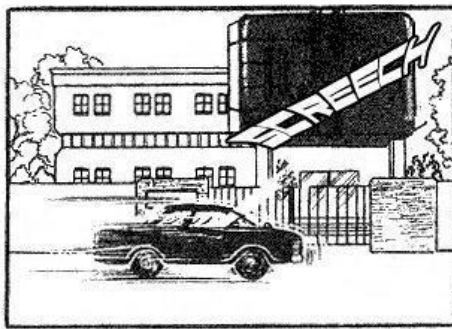
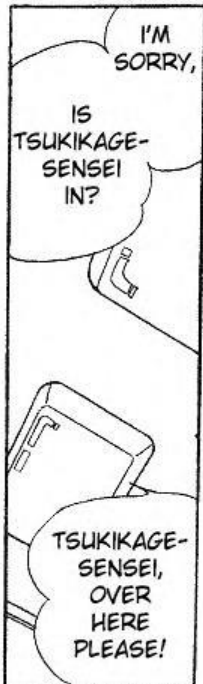


*Luchs' note: If you're wondering what's Maya doing, she's sharpening her pencil with a cutter. Remember, this manga was made back in 1975... everything is ancient :p





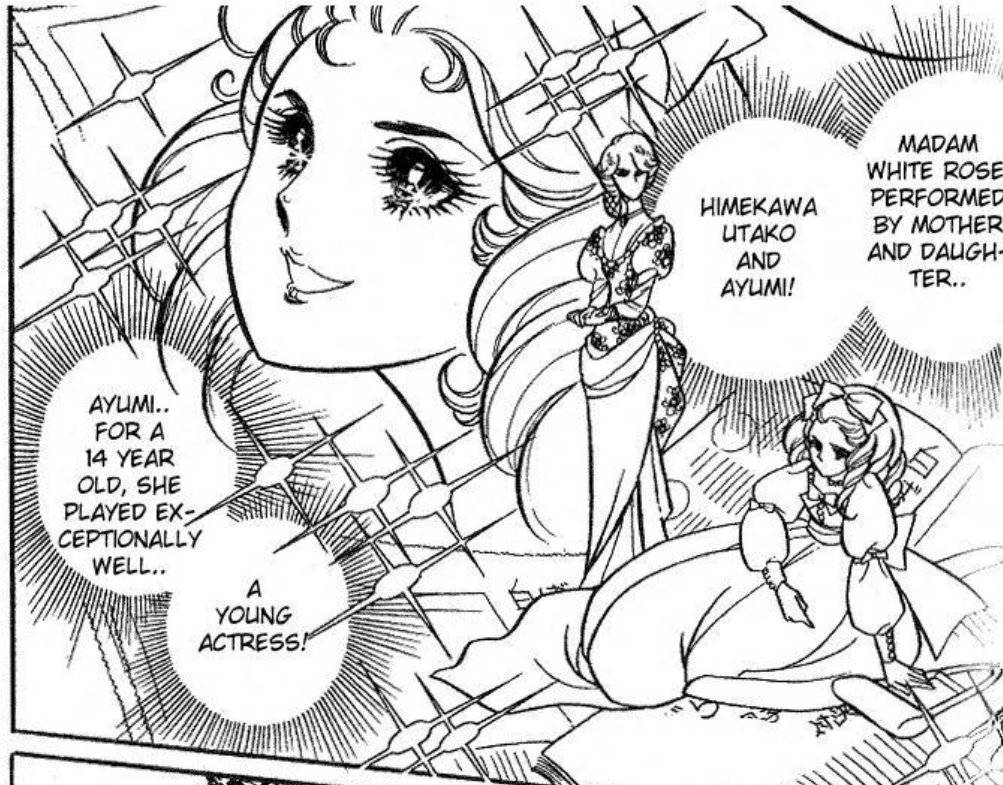
THAT
SUMMER
...

"Madam White Rose"



AYUMI,
WHO ACTED AS
THE DAUGHTER
OF MADAM WHITE
ROSE, BECOMES
EVEN MORE
WELL
KNOWN!

MADAM
WHITE ROSE
BECAME A
BOX OFFICE
HIT!



AYUMI.. FOR A 14 YEAR OLD, SHE PLAYED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL..

A YOUNG ACTRESS!

HIMEKAWA UTAKO AND AYUMI!

MADAM WHITE ROSE, PERFORMED BY MOTHER AND DAUGHTER..



LET ME HELP YOU!

TICKETS FOR MADAM WHITE ROSE?

I'VE GOT A FRIEND AT THE THEATER WHO CAN GET US SOME TICKETS



NOPE! ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT!

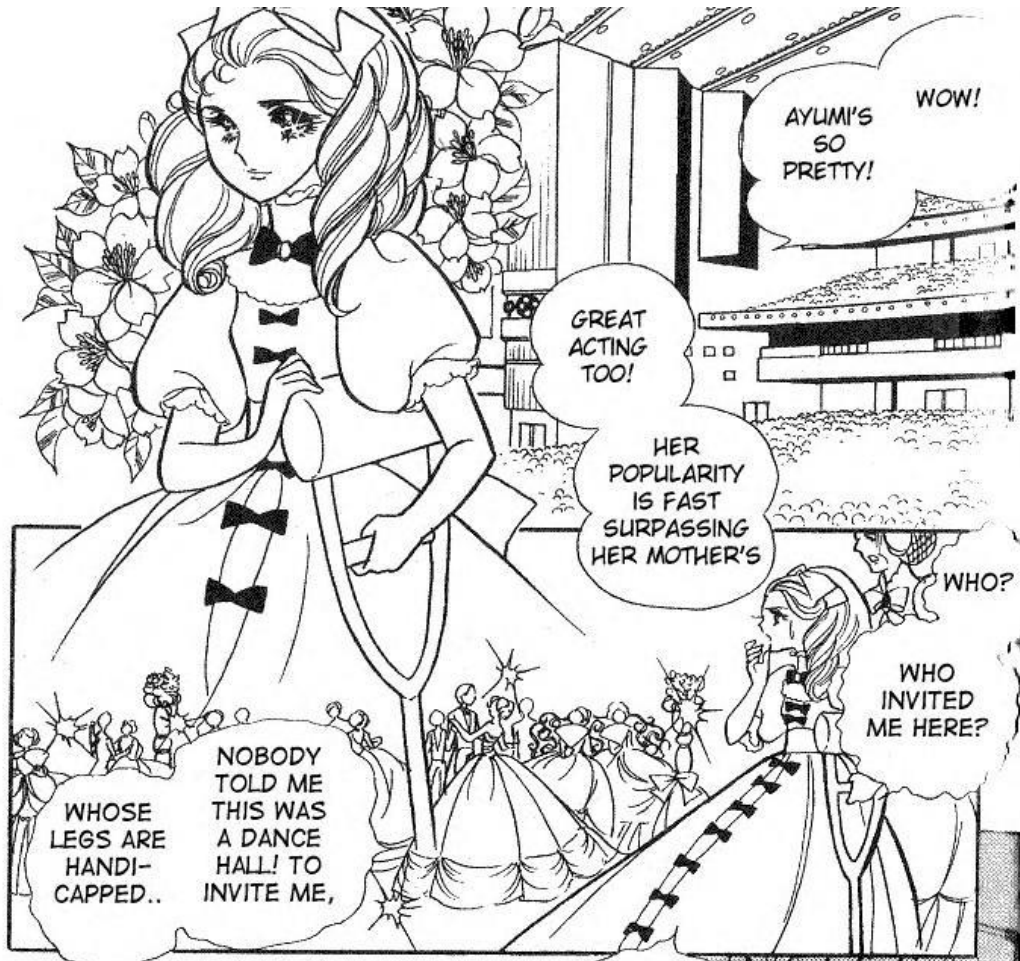
NONE LEFT!

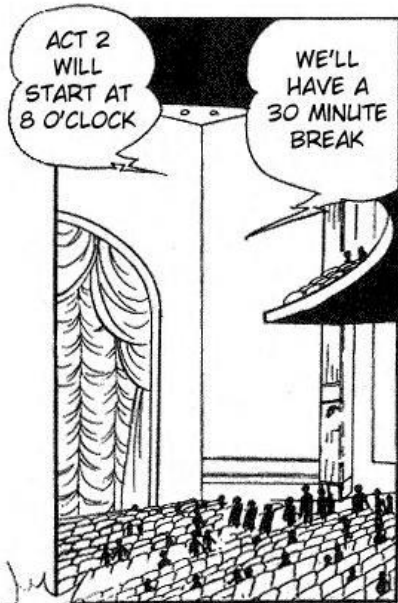
WELL? CAN WE GET TICKETS?



ISN'T SHE GREAT?
SHE'S SO WELL KNOWN IN THE MASS MEDIA..







WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU FORGET THAT I'M HERE?

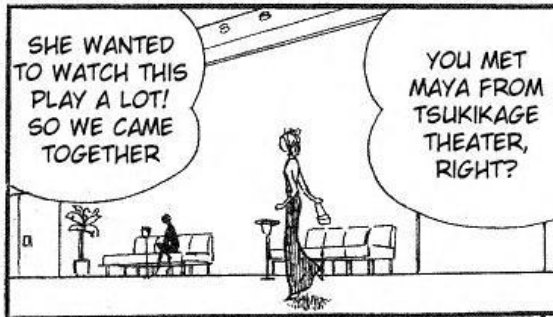






HELLO!

AH, MASUMI-SAN!



SHE WANTED TO WATCH THIS PLAY A LOT! SO WE CAME TOGETHER

YOU MET MAYA FROM TSUKIKAGE THEATER, RIGHT?



YES

YOU CAME TOO



PRETTY CLOSE FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?



OH, THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME, RIGHT?



AH,
IT HAS
ALREADY
STARTED!

SEE YOU
NEXT TIME,
MASUMI-
SAN!

LETTING
GO OF
EVERY-
THING
ELSE..

YOU
KNOW
..

YES?

IT MUST BE
WONDERFUL
TO DO THE
THINGS THAT
YOU REALLY
ENJOY..

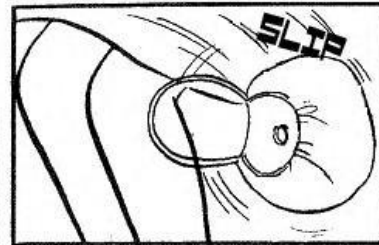
THAT'S
SOMETHING
I COULDN'T DO
SINCE I WAS
YOUNG

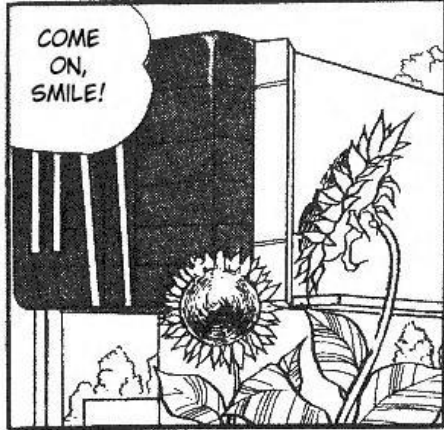
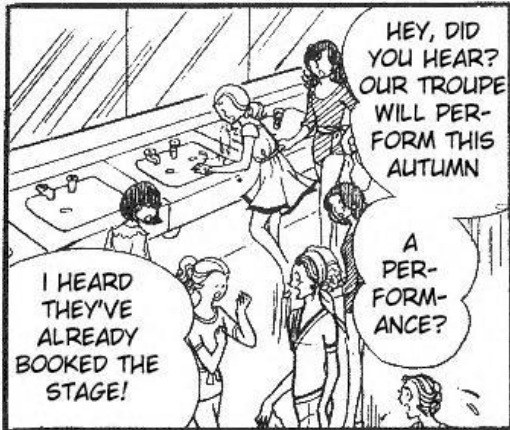
TO LIVE ONLY
FOR YOUR
PASSION AND
DREAMS..

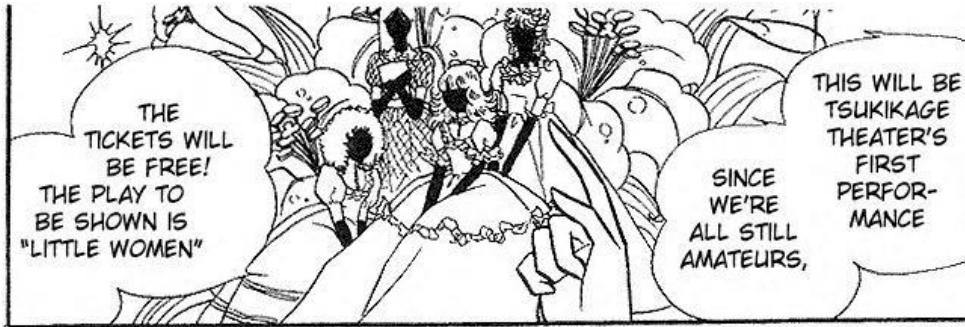
LET'S
GO!

YES,
SIR!

YES..
SINCE
I WAS
YOUNG..







THE TICKETS WILL BE FREE! THE PLAY TO BE SHOWN IS "LITTLE WOMEN"

THIS WILL BE TSUKIKAGE THEATER'S FIRST PERFORMANCE SINCE WE'RE ALL STILL AMATEURS,



THEY'LL NEVER SELECT FROM CLASS C

THE CAST MUST BE FROM CLASS A!

"LITTLE WOMEN"? THAT'S GREAT!



WHO'LL PLAY JO?

WHO'LL PLAY MEG?

IS AMY THE LEADING CAST?

HEY, LOOK!



I KNOW.. BUT IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME JUST TO BE ABLE TO WATCH

THEY'VE ANNOUNCED THE CAST!



Leading Cast: Kitajima Maya

THE LEADING CAST IS FROM CLASS C!

MAYA! YOU...!



THE CASTS FOR THE AUTUMN PERFORMANCE "LITTLE WOMEN", PLEASE GATHER HERE

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONES FROM CLASS A, B, AND C

THEY'RE SO LUCKY! FROM NOW ON, THEY'LL UNDERGO SPECIAL TRAINING!

THE STORY BACKGROUND TAKES PLACE DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 100 YEARS AGO

EACH OF THEM HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT FOUR SISTERS WHO LIVE IN A WARM HOME DESPITE BEING POOR

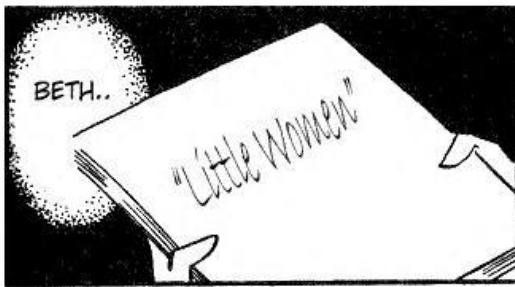
WHY?
WHY AM I
ONLY PLAYING
THE SUPPORTING
CAST?

IS SHE
BETTER
THAN ME?

MAYBE
I JUST
ENVY HER..

I JUST
CAN'T
ACCEPT
THIS!!

BUT..



translator: luchs
scanner: luchs
editors: mr_lava & luchs
<http://mangasync.org>



GO UP THE STAIRS IN FRONT OF YOU

NOW, TRY TO WALK!

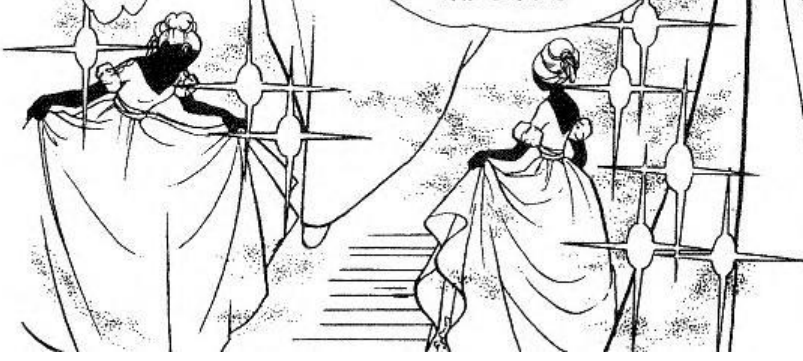


CRASH



OKAY?
WHEN DESCENDING, YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT NOT TO STEP ON THE SKIRT

YOU GOT IT NOW?
YOU HAVE TO HOLD THE SIDES OF THE SKIRT WHEN YOU'RE CLIMBING UP THE STAIRS





FOR INSTANCE, THE BEAUTIFUL AND WILD JO ALWAYS WALKS CHEERFULLY WITH LIGHT STEPS

WE CAN SHOW DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS IN THE WAY WE WALK



OR EVEN WHEN YOU SIT DOWN

YOU NEED TO STAY CALM WHEN YOU WALK



WELL, SINCE YOU'RE PLAYING AS HER, YOU THINK ABOUT IT, MAYA!

IMAGINE THAT YOU ARE HER!

PUT IT IN YOUR HEART! THINK HOW SHE'D MOVE AND FEEL

READ THE SCRIPT OVER AND OVER AGAIN



AMY, THE YOUNGEST, LIKES TO COPY HER

MEG, THE ELDEST, WALKS AS IF SHE'S AN ADULT

AS FOR BETH..



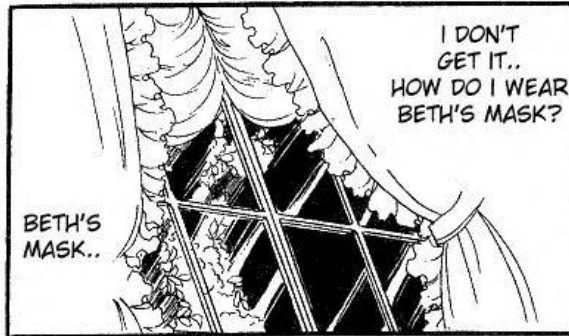
I'VE SEEN OTHER GIRLS WITH BEAUTIFUL DRESSES

WHILE WE HAVE NOTHING..



IT'S SO DREADFUL TO BE POOR..







MA'AM,
WE
HAVE A
GUEST

I'D LIKE
TO HAVE
A CHAT
WITH YOU
ABOUT
SOMETHING

I HAVEN'T
BEEN HERE
FOR A WHILE,
SO HERE
I AM!

OH,
MASUMI-
SAN!
WHAT A
SURPRISE..

LONG
TIME NO
SEE..
WHAT CAN I
DO FOR YOU
TODAY?

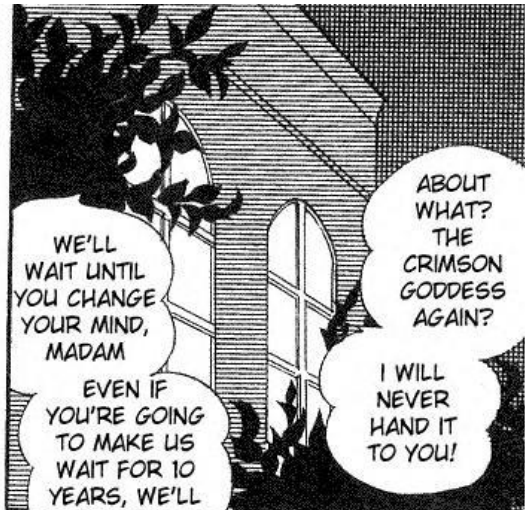
DING
DONG



WHY, THANK YOU

HERE'S A LITTLE GIFT FOR YOU

EH? I RECEIVED A SIMILAR GIFT WHEN I FIRST OPENED MY THEATER



WE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, MADAM

ABOUT WHAT? THE CRIMSON GODDESS AGAIN?

EVEN IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE US WAIT FOR 10 YEARS, WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP

I WILL NEVER HAND IT TO YOU!



YES, WE ALREADY KNOW THAT TSUKIKAGE THEATER IS SPONSORED BY THE AOYAGI COMPANY..



HUH, GET TO YOUR POINT

I SEE NOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MASUMI-SAN



OH? THAT WASN'T ME..

IT WAS FROM THE AOYAGI COMPANY



NOW?

IN THIS ROOM?

HERE?

C'MON, EVERYONE! STAND UP!

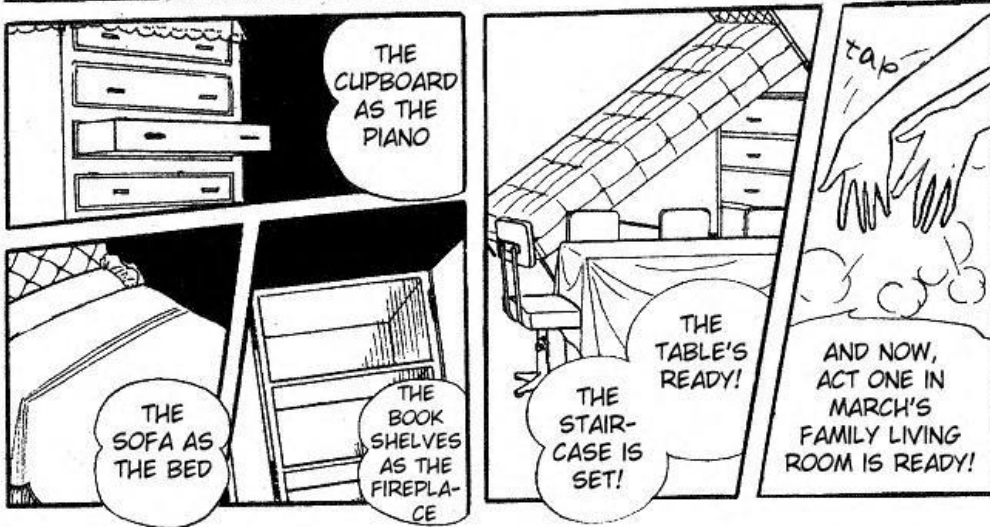
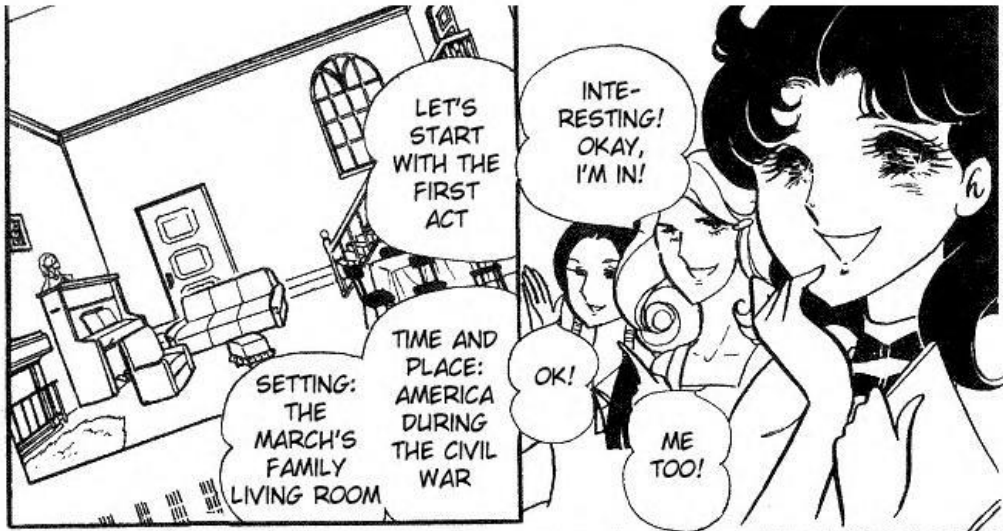
YUP!

SINCE WE ALL GOT THE SCRIPT,

WHY DON'T WE START PRACTICING?

CLAP CLAP

LISTEN, EVERYONE!





UH,
MY WAIST
HURTS!

EVERY-
ONE!

GET
READY
WITH YOUR
COSTUMES
ON!

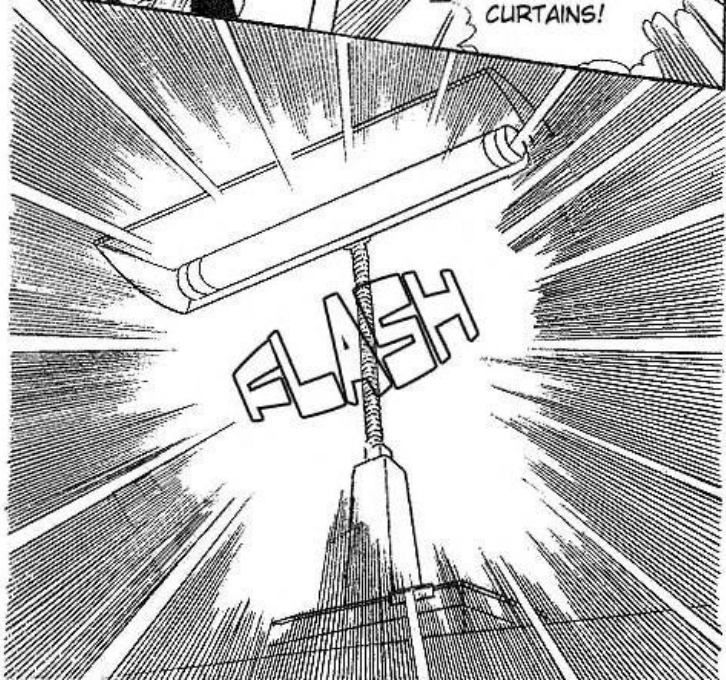
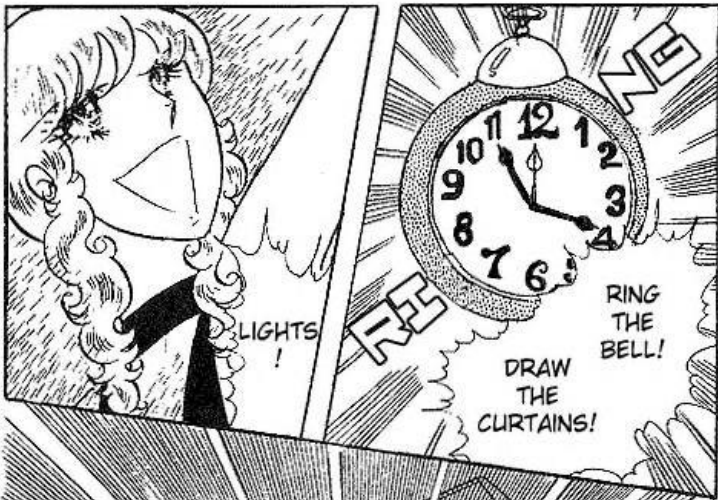
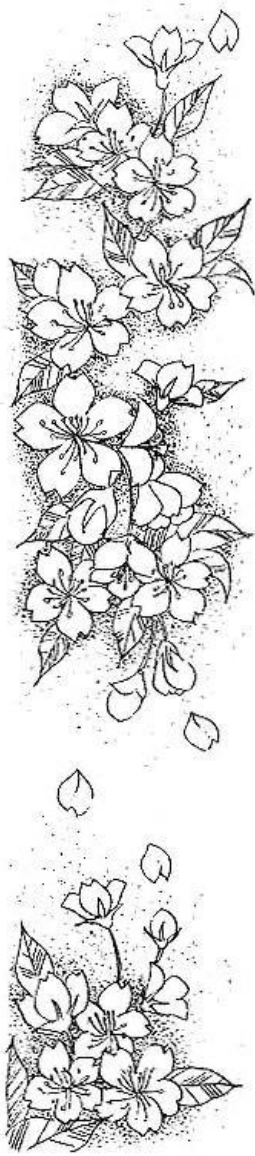
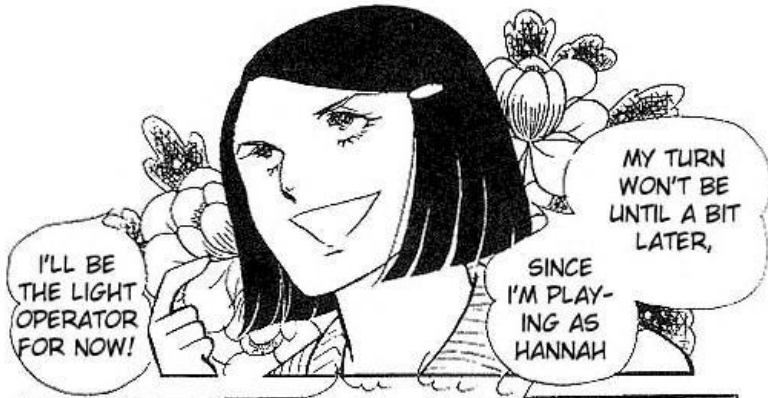
THE
OTHER
BED AS
THE
FRONT
DOOR

SINCE THE
GIRL WHO'S
PLAYING AS
AMY IS NOT
HERE,
MINAZUKI
SAYAKA WILL
PLAY THE
ROLE

SAWA-
TARI
MINA
AS
MEG

I WILL
PLAY
AS JO,
AND..

KITA-
JIMA
MAYA
AS BETH





FIRST ACT,
SCENE ONE..

*"Little
Women"*

BEGINS!



WHILE WE HAVE NOTHING

I'VE SEEN OTHER GIRLS WITH BEAUTIFUL DRESSES..

IT'S SO DRE-ADFUL TO BE POOR..

I BET SHE'S SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS!

MOM'S NOT HOME, YET?



AND EACH OTHER!

BUT WE'VE GOT MOM AND DAD



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

STOP THIS NONSENSE AT ONCE!



JO, HOW'S YOUR NOVEL COMING ALONG?

IT'S ALMOST DONE! I'M CONFIDENT ABOUT IT!

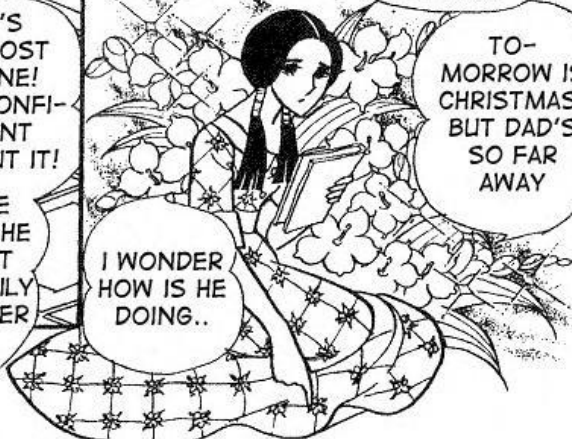
I'M SURE I'LL WIN THE CONTEST IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPER



YEAH.. YOU'RE RIGHT

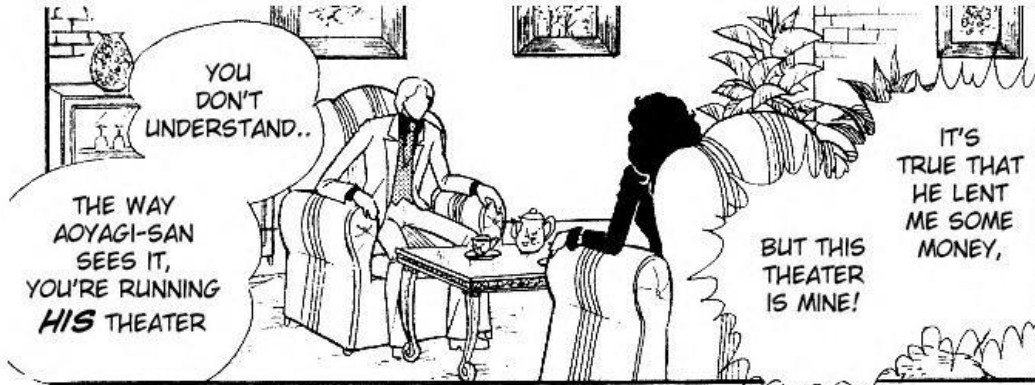
DAD? WE DON'T HAVE A DAD

HE'S AWAY FIGHTING IN THE WAR.. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL BE BACK



I WONDER HOW IS HE DOING..

TO-MORROW IS CHRISTMAS, BUT DAD'S SO FAR AWAY



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND..

THE WAY AOYAGI-SAN SEES IT, YOU'RE RUNNING **HIS** THEATER

IT'S TRUE THAT HE LENT ME SOME MONEY, BUT THIS THEATER IS MINE!



CRASH BOOM BANG

WHAT IS GOING ON?



YES

SO THERE ARE RUMORS SAYING THAT I'M TAKING THIS THEATER FROM HIM?

YOU CREATED THIS THEATER THROUGH A LOT OF HARDSHIP DON'T LET HIM SPREAD ALL THOSE LIES



IF HE DARES TO TAKE OVER, I'LL DESTROY HIM!

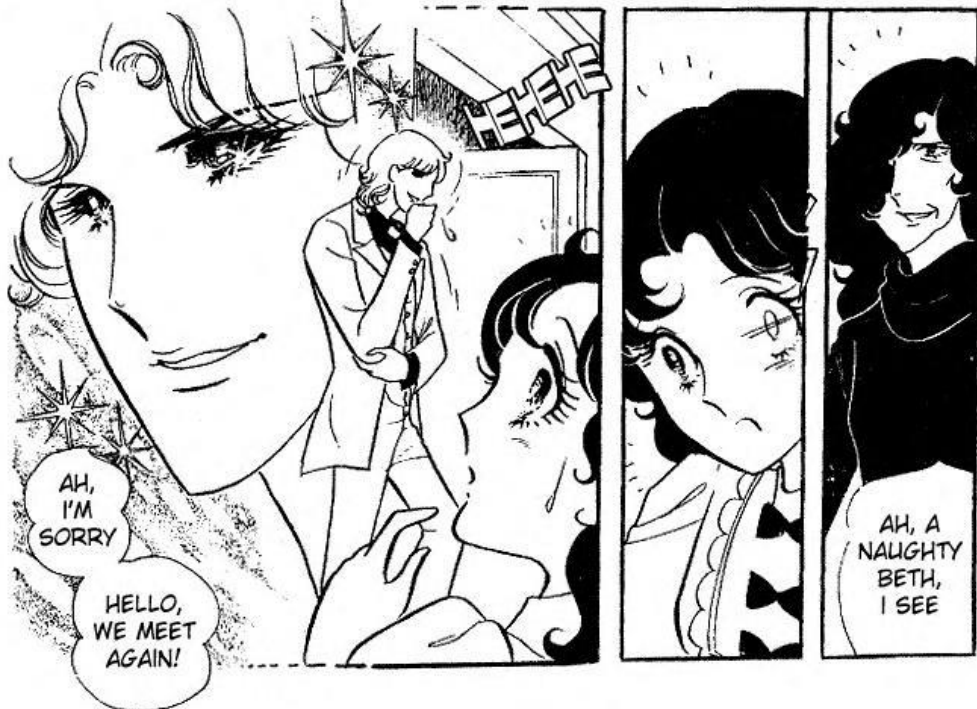
IT'S LATE, PLEASE LEAVE NOW

YOU CAN TELL HIM NOT TO COME HERE ANYMORE!

WE SHALL FIGHT!



WHAT WILL YOU DO? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS, ARE YOU?





HOW ARE YOU?

SO YOU'RE PLAYING AS BETH IN "LITTLE WOMEN"?

GOOD-EVENING!

OH!

YES, FOR THE AUTUMN PERFORMANCE..

PLEASE LEAVE, MASUMI-SAN

MAYA, ENOUGH SAID!

OOH! I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT THIS!

ACK, ME TOO!

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK IN PLAYING YOUR ROLE!

AAAH, WE LOOK SO RIDICULOUS!

TSUKIKAGE-SENSEI LOOKED IRRITATED..

YEAH, I WONDER WHY..





THIS IS A GOOD IDEA!

SINCE YOU'VE GONE THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF REARRANGING THIS ROOM,

LET'S CONTINUE THE PRACTICE!

I'LL PLAY AS THE MOTHER

What?



I WILL GET HER A PAIR OF GLOVES



NO STUTTERING, MAYA!



W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE MOM FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

S-SHOULD WE EACH BUY ONE?



SOME HANDKERCHIEFS FROM ME

AMY WILL BUY A LITTLE BOTTLE OF COLOGNE



I'LL BUY THE SLIPPERS



LOOK THIS WAY, MINA! AND SMILE!

YES!



MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY GIRLS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! GOOD MORNING, MOM!



MY GIRLS, WILL YOU GIVE THEM YOUR BREAKFAST AS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

GOOD THING WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT YET!



FOR THEY HAVE NO FIRE

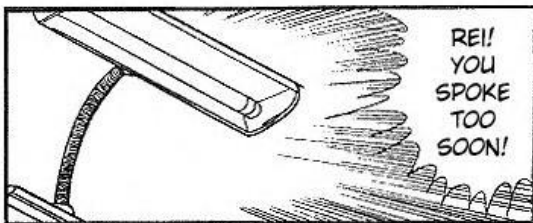
AND NOTHING TO EAT



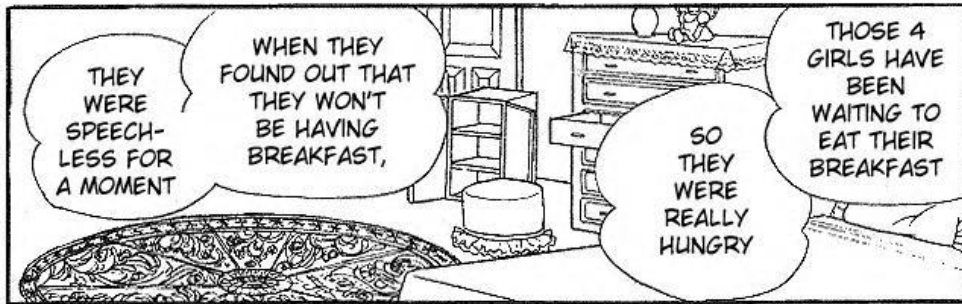
NOT FAR AWAY FROM HERE LIES A POOR WOMAN WITH A LITTLE NEWBORN BABY

SIX CHILDREN ARE HUDDLED..

..INTO ONE BED TO KEEP FROM FREEZING



RE! YOU SPOKE TOO SOON!



THEY WERE SPEECH-LESS FOR A MOMENT

WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THAT THEY WON'T BE HAVING BREAKFAST,

SO THEY WERE REALLY HUNGRY

THOSE 4 GIRLS HAVE BEEN WAITING TO EAT THEIR BREAKFAST



ONE MORE TIME!

NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH, THEN EXHALE.. CAN YOU FEEL IT?

YES!



THEY ARE DIS-APPOINTED

ONLY ONE WORD DESCRIBES THE SITUATION.. DISAPPOINT-MENT



BETH!
A WEAK
CHILD SHOULD
NOT WALK
LIKE THAT!

MEG!
YOUR
NECK IS
TOO
STIFF!

"WE WILL
ALL GO
AND
HELP THE
POOR
FAMILY"

YOU MUST
SHOW A
FACE THAT'S
HIDING
THE DISAP-
POINTMENT!

BETH!!
THAT'S NOT
THE WAY TO
PLAY A
PIANO!!

SAY
THAT
PHRASE
WHILE
LAUGHING,
JO!

THIS
NIGHT
HAS TURNED
INTO A
NIGHTMARE..



RE!
YOU BRUSH
THE SNOW
OFF YOUR
SHOULDER!

NOW, YOU'RE
BRINGING IN
THE BREAK-
FAST AS THE
PRESENT
START
FROM
THE
FRONT
DOOR!

