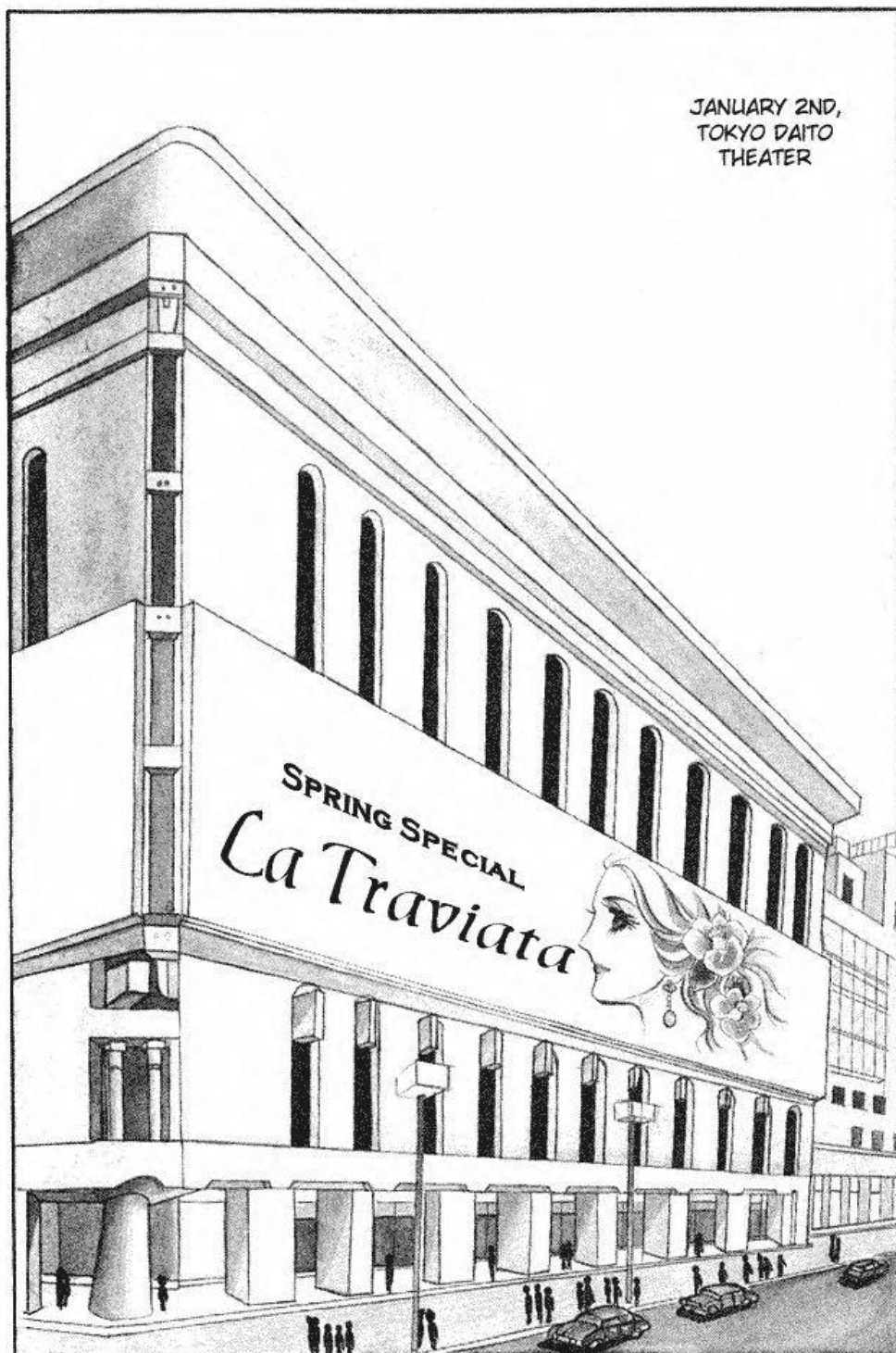


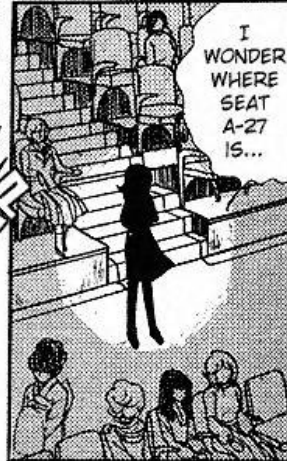
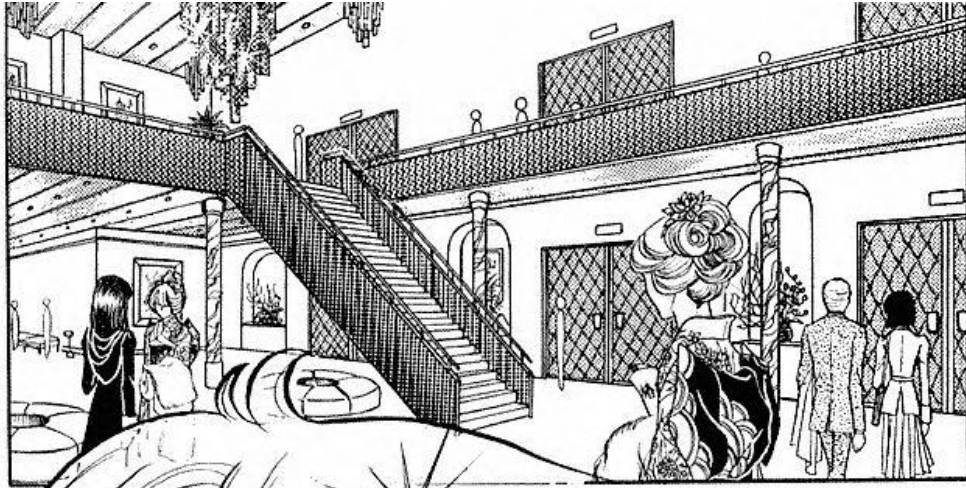
The Glass Mask: Chapter 2

JANUARY 2ND,
TOKYO DAITO
THEATER

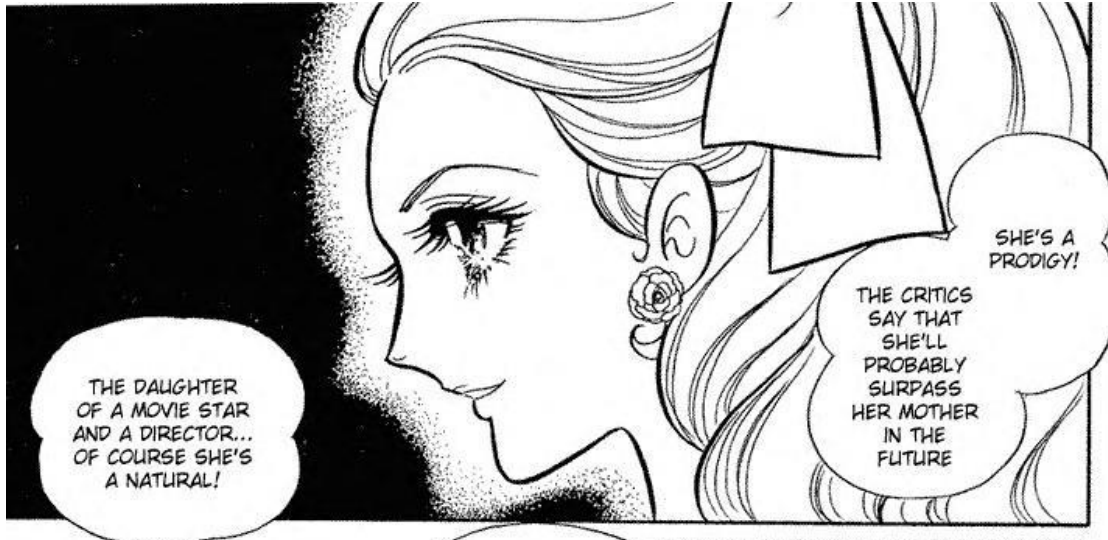


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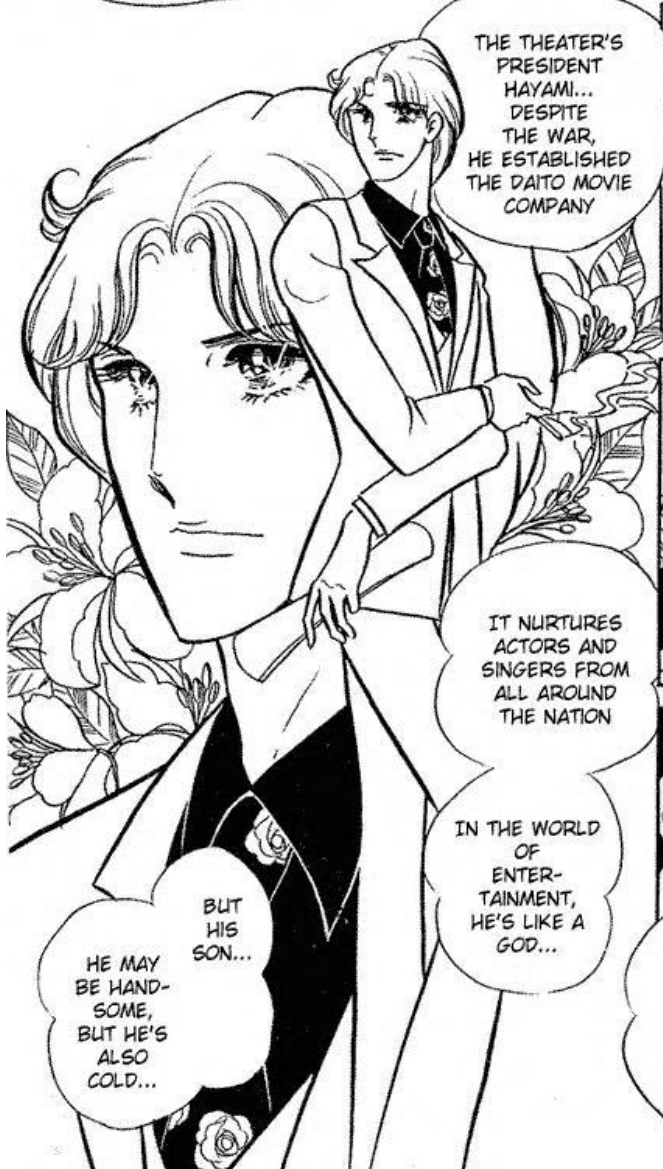






THE DAUGHTER OF A MOVIE STAR AND A DIRECTOR... OF COURSE SHE'S A NATURAL!

SHE'S A PRODIGY!
THE CRITICS SAY THAT SHE'LL PROBABLY SURPASS HER MOTHER IN THE FUTURE



THE THEATER'S PRESIDENT HAYAMI... DESPITE THE WAR, HE ESTABLISHED THE DAITO MOVIE COMPANY

BUT HIS SON...
HE MAY BE HANDSOME, BUT HE'S ALSO GOLD...

IT NURTURES ACTORS AND SINGERS FROM ALL AROUND THE NATION

IN THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT, HE'S LIKE A GOD...



WHAT A PRETTY GIRL!
13 YEARS OLD... I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE THE SAME AGE...

OH! SHE'S HIMEKAWA UTAKO'S DAUGHTER?



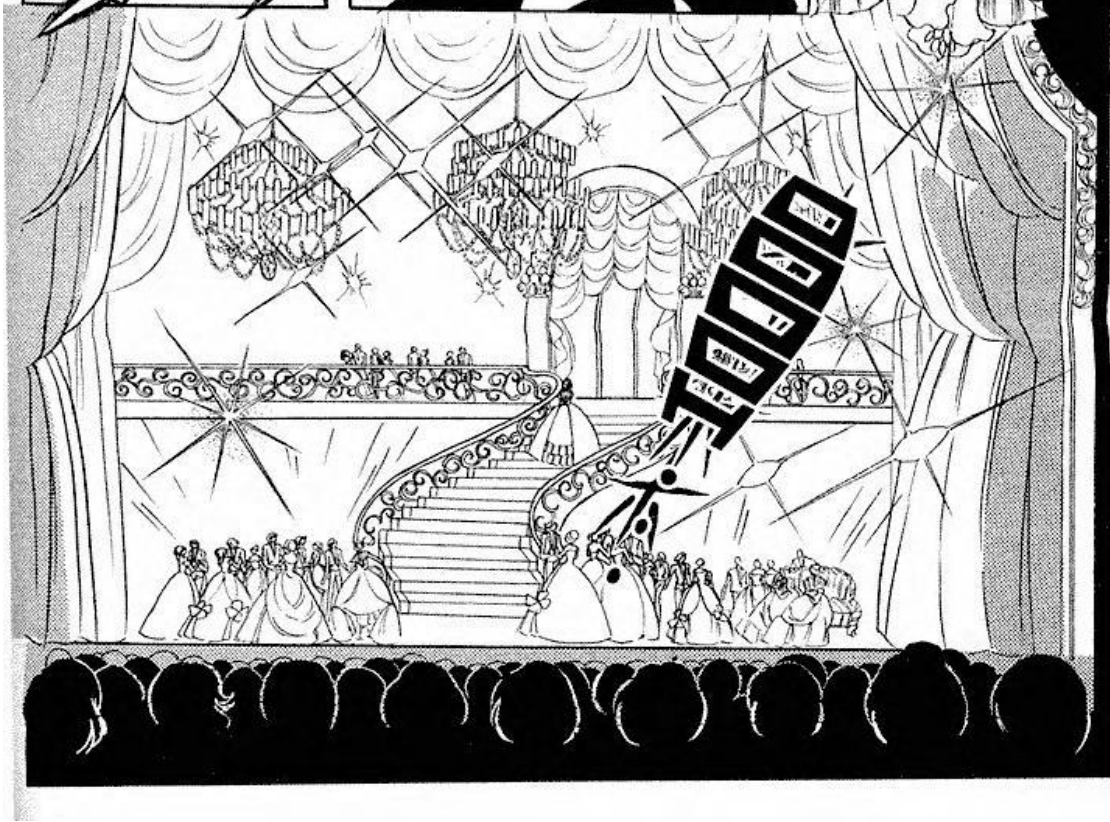
OH, IT'S YOU, MASUMI-KUN

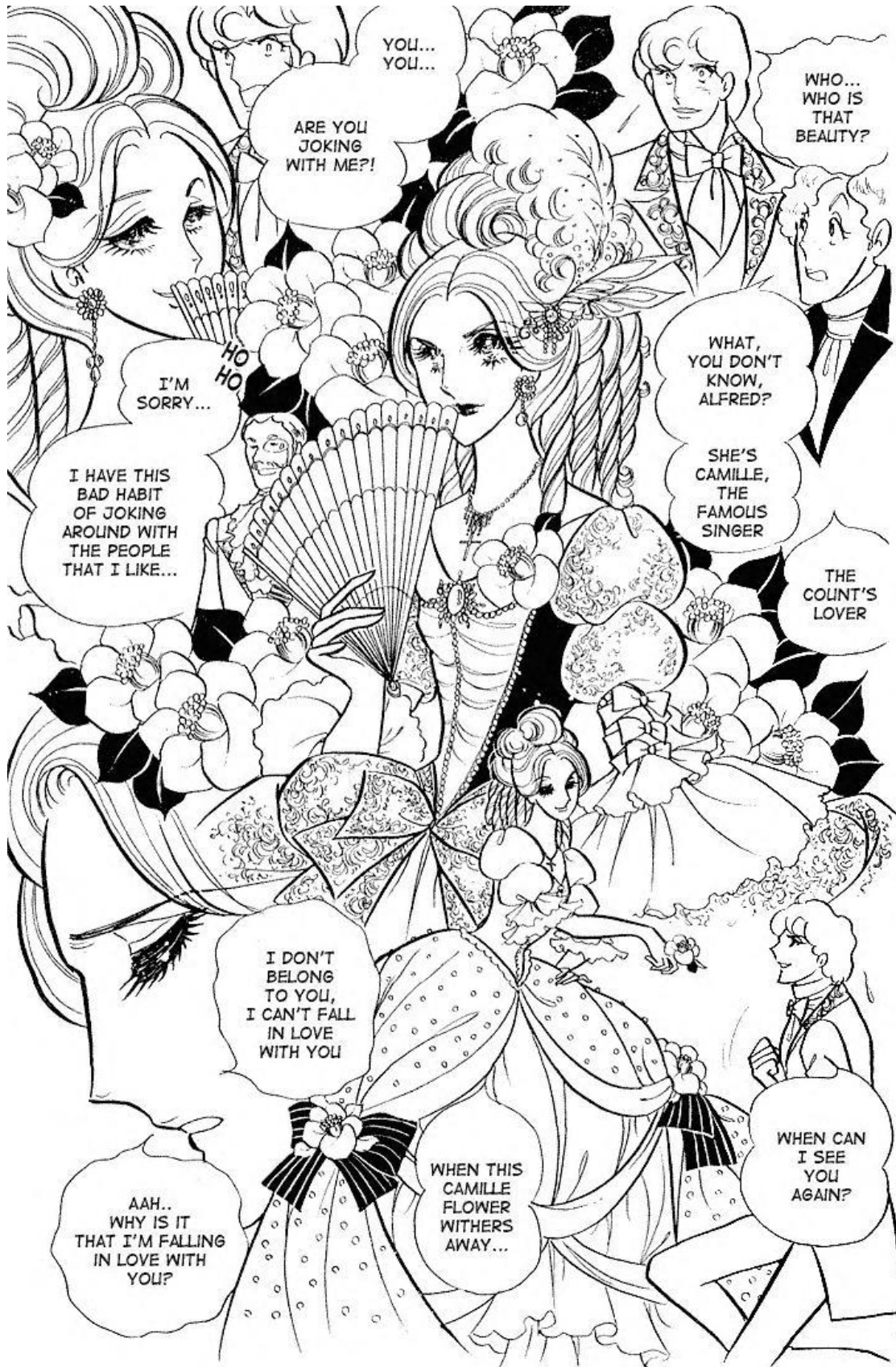
AAH, PLEASE EXCUSE ME



HIS FATHER IS THE OWNER OF THIS METROPOLITAN THEATER... HE'LL BE THE NEXT CHAIRMAN, FOR SURE

THAT GUY IS SO HANDSOME!





YOU...
YOU...

ARE YOU
JOKING
WITH ME?!

WHO...
WHO IS
THAT
BEAUTY?

I'M
SORRY...
HO
HO

I HAVE THIS
BAD HABIT
OF JOKING
AROUND WITH
THE PEOPLE
THAT I LIKE...

WHAT,
YOU DON'T
KNOW,
ALFRED?

SHE'S
CAMILLE,
THE
FAMOUS
SINGER

THE
COUNT'S
LOVER

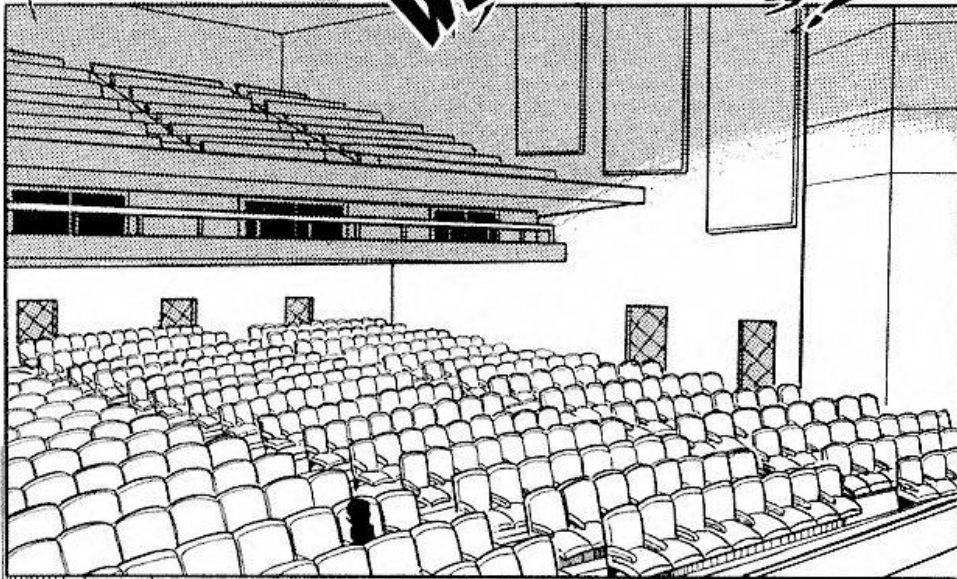
I DON'T
BELONG
TO YOU,
I CAN'T FALL
IN LOVE
WITH YOU

AAH..
WHY IS IT
THAT I'M FALLING
IN LOVE WITH
YOU?

WHEN THIS
CAMILLE
FLOWER
WITHERS
AWAY...

WHEN CAN
I SEE
YOU
AGAIN?





SHATTER



WHAT ARE YOU DOING! STUPID CHILD!
STOP DAY-DREAMING!

OH...



WHAT A USELESS PERSON, HONESTLY!

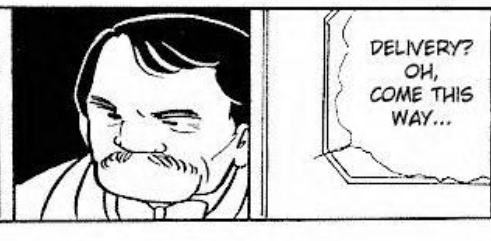
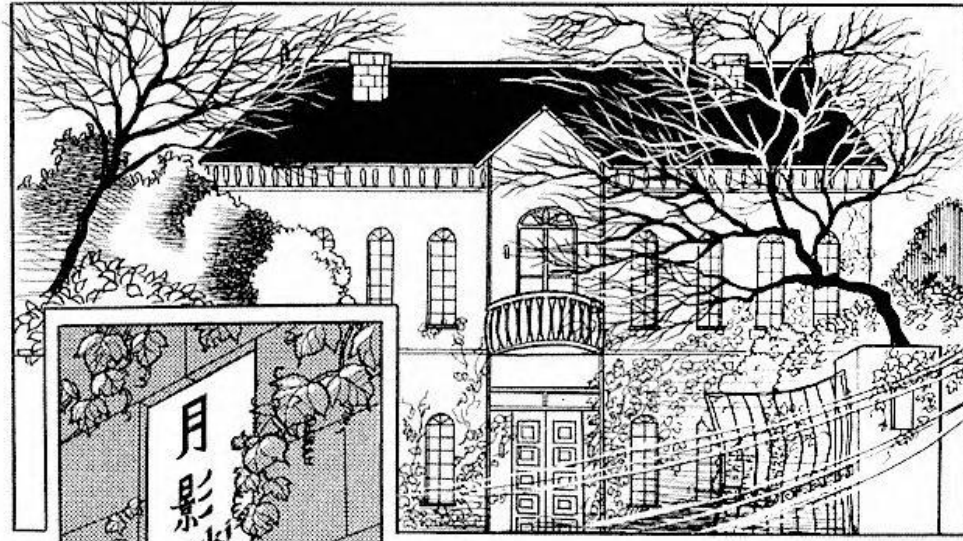
WHY DON'T YOU DO YOUR HOMEWORK FROM WINTER BREAK?

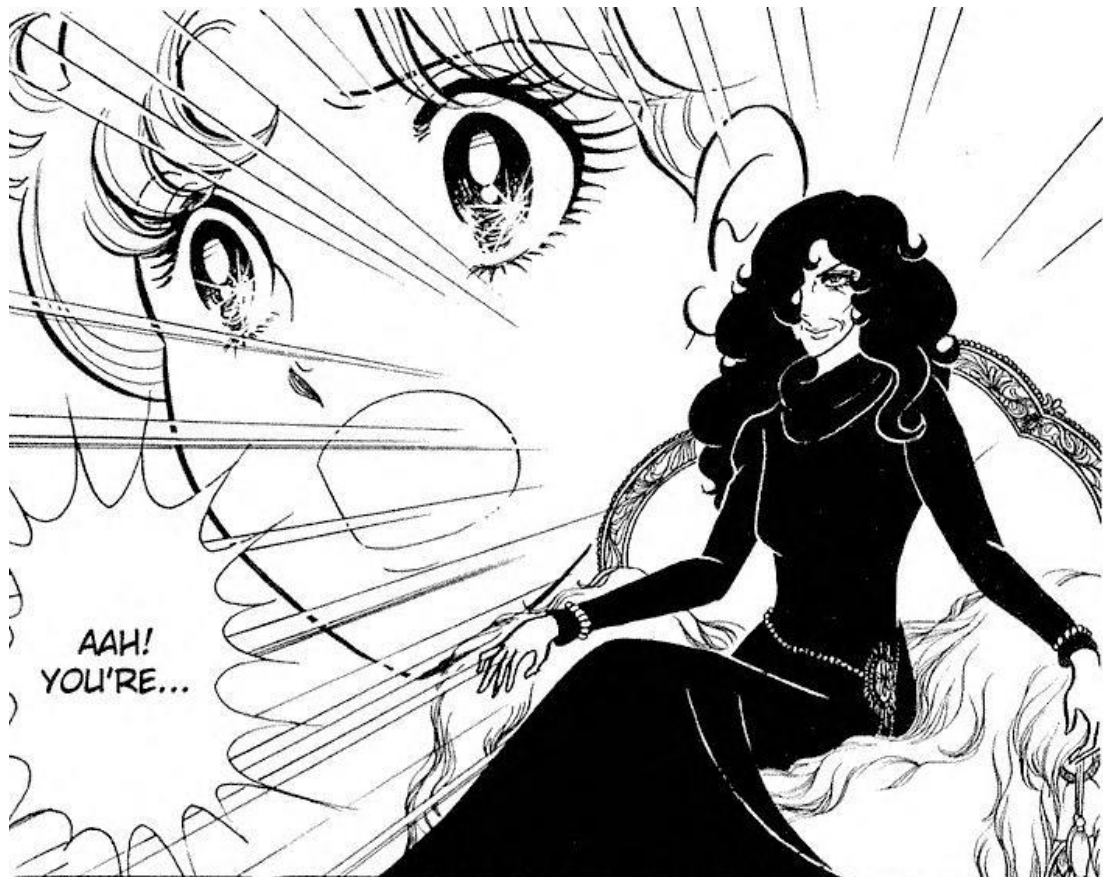
YEAH... ALWAYS MUMBLING STUFF TO HERSELF...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING

EVER SINCE THAT SHOW, SHE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY

SOME-THING IS WRONG WITH THAT KID!

MAYA! GO DELIVER THIS ORDER!





AAH!
YOU'RE...



REALLY? CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT KIND OF A SHOW IT WAS?

EH?

JUST TELL IT THE WAY YOU WERE TELLING THE KID'S STORY IN THE PARK



I HEARD IT'S STILL VERY POPULAR AT THE TOKYO THEATER

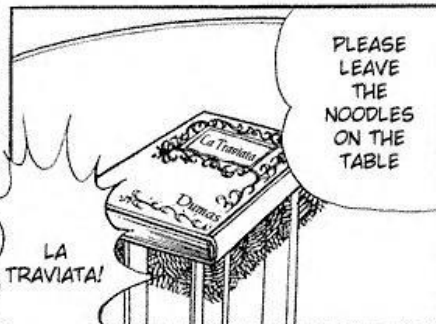
IT'S REALLY GOOD!

I SAW IT THERE, TOO!



I'M GLAD WE COULD MEET AGAIN

LAST TIME ...



PLEASE LEAVE THE NOODLES ON THE TABLE

LA TRAVIATA!



"WHO COULD SHE BE?"

THEN HIS FRIEND SAYS:

"WHAT A BEAUTY!"

JUST A LITTLE BIT?

UM... WELL, OKAY...

"WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW, ALFRED?"

"SHE'S CAMILLE, THE FAMOUS SINGER"

WHEN THE CURTAINS DRAW BACK, THERE IS A SCENE OF A PARTY

THE YOUNG MAN, ALFRED, IS DRAWN TO A GIRL WITH A CAMILLE FLOWER ON HER DRESS

"YOU... ARE YOU JOKING WITH ME?!"

"I HAVE THIS BAD HABIT OF JOKING WITH THE PEOPLE THAT I LIKE"





WHAT?
WHO IS
IT?
WHAT DO
THEY WANT?

MADAM,
YOU
HAVE
MORE
GUESTS

IT'S
HAYAMI-SAMA
AND
ONODERA-
SENSEI,
MADAM



I'M BUSY
RIGHT NOW!
TELL THEM
TO GO
AWAY!

A
G
A
I
N
!



THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT,
WE DON'T
MIND
WAITING

AAH!



YES, YES,
I REMEMBER
YOU! YOU
HELPED ME FIND
MY SEAT DURING
THE PLAY!

EH?

WHAT?
DO YOU
KNOW THIS
GIRL,
MASUMI
-SAN?



DOING THE WORK FOR YOUR FATHER MUST BE VERY HARD

IT'S FINE... I VOLUNTEERED TO DO THIS



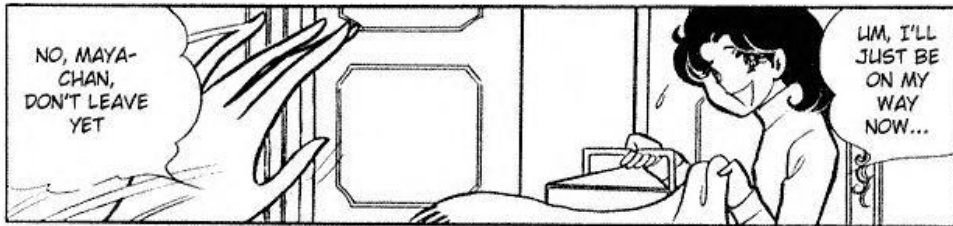
DO YOU THINK I'M REALLY THAT COLD?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE SO KIND TO A STRANGE GIRL

YES, JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER



AAH, SO IT WAS THEN...



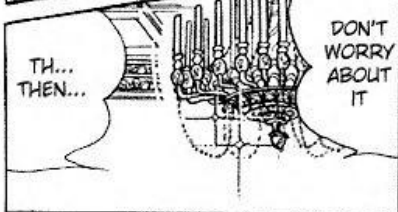
NO, MAYA-CHAN, DON'T LEAVE YET

UM, I'LL JUST BE ON MY WAY NOW...



THAT'S OKAY, WE CAN WAIT IN THE NEXT ROOM

TAKE YOUR TIME



TH... THEN...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE?

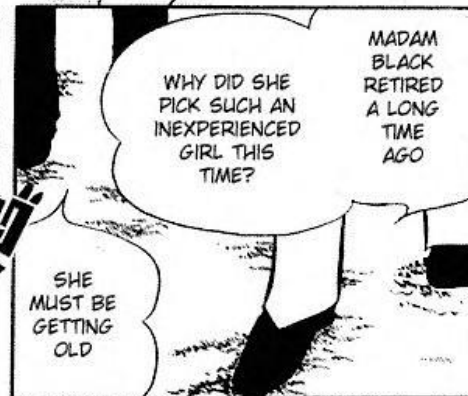
I REALLY ENJOYED YOUR PERFORMANCE...

WHERE ARE WE IN THE STORY?

UM, BUT...



*Tsukikage





HER EYES LOOK EVERYWHERE... SHE HAS NO TECHNIQUE AT ALL

HER VOICE TREMBLES, NO LIPS AND DOWNS...

HER TECHNIQUE IS JUST LIKE AN AMATEUR'S

I TOOK A PEEK



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT KID THIS TIME?

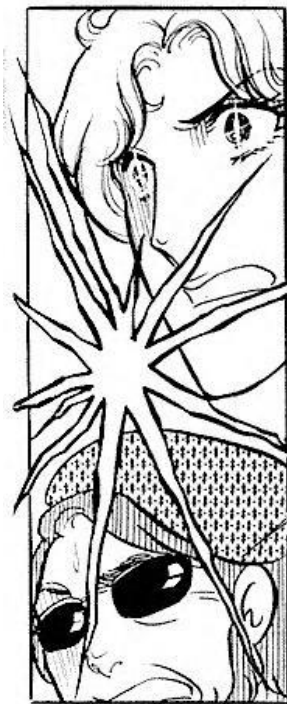
TSUKIKAGE-SAN, YOU'VE ALREADY LOOKED AT MANY GIRLS

AREN'T YOU TIRED?



BUT I WILL TAKE THE TIME TO HELP HER DEVELOP

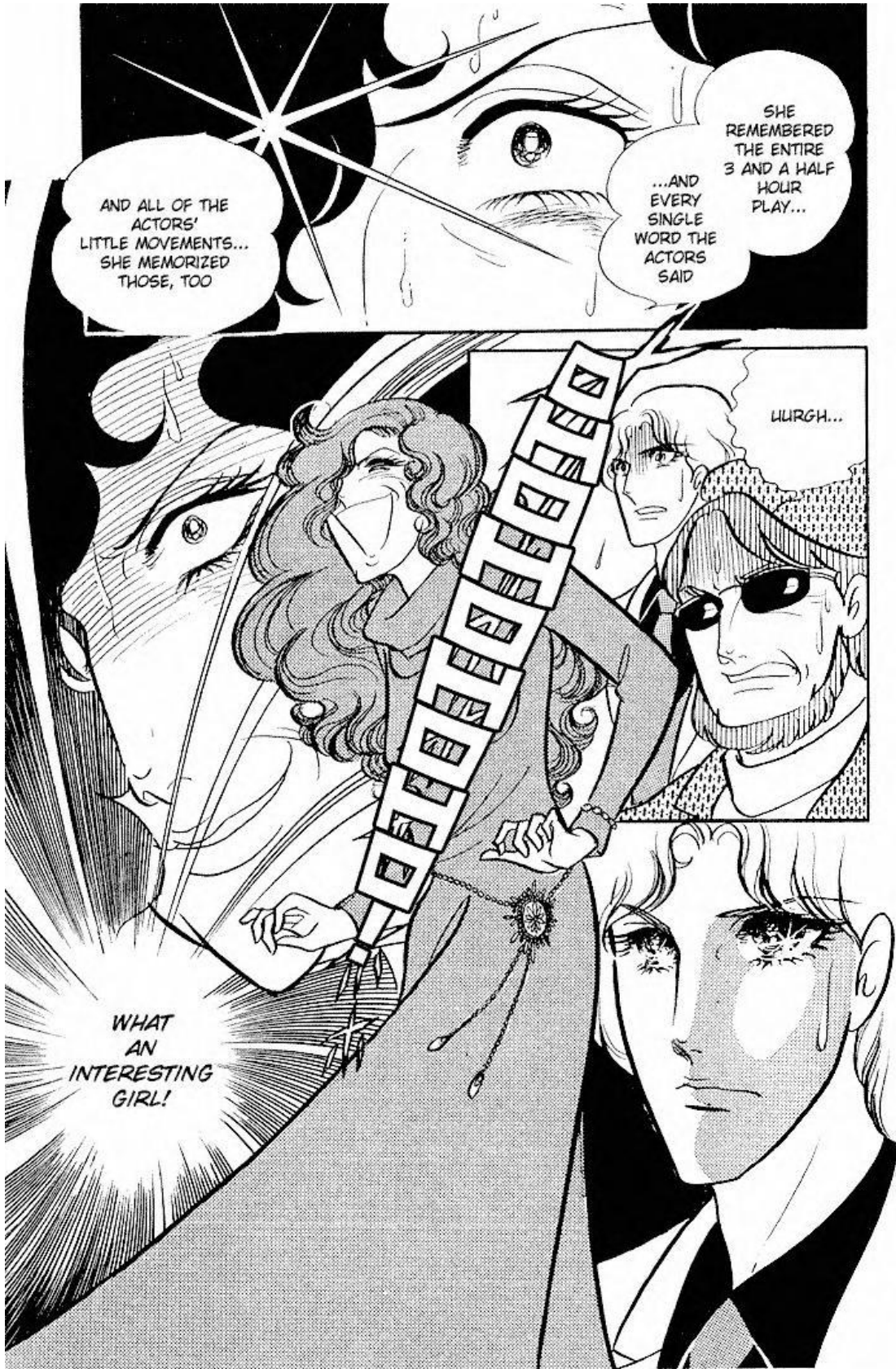
YOU ARE RIGHT, SHE'S NOT VERY GOOD OR EVEN PRETTY TO LOOK AT...



MASUMI-SAN, ONODERA-SAN, DID YOU KNOW?

THAT GIRL...

...HAS ONLY WATCHED "LA TRAVIATA" ONCE



AND ALL OF THE ACTORS' LITTLE MOVEMENTS... SHE MEMORIZED THOSE, TOO

SHE REMEMBERED THE ENTIRE 3 AND A HALF HOUR PLAY...
...AND EVERY SINGLE WORD THE ACTORS SAID

UURGH...

WHAT AN INTERESTING GIRL!



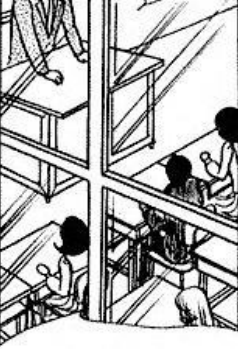
THE KING AND THE PRINCE PUT THEM THROUGH VARIOUS TESTS

FROM THESE THREE, THEY WANTED TO PICK THE MOST GRACIOUS AND KIND-SPIRITED ONE OF ALL

FIRST, THEY CHOSE THREE INTELLIGENT AND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN FROM THE COUNTRY

WE'VE DECIDED TO PERFORM "THE BEST BRIDE IN THE COUNTRY"

IF SOMEONE WILL MARRY THIS MAN... HIS LIFE WILL BE SPARED!

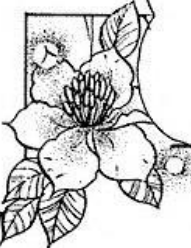


THE MAIN CHARACTER, MARIANNE, PASSED ALL OF THE TESTS



SHE WAS A VERY DETERMINED WOMAN...

FINALLY, IN THE LAST TEST, SHE GAVE UP AND MARRIED A PRISONER WHO WAS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED



EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF THE STORY, RIGHT? IT'S ABOUT A PRINCE WHO IS SEARCHING FOR A BRIDE

FEMALE CANDIDATES NUMBER ONE AND NUMBER TWO...

KING'S SOLDIERS: 3 PEOPLE, CITIZENS: 7 PEOPLE

THE KING, THE QUEEN, THE PRINCE, THE MAIN CHARACTER, MARIANNE...

THE ROLES ARE...

AN EXECUTIONER, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: 3 PEOPLE



IT TURNED OUT THAT THE PRISONER WAS REALLY THE PRINCE AND THAT MARIANNE HAD PASSED THE FINAL TEST, SO THE TWO WERE MARRIED

IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE IN THIS PLAY?

BEFORE WE DECIDE ON WHO PLAYS WHAT ROLE...

ANY VOLUNTEERS OR RECOMMENDATIONS?

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY THE FOOL!

AND FINALLY, THE COUNTRY'S UGLIEST WOMAN, A LAUGHING FOOL NAMED BIBI

THAT MAKES A TOTAL OF 21 PEOPLE



HUH!?

I RECOMMEND KITAJIMA MAYA-SAN!

WADA-KUN IS PERFECT FOR THE EXECUTIONER

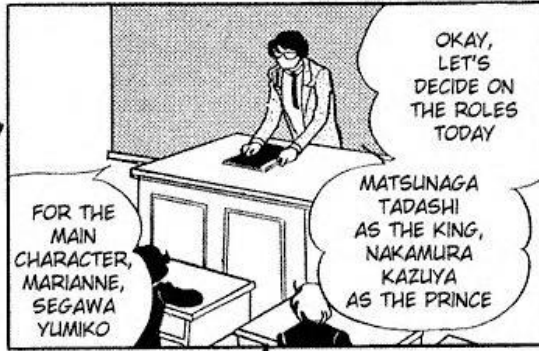
I THINK MATSU-NAGA-KUN WOULD BE GOOD

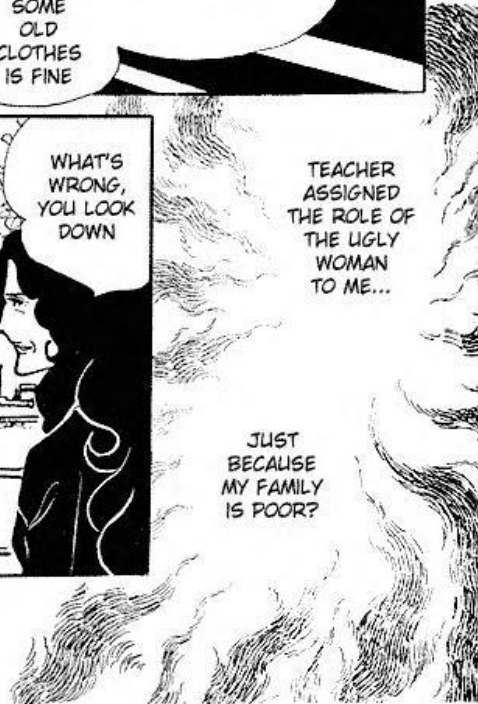
I'LL BE THE KING!













BUT IT'S ONLY A MINOR ROLE... MOM WILL BE DISAPPOINTED

WHAT? A SCHOOL PLAY?

LET ME SEE THAT!



BUT HOW YOU DECIDE TO PLAY THE ROLE

MAYA, THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE CHARACTER ...

YOU MUST ACT ACCORDING TO HER FEELINGS, PERSONALITY AND HEART IN ORDER TO BE CONVINCING



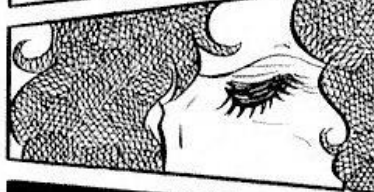
IF YOU DO IT WELL, YOU'LL GET MORE ATTENTION THAN THE MAIN CHARACTER

MADAM ...

IF YOU DON'T, NO ONE WILL PAY ATTENTION TO YOU

WHEN YOU GET ON THE STAGE, YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF ANYMORE

YOU MUST PUT ON THE MASK OF THIS BIBI



HUH?

THIS CHARACTER IS THE HARDEST IN THE PLAY





HURRY
AND GO
TO SLEEP!



MY DAUGHTER
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
IMPORTANT



WEAR THE
MASK OF THAT
WOMAN,
BIBI!

REMEMBER,
HIDE YOUR
FACE!

WHAT DID
SHE MEAN
BY THAT?



THAT WOMAN'S
FEELINGS,
THAT WOMAN'S
PERSONALITY,
THAT WOMAN'S
HEART...

WEAR
BIBI'S
MASK...!



A
MASK!

WEAR
A
MASK!

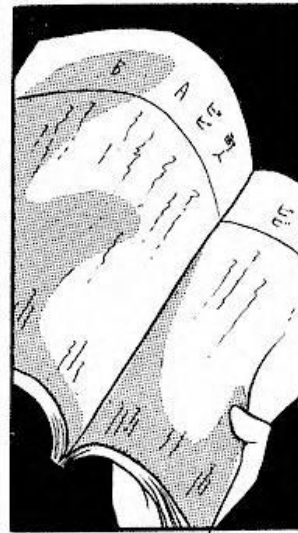
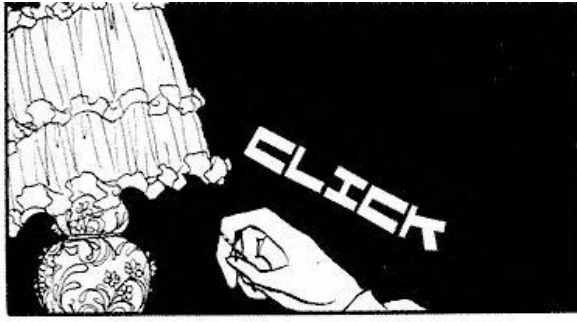


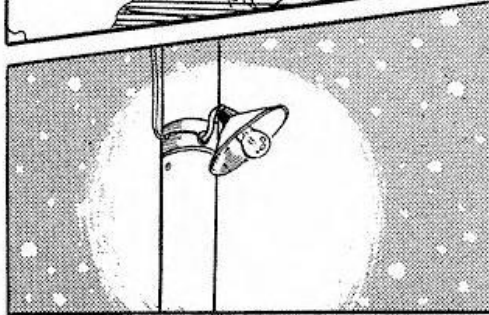
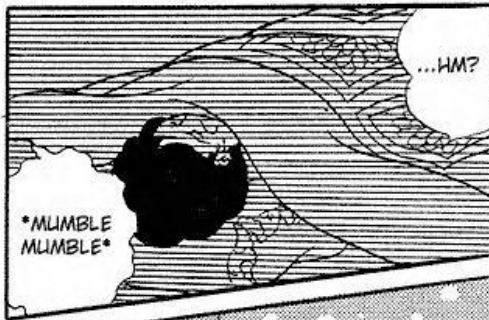
HIDE
YOUR
FACE!

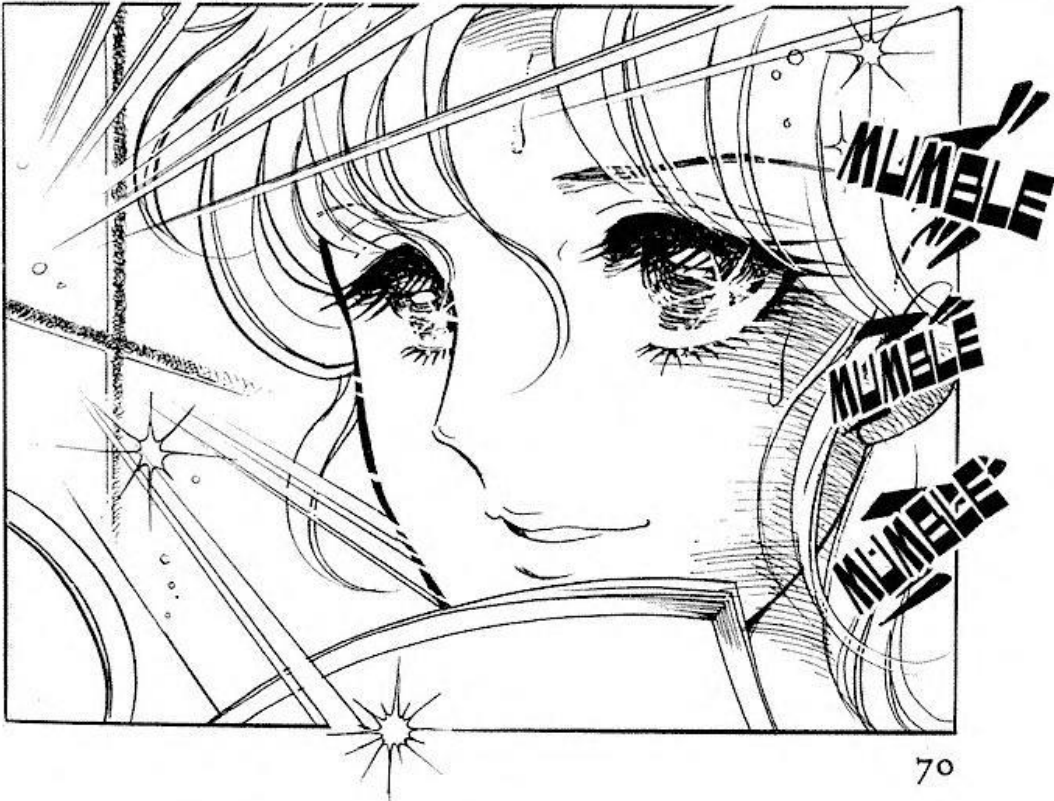


villager A: You don't know w
"dumb" is, Bibi?
How amusing!
Bibi: Oh? That is "dumb"? "Dum
you say?
what is "dumb"?











ON THAT MORNING

13-YEAR OLD KITA-JIMA MAYA ...

HER FATHER PASSED AWAY AND HER MOTHER WORKS IN A CHINESE RESTAURANT

INSIDE THE HEART OF THIS LITTLE GIRL

WINGS OF PASSION LIKE THOSE OF A PHOENIX WERE AWAKENED



AND WITH
THAT
AWAKENING...

INSIDE OF
MAYA'S HEART,
LARGE
WINGS WERE
FLAPPING
FOR THE
FIRST TIME