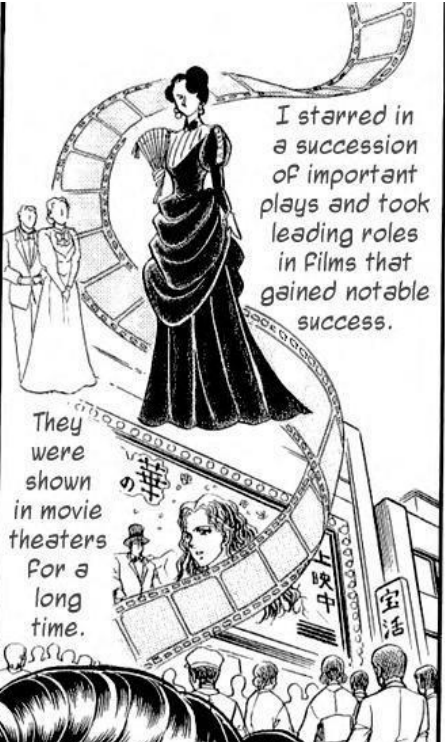




Once I became a famous actress, my social standing was secured!



I starred in a succession of important plays and took leading roles in films that gained notable success.

They were shown in movie theaters for a long time.



I managed to annul my contract, and I transferred to rivals of Daito Art Production.

I did the same thing as Hayami. I sought the protection of important politicians and major investors.





It wasn't unusual for them to gather outside the building, hoping to catch a glimpse of Chigusa Tsukikage.

People stood in lines to see me either on the screen or on the stage.

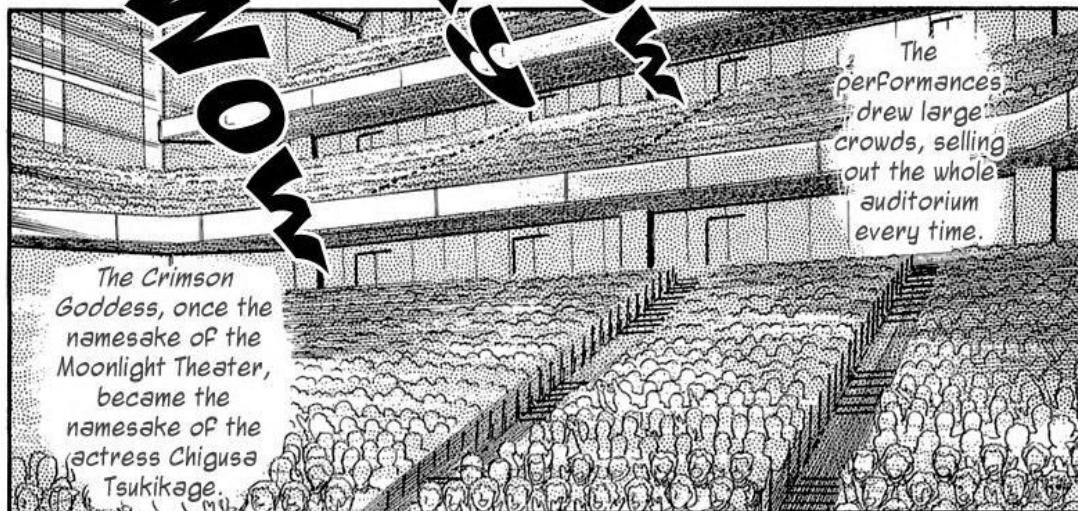


This fueled our success, increasing the play's value.

I was firm in protecting The Crimson Goddess so that it was only on stage and never the silver screen.

Though many theatrical masterpieces were being adapted to film,

# MEMORIES



The performances drew large crowds, selling out the whole auditorium every time.

The Crimson Goddess, once the namesake of the Moonlight Theater, became the namesake of the actress Chigusa Tsukikage.



My popularity was unmatched.

No one could even imagine a Crimson Goddess other than Chigusa Tsukikage.



I had become a respected and renowned actress.

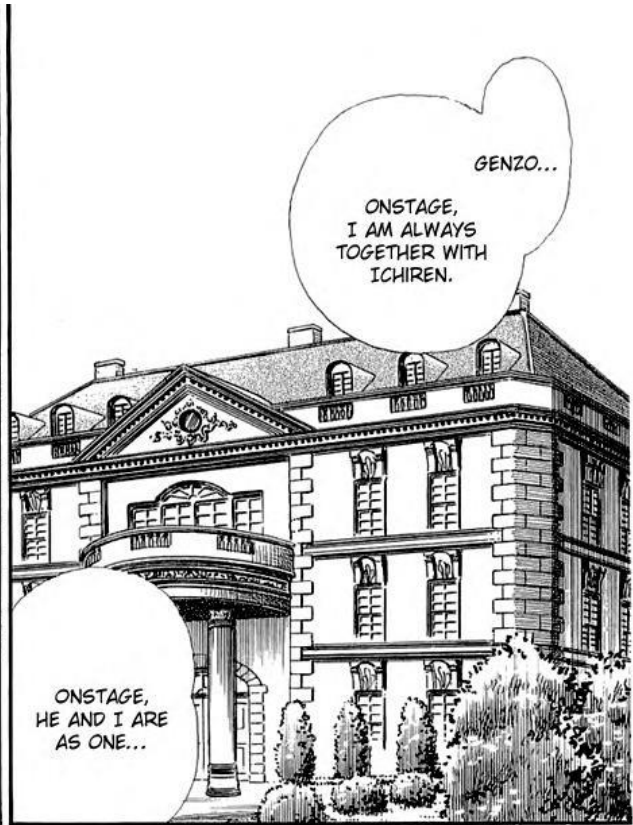
Soon enough, no one even considered trying to buy the rights for *The Crimson Goddess* from me.

Not even that man who came to every performance!



EVEN IN DEATH, HE STILL LIVES ON IN ME.

ON THE STAGE, HE IS REBORN THROUGH ME...



GENZO...  
ONSTAGE, I AM ALWAYS TOGETHER WITH ICHIREN.

ONSTAGE, HE AND I ARE AS ONE...



OUR HEARTS INTERTWINE AND OUR SOULS ARE TIED...

WE LIVE AS A SINGLE ENTITY...

OURS IS A BOND THAT OVERCOMES LIFE AND DEATH...

A BOND BETWEEN SOULS...

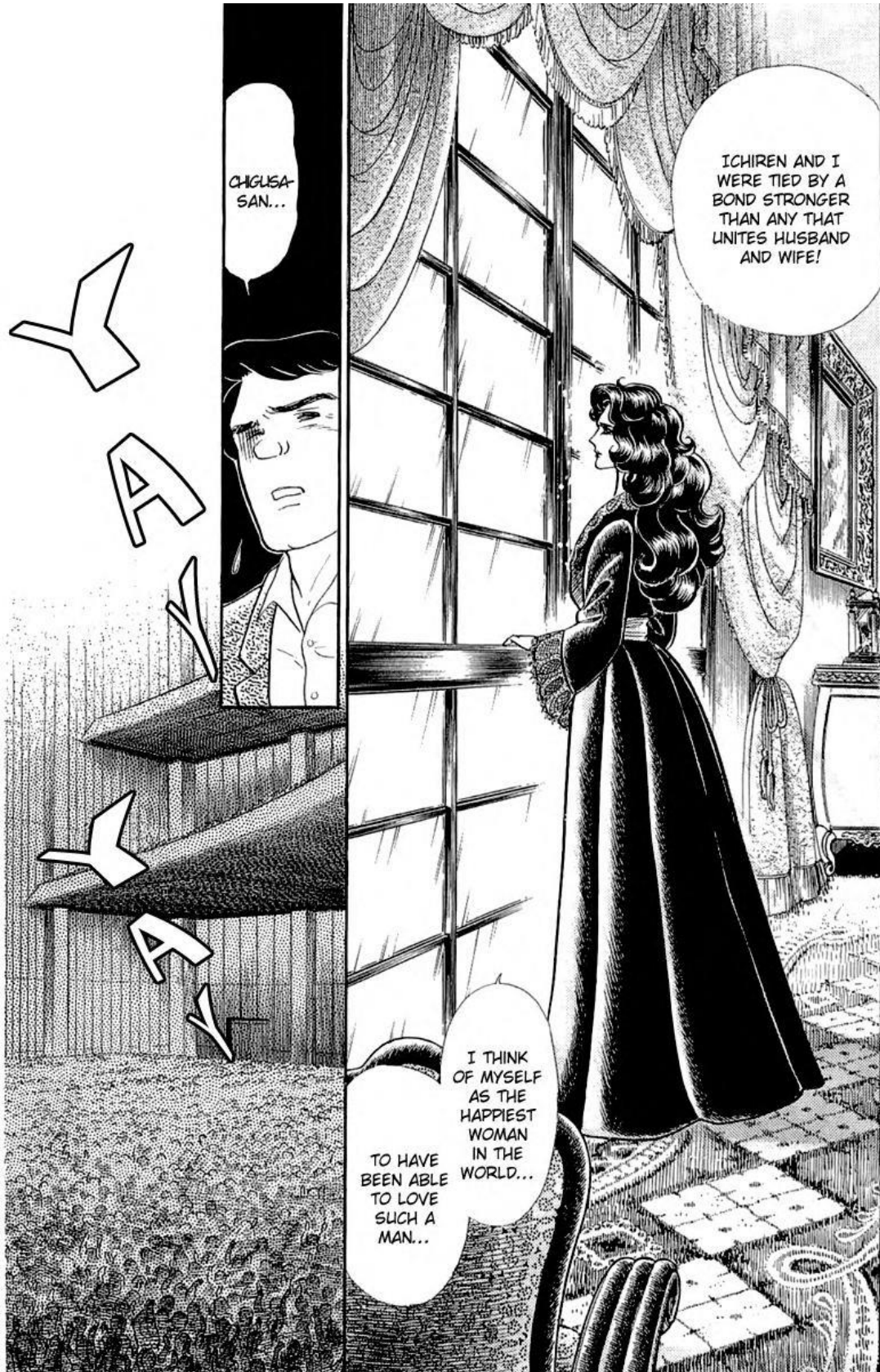


CHIGUSA-SAN...

GENZO?

A BOND BETWEEN SOULS...

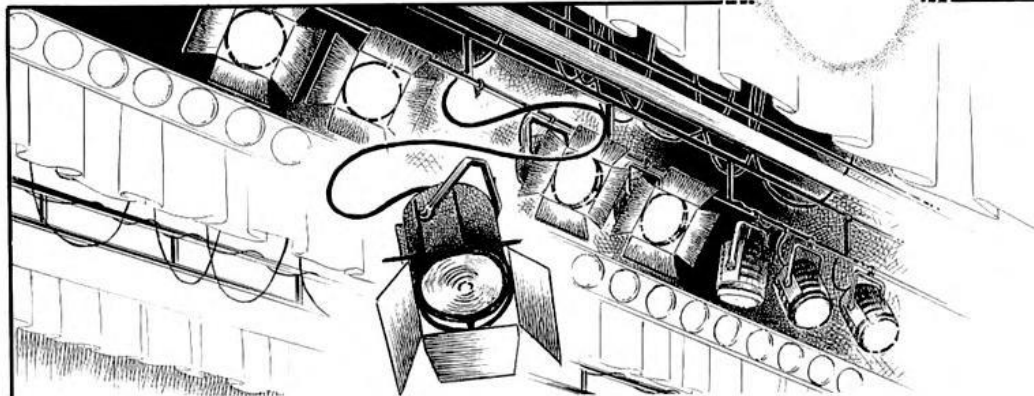
IS MUCH BETTER THAN A FORMAL MARRIAGE, DON'T YOU THINK?



CHIGUSA-SAN...

ICHIREN AND I WERE TIED BY A BOND STRONGER THAN ANY THAT UNITES HUSBAND AND WIFE!

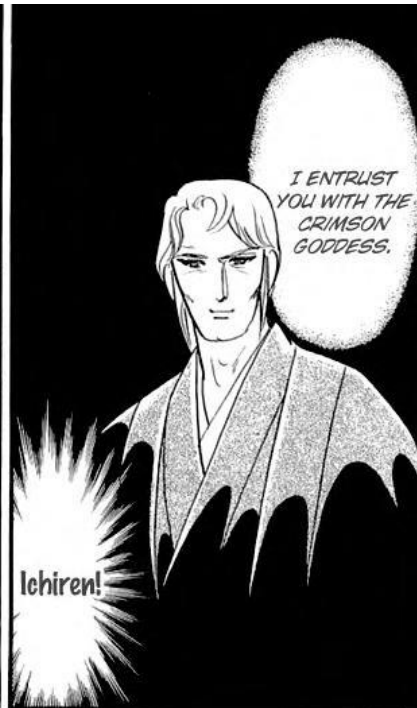
I THINK OF MYSELF AS THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD...  
TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOVE SUCH A MAN...





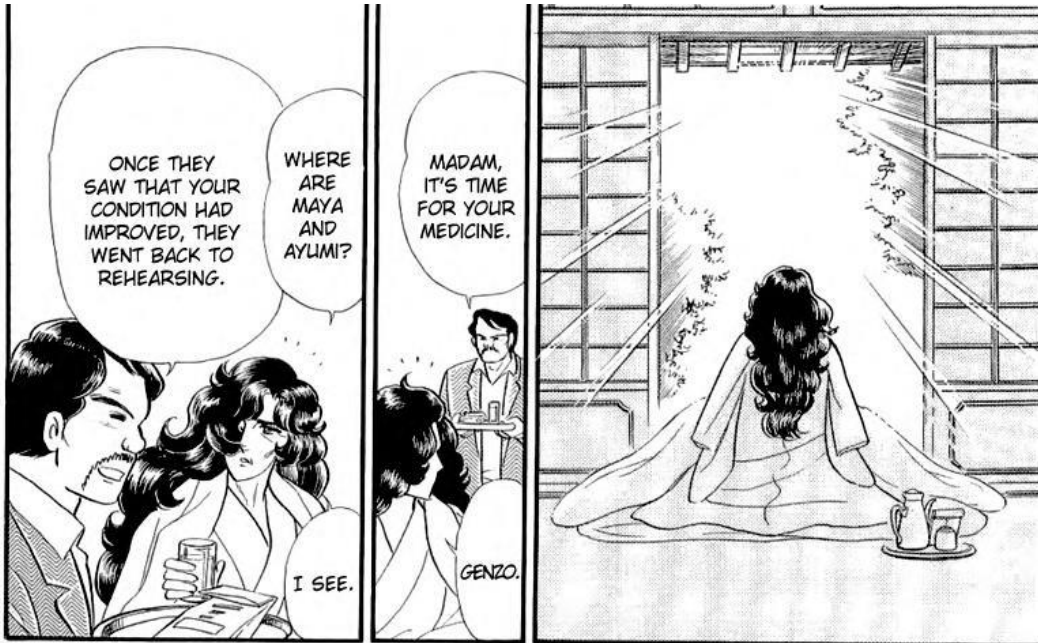


















Ah, Ichiren!

Ever since  
I was seven  
years old...

Even now, you  
are still holding  
my hand!

Even now,  
you are still  
by my side!



I will Watch me,  
bring *The* Ichiren!  
*Crimson*  
Goddess  
back to  
life!

Ichiren!

The legacy  
of your soul!





HOW ARE YOU,  
PRESIDENT  
HAYAMI?



HEARING  
YOU SAY THOSE  
WORDS BRINGS  
JOY TO THE  
WHOLE BOARD OF  
EXECUTIVES.

FINE,  
THANK  
YOU.





I DON'T KNOW IF THE LEGEND IS TRUE OR NOT...  
BUT IT'S A WONDROUS VALLEY.

I TOOK A BRANCH FROM THERE, BUT OUTSIDE THEIR HOME, THE FLOWERS WITHERED.

THE FLOWERS ARE STILL BLOOMING, EVEN IN THIS SEASON.

YES. ONLY ONCE.

THE VALLEY OF THE PLUM TREES... THE PLACE THAT INSPIRED THE CRIMSON GODDESS...  
HAVE YOU GONE THERE?

I ENVY YOU.  
HOW WAS IT?



WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW THRILLING THAT WOULD BE TO YOU, HAYAMI, SINCE YOU ALREADY HAVE A GORGEOUS GODDESS BY YOUR SIDE.

HA HA HA

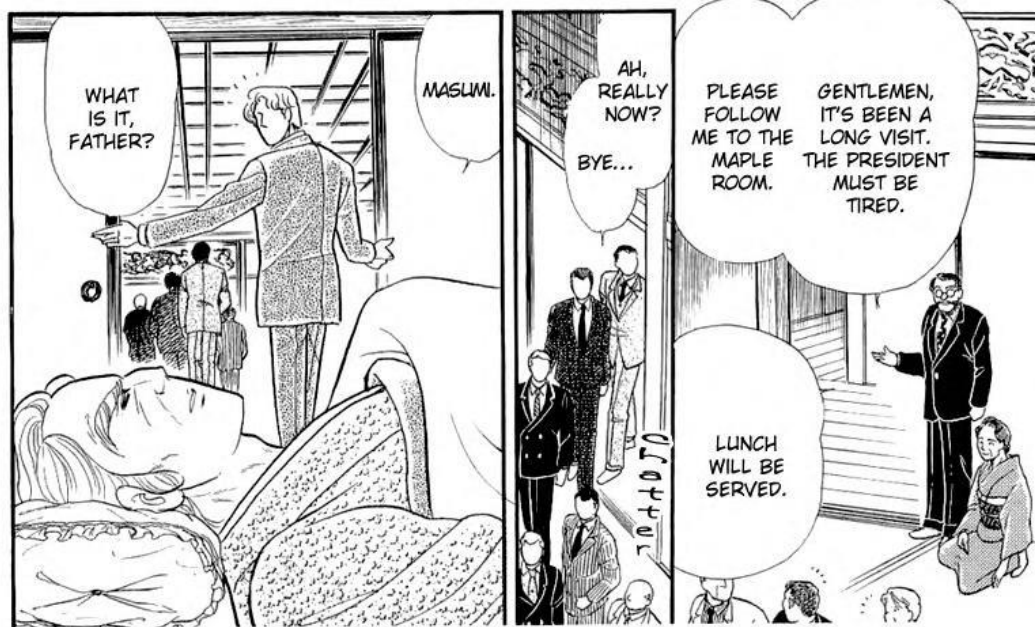
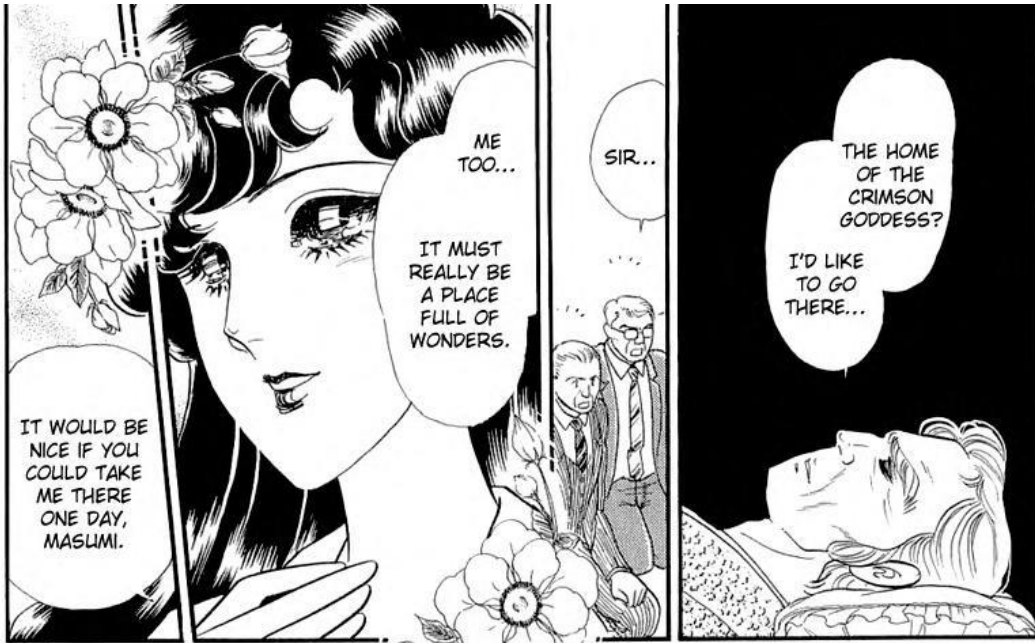
OH, YOU!



MAYBE IT'S THE WORK OF THE CRIMSON GODDESS.

OH!  
HOW MYSTERIOUS!

WHO KNOWS? I'D LIKE TO GO THERE. MAYBE I'LL BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET THE GODDESS.





AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE...



DON'T LET THEM DESTROY ... THE VALLEY...

PROTECT ... THE CRIMSON GODDESS ...



chatter

THEY WERE ONCE KNOWN FOR BEING ONE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE ONE TO RESCUE THE PRESIDENT WAS CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE...

I DON'T GET IT...

SHE MUST HAVE HATED THE PRESIDENT FOR A LONG TIME...

SLAM



WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...

FATHER.

WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...



Chigusa!

But ever since she arrived in the valley, she doesn't look so well...

It can't just be a coincidence...



I wonder if she's overexerted herself because of us.

I'm so glad Tsukikage-sensei is feeling better...



WE'LL GET OFF HERE!



DRIVER, STOP HERE!

HEY!  
HEY!  
WAIT A SECOND!





Hi there!

HEY, MAYA!



HIYA!  
YOU'RE  
WELL,  
I SEE,  
MAYA!

IT'S  
BEEN SO  
LONG!  
WHAT  
BRINGS  
YOU  
HERE?

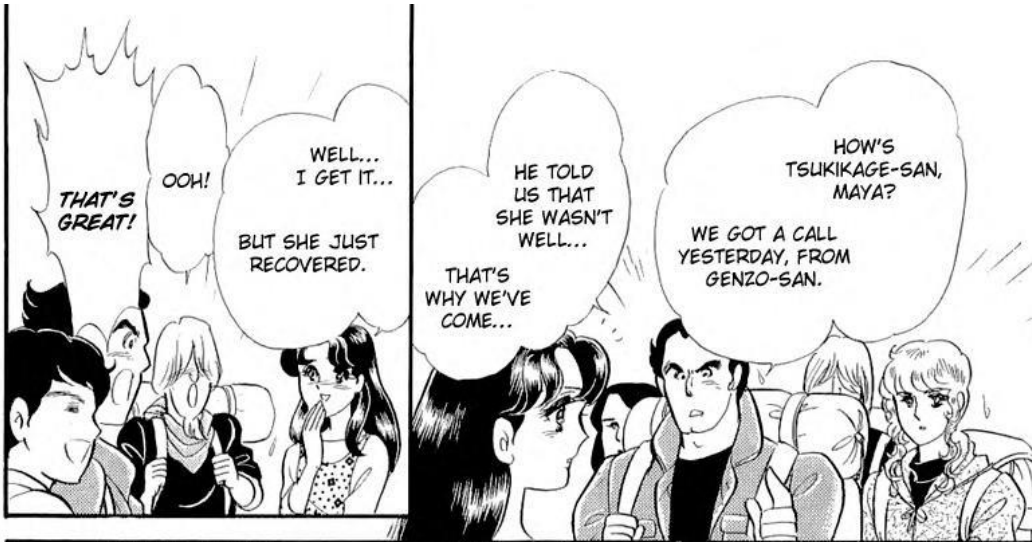
Yes

YOU  
DOUBTED  
SHE WOULD  
BE? THAT'S  
HER ONLY  
GOOD  
TRAIT!



AND  
EVERYONE  
FROM THE  
TSUKIKAGE  
AND UNICORN  
COMPANIES!

REI!







TSUKIKAGE-SAN TOLD US WE SHOULD ALREADY BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE CRIMSON GODDESS.  
BUT... I DON'T...

THIS IS HARD!  
TWO TOPS THAT POOLS ...  
RED AND WHITE WHIRL- WREAK HAVOC UPON THE WORLD...

AFTER THAT, TSUKIKAGE-SAN FINALLY GAVE US SOME PAGES FROM THE CRIMSON GODDESS...  
I NEED TO INTERPRET THEM.

LET ME SEE...



YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE US THERE, MAYA!  
WOW! I WANT TO GO, TOO!

IT'S AN INCREDIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS PLACE.  
YOU KNOW, IT'S TRUE THAT EVEN NOW, THE TREES ARE BLOOMING!

YES.  
TELL US, HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE FAMOUS VALLEY OF THE PLUM TREES?

AND HOW IS IT?

YEAH!



LET'S NOT TELL HER WE CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO VISIT HER, OKAY, MAYA?

THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO TELL TSUKIKAGE-SAN.

CHIEF ...

AFTER WE VISIT TSUKIKAGE-SAN, WE INTEND TO SET UP CAMP NEARBY HERE.

RIGHT.

I'VE TALKED WITH THE OTHERS AND THEY AGREED TO VISIT HERE FOR A WHILE TO REHEARSE FOR THE NEXT SHOW.



GOOD MORNING TSUKIKAGE-SAN!

My friends... They're such nice people...

I care for them so much...

THE MEMBERS OF THE TSUKIKAGE AND UNICORN COMPANIES ...

HAVE COME TO PAY YOU A VISIT!



THEY'RE... THE TWO SPINNING TOPS THAT WREAK HAVOC UPON THE WORLD...

THE RED AND WHITE WHIRLPOOLS...

THEY MUST BE TWO FORCES FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER...

THE SPIRITS OF THE GODS ARE AGITATED. FROM THE TWO WHIRLPOOLS, THE FLAME OF WAR EMERGES, SPREADING HATE AND SUFFERING. ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE PEARLS OF LIFE DISAPPEAR.



They are difficult! How should I portray them?

The lines of The Crimson Goddess...

The spirit that controls nature...





SPLASH

SPLASH

PANT

PANT

CAAAAW

CAAAAW

ha

ha  
ha  
ha  
ha

ha  
kya  
ha  
ha  
ha  
ha  
ha

ha  
ha  
ha



Together with Maya!

Those are... members of the Tsukikage and Unicorn companies!

What are they doing here?



WELCOME BACK, AYUMI-SAN.

I'LL PREPARE YOUR DINNER AND BATH.

I'M BACK.

THANK YOU.

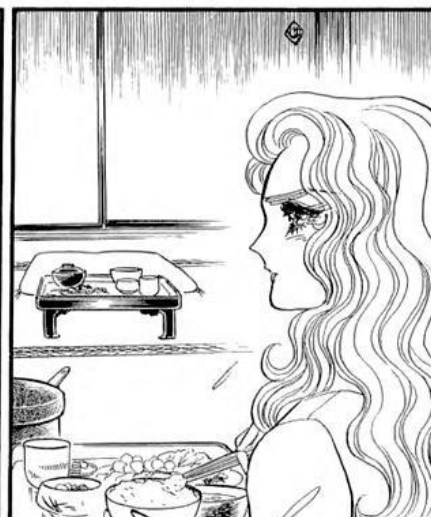
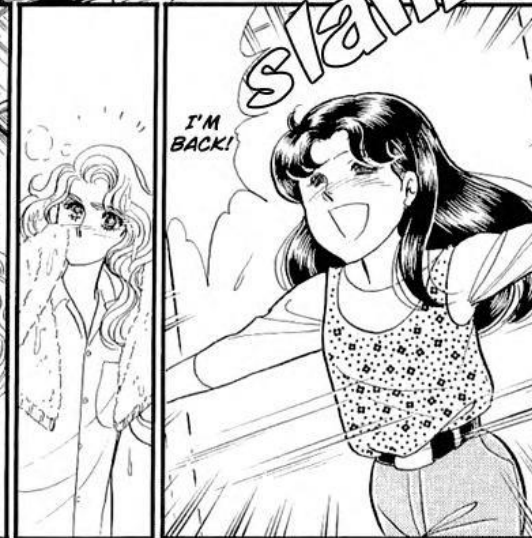


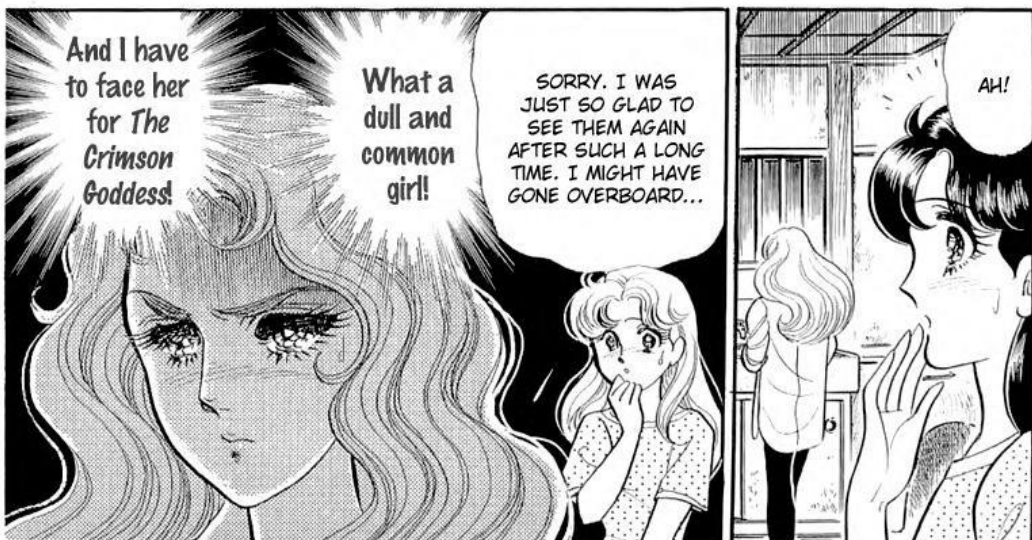
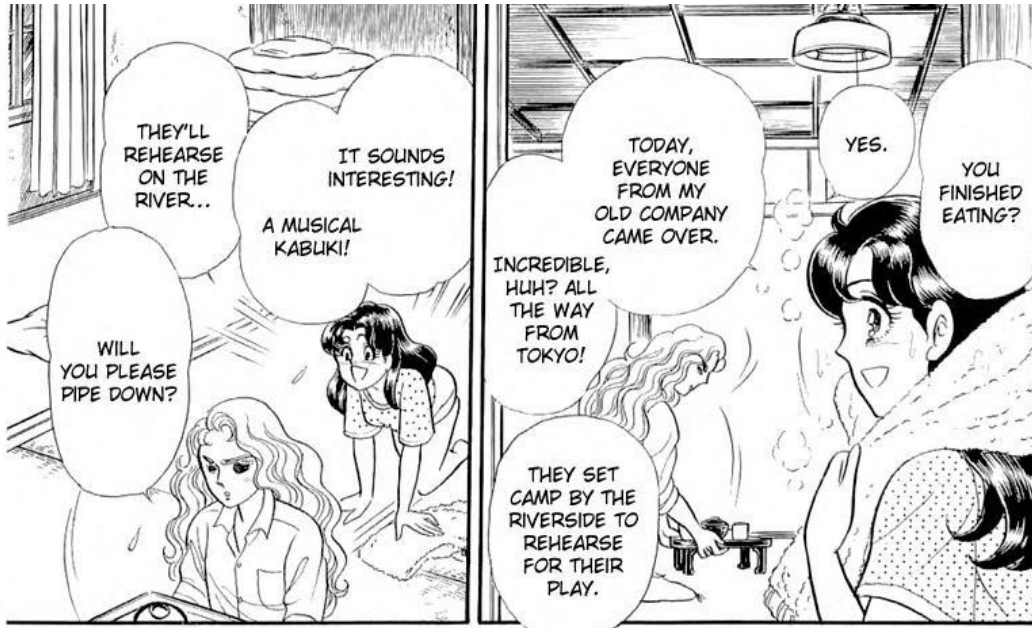
Not only is she not rehearsing *The Crimson Goddess*, she's staying out here having fun...

That girl is unbelievable!

What for?









MAY WE COME IN?

slide

IT'S AYUMI HIMEKAWA.

AND MAYA KITAJIMA.

Tsukikage-san wants to talk about our rehearsals today? What does that mean?



HAVE YOU FINISHED EATING DINNER?

Well, off the stage, she is...

TSUKIKAGE-SAN SAID SHE WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU BOTH ABOUT YOUR REHEARSALS TODAY.

SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THE MAIN PAVILION.

