



IF YOU NEED ME FOR YOUR REHEARSAL, I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU.

...BUT I AM HAPPY YOU HOLD ME IN SUCH HIGH REGARD.

I UNDERSTAND. AS FOR MYSELF, I DON'T SEE MYSELF AS AN ARTIST...

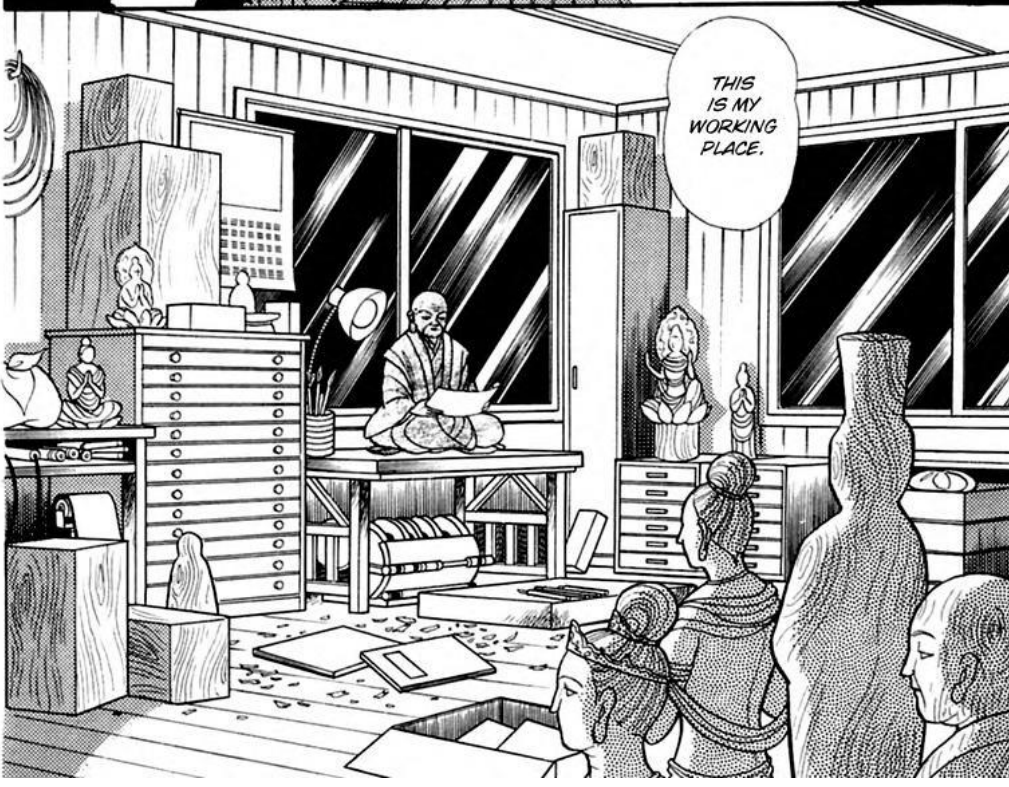
*JAPANESE MATTRESS, USED AS A MEASURING UNIT FOR A ROOM'S SPACE



WHAT?! YOU'LL LET ME STAY HERE?!

DEAR, PREPARE THE FOUR AND A HALF TATAMI* ROOM LATER...

... FOR OUR GUEST. HE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.



THIS IS MY WORKING PLACE.



WOW!

...BUT I USUALLY WORK HERE.

THE BIG STATUES ARE SCULPTED IN THE SHED ...



THIS IS THE UTILITY KNIFE AND THIS IS THE CHISEL.

...BUT EVEN SO I GUESS THAT THERE IS SOME SORT OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN US, RIGHT?

MOST LIKELY I WON'T BE USEFUL TO YOUR CHARACTER BUILDING...

YOU'LL BE MY APPRENTICE, EVEN IF ONLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD... OR BETTER SAID, MY OBSERVER.

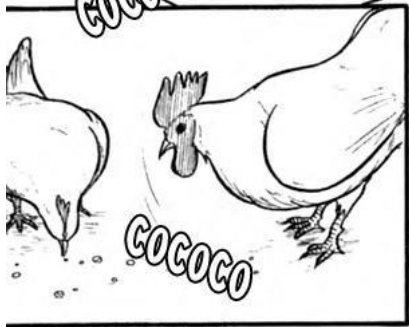
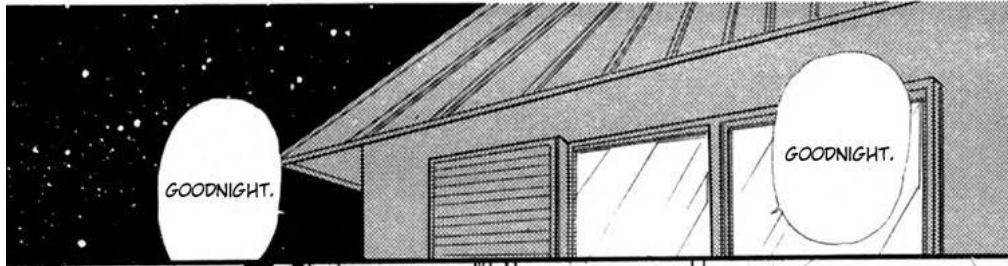
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY SCULPTING YOURSELF.

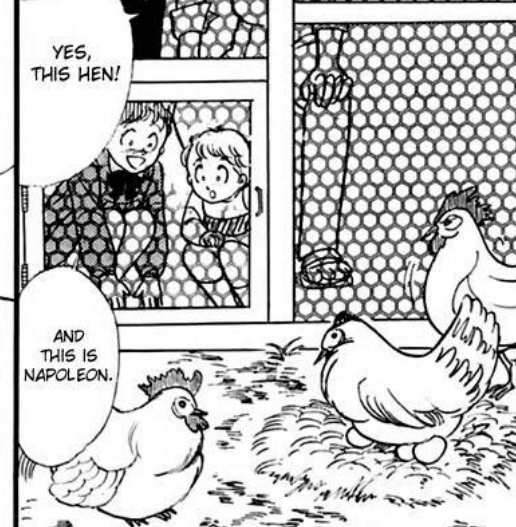
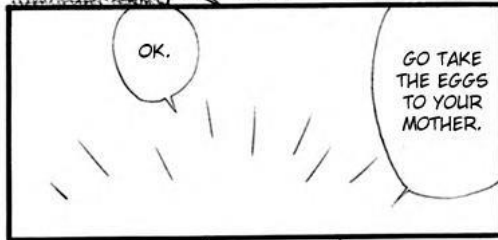
I'LL LOAN THEM TO YOU.

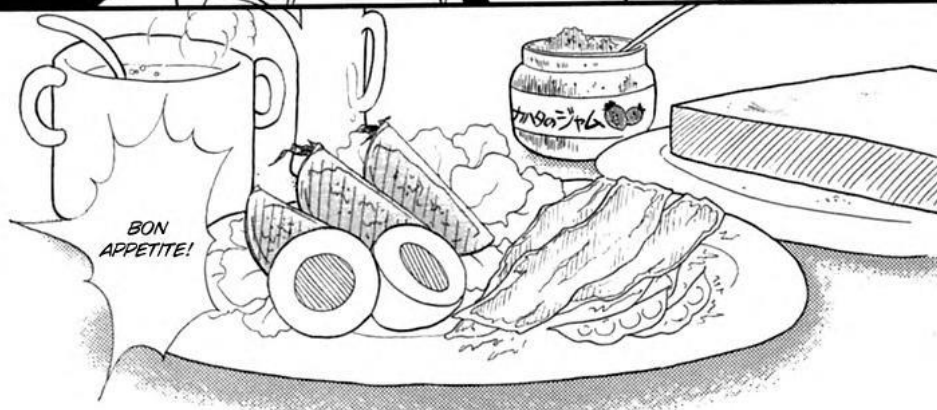
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU MUCH THOUGH!















AH!
THANK
YOU.

I'M GOING
INSIDE TO
PREPARE THE
FOOD FOR
LUNCH.



Who knows what
she is doing at the
moment in the
country of the
plum trees?

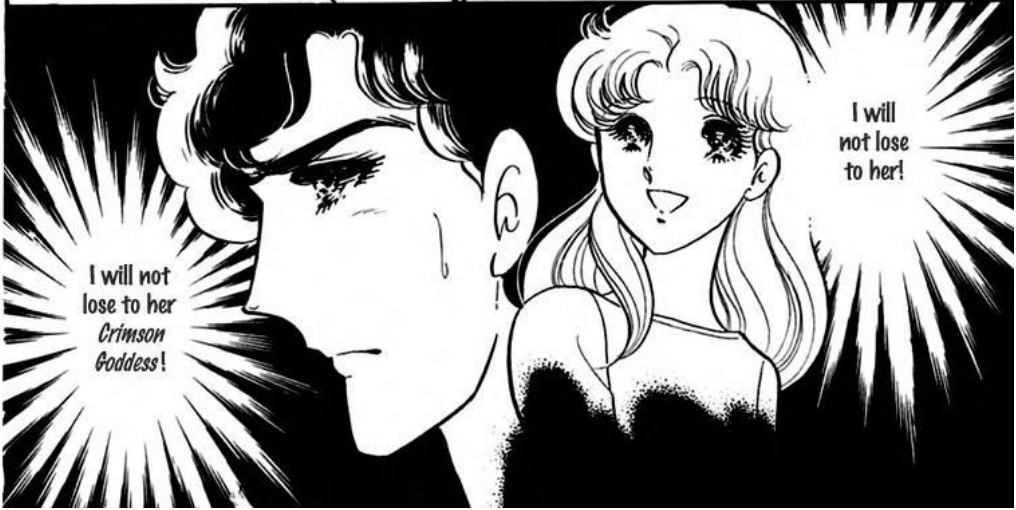
Maya-chan...
she likes the
swing too...
by the way...



More
Yeah

smirk

smirk



I will not
lose to her
*Crimson
Goddess!*

I will
not lose
to her!



RINSE YOUR HAIR WELL, MASAHIKO!

OK.

UHH! WHAT A REFRESHING BATH.

WELCOME BACK!

WELCOME BACK, FATHER!

Where is the expression and the look of a sculptor?

It really is a family like any other...is this how a sculptor life should be?

He seems through in and throughout a normal person...

YOU KNOW WHAT FATHER, TODAY I...



YOUR BATH IS READY, DEAR!

WHAT DO WE HAVE FOR DINNER, MOTHER?

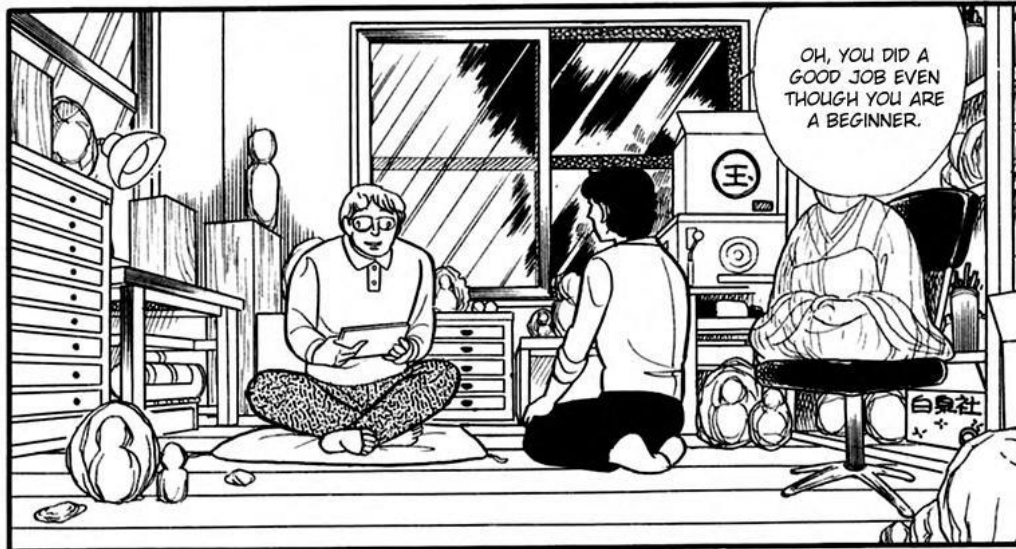


And it's gone off field!

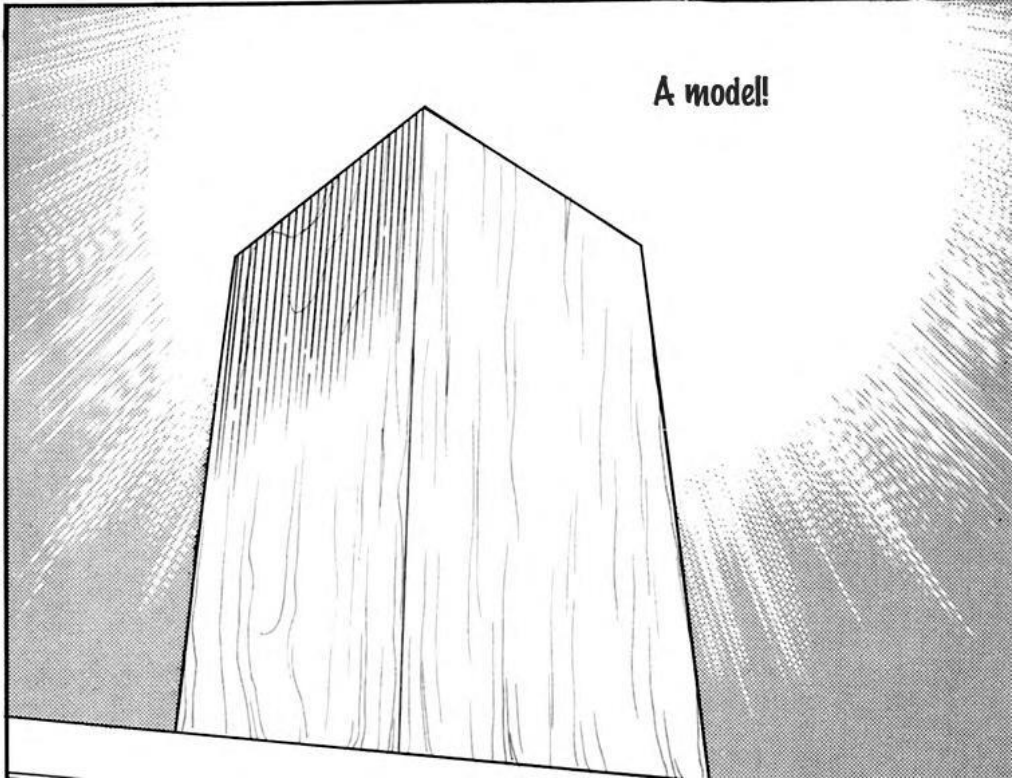
How could he make a statue like that one?

OOH!

FRIED LOBSTERS AND BAKED VEGETABLES!









When will he sculpt the statue?

Kaikai-sensei went out to the city hall again...

I'M LEAVING.

wroomm



when he comes back home he takes a bath, eats dinner...

looks a bit at what's on tv, plays with the kids...

goes out to the city hall...

eats breakfast...



Let the children to tend to the chickens...

He gets up every morning at six and works in the vegetable patch in his garden.

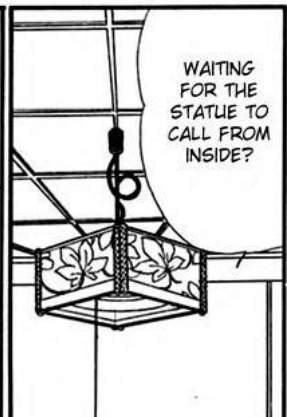
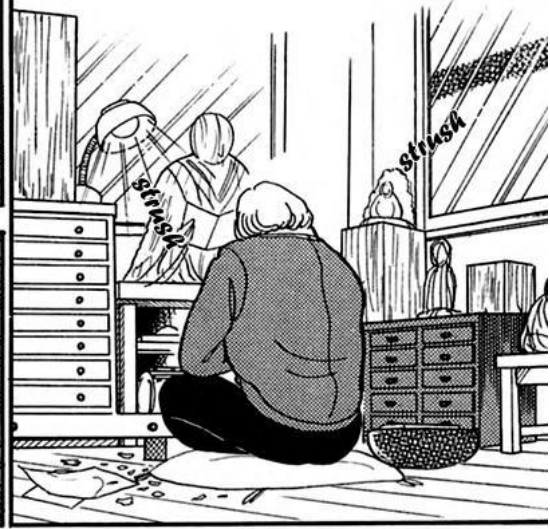


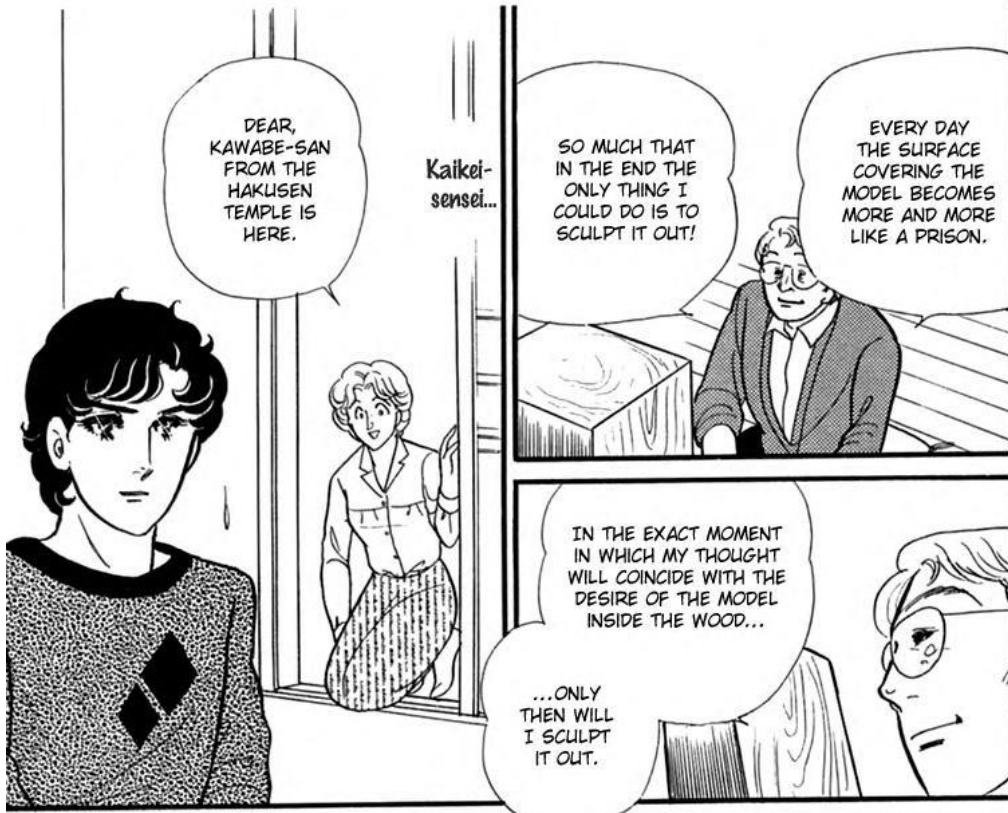
I LOVE GROWING PLANTS!
I WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE NATURE.



While he works to keep his touch he contemplates the wood piece of his next sculpture...

Before going to sleep he goes to work for a little while in the study...





DEAR, KAWABE-SAN FROM THE HAKUSEN TEMPLE IS HERE.

Kaikai-sensei...

SO MUCH THAT IN THE END THE ONLY THING I COULD DO IS TO SCULPT IT OUT!

EVERY DAY THE SURFACE COVERING THE MODEL BECOMES MORE AND MORE LIKE A PRISON.

IN THE EXACT MOMENT IN WHICH MY THOUGHT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE DESIRE OF THE MODEL INSIDE THE WOOD...

...ONLY THEN WILL I SCULPT IT OUT.



TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: KAIKEI SAN'S BELIEF ABOUT SCULPTING RESEMBLES THAT OF MICHELANGELO WHO CLAIMED THAT SCULPTING IS JUST SETTING FREE THE FORM WHICH WAS IMPRISONED IN STONE.

SO KAIKEI-SAN!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THE SHAPE OF THE STATUE?

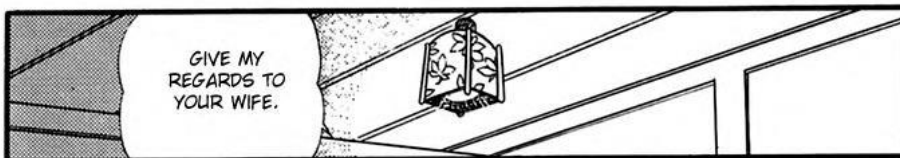
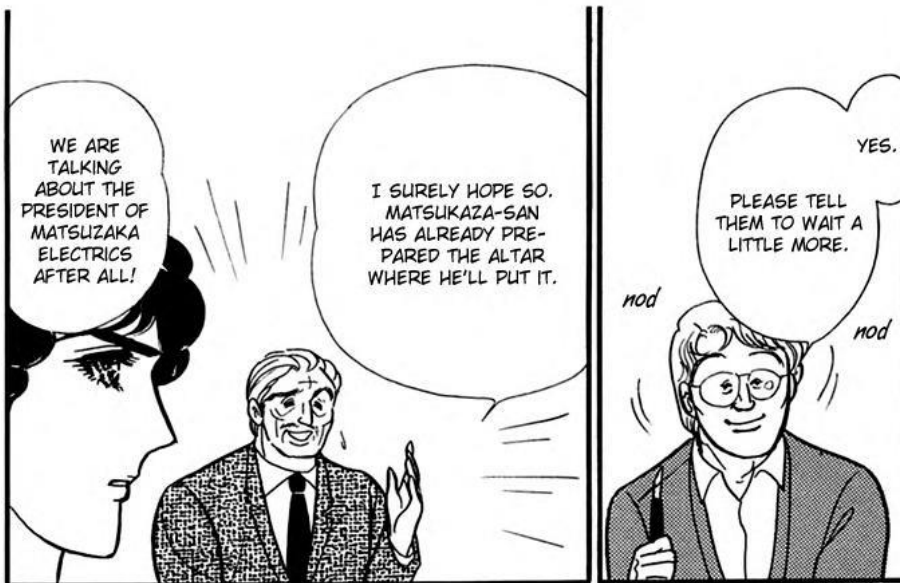


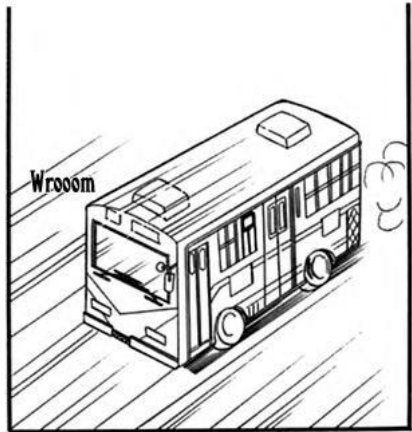
BOTH OF THEM WERE VERY INSISTING IN THEIR REQUEST...
...AND ONE OF KANNON FOR MATSUZAKA-SAN.

YOU WERE COMMISSIONED A STATUE OF YAKUSHI FOR THE HOYO TEMPLE...

I HOPE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SCULPT IT SOON.

GETTING UP



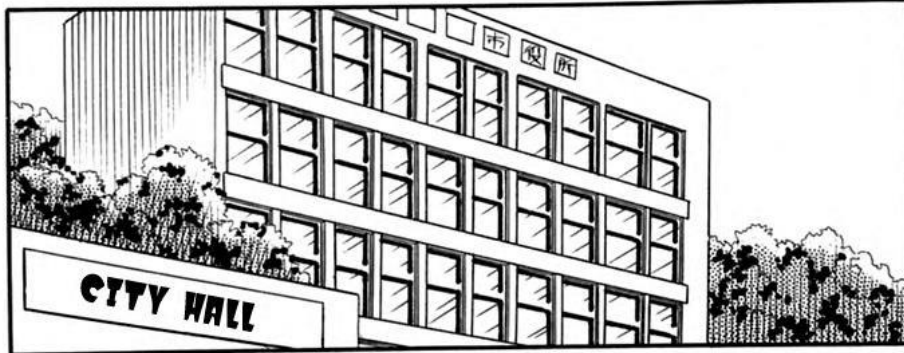


Wroom



SAKURA-KOJI-SAN, I'M SORRY ...
...BUT COULD YOU GO TO THE CITY HALL AND TAKE THIS TO MY HUSBAND? HE FORGOT IT WHEN HE LEFT.

SURE.



CITY HALL



Registration Office

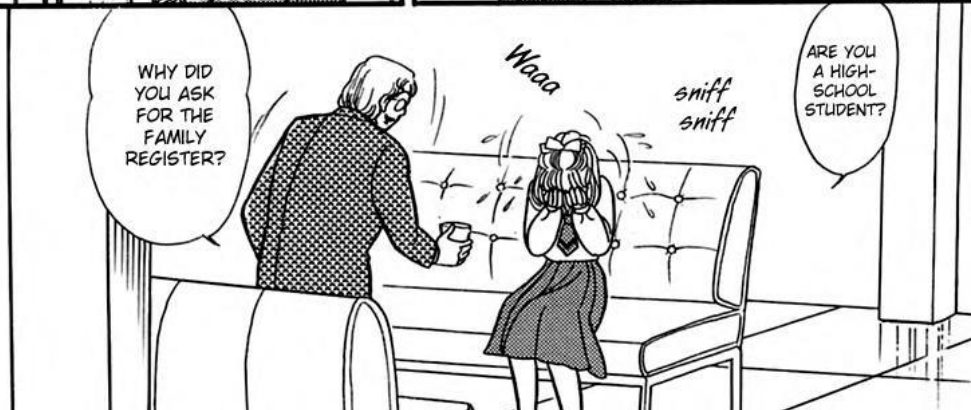
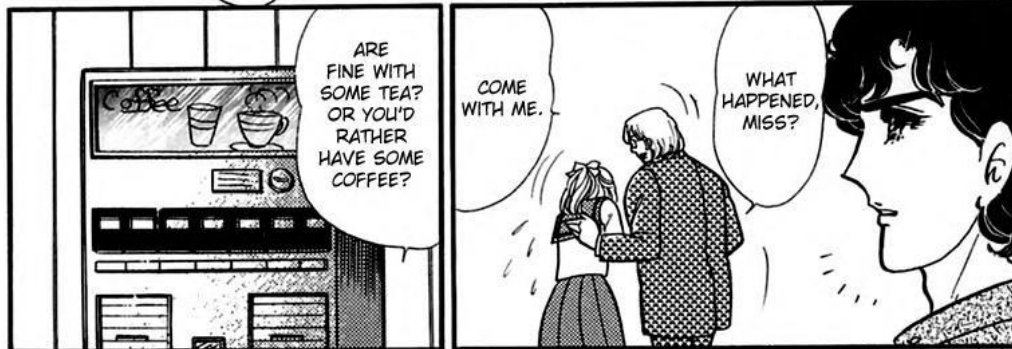
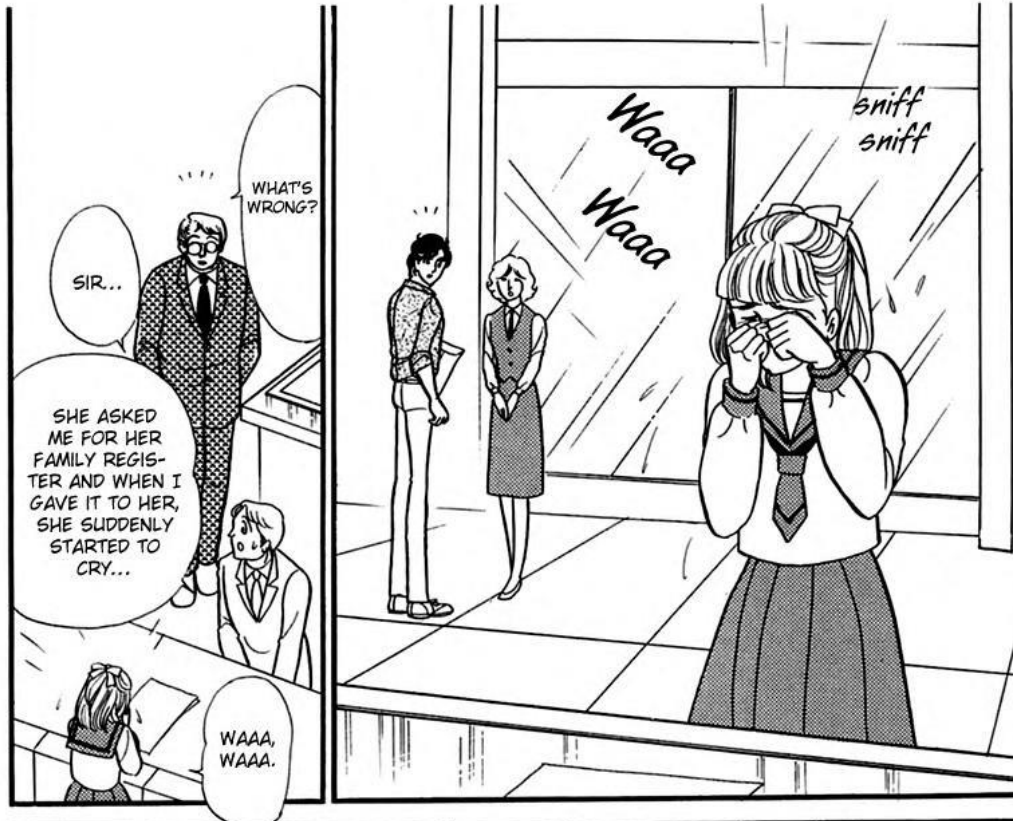


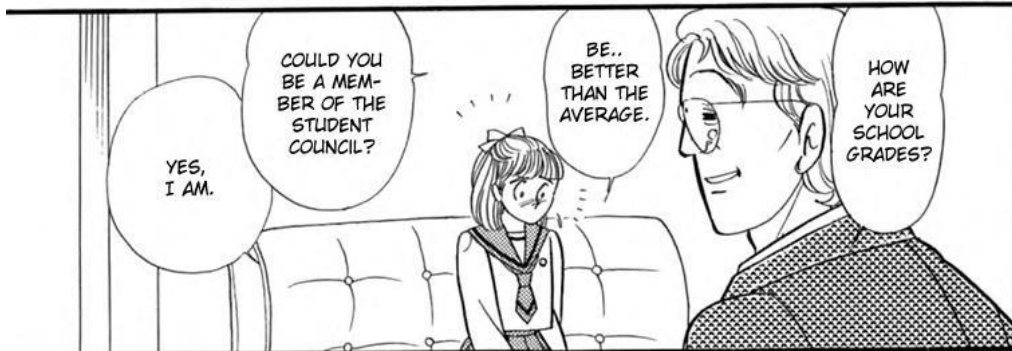
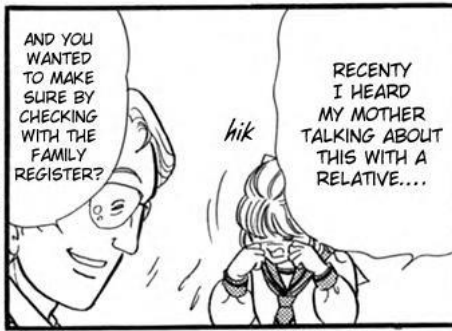
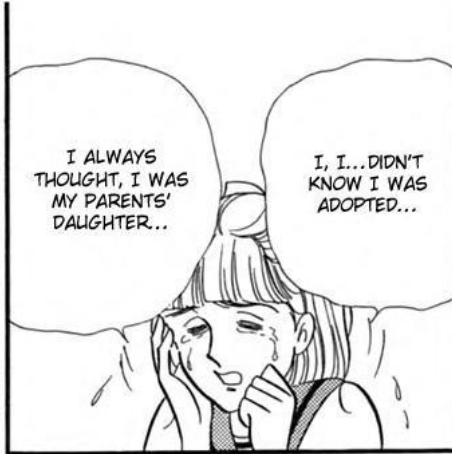
Waaaa

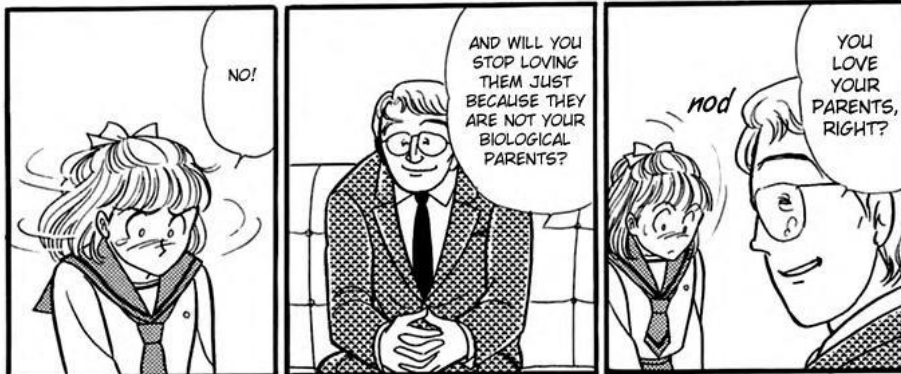
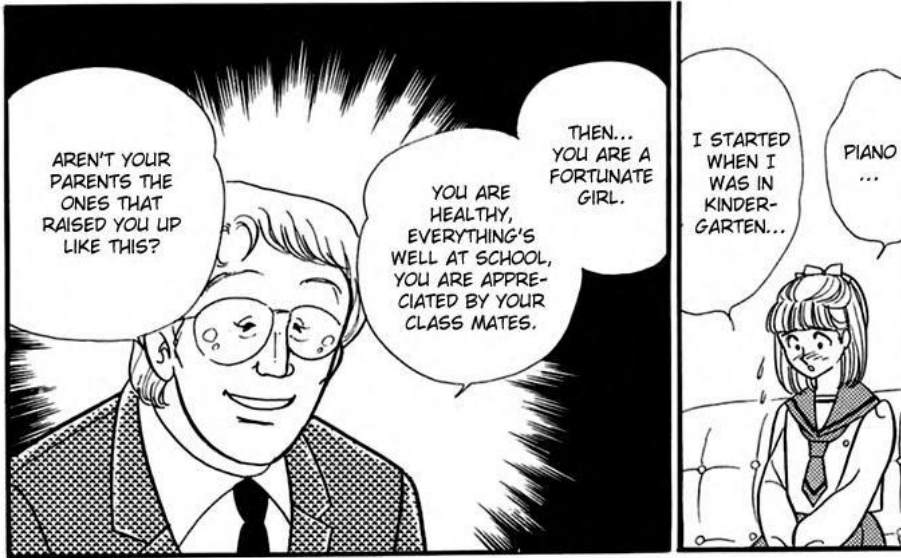


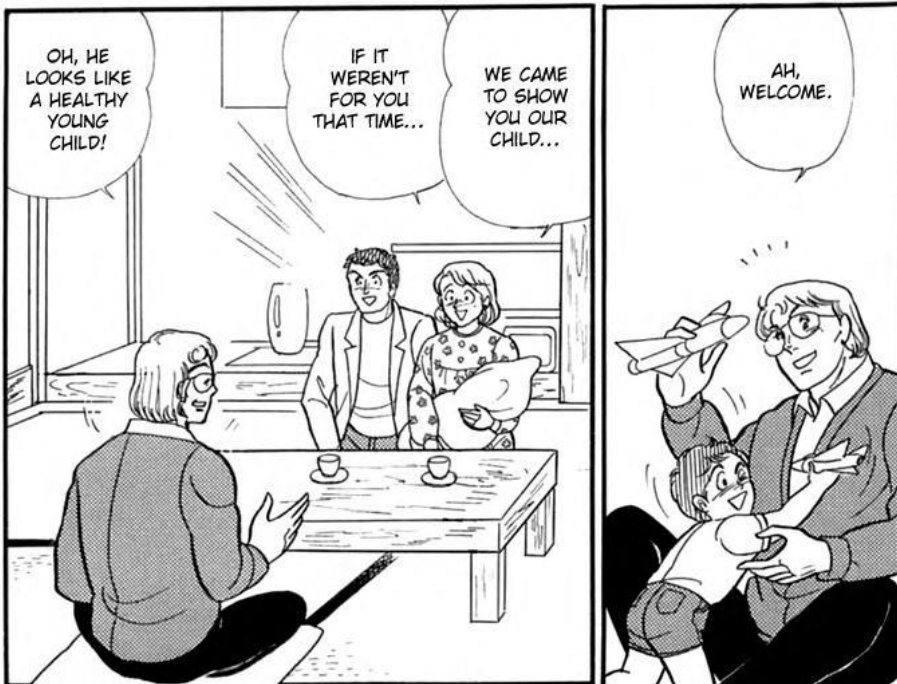
YES. A MOMENT PLEASE.

EHM...I HAVE SOMETHING FOR CHIEF KAIKEI... THAT IS YAMAMOTO-SAN.











AT THAT MOMENT YOU REALLY HELPED US OUT...

IF YOU DIDN'T STOP US FROM DIVORCING, THIS BABY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BORN!
NOW WE ARE REALLY HAPPY...



AND NOW THIS CHILD HAS BEEN BORN.

SOON WE'LL BE GOING TO HIS OFFICE FOR THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.



THANKS TO HIS ADVICE WE DECIDED TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY...



AFTER SIX MONTHS OF MARRIAGE WE HAD A HUGE ARGUMENT AND WE WENT TO THE CITY HALL TO DIVORCE BUT WE WERE STOPPED BY THE CHIEF...

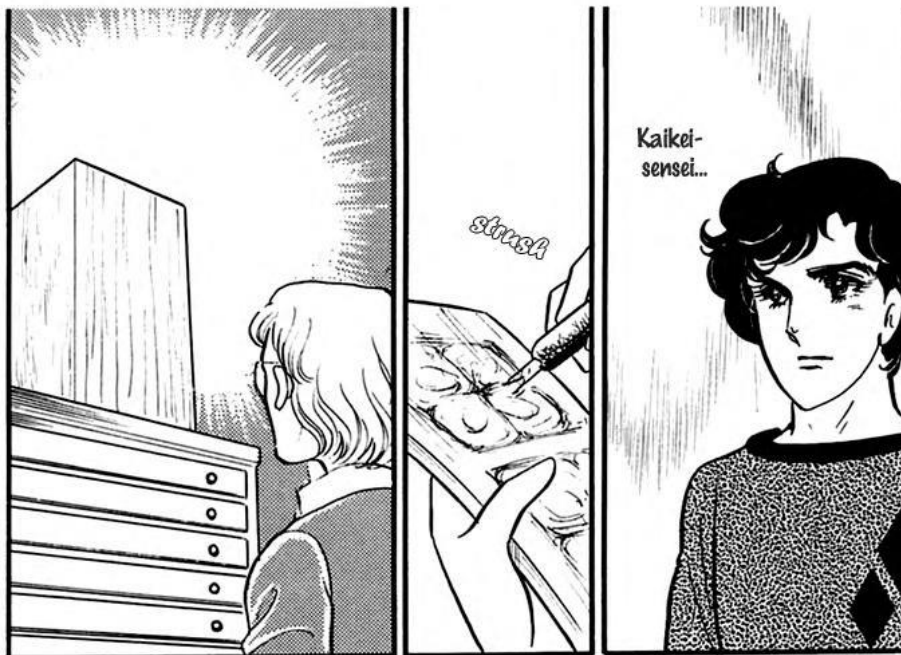
DIVORCING?

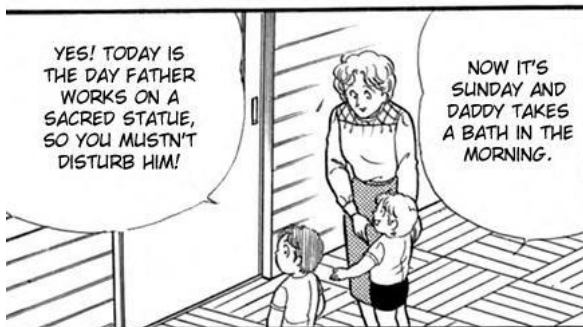
YEAH, WE MET YAMAMOTO-SAN WHEN WE WENT TO DISSOLVE THE MARRIAGE...



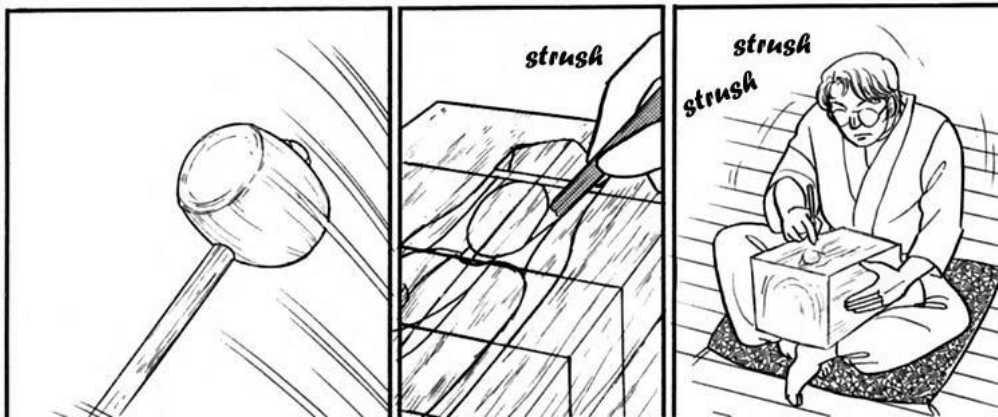
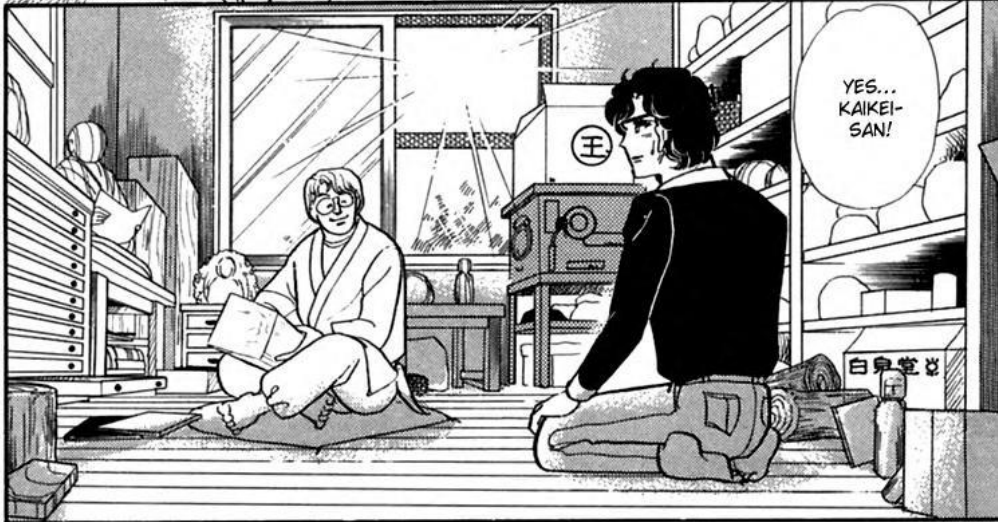
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT WE DIDN'T RUSH INTO A BAD DECISION AT THAT TIME!
ALL CREDITS GOES TO YOU, YAMAMOTO-SAN.

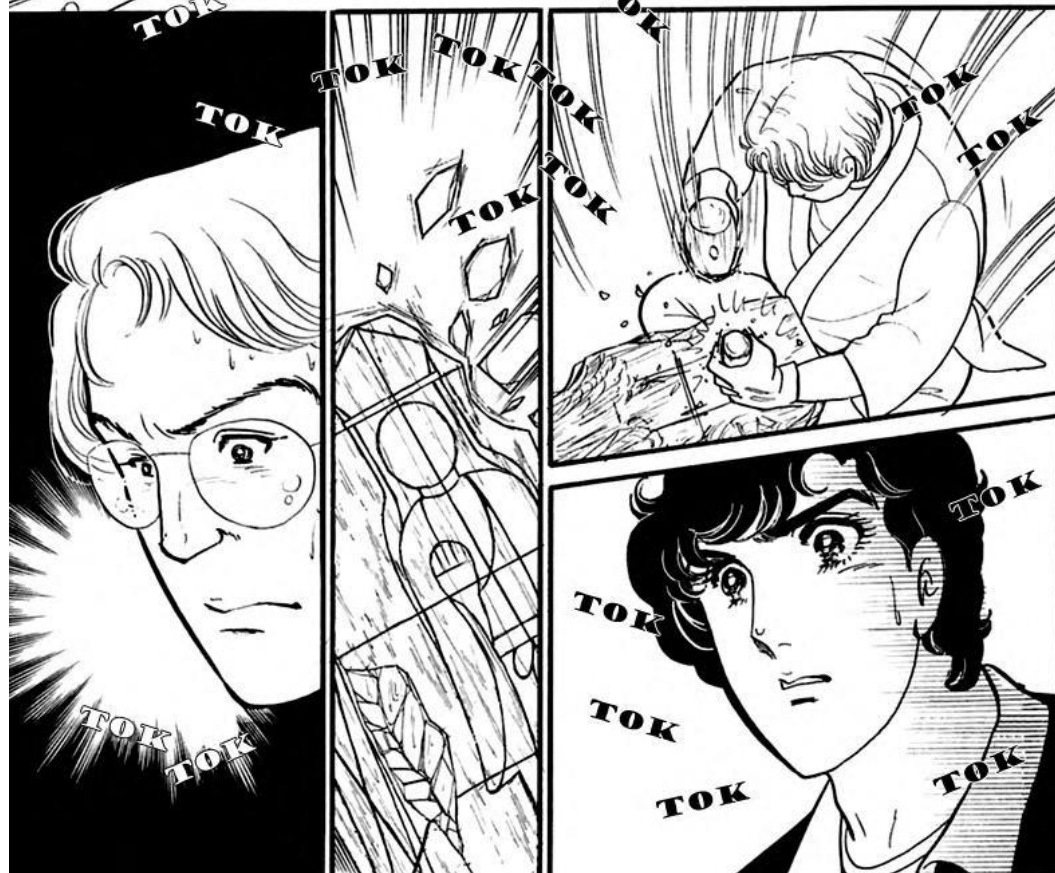


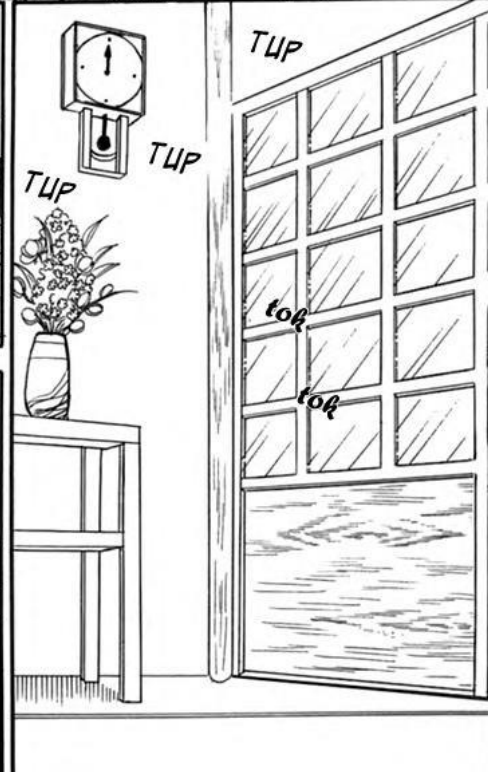














No one would dare speak a word unless absolutely necessary.

What a focused look! Sensei makes the atmosphere around him feel so tense!



strush

strush



Is this the look of a sacred sculptor?!



Kaikai-sensei!



The firm movement of the hand!



The expression!



The gaze!



This
is it!

Isshin's
expression...

Isshin's
gaze...

Isshin's
look!