



HALDORA,
THE DOWAGER
QUEEN AM I.

YOU...
HAVE
BEEN
EXPEC-
TED...



Tsukikage-
sensei...

Grand-
mother...



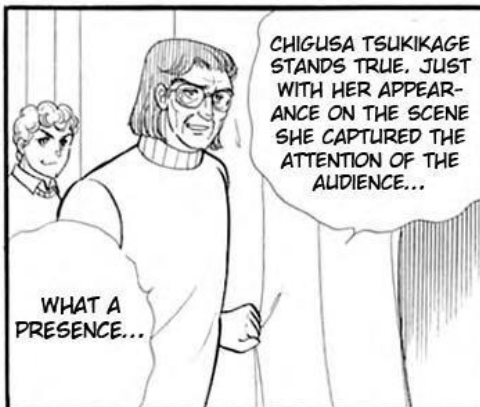
SHOCK



I'VE HEARD
THAT SHE
WAS A
WELL-
KNOWN
ACTRESS.

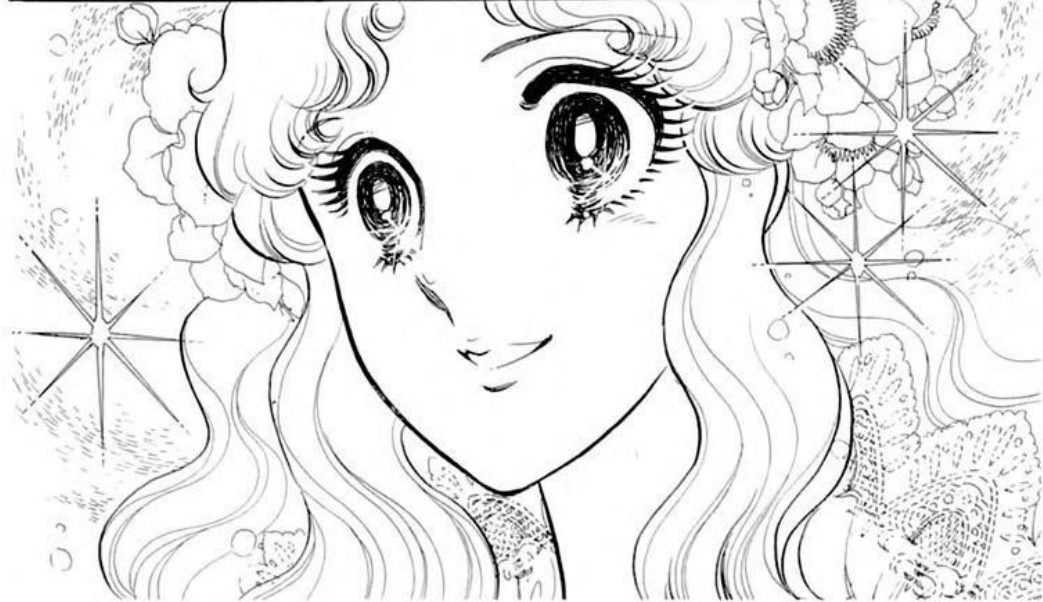
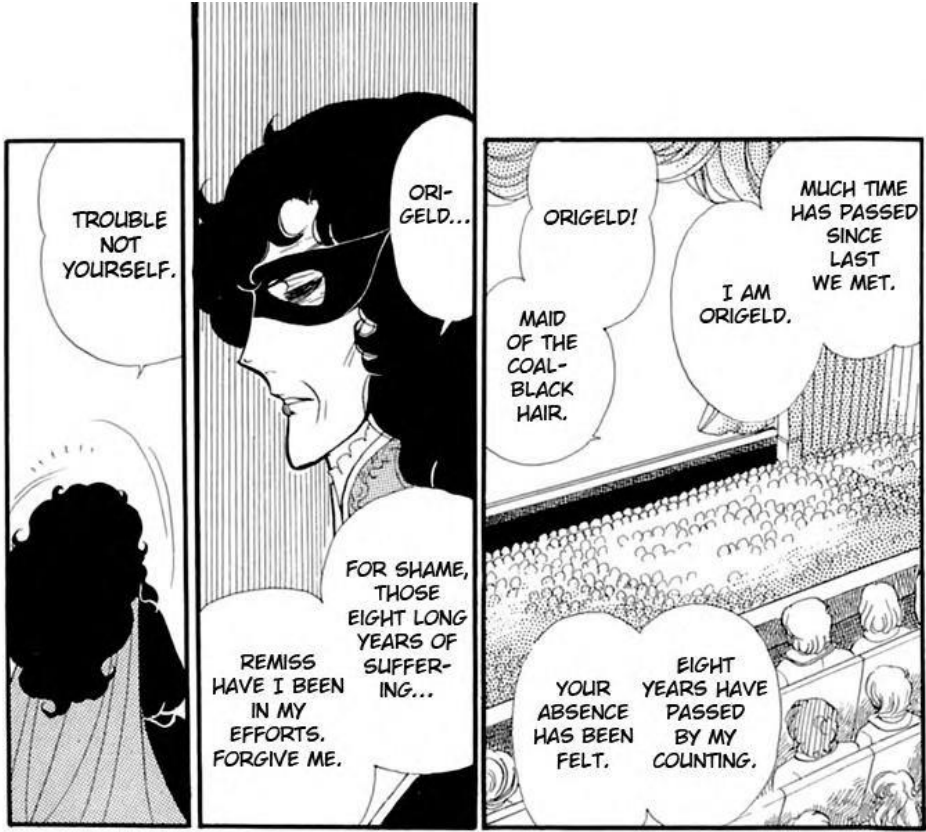
**BLAH
BLAH**

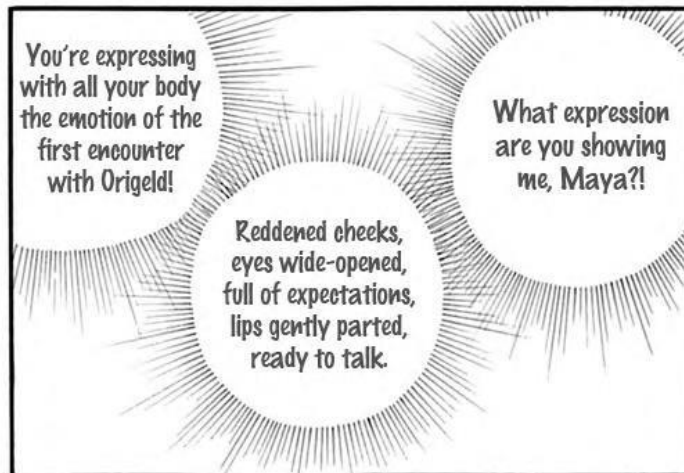
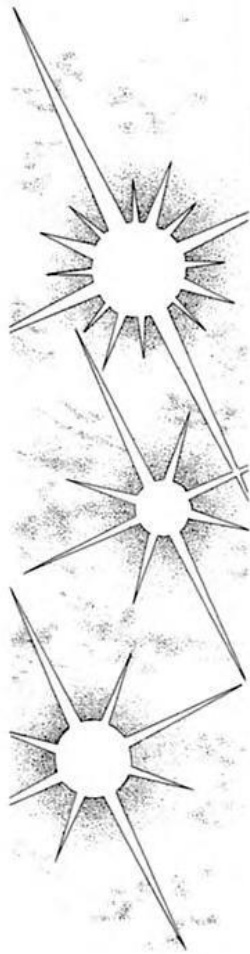
H-HEY...
HAVE YOU
SEEN THAT
OLD LADY?



WHAT A
PRESENCE...

CHIGUSA TSUKIKAGE
STANDS TRUE. JUST
WITH HER APPEAR-
ANCE ON THE SCENE
SHE CAPTURED THE
ATTENTION OF THE
AUDIENCE...







LOOK AT HER!
I DON'T KNOW WHY
BUT ORIGELD IS
MORE EXPRESSIVE
THAN ALDIS THAT
IS FACING THE
AUDIENCE.

WHAT A
WONDROUS
PRES-
ENCE...

AYUMI
HIME-
KA-
WA...



AYUMI-SAN...
SHE'S STILL
WITH HER BACK
TOWARDS THE
AUDIENCE,
STANDING
STILL...

I WONDER
WHAT EX-
PRESSION
SHE HAS...

HOWEVER,
IT IS STILL
POSSIBLE TO
UNDERSTAND
HER FEELINGS.



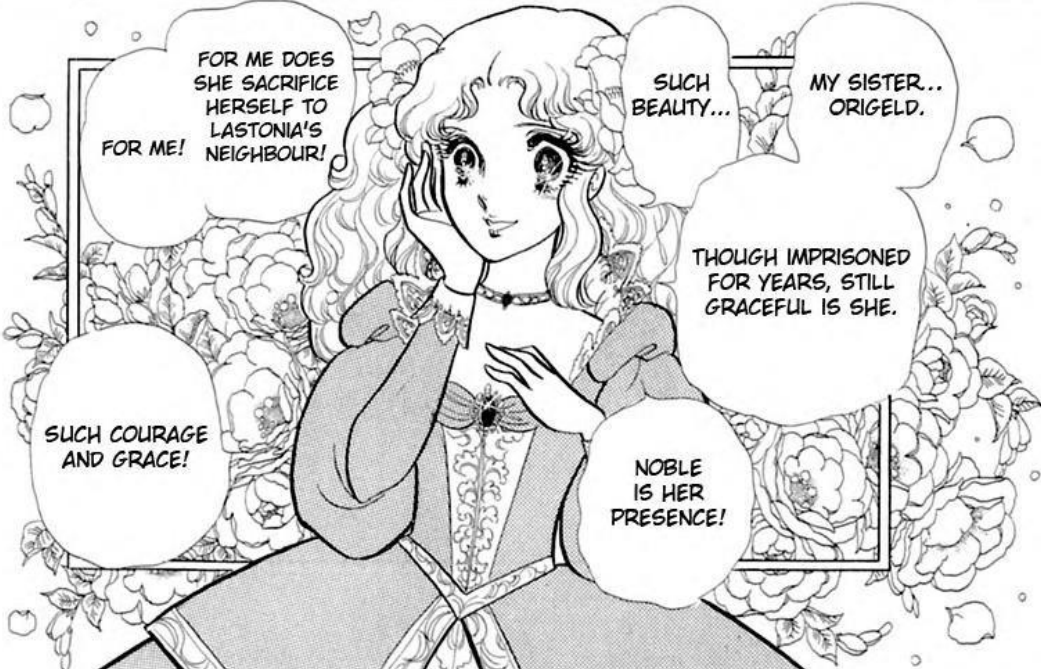
ANON,
T'IS
ALDIS!

Since when
could you
express this?!

AAH,
MY SIB
ALDIS!

BEAUTY AS
TO ADORE
THE GODS.
TRULY
IS THIS
SPOKEN.

LIKE THE
SPRING
MORNING
DOES SHE
SHINE
FORTH!



FOR ME DOES
SHE SACRIFICE
HERSELF TO
LASTONIA'S
NEIGHBOUR!
FOR ME!

SUCH COURAGE
AND GRACE!

SUCH
BEAUTY...

MY SISTER...
ORIGELD.

THOUGH IMPRISONED
FOR YEARS, STILL
GRACEFUL IS SHE.

NOBLE
IS HER
PRESENCE!

MANY TEARS DID I WEEP!

FULL OF FEAR AND SADNESS WAS I WHEN I HEARD OF MY BETROTHAL.

AHH, SHAMEFUL AM I...

LADY ORIGELD WILL HOLD THE ROYAL TREASURES THE DRAGON SWORD AND CHAIN?!

OOHH!

DES DRAGE SVÆRD OG KÆDE!

THAT NONE BUT THE KING MAY POSSESS!

IN RECOGNITION OF THIS UNION DO I BESTOW THESE TREASURES UPON LADY ORIGELD...



TO MARRY PRINCE ASIO OF ERINWALD DOES ORIGELD, PRINCESS OF LASTIONA, GO FORTH!

...BY THIS SACRED UNION SHOULD'S'T THAT ENMITY ERASE.

THOUGH WELL KNOWN IS THE ENMITY BETWIXT LASTIONA AND ERINWALD...

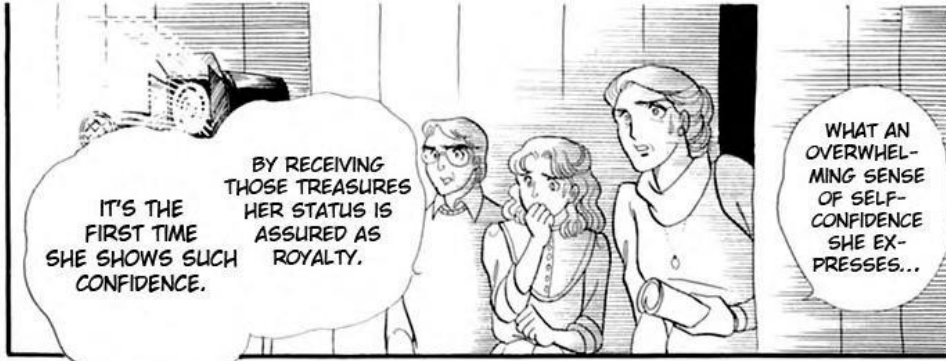


WHAT SAY YOU, ERINWALD'S AMBASSADOR?

THE VICTOR SHALL NOT BE WAR-LIKE MARS, BUT GENTLE EIRENE!







IT'S THE FIRST TIME SHE SHOWS SUCH CONFIDENCE.

BY RECEIVING THOSE TREASURES HER STATUS IS ASSURED AS ROYALTY.

WHAT AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE SHE EXPRESSES...



THIS INTERPRETATION ...IT'S TRULY OF AYUMI HIMEKAWA!

...WHEN SHE SAT WITH HER BACK TO THE AUDIENCE.

SUCH A SUDDEN CHANGE FROM BEFORE...



WITHIN EACH CREATURE IS THE DESIRE FOR SELF-PRESERVATION.

WHY?

TRULY THIS SHOULD BE MUCH MORE FOR YOU THAN ANY OTHER TO DISREGARD THE FORTUNES OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.



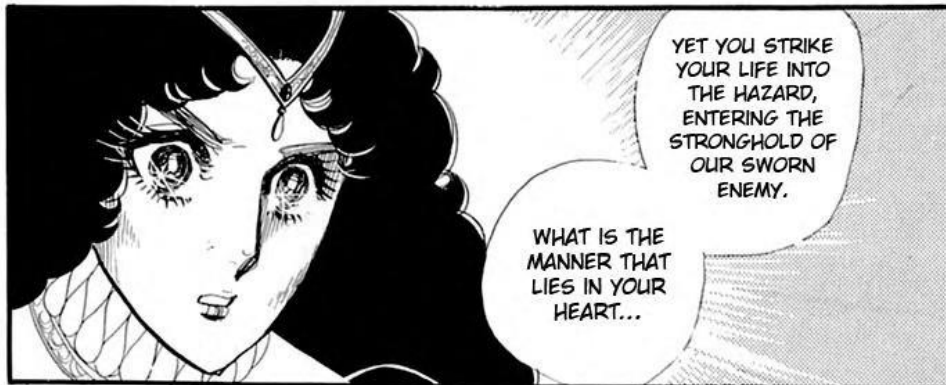
Y-YES.

DOWAGER QUEEN.



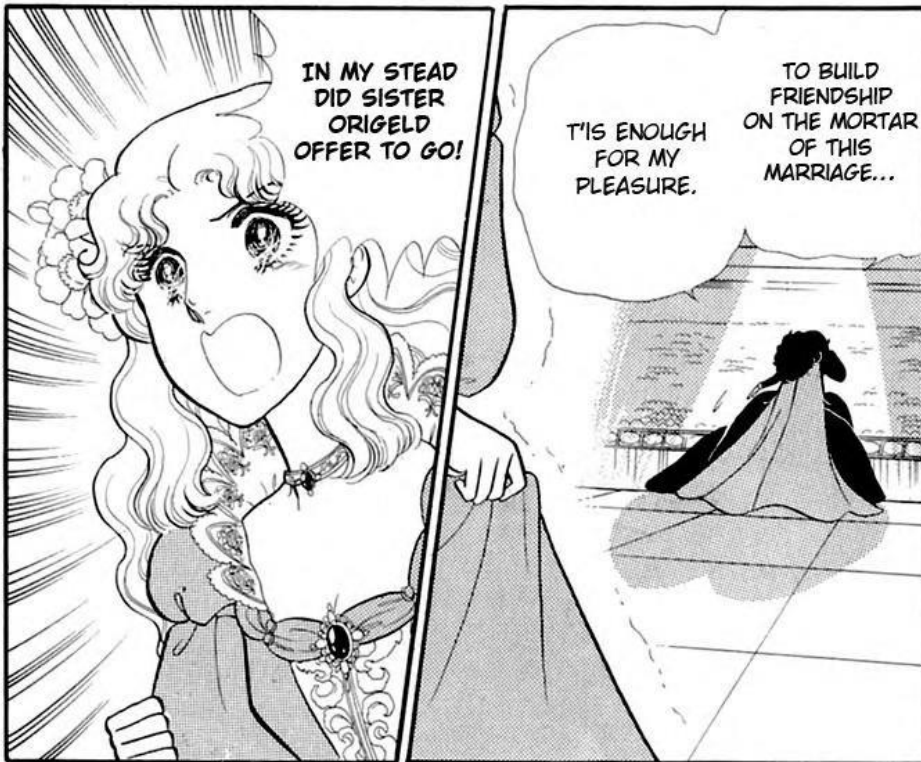
ORIGELD.

T'IS YOUR WISH TO BE WED?



YET YOU STRIKE YOUR LIFE INTO THE HAZARD, ENTERING THE STRONGHOLD OF OUR SWORN ENEMY.

WHAT IS THE MANNER THAT LIES IN YOUR HEART...





ORIGELD TOOK PITY ON ME AND ASSUMED MY PLACE!

THE AMBASSADOR OF ERINWALD IS ALSO HERE!

DO NOT SPEAK SO, YOUR HIGHNESS!

NO!

SUCH IS MY REPORT BY BOTH GENERAL AND PRIEST!



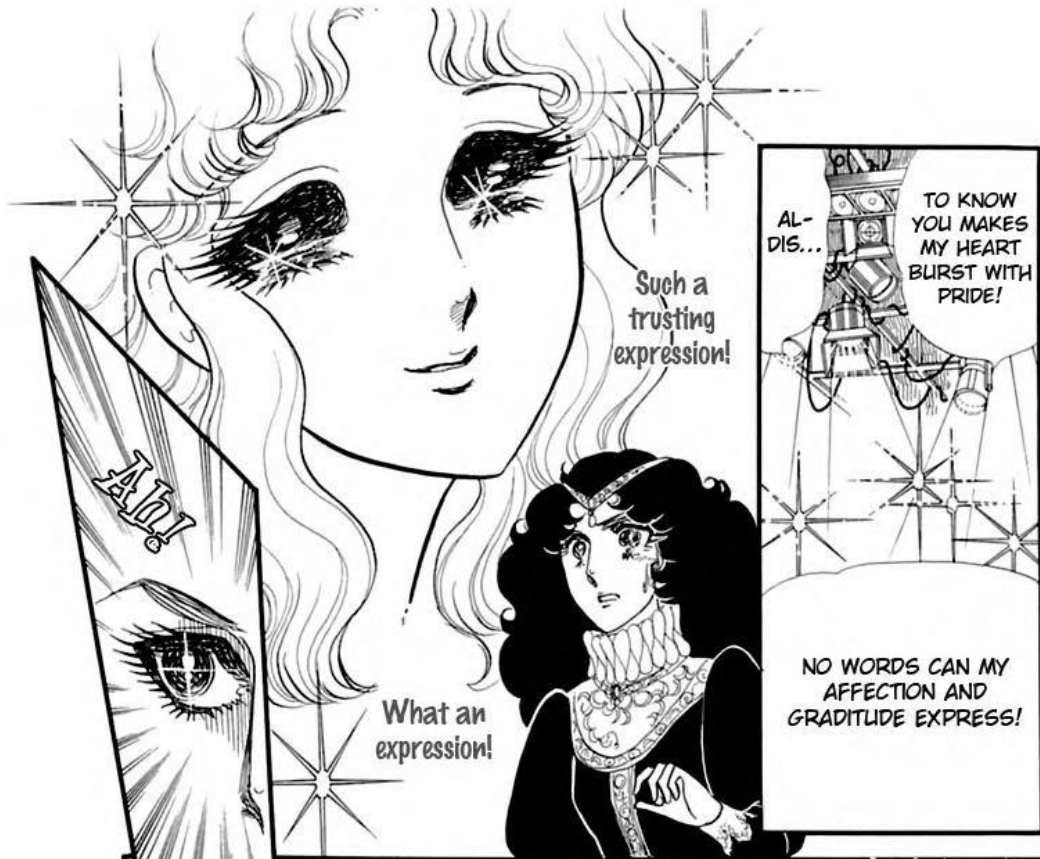
Eh?

AL-DIS!



Aldis!



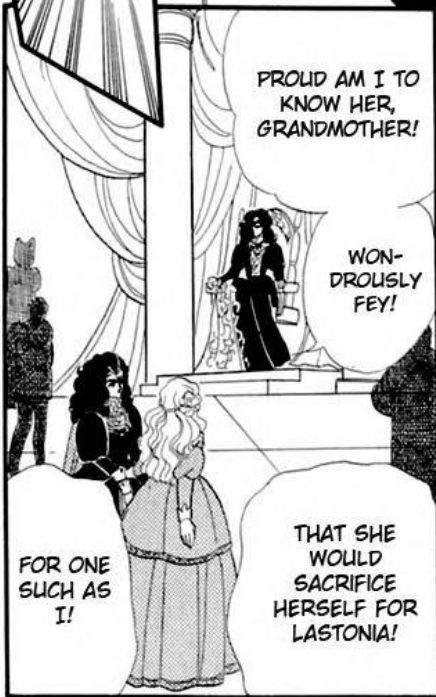


Such a trusting expression!

AL-DIS...
TO KNOW YOU MAKES MY HEART BURST WITH PRIDE!

NO WORDS CAN MY AFFECTION AND GRADITUDE EXPRESS!

What an expression!

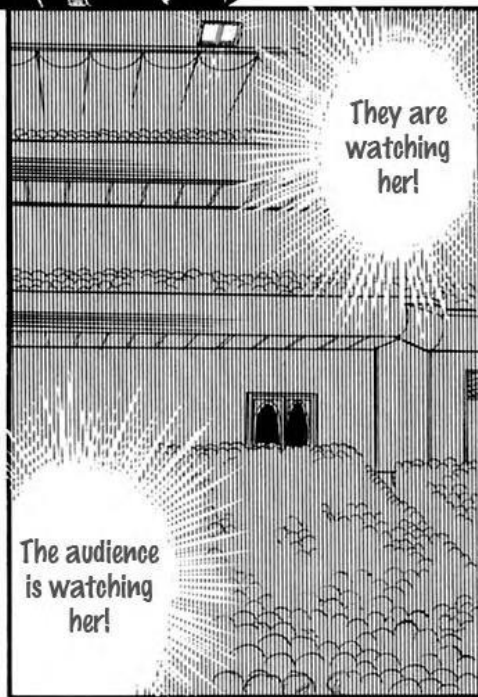


PROUD AM I TO KNOW HER, GRANDMOTHER!

WON-DROUSLY FEY!

FOR ONE SUCH AS I!

THAT SHE WOULD SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR LASTONIA!



They are watching her!

The audience is watching her!



YES ...
...SHOULD MY LIFE BE UNTOUCHED...

YET OF THE MOMENT, I WILL BE WIFE TO PRINCE ASIO.



THE PRIEST DID SUGGEST I ACCEPT MY DESTINY.

EVEN NOW, THAT IS MY INTENT.

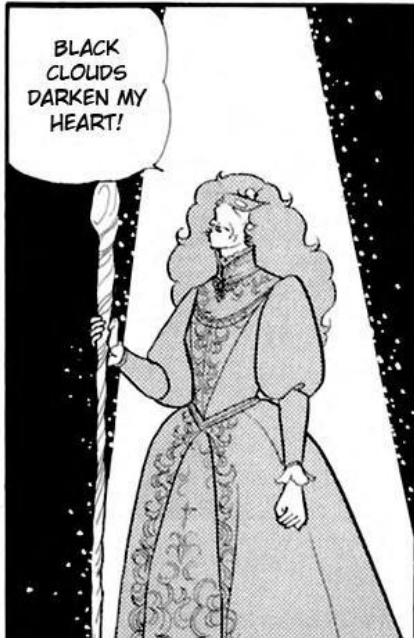


...IS TO BECOME QUEEN OF ERINWALD, OUR FOE?



ORI-GELD ...

YOUR DESTINY...



BLACK CLOUDS DARKEN MY HEART!



TO SO FEARSOME A FOE AS ERINWALD WITH THEIR ALLIANCE WITH DENMARK...

ORIGELD SHALL WED ERINWALD'S PRINCE APPARENT!



THE SECOND IN LINE OF SUCCESSION!

...WIFE AND HOSTAGE!

THE FIRST PRINCESS OF LASTONIA.



MARRY-
ING A FEAR-
SOME
FOE...
WHAT
OMINOUS
WORDS.

I MUST THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY.

MOST KIND
ARE YOU,
ALDIS...

WITH SUCH
LONGING
HAVE I
DESIRED THIS
MEETING...

FLASH

HAS SHE
DIS-
CERNED
MY
INTENT?
THE
DOWAGER
QUEEN...
TOO CLEVER
IS SHE!

TRULY,
YOU ARE
AS BEAU-
TEOUS AS
IT HAS
BEEN
SAID!
LIKE
PERSEPHONE,
YET IT
IS TRUE!

T'IS
BUT
TRUTH,
ALDIS.
MY HEART
SWELLS WITH
PRIDE AT BEING
YOUR SISTER.

SISTER,
DO NOT
SPEAK
SO...

BEFORE YOUR
LIGHT I AM
BUT A LOWLY
SHADOW!



ALDIS, NOW
MAY I GO FORTH
LINTO ERINWALD,
FEARLESSLY.



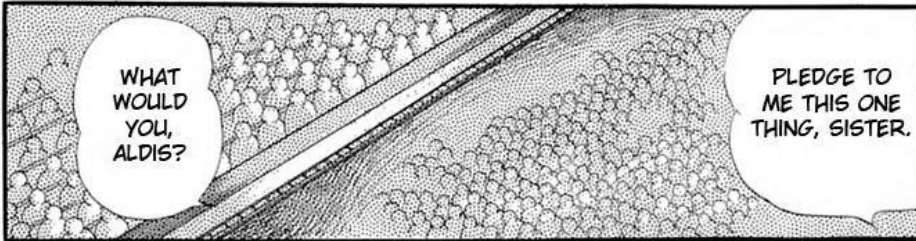
OF COURSE,
MY SISTER.

NEVER SHALL I MIND
THE HAPPENSTANCE
BETWIXT ERIWALD AND
LASTONIA, I WILL
TRUST YOU.



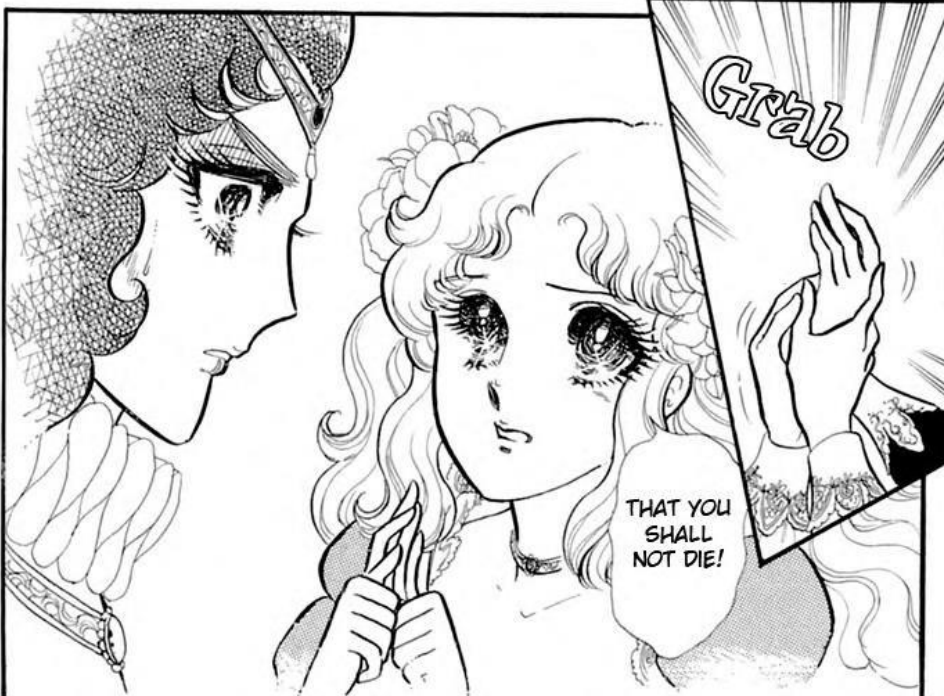
AL-
DIS...

WHATEVER
BEFALL US,
WOULDS'T YOU
TRUST ME STILL?



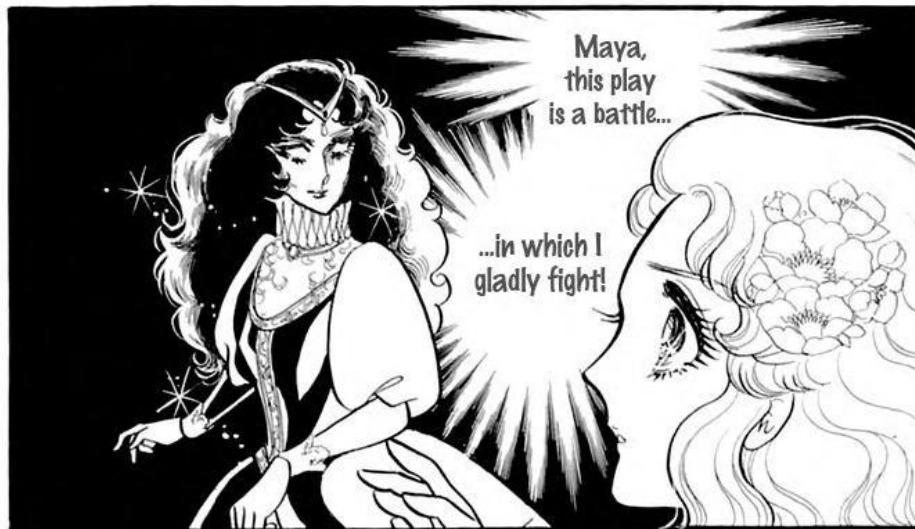
WHAT
WOULD
YOU,
ALDIS?

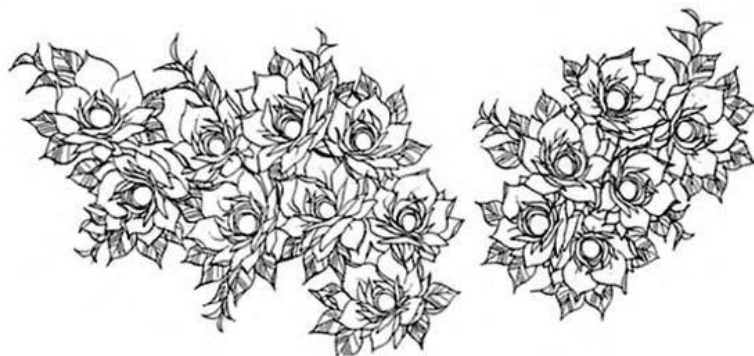
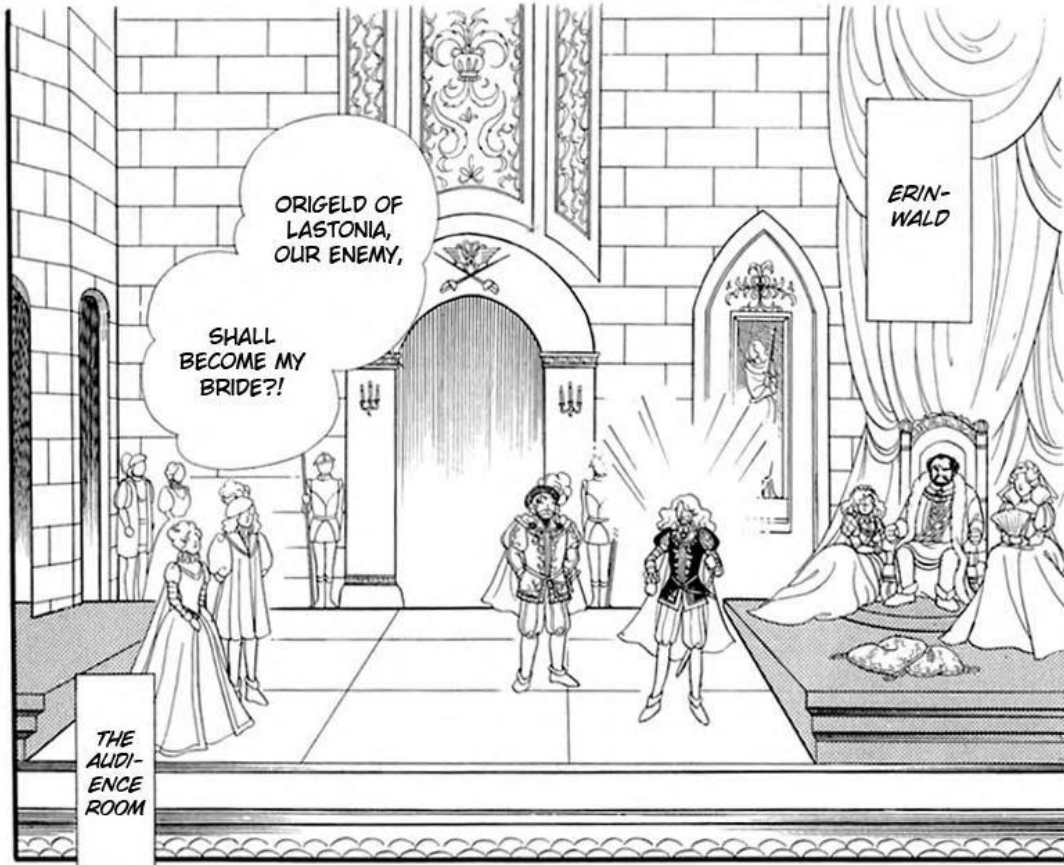
PLEDGE TO
ME THIS ONE
THING, SISTER.

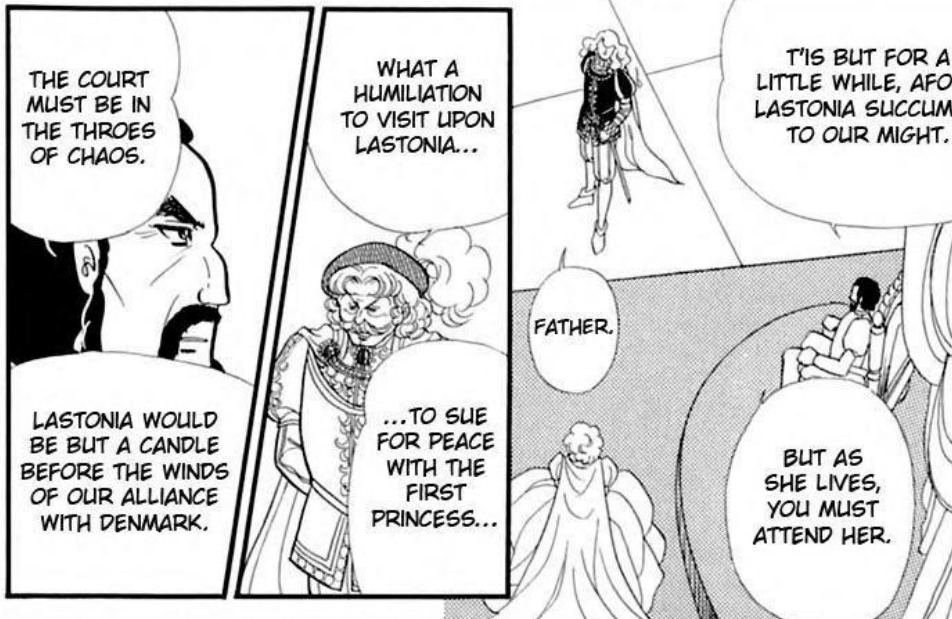


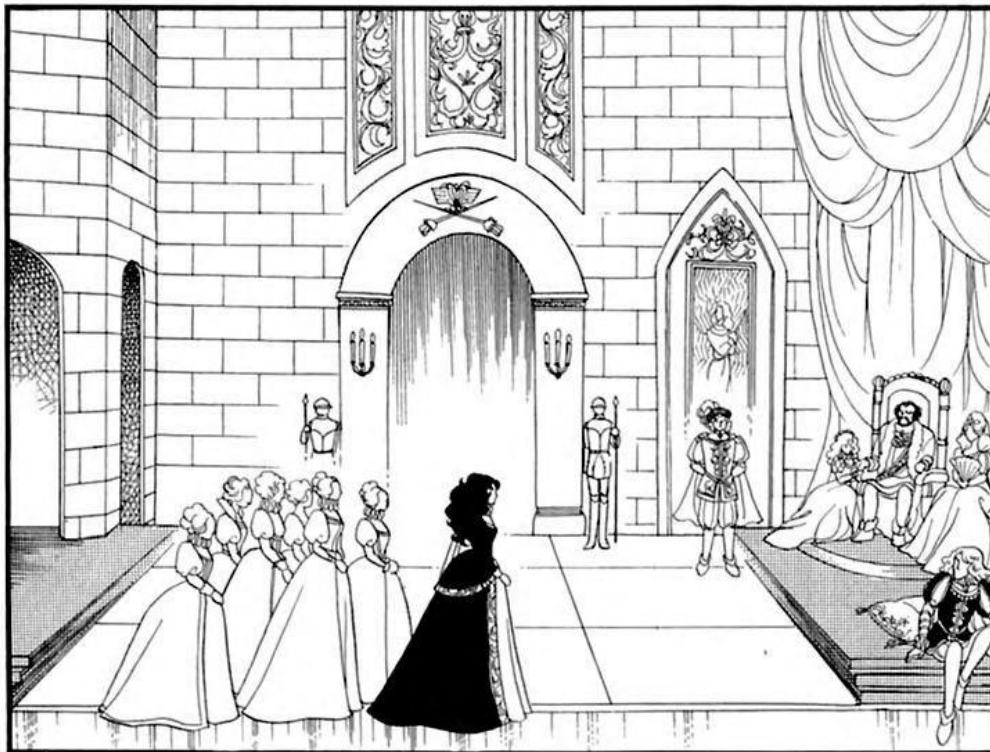
Grab

THAT YOU
SHALL
NOT DIE!











I AM ORIGELD,
FIRST PRINCESS
OF LASTONIA.

MOST
PLEAS-
ANTLY
DO I
GREET
YOU.

THESE BE MY
LADIES-IN-WAITING
WHO SITS IN
ATTENDANCE.

UHM,
ME
TOO!

I'M REALLY
TENSE.

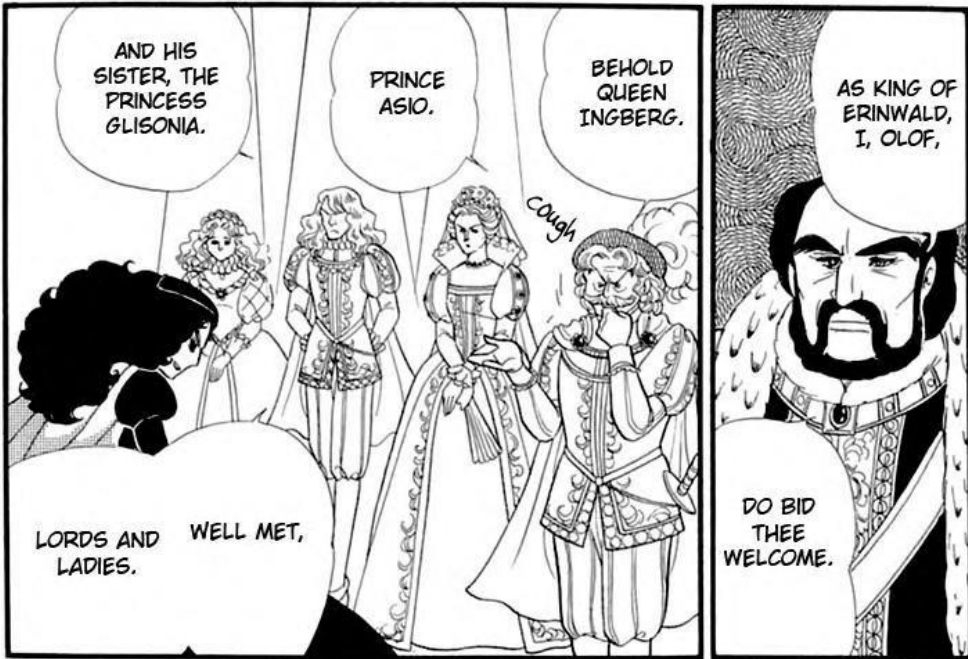
WHAT WILL
ORIGELD DO IN
ERINWALD?

...which, in spite of
everything, shines
with intelligence and
ambition, is attracting
the audience...

Ayumi-san...
You're wonderful...

You're a
wonderful
Origeld!

Origeld,
shrouded
in the
dark...



AND HIS
SISTER, THE
PRINCESS
GLISONIA.

PRINCE
ASIO.

BEHOLD
QUEEN
INGBERG.

AS KING OF
ERINWALD,
I, OLOF,

LORDS AND
LADIES. WELL MET,

DO BID
THEE
WELCOME.



LADY
ORIGELD!



THAT MY
ATTENDENTS
AWAIT ME
IN THE
ANTECHAMBER

AND MY NURSE
BE MY SOLE
CHAPERONE.



MANY
THANKS,
OXEN-
STIERNA.

THEN MAY
I BE SO
BOLD AS
TO BID
ASKANCE
OF YOUR
COURTESY.

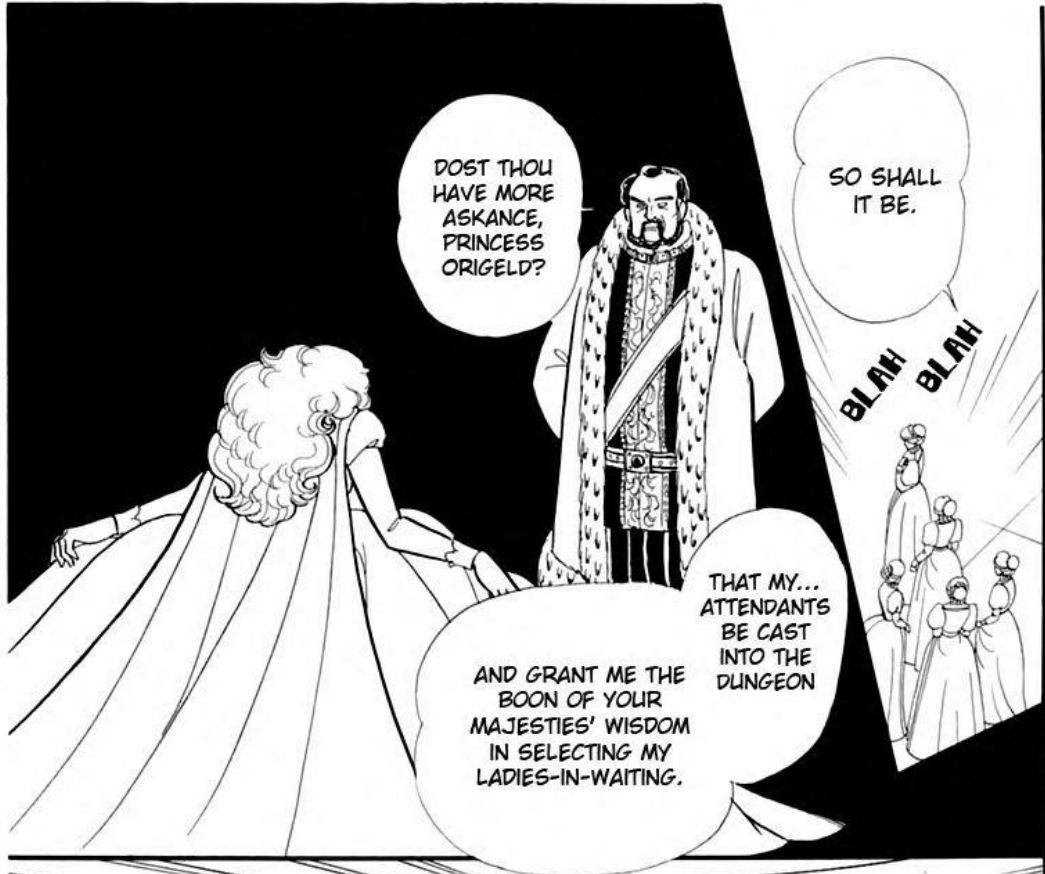
WHAT
BE IT?



AND I AM
PRIME
MINISTER
OXENSTIERNA.

T'IS AN HONOUR
TO SERVE YOU.

WHATEVER
YOU MAY
DESIRE, YOU
HAVE BLIT TO
ASK OF ME.







BLAH
BLAH

OOOH!



It is the quality of a leading lady!

The timing, the expression...

Such is the acting of Ayumi Himekawa!



I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR MAJESTY IS CLEVER.

HOW SO?



THAT MY ROLE TO DELAY YOUR AMBITIONS AND ALLOW LASTONIA SOME RESPITE YOUR MAJESTY MUST HAVE FORESEEN.

ANON, SHALL I BECOME NOTHING WHEN LASTONIA HERSELF BECOMES THE AGGRESSOR.



YOUR MAJESTY!

DURING THE LONG TREK FROM LASTONIA

AS I RODE, I LOOKED UNTO THE CERULEAN HEAVENS AND VOWED...

...THAT I SHALL NOT DIE IN ERINWALD.





IF YOU WISH TO THREATEN LASTONIA, MY LIFE IS FORFEIT.

THUS SHALL THE BLOODYING OF MY BODY BE YOUR DECLARATION OF WAR.

LASTONIA'S HEART IS CURRENTLY IN CHAOS, SUCH AN ACT WOULD STOKE THOSE FLAMES.



NO.

DOST THOU THINKEST YOUR MURDER AT HAND?



AND A FRESH
FORCE FROM
THE EAST.

YET TO ACT
WITH DENMARK
IN SUPPORT

COUNTENANCE
IT NOT WOULD
YOUR SHREWD
AND WARLIKE
COUNSEL,

THUS SUCH AN
AGREEMENT
WOULDS'T ALLOW
A DISPERSION
OF FORCES.



AND SECOND TO
THE LASTONIAN
THRONE I
STAND.



AND OF THE NOW,
YOUR MAJESTY DO
RECALL MY STATION
AS FIRST PRINCESS
OF LASTONIA.

TREASURES
OF THE ROYAL
FAMILY.

THAT IN MY
POSSESSION
BE THE
DRAGE SVÆRD
OG KÆDE,



YET T'WOULD
ALSO YOUR
TIME EXTEND.

WOULD
IT
NOT?

YES...

