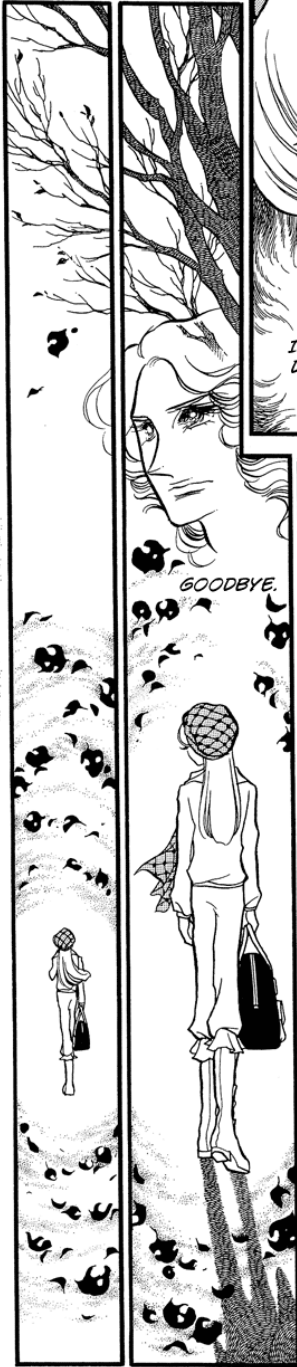


DAD!



GOODBYE.



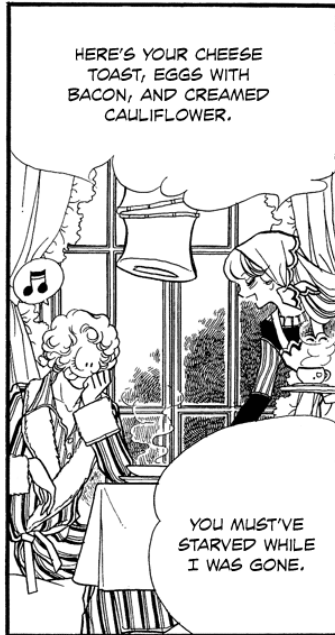
I CAN'T...
DO THIS.

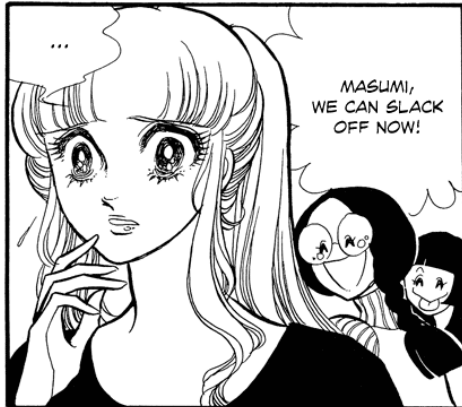
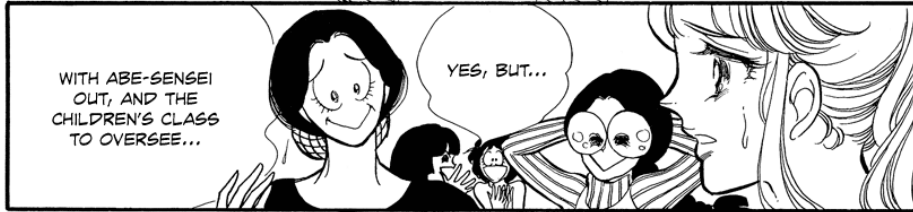
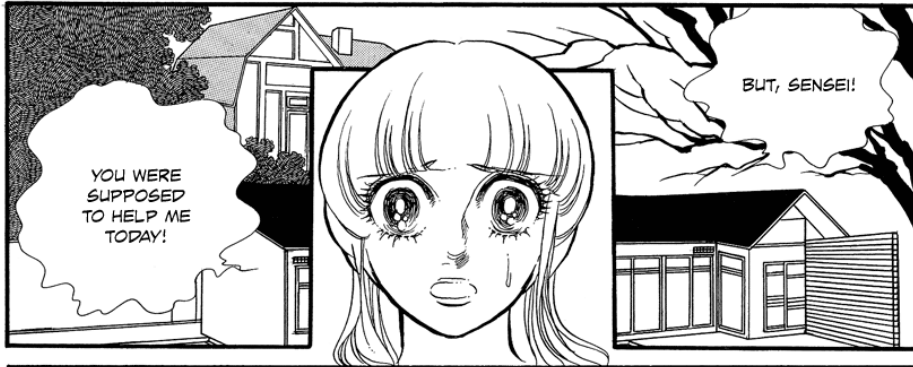
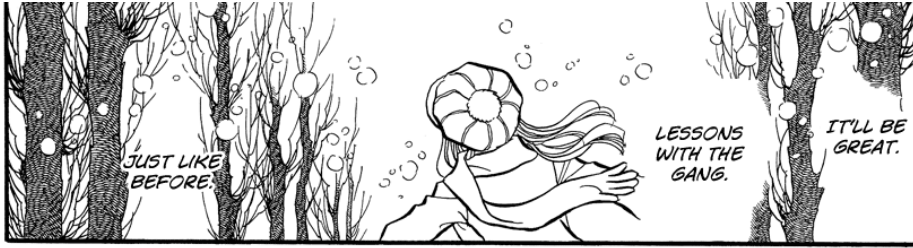


THANK YOU,
EVERYONE.

I'LL MISS
YOU ALL.

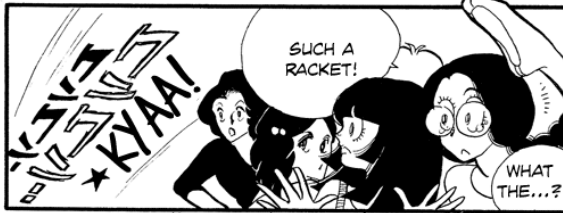
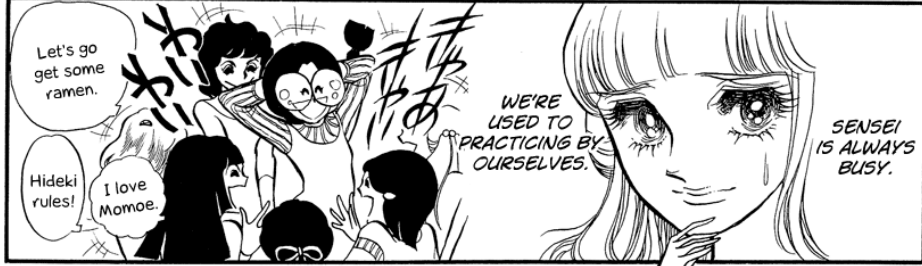
GOOD
LUCK IN
ROUND 3.



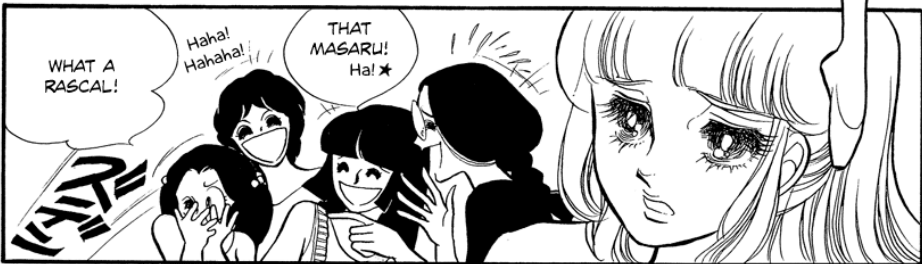
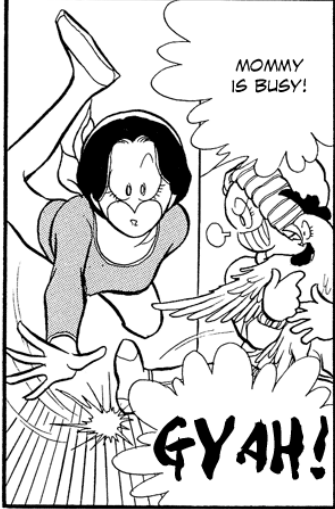


SFX: Wai wai (Chitter chatter)

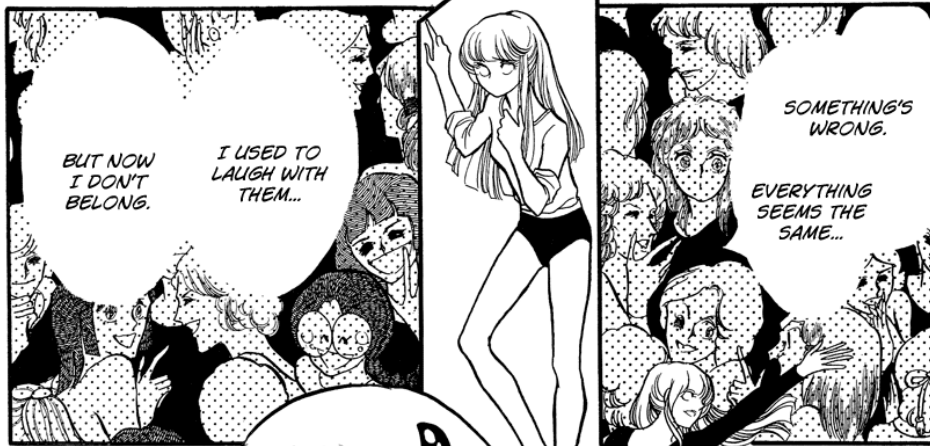
SFX: Kyaa, Kyaa!



SFX: Wan wan wan wan (Chitter chatter)



SFX: Zuden (Fall)



BUT NOW
I DON'T
BELONG.

I USED TO
LAUGH WITH
THEM...

SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

EVERYTHING
SEEMS THE
SAME...



THERE'S NO
SATISFACTION.

I'M UNCOMFORTABLE...

NO MATTER HOW HARD
I PRACTICE...



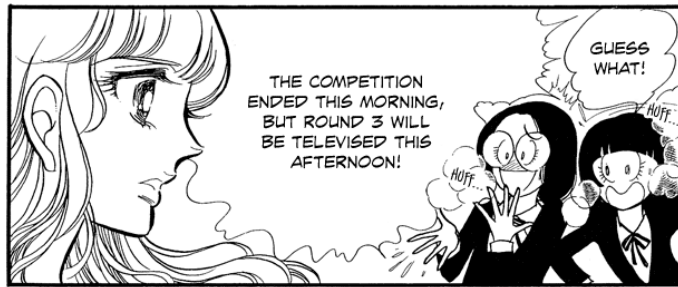
IT'S NOT
ENOUGH.

SOMETHING'S
MISSING.



MASUMI,
BIG NEWS!



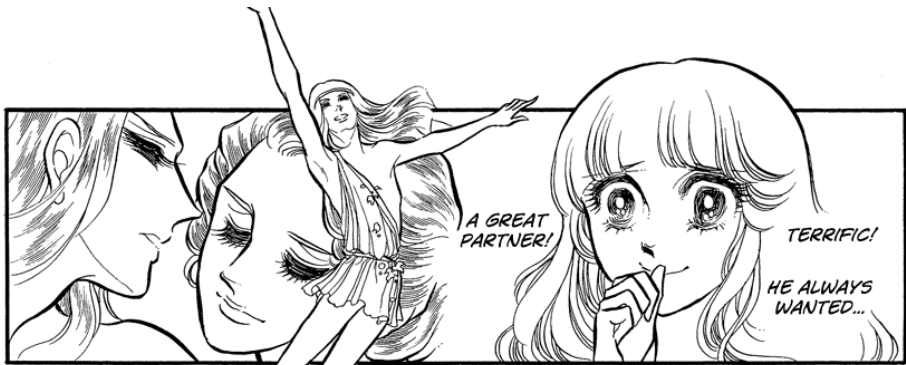




ASAGI YUKA
AND KUSAKABE
HISHO, IN *DON
QUIXOTE*.

KYOGOKU
SAYOKO AND
YANAGISAWA
AOI, IN *OCEAN
AND PEARLS*.

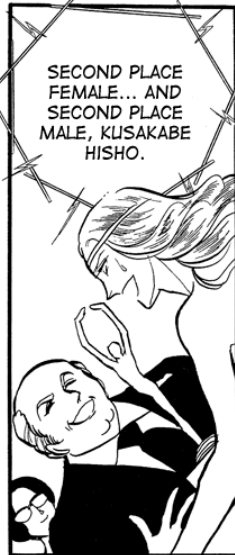
WOW... THEY
PAIRED UP
AOI-SAN AND
KYOGOKU-SAN!



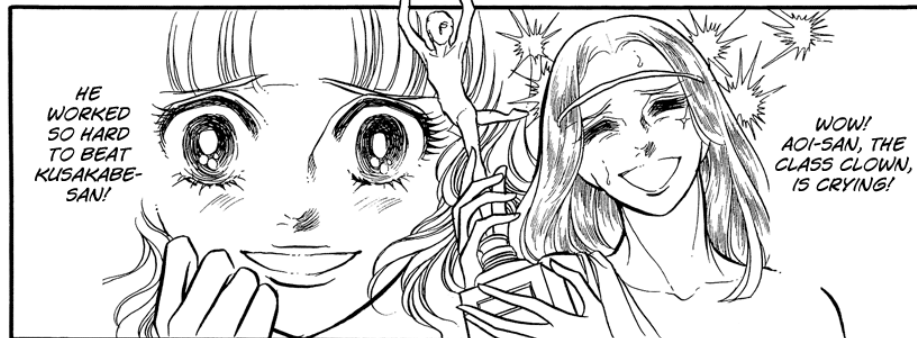
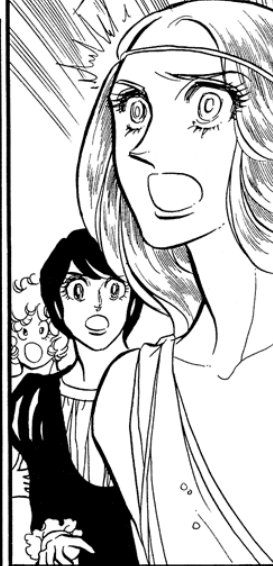
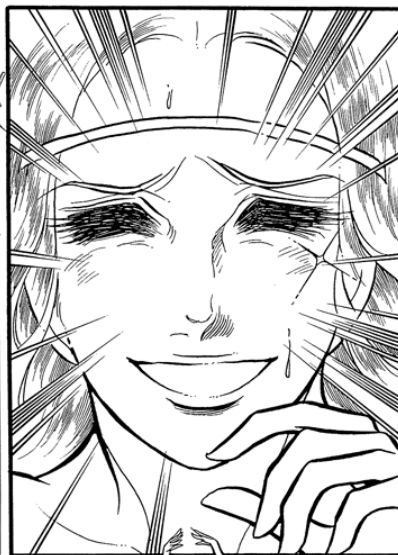
SEX: Pachi pachi (Clap clap)



FOR THE MALE
DIVISION, AOI
YANAGISAWA!

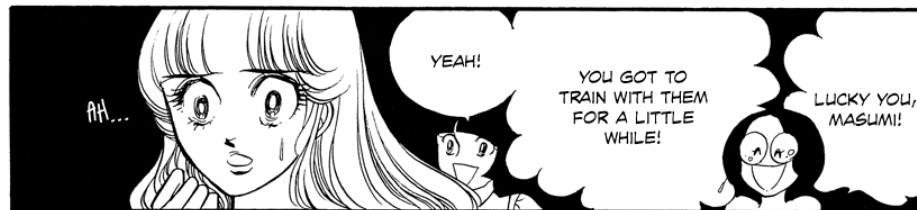


SECOND PLACE
FEMALE... AND
SECOND PLACE
MALE, KUSAKABE
HISHO.



HE
WORKED
SO HARD
TO BEAT
KUSAKABE-
SAN!

WOW!
AOI-SAN, THE
CLASS CLOWN,
IS CRYING!



AH...

YEAH!

YOU GOT TO
TRAIN WITH THEM
FOR A LITTLE
WHILE!

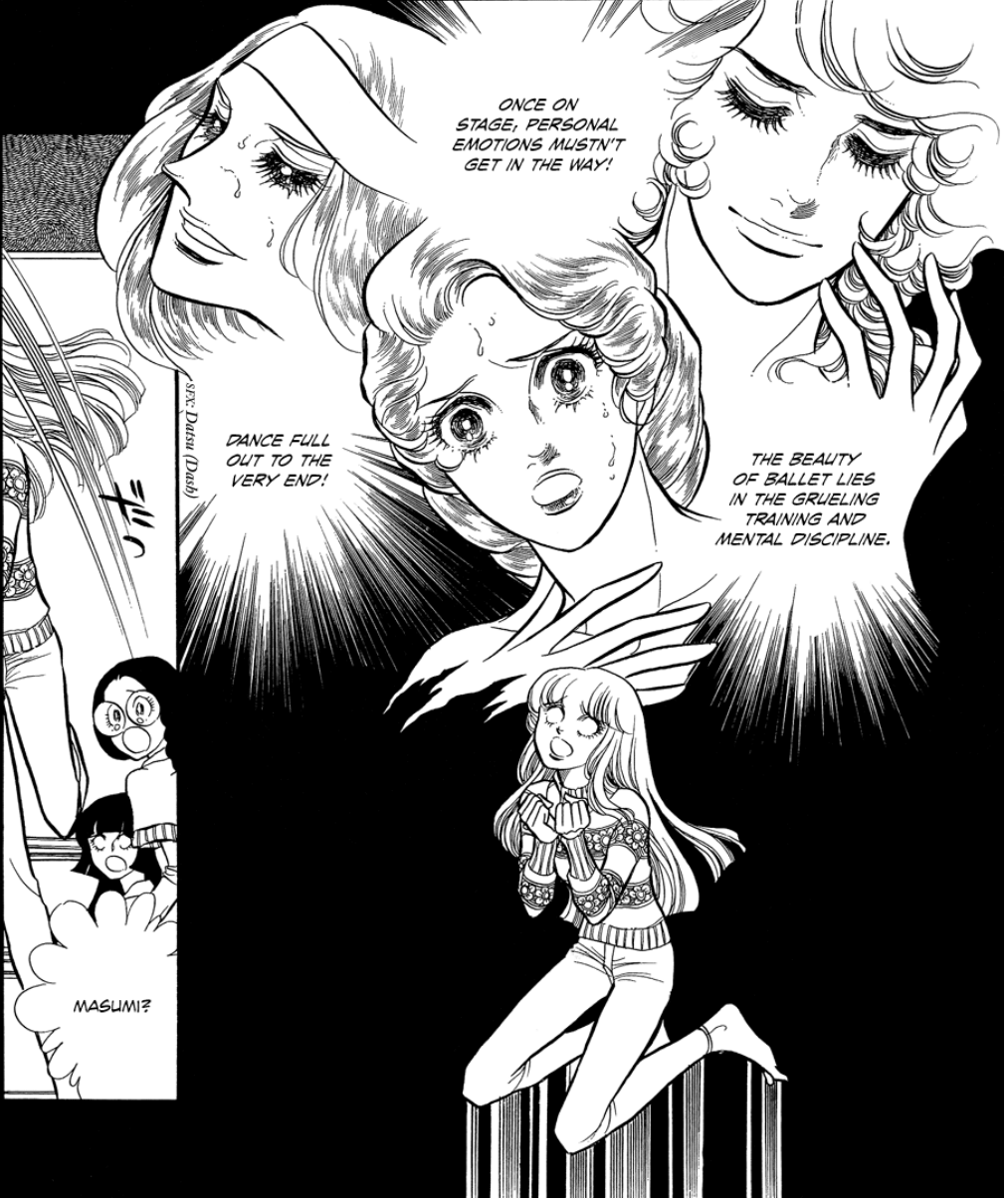
LUCKY YOU,
MASUMI!



WE BECAME REALLY CLOSE.

TRUE...

FOR A SHORT TIME...



ONCE ON STAGE, PERSONAL EMOTIONS MUSTN'T GET IN THE WAY!

DANCE FULL OUT TO THE VERY END!

THE BEAUTY OF BALLET LIES IN THE GRUELING TRAINING AND MENTAL DISCIPLINE.



SEX DUTSU (DASH)

MASUMI?



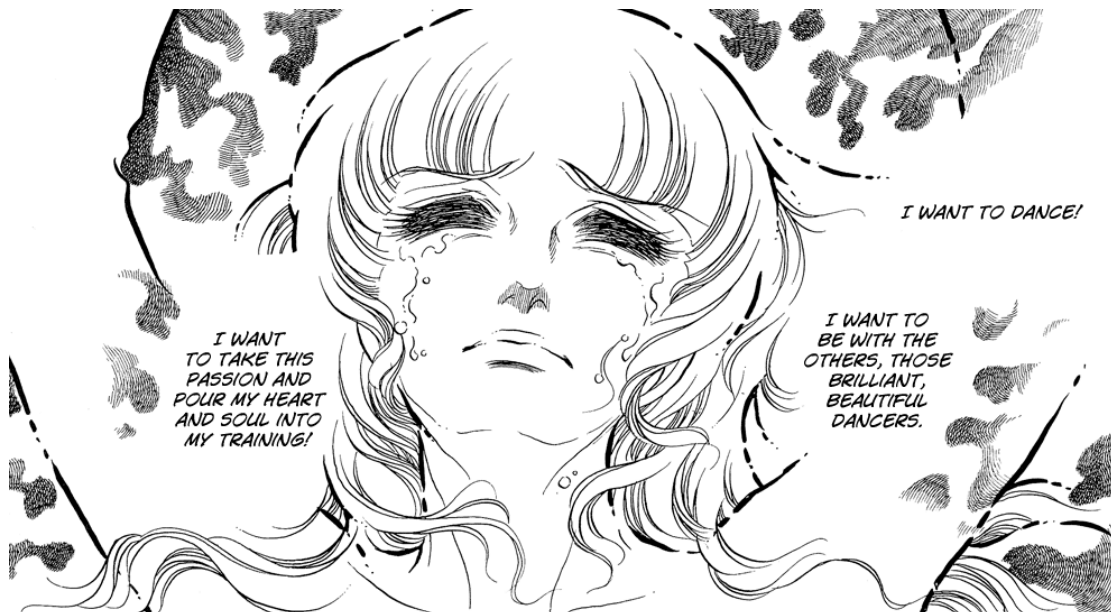
EVERYTHING
THEY TOLD ME...
EVERYTHING
THEY DID... IT
WAS ALL ABOUT
THE DISCIPLINE
OF BALLET!

I GET IT NOW!

I CAN FEEL IT
EXPLODING IN MY
HEART... LIKE I'M
GOING TO BURST!
BECAUSE OF THEM,
IN JUST THAT
SHORT TIME!

I WANT A TEACHER
WHO WILL MOLD ME INTO
SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL!
I WANT IT NOW, MORE
THAN EVER!

NOW I WANT THE
HARSH WORLD OF
BALLET! I WANT IT
MORE THAN EVER!



I WANT TO DANCE!

I WANT TO TAKE THIS PASSION AND POUR MY HEART AND SOUL INTO MY TRAINING!

I WANT TO BE WITH THE OTHERS, THOSE BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL DANCERS.



FOR A TOTAL OF NINE STUDENTS.

BECAUSE THE JUDGES SAW GREAT POTENTIAL... HIJIRI MASUMI.

KYOGOKU SAYOKO, KUSAKABE HISHO, YANAGISAWA AOI...

THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR LESSONS FROM THE JUDGES INCLUDING SERGEYEV ARE...

THESE EIGHT, PLUS ONE EXCEPTION FROM ROUND 2...

WHERE'D SHE GO?

MASUMI?

WHAT!?

IT'S WINTER ALREADY.

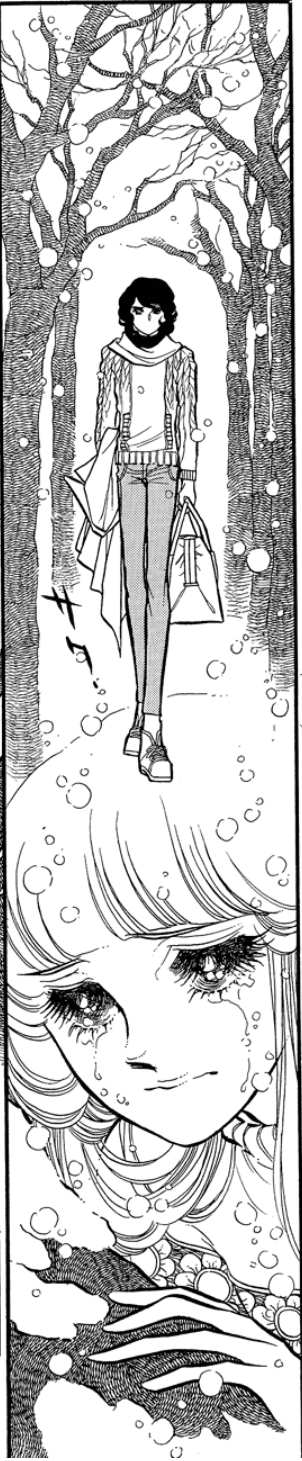
I FORGOT THAT IN HOKKAIDO...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

KUSAKABE-SAN!

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SPC: Sakai (Crunch)

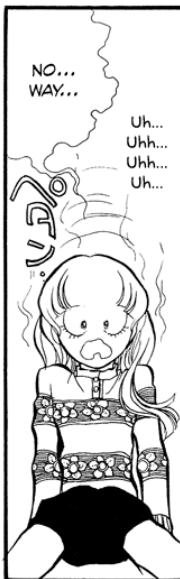


I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD.



H... HUH?

DID YOU ALREADY SEE IT ON TV? CONGRATULATIONS!



NO... WAY...

Uh...
Uh...
Uh...

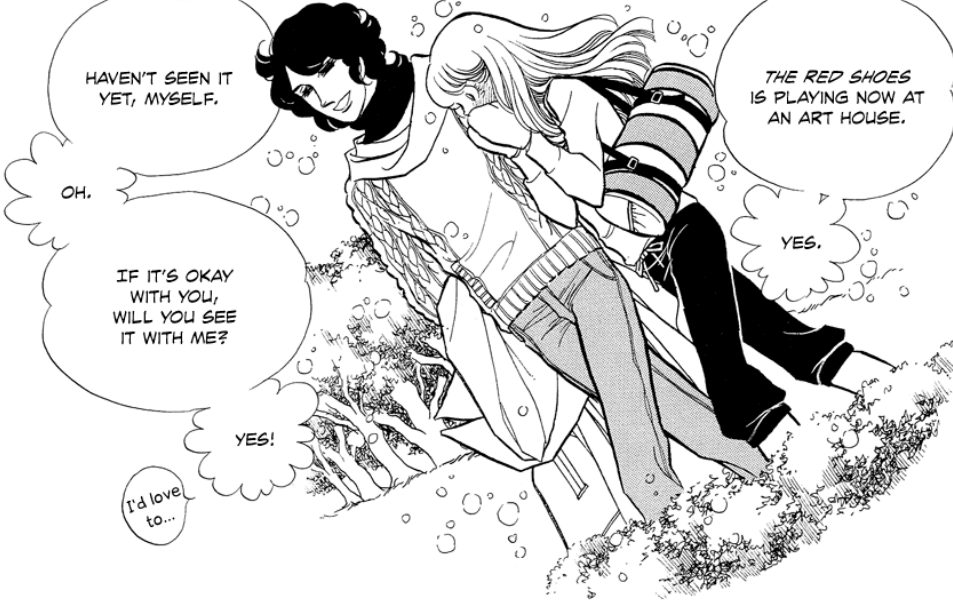
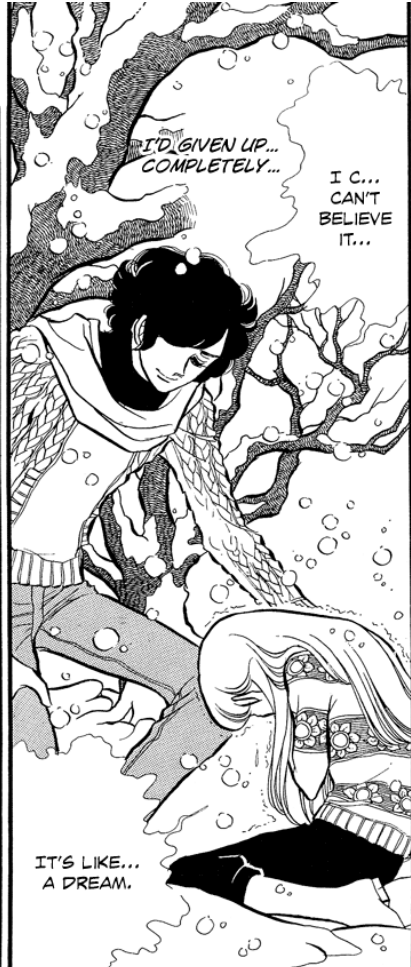
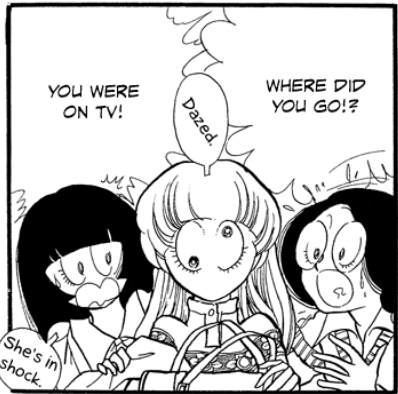


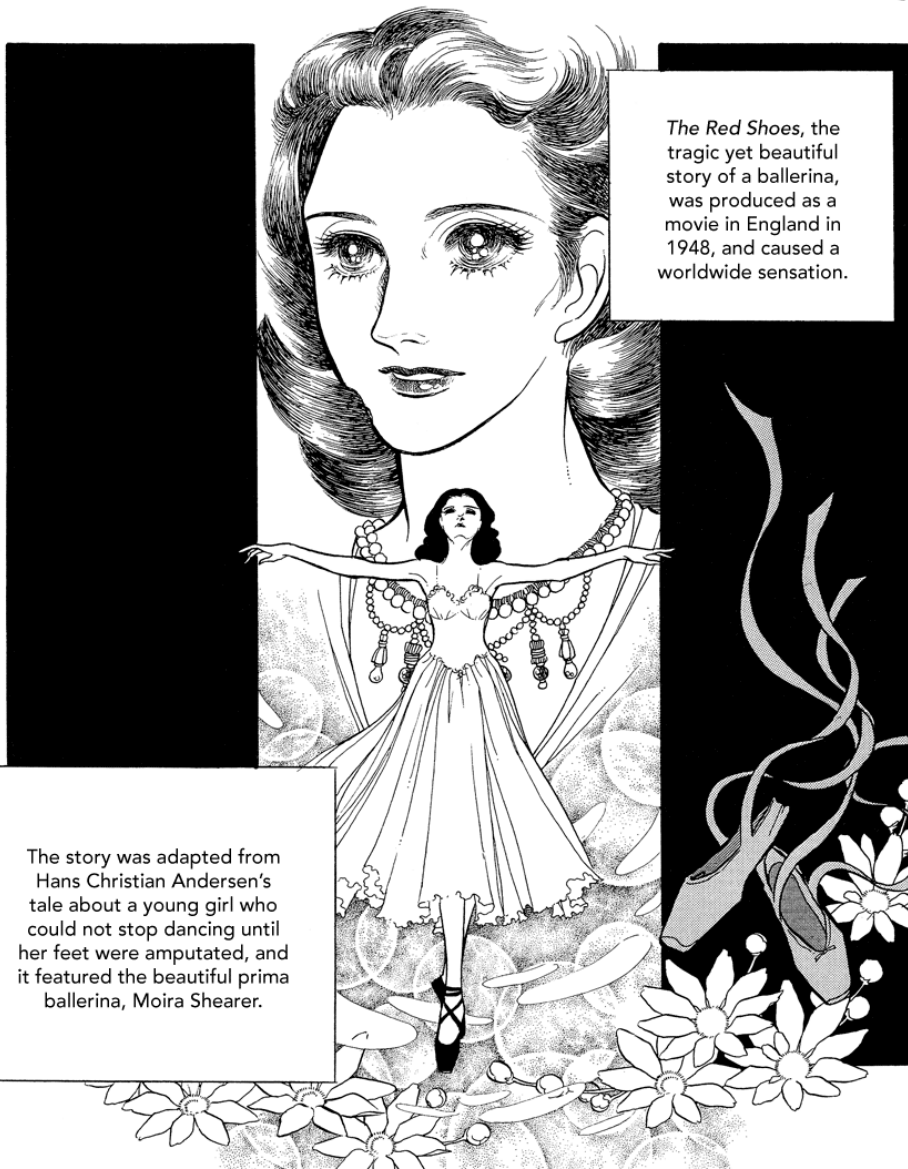
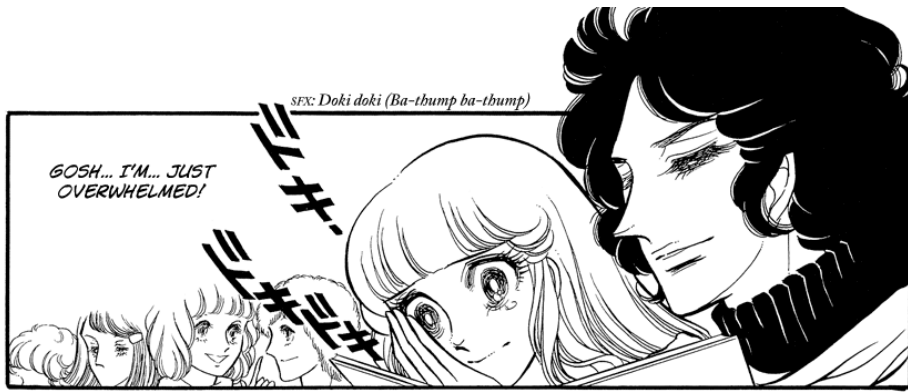
WHAT!?

I'M GETTING PRIVATE LESSONS, TOO!?

SEX: Petan (Slump)



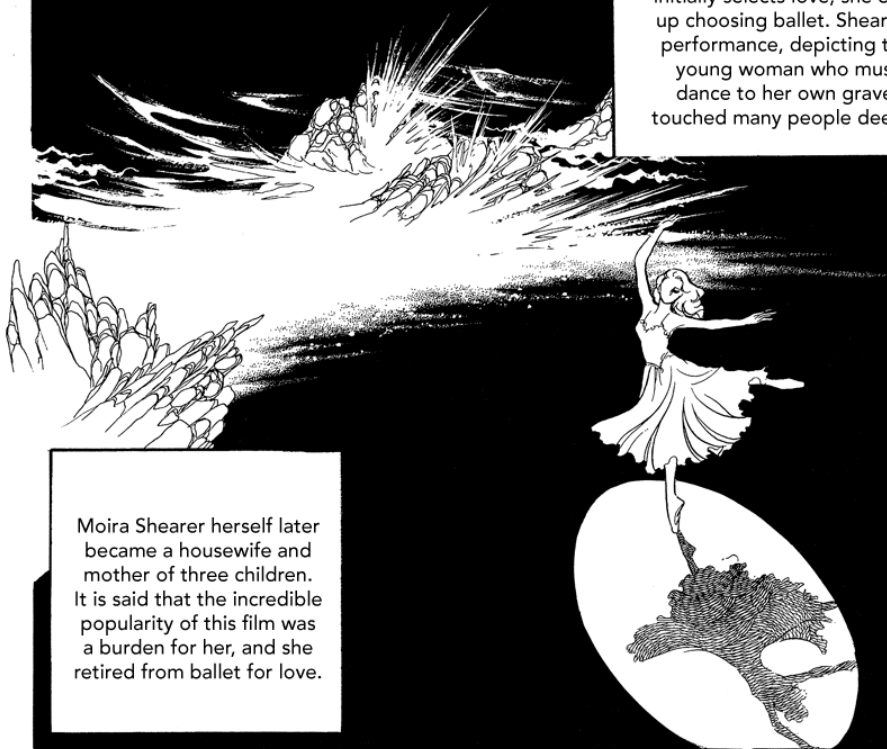




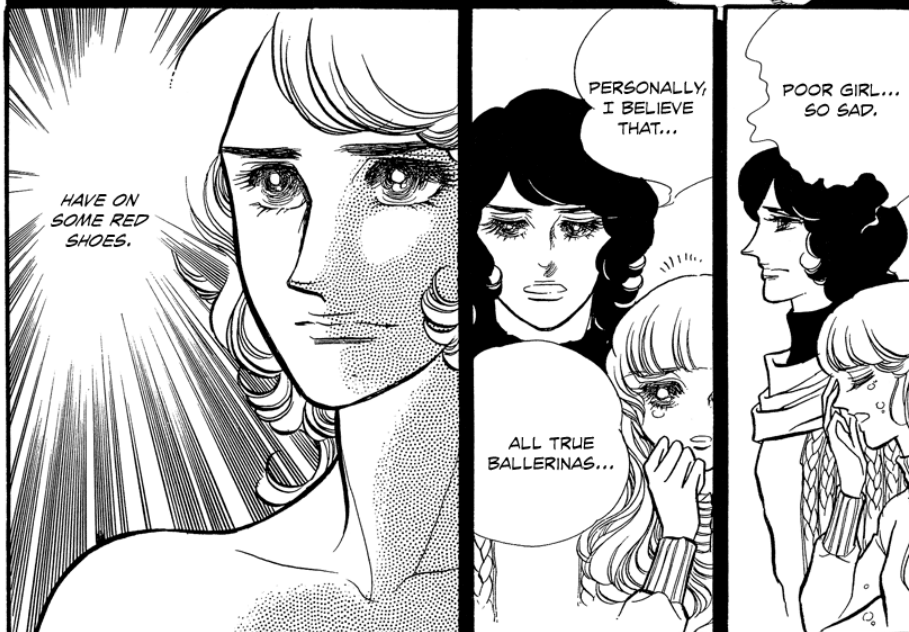
The Red Shoes, the tragic yet beautiful story of a ballerina, was produced as a movie in England in 1948, and caused a worldwide sensation.

The story was adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's tale about a young girl who could not stop dancing until her feet were amputated, and it featured the beautiful prima ballerina, Moira Shearer.

The heroine, Vicky Page, must choose between love and ballet, and although she initially selects love, she ends up choosing ballet. Shearer's performance, depicting this young woman who must dance to her own grave, touched many people deeply.



Moira Shearer herself later became a housewife and mother of three children. It is said that the incredible popularity of this film was a burden for her, and she retired from ballet for love.



HAVE ON SOME RED SHOES.

PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE THAT...

POOR GIRL... SO SAD.

ALL TRUE BALLERINAS...



BUT I MOVED TO TOKYO IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

TO STUDY WITH THE BEST TEACHERS.

MORE SNOW... I'M FROM HOKKAIDO, TOO.

SAPPORO CITY.

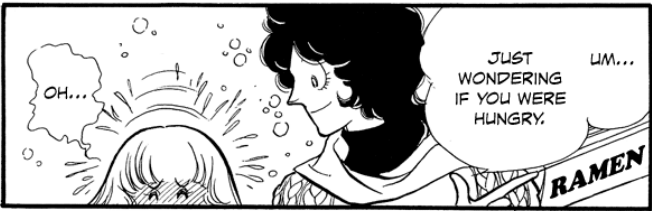


RAMEN

MY HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY!

HEY...

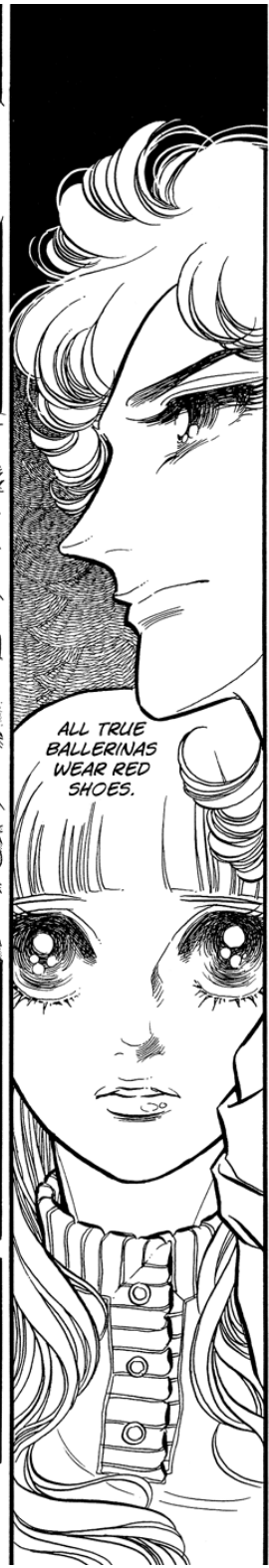
I DON'T WANT THIS TO END.



OH...

JUST WONDERING IF YOU WERE HUNGRY.

RAMEN



ALL TRUE BALLERINAS WEAR RED SHOES.



I DON'T WANT TO
WAKE UP FROM
THIS DREAM...

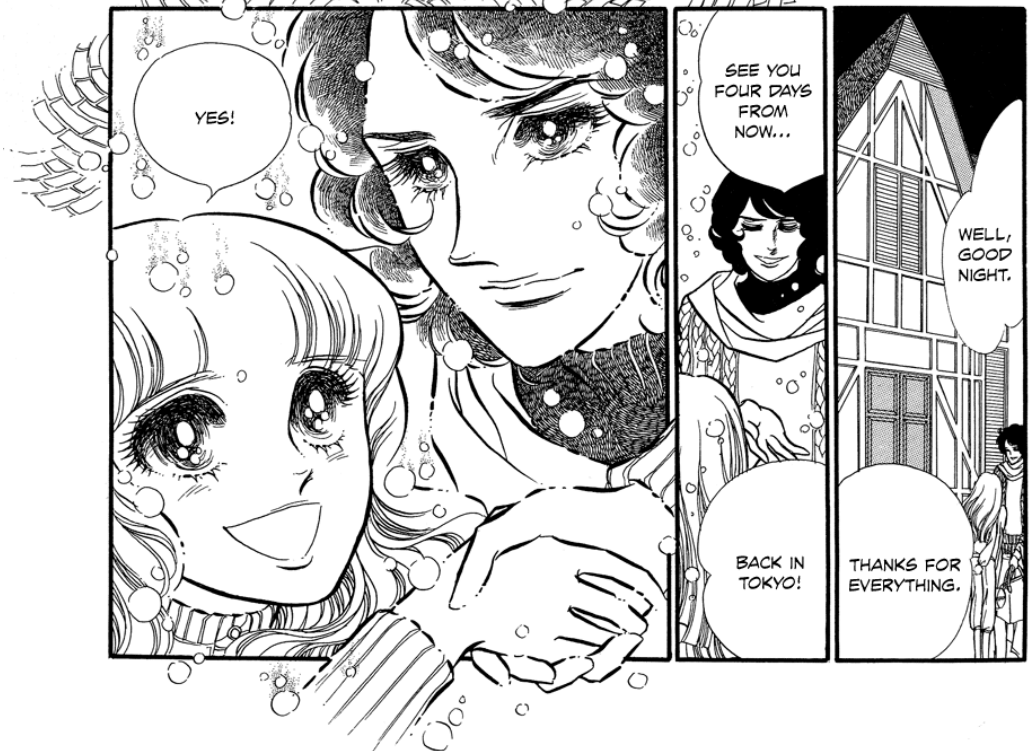
KUSAKABE-SAN
KEEPS SMILING SO
SWEETLY AT ME.

THIS FEELS
LIKE AN EARLY
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT...

WHAT IS THIS
FEELING?

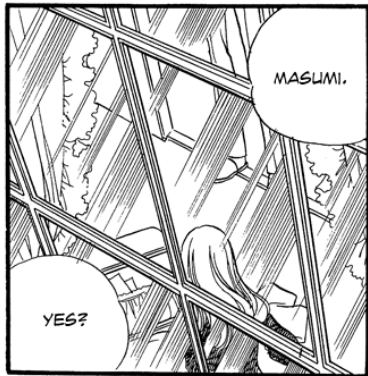
ALTHOUGH
IT'S OUR FIRST
TIME TO TALK,
IT FEELS SO
COMFORTABLE.



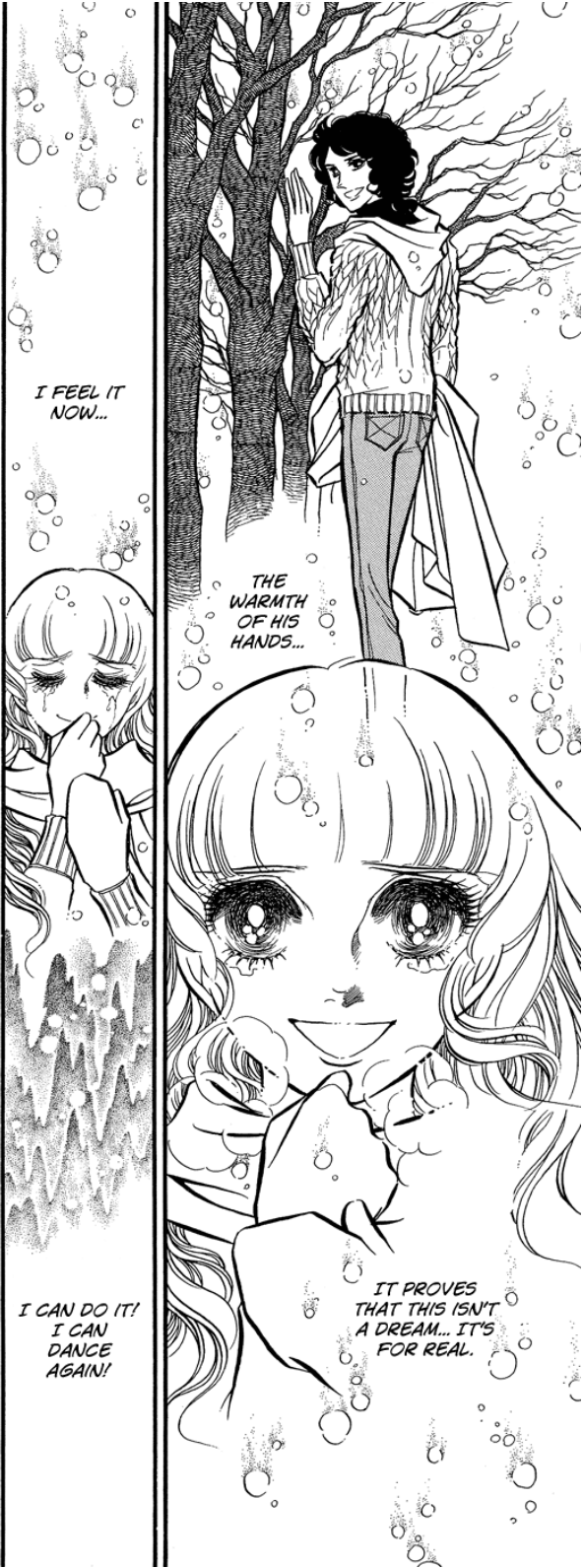




The next afternoon,
an official notice arrived from
the Ballet Association.



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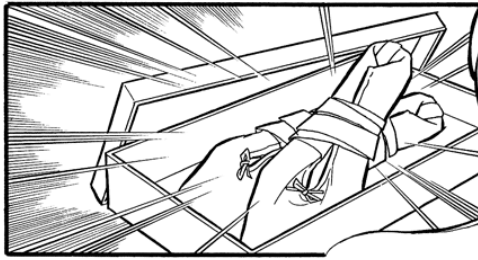


I FEEL IT
NOW...

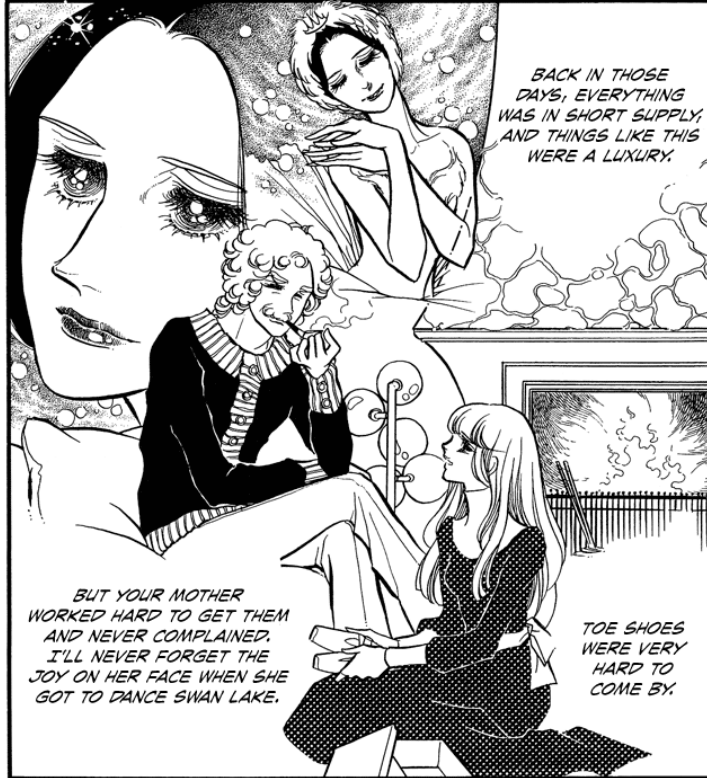
THE
WARMTH
OF HIS
HANDS...

I CAN DO IT!
I CAN
DANCE
AGAIN!

IT PROVES
THAT THIS ISN'T
A DREAM... IT'S
FOR REAL.



TOE SHOES!?



BACK IN THOSE DAYS, EVERYTHING WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY, AND THINGS LIKE THIS WERE A LUXURY.

BUT YOUR MOTHER WORKED HARD TO GET THEM AND NEVER COMPLAINED. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE JOY ON HER FACE WHEN SHE GOT TO DANCE SWAN LAKE.

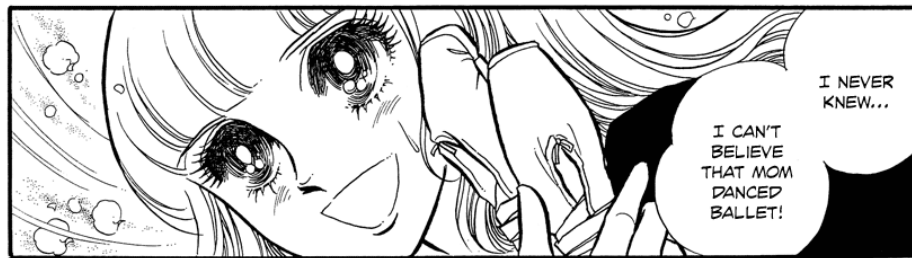
TOE SHOES WERE VERY HARD TO COME BY.



BUT, DAD...?

THEY BELONGED TO YOUR MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS STILL ALIVE.

MOM DANCED!?



I NEVER KNEW...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT MOM DANCED BALLET!



YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT...

YOU'RE JUST LIKE HER...

THE REST IS UP TO YOU.

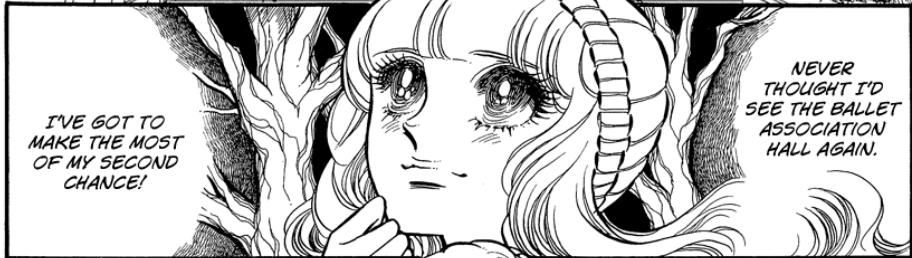
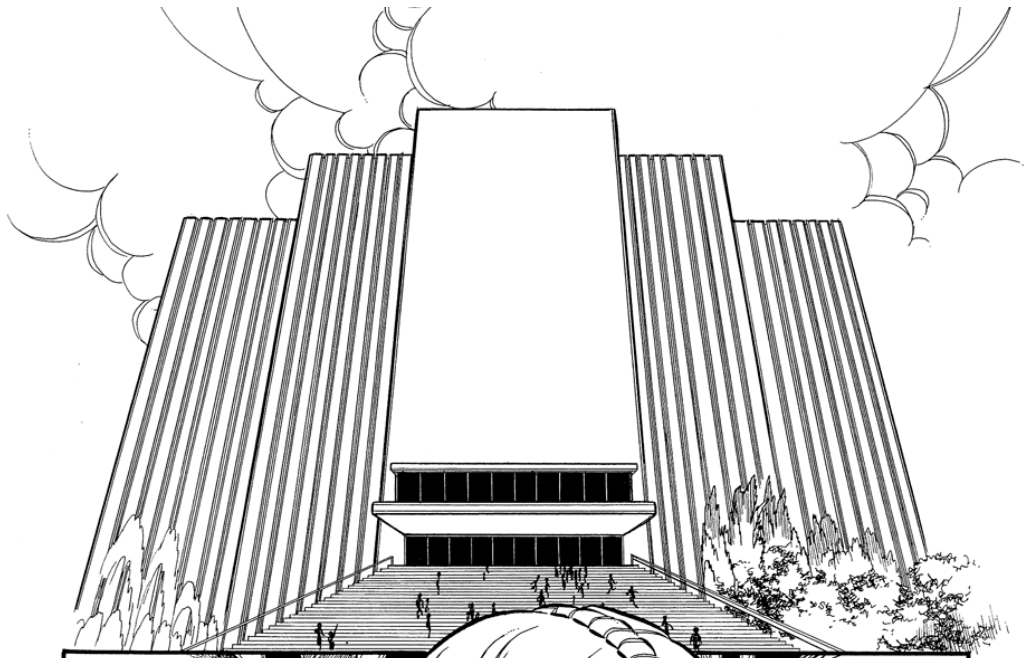
SO DEVOTED TO BALLET.

I'M ROOTING FOR YOU.

GO FOR IT, HONEY.

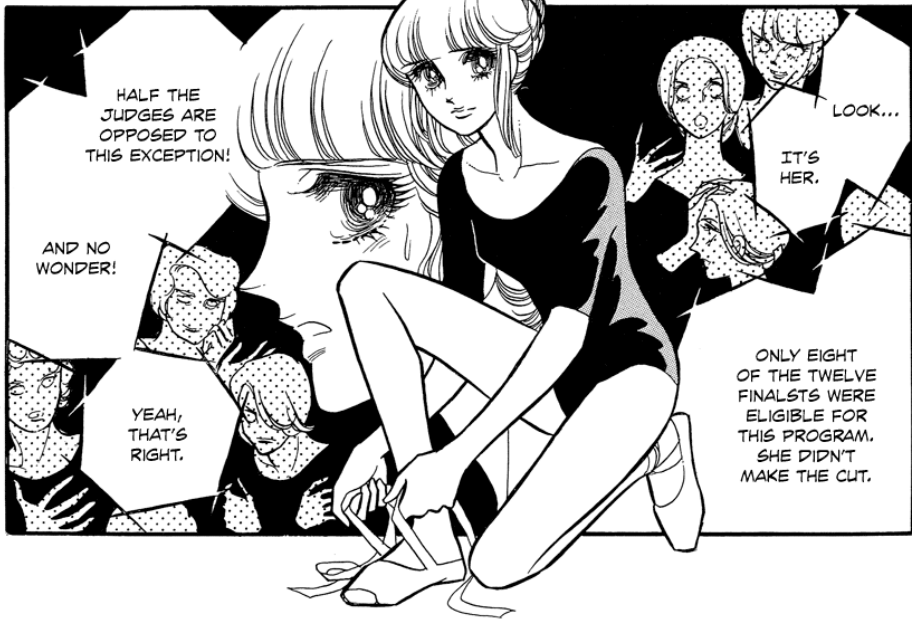
DAD...

THANKS, DAD!



I'VE GOT TO
MAKE THE MOST
OF MY SECOND
CHANCE!

NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
SEE THE BALLET
ASSOCIATION
HALL AGAIN.



HALF THE
JUDGES ARE
OPPOSED TO
THIS EXCEPTION!

AND NO
WONDER!

YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.

LOOK...

IT'S
HER.

ONLY EIGHT
OF THE TWELVE
FINALISTS WERE
ELIGIBLE FOR
THIS PROGRAM.
SHE DIDN'T
MAKE THE CUT.



IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I WAS LUCKY, TOO! I WAS DANCING WITH KUSAKABE-SAN AND GOT A LOWER SCORE THAN HIM, BUT I STILL BEAT OUT THE OTHERS IN THE FOURTH AND FIFTH PLACES. SO I GOT IN!

YOU MUST BE THE EXCEPTION, HIJIRI MASUMI!

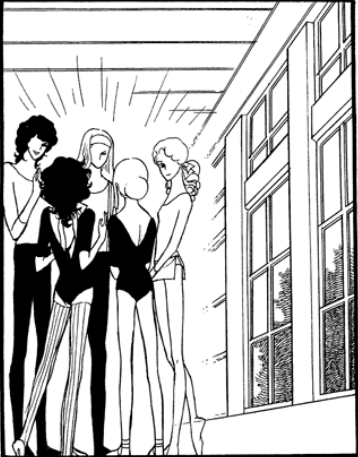
CALL ME YUKA.

I'M ASAGI YUKA.

SFX: Doki (Ba-thump)

LOOK! I SEE KUSAKABE-SAN! LET'S GO!

OKAY.



MASUMI-CHAN!



Lessons will be in the studio next to the Ballet Association dormitory.

Notice to Students:
The six faculty include
Alexei Sergeyev
G. Ulánova
S. Messerer
Tsutsumi Shunichi

*EN DEHORS,
OUTWARDS.
EN DEDANS,
INWARDS.*

THE TOES OF THE ROTATING LEG REST ON THE CALF OF THE STANDING LEG. NOW, *ATTITUDE EN AVANT.*

MAINTAIN 45 DEGREES. YOUR LEGS ARE DROOPING!

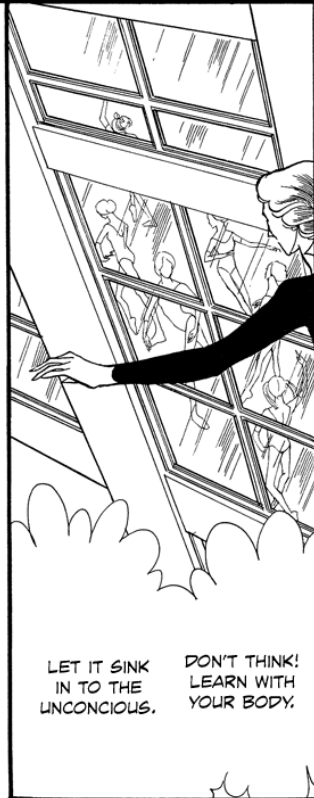
MAINTAIN 45 DEGREES. YOUR LEGS ARE DROOPING!



IN FIRST, THIRD, AND FIFTH POSITIONS, REMEMBER THE ARM MOVEMENTS.

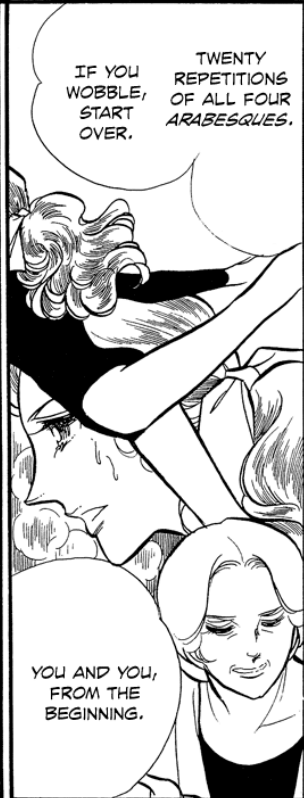
GLIDE SMOOTHLY.

DEMI-PLIÉ IN EACH OF THE FIVE POSITIONS.



LET IT SINK IN TO THE UNCONSCIOUS.

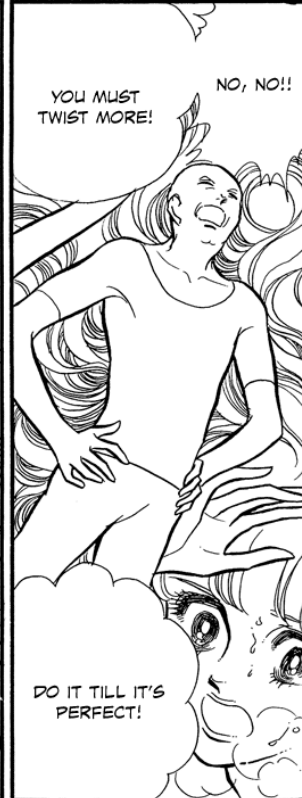
DON'T THINK! LEARN WITH YOUR BODY.



YOU AND YOU, FROM THE BEGINNING.

IF YOU WOBBLE, START OVER.

TWENTY REPETITIONS OF ALL FOUR ARABESQUES.



DO IT TILL IT'S PERFECT!

YOU MUST TWIST MORE!

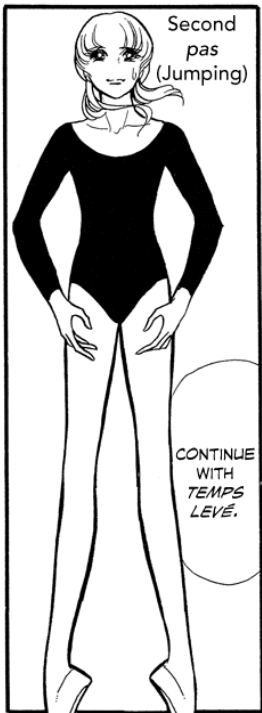
NO, NO!!

1. Pas that connects or aids other movements.
2. Jumping pas:
 - Taking off on both feet, and landing on both feet.
 - Taking off on one foot, and landing on one foot.
 - Taking off on both feet, and landing on one foot.
 - Taking off on one foot, and landing on both feet.
3. Pas where you beat both legs together.
4. Spinning pas:
 - In place.
 - Traveling.
 - In the air.

IN CLASSICAL DANCE, THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF PAS, OR BASIC STEP.

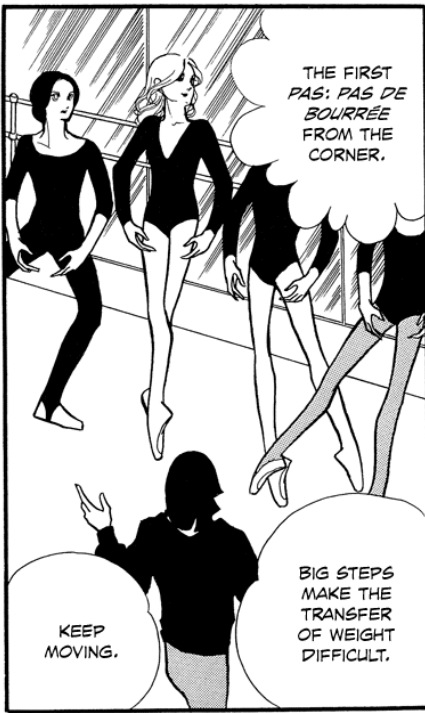


THESE PAS CREATE BEAUTY ON STAGE.



Second pas (Jumping)

CONTINUE WITH TEMPS LEVÉ.



THE FIRST PAS: PAS DE BOURRÉE FROM THE CORNER.

KEEP MOVING.

BIG STEPS MAKE THE TRANSFER OF WEIGHT DIFFICULT.





NEXT, THIRD PAS:
BEATING THE LEGS,
BATTERIE.

AFTERWARDS,
FOURTH PAS:
SPINNING,
PIROUETTE.

SFX: Basa (Flomp)



NOTHING BUT BASICS, BASICS!
FOR A WHOLE WEEK!

GOSH, HOW
BORING!



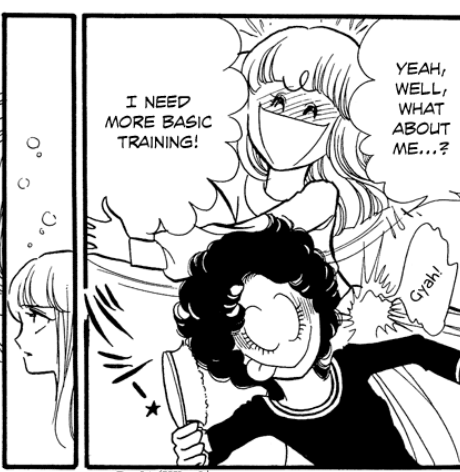
I EXPECTED MORE
FROM FIRST-RATE
INSTRUCTORS!

YEAH,
RIGHT!

BUT
BASICS ARE
IMPORTANT.



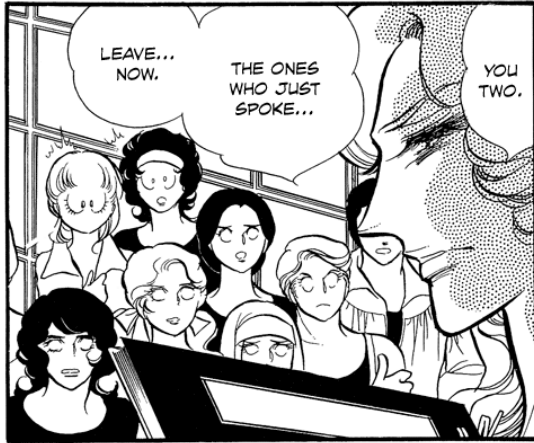
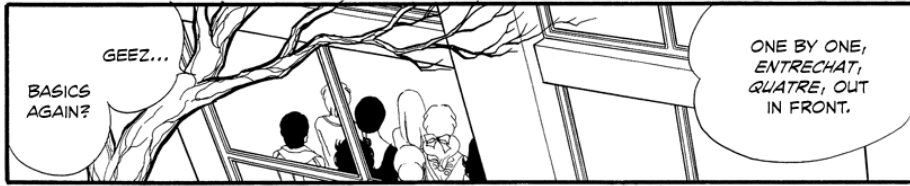
BUT
I GUESS
SHE HAS A
POINT.



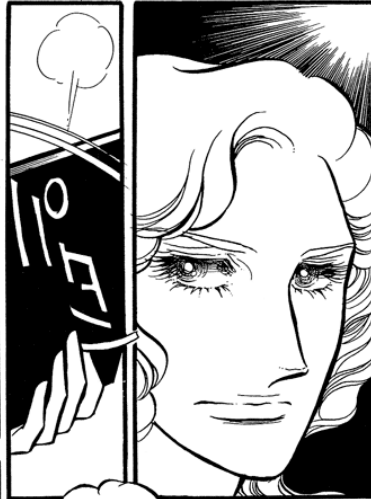
I NEED
MORE BASIC
TRAINING!

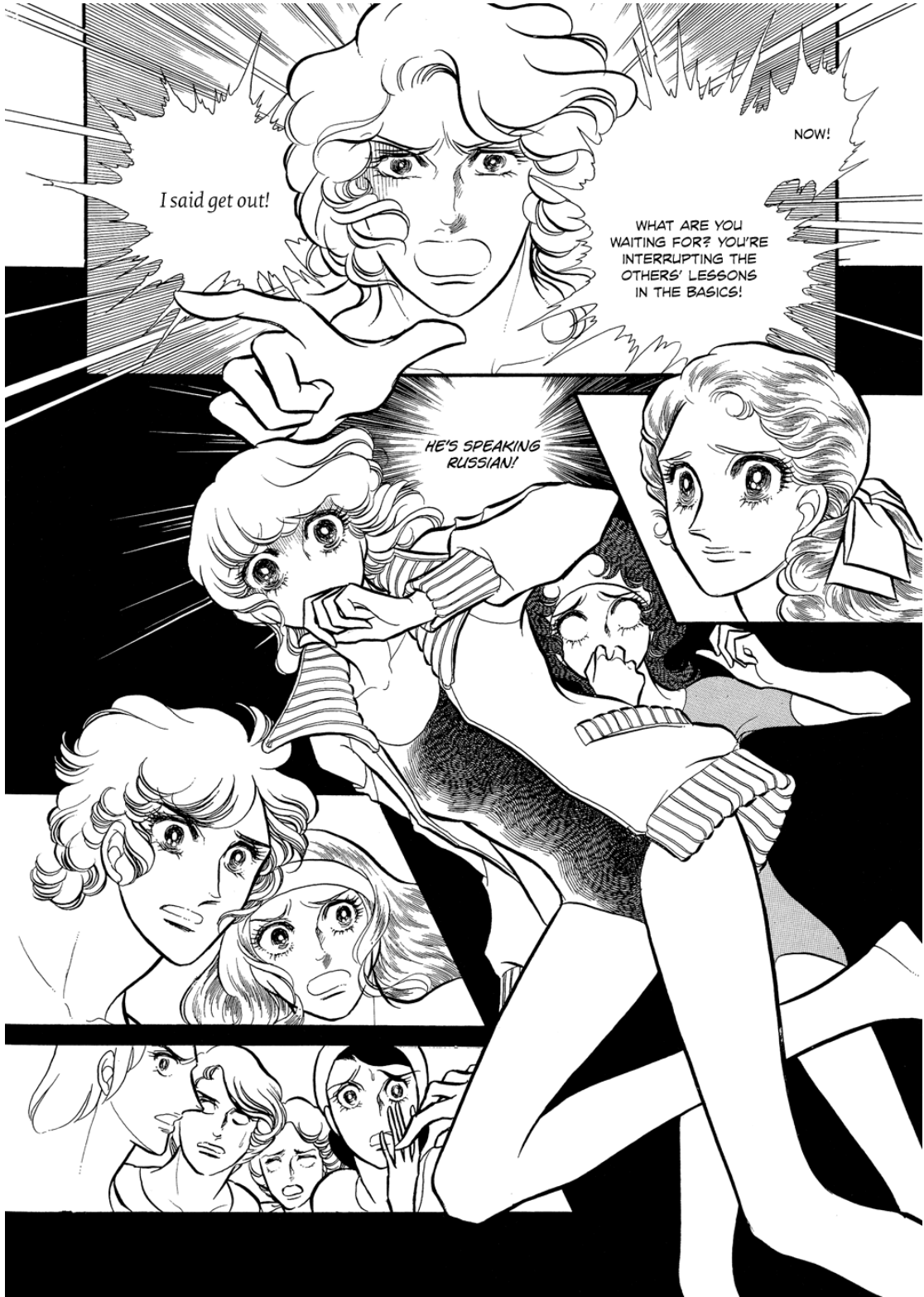
YEAH,
WELL,
WHAT
ABOUT
ME...?

SFX: Basbi (Whack)



SFX: Patan (Slam)



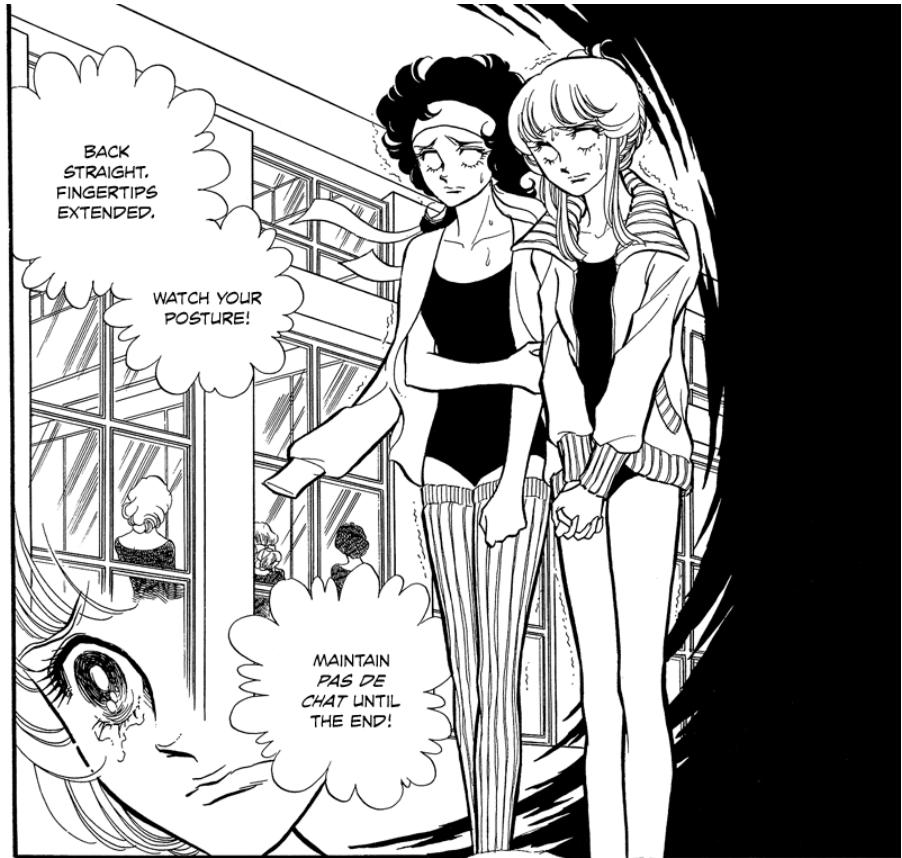


I said get out!

NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR? YOU'RE
INTERRUPTING THE
OTHERS' LESSONS
IN THE BASICS!

HE'S SPEAKING
RUSSIAN!



BACK STRAIGHT. FINGERTIPS EXTENDED.

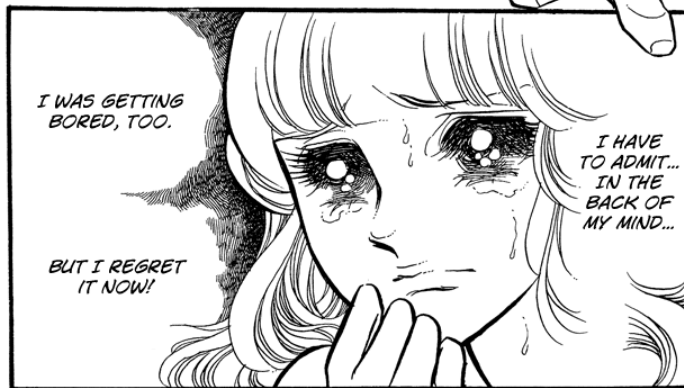
WATCH YOUR POSTURE!

MAINTAIN PAS DE CHAT UNTIL THE END!



I'M SORRY FOR TALKING.

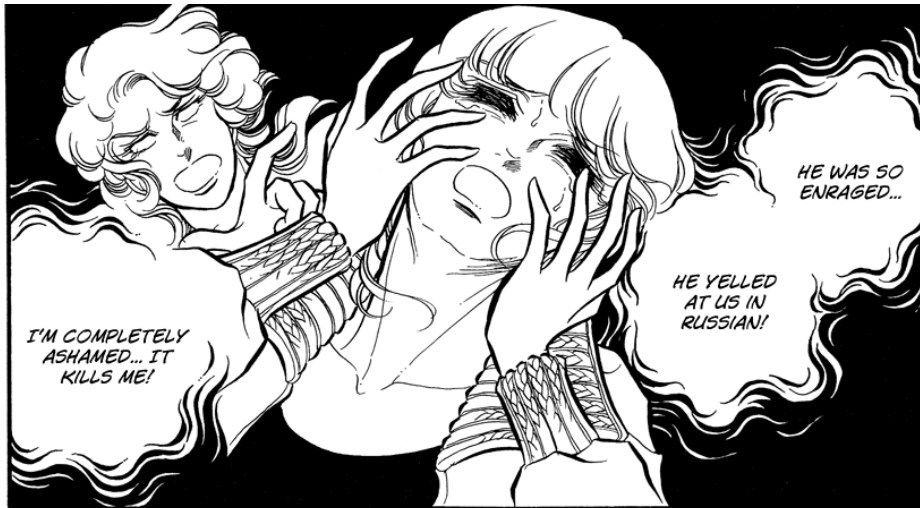
SORRY...



I WAS GETTING BORED, TOO.

BUT I REGRET IT NOW!

I HAVE TO ADMIT... IN THE BACK OF MY MIND...



I'M COMPLETELY
ASHAMED... IT
KILLS ME!

HE WAS SO
ENRAGED...

HE YELLED
AT US IN
RUSSIAN!

SEX: Biku (Flinch)



HOW...
MORTIFYING!

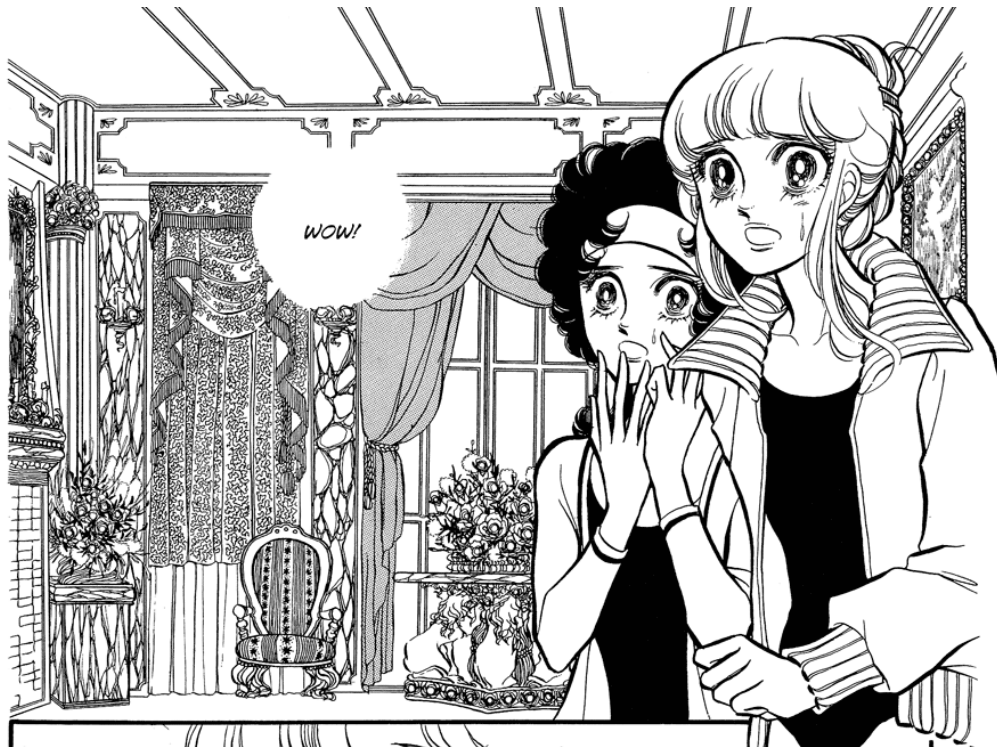
WELL
DONE!

YOU TWO, IN
MY OFFICE.

YES!

SIR!

TAKE A 40
MINUTE BREAK
AND REST!



ARE THEY ALL FURNISHED THIS WAY?

IT FEELS LIKE A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

THE FURNITURE IN THIS ROOM...

HMPH... THAT'S ALL? NOT EVEN A THIRD OF THE WEEK.

ONE THIRD OF EIGHT YEARS ONLY ADDS UP TO 2.5 YEARS.

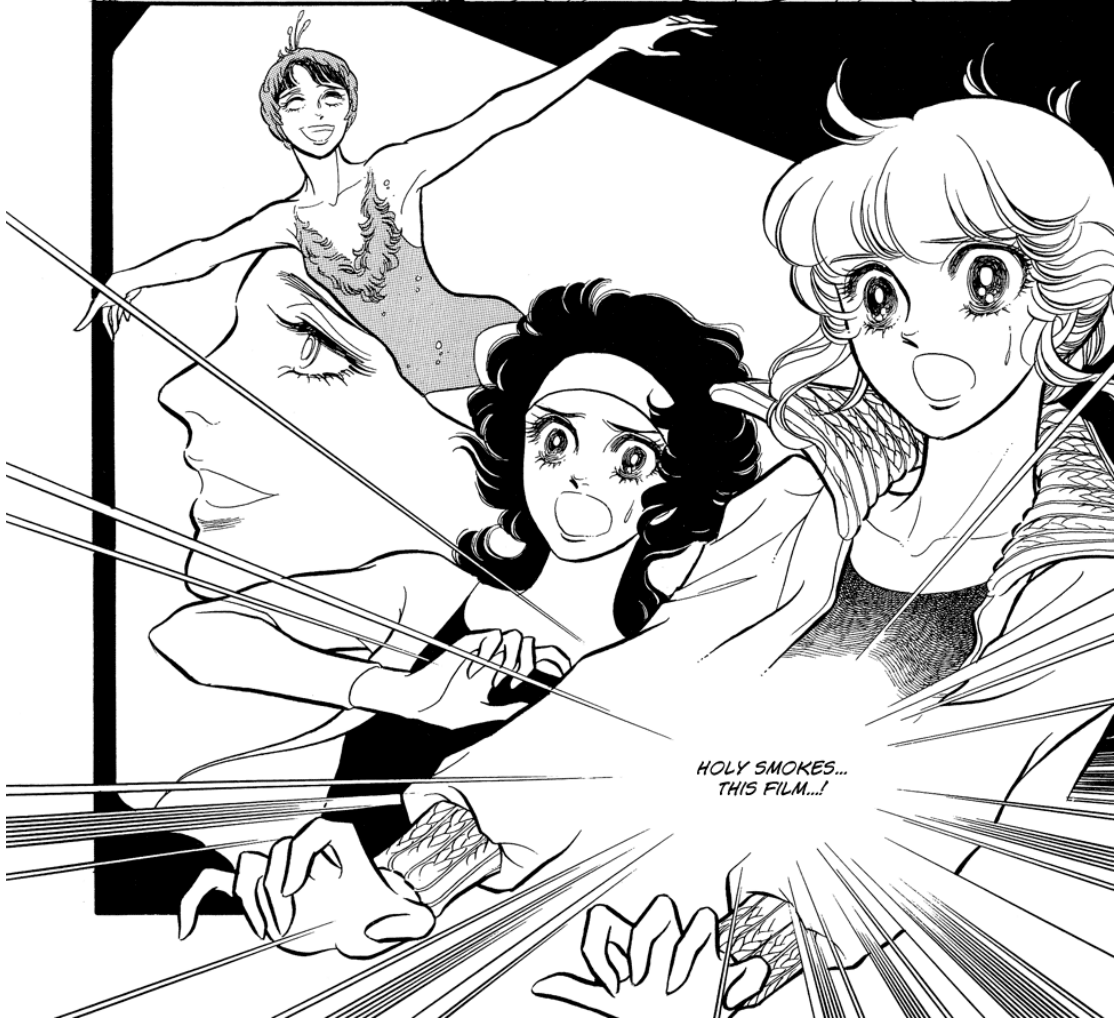
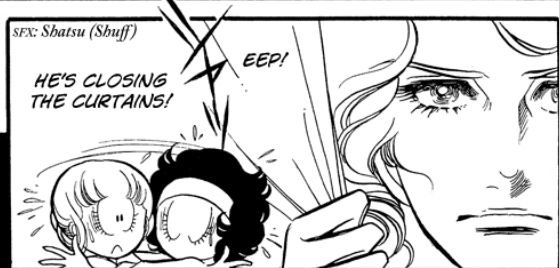
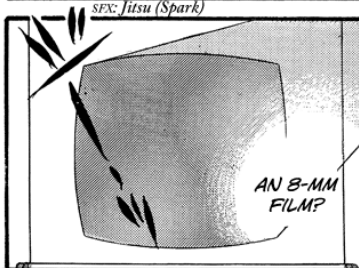
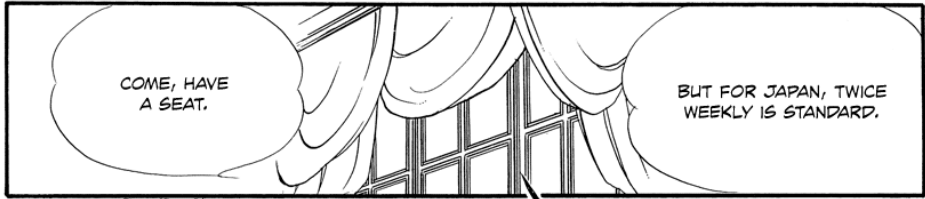
BALLET SCHOOLS IN OTHER COUNTRIES TRAIN FAR MORE.

HOW MANY LESSONS?

TWICE A ME, WEEK. TOO.

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU TWO DONE BALLET?

EIGHT, FOR ME! SEVEN UM... YEARS.





CRITICS AND INSTRUCTORS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE TALKING ABOUT HOW THEY'LL REPLACE FONTEYN AS THE GREATEST DANCERS OF THEIR ERA.

Nadezhda Pavlova

SURELY EVEN YOU HAVE HEARD OF THESE DANCERS.

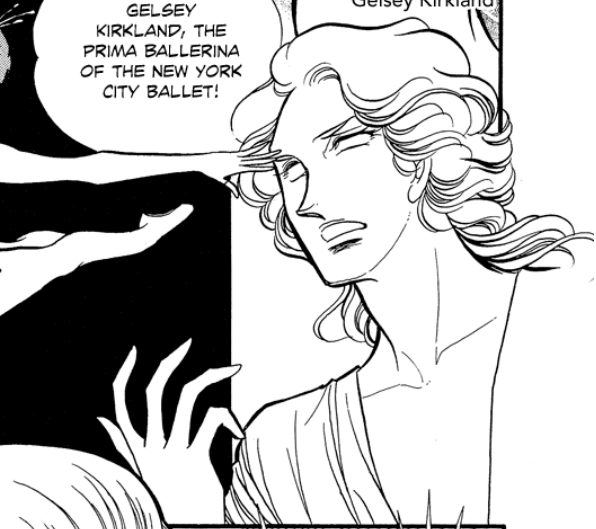


Gelsey Kirkland

GELSEY KIRKLAND, THE PRIMA BALLERINA OF THE NEW YORK CITY BALLET!



AND THE 17-YEAR-OLD TO RECEIVE THE HIGHEST HONORS EVER AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL BALLET COMPETITION OF MOSCOW... NADEZHDA PAVLOVA!



THAT'S CORRECT.



YES... I KNOW HER!
SHE STARRED IN THE FILM THE BLUE BIRD.



BUT WHAT ALLOWS THEM TO EXPRESS THEIR FULL POTENTIAL WITH THESE GIFTS?

THEY WERE BOTH BORN WITH BEAUTIFUL BODIES AND NATURAL TALENT.



IT GIVES THEM THE GRACE AND CONFIDENCE TO PERFORM ON STAGE.

MASTERING THE BASICS THOUSANDS OF TIMES ALLOWS THEM TO FLOW FROM POSE TO POSE.



THE BASICS!

WITH SO MANY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS THESE DAYS...

WHY DO YOU THINK JAPAN WINS SO FEW AWARDS?



Marie Taglioni

ALL OVER JAPAN, DANCERS ARE BEHIND AND STRUGGLING TO CATCH UP.

ONE REASON, LACK OF BASIC TRAINING!

BALLET IS NEW TO JAPAN, COMPARED TO ITS LONG HISTORY IN THE WEST.

SO WHO ARE YOU TWO TO COMPLAIN...

Anna Pavlova

Vaslav Nijinsky

YOU UNDERLINGS, WHO'VE DONE NOTHING!?

SEX: Bam (Bam)

THOSE TOP DANCERS ARE SWEATING AND STRIVING TO PERFECT THEIR CRAFT BY CONSTANT PRACTICE!

EVEN AS WE STAND HERE, WASTING OUR TIME TALKING...

GET IT!?



*DON'T YOU HATE
THE IDEA OF BEING
LEFT BEHIND? OF THE
ENTIRE WORLD OF
JAPANESE BALLET
BEING LEFT BEHIND!?*



YES!

YES...



*FEELING
ASHAMED?
REMORSEFUL?*

*YOUR OWN PEERS,
NO OLDER THAN YOU,
ARE SURPASSING YOU!!*



AND IT WILL BE TOUGH.

YOU MUST TRAIN AT LEAST THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT THEY DO!

CATCHING UP WILL TAKE TIME.

BUT...



IN JUST SIX MONTHS' TIME!

SFX: Ban (Bam)

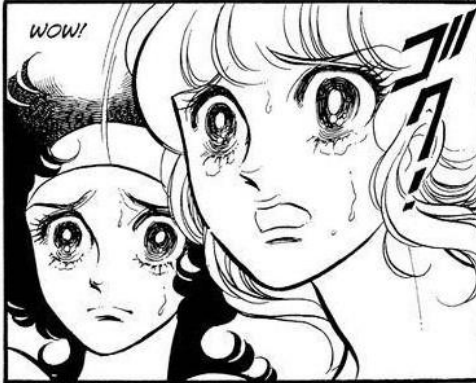
SFX: Goku (Gulp)



SO IF YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO EVEN TRY...

DO NOT STAY HERE AND WASTE MY TIME!

SFX: Sbatsu (Shuff)



WOW!

120



PLEASE...
WAIT!

VERY
SORRY!

WE'RE
SORRY!

PLEASE...
TEACH US...

WE'LL NEVER
COMPLAIN
AGAIN!

PLEASE,
SIR!

WE
BEG
YOU!

OH...!

PLEASE...