



SHE USUALLY
PLAYS A
CHARACTER BEST
WHEN SHE CAN
RELATE TO THE
CHARACTER'S
EMOTIONS

BUT NOW,
THERE'S NO
EMOTION TO
RELATE TO

I CAN'T HELP
BUT FEEL
SORRY FOR
HER

THE ROLE WILL
SERVE AS AN
IMPORTANT
LESSON FOR MAYA



EMO-
TIONS...
OF A
DOLL?



THE PEOPLE THERE
WILL BE THE BEST
ONES TO TEACH
MAYA THE EMOTIONS

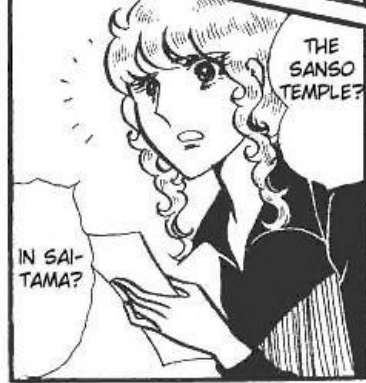


REI, BRING
MAYA TO
THIS PLACE



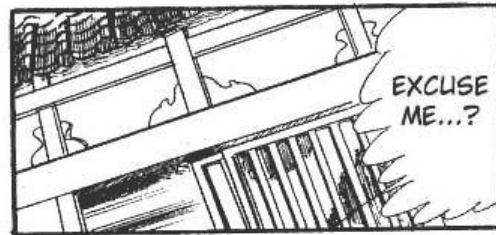
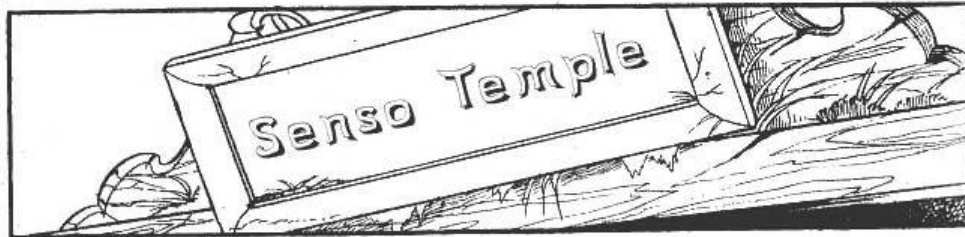
YES, GO
THERE.. JUST
SAY "HELP US"

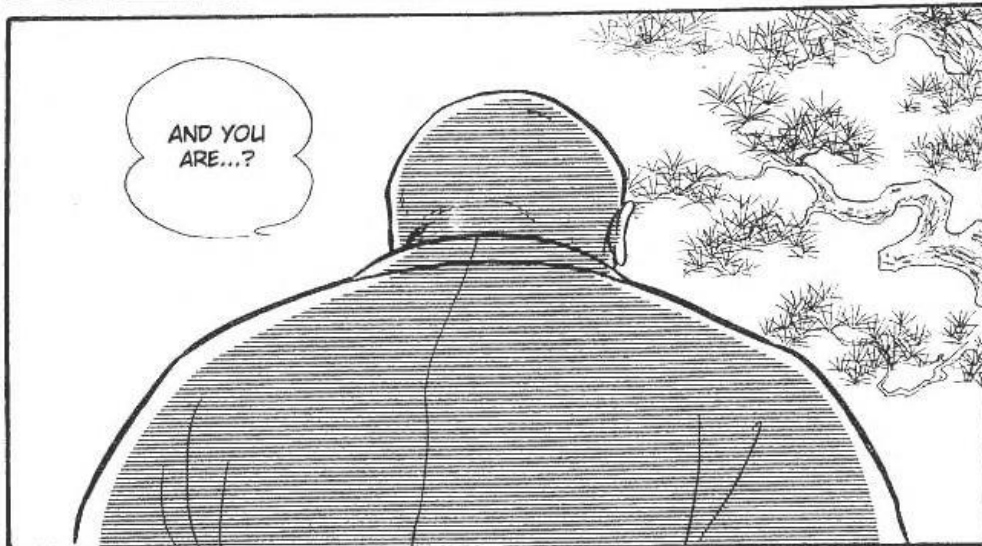
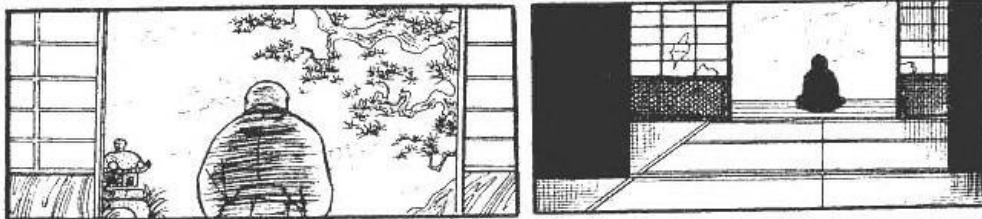
AND TELL
THEM
TSUKIKAGE
SENT YOU

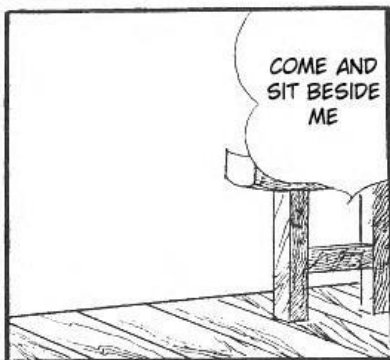
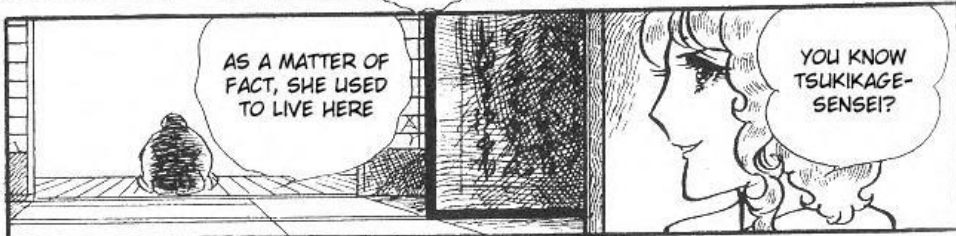


THE
SANSO
TEMPLE?

IN SAI-
TAMA?









WHOOOOOOOSH

WHOOO OOSH

ZEN IS THE CORE OF BUDDHISM

WE ARE ONE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND US

IN THIS TEMPLE, WE STUDY ZEN

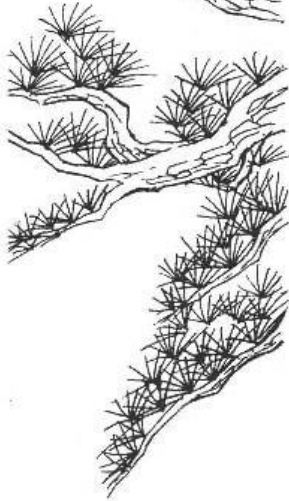
WE WILL NOW MEDITATE

GULP

SENSEI SAID THAT IF WE CAME HERE, WE WOULD UNDERSTAND

SO YOU SEE..

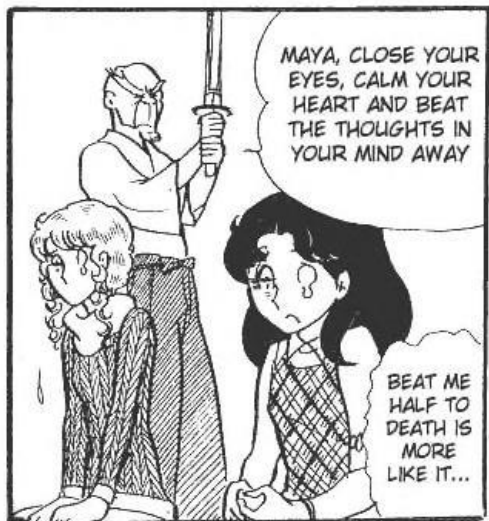
YES, THAT IS WHY YOU SIT AS YOU DO





YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT NOTHINGNESS OF THE MIND IS

COME, SIT CLOSER



MAYA, CLOSE YOUR EYES, CALM YOUR HEART AND BEAT THE THOUGHTS IN YOUR MIND AWAY

BEAT ME HALF TO DEATH IS MORE LIKE IT...



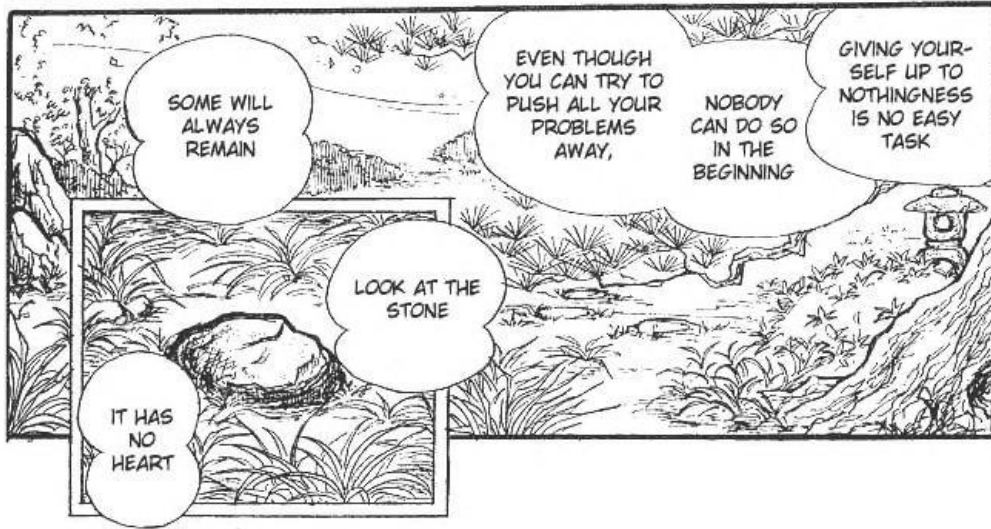
YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG!

THAT IS NOT THE CORRECT POSTURE!

THUMP THUMP

CRACK CRACK

WAAAA



SOME WILL ALWAYS REMAIN

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN TRY TO PUSH ALL YOUR PROBLEMS AWAY,

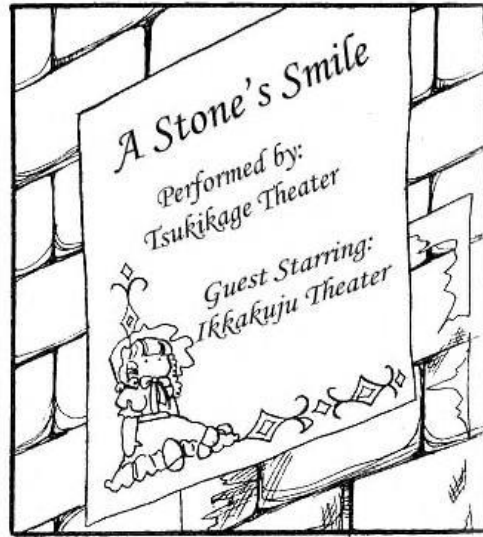
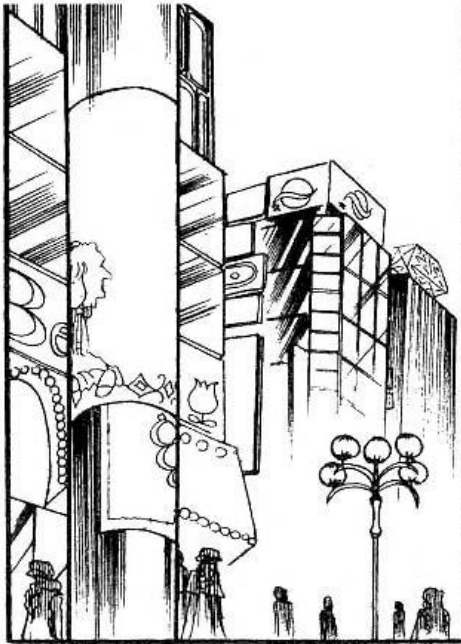
NOBODY CAN DO SO IN THE BEGINNING

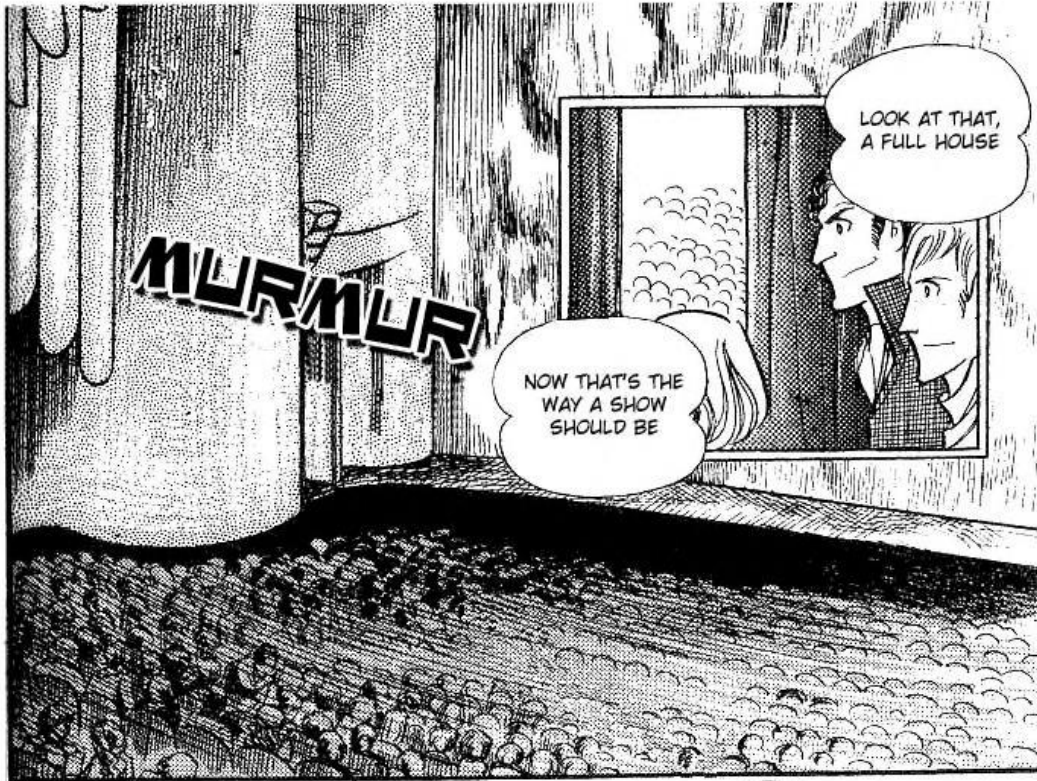
GIVING YOURSELF UP TO NOTHINGNESS IS NO EASY TASK

LOOK AT THE STONE

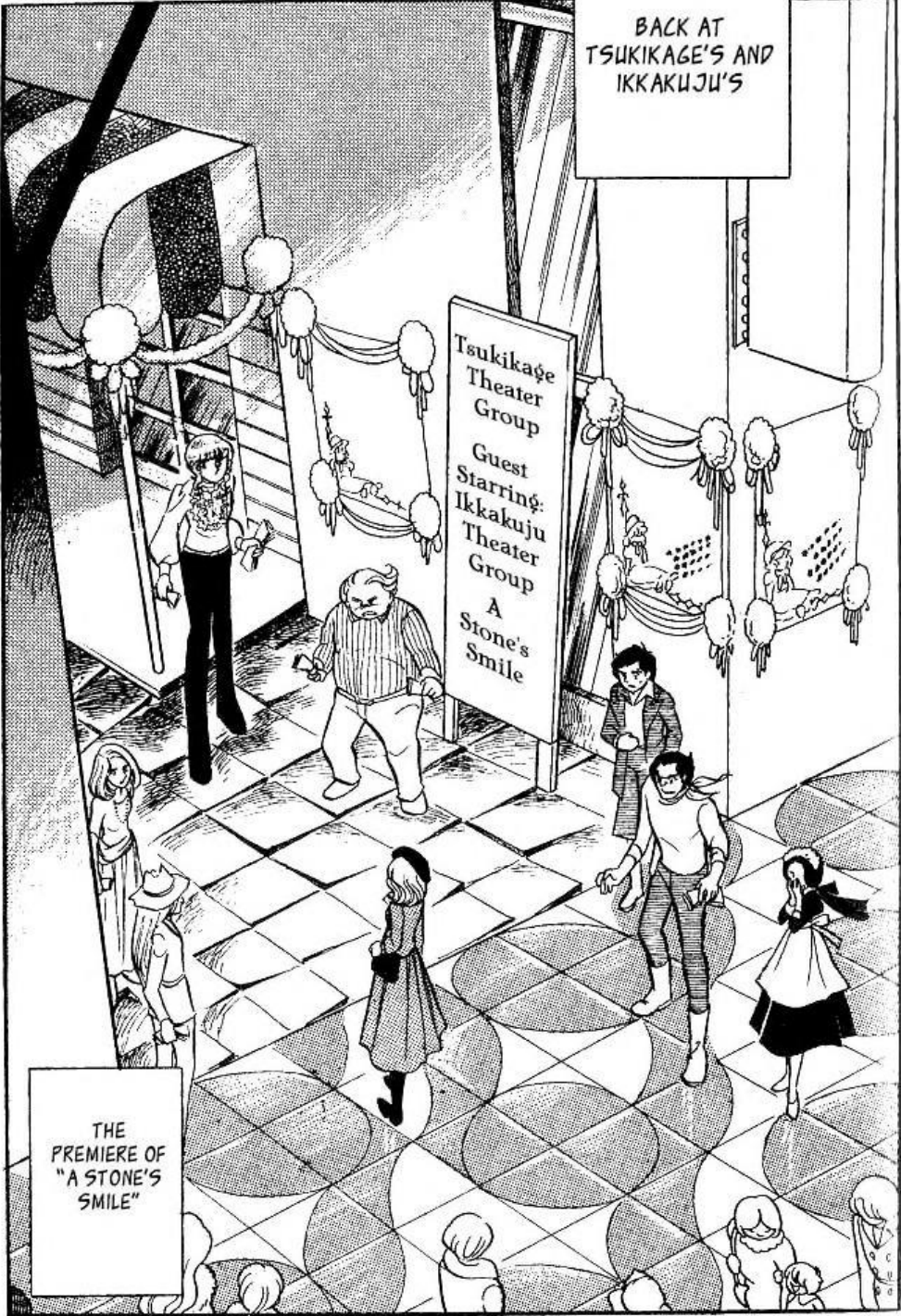
IT HAS NO HEART



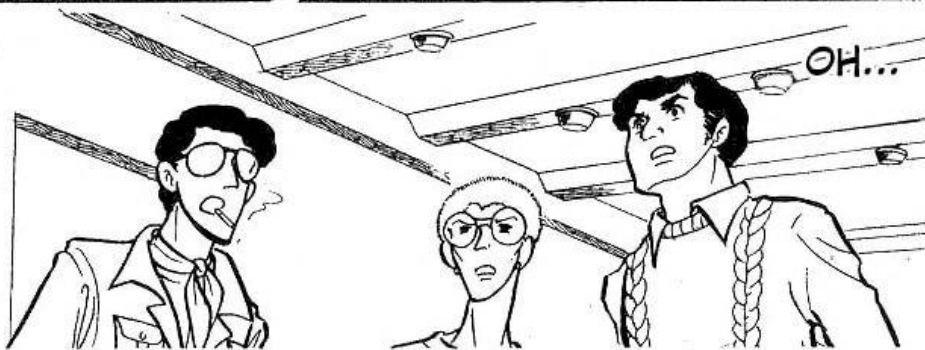
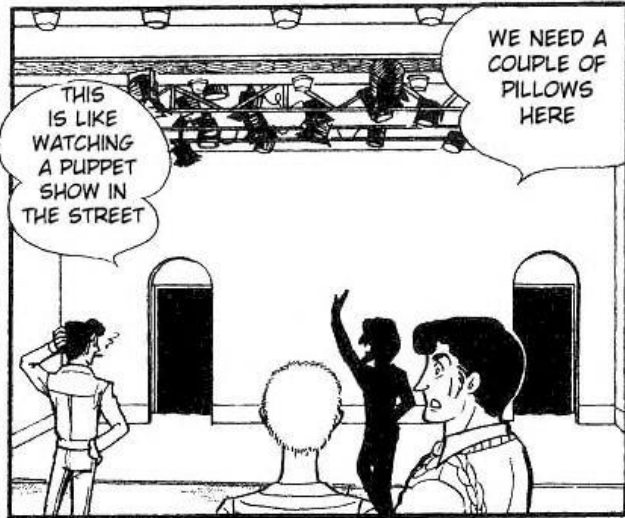
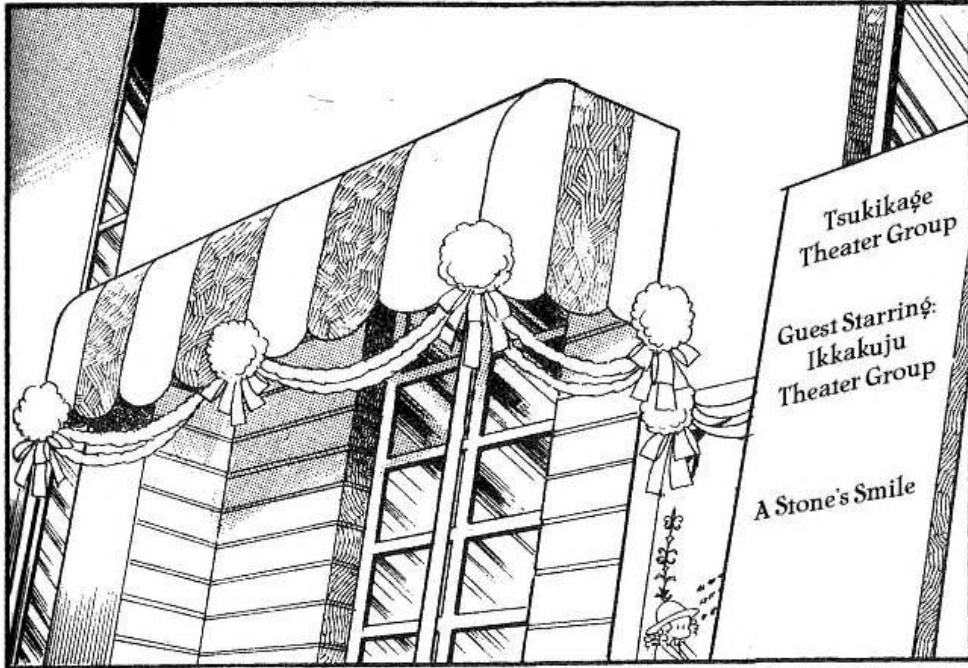




BACK AT
TSUKIKAGE'S AND
IKKAKUJU'S



THE
PREMIERE OF
"A STONE'S
SMILE"





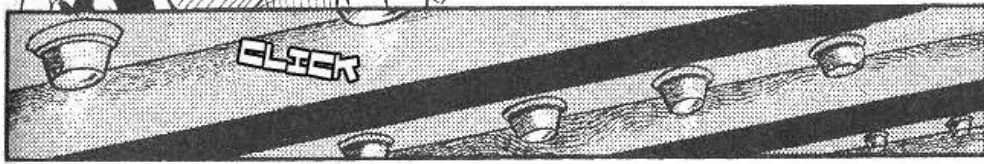
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?

IT'S HIMEKAWA AYUMI



SO COOL!
HE'S SO COOL...
IS HE AN ACTOR?

WELL HELLO THERE...









WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER SHOULD I DIE?
WHO WILL LOVE AND CARE FOR HER?

SHE WAS AS CLOSE TO ME AS A SISTER
ELIZABETH

WHO WILL SHE PASS ON TO?
WHAT OF HER FATE?



MR PREVIEW,
TAKE CARE OF ELIZABETH



AND THIS ONE, YOU SHALL OPEN UPON MY DEATH
A YEAR THEREAFTER



I HAVE WRITTEN A WILL...
YOU WILL SERVE AS WITNESS



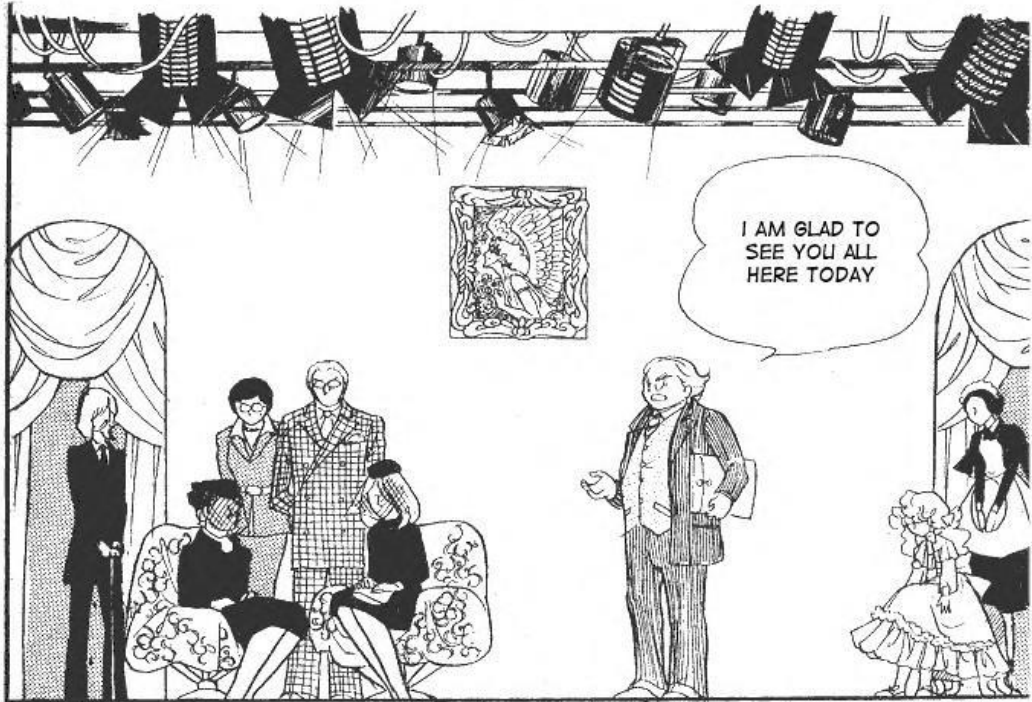
CLICK
CLANG
CLANG



CLANG
CLANG
CLANG



CLANG
CLANG
CLANG



THEIR ONLY DAUGHTER, MS. MARISSA, TOOK ILL WITH THE IMMENSE SHOCK OF THE NEWS, AND HAS SINCE LEFT US AS WELL

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGLAND'S LARGEST STEEL MILL, ARTHUR BARTHOLOMEW, HAS BEEN KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH ALONG WITH HIS WIFE, MARGARET



THIS GENTLEMAN IS MR. GREENSON, VICEPRESIDENT OF MR. BARTHOLOMEW'S COMPANY

WE HAVE MRS. FEDERICA BARTHOLOMEW

HER LATE HUSBAND WAS BROTHER TO MR. BARTHOLOMEW

SADLY, HE TOO PASSED AWAY IN THAT TERRIBLE ACCIDENT

AND HIS SECRETARY, MARGO

THE REASON WE ALL GATHERED HERE, IS TO HEAR THE WILL OF THE BARTHOLOMEW FAMILY

FIRST, INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER

MRS. BARTHOLOMEW'S OLDER SISTER, THE COUNTESS ISABELLA EDMOND AND HER HUSBAND, COUNT GEORGE EDMOND



IMPOSSIBLE! WHY WOULD KITAJIMA MAYA BE CAST AS A DOLL?

THIS MAKES NO SENSE...



FURTHERMORE, THE ORCHARDS, RANCH, AND FARMLANDS ARE WORTH 500 MILLION POUNDS IN VALUE

THE BARTHOLOMEW FAMILY LEFT BEHIND 65 MILLION POUNDS IN CASH, AND STOCKS IN THE COMPANY COMPROMISING 6 MILLION SHARES

500 MILLION POUNDS!



AS YOU KNOW, SHE PASSED AWAY AT THE EARLY AGE OF TWELVE

MARISSA

WHEN MR. BARTHOLOMEW DIED, HE PASSED EVERYTHING TO HIS ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER,



GREETINGS, HOW DO YOU DO?

I WILL READ...

I HOLD HERE TWO WILLS FROM MARISSA

ONE TO BE OPENED A YEAR AFTER HER DEATH



WOOOOWW!
WHO'S THAT!?
WHAT A HUNK!



AND I KNOW A
GOOD DEAL OF
RICHARD'S
FRIENDS

I DON'T
BELIEVE WE
HAVE EVER
MET

I WAS MRS.
FREDRICA
BARTHOLOMEW'S
HUSBAN'S
COLLEAGUE

MY NAME IS PIO
MADARD, IT'S A
PLEASURE

PIO!

oooh...



AFTER I HEARD OF THE ACCIDENT, I CAME AS QUICKLY AS I COULD

OF COURSE, I AM AN ITALIAN

I FOUND A JOB HERE, SO I WILL BE STAYING WITH FEDERICA FOR THE TIME BEING

I ALWAYS MET WITH RICHARD IN ITALY

BUT NEVER AFTER HIS MARRIAGE



HE ALWAYS TALKED OF HIS ITALIAN FRIEND, PIO MADARD

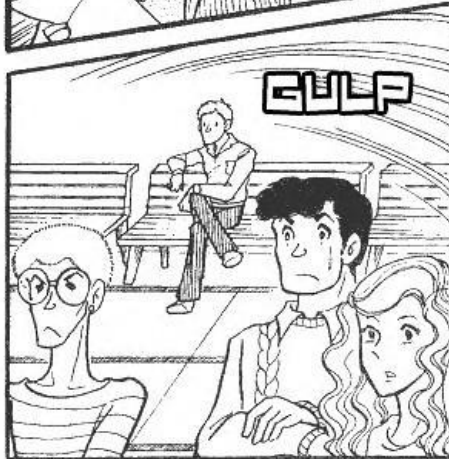
IS THAT SO, FEDERICA? YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

BUT I KNOW THAT RICHARD TRAVELED A LOT TO ITALY IN HIS BACHELOR YEARS

NO, I FIRST MET HIM AT RICHARD'S FUNERAL



VERY WELL, I WILL READ THE WILL OF MISS MARISSA BARTHOLOMEW!



GULP



MAY I STAY?

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS

HOW COULD I REFUSE?

OVER HERE, IF YOU PLEASE

YOU CAN BEAR WITNESS TO THE PROCEEDINGS

PLEASE, MR. MADARD



LEFT TO...
A DOLL!?

THE ENTIRE BAR-
THOLOMEW FORTUNE!?



WHAT!?



I LEAVE ALL MY
WORLDLY BELONGINGS
TO MY BELOVED DOLL,
ELIZABETH

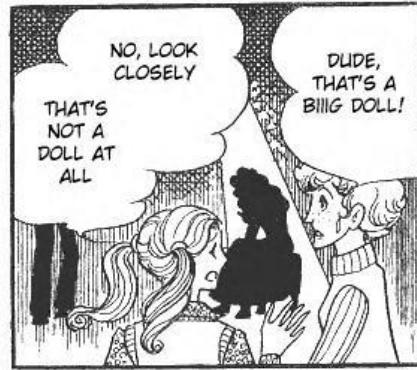
MY NAME IS
MARISSA
BARTHOLOMEW



GUARD-
IAN?

A LIST OF
PREREQUISITES
HAS BEEN GIVEN
AS FOLLOWING...

AS
ELIZABETH'S
GUARDIAN



THAT'S
NOT A
DOLL AT
ALL

NO, LOOK
CLOSELY

DUDE,
THAT'S A
BIIG DOLL!



SECOND, THEY MUST PROVE THAT THEY CARE FOR

HE OR SHE MUST PRESENT A GIFT SUITABLE TO ELIZABETH

THESE ARE ELIZABETH THE ONLY TWO REQUIREMENTS TO CLAIM GUARDIANSHIP OF ELIZABETH

ELIZABETH UNCONDITIONALLY

THOSE WHO CAUSE DAMAGE TO ELIZABETH FORFEIT THE RIGHT OF GUARDIANSHIP

SHOULD SHE BE COMPLETELY AND IRREPARABLY DESTROYED, THE FORTUNE IS TO BE DONATED TO THE STATE

SHOULD NO ONE LIVE UP TO THE REQUIREMENTS, ELIZABETH IS TO BE LEFT IN THE CARE OF THE MUSEUM, WHERE THE BARTHOLOMEW FORTUNE SHALL BE DONATED TO AS WELL

TO PROVIDE AND CARE FOR ELIZABETH

HEY MAN, WAKE UP.. YOU GOTTA SEE

THIS IS GETTIN' INTERESTING

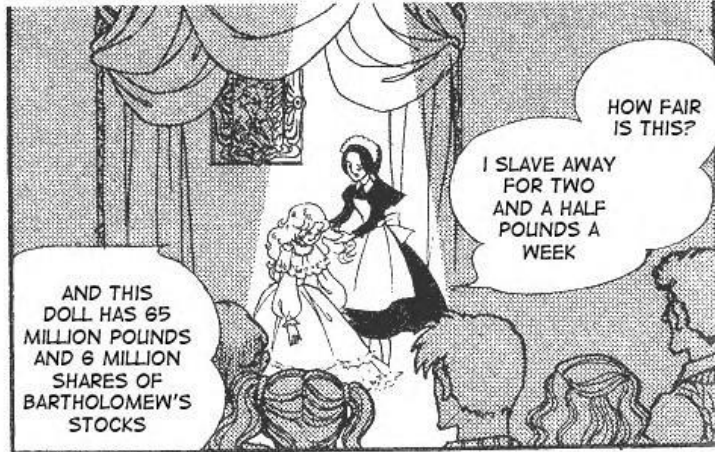
AT THAT TIME, I WILL DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE GUARDIAN FOR ELIZABETH

THE OTHER WILL IS TO BE OPENED A YEAR FROM NOW

THEIR EYES FIXED TO THE STAGE, THEY FORGOT ABOUT THEIR OWN LIVES AND PROBLEMS, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE

THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO WATCH OUT OF CURIOSITY NOW FOUND THEMSELVES COMPLETELY MESMERIZED BY THE PLAY

SO IN THE PLACE THAT WAS ONCE A CAFETERIA, IN A SMALL BASEMENT, THERE WAS SOMETHING MAGICAL HAPPENING





NOW YOU
JUST STAY
THERE

I HAVE TO
SWEEP NOW

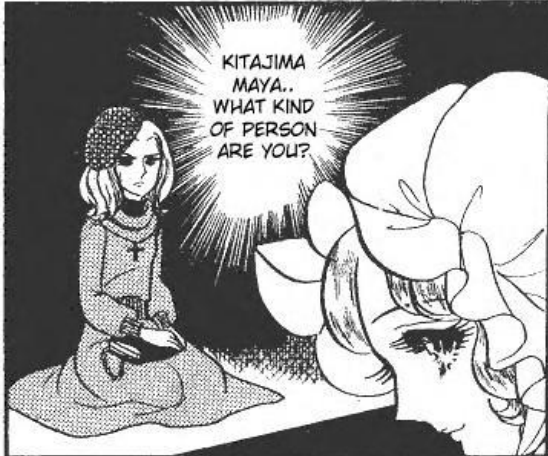
ALLEY-
OOP!



SHE HAS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
PART IN
THIS PLAY

NO LINES OR
ANYTHING, SIMPLY
ACTING THROUGH
BODY LANGUAGE

A DOLL...
THIS IS
REALLY
DIFFICULT



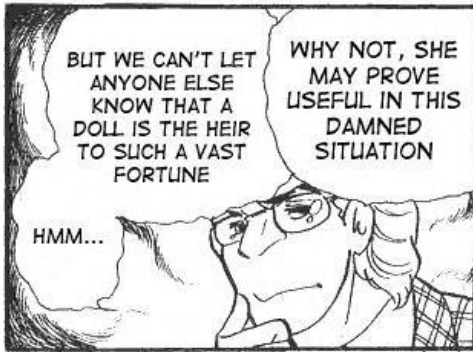
KITAJIMA
MAYA..
WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
ARE YOU?



IF FOR A
MOMENT SHE
SHOWS ANY
SIGNS OF
LIFE,

THE PLAY
WILL BE
RUINED





BUT WE CAN'T LET ANYONE ELSE KNOW THAT A DOLL IS THE HEIR TO SUCH A VAST FORTUNE

WHY NOT, SHE MAY PROVE USEFUL IN THIS DAMNED SITUATION

HMM...



YES, AND SHE'S ALWAYS ACCURATE

A GYPSY FORTUNE TELLER?

I'LL ARRANGE A MEETING

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TROUBLING YOU, GO TO HER



NOT TO WORRY, I WON'T MENTION THE DOLL

IF THE NEWS GOT OUT, EVERYONE WOULD BE TRYING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THAT DOLL!

GYPSY, HUH? I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS



SHE DOESN'T TALK AND SHE DOESN'T MOVE, SHE SPENDS HER DAYS SITTING DOWN

SHE CANNOT WALK

A GIRL ABOUT SO TALL, UNABLE TO MOVE, WITH BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES

HA HA HA HA HA HA

HUH?

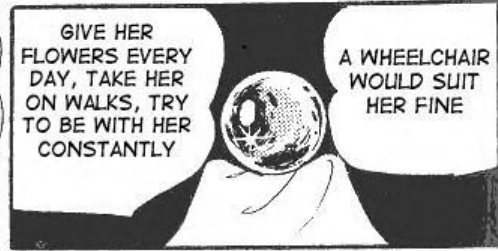
AND HOW WOULD WE SHOW THAT WE LOVE HER SINCERELY?

WHAT COULD WE GET THAT WOULD SUIT HER?



THERE MAY BE SOME GOOD TO THIS.. BETTER THAN OUR FRUITLESS PONDERING

A GYPSY FORTUNE TELLER ...





A H A H A H A

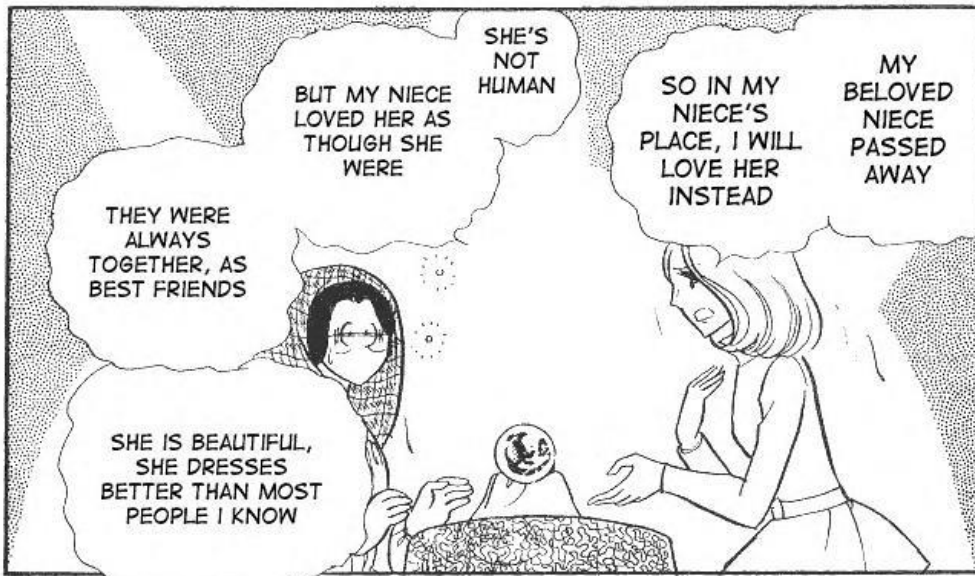


I... SEE..



LET NO DUST ADHERE AS TO NOT LET HER DEPRECIATE IN VALUE

TREAT HER WITH CARE



THEY WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER, AS BEST FRIENDS

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL, SHE DRESSES BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE I KNOW

BUT MY NIECE LOVED HER AS THOUGH SHE WERE

SHE'S NOT HUMAN

SO IN MY NIECE'S PLACE, I WILL LOVE HER INSTEAD

MY BELOVED NIECE PASSED AWAY



WHAT CAN I GET THAT WOULD SUIT HER WELL?

HOW DO I PROVE MY LOVE TO HER?

AFTER HER DEATH, HOW DO I LOVE HER?

HEE HEE

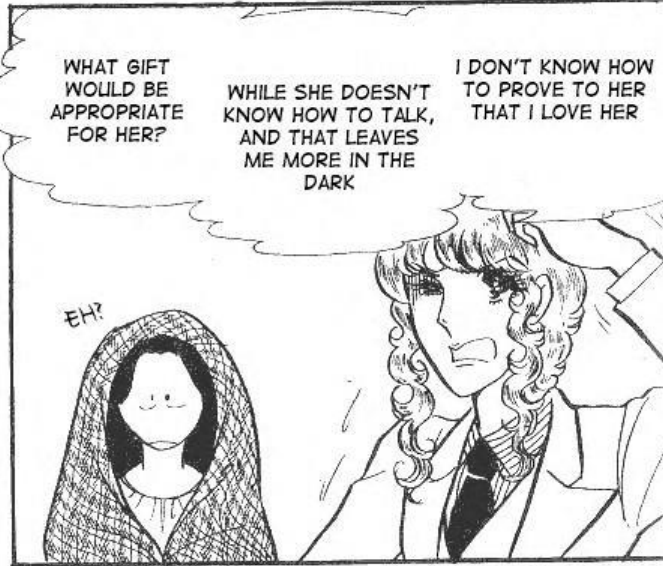
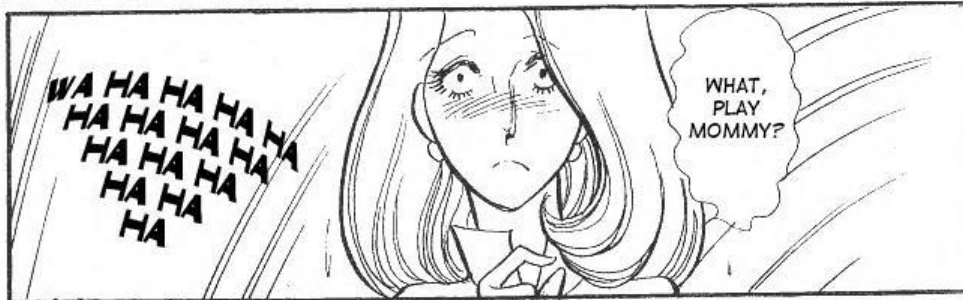
WE DID IT...

THE AUDIENCE IS REALLY STARTING TO GET INTO IT



VERY WELL DRESSED ...?

NOT HUMAN, LOVED AS FRIEND,







YOU ONLY SEE CATHY

WHEN IT WAS ONLY A DOLL THE WHOLE TIME

CATHY...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU MAJIMA?

SHE WAS NOT CATHY

NOT CATHY...

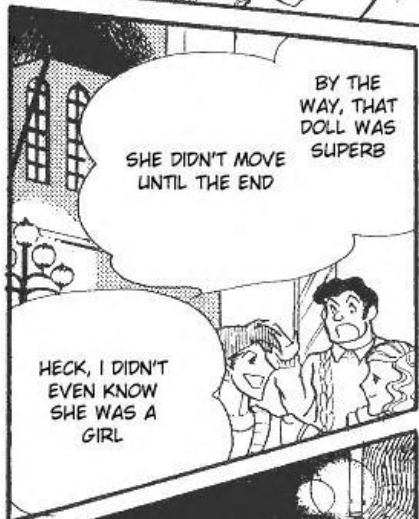
THE GIRL IN THE DOLL MASK WAS KITAJIMA MAYA



CLAP CLAP CLAP

CLAP

WAAAA



SHE DIDN'T MOVE UNTIL THE END

BY THE WAY, THAT DOLL WAS SUPERB

HECK, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE WAS A GIRL



IT WAS WORTH IT JUST TO SEE THE DOLL



PIO WAS GOR-GEAOUS!

GREAT, HUH?

I'M SEEING IT AGAIN TOMORROW

SIGH... I THINK I'M IN LOVE

HIS NAME IS AOKI REI

OH, MY DARLING REI



ADAPTING...



ADAPTING THEIR PERFORMANCE...

TO ADAPT TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

I JUST REALIZED

REI AND SAYAKA WERE MARVELOUS AT ADAPTING THEIR PERFORMANCE TO MATCH THEIR SURROUNDINGS



ADAPTING?

I NEVER NOTICED BEFORE

ALL THIS TIME...

HAVE I BEEN DOING THAT?



IF I PERFORMED WELL, THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME

I WAS ONLY ACTING ON MY OWN

MY OWN PERFORMANCE

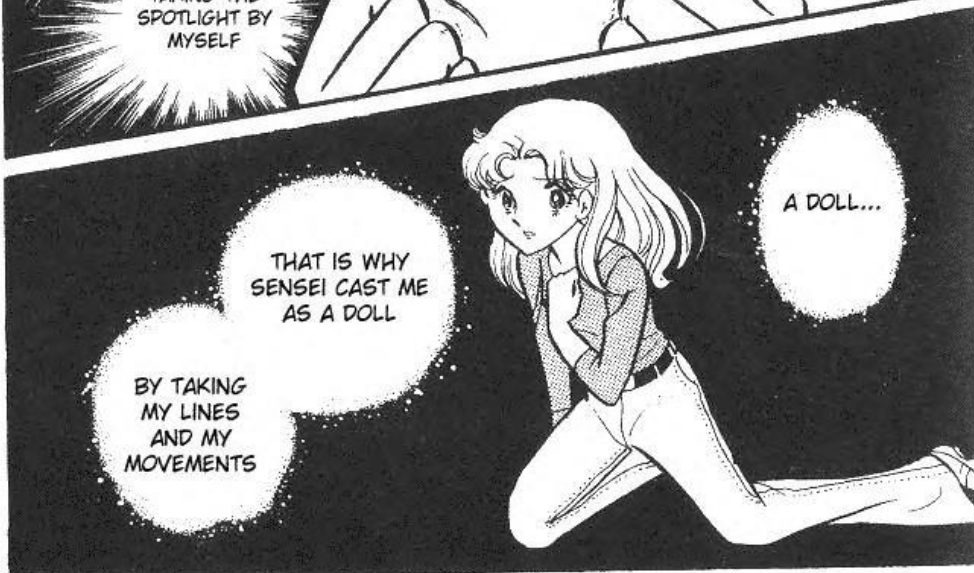


WE HAVE TO WORK WITH THE OTHER ACTORS

I WAS ALWAYS TAKING THE SPOTLIGHT BY MYSELF

THAT'S NOT ACTING

ACTING IS NOT DONE ALONE



BY TAKING MY LINES AND MY MOVEMENTS

THAT IS WHY SENSEI CAST ME AS A DOLL

A DOLL...



SHE WAS
TEACHING ME
THIS

DISCARDING
MY OWN
PERSONALITY



EACH DAY, MORE
AND MORE
PEOPLE CAME

A STONE'S
SMILE SPREAD
THROUGH THE
MASSES LIKE
BRUSH FIRE



AND ON THE
TENTH DAY...



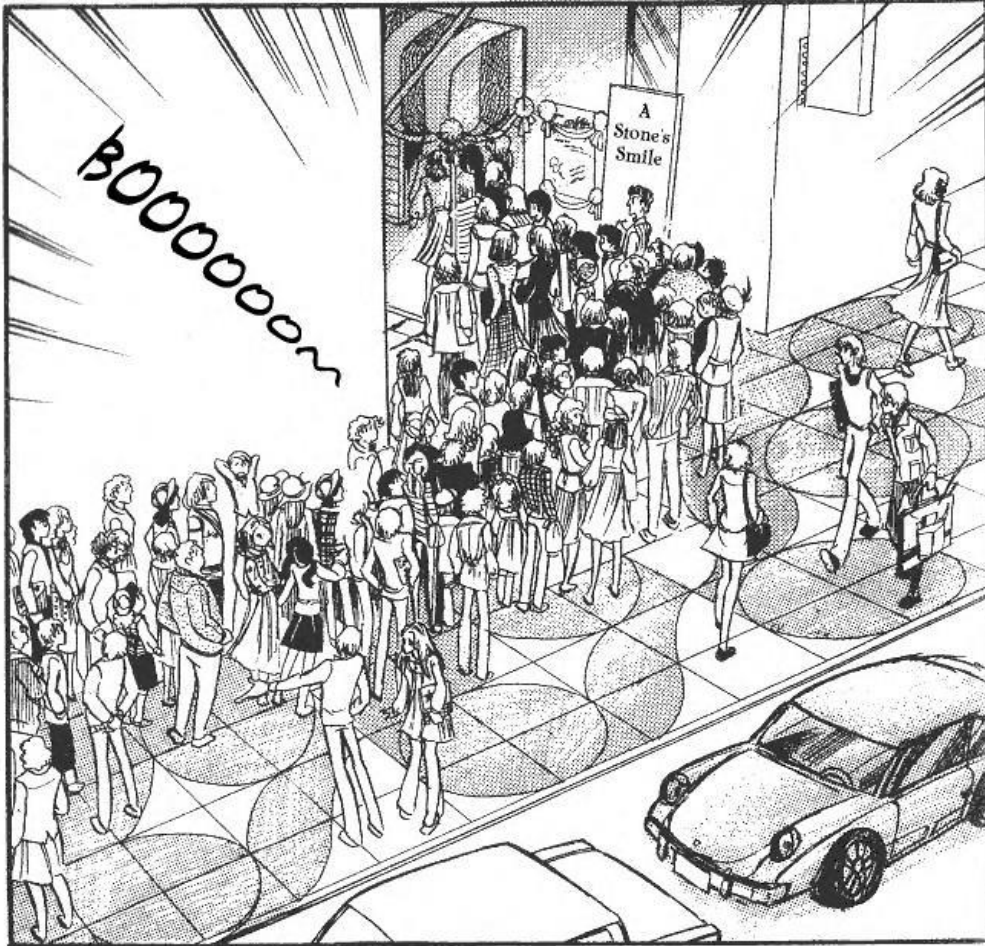
REI WAS
GAINING
POPULARITY

WE LOVE
YOU, REI!

REIIII!

THUMP

EVEN IN
A SKIRT,
WE DO!





<TO BE CONTINUED>