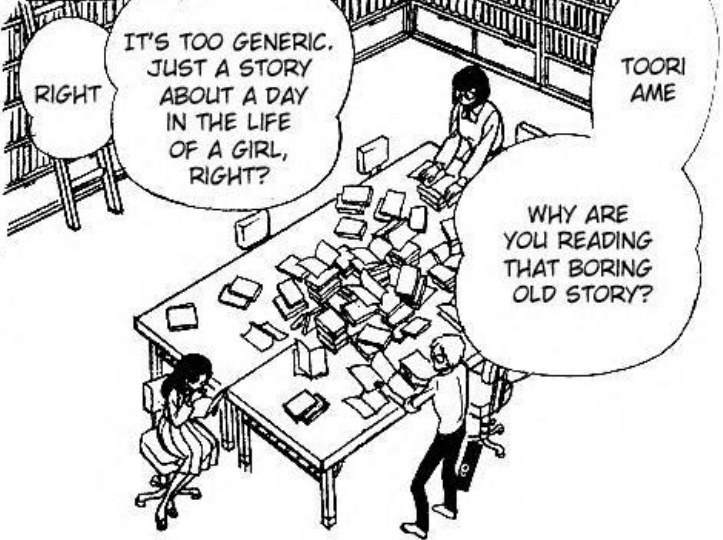




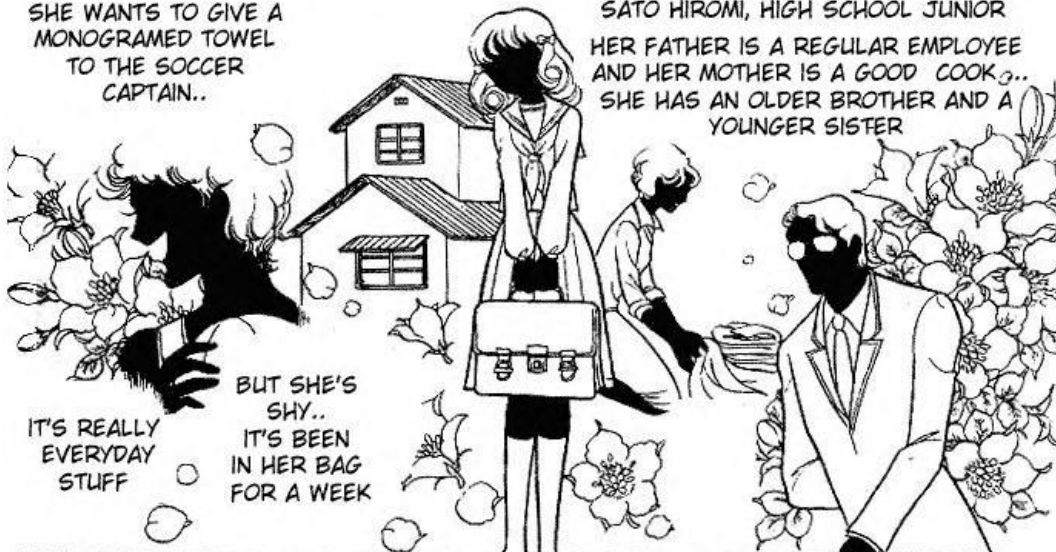
*A Passing Rain





SHE WANTS TO GIVE A MONOGRAMMED TOWEL TO THE SOCCER CAPTAIN..

SATO HIROMI, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR
HER FATHER IS A REGULAR EMPLOYEE
AND HER MOTHER IS A GOOD COOK...
SHE HAS AN OLDER BROTHER AND A YOUNGER SISTER





THAT MEANS I'M NOT DOING IT WELL

MAYA, ARE YOU SURE?
I MEAN, IT MIGHT BORE SOME PEOPLE

THIS IS GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING I HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

IN STORIES LIKE THESE, THAT'S WHERE THE TEST
SINCE IT'S SO ORDINARY, I'LL HAVE TO KEEP THE INTEREST LEVEL HIGH

I WILL COME SEE YOUR PREMIERE
THAT'S GOOD
IT'S A CHALLENGE, NO DOUBT

I'VE...
CHOSEN A GOOD ONE
MAYA..

YES, IT'S AN INVITATION TO HER SHOW
HIME-KAWA AYUMI, MA'AM?
IF YOU DO THIS, YOU'LL BE BETTER THAN YOU EVER WERE
ROMEO AND JULIET
WHICH ONE IS IT?



A SOLO ACT

NO ROMEO

BUT ONLY JULIET



SHE WANTS A CHALLENGE

SOMETHING SHE'S NEVER DONE

THIS I GOTTA SEE

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

THAT'S GONNA BE TOUGH

WHAT? SOLO?

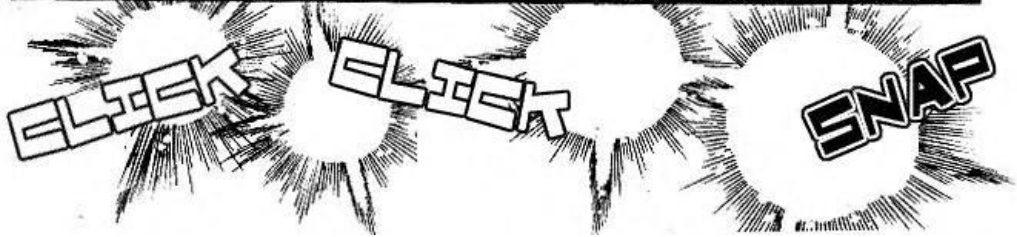
HOW CAN IT BE ROMEO AND JULIET WITHOUT ROMEO



I'LL BE WATCHING YOU

AND YOU, MAYA

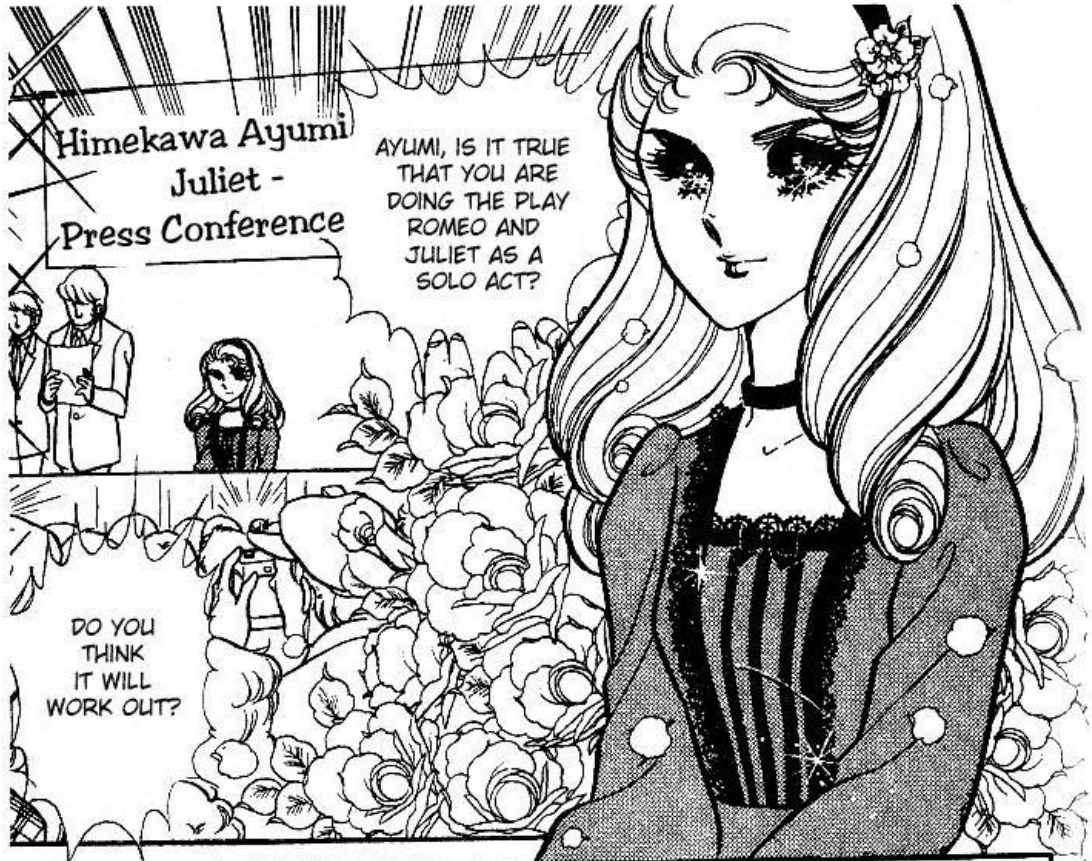
SO DO IT, AYUMI!



CLICK

CLICK

SNAP



Himekawa Ayumi
Juliet -
Press Conference

AYUMI, IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU ARE
DOING THE PLAY
ROMEO AND
JULIET AS A
SOLO ACT?

DO YOU
THINK
IT WILL
WORK OUT?



SIMPLY
JULIET

I WILL NOT BE
PLAYING ROMEO
AND JULIET



AND TO
ANSWER
THE SECOND
QUESTION,
THAT
DEPENDS

..HER
EMOTIONS
AND MOVE-
MENTS

A JULIET
VERY MUCH
IN LOVE
WITH ROMEO

WE'LL EXPOSE
JULIET'S WAY
OF THINKING

..ON MY
ACTING
SKILLS

BUT IT WILL
BE ONLY
ABOUT JULIET



WHAT A SHOW THIS WILL BE

OH RIGHT, SINCE SHE'S ALONE SHE'LL NEED TO MIME

LET'S HOPE IT DOES SHAKESPEARE JUSTICE



WITH THEM, THE FAMOUS FRENCH MIME, MR. MARCHEL MAORIA

THE DIRECTOR IS MR. ONODA

THE SCRIPT WAS WRITTEN BY MR. NARUKI



NO

FLASH

..DOES SHAKESPEARE JUSTICE..

THIS IS MY CHALLENGE MINE, AND MINE ALONE



HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR STUDENT

SATO HIROMI

I WILL OVERCOME THIS

JUST NORMAL, EVERYDAY STUFF

THE PLAY STARTS IN THE MORNING

..ENDS AT SUNSET

MIMING

'IT'S SO SIMPLE THERE'S ALMOST NO ROOM FOR IMPROVISING!'

MAYA?

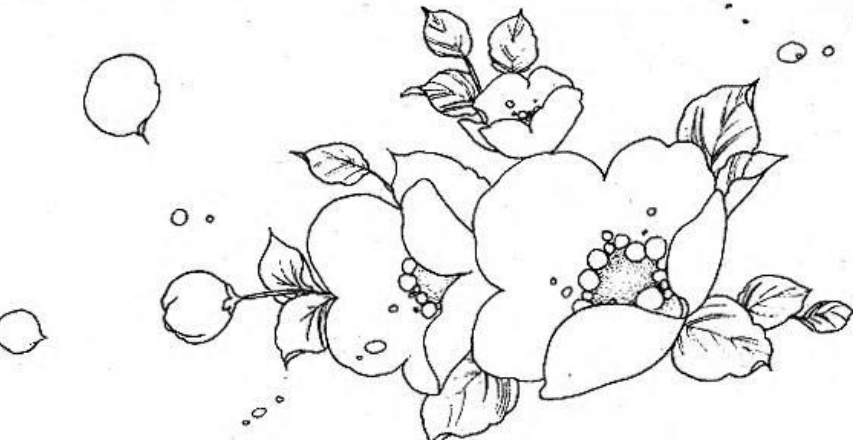
stand

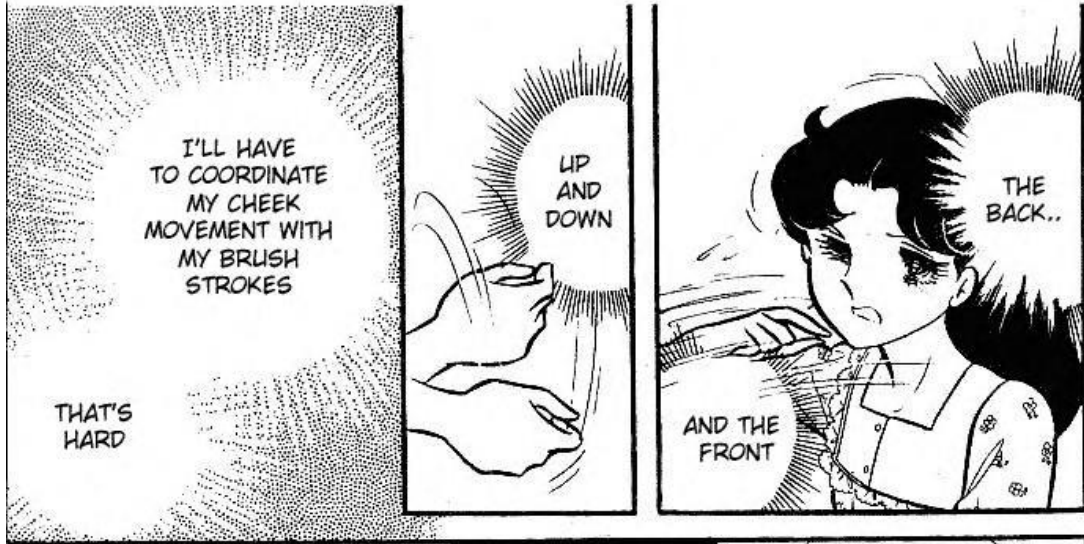
IF I WANT TO DO THIS WELL..

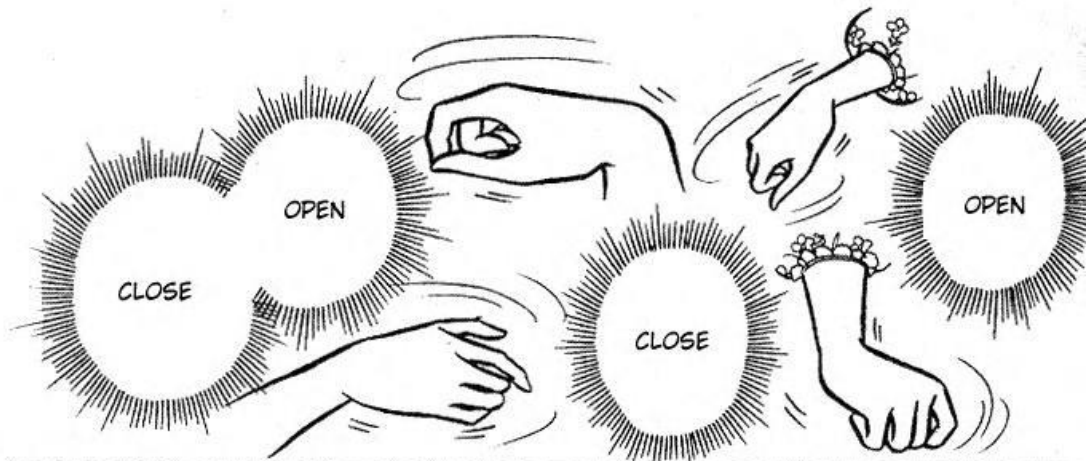
MIMING EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

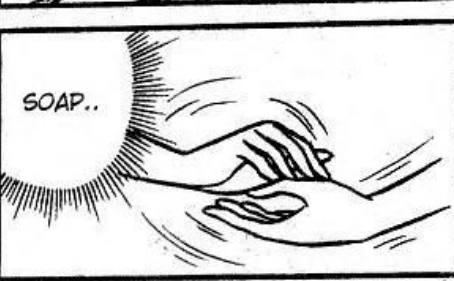
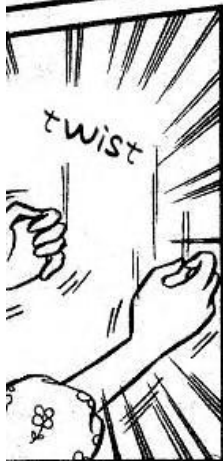














AND THAT'S IT



WIPE MY FACE OFF



ELBOWS ..

THE JOINTS IN OUR WRIST

NECK, BACK AND SHOULDERS

THESE ORDINARY MOVEMENTS

WOW..

HOW WE MOVE AND HOW WE DISTRIBUTE OUR STRENGTH WHILE DOING SO..

NEVER REALIZED ALL THIS BEFORE

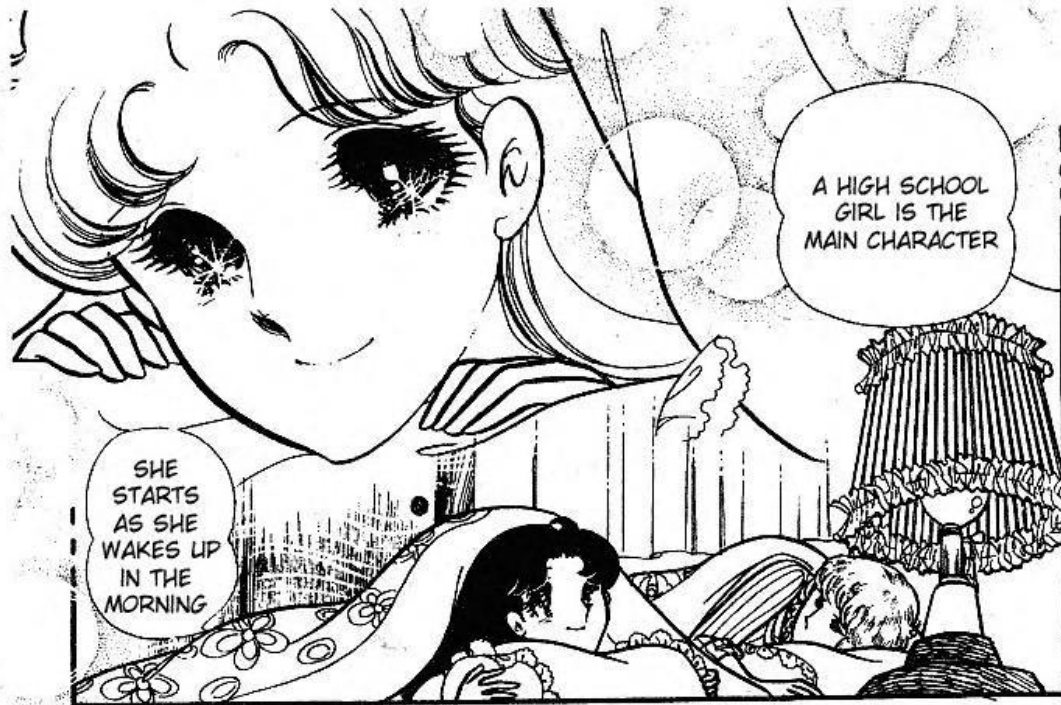


TOORI AME



HOW COULD I NOT HAVE NOTICED THESE THINGS BEFORE?

IF I CAN'T DO THIS, FORGET THAT PLAY



A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL IS THE MAIN CHARACTER

SHE STARTS AS SHE WAKES UP IN THE MORNING



MOM'S IN THE KITCHEN, DAD'S DOING HIS STRETCHES IN THE YARD

I WASH MY FACE, CHANGE MY CLOTHES AND HAVE BREAKFAST

MY BROTHER IS A COLLEGE STUDENT AND MY SISTER IS IN JUNIOR HIGH



AND SHE LOVES SEWING AND CROCHETING

SHE'S IN THE HOME EC CLUB

I'M ALWAYS LATE

CHASE THE SCHOOL BUS

THEY EVEN GO TO THE BATHROOM TOGETHER

SHE HAS A SECRET CRUSH ON THE SOCCER CAPTAIN, SHIMAMOTO

SHE'S QUITE LIKED AT SCHOOL AND HAS 3 BEST FRIENDS



SHE WANTS TO GIVE THE CAPTAIN A MONOGRAMMED TOWEL BUT IS TOO SHY, AND IT'S BEEN IN HER BAG FOR A WEEK



AND THIS IS THE STORY, FROM MORNING TO NIGHT

SHE DID EVERYTHING SHE COULD TO SAVE HER FAMILY FROM BREAKING UP

REI, I ENVY THE MAIN CHARACTER



NOW SHE WAS FACED WITH THE FACT THAT HER FATHER MIGHT ACTUALLY LEAVE THEM FOR ANOTHER WOMAN



SHE WAS CAUGHT IN THE RAIN

ONE DAY AS SHE WAS HELPING A FRIEND WHO HAD PASSED OUT



IT'S A REGULAR FAMILY, BUT THEY'RE SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER

SHE'S LOVED,

AT LEAST SHE HAS A FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER AND SISTER



AT LEAST, FOR A MOMENT, THAT FAMILY WILL BE MINE

REI, I'M SO GLAD I CAN ACT

HE FINDS IT HARD TO LEAVE HIS BELOVED FAMILY

EVEN THE FATHER WHO LOVES ANOTHER WOMAN..



AND SAW HER FATHER WITH ANOTHER WOMAN

HER ORDINARY LIFE SUDDENLY CHANGED



I KNOW I CAN DO THIS..
BE AN AMAZING SATO HIROMI

A WARM, LOVING FAMILY TO CALL MY OWN..

THE BEST EVER..

I'LL BE HER UNTIL THE PLAY FINISHES



FOR A WHILE..

YOU'LL HAVE A FAMILY

DO YOUR BEST..

MAYA



AL-RIGHT

WHAT!

LET'S SEE YOUR MIMING

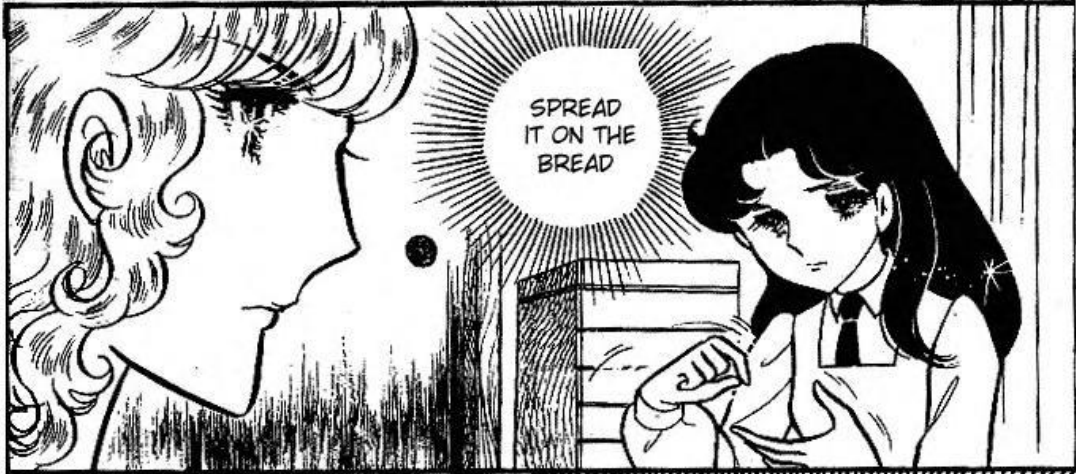
NOT SO FAST!

LET'S SEE IT

WOW, THIS LOOKS GREAT

MORNING, MAYA

MORNING, REI







SO YOU WOULDN'T USE ALL YOUR FINGERS TO HOLD IT

LOOK AT THIS HANDLE

REI?

IT'S TINY

TRY IT AGAIN

GRAB

REACH

PRACTICE ACTING HOW TO HAVE BREAKFAST AND ACTUALLY FORGET TO HAVE BREAKFAST

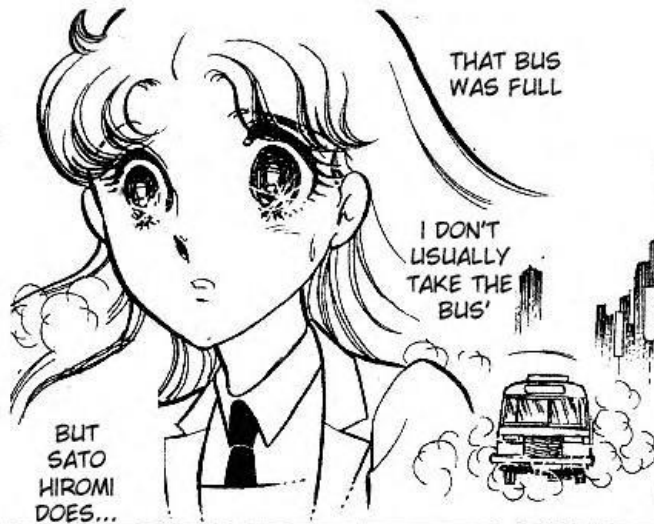
grumble

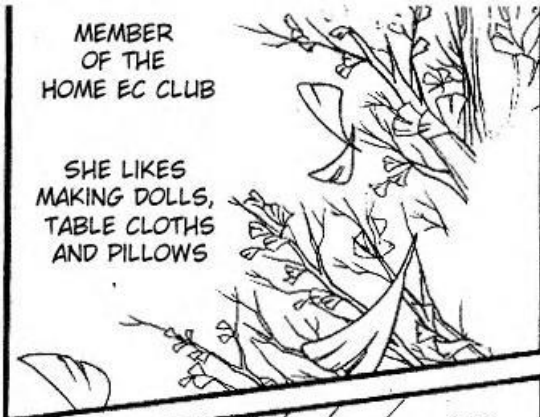
THAT'S JUST LIKE ME

ALRIGHT, NOW THE EGGS

THAT IS BETTER

REI







EXCUSE ME!

I LIKE TO MEET THE CAPTAIN



I LIKE TO MEET THE CAPTAIN, PLEASE

THE CAP-TAIN?

SHE SURE IS LOUD!



THIS WAY I'LL KNOW HOW TO BE HER WHEN SHE'S MEETING WITH THE CAPTAIN

HOW FAR DOES SHE HAVE TO LOOK UP TO LOOK INTO HIS EYES

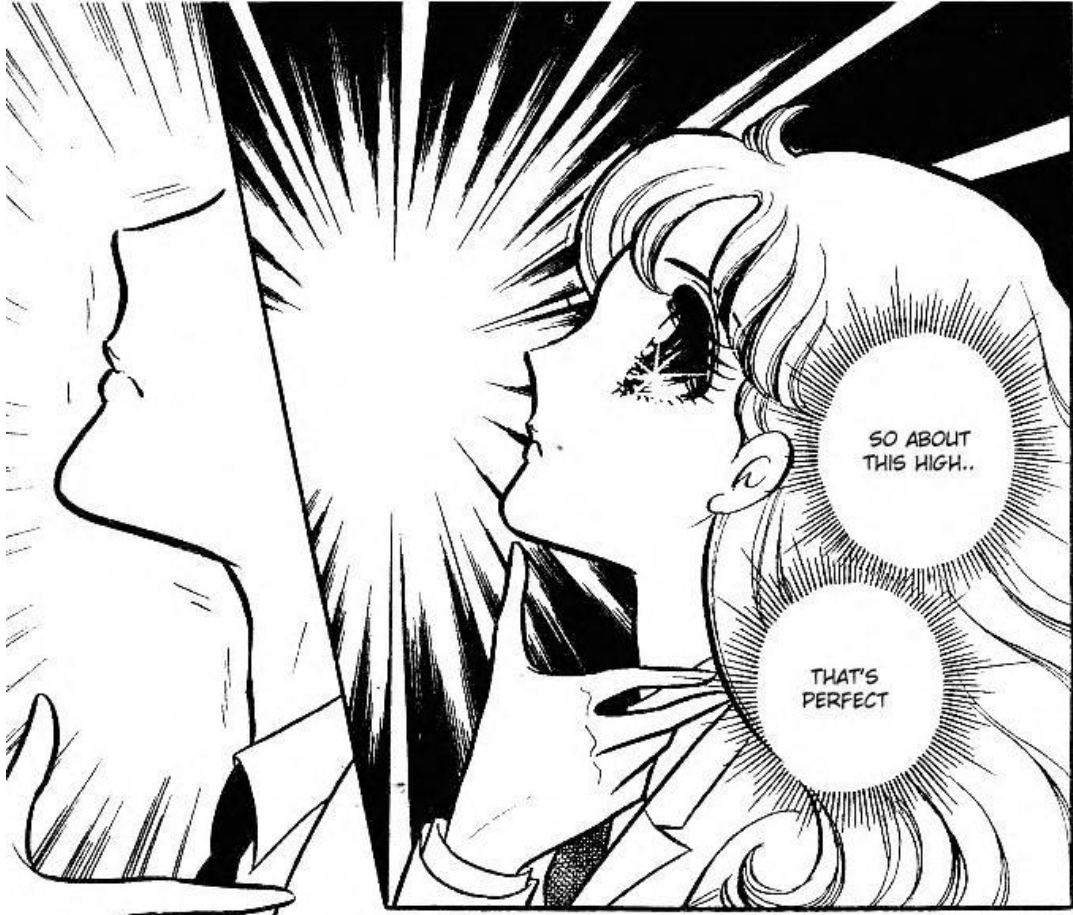
HIS FACE, HEIGHT, BODY TYPE..

YO CAPTAIN, THIS WEIRD GIRL WANTS TO SEE YOU!

WHAT IS THIS CAPTAIN LIKE TO HER?

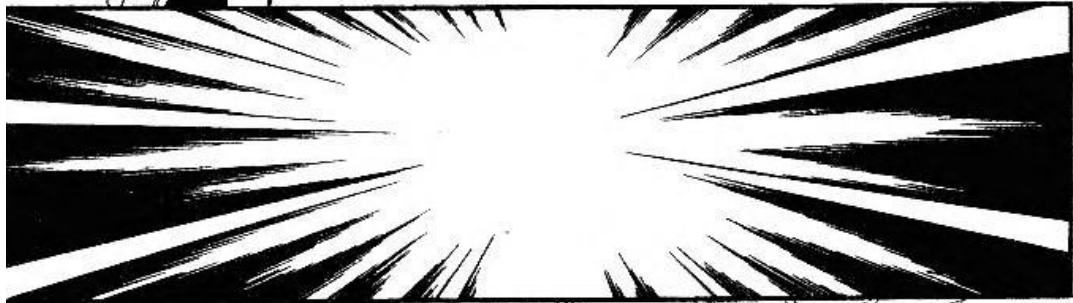
OF COURSE, THIS CAPTAIN IS DIFFERENT BUT HE'LL DO





SO ABOUT
THIS HIGH..

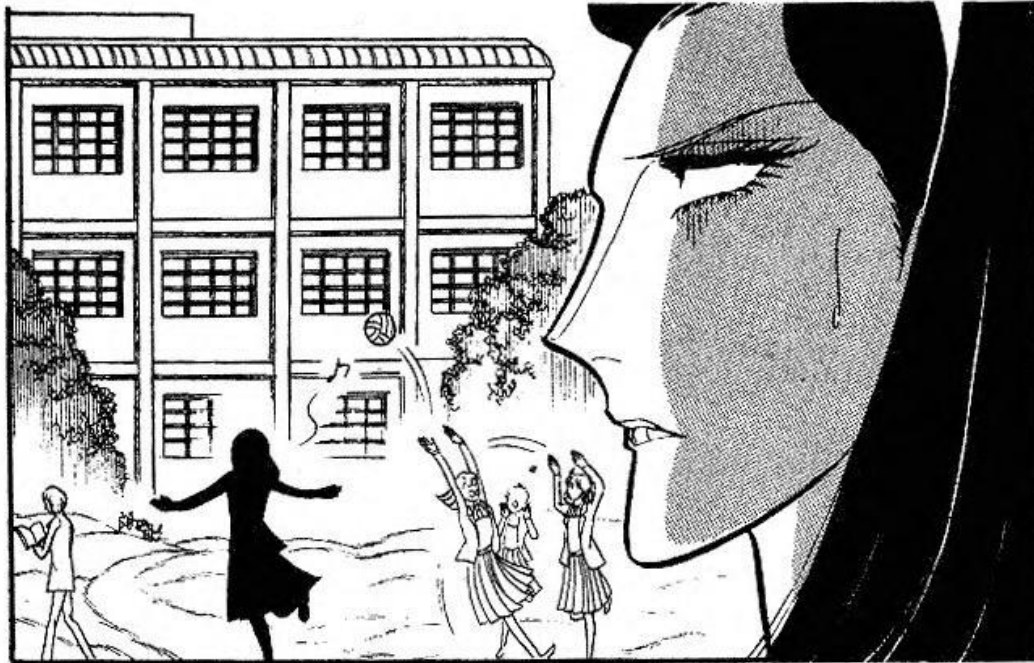
THAT'S
PERFECT



THAT'S IT!

THANKS, I MIGHT
DROP BY TO SEE YOU
PRACTICE LATER ON

WONDER
WHAT THAT
WAS ALL
ABOUT?





HOW SHE PRACTICES,
WHAT SHE'S GOING TO PERFORM

I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE'S UP TO!

I WANT TO KNOW!

YES!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



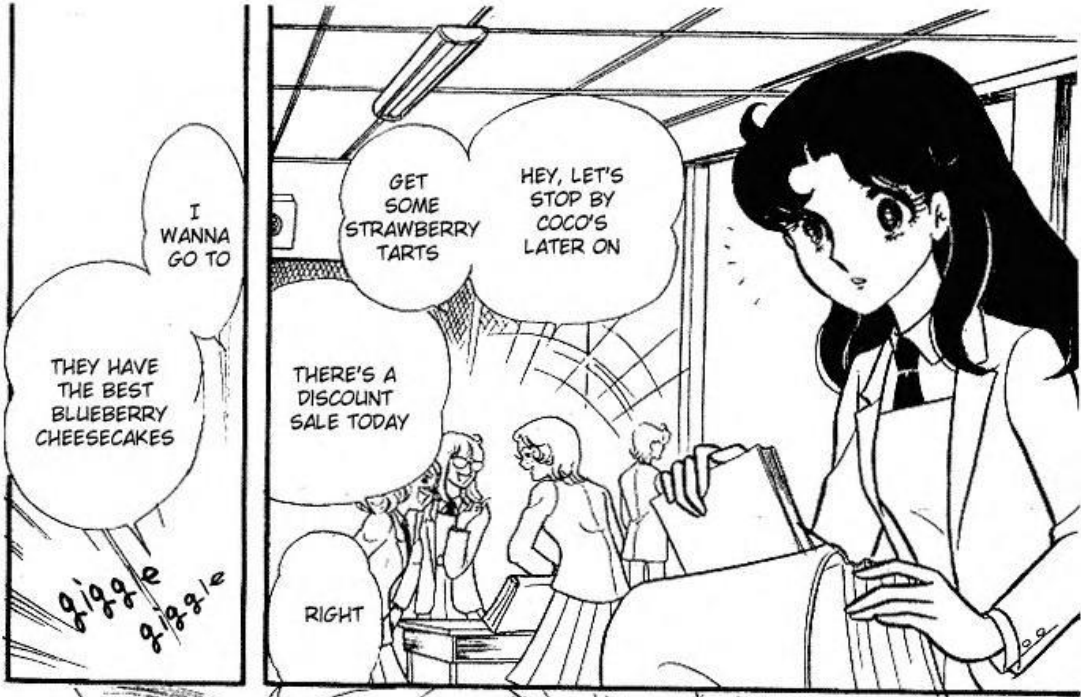
SATO HIROMI

SATO HIROMI

JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL

I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GONNA BE THIS HARD

RENG
RENG
RENG



I WANNA GO TO

THEY HAVE THE BEST BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKES

giggle giggle

GET SOME STRAWBERRY TARTS

HEY, LET'S STOP BY COCO'S LATER ON

THERE'S A DISCOUNT SALE TODAY

RIGHT

OH, KUSAKI ...

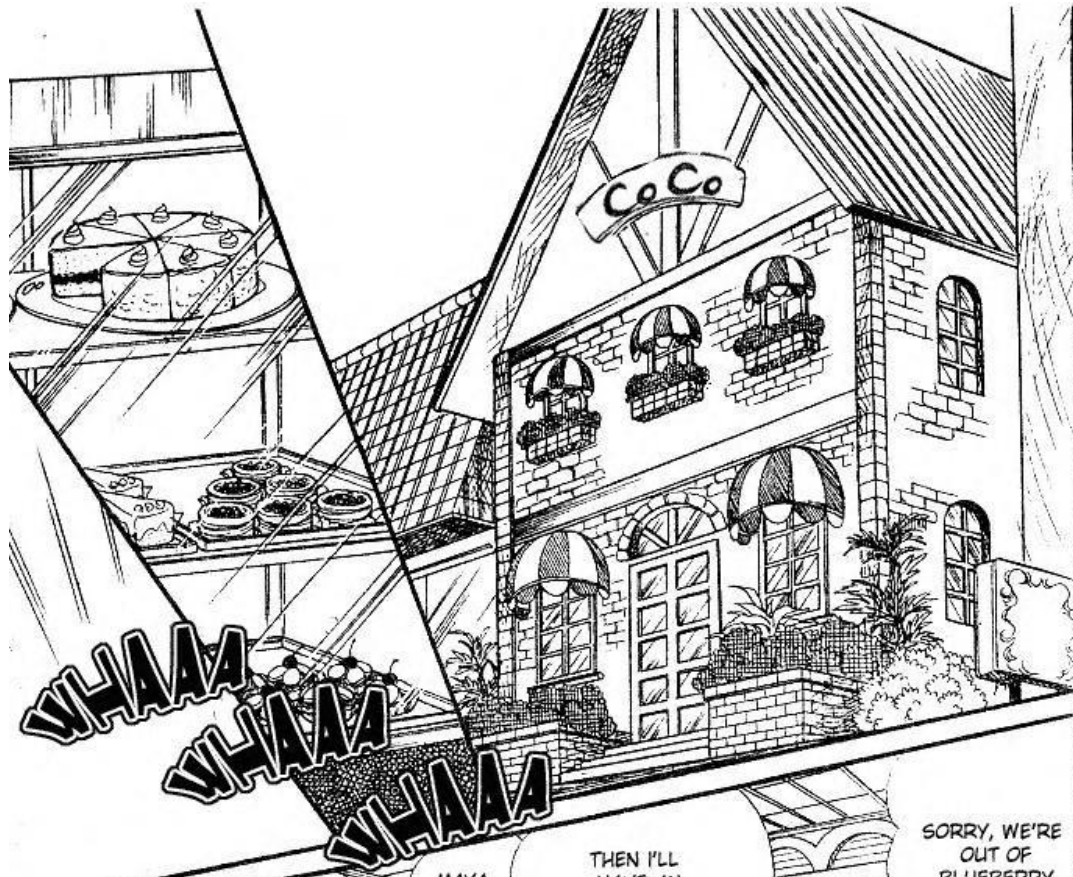
MAYA, WHAT'S UP?

COME ON, LET'S TAG ALONG

NOW BEFORE IT GETS TO PACKED

DO THEY GO OUT A LOT?

I'VE NEVER GONE OUT WITH A BUNCH OF FRIENDS



.. A CHOCOLATE CAKE

UH.. I'LL HAVE THE ORANGE TART AND

MAYA, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THEN I'LL HAVE AN ORANGE TART AND AN APPLE PIE

SORRY, WE'RE OUT OF BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE

MAKE IT TWO

COFFEE?

UH, SURE?



I'M COMING

THERE ARE SEATS HERE

OVER HERE



OH, COME ONE.. GIMME A BREAK

AND WITHOUT TELLING ME?

MOMOE, WHY DID YOU QUIT?

OOOOH



IT'S GOOD

DID YOU WATCH THE BEST TEN ON TV YESTERDAY?

TAHARA YOSHIHIKO WAS THERE

I HAVE TO GET HIS PHONE NUMBER



THAT, I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT

SOMEONE HAS A CRUSH ON KOMORI

NO WAY

HIS DAD TEACHES BIOLOGY, MR. NAKAMURA



BOYS THAT GIRLS LIKE

TV SHOWS AND VARIOUS GOSSIP

ORANGE TARTS AND CHOCOLATE CAKE

BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKES AND APPLE PIE

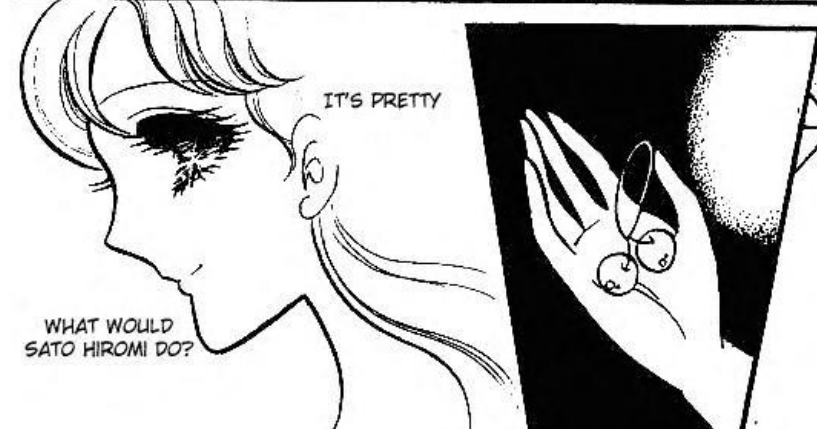
ALL THESE THINGS..

I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND SATO HIROMI

ALL THIS GIRL TALK



SATO HIROMI WOULD'VE LOVED THIS TOO



WHAT WOULD SATO HIROMI DO?

THESE EVERY DAY THINGS



THANK YOU, COME AGAIN





SENSEI WOULD
HAVE DONE
THE EXACT
SAME THING

I'M HER FRIEND,
BUT I DON'T WANT
TO SPOIL HER



WITHOUT SENSEI,
SHE FEELS A
LITTLE BIT LOST

MAYA WANTS
TO IMPROVE
SO BAD

HOW CAN
SHE BECOME
THE CRIMSON
GODDESS
OTHERWISE?

SHE WANTS TO
GET BACK UP
ON HER FEET



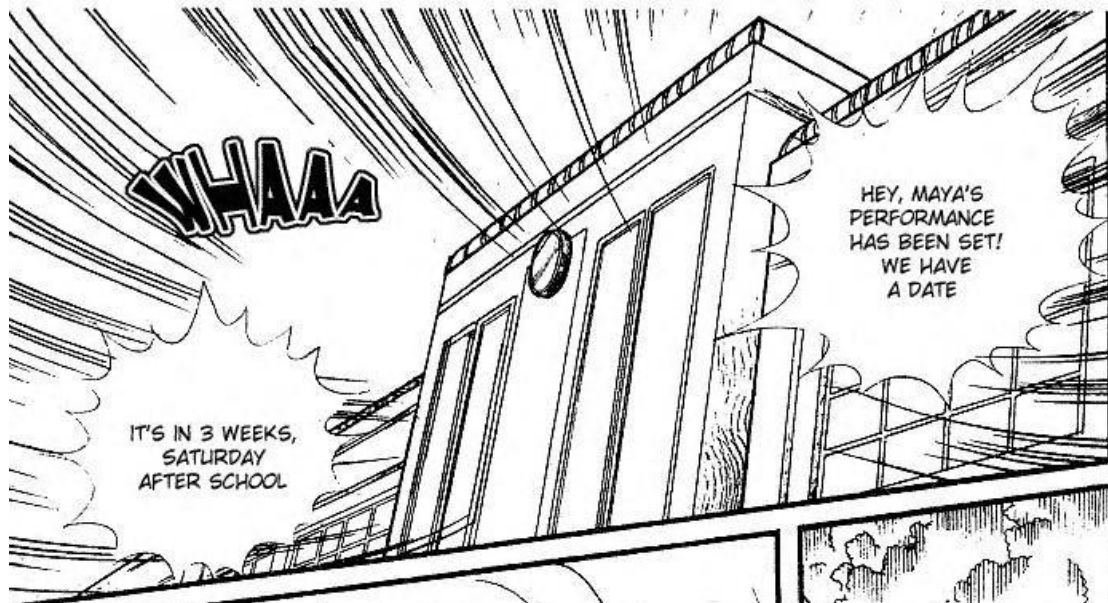
SHE WANTS
MAYA TO
LEARN
FROM THE
AUDIENCE

SHE DIDN'T
ABANDON
MAYA

WHY DID
SENSEI
ABANDON
MAYA?

I DON'T
COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND
THAT







YEAH, WE'LL
WANT TO
WATCH AT
LEAST TWICE

I BET THIS
ONE'LL BE
GREAT TOO

MAYBE
SHE'LL DO
A REPEAT
AGAIN



I CAN
DO THIS..

SATO
HIROMI

I CAN BE
SATO
HIROMI



SATO HIROMI

SHE LIKES
CUTE LITTLE
THINGS

SHE LIKES TO
EAT CAKE
AFTER SCHOOL

SHE LOVES TO CHAT

SHE'S JUST SIMPLY HAPPY



To Be Continued