

リカチ

The Ice Queen  
Rikachi Presents

氷の女王

1

Kodansha Comics  
BETSUFURE

## Crimson Flower Translations

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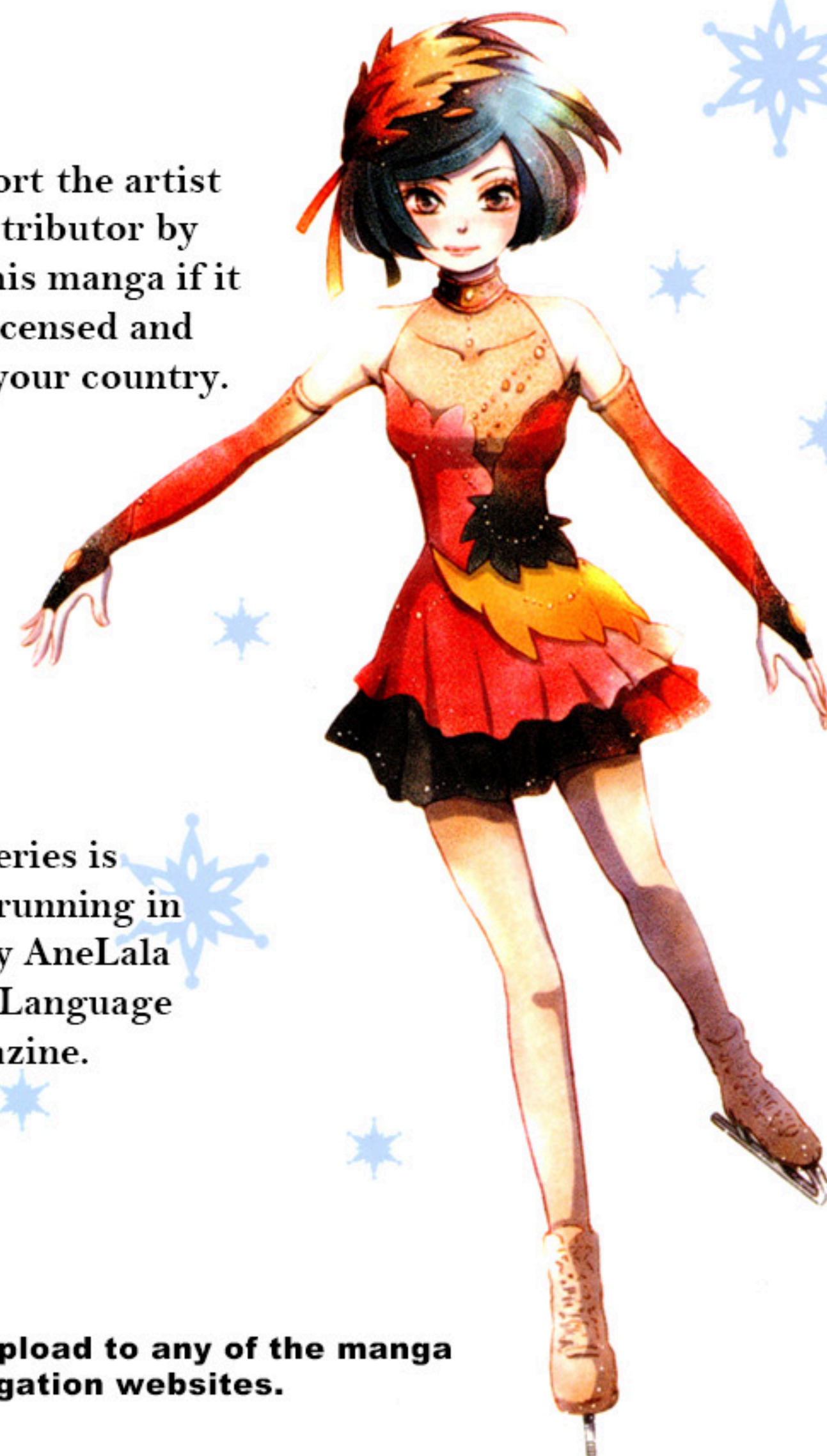
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STEP 2

Nika's Dream

I LIKE  
YOU.

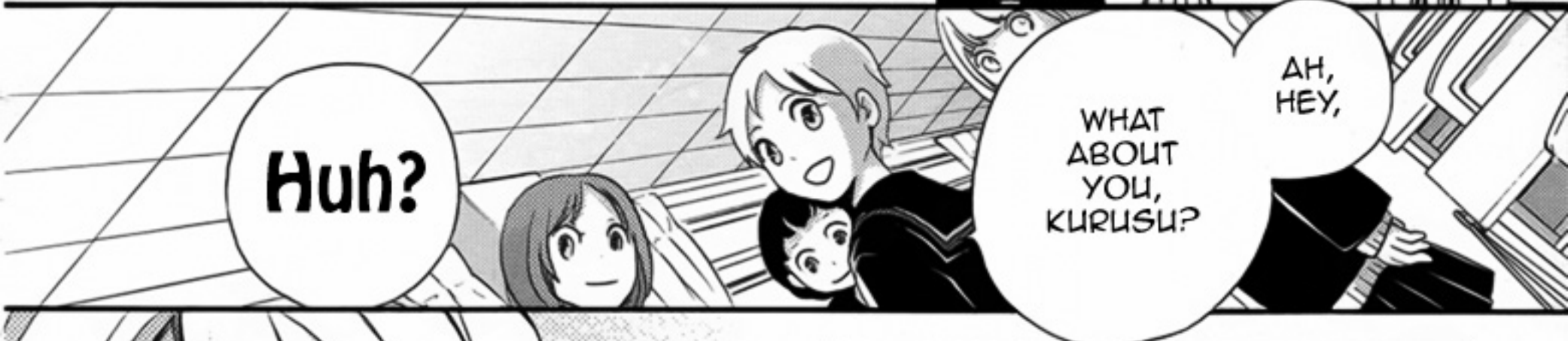
BLUSHING, AND  
WITH WORDS  
DRIBBLING FROM  
MY MOUTH, I  
THOUGHT MY  
CONFESSION  
WENT WELL, BUT

FOR THE FIRST  
TIME SINCE MY  
FIRST LOVE IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, I  
CONFESSED TO  
A PERSON I  
LIKE.

LOVE ALL  
THAT  
WELL.

AS OF  
NOW, I  
DON'T  
REALLY  
UNDER-  
STAND





EVEN THOUGH HE FRANKLY AND CLEARLY REJECTED ME, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S UNAFFECTED.



Um,  
well,  
I...





I don't  
want to be  
myself. I  
want to  
become a  
different  
self.

STEP 2

Nika's Dream





**"Koori no Joou" ("The Ice Queen") Volumes 1 & 2 are available for purchase in Japanese. Here are the ISBNs to search online bookstores:**

**Volume 1: 978-4063418965**

**Volume 2: 978-4063418965**

**If you enjoy this series, please ask your country's manga publisher to licence "Koori no Joou". If you are in the US, please make the request to Kodansha USA.**





BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK OF REJECTION, I DIDN'T HEAR A WORD HE SAID.

HE TALKED ABOUT A BUNCH OF THINGS, BUT

MORE IMPORTANTLY—

AFTER I CON-FESSED...

Uhh



DOESN'T NANA O FEEL AWKWARD TALKING TO A GIRL HE REJECTED?!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID, BUT FOR NOW I'LL JUST AGREE.

UH... SURE.

IS IT OKAY?

SO,



THIS IS WHAT'S CALLED BEING "FRIEND-ZONED".

A SKATING FRIEND...

IT HURTS.



AH, MAYBE

THEN

TODAY, LET'S LEAVE TOGETHER.





She's so pretty!

Uh,  
Uh...

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.  
I'M AKIRA'S  
OLDER  
SISTER  
KAGURA  
NANAO.

It's nice to  
meet y-you!

BEEN  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

SO YOU'RE  
THE GIRL THAT  
AKIRA'S BEEN  
TALKING  
ABOUT.

SKATE  
HOWEVER  
YOU LIKE.

Skat-  
ing?

Um..!

LET'S SEE!  
HOW ABOUT  
YOU TRY  
SKATING?!

I  
RESERVED  
THE RINK.

Huh?





SKATE  
HOWEVER  
YOU LIKE!



Uhh



WHY AM I  
HERE IN  
THE FIRST  
PLACE?

IS THIS  
SOME KIND  
OF TEST?

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO. I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT TO DO.

EVEN THOUGH I  
WAS TOLD TO  
SKATE HOWEVER  
I LIKE, I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT TO  
DO.









I TOLD  
YOU SO.

EVEN THOUGH  
SHE'S A BE-  
GINNER, SHE'S  
INTERESTING.







HUH?!  
WHAT?! WHY  
THE SCARY  
FACE?!!

I'M...  
TIRED!

**DOOM!**



THAT'S NOT  
WOMEN'S  
FIGURE  
SKATING!

MOST IMPOR-  
TANTLY, THAT  
SKATING IS  
TOO MUCH  
LIKE AKIRA'S!

YOU'RE  
STAGGER-  
ING! YOU  
CAN'T LIFT  
YOUR  
LEGS  
ANYMORE!

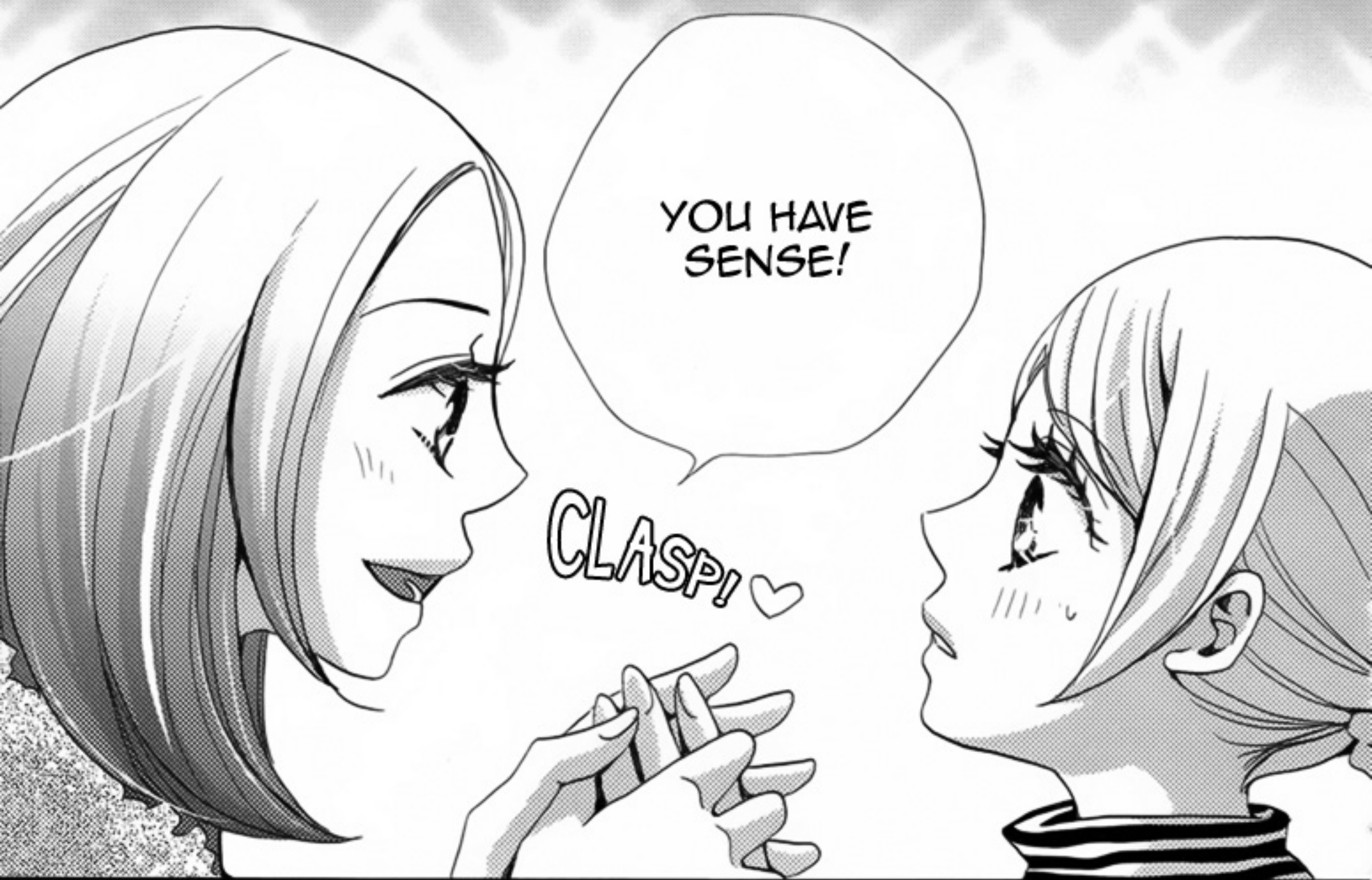
YOU HAVE  
NOWHERE  
NEAR  
ENOUGH  
STAMINA!

**BUT**

I'm  
sorry!!

Wah!  
Wah!  
Wah!





SHE'S  
GIVING ME  
TONS OF  
PRAISE!!

SO--

IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
YOU'RE A  
PRODIGY!

MEANS YOUR  
LATENT  
PHYSICAL  
ABILITY IS  
HIGH.

REPRODUC-  
ING WHAT  
YOU SAW

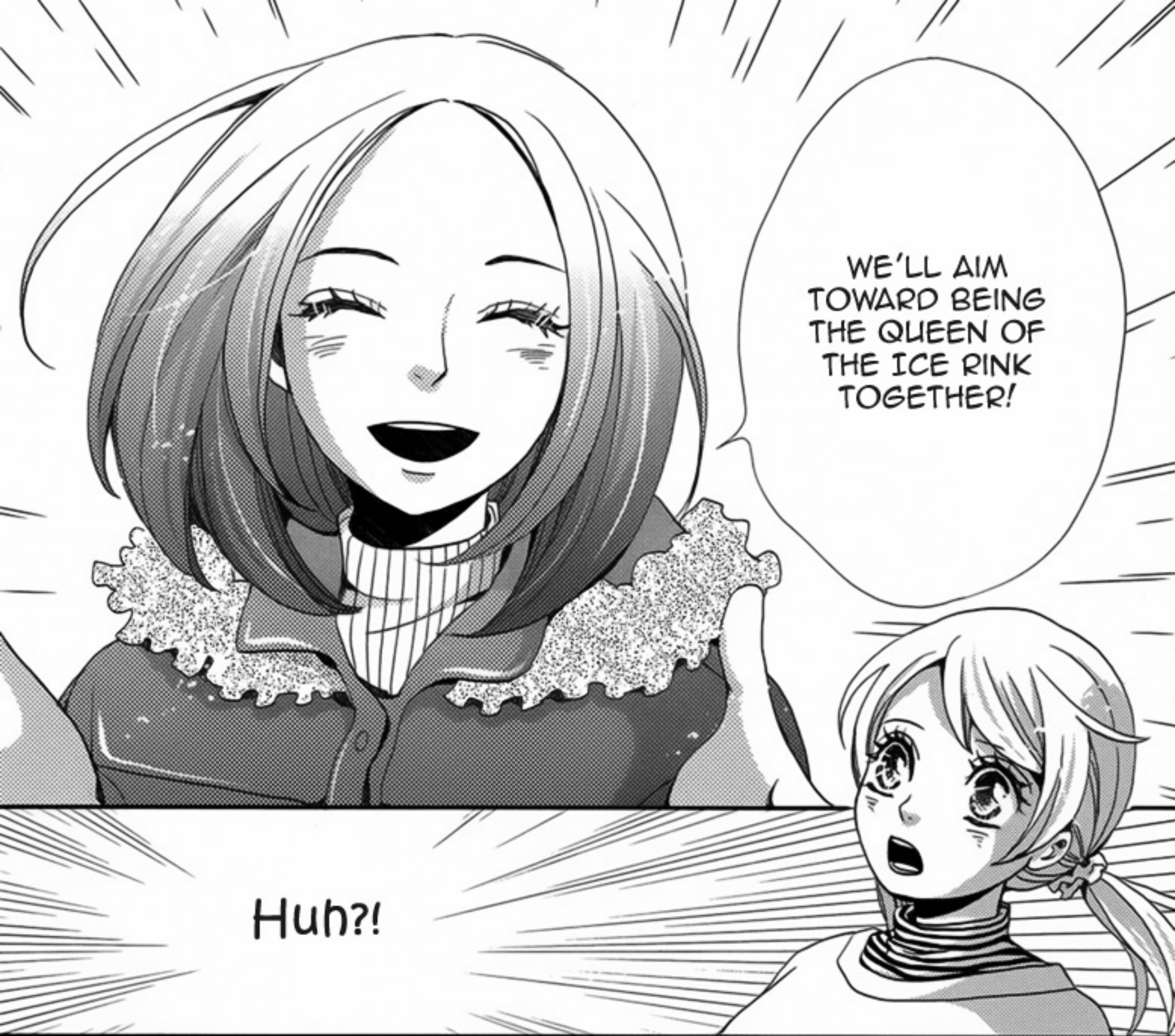
YOU DEFINITELY  
HAVE GOOD  
BALANCE

AND A  
GOOD  
MEMORY.

A BEGINNER WHO  
CAN SKATE LIKE  
AN EXPERIENCED  
SKATER; THAT'S  
AMAZING!







WE'LL AIM  
TOWARD BEING  
THE QUEEN OF  
THE ICE RINK  
TOGETHER!

Huh?!



WOW!  
I'D LIKE  
TO MEET  
HER!

A GIRL  
CONFERSED  
TO ME.

HE  
TALKED  
ABOUT  
ME?

WAS IT  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?

WHEN I TOLD  
KAGURA  
ABOUT YOU,  
SHE SAID  
SHE WANTED  
TO MEET  
YOU...

I'M SORRY  
ABOUT ALL  
THE PUSHI-  
NESS.



I'M GOING  
TO BECOME  
A COACH.

WHEN SHE  
FINALLY  
EMERGED...

SHE WAS IN  
AN ACCIDENT  
A YEAR  
BEFORE  
LAST...

KAGURA  
INJURED HER  
RIGHT KNEE AND  
CAN'T COMPETE  
ANYMORE...

SHE STILL  
WON MEDALS  
AFTER, BUT—

SEEING THE  
PEOPLE  
THAT I  
COACH WIN

IS HOW I'LL  
CONTINUE MY  
DREAM.

SHE DIDN'T  
LEAVE HER  
ROOM FOR A  
WHILE.

OH?!

AT ANY  
RATE, A  
SKILLED  
COACH IS  
NECESSARY.

I DON'T THINK  
SHE WAS  
SAYING MEAN  
THINGS TO  
YOU.

THE COST OF  
A COACH IS  
NOT TRIVIAL.

—  
IS WHAT  
SHE  
SAID...









BUT I'M  
NOT FINE  
AT ALL!!!

KURUSHI,  
YOUR FACE  
LOOKS  
PALE.

FIRST YOU HAVE  
TO INCREASE  
YOUR STAMINA!

This training  
regimen is too  
rigorous!!!

Oh,

I'm  
fine.

THAT'S  
WHAT SHE  
SAID, BUT

YOU'LL GET  
USED TO IT IN  
3 MONTHS.

like this  
for 3  
months  
?!

can I  
survive



**IT'S  
HUGE!!!**

HERE'S  
MY  
HOUSE.

BUT..



WOW!

**THERE  
ARE WAY  
TOO  
MANY  
PERKS!!!**

FOR NOW,  
TAKE HER  
TO YOUR  
ROOM,  
AKIRA.

SHE'S A  
CLASS-  
MATE AND  
KAGURA'S  
CLIENT.

OH,

DID YOU  
BRING A  
FRIEND?

IF YOU'RE  
HERE FOR  
KAGURA, SHE  
JUST LEFT TO  
GO TO THE  
CONVENIENCE  
STORE.

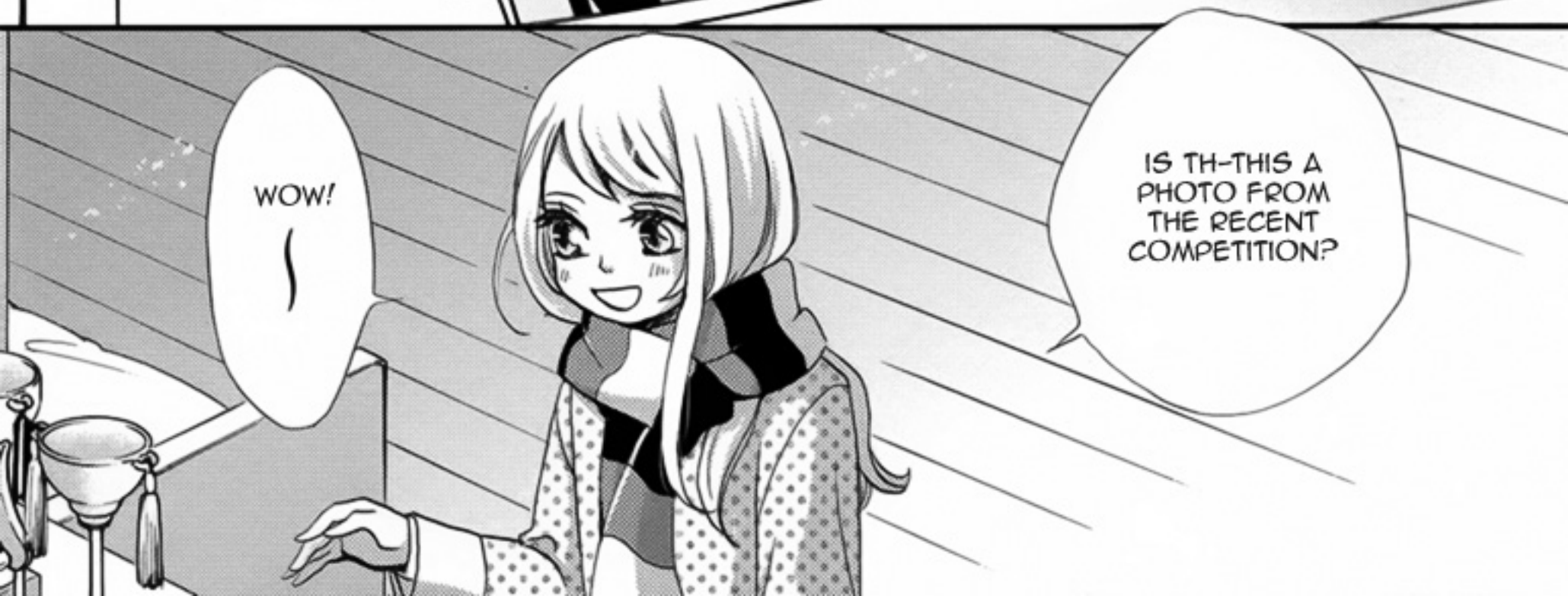
SHE'LL BE  
BACK  
SHORTLY.

THEN... I  
HAVE TO  
TIDY IT UP  
A BIT.

**My  
room?!**



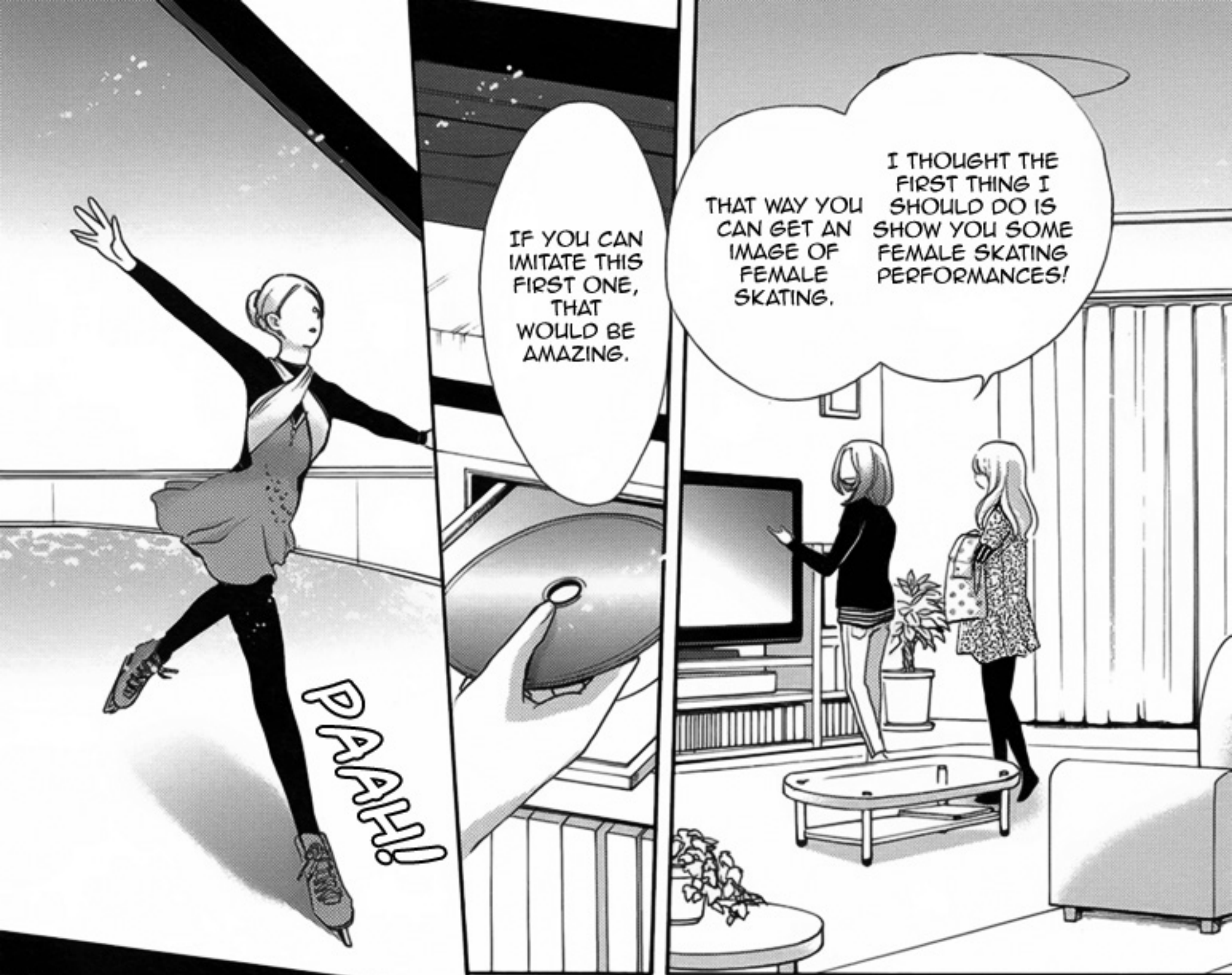










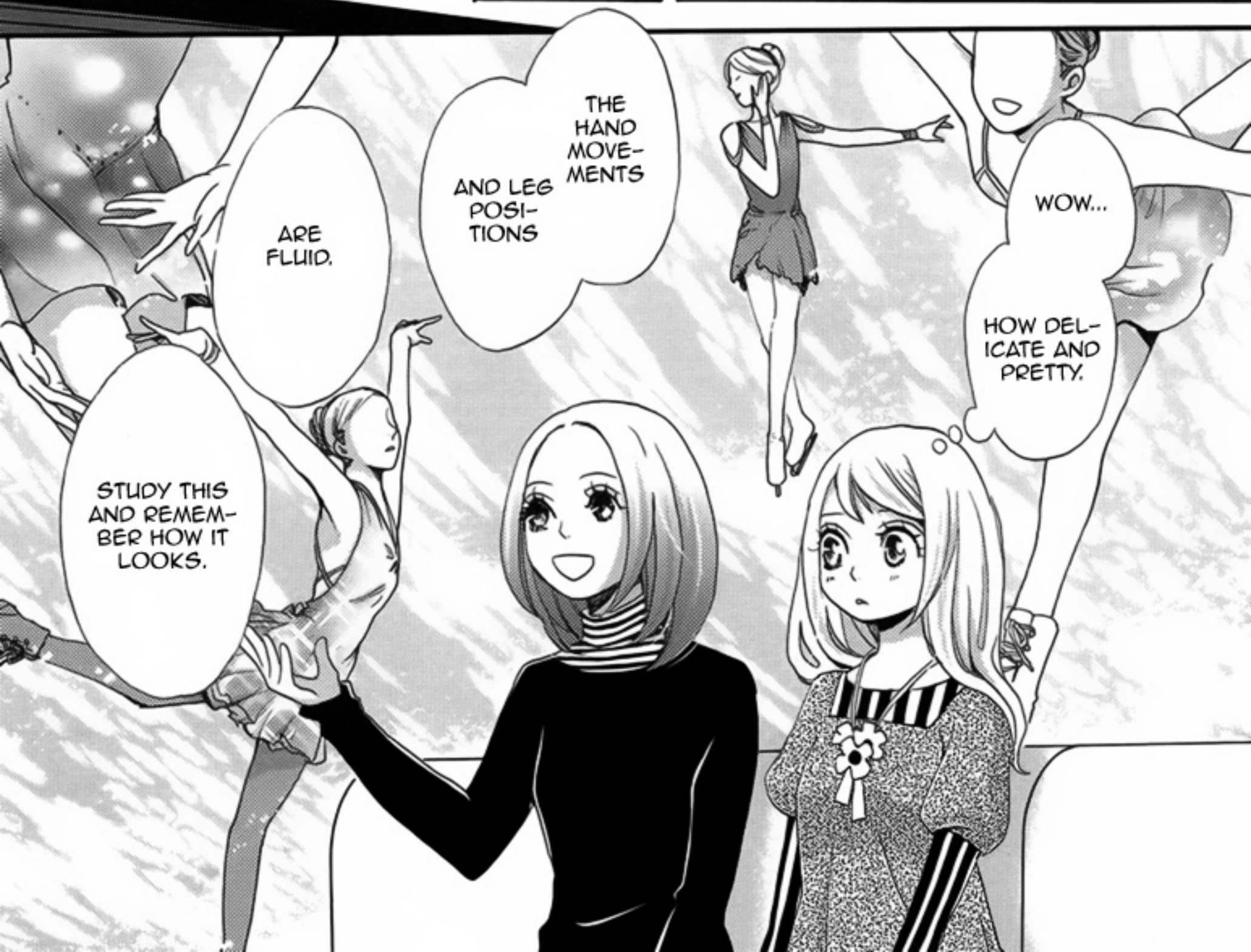


IF YOU CAN IMITATE THIS FIRST ONE, THAT WOULD BE AMAZING.

THAT WAY YOU CAN GET AN IMAGE OF FEMALE SKATING.

I THOUGHT THE FIRST THING I SHOULD DO IS SHOW YOU SOME FEMALE SKATING PERFORMANCES!

PAAH!!



ARE FLUID.

THE HAND MOVEMENTS AND LEG POSITIONS

STUDY THIS AND REMEMBER HOW IT LOOKS.

WOW...

HOW DELICATE AND PRETTY.





YOU HAVE A  
DISCERNING  
EYE!


YOU RECOG-  
NIZED IT,  
DIDN'T YOU?

THIS YEAR,  
SHE'S EXPECTED  
TO SWEEP THE  
TOURNAMENT.



AHH!

THE GIRL  
FROM THE  
PHOTO!!

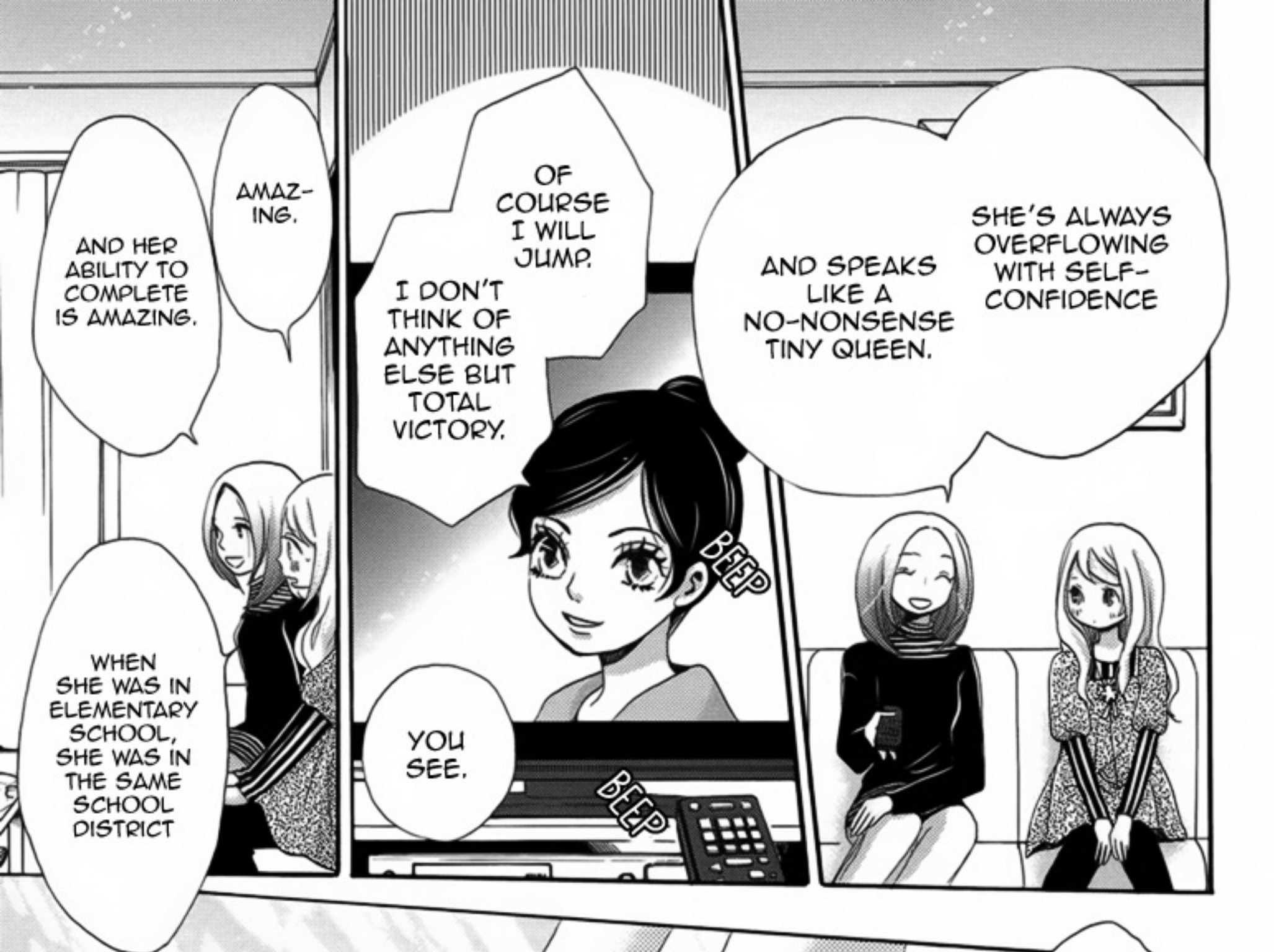


SHE'S THE  
SAME AGE AS  
AKIRA AND YOU.

HER JUMPING  
AND SPINNING  
TECHNIQUE ARE  
TOP-NOTCH TO  
SAY THE LEAST.

SHE'S THE  
GENIUS FEMALE  
SKATER WHO  
CAN DO QUAD  
JUMPS.







SOMEDAY  
MAYBE

OF COURSE  
NANAO IS  
GOING TO STAY  
IN CONTACT  
WITH HER.

PERHAPS  
...

DOOM...

I HAVE A  
HORRIBLE  
PERSONALITY!!

IF HIS  
SISTER  
COACHES  
ME,  
THERE'S A  
CHANCE  
FOR ME TO  
GET CLOSE  
TO  
NANAO...

WHAT A  
HORRIBLY  
IMPURE  
REASON!!

IT'S  
SELFISH  
OF ME!







NO MATTER  
HOW HARD I  
TRY, I WILL  
NEVER  
BECOME A  
GIRL LIKE  
HER.

EVEN THOUGH I  
WAS DUMPED, I  
WON'T LET GO.  
IT'S LIKE I'M A  
STALKER.



SHE'S  
BRIMMING  
WITH  
CONFIDENCE  
AND SPEAKS  
HER MIND  
CLEARLY.

SHE'S THE  
COMPLETE  
OPPOSITE  
OF ME!!

I'M SURE  
THERE'S  
NOT A  
SINGLE  
BAD  
THING  
ABOUT  
HER...



I HATE BEING  
LIKE THIS...





DEAR...

IT'S EXPECTED  
THAT SHE  
WOULDN'T  
STICK WITH IT.

YEAH... LIKE  
I'VE BEEN  
THINKING,  
I'M GOING  
TO QUIT.

OH... SHOULD  
YOU BE SKIPPING  
MORNING  
PRACTICE TODAY  
TOO?



I'M  
HEADING  
OUT.



HUH?!



I'M SELFISH  
AND WEAK.  
I'M THE  
WORST.

I'M  
WEAK...





BUT I DID  
REALLY  
THINK IT  
WAS FUN.



I REALLY  
DID ENJOY  
MYSELF.



I'LL BE  
BELITTLING  
THE  
PEOPLE  
WHO SKATE  
FOR REAL.  
QUITTING IS  
THE RIGHT  
THING TO  
DO.

SKATING TO  
BE WITH  
NANAO  
SOMEDAY?



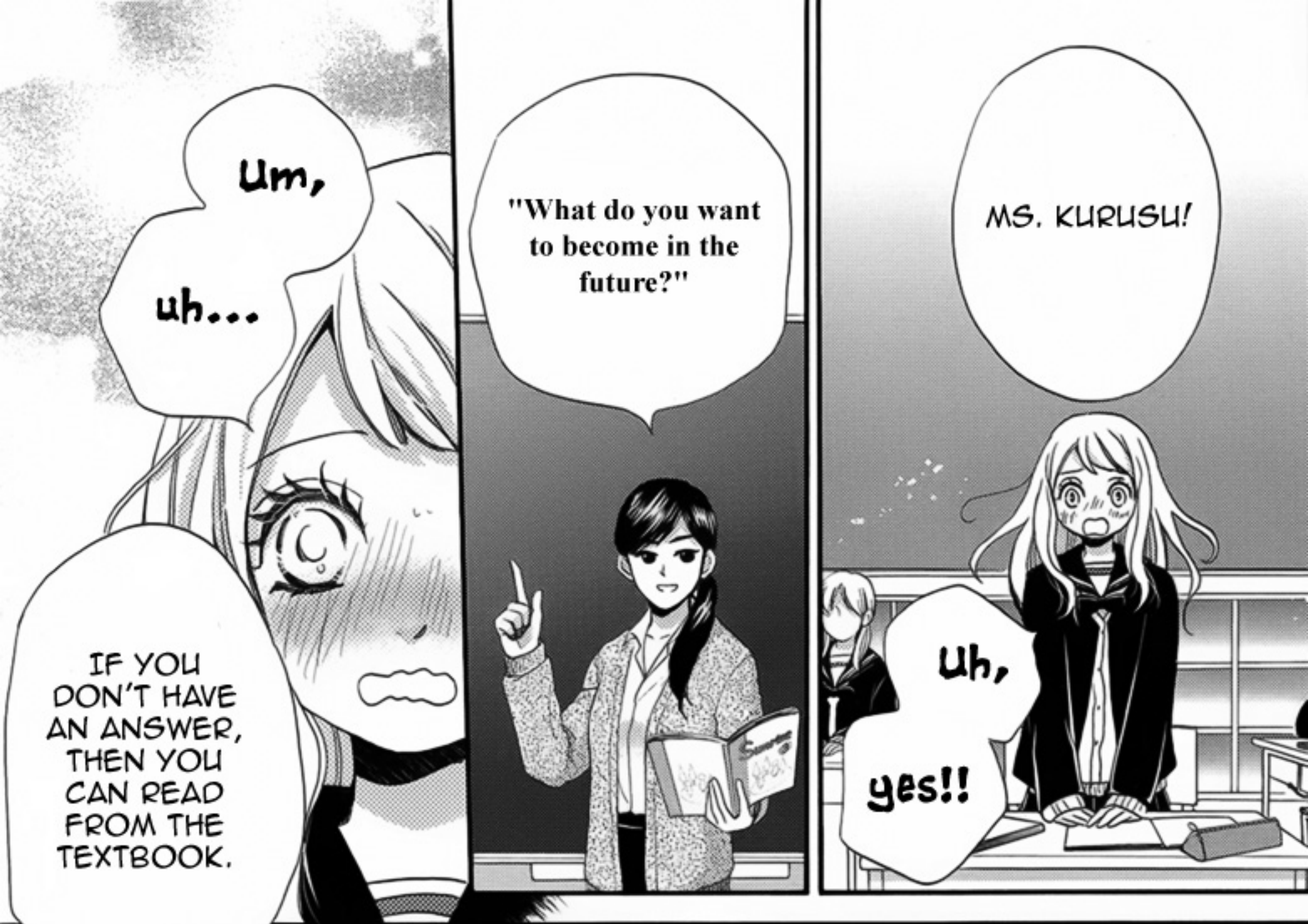
NOW THEN,  
LET'S PRACTICE  
CONVERSING.

UH, WE'LL  
CONTINUE  
FROM WHERE  
WE LEFT OFF  
YESTERDAY.

I'M GLAD  
NANAO SITS  
IN FRONT OF  
ME.

I CAN'T  
LOOK HIM IN  
THE EYE.





"What do you want to become in the future?"

"I would like to become a teacher ."









I would like to be a figure skater in the future.



DON'T  
YOU?



.....



I would like to be a figure skater in the future.

WHEN I  
SAID THE  
WORDS,

MY HEART  
SUNK WITH  
A THUD.





I-I skipped  
pr-practice  
yesterday.

Um...

Your  
sister...

AHH,

NANAO!



Training was  
rigorous, but  
it wasn't that  
bad on me!!

Th-  
that's  
not it!

IN THE  
END,  
WHAT  
YOU  
DECIDE  
IS ALL  
UP TO  
YOU...

WANTING TO  
QUIT BECAUSE  
OF RIGOROUS  
PRACTICE IS  
COMMON.





THIS IS  
NOT THE  
ICE,



BUT NOW...



A  
PHOTO?

YOU  
FLIPPED  
IT OVER...

THERE WAS  
A PHOTO IN  
YOUR  
ROOM.

YOUR SISTER  
SAID... SHE'S  
THE GIRL YOU  
LIKE.

A PHOTO OF  
YOU AND  
KIWAKO AT  
THE COMPE-  
TITION.



FORGIVE  
ME.

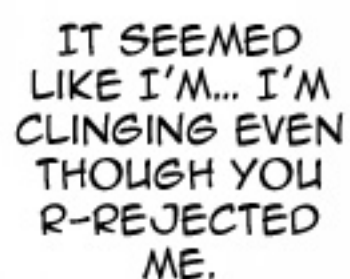




TH-THAT'S  
WHY I  
MISSED  
PRACTICE.



EVEN IF I MAKE  
A FRESH START,  
I CAN'T  
BECOME A GIRL  
LIKE HER.



IT SEEMED  
LIKE I'M... I'M  
CLINGING EVEN  
THOUGH YOU  
R-REJECTED  
ME.



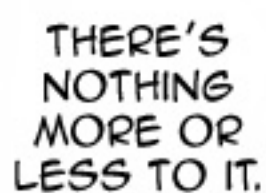
THAT KIND OF  
THING WAS  
GOING AROUND  
AND AROUND IN  
MY HEAD.



I BECAME  
HESITANT.



SHE'S A  
FUNNY  
WEIRDO.



THERE'S  
NOTHING  
MORE OR  
LESS TO IT.



KIWAKO IS  
A FRIEND.



I REALLY  
WAS  
BEING  
CLINGY.  
SORRY.



FORGET  
ABOUT IT.



AND  
APOLO-  
GIZE TO  
YOUR  
SISTER  
FOR ME—





UNTIL VERY  
RECENTLY,

Oh...

is that  
how it  
is...?

I WASN'T  
POPULAR  
WITH GIRLS.

I SELF-  
DESTRUCTED.

HOWEVER,

I REALLY  
DON'T GET  
SOMEONE  
SAYING THAT  
THEY LIKE ME.

SKATING IS MORE  
IMPORTANT TO ME  
THAN TALKING TO  
GIRLS.



I WANTED TO  
SEE YOU AGAIN,  
SO I TALKED TO  
YOU.

DO YOU  
SKATE?

AT SCHOOL I  
THOUGHT, "OH!  
SHE'S THE GIRL  
WHO ALWAYS  
HAS HER HEAD  
DOWN..."

AT FIRST WHEN I  
SAW YOU AT THE  
SKATING RINK, I  
COULDN'T  
REMEMBER WHO  
YOU WERE...



FOR INSTANCE, I  
WONDERED, WHY  
YOUR HEAD IS  
ALWAYS DOWN?

I DON'T  
KNOW IF I  
LIKE YOU,  
BUT...

I GOT  
CURIOUS...

WHEN YOU  
LOOK  
STRAIGHT  
AHEAD,  
YOU'RE—

C—



I LIFTED  
MY HEAD  
AND  
FACED  
FORWARD.

CUTE...





IT'S IMPORTANT FOR HER TO GET IN HER PRACTICE TIME EARLY IN THE MORNING.

WHAT? NIKA ALREADY LEFT?

I'M HEADING OUT.

DIDN'T SHE QUIT?

WELL THEN... I BETTER START WORKING FOR A RAISE...

UP UNTIL NOW,

I THOUGHT

AND I NEED MORE MUSCLES.

I HAVE TO GAIN MORE STAMINA

NOTHING WOULD COME OF MY LIFE.



WHEN I'M REBORN,  
WHAT DO I WANT TO  
BECOME?

IF I INTEND  
TO BE  
REBORN,



TUP!

THEN  
SURELY



I'LL TRY HARDER  
TO SPEAK UP,  
EVEN THOUGH I  
FEEL LIKE THE  
WORDS

ARE CAUGHT  
IN MY  
THROAT, I'LL  
CALM DOWN

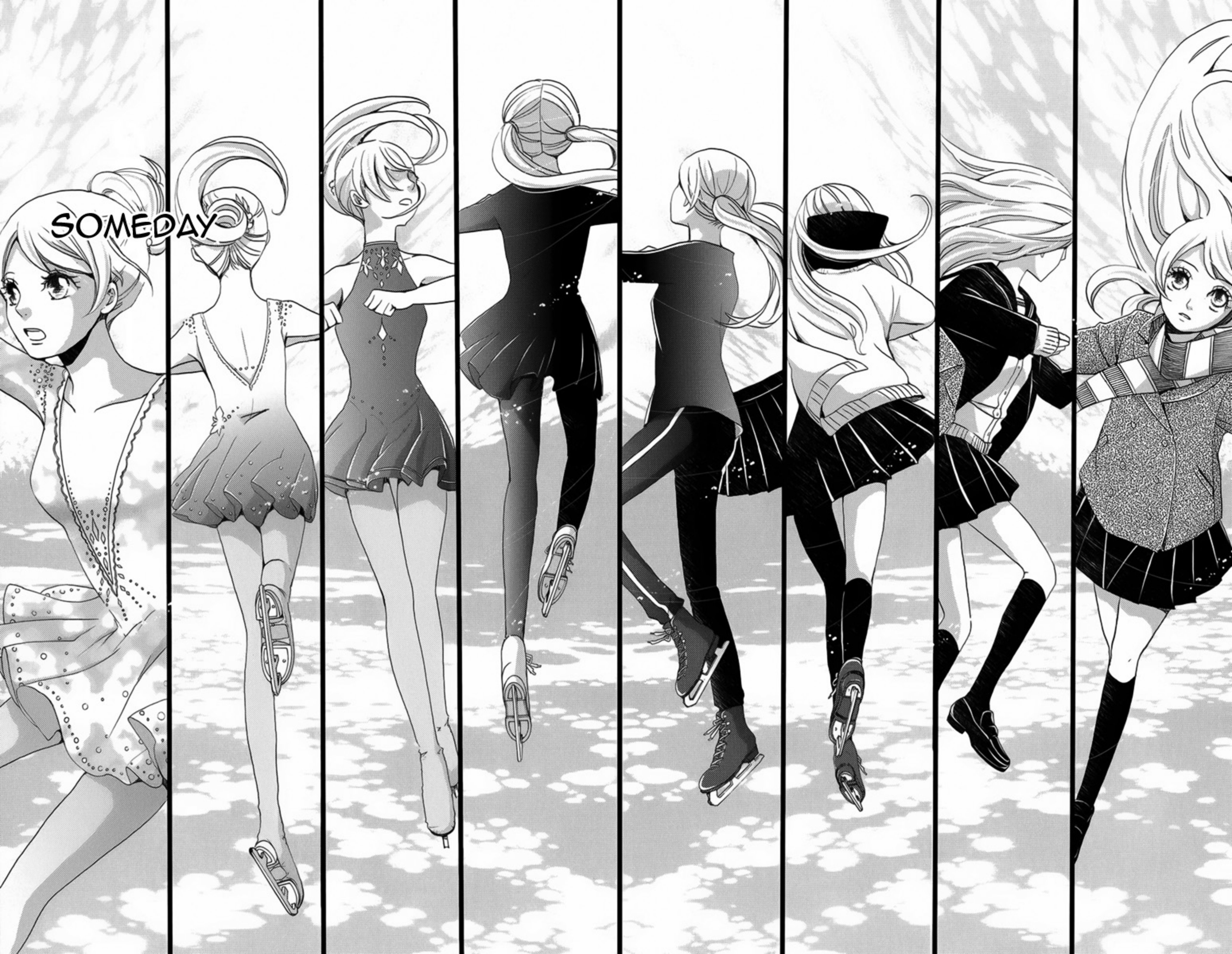
AND I  
WON'T  
SHRINK  
AWAY.

YEAH... I  
KNOW I  
CAN DO  
THIS.





SOMEDAY







I CAN BE  
REBORN.

That was  
Nika  
Kurusu.

She only  
started  
skating 3  
years ago.

That was a  
splendid  
artistry-  
packed  
performance.

**End of Chapter 2**