



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

MOM, WHERE ARE YOU...

WHY HAVEN'T YOU SHOWN UP...

I'VE BEEN WAITING ...



I KEEP WAITING...



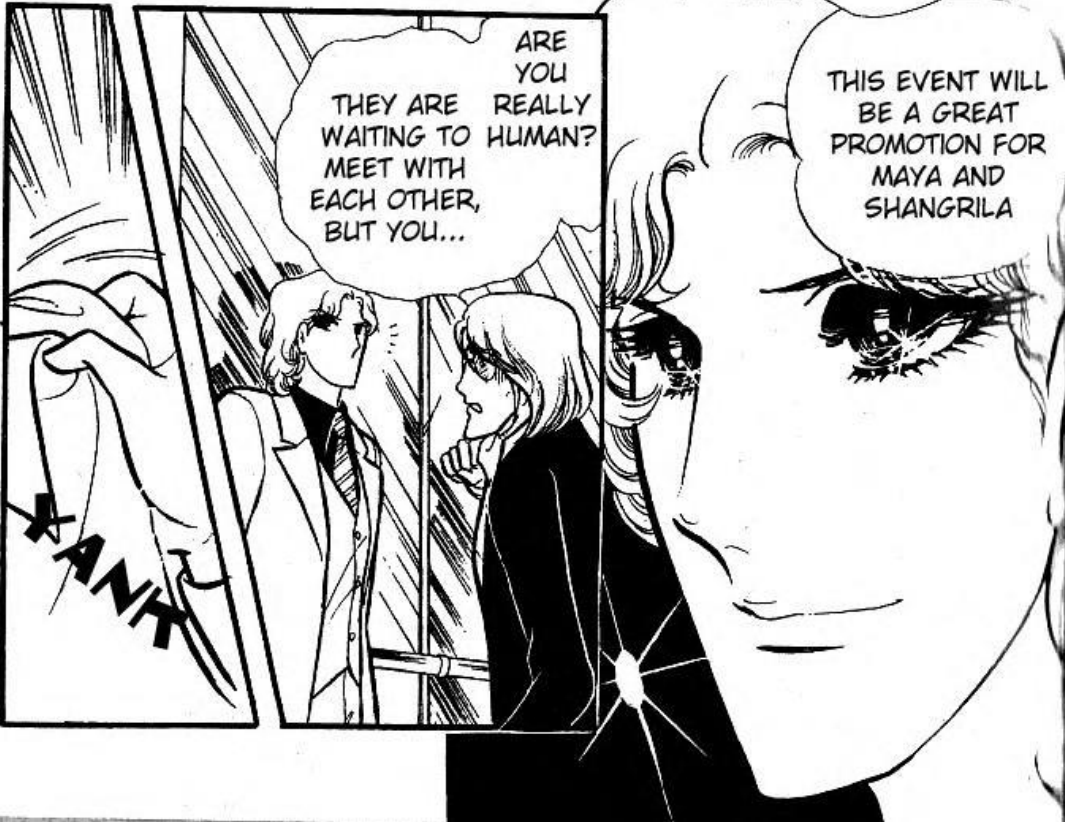
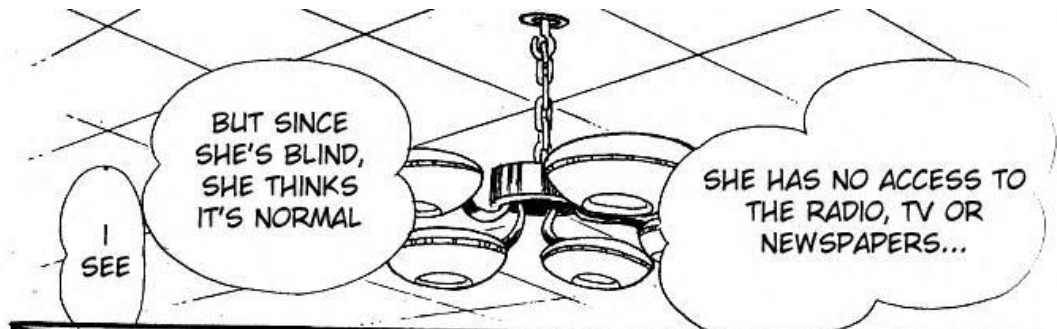
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER. SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT HER, RIGHT?

NO. EVERYONE WHO WORKS IN THAT HOSPITAL CAN KEEP A SECRET

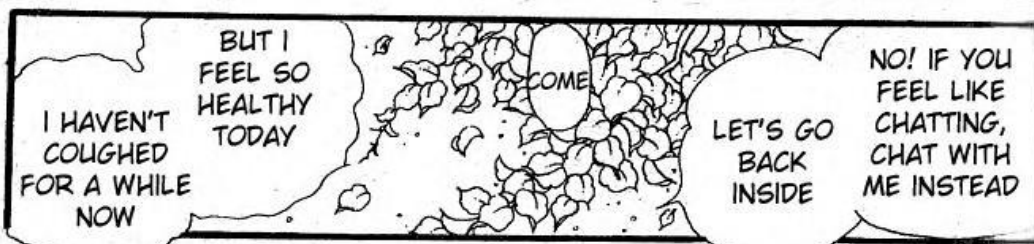


HOW MUCH LONGER SHOULD WE KEEP MAYA'S MOTHER HIDDEN FROM THE PUBLIC?

MOM...









ALL THE
RADIOS AND
TELEVISIONS
ARE
BROKEN.

THE NURSE READS THE
NEWSPAPER FOR ME
OCCASIONALLY, BUT
SHE NEVER READS
MAGAZINES

THIS IS
WEIRD...

ELAM

WHY DO THEY
PREVENT ME
FROM TALKING
WITH OTHER
PEOPLE?



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

THIS ISN'T
LIKE A
HOSPITAL! I
FEEL LIKE
I'M IN A
JAIL!



MAYA, WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING RIGHT
NOW?

THERE WAS
EVEN A PICTURE
OF YOU ON
STAGE
I STILL
HAVE
THAT
ARTICLE

I READ
ABOUT
YOU IN A
SMALL
ARTICLE



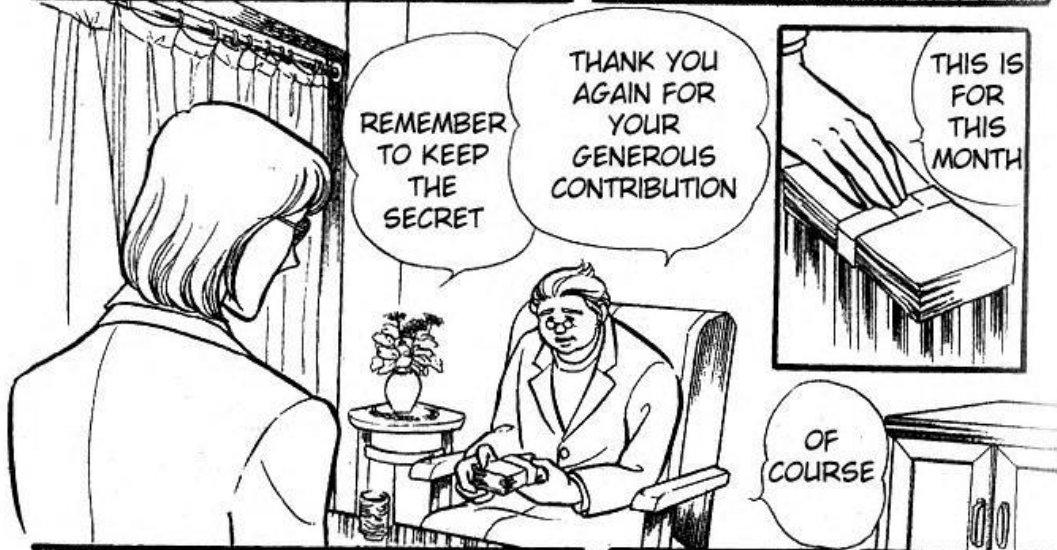
IT'S
LOCKED!

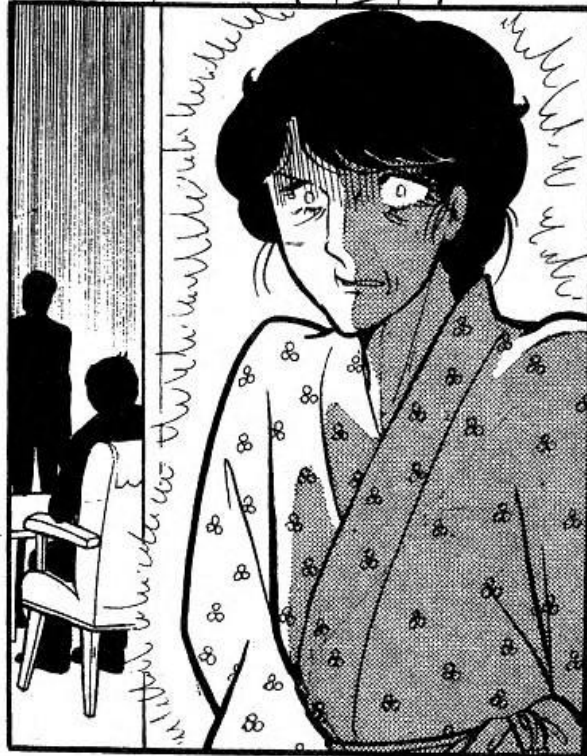
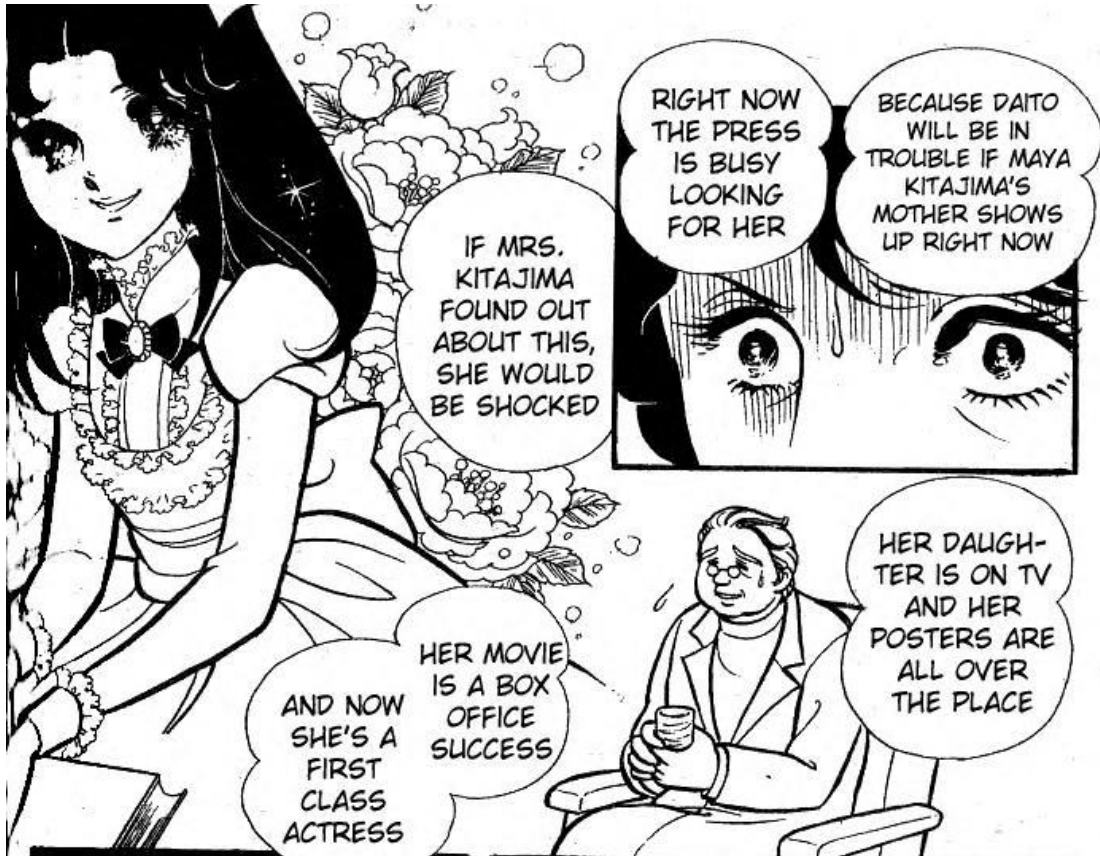


I WILL TALK TO THE
DIRECTOR AND ASK
HIM TO LOOK FOR
YOU. IF ONLY I'M
WASN'T BLIND...

DID YOU GO ON
STAGE AFTER
THAT?
WHENEVER I
ASK THE
DIRECTOR...

OR THE
NURSES,
THEY SAY
THEY KNOW
NOTHING







HER ROOM IS
EMPTY!

DIRECTOR!
MRS.
KITAJIMA
DISAPPEARED!

WHAT!?



MAYA...

LEE LEE...





WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?

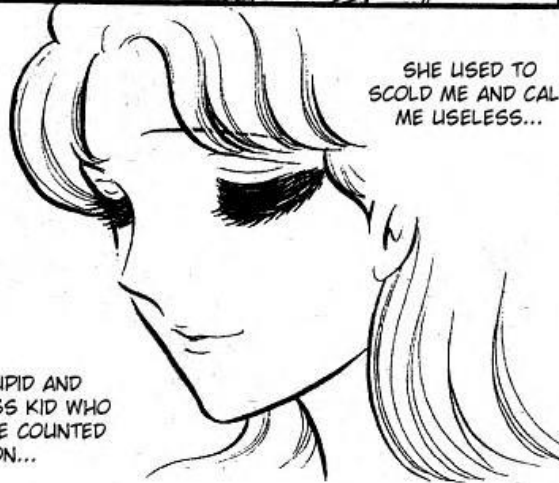
MOM, WHERE ARE YOU NOW? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

ARE YOU WATCHING THE RAIN LIKE ME?



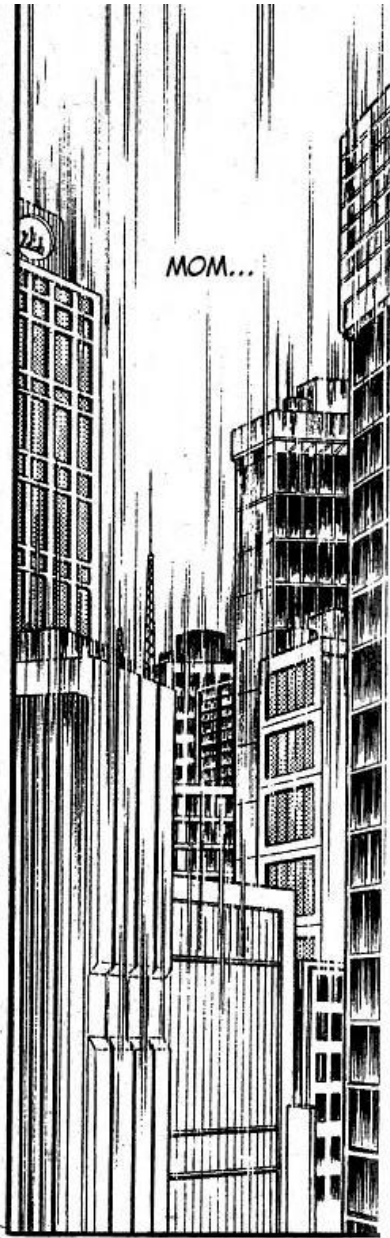
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SHE DISAPPEARED...

MY MOM...

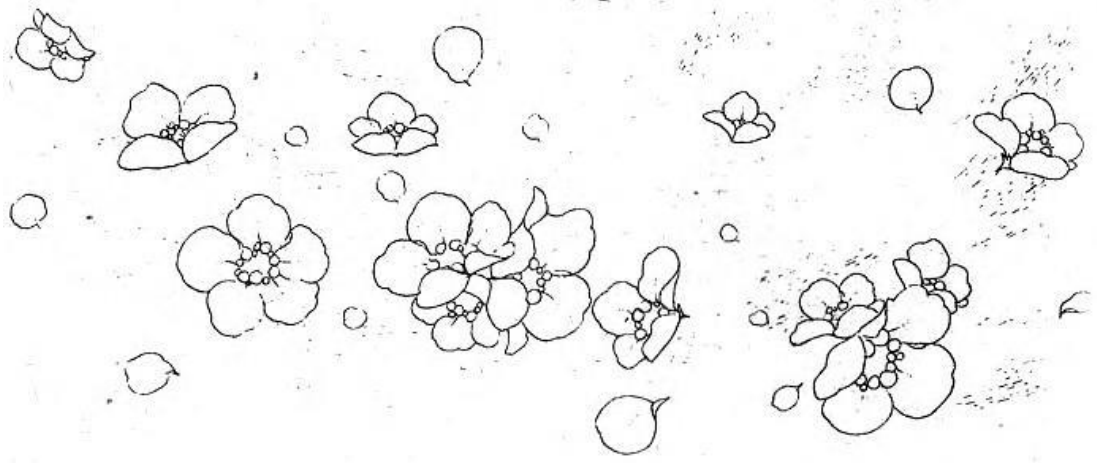


SHE USED TO SCOLD ME AND CALL ME USELESS...

A STUPID AND CARELESS KID WHO CAN'T BE COUNTED ON...



MOM...





SHE DIDN'T BOTHER TO SHOW UP

SINCE MY MOM THOUGHT THE PART WASN'T A GOOD ONE...

MY MOTHER NEVER WATCHED ME PERFORM

WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, I WAS PART OF A SCHOOL PLAY...



SHI-GERU...

I HOPE THEY FIND HER SOON

IF SHE DID, SHE WOULD BE SURPRISED

I WONDER IF SHE SAW ME TV

OR MAYBE SHE SAW MY MOVIE



YES ...





IF MRS. KITAJIMA FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS, SHE WOULD BE SHOCKED

HER DAUGHTER IS ON TV AND HER POSTERS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE

AND NOW SHE'S A FIRST CLASS ACTRESS

HER MOVIE IS A BOX OFFICE SUCCESS

MAYA...

SINCE I'M BLIND, THEY WERE ABLE TO LOCK ME UP

BECAUSE OF SOMEONE FROM DAITO!

THAT'S WHY THE RADIO AND TV ARE BROKEN...

THAT'S WHY THE NURSE NEVER READ MAGAZINES FOR ME

MY ONLY CHILD...

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, MAYA. IT'S SO SUDDEN...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE HAD NO TALENT, BUT...



I'M GOING TO YOU NOW

I WILL LOOK FOR YOU

MAYA...

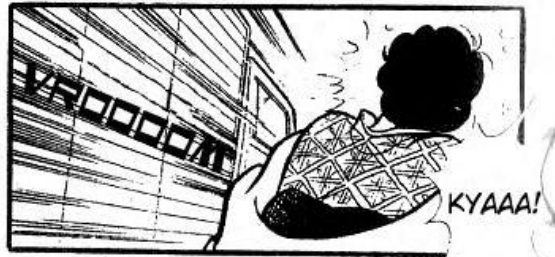
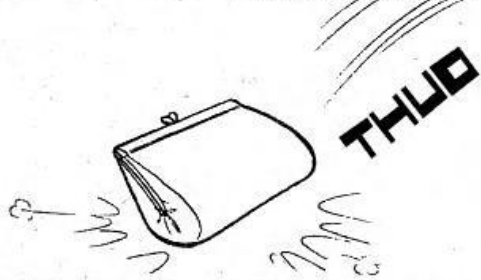


THERE MUST BE A STATION IN TOWN

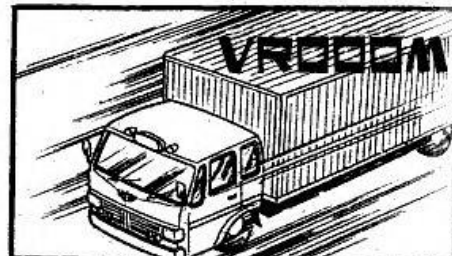
IF I CLIMB DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN, I WILL REACH A TOWN

I SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH FOR A TICKET...

I'LL TAKE ANY TRAIN AS LONG AS IT TAKES ME TO TOKYO









THE ONE WHO PLAYS AS SATOKO?
I'M A BIG FAN OF HERS!

MAYA?

EXCUSE ME, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MAYA KITAJIMA?

OF COURSE. DON'T BE SHY

YES. IS IT OKAY?

ARE YOU HUNGRY? I HAVE SOME ROLLS WITH ME



THANKS ...



SHE'S ALSO BRAVE, NOT AFRAID OF THE BAD GUYS

SHE'S A NICE GIRL, ACTIVE AND DILIGENT



SHE RECEIVED THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD AS HELEN KELLER IN "THE MIRACLE WORKER"

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO WASH THAT PLATE?

ACTIVE AND DILIGENT?

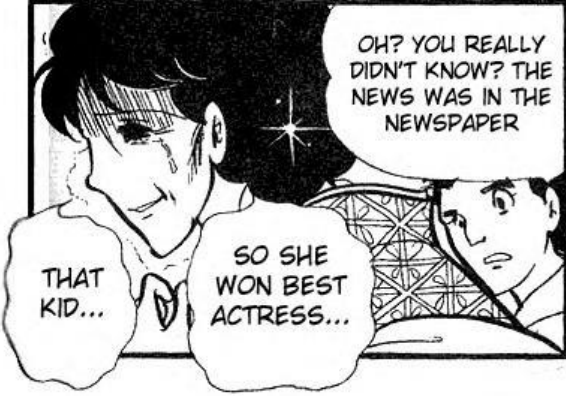
SHE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL TOO

SCRUB

SCRUB



REALLY?



OH? YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW? THE NEWS WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER

THAT KID...

SO SHE WON BEST ACTRESS...

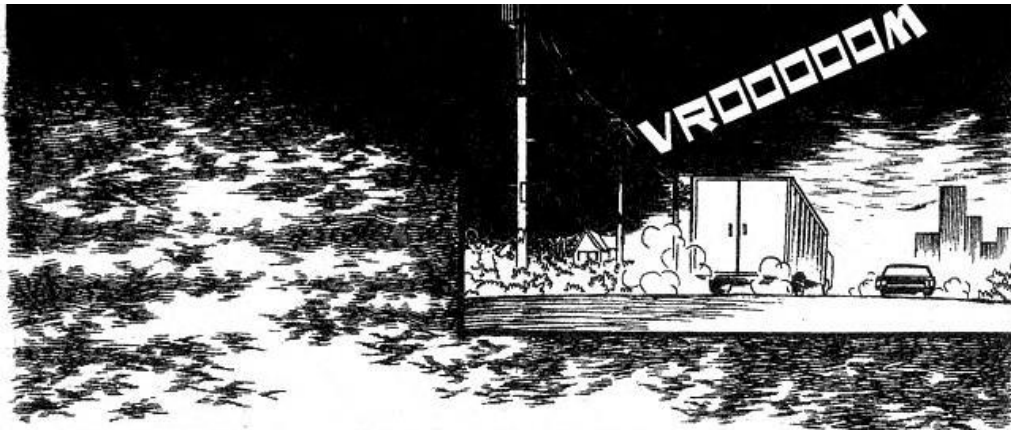


SHE EVEN DEFEATED AYUMI HIMEKAWA

WHAT? REALLY?









WE HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL

WAIT! YOU HAVE A HIGH FEVER!

COUGH
COUGH

I'M OKAY, REALLY. JUST KEEP GOING



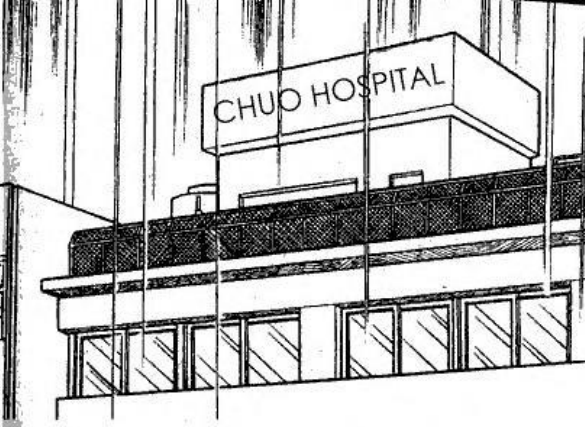
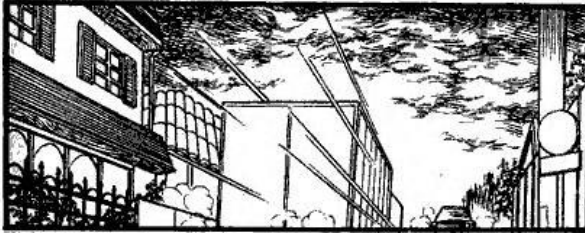
OH...

COUGH

I HAVE TO REACH TOKYO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO A HOSPITAL

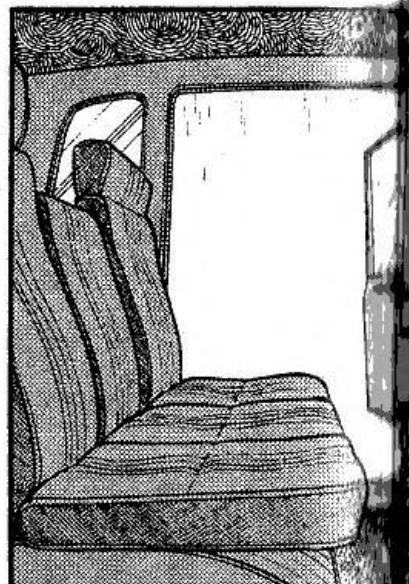
COUGH



IF I CHECKED IN WITHOUT ANY IDENTITY, THEY WOULD CONTACT THE POLICE...

THE NEWS OF MY DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT HAVE REACHED OTHER HOSPITALS

IF THAT HAPPENS, THEY WILL TAKE ME BACK TO THAT HOSPITAL





MAYA...

SPLASH

SPLASH

SHHHHHH



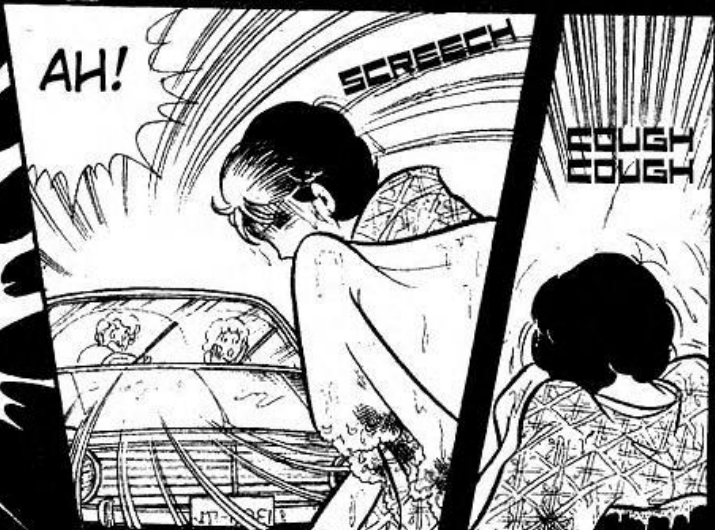
THIS TIME...

I WILL DEFINITELY COME



I WILL SEE YOU

CRASH



AH!

SCREECH

COUGH
COUGH



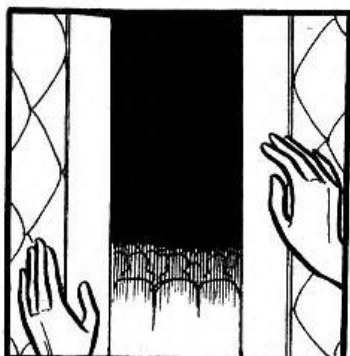


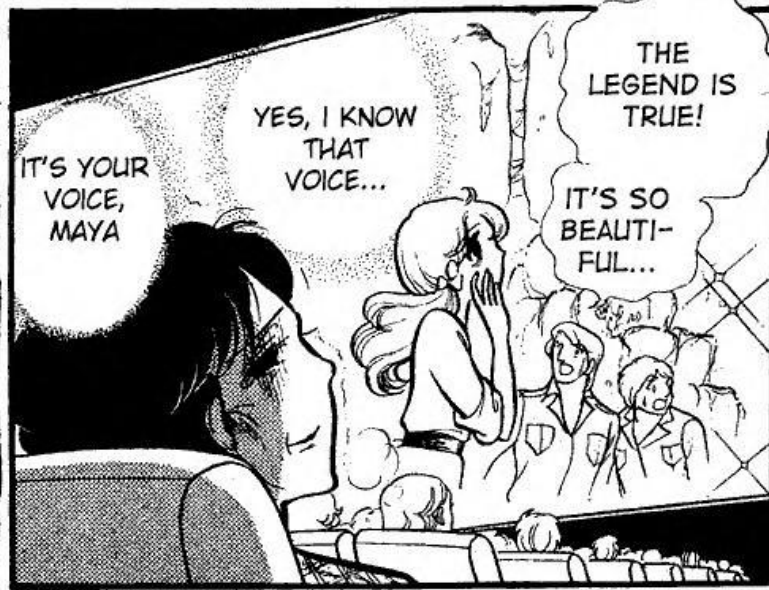
MAYA!





CREAK









COUGH

YOU EVEN WON THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD!

THAT CLUMSY AND UNTALENTED KID...





DAD...

ARE YOU WATCHING HER TOO, DAD?

THAT'S MAYA, DAD

THAT'S MAYA ON THE SCREEN



YOU SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE!

IF THAT'S SO, PLEASE TELL YOUR QUEEN...
THAT WE ARE HERE NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE

COUGH

JUST THIS ONCE.. I WANT TO SEE YOU ACT



I KNOW FROM YOUR VOICE

YOU'RE ACTING RIGHT NOW

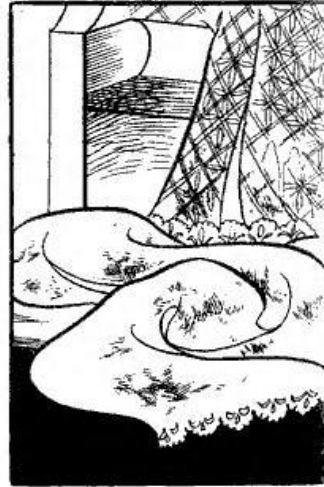
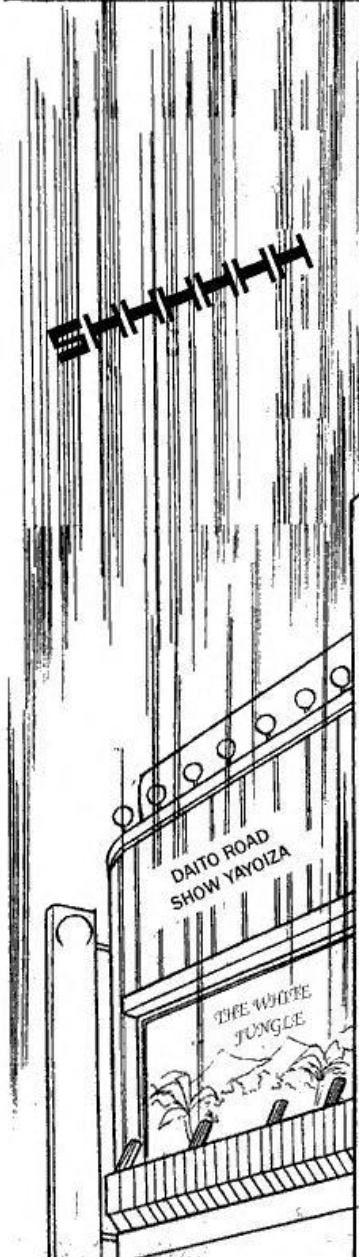
BUT I KNOW, MAYA...

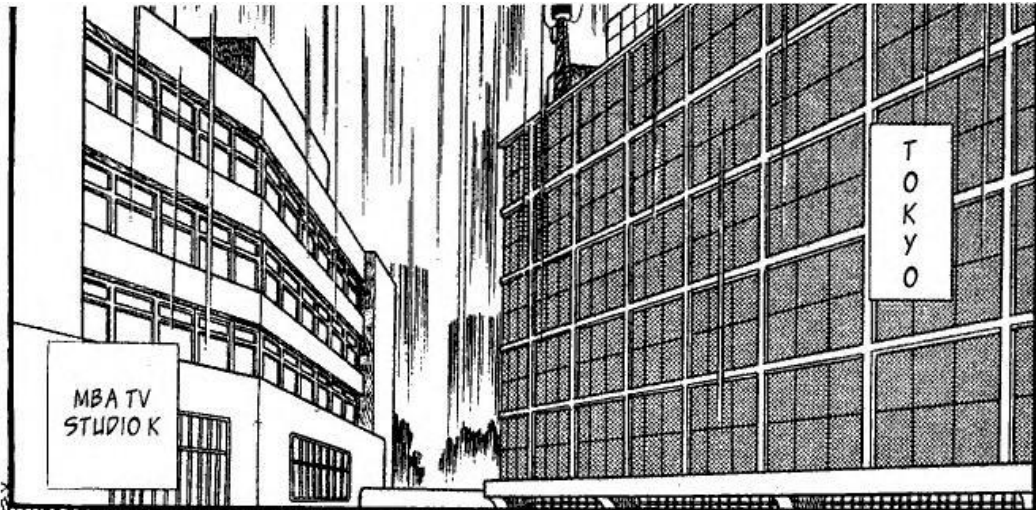


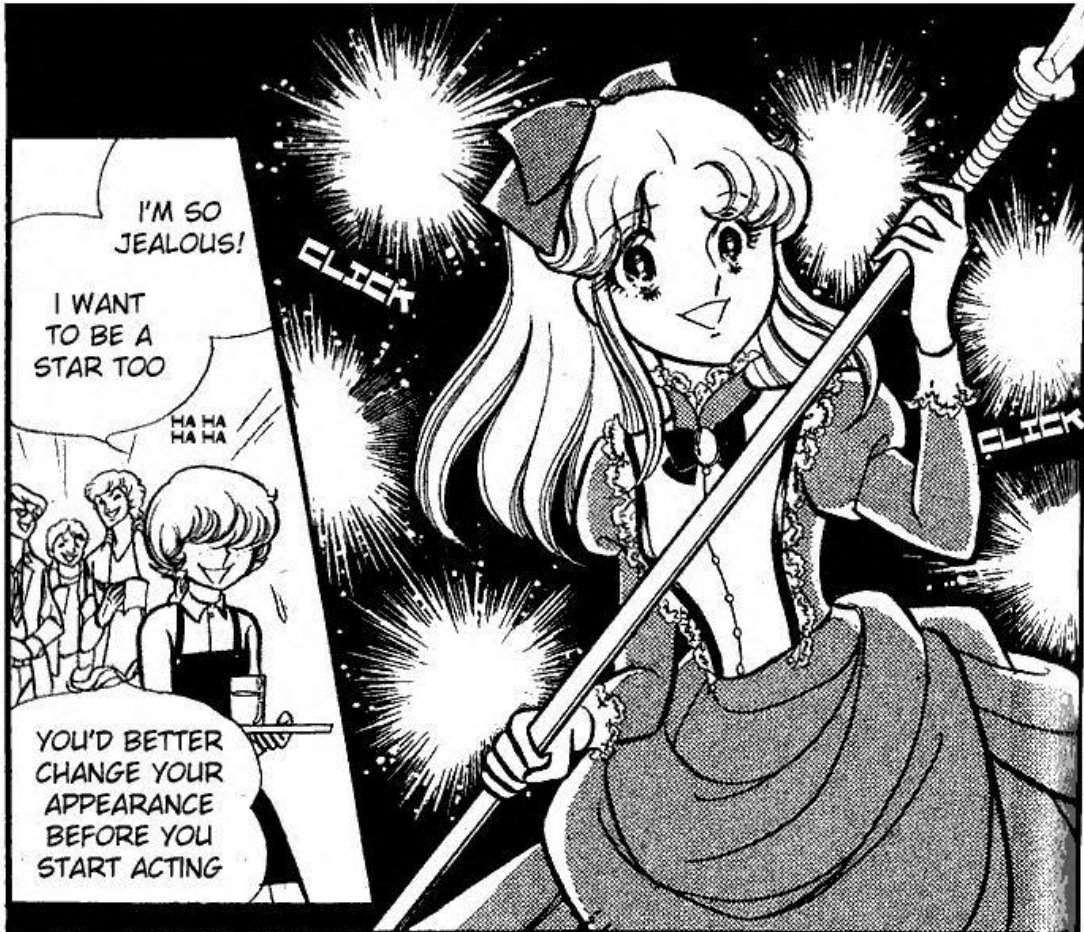
MAYA

YOU'RE SO SMART ...











WHAT?

SHE HAS BEEN FOUND



IT'S ABOUT MAYA KITAJIMA'S MOTHER...

WHAT ABOUT IT?



IN A MOVIE THEATER?

YES. ACTUALLY...

SHE WAS FOUND IN YAMANASHI, IN A MOVIE THEATER



IS SHE HERE?

WHERE IS SHE NOW?

NO. THERE WAS A PHONE CALL JUST NOW...



MAYA, ONE MORE TIME!



OH... I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

HOW CAN I TELL HER THE NEWS? HOW CAN I...

YES, JUST LIKE THAT!



TO BE CONTINUED...