



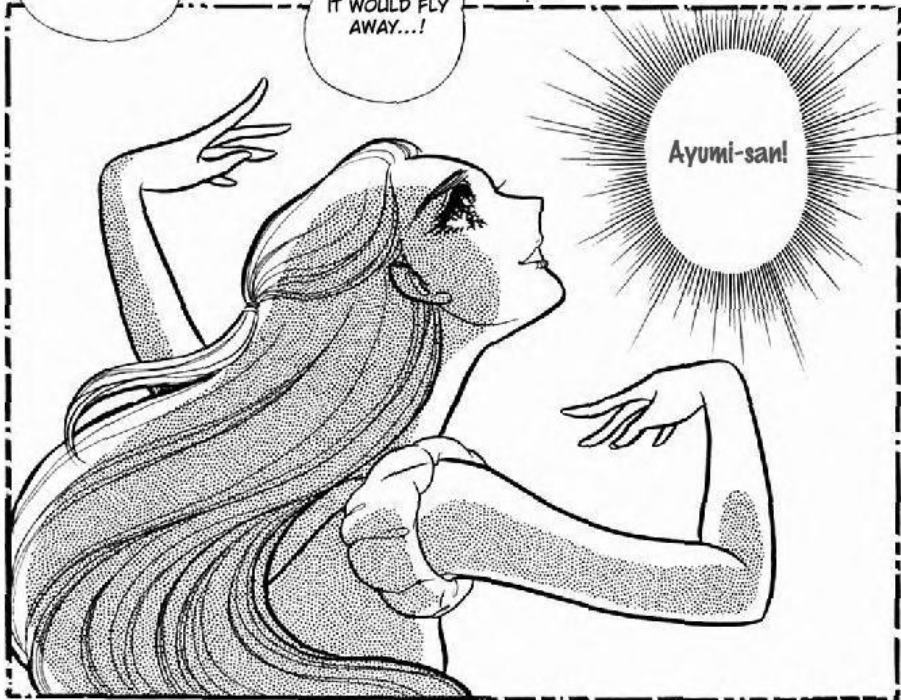
TELL ME LARK!
WHAT SHALL I
ENCOUNTER ON
THIS DAY?

AH... MY
HEART IS
BRIMMING WITH
A STRANGE
PREMONITION...

AS THOUGH
IT WOULD FLY
AWAY...!



Maya...



Ayumi-san!



AH, I FEEL
UNEASY
WITHOUT
REASON...

MY CHEST
FEELS
TIGHT,
ITS BEAT
DISQUIE-
TING.

WHAT'S HAPPE-
NING TO ME? I
FEEL STRANGE
TODAY...

HAPPY ONE
MOMENT,
STARING INTO
SPACE THE
NEXT...

IS IT
BECAUSE
THERE WILL
BE A BALL
TONIGHT?

LIKE IT'S
BEING
RIPPED
APART...

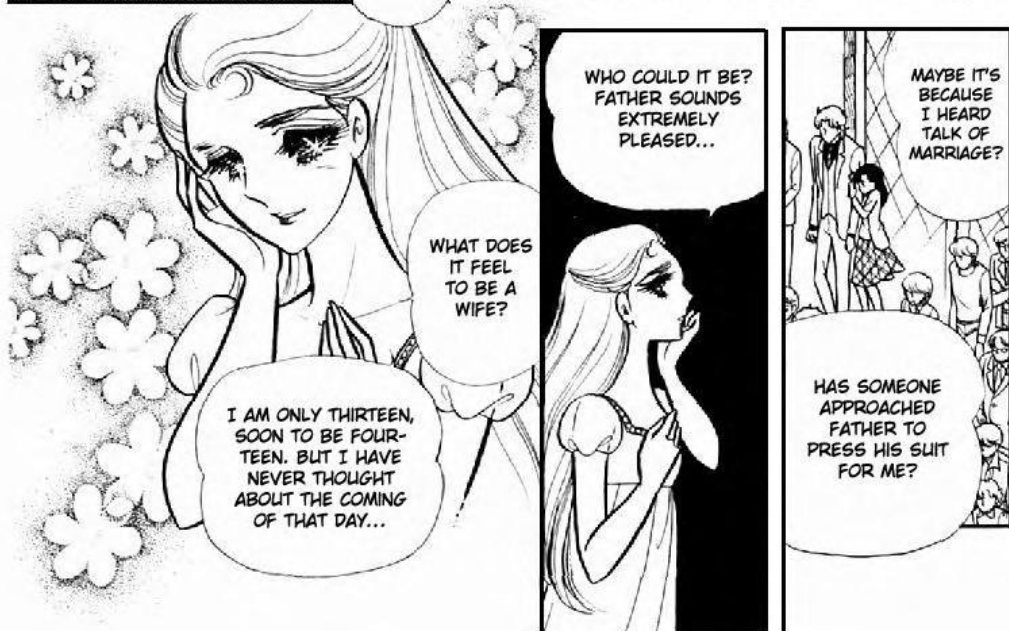
MY HEART
CANNOT
DECIDE.

WHY WON'T
MY HEART
STOP
QUIVERING?

I HOPE
IT'S
GOOD!

WILL IT BE
GOOD OR
BAD?

AH! SOMETHING
WILL HAPPEN
TODAY.



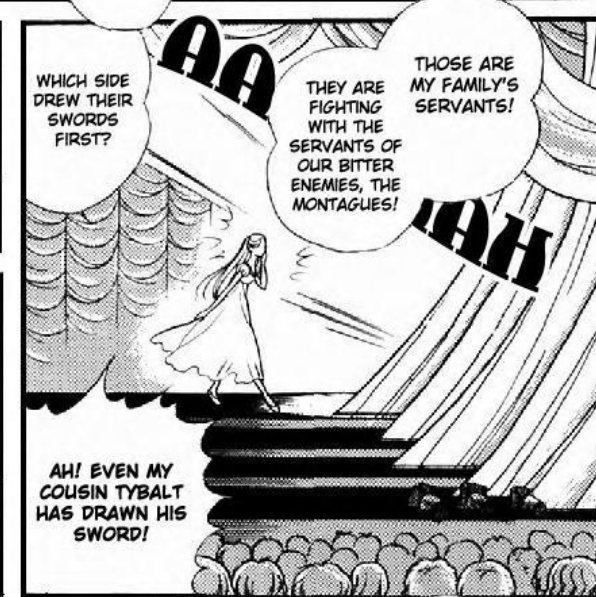
WHO COULD IT BE?
FATHER SOUNDS
EXTREMELY
PLEASED...

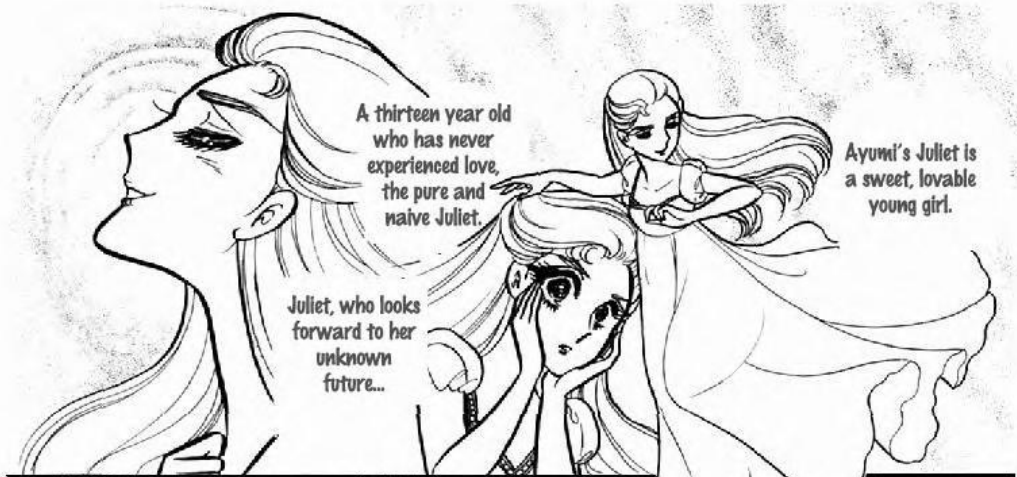
MAYBE IT'S
BECAUSE
I HEARD
TALK OF
MARRIAGE?

WHAT DOES
IT FEEL
TO BE A
WIFE?

I AM ONLY THIRTEEN,
SOON TO BE FOUR-
TEEN. BUT I HAVE
NEVER THOUGHT
ABOUT THE COMING
OF THAT DAY...

HAS SOMEONE
APPROACHED
FATHER TO
PRESS HIS SUIT
FOR ME?





A thirteen year old who has never experienced love, the pure and naive Juliet.

Ayumi's Juliet is a sweet, lovable young girl.

Juliet, who looks forward to her unknown future...



Her movements are becoming much more fluid and practiced!

Every glance, every move is like a beacon...

Is Ayumi-san really this beautiful?

SUCH A NAIVE CHILD...

JULIET IS BEAUTIFUL, AND SHE ATTRACTS OUR LOVE AND EMPATHY.



SOME TIMES DIGNIFIED, AT OTHERS CHILDLIKE.

I'LL LOOK TO LIKE, IF LOOKING LIKING MOVE BUT NO MORE DEEP WILL I ENDART MINE EYE...

AT LAST, JULIET'S MOTHER INQUIRES ON HER DISPOSITION TOWARDS COUNT PARIS'S SUIT...

THE ENTIRE STAGE IS BARE EXCEPT FOR THE CURTAINS. IN THIS EMPTY SPACE, AYUMI MOVED FROM THE GARDEN...

...TO THE PARLOR.

WITH HER BRIGHT SMILE AND SPARKLING EYES, THE YOUNG JULIET...

IS ABOUT TO MEET HER ROMEO.

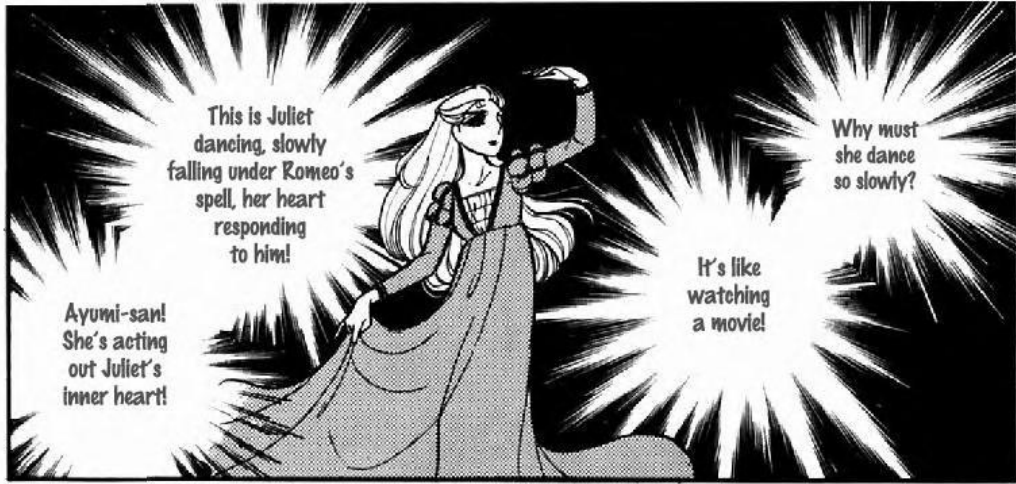
NOT A SINGLE CO-ACTOR ONSTAGE, BUT IT ALL SEEMS SO NATURAL.

...THAN YOUR CONSENT GIVES STRENGTH TO MAKE IT FLY.

NOW IT HAS BECOME JULIET'S ROOM AGAIN.





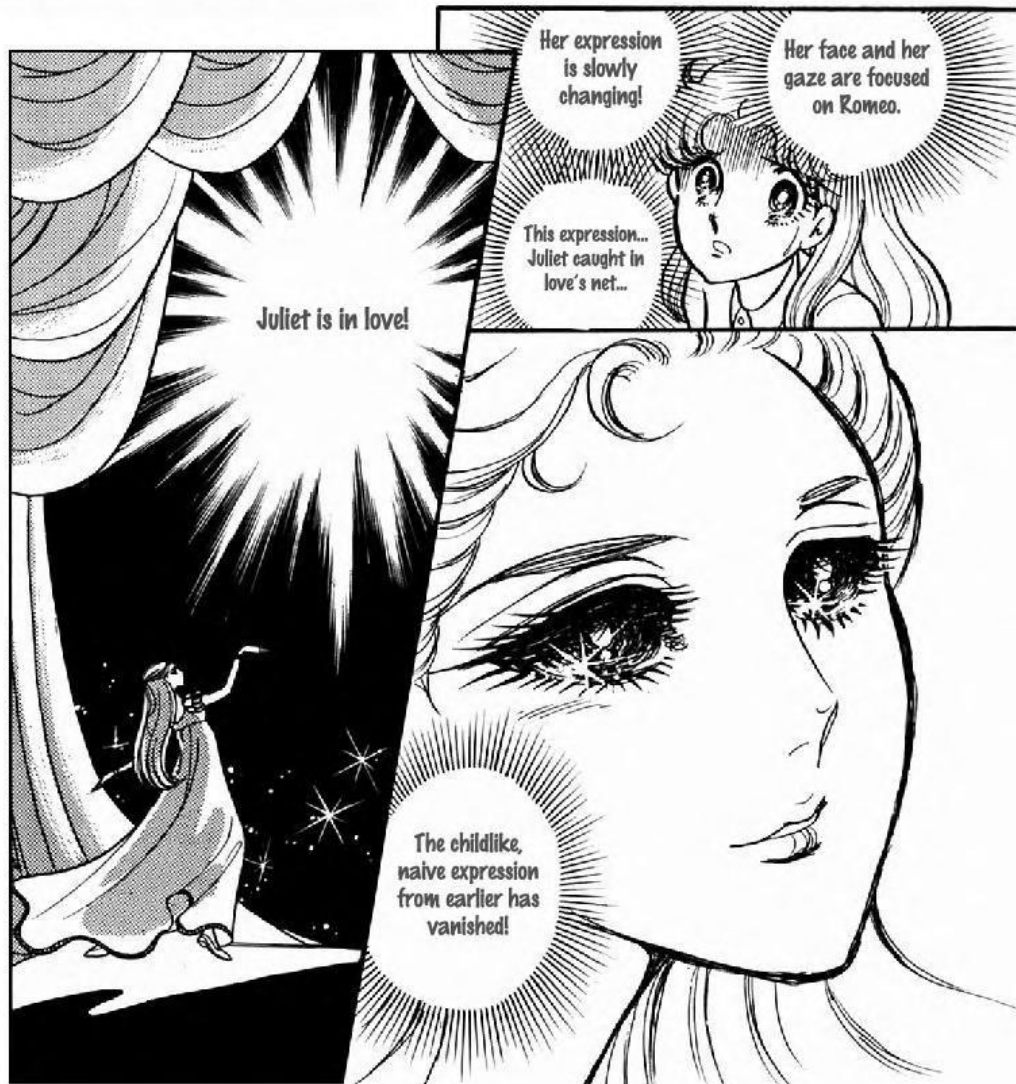


This is Juliet dancing, slowly falling under Romeo's spell, her heart responding to him!

Why must she dance so slowly?

It's like watching a movie!

Ayumi-san! She's acting out Juliet's inner heart!



Her expression is slowly changing!

Her face and her gaze are focused on Romeo.

This expression... Juliet caught in love's net...

Juliet is in love!

The childlike, naive expression from earlier has vanished!



WHICH MANNERLY DEVOTION SHOWS IN THIS. FOR SAINTS HAVE HANDS THAT PILGRIMS' HANDS DO TOUCH, AND PALM TO PALM IS HOLY PALMERS' KISS.

GOOD PILGRIM, YOU DO WRONG YOUR HAND TOO MUCH...

IS IT A SIN TO TOUCH MY HAND?

YOU SAY... THAT YOUR LIPS, TWO BLUSHING PILGRIMS, READY STAND TO SMOOTH THAT ROUGH TOUCH WITH A TENDER KISS?



WHAT AM I DOING?

KISSING?

I MOVE NOT, WHILE YOUR PRAYER'S EFFECT YOU TAKE.

THIS FROM YOUR LIPS, BY MINE, YOUR SIN IS PURGED. THEN HAVE MY LIPS THE SIN THAT THEY HAVE TOOK.

A MAN I MET BUT TODAY?

WHOSE NAME I KNOW NOT?

SAINTS DO NOT MOVE,

THEN LET LIPS DO WHAT HANDS DO?

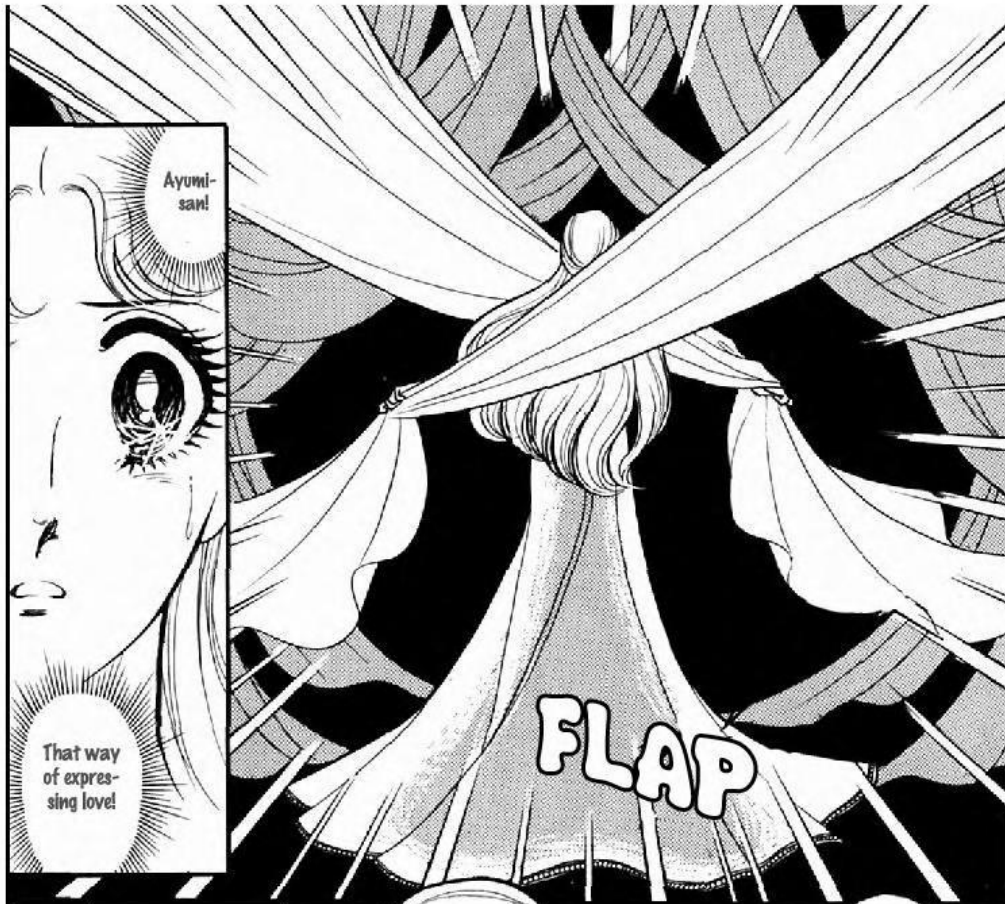


FRUSH

AH!

THOUGH GRANT FOR PRAYERS' SAKE.

LEST FAITH TURN TO DESPAIR, THEY PRAY, GRANT THOU, LEST FAITH TURN TO DESPAIR?



Ayumi-san!

That way of expressing love!

FLAP



IF HE BE MARRIED,
MY GRAVE IS LIKE TO
BE MY WEDDING BED.

WHAT IS YOND
GENTLEMAN?

COME
HITHER,
NURSE.

MONTAGUE!
HE IS
ROMEO
OF THE
HOUSE OF
MONTAGUE...

WHAT'S HE THAT
FOLLOWS THERE,
THAT WOULD
NOT DANCE?

GO ASK HIS
NAME!



WHEREFORE
ART THOU
ROMEO?

O ROMEO,
ROMEO!

MY ONLY LOVE
SPRUNG FROM
MY ONLY HATE!



'TIS BUT
THY NAME
THAT IS MY
ENEMY!
WHAT'S
MONTAGUE?

ROMEO, DOFF
THY NAME!

TOO EARLY
SEEN LINK-
NOWN
AND
KNOWN
TOO LATE!

DENY THY FATHER
AND REFUSE THY
NAME; OR, IF THOU
WILT NOT,

BE BUT SWORN MY
LOVE, AND I'LL
NO LONGER BE
A CAPULET.

AND FOR THAT
NAME WHICH IS
NO PART OF THEE
TAKE ALL MYSELF!



YOU SAY THAT
WITH LOVE'S LIGHT
WINGS DID YOU
O'ER-PERCH THESE
WALLS; YET IF
THEY DO SEE THEE,
THEY WILL MURDER
THEE...

AH!

AND BUT I LOVE YOU,
LET THEM FIND YOU
HERE: YOUR LIFE WAS
BETTER ENDED BY THEIR
HATE, THAN DEATH
PROROGUED, WANTING
OF MY LOVE?



HOW
GAMEST
THOU
HITHER,
TELL ME,
AND WHE-
REFORE?

THE
ORCHARD
WALLS ARE
HIGH AND
HARD TO
CLIMB,

AND THE
PLACE DEATH,
CONSIDERING
WHO THOU
ART, IF ANY
OF MY KINS-
MEN FIND
THEE HERE!



ART
THOU
NOT
ROMEO
AND A
MONTA-
GUE?

YET I
KNOW
THE
SOUND...



WHAT MAN
ART THOU
THAT THUS
BESCREEN'D
IN NIGHT SO
STUMBLEST
ON MY
COUNSEL?

MY EARS HAVE
NOT YET DRUNK
A HUNDRED
WORDS OF
THAT TONGUE'S
LITTERANCE...



FOR THAT WHICH
THOU HAST
HEARD ME SPEAK
TO-NIGHT.

THOU
KNOW'ST
THE MASK
OF NIGHT IS
ON MY FACE,

ELSE WOULD A
MAIDEN BLUSH
BEPAIN'T MY CHEEK!



BUT FAREWELL
COMPLIMENT!

Ayumi-
san!

FAIN, FAIN DENY
WHAT I HAVE
SPOKE:

FAIN WOULD I
DWELL ON FORM,



YET IF THOU
SWEAR'ST,
THOU MAYST
PROVE FALSE.

DOST THOU LOVE
ME? I KNOW THOU
WILT SAY 'AY,' AND
I WILL TAKE
THY WORD:



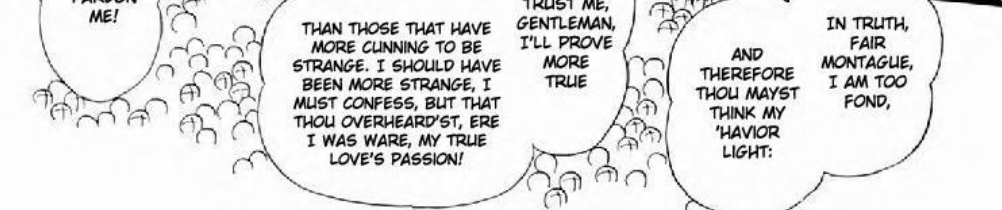
BUT ELSE,
NOT FOR
THE WORLD.

SO THOU
WILT
WOO;

AND BE
PERVERSE
AN SAY
THEE NAY.

O GENTLE ROMEO,
IF THOU DOST
LOVE, PRONOUNCE
IT FAITHFULLY:

OR IF THOU
THINK'ST I AM TOO
QUICKLY WON,
I'LL FROWN



THEREFORE
PARDON
ME!

THAN THOSE THAT HAVE
MORE CUNNING TO BE
STRANGE. I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE STRANGE, I
MUST CONFESS, BUT THAT
THOU OVERHEARD'ST, ERE
I WAS WARE, MY TRUE
LOVE'S PASSION!

BUT
TRUST ME,
GENTLEMAN,
I'LL PROVE
MORE
TRUE

AND
THEREFORE
THOU MAYST
THINK MY
'HAVIOR
LIGHT:

IN TRUTH,
FAIR
MONTAGUE,
I AM TOO
FOND,



MANY ACTORS CAN RECITE THE LINES,

BECAUSE SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS USE OLD-FASHIONED SPEECH,

MANY PERFORMERS DON'T DO JUSTICE TO HIS DIALOG...

Ayumi's lines feel so lyrical...



THEY PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT SIMPLY KNOWING ALL THE LINES IS ENOUGH.

BUT EVEN IF THEY INTEND TO DO THEIR BEST, THEY STILL FORGET TO PUT THEIR HEARTS INTO THEIR PERFORMANCES.



It's like listening to music!



PARTICULARLY THE ONES THAT REVEAL JULIET'S TEENAGED PERSONALITY THE MOST.

EACH LINE IS INFUSED WITH JULIET'S FEELINGS,

BUT AYUMI, WITH HER DEEP GRASP OF JULIET'S PERSONALITY, HAS TRANSFORMED IT INTO HER OWN.



AYUMI'S SOLO PERFORMANCE IS ABLE TO MOVE ALL THESE PEOPLE...

THAT'S WHY THE AUDIENCE UNKNOWINGLY FIND THEMSELVES MOVED BY JULIET'S FEELINGS. THEY EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING ALONG WITH JULIET...



SEND ME WORD TO-MORROW, BY ONE THAT I'LL PROCURE TO COME TO THEE, WHERE AND WHAT TIME THOU WILT PERFORM THE RITE;

DEAR LOVE, ADIEU!

I HEAR SOME NOISE WITHIN;

IF THAT THY BENT OF LOVE BE HONOURABLE, THY PURPOSE MARRIAGE,

THREE WORDS, DEAR ROMEO, AND GOOD NIGHT INDEED.

AND ALL MY FORTUNES AT THY FOOT I'LL LAY,

AND FOLLOW THEE MY LORD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

HER BODY RADIATES WITH HER LOVE, AS SHE OFFERS IT COMPLETELY TO ROMEO.

THIS IS THE SWEET, VIRGINAL JULIET...



O, SWEAR NOT BY THE MOON, THE INCONSTANT MOON, THAT MONTHLY CHANGES IN HER CIRCLED ORB,

LEST THAT THY LOVE PROVE LIKEWISE VARIABLE.

OR, IF THOU WILT, SWEAR BY THY GRACIOUS SELF,

WHICH IS THE GOD OF MY IDOLATRY,

AND I'LL BELIEVE THEE!



BANISHED!

ROMEO IS BANISHED!

'TIS A SECRET, THAT YOU ARE MY HUSBAND BEFORE GOD!

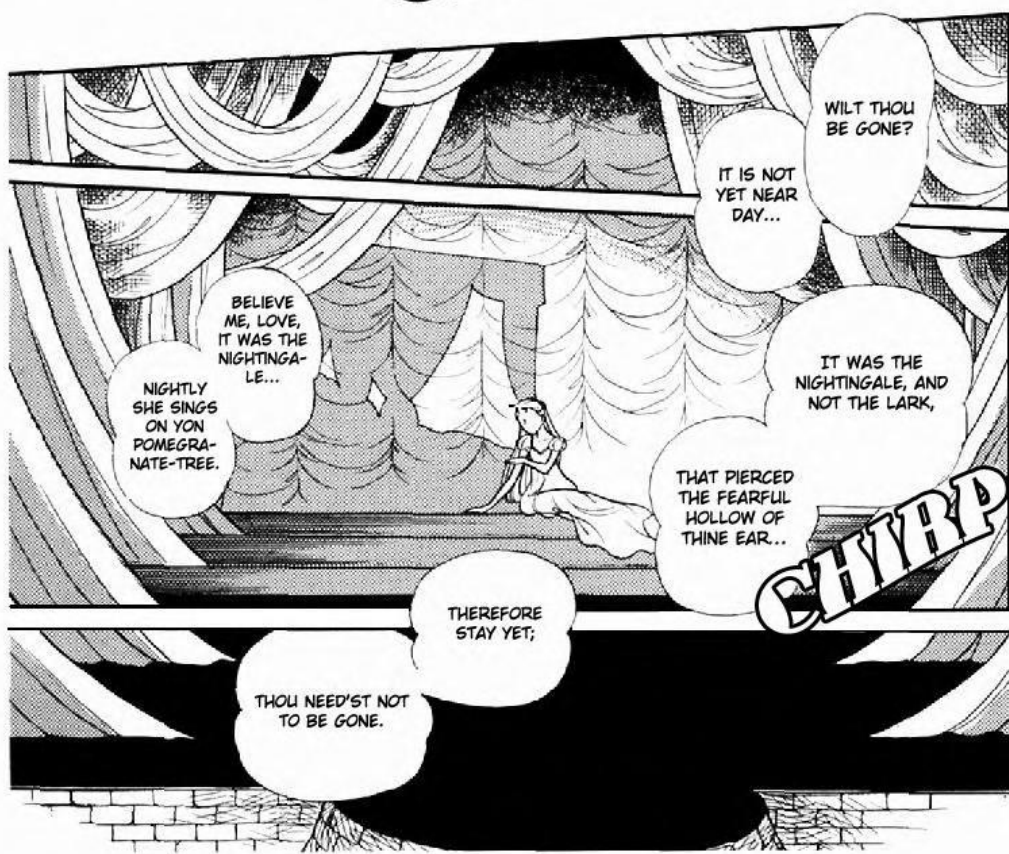
OH ROMEO ...

BECAUSE MY COUSIN SLEW HIS DEAR FRIEND MERCUTIO?

O GOD! DID ROMEO'S HAND SHED TYBALT'S BLOOD?



CHIRP



WILT THOU BE GONE?

IT IS NOT YET NEAR DAY...

BELIEVE ME, LOVE, IT WAS THE NIGHTINGALE...

NIGHTLY SHE SINGS ON YON POMEGRANATE-TREE.

IT WAS THE NIGHTINGALE, AND NOT THE LARK,

THAT PIERCED THE FEARFUL HOLLOW OF THINE EAR...

CHIRP

THEREFORE STAY YET;

THOU NEED'ST NOT TO BE GONE.



I AM CONTENT, SO THOU
WILT HAVE IT SO.

WHY DOST THOU
LAUGH, ROMEO?

AND JOCLIND
DAY STANDS
TIPTOE ON
THE MISTY
MOUN-
TAIN-TOPS.

WHAT
ENVIOUS
STREAKS

DO LACE THE
SEVERING
CLOUDS IN
YONDER EAST:

IF YOU BE TA'EN,
YOU'LL BE PUT
TO DEATH;

CHIRP

I'LL SAY YON
GREY IS
NOT THE
MORNING'S
EYE, 'TIS BUT
THE PALE
REFLEX OF
CYNTHIA'S
BROW;

NOR THAT IS
NOT THE LARK,
WHOSE NOTES DO
BEAT THE VAULTY
HEAVEN SO HIGH
ABOVE OUR
HEADS:

HIE HENCE, BE GONE,
AWAY! REMOVE TO
MANTUA, LOVE, LORD,
AYE, HUSBAND,
FRIEND!

IT IS,
IT IS!

IT IS
THE
LARK

IT IS THE LARK
THAT SINGS SO
OUT OF TUNE,
STRAINING
HARSH DIS-
CORDS AND
UNPLEASING
SHARPS.

AND
NOT THE
NIGHTINGA-
LE!

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

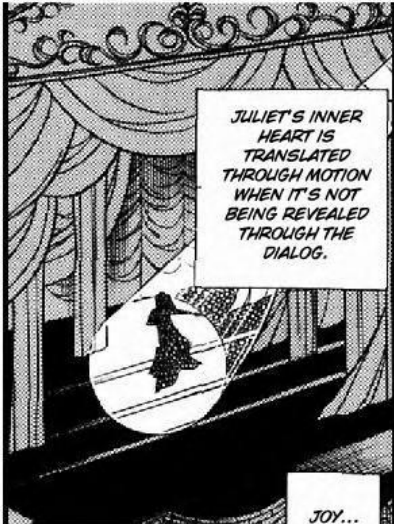
CHIRP



JULIET MATURED FROM A CHILD WHO WAS IGNORANT OF LOVE...



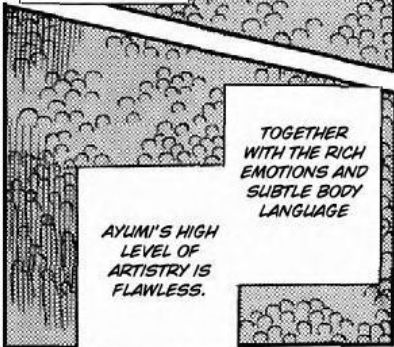
IN THE SAME WAY THAT AYUMI HAS MATURED AS AN ACTRESS!



JULIET'S INNER HEART IS TRANSLATED THROUGH MOTION WHEN IT'S NOT BEING REVEALED THROUGH THE DIALOG.

JOY...
SAD-
NESS!

PANTOMIME,
SUDDENLY
FREEZING IN
PLACE!



AYUMI'S HIGH LEVEL OF ARTISTRY IS FLAWLESS.

TOGETHER WITH THE RICH EMOTIONS AND SUBTLE BODY LANGUAGE

She's translated Juliet's sorrow and pain...



The lark's call can be heard so clearly!



IN AYUMI'S TECHNIQUE EVERYTHING IS NECESSARY.

FROM HER HAND AND FOOT MOVEMENTS, TO THE WAY HER HAIR SETTLES ON HER SHOULDERS...



I didn't know anything at all...



I didn't know...

That pantomime was an acting technique...



This, together with her innate talent, enables her to grow by leaps and bounds...

I can't compete with her at my current level...



She has first-class instructors training her...



She performed well, didn't she? Ayumi-san...

The young female acting prodigy...



SOB

SOB



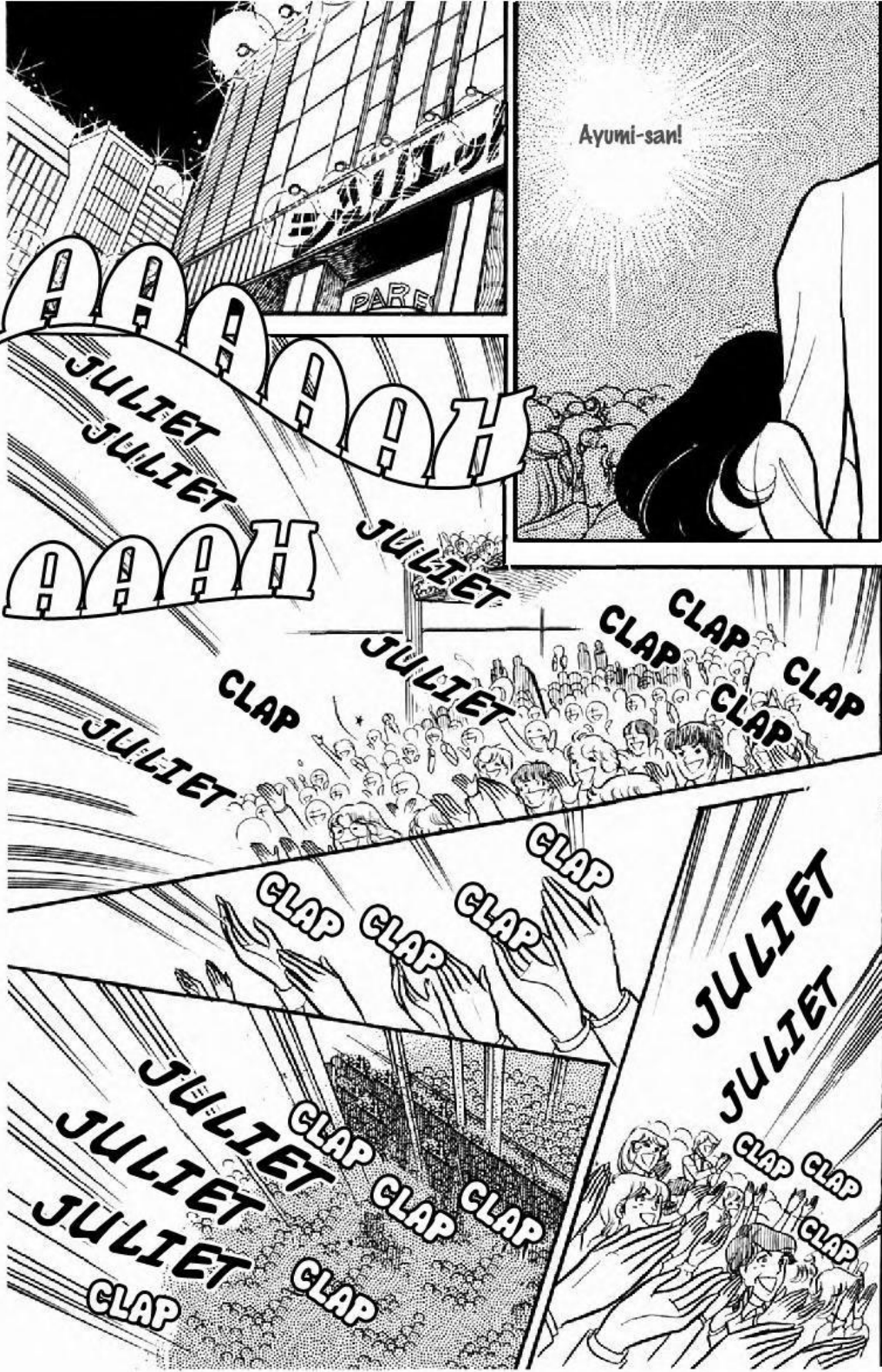
Maya...



SOB

SOB

SOB

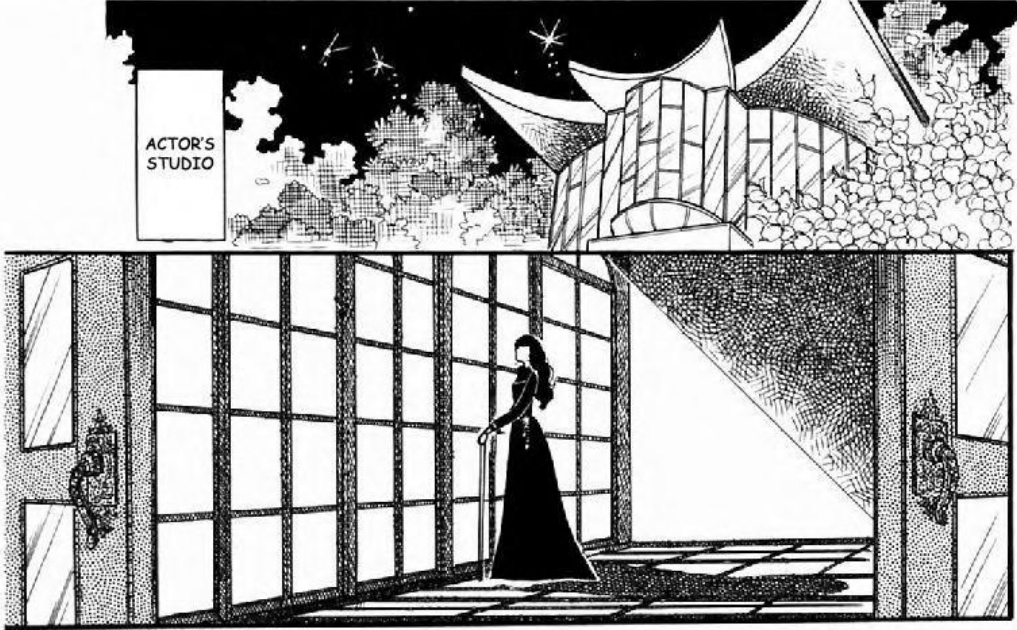








ACTOR'S
STUDIO







I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU; EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU TAKING THINGS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS...

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM WELL!



EVEN BETTER THAN AYUMI?

I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF AT ALL!

I... I ONLY HAVE THIS!

AND THE ONE WHO DEVELOPED MY ACTING TECHNIQUES AND SUPPORTED ME WAS TSUKIKAGE SENSEI!

MY GOAL IS TO DEVELOP MY SELF-CONFIDENCE!

I WANT MY ACTING TO GET BETTER AND BETTER!

