

**Glass Mask**  
Volume 1 Chapter 4





NO WAY ...

MAYA ...  
THAT KID ...

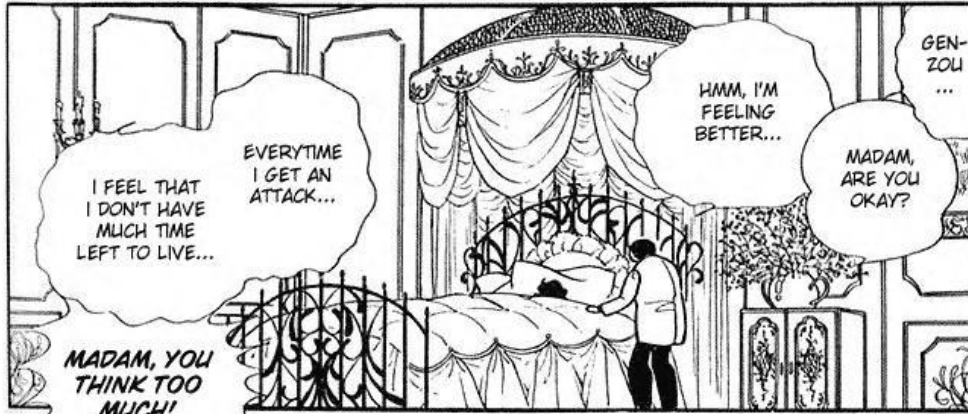


THE ACTING WAS THE BEST!

IF YOU WERE THERE, YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF HER!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BUT... BUT HER ROLE WAS THE UGLIEST, DUMBEST CHARACTER...



I FEEL THAT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT TO LIVE...

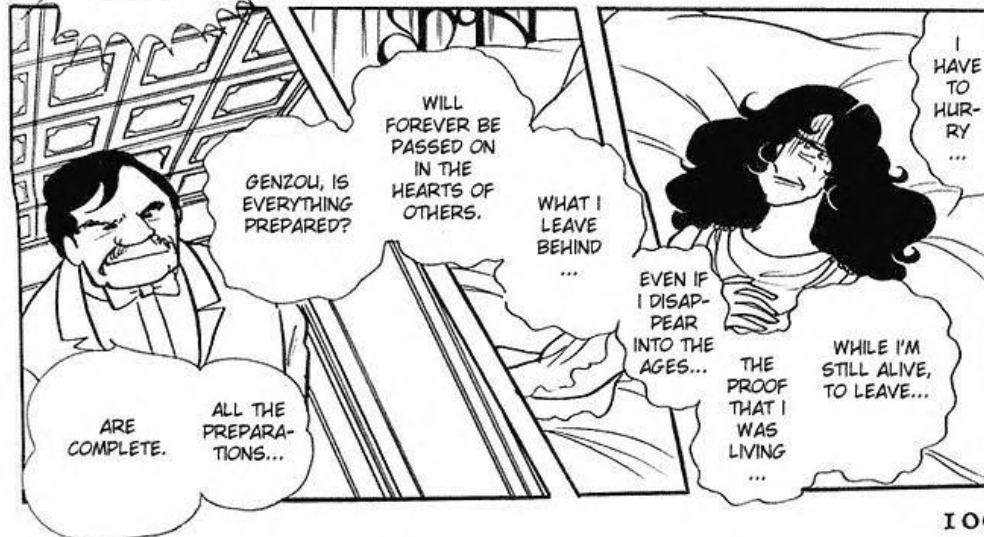
EVERYTIME I GET AN ATTACK...

MADAM, YOU THINK TOO MUCH!

HMM, I'M FEELING BETTER...

MADAM, ARE YOU OKAY?

GENZOU ...



ARE COMPLETE.

ALL THE PREPARATIONS...

GENZOU, IS EVERYTHING PREPARED?

WILL FOREVER BE PASSED ON IN THE HEARTS OF OTHERS.

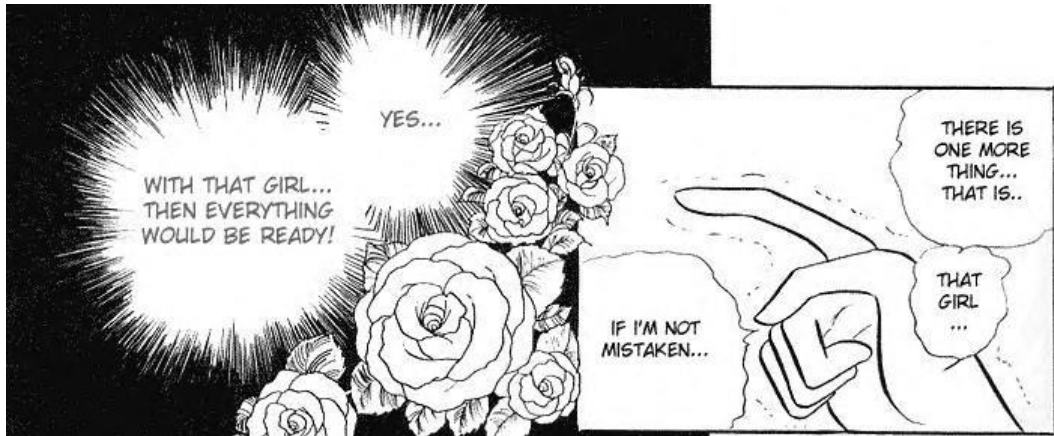
WHAT I LEAVE BEHIND ...

EVEN IF I DISAPPEAR INTO THE AGES...

THE PROOF THAT I WAS LIVING ...

WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE, TO LEAVE...

I HAVE TO HURRY ...



WITH THAT GIRL...  
THEN EVERYTHING  
WOULD BE READY!

YES...

IF I'M NOT  
MISTAKEN...

THERE IS  
ONE MORE  
THING...  
THAT IS..

THAT  
GIRL  
...



団  
LINDINE THEATER IS LOOKING  
FOR NEW CANDIDATES FOR  
TV, MOVIES, AND STAGE.  
CHILDREN'S SECTION 3-15.  
YOUTH 16-25. BOTH GENDER.  
VISIT OUR ACTING SCHOOL IN  
TOKYO

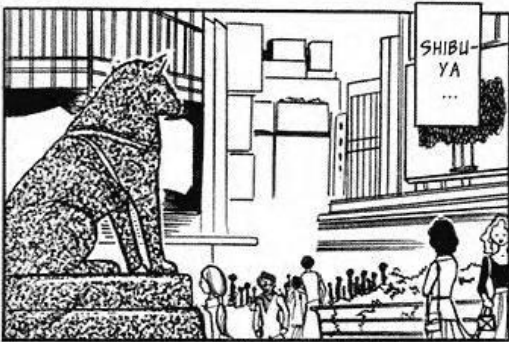
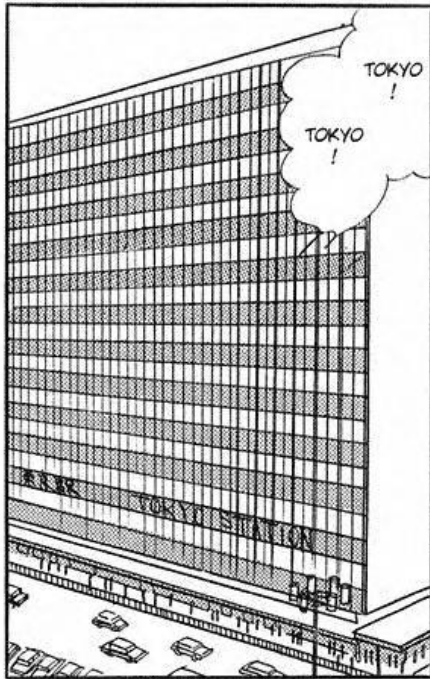
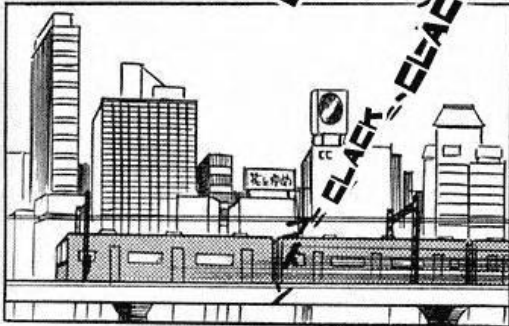
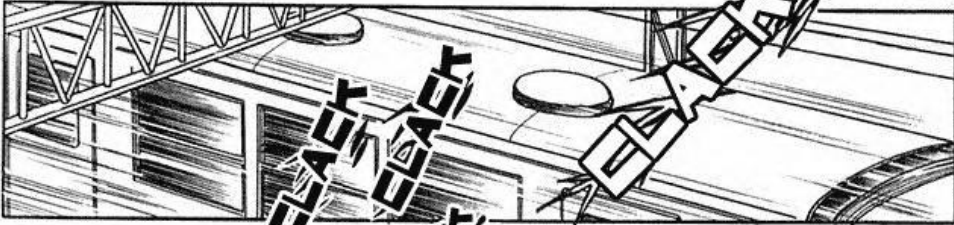


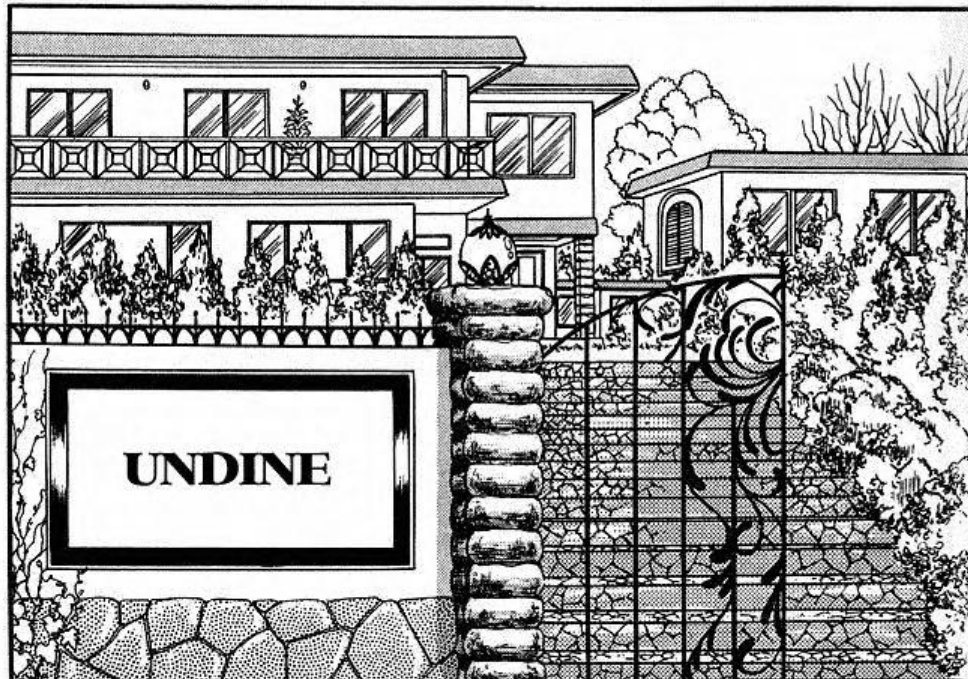
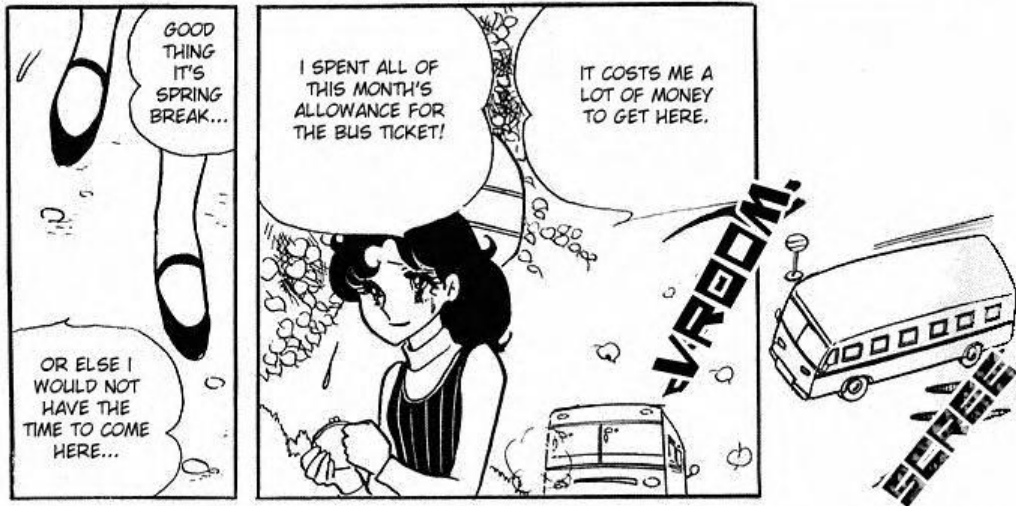
I REALLY  
WANT TO  
ACT!

I REALLY  
WANT TO  
ACT!

I REALLY  
WANT TO  
ACT!

I REALLY  
WANT TO  
ACT!  
AGAIN!





NOW THAT I'M HERE, IT SEEMS A BIT SCARY...

IT'S SO BIG... THIS PLACE ...



AH! THAT'S ...!





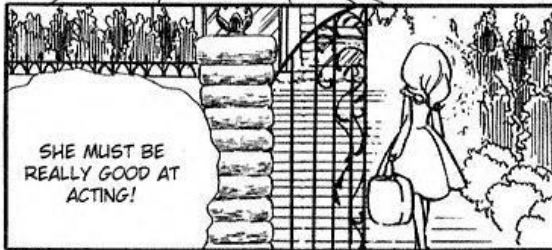
IS SHE IN THIS THEATER TOO?

THAT'S HIMEKAWA UTAKO'S DAUGHTER ...

SHE HAS A NATURAL TALENT FOR ACTING.



HIME-KAWA UTAKO!



SHE MUST BE REALLY GOOD AT ACTING!



HER MOTHER IS A WELL-KNOWN ACTRESS, AND HER FATHER IS A FAMOUS DIRECTOR ...



HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

I... WANT TO ACT... I CAME HERE AFTER I SAW THE AD.



I MIGHT AS WELL GO IN NOW THAT I'M HERE!



A TEST?



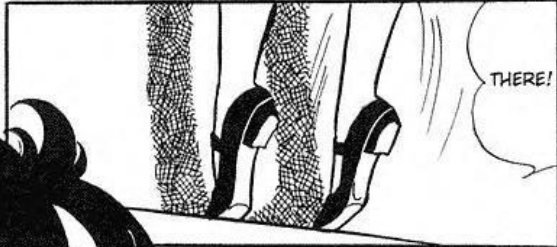
THEN GO TO THE TEST.

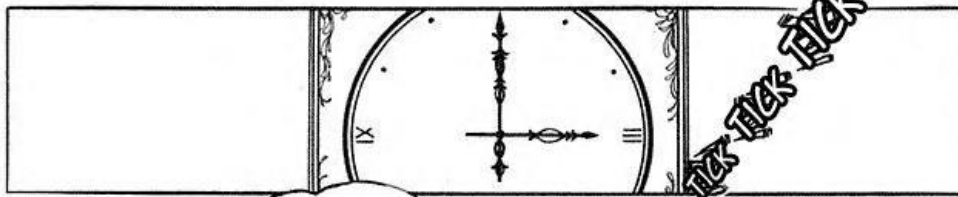
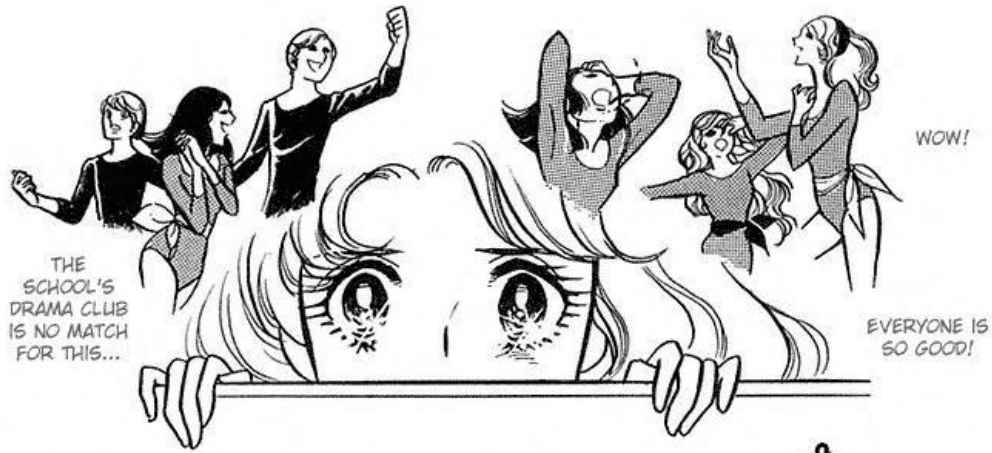


YOU WANT TO JOIN THE THEATER? PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENTRANCE APPLICATION WITH YOUR EXPERIENCES...













GET AWAY FROM THOSE DOGS!



AH!



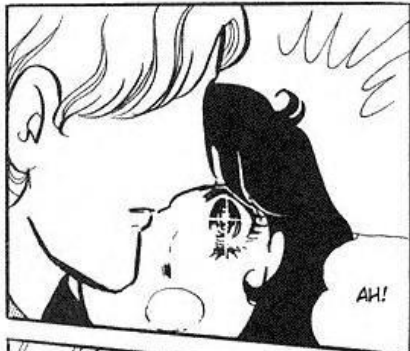
THUD

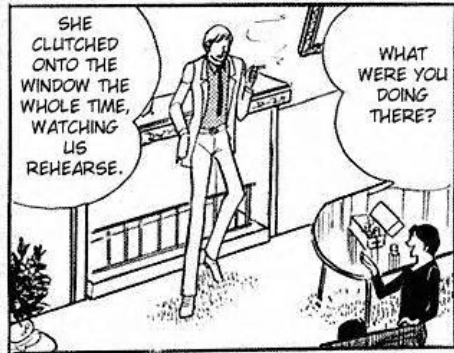


SAKU-RA-KOJIKI-KUN!

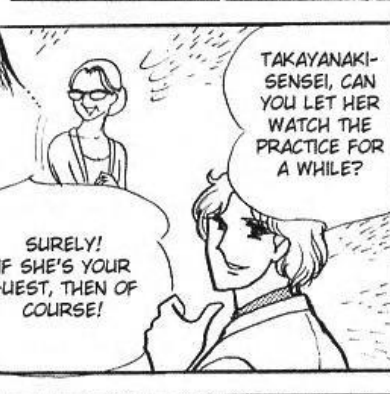


BAD DOG!

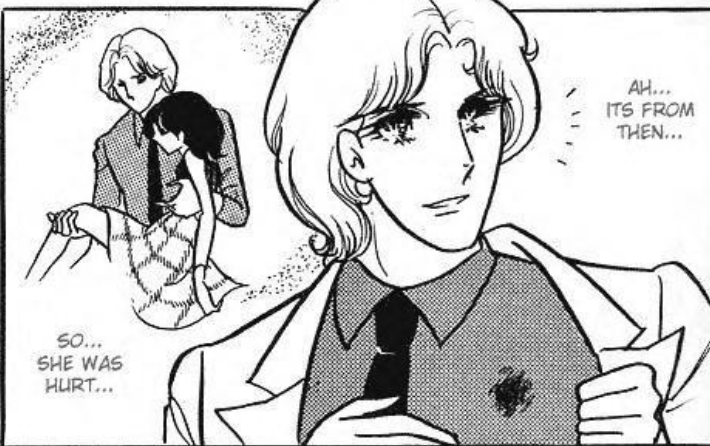














WHAT IS IT?

OH! NOTHING!

KITAJIMA MAYA...

THANKS!

YOU GOT PERMISSION NOW!

JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH!

AND EVEN ONODERA-SENSEI KNOWS HER TOO...

SHE'S SO FULL OF HERSELF!

WHO IS SHE REALLY?

HOW DID SHE KNOW MASUMI HAYAMI FROM DAITO ART ENTERTAINMENT?



AH, IS THAT SO...

SO...

BUT... I CAN'T EVEN AFFORD THE TUITION...



YOU FORGOT TO TAKE THE APPLICATION!

AH! YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT WANTED TO APPLY A WHILE AGO!

EH? SHE WANTS TO ENTER OUR SCHOOL?



WHAT? THEN YOU'VE HAD NO ACTING EXPERIENCE?

I HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAMA CLUB EITHER.

THEN.. HAVE YOU JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB IN SCHOOL?

NONE.

WHICH THEATERS HAVE YOU BEEN IN BEFORE?

YOU SEEM TO REALLY LIKE PERFORMING.



TAKE AYUMI FOR EXAMPLE. EVERYONE'S TRYING TO GET HER TO PERFORM IN MOVIES, TO GO ON TV!



LISTEN! ONLY PEOPLE WITH REAL TALENT CAN ENTER THIS ACTING SCHOOL!

IN OUR SCHOOL, THERE ARE MANY STUDENTS WHO ARE ACTIVE IN TV SHOWS, MOVIES, OR ON STAGE. YOU HAVE TO BE TALENTED!



ONLY ONCE, DURING THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

H/A H/A H/A H/A

DON'T ASK HER ANYMORE! SHE'S ONLY PERFORMED ONCE DURING A SCHOOL FESTIVAL!





I'VE NEVER PERFORMED A PANTOMIME...

STOP! YOU'RE BEING RUDE TO HER!

THEN YOU MUST'VE PREPARED FOR THE EXAMINATION, RIGHT?

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR SCHOOL?

HURRY AND PERFORM "THE ESCAPED BIRD!"

YES! HURRY UP AND ACT!



THANKS, I'VE BEEN FEELING MUCH BETTER ...

WE HEARD THAT YOU WERE NOT FEELING WELL, SO WE CAME TO PAY A VISIT.

MASUMI-SAN, ONODERA-SAN.



IS THAT SO?

THAT'S GREAT!

I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE COULDN'T WAIT FOR ME TO DIE!



IT'S TRUE THAT WE WANT THE PERFORMANCE RIGHTS TO "THE CRIMSON GODDESS."



ISN'T IT? DON'T YOU PEOPLE WISH FOR ME TO DIE?

BECAUSE YOU WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THE PERFORMANCE RIGHTS TO THE CRIMSON GODDESS!



EVEN OZAKI ICHIREN SAID IN PUBLIC THAT THE GODDESS HAD TO BE YOU. ONLY YOU COULD PERFORM THE ROLE.



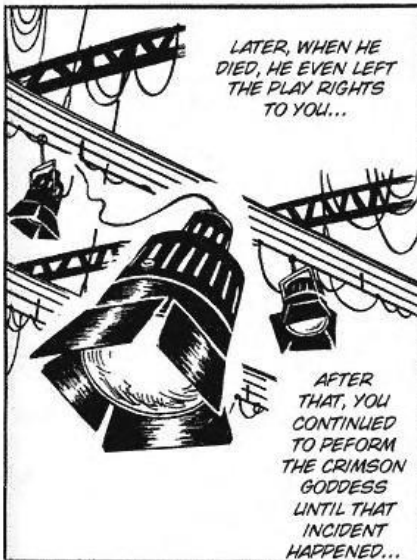
OZAKI ICHIREN'S WORK, "THE CRIMSON GODDESS."

32 YEARS AGO IT WAS PERFORMED WITH YOU AS THE LEAD...

YOU, AS THE MAIN CHARACTER, CAUSED QUITE AN UPROAR!

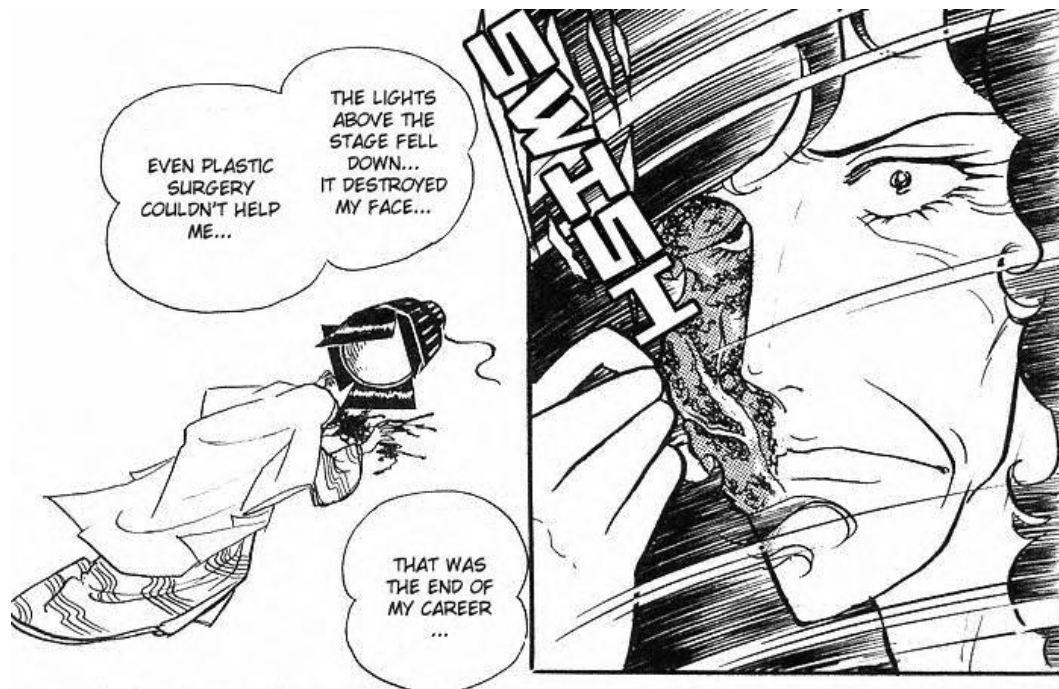
IT WAS PERFORMED OVER 300 TIMES, AND WAS STILL VERY POPULAR.

NO ONE COULD BEAT YOU IN THIS ROLE...



LATER, WHEN HE DIED, HE EVEN LEFT THE PLAY RIGHTS TO YOU...

AFTER THAT, YOU CONTINUED TO PERFORM THE CRIMSON GODDESS UNTIL THAT INCIDENT HAPPENED...



EVEN PLASTIC SURGERY COULDN'T HELP ME...  
THE LIGHTS ABOVE THE STAGE FELL DOWN... IT DESTROYED MY FACE...

THAT WAS THE END OF MY CAREER ...



THEN ONE DAY, YOU DISAPPEARED ...

BUT YOU WERE UNWILLING TO GIVE THE RIGHTS TO ANYONE ELSE.

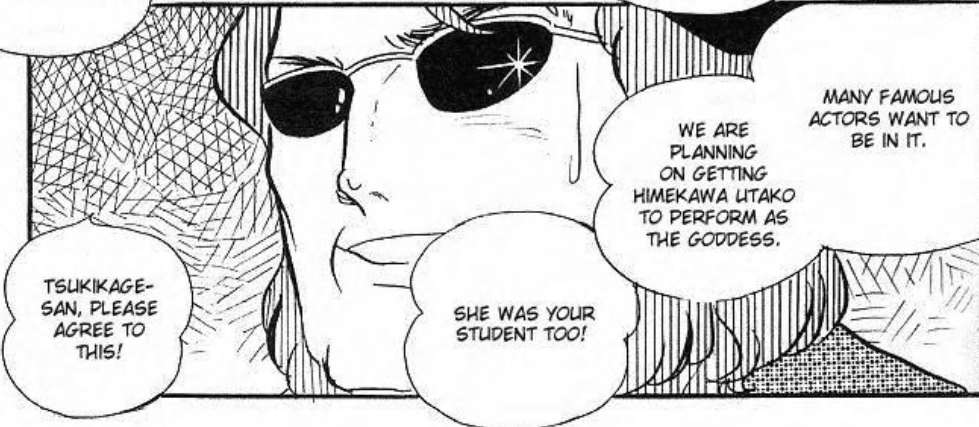
THEN, YOU DISAPPEARED FROM THE STAGE...



LET MY THEATER PERFORM THIS PLAY.  
LET THIS LEGENDARY PLAY BE RESURFACED TO THE PUBLIC.

IT TOOK US SO LONG BEFORE WE COULD TRACK YOU DOWN, TSUKIKAGE-SAN.

IN THESE 20 YEARS, "THE CRIMSON GODDESS" HAS BECOME A LEGENDARY PLAY THAT NO ONE COULD PERFORM.



TSUKIKAGE-SAN, PLEASE AGREE TO THIS!

SHE WAS YOUR STUDENT TOO!

WE ARE PLANNING ON GETTING HIMEKAWA LITAKO TO PERFORM AS THE GODDESS.

MANY FAMOUS ACTORS WANT TO BE IN IT.



UNLESS SOMEONE CAN LEARN ALL MY ACTING SKILLS...

I PLAN ON TRAINING SUCH AN ACTRESS MYSELF.

HUH?

PLEASE ALLOW US TO PERFORM IT IN DAITO BUILDING.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT'LL COST, I'M WILLING TO...

RIGHT NOW THERE IS NO ONE CAPABLE OF PLAYING THE CRIMSON GODDESS!

I AM THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE TO DO IT!

CAN YOU WAIT ANOTHER TEN YEARS?



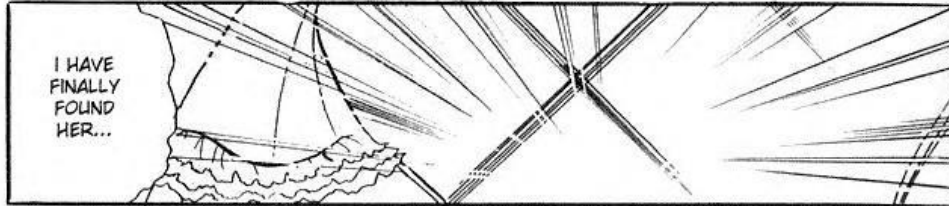
I WILL TRAIN, WITH MY OWN HANDS, THE ACTRESS WHO WILL STAR IN "THE CRIMSON GODDESS!"

FOR THIS PURPOSE, I HAVE SECRETLY PLANNED TO OPEN AN ACTING SCHOOL!



WHAT ?







**HURRY UP  
AND  
PERFORM  
"THE  
ESCAPED  
BIRD!"**



NO  
PROPS  
...

PANTOMIME...  
NO DIALOGUE...

USING ONLY  
BODY MOTIONS  
TO PORTRAY THE  
ESCAPED BIRD...

**HURRY!  
HURRY  
UP!**

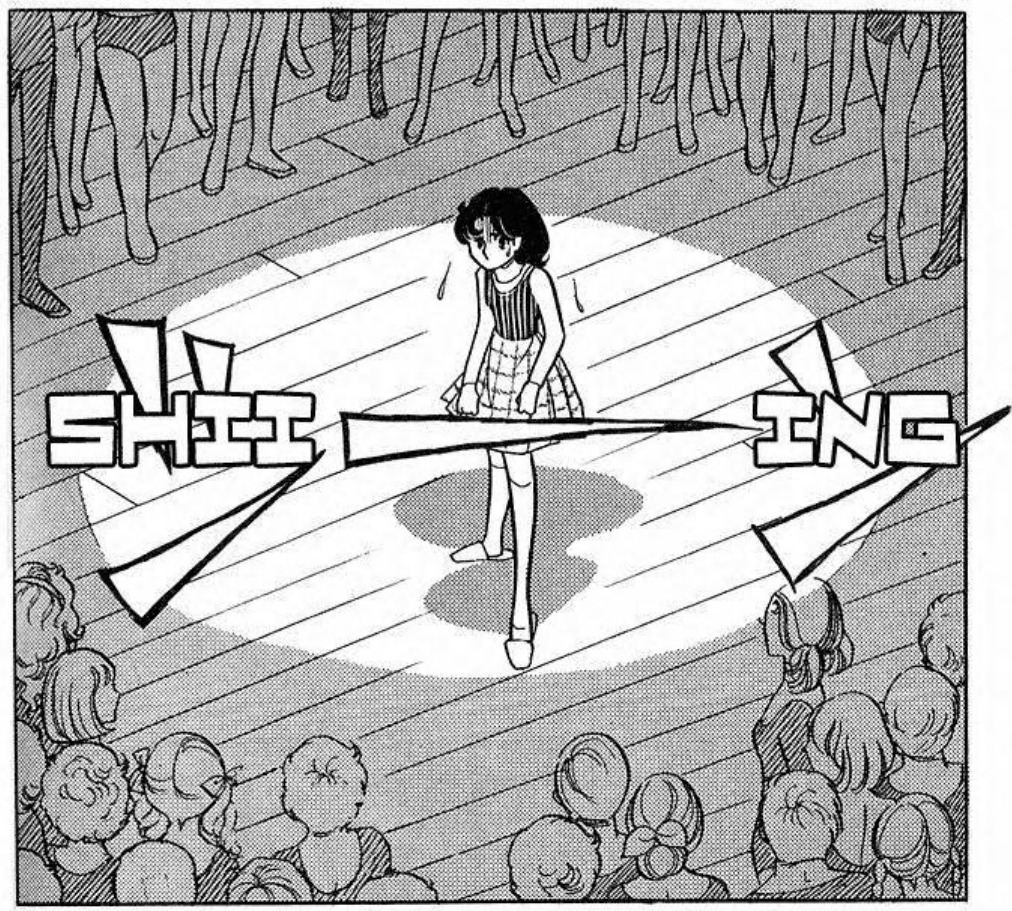
**WHAT  
IS IT?  
DON'T  
YOU  
KNOW  
HOW TO  
ACT?**

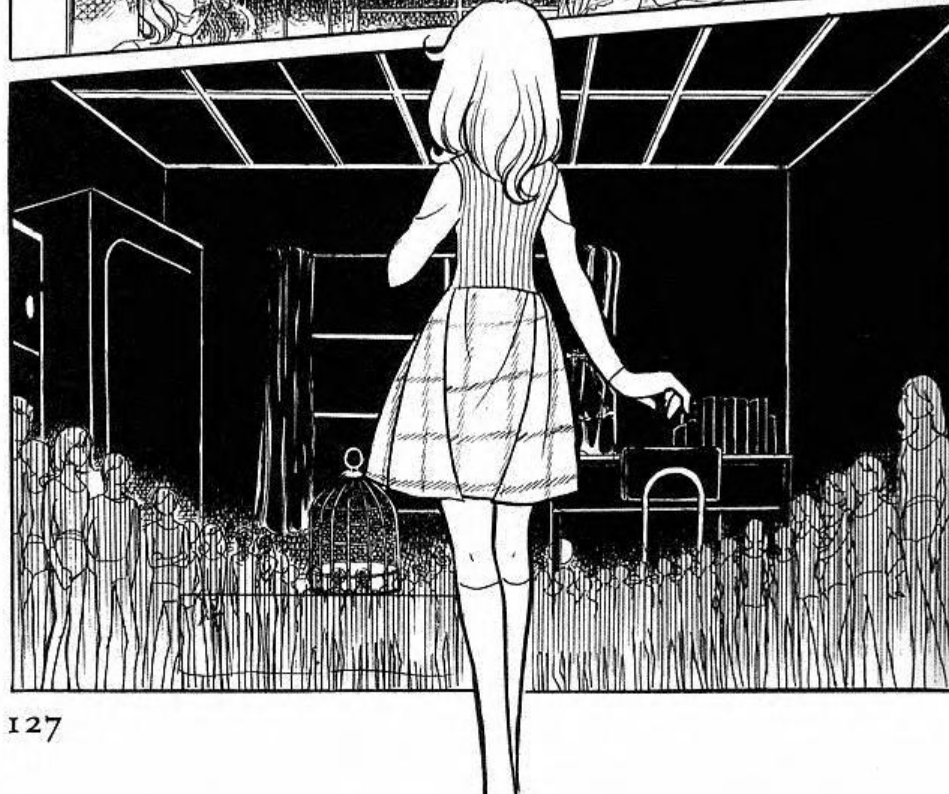
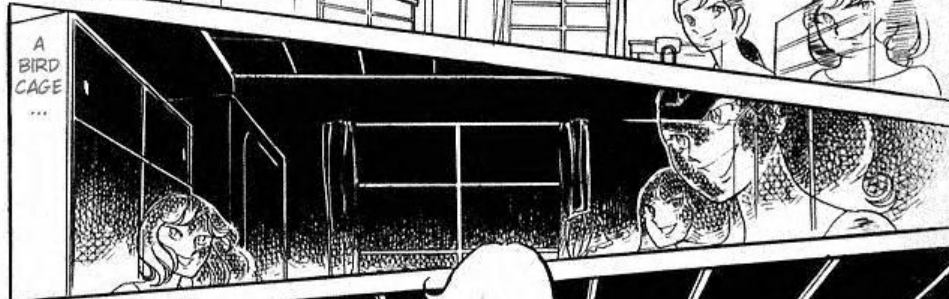
NOT EVEN A  
CAGE...  
HOW CAN YOU  
PERFORM IT?

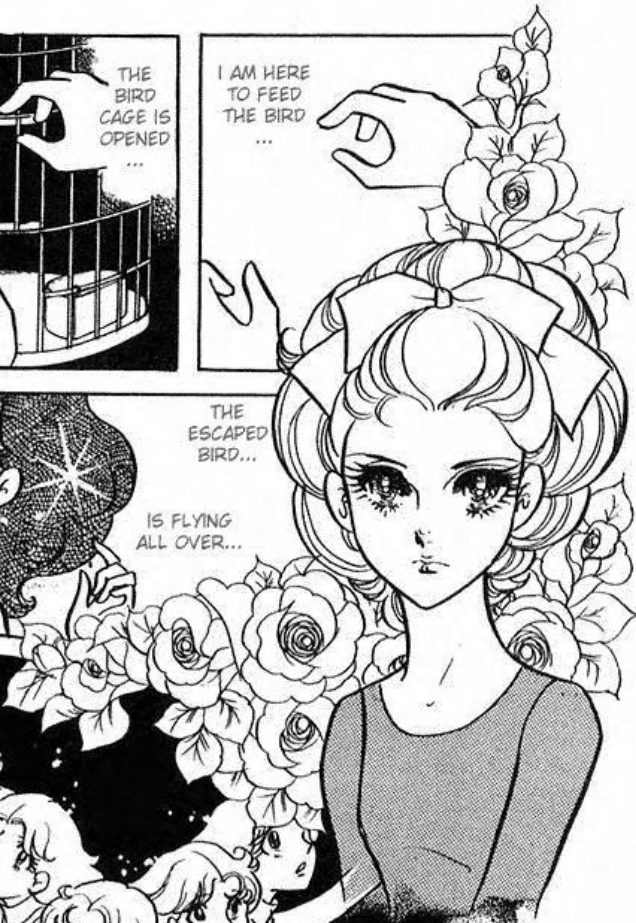


**YOU  
WILL  
KNOW  
VERY  
SOON!**











SHE'S STILL STANDING THERE LIKE AN IDIOT!

WHAT IS SHE DOING, STANDING LIKE AN IDIOT?

THE BIRD'S ALREADY ESCAPED! GO CHASE AFTER IT!

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

YOU SAY SHE'S LIKE AN IDIOT ...

chuckle

IT'S AS IF SHE'S REALLY CHASING AFTER AN ESCAPED BIRD IN HER ROOM!

NOT ACKNOWLEDGING OUR PRESENCE!

IT'S AS IF SHE DOESN'T SEE US HERE!

HUH? BUT SHE'S NOT EVEN MOVING!

LOOK AT HER EYES!

SHE'S USING HER EYES TO CHASE AFTER THE MOVEMENTS OF THE BIRD!

WHEN SHE GOT NEAR, IT FLEW AWAY AGAIN!

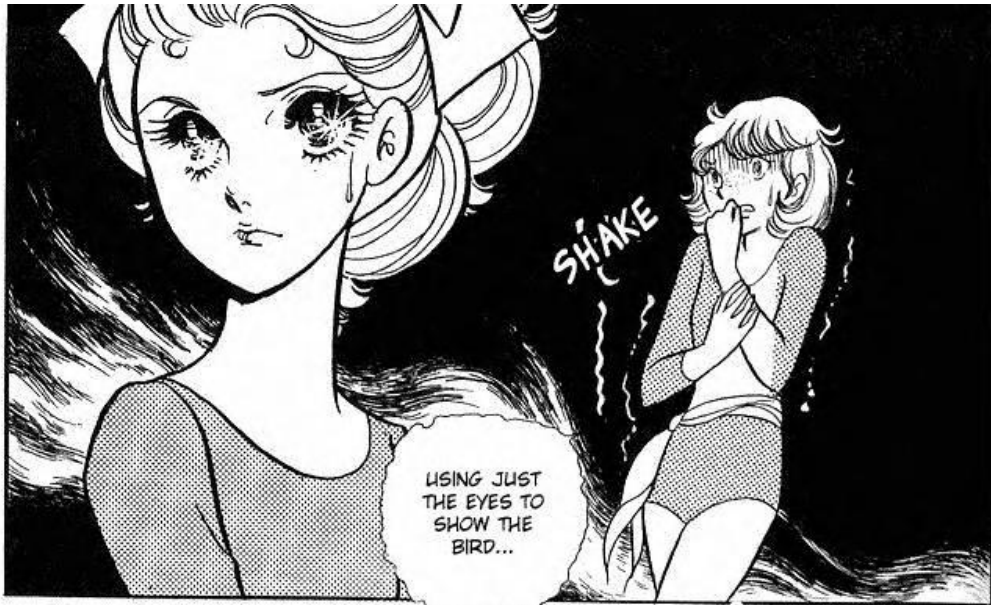
THEN THE BIRD FLEW ONTO THE TABLE...

IN THE BEGINNING, HER SIGHT'S FOCUSED ON THE TOP...

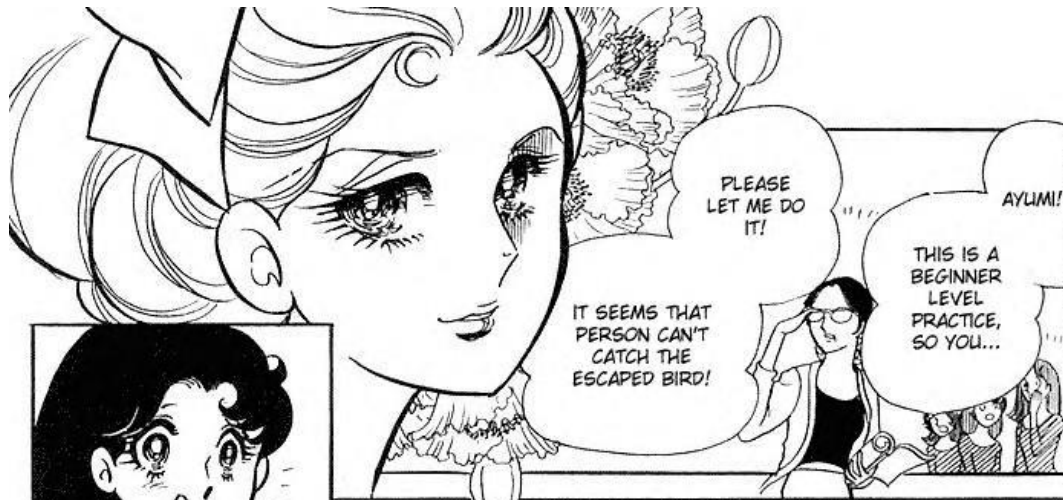
THE BIRD'S PROBABLY PIRCHED ON THE DRESSER ...











PLEASE  
LET ME DO  
IT!

AYUMI!

IT SEEMS THAT  
PERSON CAN'T  
CATCH THE  
ESCAPED BIRD!

THIS IS A  
BEGINNER  
LEVEL  
PRACTICE,  
SO YOU...



HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA  
WA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA  
HA HA

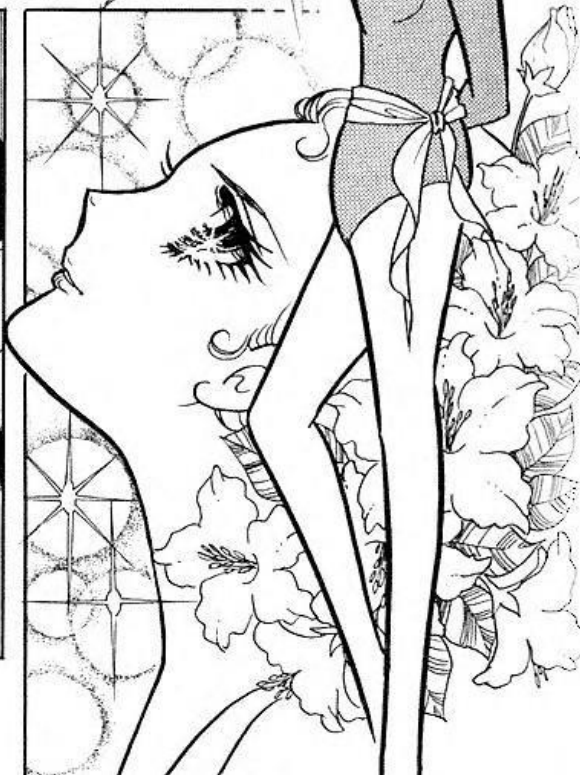


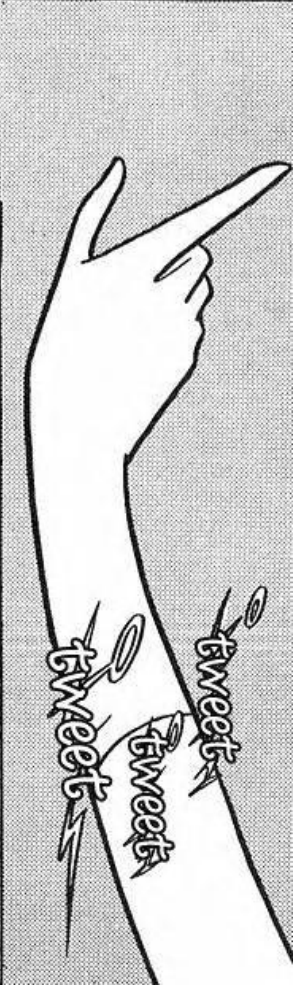
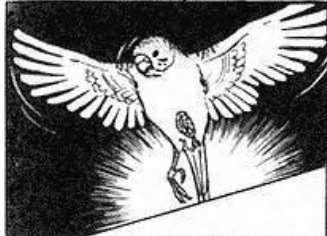
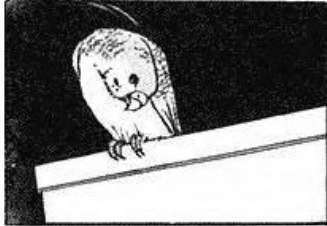
BA-OM!

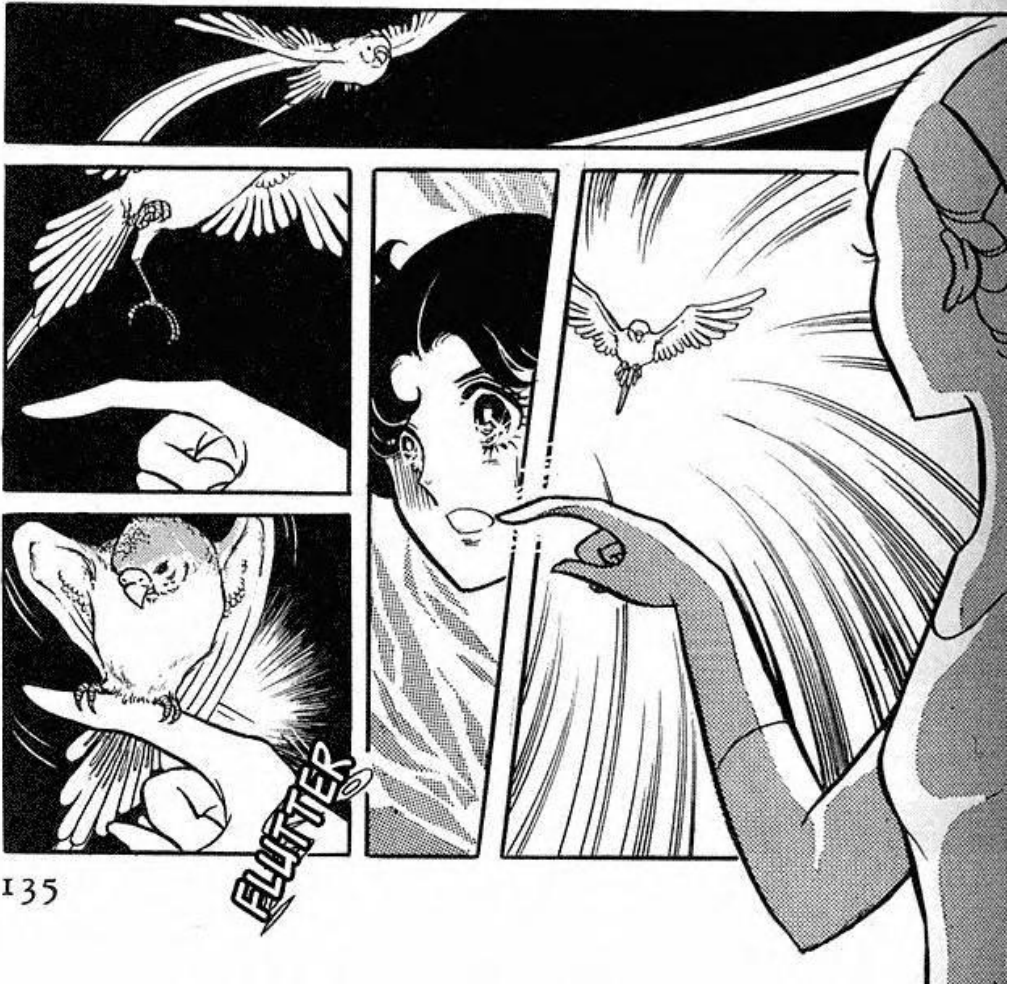
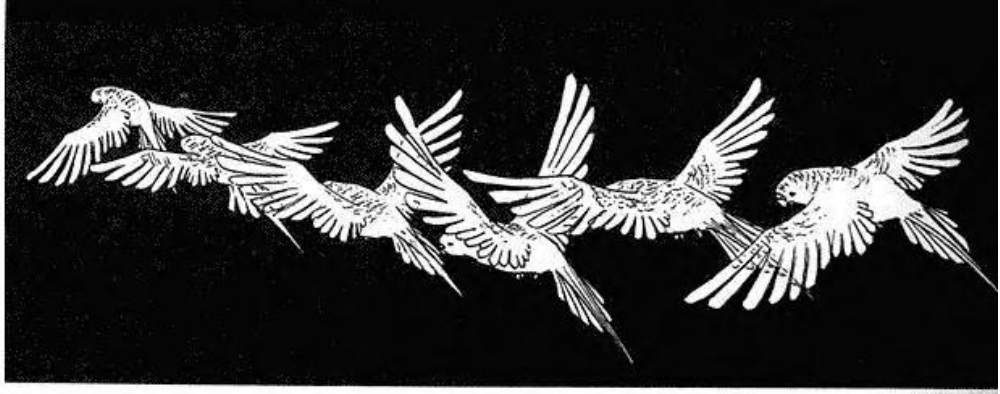
SWISH!



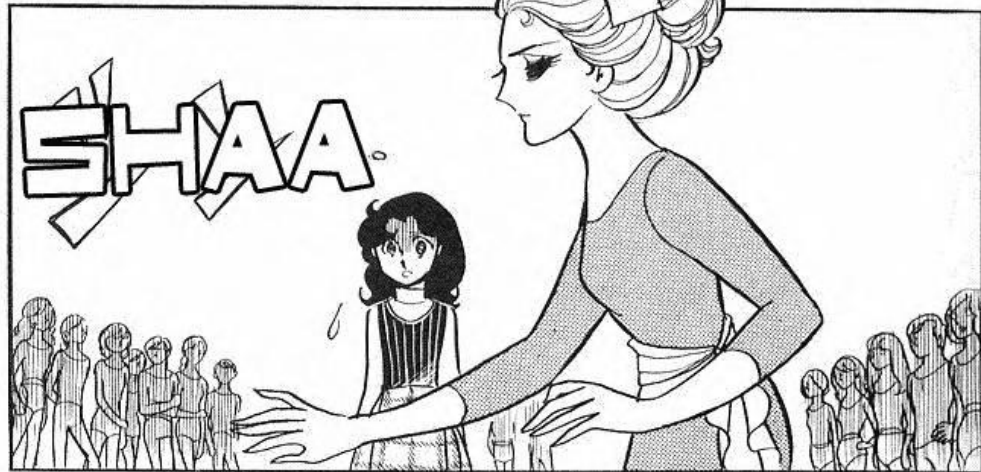
HER...  
WHAT IS  
SHE TRYING  
TO DO?













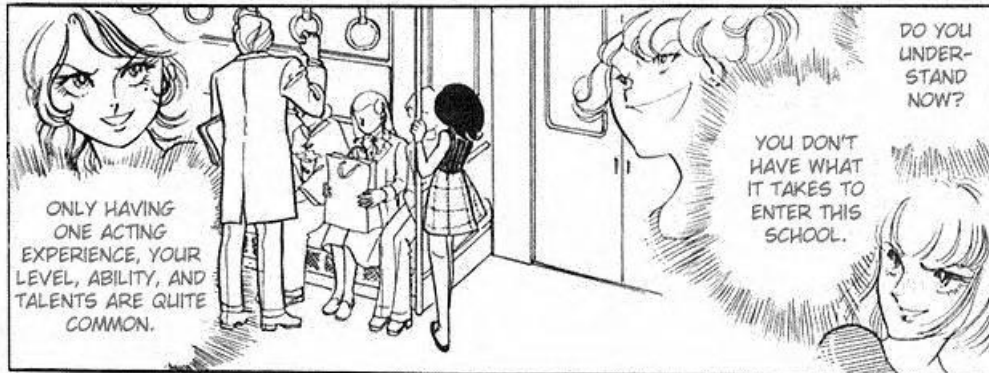
SHE INHERITS THE TALENTS OF THE STAR ACTRESS HIMEKAWA LITAKO AND THE FAMOUS DIRECTOR HIMEKAWA MITSUGU...

SHE'S A REAL GENIUS ...



WOO

CLACK CLACK



ONLY HAVING ONE ACTING EXPERIENCE, YOUR LEVEL, ABILITY, AND TALENTS ARE QUITE COMMON.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO ENTER THIS SCHOOL.



HER HEART HAS BEEN TOTALLY CAPTURED BY THE DISPLAY OF AYUMI'S PERFORMANCE!

BUT MAYA ISN'T EVEN AFFECTED BY THE RIDICULE OF THOSE PEOPLE!

CLACK CLACK CLACK