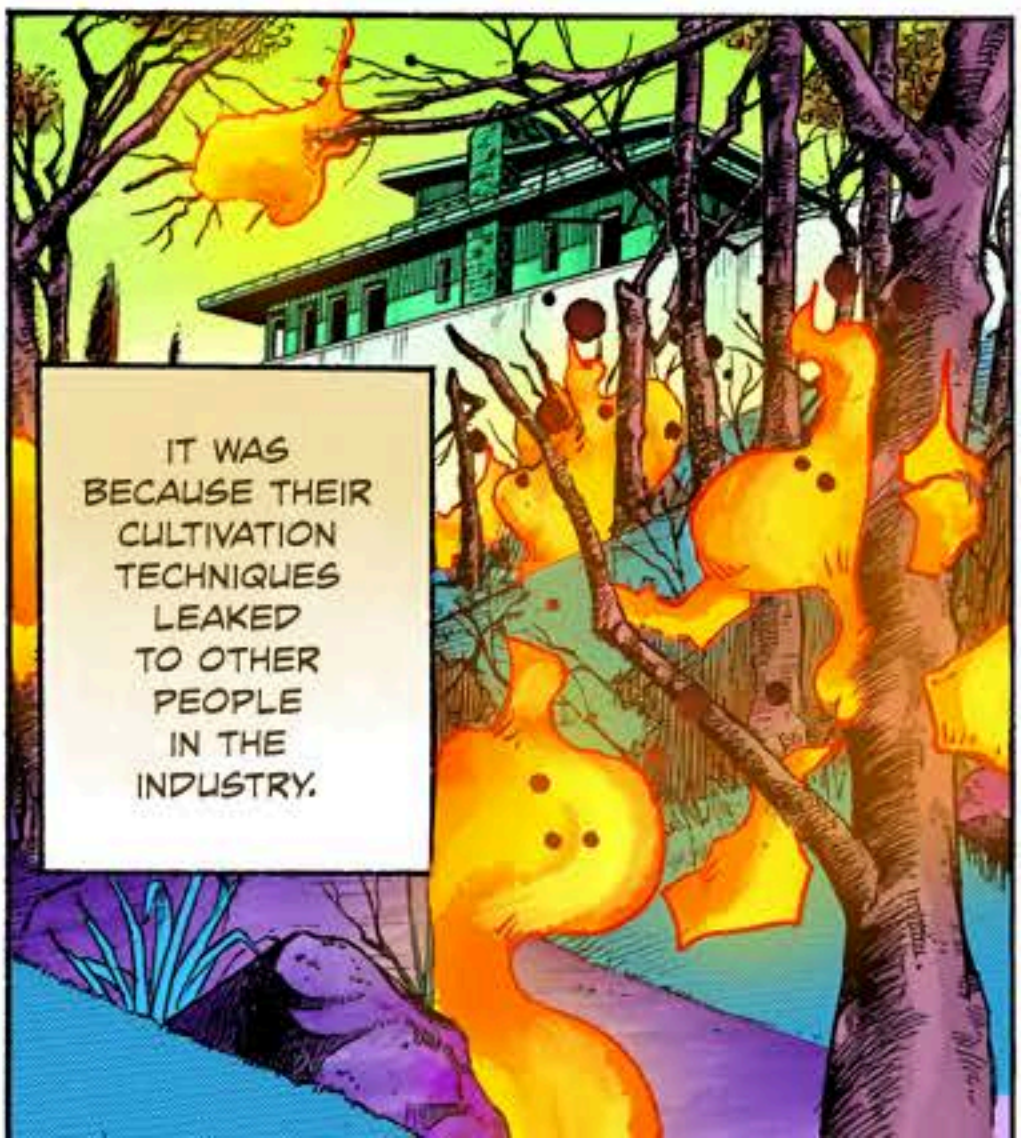
JoJolion

#075
OZONE BABY'S PRESSURE
PART 3

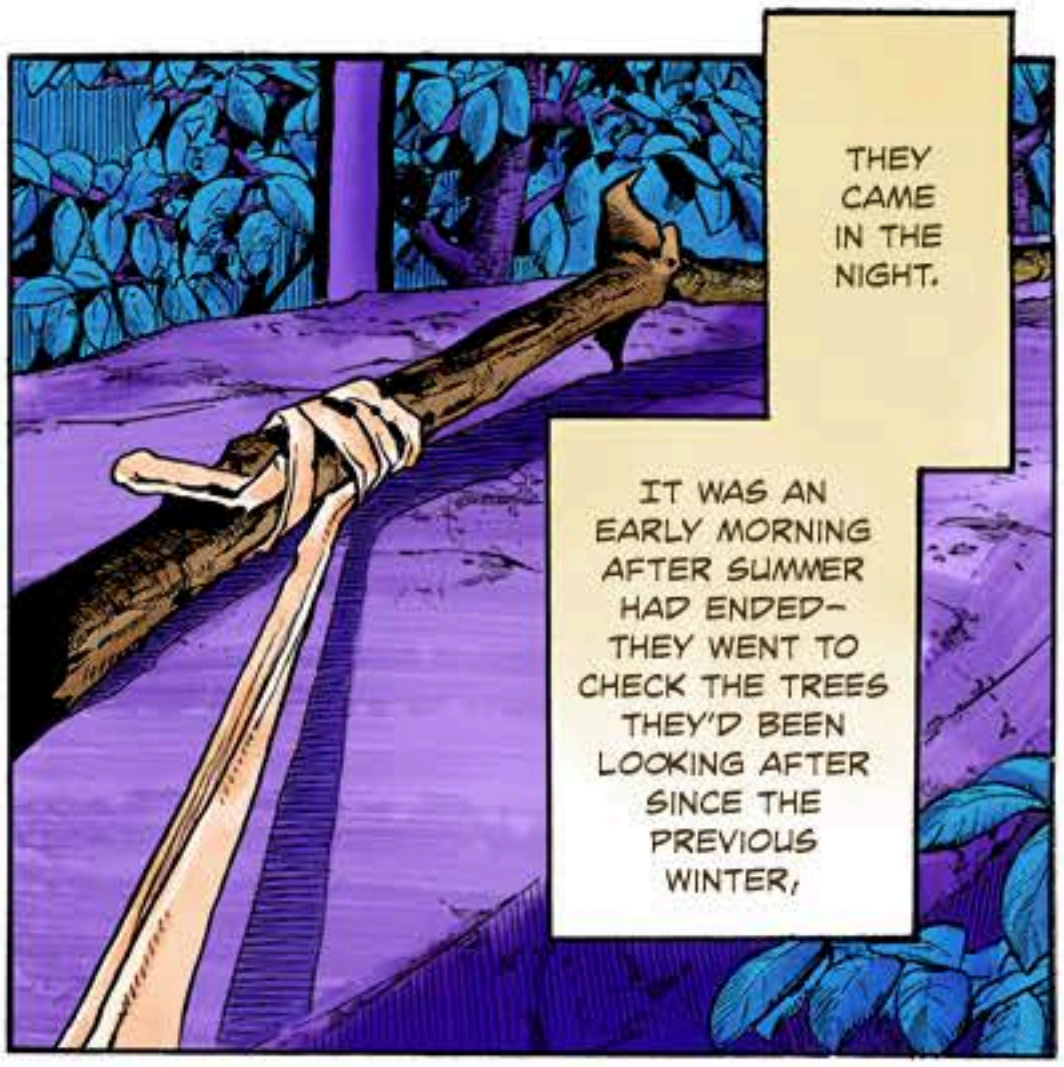
THE 'PEARS' THAT THE BOY'S PARENTS GREW WERE JUDGED TO HAVE MAGNIFICENT SWEETNESS AND WON AWARDS AT COMPETITIONS FOR IT.

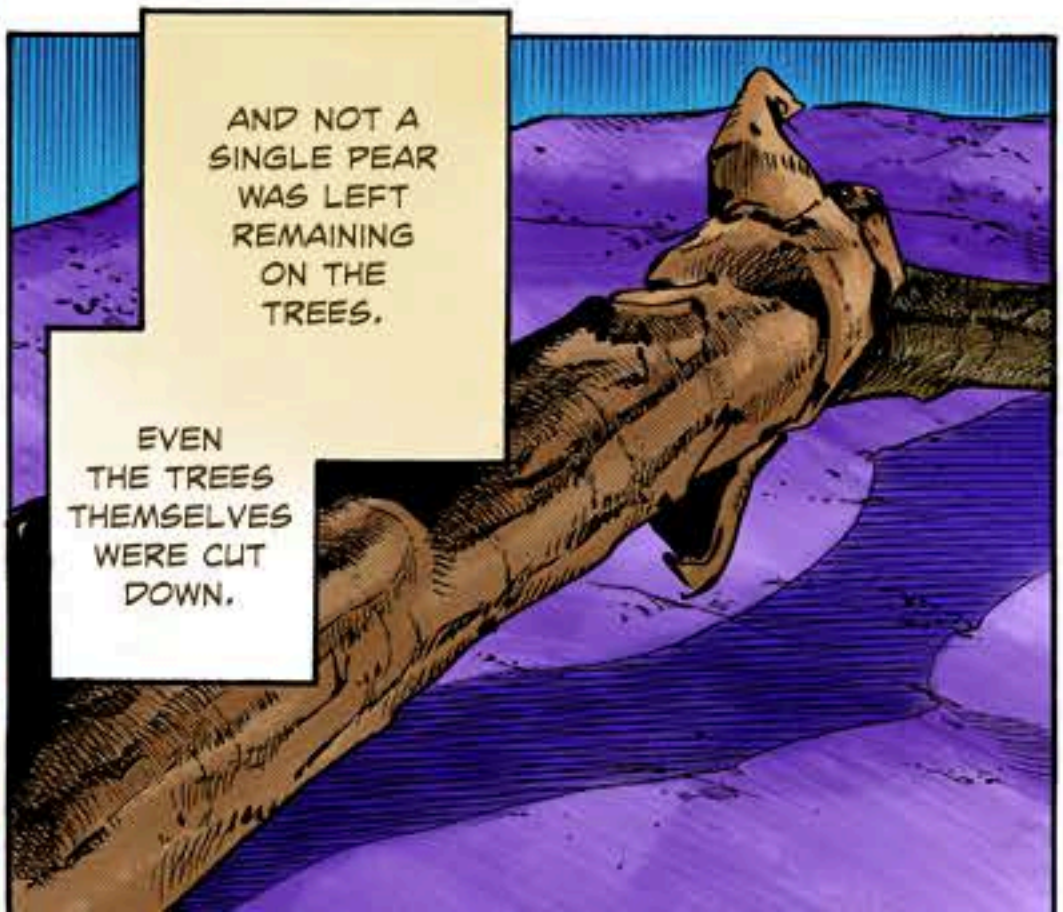
AT THE END OF FALL, THE MONEY THEY MADE FROM THEIR ORCHARD ROSE TO 80 MILLION YEN.

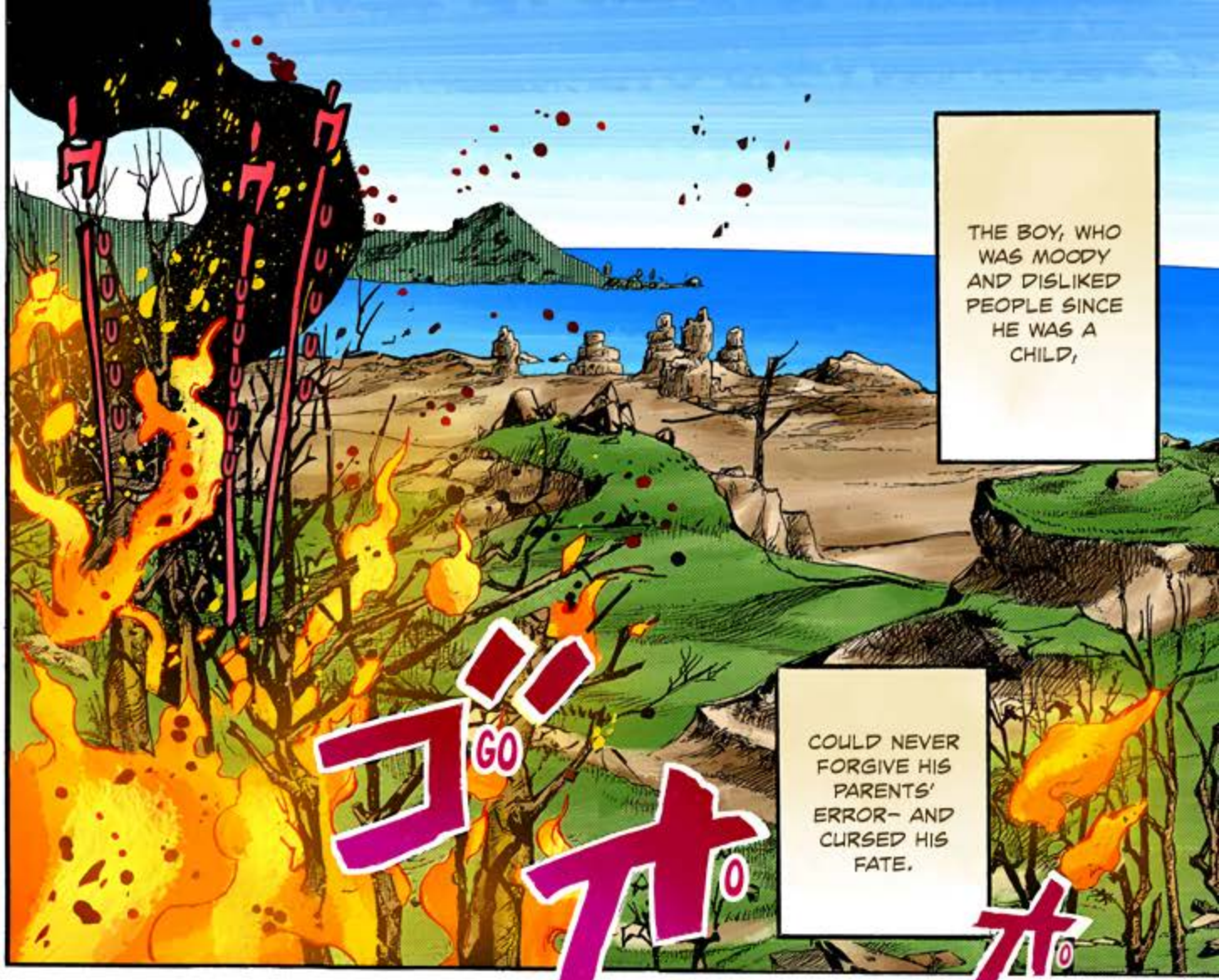


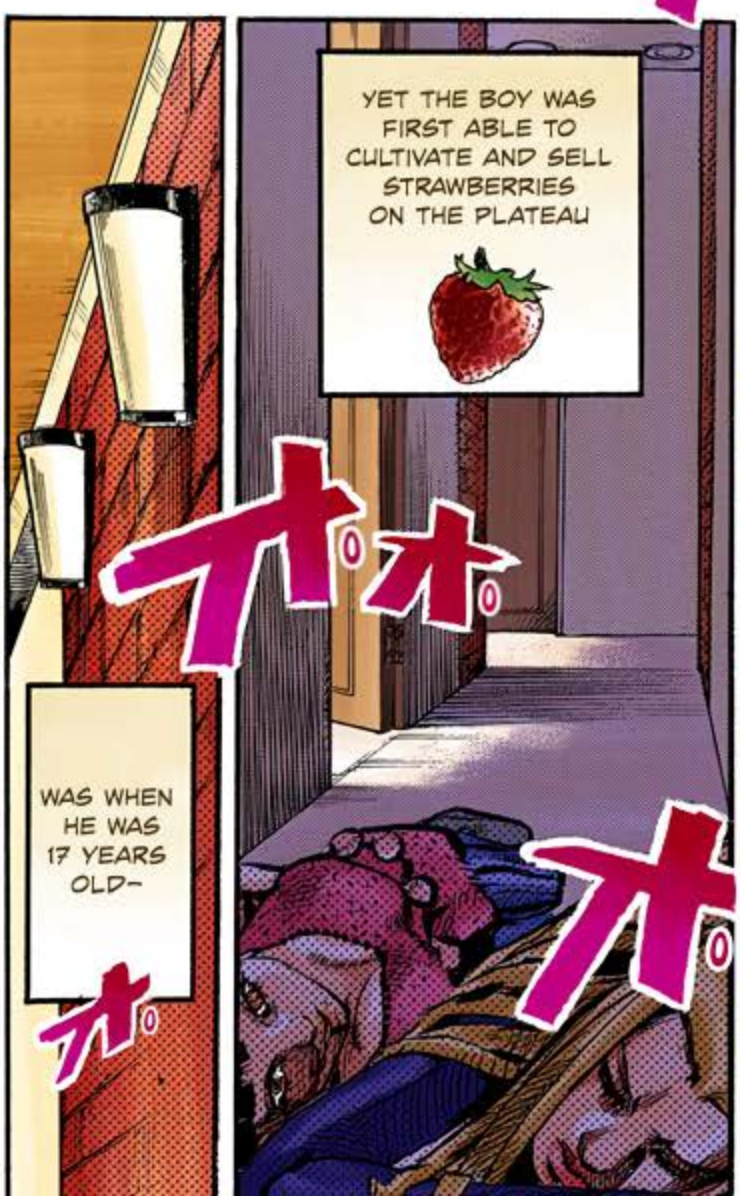
THE FATHER AND MOTHER WERE BACKED INTO A CORNER– AND FORCED TO PART WITH THE ORCHARD.

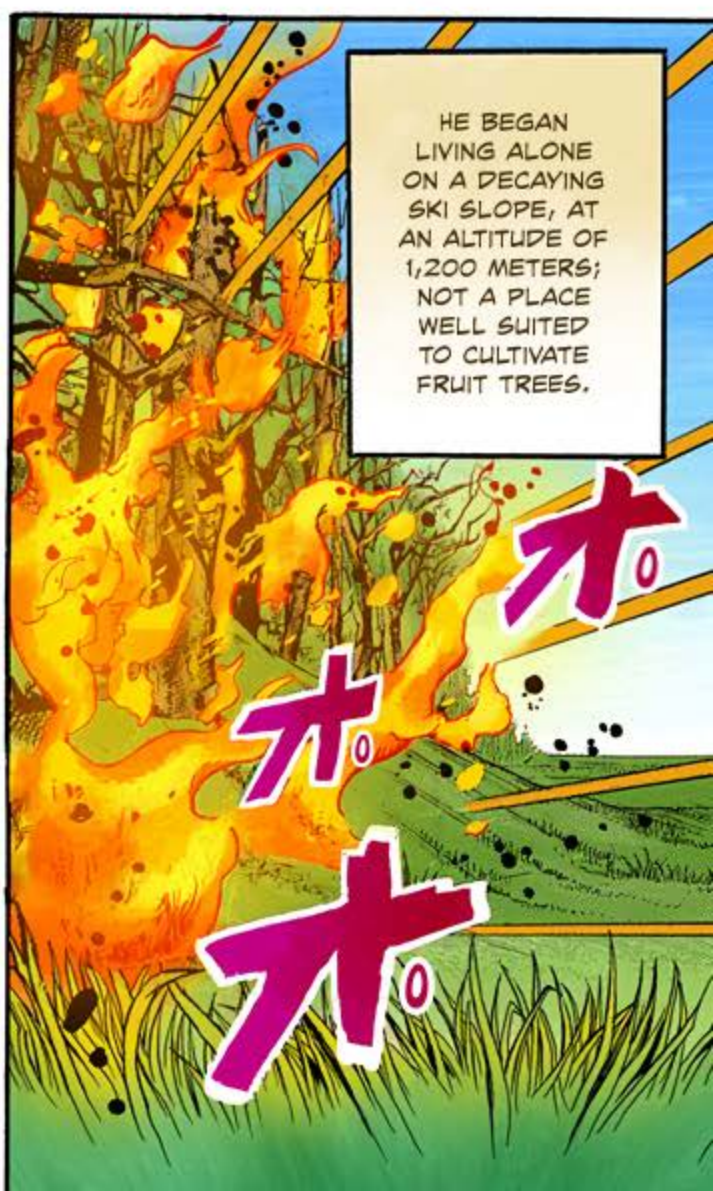
GO
THE USURPERS WERE CONNECTED WITH SOME LOCAL MONEY-LENDERS.

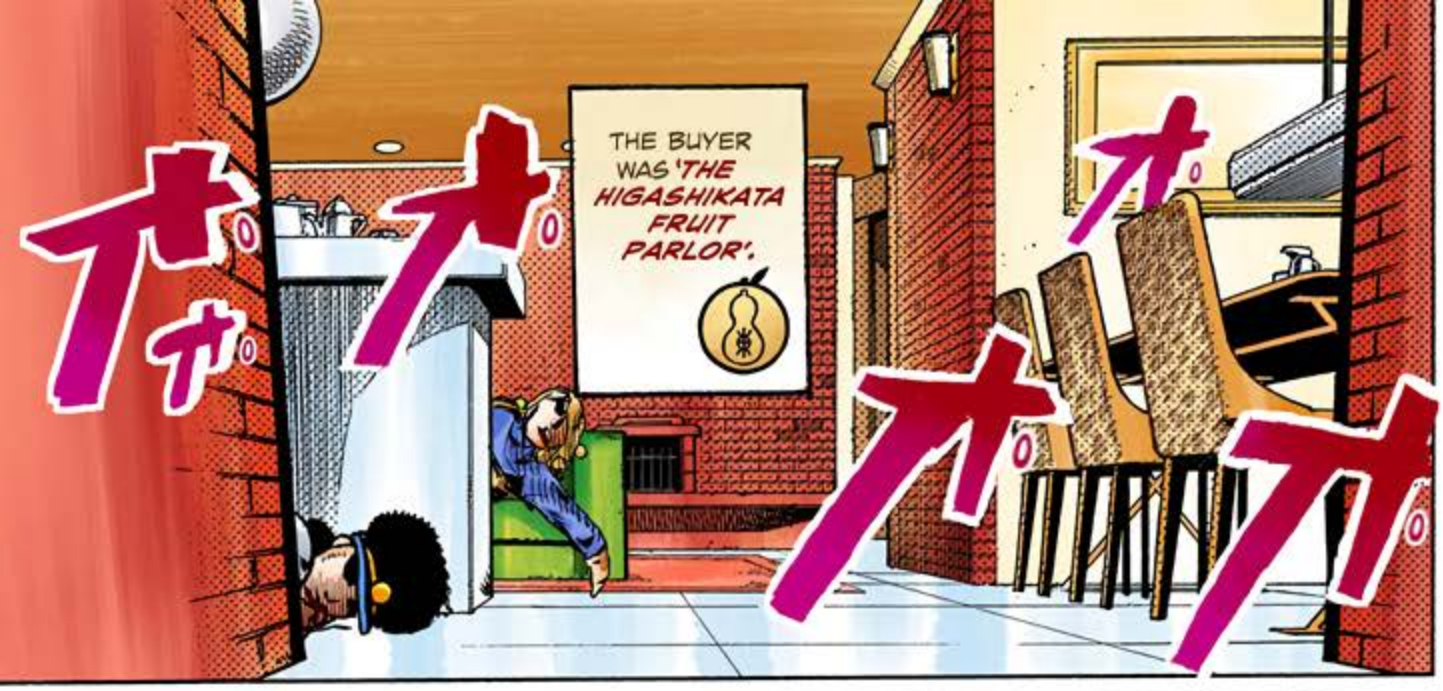

THEY CAME IN THE NIGHT.
IT WAS AN EARLY MORNING AFTER SUMMER HAD ENDED– THEY WENT TO CHECK THE TREES THEY'D BEEN LOOKING AFTER SINCE THE PREVIOUS WINTER,


AND NOT A SINGLE PEAR WAS LEFT REMAINING ON THE TREES.
EVEN THE TREES THEMSELVES WERE CUT DOWN.


THE BOY, WHO WAS MOODY AND DISLIKED PEOPLE SINCE HE WAS A CHILD,
COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIS PARENTS' ERROR– AND CURSED HIS FATE.
ゴ
GO
オ
オ


YET THE BOY WAS FIRST ABLE TO CULTIVATE AND SELL STRAWBERRIES ON THE PLATEAU
WAS WHEN HE WAS 17 YEARS OLD–
オ
オ
オ
オ


HE BEGAN LIVING ALONE ON A DECAYING SKI SLOPE, AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1,200 METERS; NOT A PLACE WELL SUITED TO CULTIVATE FRUIT TREES.
オ
オ
オ
オ

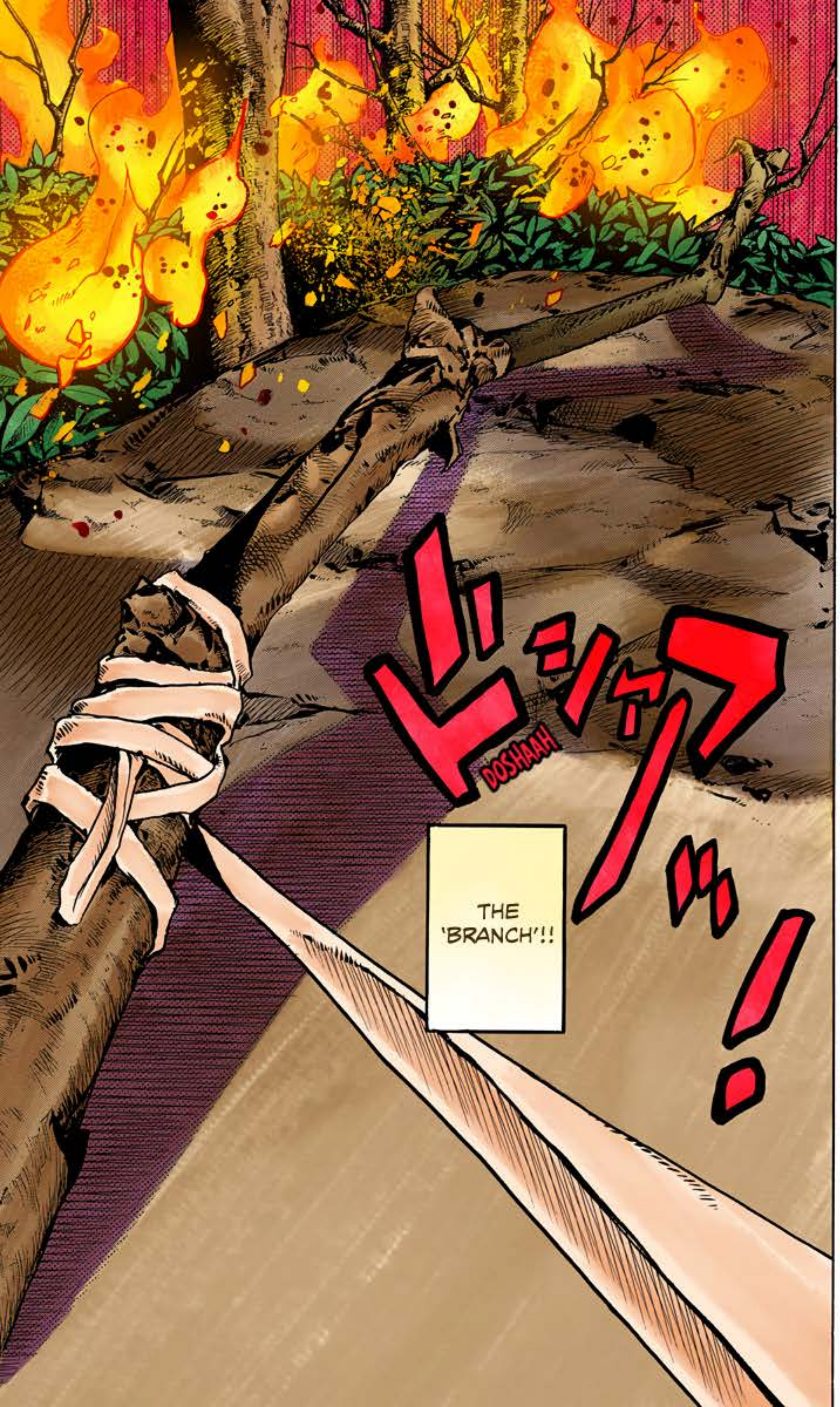

THE BUYER WAS 'THE HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR'.

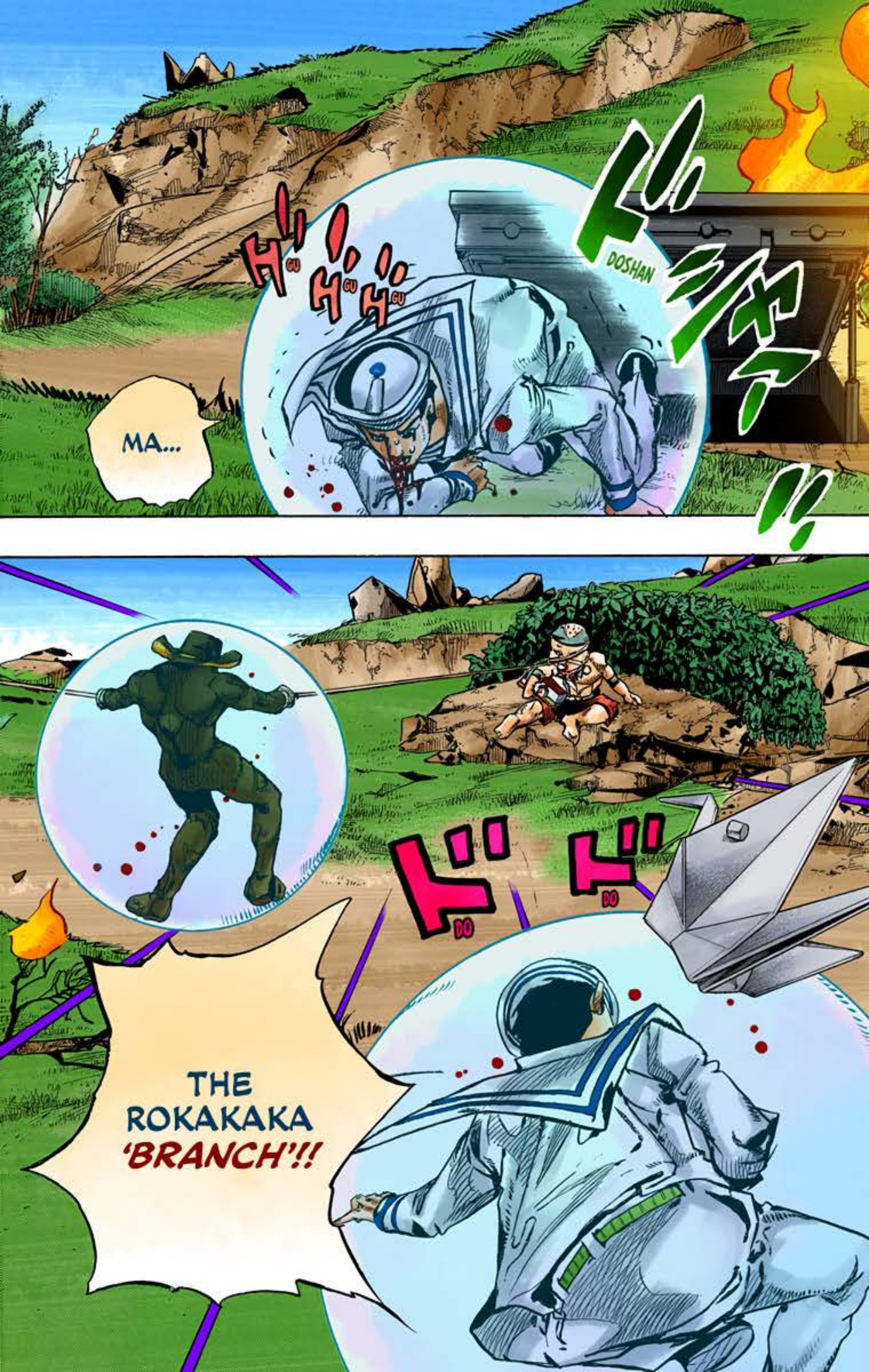
ONLY FOR THE 4TH GENERATION "HIGASHIKATA NORISUKE".
GU.

EVERY YEAR, THE BOY RESEARCHED AND CULTIVATED FRUIT TREES EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR.
EVER SINCE THEN-

GAHU

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO 'MAMEZUKU RAI'?!
UU
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA


DOSHAAH
THE 'BRANCH'!!


MA...
H GU
H GU
H GU
DOSHAN
ドシャ!!
ドド
DO
DO
THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH'!!

GOH
MAMEZUKU-SAN...
GAHAH
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO

CAN YOU... *SEE THAT?* THEY FINALLY APPEARED!

TSURUGI...

L-LOOK...

HAA

HAA

HAA

ドド

ドド

ドド

DO

HAH

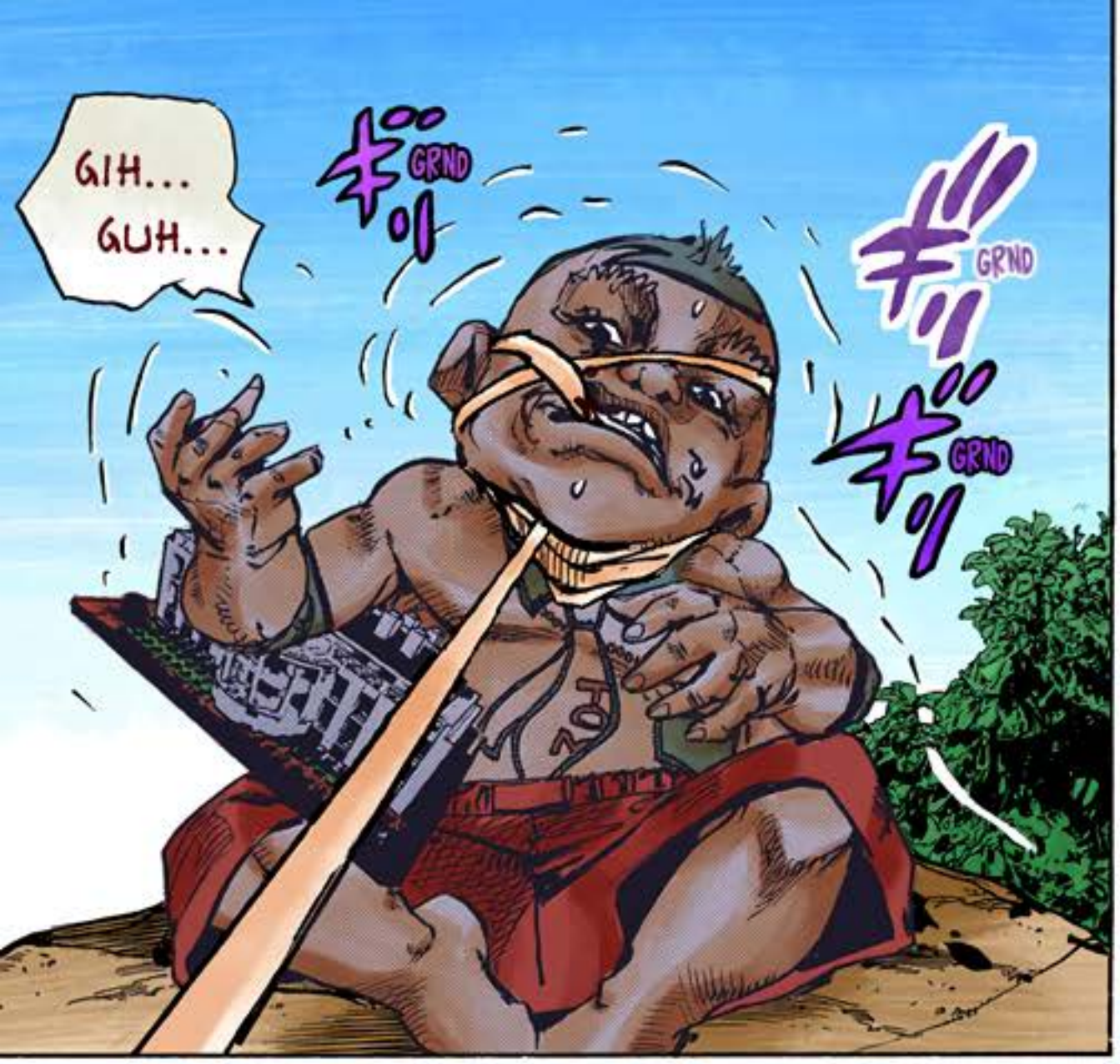
HAH

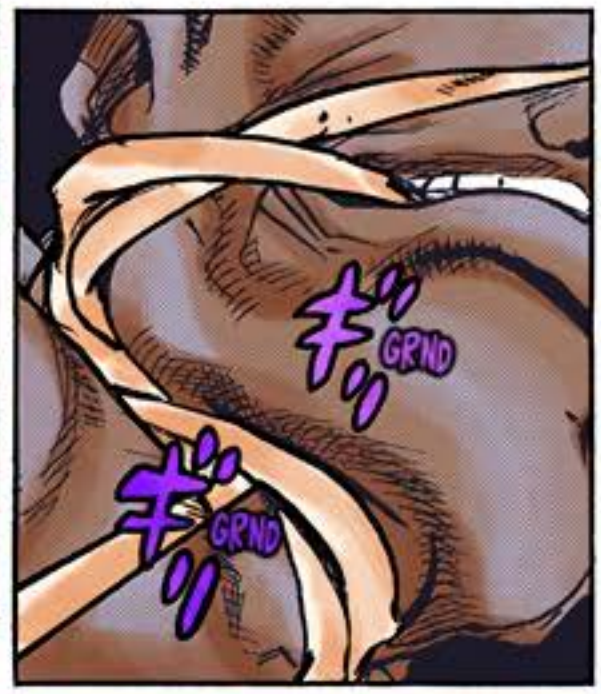
THEY'RE ALL... BEING PRESSUR-IZED.

KUKU

THAT'S THE PLANT APPRAISER! JOSUKE'S THERE, TOO!

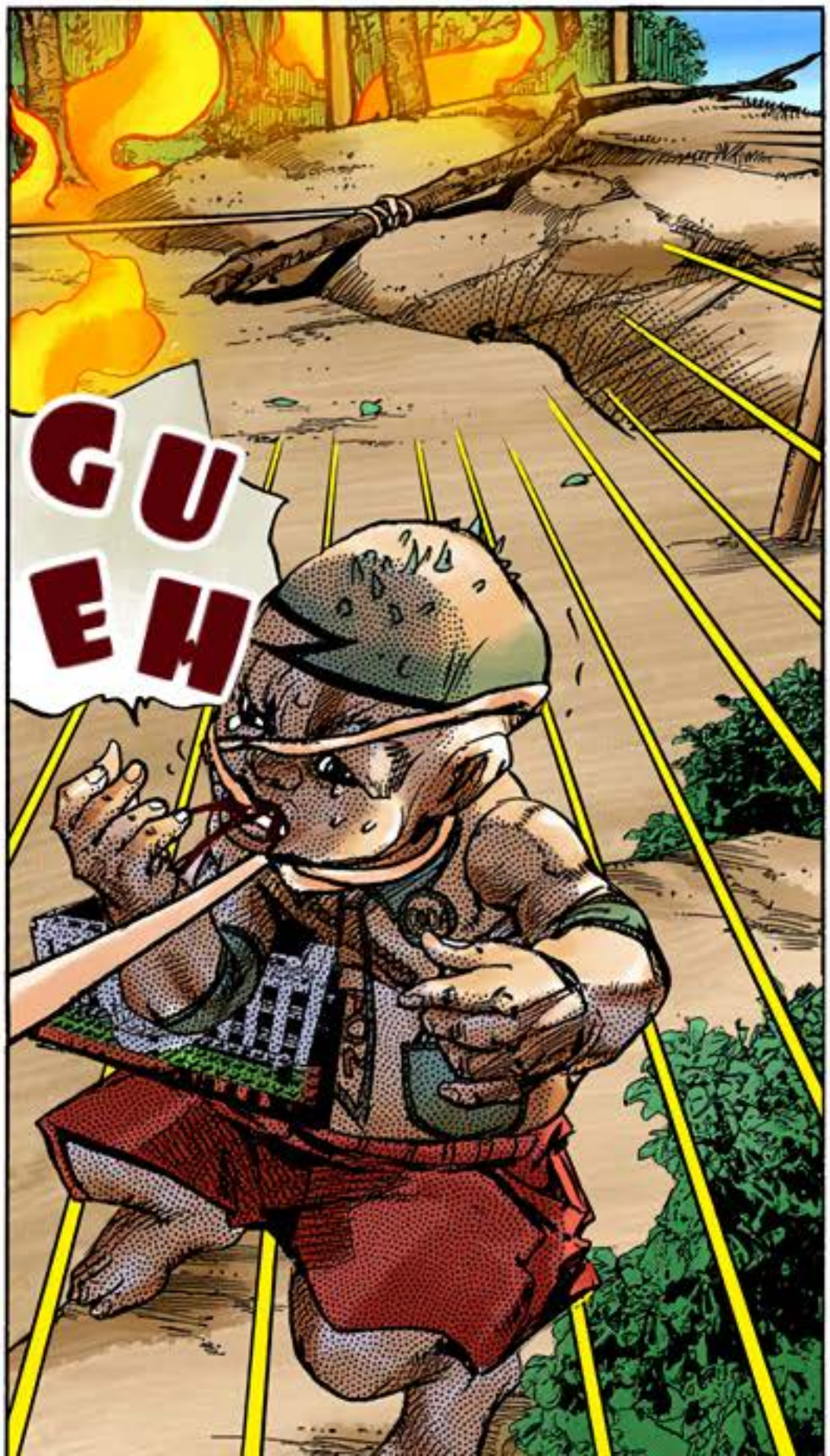
BUT ONE OF THEM IS GOING TO COLLECT THE *'BRANCH'!*


GIH...
GUH...
GRND
GRND
GRND


GRND
GRND

HYUNN

WHRL


GUEH

GUBBU

GAH

SHIIIH

GIH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME...

I...

GRND

YOU'RE... A ROCK HUMAN, YES?

I'LL BREAK YOU APART WITH MY WIRES.

SNUGGLE HER THIGHS...

I WAS GONNA USE HER LAP AS A PILLOW...

...AND SIT AROUND WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD WAITING FOR YOU GUYS TO GET CRUSHED TO A PULP.

CREAK

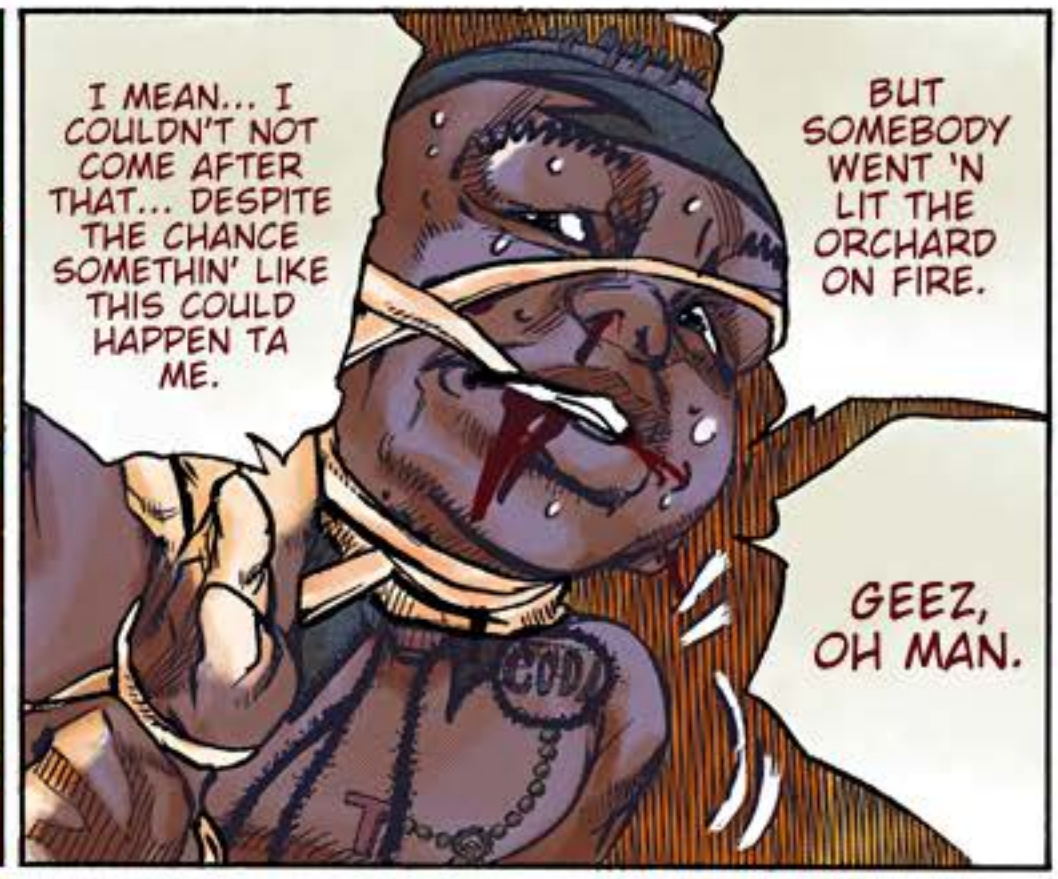
CREAK

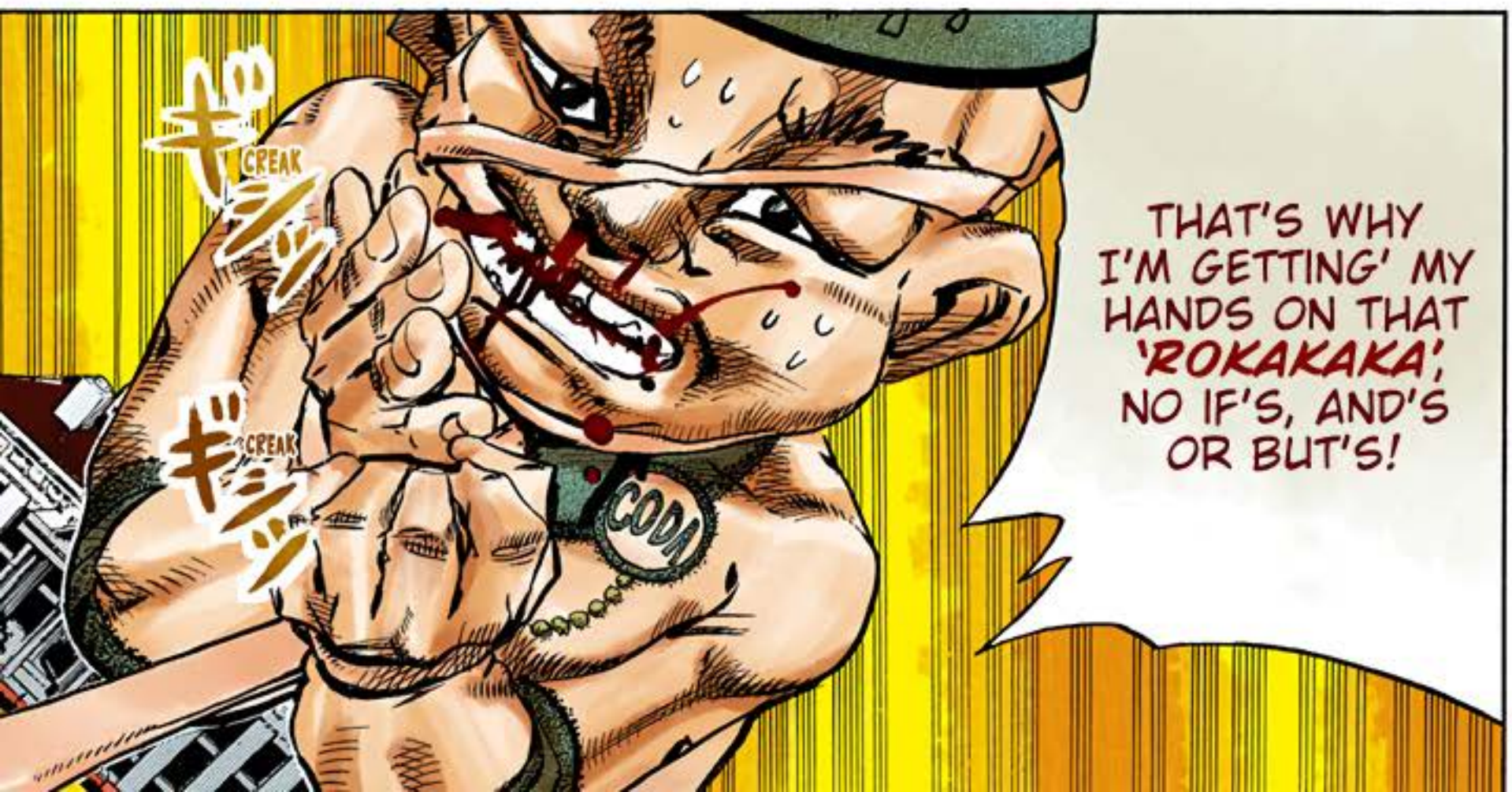
CREAK

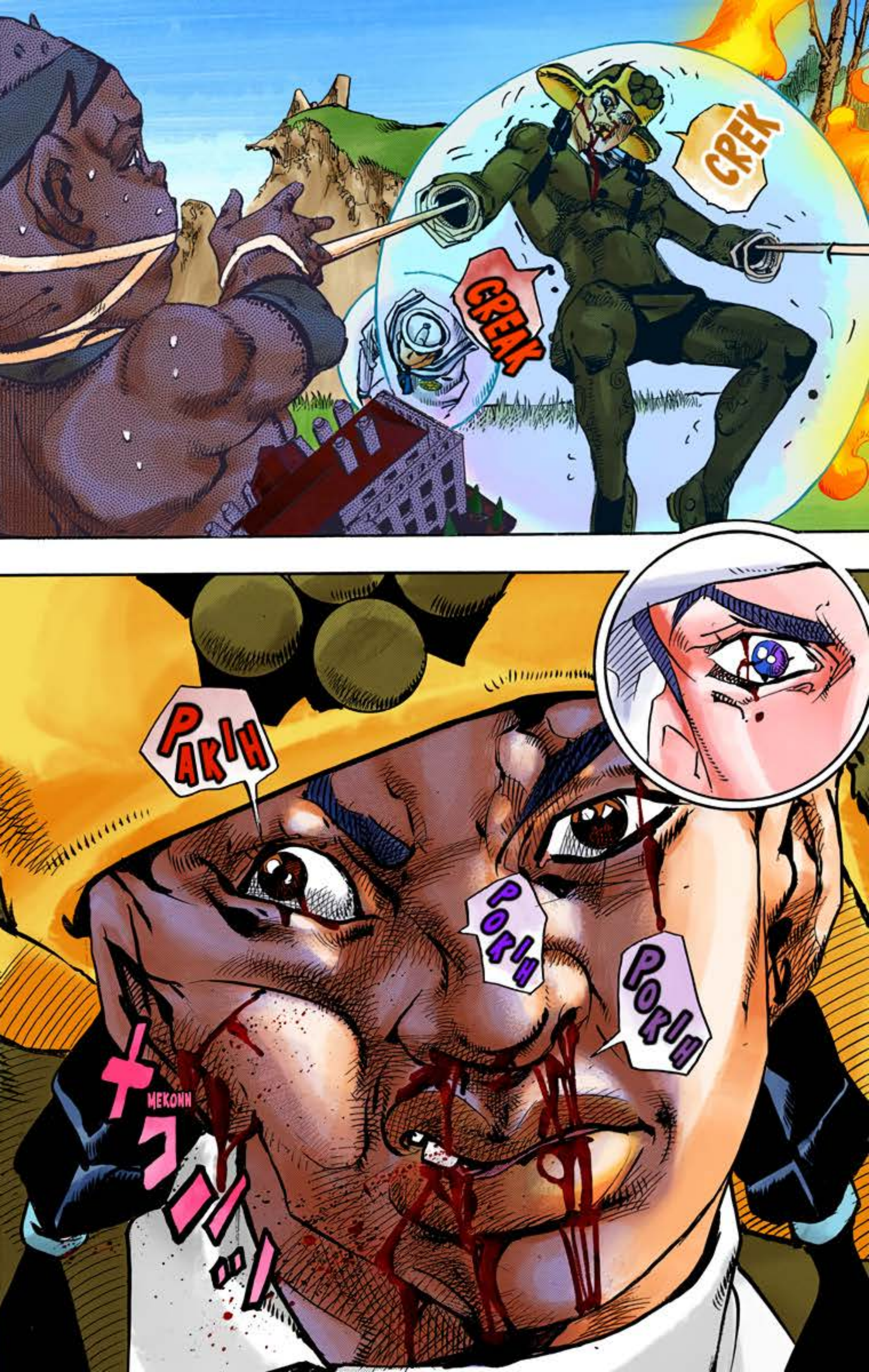
CREAK

UNTIL A MINUTE AGO, I WAS IN A NICE, SUNNY ROOM.

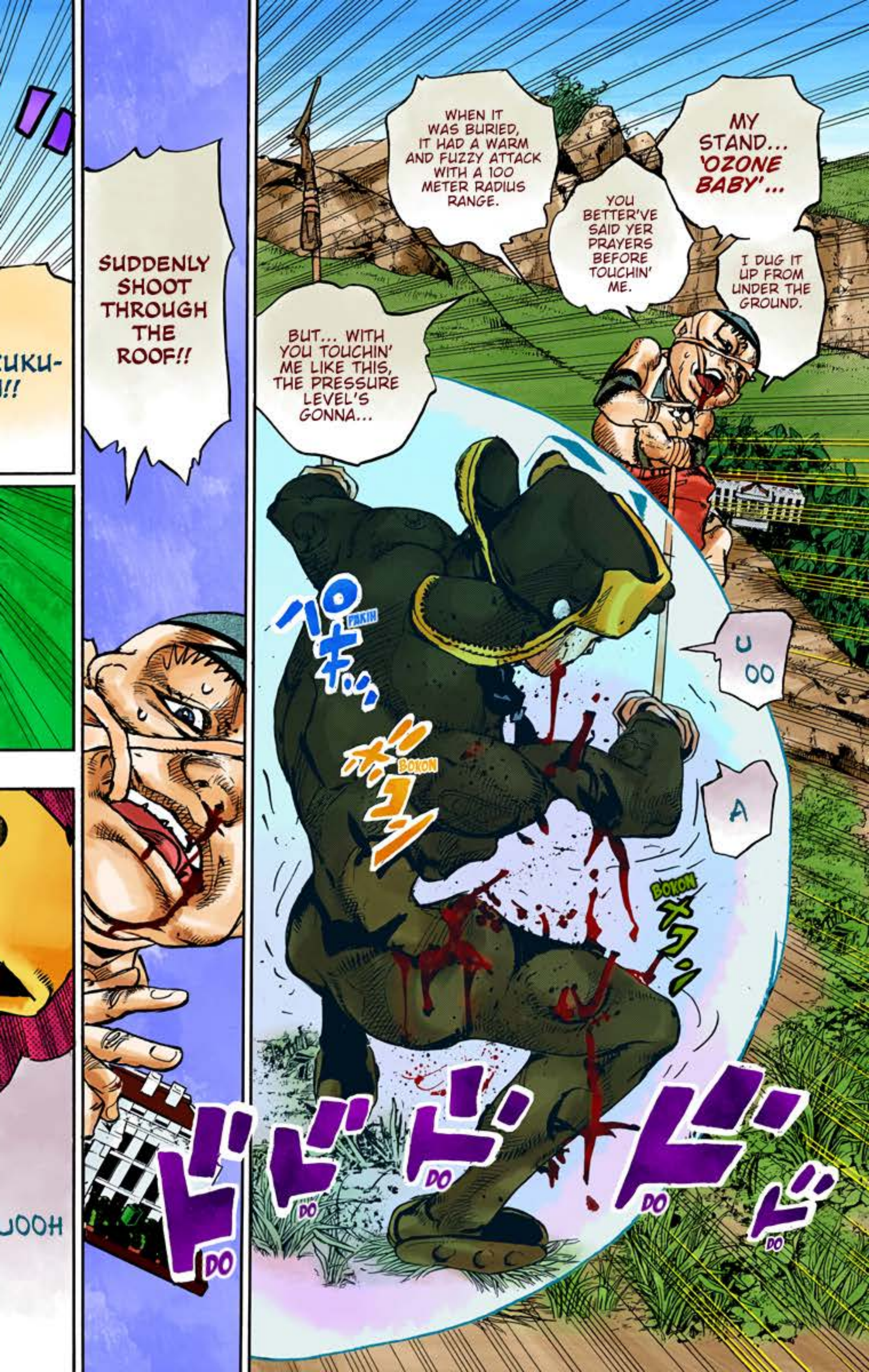
ALL WARM AND COMFY FROM THE WARMTH OF A GIRL, DAMMI~~~T!






CREK
CREAK
PAKIH
POKIH
POKIH
MEKONN

PRESSURE, INCREASE!
GA BUH
BAGYONN
!?


SUDDENLY SHOOT THROUGH THE ROOF!!
WHEN IT WAS BURIED, IT HAD A WARM AND FUZZY ATTACK WITH A 100 METER RADIUS RANGE.
MY STAND... 'OZONE BABY'...
YOU BETTER'VE SAID YER PRAYERS BEFORE TOUCHIN' ME.
I DUG IT UP FROM UNDER THE GROUND.
BUT... WITH YOU TOUCHIN' ME LIKE THIS, THE PRESSURE LEVEL'S GONNA...
PAKIN
BOKON
BOKON
A
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO

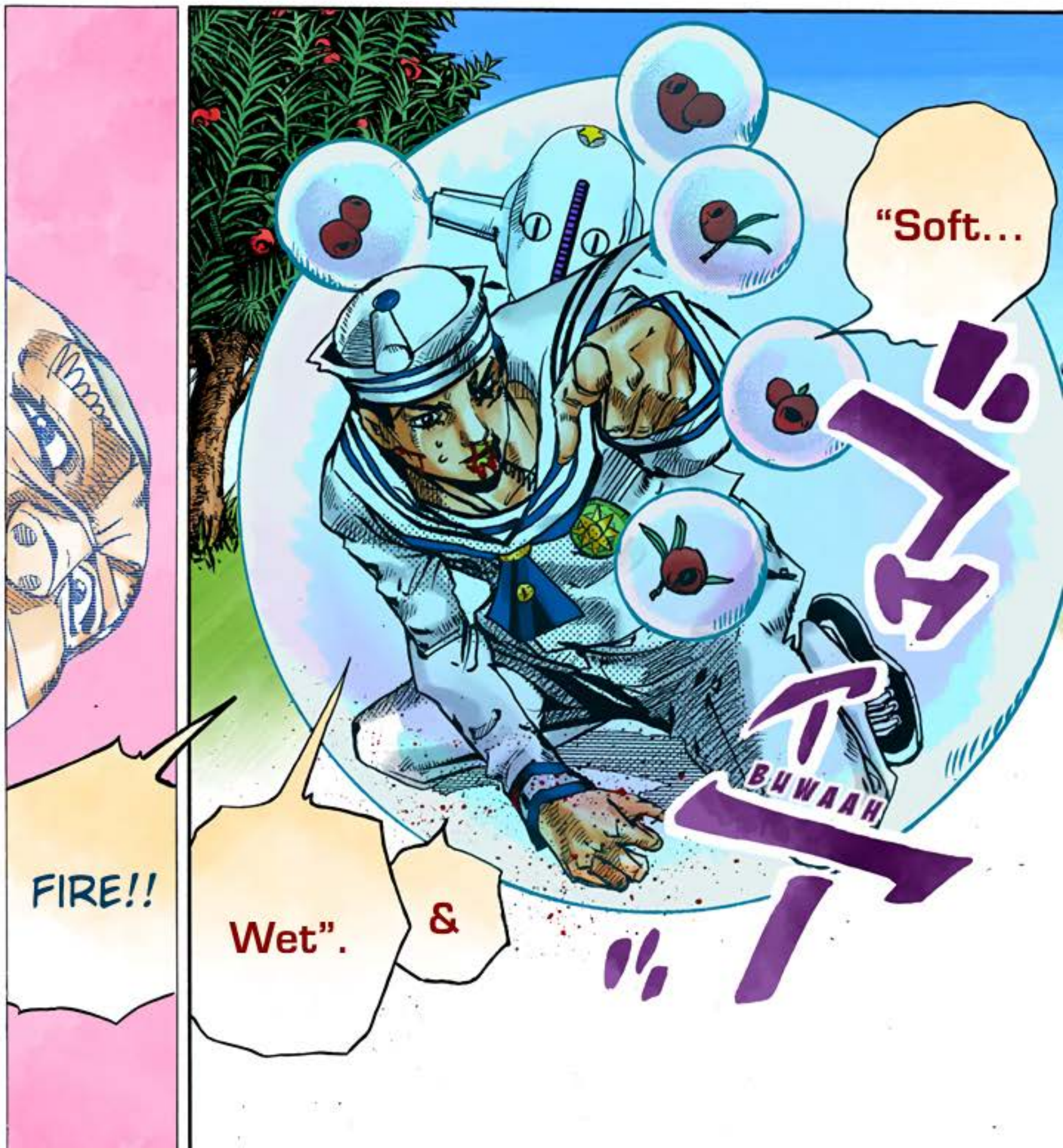
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
MAMEZ
SAN

PAKi
PEKi
PAKi
OOGH

ベコ
ボキ
CRACK
ボキ
CRACK
ボキ
CRACK
ボキ
CRACK
UO
OOO
OOO
OOO
OOO
OH!
OU

BEFORE YOU CAN BREAK MY BODY... I'M GONNA CRUSH YER INSIDES!

MY CERVICAL VERTEBRAE HAVEN'T BROKEN YET!



ドン DON
ドン DON
ドン DON
ドン DON
ドン DON
ゴ GOH
!!!

ゴ
GOH

THEIR LEAVES AND BRANCHES ARE USED IN SHINTO RITUALS BUT...
THERE ARE 'YEW' TREES GROWING IN THE HIGASHIKATA ORCHARD.
I'LL SAY THIS, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T 'GRAFT' THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH' TO A YEW BRANCH.

ゴ
GO
ゴ
ゴ
ゴ

IT'S A GOOD THING THE ROKAKAKA BRANCH ISN'T GRAFTED TO ONE OF THESE.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU PUT THE 'SEEDS' IN YOUR MOUTH.
THESE THINGS ARE DEADLY POISON. THEY'LL DO EXTREME DAMAGE TO YOUR INSIDES.

ドドド

POP
POP
POPP
POP
POPP

THE SOAP BUBBLE WALLS...!

THE SOAP BUBBLES...

...ACT AS A 'BARRIER' FOR WHAT'S INSIDE THEM

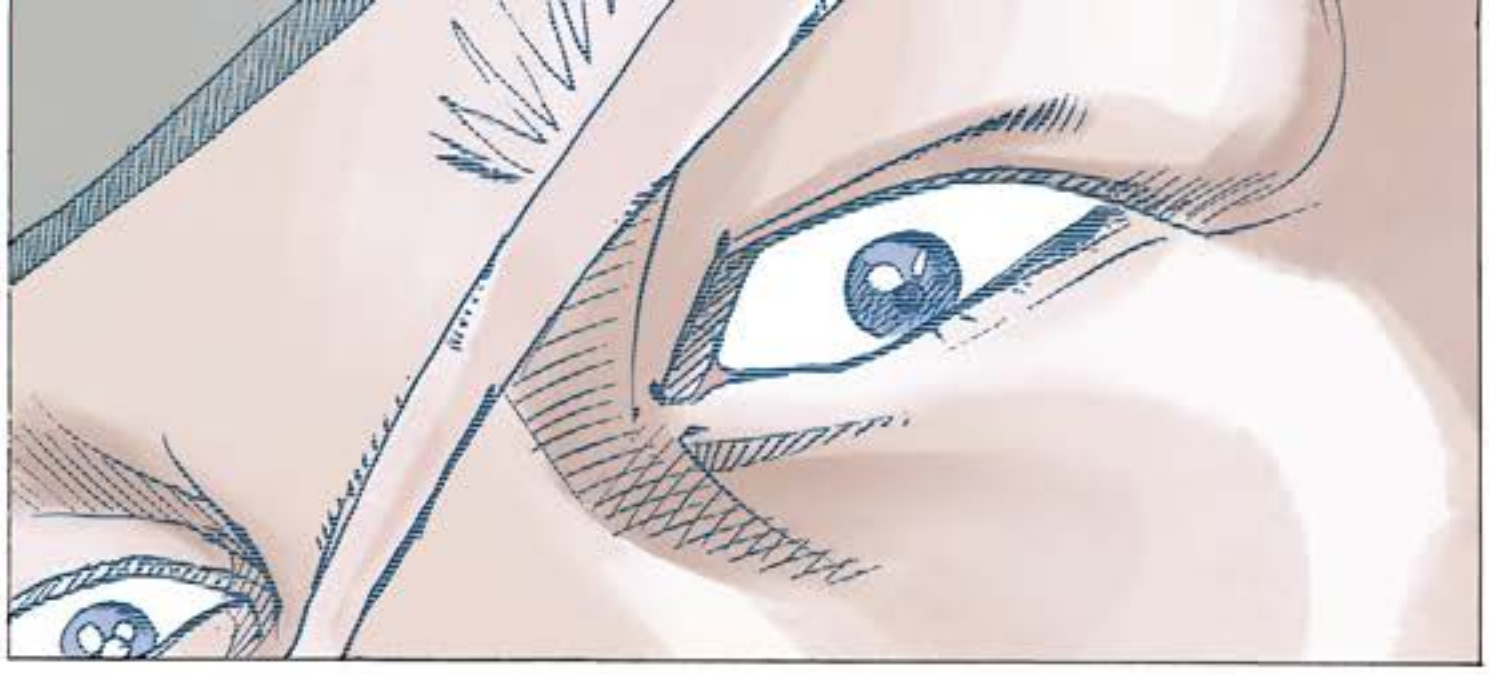
...THE PRESSURE INSIDE IT WILL SUDDENLY DECOMPRESS!

IF A BUBBLE POPS,

CRCKL
CRCKL

DRIP

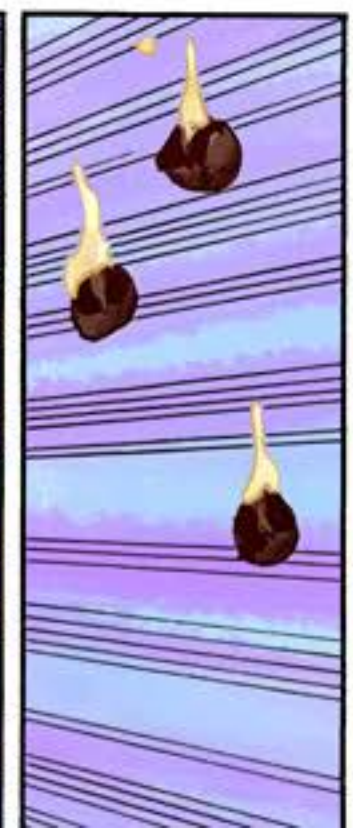
CRCKL



PASHIIIH

SHUH

WHIRL
HIL
HIL
WHIRL

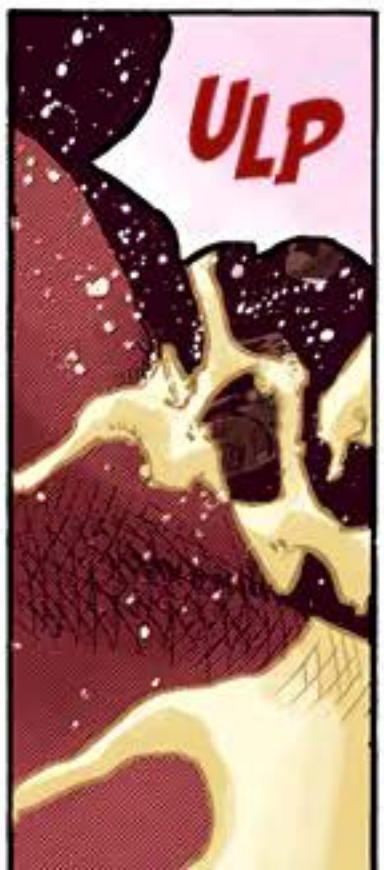


GEBO
OOO
OOO
OOA
AAA
AAA
AAH

WHRL

WHRL

GISHIIIIH



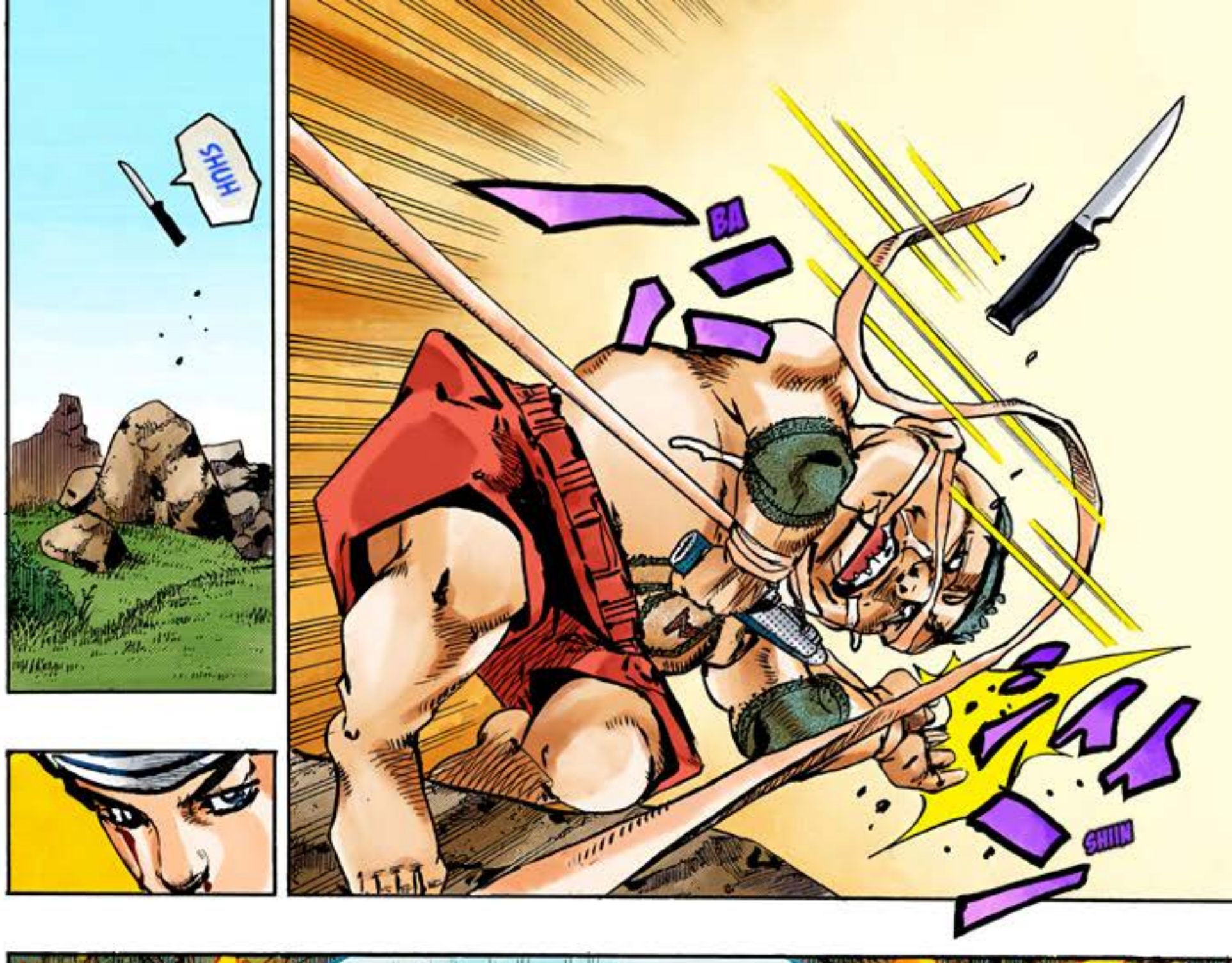
IT CAN EVEN KILL LARGE-SIZED LIVESTOCK

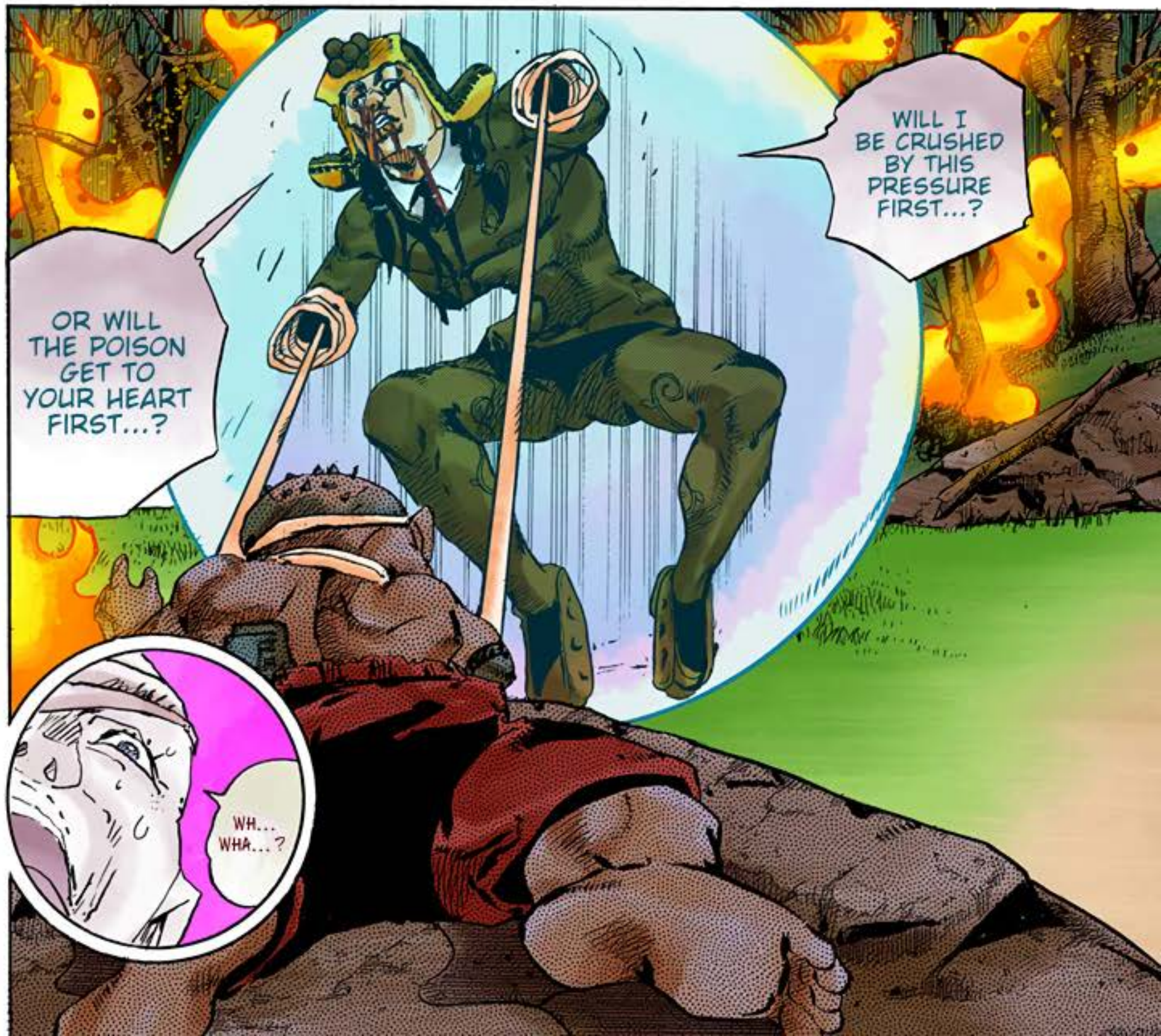
YEWS ARE AS POISONOUS AS YOU CAN GET!

WHEN YEW POISON IS ABSORBED BY DIGESTIVE ORGANS, IT'S SENT STRAIGHT TO THE HEART AND CAUSES BLOOD PRESSURE TO GO OFF THE CHARTS, VIOLENT CONVULSIONS, AND TEARS INTERNAL ORGANS TO SHREDS!

'ENGLISH YEW' SEEDS WERE USED BY AUTHOR AGATHA CHRISTIE IN HER BOOKS AS A TRICK TO KILL SOMEONE BY PUTTING ONE IN A SPOONFUL OF JAM!

ドドド


SHUH
BA
SHIIN


WILL I BE CRUSHED BY THIS PRESSURE FIRST...?
OR WILL THE POISON GET TO YOUR HEART FIRST...?
WH... WHA...?

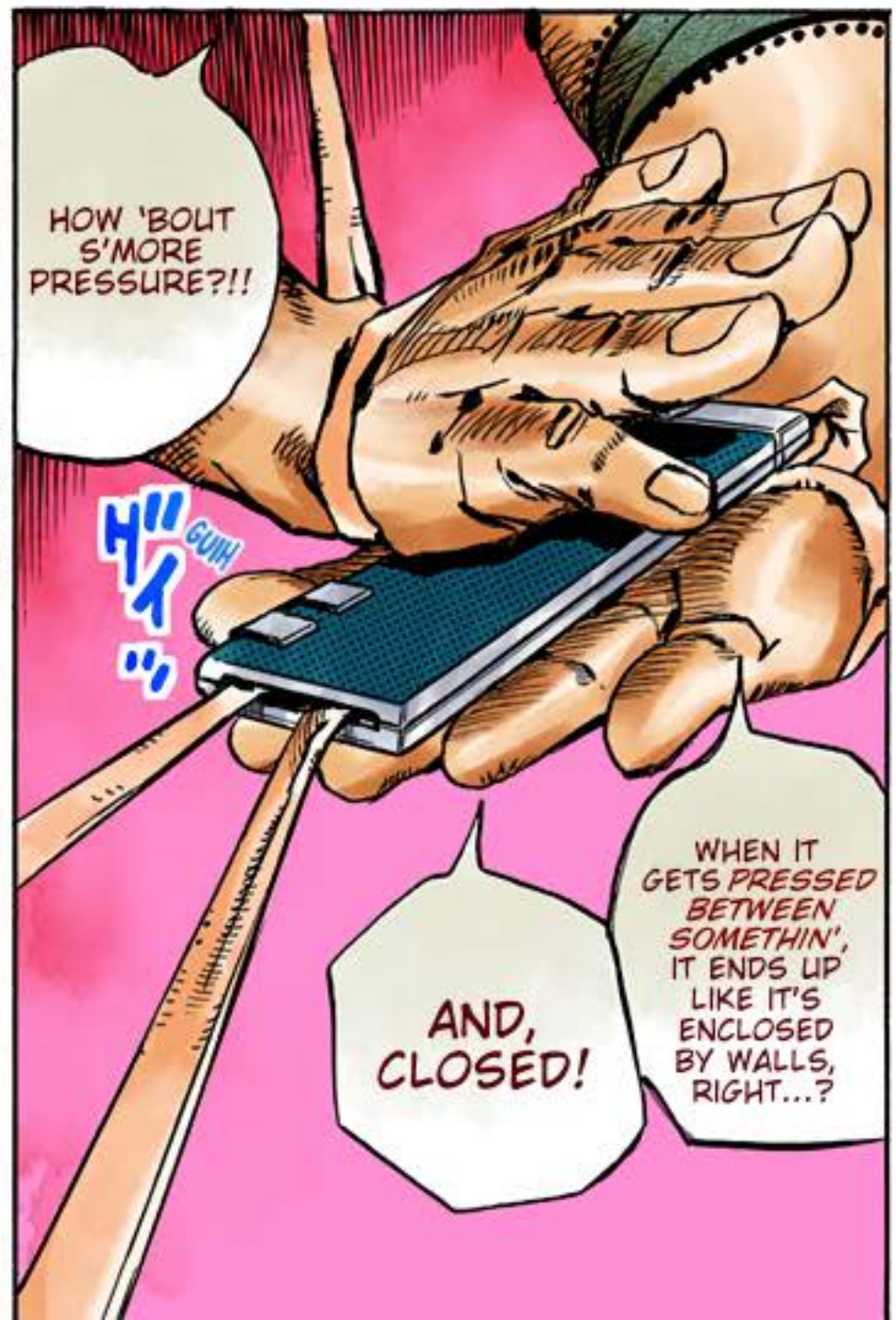
WHAT I NEEDED WAS THE 'SHEATH'!!

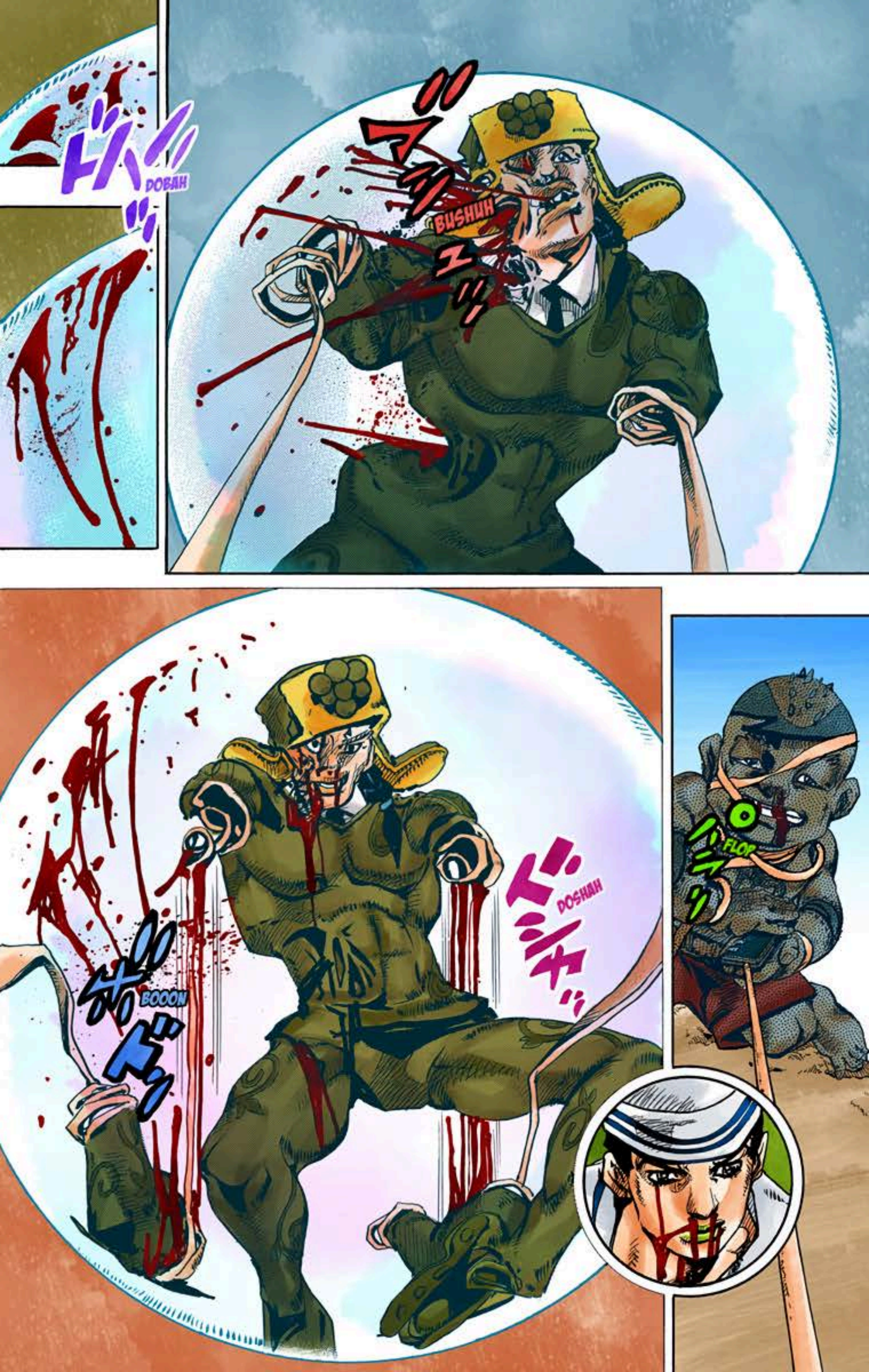
PATAM

...BUT WHAT I WANTED TA USE...
...WASN'T THE 'KNIFE'!
IF YOU THINK I WAS TRYIN' TA USE THAT KNIFE TA CUT YER WIRES, I HATE TA BREAK IT TO YA,

ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU

GUSHAH


HOW 'BOUT S'MORE PRESSURE?!!
GUIH
AND, CLOSED!
WHEN IT GETS PRESSED BETWEEN SOMETHIN', IT ENDS UP LIKE IT'S ENCLOSED BY WALLS, RIGHT...?


DOBAH
BUSHUH
DOSHAH
BOOON
FLOP

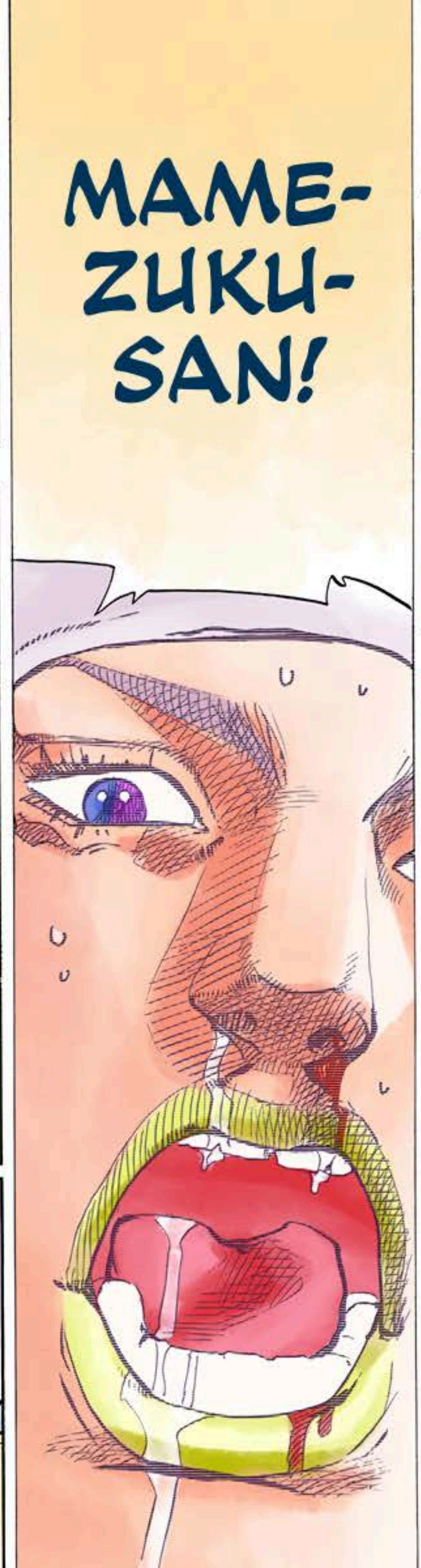
ZUGU

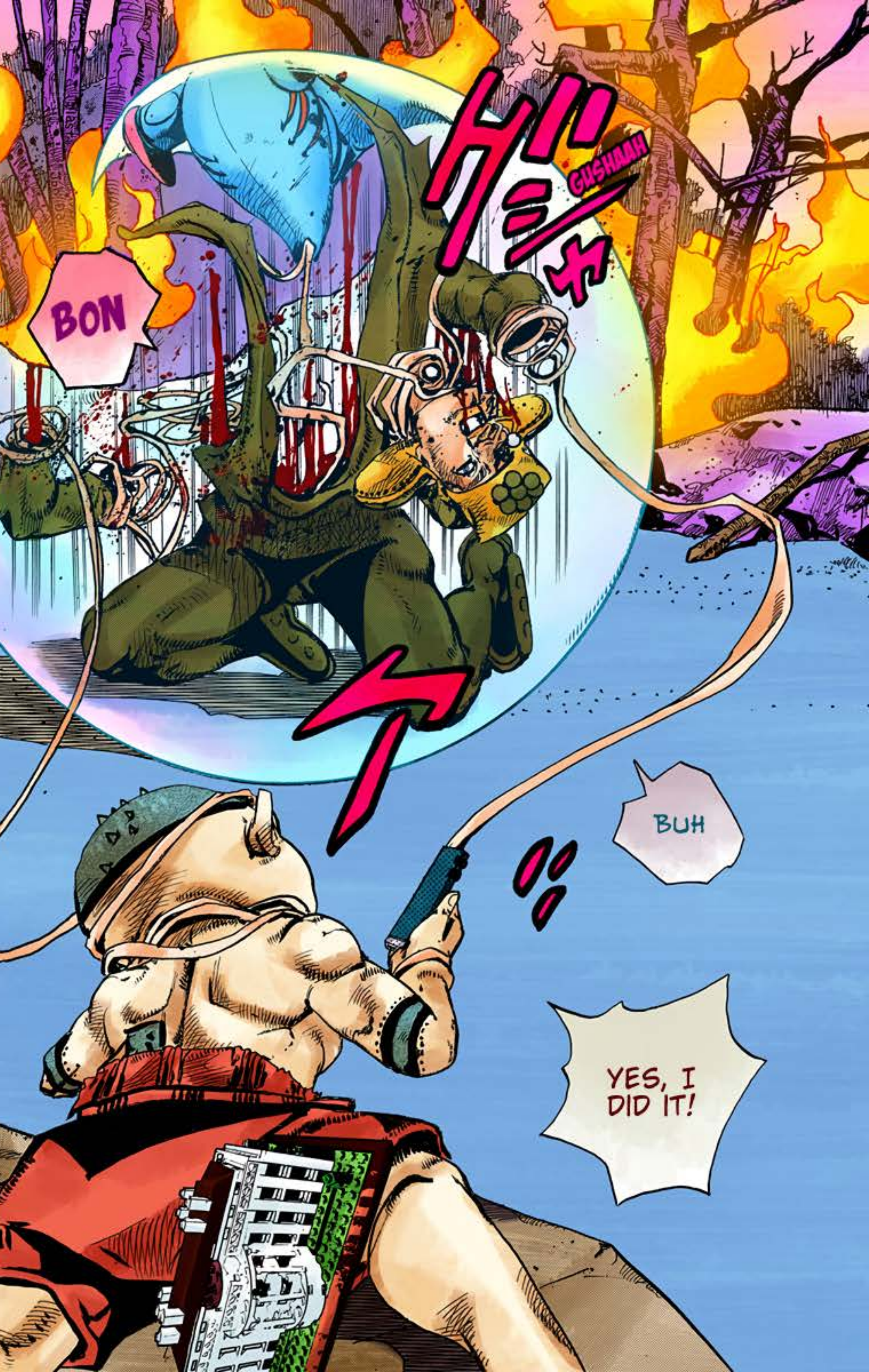
BUCHIN

GOH
THE PLANT APPRAISER LOST.

THE 'BRANCH'!

HE TOOK THE ROKAKAKA 'BRANCH'!
POOR TOM IS LEAVING THE ORCHARD!


MAME-ZUKU-SAN!

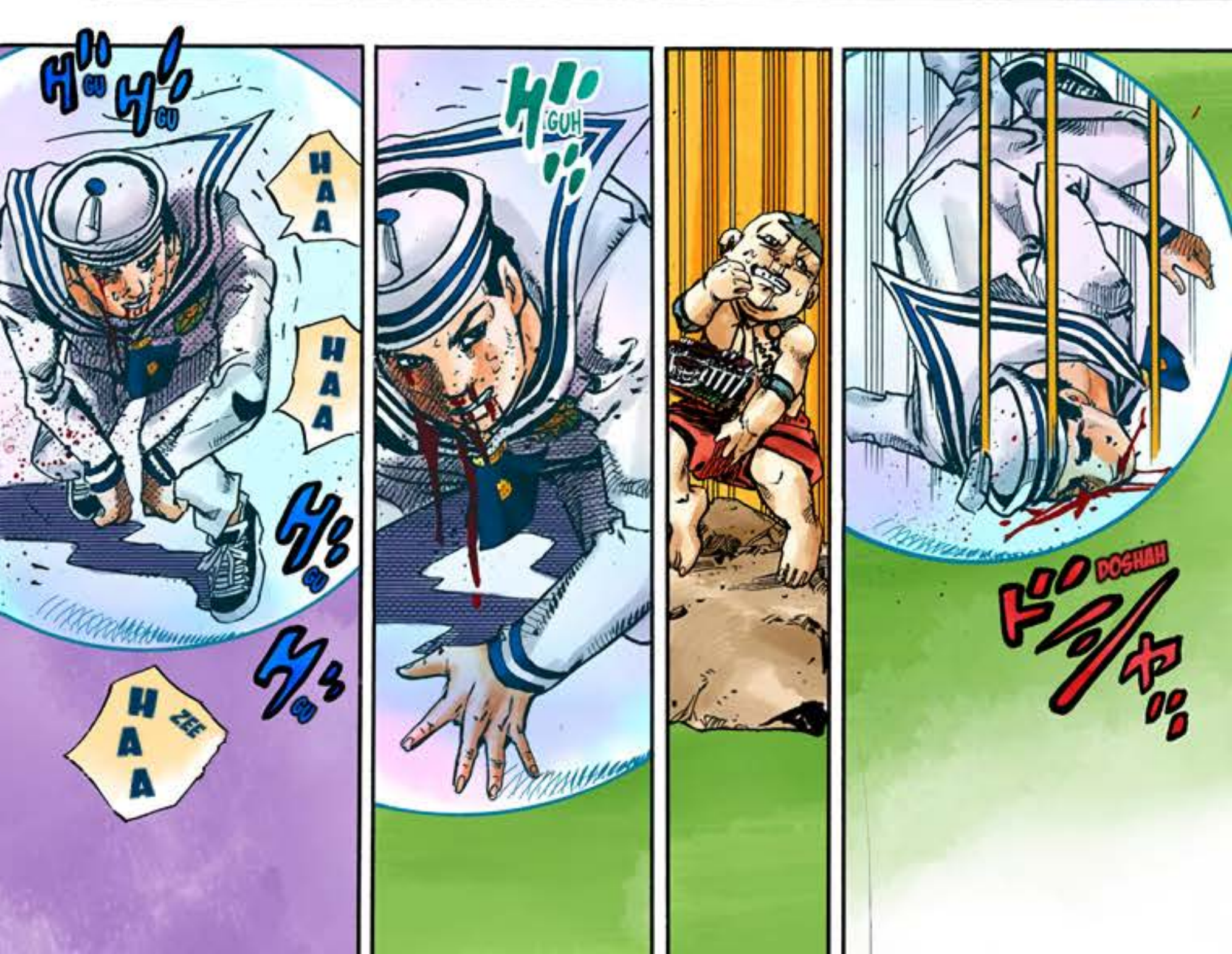

GUSHAAH
BON
BUH
YES, I DID IT!

Dragon Ball
A
A
A
N
BA

I... I WO~~~N!!!

FUCK YOU, ASSHOLE!

GAHAH GUEH



RARAH
UBOH

YOU MIGHT BE BETTER OFF HIGHTAILING IT OUTTA HERE, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIIIN'?

IT'LL HAPPEN TA YOU, TOO...

THE CLOSER YA GET TA MY 'OZONE BABY',

THE STRONGER THE 'PRESSURE' IS GONNA GET...

GE... GEEH...

HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE...?

BUT'RE YOU GONNA FOLLOW ME,

GE BOH

GUEH GEH

ZEEH ZEEH

I... I GOT IT.

HAA HAA

HAA HAA

GAH

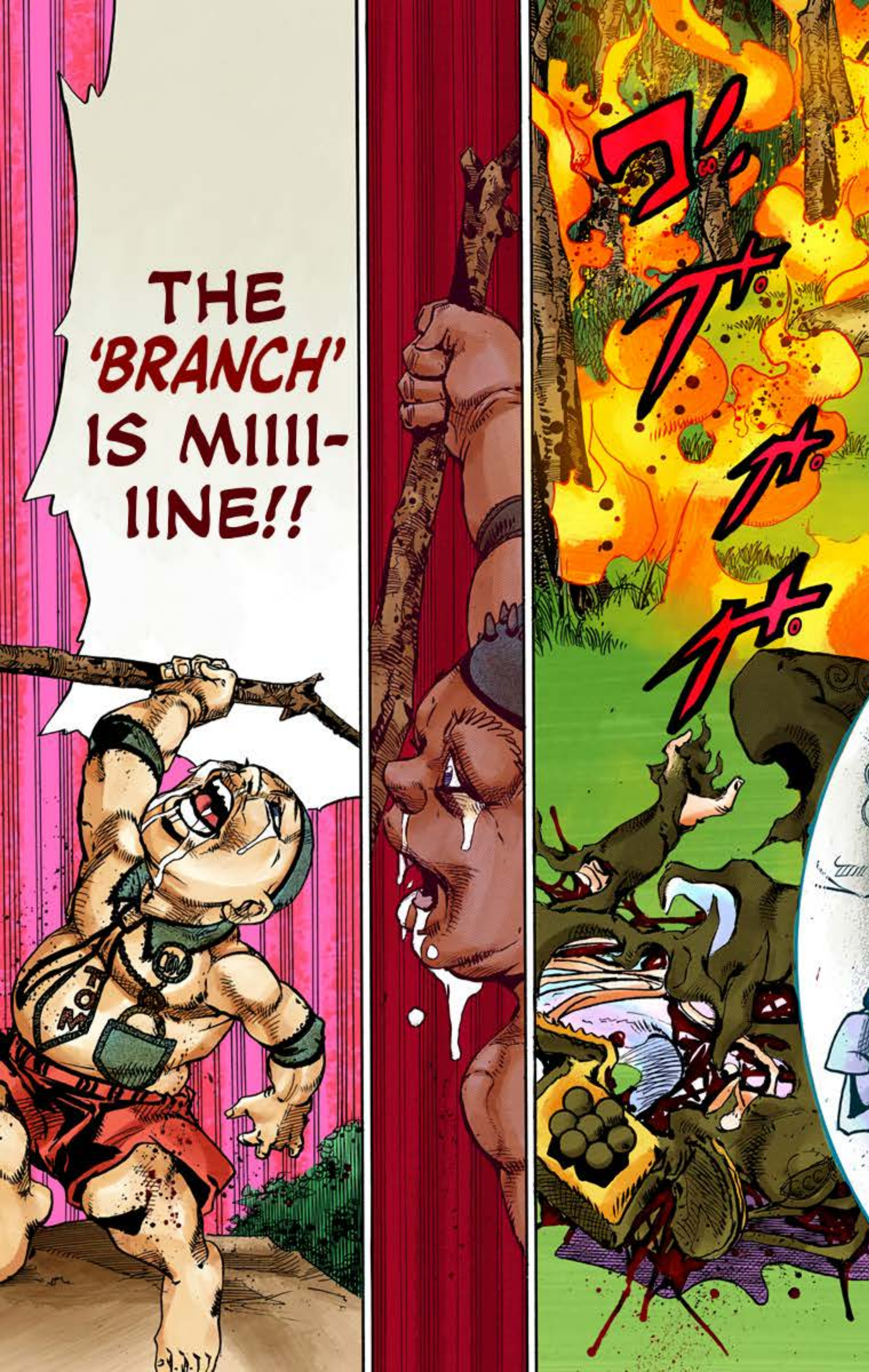
ガ

ッ

GASHIH

イ

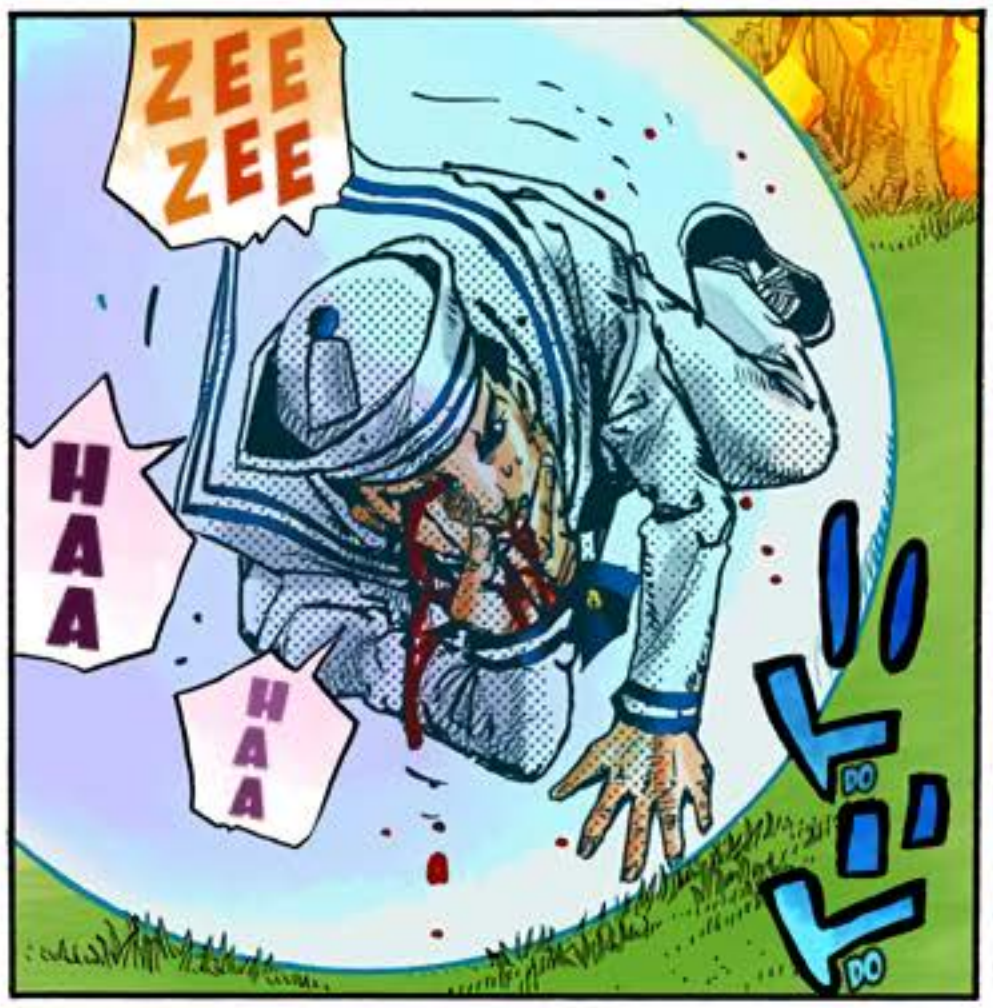
ッ


THE 'BRANCH' IS MIII-IINE!!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP

GAN

GAGUN

LATER!
BAN


ZEE ZEE
HAA HAA
DO DO

DO DO DO DO DO DO
HAA HAA HAA HAA

WUUUU
WUUUU
GEEH
WUUUH
WUUUH
WUUU
GEHOGH...
THAT SIREN...
BUT THE WINDOWS A' THOSE VEHICLES——
THEY SHOULD COUNTER-ACT THE POISON FOR ME.
I THINK... ONLY THE JUICE A' ONE YEW SEED GOT INTA MY STOMACH...
MAN, WHAT TOOK 'EM?! THERE'S PROBABLY AN AMBULANCE COMIN' FROM THE HOSPITAL, TOO.
GEEH
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
IT'S A FIRE-ENGINE.
IT'S... PROBABLY COMIN' THIS WAY...
I MEAN, THERE'S A FIRE 'N SHIT.

AND IF THEY GET WITHIN THE 100 METER RANGE, THE INSIDE OF THE AMBULANCE WILL *'PRESSURIZE'*, TOO...

WELL, NOT LIKE THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE. THOSE AMBULANCE WINDOWS... I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY WITH THEM CLOSED.

IF THE VEHICLES' DOORS 'N WINDOWS AND SHIT ARE ALL CLOSED, THAT'LL BE A *'BARRIER'*.

ARE THEY COMIN' HERE *WITH THEIR WINDOWS OPEN...?*

THE PEOPLE IN THAT AMBU-LANCE...

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

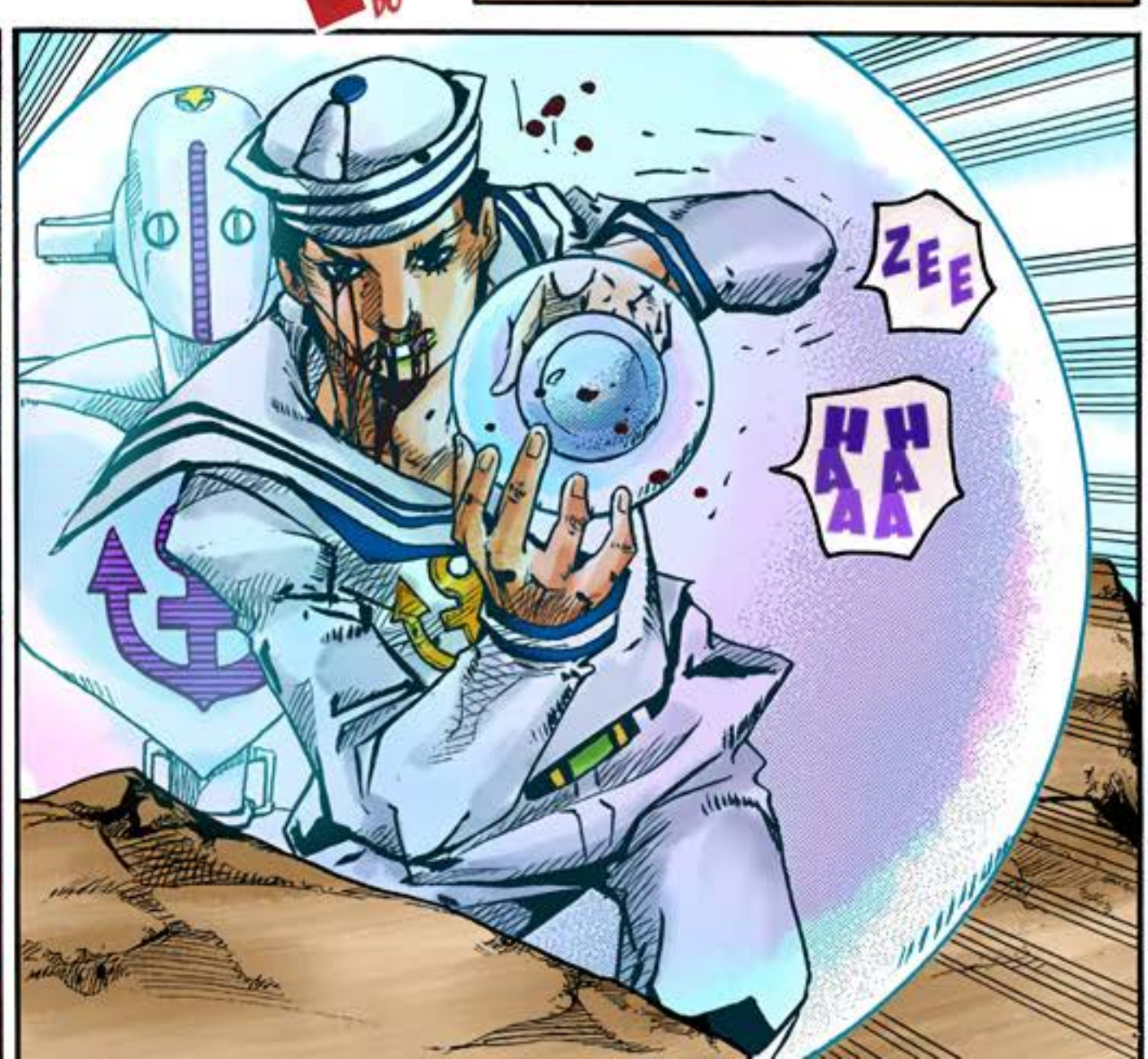
BECAUSE THEY'RE COMRADES...

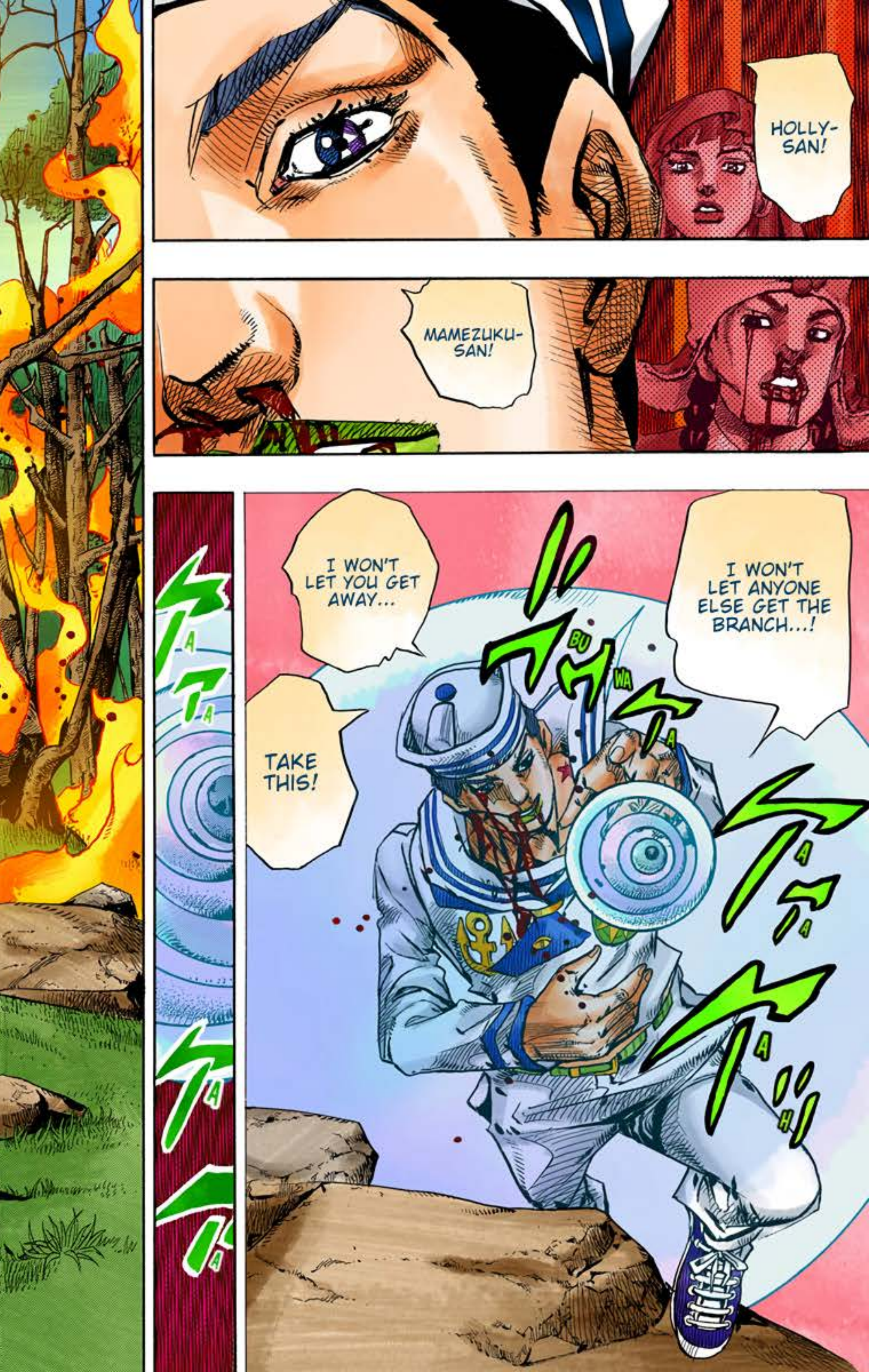
YOU LOST, JACK-ASS!
NOW GO DIE,
HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE!

DON'T YOU GET IIIIT?!! THE CLOSER YOU GET TA ME, THE HIGHER THE PRESSURE'S GONNA GET!!
DO

HA
DO
ZEEBAA
ZEE ZEE
DO
DO
DO

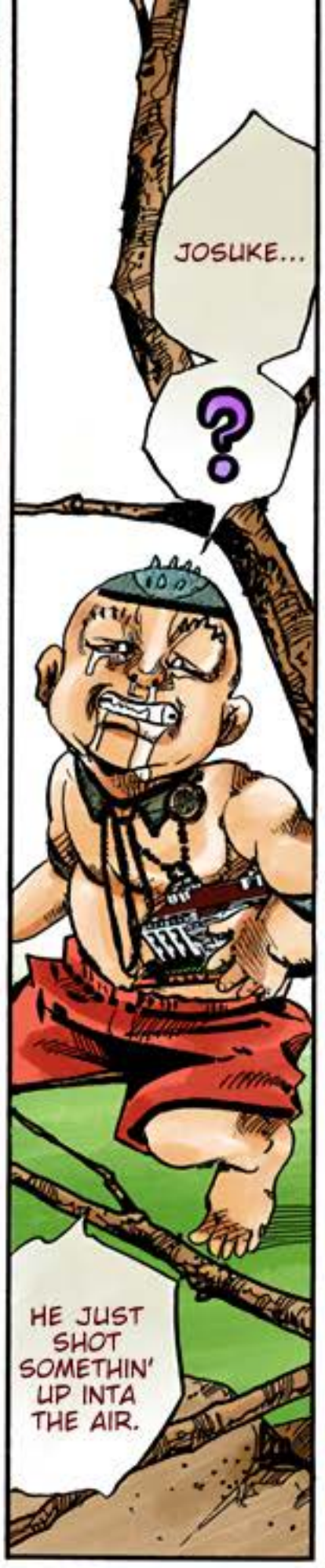
DO
DO


ZEE
HA HA


HOLLY-SAN!
MAMEZUKU-SAN!
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY...
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET THE BRANCH...!
TAKE THIS!
BU
WA
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
A

ドバァ
ドバァ

IT'S HEADIN' TOWARDS ME.


JOSUKE...
?
HE JUST SHOT SOMETHIN' UP INTA THE AIR.

IS HE TRYIN' TA HIT ME WIT THAT...?

!!

FLOAT
FLOAT
WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S UH...
WRAPPED IN OTHER SOAP BUBBLES!
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A... MILLE-FEUILLE.
A SOAP BUBBLE...

THAT'S ONE A' THOSE YEW SEEDS FROM BEFORE.

"WHAT" IS THAT IN THERE? WAIT, I CAN SEE IT...!!

FLOAT

FLOAT

SOMETHING'S INSIDE!

FLOAT

FLOAT

BAH

ZAH

HMPH!

AH!!

BONN

IT'S BREAKIN' ONE LAYER AT A TIME!

ONE OF THE SOAP BUBBLES POPPED! AND THEN THE DIRECTION IT'S MOVIN' IN CHANGED TOO!!

WH- 'WHAT THE HELL' IS INSIDE THERE?!

THE CLOSER IT GETS TA ME, THE STRONGER THE PRESSURE'S GETTIN'.

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

GEH!

BAH

UUH!

UOOH!

BANN

UGH

ANOTHER ONE POPPED!

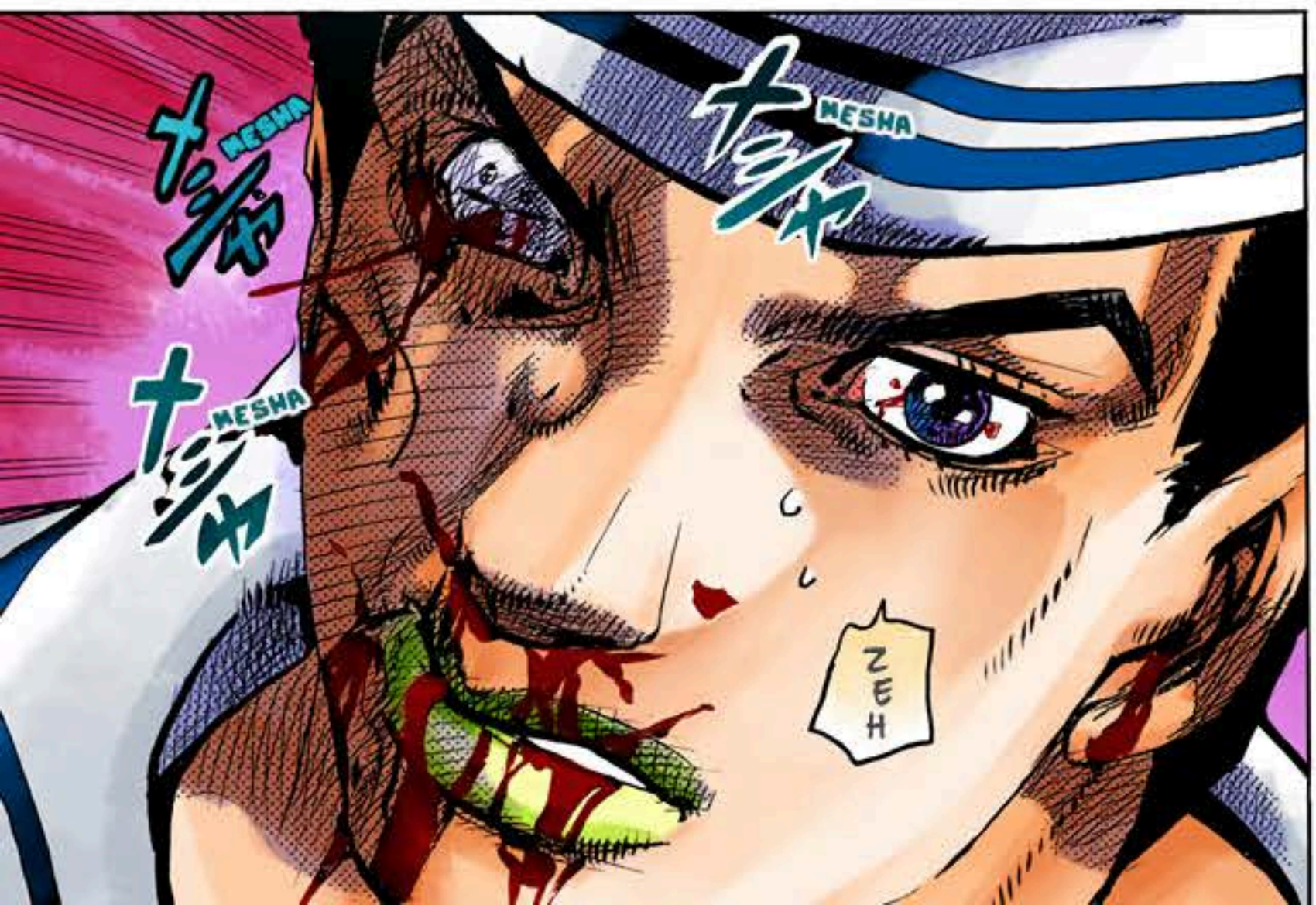
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
H-HERE IT COMES!
YOU BASTA~~RD!
CODA
SHIRU
SHIRU
SHIRU
SHIRU

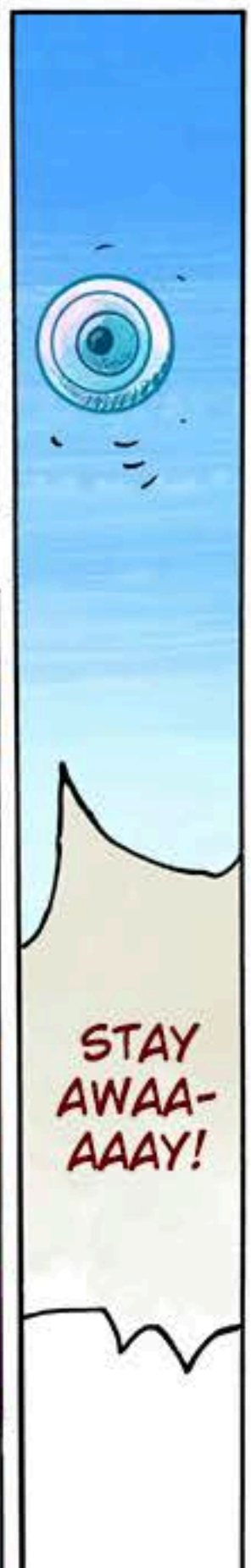
#076 OZONE BABY'S PRESSURE PART 4

FLOAT
FLOAT
FLOAT
WHAT THE HELL... THAT PIECE A' SHIIIIIIT.
DON'T COME NEAR MEEEE!!
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ドゴ
DO
ZEH
ZEH
ZEH
THE WAY 'OZONE BABY' WORKS IS THA CLOSER YA GET TA ME, THE HIGHER THE 'AIR PRESSURE' GOES, DON'T YOU GET IIIT?!!
IF YOU JUST STEER CLEAR 'A ME YOU'LL BE SAFE!!

ドドド
DO DO DO

THE 'BRANCH' IS MINE! MY 'VICTORY'S' ALL WRAPPED UP NOW, DON'T YOU GET IT?!





NEGIH
NESHAN
FLOAT
FLOAT
FLOAT
FLOAT
TUUURN
JOSUKE YOU FRIGGIN' BASTAAAAARD! JUST GO THE HELL TA SLEEEEEEP!!

THERE'S AN AMBU-LANCE!

WUUU

WUUU

AND THERE'RE...

THREE OF 'EM!

THE WINDOWS 'A THE FIRE ENGINES ARE OPEN!

THAT AMBU-LANCE!

IS HEADED THIS WAY WITH ITS WINDOWS CLOSED!

DAMMIT!

ONE AMBU-LANCE!

FINE. I'LL KNOCK IT OUTTA THE AIR!

FLOAT

HE SHOT THAT THING AT ME WITH SOME-THING INSIDE IT, DIDN' E?!

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

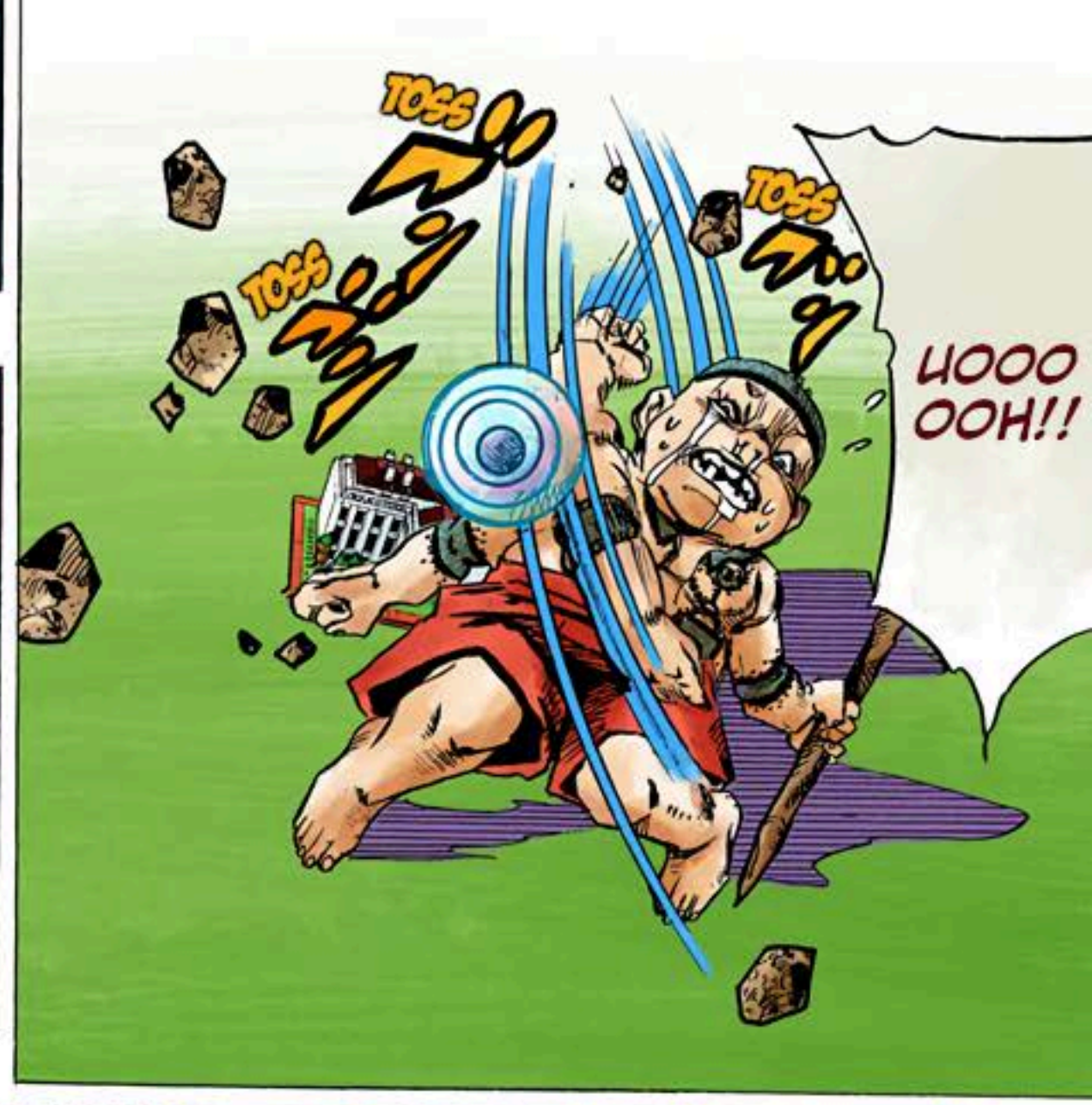
WHAT THE HELL IS IT THIS TIIIIME?

HUH?!

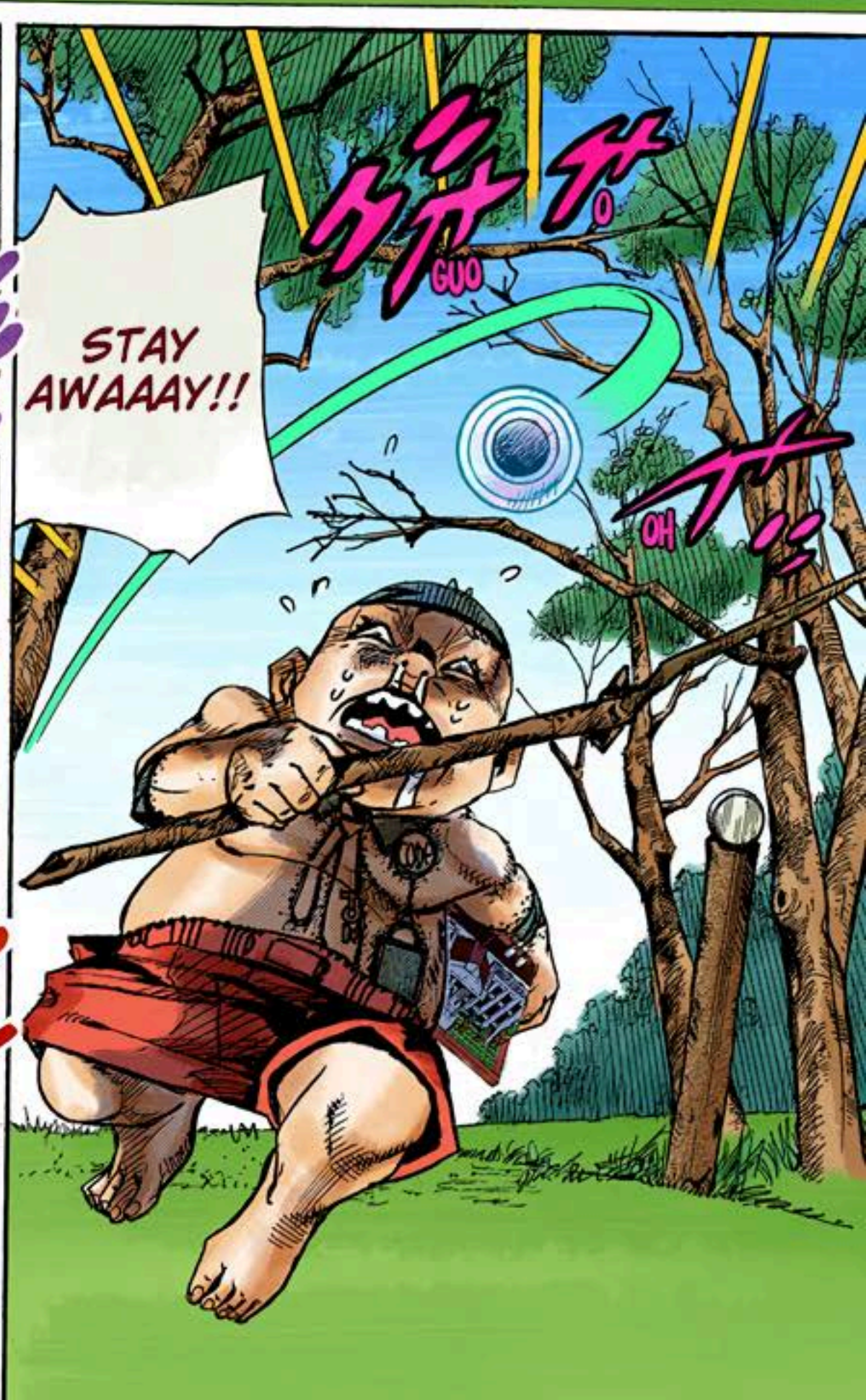
IS THERE 'SOMETHING' IN THAT SOAP BUBBLE?

WH-WHAT'S IN THERE....?

BONN


TOSS
TOSS
TOSS
UOOO OOH!!

GEBWEH!!
GUBUH


STAY AWAAAY!!
GUO
OH

GUBUH
BLEH
BUGO
GEBOH

JUST... FORGET ABOUT THIS 'LOCACACA BRANCH'. YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET IT BACK GODDAMMIT!!

I...

I KNOW... I'LL... GIVE YOU SOME MONEY...

WOULD YOU JUST STOP FOLLOWING ME ALREADY?!! I REALLY GOTTA GET TA THE HOSPITAL...

SHURU

SHURU

SHURU

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

FLOAT

JOSUKE HIGASHIKATA... YOU'RE NOT GONNA WIN THIS...

WE'RE BOTH GETTIN' OUT WITH SOMETHIN' THAT WAY, RIGHT?

I JUST WANNA GET THE ANTIDOTE TO THE POISON I SWALLOWED!

SO PLEASE, JUST TAKE THIS MONEY!

I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE. THEN WE CAN ALL LEAVE THIS THING HAPPY.

DOSAA

I'LL PAY YA, SO DON'T COME ANY CLOSER AND JUST GO TA SLEEP!

MESHA

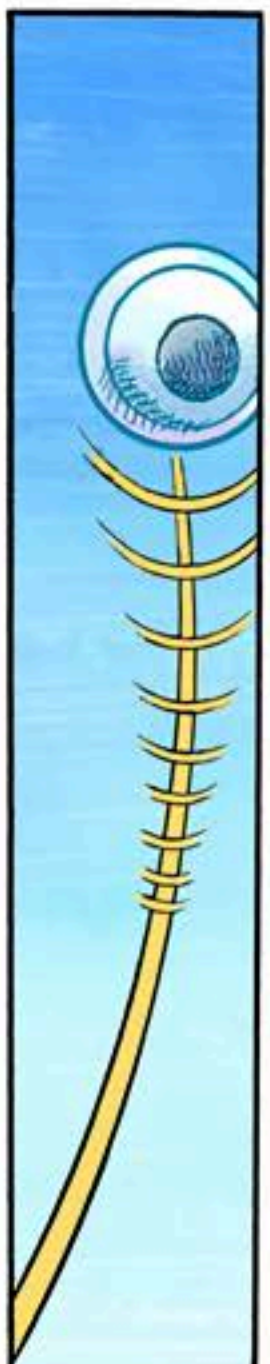
MESHA

I'LL GIVE YA EVEN MORE MONEY LATER, SO PLEASE, JUST COOL IT!

SHURU
N-NO!!
SHURU
THIS... AIN'T GOOD!

GUO
GUGI
UOAAAA AAAAA! STAY AWAAA-AAAAY!!
GEBOH

BONN



BU
WA
A
A
A
DAMMIT...
CANCEL THE EFFECT!
FUH

SHURU
SHURU
IF...
IF THAT GETS CLOSE AND POPS, I'M SCREWED!

POP

SHUUH

BANG

UH...

...

DO DO DO DO DO DO DO

SHUUH

POP

UGH
TURN

N-
ZEE
ZEE
NOTHING... WAS IN IT... AT ALL...?
HE TRICKED ME?!

ドドドドド

UUUGH

HAAA HAAA

HAAA

TH-THIS AIN'T GOOD...

WHY'D I HAVE TO GO AND CANCEL OZONE BABY...?

ドゴ ドゴ ドゴ

ドゴ ドゴ

GLANCE

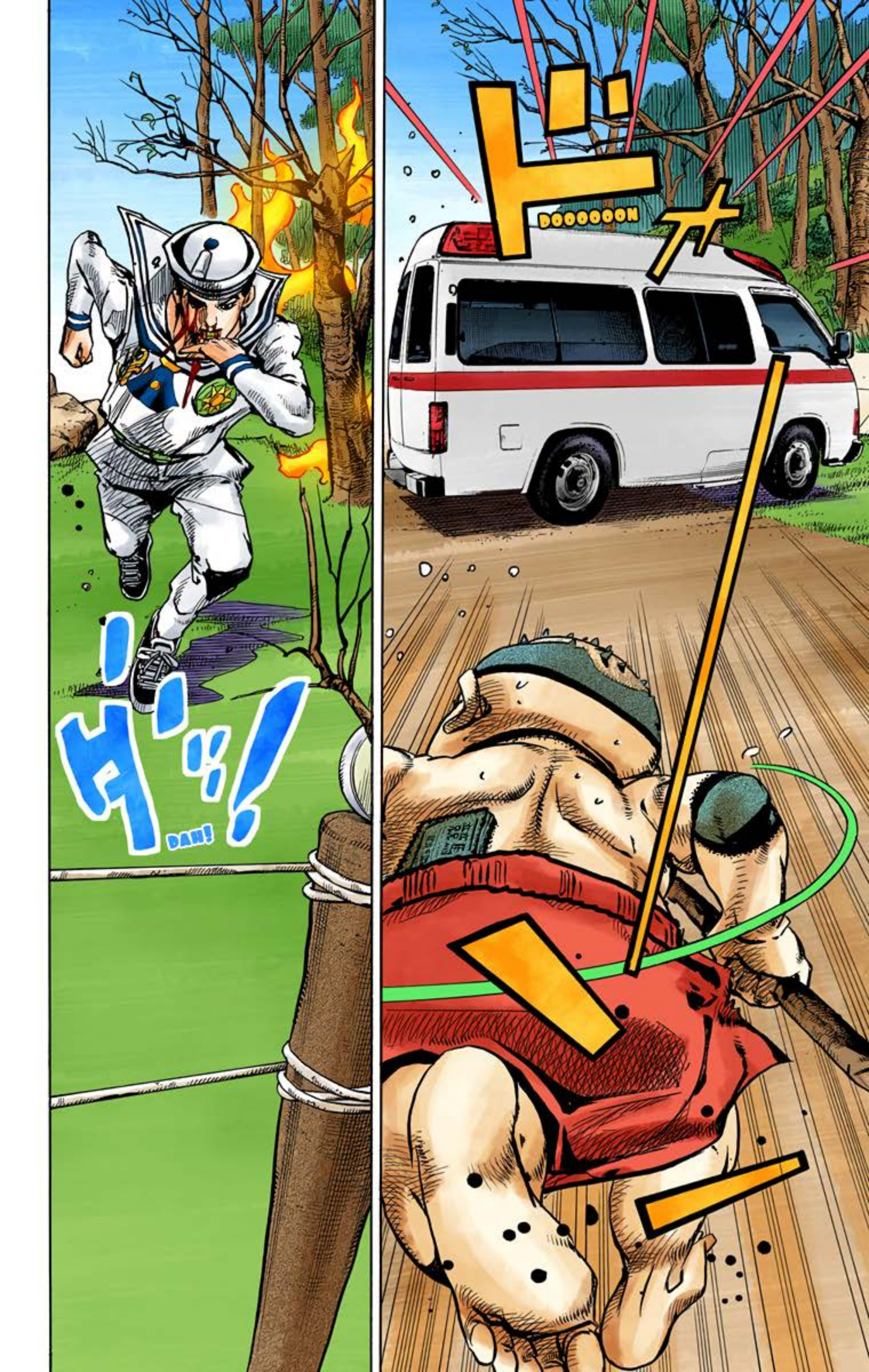
KHH.

UUGH

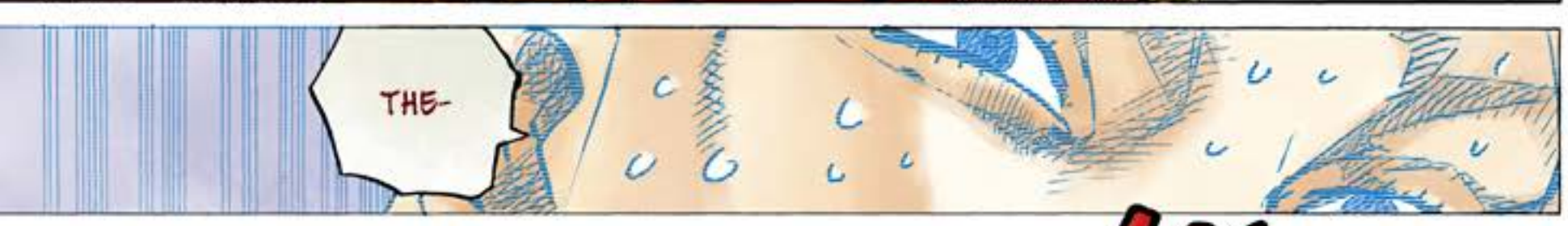
UUGH

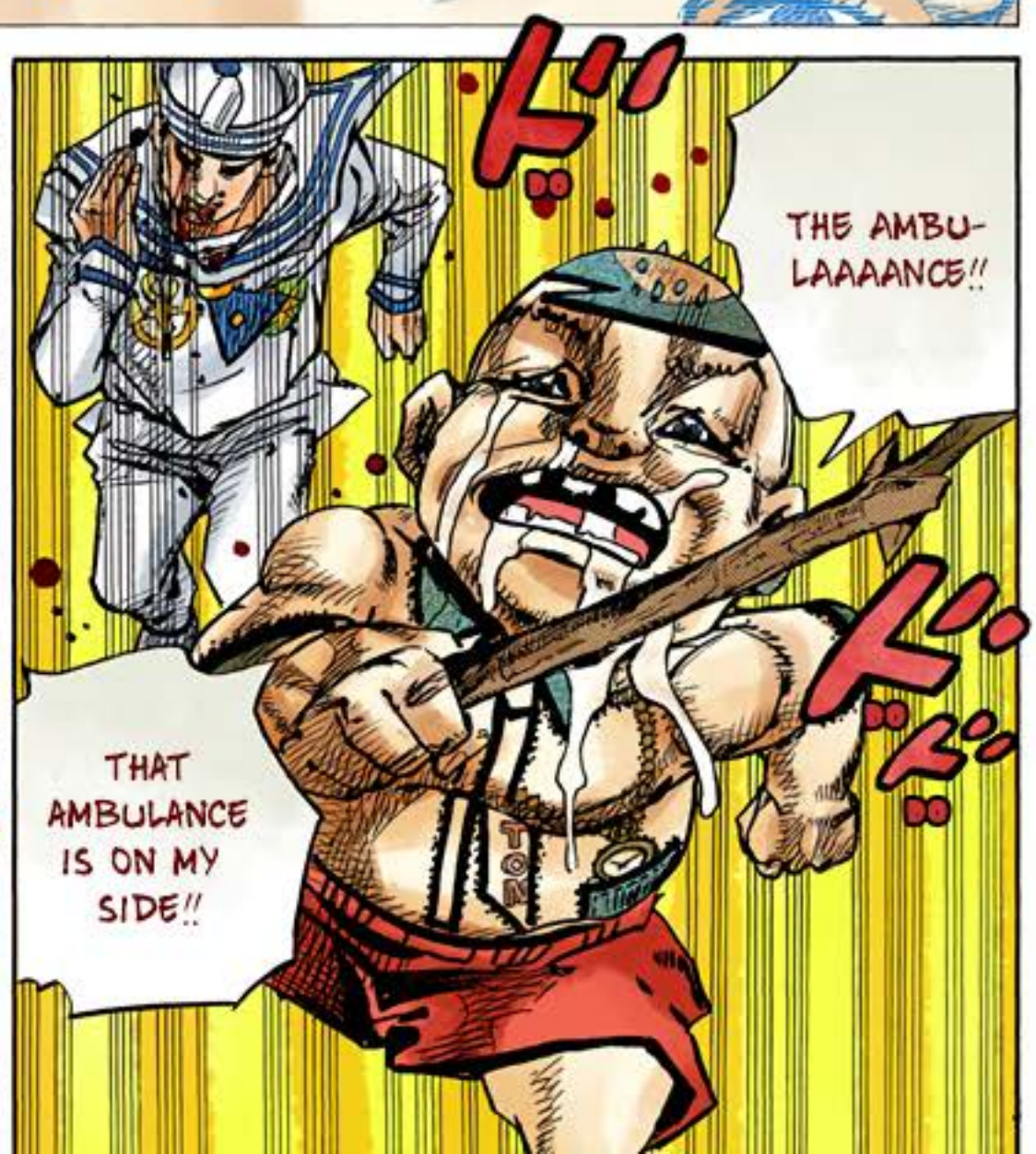
HAAA

HAAA


ドッ
DOOOOOON
ハ!!
DAN!

ドゴ
ドゴ
ドゴ
ドゴ
UOA
000
000
000
00





RIGHT NOW, WITH THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY'S ORCHARD ON FIRE...

BAAAAAAH

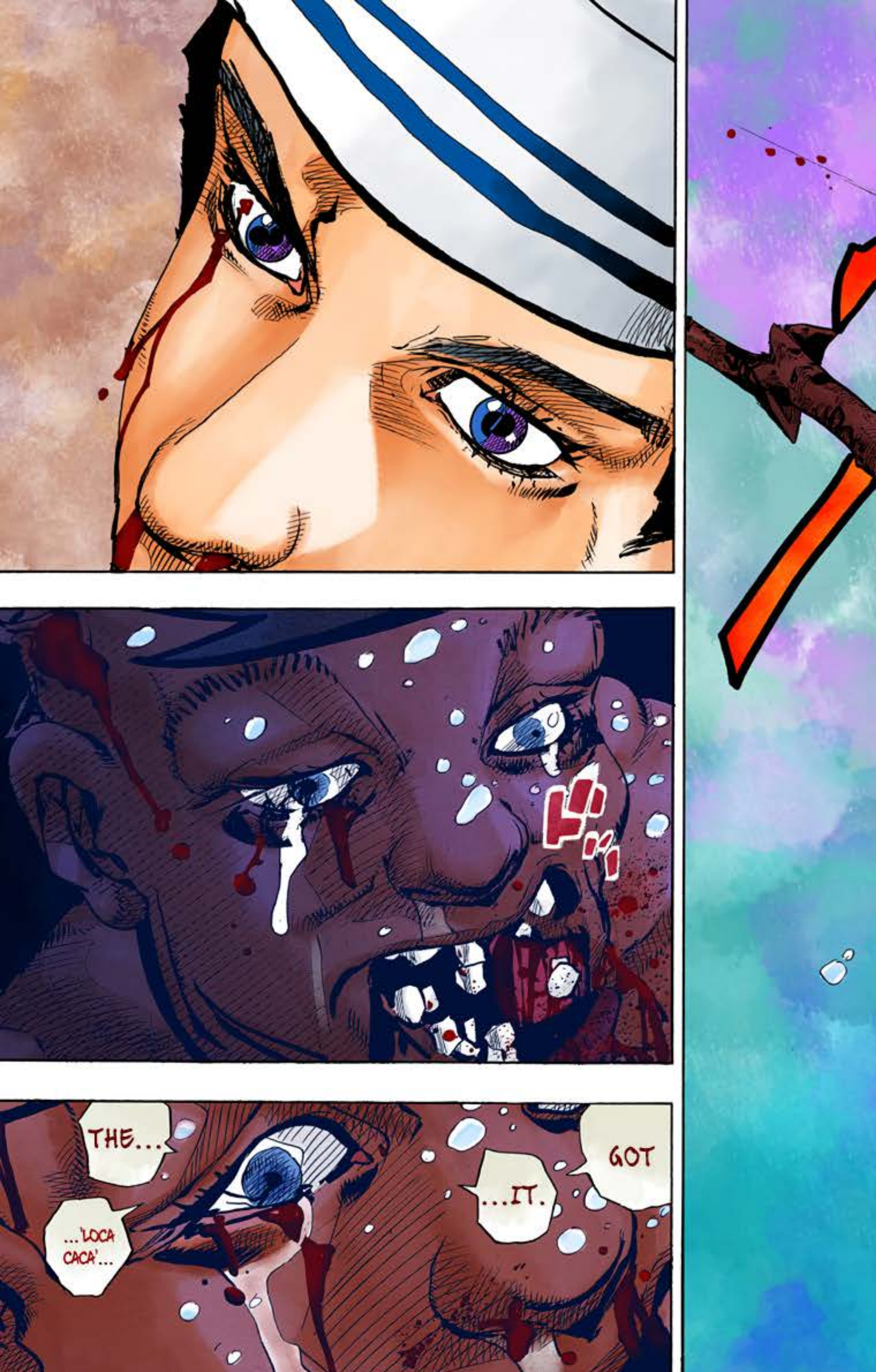
LOOK, I GOT IT! I GOT THE LOCACACA BRAAAA-AANCH!!!

DOH

DOH

LOOK OVER 'ERE!!

SHUPAAAN
GOT...
I GO-


THE...
...'LOCA CACA'...
...IT.
GOT

WHAT?!!

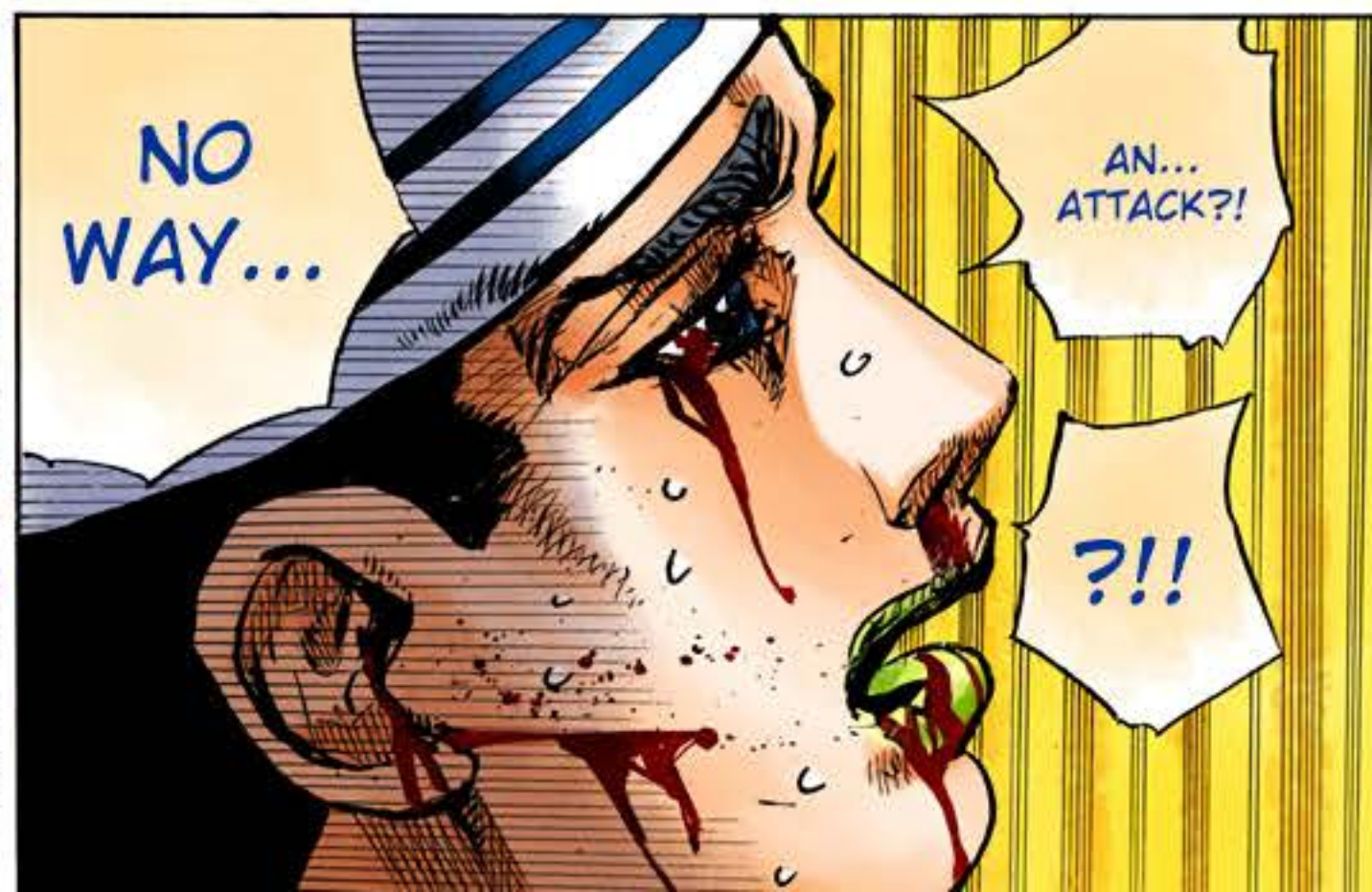
WH-

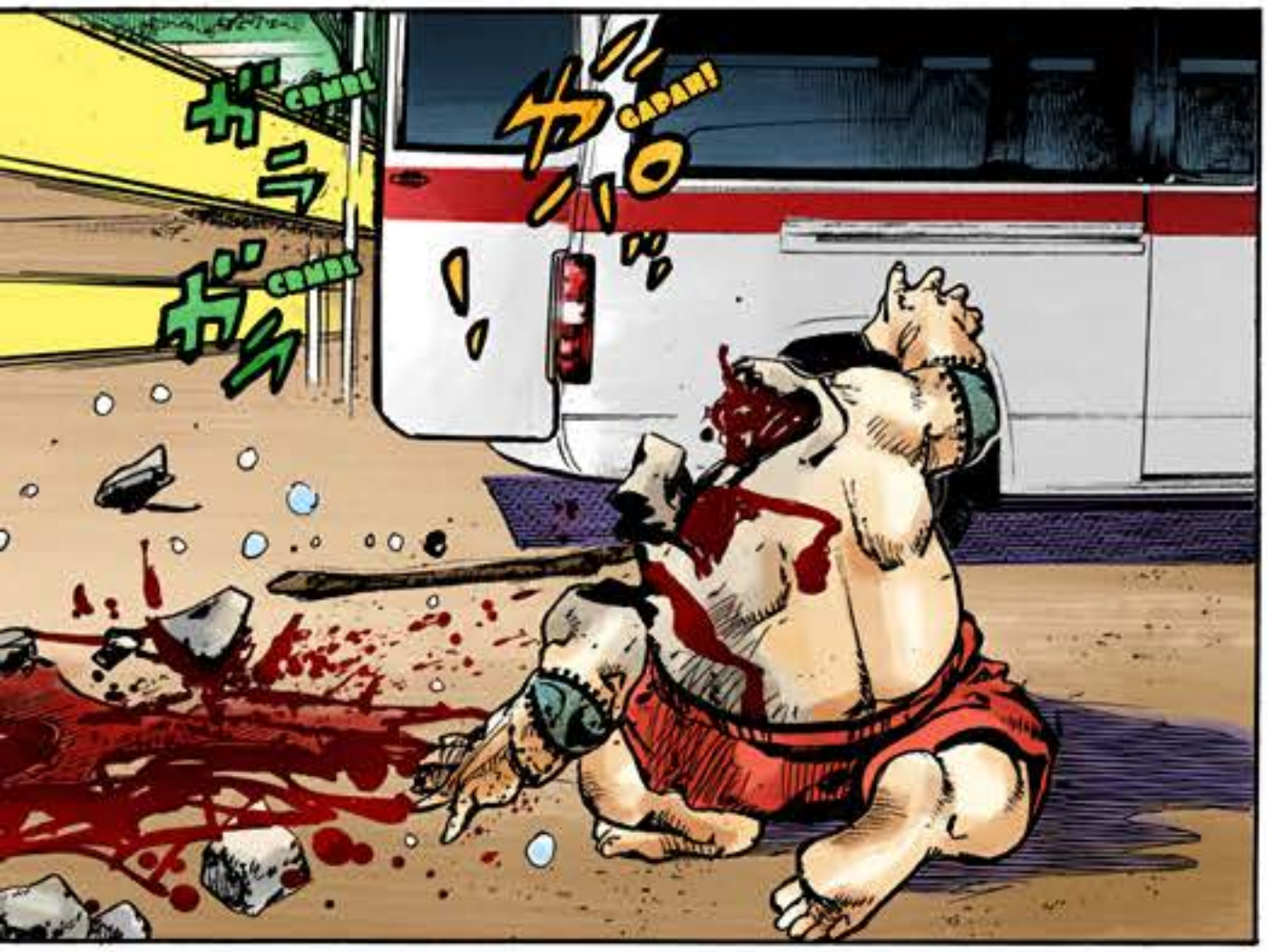
BAM!

ドバッ!!
DOBAN

ガラァン

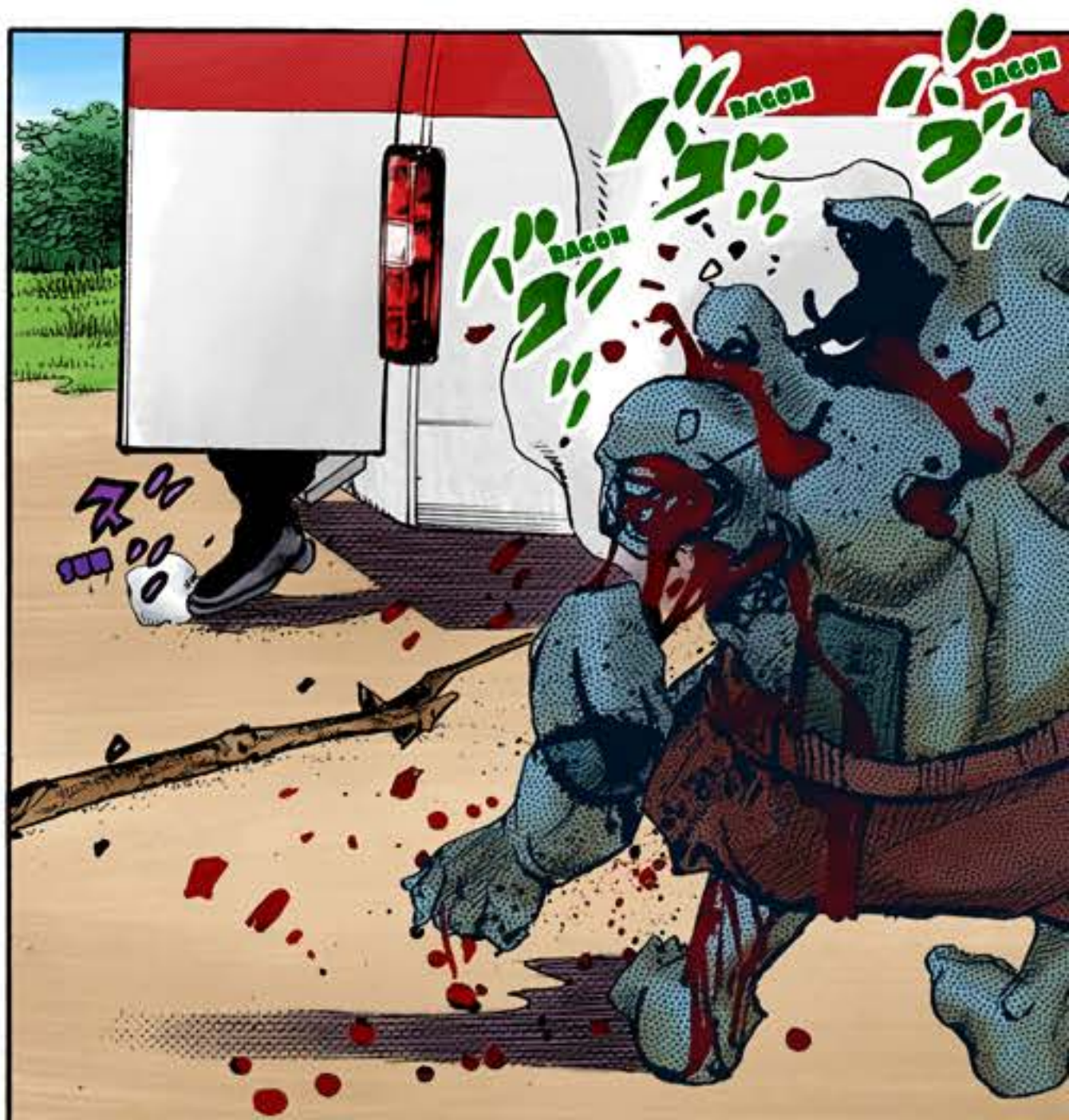
BUT... HUH?!

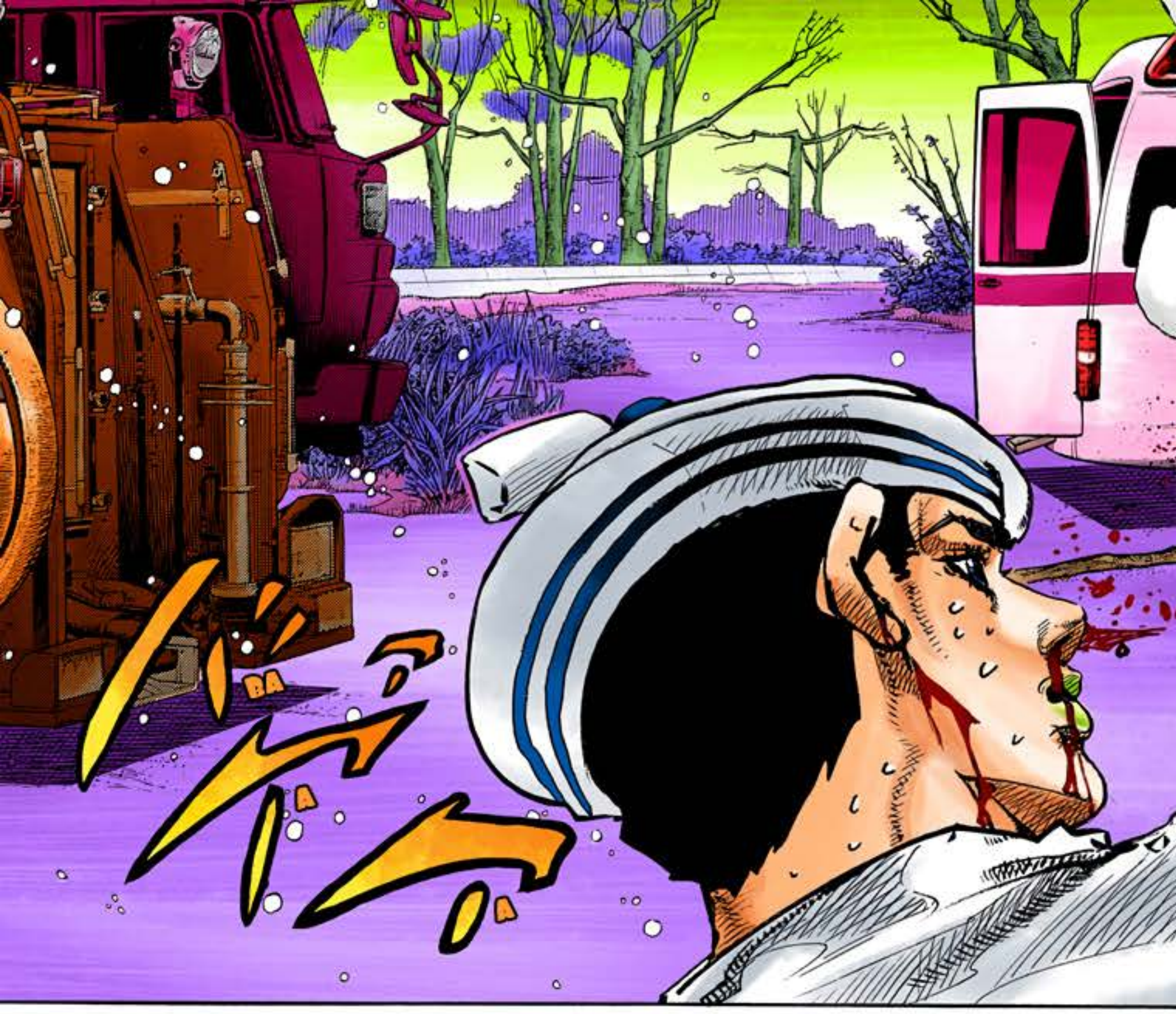

NO WAY...
AN... ATTACK?!
?!!


ガ
CRUNCH
ガ
CRUNCH
ガ
CAPAM!

ギ
CLIN
ギ
CL
ギ
CL

CRMBL
CRMBL
CRMBL




BA
A
A

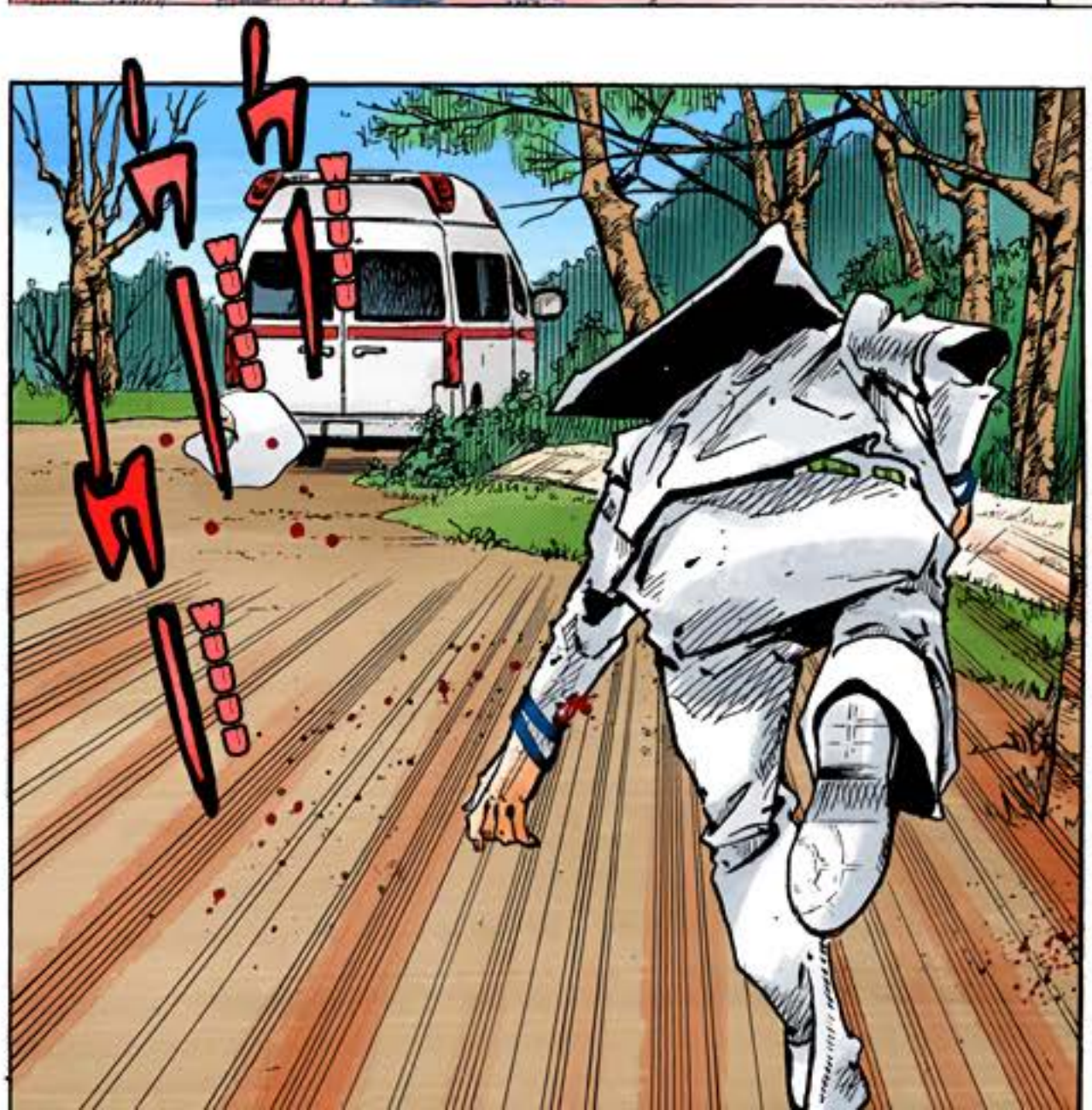
BUT THE DIRECTION THAT ATTACK CAME FROM JUST NOW! IT LOOKED LIKE IT CAME FROM BEHIND... WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
HIS COMRADE!
THE 'PRESSURE MAN'...HIS COMRADE ABANDONED HIM.
DON'T TELL ME THERE'S 'MORE THAN ONE OF THEM'?!

INSIDE THAT AMBULANCE!

CRMBL
CRMBL
CRMBL

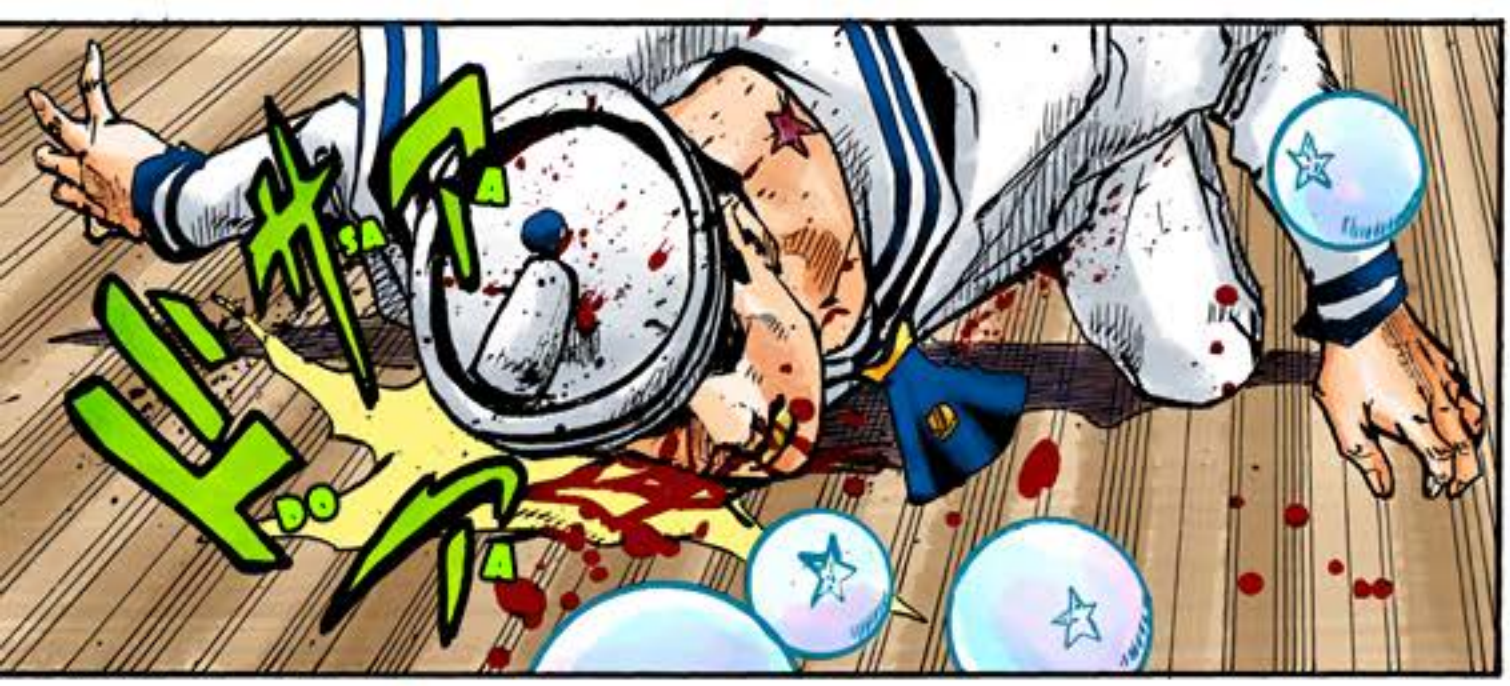
SLAM

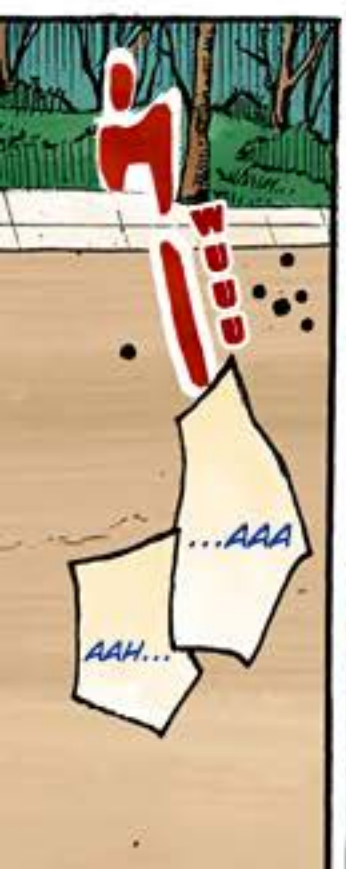
THEIR ONLY GOAL WAS THE 'BRANCH'!



BAN
BAN
BAN
BAN

ドン
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DON
ドン
DON


ドサッ
DO SA


ア!!!!!
...AAA
AAH...

ア!!!!!
ア!!!!!
UA...
HAA HAA
HAA HAA

3-11

CRUBL
CRUBL
PSH
PSH
PSH
WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
HAA HAA
ZEEE
ZEE
UAA AAAA AAAA AAA
AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AH!
AAAA
THE 'BRANCH'

ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ
ゴッ

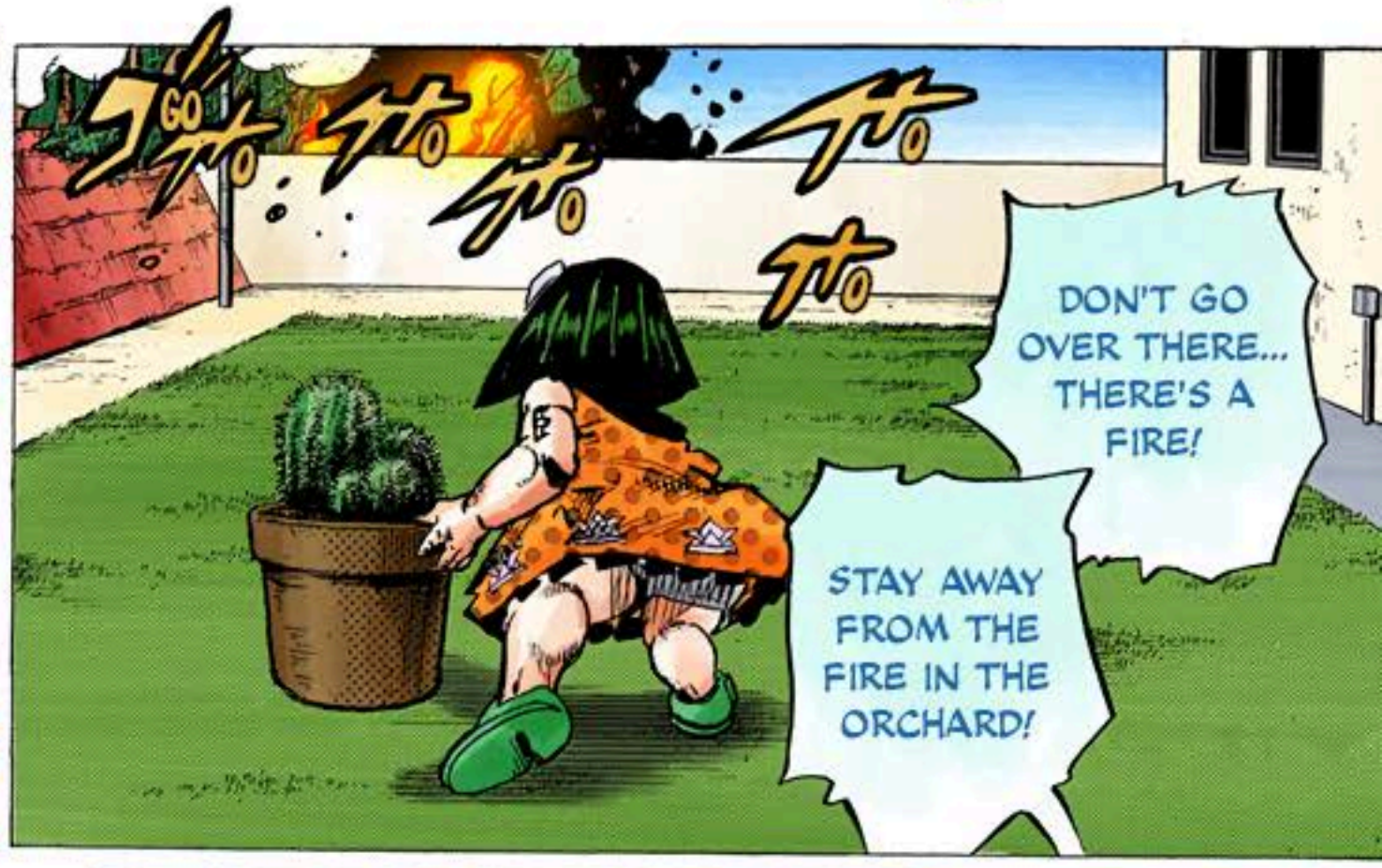
TH... THEY TOOK... THE LOCACACA 'BRANCH'...

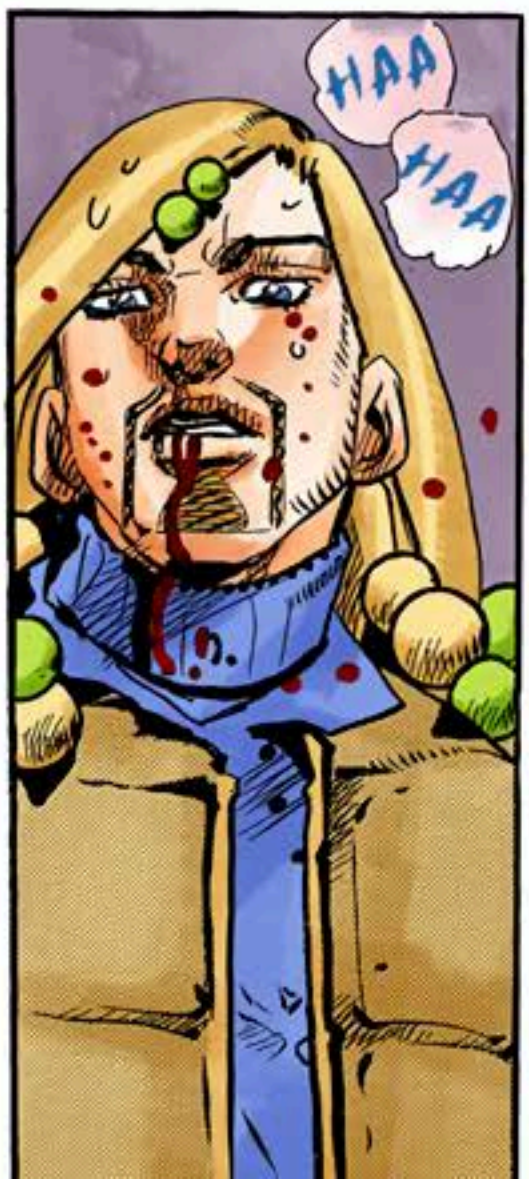
ドッ
ドッ
ドッ

UA
AA
AA
AAA
AA
AA

姫
GO
TSURUGI!

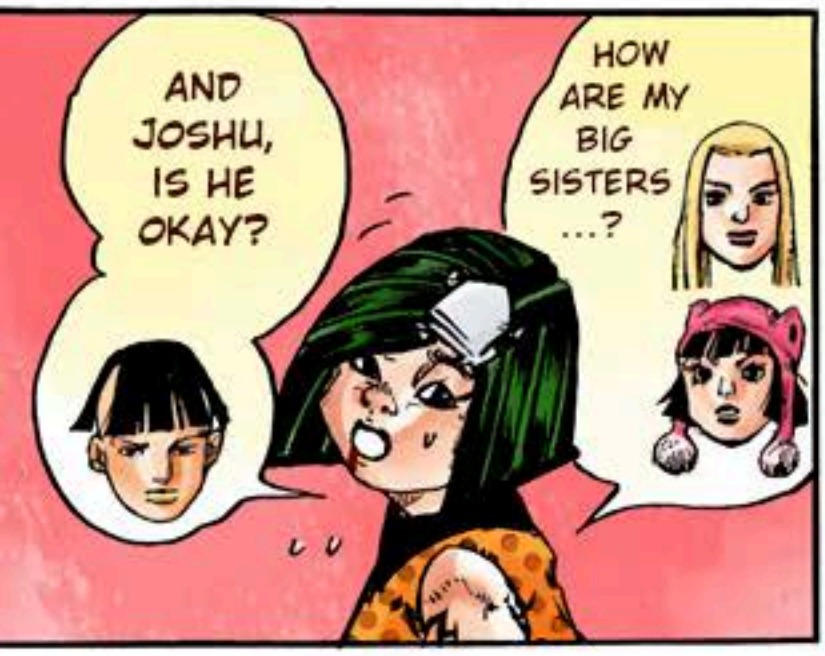
TSURUGI!


GO
DON'T GO OVER THERE... THERE'S A FIRE!
STAY AWAY FROM THE FIRE IN THE ORCHARD!


HAA
HAA

HAA
HAA
HAA
ARE YOU OKAY TSURUGI ...?
ARE YOU... HURT AT ALL?

...


AND JOSHU, IS HE OKAY?
HOW ARE MY BIG SISTERS ...?

THEY'RE OKAY FOR NOW. JOSHU, HATO, AND DAIYA ARE OVER THERE..
YES.
...UNCON-SCIOUS.
TSURUGI... ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW... WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT... I THINK OUT ENTIRE FAMILY WAS JUST ATTACKED BY THE ROCK HUMANS.
HAA
THAT WAS AN ATTACK... I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IT WAS...
HAA
HAA
THE MOMENT I REALIZED IT.... BLOOD WAS ALREADY COMING OUT OF MY EYES, EARS.AND NOSE...

I'M SURE THE TARGET OF THE ATTACK... WAS THE 'LOCACACA'. THAT 'BRANCH' WAS SOMEWHERE IN MY ORCHARD! AND THEY WENT AND LIT IT ON FIRE...

HAA HAA

HAA HAA

WHERE'S JOBIN?

TSURUGI...

WASN'T YOUR DADDY WITH YOU?

GO

GEHO

KEHO

IWASUKE ...

GEHO

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, RIGHT...? THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT...

WHEN THAT TIME COMES...

I'LL HELP YOU... THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO WORRY

...

ANYHOW, I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR JOBIN.

WHERE COULD HE BE...? MAYBE THE GARAGE?

THE 'LOCACACA',

IF THAT FRUIT GOT STOLEN ...

GRANDPA ...

THEN DOES THAT MEAN THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY LOST? ...AND MY ILLNESS WON'T GET BETTER?

TSURUGI, YOU SHOULD GO BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE.

AND MAKE SURE YOU STEER CLEAR OF THAT FIRE.

WUUU

WUUU

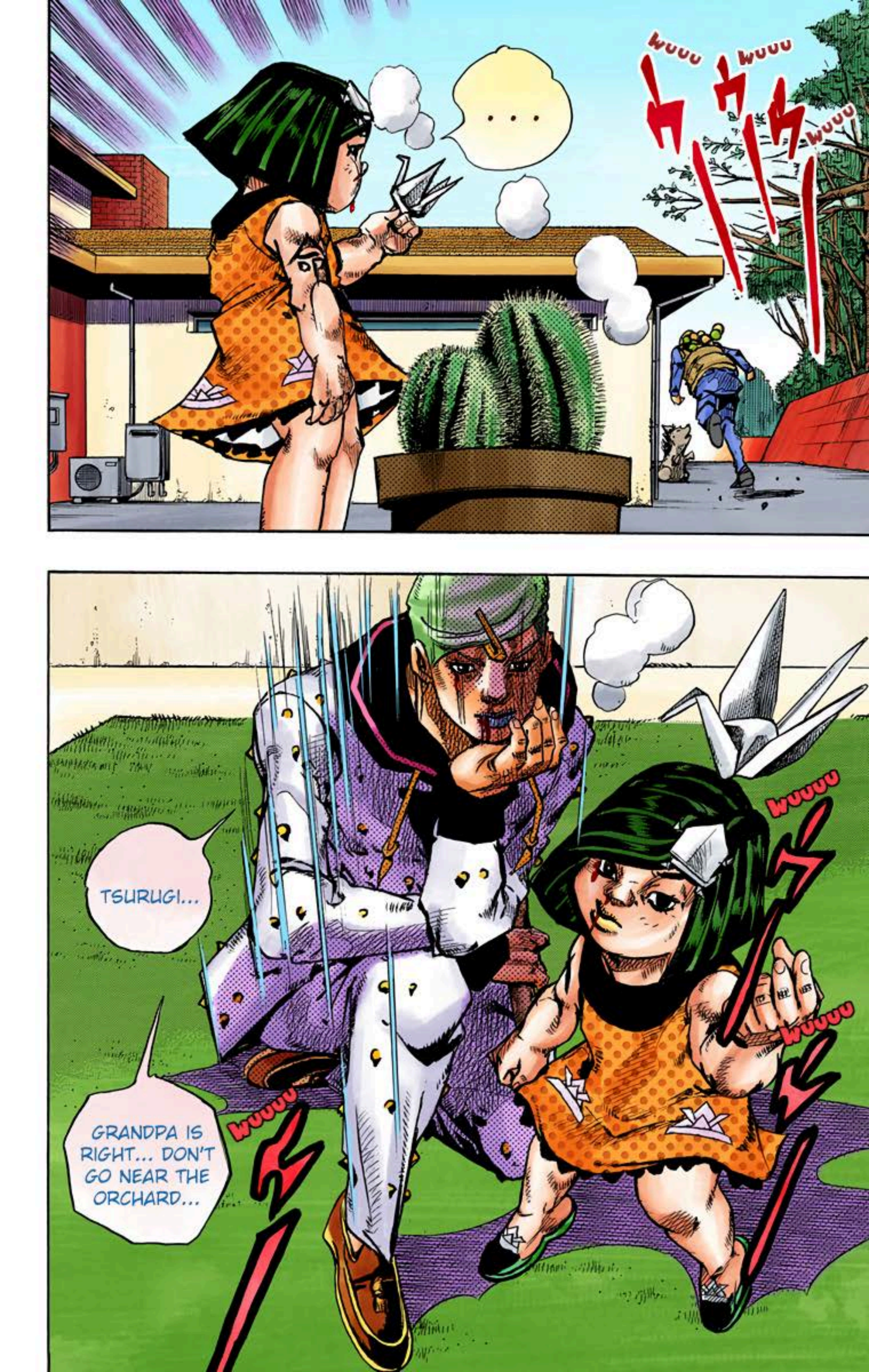
WUUU

'ORIGAMI' ...?

IS THIS YOURS?

?!

KASHA


WUUU
WUUU
WUUU
TSURUGI...
GRANDPA IS RIGHT... DON'T GO NEAR THE ORCHARD...
WUUUU
WUUUU
WUUUU

"SEE PEOPLE AS HAVING THE SAME FACE"

IT HAS THE ABILITY TO MAKE THOSE THAT TOUCH YOUR 'ORIGAMI'...

THROUGH ITS ABILITY TO "MAKE THEM UNABLE TO DISCERN OBJECTS OR RECOGNIZE THEIR SHAPES".

ゴ!! GO ゴ!! GO

"PAPER MOON KING".

...BECAUSE THE SECURITY CAMERAS HAVE REACTIVATED NOW.

LET'S SAVOR THIS VICTORY...

ゴ!! GO

ゴ!! GO ゴ!! GO ゴ!! GO

YOU AND I DEFEATED EVERY-ONE!!

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU

WUUU
WUUU
WELL NOW... THAT 'HIGASHIKATA JOSUKE'.

...

'POOR TOM' TOO... JUST NOW HE WAS CORNERED AND RUNNING AWAY.

AFTER POOR TOM STOLE THE 'BRANCH', HE KEPT CHASING HIM TO THE VERY END.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE BELIEVED IT... HE WAS CERTAINLY QUITE DESPERATE TO GET IT BACK...

ベキ CRACK
CRACK ベキ

ベキ CRACK

...BUT THIS...

POOR TOM...!

THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY PEAR 'BRANCH'!

THIS IS NOT THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH'...!!

HE ASSUMED THIS WAS THE ROKAKAKA ONE AND TOOK IT,

AND AT THAT POINT, HE'D ALREADY BLUNDERED.

KRAAACK

ボキッ

THIS IS THE WRONG ONE!

BASHIIH

AND MOST OF IT HAS ALREADY BURNED.

THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY ORCHARD... COVERS A CONSIDERABLE AREA.

NO... THAT'S NOT THE RIGHT WAY TO THINK ABOUT THIS.

WUUU WUUUUU

GO

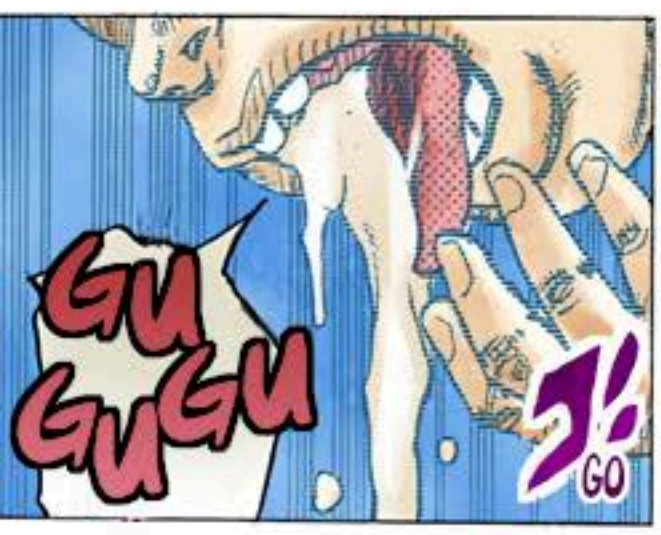
...CAME HERE WHEN WE SAW THE ORCHARD WAS ON FIRE.

BOTH POOR TOM AND US...

THE ONE WHO LIT THE FIRE IS SOMEWHERE ELSE.

SO THAT MEANS NEITHER 'POOR TOM'...

...NOR 'JOSUKE' WERE THE ONE WHO LIT THAT FIRE TARGETING THE ORCHARD.



ZEEH ZEEH

ZEEH HAA HAA

GASHIIN

I GOT !!!!!!T!

GO GO GO GO GO GO GO

HAA

ZEE ZEE HAA

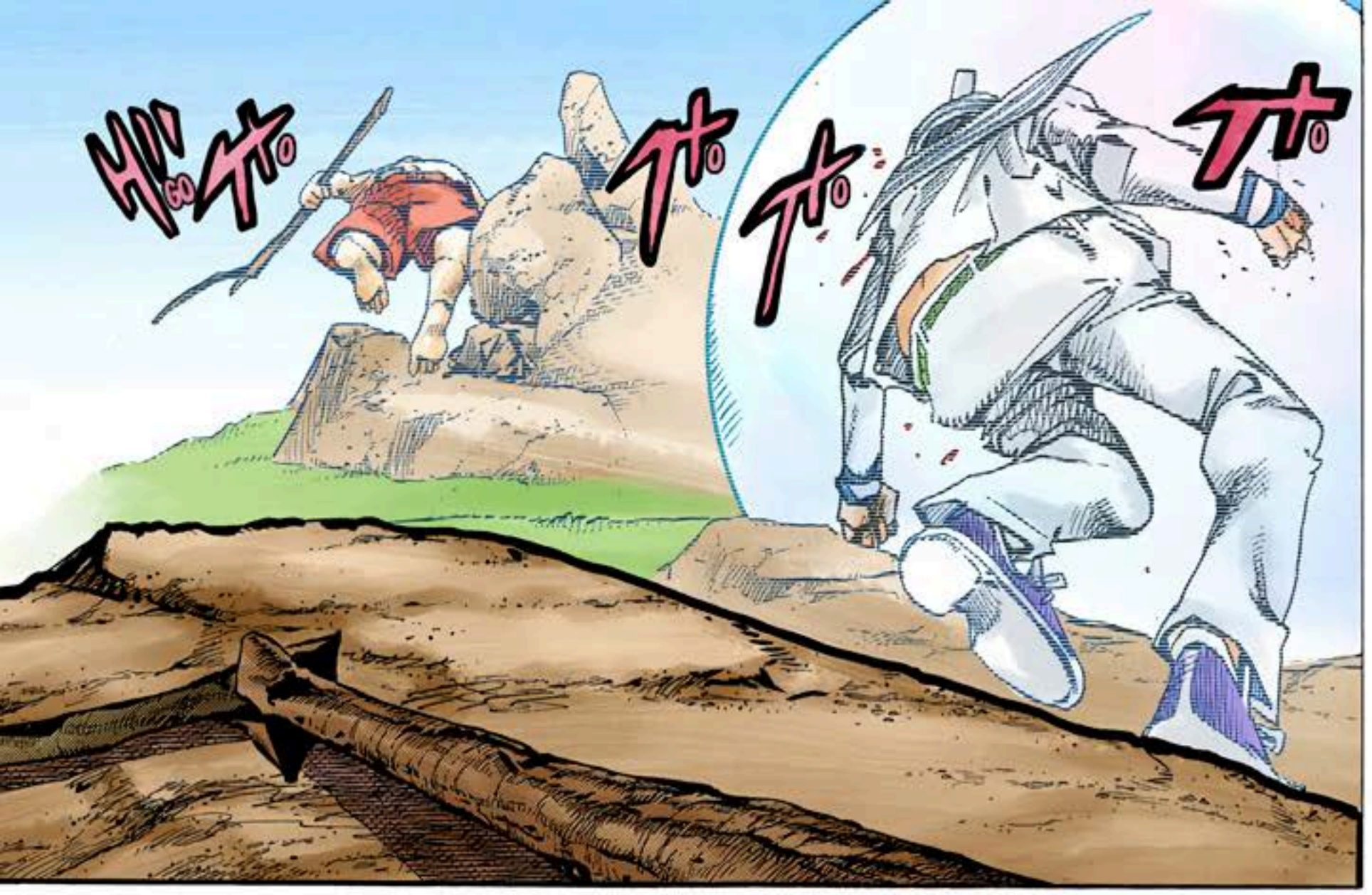
GUOHN

SHUI!

HAA HAA

ZEE

ZEEEH



ドドド

ARE US! AND WE'RE GOING TO CULTIVATE IT!
THE ONES WHO GOT THE 'ROKAKAKA BRANCH' IN THE END...
ゾオ
DOOOOOOON

THERE ARE SPECIAL 'BUGS' PLANTED INSIDE THIS 'BRANCH'.

BY 'GRAFTING' IT ON TO THIS CACTUS PLANT, IT'LL GROW FASTER.

HE GOT DONE IN BY 'POOR TOM'S' PRESSURE,

BUT HE REALLY WAS SOME-THING... THESE ARE 'BUGS'.

POP'S 'PLANT APPRAISER' ...

LOOK AT THIS 'BRANCH'.

THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH' AND THIS FEROCACTUS HAVE ALREADY FUSED... BUT JUST TO BE SURE, LET'S APPLY SOME ADHESIVE.

I'M THINKING ABOUT THAT.

WILL THE FRUIT GROW? ...WH...WHERE DO WE PUT IT?

IF YOU TALK TO GRANDPA NORISUKE ABOUT THIS 'BRANCH'...

...THEN GRANDPA NORISUKE WILL LOSE TO THE 'ENEMY'. ...THAT'S BECAUSE HIS WAY OF THINKING IS WEAK.

YOU MUST NOT TALK ABOUT THIS 'BRANCH'.

KEEP IT A SECRET FROM EVERYONE.

LISTEN CLOSELY TSURUGI.

GRANDPA IS YOUR ALLY... AND WE'RE ALL A FAMILY.

MY FATHER... NORISUKE, YOUR GRANDPA, CARES A WHOLE LOT ABOUT YOU.

THAT BEING SAID...

THIS 'BRANCH' IS A DIFFERENT CASE.

WE'RE THE ONES TASTING VICTORY...

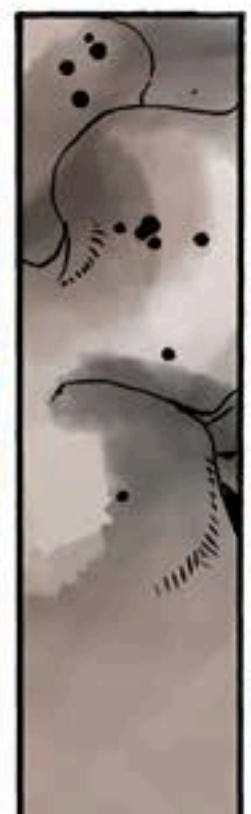
THIS WORLD, INCLUDING MORIOH, IS CRAZY. AND THE ONE THING YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF IN THIS MAD WORLD...

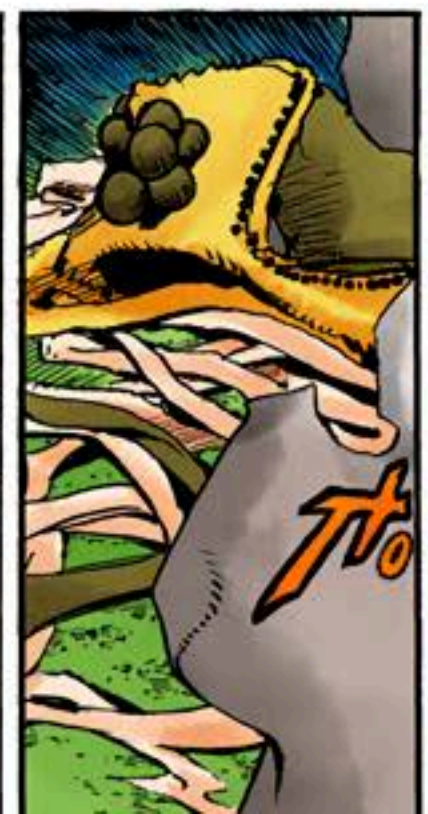
IS THE ONE THAT WINS IS THE ONE 'IN THE RIGHT'.

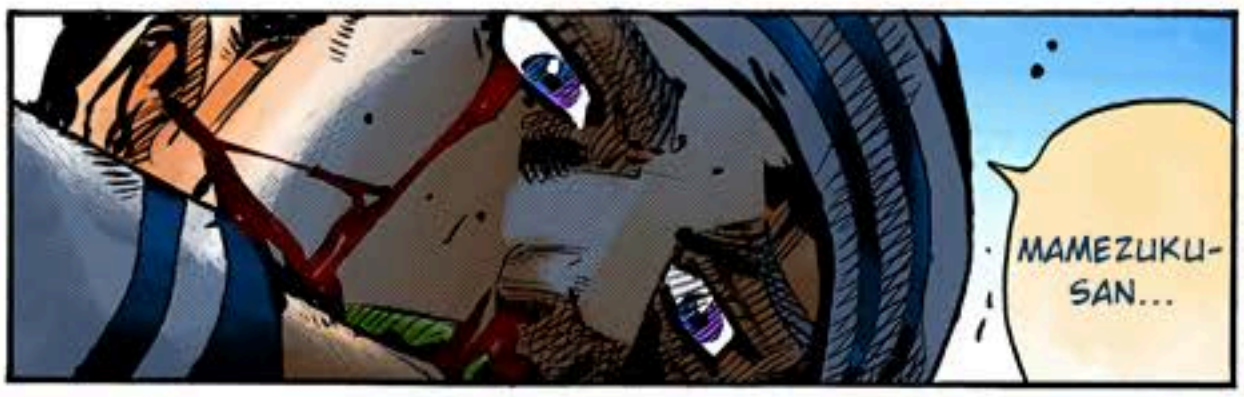
US TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THE TRUTH.

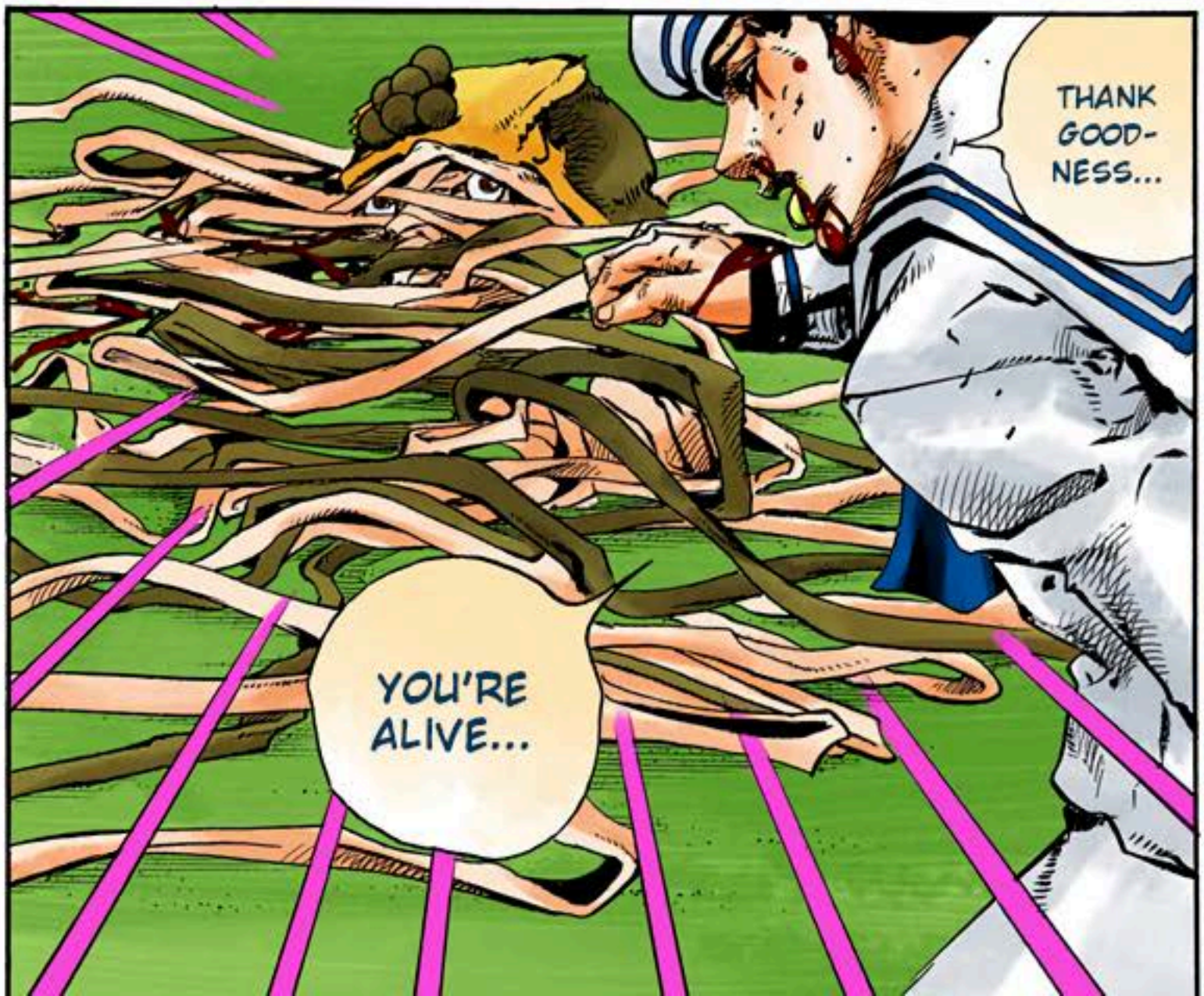
RIGHT NOW... OUR ENEMIES, FAMILY, EVERYONE, THINKS THAT THE 'BRANCH' WAS LOST IN THIS ORCHARD FIRE.

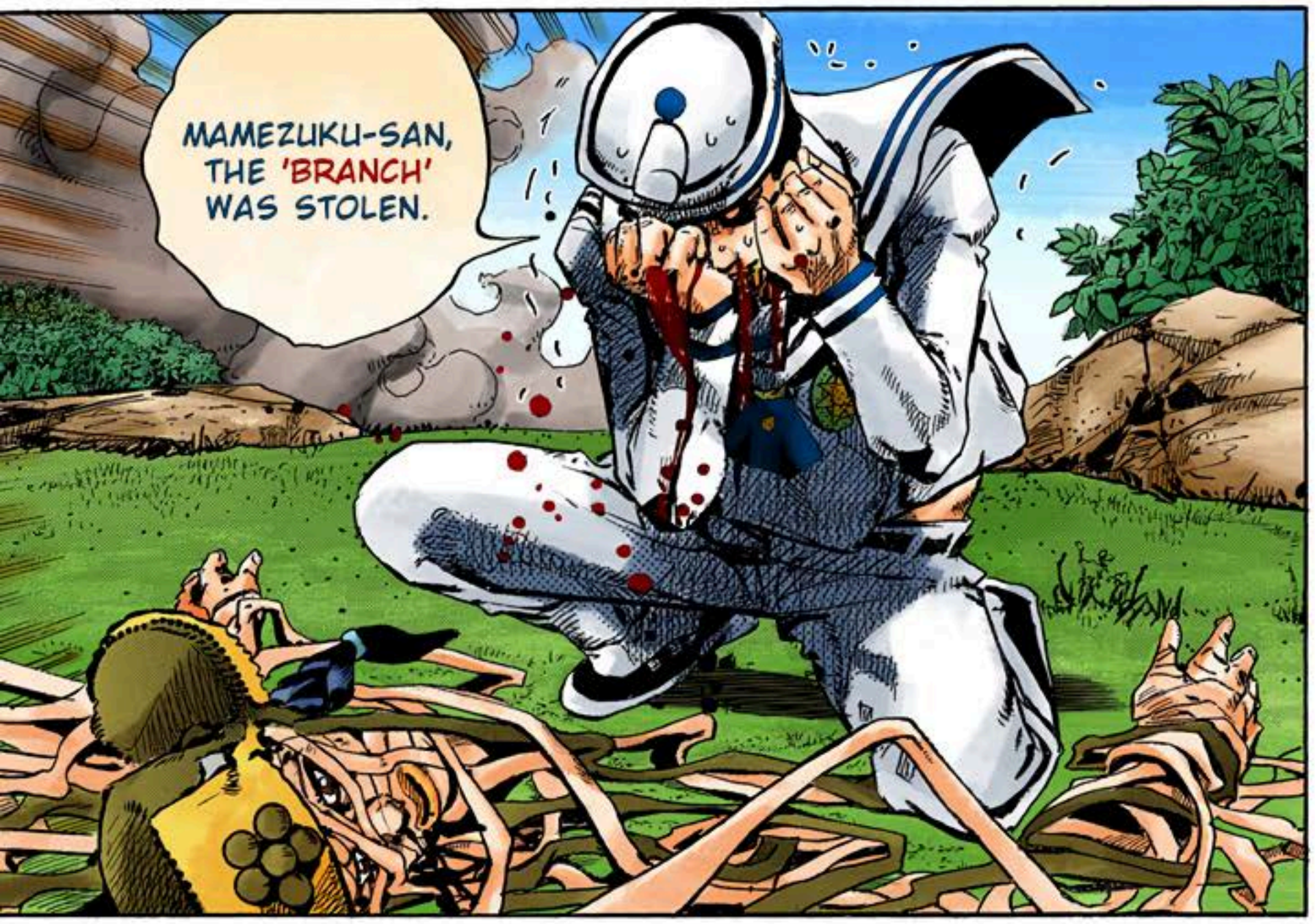
AND JOSUKE IS IN DESPAIR OVER IT BEING TAKEN.





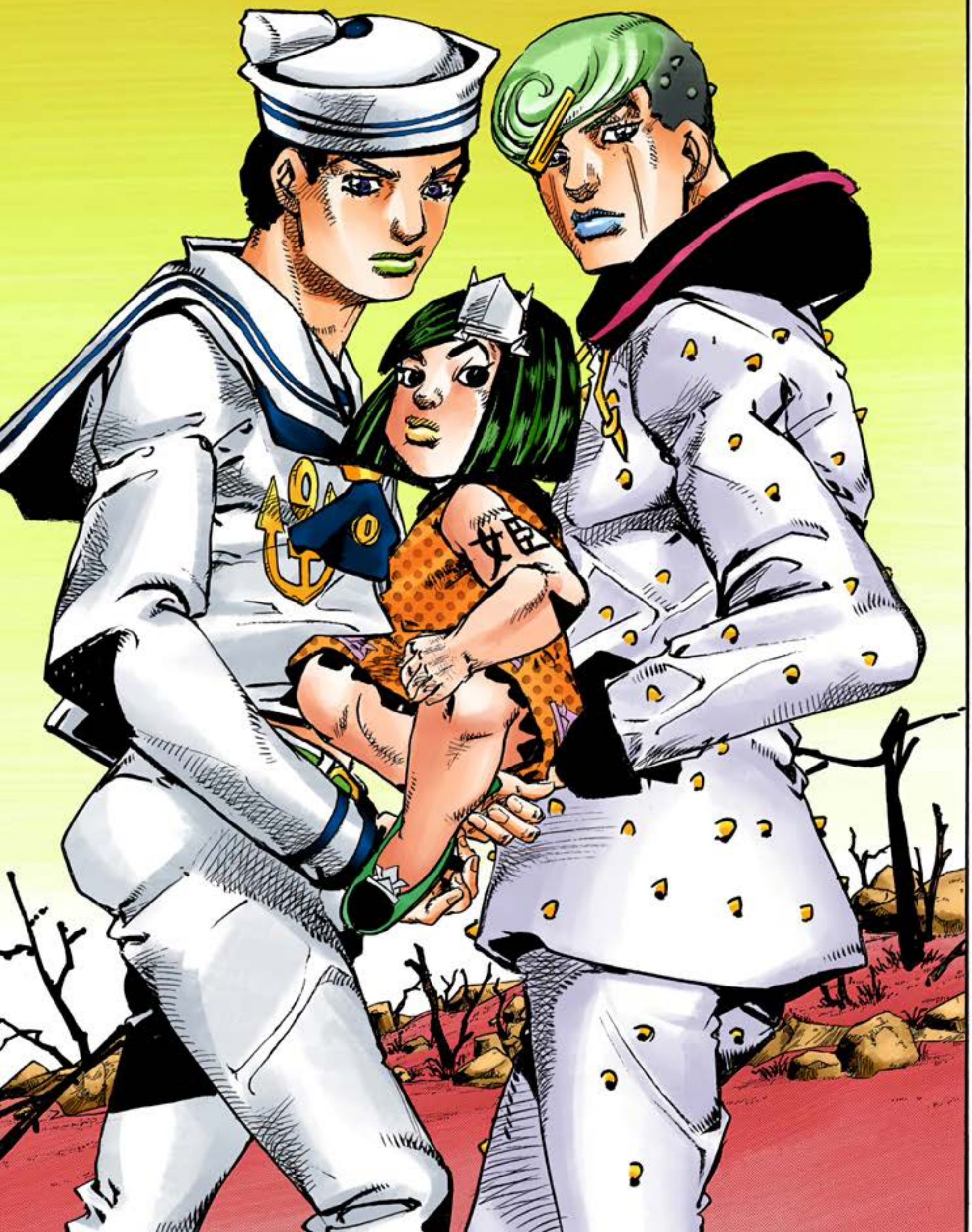

MAMEZUKU-SAN...


THANK GOOD-NESS...
YOU'RE ALIVE...


MAMEZUKU-SAN, THE 'BRANCH' WAS STOLEN.

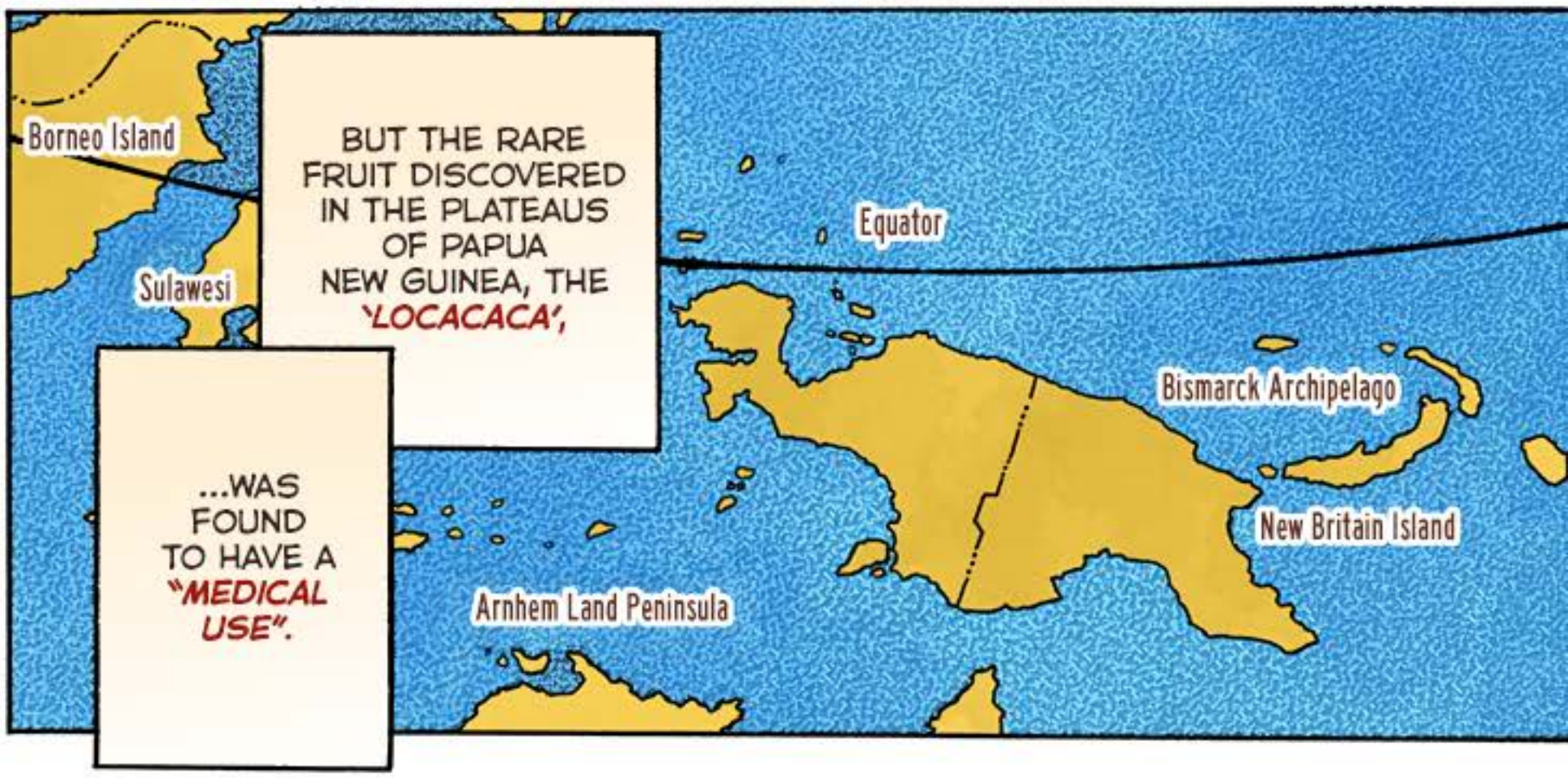
I COULDN'T GET IT BACK...

#077 LET'S GO TO TG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



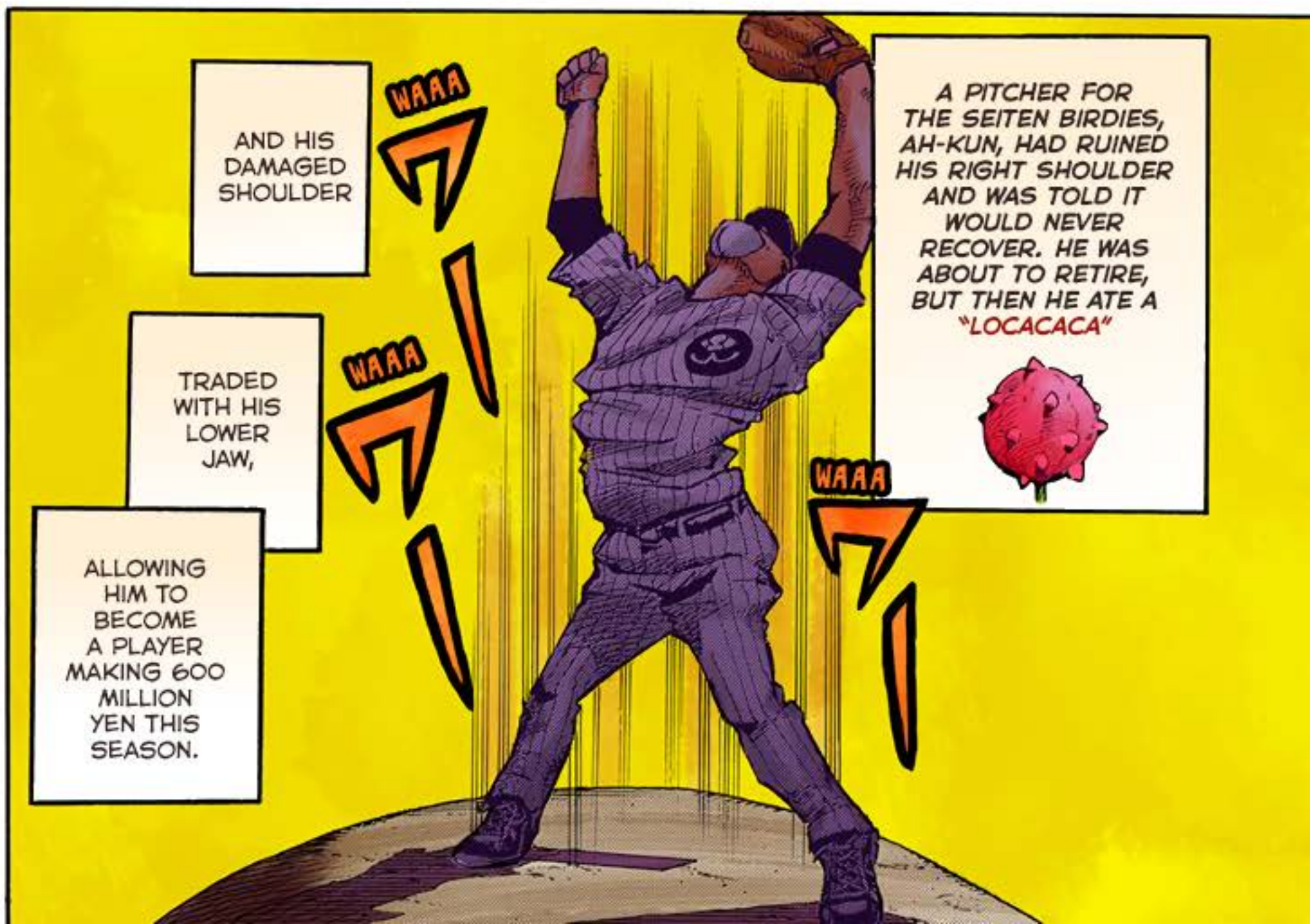
IT'S A FINDING THAT HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED ANYWHERE...

MEDICALLY... AND ALSO PHARMA-CEUTICALLY,



BUT THE RARE FRUIT DISCOVERED IN THE PLATEAUS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE *'LOCACACA'*,

...WAS FOUND TO HAVE A *"MEDICAL USE"*.



THE ABILITY TO "EQUIVALENTLY" 'EXCHANGE' AN 'AILING PART' WITH A 'HEALTHY PART'.

ドゴ DO

ドゴ DO

ドゴ DO

1/2 OF MY BODY IS JOSEFUMI KUJO,

ドゴ DO

THIS IS "EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE"!!

ドゴ

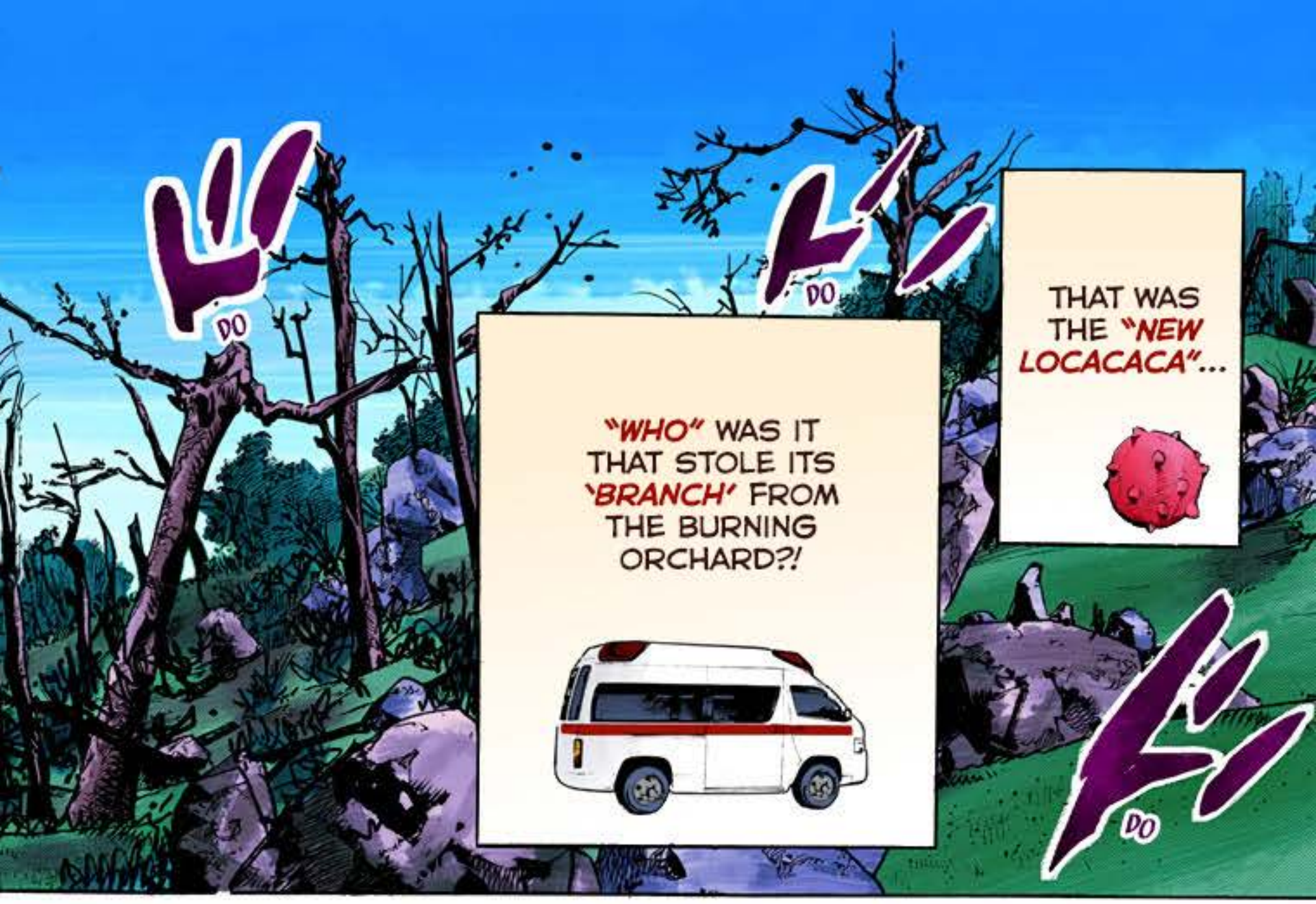
DOBAAH

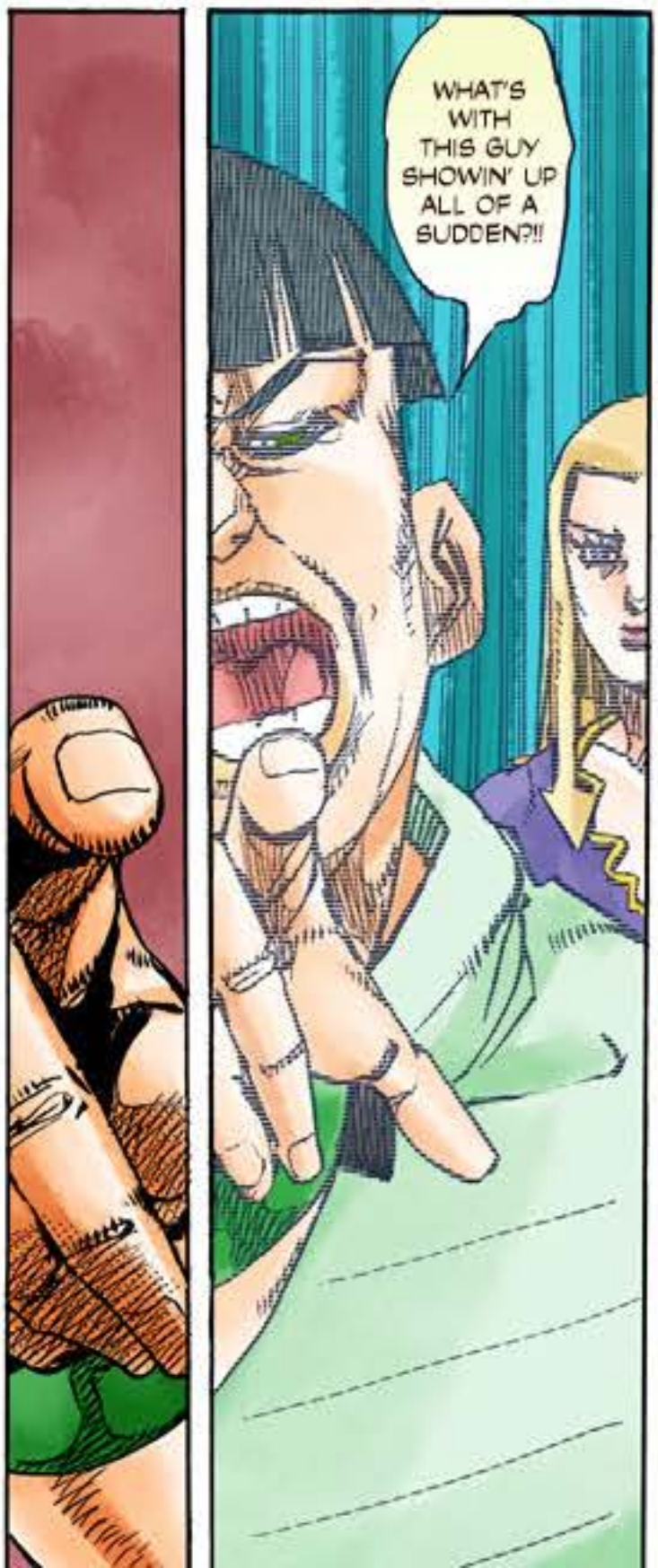
TWO SEPARATE BODIES TIED TOGETHER THROUGH EQUIVALENT EXCHANGE. —"AND MY MEMORIES WERE LOST"—

ドゴ DO

ドゴ DO

AND 1/2 OF IT IS YOSHI-KAGE KIRA.


DO
DO
"WHO" WAS IT THAT STOLE ITS 'BRANCH' FROM THE BURNING ORCHARD?!
THAT WAS THE "NEW LOCACACA"...
DO

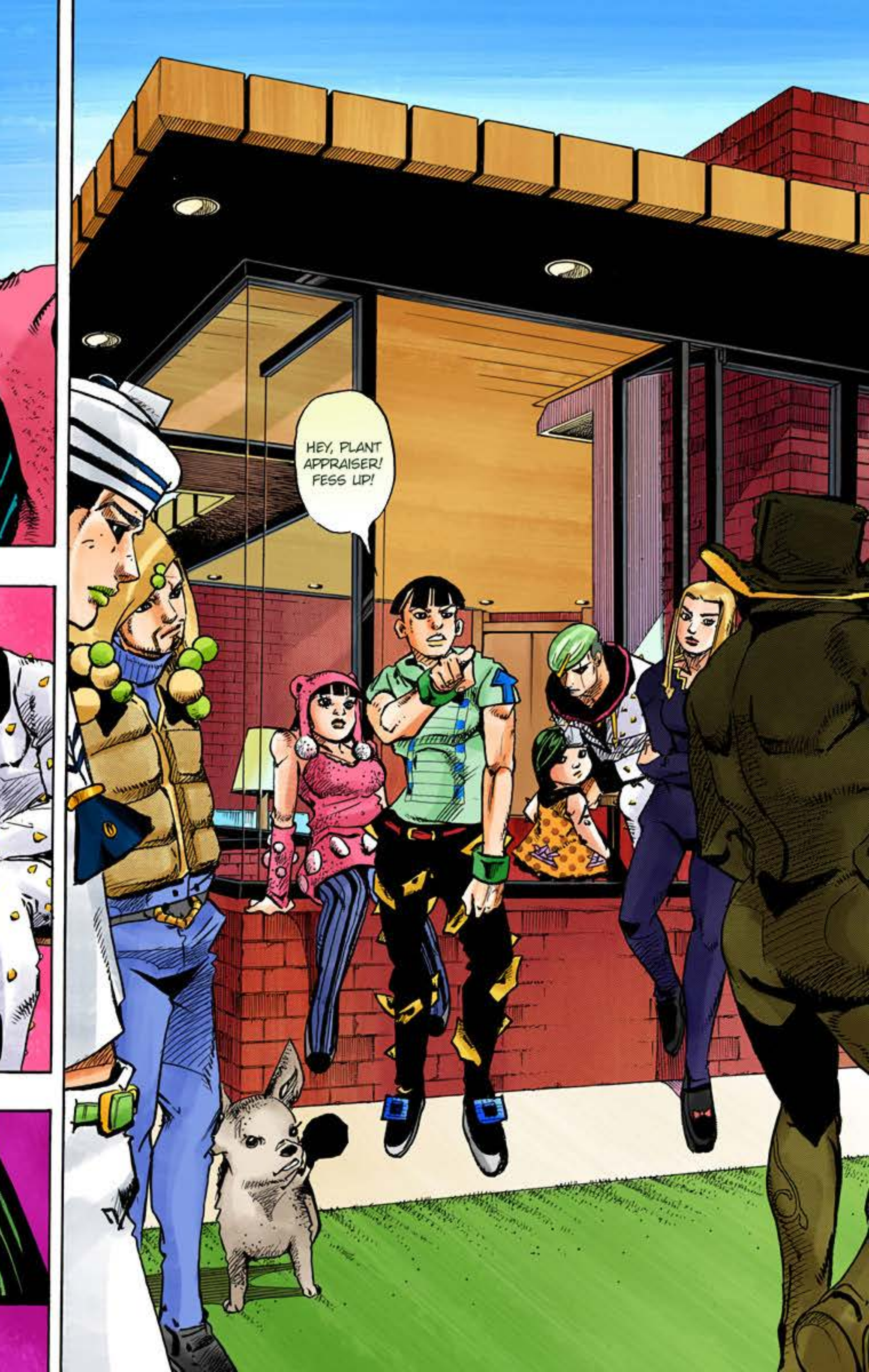

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY SHOWIN' UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?!!

DO
DO
DO
HEY~~

ドッ
ドッ
ドッ
ドッ

...

PLANT APPRAISER, ARE YOU THE ONE WHO LIT THE FIRE?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING AT OUR HOUSE OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS?
...SERIOUSLY, THERE'S SOMETHIN' FISHY HE~~RE!!


HEY, PLANT APPRAISER! FESS UP!

I CALLED HIM HERE TO PROTECT OUR FRUIT.

HE'S THE ONE THAT GREW THEM. ALL OF OUR FRUIT, AND THE ORCHARD THAT BURNED DOWN.

YOU'RE WAY OFF TRACK...

CUT THAT OUT, JOSHU!

...BECAUSE A 'BRANCH' OF AN INCREDIBLY VALUABLE FRUIT CALLED A 'LOCACACA' WAS IN THE BURNED ORCHARD.

THE HIGASHIKATA ESTATE WAS ATTACKED...

EVERYBODY WAS AFTER IT, AND THEN THE ORCHARD WAS LIT ON FIRE, AND A FIRE ENGINE CAME.

SO THE PLANT APPRAISER WE WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO MEET BEFO〰RE

SUDDENLY JUST SHOWS UP... JUST TO CHAT? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SUGGEST-ING?

HEY, PLANT APPRAISER! FESS UP!

BUT THEY TOOK THE 'LOCACACA' BRANCH.

THE "ONES RIDING IN THE AMBULANCE".

I COULDN'T SEE THEIR FACES,

...

HAA

HAA

HAA

ROCK HUMANS.

HAA

HAA

JOSUKE...

THESE PEOPLE IN THE AMBULANCE...

TWITCH

...

ARE YOU... CERTAIN OF THAT?

YOU SAY THEY "TOOK THE 'BRANCH'"...

THEN IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG TO TRACK THE 'CULPRITS' DOWN.

THE AMBULANCES THAT WOULD COME TO THIS HOUSE

COME FROM THE FIRE STATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

YES. THERE WERE TWO OF THEM.

'SOMEONE' RIDING IN THE AMBULANCE TOOK IT.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE SAYING YOU SAW THEM STEAL THE 'BRANCH'.

WAS IT REALLY THE ONES IN THE AMBULANCE THAT TOOK THE 'LOCACACA'?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AM I 'CERTAIN'?

THAT'S OUR TIME LIMIT FOR RETRIEVING THE "LOCACACA". SEEING AS IF THE BRANCH BEARS FRUIT, IT'S OVER.

IN THE INTEREST OF EXPLAINING THE SITUATION AND OUR GOALS...

THE 'LOCACACA BRANCH' WILL START TO BEAR FRUIT IN A MINIMUM OF TEN DAYS.

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

...STARTS BEARING FRUIT IN JUST TEN DAYS?!

HEY, PLANT APPRAISER! WHAT THE HELL KINDA PLANT...

YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BUY THAT, ASSHOLE?!

THE ROKAKAKA FRUIT WILL START BEING PROCESSED.

AFTER THAT POINT, RETRIEVING IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE.

A POTTED CACTUS.

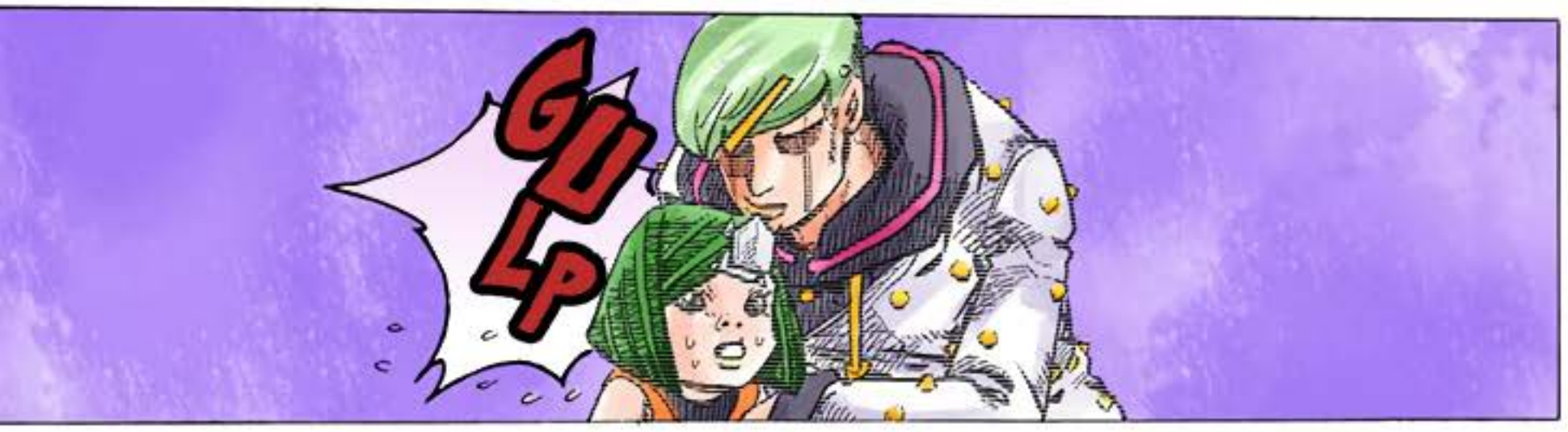
IT'S LIKELY HIDDEN SOMEWHERE, GRAFTED TO A POTTED 'CACTUS'.

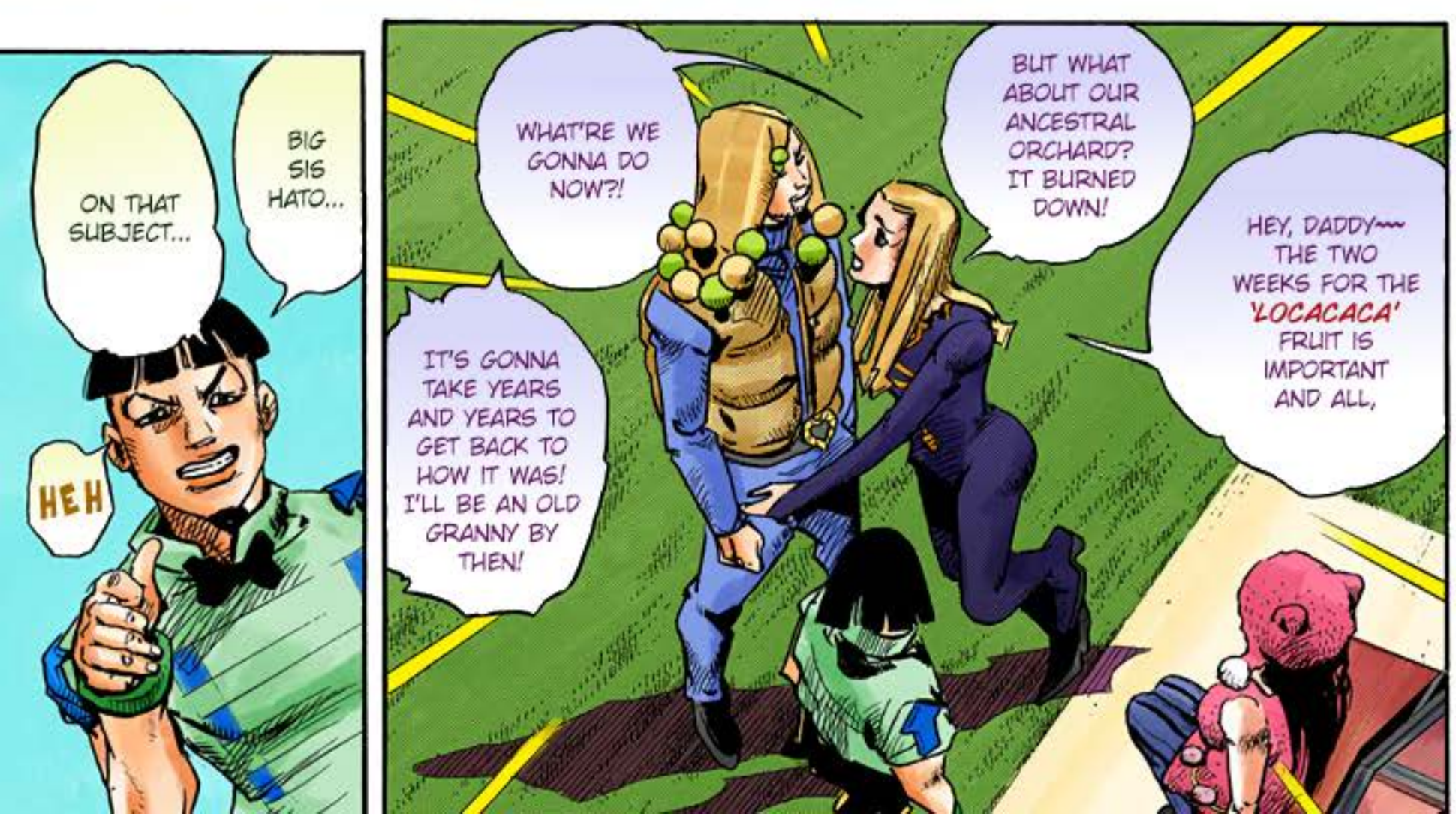
PUTTING IT IN A POTTED PLANT IS A LOGICAL COURSE OF ACTION.

GRAFTING MAKES BRANCHES PRONE TO GETTING DISEASED... TAKING THAT RISK INTO ACCOUNT,

THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO FIND!

IF YOU DO A 'GRAFT' OF THE BRANCH TO A "CACTUS", THEN IT'S POSSIBLE.





HUUH? WHADDA YOU MEAN?

NEW BUSINESS?

WE CAN DO A NEW BUSINESS WITH THE BURNT LAND.
...SO THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY CHANGES WITH THE JOB OF THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY ORCHARD.
UNTIL NEW FRUIT TREES GROW...

LISTEN TO ME~!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL PUT EVERYBODY'S MINDS AT EASE!
I'M THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY SECOND SON THAT EVERYBODY COUNTS ON, AFTER ALL!

MORIOH'S FULL A' VACATION HOME FAMILIES,
WE START A "MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM HUNTING TOUR" IN THE ORCHARD!
SO I'M SURE THEY'LL BE PLENTY WHO'LL DROP THEIR MONEY ON THAT!

WE JUST GOTTA STICK FOUR OR FIVE UNDER SOME LEAVES SOME-WHERE.
IT'S A TOUR WHERE YOU SEARCH OUT A TARGET!
LIKE MAYBE SOME FROM CHINA.

UH, ARE THERE ANY 'MATSUTAKE MUSHROOMS' GROWING ON OUR LAND?

MUSHROOM HUNTING?

HEY, BIG BRO JOSHU, LISTEN!

BRO!

BIG BRO JOSHU!

FOR SPRING WE'LL DO A 'BAMBOO SHOOT HUNTING TOUR'.

THE MYSTERY AND ROMANCE OF VILLA LAND!

LET'S ADOPT SOME RED PANDAS AND MAKE A GO-KART TRACK!

HUH?!

WH-WHERE'D THEY GO?

EVERYBODY LEFT.

WHAT IS IT... DAIYA?

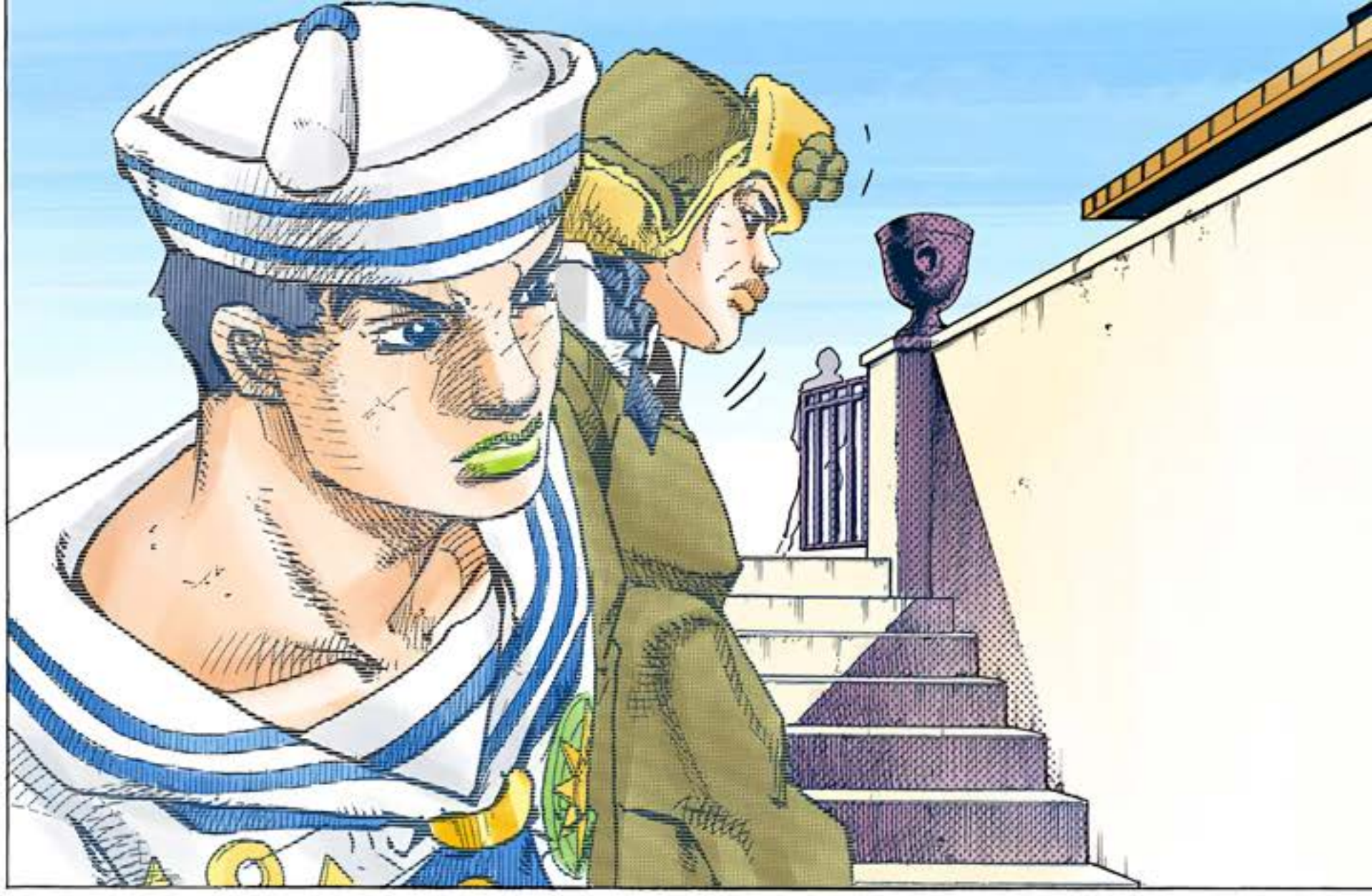
WAIT, JOSUKE...

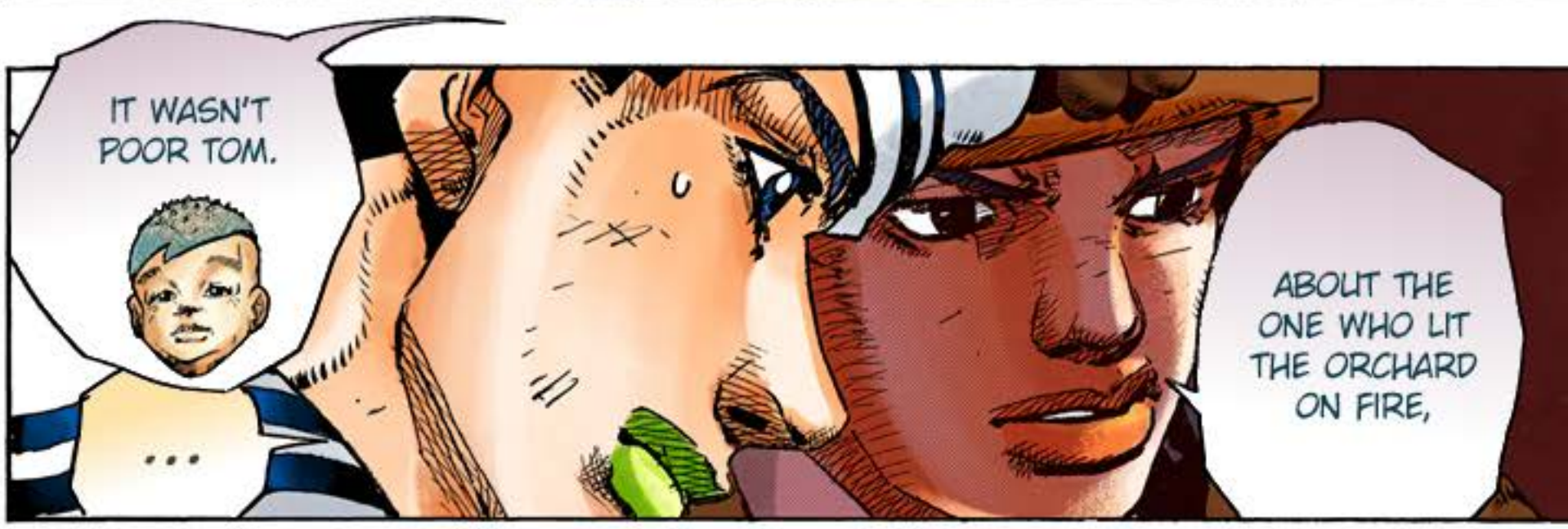
DA~~D! HATO-CHA~~N!

C'MON, YA GOTTA HEAR ME OUT!

BUT I LIKE YOUR IDEAS! I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON, BIG BRO! ♡

IT'S A TRADITION IN THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY NOT TO GET MUCH RECOGNITION WHEN YOU'RE STILL PRETTY YOUNG AFTER ALL!




IT WASN'T POOR TOM.
...
ABOUT THE ONE WHO LIT THE ORCHARD ON FIRE,

POOR TOM CAME IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE 'BRANCH' FROM BEING DESTROYED IN THE FIRE OR RECOVERED BY US.
...AND IT WASN'T 'THE ONES IN THE AMBU-LANCE'.
TOM ONLY CAME TO THE ORCHARD BECAUSE IT WAS ON FIRE.

AFTER SEEING THE WHOLE FAMILY TOGETHER JUST NOW, I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.

THE CULPRIT IS "JOBIN".

"JOBIN" LIT THE ORCHARD ON FIRE.

IT WASN'T POOR TOM...? THEN, MAMEZUKU-SAN,

WHO'RE YOU SAYING LIT THE FIRE?

WHAT...?

I CAN'T PROVE IT, BUT I KNOW SOMETHING WAS GOING ON...

WE CAN'T TRUST THAT ELDEST SON.

I COULD TELL BY HIS ATTITUDE AND HOW HE TALKED. JOBIN 'LIT THE FIRE'.

AND THE BRANCH WAS TAKEN! IF HE'D VENTURED OUTSIDE AT ALL THOUGH A WINDOW OR A DOOR, JOBIN WOULD'VE DIED IMMEDIATELY!

"JOBIN"... THE ELDEST SON?

WELL, HE DEFINITELY HAS SOME VIEWS THAT DIFFER FROM NORISUKE-SAN'S.

BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE WOULDN'T TRY TO BURN THE 'LOCACACA' BRANCH. HE WANTS IT, TOO.

ALSO... POOR TOM'S ATTACK WAS AGAINST THE ENTIRE HIGA-SHIKATA FAMILY! IF HE'D GONE OUTSIDE, HE WOULD'VE DIED.

THE 'FIRE' WAS JOBIN...?

...

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE FIRE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID EVERYONE BEING KILLED.

IS WE WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT 'POOR TOM' BECAUSE THE FIRE WAS LIT.

ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT,

POOR TOM'S STAND... WE WERE JUST ON THE BRINK OF LOSING TO THAT PRESSURE ATTACK.

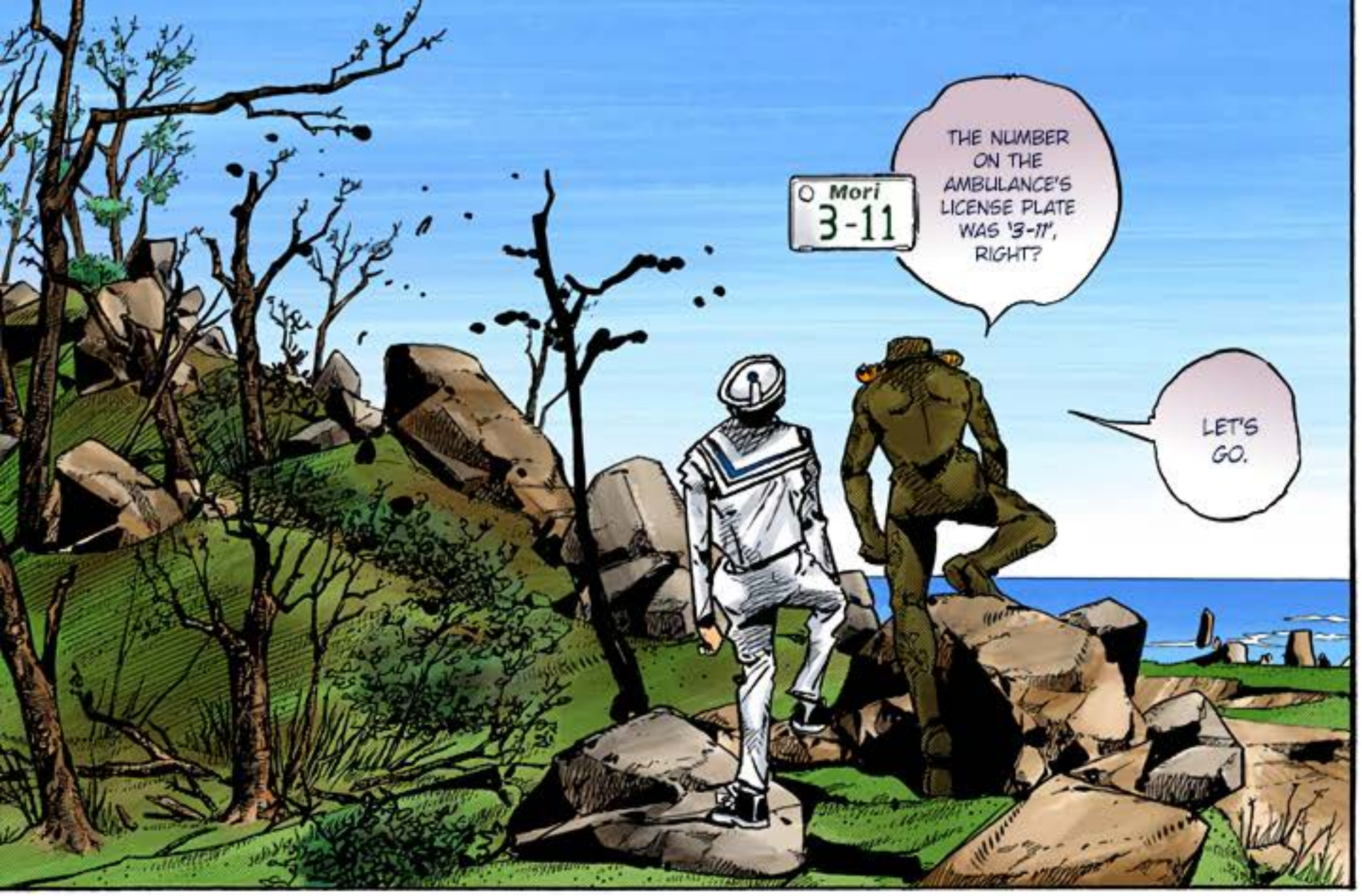
SOME-THING'S GOING ON WITH JOBIN.

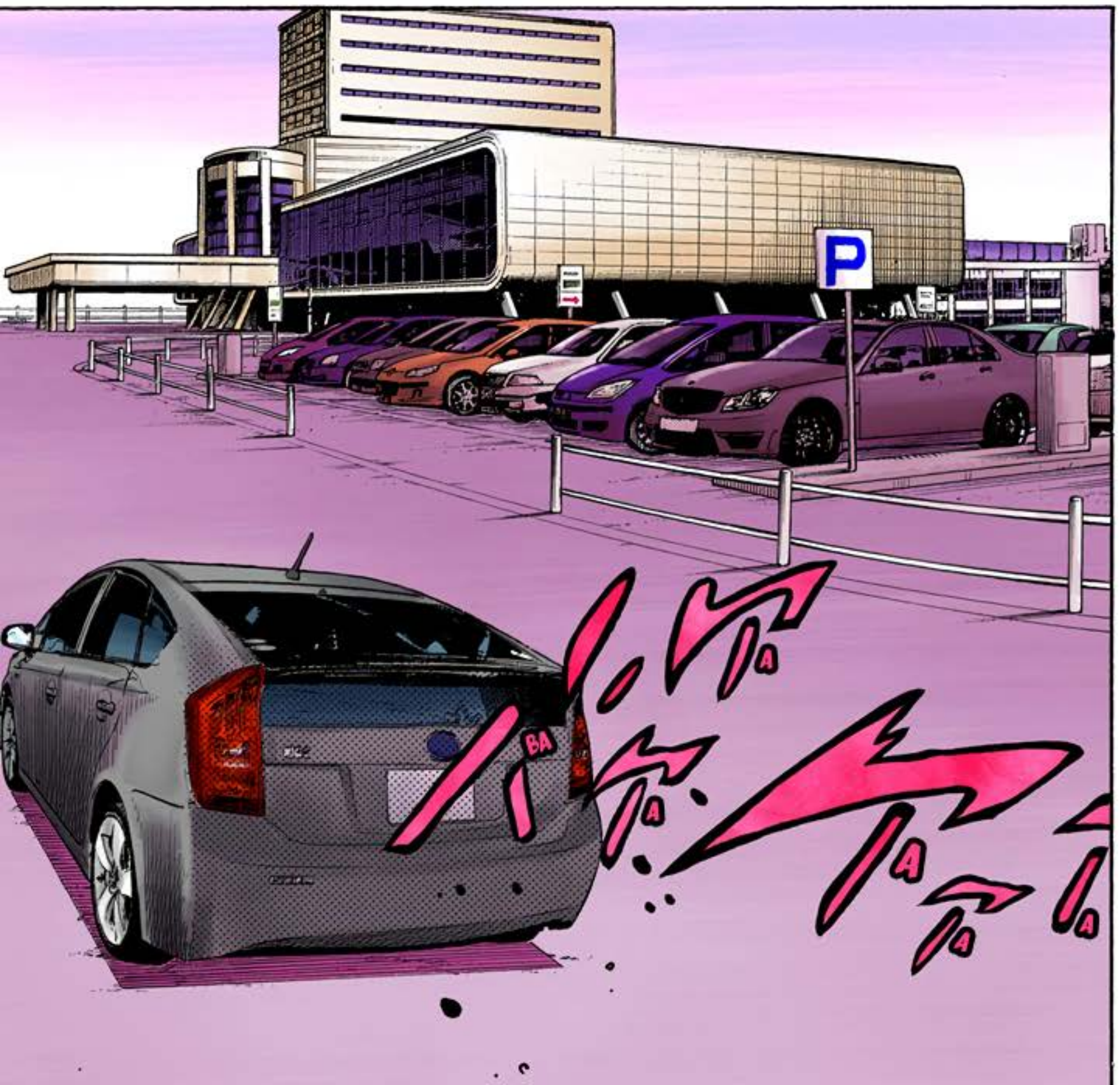
WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.

I'LL START A STEALTH INVESTI-GATION.

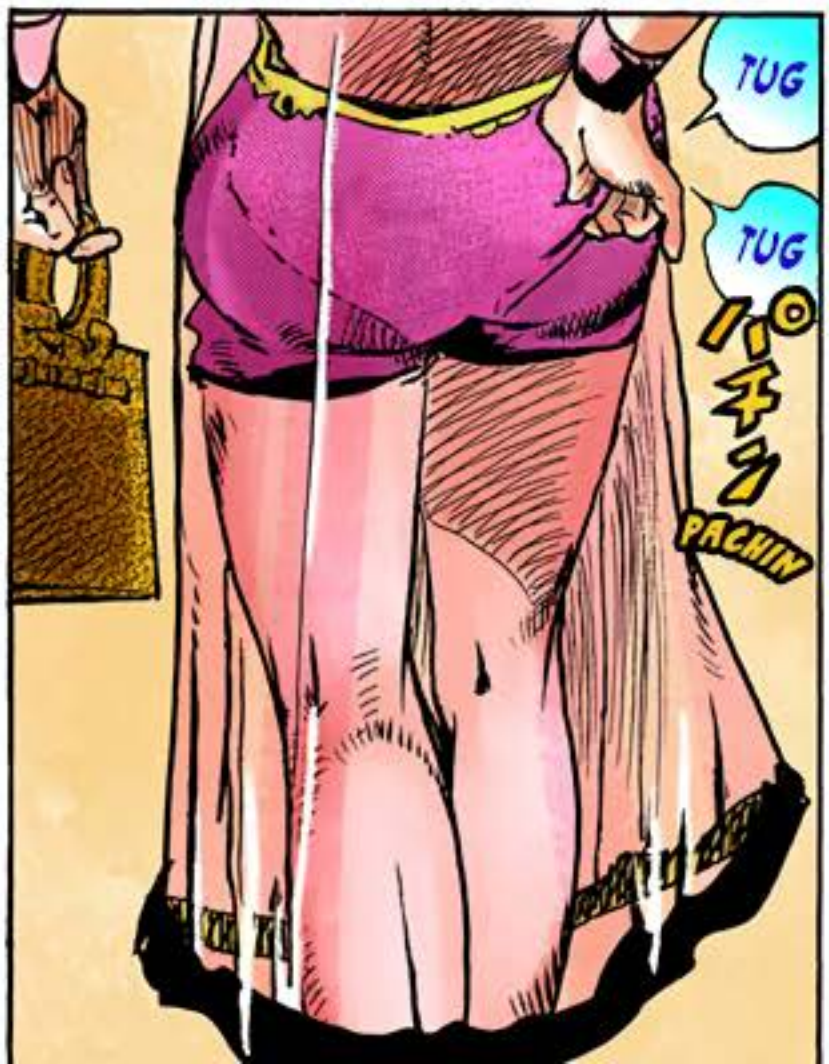
WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT 'BRANCH' BACK.

THE THREAT RIGHT NOW IS THE PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE 'AMBULANCE'.


Mori
3-11
THE NUMBER ON THE AMBULANCE'S LICENSE PLATE WAS '3-11', RIGHT?
LET'S GO.

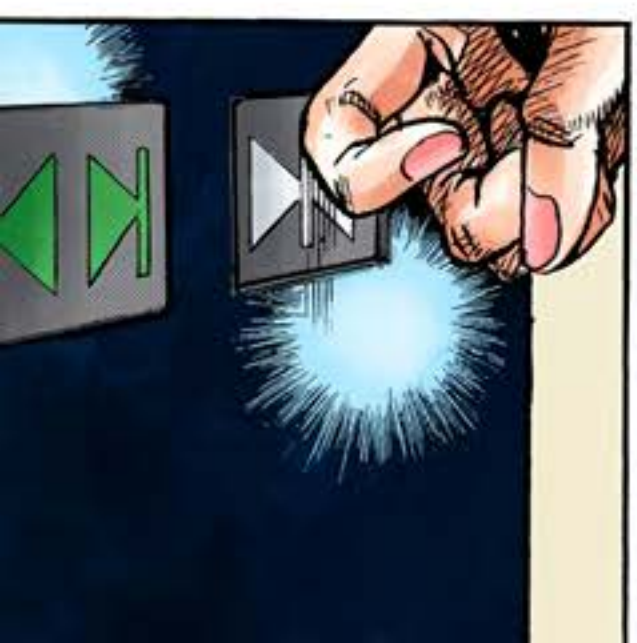

P

TUG

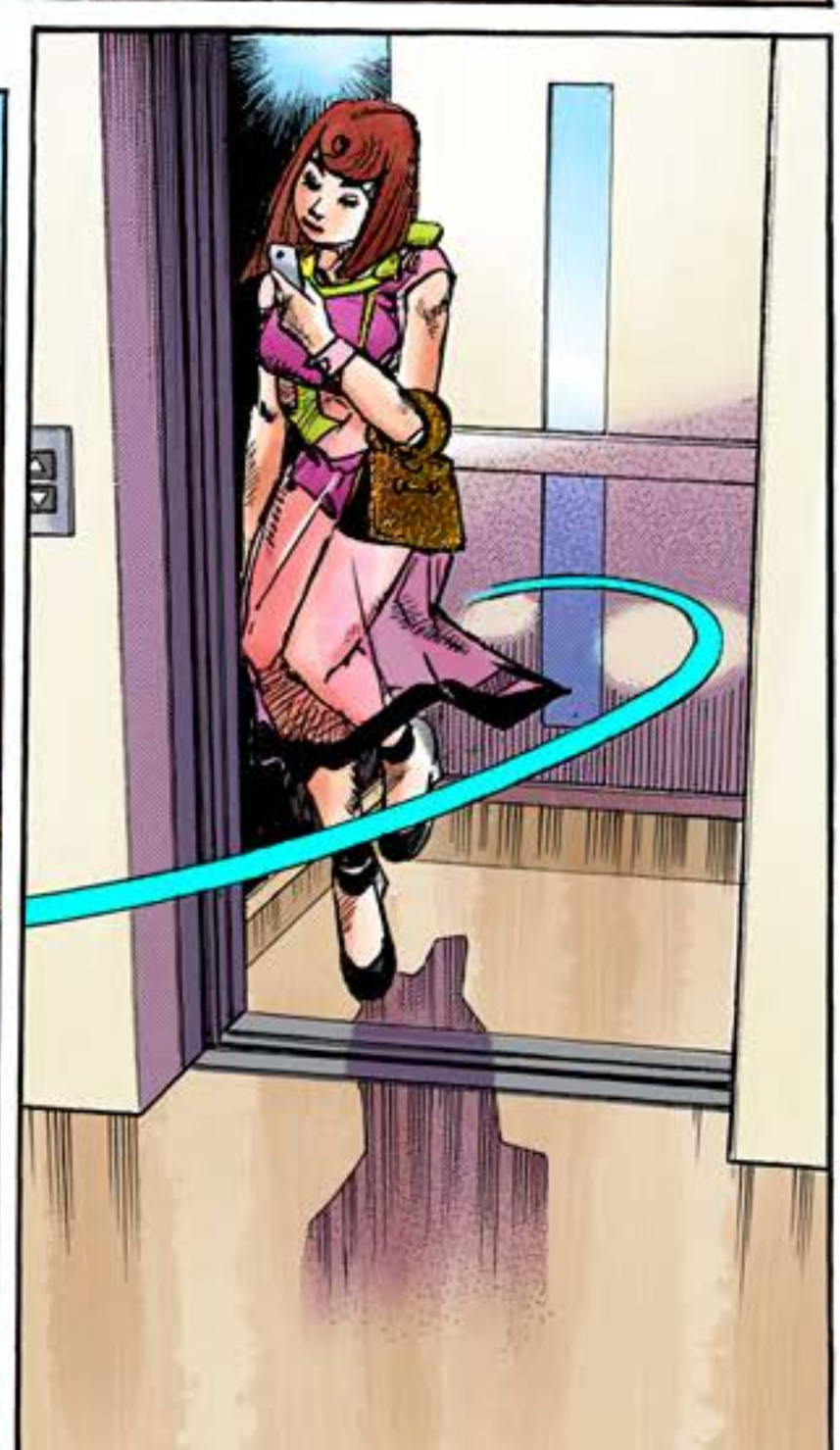

TUG
TUG
パチン
PACHIN

バム
BAM

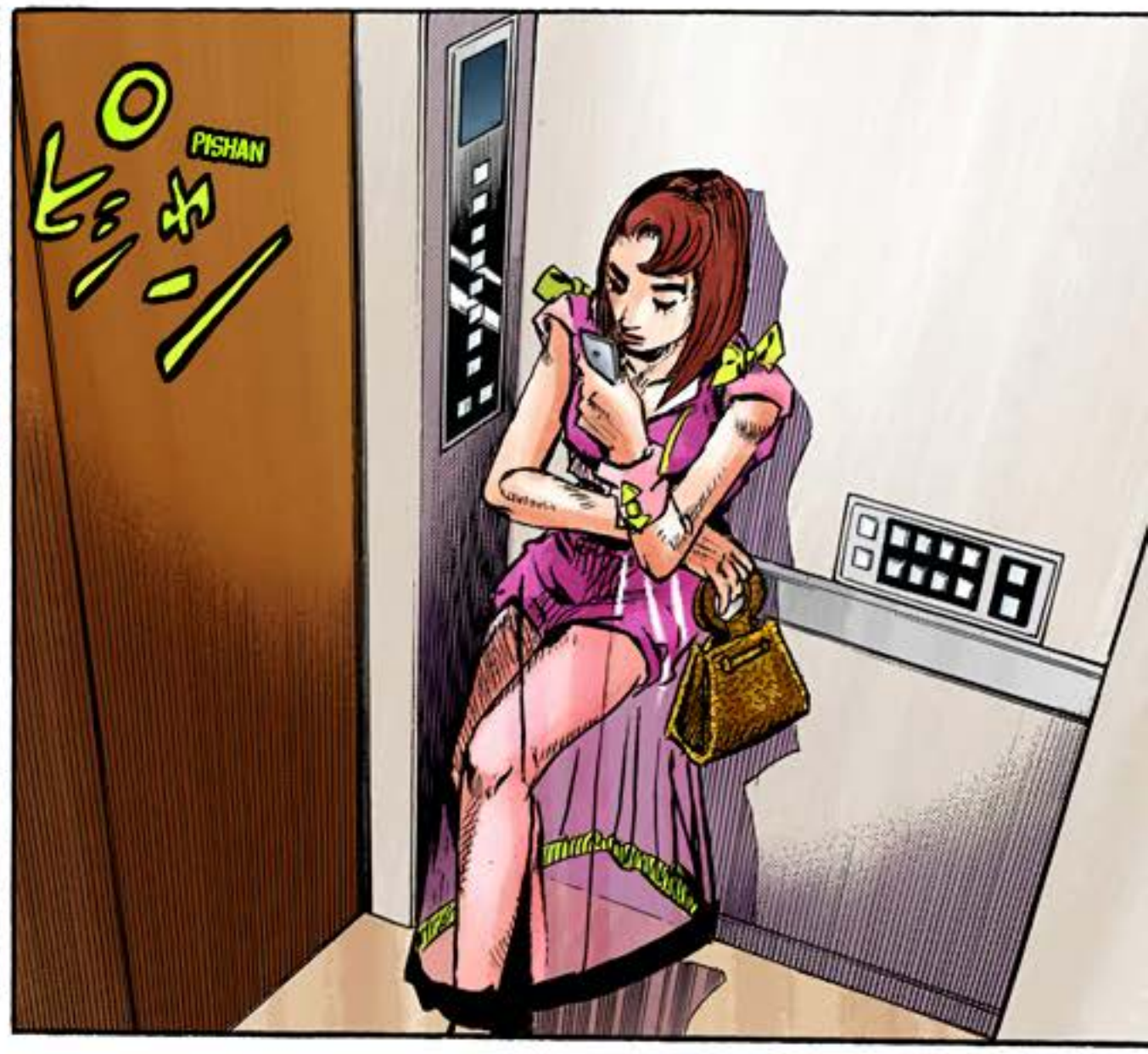
KOH
KOH



WBBL
WBBL
WBBL



HIGASHIKATA-SA~N!


PISHAN

6
YES?! ♡
HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SA~N!

GO RIGHT ON IN TO EXAMINATION ROOM D.

HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SAN.

PLEASE HAVE A SEAT,

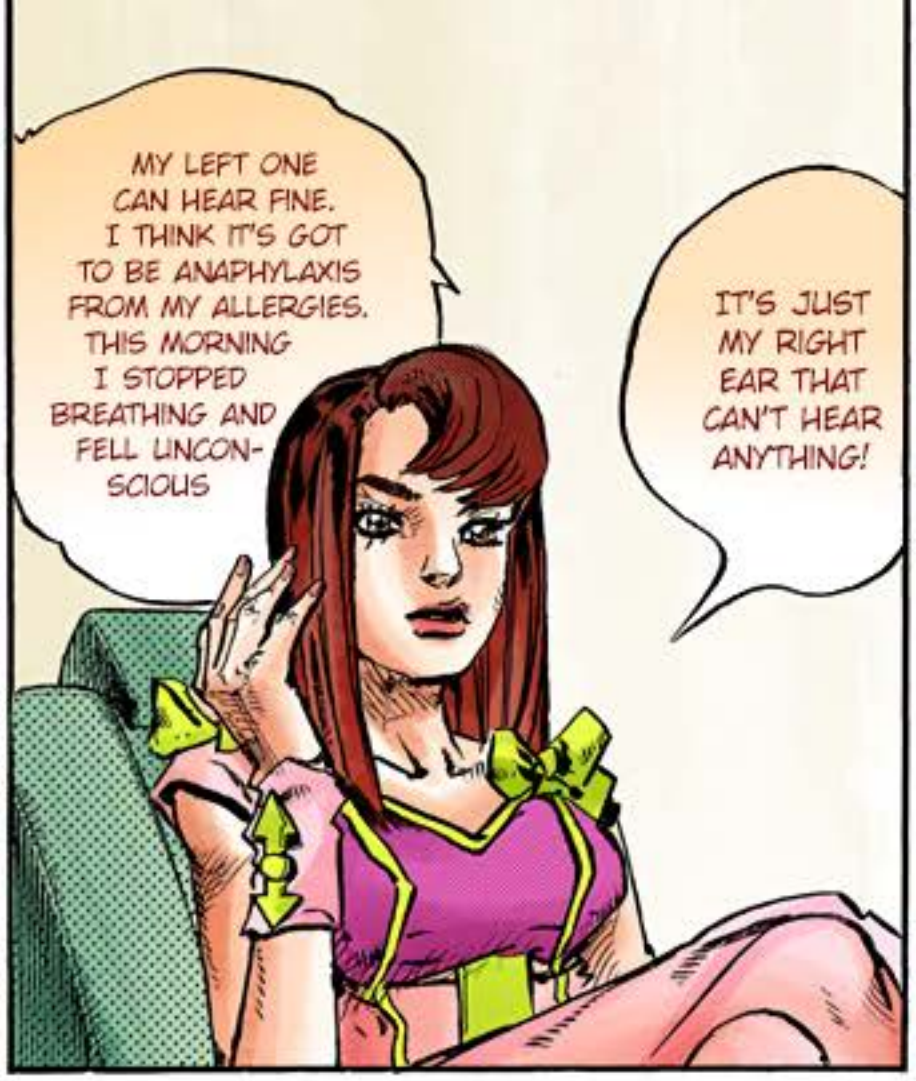
...MY ALLERGIES ARE REALLY ACTING UP...

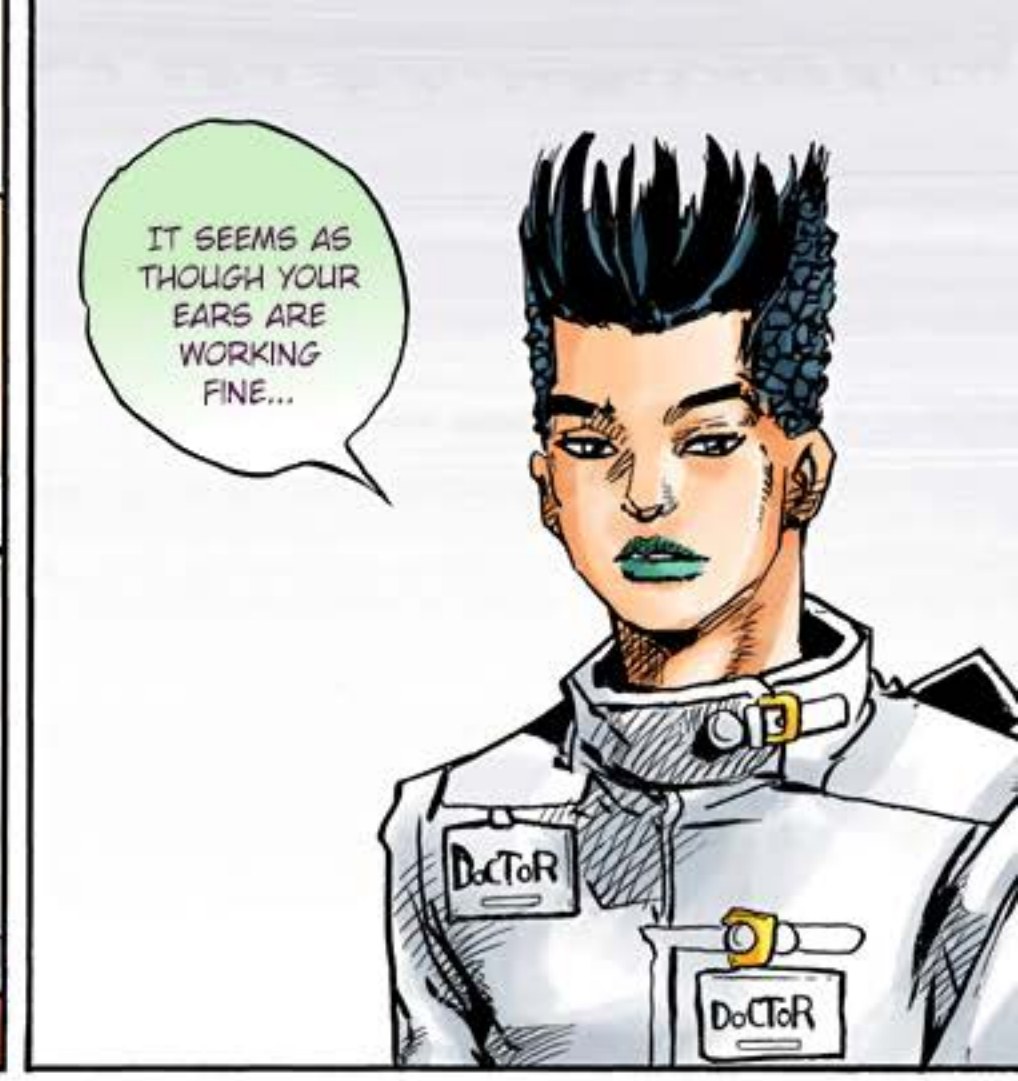
MY EARS CAN'T HEAR AT ALL...

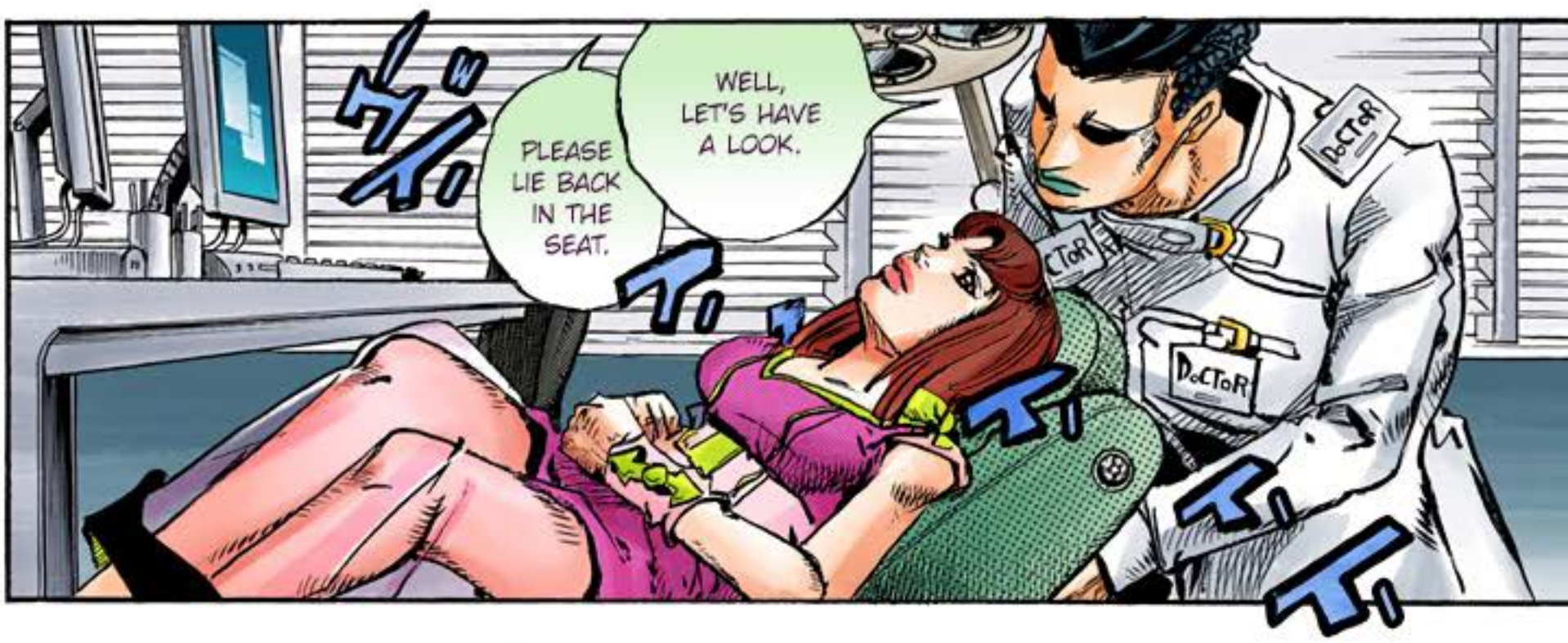
...AND I KEEP HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING, IT REALLY HURTS.

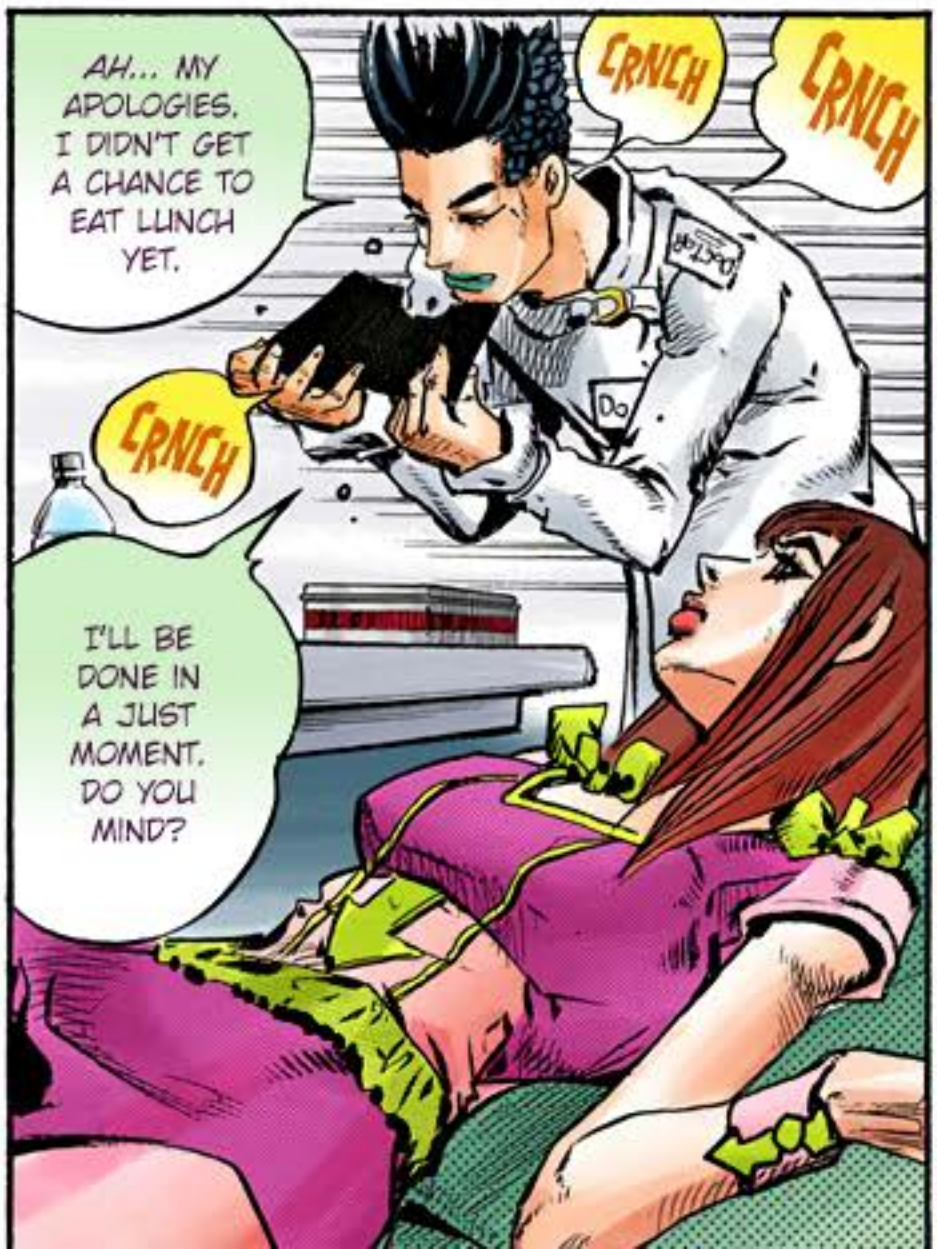
HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

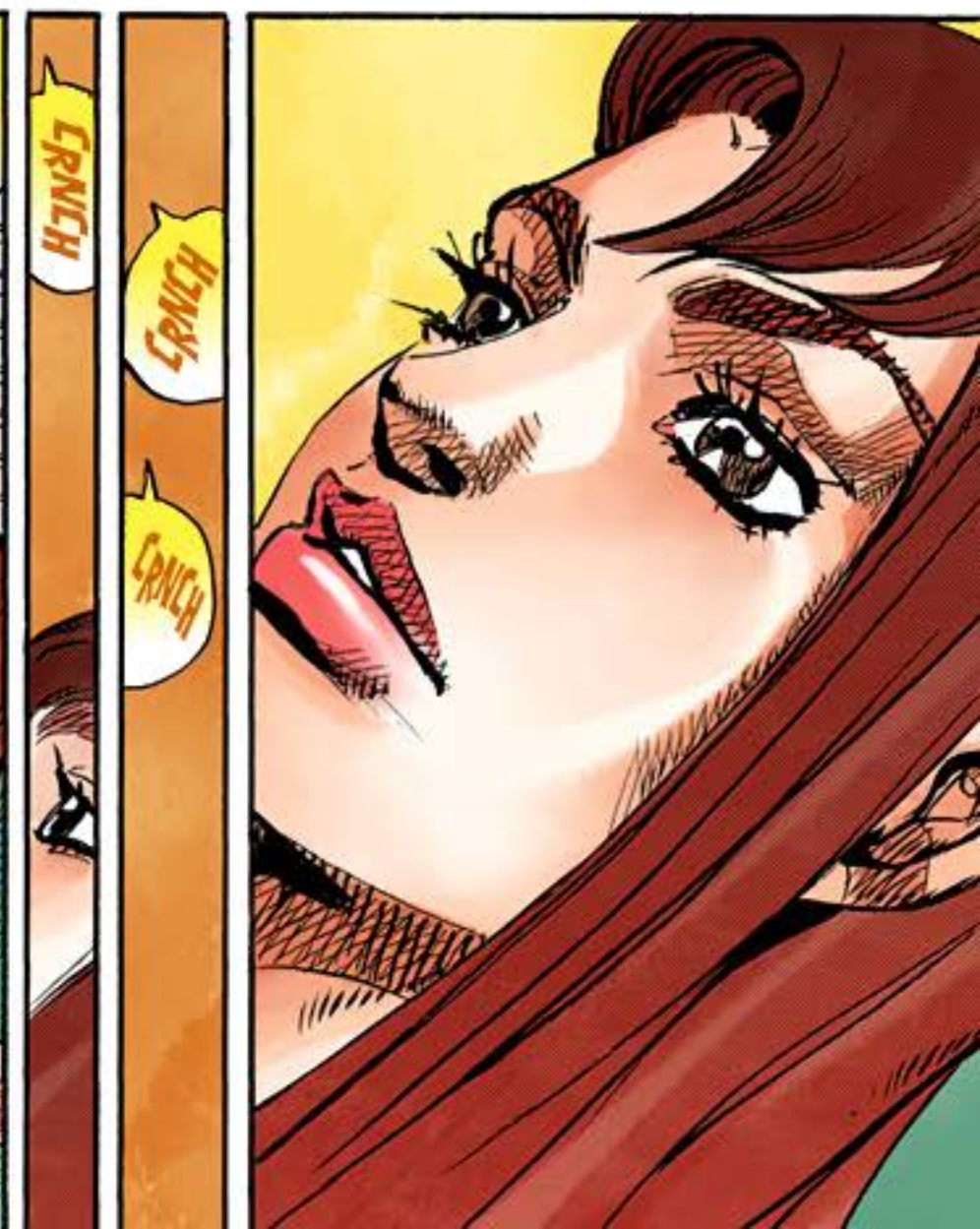
DOCTOR


MY LEFT ONE CAN HEAR FINE. I THINK IT'S GOT TO BE ANAPHYLAXIS FROM MY ALLERGIES. THIS MORNING I STOPPED BREATHING AND FELL UNCON-SCIOUS
IT'S JUST MY RIGHT EAR THAT CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!


IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR EARS ARE WORKING FINE...
DOCTOR
DOCTOR


PLEASE LIE BACK IN THE SEAT.
WELL, LET'S HAVE A LOOK.
DOCTOR
DOCTOR
DOCTOR


AH... MY APOLOGIES. I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO EAT LUNCH YET.
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
I'LL BE DONE IN A JUST MOMENT. DO YOU MIND?


CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH

CRNCH
MNCH
海苔
海苔

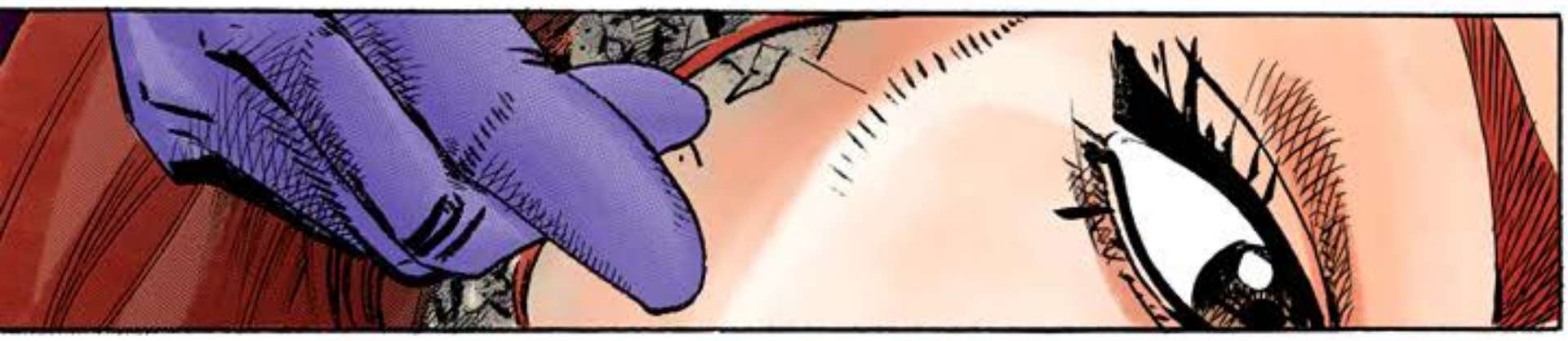
MNCH
MNCH

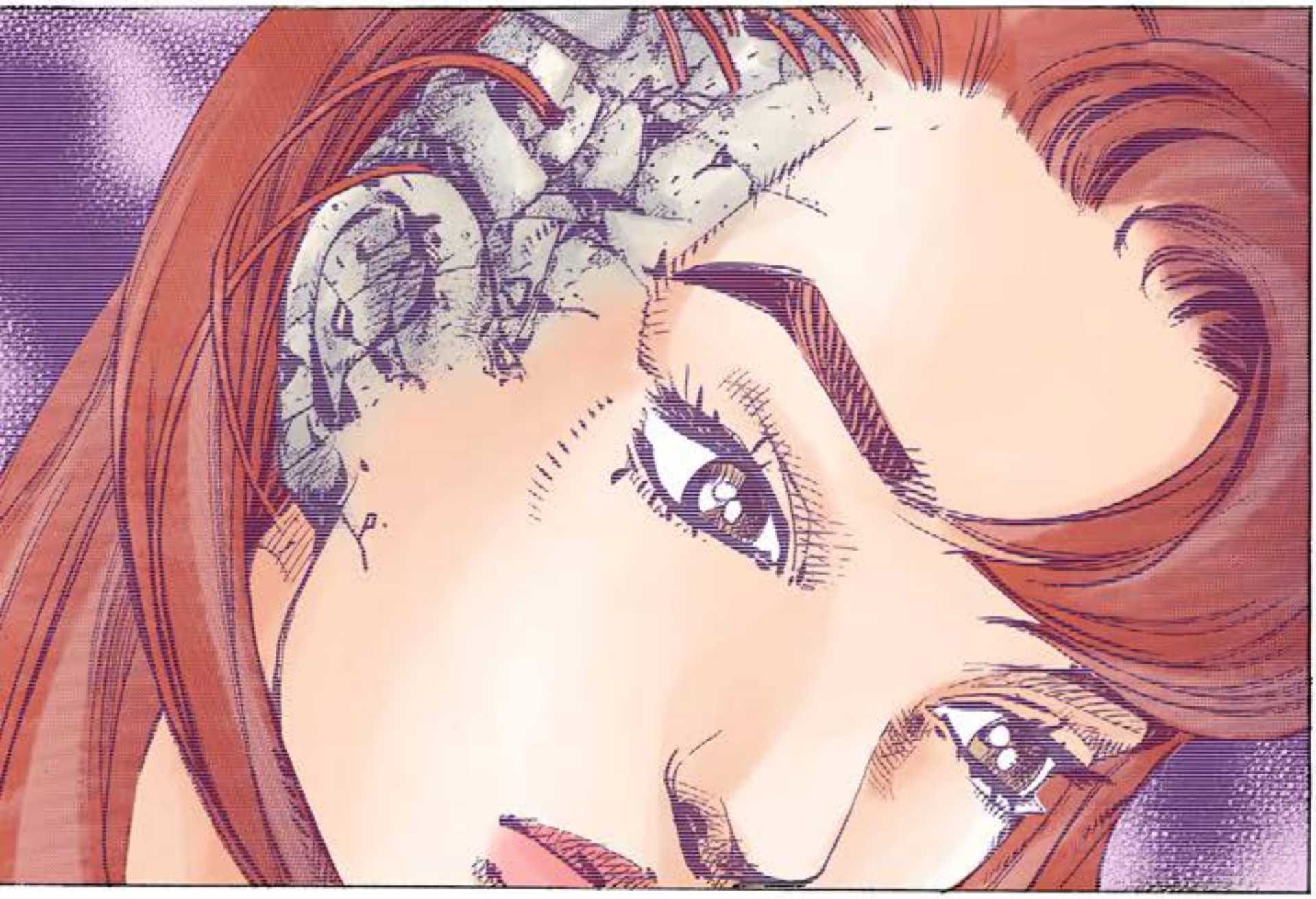
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
CRNCH
DoCToR

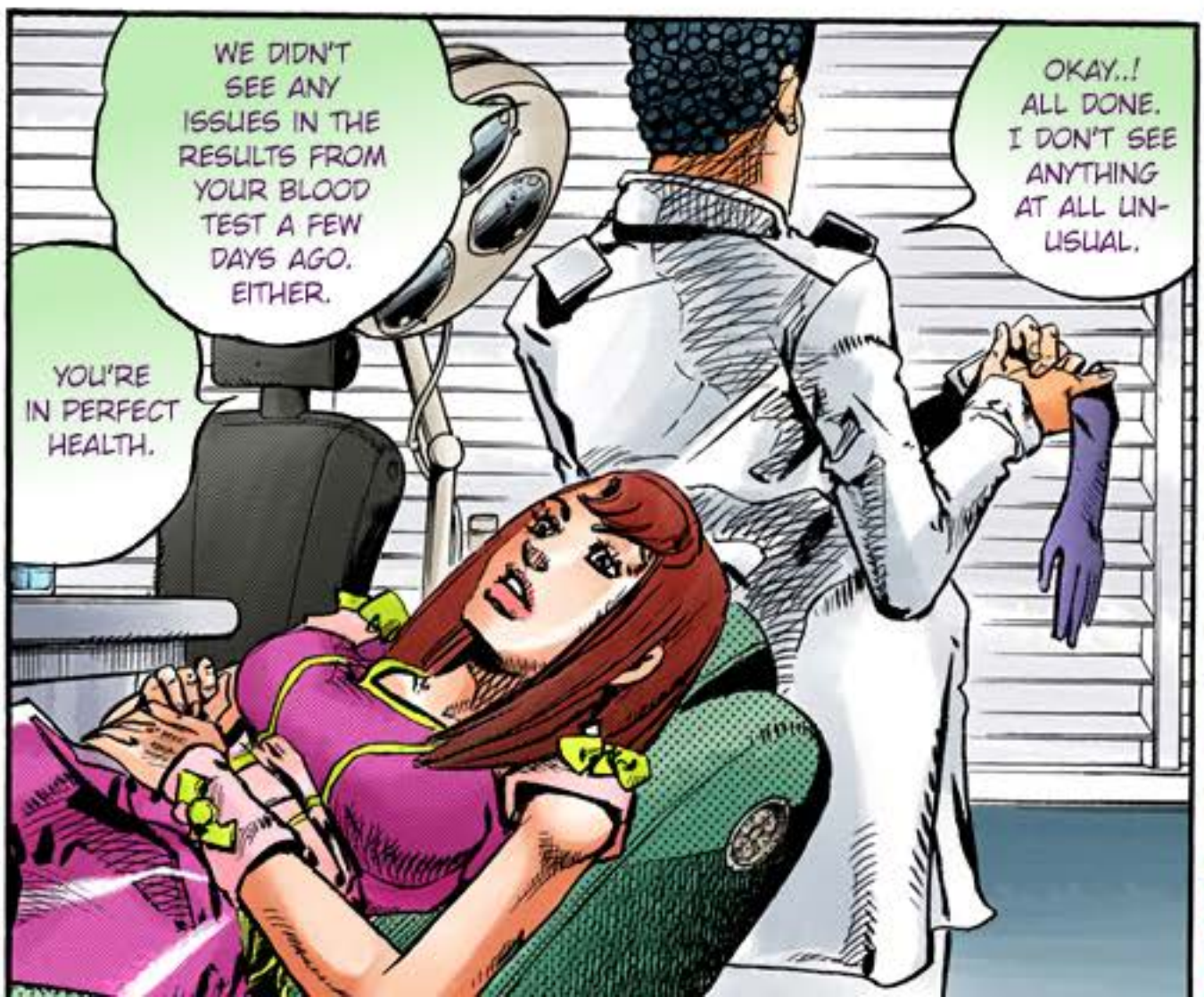
DoCToR

DocToR
ToR
I'M GOING TO TOUCH...
YOUR HAIR NOW...

FUWAH






WE DIDN'T SEE ANY ISSUES IN THE RESULTS FROM YOUR BLOOD TEST A FEW DAYS AGO. EITHER.
YOU'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH.
OKAY..! ALL DONE. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL UN-USUAL.

DOCTOR

I CAN'T HEAR OUT OF MY RIGHT EAR AT ALL! AND THIS MORNING I HAD THESE AWFUL CONVULSIONS AND COLLAPSED UNCONSCIOUS!

HMM?!!

ガバァ!!

MUNCHH!

CRNCH

CRNCH

I STILL HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH...

SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE EATING...

IS THAT ALL RIGHT?

DOCTOR

YOU'VE JUST CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT YOU CAN'T.

HIGASHIKATA-SAN,

YOUR EAR CAN HEAR PERFECTLY WELL.

JUST TO BE SURE, I'LL BE GIVING YOU THE USUAL ATOPY MEDICINE.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR

IT WAS BECAUSE MY CHEST...

WAS SAGGING...

THE FIRST TIME I CAME TO THIS HOSPITAL...

CRNCH

CRNCH

CRNCH

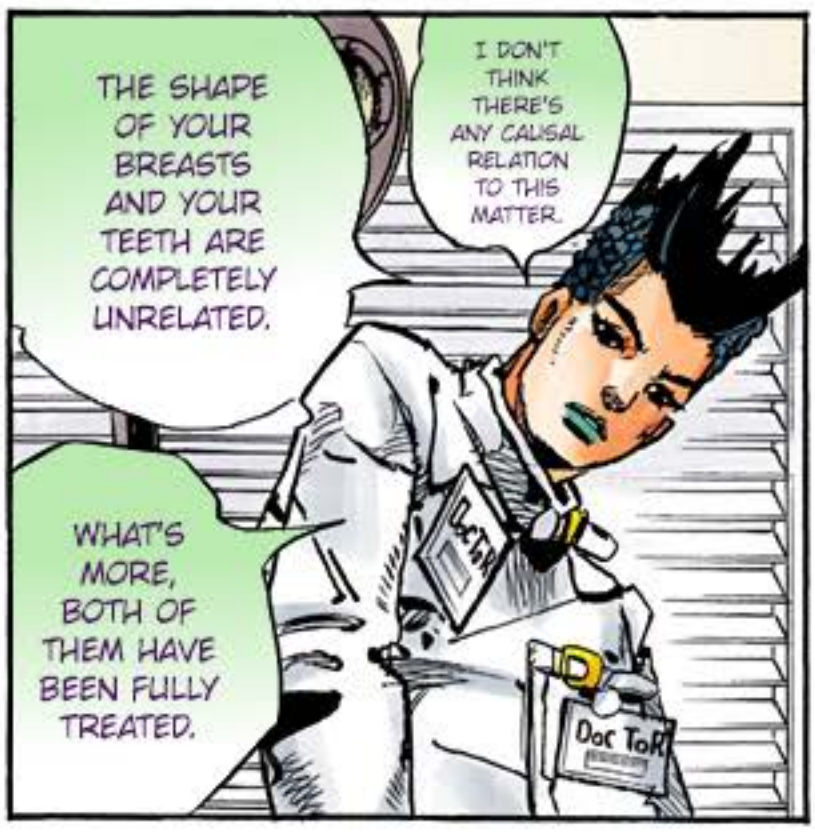
CRNCH

YES...

OF COURSE, I'M VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THAT. I LOVE HOW THEY ARE NOW.

THEY'RE IN A WONDERFUL SHAPE LIKE THEY WERE IN MY TEENS.

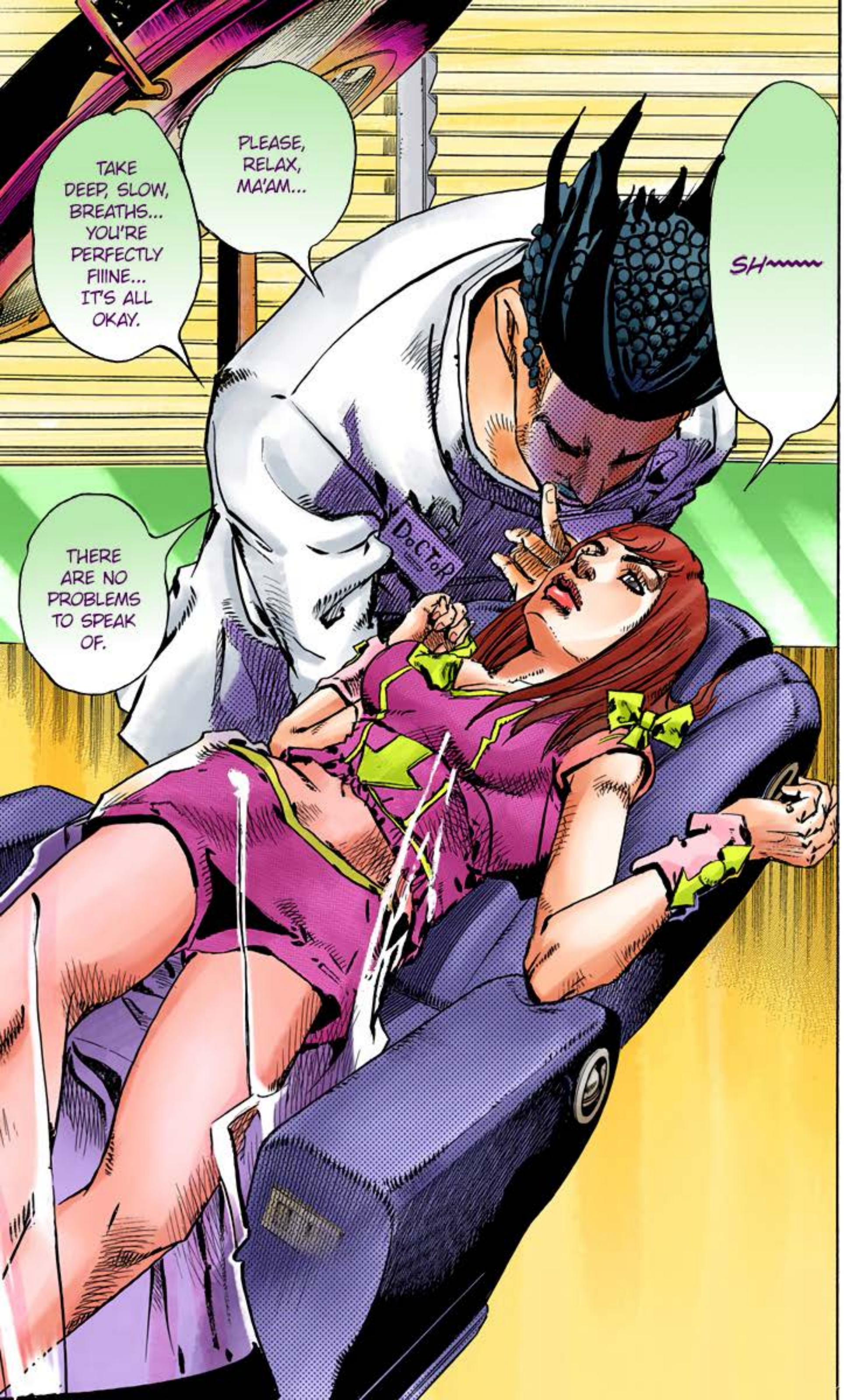
...AND THEN I GOT TREATMENT TO LIFT THEM.



MY TEETH BECAME LIKE ROCKS, I STARTED DROOLING, AND NOTHING I ATE TASTED GOOD ANY-MORE!

BUT IN EXCHANGE, THEN MY TEETH GOT WORSE! 24 OF THEM!

WHENEVER I WAS IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, I ALWAYS HAD TO COVER MY MOUTH LIKE THIS.


TAKE DEEP, SLOW, BREATHS... YOU'RE PERFECTLY FIIINE... IT'S ALL OKAY.
PLEASE, RELAX, MA'AM...
SH~~~~
THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS TO SPEAK OF.
DOCTOR

...NO.
GO RIGHT AHEAD.

DO YOU MIND IF I INDULGE?
WOULD YOU MIND IF I DRANK SOME? IT'S A SUPPLEMENT WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF SILICON.
WATER.

...

GLUP

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

NO THANKS.

I'LL ISSUE YOU MEDICINE, BUT EVEN I SOMETIMES GET HARD SKIN ON MY HEAD AT TIMES.
THE HARDENING OF THE SKIN ON YOUR HEAD AND SUCH... ISN'T ANYTHING LIFE-THREATENING.
SO, AS I EXPLAINED EARLIER,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? MY HAIR IS A BIT CRUNCHY.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU.
DOCTOR
DOCTOR

THOUGH RECENTLY HE'S BEEN DOTING ON OUR TEN YEAR-OLD SON QUITE A BIT, KEEPING HIM CLOSE.

SO WHEN HE GOES TO KISS ME, HE'LL BRING HIS ARM BEHIND MY EAR...

AND MY CHILD WILL NOTICE THE SKIN UNDER MY HAIR!

BUT HE HASN'T NOTICED THEM IN THAT WAY.

I DO LET MY HUSBAND TOUCH THEM,

I'VE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM MY HUSBAND THAT THIS HOSPITAL GAVE ME SUCH SHAPELY BREASTS.

HE DIDN'T NOTICE WHEN MY TEETH WERE LIKE ROCKS EITHER...

I WANT TO LOOK PERFECT! PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!

PLEASE, DOCTOR...

WHEN A CHILD NOTICES SOMETHING, THEY ALWAYS ASK 'WHY'!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GOOD AT TREATING ME.

IF THIS IS A "ONE-TIME" SITUATION, THEN I'M ABLE.

I HAVE A... "PERFECT" TREATMENT METHOD.

"ONE TIME" ONLY.

HIGASHIKATA-SAN.

DOCTOR

ゴゴゴ

IT'S A VERY SPECIAL TREATMENT THAT'S NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED OR KNOWN.

I HAVEN'T RECOMMENDED THIS TO ANY OTHER PATIENTS THUS FAR.

MEDICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S THE NEWEST OF THE NEW.

BECAUSE OF THAT, IT'S EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH-PRICED.

200 MILLION YEN.

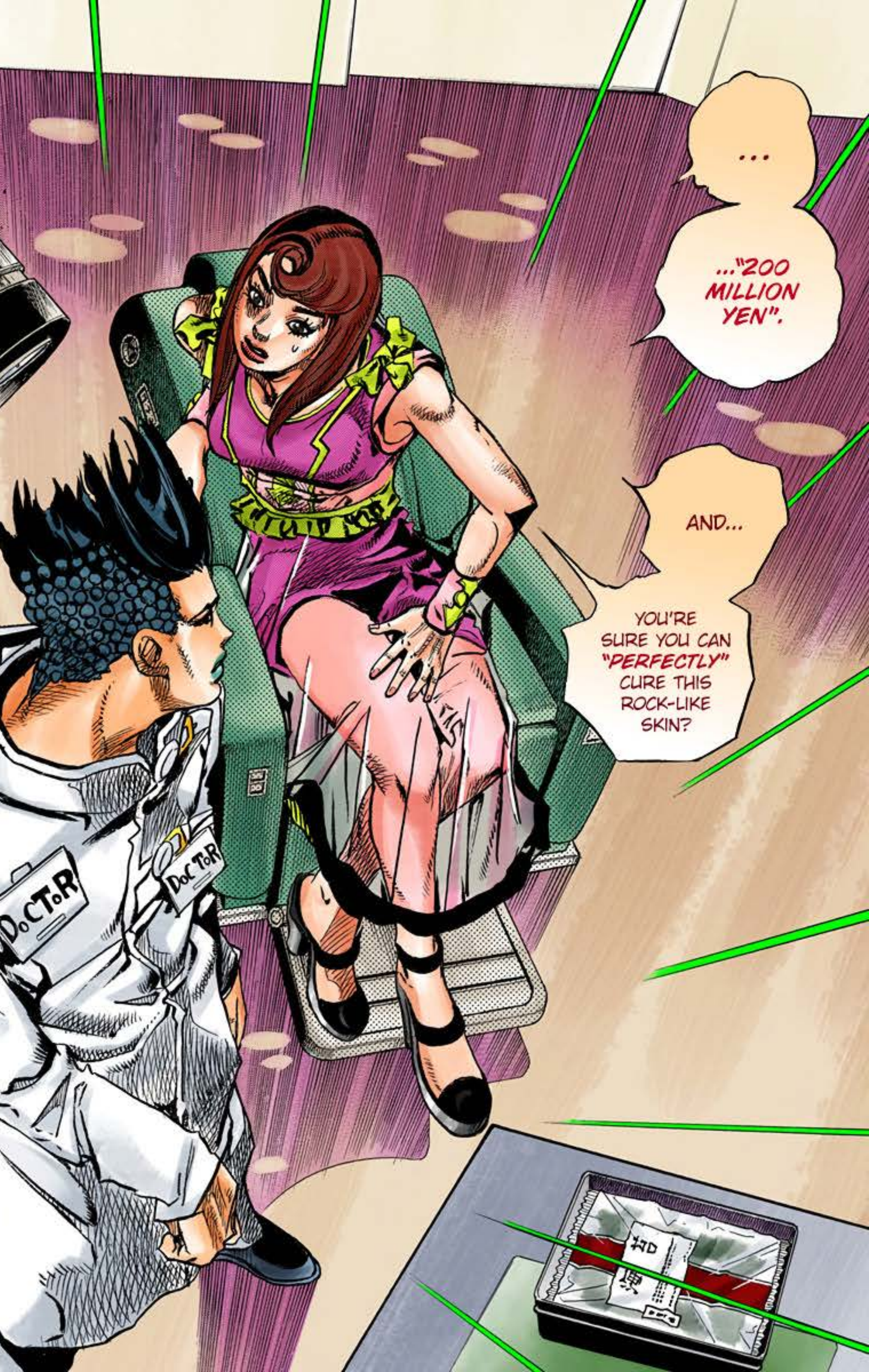
THAT'S A "ONE-TIME" ONLY PRICE.

ゴゴゴ

MONEY HAS BEEN NO OBJECT FROM THE START.

I HAVE MONEY.

ゴゴゴ

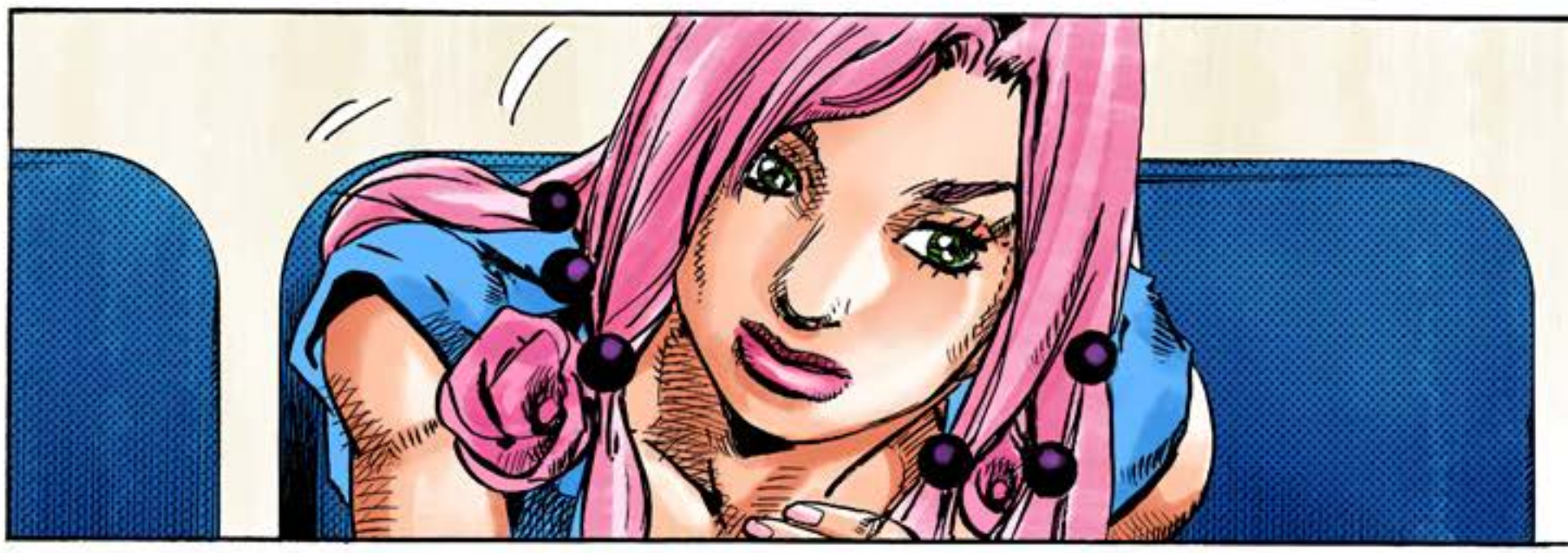

...
..."200 MILLION YEN".
AND...
YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN "PERFECTLY" CURE THIS ROCK-LIKE SKIN?
DoCToR
DoCToR

THIS IS YOUR DECISION TO MAKE. THE TREATMENT CAN BEGIN AS SOON AS YOU HAVE PAID.

YOU ARE IN HEALTHY CONDITON.

JUST... TO MAKE THINGS PERFECTLY CLEAR, HIGASHI-KATA-SAN,

THE FIRE IN THE ORCHARD OF THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER OF FRUIT NATIONWIDE, THE HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR,



I WONDER IF THEY'RE REALLY OKAY...

AND 'MAMEZUKU RAI'... THE PLANT APPRAISER... I CALLED AND THEY SAID THEY WERE BOTH FINE, BUT...

WITH THE 'BRANCH' TAKEN AND ALL...

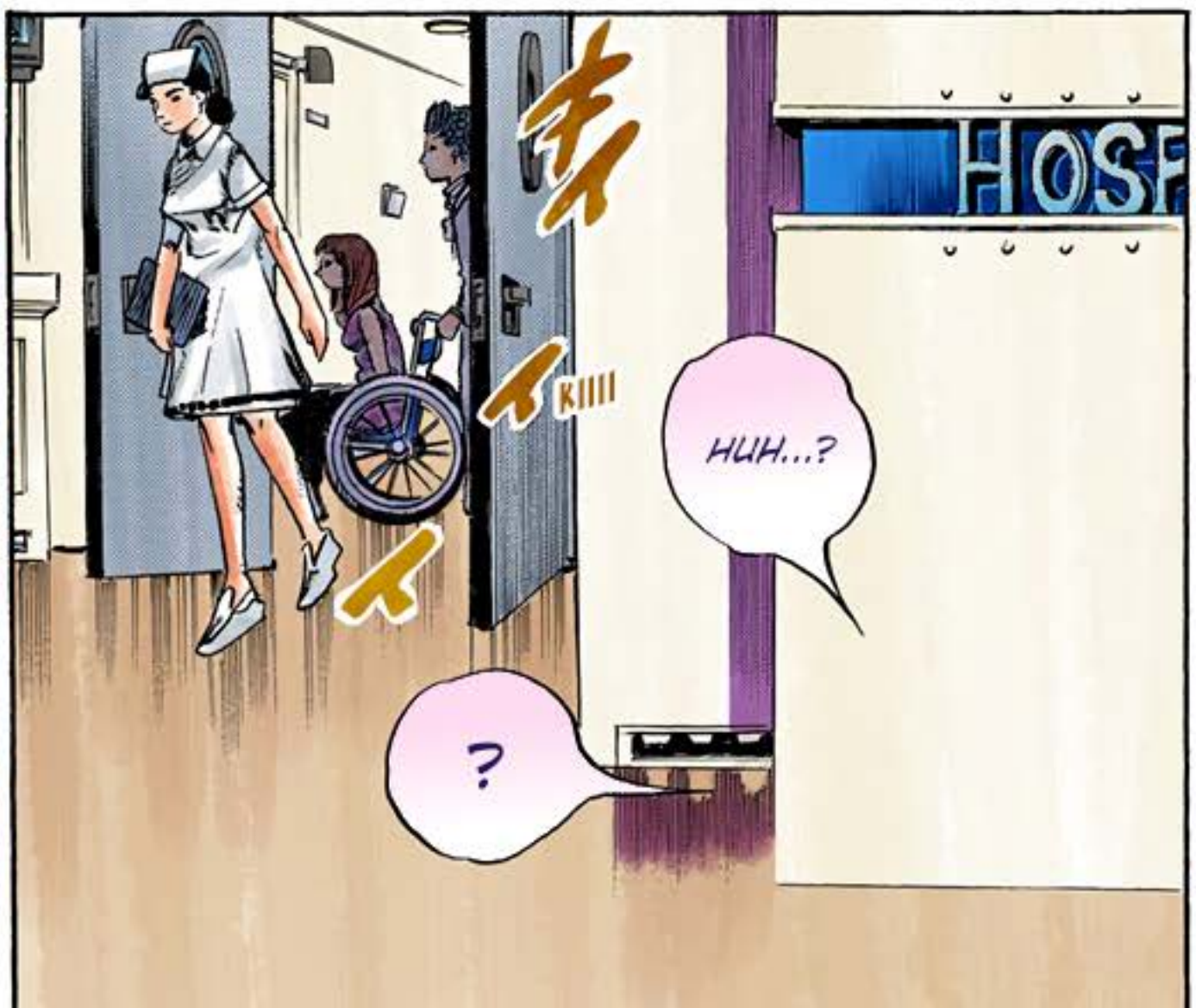
"JOSUKE"...

O-

OW...

...

MENSTRUAL PAIN... AND FEELING DEPRESSED...



TSURUGI-CHAN'S MOM...

'MITSUBA'-SAN.

THE ONE ALWAYS HIDING HER MOUTH WITH HER HAND...

THAT WOMAN... ISN'T THAT...

...

HAH

KIIIH

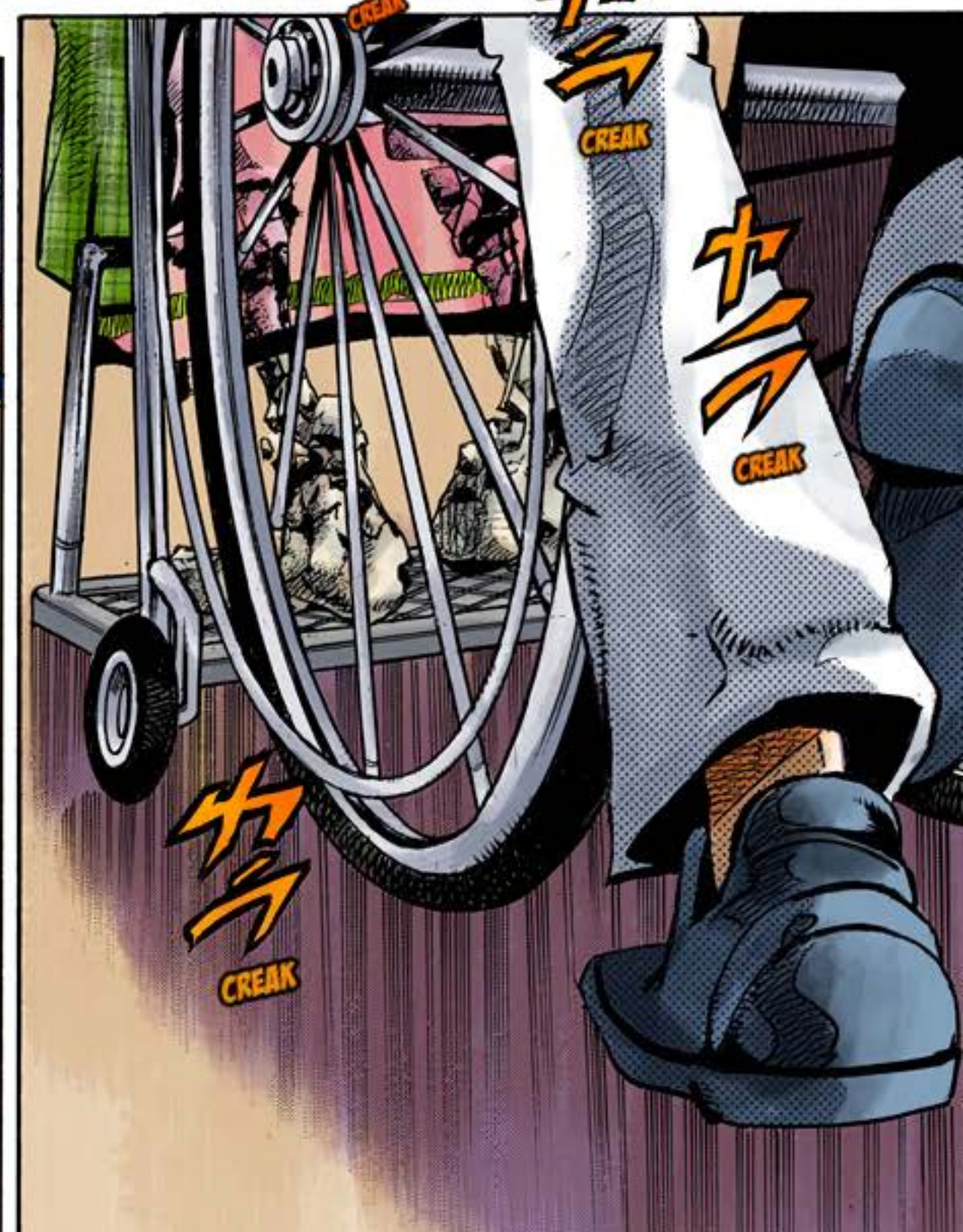
Time Until the Harvest of the Locacaca Fruit

10 Days, 19 hours, and 6 minutes

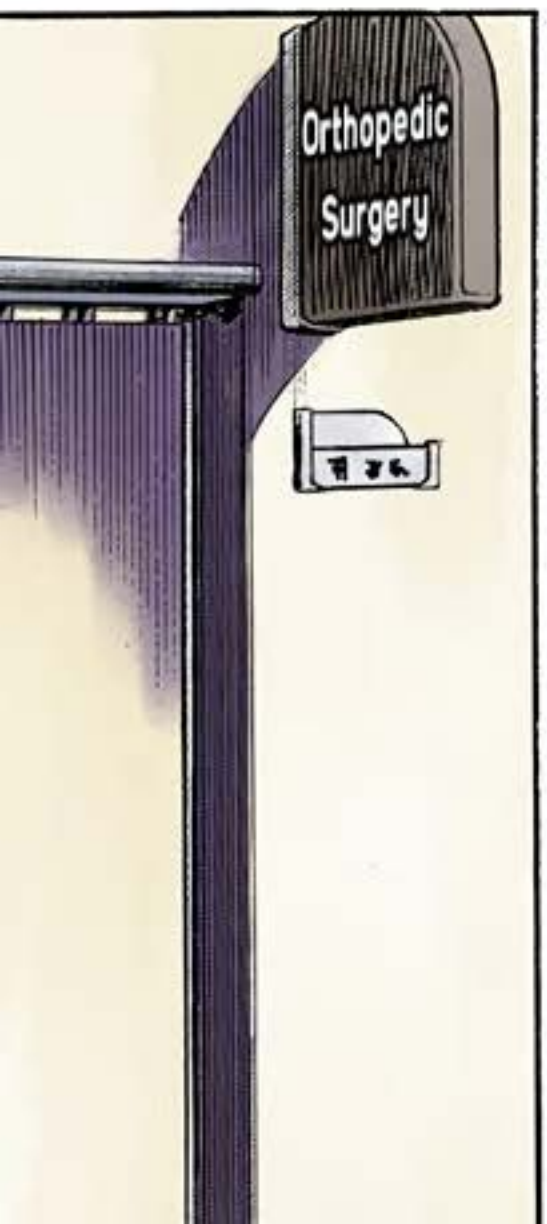
#078 THE ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON – WU TOMOKI-SENSEI

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

GADIAH!
...!
...!


CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

M-MITSUBA-SAN?!!



J-

GO!

GO!

GO!

GO!

HOSP

RSTL

RSTL

RSTL

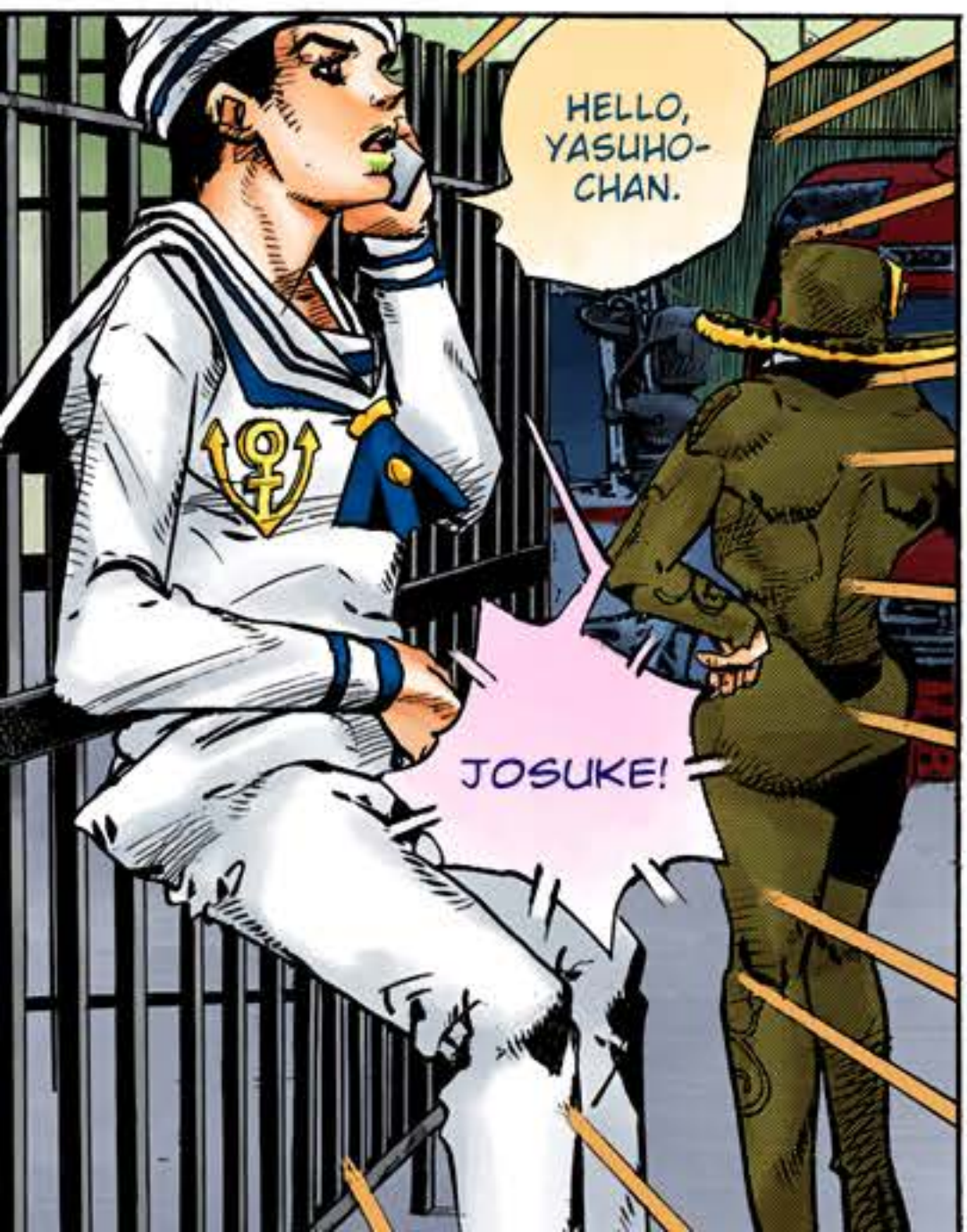
RSTL

RSTL

RSTL

IT WAS JUST LIKE WITH THE HAIR PIN!!

ゴ! GO
ゴ! GO
ゴ! GO
JUST NOW...
ゴ! GO
ゴ! GO
ゴ! GO



DID YOU SAY FIRE STATION?

MAMEZUKU-SAN AND I ARE AT THE LONE PINE FIRE STATION.

WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE AMBULANCE THAT WAS AT THE FIRE.

3-11

LICENSE PLATE '3-11'.

I'M CERTAIN THAT'S WHAT I SAW ON THE AMBULANCE BACK THEN.

IN FACT, THERE'S NO AMBULANCE WITH A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER 3-11 HERE AT ALL.

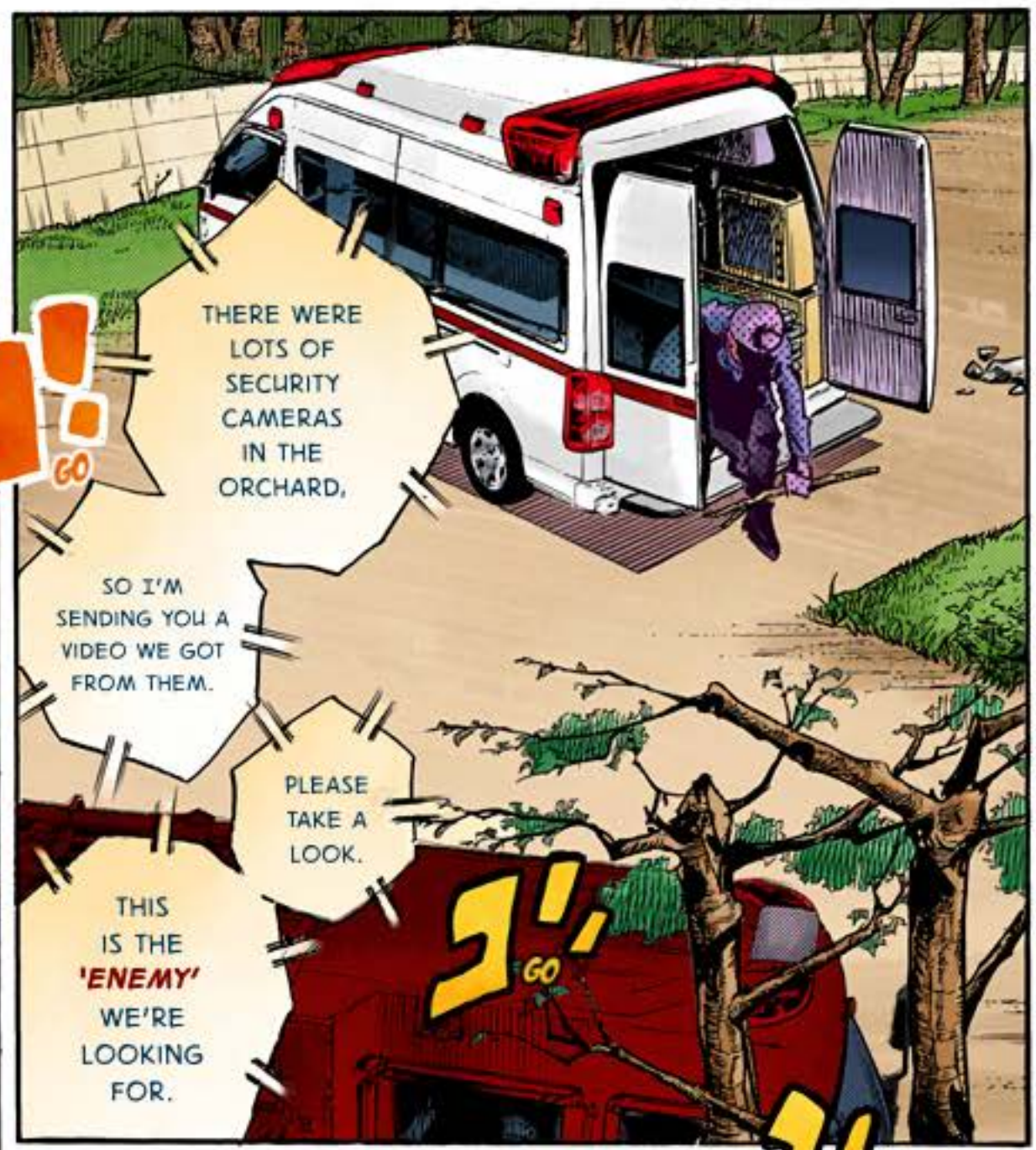
THERE ARE NO RECORDS OF AMBULANCE WORKERS HERE EITHER.

BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF A 3-11 AMBULANCE GOING ANYWHERE

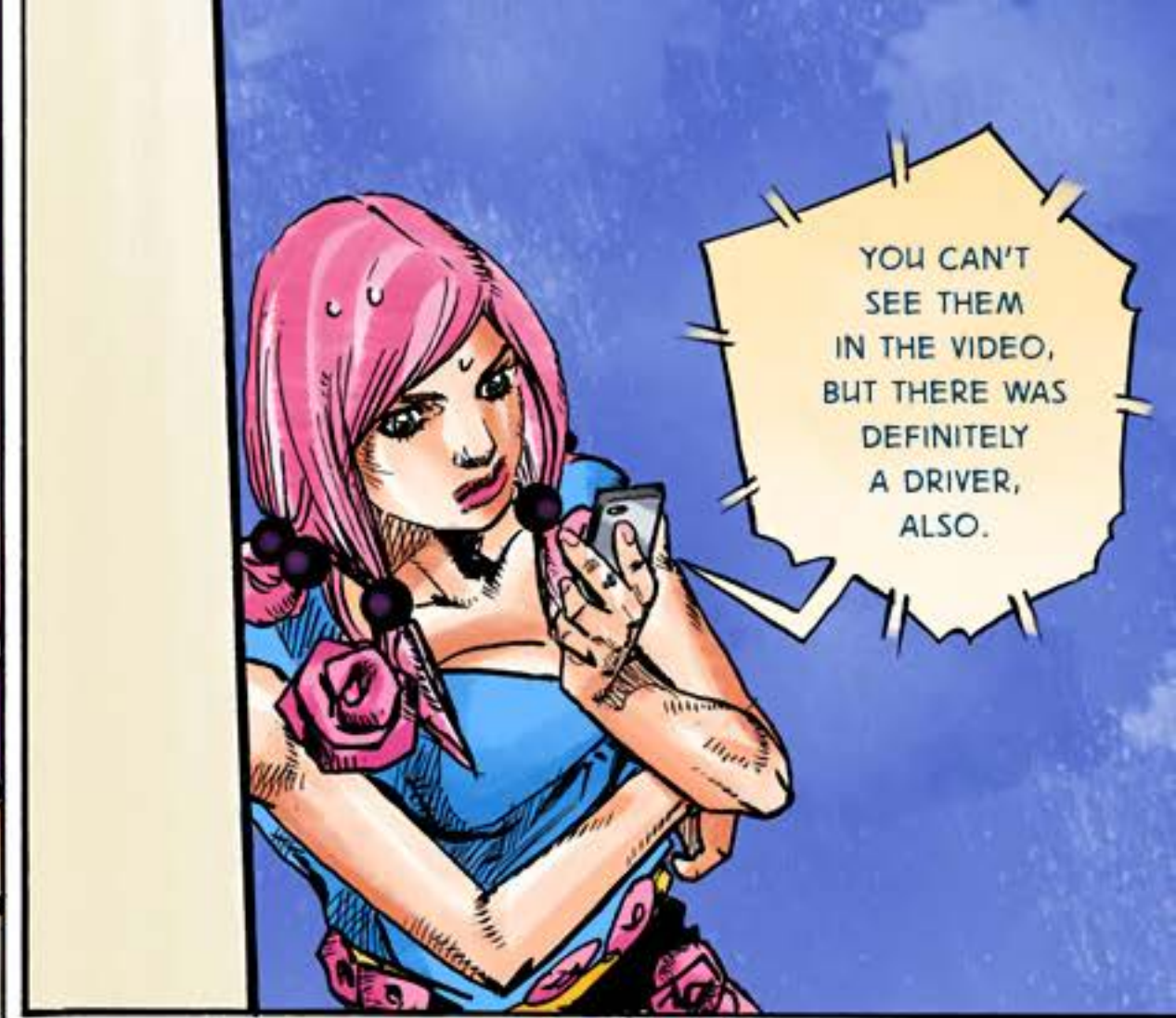
DURING THE TIME THE HIGASHIKATA ORCHARD WAS ON FIRE.

AND THEY TOOK THE **'ROKAKAKA BRANCH'**.

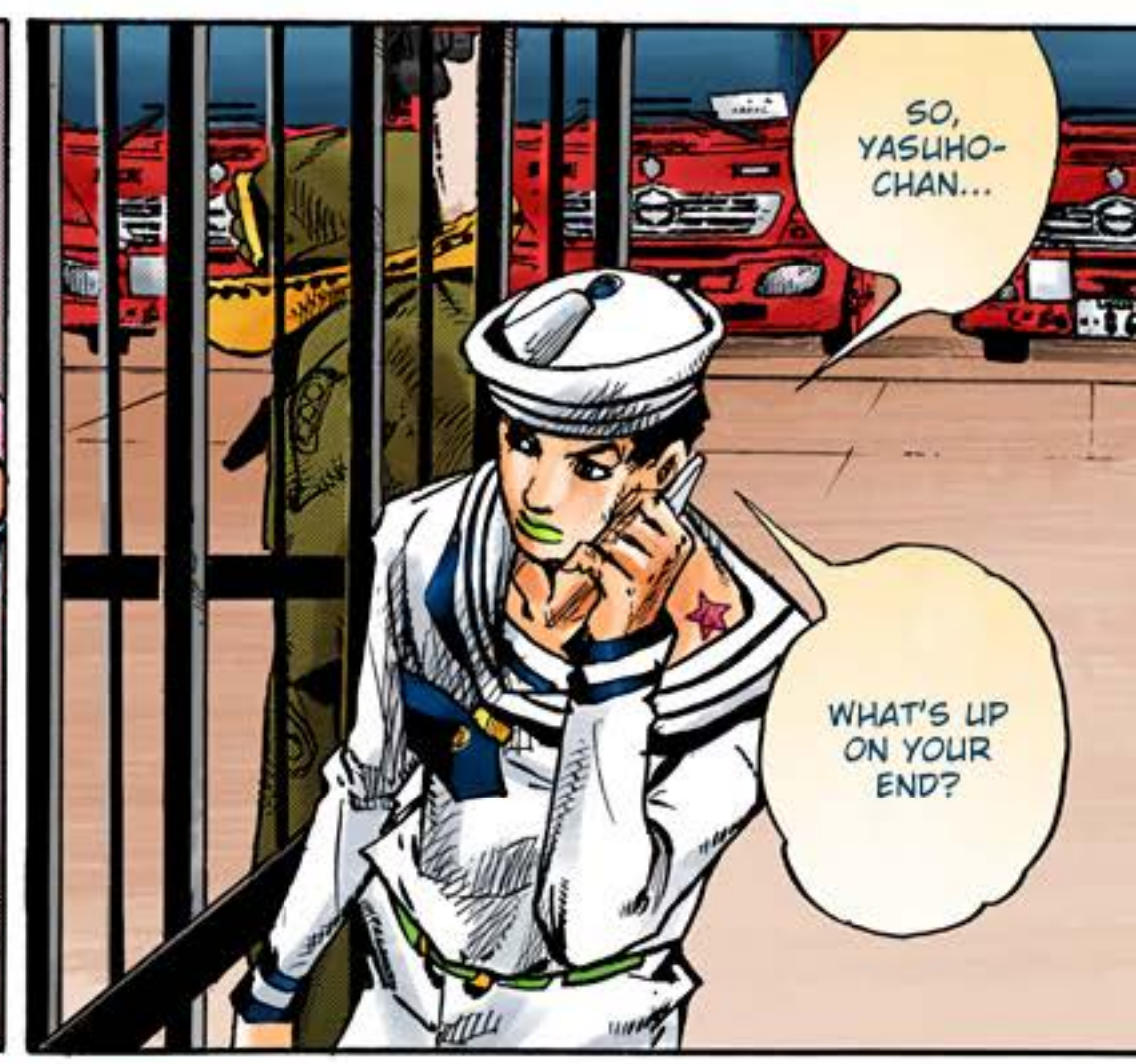
IT'S JUST SOME **"AMBULANCE"** THAT SHOWED UP FROM *SOMEWHERE*.



...OKAY.


YOU CAN'T SEE THEM IN THE VIDEO, BUT THERE WAS DEFINITELY A DRIVER, ALSO.

UM... WELL, I MET MITSUBA-SAN...


SO, YASUHO-CHAN...
WHAT'S UP ON YOUR END?

YEAH, HIGASHIKATA MITSUBA-SAN.
TSURUGI-CHAN'S MOM... AND JOBIN-SAN'S WIFE.

MITSUBA?
?

I SAW MITSUBA-SAN BEING PUSHED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR JUST NOW.

I'M AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW...

OH, RIGHT...

I SAW HER THIS MORNING.

BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SPOKEN TO OR INTERACTED WITH HER IN THE HOUSE MUCH AT ALL...

SOMETHING SEEMED "ODD" ABOUT MITSUBA-SAN'S LEGS UNDER THAT BLANKET...

AND IT MIGHT'VE JUST BEEN BECAUSE OF THE LIGHTING BUT...

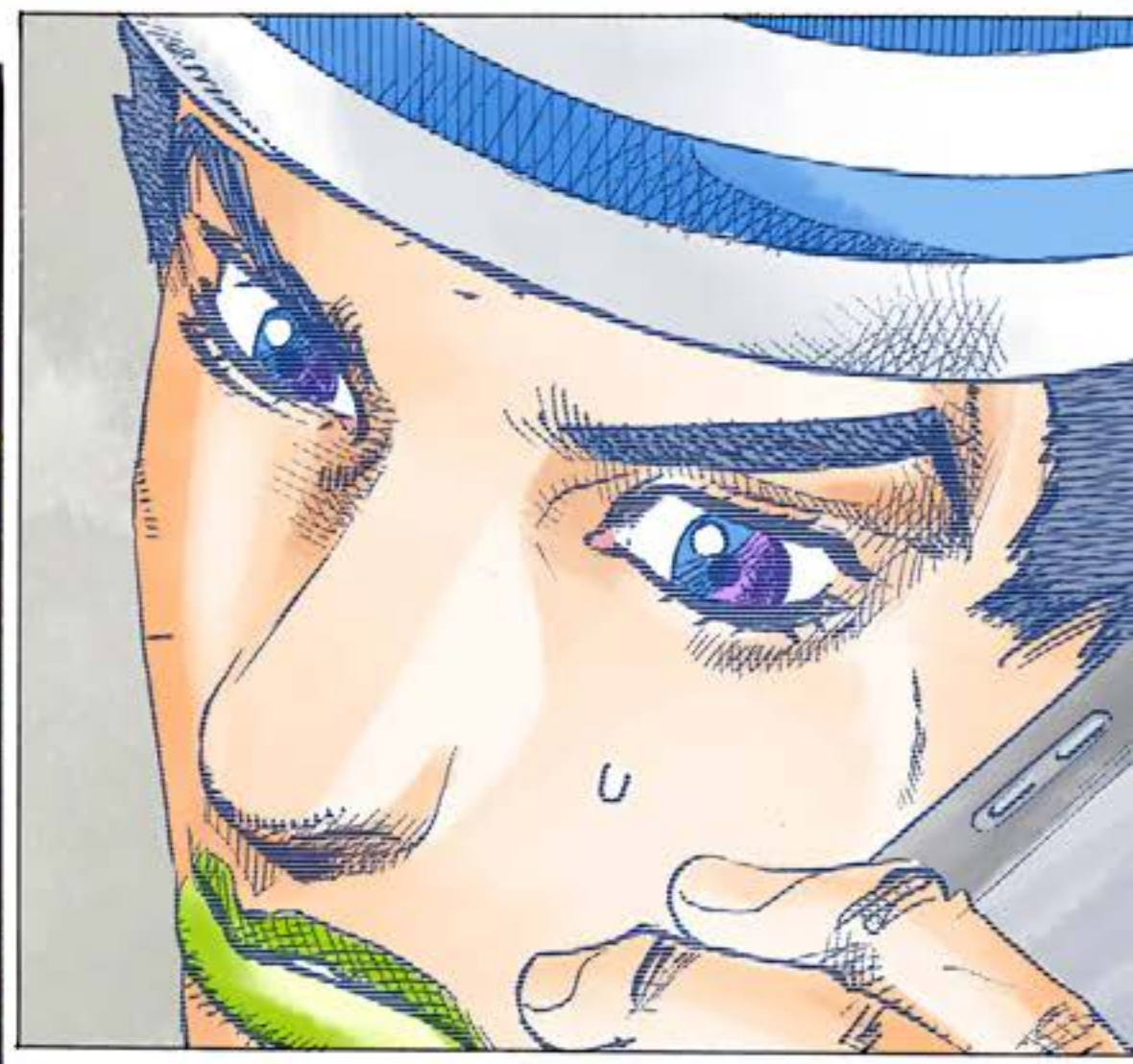
I JUST SAW IT FOR A QUICK SECOND FROM FAR AWAY

THROUGH THE GAP IN AN OPEN DOOR, BUT...

MITSUBA-SAN'S KNEES WERE COVERED IN A BLANKET WHEN SHE WAS IN THAT WHEELCHAIR...

THE SKIN ON MITSUBA-SAN'S LEGS LOOKED LIKE THEY

WERE 'DRY AND ROUGH' AND COMING APART...



I HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA 'WHAT' IS GOING ON THERE... MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING UP WITH JOBIN'S WIFE... OR MAYBE IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION...

BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY 'SOMETHING' GOING ON AT THAT TG UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL... IT'S DANGEROUS.

WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN FIVE TO TEN MINUTES.

MAMEZUKU-SAN AND I ARE HEADING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW.

YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL... RIGHT NOW!

GO

GO

GO

DAH

WHATEVER YOU DO, STAY AWAY FROM MITSUBA-SAN... OKAY?

BUT IF YOU GET TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED THERE, IT'S DANGEROUS. RIGHT NOW... THAT PLACE ISN'T SAFE.

IT MIGHT BE FINE FOR GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMS AND TREATMENT,

...

GO

GO

GO

GO

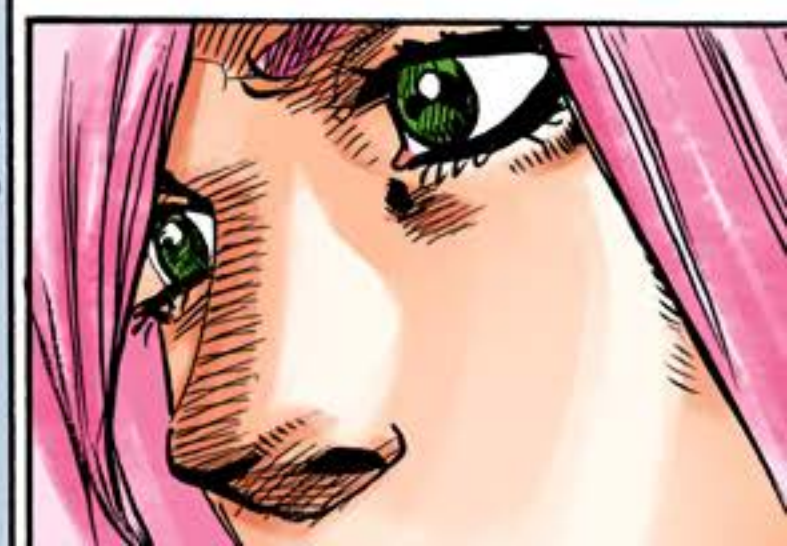
HOSPITAL
GO
...

GO

GO

GO

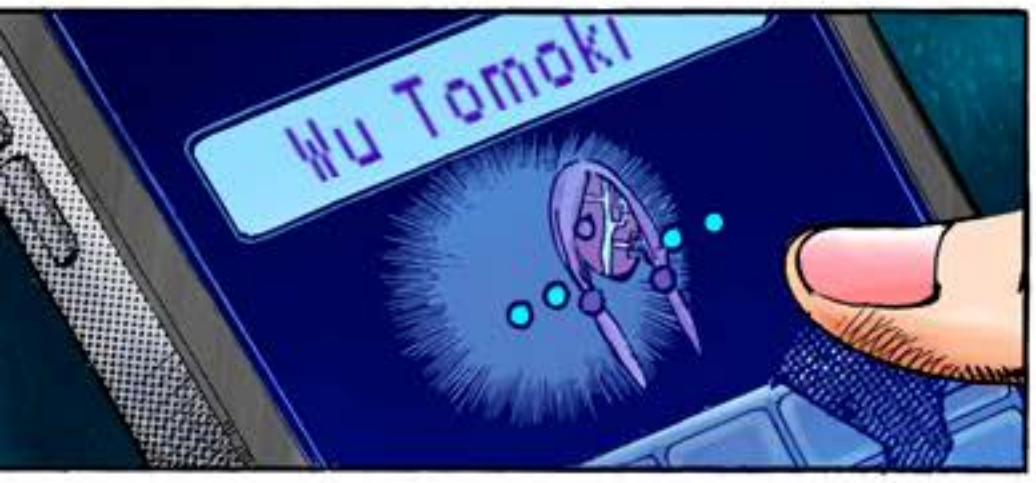
GO

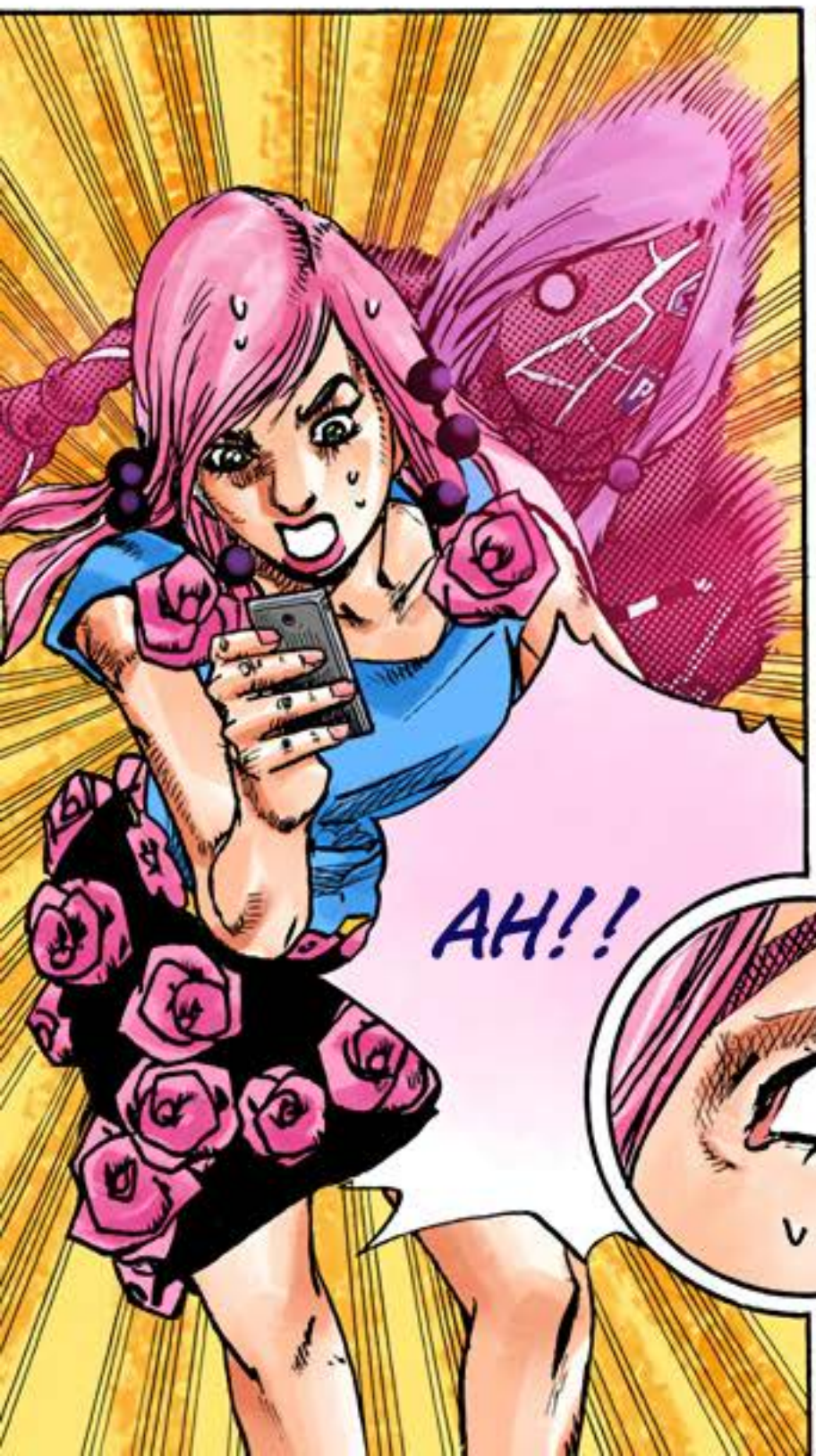


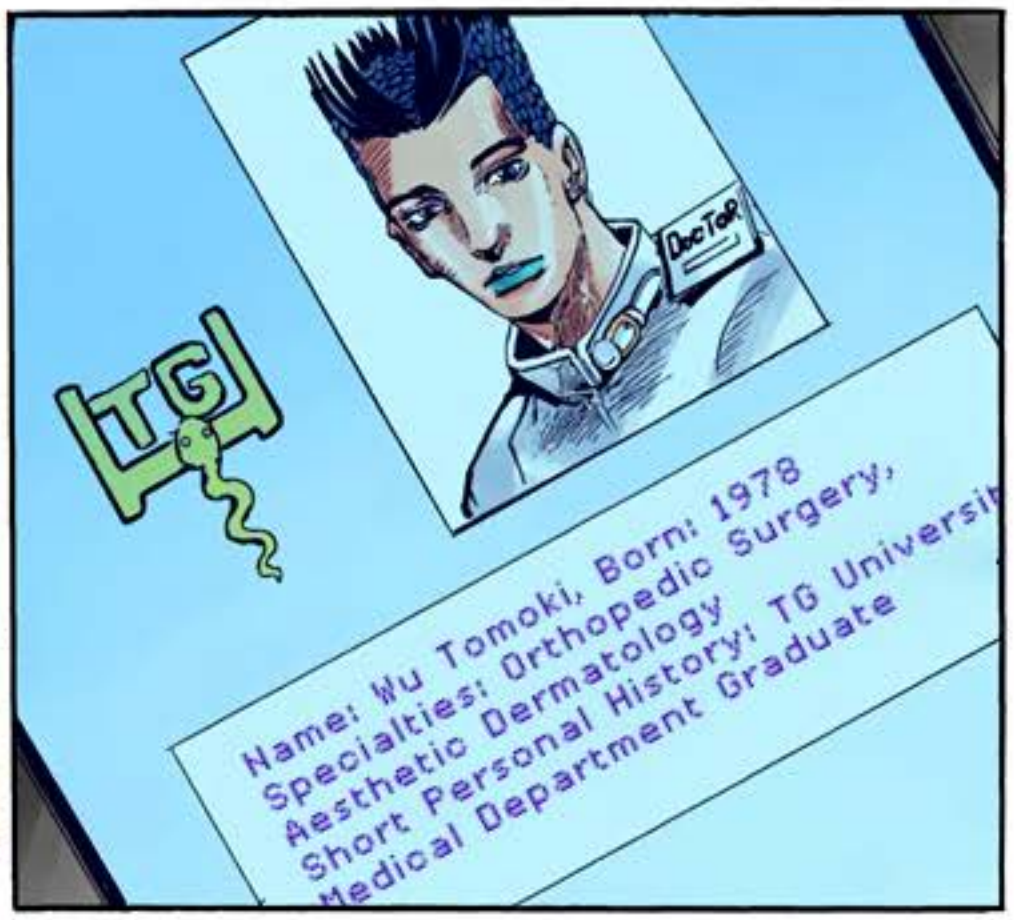
Attending Physician
Wu Tomoki

GIH

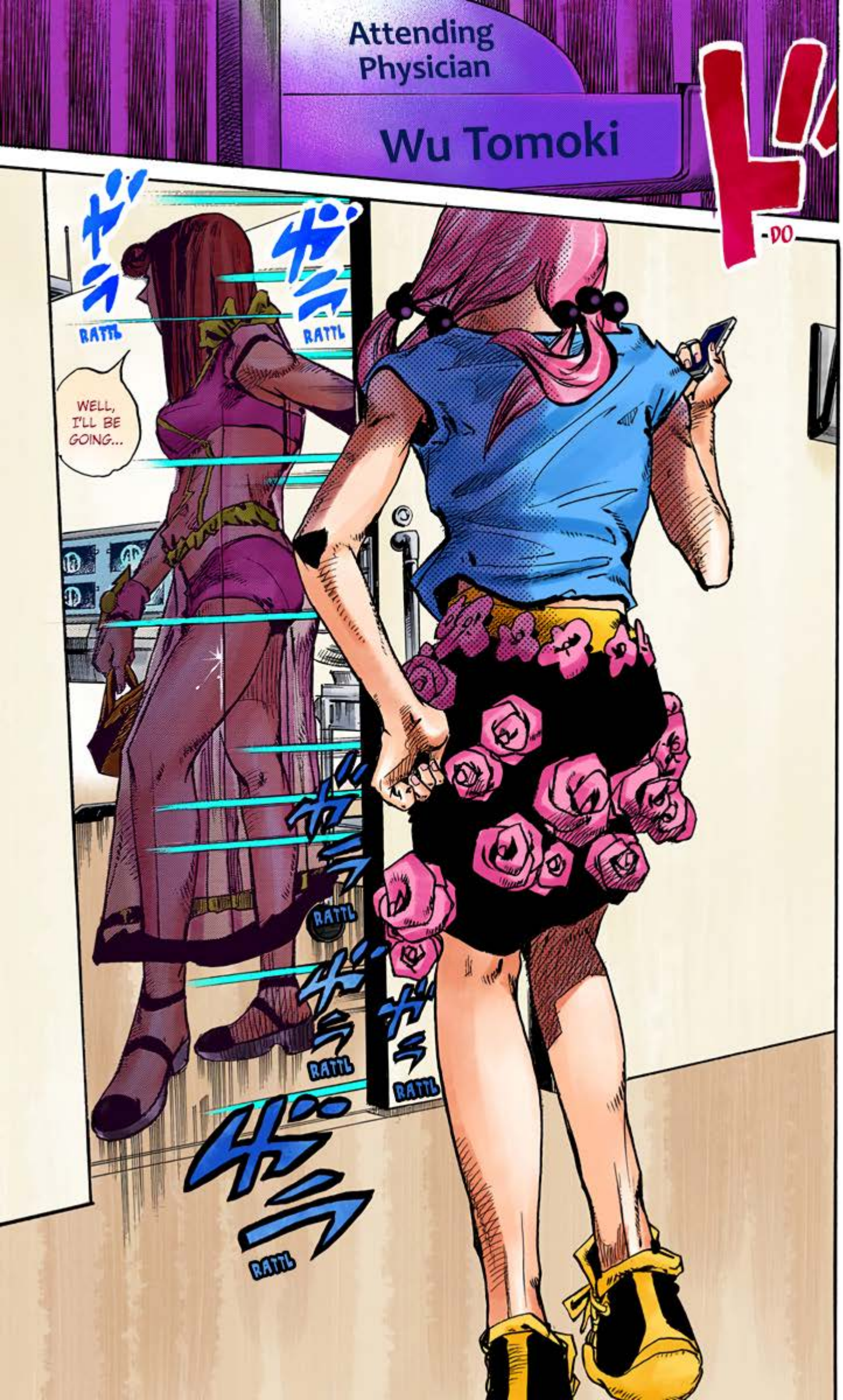
ZUH

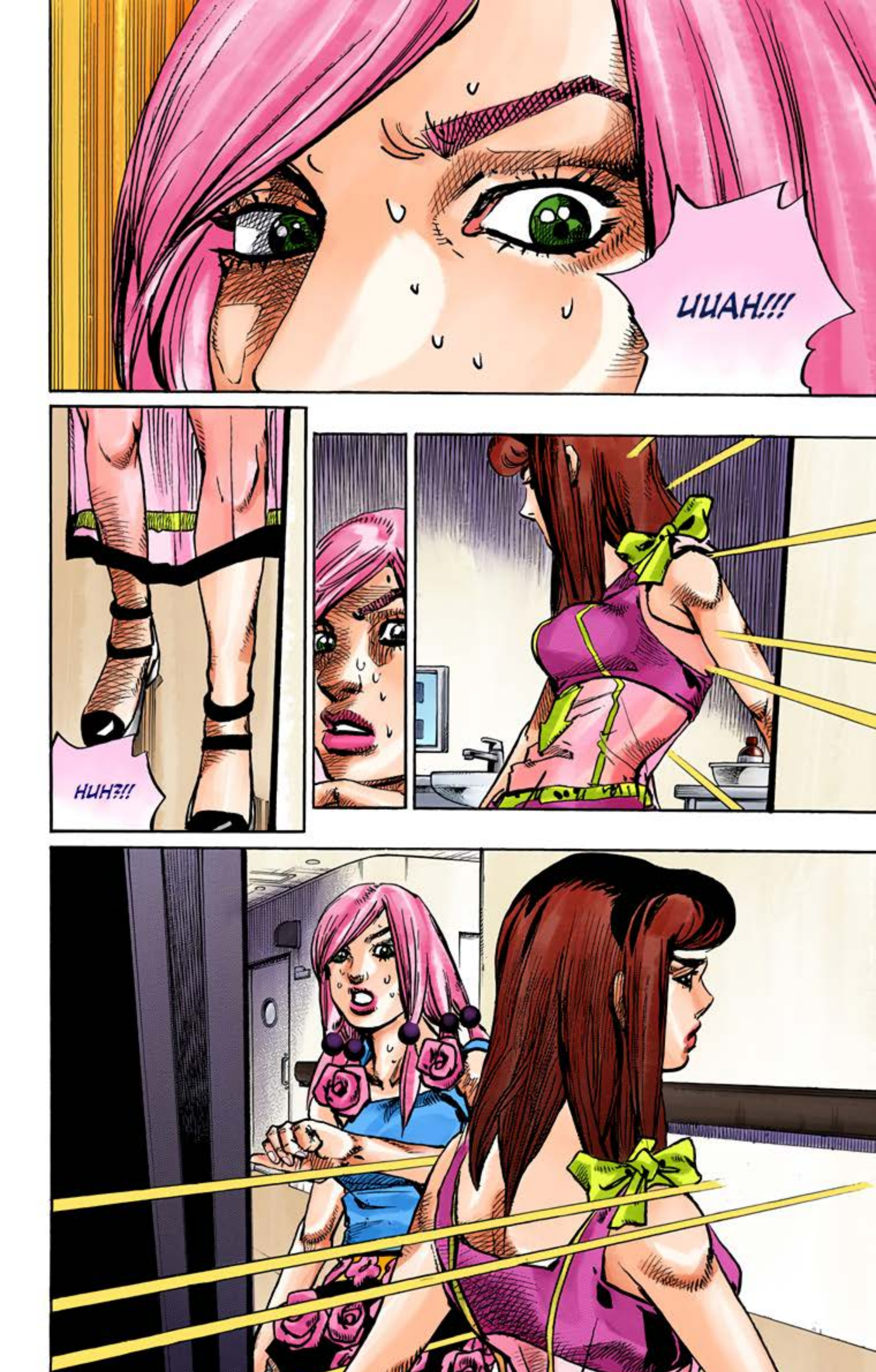

Wu Tomoki


AH!!


TG
Name: Wu Tomoki, Born: 1978
Specialties: Orthopedic Surgery,
Aesthetic Dermatology
Short Personal History: TG Universit
Medical Department Graduate

ドドド


Attending Physician
Wu Tomoki
DO
RATTL
RATTL
WELL, I'LL BE GOING...
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL
RATTL


UUAH!!!
HUH?!!

...THE 'DOCTOR'.

WHERE'S THE DOCTOR THAT PUSHED HER IN HERE WITH THE WHEELCHAIR?

WHAT ...?

...

KOH

KOH

KOH

KOH

ちらっ GLANCE

WH-

WHAT HAPPENED TO WHAT I SAW *BEFORE?*

HER LEGS... WERE DRY AND ROUGH LIKE THEY WERE FALLING APART... AND SHE WAS IN A WHEEL-CHAIR...

KOH

KOH

KOH

KOH

BUT WHERE'S THE DOCTOR?

WELL, I ONLY SAW IT FOR A SECOND... AND IT WAS PRETTY FAR AWAY, PLUS SHE'S WEARING A LONG SKIRT.

PITARI

KOH

KOH

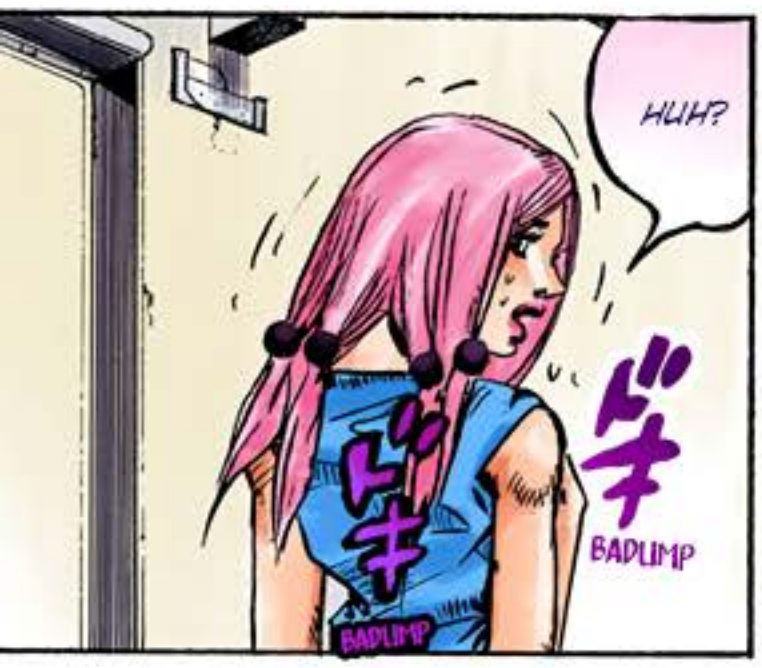
KOH

KOH

...EXCUSE ME, BUT,

IS THAT YOU, YASUHO-SAN?

UMMM...



WE'VE MET BEFORE.

THE WIFE OF THE ELDEST SON OF THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY.

IT'S ME, MITSUBA.

UMMM,

KOH

KOH

KOH

YOU'RE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, JOSHU'S, FRIEND, RIGHT?

ドキ
BADUMP
ドキ
BADUMP

GOOD TO SEE YOOOOU! ♡

UM... HELLO, MITSUBA-SAN.

HUH...?

HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY?

VISITING SOMEONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR FAMILY.

THE WAY MITSUBA-SAN IS ACTING IS SO ODD...

AND JOSUKE SAID TO MAKE SURE NOT TO GO NEAR HER...

I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE... OUT OF THIS "HOSPITAL", NOW...

THAT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF.

OH, I SEE...

I CAME TO GET SOME MEDICINE.

UM... NO...

...I'VE GOT MENSTRUAL PAIN...

THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW MINUTES, BUT I NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS!

I'VE GOT TO CONTACT JOSUKE...

Josuke

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

カラ RATL

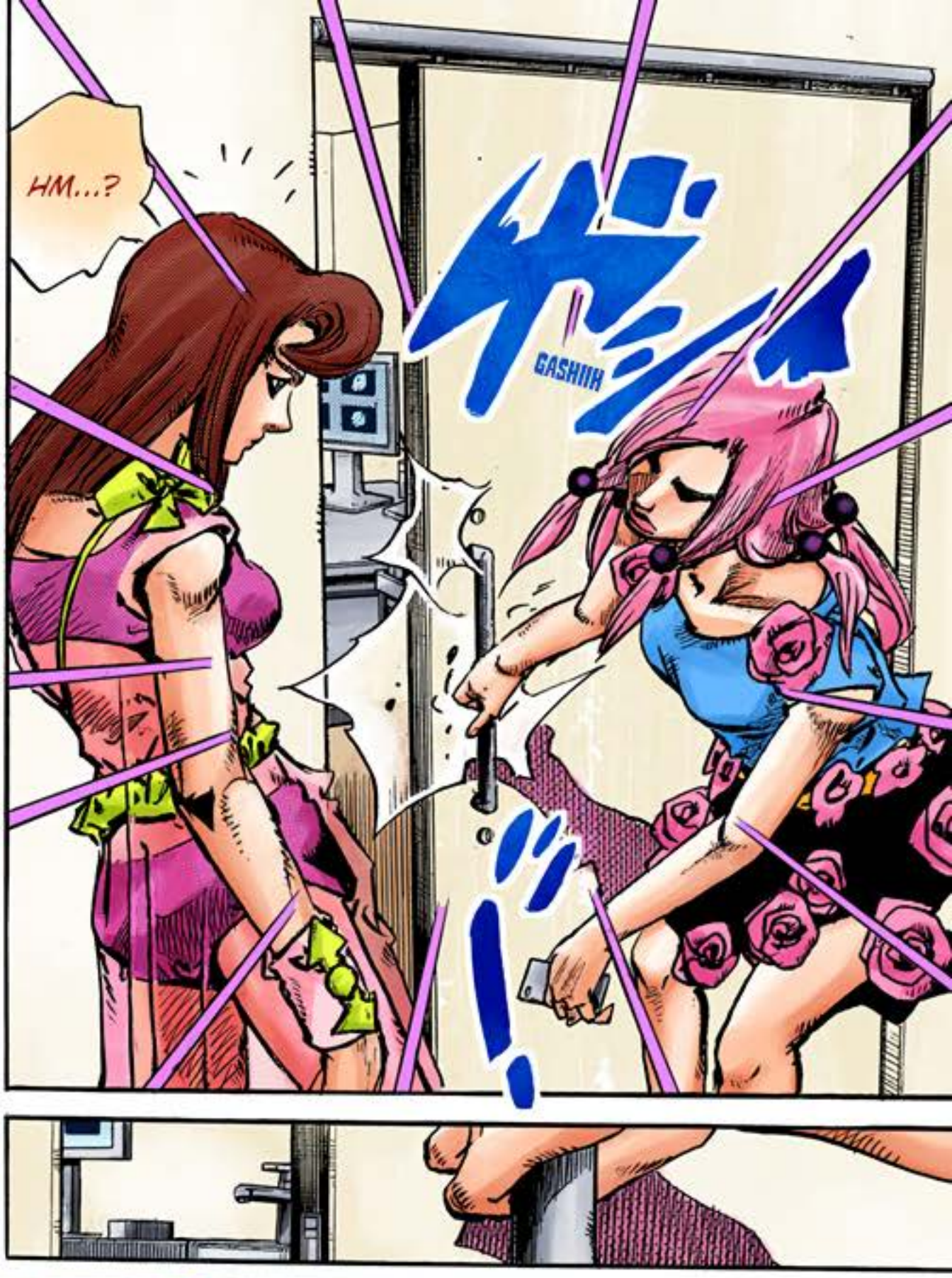
カラ RATL

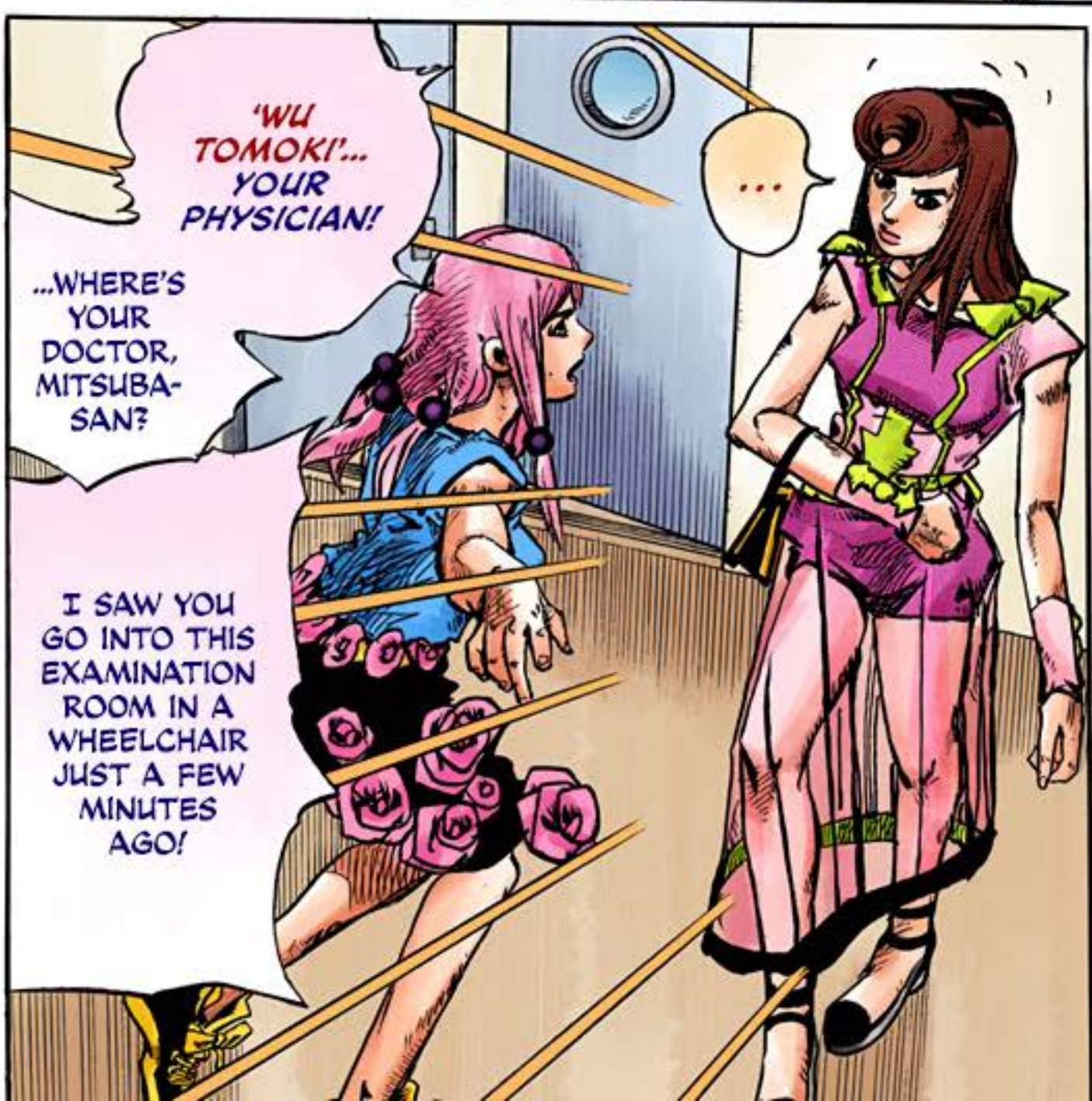
カラ RATL

...

...

MITSUBA-SAN...
...WHERE IS THE DOCTOR?


HM...?
ガシィィ
GASHIIK


'WU TOMOKI'... YOUR PHYSICIAN!
...WHERE'S YOUR DOCTOR, MITSUBA-SAN?
I SAW YOU GO INTO THIS EXAMINATION ROOM IN A WHEELCHAIR JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO!
...

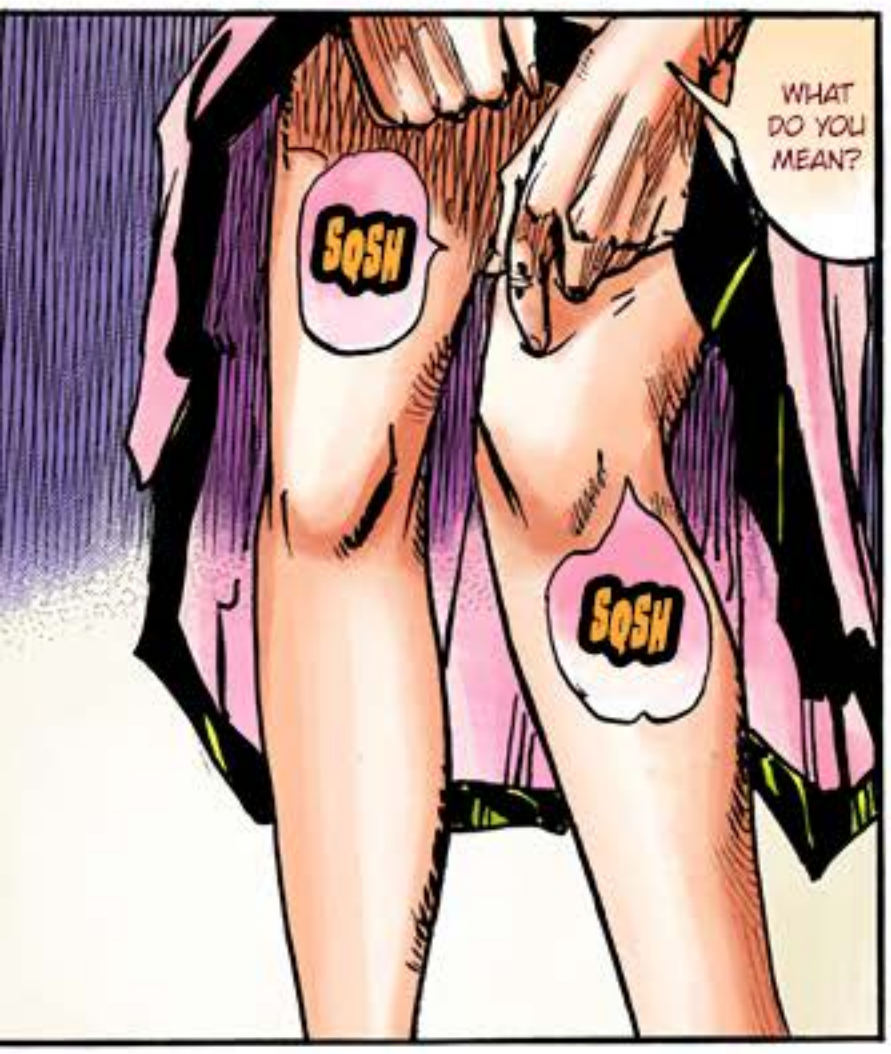
...

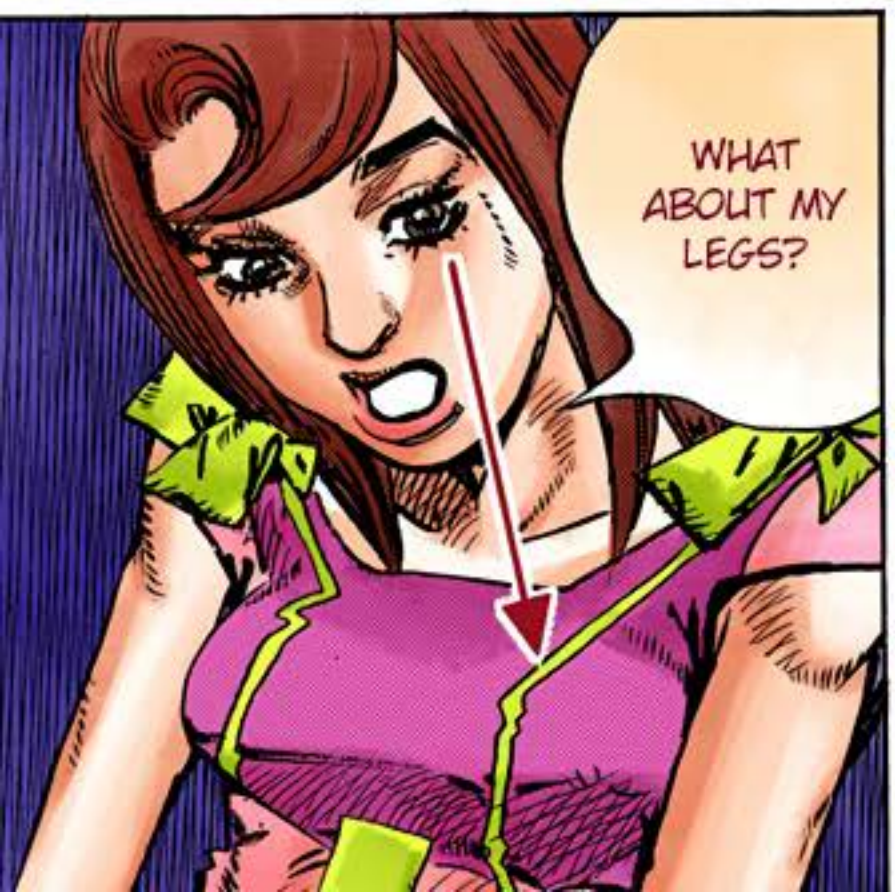
YOUR LEGS...

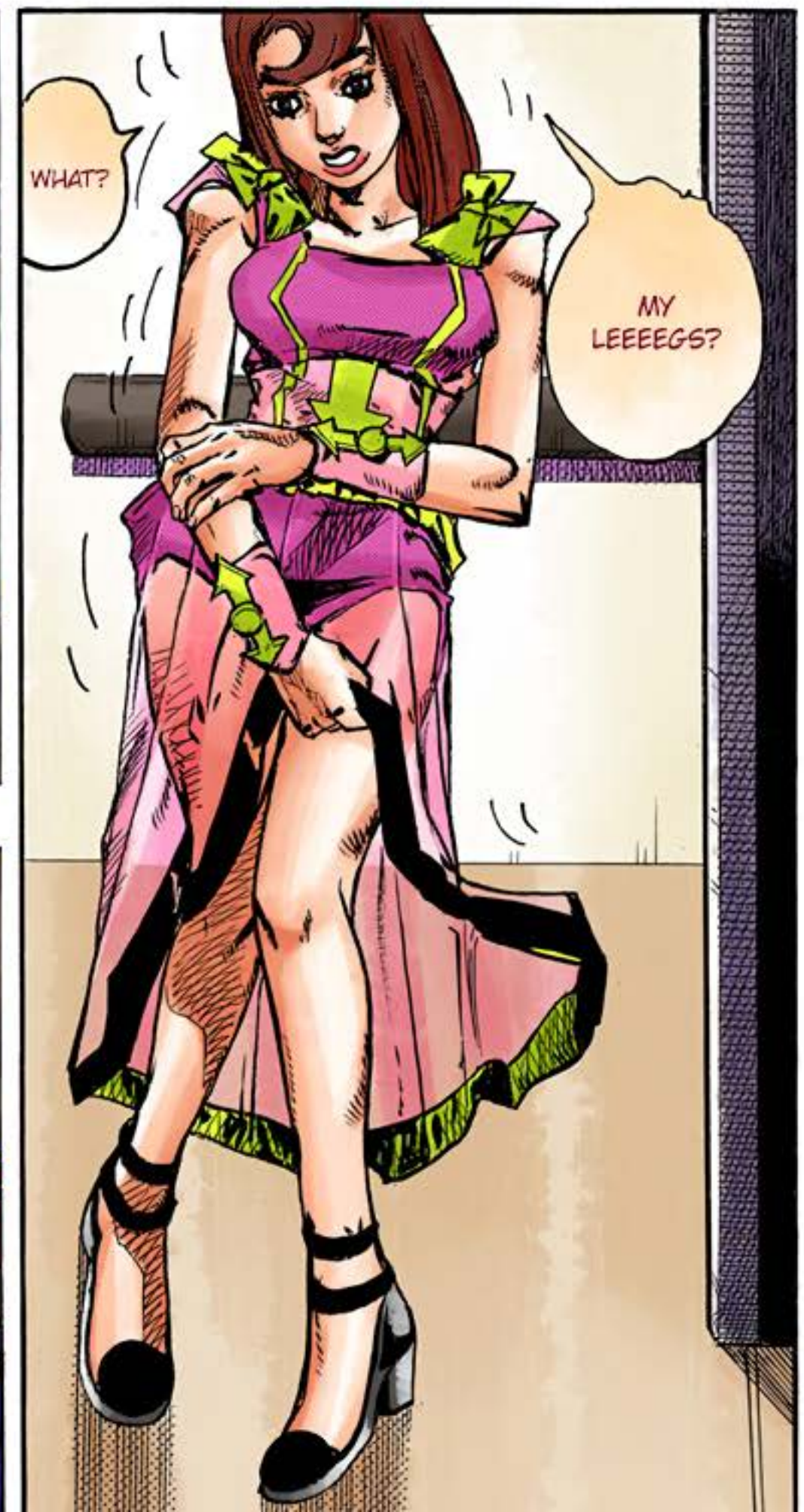
I'M SURE... I'M SURE I SAW...

WHEN YOU WERE SITTING IN THAT WHEEL-CHAIR,

YOU SURE DIDN'T LOOK TO ME LIKE YOU WERE ABLE TO STAND UP AND WALK AROUND!







THE SKIN ON MY HEAD HAD A BIT OF AN ALLERGIC REACTION... LOOK.

IT'S JUST

I'M IN PERFECT HEALTH...

THEY DIDN'T FIND A SINGLE THING WRONG WITH ME IN MY PHYSICAL EXAM, AND I DROVE AND WALKED HERE MYSELF.

フワサ…

FUWASA...

WHERE'S THE WHEELCHAIR YOU CAME IN ON?

I DON'T SEE ONE IN THIS EXAMINATION ROOM ANY-WHERE.

THE WHEEL-CHAIR...

MITSUBA-SAN...

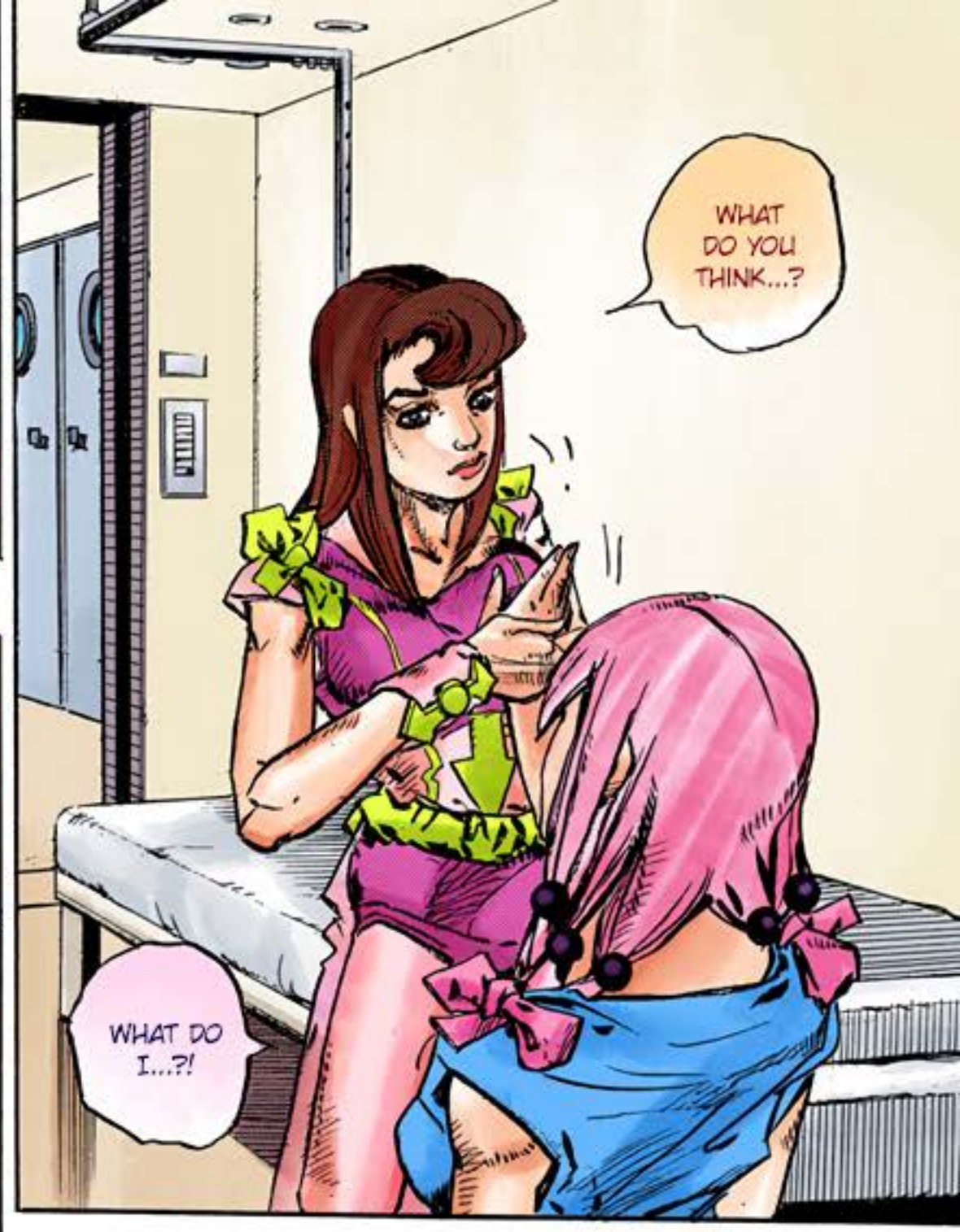
EVEN THAT'S STARTED TO CLEAR UP.

BUT NOW...

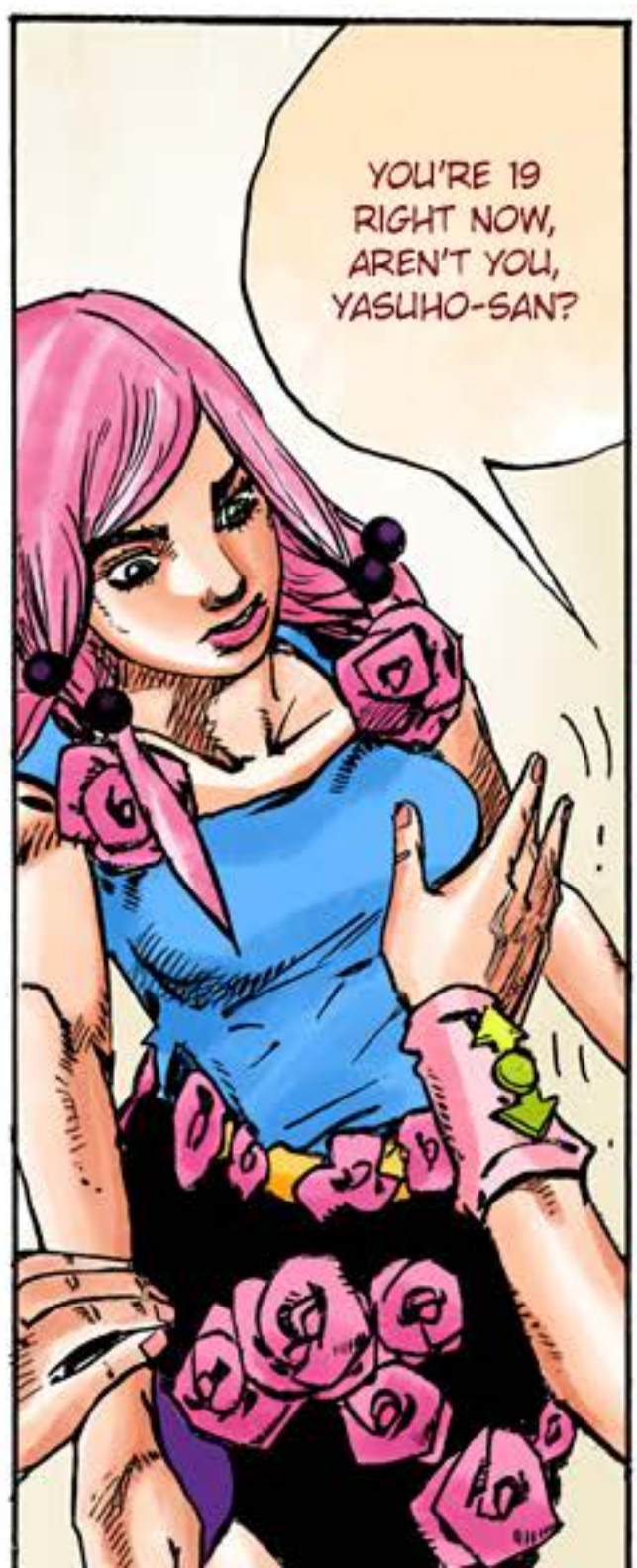
ME?

PUSHED IN A WHEEL-CHAIR?

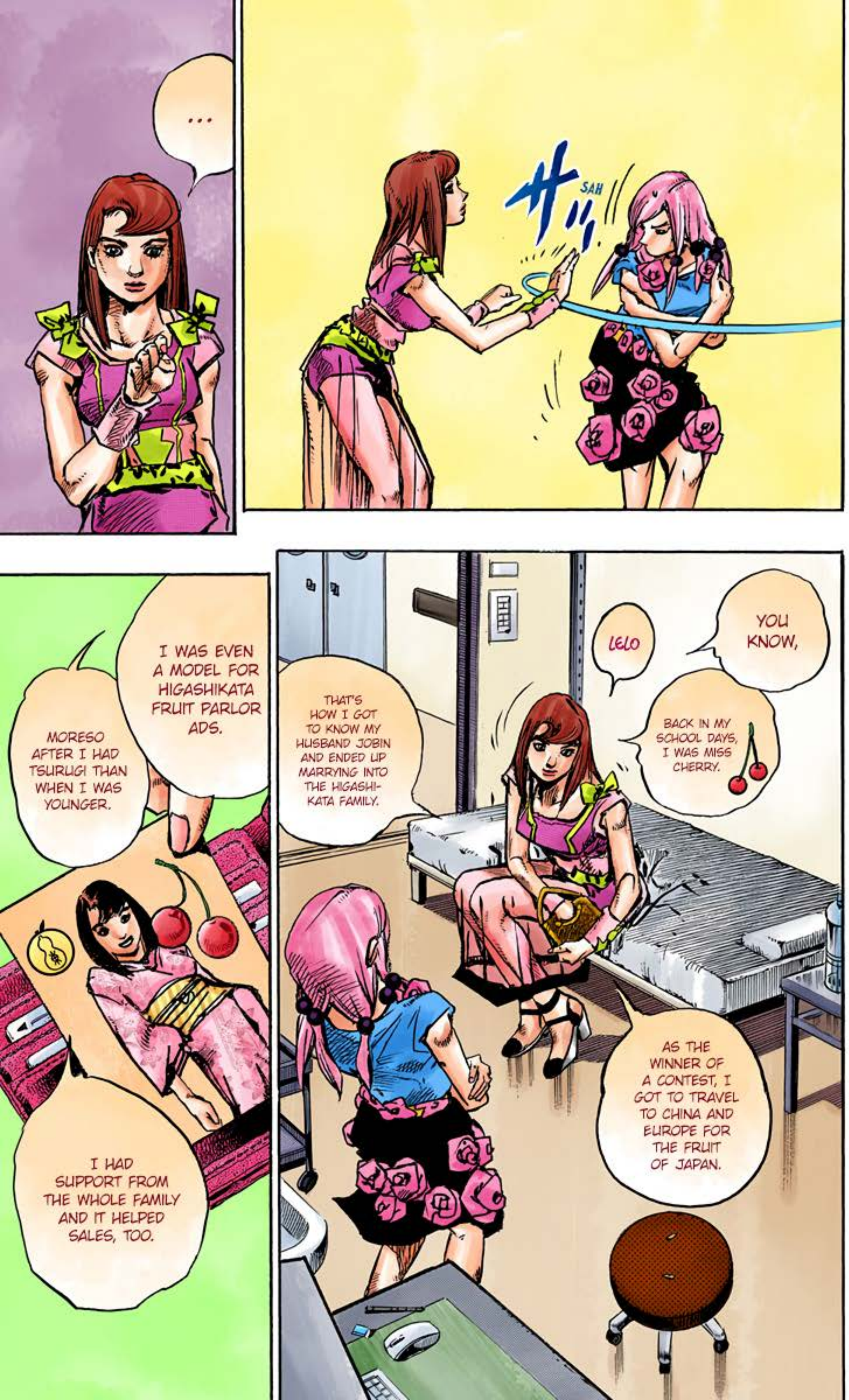
HERE?


WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
WHAT DO I...?!

THE FEEL...
...AND THE VOLUME.


YOU'RE 19 RIGHT NOW, AREN'T YOU, YASUHO-SAN?

KEEP IT A SECRET FROM JOBIN-SAN, TOO, OKAY?
I CAME TO THIS HOSPITAL FOR A "BREAST ENLARGEMENT..." NOT THAT THERE WAS ANY SURGERY...
AMAZING, AREN'T THEY? I'D SAY THEY'RE NO WORSE THAN WHEN I WAS IN MY TEENS.


...
SAH
I WAS EVEN A MODEL FOR HIGASHIKATA FRUIT PARLOR ADS.
MORESO AFTER I HAD TSURUGI THAN WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
I HAD SUPPORT FROM THE WHOLE FAMILY AND IT HELPED SALES, TOO.
THAT'S HOW I GOT TO KNOW MY HUSBAND JOBIN AND ENDED UP MARRYING INTO THE HIGASHI-KATA FAMILY.
LELO
YOU KNOW,
BACK IN MY SCHOOL DAYS, I WAS MISS CHERRY.
AS THE WINNER OF A CONTEST, I GOT TO TRAVEL TO CHINA AND EUROPE FOR THE FRUIT OF JAPAN.

MITSUBA-SAN,

I'M ASKING YOU SOMETHING VERY SIMPLE.

GETTING OLDER IS FINE AND ALL...

BUT I CAN'T LET MY NAILS GET DIRTY OR MY BREASTS SAG.

AFTER BECOMING THE WIFE OF THE HIGASHIKATA FAMILY, EVEN IF I'M A MOM, I HAVE TO KEEP TURNING HEADS OR IT'S ALL OVER FOR ME.

YOU KNOW...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... YOU'RE RIGHT.

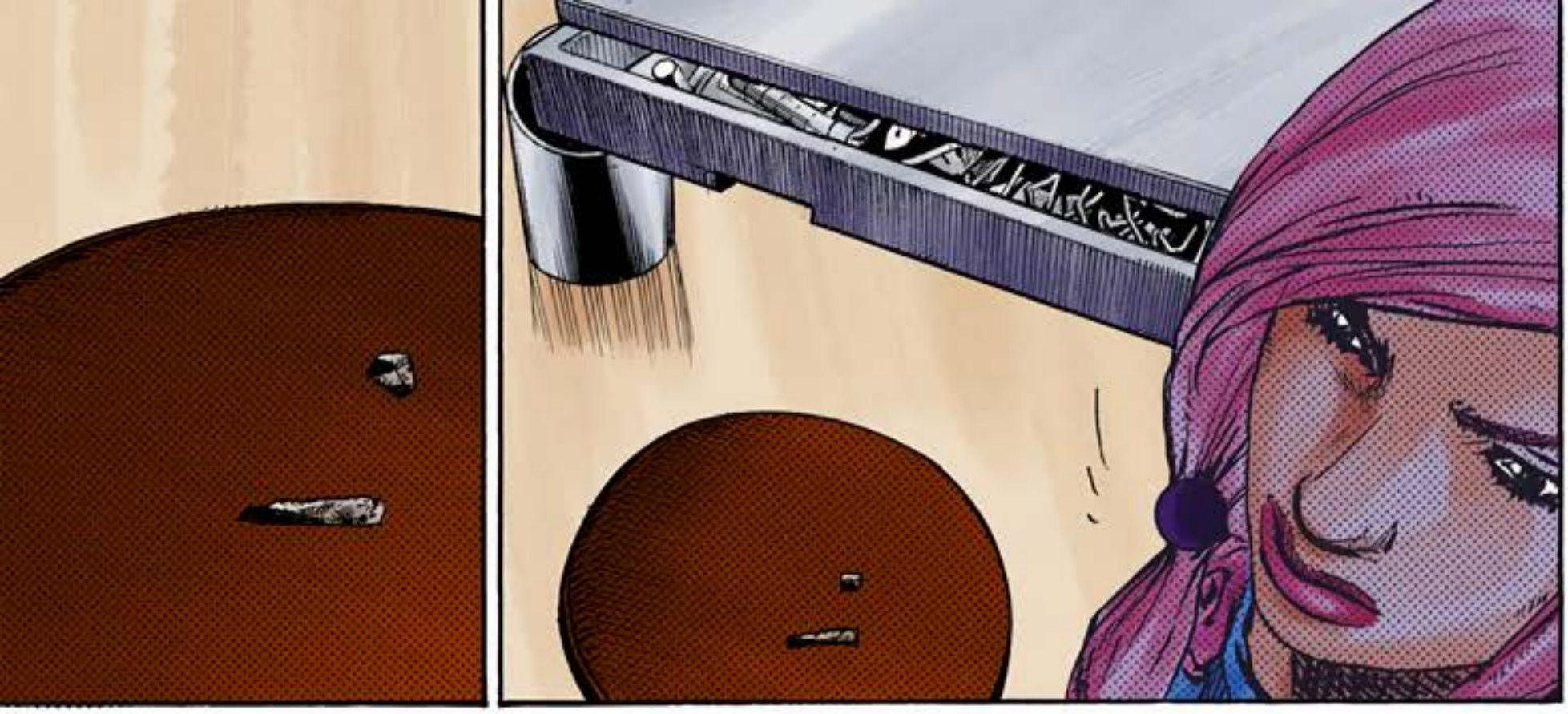
THERE ARE NO OTHER DOORS OR WINDOWS THE DOCTOR COULD HAVE GONE OUT THORUGH.

OH...?

HM?

IF YOU CAME HERE FOR AN EXAM...

...THEN WHERE IS ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, WU-SENSEI, WHO YOU CAME TO SEE? HE'S NOT ANYWHERE IN HERE!

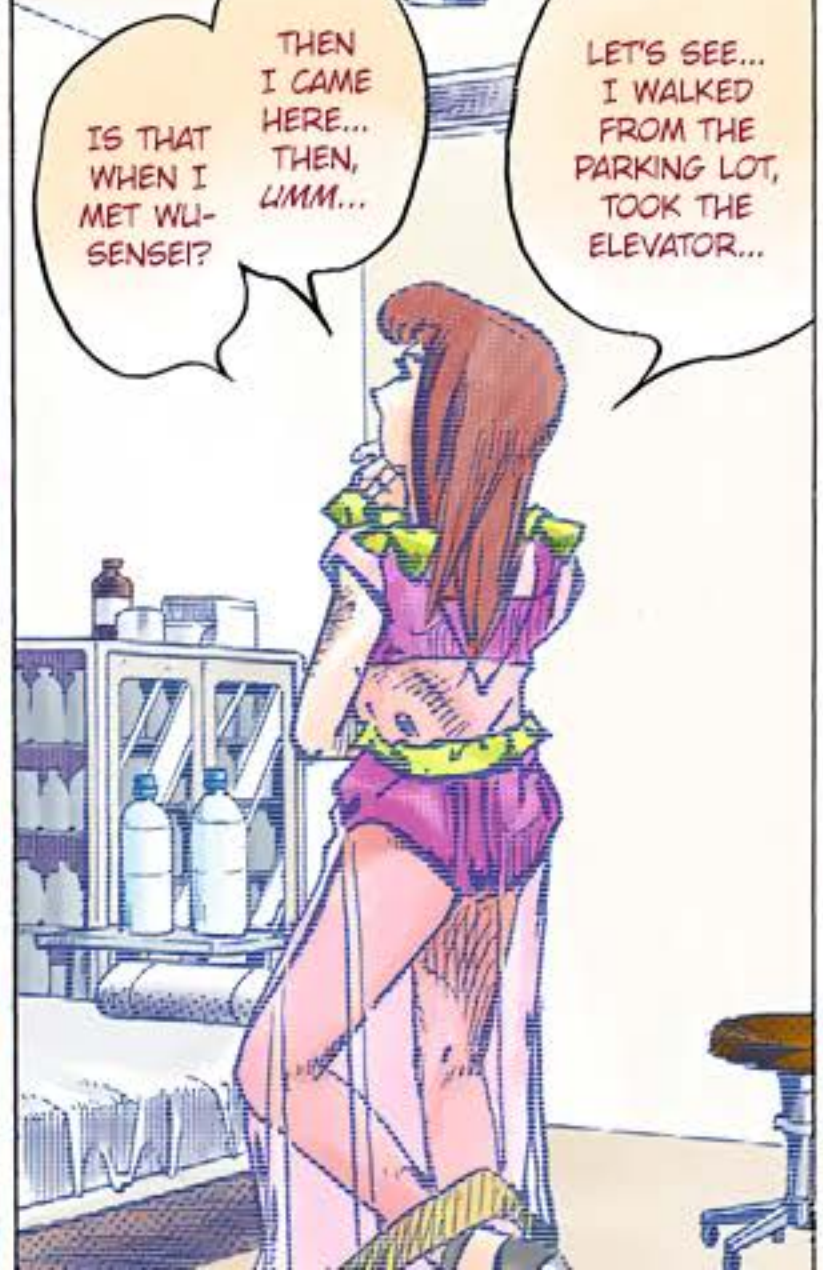


...

WAIT, ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS? YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
...

YOU HAVE A GOOD POINT THERE... WHERE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO?
WU-SENSEI...

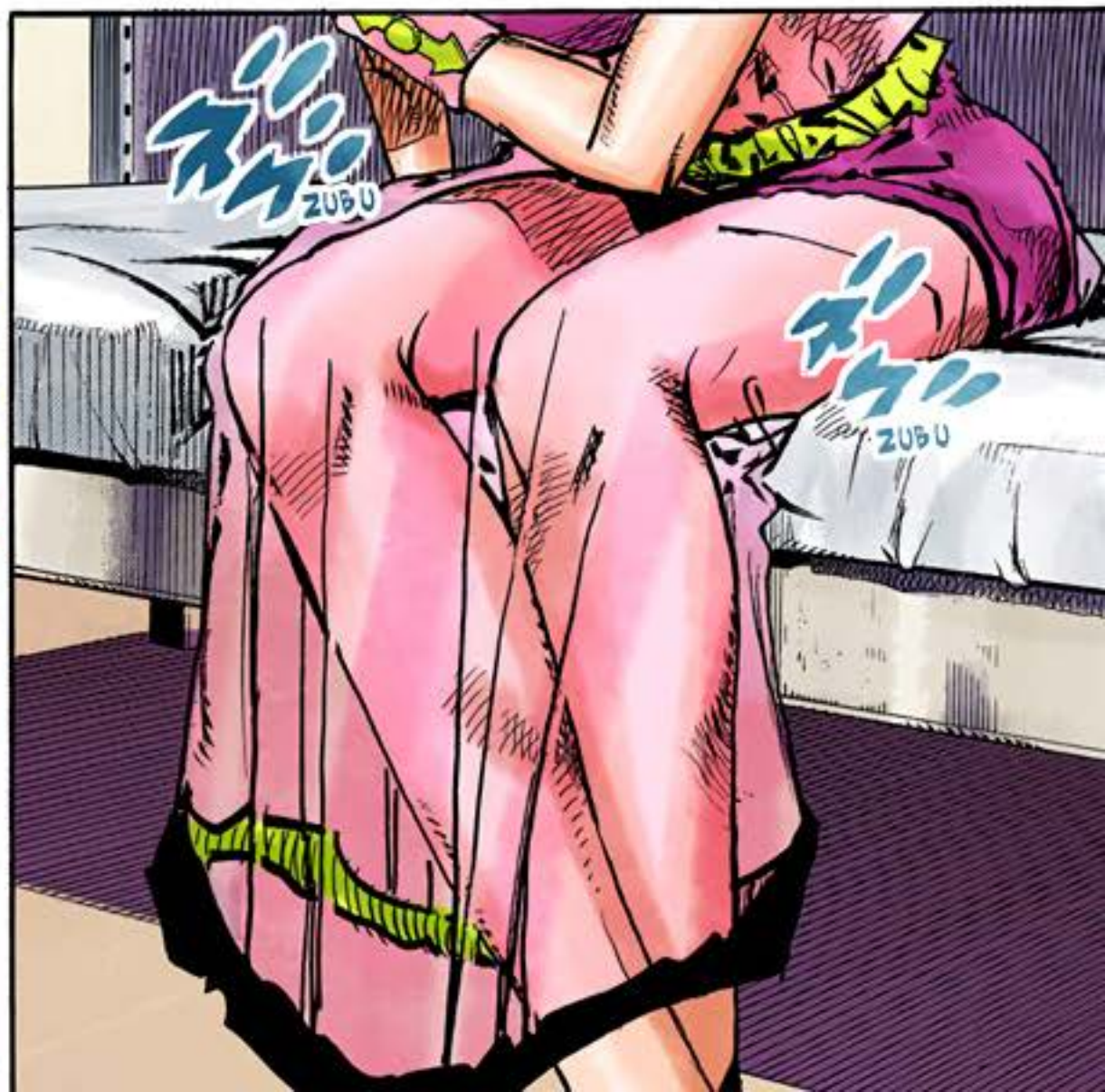
DID YOU REMEMBER SOME-THING?
...MI-TSUBA-SAN...

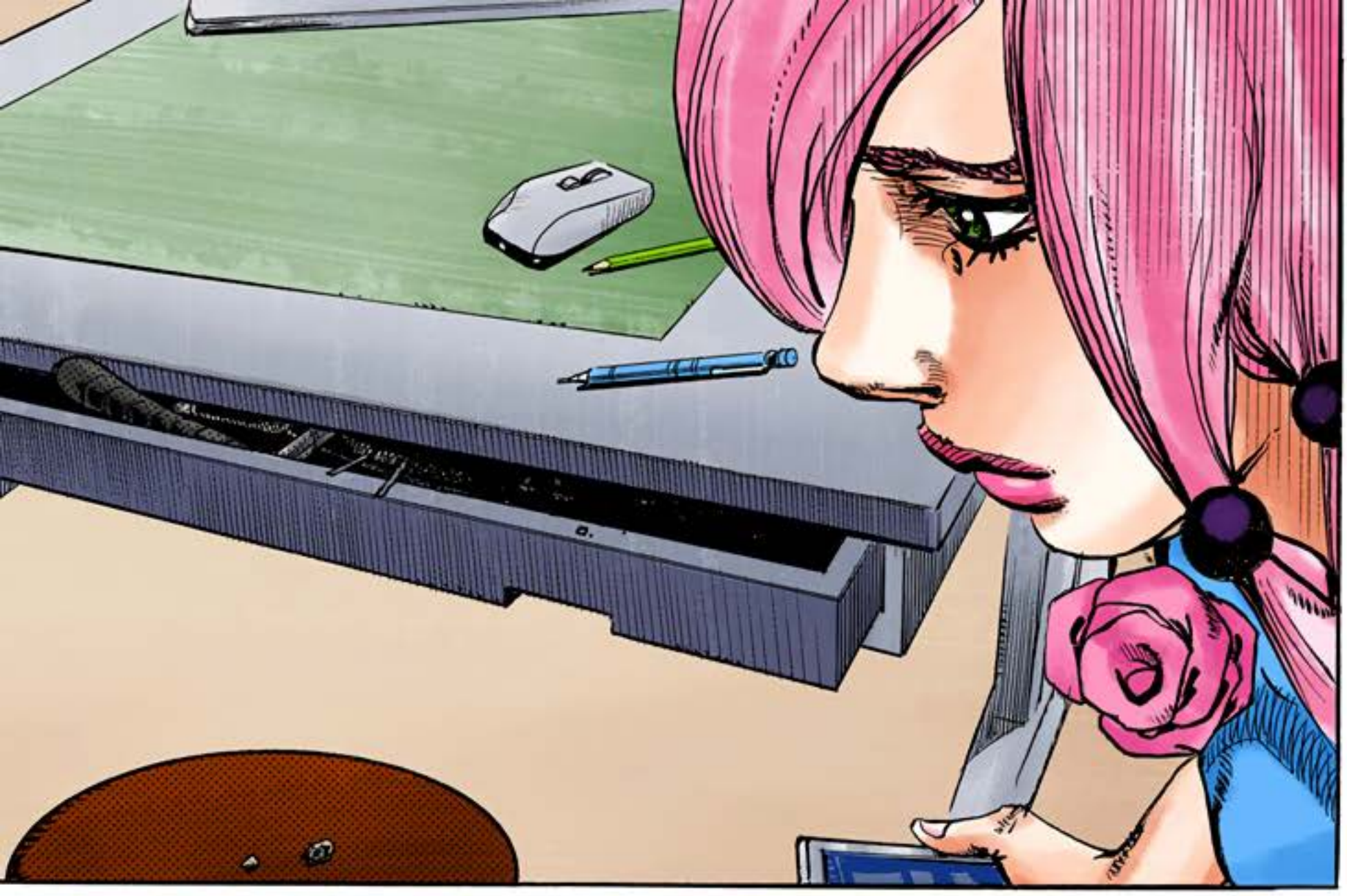

IS THAT WHEN I MET WU-SENSEI?
THEN I CAME HERE... THEN, UMM...
LET'S SEE... I WALKED FROM THE PARKING LOT, TOOK THE ELEVATOR...

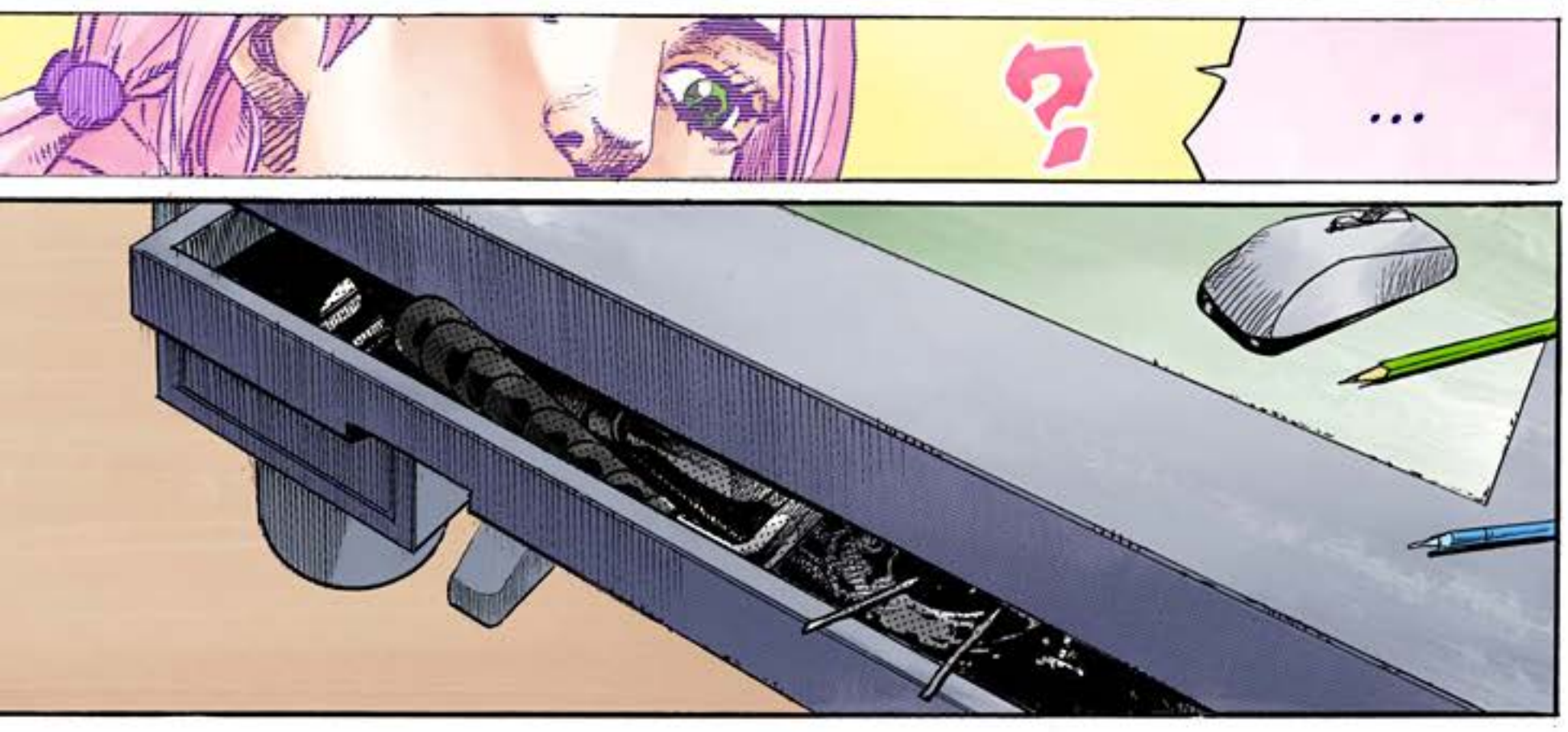
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME... AFTER I ARRIVED AT THIS HOSPITAL? I THINK...

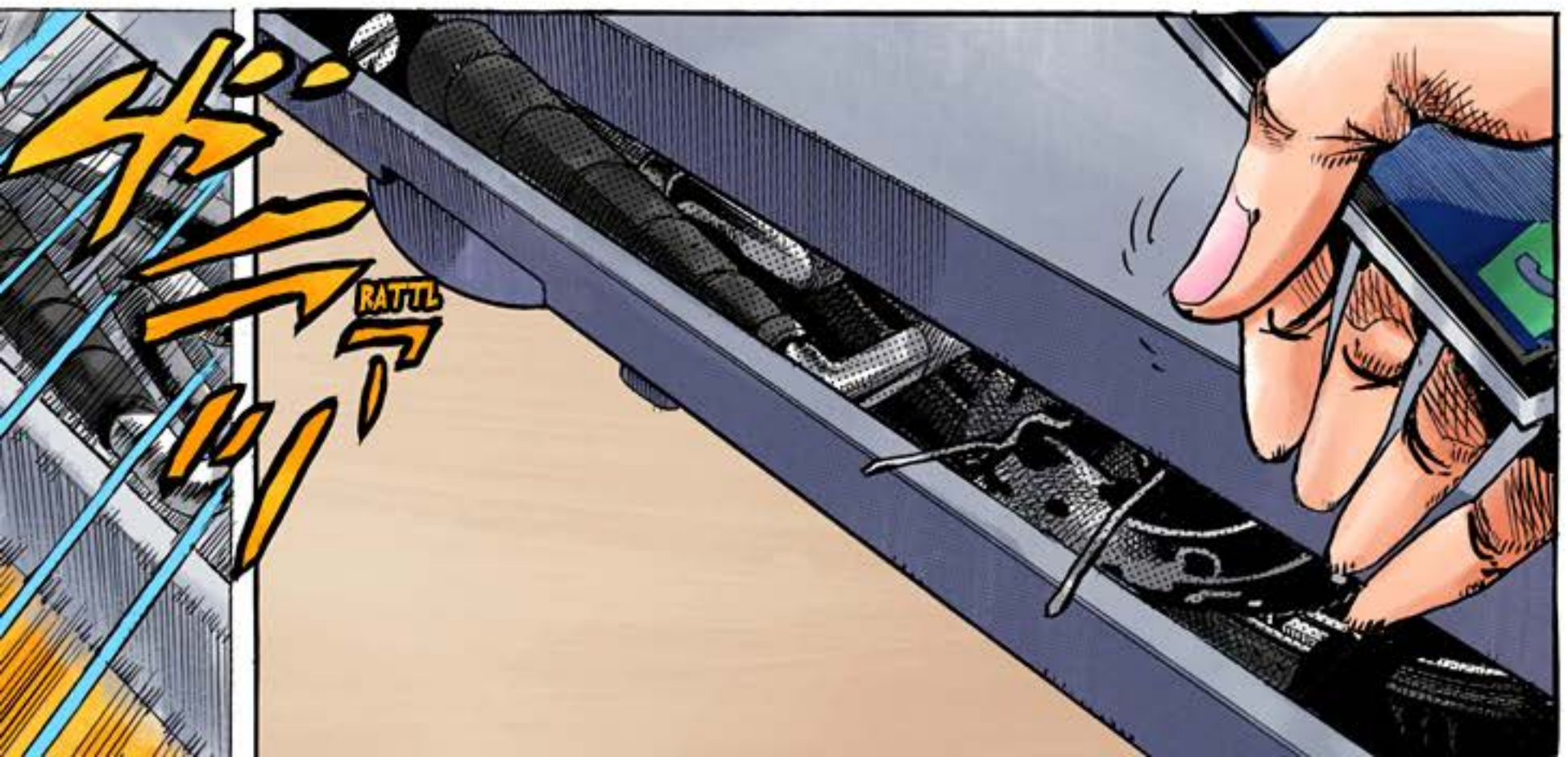
HOLD ON A MINUTE!

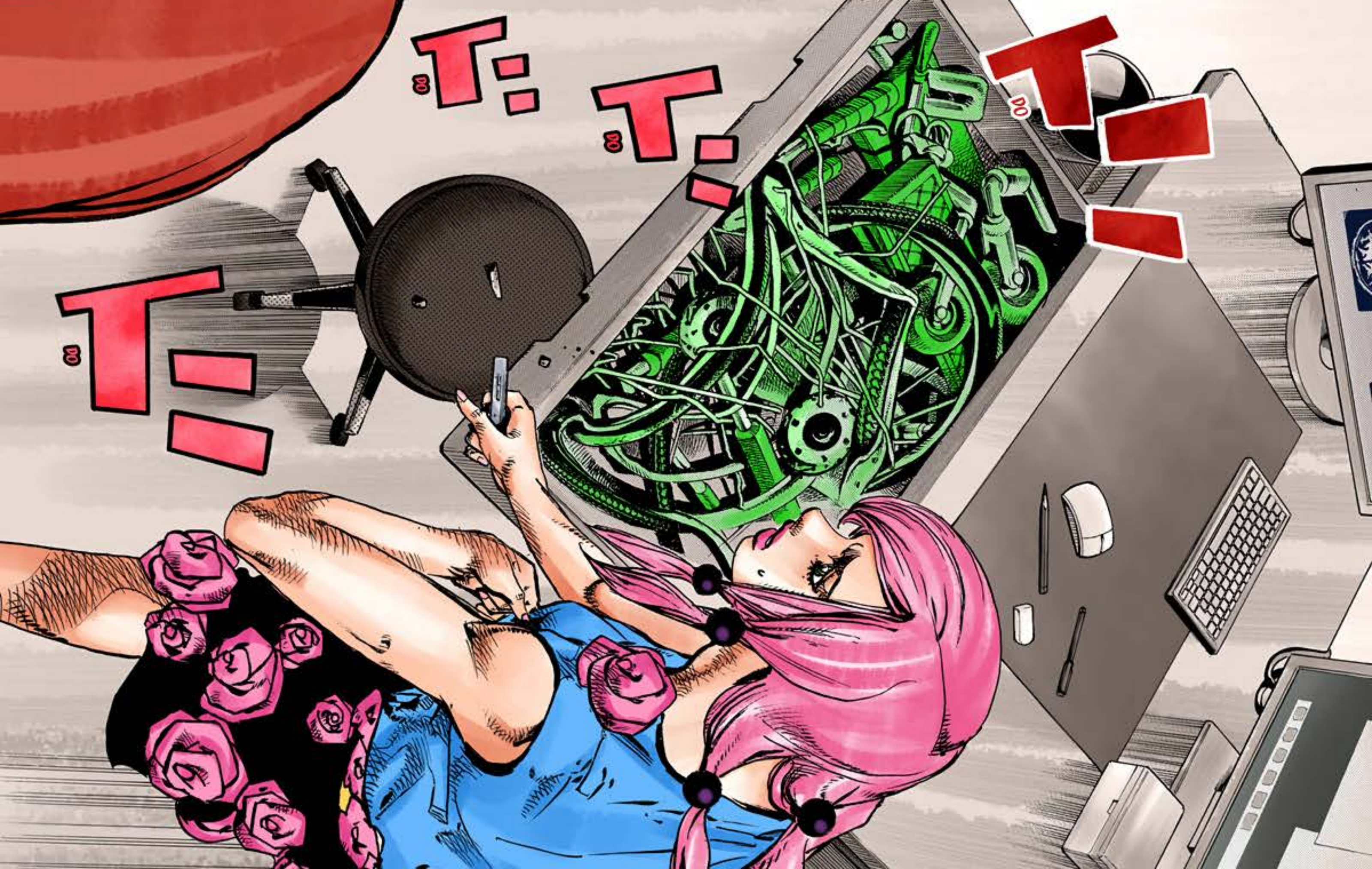
SOME OF IT'S COMING BACK TO ME NOW.





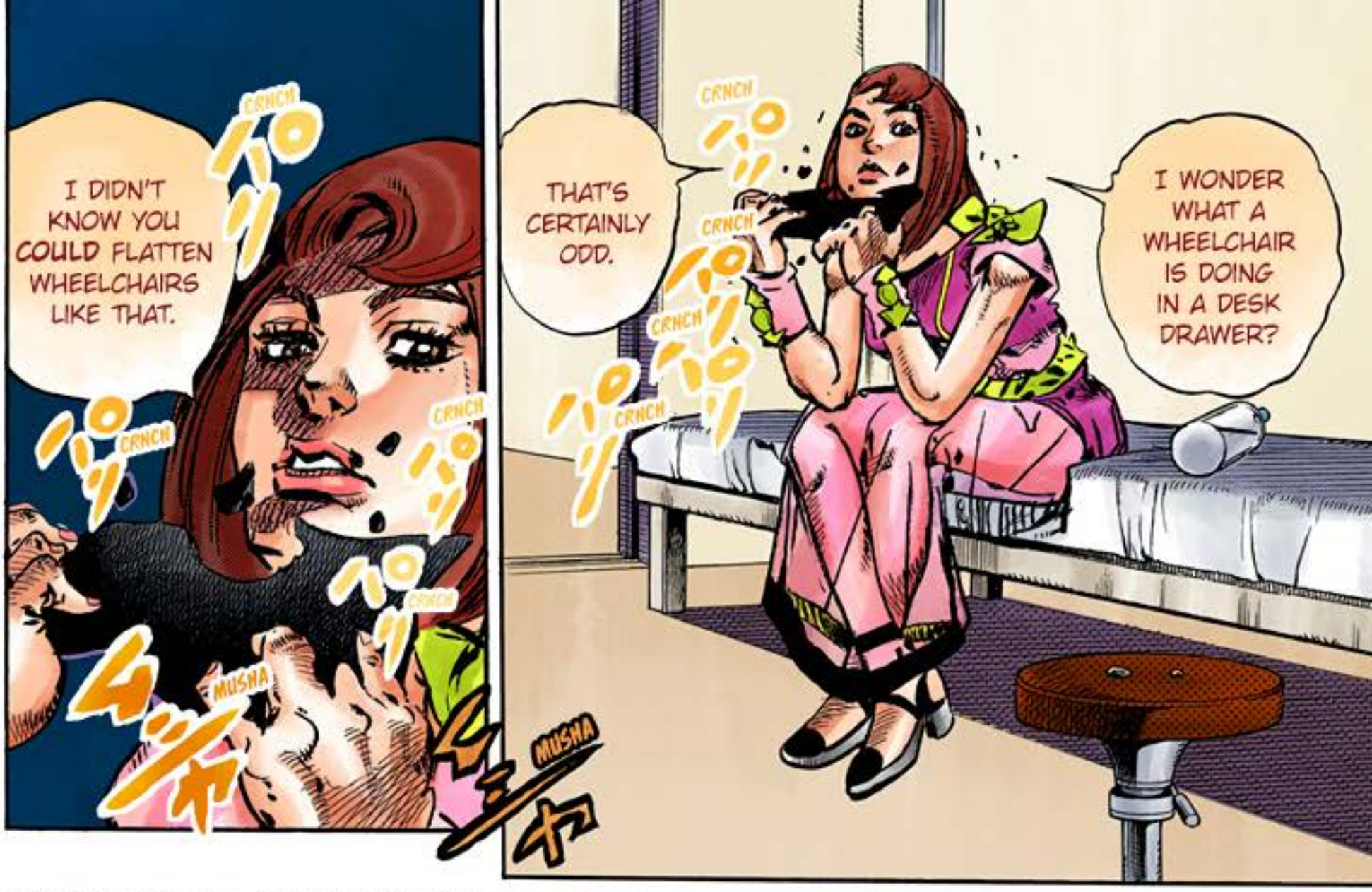

...
?

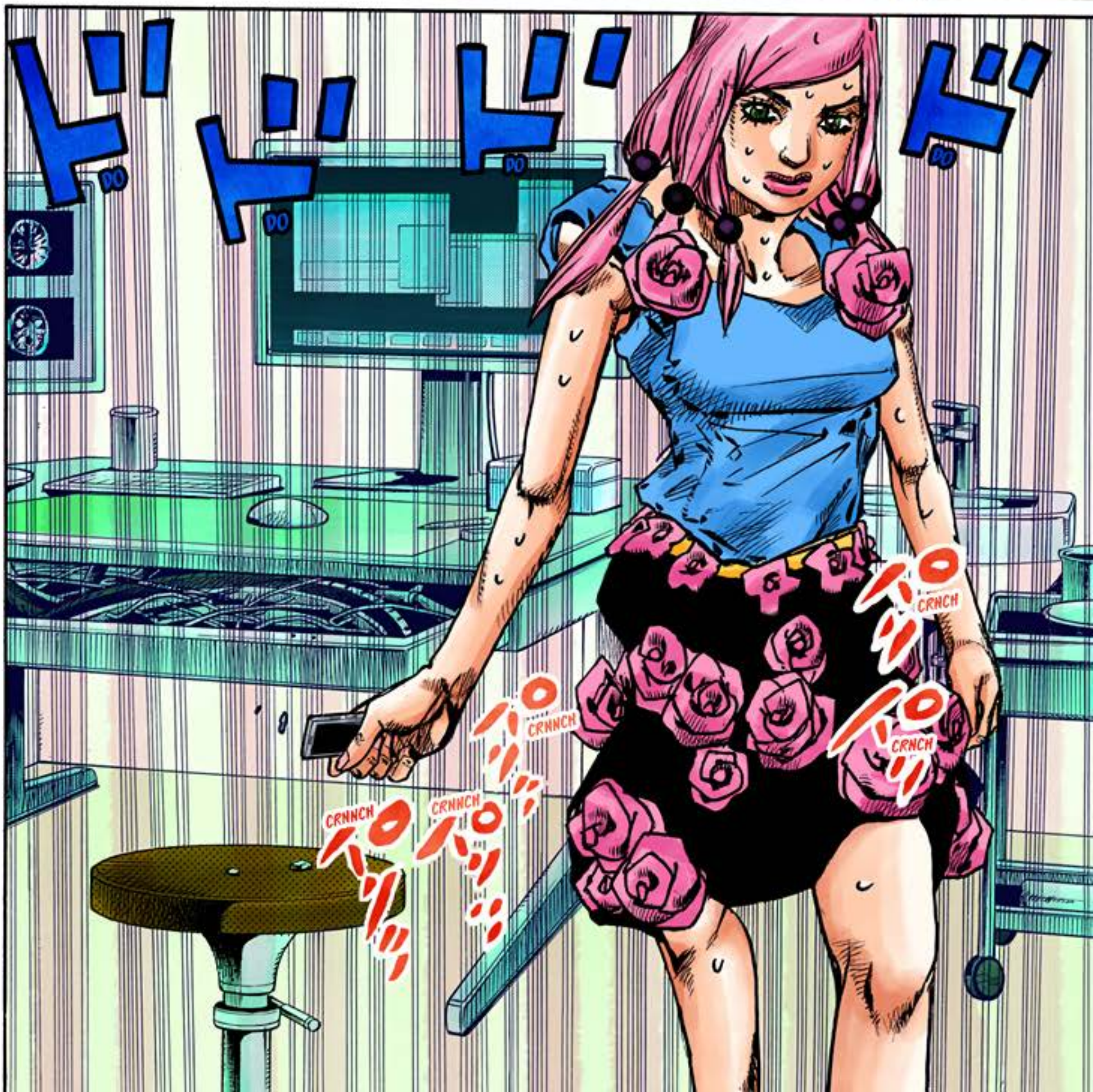

RATTL


T
T
T
T

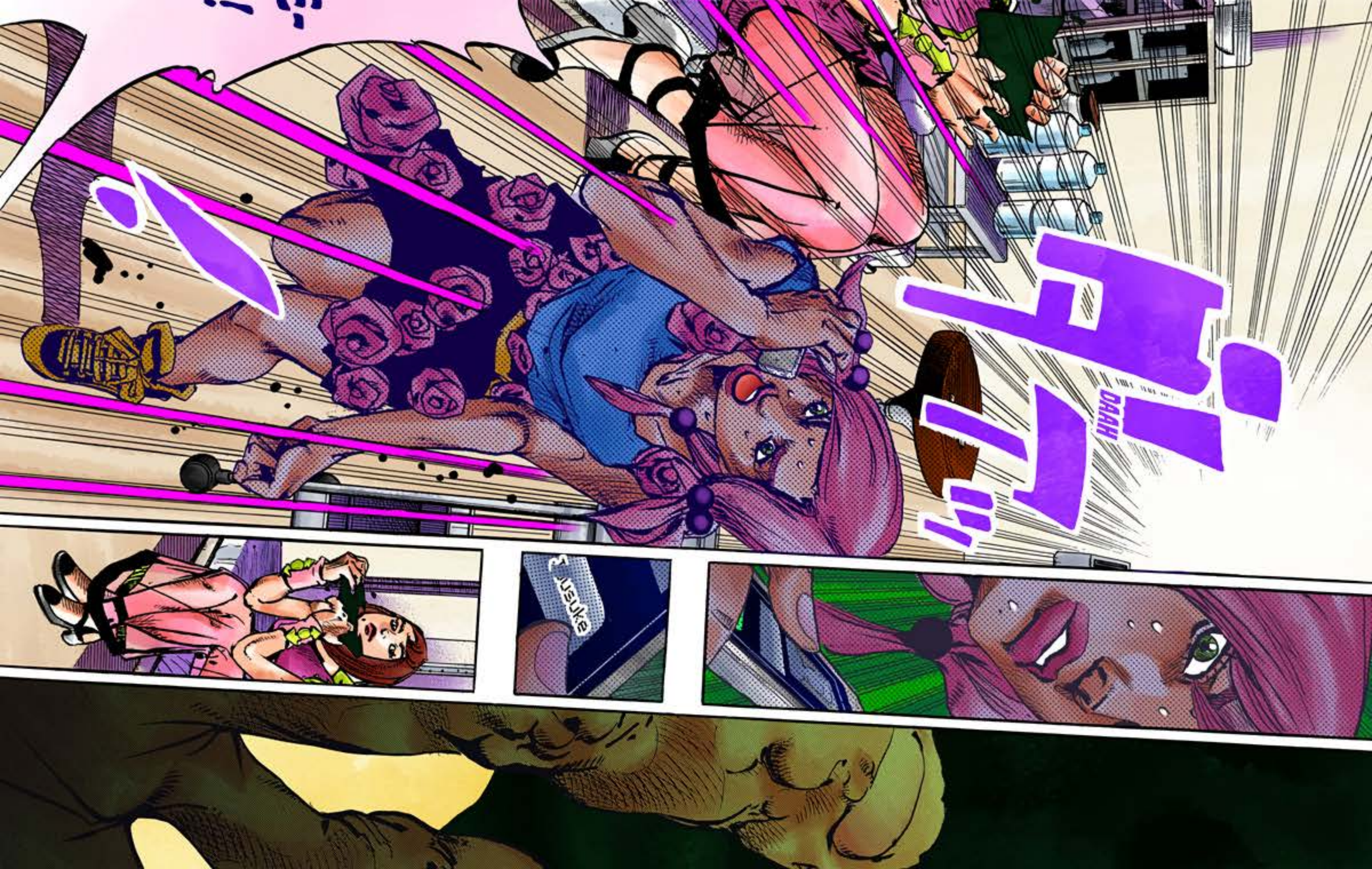
IT'S... IT'S TOTALLY FLAT...! WH- *'WHAT'* HAPPENED TO THIS WHEEL-CHAIR?!

ドドド


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD FLATTEN WHEELCHAIRS LIKE THAT.
CRNCH
MUSHA
THAT'S CERTAINLY ODD.
I WONDER WHAT A WHEELCHAIR IS DOING IN A DESK DRAWER?
CRNCH
MUSHA


ドドドドド
DO
CRNCH
CRNNCH

ドドド


ガ!
DAAH
ン
Susuke

HELLO, YASUHO-CHAN?

GOH

GYURI

GYURI

GYURI

GYURI

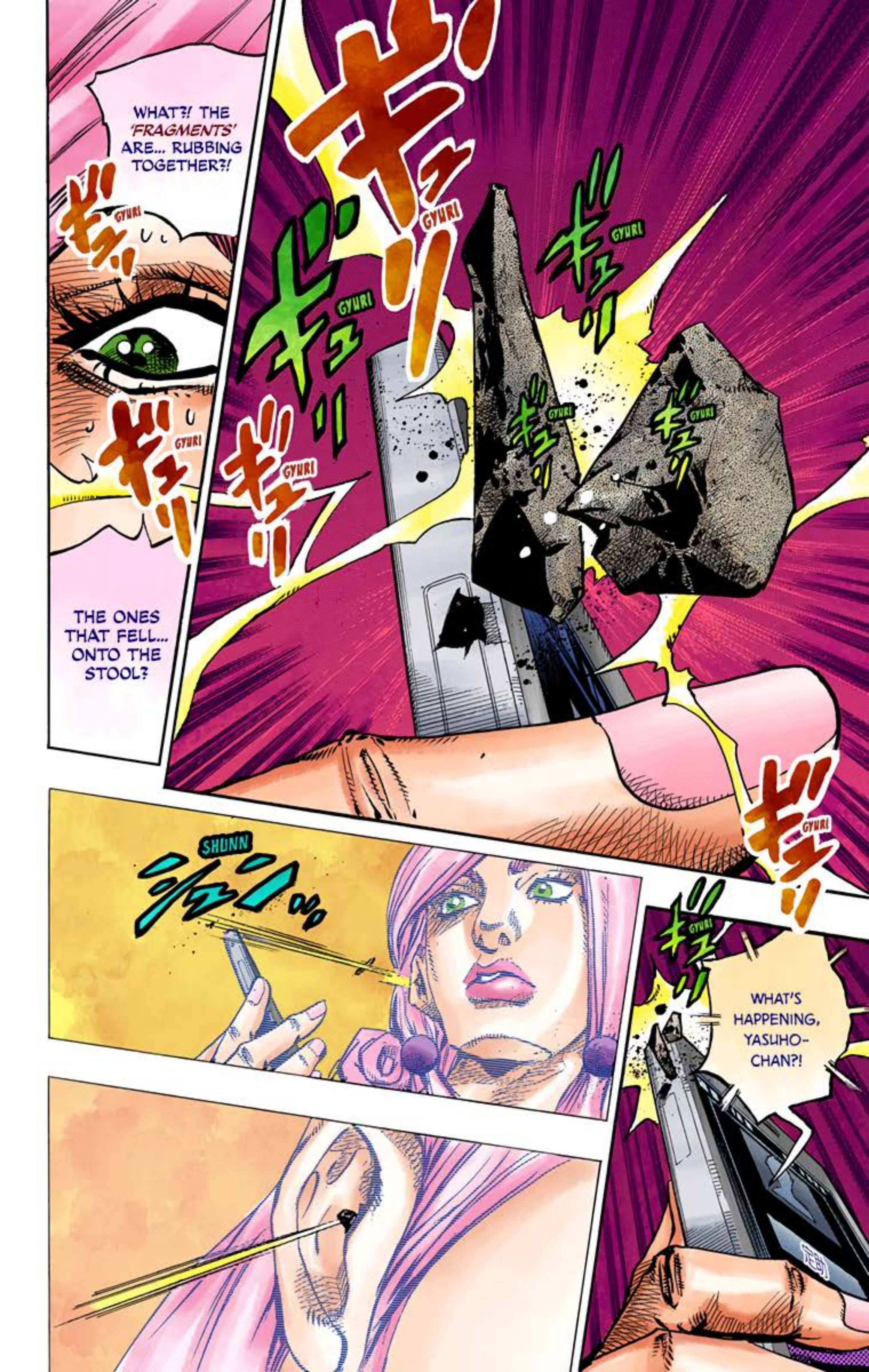
GYURI

GYURI

JOSUKE
EEEEE

GYURI
UU
UH
HUH ...?!
AH!
UUGH

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?! YASUHO-SAN, WHAT IS THAT SOUND?!
UAAA AAAAA! M-MAKE IT STOP!!
GYURI


WHAT?! THE 'FRAGMENTS' ARE... RUBBING TOGETHER?!
GYURI
THE ONES THAT FELL... ONTO THE STOOL?
SHUNN
WHAT'S HAPPENING, YASUHO-CHAN?!

GABO

BUH

ドドオン

DODOON

PUKU

PUKU

PUKU

WE'LL BE AT THE HOSPITAL IN A SECOND!! HELLO?!

UUH

YASUHO-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!

HELLO?!

ドドド

19 THE ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON - WU TOMOKI-SENSEI (END)