

リカチ

The Ice Queen
Rikachi Presents

氷の女王

1

Kodansha Comics
BETSUFURE

Crimson Flower Translations

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STEP 4

Kiwako's
Soul Mate





I WONDER

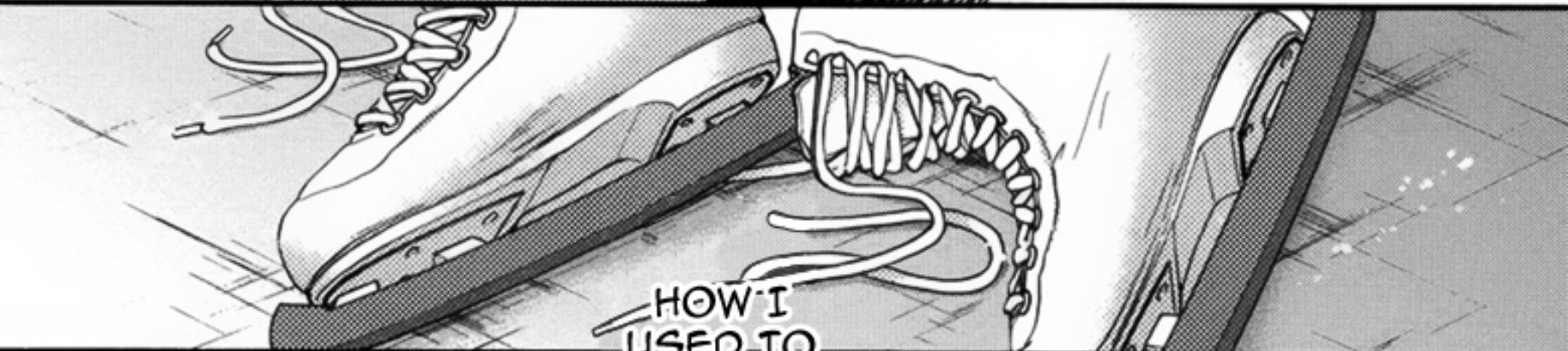
...OKAY.

Cancel
your
over-
seas
trips...

and
stay in
Japan
for
now.

FROM ICE
SKATING
AND THE
SPOT-
LIGHT?

KIWAKO...
SHOULDN'T
YOU TAKE A
BREAK



HOW I
USED TO
SKATE.



The Ice Queen

Kiwako
Chikura (16)

Injury Rumors

Lost
foot-
ing?!

Kiwako
Chikura

Not
competing

Sports

The Ice Queen
is in a Slump

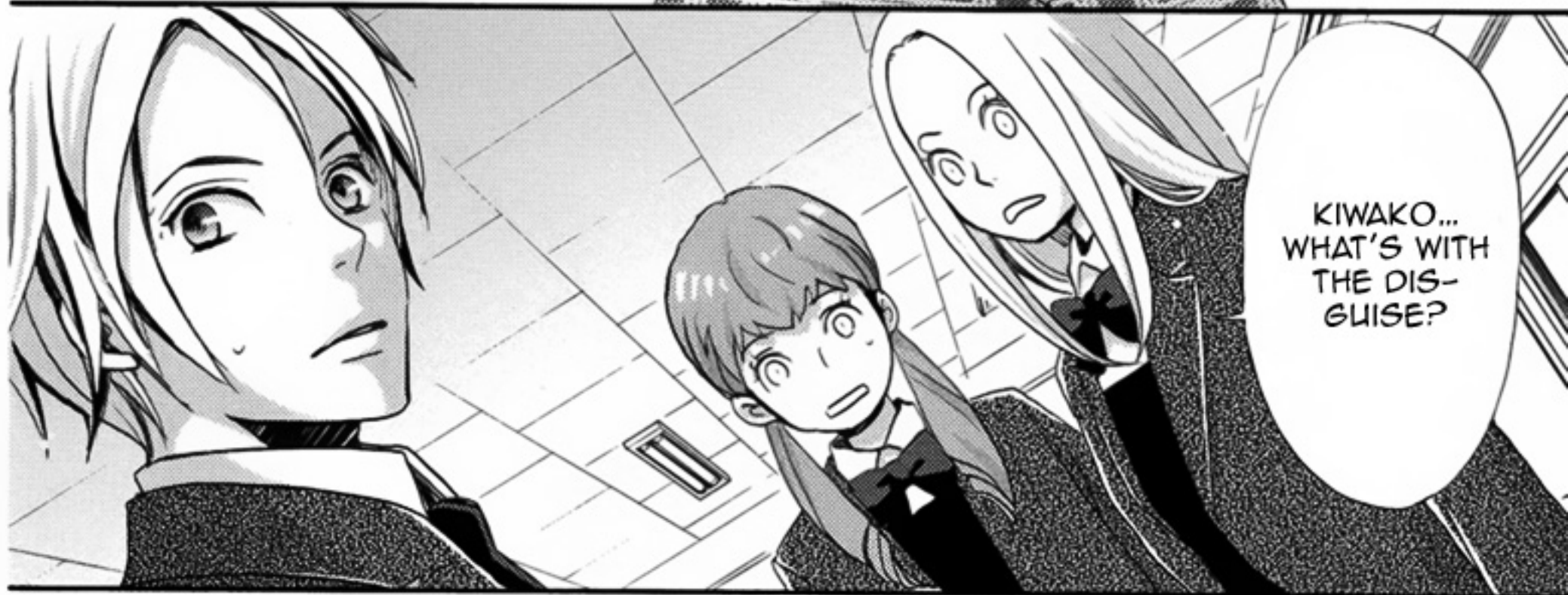
Unex

How will she perform
in the Grand Prix?



STEP 4

Kiwako's
Soul Mate





I THOUGHT
HER EYES
WOULD BE
SWOLLEN...

THEY'RE
NORMAL...

What?

You're
kidding!
THEY AREN'T
SWOLLEN?

NO, DESPITE
HOW I
LOOK, I DID
CRY!

I TRIED
CRYING
MY EYES
OUT!

Aaaa!
Ooooo!

Why
meeeee?!



Don't I look like
the heroine from
a tragedy?!


OR
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT!



⋮

DISAP-
PEARED.

SO THEN
EVIDENCE OF
MY ATTEMPT
TO LOOK LIKE
I WAS IN A
DRAMA...



IT FELT LIKE
THAT GIRL'S
EXISTENCE
SUCKED UP
ALL OF
NANAO'S
MAGIC...

YEAH...

WELL,

I SUP-
POSE.



YOU'RE MAKING A
BIG DEAL OUT OF
THE FALL AT THAT
COMPETITION.

EVERYONE HAS A
SLUMP AT SOME
POINT. OR RATHER,
YOU NOT HAVING A
SLUMP UNTIL NOW
IS WEIRD.




I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
WAS WHAT AT
THAT
MOMENT.



IN THE END, I
WAS LEFT
HELPLESS.

IF I
CONTINUE
ON LIKE
THIS...



I'M SORRY.
I'M FINE.

I GOTTA
GO.

THE
WORDS I
WANTED
TO SAY
AND
QUES-
TIONS I
WANTED
TO ASK
WENT
UNSAID.

SOMEONE LIKE
ME NOT BEING
ABLE TO ICE
SKATE...



IF SOME-
THING
DOESN'T
CHANGE,
I'LL BE IN
A SLUMP
FOREVER.

HMM, IF SHE
CAN STILL RUN
HER MOUTH
THIS MUCH,
SHE'S FINE.

I'LL JUST BE AN
ORDINARY HIGH
SCHOOL GIRL?!



HERK
JERK

I THINK
THIS IS
HOW TO
JUMP.

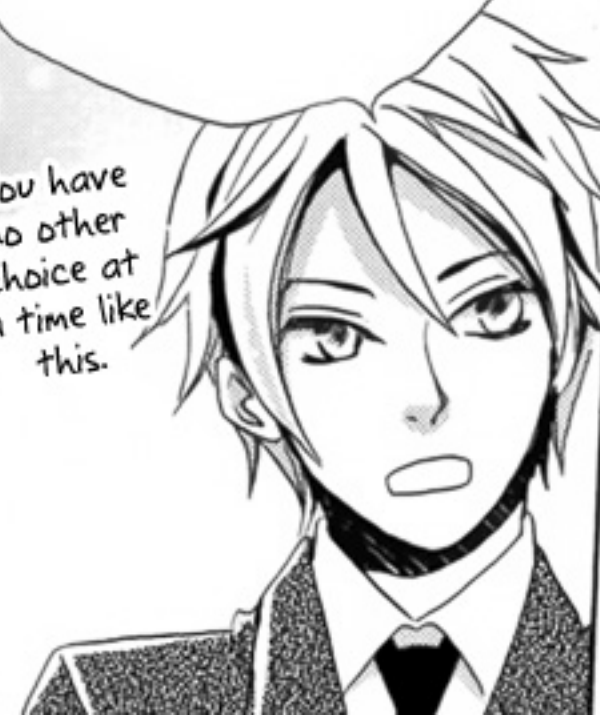


**THAT'S
IT!!**



YOU'VE BEEN
DOING NOTHING BUT
"SKATE, SKATE". YOU
SHOULD TAKE A
BREAK AND DO
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT ONCE
IN A WHILE.

You have
no other
choice at
a time like
this.



Calm
down.

NO, NO,
HOW
COULD I
BE
FINE?
SHOULDN'T
I BE
UPSET?

Or
pissed-
off or
some-
thing?





Watching a movie

The movies

Shopping

Hanging out after-school

Sign: Comic

まんが

**OKAY!
LIFE
OUTSIDE OF
SKATING!!**



Karaoke

I'M GONNA SING THE SCHOOL ANTHEM!

THE SCHOOL ANTHEM?!



BLECK'S COFFEE

A get-together

WHAT?

IT ALWAYS FEELS THE SAME BEING WITH MINATO, BUT THIS TIME...



SHE SAID SHE'S NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE.

SHOULD SHE SERIOUSLY BE HAVING THIS MUCH FUN?

SERIOUSLY? WHAT A SPOILED PRINCESS.



BUT SOMETHING FEELS OFF.

I'M HAVING FUN,



Haaa...

Yikes!

I-I'm not her!

OH, IS THAT KI?

SHE TOOK CARE OF IT!

PAT









UH...
SOME-
HOW...

Oh! M-Ms.
Ki...wako...

What's
with this
calmness...?

I'M
HAVING A
GOOD
TIME.



SHE'S A
CUTE
ONE,
ISN'T
SHE?

Uh... Um,
Kiwako...

HER
FEMININE
POWER
IS HIGH.



HERE.
AS
THANKS
FOR
INVITING
ME...

WE'RE THE
SAME AGE,
SO YOU CAN
CALL ME
JUST
"KIWAKO".

HUH?!
UH,
THANKS.



I
GUESS
I'LL
WEAR
THIS!!

OH NO! I
HAVE TO
GO!!

I, ON THE
OTHER
HAND,

Oh!
Yes.
Yes.



KINDA
LIKE

THIS IS

WILL SHE
KEEP
GETTING
BETTER AT
SKATING
TOO?

SHE
SEEMS
LIKE A
NICE
GIRL...



I-I'M VERY
SHY...
SO IF I ACT
WEIRD, I'M
SORRY...

FLUTTER

UNTIL
YESTERDAY,
IT WAS MY
QUEEN, BUT

MIRROR,
MIRROR ON
THE WALL,
WHO'S THE
STRONGEST
AND FAIREST

FROM NOW
ON, IT
SHALL BE
SNOW
WHITE!

FIGURE
SKATER OF
THEM
ALL?

YOU
DAMNED
MIRROR!

NOW THAT
IT'S COME
TO THIS, I'LL
USE THIS
POISONED
APPLE!!

WITH IT, THE
THRONE AND THE
PRINCE'S HEART
SHALL BE MINE!

WANTED



**WHAT
THE
HELL?!!
I FIT THE
ROLE OF
THIS
VILLAIN
TOO
WELL!!!**

AT LEAST
LET ME BE
THE LITTLE
MERMAID...

Oh!

Ho!

Ho!

Ho!

Ho!



I have to
find a
better
example...
Aren't
there any?

MUMBLE
MUMBLE

NO...
THE LITTLE
MERMAID
TURNED INTO
SEA FOAM
AND DISAP-
PEARED...

KIWAKO...
ARE YOU
OKAY? DO
YOU FEEL
SICK?

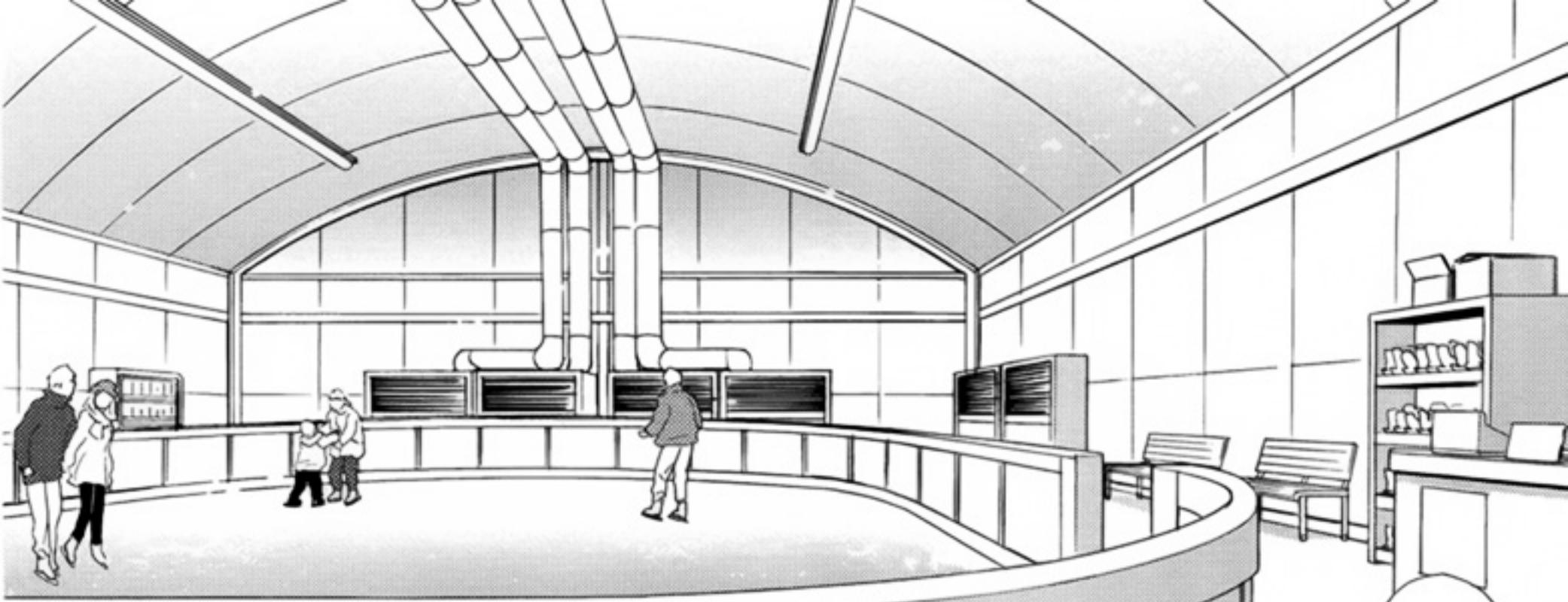
Sign: Skating Rink



LET'S GIVE
IT A TRY.

THERE'S AN ICE
RINK IN THAT
SMALL WINTER
SEASON AREA
OVER THERE.

HEY!



It...
isn't very
popular,
is it?

HMM...
THERE
AREN'T
MANY
PEOPLE
HERE.

WELL, IT'S
BECAUSE THERE
ARE LOTS OF
OTHER ACTIVI-
TIES TO DO
HERE.

OR RATHER,
ARE THEY
ACTUALLY
SKATING?!

**JUST
US
TWO!**

OH, THEN
LET'S SKATE
TOGETHER,
KURUSU!

I-I want to
skate a
little...

**SO
TRUE!**

I DON'T WANT TO
WEAR RENTAL
SKATES...
THEY USUALLY
AREN'T WELL
MAINTAINED.

HUH?





SO THEN YOU
TWO HANG OUT
HERE,



AND WE'LL
GO GET
PEOPLE
SKATING.



MINATO HAD
A WEIRD AIR
ABOUT HIM...



SHALL WE
GO SIT OVER
THERE?

OH...
SURE.



...

IT BOTHERS ME A LOT,

Huh?

DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

Um...
uh,
well
um. ...

I don't think I can do anything until something happens.

REGARDLESS THOUGH, NANA O HAS NO INTEREST IN LOVE AS OF NOW.

.....

BUT KI WAKO'S NEVER BEEN DOWN LIKE THIS. I'M STEPPING ASIDE JUST FOR NOW,

BECAUSE I WANT HER TO GET BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF.



THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A WHOLE LOT OF FUN.

Don't hold her hand, stupid Minato.

I have hat hair.



DOES THAT BOTHER YOU?

GLANCE



HUH? DOES WHAT?



Huh?!

KIWAKO, WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ABLE TO SKATE?

OH...? THERE'S NO WAY HE LIKES THAT GIRL... RIGHT?

YOU
WERE ALWAYS
POSITIVE,
SAYING
"I CAN DO IT",
"I WILL DO IT."

THAT
GUY...

MINATO
TOLD ME.

I
THOUGHT

A LITTLE
MISTAKE LIKE
THAT IS NOT
LIKE YOU,
KIWAKO.

TH...
THAT'S...

YOU
SHOULD
SAY "I CAN
DO IT".

JUST...

UM... I'M...
ACTUALLY A
TIMID
PERSON.

USING THE
WORD
POWER
TRICK
NANAO
TOLD ME
ABOUT.

BUT WHEN
SHE'S ON
THE ICE, SHE
CHANGES.

SAYS
THAT ABOUT
HERSELF,

YOU
KNOW,
KURUSHI

HUH?

OH, SHE
FELL.

It looks like
she's fine.

SHE'S
GETTING
STRONG.

SHE SAYS
SHE WANTS
TO BE LIKE
YOU.



NANAO...
DO YOU
LIKE
KURUSHI?

OH... CRAP,
I SAID IT.

MY SLUMP
IS YOUR
FAULT,
**YOU
STUPID,
STUPID,
IDIOT!**

WHAT DO
YOU
HOPE TO
DO BY
TALKING
ABOUT
ANOTHER
GIRL?

DIDN'T
YOU
COME TO
COMFORT
ME?



REALLY?

NOT YET.

HUH?

WELL,

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT.

OH
WELL.

NOT
YET.

OH.

SO IT IS MY
DESTINY TO
TURN INTO
SEA FOAM
AND
DISAPPEAR.

I
THOUGHT
SO.

I SEE.
I SEE.

IT'S FRUS-
TRATING...

OH...

YEAH.

FOR SOME
REASON, I
REALLY
WANT TO.

YOU'RE
STARING
AT THE
RINK.

HUH?!

DO YOU
WANT TO
SKATE?



EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE A
GIRL,
KIWAKO,




IT'S NOT
LIKE YOUR
USUAL
COOL SELF



WHEN YOU
COULDN'T
BRING YOUR-
SELF TO TALK
ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED
THAT DAY, I
GOT WORRIED.

IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
THEN
GOOD.



WHEN IT COMES
TO SKATING, I
CONSIDER YOU
A COMRADE
AND A RIVAL.

TO
WORRY
ABOUT ME
THAT
MUCH.



YOU HAVE TO
BE ABLE TO
SURPASS MY
GENIUS
BEFORE YOU
CAN TRY TO
RIVAL ME!!

HEH.



I SEE... A
RIVAL...

Ha ha ha...

IT'S A
COMPETI-
TION TO
BE THE
BEST IN
THE
WORLD!

I'M THE
KIND OF
GIRL WHO
CAN MAKE
NANAO
LAUGH
LIKE THAT.

HOW
WAS
THAT?!

YOU REALLY
ARE FUNNY,
KIWAKO.

Ha!
Ha!
Ha!

PFFT!

I'M
SURE

SO YOU
CAN PULL
THAT SELF-
CONFIDENCE
OUT OF
NOWHERE.

I'M THE
ONLY
ONE.

IDIOT.

SHAKE

SHAKE

DID YOU BY
CHANCE
TELL
NANAO?

I CAME TO
AN UNDER-
STANDING.



NO MATTER HOW
AMAZING I TRIED
TO BE, I
COULDN'T REACH
HIS HEART.

I GOT PRO-
MOTED FROM
BEING JUST
AN ORDINARY
GIRL TO HIS
ETERNAL
RIVAL.

FORGET
ABOUT
IT.

NANAO
STILL
DOESN'T
KNOW...?

HUH?





NOBODY'S
HERE.

IF YOU'RE
OUT FOR 15
MINUTES,
IT'S OKAY.

I'LL MAKE
AN EXCEP-
TION FOR
YOU, KI.

We're
too
late!!

THAT'S
BECAUSE
IT'S
CLOSING
TIME!

THEN
SKATE.

YOU HAVE A
PAIR OF SPARE
SKATES HERE,
RIGHT?

I DO,
BUT...





EVEN
THOUGH YOU
USED TO
SKATE.



DON'T YOU
ONLY
WATCH?!



SHUT
UP!

COME
ON, LIKE
YOU'RE
PERFORM-
ING!

RELAX!

YEP, THAT'S
WHAT I DO. I'M
AN ORDINARY
GUY TOGETHER
WITH A WORLD-
CLASS FIGURE
SKATER.



ARE YOU
GONNA KEEP
DOING THIS?!

SKATE
FASTER
LIKE
USUAL!

NO BACK
TALK!

SHAA

OF
COURSE
I CAN
JUMP!!

HMM

CAN I
JUMP?

AND
YOU'RE
NOT
JUMPING
BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T
JUMP!

YEAH,
I'M
WATCH-
ING
YOU!

**WATCH
ME!!**

SLASH!

BECAUSE
I'VE JUMPED
COUNTLESS
TIMES!



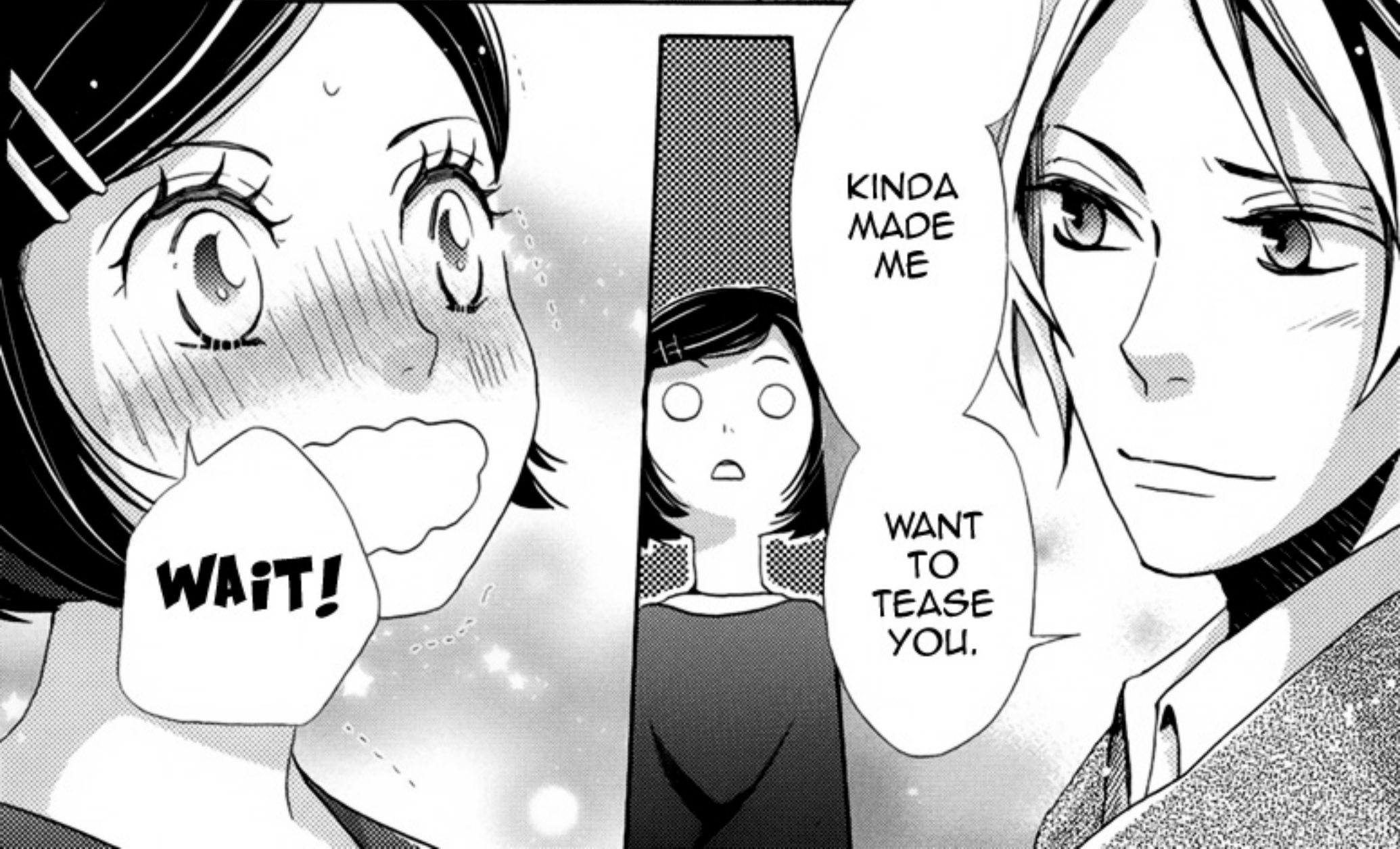
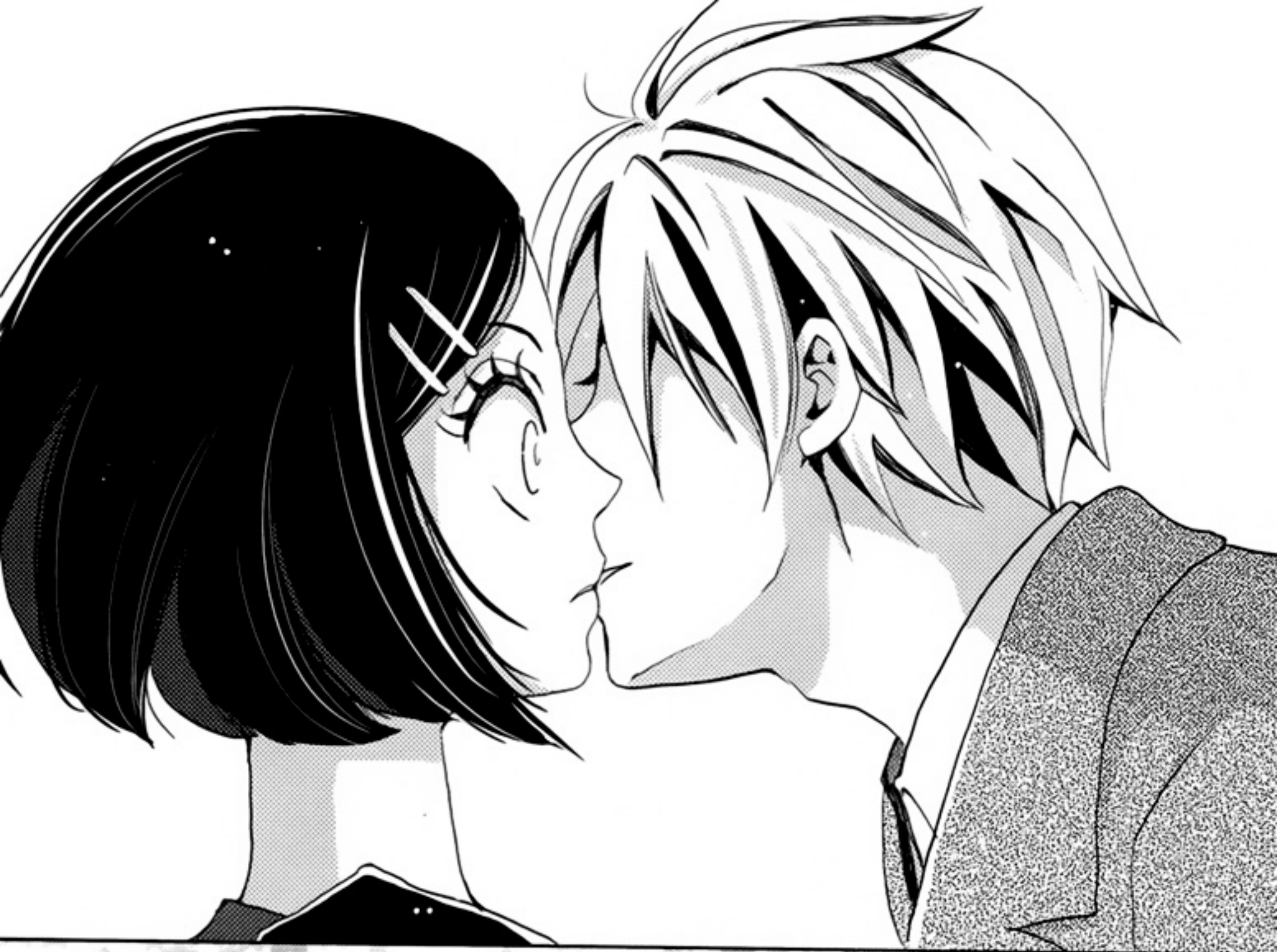
Schlicki!

I
CAN

JUMP!!

PER-
FECT.





**YOU SHOULD
BE SAYING
SOMETHING A
WHOLE LOT
DIFFERENT
AFTER DOING
SOMETHING
THAT CRAZY!**

**YOU WANTED
TO TEASE
ME? WHAT
THE HECK?!**

**WAIT A
MINUTE!**

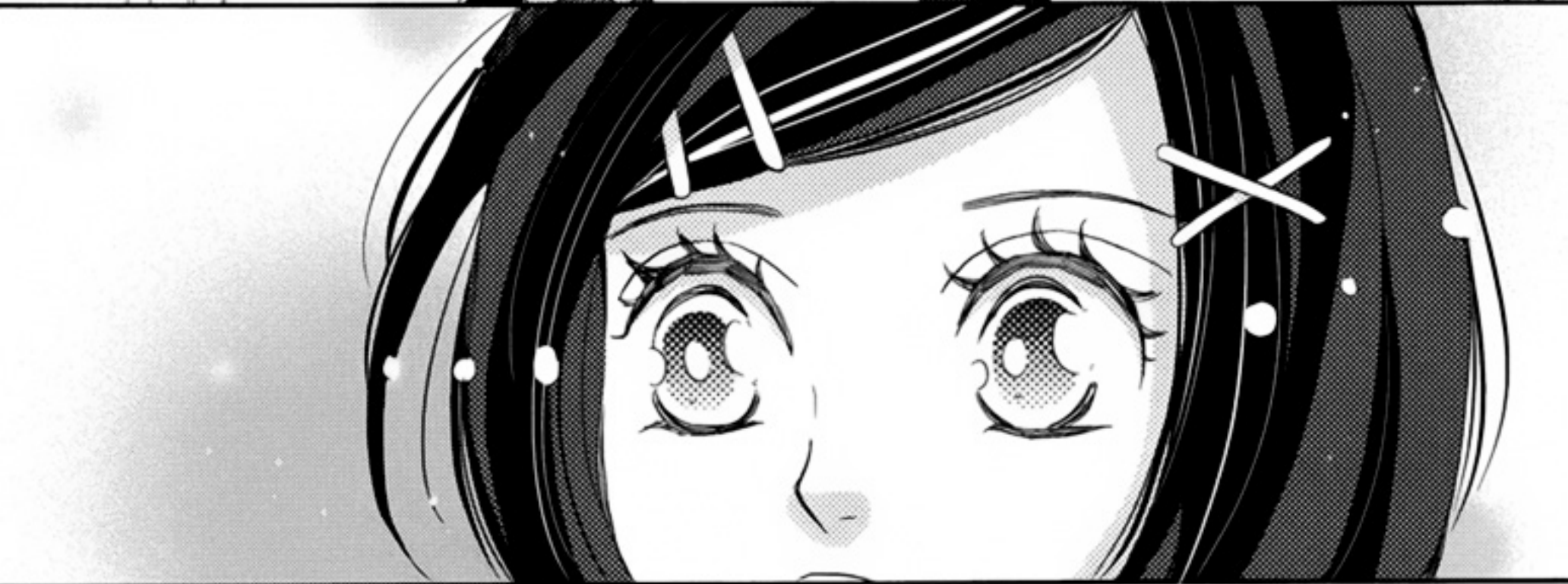
WHOA!
WE'RE
SLIDING!

**SAY
SOMETHING!
HEY!**

WILL
EVENTU-
ALLY

THE
WORLD'S
TOP ICE
QUEEN...

KIWAKO
CHIKURA,
WHO
BECAME



COULD IT
HAVE BEEN



THAT THE
VOICE I
HEARD



BACK
THEN
WAS...?



DON'T
WORRY,
KIWAKO.

EVERY-
THING'S
OKAY.

ARENA1F
EN

TEAM
MEMBER
WAITING
ROOM







At last, our final skater, Kiwako Chikura. What kind of performance will she give?

After putting in a wonderful short program yesterday, it seems like she's back in top form.

I wonder what today's free skate competition will show us.



CALM DOWN.

I CAN DO THIS.

I CAN JUMP.





I AM
THE
QUEEN
WHO
GLIDES
UPON
THE ICE.

END OF
"THE ICE QUEEN" CHAPTER 4