

HANA TO YUME COMICS

Glass Mask



Suzue Miuchi

41

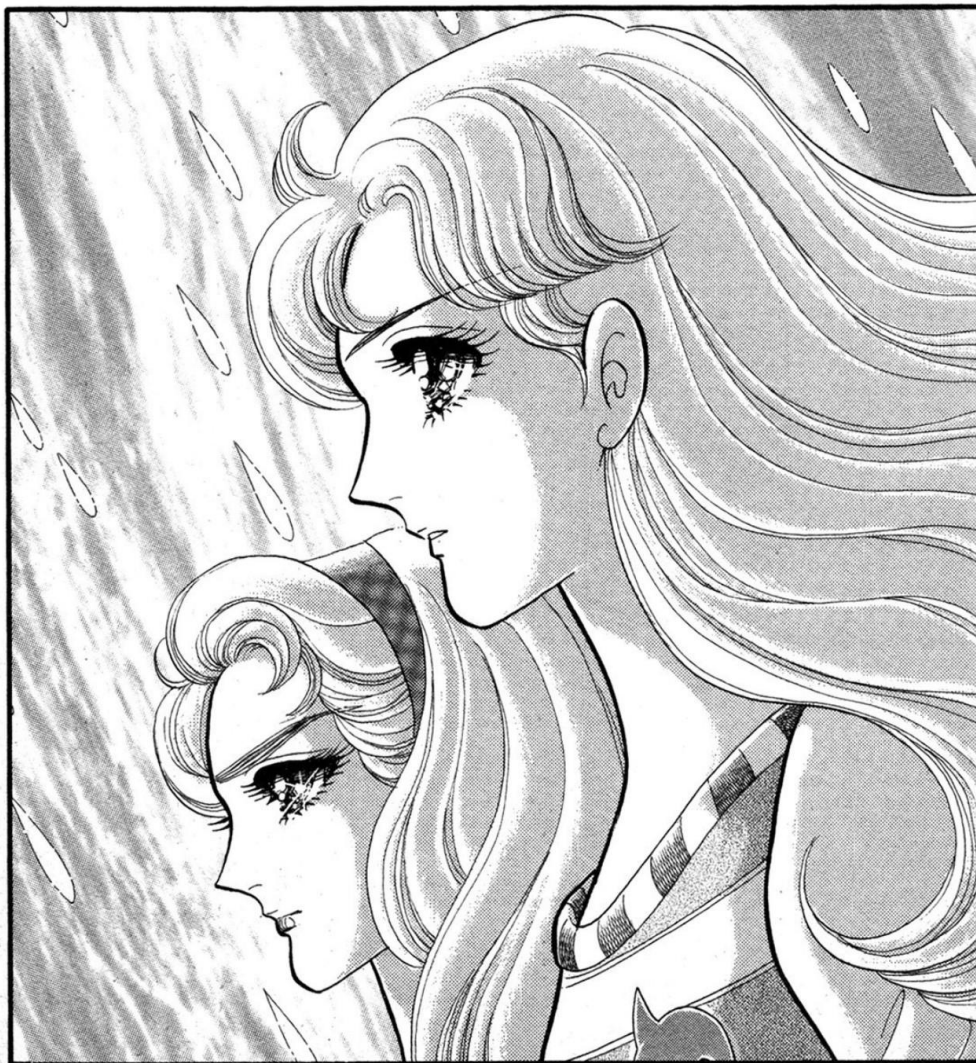


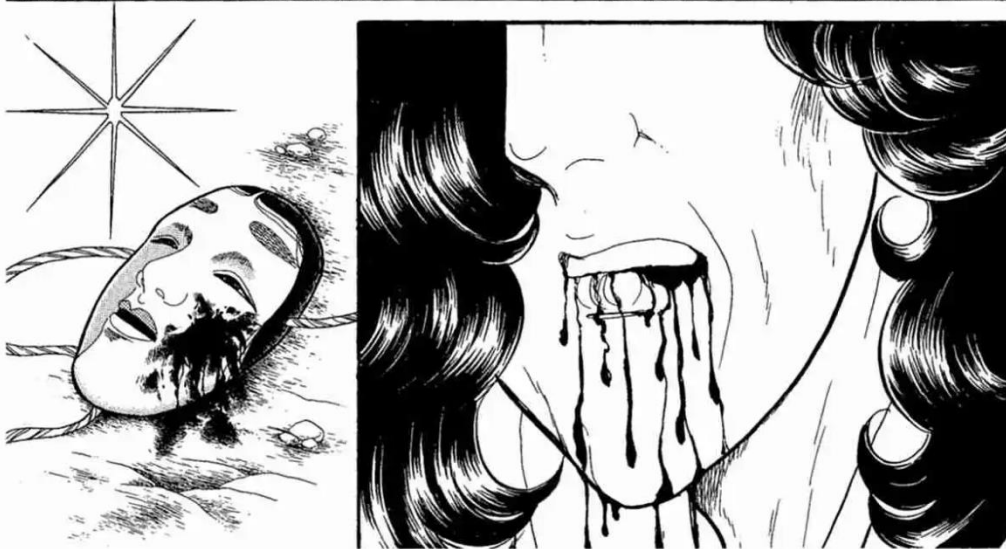
HANA TO YUME COMICS

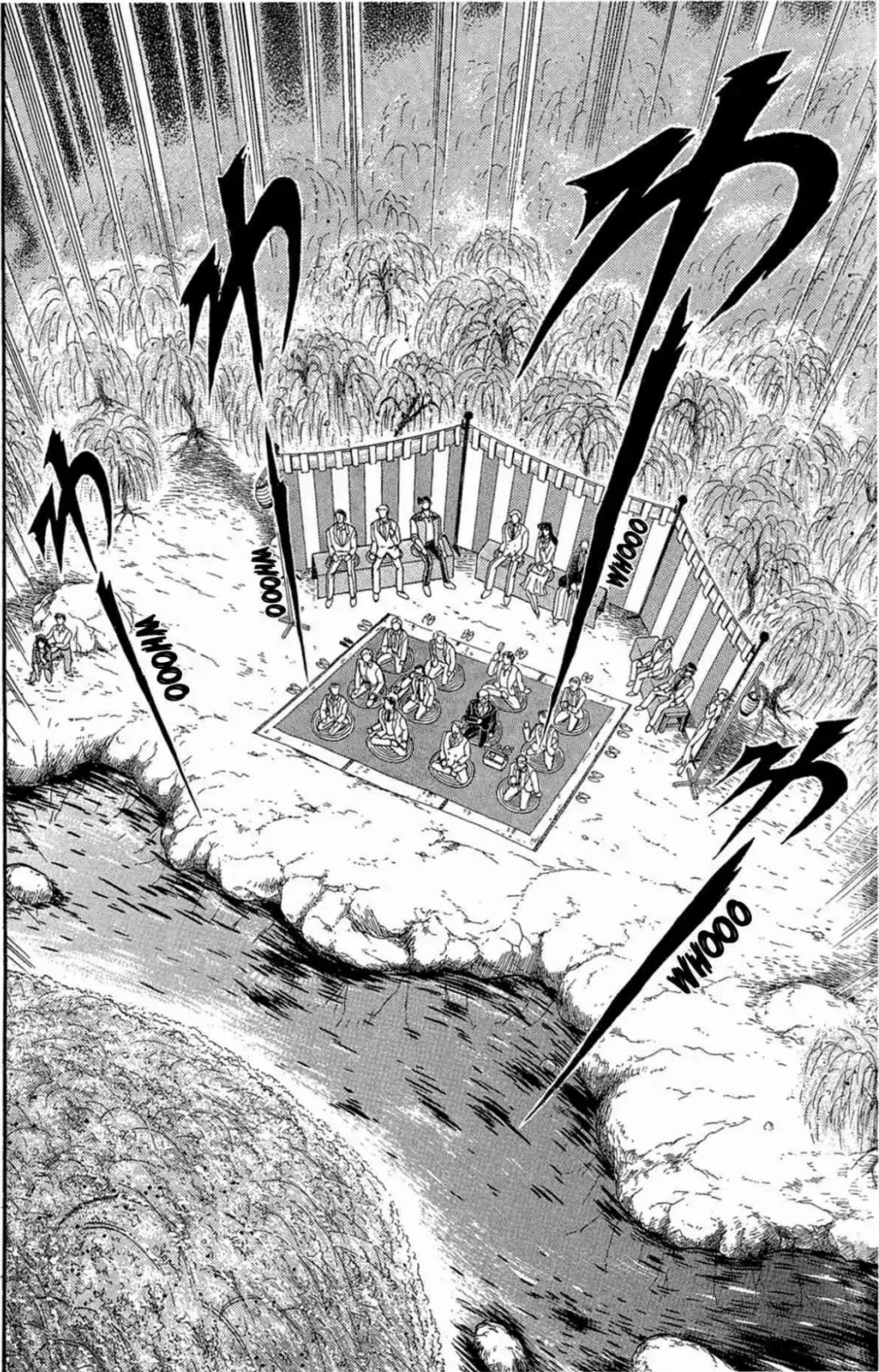
GLASS MASK

VOLUME 41 THE CRIMSON GODDESS (8)

SUZUE MIUCHI



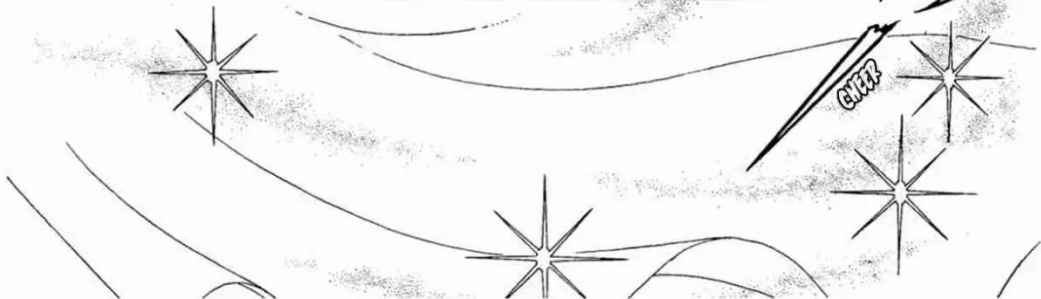
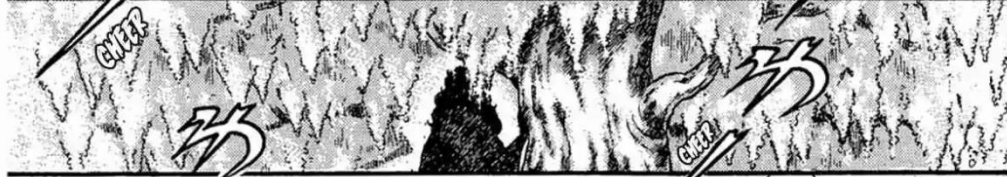
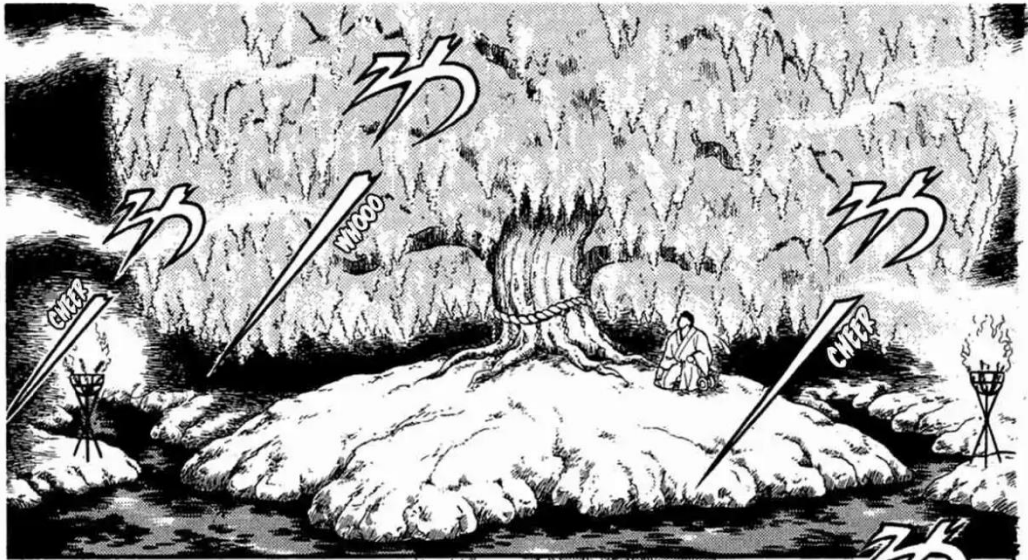








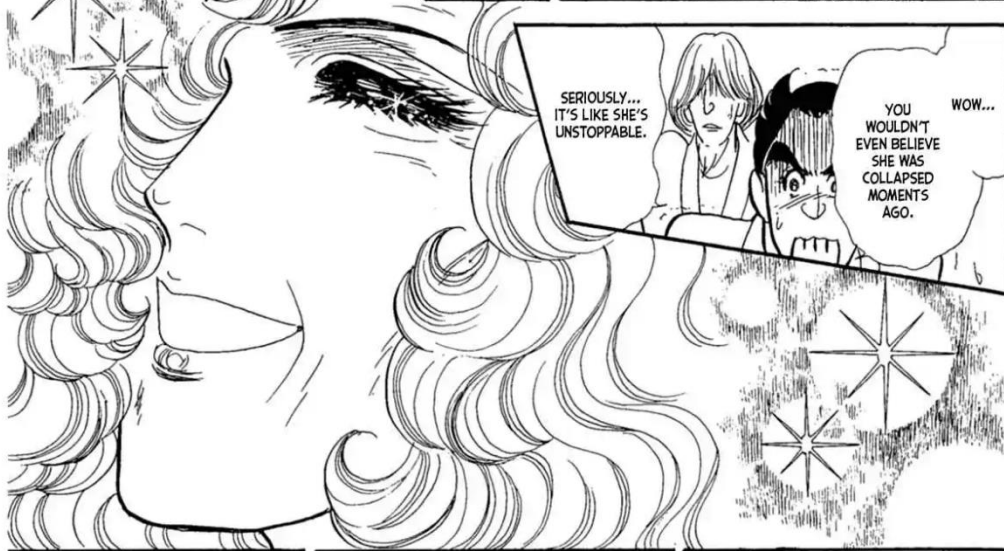














PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.

ARE YOU OKAY, PRESIDENT HAYAMI?

I TOLD THE DIRECTOR THAT WE'RE LEAVING EARLY.

SHUT UP AND KEEP MOVING!

MAYBE I SHOULD CARRY YOU AFTER ALL ...



WE'RE LEAVING.

HUH?

GET ME OUT OF HERE!

SIR?

SUGIMOTO.



WHO CARES ABOUT THAT! HURRY UP AND GO!

WHAT DO I TELL THE OTHERS?

YES, RIGHT NOW.

RIGHT NOW, SIR?



BEFORE MY COMPOSURE CRUMBLES ANY FURTHER!

GET ME OUT OF HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

QUICKLY...



TONIGHT IS FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS ALONE!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE TONIGHT.



SIR...?



I WOULD
LIKE TO OFFER
MY SINCERE GRATI-
TUDE FOR YOUR
ATTENDANCE
TODAY.



THOUGH IT WAS MY UNREASONABLE DESIRE TO PERFORM THIS PLAY ALONE, I HAVE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THOSE PRESENT FOR SITTING THROUGH IT ALL.

...BUT THIS WAS THE PLAY I WANTED TO PRESENT TODAY.

IT SHAMES ME TO SAY THAT MY STRENGTH AND SKILL HAVE FADED SINCE THE DAYS I PERFORMED AS THE CRIMSON GODDESS...



...AND OF A SINGULAR LOVE.



MEMORIES OF HOW OZAKI ICHIREN USED TO SCOLD ME DURING REHEARSALS.

...OF HOW I ONCE CONSIDERED QUITTING ACTING ALTOGETHER.



THIS WILL HAVE BEEN THE LAST TIME I EVER PERFORM THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

AND NOW THAT MY FINAL STAGE HAS ENDED, I FIND MEMORIES OF THE PAST COMING BACK TO ME.



TO DESIRE ANOTHER'S SOUL ... THAT IS LOVE!

"TO LOVE IS TO DESIRE THE SOUL OF ANOTHER."

THIS IS WHAT I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THROUGH THIS PLAY.



THE LINES AKOYA SPOKE BECAME THE WORDS IN MY HEART.

IN TURN, AKOYA'S FEELINGS ON STAGE BECAME MY FEELINGS.

THE CRIMSON GODDESS'S LOVE WAS MY LOVE.



A LOVE I YEARNED FOR, YET WAS UNABLE TO ATTAIN...



BUT IF YOU DO MEET THEM...

THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO GO THEIR ENTIRE LIVES WITHOUT MEETING THIS PERSON.



THAT, IN ITS OWN WAY, IS A KIND OF HAPPINESS.



THAT YOUR PARTNER'S SOUL MAY OVERLAP WITH YOUR OWN...

...AND YOU BECOME ONE.



STATUS, OCCUPATION, AGE, AND RACE... ...TO LOVE IS TO TRANSCEND SUCH THINGS AND SEEK ONLY THE SOUL OF THE ONE YOU DESIRE...

...AS IF BY MAGNETIC ATTRACTION.



HE HAD
A WIFE AND
A FAMILY WHO
LOVED HIM.

OZAKI
ICHIREN WAS
LIKE THAT
FOR ME.

... YOU WILL
FALL FOR ONE
ANOTHER. YOU WILL
DRAWN TO EACH OTHER
SUCH THAT NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS, YOU WILL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO PART...

ON THE
SURFACE, HE
LOVED ME
ONLY AS AN
ACTRESS.

... FOR THE
SAKE OF
BECOMING
ONE SOUL.



OUR JOYS,
SORROWS, AND
AGONIES...

... NO ONE
KNEW THEM
BETTER THAN
WE DID.

HE AND I
UNDERSTOOD
ONE ANOTHER
BETTER THAN
ANYONE, EVEN
WITHOUT
WORDS.

BUT I
TOOK PRIDE
IN BEING CLOSER
TO ICHIREN THAN
ANYONE ELSE
THROUGH THE
STAGE.

AND SO
WE LIVED
OUR LIVES
SIDE BY
SIDE.



OUR HEARTS WERE AS ONE, AS IF THEY'D NEVER SEPARATE.

WHEN I PLAYED THE CRIMSON GODDESS ON STAGE, ICHIREN'S SOUL WAS WITH ME.

EVEN IF OUR BODIES WERE APART, OUR SOULS WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.



TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI...

SILENCE...



AND HE WILL BE WITH ME UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.



THE CRIMSON GODDESS WAS HIS LIFE.

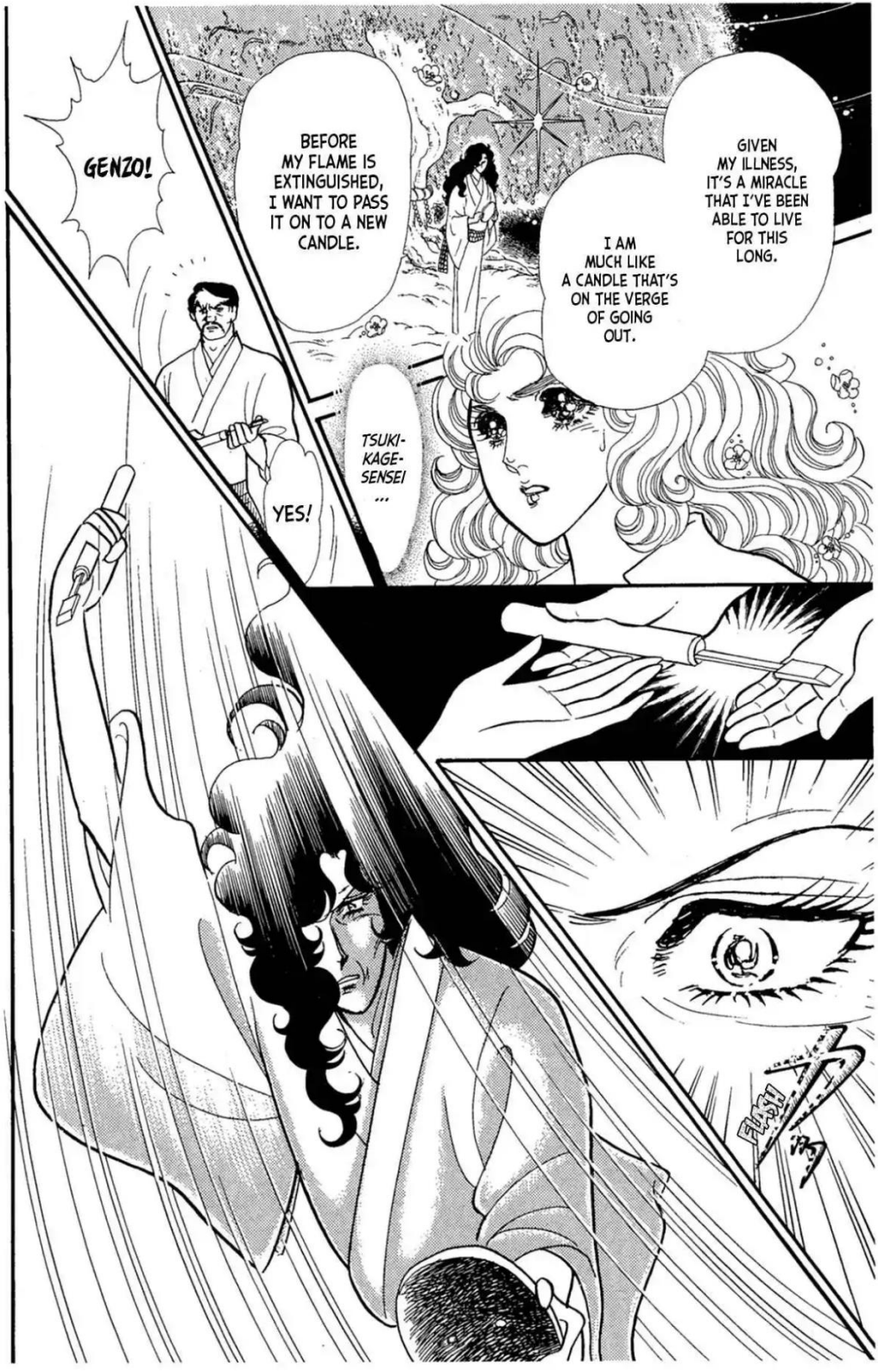
AND I WANT TO BEQUEATH THAT LIFE TO YOU ALL.



EVEN AFTER ICHIREN PASSED, HE DID NOT DIE IN MY HEART.

IN MY HEART HE WAS ALWAYS SCOLDING ME, ENCOURAGING ME, AND GIVING ME THE COURAGE TO KEEP ON GOING.

ICHIREN IS WITH ME, EVEN NOW.



GENZO!

BEFORE MY FLAME IS EXTINGUISHED, I WANT TO PASS IT ON TO A NEW CANDLE.

GIVEN MY ILLNESS, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE FOR THIS LONG.

I AM MUCH LIKE A CANDLE THAT'S ON THE VERGE OF GOING OUT.

TSUKI-KAGE-SENSEI

YES!

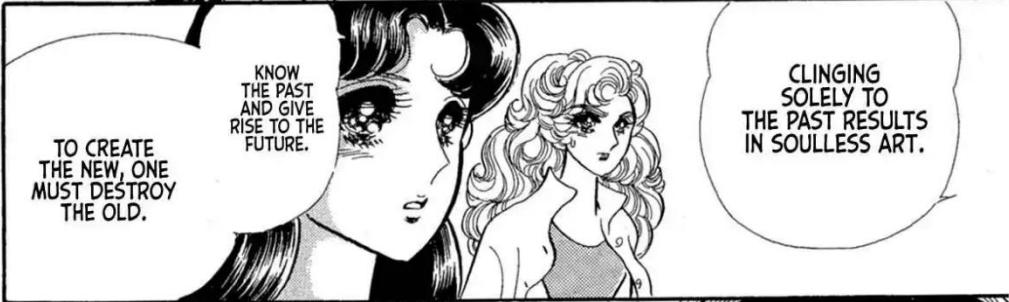
FLUSH





...THE OLD MASK OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

AS YOU CAN SEE...



TO CREATE THE NEW, ONE MUST DESTROY THE OLD.

KNOW THE PAST AND GIVE RISE TO THE FUTURE.

CLINGING SOLELY TO THE PAST RESULTS IN SOULLESS ART.

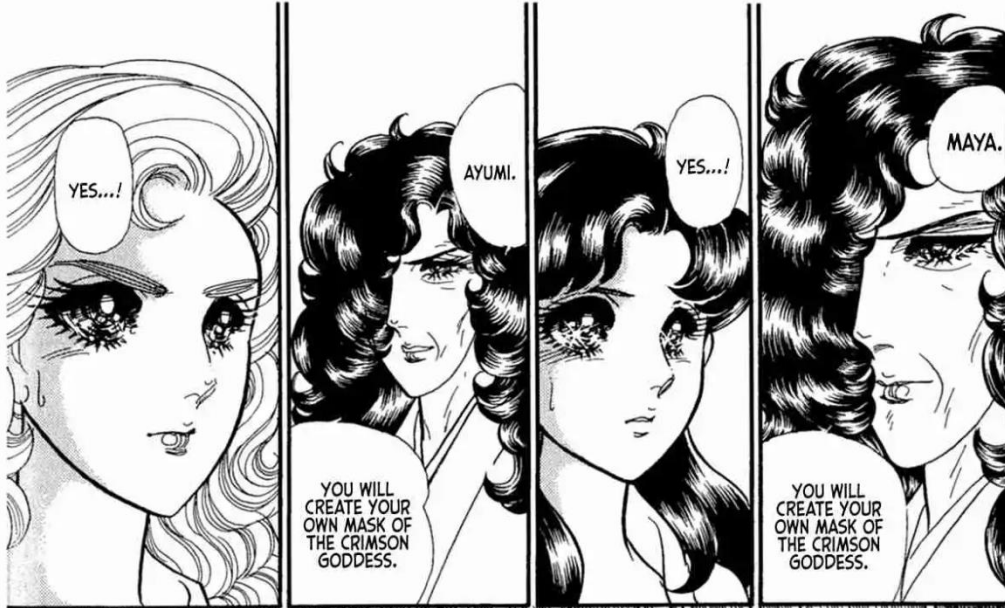


THE CRIMSON GODDESS THAT YOU TWO WORK TO CREATE CANNOT BE THE SAME AS MINE.

MAYA!
AYUMI!

THE TIME HAS COME TO CREATE YOUR OWN MASKS FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

Y...
YES!







MILDAY,
YOU HAVE MY
GRATITUDE.

I HAVE ALWAYS
YEARINED FOR
THE CRIMSON
GODDESS

THIS
IS WHERE
IT ALL
ENDS...

IT'S
OVER...

AND COULD
HAVE NEVER
IMAGINED THAT
I WOULD BE
THE ONE TO
PLAY ISSHIN.

I, GENZO, NO
LONGER HAVE
ANY REGRETS...

AND MOREOVER,
FOR IT TO BE
MILADY'S FINAL
PERFORMANCE
OF THE CRIMSON
GODDESS...

I HAVE BEEN
BY YOUR SIDE
FOR MANY YEARS...
TO THINK A DAY
LIKE THIS WOULD
COME...



NOW
THAT IS
ELEGANT.

A
FLOWER
VIEWING
PARTY?

PLEASE
ENJOY
YOURSELVES
AND ADMIRE
THE PLUM
BLOSSOMS.

HEY,
EVERYONE.

WE'VE
PREPARED
A SMALL
BANQUET
FOR TODAY.



STAAARE

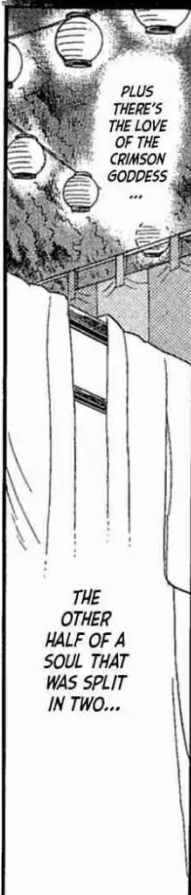
HEY, DID ANYONE SEE THE BOX FOR THE WIGS?

SEPERATE THE COSTUMES AND THE WIGS.

CAREFUL WITH THE MIRROR.

CLEAN THIS PART UP.

GOT IT.



PLUS THERE'S THE LOVE OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS ...

THE OTHER HALF OF A SOUL THAT WAS SPLIT IN TWO...



A GODDESS OF UNIVERSAL HARMONY WHO BRINGS LIGHT TO A WORLD OF DARKNESS

THE SPIRIT OF THE THOUSAND-YEAR PLUM TREE...

A GODDESS WHO RULES OVER THE NATURAL WORLD.

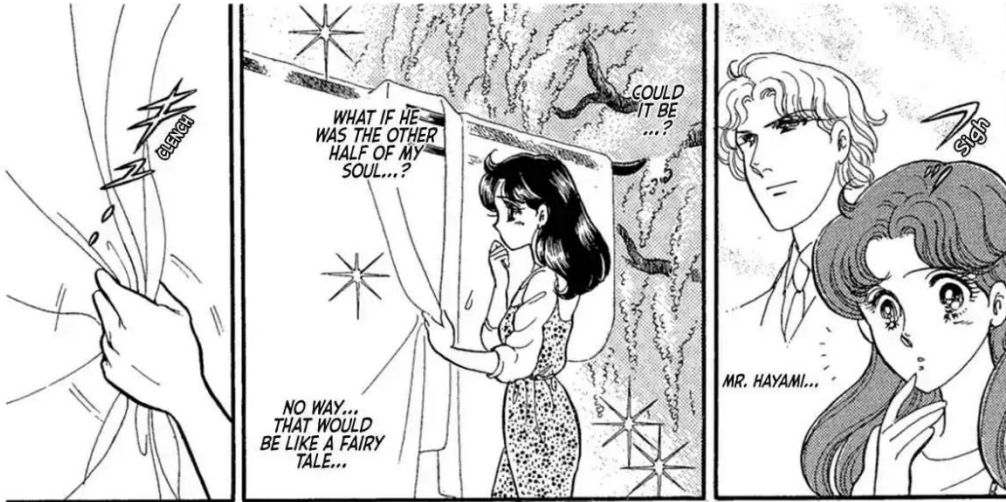
CAN I REALLY DO THIS? CAN SOMEONE LIKE ME...

THE CRIMSON GODDESS ...

A NEW MASK OF MY OWN...



THE CRIMSON GODDESS...





TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI WAS SO PRETTY...

THE CRIMSON GODDESS'S ROBE...



STOP SPACING OUT AND GIVE US A HAND!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAYA?

AH..!

SURE.



JUST FOR A LITTLE...

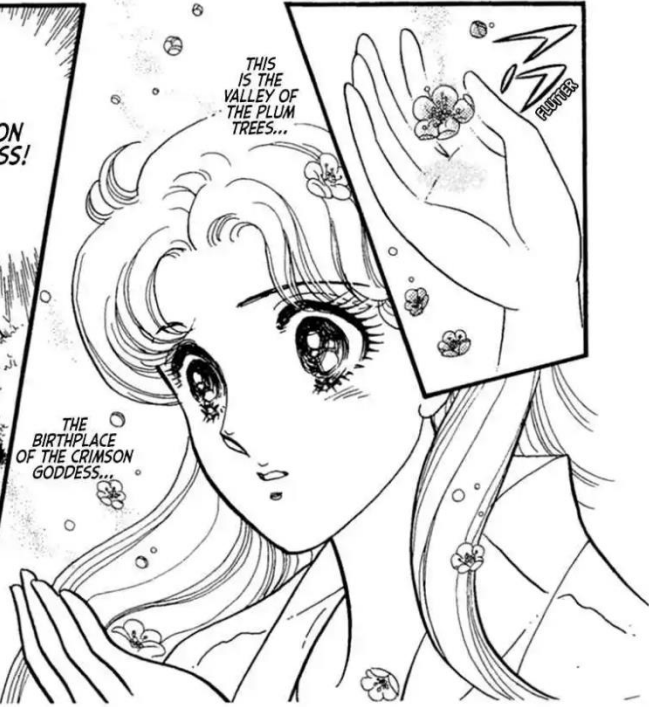
JUST FOR A MOMENT...

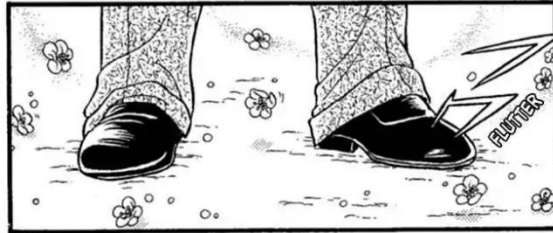
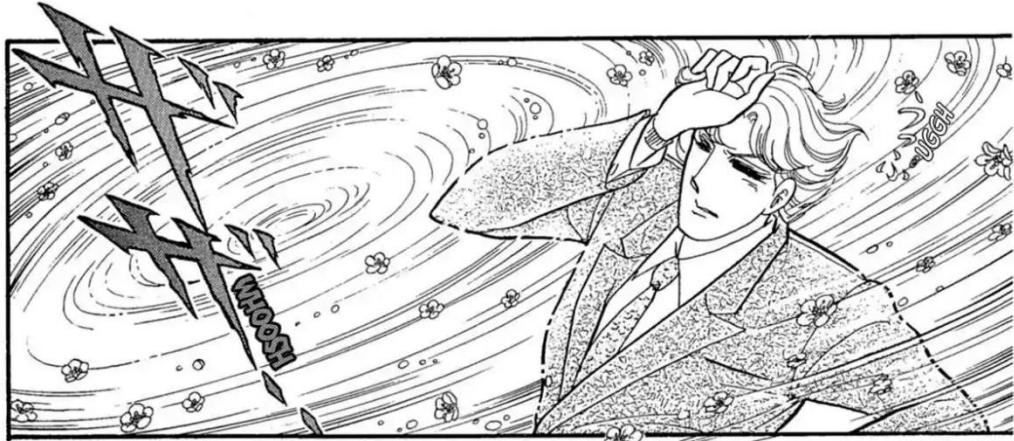
WOW ...☆

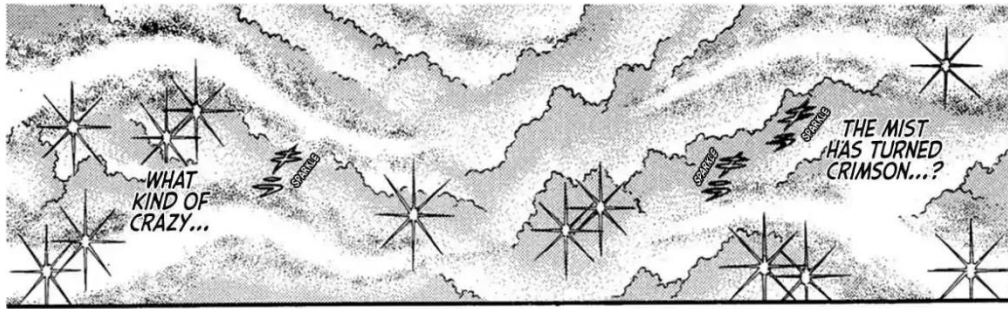
I REALLY PUT IT ON...

HEHE...



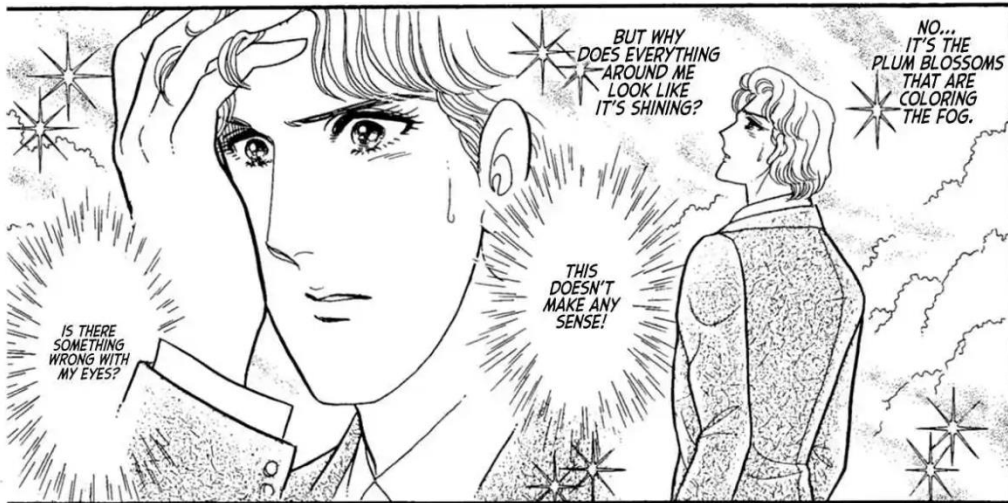






WHAT
KIND OF
CRAZY...

THE MIST
HAS TURNED
CRIMSON...?

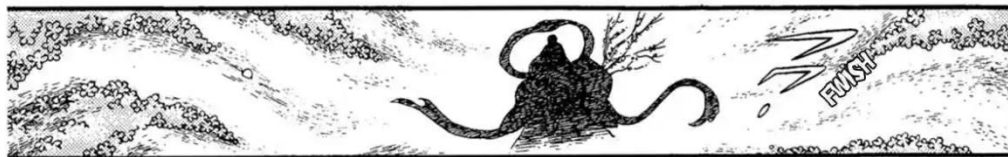


BUT WHY
DOES EVERYTHING
AROUND ME
LOOK LIKE
IT'S SHINING?

NO...
IT'S THE
PLUM BLOSSOMS
THAT ARE
COLORING
THE FOG.

IS THERE
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
MY EYES?

THIS
DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE!



FUSH



HUH?



WHAT!?



**THE
CRIMSON
GODDESS
...!?**



MAYA!

BA-DUMP

