

HANA TO YUME COMICS

Glass Mask

SUZUE MIUCHI

25



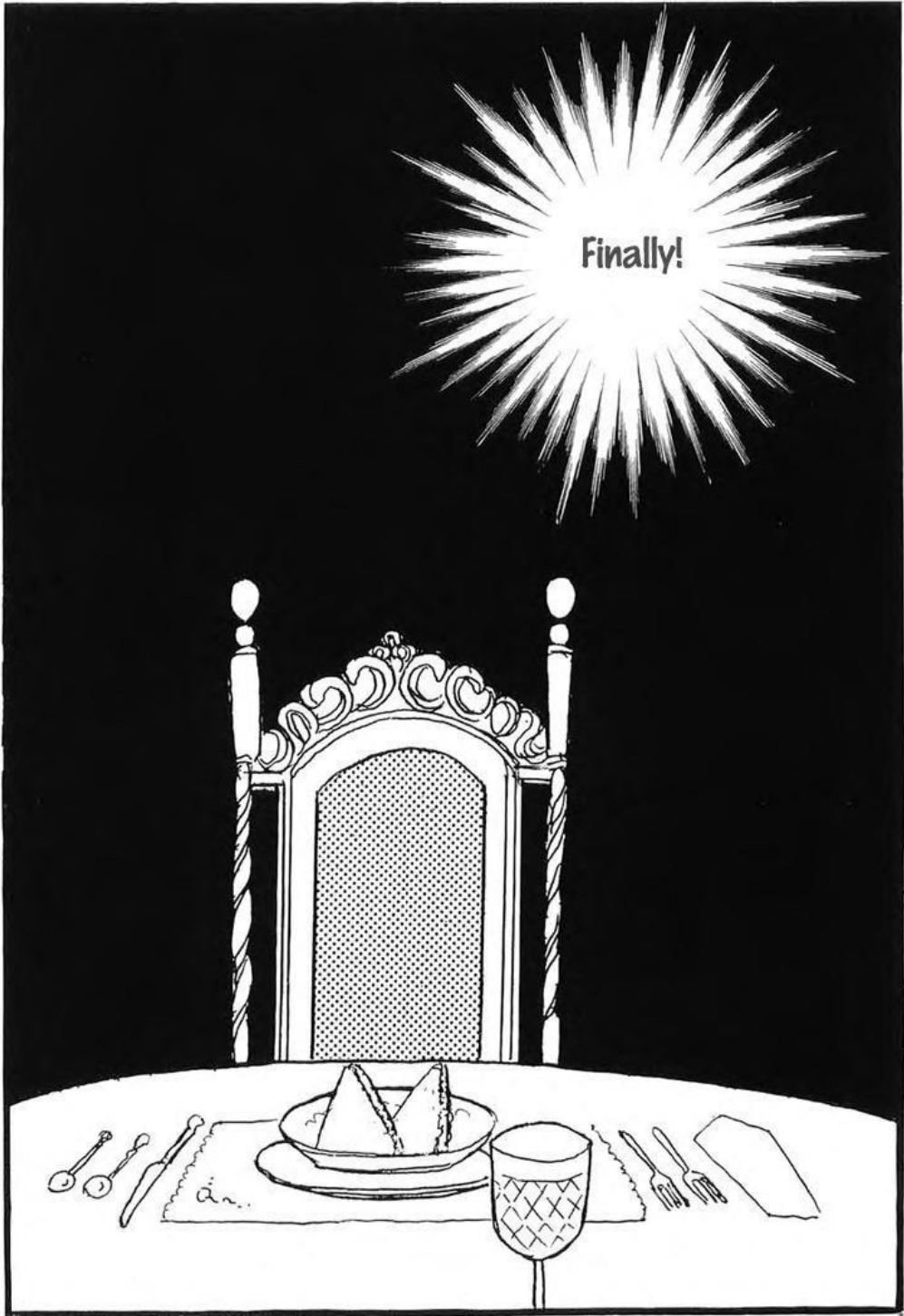
HANA TO YUME COMICS

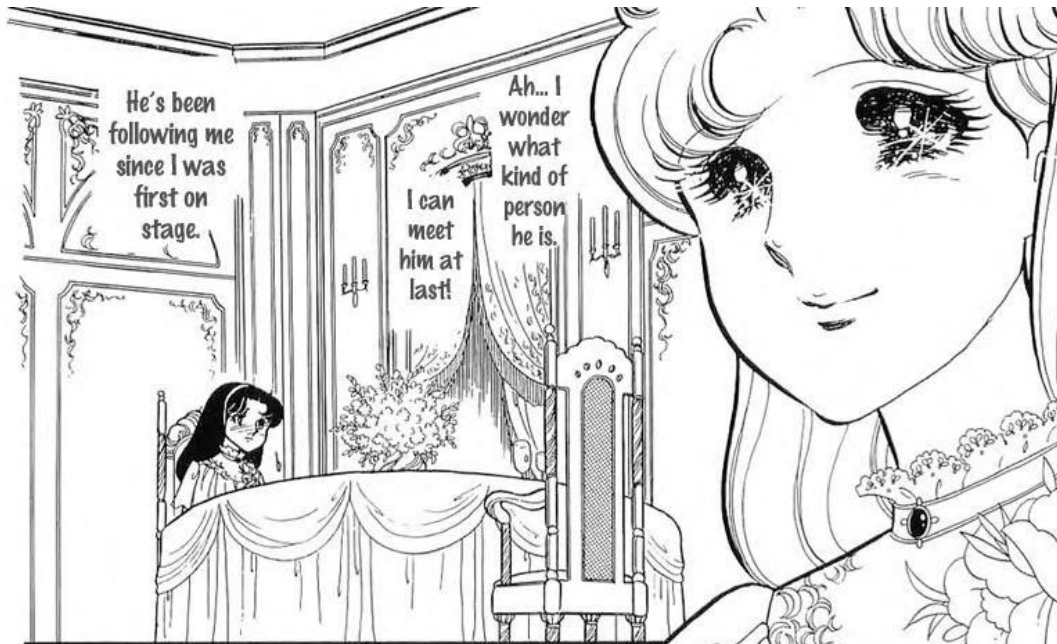
GLASS MASK

VOLUME 25 WINTER CONSTELLATION (3)

SUZUE MIUCHI







He's been following me since I was first on stage.

I can meet him at last!

Ah... I wonder what kind of person he is.



MAYBE HE'LL TELL ME I'M PRETTY IN THIS DRESS...

And now he's sent me so many gifts: gorgeous clothes like this, shoes, purses...

He always sends me purple roses to encourage me, wishing to remain anonymous...



What kind of man is he? A grey-haired gentleman?

He's hidden his identity from me for so long...

Aah... What will we talk about?

But now I can meet him!

He paid my tuition fees and let me use his villa to rehearse...



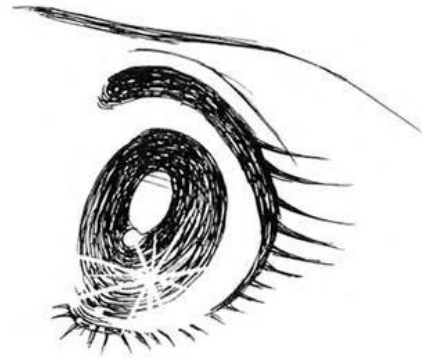
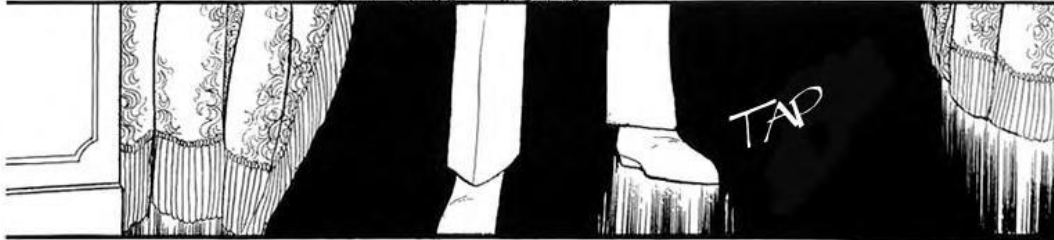
My daddy long legs...

The Purple Rose...

"Nice to meet you,
thank you for everything
you have done for me"
sounds weird...

EHM...

First of all I'll thank him for
everything he has done for me...
Ok, but I have to greet him first...
What should I tell him?





**MASUMI
HAYAMI!**





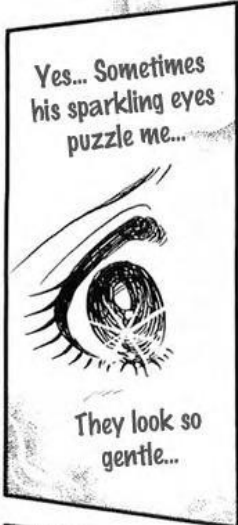
IT'S NOTHING ...

W-WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?!



YOU LOOK REALLY GOOD IN IT.

THAT PINK DRESS...



Yes... Sometimes his sparkling eyes puzzle me...

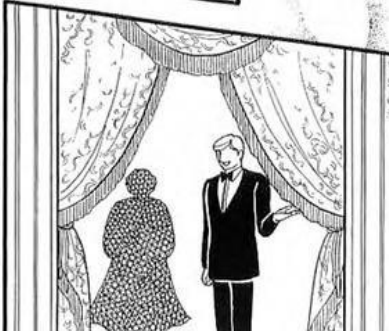
They look so gentle...



What is it? He's looking at me with such tenderness...

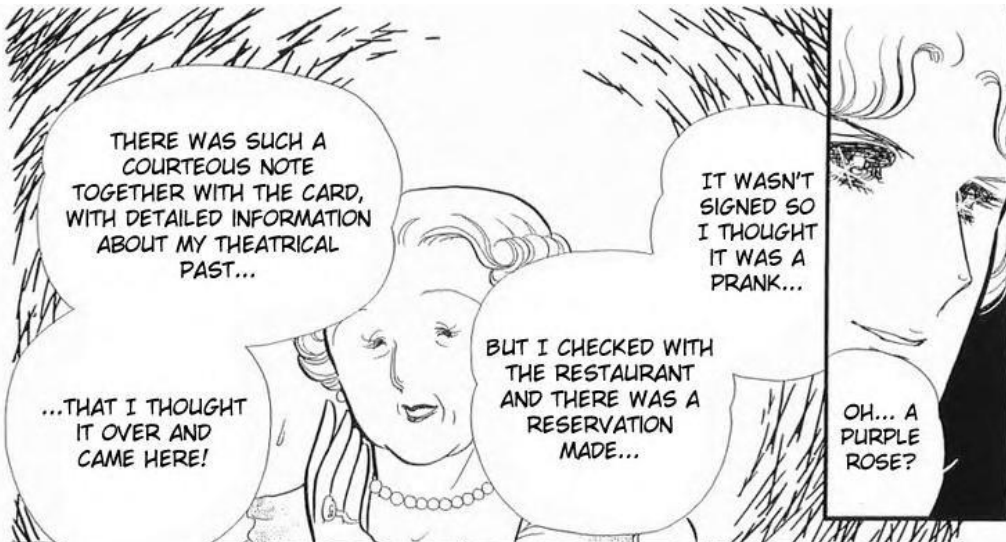


T-THANK YOU.



PLEASE, THIS WAY.





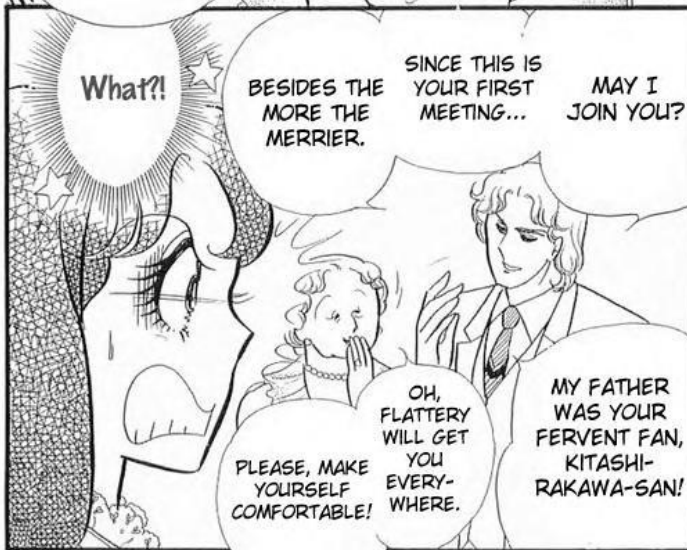
THERE WAS SUCH A COURTEOUS NOTE TOGETHER WITH THE CARD, WITH DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT MY THEATRICAL PAST...

IT WASN'T SIGNED SO I THOUGHT IT WAS A PRANK...

...THAT I THOUGHT IT OVER AND CAME HERE!

BUT I CHECKED WITH THE RESTAURANT AND THERE WAS A RESERVATION MADE...

OH... A PURPLE ROSE?



What?!

BESIDES THE MORE THE MERRIER.

SINCE THIS IS YOUR FIRST MEETING...

MAY I JOIN YOU?

PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!

OH, FLATTERY WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE.

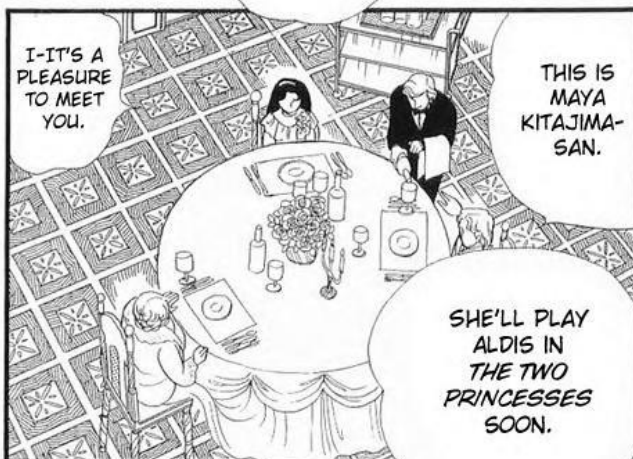
MY FATHER WAS YOUR FERVENT FAN, KITASHI-RAKAWA-SAN!



AH... I WAS ALSO INVITED HERE BY THE PURPLE ROSE!

OH!

THE PURPLE ROSE? WHO IS HE?



I-IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

THIS IS MAYA KITAJIMA-SAN.

SHE'LL PLAY ALDIS IN THE TWO PRINCESSES SOON.



YES, SIR.

BRING ANOTHER CHAIR, PLEASE.

What... He has a lot of nerve!

AH, I BETTER TELL MY COMPANIONS AT MY TABLE TO CONTINUE WITHOUT ME...



Then the Purple Rose...
...invited me here to meet
this person...

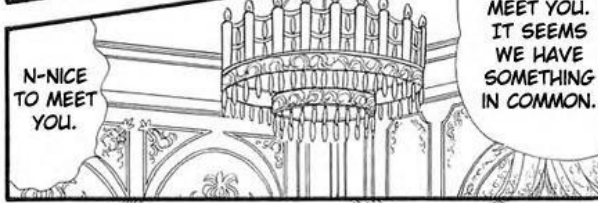
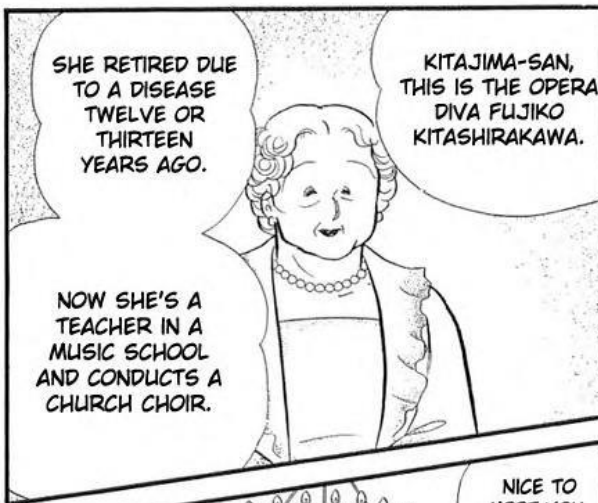
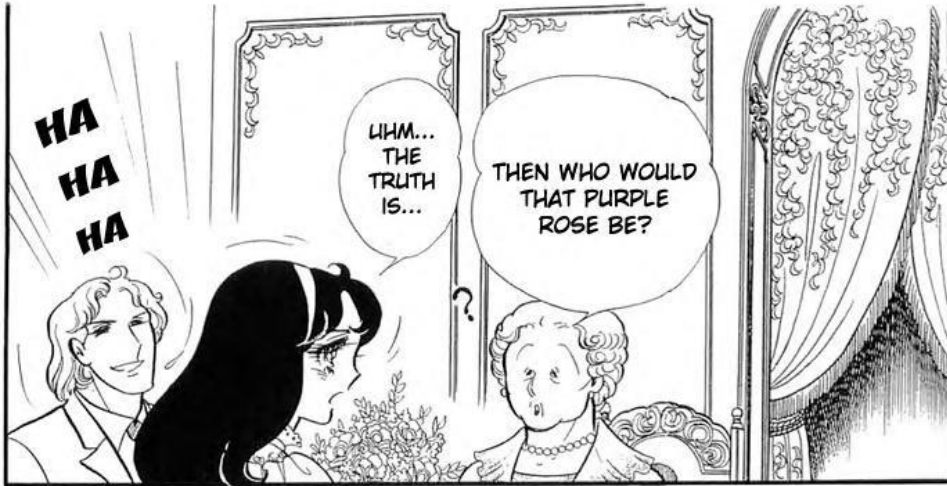


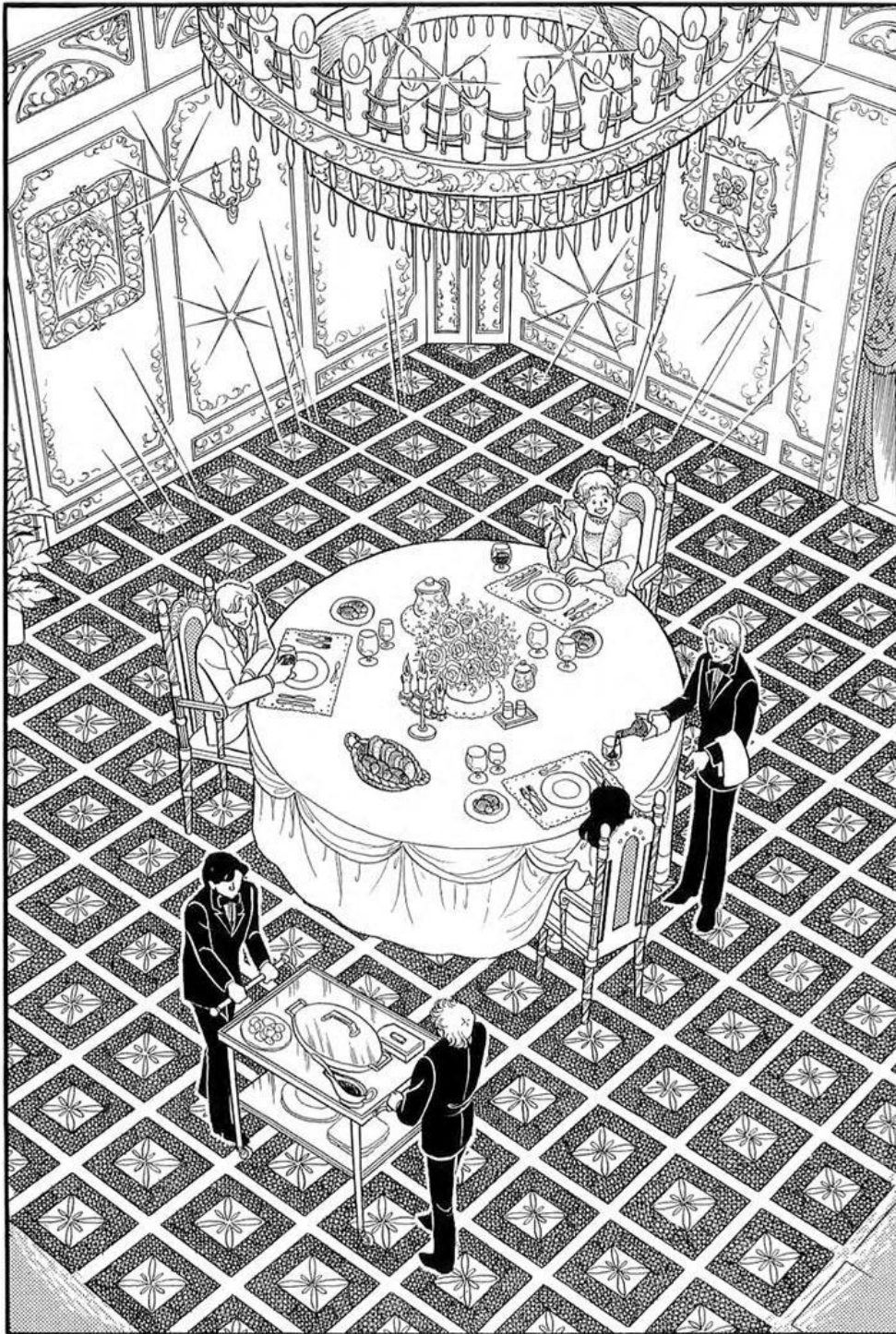
The Purple Rose...
He isn't coming...
It was too beautiful to be true...



The Purple Rose doesn't wish to meet you.
But of course, Maya. You already knew.

N-NO, IT'S NOTHING.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?







HO HO HO!
IT'S BEEN
MORE THAN
TWENTY YEARS
SINCE THEN.

I HEARD YOUR
ALDIS WAS REALLY
SUCCESSFUL AT
THAT TIME,
KITASHIRAKAWA-SAN.

OH, THANK
YOU!

AN ELEGANT,
NOBLE AND
WONDERFUL
PRINCESS.

MY
FATHER
TOLD
ME YOU
WERE



I LOVED
THE TWO
PRINCESSES.
THE TITLE OF THE
OPERA VERSION
WAS RED ROSE,
BLACK ROSE...

ALDIS WAS THE RED
ROSE AND ORIGELD
THE BLACK ONE.



Splendid,
beautiful, gentle
like an angel...
Princess Aldis...

I STILL
REMEMBER MY
ARIA FROM THE
THIRD ACT!

This lady
played
Aldis...

Polished,
elegant,
loved by
everyone...

Princess
Aldis...



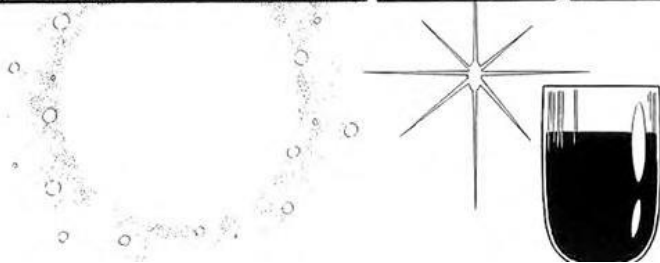
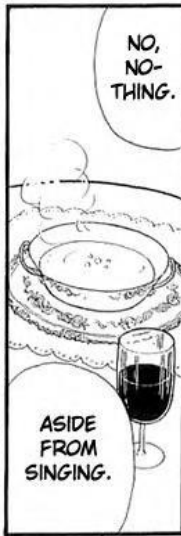
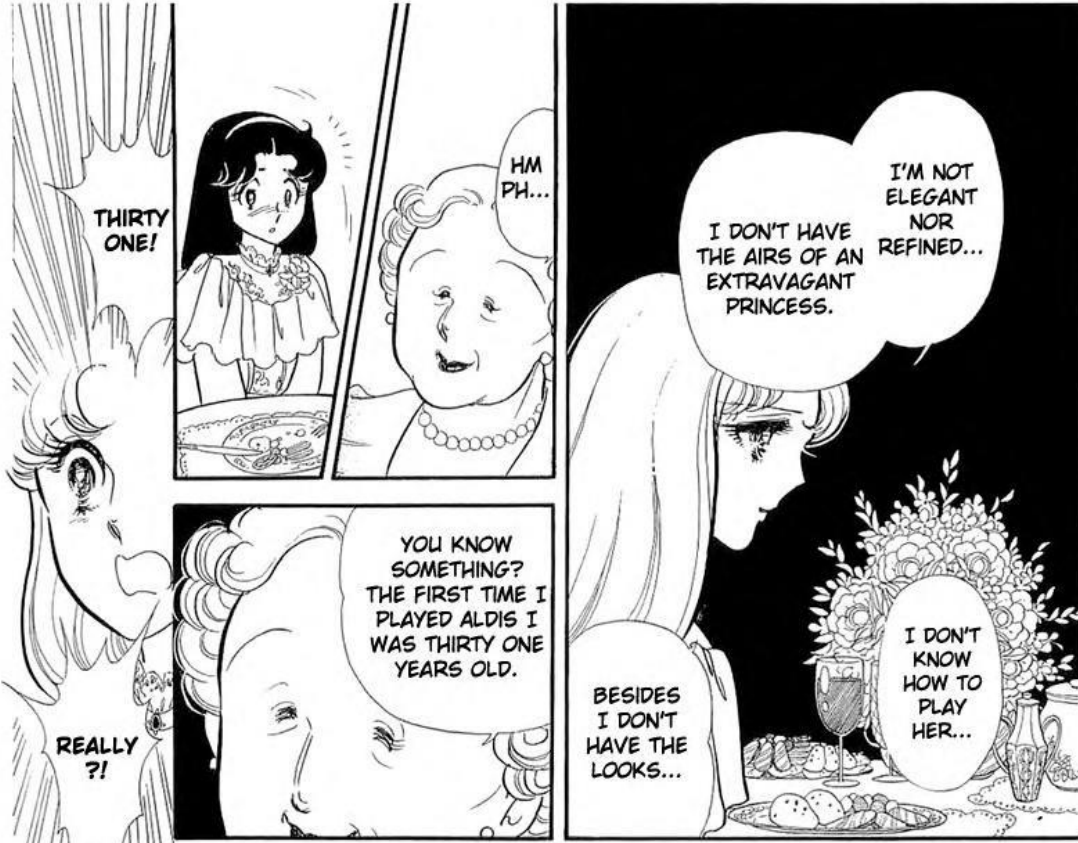
I... I HAVE
NO CONFIDENCE IN
MYSELF...

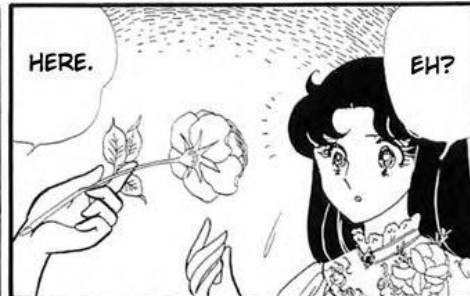
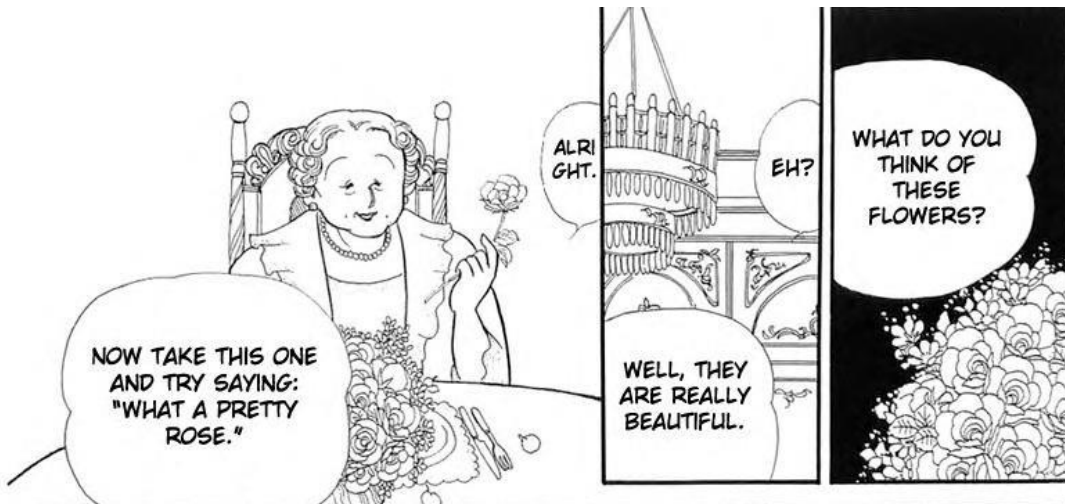
...BECAUSE ALDIS
IS THE EXACT
OPPOSITE OF ME.

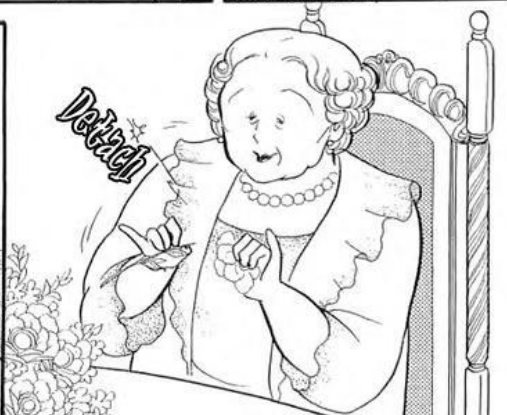


AH!
NO...

WHAT'S WITH
YOU? DOES
YOUR HEART
FEEL HEAVY?









As if I were onstage...



WHAT A PRETTY ROSE!



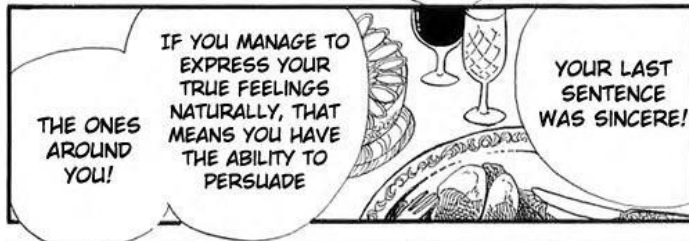
AH!

THAT'S ACTING!

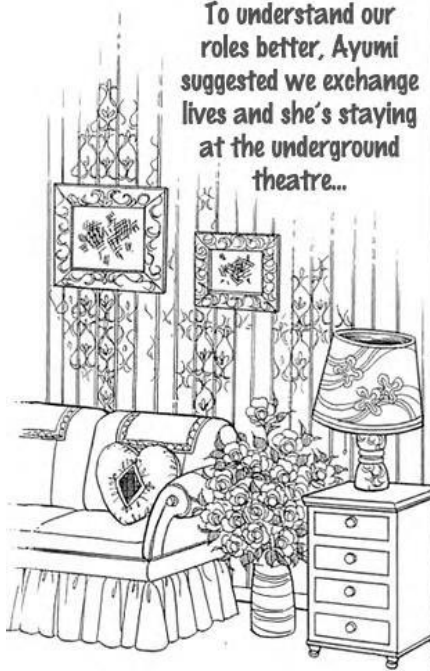
VERY GOOD!



Smile



To understand our roles better, Ayumi suggested we exchange lives and she's staying at the underground theatre...



Hime-kawa Residence.

Although I live at her house now...

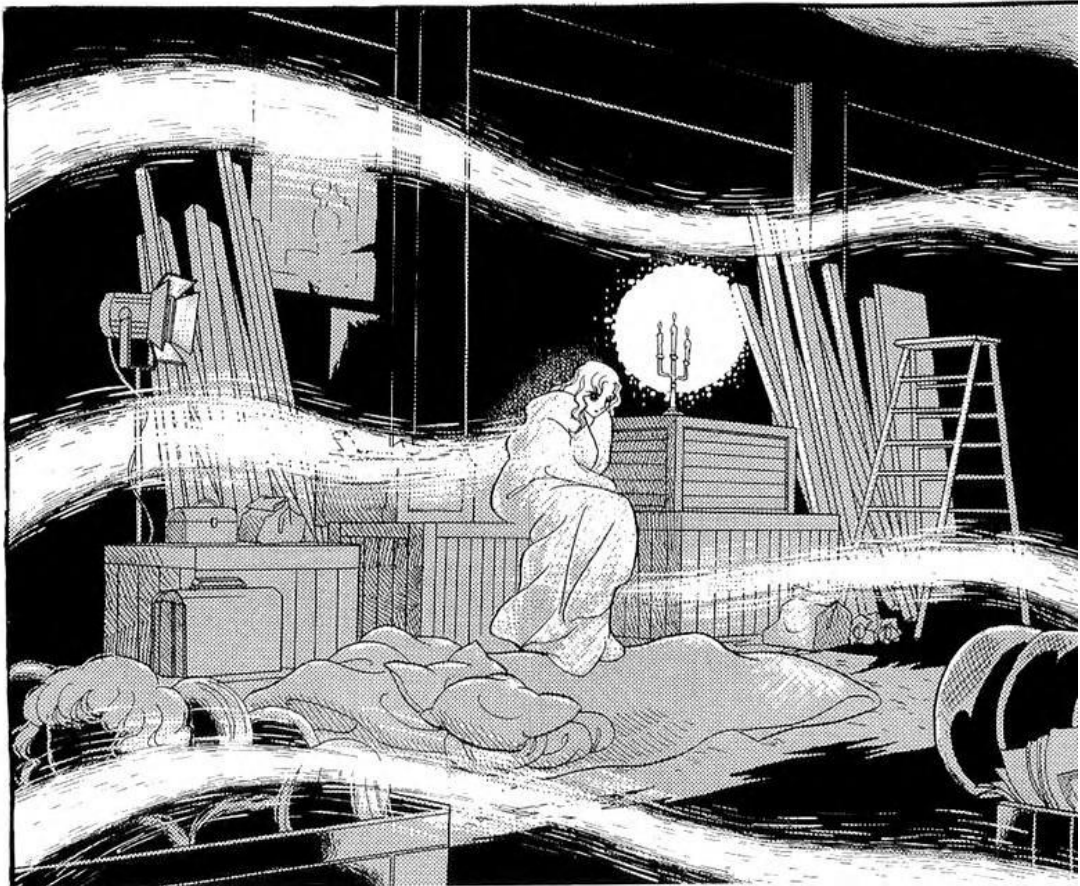


I haven't identified myself with Aldis at all.

IF YOU BEHAVE AS IF YOU HAD A PRINCESS' HEART, YOUR EVERY GESTURE WILL SHOW IT!



Behaving as if I had a princess' heart...





Maya...
My rival...

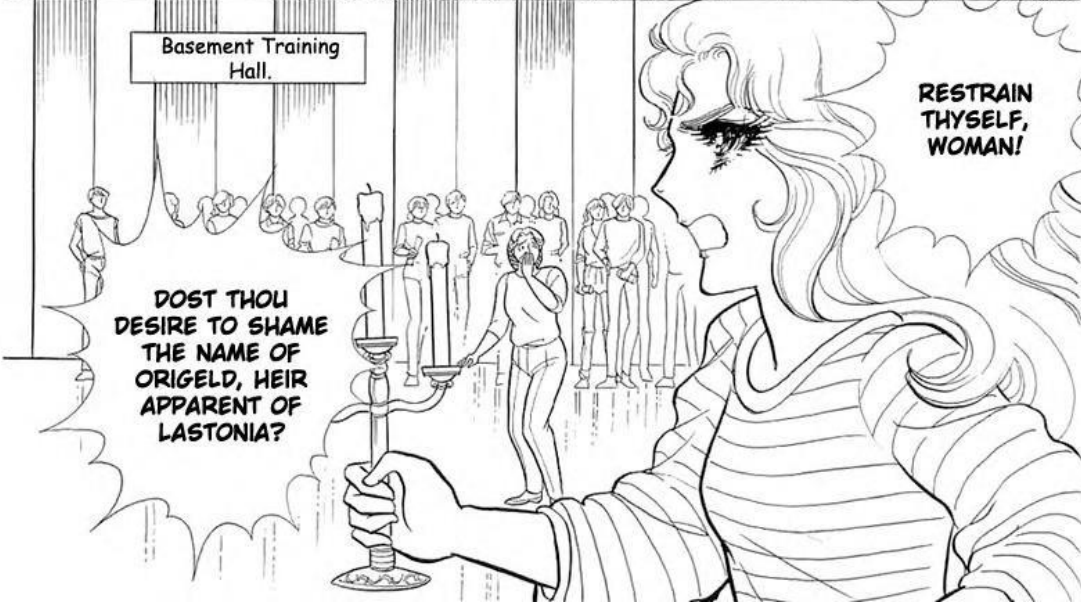
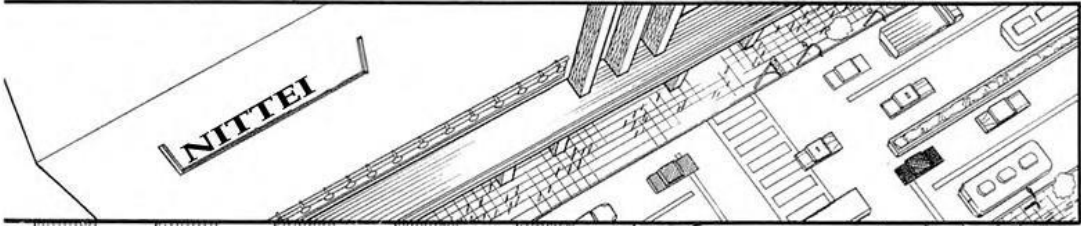
I'm cold...
Did Origeld drink hot tea?

...
This is the Nordic kingdom of Lastonia. My father, the king, imprisoned me.

I'm princess Origeld.

Have you already understood Aldis?

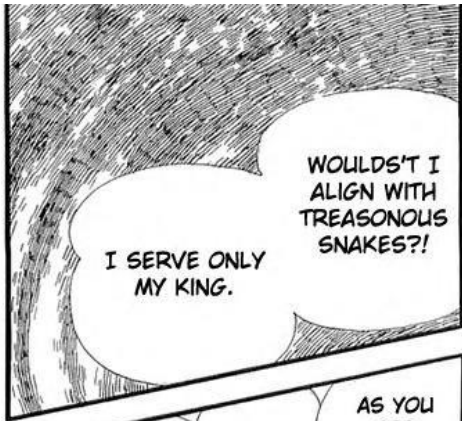
Pour
Something isn't right. I haven't grasped Origeld's personality yet...
Something...

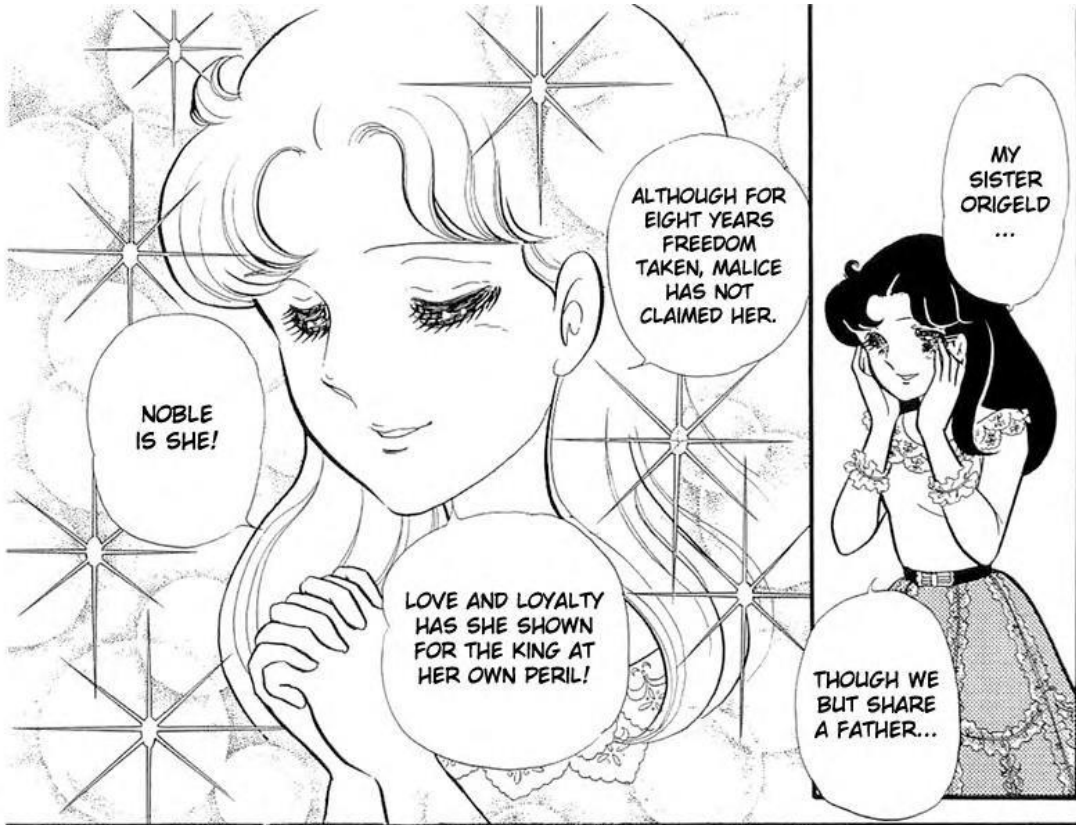


Basement Training Hall.

DOST THOU DESIRE TO SHAME THE NAME OF ORIGELD, HEIR APPARENT OF LASTONIA?

RESTRAIN THYSELF, WOMAN!





NOBLE IS SHE!

ALTHOUGH FOR EIGHT YEARS FREEDOM TAKEN, MALICE HAS NOT CLAIMED HER.

LOVE AND LOYALTY HAS SHE SHOWN FOR THE KING AT HER OWN PERIL!

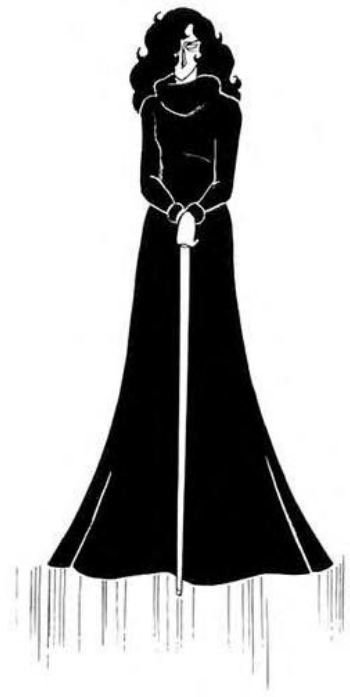
MY SISTER ORIGELD ...

THOUGH WE BUT SHARE A FATHER...



IS THERE OUGHT I MAY DO?

AAH! MUCH MALICE WILL SHE MEET.



AND LET US HOLD THIS CLOSE!
YOUR HIGHNESS...

WILL THOU HELP ME?

VIENNA...
LET US PONDER THIS ANON.



And the person she hates the most is...

Hate is the fuel to carry on her ambition...

Princess Origeld...

She doesn't love nor trust anyone...

...Aldis!

Her younger sister!

Aldis!



Gentle Aldis...



Aldis, who doesn't know hate...

Pretty and shining like spring's light...



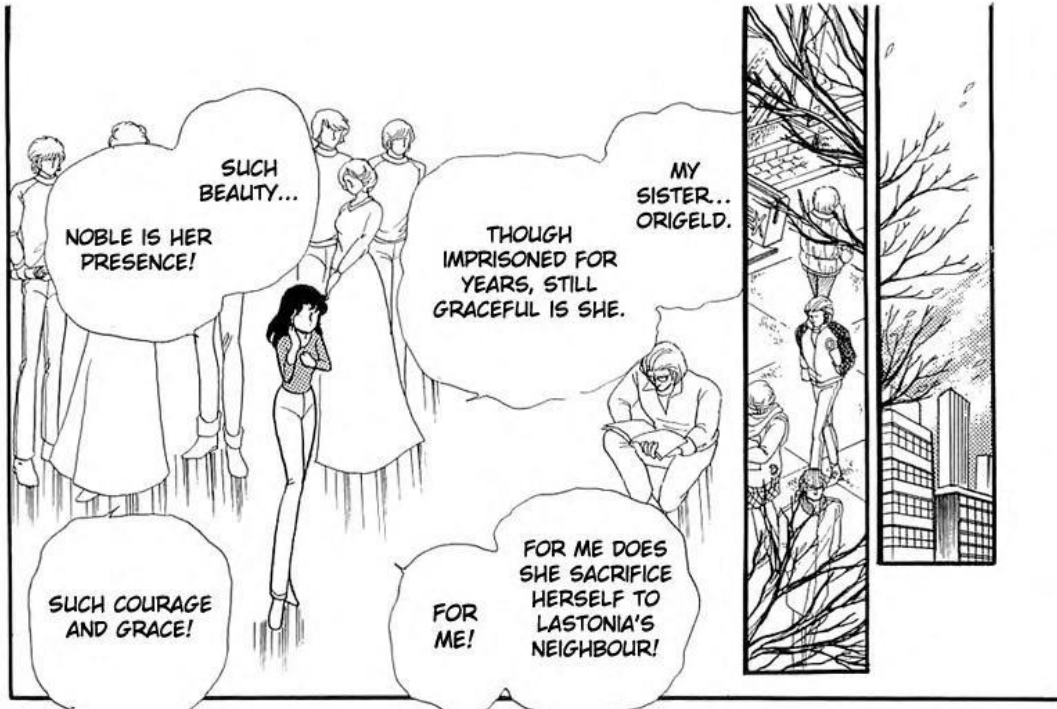
Aldis!



The princess who believes in God and people, she overflows with love...



Aldis who looks like an angel...



SUCH BEAUTY...
NOBLE IS HER PRESENCE!

MY SISTER... ORIGELD.
THOUGH IMPRISONED FOR YEARS, STILL GRACEFUL IS SHE.

SUCH COURAGE AND GRACE!

FOR ME DOES SHE SACRIFICE HERSELF TO LASTONIA'S NEIGHBOUR!
FOR ME!



THE WINTRY BLAST...

ECHOES THROUGH THE RECESSES OF MY THOUGHTS...

ENSHRINED IN ICE, MY PETRIFIED HEART IS IMPALED BY WINTER'S SWORD!



AHH, SHAMEFUL AM I...

FULL OF FEAR AND SADNESS WAS I WHEN I HEARD OF MY BETROTHAL. MANY TEARS DID I WEEP!



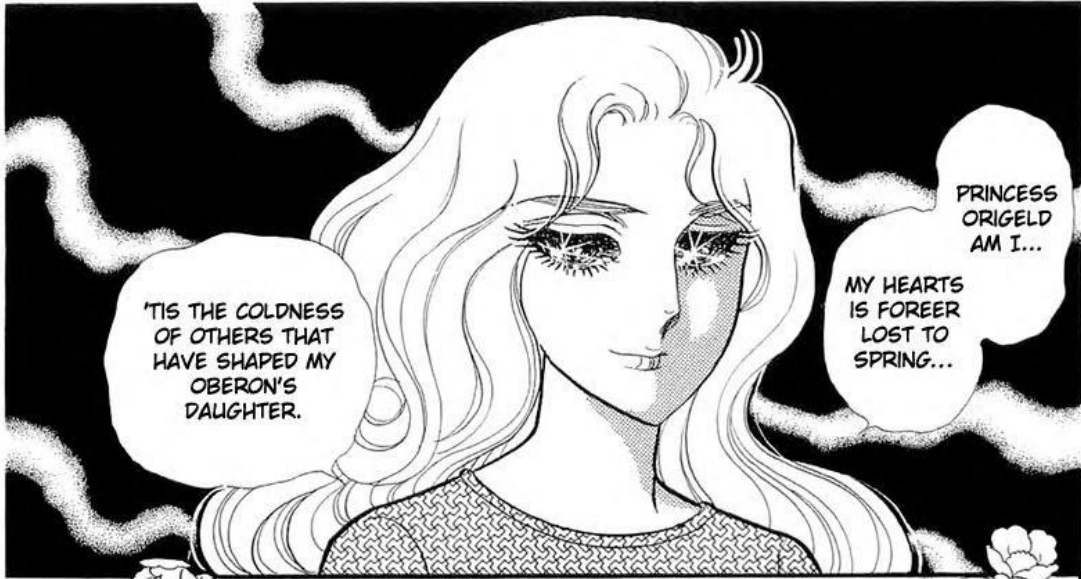
LASTONIA, MY HOME-LAND...

EACH HALF YEAR IN THE COLD EMBRACE OF THE FORCES OF WINTER...

SO COLD... THIS IS MY DEMISE...

COLD ...

HANDS, FEET, EVEN HAIR...



'TIS THE COLDNESS OF OTHERS THAT HAVE SHAPED MY OBERON'S DAUGHTER.

PRINCESS ORIGELD AM I...
MY HEARTS IS FOREER LOST TO SPRING...



MY HOME-LAND!

LAS-TONIA!



BUT A SMILE FROM PERSEPHONE YET...
MAKES WINTER'S AGGRESSION UNDONE!

EACH YEAR EMBRACED BY PRINCESS ALDIS AM I...
WINTER FOR SIX MONTHS...



HER SMILE I GIVE FREELY TO ALL!

THOUGH IN WINTER'S GRASP, MINE EYES ARE ALIGHT WITH SPRING...

SPRING GOD-DESS!

SHALL I BE AS THE DAUGHTER OF PERSEPHONE.

FOR ALL THOSE SUBJECT TO OBERON'S CURSE...

YOUR GARLANDS DOTH EMBRACE MY HEART...

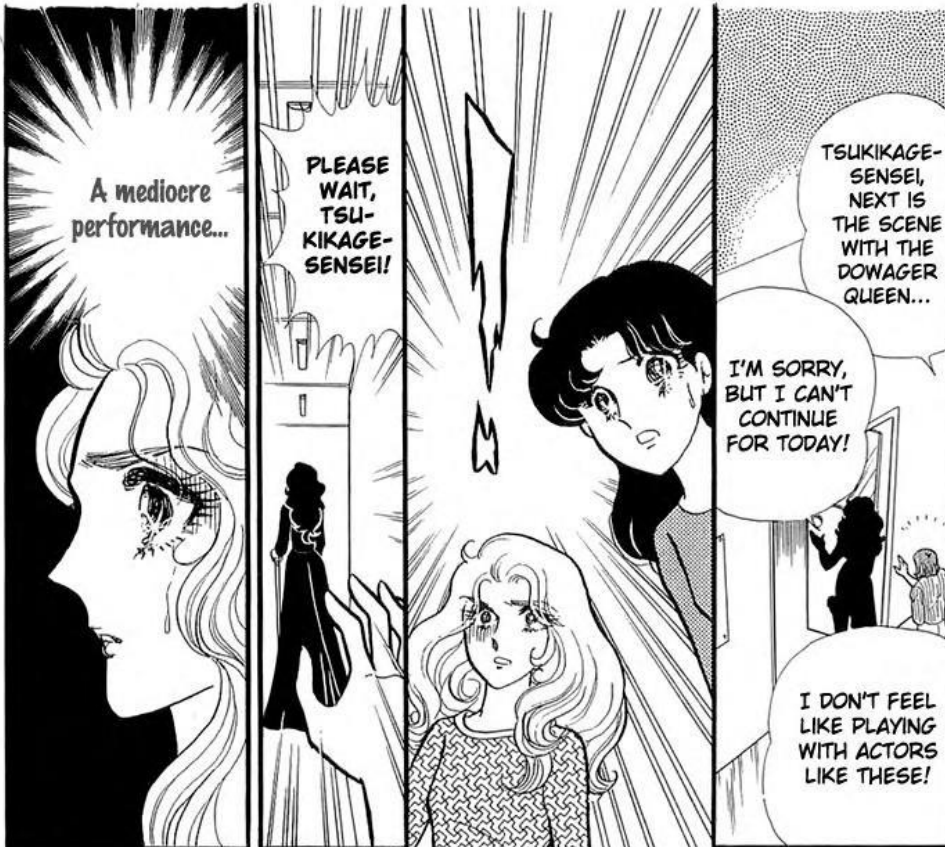
YOUR DAUGHTER AM I.

A SINGLE SMILE DOTH MELT HIS SWORD...



TACK





A mediocre performance...

PLEASE WAIT, TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI!

TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI, NEXT IS THE SCENE WITH THE DOWAGER QUEEN...

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T CONTINUE FOR TODAY!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING WITH ACTORS LIKE THESE!



I WONDER WHAT SHE DID WRONG...

TALKING LIKE THAT ABOUT AYUMI HIMEKAWA WHO WON THE ACADEMIC ARTS AWARD IS TOO MUCH!

I DON'T THINK THEY DID SO BADLY, BUT...

HEY, ISN'T SHE TOO SEVERE?



WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY PERFORMANCE?!

TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI!!

