



WHAT!?  
SHIORI-SAMA  
IS SICK?

GONG

YES. HE  
TOLD ME HE  
IS STAYING  
AT AN ONSEN  
NEAR THE  
VALLEY.

SO, PRESIDENT  
HAYAMI WENT TO  
THE BIRTHPLACE  
OF THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS.

T  
O  
K  
Y  
O

I IMAGINE HE  
IS WAITING FOR  
THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO MEET CHIGUSA  
TSUKIKAGE.

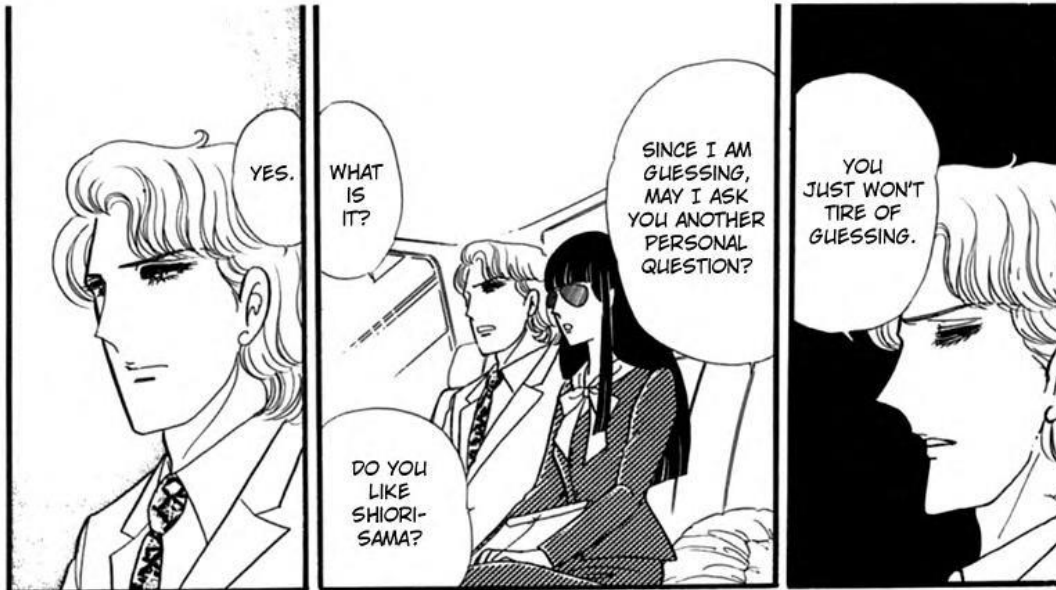
WHAT?!

BECAUSE  
SHE IS  
UPSET THAT  
YOU HAVEN'T  
REPLIED...

VICE-PRESIDENT,  
I KNOW IT IS NOT  
MY PLACE TO  
SAY THIS...

TO THE  
TAKAMIYA  
FAMILY.

BUT, ISN'T IT  
POSSIBLE THAT  
SHIORI-SAMA HAD  
THIS ATTACK...



YES.

WHAT IS IT?

SINCE I AM GUESSING, MAY I ASK YOU ANOTHER PERSONAL QUESTION?

YOU JUST WON'T TIRE OF GUESSING.

DO YOU LIKE SHIORI-SAMA?



YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

I ONLY WORRY ABOUT THINGS RELATED TO WORK.

I'M ASKING YOU THIS AS YOUR SECRETARY.

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

I COULD HELP YOU.

HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED, MASUMI-SAMA?

CAN'T YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH?

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE PURPLE ROSE?



MY FEELINGS  
WON'T CHANGE  
THAT EASILY.

I AM...  
A FOOLISH  
MAN.

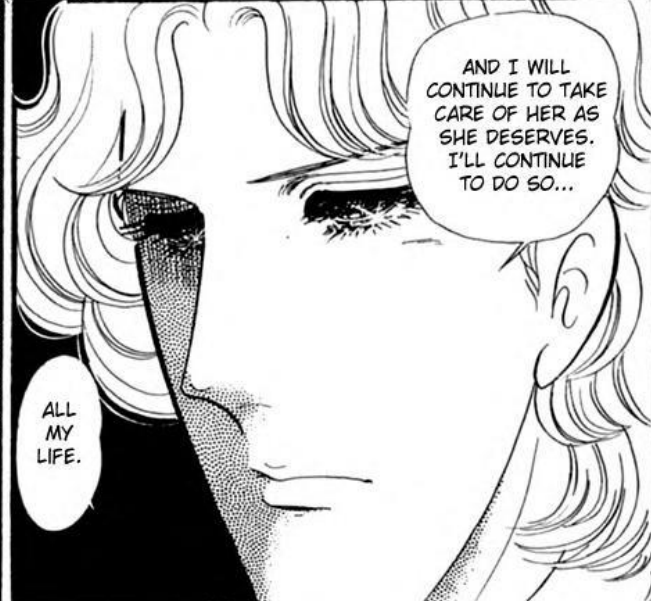
DO YOU  
THINK YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND MY  
CHARACTER?

SOMETIMES  
PEOPLE ACT  
IRRATIONALLY.

NO  
MATTER  
WHAT  
HAPPENS!  
THE PURPLE  
ROSES IN  
MY HEART  
WILL NEVER  
WITHER...

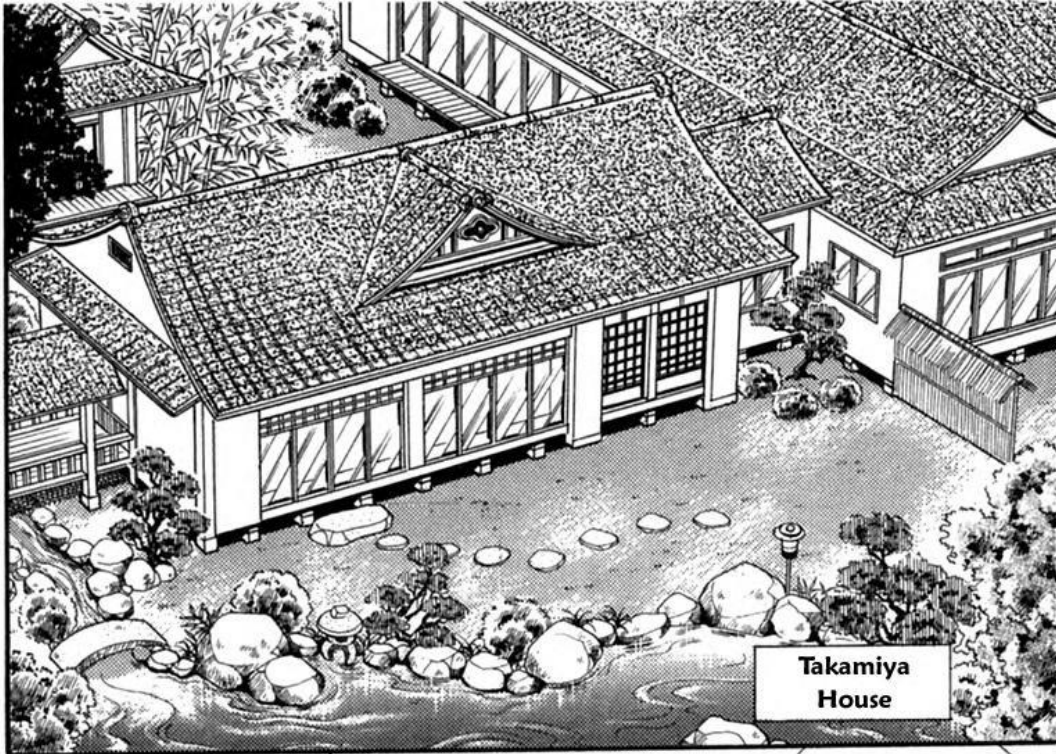


Masumi  
-sama!



ALL  
MY  
LIFE.

AND I WILL  
CONTINUE TO TAKE  
CARE OF HER AS  
SHE DESERVES.  
I'LL CONTINUE  
TO DO SO...



Takamiya House

SHIORI-SAMA WILL BE PLEASED TO SEE YOU.

PLEASE COME IN.

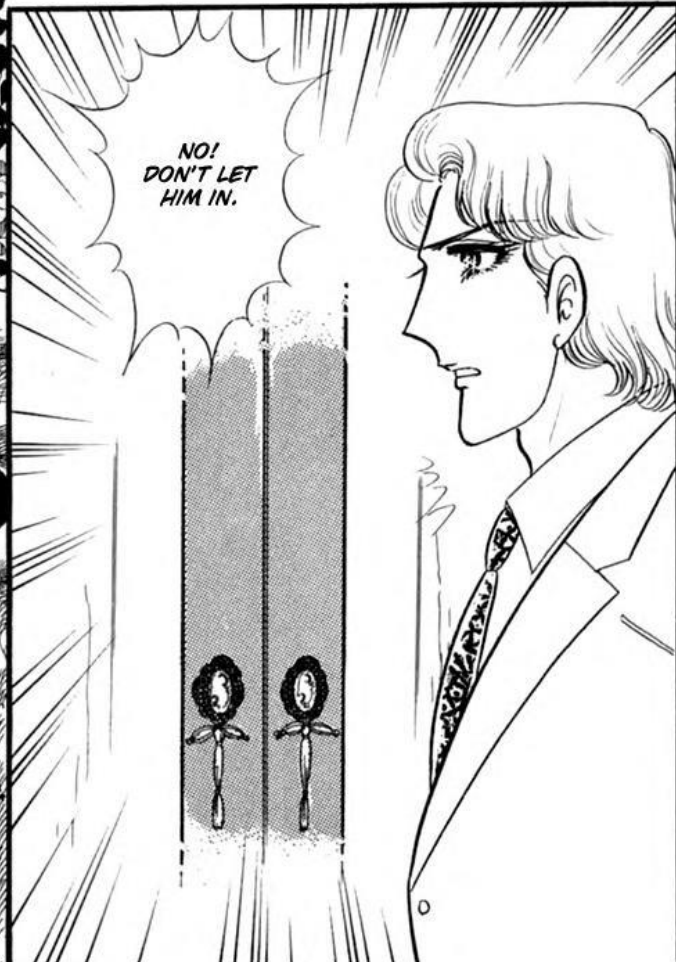
OH! WELCOME, HAYAMI-SAMA.

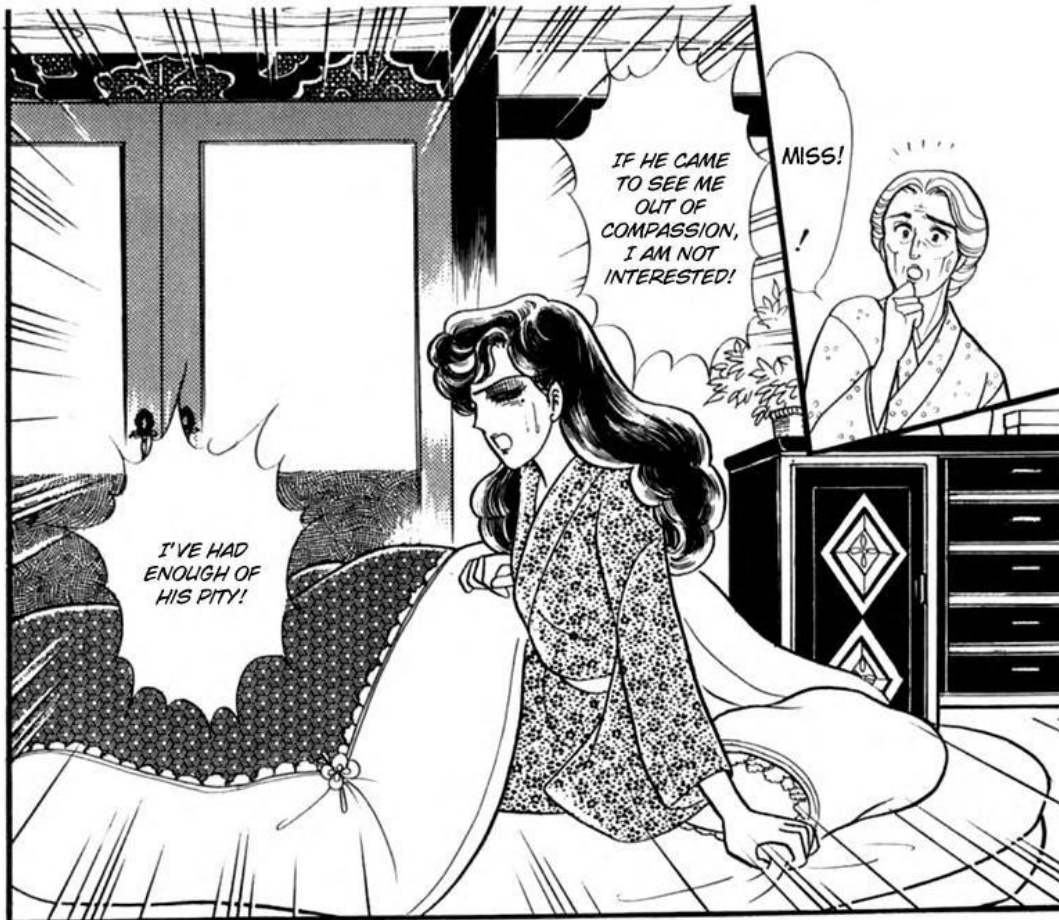


BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL RECOVER FASTER, SINCE YOU ARE COMING TO SEE HER, HAYAMI-SAMA!

SHE JUST HAD AN ANEMIA ATTACK SINCE SHE HADN'T HAD ONE FOR A WHILE.

I HEARD SHE BECAME ILL VERY SUDDENLY. HOW IS SHE NOW?





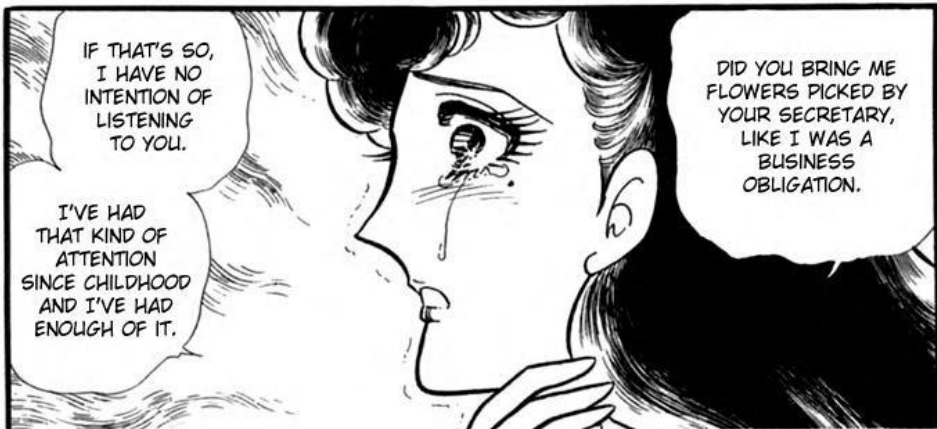




I AM COMING IN, OKAY?



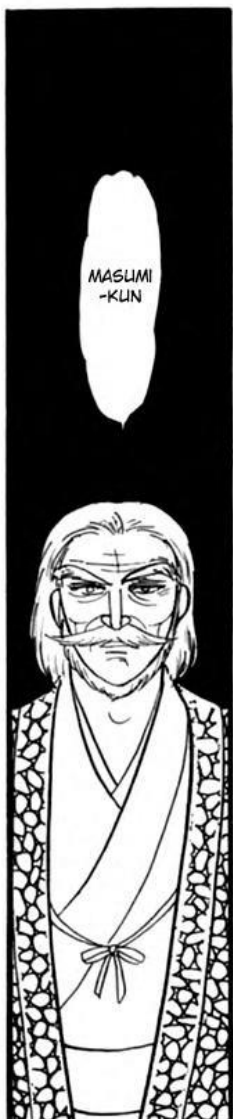






EVEN  
THOUGH YOU  
MAY NOT  
LIKE THEM.

NO.  
I PICKED  
THESE  
FLOWERS  
MYSELF.



MASUMI  
-KUN

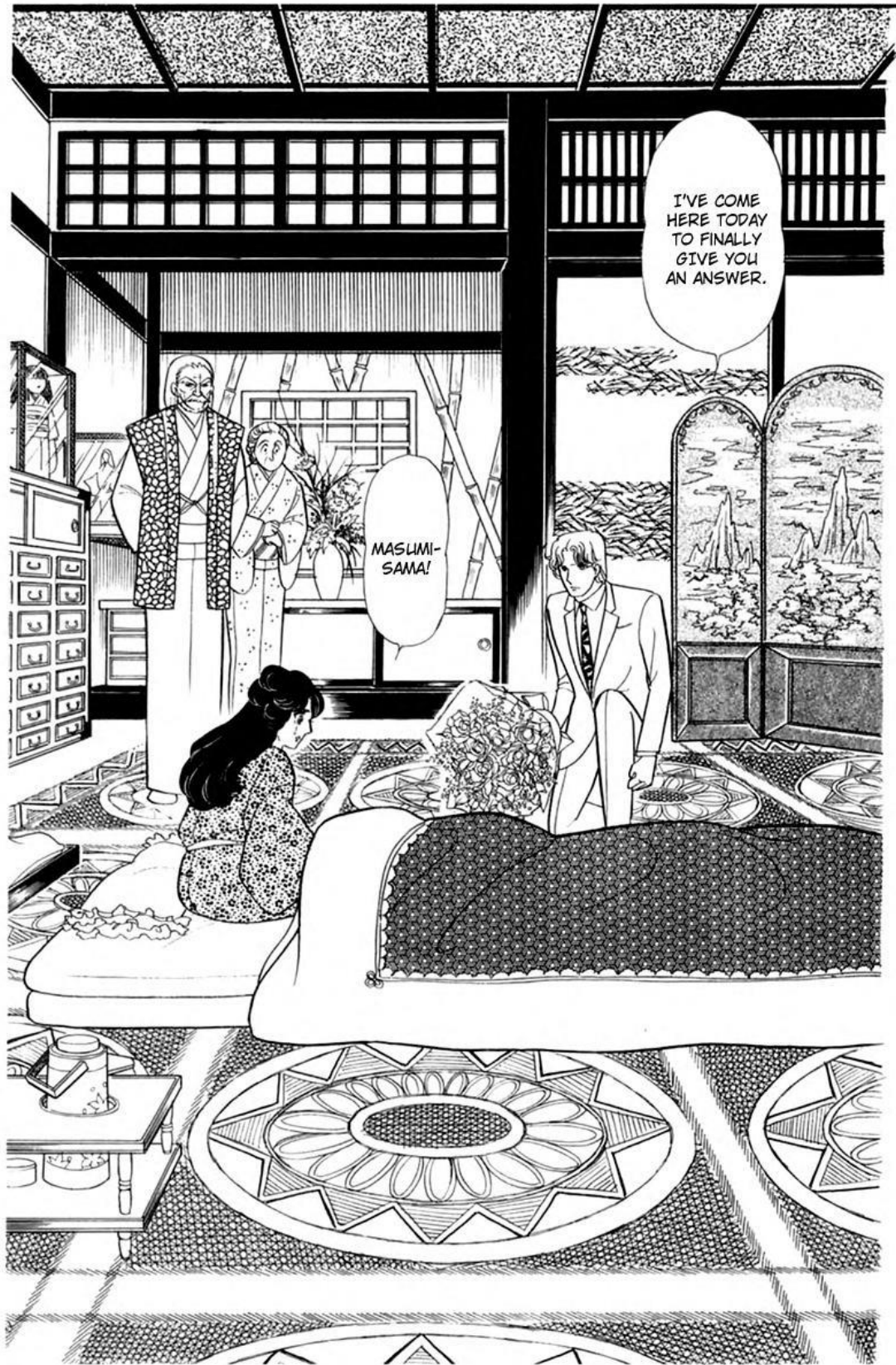


MASUMI-  
SAMA!



I ASK  
FOR YOUR  
FORGIVE-  
NESS.

FOR MAKING  
YOU SUFFER  
THIS LONG.



I'VE COME  
HERE TODAY  
TO FINALLY  
GIVE YOU  
AN ANSWER.

MASUMI-  
SAMA!



ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO STAY AT THIS ONSEN, SIR?



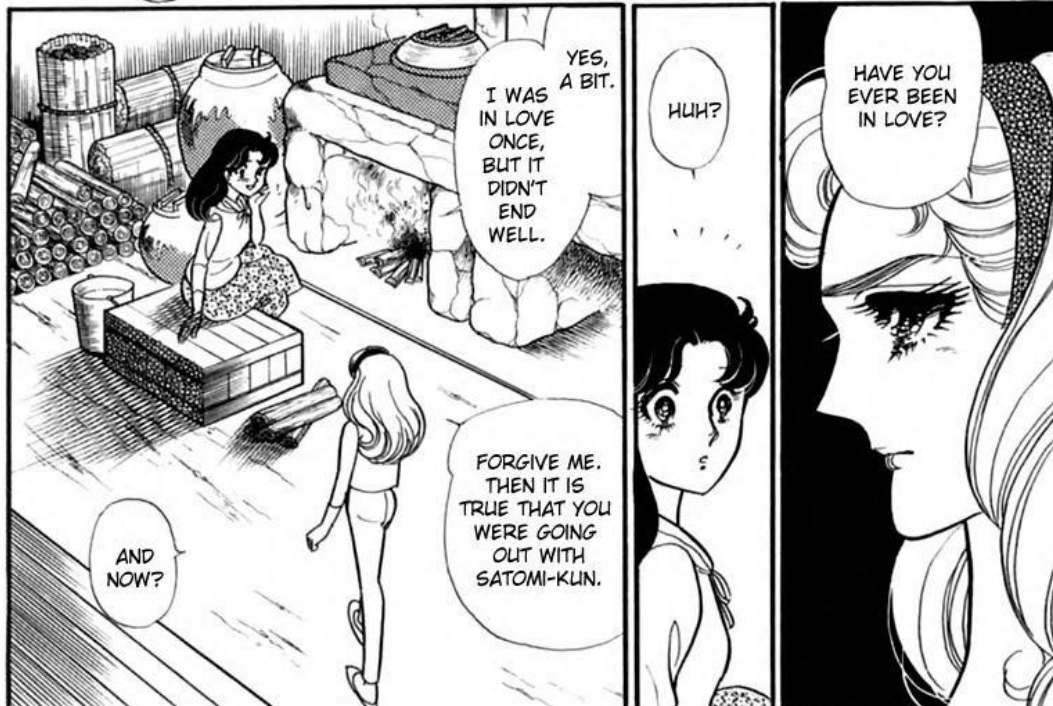
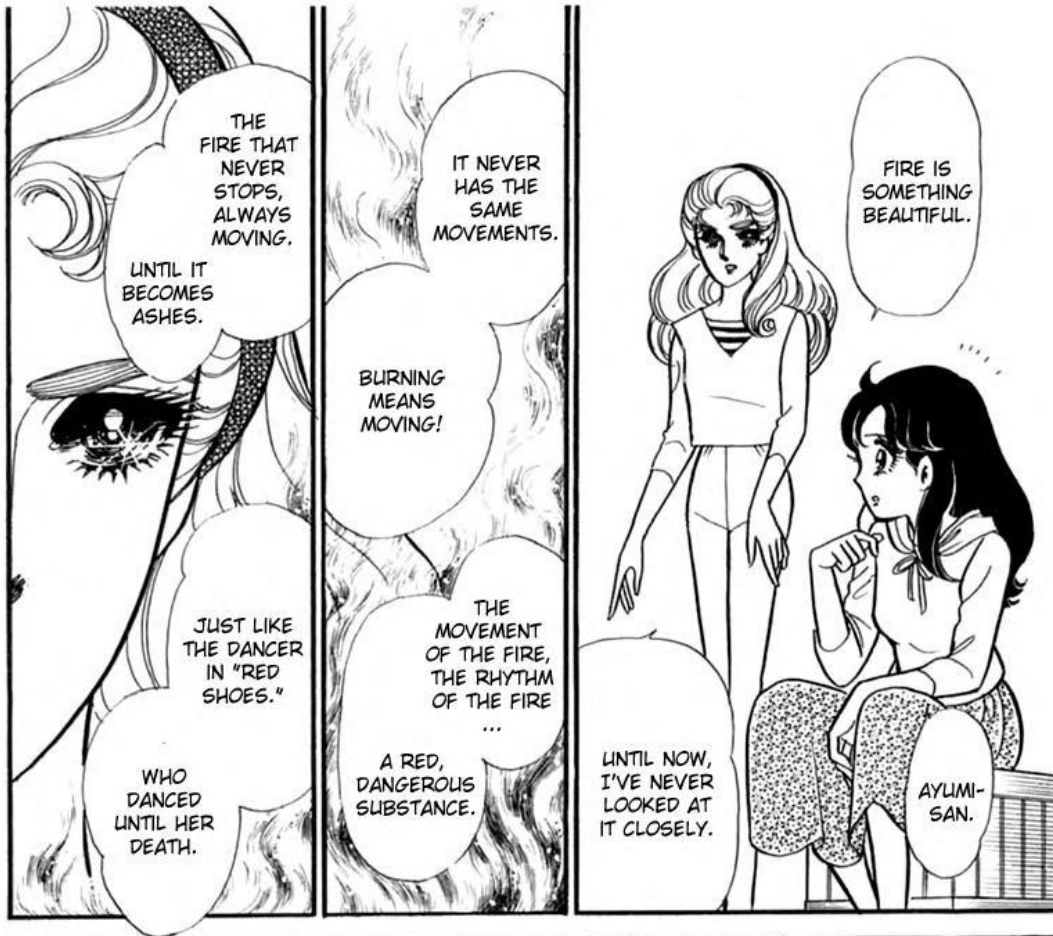
I WILL STAY HERE WHILE I WAIT FOR A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

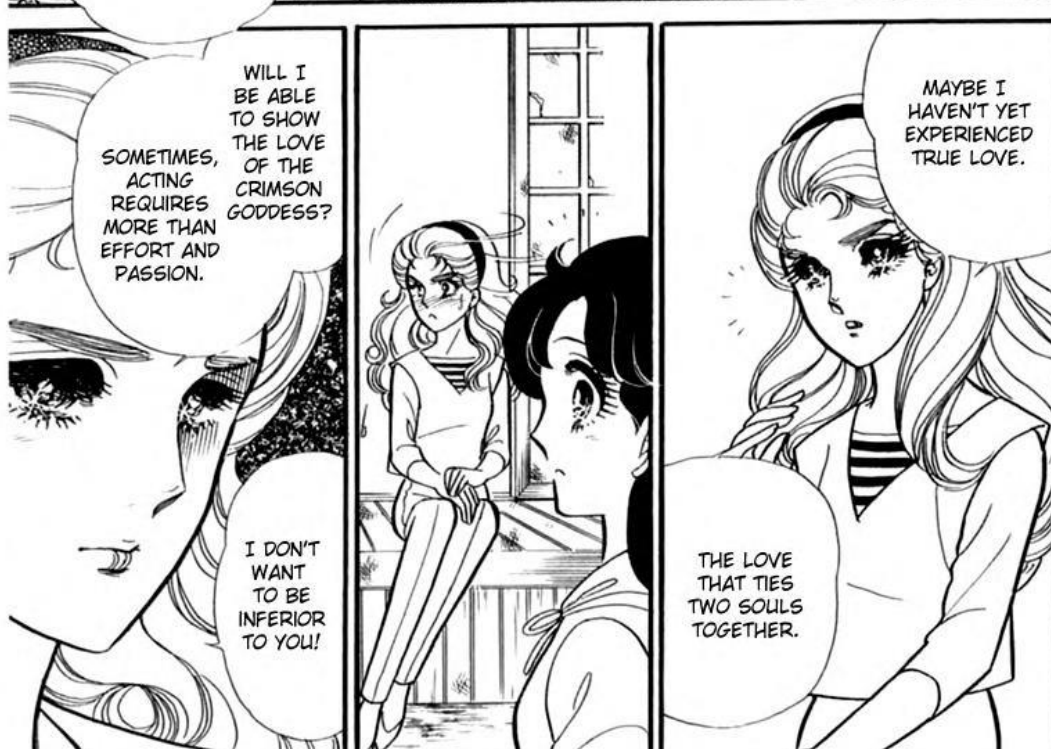
YES. THIS PLACE IS VERY RELAXING.



A CHANCE TO MEET THE CRIMSON GODDESS!









EVEN NOW, WHILE I AM THINKING ABOUT HOW TO INTERPRET FIRE, I AM IMPATIENTLY WONDERING WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO COME UP WITH.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

ALL I CAN DO IS THINK ABOUT HOW I SHOULD ACT. I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT...

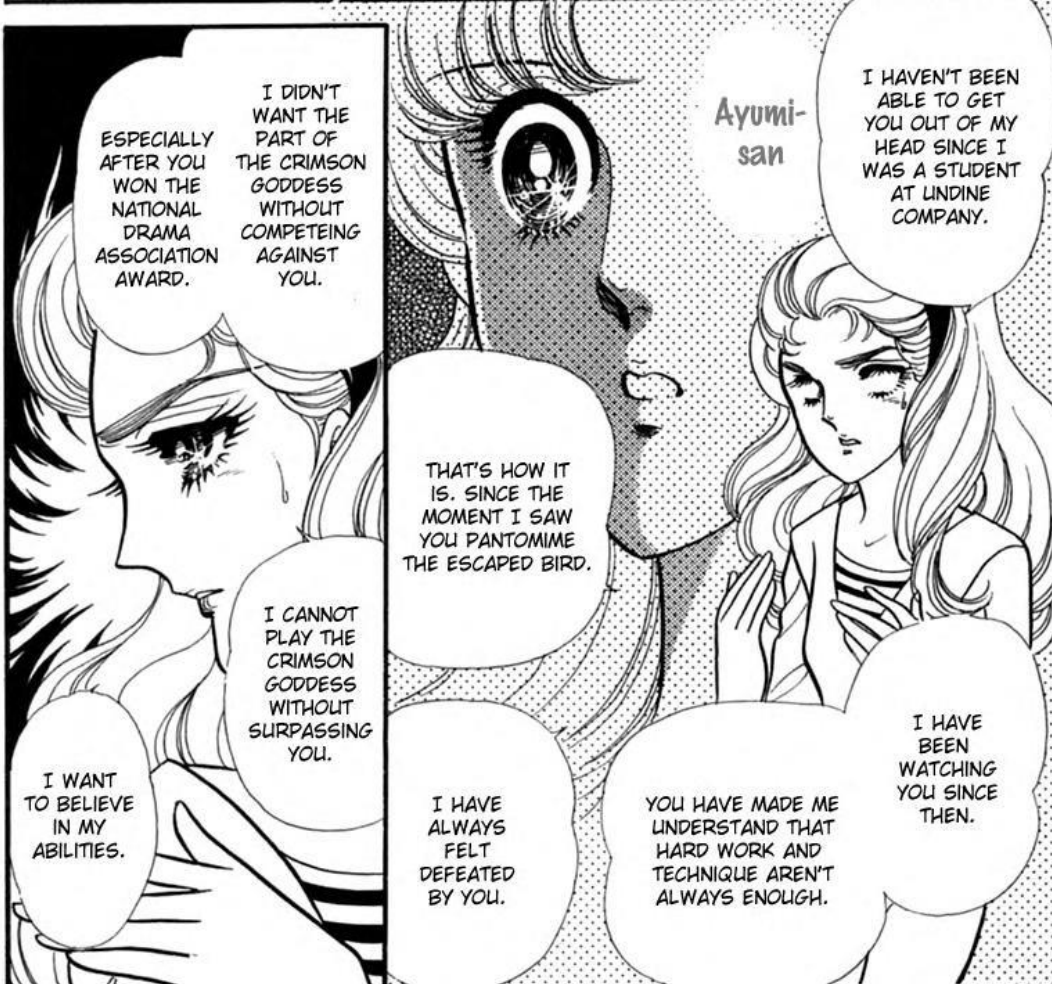
THE TENSION HASN'T LEFT ME SINCE I ARRIVED HERE.

Huh?

IT'S TRUE. I FEEL AN UNUSUAL PRESSURE.

BECAUSE I AM WORRIED THAT I HAVE TO CONFRONT YOU!

AYUMI-SAN?



ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU WON THE NATIONAL DRAMA ASSOCIATION AWARD.

I DIDN'T WANT THE PART OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS WITHOUT COMPETEING AGAINST YOU.

Ayumi-san

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD SINCE I WAS A STUDENT AT UNDINE COMPANY.

THAT'S HOW IT IS. SINCE THE MOMENT I SAW YOU PANTOMIME THE ESCAPED BIRD.

I CANNOT PLAY THE CRIMSON GODDESS WITHOUT SURPASSING YOU.

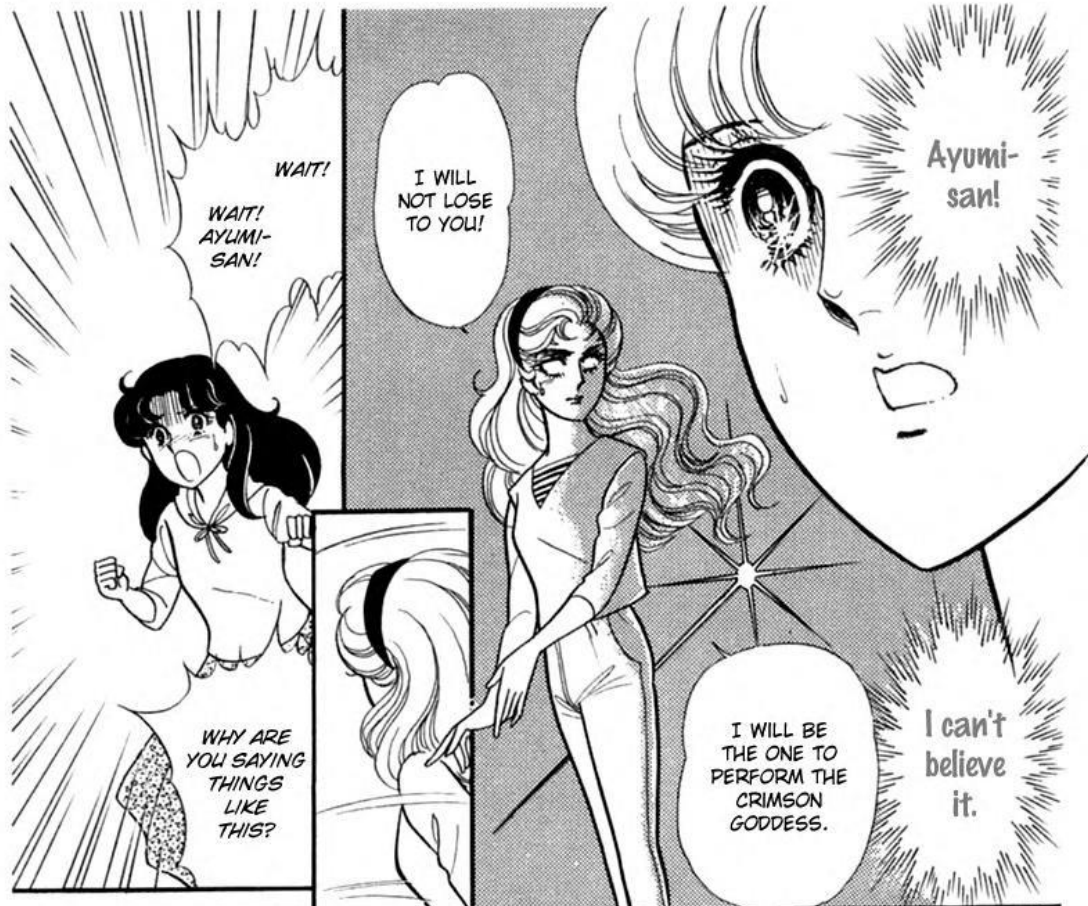
I WANT TO BELIEVE IN MY ABILITIES.

I HAVE ALWAYS FELT DEFEATED BY YOU.

YOU HAVE MADE ME UNDERSTAND THAT HARD WORK AND TECHNIQUE AREN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH.

I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU SINCE THEN.





WAIT!

WAIT!  
AYUMI-SAN!

I WILL NOT LOSE TO YOU!

Ayumi-san!

WHY ARE YOU SAYING THINGS LIKE THIS?

I WILL BE THE ONE TO PERFORM THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

I can't believe it.



SO HOW CAN YOU SPEAK LIKE THIS?

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN AN UNREACHABLE POSITION FOR ME!

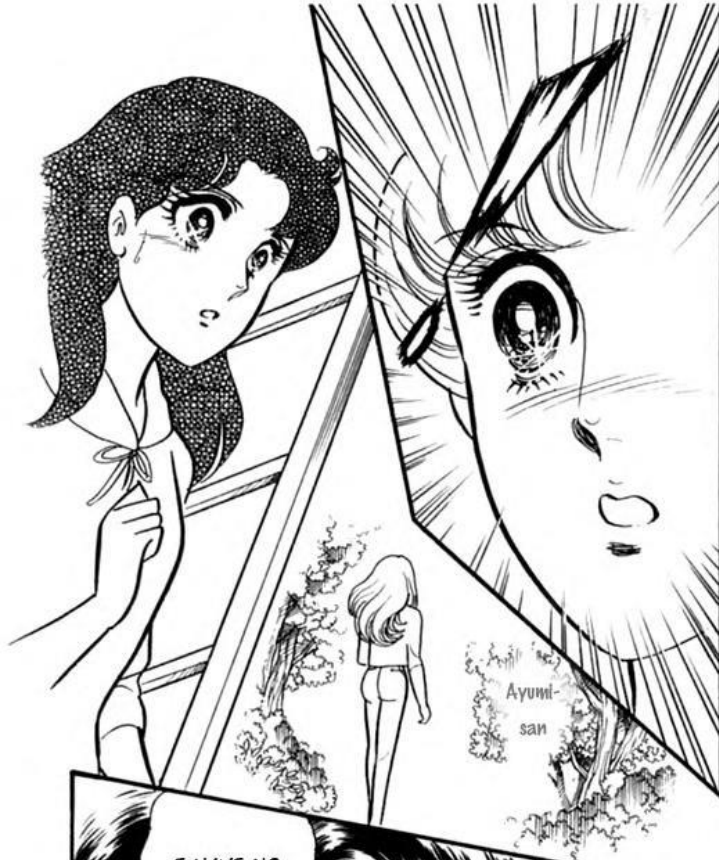
AYUMI-SAN!  
YOU HAVE ALWAYS SURPASSED ME!

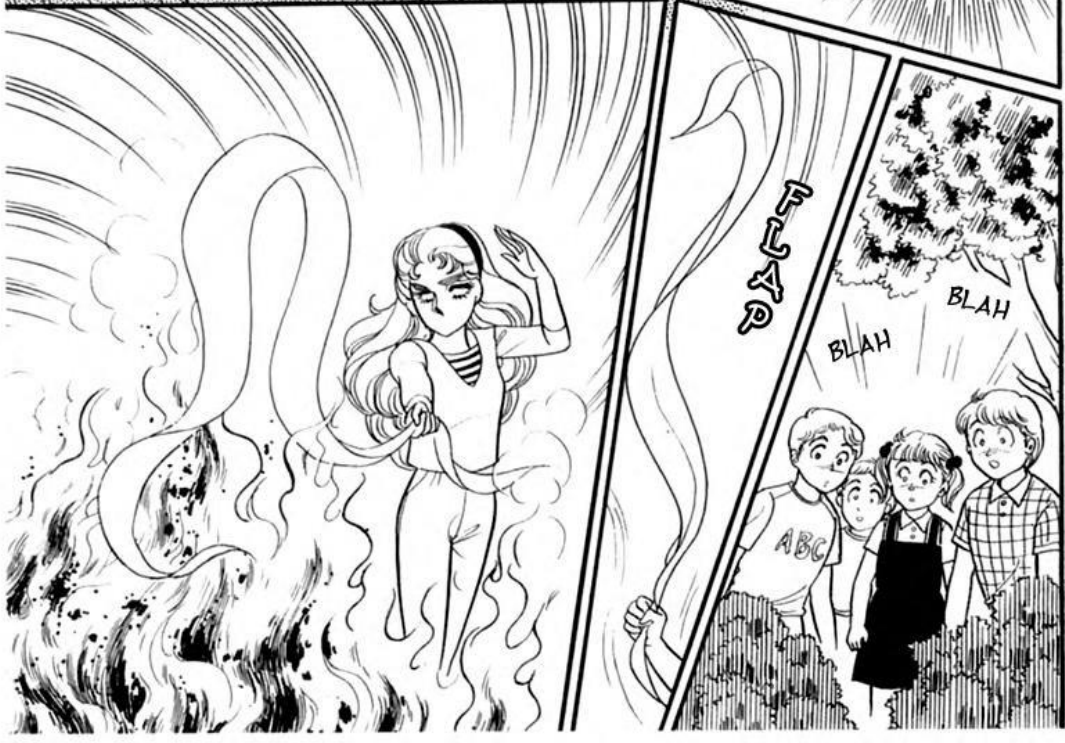
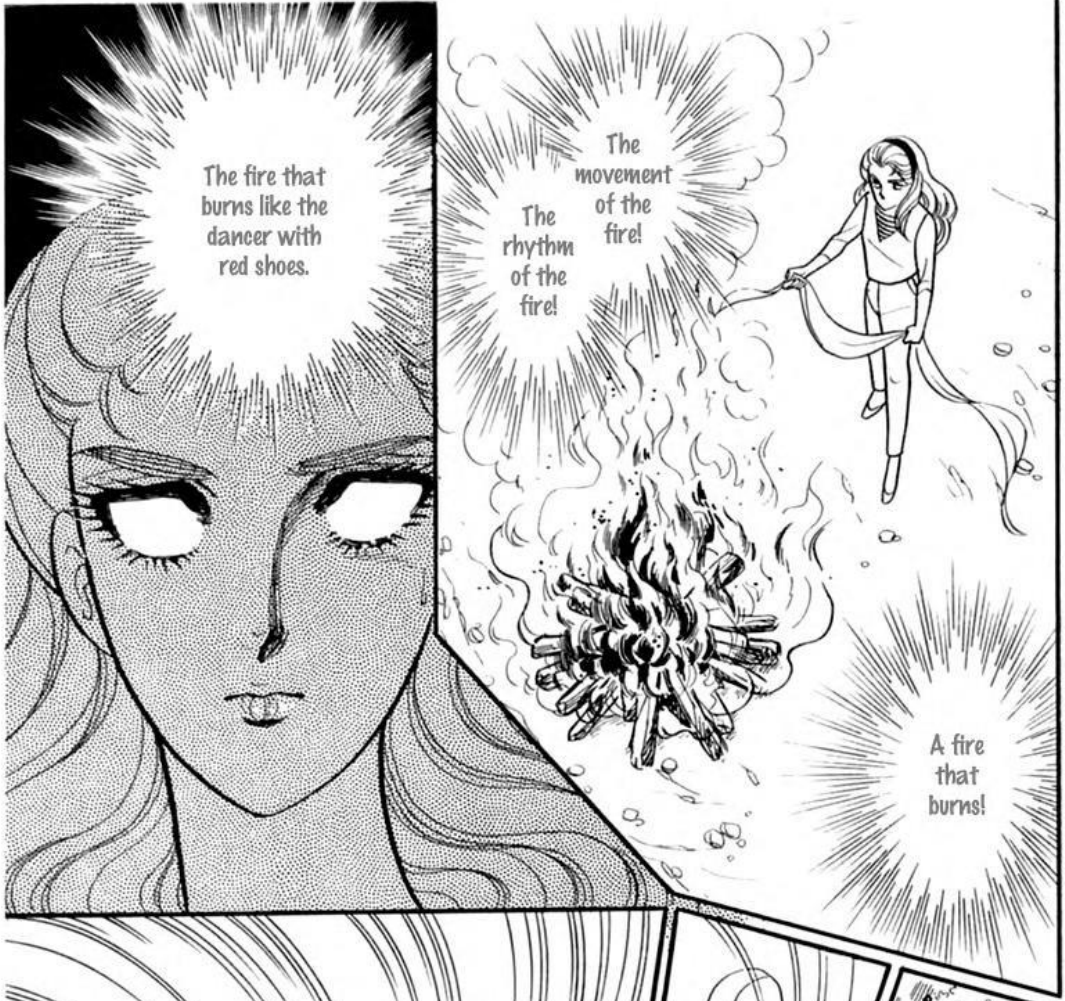


I'VE ALWAYS ENVIED YOU!

YOU WERE ALWAYS MY IDEAL. BEING AN ACTRESS LIKE YOU IS MY GOAL!

YOU'VE ALWAYS SHONE BRIGHTLY WITH YOUR OWN LIGHT AND I HAVE NEVER COME CLOSE TO MATCHING ANY OF YOUR INTERPRETATIONS!

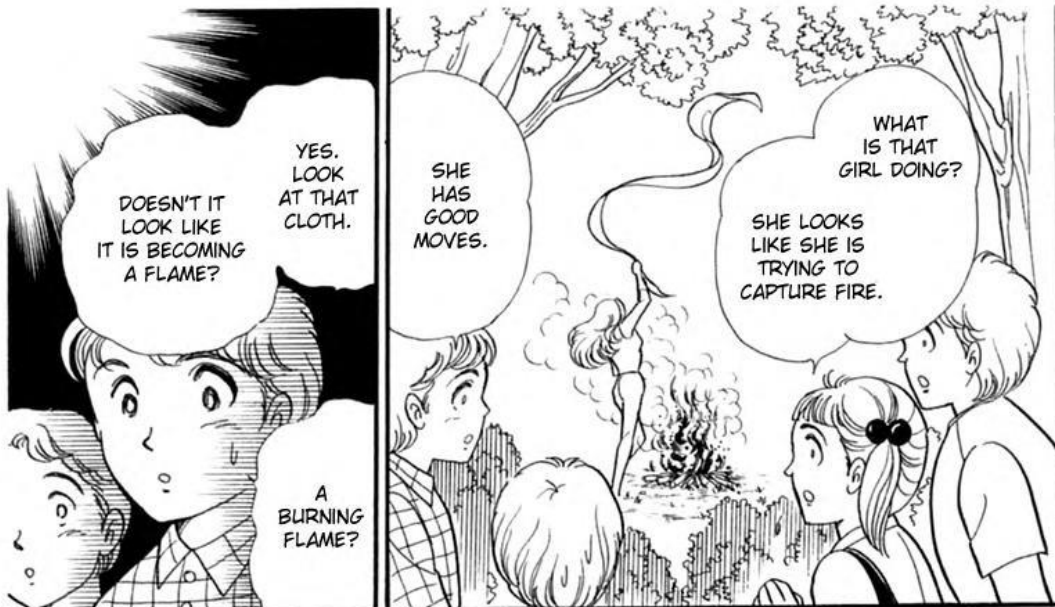


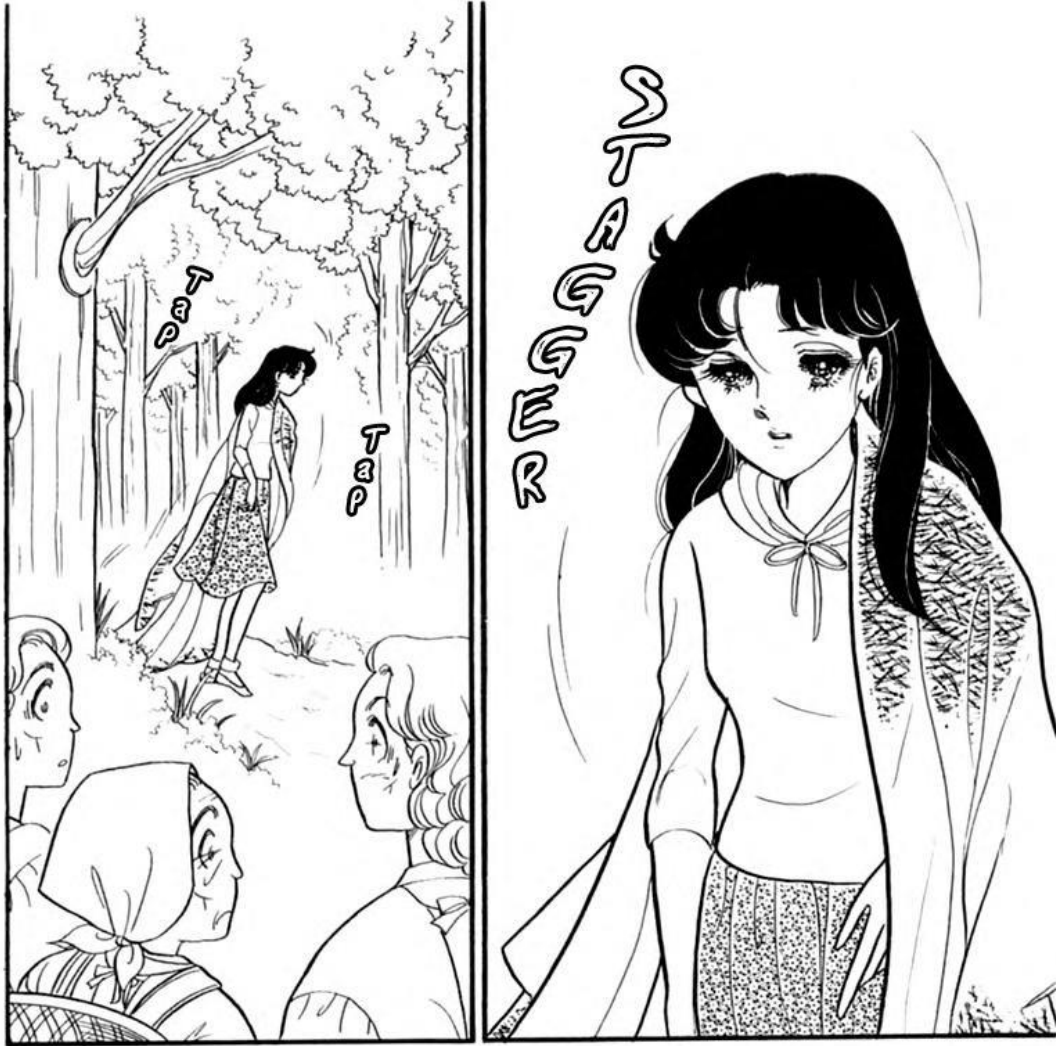




FRUSH









The  
movement  
of fire!

The fire  
that dances  
until it is  
extinguished!



Yaoya  
oshichi!

The fire  
of the  
heart!







For the  
Crimson  
Goddess!



GLASS MASK/ VOLUME 35 END