

CRIMSON FLOWER



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Yasue Imai



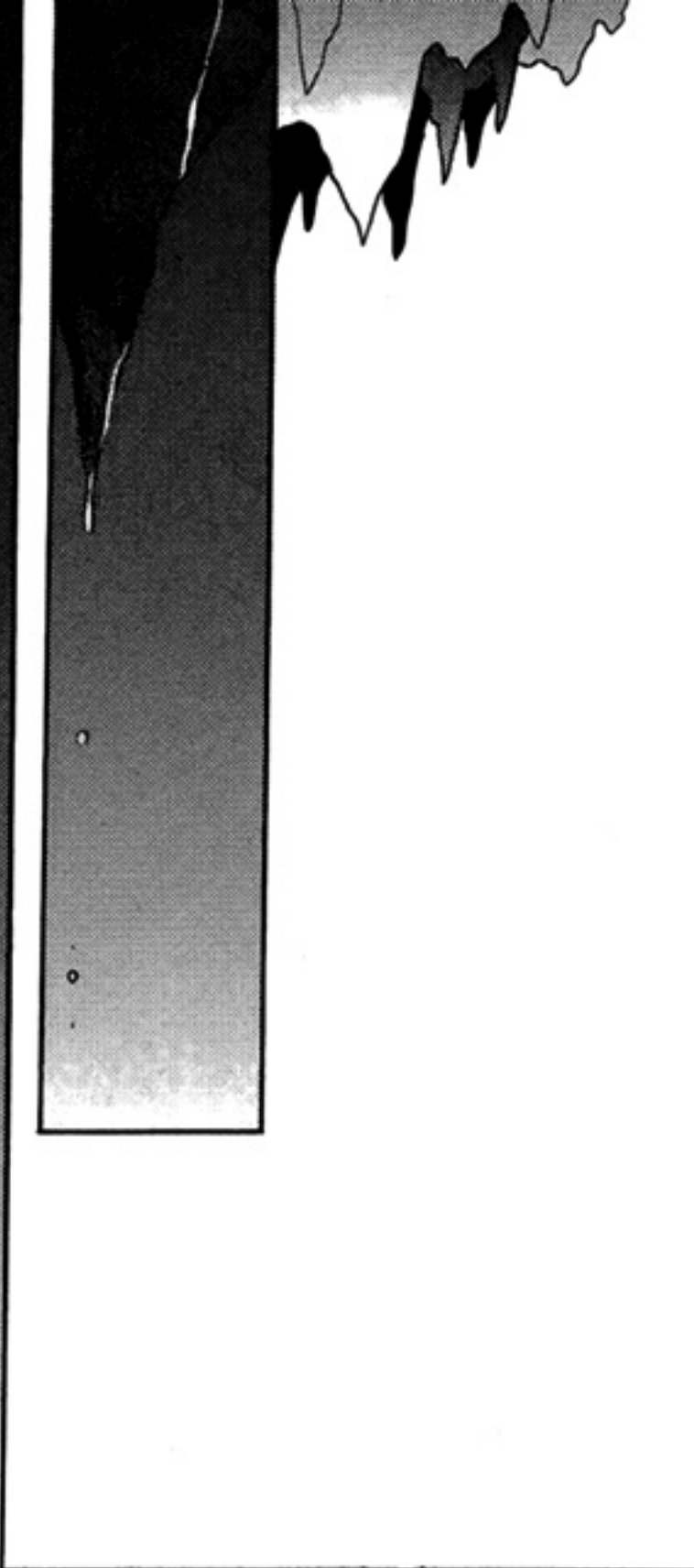
Scariness
Level

*The thing I
finally
found in
the
cramped
darkness
was...?*

SEKAI WA HIKARI NO NAKA NI
KURAYAMI NO MEIKYOU

世界は
光のなかに
~暗闇の迷宮~

THE WORLD INSIDE THE LIGHT
THE PITCH-BLACK LABYRINTH





IT'S
PITCH-BLACK
AND I CAN'T
SEE A
THING!!

WH...
WHERE
AM I?!

FWIP!

GASP!

EH?



EWW!!
WHAT IS
THAT?!

I
WONDER
WHERE I
AM?!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ME?!

AUGH!



SLIDE

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

I HAVE TO
THINK...
WHERE AM
I?

OH NO!
OH NO!
I MUSTN'T
PANIC!

MY NAME IS
HIKARI
KONDOLI AND
I'M 13 YEARS
OLD.

huff

huff

huff

Cavern
Entrance

HEY,
EVERYONE,
LISTEN UP!

THE
CAVERN IS
SLIPPERY!

First Middle School
Field Trip
Second Year
Group 1

FIRST MIDDLE
SCHOOL, SECOND
YEAR, GROUP 1,
IT'S DARK INSIDE
THE CAVERN AND
IT'S EASY TO SLIP,
SO BE CAREFUL.

THAT'S
RIGHT...!!
I WAS...

chat

chit

chatter

*it's
slippery!*

i heard.

chatter

HEY, HURRY
UP. I
WONDER IF
WE'LL HAVE
SOME FREE
TIME.

Now
you're
talking!

STOP
SAYING
STUPID
THINGS.
LET'S HURRY
UP AND GO!

DO NOT
GO OFF
THE
MARKED
PATH.

AS A PRE-
CAUTION,
EACH STU-
DENT WILL
CARRY A
FLASHLIGHT!

IF YOU GET
DRAGGED
IN BY A
CHUD, NO
ONE WILL
EVER FIND
YOU.

chit
chat

DO YOU
BELIEVE
CHUDS*
EXIST?

DON'T LET
A CHUD
DRAG YOU
INTO AN
UNDER-
GROUND
LAKE!

*CANNIBALISTIC HUMANOID
UNDERGROUND DWELLERS

glance!

SMILE

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED HIM, BUT I COULDN'T TALK TO HIM. I COULD ONLY WATCH HIM...

HIDETO ...

HIKARI, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FIELD TRIP, HIDETO HASEGAWA CONFESSED TO ME.

おたより
待ってます!!

単行本「地獄のエレベーター」書きおろしものっているのでぜひ読んでみてね!

あて先

〒112-8742

東京都小石川郵便局私書箱42号 小学館「ちゃお」編集部
今井康絵先生

IF THERE'S FREE TIME DURING THE FIELD TRIP,

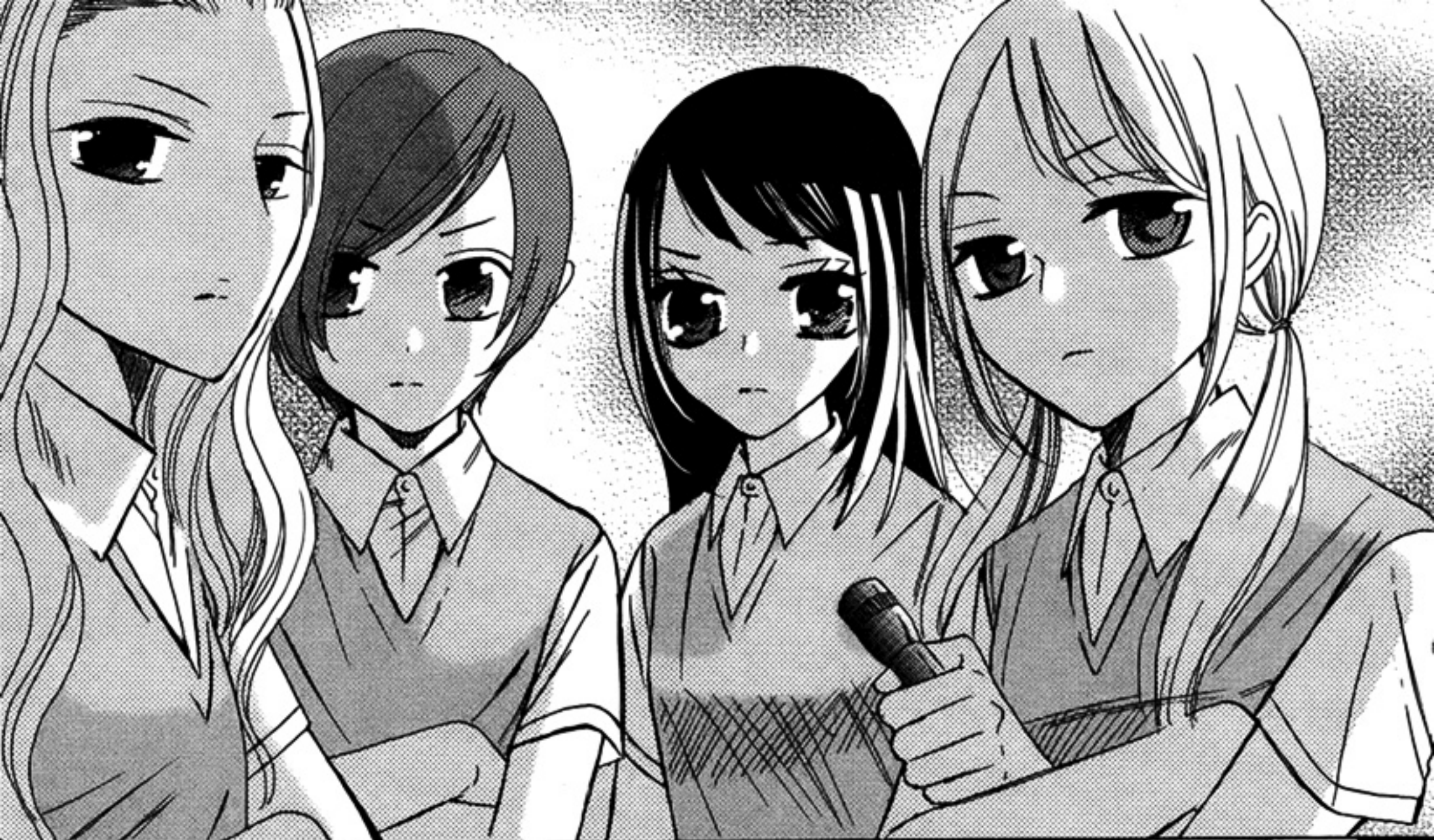
LET'S SNEAK OFF ON A DATE.

Get into groups!
Let's go!

OH WHY CAN'T IT BE FREE TIME ALREADY?

Tee hee hee!

EN



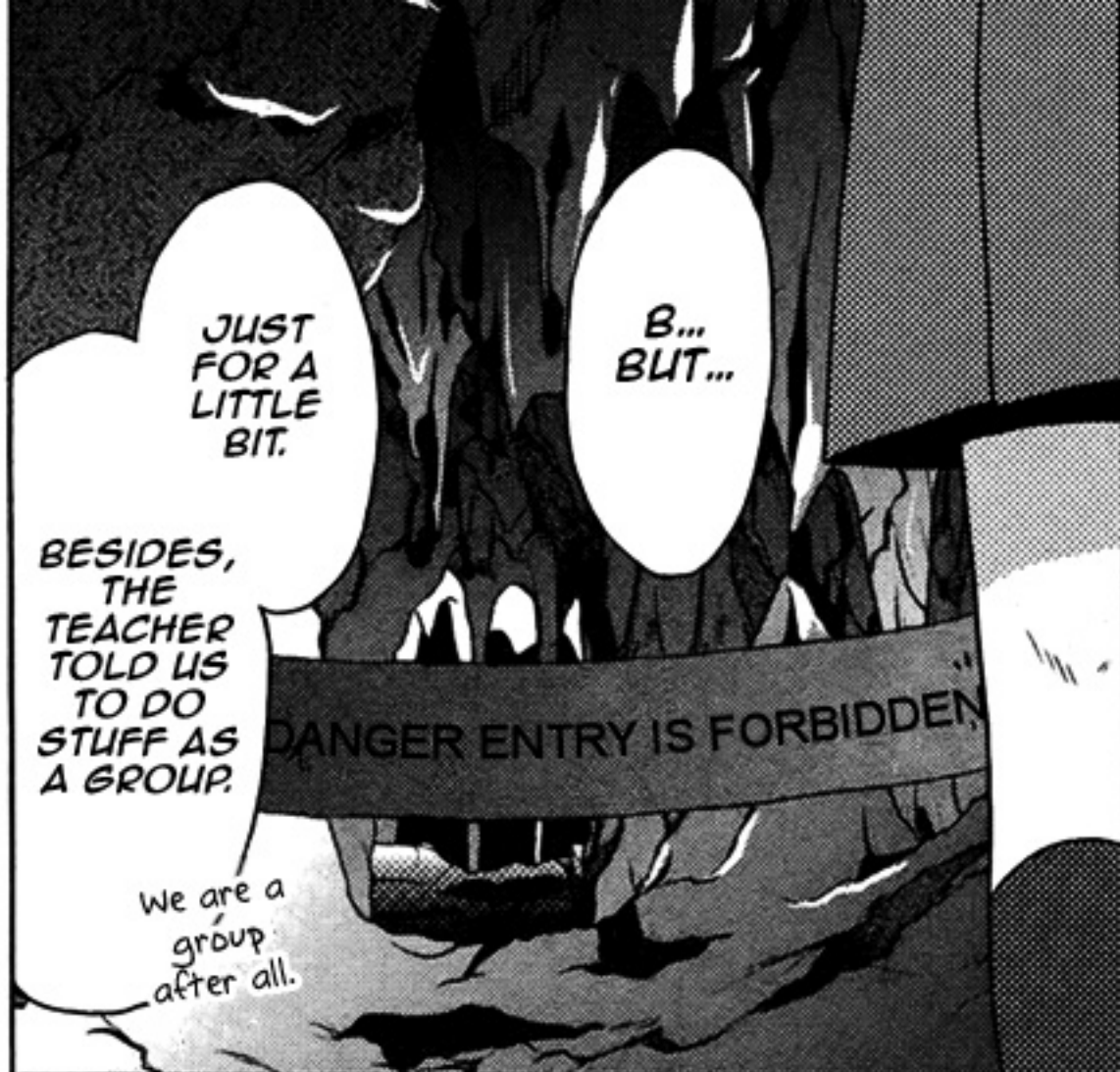
HIKARI,

WHOA!

IT'S
AMAZ-
ING!



EEK!
EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S
SUMMER,
IT'S
COLD...



JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.

B... BUT...

BESIDES, THE TEACHER TOLD US TO DO STUFF AS A GROUP.

We are a group after all.



DO YOU WANNA TRY GOING INTO THAT BIG ROOM?

HUH?!



YOUR NAME MEANS LIGHT, AND YET YOU'RE SCARED OF THE DARK?

OR, DON'T TELL ME, YOU BELIEVE IN CHUDS AND YOU'RE SCARED?

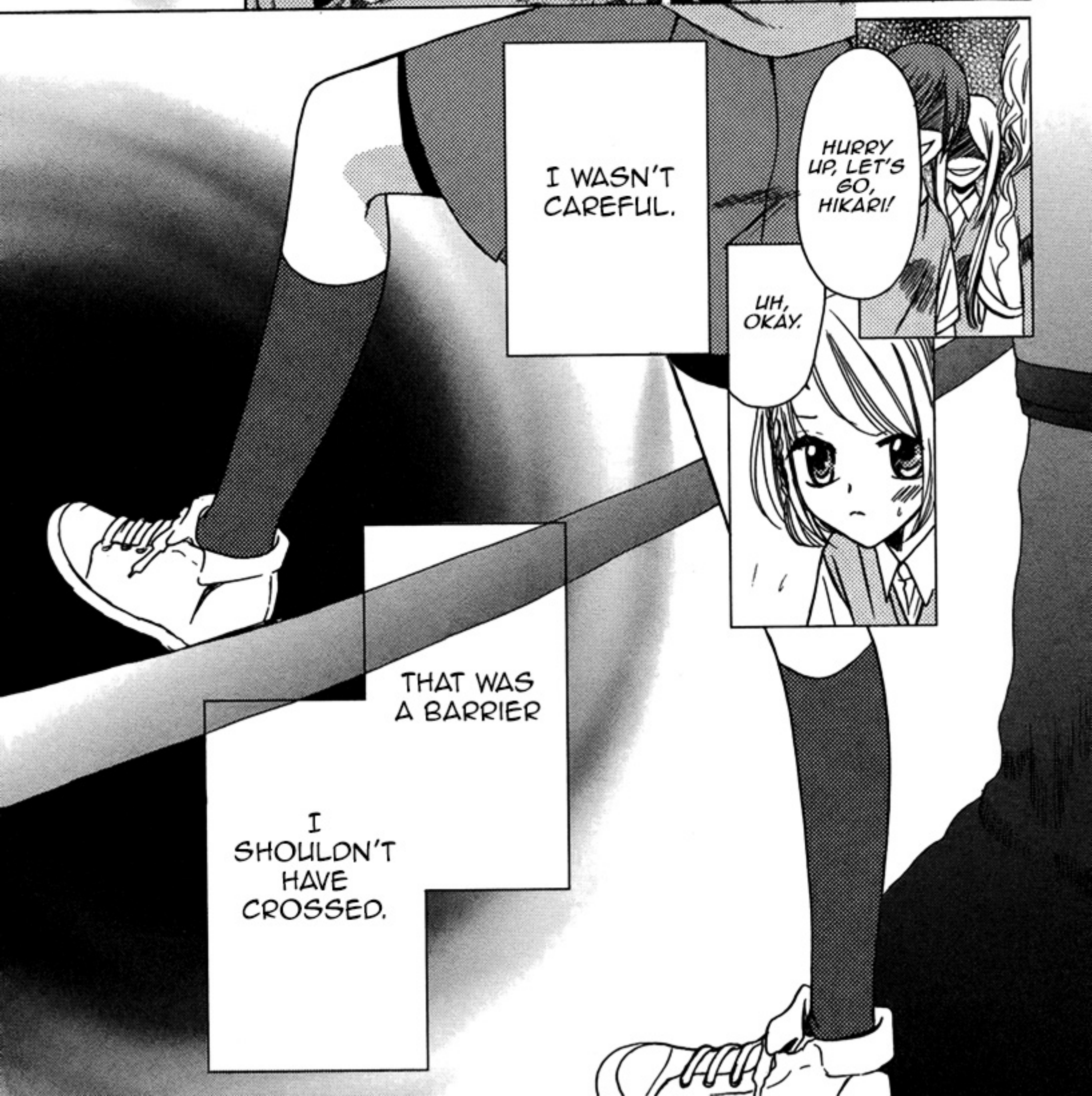
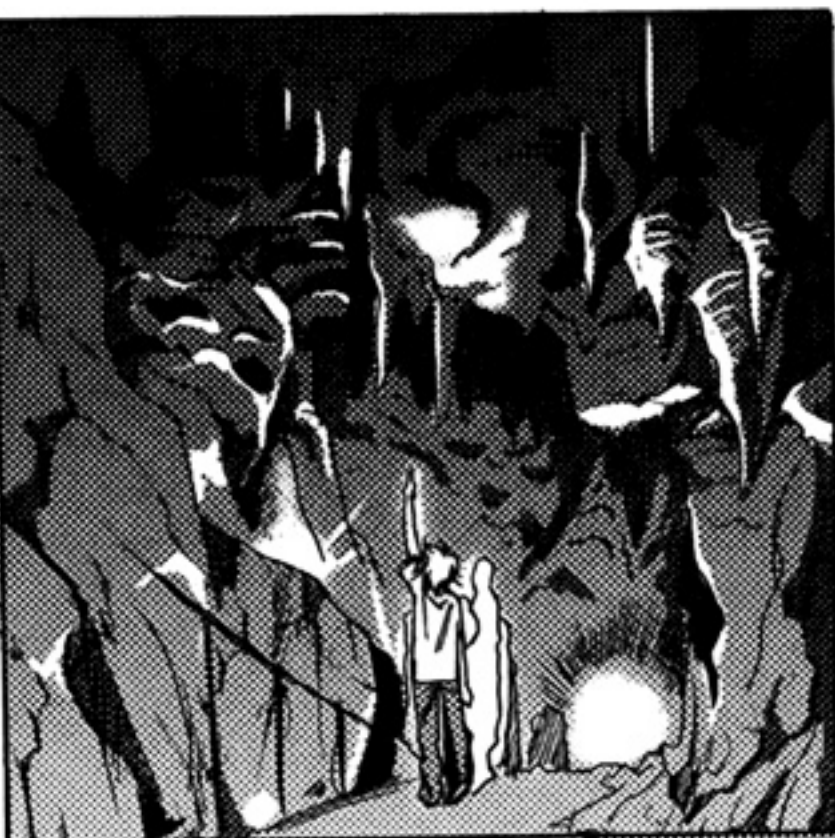


GRR...



NOT ESPECIALLY...

FINE. LET'S GO; IT LOOKS INTERESTING.



I WASN'T
CAREFUL.

HURRY
UP, LET'S
GO,
HIKARI!

UH,
OKAY.

THAT WAS
A BARRIER

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
CROSSED.



FWASH!

H... HOW
FAR ARE
WE
GOING?

IT
REALLY
IS PITCH-
BLACK...

DAMP,
AND
COLD.

IS THIS
FAR
ENOUGH?

BUT I'M
NOT ALL
THAT
SCARED.



HEY HIKARI,

UGH!



...



DON'T YOU
KNOW
MANAMI
LIKES HIM?

YOU'RE
AWFUL,
HIKARI.



IS THE
RUMOR
THAT
YOU'RE
GOING
OUT
WITH
HASE-
GAWA
TRUE?

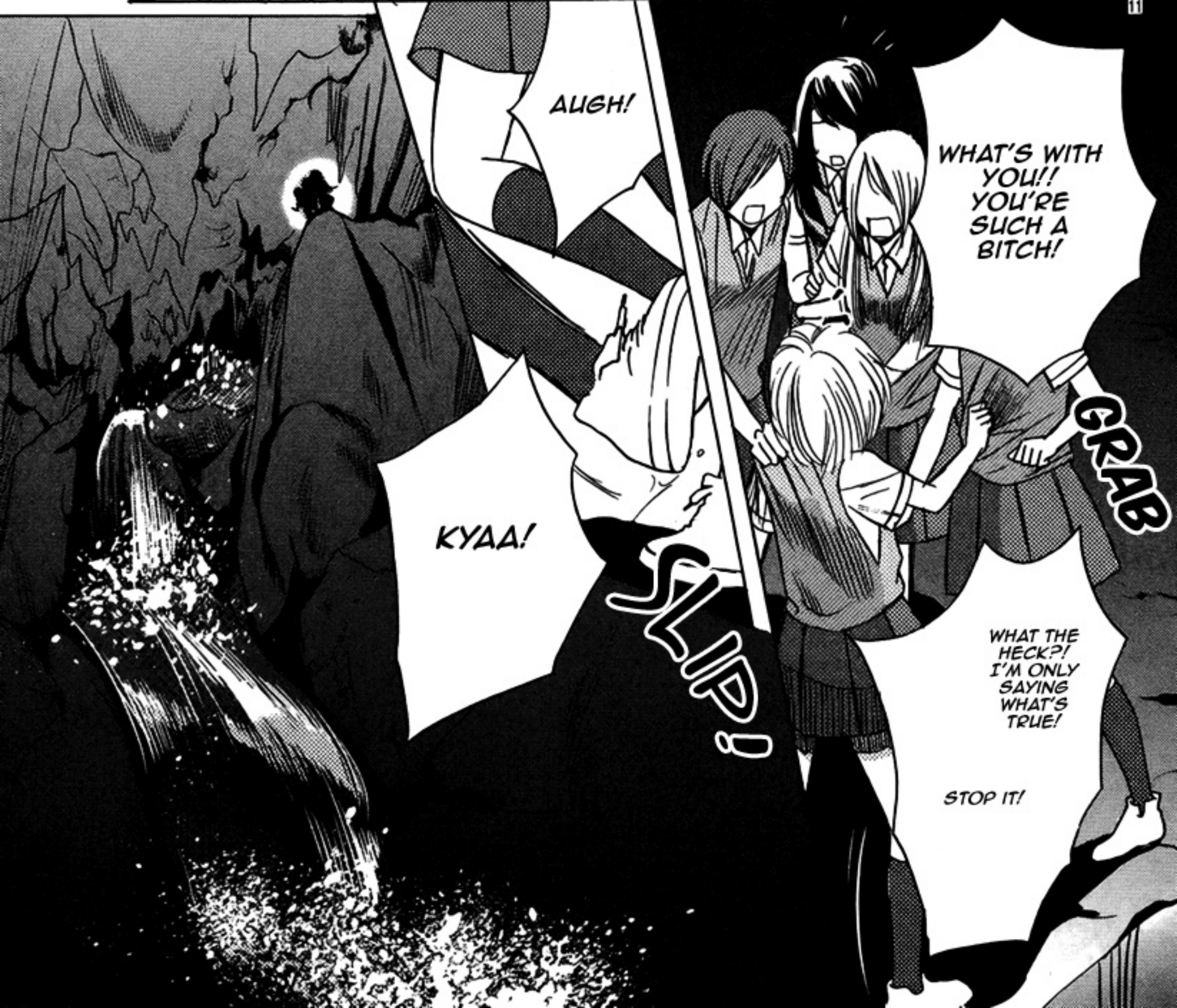


BECAUSE
I'M THE
ONE HE
CHOSE.

YOU
SHOULD HAVE
CONFESSED,
THOUGH YOU
WOULD HAVE
BEEN
REJECTED,

SAY
SOME-
THING!

WHHUNN!!



AUGH!

WHAT'S WITH
YOU!!
YOU'RE
SUCH A
BITCH!

KYAA!

SLIP!

GRAB

WHAT THE
HECK?!
I'M ONLY
SAYING
WHAT'S
TRUE!

STOP IT!



KYAAAA!



IT'S...

COLD.

SHIVER!

TH-THAT'S
RIGHT...
I GOT
WASHED
AWAY AND
ENDED UP
HERE...!!



I HAVE TO
FIND THE
WAY OUT!

I WANT TO
BE WITH
HIDETO!!



THIS
WATER IS
BAD...!

I'M
THIRSTY...

splish

KOFF!
KOFF!

WAA...

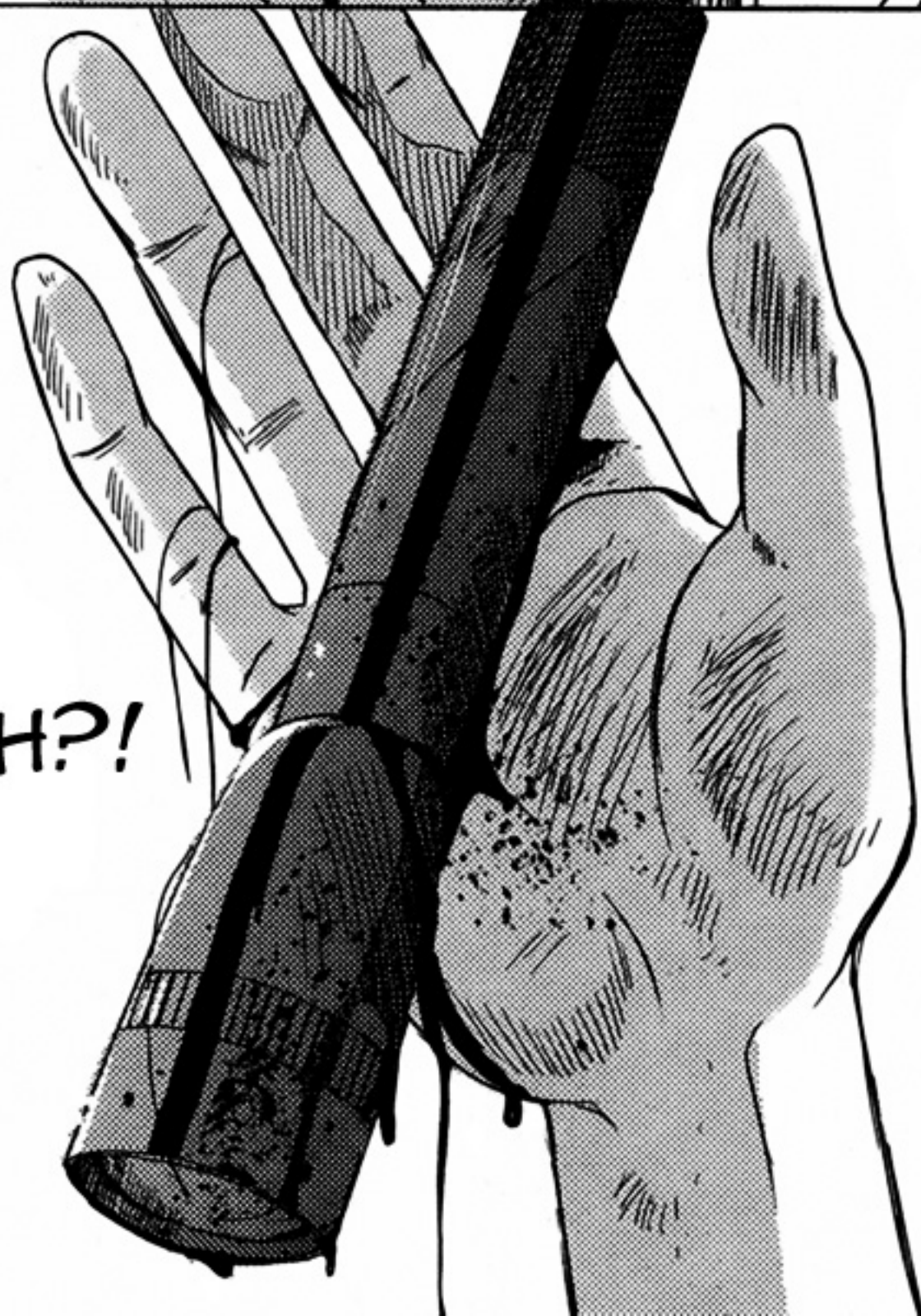
I WANT
OUT OF
HERE...
WHY DID
THIS
HAPPEN
TO ME!!

SWUP!





huh?!





A...
FLASH-
LIGHT?
IT'S NOT
MINE...

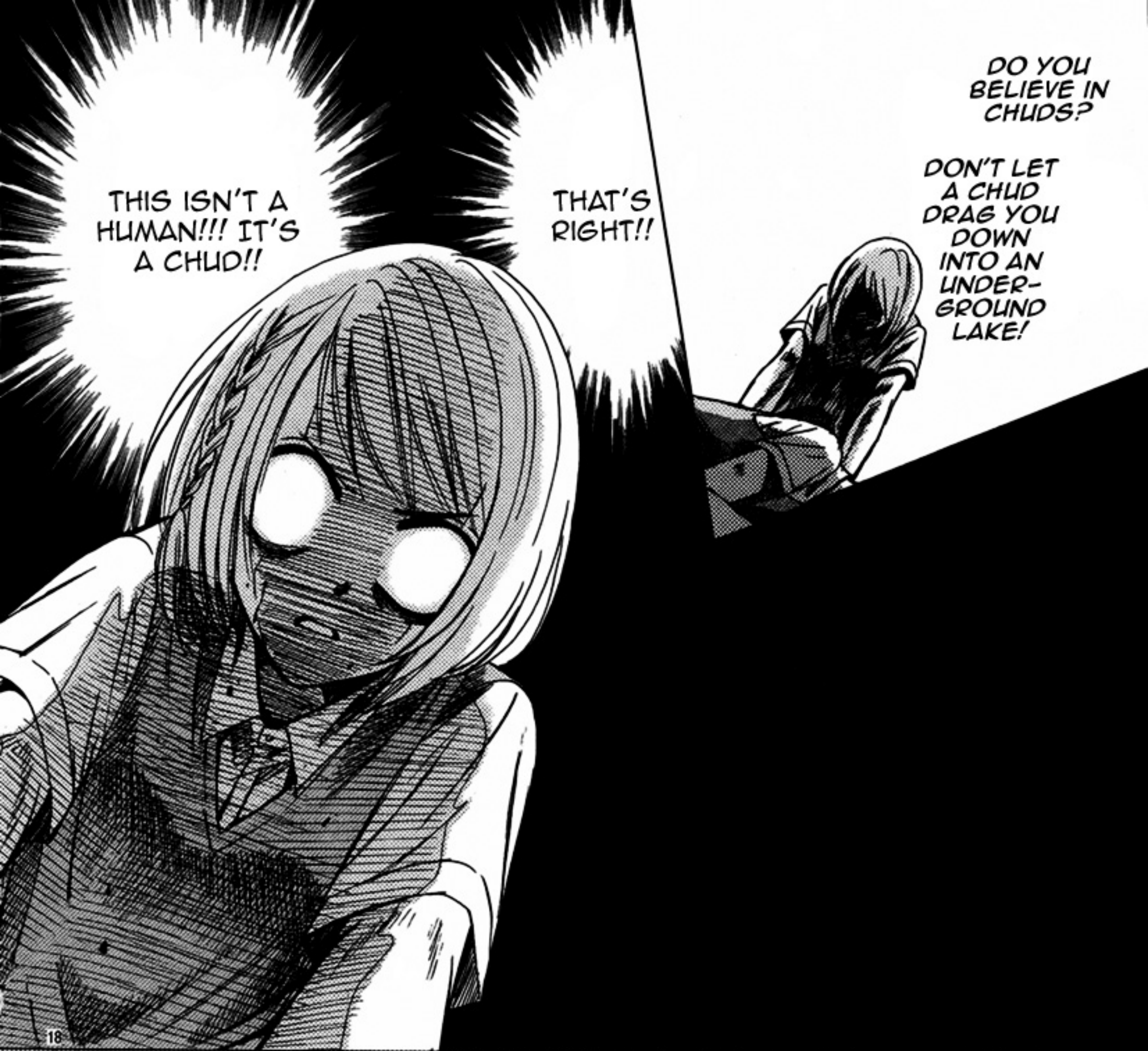
CLICK

KYAA!!

17



DID I...
KILL A
FRIEND?!



THIS ISN'T A
HUMAN!!! IT'S
A CHUD!!

THAT'S
RIGHT!!

DO YOU
BELIEVE IN
CHUDS?

DON'T LET
A CHUD
DRAG YOU
DOWN
INTO AN
UNDER-
GROUND
LAKE!



I DIDN'T
DO ANY-
THING
WRONG!!



THERE MUST
BE MORE
CHUDS
HERE....!

YES...

CRUNCH

CRUNCH



IT'S
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING
...

TCH! SHE
BROUGHT
NOTHING
BUT MINTS.



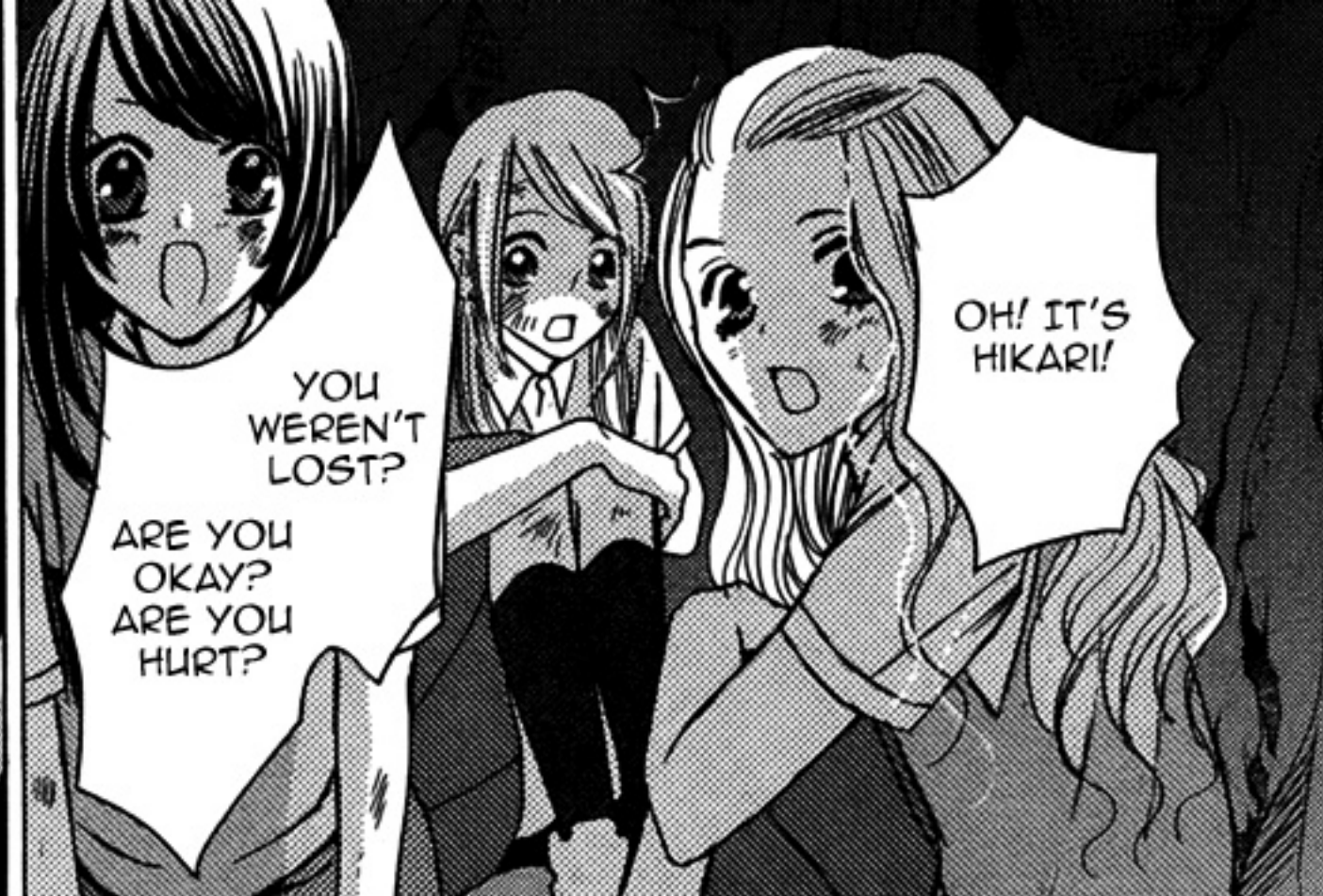
19



VOICES!!

I HAVE TO
GET OUT
OF HERE
BEFORE
THEY
CAPTURE
ME!

I HAVE A
DATE WITH
HIDETO!!



YOU
WEREN'T
LOST?

ARE YOU
OKAY?
ARE YOU
HURT?

OH! IT'S
HIKARI!

THERE IS
ALSO A
LITTLE BIT OF
CANDY. WE'RE
SHARING IT.

WE'RE
ONLY
USING
ONE
FLASH-
LIGHT TO
CONSERVE
THE BAT-
TERIES.

THERE'S
NO MOBILE
PHONE
SIGNAL
AND OUR
BATTERIES
ARE
ALREADY
DEAD.

WE DON'T
KNOW
WHERE SAKI
IS.

THE THREE
OF US
ENDED UP
HERE.

WITH
YOU
HERE,

WE CAN
ESCAPE
TOGETHER!



IF WE PUT
OUR HEADS
TOGETHER
WE CAN DO
ANYTHING!

A black and white manga panel showing the back of a girl with short, straight hair. She is wearing a dark, short-sleeved top. The background is filled with radiating lines, suggesting a bright light or a significant moment.

THE ONES
WHO LED
ME
HERE...?!!

WEREN'T
YOU
GIRLS...

A black and white manga panel showing three girls in a cave. The girl in the foreground has short hair and is looking back. The two girls behind her have long hair and are looking at her. The cave walls are rocky and uneven.

HIKARI...?





I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT YOU
CHUDS ARE
SAYING.

?!

H-
HIKARI?

**K
E
E
E
E
E**



THIS IS...
THE LAST
FLASH-
LIGHT...

click

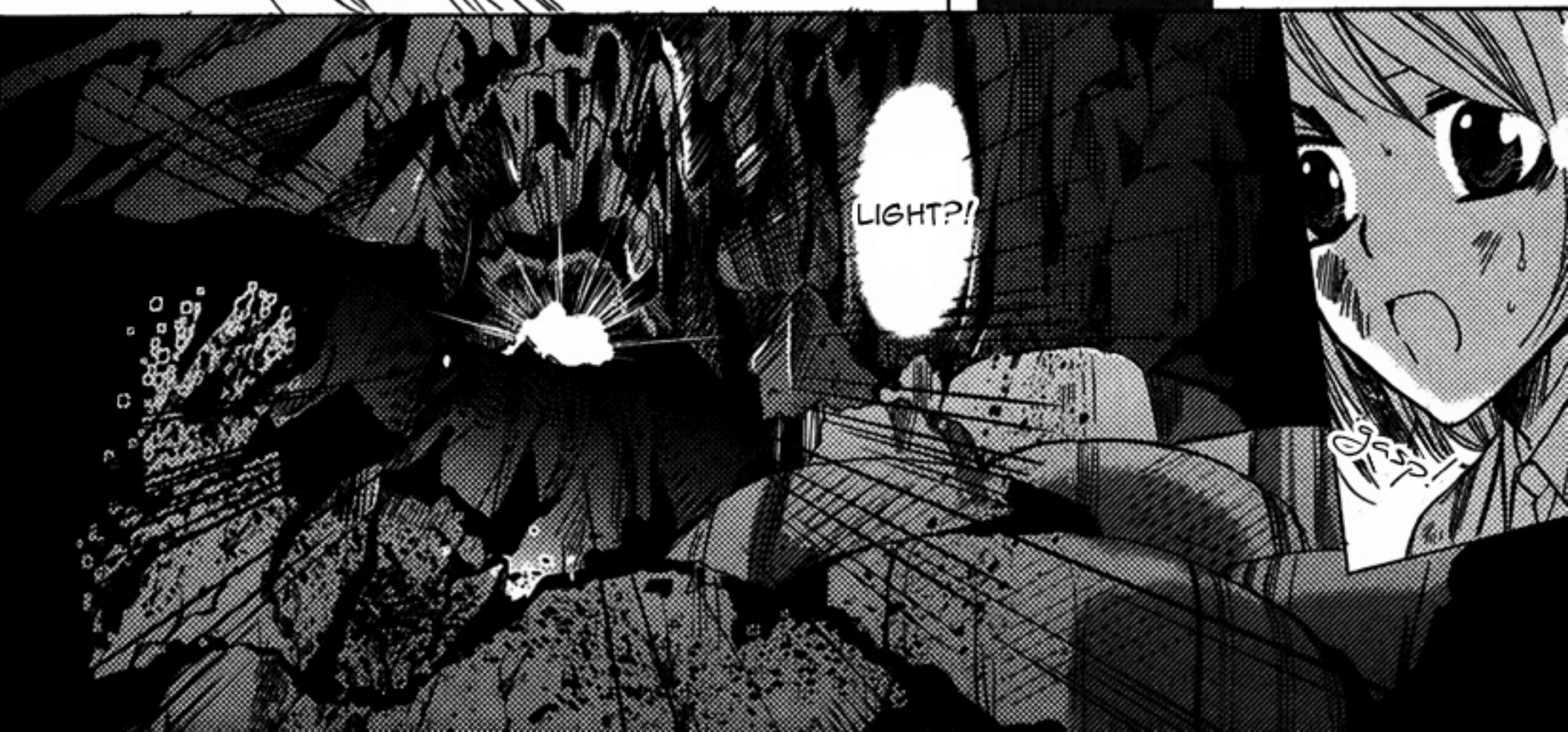
TO GET
OUT OF
HERE!!



I'LL
DO
ANY-
THING

I'M
GOING
ON A
DATE
WITH
HIDETO.

25



LIGHT?!



I'M
HERE!
I'M
HERE!

HEY!

I'M
HERE!

HEY!

I'M
ALONE!!

SOME-
BODY
HELP
ME!!

HIKARI!!



I'M
SAVED!
I'M
SAVED!!

A... DREAM?

plip...!

slip



WH... WHERE
AM I?!!



WHAT WAS THAT
DREAM? WAS IT
A DREAM?! IS
THIS REALITY
FROM NOW
ON?!



sob...

UH!

WAAH...

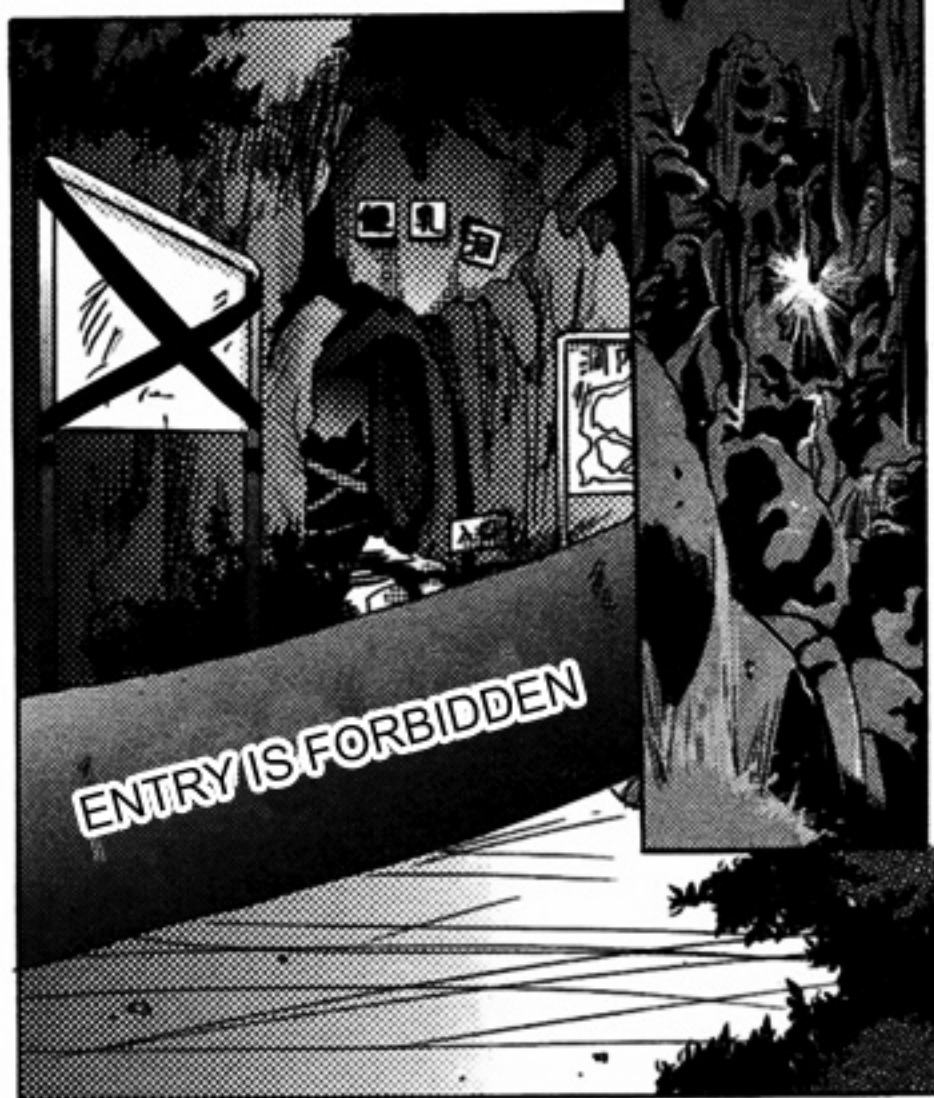
CLICK

CLICK



SOME-
BODY!!

D-
DON'T
GO
OUT!!



SOME-
BODY
HELP ME!

SOME-
BODY!!!

DIDN'T
YOU TALK
TO HIKARI
THAT
TIME?

IN THE
END... THEY
NEVER
FOUND
HIKARI...



I TRIED
TO
STOP
HER...

AND THEN,
HIKARI
SUDDENLY
WENT TO
EXPLORE
THAT
PATHWAY

AND RAN
OFF BY
HERSELF...

THIS AREA IS
DANGEROUS
ENTRY IS
FORBIDDEN



HE CON-
FESSED TO
ME THREE
DAYS
EARLIER.

I TOLD HIKARI
ABOUT HOW I
WAS LOOKING
FORWARD TO
MEETING WITH
HIDETO AND
STUFF.



SHE NEVER
TALKED TO
ANYONE. SHE WAS
ALWAYS ALONE. I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT SHE WAS
THINKING...

I DIDN'T KNOW
HIKARI ALSO
LIKED HIDETO.

THERE WAS
NOTHING I
COULD DO.



BUT...

I FEEL
SORRY
FOR HER...

THE END