

**JUNJI  
ITO**

STORY  
COLLECTION

# SMASHED

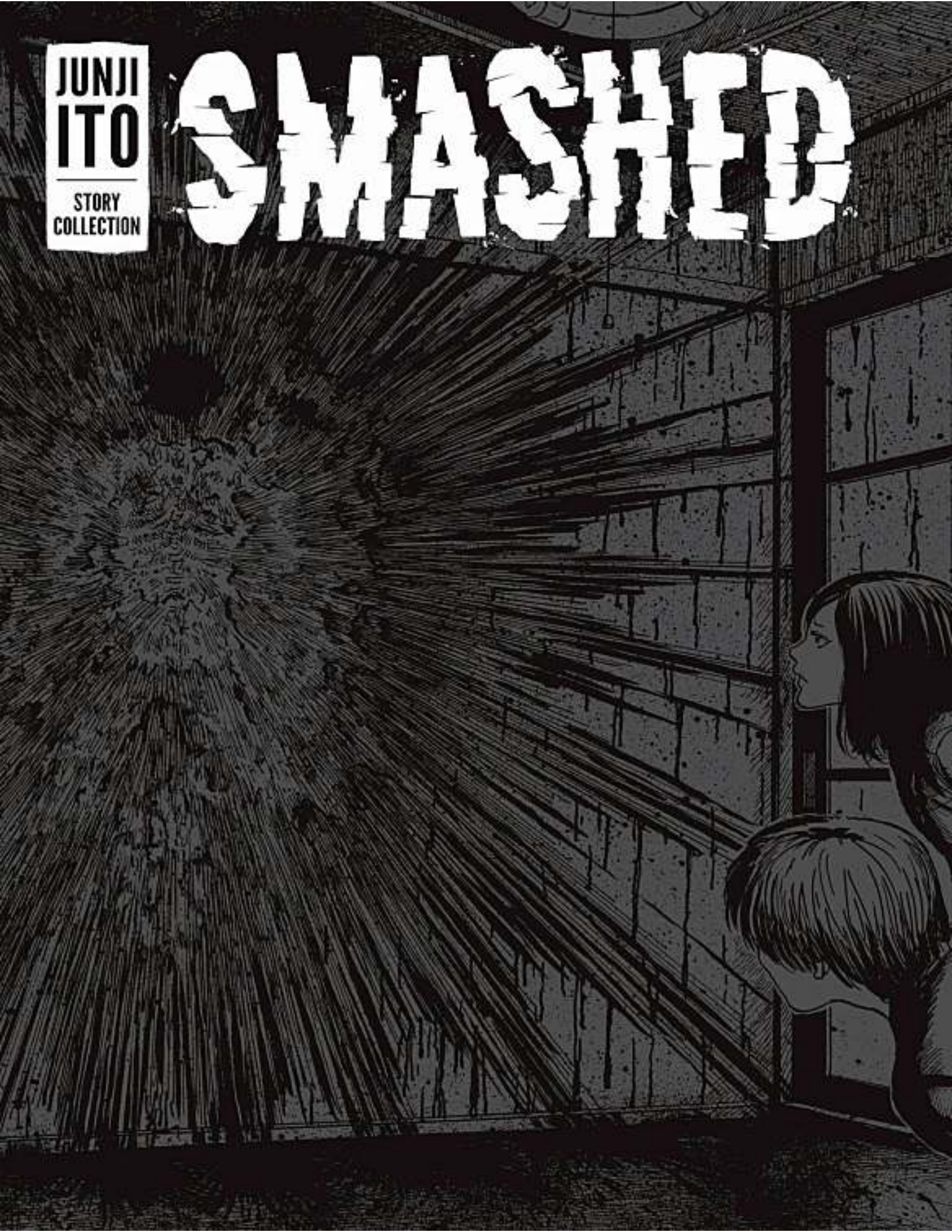




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BLOODSUCKING DARKNESS

血をすする闇







MY EATING  
DISORDER  
STARTED...

...  
AFTER I  
GOT MY  
HEART  
BROKEN.



I'LL  
SHOW  
HIM! I'LL  
LOSE  
WEIGHT  
AND  
BECOME  
A MODEL!

DAMMIT.  
I'M  
GOING  
TO GET  
SKINNY.



THE  
WEIGHT  
WAS  
STEADILY  
COMING  
OFF.

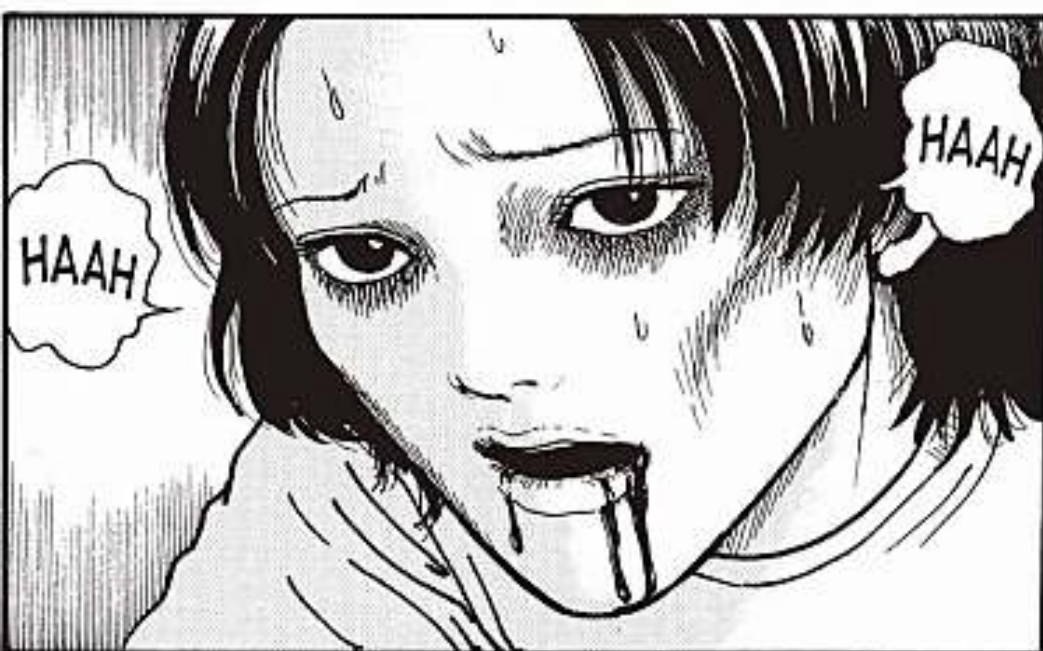
ALL MY  
HARD  
WORK  
PAID  
OFF.



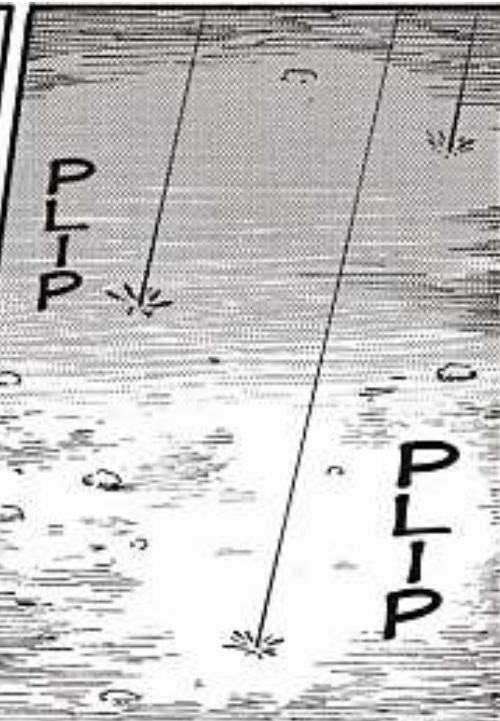
I'M  
DONE.

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
NAMI? YOU  
HAVEN'T  
EATEN A  
THING.









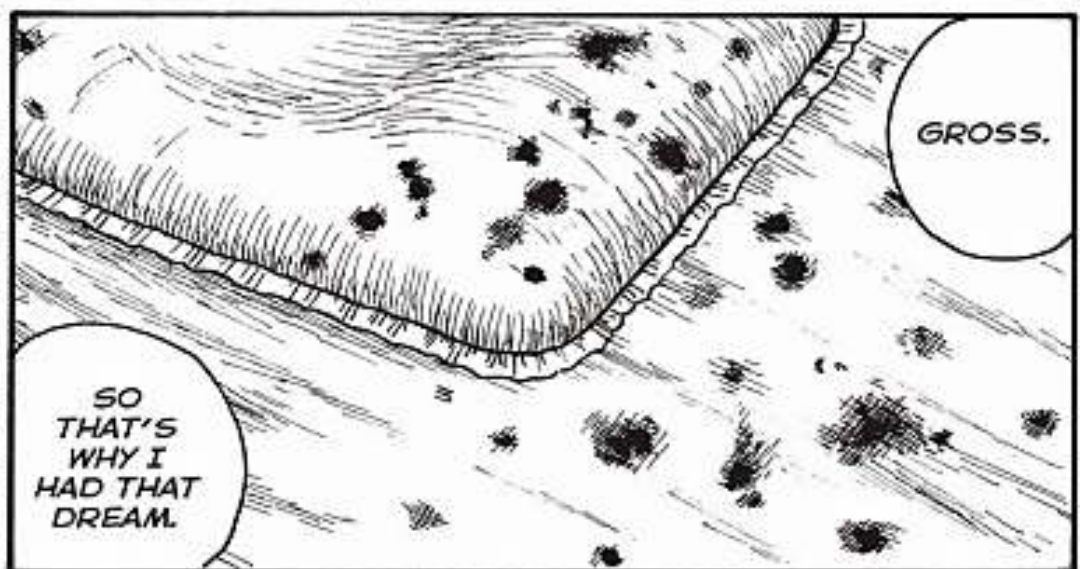
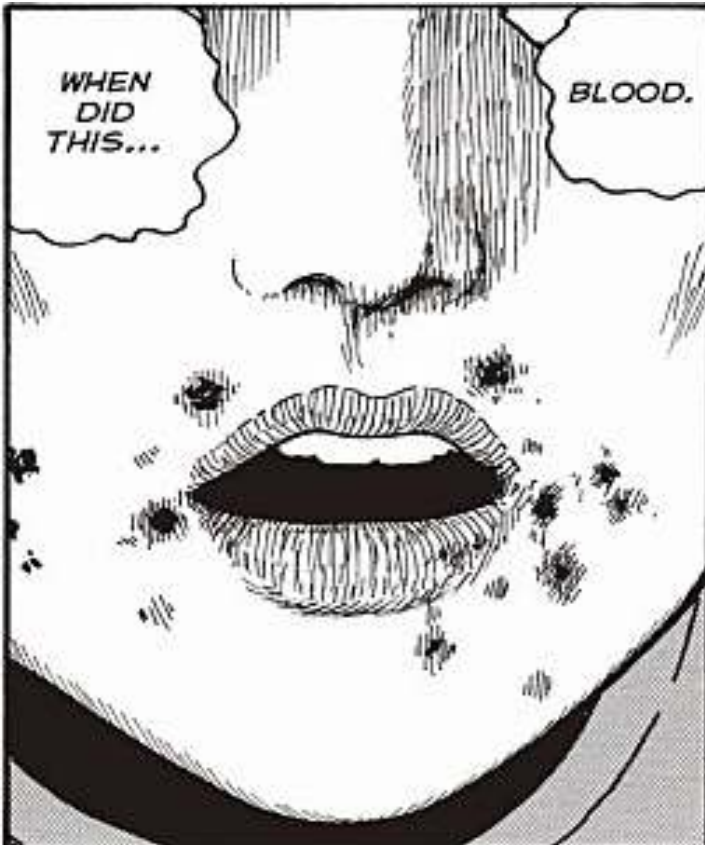




















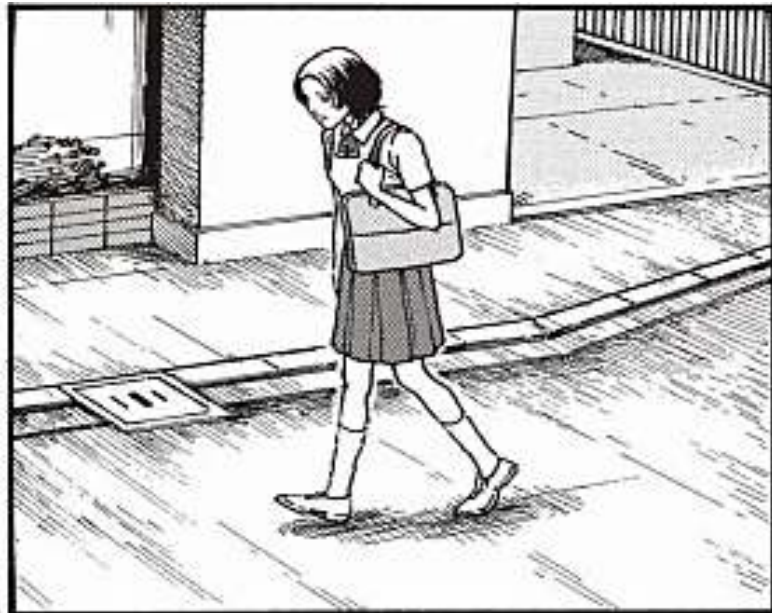






I FEEL  
AWFUL,  
AND  
I'M NOT  
LOSING  
WEIGHT  
LIKE I  
WANT TO.

THIS  
IS THE  
WORST.



...TANI?  
IS  
THAT  
YOU?

HEY...  
NAMI...










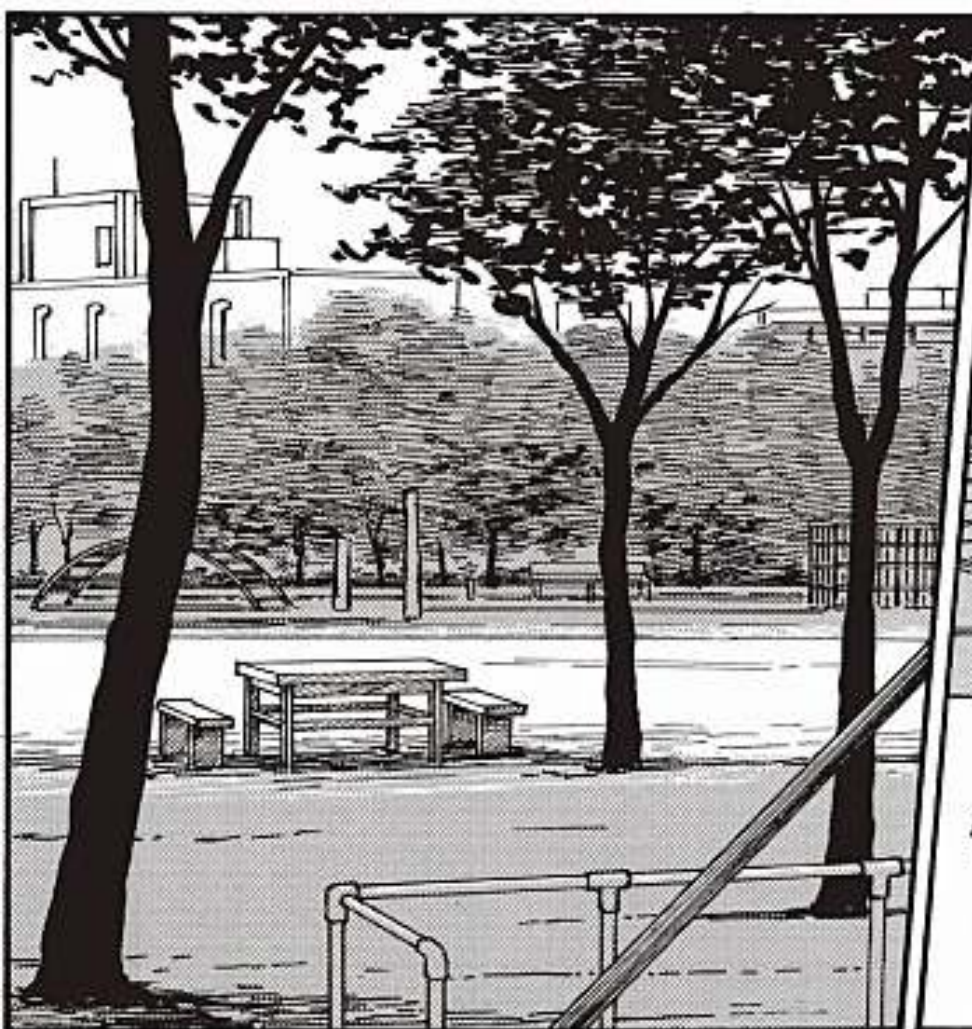


I'M ON A  
DIET FOR  
YOU...  
BECAUSE...



YOU GOING ON  
A DIET BECAUSE  
OF YOUR EX-  
BOYFRIEND IS  
THE SAME THING,  
ISN'T IT?

YOU  
SAY IT'S  
STUPID,  
BUT...



FOR  
SOME  
REASON,  
I WAS  
DRAWN  
TO HIM.

PROBABLY  
BECAUSE  
I WAS  
LONELY.



EVEN WHEN  
I WANT  
TO EAT,  
I CAN'T.

MAYBE I DO  
ACTUALLY  
HAVE AN  
EATING  
DISORDER.

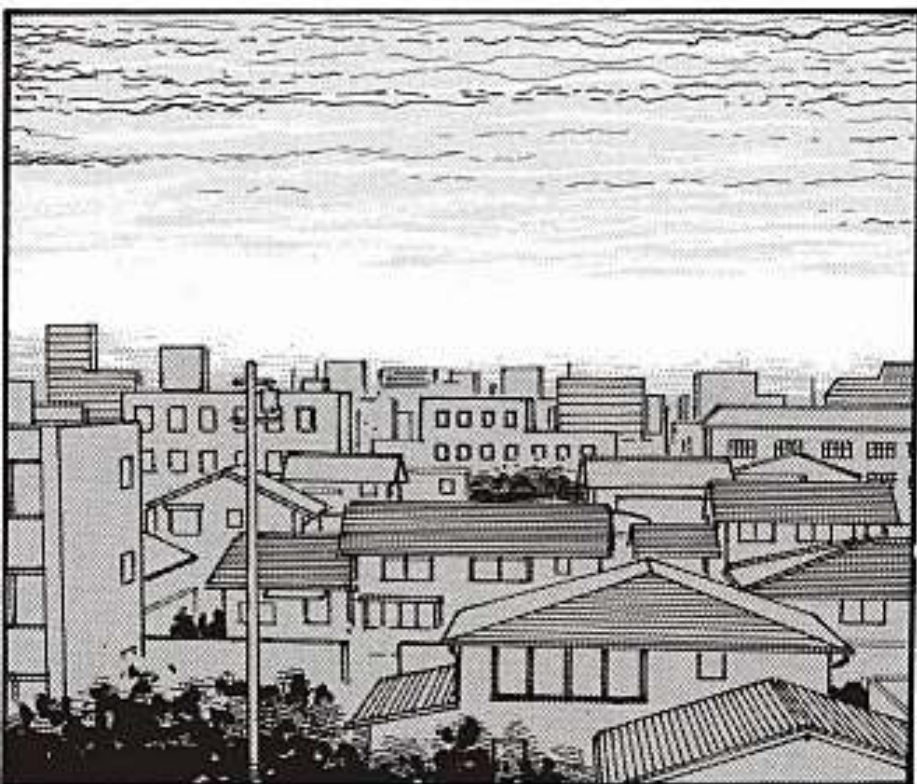


NO, I  
CAN'T  
DO  
THAT.

I MEAN,  
I'M  
TRYING.  
CAN'T  
YOU  
JUST  
GO  
AHEAD  
AND  
EAT,  
THOUGH?

IF YOU  
CAN'T  
EAT,  
THEN I'M  
STUCK LIKE  
THIS, TOO.

...WELL,  
THAT'S A  
PROBLEM.



THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I WANT TO  
SHOW YOU.

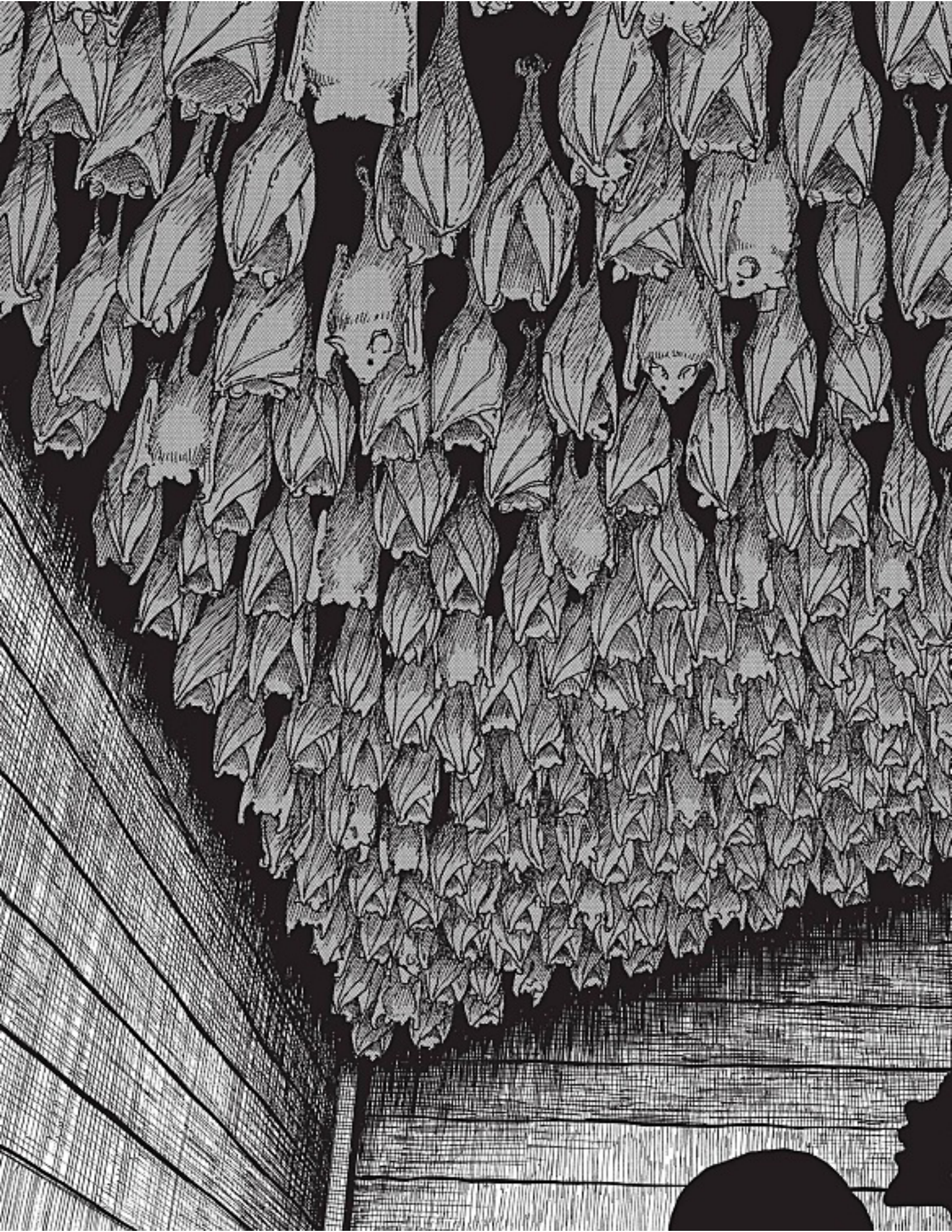
RIGHT...  
NAMI. YOU  
WANT TO  
COME TO  
MY HOUSE?







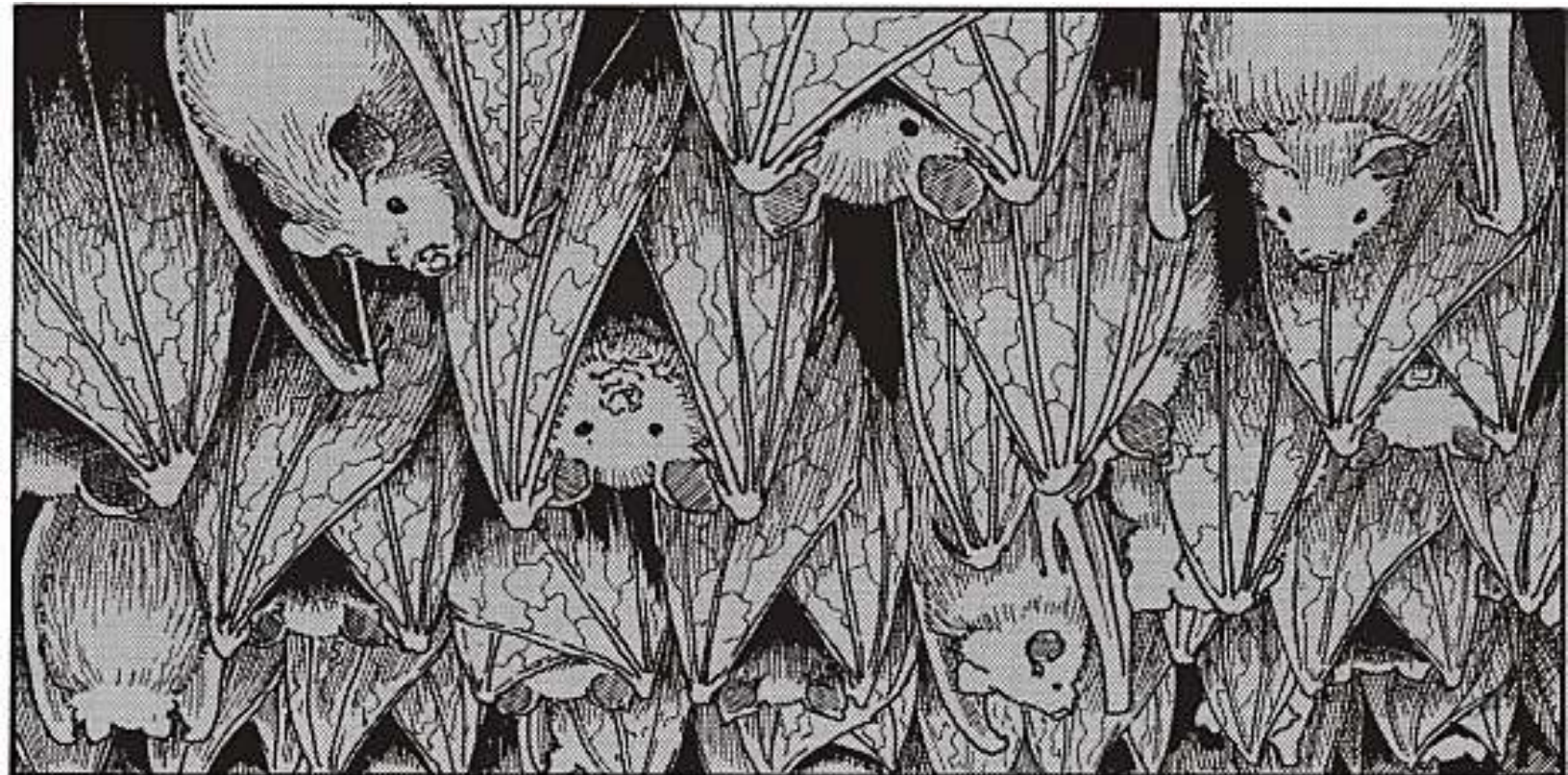




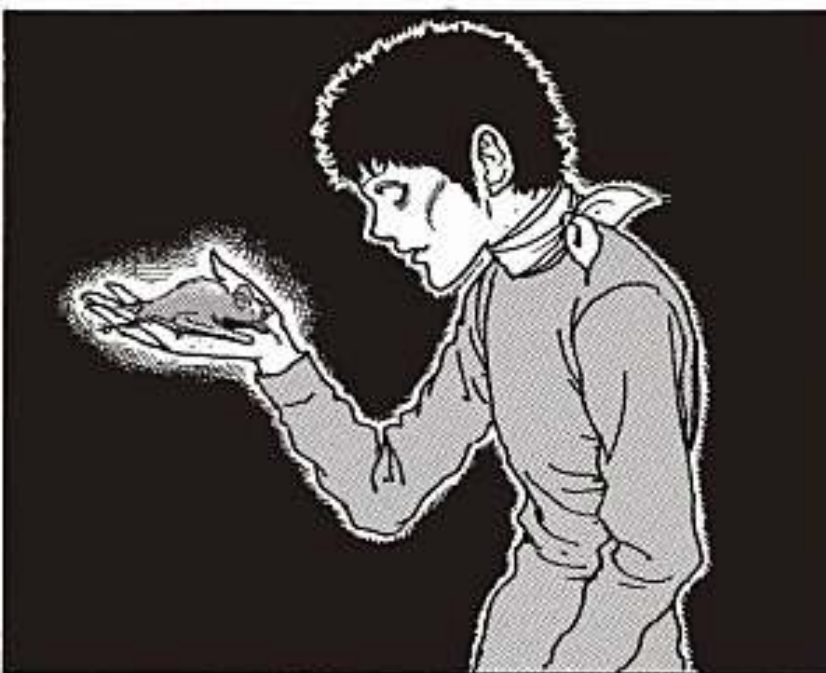
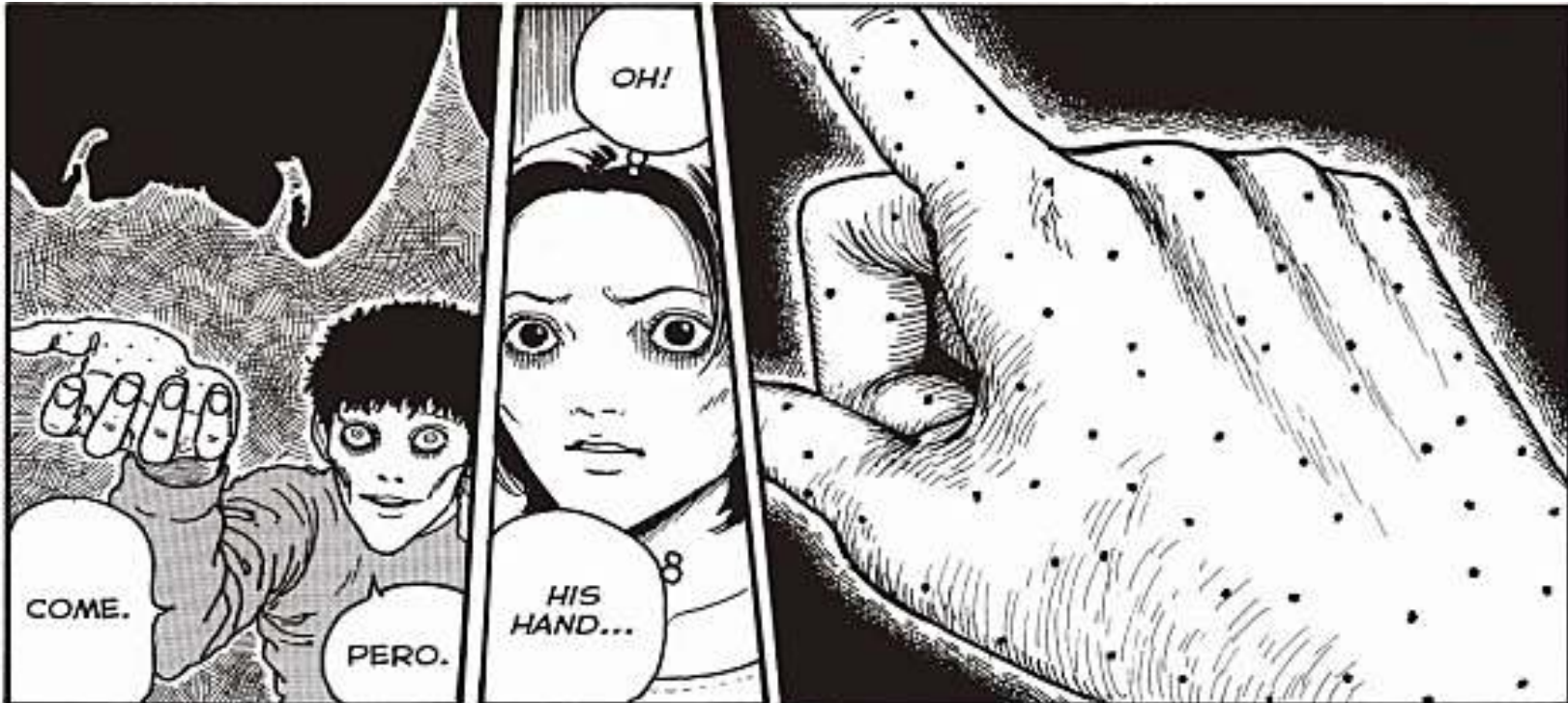














IS IT  
YUMMY,  
PERO?

IT  
DOESN'T  
HURT AT  
ALL.

TOO  
L-O-U

TOO  
L-O-U

I'VE BEEN  
GIVING  
THEM  
A LOT,  
ESPECIALLY  
LATELY.

IT'S FINE. I  
ALWAYS LET  
THEM DRINK  
MY BLOOD.

T-TANI...  
ARE YOU  
SURE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
DO THAT?

UWO-  
ZU

THE  
DIET  
THING  
WAS A  
LIE.

I'VE  
LOST A  
TON OF  
WEIGHT  
THANKS  
TO  
THEM.

ARE  
YOU  
FULL?





HE  
KNOWS  
YOU'RE  
HUNGRY.

PERO'S  
TRYING TO  
SHARE THE  
BLOOD  
HE DRANK  
WITH YOU.



IT'S WHAT  
THESE  
SOUTH  
AMERICAN  
BATS DO.  
THEY SHARE  
BLOOD  
WITH THEIR  
GROUP,  
HELP EACH  
OTHER  
OUT.

YOU'RE  
MY  
FRIEND,  
SO THE  
BATS  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
A FRIEND  
TOO.





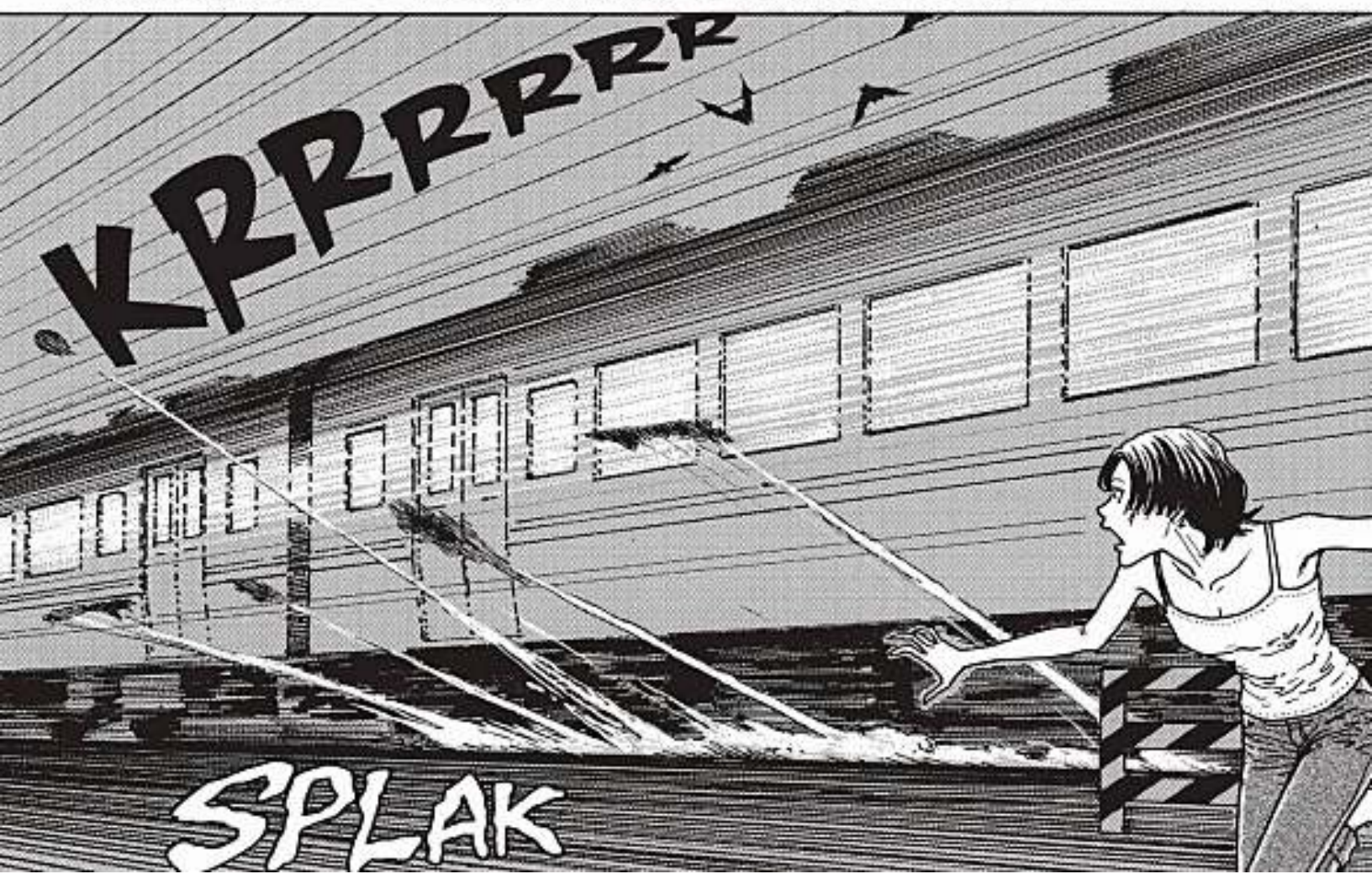
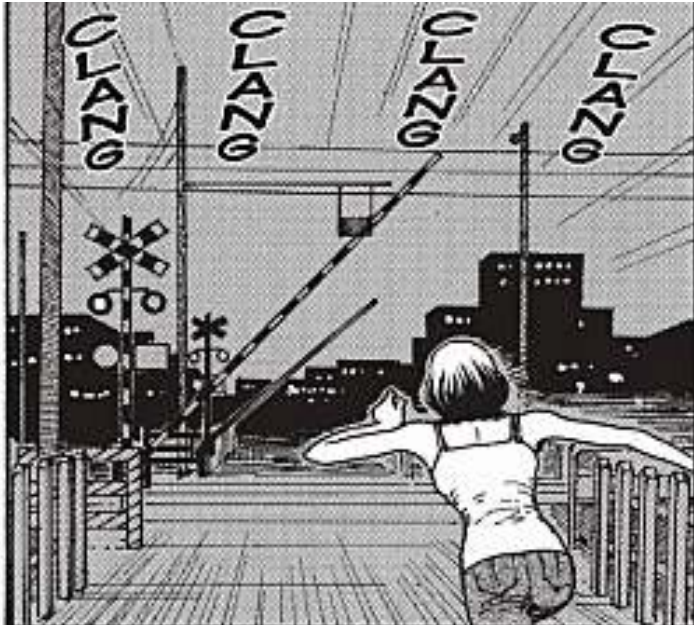








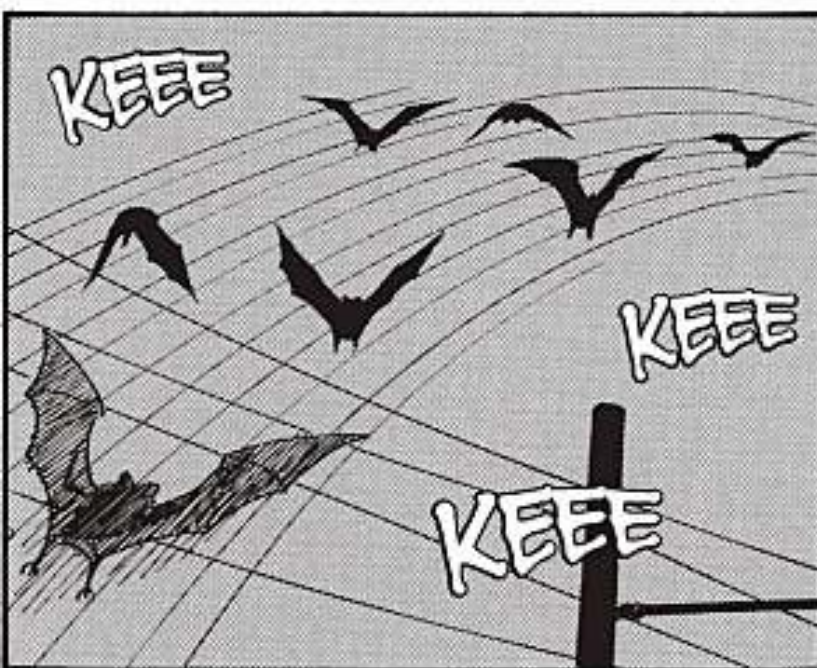














THEY DREW  
COUNTLESS  
REDDISH-  
BLACK PATHS  
IN THE NIGHT  
SKY.

THE BATS  
BEGAN TO  
FLY BACK  
AND FORTH  
AMONG THE  
SCATTERED  
PIECES OF  
TANI'S BODY.

PEH

BLOOD  
FROM  
HERE  
WAS  
THROWN  
UP OVER  
THERE.

BLOOD THEY  
DRANK OVER  
THERE, THEY  
THREW UP  
OVER HERE.

PEH

BOING

BUT  
SOME-  
THING  
WAS  
OFF.

AT FIRST,  
I THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
JUST  
SWARMING  
AROUND  
THEIR  
FOOD.

THE  
BATS...

...WERE  
TRYING  
TO SAVE  
THEIR  
MASTER.

IT WAS  
ALMOST LIKE  
THEY WERE  
MAKING  
THE BLOOD  
GO BACK  
AND FORTH  
BETWEEN THE  
BODY PARTS.

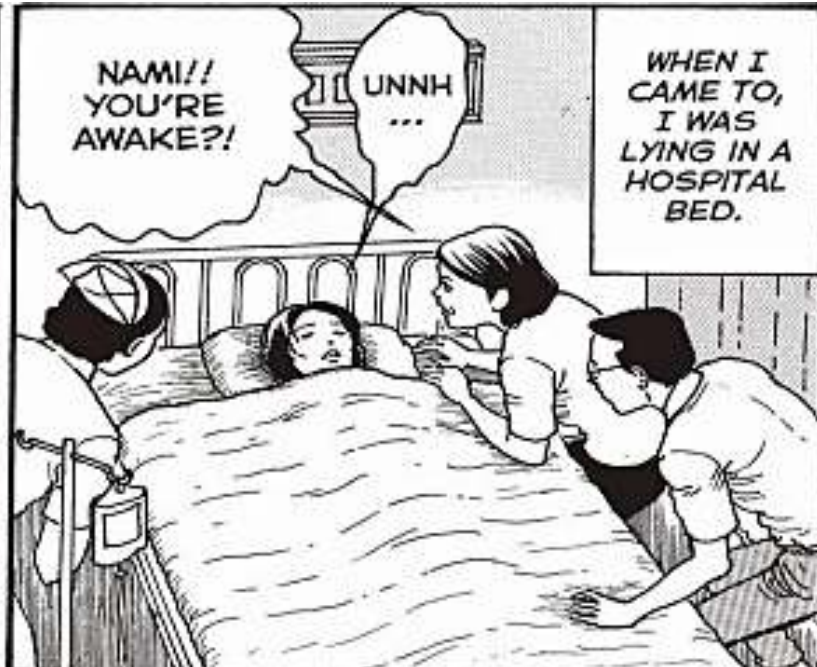
TWITCH

LIKE  
THEY  
WERE  
MAKING IT  
CIRCULATE  
...

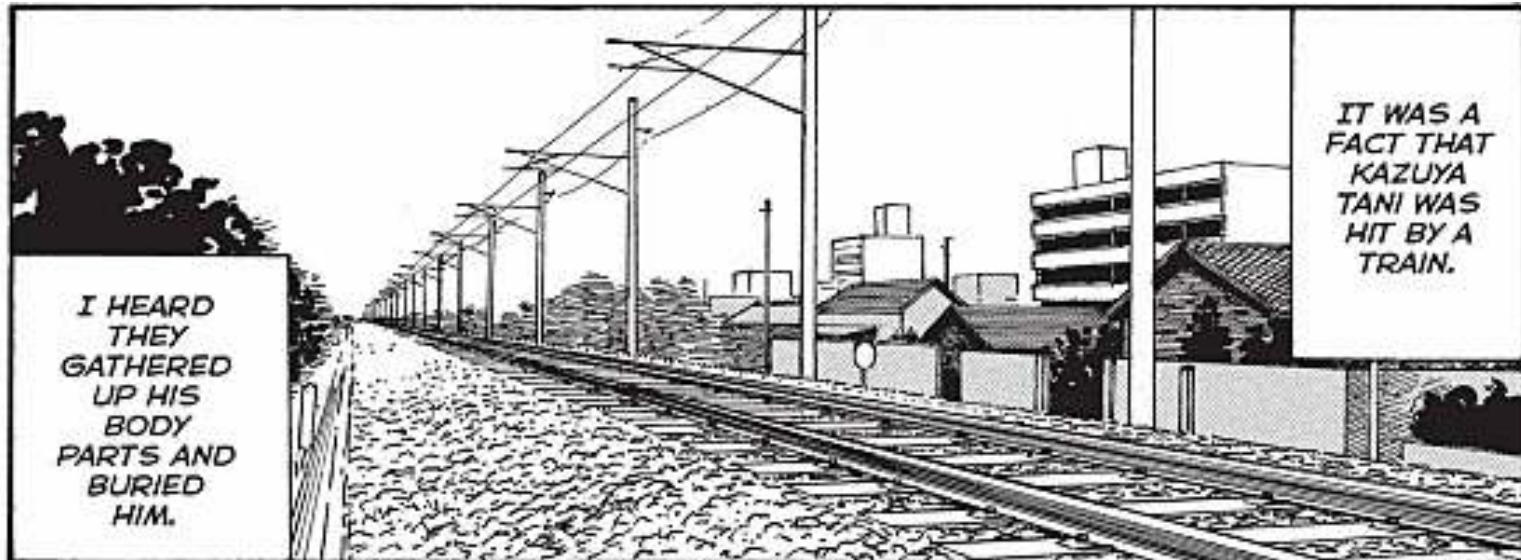












I HEARD  
THEY  
GATHERED  
UP HIS  
BODY  
PARTS AND  
BURIED  
HIM.

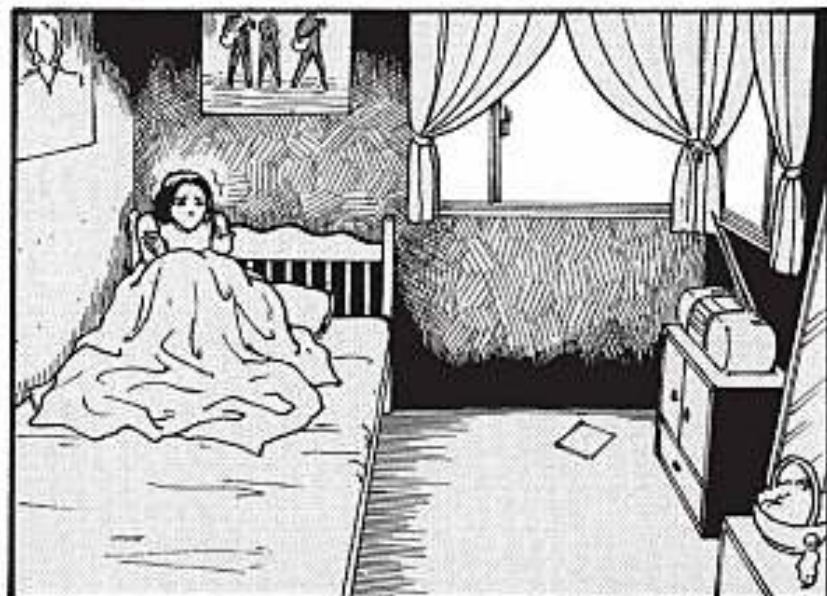
IT WAS A  
FACT THAT  
KAZUYA  
TANI WAS  
HIT BY A  
TRAIN.



THERE  
HAS TO BE  
SOME PART  
OF HIM  
OUT THERE  
SOMEWHERE  
STILL.

I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT...  
THEY  
SAID  
THEY  
GOT ALL  
OF IT,  
BUT...

I-I  
MEAN...

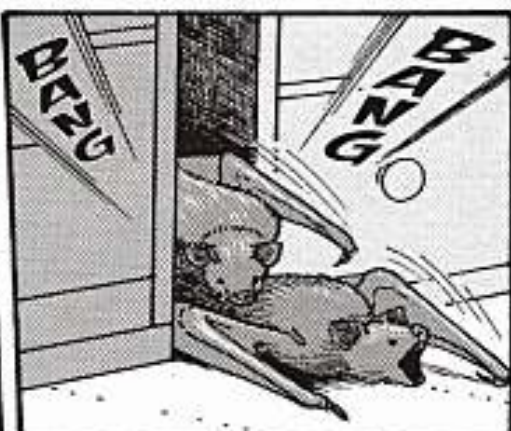
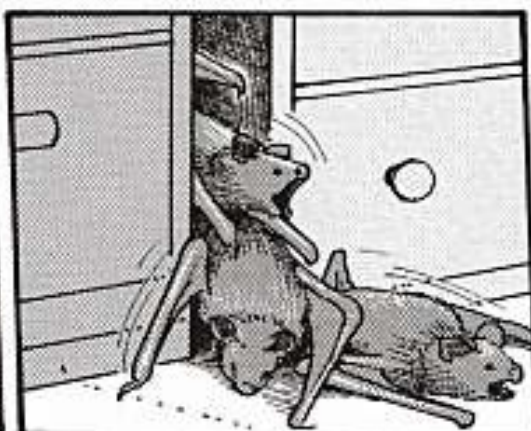


HIS  
VOICE  
CALLING  
FOR  
HELP.  
AND...

I CAN  
HEAR  
HIM.















TUK TUK TUK TUK TUK TUK



THERE'S STILL  
NOT ENOUGH  
BLOOD... HELP  
MEEEEEE!

NAMIIIIII!  
HELP  
MEEEEEEEEEE!

H A H

H A H



I'M  
GETTING  
CLOSE  
...

I'M  
GETTING  
CLOSE  
TO HIS  
HEAD.

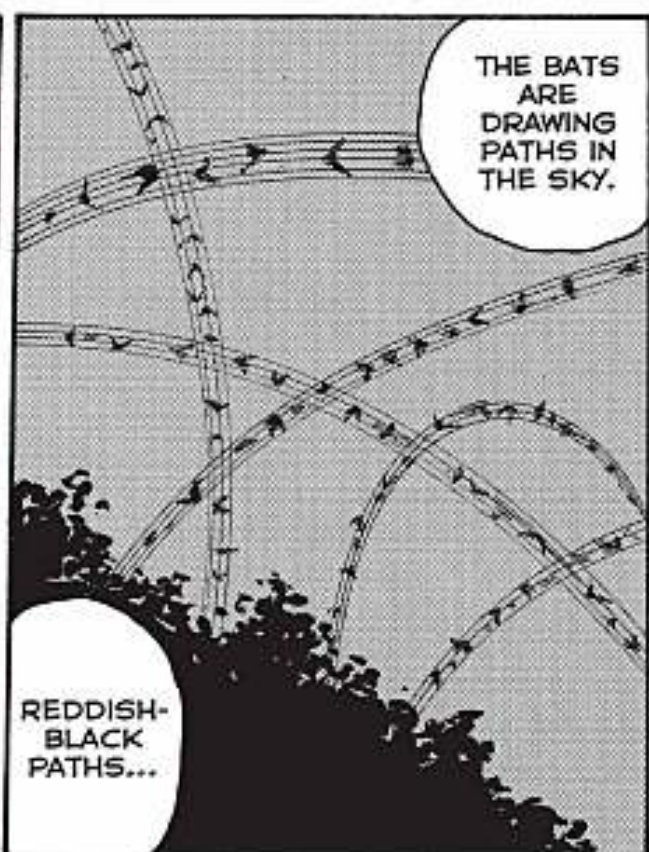
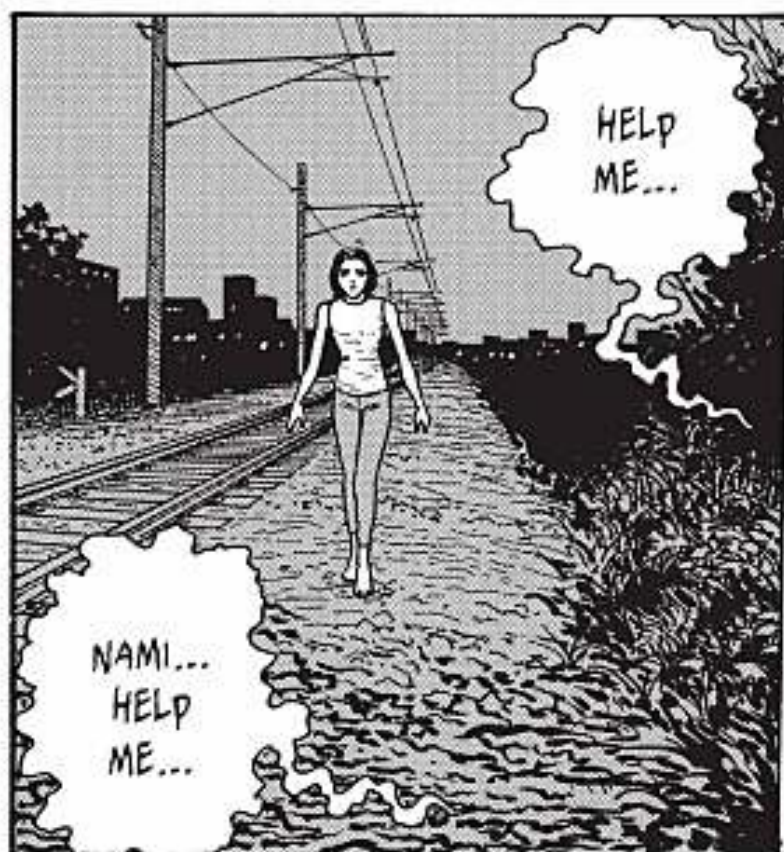
THE  
VOICE IS  
GRADUALLY  
GETTING  
LOUDER.

HEEEELP!

HEEEELP!

KRSH





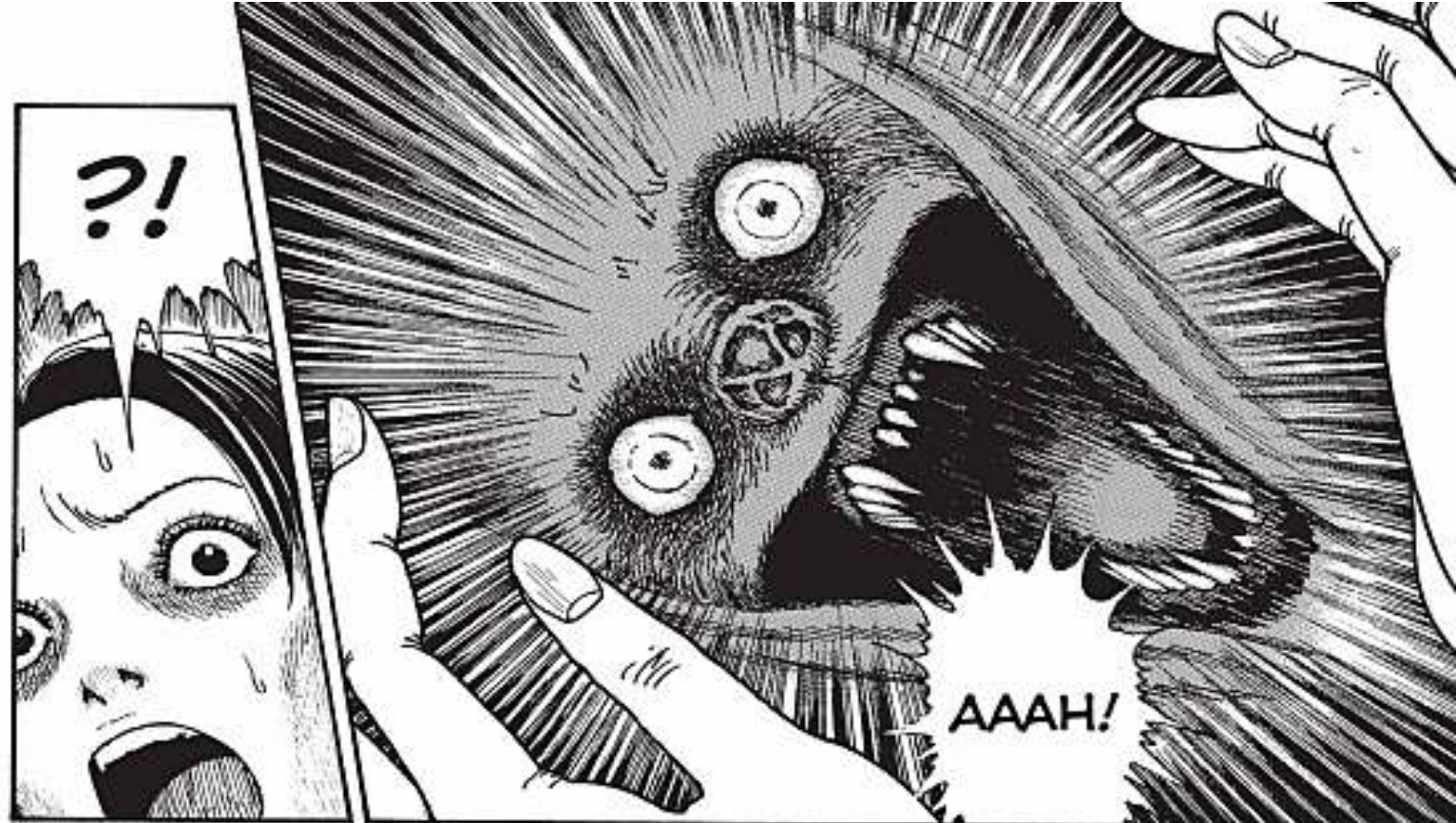
















SUDDENLY,  
A GIANT  
BAT FLEW  
UP INTO  
THE  
DARKNESS.

THE  
COUNT-  
LESS  
OTHER  
BATS  
TRAILED  
AFTER IT.

D  
W  
A  
P

F  
L  
A  
P  
F  
L  
A  
P



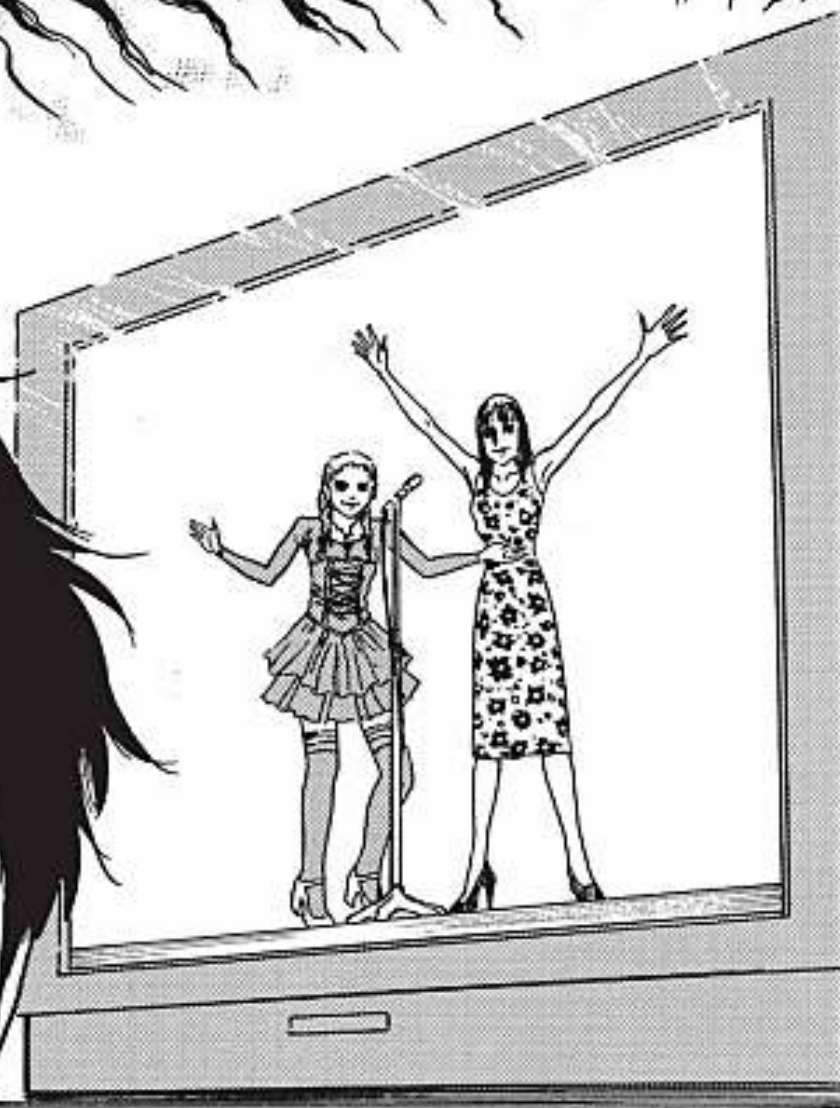






GHOSTS OF PRIME TIME

ゴールデンタイムの幽霊





THE  
CAUSE  
OF DEATH  
WAS  
UNKNOWN.

HE WAS  
FOUND  
LYING  
DEAD IN  
THE ROAD  
WHILE ON  
TOUR.

A CERTAIN  
OBSCURE  
COMEDIAN  
DIED THE  
OTHER  
DAY.

APPARENTLY,  
HE HAD BEEN  
A RISING  
STAR IN THE  
INDUSTRY.  
A LOT OF  
PEOPLE SAW  
HIM AS THE  
FUTURE OF  
COMEDY.



DYING WITH A  
SMILE ON HIS  
FACE, NOW  
THAT'S AN  
ENTERTAINER  
FOR YOU.

THE SOUL  
OF A  
PERFORMER.

WHILE  
IT DID  
LOOK  
LIKE  
HE HAD  
SUF-  
FERED...

THE  
STRANGE  
THING  
WAS  
HIS FACE.

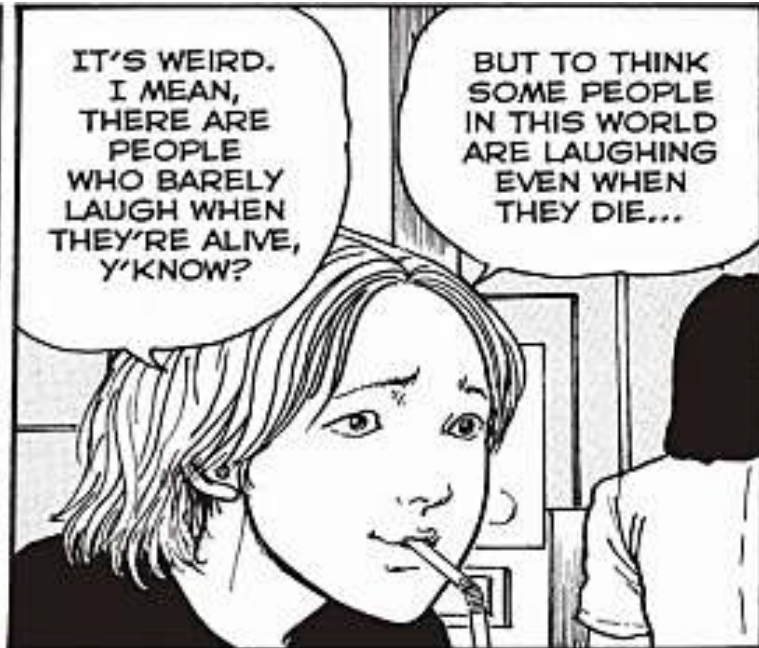
...IT ALSO  
LOOKED  
ALMOST  
LIKE HE WAS  
LAUGHING.







I'M  
TALKING  
ABOUT YOU,  
KEISUKE.



IT'S WEIRD.  
I MEAN,  
THERE ARE  
PEOPLE  
WHO BARELY  
LAUGH WHEN  
THEY'RE ALIVE,  
Y'KNOW?

BUT TO THINK  
SOME PEOPLE  
IN THIS WORLD  
ARE LAUGHING  
EVEN WHEN  
THEY DIE...



YOU GOT  
A REASON  
FOR THAT  
SOUR  
FACE OF  
YOURS?

YOU  
DO?



I LIVE  
A VERY  
DARK  
LIFE IS  
ALL.



I MEAN,  
I LAUGH  
SOMETIMES.

THAT'S  
NOT TRUE,  
TSUGUO.



COME WITH  
ME JUST  
ONCE. I'LL  
MAKE YOU  
LAUGH.

OH, I'VE  
GOT IT,  
KEISUKE.

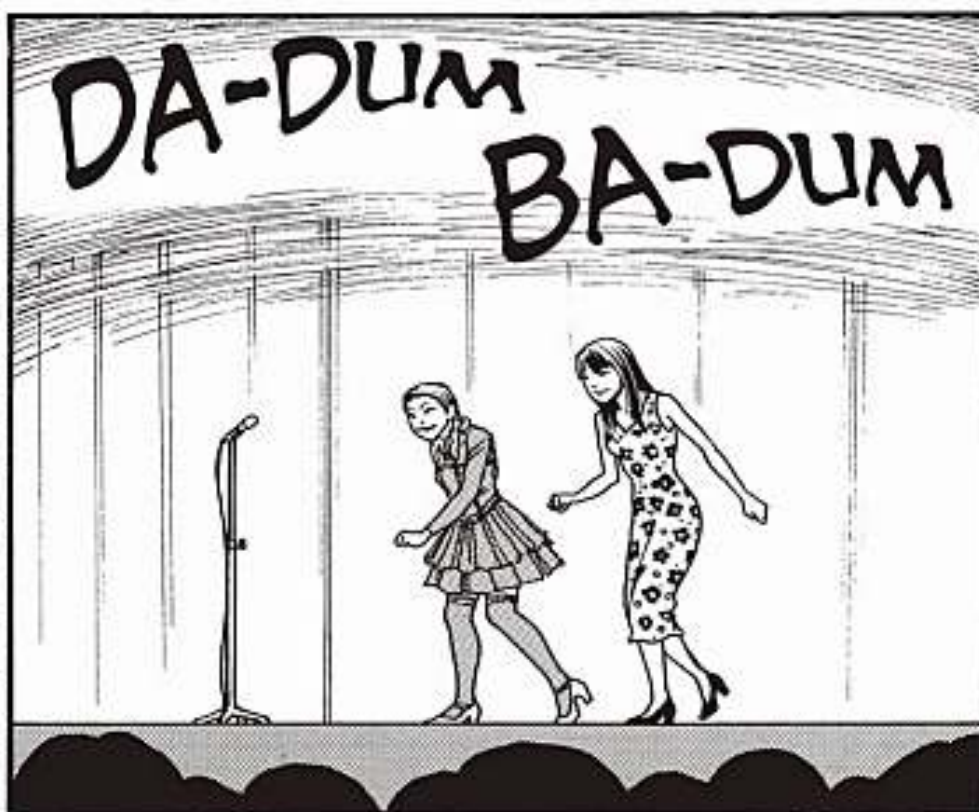


ALL THE MORE  
REASON THAT  
YOU NEED TO  
LAUGH.











NO  
ONE  
KNOWS  
WHO WE  
ARE YET,  
THOUGH!

AAAH, REAL  
WHIRLWIND OF  
A YEAR SINCE  
WE STARTED  
ALL THIS. TIME  
DOES FLY, HUH?

AND I'M  
AZUKI!!!!

HELLOOOO!!  
WE'RE  
TASOGARE  
KINTOKI! I'M  
SASAGEEEEE!

TAKE  
CONTROL!

TAKE  
CONTROL!

WE'LL  
TAKE  
CONTROL  
ONE O'  
THESE  
DAYS!!

BUT WE'RE  
MAKIN'  
THINGS  
HAPPEN WITH  
OUR COMEDY.

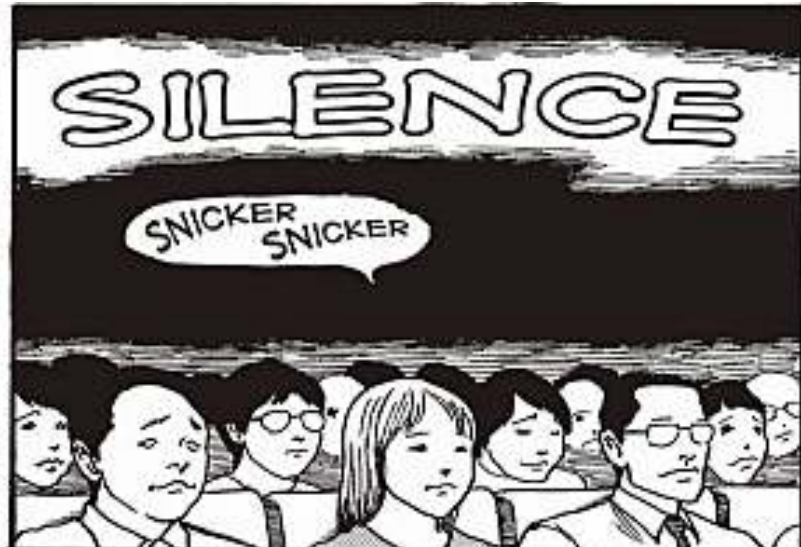
EYE  
KNOW!

EYE  
KNOW!

AN' THEN  
WE'LL BE  
RICH AN' LIVE  
IN A MANSION,  
YA KNOW!!

WE'LL TAKE  
CONTROL, AN'  
THEN WE'LL  
HAVE A TON  
OF REGULAR  
PRIME-TIME  
SPECIALS!!





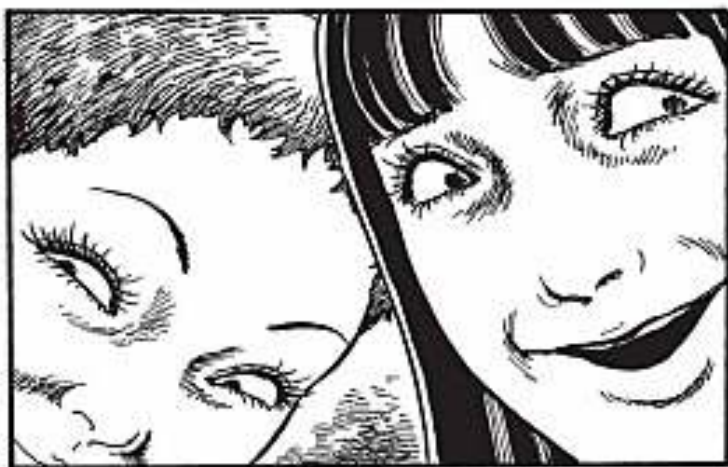




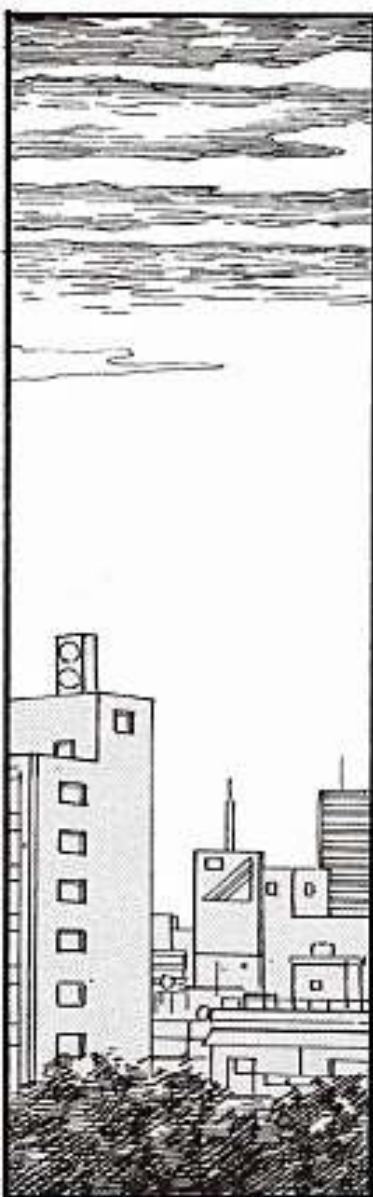














I MEAN,  
IT'S NOT  
NATURAL.  
LAUGHING  
TO BUST A  
GUT OVER  
SUCH A  
BORING  
ACT.

KEISUKE...  
THEY WERE  
TOTALLY SHILLS,  
THOSE GUYS  
WHO STARTED  
LAUGHING FIRST.

MY  
STOMACH  
STILL  
HURTS.

AAAAAH.

IT WAS  
KIND OF  
WEIRD.

BUT...

THEY EVEN  
GOT ME  
LAUGHING  
WITH  
THEM.

KEISUKE...  
YOU DIDN'T  
FEEL  
ANYTHING?

MAYBE  
IT WAS  
JUST  
THE  
MOOD  
IN THE  
PLACE...

BUT THEN I  
STARTED TO  
FEEL LIKE I HAD  
TO LAUGH. LIKE,  
I COULDN'T  
STOP LAUGHING  
MY ASS OFF.

AT FIRST, I WAS  
JUST LAUGHING  
AT THE PEOPLE  
LAUGHING, YOU  
KNOW?

WHY  
WOULD  
YOU,  
THOUGH?  
YOU  
DIDN'T  
LAUGH  
AT ALL.





I WANT  
TO SEE  
WHY I WAS  
LAUGHING  
SO HARD.



HEY,  
KEISUKE?  
YOU WANT  
TO GO SEE  
THEIR ACT  
AGAIN?

INCLUD-  
ING THE  
SHILLS?



WHY  
NOT?

YOU  
SHOULD  
NEVER  
SEE  
THEM  
AGAIN.



TSUGUO,  
YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
DO THAT!

HUH?



WHAT A  
WEIRD  
GUY.

WHAT  
THE...



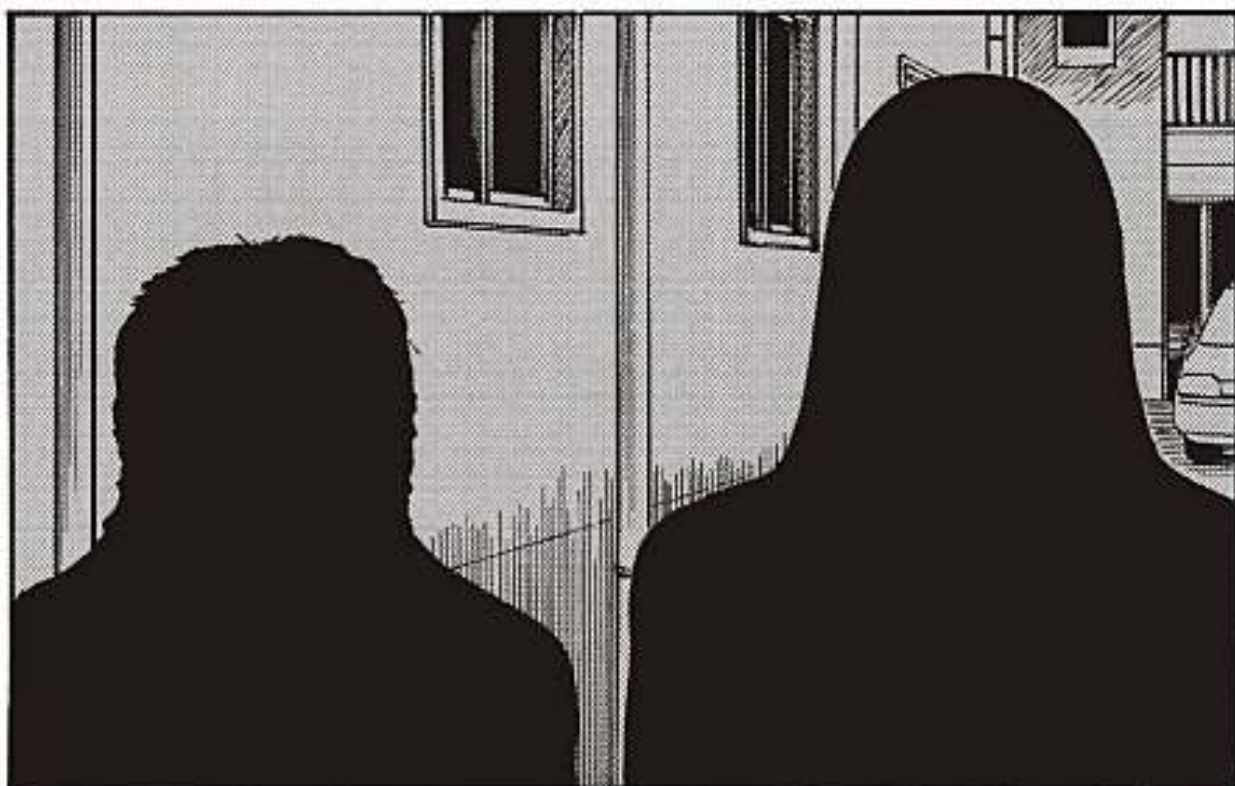
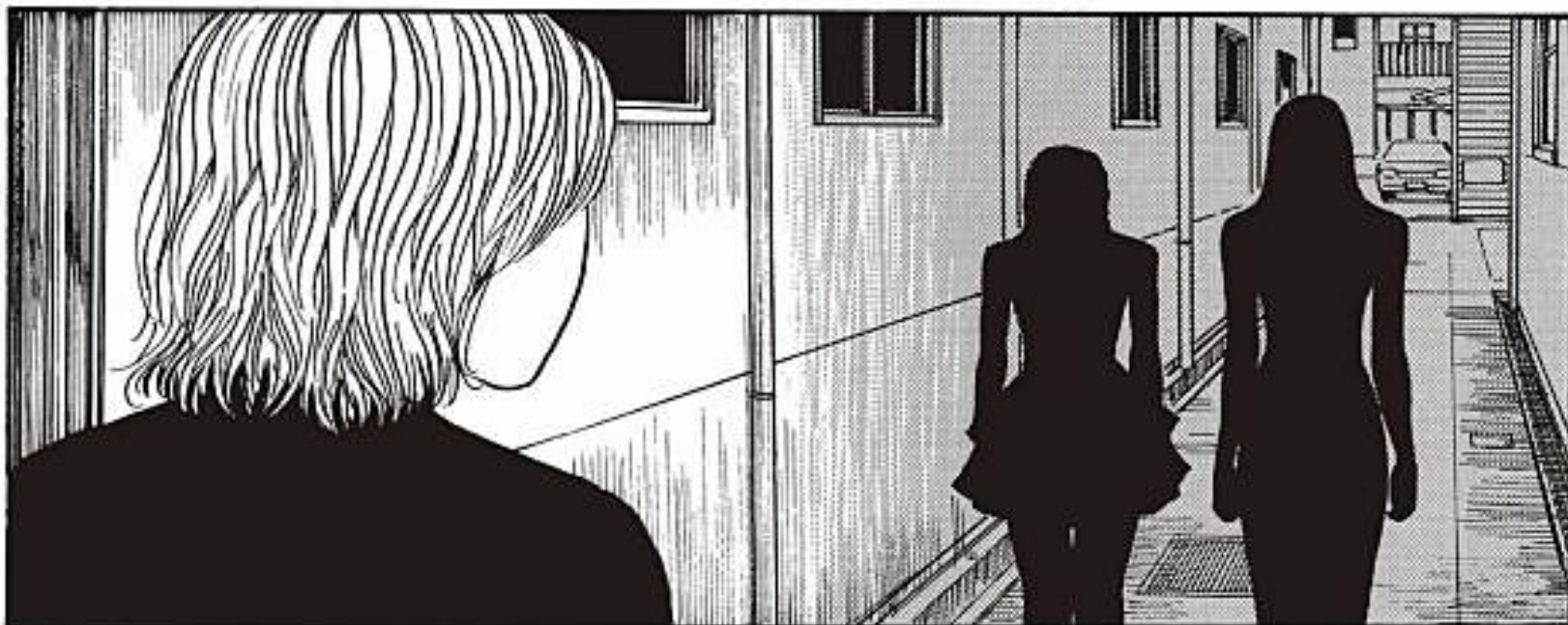
...?



OKAY,  
I'M  
LEAVING...  
SEE YOU.

BECAUSE!!  
I'M WARNING  
YOU AS A  
FRIEND!!

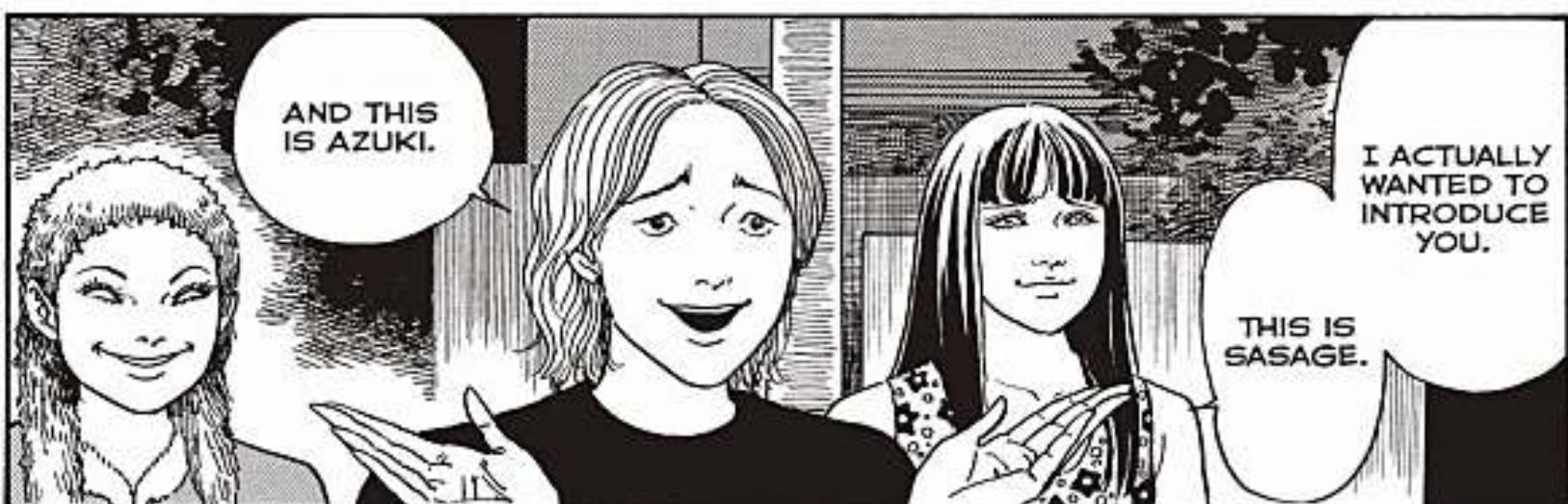
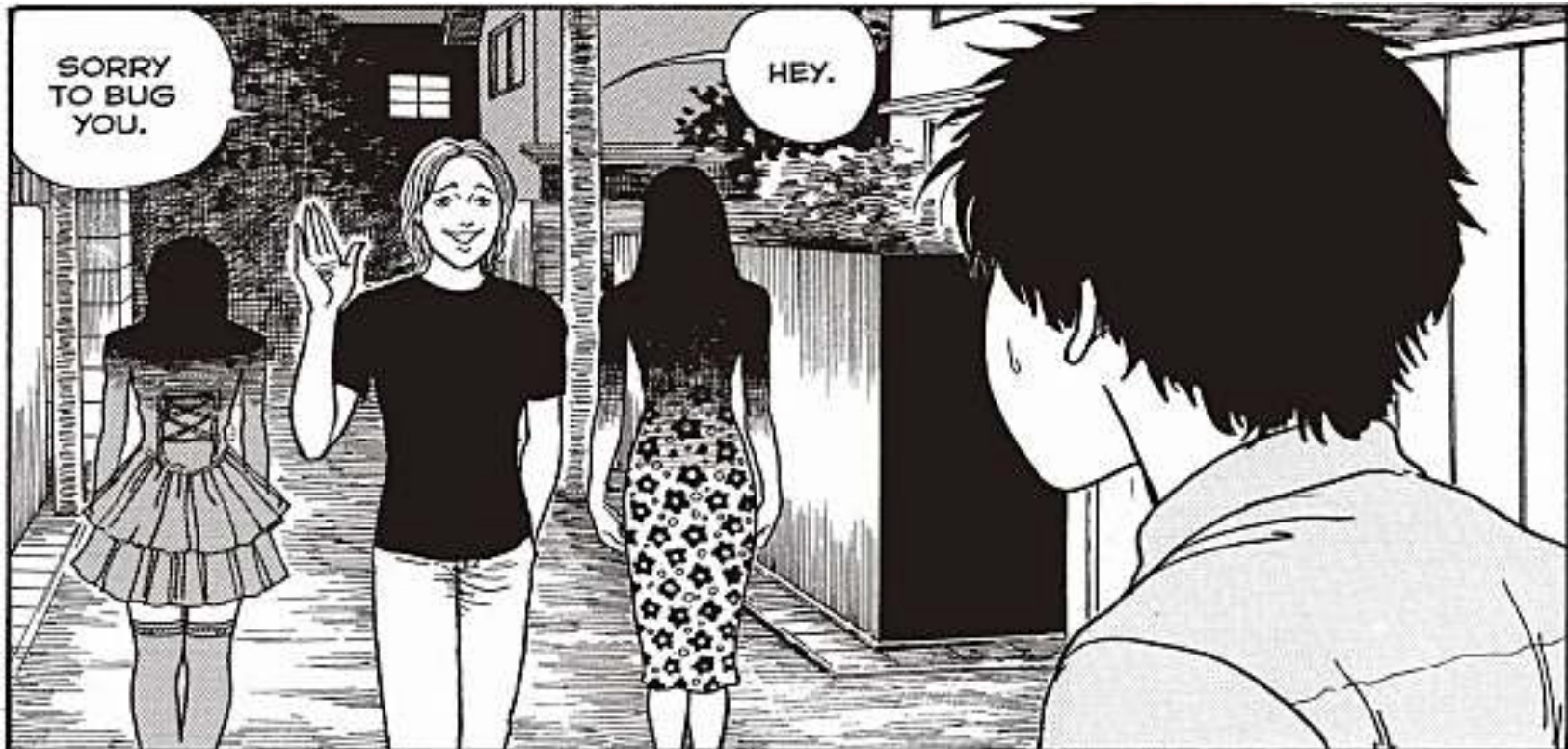














YUP, UH-HUH!  
WE PROLLY  
WALKED TO  
HELL AND BACK  
TO FIND YA!

WE WANTED TO  
MEET YA SO  
BAD. WE BEEN  
LOOKIN' ALL  
OVER!

THEY SAID  
THEY  
WANTED TO  
MEET YOU,  
SO.

OH...  
IT'S  
JUST...

HA HA  
HA HA  
HA  
HA!

HNGAH  
HA HA!

TSUGUO!

HNK!  
HNGH!

HNGH!

BUT WHY'D YOU  
BOYS GO HOME  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE SHOW?  
OUR COMEDY  
BORE YOU?!

THANKS  
FOR COMIN'  
TO SEE US  
PERFORM  
TODAY!

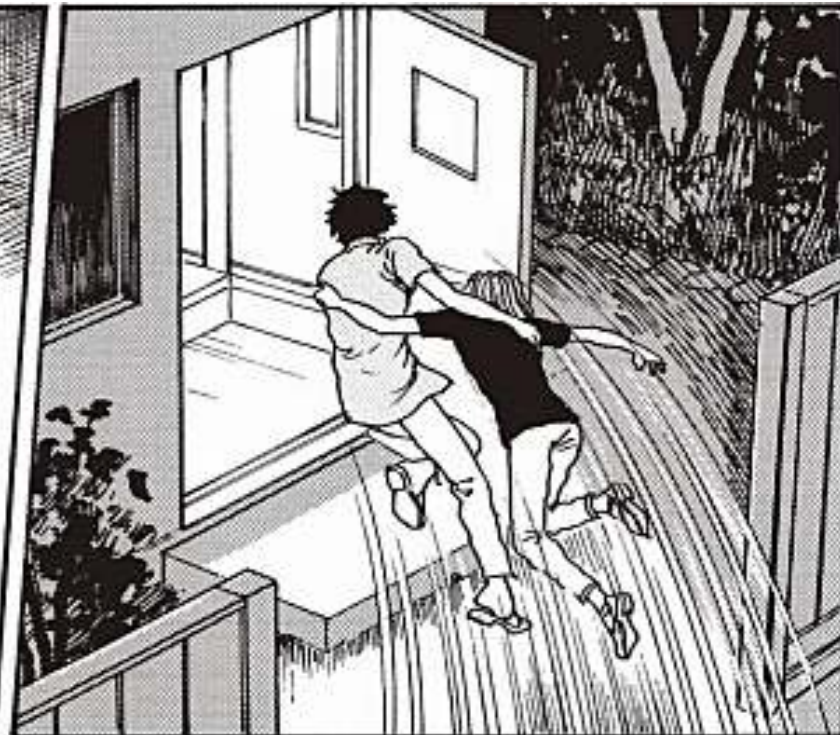
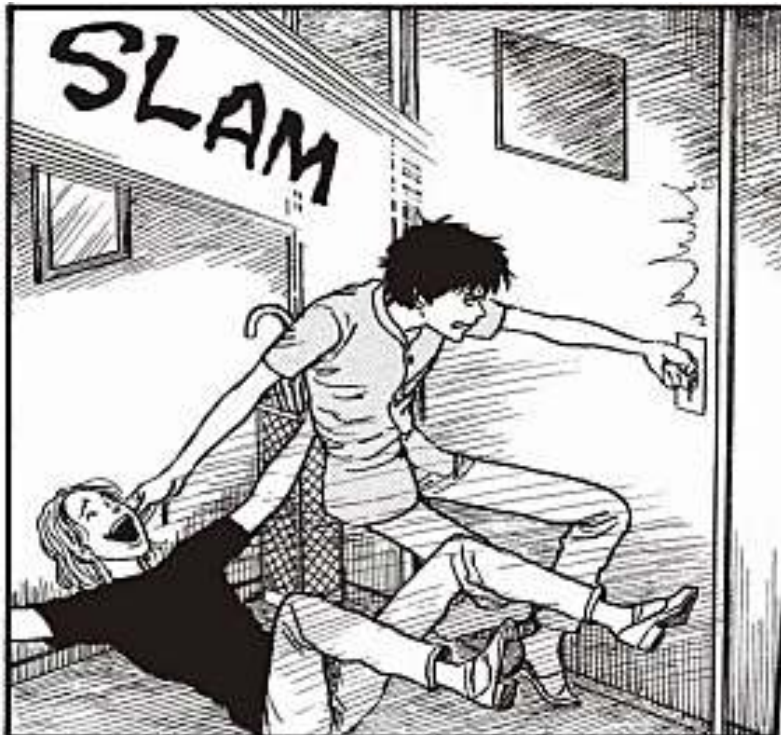
HEEE!  
HEEE!

AH!  
HA!  
HA!









I THINK  
IT'S  
STOP-  
PING...  
HEE!

Y—  
YEAH!  
I'M  
OKAY!  
HEE!



TSUGUO,  
YOU  
OKAY?!

HEEE!  
HEEE!  
HEE!



...I'LL TELL  
YOU WHAT I  
SAW IN THAT  
THEATER.

I SAW  
SOMETHING!!  
I WASN'T  
GOING TO SAY  
ANYTHING,  
BUT...



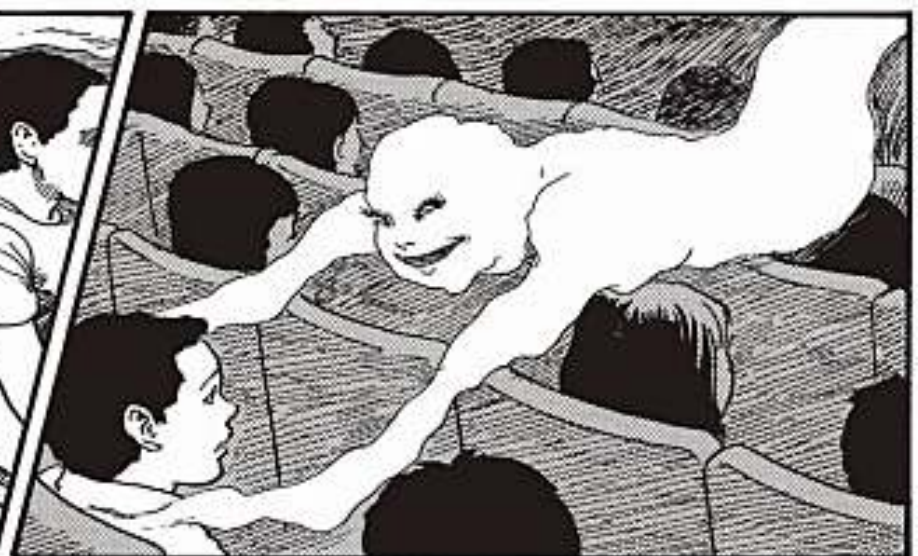
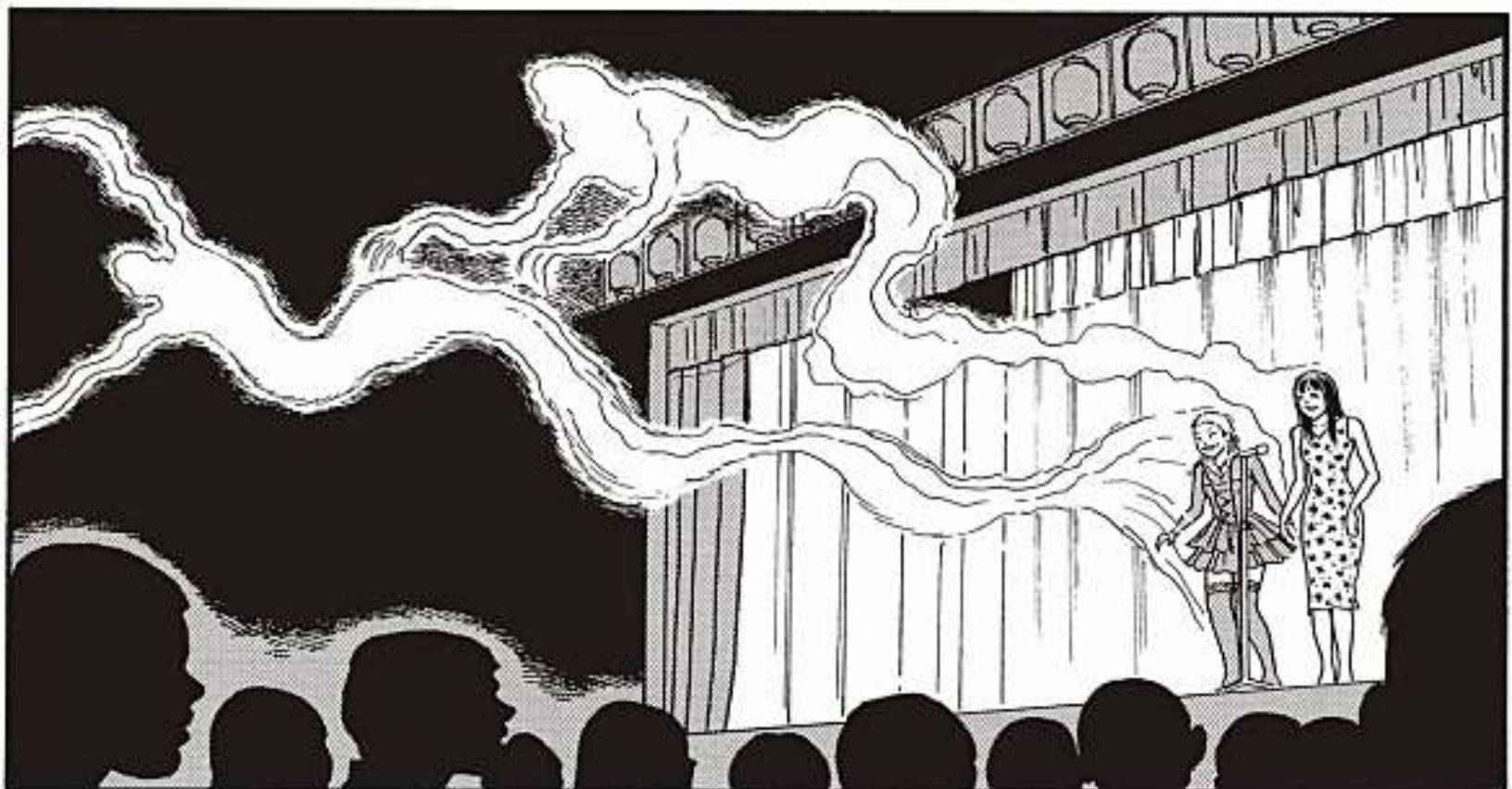
I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
SUCH  
FUNNY  
COMEDI-  
ANS  
BEFORE.

HON-  
ESTLY...  
WHAT  
IS WITH  
THEM...



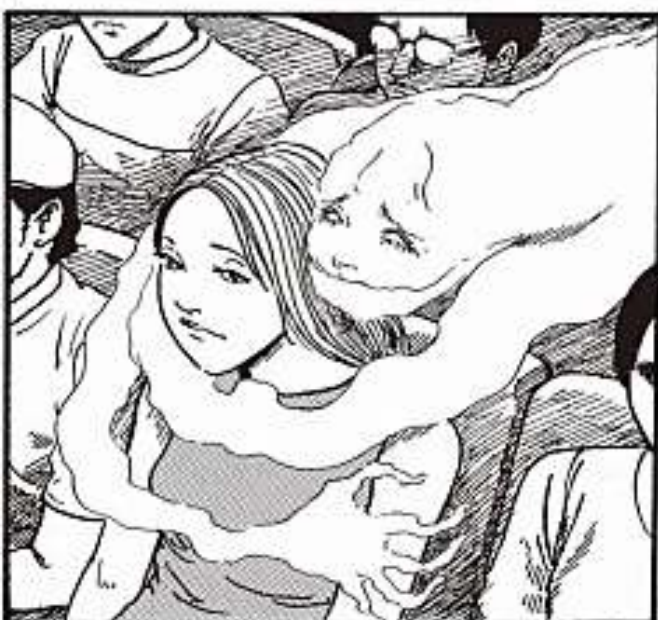
NO...  
YOU'RE NOT  
LAUGHING  
BECAUSE  
OF THEIR  
COMEDY.



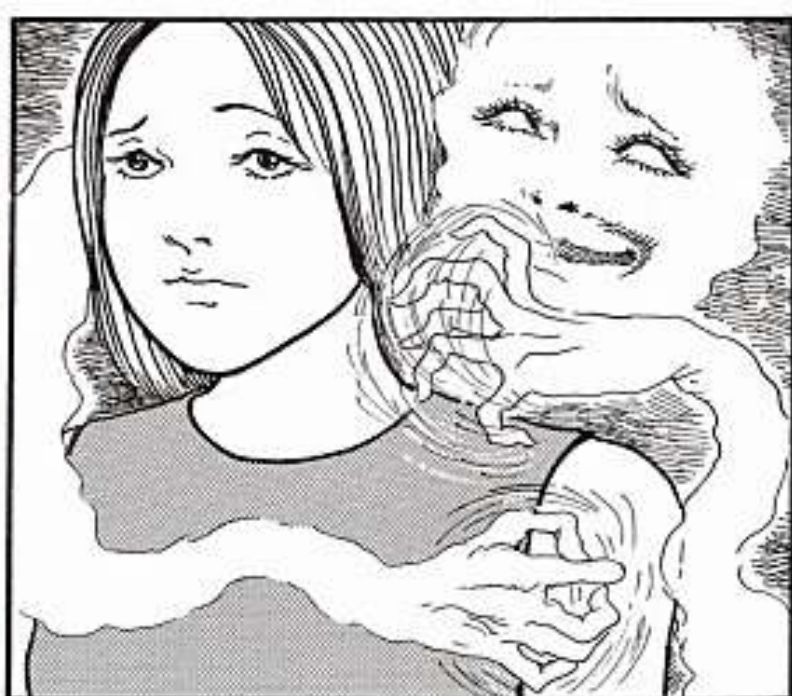




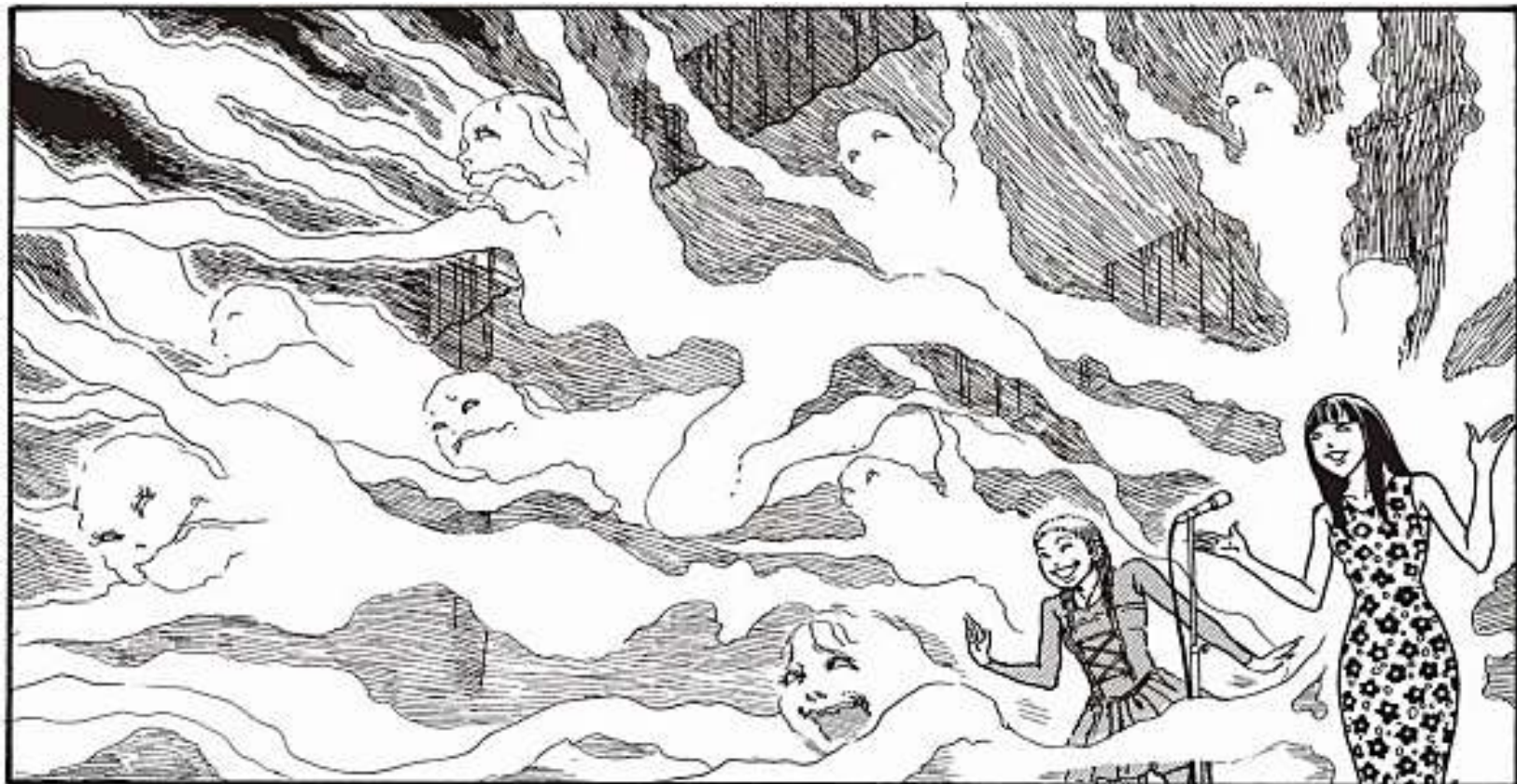
HA HA HA  
HA HA!



EEAH HA HA  
HA HA HA!











THE GHOST  
OF A LIVING  
PERSON.  
THEIR  
EIDOLON...

I THINK IT  
WAS THEIR  
SOULS.



...THOSE  
TWO  
REALLY  
*WERE*  
TICKLING  
YOU.

I KNOW  
YOU SAY A  
COMEDIAN  
"TICKLES" YOU  
WHEN THEY  
MAKE YOU  
LAUGH, BUT...

AND WITH  
EXQUISITE  
SKILL.



WHEN I WALK  
DOWN THE  
STREET, I CAN  
SEE SPIRITS.  
THE GHOSTS OF  
PEOPLE WHO  
ARE DEAD AND  
PEOPLE WHO  
ARE ALIVE...

I'M AFRAID  
OF THEM.  
THAT'S WHY  
I'VE LIVED  
MY DAYS IN  
DARKNESS.

I CAN SEE  
STUFF  
LIKE THAT.  
EVER  
SINCE  
I WAS A  
KID...



I MEAN,  
USING THEIR  
OWN SOULS  
TO SATISFY  
THEIR  
DESIRES...

BUT I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE  
THOSE TWO  
BEFORE.



AH?!







WE CAN'T  
GO LETTIN'  
YA LIVE  
NOW.

AND  
THAT'S  
NO  
GOOD.

KILL  
HIM WITH  
LAUGHTER  
...

NO WAY  
ROUND  
IT. GOTTA  
KILL HIM.

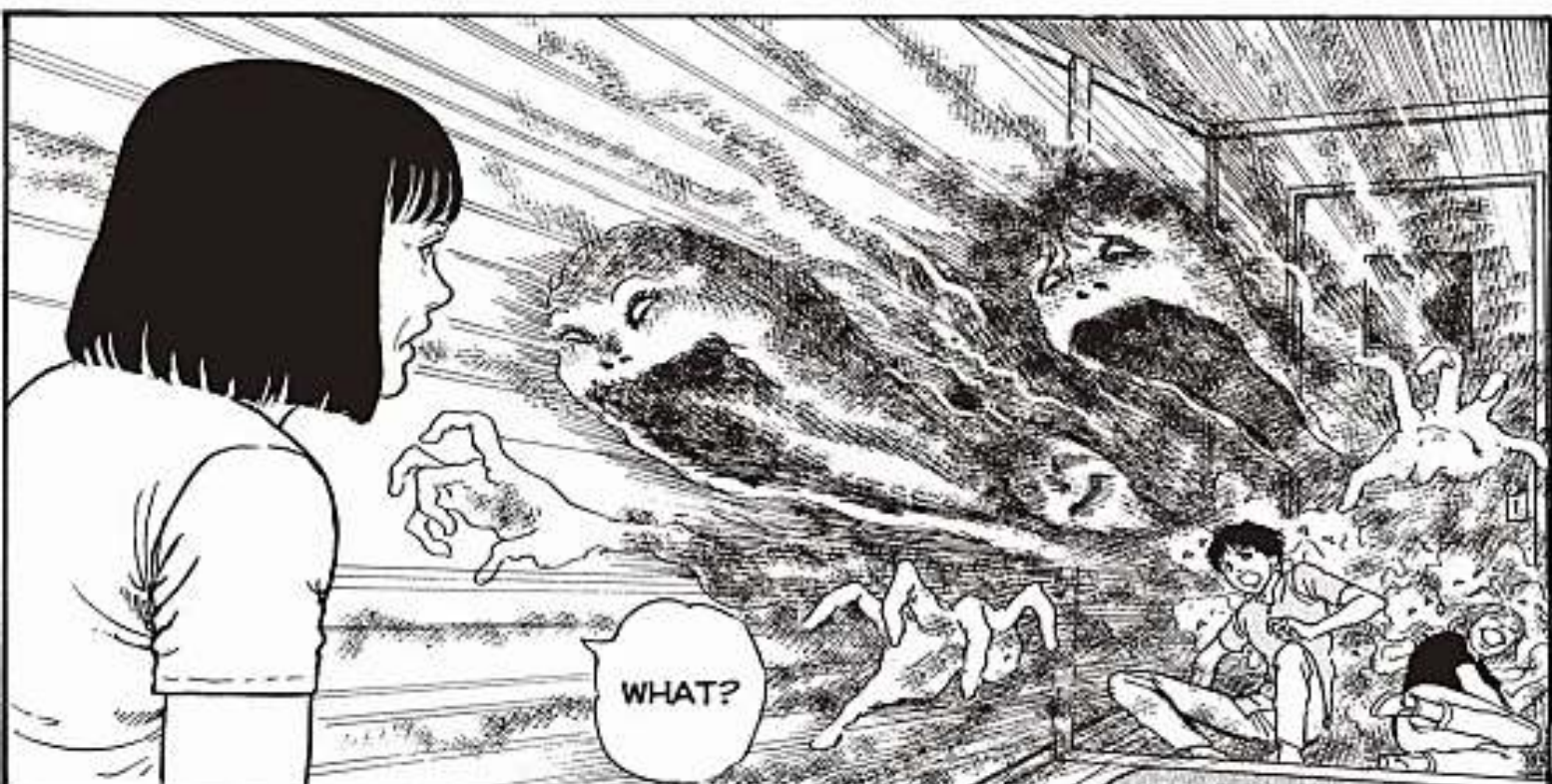
YOU'RE NOT  
GETTIN'  
AWAAAAAY!

DUNNO  
HOW, BUT  
YOU SEE  
WHO WE  
ARE.

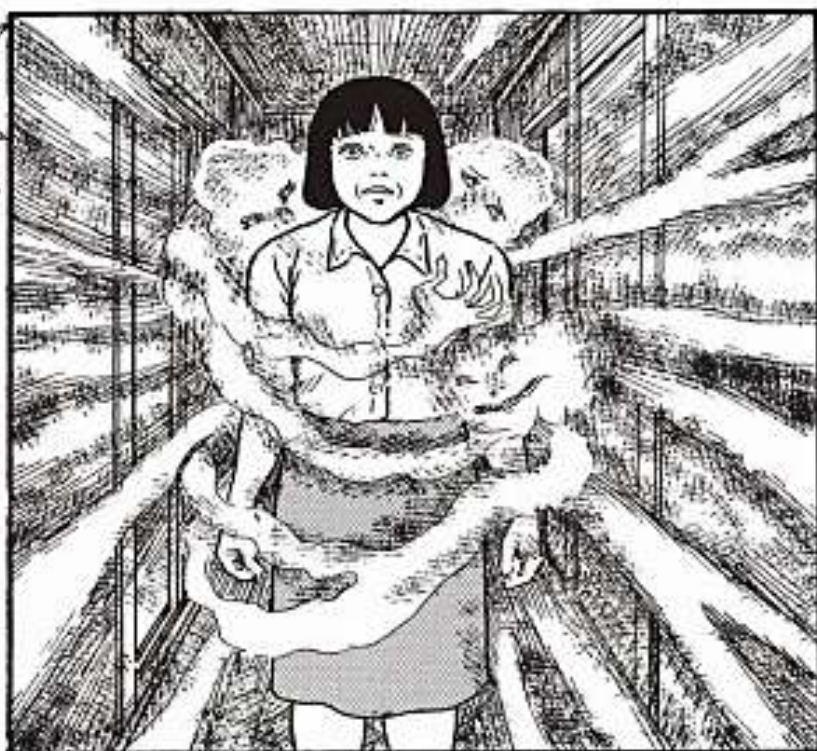


















WELL,  
WE KEEP  
TICKLIN'  
AN' HE'LL  
DIE SOON  
ENOUGH.

SO  
STUBBORN.  
STILL  
PRETENDIN'  
TO FIGHT  
BACK, THAT  
GUY...

HEEE!  
HEEE!

HNGEH  
HEH  
HEH!



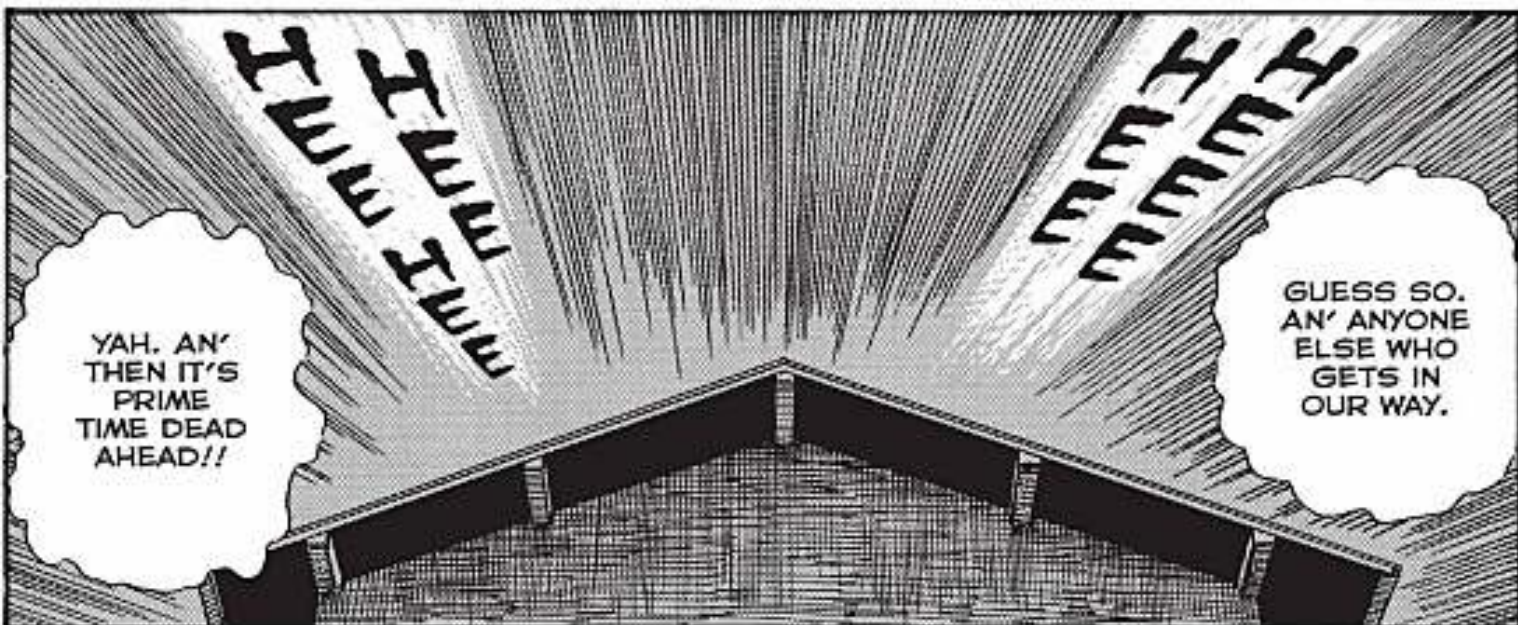
YAH.  
CREEEPEY...  
BUT WE CAN  
JUST GO  
AHEAD AN' KILL  
THE ONES WHO  
DON'T LAUGH.

BUT, AZUKI,  
THERE ARE  
MORE GUYS  
WHO DON'T  
CRACK UP AT  
OUR COMEDY.

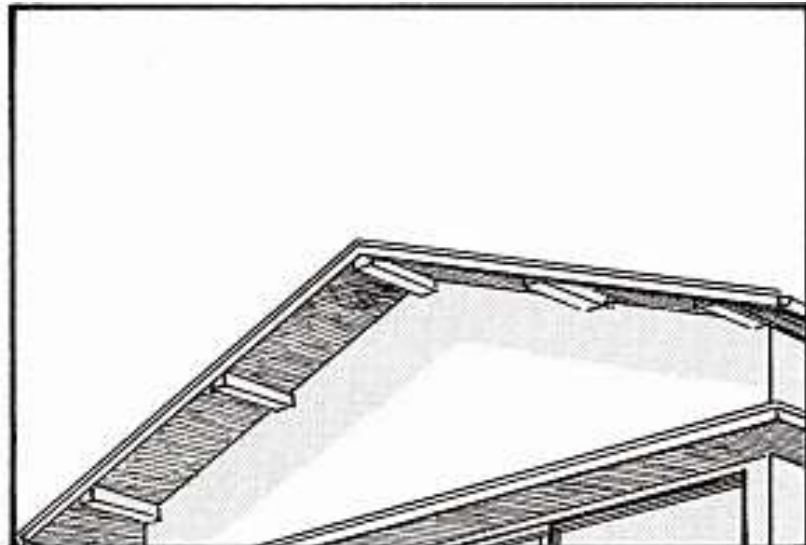


YAH. AN'  
THEN IT'S  
PRIME  
TIME DEAD  
AHEAD!!

GUESS SO.  
AN' ANYONE  
ELSE WHO  
GETS IN  
OUR WAY.









...WAS  
DEAD.



TSUGUO  
...

TSUGUO!  
STAY  
WITH ME!

TSUGUO  
!!



AH!



THERE  
WAS NO  
WAY THEY  
WOULD  
HAVE  
BELIEVED  
HIM.



KEISUKE  
NEVER TOLD  
THE POLICE  
THE TRUTH.

THEY GARNERED  
WIDESPREAD PRAISE.  
PEOPLE SAID THEY  
WERE TOTALLY FRESH,  
THAT THEIR STYLE OF  
COMEDY HAD NEVER  
BEEN SEEN BEFORE.



"I DON'T KNOW  
WHY TASOGARE  
KINTOKI ARE  
FUNNY, BUT  
I LAUGH  
ANYWAY."

-MORNING  
TIMES

AFTER THAT,  
THE COMEDY  
DUO TASOGARE  
KINTOKI RAPIDLY  
MADE THEIR  
MARK...



...UNTIL  
EVENTUALLY  
THEY WERE  
APPEARING  
ON PRIME-  
TIME TV.



...THEY  
REALIZED  
THE HUGE  
POTENTIAL  
OF THEIR  
SOULS  
RIDING  
ON THE  
ELECTRICAL  
WAVES.

WHEN THEY  
SAW THEIR  
COMEDY  
ACTUALLY  
SPREAD  
TO LIVING  
ROOMS...

HEEEEE!  
HEEEEE!

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

WE'RE  
TASOGARE  
KINTOKIIIII!

THANK  
YOU!



ROAR

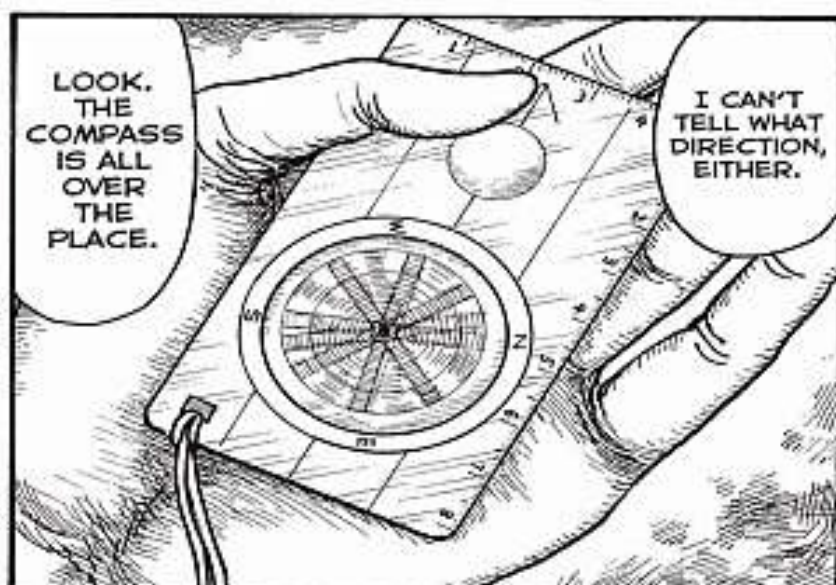
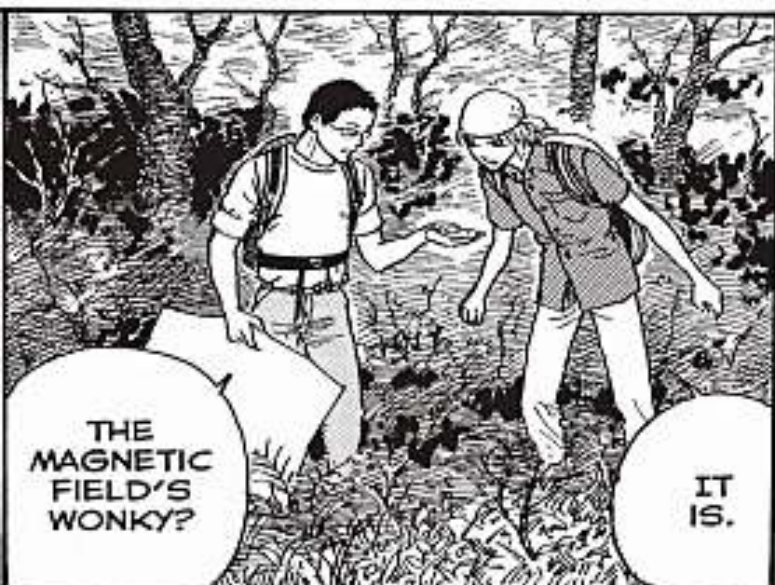
車  
車

ごうおん

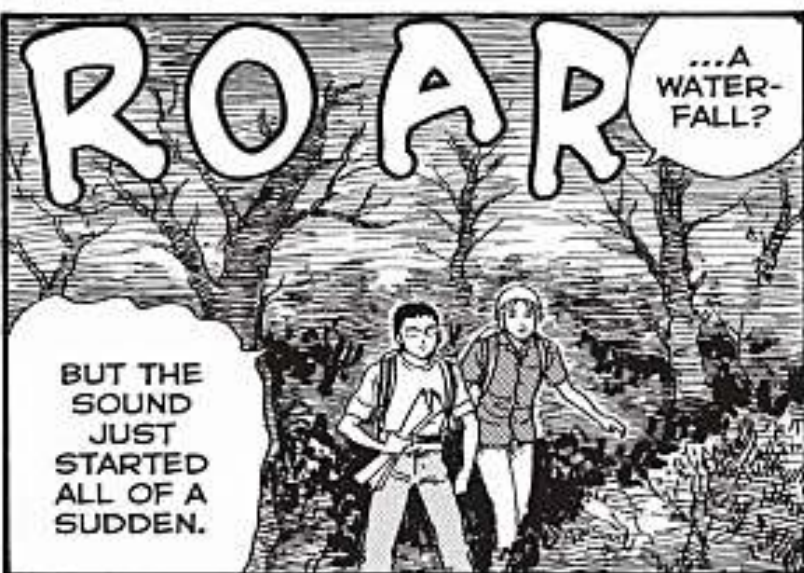
音







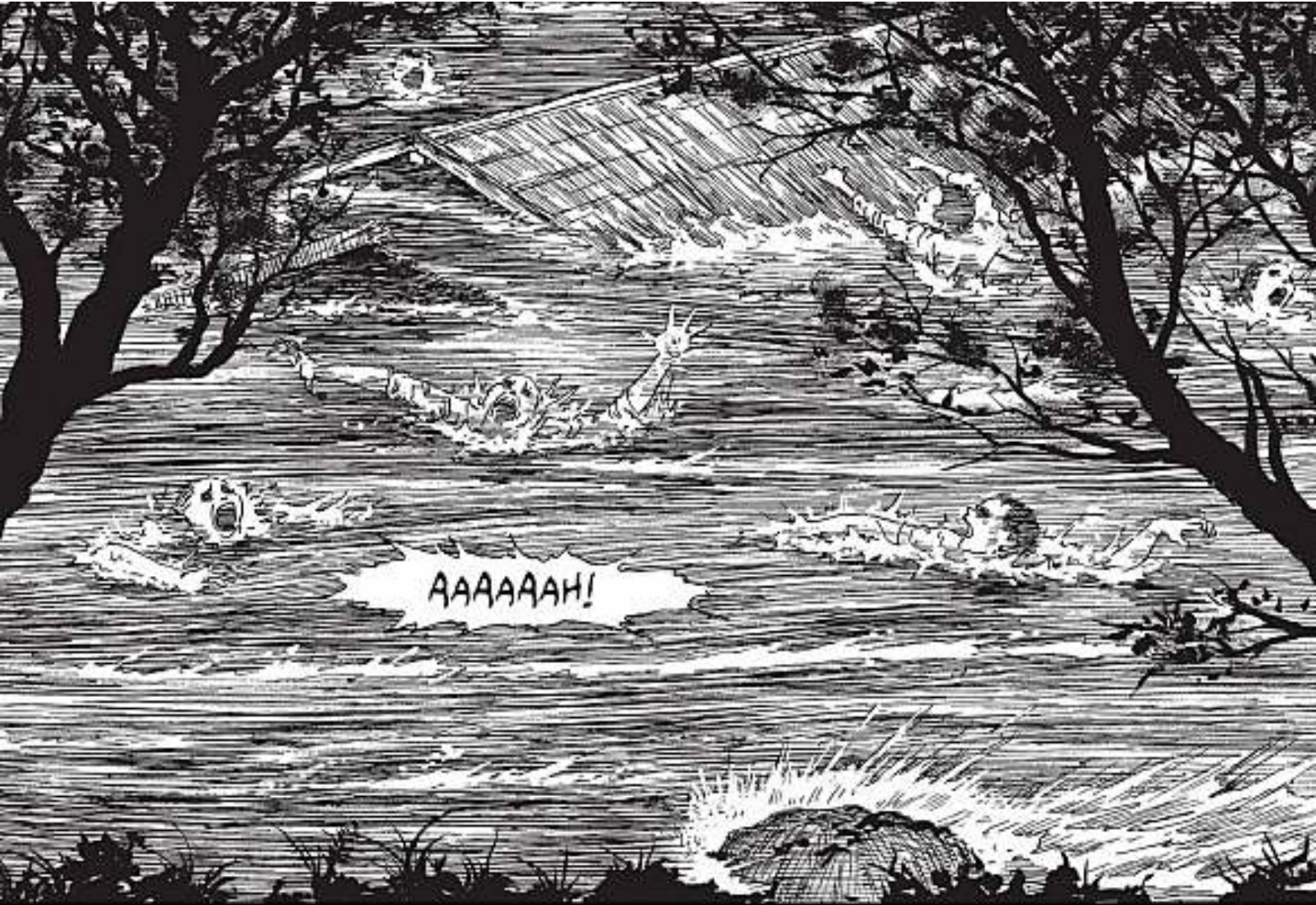




















RO A

AR



ROAR

MAYBE WE  
CAN DO  
SOMETHING  
TO SAVE ONE  
PERSON AT  
LEAST...



MAYBE  
A DAM  
BROKE.



THIS  
IS  
SO  
WEIRD.

IT'S NOT  
EVEN  
RAINING.  
WHERE'D  
THAT  
FLOOD  
COME  
FROM?!



HUH?









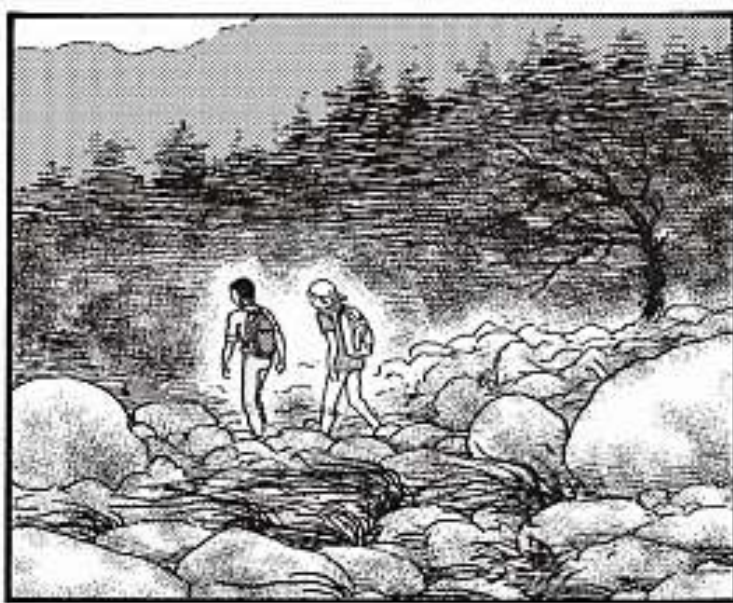
THE  
ROCKS  
ARE A  
LITTLE  
WORN,  
AND I  
MEAN, THE  
PLANTS...

BUT...  
IT DOES  
LOOK LIKE  
SOMETHING  
SWEEP  
THROUGH  
HERE.



WE  
HAVEN'T  
EVEN  
FOUND  
PIECES  
OF  
HOUSES  
OR  
ANYTHING.

MIMURA,  
IT'S THE  
SAME NO  
MATTER  
HOW FAR  
WE GO.




THIS IS  
BAD...  
LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
SLEEPING  
OUTSIDE  
TONIGHT.

AND OUR  
PHONES  
AREN'T  
WORKING.

IT'S  
GETTING  
DARK.








I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, SO I DON'T PARTICULARLY MIND DYING A DOG'S DEATH ON THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE.

IF WE DON'T GET HOME SAFE, YOUR FAMILY'LL BE ALL BROKEN UP, MIMURA.



YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN OKAY?

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN EASY HIKE, AND NOW LOOK AT US.



I'M A WANDERING MAN, YOU KNOW?

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE.

RELATIVES... THEY WERE ALWAYS FOISTING ME ONTO OTHER PEOPLE WHEN I WAS LITTLE. EVENTUALLY, THEY LEFT ME AT AN ORPHANAGE.

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT, MASAKI? I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT RELATIVES, RIGHT?



AT LEAST WE WON'T FREEZE TO DEATH.

GLAD IT'S SUMMER.

ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.

HEY, MASAKI?





MAKING  
TROUBLE  
FOR MY  
UNCLE  
AND AUNT.  
THAT'S IT.

ALL I REALLY  
REMEMBER  
FROM WHEN I  
WAS LITTLE...  
WAS SOBBING  
AT A RELATIVE'S  
HOUSE.

DUNNO... I WAS  
LITTLE. I DON'T  
REMEMBER THEM.  
MY RELATIVES NEVER  
TOLD ME ANYTHING  
ABOUT THEM, EITHER.

WHAT WERE  
THEY LIKE,  
YOUR  
PARENTS?

I GOT  
OVER IT  
AT SOME  
POINT,  
THOUGH.

WELL  
...

I WAS  
AFRAID  
OF WATER  
FOR  
SOME  
REASON.

I WAS  
SUPER  
SCARED  
OF THE  
BATH. EVERY  
NIGHT, IT  
WAS THIS  
HUGE  
FIGHT.

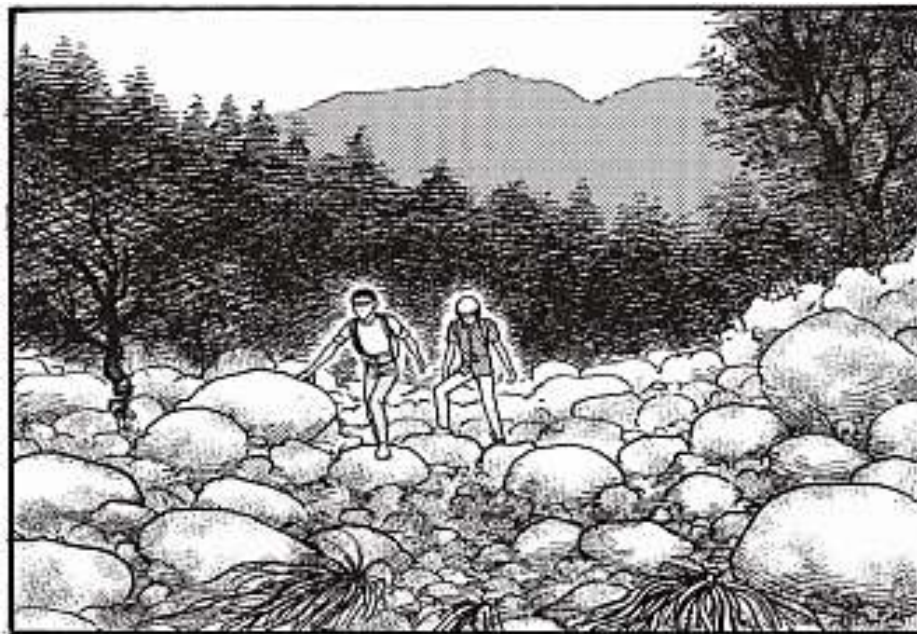
LET'S GET  
UP EARLY  
TOMORROW  
AND FOLLOW  
THE TRACES  
OF THE  
FLOOD.

ANY-  
WAY...

I WAS FREAKED,  
TOO, YOU KNOW!!  
I MEAN, PEOPLE  
WERE SWEEPED AWAY  
RIGHT BEFORE  
OUR EYES!

BUT TO BE  
HONEST, THAT  
FLOOD TODAY  
HAD MY LEGS  
SHAKING.





BUT IT'S  
BENT SO  
ABNORMALLY.

I GUESS  
BECAUSE OF  
THE FLOOD  
YESTERDAY.



IT IS A  
WEIRD  
SIGHT,  
THOUGH.

LOOK... ALL  
THE GRASS  
IS BENT IN  
THE SAME  
DIRECTION.



ROAR

HM?!



YEAH,  
GOOD  
IDEA.

PHEW,  
I'M TIRED.  
HOW ABOUT  
WE REST A  
MINUTE?











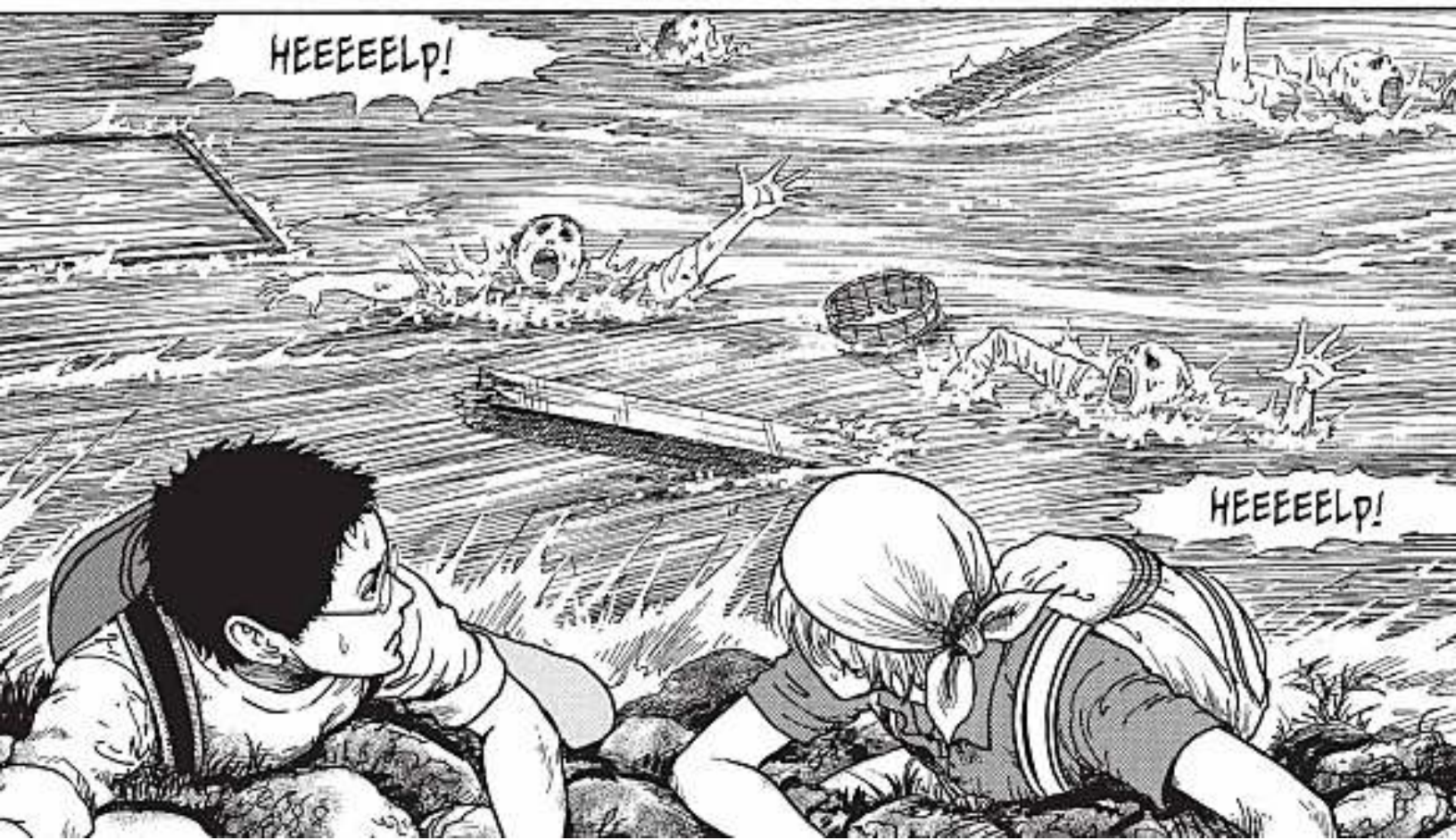
AH!  
LOOK!

FIRST  
YESTERDAY  
AND NOW  
TODAY?



BUT, WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS THIS?

JUST  
IN THE  
NICK  
OF  
TIME!



HEEEELP!

HEEEELP!







WHAT  
THE  
HELL IS  
GOING  
ON?!

AR

IT'S THE  
EXACT  
SAME AS  
YESTER-  
DAY.

...ME  
TOO...

H-HEY, MASAKI...  
I'VE SEEN THAT  
GIRL BEFORE.

ROAR

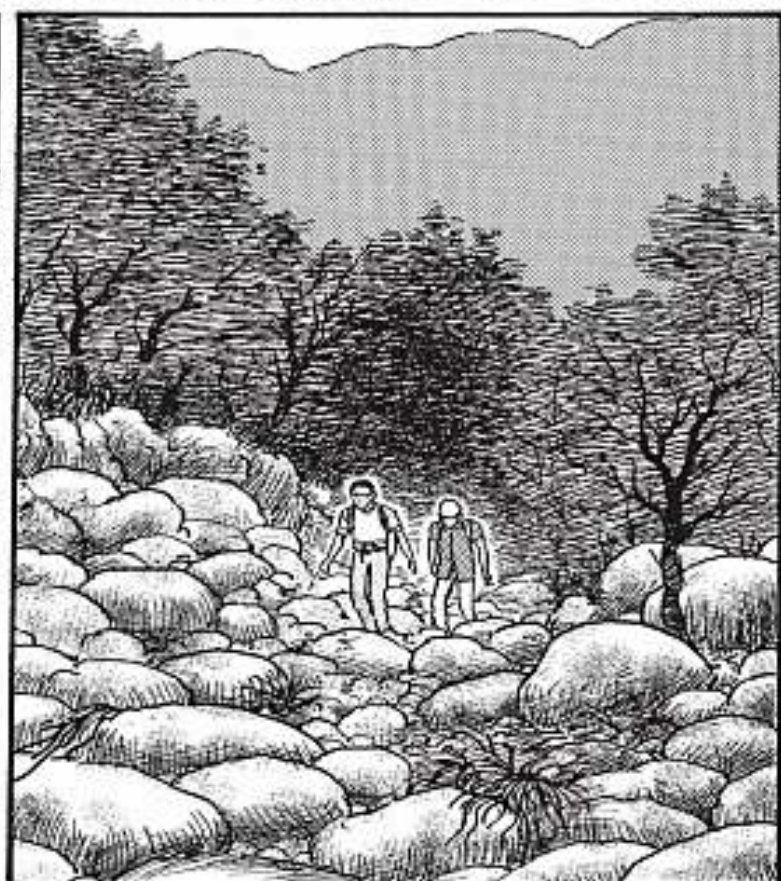
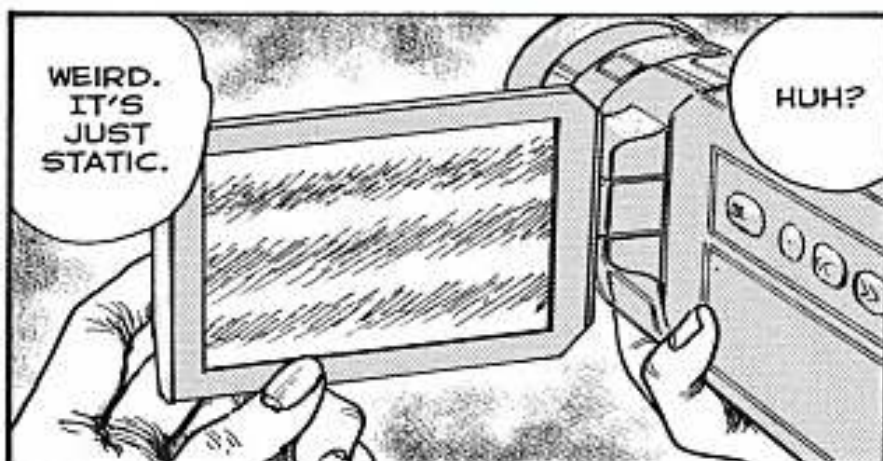
I'M  
GOING TO  
RECORD  
IT.

ANYWAY...

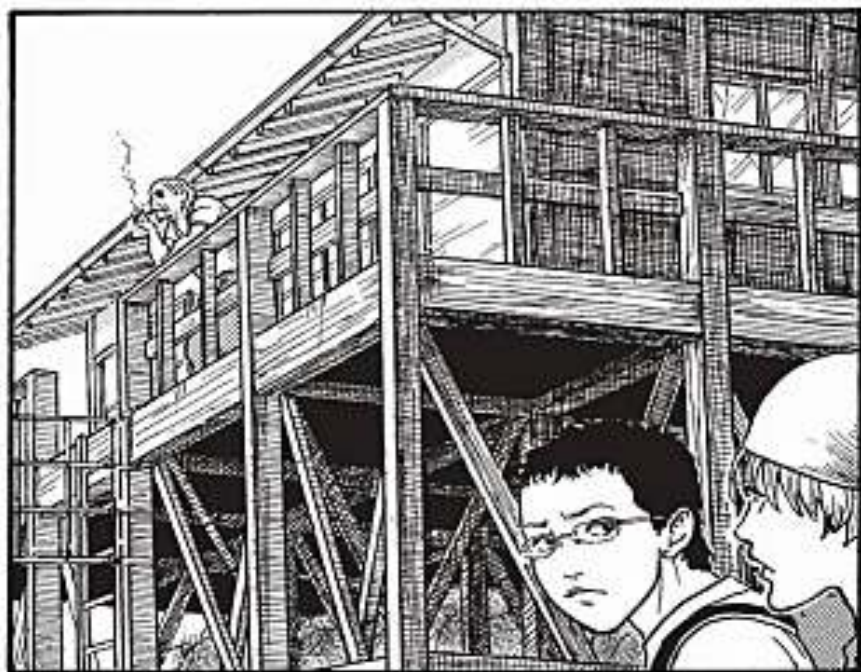
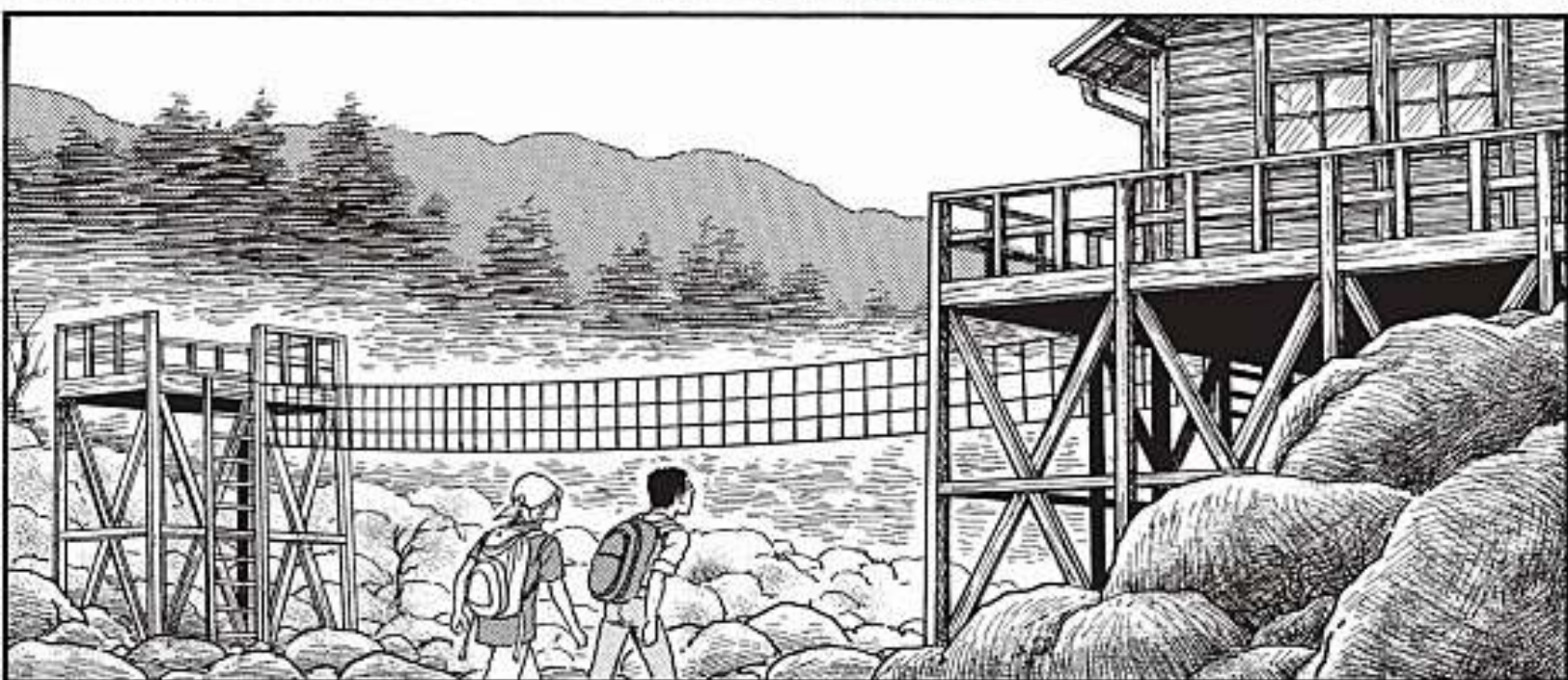
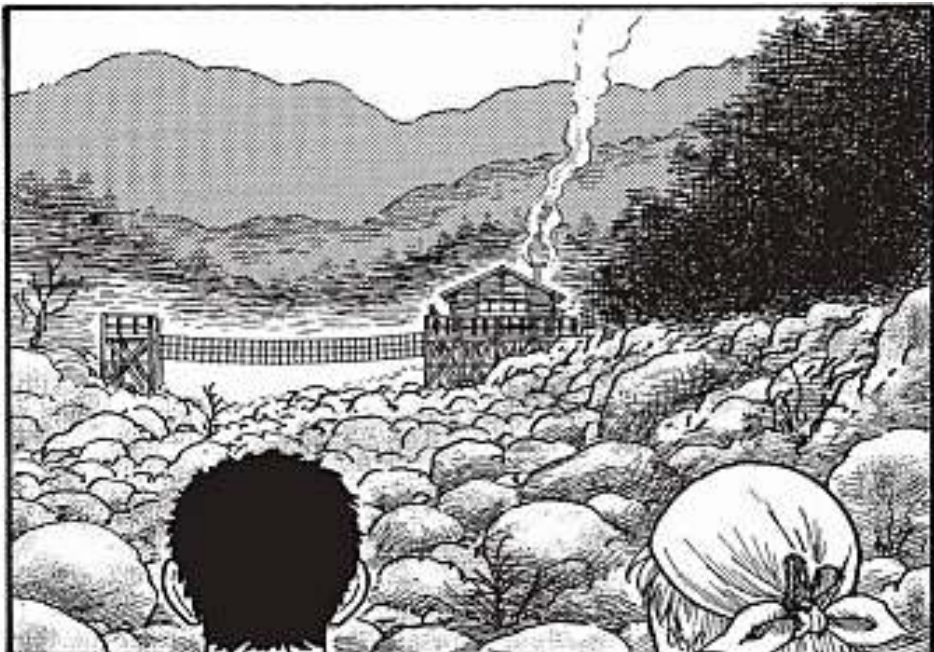
ROAR

ROAR















ALL THIS  
WATER RACED  
DOWN THE  
MOUNTAIN  
AND SWEEPED  
THE VILLAGE  
DOWNSTREAM  
AWAY.

THIRTY  
YEARS  
AGO...  
THE DAM  
UPSTREAM  
OF HERE  
BROKE.

FROM TIME  
TO TIME,  
THE GHOST  
OF A FLOOD  
APPEARS IN  
THIS RIVER  
BASIN.

AND THE  
MAJORITY OF  
THOSE WASHED  
AWAY IN THIS  
MUDDY STREAM  
WERE NEVER  
FOUND.

THE VILLAGE  
WAS  
ESSENTIALLY  
DESTROYED,  
AND JUST A  
HANDFUL OF  
VILLAGERS  
SURVIVED.

LIVED  
THROUGH  
IT?

...

OR MAYBE  
IT'S THE  
PRAYERS  
OF US  
WHO LIVED  
THROUGH  
IT THAT  
CALL THE  
GHOST...

MAYBE IT'S  
THE PEOPLE  
WASHED  
AWAY IN THE  
FLOOD WHO  
PRODUCE  
THE ILLUSION.

WASN'T  
TOO LONG  
AFTER  
THAT...

...THAT  
THE  
PHANTOM  
FLOOD  
STARTED  
SHOWING  
UP.





BUT I GOT  
SEPARATED  
FROM  
MY WIFE  
SOMEWHERE  
IN THERE.  
THAT WAS  
THE LAST  
I SAW OF  
HER.

I WAS  
SWALLOWED UP  
BY THE WATER,  
TOO. I HELD  
ON TO MY BABY  
SON FOR DEAR  
LIFE, THOUGH,  
AND MANAGED  
TO GET TO THE  
SHORE.

I'M ONE  
OF THE  
SURVIVORS.

...THAT'S  
RIGHT.



I COULD  
SEE MY  
WIFE  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF IT.

THE ILLUSION  
THAT STARTED  
APPEARING AFTER  
THAT IS A  
RE-CREATION OF  
THE FLOOD.

IT'S NOT  
WORKING! THEY  
JUST GO RIGHT  
THROUGH THE  
ROPE!!

HONEY,  
HELP  
ME!

BUT NO MATTER  
WHAT WE TRIED,  
IT WAS NO USE.  
BECAUSE THEY  
WERE GHOSTS.

THOSE OF US  
VILLAGERS WHO WERE  
LEFT, WE TRIED TO  
RESCUE THE FOLKS  
BEING WASHED AWAY  
INSIDE THE ILLUSION  
OF THE FLOOD.



I'M THE  
ONLY  
ONE WHO  
STAYED.

BEFORE I  
KNEW IT, 30  
YEARS HAD  
PASSED.

I'VE  
SPENT MY  
WHOLE  
LIFE SINCE  
TRYING TO  
RESCUE  
MY WIFE.

MY SON WAS  
AFRAID OF WATER  
AFTER THAT. I  
SENT HIM OFF  
TO LIVE WITH  
RELATIVES.

ONE DAY,  
SHE'S GOING  
TO GRAB  
ON TO THAT  
NET. SHE'LL  
ESCAPE THE  
ILLUSION AND  
COME BACK  
TO ME!!

BUT I  
BELIEVE IN  
MIRACLES!!

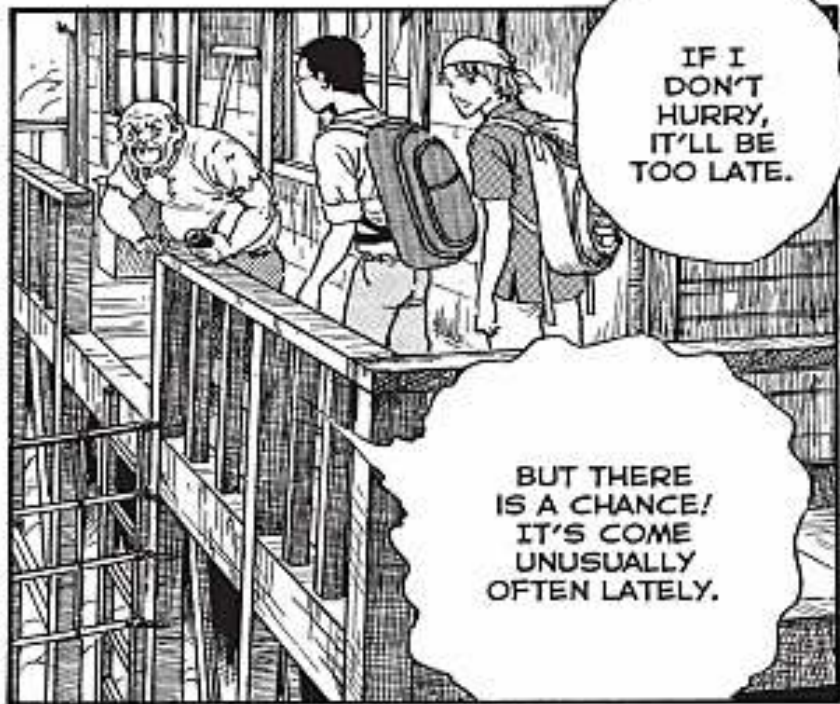
ALMOST LIKE  
A VIDEOTAPE  
GETTING WORN  
OUT. THE  
ILLUSION'S  
DETERIORATING!

OVER THESE  
LAST 30  
YEARS, THE  
PHANTOM  
FLOOD'S  
GOTTEN  
HAZIER BIT  
BY BIT.

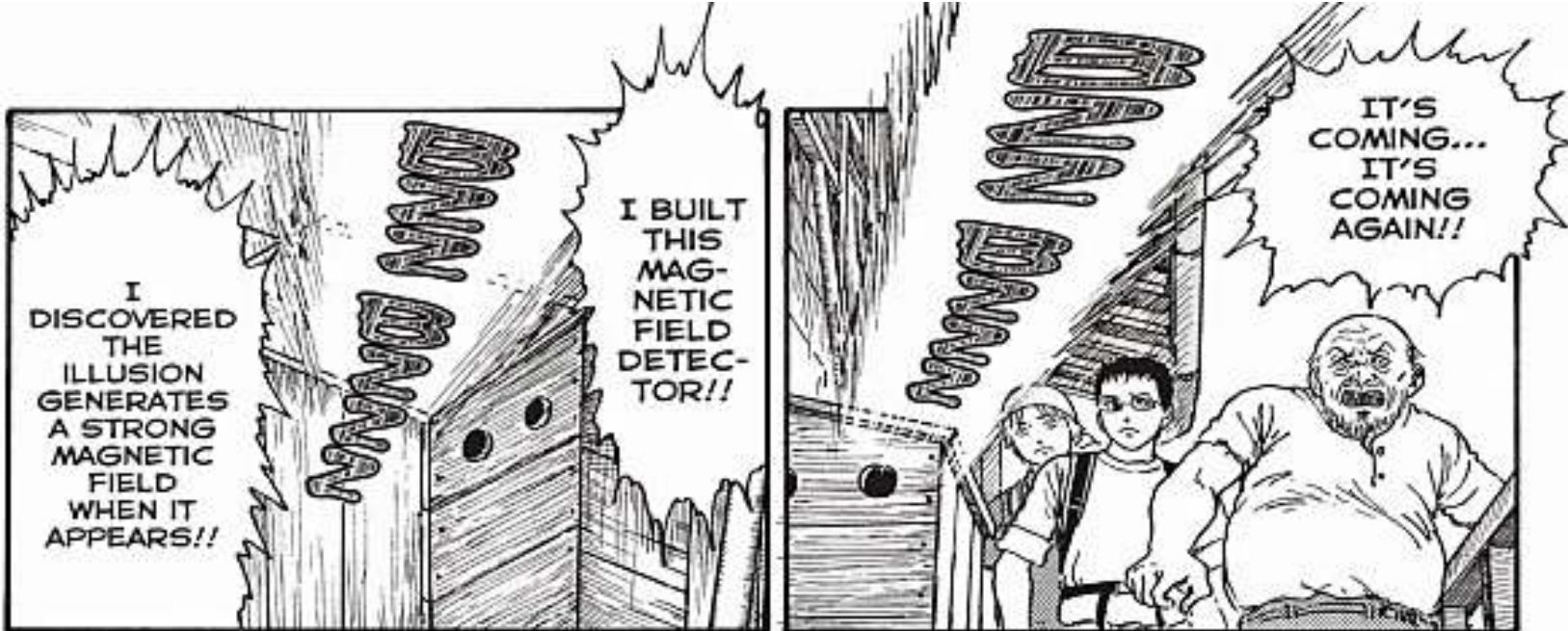
AND...

BUT...I'M  
OLD NOW. I  
DON'T HAVE  
MUCH TIME  
LEFT...













ROAD













G-  
GOOD!!

!!



JUST  
LIKE  
THAT!!

THAT'S  
IT!!

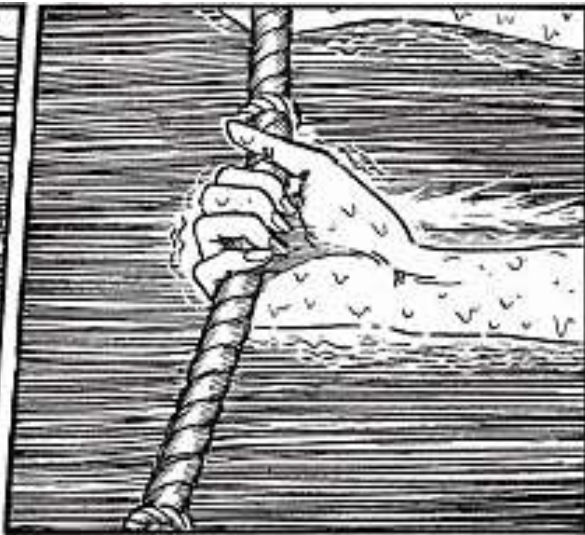
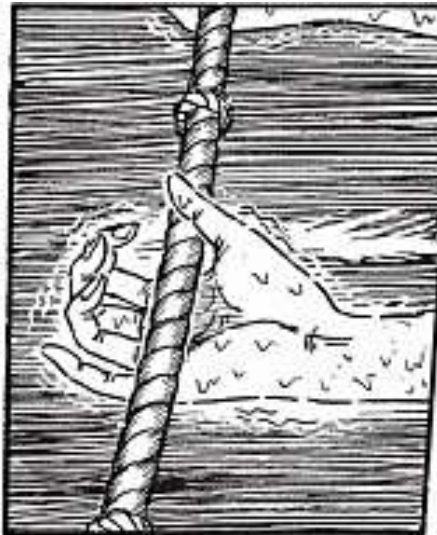
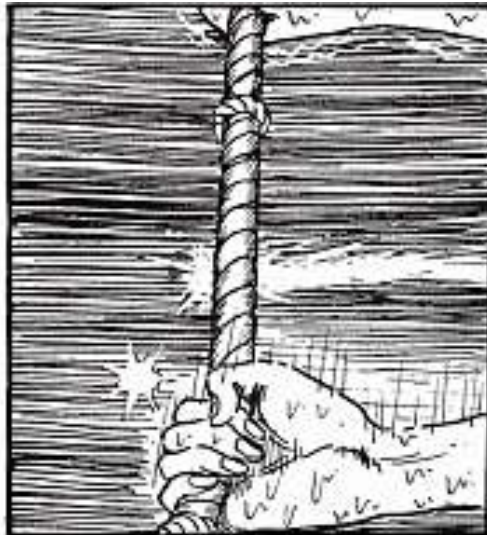


FOLLOW  
THE  
ROPE  
TO ME!!

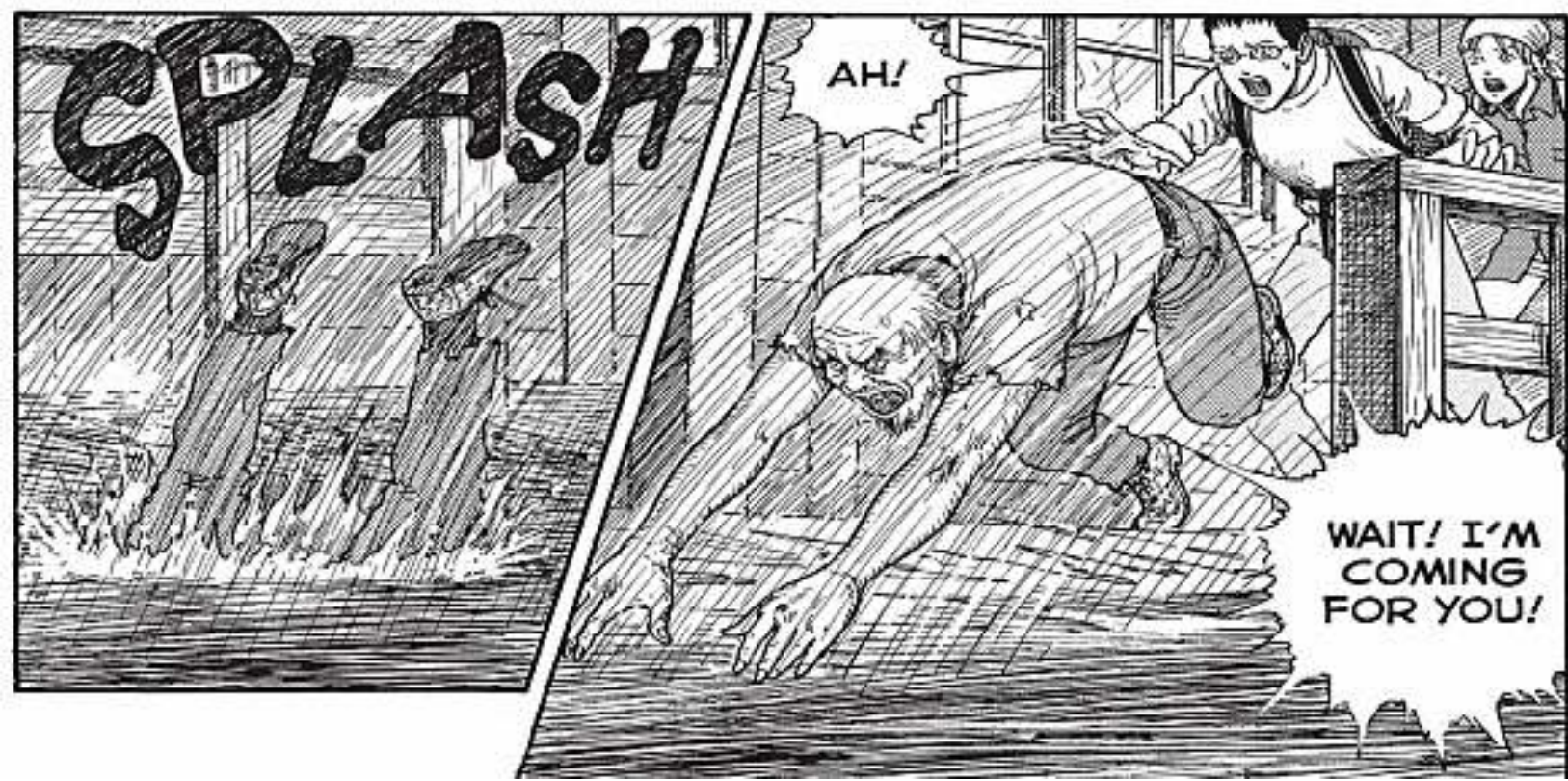
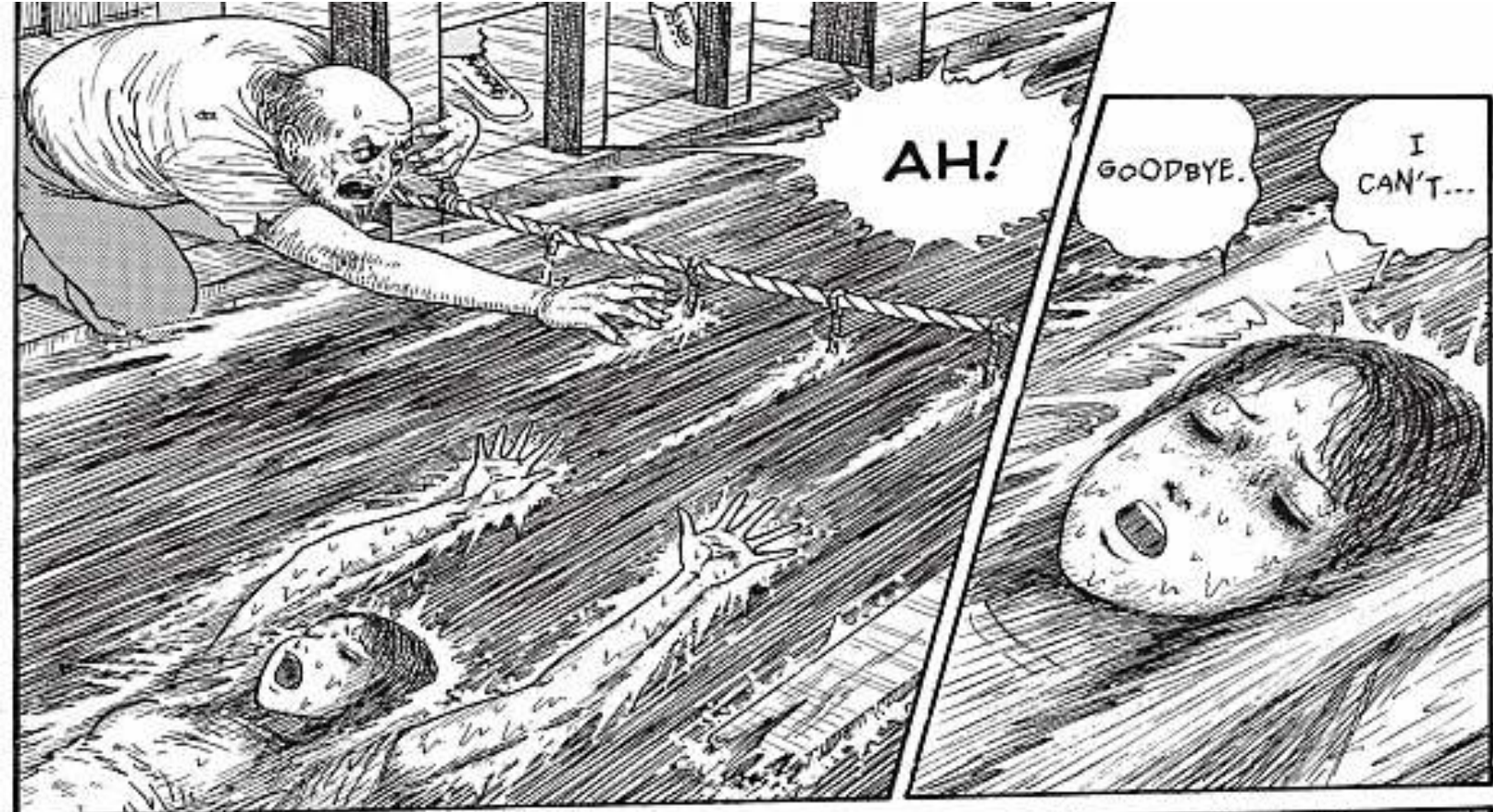
SLOWLY!!  
SLOWLY'S  
OKAY!

FIGHT!!  
HOLD ON  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
LONGER!

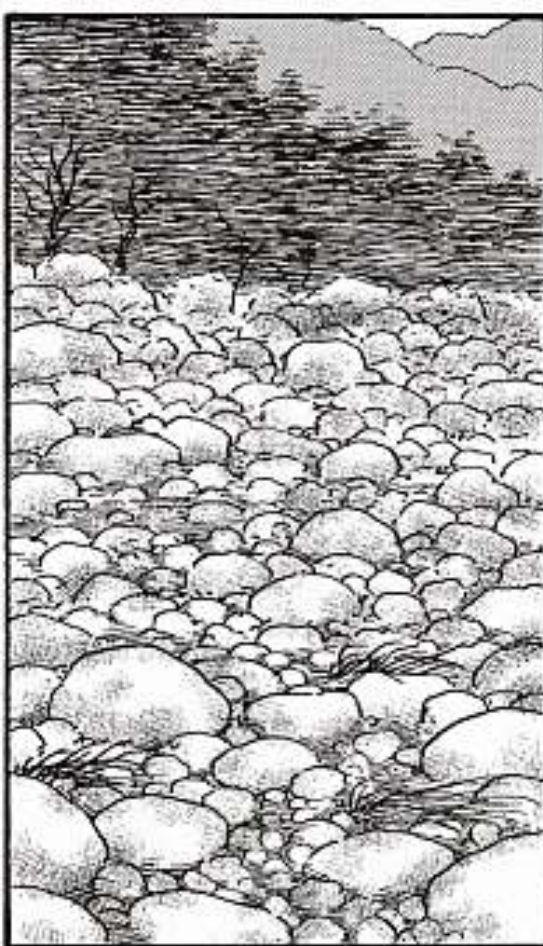
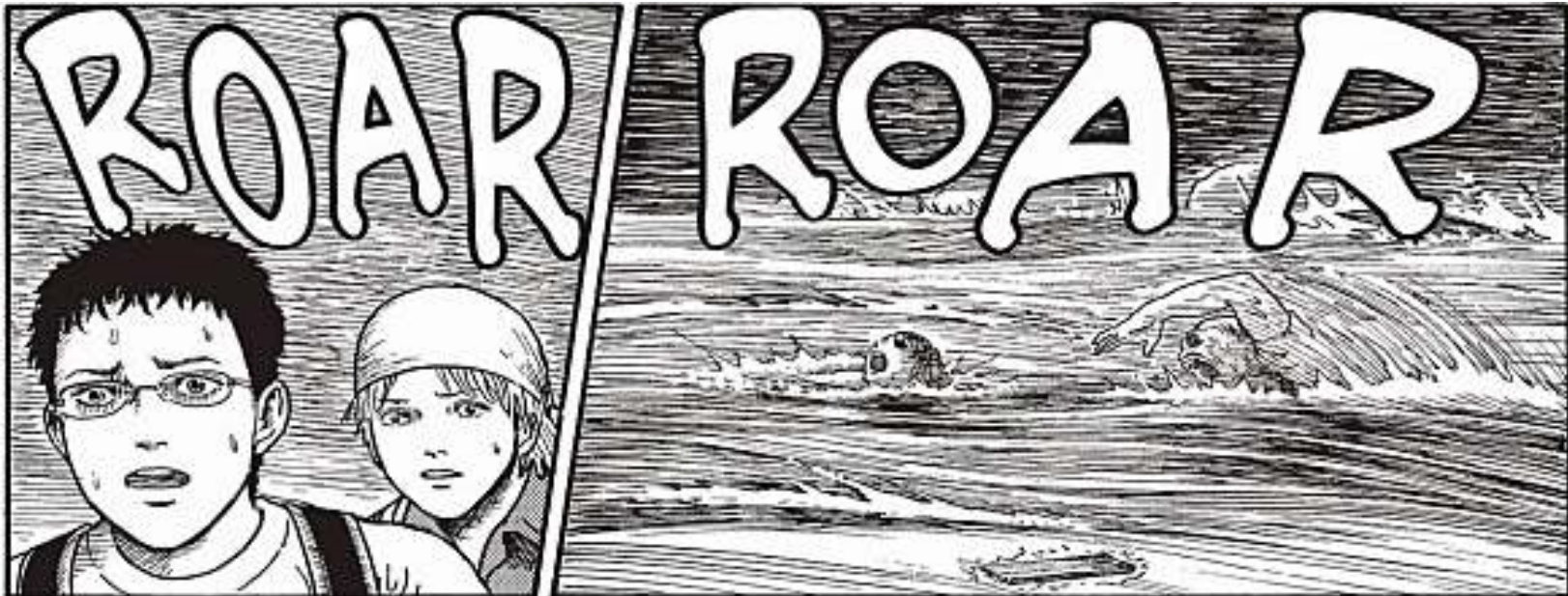














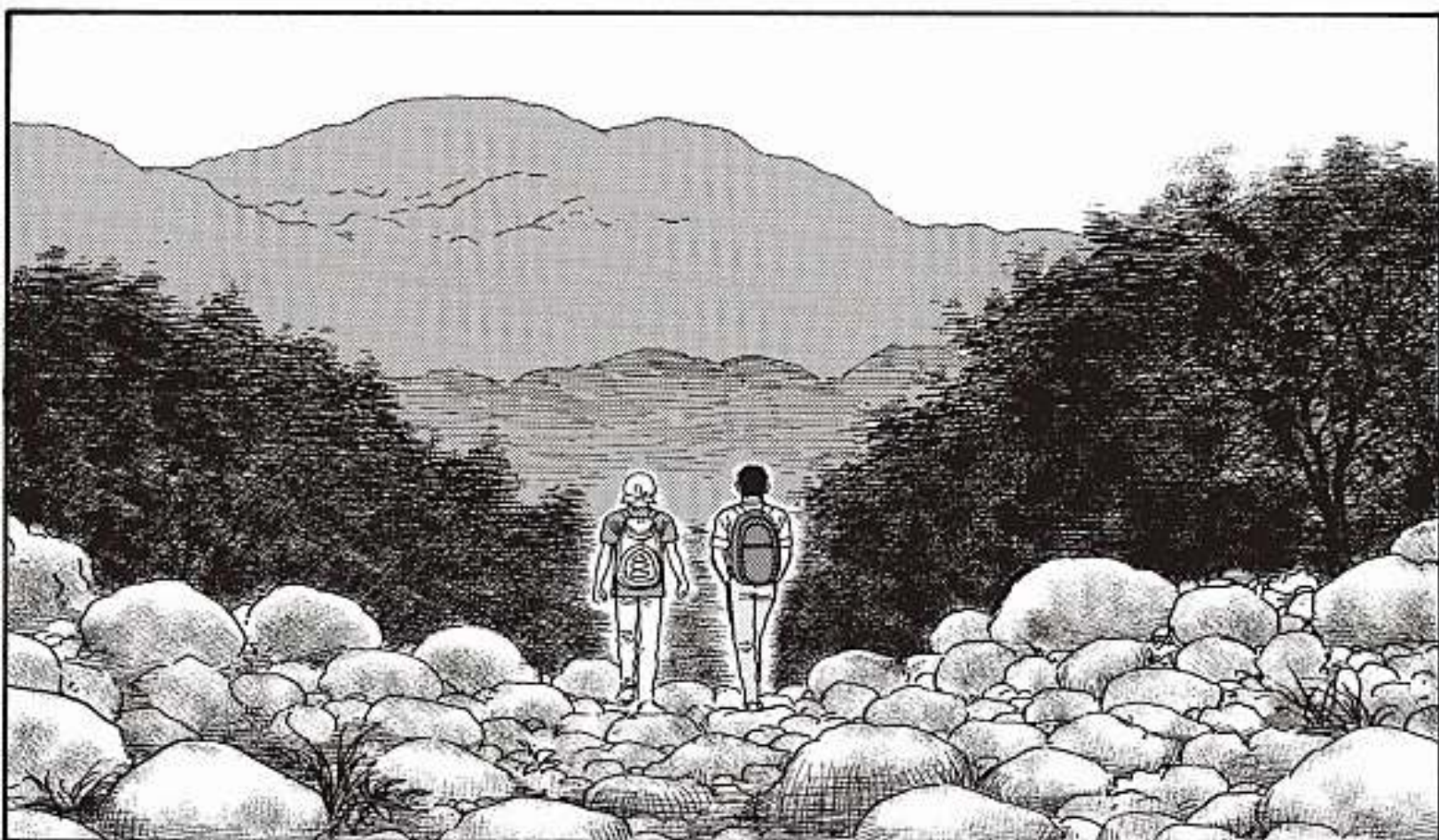
STILL...

IT MIGHT  
JUST BE THAT  
AFTER ALL  
THESE YEARS  
OF CHASING  
A GHOST,  
THAT OLD MAN  
BECAME MORE  
AND MORE LIKE  
A PHANTOM  
HIMSELF.

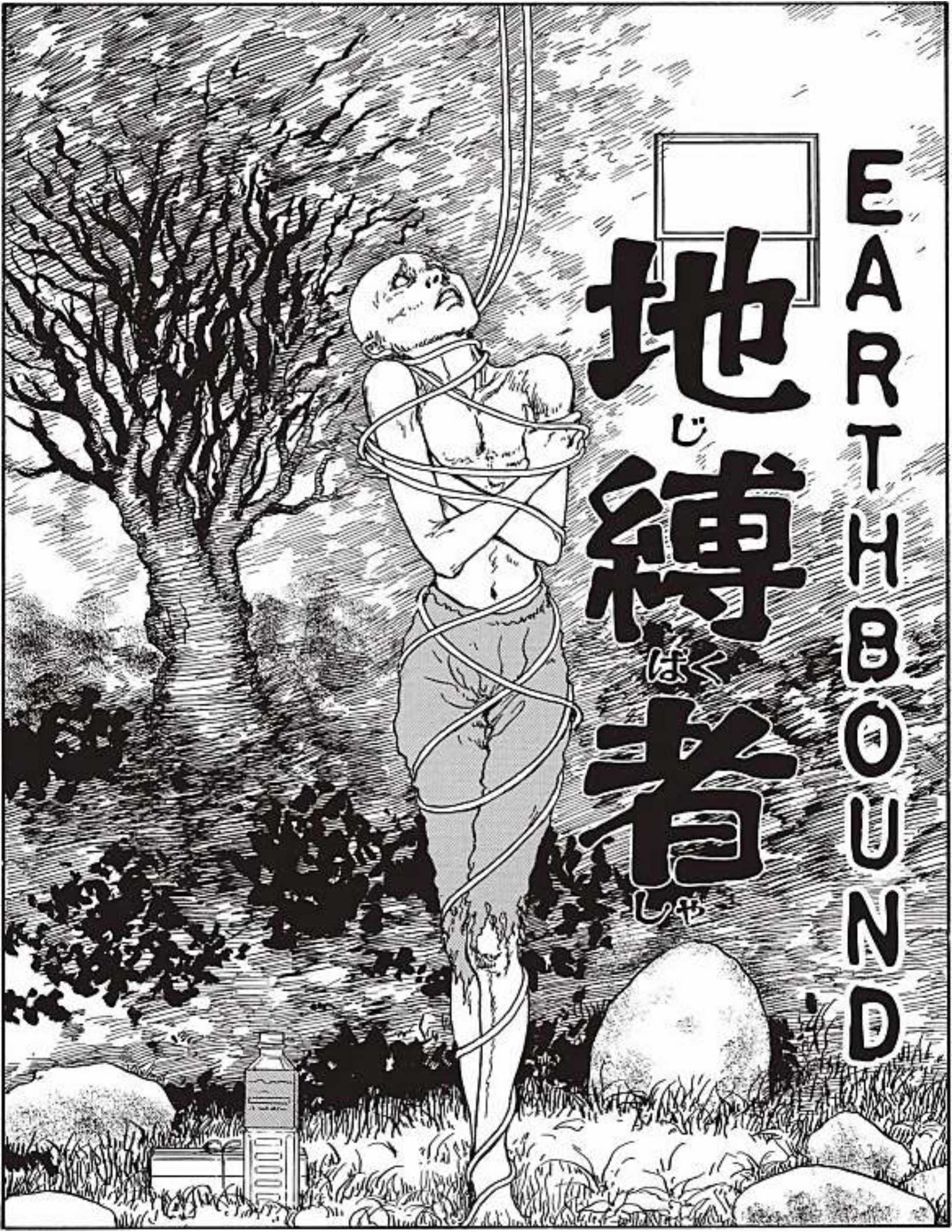
SWALLOWED  
UP BY A  
PHANTOM  
FLOOD. IS  
THAT EVEN A  
THING THAT  
HAPPENS?

BUT  
THERE'S  
NO WAY OF  
KNOWING  
FOR SURE  
NOW.

THAT COUPLE...  
I THOUGHT  
THEY MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN MY  
PARENTS.







地縛者

EARTHBOUND









A  
PERFORM-  
MANCE?



IN ALL  
KINDS OF  
PLACES...

...  
ALWAYS  
IN THE  
SAME  
POSITION.



BEFORE  
ANYONE  
KNEW IT,  
THEY WERE  
JUST  
THERE.











BUT THEY  
WERE  
DEFINITELY  
ALIVE.

SOME  
PEOPLE  
SUSPECTED  
THEY WERE  
GHOSTS.

HONEY!!

NOT TO  
MENTION, IT  
WAS HARD  
TO BELIEVE  
A NORMAL  
PERSON  
COULD HOLD  
THE SAME  
POSITION  
FOR SEVERAL  
DAYS.

IT WAS A  
COMPLETE  
MYSTERY AS  
TO WHY THEY  
WERE DOING  
THIS.

PEOPLE  
CALLED  
THEM  
"EARTH-  
BOUND."

IT WAS AS  
THOUGH  
THEY WERE  
TIED TO  
THOSE  
PLACES.

OUR  
BOY'S  
STILL SO  
YOUNG!!

HONEY!!  
WHAT ON  
EARTH  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!

PLEASE  
PULL  
YOUR-  
SELF  
TOGETH-  
ER!

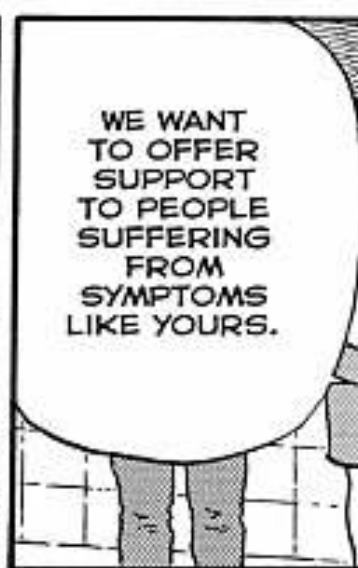
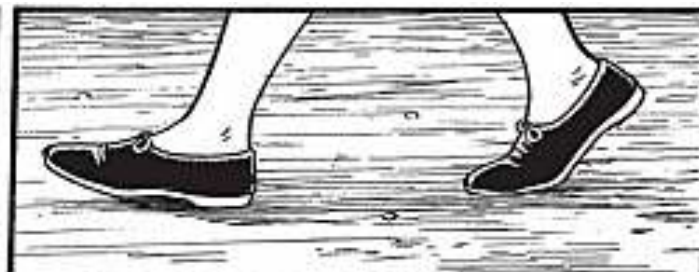
THE RUMOR  
STARTED  
TO SPREAD  
THAT THE  
"BOUND" WAS  
CONTAGIOUS.

STRANGELY,  
THE  
EARTHBOUND  
GRADUALLY  
GREW IN  
NUMBER  
THROUGHOUT  
JAPAN.















UNH/  
UNH  
UNH  
UNH.



COME  
BACK  
HOME.

UNH  
UNH...  
MINORU...  
I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU.

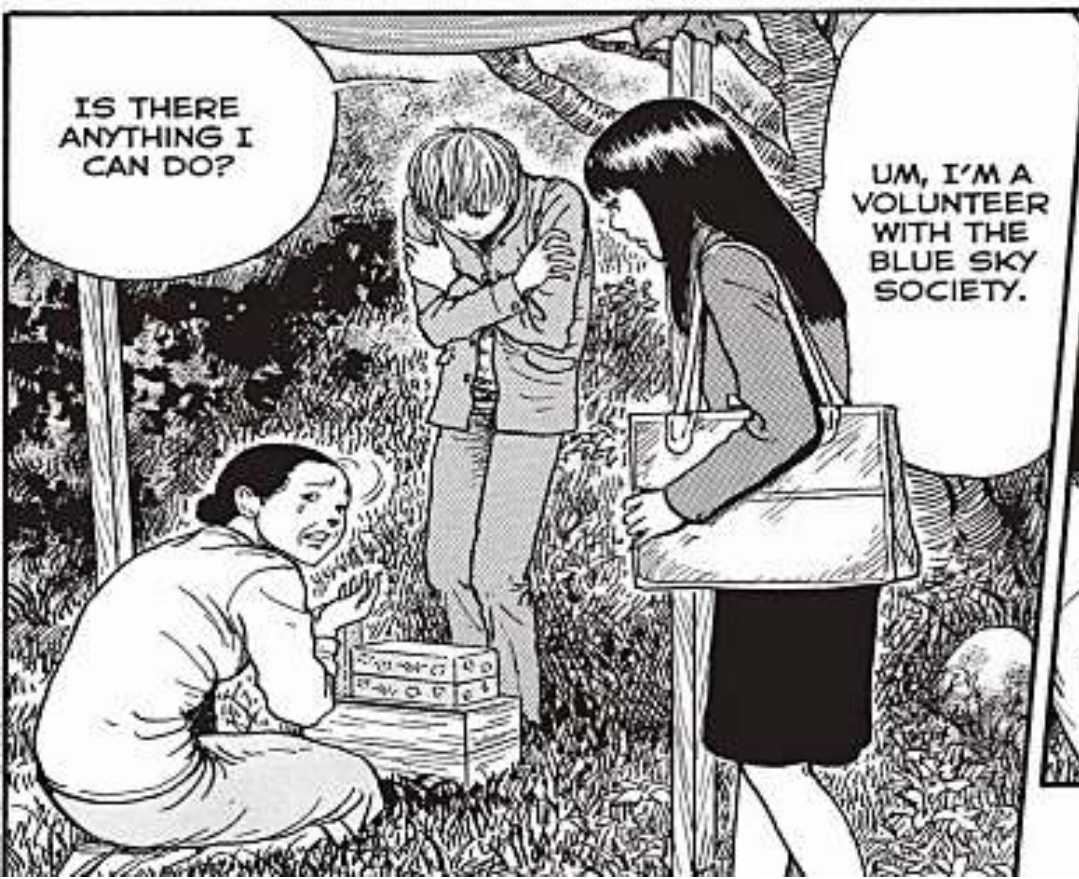


UNH  
UNH  
UNH  
UNH  
UNH.



IS THERE  
ANYTHING I  
CAN DO?

UM, I'M A  
VOLUNTEER  
WITH THE  
BLUE SKY  
SOCIETY.



YOU HAVEN'T EVEN  
TOUCHED THE FOOD  
I BROUGHT FOR  
YOU. IF YOU DON'T  
EAT, YOU'LL DIE.





THE EARTH-  
BOUND ARE  
BOUND BY  
THE SELF.  
WE BELIEVE  
IT'S A PSY-  
CHOLOGICAL  
ISSUE.

CATCH IT...  
WE DON'T  
BELIEVE  
THOSE  
RUMORS.

AND  
YOU'LL  
CATCH  
IT IF YOU  
GET TOO  
CLOSE.  
PLEASE  
GO AWAY.

ALL THE  
DOCTORS  
AND  
POLITICIANS  
HAVE  
BASICALLY  
THROWN IN  
THE TOWEL,  
SO WHAT CAN  
A VOLUNTEER  
LIKE YOU  
DO?

WHICH IS  
WHY WE  
TRY TO  
TALK TO  
THEM AND  
FIND A  
WAY IN.

BUT THE BOUND  
IS CLEARLY  
HAPPENING  
BECAUSE OF THE  
EARTHBOUND  
THEMSELVES.

MY BOY'S  
BEEN LIKE  
THIS A  
WHOLE  
WEEK.

DOES THIS  
HAPPEN  
BECAUSE OF  
A PSYCHO-  
LOGICAL  
ISSUE?!

...

I'VE GOT  
NOTHING  
TO SAY...

TALK?  
NO...

PLEASE,  
TALK TO  
ME ABOUT  
ANYTHING!

IT'S MINORU,  
ISN'T IT? I'M  
GOING TO GIVE  
YOU ALL THE  
SUPPORT I  
CAN!



THE  
DOG?

I THINK  
MAYBE HE  
ORIGINALLY  
CAME HERE  
BECAUSE  
HE WAS  
REMEMBERING  
THE DOG.

WHY  
WOULD  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS  
HAPPEN  
...?

AND I KNOW  
THERE ARE SO  
MANY PEOPLE  
ALL OVER THE  
COUNTRY WITH  
THE SAME  
SYMPTOMS  
...

BUT THAT  
WAS A LONG  
TIME AGO.  
WHY NOW...

YES. THIS  
IS WHERE  
WE BURIED  
MINORU'S PET  
DOG PONTA  
WHEN HE WAS  
A BOY.

HE JUST  
ADORED THE  
DOG, SO IT  
WAS A REAL  
SHOCK FOR  
HIM WHEN  
PONTA DIED.

BUT...I DO  
FEEL LIKE  
THE DOG IS  
CONNECTED  
SOMEHOW.

IT'S JUST...  
HE'S SUCH  
A KIND BOY,  
MINORU IS...

HERE  
LIES  
PONTA



THAT'S  
A VERY  
INTEREST-  
ING  
ACCOUNT.

I SEE...

NPO  
BLUE SKY  
SOCIETY

THE BOY  
WAS  
BOUND  
IN THE  
PLACE  
WHERE  
HIS PET  
DOG WAS  
BURIED.  
WHICH  
MEANS...

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
CHIEF.

BUT FROM  
WHAT  
YOU'VE  
TOLD ME...

SO FAR, THE  
REASON THE  
EARTHBOUND  
ARE FIXED  
TO ANY  
PARTICULAR  
SPOT'S BEEN  
A TOTAL  
MYSTERY.

OKAY!

GOT IT.  
YOU KEEP  
WORKING  
WITH THAT  
BOY.

MAKES  
SENSE.

MAYBE THE  
EARTHBOUND  
ARE EACH STUCK  
SOMEWHERE THAT  
THEY THEMSELVES  
HAVE A STRONG  
ATTACHMENT TO?





OKAY.

AND IT'S GOOD  
TO WORK HARD,  
BUT DON'T PUSH  
YOURSELF TOO  
MUCH, OKAY?



EVEN  
COMPARED  
WITH  
OTHERS  
IN THE  
GROUP.  
LIKE...  
YOU'RE  
ALMOST  
FANATIC  
ABOUT  
IT...

YOU  
KNOW,  
ASANO,  
YOU'RE  
REALLY  
PASSION-  
ATE  
ABOUT  
THIS  
WORK.



...I  
HAVE  
A TON  
OF  
STUFF  
TO  
DO.

...I'M  
ACTUALLY  
MOVING  
HOUSE  
SOON,  
SO...



OH. I  
APPRECIATE  
THE  
THOUGHT,  
BUT...

ANYWAY,  
DO YOU HAVE  
ANY PLANS  
NOW? WE  
COULD GET  
DINNER OR  
SOMETHING.



I'LL BE ABLE  
TO CONTINUE  
WITH THE BLUE  
SKY SOCIETY  
LIKE ALWAYS.  
DON'T WORRY.

AND EVEN  
THOUGH I'M  
MOVING, I'M  
NOT GOING  
FAR.



WHY  
AGAIN?

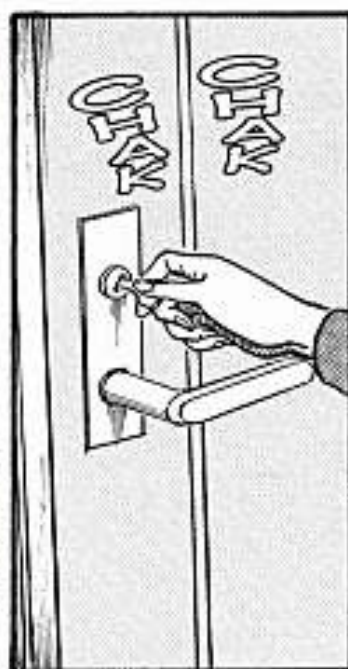
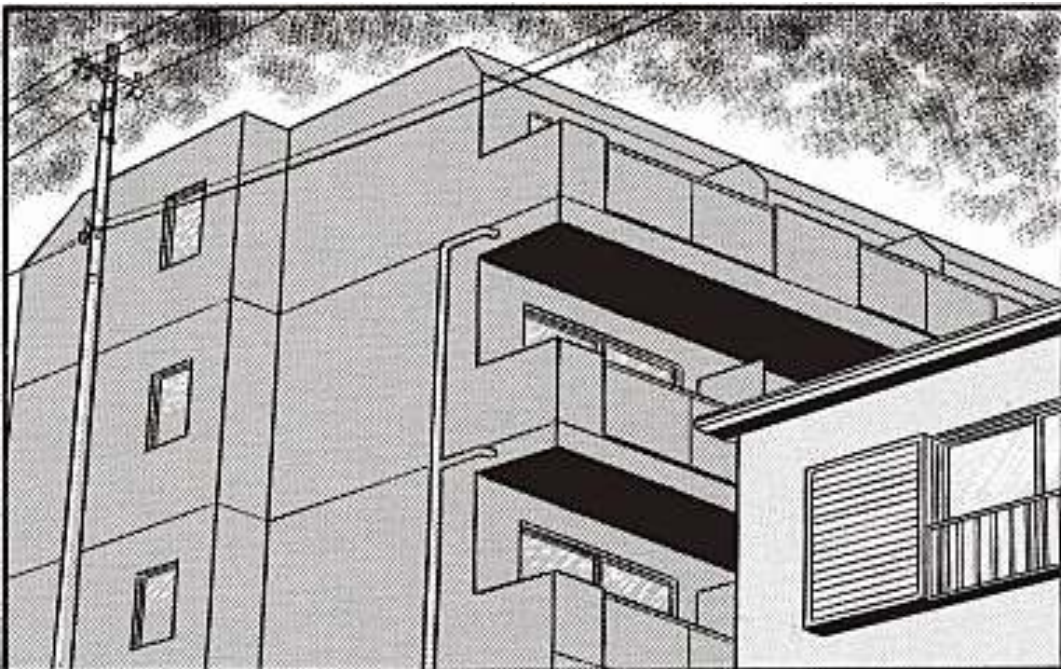
WHAT?  
YOU'RE  
MOVING  
AGAIN?  
DIDN'T YOU  
JUST MOVE  
TO THE  
PLACE YOU  
ARE NOW  
LAST YEAR?



THINGS  
HAPPEN  
...

YES,  
WELL...









YOU  
CAME IN  
THROUGH  
THE  
BALCONY,  
RIGHT?

WH-WHO  
ARE  
YOU?!







AH!



WHY?!

WHY WOULD  
YOU BE  
BOUND TO A  
PLACE LIKE  
THIS?!



THIS IS MY  
APARTMENT!!  
DO YOU  
GET THAT?!

WHY  
ARE  
YOU IN  
HERE?!



YOU ARE  
ASANO,  
AREN'T YOU...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?!

A-  
ASANO?!



WHY ARE  
YOU  
HERE?!

CHIEF...  
CHIEF, IS  
THAT YOU?!









LIKE YOU  
LIVED HERE  
BEFORE OR  
SOMETHING.

CHIEF, DO  
YOU HAVE ANY  
EMOTIONAL  
ATTACHMENT  
TO THIS  
APARTMENT?!



R-  
RIGHT!!

OH!!



YOU  
HAVEN'T  
?

N-NO...  
I DON'T  
KNOW... THIS  
APARTMENT...  
I'VE NEVER  
BEEN HERE  
BEFORE!!



SO, LIKE,  
MAYBE PEOPLE  
ARE BOUND  
TO PLACES  
THEY HAVE AN  
ATTACHMENT  
TO...

LISTEN.  
WE TALKED  
ABOUT IT  
TODAY, DIDN'T  
WE? THE BOY  
BOUND TO  
HIS DOG'S  
GRAVE.



SORRY.  
MAKING A  
CONFESSION  
AT A TIME LIKE  
THIS... WHAT A  
SAD FARCE.



NOT THE  
APART-  
MENT,  
BUT...

B-BUT...  
RIGHT...  
I...

...I HAVE  
FEELINGS  
FOR YOU!



WHAT?

...









I HAVE  
THE  
SAME  
DREAM  
ALL THE  
TIME...

A BAD  
DREAM  
...



I WAS  
HAVING A  
DREAM.

I'M  
SORRY.  
I MUST  
HAVE  
SCARED  
YOU.



A-  
ASANO  
...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
CRYING  
FOR?



UNH/  
UNH  
UNH  
UNH...



I'M SORRY. YOU'RE  
SUFFERING LIKE  
THIS, AND HERE I AM  
SLEEPING. I'LL BE HERE  
IN THIS APARTMENT  
TO GIVE YOU ALL THE  
SUPPORT YOU NEED.

OH.  
IT'S  
NOTHING.



...




CHIEF...



IF YOU'RE  
HAVING  
PROBLEMS,  
YOU CAN  
TALK TO  
ME, YOU  
KNOW.

THANKS...  
ASANO.  
BUT...





...A ROBBER  
BROKE IN  
IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF THE  
NIGHT...

...IN  
ANOTHER  
APARTMENT  
...

...AND  
ASSAULTED  
ME!



I'LL  
TELL YOU,  
THEN.  
BUT ONLY  
YOU.


RIGHT...

ACTUALLY,  
I...A FEW  
YEARS  
AGO...



THAT  
NIGHT...

IT  
HAUNTS  
ME EVEN  
NOW!



AAAAH!!

UNH...  
UNH  
UNH...



AND MAYBE  
THE REASON  
I STARTED  
VOLUNTEERING...  
WAS TO  
DISTRACT  
MYSELF.

I'M  
SORRY.  
TELLING  
YOU ALL  
THIS...



THAT'S WHEN  
I STARTED  
MOVING FROM  
APARTMENT  
TO  
APARTMENT.

I FELT  
LIKE IF  
I STAYED  
IN ONE  
PLACE, MY  
ATTACKER  
WOULD  
COME  
AGAIN.





NOW!  
PLEASE  
COME  
ALONG.



IT'S BEEN  
DECIDED  
THAT ALL OF  
YOU WILL BE  
FORCIBLY  
REMOVED  
FROM THE  
AREA AND  
PUT INTO  
QUARANTINE.

HELLO?  
WE'RE  
FROM  
THE  
CENTER  
FOR  
DISEASE  
CONTROL.



W-WHAT  
ON  
EARTH...

NGH.  
HNNNGH.



?!

HNGH!









AND  
THEN  
MINORU  
ALSO  
START-  
ED...

...TO  
SHOW  
THE  
SIGNS.



THE  
CAUSE  
WAS UN-  
KNOWN.

AROUND  
THIS TIME,  
THE BOUND  
ALL OVER  
JAPAN  
BEGAN TO  
GRADUALLY  
SOLIDIFY.



MINORU!!  
YOU HAVE  
TO HURRY  
AND LET  
GO!!



KEEP  
MASSAGING  
HIS LIMBS!

MINORU!  
MINORU!  
PLEASE,  
DON'T  
STIFFEN  
UP!!



YOU'LL  
GET  
INFECT-  
ED.

SH-SHUT  
UP...  
DON'T  
TOUCH  
ME...



I  
DON'T  
CARE!  
LISTEN  
TO  
ME!!



I  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW YOU  
FEEL ABOUT  
YOUR DOG  
PONTA.

BUT HE  
WOULDN'T  
WANT THIS  
FOR YOU!!









THERE'S  
NO WAY  
PONTA  
WOULD  
LET ME BE  
FREE!!

THERE'S  
NO WAY  
PONTA  
LOVED  
ME!



?!



BECAUSE  
...



I KILLED  
PONTA!!

...I  
KILLED  
HIM!



FORGIVE  
ME!!  
FORGIVE  
ME!!

PONTA...  
I KILLED  
HIM.

PONTA  
BIT ME.



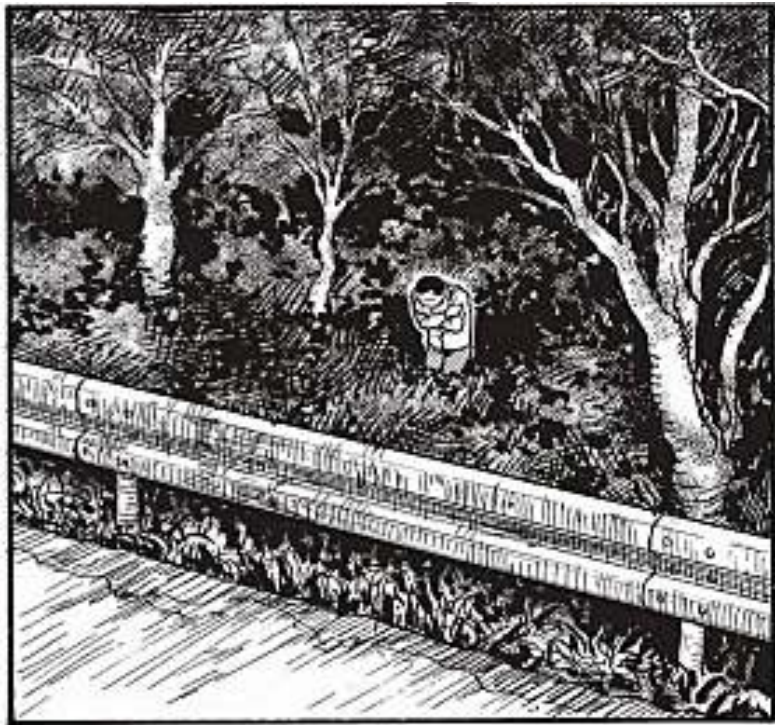
HERE  
LIES  
PONTA

SO...I  
WRAPPED  
HIM UP IN  
A FUTON  
TO PUNISH  
HIM...AND  
THEN...











...AND HE FINALLY TOLD ME.

I QUESTIONED THE MANAGER OF THIS BUILDING JUST NOW...

THE MEDIA'S ALSO STARTING TO TALK ABOUT IT.

CHIEF... IT SEEMS THAT THE BOUND IS CAUSED BY A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

I GUESS THEY STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT HIM.

THE PERPETRATOR WAS A SERIAL RAPIST.

THIS APARTMENT... HE SAID A WOMAN WAS KILLED HERE A FEW YEARS AGO.

A THIEF BROKE IN DURING THE NIGHT. I GUESS SHE FOUGHT BACK, SO HE KILLED HER.

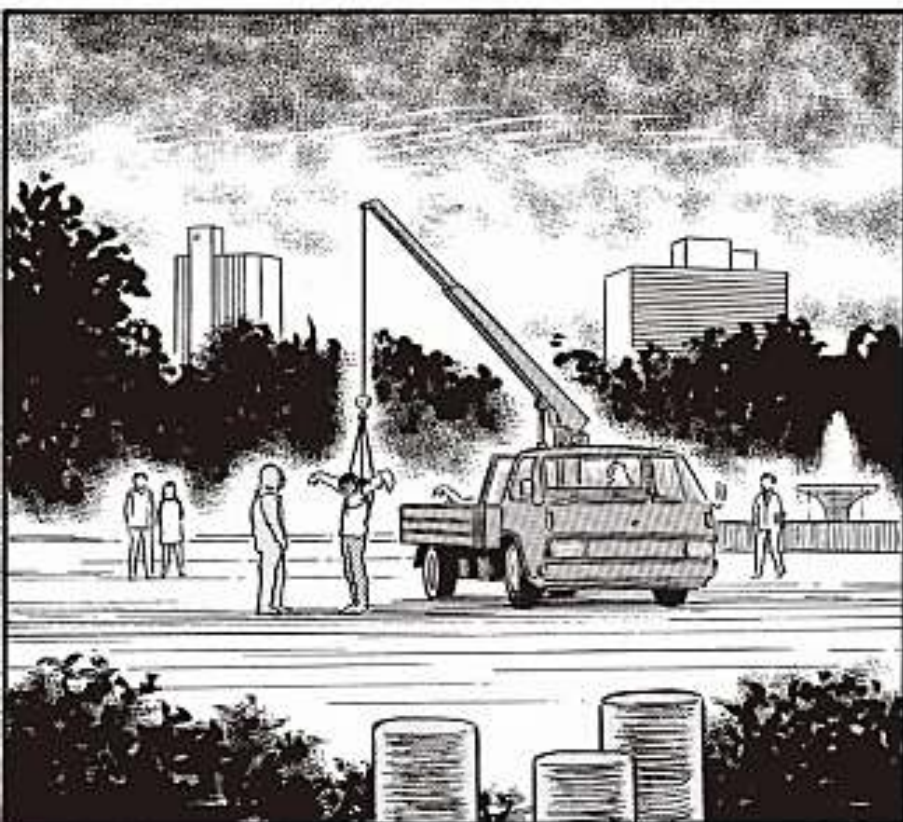
CHIEF...

IT'S NOT TRUE, RIGHT?! TELL ME YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

MY ATTACKER WAS WEARING A MASK, SO I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE...

THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE MAN WHO ASSAULTED ME, EITHER. IT HAPPENED IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD, SO IT WAS PROBABLY THE SAME GUY.









...AND  
WALKED  
AWAY FROM  
THAT  
APARTMENT.

I LEFT  
THE  
CHIEF  
ON HIS  
OWN...



I'M STILL  
MOVING  
FROM  
PLACE TO  
PLACE.



THE  
NUMBER OF  
EARTHBOUND  
CONTINUES  
TO INCREASE.

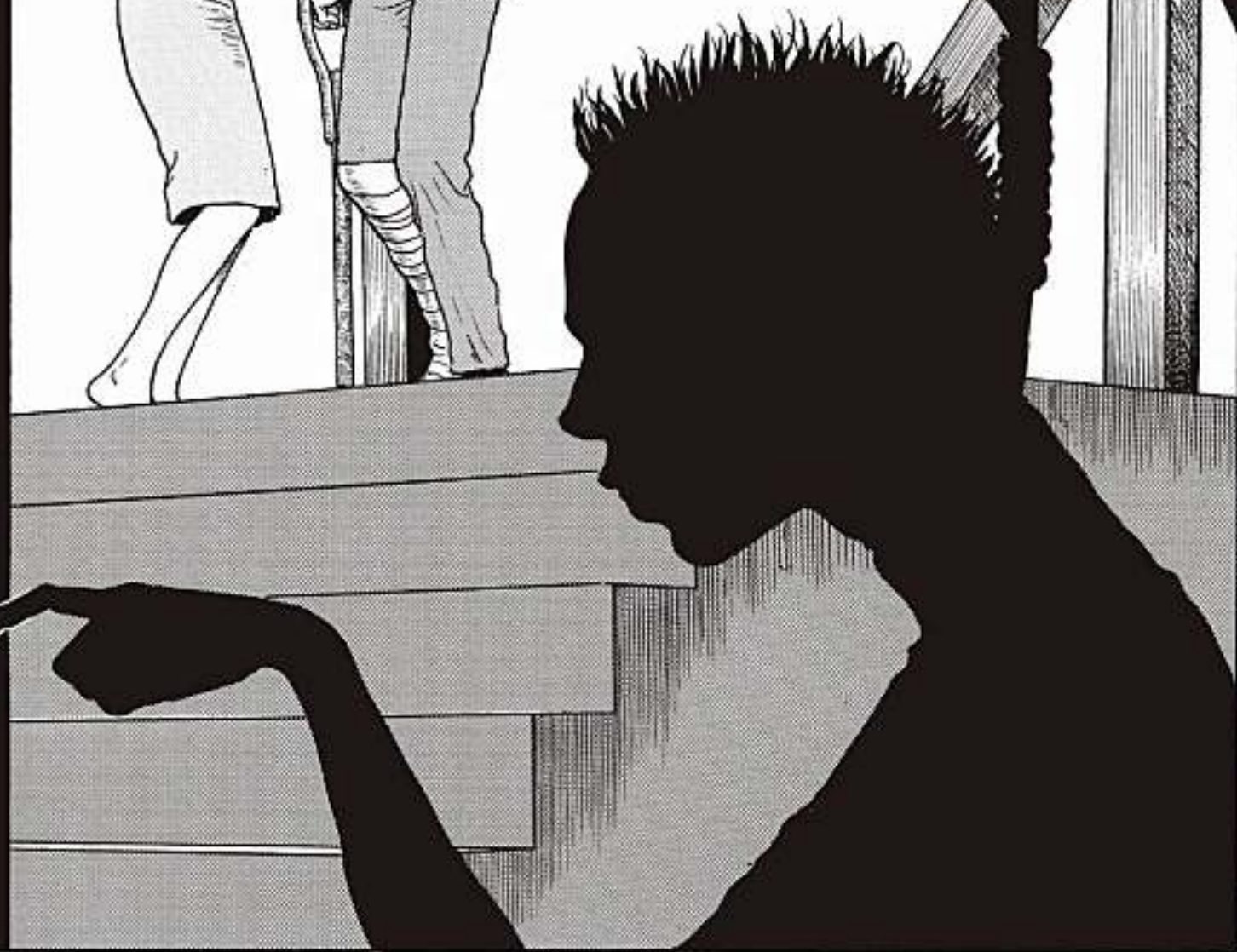
I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHEN IT  
WILL END.

EARTHBOUND / END

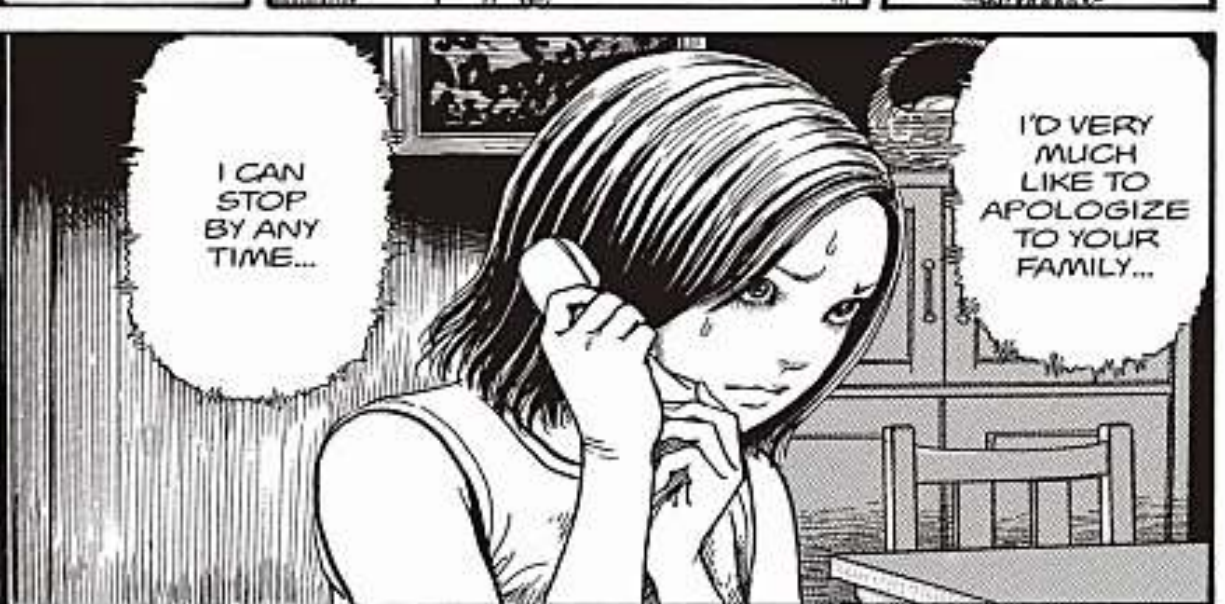
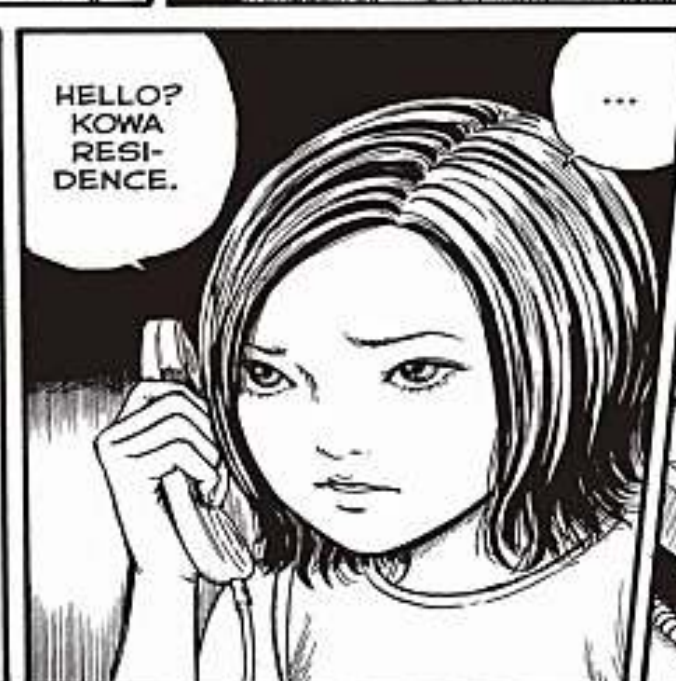
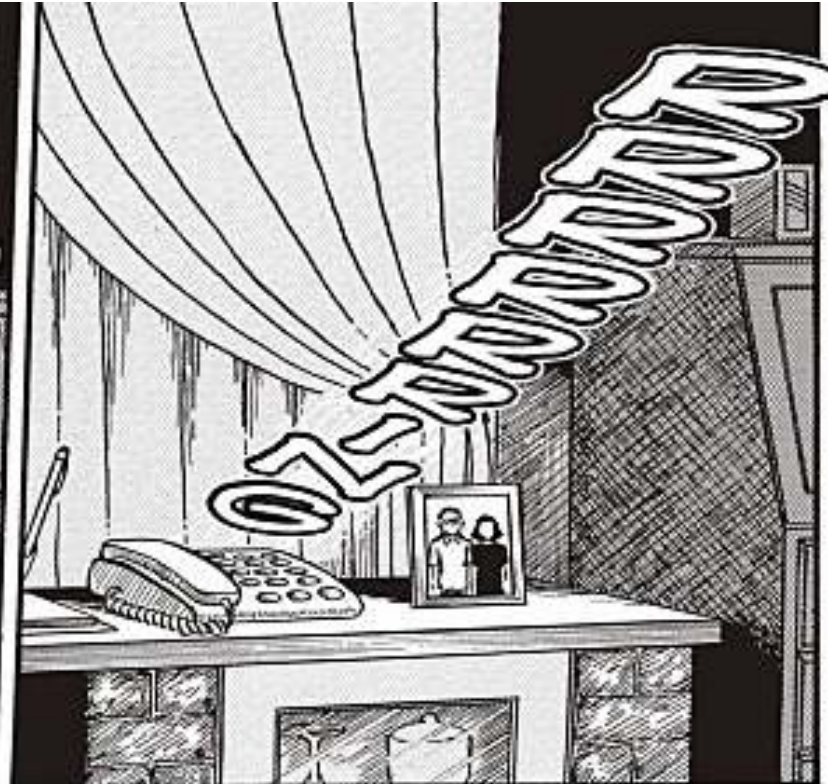


# DEATH ROW DOORBELL

## 死刑囚の呼鈴













DING DONG  
DING DONG



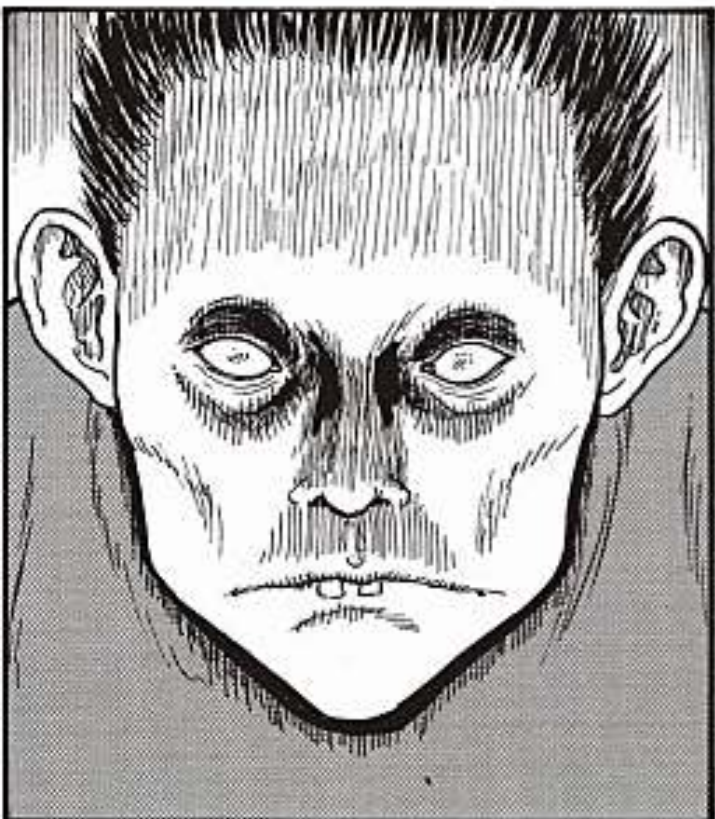
EVERYTHING'S  
LOCKED. HE'S  
DEFINITELY NOT  
GETTING IN  
THIS TIME!!



NORIKO,  
YOU  
LOCKED  
THE DOOR,  
RIGHT?!



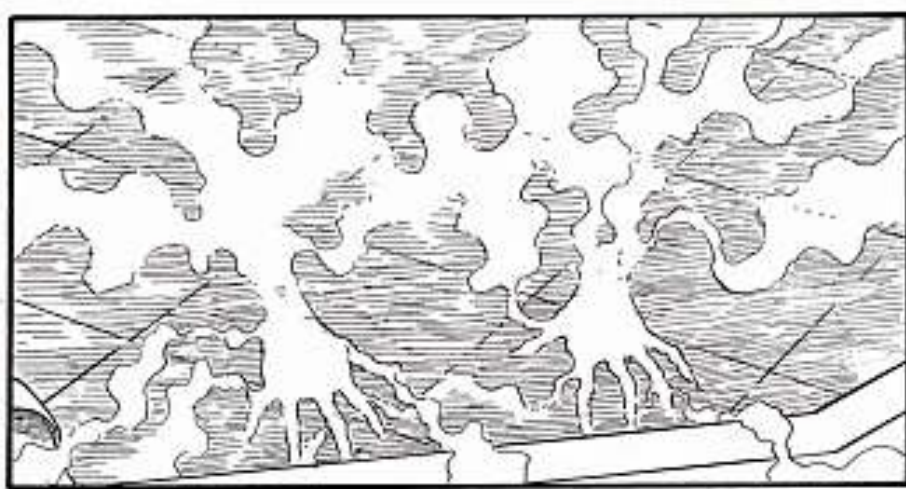
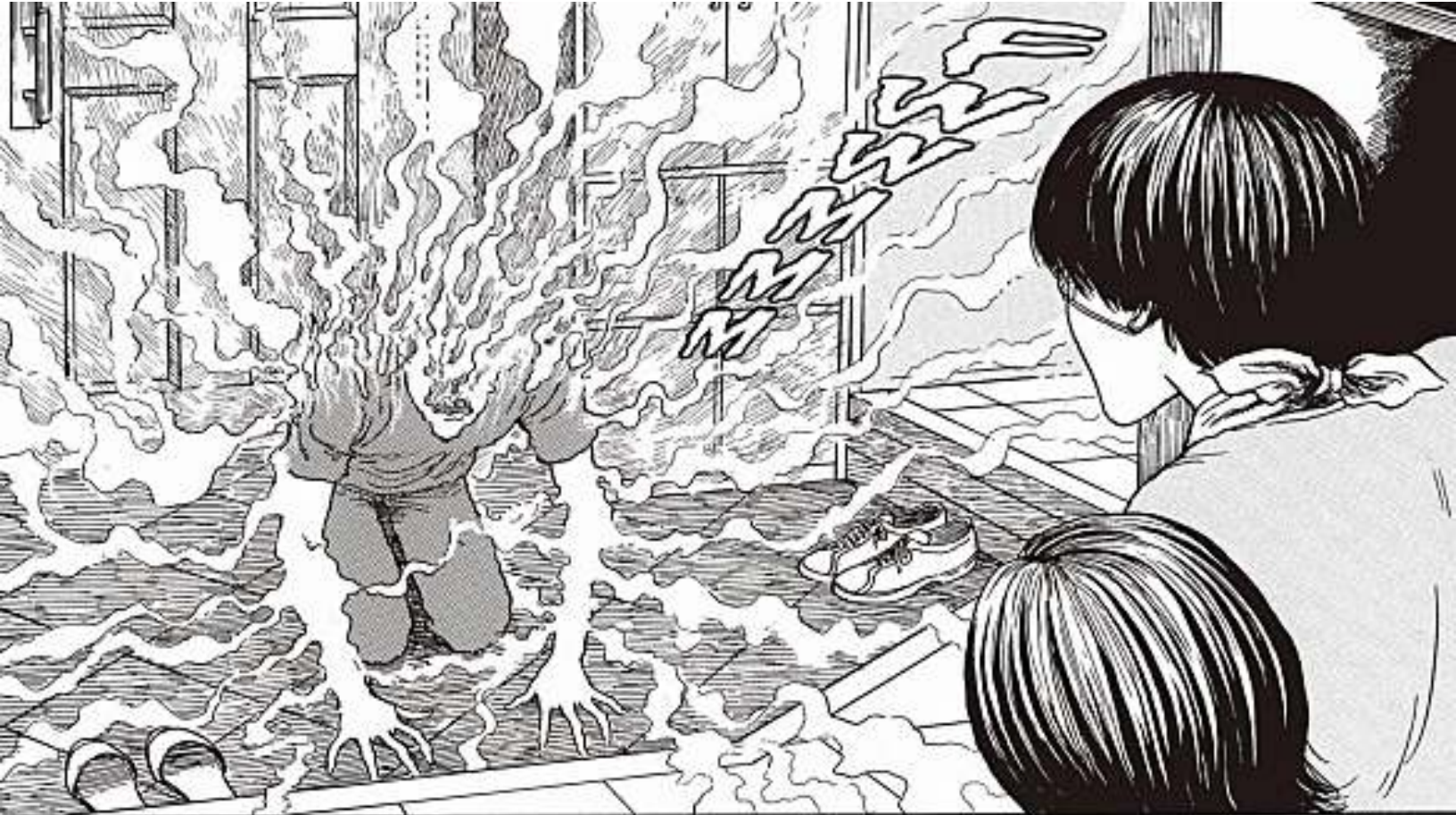
AH!



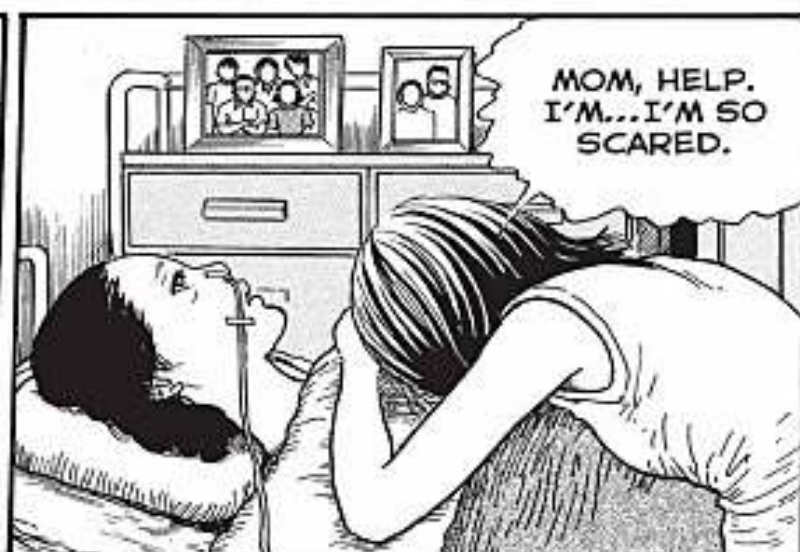
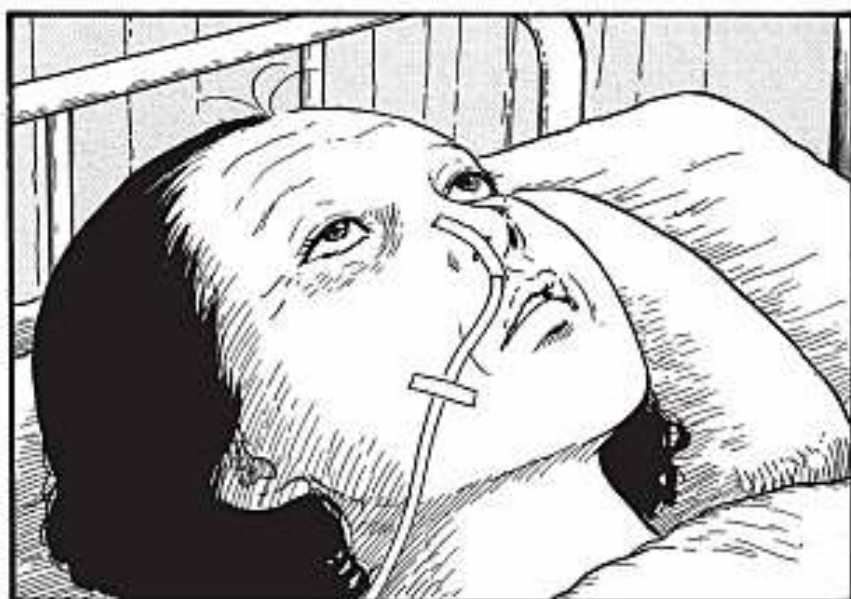
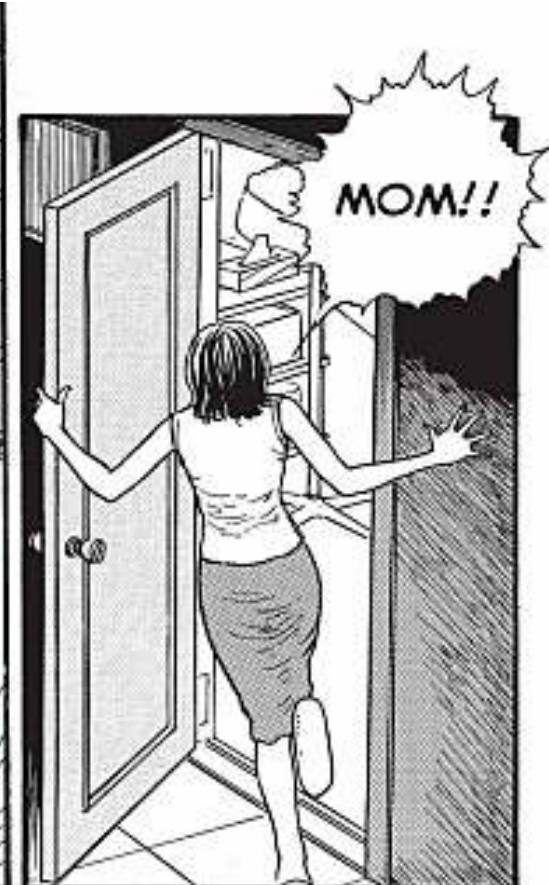










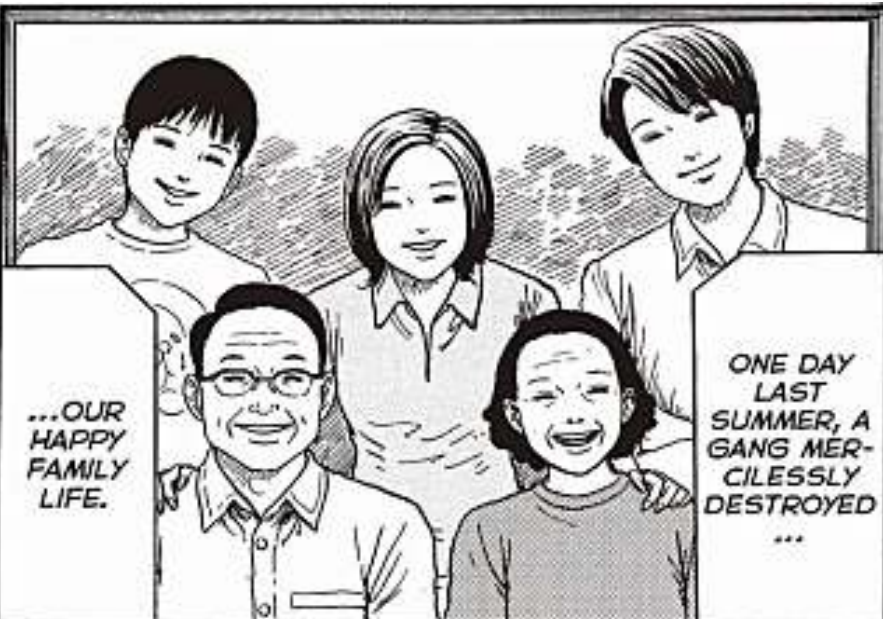




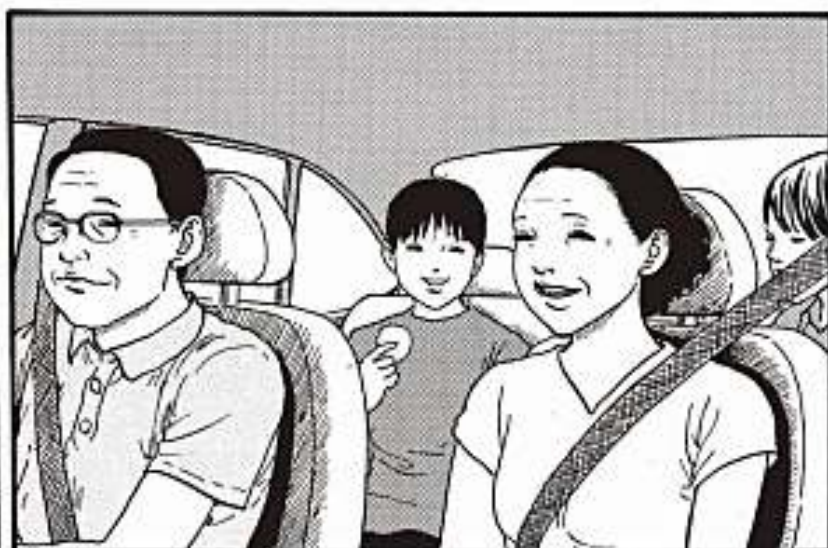
IT WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE A FUN  
DAY OUT ON A  
FAMILY DRIVE.



...OUR  
HAPPY  
FAMILY  
LIFE.



ONE DAY  
LAST  
SUMMER, A  
GANG MER-  
CILESSLY  
DESTROYED  
...



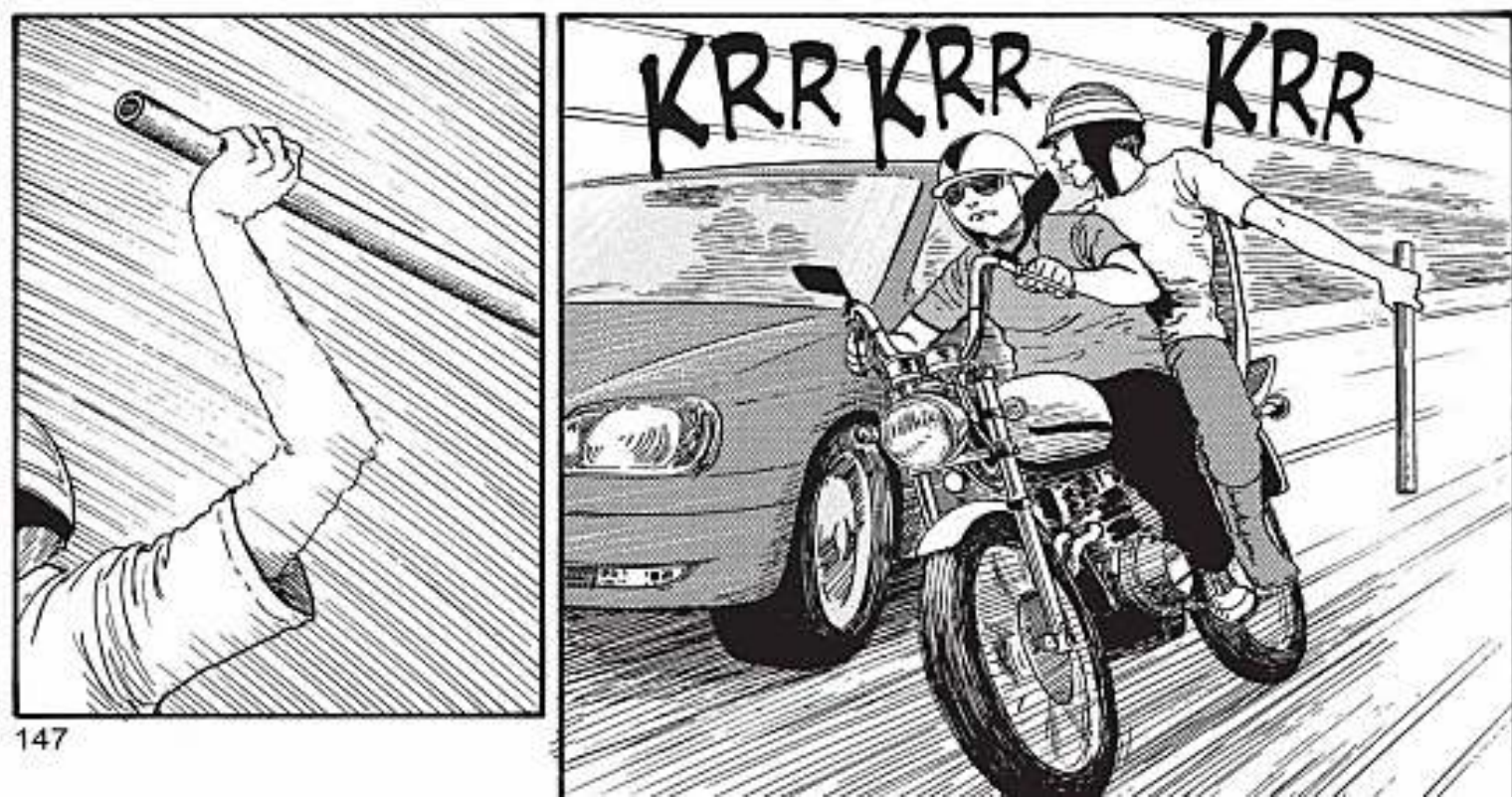
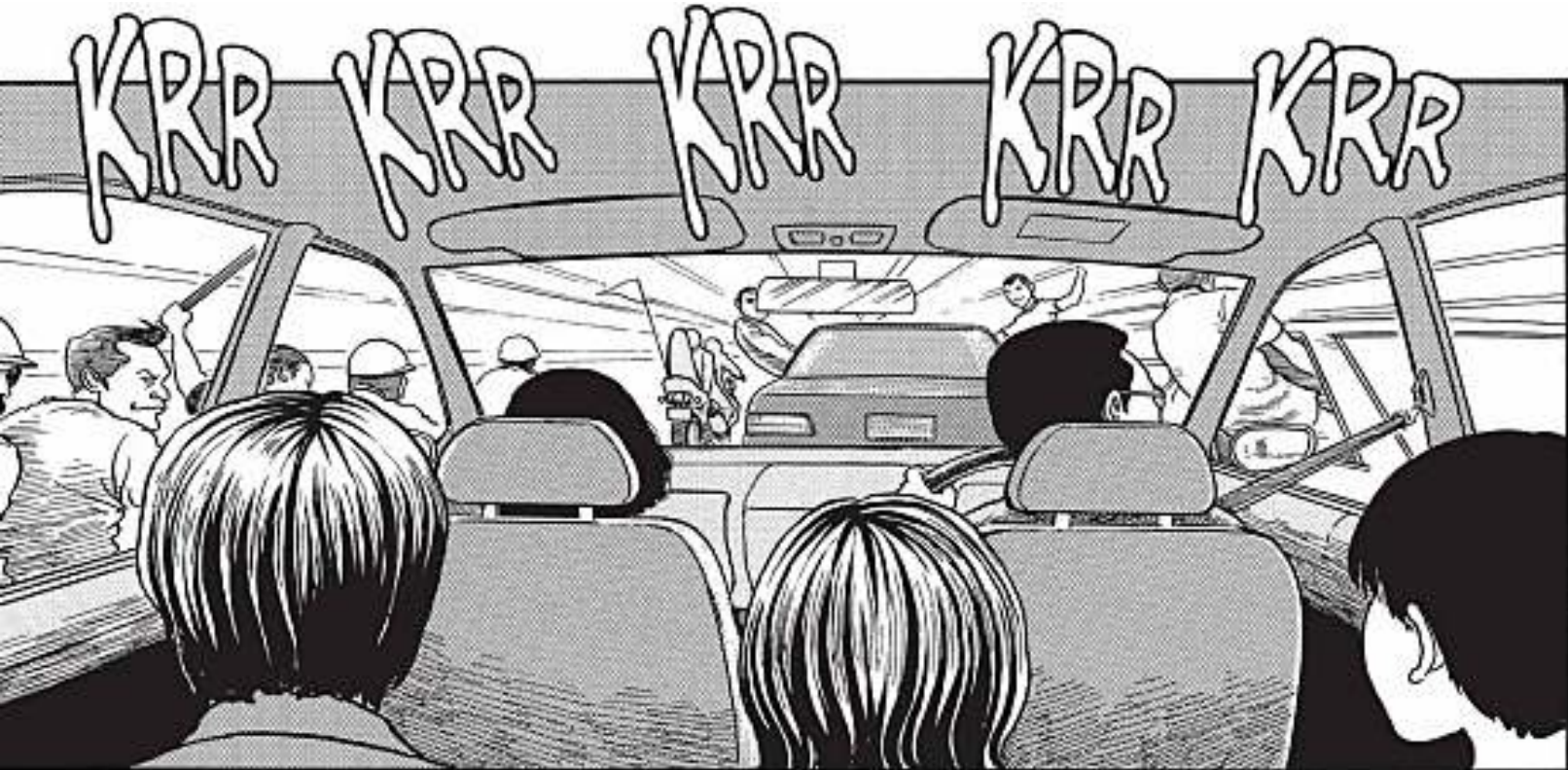
VRRRRRRRRRR

KRR KRR KRR



W  
H  
D      W  
H  
D      W  
H  
D







**AAAAAH!**

**SMASH**



I MANAGED  
TO GET  
AWAY  
SOMEHOW  
AND RAN TO  
A NEARBY  
HOUSE FOR  
HELP.

SOME-  
ONE,  
HELP!!

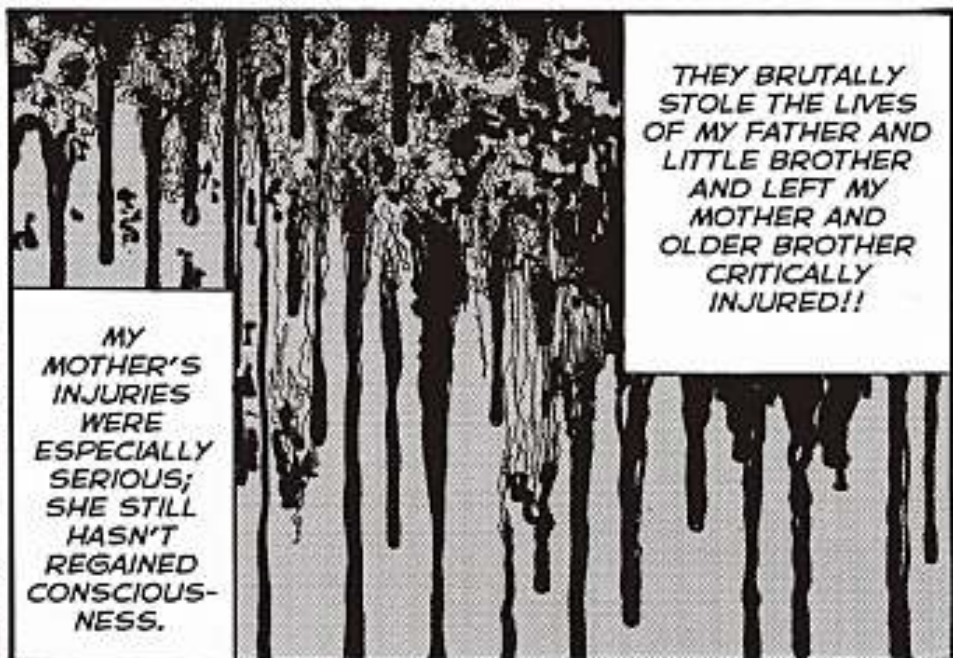
I ALMOST THROW UP  
JUST REMEMBERING  
WHAT HAPPENED  
AFTER THAT!!



THOSE  
MONSTERS  
WERE  
SOON  
ARRESTED,  
BUT...

MY  
MOTHER'S  
INJURIES  
WERE  
ESPECIALLY  
SERIOUS;  
SHE STILL  
HASN'T  
REGAINED  
CONSCIOUS-  
NESS.

THEY BRUTALLY  
STOLE THE LIVES  
OF MY FATHER AND  
LITTLE BROTHER  
AND LEFT MY  
MOTHER AND  
OLDER BROTHER  
CRITICALLY  
INJURED!!





...EVEN  
HAD A  
FAINT  
SMILE  
ON HIS  
FACE!!

THE  
RING-  
LEADER,  
A 20-  
YEAR-OLD  
MAN...

...NONE OF THEM  
SHOWED EVEN A  
HINT OF REMORSE  
AT THE TRIAL.

AT THE  
FIRST TRIAL,  
THE LEADER  
WAS GIVEN  
THE DEATH  
SENTENCE.

THAT  
BASTARD.  
I'LL KILL  
HIM. I'LL  
KILL HIM...

HNNNNGH  
...

HIS  
LAWYER  
IMME-  
DIATELY  
APPEALED  
TO A  
HIGHER  
COURT.

Dear Kowa family,  
I apologize for the  
sudden deaths of  
your relatives. I really  
am sorry. I don't  
know how I could fix  
it. I want to tell you  
I apologize from the  
bottom of my heart.

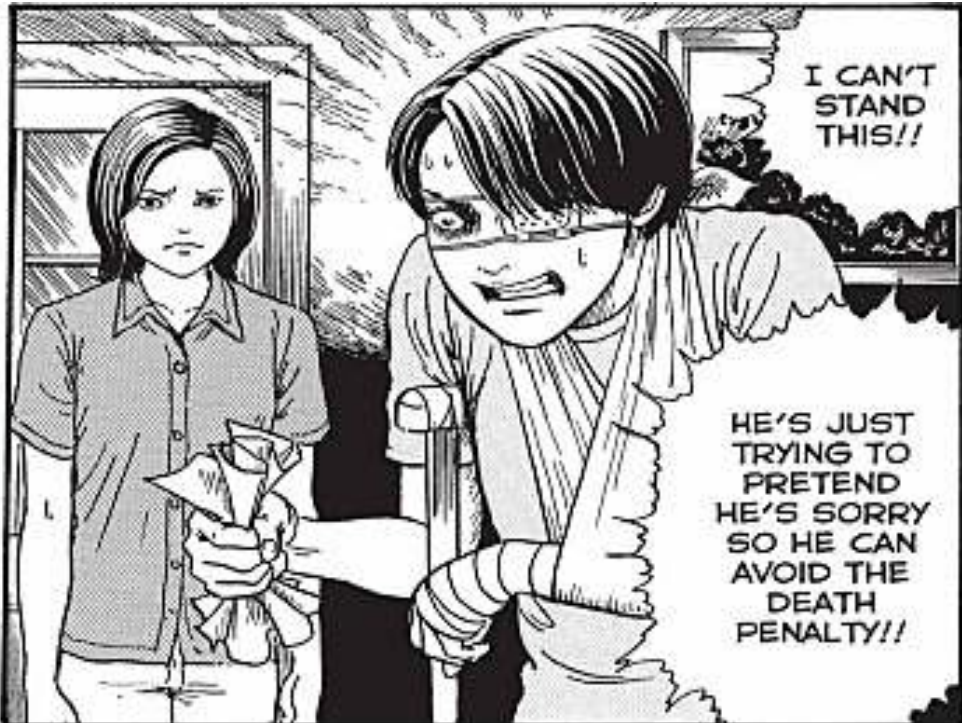
THAT VERY  
RINGLEADER,  
FURUHASHI,  
STARTED  
SENDING  
US LETTERS  
REGULARLY  
AFTER THAT.

ALL OF  
THEM  
SPELLED  
OUT HIS  
APOLOGIES  
AT LENGTH.



THEY ALWAYS SAID HE WANTED US TO FORGIVE HIM AND THAT HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON, OVER AND OVER.

SOON, THE LETTERS WERE COMING ALMOST EVERY DAY.



I CAN'T STAND THIS!!

HE'S JUST TRYING TO PRETEND HE'S SORRY SO HE CAN AVOID THE DEATH PENALTY!!

BUT THE LAST LETTER HE SENT BEFORE THE PRISON OFFICIALS STEPPED IN...

THE LETTERS STOPPED COMING AFTER THAT.

WHEN EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?!

HELLO?! IS THIS X JAIL?! I'M PRETTY SURE I ASKED YOU THE OTHER DAY TO STOP THESE LETTERS.



HOWEVER...



YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!!



... SAID, "I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON..."

... "WHAT DAY IS GOOD FOR YOU?"

"I'LL CALL YOU SOON"...

... THINGS LIKE THAT.

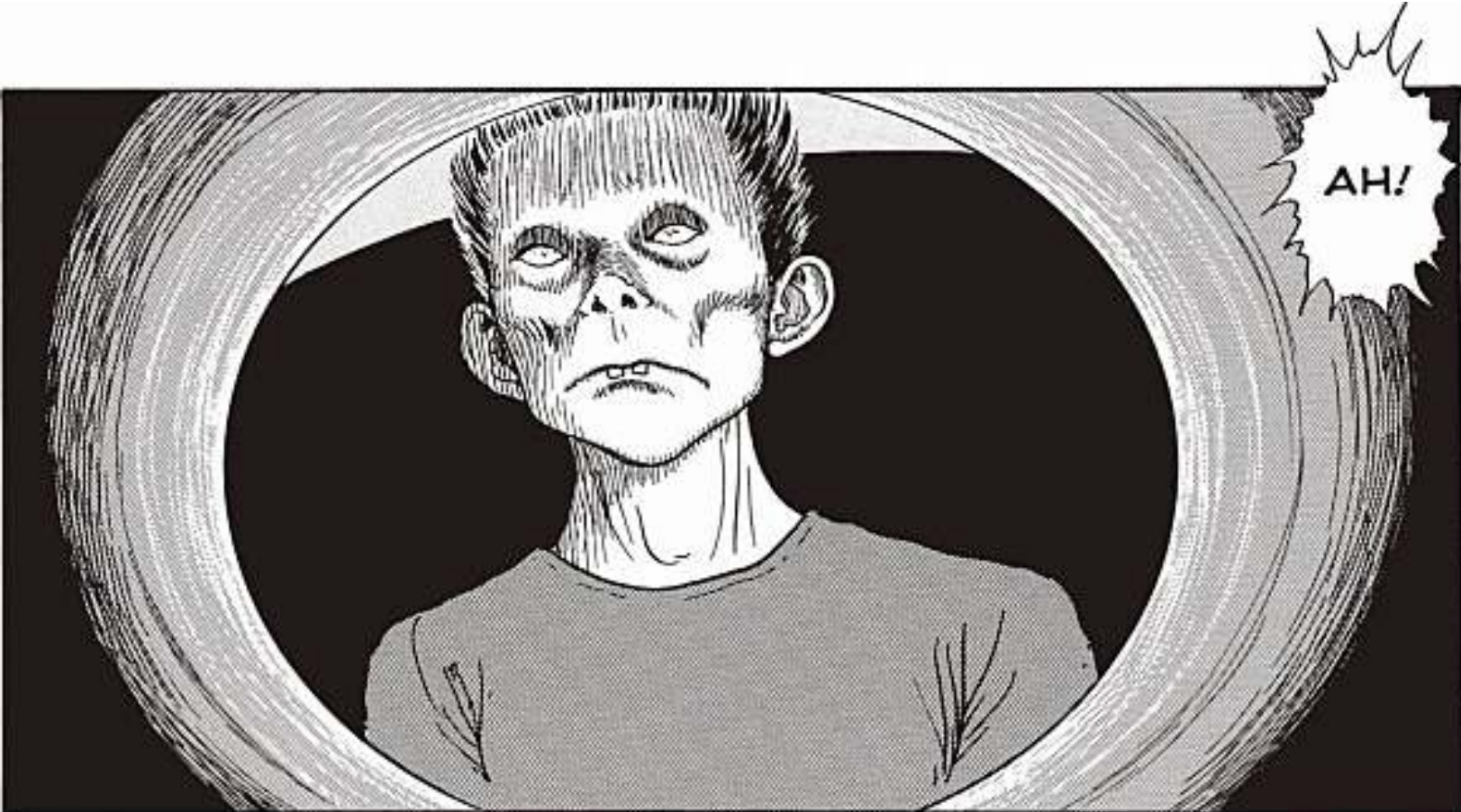












AH!

BUT WE  
CONFIRMED  
THAT HE'S  
STILL IN  
JAIL.

BUT BY THE  
TIME THE  
POLICE  
RUSHED OVER,  
FURUHASHI  
WAS ALREADY  
GONE.

NORIKO!  
CALL 911!  
HURRY!!

IT'S  
HIM!!  
HE'S  
HERE!!

ARE YOU  
SURE IT  
WASN'T  
JUST  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
LOOKED  
LIKE HIM?

HE WAS  
DEFINITELY  
HERE!!



BUT  
FURUHASHI  
WAS  
INDEED  
STILL IN  
JAIL.

PLEASE  
CHECK  
WITH  
THE JAIL  
AGAIN!!

TH-  
THAT'S  
NOT  
POSSIBLE  
!!





SO THEN  
WHO ON  
EARTH—

WHAT IS  
GOING  
ON...



...PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME. I BEG  
YOU...

KOWA  
FAMILY...



THE  
MAN  
CAME...

...THE  
NEXT  
NIGHT,  
AND AGAIN  
THE NIGHT  
AFTER  
THAT.



LOOK!!  
B-  
BROTHER!



HE'S  
PLAYING  
THIS SNEAKY  
TRICK TO  
TRY AND  
SAVE HIS  
BROTHER!!

OR  
MAYBE...  
MAYBE HE  
HAS A TWIN.



WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
HE...









I'M SCARED.

UNH  
UNH  
UNH,  
MOM...



WHY IS  
THIS  
HAPPENING  
TO US...



HE'S SO  
AFRAID OF  
THE DEATH  
PENALTY THAT  
HE'S SENDING  
A PART OF  
HIMSELF  
TO US.

HIS  
FINAL  
STRUG-  
GLE.



IT MIGHT  
BE A  
VISION  
CREATED  
BY FURU-  
HASHI.

NORIKO.  
THAT...



I'M  
LOOKING  
FORWARD TO  
TOMORROW  
NIGHT.

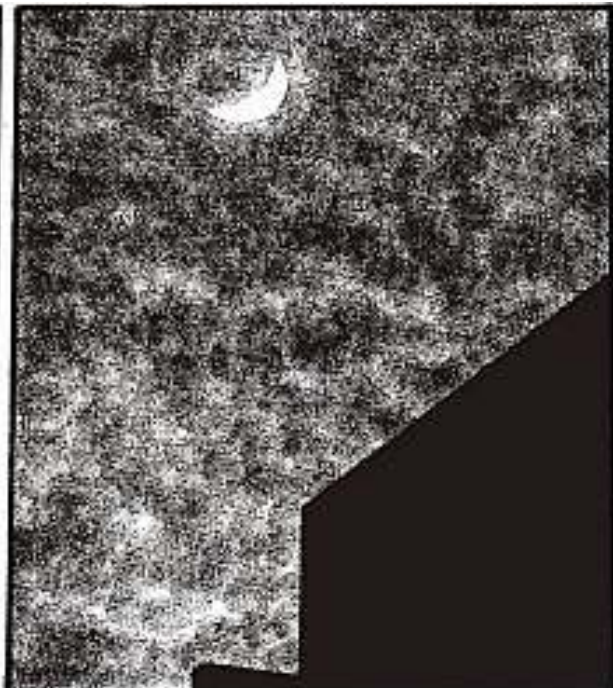
HE CAN  
KEEP  
COMING  
UNTIL I'M  
DONE  
WITH HIM.

IF WE'RE  
UP AGAINST  
A PHANTOM,  
THERE'S  
NOTHING TO  
BE AFRAID  
OF.

HEH/  
FINE  
THEN.



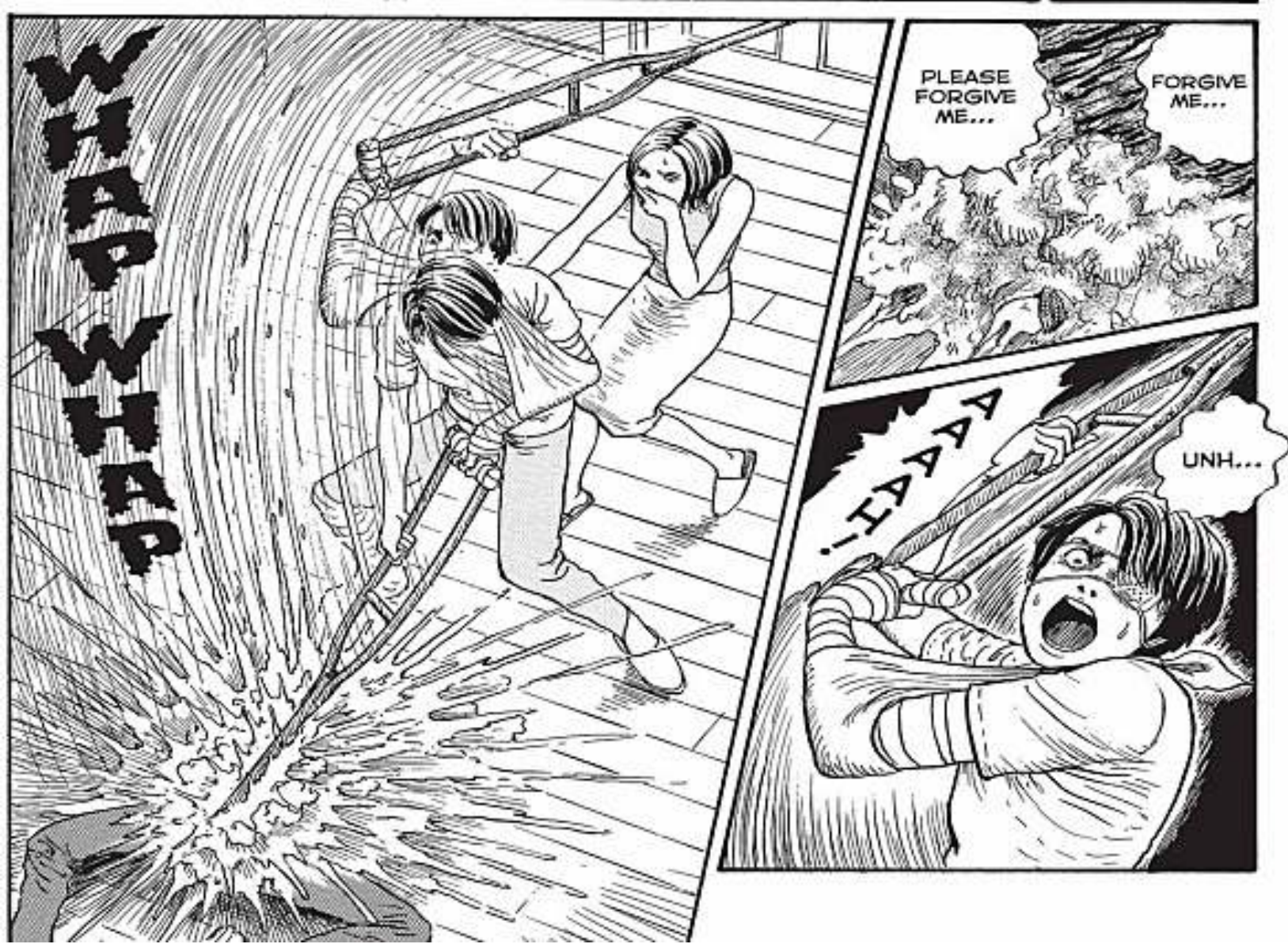






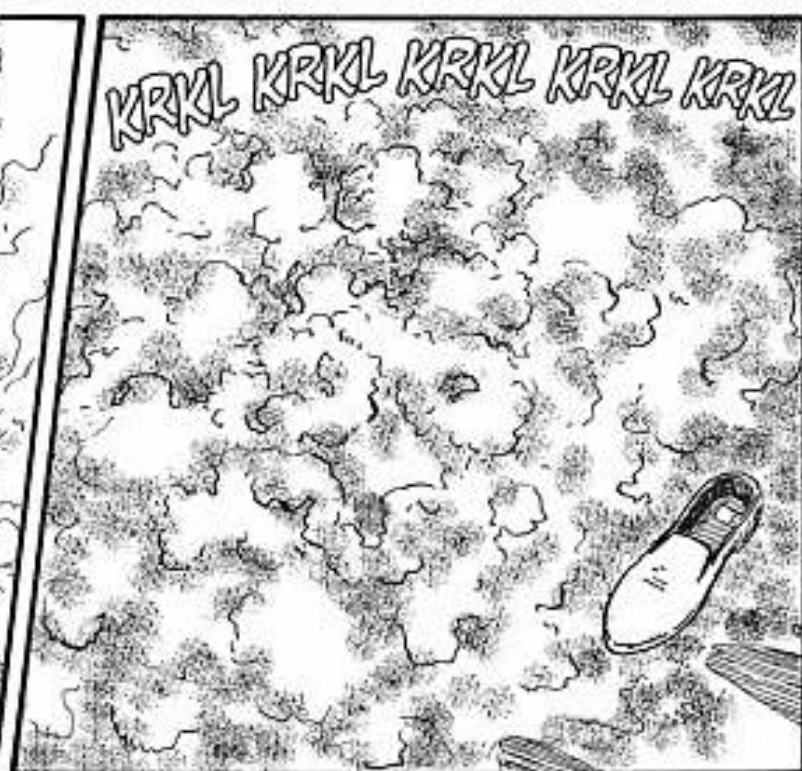




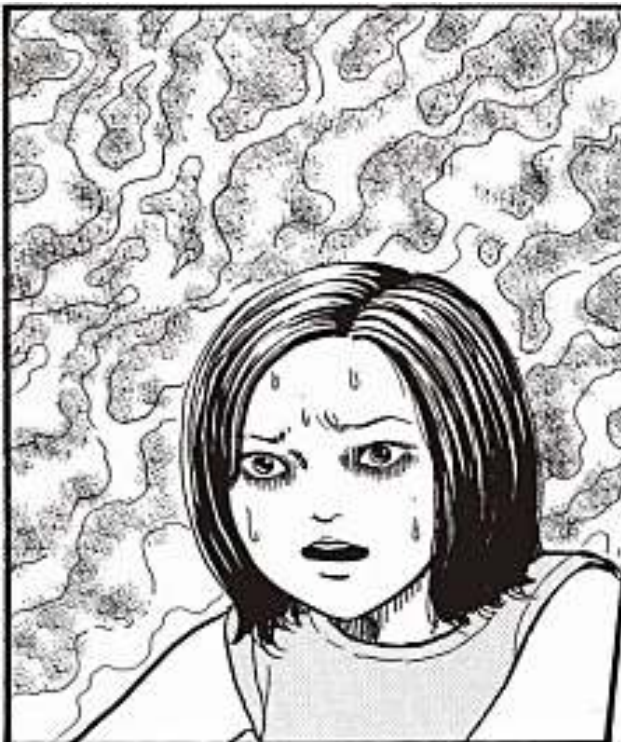




HAH  
HAAH!







AND MY  
BROTHER  
WOULD BEAT  
HIM DOWN  
LIKE A MAN  
POSSESSED.



THEN, THE  
NEXT NIGHT,  
HE WOULD  
RING THE BELL  
AS THOUGH  
NOTHING HAD  
HAPPENED.



EACH TIME,  
FURUHASHI  
WOULD  
EVAPORATE.



FURUHASHI  
RANG THE  
DOORBELL  
EVERY  
NIGHT.

THAT WAS  
THE FIRST  
OF MANY  
NIGHTS  
WHERE I  
THOUGHT I  
WOULD LOSE  
MY MIND.



YAH  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

HEE  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

WHAP

WHAP

SHUT  
UP!!

PLEASE...  
LET IT GO  
ALREADY.

PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME...

THD

PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME...

STAY  
AWAY  
FROM  
US!!

YOU—I FORGIVE  
YOU ALREADY!!  
I FORGIVE YOU,  
SO DON'T COME  
BACK EVER  
AGAIN!!

THUD





BUT...IF YOU  
KEEP DOING  
THIS, WE'LL  
ONLY SUFFER—

WHAT-  
EVER!  
JUST  
SHUT  
UP!!



FORGIVE HIM?!  
NO MATTER HOW  
SORRY HE IS, HOW  
COULD WE EVER  
FORGIVE HIM,  
GIVEN WHAT HE'S  
DONE?!

I'LL SMASH  
HIM TO  
PIECES  
FOREVER!!  
THAT'S ALL!!



WHAP

EEAH  
HA HA  
HA!

HEE  
HEE  
HEE  
HEE!



BAH HA  
HA HA HA!

ADDIS

ADDIS



HEE  
HEE!  
...HEE!  
HEE!

HEE!



HEE  
HEE  
HEE!

UNH  
UNH  
UNH!

MWAH  
HA!

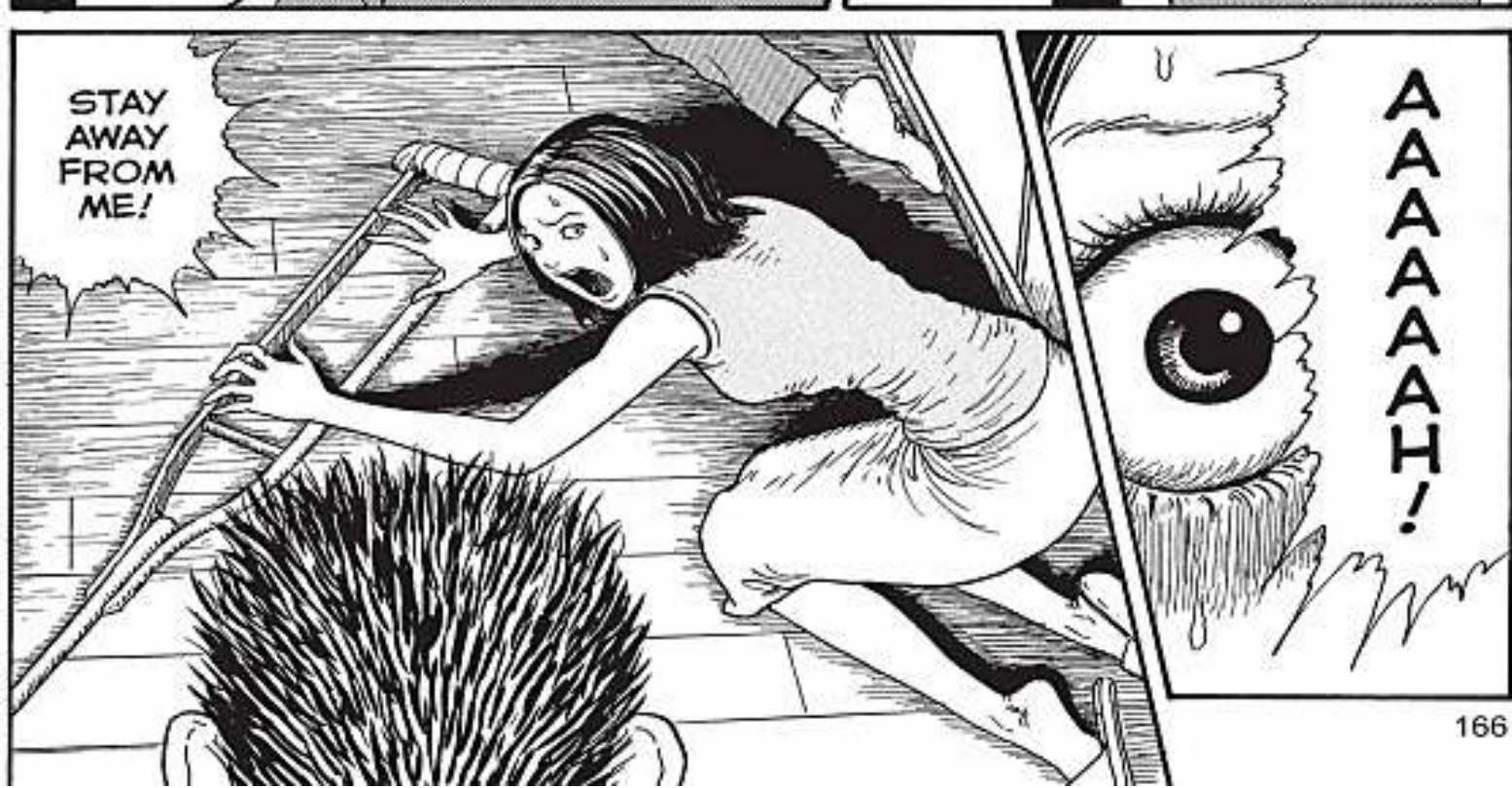
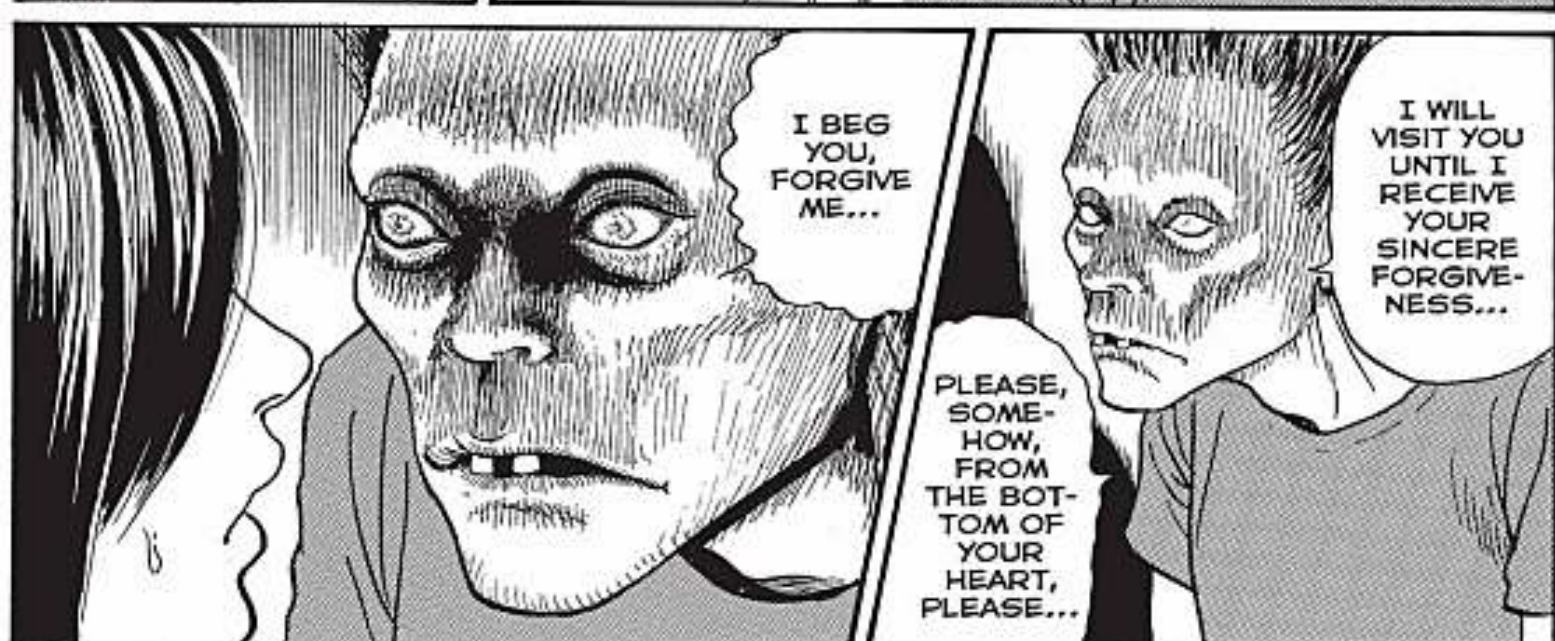




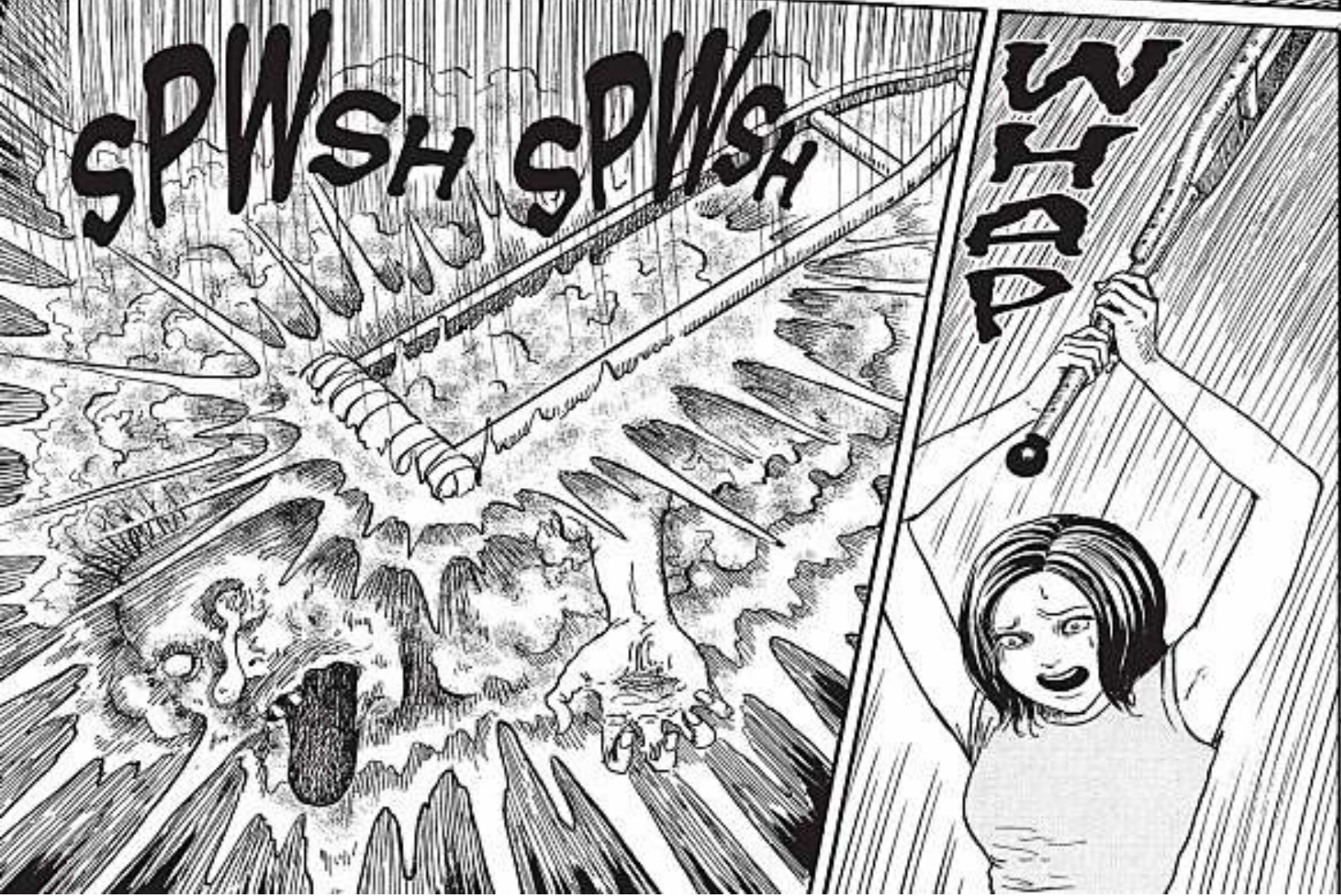
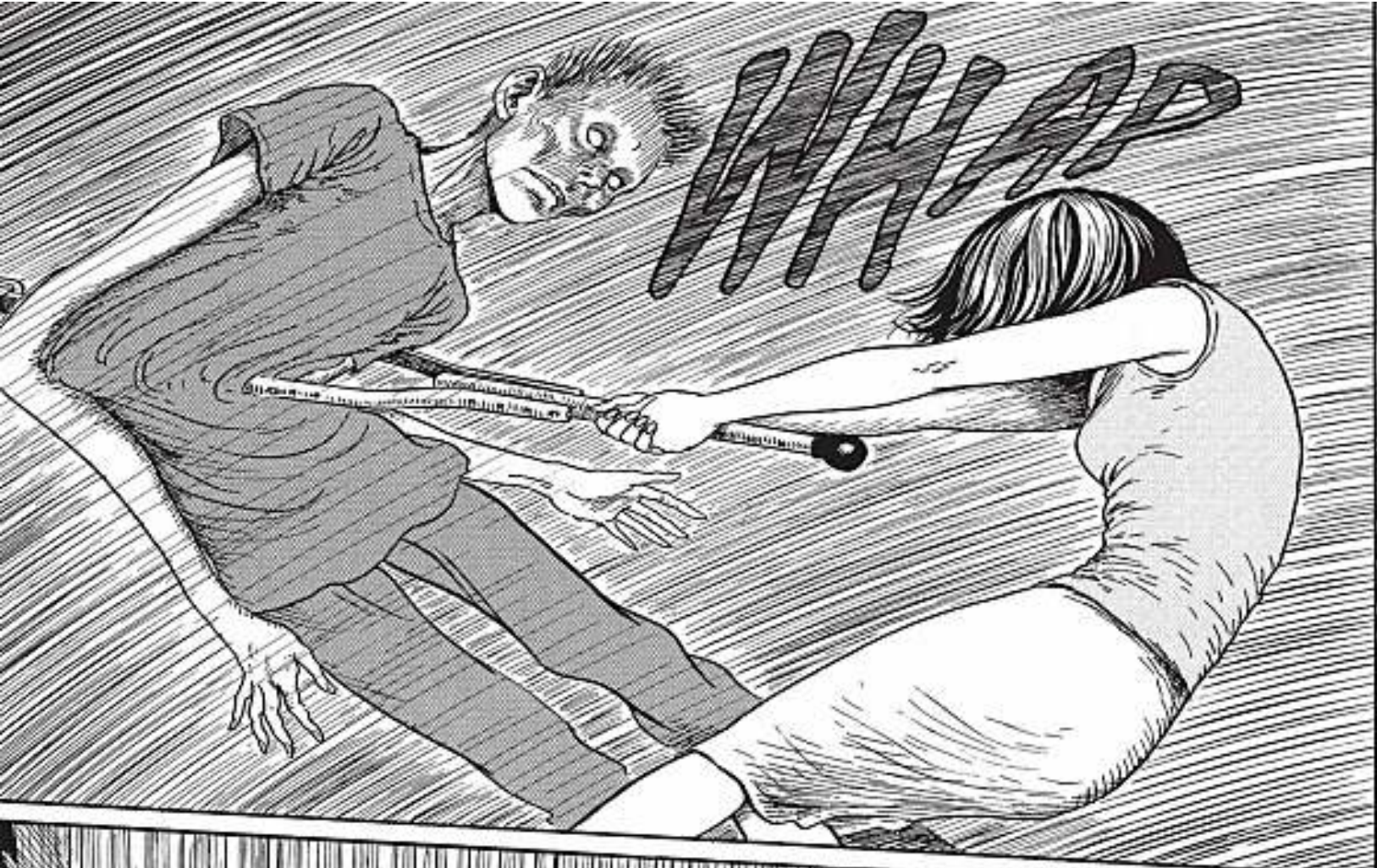




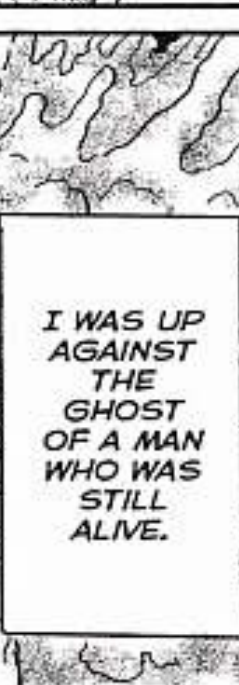
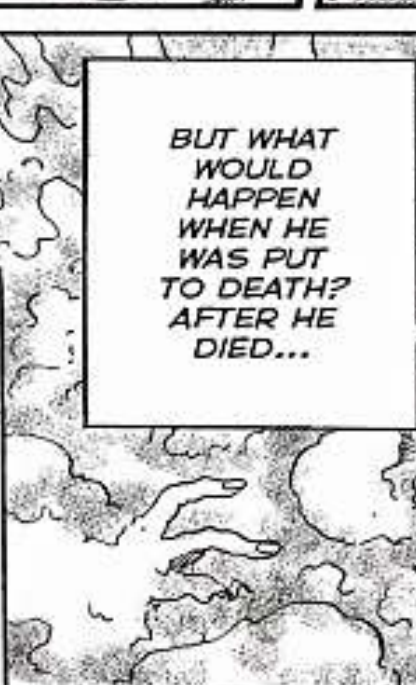
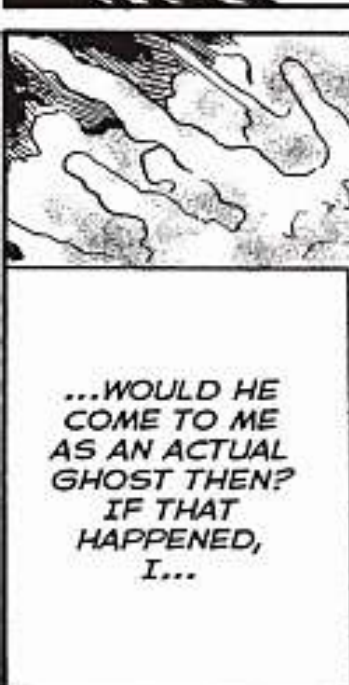














HA...  
HA  
HA...

HE WAS  
FINALLY  
DEAD!!

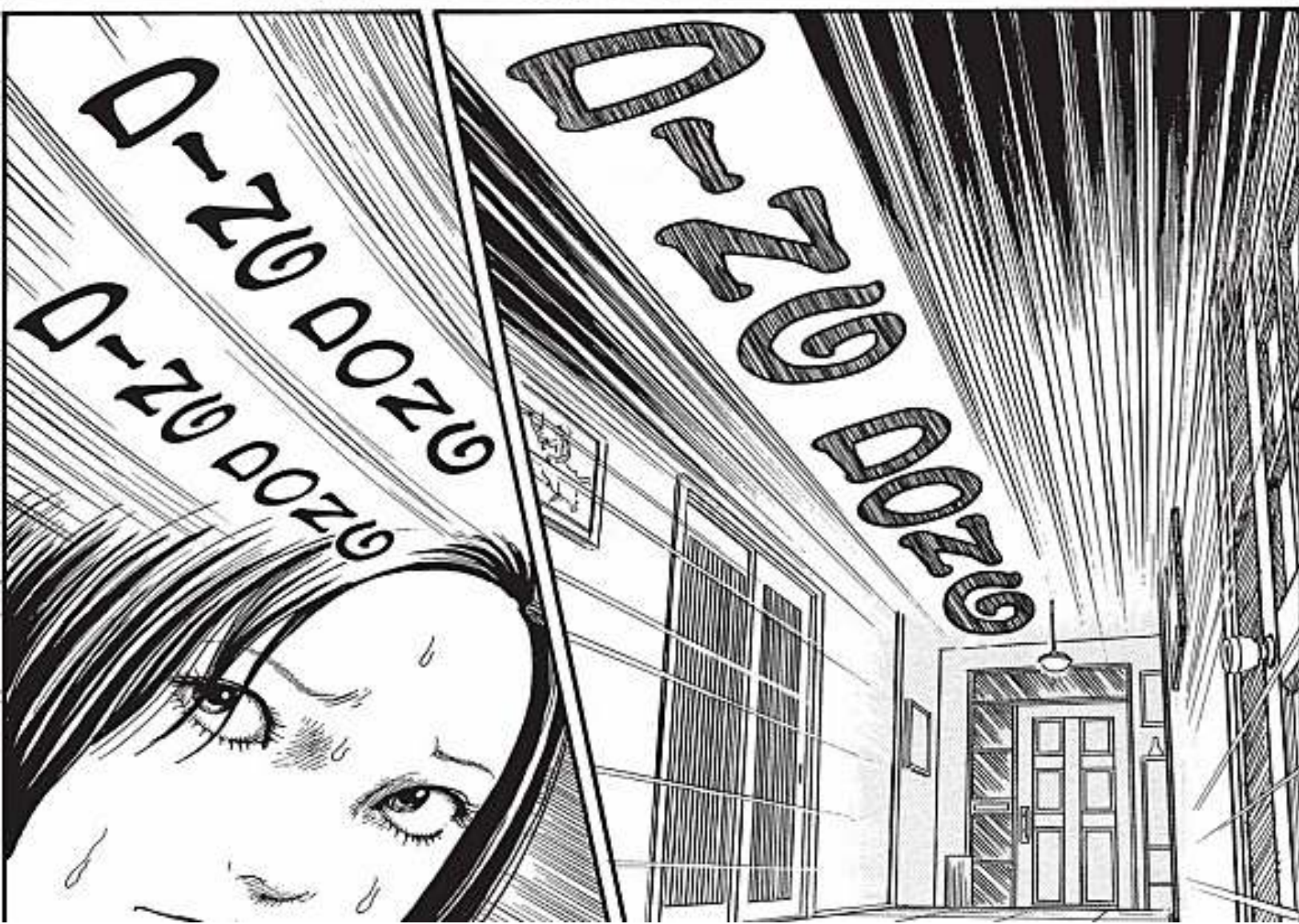
ONE DAY,  
I LEARNED  
FROM THE  
NEWSPAPER  
THAT HIS  
EXECUTION  
HAD BEEN  
CARRIED  
OUT.

MY  
MOTHER  
PASSED  
AWAY  
EARLY ON.

THE  
HELLISH  
DAYS  
CONTIN-  
UED  
FOR A  
LONG  
TIME.

I WAITED  
WITHOUT  
MOVING  
FOR NIGHT  
TO COME.

I...

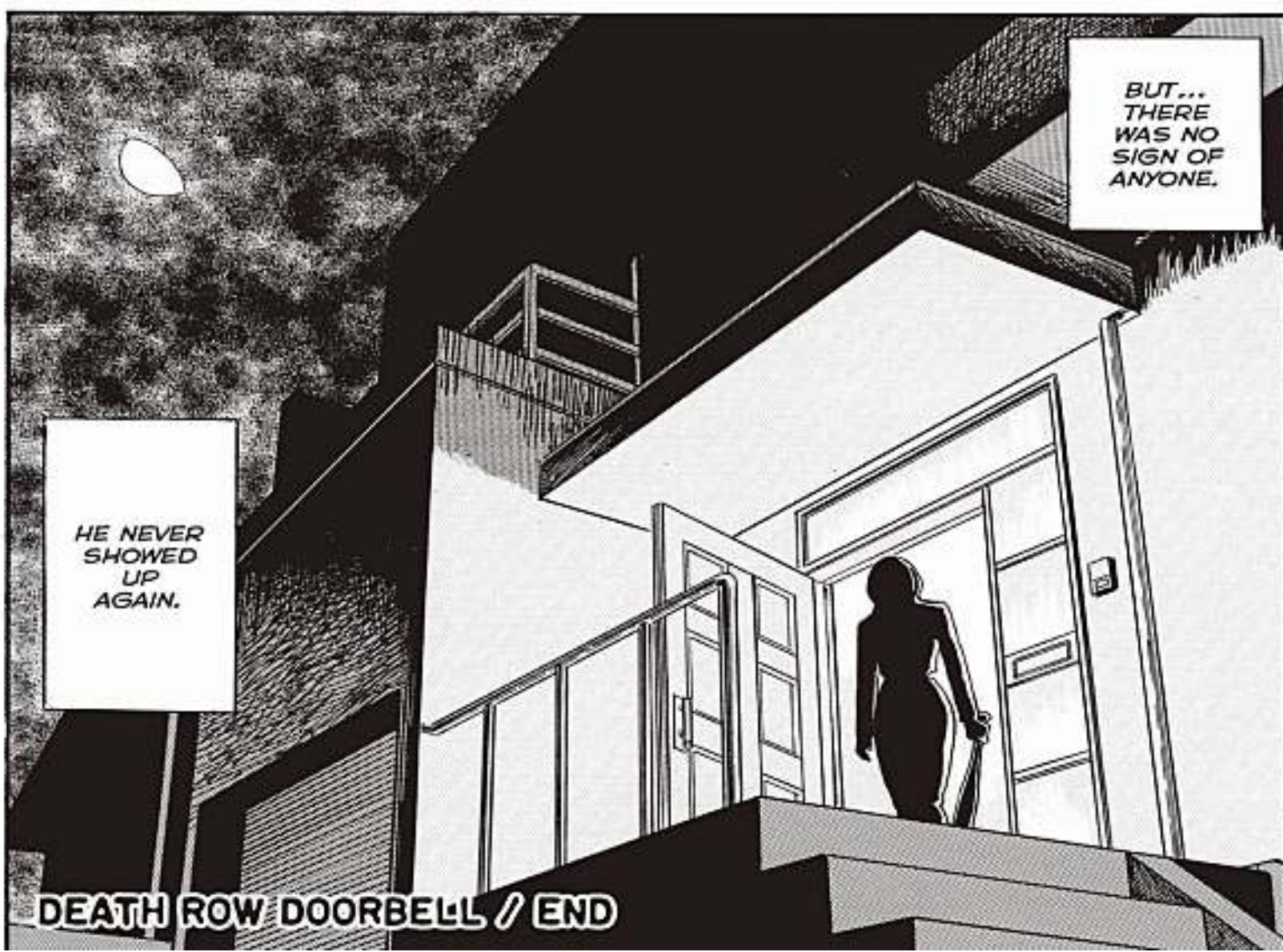






I JUST  
KNEW HE  
WOULD  
KEEP  
COMING  
UNTIL I  
DIED.

I KNEW  
IT...HE  
CAME  
AGAIN  
TONIGHT.



HE NEVER  
SHOWED  
UP  
AGAIN.

BUT...  
THERE  
WAS NO  
SIGN OF  
ANYONE.

DEATH ROW DOORBELL / END



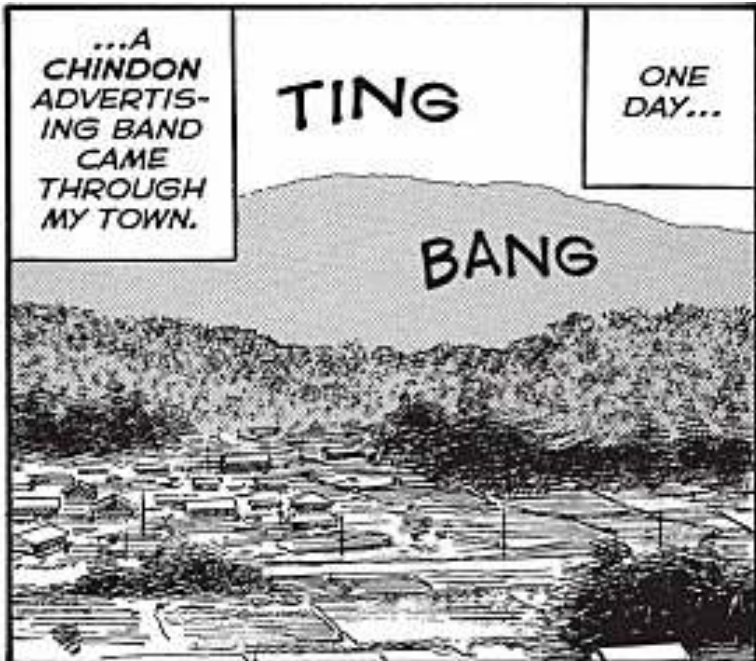
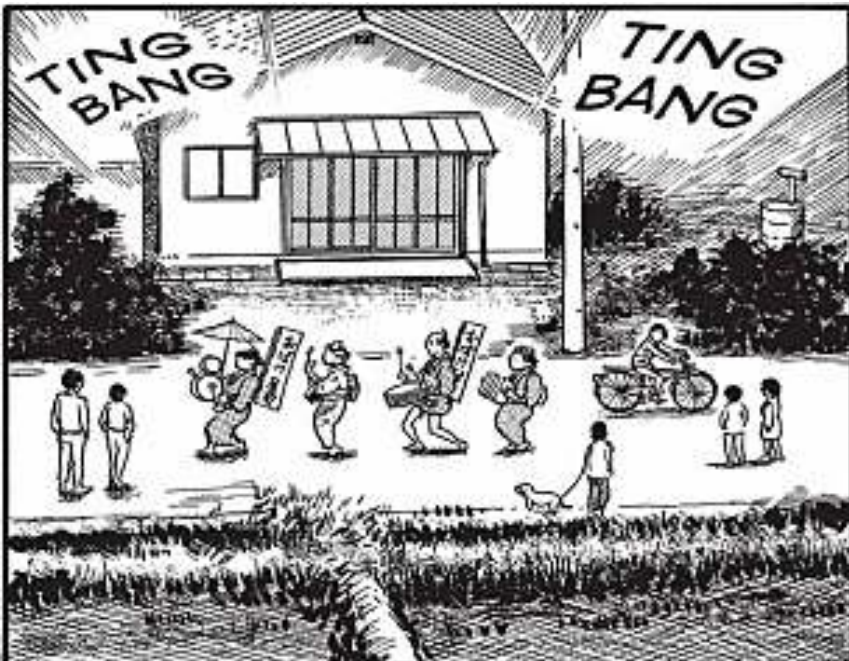
THE MYSTERY OF THE HAUNTED HOUSE

ば や しき なぞ

# お化け屋敷の謎











COME BY IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT.



IT'S SCARY FUN.



OH! OVER THERE.

SO WHERE IS THIS HAUNTED HOUSE THEN?



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!



THEY JUST HUNG A SIGN ON THE OLD PLACE.

HUH. ISN'T THAT THAT DESERTED HOUSE? IT'S BEEN HERE FOREVER.



DON'T DIRTY  
OUR TOWN  
WITH YOUR  
DISGUSTING  
TRADE!!

ADULTS 10,000 YEN  
STUDENTS 9,000 YEN  
CHILDREN 8,000 YEN

ADMISSION IS  
10,000 YEN?!  
THAT'S A TOTAL  
RIP-OFF!!

LOOKS LIKE  
THEY'RE  
FIGHTING  
ABOUT SOME-  
THING.

...WE'LL  
LEAVE  
TOWN.

IF  
YOU'RE  
NOT,  
THEN  
NOT  
ONLY  
WILL I  
GIVE YOU  
YOUR  
MONEY  
BACK...

IF YOU  
THINK  
IT'S A  
SCAM,  
GO TAKE  
A LOOK.  
YOU'LL  
BE  
SCARED.

SIR, OUR  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE IS  
WORTH A  
10,000 YEN  
PRICE TAG.

FINE!

A  
MAN'S  
WORD  
IS HIS  
BOND.

BUT IF I'M  
BORED,  
YOU'LL  
LEAVE  
TOWN,  
RIGHT?!

OKAY,  
YOU'RE ON.  
I'LL GO IN  
AND TEST IT  
OUT THEN.









I HEARD  
THE PEOPLE  
WHO'VE  
BEEN INSIDE  
PRACTICALLY  
LOST THEIR  
MINDS  
FROM  
FEAR.

WORD OF THE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE SPREAD  
THROUGH TOWN  
IN THE BLINK OF  
AN EYE.

I GUESS  
IT'S  
REALLY  
SCARY.

PEOPLE WHO'VE  
GONE INSIDE  
HAVE COME  
OUT STRANGE,  
THINGS LIKE  
THAT.

WE'VE ACTUALLY  
HAD REPORTS  
FROM THE  
TOWNSPEOPLE.

...AT A  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE?

WELL,  
WELL.  
WHAT  
BUSINESS  
DO THE  
POLICE  
HAVE...

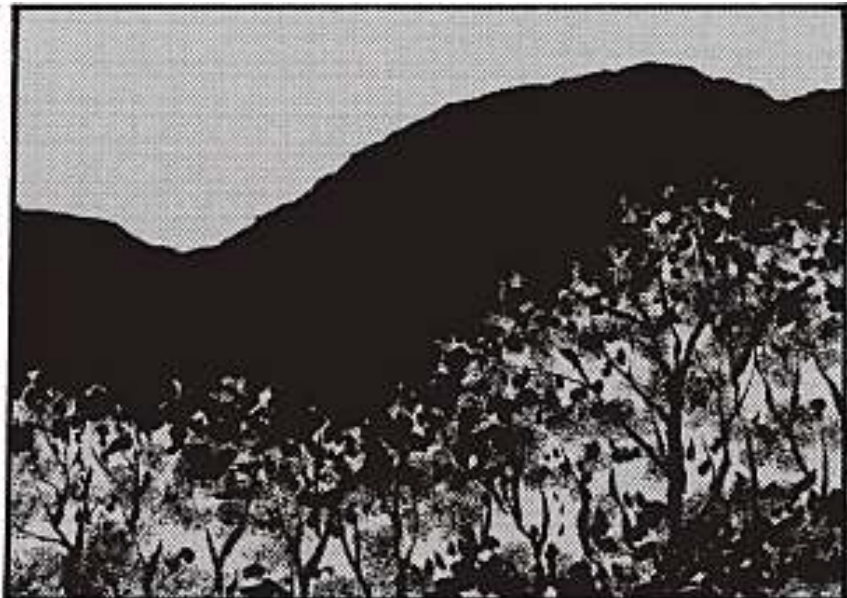
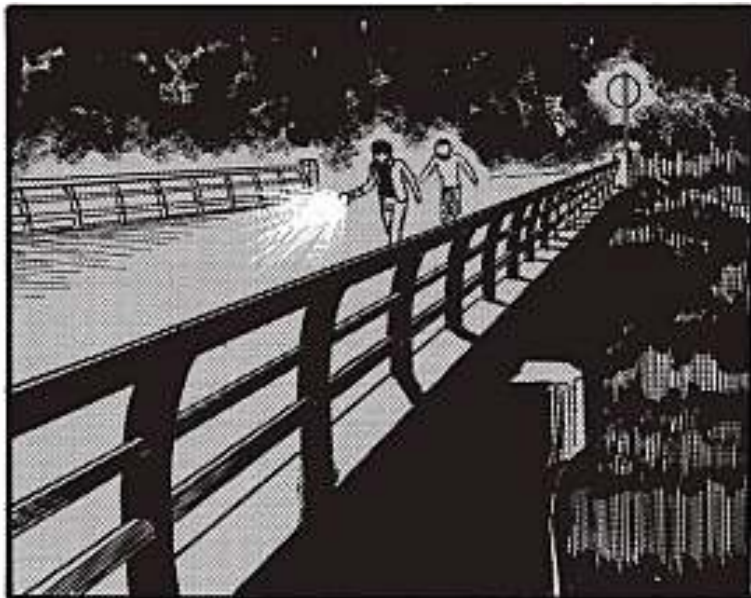
ALL RIGHT  
THEN. I'LL  
JUST TAKE  
A LOOK  
AROUND.

SO YOU WANT  
TO INVESTIGATE?  
THAT'S FINE.  
PLEASE GO  
RIGHT IN.

AND SOME  
PEOPLE SAY THEY  
SAW A CHILD  
CHAINED INSIDE.



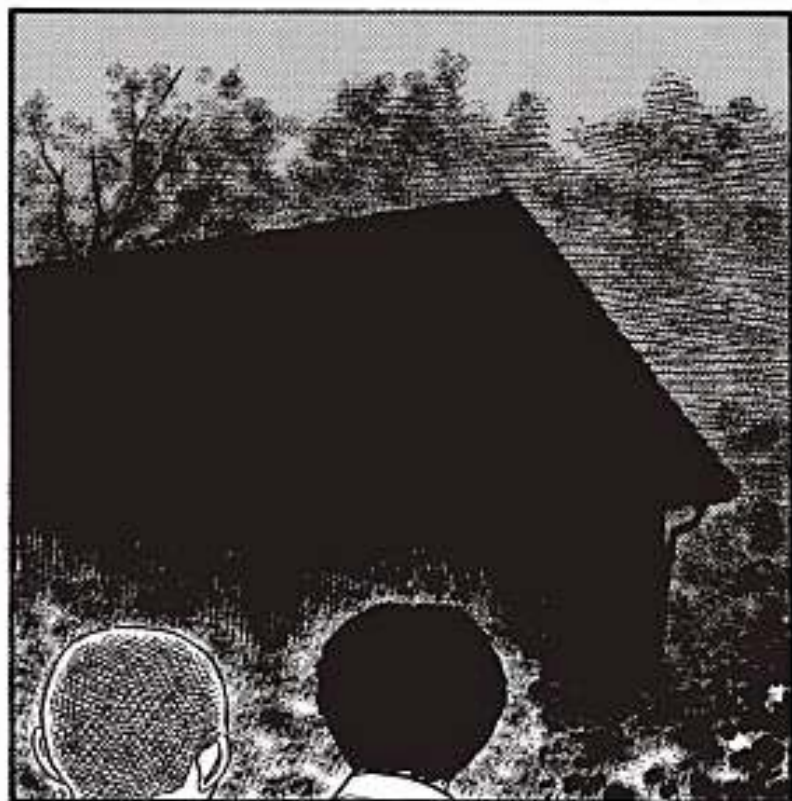




YOU WANNA SNEAK IN?



YEAH. WE'RE GONNA GO INSIDE AND CHECK OUT THAT HAUNTED HOUSE.



YEAH, I HEARD. I WONDER HOW THAT TURNED OUT...

YOU HEARD THAT A COP WENT IN TO CHECK IT OUT, RIGHT, SATOSHI?







UNH... UNNNNNNH!

AH!

WHAT'S  
IT DOING  
HERE?

THIS IS THE  
POLICEMAN'S  
BIKE.

NGAAAAAAAH!

GRAAAAARRR!

AH!

KSH

HNEEEEEEEE!

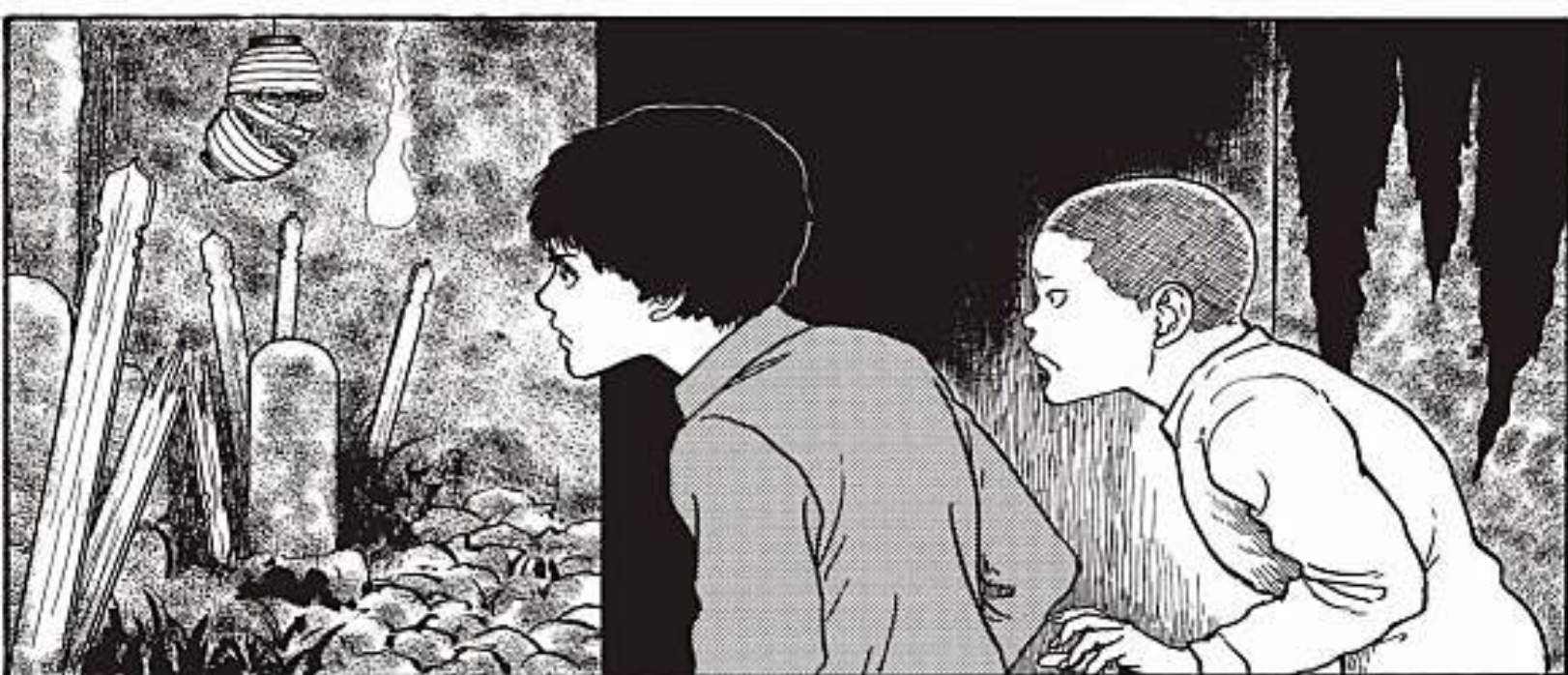
WHAT IS  
THAT?!

IT'S  
COMING  
FROM  
INSIDE  
THE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE!!





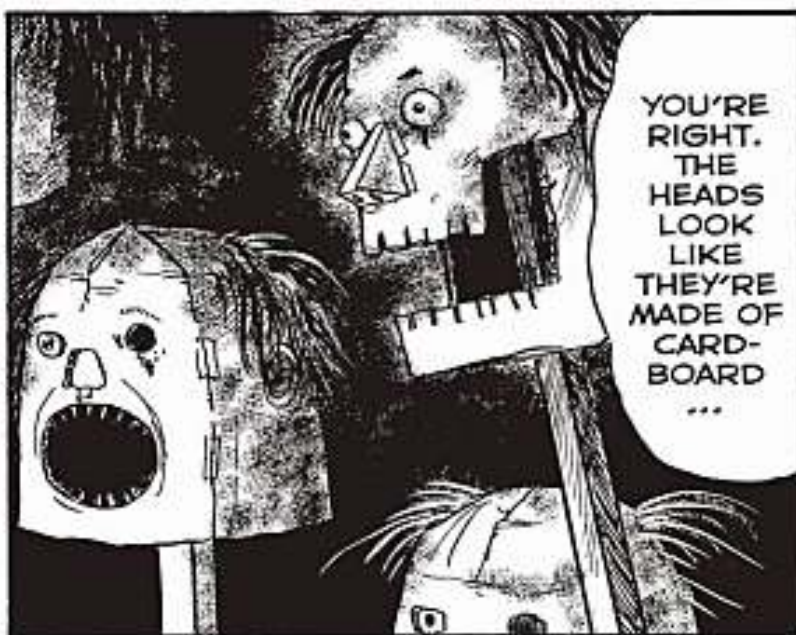




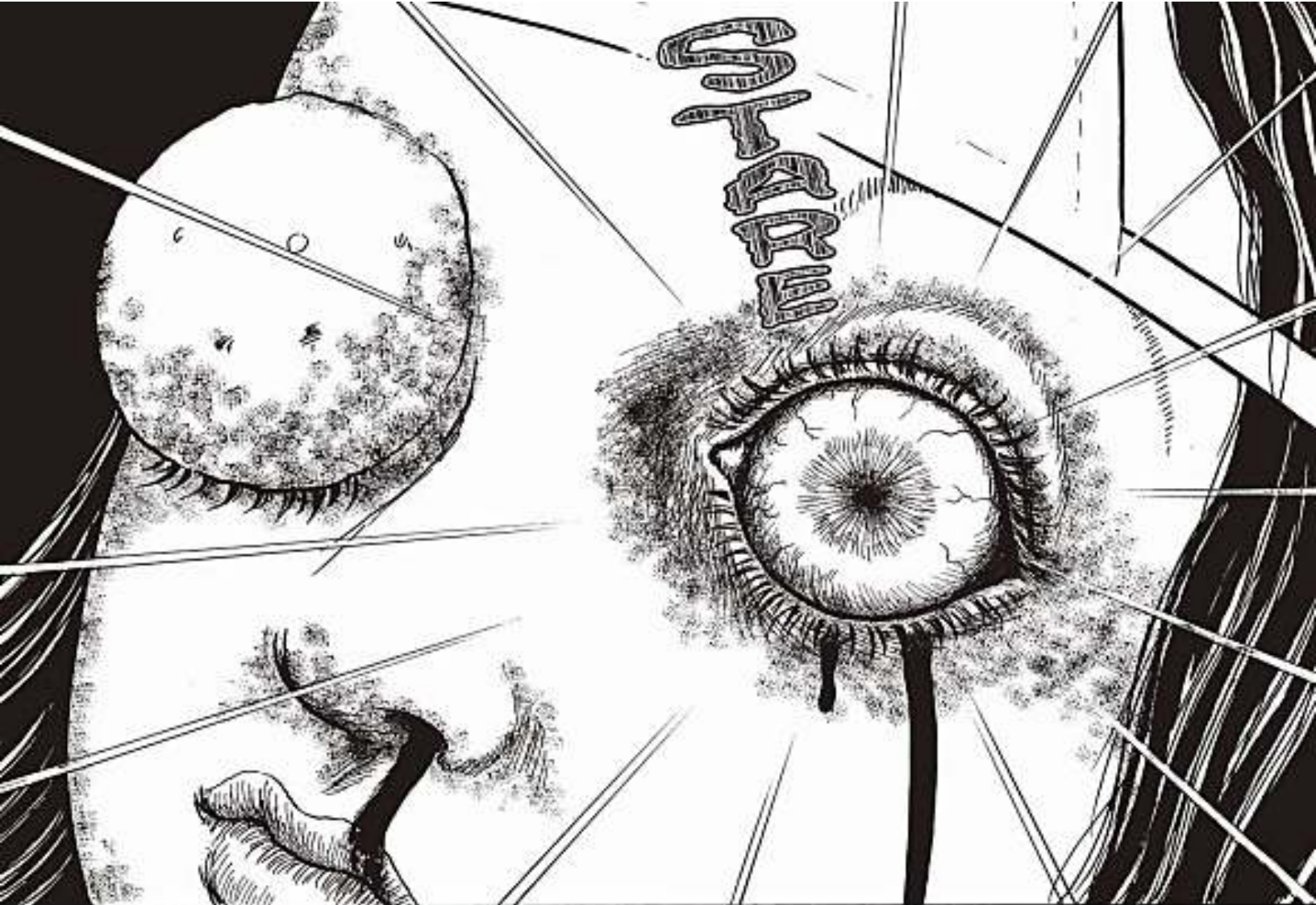








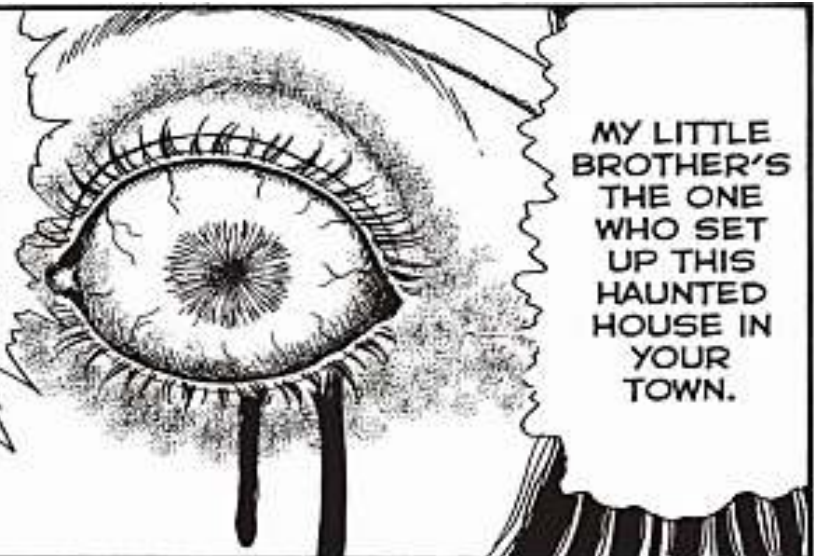








I CAN'T  
REALLY  
LEND A  
HAND, BUT  
I DO WHAT  
I CAN. HO  
HO HO HO!



MY LITTLE  
BROTHER'S  
THE ONE  
WHO SET  
UP THIS  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE IN  
YOUR  
TOWN.



I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
SHE'S  
TALKING  
ABOUT,  
EITHER.

HUH.  
SO IT'S  
JUST A  
HEAD  
COMING  
OUT  
OF THE  
TABLE.







HEE HEE  
HEE HEE!



---  
A  
A  
A  
A  
N  
---

V  
E  
E  
E  
N  
G  
G  
G  
E  
E  
---



HELLO.  
WELCOME  
TO MY  
SON'S  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE.



I HOPE  
YOU'LL  
COME  
AGAIN  
TO HIS  
LITTLE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE.

HE REALLY IS  
A HOPELESS  
BOY, BUT HE'S  
STANDING  
ON HIS OWN  
TWO FEET  
SOMEHOW.



HELL  
AHEAD



UP  
AHEAD  
ARE  
VISIONS  
OF HELL.



...









HELLO,  
I'M THE  
OLDER  
BROTHER.



THAT  
LOUSY  
BROTHER  
OF MINE.  
SOME-  
THING  
HAS TO  
BE DONE  
ABOUT  
HIM.

I  
CAN'T  
TAKE IT  
ANYMORE  
...



I WANT  
YOU TO  
GET ME  
DOWN  
FROM  
HERE.

BOYS...  
COULD YOU  
MAYBE DO  
ME A FAVOR?





NONE  
OF THAT  
CHANGED  
WHEN HE  
GREW  
UP.

DARK,  
REBELLIOUS,  
CURSING  
OTHER  
PEOPLE...



HE'S  
BEEN  
THIS  
WAY  
EVER  
SINCE  
HE WAS  
LITTLE.

HE'S  
NOT  
NORMAL.



IT'S  
JUST  
THAT WE  
CAN'T  
ESCAPE  
HIS  
MAGIC.

WE'RE NOT  
ACTUALLY  
HELPING  
HIM  
BECAUSE  
WE WANT  
TO.



ON TOP OF  
THAT, HE  
LEARNED  
SOME  
STRANGE  
MAGIC  
AT SOME  
POINT.



YOU  
HAVE TO  
STOP  
HERE.


BOYS...



NOW HE  
MAKES  
HIS  
FAMILY DO  
WHATEVER  
HE WANTS.



THE  
BASTARD HE  
MADE WITH  
A RANDOM  
WOMAN...



UP AHEAD...  
MY BROTHER'S  
CHILD IS IN  
CHAINS.



SO MUCH  
SO THAT  
EVEN HE IS  
AFRAID OF  
HER. HE  
KEEPS  
RUNNING  
AWAY.

NO,  
SHE'S  
EVEN  
STRANG-  
ER  
THAN  
HE IS!!



MY  
BROTHER  
MIGHT BE  
STRANGE,  
BUT SO  
IS SHE.

TO  
BEGIN  
WITH, HIS  
MOTHER  
ISN'T  
NORMAL  
!!

HE'S NOT  
A NORMAL  
CHILD.

HOW  
CAN  
I PUT  
THIS...



THAT WOMAN...  
SHE'S  
DEFINITELY  
STILL LOOKING  
FOR HIM, GIVEN  
THAT HE RAN  
OFF WITH THEIR  
CHILD.



THE ONLY  
REASON HE  
TRAVELS  
AROUND WITH  
THIS SHOW IS  
TO GET AWAY  
FROM HER.



SHWP SHWP

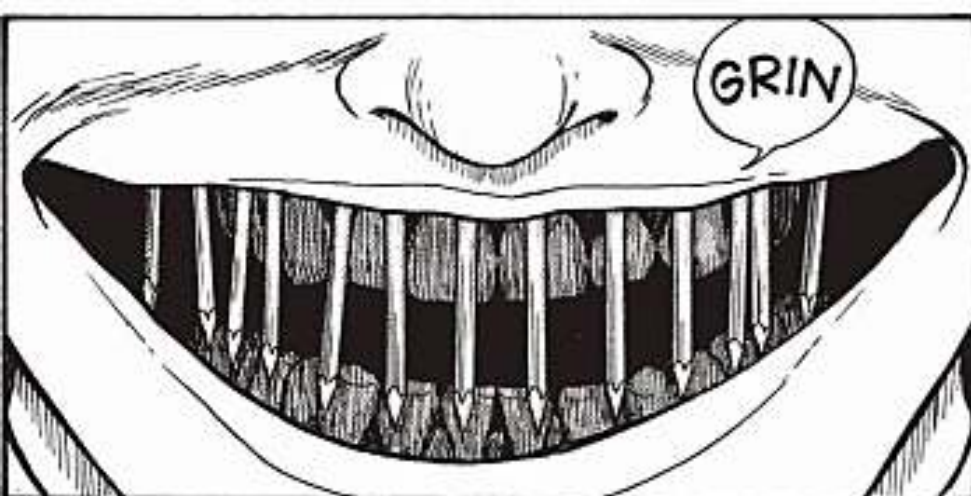
AH  
?!

TUNK

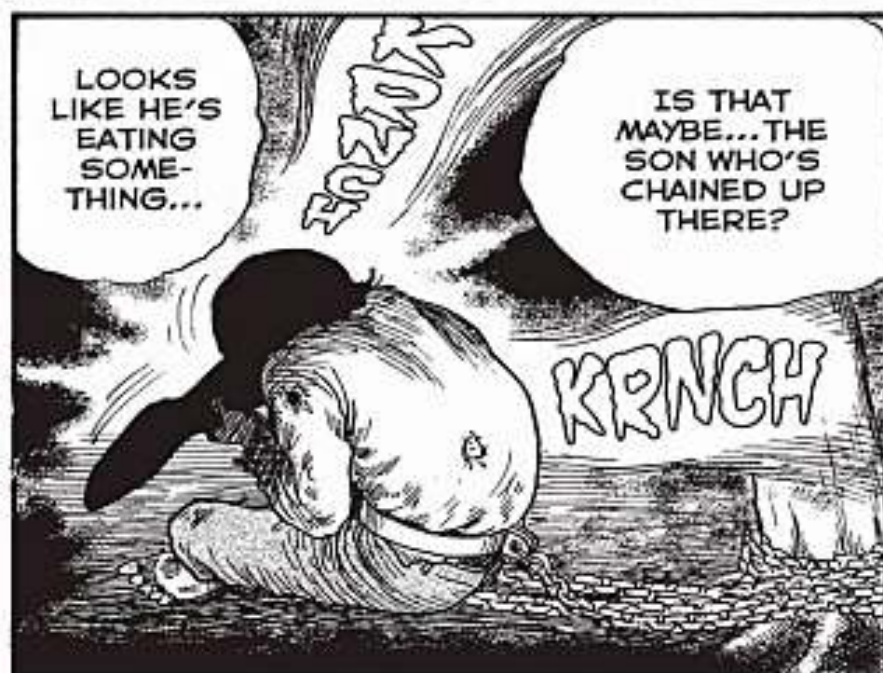
TUNK



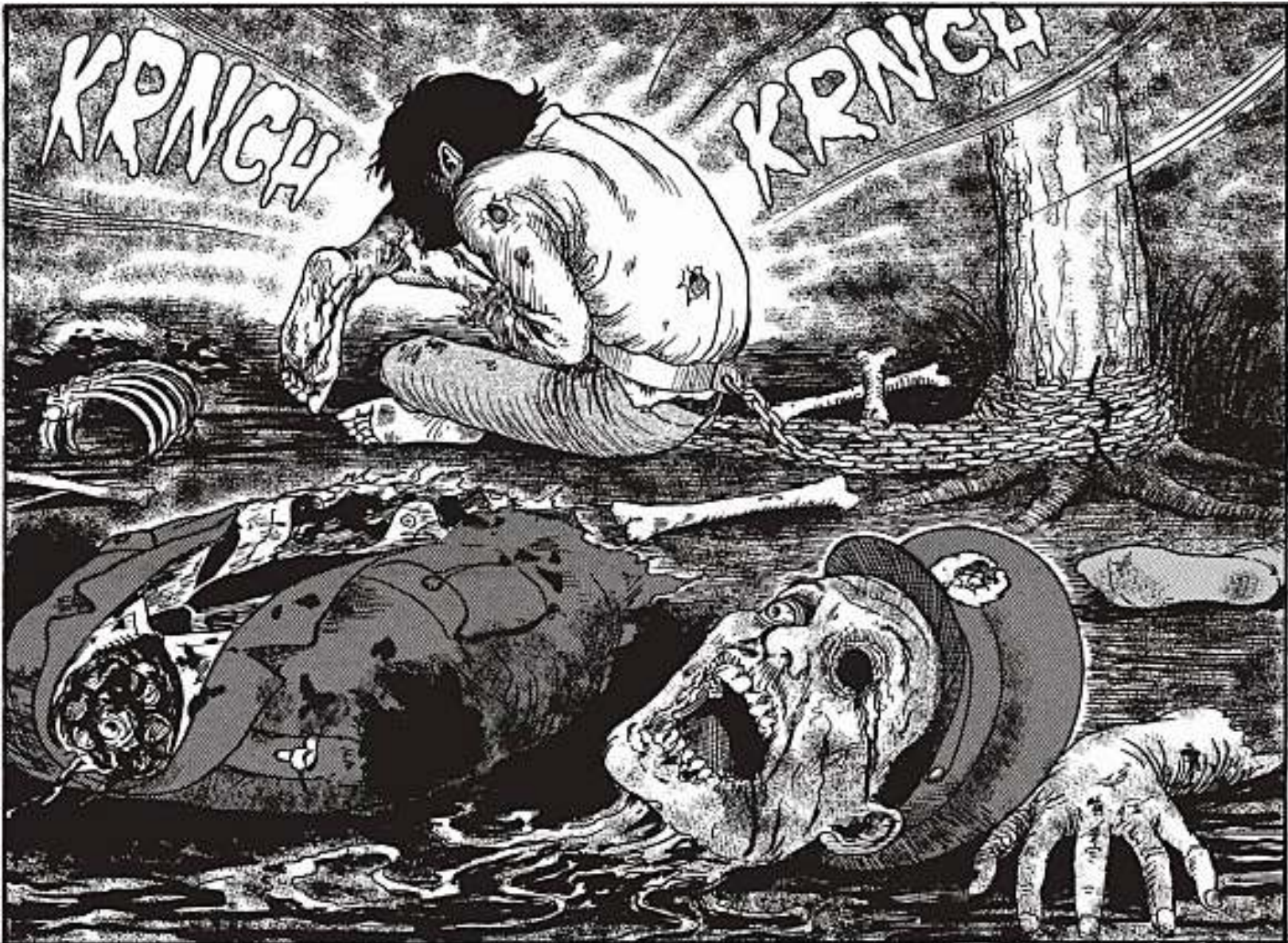
























IF YOU  
DO, I'LL  
BE NICE  
AND EAT  
YOU.

HURRY  
UP!



YOUR  
TENDER  
MEAT AND  
WARM  
BLOOD  
CALL  
TO ME.

I WANT  
TO EAT  
YOU WHILE  
YOU'RE  
STILL  
ALIVE.



YEAH!

SA-  
TOSHI,  
RUN!



KEE  
SHEE  
SHEE  
SHEE!

NOW,  
COME  
ON!



GRAB









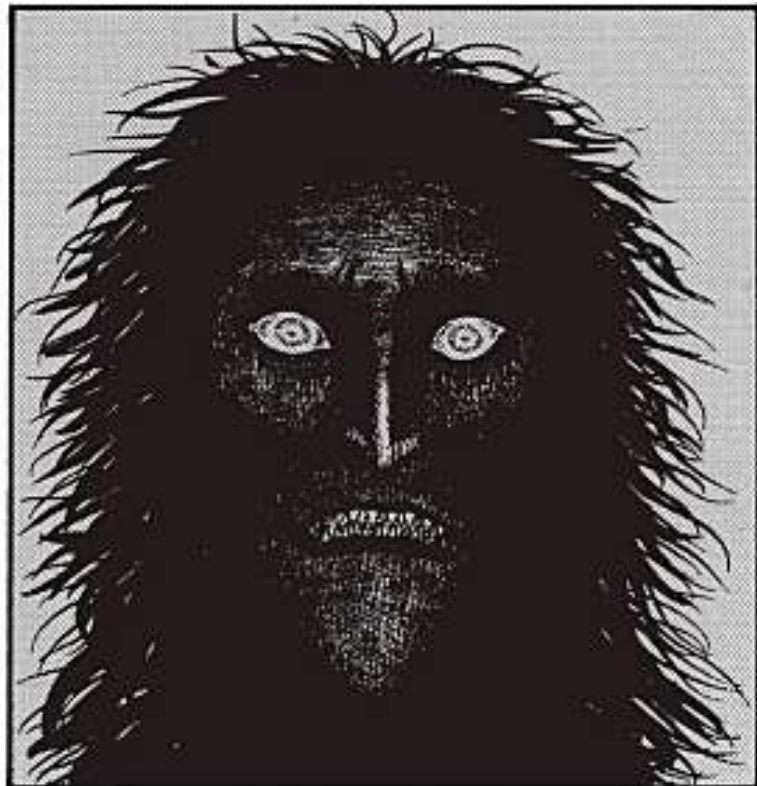












NOW,  
COME  
HERE.

THE NEXT  
TIME YOU  
RUN FROM  
ME, YOU  
WON'T LIVE  
TO REGRET  
IT.

I FINALLY  
FOUND  
YOU,  
DARLING...



~~~~~





AND THAT'S  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO ME THAT  
NIGHT.



EVENTS SO  
TOTALLY  
STRANGE  
THAT EVEN  
REMEMBERING  
IT ALL NOW,  
I DON'T  
GET IT...



THE POLICE  
OFFICER  
AND  
SATOSHI  
WERE NEVER  
FOUND.



THE NEXT  
DAY, THE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE WAS  
AN EMPTY  
SHELL.



続・お化け屋敷の謎

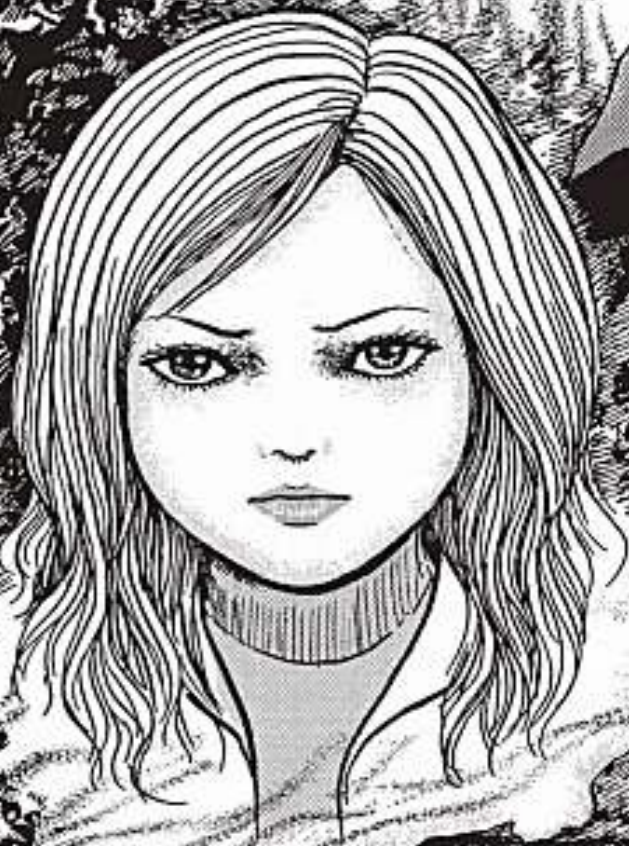
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# 双一前線



HAUNTED

THE MYSTERY OF THE  
HAUNTED HOUSE:  
SOICHI'S VERSION





IS THERE  
A TSUJII  
FAMILY  
LIVING  
AROUND  
HERE?

EXCUSE  
ME?

I'VE BEEN  
WALKING  
AROUND  
JAPAN...

...FOR  
TEN  
YEARS  
AL-  
READY.

COULDN'T  
TELL YOU.

NO  
IDEA...

THIS PHOTO  
IS FROM  
ABOUT 15  
YEARS AGO.

I SHOULD  
FIND  
SOMEPLACE  
TO STAY.

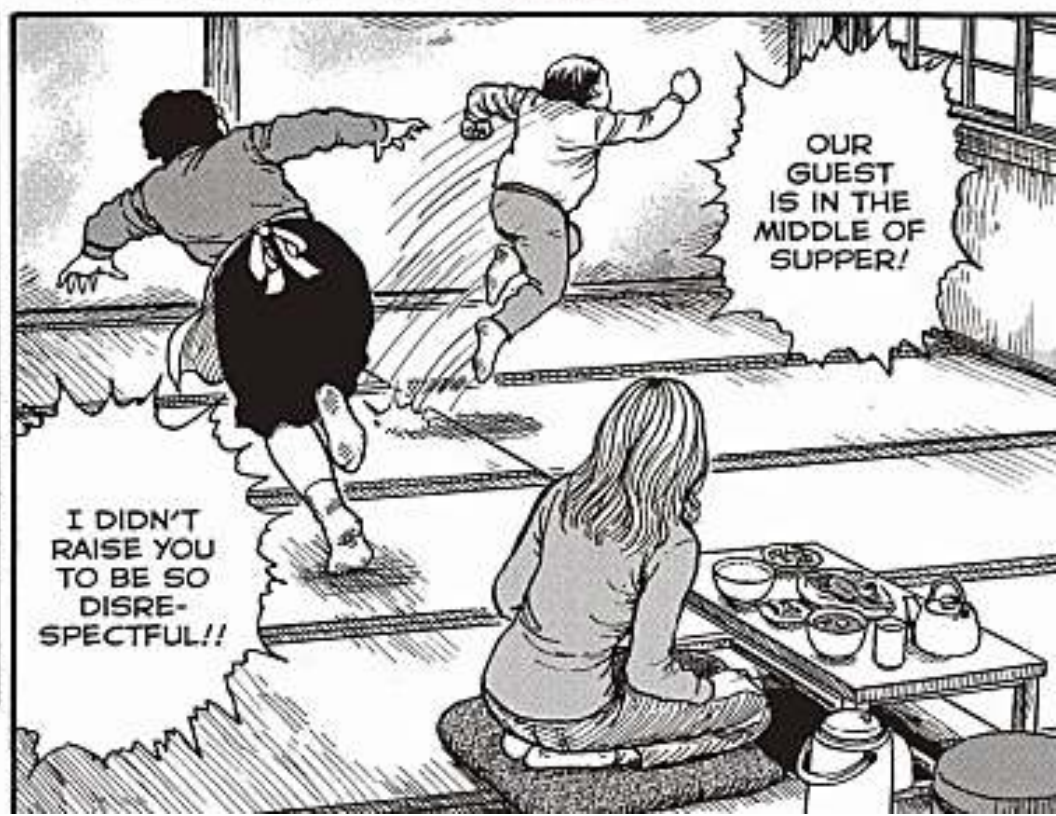
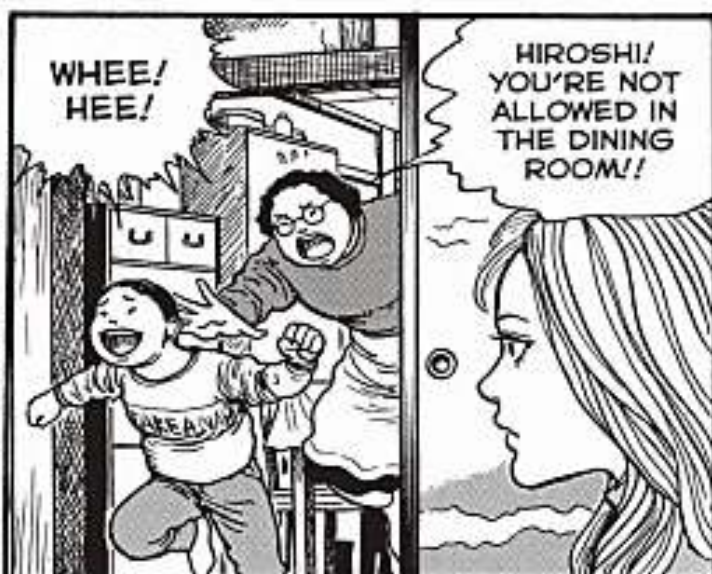
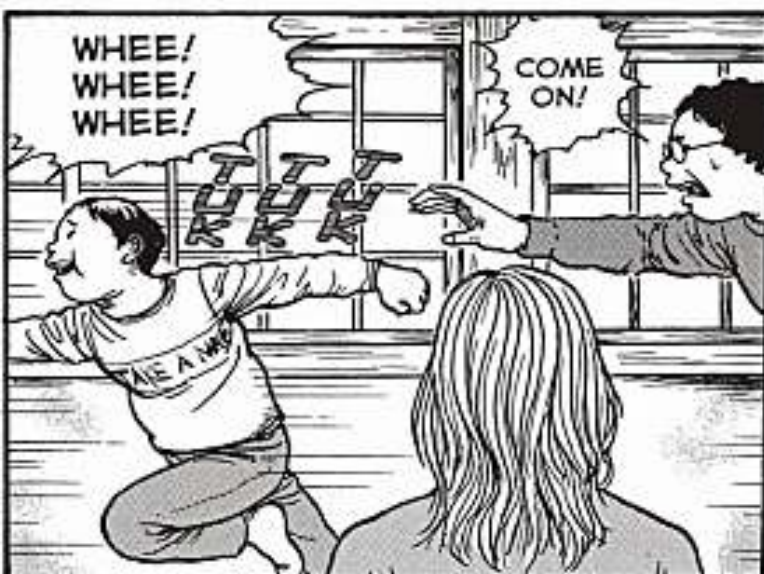
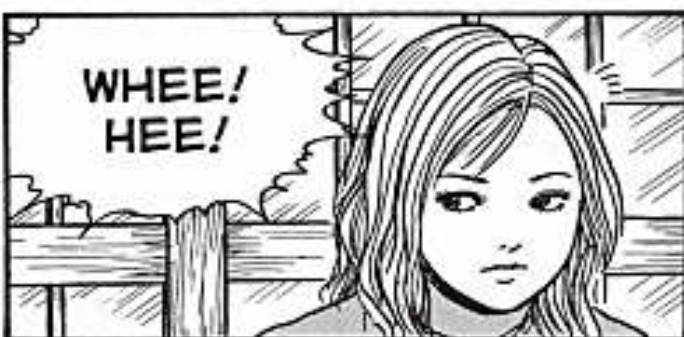
THE SUN'S  
GOING DOWN.  
ANOTHER DAY  
GONE WITHOUT  
FINDING ANY  
TRACES OF  
THEM.

OH,  
WELL,  
THANKS...

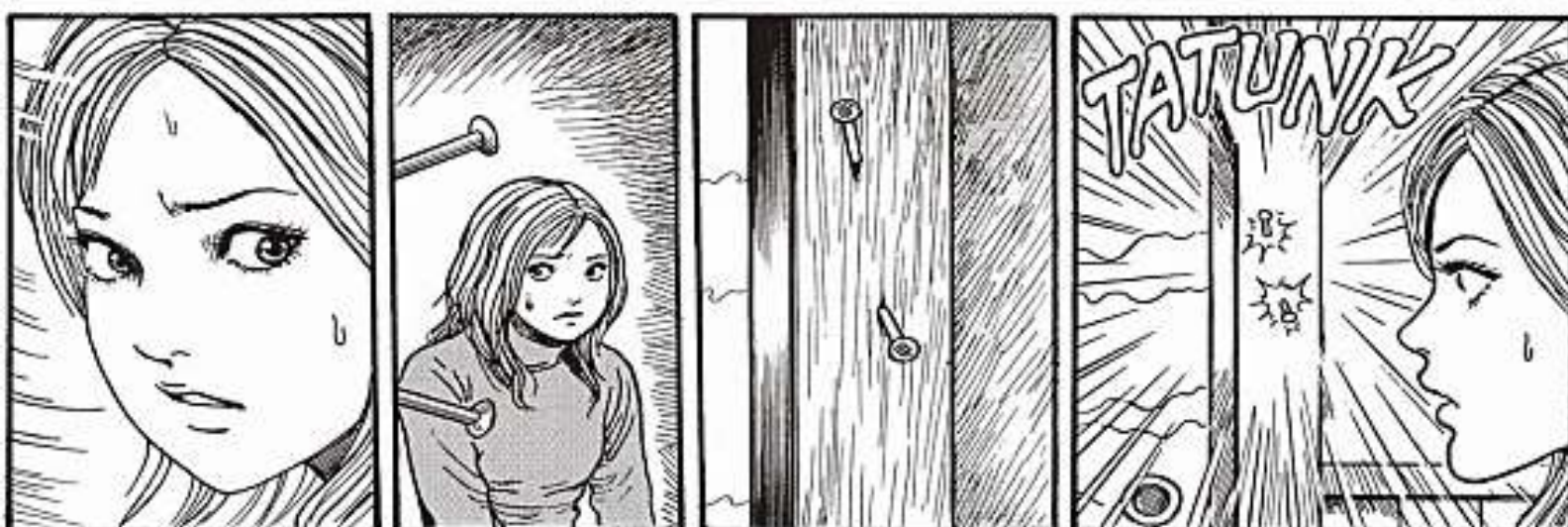
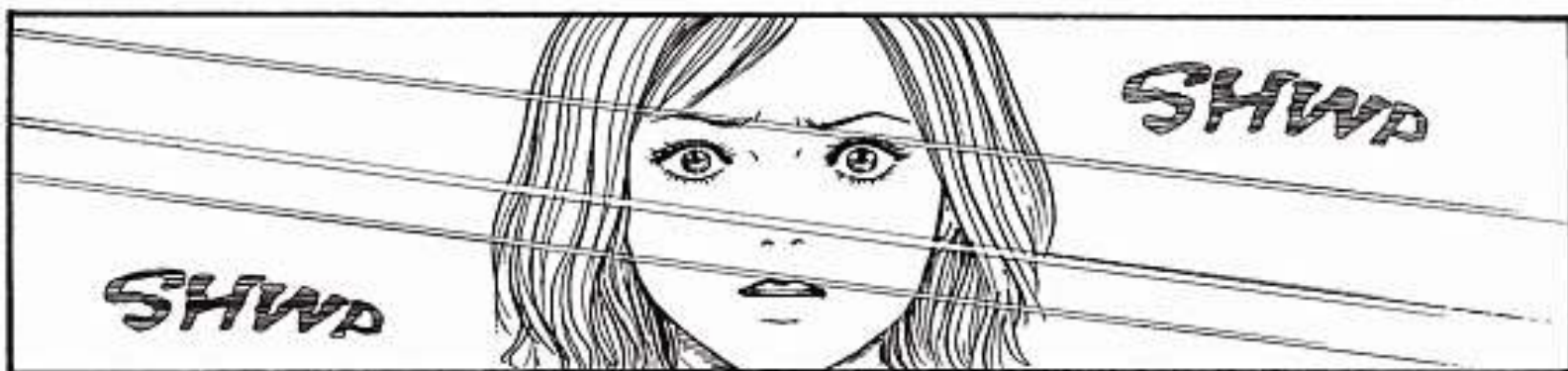
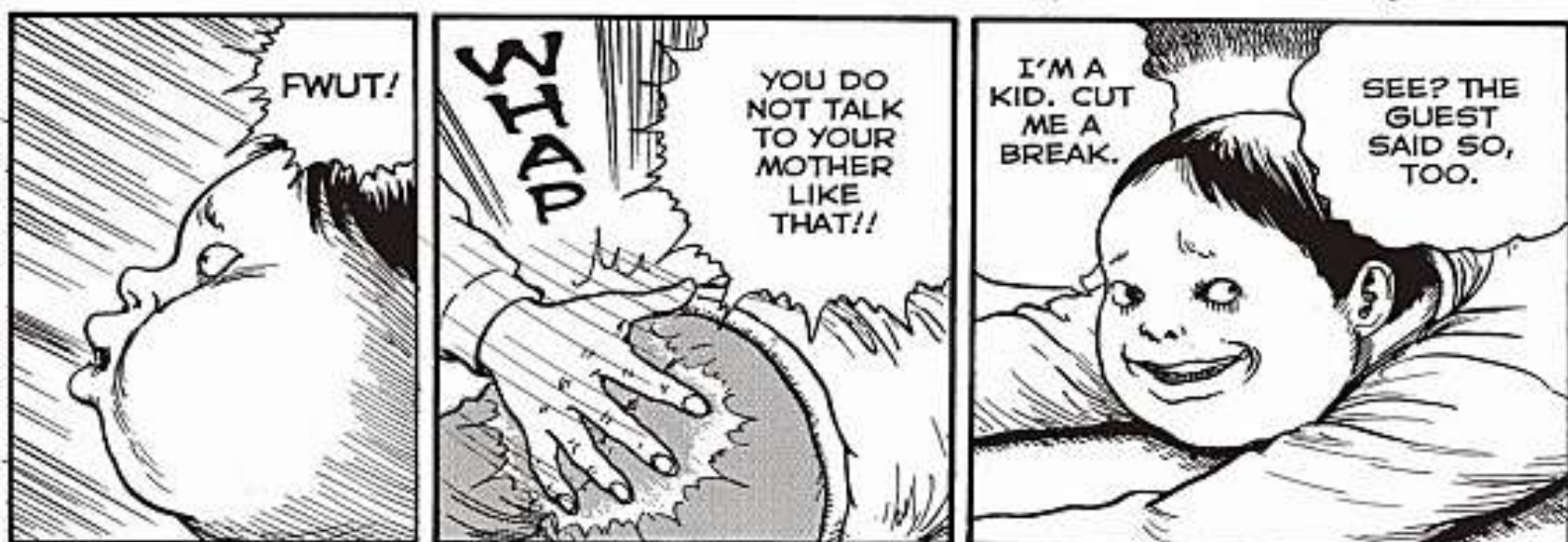




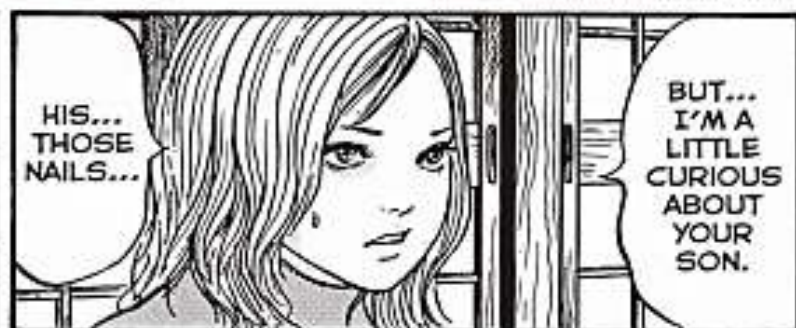
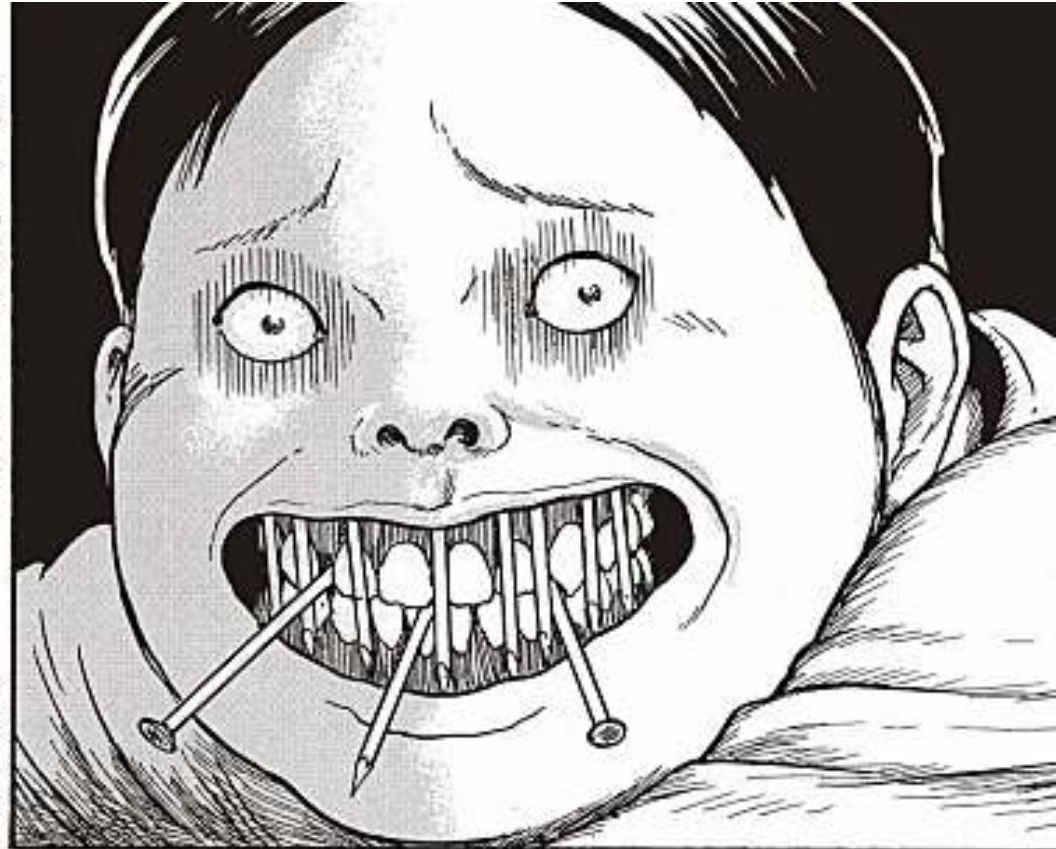




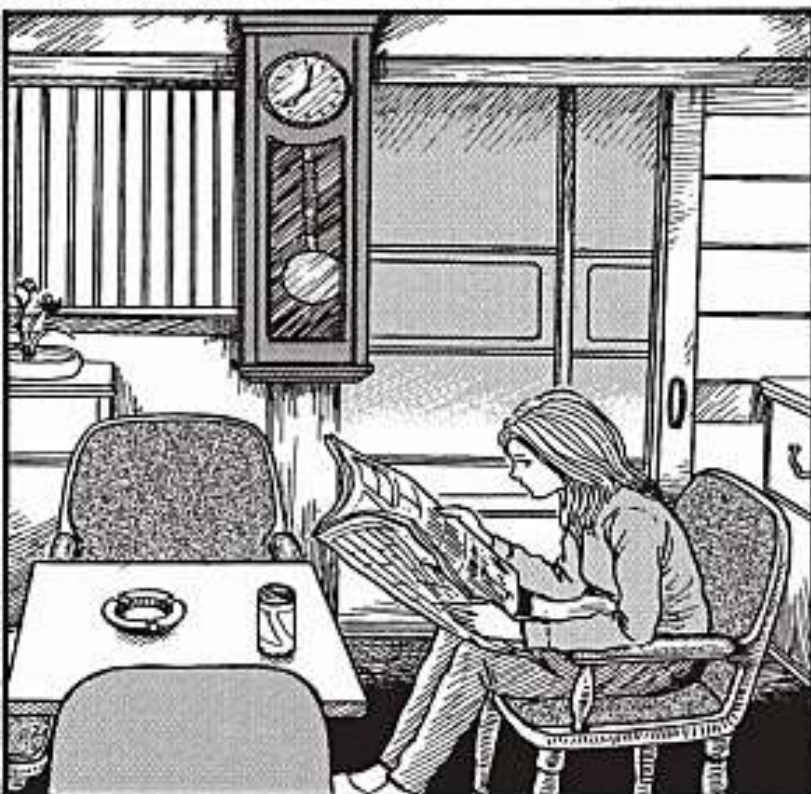
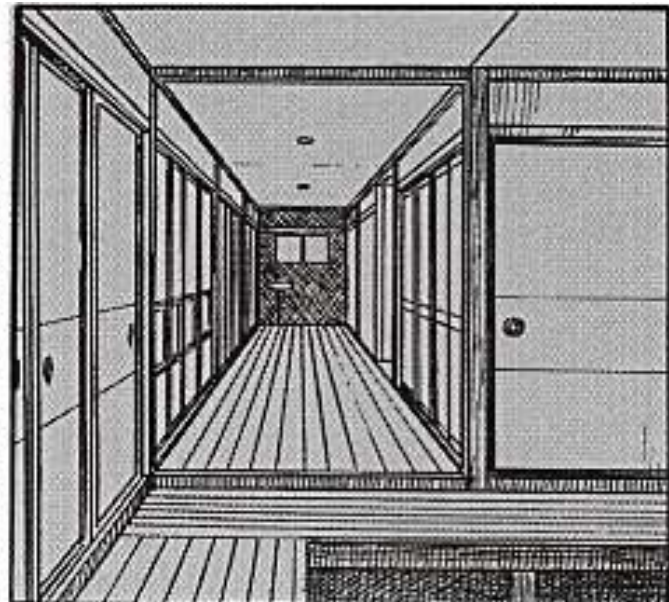
















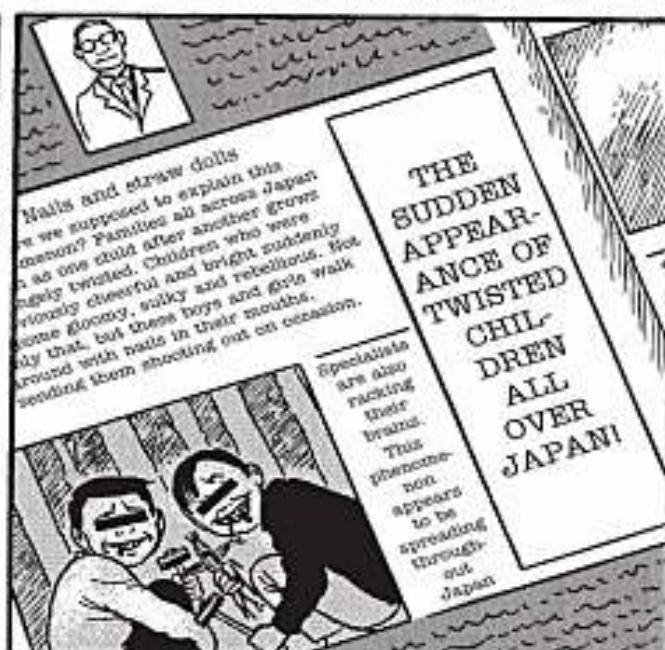
NO...  
THERE  
AREN'T  
ANY CLUES  
HERE —



DID YOU  
FIND A CLUE  
ABOUT THOSE  
RELATIVES  
YOU'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR?



YOU'RE  
READING  
THAT PAPER  
QUITE  
INTENTLY,  
HM?



Nails and straw dolls  
are we supposed to explain this  
phenomenon? Families all across Japan  
as one child after another grows  
suddenly twisted. Children who were  
previously cheerful and bright suddenly  
become gloomy, sulky and rebellious. Not  
only that, but these boys and girls walk  
around with nails in their mouths,  
sending them shooting out on occasion.

## THE SUDDEN APPEAR- ANCE OF TWISTED CHIL- DREN ALL OVER JAPAN!

Specialists  
are also  
racking  
their  
brains.  
This  
phenome-  
non  
appears  
to be  
spreading  
through-  
out  
Japan

This  
phenomenon  
is spreading  
to the north of  
the Japanese  
archipelago,  
almost like the  
cherry blossom  
front, and the  
leading edge  
of that front is  
currently in the  
Tohoku region.



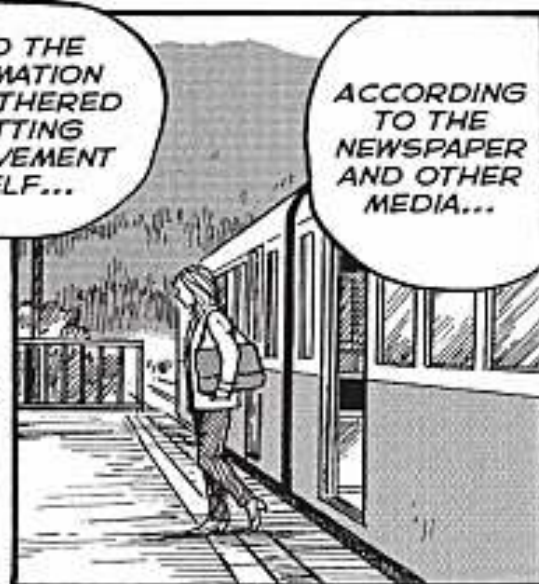
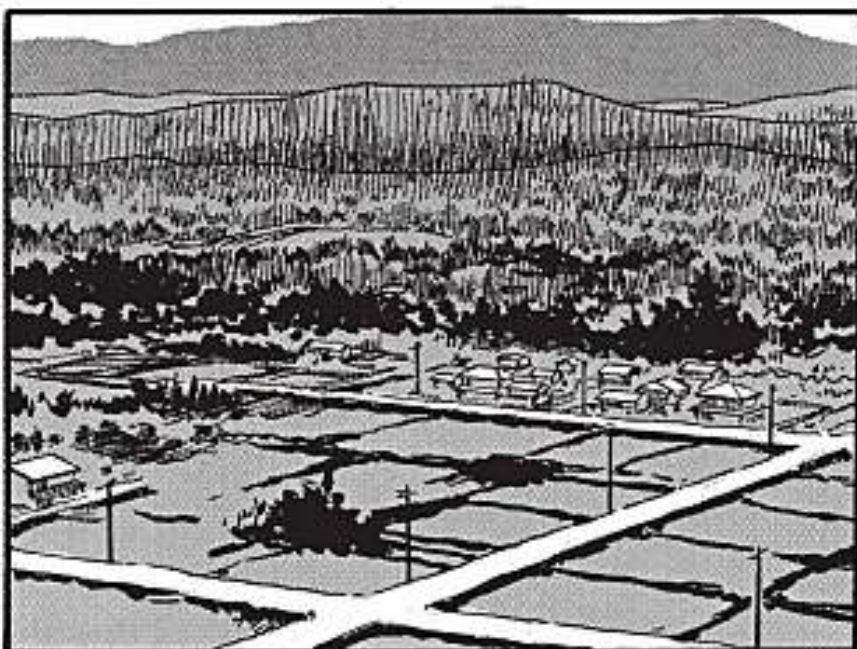
Not only that, but  
these boys and girls  
walk around with  
nails in their mouths,  
sending them shooting  
out on occasion.

Children  
who were  
previously  
cheerful  
and bright  
suddenly  
become  
gloomy,  
sulky and  
rebellious.

Families  
all across  
Japan watch  
as one  
child after  
another  
grows  
strangely  
twisted.























THE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE!!



WHERE  
?

GOT  
YOUR  
FAMILY  
...



HE'S  
STILL  
GOT MY  
FAMILY...  
HELP  
ME GET  
THEM  
OUT!

HELP  
ME.  
I GOT  
AWAY...



TH-THIS  
WAY.



HAUNTED  
HOUSE?!

MY FAMILY'S  
BEING HELD AT  
THE HAUNTED  
HOUSE.  
PLEASE HELP  
ME...



IT'S  
TERRIFYING  
TO EVEN  
THINK  
ABOUT IT.



WHAT  
EXACTLY  
IS GOING  
ON  
THERE?

I ACTUALLY  
CAME HERE  
LOOKING  
FOR THE  
HAUNTED  
HOUSE.




HOOK  
HOOK  
HOOK  
HOOK





TAKING  
CARE OF  
HIM IS MORE  
FRIGHTENING  
THAN ANYTHING  
ELSE.

AND IT'S NOT  
JUST THAT.  
HE HAS A  
HORRIFYING  
CHILD. A SON  
HE MADE WITH  
A MONSTER.



HE PUT  
A CURSE  
ON US,  
AND NOW  
WE HAVE  
TO DO  
WHATEVER  
HE WANTS.

THE OWNER  
IS A  
DEMON. HE  
DESTROYED  
OUR HAPPY  
FAMILY.



...


MY LITTLE  
BROTHER.  
A TERRI-  
FYING MAN.




THE  
OWNER...  
WHO EXACTLY  
IS HE?



I FINALLY  
MANAGE TO  
ESCAPE.  
BUT THE  
BOY BIT ME.  
LOOK AT  
ME.




WHAT  
?!



AAH...  
AH...

AH...



OH.  
UM...



MY  
NAME IS  
MICHINA  
HIROSE.

UM, I'M  
LOOKING FOR  
THIS FAMILY,  
THE TSUJII'S.  
THEY'RE MY  
RELATIVES.

KSH  
KSH



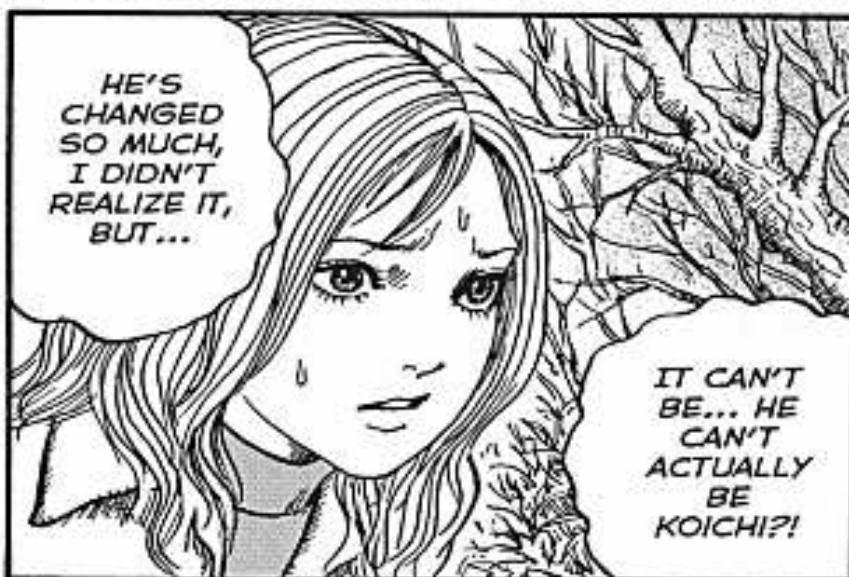


OH!  
PLEASE  
WAIT.



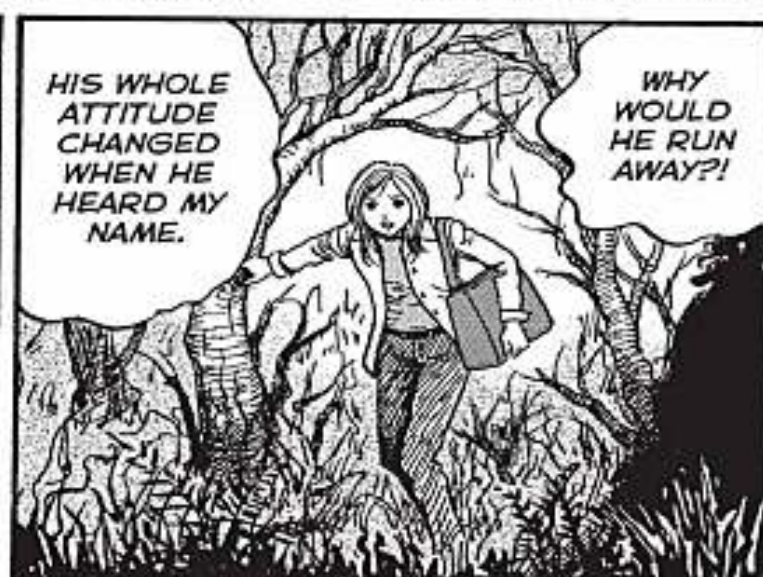
PLEASE  
GO!

G-GO  
HOME!



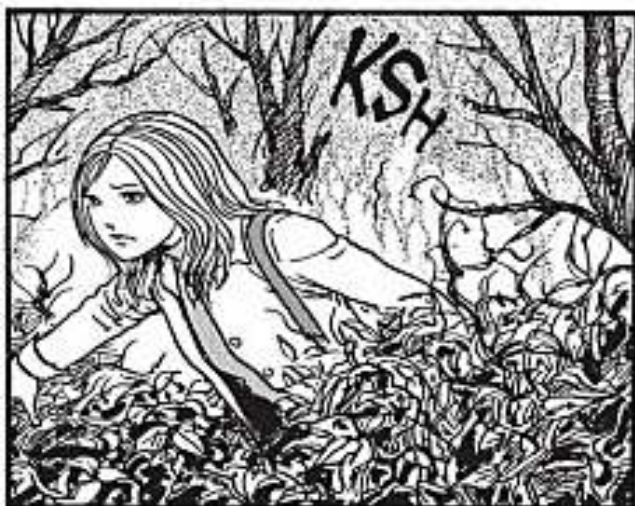
HE'S  
CHANGED  
SO MUCH,  
I DIDN'T  
REALIZE IT,  
BUT...

IT CAN'T  
BE... HE  
CAN'T  
ACTUALLY  
BE  
KOICHI?!



HIS WHOLE  
ATTITUDE  
CHANGED  
WHEN HE  
HEARD MY  
NAME.

WHY  
WOULD  
HE RUN  
AWAY?!



KSH



AH!!



SO THEN...  
THE OWNER  
WOULD  
HAVE TO BE  
SOICHI.

IT'S BEEN  
TEN YEARS  
SINCE WE HEARD  
ANYTHING FROM  
THE TSUJIIIS.  
WHAT EXACTLY  
HAPPENED  
DURING THAT  
TIME?!















BUT YOU  
HAVE GOTTEN  
UGLIER...

MICHINA,  
RIGHT? AS  
IF I COULD  
FORGET THAT  
FACE.



AND NOW  
YOU'VE GOT  
SOME NEW,  
MALICIOUS  
TRICKS!  
YOU'RE  
HOPELESS!

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
TWISTED,  
EVER  
SINCE  
WE WERE  
KIDS.

WHIPPING  
YOUR  
BROTHER?!  
WHAT IS  
GOING  
ON?!

SOICHI!!  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?!

I CAME TO  
GET KOICHI  
AND SAYURI  
AND AUNTIE  
AND UNCLE  
BACK!!  
NOW HAND  
THEM OVER,  
RIGHT THIS  
INSTANT!

I DIDN'T  
COME HERE  
TO LISTEN  
TO YOU  
BRAG!

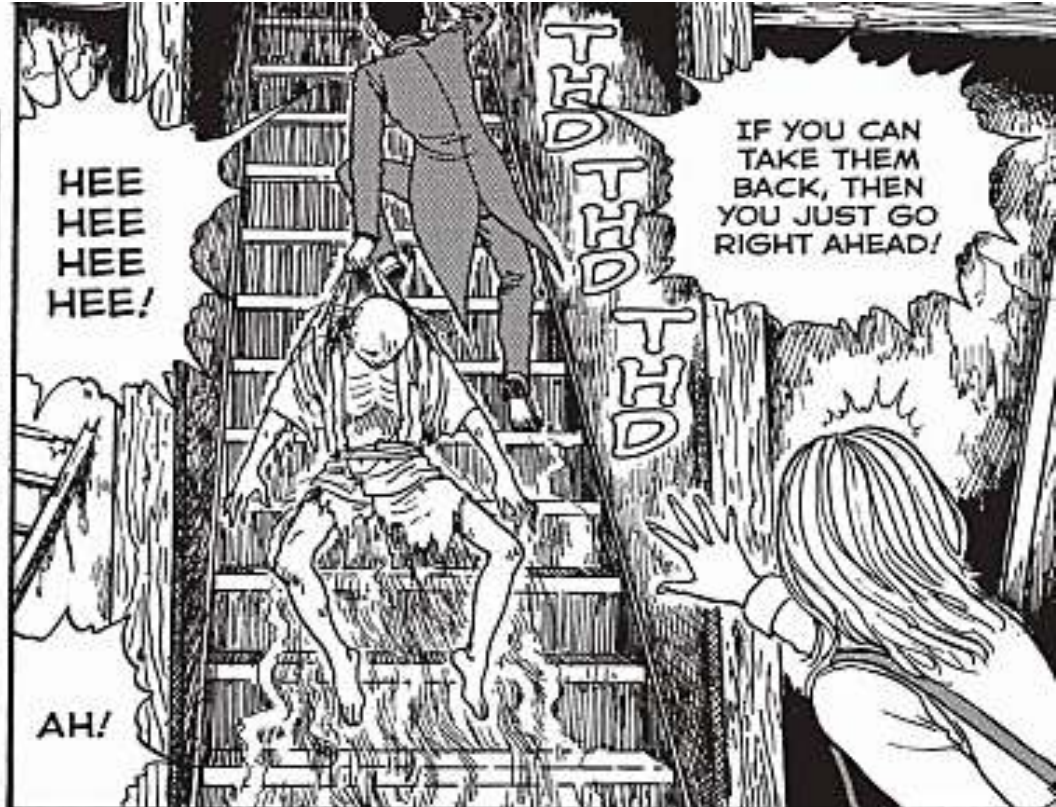
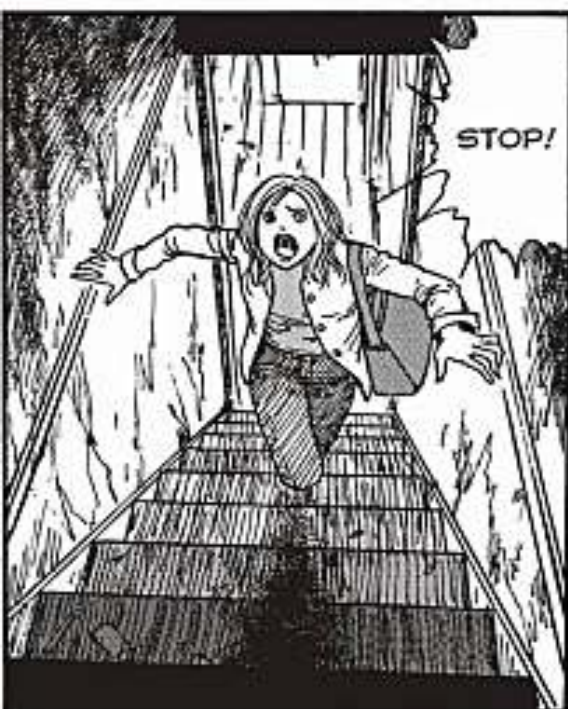
I HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN GREAT,  
AND NOW,  
THROUGH  
THIS HAUNTED  
HOUSE, I AM  
PLACING A  
CURSE ON THE  
CHILDREN OF  
THIS COUNTRY.  
MY INFLUENCE  
REACHES FAR  
AND WIDE.

HEH HEH HEH/  
PLEASE, LET'S  
NOT CALL  
THEM TRICKS.  
WE SHOULD  
REALLY SAY I  
HAVE POWERFUL  
MAGIC NOW.

HEH  
HEH  
HEH!

NGH!

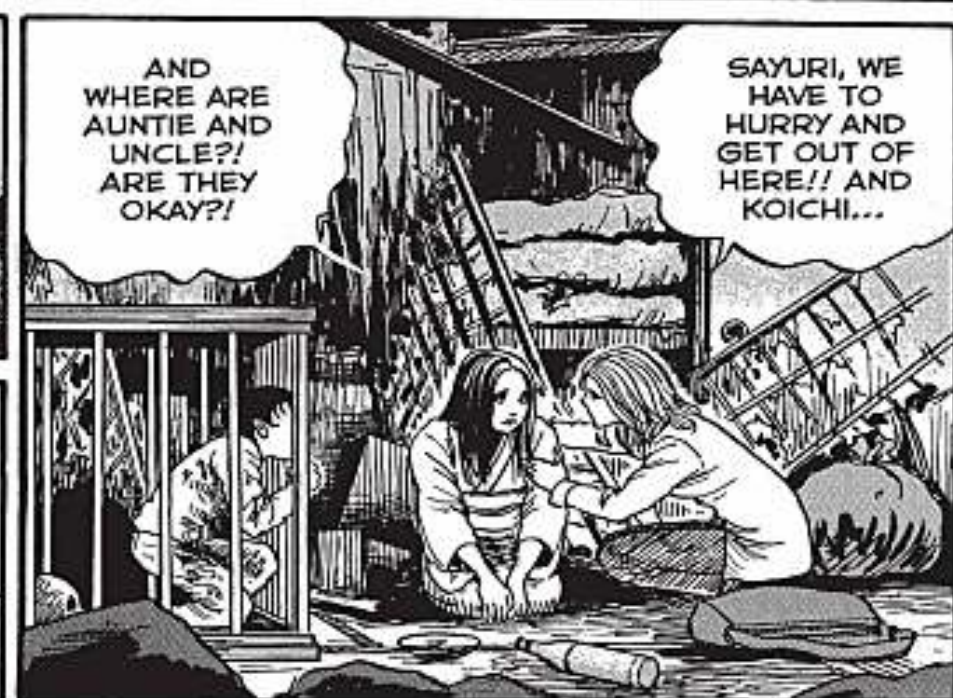
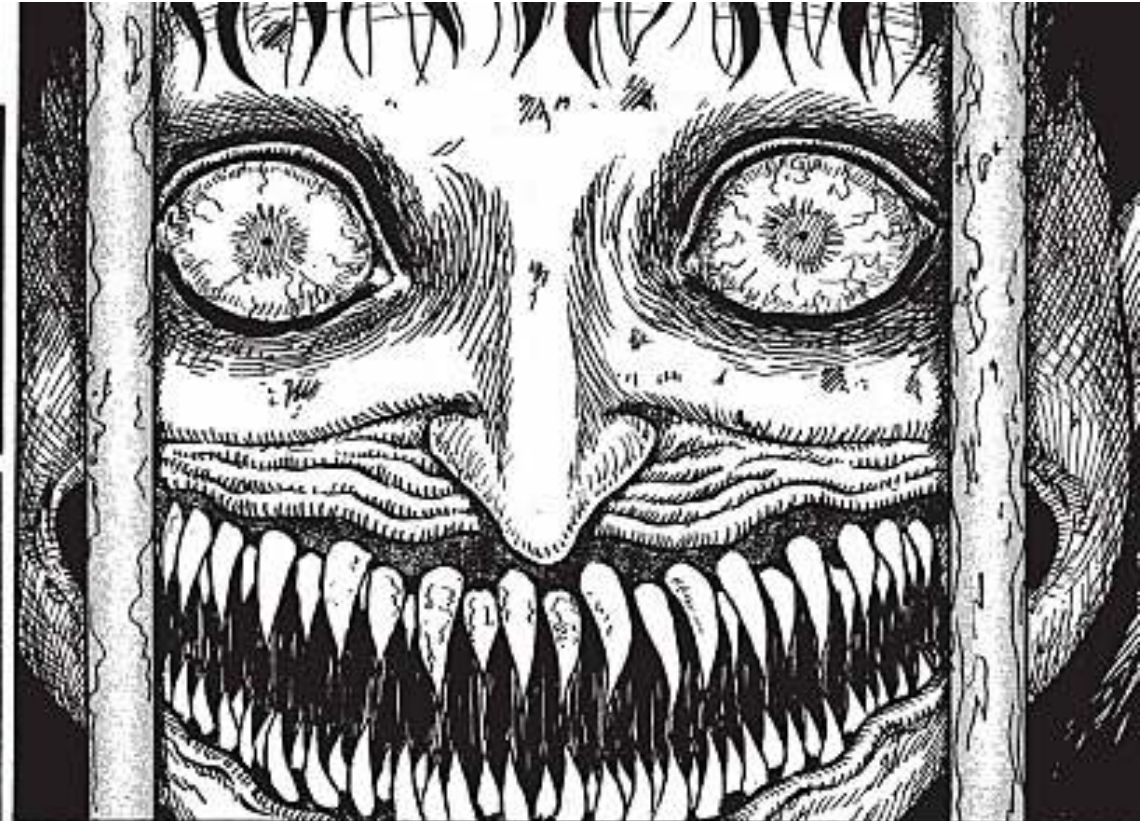








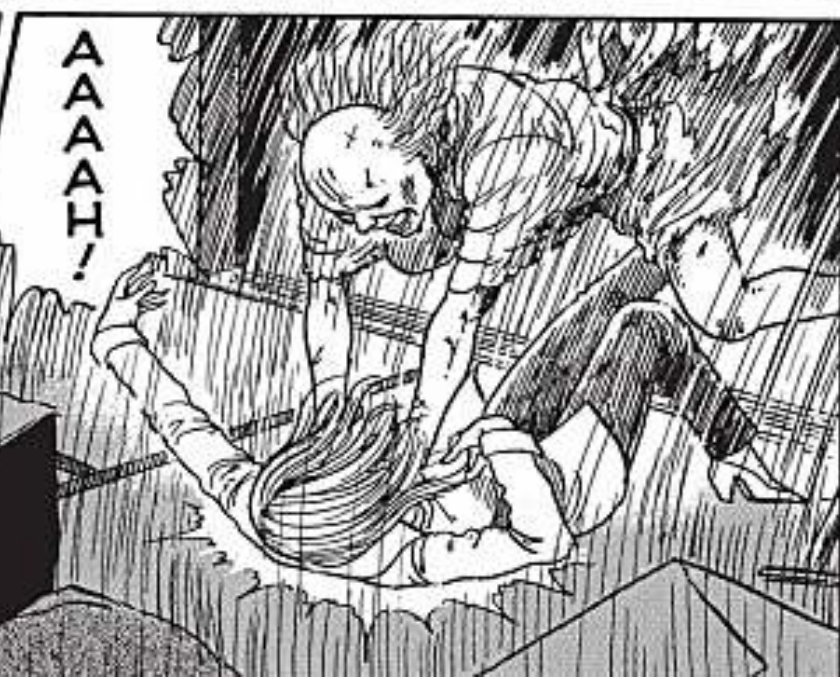
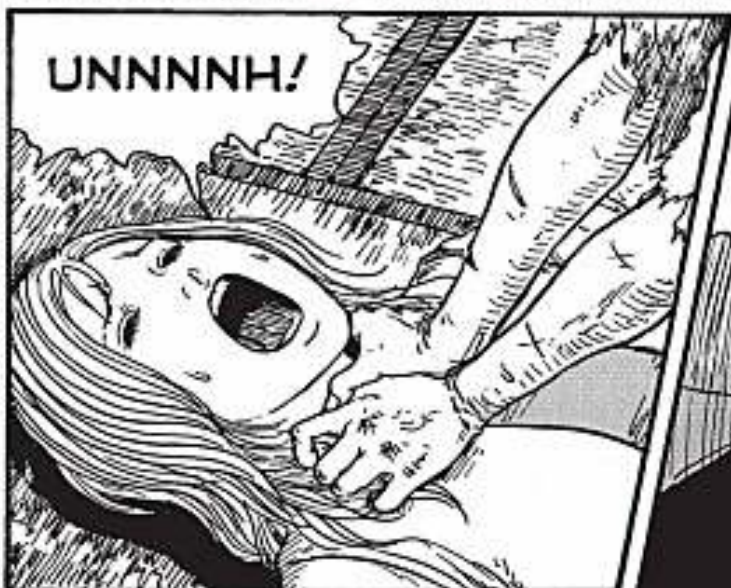




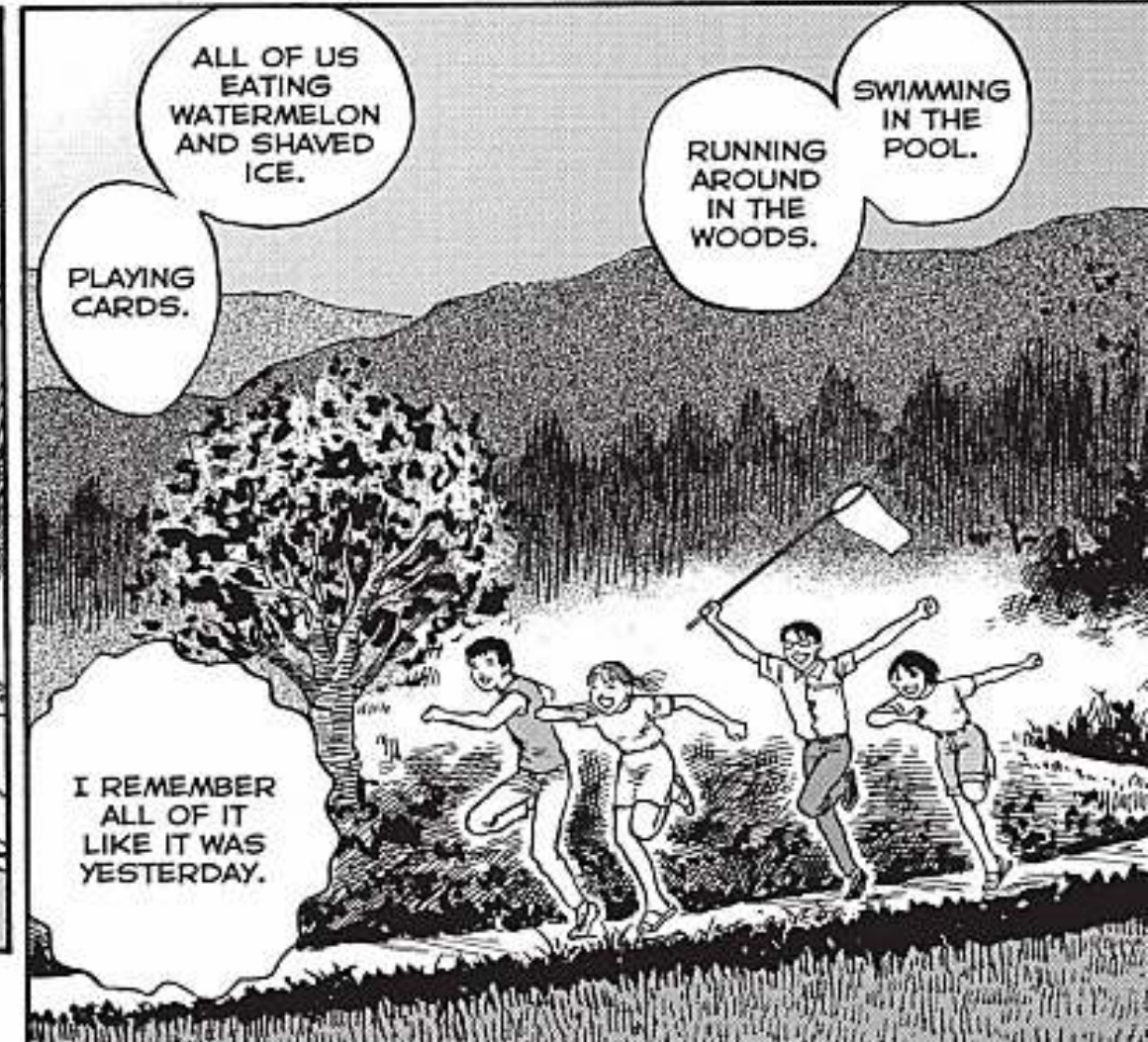




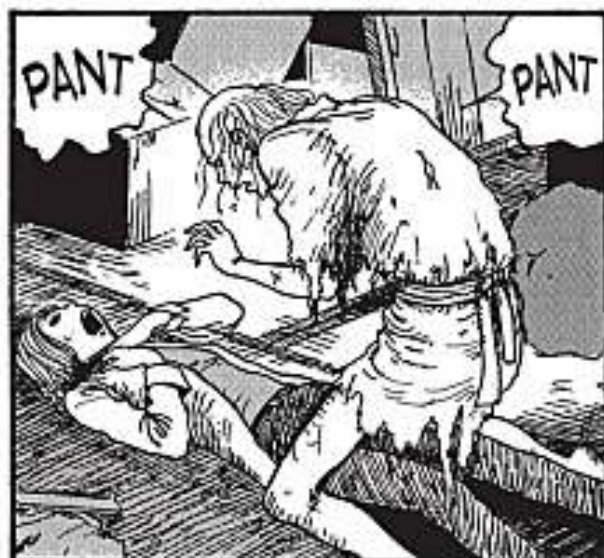








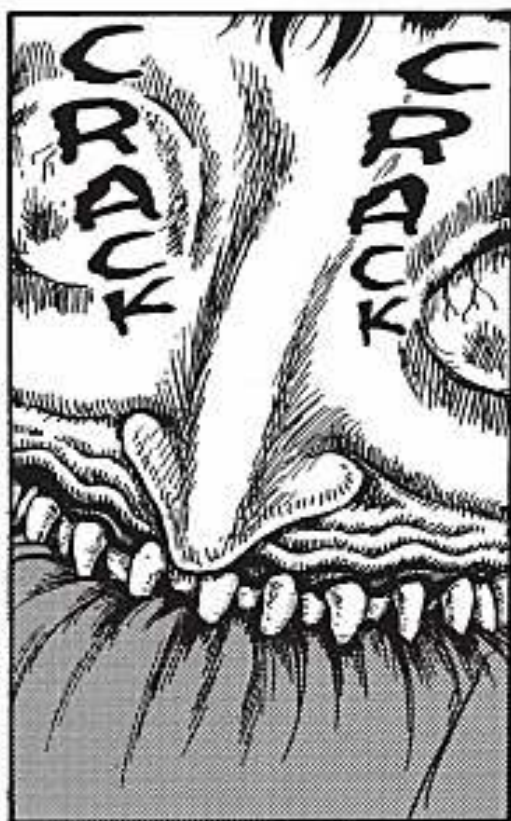












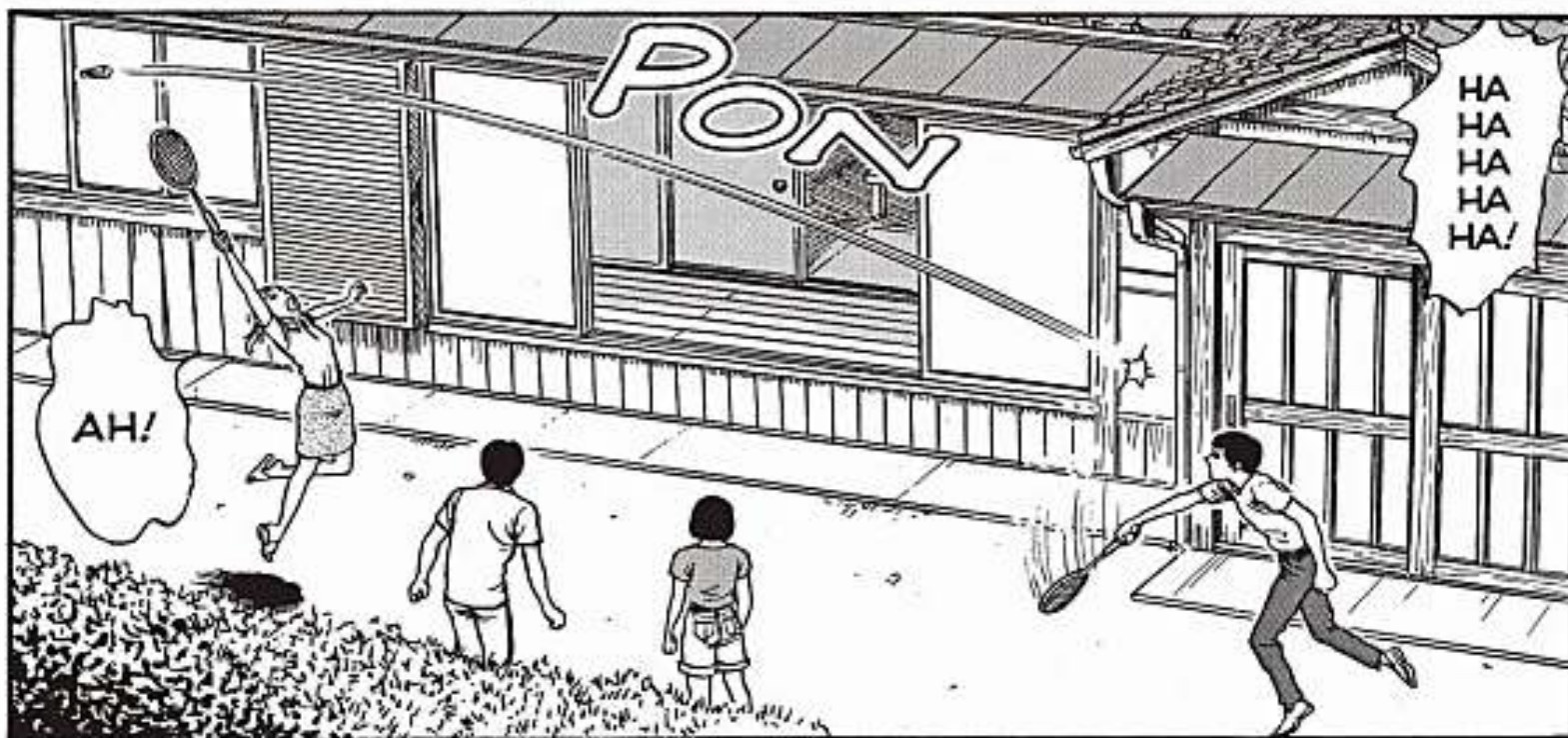


















SOICHI'S BELOVED PET

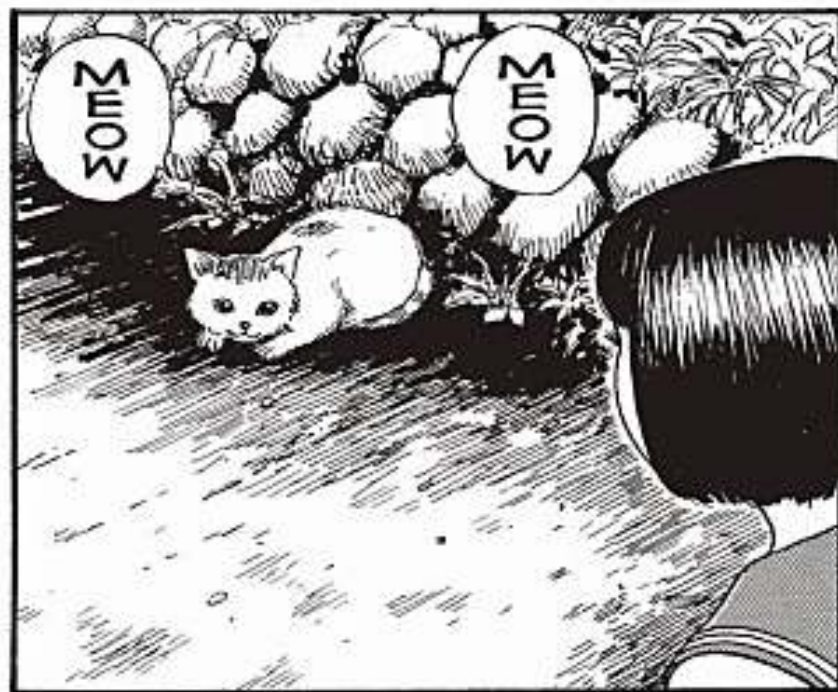
そう いち

○ あい がん どう ぶつ

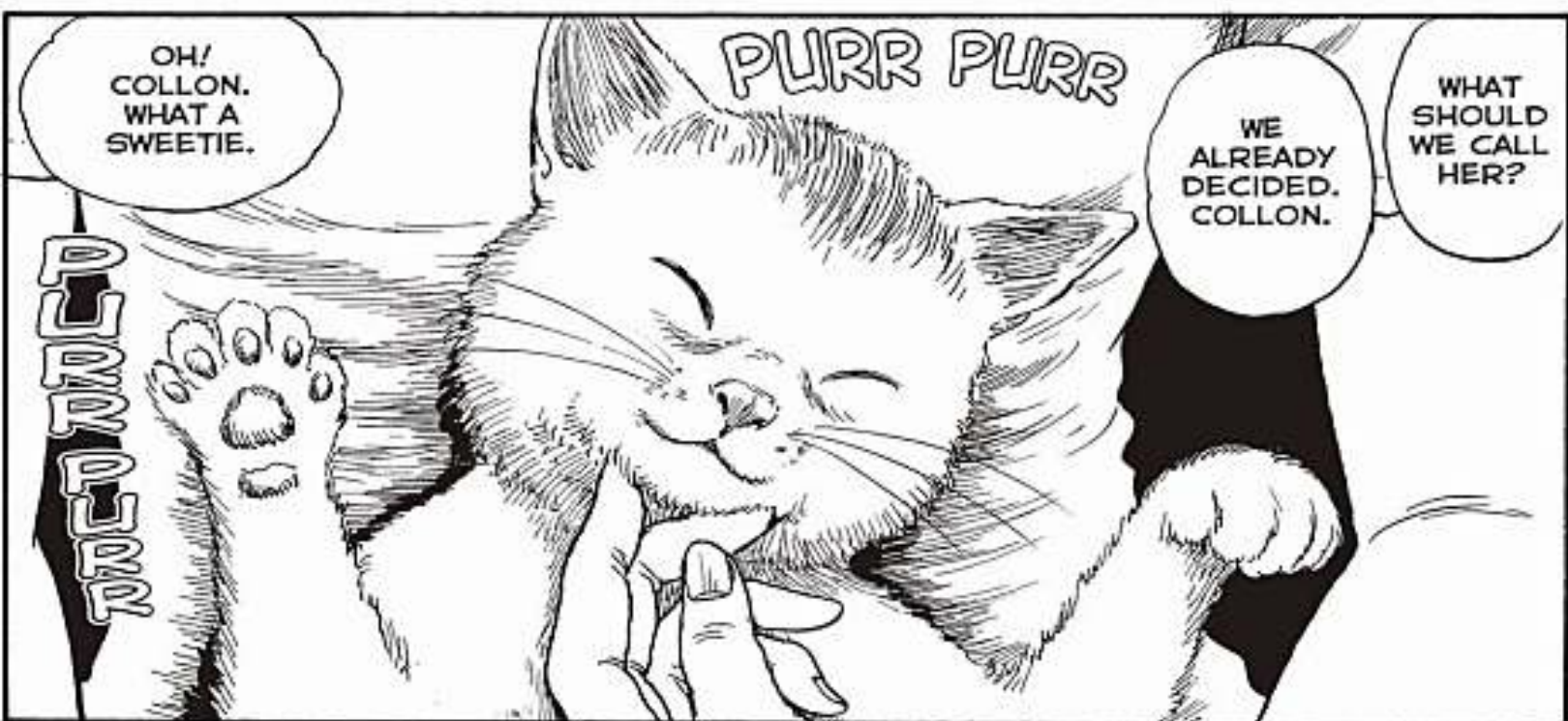
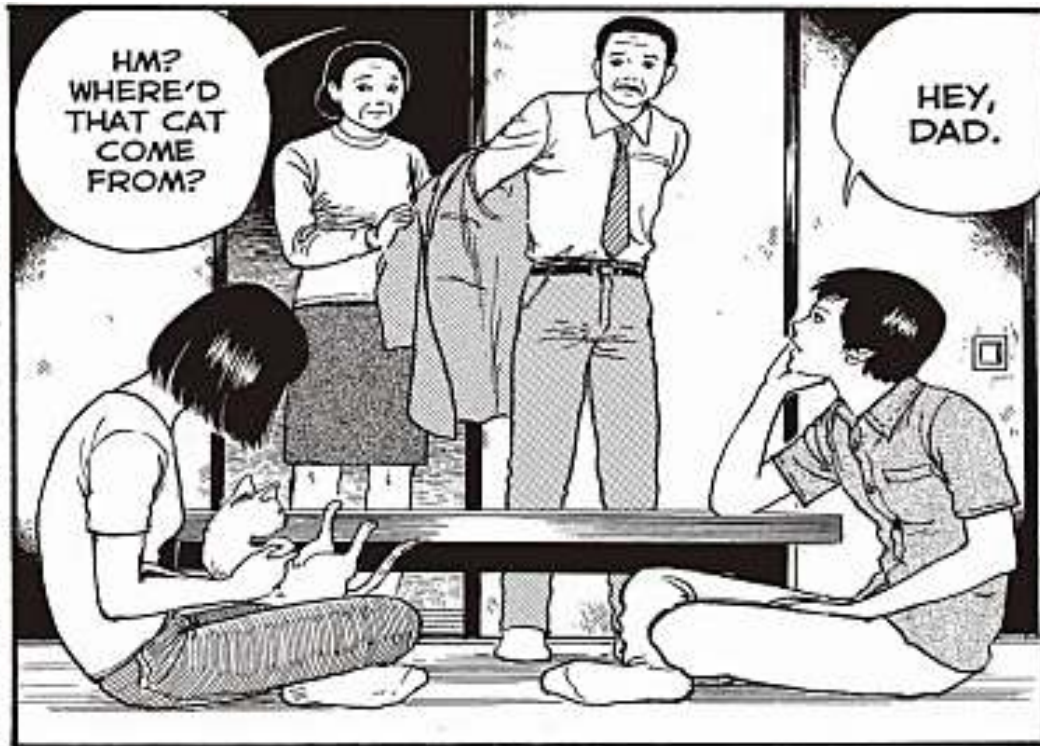
# 双一の愛玩動物



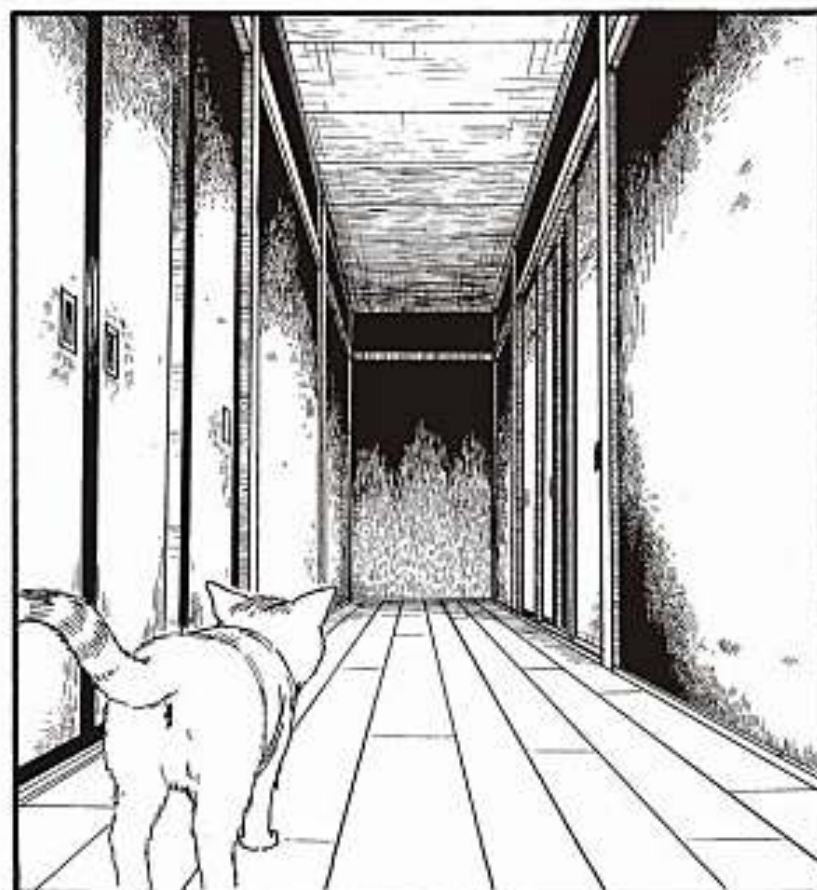




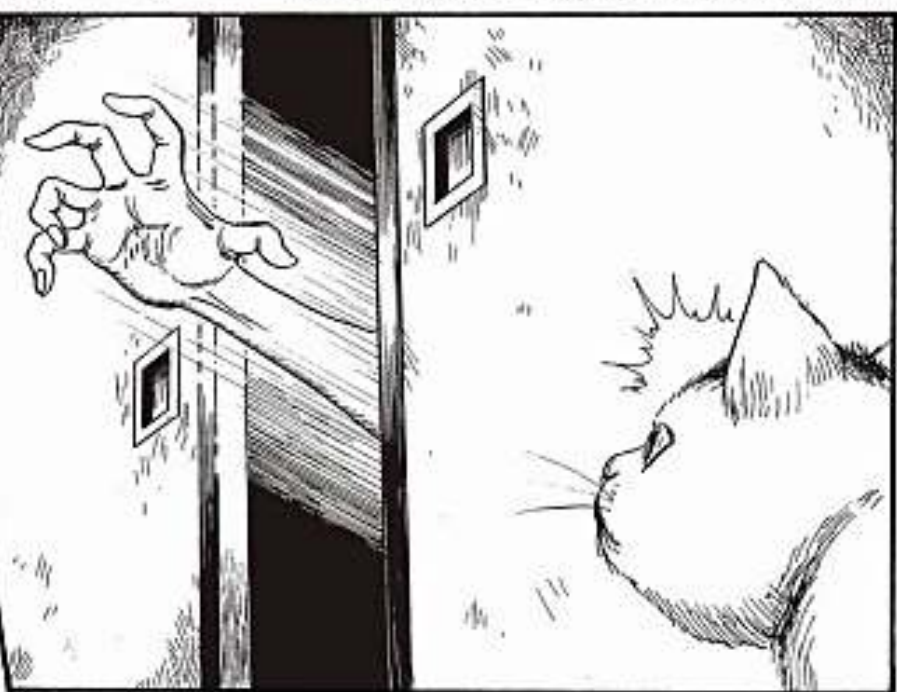
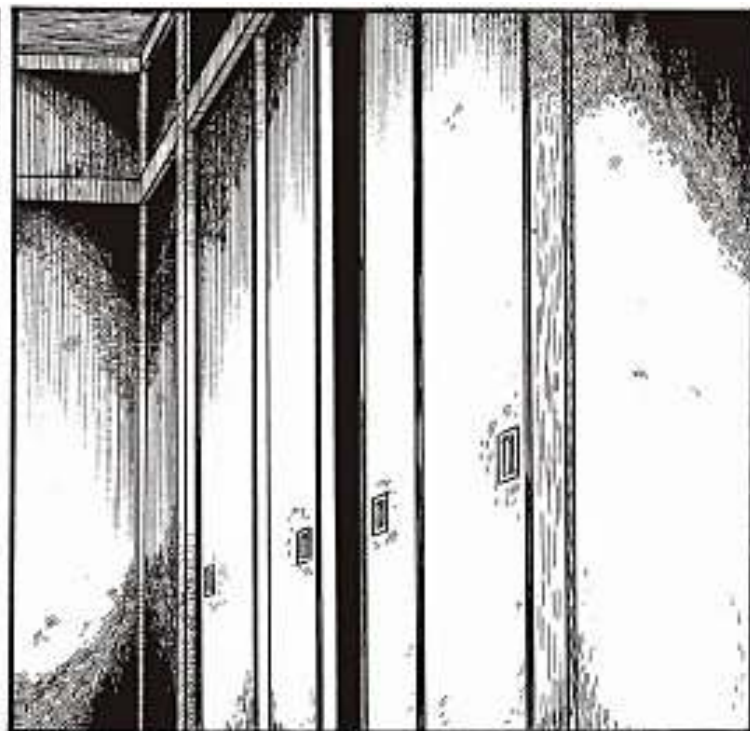




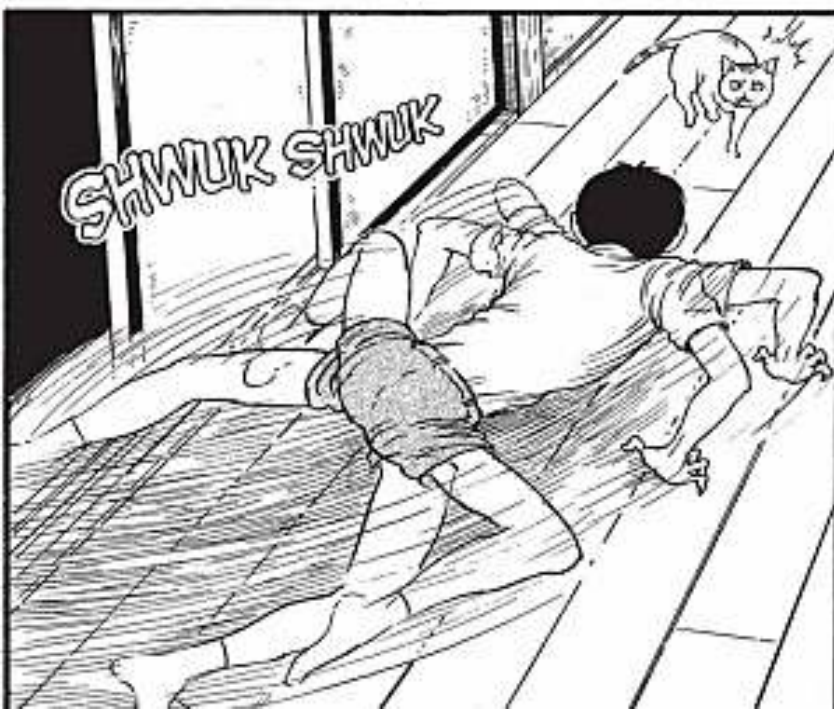
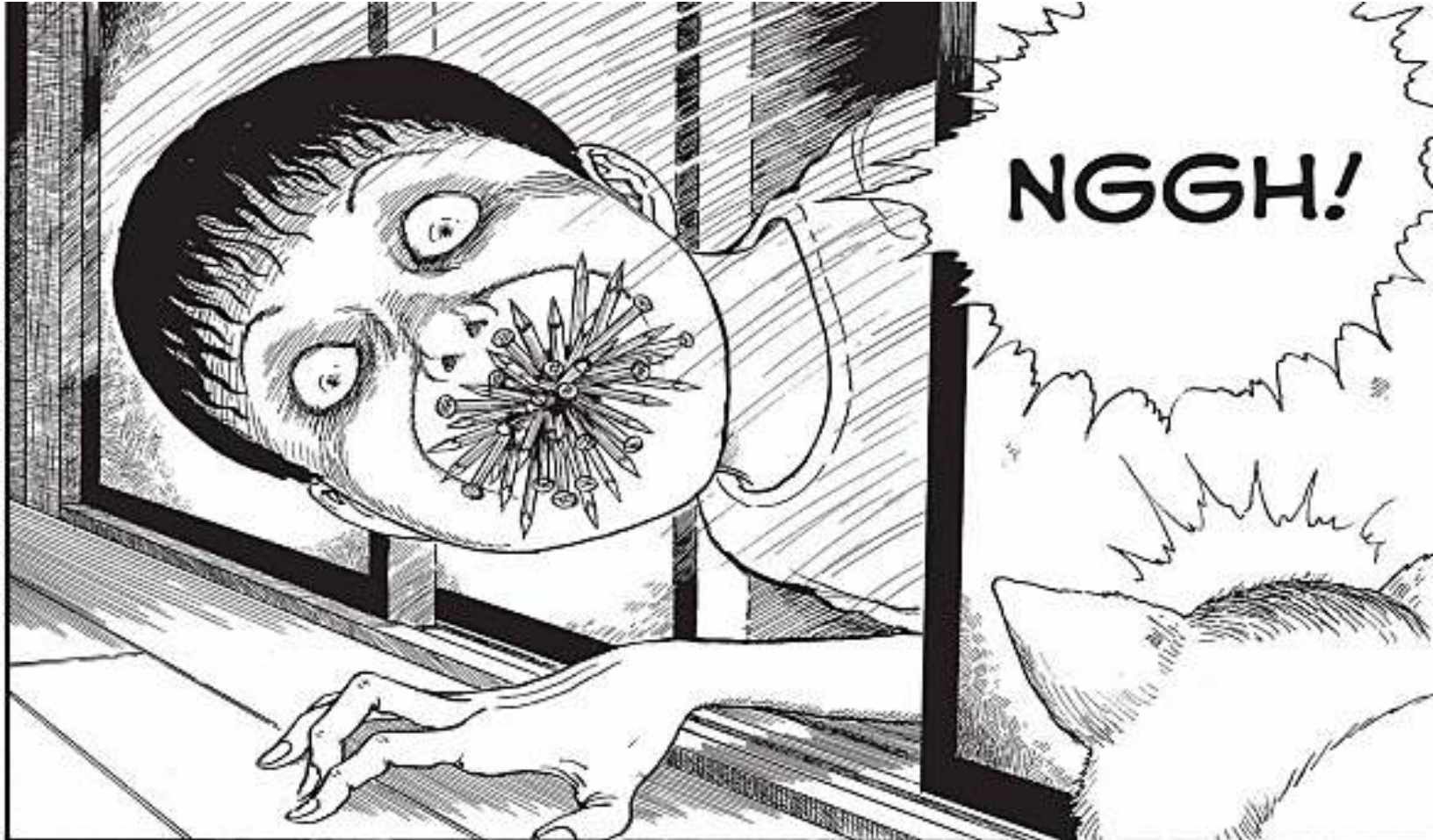
















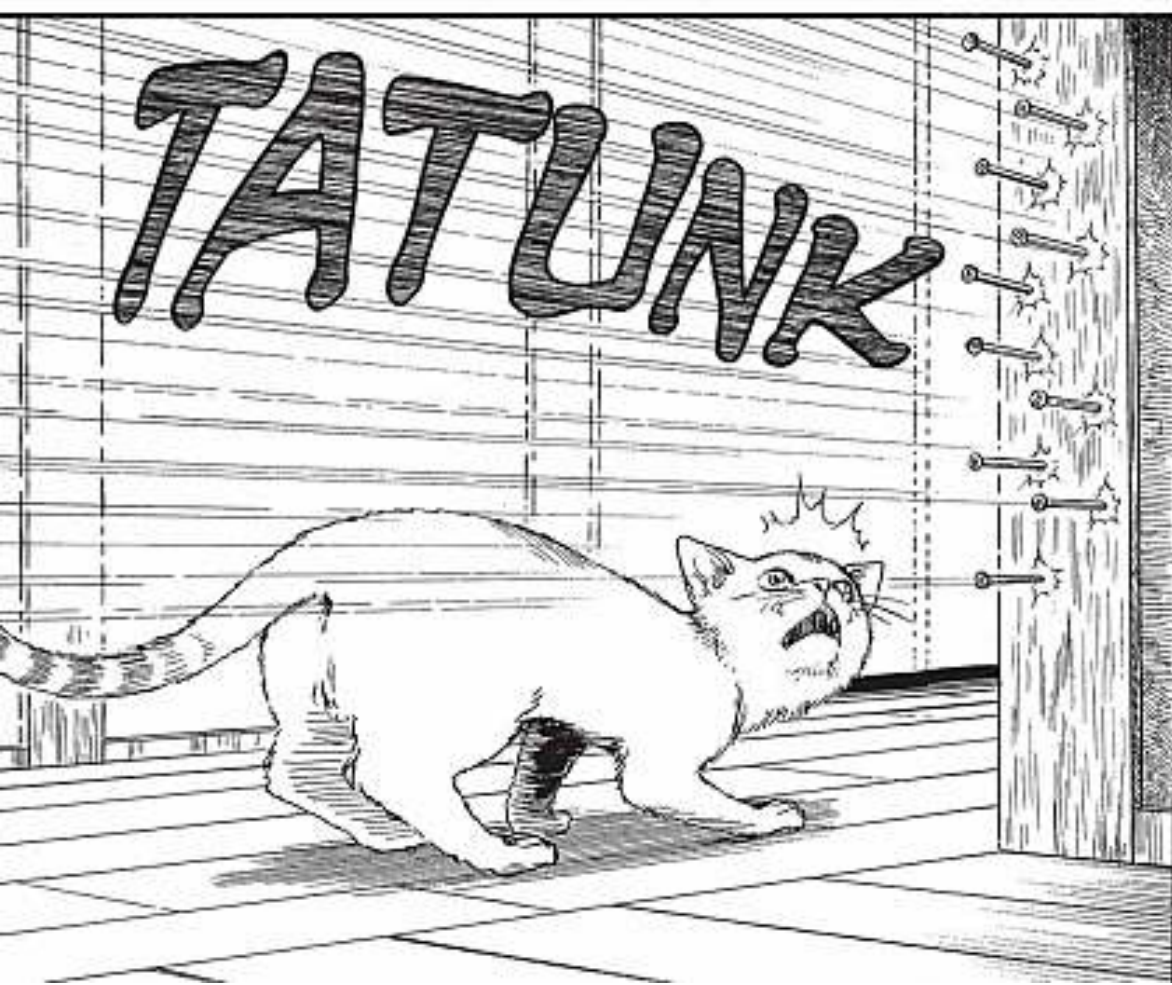
COME  
HERE,  
GALLON.



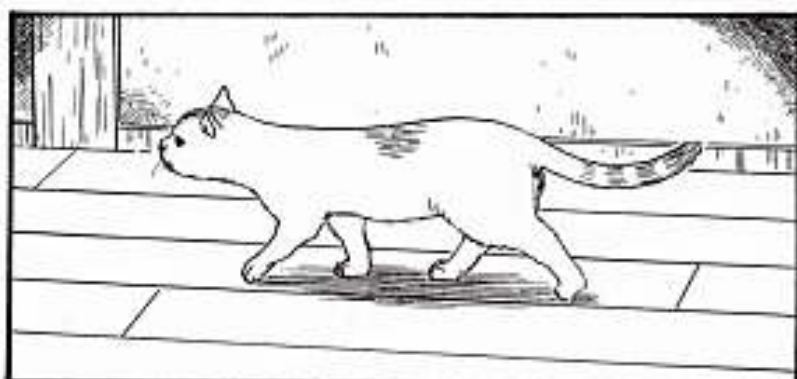
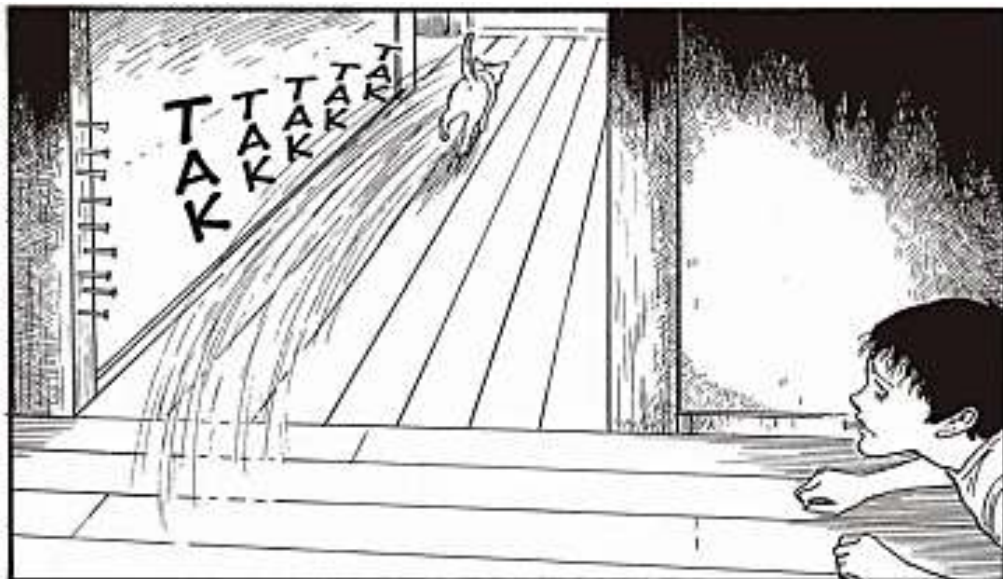
OKAY,  
COME  
ON.



PEFT



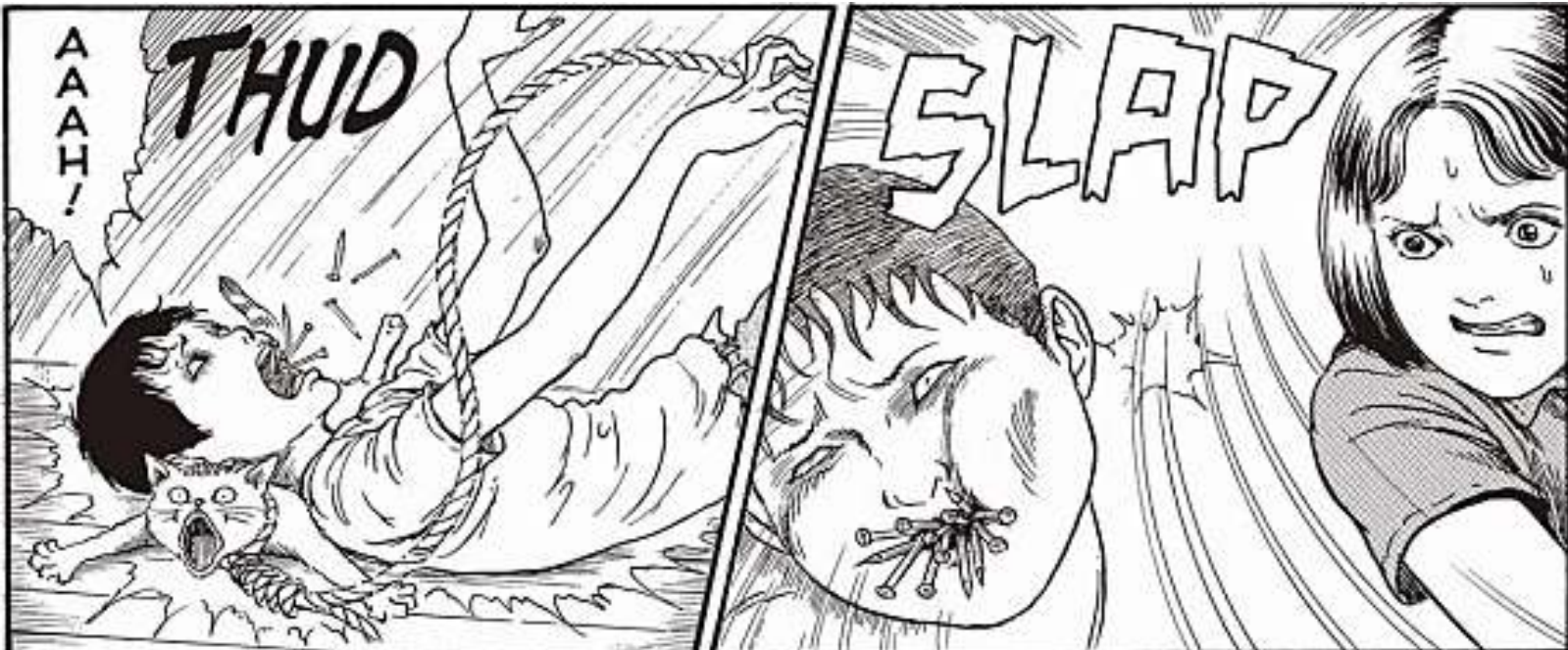














IS  
SOICHI  
OKAY?!

MOM, I'M  
WORRIED. YOU  
ALWAYS SEE THOSE  
CASES WHERE THE  
GUY STARTS OFF  
ABUSING ANIMALS  
AND ENDS UP  
BECOMING A  
MURDERER,  
RIGHT?

THAT'S  
ANIMAL  
ABUSE  
!!

DON'T  
YOU  
EVER  
DO THAT  
AGAIN,  
SOICHI!!

IT'LL  
RIP US  
APART,  
YOU  
KNOW?

IF HE GROWS  
UP LIKE THAT  
AND DOES  
SOMETHING,  
WHAT'LL  
HAPPEN TO  
OUR FAMILY?!

IT'S  
BECAUSE YOU  
BABY HIM LIKE  
THAT! THAT'S  
WHY SOICHI'S  
TURNED OUT  
THIS WAY!!

I DON'T  
THINK YOU  
NEED TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.

NGH! YOU  
CAN TALK  
ALL YOU  
WANT,  
KOICHI.

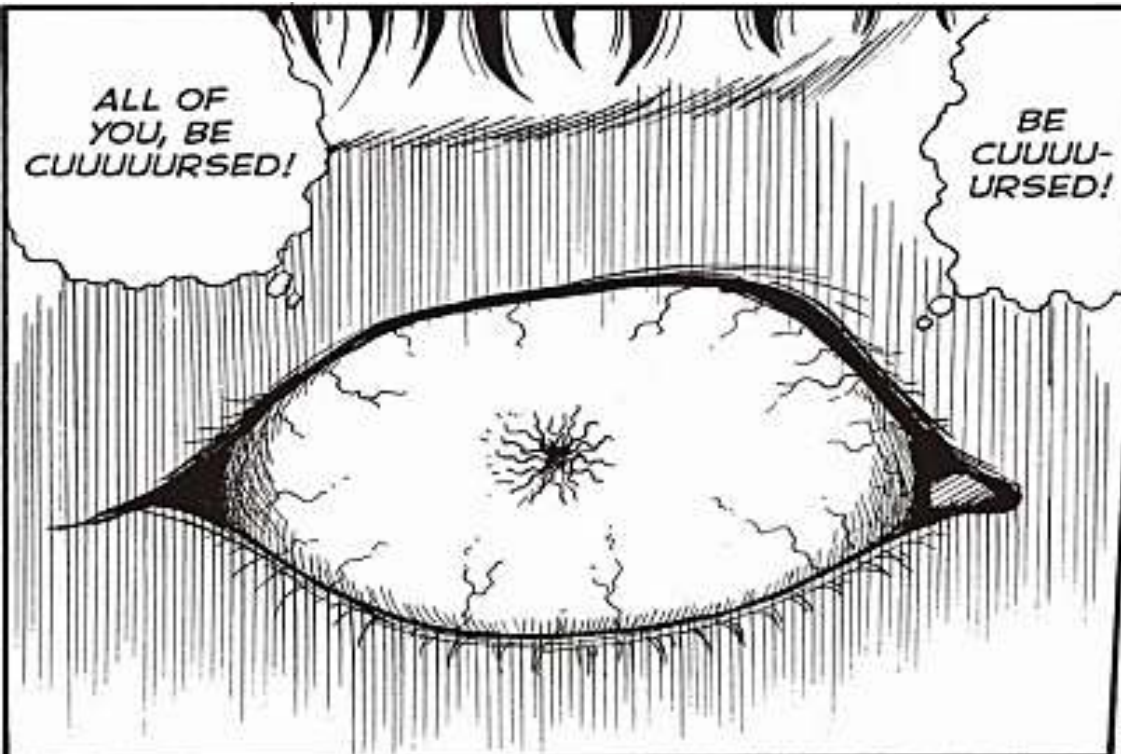
I'LL  
CURSE  
YOU.

WHEN I THINK  
ABOUT OUR  
PRECIOUS  
COLLON BEING  
TORTURED BY  
SOICHI AGAIN, I  
CAN'T STAND IT!

LISTEN! HE  
CAN'T LOVE  
ANIMALS,  
AND HE  
CAN'T LOVE  
PEOPLE.  
HE'S A  
DISASTER.

WE HAVE TO FIX  
HIS TWISTED  
PERSONALITY  
NOW BEFORE  
THINGS GET  
REALLY BAD!!





ALL OF  
YOU, BE  
CUUUUUURSED!

BE  
CUUUU-  
URSED!



I'LL  
CURSE  
YOOO-  
OUUU!

I'LL  
CURSE  
YOOO-  
OUUU!



AH!

SHOCK



OKAY,  
HERE.

HEY,  
SAYURI,  
LET ME  
HOLD  
HER,  
TOO!



HEH  
HEH  
HEH!



HM?

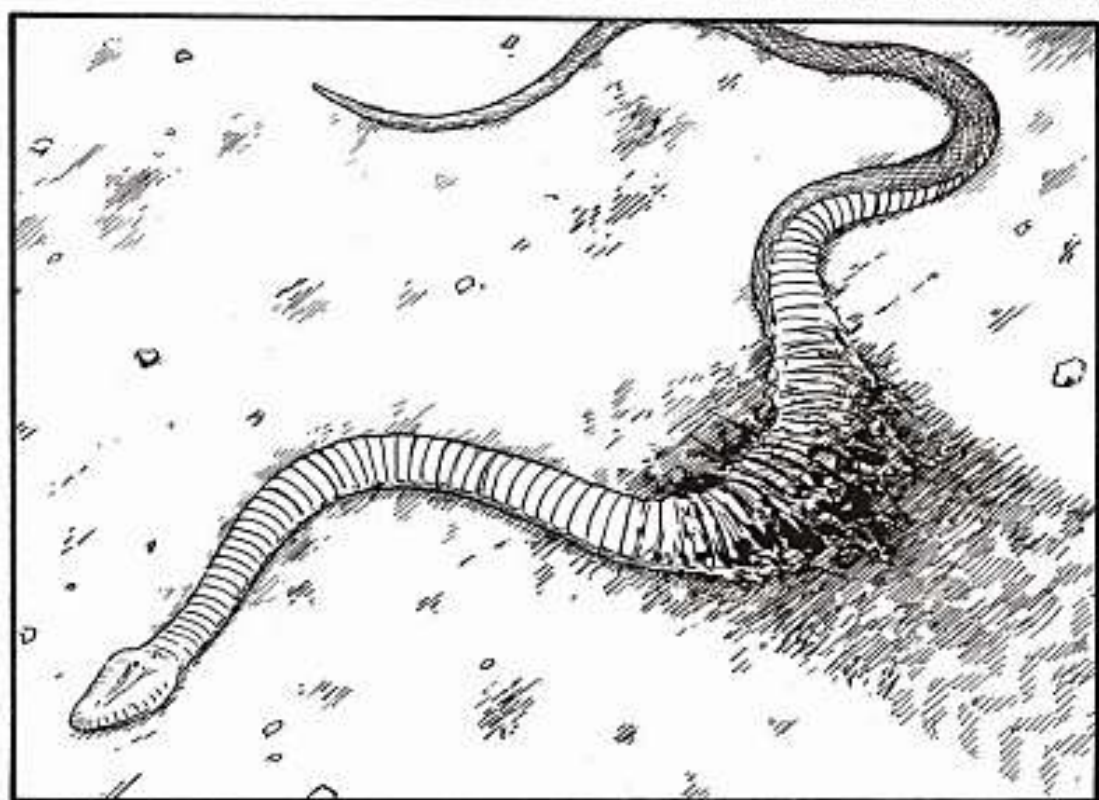
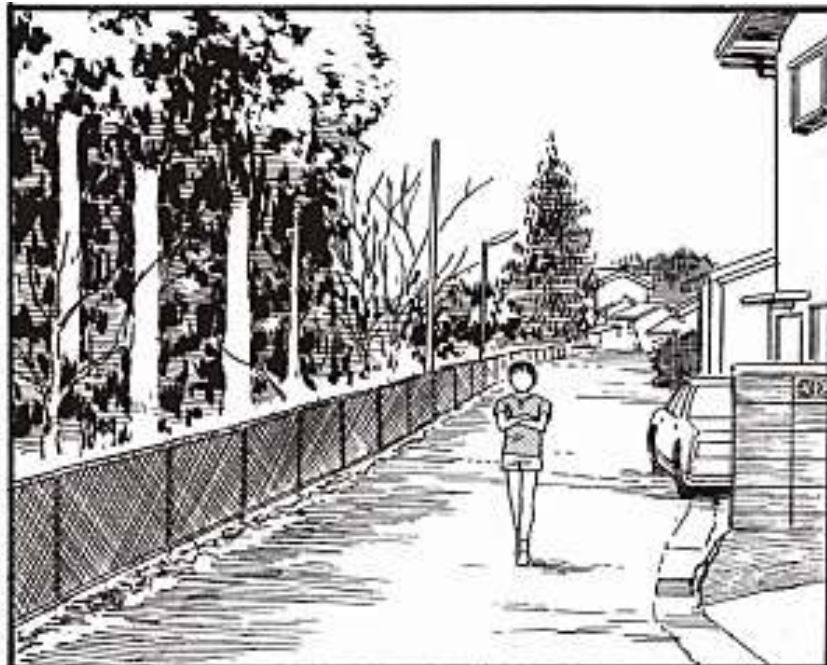
I JUST  
GOT A  
SHOCK.



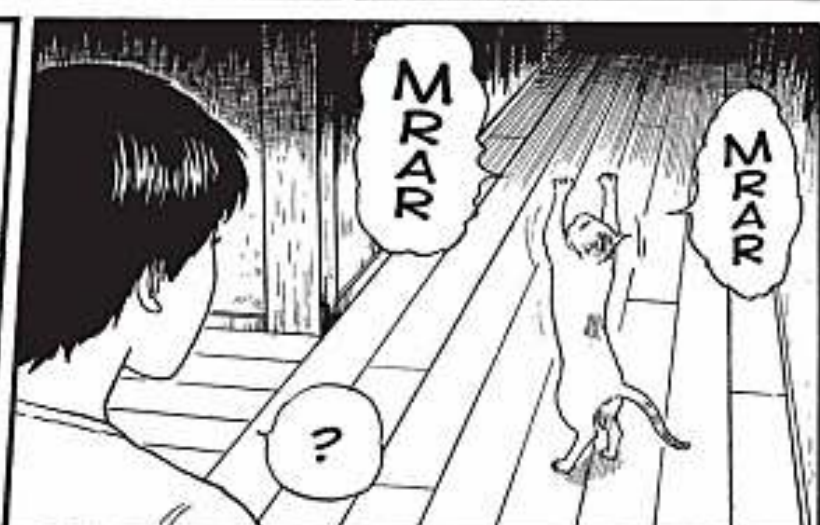
I GOT A  
SHOCK  
BEFORE,  
TOO.

OH,  
JUST  
STATIC,  
PROBABLY.











KOICHI,  
LOOK!!  
THAT CAT  
TOY!

AH  
!!

SOICHI?  
WHEN'D  
YOU GET  
A CAT  
TOY—

IT'S REAL,  
TOO. NOW  
THIS STRAY  
CAT IS MY  
SLAVE.

KEE  
SHEE  
SHEE.  
IT IS.

IT'S A  
DEAD  
SNAKE  
!!

WHY  
WOULD  
YOU DO  
THAT?!  
YOU'LL BE  
HAUNTED  
BY THE  
SNAKE  
!!

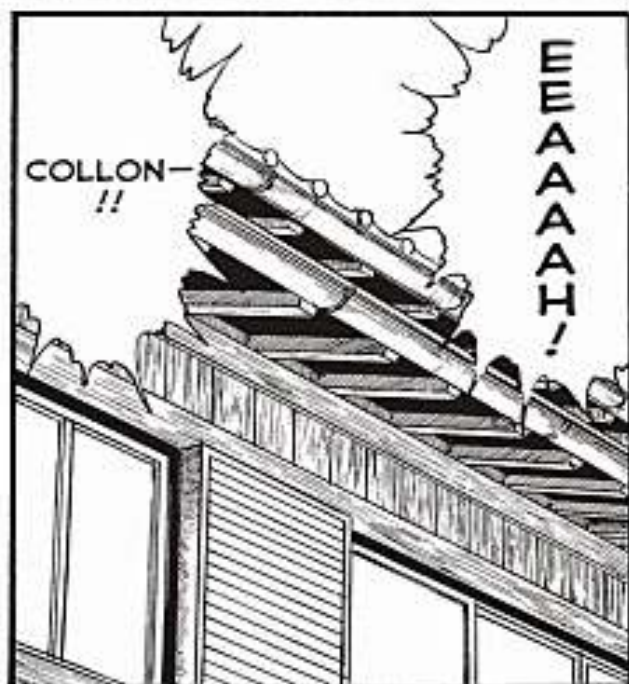
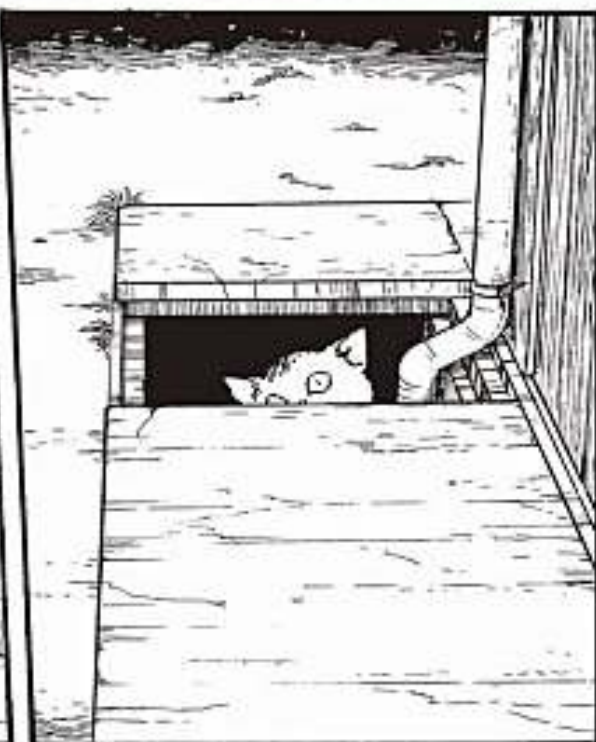
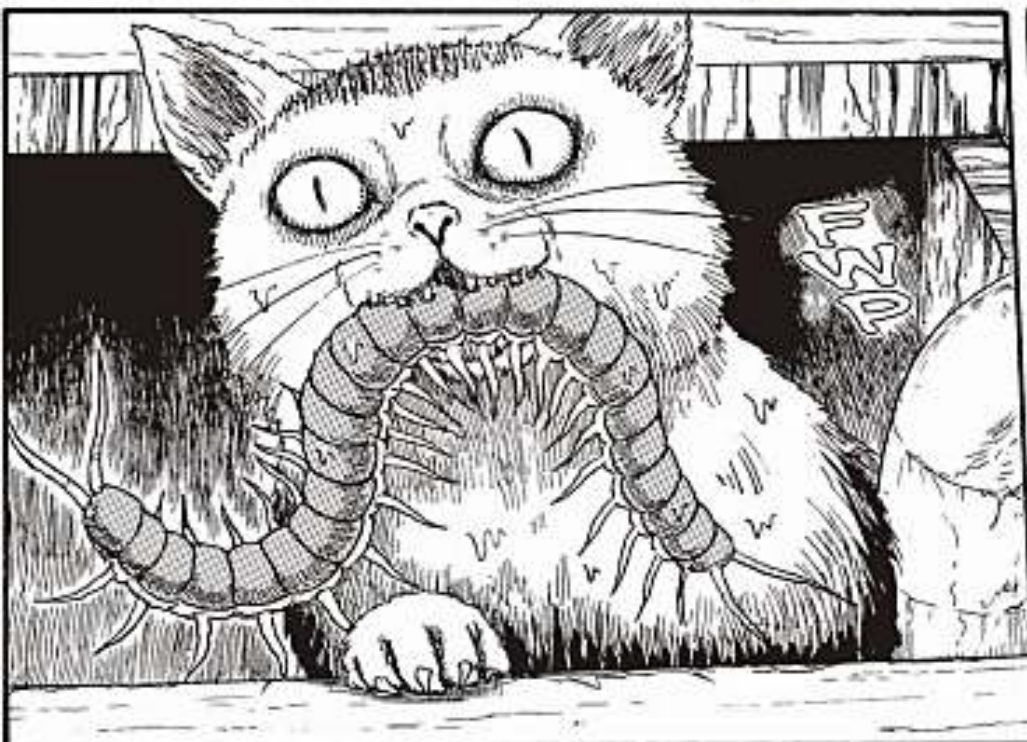
IDIOT!  
GO  
THROW  
THAT  
THING  
AWAY!

KEE  
SHEE  
SHEE  
SHEE!  
LET IT  
HAUNT  
ME IF IT  
CAN.

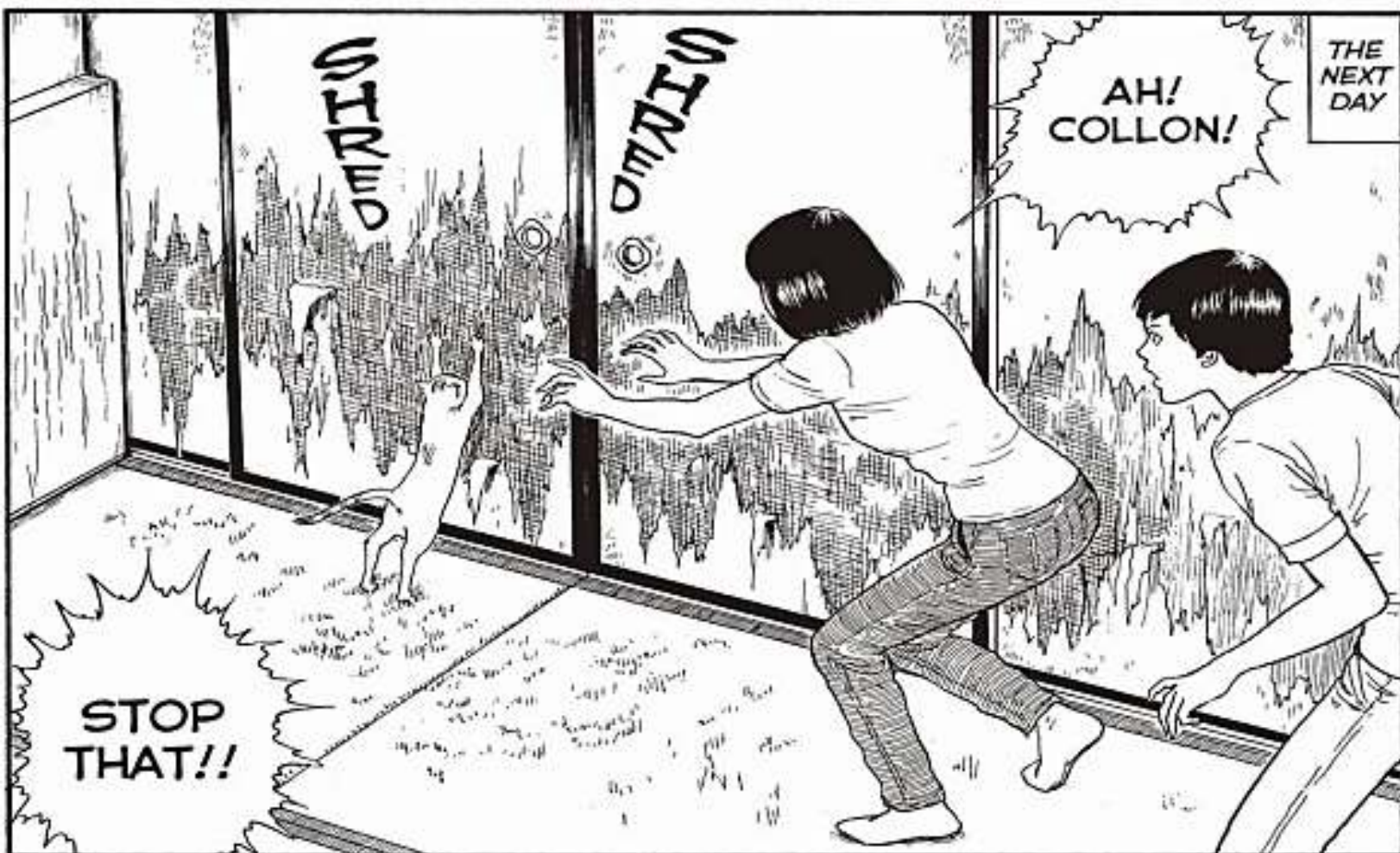




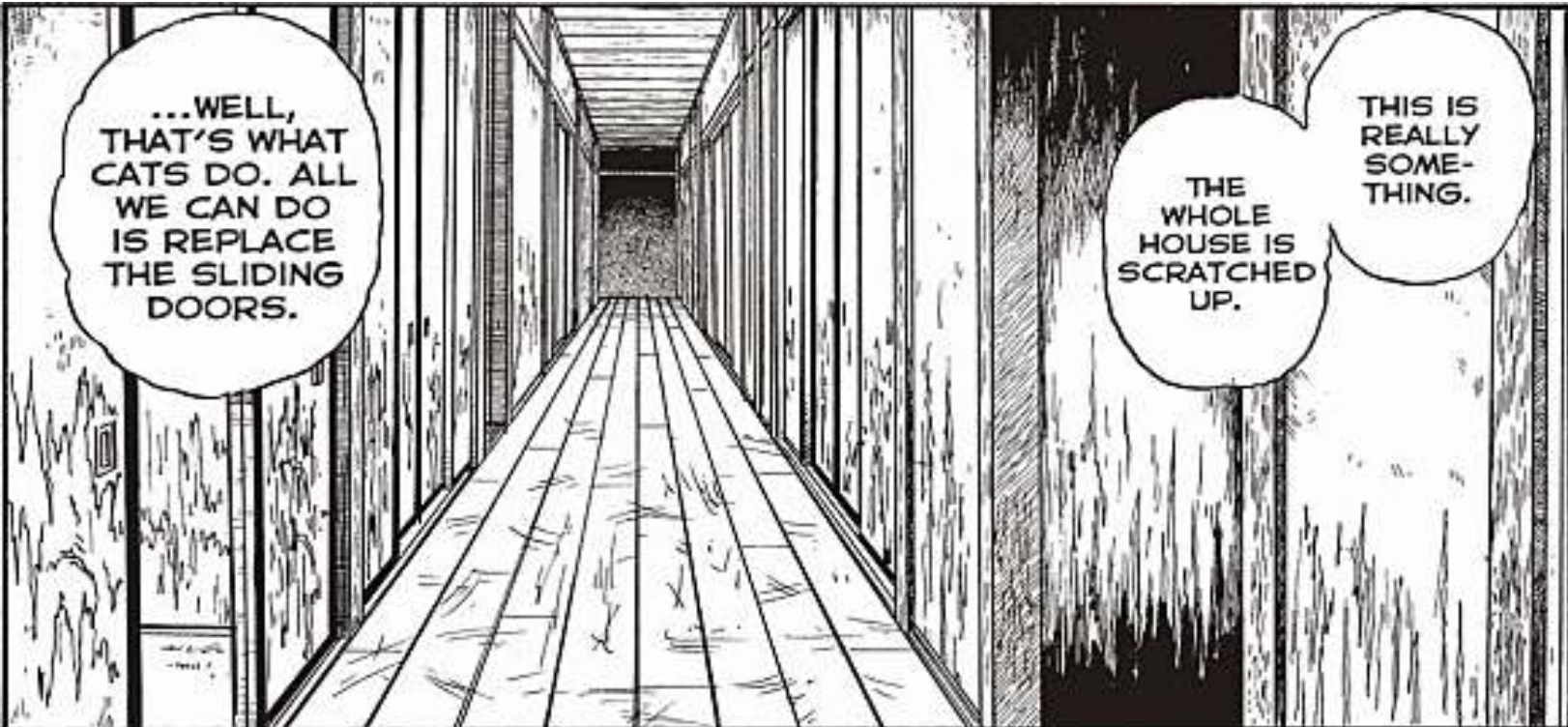












...WELL,  
THAT'S WHAT  
CATS DO. ALL  
WE CAN DO  
IS REPLACE  
THE SLIDING  
DOORS.

THE  
WHOLE  
HOUSE IS  
SCRATCHED  
UP.

THIS IS  
REALLY  
SOME-  
THING.



HEH HEH HEH.  
I'LL MAKE YOU  
TASTE EVEN  
MORE OF MY  
CURSES...

THEY HAVE  
NO IDEA  
THAT ALL  
THIS IS DUE  
TO MY  
MASTERFUL  
CURSE.

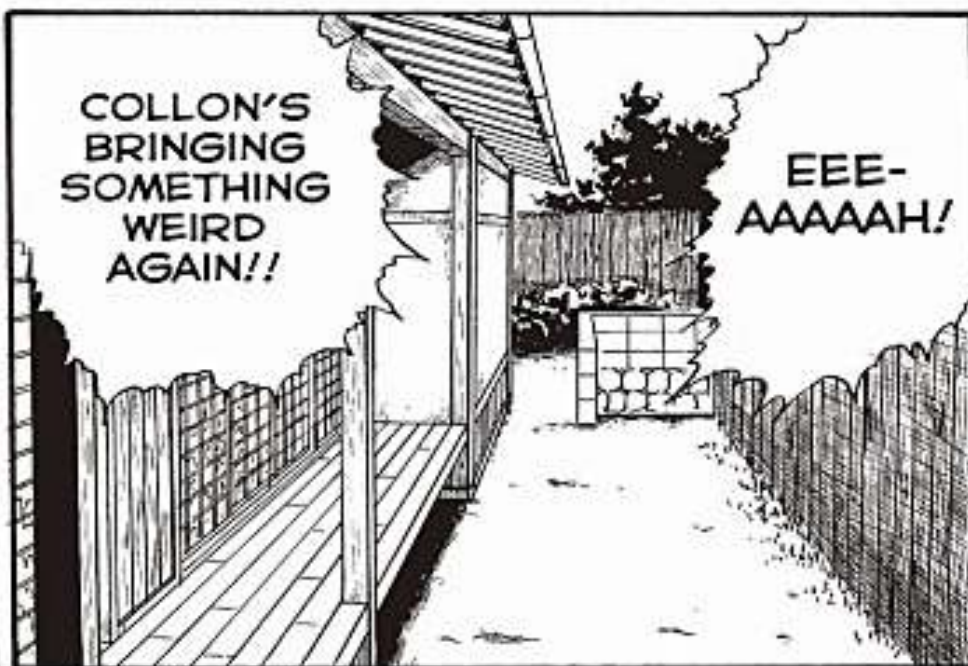


BUT SHE  
WASN'T  
DOING THIS  
STUFF UNTIL  
A LITTLE A  
WHILE AGO.



LOOK,  
KOICHI!

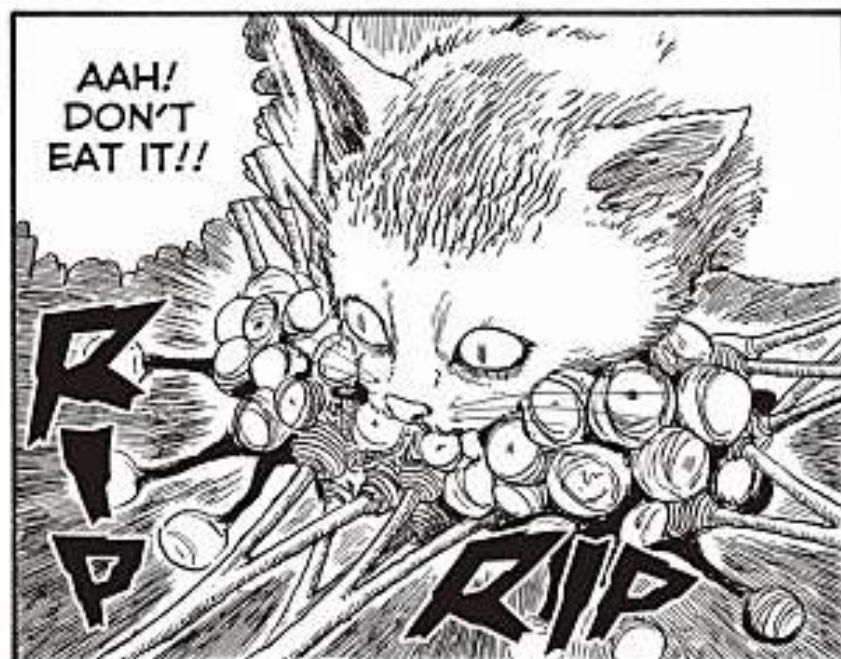
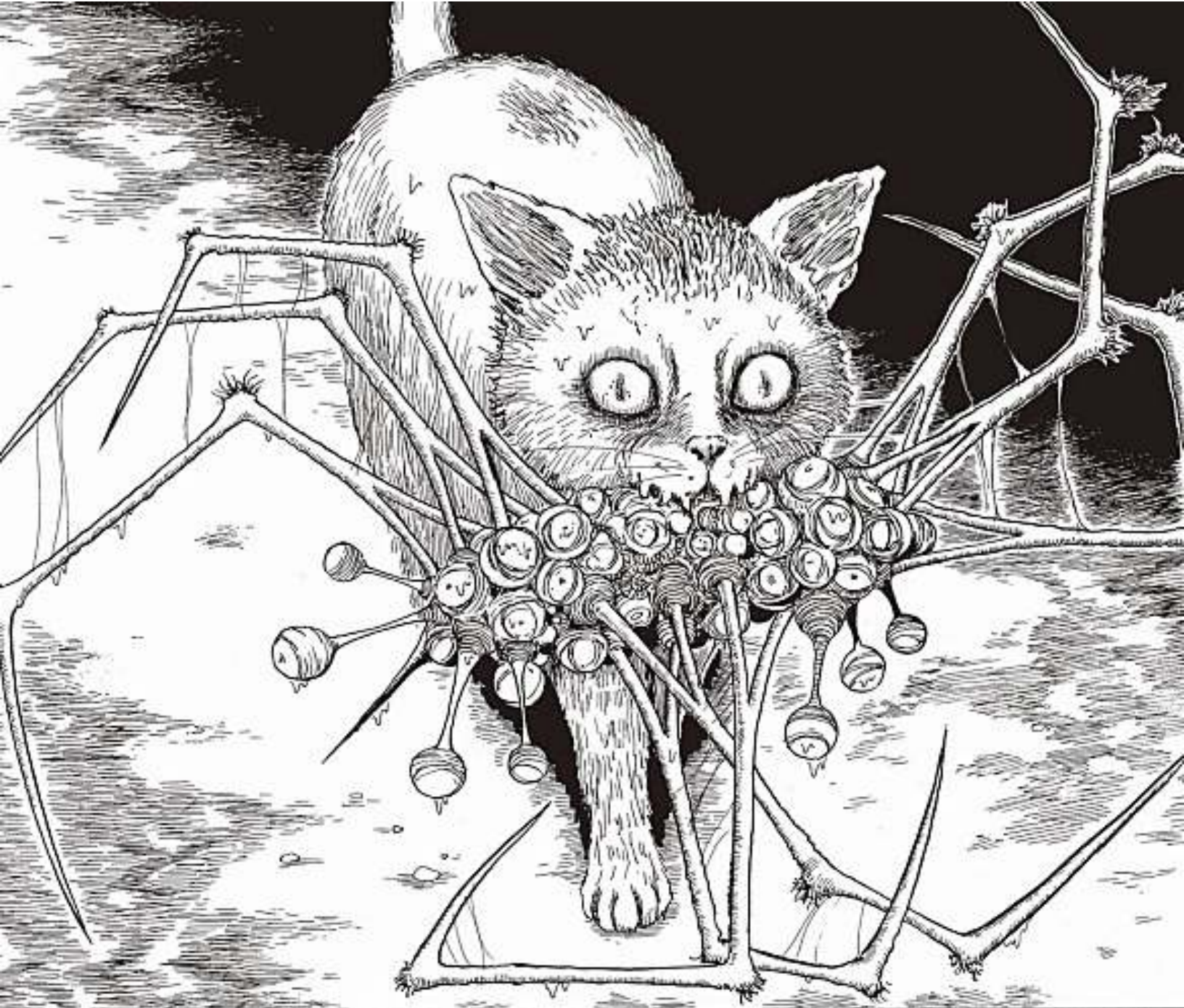
WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
SAYURI?!



COLLON'S  
BRINGING  
SOMETHING  
WEIRD  
AGAIN!!

EEE-  
AAAAAH!





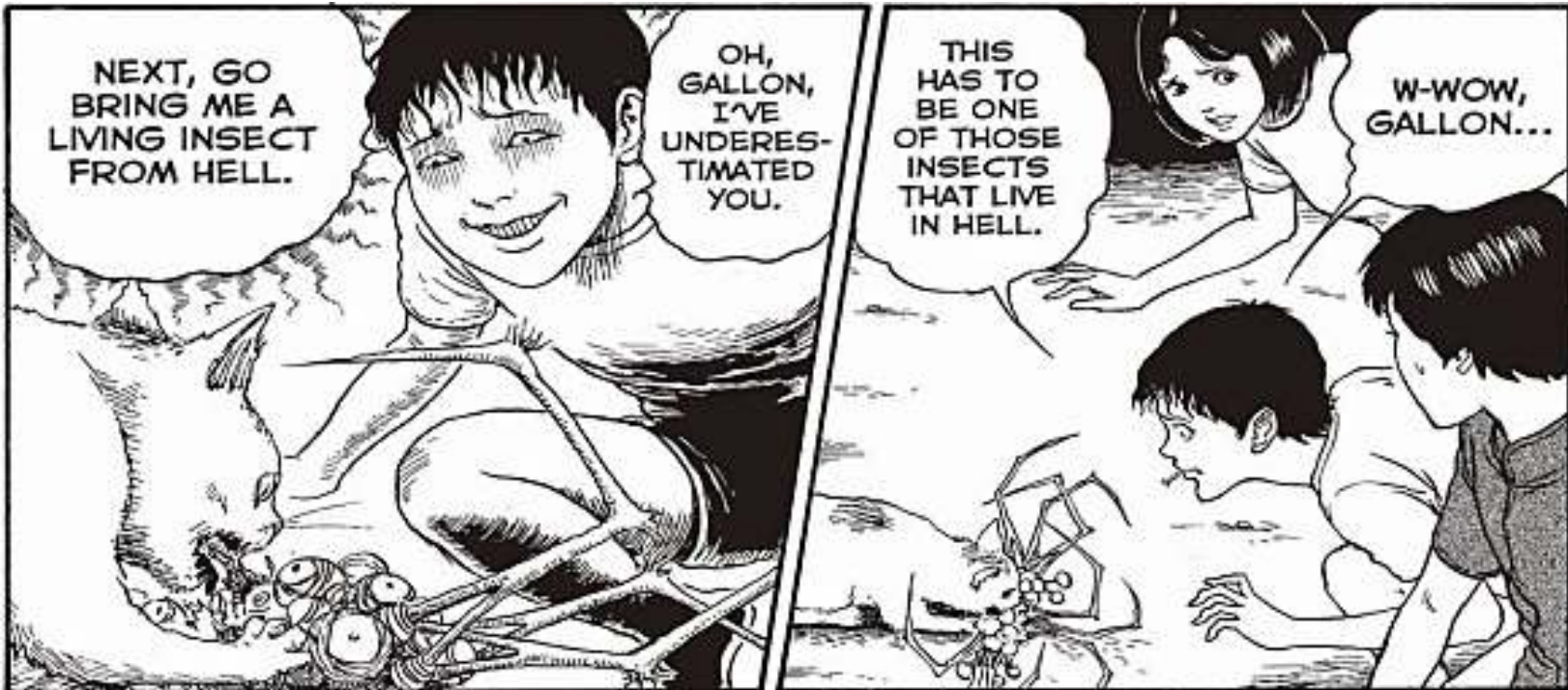


NEXT, GO  
BRING ME A  
LIVING INSECT  
FROM HELL.

OH,  
GALLON,  
I'VE UNDER-  
ESTIMATED  
YOU.

THIS  
HAS TO  
BE ONE  
OF THOSE  
INSECTS  
THAT LIVE  
IN HELL.

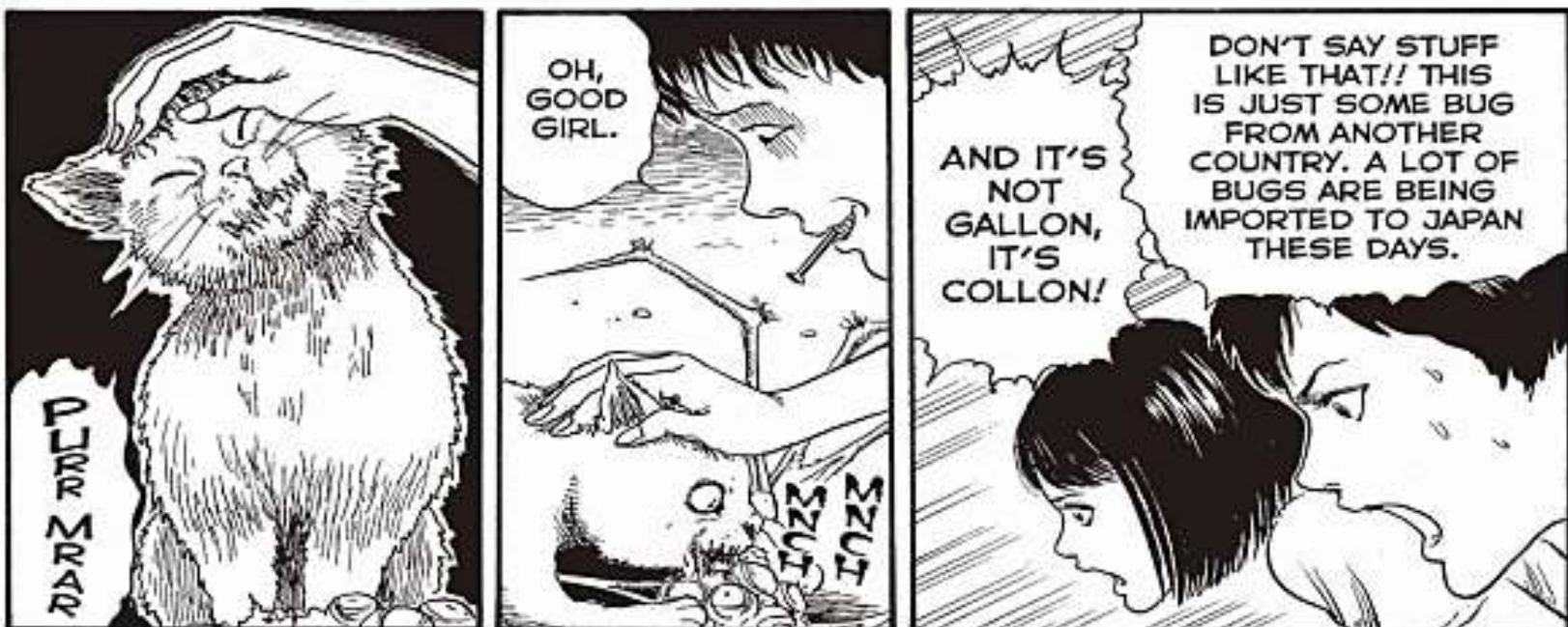
W-WOW,  
GALLON...



OH,  
GOOD  
GIRL.

AND IT'S  
NOT  
GALLON,  
IT'S  
COLLON!

DON'T SAY STUFF  
LIKE THAT!! THIS  
IS JUST SOME BUG  
FROM ANOTHER  
COUNTRY. A LOT OF  
BUGS ARE BEING  
IMPORTED TO JAPAN  
THESE DAYS.



MY MIGHTY  
CURSE IS  
GRADUALLY  
TAKING  
SHAPE.

HEH  
HEH  
HEH.  
THE  
CURSE...



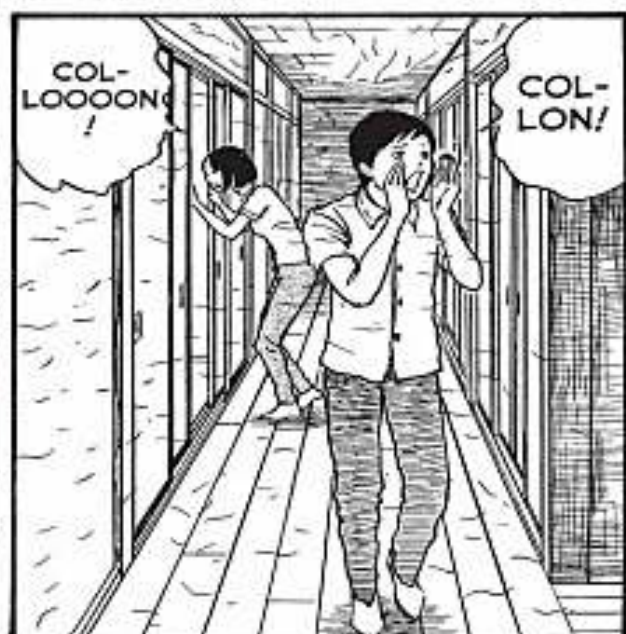
COME  
HERE,  
COLLON!



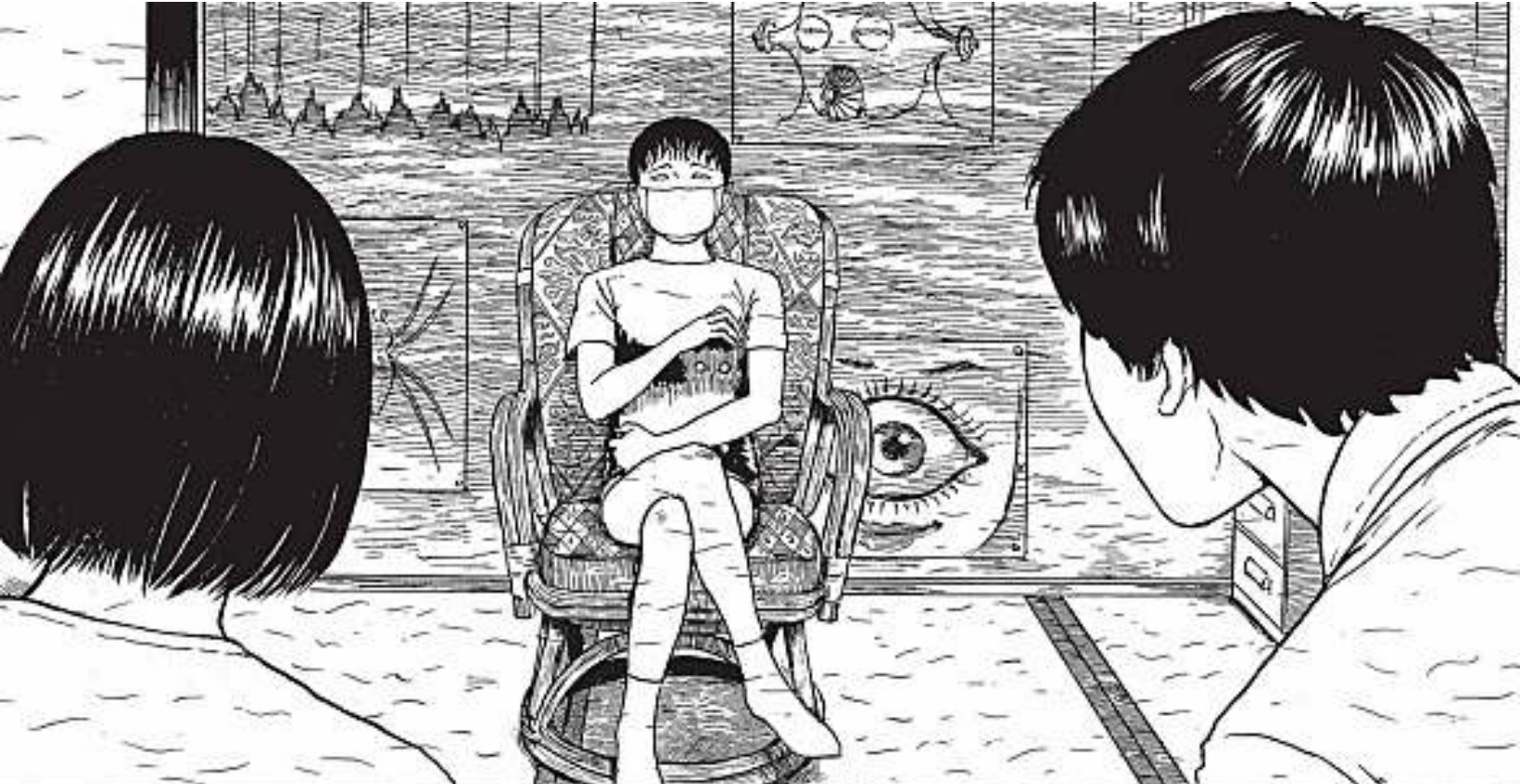










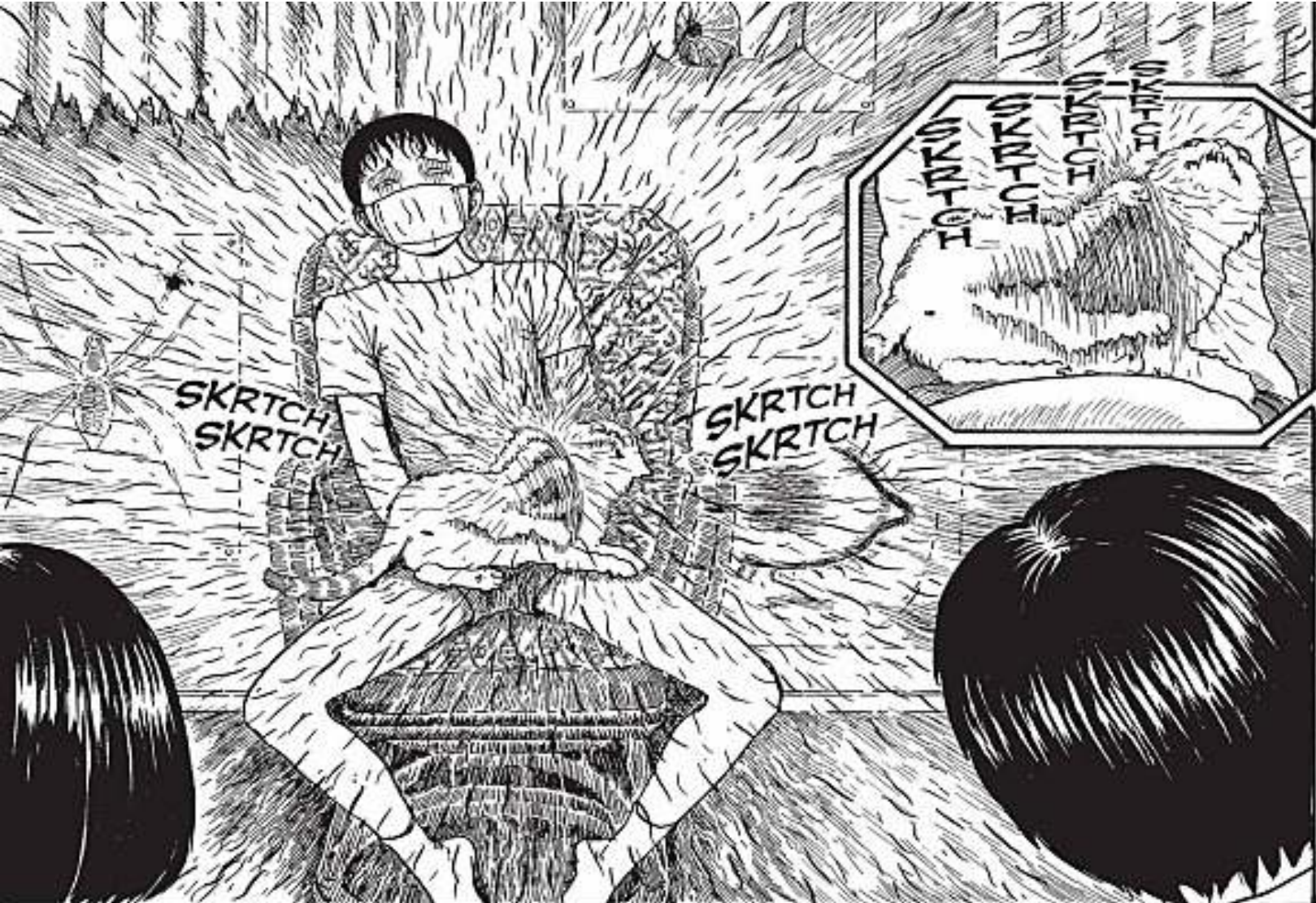


AND HERE I  
AM, WITH AN  
ANIMAL WHO  
LOVES ME.  
PRETTY NICE  
WORK AS A  
HUMAN  
BEING, HM?



Y'KNOW,  
ANIMALS  
REALLY  
ARE  
ADORABLE.







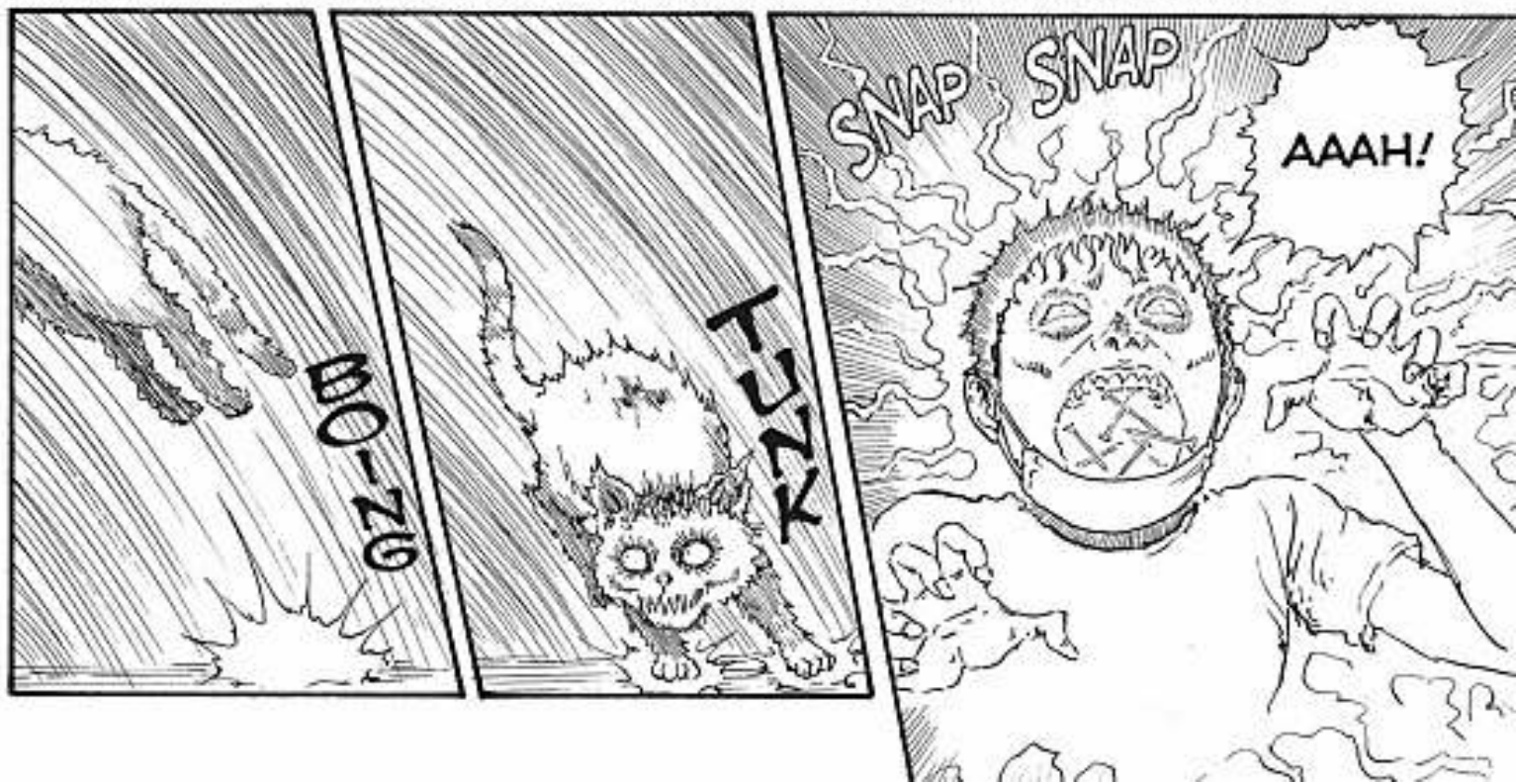




# **CRACKLE**



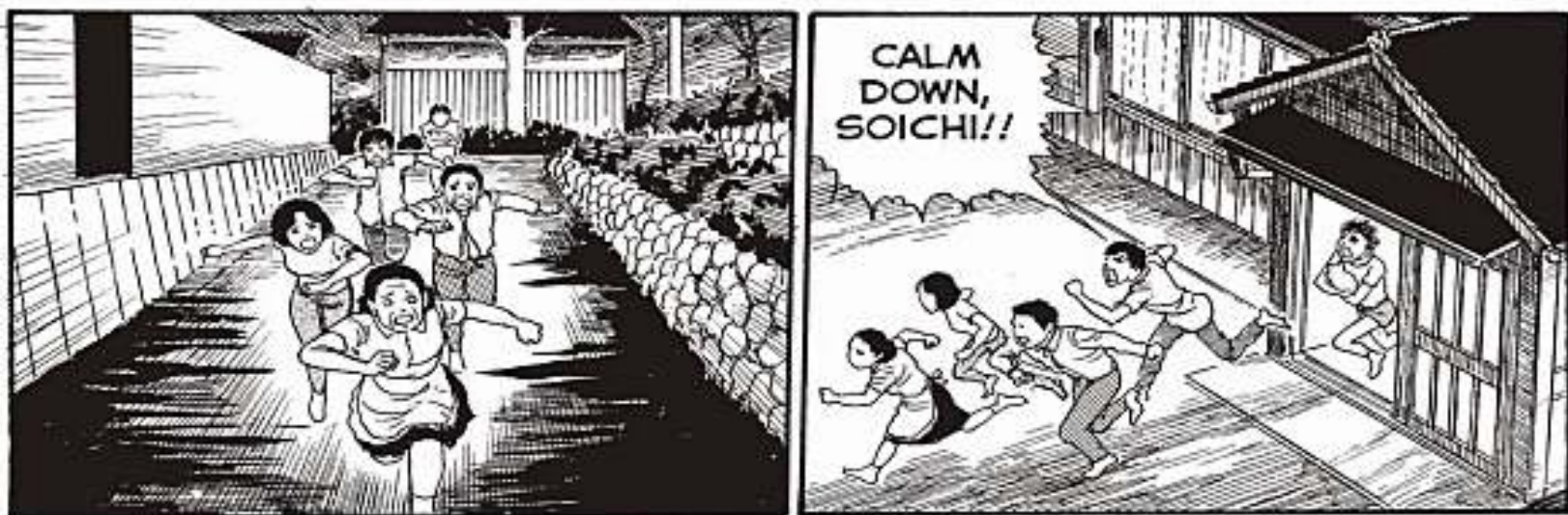
















**KA BOON**





GOOD-  
NESS.  
HE'S  
LUCKY HE  
WAS ONLY  
HURT, HM?

I HEARD  
A BOY GOT  
STRUCK BY IT.  
HE WAS HURT  
PRETTY BADLY.

FUKAZAWA  
HOSPITAL

FUKAZAWA  
HOSPITAL

EVEN  
THOUGH  
THE SKY  
WAS CLEAR  
ENOUGH TO  
SEE THE  
STARS.

THERE WAS  
LIGHTNING  
LAST NIGHT.

THANKS  
TO THAT  
ELECTRIC  
SHOCK.

COLLON'S  
BACK TO  
NORMAL.

COLLON

YOOY YOOY  
YOOY YOOY

BE  
CUUUURSED  
!  
BE  
CUUUURSED  
!

SHUT  
UP...

SOICHI?  
DOES IT  
HURT?



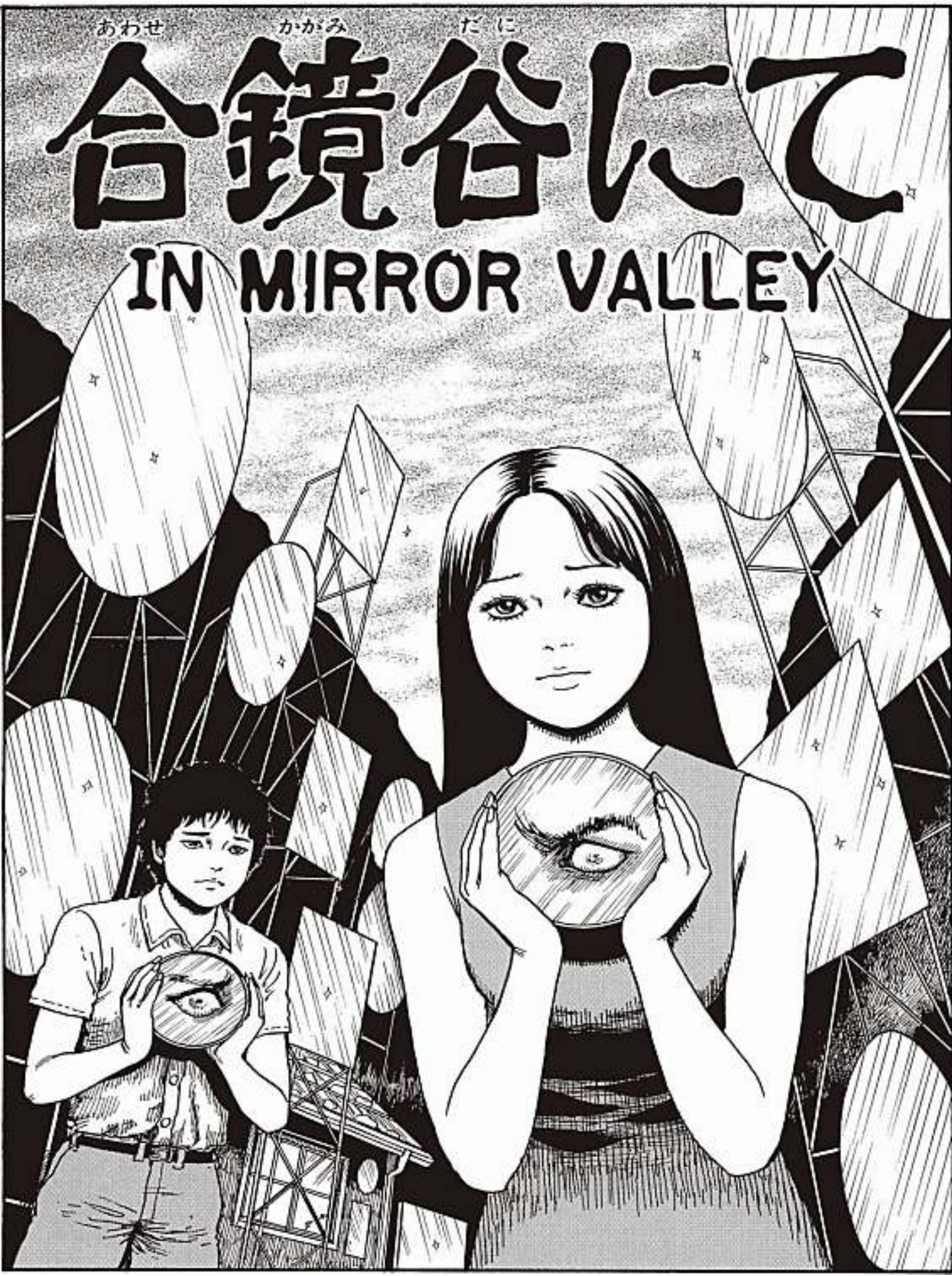
あわせ

かがみ

だに

# 合鏡谷にて

IN MIRROR VALLEY





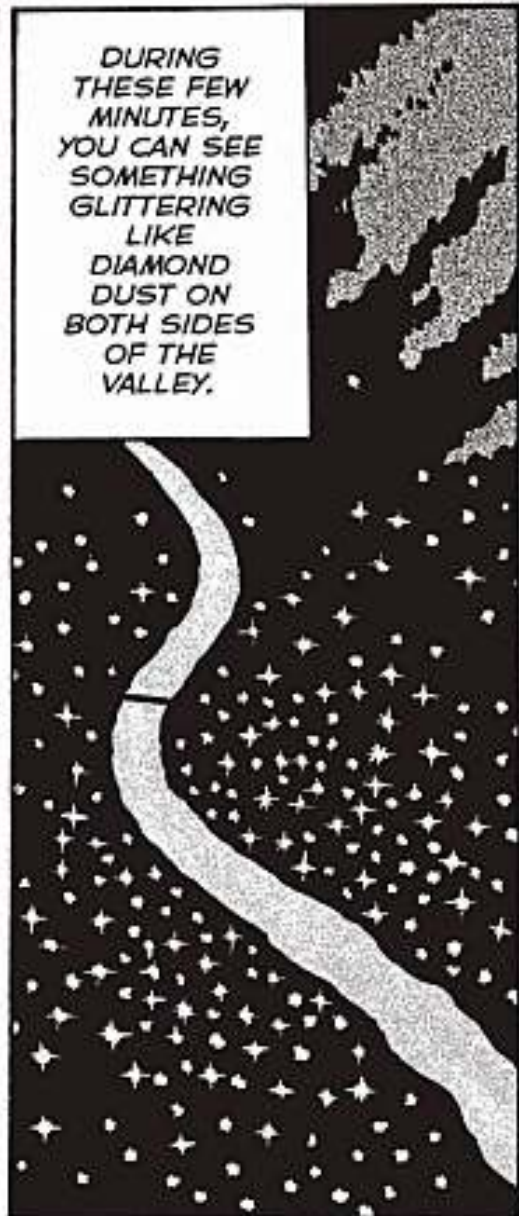


AND IN  
WINTER,  
THE SUN  
BARELY  
SHINES ON  
ITS STEEP  
SLOPES,  
MERE  
MINUTES  
A DAY.

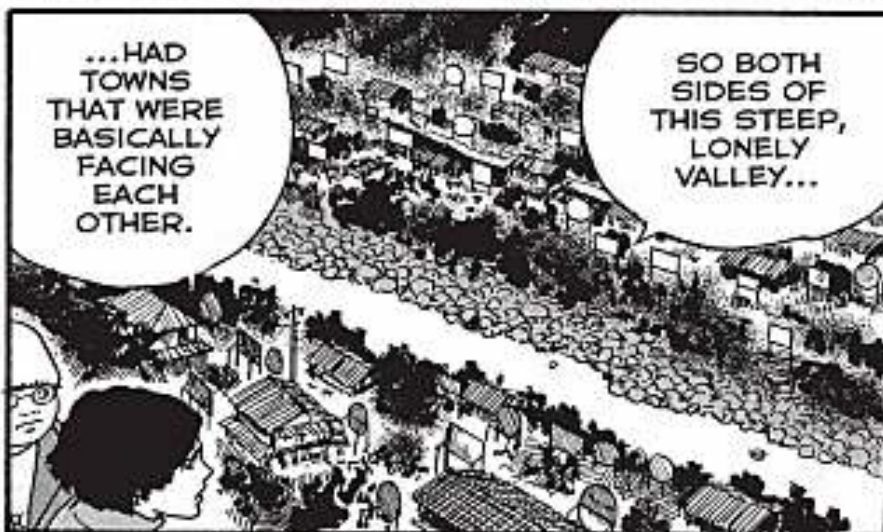
IF YOU FOLLOW  
THE K RIVER—  
SQUEEZED  
BETWEEN TWO  
PREFECTURES—  
UPSTREAM, YOU  
EVENTUALLY  
ARRIVE AT A  
LONESOME  
RAVINE.



DURING  
THESE FEW  
MINUTES,  
YOU CAN SEE  
SOMETHING  
GLITTERING  
LIKE  
DIAMOND  
DUST ON  
BOTH SIDES  
OF THE  
VALLEY.







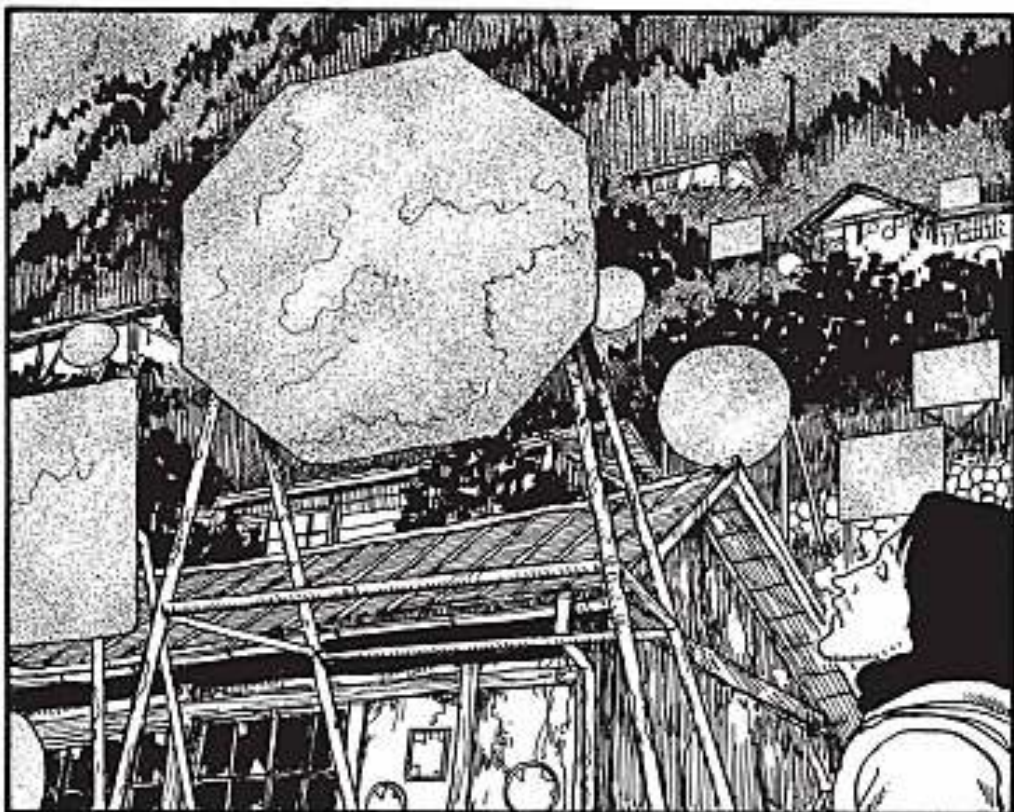
...HAD  
TOWNS  
THAT WERE  
BASICALLY  
FACING  
EACH  
OTHER.

SO BOTH  
SIDES OF  
THIS STEEP,  
LONELY  
VALLEY...



DUNNO. IT'S  
BEEN MAYBE  
DECADES  
SINCE  
ANYONE  
LIVED HERE.

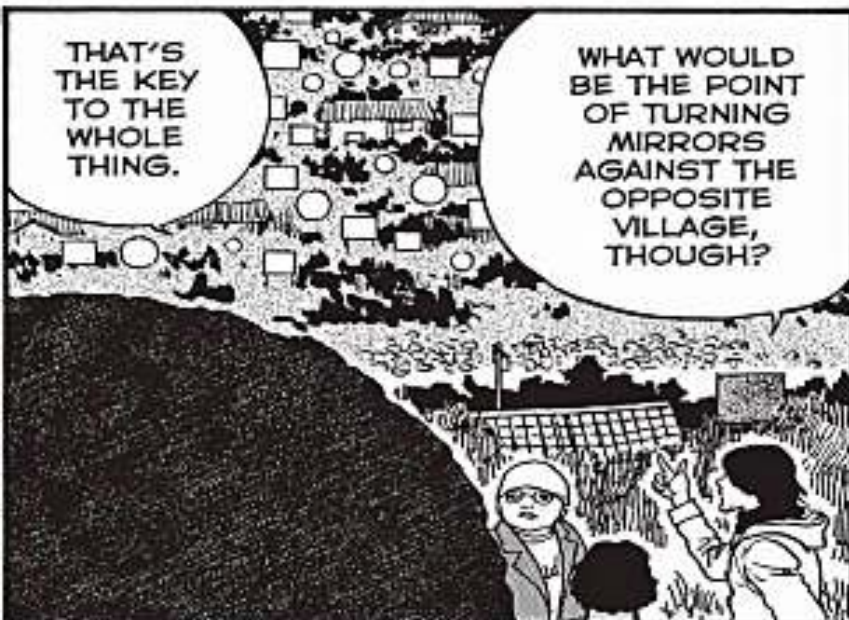
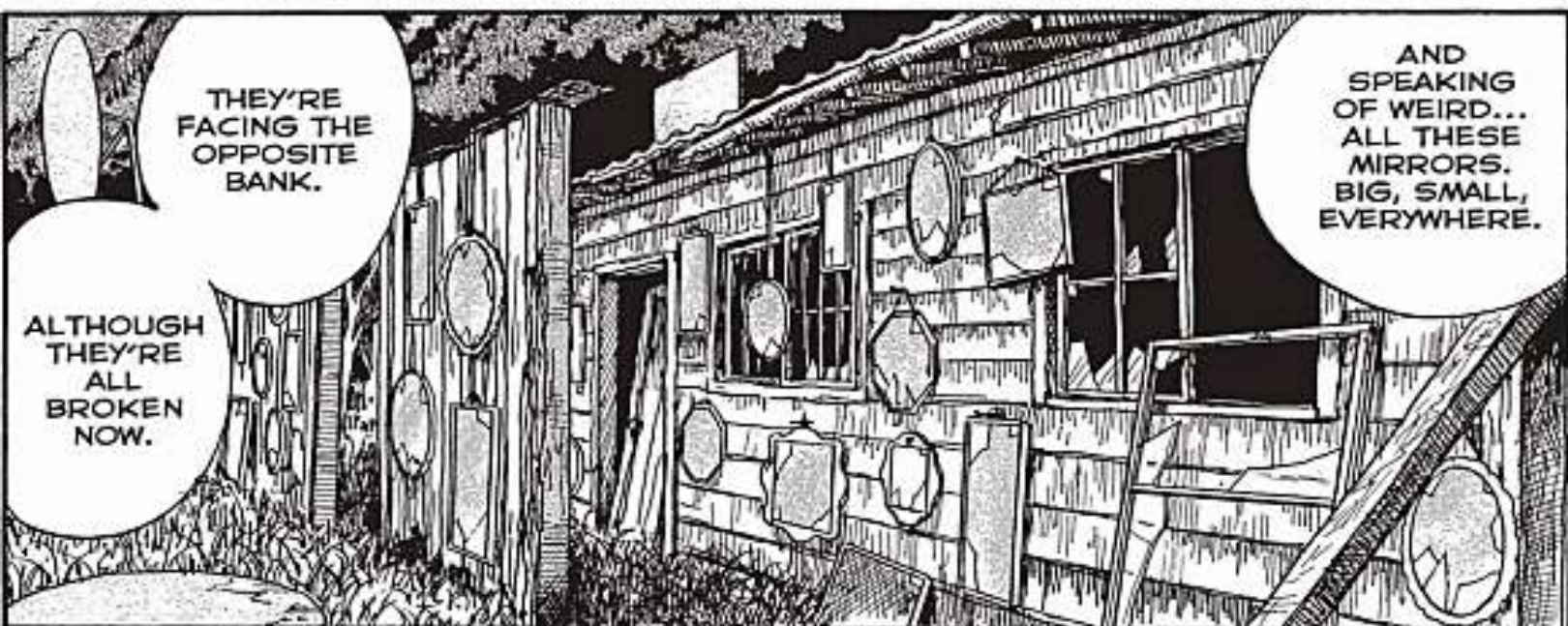
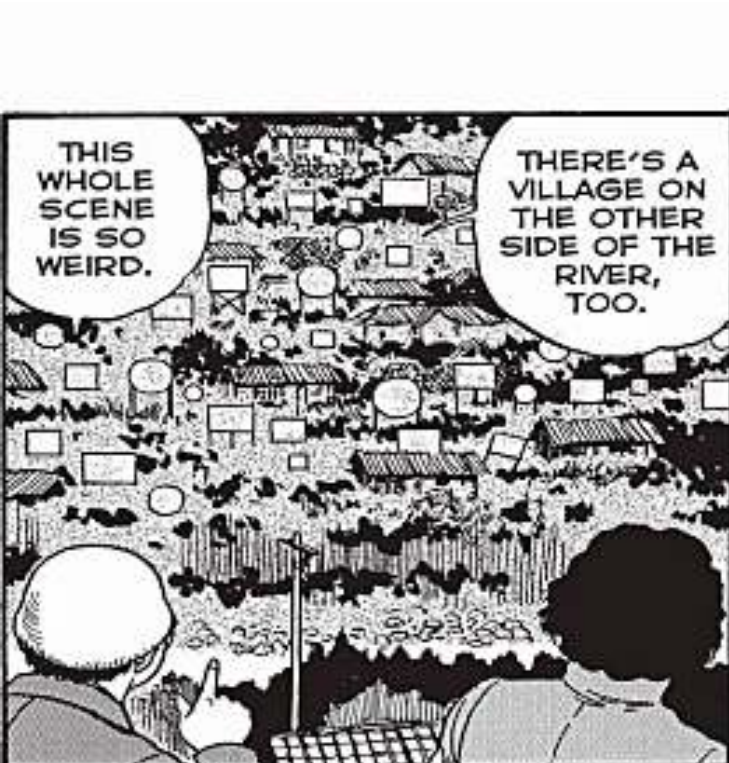
HEY,  
OKAMURA,  
WHEN WAS  
THIS VILLAGE  
ABANDONED?



BUT WHAT'S  
ALL THIS  
GLASS  
SCATTERED  
EVERYWHERE?

IT'S LIKE  
SHARDS  
OF A  
MIRROR,  
HUH?







EVENTUALLY,  
THOUGH, THEY HAD A  
BIG FIGHT AND SPLIT  
INTO TWO GROUPS.  
EACH GROUP BUILT  
THEIR OWN VILLAGE  
ON OPPOSITE SIDES  
OF THE RIVER.

THE CLAN  
WAS MOSTLY  
RELATED BY  
BLOOD.



RUMOR HAS  
IT THAT A  
LONG, LONG  
TIME AGO...

...A CLAN  
RAN AWAY  
TO THIS  
VALLEY  
AND BUILT  
THIS TOWN.



AND NO ONE  
KNOWS WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO THE  
PEOPLE  
WHO LIVED  
HERE.

BUT A FEW  
DECADES AGO,  
BOTH OF THE  
VILLAGES WERE  
SUDDENLY  
ABANDONED.



THE TWO  
SETTLEMENTS  
CALLED EACH  
OTHER DEVIL'S  
GATE AND DEVIL'S  
BACK GATE.

AND  
THAT HOS-  
TILE RELA-  
TIONSHIP  
CONTINUED  
WELL INTO  
THE LAST  
CENTURY.



UH-  
HUH...



WHAT  
HAPPENED  
BACK  
THEN...

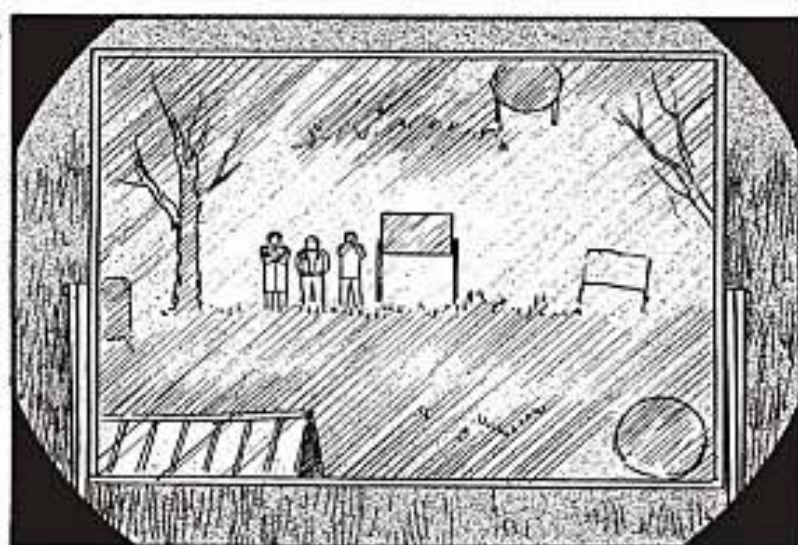
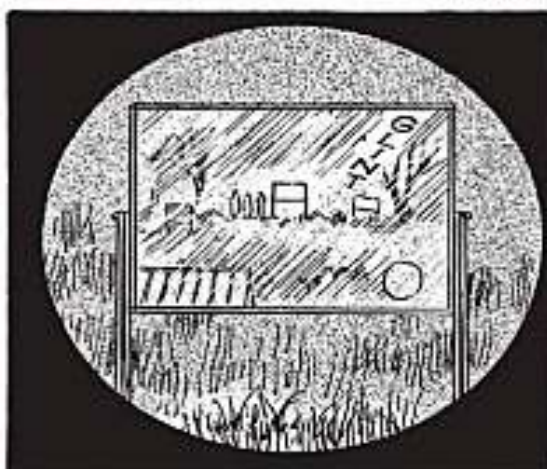
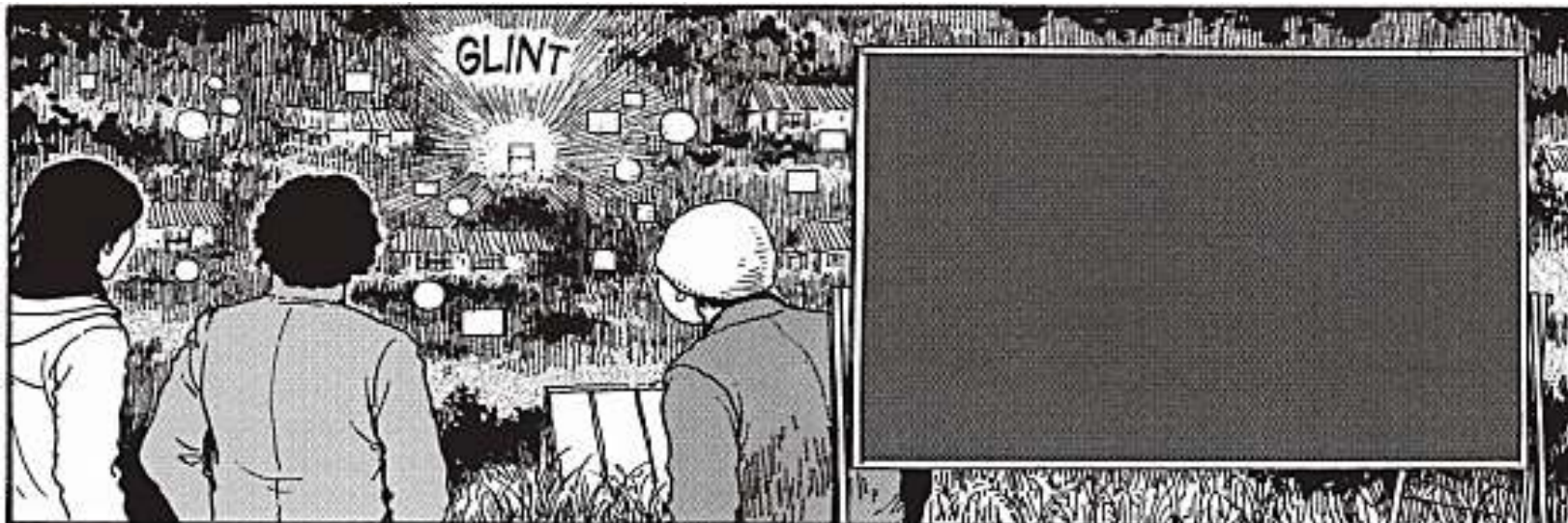
I THINK  
ALL OF  
THESE  
MIRRORS  
ARE THE  
KEY TO  
UNLOCKING  
THE  
MYSTERY.





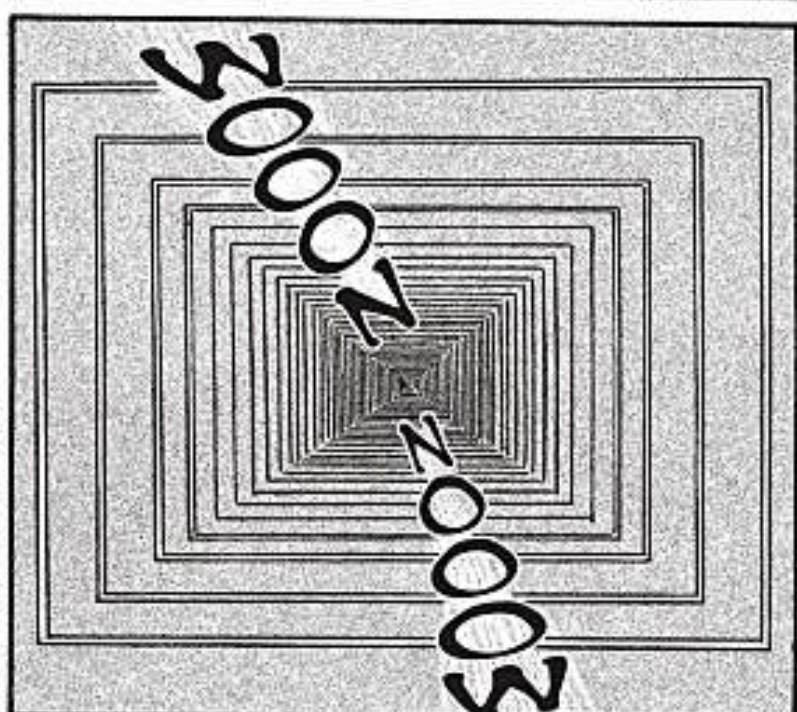
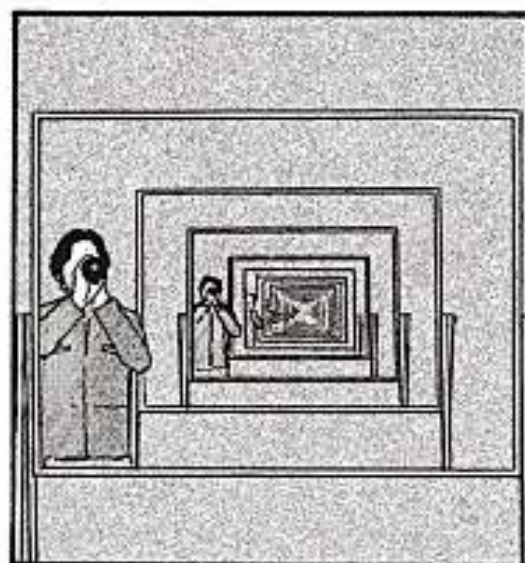




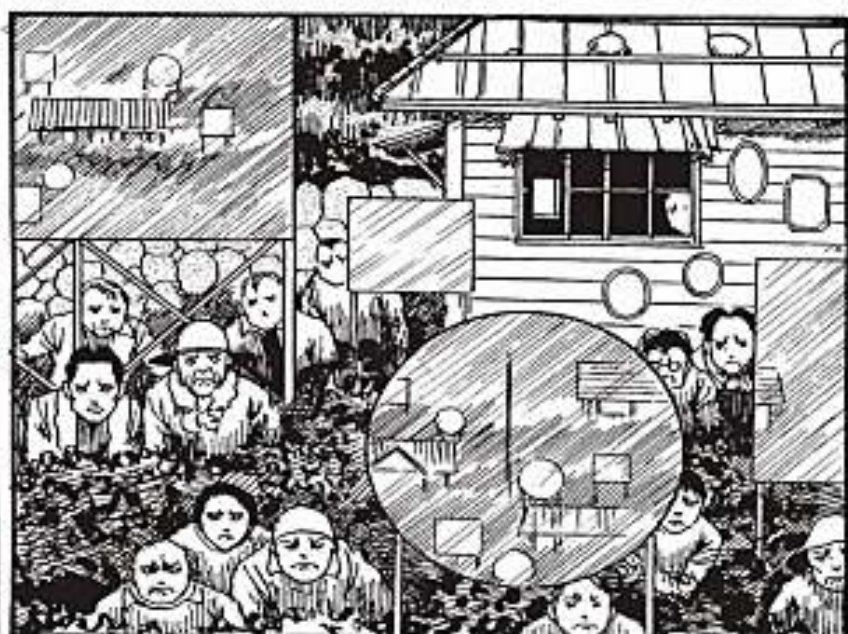
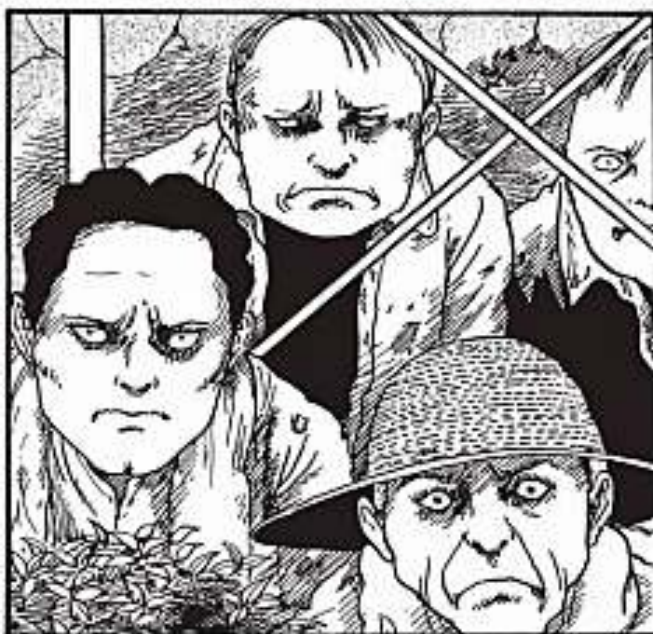
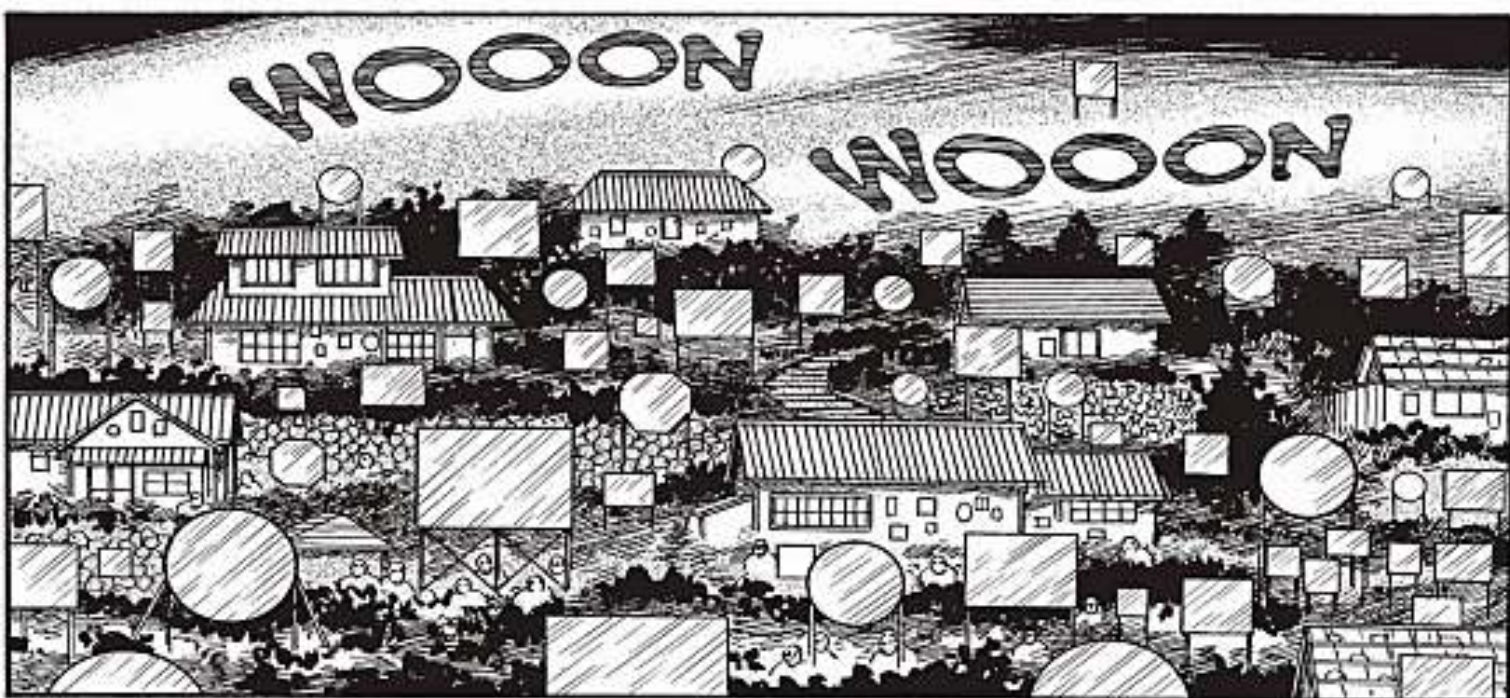
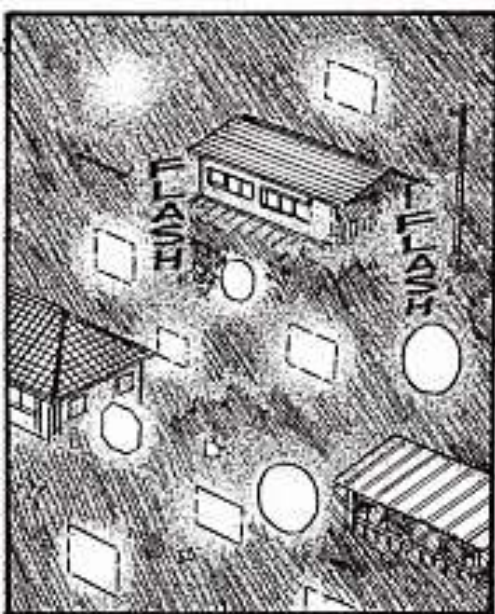




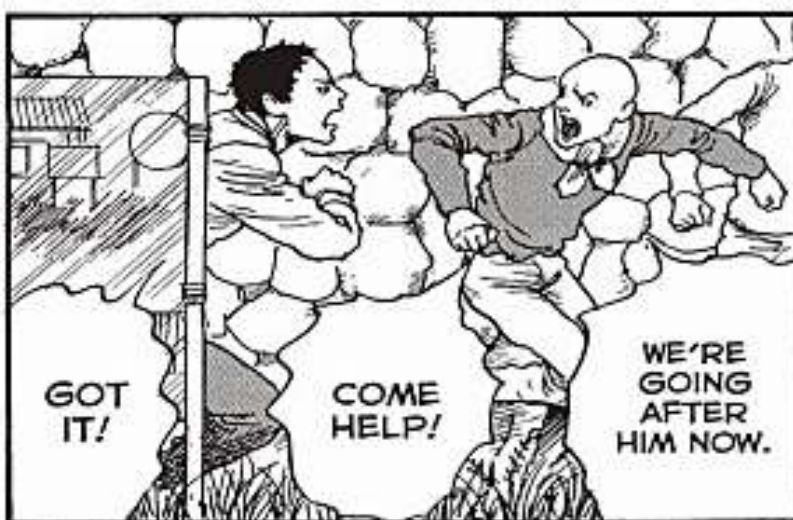
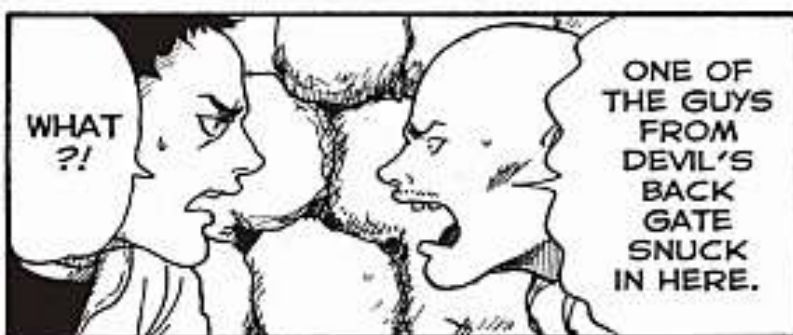
# WOON WOON



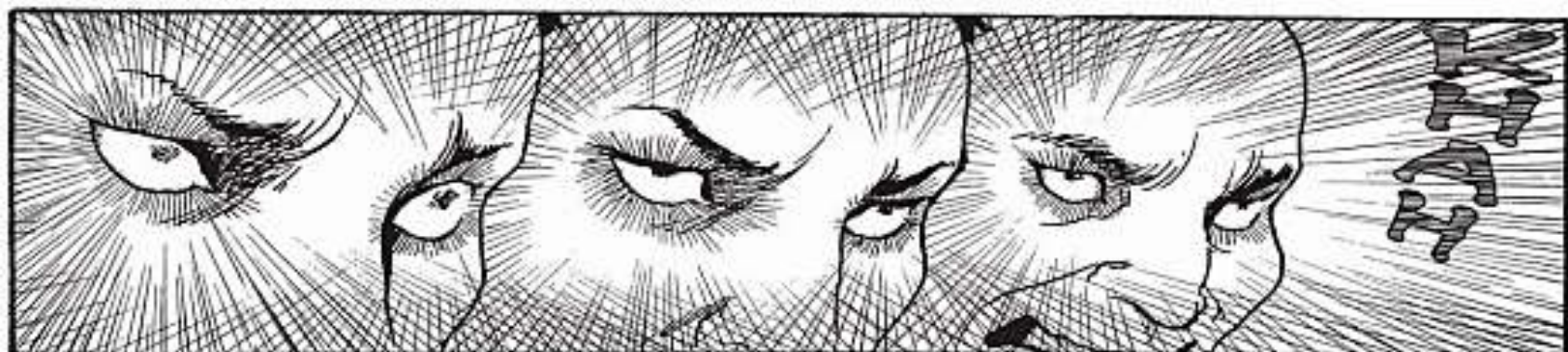



























THE LOOK  
THEY GIVE  
EACH  
OTHER IS  
INTENSE,  
LIKE COLD  
GLASS.

YOUR  
VILLAGE  
AND MY  
VILLAGE  
HATE  
EACH  
OTHER.



CAN'T WE  
JUST BE  
TOGETHER?

HIDEO...  
HOW  
LONG WILL  
WE HAVE  
TO SNEAK  
AROUND  
LIKE  
THIS?



WE'LL  
RUN  
AWAY  
TO-  
GETHER  
!!

THEN  
LET'S  
LEAVE  
THIS  
PLACE.



I'M  
NOT  
AFRAID  
!!

COWARD  
!!




WHAT?  
YOU'RE  
TOO  
AFRAID  
?!

YEAH...  
BUT...



SO  
THAT'S  
WHAT WAS  
GOING  
ON.

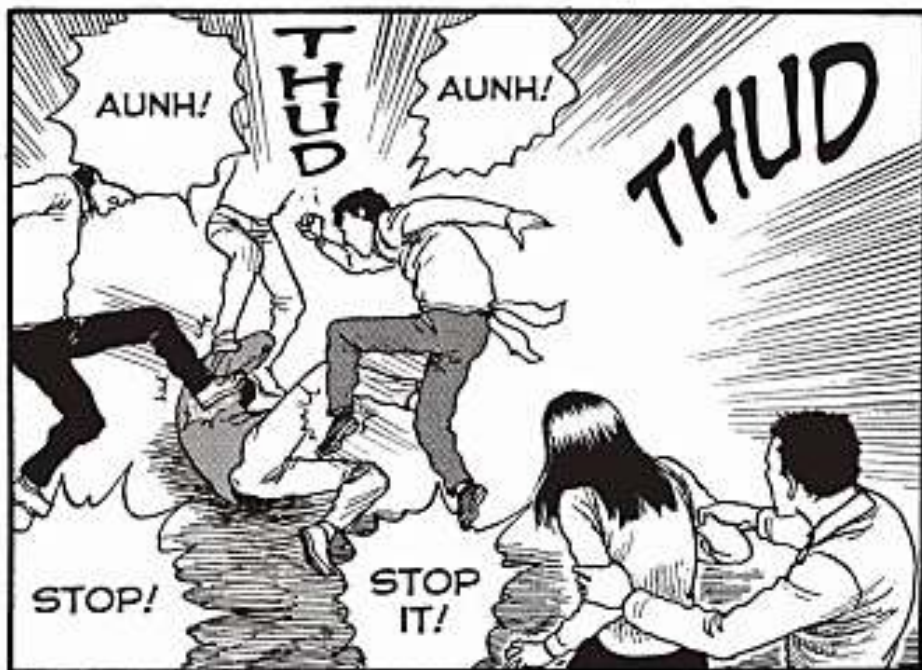
AH!



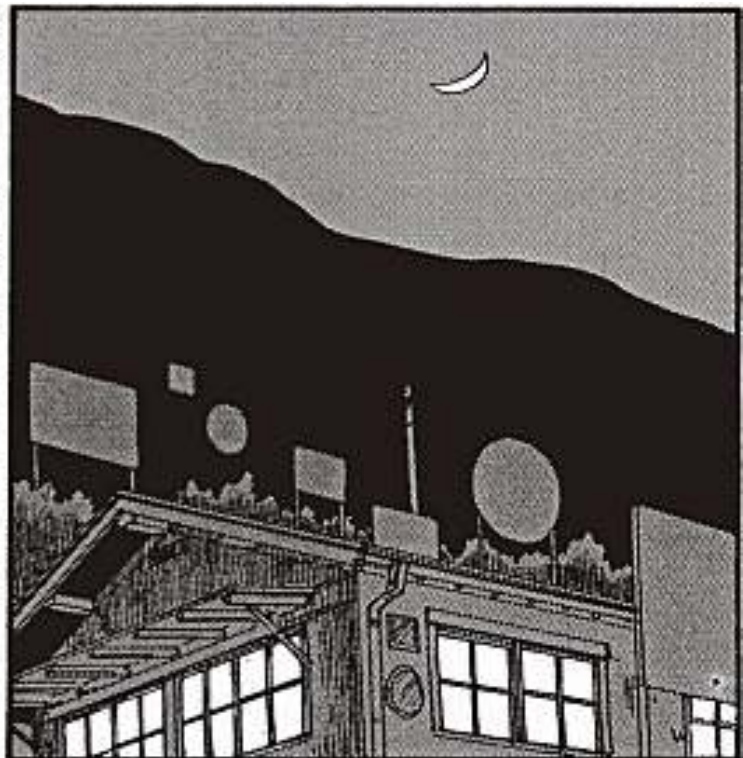
REALLY?!  
I'M SO  
HAPPY.

FINE.  
WE'LL  
LEAVE  
TOGETHER  
!!

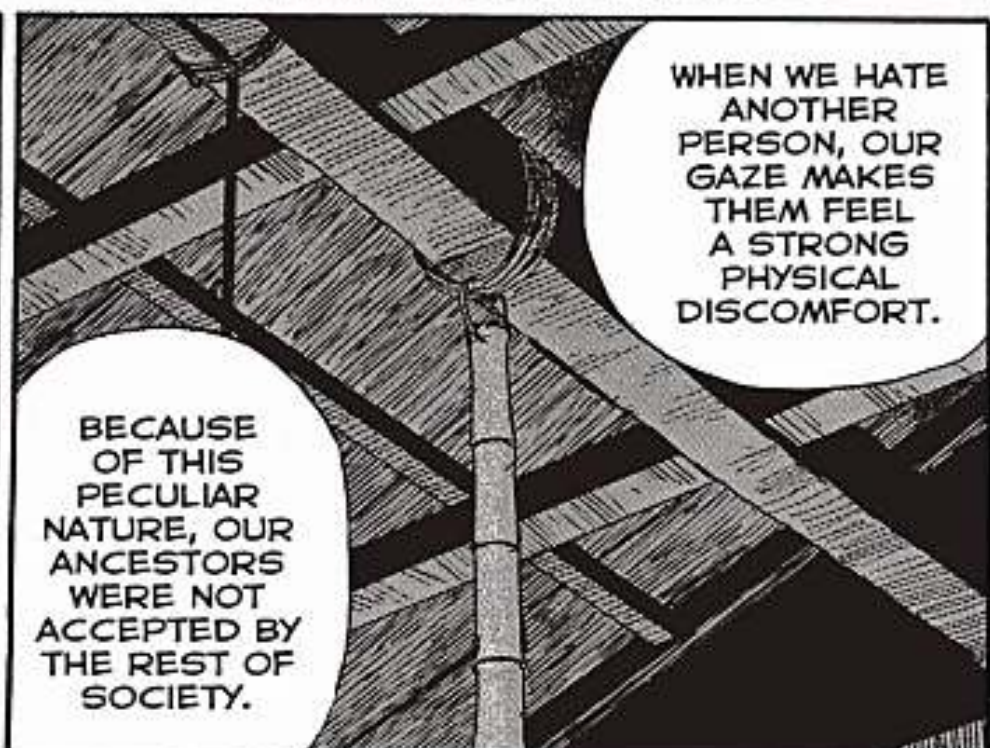
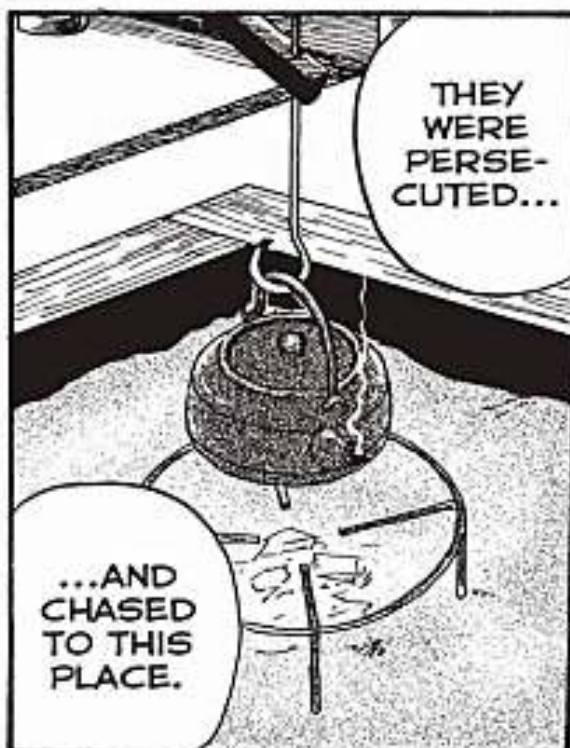
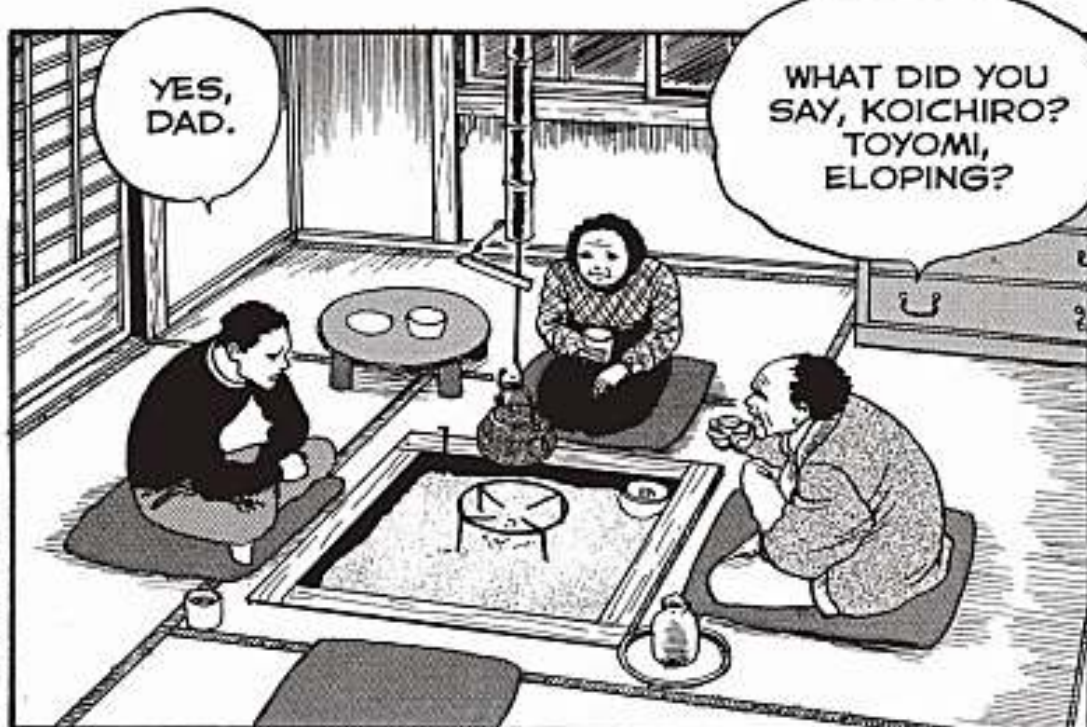
















AT SOME  
POINT, BOTH  
SIDES PUT  
UP MIRRORS  
FACING THE  
OPPOSITE  
SIDE.

TO  
REFLECT  
THE  
LOOKS  
OF  
HATE...



EVER SINCE, OUR  
PEOPLE HAVE LIVED  
ISOLATED FROM THE  
OUTSIDE WORLD.  
BUT EVENTUALLY,  
THERE WAS AN  
INTERNAL SPLIT.

WITH OUR  
DESPISING  
GAZES, WE  
ATTACK  
EACH OTHER  
WITHOUT  
MERCY  
ACROSS  
THIS  
NARROW  
RAVINE.

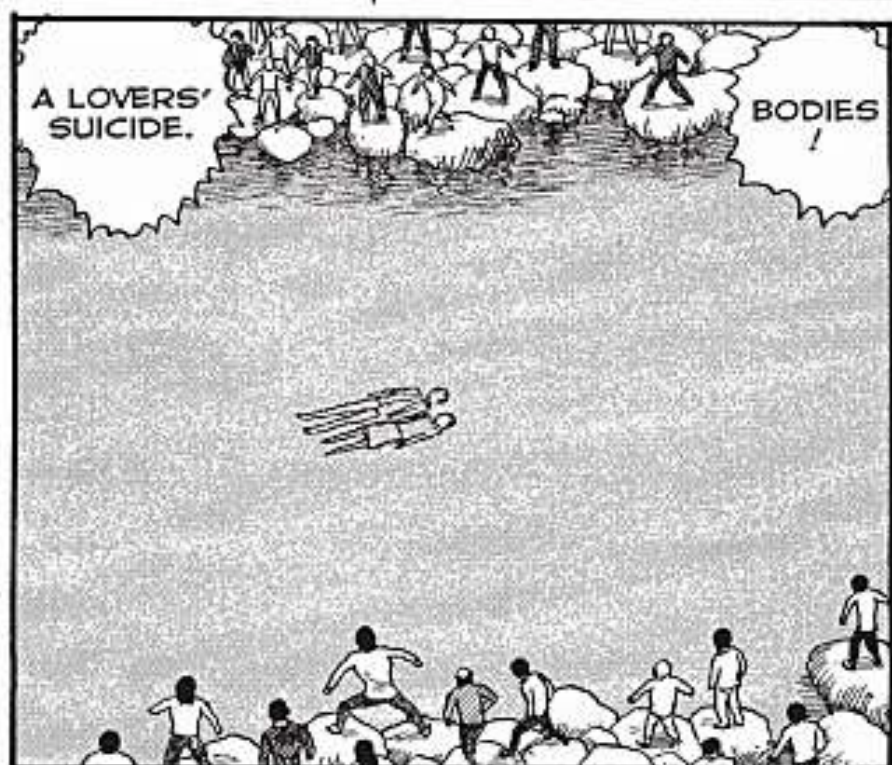
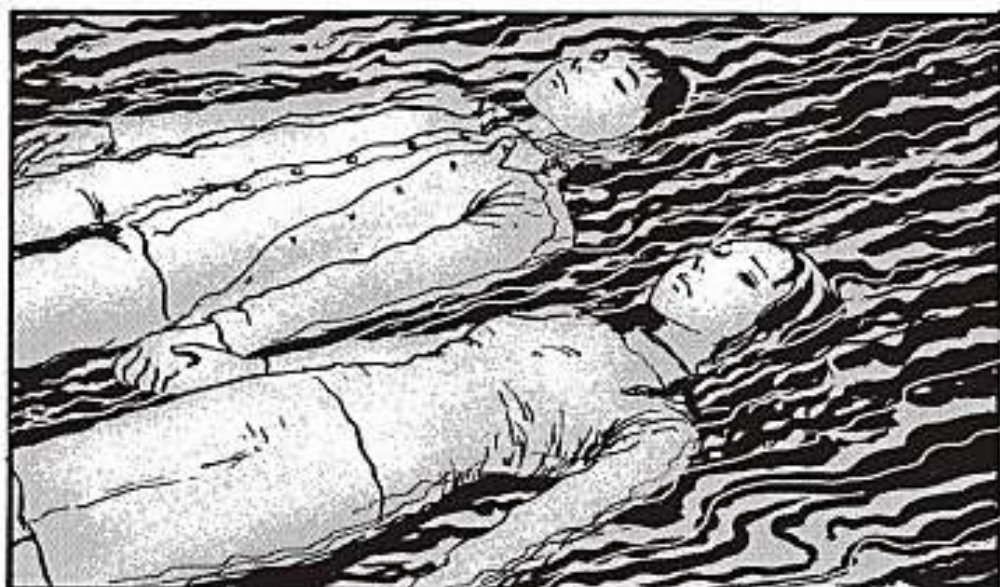
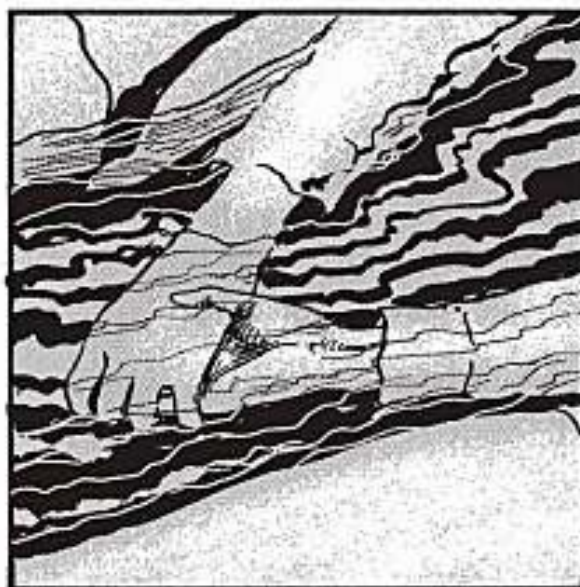
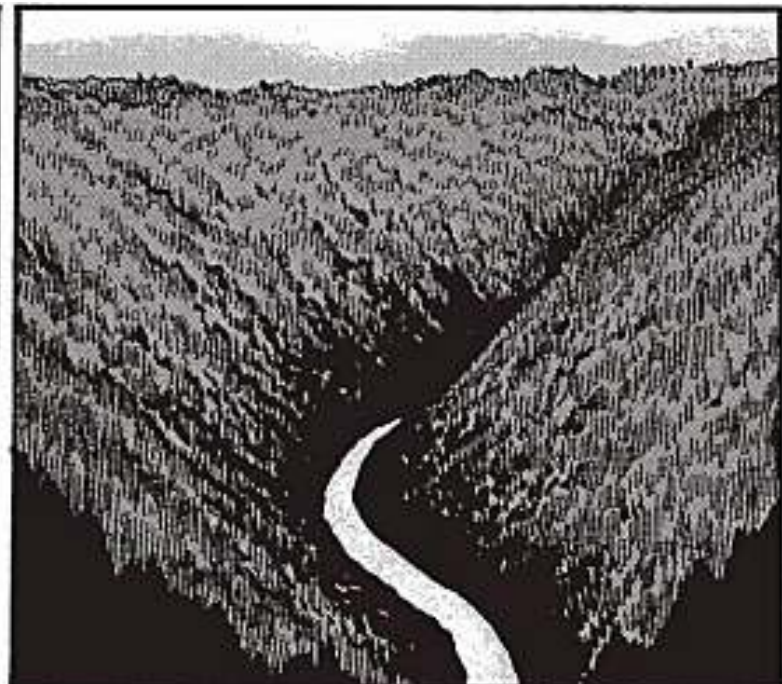
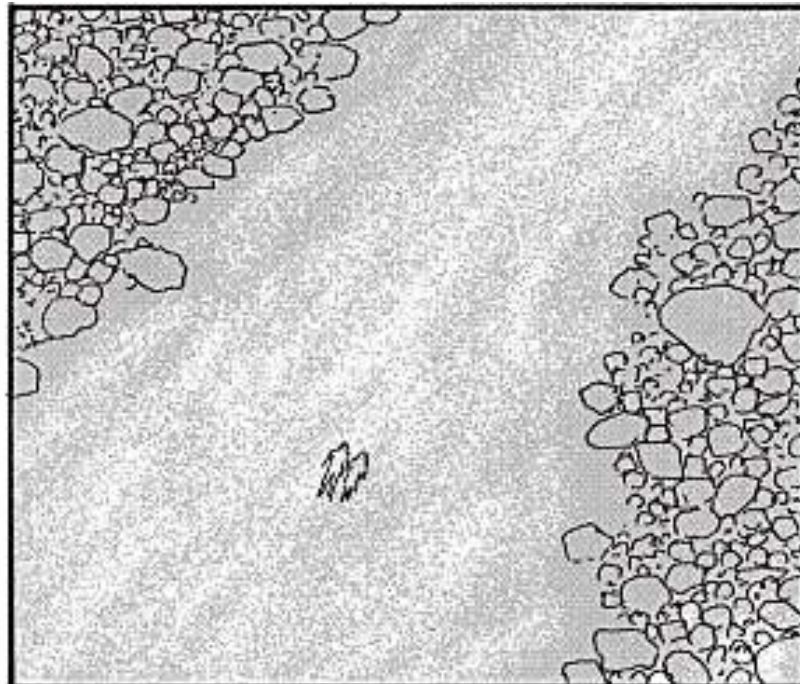


THEY SAY IT'S  
THE SOUND OF  
THOSE HATEFUL  
GAZES BEING  
BOUNCED BACK  
AND FORTH  
ACROSS THE  
VALLEY.

IF YOU  
LISTEN  
CAREFULLY,  
YOU CAN  
HEAR IT. A  
SOUND LIKE  
AN ECHO...





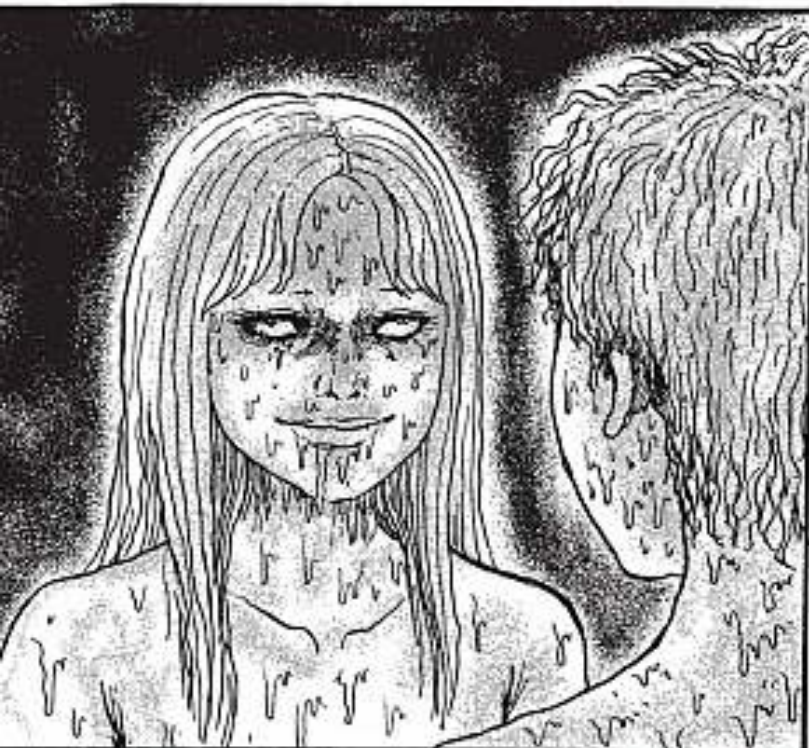




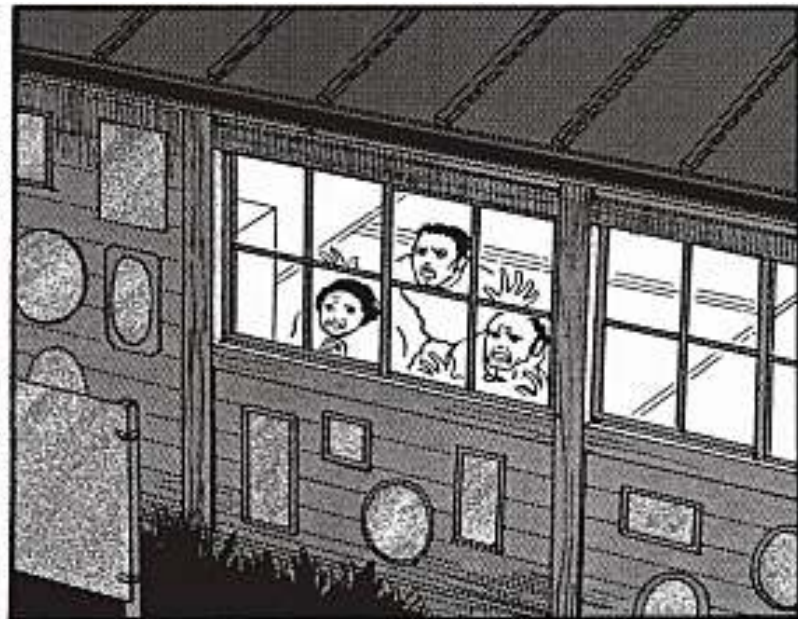
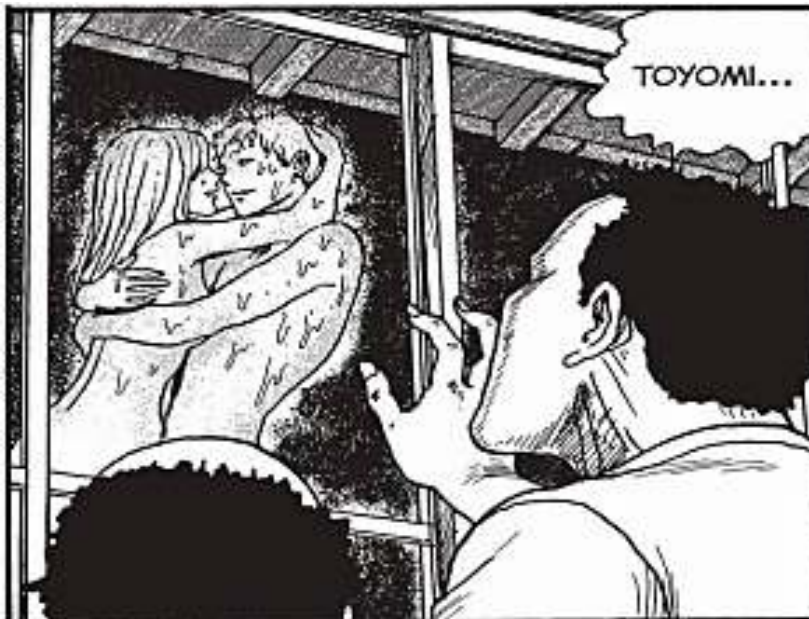
...NOT  
LONG  
AFTER  
THAT.



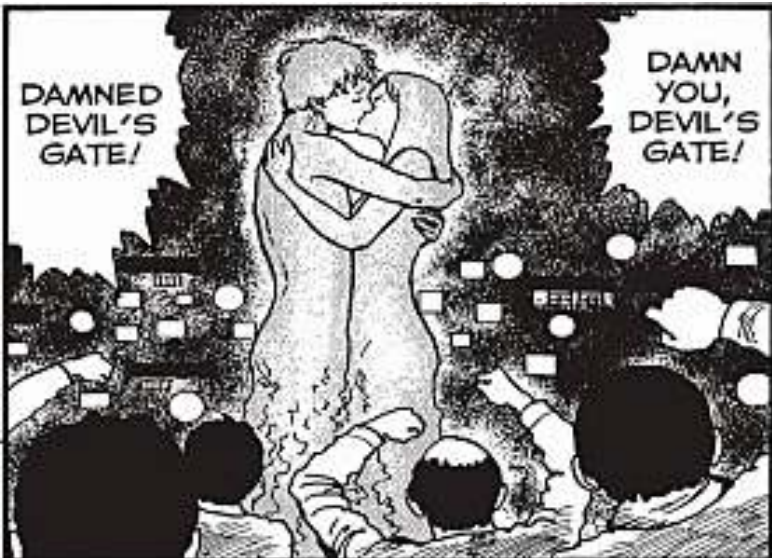
THE  
GHOSTS  
OF TOYOMI  
AND HIDEO  
STARTED  
APPEAR-  
ING...











DAMNED  
DEVIL'S  
GATE!

DAMN  
YOU,  
DEVIL'S  
GATE!



HIDEO!  
DON'T  
MAKE US  
SUFFER...

STOP,  
HIDEO!  
DON'T  
TOUCH  
THAT  
DEVIL'S  
GATE  
WOMAN!



...IN  
THE  
VALLEY  
EVERY  
NIGHT.

THE  
APPARI-  
TIONS  
LOVED  
EACH  
OTHER  
PASSION-  
ATELY...



DAMN  
YOU,  
DEVIL'S  
GATE!!



DAMN  
YOU,  
DEVIL'S  
BACK  
GATE!

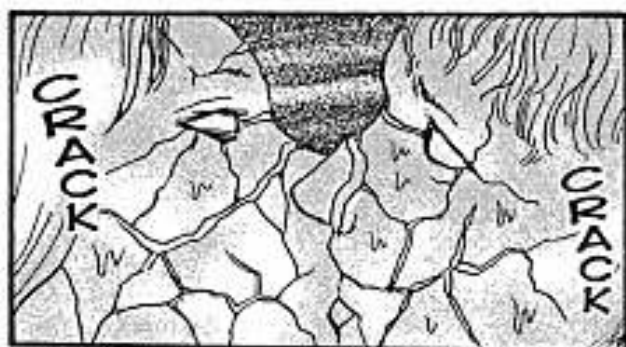
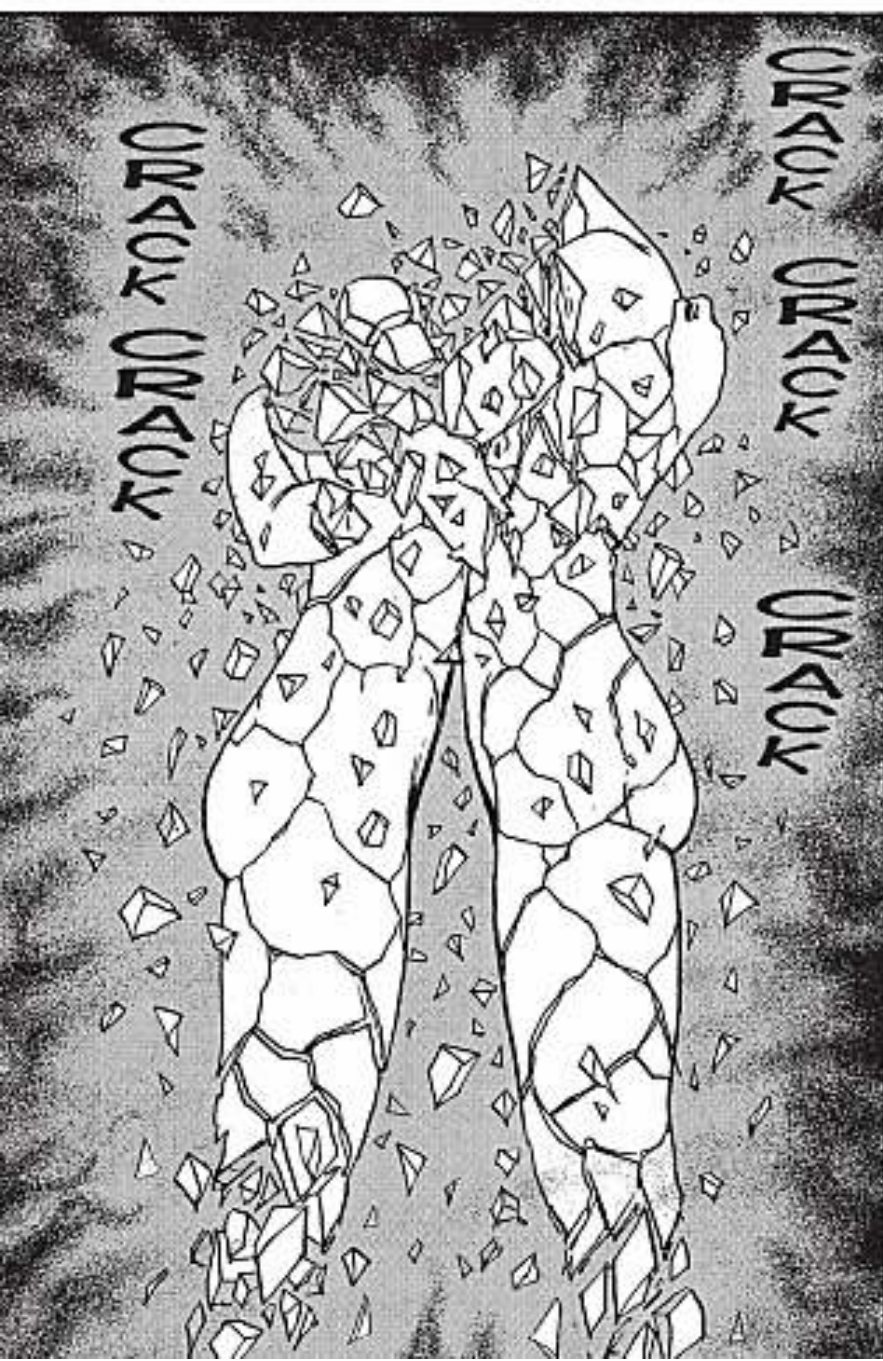


THE  
HATRED  
OF THE  
VILLAGERS  
REACHED  
A PEAK.





IT WAS AN  
UNPRE-  
CEDENTED  
INCREASE  
IN  
HATRED.



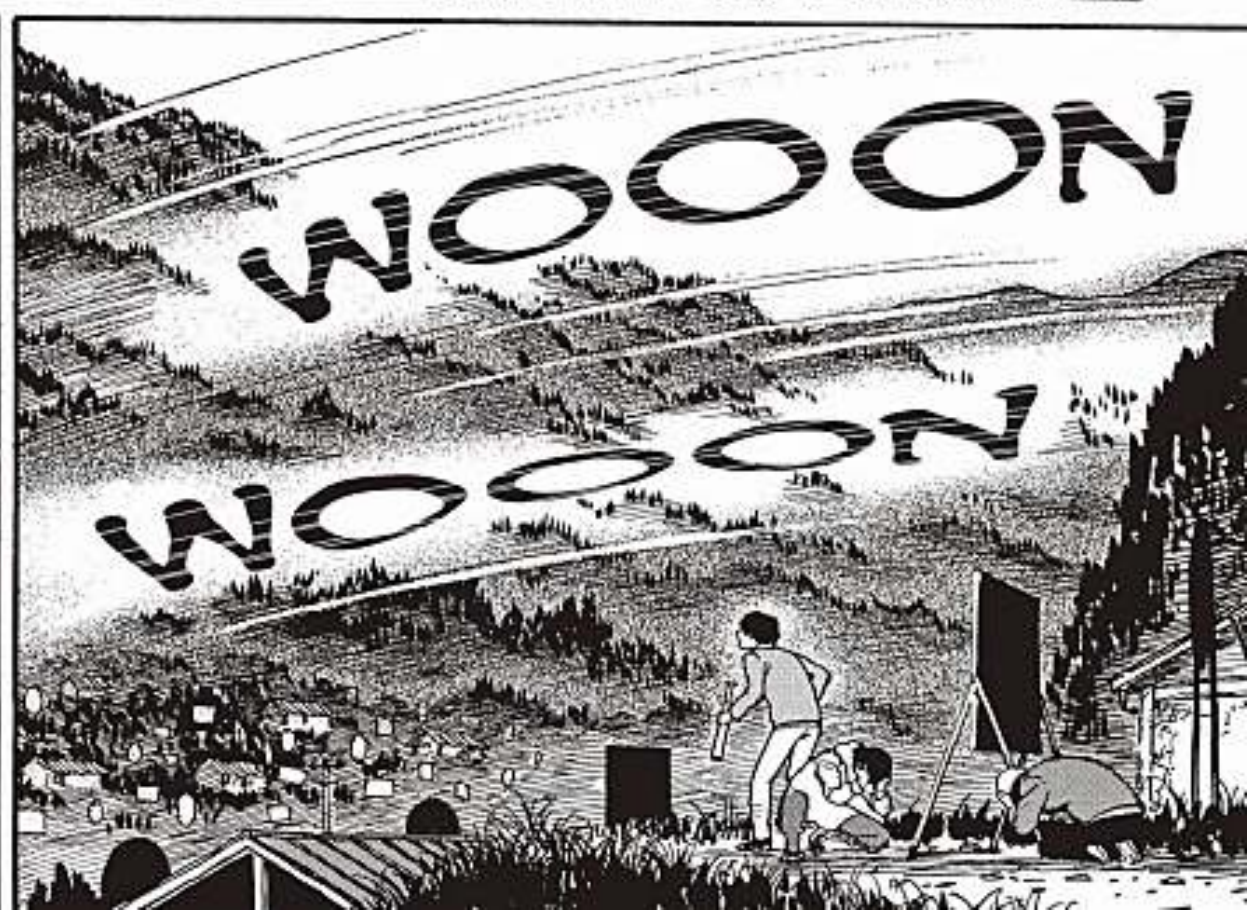




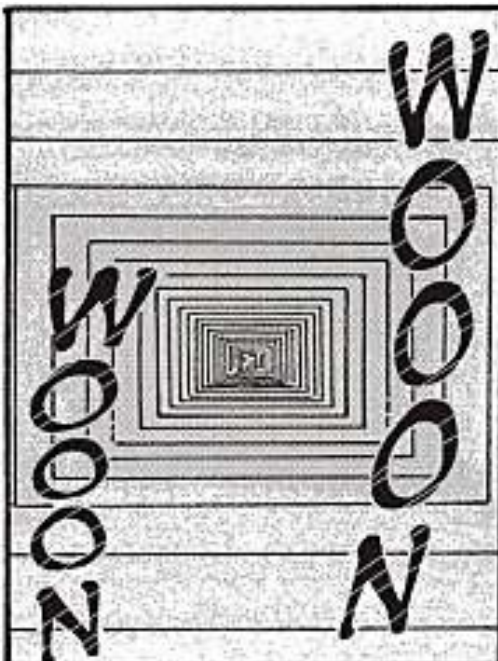
















I CAN  
SEE IT,  
TOO.  
WHY...?

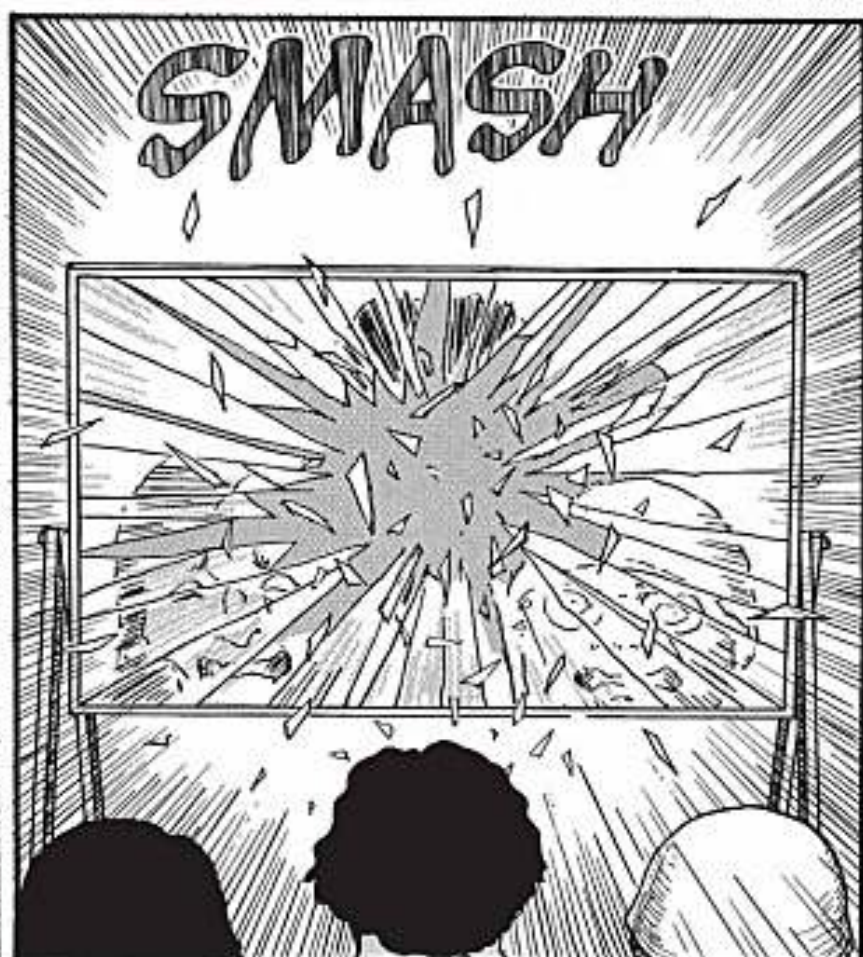
MINE TOO.  
MY EYES...  
I'M  
GLARING...



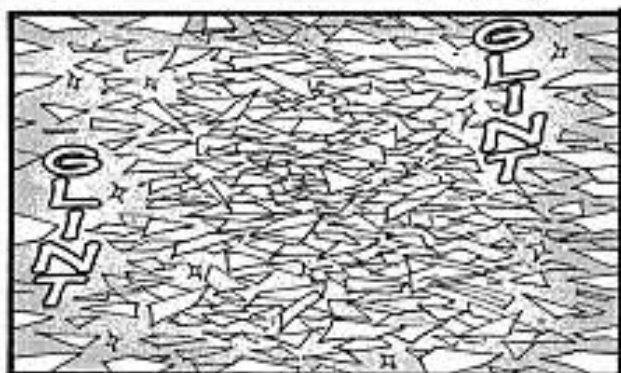
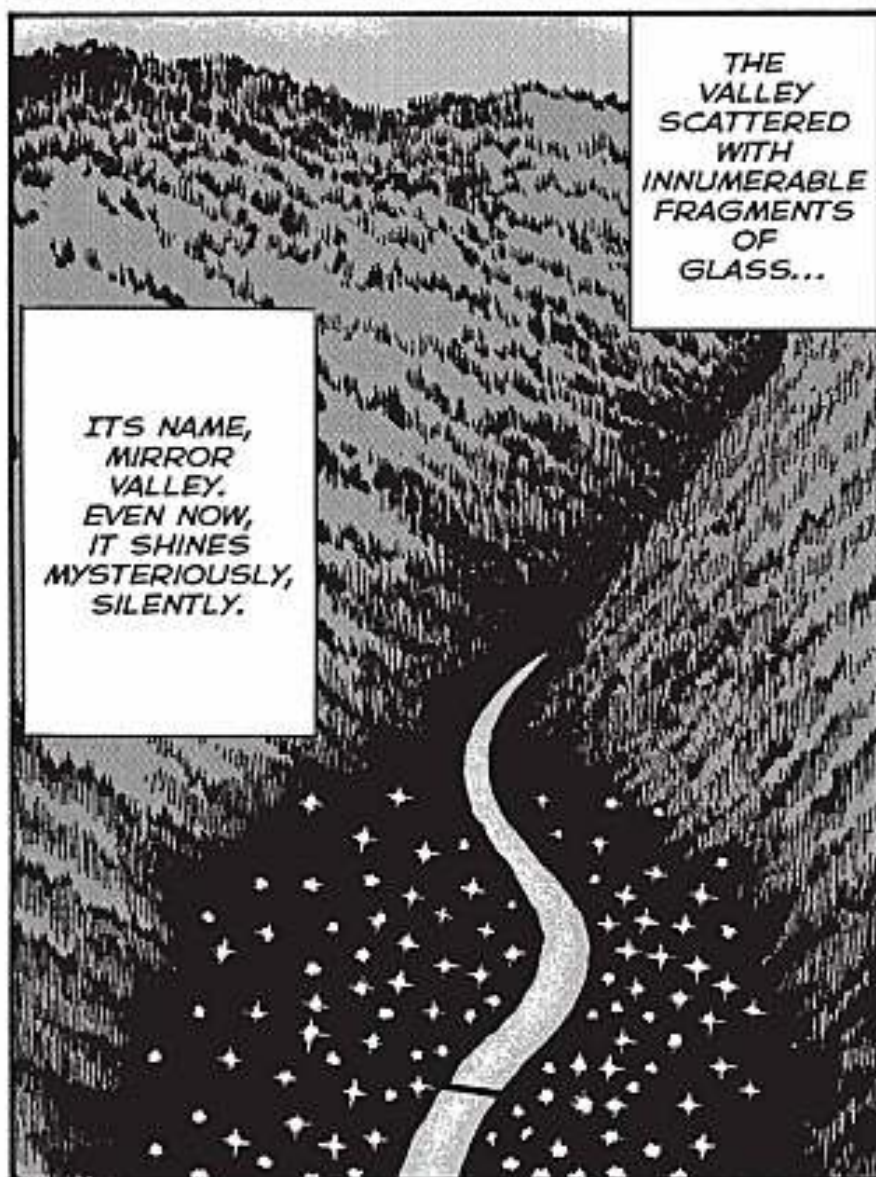
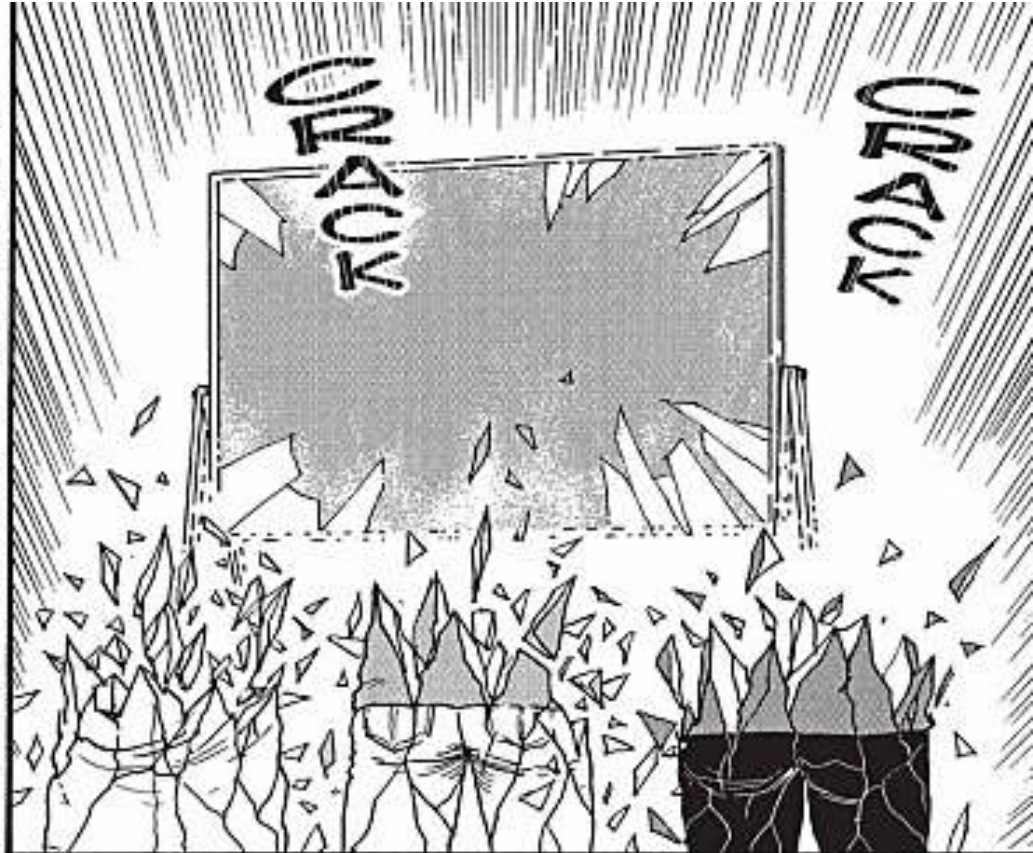
WHY ARE  
MY EYES  
SO FULL  
OF  
HATRED  
...?

M-MY  
FACE...















IT  
HAPPENED  
ON MY  
WAY HOME  
FROM  
WORK.

VRRRRR

WAS IT  
MERELY  
COINCIDENCE  
IN THE END  
THAT I MET  
HER?

...I STILL  
HATE TRAVELING  
THESE  
MOUNTAIN  
ROADS AT  
NIGHT.

I MAY  
BE IN  
A CAR,  
BUT...

IT'S SO  
LATE  
TODAY.

VRRR

ALWAYS  
FEEL LIKE A  
GHOST'LL  
POP OUT  
OR SOME-  
THING.















ARE  
YOU  
HURT?

Y-YOU'RE  
COVERED  
IN  
BLOOD.

AND I  
TOUCHED  
HER WITH  
MY OWN  
HAND.

...N-NO.  
GHOSTS  
DON'T  
ACTUALLY  
EXIST...



...DON'T  
VANISH...

PLEASE  
...



I GOT HER  
INTO THE  
CAR AND  
HEADED  
FOR THE  
HOSPITAL.

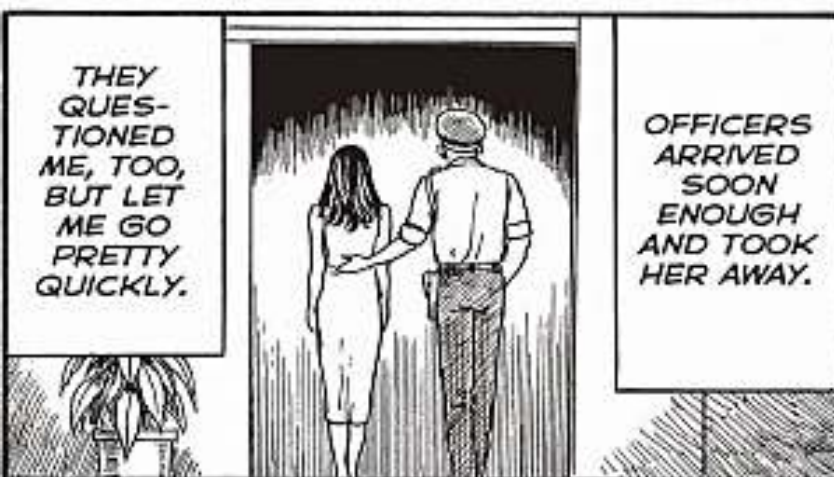
VRRRRR



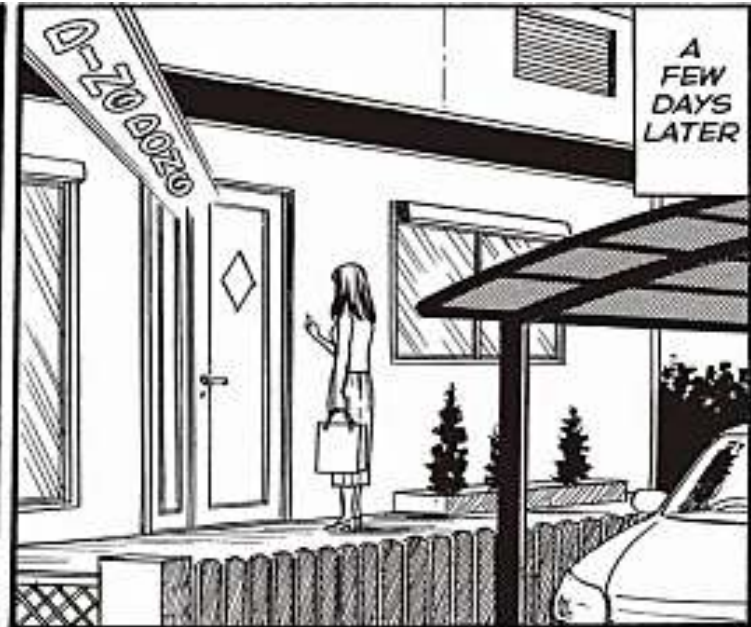
DOCTOR.  
HOW IS  
SHE?













SO THERE  
I WAS MADE  
UP LIKE A  
GHOST, JUST  
STUCK...  
I WAS SO  
SCARED.

I WAS  
FILMING AN  
INDEPENDENT  
MOVIE  
WITH SOME  
FRIENDS, AND  
I GOT LEFT  
BEHIND.

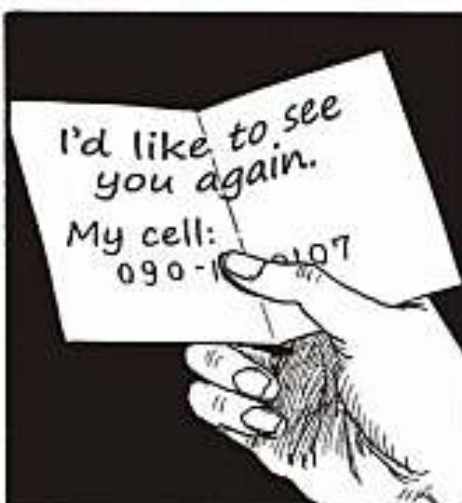


WHEN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN—  
MISAKI—  
WAS  
LEAVING...

...SHE  
SECRETLY  
HANDED  
ME A  
SCRAP  
OF  
PAPER.

BUT  
YOU  
REALLY  
GAVE  
ME A  
SHOCK  
THERE.

WHAT? WAS  
THAT WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
HA HA HA!

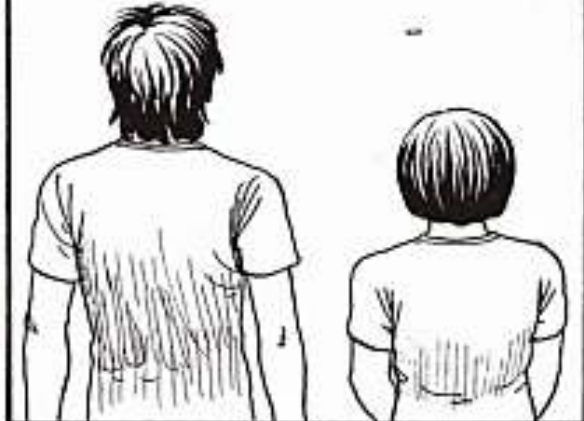


I'd like to see  
you again.  
My cell:  
090-1-1107

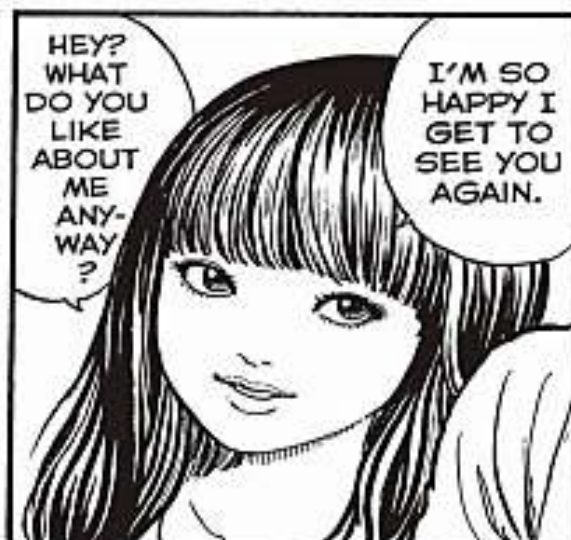
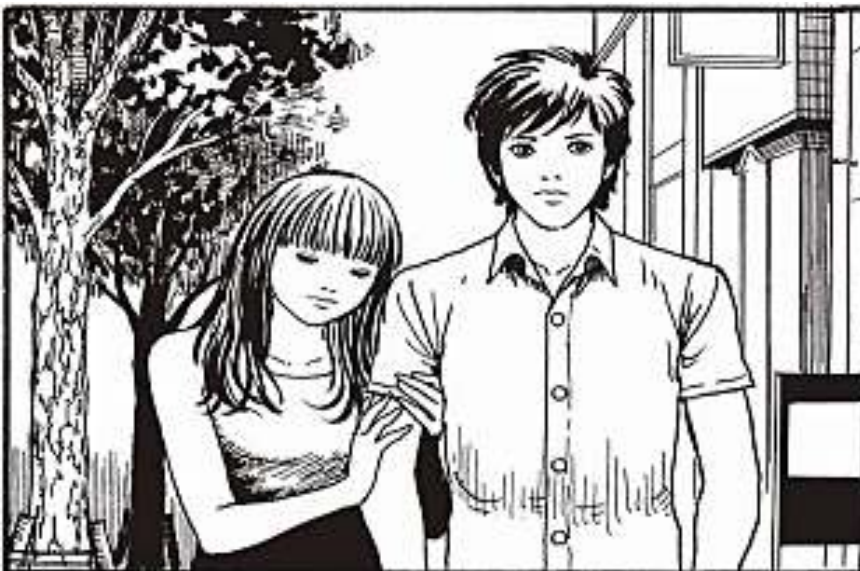


OH...  
IT'S  
NOTHING.

SHIGERU?  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?











NO...

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHY?

UH-HUH.  
I LOVE  
GUARDIAN  
SPIRITS.



YES... I  
CAN SEE  
THEM. YOUR  
GUARDIANS.

SO YOU  
LIKE ME  
BECAUSE  
I HAVE A  
LOT OF  
GUARDIAN  
SPIRITS?



SO SHE  
TURNED  
INTO A  
GHOST AND  
CAME TO  
FEED ME  
BREAST  
MILK.

BUT SHE  
WAS  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
ME.



IT'S  
BECAUSE...  
MY MOTHER  
WAS A  
GHOST.

SHE DIED  
WHEN I WAS  
STILL INSIDE  
HER... I WAS  
BORN FROM  
MY MOTHER'S  
DEAD BODY.



SO I CAN'T  
BE SATISFIED  
NOW UNLESS  
I HAVE THAT  
SUSTENANCE.

THANKS TO  
HER, I WAS  
ABLE TO GROW  
UP HEALTHY.  
BASICALLY I  
WAS RAISED BY  
FEEDING OFF  
OF A GHOST.



LOOK  
CAREFULLY,  
SHIGERU.

THEY'RE  
ALL  
AROUND  
YOU.  
THESE  
GHOSTS...



...YOU SURE  
HAVE A WILD  
IMAGINATION.











SO WHEN  
CAN I  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN?

SORRY.  
I WAS IN  
A HURRY.

I MEAN,  
YOU JUST  
LEFT ME  
THERE  
ALONE  
AND WENT  
HOME BY  
YOURSELF.

YOU'RE  
TERRIBLE,  
SHIGERU.



MY WIFE'S  
STARTING  
TO GET  
SUSPI-  
CIOUS.

MISAKI...  
LET'S  
STOP THIS  
ALREADY.

I'M  
HOME!

BUT  
DISASTER  
STRUCK  
SWIFTLY.

IT'S BETTER  
THIS WAY.  
STILL,  
MISAKI...

WHAT WAS  
THE BLOOD  
ON HER FACE?  
IT WAS SO  
CREEPY...







YOU STILL  
HAVE SEVERAL  
GUARDIAN  
SPIRITS LEFT.

WAIT  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
LONGER.

SHIGE-  
RU...

I WANT  
TO END  
THIS.

MISAKI,  
WILL YOU  
PLEASE  
GO  
HOME?

I EAT  
GHOSTS  
TO LIVE.

I GOT  
CLOSE TO  
YOU SO  
I COULD  
EAT YOUR  
GUARDIAN  
SPIRITS.

I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEAN.

...I  
HAVE  
GUARD-  
IAN  
SPIRITS  
LEFT?

BUT  
NOTHING  
IS AS  
DELICIOUS  
AS A  
GHOST.

YOU  
CAN  
BELIEVE  
ME OR  
NOT.

HAVE  
YOU  
LOST  
YOUR  
MIND?

MISAKI  
...

THEY'RE  
FLYING  
AROUND  
THE  
ROOM.

YUINA AND  
THE BABY  
IN HER  
STOMACH...

YOU HAVE  
TWO NEW  
GHOSTS.

LOOK...  
CAN'T  
YOU  
SEE  
THEM?





HO  
HO  
HO!



HEE  
HEE  
HEE!  
THEY  
LOOK  
SO  
TASTY.

















NOW I'M IN  
THE HOSPITAL,  
ON THE VERGE  
OF DEATH.

HIGASHINO  
HOSPITAL

AFTER  
LIVING  
A HARD  
LIFE  
ON THE  
STREETS,  
I GOT  
SICK.

I GOT  
FIRED,  
LOST  
MY  
HOUSE.

THAT WAS  
WHEN  
FORTUNE  
STARTED TO  
ABANDON  
ME IN ALL  
KINDS OF  
WAYS.



...FOR  
ME TO  
BECOME  
A  
GHOST...

MISAKI IS HERE  
AGAIN TODAY.  
AND SHE'S  
LICKING HER  
LIPS, WAITING...





LIBRARY VISION

# 蔵書幻影

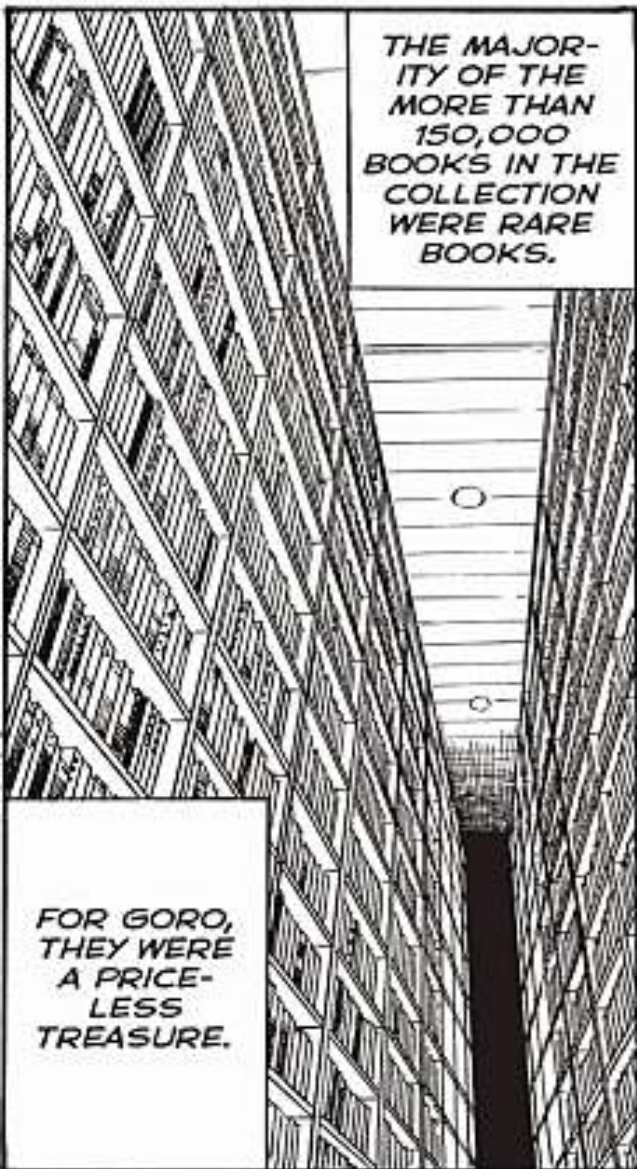
そうしよ げんえい





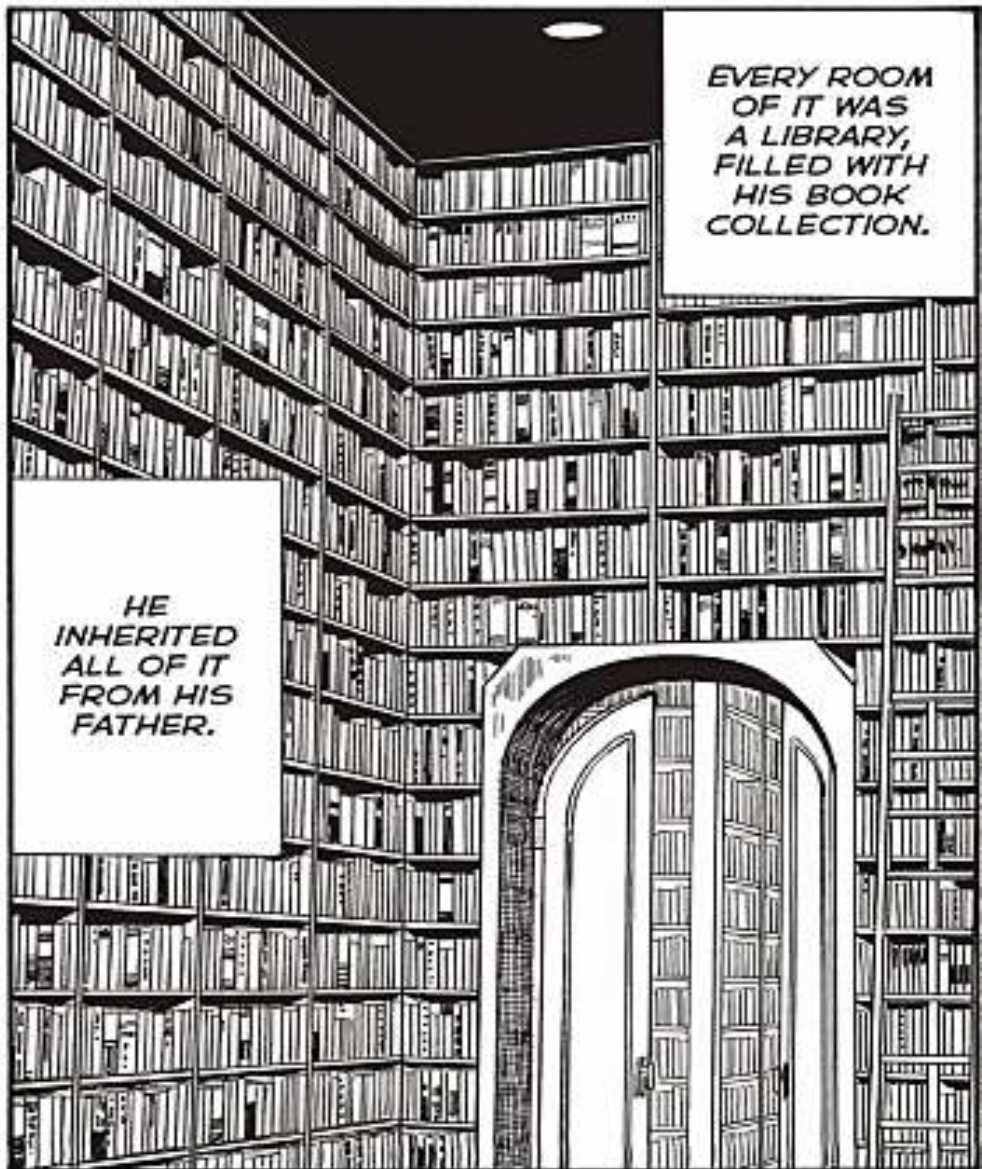


THE PERSON  
I MARRIED,  
GORO  
SHIRASAKI,  
LIVED IN A  
VERY LARGE  
MANSION.



THE MAJOR-  
ITY OF THE  
MORE THAN  
150,000  
BOOKS IN THE  
COLLECTION  
WERE RARE  
BOOKS.

FOR GORO,  
THEY WERE  
A PRICE-  
LESS  
TREASURE.



EVERY ROOM  
OF IT WAS  
A LIBRARY,  
FILLED WITH  
HIS BOOK  
COLLECTION.

HE  
INHERITED  
ALL OF IT  
FROM HIS  
FATHER.



...HE SAID HE  
HAD READ EVERY  
SINGLE BOOK IN  
THE COLLECTION  
THREE TIMES.

A SUR-  
PRISING  
THING  
WAS...

HE COULD FIND  
AT A GLANCE  
THE BOOK HE  
WAS LOOKING  
FOR ON THE  
SHELVES.

I WAS  
DRAWN TO  
THIS PART  
OF HIM;  
IT'S WHY I  
MARRIED  
HIM.

WHETHER THAT  
WAS TRUE  
OR NOT, HIS  
INTELLIGENCE  
WAS DEFINITE-  
LY NO LIE.

YOU'RE  
SO  
UPSET.

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
HONEY?

INCIDEN-  
TALLY...







HE WAS  
ABNOR-  
MALLY  
FIXATED  
ON THE  
LIBRARY.



IF GORO HAD  
EVEN A SPARE  
SECOND, HE  
WOULD GO  
AROUND AND  
CHECK THE  
SHELVES IN THE  
MANSION.

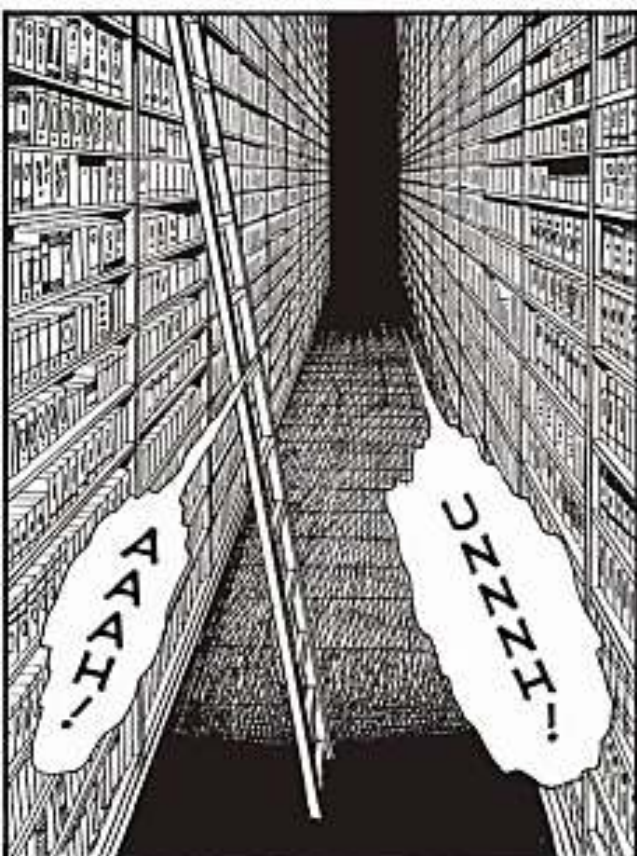
HE SAID  
HE'D  
NEVER  
MISSED  
A SINGLE  
DAY.



HE HAD  
KEPT A  
DETAILED  
DIARY  
EVERY DAY  
SINCE HE  
WAS FOUR  
YEARS OLD.

...WAS ON  
DISPLAY  
IN HIS  
DIARY AS  
WELL.

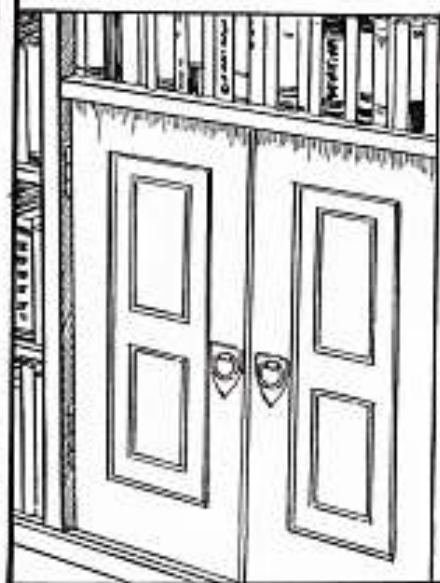
HIS PER-  
FECTIONISM  
...



ZZZZZ



AND NOW THAT  
DIARY, WHICH  
SPANNED DOZENS  
OF VOLUMES, WAS  
KEPT ON LOCKED  
SHELVES.





ARE YOU OKAY?

GORO?

AAAAAH!

THE BOOKS WERE SLOWLY DISAPPEAR-ING...

...I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

THE BOOKS WERE SLOWLY DISAPPEAR-ING...

...I WAS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.

**BUT THAT  
TENDENCY  
ONLY GREW  
STRONGER  
WITH THE  
PASSING  
DAYS.**



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WOULD BE SO WORRIED.

HE WAS EXCESSIVELY AFRAID OF LOSING THE LIBRARY.



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE WOULD BE SO WORRIED.

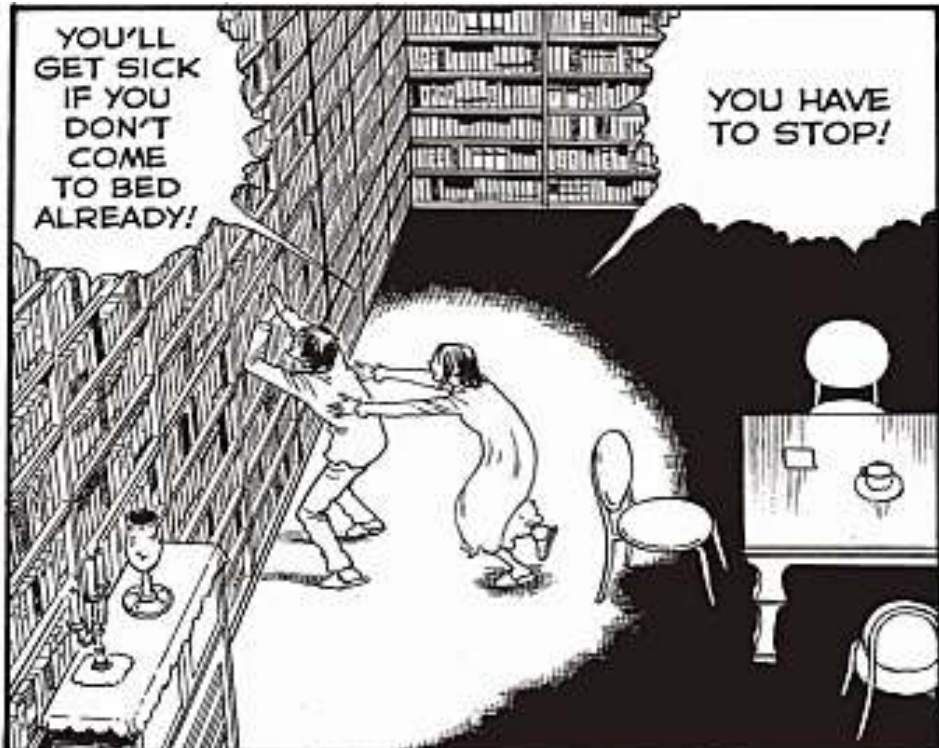
HE WAS EXCESSIVELY AFRAID OF LOSING THE LIBRARY.







I CAN'T!! I  
HAVE TO CHECK  
ALL THE BOOKS  
IN THIS ROOM  
TONIGHT!



YOU'LL  
GET SICK  
IF YOU  
DON'T  
COME  
TO BED  
ALREADY!

YOU HAVE  
TO STOP!



...



YOU'VE  
GOTTEN WORSE  
AND WORSE  
SINCE WE GOT  
MARRIED.

WHY?! WHY  
ARE YOU SO  
OBSESSED  
WITH THE  
LIBRARY?!



I MEAN, I  
TREASURE  
YOUR  
LIBRARY!!

WHY?! DO  
YOU THINK  
I'LL DO  
SOMETHING  
TO THE  
BOOKS?



I MIGHT  
BE  
GETTING  
PARANOID.

THAT'S TRUE,  
KOKO. I HAVE  
BEEN WORSE  
SINCE YOU CAME  
TO LIVE HERE.





GORO'S  
CONDITION  
ONLY  
CONTINUED  
TO  
DETERIORATE.



BUT I  
CAN'T HELP  
MYSELF!!

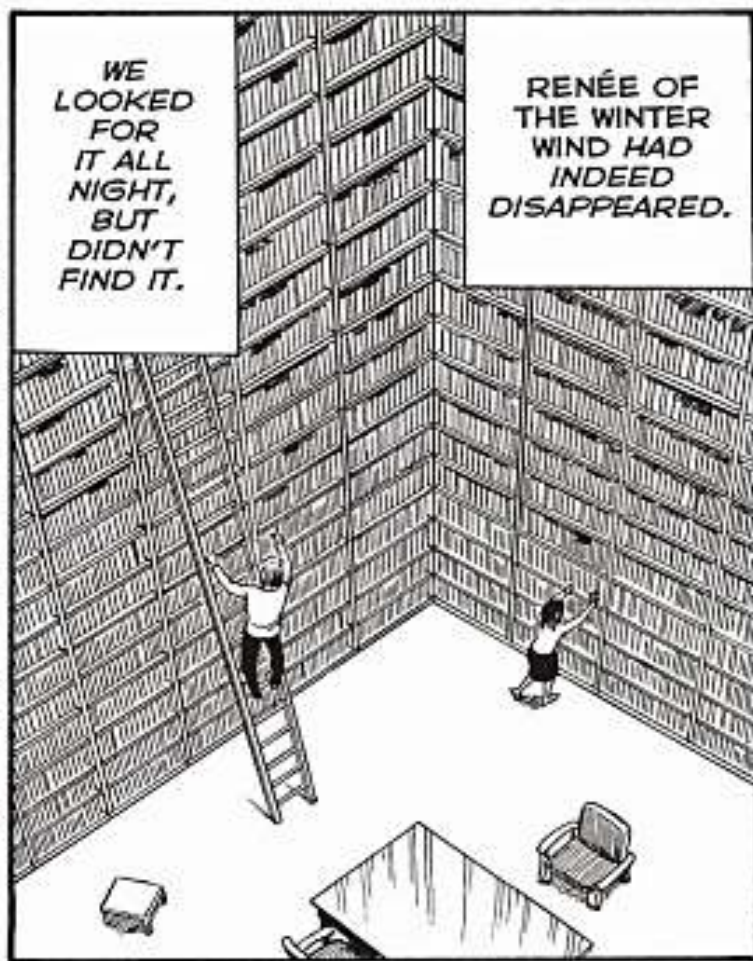
I KNOW  
THAT!!



IT'S—









NO...  
ANOTHER  
BOOK IS  
MISSING.

WHAT  
IS IT?  
DID YOU  
FIND  
IT?

OH!

HONEY, LET'S  
TAKE A BREAK.  
IF WE KEEP  
THIS UP...

SPINY HELL...  
THAT'S THE  
BOOK MY  
FATHER  
TREASURED  
THE MOST.

HE ALWAYS  
USED TO  
SAY IT WAS  
THE MOST  
TERRIFYING  
BOOK IN THIS  
WORLD.

TANIO  
AKASABI'S  
SPINY HELL  
IS GONE!!

WHICH  
ONE IS  
IT NOW?

GOD  
DAMN  
IT!

DAMN  
IT!

THERE WAS  
NOTHING I  
COULD DO  
TO STOP HIM.

FROM THAT  
DAY ON, MY  
HUSBAND  
SEARCHED FOR  
THE BOOKS AS  
THOUGH HE  
HAD LOST  
HIS MIND.





GORO!



AND  
THEN  
FINALLY...



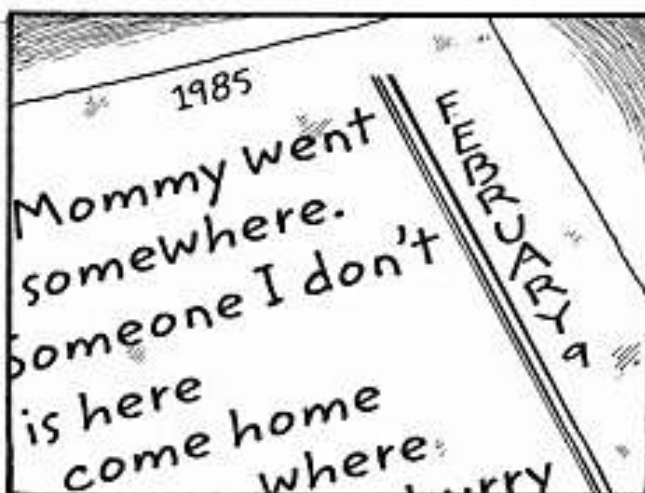
...AND  
DECIDED  
TO LOOK  
IN HIS  
DIARIES.

I FOUND  
THE KEY TO  
THE SHELF  
IN MY  
HUSBAND'S  
STUDY...



IS IT  
SOMETHING  
IN YOUR  
PAST?

WHAT ON  
EARTH  
MAKES  
YOU GO  
THIS FAR?



1985  
Mommy went  
somewhere.  
Someone I don't  
is here  
come home  
where  
hurry



DIARY

Goro  
Shirasaki



HE WAS TOO YOUNG  
TO UNDERSTAND  
THE NOVEL, BUT  
THE FAMILIAR TEXT  
ALWAYS BROUGHT  
HIM SWEET  
DREAMS.

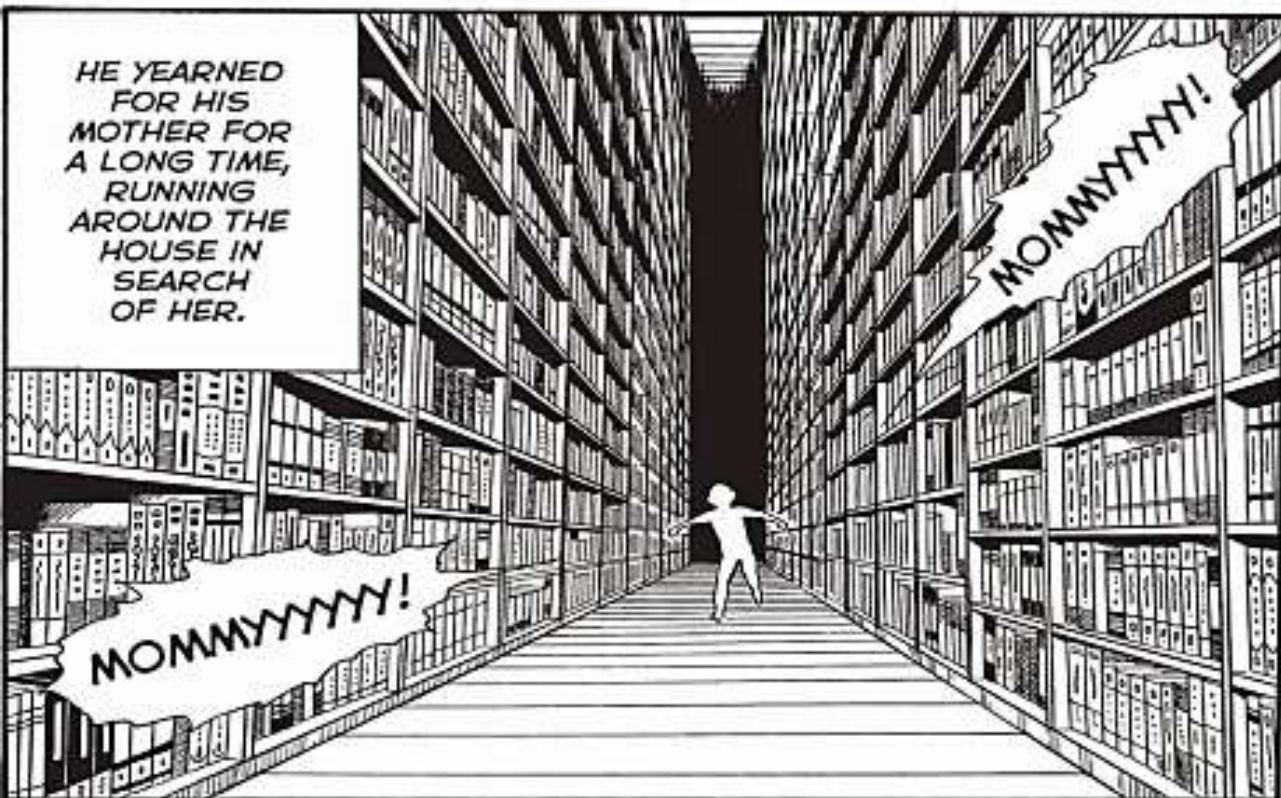


HIS MOTHER  
WAS KIND AND  
BEAUTIFUL, AND  
SHE WOULD  
ALWAYS READ  
HIM RENÉE OF  
THE WINTER  
WIND.

AS I READ  
THROUGH THE  
DIARIES, I  
LEARNED ABOUT  
HIS PARENTS.



HE YEARNED  
FOR HIS  
MOTHER FOR  
A LONG TIME,  
RUNNING  
AROUND THE  
HOUSE IN  
SEARCH  
OF HER.



BUT THE  
WINTER WHEN  
GORO WAS  
FOUR, HIS  
MOTHER MET  
ANOTHER  
MAN AND  
DISAPPEARED.



EVERY NIGHT,  
HE WOULD  
READ HIS SON  
TERRIFYING  
NOVELS,  
CAUSING  
THE BOY TO  
BE DEEPLY  
AFRAID.



AS FOR HIS  
FATHER, ONCE  
HIS WIFE  
DISAPPEARED,  
HE GREW  
TWISTED.



...HE  
STARTED TO  
SYSTEMATI-  
CALLY  
MEMORIZE  
THE LIBRARY.

EVENTU-  
ALLY,  
FOR  
SOME  
REA-  
SON...

THE  
BOOKS  
...  
MY  
BOOKS  
ARE  
RUNNING  
AWAY!

HIS FATHER'S  
MENTAL STATE  
CONTINUED TO  
DETERIORATE,  
AND HE BEGAN  
TO TALK AS  
THOUGH HE  
WERE HALLUCI-  
NATING...

AT ANY RATE,  
THERE'S NO  
DOUBT THAT GORO  
SUFFERED SOME  
SERIOUS MENTAL  
TRAUMA AS A BOY.

HE WAS  
EVENTUALLY  
HOSPITALIZED.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HIM  
AFTER  
THAT.

...AFTER  
WAKING  
UP FROM A  
LONG SLEEP,  
MY HUSBAND  
BEGAN TO  
TELL ME  
STRANGE  
THINGS.

TWO  
DAYS  
LATER  
...

SO  
PACKED  
WITH THE  
RICHNESS  
OF HIS  
LIFE UP  
TO NOW.

BUT THESE  
DIARIES ARE  
INCREDIBLY  
DETAILED.





LATE LAST NIGHT... I HEARD THE DOORBELL, AND THERE SHE WAS, STANDING THERE.

WHAT? WHERE?



GOOD NEWS, KOKO.

I FOUND RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND.



SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. RESEMBLED MOMMY SOMEHOW.

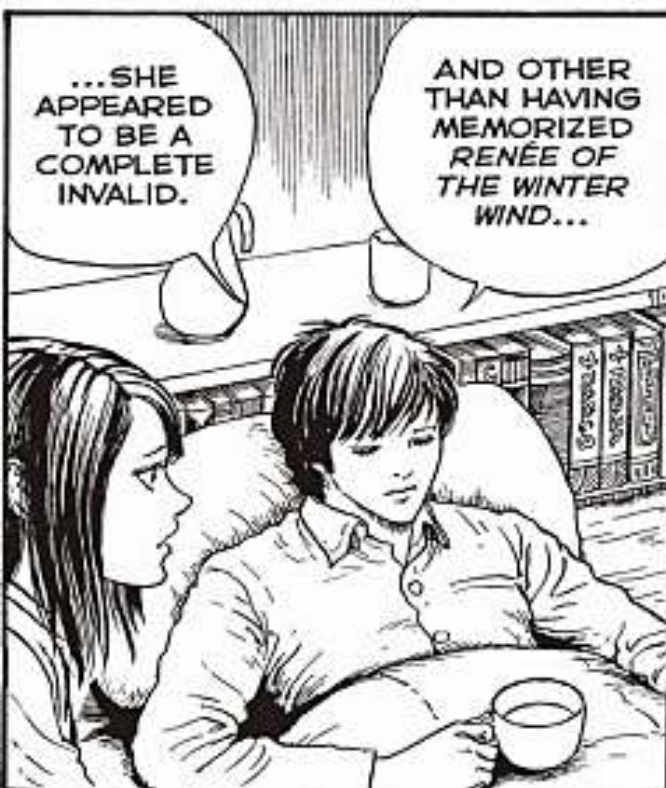
BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT. IT WAS RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND.

RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND WAS STANDING IN THE DOORWAY.



I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING...

THE DOORBELL RANG?



...SHE APPEARED TO BE A COMPLETE INVALID.

AND OTHER THAN HAVING MEMORIZED RENÉE OF THE WINTER WIND...



...FROM THE FIRST CHAPTER TO THE COLOPHON.

THE PROOF OF THAT IS SHE CORRECTLY RECITED THE ENTIRE NOVEL...





SHE'S  
STANDING  
THERE  
RIGHT NOW.  
RENÉE OF  
THE WINTER  
WIND...

LOOK.



...IT  
WASN'T A  
DREAM.



YOU  
WERE  
DREAM-  
ING.

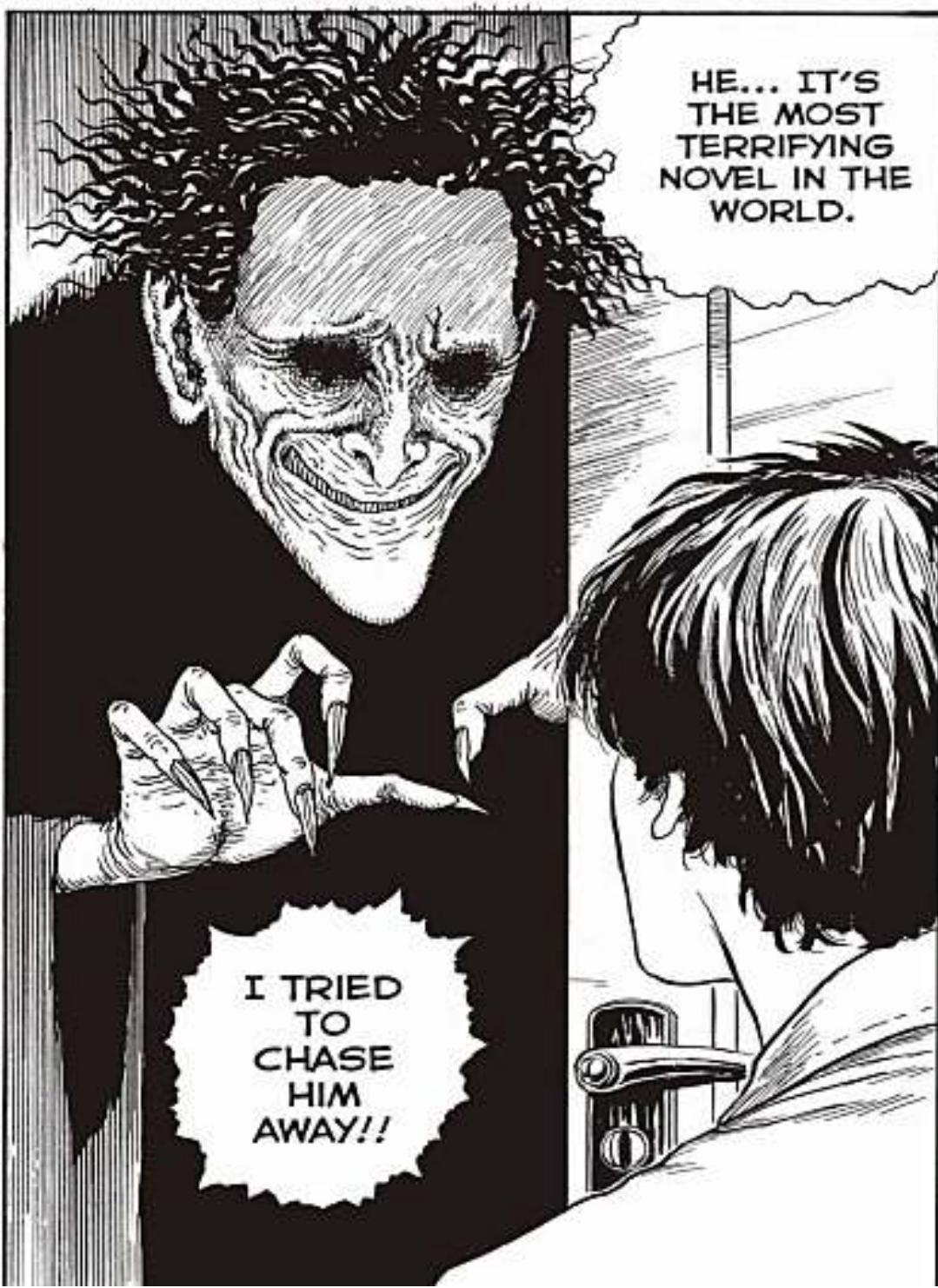
OH,  
HONEY...



THE  
NEXT  
DAY  
...

...MY  
HUSBAND  
WAS  
HORRIBLY  
FRIGHT-  
ENED.









READING  
IT IS LIKE  
SCRATCHING  
AT A  
FESTERING  
CULTURE  
GLASS.

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY  
IDEA HOW  
FRIGHTENING  
THAT NOVEL  
IS?



AND THEN  
HE RECITED  
THAT CURSED  
NOVEL IN A  
DISTURBINGLY  
CREAKY  
VOICE!!

BUT HE  
CAME IN  
THROUGH  
THE  
WINDOW.



IT'S OKAY. LET'S  
JUST HAVE THE  
DOCTOR TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
YOU. I'M SURE  
THERE'S SOME  
KIND OF GOOD  
MEDICATION  
FOR YOU.

OH,  
HONEY...



I'LL LET  
HIM DO  
WHATEVER  
HE  
WANTS...

SO IF  
HE'S  
GOING  
TO  
COME,  
LET HIM  
COME!!

HE'LL  
COME  
AGAIN.



THERE'S  
NO  
NEED  
FOR  
THAT.

KOKO  
...



I HAVE  
AN IDEA.













GORO  
CONTINUED  
TO MUTTER  
FOR  
SEVERAL  
HOURS.

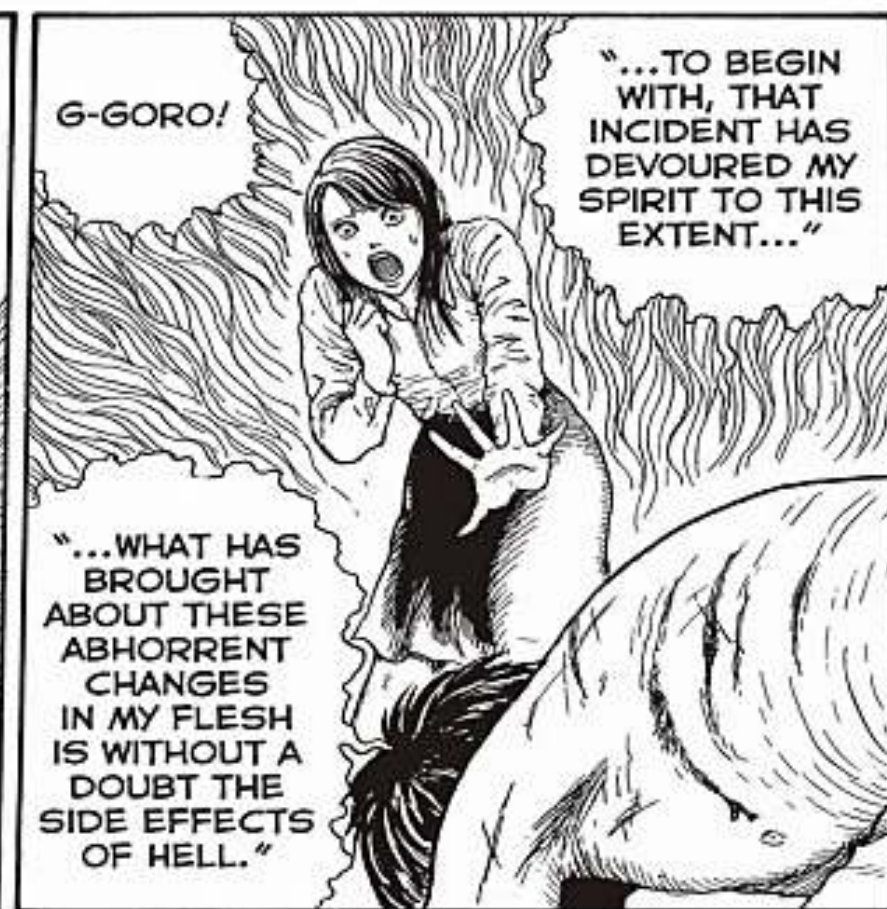


IT WAS  
ALMOST  
LIKE HE WAS  
FIGHTING  
WITH  
SOMEONE.

FROM TIME TO  
TIME HE WOULD  
INJURE HIMSELF,  
AS THOUGH HE  
WERE UNABLE TO  
WITHSTAND  
THE FEAR.



"THE EERIE  
CURETTAGE THAT THIS  
CURSED SURGEON  
PERFORMED IN 1955  
TOOK ME TO AN EVEN  
MORE ABNORMAL  
CONDITION..."



G-GORO!

"...TO BEGIN  
WITH, THAT  
INCIDENT HAS  
DEVOURED MY  
SPIRIT TO THIS  
EXTENT..."

"...WHAT HAS  
BROUGHT  
ABOUT THESE  
ABHORRENT  
CHANGES  
IN MY FLESH  
IS WITHOUT A  
DOUBT THE  
SIDE EFFECTS  
OF HELL."



STOOOOOP!

"...SATAMOR  
YAFEDORA..."

"...FINAL  
CHAPTER  
..."

NOOOOOOOOO

KOKO...

KOKO  
...

SPINY  
HELL IS  
GONE. I  
WON.

IT'S  
ALL  
RIGHT  
NOW.

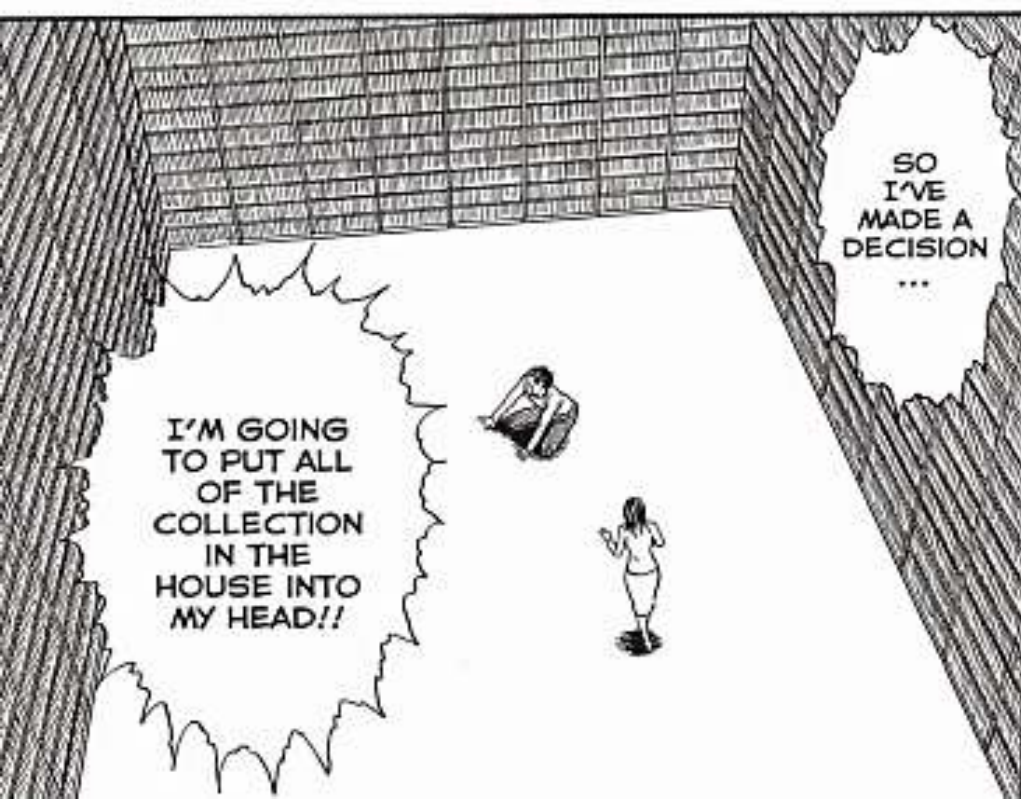
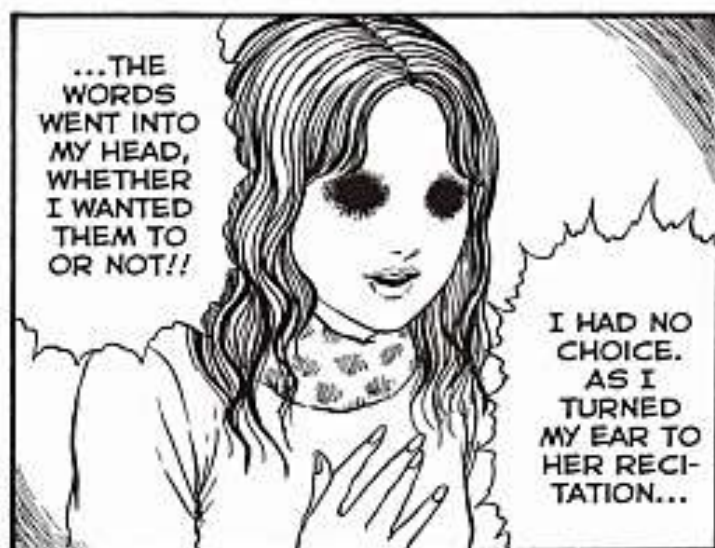
...  
GORO?

KOKO,  
ARE YOU  
AWAKE?











HE SET ABOUT  
MEMORIZING A  
QUANTITY OF  
BOOKS THAT  
WOULD HAVE  
BEEN UTTERLY  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR A NORMAL  
PERSON.

AFTER THAT,  
I WATCHED  
AS GORO  
DISPLAYED A  
FEARSOME  
ABILITY.



NIAGARA  
CONFERENCE.  
IN 1914...

...HE  
RECITED TO  
ME ALL THE  
VOLUMES OF  
THE LARGE  
WORLD ENCY-  
CLOPEDIA.



ONCE HE  
FINISHED  
MEMORIZING  
ALL THE TENS  
OF THOUSANDS  
OF NOVELS HE  
OWNED...



...WOULD  
FILL THE  
ROOM WITH  
HIS HIGH-  
PITCHED  
RECITATION.

...  
SUDDENLY,  
LIKE A TAPE  
PLAYED ON  
FAST-  
FORWARD,  
GORO...



IT WAS A BIZARRE  
SIGHT. JUST  
WHEN ALL I  
COULD HEAR IN  
THE SILENCE WAS  
THE SOUND OF  
PAGES QUICKLY  
BEING FLIPPED...



BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

THE NUMBER  
OF BOOKS  
HE'D  
MEMORIZED  
WAS  
ALREADY  
WELL PAST  
100,000...

...AND THE  
BOOKS HE'D  
FINISHED  
WITH PILED  
UP INTO  
MOUNTAINS.



BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH



I COULDN'T  
HELP BUT  
BE DEEPLY  
UNSETTLED  
BY THIS  
STRANGE  
SITUATION.





B-BUT...  
MY BRAIN  
CAPACITY...  
IS NEAR  
THE  
LIMIT...

DON'T  
BOTHER  
ME. JUST  
A LITTLE...  
MORE...  
LEFT...

B-BUT...  
MY BRAIN  
CAPACITY...  
IS NEAR  
THE  
LIMIT...

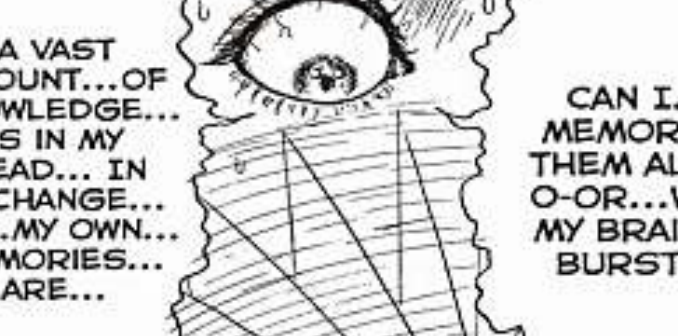
DON'T  
BOTHER  
ME. JUST  
A LITTLE...  
MORE...  
LEFT...

GORO... PLEASE...

ENOUGH. STOP.

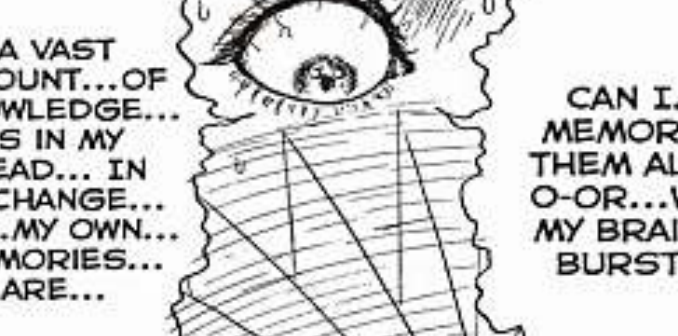
GORO... PLEASE...

ENOUGH. STOP.



A VAST  
AMOUNT...OF  
KNOWLEDGE...  
IS IN MY  
HEAD... IN  
EXCHANGE...  
MY...MY OWN...  
MEMORIES...  
ARE...

CAN I...  
MEMORIZE  
THEM ALL...  
O-OR...WILL  
MY BRAIN...  
BURST...



A VAST  
AMOUNT...OF  
KNOWLEDGE...  
IS IN MY  
HEAD... IN  
EXCHANGE...  
MY...MY OWN...  
MEMORIES...  
ARE...

CAN I...  
MEMORIZE  
THEM ALL...  
O-OR...WILL  
MY BRAIN...  
BURST...



...I FOUND  
THE EMPTY  
SHELL OF MY  
HUSBAND.

THE NEXT  
DAY, IN  
THIS  
ROOM...



...HAD  
BEEN  
COMPLETELY  
TAKEN  
OVER BY  
THE  
LIBRARY.

HIS  
BRAIN  
...



\*RENÉE'S  
LOVE WAS  
FLEETING  
LIKE THE  
SNOW  
FALLING  
ON THE  
TOWN..."

\*CHAPTER  
ONE...THE  
MEETING  
..."



...HIS  
DIARIES.

THEY  
WERE  
...

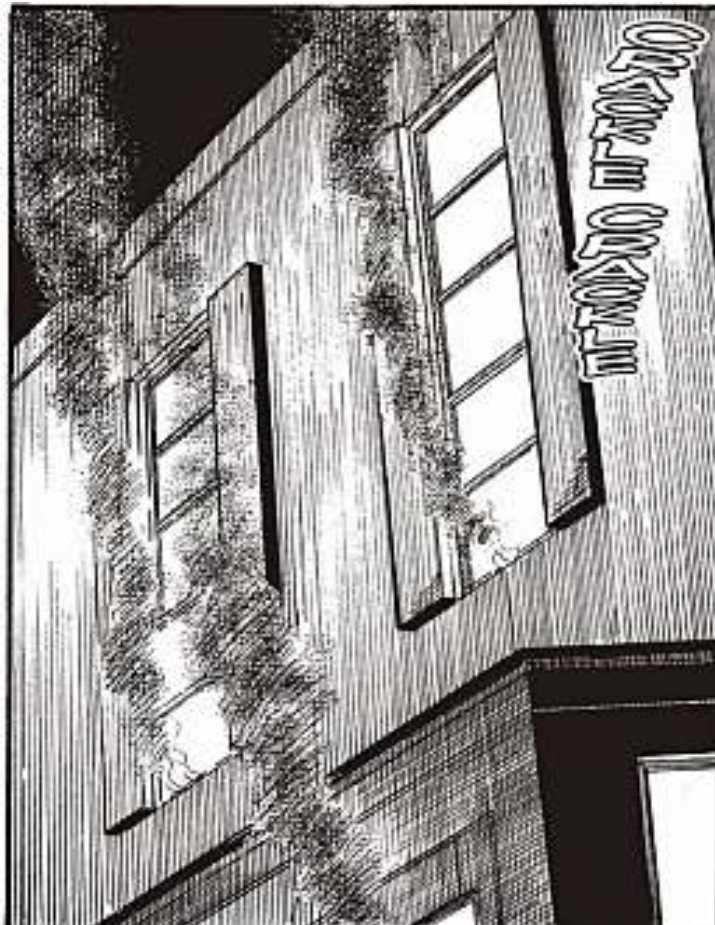


THE  
DOZENS  
OF BOOKS  
SCATTERED  
AT HIS  
FEET...

...LOOKED  
TO BE ONES  
HE HADN'T  
MANAGED TO  
MEMORIZE  
IN THE END,  
ALTHOUGH  
HE TRIED.







DOES THIS  
MEAN YOU  
MIGHT HAVE  
MAINTAINED  
YOUR SANITY  
IF YOU'D  
MEMORIZED  
THESE  
DIARIES?

POOR  
THING.



FOR THE  
SAKE  
OF THIS  
LIBRARY...

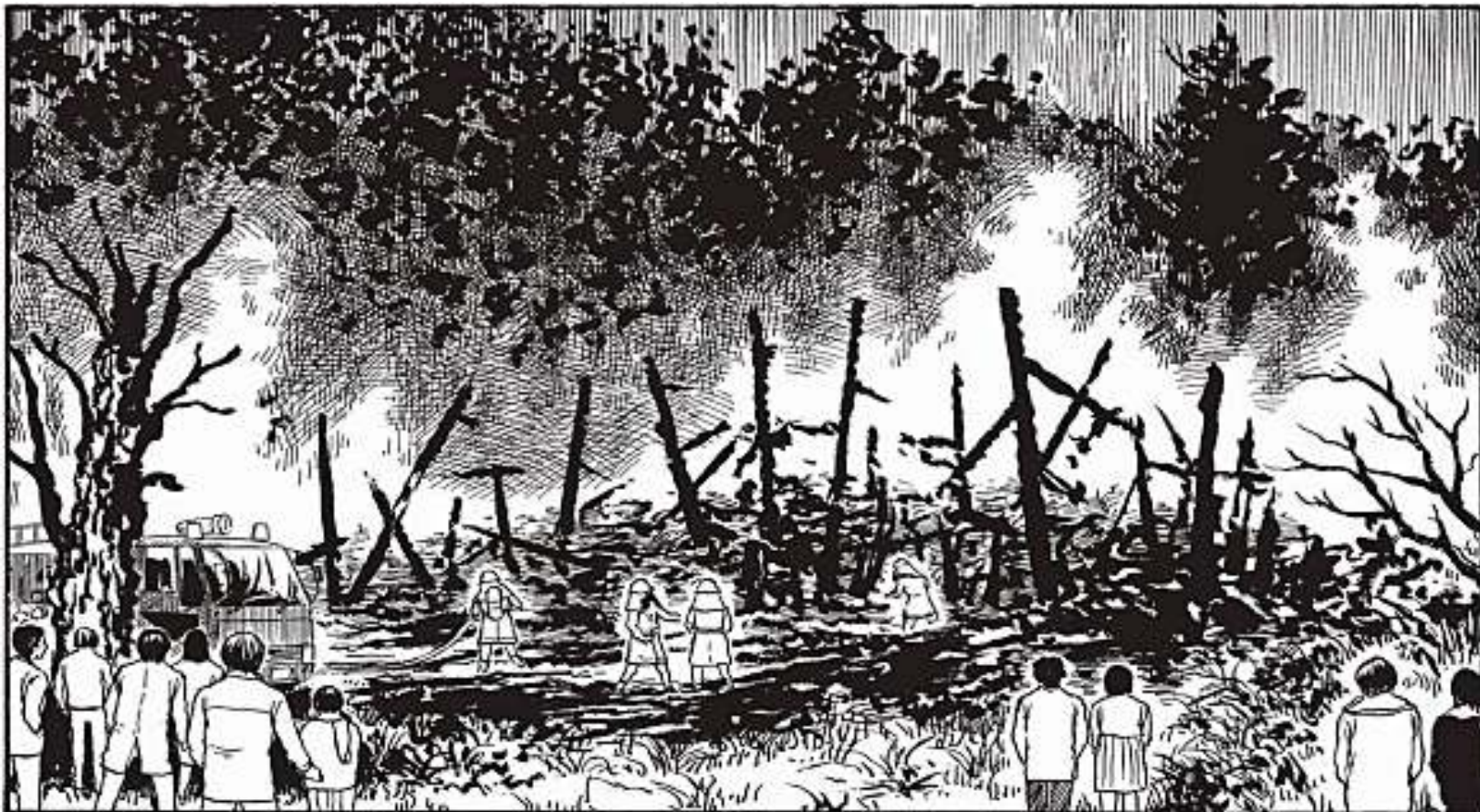
OH,  
GORO  
!!




THAT'S THE  
SHIRASAKI  
HOUSE! THE  
SHIRASAKI  
HOUSE IS  
ON FIRE!!

FIRE!









BUT I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO KILL  
HIM... THE  
FIRE SPREAD  
SO QUICKLY,  
I COULDN'T  
GET HIM  
OUT...

I SET  
THE  
FIRE.

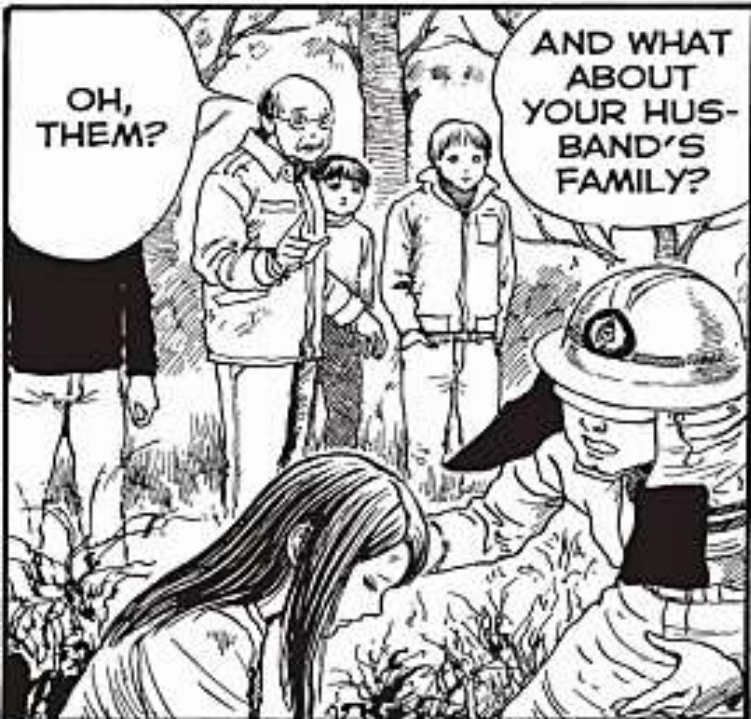


YOU...  
YOU'RE  
THE LADY  
OF THE  
HOUSE?



SO I...  
BURNED IT.  
NOW IT'S  
FINALLY  
GONE  
FOREVER.

I WAS  
JUST —  
I JUST  
HATED THE  
LIBRARY.



OH,  
THEM?

AND WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOUR HUS-  
BAND'S  
FAMILY?



BUT...IT'S  
BETTER THIS  
WAY... NOW THE  
VISIONS OF  
THE LIBRARY  
WILL NEVER  
APPEAR AGAIN.

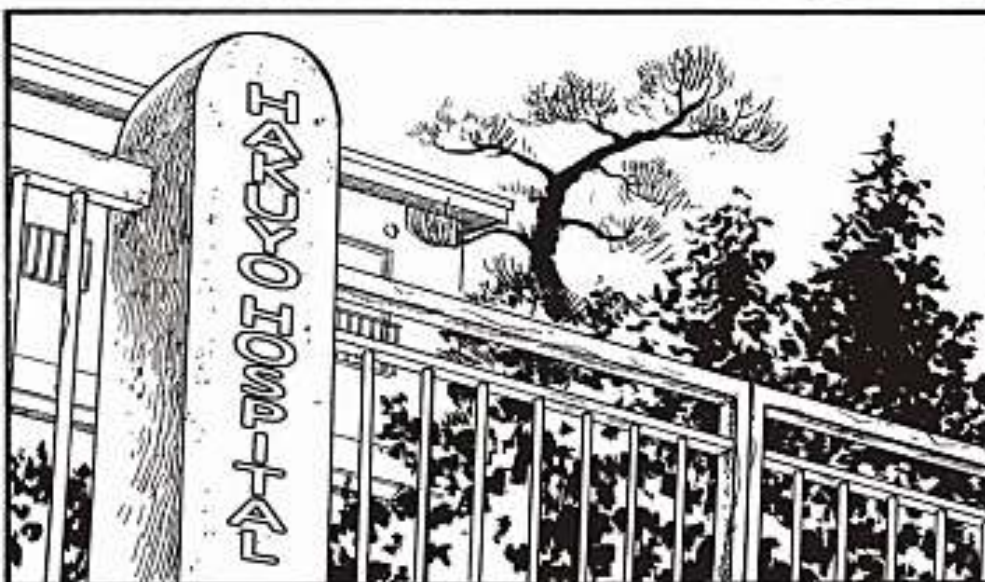
MRS.  
SHIRASAKI,  
YOU'LL  
NEED  
TO SPEAK  
WITH THE  
POLICE.



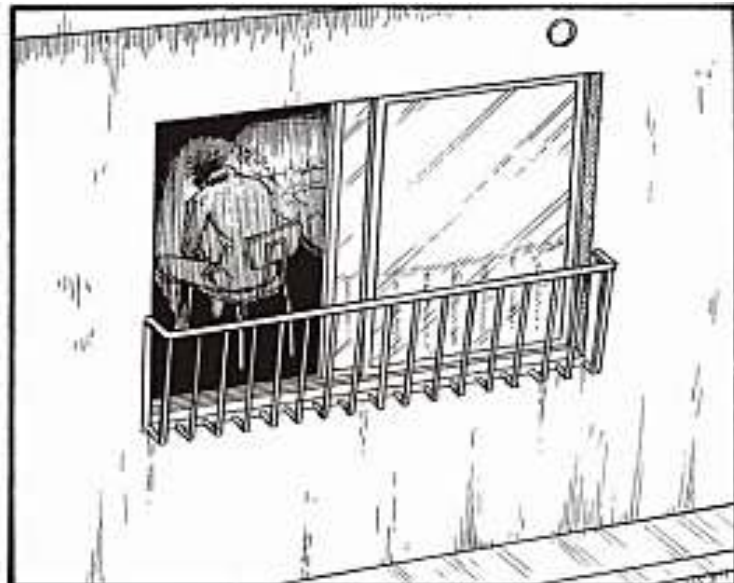


BUT I DOUBT  
THERE'S  
ANY POINT IN  
CONTACTING  
HIM...

HIS  
FATHER'S IN  
A HOSPITAL  
IN A NEIGH-  
BORING  
TOWN NOW.







BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH  
BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH







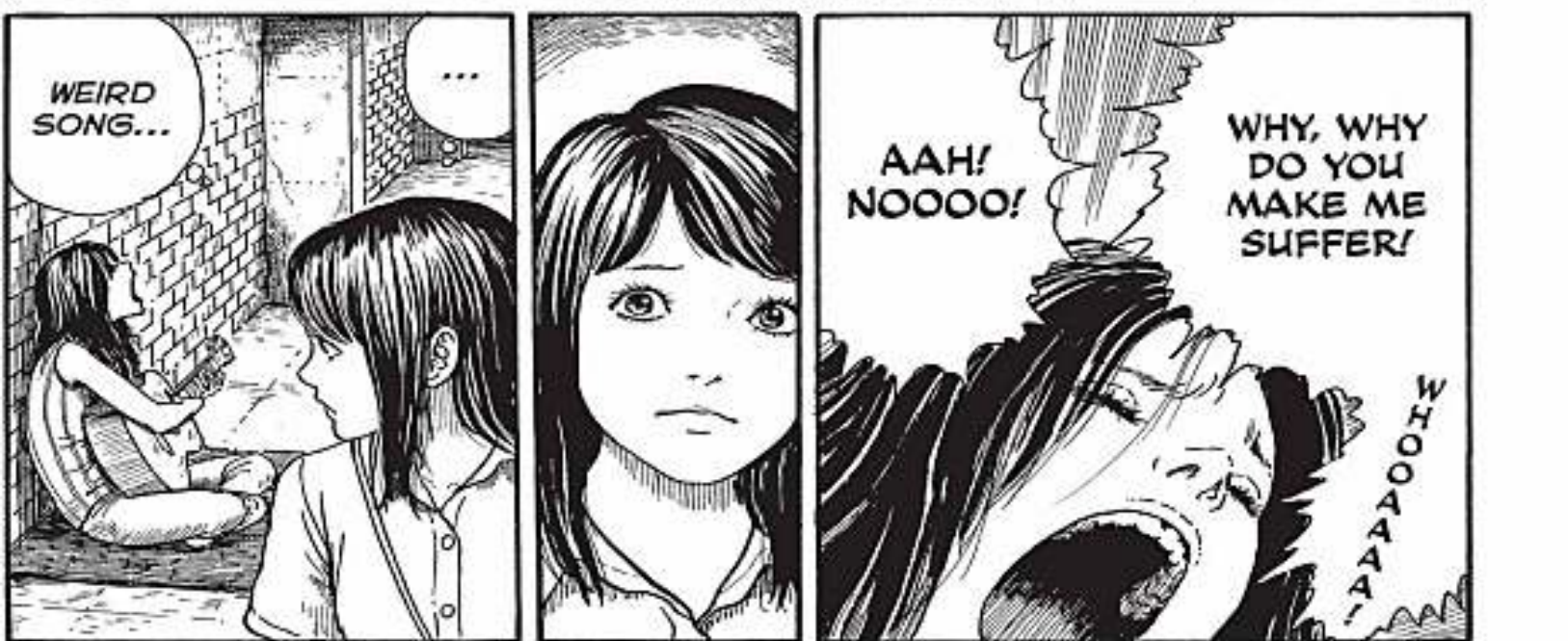
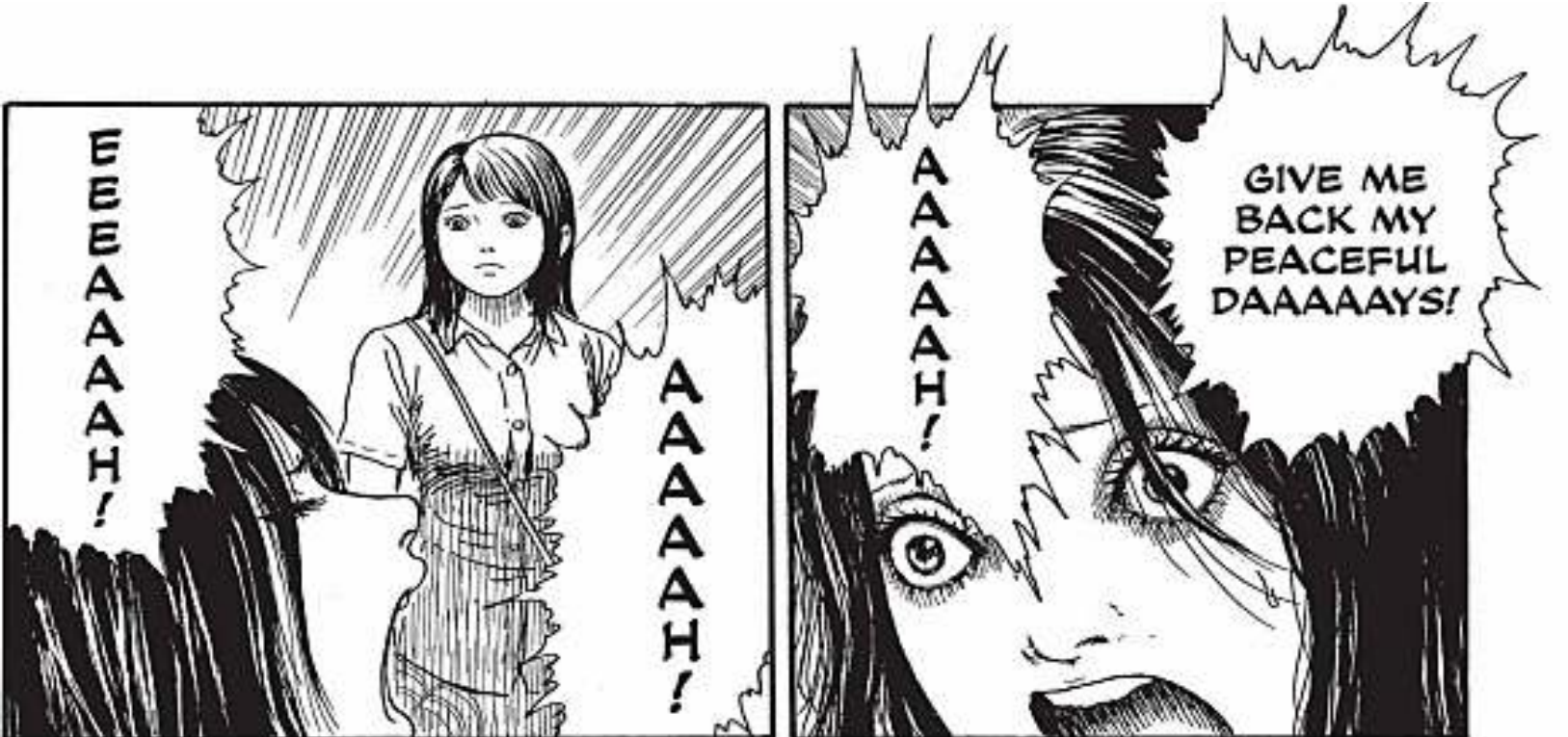
SPLENDID SHADOW SONG

やみ ぜっ しょう  
闇の絶唱

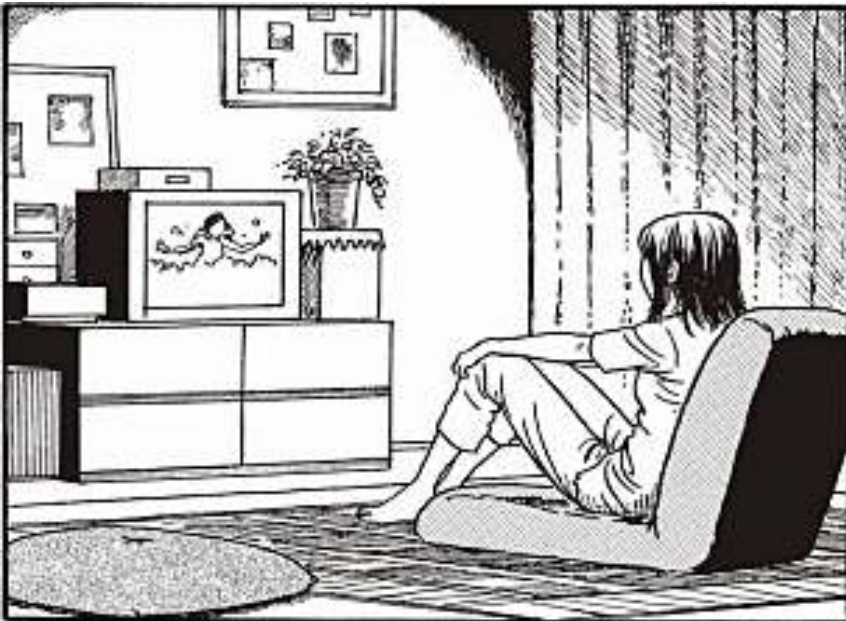














HOW LONG WITH ME,  
WHOOOAAA! HOW FAR  
WITH ME, NOOOO!

THAT  
SONG'S  
STUCK  
IN MY  
HEAD.

WHY, WHY DO YOU  
MAKE ME SUFFER!  
AAH! NOOOO!



A WEIRD ONE.  
THIS STREET  
MUSICIAN WAS  
PLAYING IT.

HUH.  
WHAT  
SONG  
IS IT?

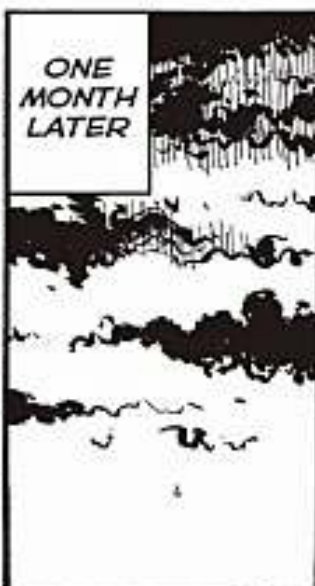
IT'S  
STILL  
PLAYING  
IN MY  
HEAD  
NOW.

I DON'T  
KNOW... I  
COULDN'T  
SLEEP AT  
ALL LAST  
NIGHT.

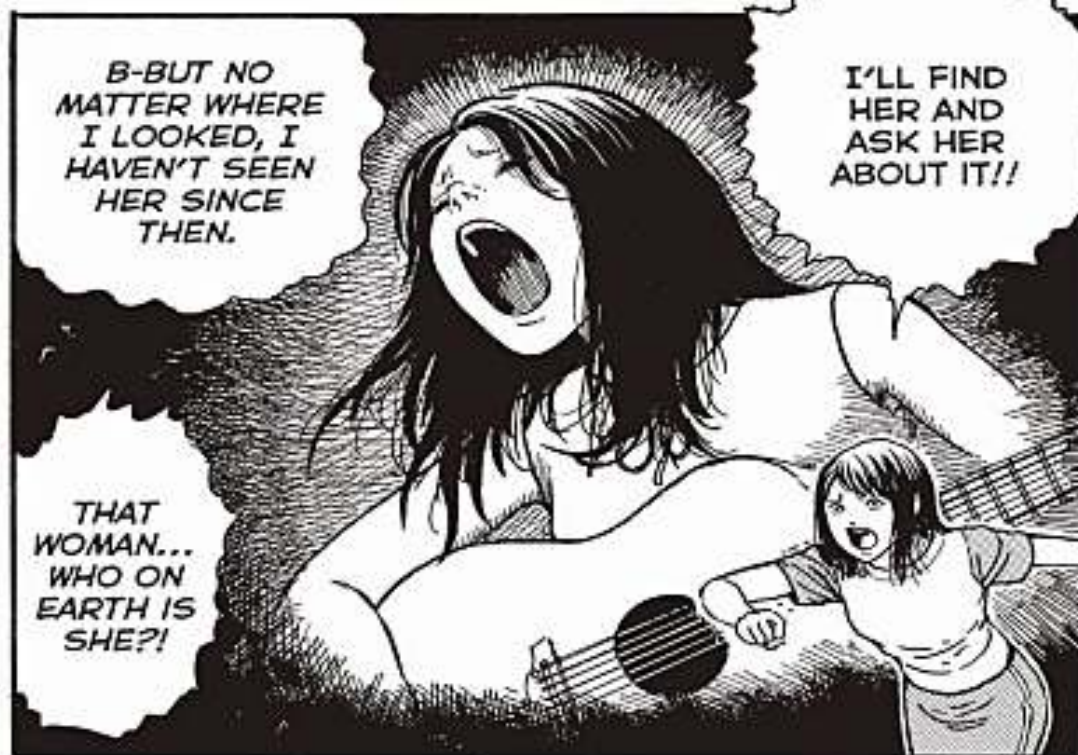
HM? YOU CAN'T  
GET A SONG OUT  
OF YOUR HEAD?  
WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN, TAMAYO?











B-BUT NO  
MATTER WHERE  
I LOOKED, I  
HAVEN'T SEEN  
HER SINCE  
THEN.

I'LL FIND  
HER AND  
ASK HER  
ABOUT IT!!

THAT  
WOMAN...  
WHO ON  
EARTH IS  
SHE?!



THAT  
WOMAN  
...

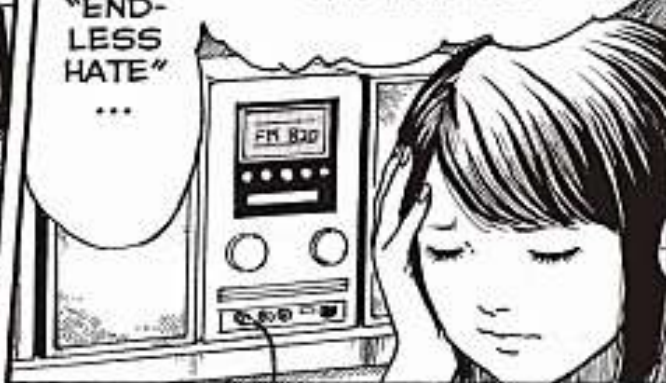


JANG JANG JANG  
AAH, I HATE YOU!  
I HATE YOU!



"END-  
LESS  
HATE"  
...

NOW! OUR NEXT SONG  
IS FROM THE DEBUT  
ALBUM OF NEWCOMER  
YU KANADE. SHE'S  
BEEN SHOOTING UP  
THE CHARTS THIS  
LAST MONTH.





AAAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE  
SINCE WE'VE SEEN THIS KIND  
OF MASSIVE NEWCOMER. YU  
KANADE WAS SINGING ON  
THE STREET A MONTH AGO  
WHEN SHE WAS SCOUTED,  
AND NOW HER ALBUM IS A  
NUMBER ONE HIT!!

HOW LONG  
WITH ME,  
WHOOOAAA!  
HOW FAR WITH  
ME, NOOOO!

GIVE ME  
BACK MY  
PEACEFUL  
DAAAAAYS!

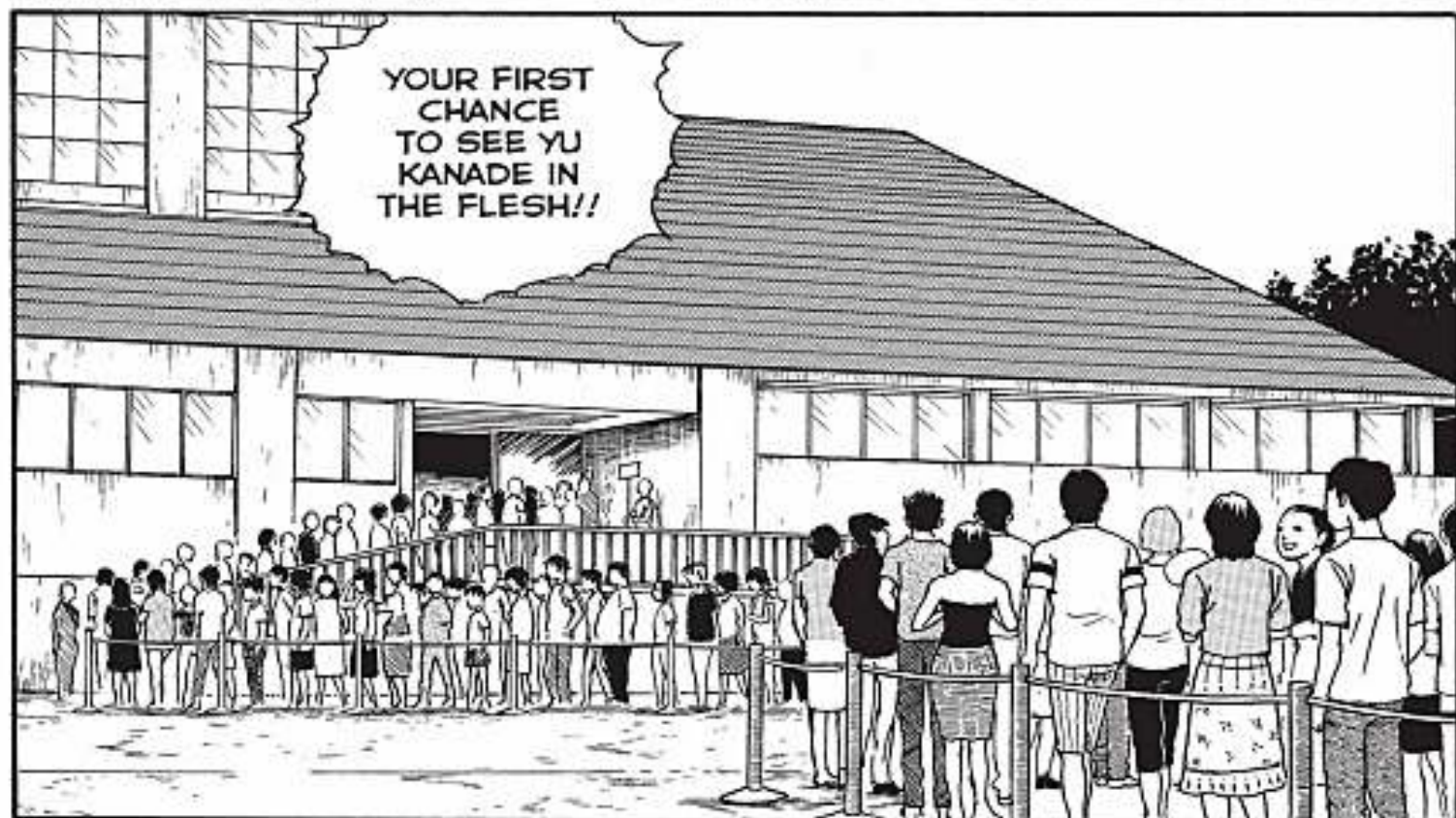
I'M  
HEARING  
IT FROM  
THE  
RADIO?

W-  
WHAT  
?!

AND GOOD  
NEWS!!  
SHE'LL BE  
PLAYING LIVE  
NEXT WEEK  
AT OX HALL.

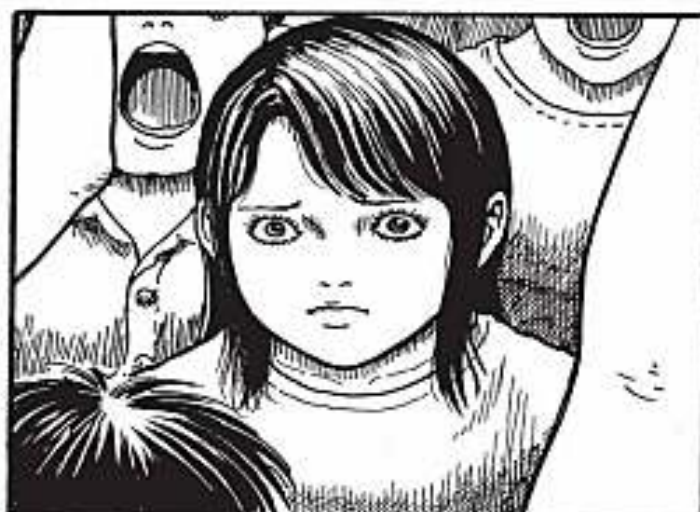
THE ALBUM IS A  
MASTERPIECE!!  
ALL THE SONGS  
ARE ARRANGED IN  
A MEDLEY, FULL OF  
PHANTASMAGORIC  
AND MYSTERIOUS  
MELODIES, A  
KALEIDOSCOPE IN  
MUSIC FORM FILLED  
WITH HER INNER  
SCREAMS!

YOUR FIRST  
CHANCE  
TO SEE YU  
KANADE IN  
THE FLESH!!





A black and white illustration of a large crowd of people. Many individuals have their arms raised high, some with open mouths as if shouting or cheering. The crowd is dense, and the overall atmosphere is one of intense excitement or protest. The style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a high-contrast graphic print.







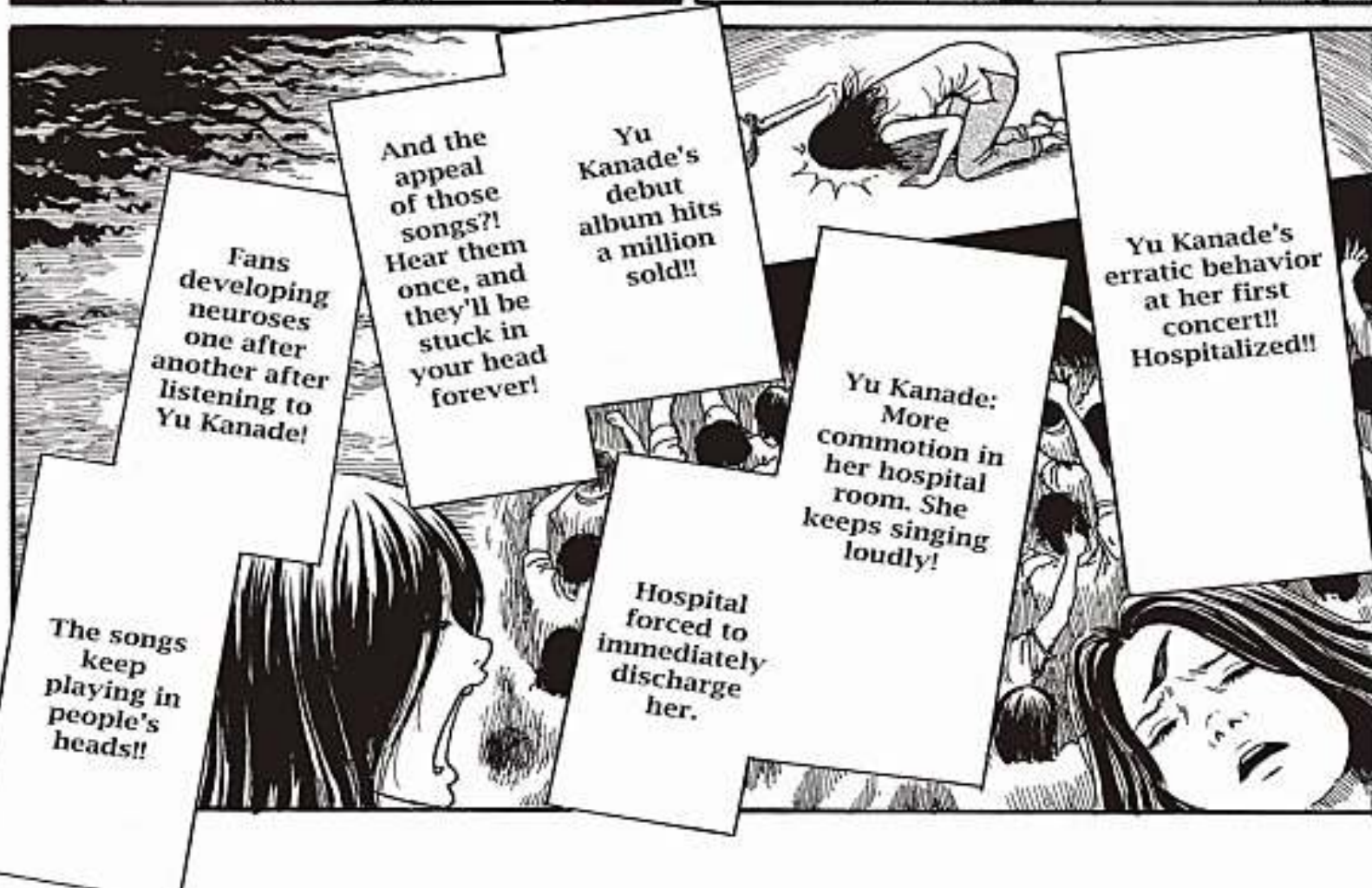














Yu Kanade  
is missing!!  
She's  
disappeared  
from her  
condo!!

Broadcast  
boycott!!  
CD sales  
stopped!!  
Removal  
from shops!!

Countless  
victims!!  
Possible  
class action  
suit?!

"Yu Kanade's  
songs  
are noise  
pollution in  
the brain!!"

Yu  
Kanade  
is being  
sued!!

WHAT?!  
OH!  
SORRY.

TAMAYO!!  
ARE YOU  
LISTENING  
TO ME?!

I HEARD HER  
SONGS, BUT  
NOTHING  
HAPPENED  
TO ME.

TAMAYO? IT'S  
STILL NOT  
BETTER? I HEAR  
IT'S DIFFERENT  
FOR EVERYONE,  
HUH...

I CAN'T  
THINK  
ABOUT  
ANYTHING  
ANYMORE.

I DON'T  
WANT TO  
THINK...

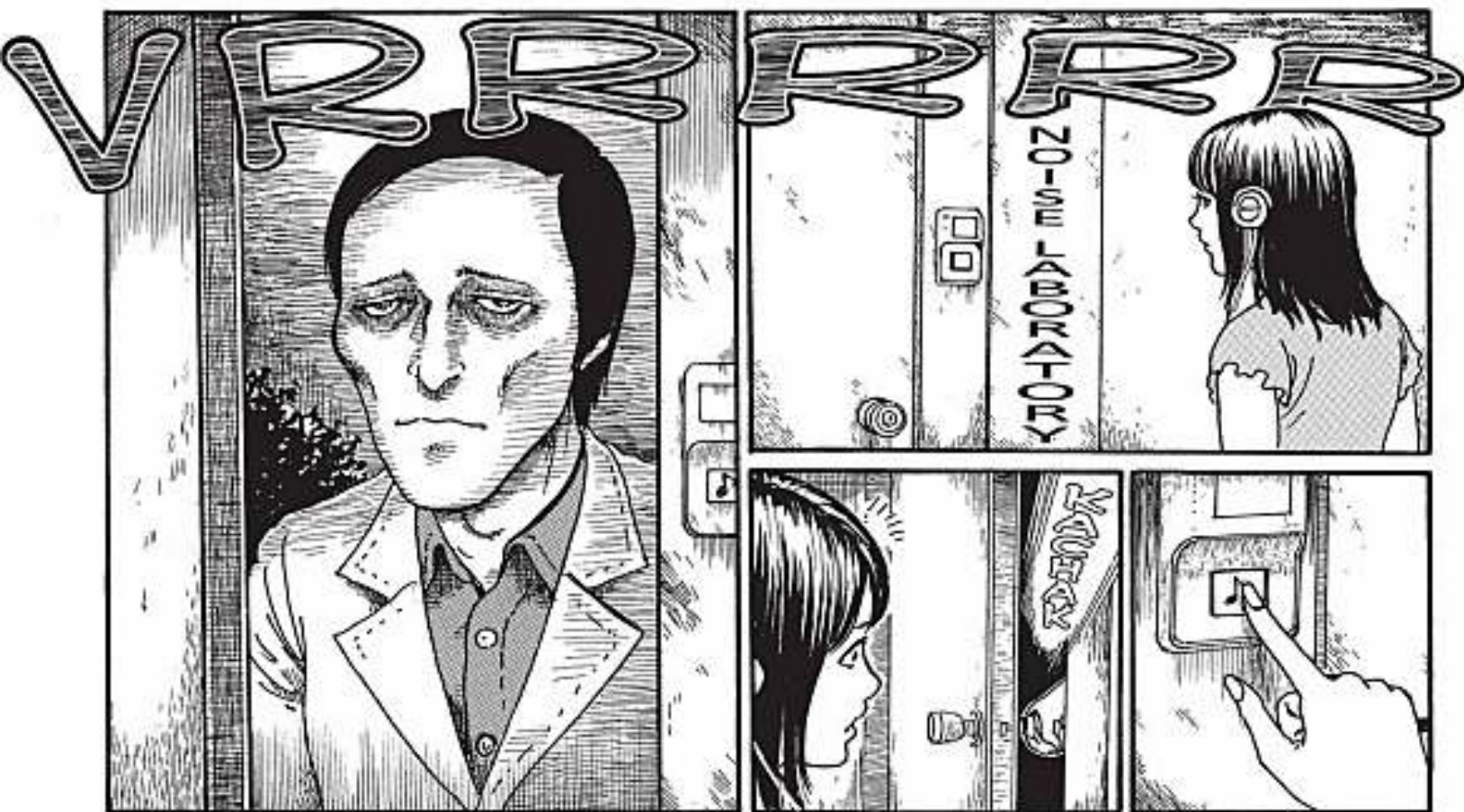
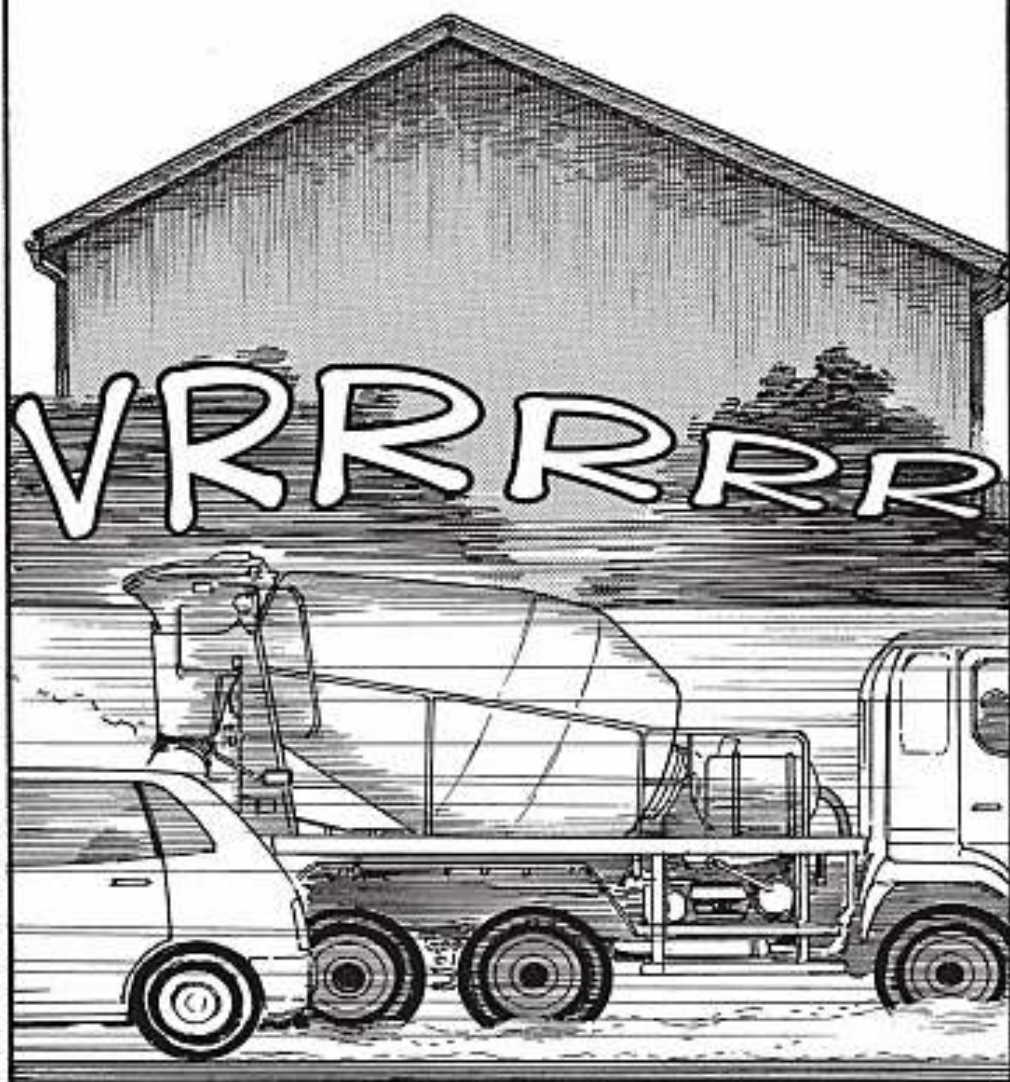
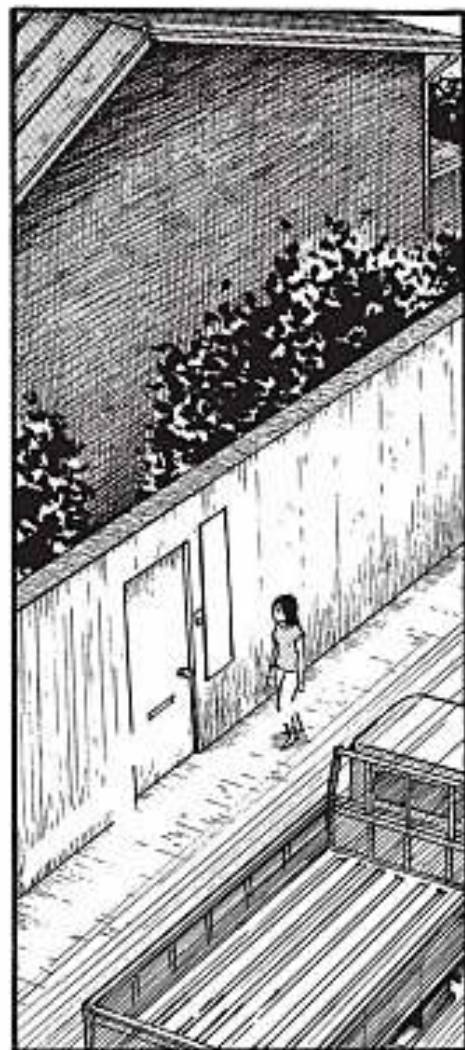
EITHER  
WAY, I  
CAN'T  
CONCENTRATE,  
THOUGH.

LISTENING TO  
SOME OTHER  
MUSIC LOUDLY  
LIKE THIS  
DISTRACTS ME  
A LITTLE.













I-I'M  
SUFFERING  
FROM THIS  
NOISE IN MY  
HEAD...

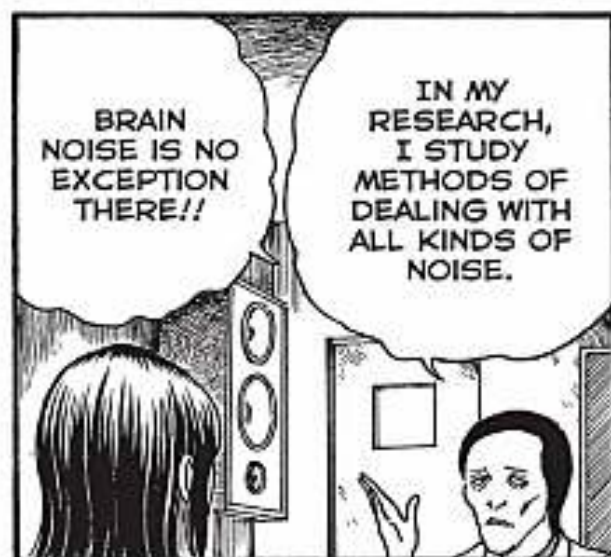
UM.  
WHAT  
NOISE  
DO YOU  
STUDY?



SILENCE

WELCOME.  
I'M  
SHAKU.

WHAT  
CAN I  
DO FOR  
YOU?



BRAIN  
NOISE IS NO  
EXCEPTION  
THERE!!

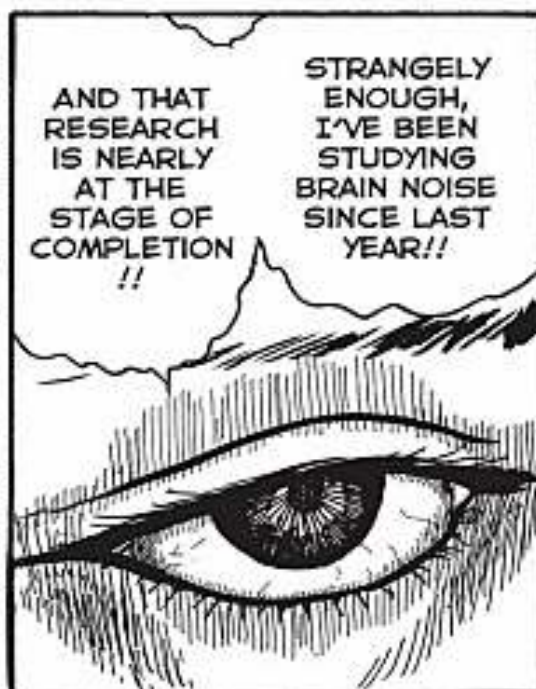
IN MY  
RESEARCH,  
I STUDY  
METHODS OF  
DEALING WITH  
ALL KINDS OF  
NOISE.



OH HO...  
THE BRAIN  
NOISE  
EVERY-  
ONE'S  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
THESE  
DAYS.



EEAAAHH



AND THAT  
RESEARCH  
IS NEARLY  
AT THE  
STAGE OF  
COMPLETION  
!!

STRANGELY  
ENOUGH,  
I'VE BEEN  
STUDYING  
BRAIN NOISE  
SINCE LAST  
YEAR!!



**STOP! I HATE YOU!! YOU'RE  
SO STUBBORN! GO TO HELL!  
AAAAAH!**



I'VE  
NEVER  
HEARD  
THAT  
MELODY  
BEFORE.

A CD?  
NO,  
IT'S  
NOT.



THAT'S  
YU  
KANADE.

OH! THAT  
VOICE...



IS YU  
KANADE  
HERE?

DOCTOR...  
IT CAN'T  
BE.



**DOCTOOOOOR!  
DOCTOR  
SHAKUUUUUUUU!!**

**HURRY AND DO  
SOMETHIIIIING!**





...CAME  
HERE FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME AT THE  
END OF LAST  
YEAR.

SHE  
ACTUALLY  
...



I'VE BEEN  
HIDING HER  
SINCE HER  
DISAPPEAR-  
ANCE.

IT IS INDEED  
YU KANADE.  
ALTHOUGH  
THAT'S NOT  
HER REAL  
NAME...



SHE SAID SHE  
COULDN'T  
GET THIS  
SONG OUT OF  
HER HEAD.



THE  
WOMAN  
THERE  
BEFORE  
ME WAS  
UTTERLY  
EXHAUSTED.



THIS  
IS HER  
STORY...

...



SHE SAID  
NO MATTER  
HOW HARD  
SHE TRIED  
TO GET RID  
OF IT, IT  
WOULDN'T  
STOP.

THE  
SONG  
KEPT  
PLAYING  
INSIDE  
HER  
HEAD.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

WHAT?! SHE  
COULDN'T  
GET A SONG  
OUT OF HER  
HEAD?



SHE SAID  
HE WOULD  
ALWAYS  
SING HER  
LOVE  
SONGS.



THE TWO  
MET  
ON THE  
STREET  
AND FELL  
IN LOVE.



SHE USED  
TO HAVE A  
BOYFRIEND,  
A MAN WHO  
DREAMED  
OF BEING  
A MUSICIAN  
SOMEDAY.



BUT HE  
REFUSED  
TO LET  
IT HAP-  
PEN AND  
TURNED  
INTO A  
STALKER.

SHE  
TRIED  
TO  
BREAK  
UP WITH  
HIM.



NOT ONLY  
WAS HE VERY  
JEALOUS, BUT  
HE HAD NO  
TALENT AND  
HE WAS VERY  
STUBBORN.

BUT EVEN-  
TUALY,  
SHE GOT  
FED UP  
WITH HIM.

...IN  
HER  
APART-  
MENT.



...HE KILLED  
HIMSELF...

HIS  
STALKING  
BEHAVIOR  
STEADILY  
ESCALATED.

ONE  
DAY...







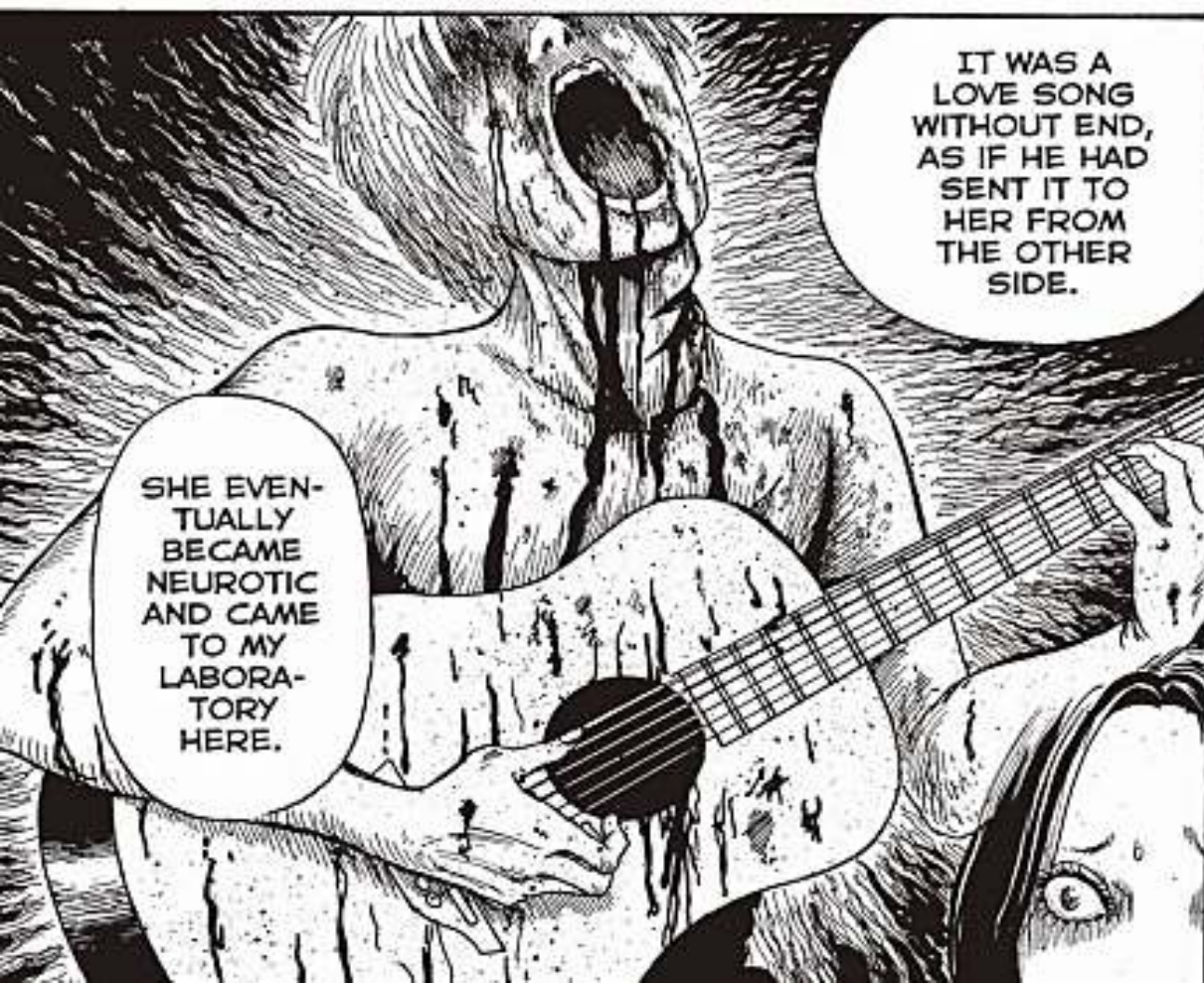
AND THEN,  
EXACTLY  
49 DAYS  
LATER...

...A  
STRANGE  
SONG  
SUDDENLY  
ROSE UP IN  
THE BACK  
OF HER  
MIND.



BUT IT  
SIMPLY  
WOULD  
NOT LEAVE  
HER  
HEAD.

SHE  
TRIED  
TO GET  
RID OF  
IT.



IT WAS A  
LOVE SONG  
WITHOUT END,  
AS IF HE HAD  
SENT IT TO  
HER FROM  
THE OTHER  
SIDE.

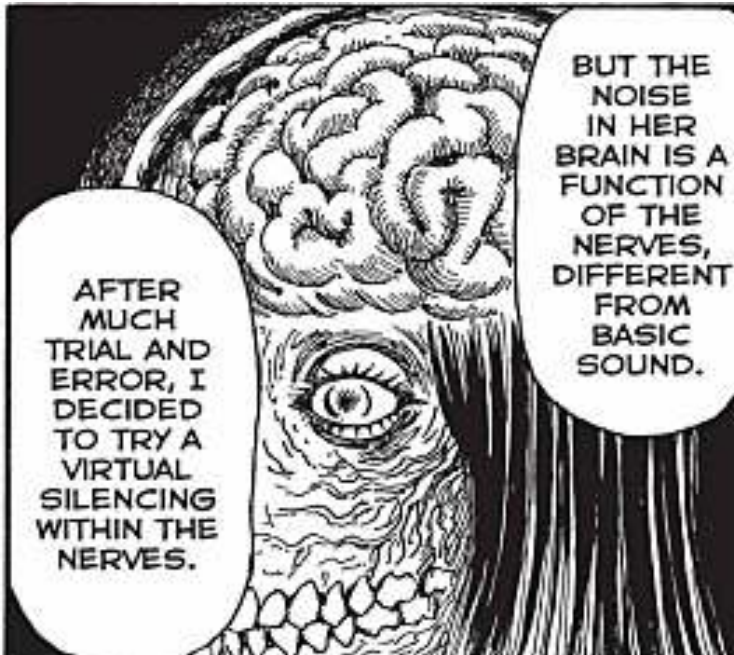
SHE EVEN-  
TUAL-  
LY BECAME  
NEUROTIC  
AND CAME  
TO MY LABO-  
RATORY  
HERE.



IT  
WAS...  
HIS  
SONG.

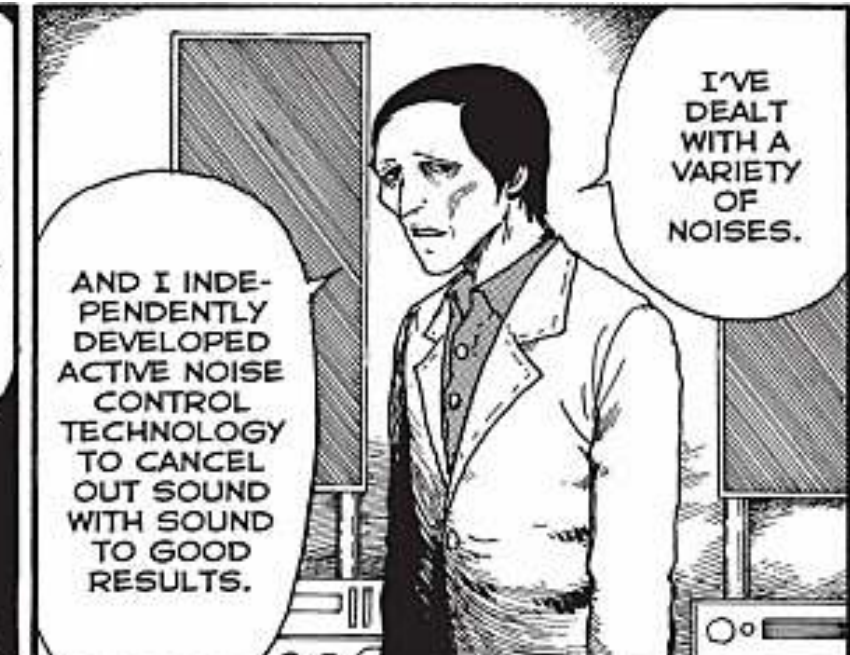
THE  
ENTHUSIAS-  
TIC SING-  
ING OF THE  
MAN PAS-  
SIONATELY  
PRESSING  
HER TO RE-  
CONCILE.






AFTER MUCH TRIAL AND ERROR, I DECIDED TO TRY A VIRTUAL SILENCING WITHIN THE NERVES.

BUT THE NOISE IN HER BRAIN IS A FUNCTION OF THE NERVES, DIFFERENT FROM BASIC SOUND.



AND I INDEPENDENTLY DEVELOPED ACTIVE NOISE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY TO CANCEL OUT SOUND WITH SOUND TO GOOD RESULTS.

I'VE DEALT WITH A VARIETY OF NOISES.



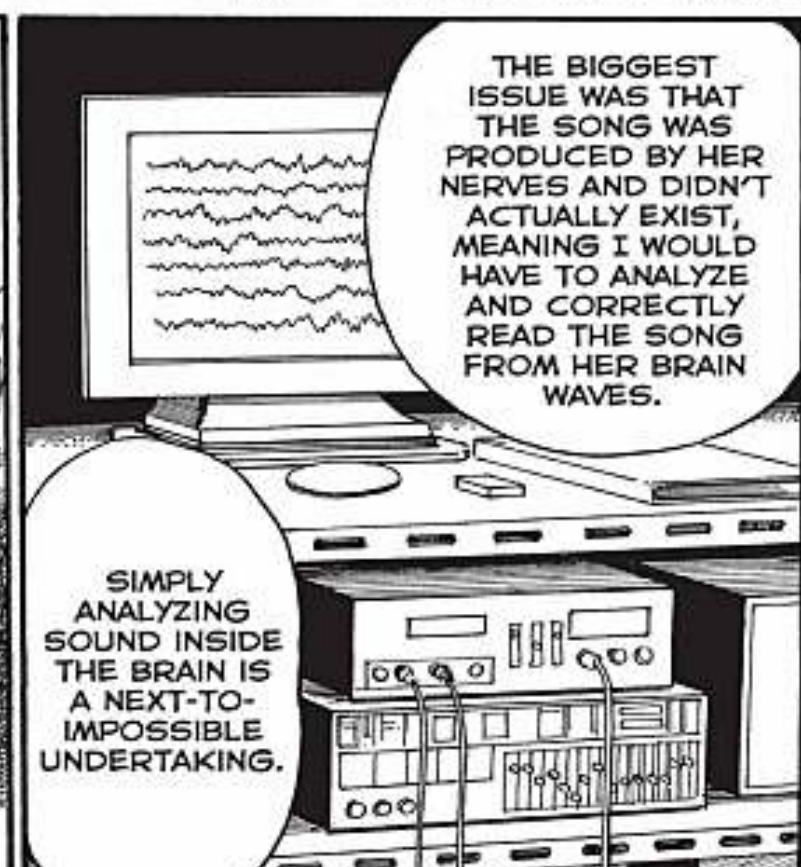
BY STIMULATING HER BRAIN WITH A SOUND AT THE EXACT OPPOSITE FREQUENCY OF THE SOUND PLAYING IN IT, I COULD KNOCK OUT THAT MAN'S SONG!

CASES IN WHICH STIMULATION OF A CERTAIN PART OF THE BRAIN CAUSED THE PATIENT TO HEAR MUSIC PROVIDED A CLUE.



AND SHE SAID THAT HIS SONG WAS COMPLEX AND CHANGED FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT.

SPECIAL MEASURES WOULD BE NEEDED TO HANDLE THIS COMPLEXITY AND THE CHANGES.




THE BIGGEST ISSUE WAS THAT THE SONG WAS PRODUCED BY HER NERVES AND DIDN'T ACTUALLY EXIST, MEANING I WOULD HAVE TO ANALYZE AND CORRECTLY READ THE SONG FROM HER BRAIN WAVES.

SIMPLY ANALYZING SOUND INSIDE THE BRAIN IS A NEXT-TO-IMPOSSIBLE UNDERTAKING.





EVEN  
THOUGH  
WE WERE  
STILL AT  
THE TRIAL  
STAGE...




BUT UNABLE TO  
WITHSTAND THE  
TERROR AND  
ANGUISH, SHE  
FLED THE  
LABORATORY.




STILL,  
EVERY-  
THING WAS  
SLOWLY  
COMING  
TOGETHER.



BUT IT WAS  
HOPELESS.  
SHE  
RETURNED  
TO ME  
ONCE  
MORE.



IN HER OWN  
WAY, SHE  
WAS TRYING  
DESPERATELY  
TO GET RID OF  
THE NOISE IN  
HER MIND.




I WAS  
STUNNED.  
THE MELODY  
THAT SHE WAS  
SINGING—  
IT WAS VERY  
SIMILAR TO  
THE SOUND I  
WAS TESTING.



IT WASN'T  
LONG  
AFTER THAT  
WHEN SHE  
APPEARED  
IN THE  
MEDIA AS  
YU KANADE.



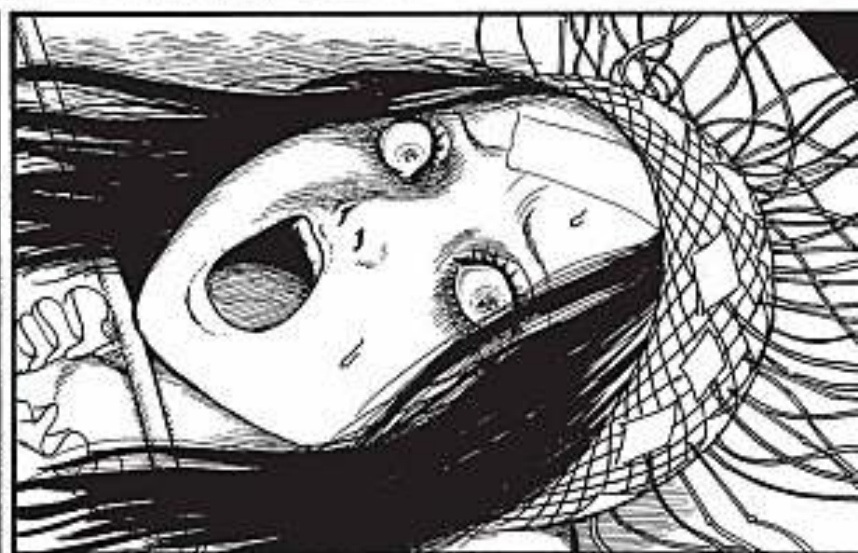
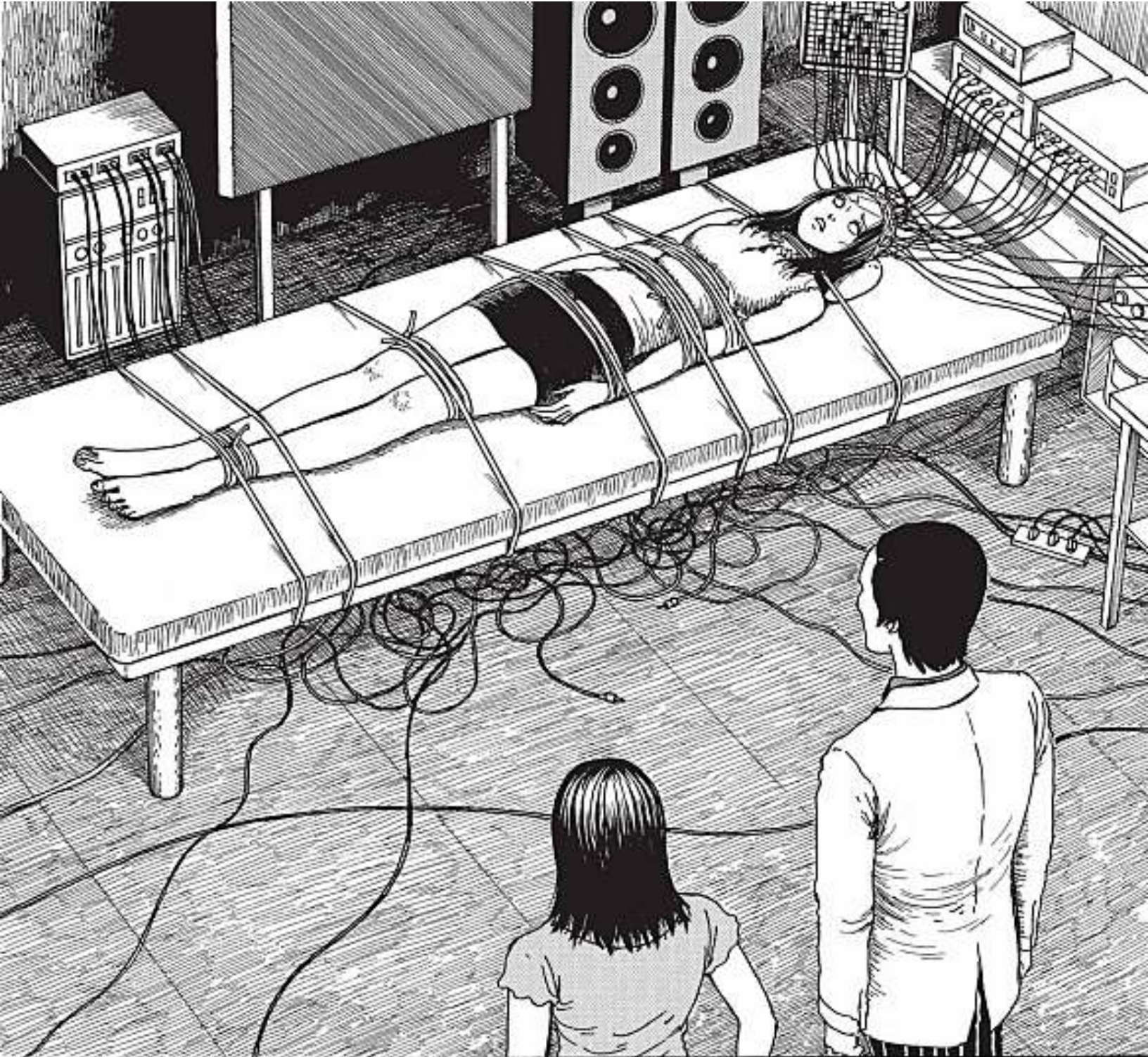
COME.



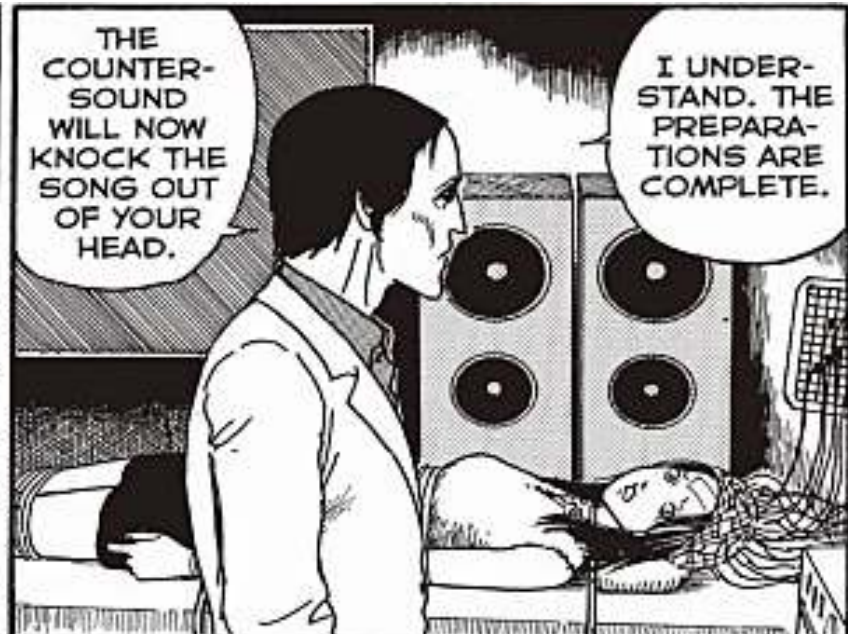
NOW IT'S  
SIMPLY A  
MATTER OF  
WAITING  
FOR THE  
SYSTEM I  
COMPLETED  
TO ERASE  
THE SOUND  
IN HER  
BRAIN.

I'M  
CONFIDENT  
I CAN SAVE  
HER.

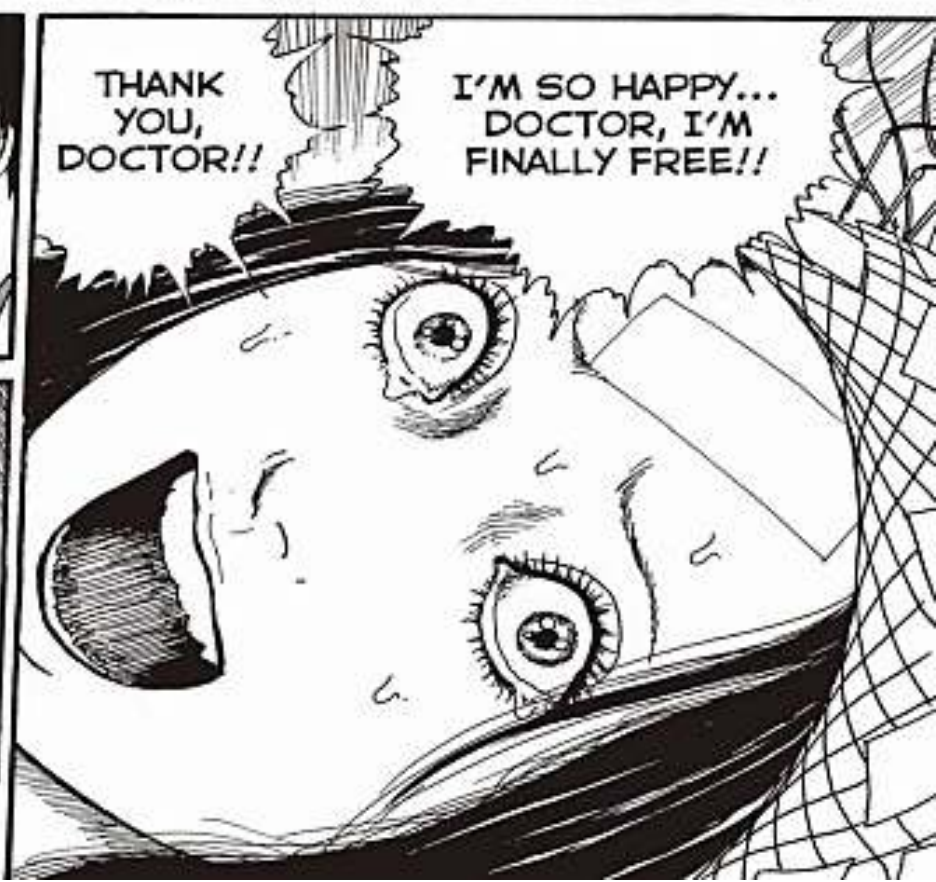
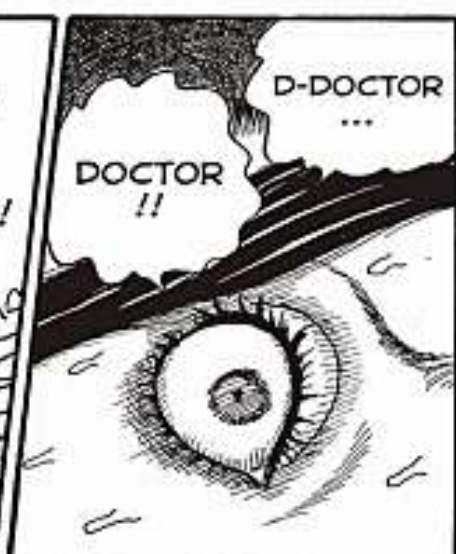
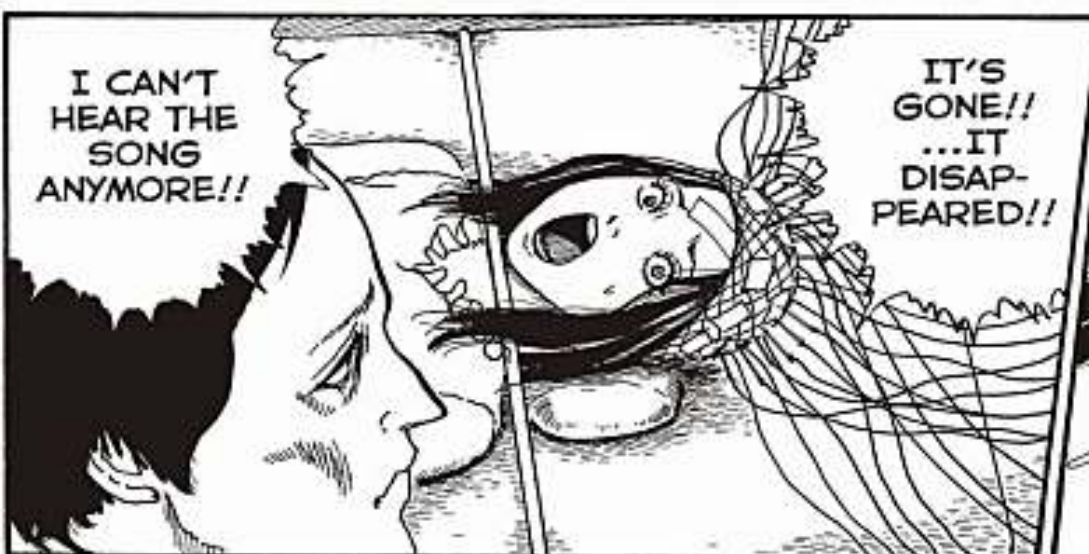
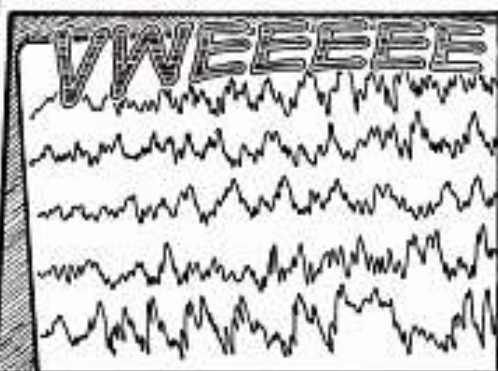
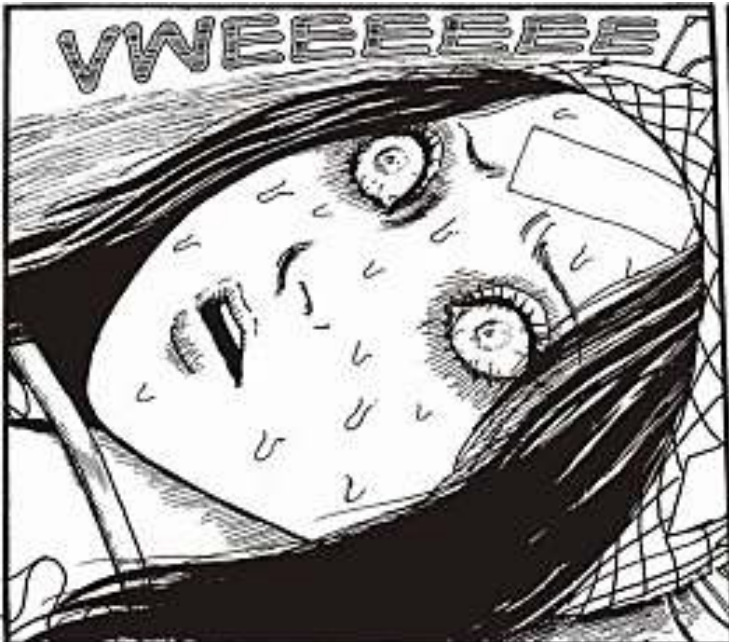










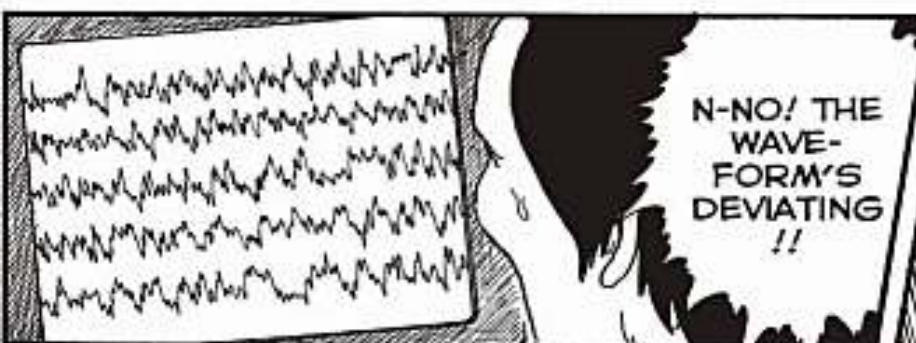




AAAAAH!



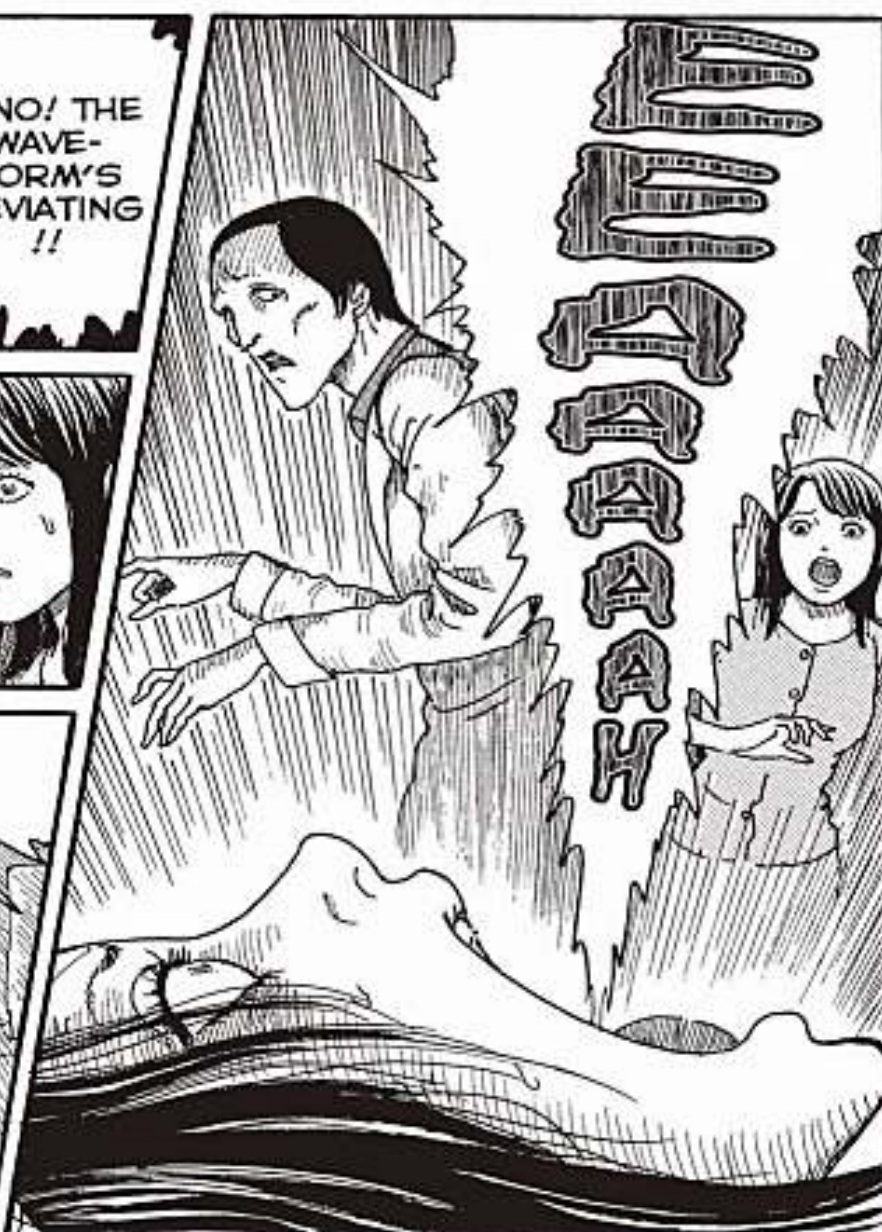
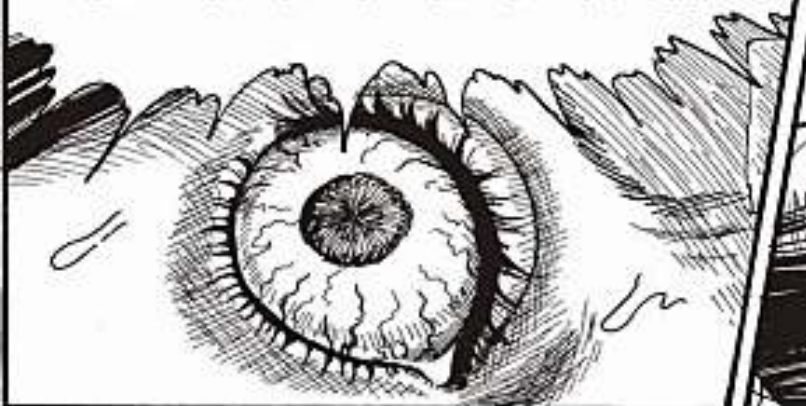
AH  
?!



N-NO! THE  
WAVE-  
FORM'S  
DEVIATING  
!!



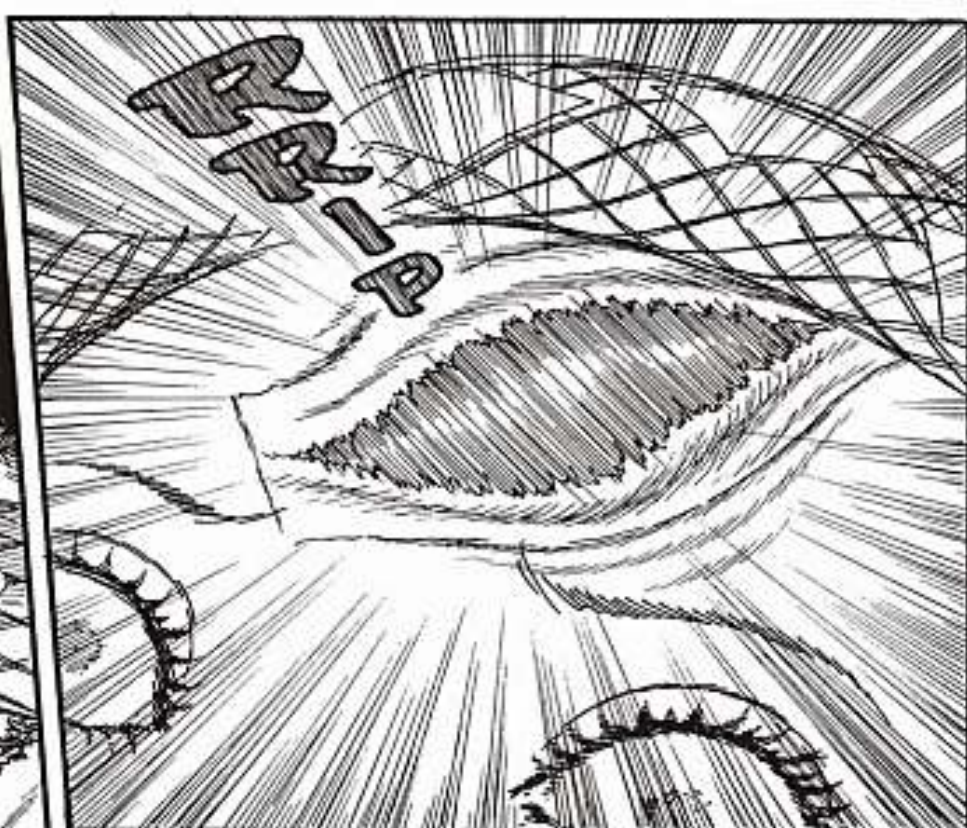
ENNNNNNH!



















DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE SONG OF HER FORMER LOVER—WHICH WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A FUNCTION OF THE NERVES IN THE BRAIN—HAS MATERIALIZED AFTER BEING HIT WITH THE COUNTER-SOUND?!







SHE'S DEAD...



I HATE YOU I HATE YOU DAMN YOUUUUUU  
LA LA LA I'M NOT GOING ANYWHEEEEEEERE  
WHOOOOOOAAA GO AWAY GO AWAAAAAAAY  
I GIVE IT ALL TO YOU THIS SONG - EVEN IF I DIEEE  
STOP STOOOOOP

STOP...  
STOOOOOP!

A  
A  
A  
A  
H!



THE  
RESEARCH  
CONTINUES  
...

NO.



SMASHED

# 潰 談

かいだん









AND THIS  
PLANT IS  
THE FOCUS  
OF THEIR  
RELIGION.

WELL,  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

RISK THEIR  
LIVES HOW?  
DOES THE  
PLANT  
GROW ON  
A CLIFF  
OR SOME-  
THING?

THEY SAID  
THEY RISK  
THEIR  
LIVES TO  
GET IT.

I GUESS  
THE NECTAR  
IS FROM  
A PLANT  
THAT ONLY  
GROWS  
THERE.

I CAN'T  
EVEN  
STAND IT.

SO  
GOOD.

I UNDERSTAND HOW  
THEY FEEL. THIS  
NECTAR IS SO GOOD,  
IT'S PRACTICALLY  
DIVINE.

FWP

YOU HAVE TO  
TRY NOT TO  
BE NOTICED  
WHEN YOU  
EAT THIS  
NECTAR.

I'LL TELL  
YOU THIS  
NOW,  
THOUGH.

YEAH,  
GIMME.

YOU  
WANT  
SOME?

DIVINE,  
HUH?

WOW...





TO  
NOT BE  
NOTICED,  
YOU  
KNOW?

BUT THEY  
WERE  
REALLY  
INSISTENT.  
THEY SAID IT  
WAS SUPER  
IMPORTANT.



OR MAYBE  
IT'S JUST  
LIKE  
SMOKING,  
DOING IT  
IN SECRET  
MAKES IT  
BETTER.

HA HA HA/  
I GUESS  
THAT'S  
ABOUT IT.

TRY NOT TO  
BE NOTICED?  
BY WHO? LIKE,  
THE NECTAR  
GOD?



AMAZING  
!!

MM...



AH! DON'T  
TAKE SO  
MUCH!

HUH.



NO WAY!  
THIS IS  
ALL I  
HAVE.

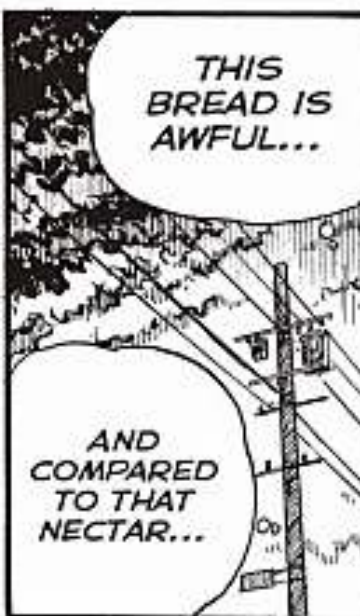
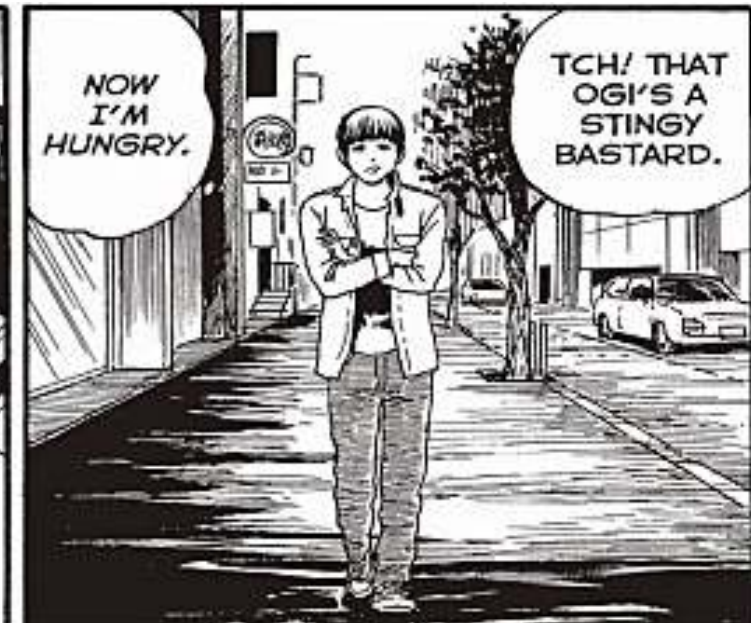
GIMME  
SOME  
MORE!



WHOA! IT'S  
SO GOOD!  
DIVINE.

WHAT THE—  
I'VE NEVER  
TASTED ANY-  
THING LIKE  
THIS.









LET US  
HAVE  
SOME  
OF THAT  
SOUTH  
AMERICAN  
NECTAR,  
TOO!

HEY!  
OGI!



DON'T  
WORRY  
'BOUT IT,  
SUGI.

WHAT?  
YOU SURE  
THAT'S  
COOL,  
KAMEDA?



WELL, WHATEVER.  
LET'S JUST  
HAVE A BIT OF  
THAT NECTAR  
WHILE THE  
MASTER OF THE  
HOUSE IS  
OUT.

SUGIO,  
WHERE  
IS IT?

WEIRD.  
HIS BIKE'S  
HERE,  
THOUGH.

DO YOU  
SMELL  
THAT?



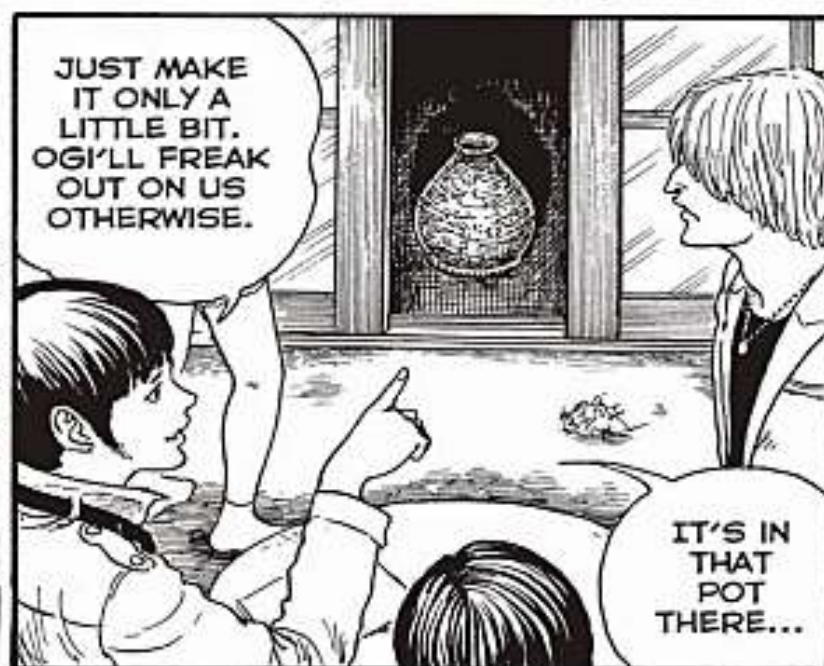
OGIIII! YOU  
CAN'T PRETEND  
YOU'RE OUT.



MM?!  
SO  
GOOD!!

THIS IS  
AMAZING!  
GUYS, HAVE  
SOME!!

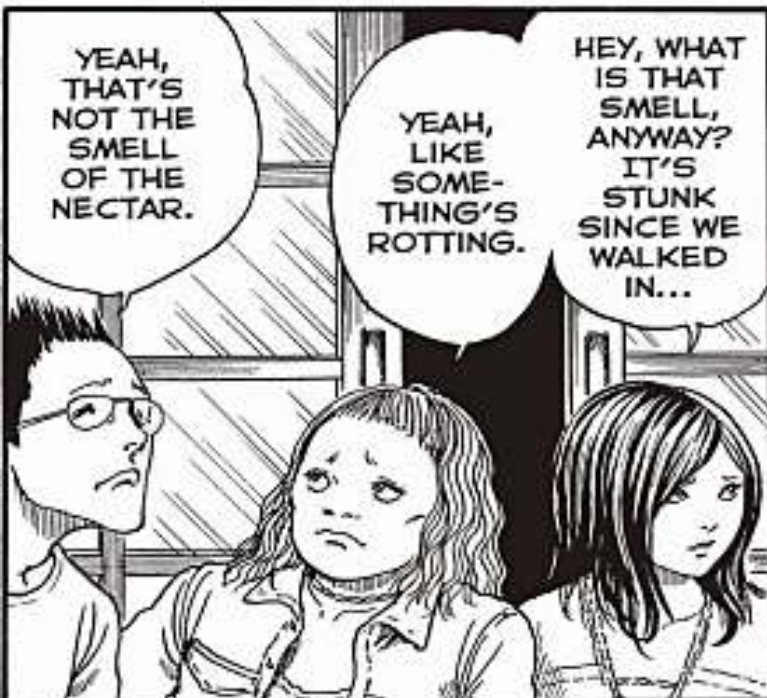
LIKE  
I CARE.  
OKAY,  
LET'S  
EAT.



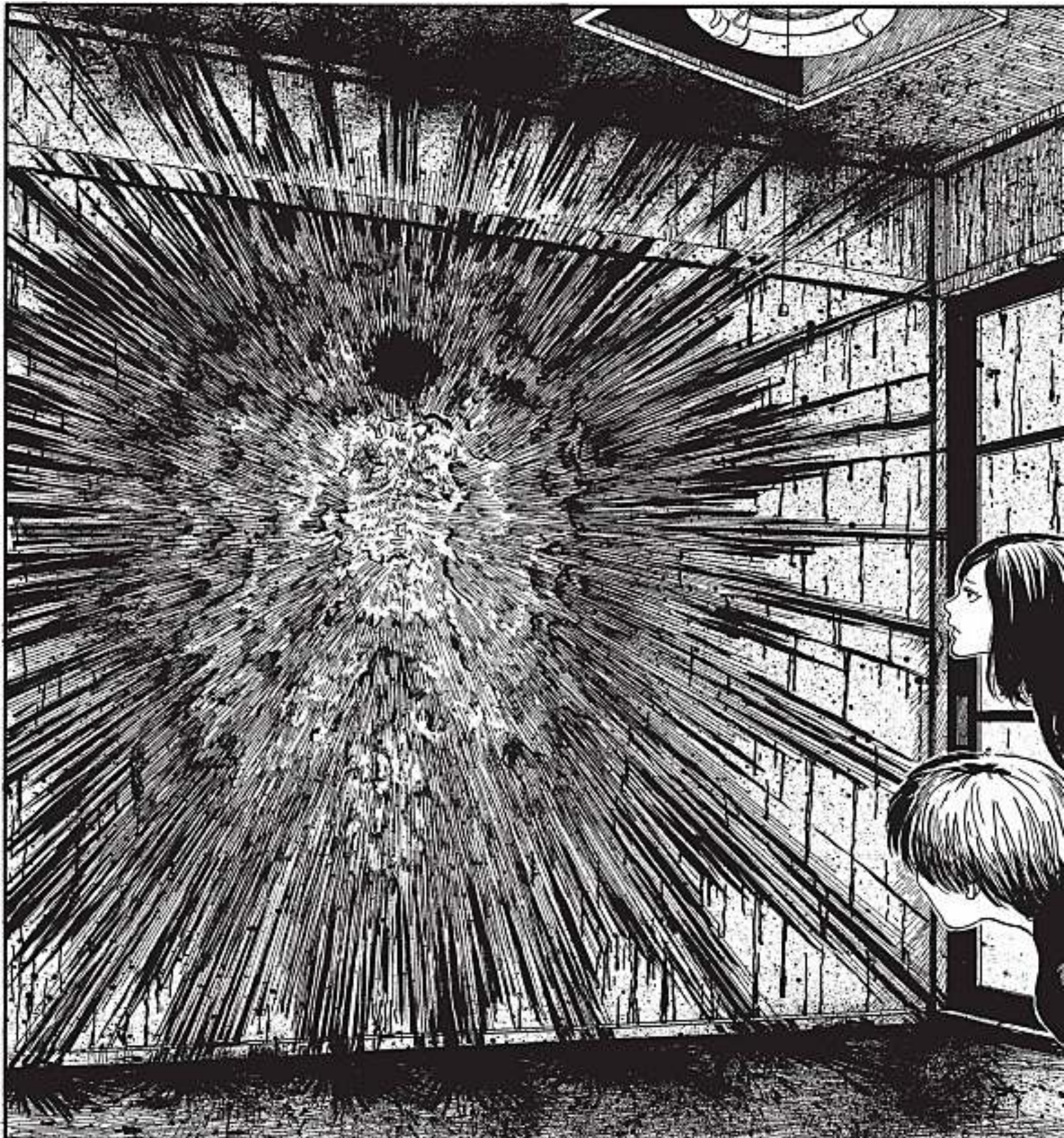
JUST MAKE  
IT ONLY A  
LITTLE BIT.  
OGI'LL FREAK  
OUT ON US  
OTHERWISE.

IT'S IN  
THAT  
POT  
THERE...

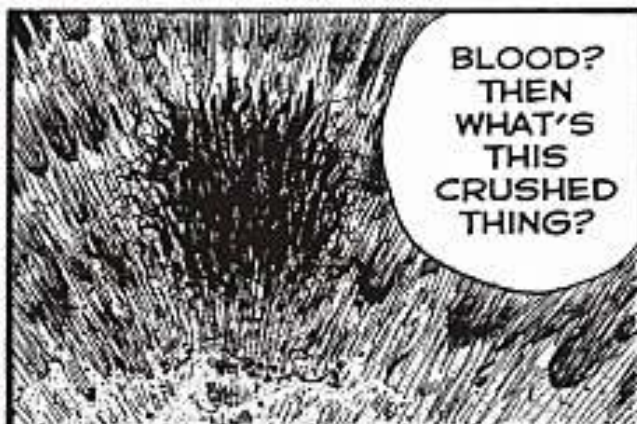














BUT, I MEAN,  
THOSE LOOK  
LIKE BONES  
STICKING  
OUT.

NO WAY.  
THIS  
THING? IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
LEATHER.

HEY...  
IS IT A  
PERSON?

W-  
WHAT  
IS THIS...

AND...  
IT'S  
WEARING  
CLOTHES...

THERE'S  
SOME-  
THING  
LIKE  
HAIR  
ON IT.

WHY  
WOULD  
OGI BE A  
PANCAKE  
LIKE  
THIS?

DOES  
THAT  
MEAN...  
THIS IS  
OGI?

W-  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?

THAT'S...  
OGI'S  
SHIRT...

HEY,  
SUGIO!  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?  
COME ON  
ALREADY.

R-  
RIGHT.

I-I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
THAT IS,  
BUT LET'S  
GET OUT OF  
HERE.

P-  
PRETEND  
WE  
NEVER  
SAW  
IT...

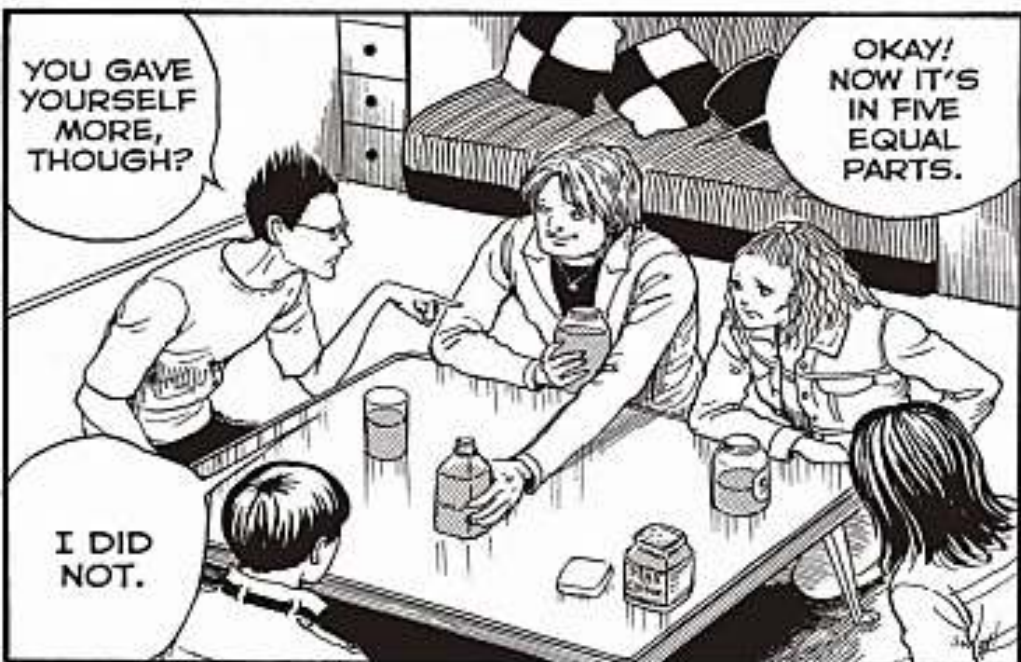




NO WAY. IT'S PROBABLY JUST SOME NEW KIND OF WALL HANGING.



HEY? WAS THAT REALLY OGI?



OKAY! NOW IT'S IN FIVE EQUAL PARTS.



IT'S EQUAL. NO WHINING.

YOU'RE SPLITTING IT EVENLY?



DUNNO. OGI DIDN'T REALLY KNOW, EITHER.

WHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA DO THEY GET THIS DELICIOUS NECTAR?

IT'S SO GOOOOOD!



EVER SINCE I HAD THIS NECTAR, ALL OTHER FOOD'S TASTED BAD, YOU KNOW?

AAH, TO BE HONEST, I'M GLAD WE MET AGAIN.





W H A P







H-HANG ON.  
THIS. THIS  
LOOKS THE  
SAME AS  
THE THING  
AS IN OGI'S  
APARTMENT.

STAY  
COOL...  
KEEP  
CALM...

WHY?

WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

WHAT  
DOES  
THAT  
MEAN?

WHY?

WAS  
THERE  
SOME-  
THING  
GOING  
ON WITH  
THEM?

W-WHY  
WOULD OGI  
AND YASUMIN  
BOTH BE  
SMASHED  
FLAT...?

...WAS  
ACTUALLY  
OGI.

IT MEANS...  
THE THING  
IN OGI'S  
APARTMENT  
...

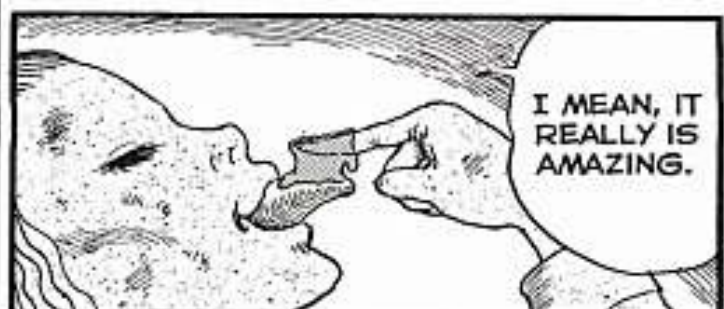
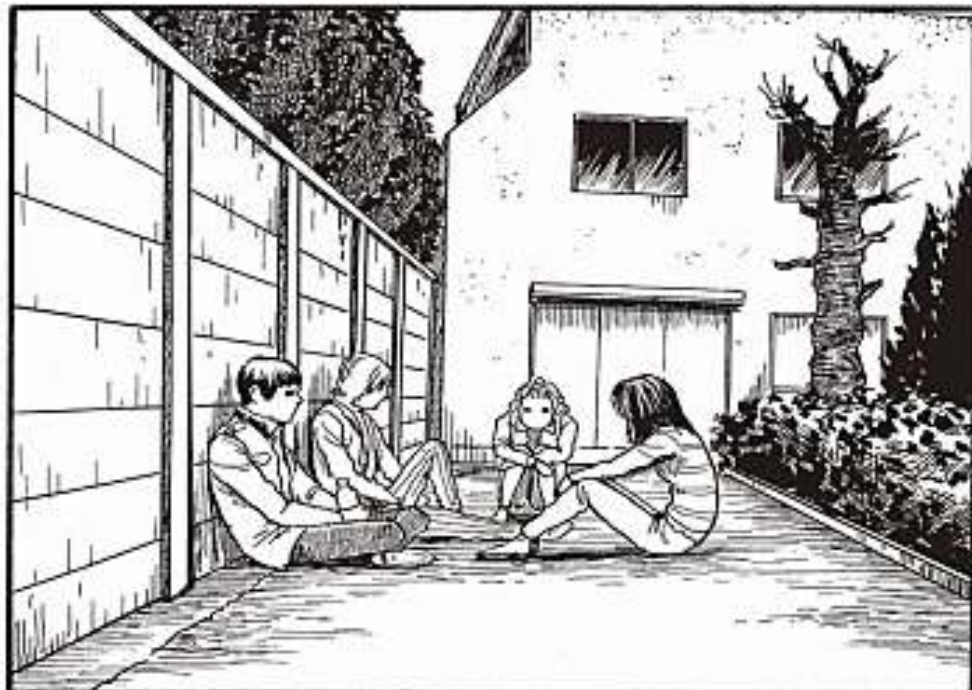
CALM DOWN,  
RIRUKO.  
LET'S JUST  
GO OUTSIDE  
FOR A MINUTE  
AND COOL  
OFF.

SO WHAT ARE  
WE SUPPOSED  
TO DO ABOUT  
THIS FLATTENED  
THING? THIS IS  
MY APARTMENT!

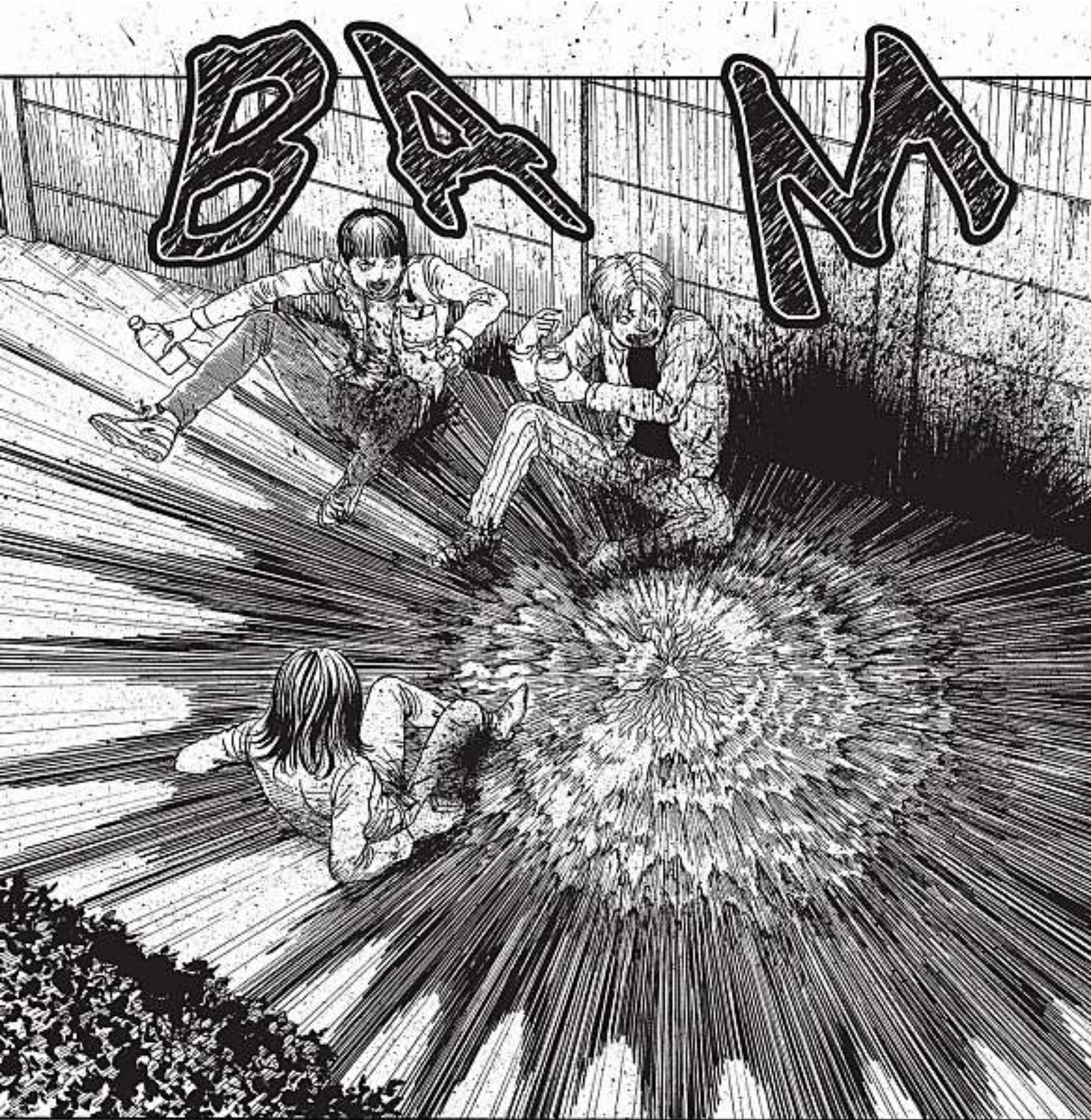
THE POLICE?  
NUH-UH. IT'LL  
JUST TURN  
INTO A HUGE  
HASSLE.

AT ANY RATE,  
THE POLICE...  
WE HAVE TO  
CALL THE POLICE.













...  
TENED  
...



...  
FLAT  
...

NOW  
RIRUKO  
IS...

R-  
RIRUKO  
...



WHEN YOU EAT  
THE NECTAR,  
YOU GET  
SMASHED.

IT'S  
THE  
NECTAR  
...



HE SAID THE  
NATIVE PEOPLE  
TOLD HIM TO  
MAKE SURE NO  
ONE NOTICES  
YOU EATING  
THIS NECTAR.

RIGHT.  
THAT REMINDS  
ME. OGI SAID  
SOMETHING...

EAT IT SO  
NO ONE  
NOTICES?



HOW DOES  
THIS WORK  
EXACTLY...



B-BUT  
SOME-  
THING'S  
NOT RIGHT.  
WE HAD  
SOME TOO.

W-  
WHAT  
?!




SO IS  
THIS  
GOING  
TO  
HAPPEN  
TO US,  
TOO?!






MAYBE THAT'S THE THING?

AND IF THEY DO NOTICE, YOU GET HIT...



BUT MAYBE IF WHOEVER IT IS DOESN'T NOTICE WHILE YOU'RE EATING THE NECTAR, YOU'RE OKAY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP FROM NOTICING.



NO IDEA. IT'S LIKE... MAYBE IT'S THE WORK OF SOME SUPERNATURAL POWER THAT CROSSES DIMENSIONS?



WHY WOULD YOU GET SMASHED FLAT, THOUGH...



BEING NOTICED OR WHATEVER...

POWER FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE.

HA HA HA HA!

NGH... HEH HEH HEH!



I'M OUT OF HERE.

I CAN'T BE A PART OF THIS.







AT FIRST, I  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS KAME.

BUT WHAT  
SURPRISED ME  
WAS THAT THEY  
FOUND SEVERAL  
OTHER SMASHED  
BODIES AFTER  
THAT.

THAT REMINDS ME.  
THEY'RE TALKING  
ABOUT THE BODIES  
OF RIRUKO AND  
YASUMIN ON THE  
NEWS, HUH?

I DID,  
TOO...  
BUT IT  
WASN'T  
KAMEDA.

THE MYS-  
TERIOUS  
SMASHED  
BODIES?

Restaurant J

INSTEAD,  
SEVERAL  
PEOPLE HE  
KNEW ARE  
DEAD.

THAT  
DAMNED  
KAMEDA. HE  
PROBABLY  
GAVE HIS  
NECTAR AWAY  
BECAUSE  
HE WAS  
SCARED.

THEY  
MUST  
HAVE HAD  
SOME  
OF HIS  
NECTAR.

BUT I  
WONDER IF  
HE GAVE  
IT AWAY  
WITHOUT ANY  
EXPLANATION  
OR  
ANYTHING.

YOU'VE  
BOTH  
LOST  
WEIGHT.

'SUP...  
BEEN A  
WHILE,  
HUH?  
SUGIO,  
YUE.





IT MIGHT BE  
THE ONLY  
GOOD FOOD,  
BUT IT'S TOO  
DANGER-  
OUS...

BUT IT'S THE  
ONLY THING THAT  
TASTES GOOD  
TO US.

IF ONLY  
WE HADN'T  
EATEN THIS  
NECTAR...

AAH,  
DAMMIT.  
I'M  
STARV-  
ING.

...BUT  
ALL I  
CAN  
SAY  
IS "I  
DON'T  
KNOW."

I'VE TRIED  
ALL KINDS  
OF STUFF.  
TO FIND THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
BEING  
NOTICED  
AND NOT...

HUH?

...HOW TO  
NOT BE  
NOTICED.

THE  
PROB-  
LEM  
IS...

...THEY  
WANTED  
IT AND  
ALL.

I  
MEAN  
...

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
MEAN?

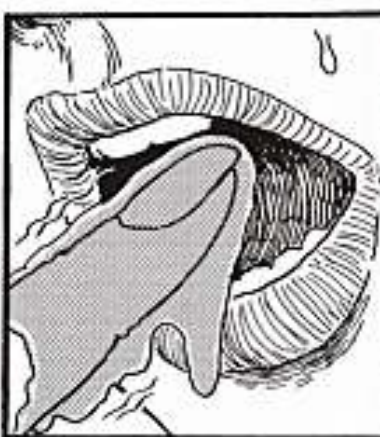
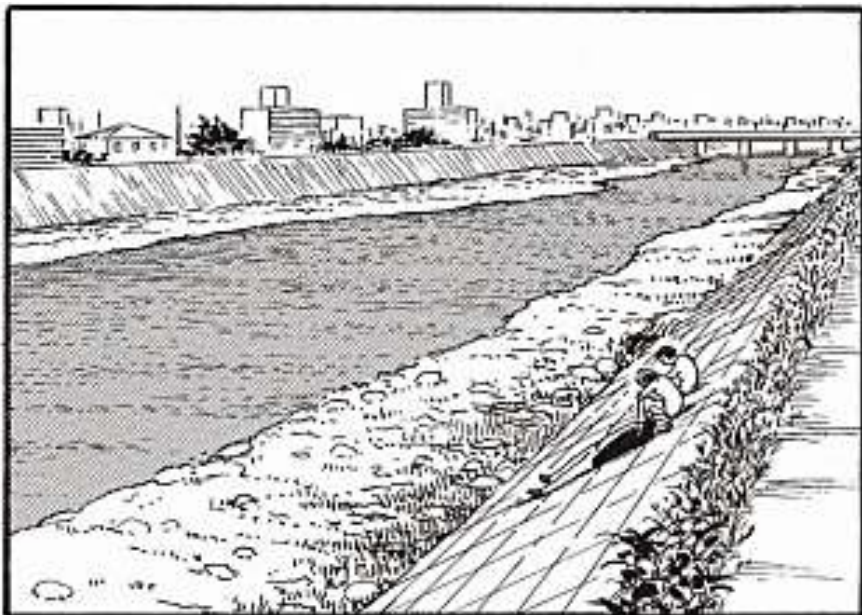
TRIED?

...HA  
HA...

AND I  
COULDN'T  
FIND ANY  
CLUES.  
TOTALLY  
SUCKS.

BUT  
THANKS  
TO THEM,  
I DON'T  
HAVE  
MUCH  
LEFT.





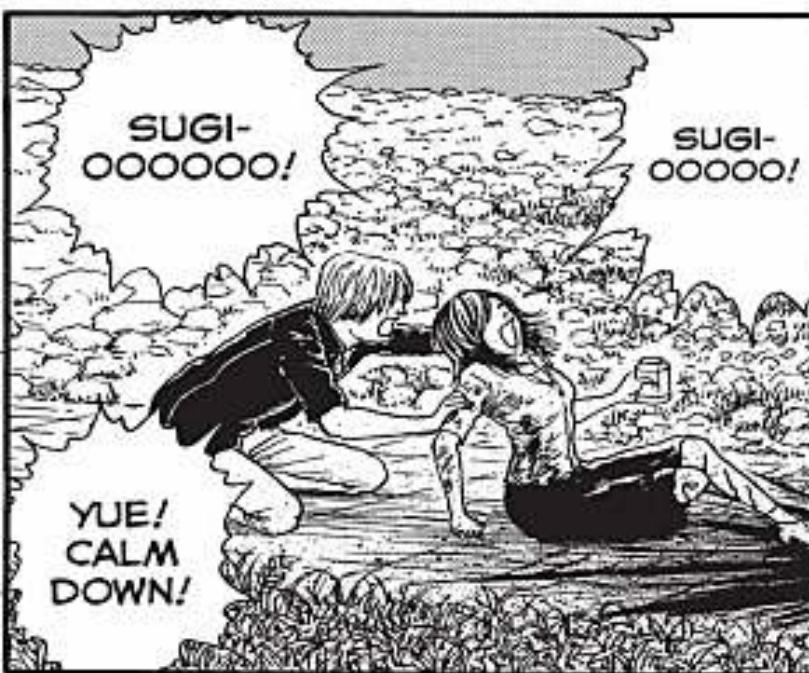
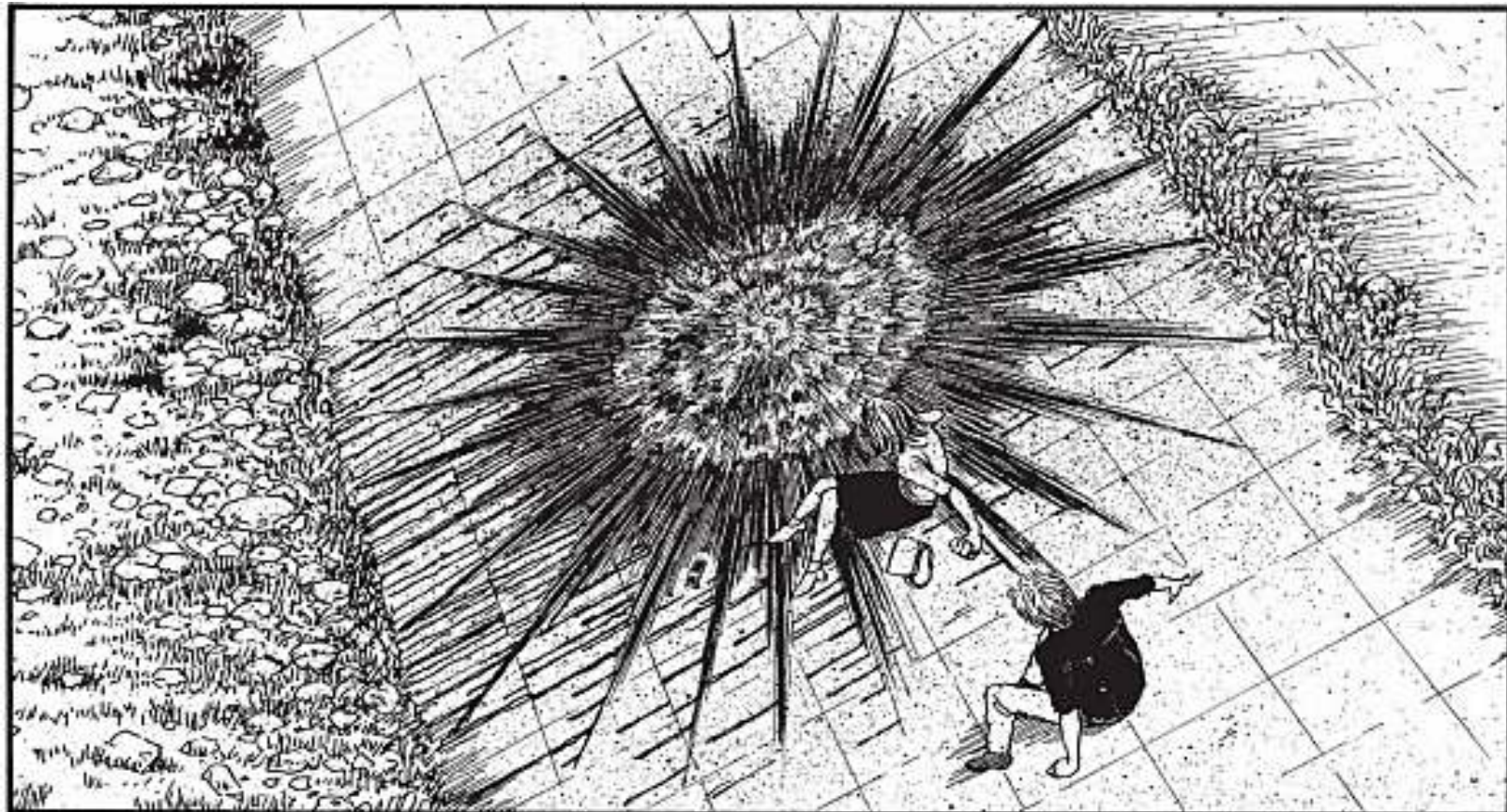














THERE'S  
A WAY TO  
LIVE EVEN  
IF YOU ARE  
NOTICED.  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO BE  
CRUSHED.

I'M SURE  
SUGIO  
PUT HIS  
LIFE ON  
THE LINE  
TO SHOW  
ME.

WHY  
DIDN'T I  
NOTICE  
BEFORE  
...

I GET IT.  
SOME-  
THING  
CRUSHES  
YOU!!

JUST RUN  
AROUND!!

RUN!  
RUN!

WATCH  
...

00-101 00-101  
00-101 00-101

00-101 00-101  
00-101 00-101

00-101 00-101  
00-101 00-101

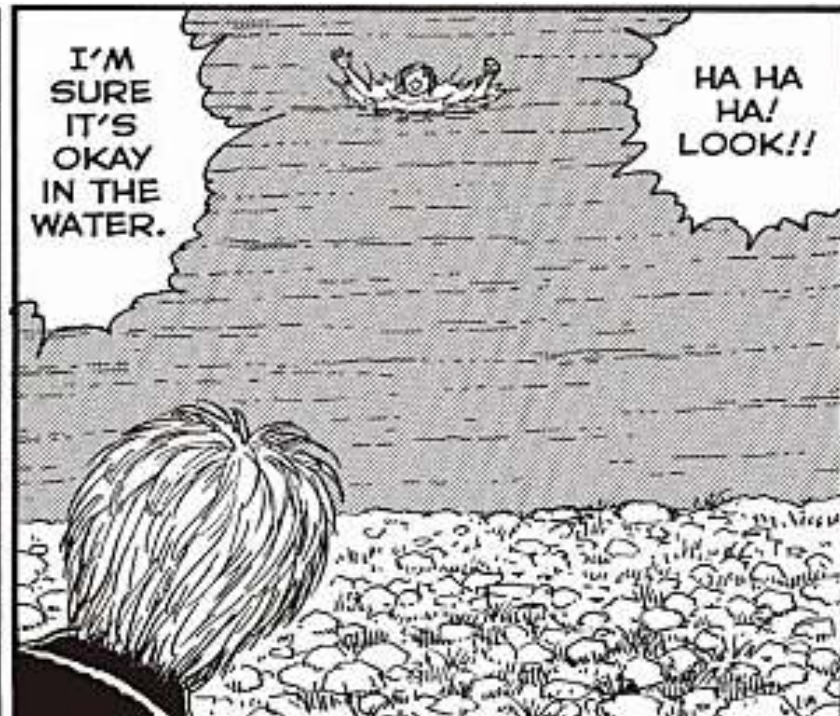




AAH,  
IT'S SO  
GOOD.



I'M  
SURE  
IT'S  
OKAY  
IN THE  
WATER.



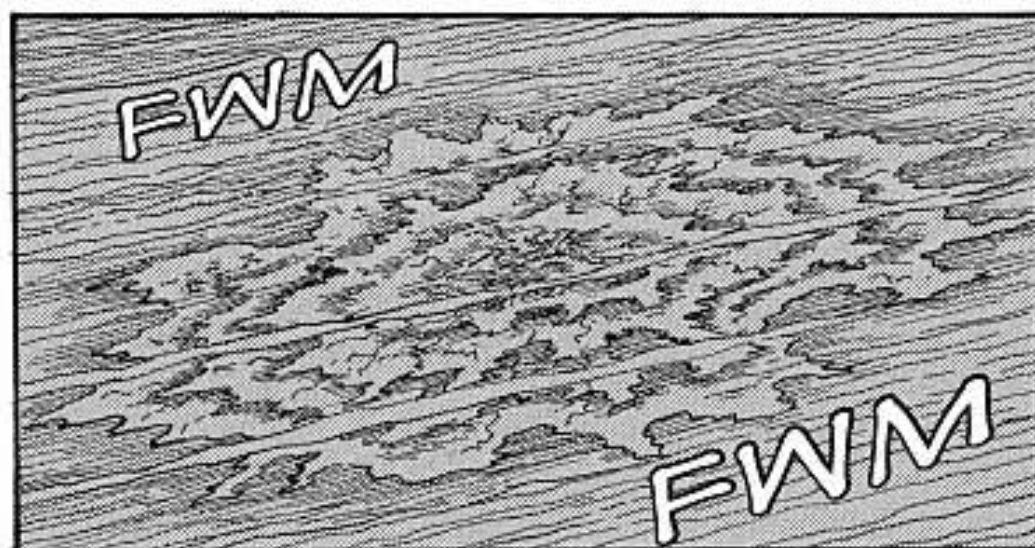
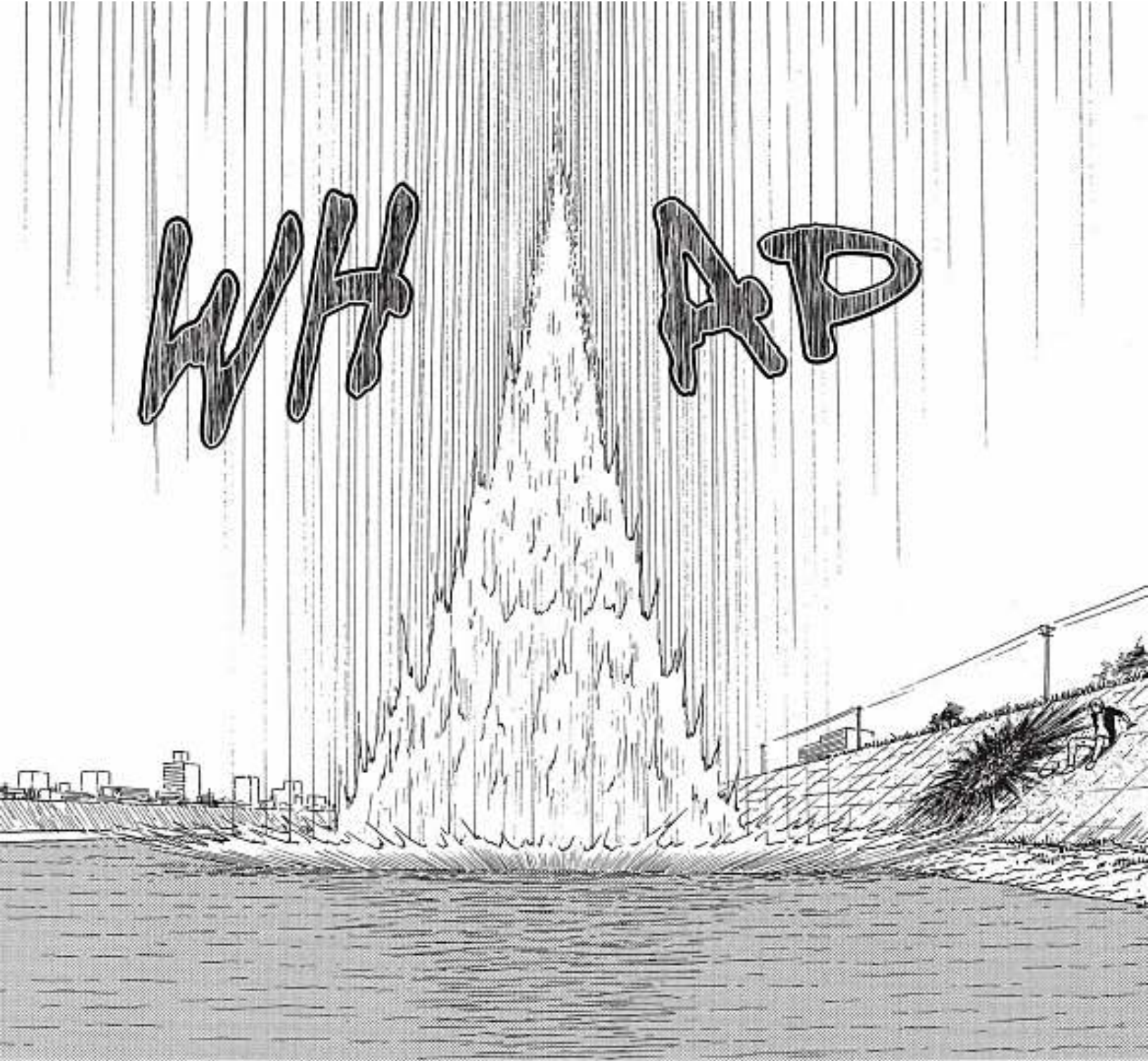
HA HA  
HA!  
LOOK!!



...AH!











...SUGIO'S  
WALLET?



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

HA...  
HA  
HA...



HM?



BUT DAMN,  
THERE ARE  
SO MANY MOS-  
QUITOES.

AND I CAN'T  
FORGET  
TO ASK  
THE NATIVE  
PEOPLE HOW  
TO NOT BE  
NOTICED.

SLAP



AH!



KSH



A MONTH  
LATER—  
A JUNGLE  
IN SOUTH  
AMERICA

HAAH  
HAAH

I JUST KNOW  
THAT SCRAP  
OF PAPER IN  
HIS WALLET  
WAS A MAP TO  
THE NECTAR.

I'M  
TOTALLY  
BRINGING  
SOME  
OF IT  
HOME.













SMASHED / END







# SMASHED

## JUNJI ITO STORY COLLECTION

Story & Art by Junji Ito

Ito Junji Kessakushu 11: Kaidan

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SMASHED is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains graphic violence and mature themes.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito made his professional manga debut in 1987 and since then has gone on to be recognized as one of the greatest contemporary artists working in the horror genre. His titles include *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which have been adapted into live-action films; *Gyo*, which was adapted into an animated film; and his short story collections *Fragments of Horror*, *Shiver*, and *Frankenstein*, all of which are available from VIZ Media. Ito's influences include classic horror manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, as well as authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.







