GOODNIGHT PUNPUN 13

ASANO INIO

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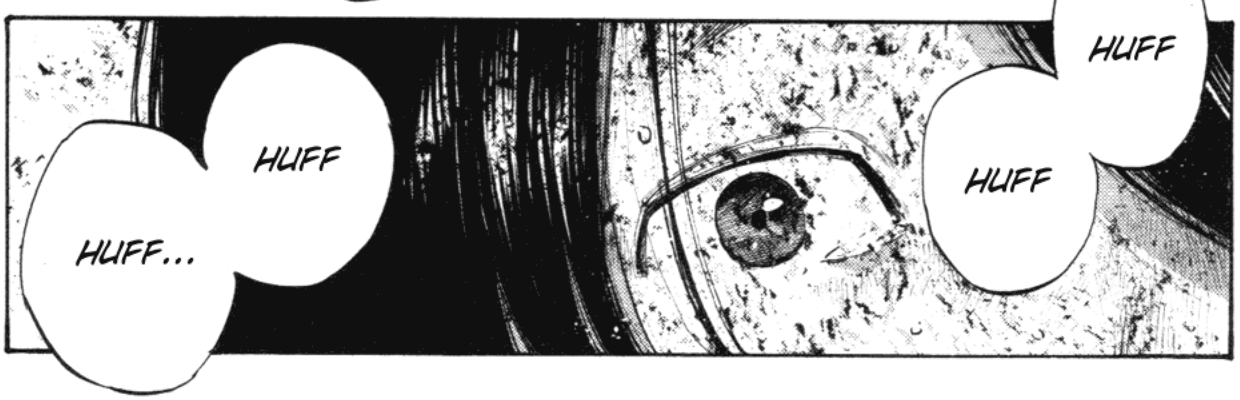
YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

THERE'S A FIRE!
SEKI!
"If you'll believe in me,
I'll protect you from all harm."

Chapter 135

STAND BACK, EVERY-ONE!
WHERE'S THE FIRE TRUCK!?
IT'S DAN-GEROUS HERE!
PLEASE STAND FARTHER BACK!
AGHHHH!
WHHYYYY!?
NOOOOOO!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF...

...Nanjou,
You still awake?

Oh...
Go to sleep... You work too hard...
I think I see smoke...

Continuing on with our headlines,
Is our top story of the day so far.

Along with signs of strangulation, there were several stab wounds on her abdominal region, leading police to treat it as a possible murder case.

According to the police, the discovered body was identified as the 41 year-old Tanaka Mitsuko, a resident of XXX city of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.

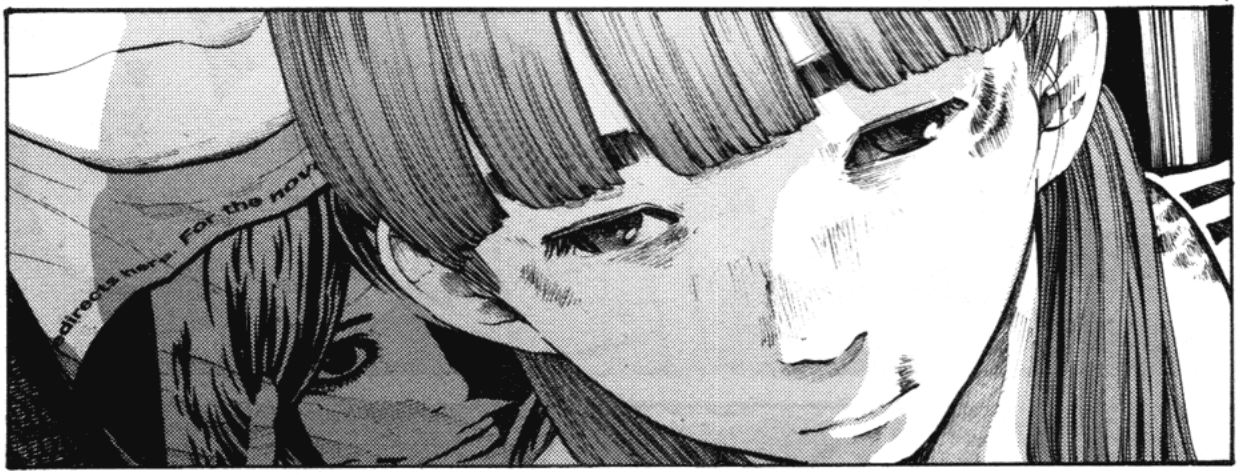
In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,

June 30, Noon

"Let's just calm down and think about it..."

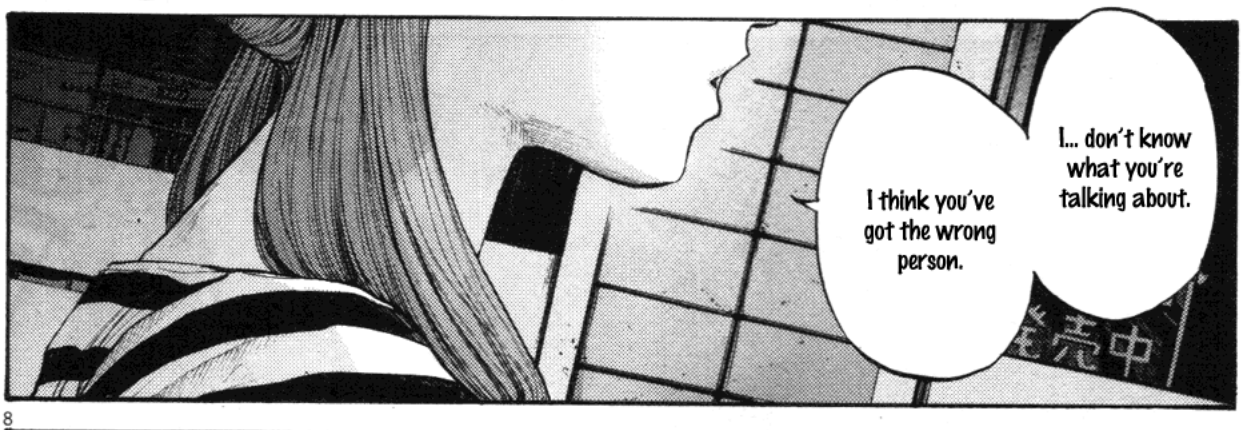
Umm...

Excuse me but,
You're Orihara Aiko... Right?



I've, uhh... been quite a fan since your "Young Man Grand Prix" magazine days...
The store might not be the best place so, I... Well here I am.
I know I'm coming across as a rather obsessed fanboy, but...
You know, I was there for your Cherries Club debut event. Front row, even. Do you remember!?

Ahaha...
Sorry, I'll stop with the private questions. I'll of course keep quiet about your boyfriend as well.
I am a professional fan, after all...
The long break you've taken doesn't mean that you've retired, does it?
...You are still keeping in touching with Yuzuki from your same agency, right?


I... don't know what you're talking about.
I think you've got the wrong person.

8

I mean, back in the store just now,
The form was signed with your real name, Tanaka Aiko...

Huh?
Oh c'mon! You're joking, right!?

"Like she just said..."

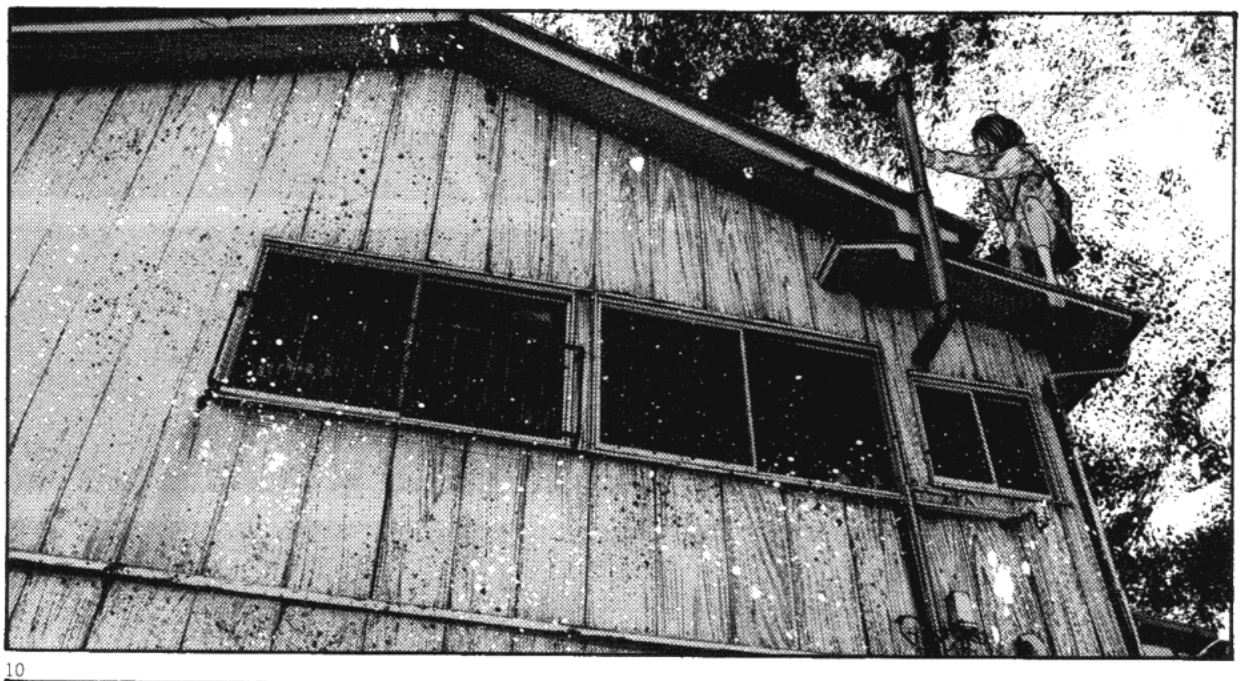
"Read the mood and get lost, you dumbass."

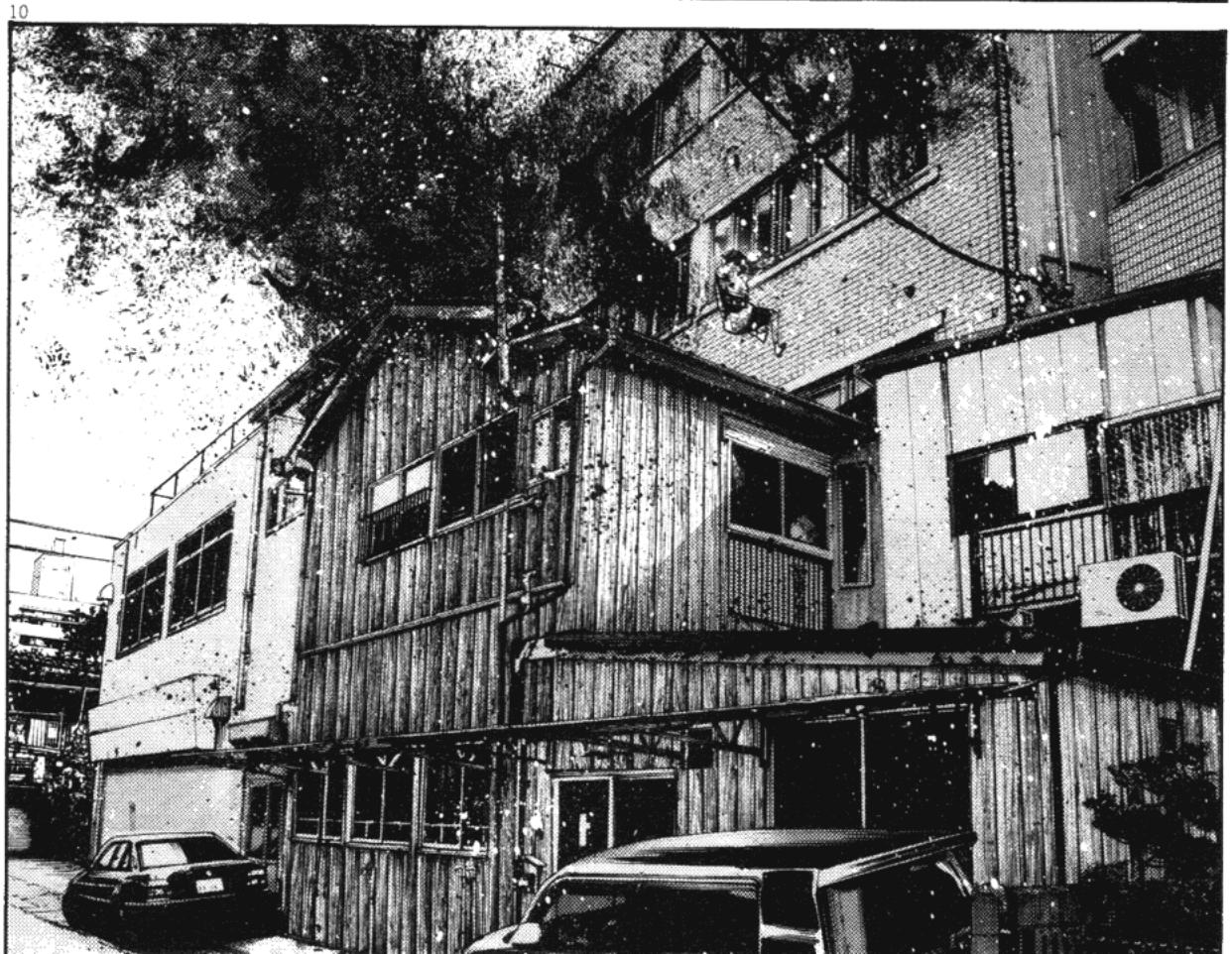
You know, I...

I just found a job and a place to live...

"...Even so, we can't stay any longer on this island, Aiko."

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!



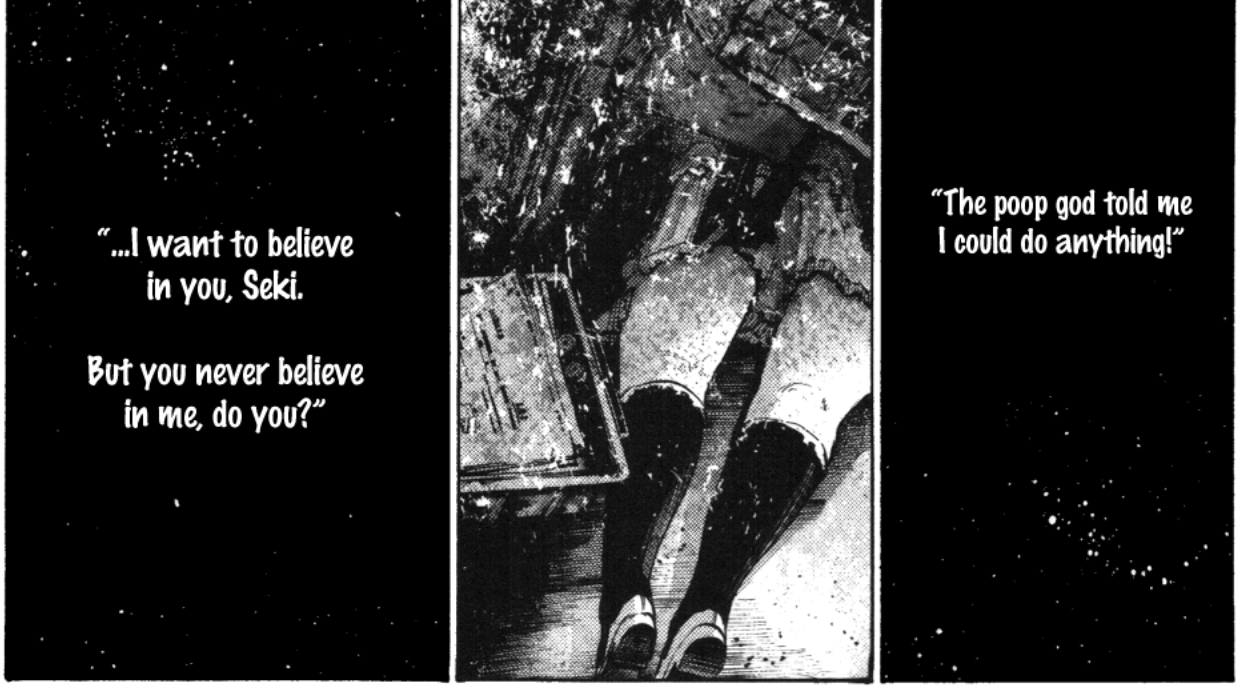


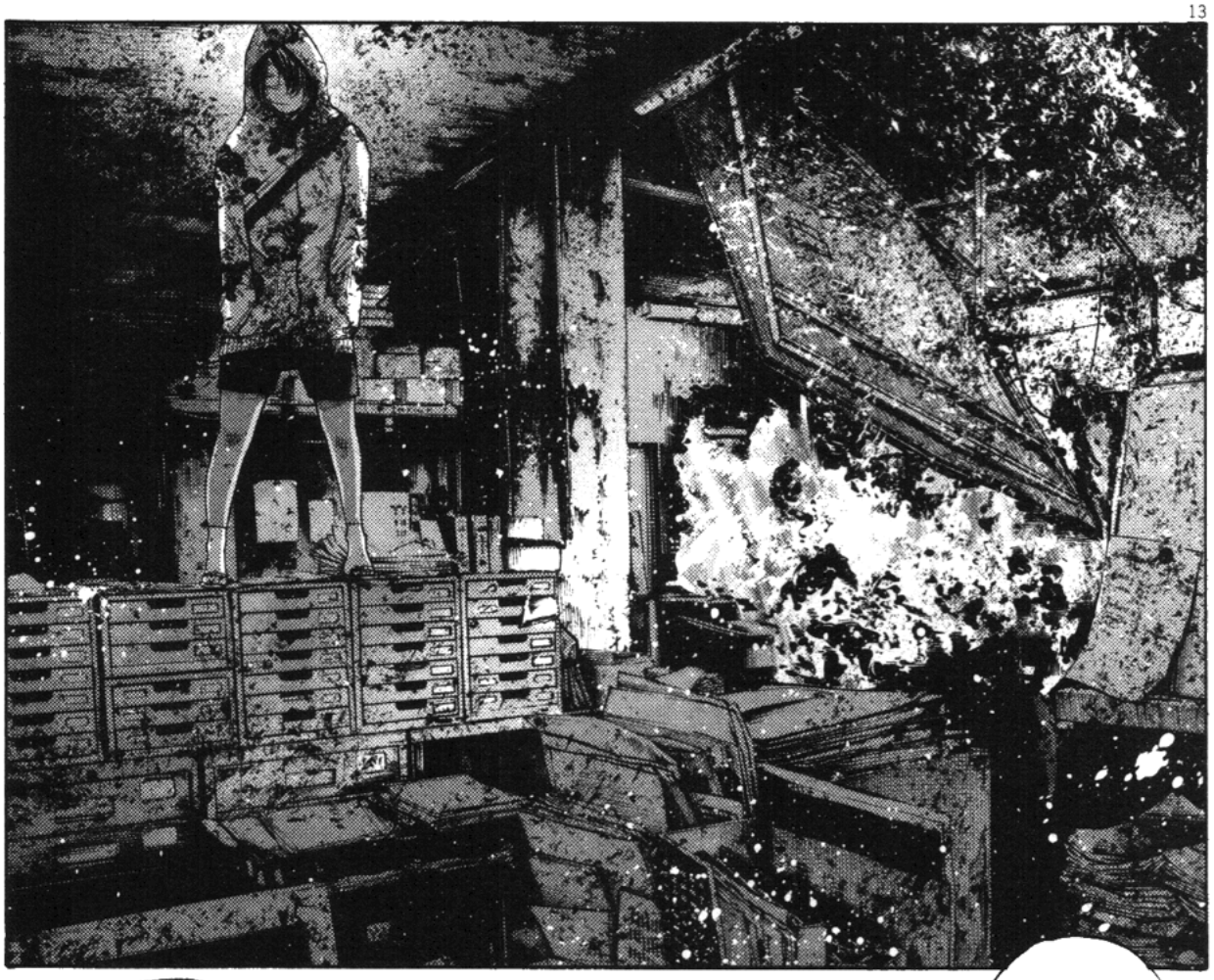
"Seki, you always say you're doing this and that all for my own sake but...

In the end, you only think about your own self..."

Where's Shimizu...?

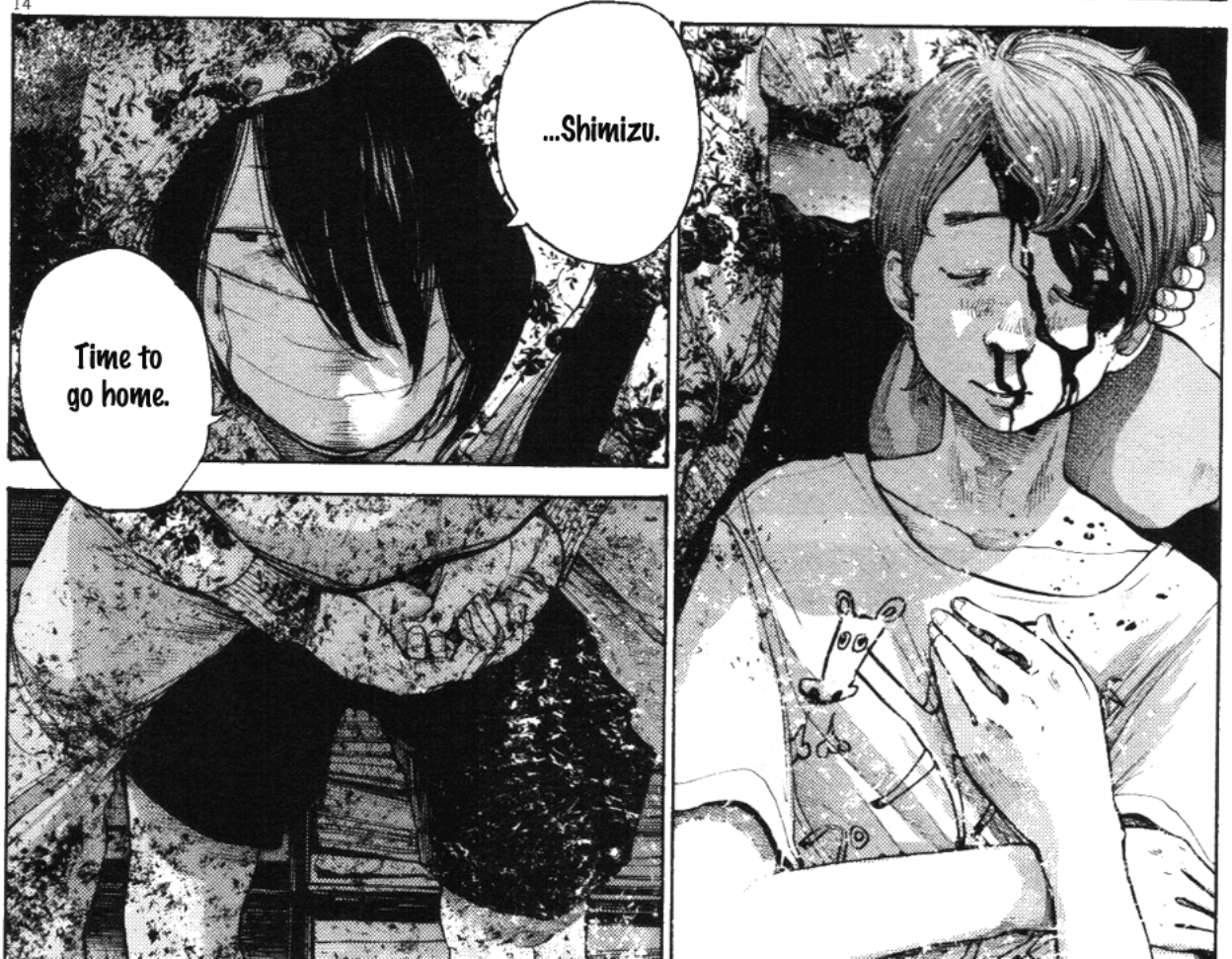
You should...
HURRY UP AND GET OUTTA HERE!

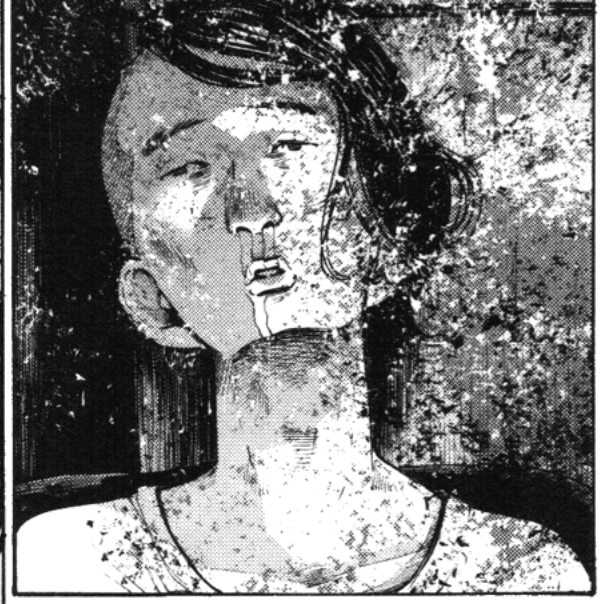

"...I want to believe in you, Seki.
But you never believe in me, do you?"
"The poop god told me I could do anything!"

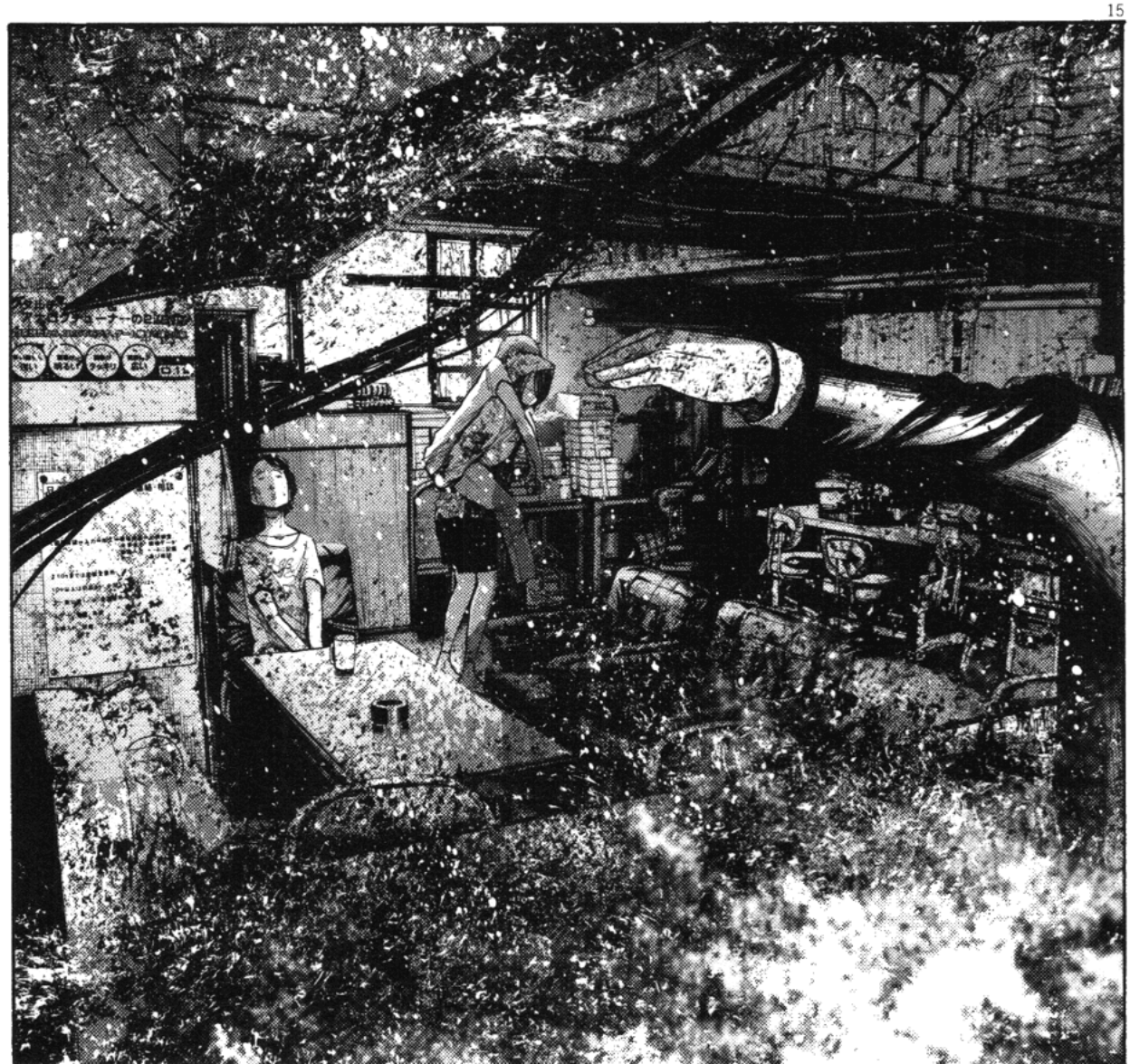


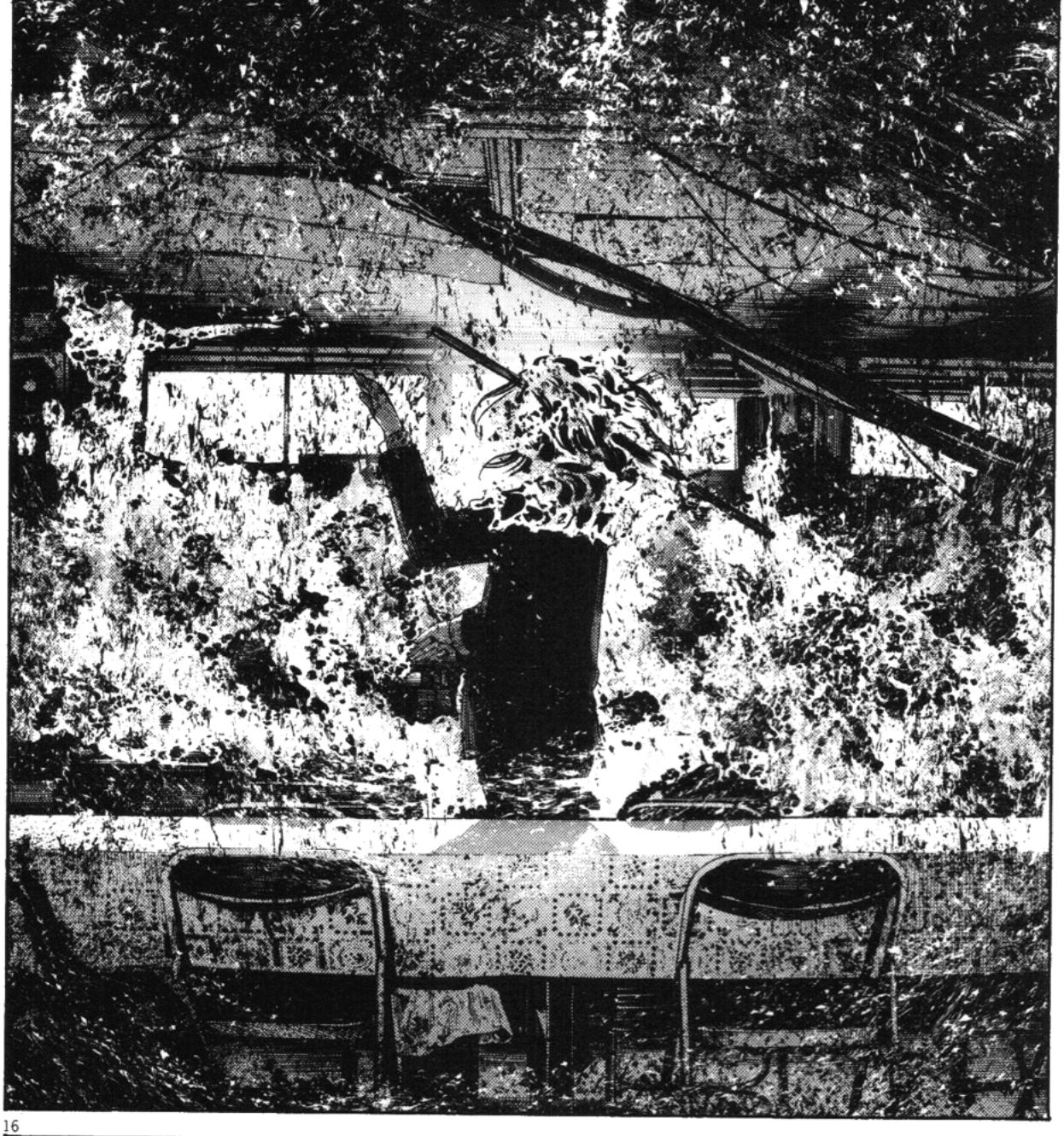
None of that matters...
Believing or not believing in someone...

I can do anything I set my mind to...
Just with my own will,
Just look at me...


Time to go home.
...Shimizu.







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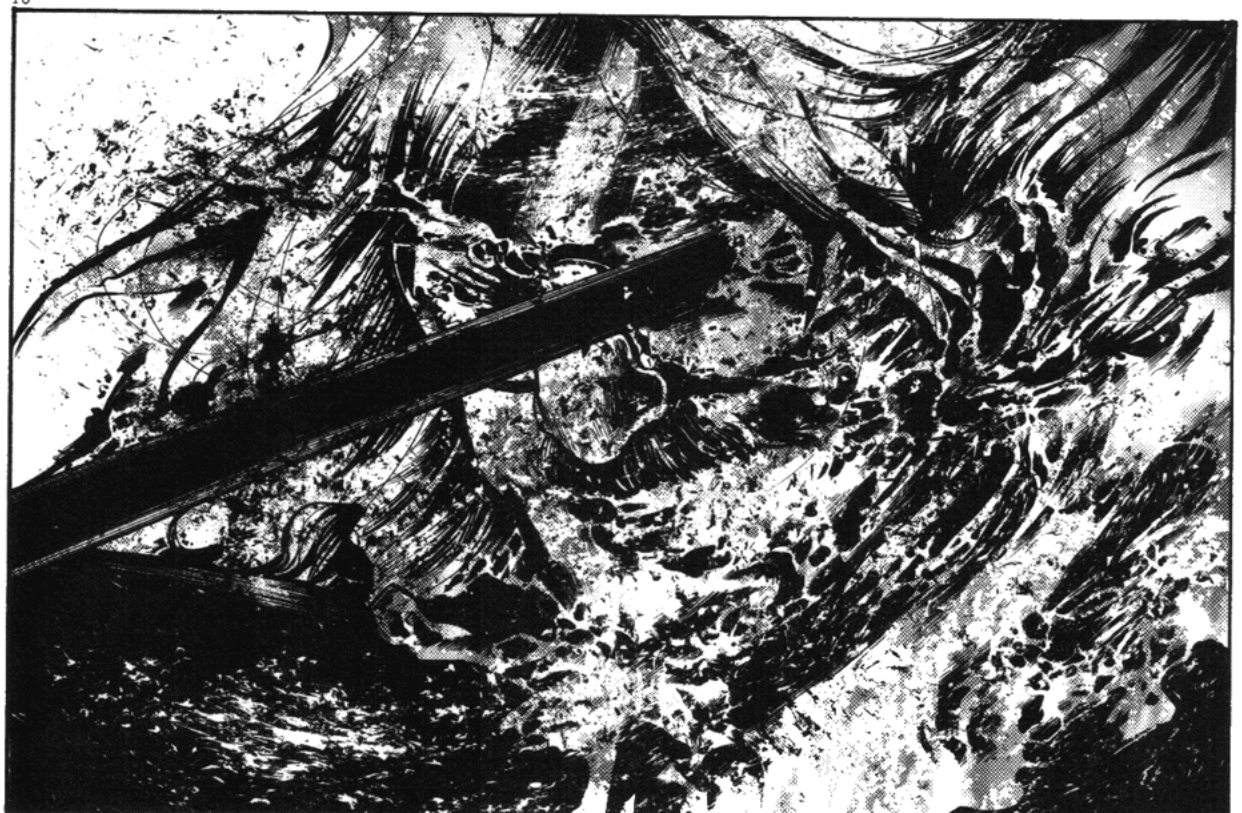
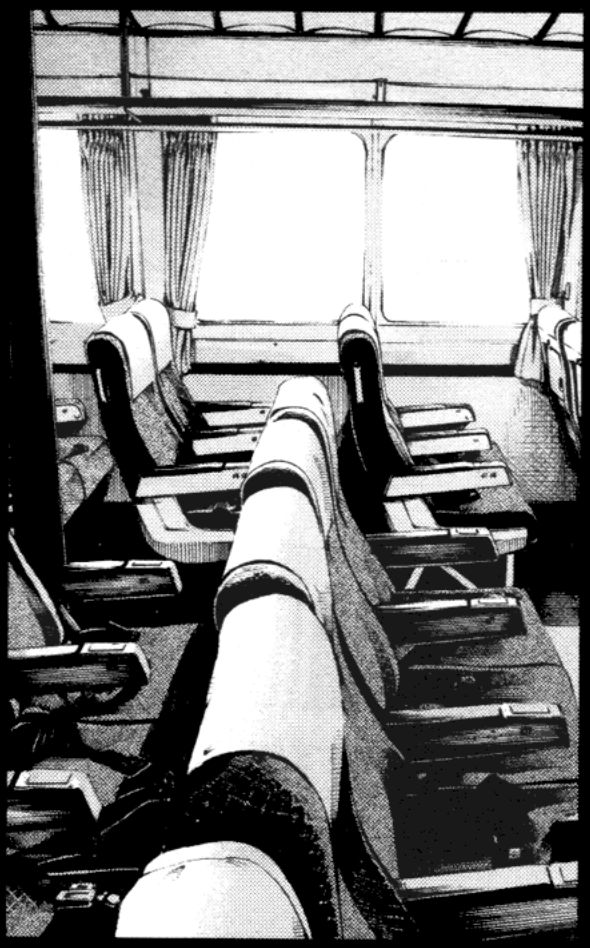




...Lovers,

Chapter 136

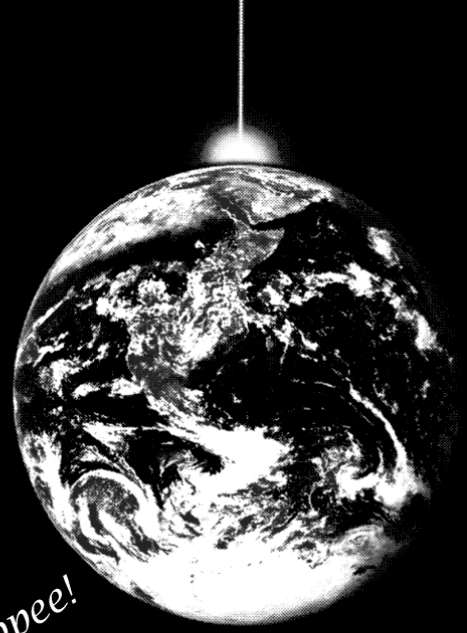
My actions and these words are perhaps but a single musical note on the line engraved on to the ever perpetuous Akashic records.

And yet I wait.
...Yes, I wait in anticipation, despite how foolish it may seem.
I wait for the coming of a completely harmonized new world.

Even if this body of mine rots away, forgotten by all,
I believe that the vibrations of my magical warriors
will reverberate to you all.

Even if this world were to return eventually.
...I do so because I have lived for this single moment.

...Now then,
It is time for the most sublime vibration...
Yes, that, in other words.



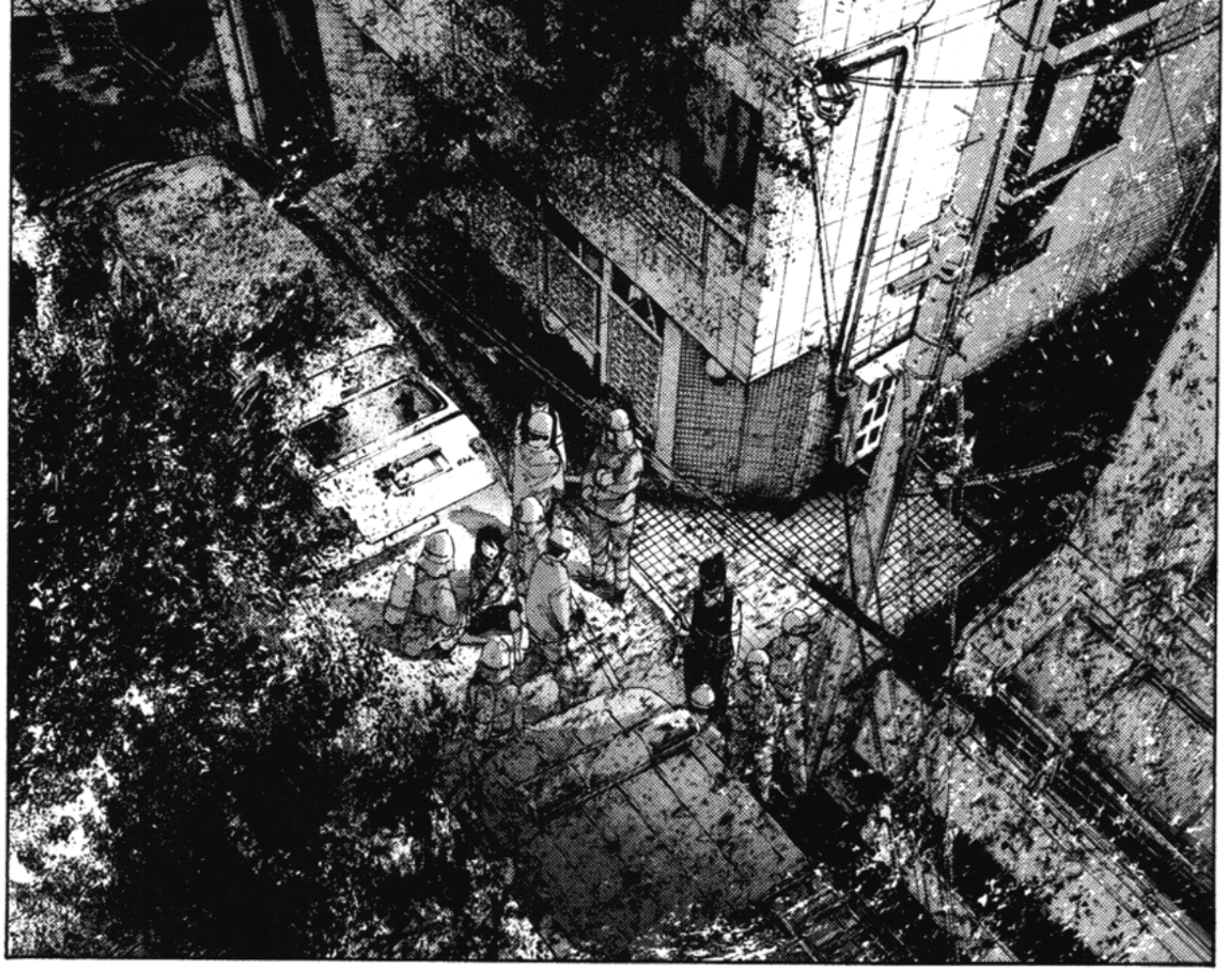
Yippee!

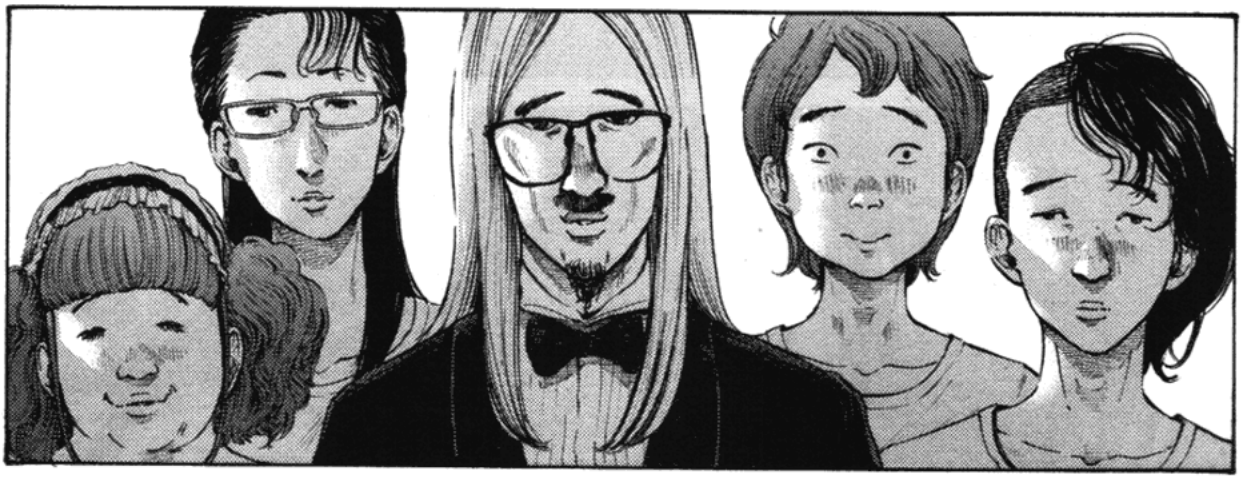
GOOD VIBRATIONS

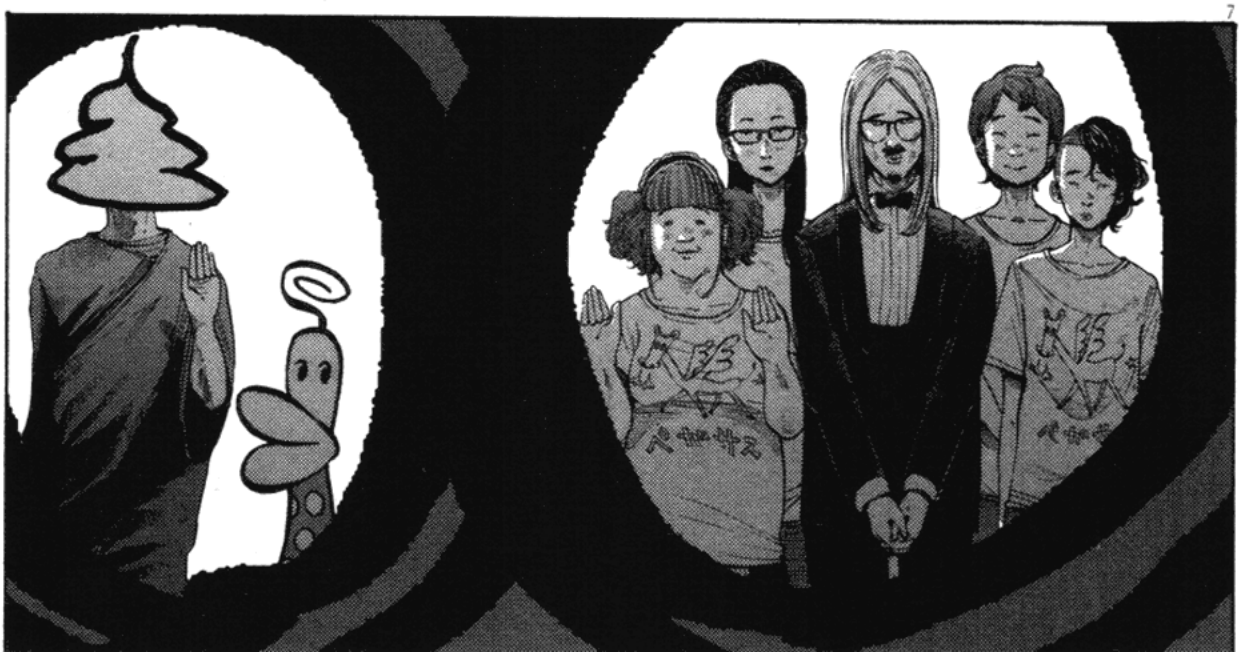
WE'VE SECURED 2 SURVI-VORS!
BRING THE STRET-CHERS!

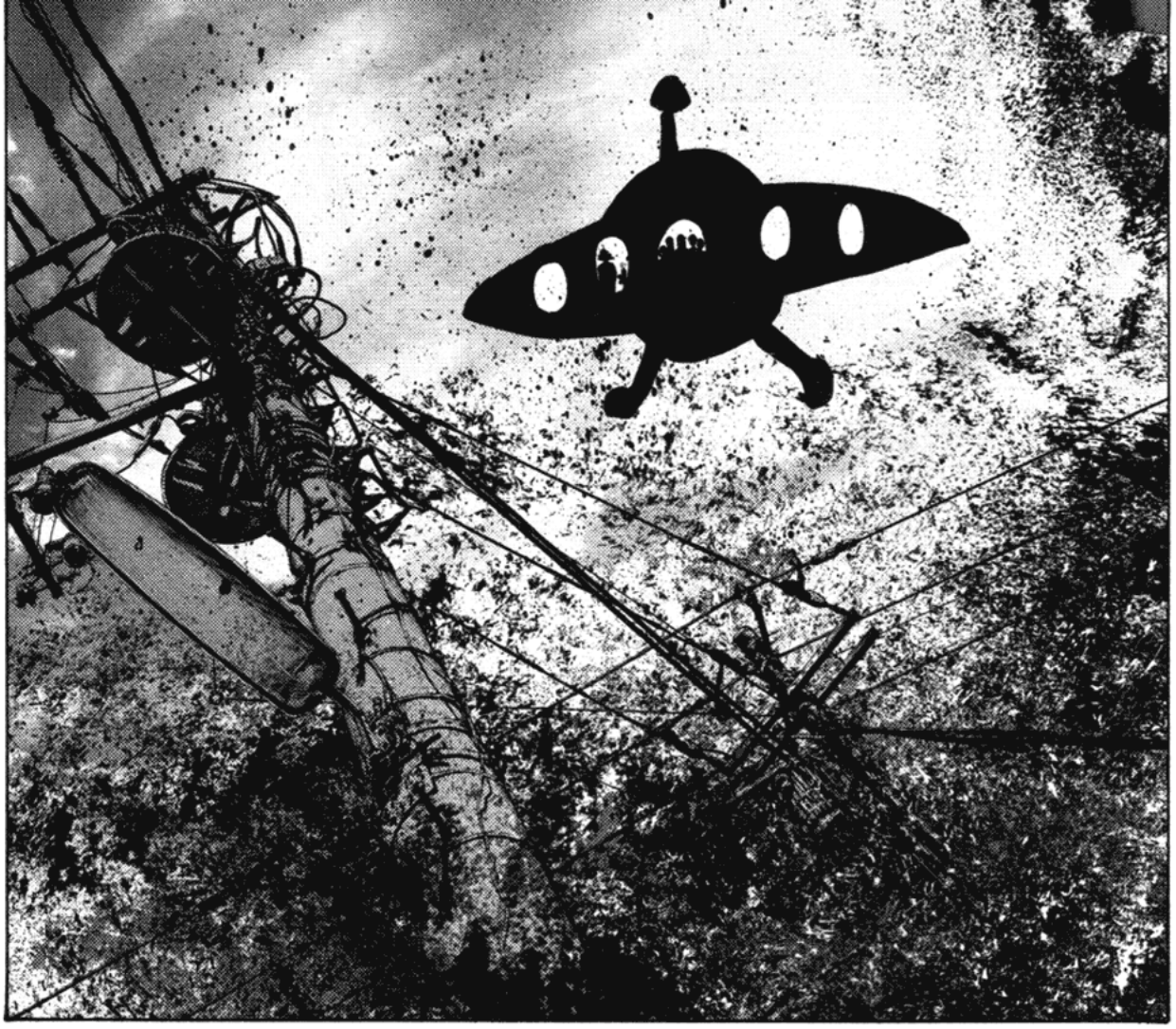
PLEASE STAND FURTHER BACK, EVERY-ONE!
HEY, YOU!

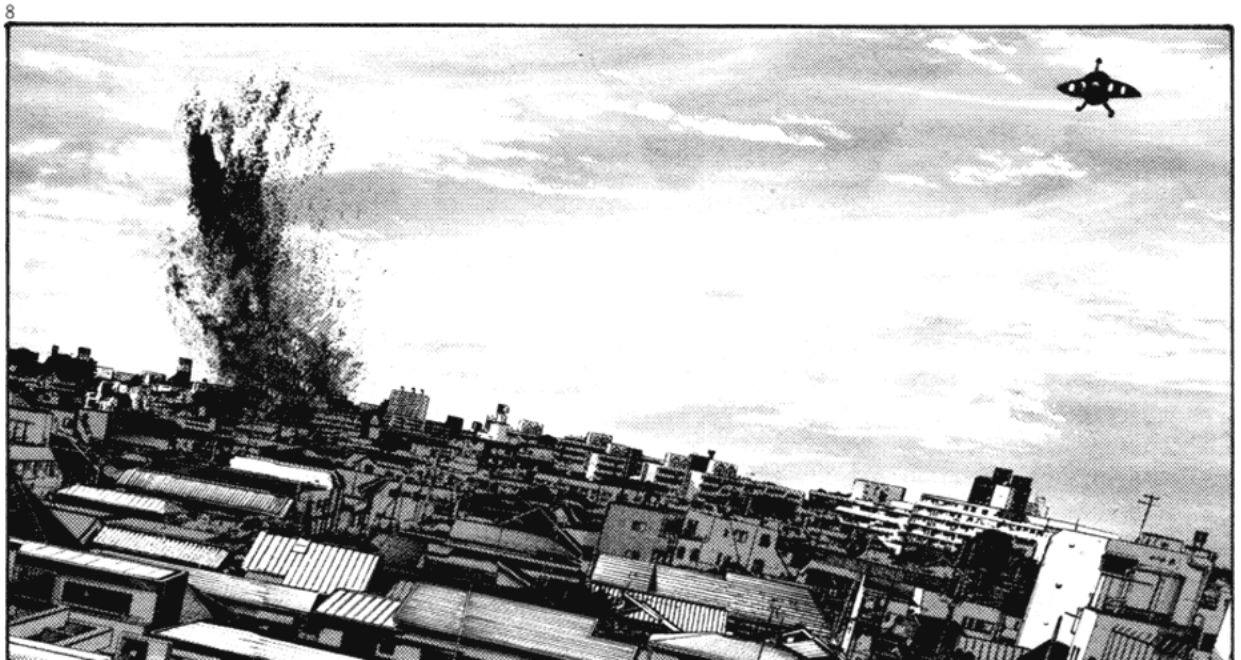
HOW MANY MORE ARE INSIDE!?

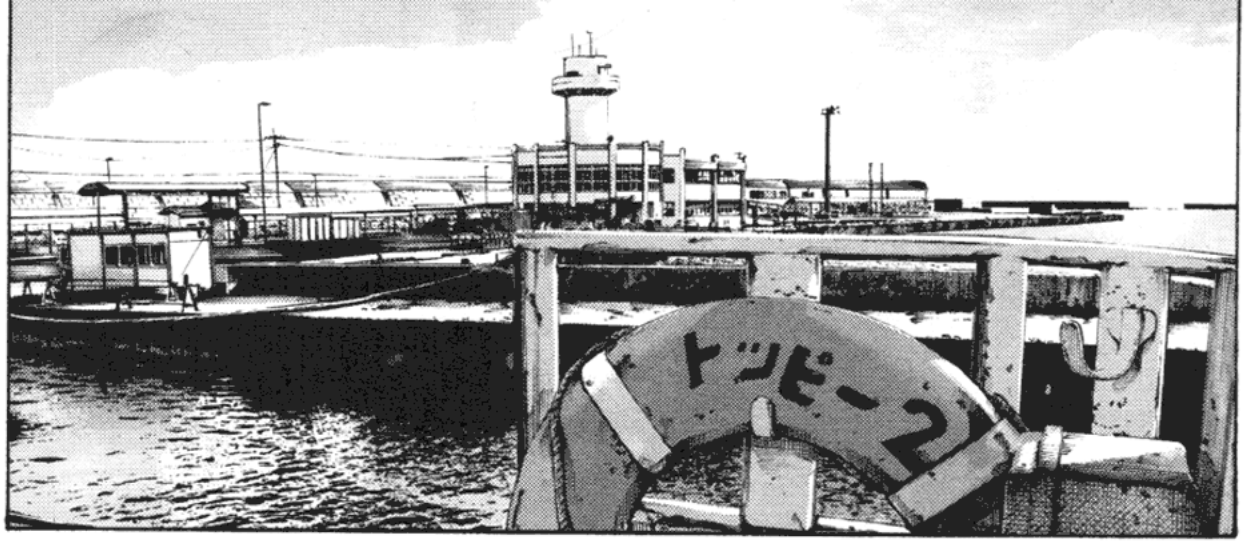








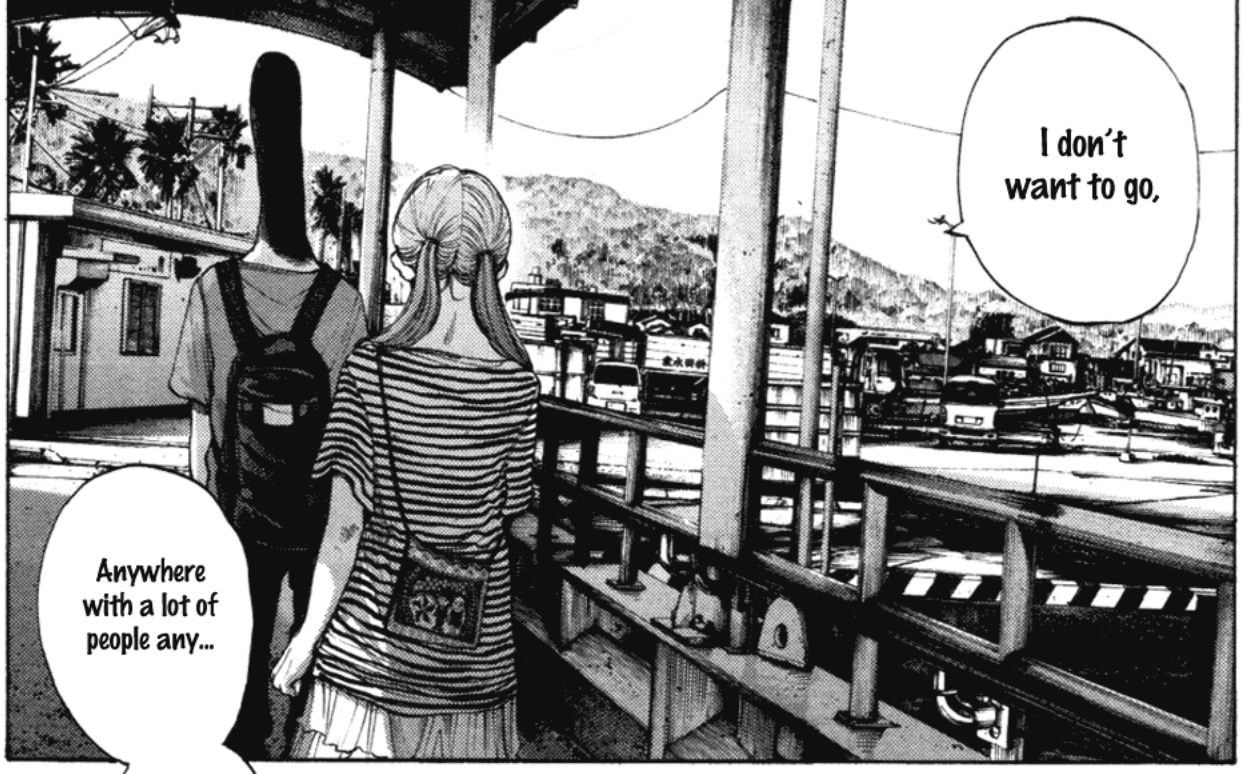




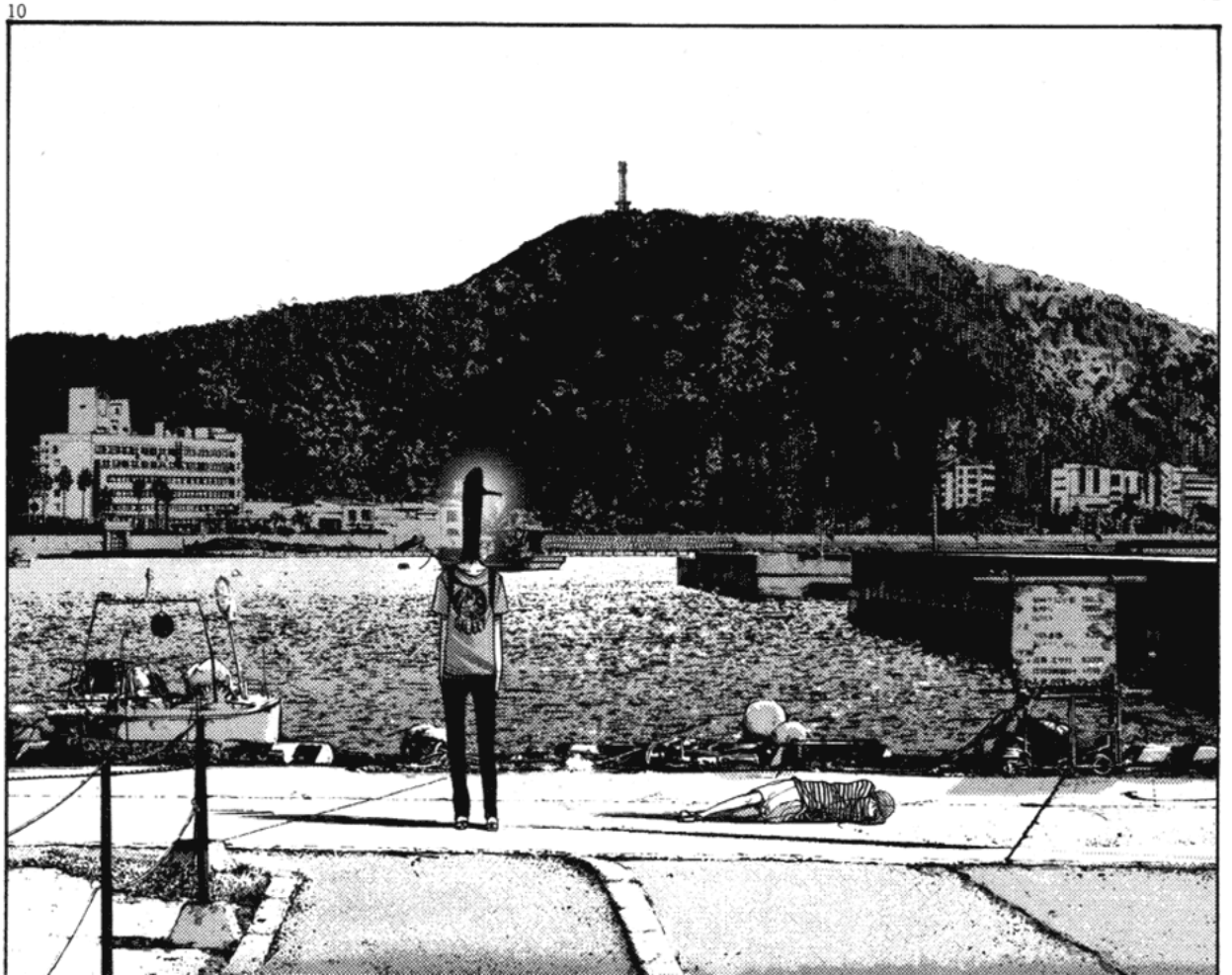
"Once we get back to Kagoshima, let's go to Osaka.

It'll be easier to blend in crowds in a large city..."

"Aiko."


I don't want to go,
Anywhere with a lot of people any...

more...



"...Aiko, you're burning up."

I tried taking the pills,

But they won't work anymore...

"...I think you really ought to go to the hospital at least once."

...If I did that,

I'd get caught, you know?

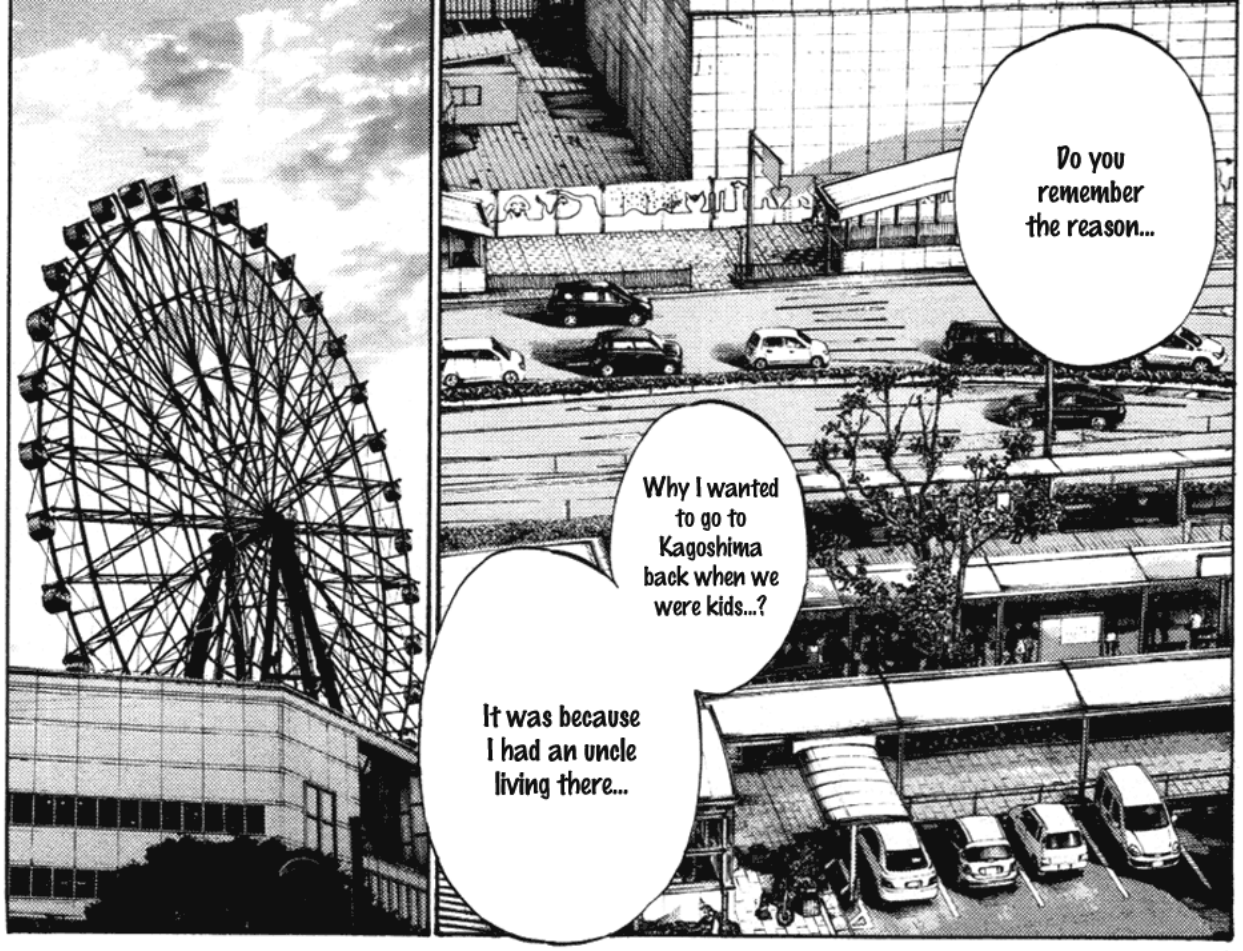
Haha...

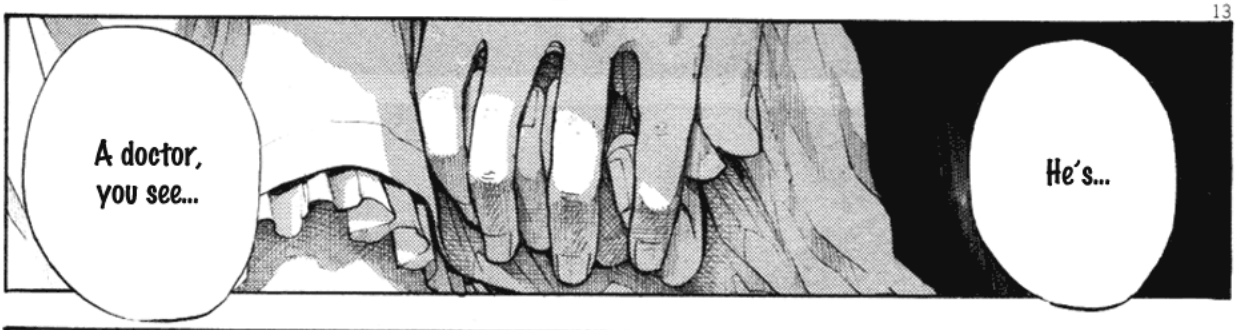
I see how it is...

You actually want me to be caught...

Hm?
Nishinozawa's quite a ways from here, you realize?
What might you be planning to do by heading deep into the mountains at this time of the day?

Shall I hurry...?
You seem ill...
I do have a plastic bag,
So if you feel like throwing up, please do tell me...


Do you remember the reason...
Why I wanted to go to Kagoshima back when we were kids...?
It was because I had an uncle living there...


A doctor, you see...
He's...

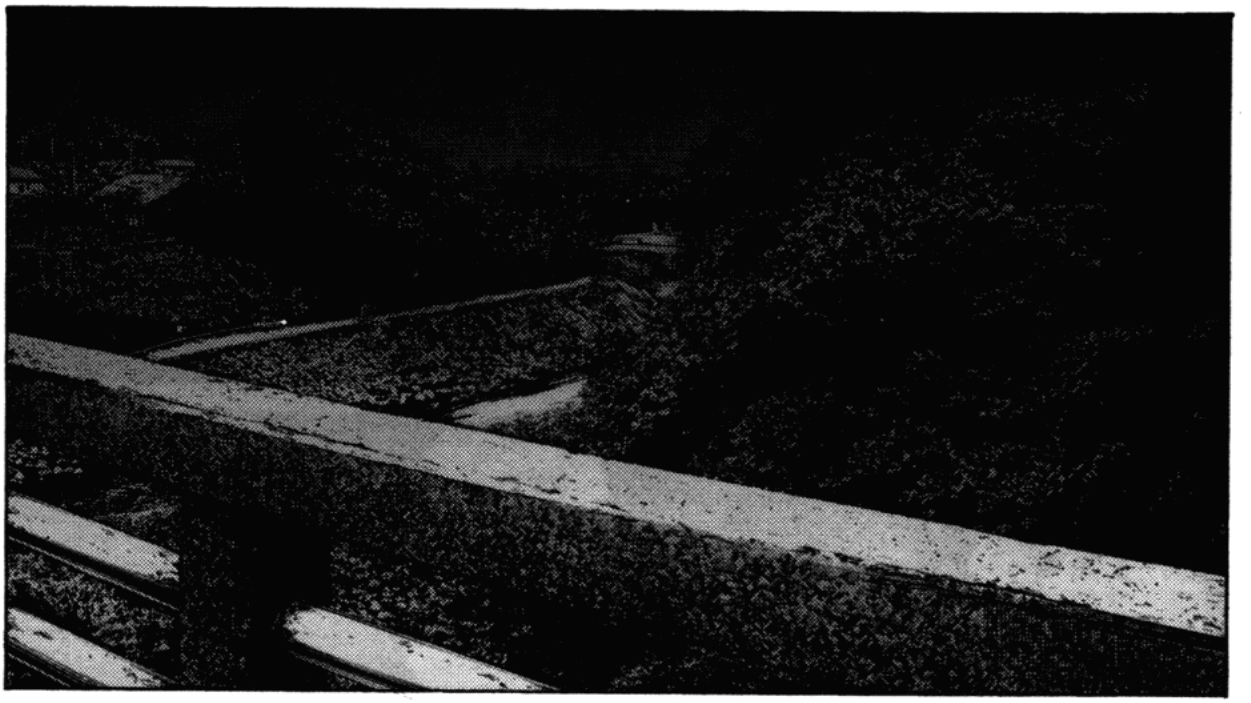
鹿児島中央駅
KAGOSHIMA-CHUO STATION

And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,

The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.

...Next up on KBF station is the traffic report.



"...Aiko, I don't think this is the right choice. Relying on a family member in a case like this is too dangerous..."

Then...

Do you have any other good ideas...?

Because I sure don't, Punpun...

"...Just because he's a relative, do you really think he'll help someone who suddenly barges into his home with stab wounds without asking any further questions?

...My uncle's a good person.

I'm sure if we explain our circumstances, he'll...

"If he's a good person, then that's all the more reason why he won't take our side..."

The taxi driver...

Is taking a while...

"We should quickly get out of the car."

...What?

"He might have caught onto who you are...

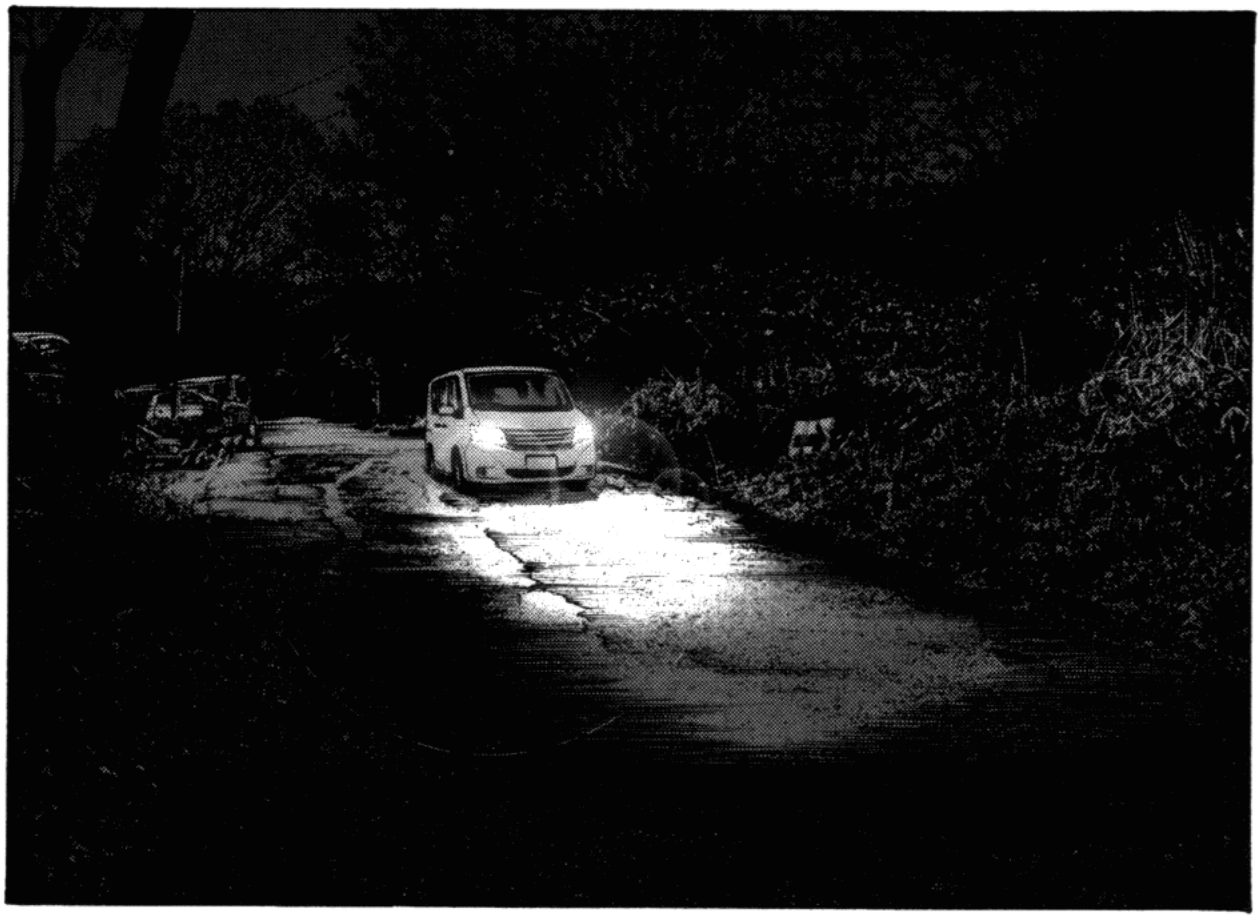
If he already reported us, then...

HUFF...
HUFF...

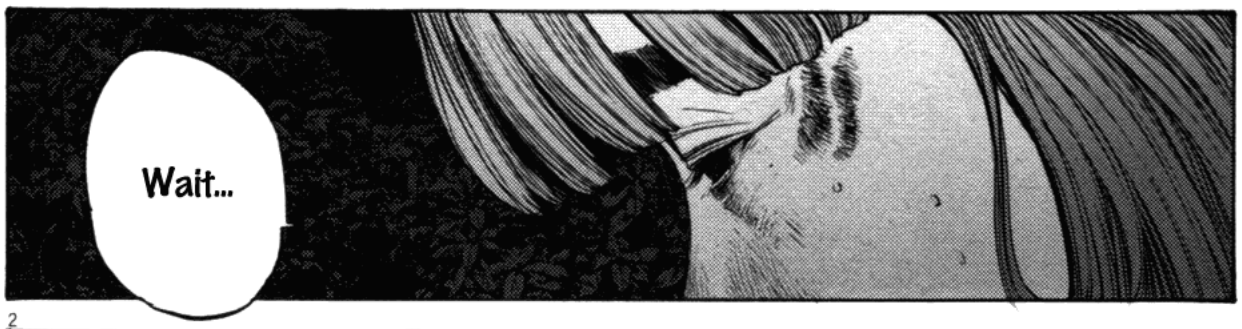
MN,
NGH...
U...
UU...

Chapter 137

"...Aiko, hide."



"Let's get further away from the roads..."



2

Gotta pee...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

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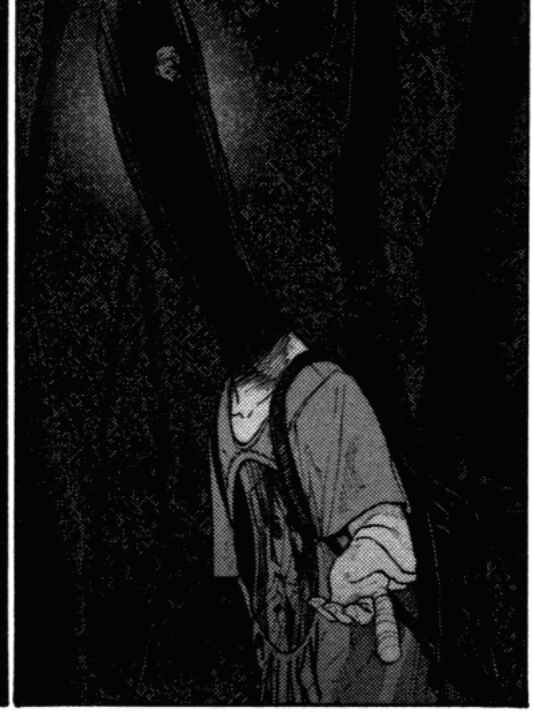
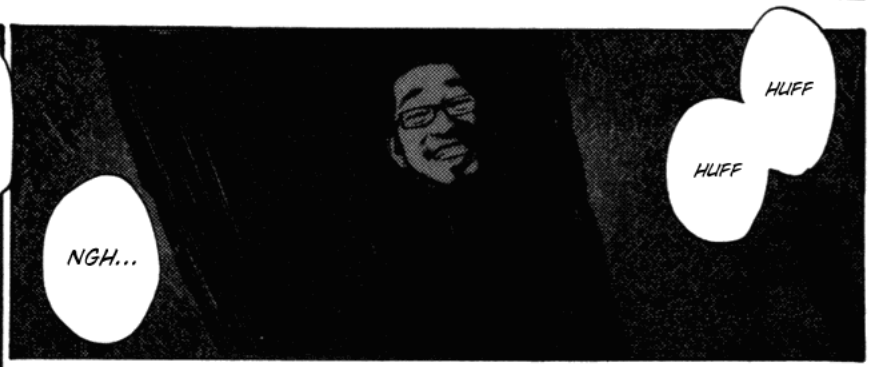
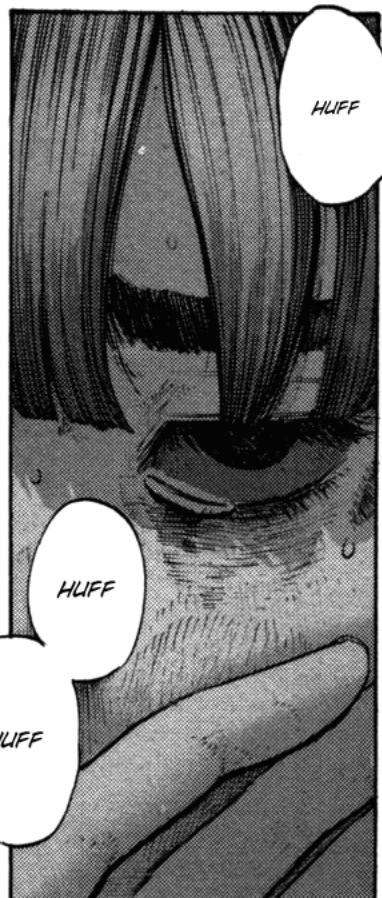
HUFF

"If we can find a river, then we can head down it to find a village. I saw it on tv once."

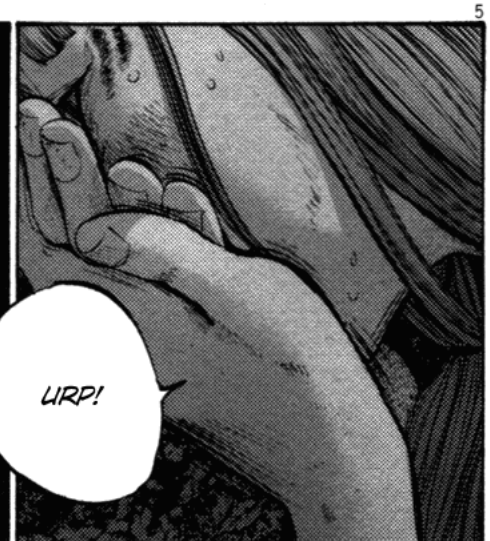
"...Aiko?"







"Sorry... It's my fault for pushing you so hard. Let's take a short break..."

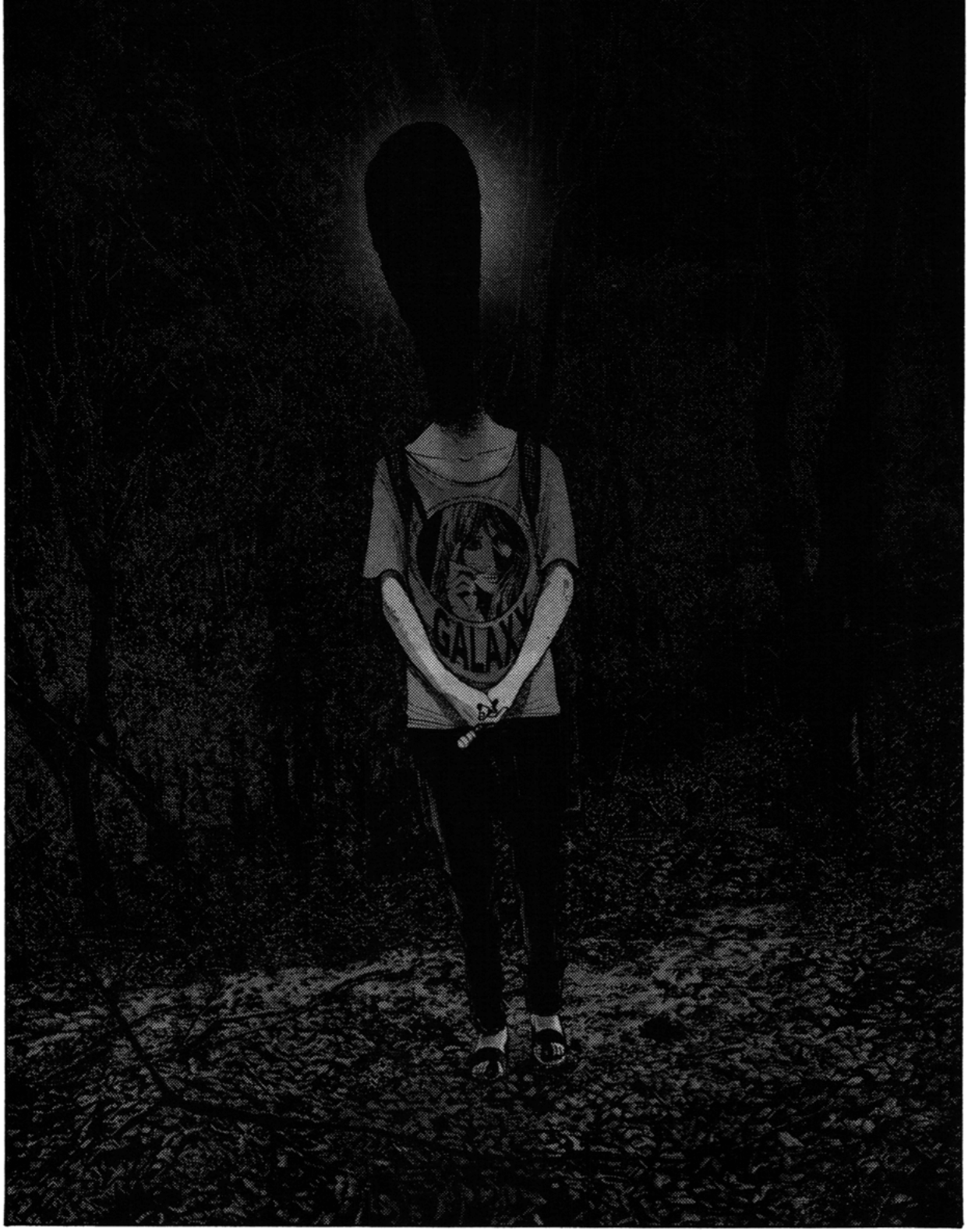


GALAXY
...Don't.

Don't come near me...

...I realized just in the knick of time.
You've realized that I'm just a nuisance,
Since your name wasn't reported by the news, haven't you?

You led me here deep into the forest,
So you can kill me and bury my remains, didn't you?



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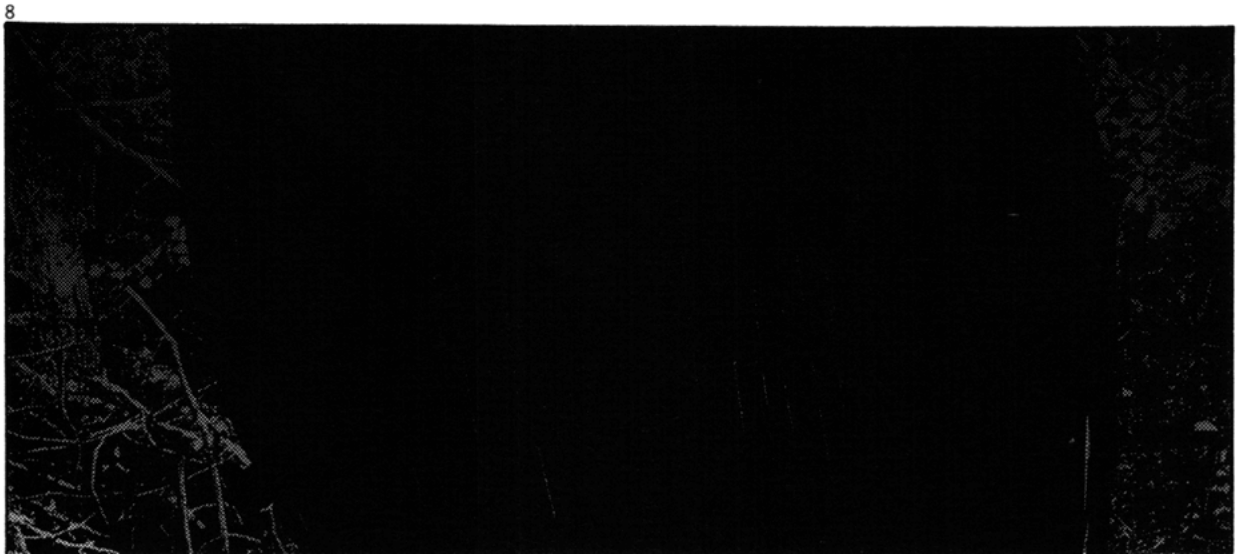

HUFF
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HUFF

HUFF
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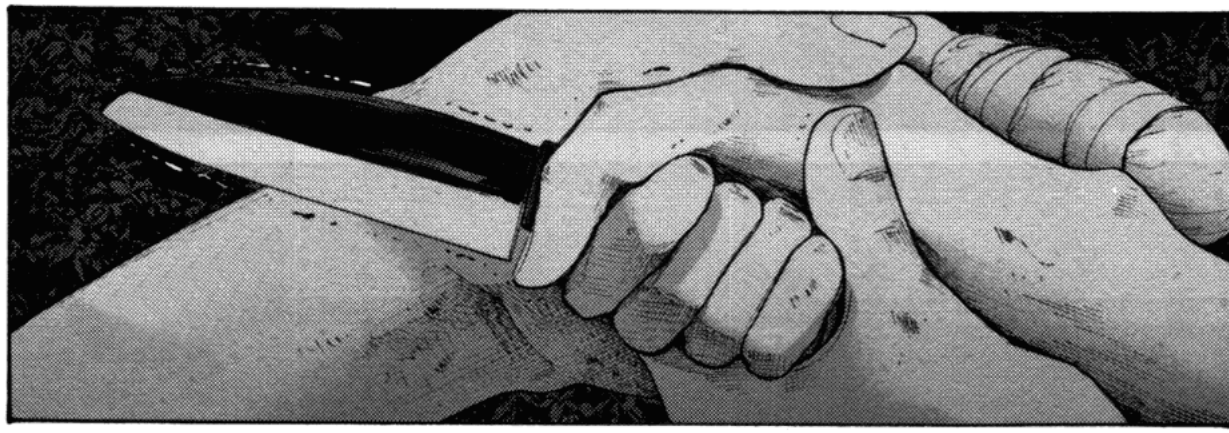
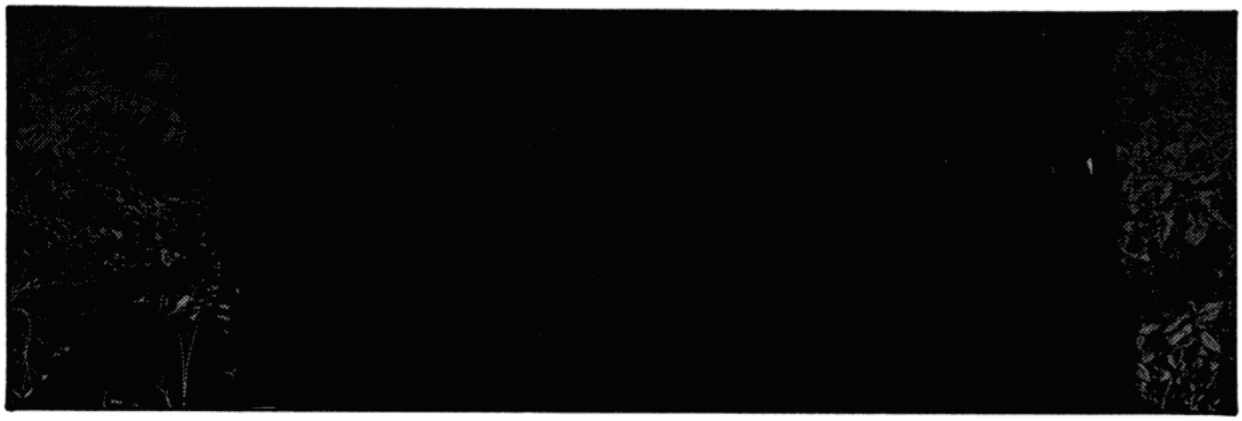
HUFF
HUFF...
HUFF...

"...If you can't believe in me,
then just what can you go on believing in?

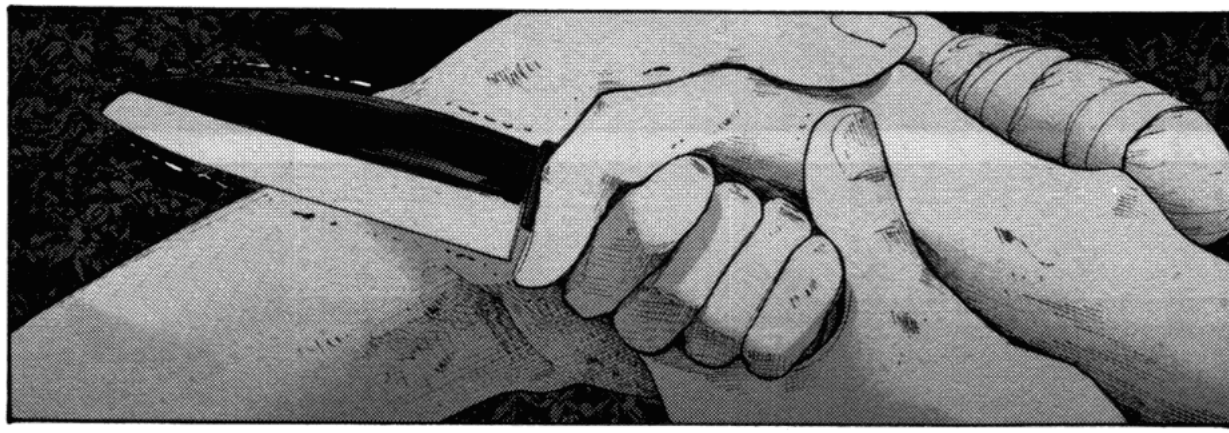
"...Didn't I promise you?
That I'd protect you no matter what."

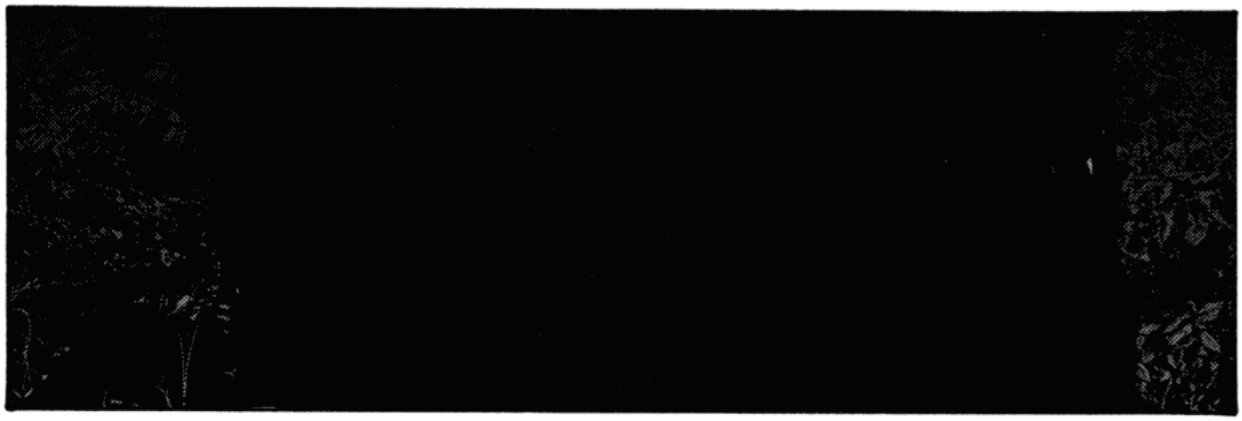




"Believe in me."

"...Didn't I promise you?
That I'd protect you no matter what."





"Believe in me."

novel, see Great Sky

HUFF
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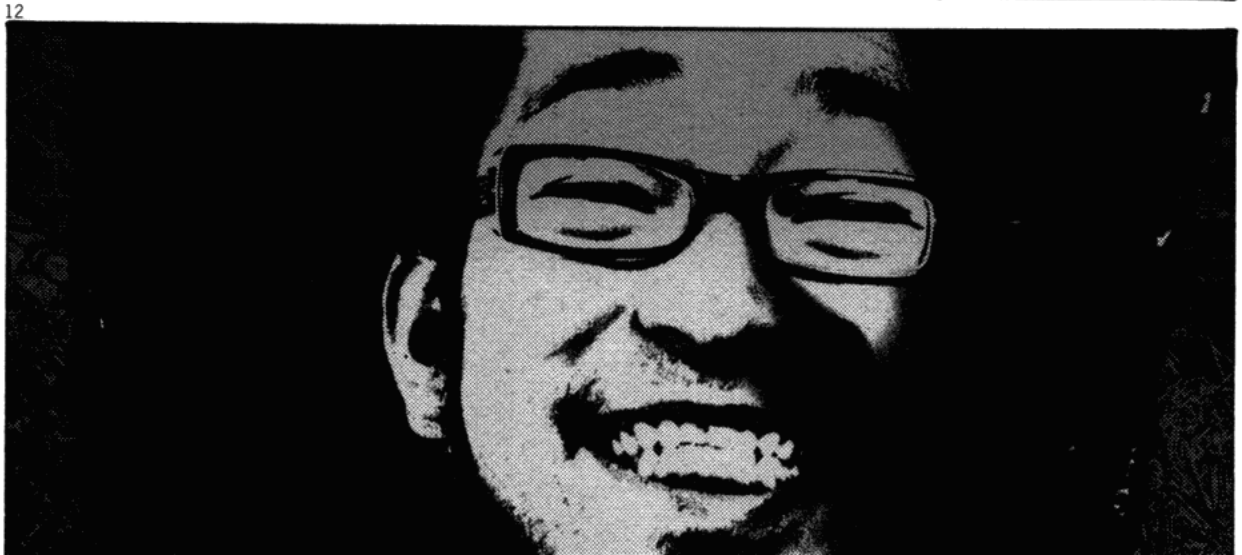
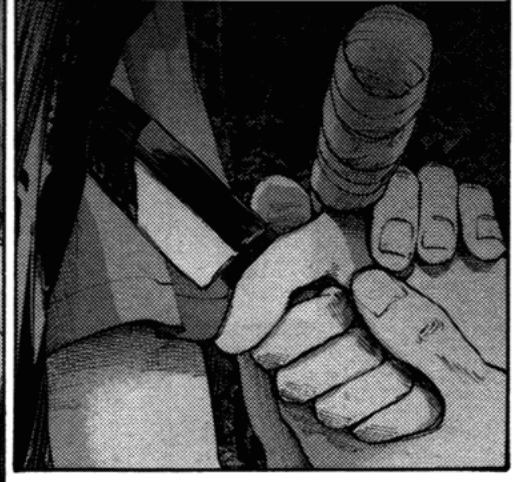
HUFF





"You really are such a dumbshit..."

"But it's fine...
It's very fine, Aiko."

HAH

HAH

HAH

"That's precisely why I may have been saved by you..."

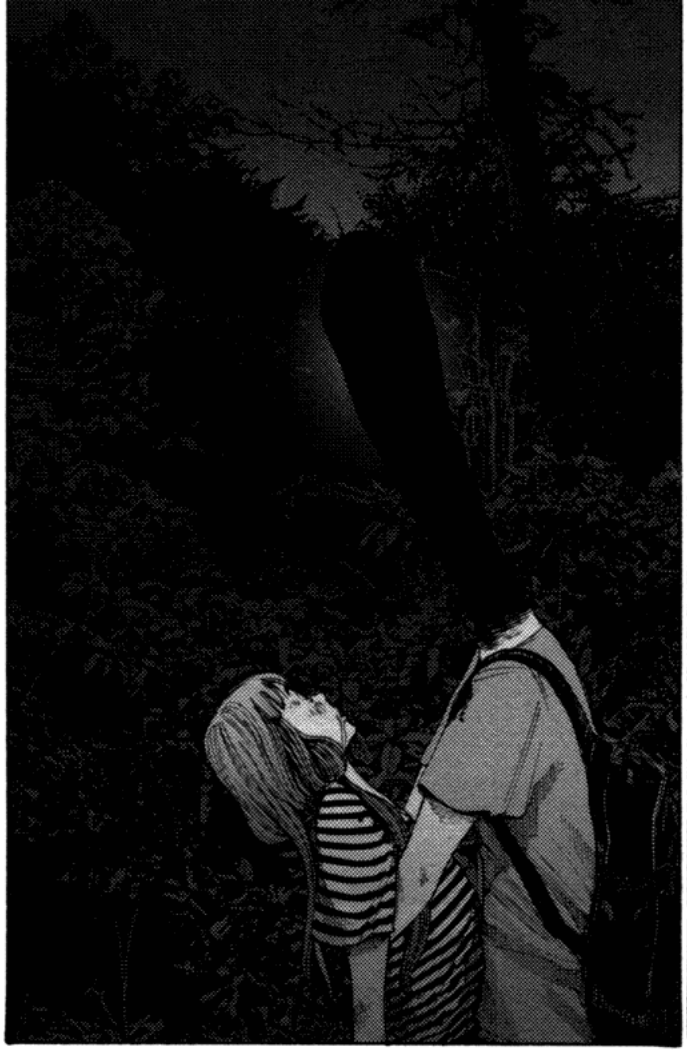
"Soon... I'm certain we'll be able to understand each other completely."

AH,

AH,

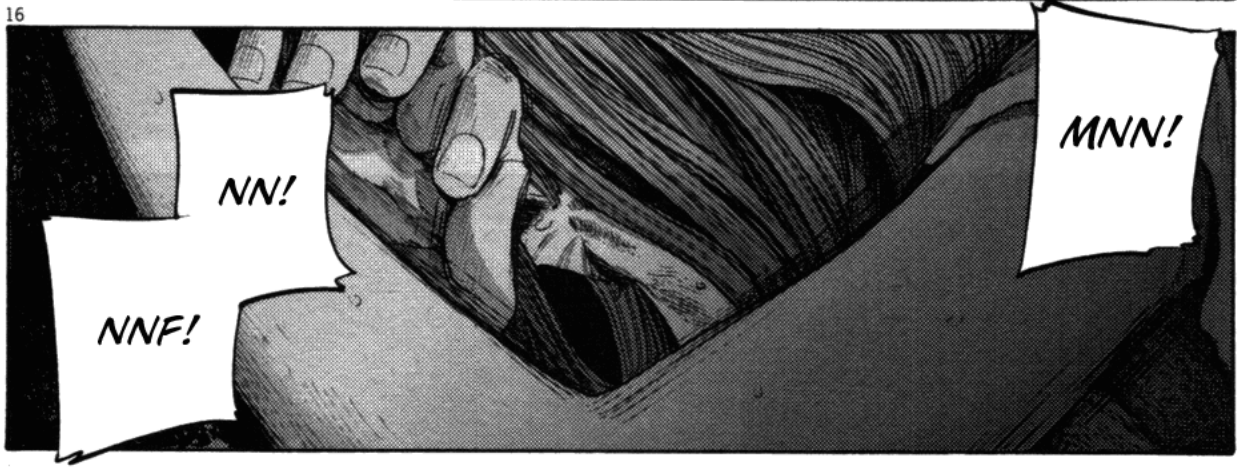
AHH,

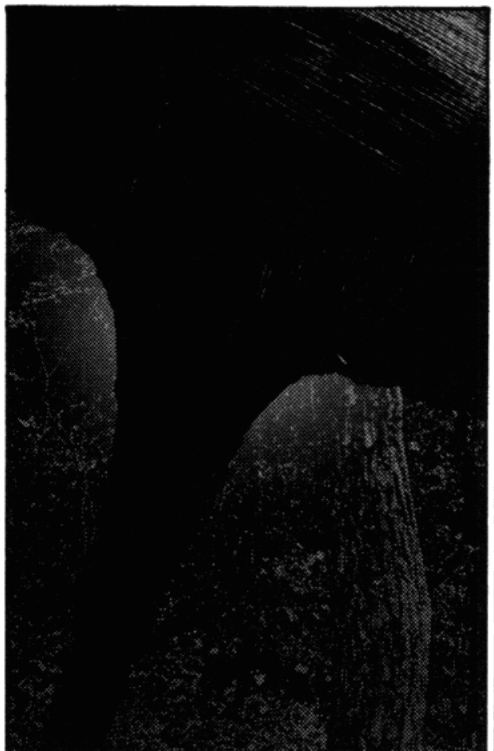
AHHH...



"...Aiko, you no longer need to think about anything."

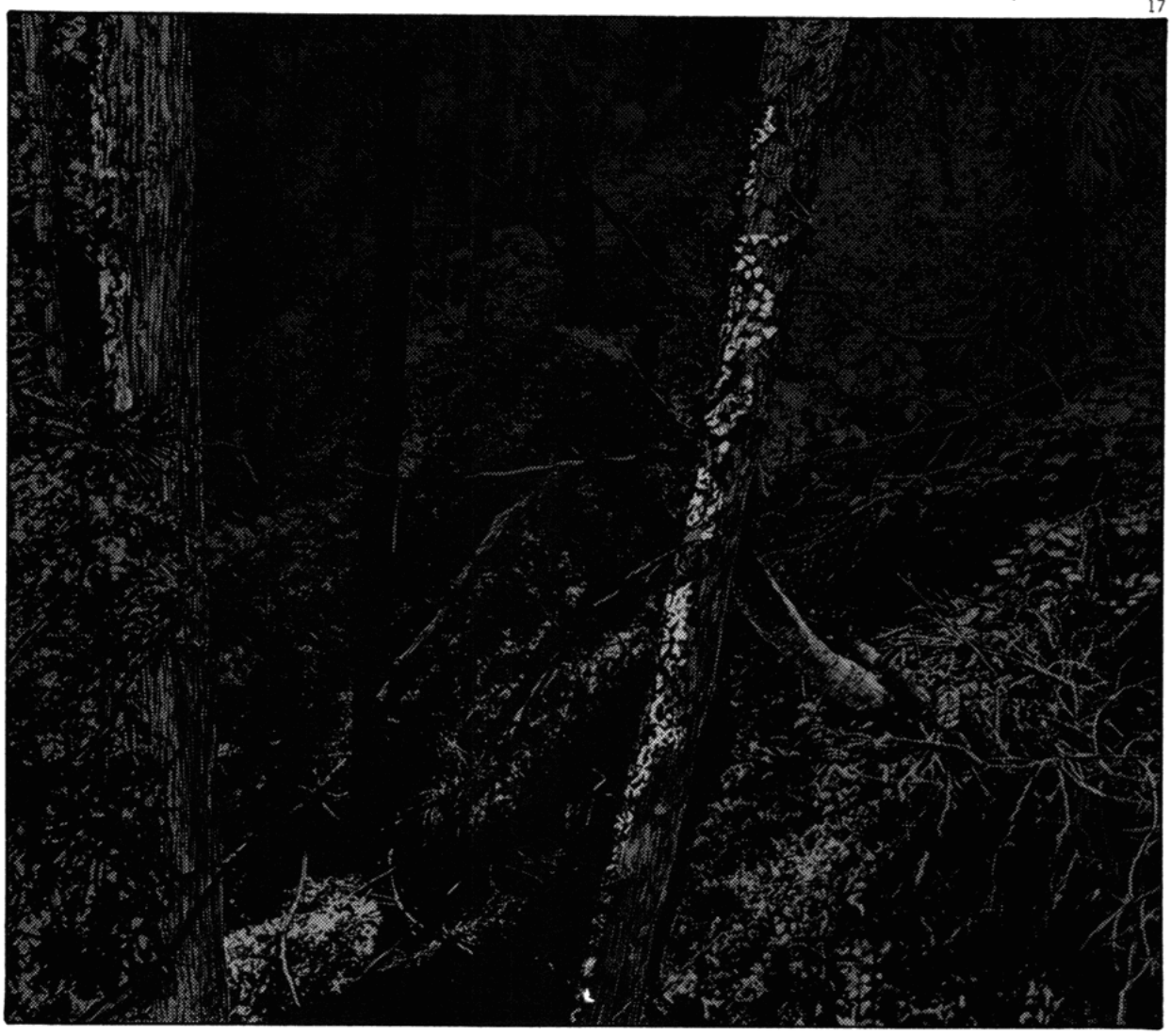
"It's because you try to think, that we can't truly understand each other..."

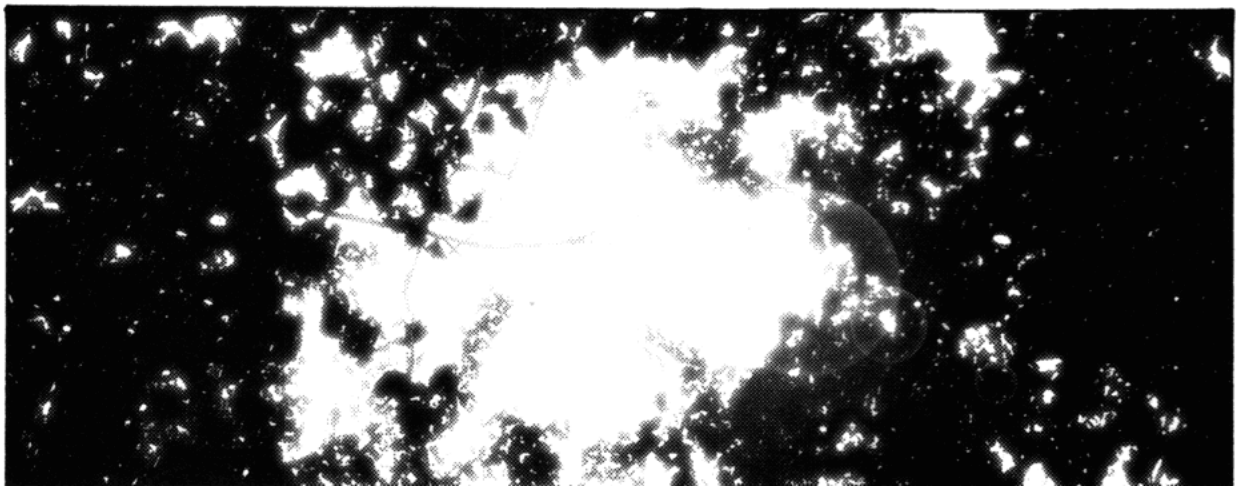

MNN!
NN!
NNF!

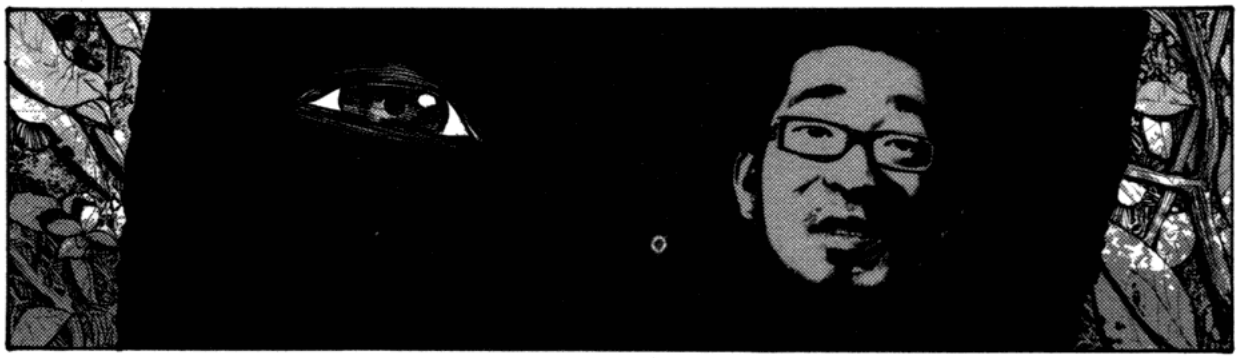


AHH...
HAH...
AHHH!

AHHH!







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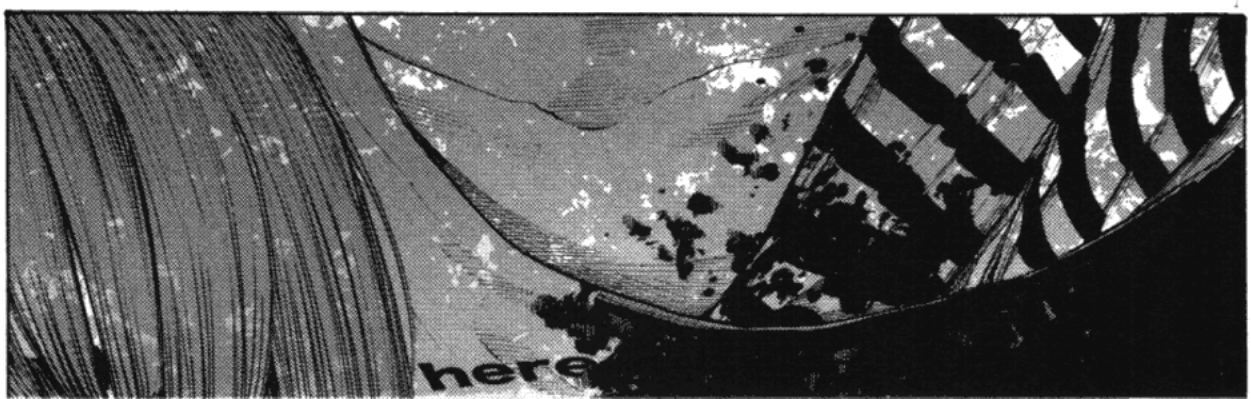
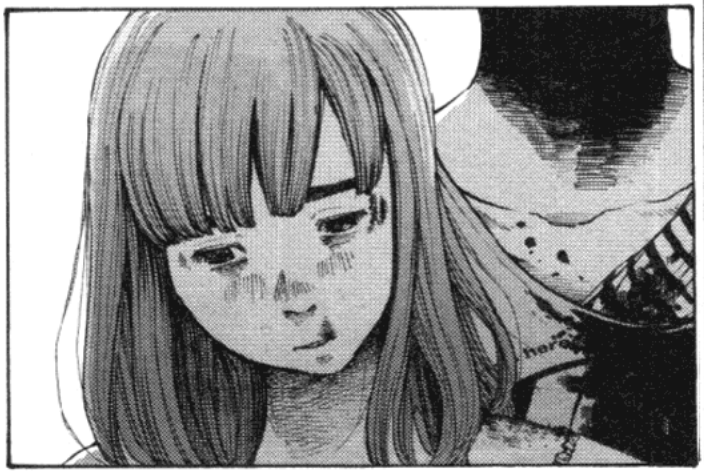
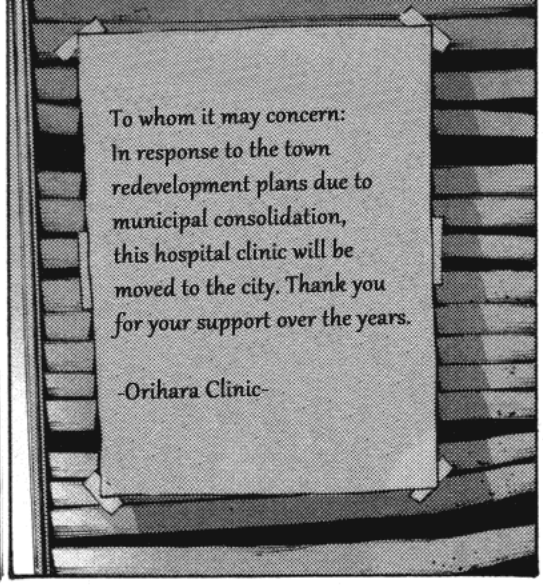


Ah-

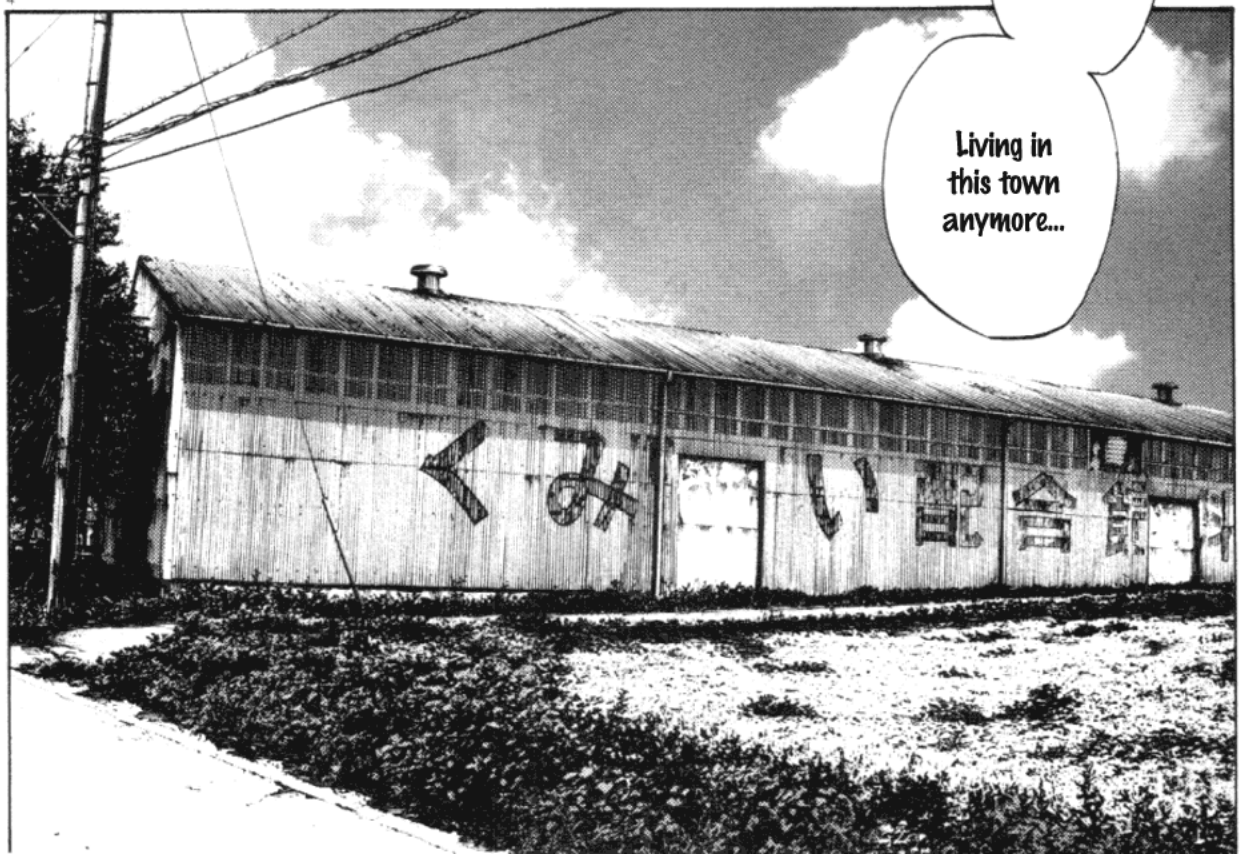
I recognize this place...

"Do you remember where the hospital is?
Think so...
"If your uncle happens to take unfavourable actions against us... Well, one reaps what one sows, as they say..."




To whom it may concern:
In response to the town redevelopment plans due to municipal consolidation, this hospital clinic will be moved to the city. Thank you for your support over the years.
-Orihara Clinic-

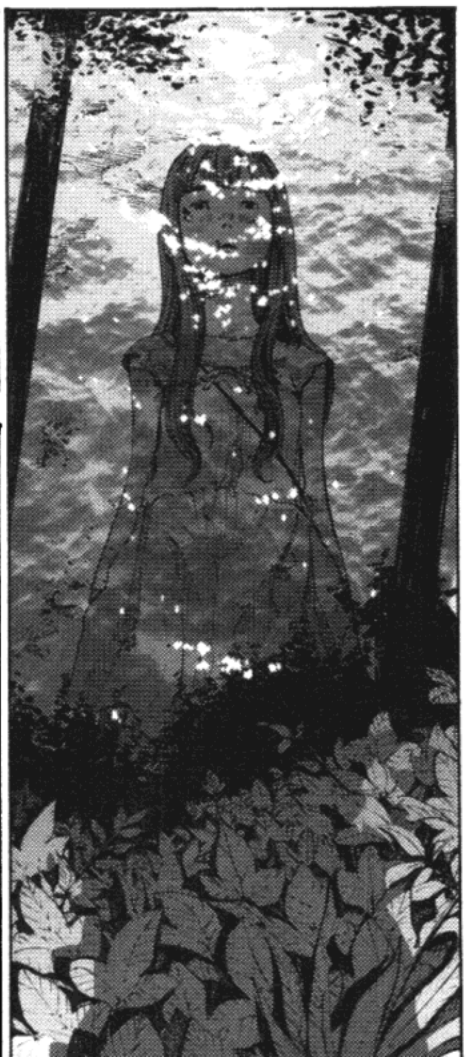
There's no one,

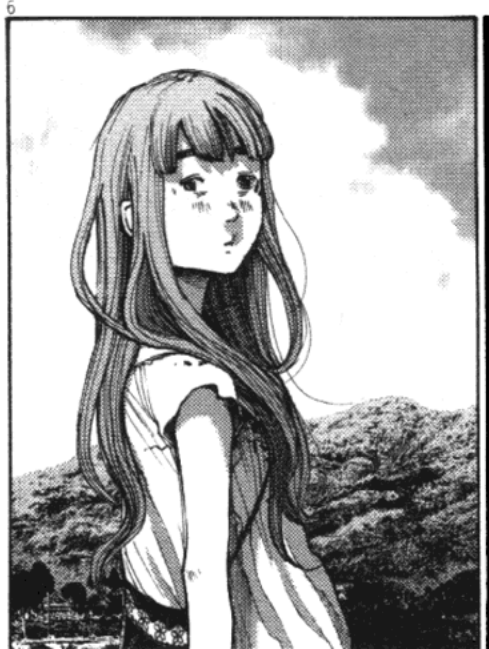

Living in this town anymore...

The cicadas have already begun to cry...

*Banner reads: Oppose the dam threatening the destruction of our village

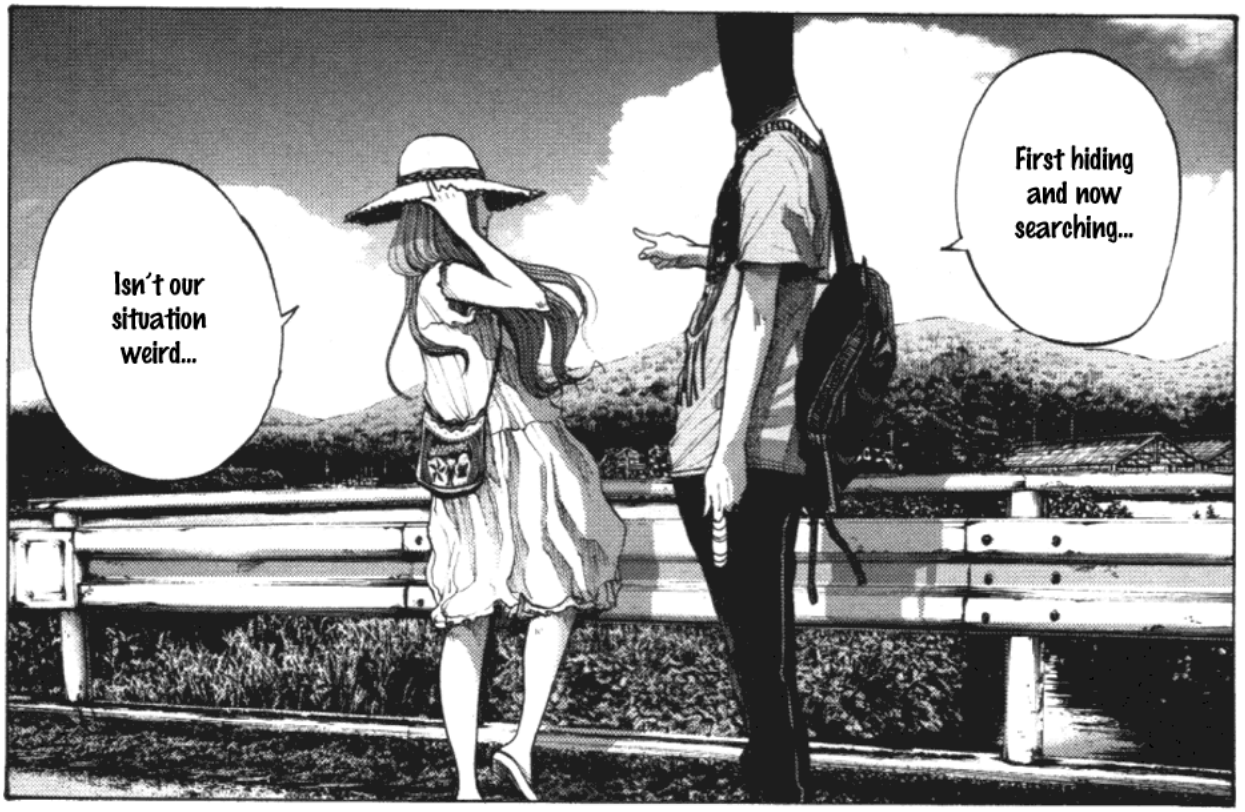
It'd be better if they'd relaxed down below the surface while they could...

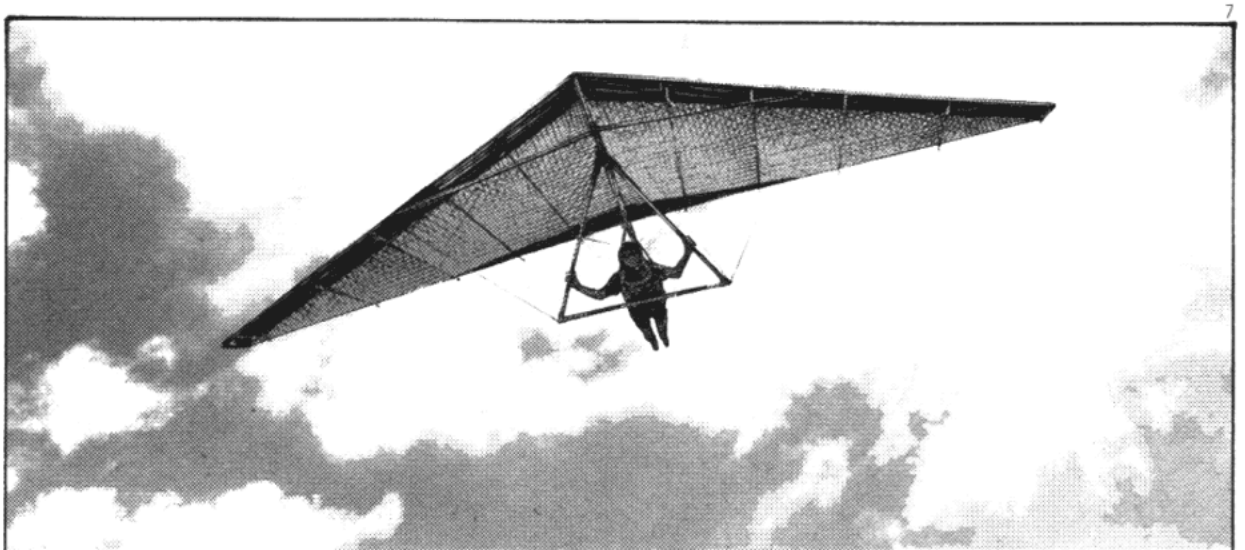




"Aiko."

"I think there may be people living over there. Look."





It's slowly...

Dipping down...

...No matter how hard it struggles,
It'll always come back down where it belongs.

...You said I no longer needed to think about anything,
To be able to say something like that... You've gotten almost too tough.

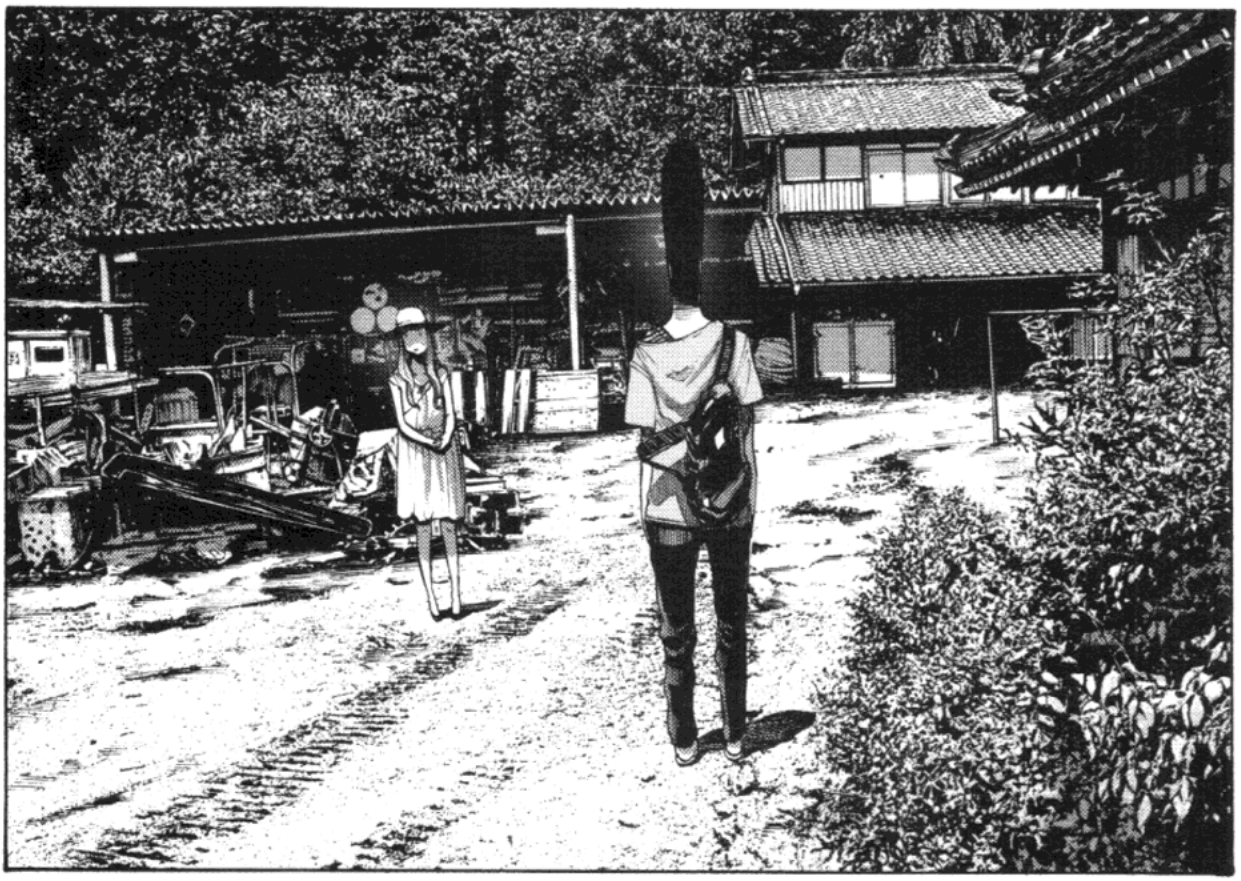
As for me, on the other hand,
I'm a far more ordinary girl than the girl of your expectations...
GALAXY

After I take a short rest,
I think I'll go search for a police station instead of a hospital...
I wonder why,
I'm feeling lonelier and lonelier as time starts to pass...?

"...Come up inside. It's pretty cool inside, you know."

"...If you turn yourself in, I'll cover for everything you've done. You don't have to worry about a thing, Aiko."

"Even if they lock me up, as long as you'll wait for me outside, I'll be just fine no matter how long my sentence is."



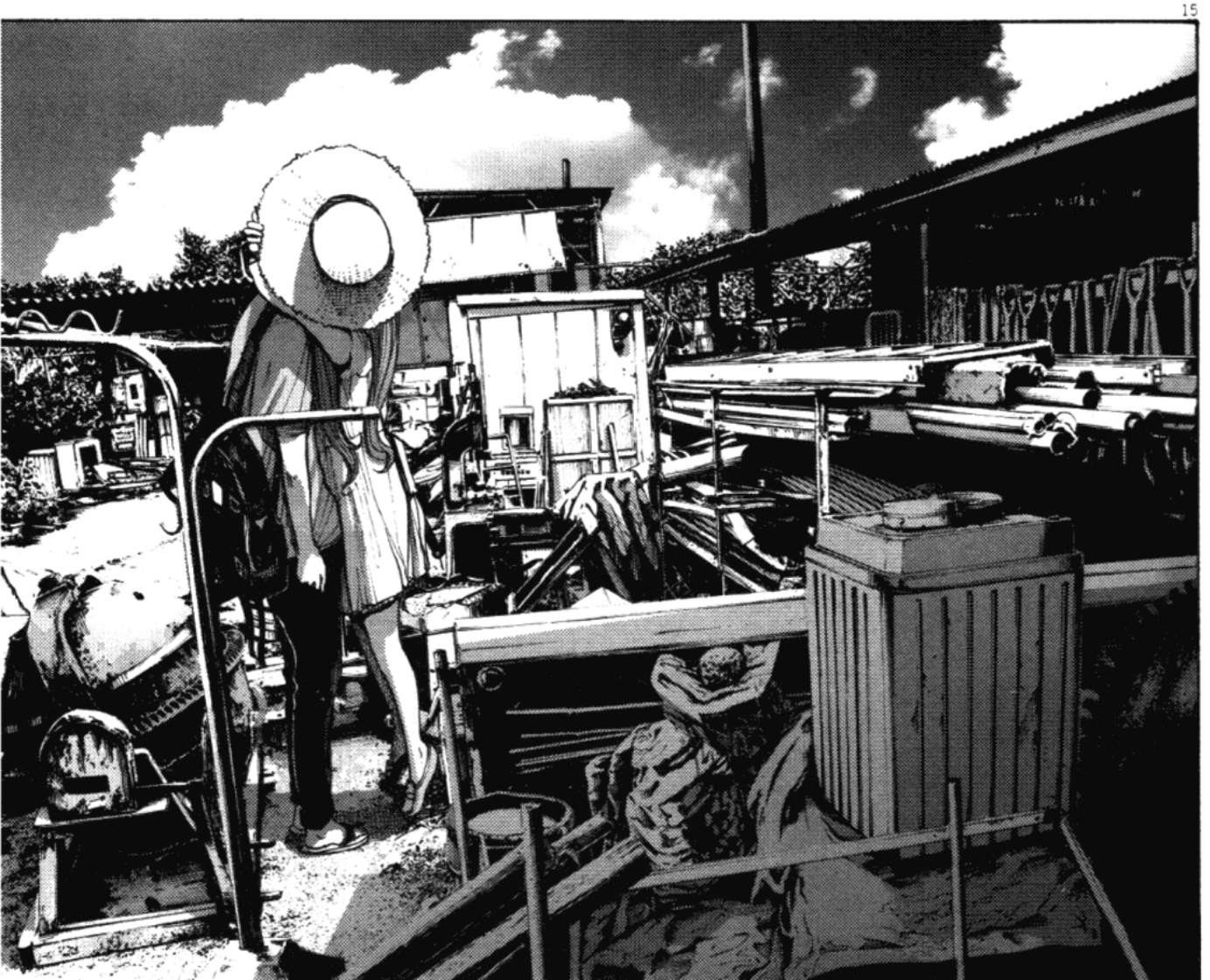
...I'm being completely honest here.

So let's put aside any more lies.

"Did you say that stuff about killing your mother just to stop me from committing suicide...?"

"Then tell me,"

That wasn't a lie...



On that night we saw those falling stars as we came back from the abandoned factory,

I wished for both of us to fall in love with each other...

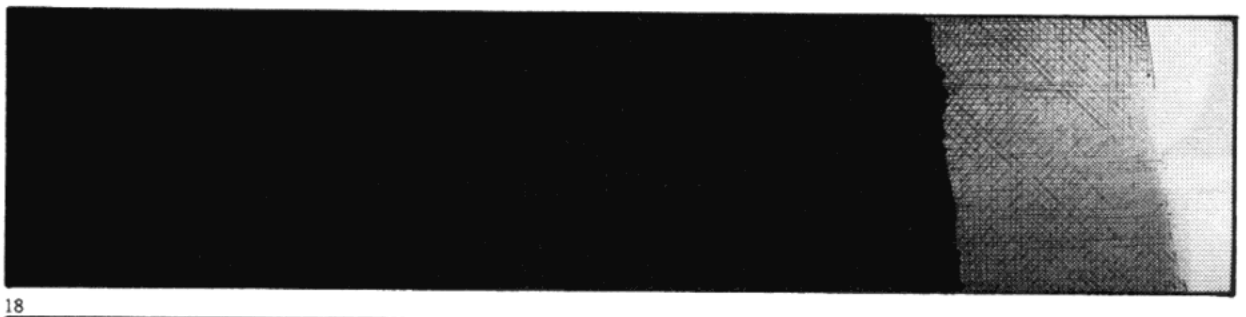
My wish came true...

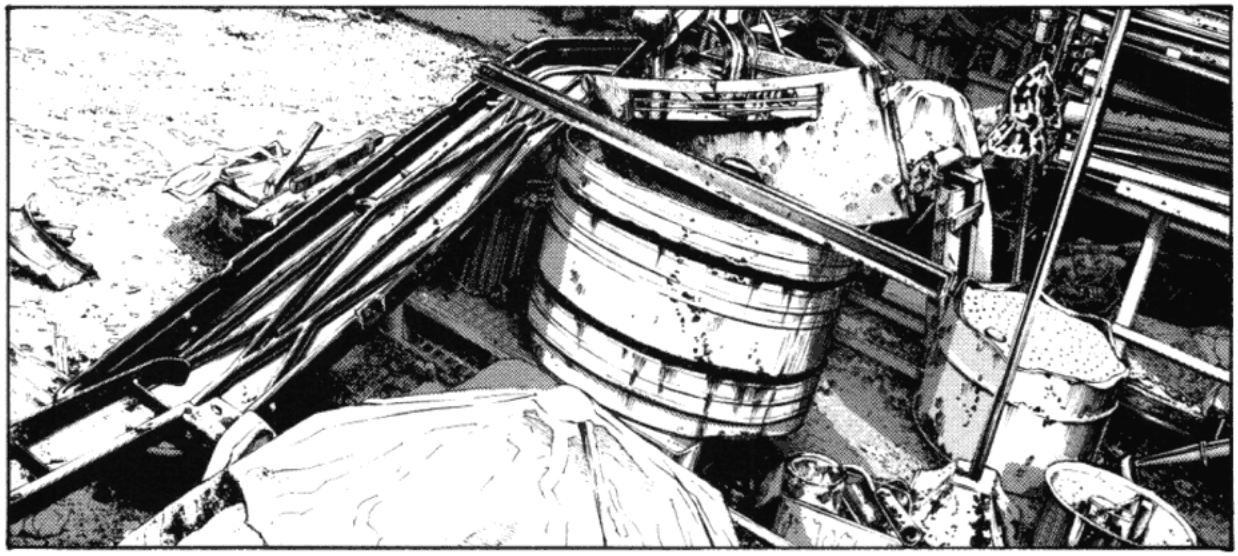
It's amazing,

How such a happiness could possibly exist...

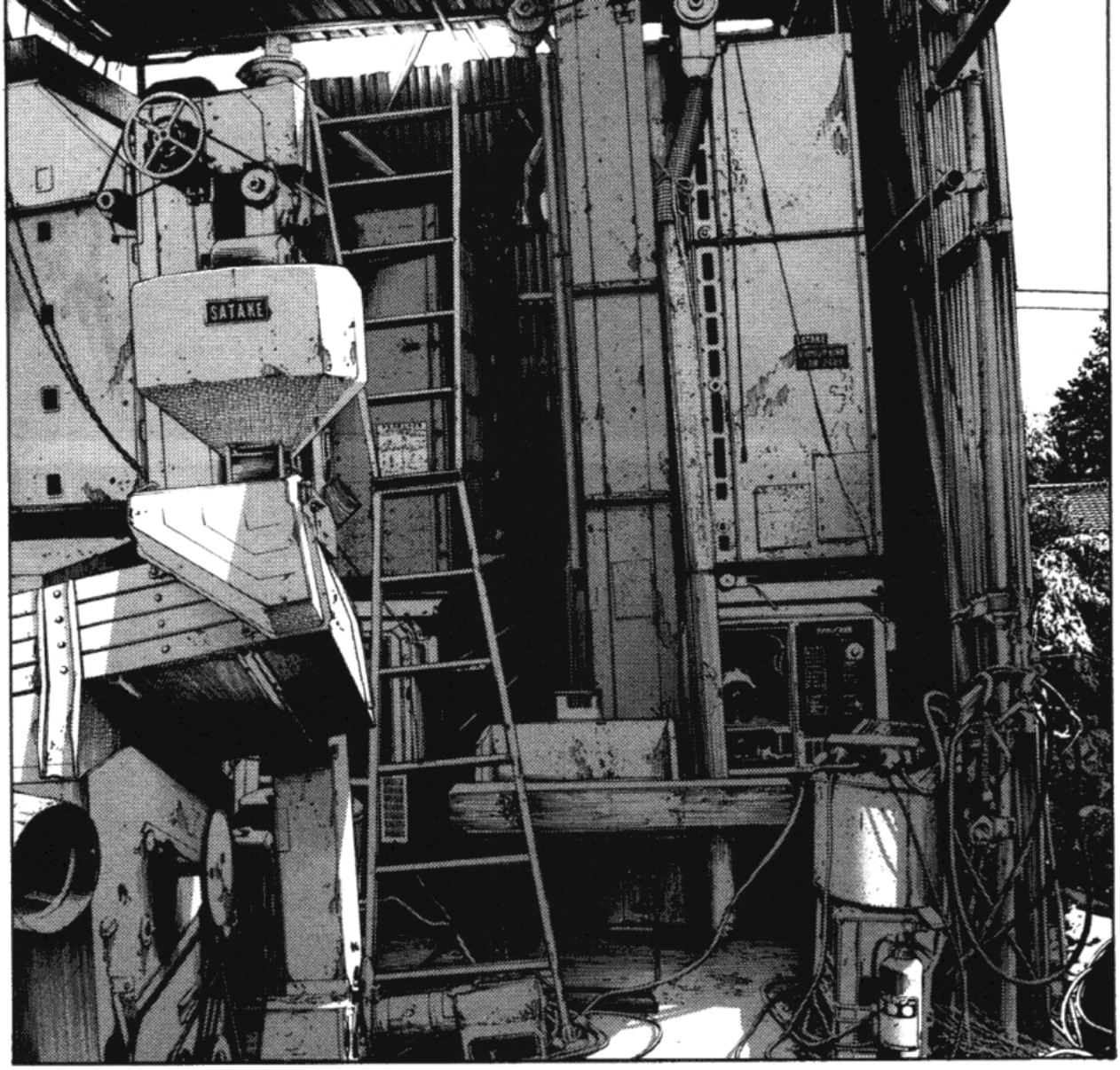
"...Yes, I promise."

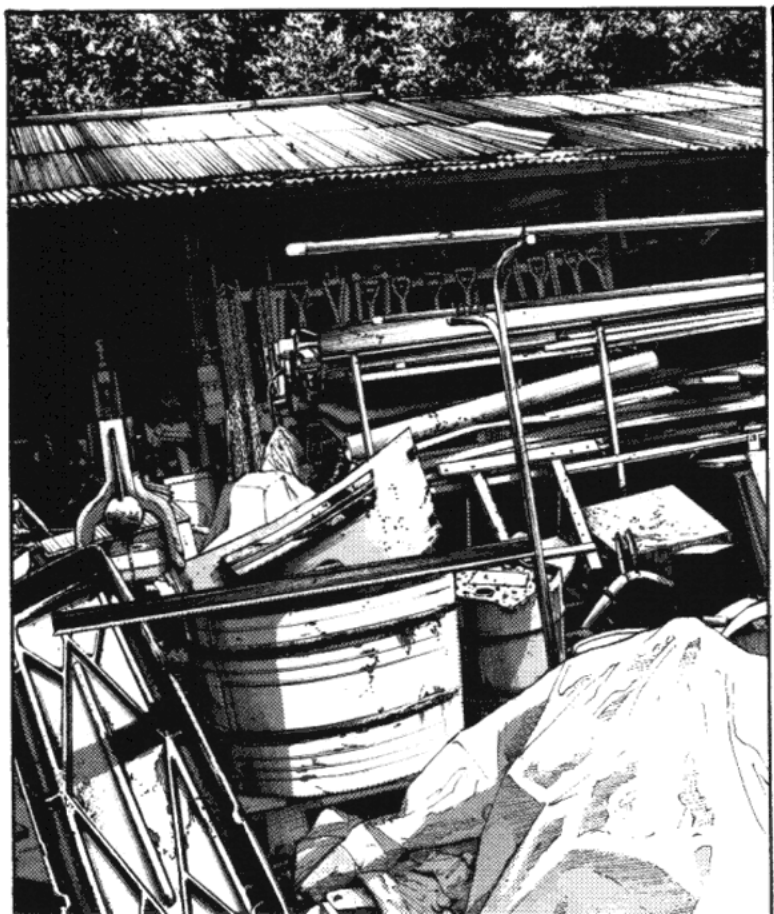
Haha...



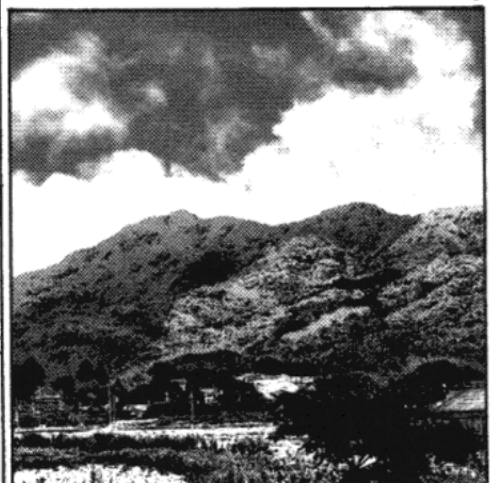


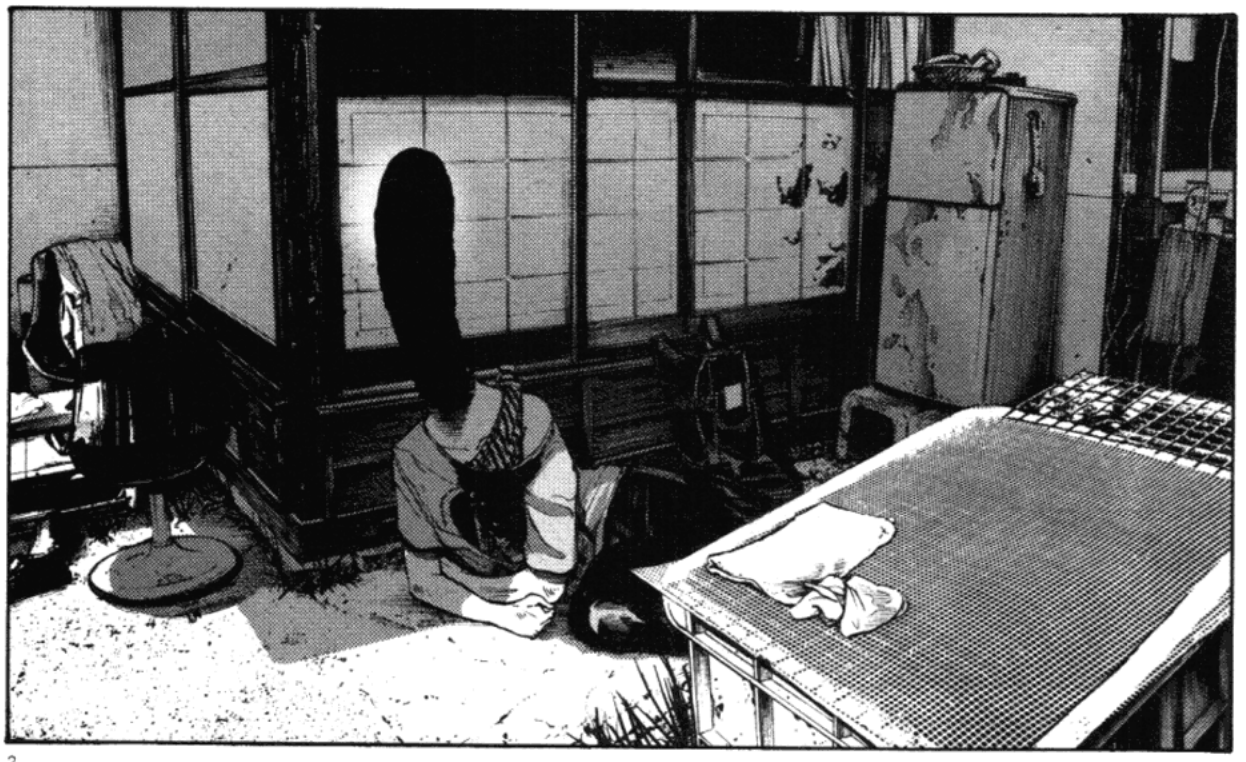
Chapter 139





July 1,
2 P.M.





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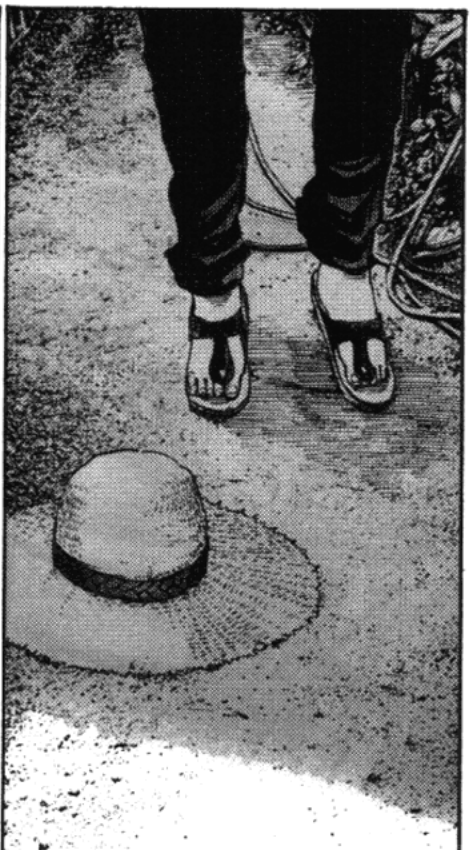
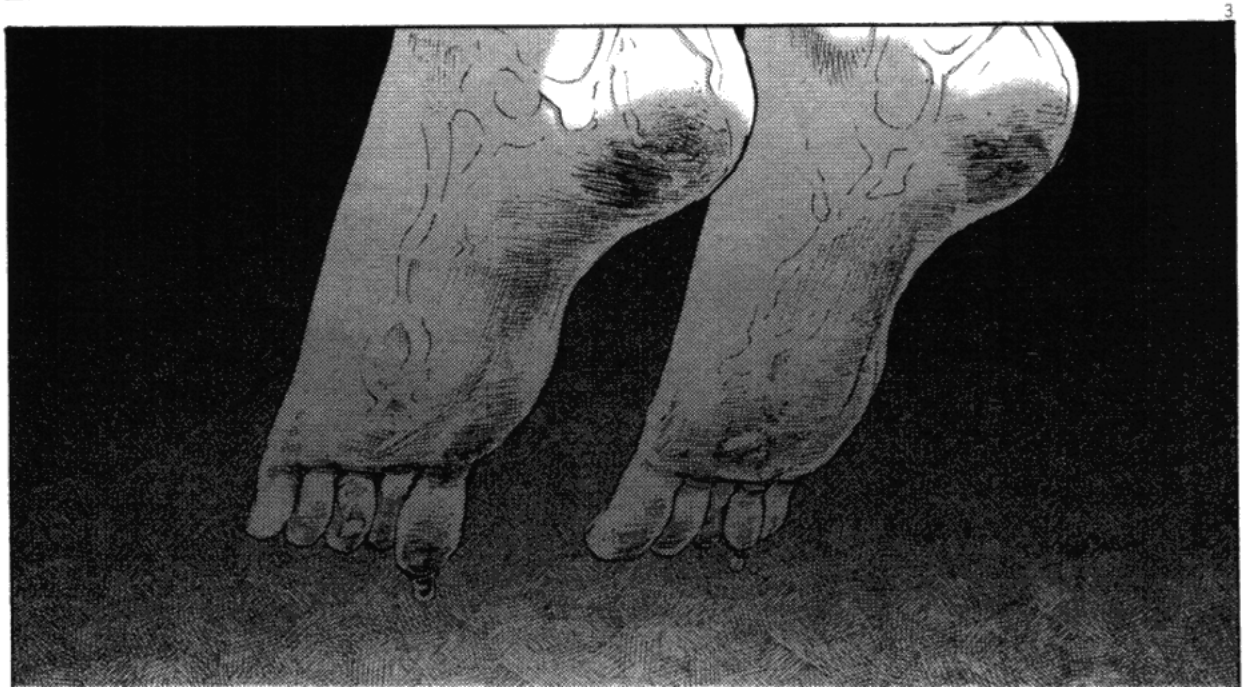
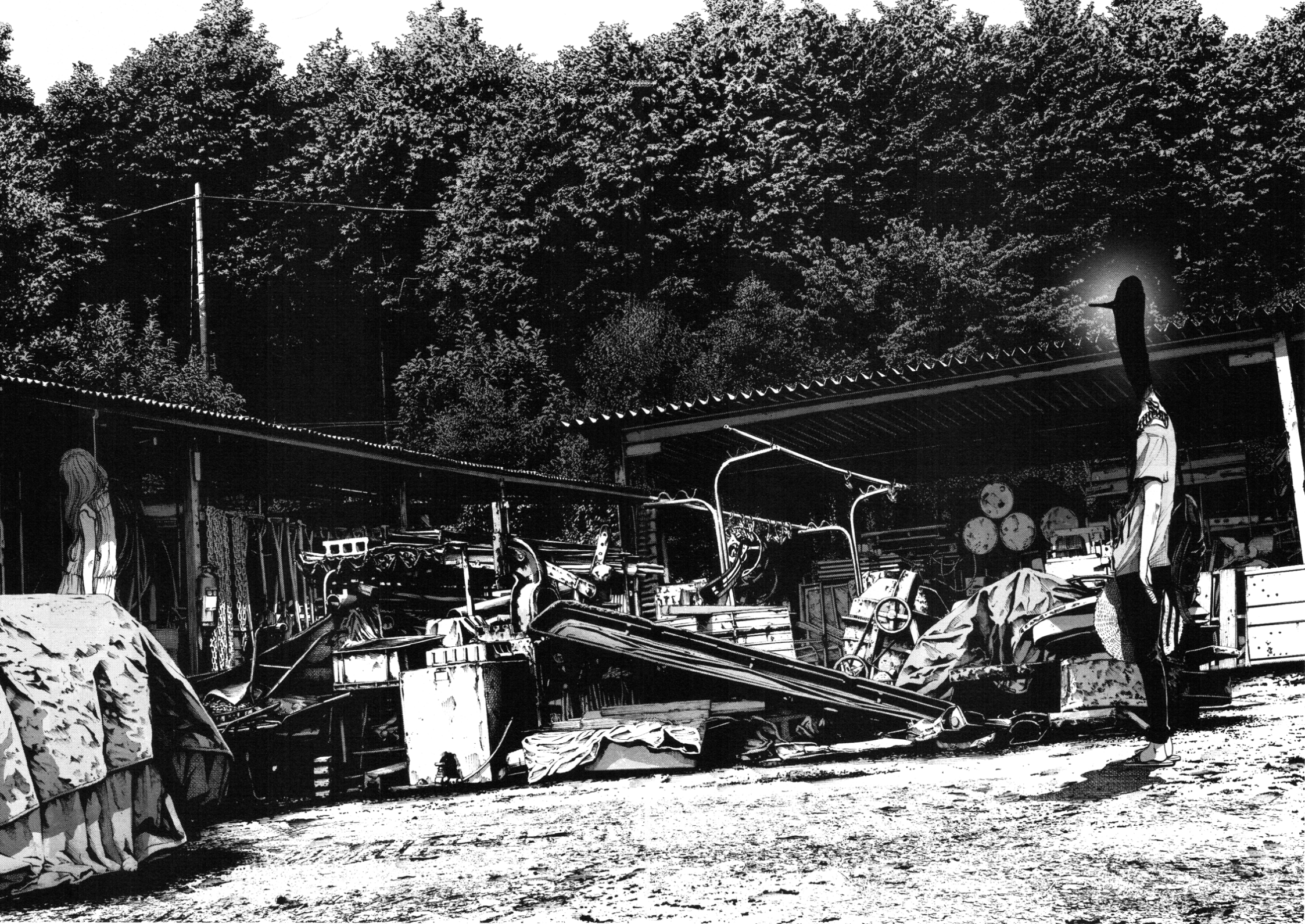
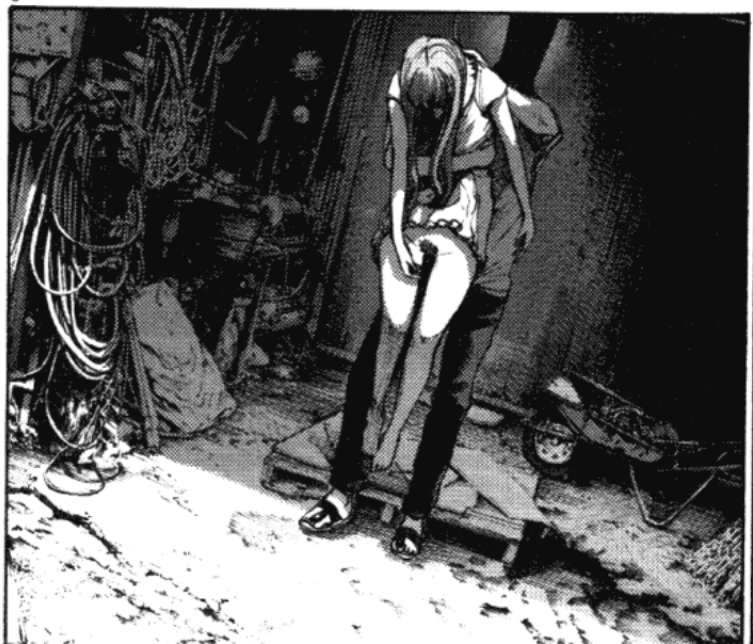
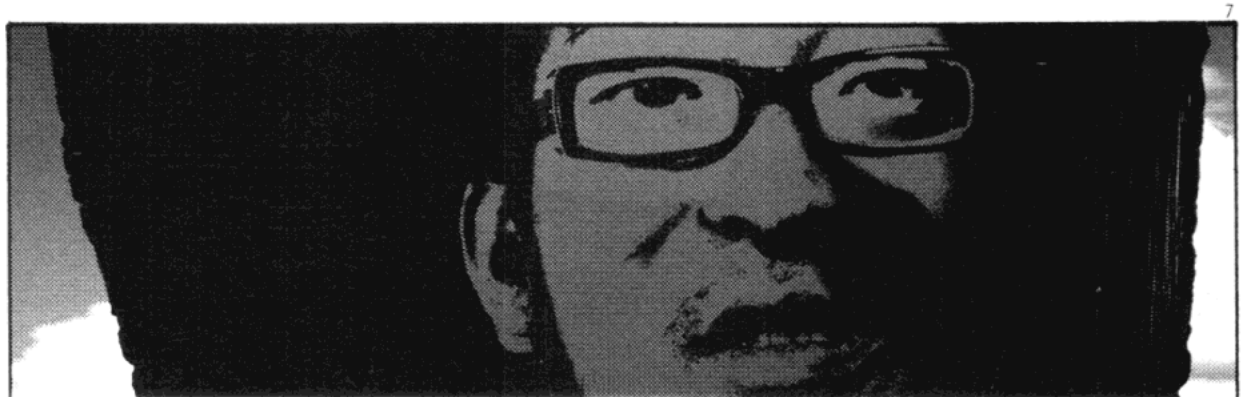


GALAX

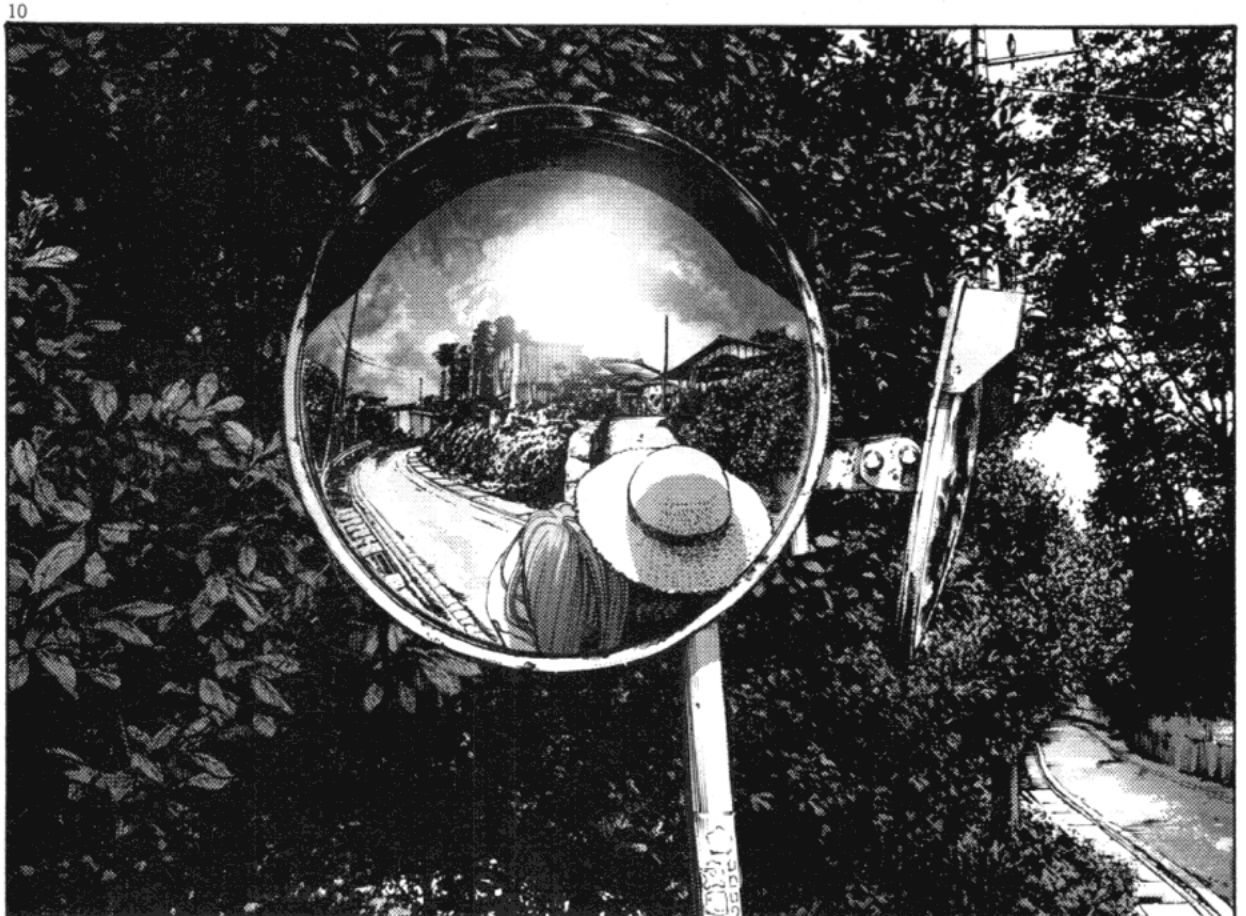


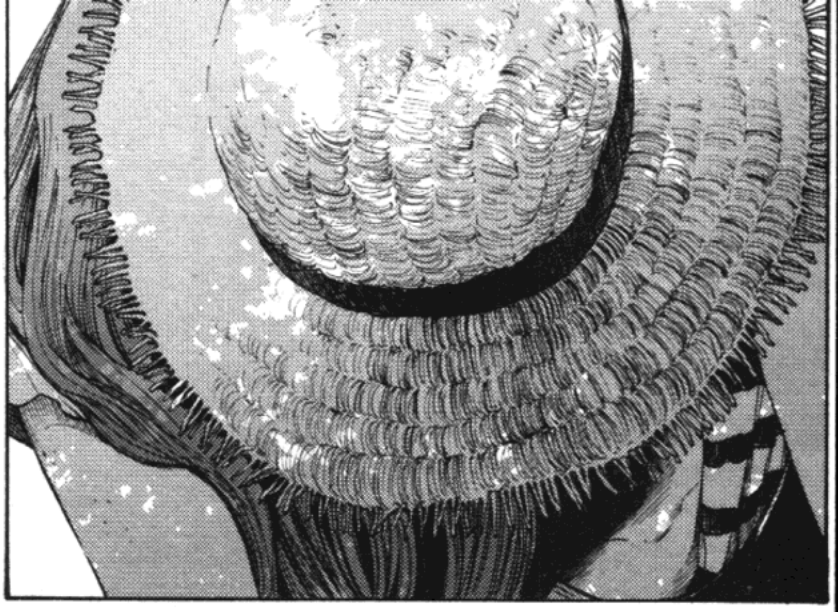






"...Let's go, Aiko."



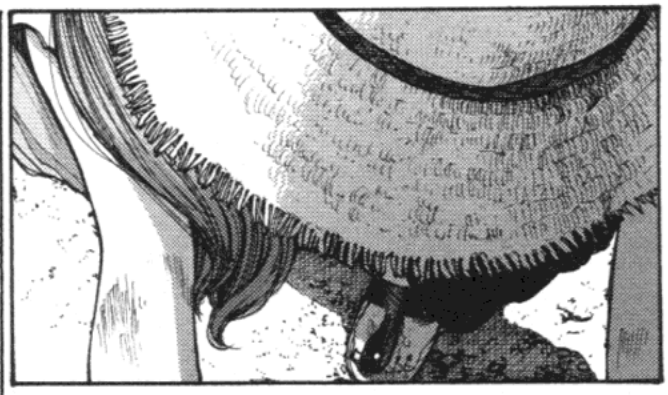


"...Aiko, I've been thinking about it. About our life from now.

"...Just think about it. We probably can no longer live a very peaceful life, but I do think it's still possible to bring a little enjoyment to our lives."

"Just as I wake up in the evening to go for my night shift, you'll come home from your job. You'll complain about your coworkers, but because it's the same old thing, I'll feel annoyed, but I would put up with it if it meant some of your stress would be relieved."

"It'd be a life in which we have little time to see each other due to our jobs, and yet we would hardly have any money to save up so we'd be in huge trouble if either one of us were to become caught up in an accident. The exhauastion would grind me down into a person far more boring than even now, and before long, you'll fall for a younger and taller man and toss me aside."

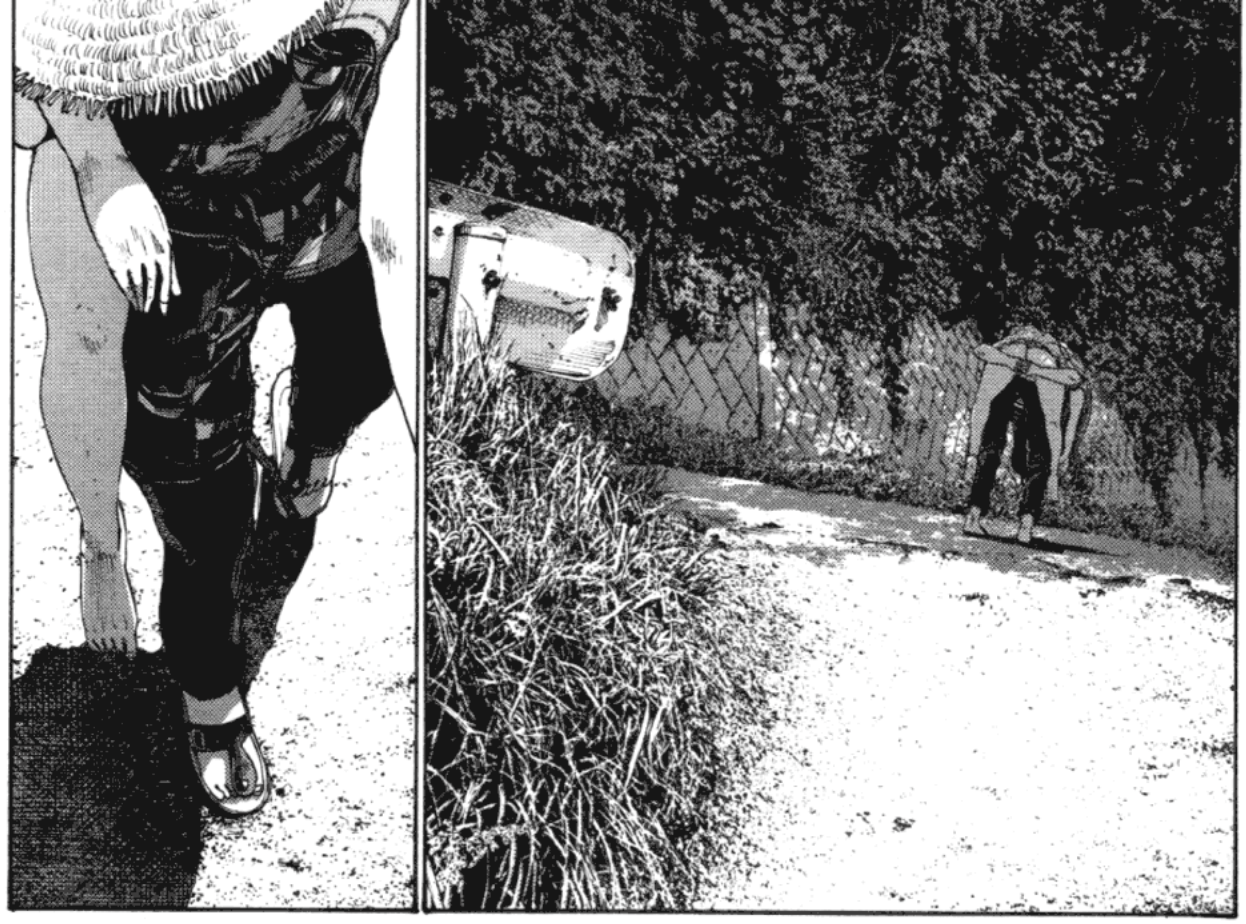


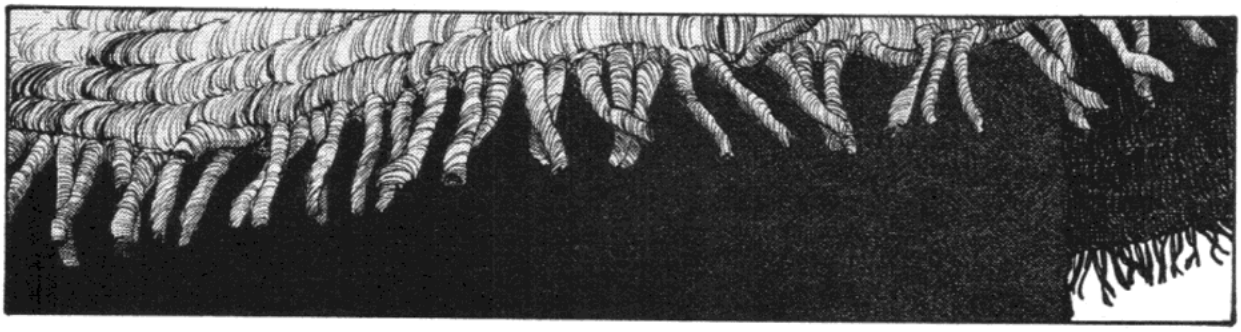
"...Hm? Oh, sorry for the depressing story. Let me try again from the beginning."

"...Aiko, I've been thinking.
About what I want to do or
what I want to be done to me."

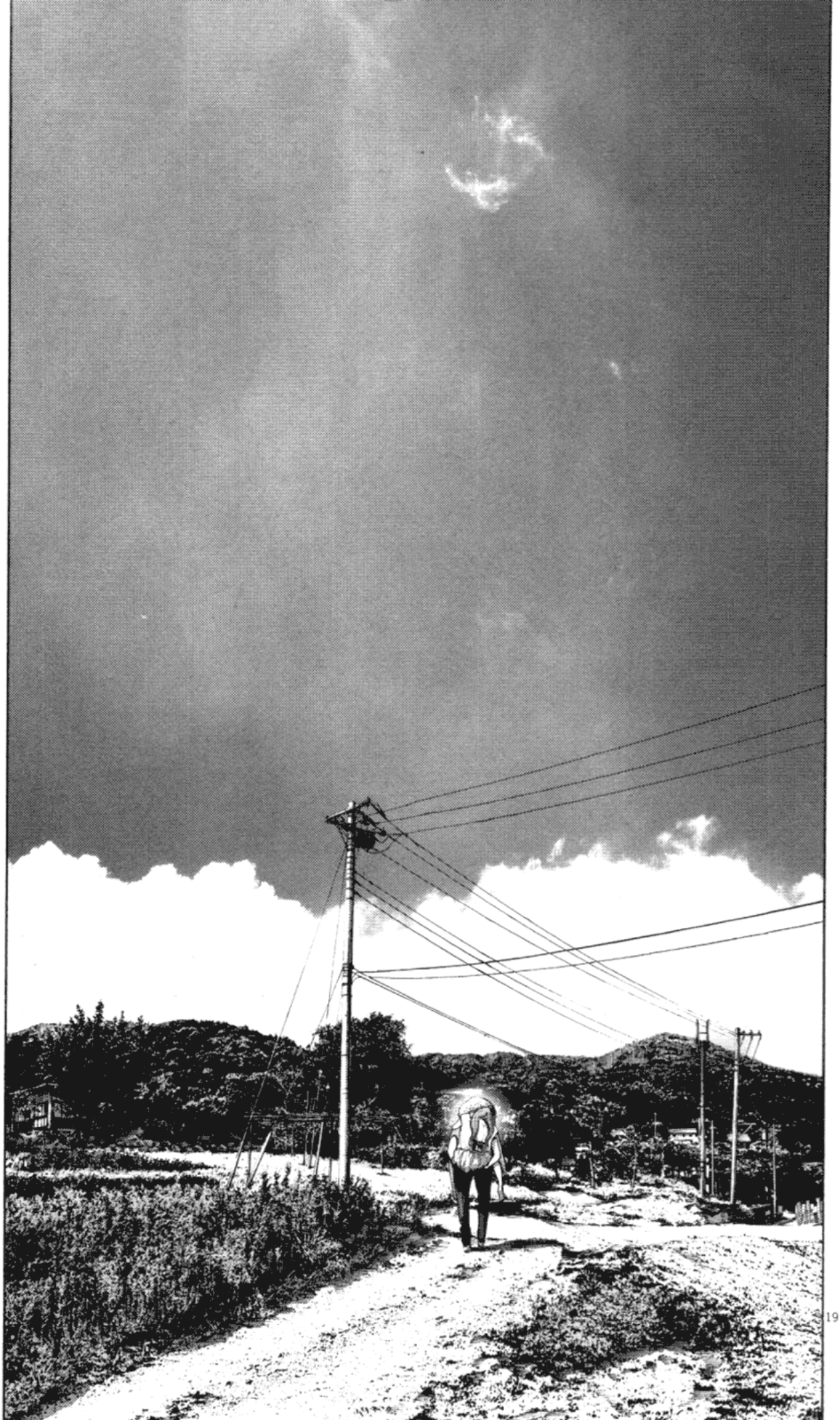
"You know, Aiko..."

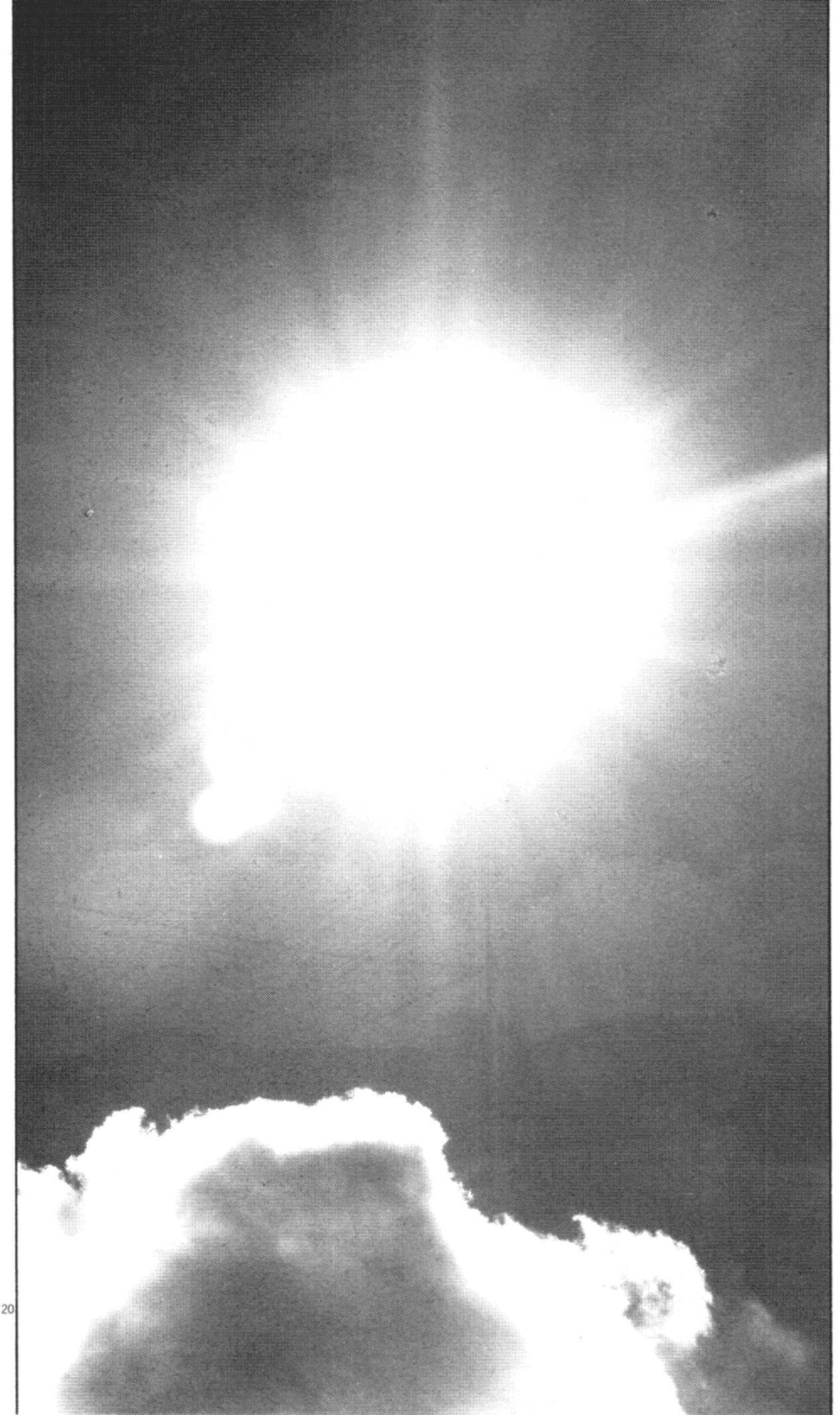
"I really wanted to be killed by you."





"...What am I, an idiot?"





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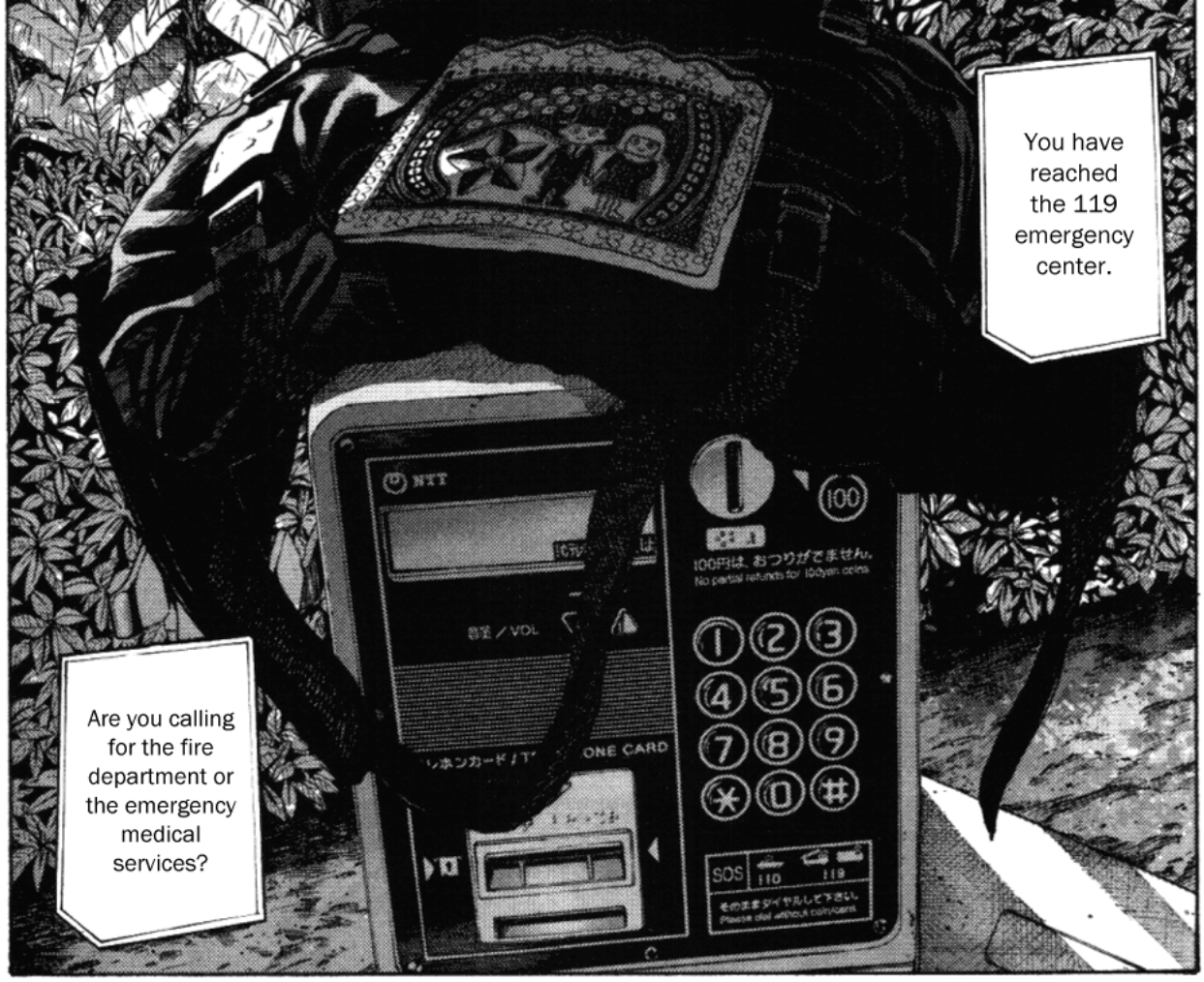
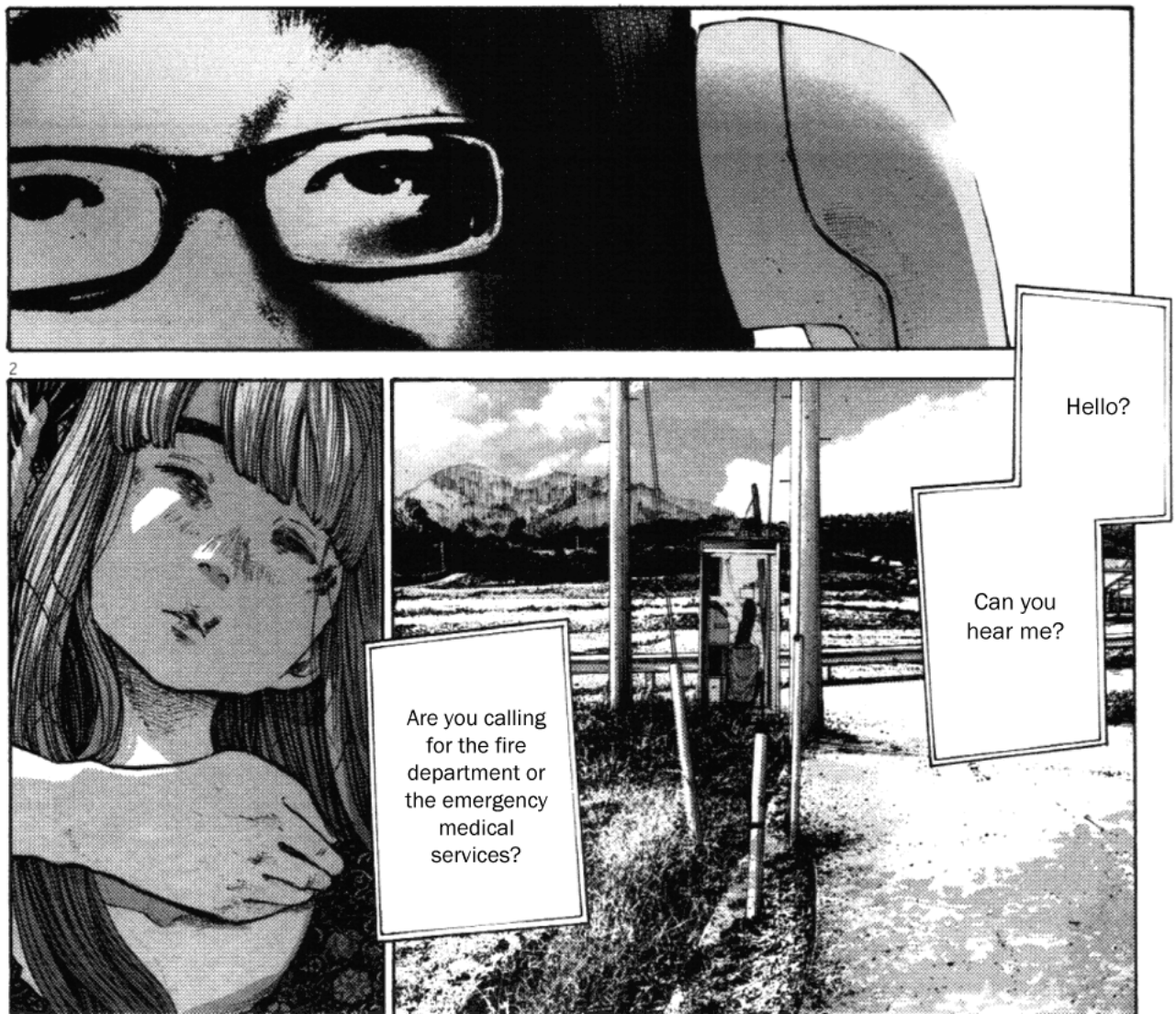
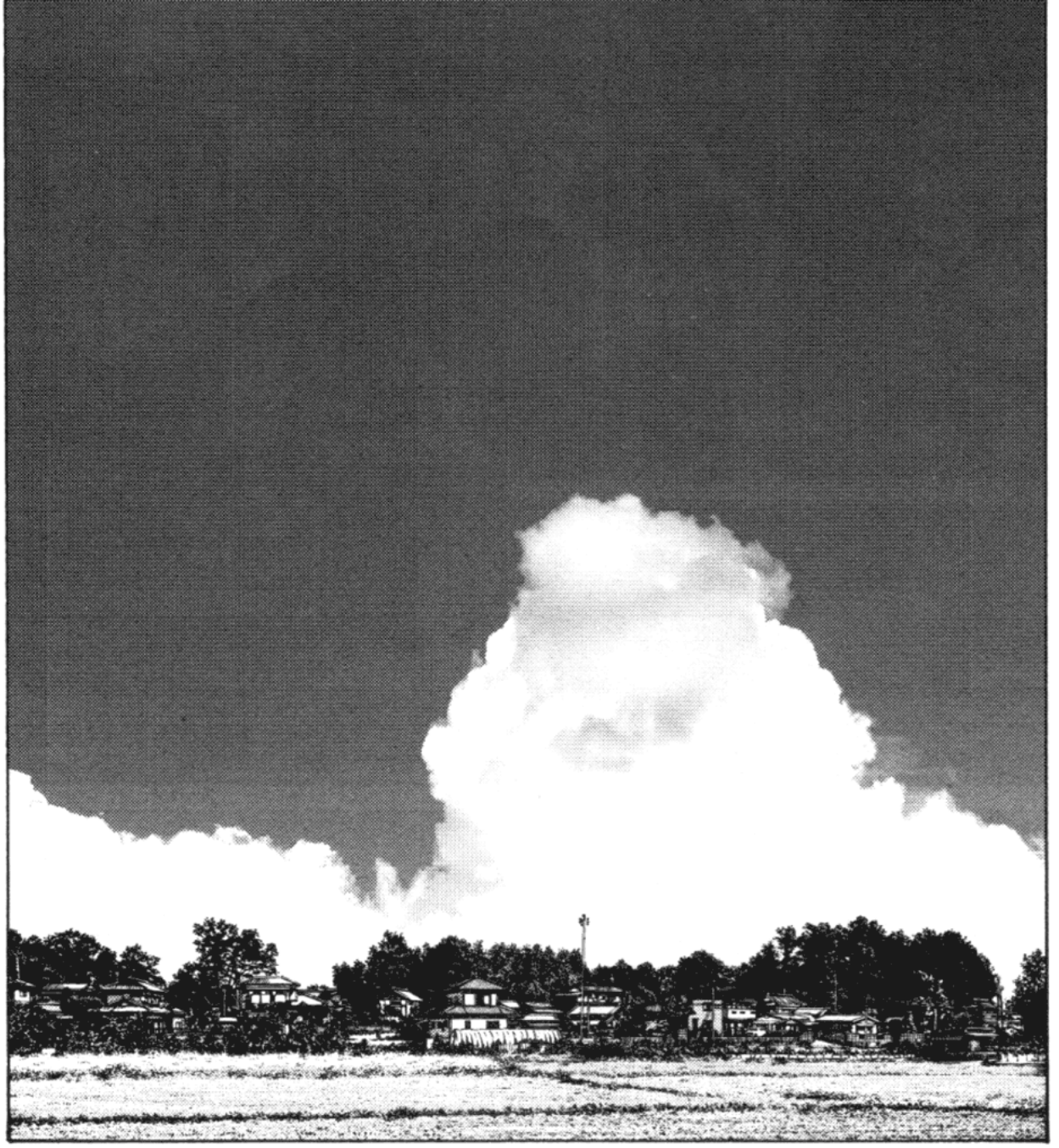

You have reached the 119 emergency center.
Are you calling for the fire department or the emergency medical services?
NTT
100
100円は、おつりがでません。
No partial refunds for 100yen coins
ONE CARD
SOS
110
119
Please dial without coin/card.


Hello?
Can you hear me?
Are you calling for the fire department or the emergency medical services?

"...Sorry, wrong number."



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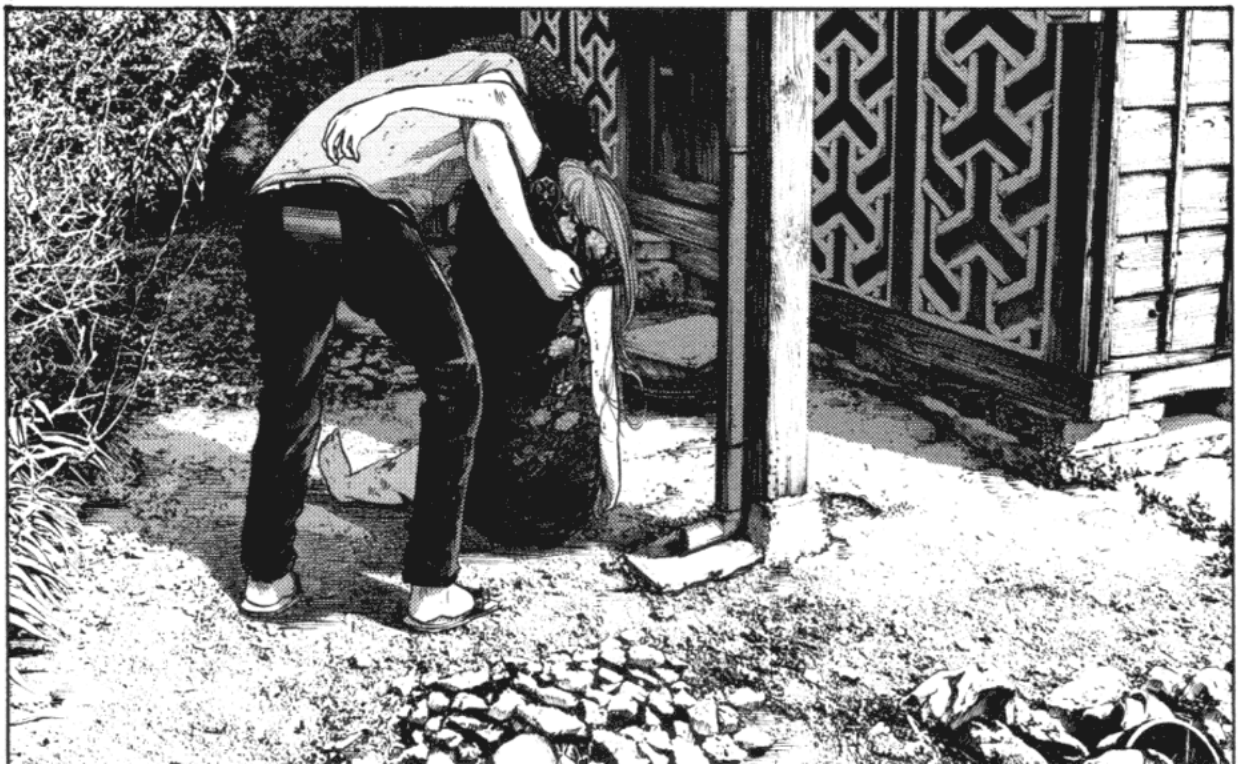
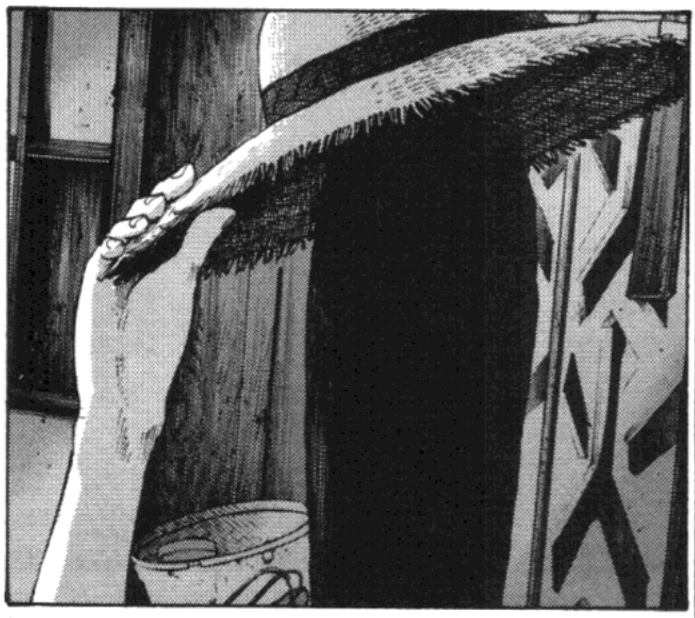




"Hi there."

"We came here by foot from far. It's fine if we rest here for a little while, right?"

"We just wanted to see how far we could go.
Just the two of us."

Umm...

You travelled empty-handed?

That's 20 minutes away from here...

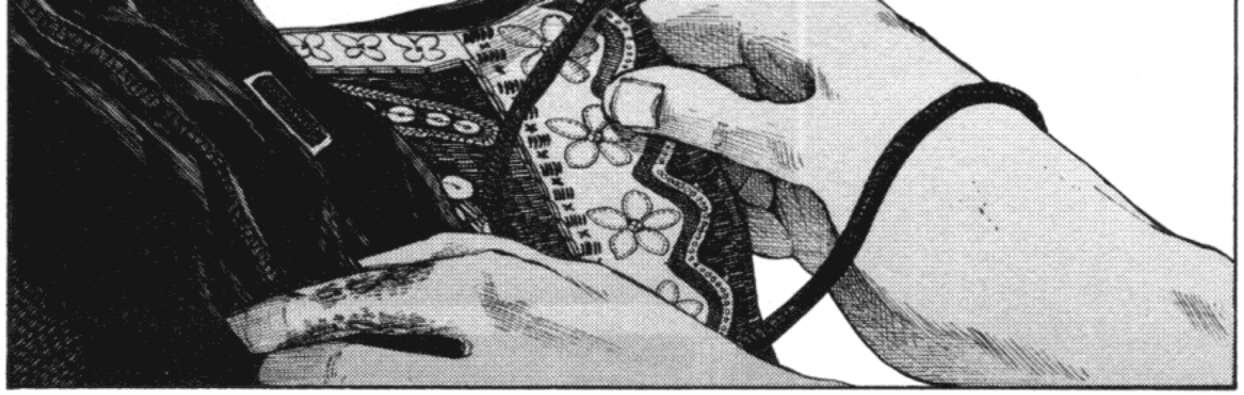
You two might pass out from the heat if you push yourselves.

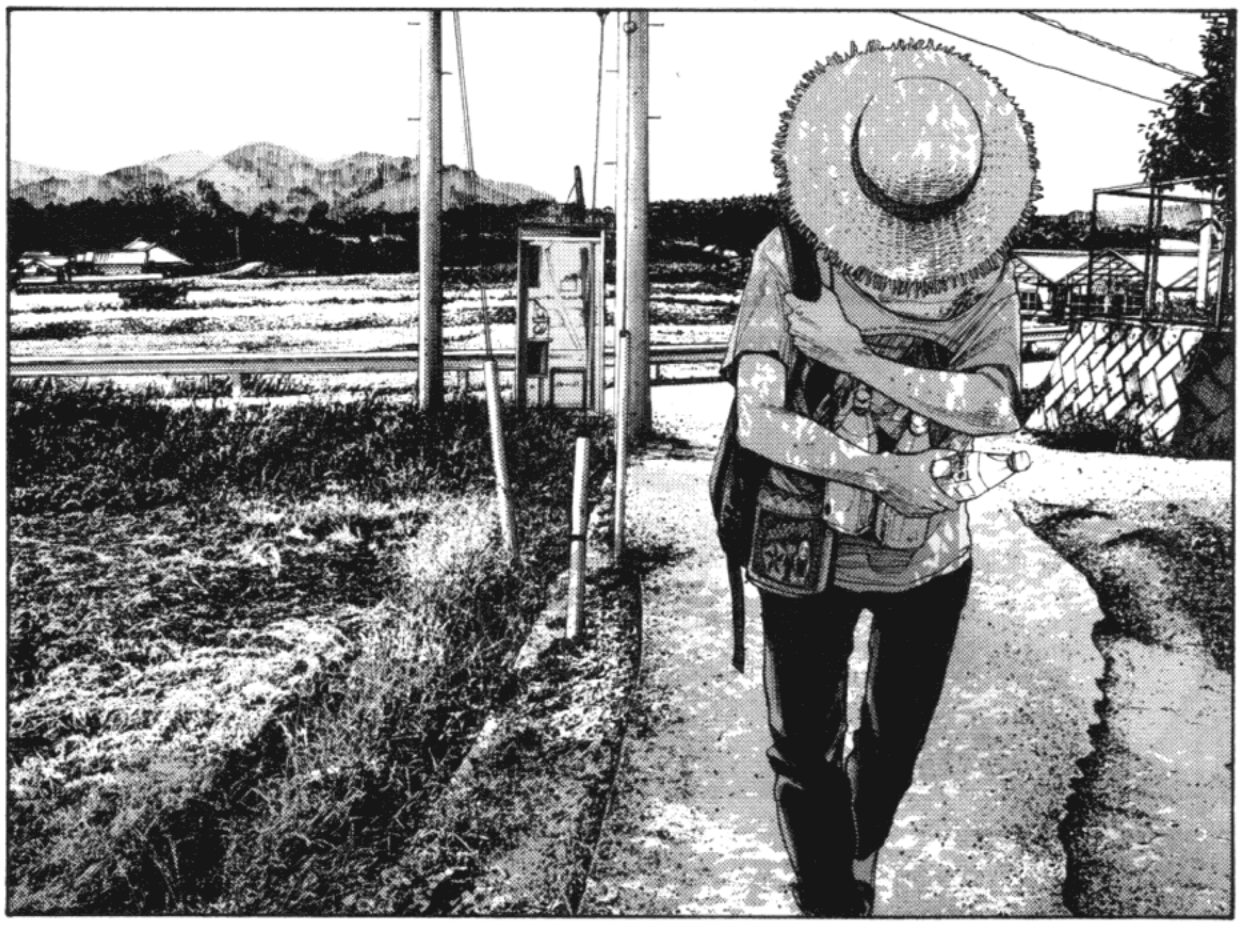
"Oh shoot... I left my bag at the phone booth..."

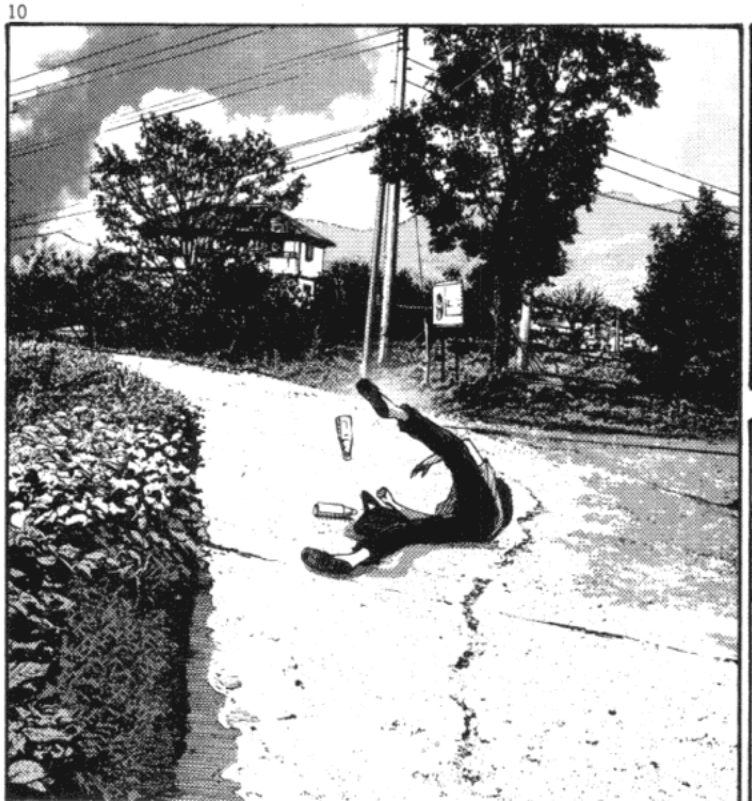
"She's very tired and only just managed to fall asleep. It'd be mean to wake her up now, you see?"

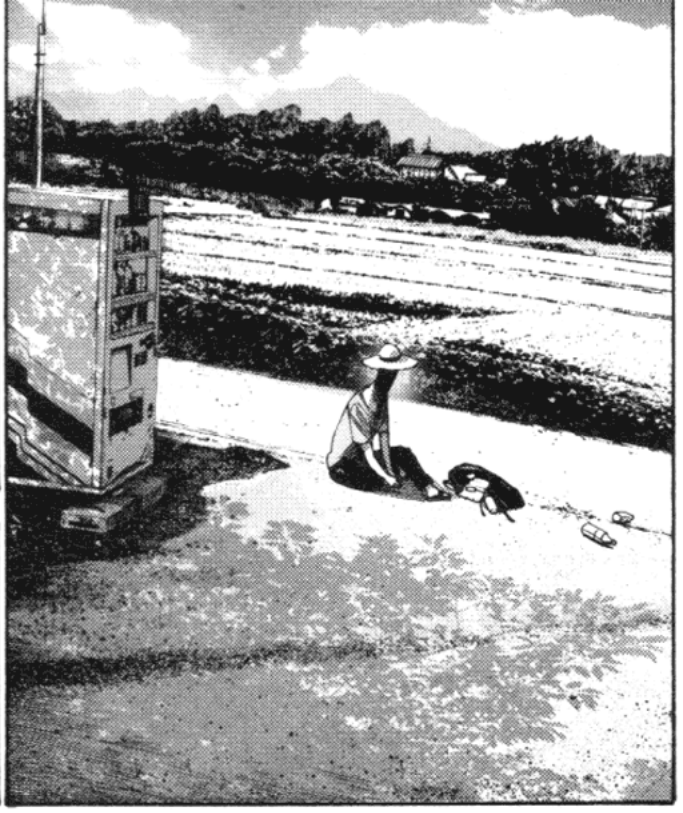
"Could you two... Perhaps stay here until I get back and prevent anyone from touching or talking to my friend here?"

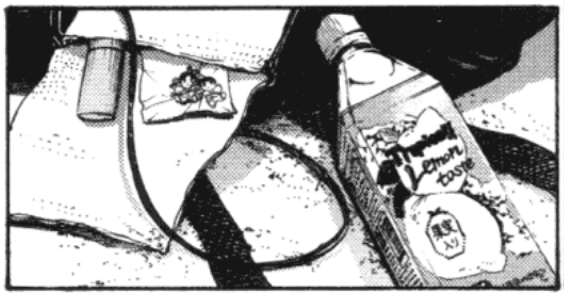
"Thank you. You two are a great pair."

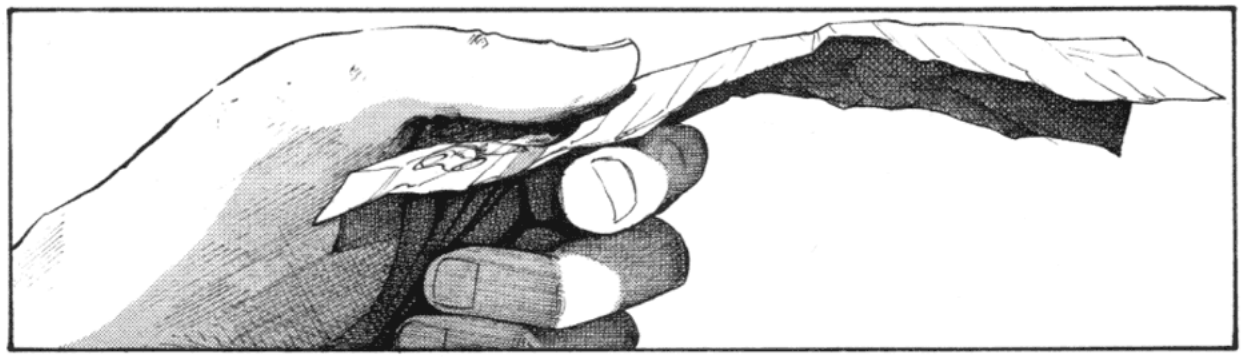


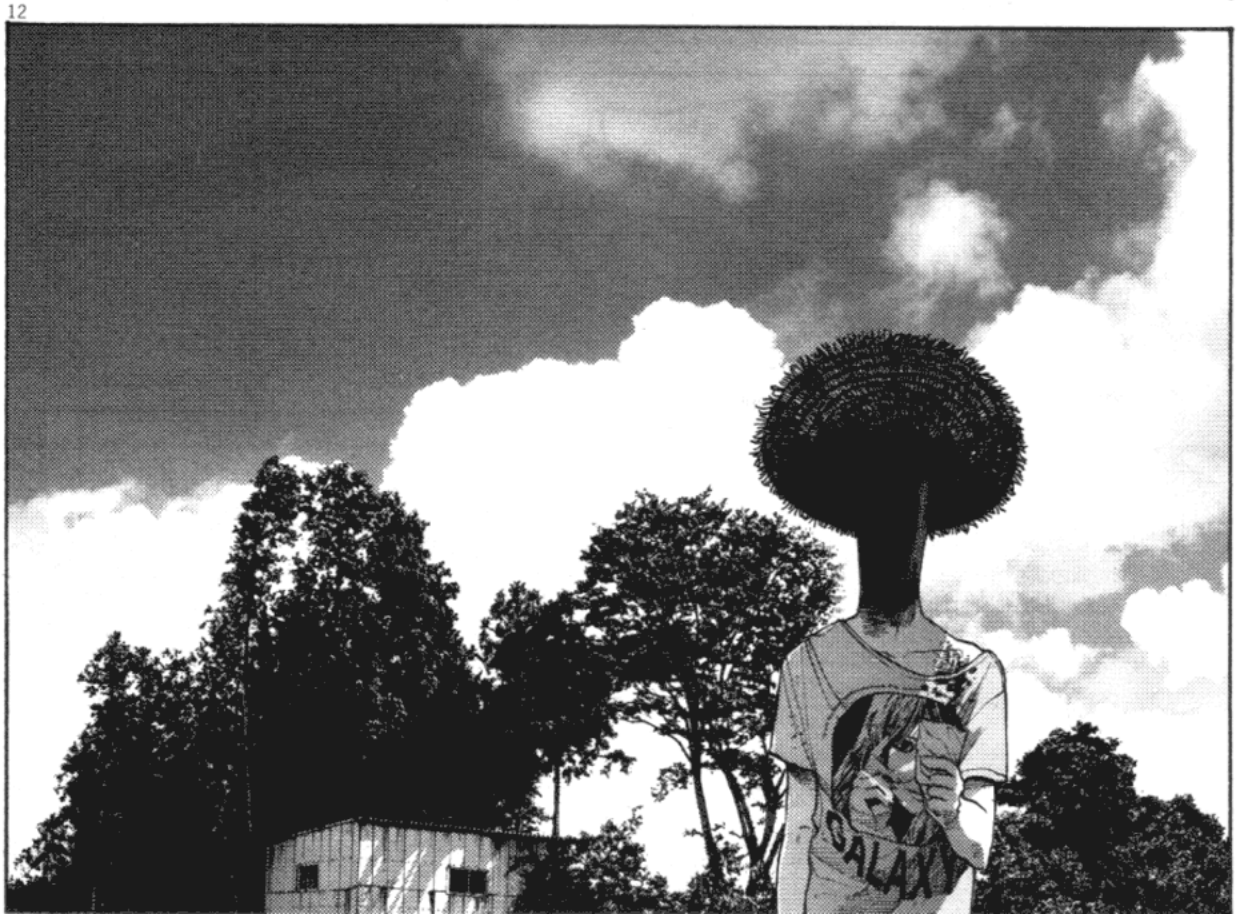






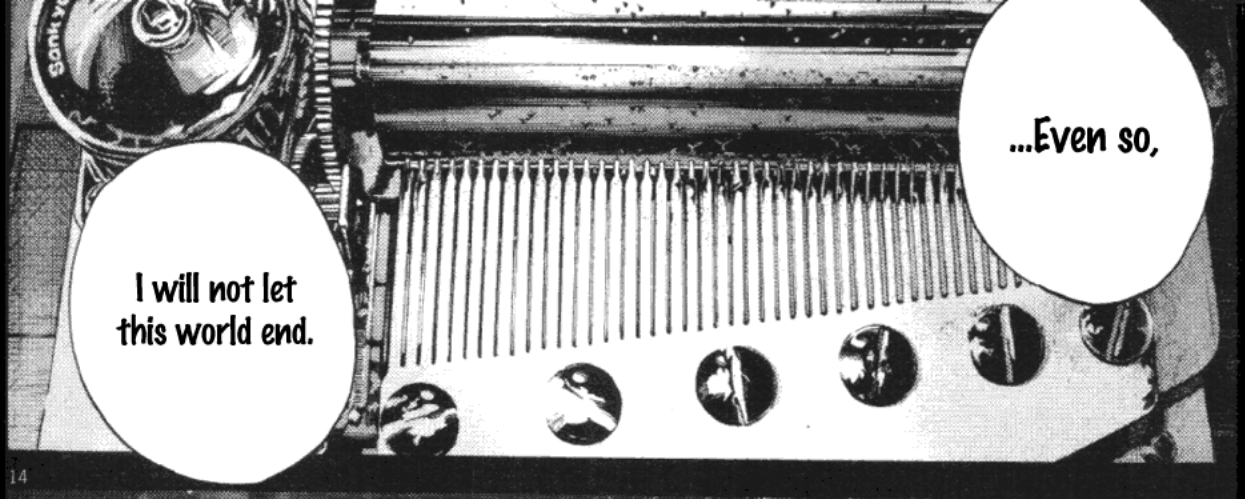





GALAX

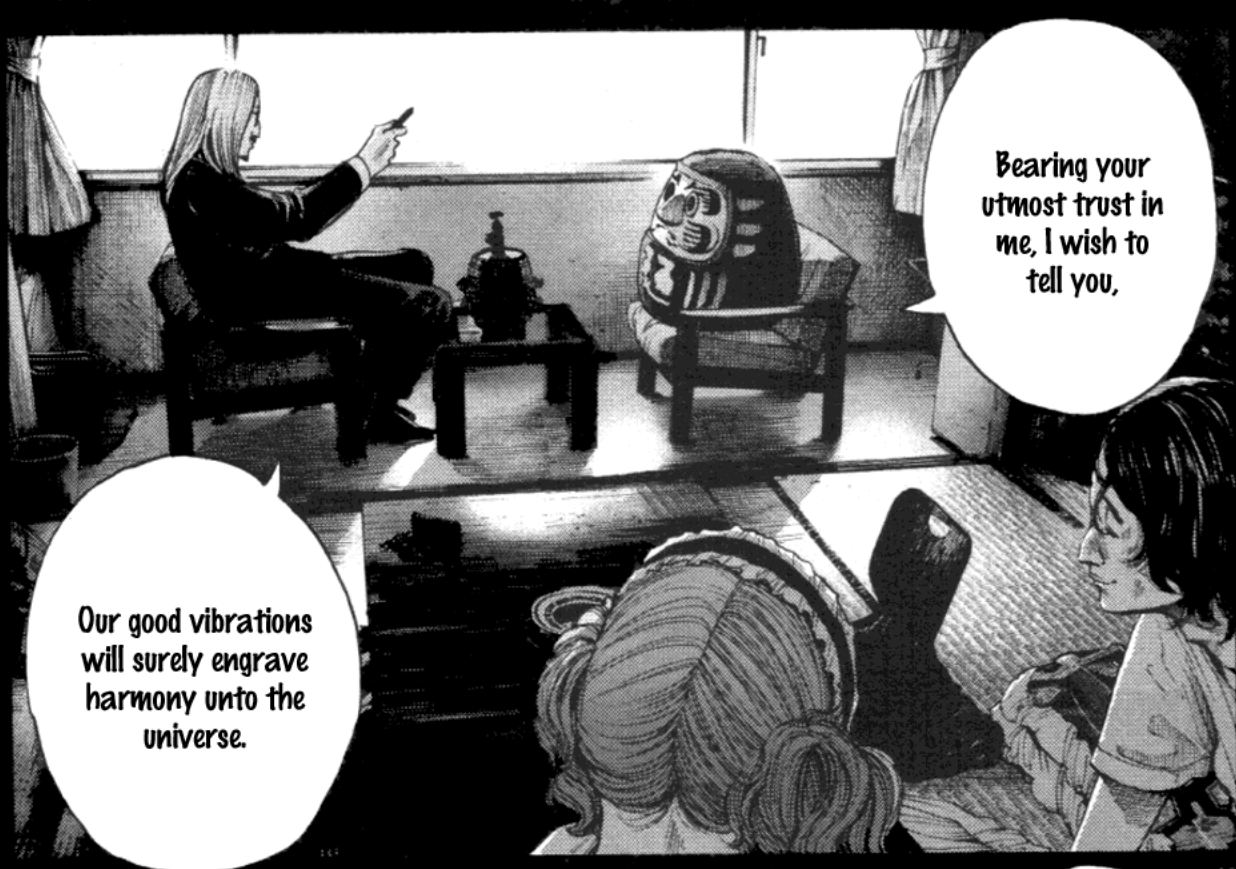
Ma
forge

May you never
forget me.

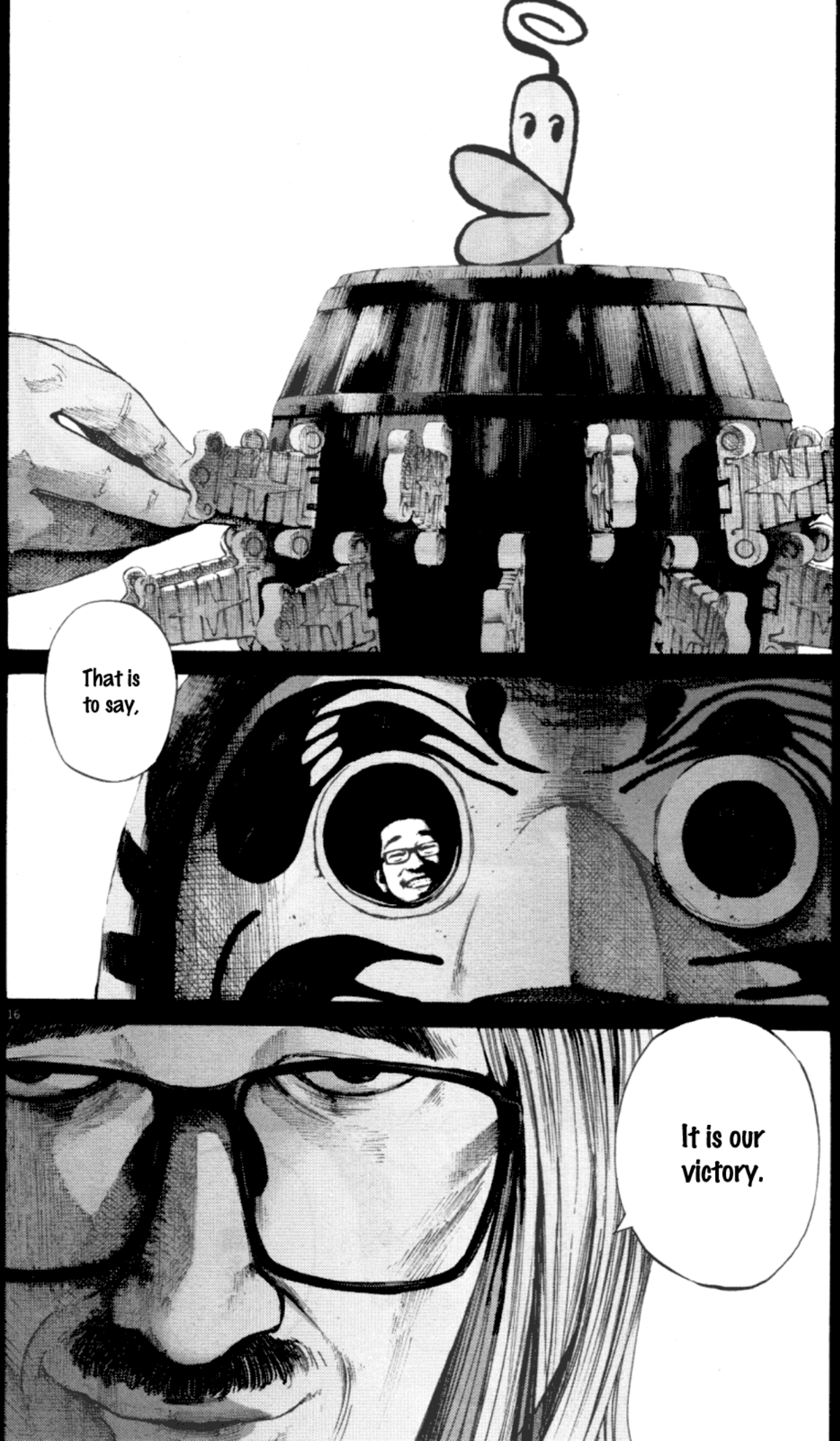

I will not let this world end.
...Even so,

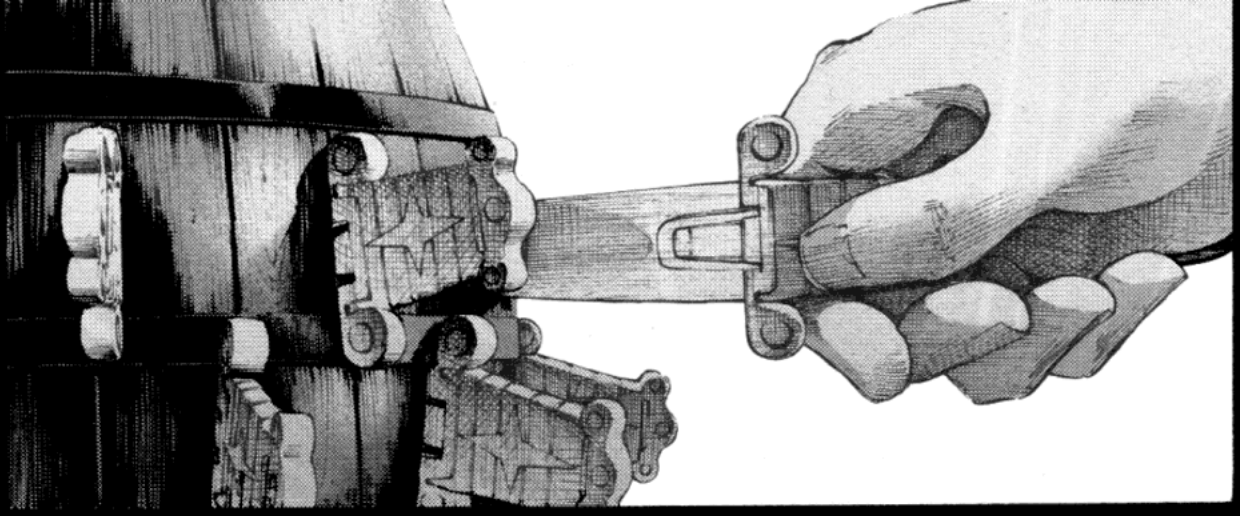
...Lastly, I'd like to thank you,
My beloved magical warriors...

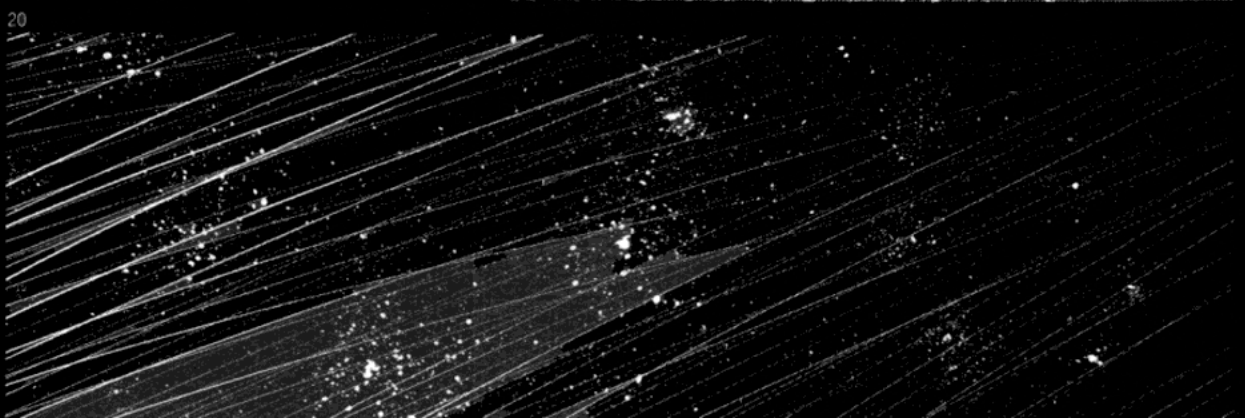
The new world is, in other words,
A test to the lovers...


Bearing your utmost trust in me, I wish to tell you,
Our good vibrations will surely engrave harmony unto the universe.

The time...
Is at hand.


That is to say,
It is our victory.





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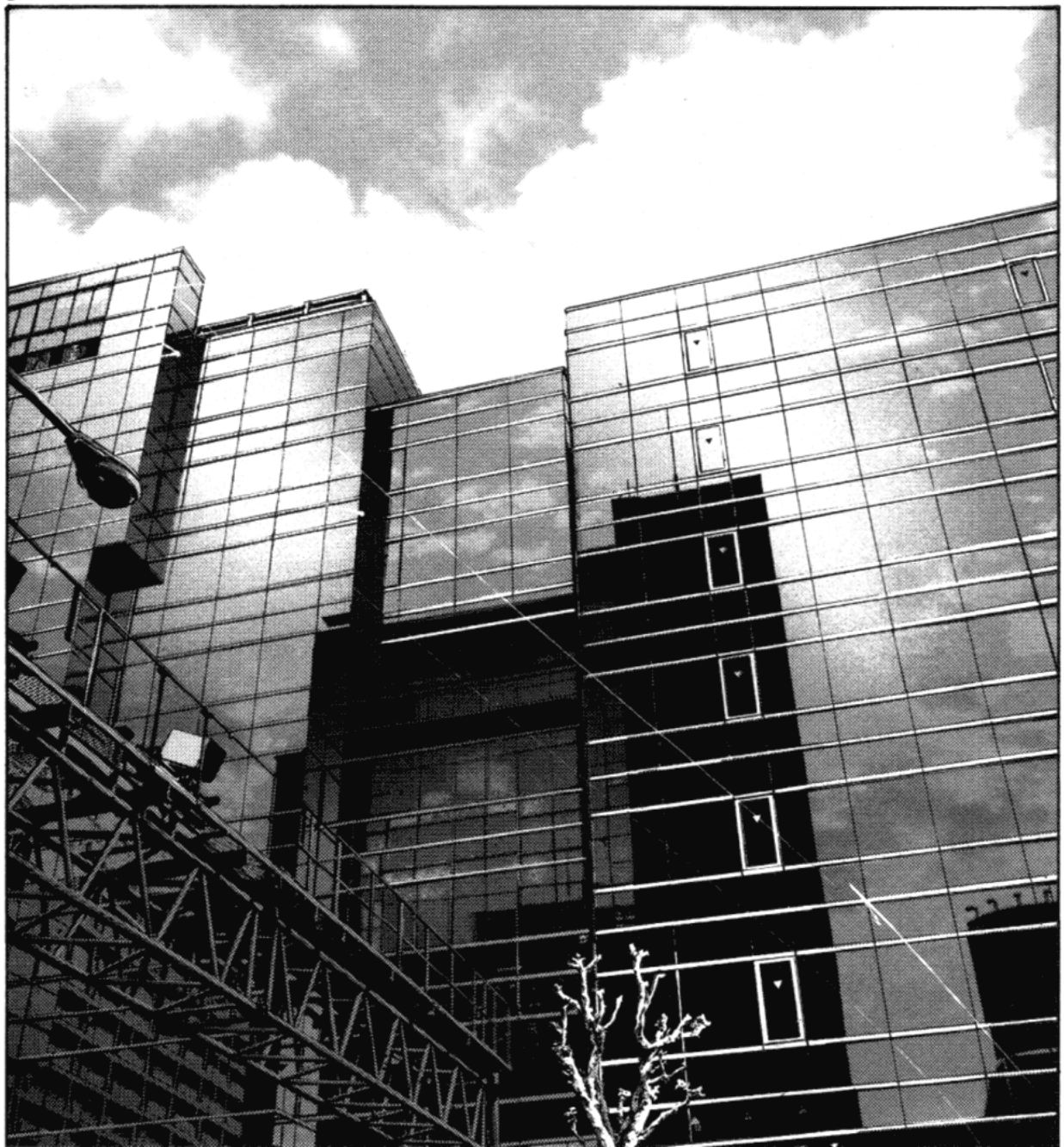

上原弓月
LIVE
AC1Z
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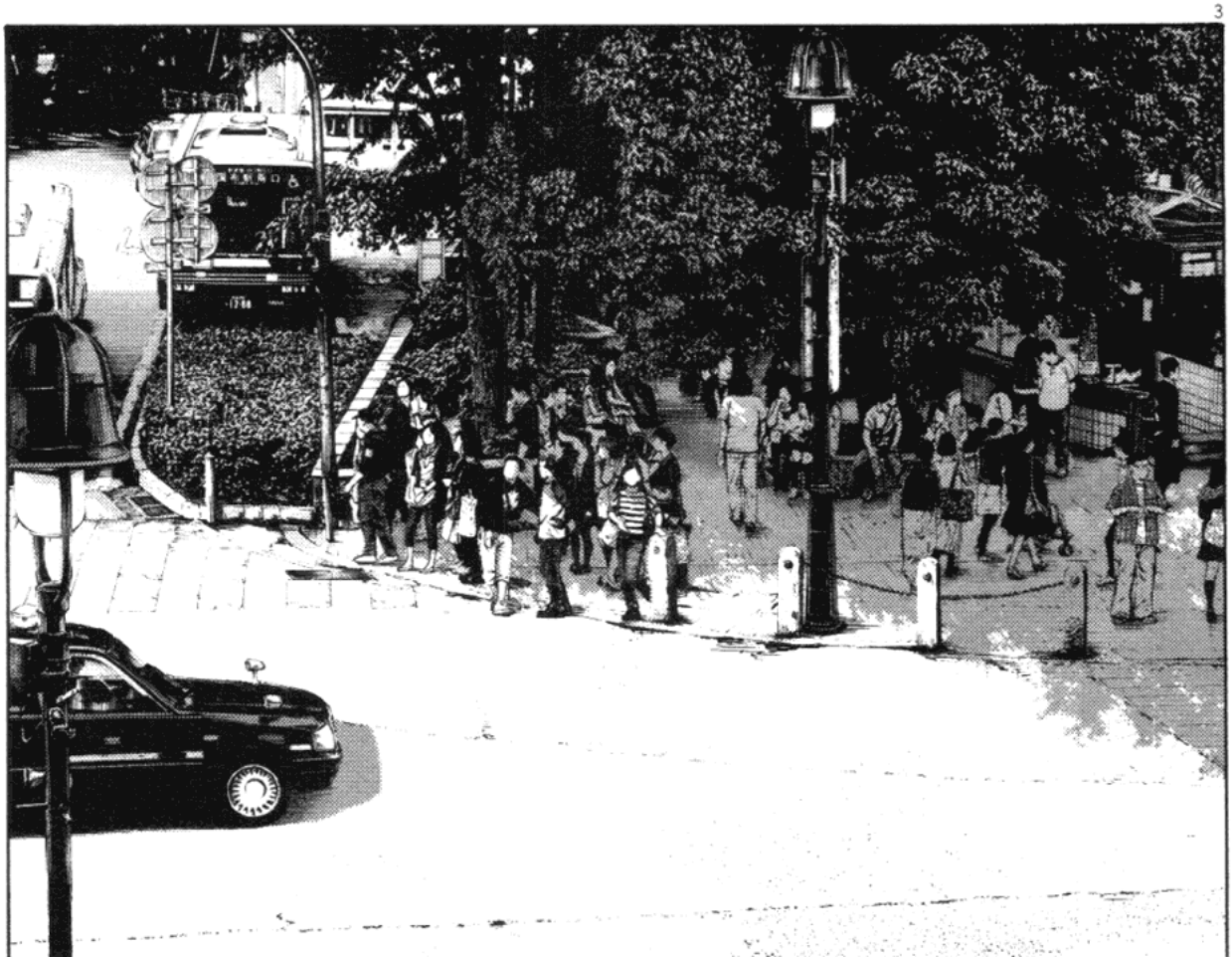
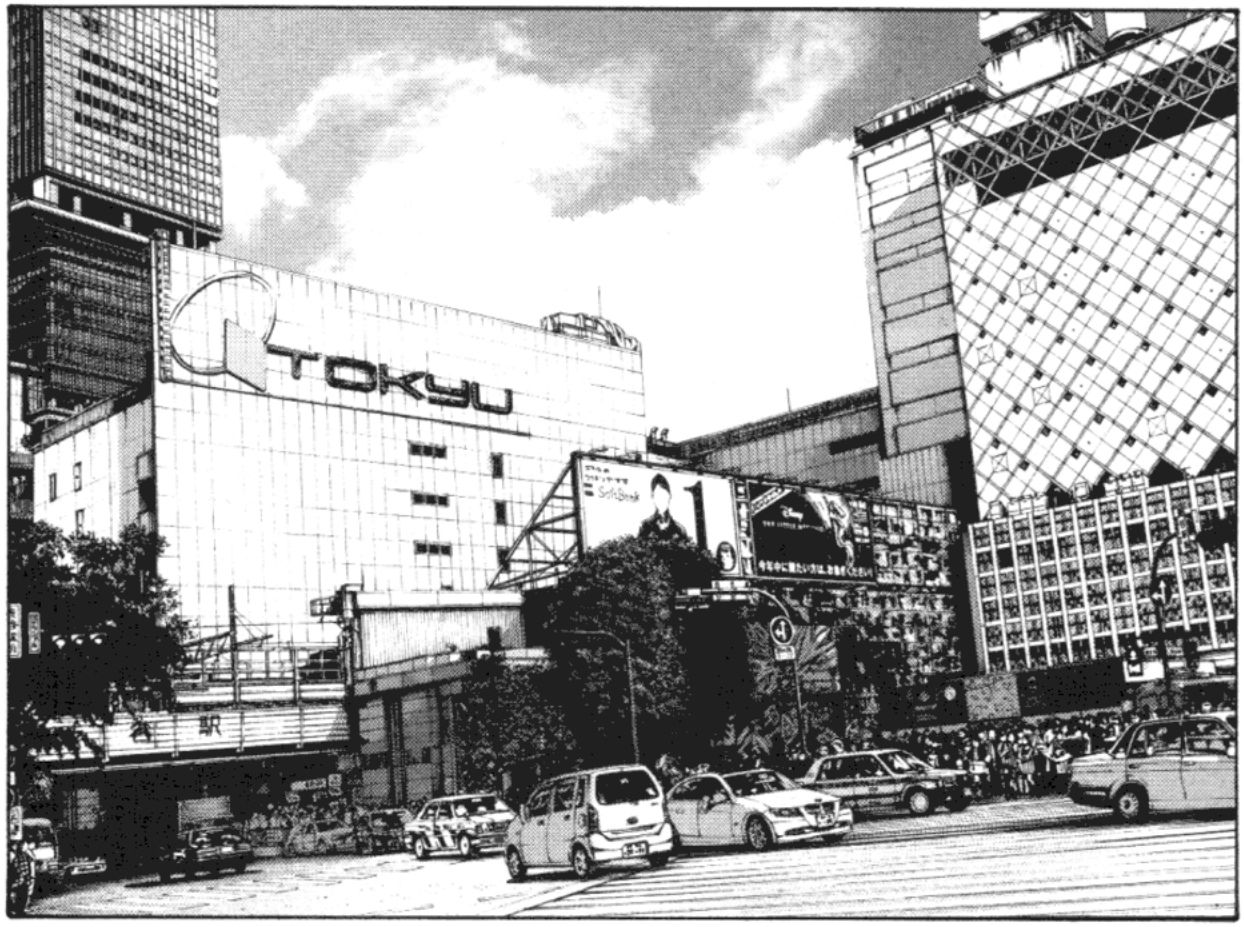


July 7th, Tokyo, Clear-weather

A young girl jogged across the road while frantically explaining through her cell phone why she was late.

To be tied down by objectives and obligations is inconvenient, I thought.

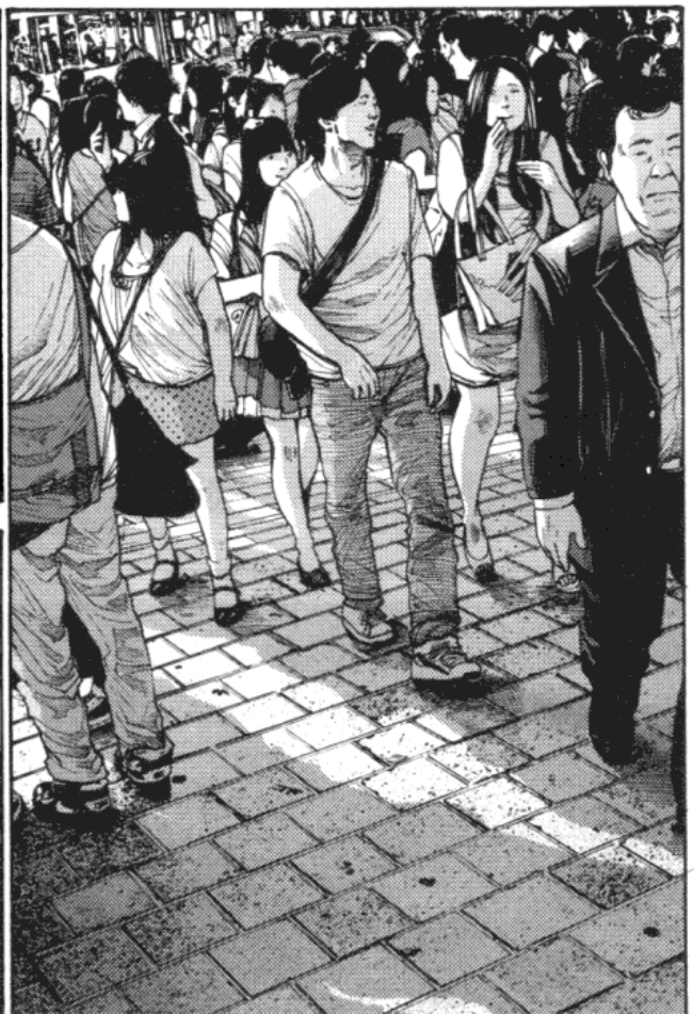
But that may be the only thing that connects my current self to the me of tomorrow.



It was quite here.
Very quiet.

For a moment,
I felt if someone had called out to me,

But of course, such a thing not only didn't happen, but I then felt that my name was of no use and better off forgotten.



I felt a nostalgic yearning for the gloomy 6-tatami room I will never return to and the dull, pointless scenery of its town.

But that is not the place I must go.

I close my eyes for a brief moment to become just another part of the waves of masses going through the transit ticket gates.

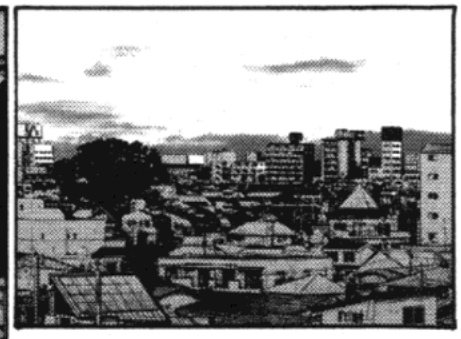
When I reopen my eyes, I feel as if I've gone back to several months ago, when I was still a nobody.

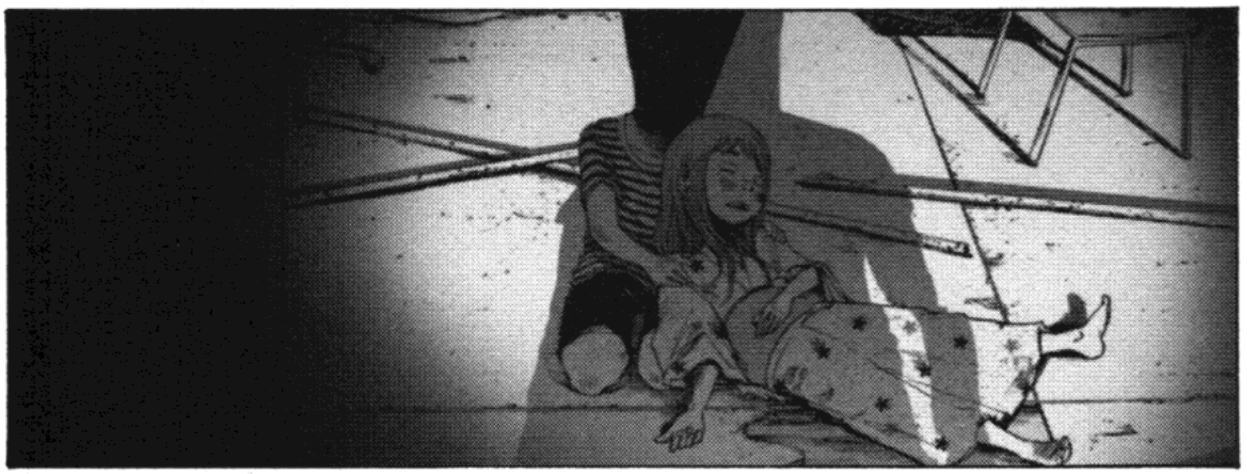
...He is just fine again today.

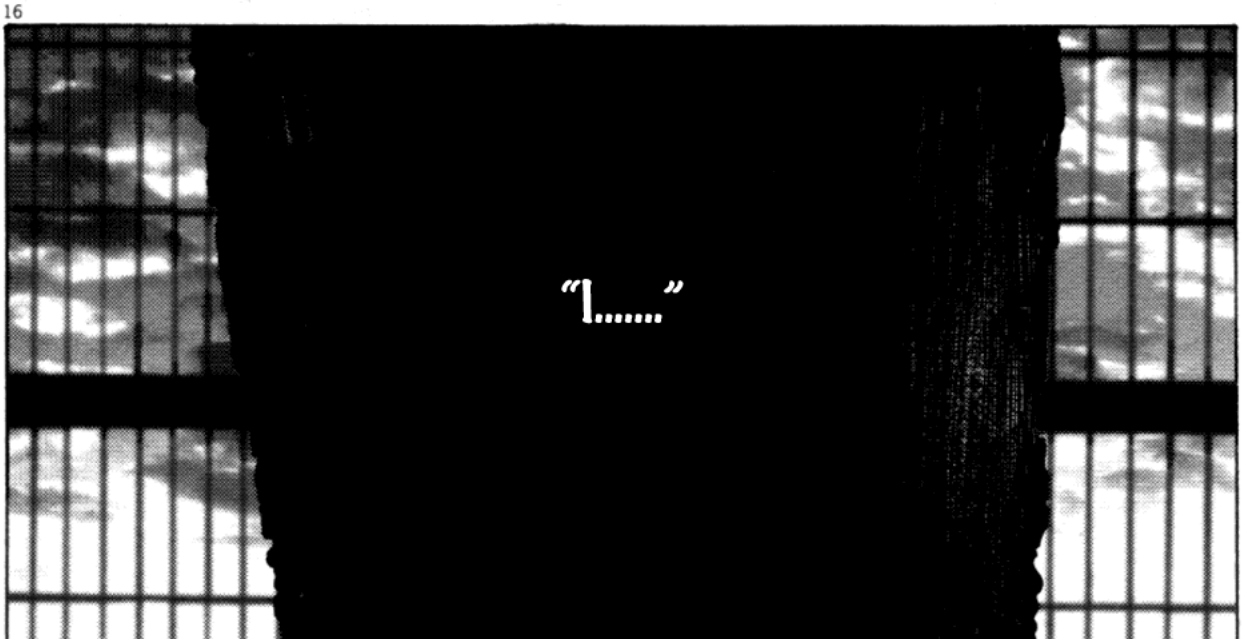
サロンパス
F21
FOREVER 21
I♥
m.k

渋谷駅前
Shibuya Sta.
スクランブル式
大和証券
OFFEE

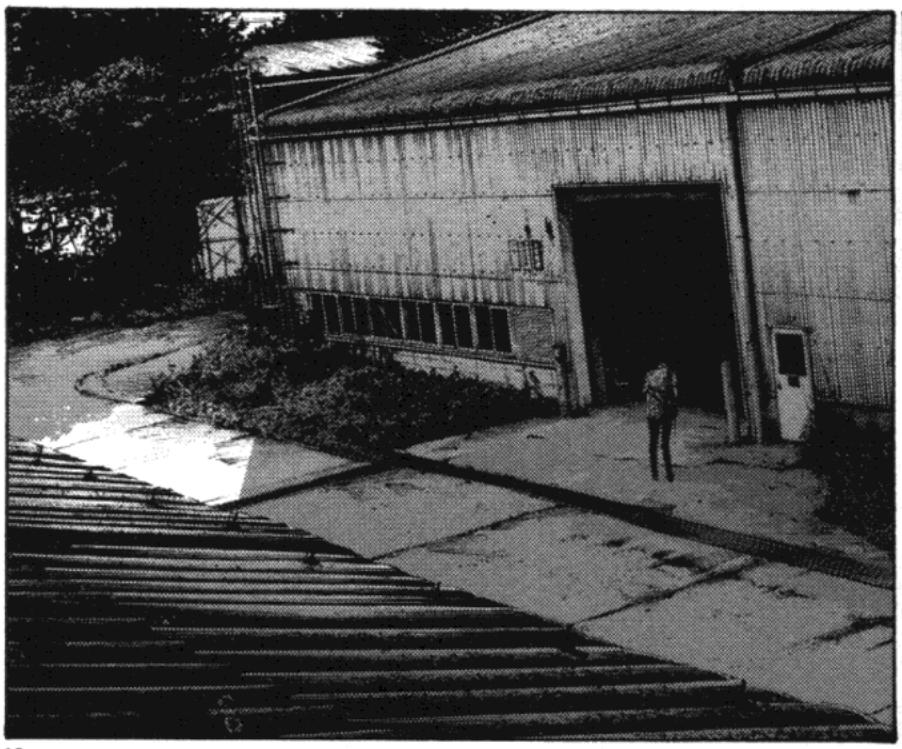
The starry sky.
At that same place.
Once more.






"I....."

"I've.....
Become strong."

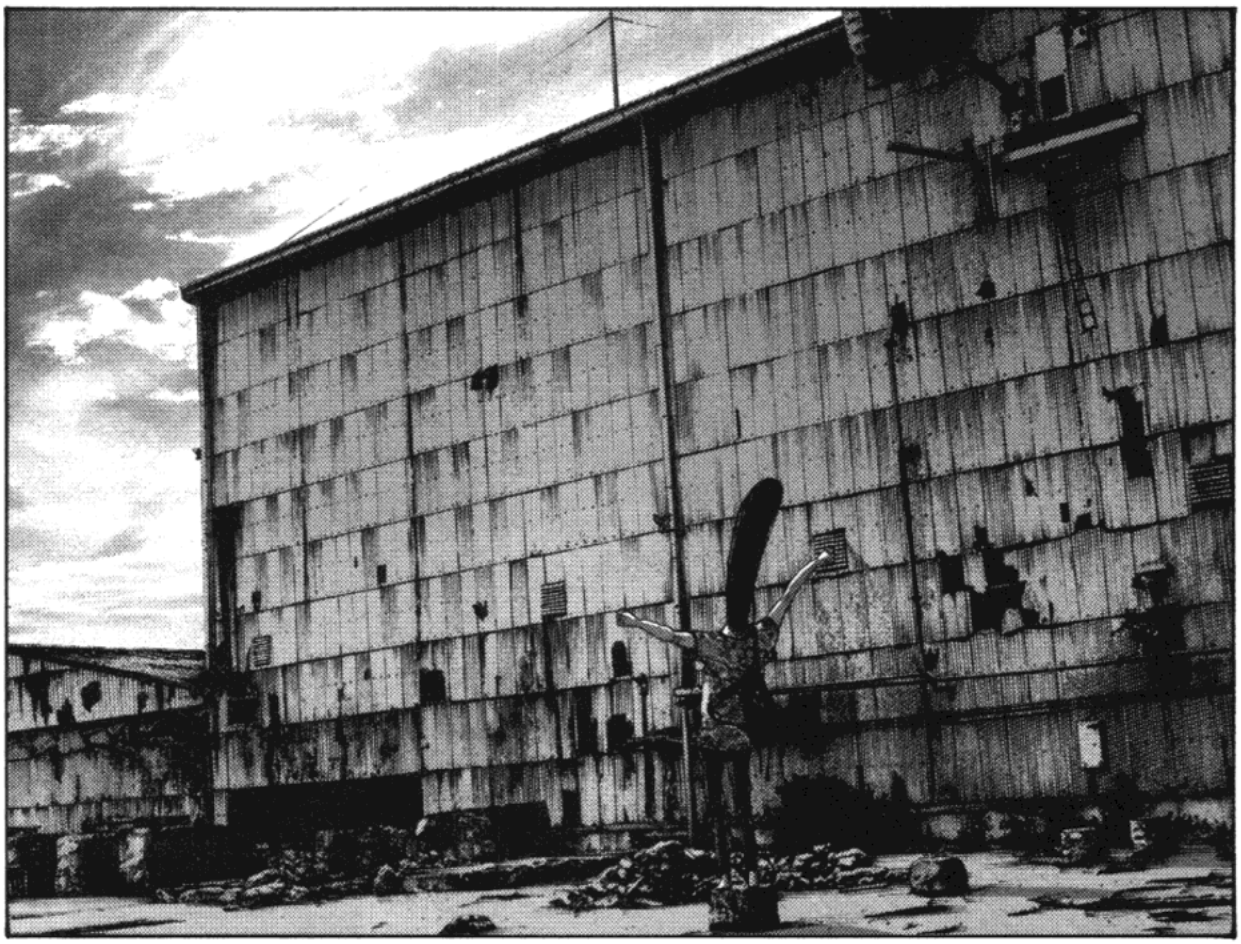


"Without anything to lose, there is nothing to protect. Troubles, anxieties, and even happiness.

This is the very ideal that I myself sought."

"I have no regrets.
Even if time were to wind back over and over again, it would only play out the same way."

"I... Finally achieved it..."



YOU SURE THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY?

DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU STILL HESITATE ON THE INSIDE. I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU.

"Hello, God."