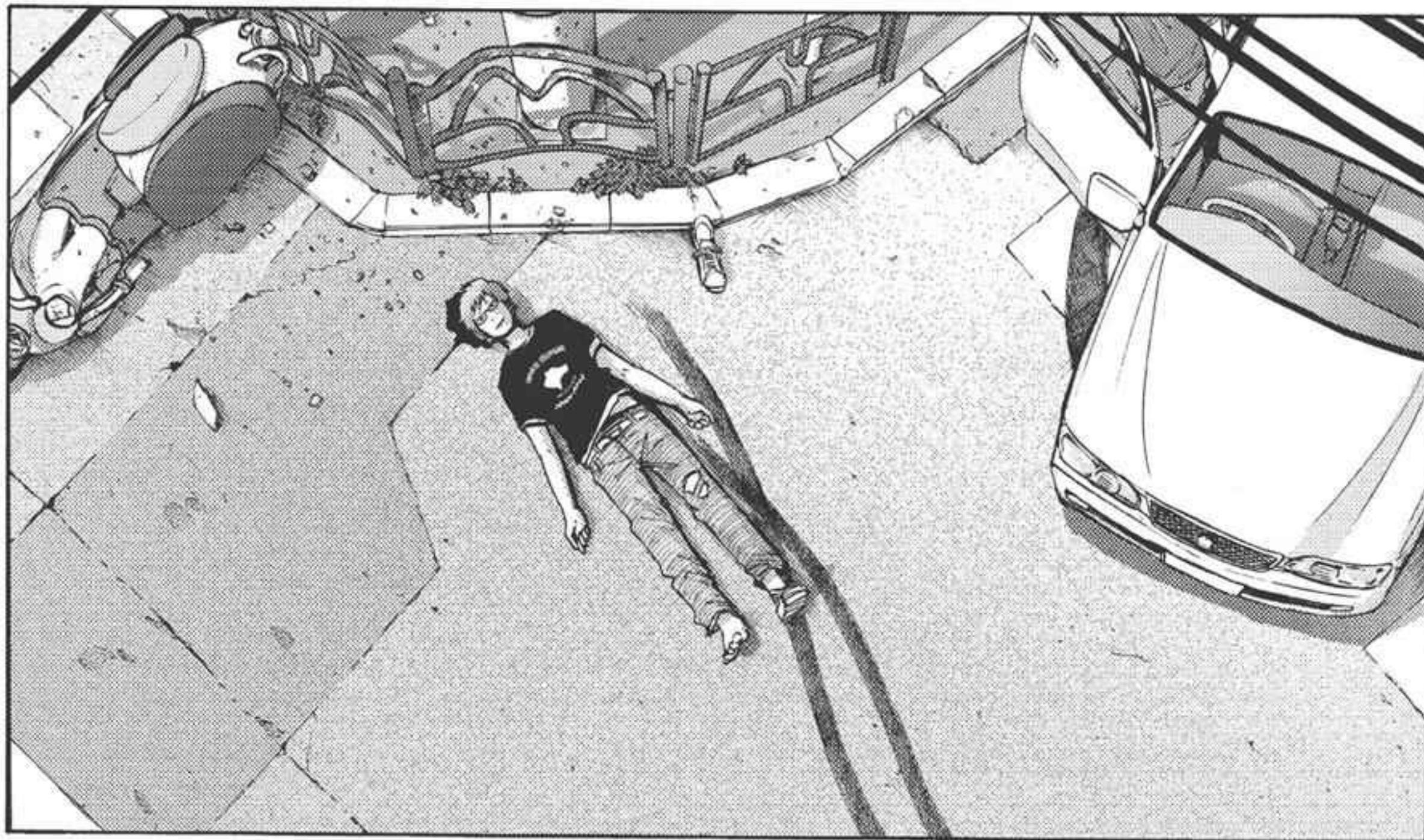


TANEDA

YOU SAID
SOME
REALLY
HEAVY-DUTY
THINGS...



For some reason, I suddenly remember what happened a year and a half ago.

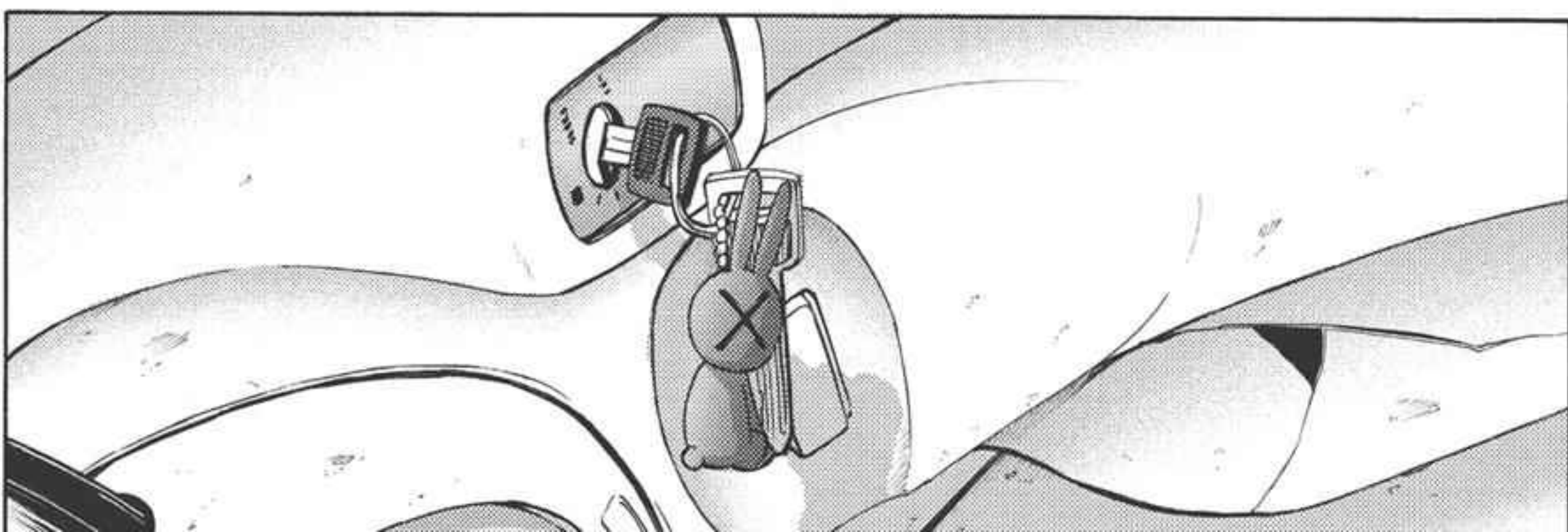


Is this
what life
is like?

And
yet,
not
really.

So
much
has
happened.

So much
time has
gone by since
that day.



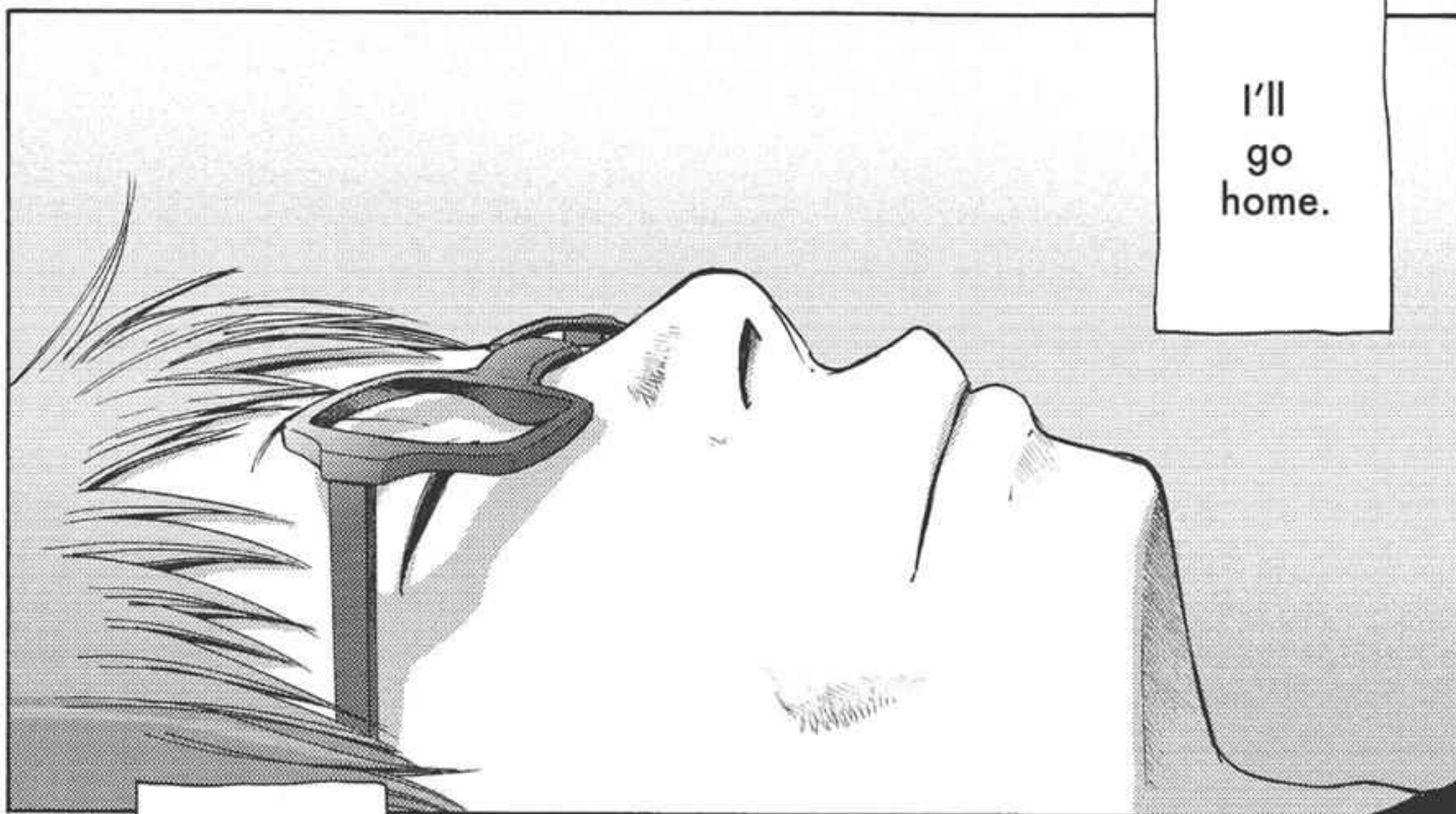
I'll sing
it to her
when I
get home.

Oh
yeah...

I got
embarrassed
and never
sang it for
her.

The love
song I wrote
that day...

I'll
go
home.



I'll
hurry
home.



