



I look forward
to seeing you
become a great
actress

Your
admirer

You can study
there and
enjoy your
high school life

Hitotsu-
boshi high
is very
active in
the drama
scene

I hope you
will take
this step



SOB
SOB
SOB

WHAT'S
WRONG?

THIS IS LIKE
A DREAM!



MA-
YA!



I WANT TO
THANK HIM

I WANT TO
MEET HIM

EVEN IF
HE IS
UGLY, I
DON'T
CARE

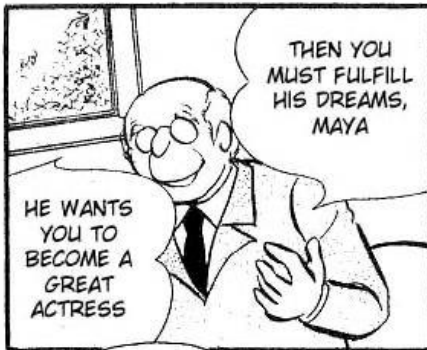
WHO IS HE?
WHAT DOES
HE LOOK
LIKE?



EVEN THOUGH I'VE
BEEN A KLUTZ
SINCE I WAS KID

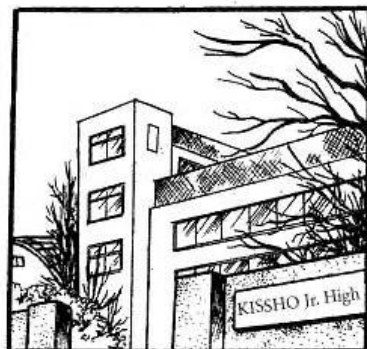
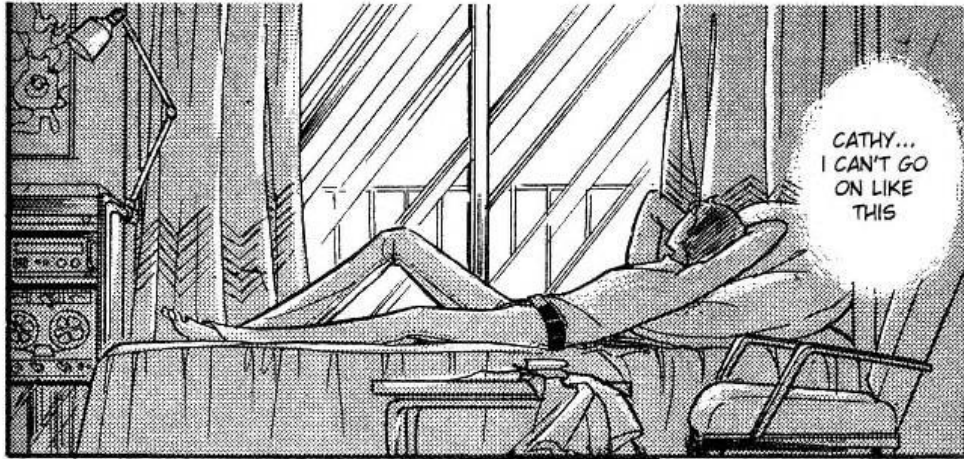
TO THINK THAT
SOMEONE OUT
THERE IS
LOOKING
AFTER ME

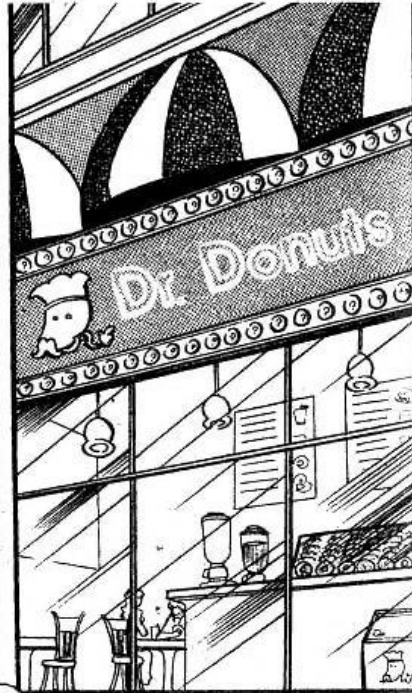
SCANNER: LUCHS
TRANSLATOR: GOLDENBOY
EDITOR: MIKOSERENITATIS

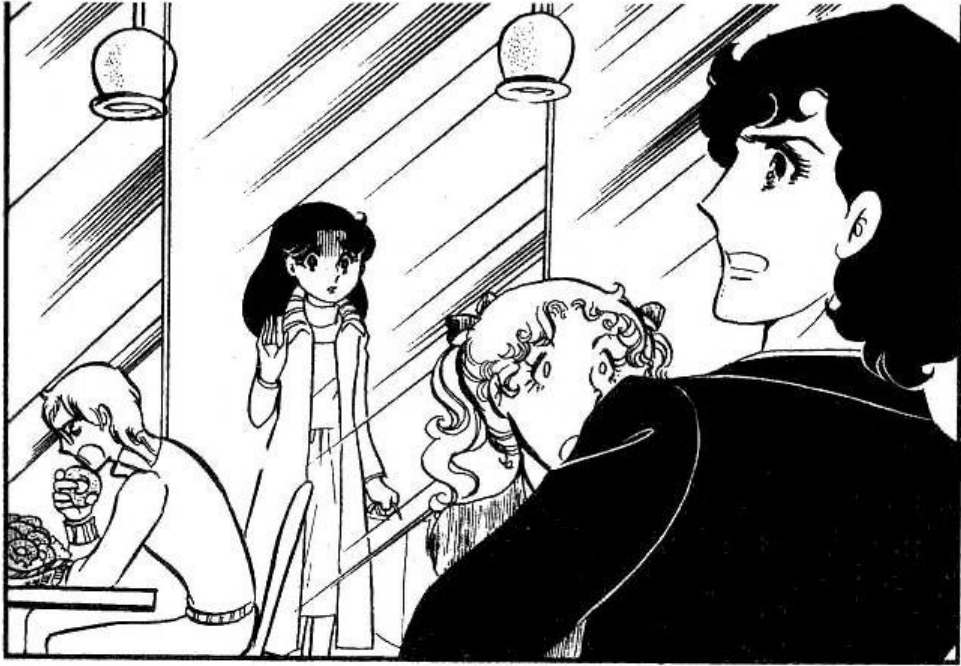












BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?



I HAVE SO MUCH TO SAY

SO MUCH TO TELL



huff

THANK YOU



I WAS, UM...
GOING TO RETURN YOUR UMBRELLA

ALONE?

I SEE THAT SEAT'S EMPTY



LOOK,

THEY'RE JUST MY FRIENDS, OKAY?

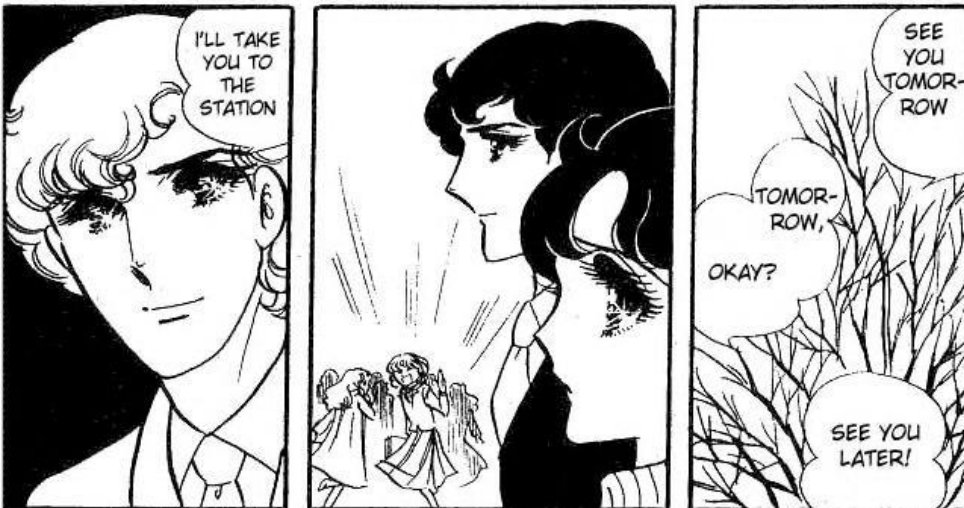
I HAVE TO GO...



HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?

MY TREAT





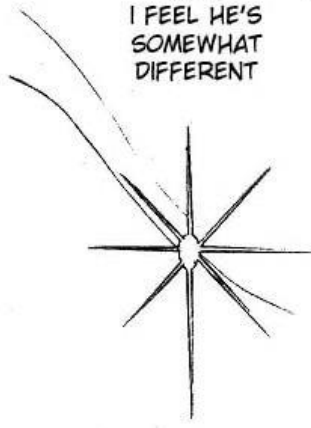






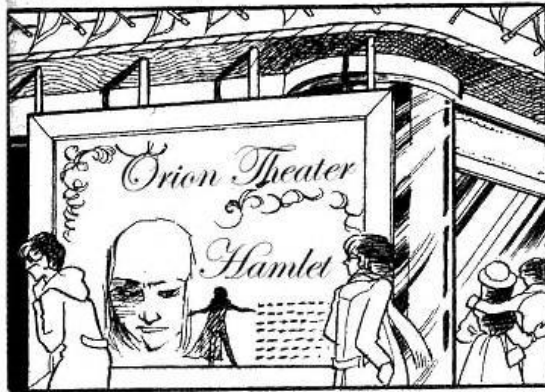
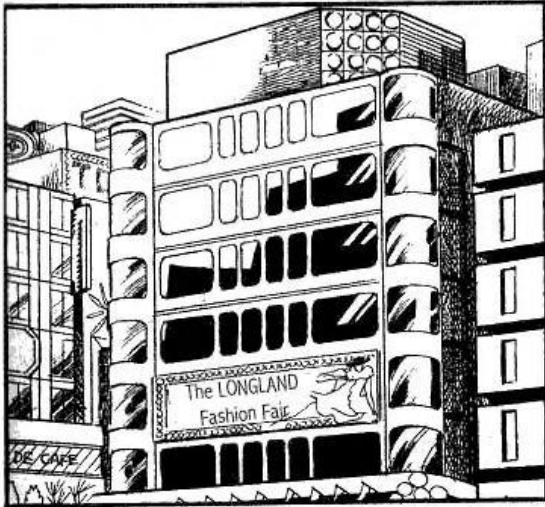
HE HASN'T
CHANGED

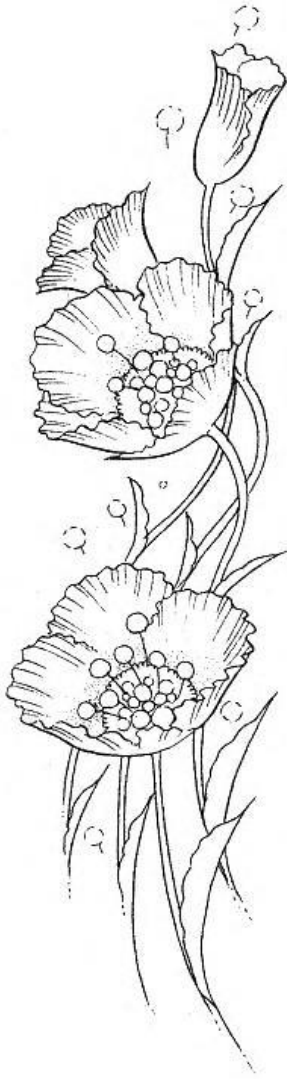
YET,
I FEEL HE'S
SOMEWHAT
DIFFERENT

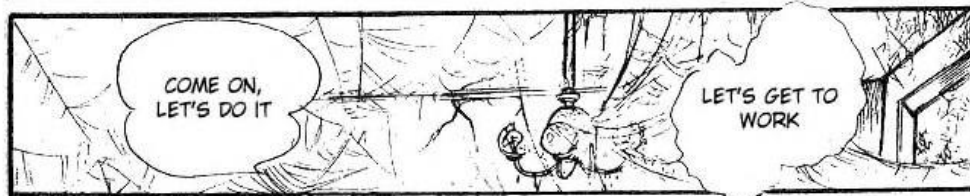


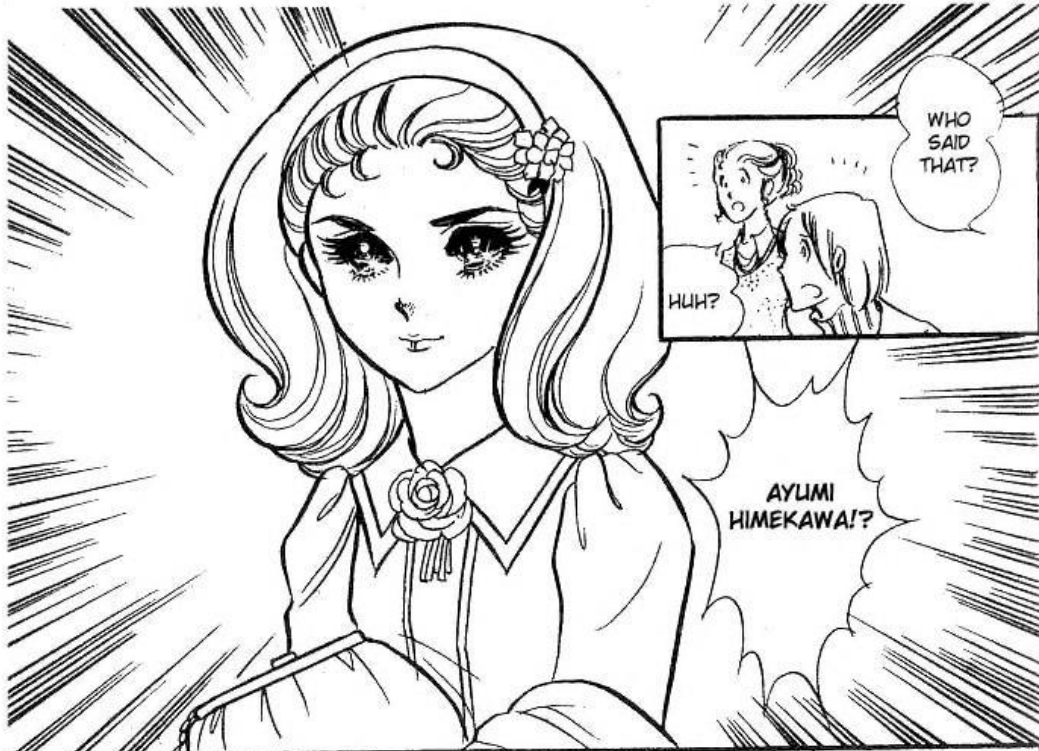
THERE'S
SOMETHING...



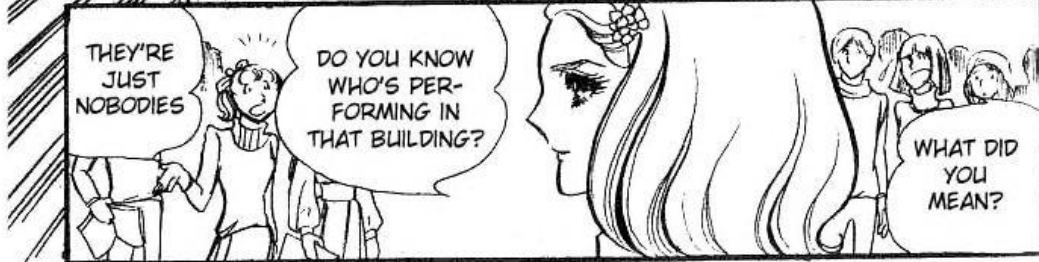






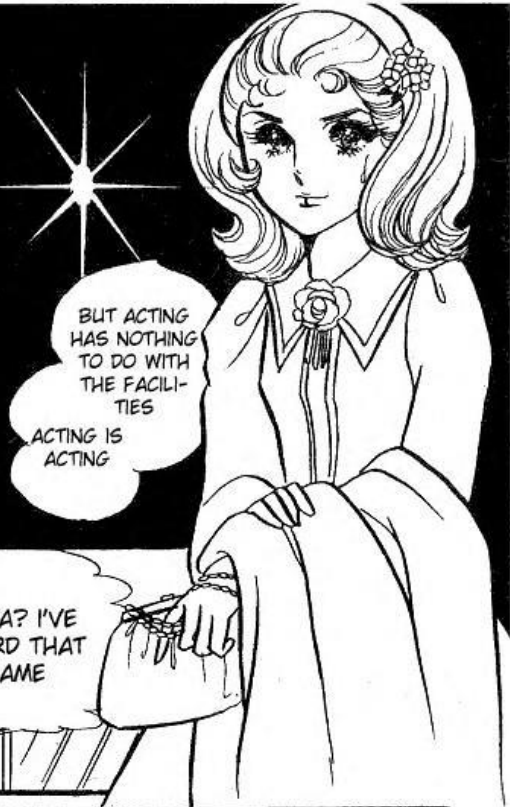


AYUMI
HIMEKAWA!?





ESPECIALLY WITH MAYA AMONGST THEM



BUT ACTING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACILITIES

ACTING IS ACTING



OH, THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSEDLY A CANDIDATE FOR THE CRIMSON GODDESS

MAYA? I'VE HEARD THAT NAME



BEWARE... I HOPE THAT YOUR ORION STAGE DOES NOT GET TORN DOWN BY THIS.. STORM



IN TOKYO, SHE EVEN OUTSHONE NATSUE RIKO

AT THE EISHIN BUILDING EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD A MINOR ROLE, THE AUDIENCE LOVED HER

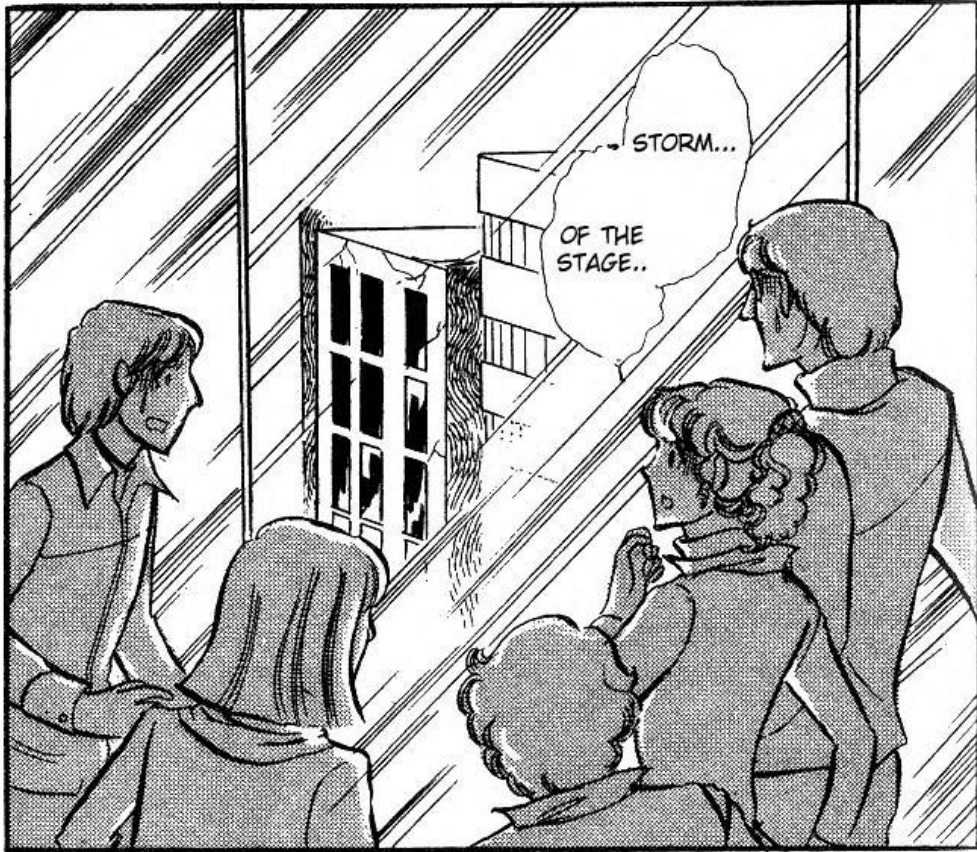
WHAT?

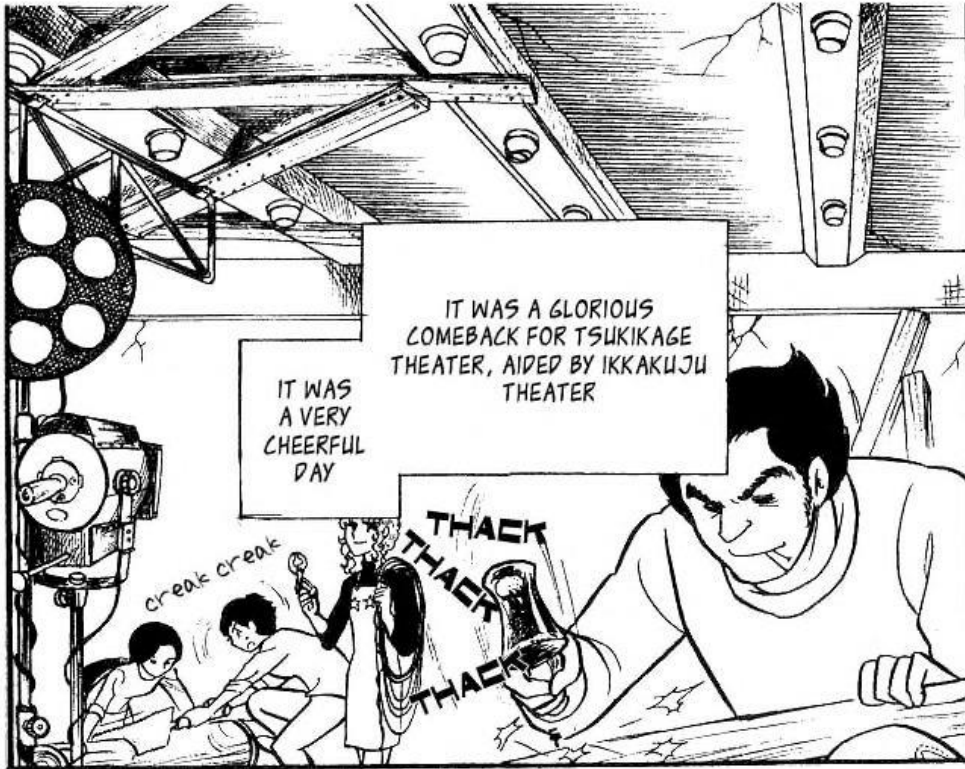


A STORM ON STAGE?

THE STORM OF THE STAGE

THE DIRECTOR CALLED HER...



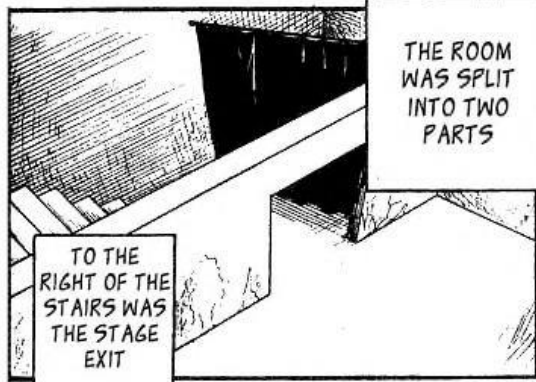


IT WAS A GLORIOUS COMEBACK FOR TSUKIKAGE THEATER, AIDED BY IKKAKUJU THEATER

IT WAS A VERY CHEERFUL DAY

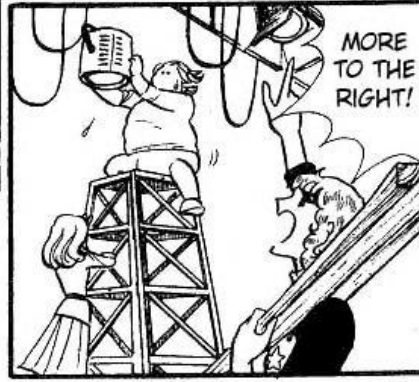
creak creak

THACK THACK THACK

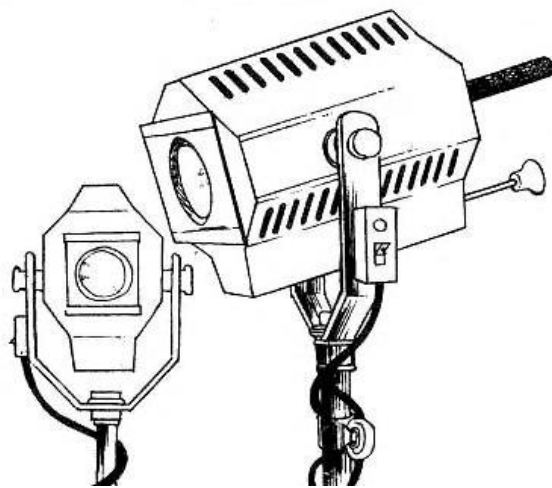


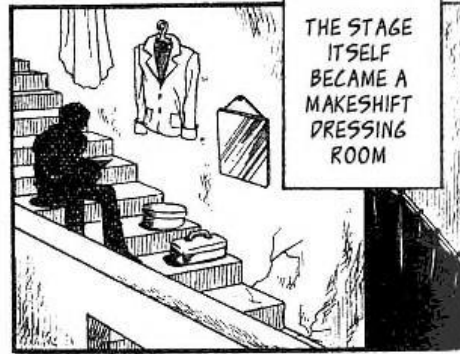
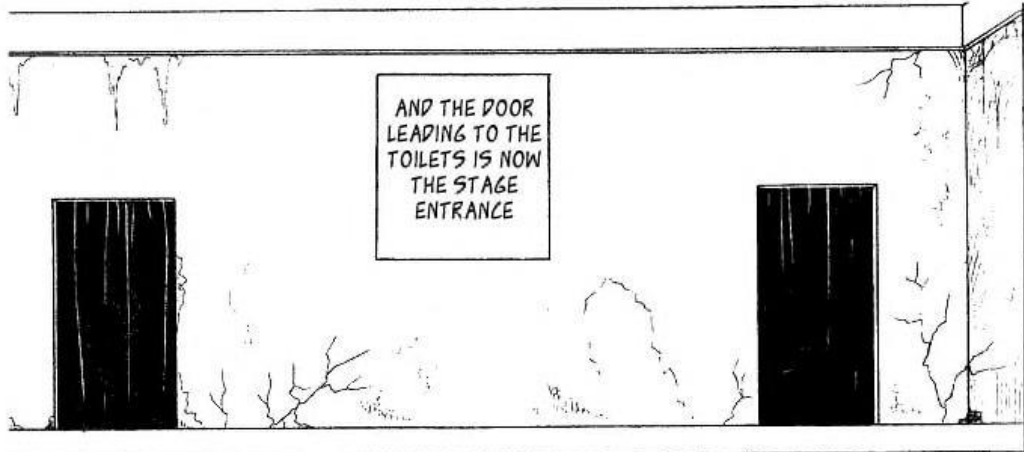
THE ROOM WAS SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS

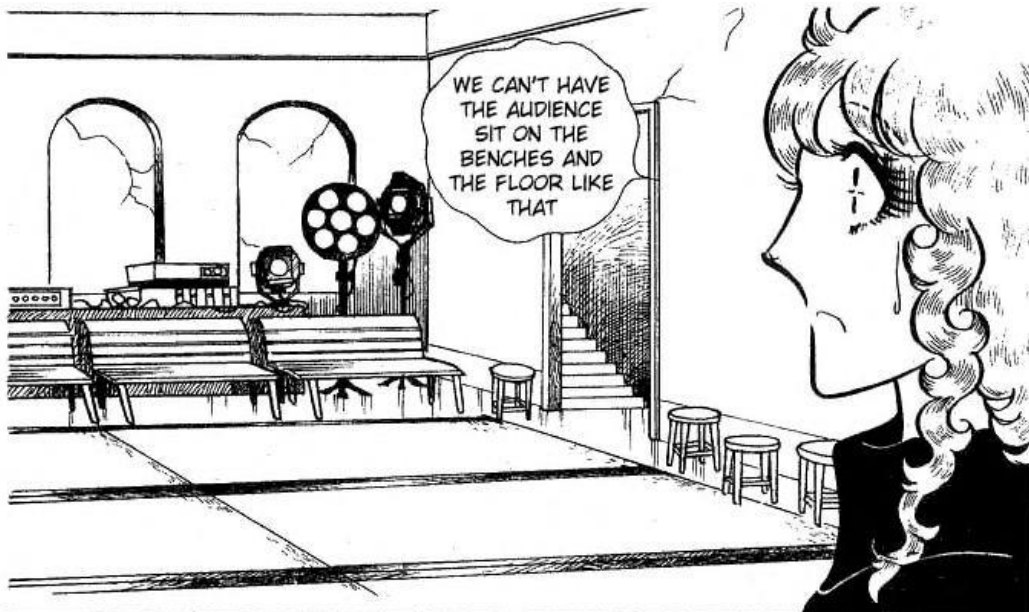
TO THE RIGHT OF THE STAIRS WAS THE STAGE EXIT



MORE TO THE RIGHT!







WE CAN'T HAVE THE AUDIENCE SIT ON THE BENCHES AND THE FLOOR LIKE THAT



OKAY!

THE MORE REASON TO STUN THEM WITH OUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE

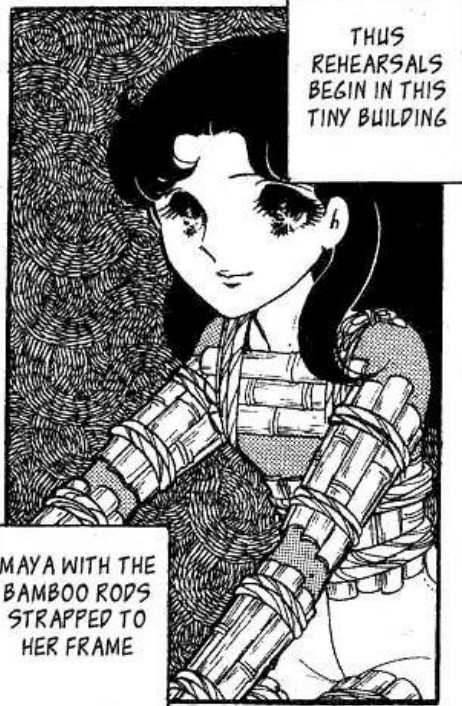
MAYBE WE SHOULD PUT PILLOWS THERE?

WELL, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY MORE CASH

WELL ...



QUIET
QUIET



THIS REHEARSALS BEGIN IN THIS TINY BUILDING

MAYA WITH THE BAMBOO RODS STRAPPED TO HER FRAME



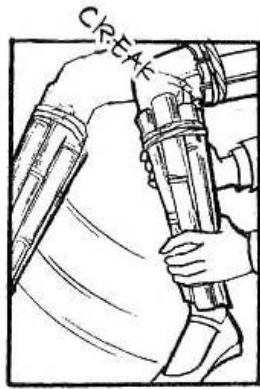
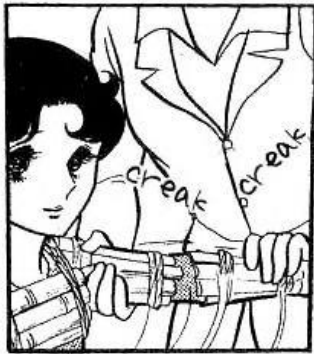
THIS IS MOST UNFAIR!

I EARN TWO POUNDS AND FIFTY PENNIES A WEEK!

PLUS IT OWNS SIX MILLION SHARES OF BAR-THOLOMEW STOCK

WHILE THIS DOLL GETS SIXTY MILLION POUNDS!



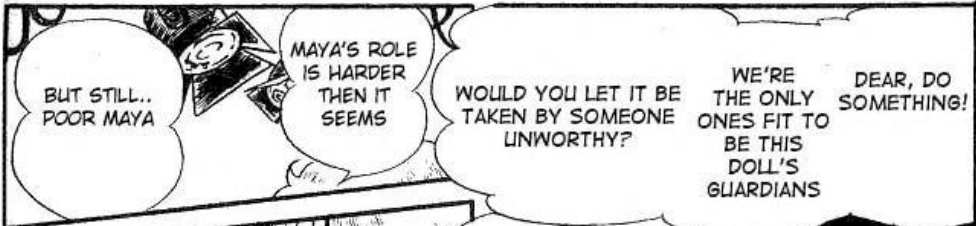


THANKS TO THESE BAMBOO RODS

MY BODY HAS GONE STIFF, JUST LIKE A DOLL

I UNDERSTAND NOW...

HOW TO TIME MY MOVEMENTS AS A DOLL



BUT STILL... POOR MAYA

MAYA'S ROLE IS HARDER THEN IT SEEMS

WOULD YOU LET IT BE TAKEN BY SOMEONE UNWORTHY?

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES FIT TO BE THIS DOLL'S GUARDIANS

DEAR, DO SOMETHING!



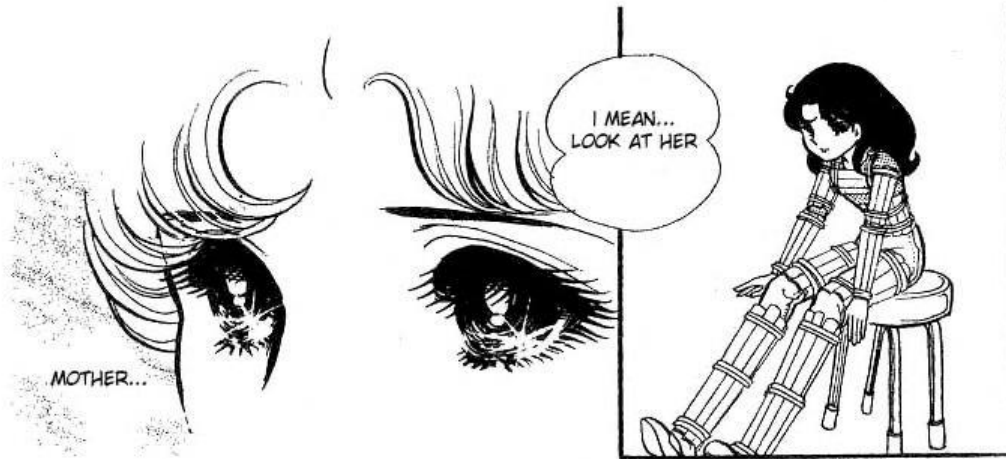
OH?

IT'S ABOUT HER SITTING STILL FOR HOURS

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE BAMBOO RODS

WELL, YOU SEE...





I MEAN...
LOOK AT HER

MOTHER...

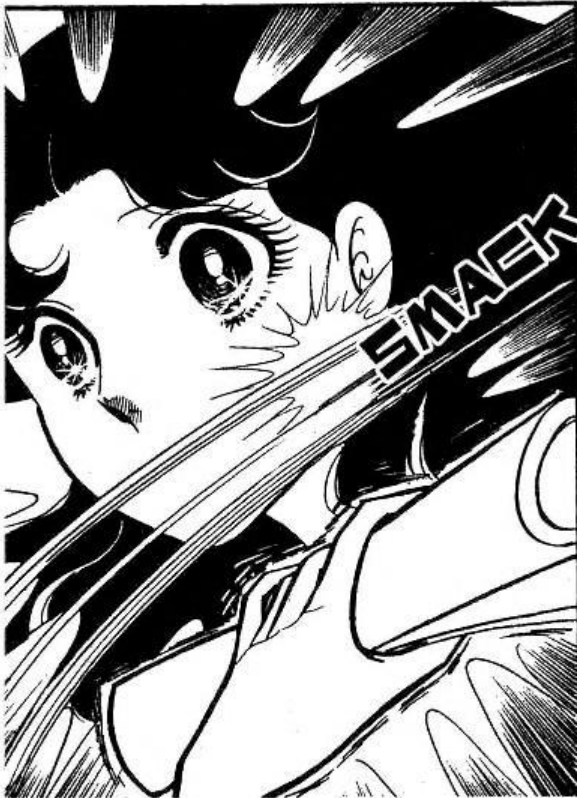


HOW CAN A
STUPID CHILD
LIKE YOU
BECOME AN
ACTRESS!?

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
NOW?

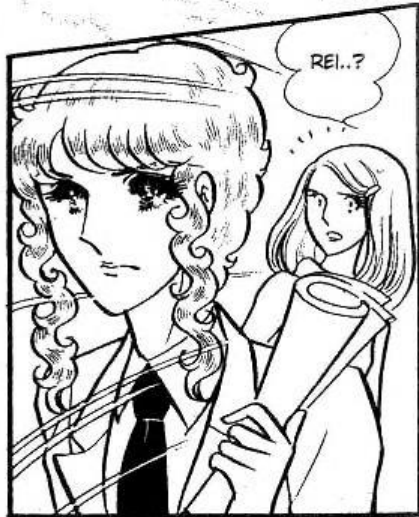
EVEN MY STAGE
PERFORMANCES,
YOU DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
ANY OF IT

TSUKIKAGE THEATER
BREAKING UP, MY
MOVING TO THIS
APARTMENT,

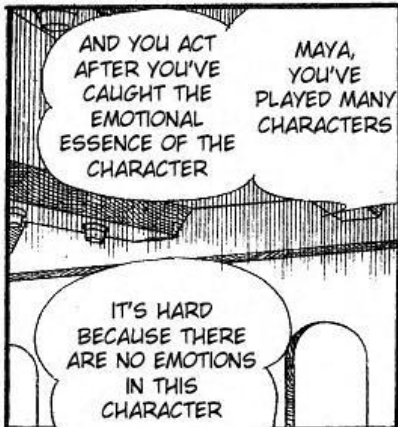


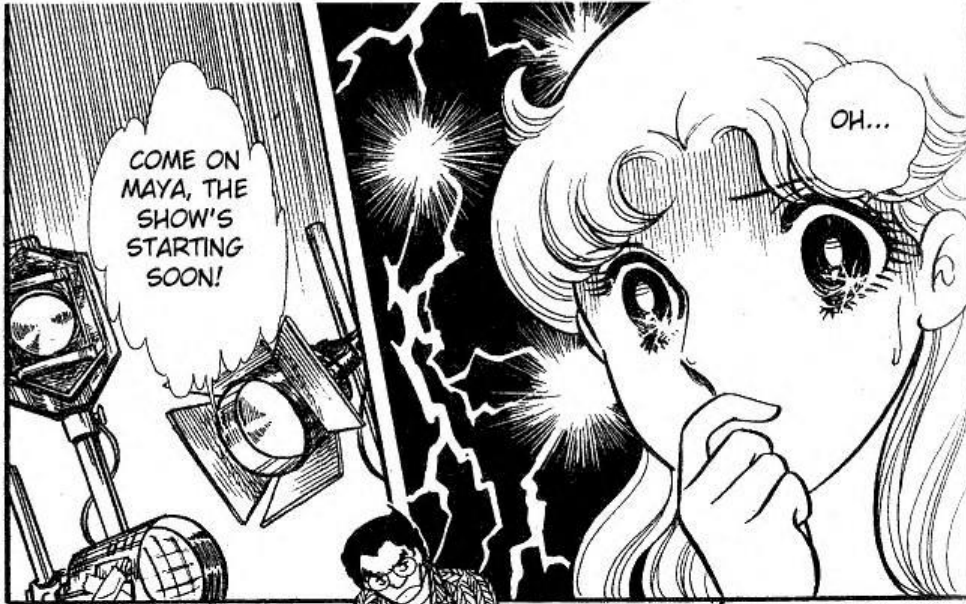
JUST WAIT
AND SEE

MOTHER...
I WILL BE A
GREAT
ACTRESS



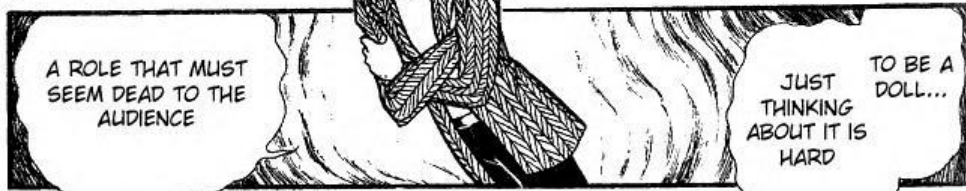
REI..?





COME ON
MAYA, THE
SHOW'S
STARTING
SOON!

OH...



A ROLE THAT MUST
SEEM DEAD TO THE
AUDIENCE

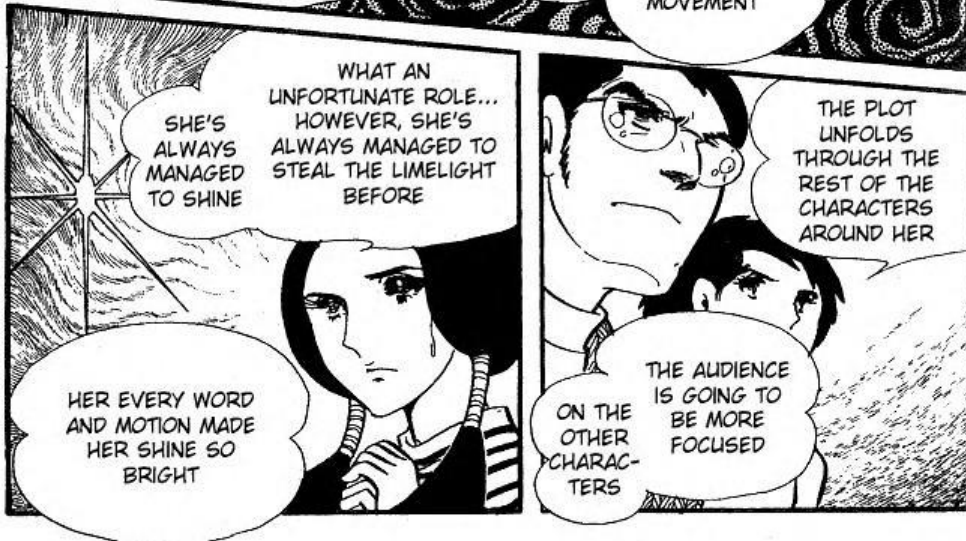
TO BE A
DOLL...
JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT IS
HARD



AND IT CAN'T
EVEN BE SEEN
BLINKING

YET ON
STAGE
AT ALL
TIMES

BUT THE DOLL
IS THE MAIN
CHARACTER
WHO SPEAKS
NO LINES AND
HAS NO
MOVEMENT



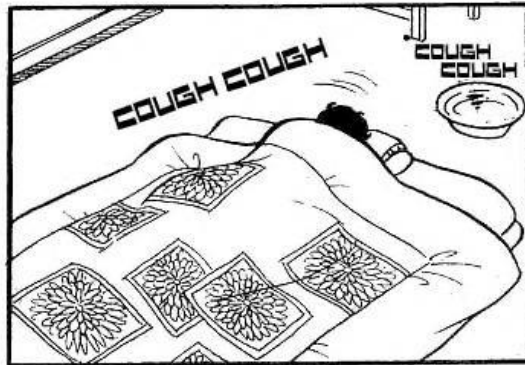
SHE'S
ALWAYS
MANAGED
TO SHINE

WHAT AN
UNFORTUNATE ROLE...
HOWEVER, SHE'S
ALWAYS MANAGED TO
STEAL THE LIMELIGHT
BEFORE

HER EVERY WORD
AND MOTION MADE
HER SHINE SO
BRIGHT

THE PLOT
UNFOLDS
THROUGH THE
REST OF THE
CHARACTERS
AROUND HER

THE AUDIENCE
IS GOING TO
BE MORE
FOCUSED
ON THE
OTHER
CHARAC-
TERS





SHE JUST LAYS THERE, SHE CAN'T WORK BECAUSE SHE'S SO SICK

IF OUR CUSTOMERS KNEW ABOUT THIS, THEY'D ALL LEAVE



HAVING SOMEONE WITH TB IN A RESTAURANT, THAT CAN'T BE GOOD, RIGHT?

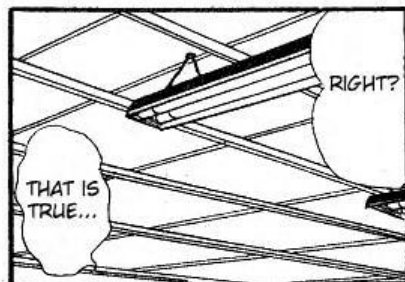
SHE'S HIDING IT, BUT I CAN TELL IT'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER LUNGS



NOT EVEN A BANK ACCOUNT... IF WE LET HER GO, THEN SHE WON'T MAKE IT

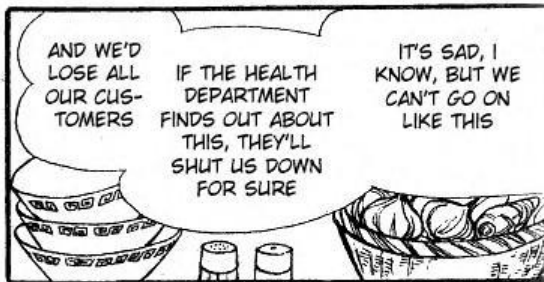
GO WHERE? SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANYBODY ELSE

SIR, WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR US TO LET HER GO?



RIGHT?

THAT IS TRUE...



AND WE'D LOSE ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

IF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS, THEY'LL SHUT US DOWN FOR SURE

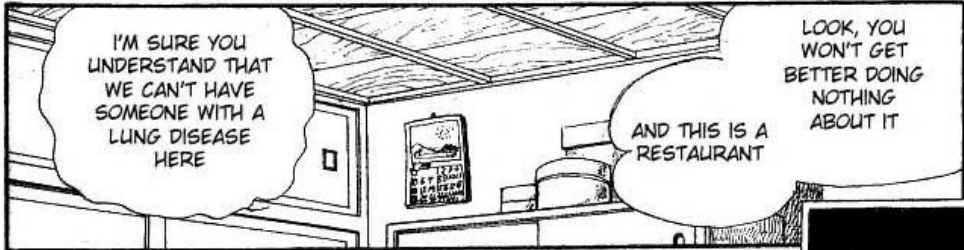
IT'S SAD, I KNOW, BUT WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS

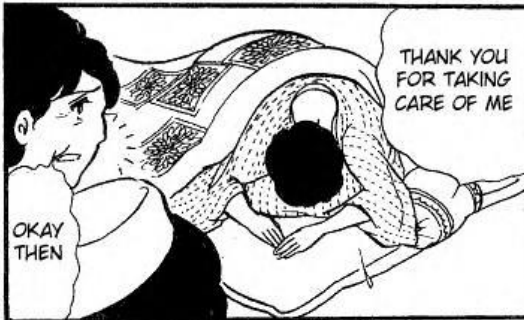


WE'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE NOW

PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS, BUT WE HAVE TO TELL YOU





OKAY THEN

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME



YES

I WILL GO



MADAME, PLEASE...

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING
WE ARE DEEPLY SORRY



DON'T WORRY

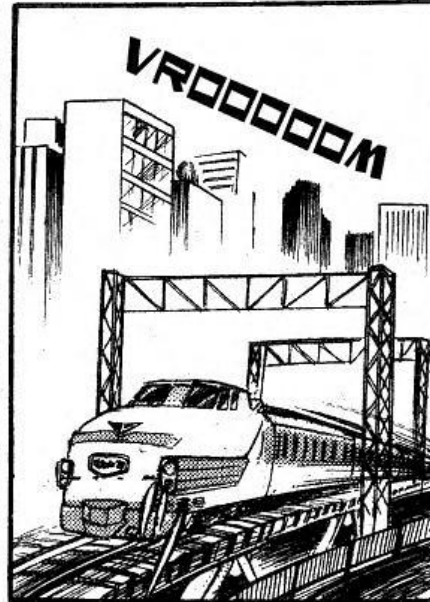
I'LL TELL HER WHERE YOU ARE

MAYA...

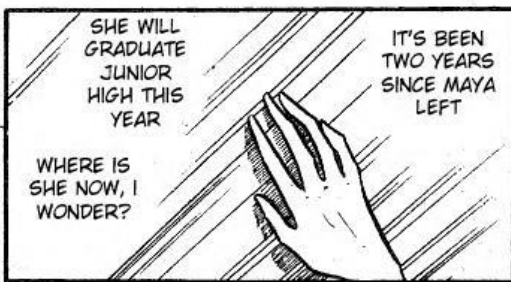
SHOULD SHE RETURN HERE...



BOUGH BOUGH



VROOOOOM



SHE WILL GRADUATE JUNIOR HIGH THIS YEAR

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE MAYA LEFT

WHERE IS SHE NOW, I WONDER?

