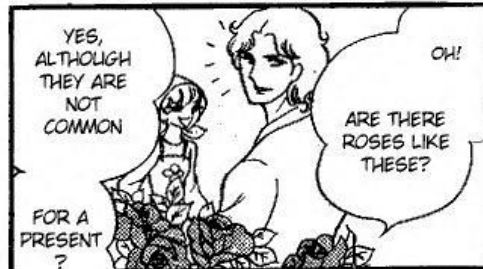
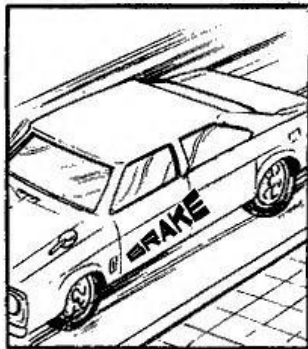


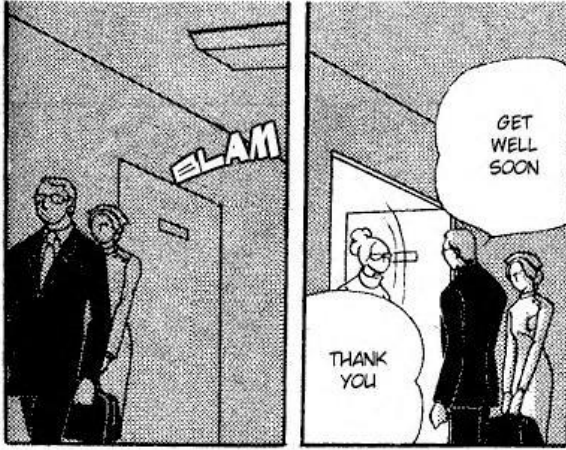
YES... SINCE I WAS YOUNG...

DO I, AS A HUMAN, HAVE SUCH A SPIRIT?

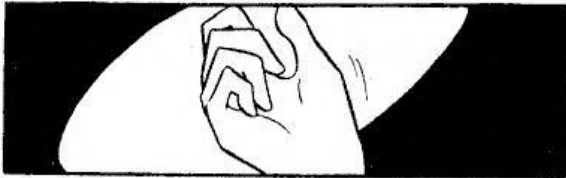
I LIVE ONLY FOR FATHER AND THE HAYAMI FAMILY

SPIRIT...



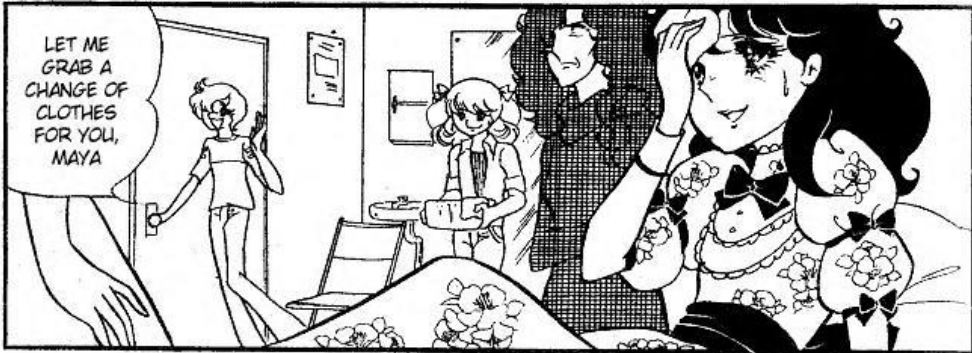


Dressing Room

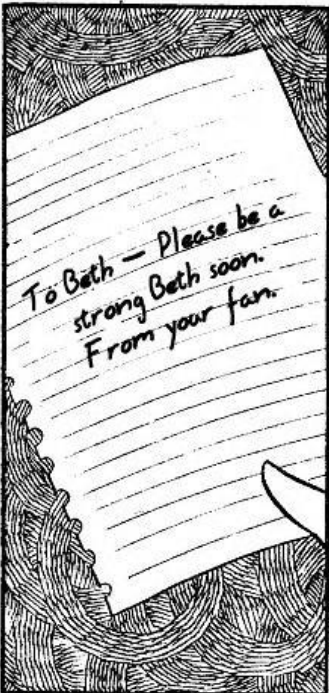




ESPECIALLY NOT TO A GIRL TEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME...



LET ME GRAB A CHANGE OF CLOTHES FOR YOU, MAYA



To Beth - Please be a strong Beth soon. From your fan.

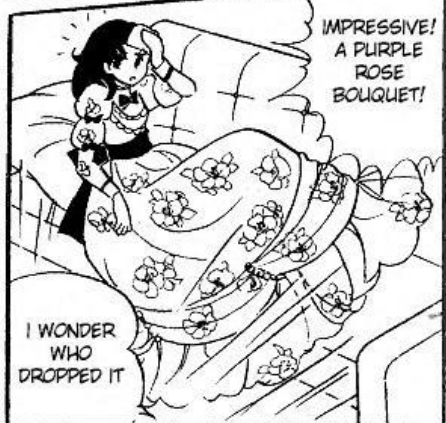


HUH? THERE'S A MEMO

EH, IT'S FOR MAYA!



OH!



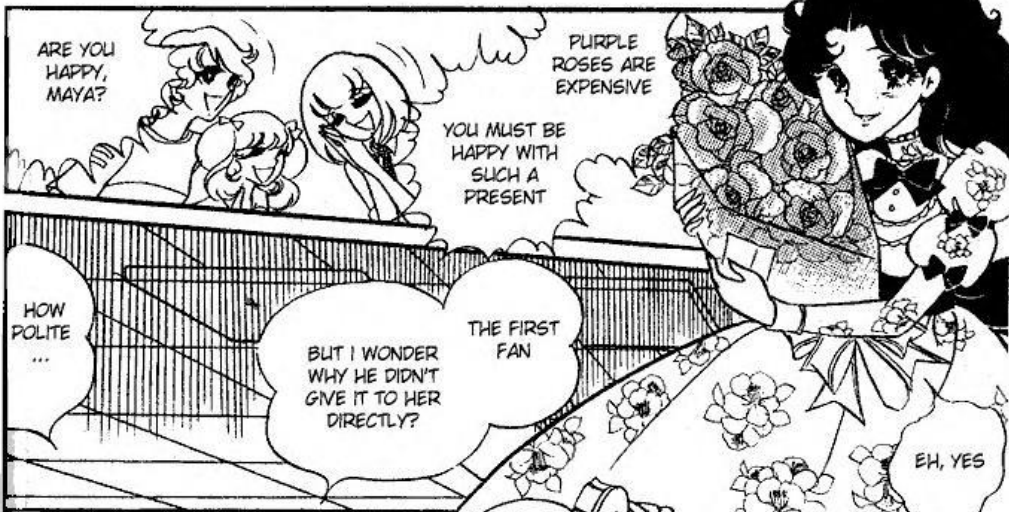
IMPRESSIVE! A PURPLE ROSE BOUQUET!

I WONDER WHO DROPPED IT



THAT'S GREAT!
IT SAYS "FROM
YOUR FAN"!

YOU HAVE
A FAN
ALREADY!



ARE YOU
HAPPY,
MAYA?

PURPLE
ROSES ARE
EXPENSIVE

YOU MUST BE
HAPPY WITH
SUCH A
PRESENT

HOW
POLITE
...

BUT I WONDER
WHY HE DIDN'T
GIVE IT TO HER
DIRECTLY?

THE FIRST
FAN

EH, YES



KITAJIMA MAYA... THE
FIRST TIME WE MET,
SHE WAS PEEKING
THROUGH
LINDINE THEATER'S
WINDOW

SHE WANTED TO
ENTER AN ACTING
SCHOOL, BUT HAD
NO MONEY. SHE
ONLY WATCHED OUR
PRACTICE SESSIONS



IN THE END,
I WILL BE
ON TOP!



THAT GIRL
COMES STEP
BY STEP...

WITH ALL
HER HEART,
SHE COM-
PETES WITH
ME..

BUT JUST
YOU WAIT,
YOU WILL
NEVER
SURPASS ME!



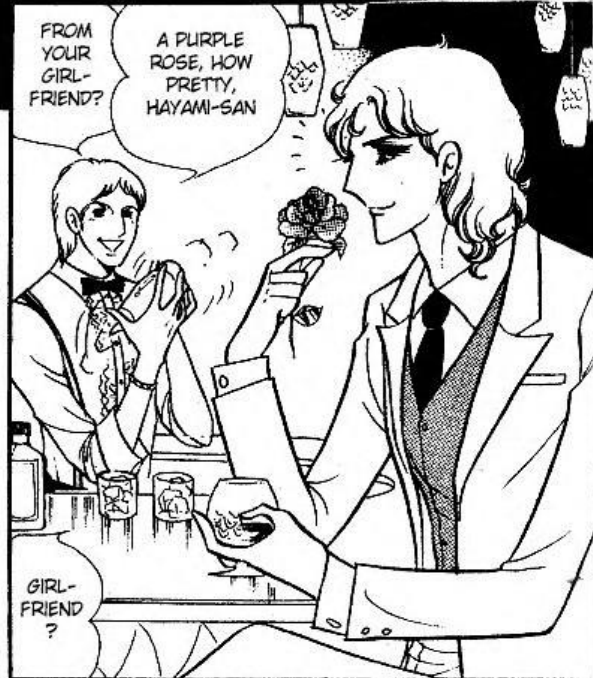
BY THE NEXT
MEETING, SHE
WAS A
STUDENT OF
TSUKIKAGE
THEATER

SHE WAS
ABLE TO
COMPETE WITH
ME DURING A
PRACTICE

AND TODAY,
SHE APPEARED
BEFORE MY EYES
AS BETH IN
"LITTLE
WOMEN"...



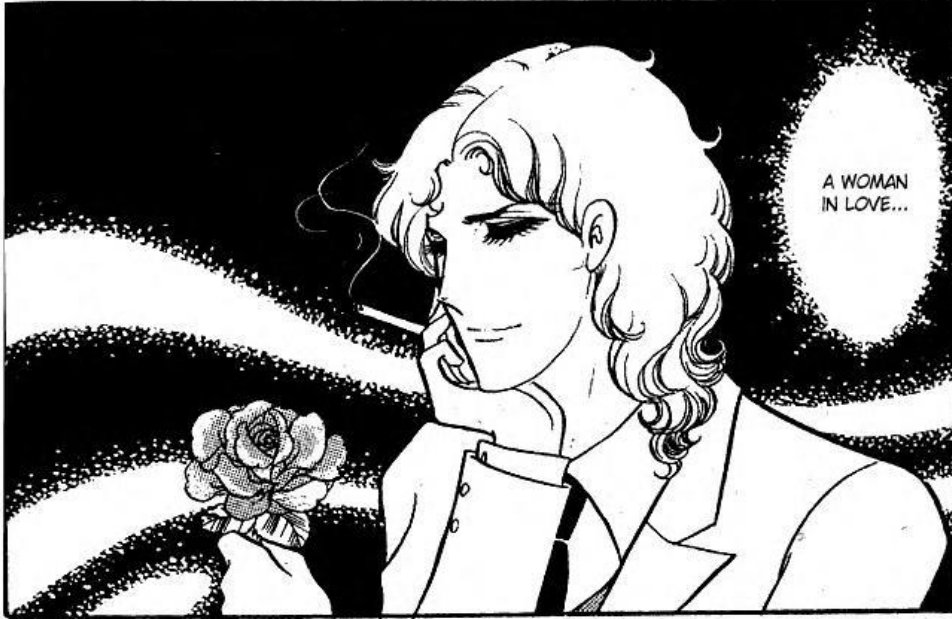
IN LOVE? ONE
DAY SHE WILL
PLAY THE PART
OF A WOMAN IN
LOVE...



FROM
YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?

A PURPLE
ROSE, HOW
PRETTY,
HAYAMI-SAN

GIRL-
FRIEND
?



A WOMAN
IN LOVE...



THANK
YOU

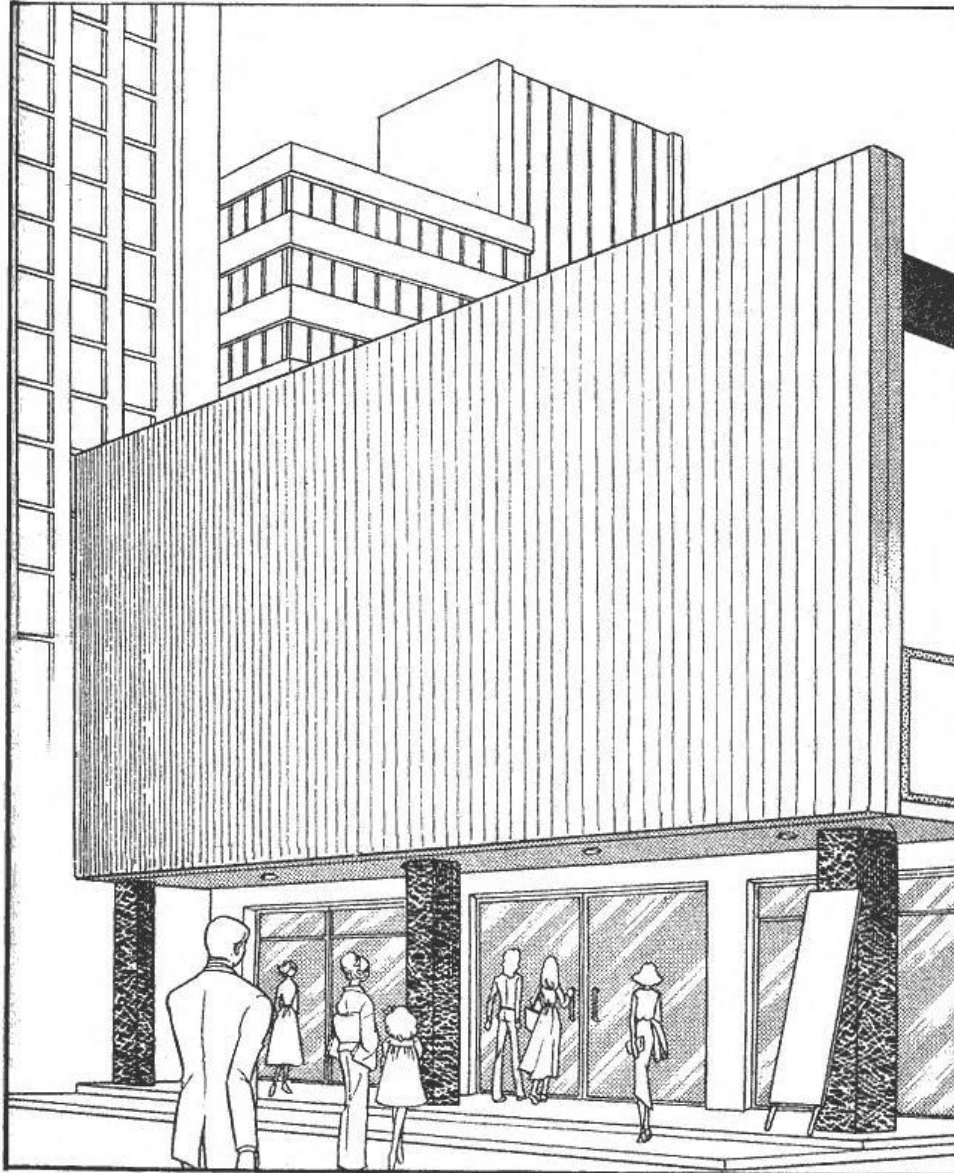
MY FIRST
FAN...

WHO IS
THIS
PERSON?

HOW DOES
HE KNOW I
WAS SICK?

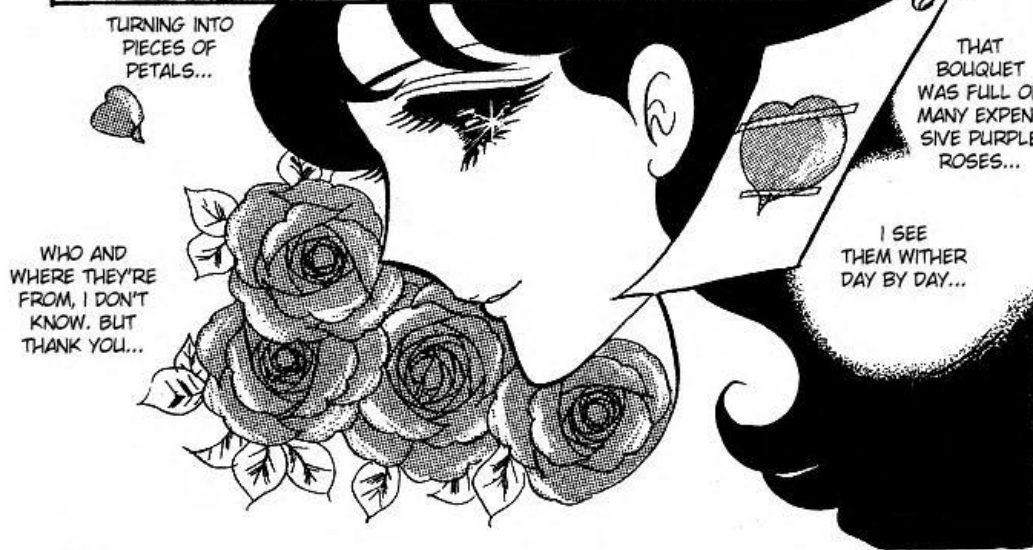
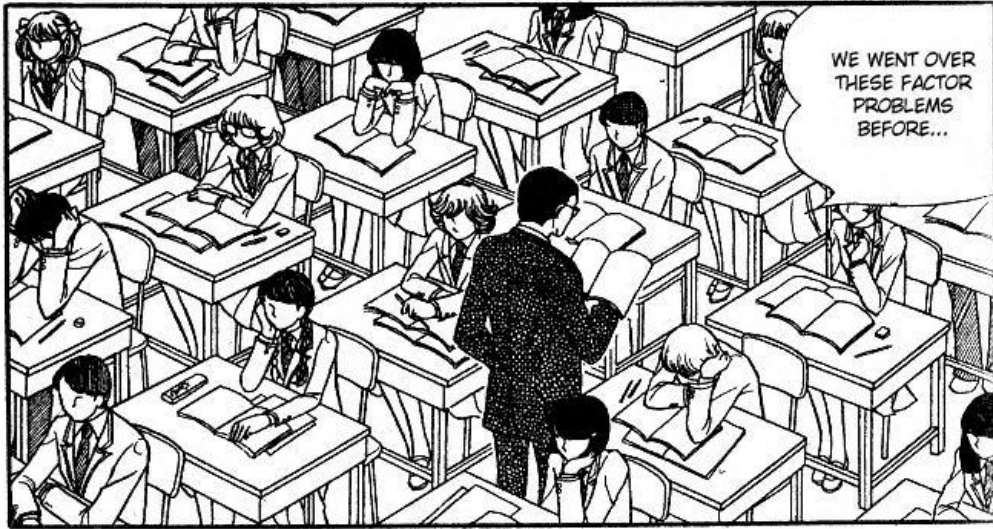
THANK YOU,
PURPLE
ROSE...

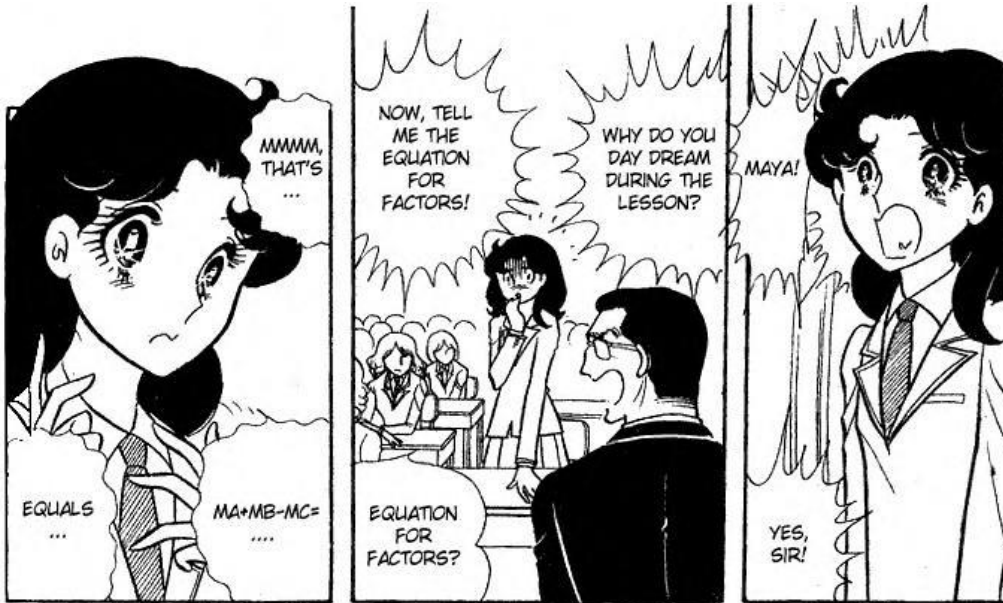




THE EXHIBITION
FINISHED WITH
GREAT SUCCESS

THE PLAY OF "LITTLE WOMEN"
HAS RUN FOR FOUR DAYS
STRAIGHT. MAYA'S
TEMPERATURE HAS
COOLED DOWN AND ALL THE
ACTORS ARE RELIEVED









Tsukikage Mayuko, a famous ex-actress
with an ambition for "Crimson Goddess"

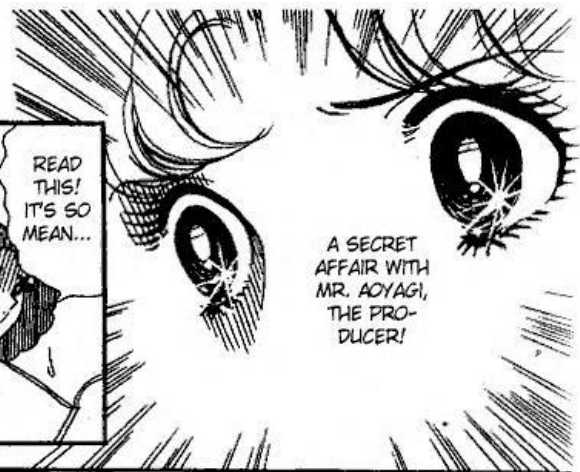
To train the main
actress for "Crimson
Goddess," the most
famous play in the
world of art, she
started her acting
school.



Theater Art Critic, Furuhashi Koji



READ THIS!
IT'S SO MEAN...



A SECRET AFFAIR WITH MR. AOYAGI, THE PRODUCER!



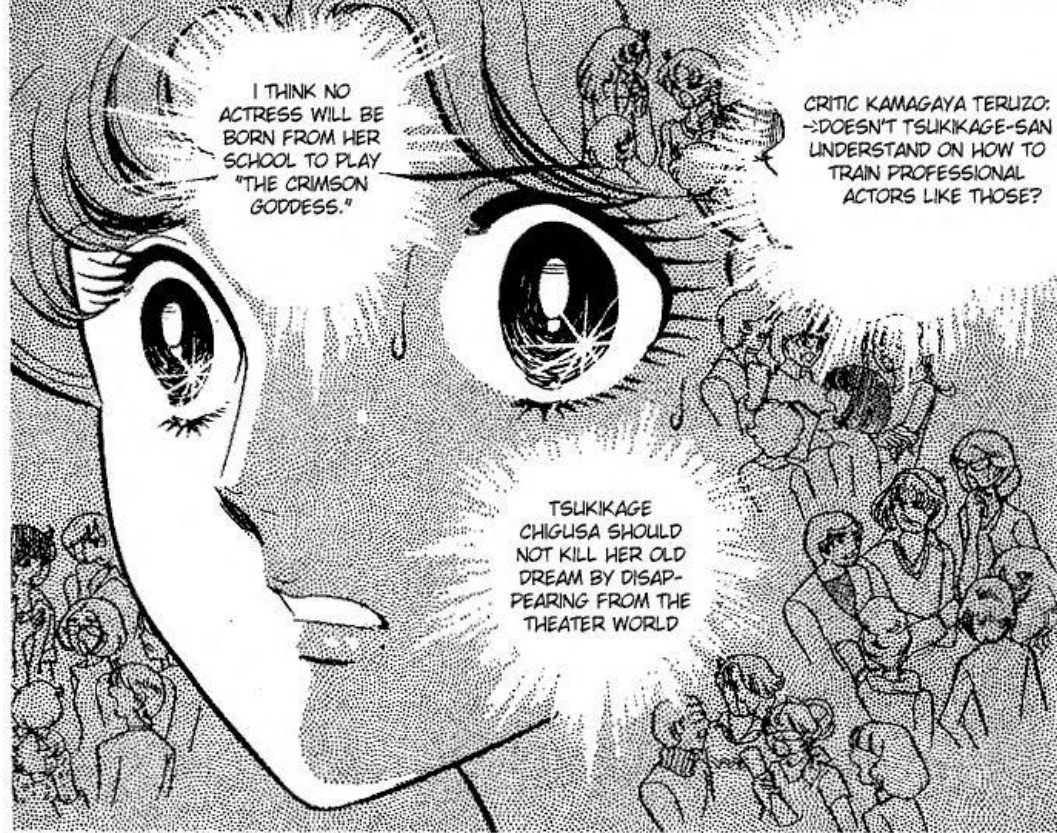
A failure

A BORING PERFORMANCE...

A FAILURE...

I watched the premiere from Tsukikage Acting School's "Little Women"..

The result was.. a childish exhibition performed by amateurs



I THINK NO ACTRESS WILL BE BORN FROM HER SCHOOL TO PLAY "THE CRIMSON GODDESS."

CRITIC KAMAGAYA TERUZO: -> DOESN'T TSUKIKAGE-SAN UNDERSTAND ON HOW TO TRAIN PROFESSIONAL ACTORS LIKE THOSE?

TSUKIKAGE CHIGUSA SHOULD NOT KILL HER OLD DREAM BY DISAPPEARING FROM THE THEATER WORLD





HAYAMI
MASUMI...

THERE IS
NO
MISTAKE...
IT MUST BE
HIM!



WEEKLY
NEWS? THAT
TABLOID!

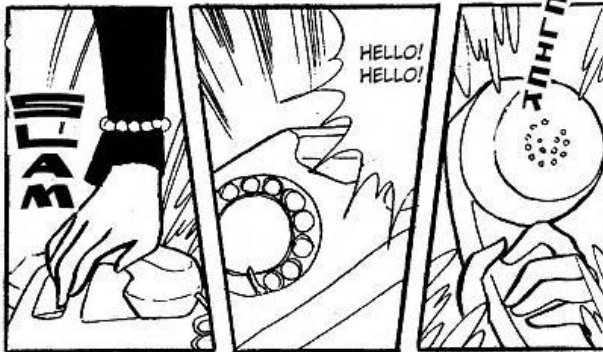
WHAT? MR.
AOYAGI AS THE
GUARDIAN?
YOUR WRITINGS
HAVE NO BASE!

WHAT ARE
THOSE CRITICS
TRYING TO DO?



THEIR ARTI-
CLES ARE
ALL LIES!

THE TRUTH
CAME FROM
THE GUEST'S
OBJECTIVE
RESPONSE.



HELLO!
HELLO!



UGH...



SEN-
SEI!

SEN-
SEI!

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT THE
CRITICS!

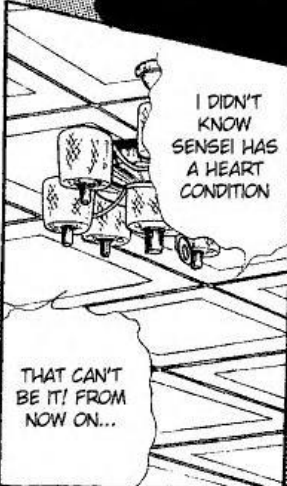


SENSEI!



THE CRITICS...
I ONLY WANT
TO MAKE
OTHER
PEOPLE
HAPPY WITH
THE
PLAY...

I THOUGHT
PEOPLE WOULD
BE HAPPY...



I DIDN'T
KNOW
SENSEI HAS
A HEART
CONDITION

THAT CAN'T
BE IT! FROM
NOW ON...

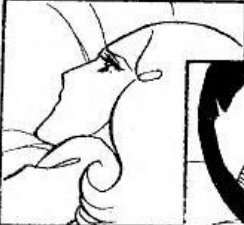


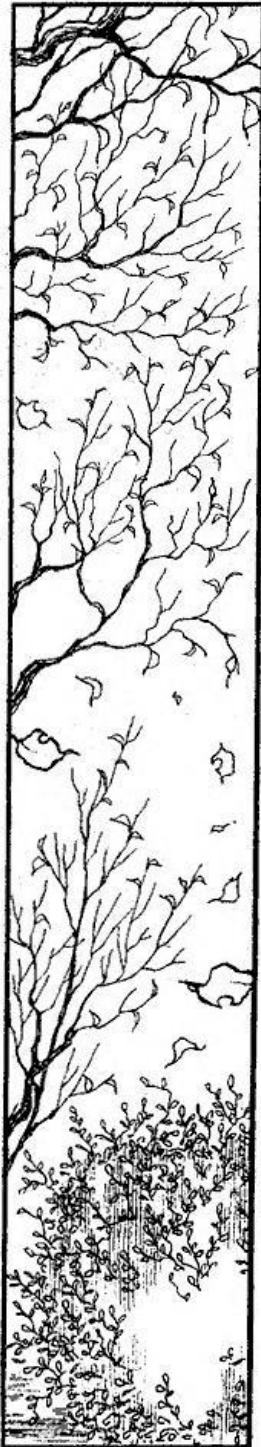
HOW IS
SHE?

DON'T
WORRY



MAYBE I'M
NOT TAL-
ENTED
AFTER ALL...





BECAUSE OF THOSE CRITICS, TSUKIKAGE ACTING SCHOOL HAS CHANGED

I'M GOING TO QUIT THE SCHOOL..

AFTER THAT ARTICLE, ALL MY FRIENDS ARE PICKING ON ME

MOM TOLD ME TO QUIT...

AND NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE "SECRET GUARDIAN."

I'M SHOCKED AFTER READING THE ARTICLE

I WILL START OVER AGAIN

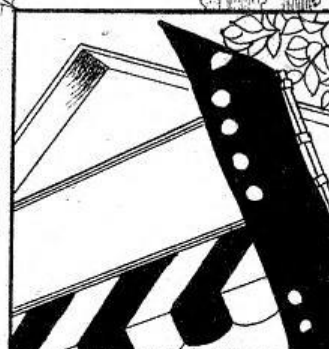
ME TOO

NOT BECAUSE SENSEI IS BAD, BUT BECAUSE OF THE ARTICLE.

I DON'T THINK THIS SCHOOL HAS ANY HOPE LEFT

FOR "THE CRIMSON GODDESS,"... BUT GUYS CANNOT PLAY THE MAIN ROLE

I KNOW TSUKIKAGE-SAN WANTS TO TRAIN THE ACTORS..









PANCAKES AND SANDWICH, PLEASE

AL-RIGHT!



I HUGGED A BOY!

I DID SOMETHING EMBARRASSING!

YUJI MUST BE SURPRISED



MAYA!



LET ME HELP, SO IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOU

OH! DON'T WORRY, YUJI! IT'S MY TURN NOW



IF THERE IS EVER ANY ROMANTIC SCENE, LET ME BE YOUR PARTNER, OKAY?



HMM..



BOY-FRIEND?

YOUR BOY-FRIEND IS NICE, ISN'T HE?



HOLD ON! THE PANCAKES!



SPLASH



I ALSO JOINED MY SCHOOL'S THEATER CLUB

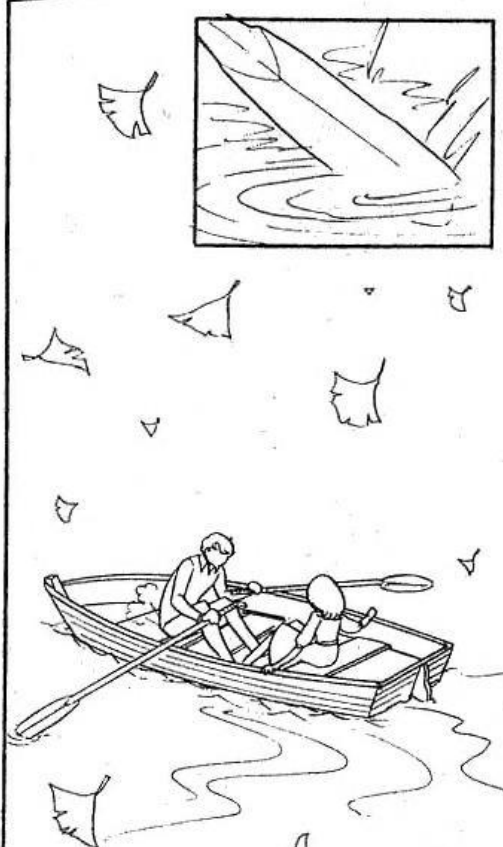
YOU HAVE A PART IN A SCHOOL PLAY? THAT'S GREAT!

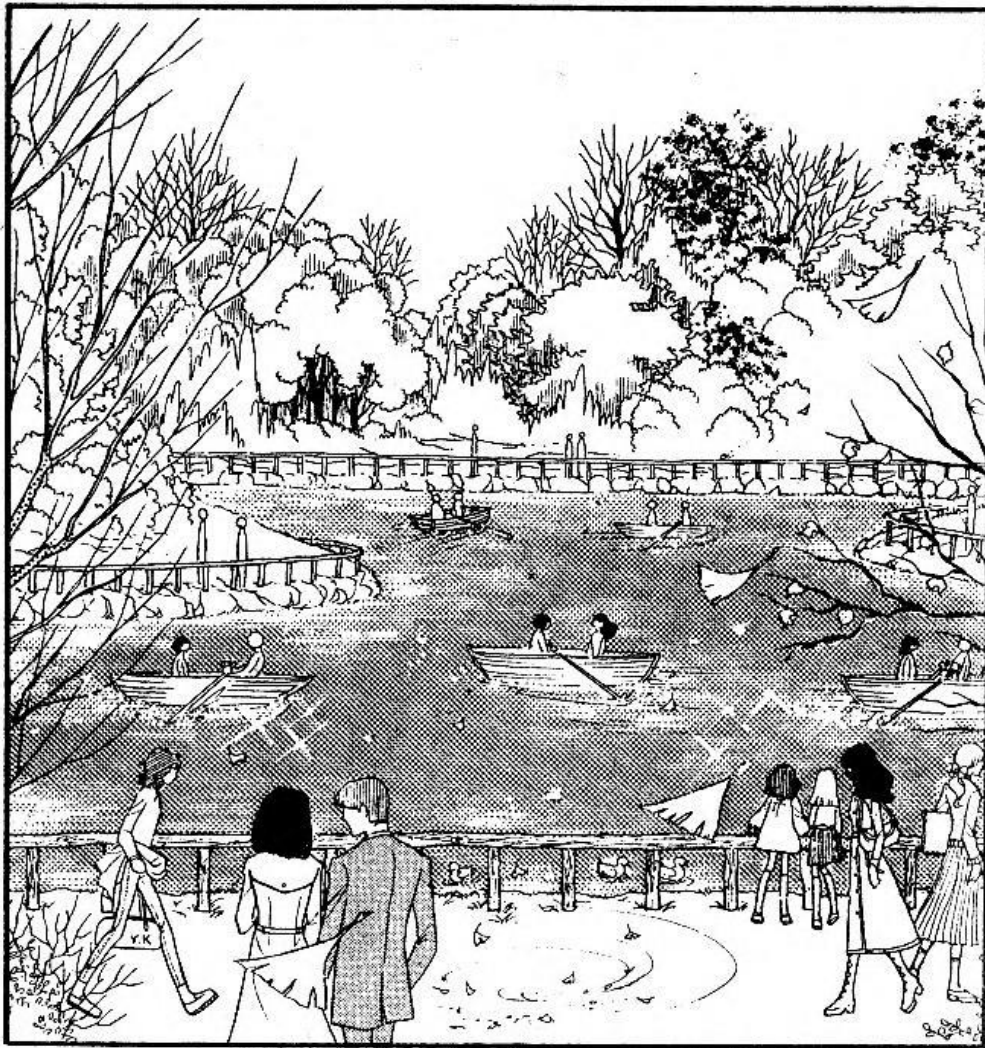
HERE'S THE SCRIPT



OH! IT LOOKS INTERESTING!

I WANT TO SEE IT









AFTER WE MET...
I COULDN'T FORGET ABOUT YOU....

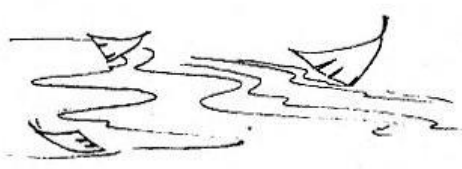
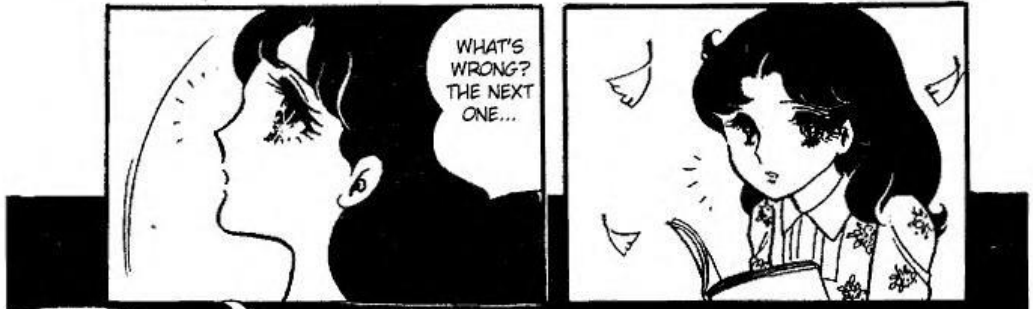


I ALWAYS WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE..

LOVING YOU...

YOU ENCOURAGE MY SPIRITS, MY HOPES!

HELPING YOU!



WHAT IS IT WITH YUU?
ALL OF THE SUDDEN HE IS
QUIET... WEIRD...



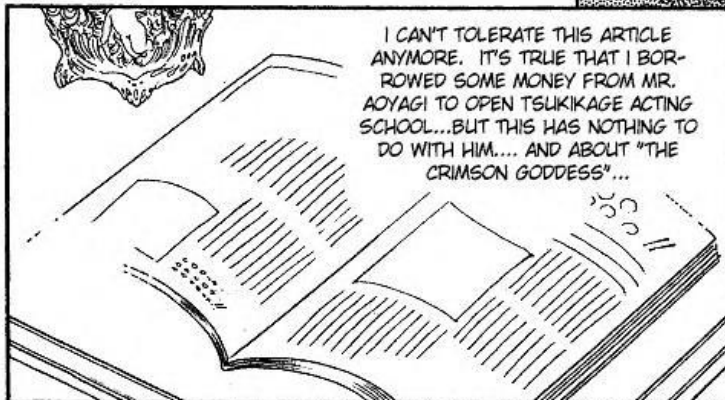
TO YOU, I'M
NOTHING BUT A
GOOD FRIEND

YOU REALLY
LOVE THEATER,
BUT CAN'T YOU
PAY ATTENTION
TO ME?

WILL YOU BE
ABLE TO
NOTICE MY
FEELINGS?

MAYA..

HOW LONG
DO I HAVE TO
BE YOUR
'NICE GUY
FRIEND' ?



I CAN'T TOLERATE THIS ARTICLE
ANYMORE. IT'S TRUE THAT I BOR-
ROWED SOME MONEY FROM MR.
AOYAGI TO OPEN TSUKIKAGE ACTING
SCHOOL...BUT THIS HAS NOTHING TO
DO WITH HIM... AND ABOUT "THE
CRIMSON GODDESS"...



HA-
YAMI
MA-
SUMI...