





IT'S LIKE BEING
IN THE MIDDLE
OF A STORM!

WHAT
THUNDER-
OUS AP-
PLAUSE!



AH!

COME HERE!
COME HERE!

COME ON! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
THERE, STANDING
STILL?! IT'S THE
CURTAIN CALL!











Like I was possessed
by another person
during the play.

I have a
wonderful
feeling!

Aah, but now
that has
lost its
importance!



On the stage I
lived as Origeld!

Even now I can
hardly believe
I am Ayumi
Himekawa!

Who would
have
thought
this could
happen?

Becoming a
different
person in
body and soul!

As
Origeld!

The feeling
of accomplish-
ment is over-
whelming me...



NOW THERE, ORIGELD HAS MOVED ME!

CLAP

CLAP

WONDERFUL!

AYUMI HIMEKAWA WAS WONDERFUL!

CLAP



I'VE BECOME A FAN OF ALDIS!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?! ALDIS IS MINE!



HOWEVER, ALDIS WAS ALSO GREAT!

YES. INNOCENT AND BEAUTIFUL.



WHO REALIZED HER AMBITION, ENDING, HOWEVER, TORMENTED BY DOUBT...

QUEEN ORIGELD

ORIGELD IS THE HEROINE OF THIS DRAMA.

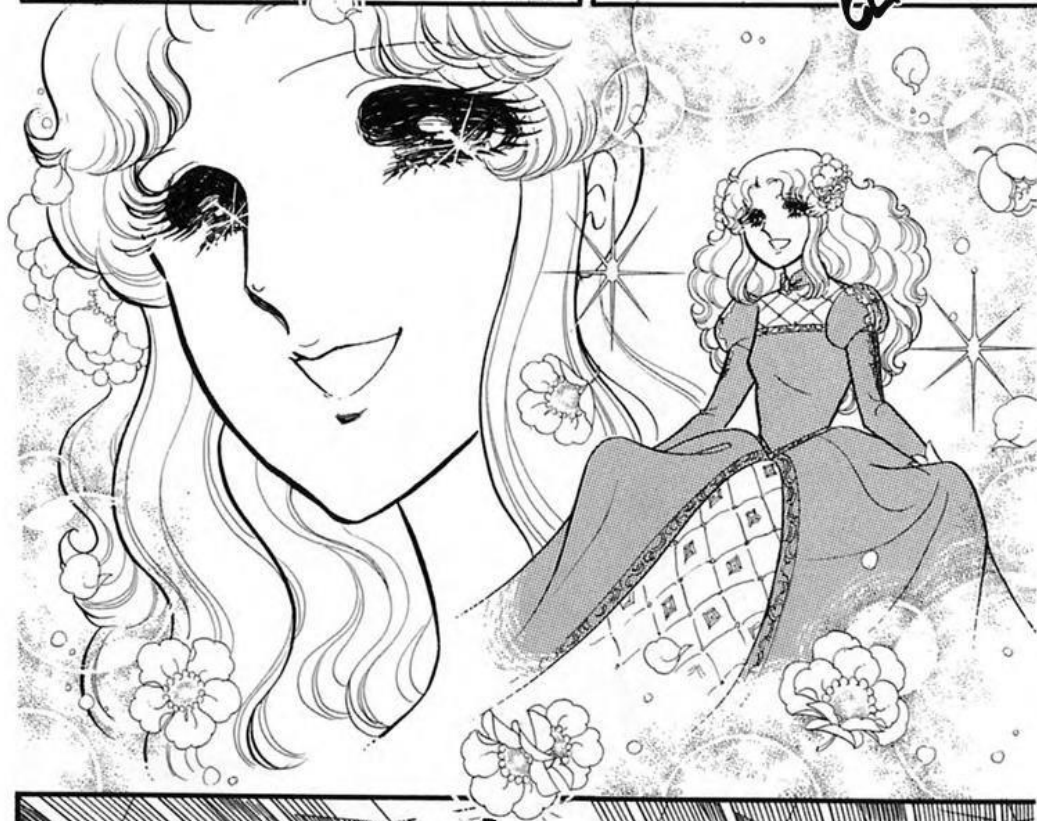


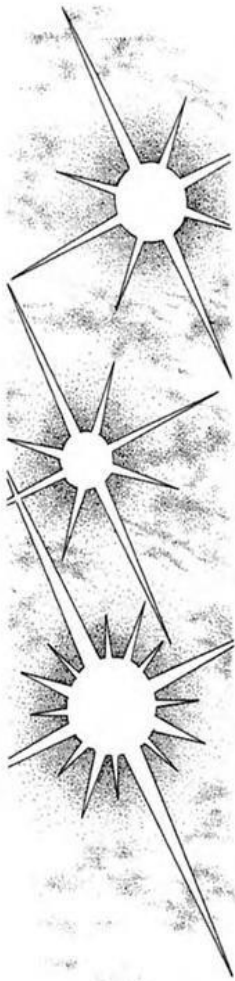
ALDIS WAS REMARKABLE, BUT ORIGELD WAS SPECTACULAR.

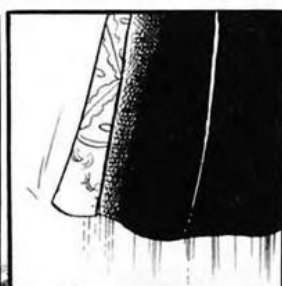
A TRULY IMPRESSIVE PLAY.

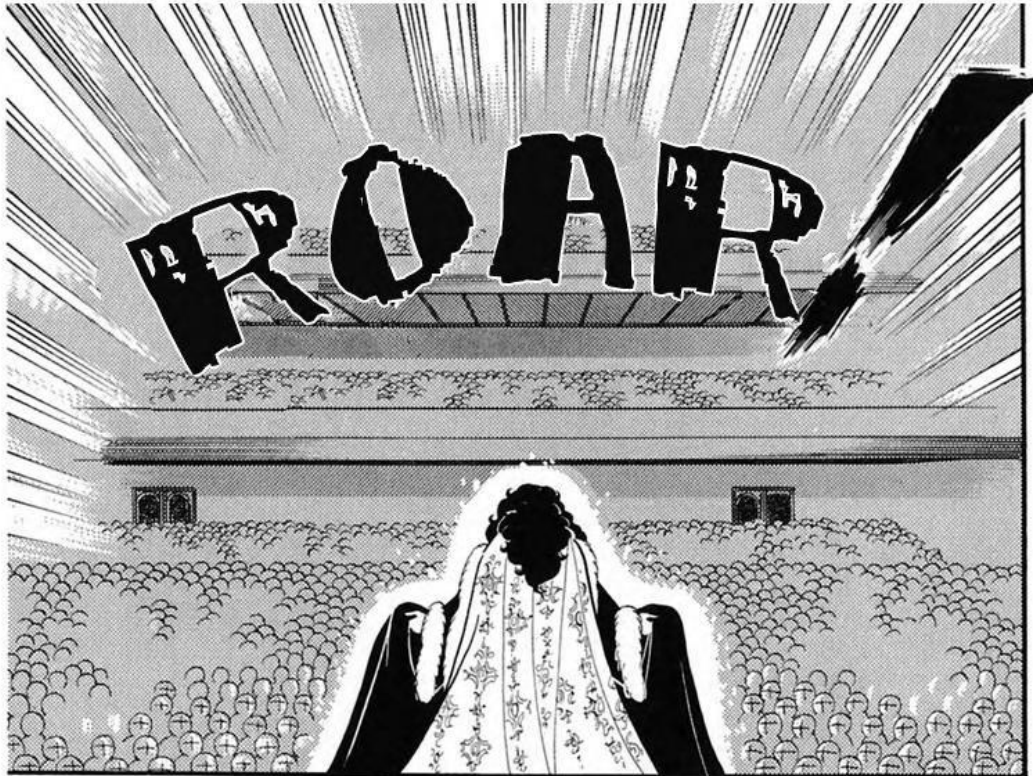
AYUMI HIMEKAWA STANDS TRUE. THEY DON'T CALL HER A GENIUS FOR NOTHING.

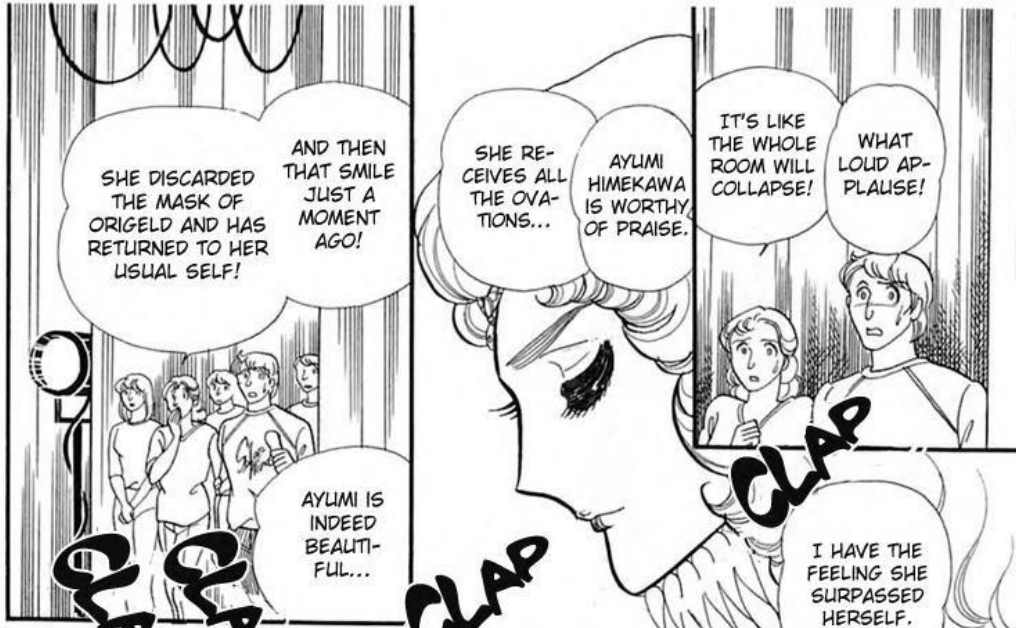












SHE DISCARDED THE MASK OF ORIGELD AND HAS RETURNED TO HER USUAL SELF!

AND THEN THAT SMILE JUST A MOMENT AGO!

SHE RECEIVES ALL THE OVATIONS...

AYUMI HIMEKAWA IS WORTHY OF PRAISE.

IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE ROOM WILL COLLAPSE!

WHAT LOUD APPLAUSE!

AYUMI IS INDEED BEAUTIFUL...

I HAVE THE FEELING SHE SURPASSED HERSELF.



LOOK!

NOT EVEN MAYA WAS ABLE TO EQUAL HER?

IT'S LIKE SHE'S RECEIVING ALL THE ACCLAIM, AS IF SHE WAS THE PROTAGONIST!



IS NOT FAKE. HER SMILE

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP





THE REPORTERS ARE MOBING AYUMI.

WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST INTERESTING IN ORIGELD?

WAS IT A DIFFICULT ROLE TO FACE THINKING OF YOUR PREVIOUS ONES?

YOUR ORIGELD WAS WONDERFUL.

GOOD NIGHT.

GOOD NIGHT.

AN AUTOGRAPH, PLEASE.



THIS PLAY IS MAYA KITAJIMA'S RETURN TO THE ACTING WORLD!

TAP

TAP

TAP

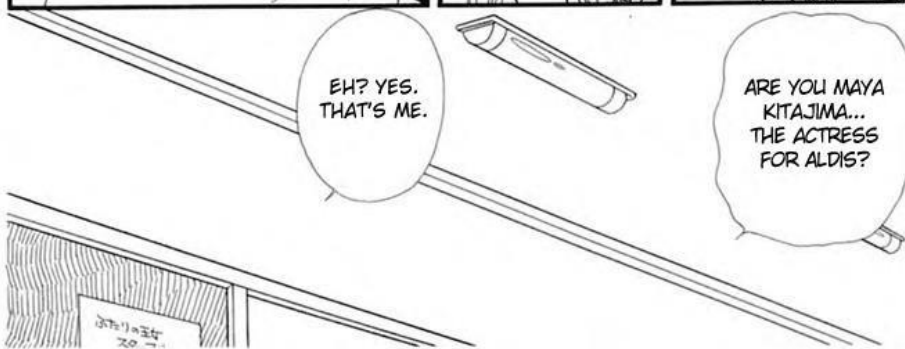
Creak

WE'VE GOT ALL THE MATERIAL WE NEEDED FROM AYUMI HIMEKAWA.

NOW FOR ALDIS!



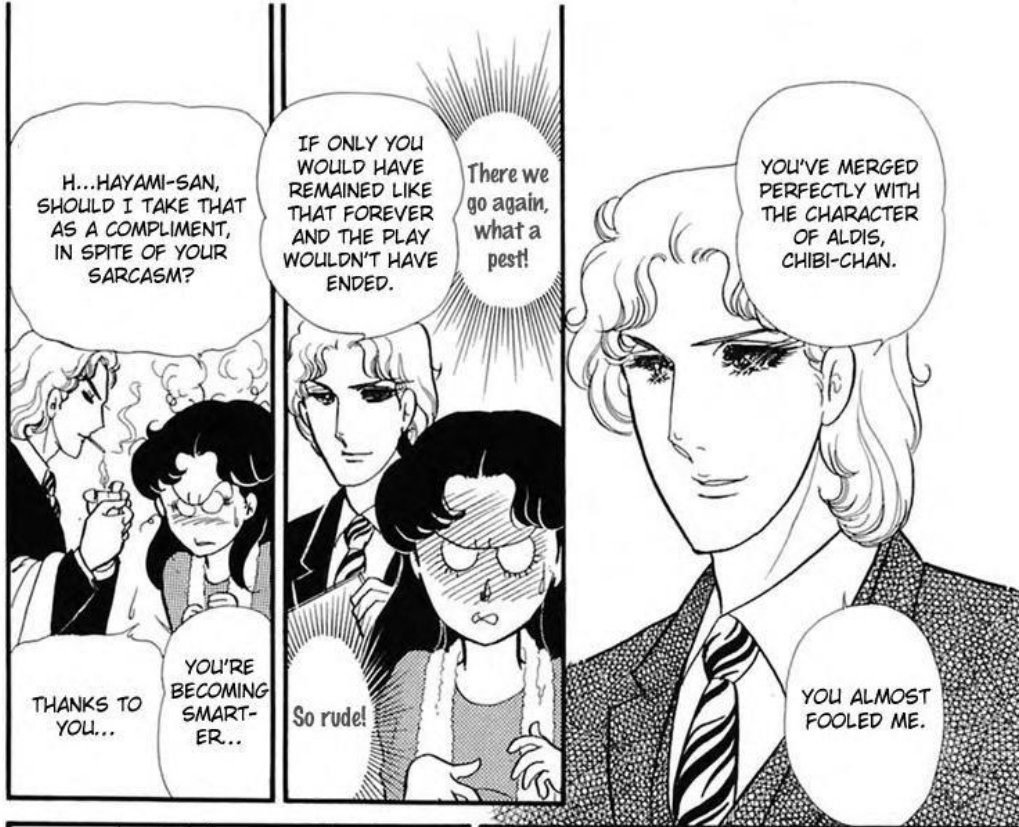
EH?



EH? YES. THAT'S ME.

ARE YOU MAYA KITAJIMA... THE ACTRESS FOR ALDIS?







What's with me?
Why did I blush
just now?!

R-REALLY?!
THANK YOU!



CONTINUE TO
ENCHANT
EVERYONE, LINE
BY LINE, UNTIL
THE END OF THE
PRODUCTION RUN.

HA
HA
HA

THE BEAUTI-
FUL ALDIS
WAS INDEED
WONDERFUL.

SUCH A SHAME
THAT IT'S ONLY
POSSIBLE TO
SEE HER ON
STAGE.



AREN'T YOU GREAT,
OUR LITTLE
RACCOON*.
I SHALL SEND YOU
LOTS OF FLOWERS
LIKE I PROMISED.

Racco-
on?

*RACCOONS ARE MASTERS OF DISGUISE IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE

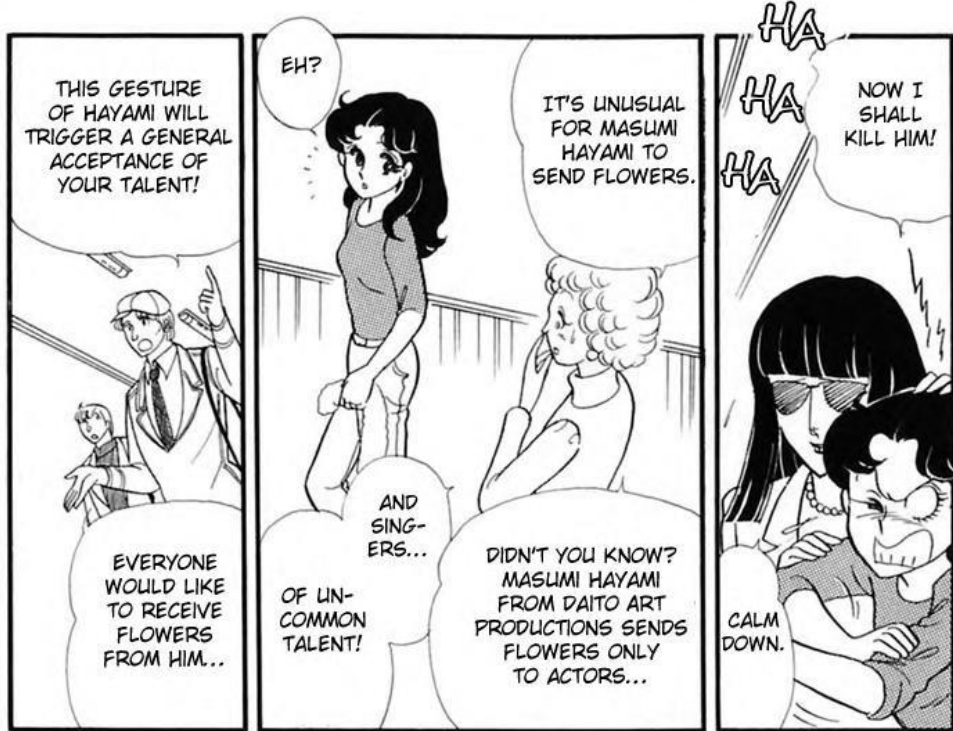


HAYAMI-
SAMA,
THE
CAR HAS
ARRIVED.



THERE
WILL BE
ENOUGH
TO FILL
THE FOYER
OF THE
THEATRE.

PLEASE
INFORM
MIZUKI-KUN
WHICH KIND
YOU'D
PREFER.



...that I've won!

No, it was just a simple bet...

WHAT FLOWERS WOULD YOU LIKE MAYA?

Blech

TOO BAD FOR HIM! I WELCOME ANY PUBLICITY!

ANYTHING BUT PURPLE ROSES.

I don't want to receive those from anyone else....

Purple roses are really my favorite, but...

Yes! The roses sent to me by my secret admirer that comfort me and give me strength...

He did it to draw attention to me?

To advertise me?





Hayami
Resi-
dence

Maya-
chan!



MASU
MI.

AND SO, EACH
PERFORMANCE,
EVERYDAY, THE TWO
PRINCESSES IS
SOLD OUT...

THE IMAGE-CHANGE
OF AYUMI-KUN, WITH
HER CHARACTER
ORIGELD, IS
APPRECIATED
THE MOST.

Nitsei Theatre

The Two Princesses
Ayumi Himekawa proves
herself in the part of Origeld

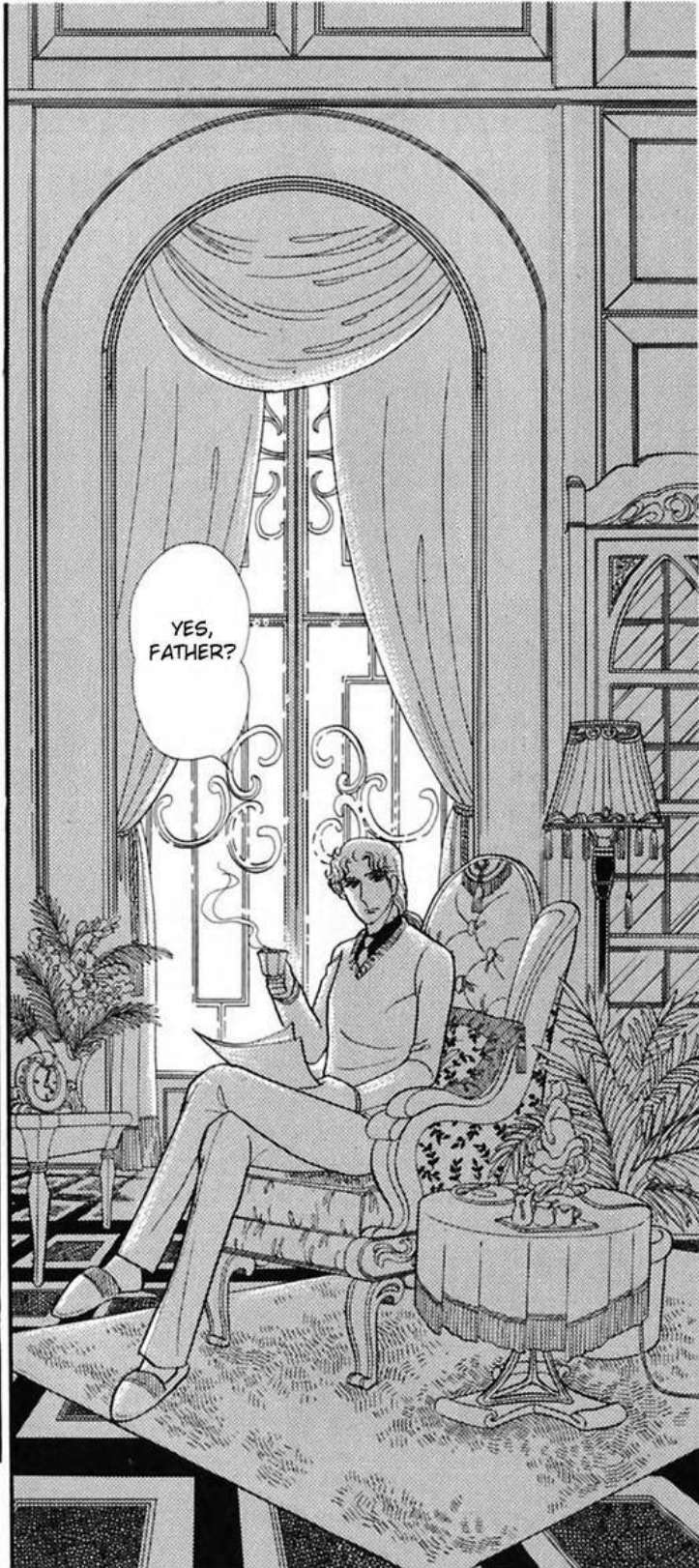
Theatrical Review

Unforgettable
interpretation by
Ayumi Himekawa.
Full of psycholo-
gical suspense

Great
interpretation

Ayumi Himekawa is
the gloomy Origeld

YES,
FATHER?





"EXCELLENT INTERPRETATION BY MAYA KITAJIMA..."

"THE AUDIENCE SIGHS BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL ALDIS..."

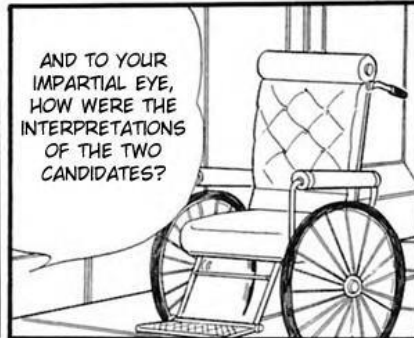
GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE CRITICS ARE FAVORABLE.

AND WHAT ARE THEY WRITING ABOUT THE OTHER CANDIDATE FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS?

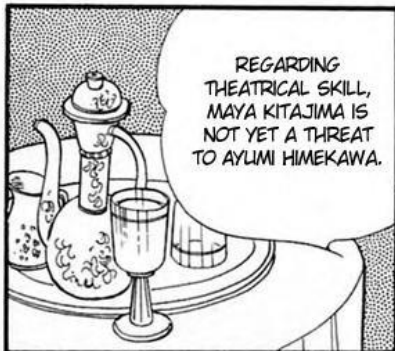


HER ORIGELD HAD A DEEPER DRAMATIC INTENSITY.

THE SUPERIORITY OF AYUMI IS OBVIOUS.



AND TO YOUR IMPARTIAL EYE, HOW WERE THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TWO CANDIDATES?



REGARDING THEATRICAL SKILL, MAYA KITAJIMA IS NOT YET A THREAT TO AYUMI HIMEKAWA.



THEN AYUMI IS THE FAVORITE FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS?



SHE HAS KNOWLEDGE,

LOTS OF PRACTICE,

MOSTLY AYUMI HAS A GREAT THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE...

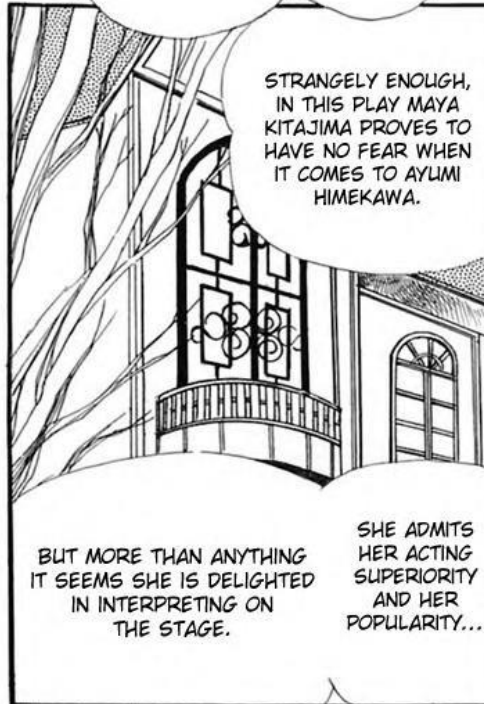
AND THE POWER OF BRILLIANT RECITATION.



BUT ON THE STAGE SHE SEEMED A NATURAL.

SHE HAD TO FACE A CHARACTER TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HER..

HOWEVER IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED THAT MAYA KITAJIMA HAS NEVER PLAYED A ROLE LIKE THAT OF ALDIS.



STRANGELY ENOUGH, IN THIS PLAY MAYA KITAJIMA PROVES TO HAVE NO FEAR WHEN IT COMES TO AYUMI HIMEKAWA.

BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING IT SEEMS SHE IS DELIGHTED IN INTERPRETING ON THE STAGE.

SHE ADMITS HER ACTING SUPERIORITY AND HER POPULARITY...



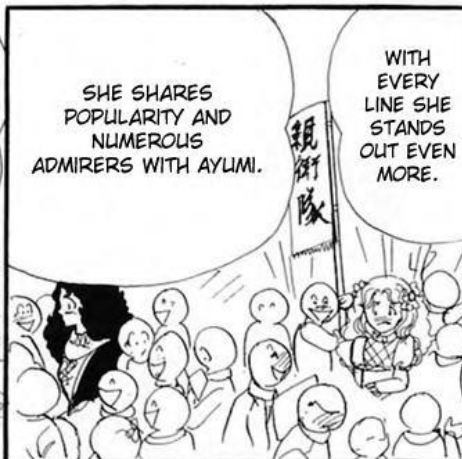
SHE KNEW HOW TO MAKE HER CHARACTER SEEM NATURAL,

AND THIS IS NOT A COMMON ABILITY.



AND THIS PART HAS FINALLY OPENED THE ROAD TO ANOTHER PLAY FOR MAYA KITAJIMA.

WE SHALL SEE IF IN THE END THIS ROAD WILL TAKE HER TO THE CRIMSON GODDESS...



SHE SHARES POPULARITY AND NUMEROUS ADMIRERS WITH AYUMI.

WITH EVERY LINE SHE STANDS OUT EVEN MORE.



ONE CHANCE IN A HUNDRED?

AS EXPECTED OF CHIGUSA'S CANDIDATE.

HA
HA
HA



WHO, MAYA KITAJIMA?

EVEN SO, WHAT DID THAT GIRL SAY?

THAT SHE WOULD ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE EVEN IF THERE WAS ONLY A 1% CHANCE...

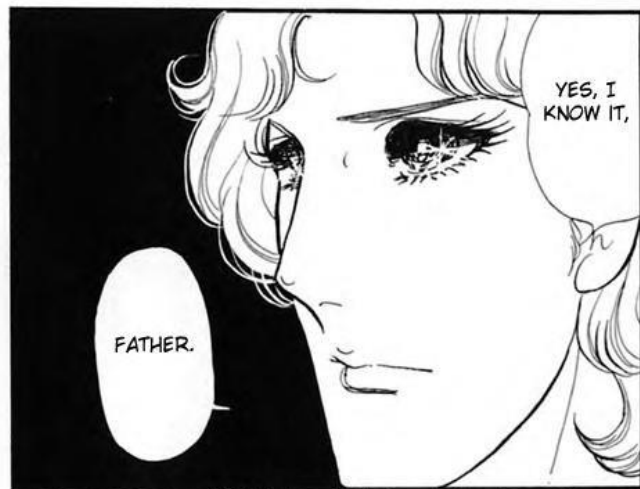


THERE IS ALMOST A YEAR LEFT UNTIL THE DEADLINE TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI HAS SET...

IF SHE IS NOT ABLE TO ATTAIN THE ACADEMIC ARTS AWARD OR THE BEST ACTOR AWARD WITHIN THE YEAR, THE CRIMSON GODDESS SHALL BE AYUMI'S.

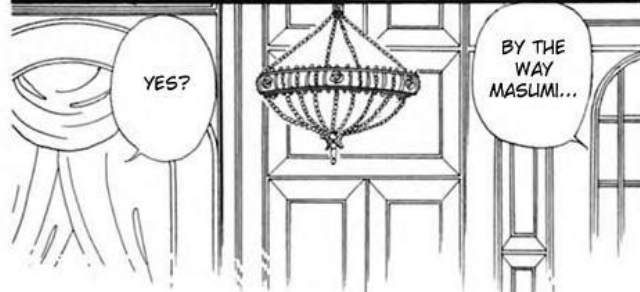


EVEN IF CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE WERE TO DIE BEFORE-HAND....



FATHER.

YES, I KNOW IT,



YES?

BY THE WAY MASUMI...

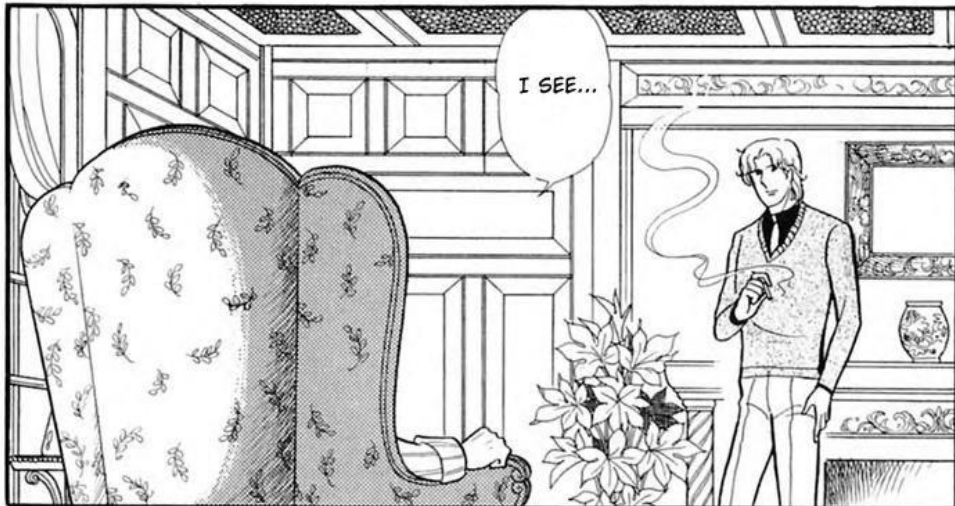


TO SEE THAT LOST THEATRICAL MASTERPIECE

I ENTRUST YOU WITH THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

PLAYED ONCE AGAIN IS THE DREAM I HAD FOR SO LONG....

YOU MUST DO IT NO MATTER THE COST.





THE HEIR TO DAITO ART PRODUCTIONS CAN'T REMAIN A BACHELOR FOREVER.

EVEN YOU MUST THINK OF SETTLING DOWN...

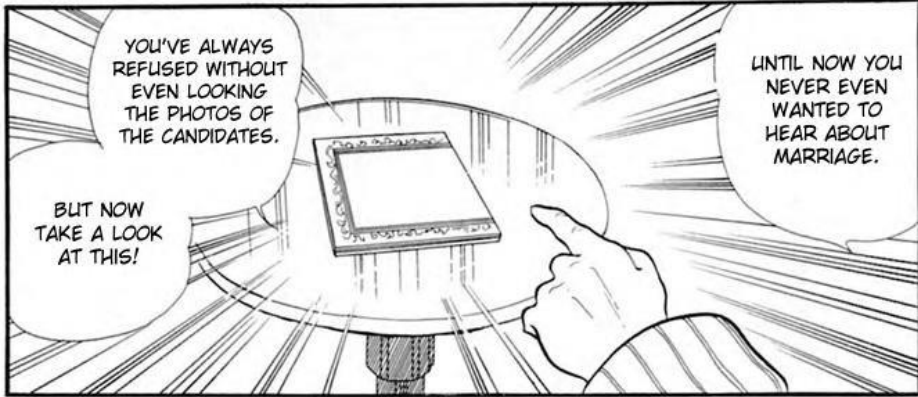


FATHER, I TOLD YOU ALREADY I HAVE NO INTENTION TO MARRY...

ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE ARRANGING MY MARRIAGE?



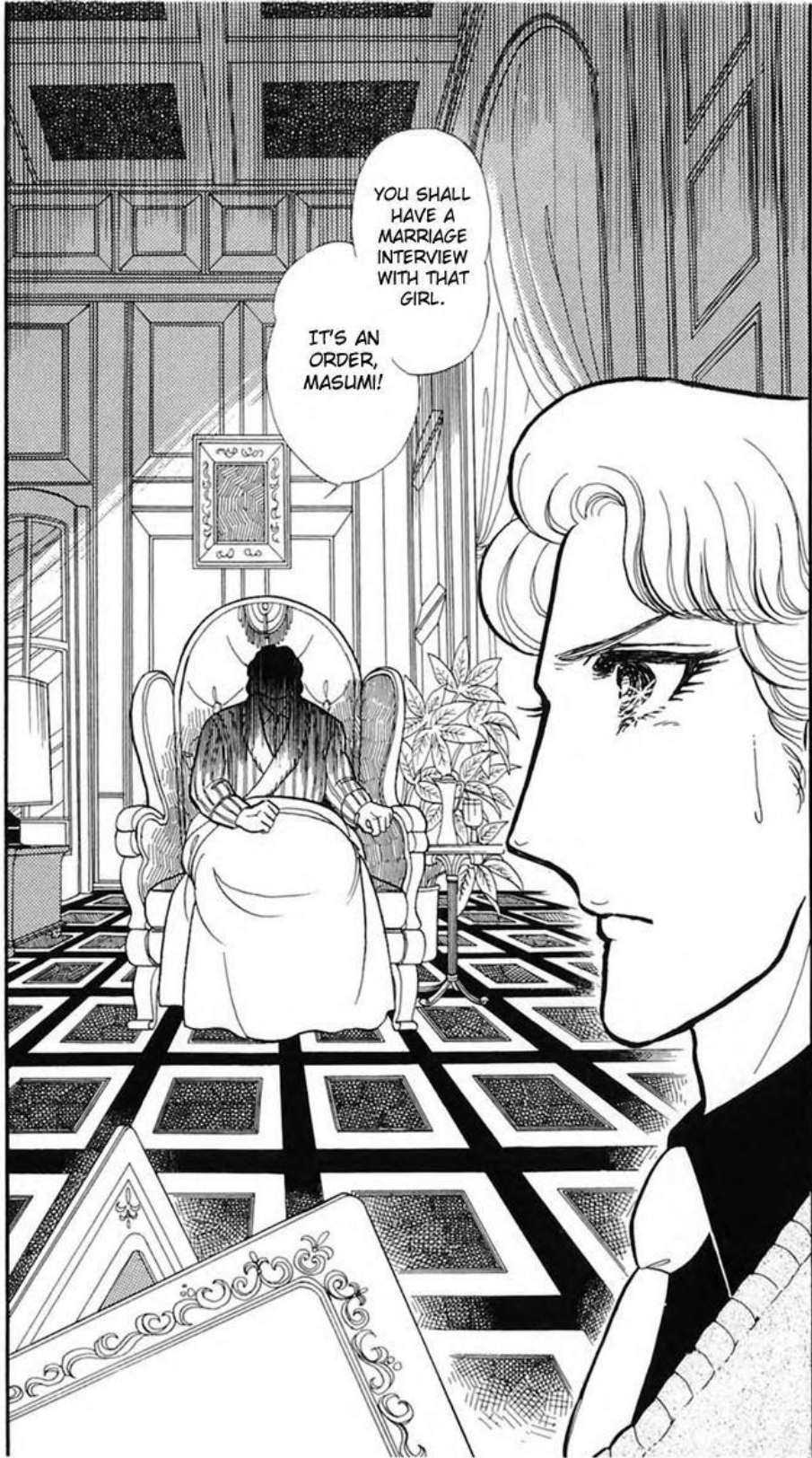
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PICTURE.



YOU'VE ALWAYS REFUSED WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING THE PHOTOS OF THE CANDIDATES.
BUT NOW TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

UNTIL NOW YOU NEVER EVEN WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT MARRIAGE.





YOU SHALL
HAVE A
MARRIAGE
INTERVIEW
WITH THAT
GIRL.

IT'S AN
ORDER,
MASUMI!