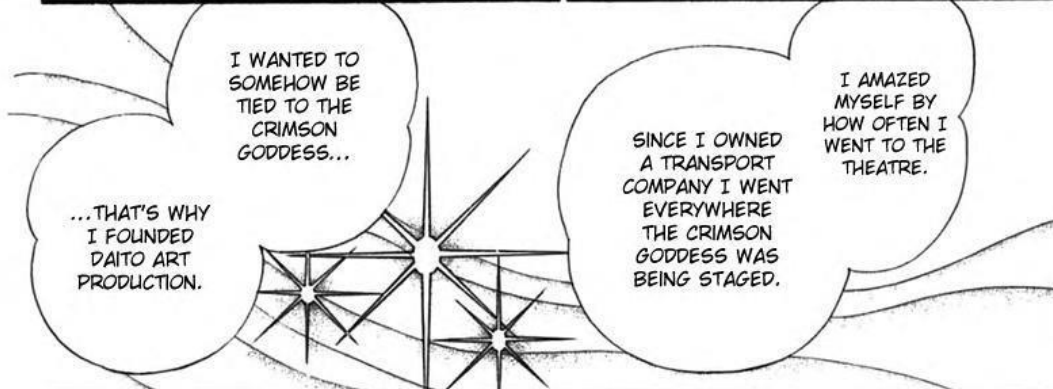


I WAS YOUNG, I COULDN'T RELY ON ANYONE, I WAS A WORKAHOLIC AND WHEN THE CRIMSON GODDESS APPEARED BEFORE ME...

MY DREAM IS TO HAVE THE CRIMSON GODDESS STAGED BY DAITO ART PRODUCTION..

AT THAT TIME THE CRIMSON GODDESS WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF BEAUTY AND LOVE FOR ME...

...I'D NEVER EXPERIENCED SUCH AN EMOTION...



I WANTED TO SOMEHOW BE TIED TO THE CRIMSON GODDESS...

...THAT'S WHY I FOUNDED DAITO ART PRODUCTION.

SINCE I OWNED A TRANSPORT COMPANY I WENT EVERYWHERE THE CRIMSON GODDESS WAS BEING STAGED.

I AMAZED MYSELF BY HOW OFTEN I WENT TO THE THEATRE.



I WAS OBSESSED WITH THIS THOUGHT.

IF I HAD OBTAINED THE CRIMSON GODDESS I COULD ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH FIRST CLASS PEOPLE!

EVEN THINGS WHICH WERE RATHER RISKY.

I DID EVERYTHING I COULD SO I WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THIS WORLD.

IN THE SHOWBIZ I WAS JUST A NEWCOMER AND THAT'S WHY I WAS HATED, UNJUSTLY ACCUSED AND THE COMPETITION TRIED EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO GET IN MY WAY.


I EVEN USED MY INFLUENCE.

THE CRIMSON GODDESS WAS A MASTERPIECE OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

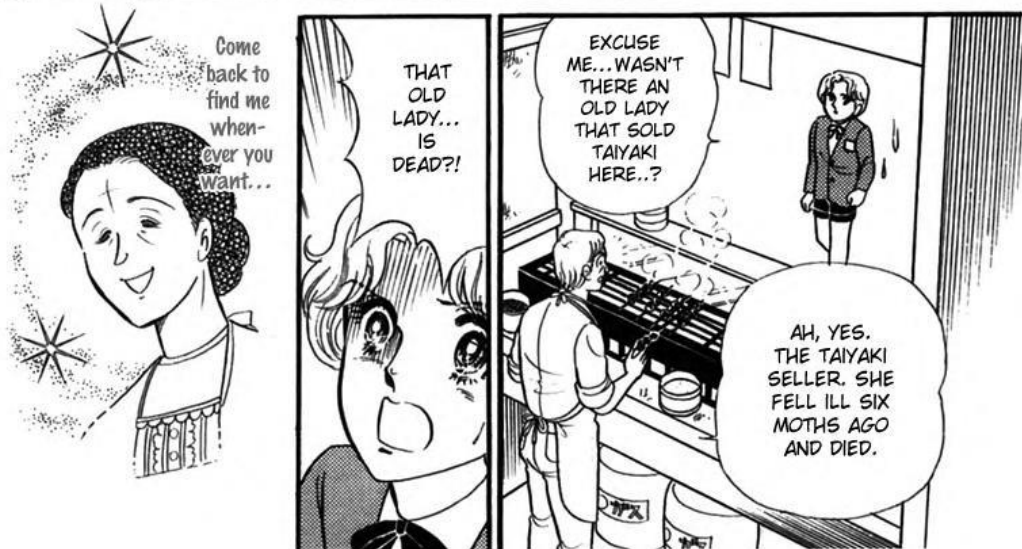


... was Chigusa Tsukikage, the Crimson Goddess...

The only person that filled the thought of my father, which was a person that used to manipulate people as he pleased,



Although he desired it, my father could not revive the dream of the stage that he loved so much.





So I never returned to that stall again...



Auntie...

I will never be able to taste your taiyaki again...

I will never taste that flavour...



THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS YOU BROUGHT ME TODAY...

...SHIORI-SAN.



WHEN MY FATHER PHONED ME, I WAS SURPRISED.

AND NOW YOU INVITED ME HERE JUST TO THANK ME BECAUSE YOUR FATHER SAID SO?



DON'T LIE! TO COME TO SUCH A PLACE JUST FOR BUSINESS....

YES, FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS.

Ha Ha Ha
I WAS HOPING, I WOULDN'T BE DISCOVERED.



...HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE WITH SOMEONE ELSE?

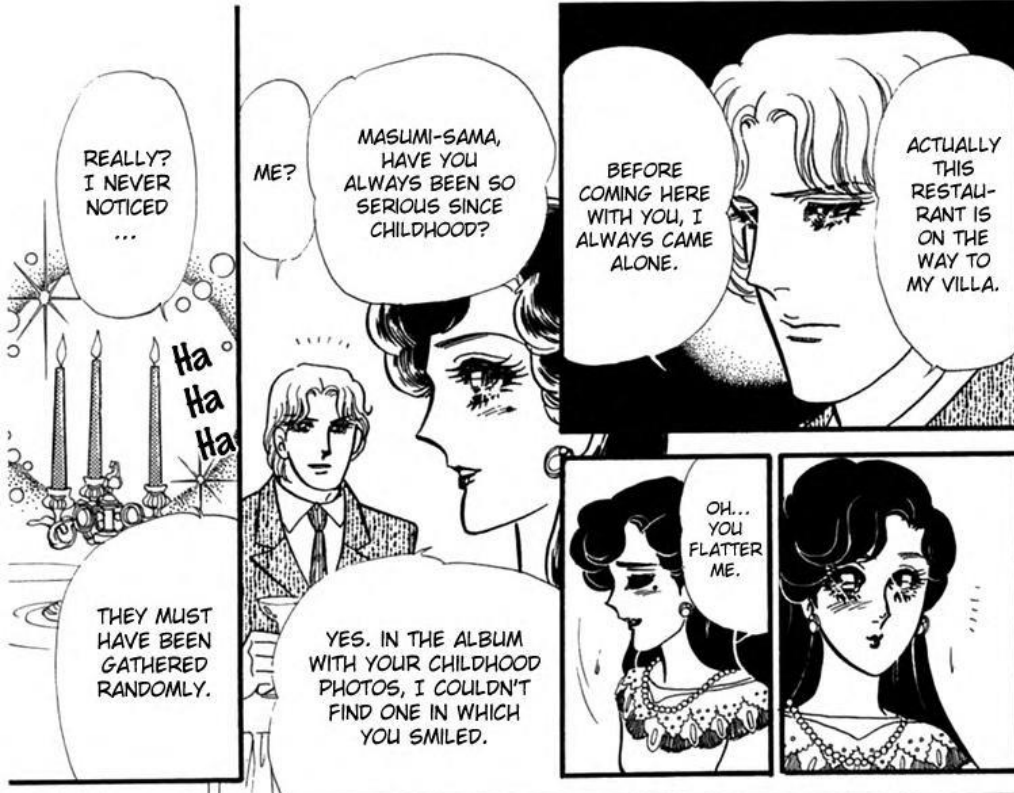
THIS RESTAURANT IS GREAT...



I AM JUST GLAD, I WAS WRONG!

DO I LOOK LIKE I AM SUCH AN INSENSITIVE PERSON?

She hit the bull's-eye ...





WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'VE TAKEN A WRONG TURN!



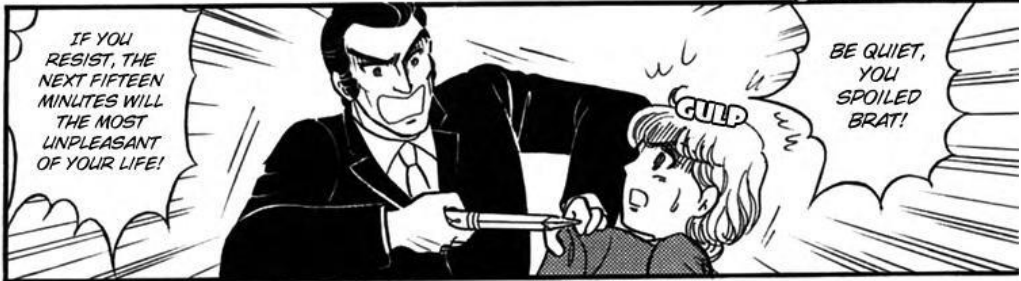
It wasn't the usual car.

After school ended, I found a car from the company waiting for me.

I WAS SENT TO COME AND GET YOU.



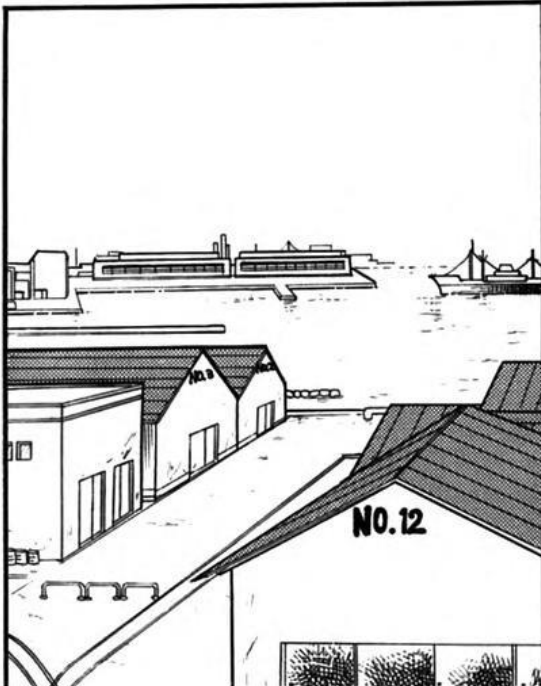
I was ten and autumn was setting in...



IF YOU RESIST, THE NEXT FIFTEEN MINUTES WILL BE THE MOST UNPLEASANT OF YOUR LIFE!

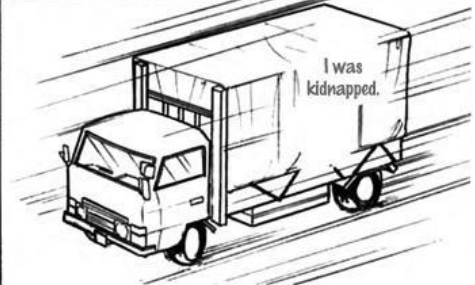
GULP

BE QUIET, YOU SPOILED BRAT!



I was moved to the back of a truck somewhere on the road.

HURRY UP AND LET'S BRING HIM IN!



I was kidnapped.



How they've come to know that, I do not know.

From what the delinquents were talking among themselves I found out that my father had given a large sum of money to secretly finance the election of a certain minister.

If that politician became prime minister, he promised some concessions to my father in his businesses.



HE DIDN'T STAY PUT FOR A MOMENT. HE'S A DIFFICULT BRAT.

BE PATIENT. UNTIL WE HAVE THE REWARD, HE IS A PRECIOUS HOSTAGE FOR US.



... THAT POLITICIAN WITH A BEARD.

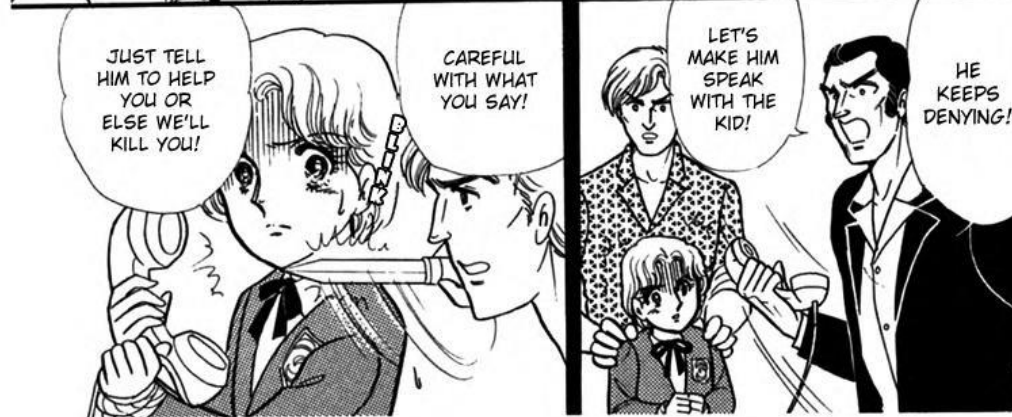
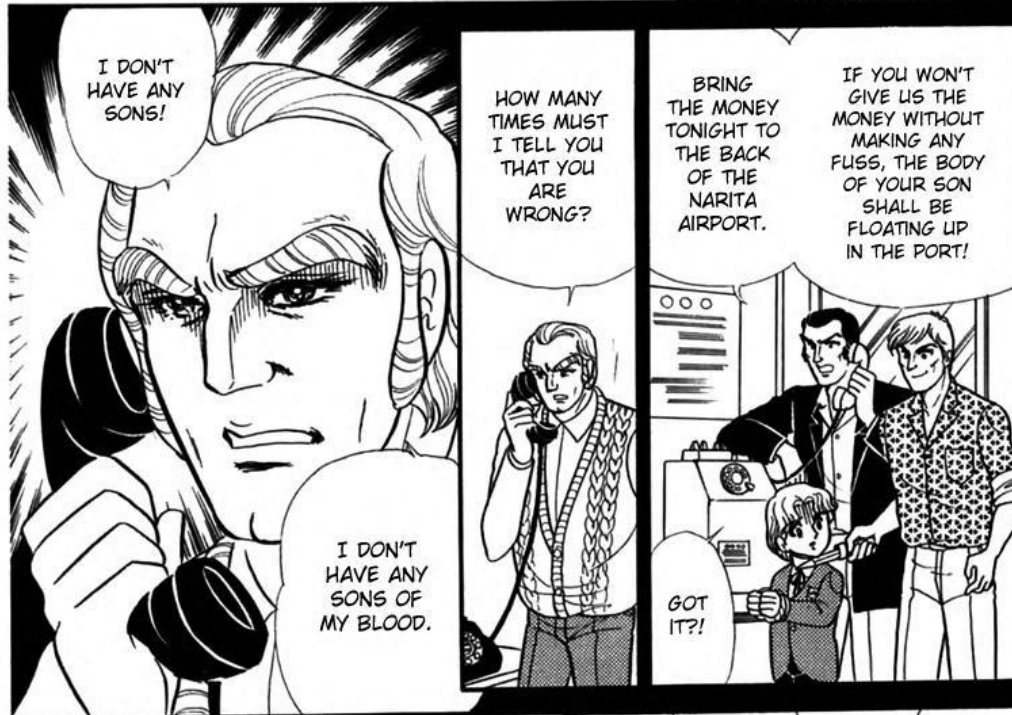
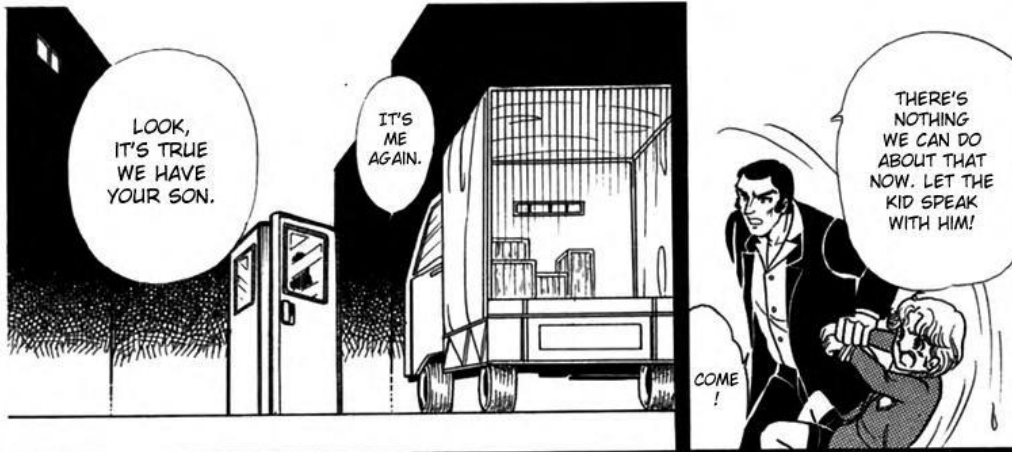
IF YOU CARE ABOUT HIM, YOU MUST GIVE US THE MONEY YOU'VE GATHERED TO SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER...



WE HAVE YOUR SON.

PRESIDENT HAYAMI?

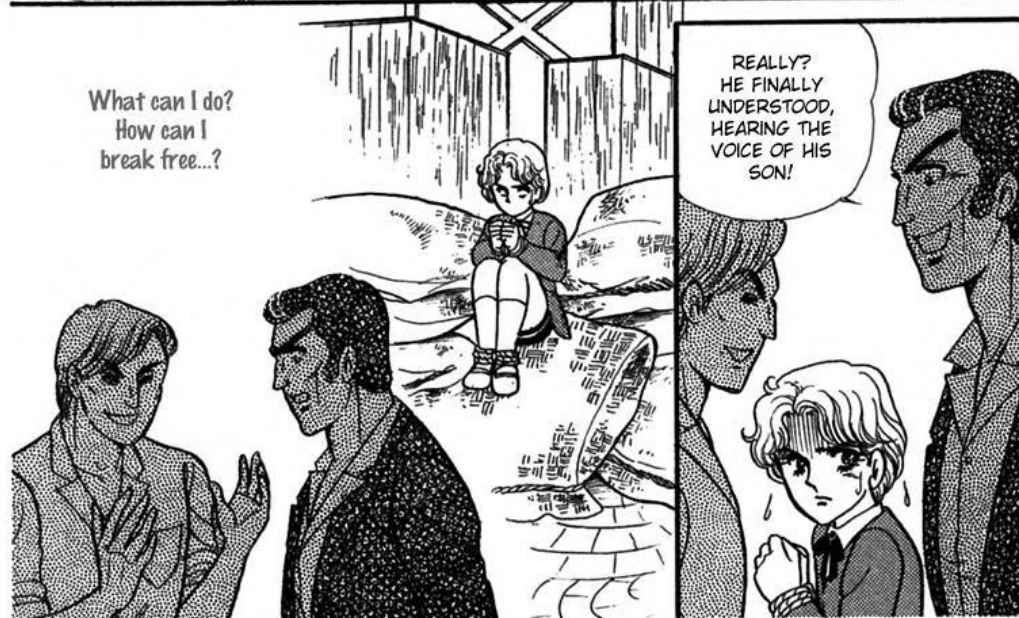














WAIT!

IT'S TIME,
LET'S GO.



They'll understand
that I lied and
they'll surely kill
me...

When they
see that my
father isn't
coming...

What
should I
do...?



I CAN'T
HOLD IT
ANYMORE!
I'M GOING
TO WET
MYSELF!

I HAVE
TO GO
PEE!

WHAT
IS IT
BRAT?



HA!



OKAY.

HEY!
TAKE HIM
OUTSIDE!

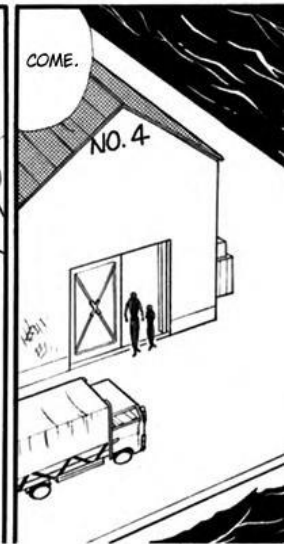
WHAT A
NUISANCE!



This is
the right
time!

HURRY UP!

COME.

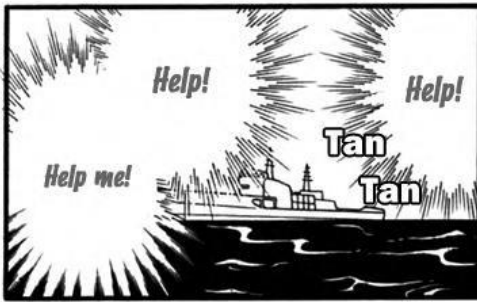


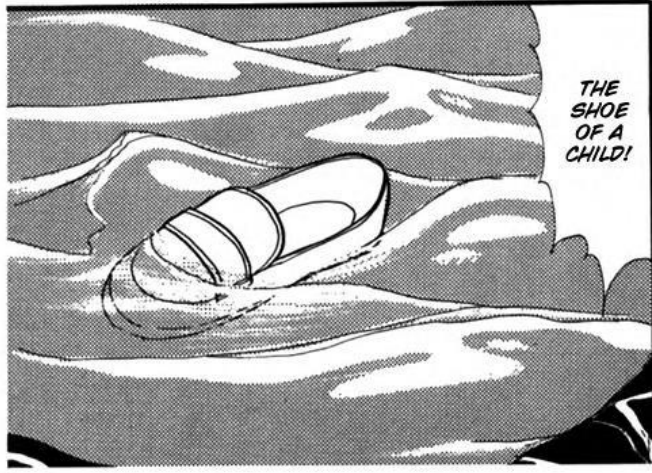
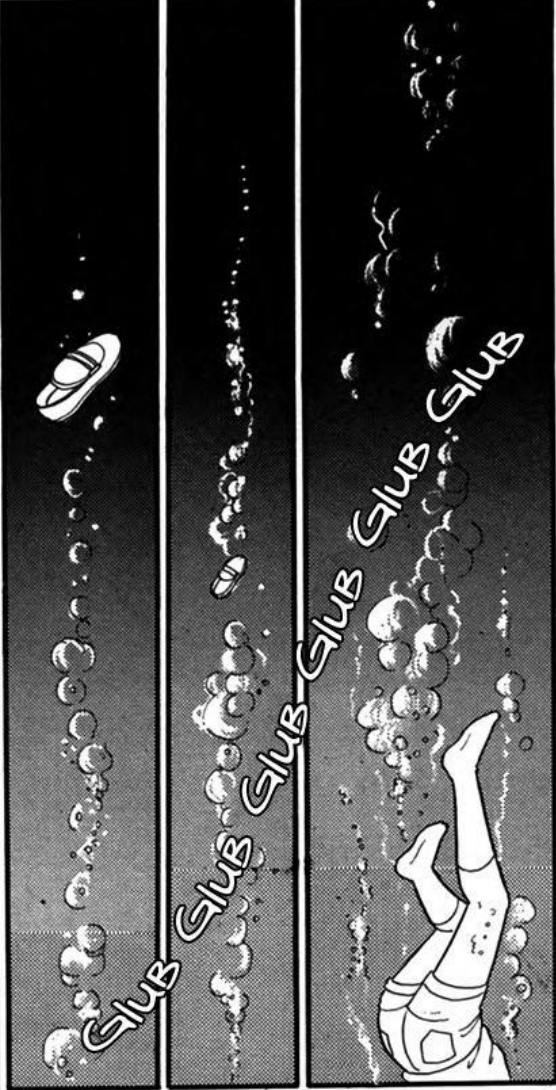
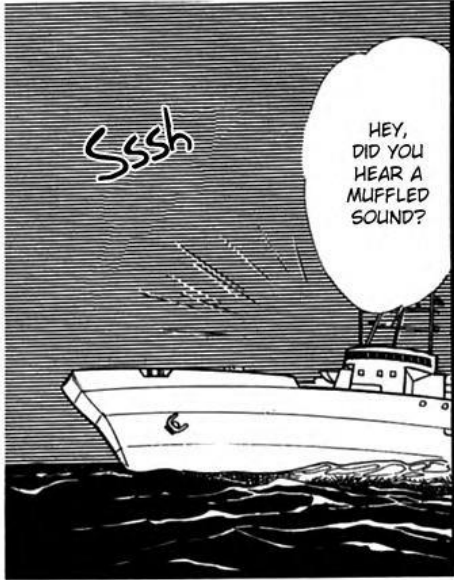
NO. 4

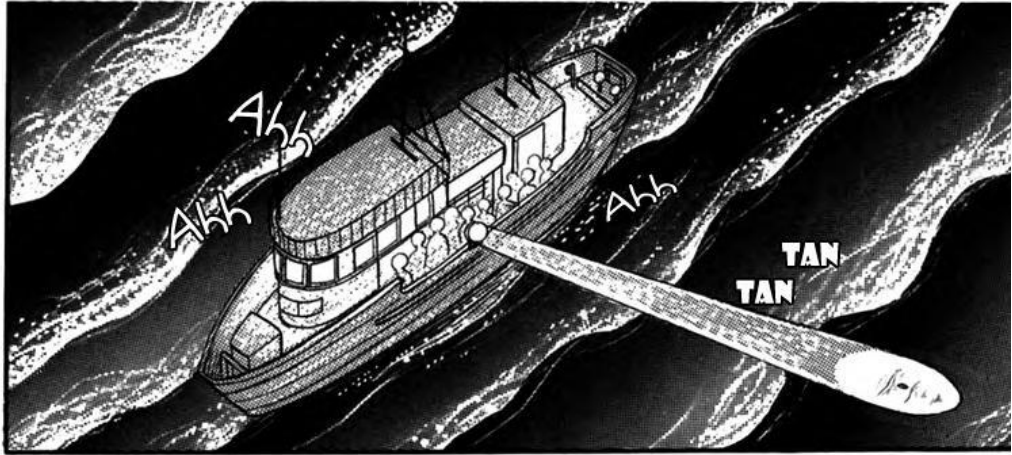












When I regained consciousness I was in a hospital bed.



I was saved by the coast patrol.



He didn't do it for me...

but to silence the ones that knew about the bribe.



I just remember my father made me describe the guy, I stabbed in the abdomen and the other one.

I don't know what happened with my kidnappers after that,

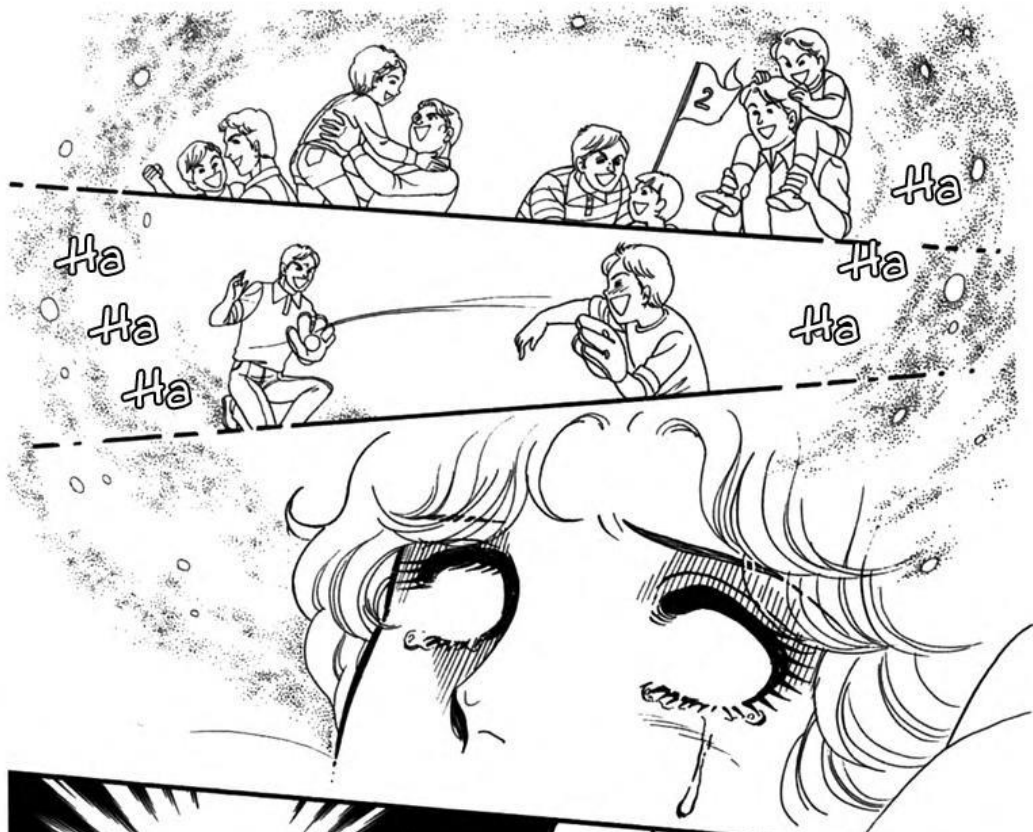
...that left them beaten to a pulp.

He searched for them with the help of ruthless mobsters...

He preferred the concessions he would have obtained thanks to the fund gathering for the electoral campaign...



My father had abandoned me.



When my father hung up, my heart died....

My life was tied by a thin thread that was that telephone wire...

Help me!

Shock





I will never love another person...

I won't love anymore...

I shall never let anyone else love me...

I died in the sea the day before...



I died...



What a cold expression...

How can a ten year old child have such an expression...?

It looks ice cold...

Some things were
carried out through
the flames.



My father
hadn't yet
returned from
work...



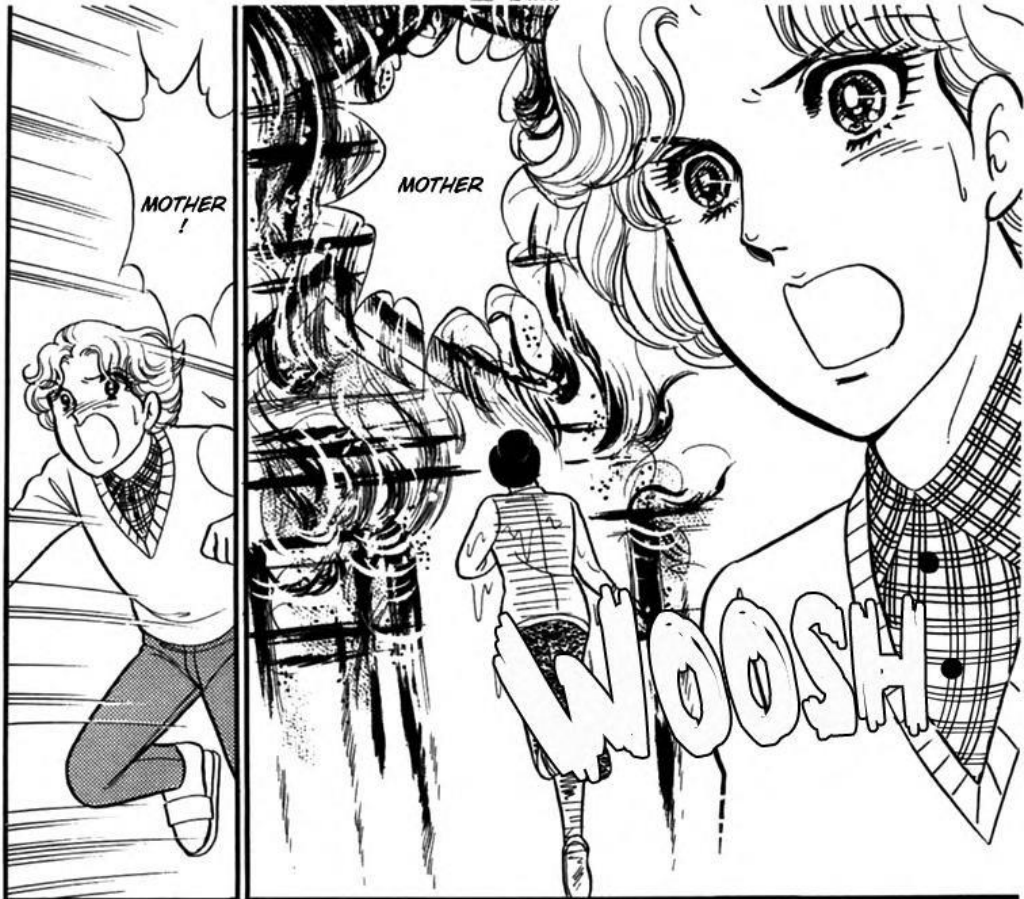
...our house
caught on fire.

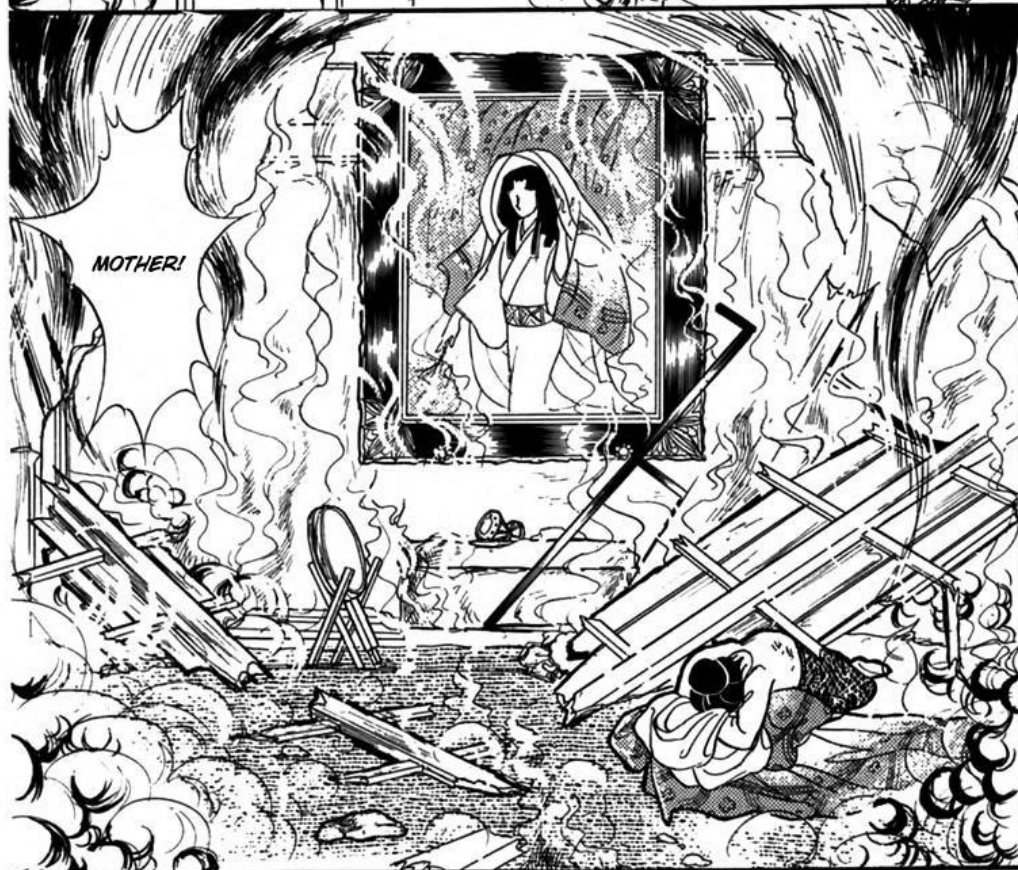
Then...

...when I
was in
second
year in
middle
school...











The Crimson Goddess...



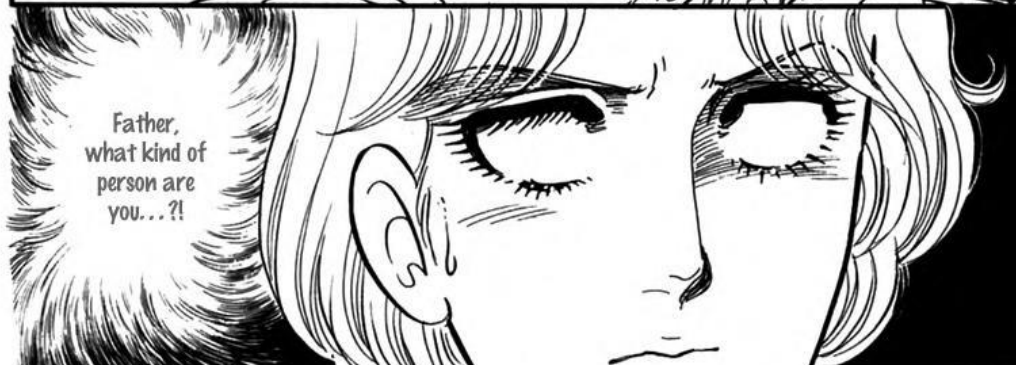
Crackle

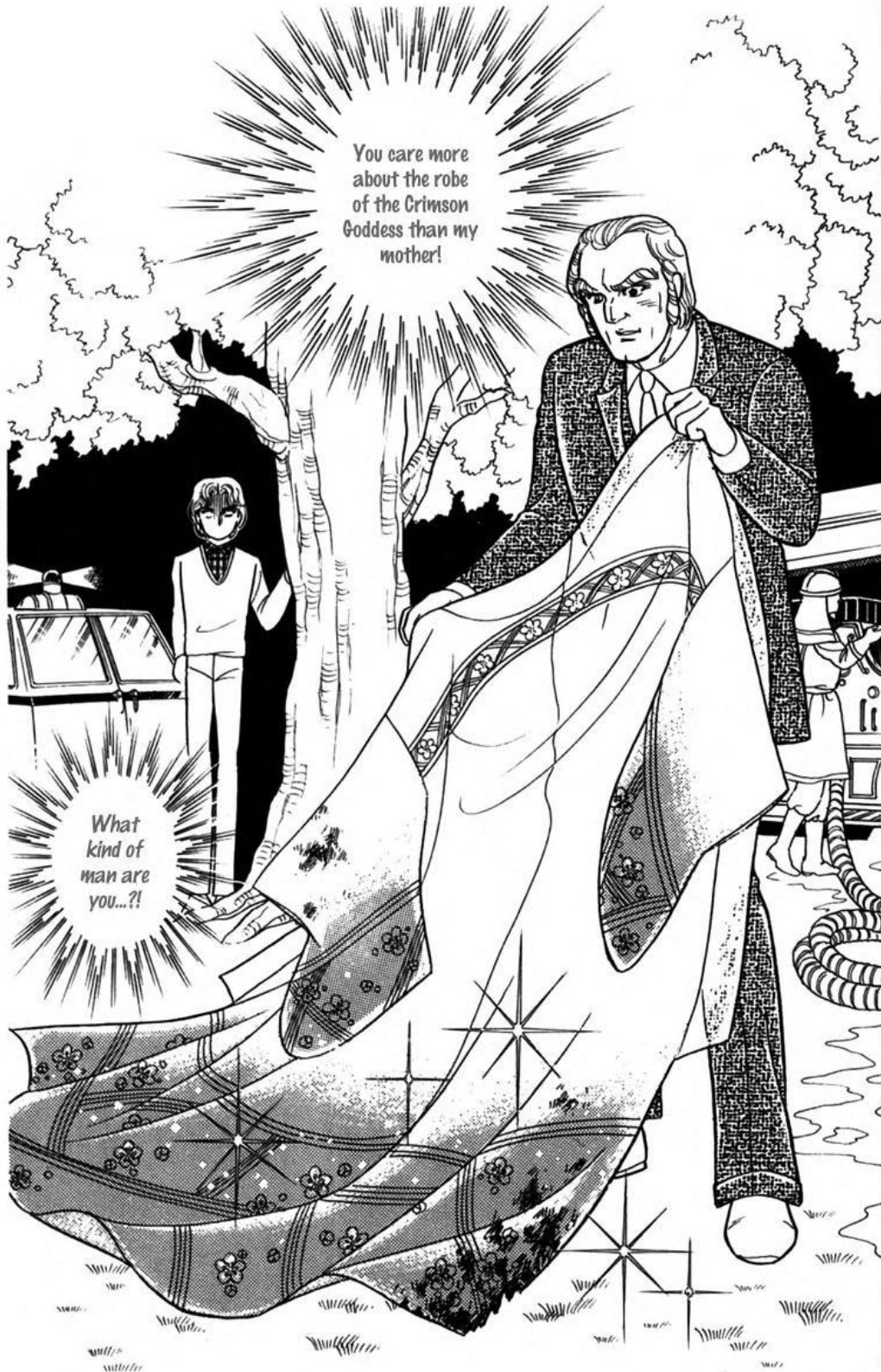
Crackle



That was the last time I saw the Crimson Goddess...

Crackle





You care more
about the robe
of the Crimson
Goddess than my
mother!

What
kind of
man are
you...?!