

CRIMSON FLOWER



平島
ユカ子

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Yukako Saejima
presents

冴島
ユカ子

Back then, I did not anticipate it.
You exceeded all expectations
and a heart-throbbing day is waiting for you!

Koi to Sakura to Toshishita no Kimi

***Love, Cherry
Blossoms, and
You, the
Younger Man***

~29 Limited~

WILL BE
SOMEONE I
CAN TALK TO
ABOUT BEING
A POTENTIAL
MARRIAGE
PARTNER...

THE NEXT
PERSON I
DATE

WELCOME.

I,
SAKURA
HORIE,
TURNED
29.

WEEKEND SHUFFLE
Bar

...

ARE YOU...

KENSHOU?

OR SO I
THOUGHT.



THANK
YOU FOR
WAITING.

SLIDE



Whoa!



.....
You're good
[at it!] ♡

WOW! DO YOU
REALLY ONLY
BARTEND PART
TIME, KENSHOU?



PARDON
ME FOR A
MOMENT.

KENSHOU,
I'M READY
TO ORDER♥



I AM STILL
A COLLEGE
STUDENT,
AFTER ALL.



KENSHOU IS 9 YEARS
YOUNGER THAN I AM.
HE WAS MY LITTLE
BROTHER'S FRIEND,
AND THE FIRST TIME
I MET HIM, HE WAS
STILL IN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

He's serious
and polite.



DID KENSHOU
EVER HAVE
THAT KIND OF
AIR ABOUT
HIM?

AND CON-
FESSED
TO ME
TWICE.

When you
grow up,
okay?



Go out
with me!

FOR SOME
REASON,
HE LIKED
ME



...SORRY.

THE DAY
HE GRAD-
UATED
FROM
MIDDLE
SCHOOL...



BECAUSE I
LOVE YOU,
SAKURA.

USE COMMON
SENSE! IT'S OUT
OF THE QUESTION!



IT FELT
LIKE HE
WAS
TREATING
ME LIKE A
STRANGER
...

I'll come
again,
okay ♡

IT WAS
PROBABLY
FOR HIS
OWN CON-
VENIENCE,
BUT

WHOA!

KA-TONK

I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
SINCE THEN.

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO YOUR
NEXT
VISIT.





WATCH
YOUR STEP,
SAKURA.

BA
BUMP!

WHOOPS!

6



MY HEART
SKIPPED A
BEAT?!
WHAT THE
HECK?!

Pardon
me! I'm
fine!

SHOVE!

THE BOY I
HAVEN'T
SEEN FOR 5
YEARS



HEY, LET'S GO
HAVE A DRINK
AT THE BAR.

UH!

THAT'S
ALL FOR
TODAY.



WHAT?!



I WON'T BE
ABLE TO GO
AGAIN FOR A
WHILE BECAUSE
I'M GOING TO
BE SWAMPED
WITH WORK.

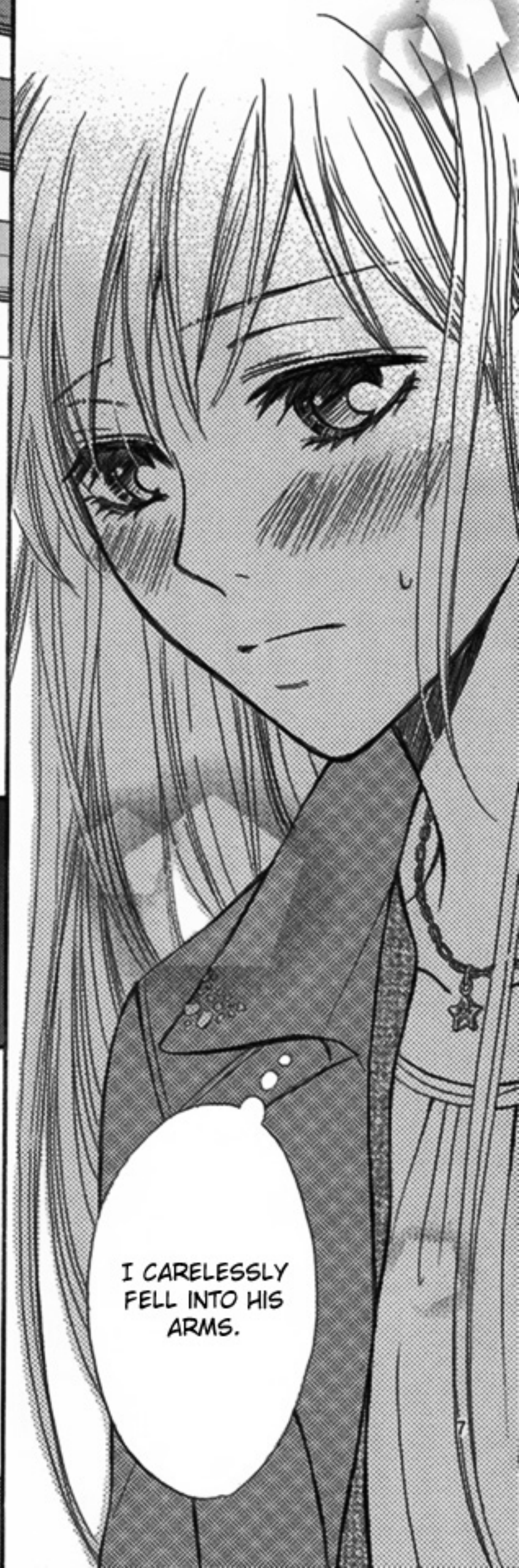


BUT

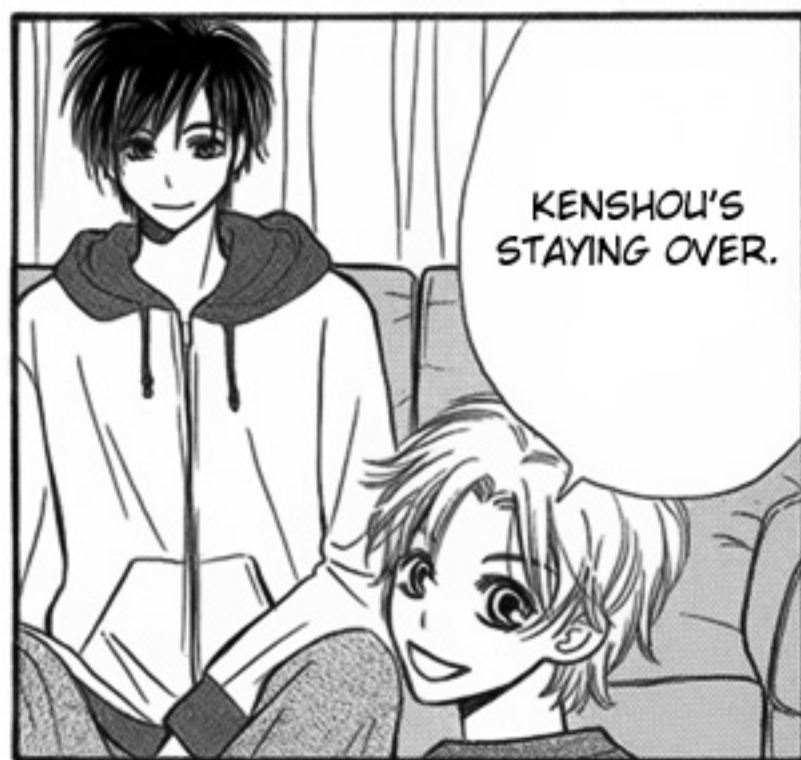
I'M
HOME.

IT WAS
REALLY
BECAUSE I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
NOT TO
SEE HIM.

BECAME
A MAN.



I CARELESSLY
FELL INTO HIS
ARMS.







OKAY...

UH...

LET ME GET
SOME REAL-
WORLD
PRACTICE.



THAT USED TO
BE WHAT IS
NOW A HAND-
SOME AND
POPULAR
YOUNG MAN....



THAT I
CAN'T
SLEEP...

MY HEART IS
RACING SO UN-
CONTROLLABLY

SETTING
THE PAST
ASIDE,

ACTUALLY, A
9-YEAR AGE
GAP IS NOT A
BIG DEAL,

CLAT

CAN'T
SLEEP?

Oh?

UGH!

KENSHOU IS
NOW 20
YEARS OLD.

Hokkaido
Milk

WATER

CLAT

I CAME TO
ONLY GET A
DRINK OF
WATER.

U



HUH?



MAYBE
AT THIS
DISTANCE...

WAIT A
MINUTE! I
HAVE TO
PREPARE MY
HEART...

SAKURA,

IF HE
CONFESSES
A FOURTH
TIME, WHAT
SHOULD I
DO?

...BUT



BLUSH!





GOOD NIGHT.



.....
THAT'S RIGHT,



"USE COMMON SENSE. IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION", RIGHT?



chah

THE WAY HE SAID IT KINDA HAD BITE...

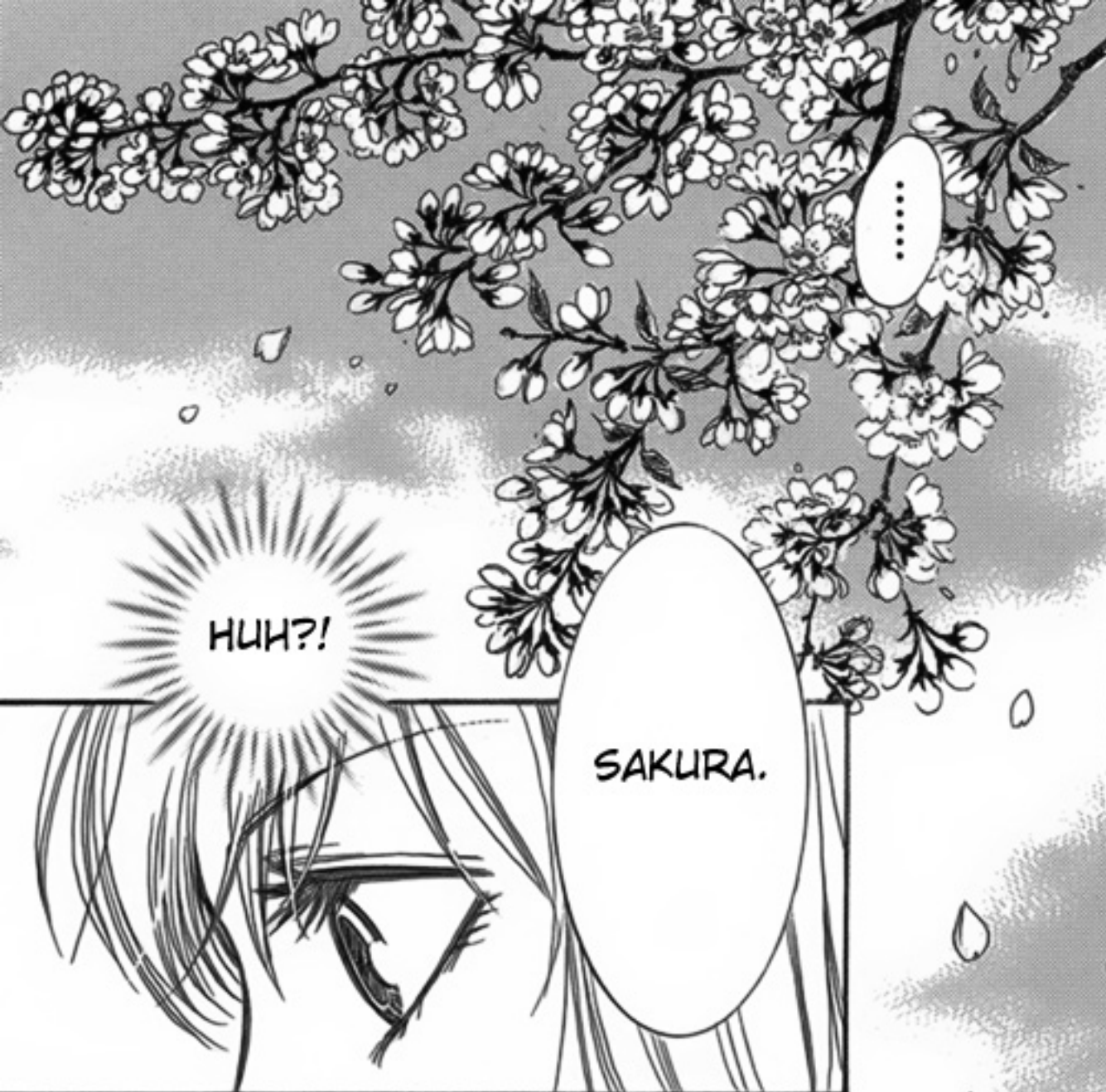


BUT I DIDN'T MEAN IT IN A BAD WAY...



MAYBE

HE REALLY DOES HATE ME.



HUH?!

SAKURA.



BUT WE
LEAVE AT
THE SAME
TIME IN THE
MORNING...

This is
awkward...



THEY ARE IN
FULL BLOOM
THIS WEEK.



SAKURA--
THE CHERRY
BLOSSOMS--

SWIP!







HURRY HOME
AND CHANGE.

18



I'LL GO ON
AHEAD.

TEASING ME. BEING NICE TO ME. WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?

BEFORE I
REALIZED IT,

KEN-
SHOU'S
SCENT...

AHH...



I CAN'T TELL
HIM I LIKE
HIM NOW
AFTER
REJECTING
HIM 3 TIMES.

YOU WENT OUT
OF YOUR WAY
TO BRING IT
HERE.



I WANTED
AN
EXCUSE
TO SEE
HIM.

I...

I HAPPEN
TO HAVE
TIME.

I HAD TO
SAY THANK
YOU...



IS THAT
REALLY ALL?



ALL I
COULD THINK
ABOUT WAS
KENSHOU.

THANKS
FOR
LENDING
THIS TO
ME.



THEN
THANK
ME.

MAYBE

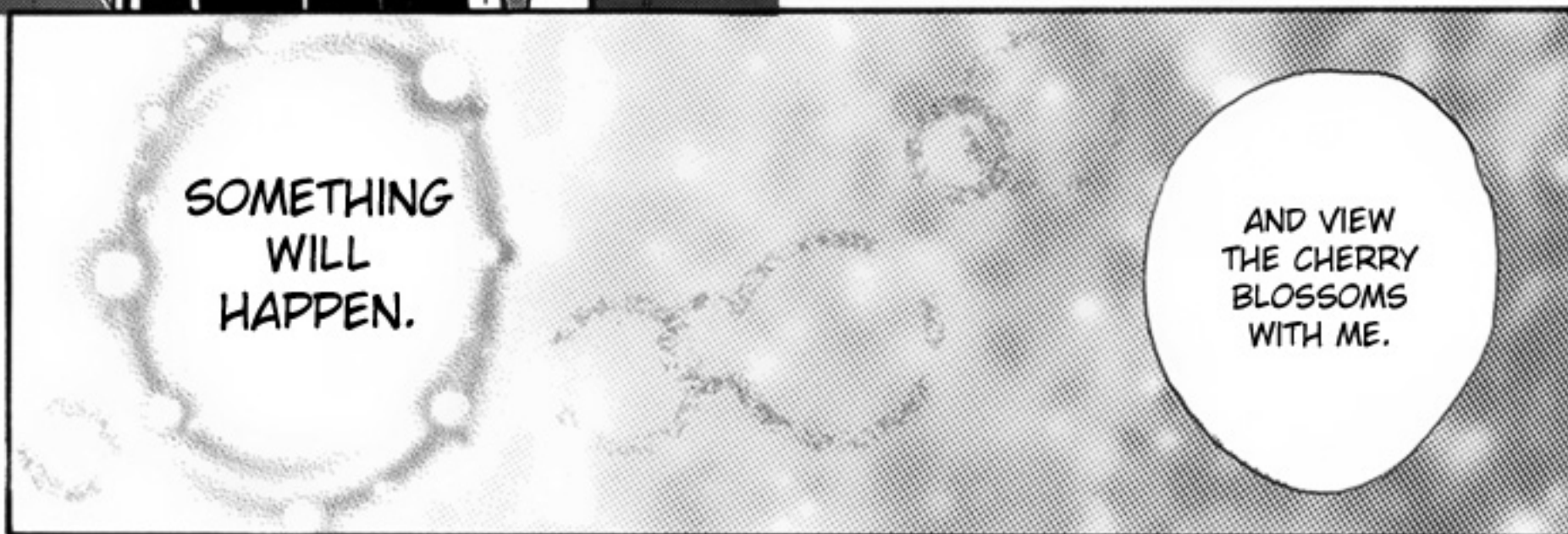
I WANT YOU
TO MAKE
LUNCH



C-

CAN'T
THAT BE
ALL IT
IS?

I HAVE
EXPECTATIONS.



SOMETHING
WILL
HAPPEN.

AND VIEW
THE CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
WITH ME.



WOW!





HE CAUGHT
ME OFF
GUARD AND
TOOK MY
HAND!

OHH!



IT'S DAN-
GEROUS.



YOU USED TO
SEEM LIKE AN
ADULT TO ME, BUT
NOW, NOT SO
MUCH.

TRIPPING, GET-
TING WATER
SPLASHED ON
YOU, BUMPING
INTO PEOPLE --

BA-BMP
BA-BMP



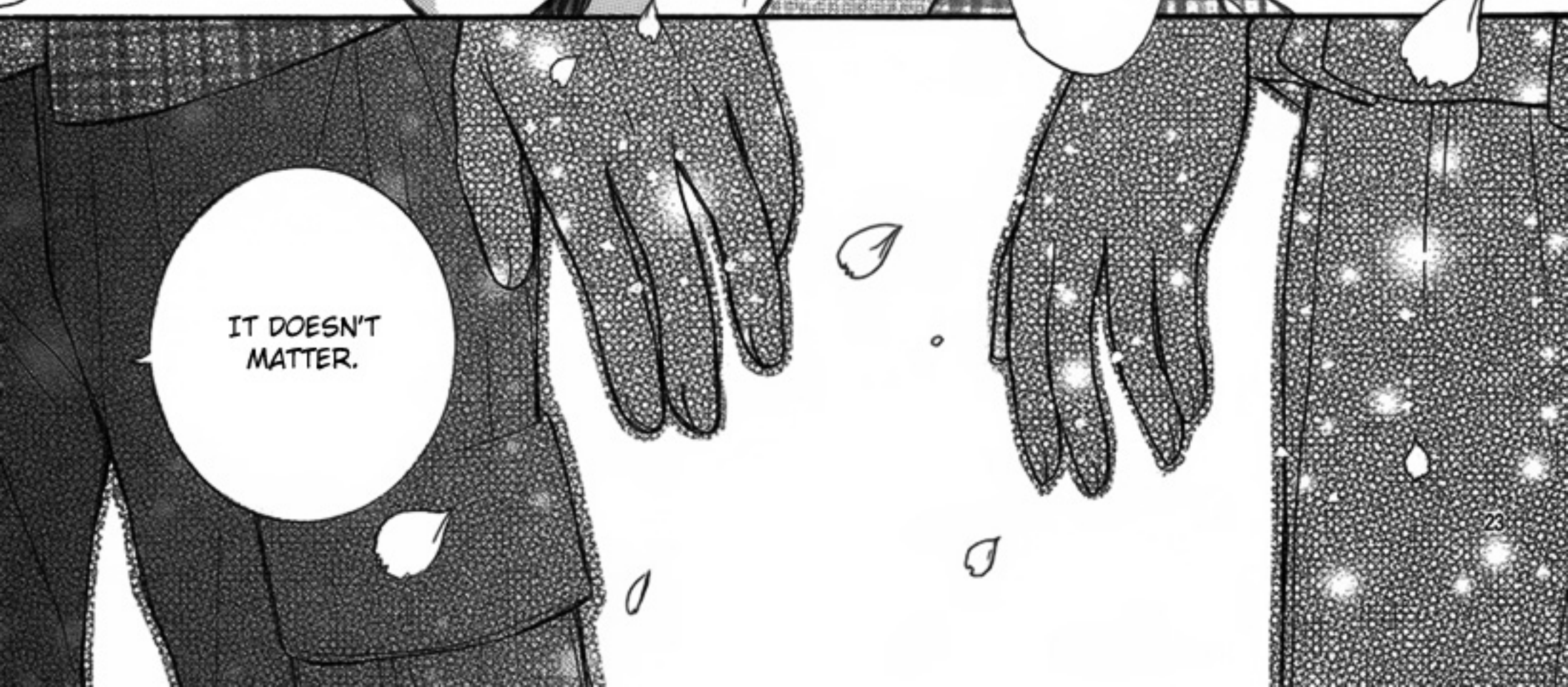
YOU DON'T
EVEN TRY TO
BE HONEST
WITH YOUR
FEELINGS.



.....
I'VE
ALWAYS...



! ...
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF THIS.



IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



I'M GOING
HOME NOW.

MY DISHONEST HEART EXPECTED A "FOURTH CONFESSION".



KEN-

"BECAUSE I'M
OLDER THAN HE IS!"

"AFTER REJECTING
HIM THREE TIMES!"

I'M ONLY
MAKING
EXCUSES.





SPL

WAIT

...

KENSHOU!

AT

HE ALREADY
SEES

OWW...

THAT I'M
CLUMSY.

WOULD IT BE
SHAMEFUL IF
I TOOK THE
INITIATIVE?



QUITE A
ROLE
REVER-
SAL.



"REAL-WORLD
PRACTICE"? I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE A WEIRD
ADULT FOR
SAYING THAT,

I WAS THE ONE
BEING YELLED AT
AND CARRIED ON
YOUR BACK.



BUT AT THE
SAME TIME,



HONESTLY,
I WAS
HURT AND
UPSET.

BUT NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES I
CONFERSED, I WAS
REJECTED. THE
FINISHING BLOW WAS
WHEN YOU SAID,
"USE COMMON
SENSE. IT'S OUT OF
THE QUESTION."

THAT'S
WHEN I
FELL IN
LOVE.



BUT IT
DIDN'T
MATTER.

I
REALIZE

NOW AND THEN,
NO MATTER WHAT,
FOR SOME
REASON, YOU ARE
SPECIAL TO ME.



.....
I... FINALLY
REALIZE,

28



squeeze

!



LOVE
YOU.

I REALLY



blush!

?

KENSHOU?

.....
SAY
SOME-
THI...

IN SOME WAYS,
KENSYOU IS
STILL THE SAME
AS HE WAS.

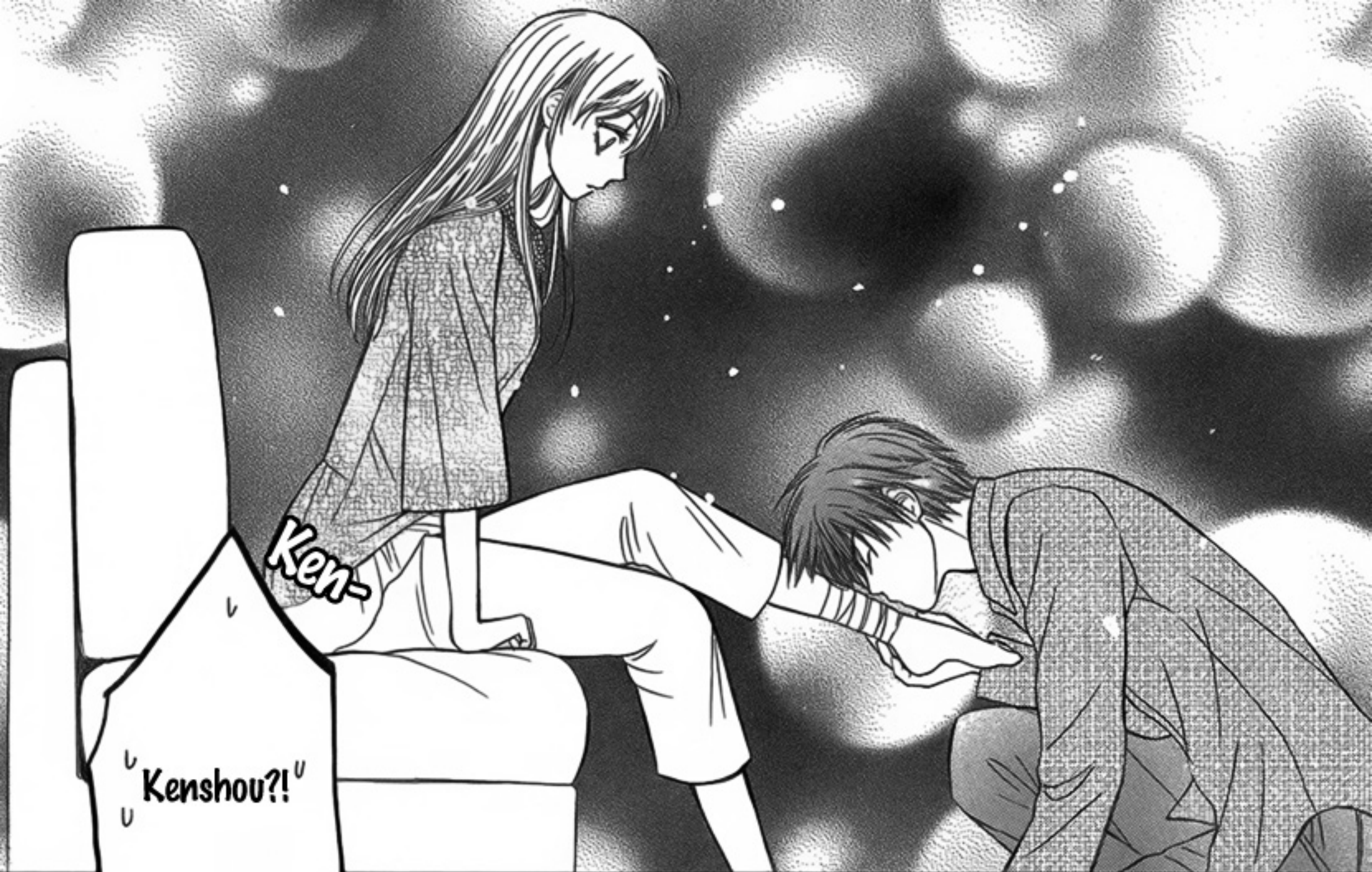


STICK

CAN'T I
DO THIS
MYSELF?

I am a
pro.







I'VE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH.

WAIT...

NNN
...

ALL OF
THEM ARE
PRECIOUS.

THE THINGS
THAT REMAIN
THE SAME AND
THE THINGS
THAT ARE
DIFFERENT,

THE END