

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE WOMAN WHO RULES THE KINGDOM OF LASTONIA FROM THE SHADOWS?

YOU HARDLY KNOW HER.

ACCORDING TO YOU, WHAT DOES THE DOWAGER QUEEN'S EXISTENCE MEAN TO ORIGELD?



YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION JUST NOW...

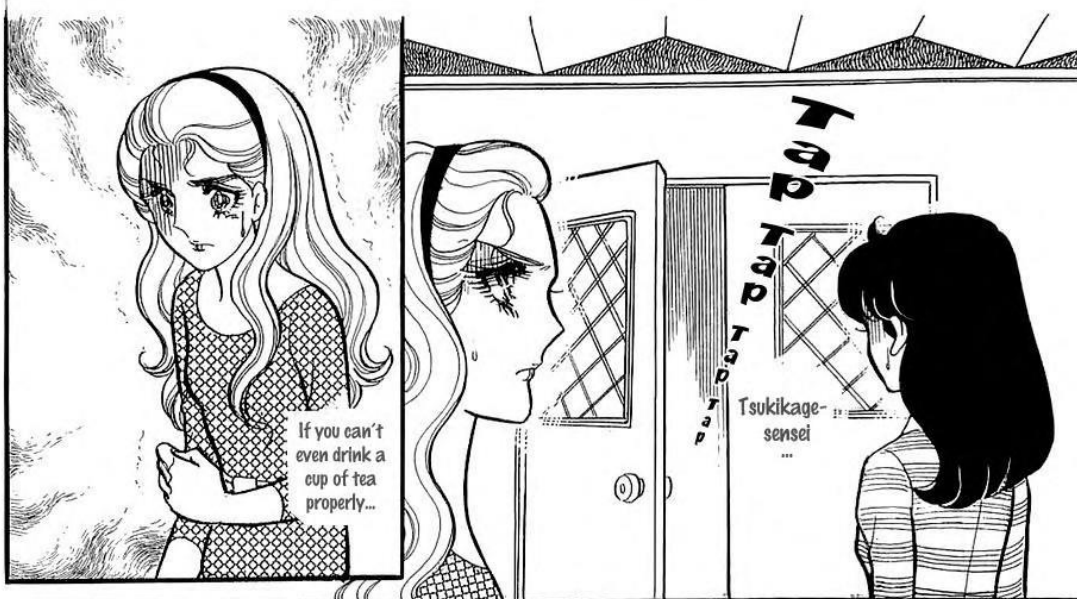
FEAR... AND CAUTION ...

YOU ACTED LIKE ANY COMMON NOBLE LADY WOULD IN FRONT OF THE DOWAGER QUEEN.



... YOU'D BETTER FIX THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DRINK A CUP OF TEA PROPERLY AS THE TWO PRINCESSES...



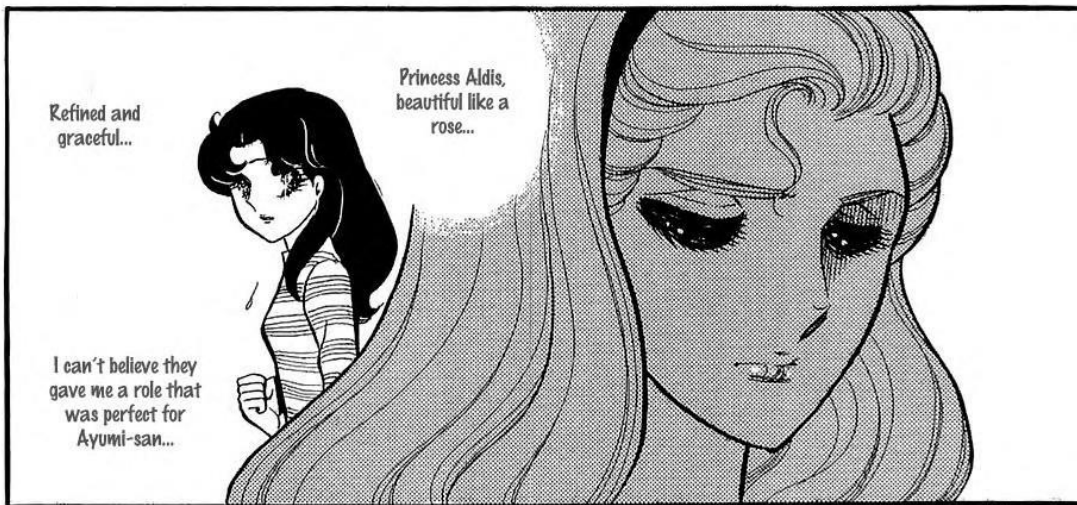
If you can't even drink a cup of tea properly...

Tsukikage-sensei ...



BESIDES THEY BOTH ACTED PRETTY WELL.

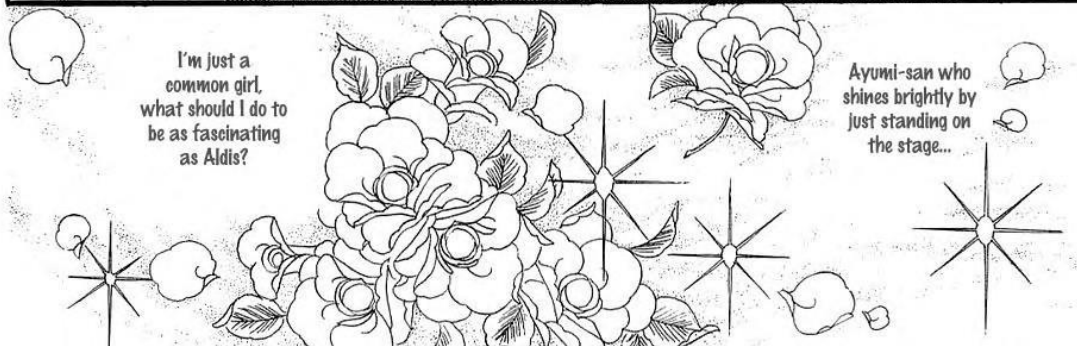
TO THINK THAT SHE PUT AYUMI DOWN LIKE THAT.



Refined and graceful...

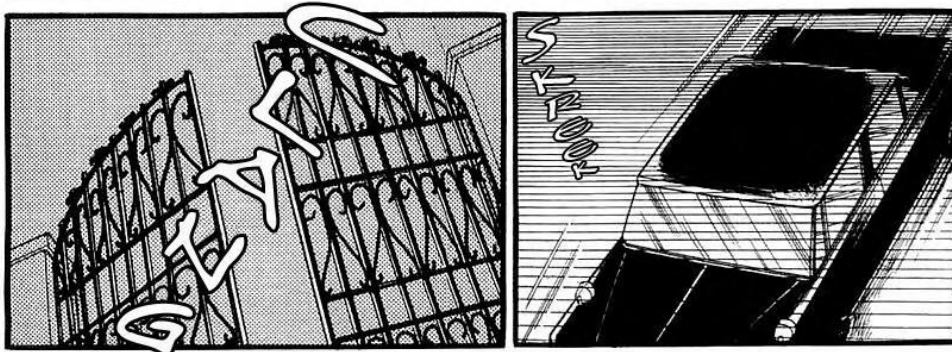
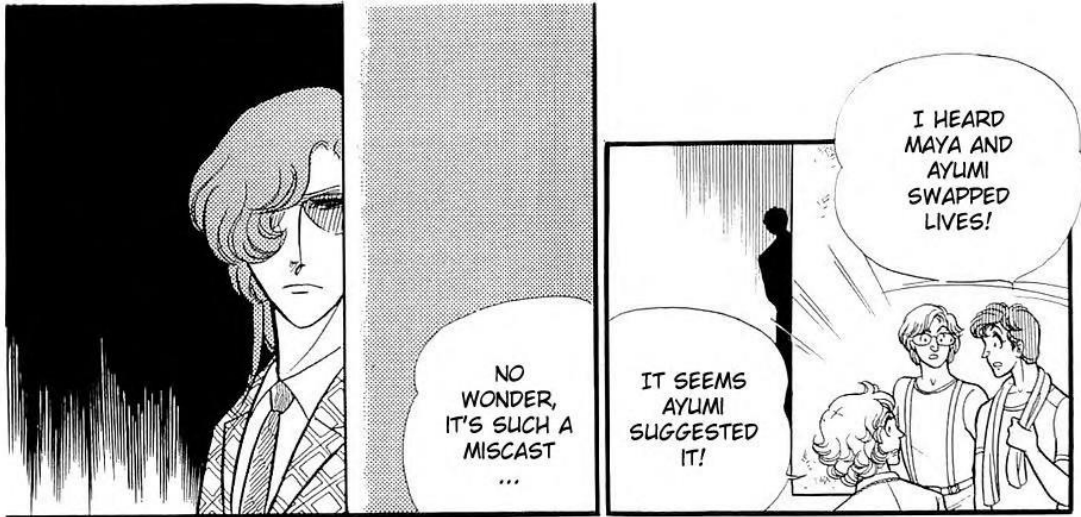
Princess Aldis, beautiful like a rose...

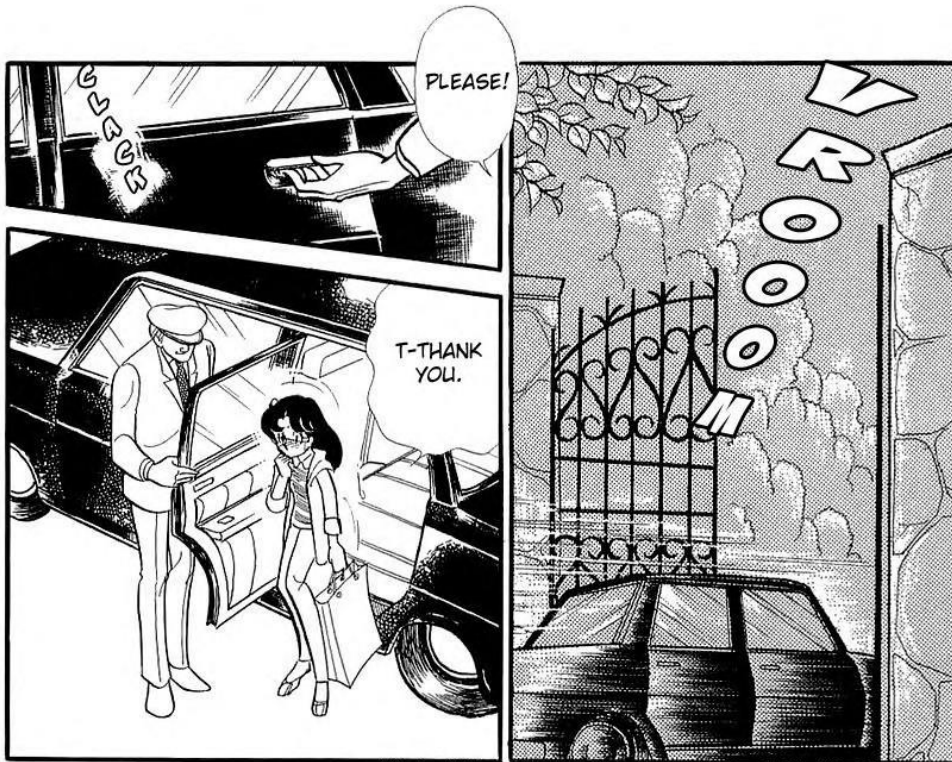
I can't believe they gave me a role that was perfect for Ayumi-san...



I'm just a common girl, what should I do to be as fascinating as Aldis?

Ayumi-san who shines brightly by just standing on the stage...





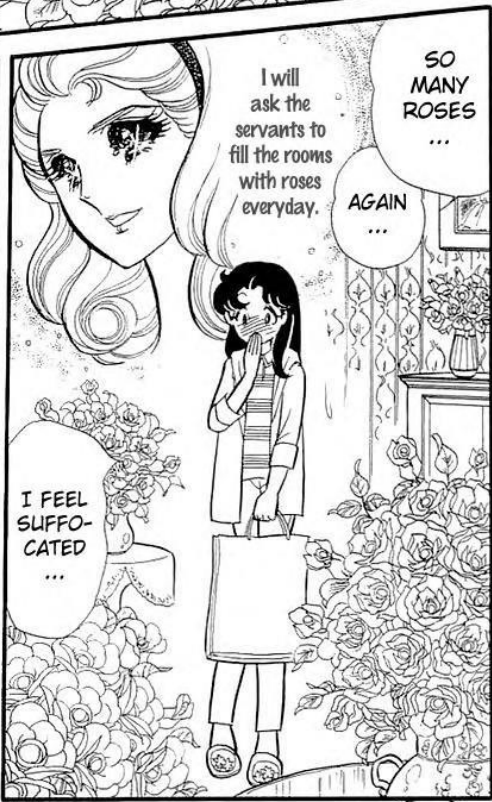


WOW!



I MISS MY SIX-TATAMI APARTMENT ...

I CAN'T GET USED TO THIS...



I will ask the servants to fill the rooms with roses everyday.

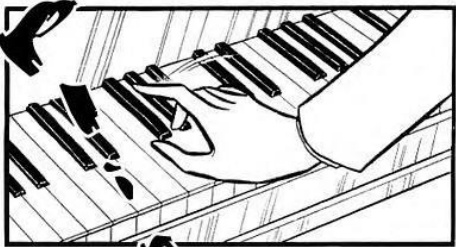
SO MANY ROSES ...

AGAIN ...

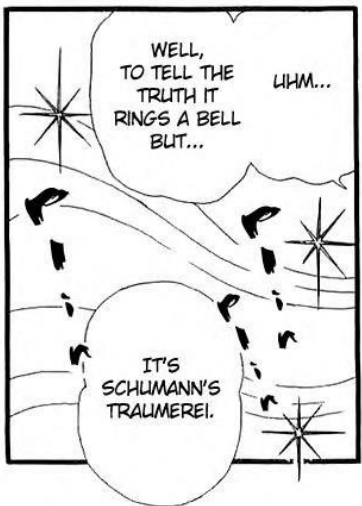
I FEEL SUFFOCATED ...

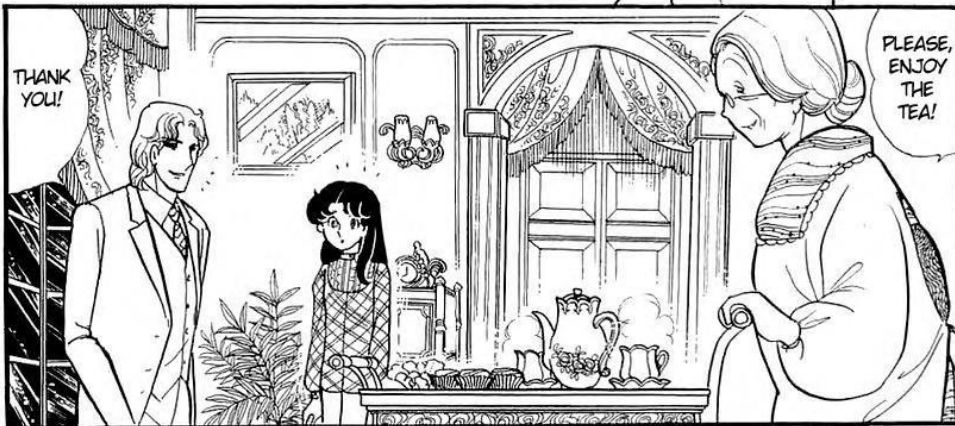


A PIANO ...?



WHO'S THERE?







YOU'RE STILL AS CHIBI, PLAIN, CLUELESS, QUICK-TEMPERED AND IMPERTINENT AS ALWAYS.



BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

YOU SWAPPED LIVES WITH AYUMI...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT YOUR RIVALRY WITH AYUMI. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

W-WHAT?



THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, I'M GETTING USED TO IT.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT BUT I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

WELL, SORRY FOR BEING CHIBI, PLAIN, CLUELESS, IRRITABLE AND IMPERTINENT!



YES.

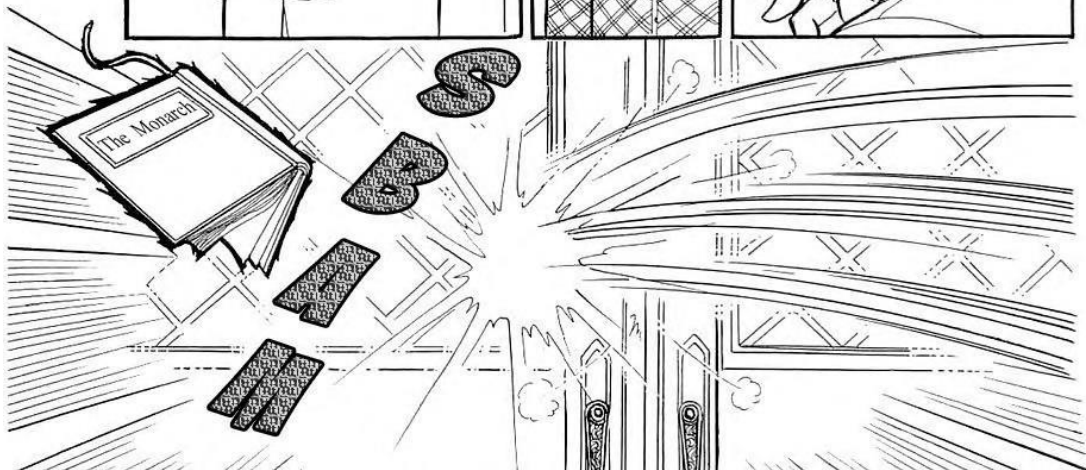
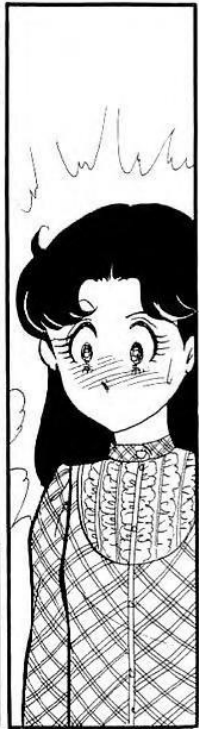
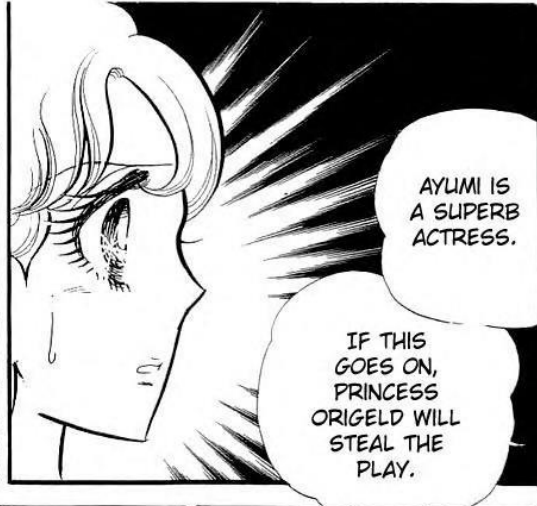
IT'S LIKE A COMEDY!

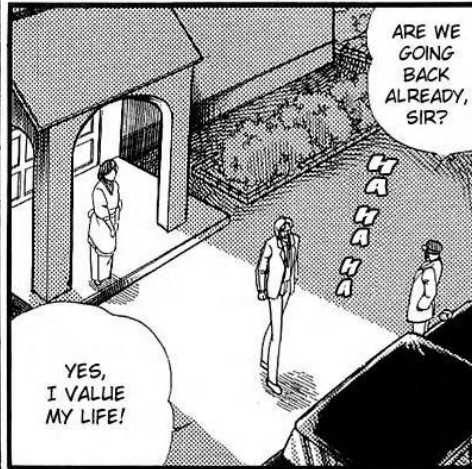
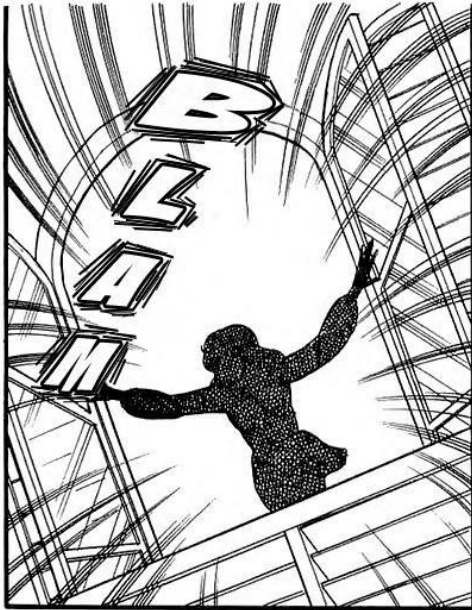


DO I LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO INDULGES HIMSELF IN SUCH NONSENSES TO YOU?

D-DID YOU COME HERE TO PICK ON ME?

YEAH! DEFINITELY!





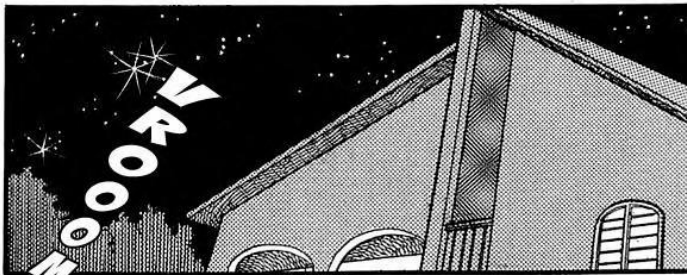
WHEN YOU
SEE ME ON
STAGE YOU'LL
EAT YOUR
WORDS!

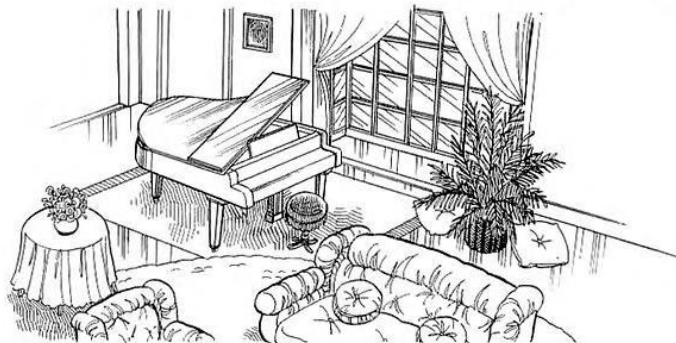


BEAUTIFUL
AND
GRACEFUL
ALDIS

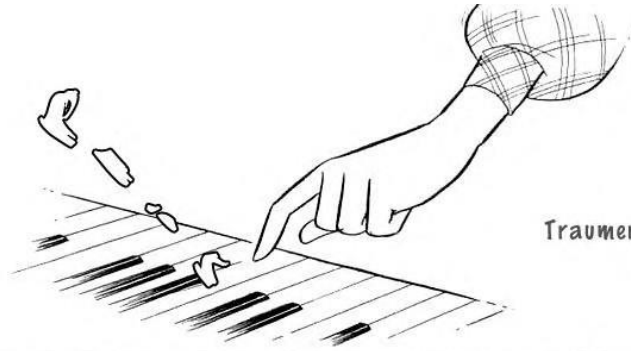
WOULD
NEVER THROW
A BOOK AT
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU HAVE JUST
DONE!

YOU ARE
TAKING THE
WRONG
APPROACH!

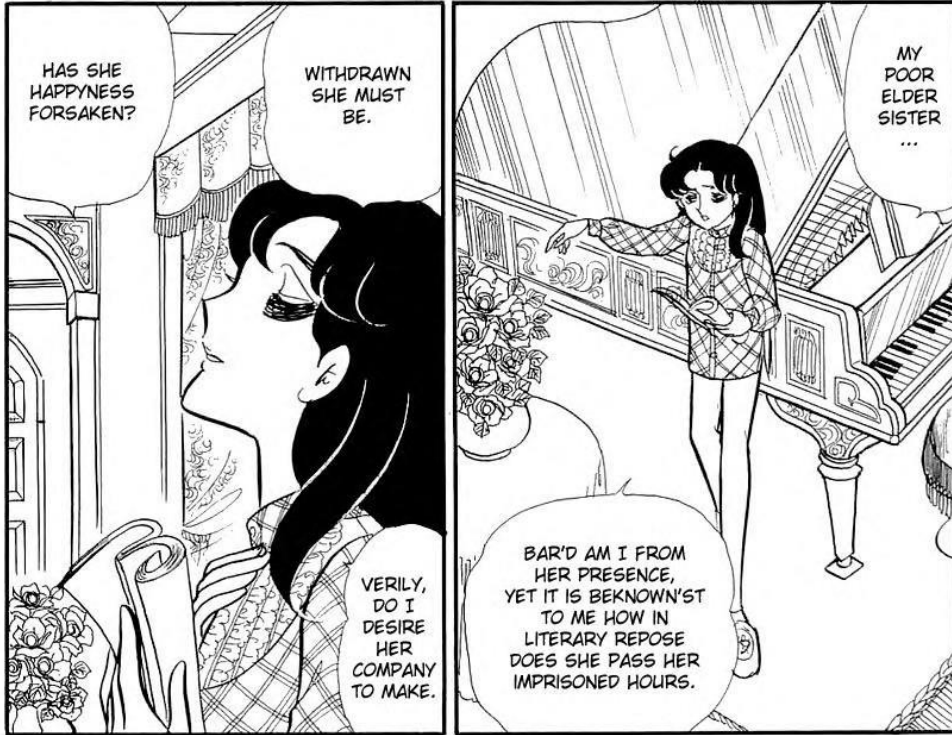




Would a girl like
Aidis like that?



Traumerei...



HAS SHE
HAPPYNESS
FORSAKEN?

WITHDRAWN
SHE MUST
BE.

MY
POOR
ELDER
SISTER
...

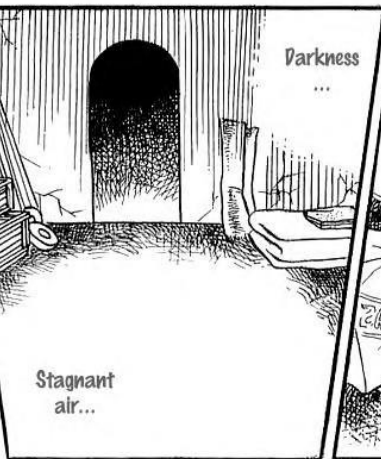
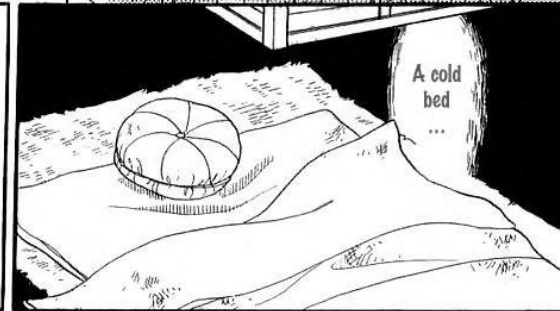
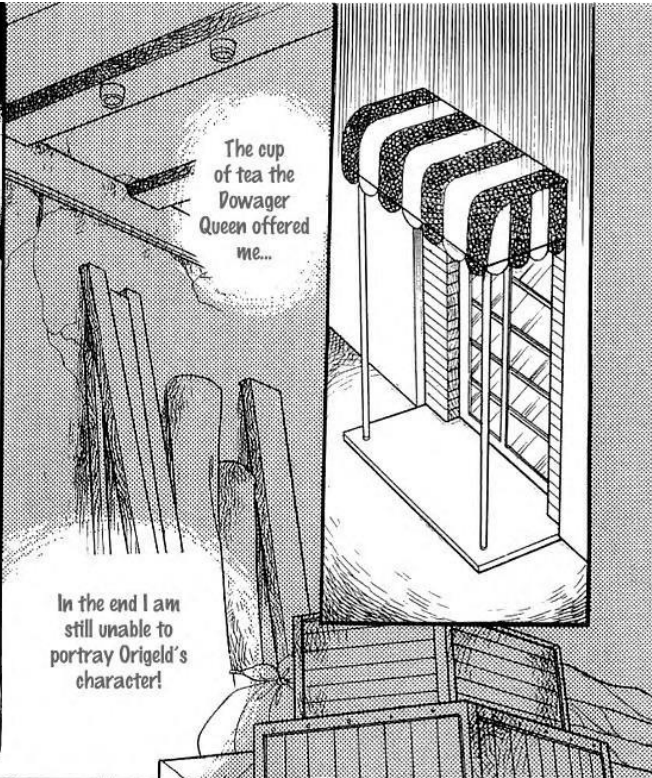
VERILY,
DO I
DESIRE
HER
COMPANY
TO MAKE.

BAR'D AM I FROM
HER PRESENCE,
YET IT IS BEKNOWN'ST
TO ME HOW IN
LITERARY REPOSE
DOES SHE PASS HER
IMPRISONED HOURS.

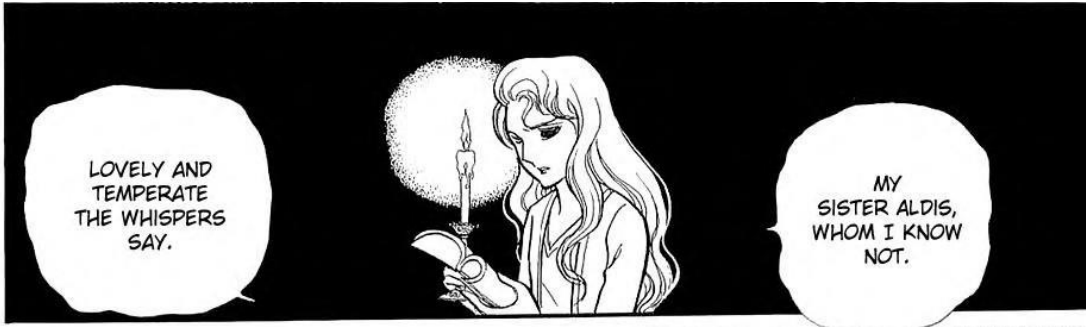


AND BRING
HER SOME
LITTLE JOY.

EVEN AS
I AM.

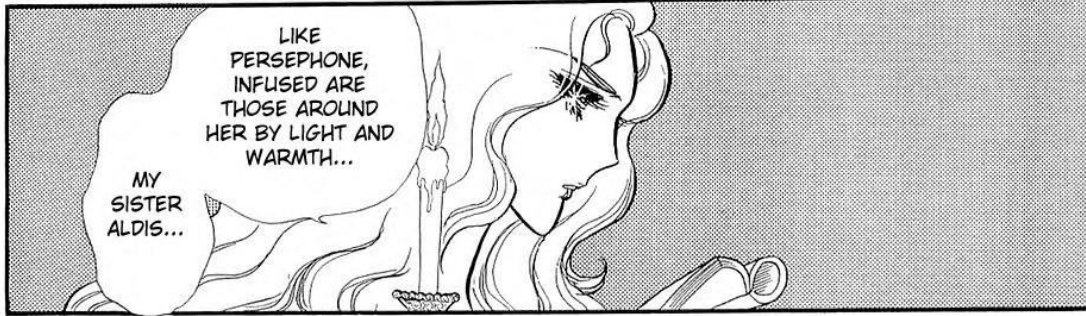






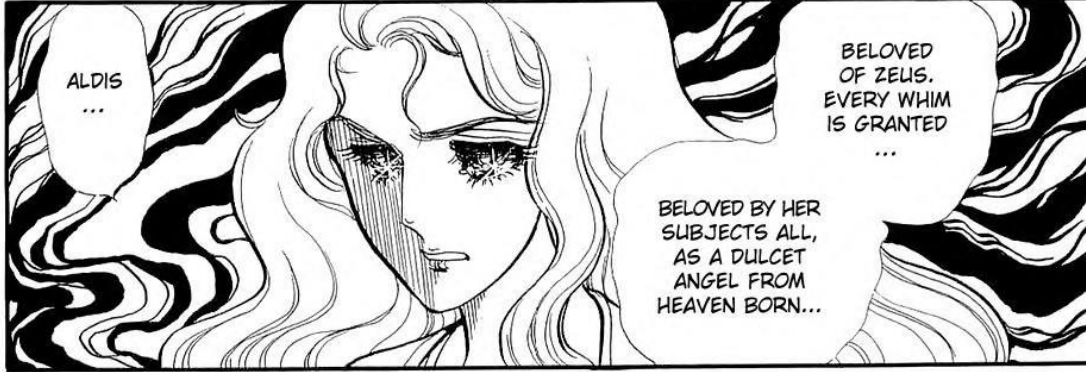
LOVELY AND
TEMPERATE
THE WHISPERS
SAY.

MY
SISTER ALDIS,
WHOM I KNOW
NOT.



LIKE
PERSEPHONE,
INFUSED ARE
THOSE AROUND
HER BY LIGHT AND
WARMTH...

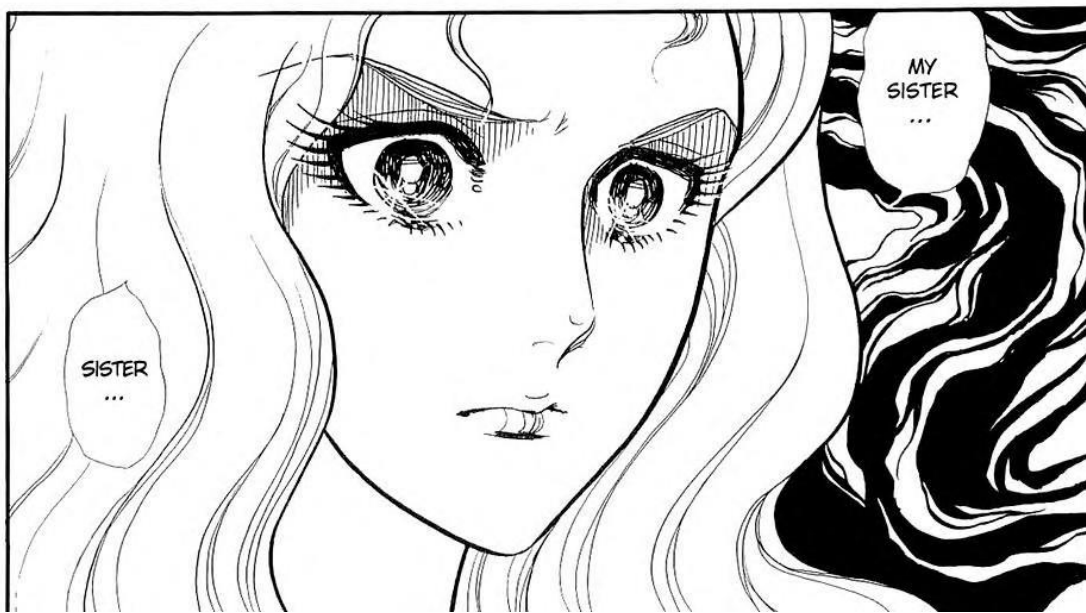
MY
SISTER
ALDIS...



ALDIS
...

BELOVED
OF ZEUS.
EVERY WHIM
IS GRANTED
...

BELOVED BY HER
SUBJECTS ALL,
AS A DULCET
ANGEL FROM
HEAVEN BORN...



SISTER
...

MY
SISTER
...



MY SISTER,
THE SPRING
GODDESS...!

ALDIS!

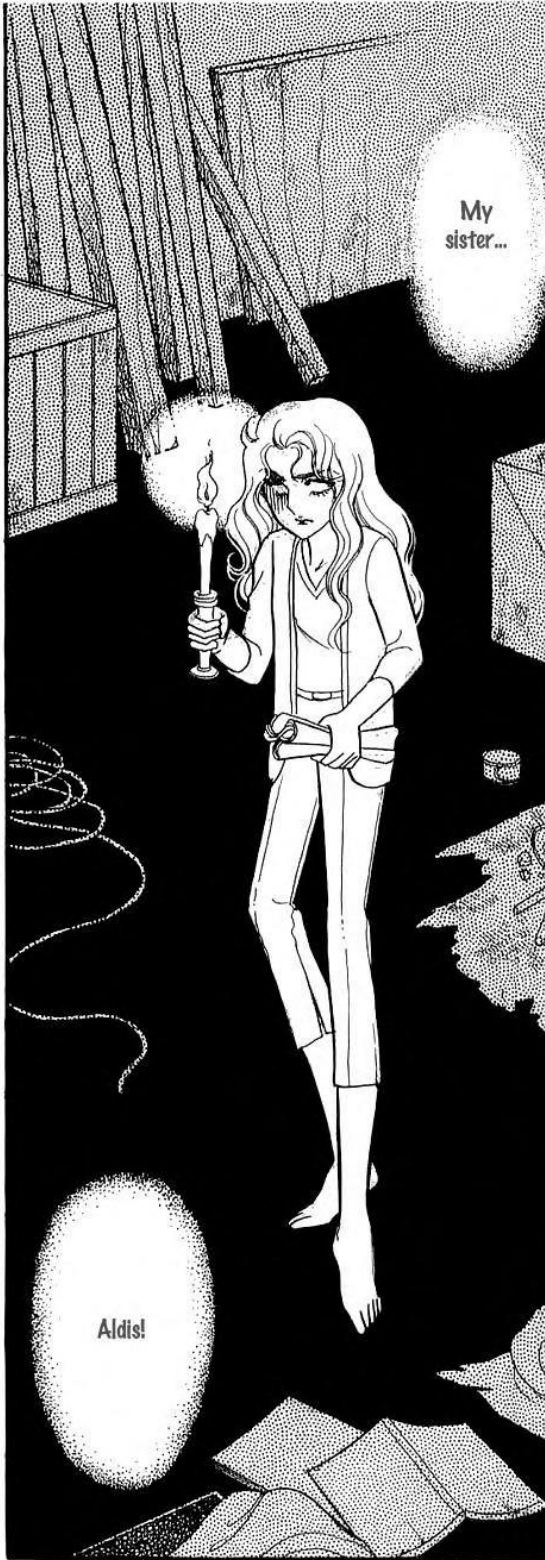
**G
R
A
B**



MY
ONLY
SISTER
...

WHOM I
KNOW NOT...

WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
IS SHE?



My
sister...

Aldis!



My sister
Origeld...

SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER

By Nikkou

Tatami

In Japan, the size of a room is typically measured by the number of tatami mats. Made of woven straw, and traditionally packed with straw (though nowadays sometimes with styrofoam), tatami are made in individual mats of uniform size and shape, bordered by brocade or plain green cloth. A six-mat apartment like Maya's is quite small.



Six-mat room with tatami flooring

Traumerei



Robert Schumann

Traumerei (Reverie) is number 7 from a collection called "Scenes from Childhood" by Robert Schumann, one of the most famous romantic composers of the nineteenth century. It's a very slow piece but nevertheless rather short. It captures the innocence of childhood in a nostalgic way.