

# CRIMSON FLOWER



Translation & English adaptation: Jade

Translation QC: Kuroneko003

Cleaning: Kuroneko003

Redrawing: Kuroneko003 & Ichigo Stars

Lettering: Jade

Final Image Editing: Kuroneko003

Proofreading and QC: Kuroneko, Illanyss, Rath, & Zenny

**Please support the artist and the distributor by purchasing this manga if it becomes licensed and available in your country. This oneshot appeared in 2012 in Hana to Yume Japanese Language Magazine.**

**Please do not upload to any of the manga aggregation websites.**

いわくの国オズ

堀古みやこ

THE  
ANTIQUE  
SHOP  
"ROSE",

NORMALLY  
IT IS  
A SIMPLE  
SELLER  
OF ART  
AND CURIOS...

HOWEVER,  
BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS,  
IT IS A  
DISMAL SHOP  
THAT DEALS WITH  
ART OF  
AN UNUSUAL  
NATURE.

ROSE,

SOME SORT  
OF PACKAGE  
JUST ARRIVED!





い  
わ  
く  
の  
日  
々

A BIZARRE ROMANESQUE SHOT

THIS GIRL  
IS NOT TO  
BE TAKEN  
LIGHTLY.

BEHIND THE ROSE  
MIYAKO HORIFURU



OH-YES,

THAT MUST BE  
THE OIL-PAINTING  
I RECENTLY  
ACQUIRED  
IN FLORENCE.

THIS IS ROSE,  
A MYSTERIOUS  
GIRL  
(?)  
OF UNDEFIN-  
ABLE AGE AND  
THE OWNER  
OF THIS SHOP...

WELL?  
HURRY AND  
TAKE IT OUT,  
YOU DRECK!

I'VE BEEN  
COMPLETELY  
UNDER HER  
THUMB FOR  
THE PAST SIX  
MONTHS.

I'M  
OPENING  
IT NOW!

OKAY,  
OKAY!

I'M REITA  
OIKAWA,  
A 20-YEAR-OLD  
STUDENT FROM  
A LOCAL ART  
UNIVERSITY THAT  
IS CURRENTLY  
WORKING  
(SLAVING AWAY)  
HERE AS A  
PART TIME JOB.











BUT THIS  
TIME WAS  
A BIT  
DIFFER-  
ENT.

THE  
WOMAN'S  
SKIN IS...

HUH?

IT ALL  
HAPPENED  
SO QUICKLY...



MRAAW!

STEP

MU...?



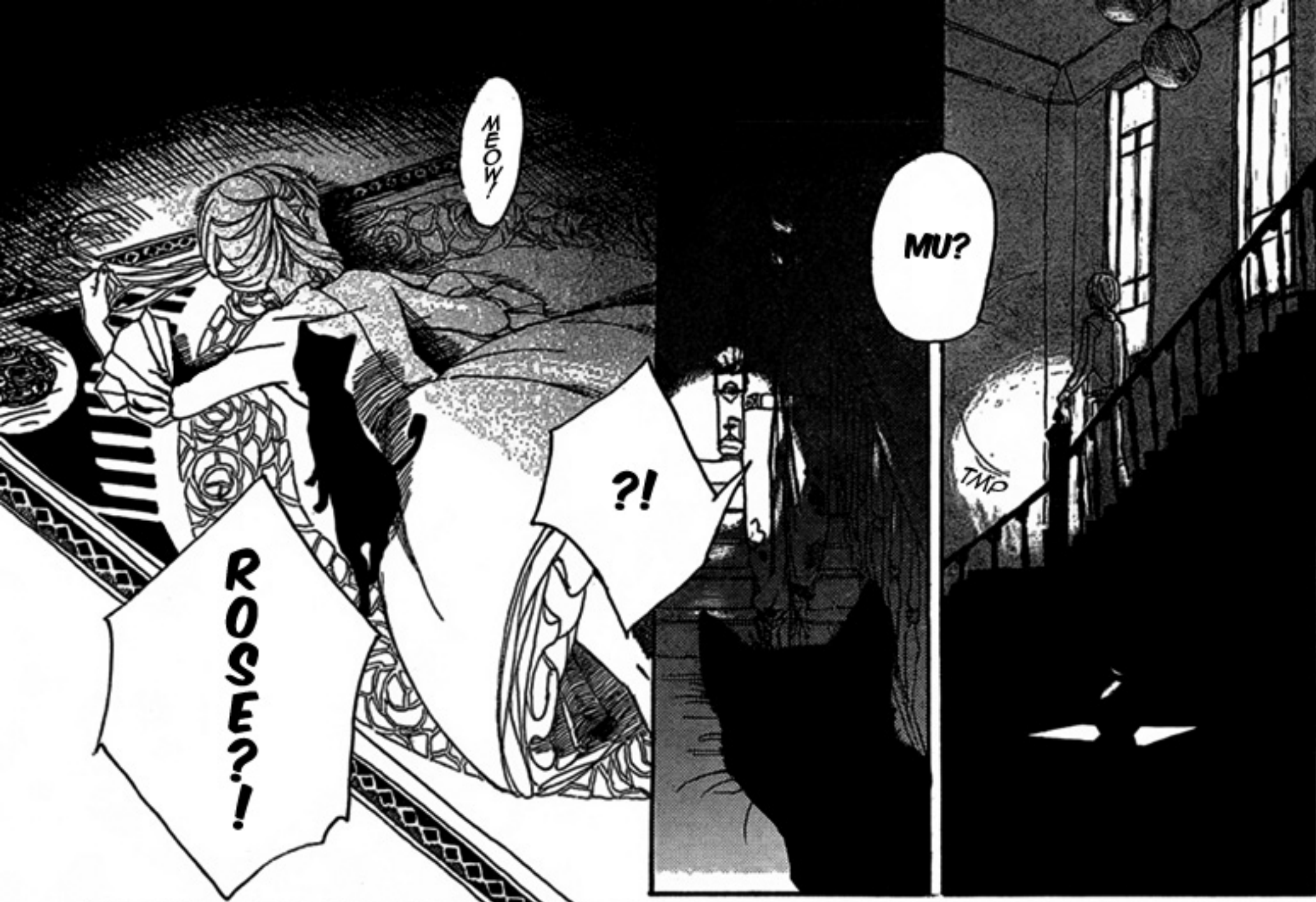
MRAWW!

OH, IT'S  
JUST YOU,  
MU...

YOU SCARED ME.

WHAT'S  
WRONG?









IN THE  
SECRET  
HISTORY  
OF ART,

IT IS WIDELY  
FEARED AS  
THE "CURSE  
OF MARY".

"THE PORTRAIT  
OF MARY  
FRANCESCA"...



ROSE!

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
BACK  
THERE!?



ASO  
THEN...

YOU'LL  
HEAL AFTER  
FOUR DAYS,  
RIGHT?



LIKE THE WOMAN  
IN THE PAINTING,  
IT IS SAID THAT  
FOR FOUR DAYS  
THE VICTIM'S  
SKIN CONTINUES  
TO PEEL.

FURTHERMORE,  
IT IS A CURSE  
THAT ONLY  
AFFLICTS  
WOMEN.



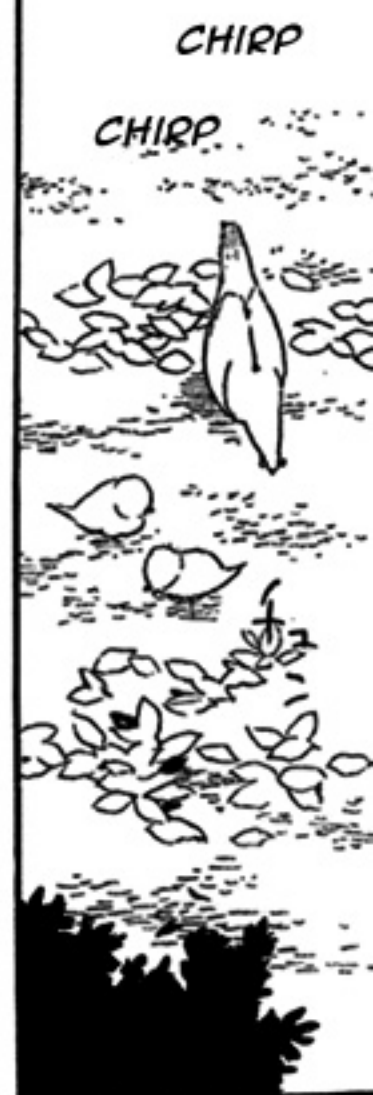
DAY 1

MEOW

NO...

ON THE  
4TH DAY,  
THE VICTIM  
SUPPOSEDLY  
SUCCUMBS TO  
A MYSTERIOUS  
DEATH.









IS BURN  
THE PROBLEM  
AWAY.

I'M SURE  
SHE'LL CHEW  
ME OUT FOR  
THIS LATER...

BUT I HAVE TO  
SAVE HER NO  
MATTER WHAT!

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP



WHOOSH!



UH-OH.





I SEE IT...  
I SEE THE LIGHT...

YOU DIDN'T HAVE  
TO GO THAT FAR!



WHAT'S  
WITH  
YOU?!

AREN'T WE  
BETTER OFF  
WITHOUT  
SOMETHING SO  
DANGEROUS?!



SNAP! WHACK!

BAM!

G  
Y  
A  
A  
A  
H!!!



THAT  
PAINTING  
IS MINE,  
NOT  
YOURS!

YOU  
USELESS  
WASTE OF  
LIFE!!!





TURN

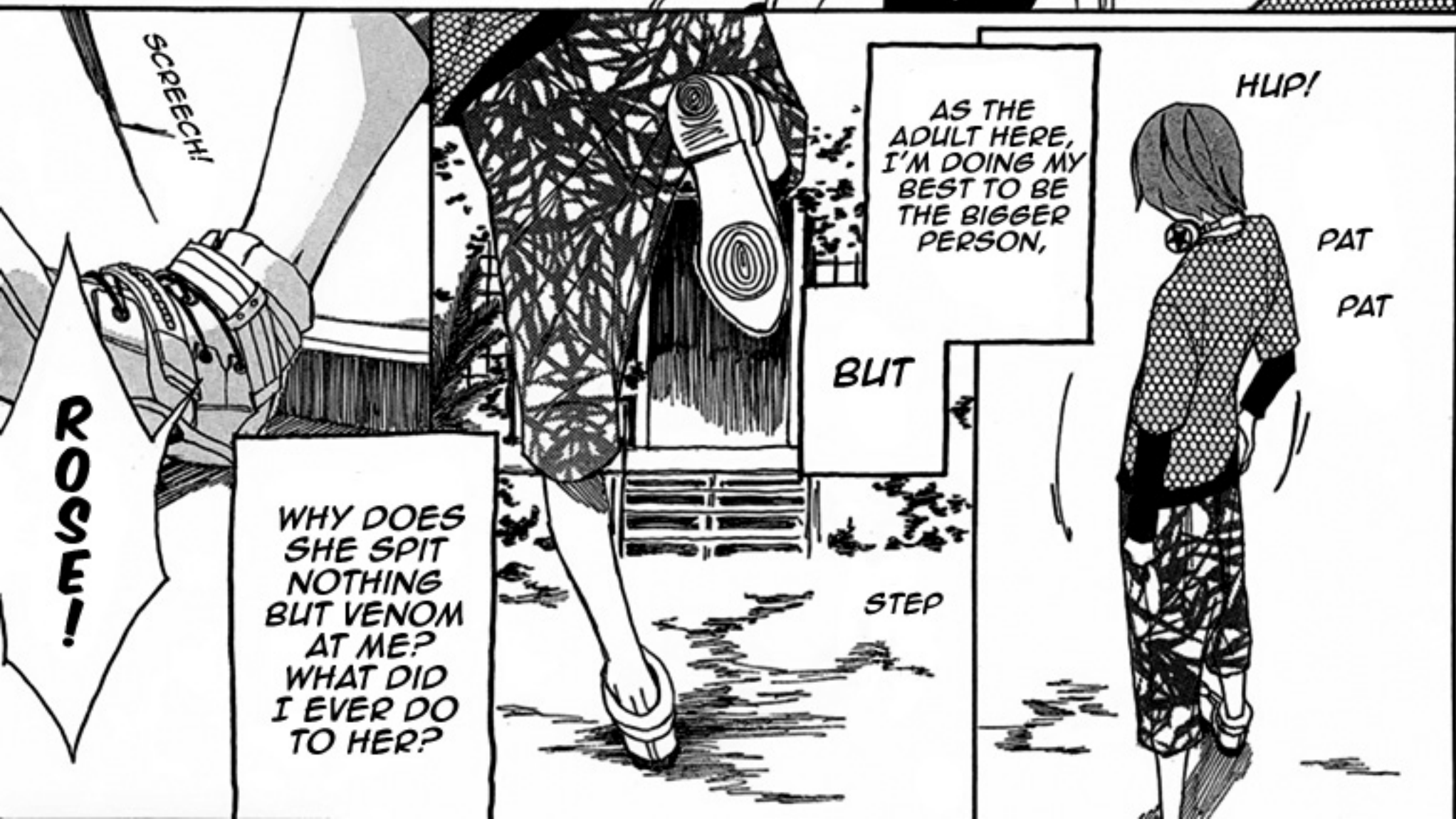
**GOT IT?**

...

WHAT THE HELL?  
I WAS ONLY  
THINKING  
OF YOU.

**IF WE'RE  
UNDERSTOOD,  
THEN LAY DOWN  
AND DIE.**

IDIOT.



SCREECH!

**ROSE!**

WHY DOES  
SHE SPIT  
NOTHING  
BUT VENOM  
AT ME?  
WHAT DID  
I EVER DO  
TO HER?

AS THE  
ADULT HERE,  
I'M DOING MY  
BEST TO BE  
THE BIGGER  
PERSON,

**BUT**

STEP

HUP!

PAT  
PAT





**I'M  
SURE**

**I HAD  
JUST SET  
IT ON  
FIRE!!**

**??!!**

**WHY...**

**WELL,  
THIS PAINTING  
CERTAINLY  
KNOWS HOW TO  
CAUSE TROUBLE.**

**HISS!**



**ROSE...**



**WHAT  
EXACTLY  
IS THIS...?**





**ISN'T IT  
MOVING!?**



**THE RIGHT HAND  
MOVED AND  
NOW YOU CAN  
SEE PART OF  
HER FACE...**



**IT IS  
MOVING...**



**YOU'RE  
RIGHT.**



**IT'S  
NOTHING!**



**ROSE!**



**ROSE,  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?  
YOUR FACE...**







HAHA...

ACTUALLY,  
I'VE BEEN CONCERNED  
ABOUT YOUR  
ESSAY SINCE  
YOU HAVEN'T  
BEEN ATTENDING  
MY ART HISTORY  
LECTURES  
LATELY.

SHE'S NOT  
HER USUAL  
SELF,

WHICH I  
SUPPOSE IS A  
GOOD THING,  
BUT I STILL  
FEEL UNEASY...

YES, WELL...  
I'VE HAD  
SOME FAMILY  
ISSUES TO  
TAKE CARE OF.

I HAVE  
TO DO  
SOME-  
THING.

FIRST  
OFF...

ACTUALLY,  
I HAVE QUITE  
AN INTEREST  
IN 15TH CENTURY  
ARTISTS...

KNOW  
THINE  
ENEMY!!

THERE ARE  
CURRENTLY STILL  
VISITORS, SO  
PLEASE TRY  
TO BE QUIET.

YES, SIR!

PARDON  
ME!

KA-CHACK

WHO  
EXACTLY  
ARE YOU  
RESEARCHING?

ARCHIVES 205

X HAHA,  
I WOULDN'T  
GO THAT FAR!

YOU MUST  
BE QUITE  
THE EXPERT!

FOOSE.

DAY 2

●● ART UNIVERSITY

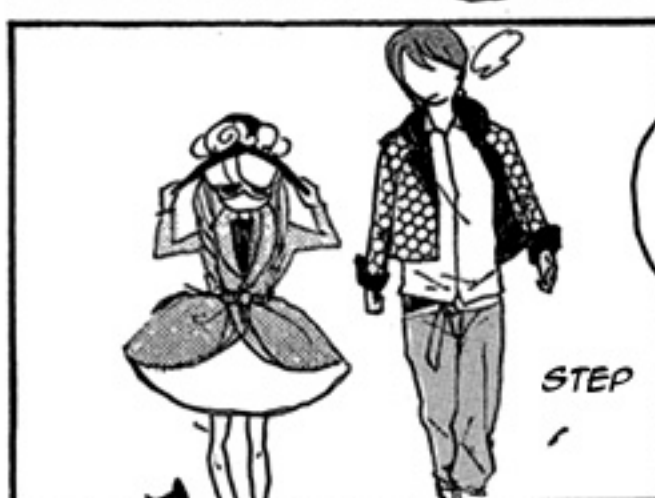






**SUCH AN  
INTENSE  
GAZE...**













OKAY?



...



WHO SAID  
I WASN'T?

THOINK!

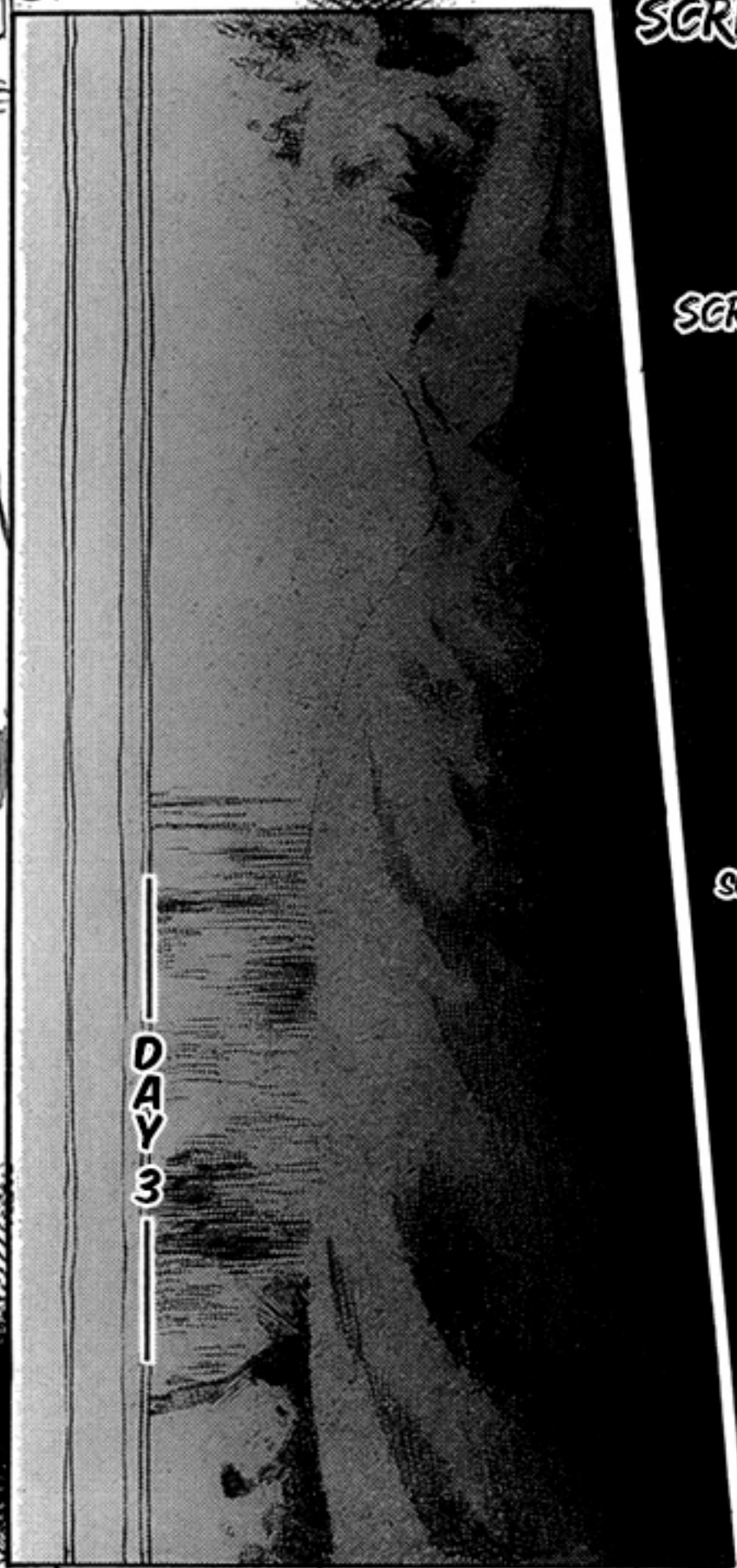
H-  
HEY!





**RUMBLE**

**RUMBLE**



**SCRITCH**

**SCRITCH**

**SCRITCH**

**DAY 3**



**KER-THUMP**







IT AMAZES  
ME THOUGH.

A LITTLE  
RURAL LIBRARY  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF NOWHERE  
HAS SUCH  
FANTASTIC  
RESOURCES!



THANKS  
FOR THE  
ENCOURAGE-  
MENT...



STILL  
WASTING  
TIME?



WELL,  
IT TURNS  
OUT THAT  
MARY  
FRANCESCA  
WAS

A QUEEN WHO  
WAS MARRIED TO  
THE RULER OF A  
SMALL NATION.

SO WHAT'D  
YOU FIND?

AFFLICTED  
WITH A  
MYSTERIOUS  
DISEASE,  
HER SKIN  
BEGAN  
TO PEEL OFF.

AT THE  
SAME TIME,  
A DROUGHT  
STRUCK  
THE LAND  
AND BEFORE  
LONG, SHE  
BECAME KNOWN  
AS "THE CURSED  
QUEEN".



WISE AND  
BEAUTIFUL,  
SHE WAS  
POPULAR  
WITH  
THE PEOPLE...

BUT IT  
WAS NOT  
MEANT  
TO LAST.







UM...  
AT PRECISELY  
THAT TIME,  
RIGHT?

AND THE  
PORTRAIT WAS  
CREATED...



GAH!

SLAM!

DROP DEAD,  
IDIOT!

FIND  
WHAT  
STRANGE?



DON'T YOU  
FIND IT  
STRANGE?



BUT WHY WOULD  
SHE ALLOW FOOSE  
TO DRAW HER IN  
SUCH A STATE?

WE HAVE  
DOCUMENTATION ON  
HOW MARY SUFFERED  
FROM THE DISEASE,



AND WAS  
THAT...

ALSO  
FOUR DAYS  
LATER...?

SHE KILLED  
HERSELF  
SOON AFTER  
GOES DIED.



WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HER AFTER  
THAT?

OH,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...





DAY 4

YES...

.....  
IT'S STILL  
MOVING...  
WHAT  
SHOULD  
WE DO?

SHFF

IT GIVES ME  
THE CHILLS...

TODAY'S  
THE LEFT  
ARM.



YOU'RE  
AN ART  
STUDENT, YET  
YOU DON'T  
EVEN KNOW  
THAT MUCH?

RATTLE

COULD  
IT BE OIL  
PAINTS AND  
LINSEED OIL?



WHOAH!

WOBBLE

WHAT'S  
THIS?



HEY,  
ERRAND  
BOY!  
A LITTLE  
HELP HERE?

CLACK

ROSE!

WHERE  
WERE  
YOU?!





NOW, SHOW ME  
WHAT AN  
ART STUDENT  
CAN DO!

YES.

IT'S ALREADY  
THE EVENING OF  
THE 4TH DAY,  
SO THIS IS OUR  
LAST SHOT.



!?

y-

YES!!

IT WAS  
SPRING OF  
MY 2ND YEAR  
OF UNIVERSITY.

HIRING PART-TIME  
ANTIQUE SHOP RE  
SALARY-  
TRANSPORTATION OKAY  
20 M ST. 30 MIN  
WORKS OF BY FOOT





IT  
HAPPENED  
TO CATCH  
MY EYE

AND THE  
HOURLY WAGE  
WAS GOOD.

I SAW A  
WANTED AD  
FOR THE  
ANTIQUE  
SHOP "ROSE"  
ON THE  
UNIVERSITY  
NOTICE BOARD.



SCREEEECH!

AAAGHH! TUP

TUP

TUP

THE  
OWNER,  
ROSE,

WAS A  
HUGE  
PAIN IN  
THE ASS.

UGH!



I WAS  
NEVER  
REALLY  
INTERESTED  
IN GETTING  
ALONG WITH  
HER. AS  
LONG AS I  
GOT MY  
PAYCHECK,

DIE.



THAT  
WAS  
GOOD  
ENOUGH  
FOR ME.

BLEGH!



BUT

IT'S THE  
NEW YEAR,  
AREN'T YOU  
GOING TO  
SEE YOUR  
FAMILY?

DON'T  
HAVE ANY.

I WAS  
WHAT  
YOU'D CALL

DESPE-  
RATE.



MY PARENTS  
HAD RECENTLY  
PASSED AWAY,  
AND I WAS  
IN FINANCIAL  
TROUBLE.

I HAD BEEN  
SAVING UP,  
BUT WAS SO  
BUSY THAT  
HONESTLY I  
DIDN'T HAVE  
TIME TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT A  
SOCIAL LIFE.

UGH, JEEZ.

HOW COULD A  
PLACE LIKE THIS  
GET ANY  
CUSTOMERS?!





NOW THAT  
YOU'RE HERE.

EH?  
I...  
I'M  
SORRY....

DON'T  
BE.

THOSE  
FEW  
WORDS

I'M NOT  
REALLY  
LONELY

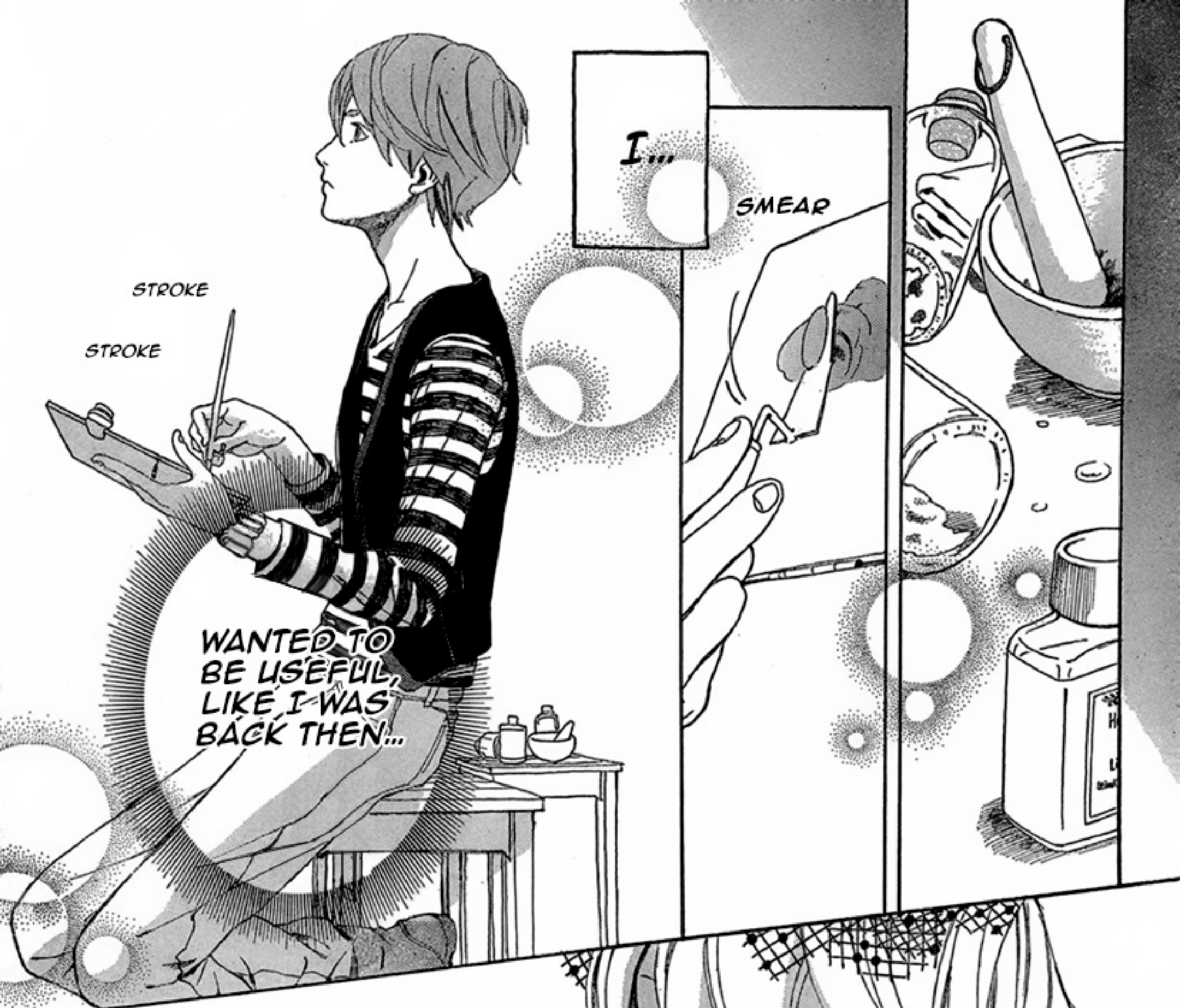
MADE  
ME SO  
HAPPY.

IN TRUTH,  
IT MADE  
ME REALIZE

THAT'S  
RIGHT...

THAT I HAD  
BEEN HOPING  
SOMEONE  
WOULD  
NEED ME.





WANTED TO  
BE USEFUL,  
LIKE I WAS  
BACK THEN...

THIS IS A  
GAMBLE.

WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO MAKE  
HER SKIN  
BEAUTIFUL  
AGAIN!

RIGHT!

STROKE  
STROKE

IF MARY'S SKIN  
IS THE REASON  
FOR THE CHANGE  
IN THE PAINTING,





ROSE...

LIFT



I'VE BEEN  
THINKING

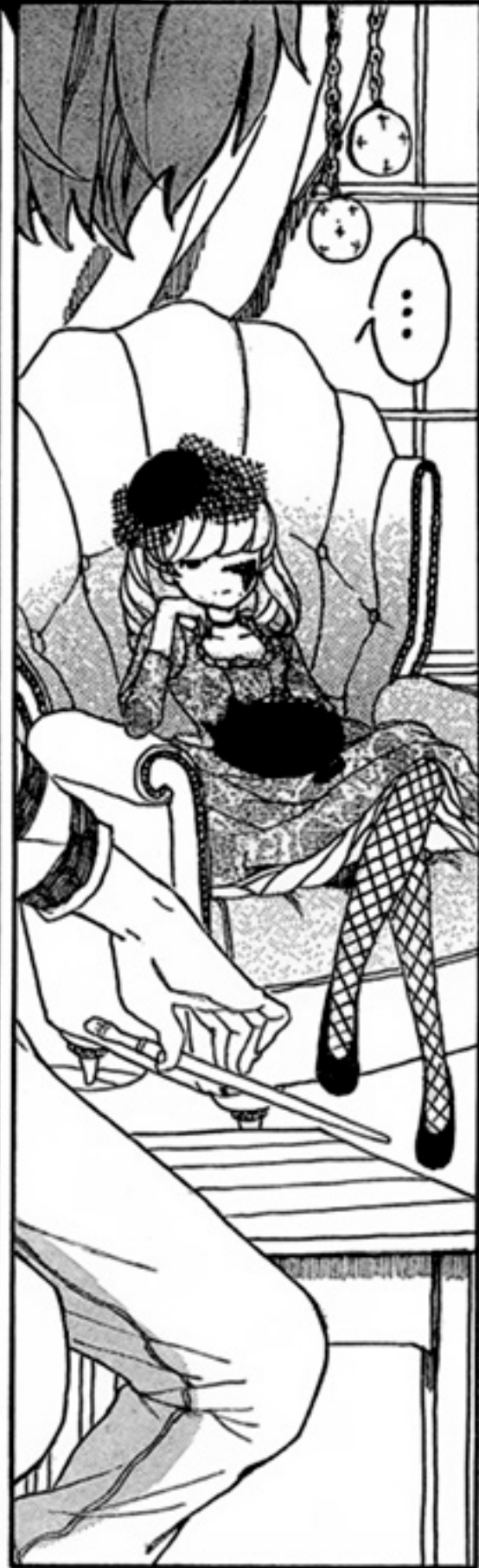
THIS INTENSE GAZE  
COULD ONLY MEAN  
ONE THING...

COULD  
IT BE...?

?

STROKE







A black and white manga-style illustration. The central focus is a character's face, shown in profile and looking downwards. The face is rendered with fine lines and shading, giving it a realistic but slightly grainy appearance. A large, dark, textured shape, possibly a piece of clothing or a shadow, dominates the left side of the frame, partially obscuring the character's face. The word "RUMBLE" is written in a bold, stylized, outlined font three times, stacked vertically: once at the top, once in the middle, and once at the bottom. The background is dark and textured, with some vertical lines on the right side suggesting a panel border.

# RUMBLE

# RUMBLE



*GLANCE*

### STEP

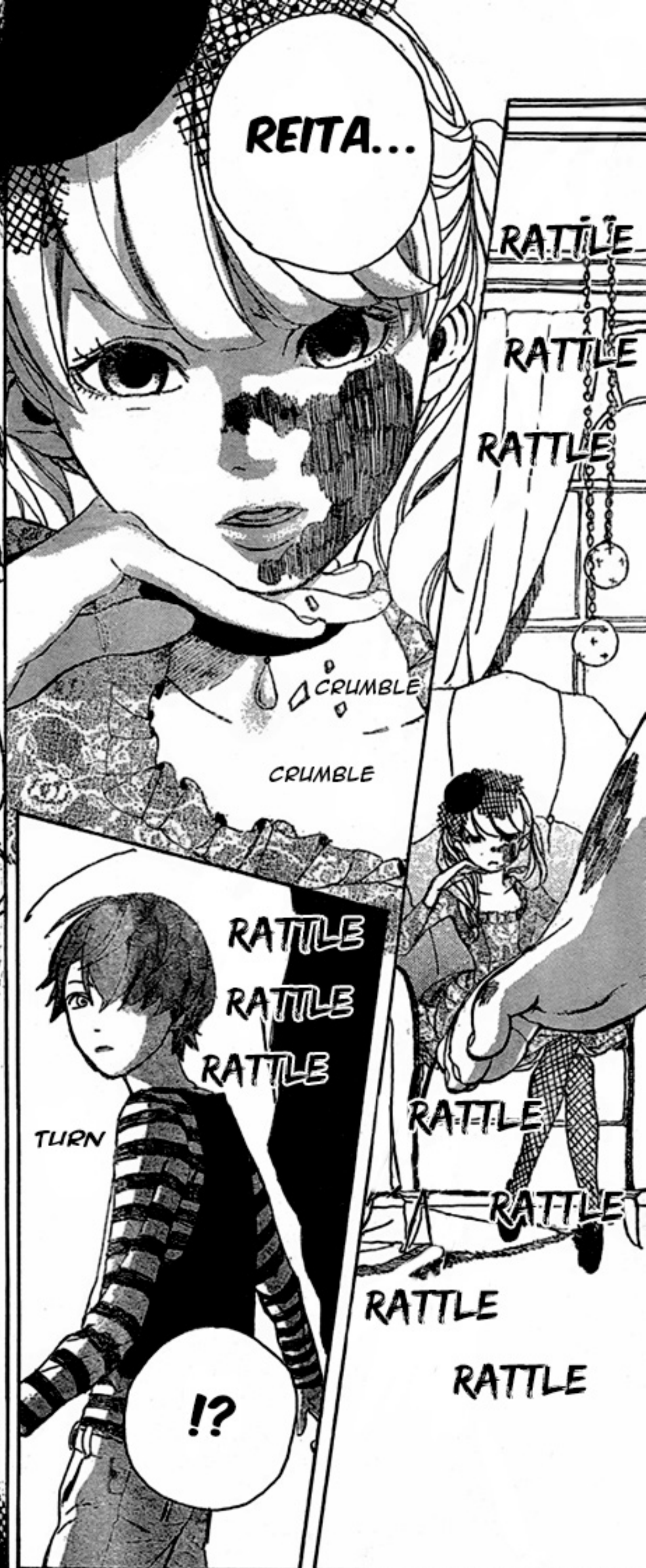
**CAN WE  
LEAVE IT  
LIKE THIS?**

**THANKFULLY  
NOTHING  
HAPPENED,  
BUT STILL...**

## IS IT OVER?

SILENCE . . .





REITA...

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

CRUMBLE

CRUMBLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

TURN

!?

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE

RATTLE









YOU ARE...

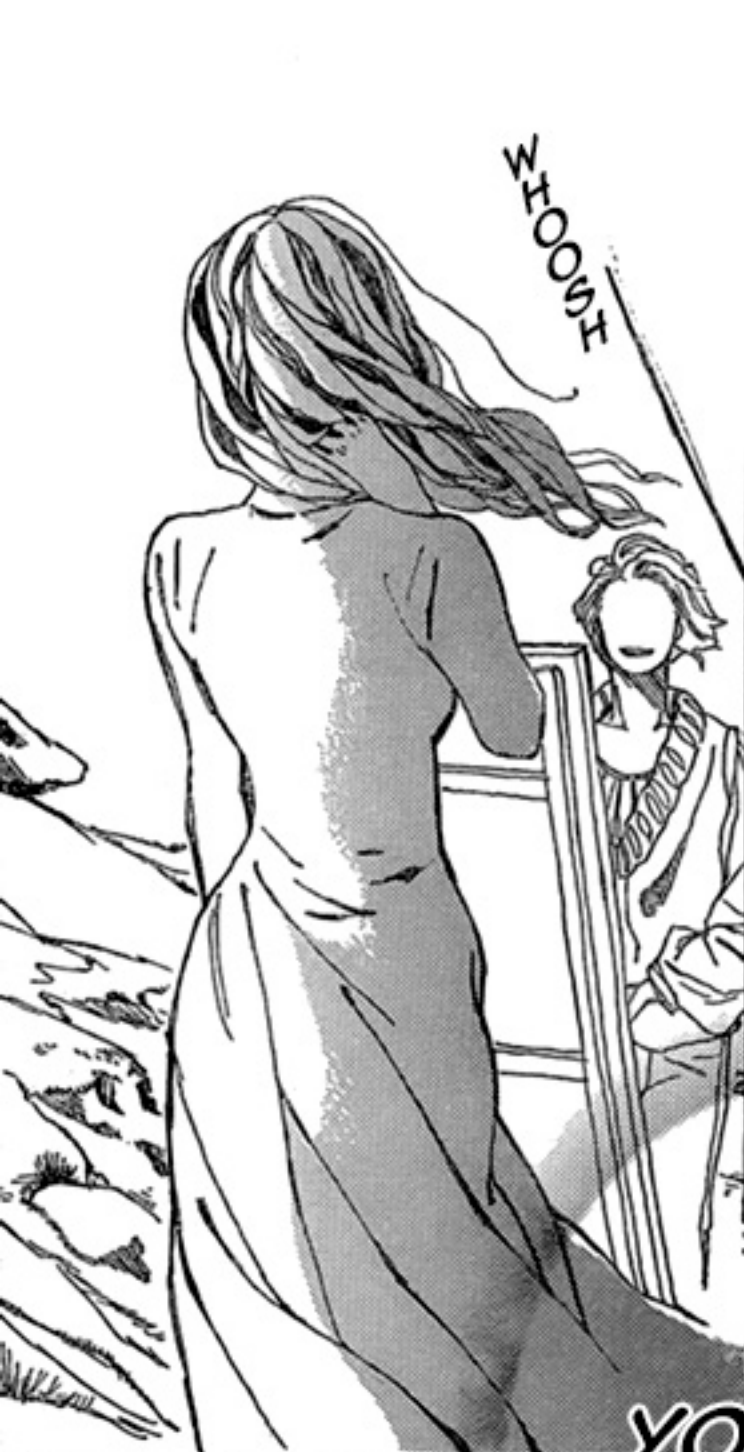
YOU...

REACH

THE ONLY  
ONE  
FOR ME...

SHUDDER





LOOK!



**YOU'RE  
BEAUTI-  
FUL.**

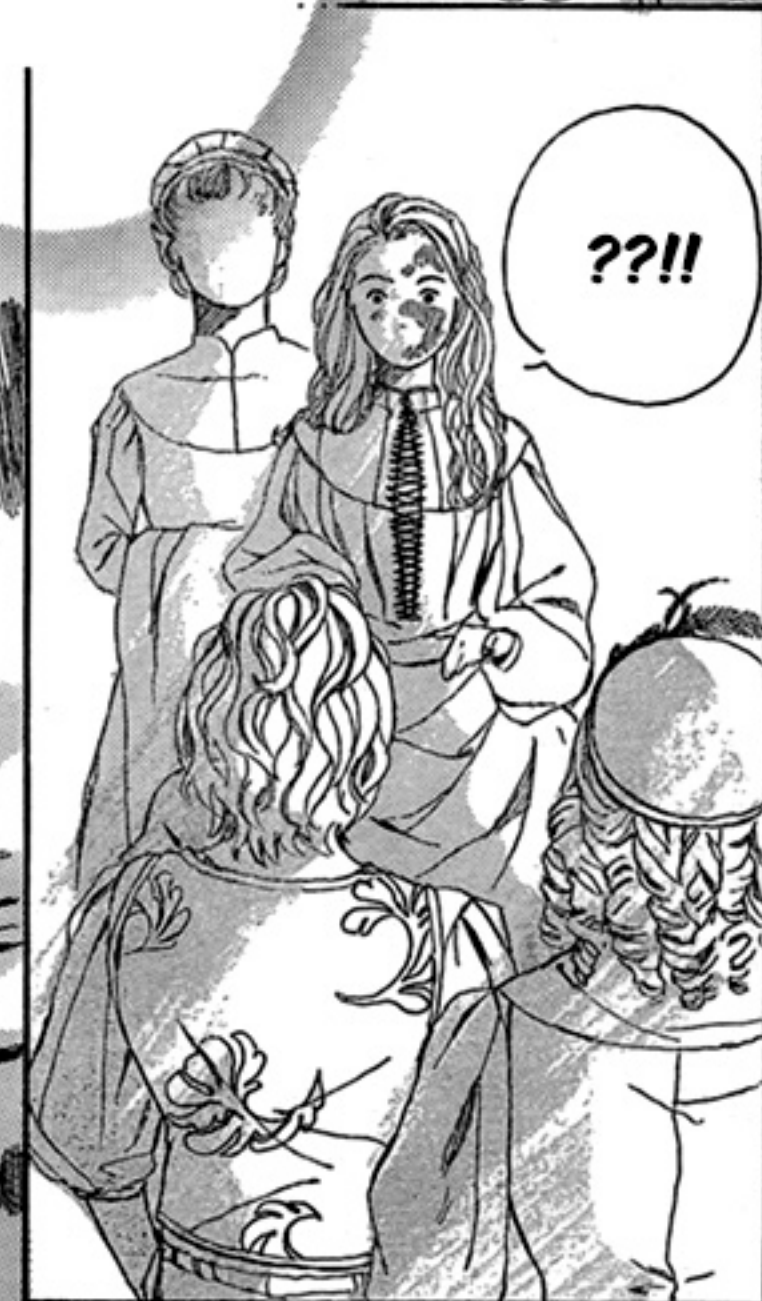


**"THE  
CURSED  
QUEEN"-**

**FRIGHTEN-  
ING.**

**UGLY.**

**DISGUST-  
ING.**



**??!!**





SHE'S A  
PRETTY  
SUBJECT  
FOR MY  
PAINTING, BUT

THERE'S NO  
WAY I CAN  
LOOK AT HER  
AS A  
WOMAN.  
YOU'RE FAR  
LOVELIER.



YES,  
THAT  
SKIN IS  
RATHER  
GHASTLY,  
ISN'T IT?

**LIAR!**



HOW DETESTABLE THIS SKIN IS~



"THE  
CURSED  
QUEEN"-

FRIGHTEN-  
ING.

UGLY.

REPULSIVE.

THAT  
WOMAN...

GHASTLY.

THAT WOMAN'S

WHITE  
SKIN IS...





GRAB!

BA-  
BLUMP!

AN  
ABOMI-  
NATION...

SWOOSH

REACH

FLINCH



DROP

STAB

?!!

TOUCH MY  
THINGS!!!

DON'T YOU  
DARE



**I'M SUCH  
AN IDIOT!**

GRAB

THUMP

CLATTER

**REITA!**

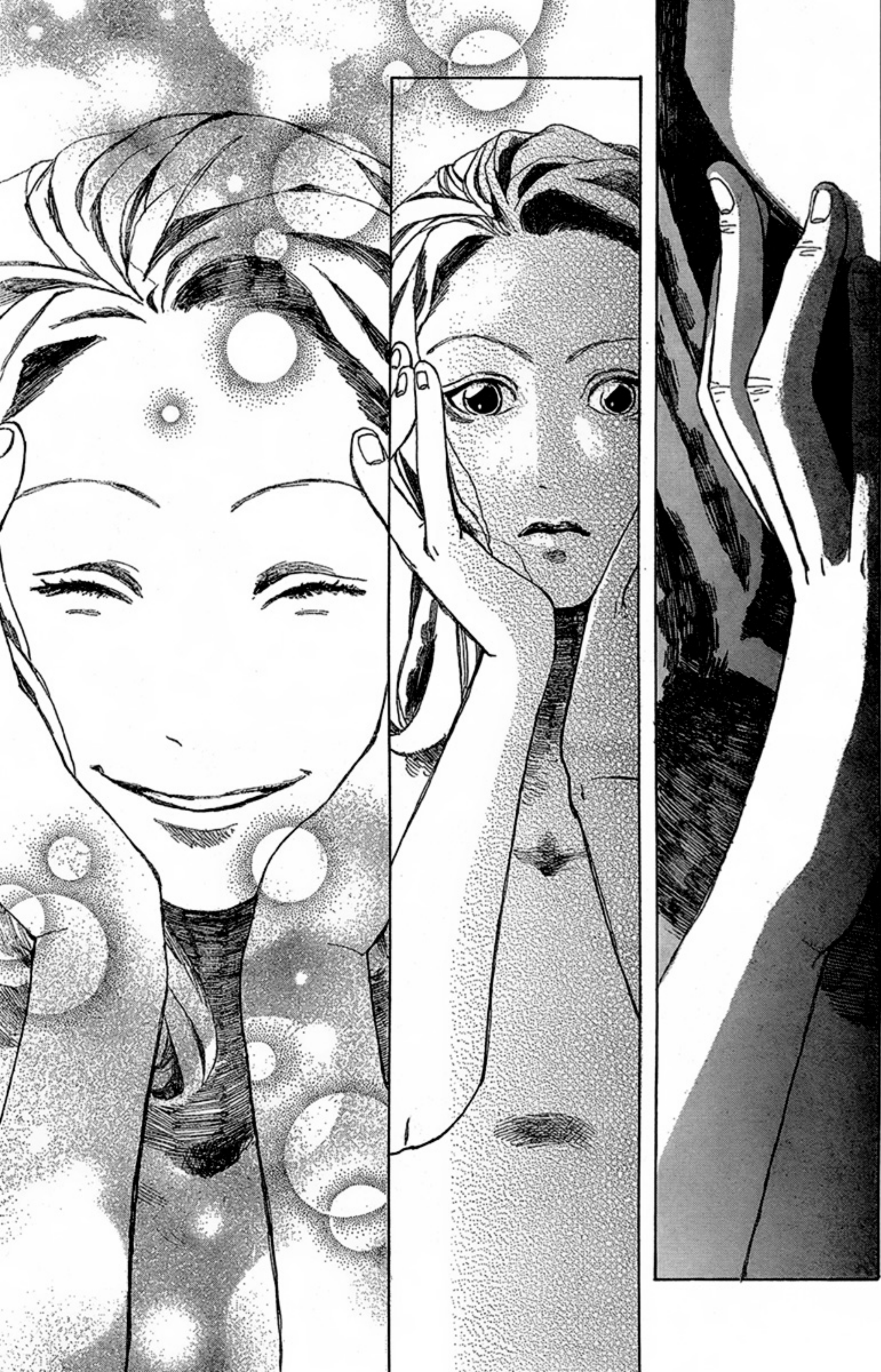
**THERE'S A  
MIRROR IN  
THAT DRAWER!  
REFLECT MARY'S  
FACE INTO IT!**

THRUST

**ROSE HAS  
ALWAYS**













おたより  
ください

はじめまして。堀古みやこ申します。未熟者ですが、がんばります。宜しくお願いします。

〒101-0063 東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2 白泉社  
花とゆめ編集部 堀古みやこ先生係







**USELESS!**




SHE STILL  
SAYS  
THINGS  
THAT HURT  
ME.

HEY  
REITA!


PUT ON  
THE TEA!  
AND DON'T  
GET ANY FUNNY  
IDEAS!

BUT



WOULD YOU  
REALLY HAVE ME  
ANY OTHER WAY?

I'M ALL  
RIGHT  
NOW.



BECAUSE  
NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
SHE DENIES IT,  
SHE NEEDS ME!

DON'T  
GET COCKY!

SHUT UP  
AND DIE!

**END**