





THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

HE'S FINE.

HOW IS THE PRESIDENT DOING?

THE DETAILS ARE IN THE MATERIALS I SENT OVER EARLIER.

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR. WORK HAS BEEN PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

DID ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS AWAY?



MIZUKI.

WELCOME BACK, MASUMI.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.



KEEP IT IN MIND.

THERE'S AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT YAMANAKA OF TOZAI ELECTRIC RAILWAY AT 10AM TOMORROW.

PLEASE REVIEW THESE DOCUMENTS BY TOMORROW.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW ITEMS THAT STILL NEED DIRECTORIAL APPROVAL...



I NEED TO REVIEW THESE DOCUMENTS.

CAN YOU BE QUIET?

NO, I'M FINE.

YOU HAVEN'T? IN WHICH CASE, GIVE ME A MINUTE TO ARRANGE A MEAL.



HAVE YOU EATEN YET?

NO...

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK PALE...

GOT IT.

ARE YOU TIRED?

NO...



NOW THAT I'M BACK AT WORK, IT FEELS LIKE THE EVENTS IN THE VALLEY OF THE PLUM TREES WERE JUST A DREAM.

LIFE IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS. NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

AH!  
OF COURSE.

WAS IT REALLY ALL AN ILLUSION?

A SINGLE SOUL SPLIT IN TWO...

THE OTHER HALF OF ONE'S SOUL.

IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM.



AH...  
THAT'S RIGHT.



I'M SURE THAT'S HOW IT IS...



I'LL CRUSH HER WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!

IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, THEN I WILL!

CRUSH KITAJIMA MAYA!

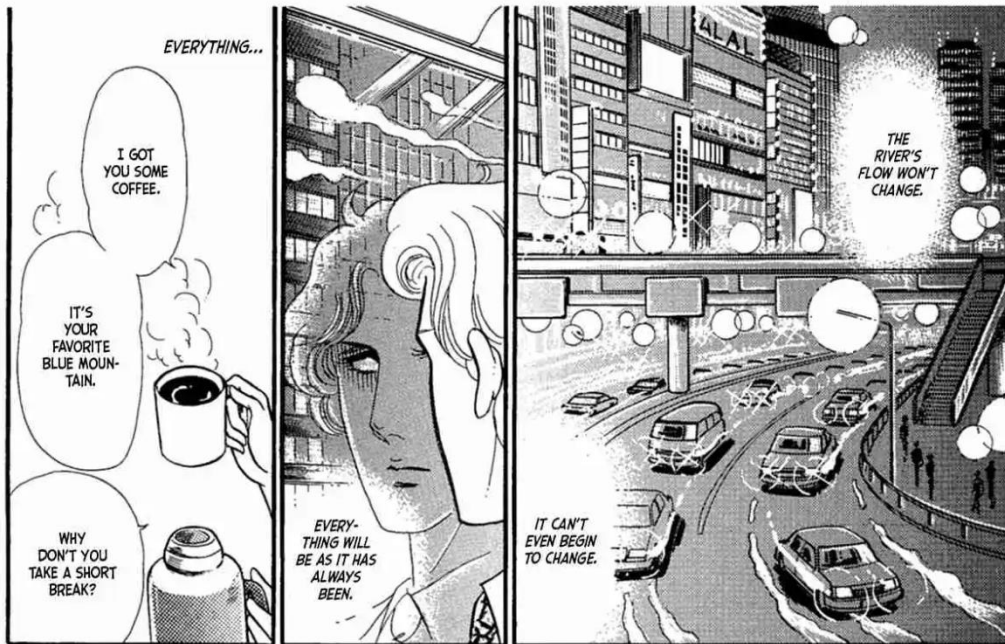
BUT IF SHE DOESN'T...

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF SHE AGREED TO WORK WITH DAITO...











PERHAPS  
ON THAT  
DAY...



MASUMI...?



I WAS  
STILL FEELING  
THE AFTEREFFECTS  
OF TSUKIKAGE CHI-  
GUSA'S CRIMSON  
GODDESS...

...AND  
THE ILLUSION  
I SAW WAS A  
REFLECTION OF  
MY OWN HEART



A STRANGE  
DREAM WHERE  
I EXPERIENCED A  
HAPPINESS SWEET  
ENOUGH...

IN  
WHICH  
I WAS ABLE  
TO HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
DREAM...

IT  
WAS LIKE A  
HAUNTINGLY  
BEAUTIFUL  
ILLUSION.

...TO  
SHAKE MY  
SOUL.



THERE  
WILL NEVER  
BE A BETTER  
STAGE...

...FOR  
THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS...

...THAN  
THE VALLEY  
OF THE PLUM  
TREES.





OF COURSE  
IT WASN'T.

WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH ME?

THIS IS  
THE WORLD  
WHERE I'LL  
CONTINUE TO  
LIVE AND  
FIGHT.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

THAT  
WONDERFUL  
DREAM I HAD  
COULDN'T HAVE  
POSSIBLY BEEN  
REAL.

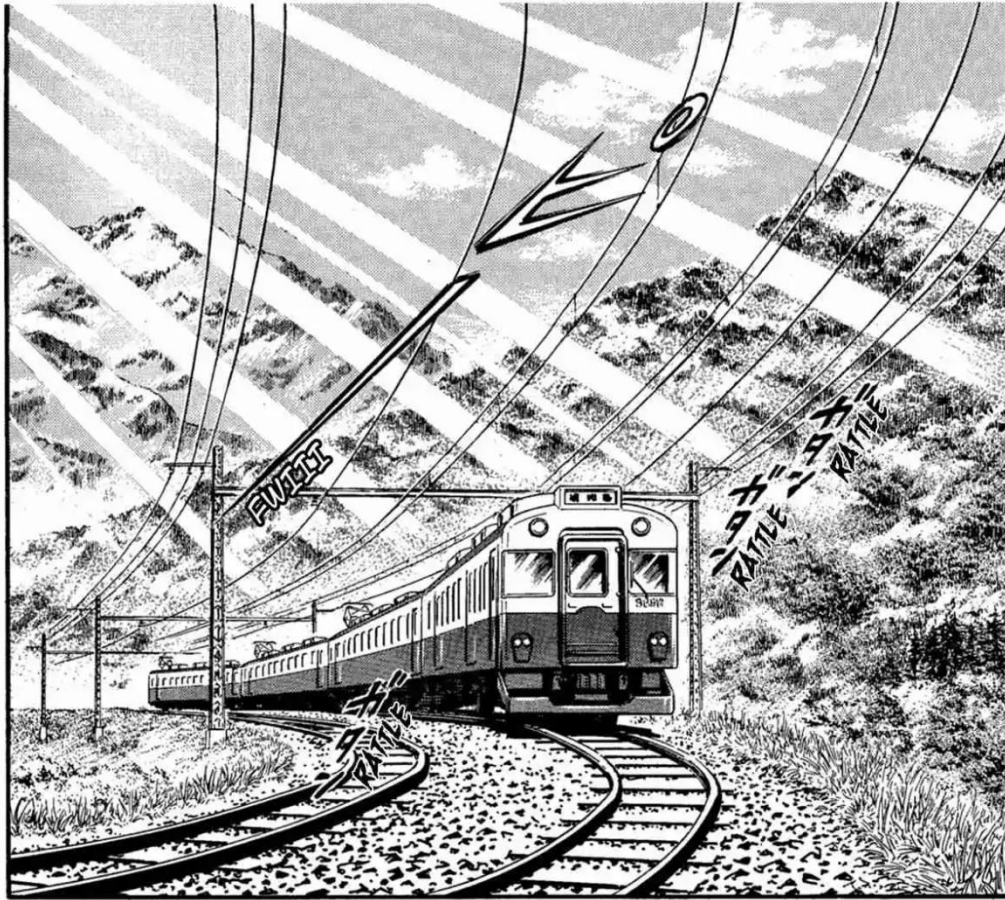
THIS NEON  
VALLEY THAT  
I'VE RETURNED  
TO...

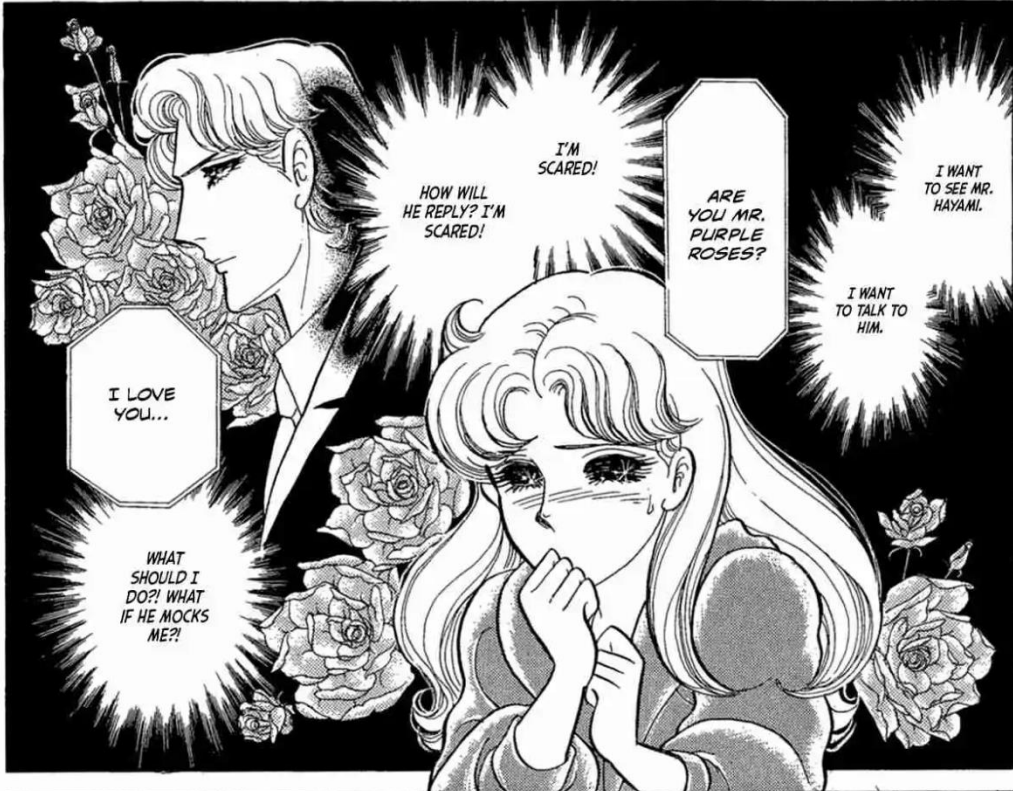
THIS  
IS THE  
WORLD I  
LIVE IN.

SO LONG  
AS I AM  
HAYAMI  
MASUMI.

OH, LOOK!  
A SHOOTING  
STAR!







I LOVE YOU...

HOW WILL HE REPLY? I'M SCARED!

I'M SCARED!

ARE YOU MR. PURPLE ROSES?

I WANT TO SEE MR. HAYAMI.

I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?! WHAT IF HE MOCKS ME?!



TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI!

I'M SURE THE ONE YOU'RE DESTINED FOR IS THINKING THE SAME THING!

NO, IF MR. HAYAMI TRULY IS THE OTHER HALF OF MY SOUL...

NO...!



YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN OPEN THE DOOR TO YOUR DESTINY!!

FEARING THE OUTCOME WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE.

IF YOU MEET SOMEONE LIKE THAT, WORK UP THE COURAGE AND TAKE THE STEP FORWARD.



I TOLD HER THAT IT DID EXIST.



BUT IT'S LIKELY SOMEONE SO UNEXPECTED THAT EVEN SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE'S IN LOVE WITH...



WHAT A SHOCK.

MAYA'S REALLY IN LOVE.

MAYA IS...?

SHE ASKED ME IF THE OTHER HALF OF ONE'S SOUL TRULY EXISTED.



THEY'VE FINALLY GONE HOME.

TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI.

THAT'S RIGHT, GENZO.



EVEN IF THIS PERSON ENDS UP NOT BEING THE OTHER HALF OF HER SOUL, I'M SURE SHE WILL LEARN A LOT FROM THE EXPERIENCE.

THERE'S NO BETTER TRAINING THAN THIS!



TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI...



FOR HER TO EXPERIENCE THIS BEFORE PLAYING THE CRIMSON GODDESS...

IT'S A WONDERFUL THING.



YOU MAY  
ENCOUNTER  
THINGS THAT  
HURT YOU...

GATHER  
YOUR COURAGE,  
AND TAKE THE  
STEP FORWARD,  
MAYA!

TSUKIKAGE-  
SENSEI!!

...BUT AFTER  
IT'S OVER, I'M  
SURE YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND.

... THAT THE  
JOY, SADNESS,  
AND SUFFERING  
THAT IS BORN  
FROM LOVE,

THE HEART-  
BREAK AND THE  
WORRIES YOU'LL  
EXPERIENCE,

AND ALL THE  
FEELINGS THAT  
WELL UP FROM THE  
DEPTHS OF YOUR  
HEART...

WILL ONE  
DAY CONNECT  
TO THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS!



AND...

LIVE,  
MAYA!

THERE  
ARE NO WASTED  
EXPERIENCES IN  
LIFE!

PERFORM  
THE CRIMSON  
GODDESS,  
MAYA!

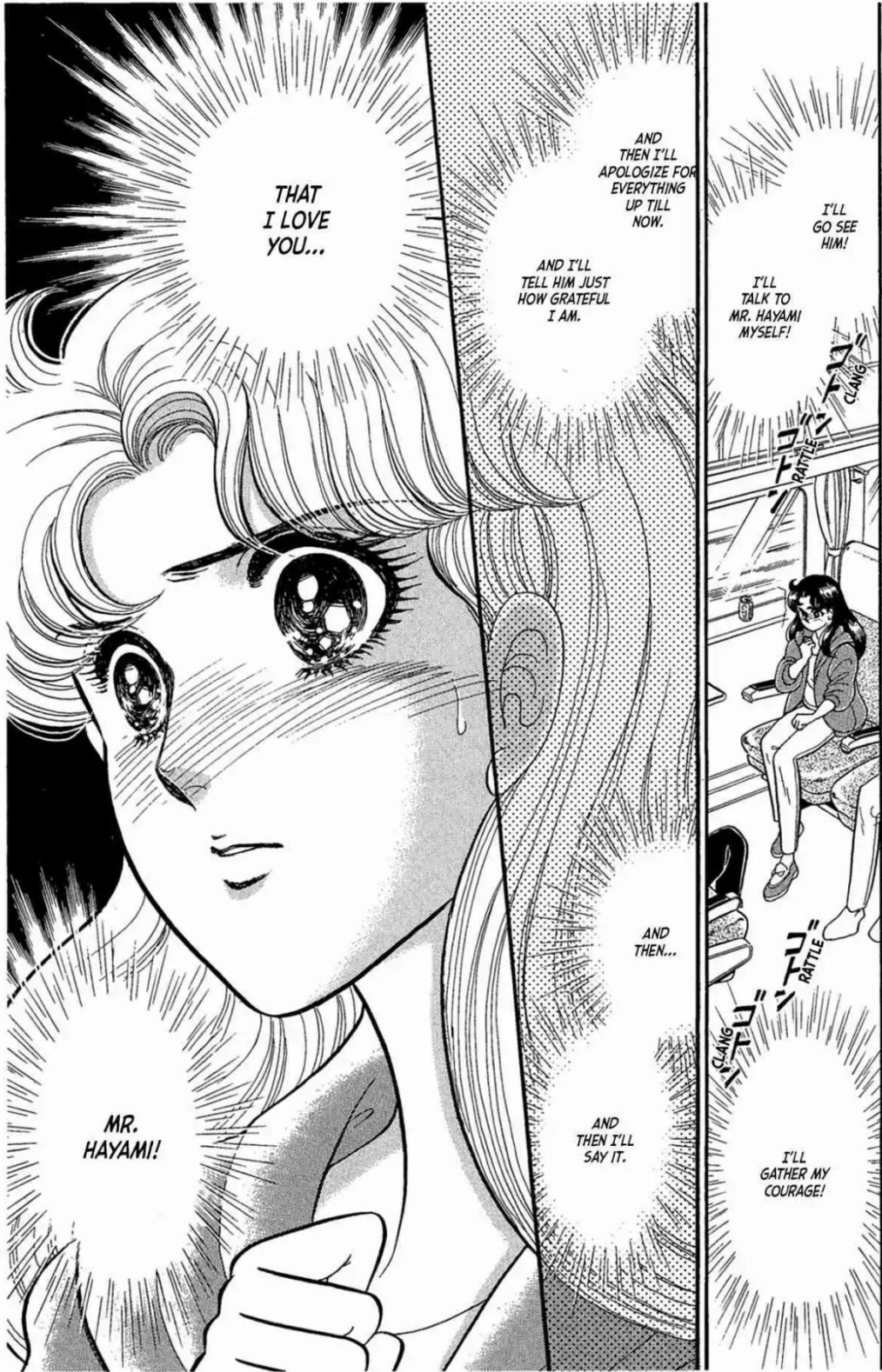
EXPERIENCE  
BEING HURT.

EXPERIENCE  
SUFFERING.

FALL IN  
LOVE!

BE IN  
LOVE!

EVERYTHING  
EXISTS TO POLISH  
YOURSELF!



THAT  
I LOVE  
YOU...

AND  
THEN I'LL  
APOLOGIZE FOR  
EVERYTHING  
UP TILL  
NOW.

I'LL  
GO SEE  
HIM!

AND I'LL  
TELL HIM JUST  
HOW GRATEFUL  
I AM.

I'LL  
TALK TO  
MR. HAYAMI  
MYSELF!

MR.  
HAYAMI!

AND  
THEN...

AND  
THEN I'LL  
SAY IT.

I'LL  
GATHER MY  
COURAGE!

CLANG

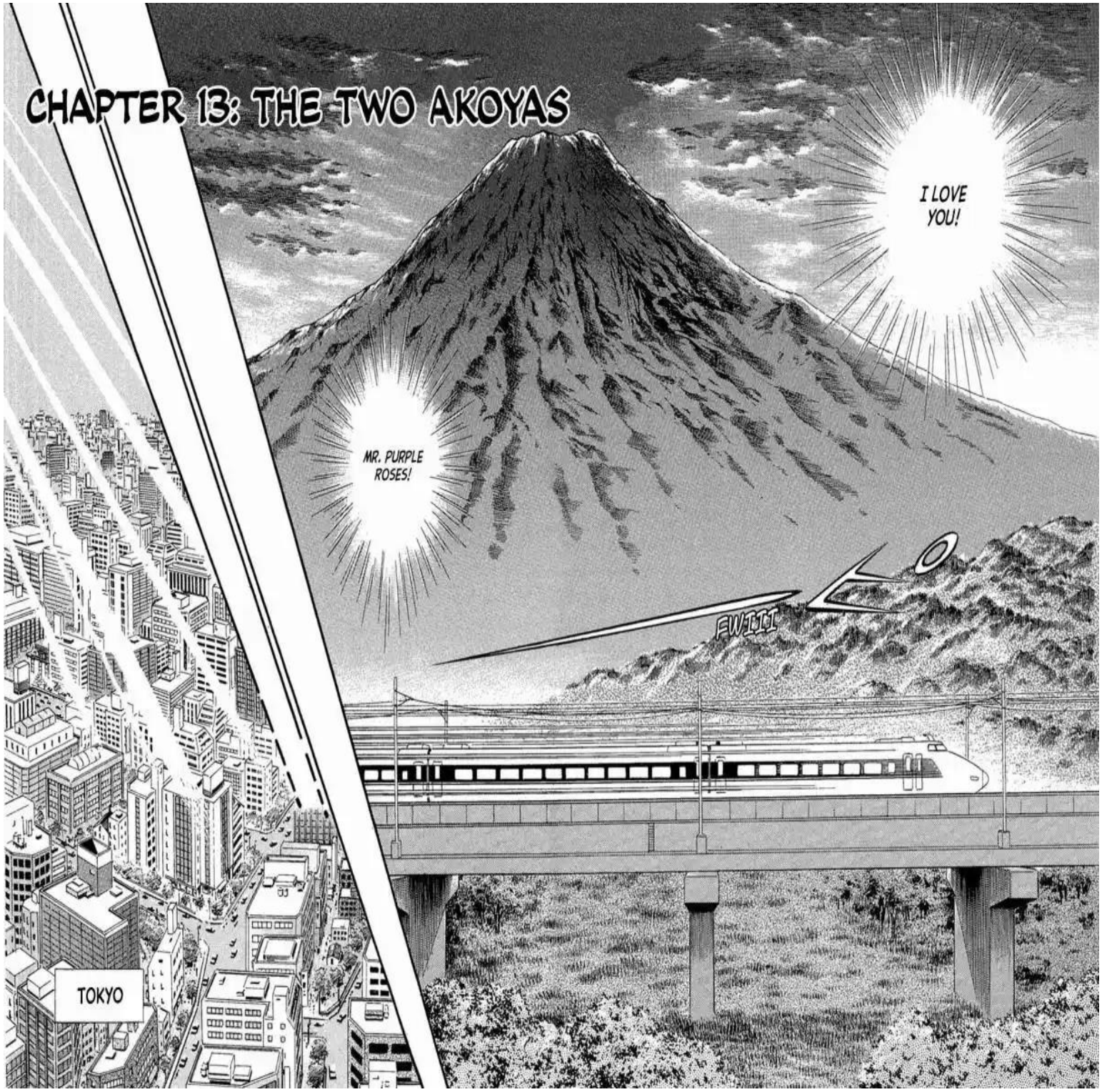
RATTLE

RATTLE

CLANG



# CHAPTER 13: THE TWO AKOYAS



I LOVE YOU!

MR. PURPLE ROSES!

FWEEI

LO

TOKYO





JUST WHENEVER HE'S FREE...

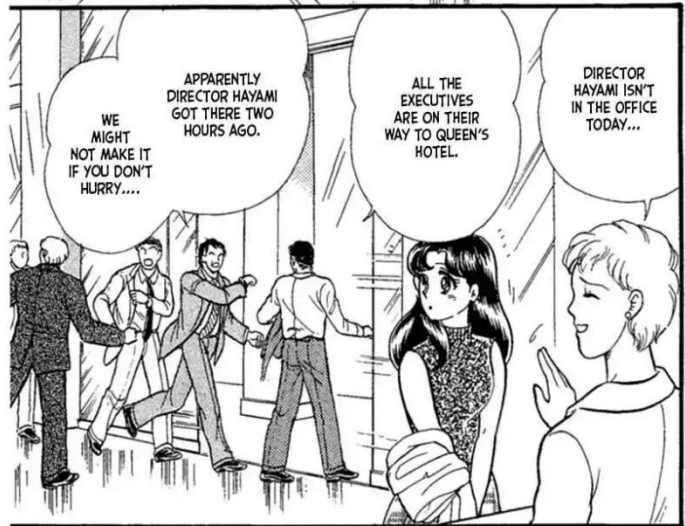
UHM...I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH DIRECTOR HAYAMI...

NO, I NEED TO BE BRAVE!

...BECAUSE I CAN'T GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT TAKING THE FIRST STEP!

YOU WANT TO MEET DIRECTOR HAYAMI?

I CAN WAIT...



WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT IF YOU DON'T HURRY....

APPARENTLY DIRECTOR HAYAMI GOT THERE TWO HOURS AGO.

ALL THE EXECUTIVES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO QUEEN'S HOTEL.

DIRECTOR HAYAMI ISN'T IN THE OFFICE TODAY...



QUEEN'S HOTEL?

MR. HAYAMI IS...?



I REALLY SHOWED UP...

WH-WHAT DO I DO...

MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK AFTER ALL.

IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING OUTRAGEOUS.



WHAT AN AMAZING PLACE...

THEY'RE HAVING A PARTY HERE? I WONDER WHAT IT'S FOR...

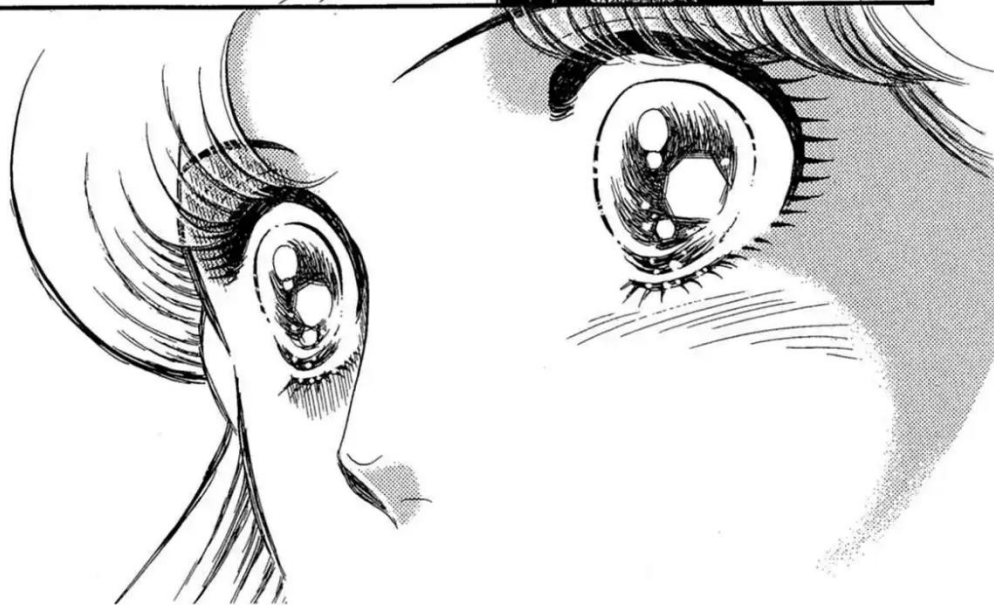
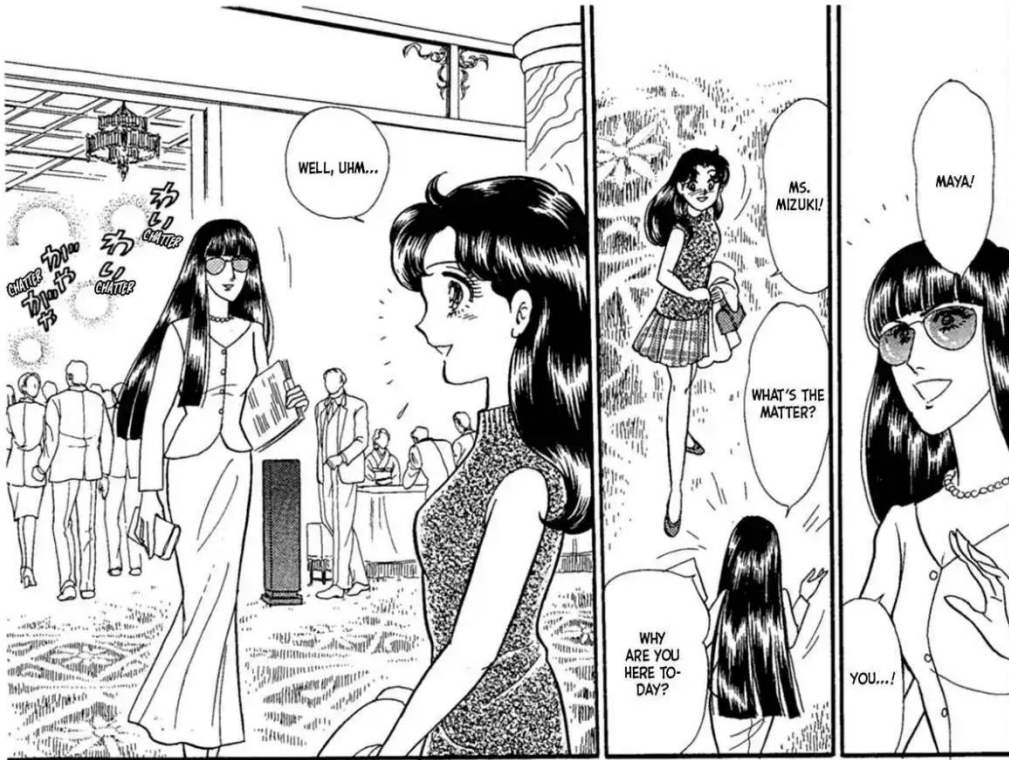


OH!

IS DAITO ENTERTAINMENT HOLDING A PARTY OR SOMETHING...?

UHM... EXCUSE ME.

YES?



HAYAMI  
FAMILY

TAKEMIYA  
FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT  
PARTY



HAYAMI  
FAMILY

TAKEMIYA  
FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT  
PARTY



MAYA...?

NO WAY!

PARTY!!

ENGAGEMENT...

STUMBLE

STUMBLE

MR. HAYAMI'S...?!

わはは WAHAHA

わはは WAHAHA

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IT'S AT LEAST 10 CARATS.  
I'D EXPECT NO LESS.

DO YOU SEE THAT ENGAGEMENT RING ON HER FINGER?  
IT'S A BRILLIANT SAPPHIRE.

BETWEEN THE HAYAMI FAMILY AND THE TAKAMIYA FAMILY, THERE WILL NEVER AGAIN BE SUCH A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE.

THEY LOOK SO GOOD TOGETHER AS A COUPLE.

SHE'S GORGEOUS...  
IT'S NO WONDER SHE WAS ABLE TO MOVE MASUMI'S HEART.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ENGAGEMENT,  
DIRECTOR HAYAMI AND MISS SHIORI.

THE TWO OF THEM LOOK SO HAPPY TOGETHER.





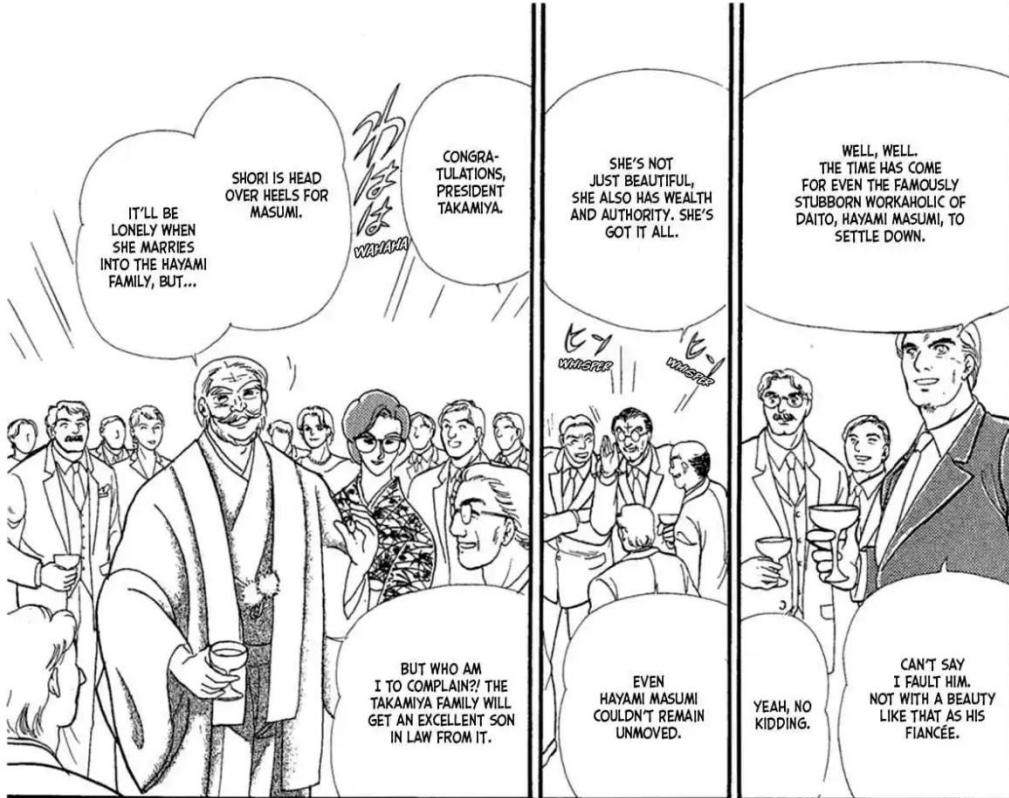
I'VE  
NEVER SEEN  
HIM LOOK LIKE  
THAT!

HE  
LOOKS SO  
HAPPY!

MR.  
HAYAMI!

THEY  
SUIT EACH  
OTHER!

THEY REALLY  
ARE PERFECT FOR  
EACH OTHER!



IT'LL BE LONELY WHEN SHE MARRIES INTO THE HAYAMI FAMILY, BUT...

SHORI IS HEAD OVER HEELS FOR MASUMI.

CONGRATULATIONS, PRESIDENT TAKAMIYA.

SHE'S NOT JUST BEAUTIFUL, SHE ALSO HAS WEALTH AND AUTHORITY. SHE'S GOT IT ALL.

WELL, WELL. THE TIME HAS COME FOR EVEN THE FAMOUSLY STUBBORN WORKAHOLIC OF DAITO, HAYAMI MASUMI, TO SETTLE DOWN.

BUT WHO AM I TO COMPLAIN? THE TAKAMIYA FAMILY WILL GET AN EXCELLENT SON IN LAW FROM IT.

EVEN HAYAMI MASUMI COULDN'T REMAIN UNMOVED.

CAN'T SAY I FAULT HIM. NOT WITH A BEAUTY LIKE THAT AS HIS FIANCEE.  
YEAH, NO KIDDING.



MR. HAYAMI...

HERE, HAVE A CELEBRATORY CHAMPAGNE...

AH... THAT'S RIGHT...



WE'RE GOING TO PROSPER MORE AND MORE.  
THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET BETTER FOR DAITO NOW.

IT MEANS THE TAKEMIYA GROUP AND THE FAMILY BEHIND IT WILL FINALLY SUPPORT DAITO.

OH CRA-  
AH!  
HEY!



I SUPPOSE ANYONE WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH HER... ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE'S THAT BEAUTIFUL...

EVEN THOUGH MR. HAYAMI ALREADY HAD SHORI...

I'M SO STUPID...



FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, HE DIDN'T FEEL A SINGLE THING FOR ME...



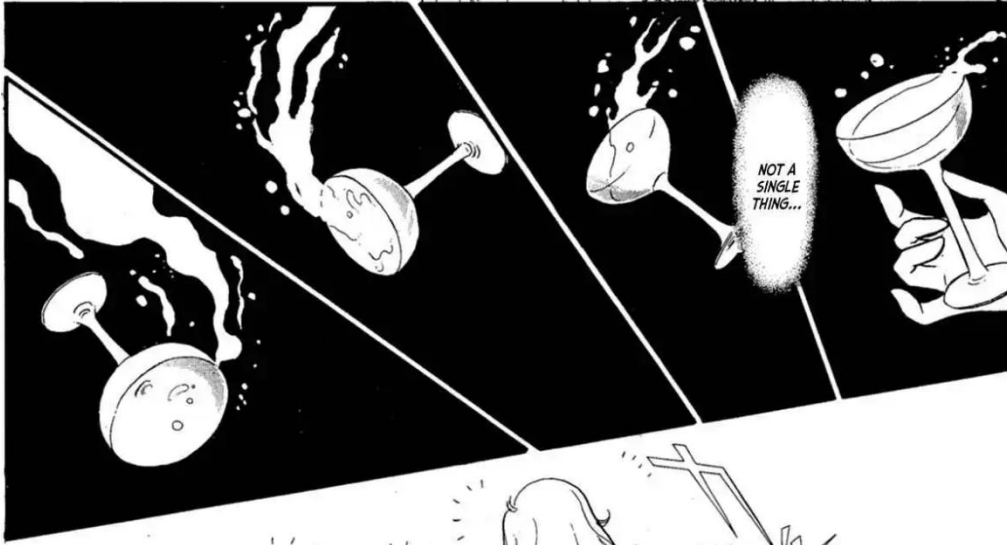
I WAS THIS CLOSE TO DOING SOMETHING STUPID...

I'M GLAD...

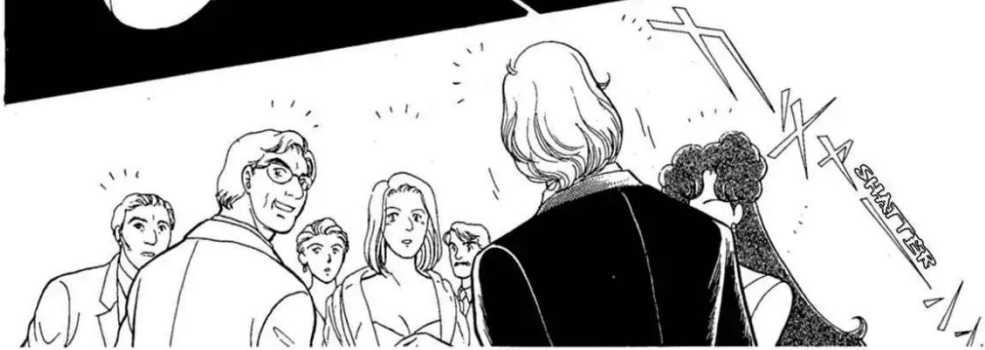
THE OTHER HALF OF MY SOUL...

IN THE END, THAT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION IN THE VALLEY...

EVEN THOUGH MR. HAYAMI DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF SOMEONE LIKE ME...



NOT A SINGLE THING...



SHATTER



