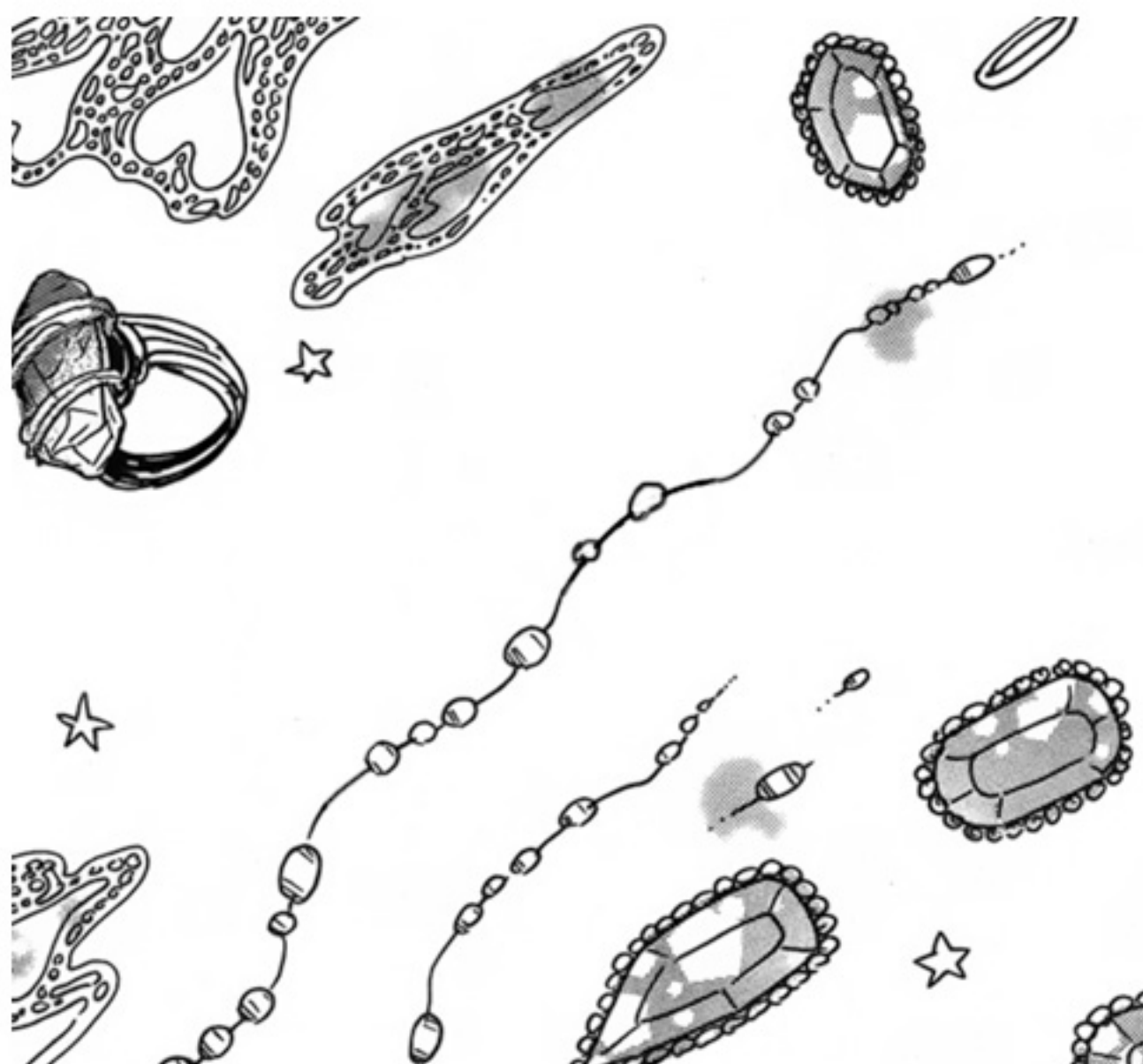


CRIMSON FLOWER



Translation & English adaptation: Kuroneko003

Translation QC and English Editing: Jade

Cleaning: Kuroneko003

Redrawing: Kuroneko003 & Ichigo Stars

Lettering: Kuroneko003

Final Image Editing: Kuroneko003

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大島 彰子

oshima aliko

A new sweater,
alcohol at a
hostess bar, a
bed at a love
hotel, and a
tree-lined
boulevard at
dawn.

Today,
my world
continues to
grow more
colorful!

A memory
of midnight
love.

42P

カラース

Colors



OH! HEY,
LOOK!

ISN'T
THAT
OUTFIT
CUTE?

WHICH
ONE?

THE PINK
ONE.



PRICEY!

40,000
YEN.

GET YOUR
BOYFRIEND
TO BUY IT
FOR YOU.

IT IS NICE.
HOW MUCH
IS IT?

[NOTE: ABOUT \$400.]





WHENEVER I
WENT TO
HARAJUKU
AFTER
SCHOOL,

AS A
16-YEAR
OLD,

EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
VIVID AND
BRIGHT,

I WAS
MESMERIZED.

I CAN ONLY
SEE THIS
WORLD IN
PRIMARY
COLORS.

WELCOME.

THIS WORLD
APPEARS
ROUGH AND
VIOLENT.

WE
HAVE IT.

WELL... I
SAW THIS
IN A MAG-
AZINE,

BUT IN
NAVY...

ARE YOU
LOOKING
FOR SOME-
THING IN
PARTICULAR?

YES.

LET ME GO
CHECK FOR
YOU. WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
TRY IT ON?

SHAA!



WHAT IF YOU
COME WORK
AT MY OTHER
JOB?

OH!

I WANT
THE
LATEST
SKIRT.

This month's goals

WHAT AM
I GONNA
DO
ABOUT
FOOD
MONEY?

THIS
MONTH IS
GOING
TO BE
TIGHT.



THE CUSTOMERS
ARE ALL YOUNG
MEN. I COULD
INTRODUCE YOU.

THE HOURLY
PAY IS GOOD,
AND IT'S ONLY
ONCE A WEEK.

REALLY?



ARISH.

HEY,

BEHIND
THIS
GLITTERING
STAGE.



THERE
ARE MANY
DIFFERENT
LIVES

THANK
YOU~

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

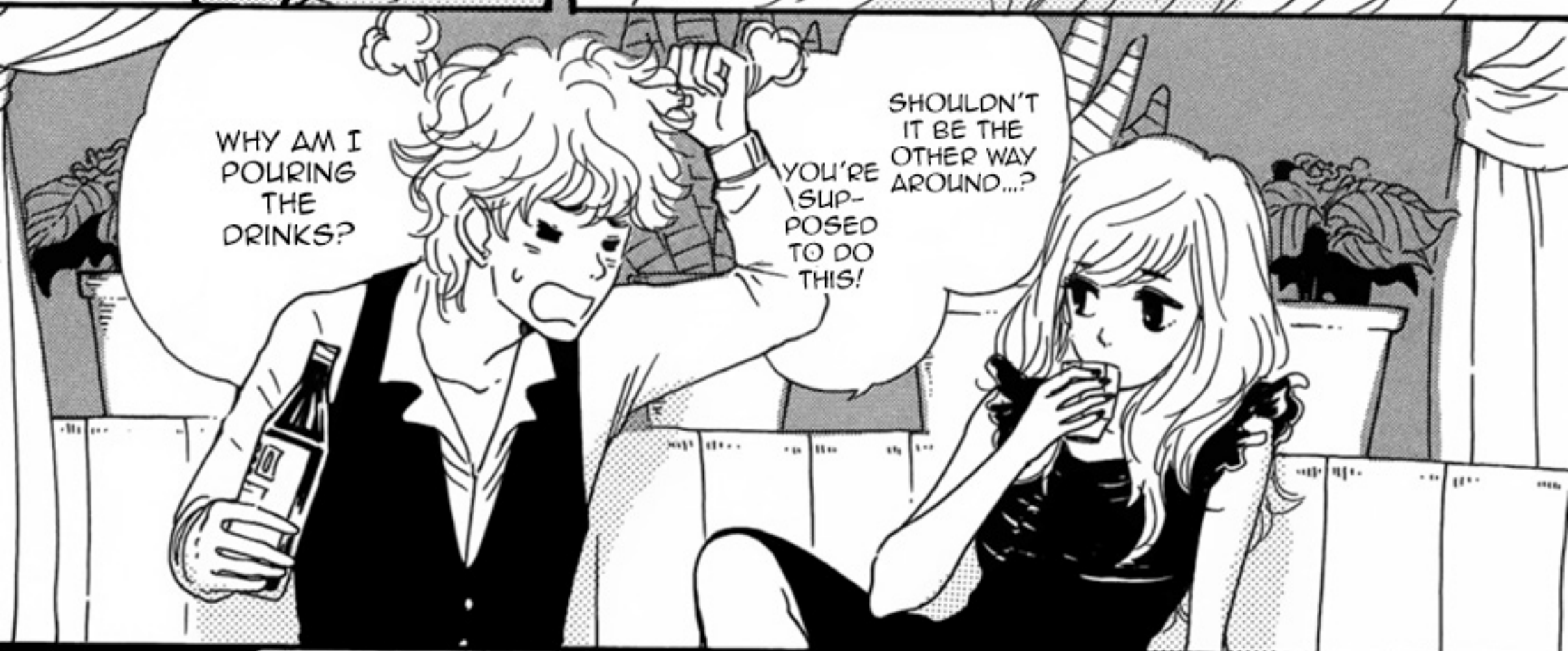
WHAT?



WHY AM I
POURING
THE
DRINKS?

YOU'RE
SUP-
POSED
TO DO
THIS!

SHOULDN'T
IT BE THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND...?



OH?

MS. IWATA
WAS
HOSPI-
TALIZED.

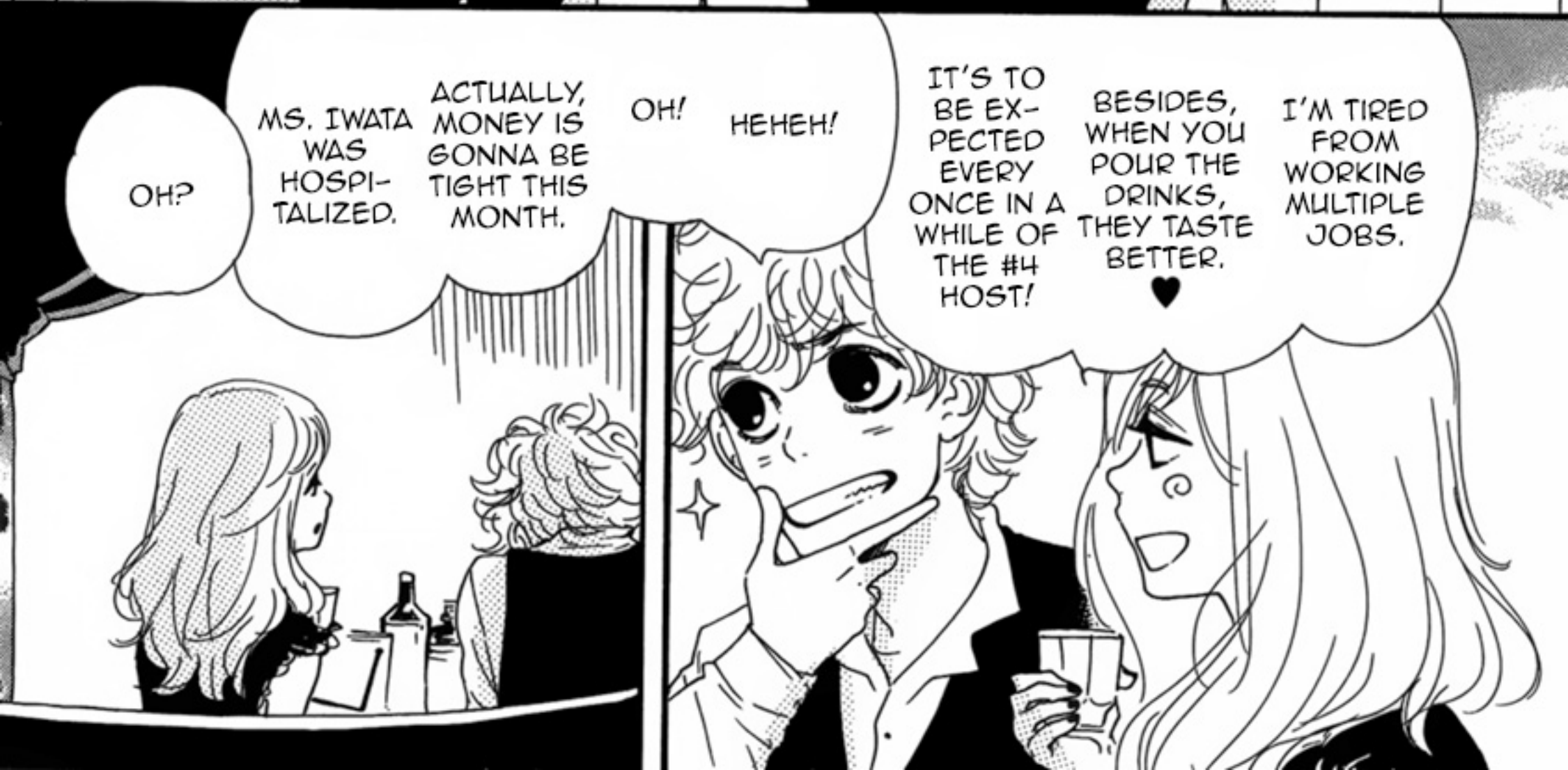
ACTUALLY,
MONEY IS
GONNA BE
TIGHT THIS
MONTH.

OH! HEHEH!

IT'S TO
BE EX-
PECTED
EVERY
ONCE IN A
WHILE OF
THE #4
HOST!

BESIDES,
WHEN YOU
POUR THE
DRINKS,
THEY TASTE
BETTER.

I'M TIRED
FROM
WORKING
MULTIPLE
JOBS.



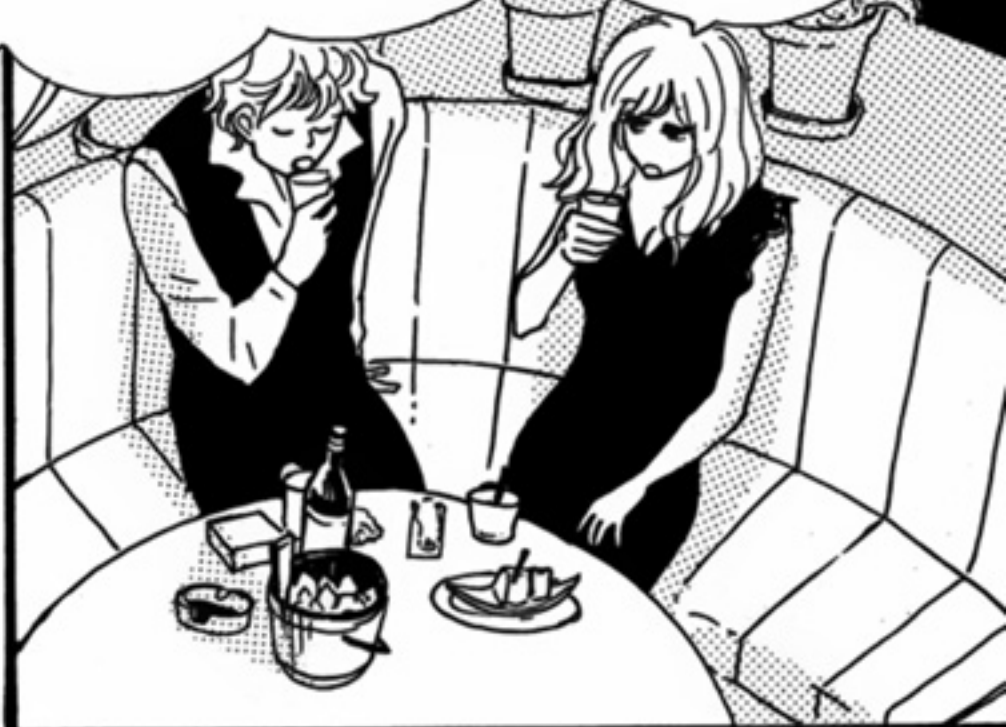
HMM...

I'M
GOING
TO CALL
HER
EVERY
MORNING.

I HEARD
HER FAMILY
IS KEEPING
HER FROM
COMING
HERE.

YEAH, I
THINK SHE
MOVED INTO
A NURSING
HOME OR
SOMETHING.

MRS.
IWATA...
ISN'T
SHE A
REGULAR
CUS-
TOMER?



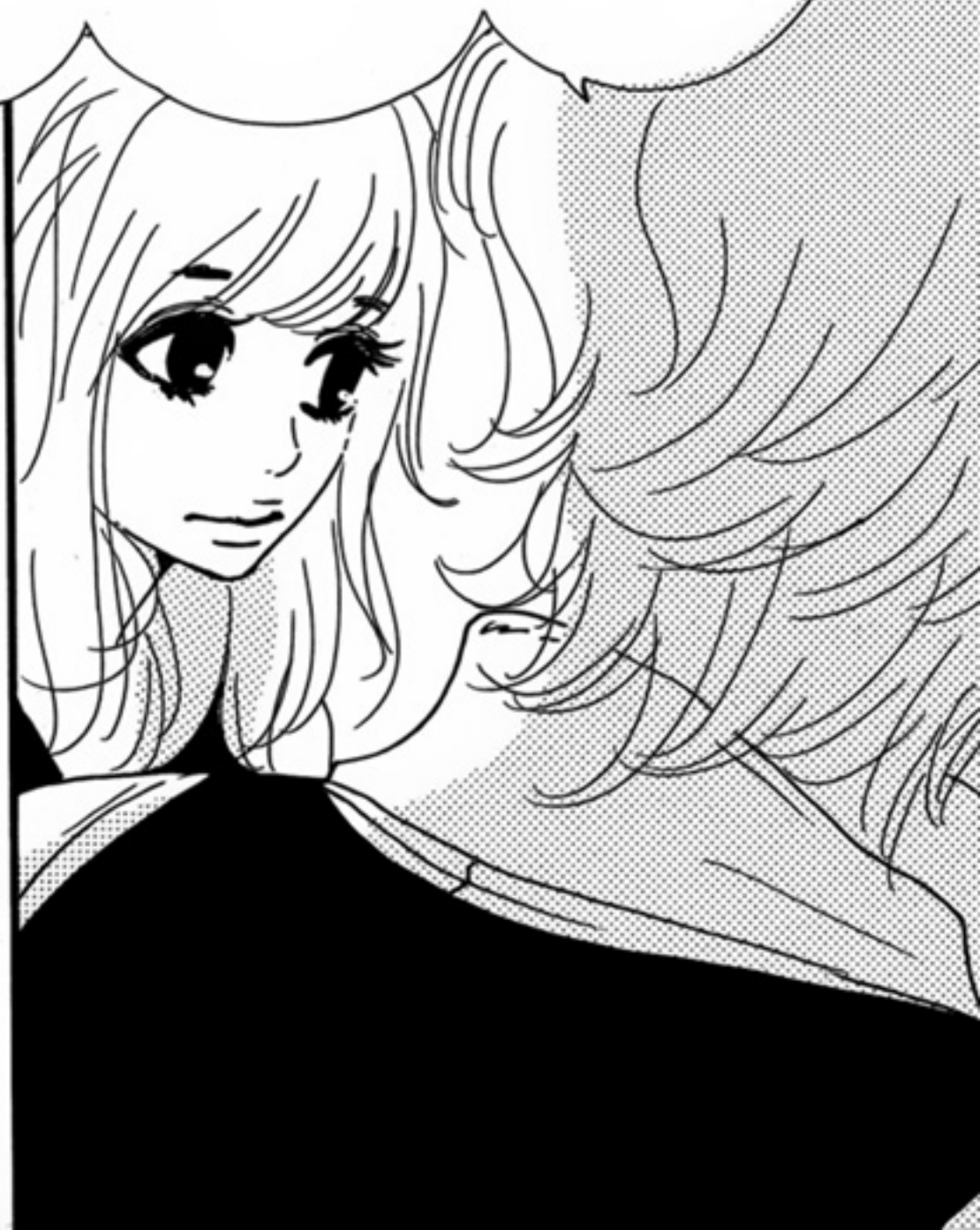
LIKE A
COMMON
GIGOLO,

BUT I
FEEL

I GO VISIT
MRS. IWATA
EVERY DAY...

I'M NOT DOING
WELL AS A
HOST, SO...

A LITTLE
GUILTY
DOING
SO.



BECAUSE
I'M 100%
JAPANESE,
SO

IT WAS
A HARD
DECISION
TO MAKE

TO A WOMAN
WHO'S MORE
THAN TWICE
HIS AGE.

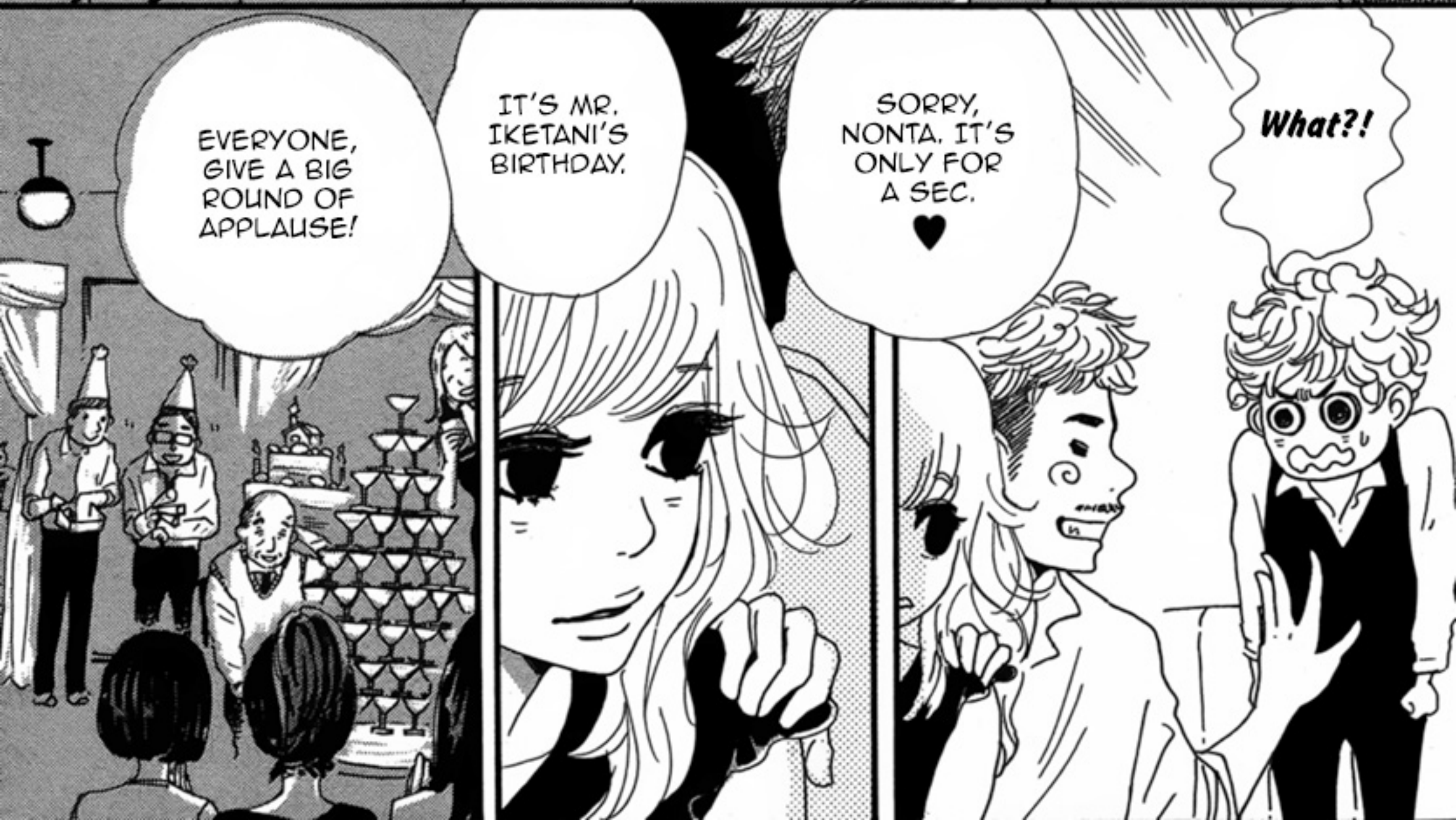
HE'LL SAY, "I
LOVE YOU"

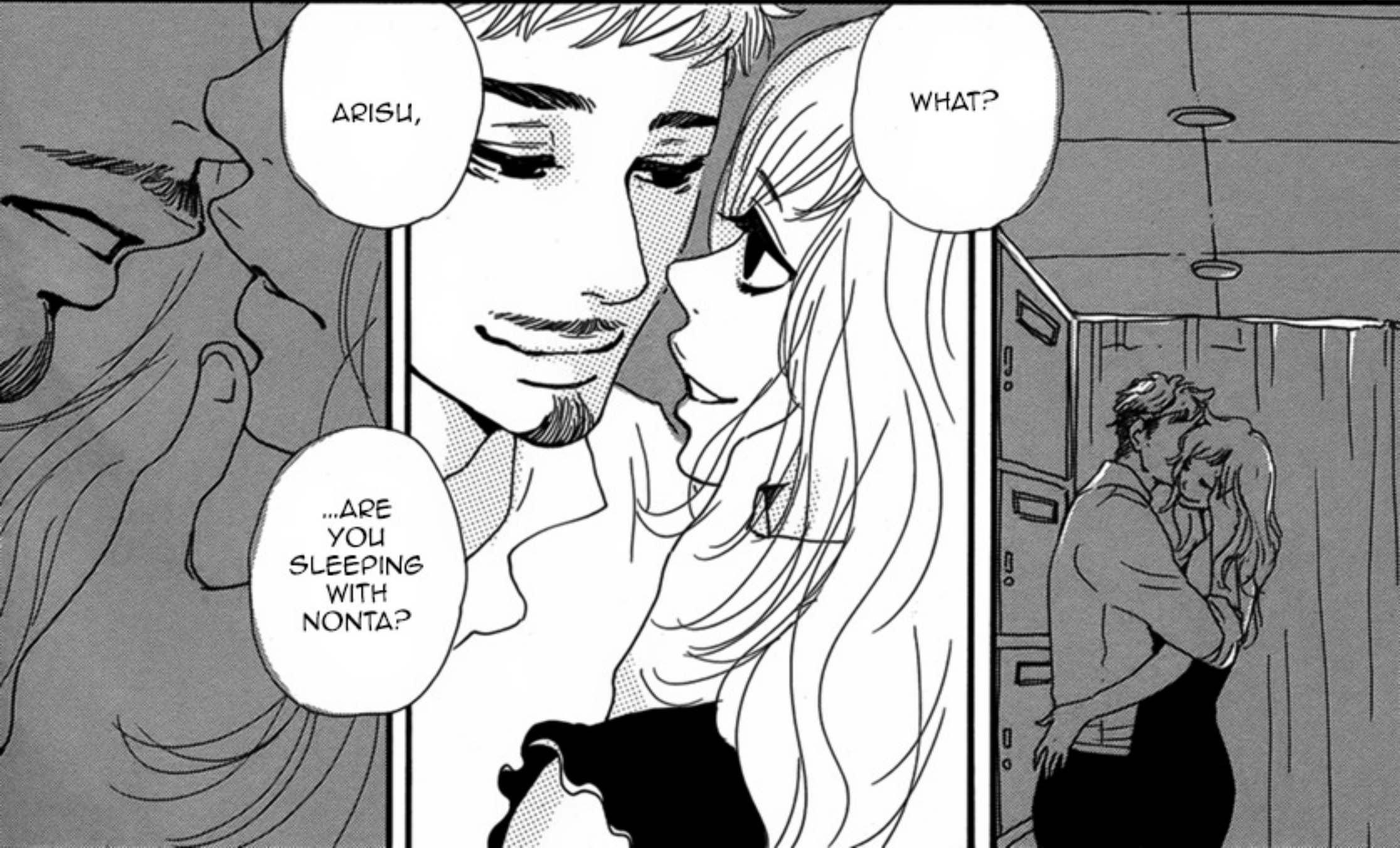
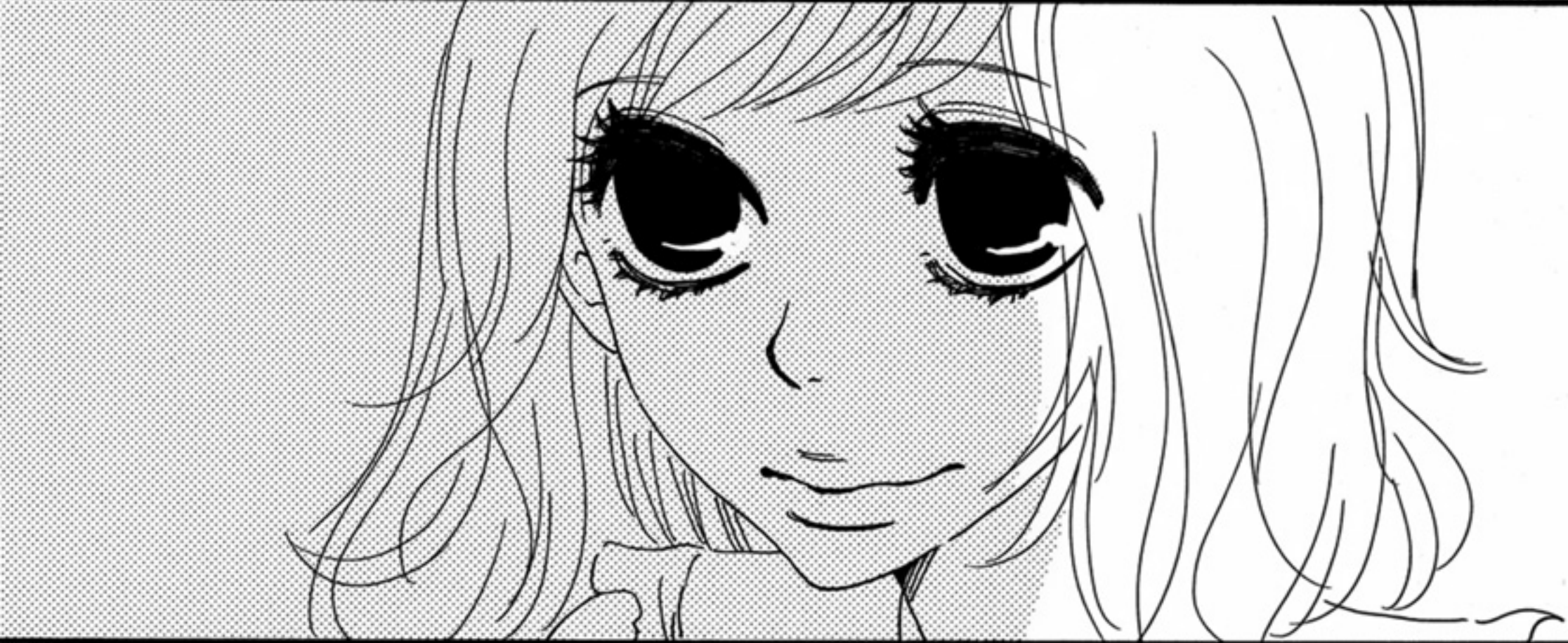
BUT I'M DOING
IT FOR THE
MONEY... I'M
SPOILED, YOU
SEE.

SHE
SEEMS
LIKE A
CUTE
GRANNY,

I RESPECT
MY ELDERS.

ARISU...

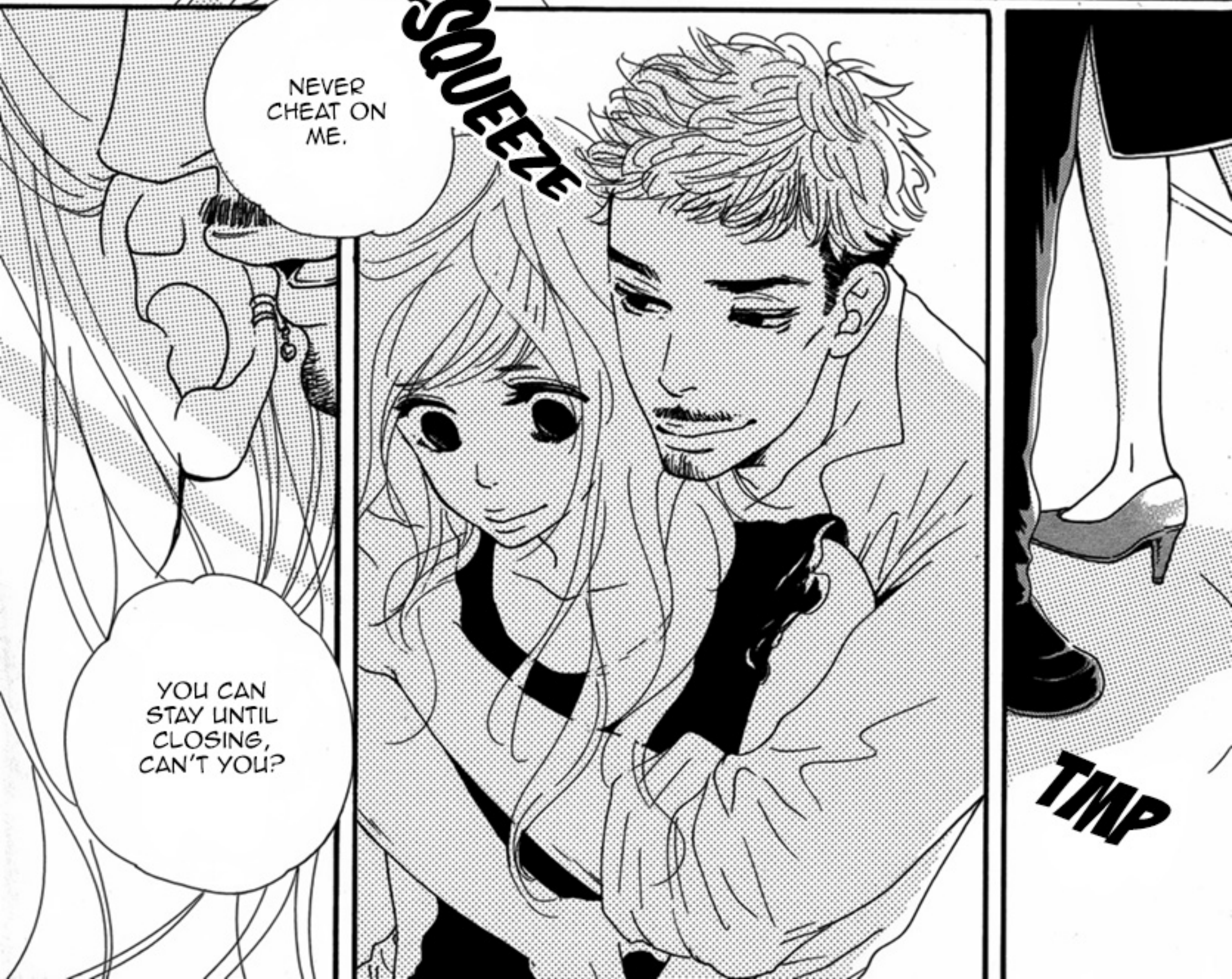






DON'T BE
RIDICU-
LOUS.

SHOVE



NEVER
CHEAT ON
ME.

SQUEEZE

YOU CAN
STAY UNTIL
CLOSING,
CAN'T YOU?

TMP



EVEN NOW,

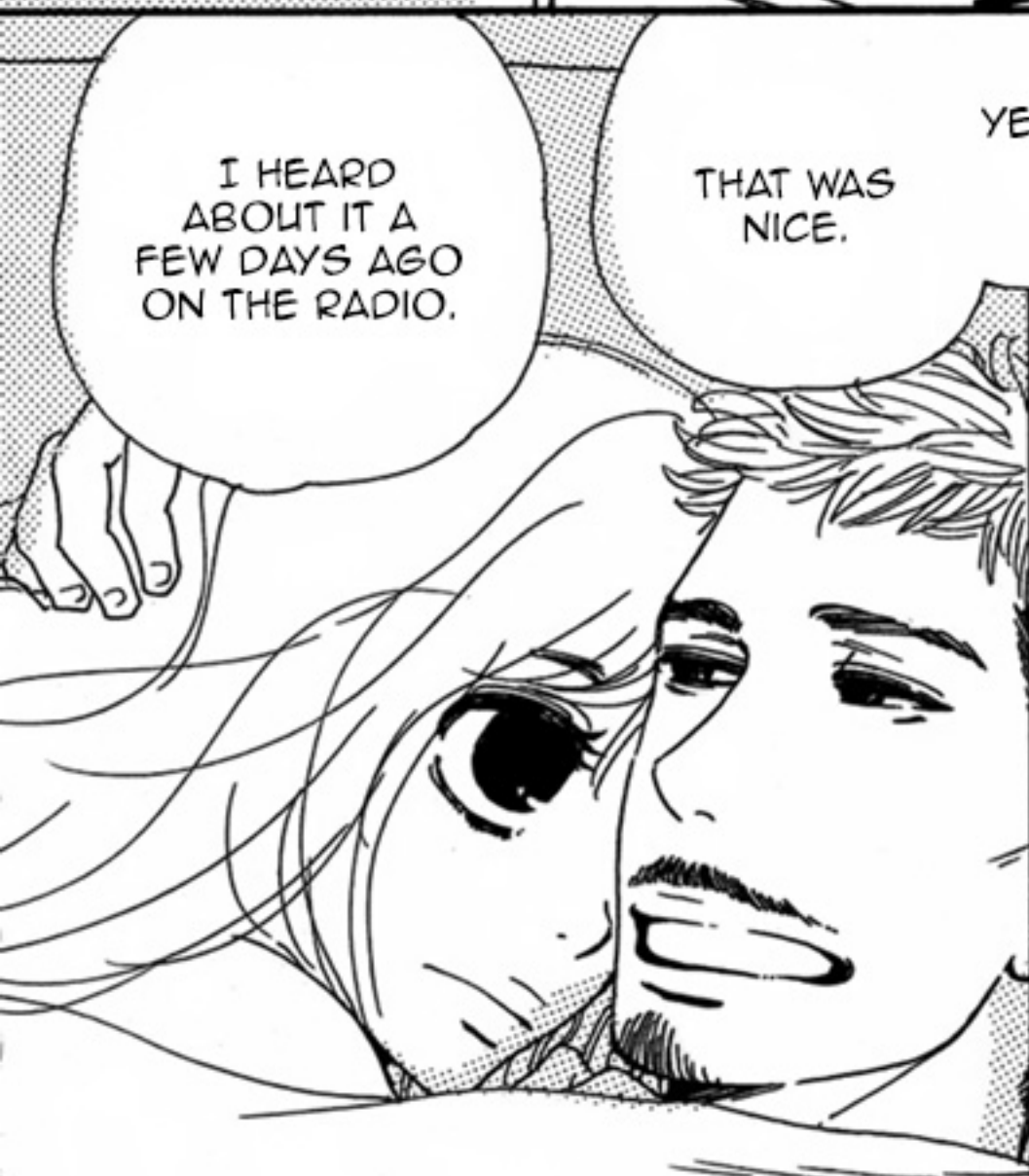
EVEN THOUGH
I KNOW THIS
GLITTERING
WORLD IS EMPTY,

I STILL WANT
TO BE
DECEIVED

YEAH.



BY THESE
BRIGHT AND
VIVID
COLORS.



I HEARD
ABOUT IT A
FEW DAYS AGO
ON THE RADIO.

THAT WAS
NICE.

YEAH,

IT WAS
JUST BIG
ENOUGH
FOR THE
TWO OF
US.

THE
OPEN-AIR
BATH WAS
CUTE.







WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

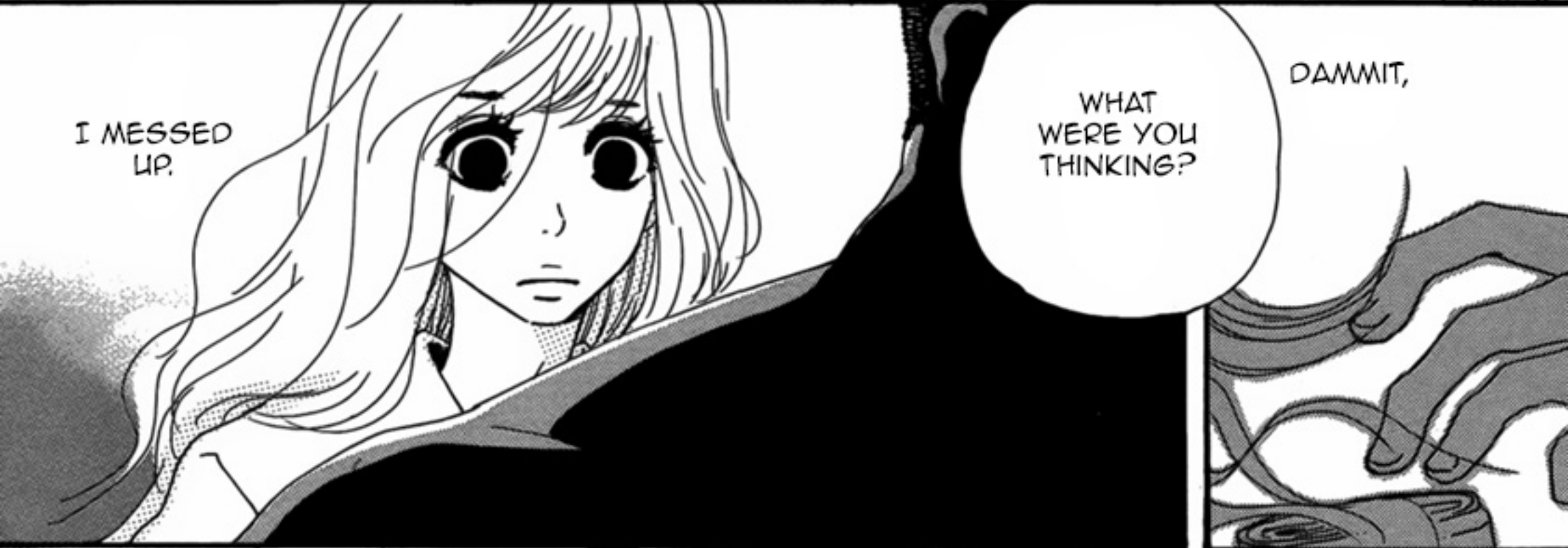
I CAN'T
HANDLE
ALCOHOL.

I'LL HAVE
A SODA.

HEH

HEH

DON'T YOU THINK
MY WIFE WOULD
GET ANGRY WITH
ME IF I GO HOME
DRUNK?



I MESSED
UP.

WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?

DAMMIT,



ARISU,

COME
HERE.

IF I WERE STILL
20, I'M SURE I
WOULD GO
ALONG WITH
BEING FOOLED.

RIGHT NOW,
I'M ONLY
PRETENDING
TO BE
FOOLED.

LET'S HAVE
ONE MORE
GO.

ARE YOU
COMING
HOME AT
THE END
OF THIS
MONTH?

ARISU?
GOOD
MORNING.

HEY, HELLO
SIS, IS THAT
YOU?

Saki

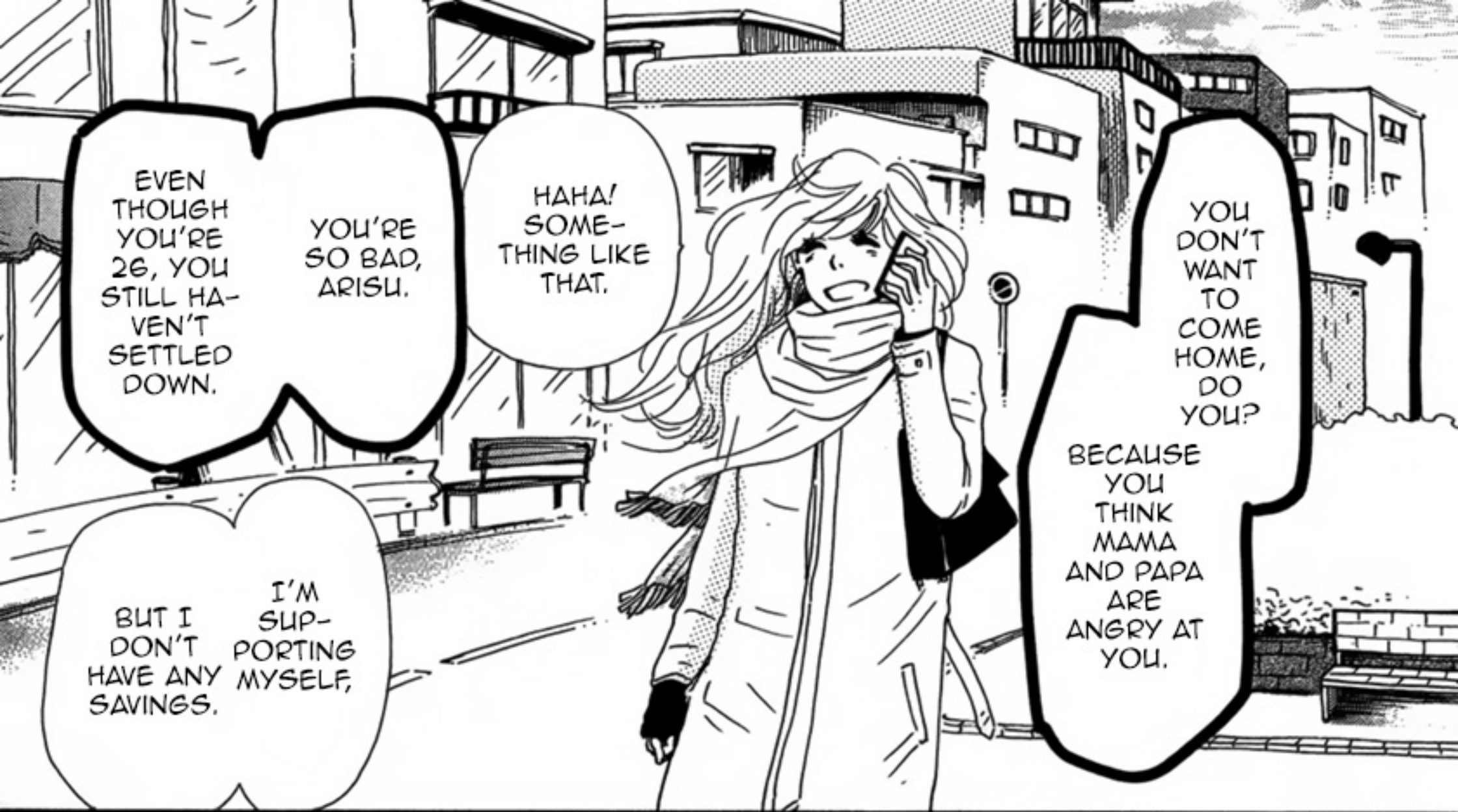
VERRR

OH? BUT I
HEARD PAPA
WAS GOING TO
PICK YOU UP.

I DON'T
THINK I CAN
GET THE TIME
OFF...

THAT'S
A LIE.

THE APPAREL
DEPARTMENT
IS LOW ON
STAFF.



EVEN
THOUGH
YOU'RE
26, YOU
STILL HA-
VEN'T
SETTLED
DOWN.

YOU'RE
SO BAD,
ARISU.

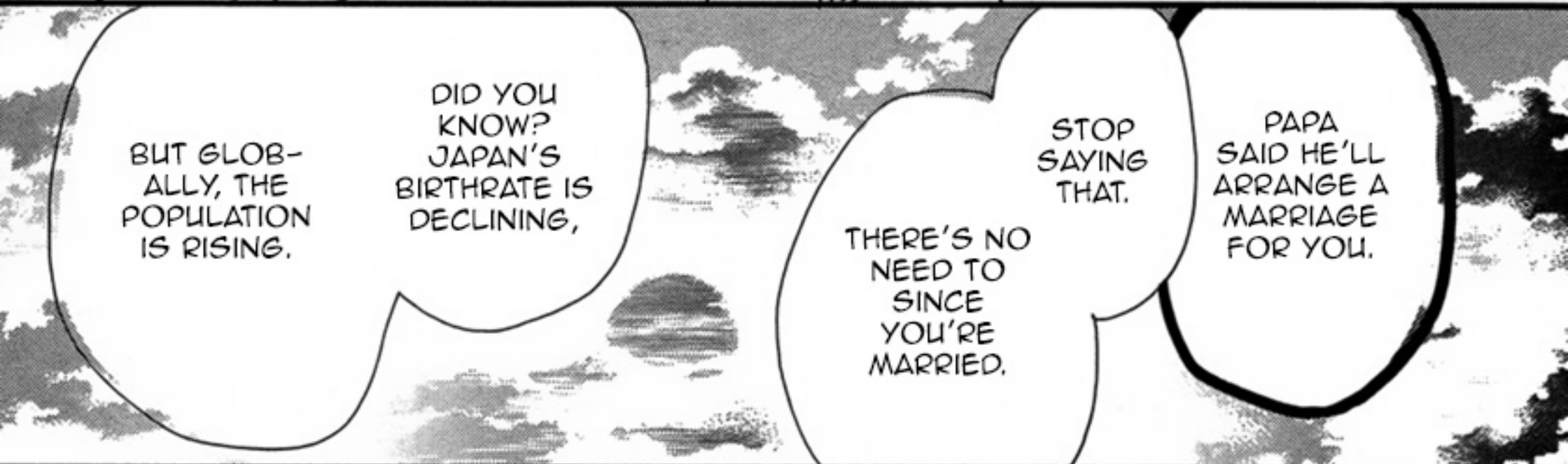
HAHA!
SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT.

YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO
COME
HOME,
DO
YOU?

BECAUSE
YOU
THINK
MAMA
AND PAPA
ARE
ANGRY AT
YOU.

BUT I
DON'T
HAVE ANY
SAVINGS.

I'M
SUP-
PORTING
MYSELF,



BUT GLOB-
ALLY, THE
POPULATION
IS RISING.

DID YOU
KNOW?
JAPAN'S
BIRTHRATE IS
DECLINING,

STOP
SAYING
THAT.

THERE'S NO
NEED TO
SINCE
YOU'RE
MARRIED.

PAPA
SAID HE'LL
ARRANGE A
MARRIAGE
FOR YOU.



IF I GOT
MARRIED,

ARISU!

DON'T GET
UPSET
ABOUT IT.
HEY, THINK
ABOUT IT.

I'VE BEEN
BAD MOUTH-
ING MYSELF
TO EVERYONE

WOULDN'T
YOU FEEL
SORRY
FOR THE
GUY?

UP UNTIL
NOW,

THAT
WAS
LAST
MONTH,
RIGHT?

EVEN
THOUGH THE
MANAGER
SOLD LESS
THAN US.

CHAK

CHAK

LOOK, AREN'T
THIS MONTH'S
GOALS GOING
TO BE HARD TO
MEET? IT'LL BE
IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME.

TO
ESCAPE
RESPON-
SIBILITY.
Feb Goals

THAT MANAGER-
WOMAN FROM
HEADQUARTERS
CUT HER SOME
SLACK!

THAT
WOMAN
HAS NO
FASHION
SENSE.

EWW,
SHE
MAKES
ME
SICK.

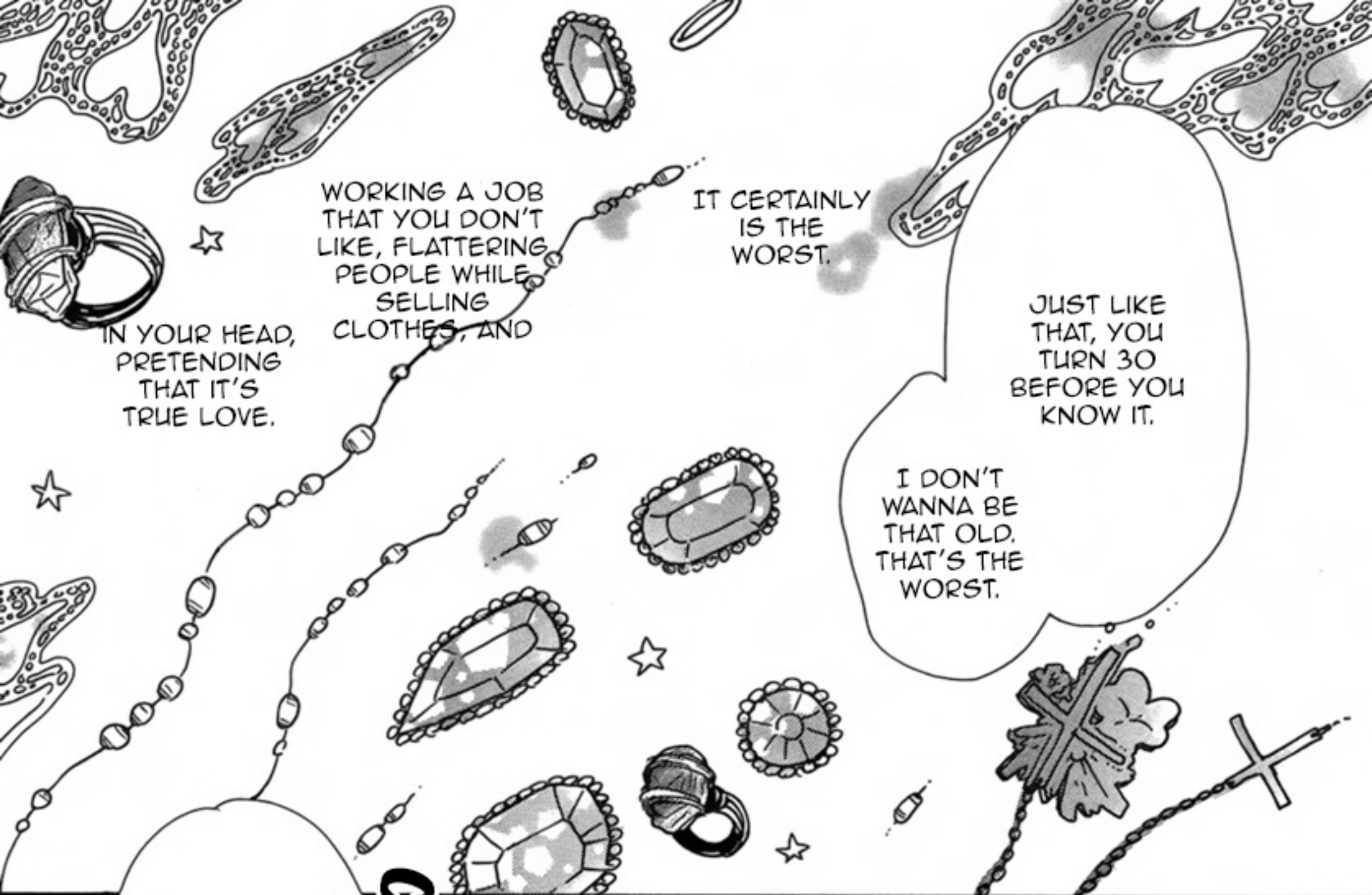
SHE'S
FLIRTING
WITH HIM.

EWW.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
SAY THAT.

OH
LOOK,
OVER
THERE.

BWHAHA!



WORKING A JOB
THAT YOU DON'T
LIKE, FLATTERING
PEOPLE WHILE
SELLING
CLOTHES, AND

IT CERTAINLY
IS THE
WORST.

JUST LIKE
THAT, YOU
TURN 30
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT.

I DON'T
WANNA BE
THAT OLD.
THAT'S THE
WORST.

IN YOUR HEAD,
PRETENDING
THAT IT'S
TRUE LOVE.

I'M
TIRED.

CLATTER

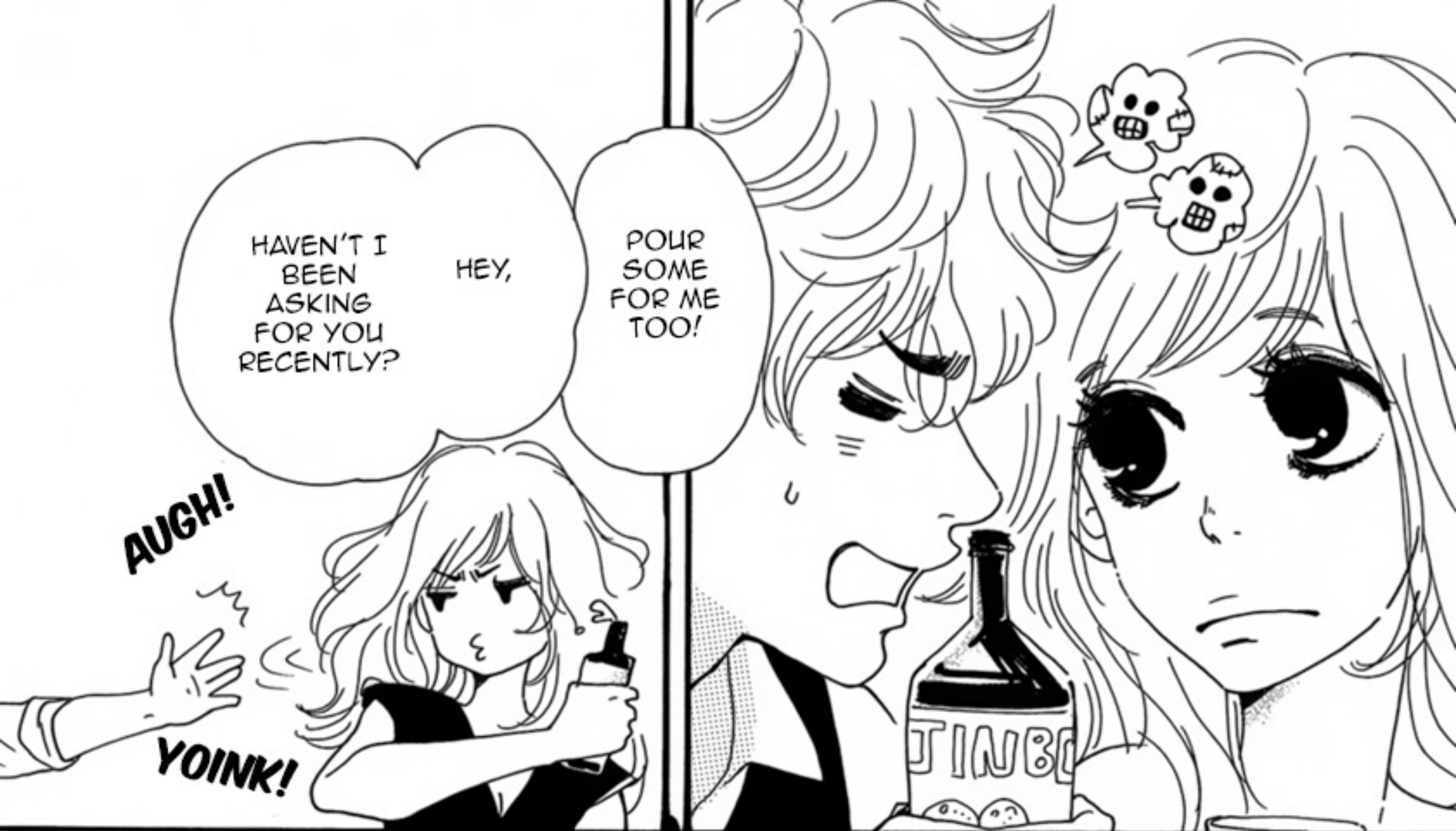


HEY,

I'LL COME
HERE TO
SPEND TIME
WITH YOU AS
A DISTRACTION.

GLUB
GLUB
GLUB

AND
EVEN WHEN I
TURN 30,
IT'LL BE FINE
IF I'M STILL
A LOW-WAGE
WORKER.



HAVEN'T I
BEEN
ASKING
FOR YOU
RECENTLY?

HEY,

POUR
SOME
FOR ME
TOO!

AUGH!

YOINK!



THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH
PEOPLE.
APPAREL
WORKERS
ARE POOR.

OFFICE
LADIES
ARE THE
ONES
MAKING
BANK.

COULDN'T
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT
MORE
PEOPLE?!

7 PEOPLE
WOULD
BRING IN
ABOUT
40,000
YEN...

GRRRR



OH THIS?
IT'S A NEW
ITEM AT MY
STORE.

HMM?

IS THAT
AN EAR-
RING?

HEY,
WHAT'S
THAT
YOU'RE
WEARING?

WHEN I WAS KID
LIVING IN MY
HOMETOWN, WE
USED TO MAKE
CRAWFISH STEW.

HUH?
NO...

GUYS HATE
THIS SORT
OF THING,
RIGHT?

AREN'T
THEY
CUTE?
THEY ALL
LOOK
LIKE
CRUSTA-
CEANS.

THERE ARE
ALSO
CRABS.

IS THAT A
HERMIT
CRAB
SHELL?

WHAT?!



Swarovski



Pearl

Crystal Crustacean Series

ESPE-
CIAL-
LY AFTER
YOU LET
THEM
SIMMER IN
ALCOHOL.

FWASH

SIMMER...?!

THEY'RE
FINE,

STEW...?
BUT DON'T
CRAYFISH
HAVE
PARASITES?

**GLUB
GLUB**

GUNMA.

THAT'S
PRACTI-
CALLY A
CITY.

NONTA,
WHERE
ARE YOU
FROM?

WHAT THE
HECK?

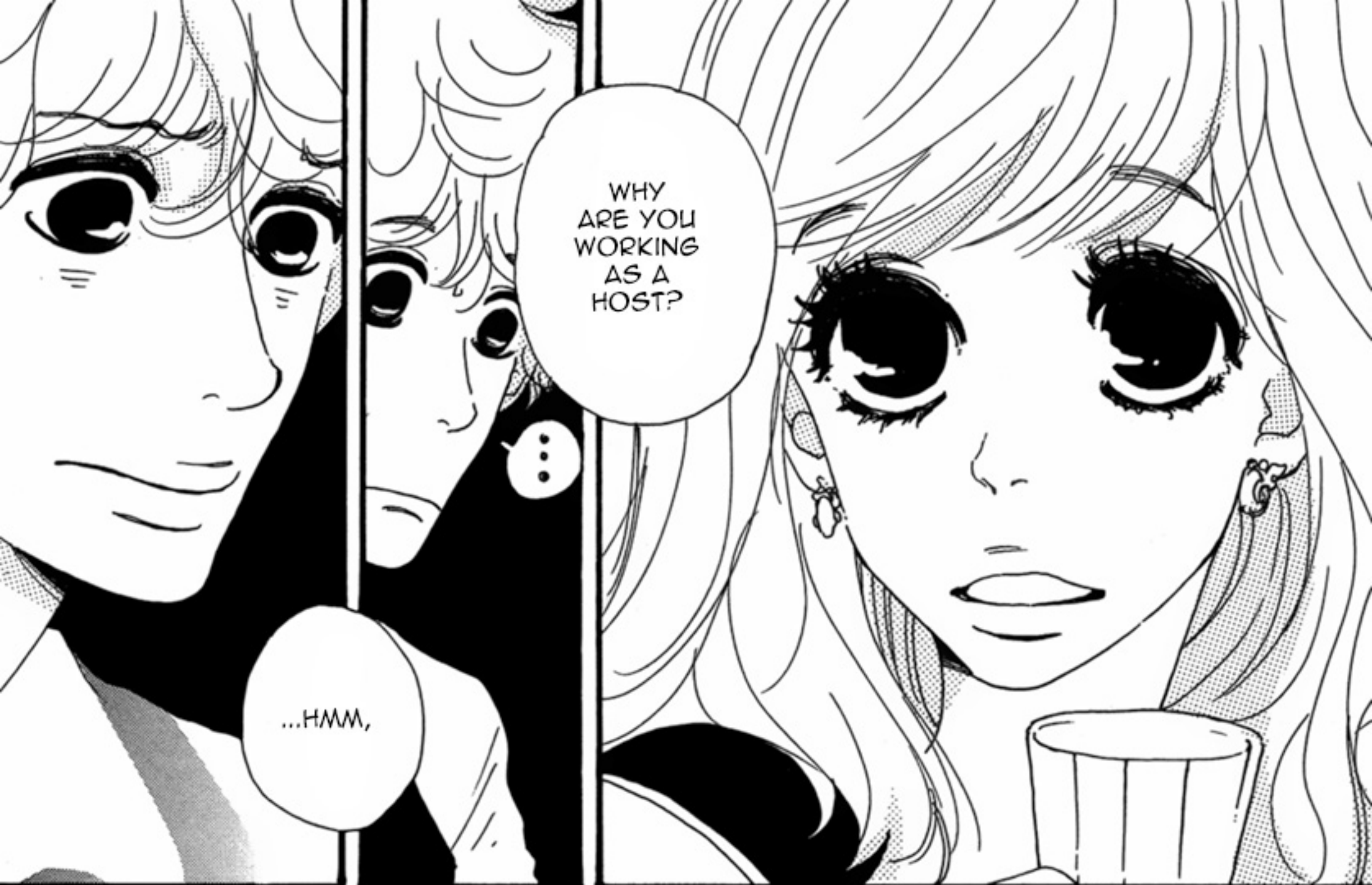
A B-GRADE
HICK GOURMET.
THERE'S NO
UNDERSTAND-
ING YOUR
TASTE...

*It's
deli-
cious*



TAP

TAP



WHY
ARE YOU
WORKING
AS A
HOST?

...HMM,

I END UP
TALKING
ABOUT HOW
BAD THE
PRODUCT IS.

AAH...

NOT
SMART?

BECAUSE
I'M NOT
VERY
SMART.

I DON'T
HAVE THE
BRAINS
FOR
BUSI-
NESS,
YOU SEE.

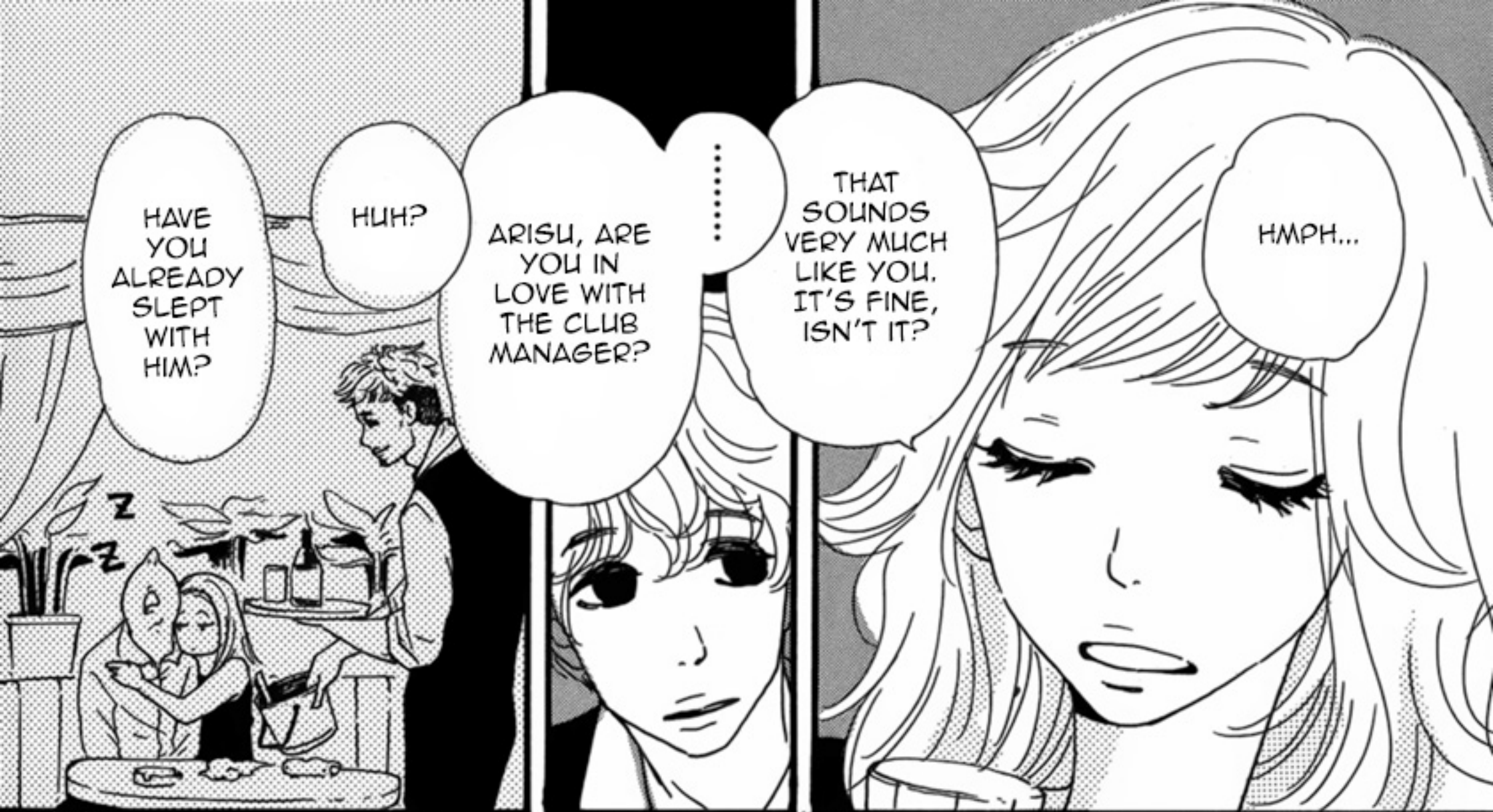


I'VE BEEN
LIVING MY LIFE
BY GOING
WITH THE
FLOW.

IT'S
CYNICAL
OF ME.

BECAUSE OF
THAT, THERE
WEREN'T
MANY CUS-
TOMERS,

BUT THEN
ONE OF
OUR FEW
CUSTOM-
ERS RE-
FERRED ME
TO HERE.



HAVE YOU
ALREADY
SLEPT
WITH
HIM?

HUH?

ARISU, ARE
YOU IN
LOVE WITH
THE CLUB
MANAGER?

.....

THAT
SOUNDS
VERY MUCH
LIKE YOU.
IT'S FINE,
ISN'T IT?

HMPH...



WHAT'S SO
GREAT
ABOUT THAT
OLD MAN?

TAKE AN-
OTHER
LOOK.

WHAT'S
WITH
YOU?



WHAT?
WHY DO
YOU
ONLY RUB
MY HEAD
AT A TIME
LIKE
THIS?

STOP
POINTING.

YOU'RE
NOT A
KID.

I'M TALLER
AND MY FEET
ARE BIGGER,
PROBABLY.

YANK!

LAVISHING
MONEY ON
AN UNMOTI-
VATED
HOSTESS.

AN EASY-
GOING HOST
WITHOUT
CUSTOMERS

BUT KEEP
ON DOING
IT.

RUB MY
HEAD.

SIGN: SOBA UDON

WELCOME.

VRRRING

I'M FAR
MORE

I CAN'T
TORTURE
MYSELF IN
FRONT OF
EVERYONE.

BUT

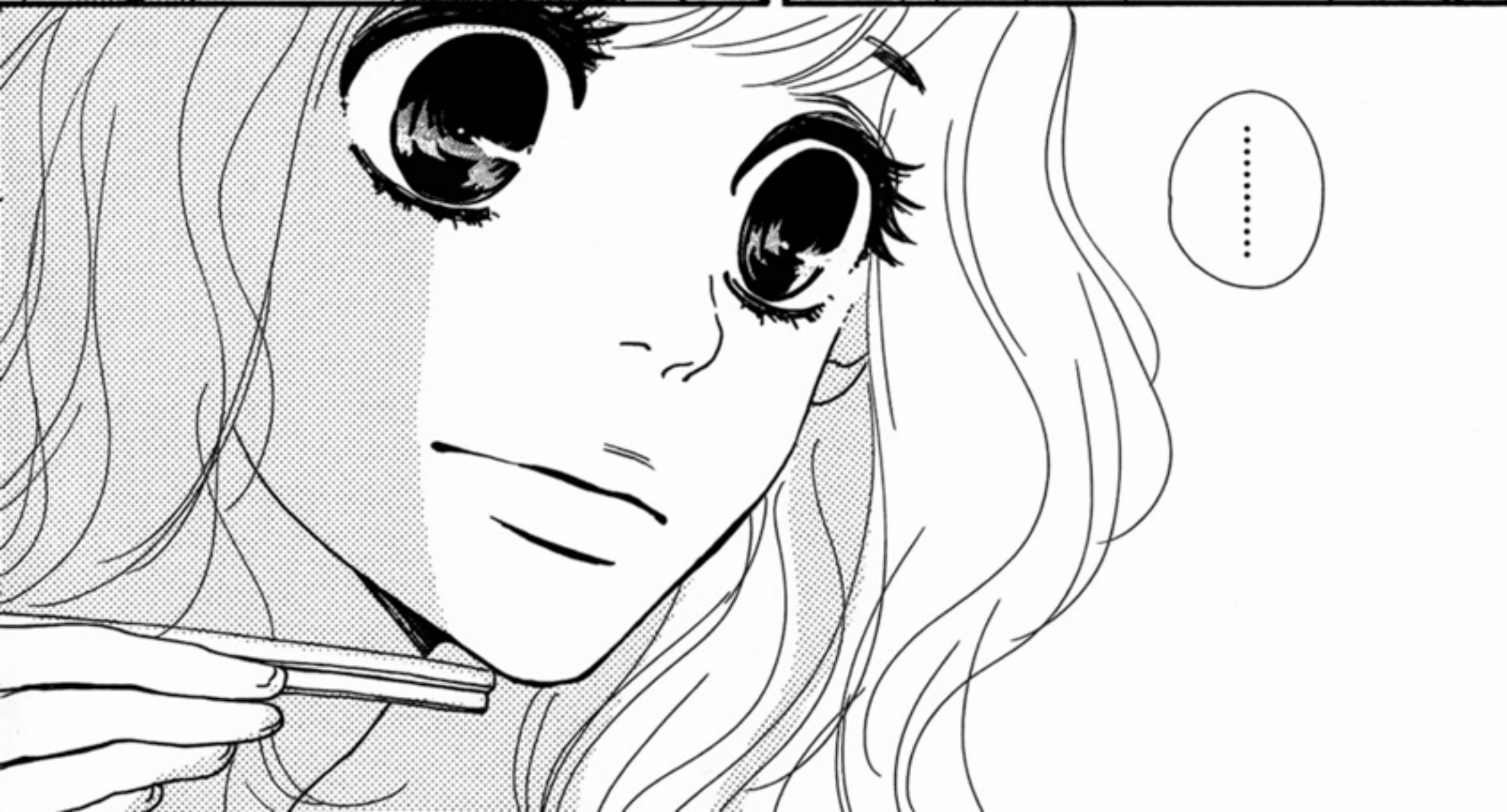
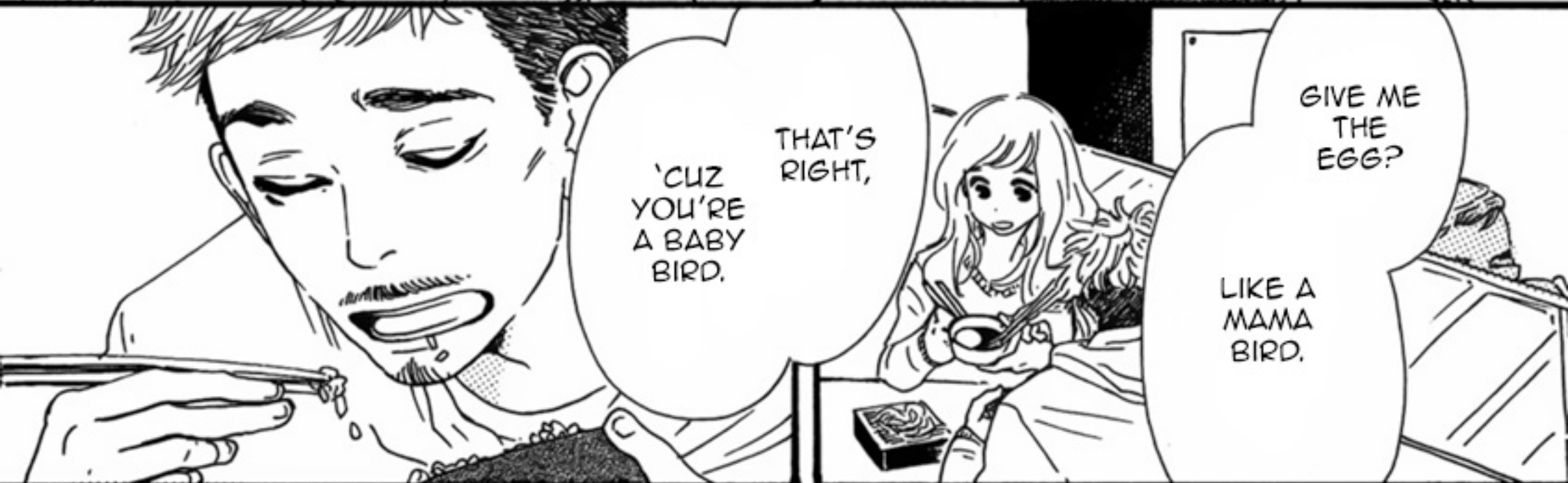
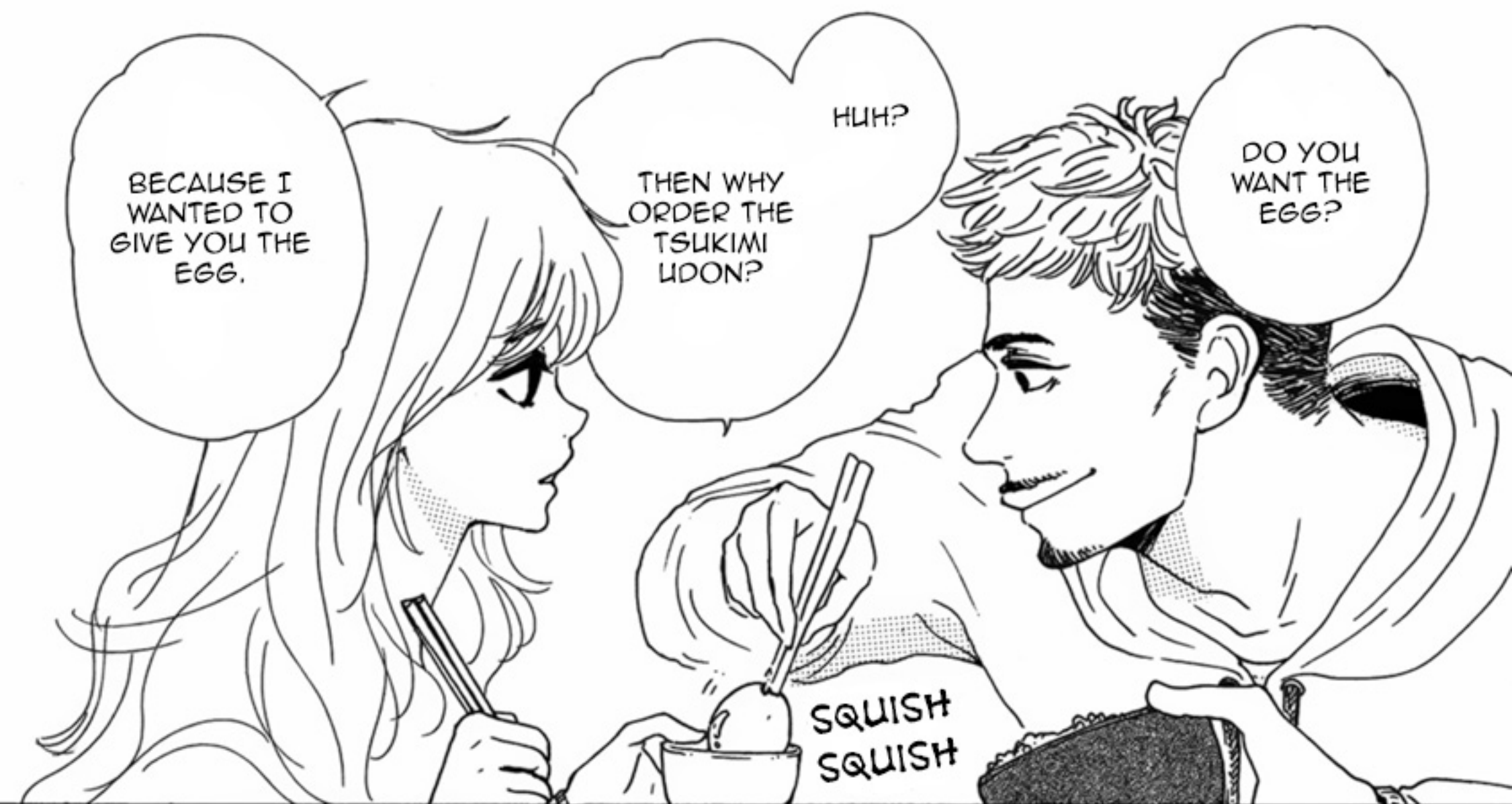
BOTH
NONTA
AND I
ARE
FOOLS,

LET'S EAT.

ZARUSOBA
AND
TSUKIMI
UDON.

FOOLISH
THAN
NONTA.

TONK





THAT I'M
POWER-
LESS?

I ATE
ENOUGH. I
DON'T
WANT TO
GET FAT.

YOU DIDN'T
EAT MUCH.

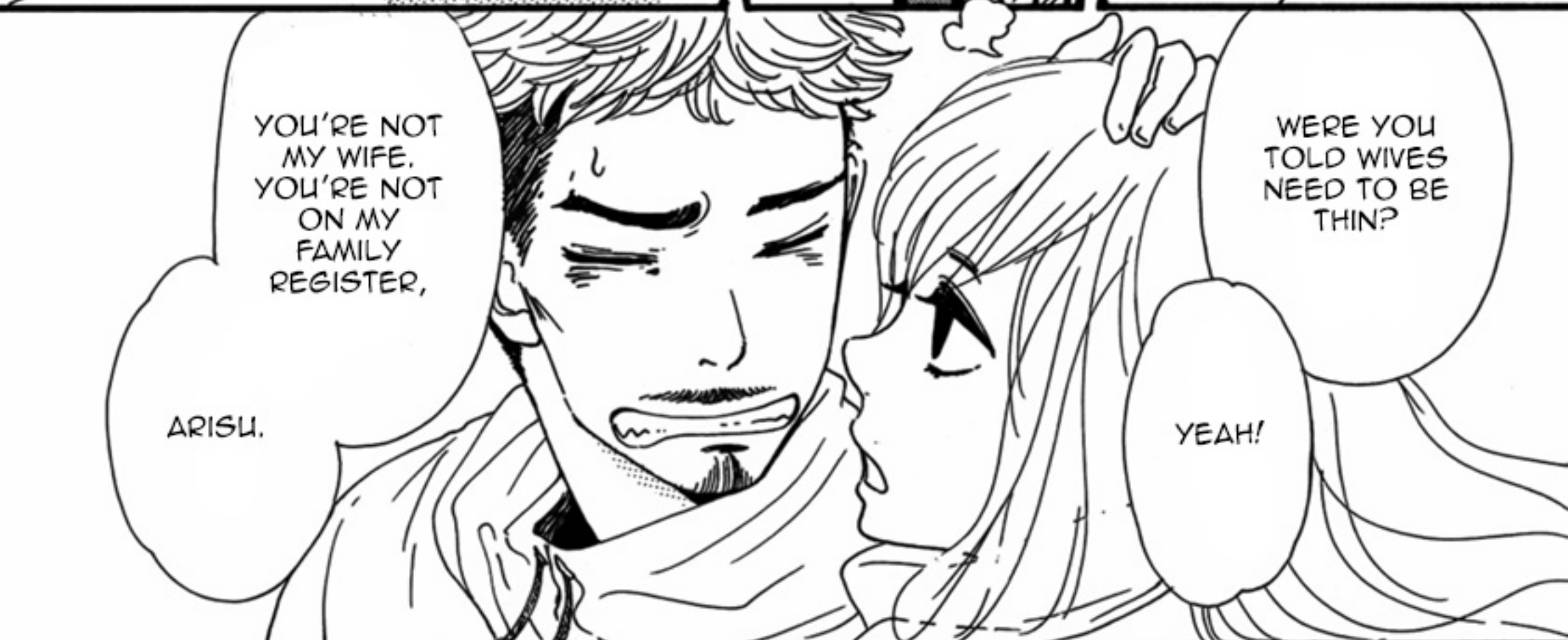
VRING
VRING

THAT WAS
GOOD.

I'M SO
FULL.

A BABY
BIRD?

DOES HE
MEAN?



YOU'RE NOT
MY WIFE.
YOU'RE NOT
ON MY
FAMILY
REGISTER,

ARISU.

WERE YOU
TOLD WIVES
NEED TO BE
THIN?

YEAH!



OH

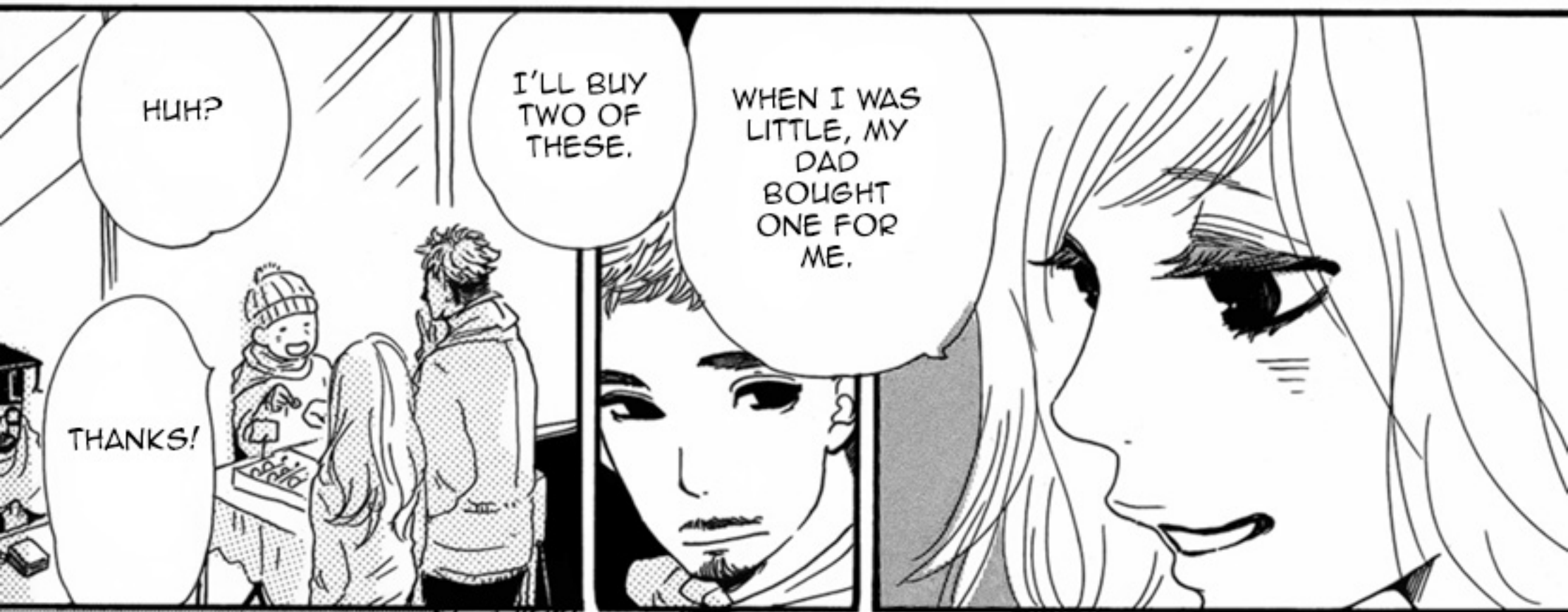
YEAH... OF
COURSE I
KNOW THIS.



ZING



DON'T
HOLD
BACK.



HE'S
TREATING
ME LIKE A
BABY BIRD.



EVEN
THOUGH
I'M AN
ADULT.

I'M A
PERSON
WHO
GETS
TAKEN
CARE OF

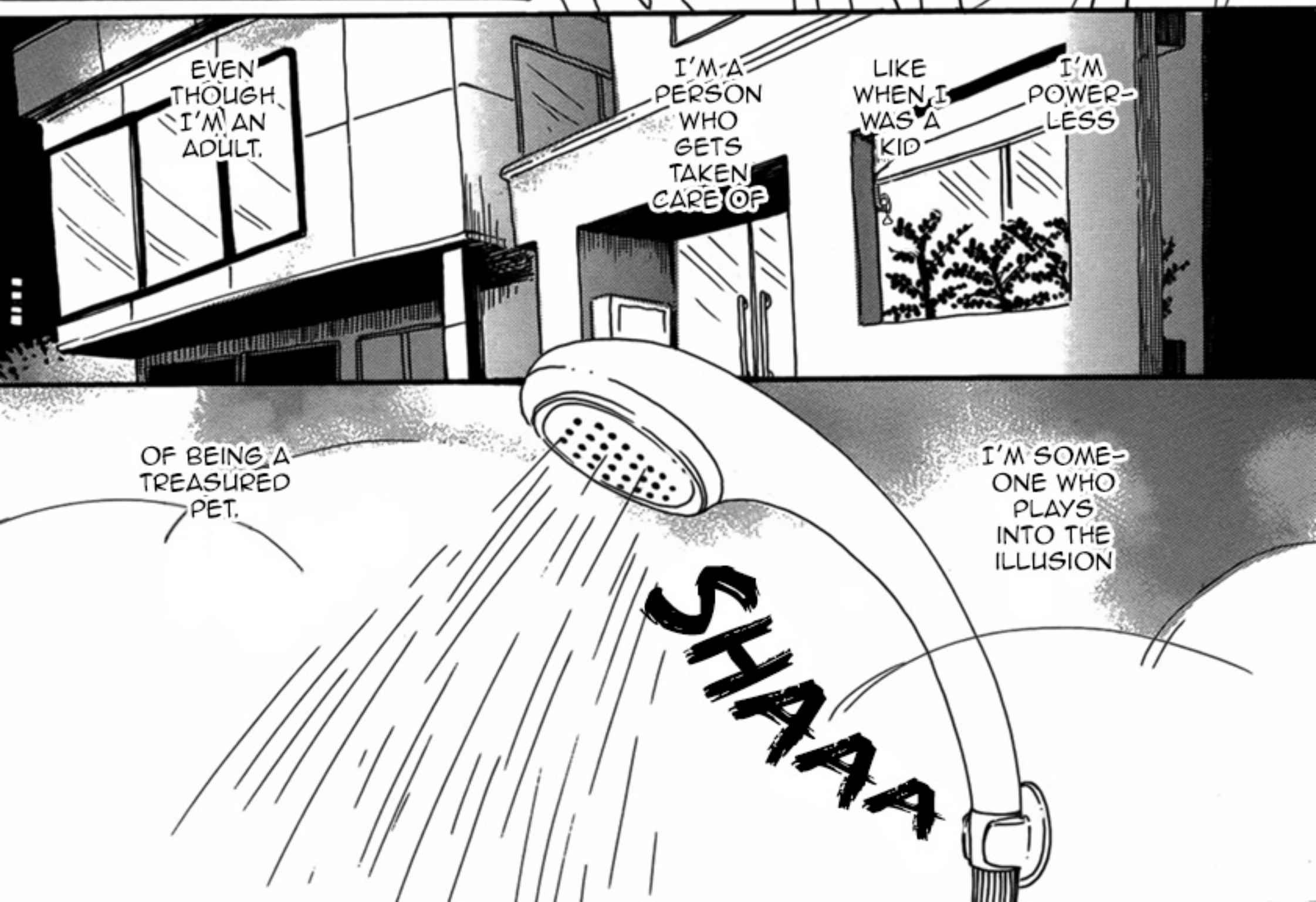
LIKE
WHEN I
WAS A
KID

I'M
POWER-
LESS

OF BEING A
TREASURED
PET.

I'M SOME-
ONE WHO
PLAYS
INTO THE
ILLUSION

SHAAA



MAKES IT
SO EASY
TO REMIND
MYSELF
THAT I'M A
WOMAN.

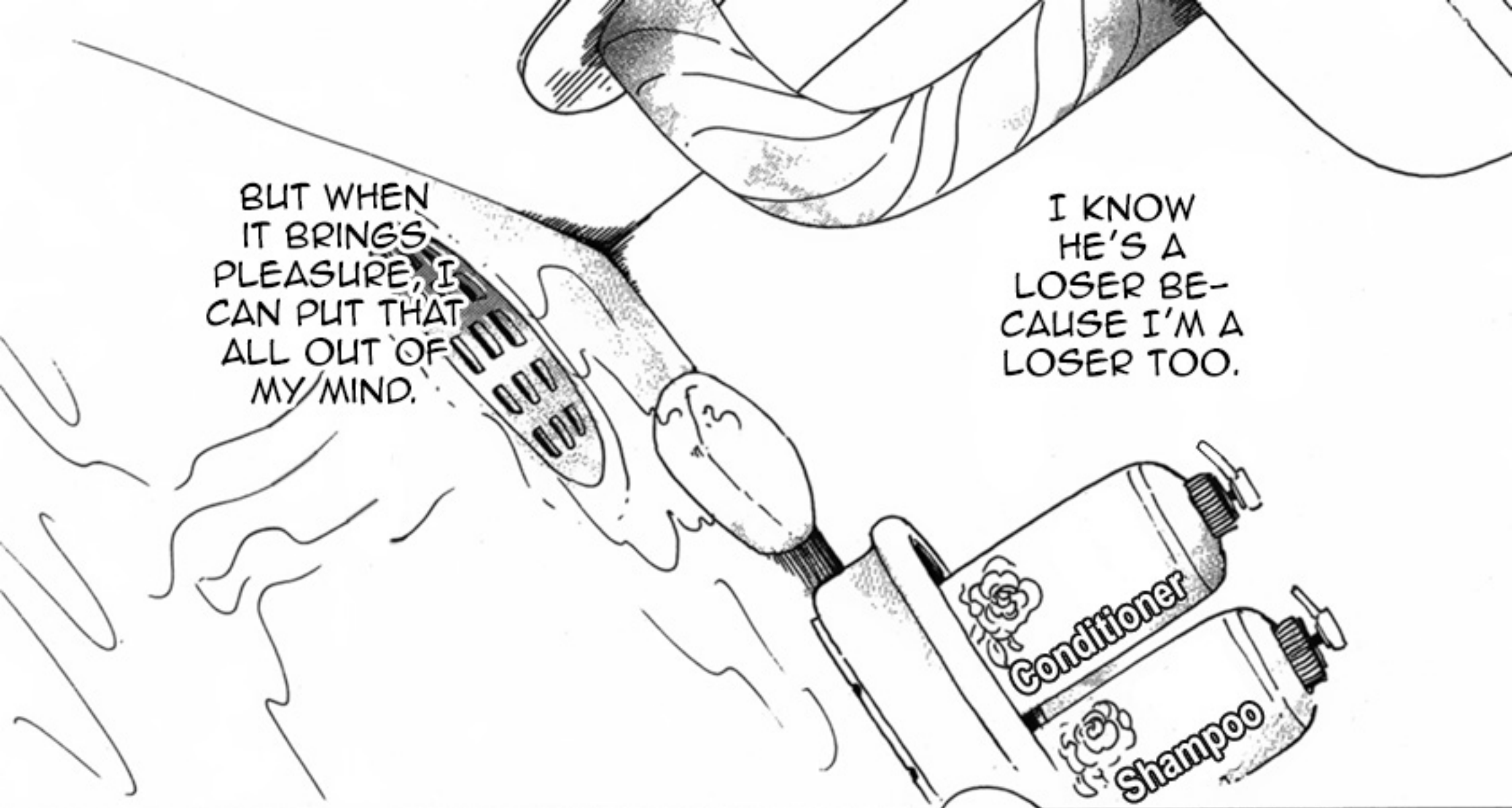
GOING
ALONG
WITH THE
FLOW AND
RECEIVING
AFFECTION

BEING
WRAPPED
AROUND
SOME-
ONE'S
FINGER AND
GIVING
YOURSELF
OVER
FEELS
GOOD.



BUT WHEN
IT BRINGS
PLEASURE, I
CAN PUT THAT
ALL OUT OF
MY MIND.

I KNOW
HE'S A
LOSER BE-
CAUSE I'M A
LOSER TOO.



YOU WERE WITH THAT OLD LADY TOO.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

WITH THAT OLD MAN YESTER-DAY, DIDN'T YOU?

ARISU, YOU SLEPT

HEY!

BEEP

UH!

DID YOU SLEEP WITH HER?!

Nonta
Callin

NO WAY.

LIFE'S A BITCH FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?

ISN'T IT THE SAME FOR YOU?

[HARU BOOKS]

I'M WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN.

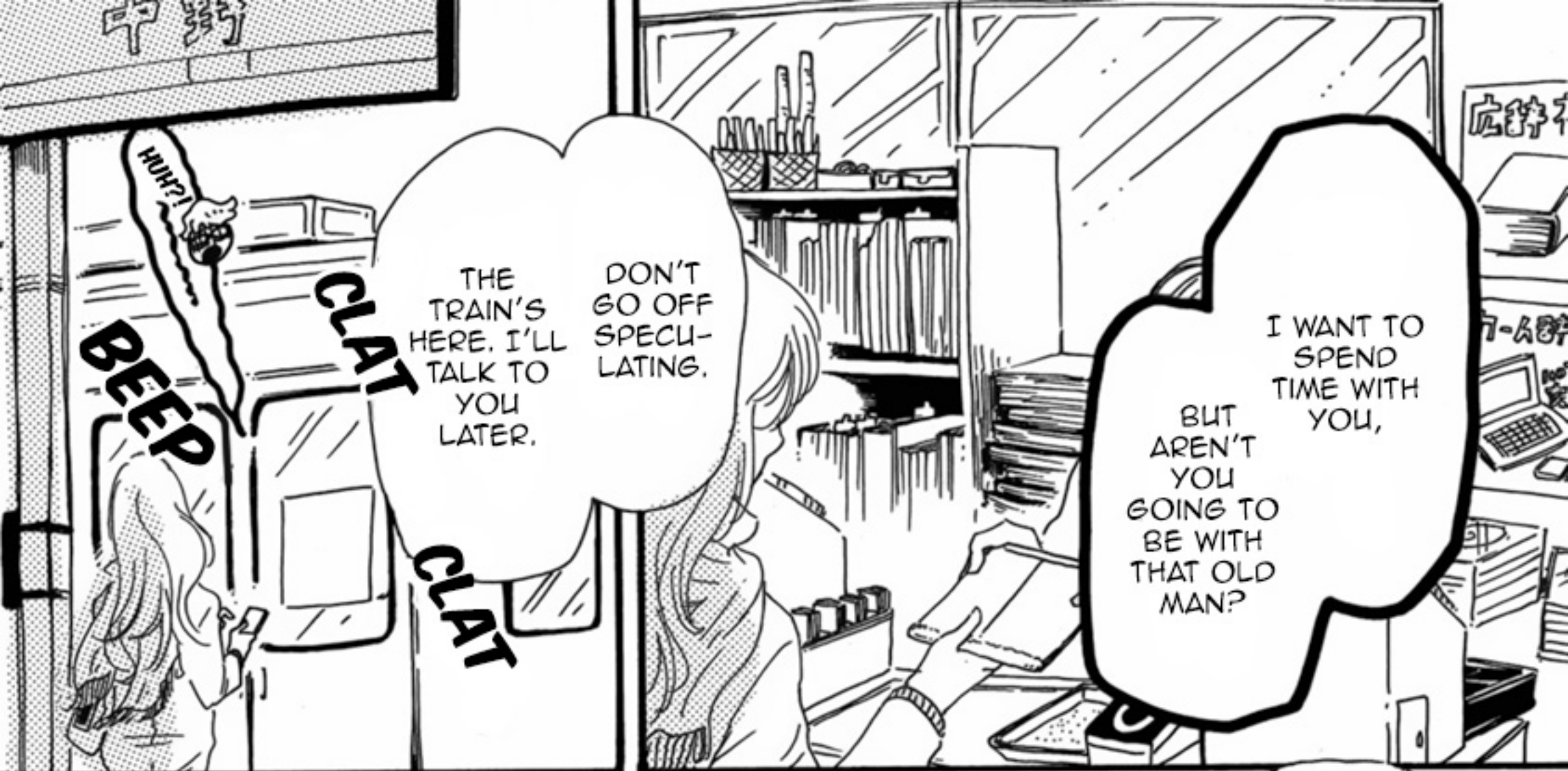
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.

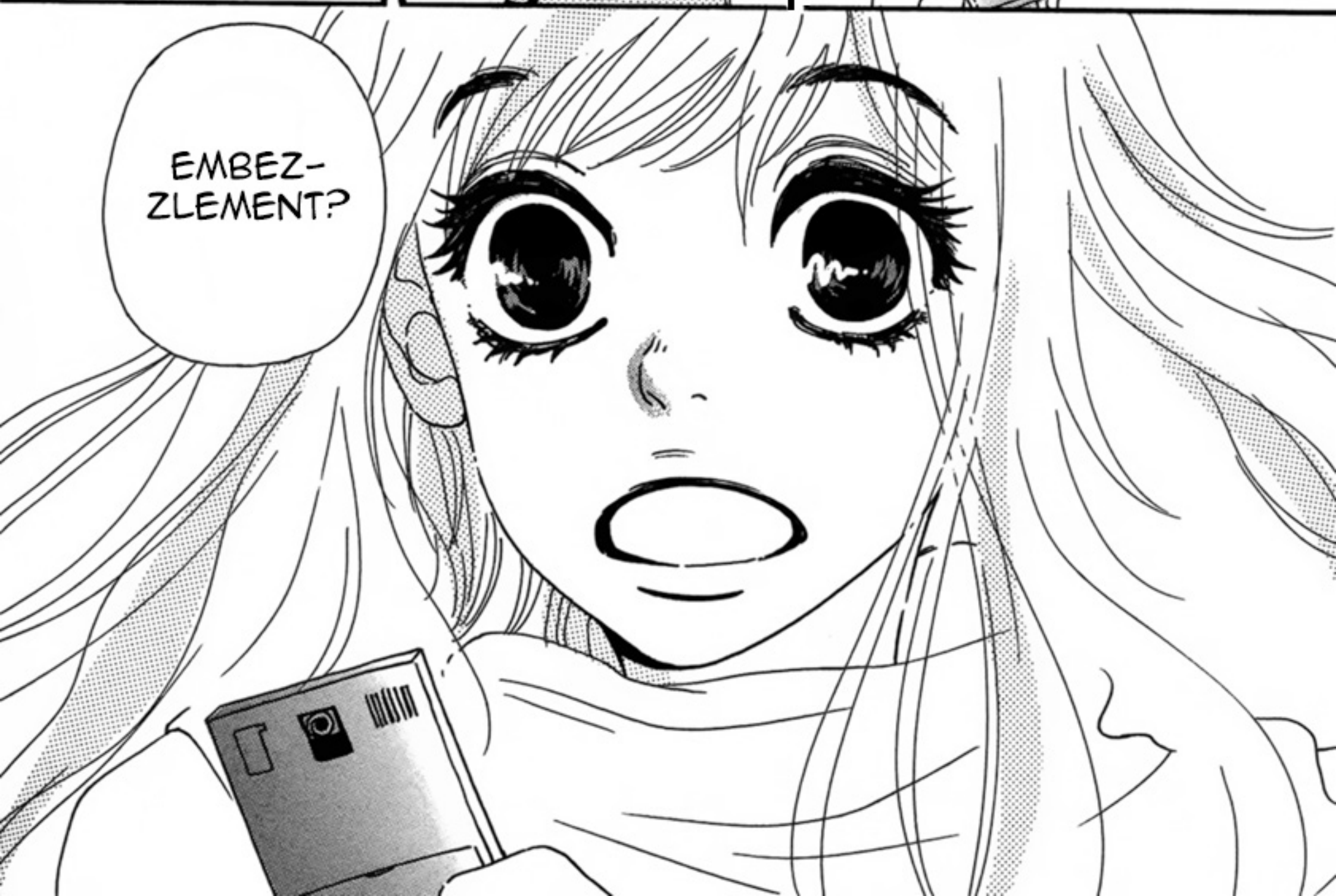
SIGN: ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY

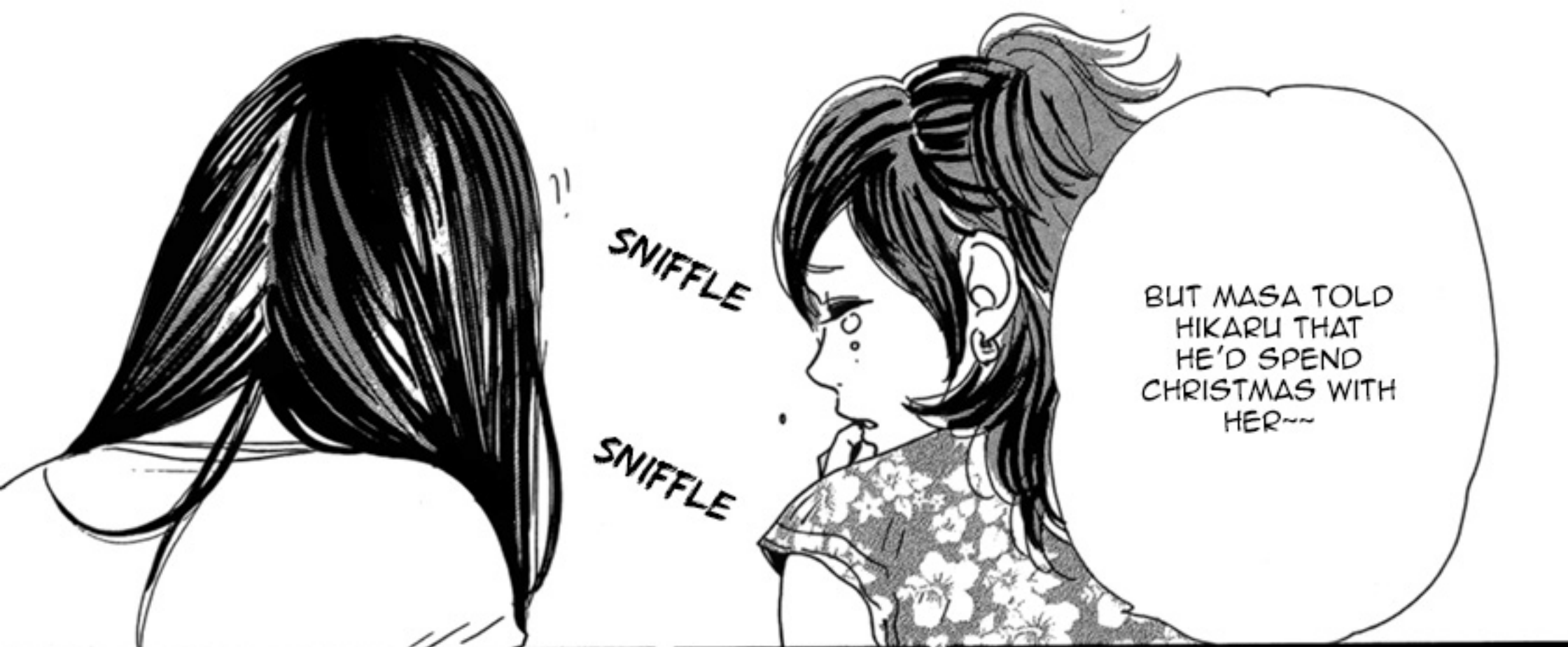
WHAT?

WITH THAT OLD WOMAN DURING CHRISTMAS?

...ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND TIME



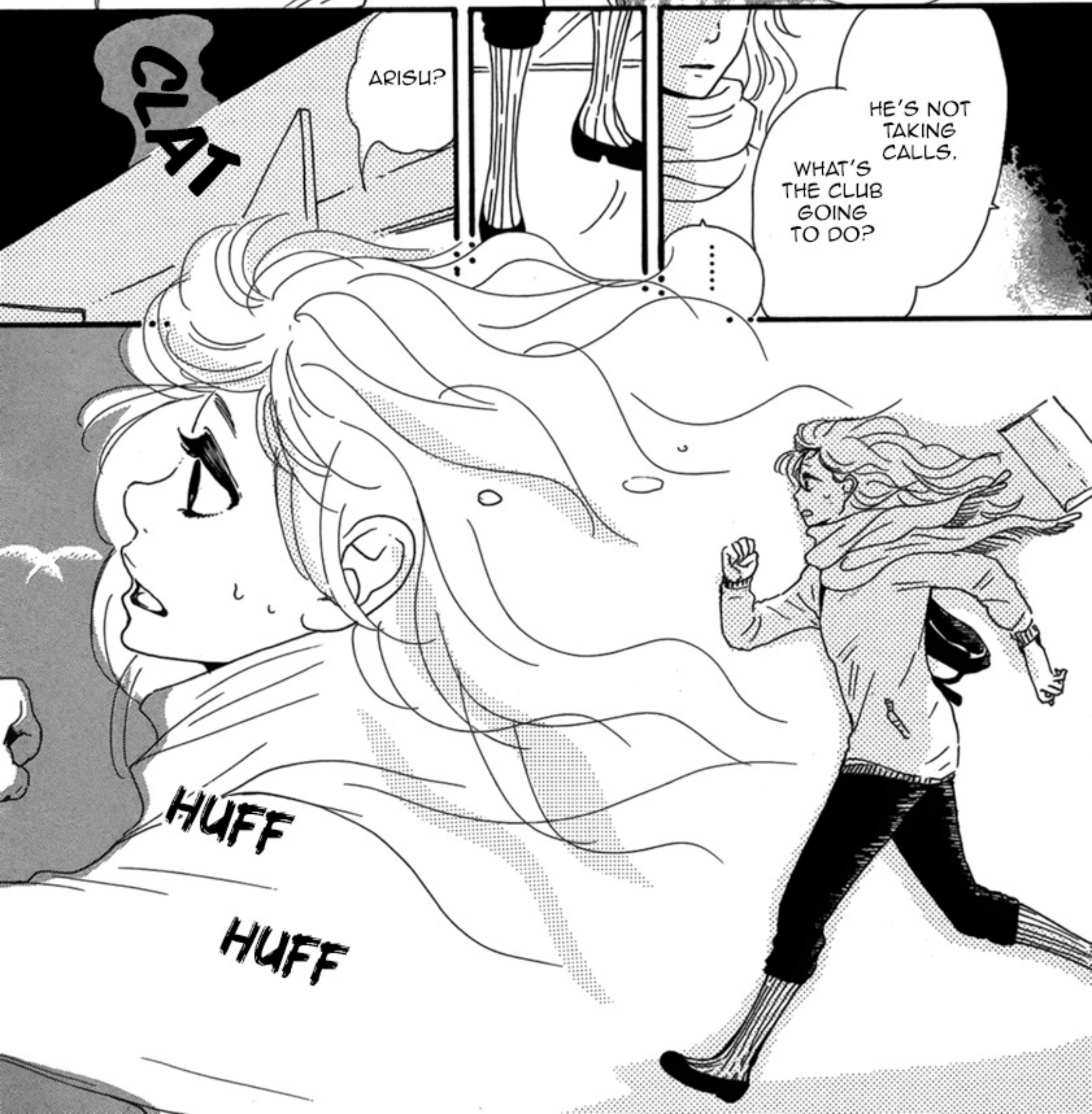




SNIFFLE

SNIFFLE

BUT MASA TOLD
HIKARU THAT
HE'D SPEND
CHRISTMAS WITH
HER~~



ARISU?

HE'S NOT
TAKING
CALLS.
WHAT'S
THE CLUB
GOING
TO DO?

HUFF

HUFF

GLINT

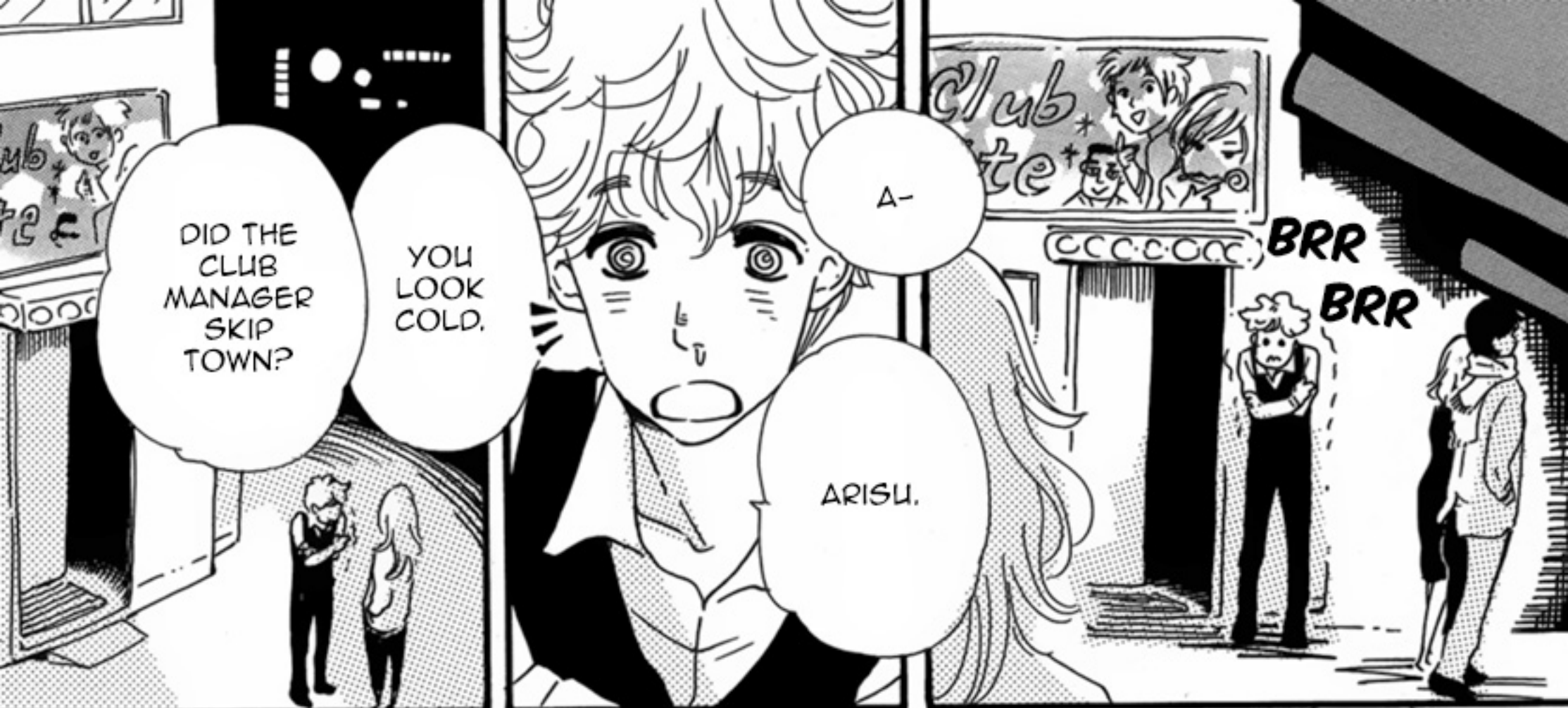
AH
HA
HA!

THIS IS
ALL SO
STUPID!

SPLASH!

EVEN IF I
SEARCHED, I'D
NEVER FIND IT.

THE RING
AND THE
RIVER
BECAME THE
SAME COLOR
UNDER THE
NIGHT SKY.



DID THE
CLUB
MANAGER
SKIP
TOWN?

YOU
LOOK
COLD.

A-

ARISU.

BRR
BRR



...I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT I
SHOULD
SAY,

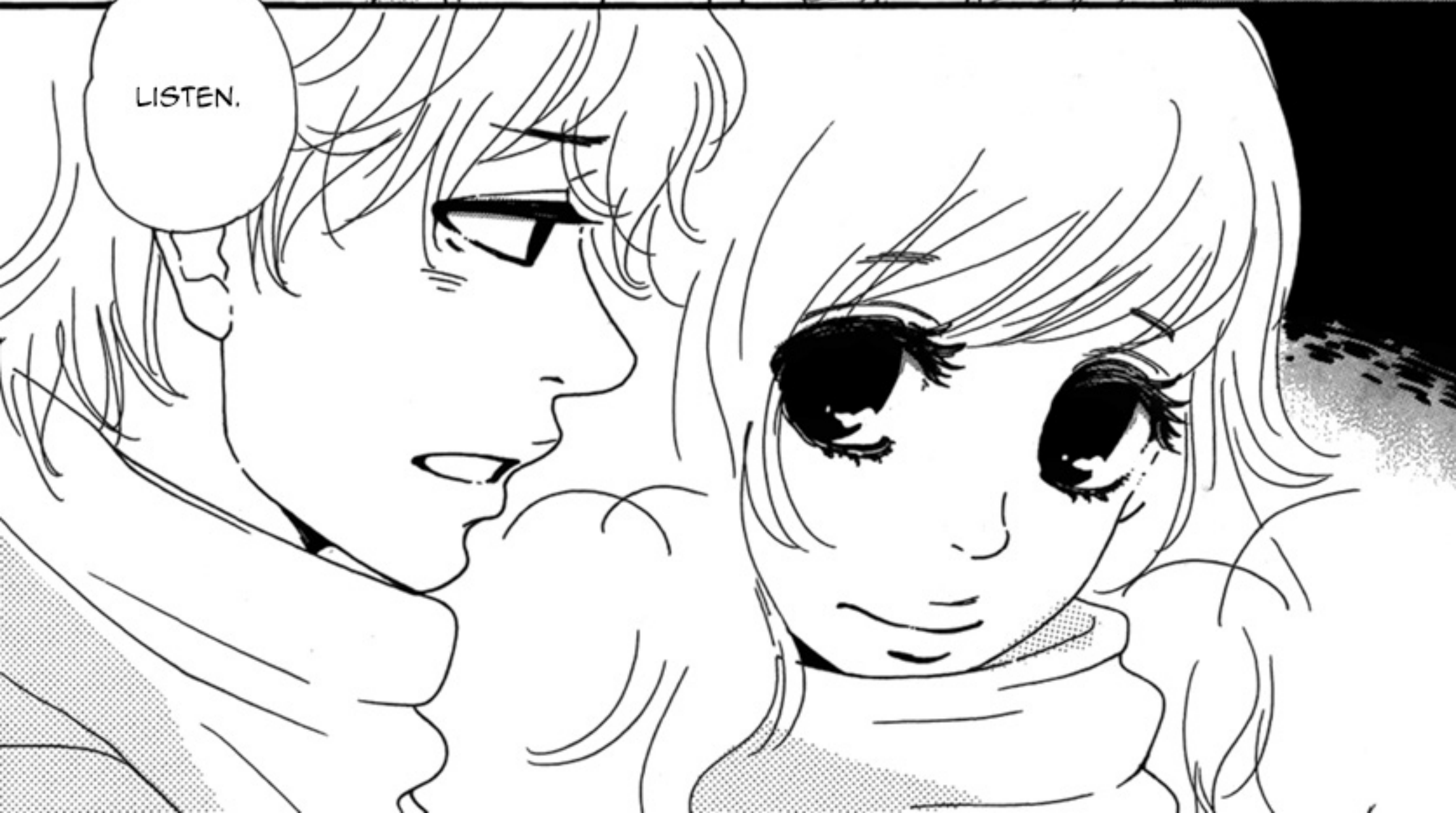
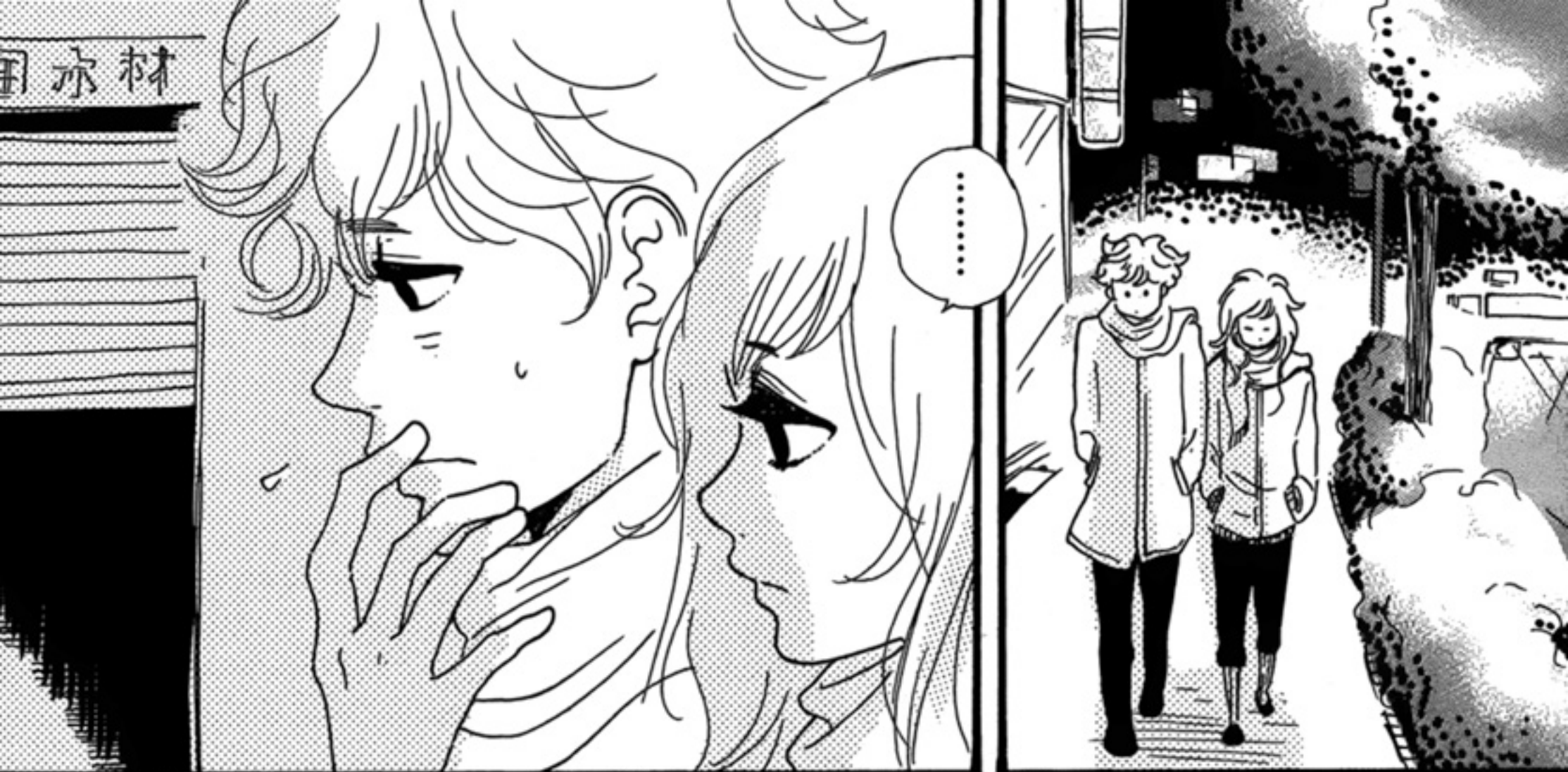
IT
SEEMS
SO.

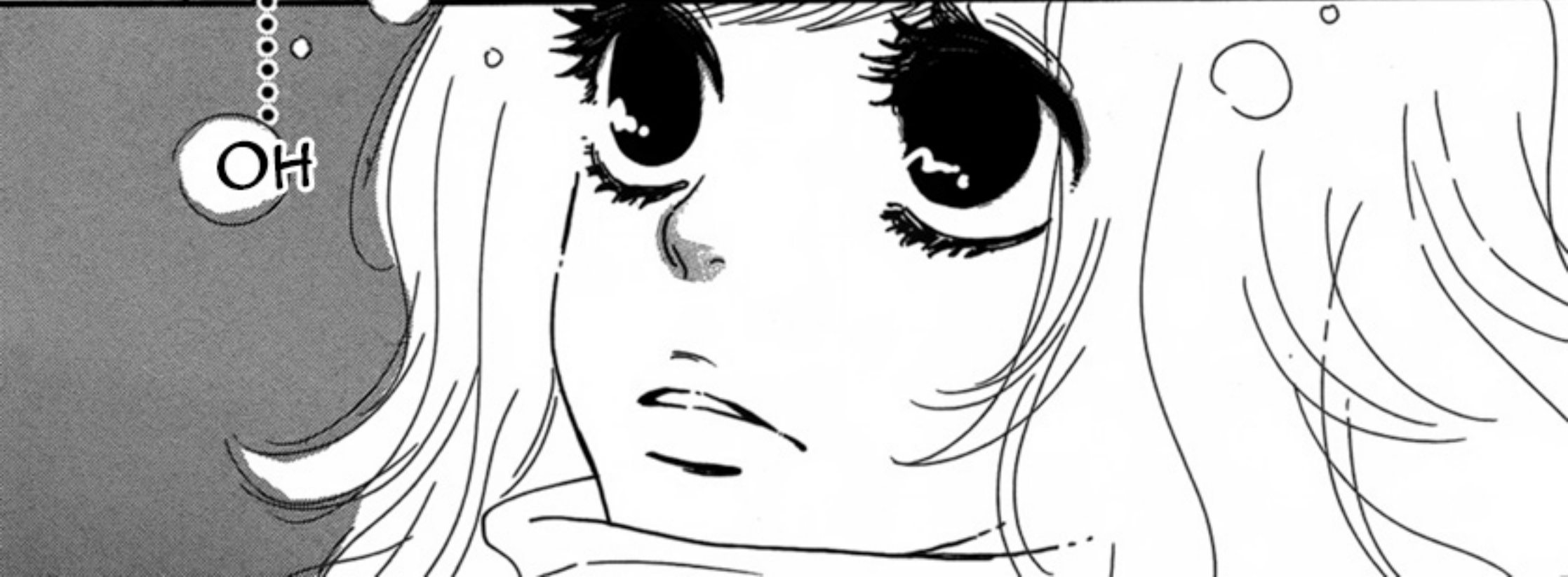
ARISU...

THANKS
FOR YOUR
HARD
WORK...

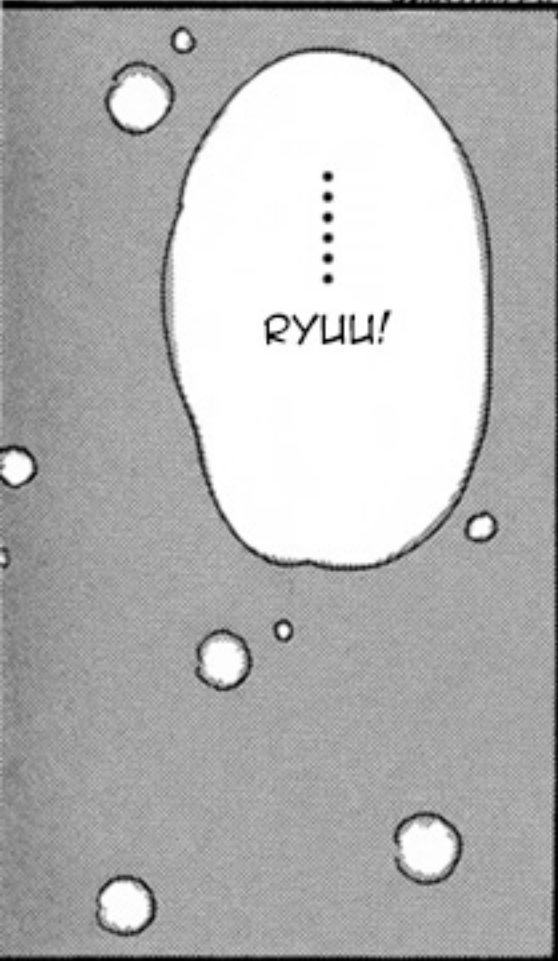
SIGN: KOENJI / JOU SHOPPING DISTRICT







OH



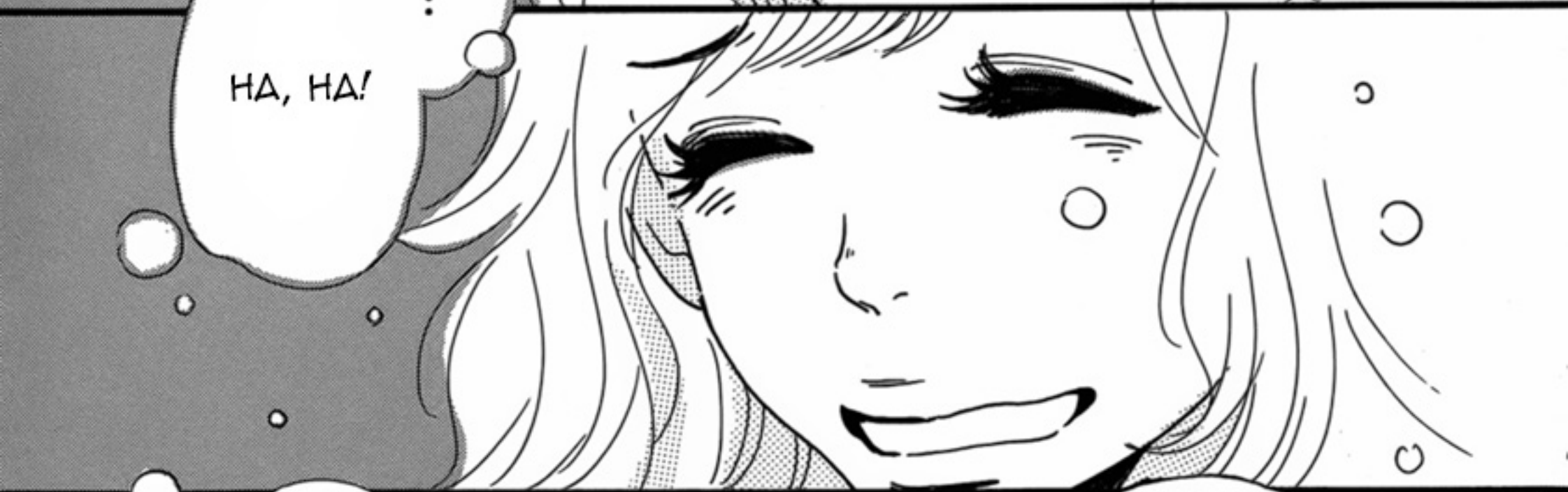


IT'S BECAUSE
I'M FROM THE
STICKS.

UNBELIEV-
ABLE...

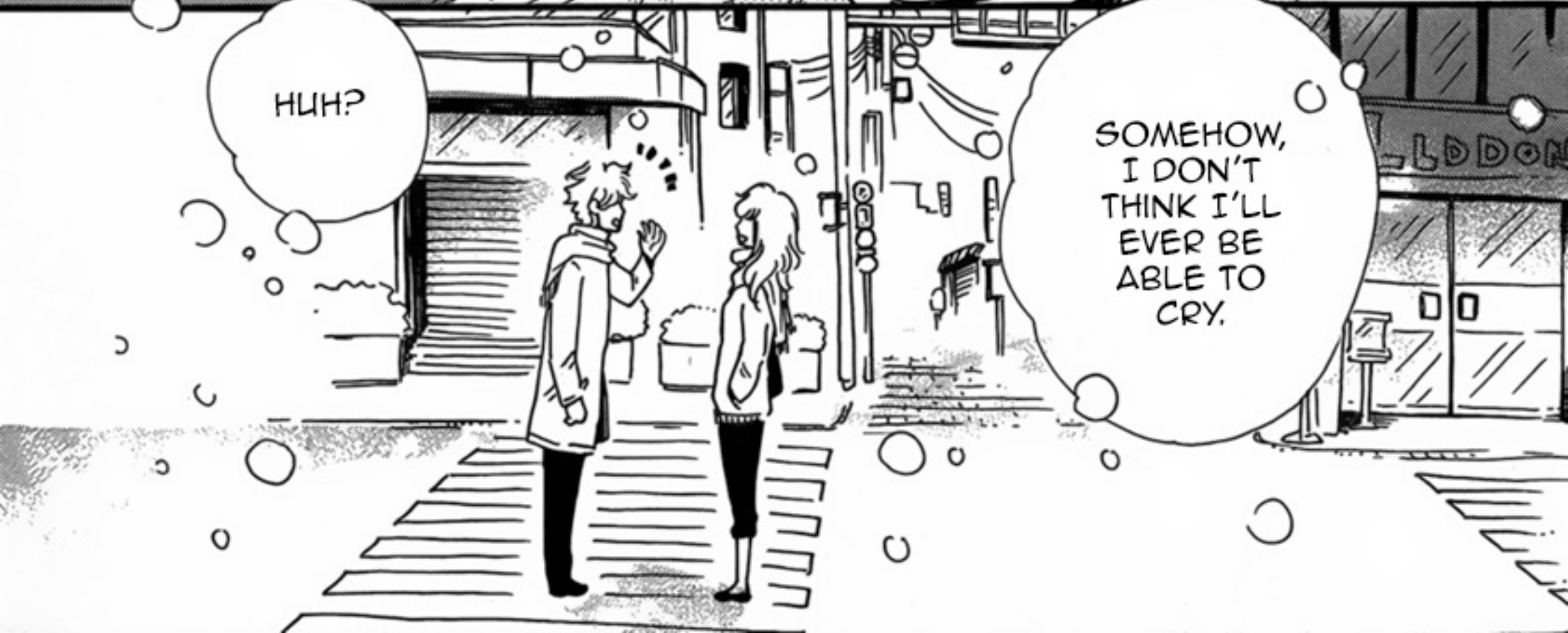


HA, HA!



HUH?

SOMEHOW,
I DON'T
THINK I'LL
EVER BE
ABLE TO
CRY.



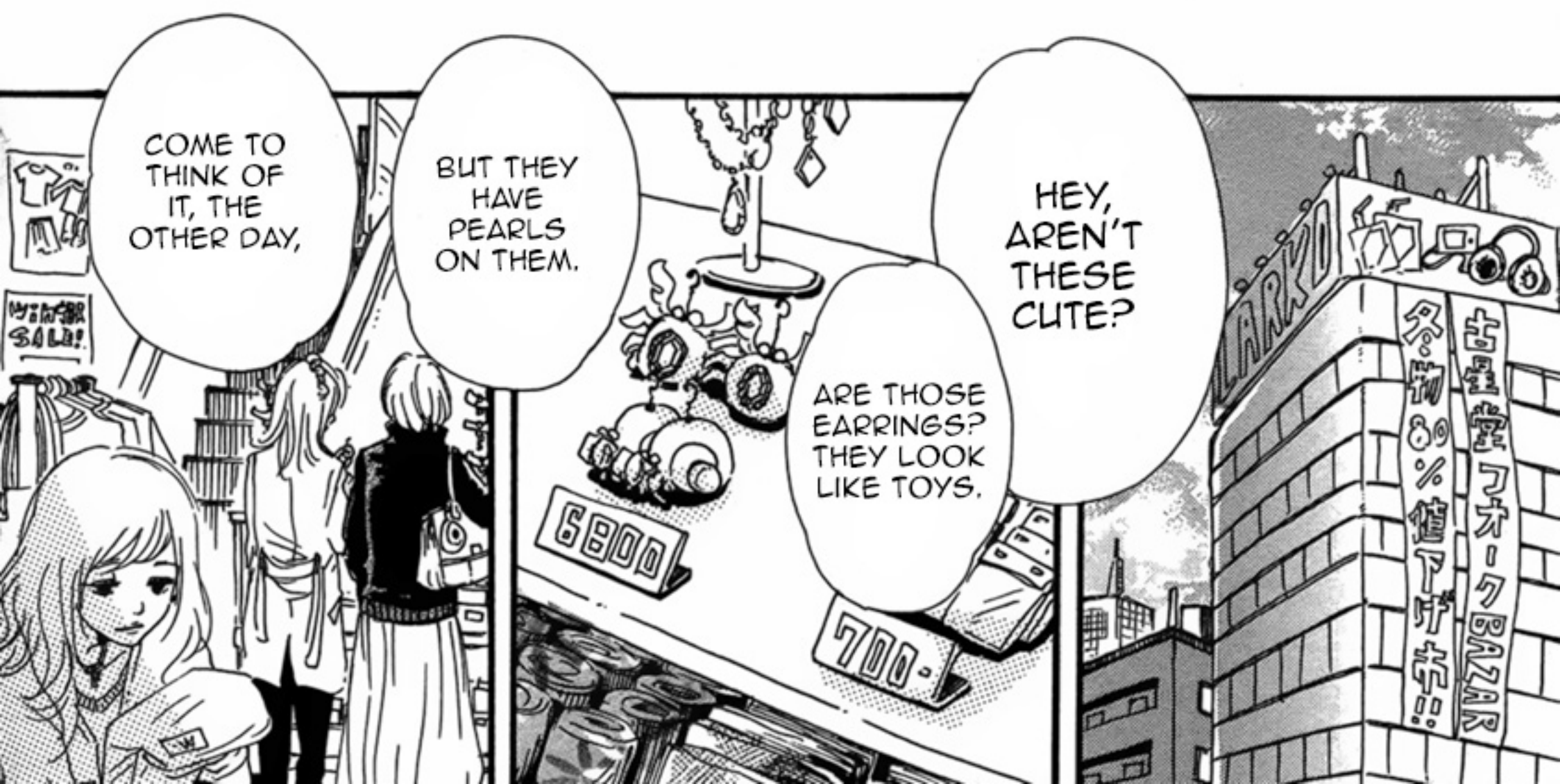


ALONG
WITH MY
ILLUSIONS
OF LOVE.

PILED ON
TOP OF THE
MULTICOLOR
UMBRELLAS

THE
PURE
WHITE
SNOW

I'VE
ALREADY
PUT IT ALL
OUT OF MY
MIND.



COME TO
THINK OF
IT, THE
OTHER DAY,

BUT THEY
HAVE
PEARLS
ON THEM.

HEY,
AREN'T
THESE
CUTE?

ARE THOSE
EARRINGS?
THEY LOOK
LIKE TOYS.

6800

700-

古物・宝飾・アクセサリー
冬物80%値下げ中!!

MARKET



BUT MY
BOYFRIEND
LOVED IT.

I THOUGHT
THE OUTFIT
DIDN'T
LOOK GOOD
ON ME,

I WORE THE
CLOTHES
THE SALES-
WOMAN

RECOM-
MENDED
TO ME.



WELP, I
SUPPOSE I
SHOULD
LISTEN TO
THE
SALES-
WOMAN.

HMM,

AND AS THE
SNOW
MELTS, THE
ASPHALT
SHOWS
THROUGH.

WELCOME.

BUT THE
SUN
STILL
RISES

YEP.

I SHOULD
LISTEN TO
HER TOO.

IF I BUY
CLOTHES, I
WON'T HAVE
ENOUGH
MONEY FOR
FOOD THIS
MONTH.

OH
NO!

SIGN: KOENJI STATION

THAT DAY I
CAUGHT A
GLIMPSE.

WE CAN
PAY
DAY-OF
AS WELL!

REALLY?
INTRODUCE
ME!

ARE YOU
LOOKING
FOR A
JOB?

WE ONLY
NEED HELP
ONCE A
WEEK. IS
THAT OKAY?

THE WORLD
IS NOT JUST
MADE UP OF
PRIMARY
COLORS
ANYMORE

... END ...