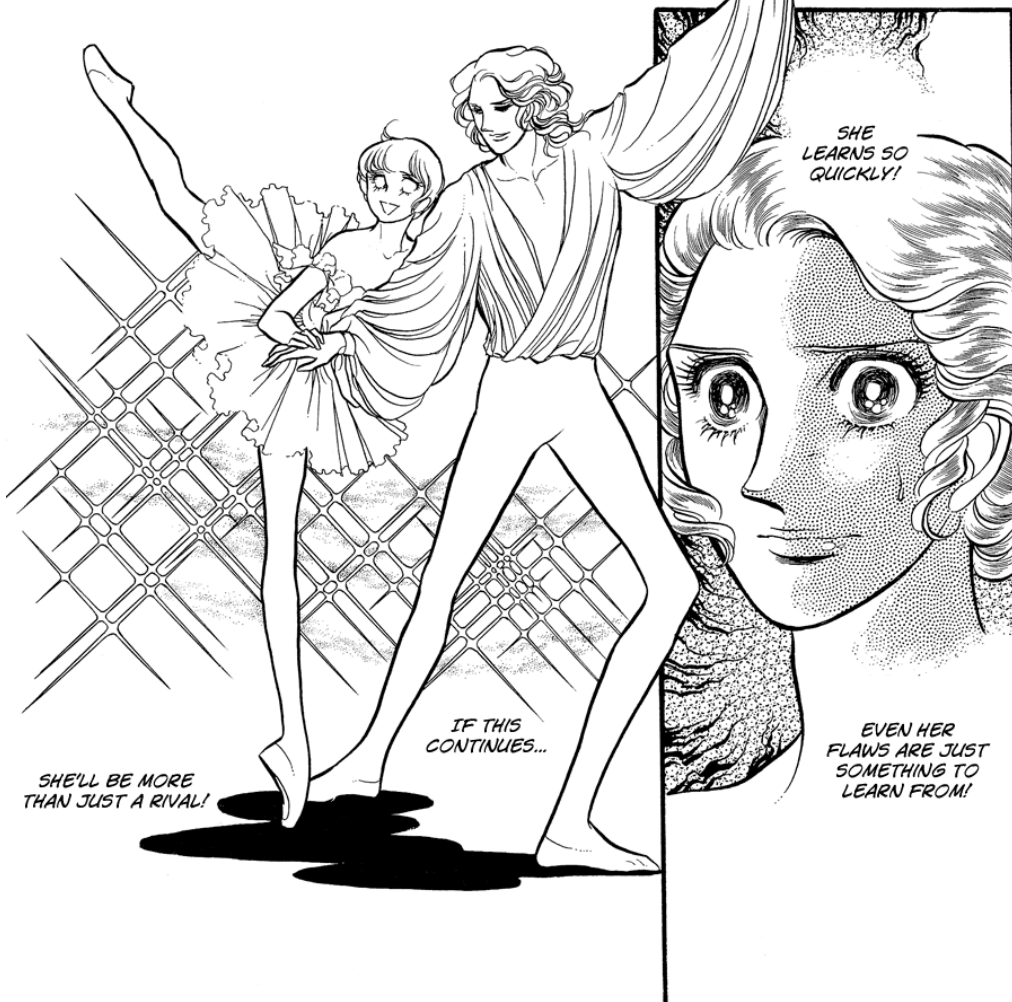


THIS GIRL...

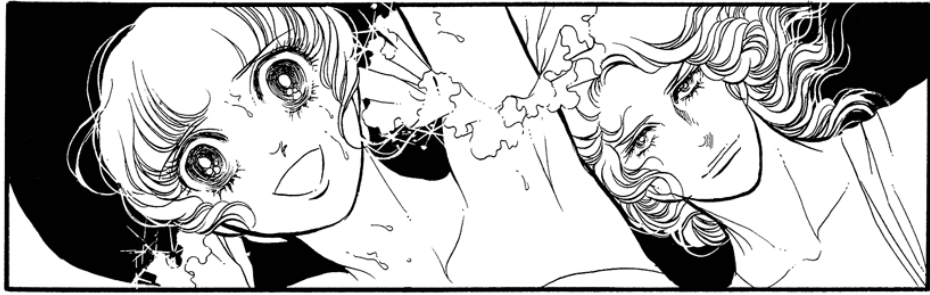


SHE  
LEARNS SO  
QUICKLY!

IF THIS  
CONTINUES...

SHE'LL BE MORE  
THAN JUST A RIVAL!

EVEN HER  
FLAWS ARE JUST  
SOMETHING TO  
LEARN FROM!





FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON YOUR LEGS.

GOOD! HOLD, THEN INHALE!

INHALE, THEN TIGHTEN YOUR HEAD, NECK, CHEST AND ARMS.

INHALE DEEPLY NOW!

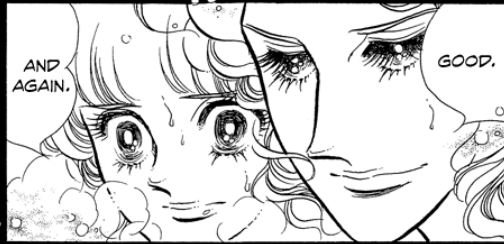
SENSEI...

EXHALE HARD! NOW SWAY BACK.

EXHALE HARD! NOW SWAY BACK.

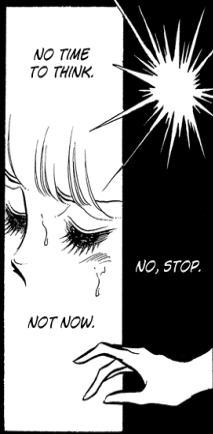
EXHALE HARD! NOW SWAY BACK.

EXHALE HARD! NOW SWAY BACK.





FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND, AND ALL JOINTS TURNED OUT EN DEHORS.



NO TIME TO THINK.

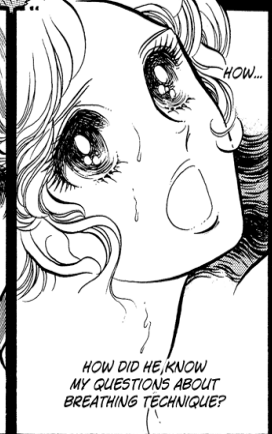
NO, STOP.

NOT NOW.



WHY IS MY BODY SO LIMBER TODAY?

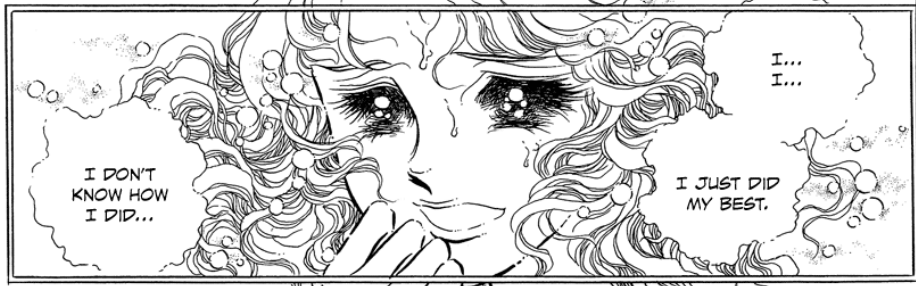
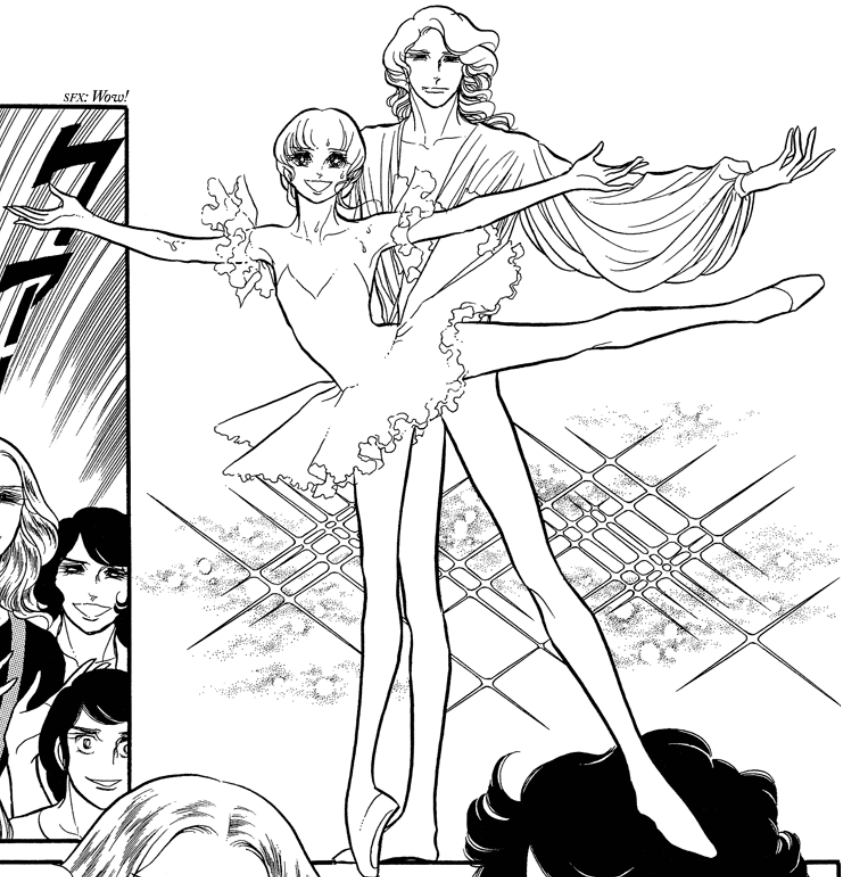
WHY?



HOW...

HOW DID HE KNOW MY QUESTIONS ABOUT BREATHING TECHNIQUE?

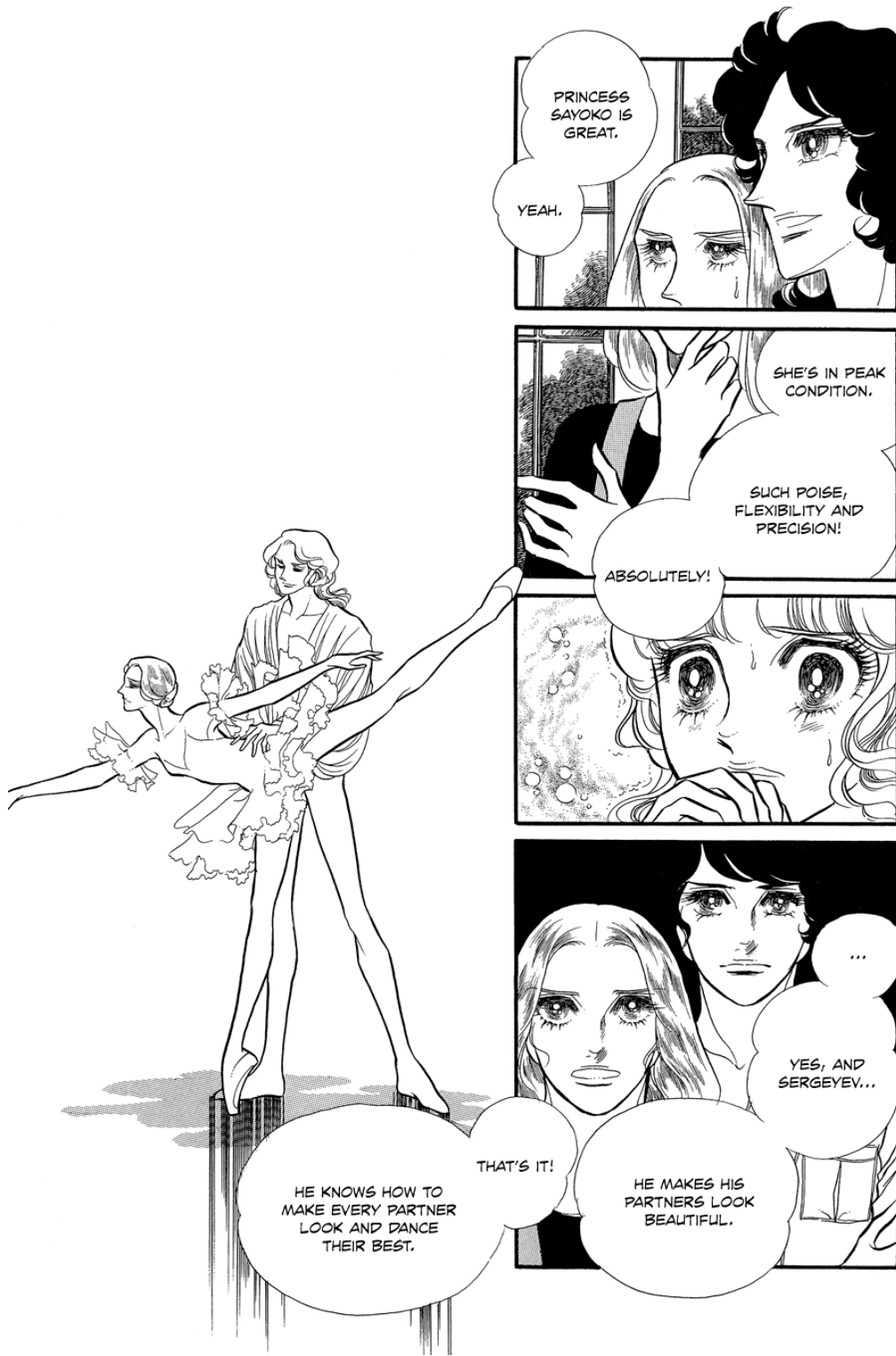


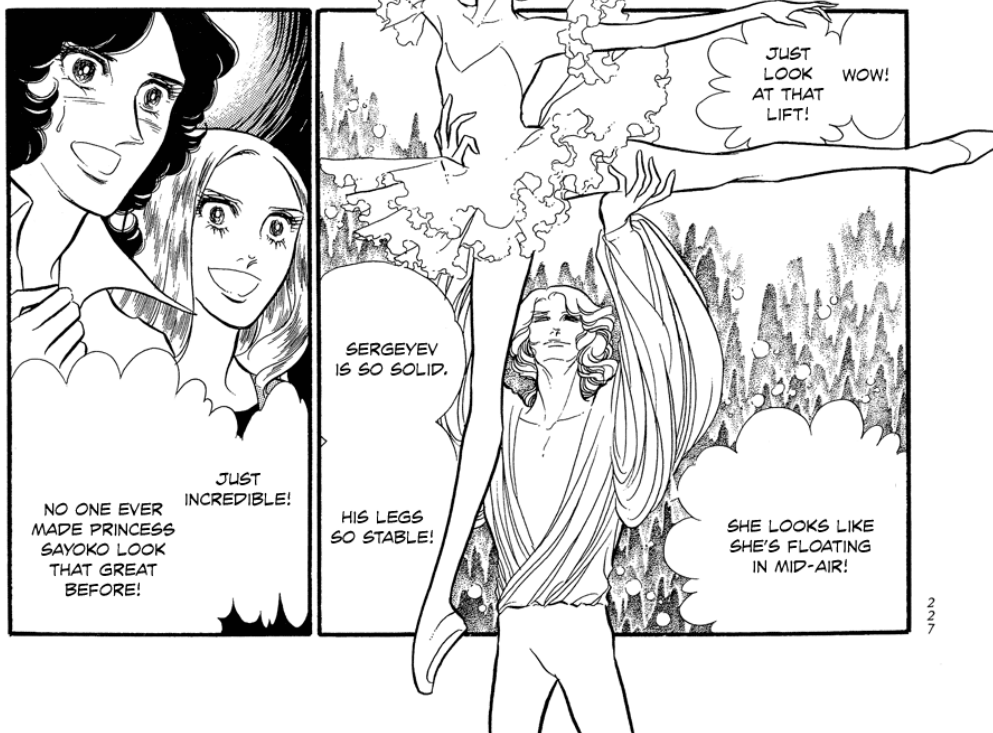
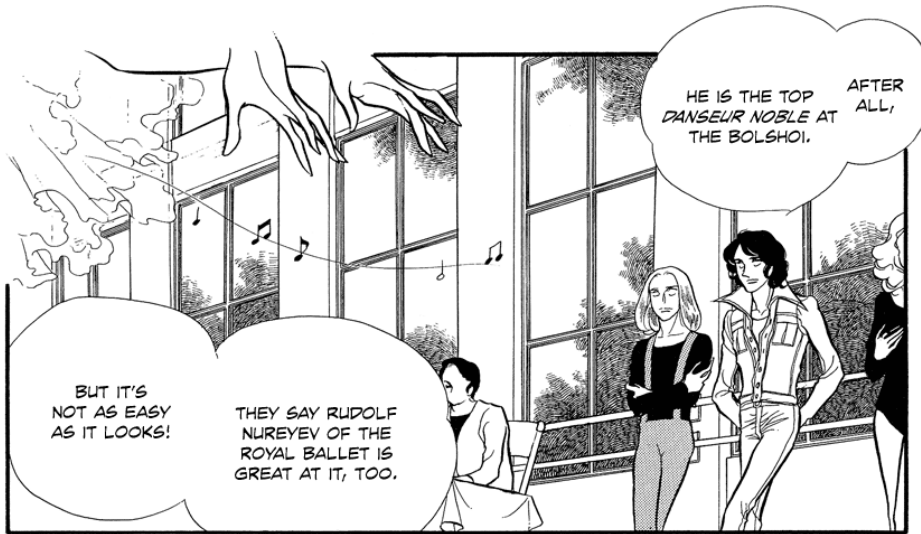


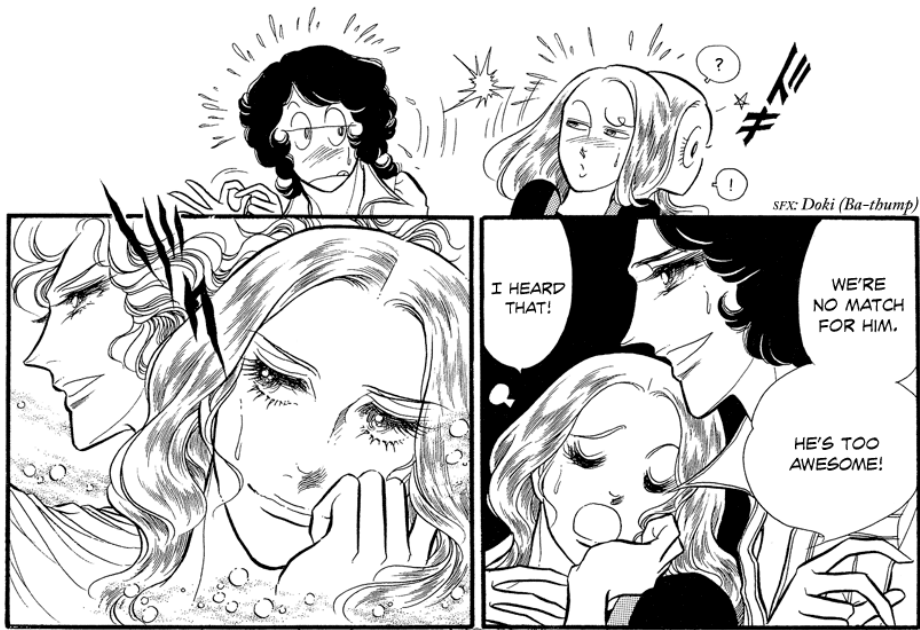










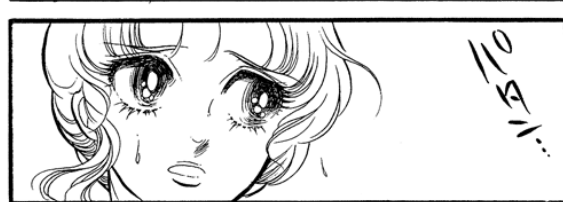
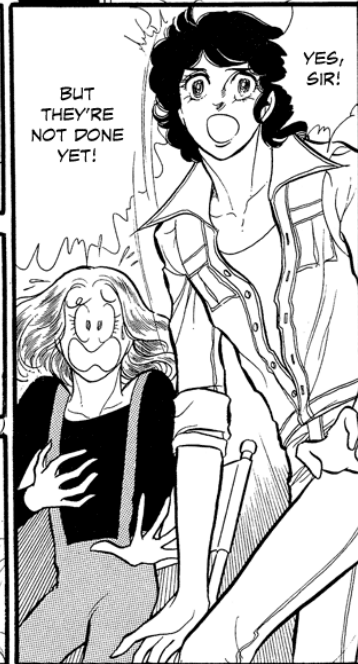


SFX: Doki (Ba-thump)

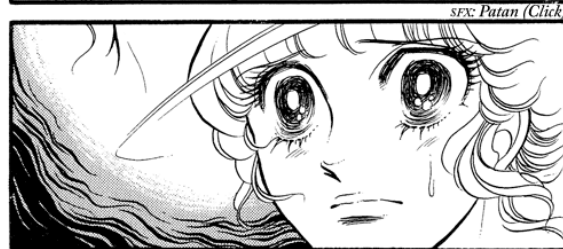
SFX: Baku (Twitch)

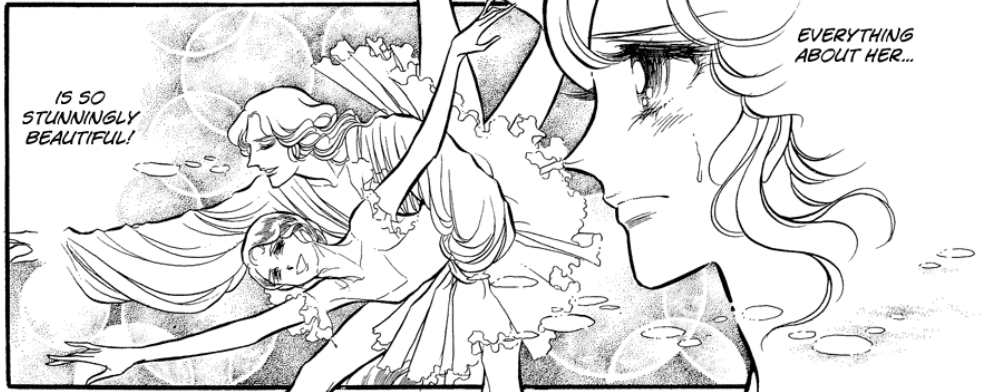
PLEASE BE READY. THE AUDITION WILL BE IN STUDIO C.

THE TWO PEOPLE AUDITIONING FOR THE ROLE OF BLUE BIRD...



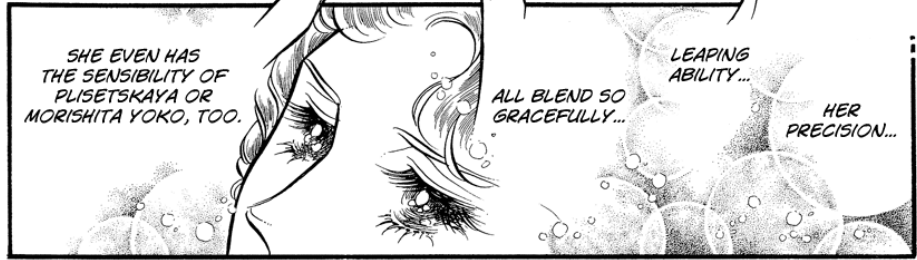
SFX: Patan (Click)





IS SO STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL!

EVERYTHING ABOUT HER...



SHE EVEN HAS THE SENSIBILITY OF PLISETSKAYA OR MORISHITA YOKO, TOO.

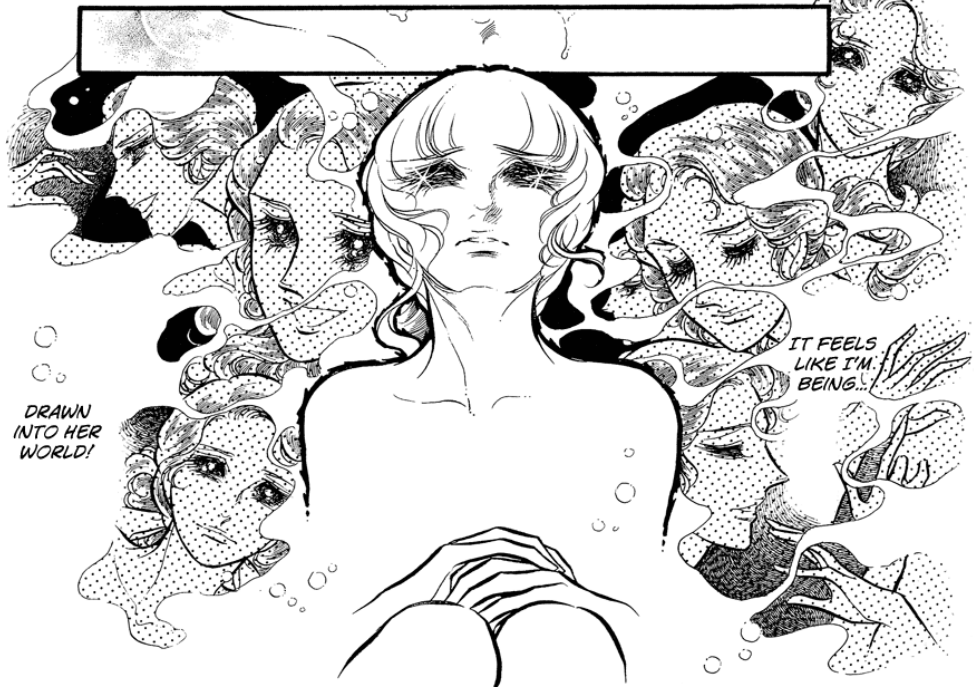
ALL BLEND SO GRACEFULLY...

LEAPING ABILITY...

HER PRECISION...



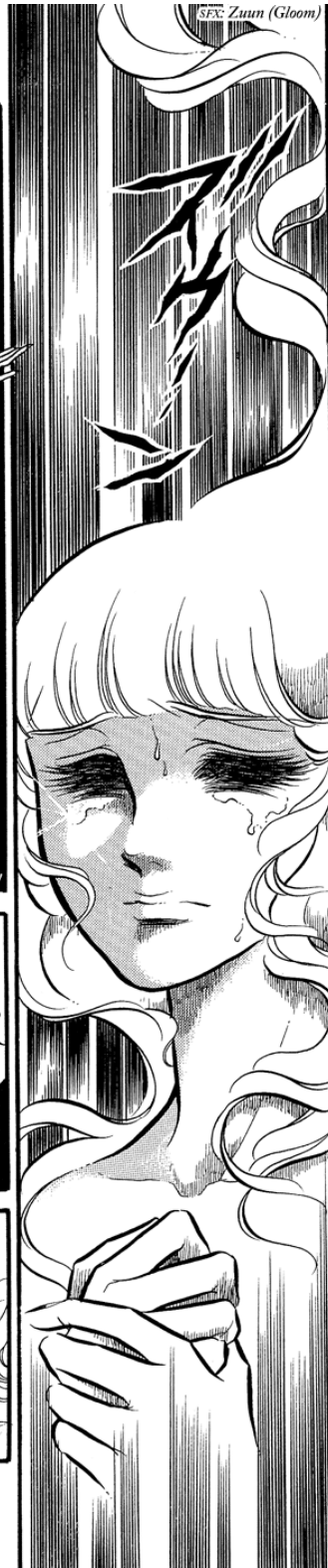
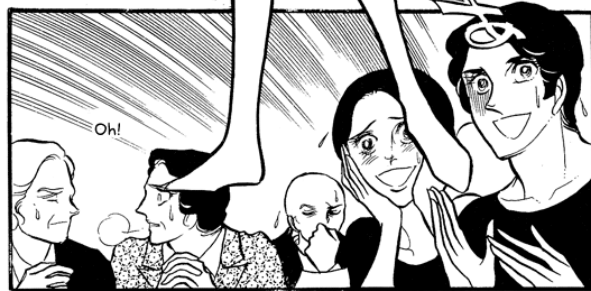
MY HEART ACHES...



DRAWN INTO HER WORLD!

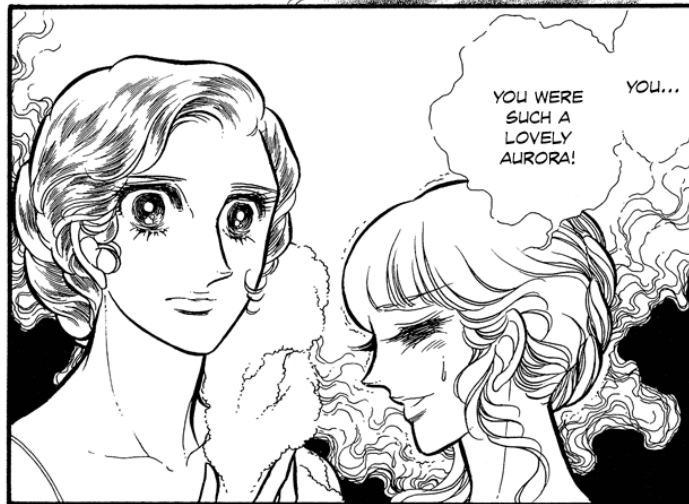
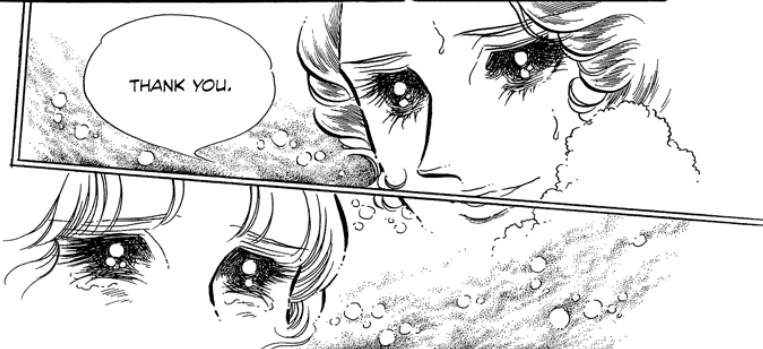
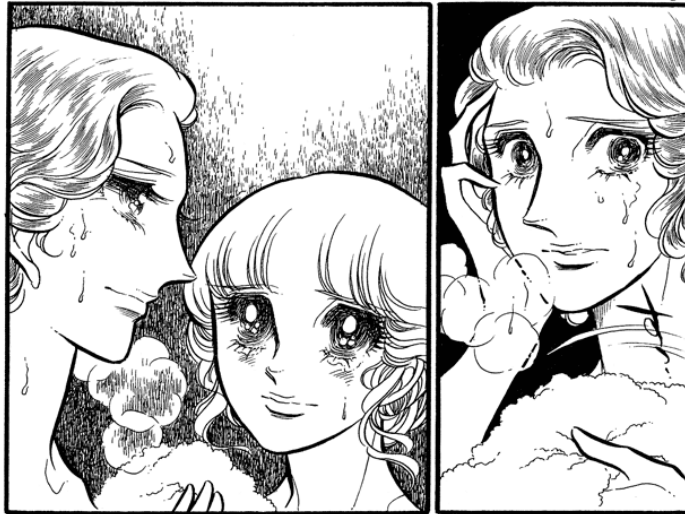
IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING...

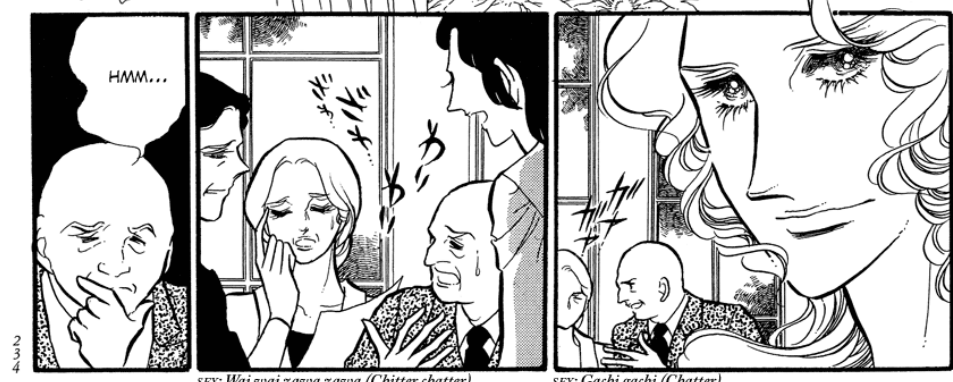
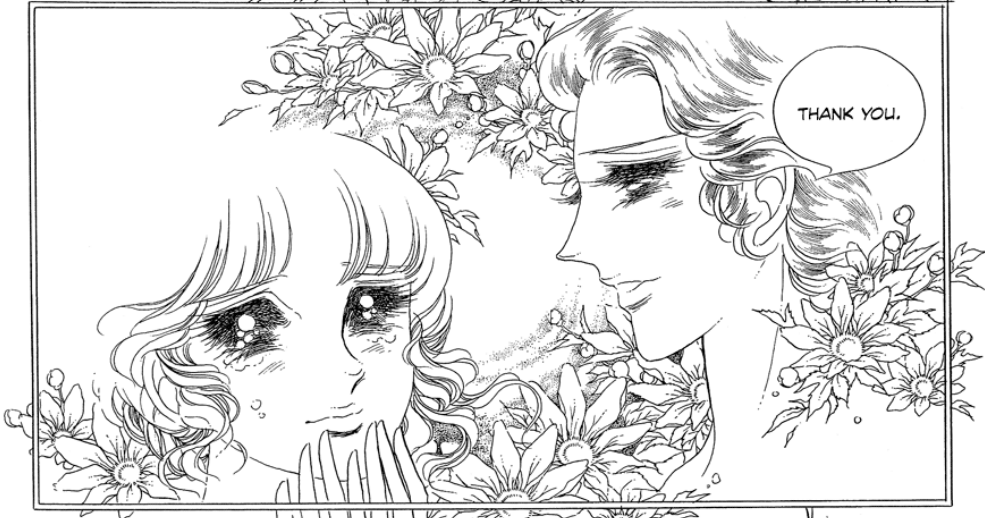
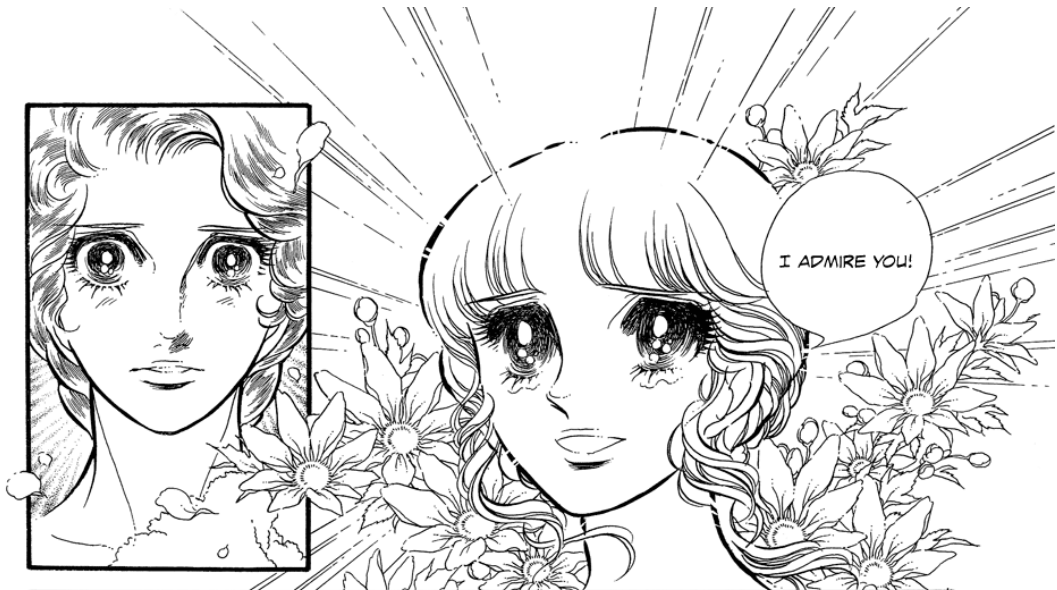






SFX: Su (Sigh)





4.12.12

SFX: Wai wai zawa zawa (Chitter chatter)

SFX: Gachi gachi (Chatter)

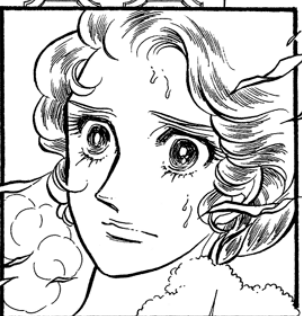
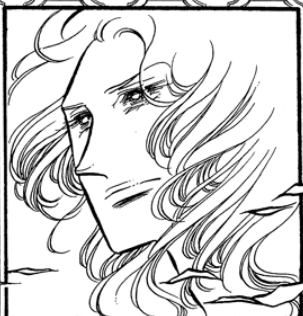


SEX: Katan (Bam)



AFTER BOTH  
PERFORM ALL  
SOLO PARTS FROM  
THE SHOW.

WILL BE  
DECIDED...



SFX: Wai wai zarwa zarwa (Chitter chatter)



KYOGOKI-SAN!?



WHAT?  
AGAIN!?

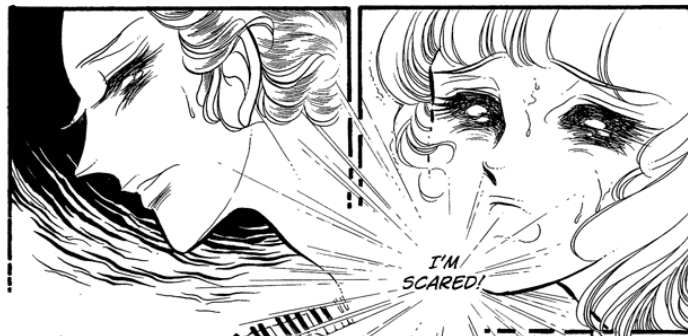
THEY  
COULDN'T  
DECIDE?

IMPOSSIBLE...  
THE ENTIRE  
THING, NOW?

0.5.1.2

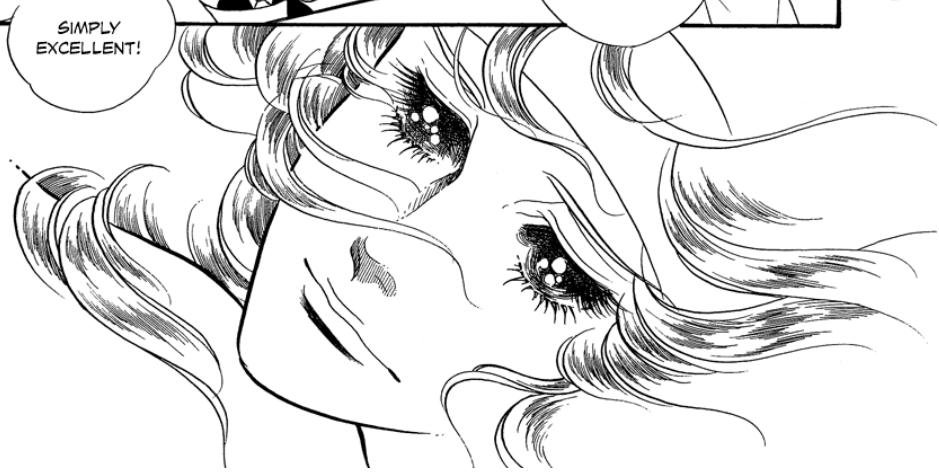
SFX: Kata (Step)

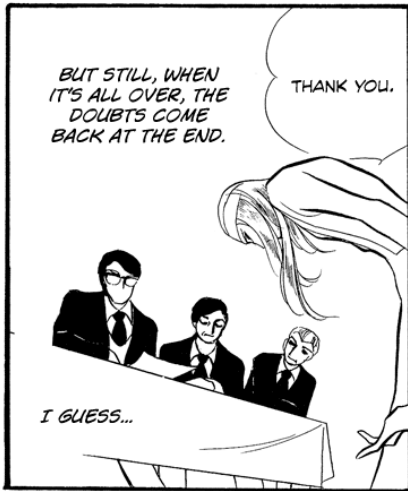
SEX: Zarua (Mutter)



SEX: Pon (Plink)







BUT STILL, WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, THE DOUBTS COME BACK AT THE END.

THANK YOU.

I GUESS...



DID I DO MY BEST? WAS I RELAXED ENOUGH?

EVERY TIME I DANCE, I WONDER...



IT ALL COMES DOWN TO ONE'S ABILITY.

EACH TIME, I ALWAYS SEARCH MY SOUL...



THAT WAS YOUR BEST YET, AOI.

SEX: Pon (Pat)



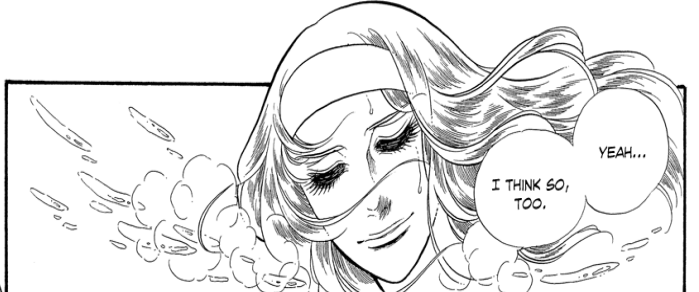
I'M SURE OF IT.



THINK SO?

...







Ah...  
SO LOVELY...  
KUSAKABE-SAN'S  
PERFORMANCE.

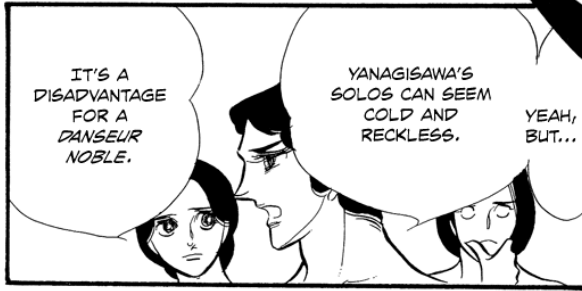
AND EXUDES  
SUCH WARMTH.  
HE ALWAYS  
LOOKS SO  
ELEGANT.

HIS INNATE  
TALENT IS SO  
OBVIOUS.  
YET IT'S  
STRONG AND  
PRECISE.



IF KUSAKABE-SAN  
IS THE CLASSIC TYPE  
OF DANSEUR NOBLE,  
THEN AOI-SAN...

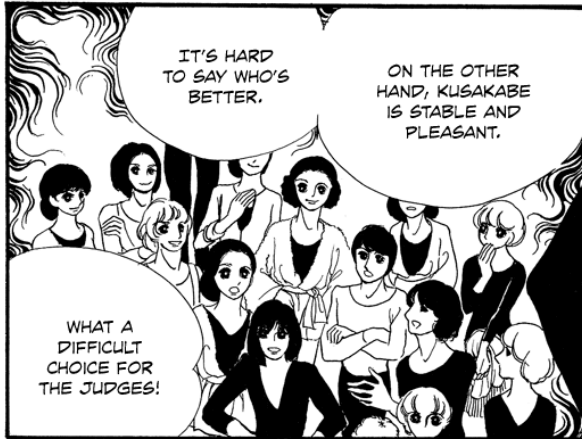
YANAGISAWA-SAN'S  
UNIQUE SENSIBILITY IS  
THE TOTAL OPPOSITE.



IT'S A DISADVANTAGE FOR A DANSEUR NOBLE.

YANAGISAWA'S SOLOS CAN SEEM COLD AND RECKLESS.

YEAH, BUT...



IT'S HARD TO SAY WHO'S BETTER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, KUSAKABE IS STABLE AND PLEASANT.

WHAT A DIFFICULT CHOICE FOR THE JUDGES!



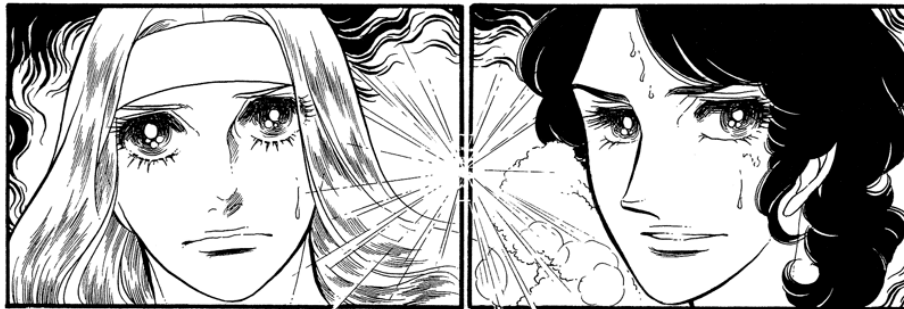
SHHH...

SFX: Kata (Step)



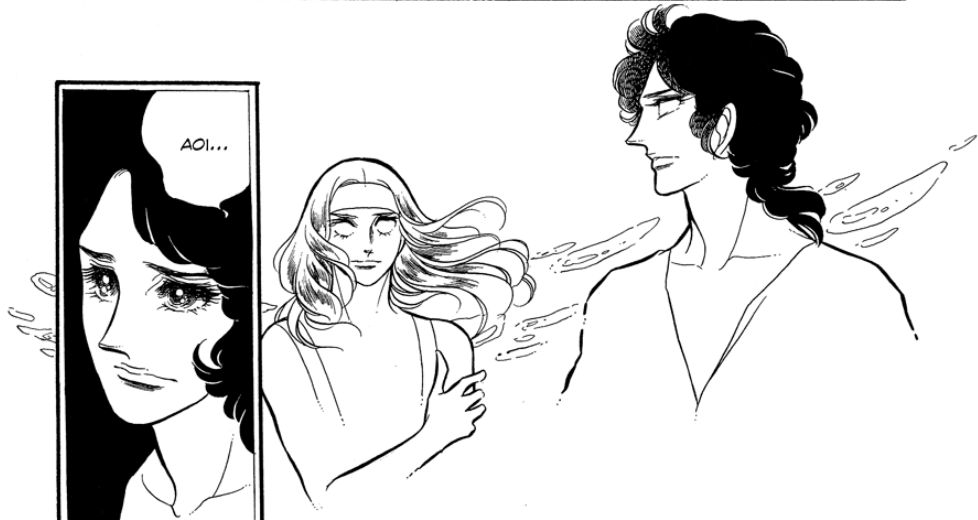
WE WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE WINNER.

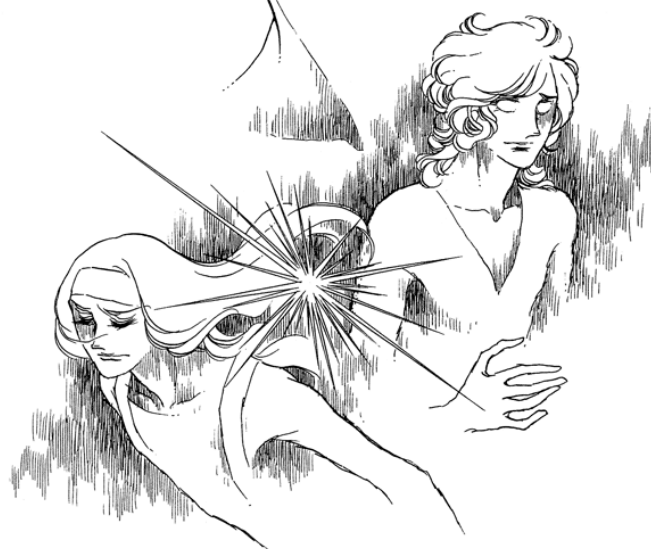
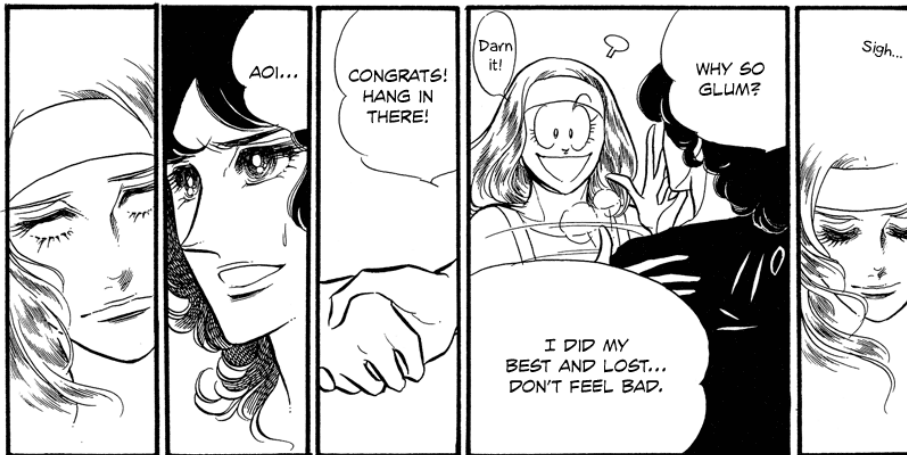
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE.

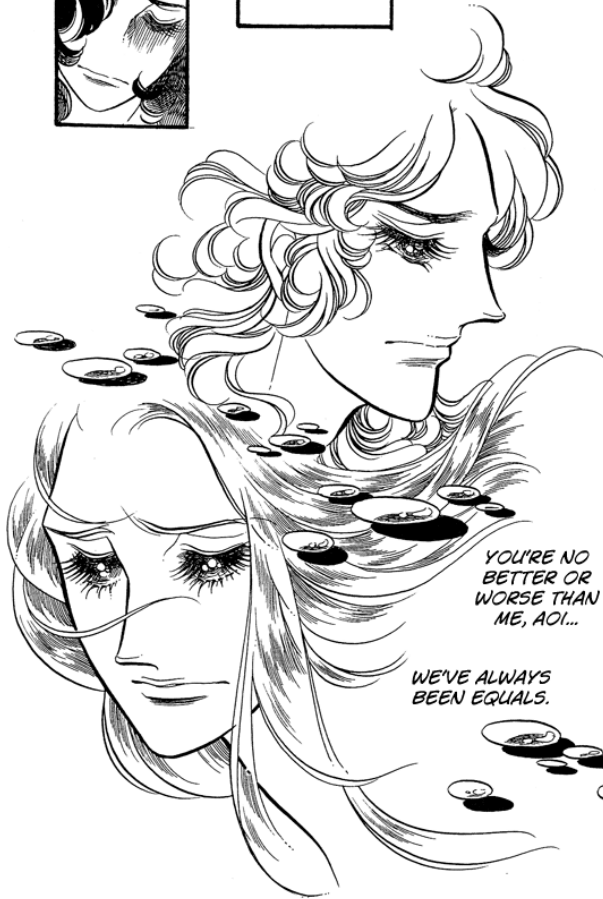
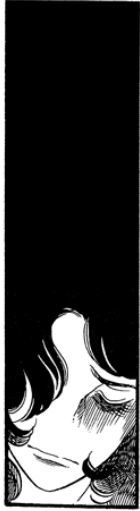




SFX: Pachi pachi pachi (Clap clap clap)



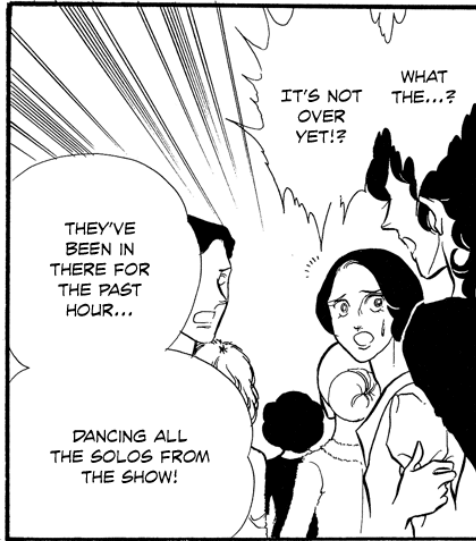




YOU'RE NO  
BETTER OR  
WORSE THAN  
ME, AOI...

WE'VE ALWAYS  
BEEN EQUALS.



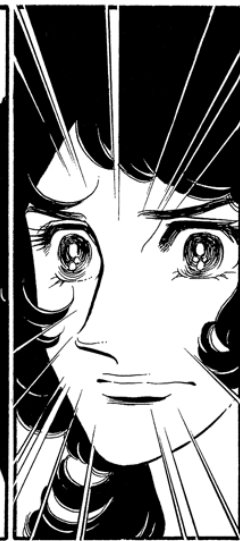


THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR THE PAST HOUR...

DANCING ALL THE SOLOS FROM THE SHOW!

IT'S NOT OVER YET!?

WHAT THE...?



THIS IS... ROUGH!

BUT...

BEING A PRIMA BALLERINA REQUIRES STAMINA.



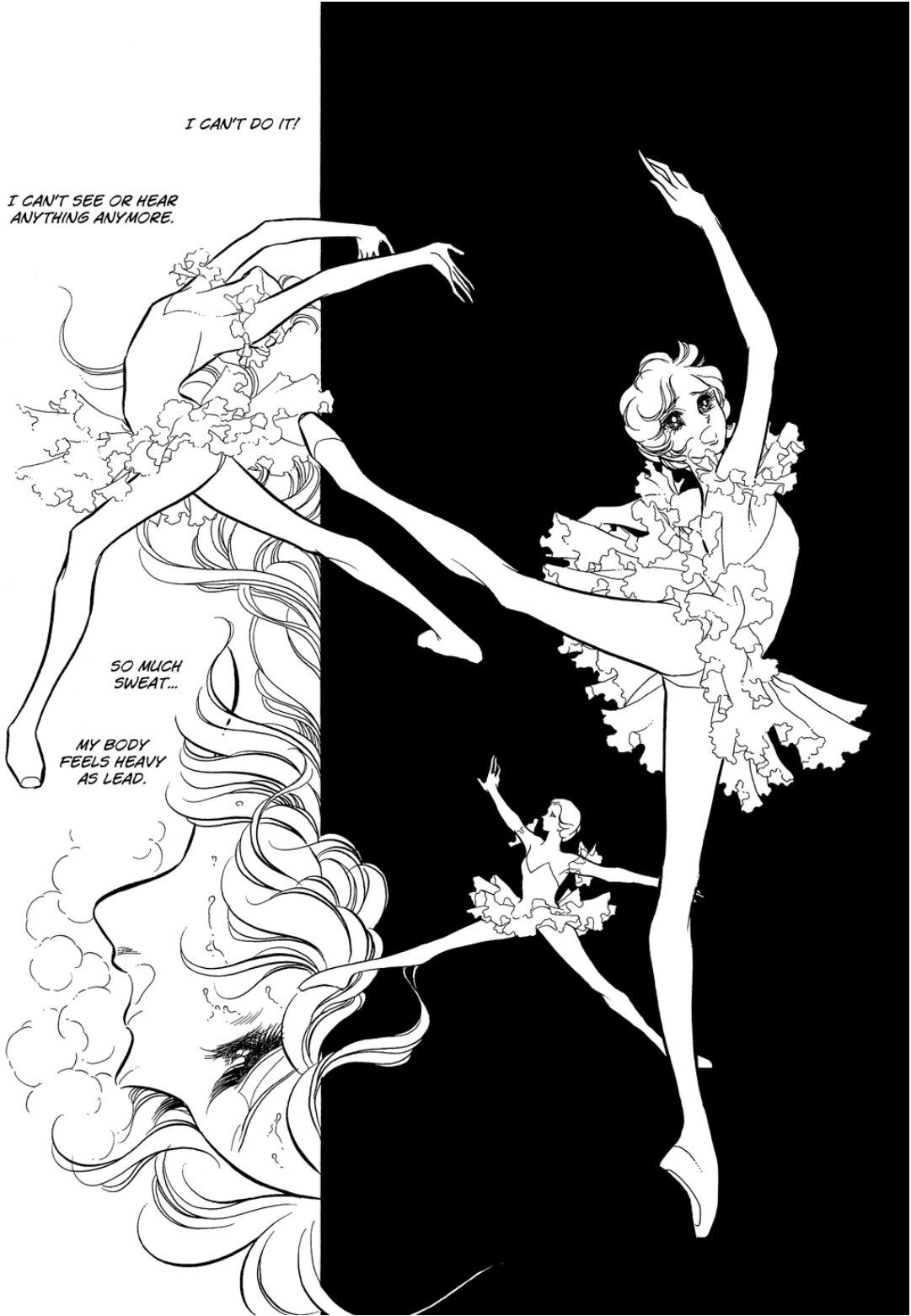


I CAN'T DO IT!

I CAN'T SEE OR HEAR  
ANYTHING ANYMORE.

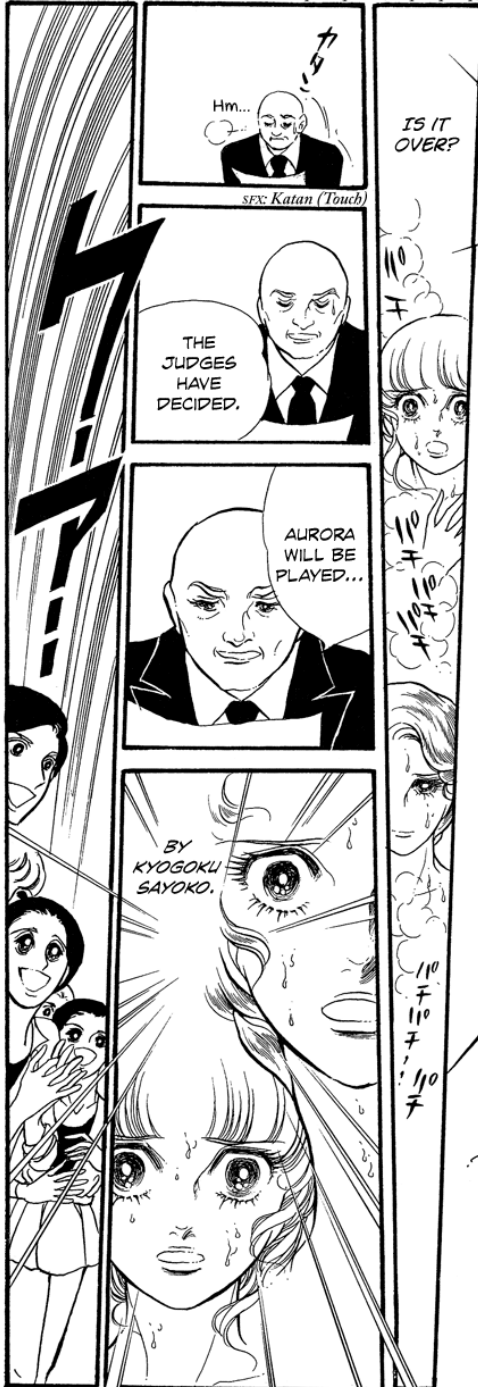
SO MUCH  
SWEAT...

MY BODY  
FEELS HEAVY  
AS LEAD.



SFX: Wow!

SFX: Pachi pachi pachi (Clap clap clap)



IS IT OVER?

SFX: Katan (Touch)

THE JUDGES HAVE DECIDED.

AURORA WILL BE PLAYED...

BY KYOGOKU SAYOKO.

110  
7  
110  
7  
110  
7



AH!

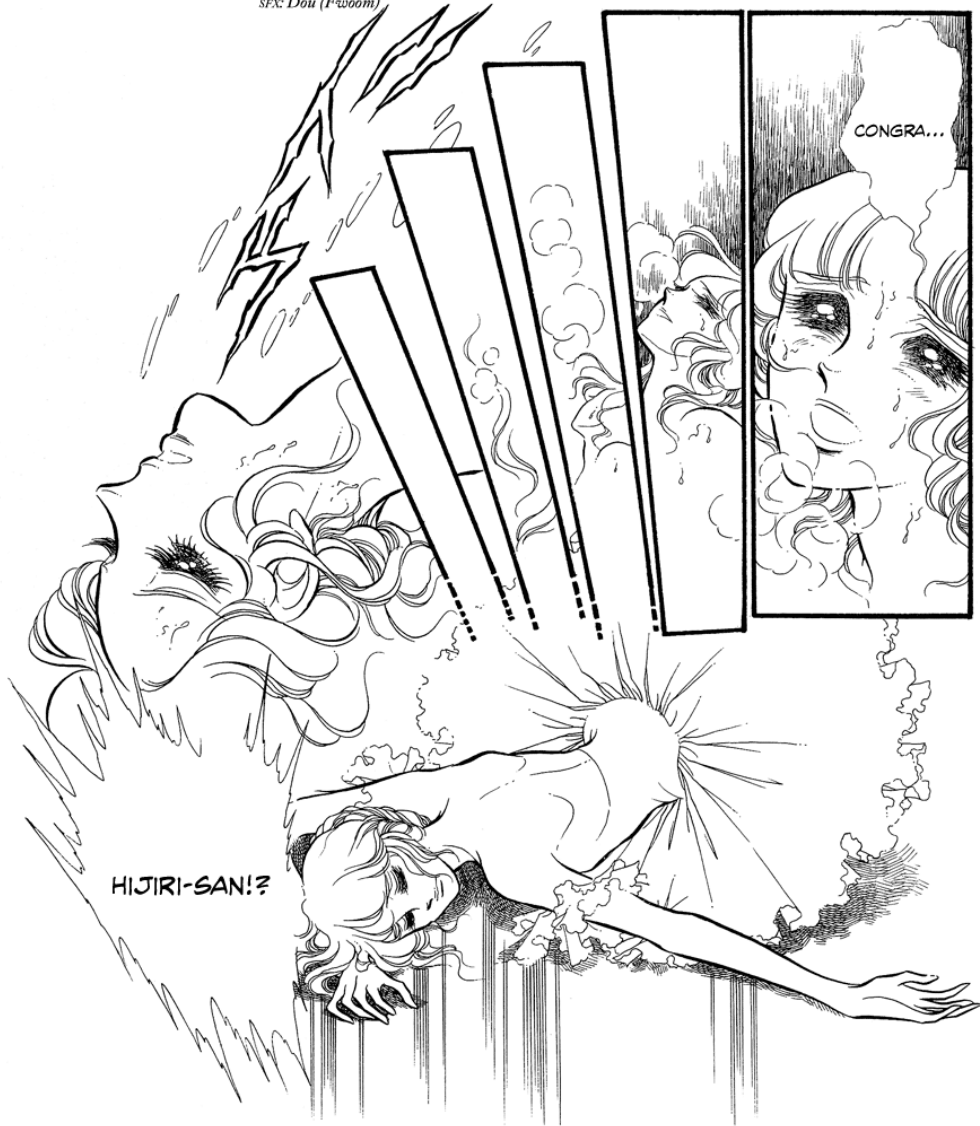
CAN'T MOVE...  
CAN'T LEAP...

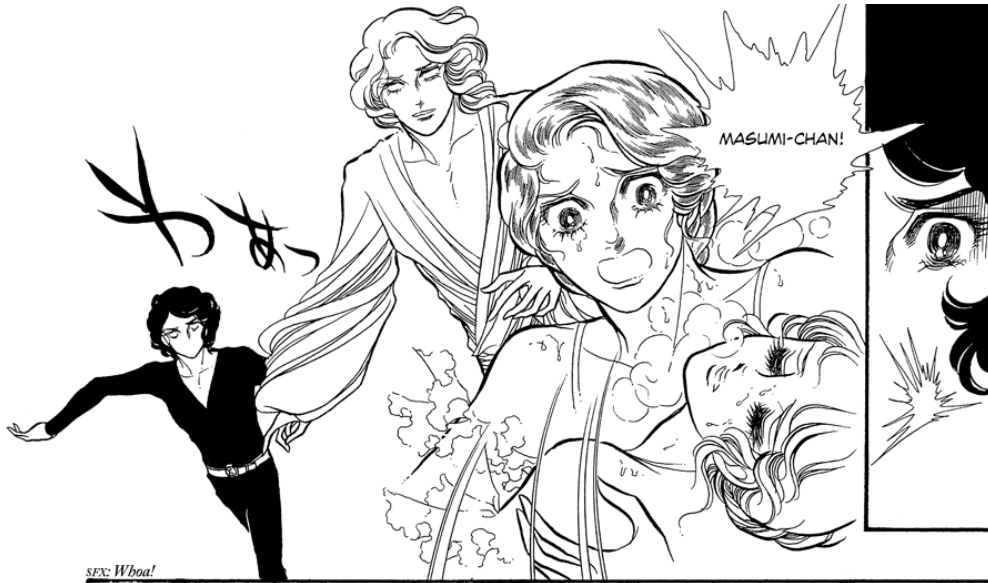
WHERE AM I?

I HAVE NO MORE STRENGTH...

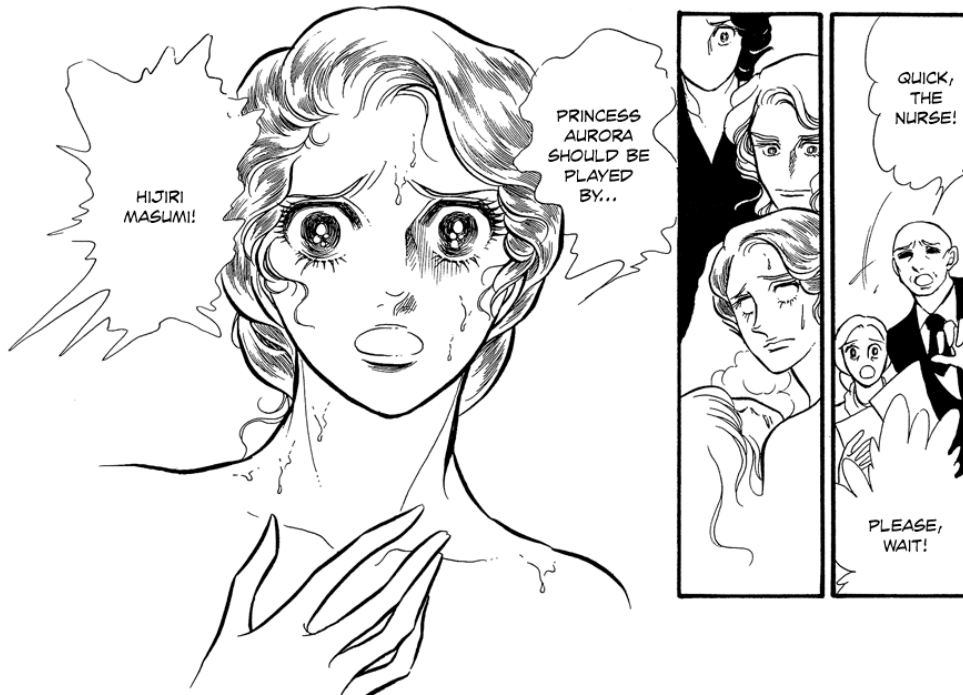
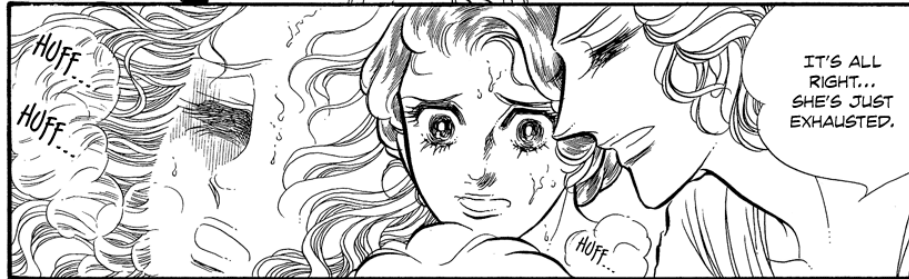


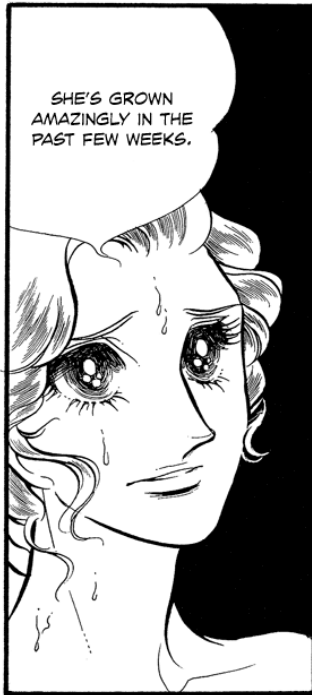
SFX: Dou (Fwoom)





SFX: Whoa!



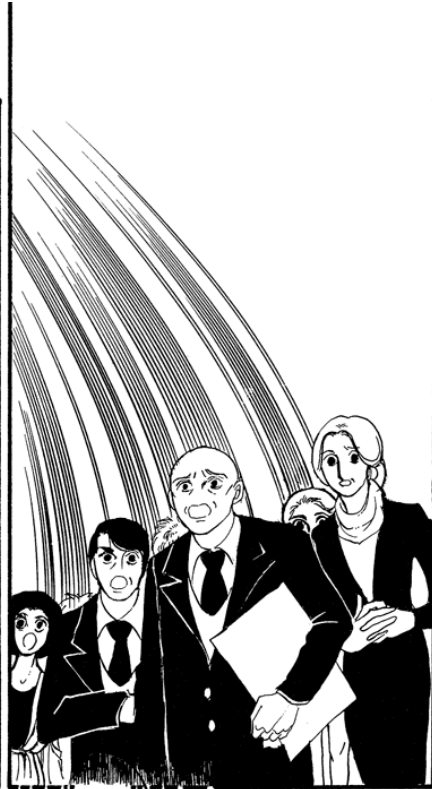


SHE'S GROWN  
AMAZINGLY IN THE  
PAST FEW WEEKS.



I'M  
SORRY,  
BUT  
WE'VE  
ALREADY  
DECIDED  
...

NO!



DANCING AS  
PRINCESS AURORA  
IN MOSCOW  
NEXT MONTH!

SHE'LL BE  
ABLE TO DO  
US PROUD...

SURELY...