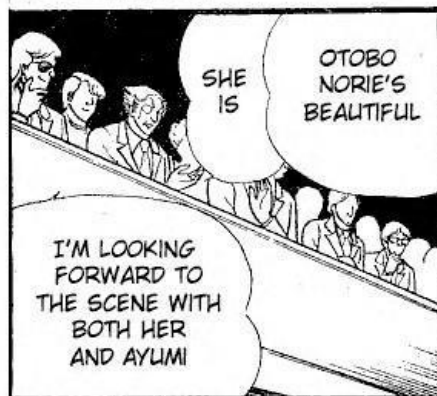




MARIA, WE REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK..

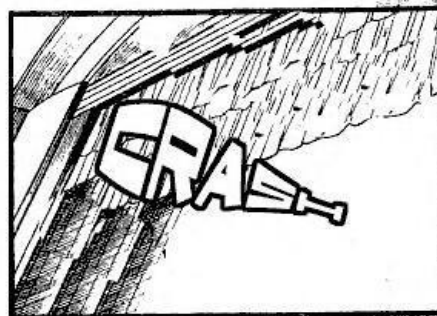
NOT YET, JUST A BIT LONGER



SHE IS

OTOBO NORIE'S BEAUTIFUL

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SCENE WITH BOTH HER AND AYUMI



AND IT'S TOO BEAUTIFUL OF A DUSK TO MISS



I TIRE OF CONSTANTLY BEING WITHIN THE CASTLE WALLS



THANK YOU FOR RESCUING MY DAUGHTER

THE HORSES JUST WENT WILD ALL OF A SUDDEN



MISS, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YOU WERE ALMOST RUN OVER



THE CARRIAGE HAS TURNED OVER

WOW, AN OLD-FASHIONED HORSE CARRIAGE



IT'S HIME-KAWA AYUMI

CAR-MILLA



WHAT?



OH, YOU'VE GONE SO PALE

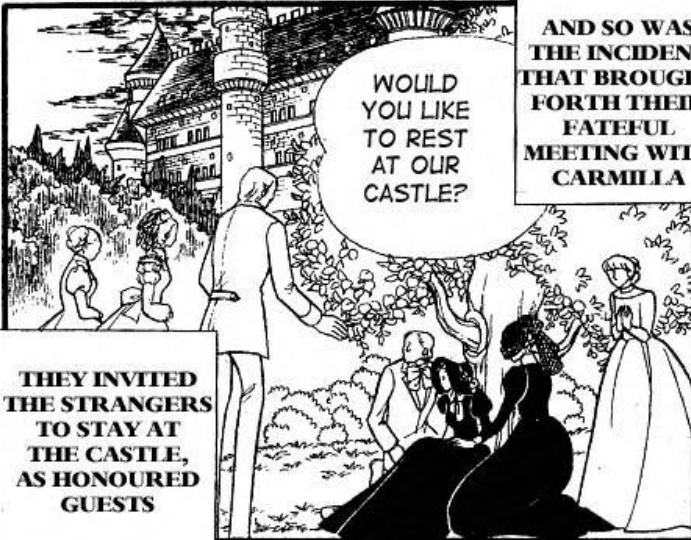
CARMILLA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?  
MY CHEST HURTS A BIT



OH, WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

YOU ALWAYS WERE FRAGILE

**THE LADY, HOWEVER, TOOK LEAVE ON AN ERRAND BUT TOLD THAT SHE WOULD COME BACK AFTER THE SECOND MONTH**



WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST AT OUR CASTLE?

AND SO WAS THE INCIDENT THAT BROUGHT FORTH THEIR FATEFUL MEETING WITH CARMILLA

**THEY INVITED THE STRANGERS TO STAY AT THE CASTLE, AS HONOURED GUESTS**

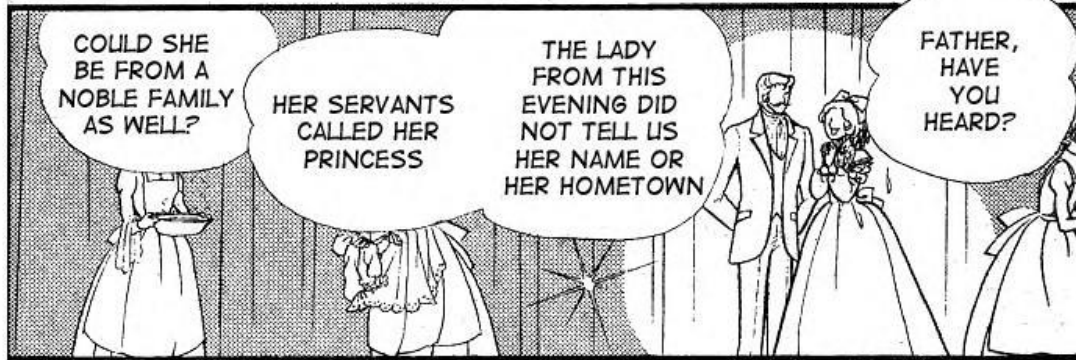


COULD SHE BE FROM A NOBLE FAMILY AS WELL?

HER SERVANTS CALLED HER PRINCESS

THE LADY FROM THIS EVENING DID NOT TELL US HER NAME OR HER HOMETOWN

FATHER, HAVE YOU HEARD?



MIGHT I INTRUDE?







SO I CLIMBED OUT OF BED AND HID UNDERNEATH

SUDDENLY I HEARD SOMEONE APPROACH US I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN INTRUDER

WE SOON FELL ASLEEP

I CONSOLED YOU..

THEN I SIMPLY FOUND MYSELF ALONE, ON MY OWN BED

THEN I KISSED YOU ON THE CHEEK

CARMILLA

IT SEEMS SO ODD

THIS IS MOST STRANGE INDEED

I'VE HAD THE SAME DREAM

I FEEL AS IF WE WERE FATED TO MEET, MARIA

WHEN I WAS ALONE AND CRYING, YOU CAME AND CONSOLED ME AND YOU KISSED ME ON THE CHEEK

I'VE BEEN AN ORPHAN FOR MANY YEARS

UNABLE TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY AS OTHERS DO

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO FRAGILE, SPENDING MOST OF MY DAYS IN BED, UNABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS

MANY... MANY... YEARS

AFTER THAT WE WENT TO SLEEP

OH, IT WAS WONDERFUL

I WAS ONCE QUITE LIVELY TOO



SHE'S SO SAD

WHAT?

THIS FEELS DIFFERENT FROM REHEARSALS



I AM MOST DELIGHTED TO HAVE MET YOU  
WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?



IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T SO BEAUTIFUL...



THAT DREAM IS ALL I HAVE, AND YOU HAVE CAPTURED MY HEART

I WOULD HAVE LONG FORGOTTEN YOUR FACE FROM MY DREAMS



THEN WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON..

I HAVE HAD NO FRIENDS EITHER

CARMILLA

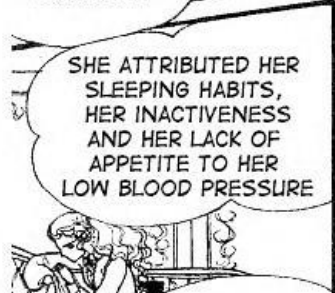
I HAVE NO SIBLINGS, I AM ALWAYS ALONE IN THIS CASTLE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE



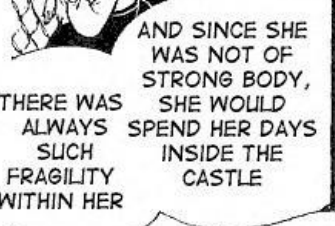


SHE WOULD ONLY DRINK DURING MEALS

WHEN WE ATE TOGETHER, SHE WOULD HAVE NO APPETITE



SHE ATTRIBUTED HER SLEEPING HABITS, HER INACTIVENESS AND HER LACK OF APPETITE TO HER LOW BLOOD PRESSURE



AND SINCE SHE WAS NOT OF STRONG BODY, SHE WOULD SPEND HER DAYS INSIDE THE CASTLE  
THERE WAS ALWAYS SUCH FRAGILITY WITHIN HER



SHE WAS NOT QUITE... ORDINARY, IF YOU WILL

SHE ALWAYS WOKE UP AT 1 IN THE AFTERNOON



SHE DID NOT CARE MUCH FOR SUNLIGHT AT ALL



SHE FAINTED AT THE TOUCH OF SUNLIGHT UPON HER SKIN

WHEN TAKING WALKS IN THE AFTERNOON AROUND THE CASTLE, SHE WOULD RETURN EXHAUSTED



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I FELT I HAD A MOST WONDERFUL AND BEAUTIFUL FRIEND

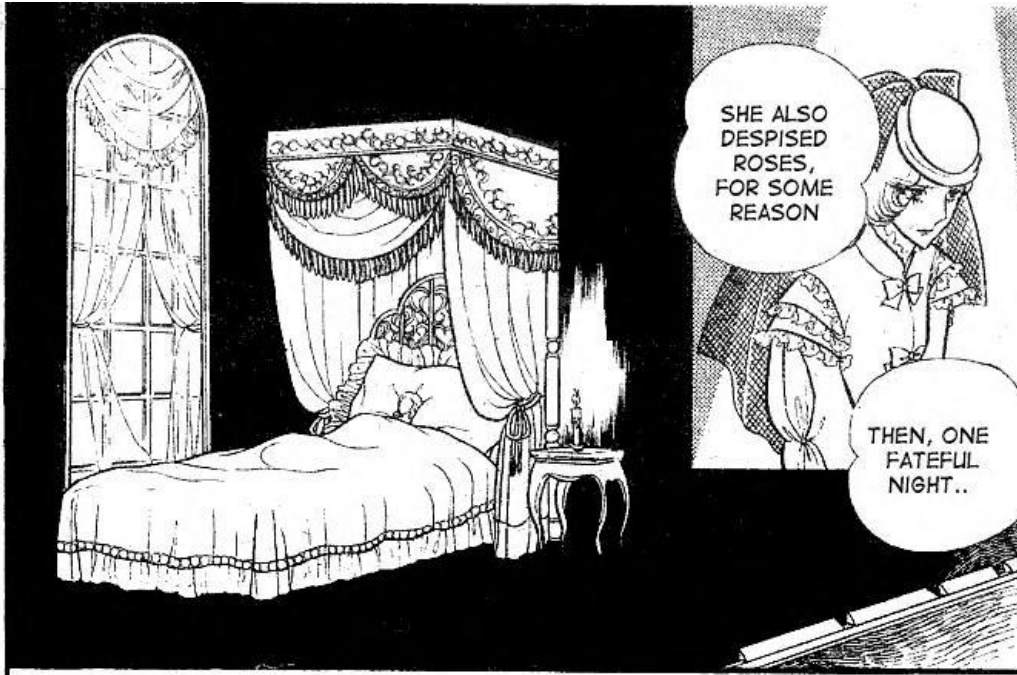
THEY WERE ADDICTIVE

SHE HAD THIS WONDERFUL WAY OF TELLING HER STORIES



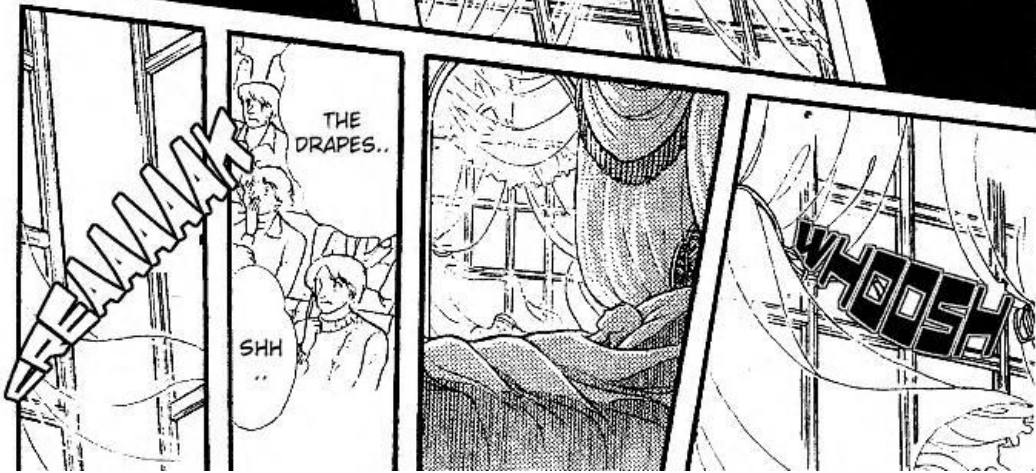
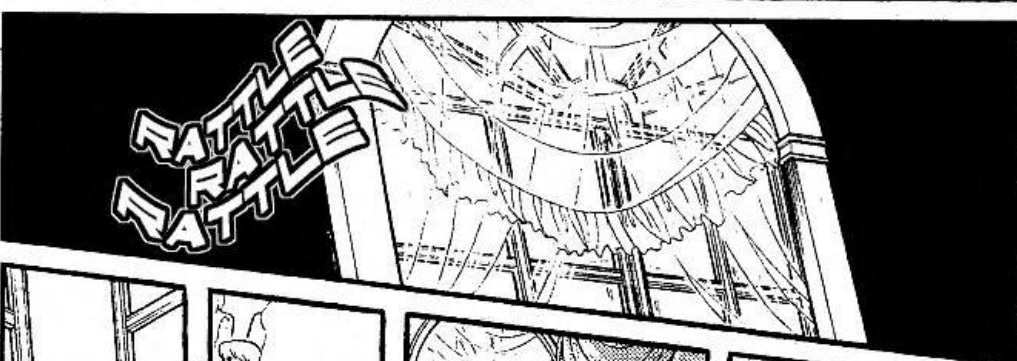
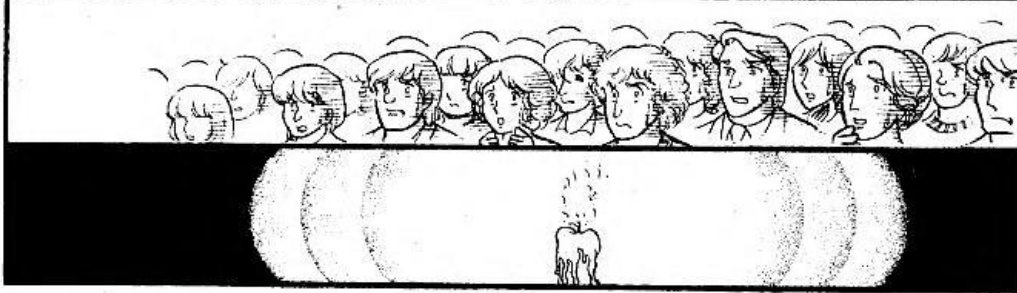
STILL, SHE WAS CHEERFUL AND FULL OF STORIES





SHE ALSO  
DESPISED  
ROSES,  
FOR SOME  
REASON

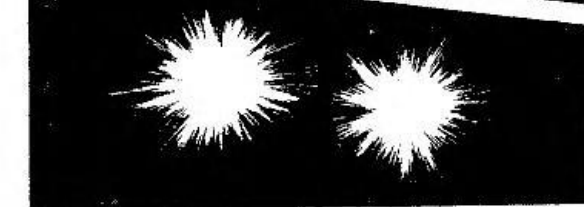
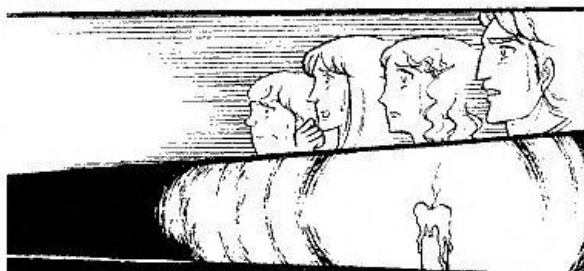
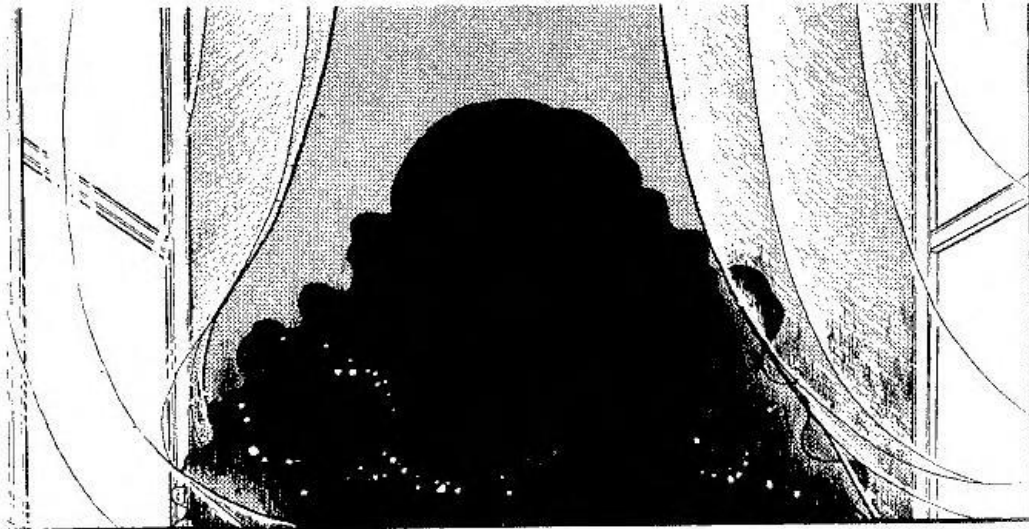
THEN, ONE  
FATEFUL  
NIGHT..



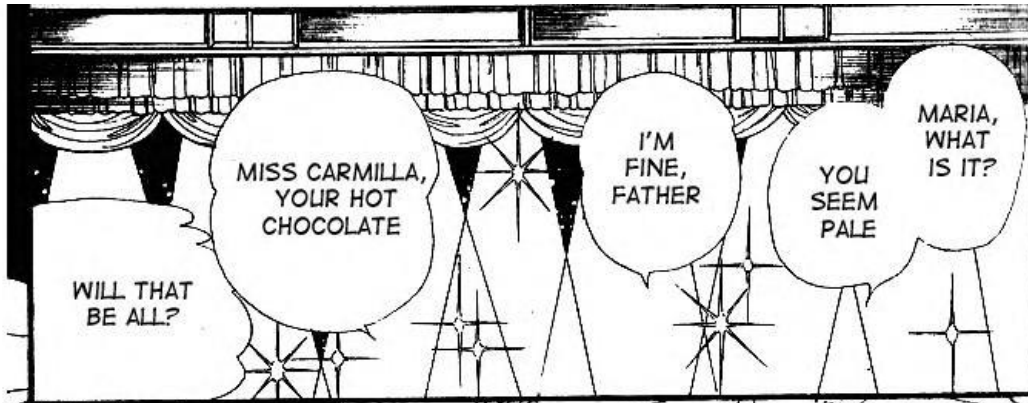
THE  
DRAPES..

SHH

WHOOSH!







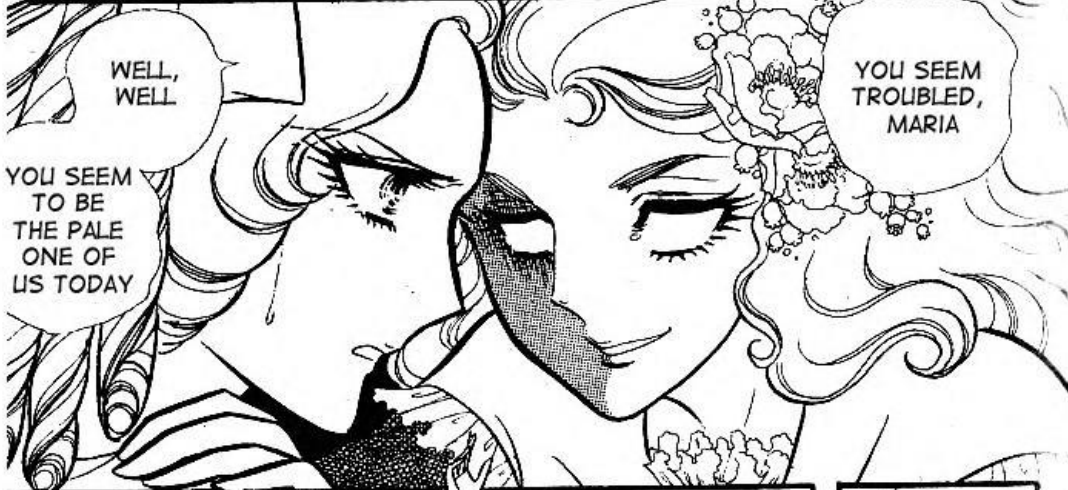
WILL THAT BE ALL?

MISS CARMILLA, YOUR HOT CHOCOLATE

I'M FINE, FATHER

YOU SEEM PALE

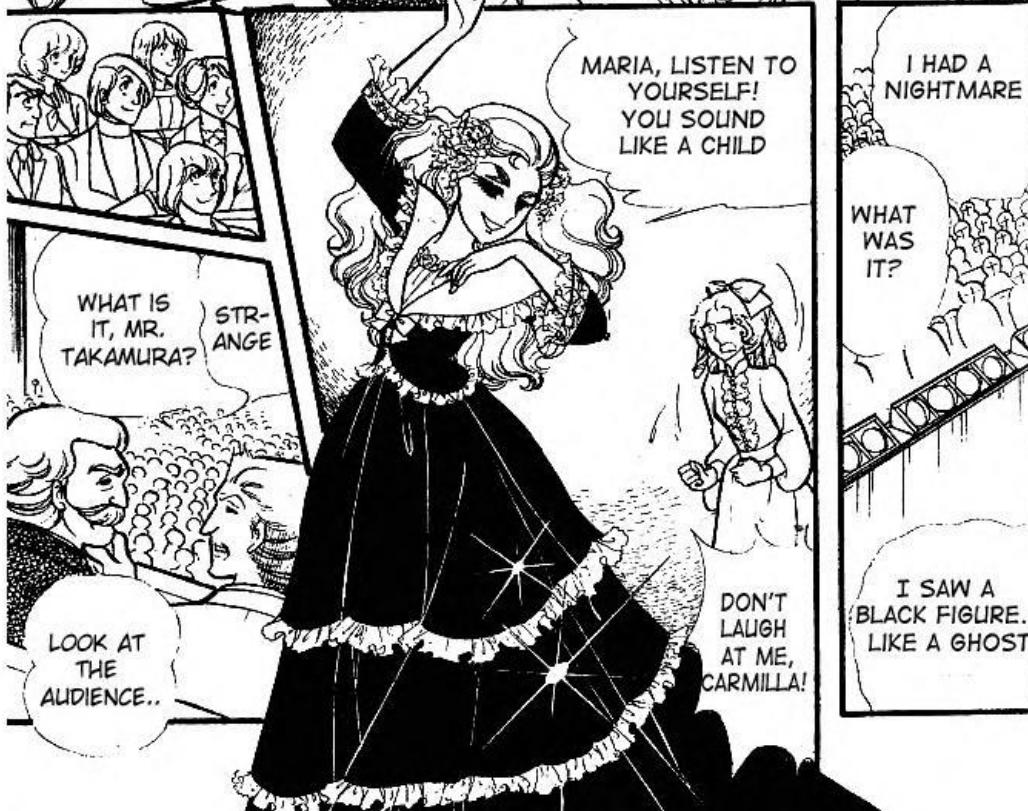
MARIA, WHAT IS IT?



WELL, WELL

YOU SEEM TO BE THE PALE ONE OF US TODAY

YOU SEEM TROUBLED, MARIA



MARIA, LISTEN TO YOURSELF! YOU SOUND LIKE A CHILD

I HAD A NIGHTMARE

WHAT WAS IT?

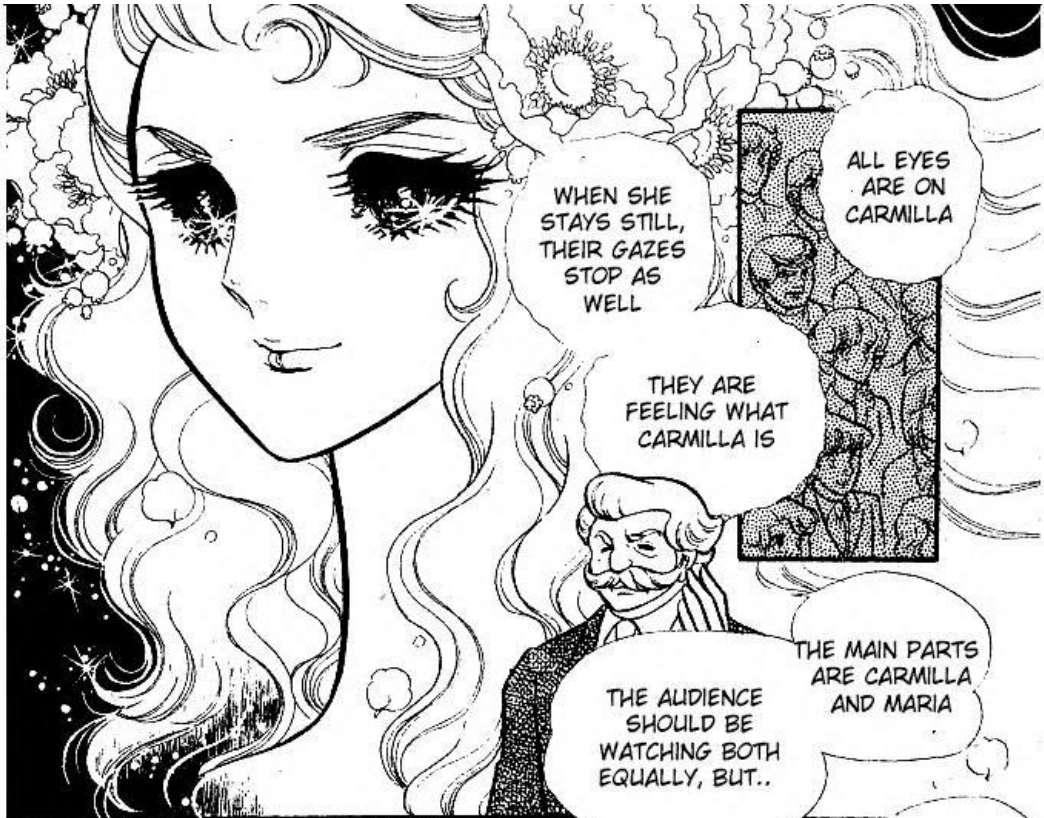
WHAT IS IT, MR. TAKAMURA? STRANGE

LOOK AT THE AUDIENCE..

DON'T LAUGH AT ME, CARMILLA!

I SAW A BLACK FIGURE.. LIKE A GHOST

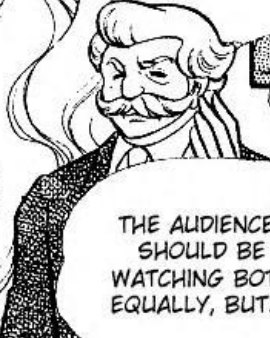




WHEN SHE STAYS STILL, THEIR GAZES STOP AS WELL

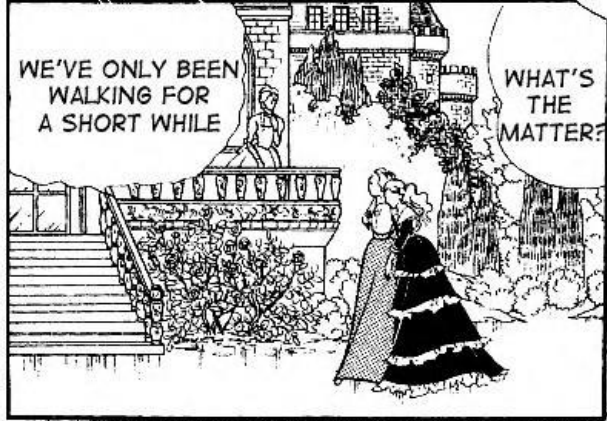
ALL EYES ARE ON CARMILLA

THEY ARE FEELING WHAT CARMILLA IS



THE AUDIENCE SHOULD BE WATCHING BOTH EQUALLY, BUT..

THE MAIN PARTS ARE CARMILLA AND MARIA



WE'VE ONLY BEEN WALKING FOR A SHORT WHILE

WHAT'S THE MATTER?



CARMILLA, CAN YOU WALK?

COME ON, ALMOST THERE

THANK YOU



cough

cough

OTOBE  
NORIE

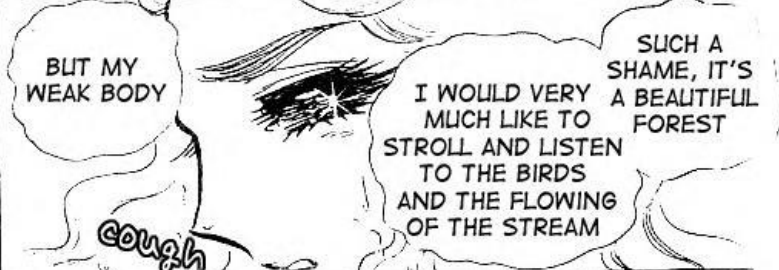


I WON'T  
LET YOU  
BE AN  
ACTRESS,  
YOU SLY  
WENCH



I'M MUCH  
BETTER NOW,  
THANK YOU

huff



BUT MY  
WEAK BODY

I WOULD VERY  
MUCH LIKE TO  
STROLL AND LISTEN  
TO THE BIRDS  
AND THE FLOWING  
OF THE STREAM

SUCH A  
SHAME, IT'S  
A BEAUTIFUL  
FOREST



I HAD  
THOUGHT  
THAT IT WAS  
THE SUNLIGHT

BUT IT'S  
GLOOMY AND  
CLOUDY  
TODAY

YOU SEEM  
SO TIRED,  
BUT WE'VE  
NOT WALKED  
MORE THAN  
A FEW  
MOMENTS

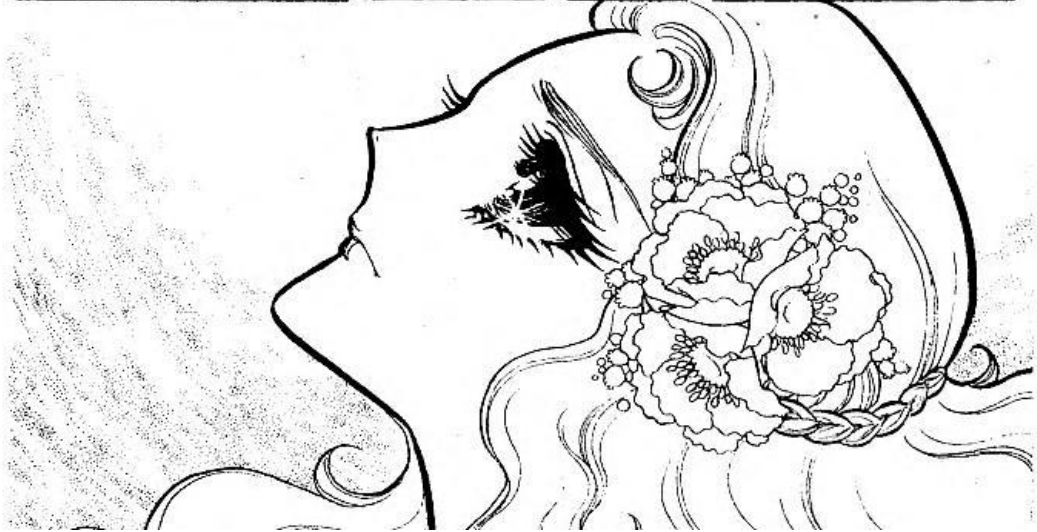
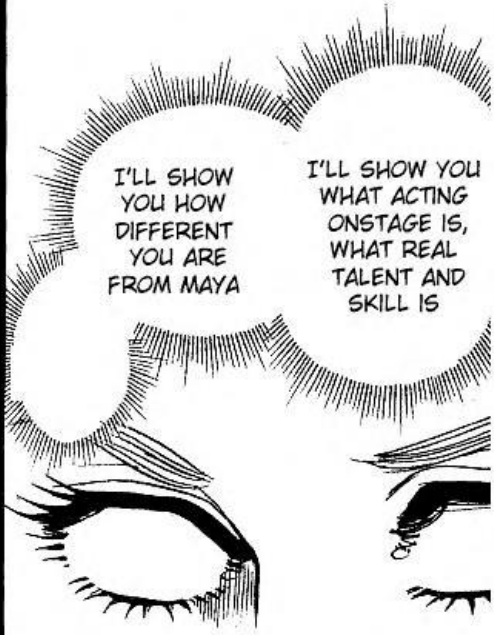
WHAT  
AILMENT  
IS  
CAUSING  
THIS?



THEY SAY  
THAT ROSES  
WILT WHEN  
EVIL SPIRITS  
TOUCH THEM

YOU  
DON'T  
CARE  
FOR  
ROSES?

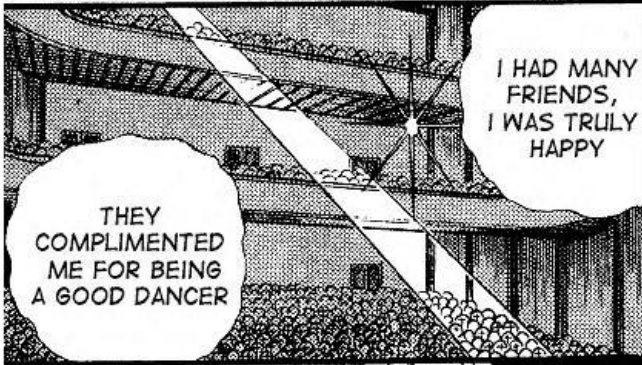
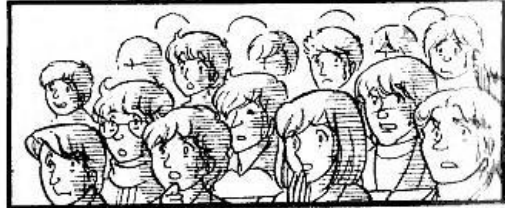
YOU LOOK  
LIKE YOU'VE  
SEEN A  
GHOST





WHAT'S SHE..?

SHE'S DELIBERATELY EXTENDING THIS PAUSE!



THEY COMPLIMENTED ME FOR BEING A GOOD DANCER

I HAD MANY FRIENDS, I WAS TRULY HAPPY



PLAYING IN THE SUNLIGHT..

BUT THOSE DAYS ARE NO MORE

..IN THE STREAMS, HORSEBACK RIDING IN THE FIELDS

I LOVED IT ALL



BACK THEN..

WHEN I STILL HAD MY HEALTH

I USED TO LOVE WALKING IN THE WOODS









NO, I DON'T WANT YOU MAKING OTHER FRIENDS!

WE'LL BOTH MEET NEW FRIENDS THERE

I WON'T HAVE IT, MARIA



IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, I'M GOING TO HATE YOU

CARMILLA, YOU ARE BEHAVING IRRATIONALLY

MISS, YOUR DRESS FOR THE MASKED BALL

MARIA!



COMPARED TO CARMILLA IN THIS PLAY..

QUITE TRUE, SIR

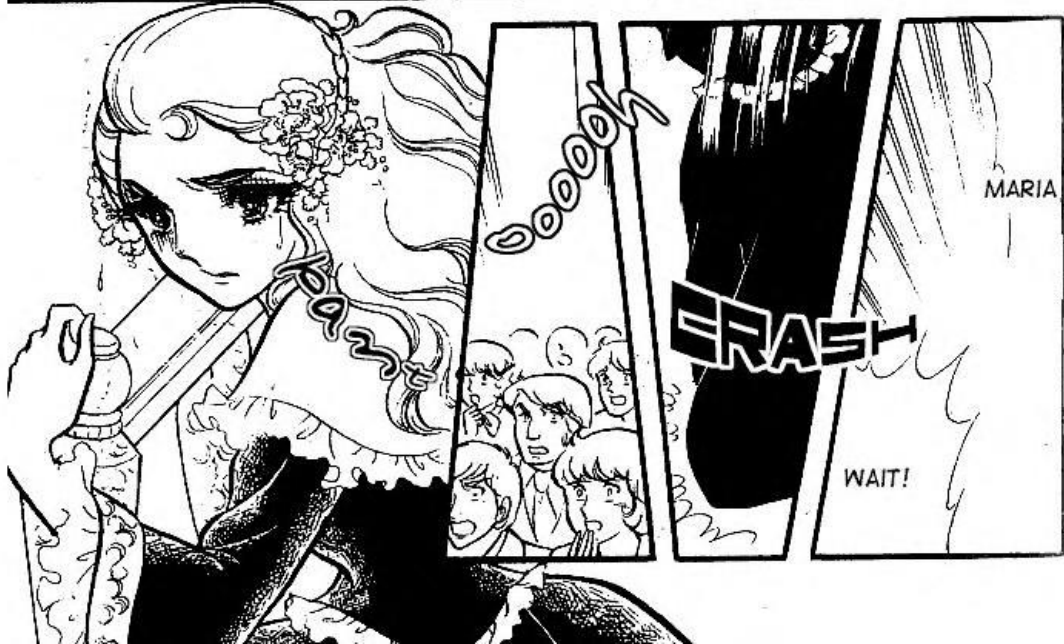
I'M AFRAID MARIA ISN'T ATTRACTING AS MUCH ATTENTION



EVERY WORD SHE SAYS, EVERY MOVE SHE MAKES..

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LOOK AWAY FROM AYUMI EITHER

MY EYES ARE FIXATED UPON HER



Boooh

CRASH

MARIA

WAIT!



WHEEE

IT HURTS  
WHY AM I SO  
FRAIL?

I HAVE NO  
TROUBLE  
GETTING  
ABOUT  
AT NIGHT

COUGH



DON'T FORGET  
HOW SPECIAL  
YOU ARE  
TO ME

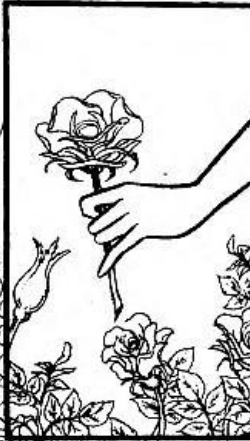
MARIA..  
YOU'RE  
ALL THAT  
I HAVE...

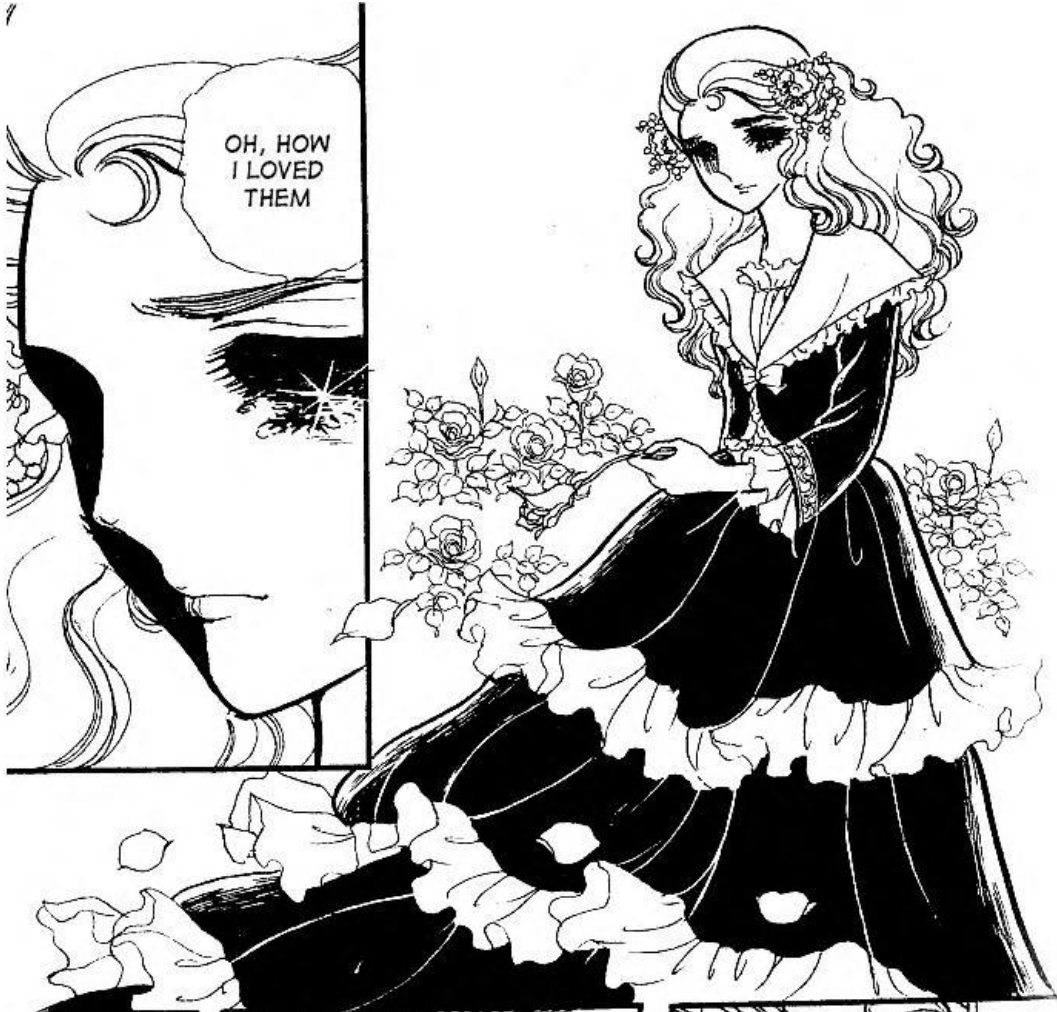


HEY,  
THE  
ROSE!  
IT'S..



THERE  
WAS A  
TIME WHEN  
I USED  
TO LIKE  
ROSES









I CAN'T  
HELP BUT  
SYMPATHIZE  
WITH THIS  
VAMPIRE

I KNOW  
WHAT  
YOU  
MEAN



.. SHE HAS  
SHOWN  
JUST  
HOW MUCH  
SORROW  
SHE HAS  
WITHIN

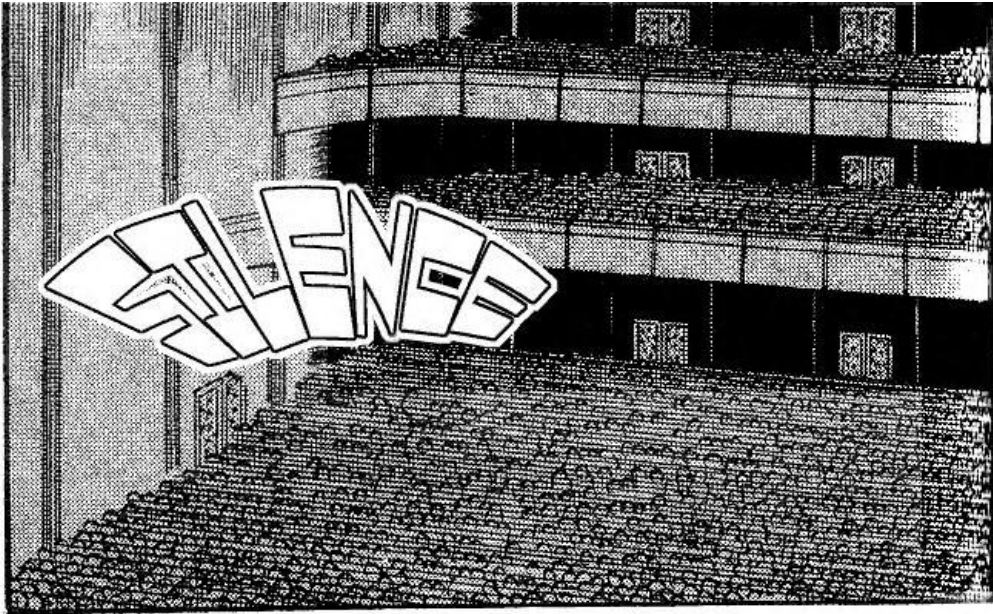
ALMOST  
WITHOUT  
THE NEED  
FOR  
WORDS..

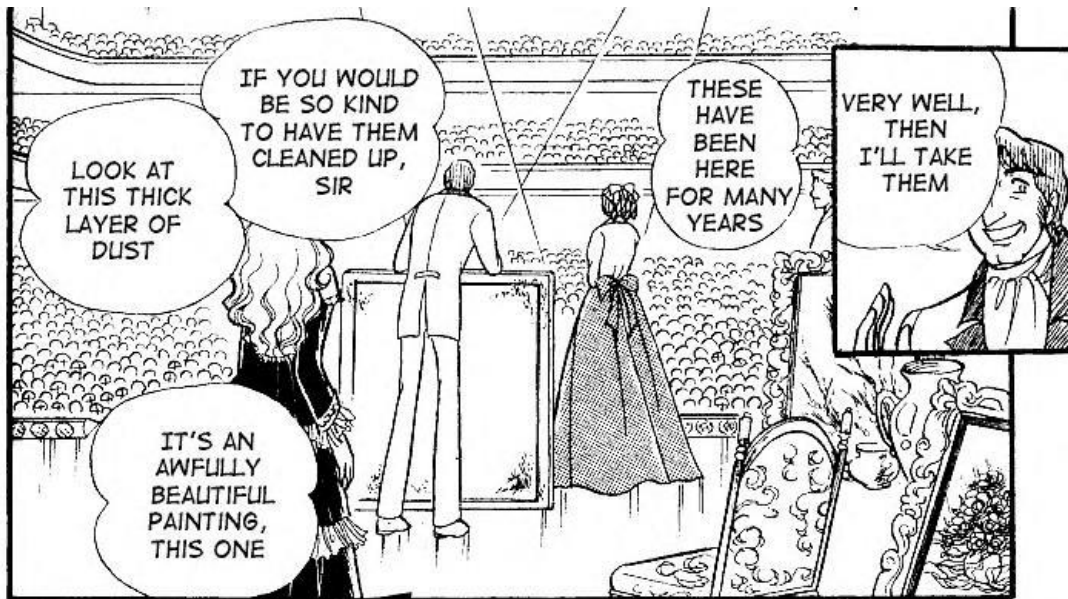


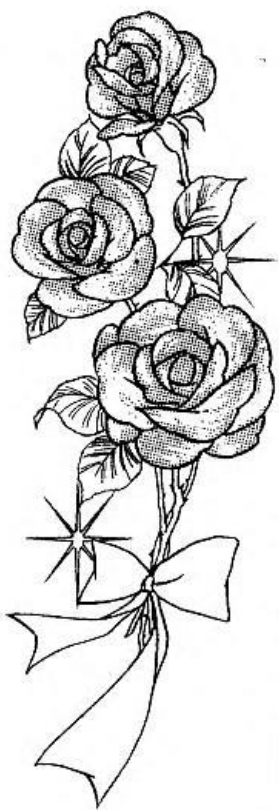
A  
VAMPIRE  
..  
IN SUCH  
SORROW



AY-  
LIMI..



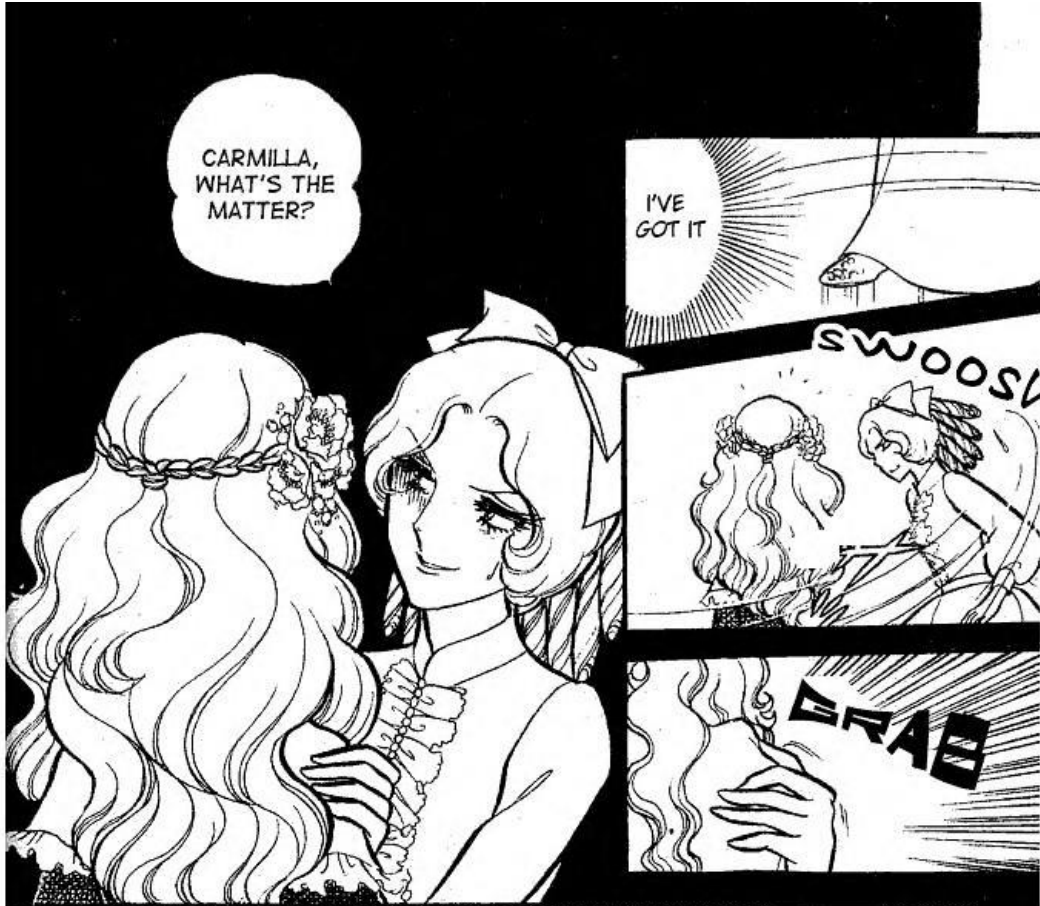




BUT I'M THE STAR HERE

IF THIS GOES ON, SHE'LL UPSTAGE ME BEFORE LONG



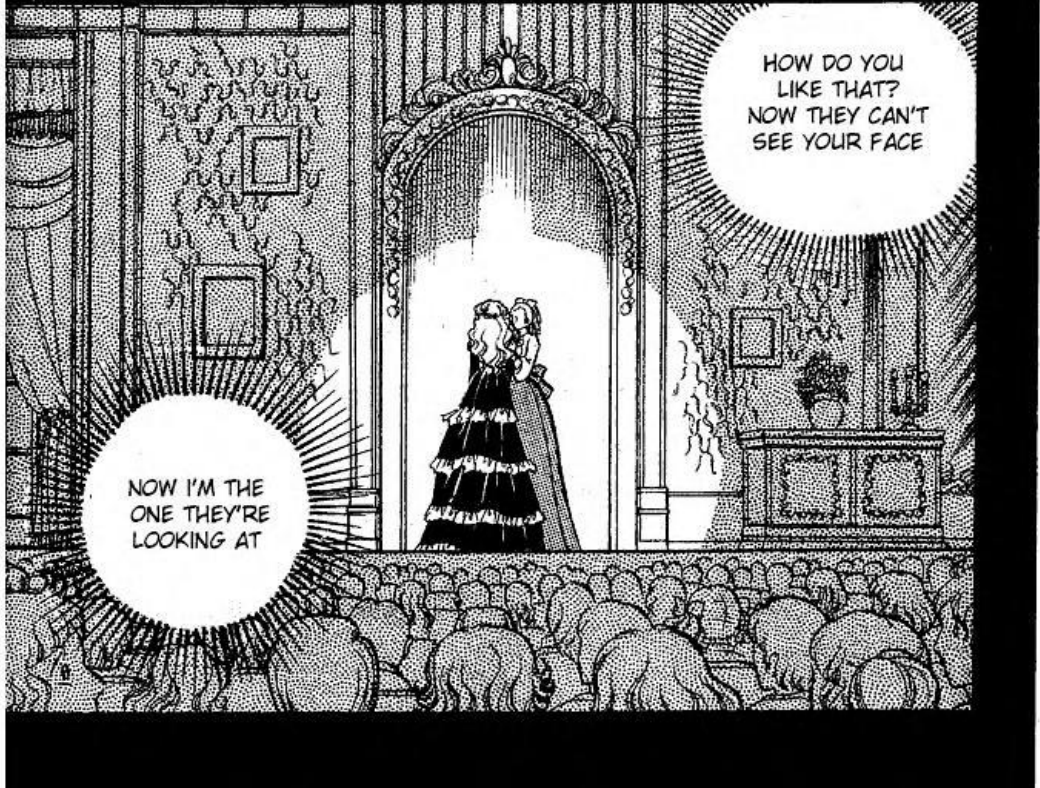


CARMILLA,  
WHAT'S THE  
MATTER?

I'VE  
GOT IT

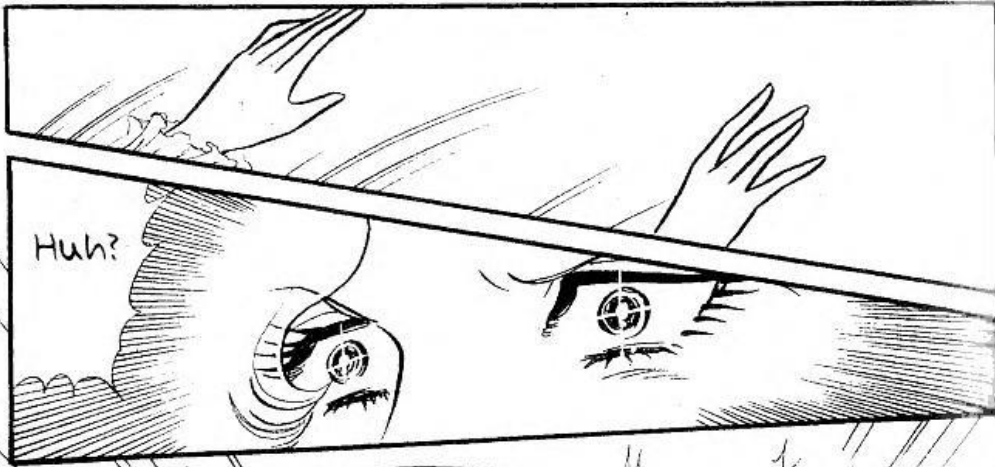
SWOOSH

CRAB



HOW DO YOU  
LIKE THAT?  
NOW THEY CAN'T  
SEE YOUR FACE

NOW I'M THE  
ONE THEY'RE  
LOOKING AT





IF THEY  
FOUND OUT  
MY PAST

THEY'LL TAKE  
ME AWAY  
FROM YOU

I'M  
SCARED  
..

I WANT  
TO STAY  
WITH YOU



WHY CAN'T  
THEY JUST  
LET IT GO?

IS  
WATCHING  
HER

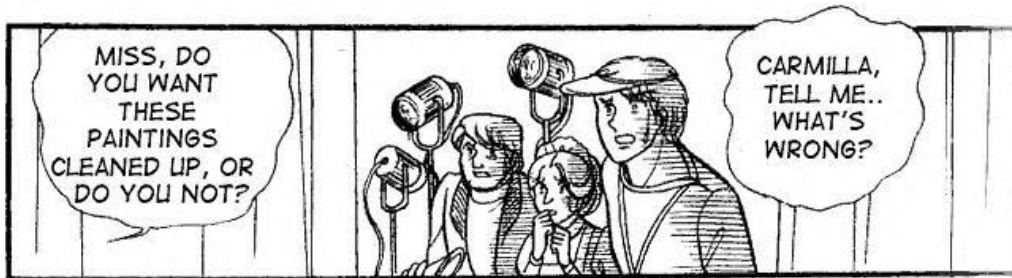
WHY MUST  
THEY ALWAYS  
SPEAK OF  
THE PAST?

WHY MUST  
THEY TELL  
STORIES  
OF OLD?

THEY'RE  
STILL  
WATCHING  
HER

EVERYONE..

THIS  
CAN'T BE  
...









THIS DEPICTION OF A VAMPIRE BY HIMEKAWA AYUMI WAS LIKE NONE OTHER SEEN BEFORE, NOR THAT WHICH ONE WOULD EXPECT

IN THE YEARS GONE BY, CARMILLA WAS A CHEERFUL, WELL-LOVED YOUNG GIRL

WHEN SHE BECAME A VAMPIRE, SHE ALL BUT LOST THE HAPPINESS SHE ONCE HAD AS A HUMAN

AND THUS SHE LIVED ON AS THE VAMPIRE IN DESPAIR

AYUMI'S ACTING CONVEYED THIS DESPAIR PERFECTLY



YOU ARE MY SOUL

BUT TO ME YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE

YOU MAY FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE

I LOVE YOU, MARIA

AND YOU WILL LIVE WITHIN ME FOREVER

ONE DAY, YOU WILL BECOME ONE WITH ME



ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?

YOU SEEM DIZZY



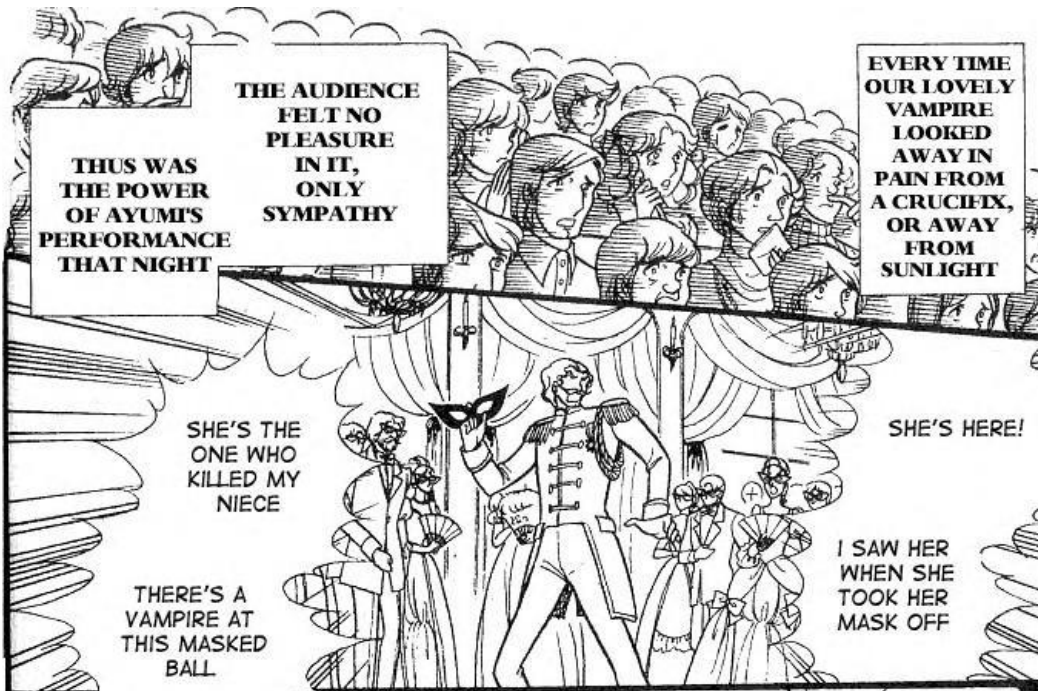
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I LOVE YOU

FORGIVE ME..



IT'S ME, ISN'T IT?

MARIA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



THIS WAS THE POWER OF AYUMI'S PERFORMANCE THAT NIGHT

EVERY TIME OUR LOVELY VAMPIRE LOOKED AWAY IN PAIN FROM A CRUCIFIX, OR AWAY FROM SUNLIGHT

THE AUDIENCE FELT NO PLEASURE IN IT, ONLY SYMPATHY

SHE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED MY NIECE

SHE'S HERE!

THERE'S A VAMPIRE AT THIS MASKED BALL

I SAW HER WHEN SHE TOOK HER MASK OFF



AND IT'S OVER 200 YEARS OLD

LOOK, SHE LOOKS JUST AS THIS PAINTING DOES

IT'S TRUE, MARIA HAS BEEN BITTEN BY THIS VAMPIRE

THESE ARE THE TEETH MARKS ON HER NECK

JUST AS ON MY NIECE

EVEN THE BIRTHMARK ON HER NECK

IT'S A PERFECT LIKENESS



OUR EVIL VILLAIN HAD IN FACT, STOLEN THEIR HEARTS INSTEAD AS THE BEAUTIFUL HEROINE

AS HER SECRET WAS DISCOVERED, THE AUDIENCE GREW RESTLESS



AS THE AUDIENCE WOULD HAVE IT, THE LEAD ROLE WAS NOT MARIA

NO..

NO WAY..



THE AUDIENCE CLEARLY LOVED CARMILLA!

THAT WAS A GREAT PLAY!

THAT WAS WONDERFUL

"SHE'S A VAMPIRE, SHE WILL NEVER DIE"

EVERYONE'S THINKING THE SAME THING

AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED, IT WAS CARMILLA THE VAMPIRE



THE CURTAIN'S UP!

LOOK!

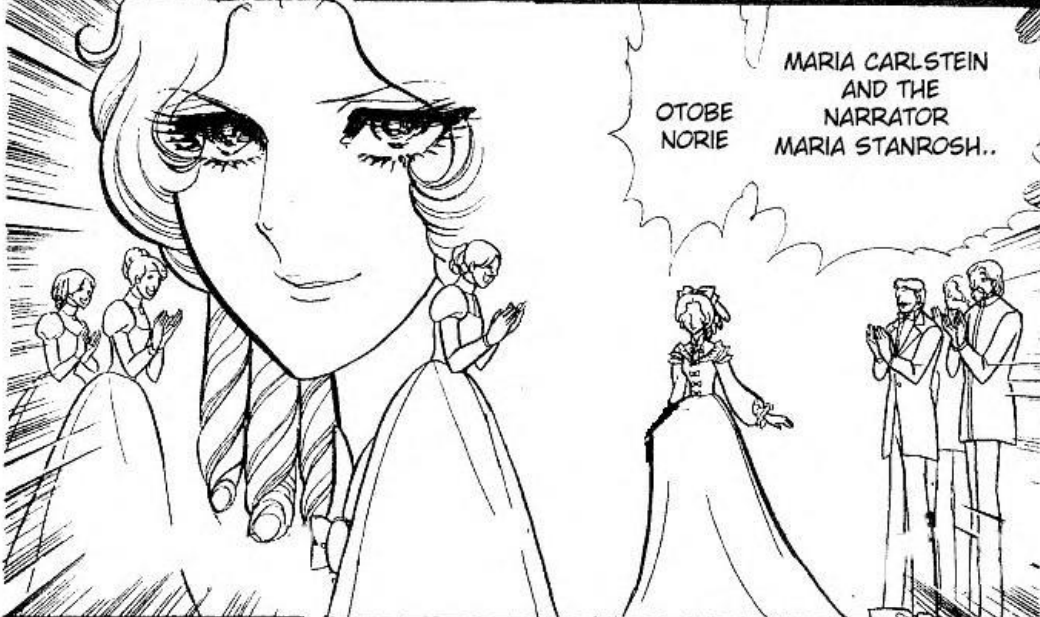
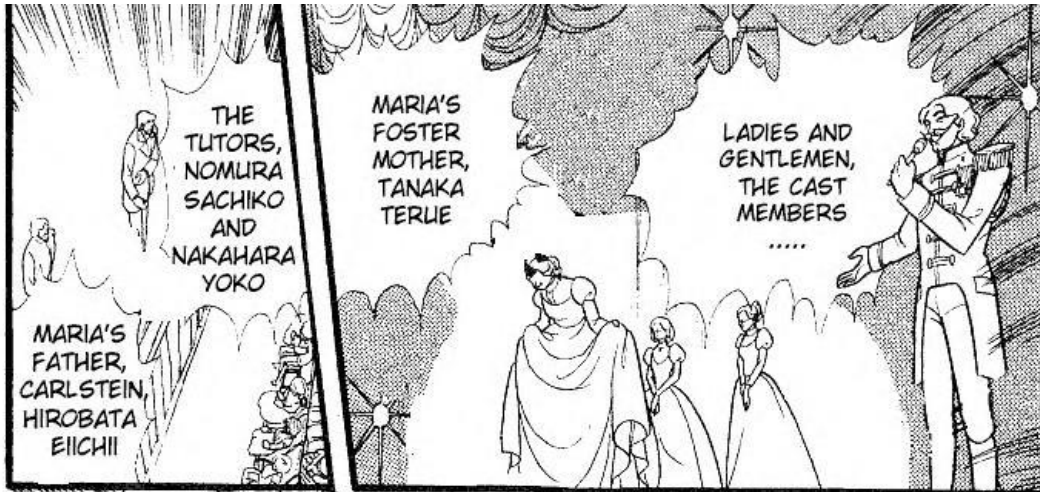


BUT..

I'M THE LEAD ROLE!

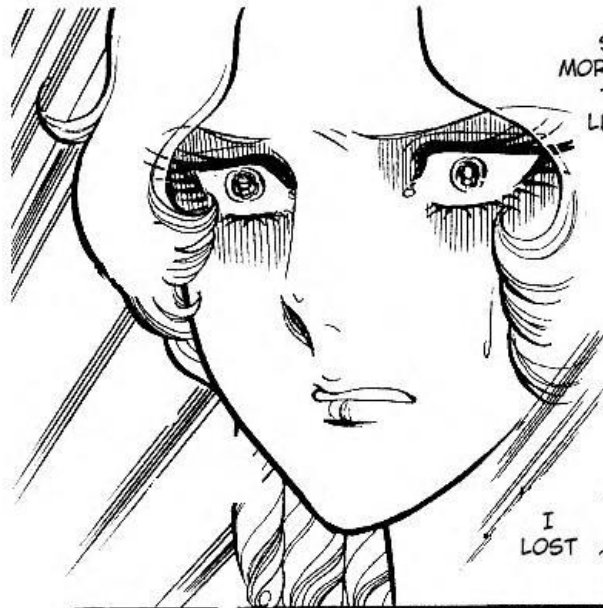
ME!







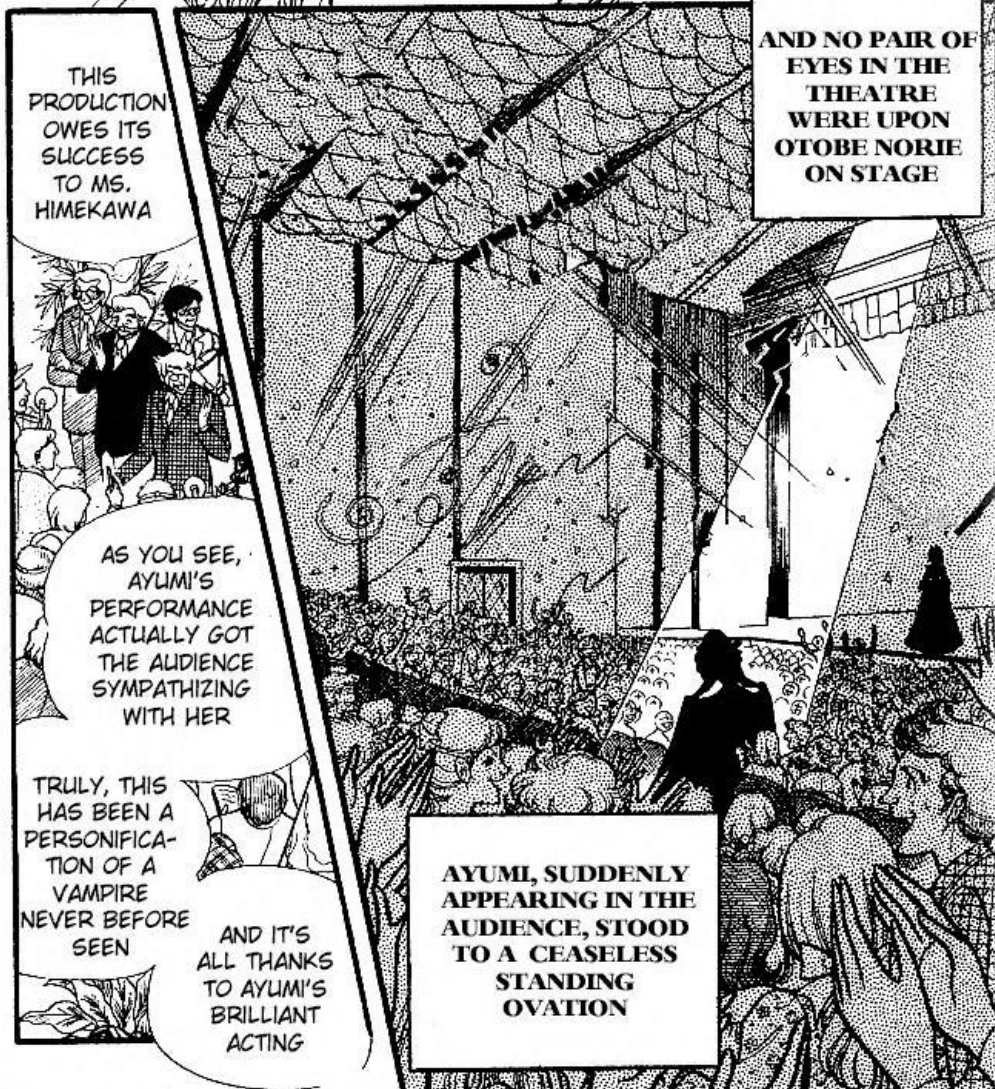




SHE GOT MORE ATTENTION THAT THE LEAD ROLE

IT'S NOT FAIR

I LOST



THIS PRODUCTION OWES ITS SUCCESS TO MS. HIMEKAWA

AND NO PAIR OF EYES IN THE THEATRE WERE UPON OTOBE NORIE ON STAGE

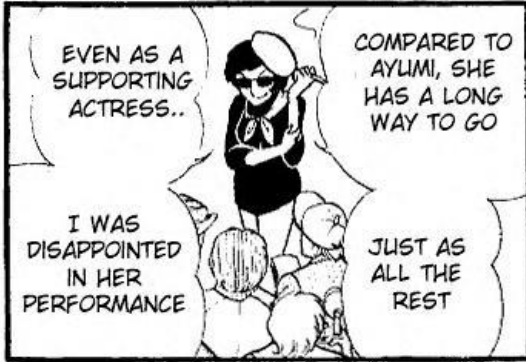
AS YOU SEE, AYUMI'S PERFORMANCE ACTUALLY GOT THE AUDIENCE SYMPATHIZING WITH HER

TRULY, THIS HAS BEEN A PERSONIFICATION OF A VAMPIRE NEVER BEFORE SEEN

AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO AYUMI'S BRILLIANT ACTING

AYUMI, SUDDENLY APPEARING IN THE AUDIENCE, STOOD TO A CEASELESS STANDING OVATION







AYUMI  
GOT RID  
OF ME



EVERYTHING  
THE CRITICS SAY  
WILL FIND THEIR  
WAY TO  
THE PAPERS

YOU  
COULD SEE  
FROM THE  
APPLAUSE

I'M AFRAID  
YOU'LL BECOME  
OF NO USE  
TO ANYONE  
THEN

NOW I  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
REALLY  
MADE OF



YOU  
BROKE  
UNDER THE  
PRESSURE

WHEN IT  
CAME TIME  
FOR YOU  
ON THE  
STAGE

AFTER ALL YOUR  
TRICKS, AFTER  
DESTROYING  
MAYA..



BUT IT'S  
ALL UP  
TO YOU  
NOW

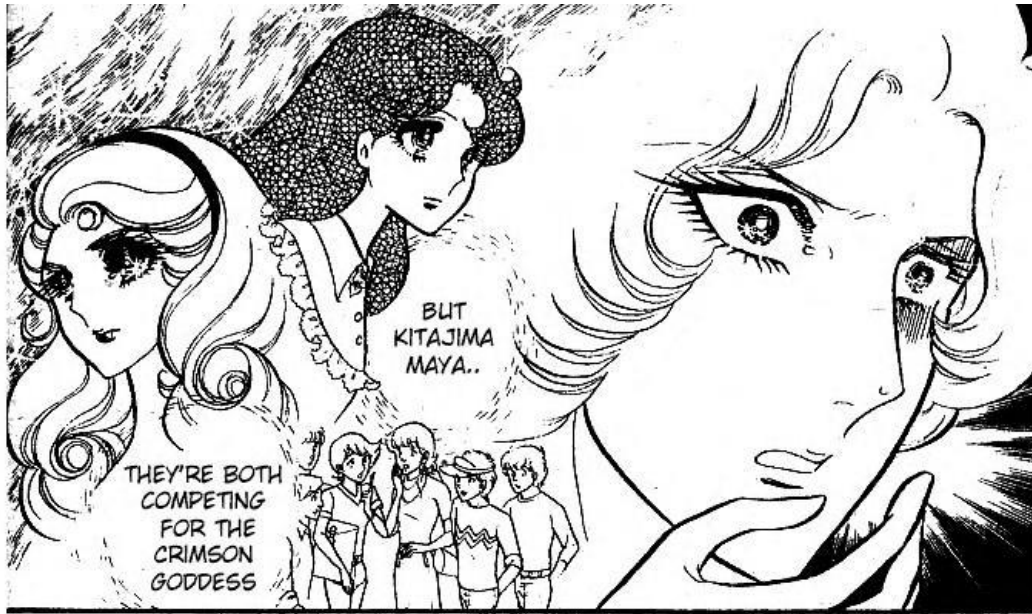
YOU HAVE  
A LOT  
TO LEARN



A TOTAL  
LOSS

I FAILED

WE'RE TOO  
FAR APART



BUT  
KITAJIMA  
MAYA..

THEY'RE BOTH  
COMPETING  
FOR THE  
CRIMSON  
GODDESS



MAYA IS THE ONLY  
ONE AYUMI SEES  
AS COMPETITION



KITAJIMA  
MAYA

WHAT HAVE  
I DONE?

COMPETITION  
TO HIMEKAWA  
AYUMI

WHY COULDN'T  
I HAVE SEEN  
IT BEFORE?



THEY'RE BOTH  
SO FAR  
BEYOND ME

I'VE ALSO  
BEEN BEATEN  
BY MAYA

I'M A  
TOTAL  
FAILURE



I'LL  
NEVER  
BE AS  
GOOD  
AS  
AYUMI

SHE IS  
PURE RAW  
TALENT

**CRASH**

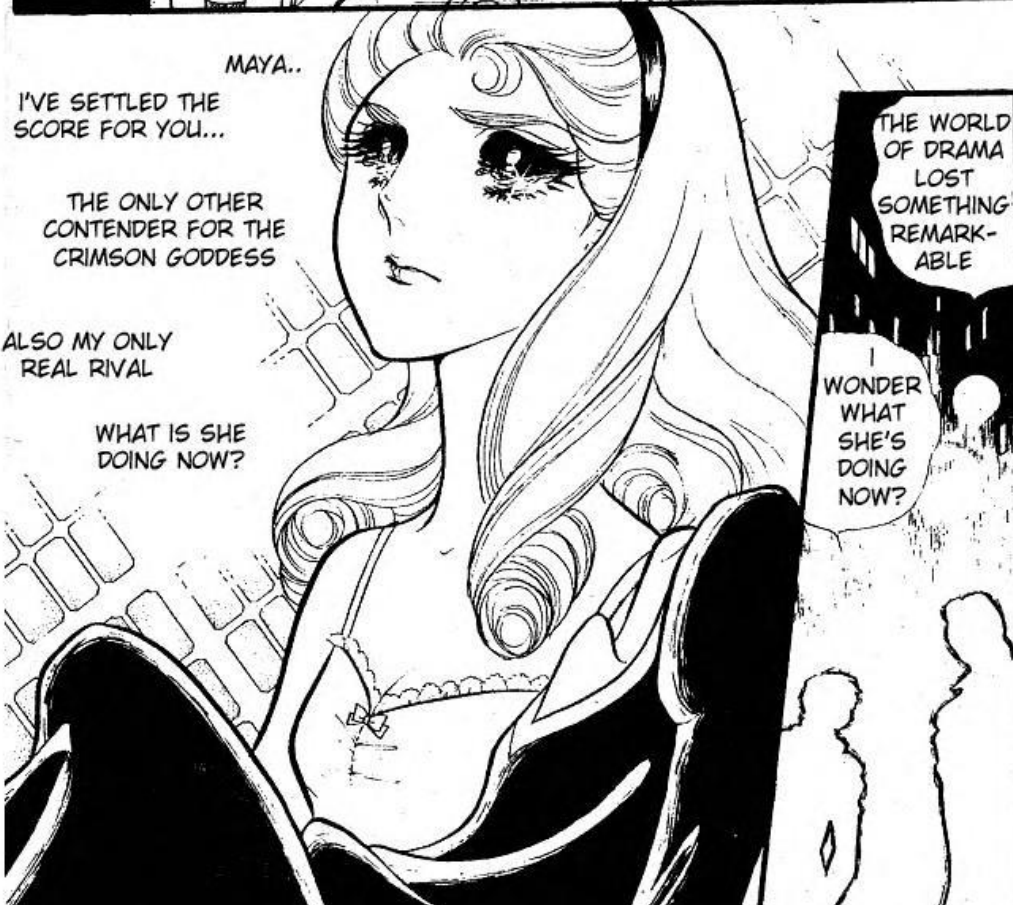


TOTAL  
FAILURE





SHE WAS MAGNIFICENT





WHAT'S  
WRONG?

GO ON,  
SHOW  
US  
HOW  
IT'S  
DONE

WHAT,  
YOU'RE  
JUST  
GONNA  
TREMBLE  
LIKE  
THAT?

CLAT

SPLASH

SPLASH



LEFT HER PARENTS

SELFISH... EGOISTICAL...

MOM...

KIKUNO, THE ELDEST CHILD, IS RESENTFUL THAT SHE WAS BORN INTO A POOR FARMING FAMILY SO SHE LEFT FOR THE CITY, LEAVING HER AGING PARENTS AND HER YOUNGER SISTER

KIKUNO, I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GET SOME MORE FIREWOOD. WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

BUT, MY HANDS WOULD GET DIRTY

KIKUNO, I TOLD YOU TO CUT THE GRASS

THERE ARE MOSQUITOES IN THE WOODS, AND THEY ALL ALWAYS BITE ME

YOU AND YOUR EXCUSES

I DON'T WANT INSECT BITES ALL OVER MY FACE,

HANDS AND LEGS. I CAN'T STAND THEM

GEEZ, HOW BAD IS THIS?

SO YOU'RE AN EGOISTICAL, SELFISH BRAT

ONE MORE TIME, FROM THE TOP

JUST LEAVE HER

YOU'RE THE MOST SELFISH PERSON I KNOW

SELFISH CHILD

IS THIS THE SO-CALLED GREAT ACTRESS?



I'LL GO CUT THE GRASS AND GET THE WOOD

BECAUSE SHE THINKS SHE'S SO PRETTY

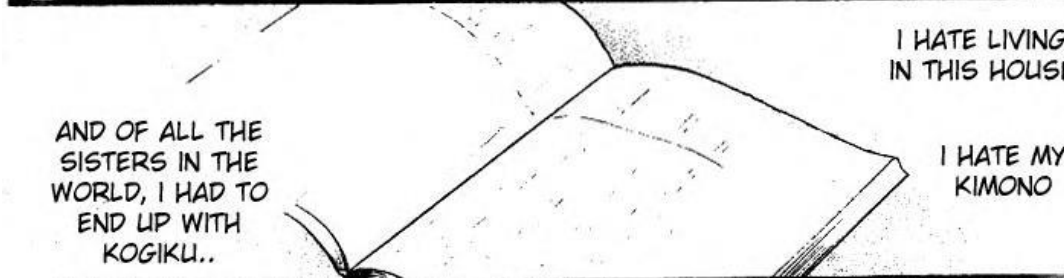
I'LL DO IT

MY SISTER CAN'T DO DIRTY WORK



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHO KIKUNO IS

I CAN'T DO THIS I CAN'T BE KIKUNO



AND OF ALL THE SISTERS IN THE WORLD, I HAD TO END UP WITH KOGIKU..

I HATE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE

I HATE MY KIMONO



I CAN'T BE KIKUNO

WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER FEELINGS

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY KIKUNO'S LINES

I CAN'T SAY THESE LINES. I..