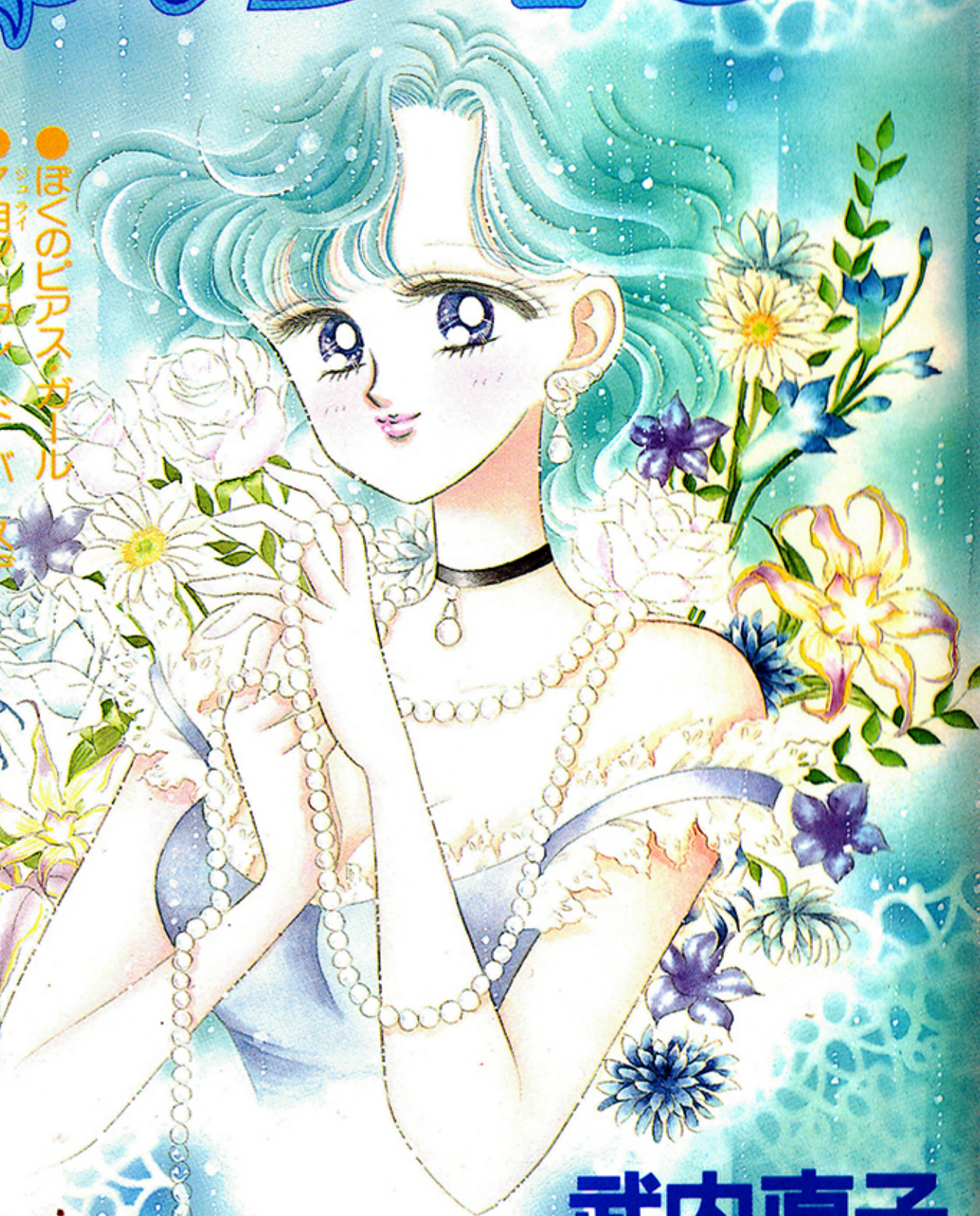


K o d a n s y a C o m i c s

ミステイク

- ほくのピカスガール
- 7月マンスリード・バーズデー
- まいごのスウインク
- いつもいつしよね♡



武内直子

750

ミス・レイン

225380 4504 20050803 409



ミス・レイン

武内 直子

60-50

-06-178750-0

P390E (0)

講談社
定価
390円
(本体379円)

K o d a n s y a C o m i c

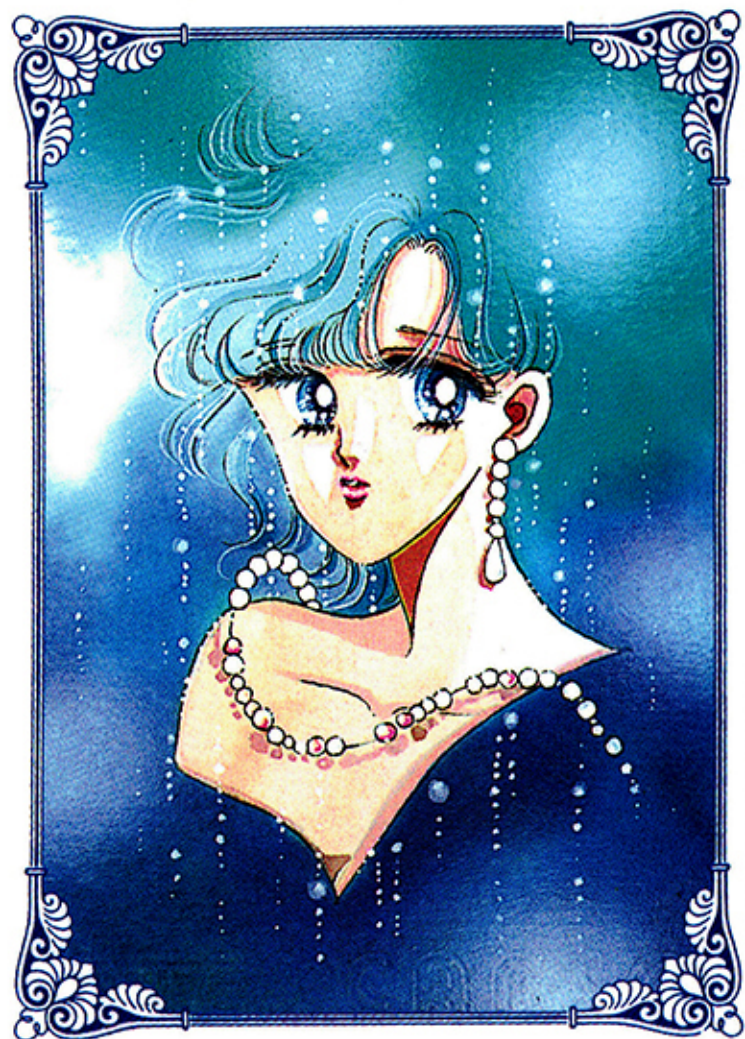
☆^{くらみつ}倉^{あめ}満^{かのじよ}れ^ななが^ないく^ナところ^オには、かならず
雨^コが^{しゅぎよく}ふる^{めいさく}……。そんな^{ひょうだいさく}彼女^{へんしゅうろく}に、いつ^コしか
つ^コいた^{しゅぎよく}名^{めいさく}が^{ひょうだいさく}“ミス・レイン”……。NAO
KOの^{へんしゅうろく}珠^コ玉^{しゅぎよく}の名^{めいさく}作^{ひょうだいさく}を、表^コ題^{しゅぎよく}作^{めいさく}を^{ひょうだいさく}ふく^{へんしゅうろく}め、5
編^コ収^{しゅぎよく}録^{めいさく}。ロ^{ひょうだいさく}マン^{へんしゅうろく}チ^コック^{しゅぎよく}を^{めいさく}あ^{ひょうだいさく}なた^{へんしゅうろく}に……。♡

K
なかよし
C

武内直子

講談社
390





顔 素 の 者 作

★3月15日生まれ、うお座のA型。山梨県出身。1986年、第2回なかよし新人まんが賞入選の「ラブコール」で、「なかよしデラックスト」(1986年9月号)よりデビュー。

代表作は、「The チェリープロジェクト」(美少女)、「セーラームーン」(ミス・レイン)など。

「美少女」で、「セーラームーン」で、第17回 講談社漫画賞受賞。



Miss Rain



- MY EARRING WEARING GIRL.....
- JULY MARMALADE BIRTHDAY.....
- THE LOST CHILD'S SWING.....
- ALWAYS WITH YOU.....

"I WANTED TO DANCE THE LAST WALTZ"

Ladies & Gentlemen!

HERE, HERE! IT'S TIME TO DANCE
THE LAST WALTZ OF THE PARTY!

FIND SOME COURAGE,
GRAB SOMEONE'S HAND,
AND COME OUT TO THE
DANCE FLOOR!





CLICK

POUR

K, ARE YOU GOING HOME ALREADY? WHAT ABOUT THE LAST WALTZ?

I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIMIT MYSELF TO JUST ONE PARTNER.

splash

clatter

pitter

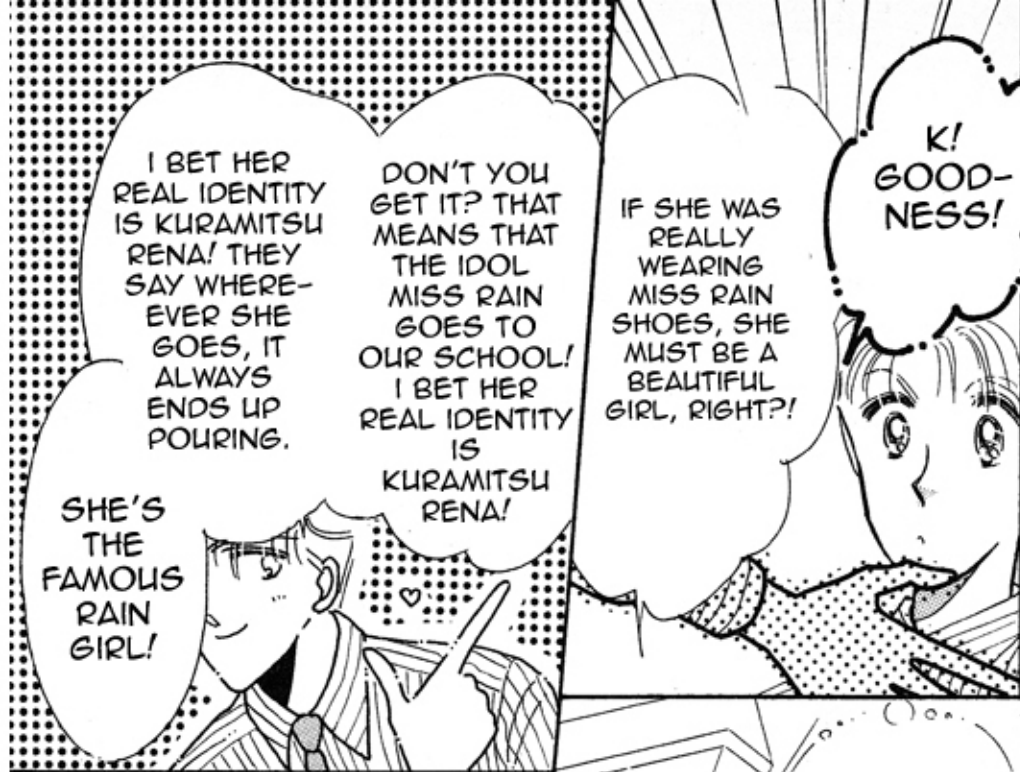
BA-DUM

patter

MISS RAIN

MISS RAIN





I BET HER REAL IDENTITY IS KURAMITSU RENA! THEY SAY WHEREVER SHE GOES, IT ALWAYS ENDS UP POURING.

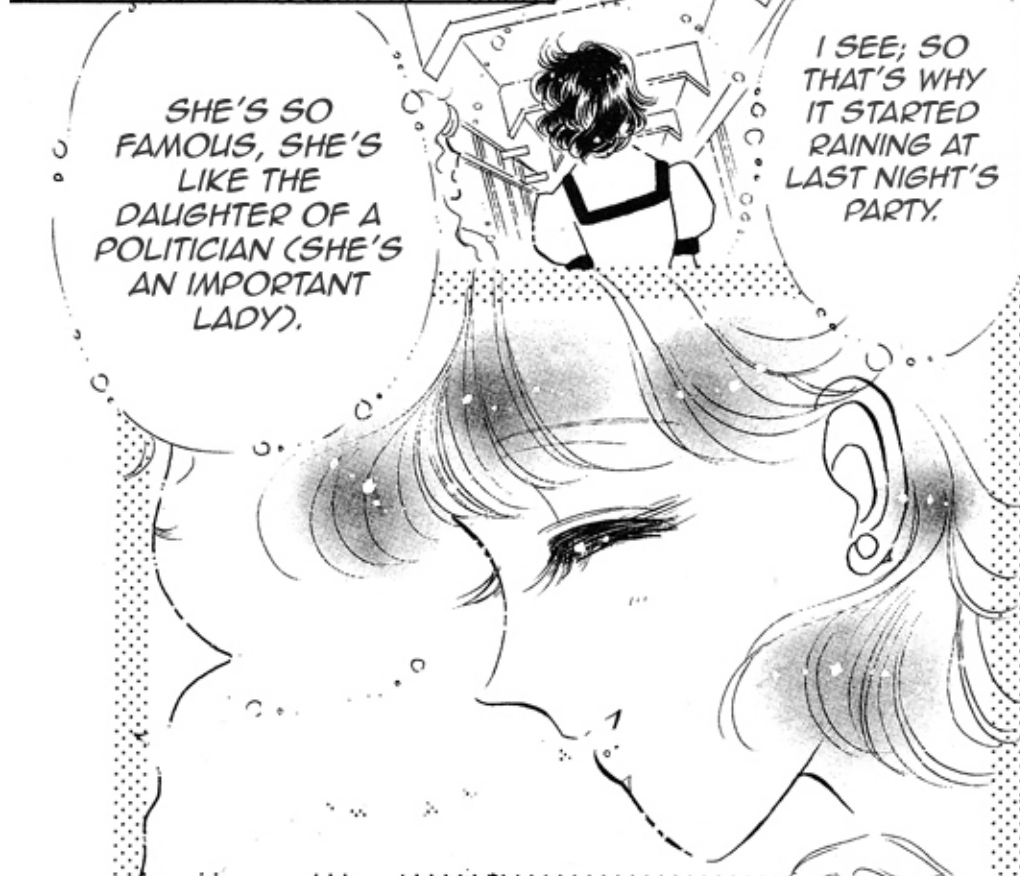
DON'T YOU GET IT? THAT MEANS THAT THE IDOL MISS RAIN GOES TO OUR SCHOOL! I BET HER REAL IDENTITY IS KURAMITSU RENA!

IF SHE WAS REALLY WEARING MISS RAIN SHOES, SHE MUST BE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, RIGHT?!

K!
GOODNESS!

SHE'S THE FAMOUS RAIN GIRL!

MISS RAIN?!



SHE'S SO FAMOUS, SHE'S LIKE THE DAUGHTER OF A POLITICIAN (SHE'S AN IMPORTANT LADY).

I SEE; SO THAT'S WHY IT STARTED RAINING AT LAST NIGHT'S PARTY.



BANG

MISS RAIN! ♡



FWOOOSH

COME HERE; THIS LOOKS LIKE FUN.

NEW MEMBER DRIVE!
LOOKING FOR NEW ENTRANTS
Crazy Society
ENTRANCE

"ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS"

"MUST BE A GOOD LOOKING GIRL WHO LOOKS GREAT WEARING THE MISS RAIN BRAND NAME SUITS."

I BET YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET IN EVEN WITHOUT MEETING THESE GUIDELINES. AFTER ALL, YOU'RE MISS RAIN HERSELF.

RIGHT?

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU UP TO WITH THIS NEW CLUB OF YOURS, K?

WE MISS OUR SOCCER TEAM CAPTAIN! NOW WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE OF WINNING!

HEY K, WHY DID YOU QUIT THE TENNIS CLUB? YOU LOOKED SO COOL PLAYING!

KYAA

KYAA

IT'S A CLUB ALL ABOUT EATING, PARTYING, AND DOING WHAT YOU WANT.

THERE'S DEFINITELY NO WAY A GIRL IN OUR SCHOOL COULD AFFORD THEM.

YEAH! THEY'RE SO EXPENSIVE!

BUT WHY "MISS RAIN" CLOTHES?

HER SILHOUETTE IS SO BEAUTIFUL. THIN AND FLUTTERY...

"MISS RAIN" IS THE NAME OF THAT LABEL THAT GIRL WEARS, RIGHT?

YOU'RE WRONG. THERE'S A GIRL HERE WHO DOES.

NO.

"MISS RAIN" WAS WORN BY A GIRL, SOAKED IN WATER, AND COVERED IN MUD.

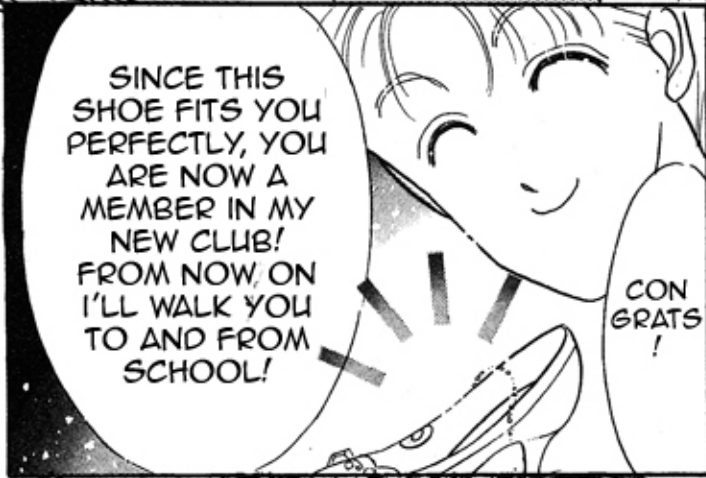
THUD



MY SHOE?!



I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY PRINCESS.



SINCE THIS SHOE FITS YOU PERFECTLY, YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER IN MY NEW CLUB! FROM NOW, ON I'LL WALK YOU TO AND FROM SCHOOL!

CONGRATS!



I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS. 9TH GRADE GUY K DOING ALL THIS STUFF JUST TO IMPRESS THAT 7TH GRADER RENA.

it'll be fun to watch, though

AT LEAST IM IN THE CLUB.

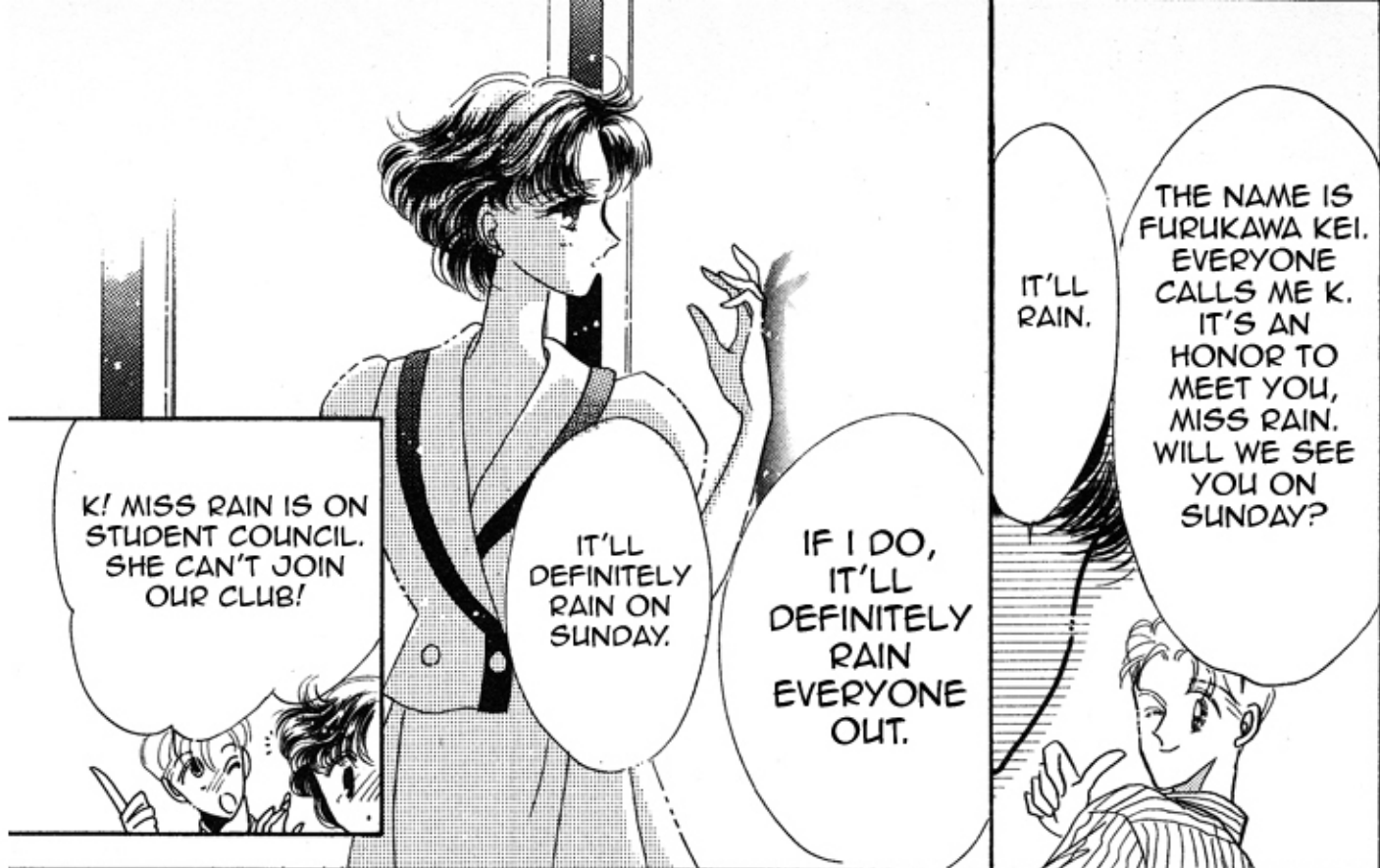


yay!

ALL RIGHT! EVERYONE HERE IS NOW A NEW MEMBER! WE'LL HOLD OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY!

we'll check out roppongi and shibuya for sure!





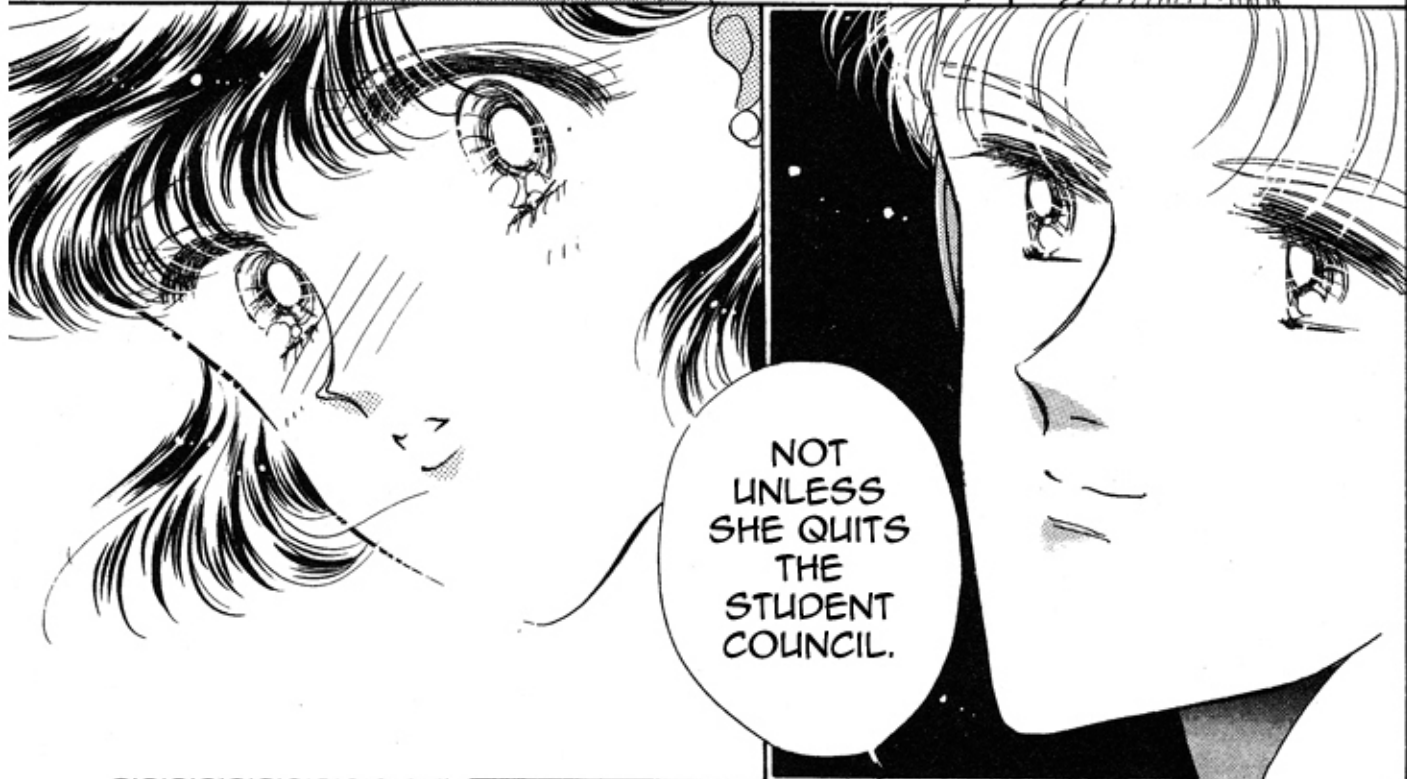
K! MISS RAIN IS ON STUDENT COUNCIL. SHE CAN'T JOIN OUR CLUB!

IT'LL DEFINITELY RAIN ON SUNDAY.

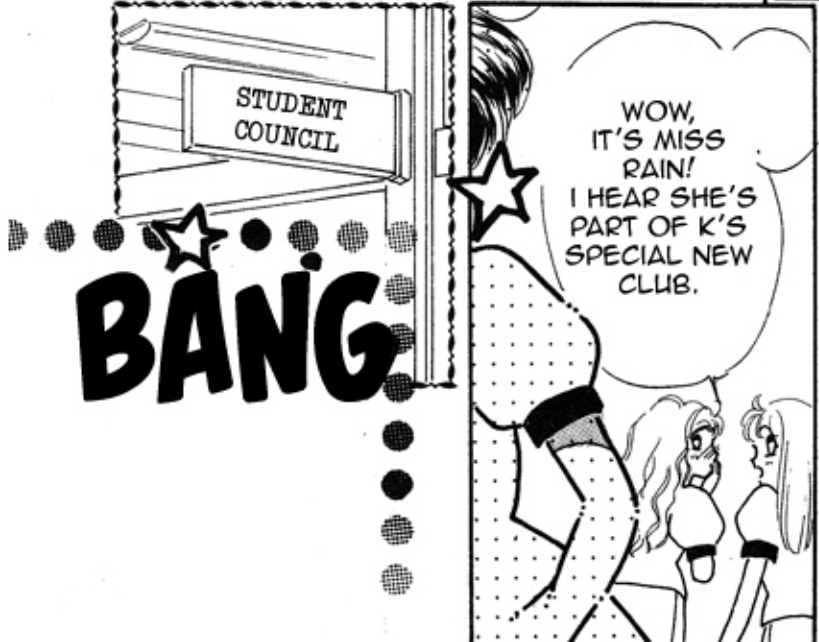
IF I DO, IT'LL DEFINITELY RAIN EVERYONE OUT.

IT'LL RAIN.

THE NAME IS FURUKAWA KEI. EVERYONE CALLS ME K. IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU, MISS RAIN. WILL WE SEE YOU ON SUNDAY?

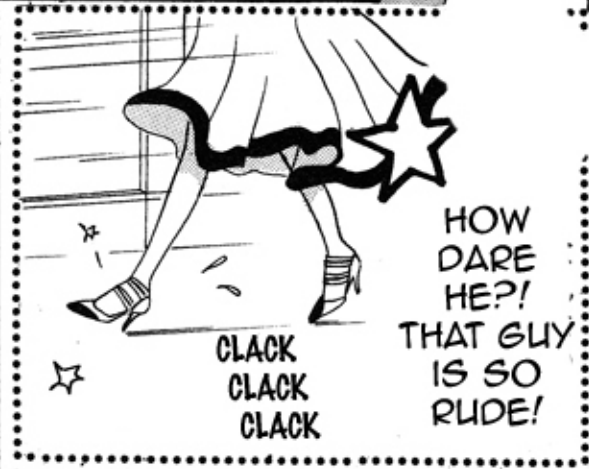


NOT UNLESS SHE QUILTS THE STUDENT COUNCIL.



BANG

WOW, IT'S MISS RAIN! I HEAR SHE'S PART OF K'S SPECIAL NEW CLUB.



CLACK CLACK CLACK

HOW DARE HE?! THAT GUY IS SO RUDE!



THOSE "MISS RAIN" CLOTHES LOOKED GOOD ON YOU AT THE PARTY LAST NIGHT. THAT'S WHY PEOPLE CALL YOU THAT NOW.

YOU SHOULD BE HONORED.

CALLING ME MISS RAIN, SINCE I'M A RAIN BRINGING GIRL.

I WONDER WHO CAME UP WITH THAT...



IS THE PRESIDENT SLEEPING?

I'M AWAKE.



BA-DUM

COME ON MAMI, THAT'S NOT ANYBODIES BUSINESS...



ONE PRESIDENT AND TWO VICE PRESIDENTS ARE ALL THE STUDENT COUNCIL NEEDS!

YOU SHOULD FIND MORE PEOPLE! THIS WORK IS HARD!

I CAN ALWAYS RELAX HERE, IT'S QUIET AND THERE'S USUALLY NO ONE ELSE AROUND.



BESIDES THIS IS NICE, HAVING A CASTLE FOR JUST THE THREE OF US.

BONK

AH, BUT WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE. LET'S GO BUY SOME, RAINY!

OH YEAH, WE HAVE CAKE TOO!

CONFECTIONERY WEST

IT'S FINE, RAINY, DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.

IS THIS REALLY OKAY, PRESIDENT? LEAVING MAMI BEHIND BY HERSELF?

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE STAYING BEHIND





IT'S NOT RAINING, IS IT?

IT'S NOT RAINING.

BYE BYE!

ah ha ha

I'M NOT SOME KIND OF WEATHER BOY!

MAYBE BECAUSE YOU'RE HERE WITH ME?

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT OVER-INDULGING YOURSELF.

RAINY.

IT'D BE NICE IF PEOPLE DIDN'T ALWAYS DO WHAT THEY WANTED.

BA-DUM

HOW ABOUT WE MIX HER NAME, RENA, WITH RAIN, AND CALL HER RAINY? I THINK THAT SOUNDS BETTER THAN MISS RAIN.

I THINK YOU'RE MUCH BETTER AS RAINY THAN AS MS. KURAMITSU OR MISS RAIN.

BE-CAUSE,





THAT'S
TOO BAD.



AND WHAT IS ALL THIS
SPECIAL MEMBER
NONSE ABOUT...? I'D
PREFER IT IF YOU DIDN'T
KEEP FOLLOWING ME
AROUND, YOU KNOW.



I THINK
THAT'S
INFIN-
ITELY
BETTER.


SO YOU
HAPPENED
TO PICK UP
MY SHOES
AT THAT
PARTY?

CLICK



EVEN IF YOU
DON'T KNOW
ANY BETTER
THAT IT WAS
FATE.

pour



BECAUSE IT
WAS DESTINY
THAT WE MET
THAT NIGHT.



WAIT!
DO YOU
HAVE AN
UM-
BRELLA?

AH

BOW

ANY-
WAY!

BE SURE
TO COME
TO THE CLUB
MEETING
TOMORROW!

SEE
YOU
TO-
MOR-
ROW!

A DESTINED...



MEMBER PUSH!
NOW ACCEPTING
NEW MEMBERS

Crazy
Society
ENTRY

WEIRDO.

☆



DESTINED

STUDENT
COUNCIL

MEETING

OH K! I HEARD ABOUT THIS NEW CLUB OF YOURS, THE CRAZY SOCIETY, AND I WANT TO JOIN! I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO SHIBUYA EVERY SUNDAY!



HEY MISS RAIN, OVER THERE!



RAINY!



SMACK
YEAH, NOW THAT MISS RAIN IS HERE K CAN'T HAVE ANY MORE GOOD -



SINCE MISS RAIN IS AROUND I CAN'T GUARANTEE GOOD WEATHER.

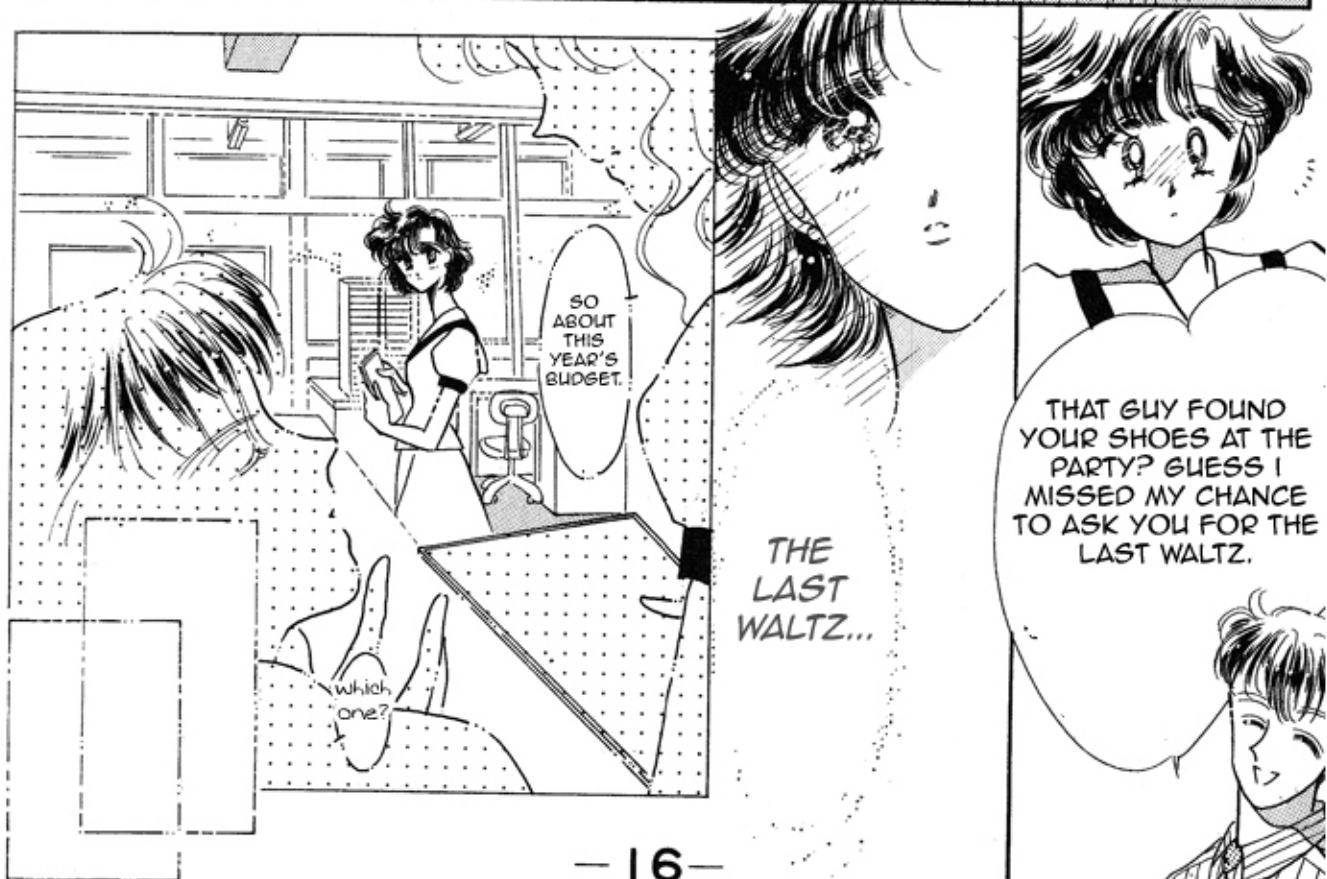


GASP
RAINY



BLUSH

giggle





i came to get my shoes back... just for my shoes...



TO BE HONEST, I WASN'T SURE YOU'D SHOW UP.

WELCOME. ♡



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME OOLONG TEA?

I WAS JUST BREWING SOME (YOU'VE GOT GREAT TIMING!)



I JUST CAME FOR MY SHOES -



WHAT A HUGE PILE OF SNACKS... OH GOODNESS!



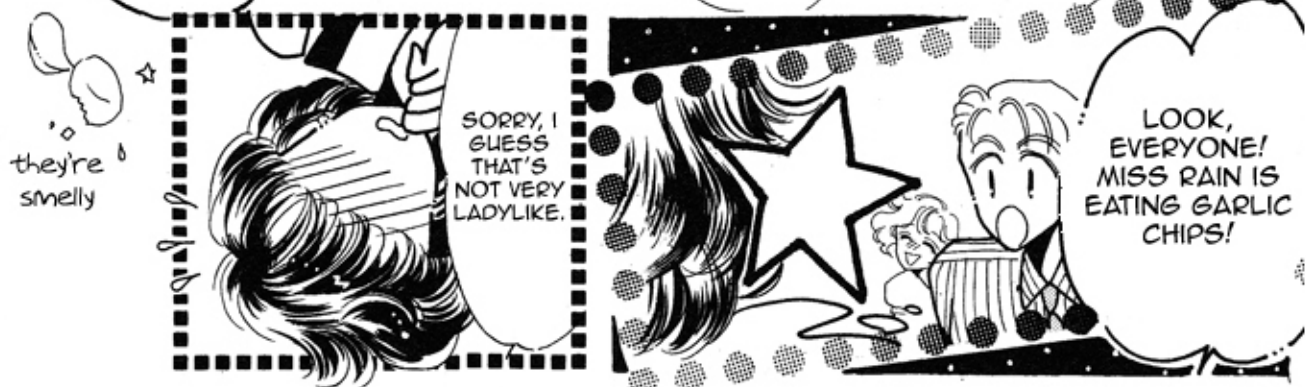
MISS RAIN, GO AHEAD, HELP YOURSELF!!

Here have some of this too!

HOW IS THE TEA? OK?

YAY!

HEY MISS RAIN? WILL YOU HELP US OUT WITH OUR CANDY DRIVE? PLEASE?





AMAZING!
MISS RAIN
REALLY
DID MAKE IT
RAIN!

AWESOME!

PLIP

AH, IT'S
RAINING!

POUR

PLIP



BUH?
WHAT'S ALL
THIS LAST
WALTZ STUFF
ABOUT?

BUT
WHY?



ACTUALLY, I
WENT HOME
DURING
THAT...

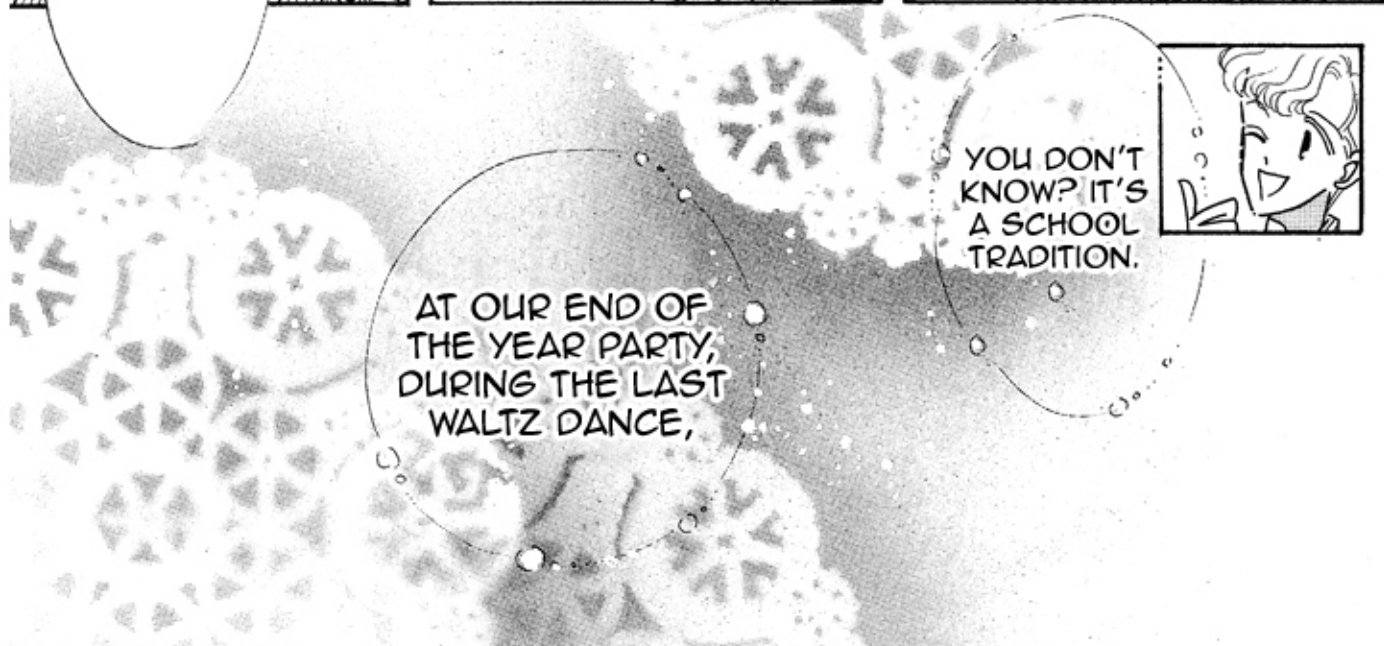
AH



HEY
MISS RAIN,
I BET YOU
HAD TONS OF
SUITORS FOR
THE LAST
DANCE, RIGHT?

IT WAS
POURING AT
THE PARTY
TOO!

My rental tux
got soaked.



AT OUR END OF
THE YEAR PARTY,
DURING THE LAST
WALTZ DANCE,

YOU DON'T
KNOW? IT'S
A SCHOOL
TRADITION.

YEAH, HE
CHOSE THE
OTHER VICE
PRESIDENT OF
THE STUDENT
COUNCIL.

maybe
i'll quit

....
OH, SO
THEN THE
PRESIDENT...

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO
CONFESS
YOUR
LOVE

TO THE ONE
YOU LIKE,
AND BECOME
A COUPLE
FOR THE
DANCE.



... ACTUALLY, I'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT THE STUDENT
COUNCIL FOR
A WHILE.

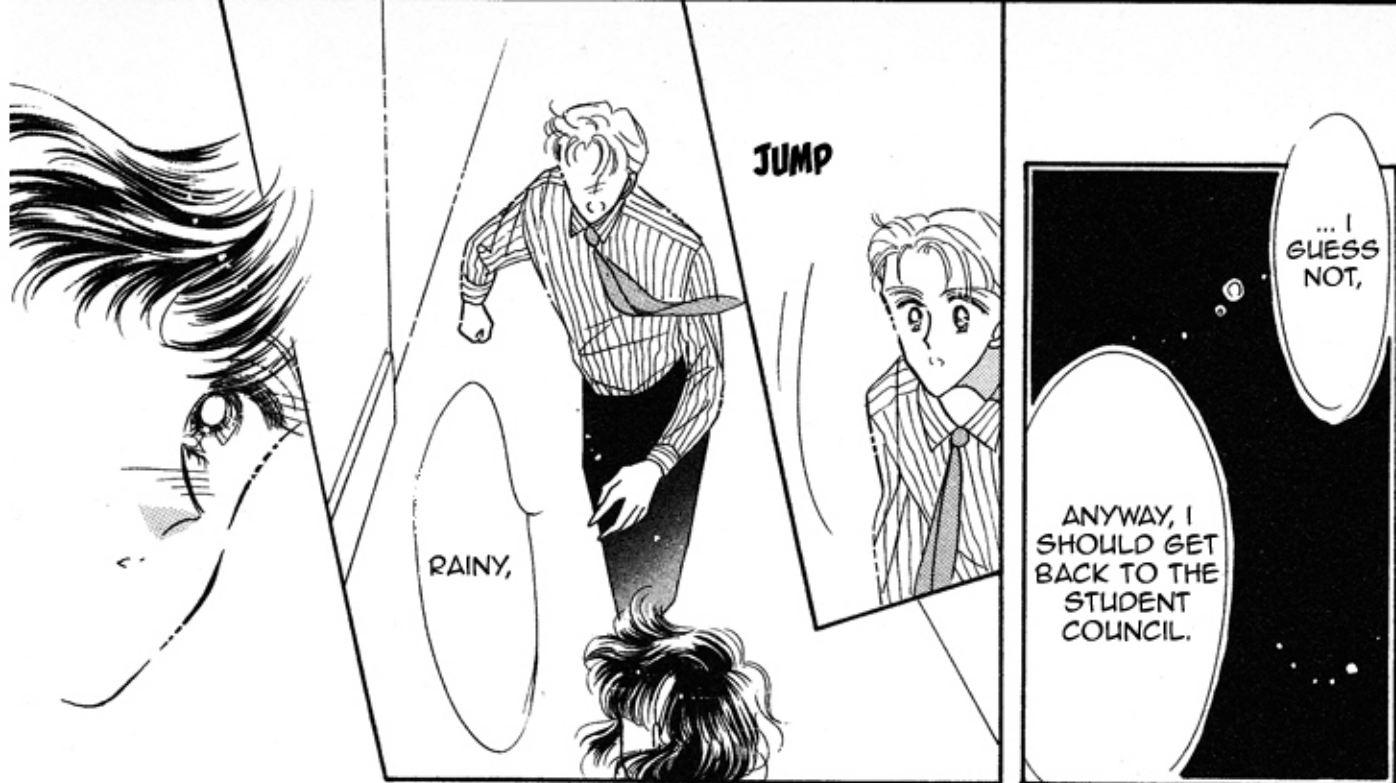


BUT
WHY?

THAT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU AT
ALL, MISS
RAIN.

IT'S NOT LIKE
THIS PLACE. IT
JUST MAKES
ME NERVOUS
AND TENSE.

MAYBE I
REALLY
WILL QUIT.





BEFORE, WHENEVER YOU SMILED, YOU LOOKED SO LONELY.

THAT'S ALL.

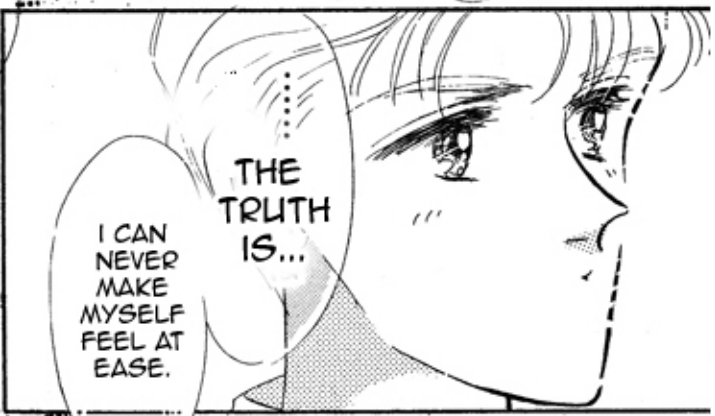


giggle

WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT ...

IT'S NICE.

IT MAKES ME SMILE TO HEAR IT.



THE TRUTH IS...

I CAN NEVER MAKE MYSELF FEEL AT EASE.

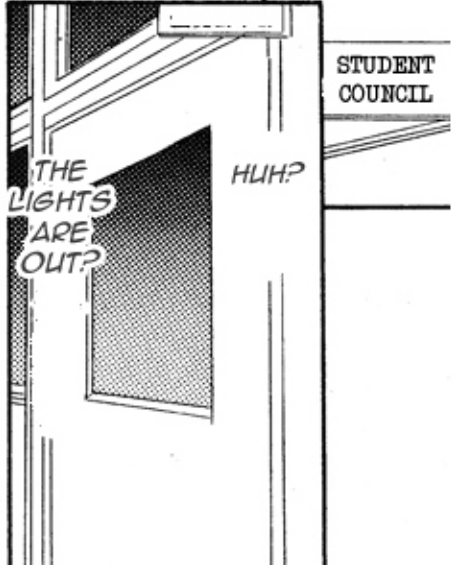


BA-DUM

I WONDER IF THEY'RE ALREADY DONE FOR TODAY



IT'S SOMETHING I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO.



STUDENT COUNCIL

THE LIGHTS ARE OUT?

HUH?

THAT IT
WAS FATED
TO BE....

really?

BA-DUM

BUT I KNEW
AS SOON
AS WE MET
IN STUDENT
COUNCIL...

DON'T
LAUGH
WHEN
I SAY
THIS...

BA-DUM

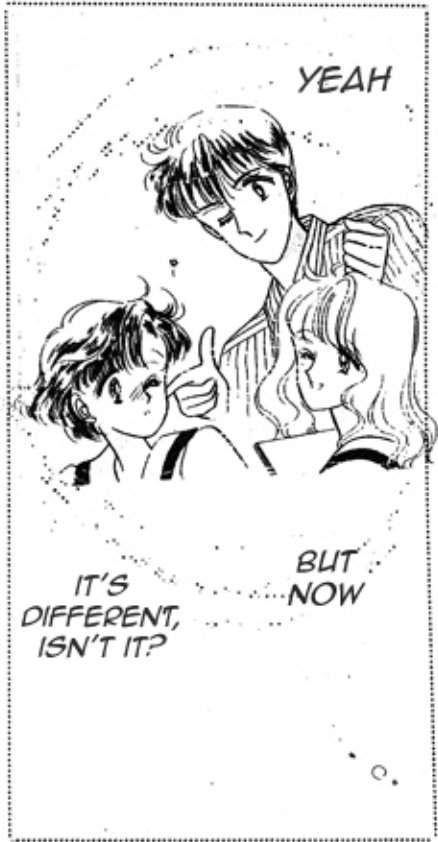
CLICK

I
ALSO
...

IT WAS
DESTINY

KNEW
AS
WELL.

whimper



YEAH

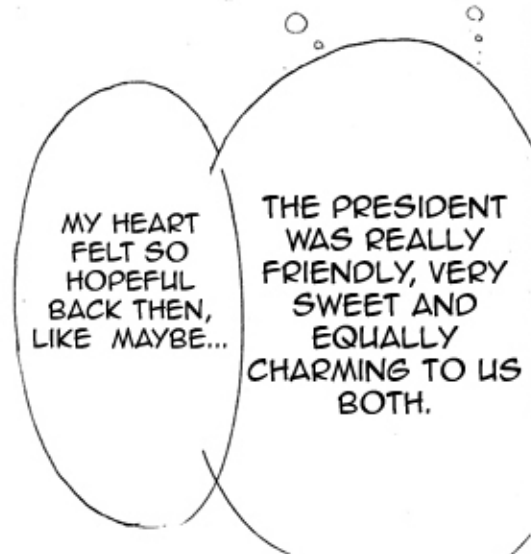
IT'S DIFFERENT, ISN'T IT?

BUT NOW



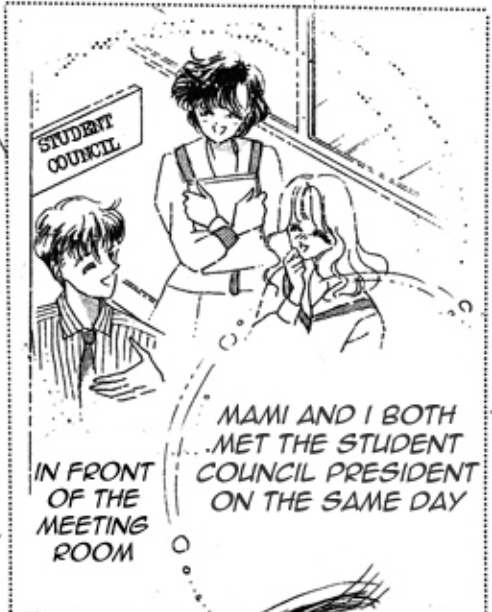
RAINY ...?

"THIS CASTLE IS THE THREE OF OURS."



MY HEART FELT SO HOPEFUL BACK THEN, LIKE MAYBE...

THE PRESIDENT WAS REALLY FRIENDLY, VERY SWEET AND EQUALLY CHARMING TO US BOTH.



IN FRONT OF THE MEETING ROOM

MAMI AND I BOTH MET THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON THE SAME DAY

I FELT IT BACK THEN TOO, THAT IT WAS DESTINY



"HOW ABOUT THIS, I'LL BE PRESIDENT, AND YOU BOTH CAN BE MY VICE PRESIDENTS?"



DID YOU KNOW?



WEARING
A "MISS
RAIN"
DRESS.

I WAITED
ANXIOUSLY
FOR THE
LAST WALTZ.

"YOU'RE GOING
TO THE PARTY,
RIGHT, RAIN?
YOU MUST GO.
WHAT DRESS
ARE YOU GOING
TO WEAR?"

IT
SEEMED
A LITTLE
FOOLISH
...



"I THINK I'LL CALL YOU RAINY, I LIKE THAT
MUCH BETTER THAN MISS RAIN."



ARE YOU
DISAP-
POINTED?



I'M JUST
AN
ORDINARY
GIRL.

I'M NOT
REALLY
"MISS
RAIN."

FOR
THE
FIRST
TIME

I FELT LIKE
THERE WAS
SOMEONE WHO
REALLY
UNDERSTOOD
ME.



YOU SAID OUR MEETING WAS DESTINY.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE DESTINED MEETINGS ARE PRETTY COMMON AFTER ALL.

NO, NOT AT ALL.



IT WAS DESTINY TOO.

I COULD FEEL



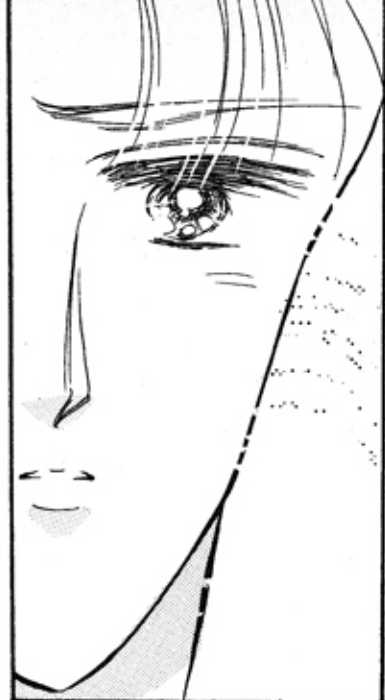
IT WAS DESTINY.

"IT WAS DESTINY"



IT CAN'T REALLY BE A DESTINED MEETING IF ONLY ONE PERSON RECOGNIZES IT AS FATE.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW?





"I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET HIM."

WHAT WAS THAT HE JUST SAID?

HE SHOCKED ME, I FEEL SO STARTLED...

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

DASH

RAINY!!



HUH?

not very miss rain-like

OH NO, I FORGOT MY BAG.



BA-DUM

BA-DUM

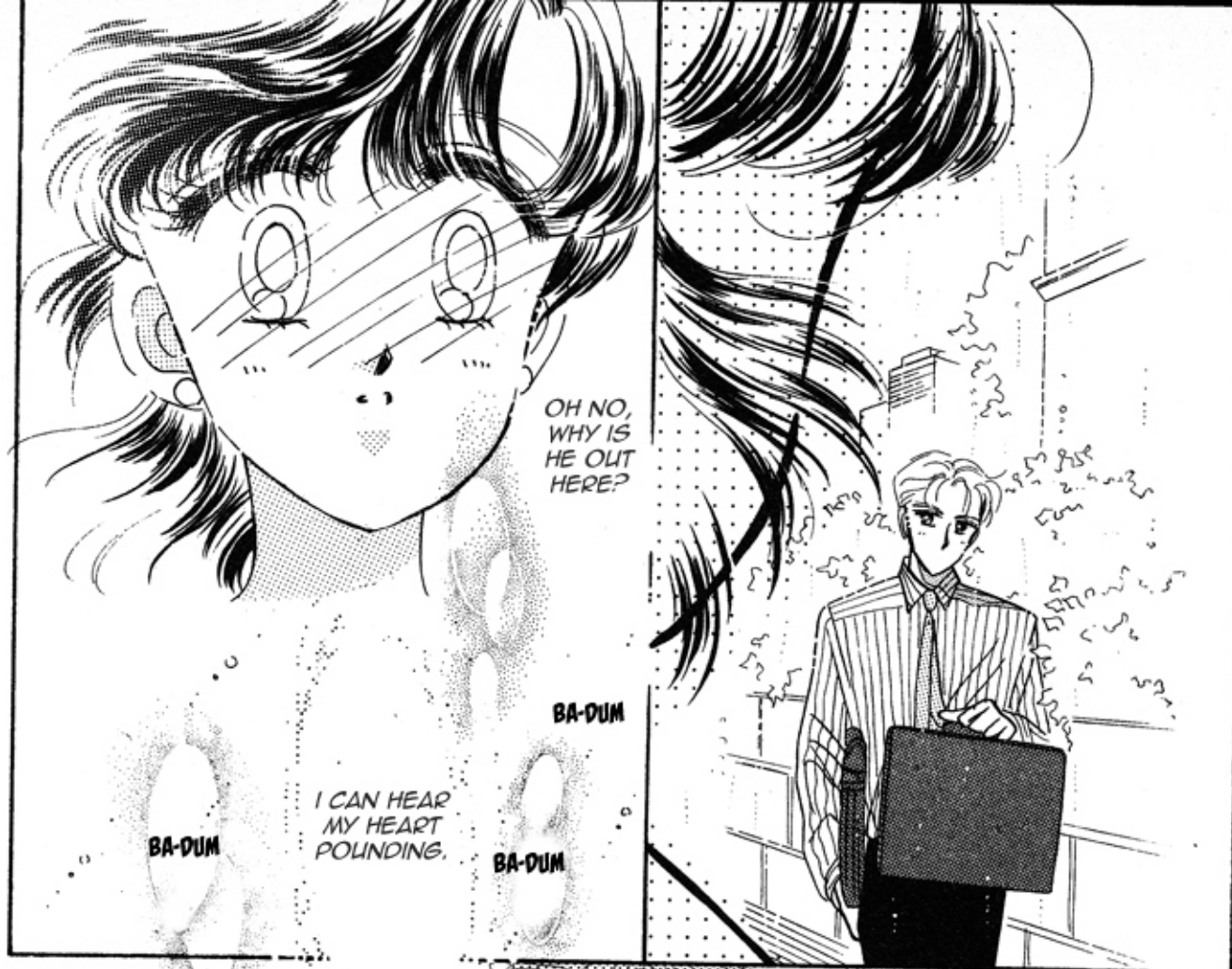
SHIVER



KURAMITSU



I WILL...



OH NO,
WHY IS
HE OUT
HERE?

BA-DUM

I CAN HEAR
MY HEART
POUNING.

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

SORRY,

ABOUT
BEFORE.

BUT,

EVEN
IF IT'S
UNRE-
QUITED,

I DON'T
CARE.

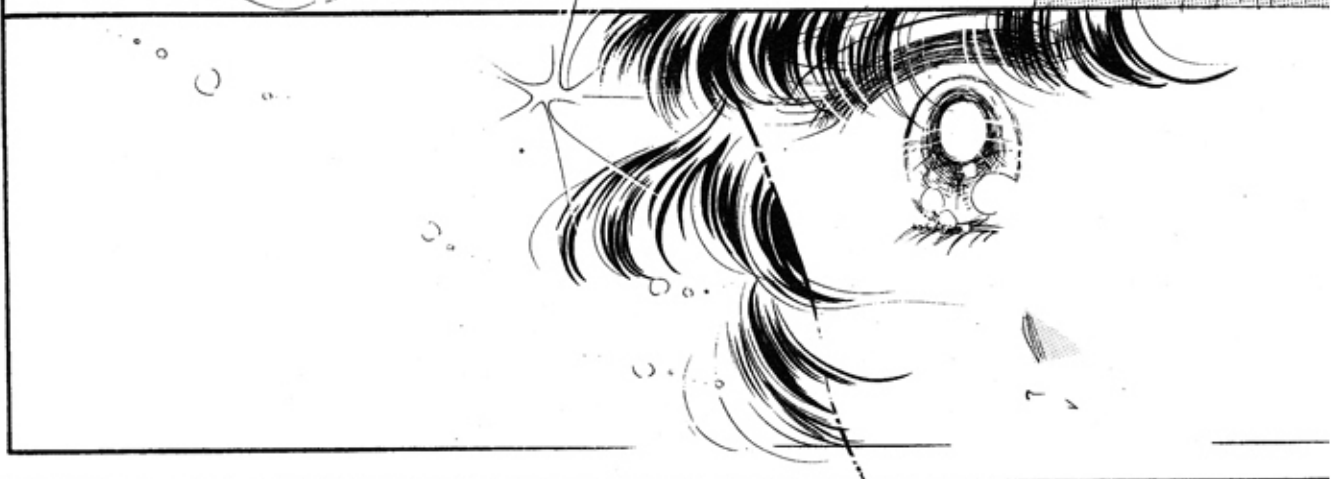
EVEN IF
THERE'S
NO
HOPE,



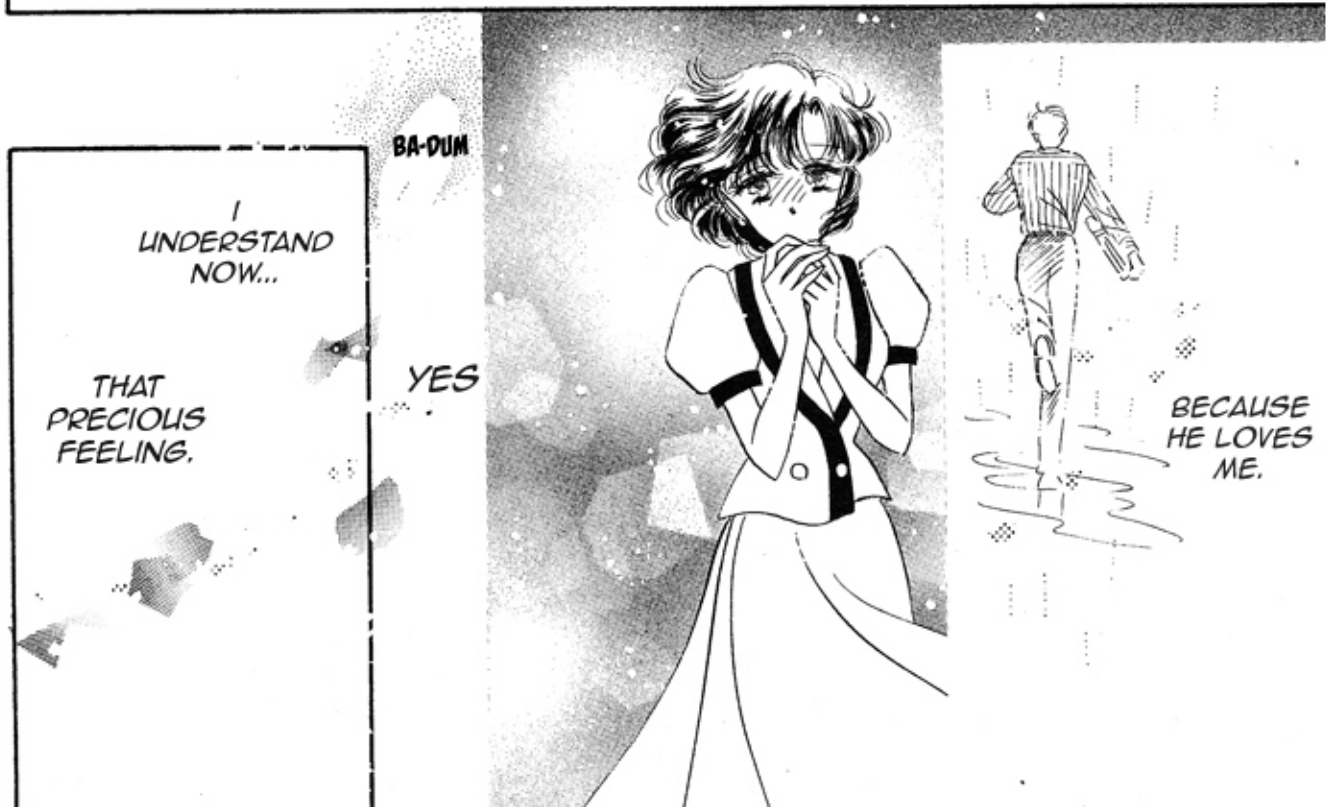
I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT THE
REST.

SO,

I LOVE YOU.



"I DON'T CARE."



I
UNDERSTAND
NOW...

THAT
PRECIOUS
FEELING.

BA-DUM

YES

BECAUSE
HE LOVES
ME.

EVEN THOUGH
K'S HOUSE
WAS ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
TOWN, HE STILL
WALKED YOU TO
AND FROM
SCHOOL RIGHT?

YOU'RE
MISS RAIN,
HUH?

YEAH, THE
"CRAZY
SOCIETY"
WAS JUST
ANOTHER
WHIM OF K'S.

Crazy·society

WHOOSH

THAT
PRECIOUS
...

IT'S
OVER?

FEELING.

AHHH...

MISS RAIN.

"HER BIGGEST
MISTAKE."



OH YEAH! K
CAME HERE TO
BRING THIS TO
YOU, BUT THEN HE
LEFT RIGHT AWAY
AGAIN...

AND...



WAS HAVING SUCH A
GREAT GUY LOVE HER,
AND NOT EVER
NOTICING IT.

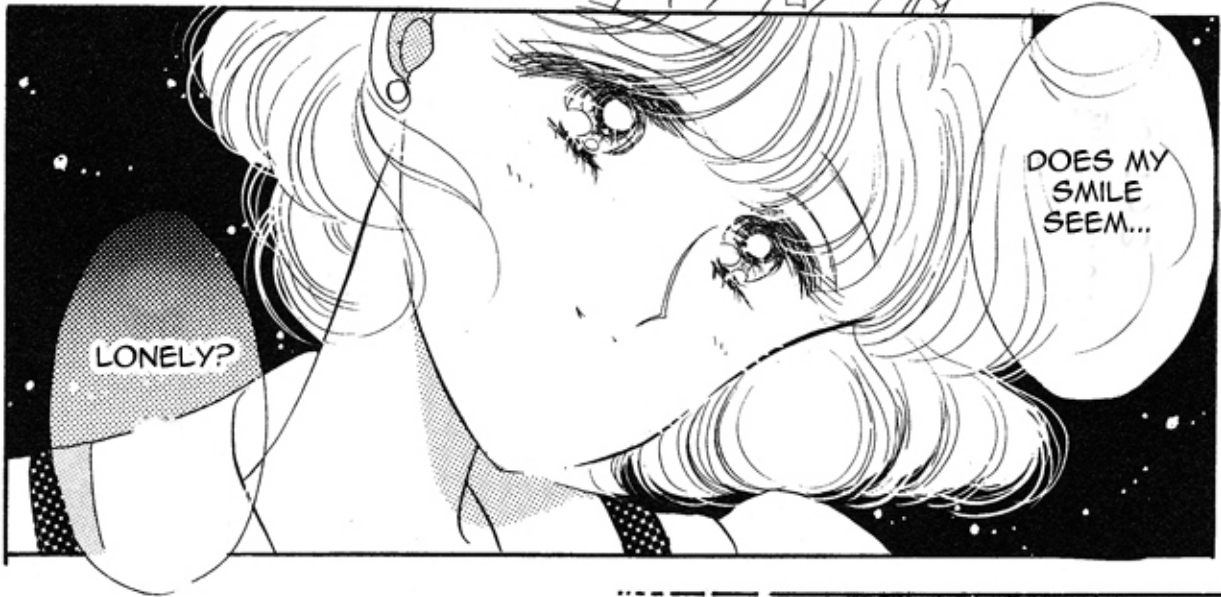
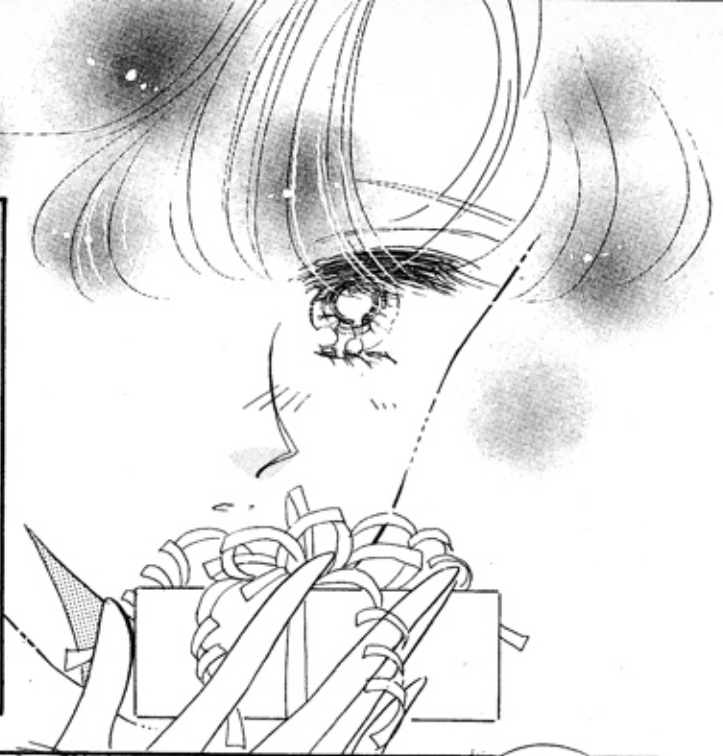
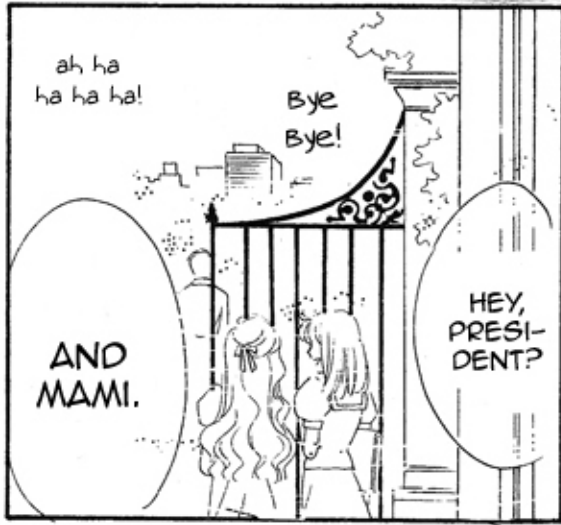
YOU MEAN ME?

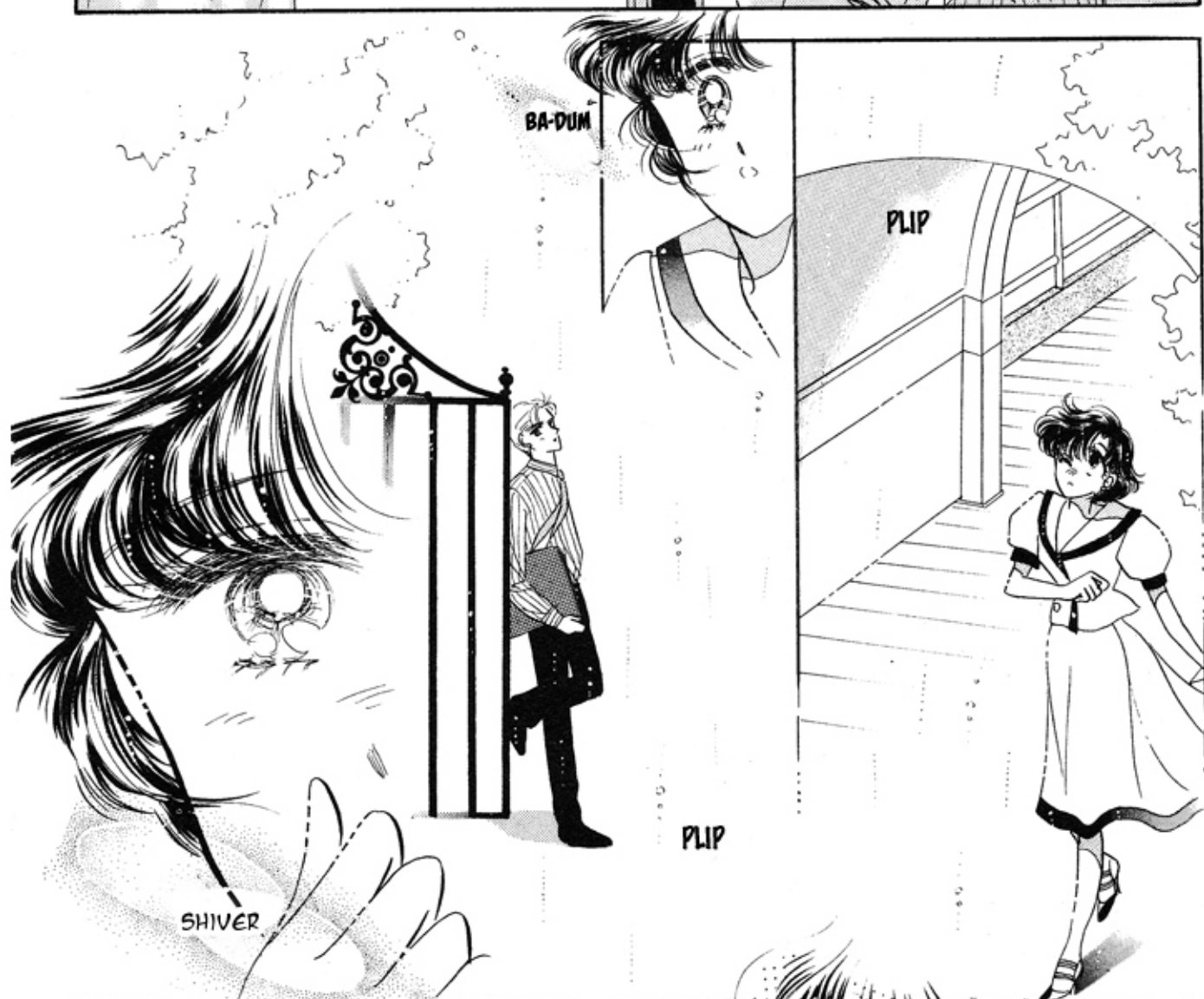
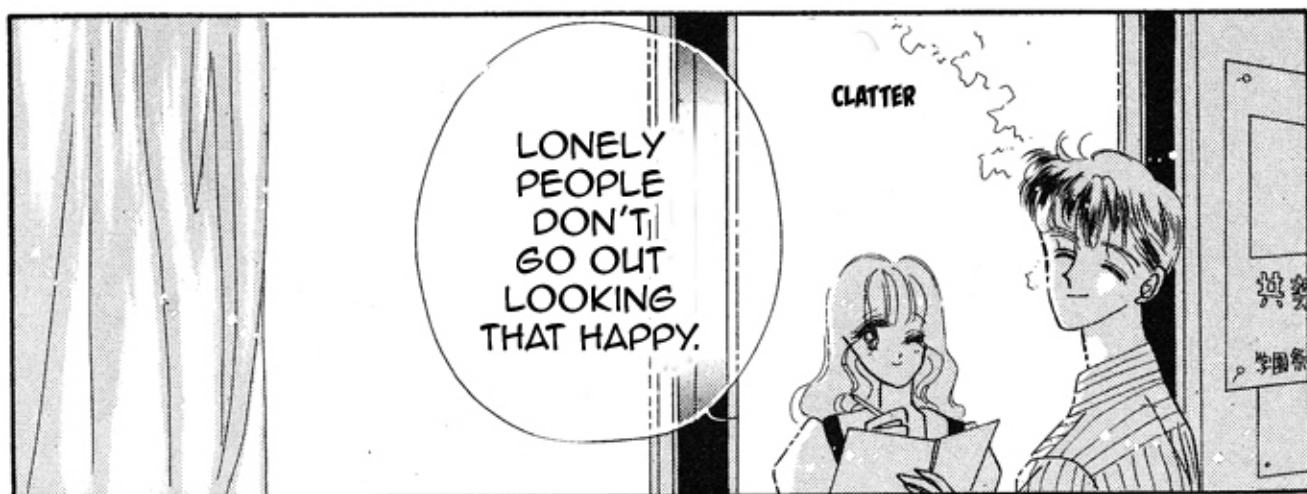


HE SAID
FOR ME
TO TELL
YOU...



THAT HE
WON'T
FOLLOW
YOU AROUND
ANYMORE.

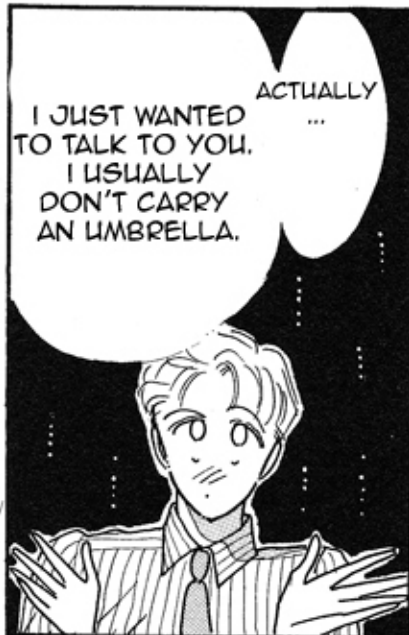






THE RAIN.

I LOVE



I JUST WANTED
TO TALK TO YOU.
I USUALLY
DON'T CARRY
AN UMBRELLA.

ACTUALLY
...



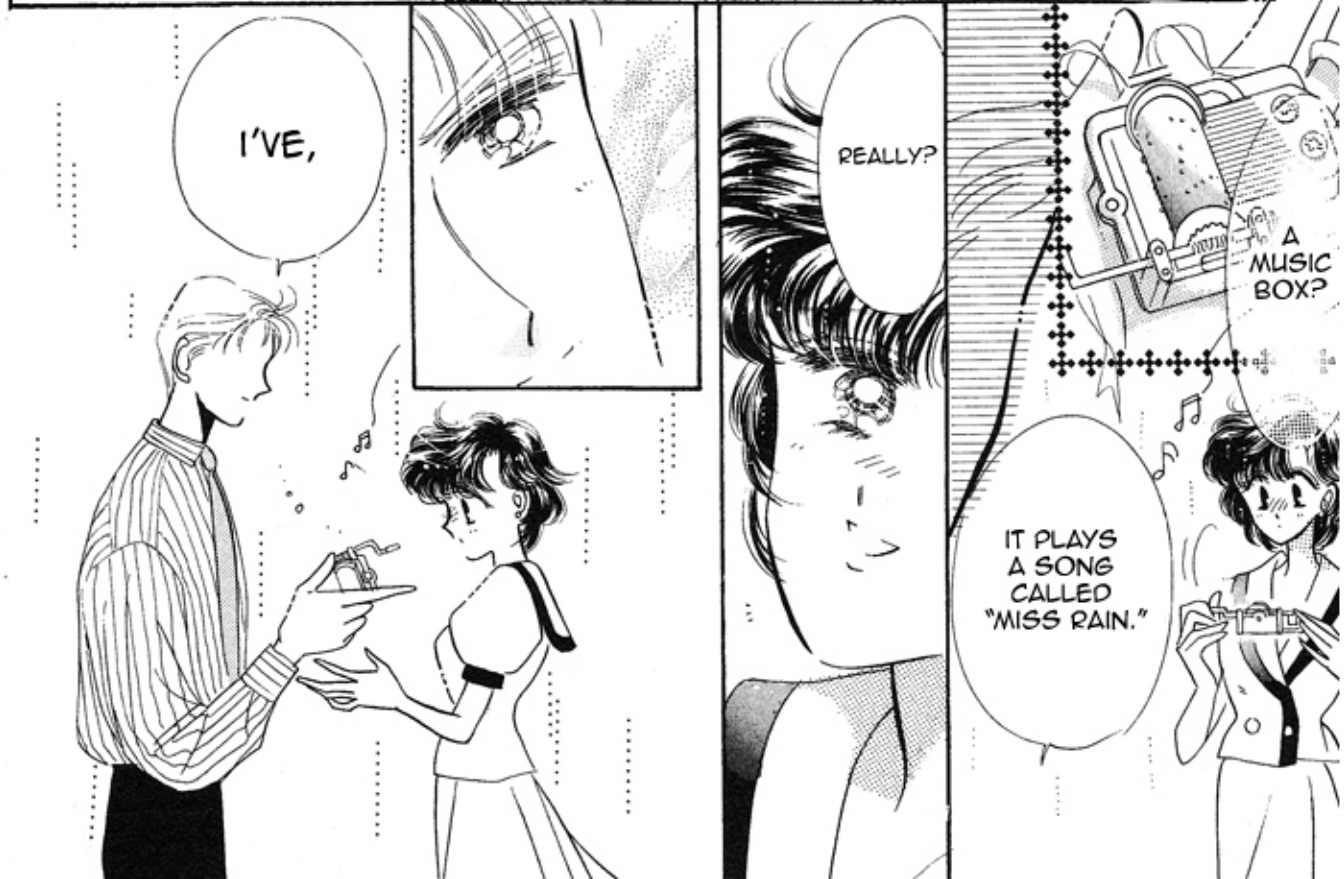
WHEN I SAID I
DIDN'T CARE IF MY
LOVE WAS
UNREQUITED...
I WAS LYING.

EVER SINCE MY
DESTINED MEETING
WITH MISS RAIN,
IT'S RAINED EVERY
SINGLE DAY.

BUT,

I KNOW
...

I SAID I
WOULDN'T
FOLLOW
YOU ANY-
MORE.





I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
SO
LONG...

WANTING TO
CONFESS MY
FEELINGS TO
YOU IN THE
RAIN.



WOULD YOU
PLEASE...



DANCE THIS LAST
WALTZ WITH ME?



YES

A WONDERFUL RAINY

WALTZ

THE END.



I really, really adore the rain. Actually, I'm something of a "rain girl" myself.

I've had lots of rainy days - in fact, both my school entrance exam and my graduation ceremony were rainy days. If it's misting outside, I like to walk around without an umbrella. I also adore driving in the rain. I also like to sit alone in my house on raining days, doing nothing at all, just gazing at the soaked landscape outdoors. And sometimes, I like to think about the one I'm in love with, and it makes me feel so romantic that I want to see him right away.

I'm always in love. As my heart pounds, I draw manga while I think about the wonderful romantic relationships, and the one I love. Are you in love? While I was

drawing "Miss Rain", I found I was actually in love with a pair of wonderful shoes. They were these amazing Italian shoes from a store in the T Hotel I often visited in Hibiya district. But they were so expensive...so the relationship ended as an unrequited love.

My darling K character was going to be a high school student at first, but then a friend mentioned that if I did that, he'd come off as a snobby, yuppy, Italian jerk. (I wonder if there's some kind of high-class, snobby, elite company man dressed in Italian-brand suits out there reading this right now) That's OK.

"Miss Rain" is a work I loved to create, packed full of only the things I love.



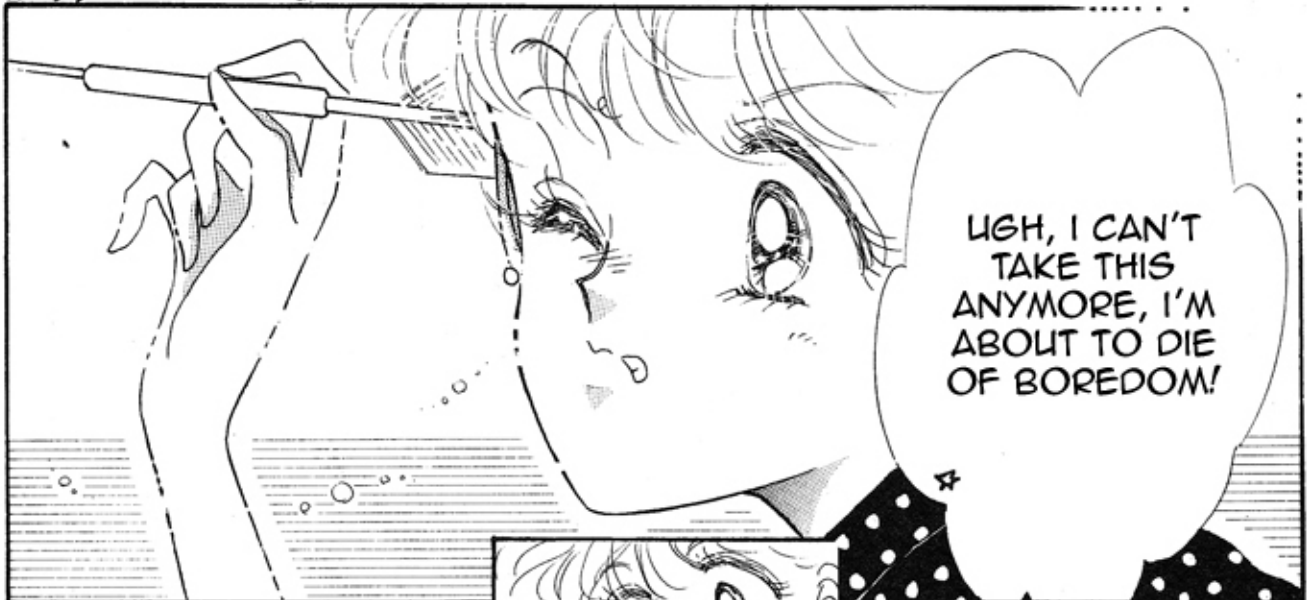
My Earring Wearing Girl



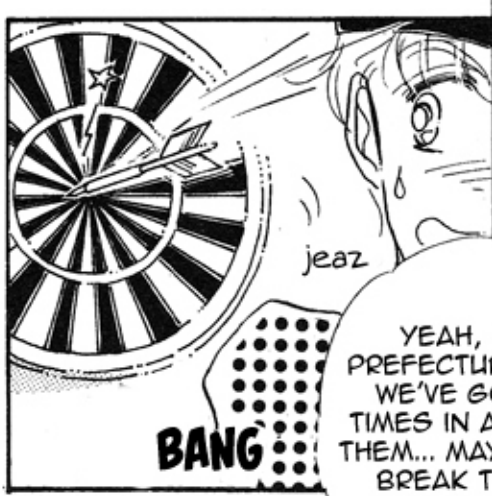
Hey Yuuki, even if you find someone you love one day, stay with me



because we're twins



LIGH, I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE, I'M ABOUT TO DIE OF BOREDOM!



jeaz

BANG

YEAH, IT'S A PREFECTURE GAME, WE'VE GONE 34 TIMES IN A ROW TO THEM... MAYBE WE'LL BREAK THE DRY SPELL.



FLING

YUUKI! DO YOU HAVE A GAME?



HEY YUUKI, HAVE YOU SEEN MY BASEBALL BAT?



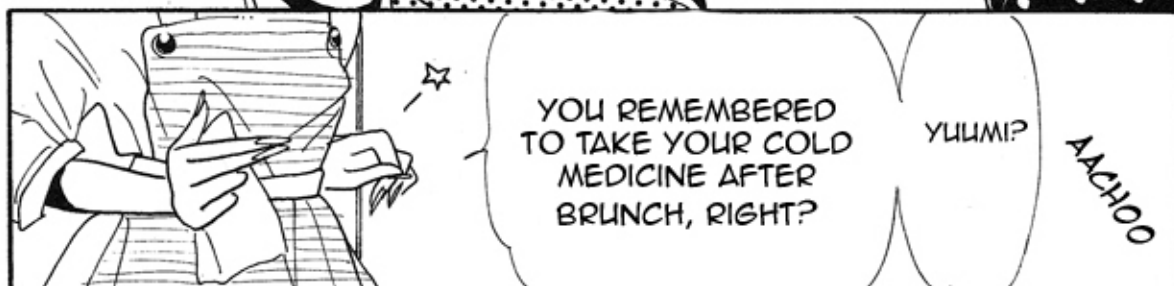
ALL RIGHT! YUUKI,
THIS'LL MARK YOUR
TEAM'S FIRST EVER
WIN!

HEY

NO WAY!
YUUMI, YOU
KNOW YOU'RE
NOT ALLOWED
TO GO OUTSIDE,
YOU'VE GOT
THE SUMMER
SNIFFLES,
RIGHT?



MAYBE I
CAN GO IN
YOUR
PLACE!!



YOU REMEMBERED
TO TAKE YOUR COLD
MEDICINE AFTER
BRUNCH, RIGHT?

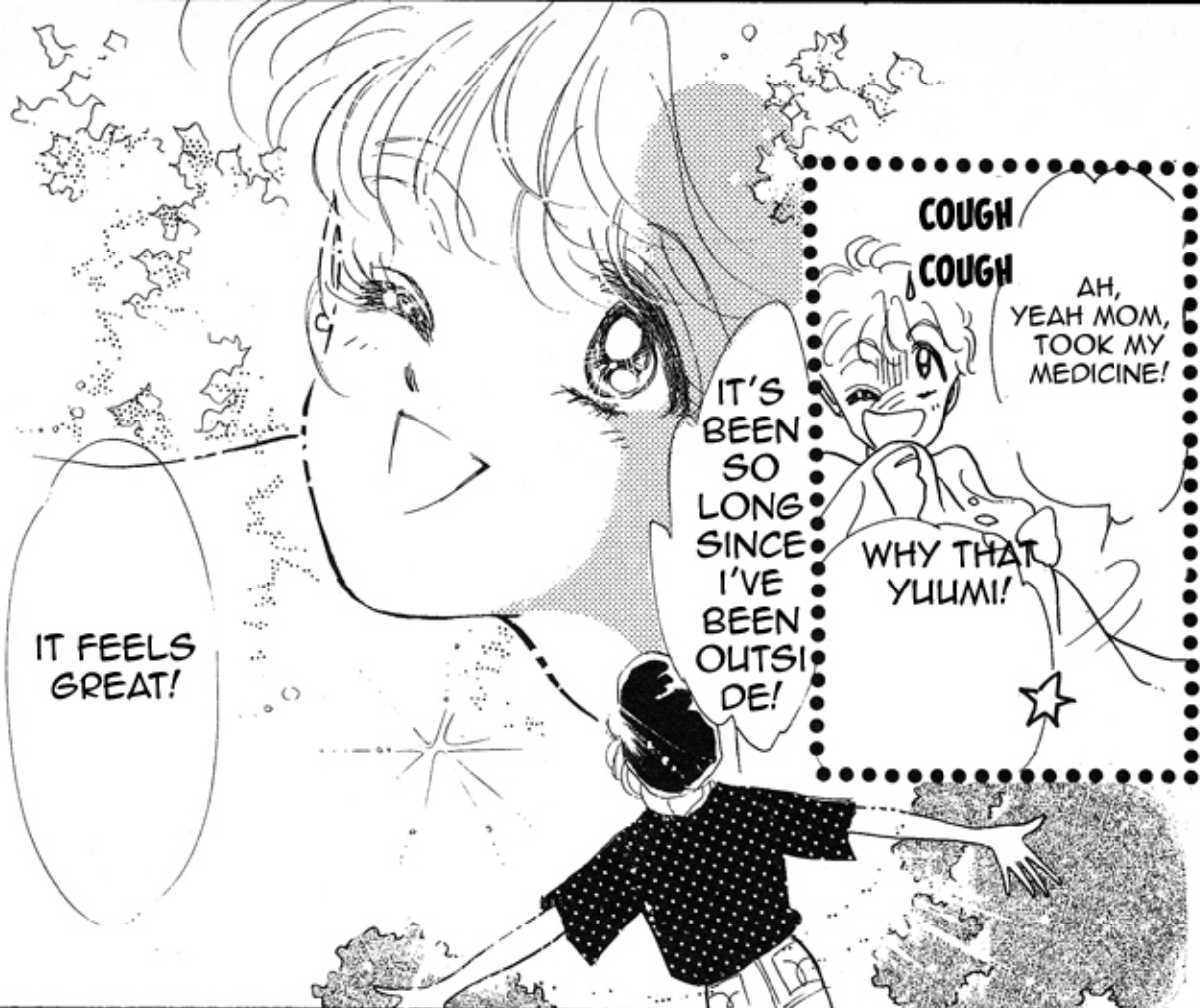
YUUMI?

AACHOO



SEE YA
LATER,
YUUMI!

GIGGLE



IT FEELS GREAT!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN OUTSIDE!

COUGH
COUGH

AH, YEAH MOM, TOOK MY MEDICINE!

WHY THAT YUUMI!

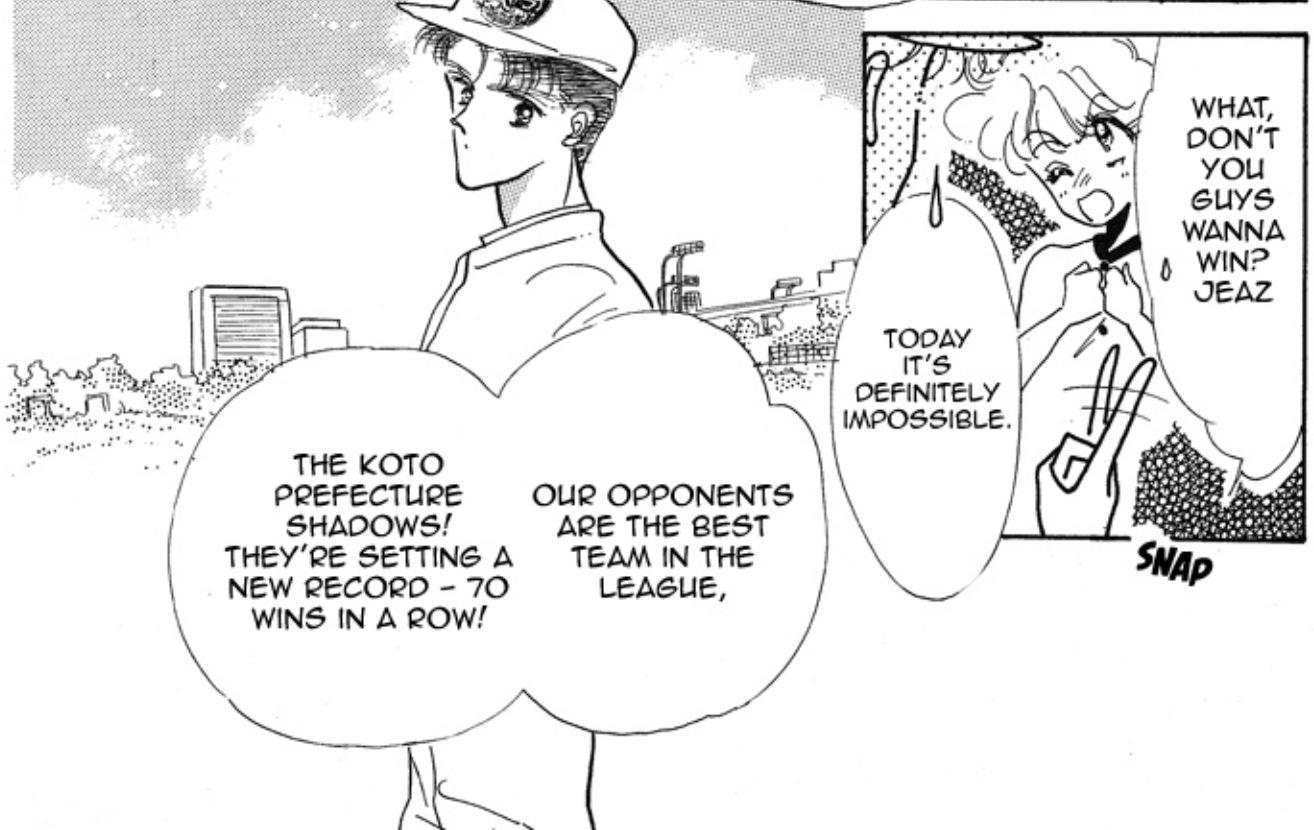


I DON'T CARE THAT WE'VE LOST 34 GAMES IN A ROW - WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO IF YOU GET DISCOVERED?!

that's yuumi?

YUUMI, COME ON, WE'RE BEGGING YOU - WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!

WAHH



THE KOTO PREFECTURE SHADOWS! THEY'RE SETTING A NEW RECORD - 70 WINS IN A ROW!

OUR OPPONENTS ARE THE BEST TEAM IN THE LEAGUE,

TODAY IT'S DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT, DON'T YOU GUYS WANNA WIN? JEAZ

SNAP





WOW,
SHE GOT A
HOMERUN
OFF OF
KAGEURA!

SERIOUS
-LY?!



WHOOOOSH.



WOO
HOO!



ehh!

GO
YUUMI!

HIGH FIVE

...



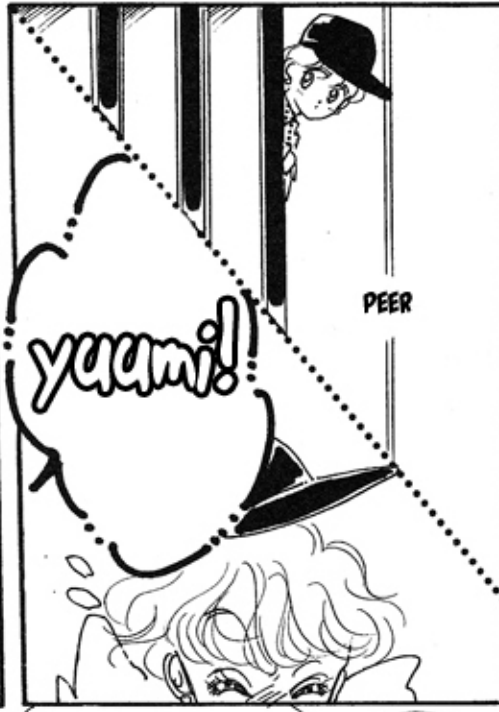
I SEE...
SO THAT'S
WHAT'S UP,
THAT'S
SOME KIND
OF TRICK.

HEY
WAIT A
MINUTE.



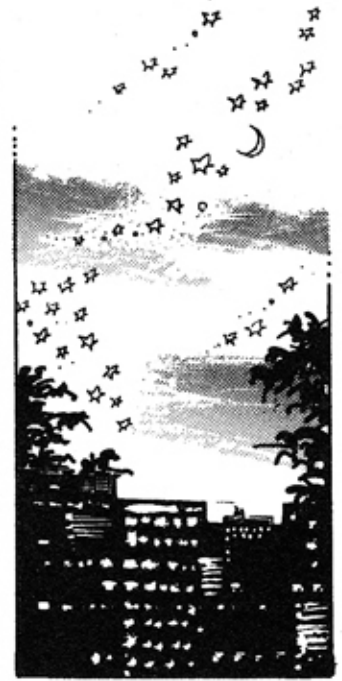
IT WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA FOR US TO SWITCH PLACES!

MOM IS SUPER PISSED OFF.



PEER

yaumi!



YUUKI YOU'RE A WORRY WART. I'M JUST THIRSTY FROM ALL THAT RUNNING!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FEVER? ARE YOU OKAY? PLAYING BASEBALL EVEN WHEN YOU'RE ILL...

YEAH, ALMOST RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

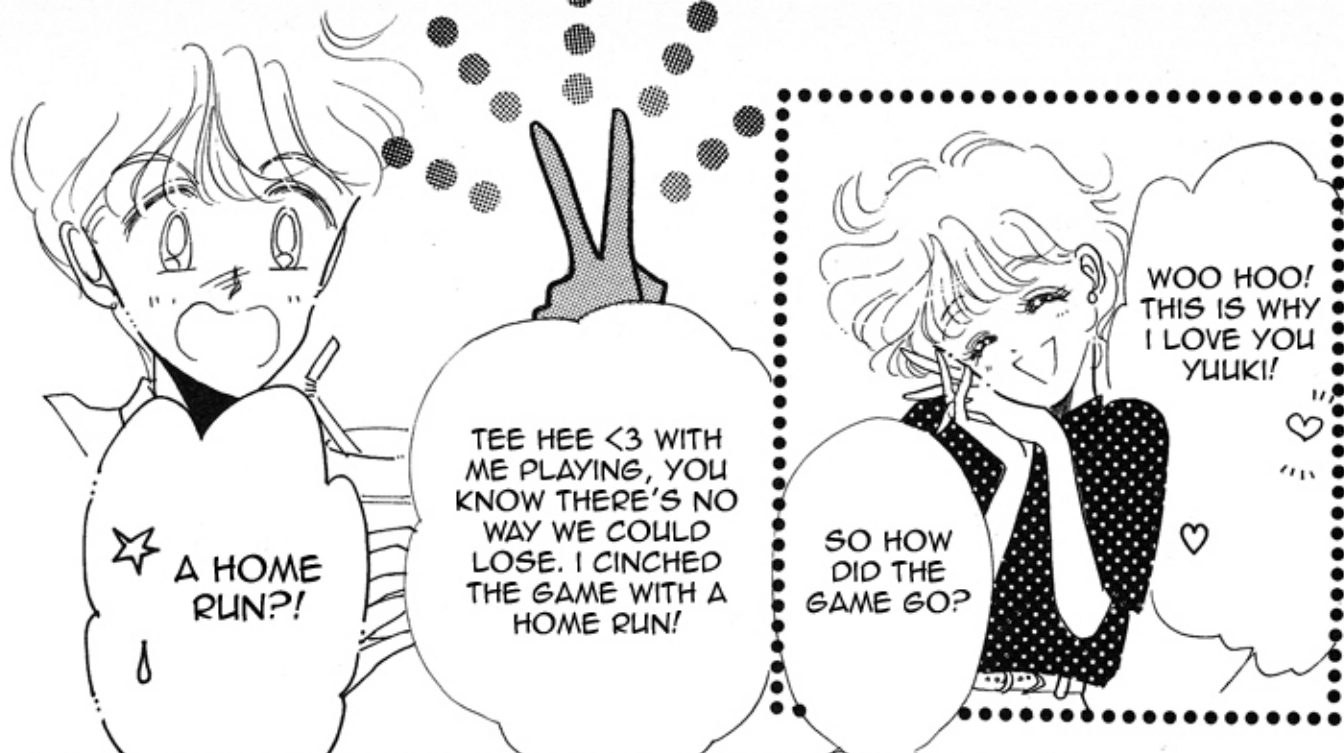
SHE FOUND OUT?



YOU WANT MY SPECIAL MADE ICED MILK TEA, RIGHT?

SHEESH



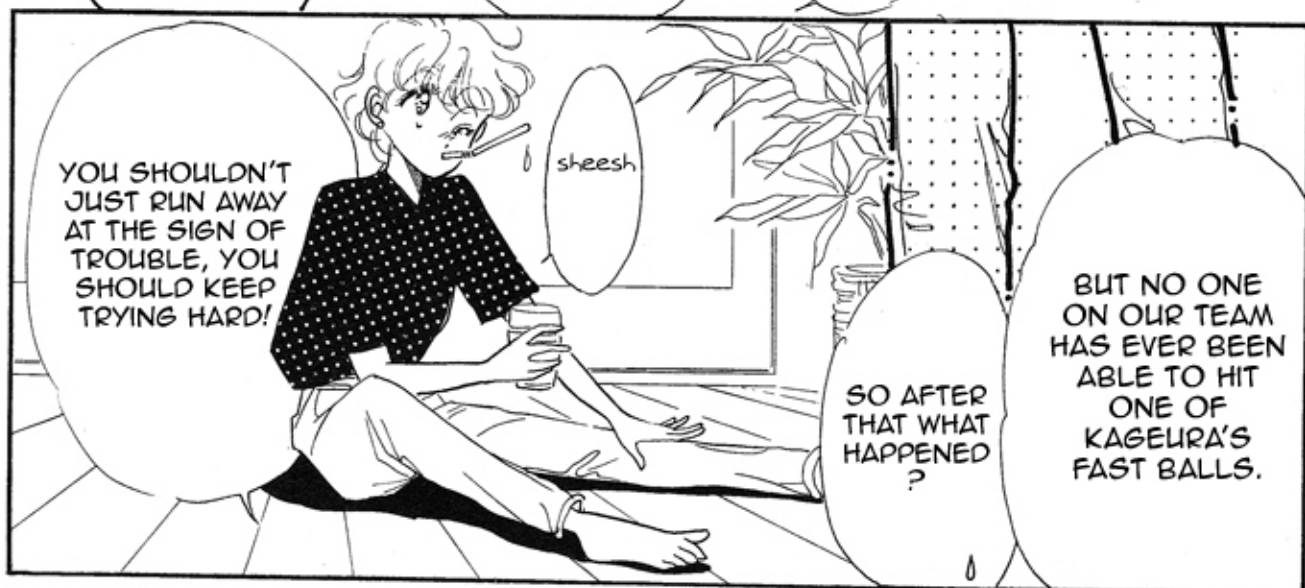


☆ A HOME RUN?!

TEE HEE <3 WITH ME PLAYING, YOU KNOW THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD LOSE. I CINCHED THE GAME WITH A HOME RUN!

SO HOW DID THE GAME GO?

WOO HOO! THIS IS WHY I LOVE YOU YUUKI!



YOU SHOULDN'T JUST RUN AWAY AT THE SIGN OF TROUBLE, YOU SHOULD KEEP TRYING HARD!

sheesh

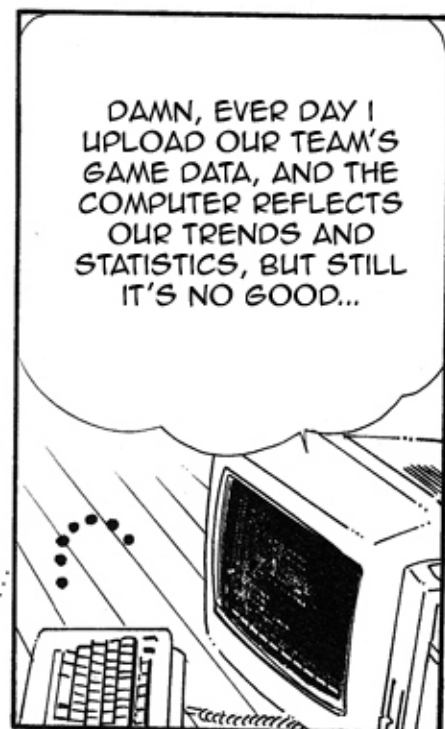
SO AFTER THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

BUT NO ONE ON OUR TEAM HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO HIT ONE OF KAGEURA'S FAST BALLS.



OH YUUKI

WHAT? ☆



DAMN, EVER DAY I UPLOAD OUR TEAM'S GAME DATA, AND THE COMPUTER REFLECTS OUR TRENDS AND STATISTICS, BUT STILL IT'S NO GOOD...



I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I SHOULD NEVER LEAVE YOU ON YOUR OWN.



I'M LEAVING!
COME ON
YUUKI, HURRY,
HURRY!



GIRLS ARE USELESS!

★ WHAT!
ARE YOU SAYING
GIRLS SHOULDN'T
BE ALLOWED
TO PLAY?!



DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S OK FOR GIRLS TO PLAY BASEBALL?

I KNEW IT. YOU WERE THE ONE PLAYING IN THE GAME YESTERDAY.



OY! KAGEURA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GO AHEAD YUUMI!

IT'S NO WONDER HIS TEAM CAN'T WIN, WHEN THE CAPTAIN IS SUCH A PATHETIC LOSER.

YUUMI, JUST APOLOGIZSE SO WE CAN GET GOING!

GRRRR

YUUMI!

GO AHEAD WITOUT ME!

I'LL CATCH UP IN A BIT!

THAT WAS JUST BEGINNERS LUCK

IT WAS NOT JUST LUCK!

WHATEVER, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT THEIR ASS BEAT BY A GIRL!

THIS GUY IS TRYING TO MAKE FOOLS OF ME AND YUUKI!

GO AHEAD, PLAY ME AGAIN, WE'LL SEE WHO CAN MAKE ANOTHER HOME RUN.

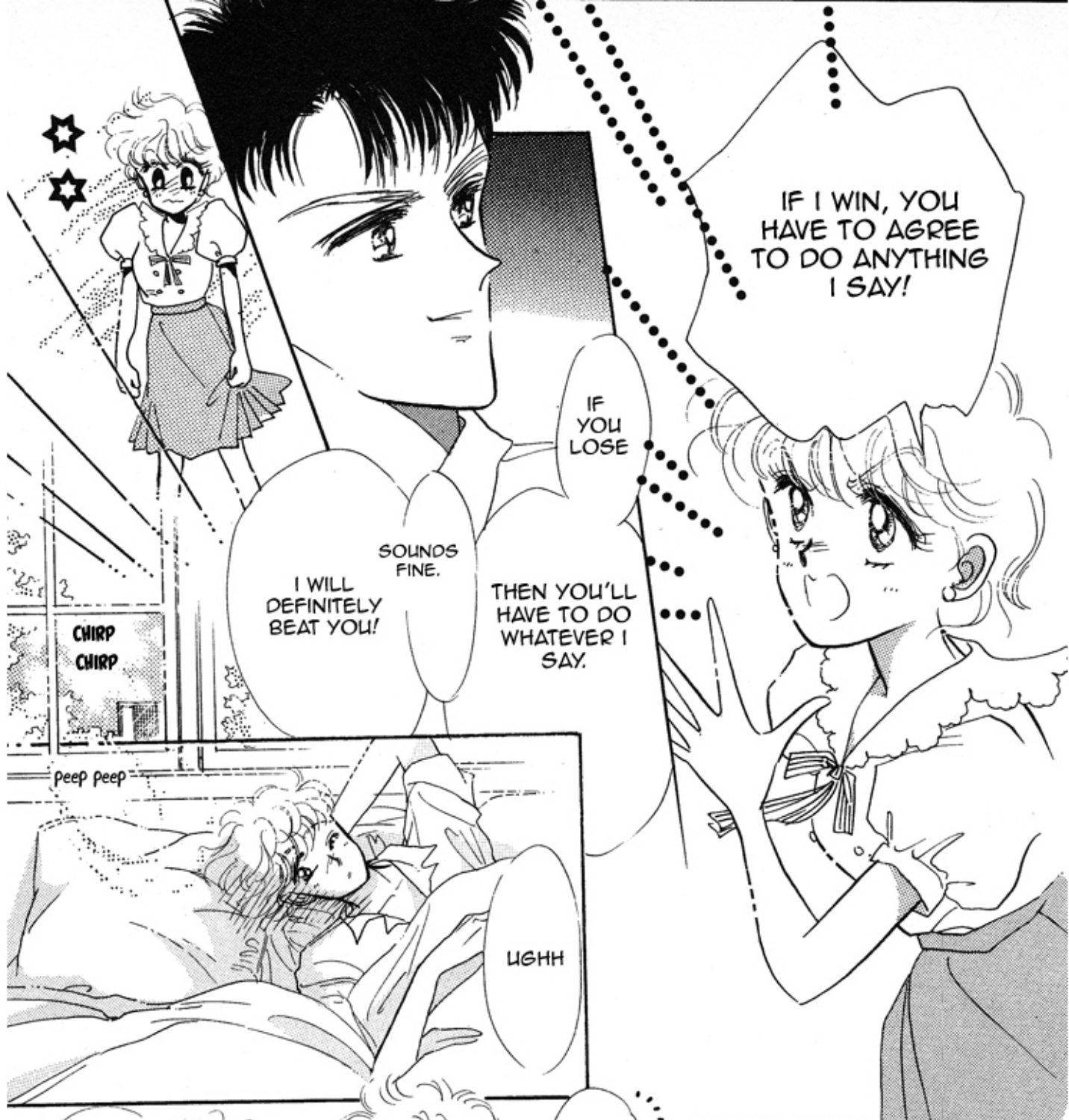
W-WHAT AN ASSHOLE THIS GUY IS! HE KNOWS YUUKI IS BAD AT BASEBALL!

SORRY!

BUT TOO BAD KAGEURA, IF YOU WANT ANOTHER GAME YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FACE ME!

BUT THIS TIME THE REAL YUUKI HAS TO PLAY AGAINST ME.

ANOTHER GAME IS FINE BY ME.



IF I WIN, YOU
HAVE TO AGREE
TO DO ANYTHING
I SAY!

IF
YOU
LOSE

I WILL
DEFINITELY
BEAT YOU!

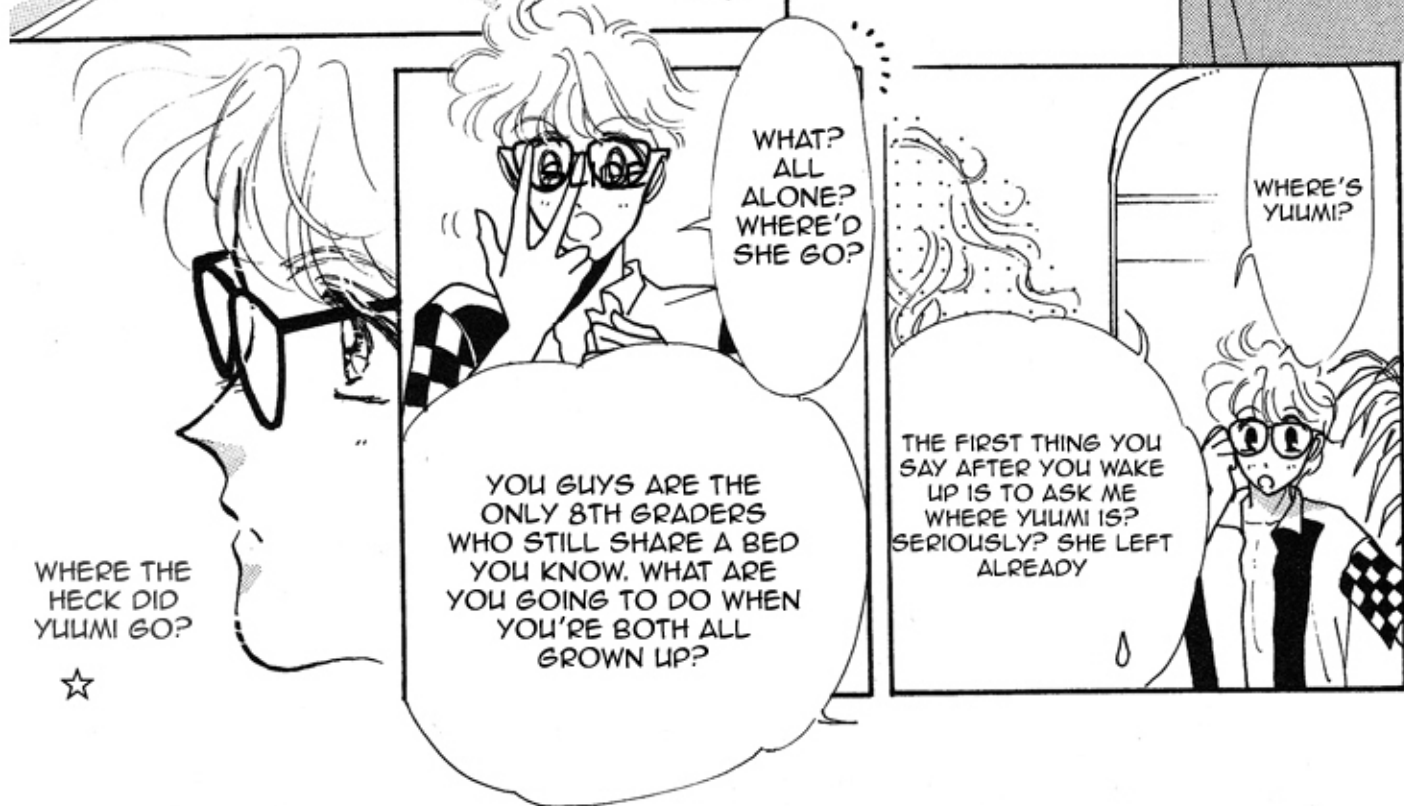
SOUNDS
FINE.

THEN YOU'LL
HAVE TO DO
WHATEVER I
SAY.

CHIRP
CHIRP

peep peep

UHHH



WHERE THE
HECK DID
YUUMI GO?

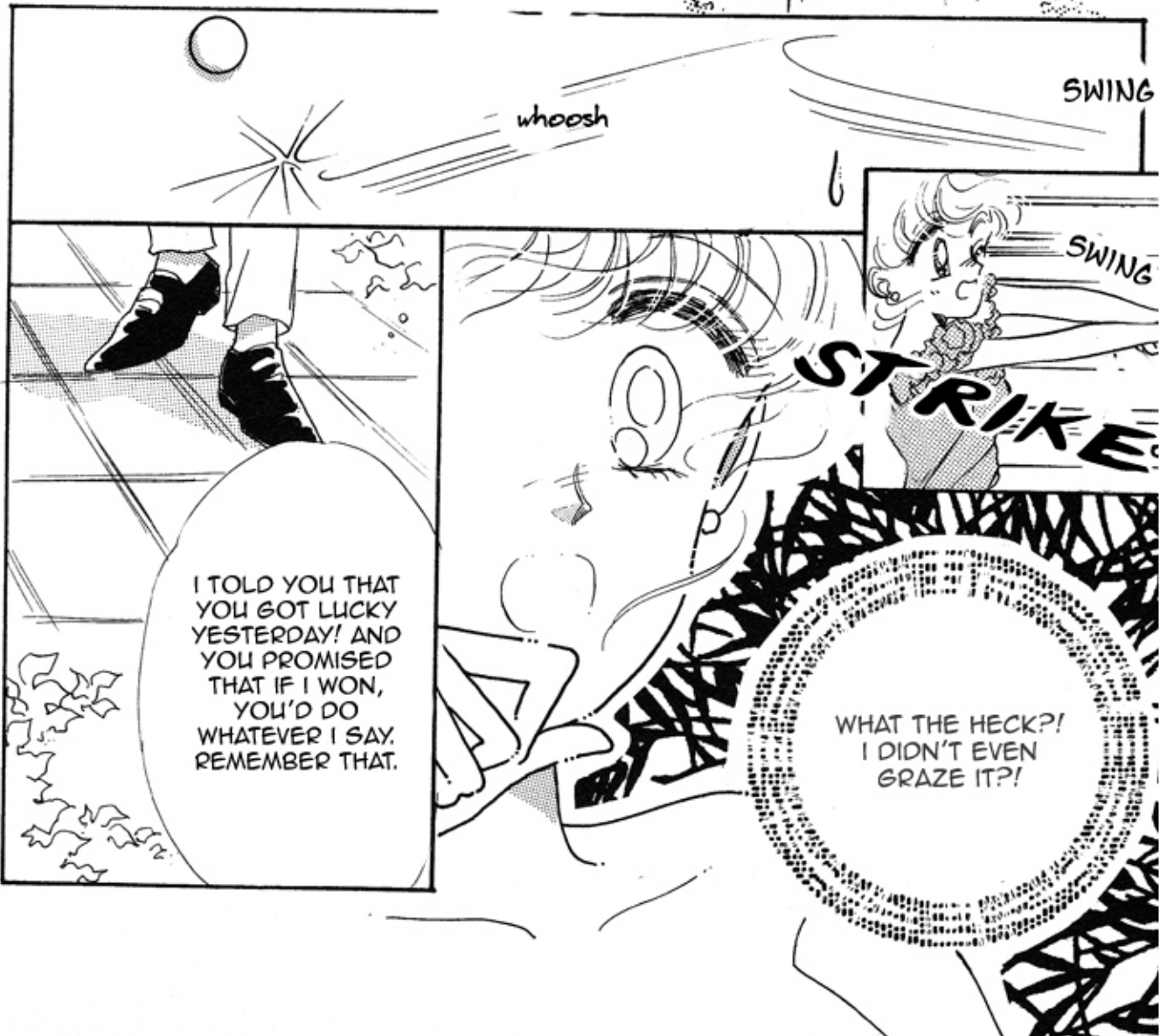
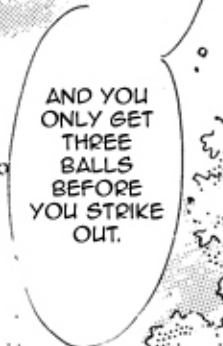
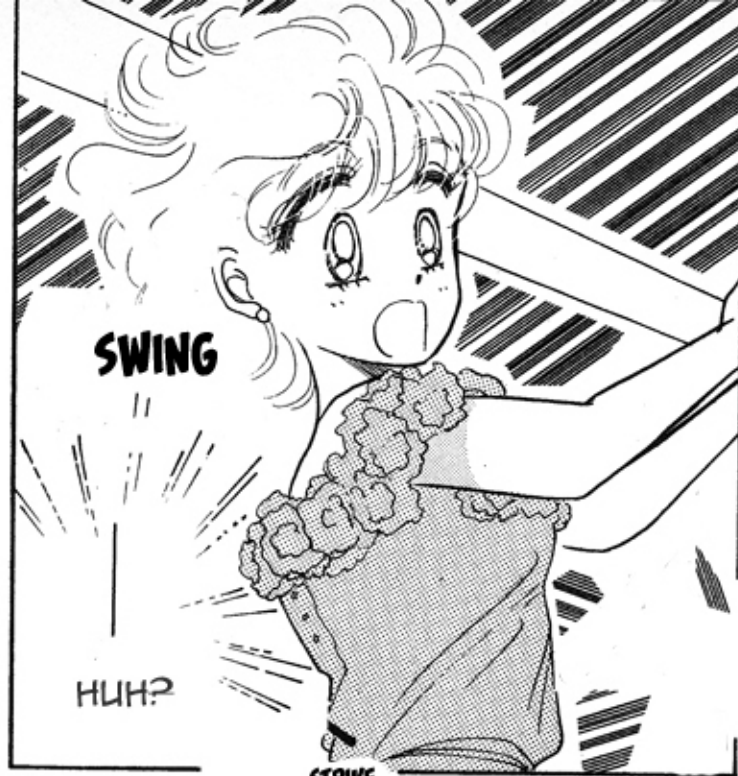
☆

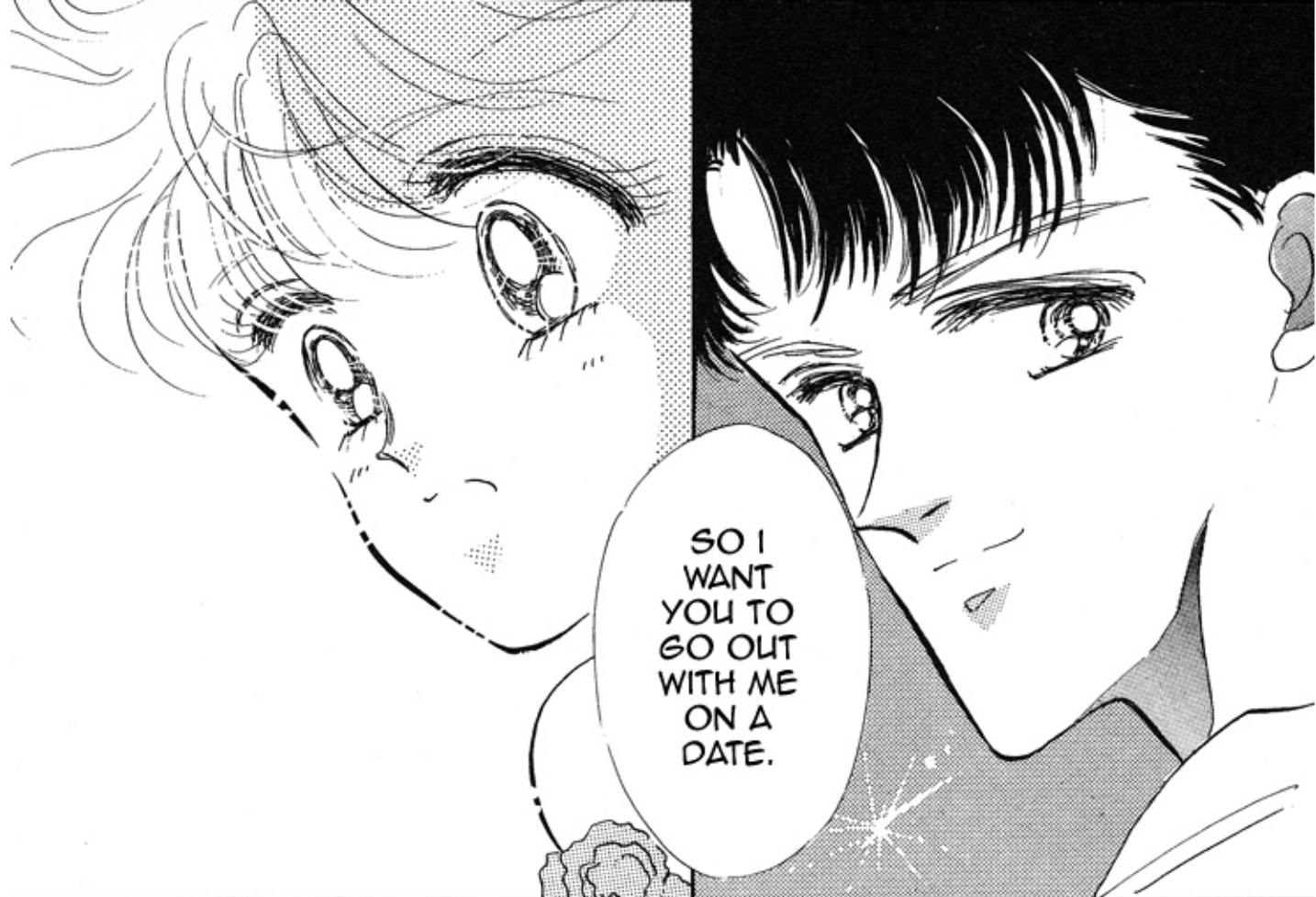
WHAT?
ALL
ALONE?
WHERE'D
SHE GO?

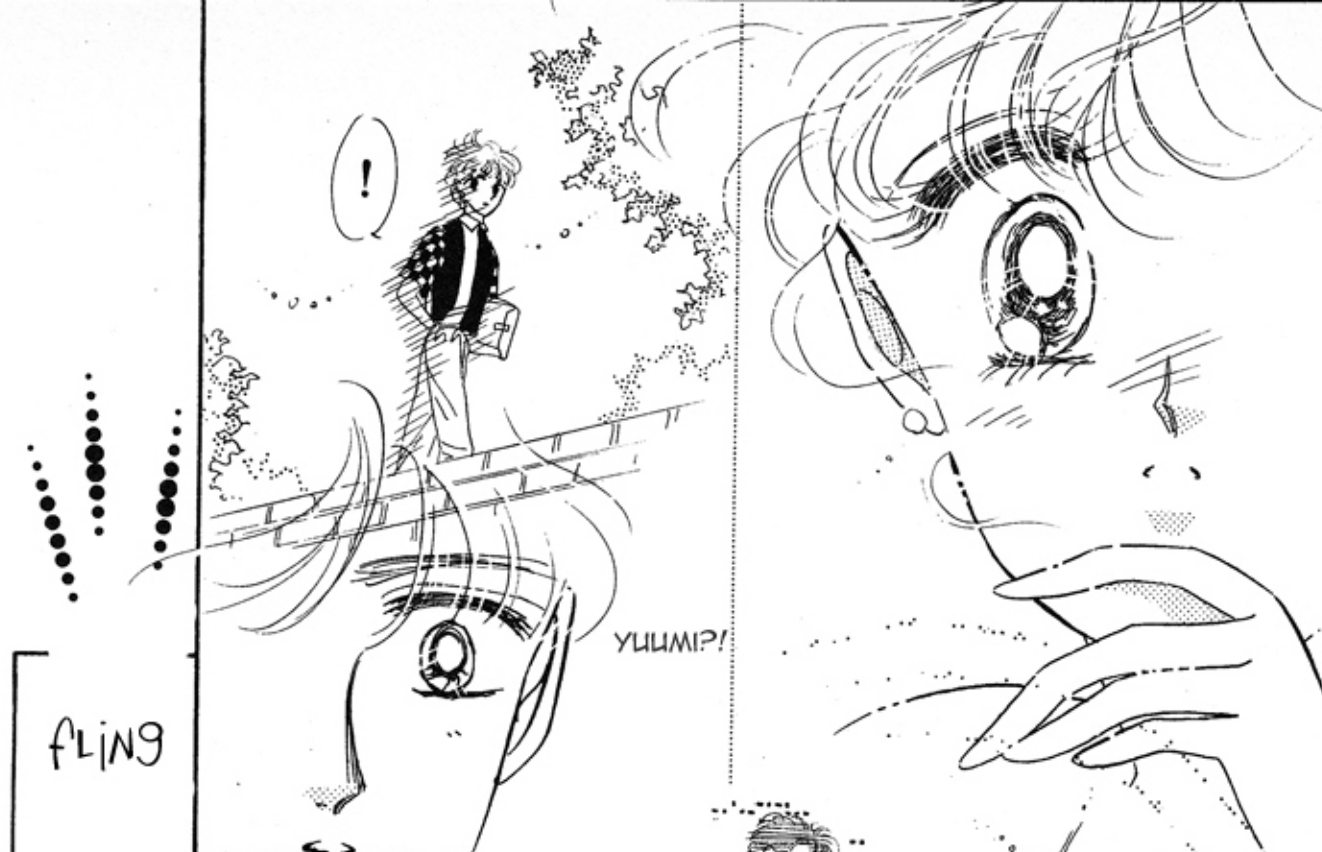
YOU GUYS ARE THE
ONLY 8TH GRADERS
WHO STILL SHARE A BED
YOU KNOW. WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO DO WHEN
YOU'RE BOTH ALL
GROWN UP?

WHERE'S
YUUMI?

THE FIRST THING YOU
SAY AFTER YOU WAKE
UP IS TO ASK ME
WHERE YUUMI IS?
SERIOUSLY? SHE LEFT
ALREADY







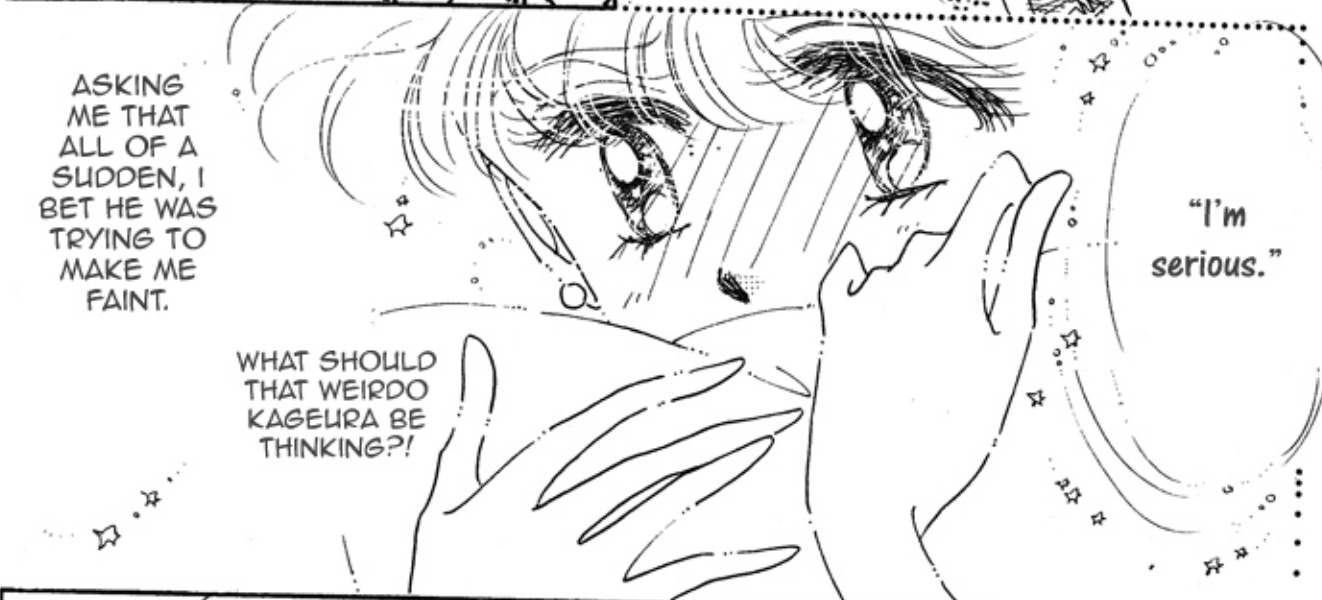
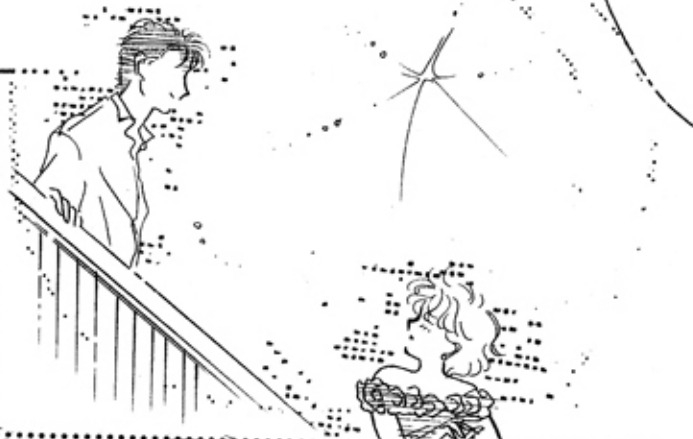
!

YUUMI?!

FLING



WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY'S PROBLEM!



ASKING ME THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN, I BET HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE ME FAINT.

WHAT SHOULD THAT WEIRDO KAGEURA BE THINKING?!

"I'm serious."



KNOCK

DID YOU SEE KAGEURA TODAY?

YUUMI



WE WERE HAVING
A MATCH TODAY,
AND IF I WON HE
WAS GOING TO
HAVE TO DO
WHATEVER I TOLD
HIM TO DO...BUT
ACTUALLY, I LOST

IT
WAS A
GAME!

THIS
ISN'T YOUR
BATTLE,
YUUKI.

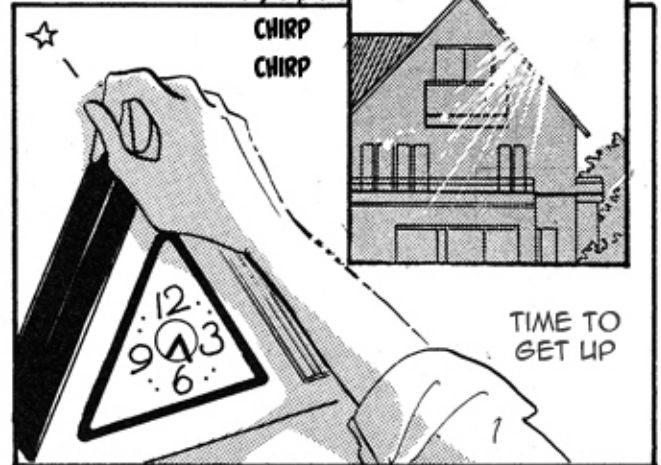
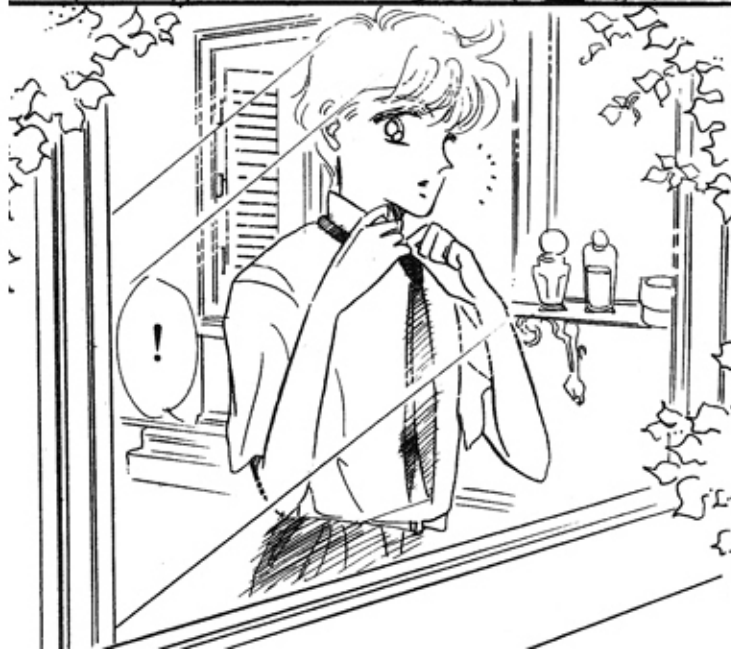


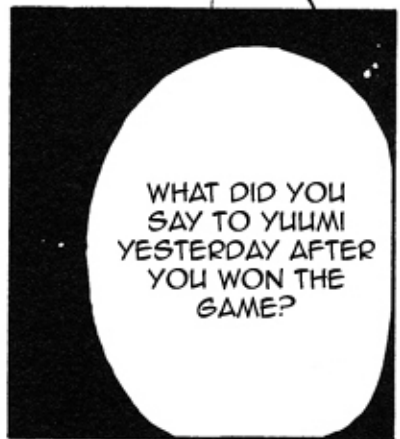
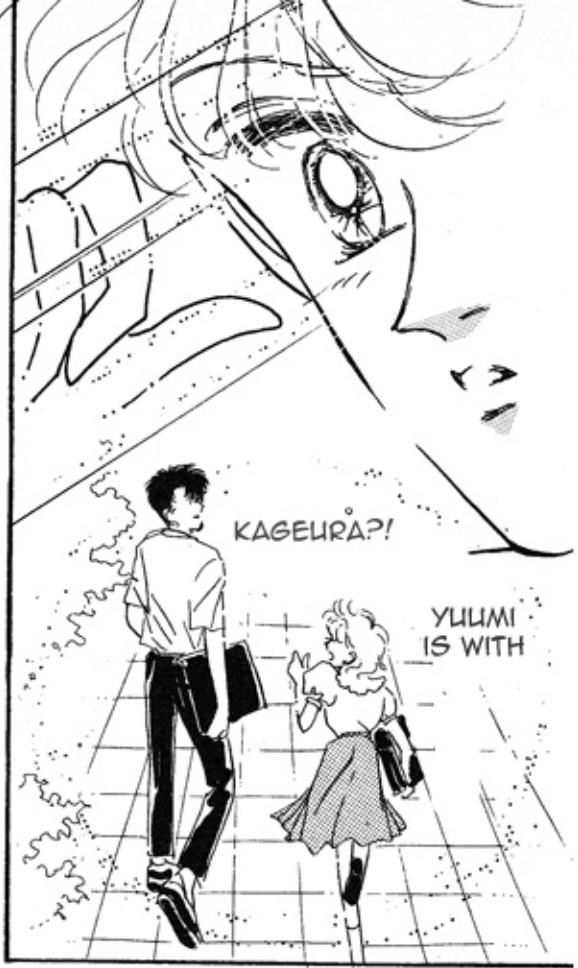
REALLY? DID
HE SAY YOU
HAD TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR HIM IF
YOU LOST?



STARTING
TOMORROW, I'M
GOING TO START
WALKING TO
SCHOOL ON MY
OWN.

ANYWAY,
YUUKI







BUT WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU COULD CONVINCE THAT GIRL TO STAND ME UP?!

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT?! I KNEW YOU WERE A NO GOOD BASTARD.

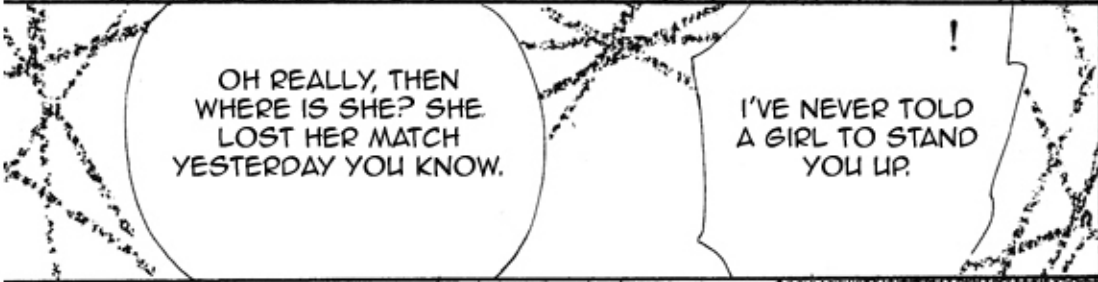
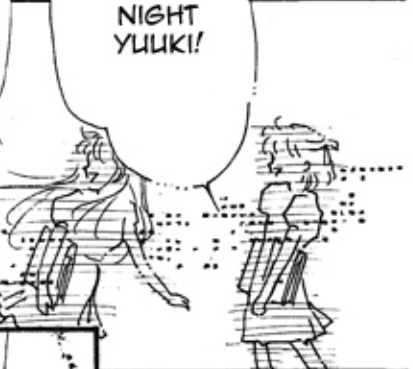


AH, SEE YA!



HAVE A GOOD NIGHT!

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT YUUKI!



OH REALLY, THEN WHERE IS SHE? SHE LOST HER MATCH YESTERDAY YOU KNOW.

I'VE NEVER TOLD A GIRL TO STAND YOU UP.



HMPH, YOU'RE JUST ANGRY THAT A GIRL WAS A BETTER PLAYER THAN YOU AT THAT MATCH THE OTHER DAY.



DECIDED
THAT I'M GOING
TO ATTEND
HACHIOUJI
BOARDING
SCHOOL FOR
HIGH SCHOOL.

I'VE



BWAAA?!

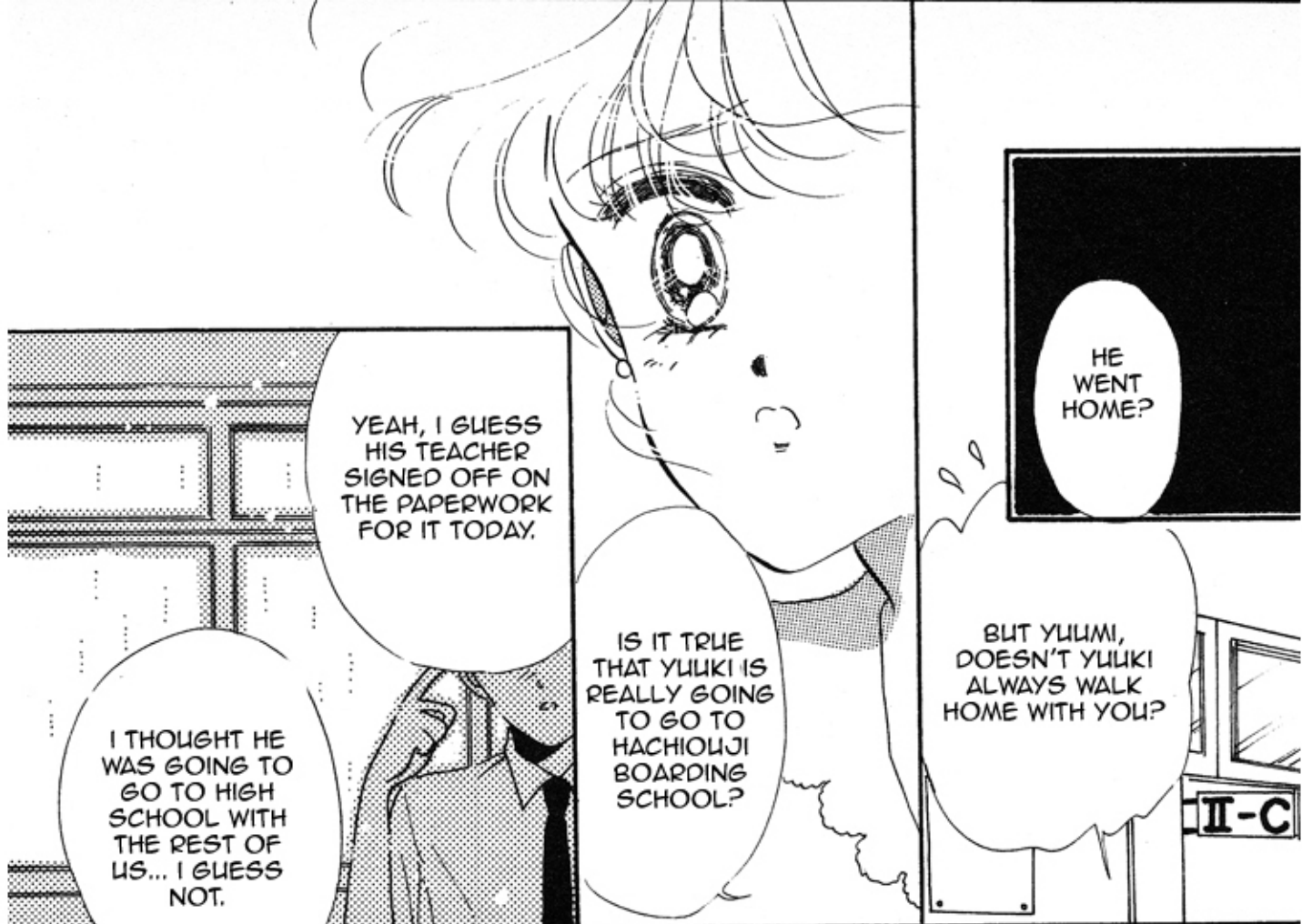
YUUKI

I'VE MADE UP MY
MIND. AND I'VE
APPLIED TO TAKE
SOME COLLEGE
PREP COURSES TOO.
IN FACT I BEGIN THEM
NEXT WEEK! SO I'LL
BE LATE COMING
HOME

WHAT?!
YUUKI, WAIT A
MINUTE,
HACHIOUJI?!
BOARDING
SCHOOL?!
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

BANG

I'VE ALWAYS
WANTED TO
GO TO A HIGH
RANKED ELITE
BOYS
BOARDING
SCHOOL!.



YEAH, I GUESS HIS TEACHER SIGNED OFF ON THE PAPERWORK FOR IT TODAY.

HE WENT HOME?

I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO GO TO HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE REST OF US... I GUESS NOT.

IS IT TRUE THAT YUUKI IS REALLY GOING TO GO TO HACHIOUJI BOARDING SCHOOL?

BUT YUUKI, DOESN'T YUUKI ALWAYS WALK HOME WITH YOU?



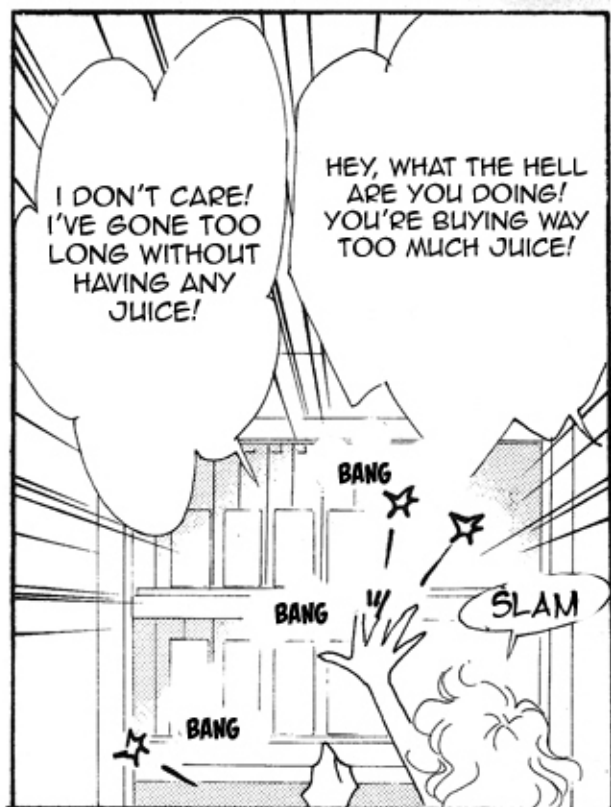
YUUKI?! WHERE'S YOUR UMBRELLA, YOU'RE SOAKING WET!



I NEVER BRING AN UMBRELLA WITH ME... I'VE ALWAYS JUST USED YUUKI'S.



POUR



I DON'T CARE!
I'VE GONE TOO
LONG WITHOUT
HAVING ANY
JUICE!

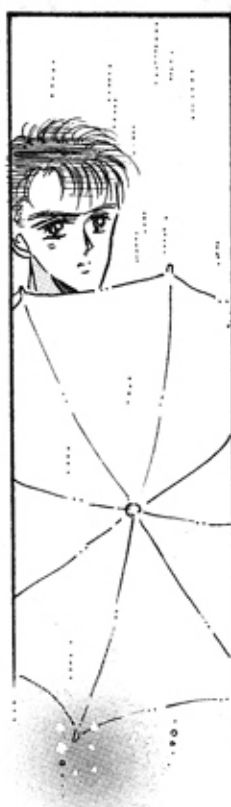
HEY, WHAT THE HELL
ARE YOU DOING!
YOU'RE BUYING WAY
TOO MUCH JUICE!

BANG

BANG

SLAM

BANG



WITH YUUKI
WHEN IT
RAINS, I'VE
NEVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT AN
UMBRELLA
OF MY OWN

IN FACT
I'VE ALWAYS
GONE HOME



LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

YOU'RE
GOING TO
MAKE
YOURSELF
SICK, HERE
GET UNDER
THE
UMBRELLA.

HEY YOU
SHOULD
STOP

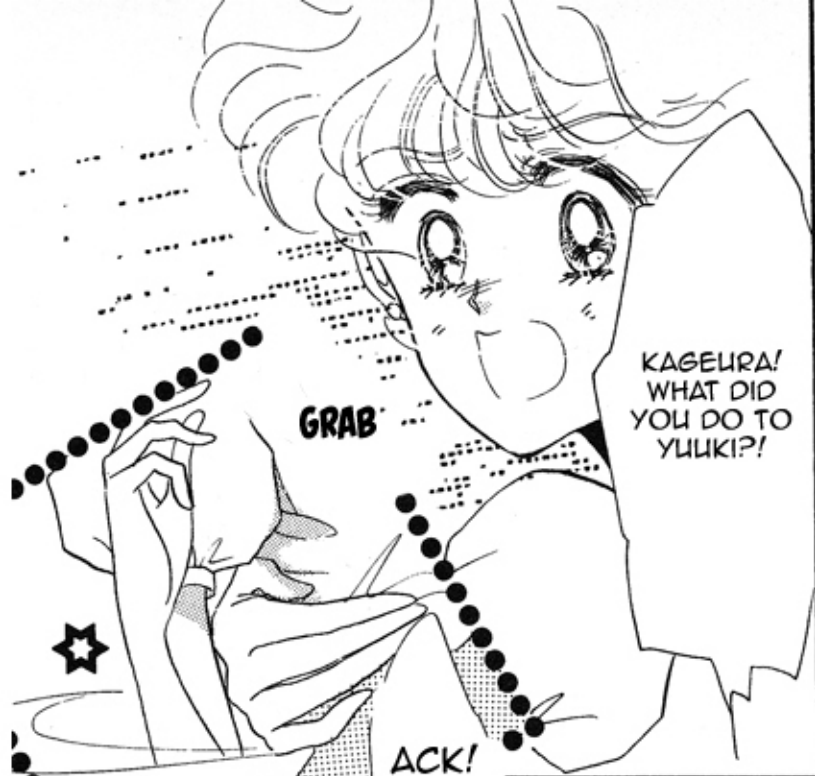


AND NOW YUUKI
IS GOING TO
LEAVE ME BEHIND
WHILE HE GOES
TO A BOYS'
BOARDING
SCHOOL.

HE HAS
NEVER
GONE
HOME
WITHOUT
ME
BEFORE.



POUR



GRAB

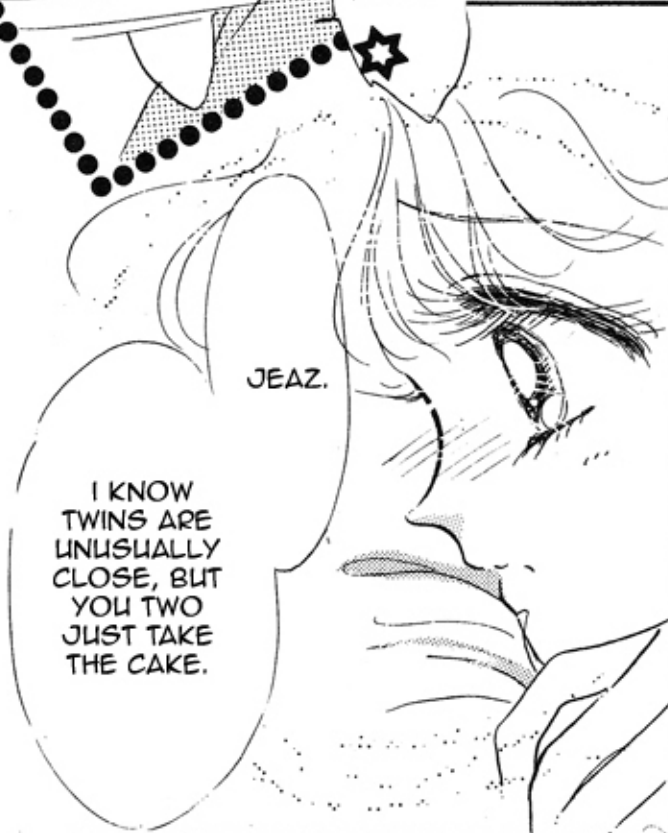
KAGEURA!
WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
YUUKI?!

ACK!



HEH

SO HE
FINALLY
GOT IT
TOGETHER,
EH?



JEAZ.

I KNOW
TWINNS ARE
UNUSUALLY
CLOSE, BUT
YOU TWO
JUST TAKE
THE CAKE.



LET GO
OF ME!

BE QUIET. IF
YOU CATCH
A COLD,
IT'LL BE MY
FAULT.



SNIFFLE

WE'RE
JUST
NORMAL
TWINNS.

WE'RE NOT
UNUSUAL.



WHY DON'T YOU FACE THE OUTSIDE WORLD?

I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT THAT DAY COMING.



SO THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN HE FINDS ANOTHER GIRL HE LIKES?

I MEAN, LIKE DOING SOMETHING WITHOUT YOUR BROTHER.



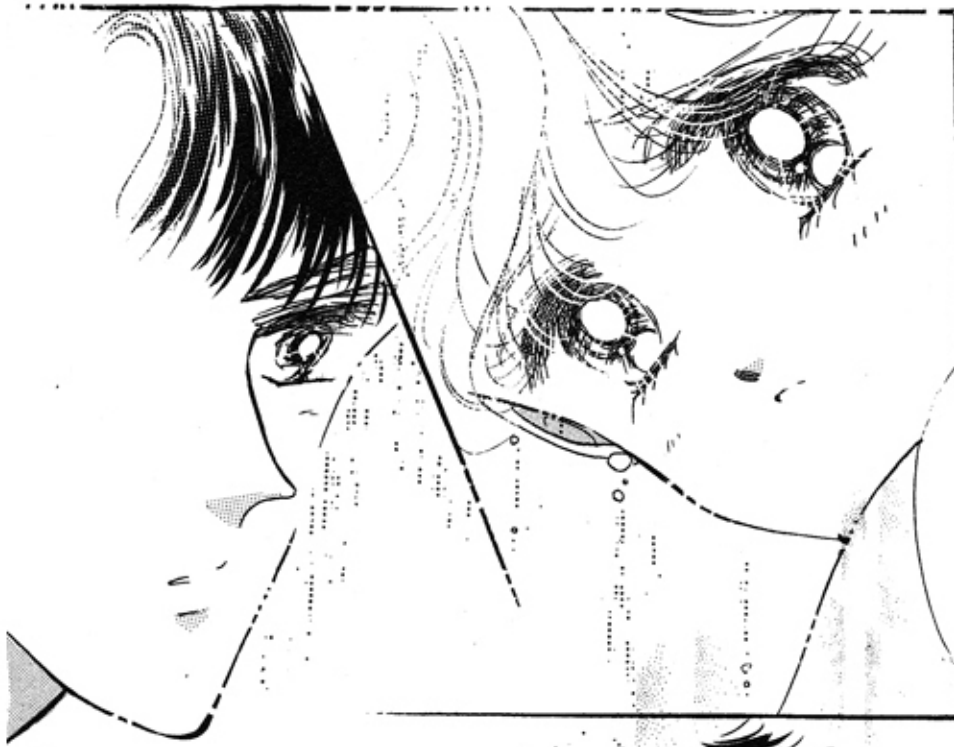
THE OUTSIDE?



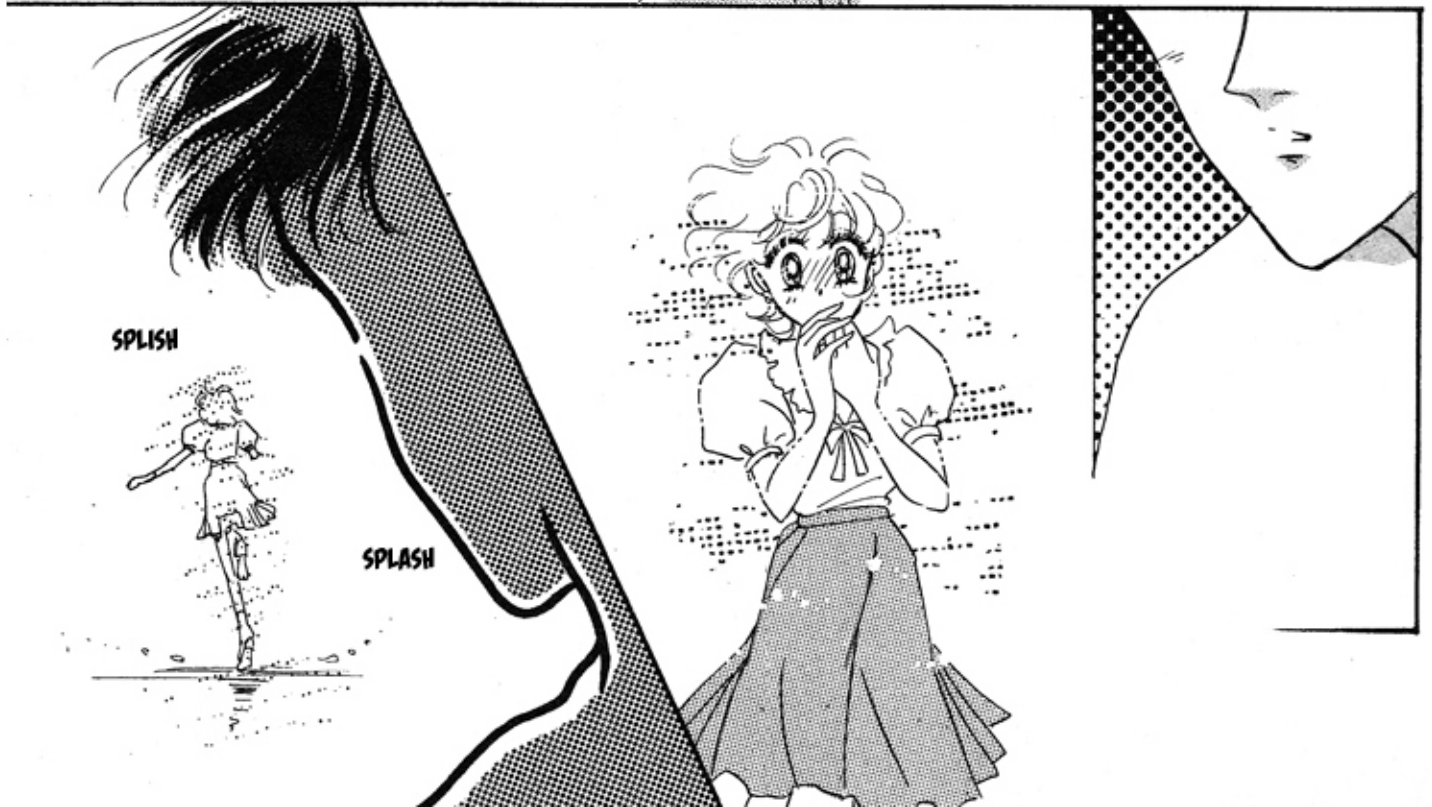
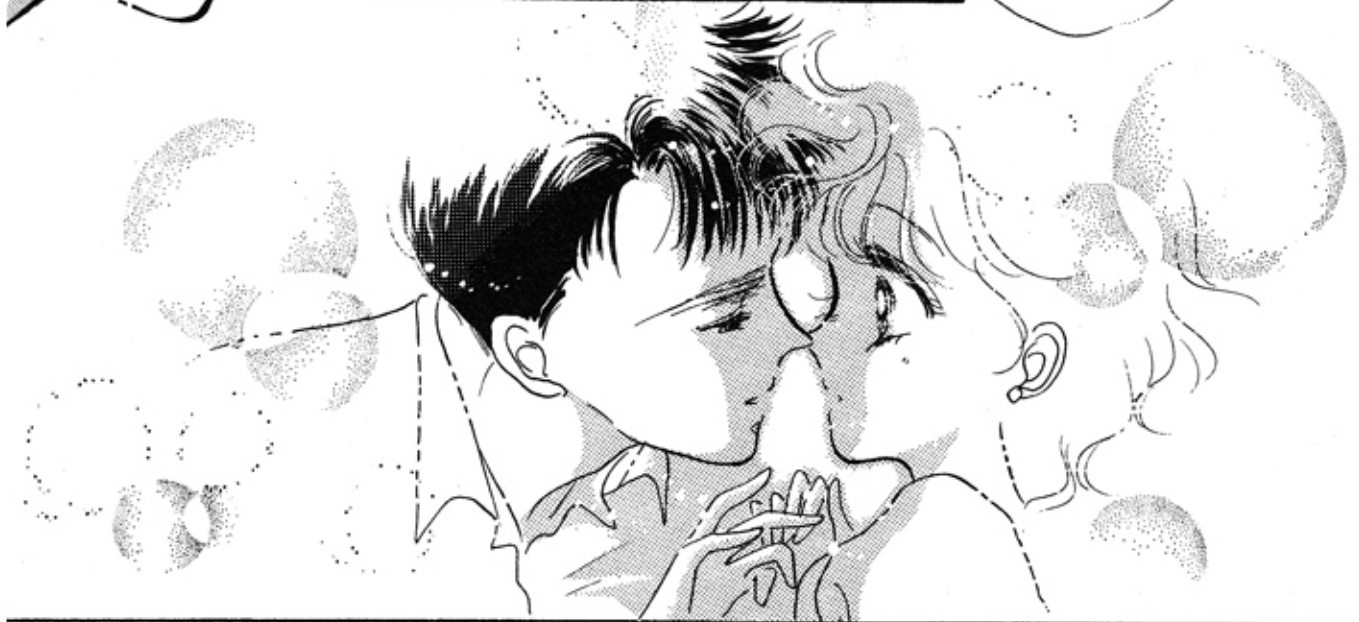
POUR

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.

LIKE FOR INSTANCE

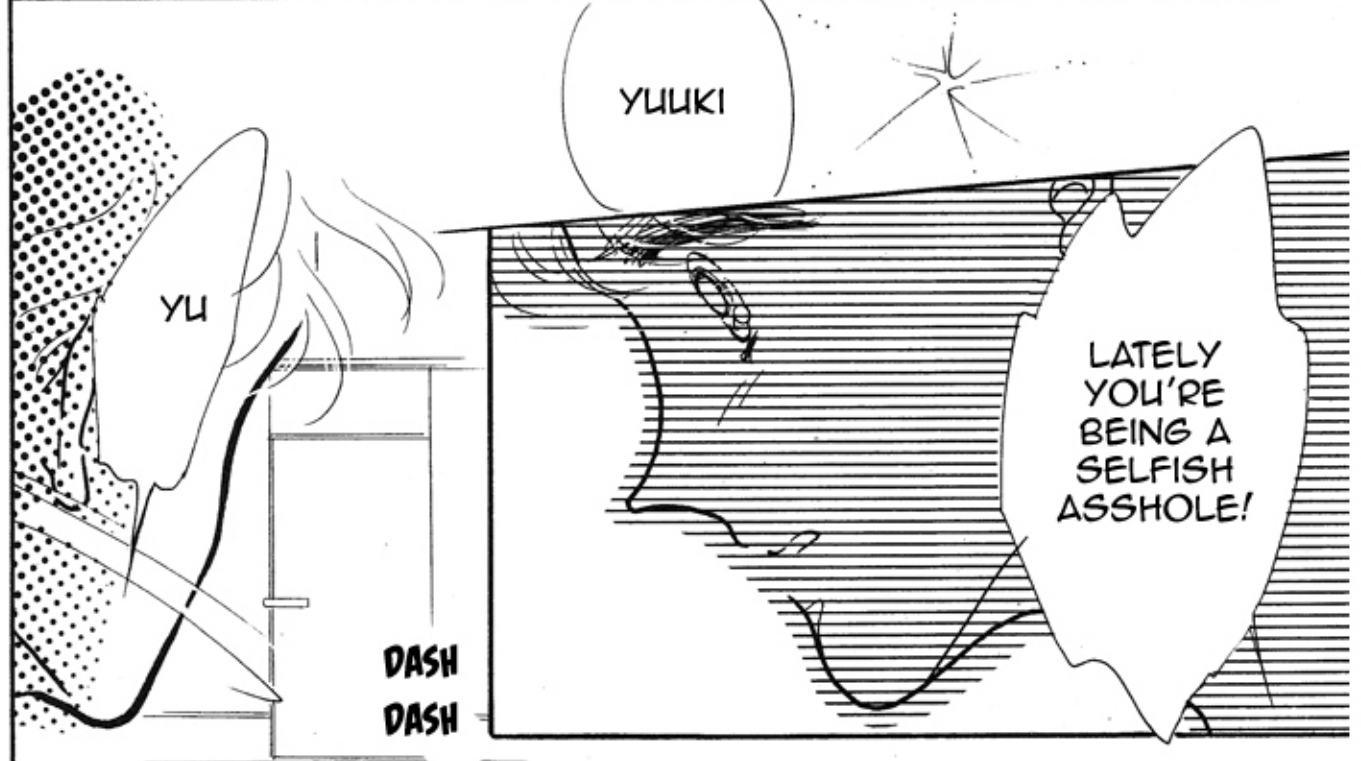
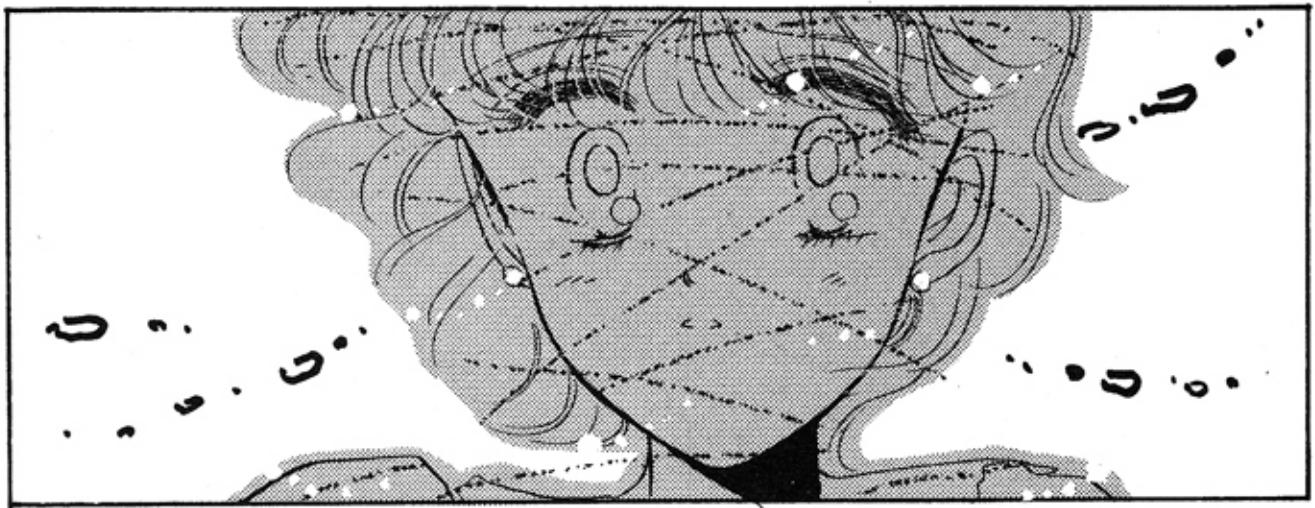


I CAN'T GO HOME NOW;
I'LL JUST GET IN A FIGHT WITH YUKI.



SPLISH

SPLASH



SOB

LIGH

SPLISH

SLAM

HEY YUUKI, HASN'T YUUMI COME OUT FROM HER ROOM YET? IT'S DINNER TIME!

WHAT? YOU'RE FIGHTING? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT'S EVER HAPPENED, RIGHT? FIRST YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO A BOARDING SCHOOL, AND NOW THIS

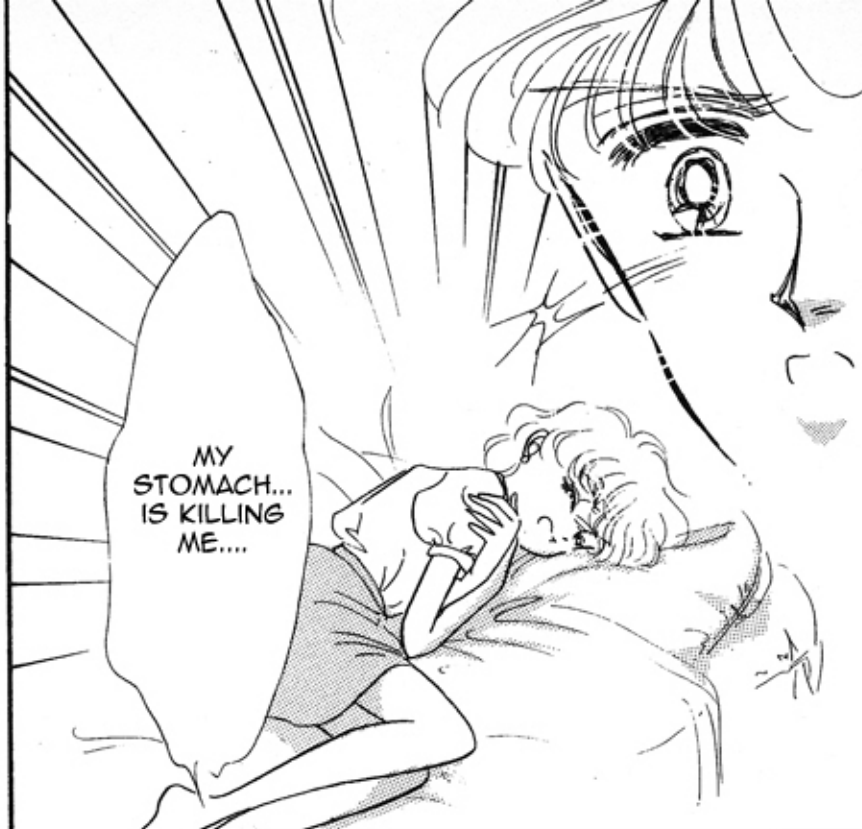
KNOCK

YUUMI? HEY...

Yuumi's Room

WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU LATELY?

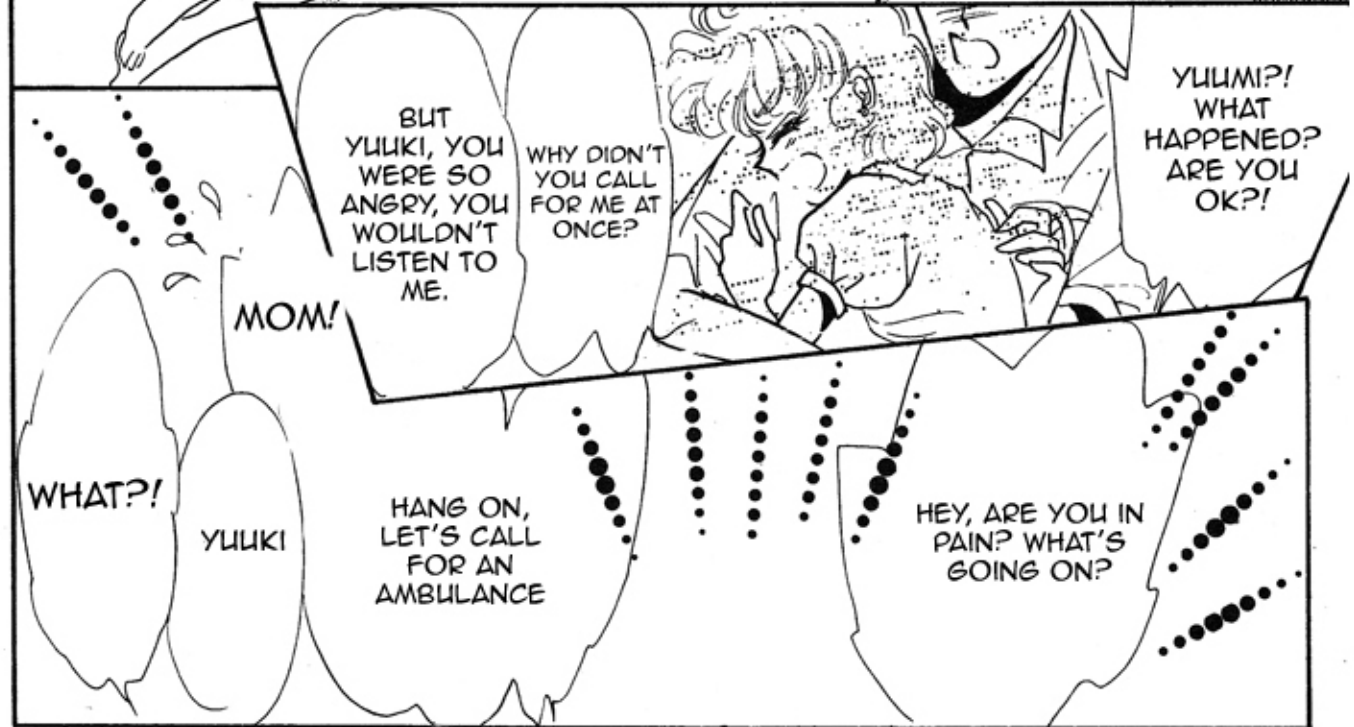
☆



MY STOMACH... IS KILLING ME...



YUUKI?



MOM!

WHAT?!

YUUKI

BUT YUUKI, YOU WERE SO ANGRY, YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME.

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL FOR ME AT ONCE?

HANG ON, LET'S CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE

HEY, ARE YOU IN PAIN? WHAT'S GOING ON?

YUUKI?! WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OK?!



WHY ARE YOU ASKING THAT ALL A SUDDEN?



YUUKI, IS THERE SOMEONE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH?




I WON'T SEE
KAGEURA
ANYMORE!

I KNOW THAT HE'S
THE REASON OUR
RELATIONSHIP
CHANGED. I PROMISE
NOT TO SEE HIM
ANYMORE, SO...



BUT
I JUST...

I JUST
DON'T
WANT THIS
CLOSENESS
TO BE OVER
ALREADY!



I KNOW THAT
WE CAN'T ALWAYS
BE THIS CLOSE
FOREVER.




PLEASE
STAY
CLOSE
TO ME

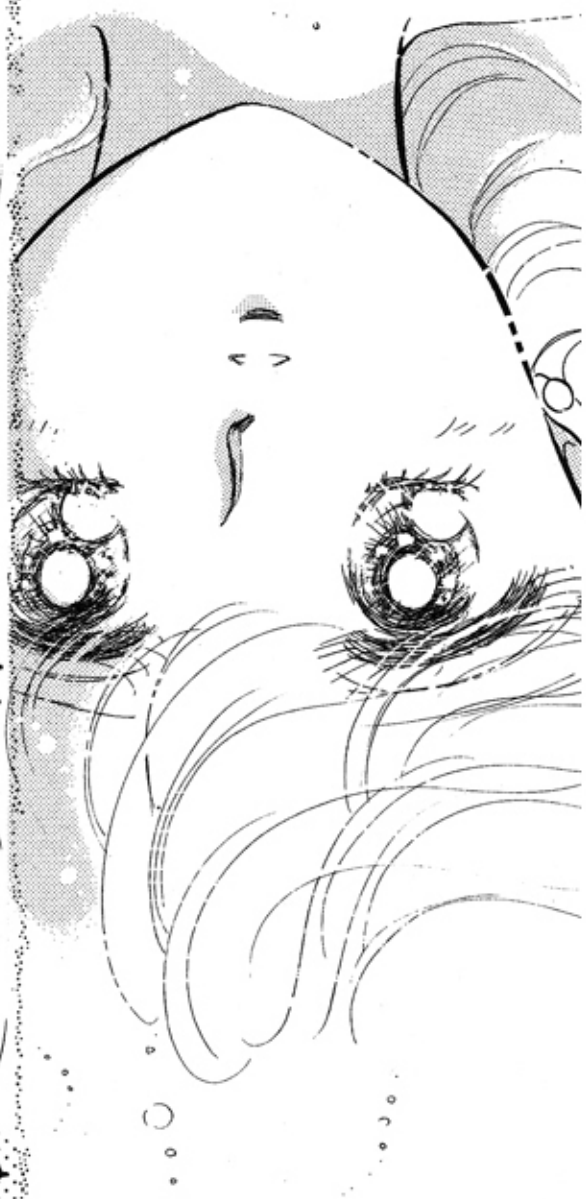
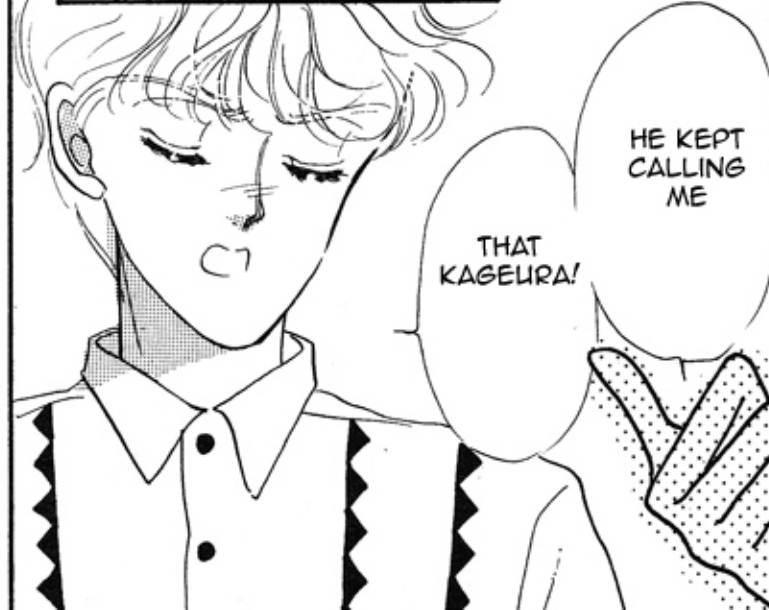
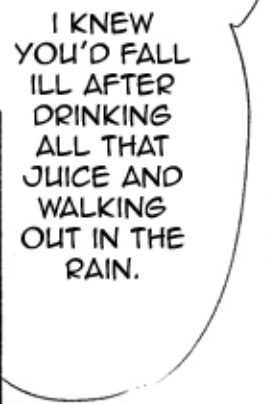
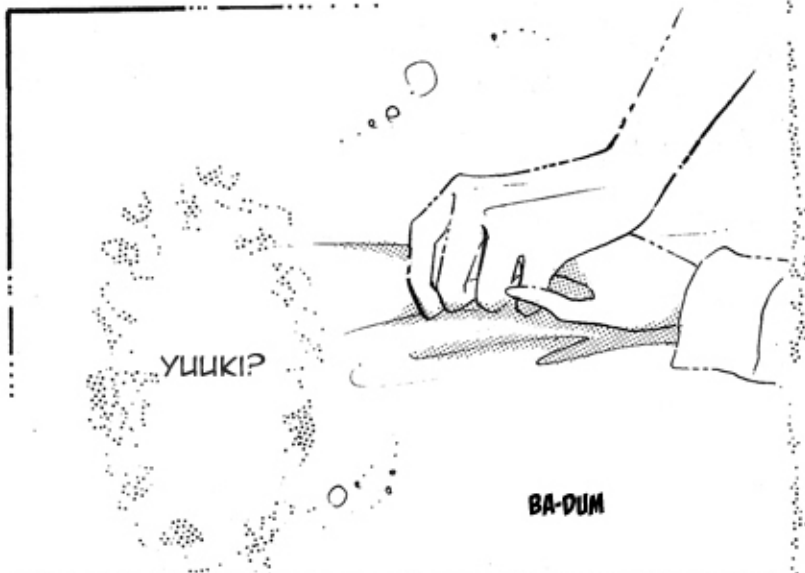


I UNDER
STAND,
YUUMI.

I'LL
ALWAYS



DON'T LEAVE
AND GO SO
FAR AWAY.





OUCH

YUUKI?!

DAMN

PUNCH



ALL BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HER ALONE!

IT'S YOUR FAULT YUUMI CAUGHT A COLD!



ALWAYS THERE ALWAYS HAS BEEN

I'VE SAID MY PIECE.

JEAZ

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LOVE?



YUUKI

STEP



OUCH



YUUKI



AND THAT ONE PERSON IS YOU

MY



I SEE HOW IT IS.

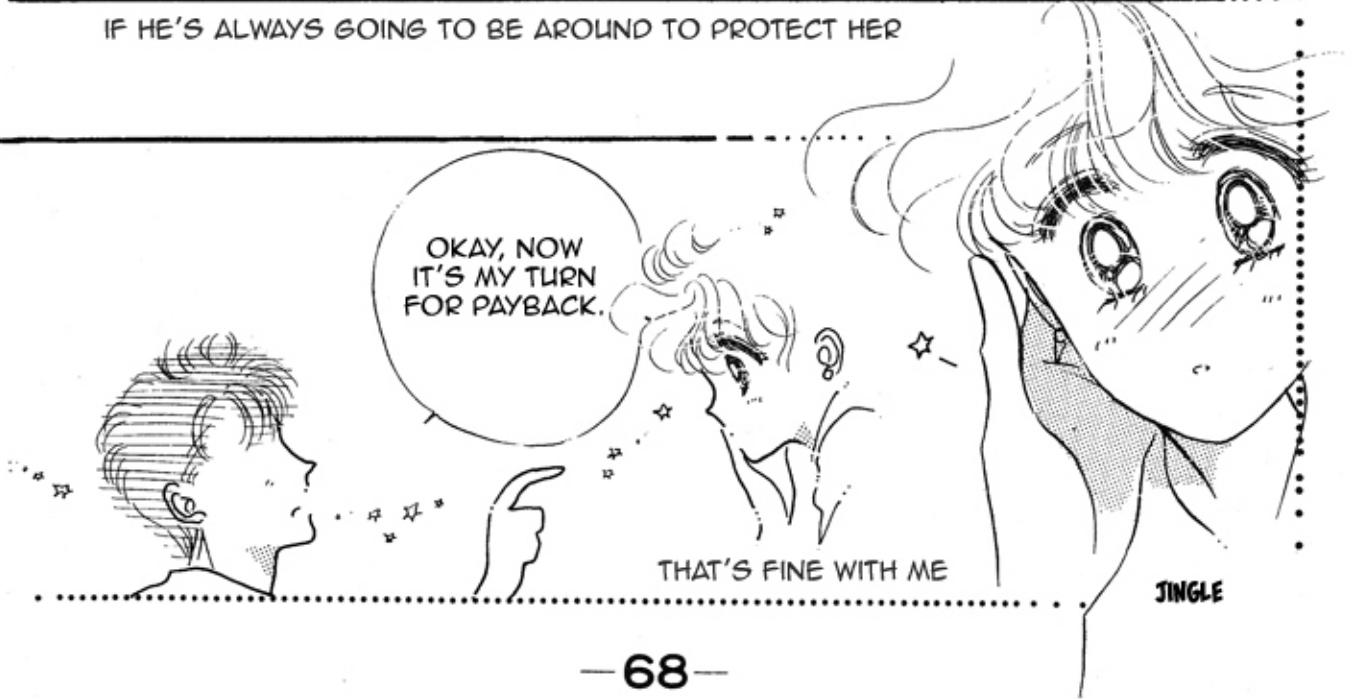


IN YUUKI'S PLACE.

I'M SORRY



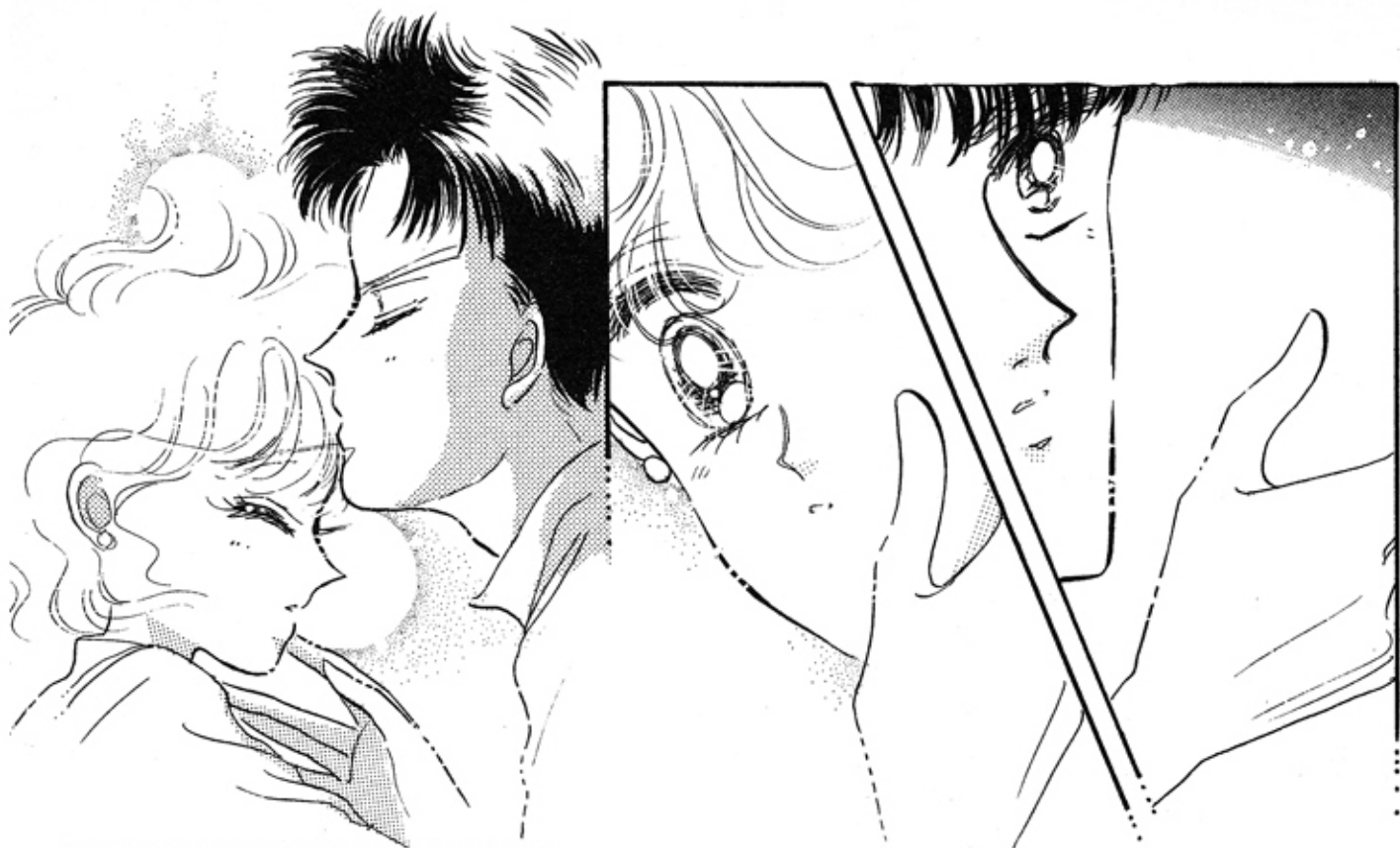
IF HE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE AROUND TO PROTECT HER



OKAY, NOW IT'S MY TURN FOR PAYBACK.

THAT'S FINE WITH ME

SINGLE



LOOKS LIKE YOU
CAN'T SEPARATE
FROM YOUR TWIN
BROTHER JUST YET.

FLUTTER

MY

DARLING EARRING WEARING GIRL

I JUST NEED A
LITTLE MORE
TIME...

YEAH

★★ THE END ★★

I'm really glad to see all these short stories of mine collected together in this book. The titles mesh so well together!

I have three piercings on each of my ears. And often times, people ask me, "Why three?" Well, the truth is, I just wanted to wear pearl earrings lined up, going from

↳ smallest to large at the bottom.

They look awesome. On my birthday, March 15th, I received tons of new earrings from some of my fans. It made me so happy! Tee hee. Thank you all so much for them! There were so many cute little star and moon earrings. I wonder if that's because of the manga I'm in the middle of writing now, "Sailor Moon"....



I, SAILOR MOON

WILL PUNISH YOU IN THE NAME OF THE MOON

IF YOU DON'T READ MY MANGA AND WATCH ME ON TV! ☆



Anyway, I like tear-drop earrings like these the best. They're so cute, they're teardrop shaped.

"My Earring Wearing Girl" is a story I wrote just after I graduated from college. I set it in an area I used to always go to back then, the Outer Gardens of the Meiji Shrine in Shinanomachi in Tokyo. The gardens are extremely beautiful, and when you're there after a rainstorm in the summer it's the best feeling in the world. (The spring cherry blossoms are very pretty, too!)

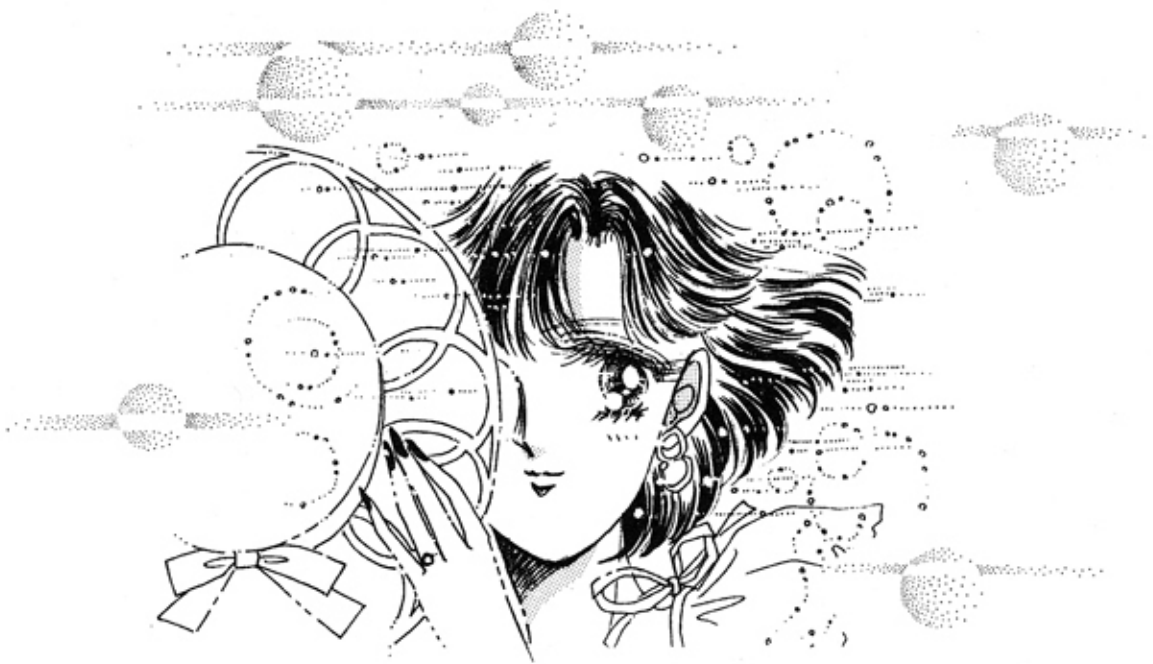
July Marmalade Birthday



"July Marmalade Birthday"

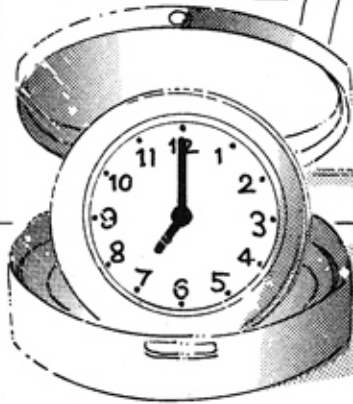
This is another story I wrote just after graduating college. I adore lemon marmalade! The person Amari was modeled after was this guy I liked a long time ago, back in junior high and high school. Like Amari and Miina, me and the guy I liked used to argue a lot too. We were awful at communicating, and so talking to him always made my heart beat fast. I used to get all dolled up and then sneakily watch him play tennis at the courts.

True to my artform as a girls manga fanatic, I've had lots of little romances!



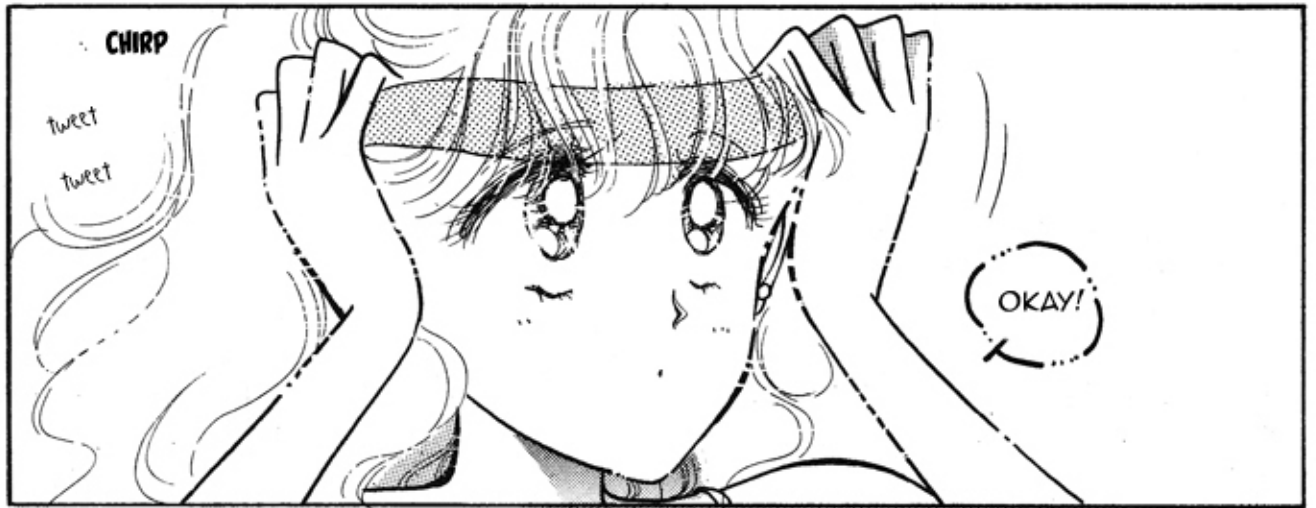
This morning i got up before my alarm went off

BRRRRING!

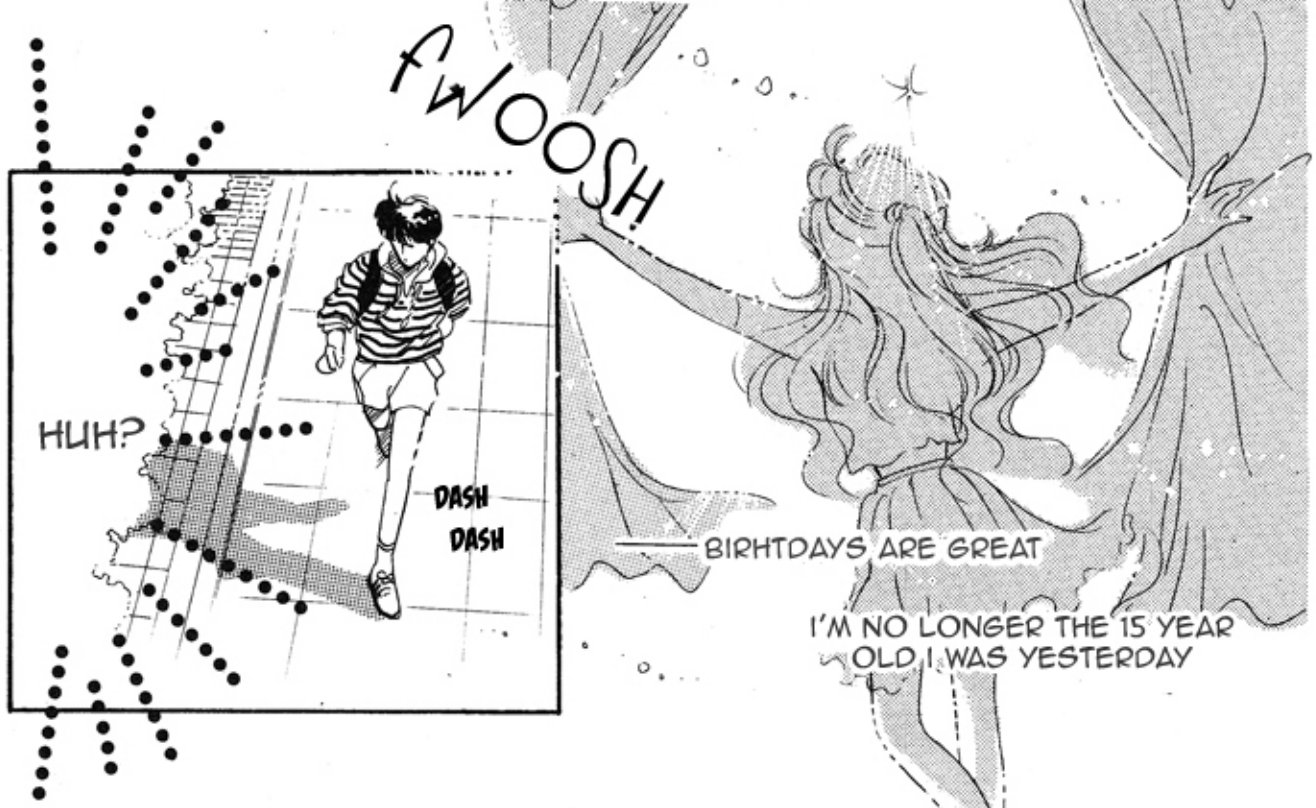


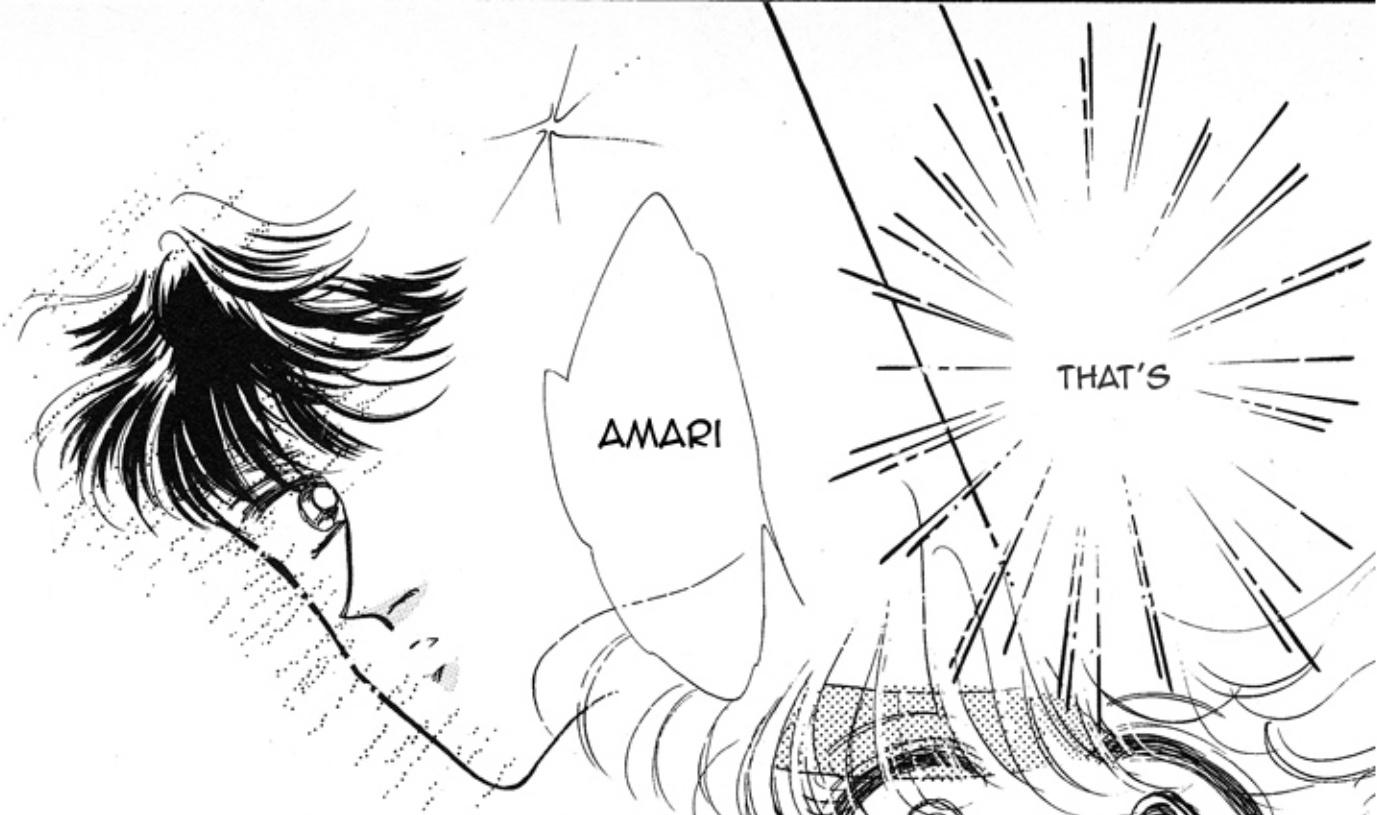
SAT	SUN	MON	TU	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

for some reason my heart was pounding



TODAY IS MY 16TH BIRTHDAY!



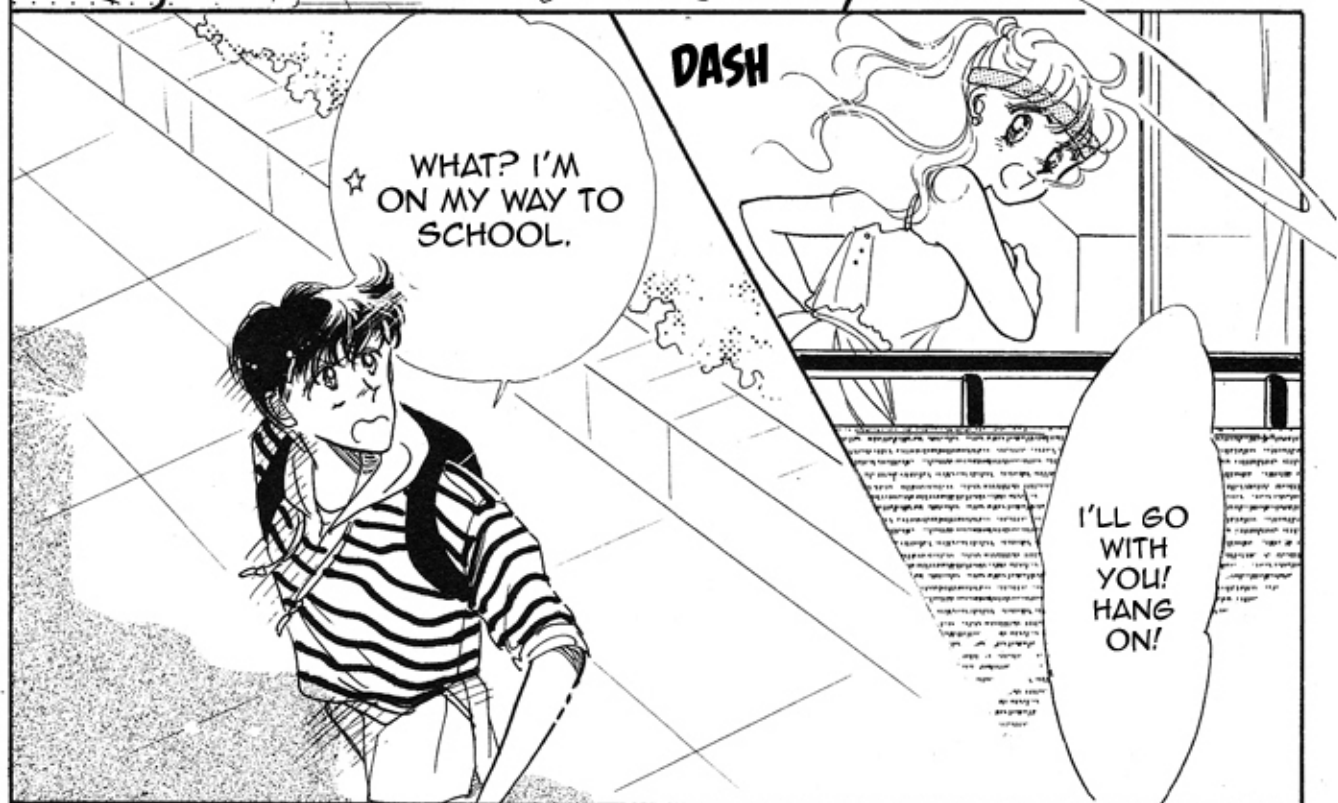


AMARI

THAT'S



NO WAY,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING UP THIS
EARLY?!



★ WHAT? I'M
ON MY WAY TO
SCHOOL.

DASH

I'LL GO
WITH
YOU!
HANG
ON!



WHO ARE THEY?

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SAKITA AND HONDA SAID TO COME EARLY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE ALWAYS FIVE MINUTE LATE AMARI IS GOING TO SCHOOL EARLY!

PANT PANT



FRAZZLE

WHY WOULD YOU? THEY'RE NOT IN YOUR CLASS.

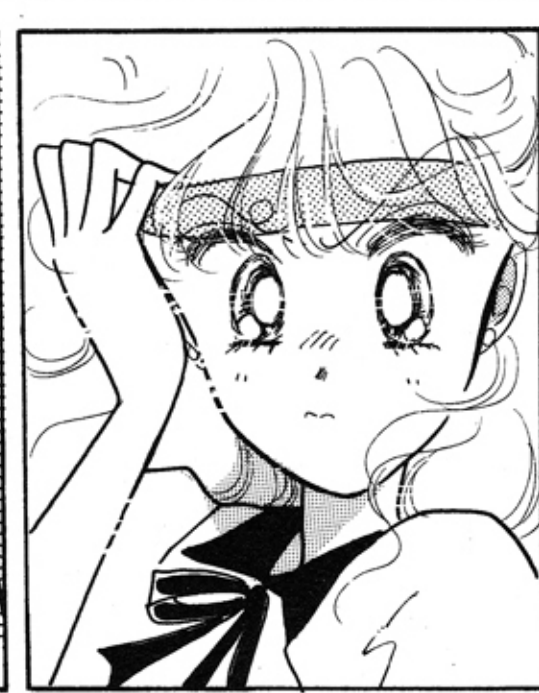


MY FRIENDS

I DON'T KNOW THEM.



HEY





ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT KIBASEN* AT THE MAY FESTIVAL?

STANDS OUT

A BUNCH OF GUYS.

ONE GIRL AMONG

STOP TRYING TO PROVOKE ME.



blush

DON'T BE SO PROUD OF YOURSELF FOR BEATING THE GUYS, IT JUST MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A TOMBOY BRAT.



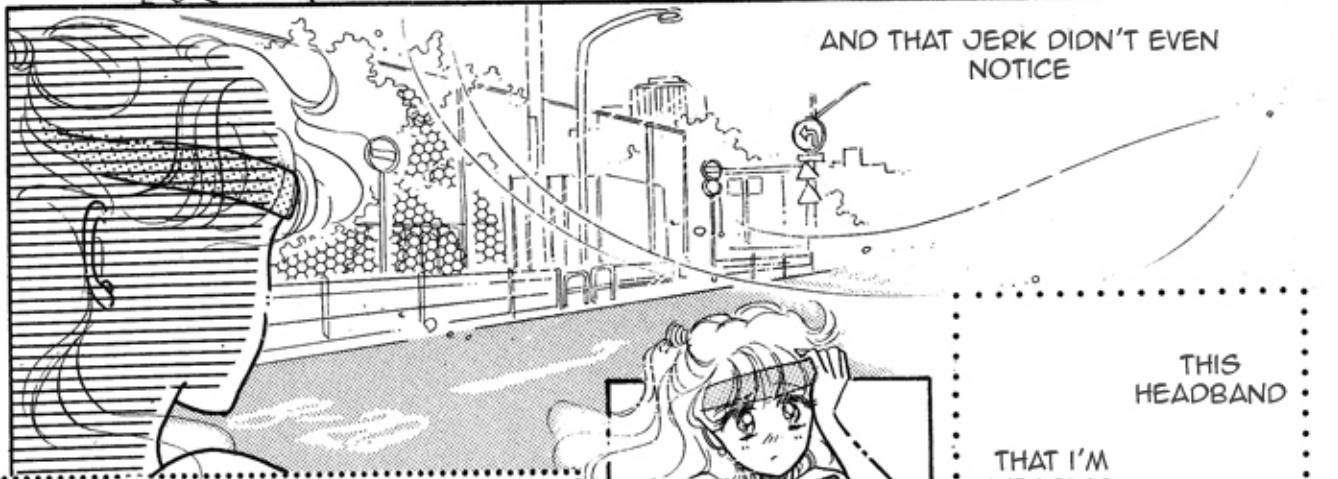
*Note: a kibasen is a type of sport game, kind of like a mix between jousting and capture the flag.

IS MY
UNRELIABLE
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND

AS SOON AS
WE GOT TO
HIGH SCHOOL,
WE HAVE BEEN
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES

PEEK

AMARI



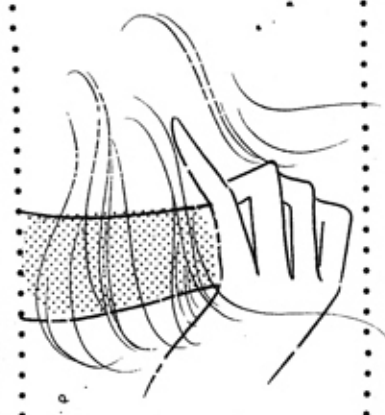
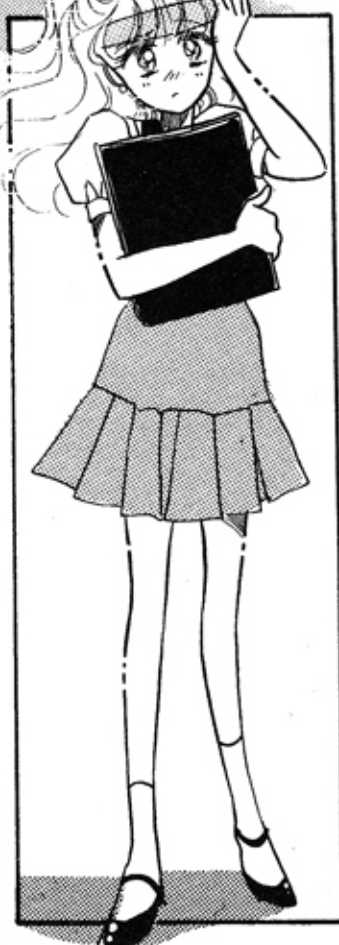
AND THAT JERK DIDN'T EVEN
NOTICE

THIS
HEADBAND

THAT I'M
WEARING
TODAY

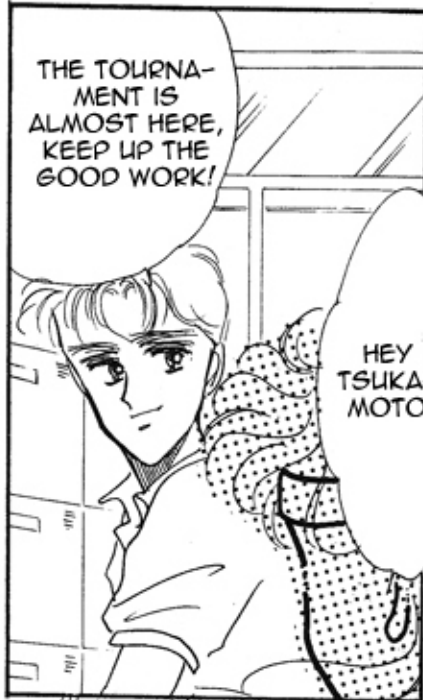
NO WAY, I
JUST BOUGHT
THIS ONE, I
LOVE IT!

OKAY, I'M
TAKING THIS
FROM YOU
AS MY 15TH
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT!
AND I WANT
THAT
WRISTBAND
OF YOURS
TOO!





ANOTHER MATCH, HUH... TROUBLESOME



THE TOURNAMENT IS ALMOST HERE, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

HEY TSUKAMOTO

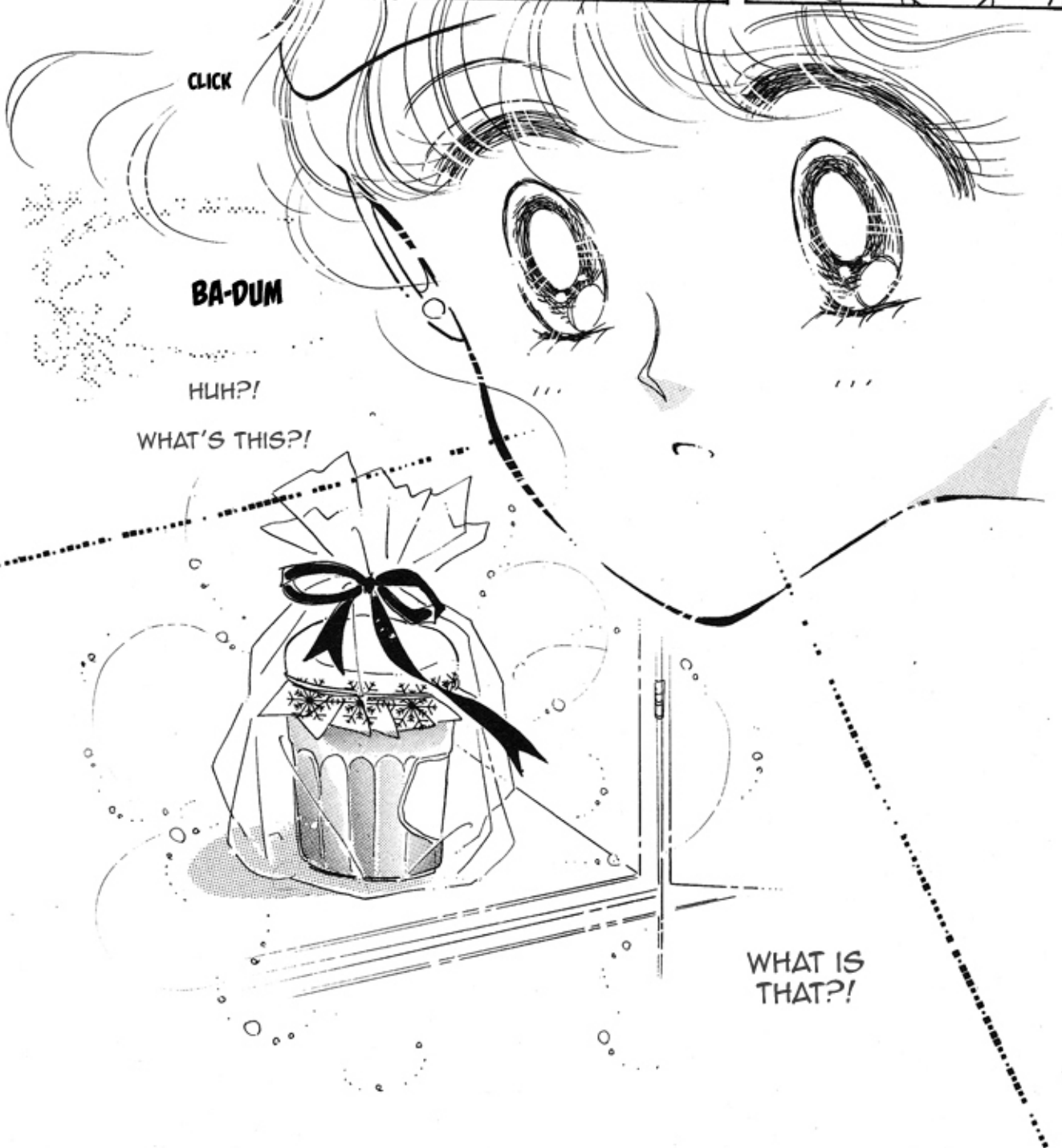


IT'S TIME FOR MORNING EXERCISES.

HEY YOU, MORIYAMA MIINA!

BONK

ACK!



CLICK

BA-DUM

HUH?!

WHAT'S THIS?!

WHAT IS THAT?!

YOU ALREADY GOT A PRESENT? THAT STUFF IS DELICIOUS, WHO GAVE IT TO YOU?

WOW! LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT CRESCENT MARMALADE!



WELL, ABOUT THAT

MIINA, GOOD MORNING! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SO FREAKED OUT!

slam



ME?

I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PUT IT THERE, YAYOI.



I FOUND IT IN MY LOCKER, WITHOUT A CARD OR ANYTHING.

IT'S A PRESENT FROM ME AND MY BOYFRIEND! THIS PAST SUNDAY WE WENT TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK TOGETHER.



SO CUTE!

NO WAY! THANK YOU!

THIS IS FROM ME! HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIINA!



YAYOI,
YOU'RE SO
LUCKY. FOR
YOU IT'S
ALWAYS
SPRINGTIME
LOVE.

IT'S NOT
THAT BAD,
IT'S FUN!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT.
WHAT'S SO
GREAT ABOUT
GOING TO AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK WITH A
GUY?

THERE'S NO
WAY I'D EVER
WASTE MY
TIME DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.



YOU'VE GOT A
PRINCE WHO
REMEMBERS YOUR
BIRTHDAY AND
GIVES YOU
PRESENTS TOO,
AFTER ALL.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAYING

MIINA,
YOU'RE
IN THE
SAME
BOAT
NOW.

HEY,
WAIT!

NO,
THAT
CAN'T
BE...

HEY, MIINA,
WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?
WE'RE ABOUT
TO START!

MAYBE
AMARI?

SOMEHOW
THAT DOESN'T
SEEM RIGHT.

BUT I
WONDER
JUST WHO
GAVE ME
THAT

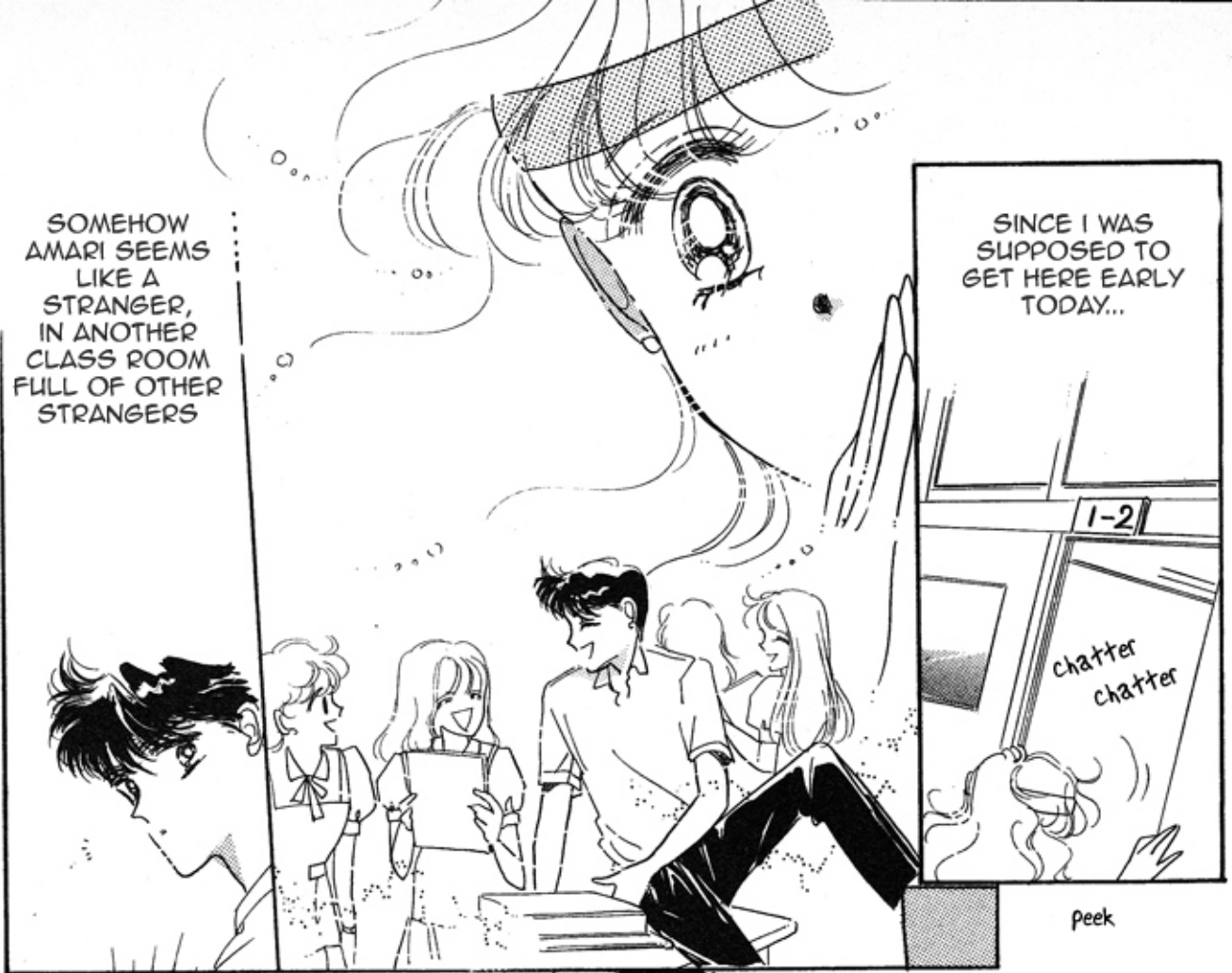
PRESENT?

I GUESS
IT MUST
BE A
PRINCE

CLICK

SOMEHOW
AMARI SEEMS
LIKE A
STRANGER,
IN ANOTHER
CLASS ROOM
FULL OF OTHER
STRANGERS

SINCE I WAS
SUPPOSED TO
GET HERE EARLY
TODAY...



peek

HE'S
IGNORING
ME!



WELL I
WANTED TO
ASK YOU
SOMETHING.

LMM



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



WHAT
AN
ASS!

ACTING
SO PRETEN-
TIOUS



YOU CAME HERE JUST TO ASK ME THAT?

JEAZ, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

THIS MORNING, DID YOU GET TO SCHOOL BEFORE ME?

ANYWAY IT'S FIRST BELL! YOU SHOULD HURRY BACK TO YOUR HOMEROOM!

DING DONG
DING DONG

English

BEING CARELESS DOESN'T WORRY YOU, DOES IT? SHEESH

NO, THAT'S NOT ALL! CAN YOU LEND ME YOUR ENGLISH BOOK? I FORGOT MINE AT HOME.

ACK!
GRAB

nyaah
WHAT! YOU'RE THE CARELESS ONE!



English

THAT'S NOT IT. SHE'S JUST SOME GIRL I KNOW FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL, THAT'S ALL

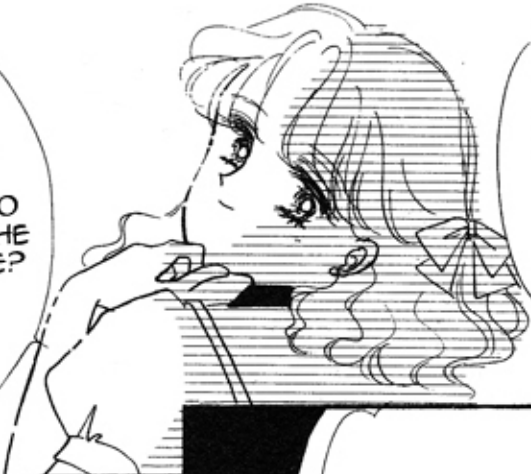
WHAT? WOW!
YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?

N-NO WAY! AMARI, WHO WAS THAT GIRL JUST NOW?!

W-WHAT...

KNOCK IT OFF

WAS IT, AMARI, WHO GAVE YOU THE MARMALADE?



WELCOME BACK



WOW LOOK AT ALL THESE NOTES

I WONDER WHO IT WAS, THEN.

I WONDER IF AMARI HAS ALWAYS STUDIED THIS MUCH

tolerance
Therapeutic Drug Mon
Theory on Delivery Mec
Therapeutic Dispensing
Measurement
Total dose

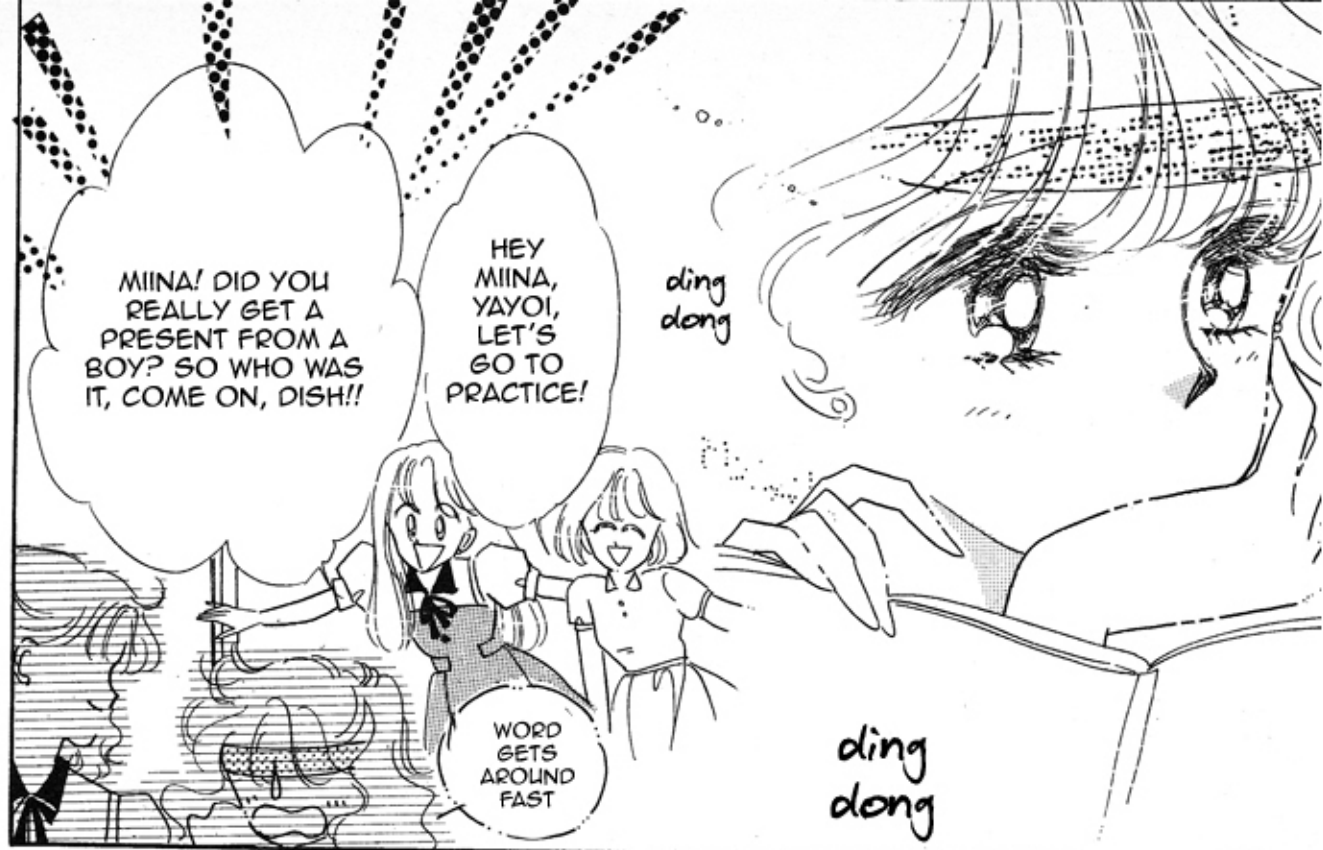
HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO GAVE ME THE MARMALADE.

I SEE.

sigh

FLIP





KYAAA

JUST LIKE A LITTLE SNOT NOSED KID.

OH, IS THAT WHY YOU'RE CARRYING AROUND THAT TEDDY BEAR?

HEYYY, DIDN'T YOU KNOW, TODAY IS MIINA'S BIRTHDAY!!

FLICK



kyaa

HEY! MIINA RAN AWAY!

kyaa!

UGH, I'M SO SICK OF THAT GUY



OH WELL, SOMEHOW THIS BIRTHDAY HAS BEEN PRETTY GOOD ANYWAY

SINCE AMARI IS HEARTLESS AND DIDN'T REMEMBER



I WONDER IF THAT CRESCENT MARMALADE REALLY DID COME FROM HIM AFTER ALL?





AMARI? HE'S NOT HERE YET, HE SAID HE HAD SOME HOMEWORK FOR CRAM SCHOOL TO DO, HE'S IN THE LIBRARY.



DO YOU ALWAYS STUDY THIS HARD?

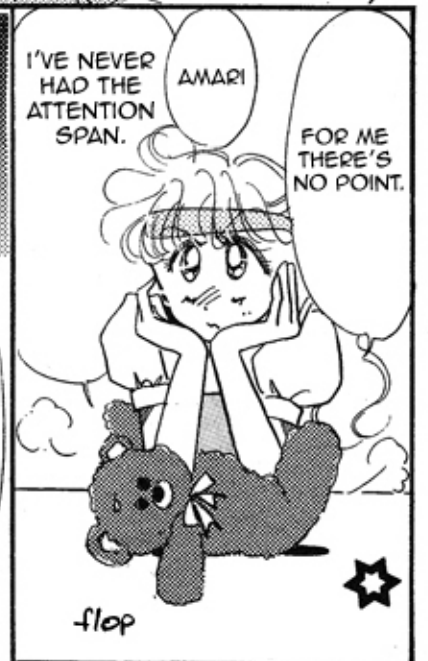


REACH

GRAB



BE QUIET.



I'VE NEVER HAD THE ATTENTION SPAN.

AMARI

FOR ME THERE'S NO POINT.

flop



WHAT IS THIS, A BEAR?

HEH HEH



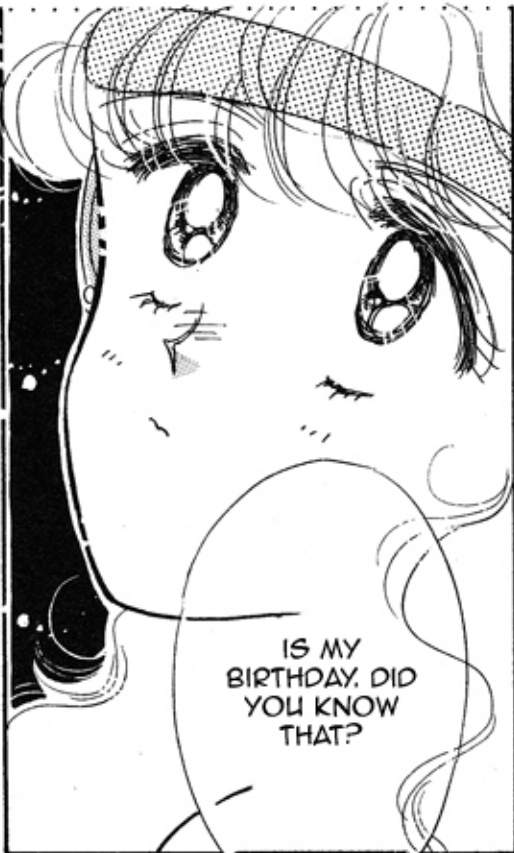
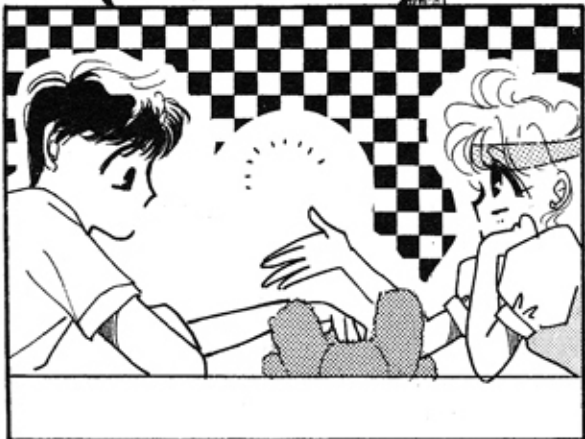
WELL, IF YOU DON'T TRY YOU'LL NEVER MAKE PROGRESS.

PET PET



PET PET

TODAY



IS MY BIRTHDAY. DID YOU KNOW THAT?



CRUSHED

WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO WALK YOU HOME?

WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME YOUR HAND?

YOU'RE SO MEAN! YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE A PRESENT FOR ME? THEN INSTEAD YOU HAVE TO WALK ME HOME TODAY!

HMPH!



LOOKS LIKE AMARI IS BEING HASSLED BY MORIYAMA, AS USUAL!

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY SUCH MEAN THINGS ALL THE TIME...



STAND

WHY DON'T YOU CHILL OUT

AND STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND

HOW DARE YOU!

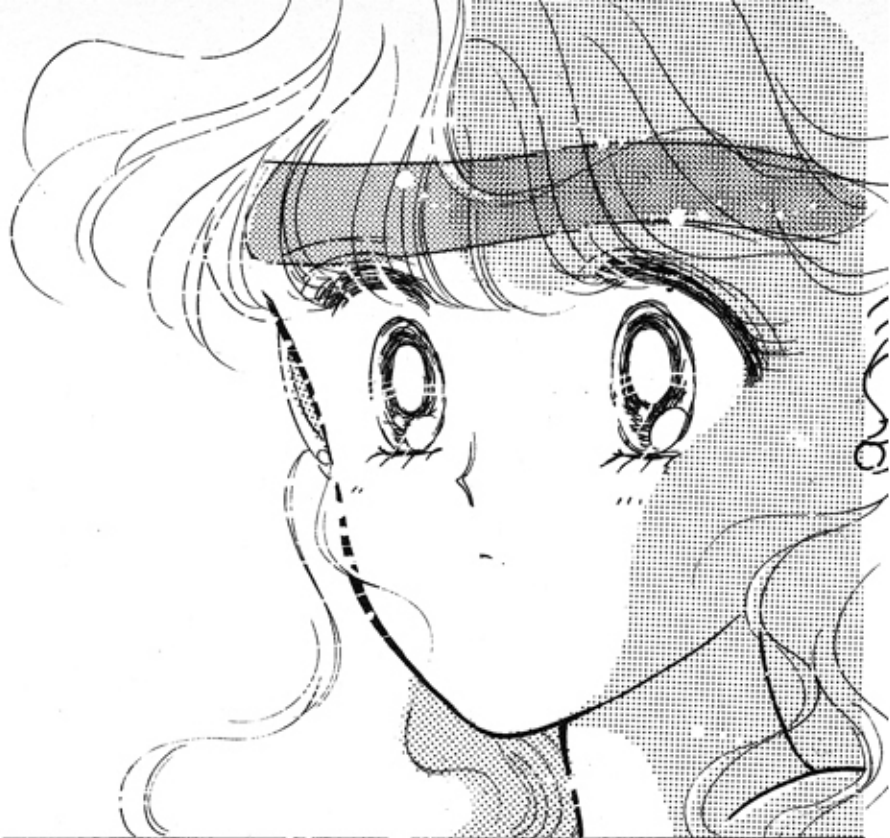
YOU'RE SO UGLY, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE REALLY A GIRL?

SHUT UP! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SO STICK YOUR NOSE SOMEWHERE ELSE!



HEY! AMARI! WALK ME HOME TODAY!

COME ON AMARI, WE'VE GOT PRACTICE.



THEN GO TO PRACTICE, OKAY?

I WASN'T FOLLOWING HIM AROUND



FOLLOWING YOU

IF I'M REALLY BOTHERING YOU THAT MUCH, AMARI



MIINA & AMARI



AMARI



I'VE GOTTA GO

THE TOURNAMENT IS COMING UP

YOU 9TH GRADERS ARE ANNOYING.

WHAT
A PIG



BOP

BOP

YAY!

WITH YOU
ON THE
GIRLS TEAM,
MIINA, AND
TSUKAMOTO
AS THE CAPTAIN
OF THE BOYS
TEAM, OUR
SCHOOL IS
SURE TO
WIN THE
TOURNAMENT!

MIINA,
THIS'LL BE
AN EASY
WIN FOR
SURE!

MIINA

REALLY?

WHAT'S
WRONG? YOU
SEEM UPSET.

no
way

WHAT?



WAS CHOSEN TO PLAY
AGAINST THIS GUY, MIINA!
SO FAR HE'S BEATING THE
11TH GRADER HE'S FACING
OFF AGAINST -- IT'S
INCREDIBLE!

he's really
tough!



AMARI

IT'S
GOING TO
BE A REALLY
CLOSE
MATCH I
THINK.

AH!
YAYOI!
HOW'S
THE BOYS
TEAM
GOING?

PANT
PANT



WHAT THE HECK - HE'S TAKING A GIRL, WHO ISN'T EVEN PART OF HIS TEAM, ON THE COURT WITH HIM? WHAT THE HELL

I'M GONNA GO TAKE A PEEK!
DASH

AH HAH HA WOO HOO!

HABA

UNLIKE YOU, MIINA, HE COMES OUT TO THE COURTS TO PRACTICE EVERY DAY WITHOUT FAIL.

OVER THIS LAST YEAR, AMARI'S GOTTEN REALLY GOOD

DID YOU SEE THE GAME?

WHAT'S SO TOUGH ABOUT HIM? WHAT A JERK.

I GUESS I REALLY AM FOLLOWING HIM AROUND NOW



DID YOU KNOW?

DOES

YOU KNOW, HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND NOW.

THAT AMARI ...

EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T STAND OUT MUCH IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, NOW HE DOES SINCE HE'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC.

THERE'S SOMEONE HE LIKES A LOT.

IT'S FROM WHERE I WORK.

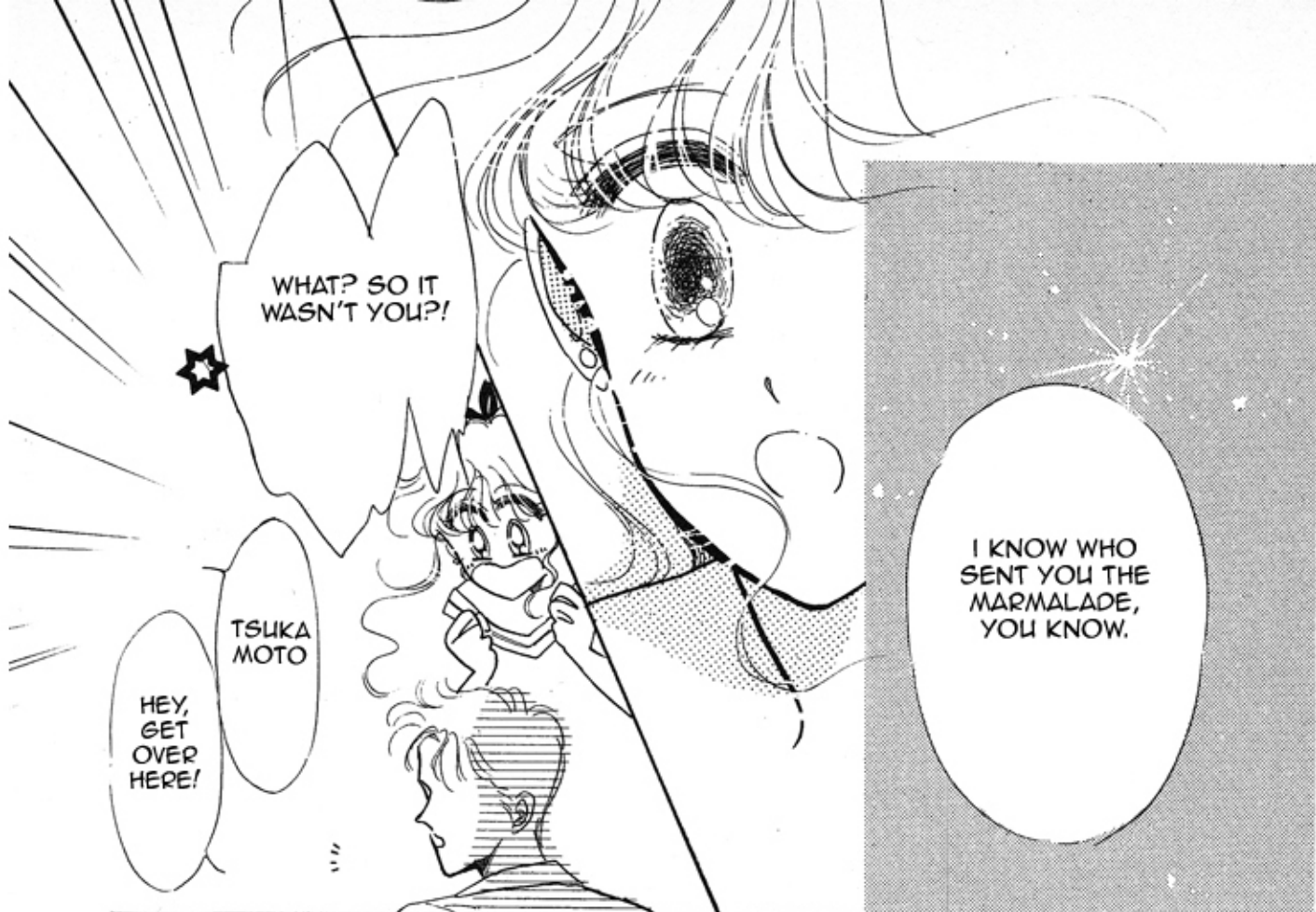
ANYWAY, MIINA, I HEARD YOU GOT SOME MARMALADE TODAY?

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE...

AMARI HAS SOMEONE LIKE THAT IN MIND?

WHAT?

NO WAY... I HAD NO IDEA.

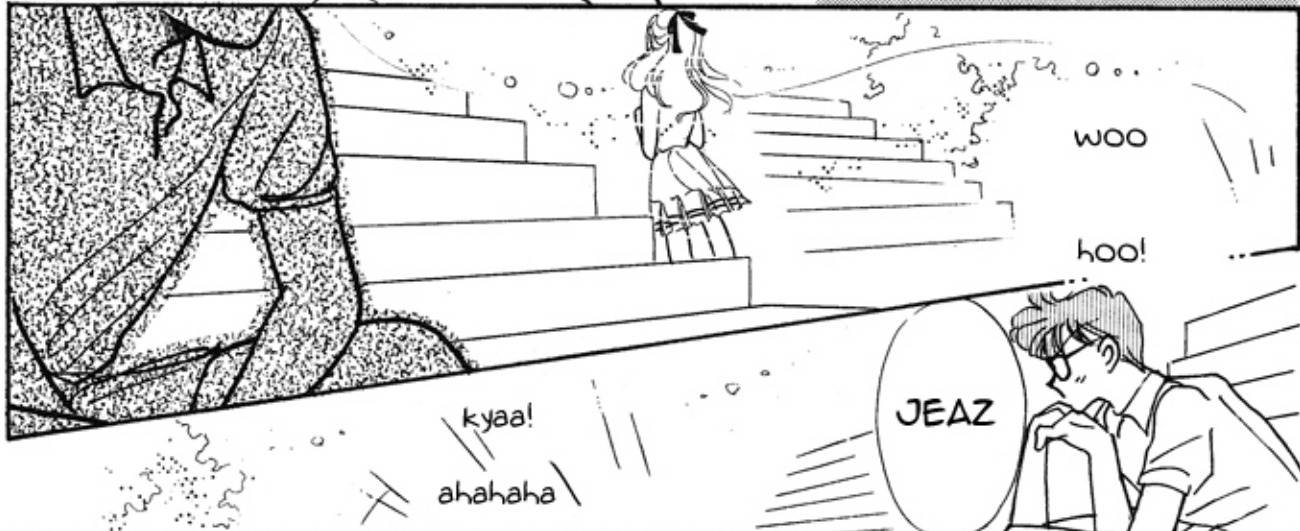


WHAT? SO IT WASN'T YOU?!

TSUKA MOTO

HEY, GET OVER HERE!

I KNOW WHO SENT YOU THE MARMALADE, YOU KNOW.



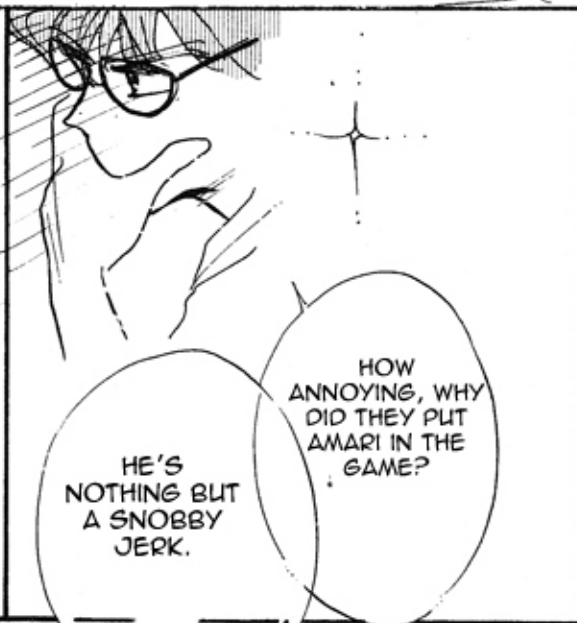
WOO

hoo!

kyaa!

ahahaha

JEAZ



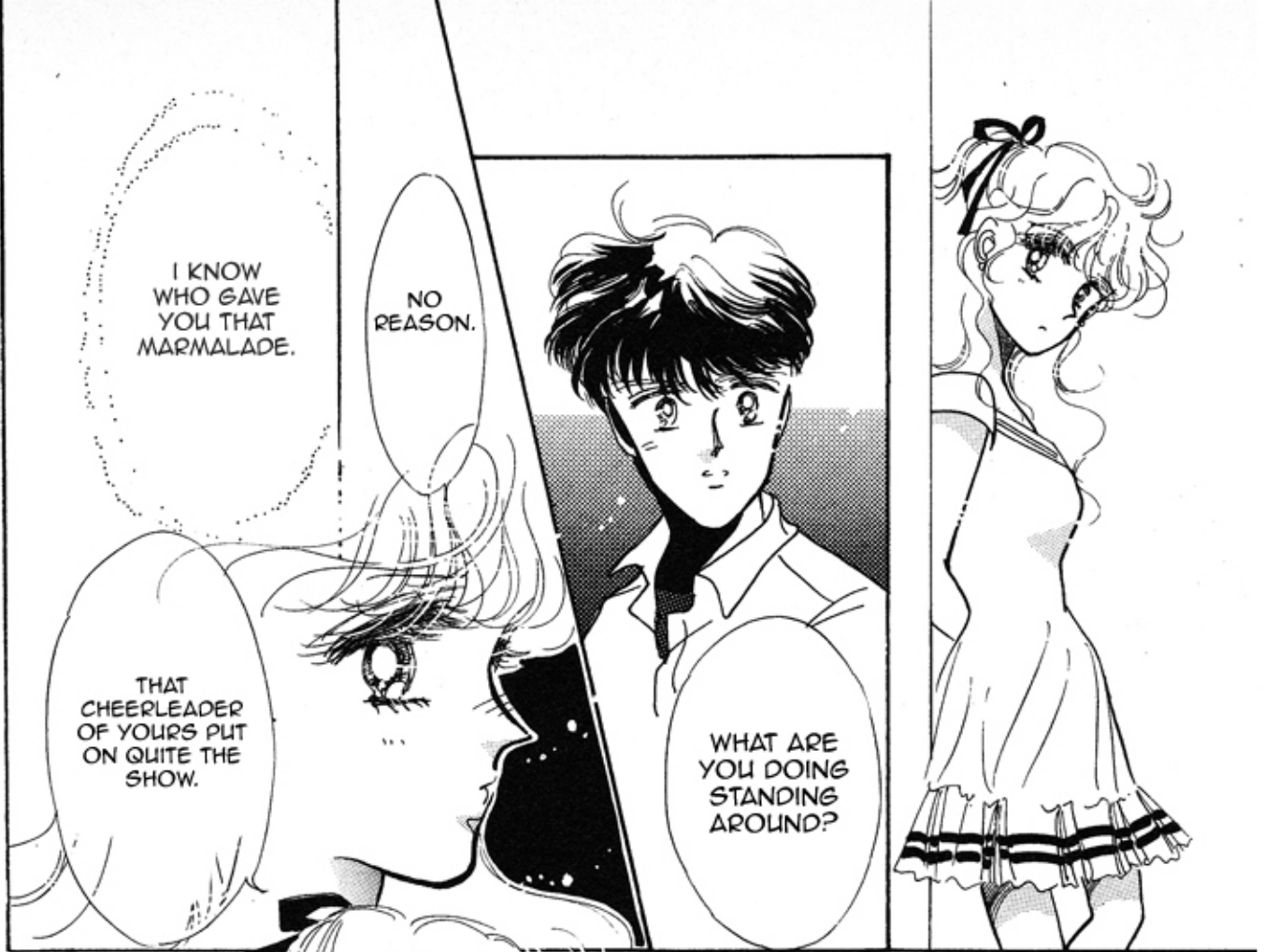
HE'S NOTHING BUT A SNOBBY JERK.

HOW ANNOYING, WHY DID THEY PUT AMARI IN THE GAME?



I'M COMING, I'M COMING

CALM DOWN



I KNOW WHO GAVE YOU THAT MARMALADE.

NO REASON.

THAT CHEERLEADER OF YOURS PUT ON QUITE THE SHOW.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING STANDING AROUND?



FIRST I'M A BUG FOR FOLLOWING HIM AROUND

WHAT THE HELL

I DEFINITELY WILL NOT!

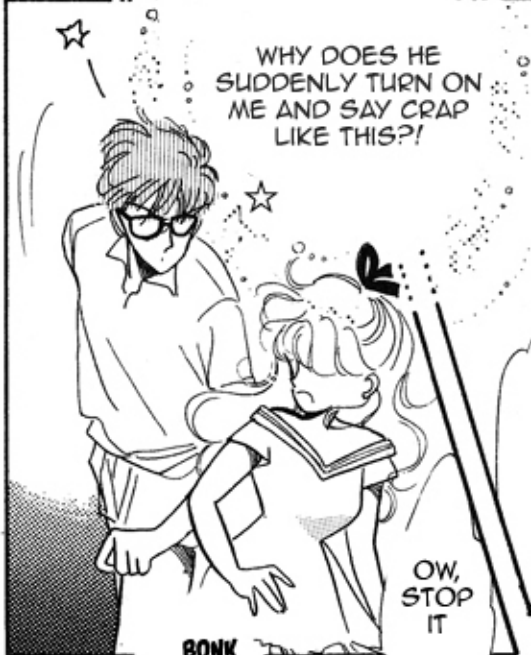


PEACE!

HEH HEH



NEXT TIME YOU SHOULD CHEER FOR ME.



WHY DOES HE SUDDENLY TURN ON ME AND SAY CRAP LIKE THIS?!

BONK

OW, STOP IT

AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO CHEER FOR HIM?
HMPH, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN AN UGLY THING LIKE YOU WOULDN'T MAKE A GOOD CHEERLEADER.



WHAT A
NASTY
ATTITUDE
YOU HAVE.



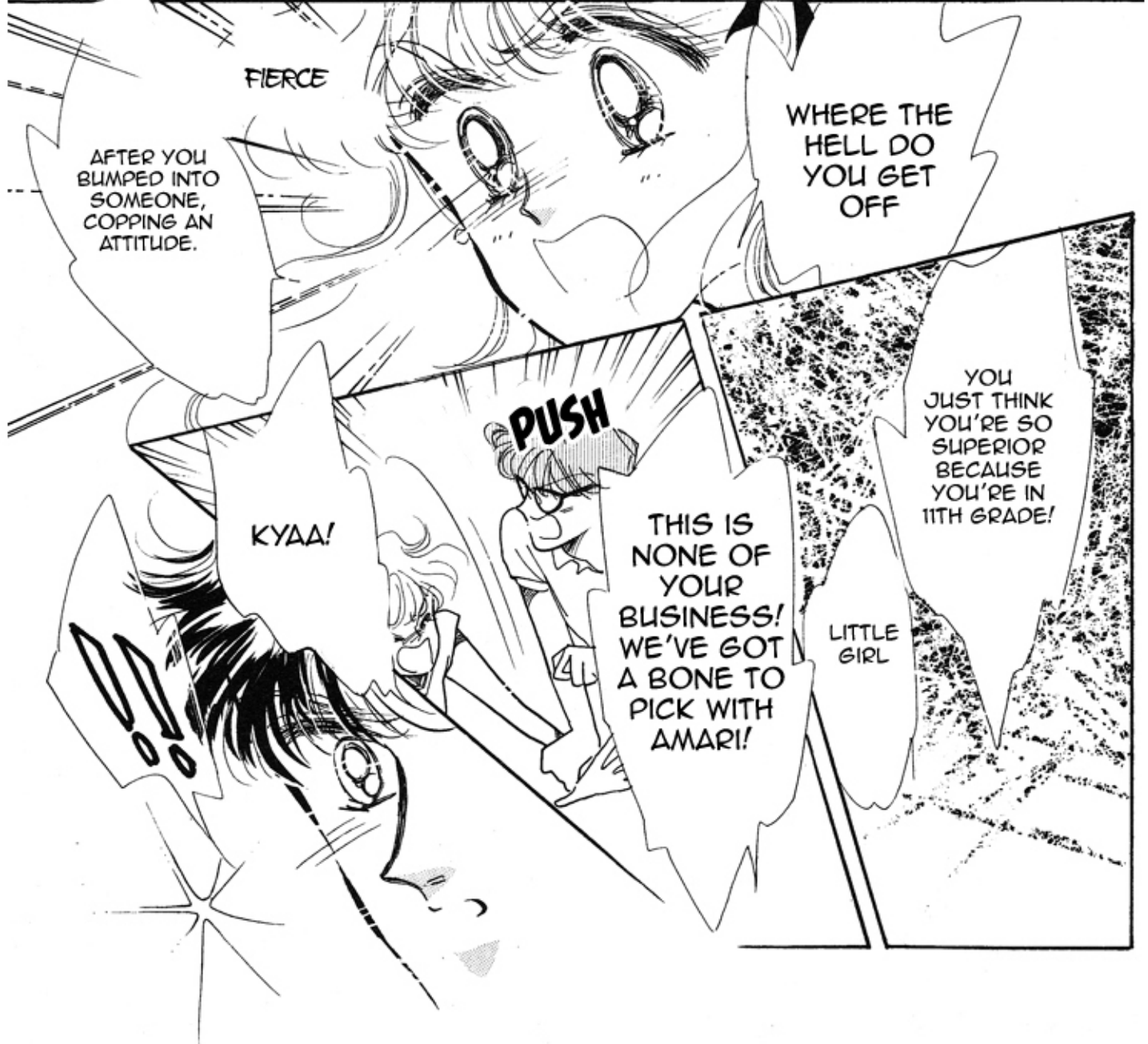
DON'T
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING
BETTER TO
DO THAN
FLIRT WITH
GIRLS IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?

ACK,

HEY,
WATCH
OUT,
YOU'RE
IN THE
WAY!

EXCLU-

IS THAT THE
11TH GRADER
HE PLAYED
AGAINST?



FIERCE

AFTER YOU
BUMPED INTO
SOMEONE,
COPPING AN
ATTITUDE.

WHERE THE
HELL DO
YOU GET
OFF

PUSH

KYAAA!

THIS IS
NONE OF
YOUR
BUSINESS!
WE'VE GOT
A BONE TO
PICK WITH
AMARI!

YOU
JUST THINK
YOU'RE SO
SUPERIOR
BECAUSE
YOU'RE IN
11TH GRADE!

LITTLE
GIRL



SHOVE

OOPH!

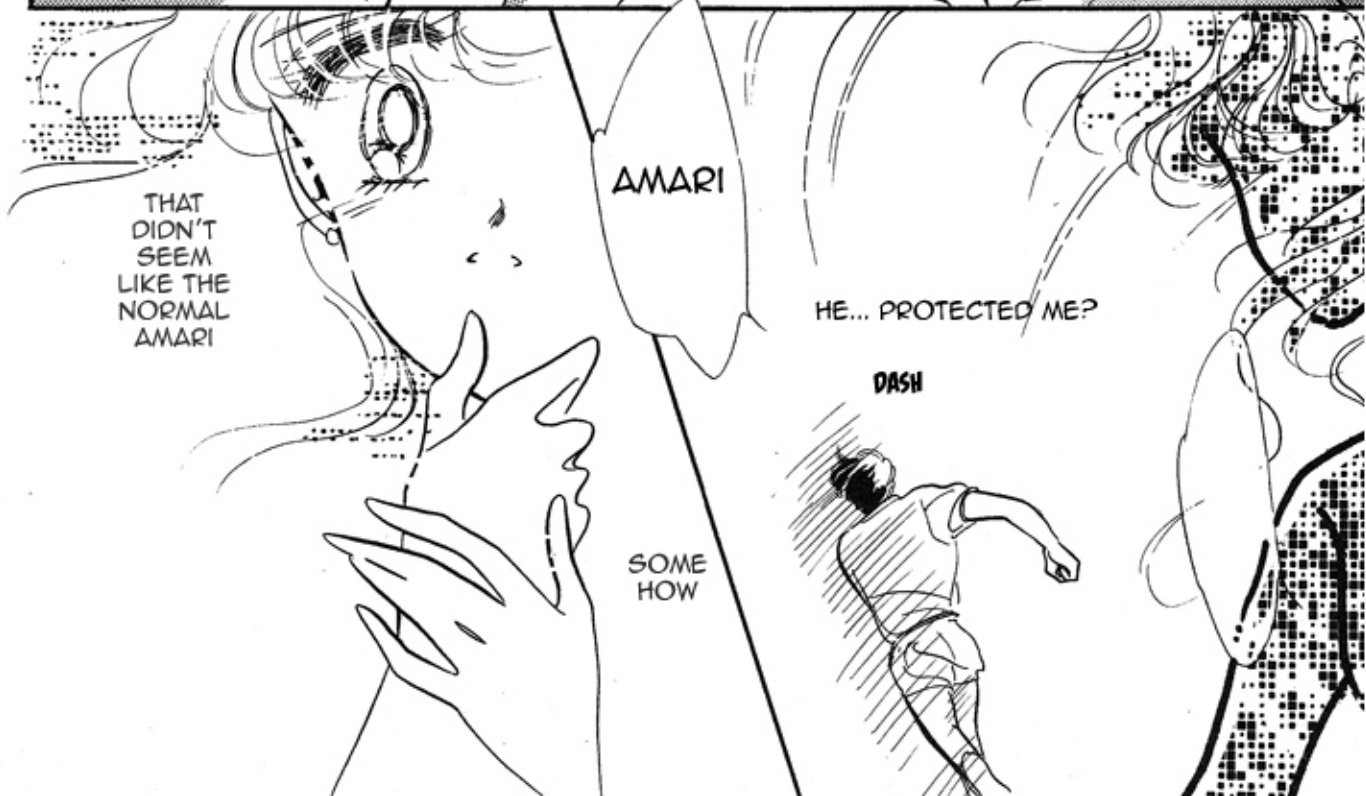
I HOPE YOU'RE PLEASED WITH YOURSELF.

OH LOOK, THE 10TH GRADER ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING, HE PROTECTED A GIRL.



SLICE

GASP



THAT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE NORMAL AMARI

AMARI

HE... PROTECTED ME?

DASH

SOME HOW





PANT

CHIRP

tweet
tweet



FWISH



IT WASN'T
YOUR FAULT!

WELL,
BECAUSE
IT'S MY
FAULT!!

WHY ARE
YOU APOLO-
GIZING?



I'M
SORRY.

IS YOUR
HAND ANY
BETTER?



IS IT ALWAYS
LIKE THIS

WHY

BETWEEN
US?

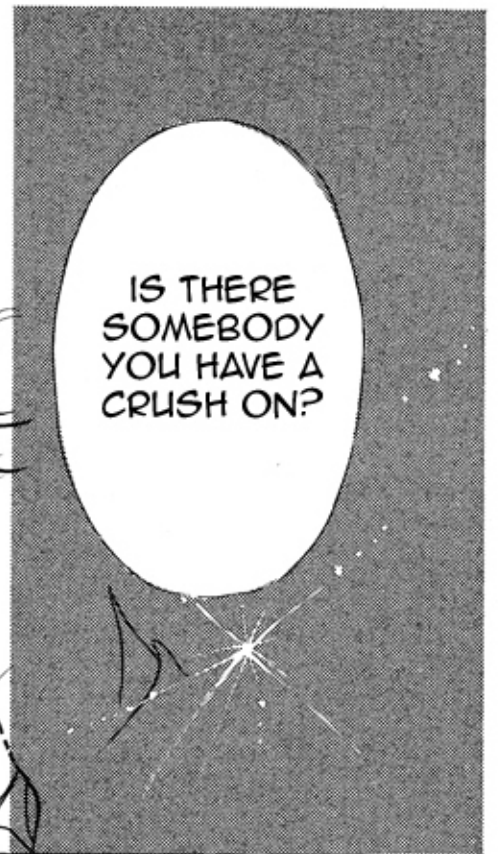
ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
WANTED TO
SAY?

UHM...

ABOUT THAT MARMALADE

AMARI

YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUSLY
ASKING ABOUT
THAT, HAHA.





TO CHEER FOR ME

IF YOU DON'T COME TO THE MATCHES

SO IT'S FINE

I'M GOING TO TAKE PRACTICE IN THE MORNING FROM NOW ON

WITH EACH OTHER.

THAT ALL WE EVER DO IS ARGUE

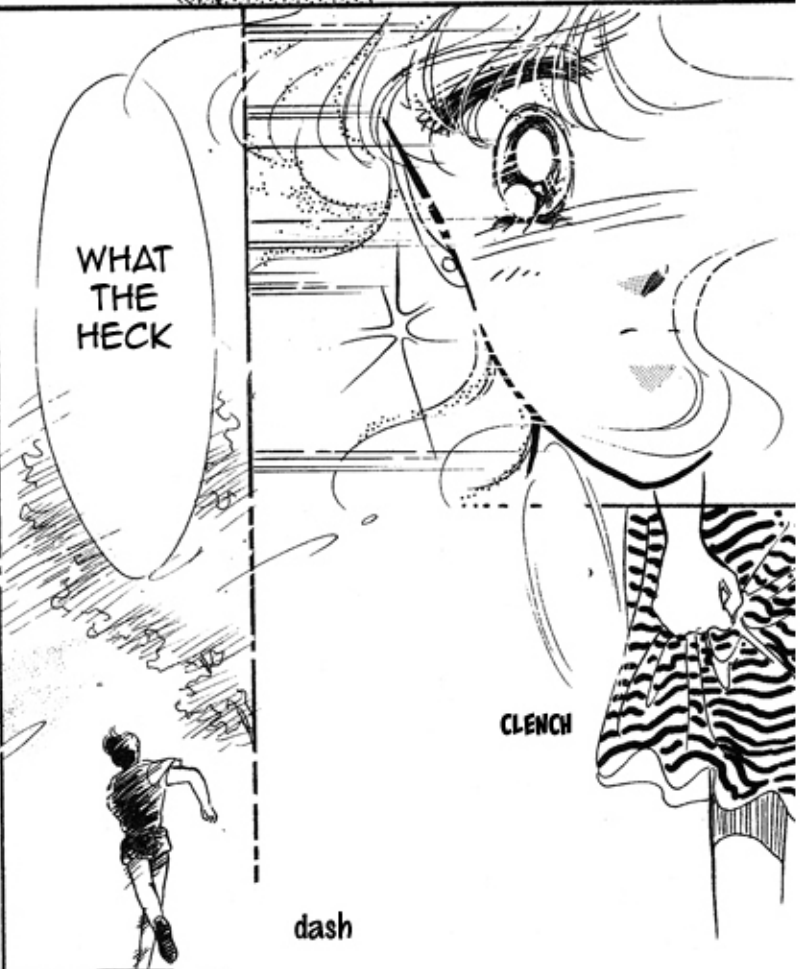


RUNS AWAY

HE

FROM ME SO QUICKLY


AMARI



WHAT THE HECK

CLENCH

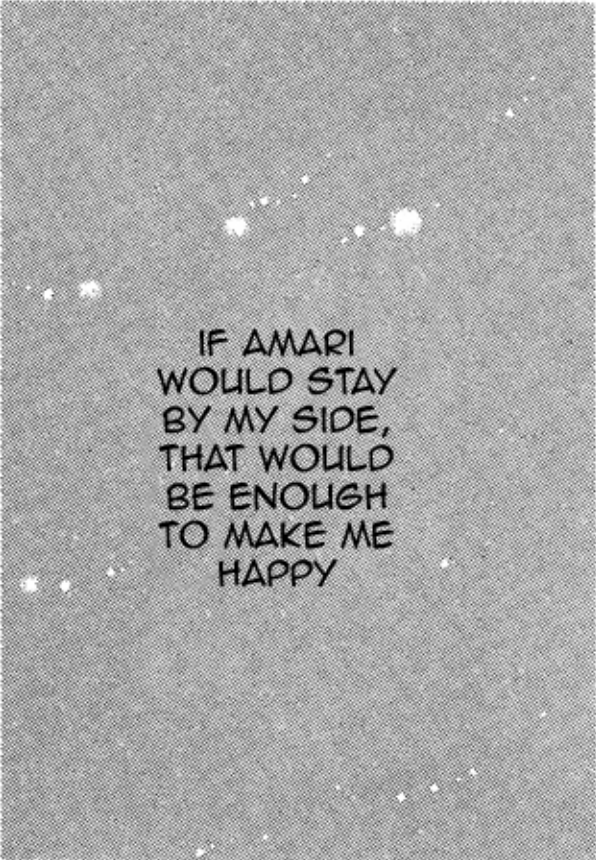
dash



YOU HAVE
A PRINCE
WHO BRINGS
YOU BIRTHDAY
PRESENTS

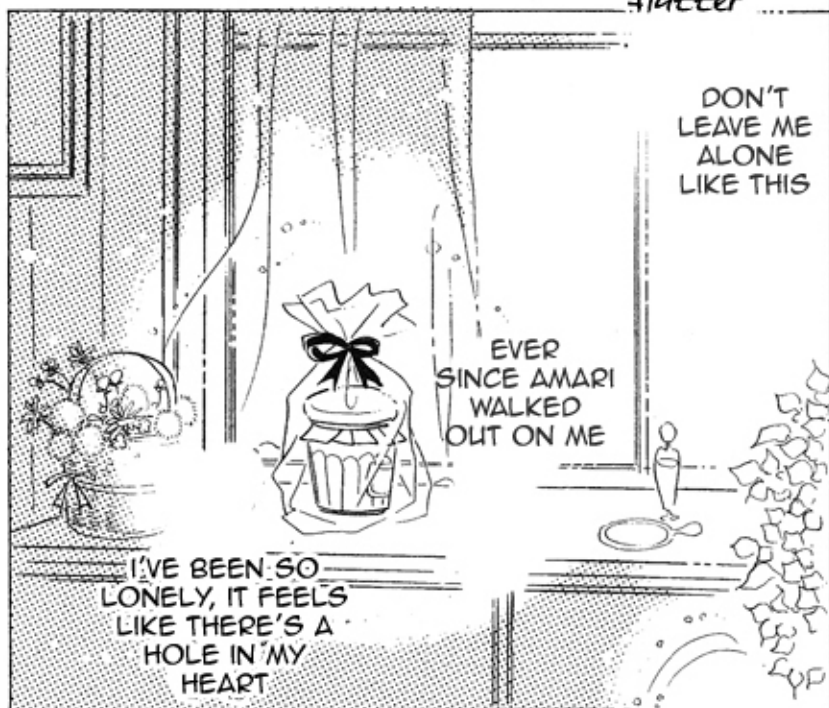
YOU'RE IN
THE SAME
BOAT, MIINA

I DON'T NEED A PRINCE



IF AMARI
WOULD STAY
BY MY SIDE,
THAT WOULD
BE ENOUGH
TO MAKE ME
HAPPY

flutter



DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE LIKE THIS

EVER SINCE AMARI WALKED OUT ON ME

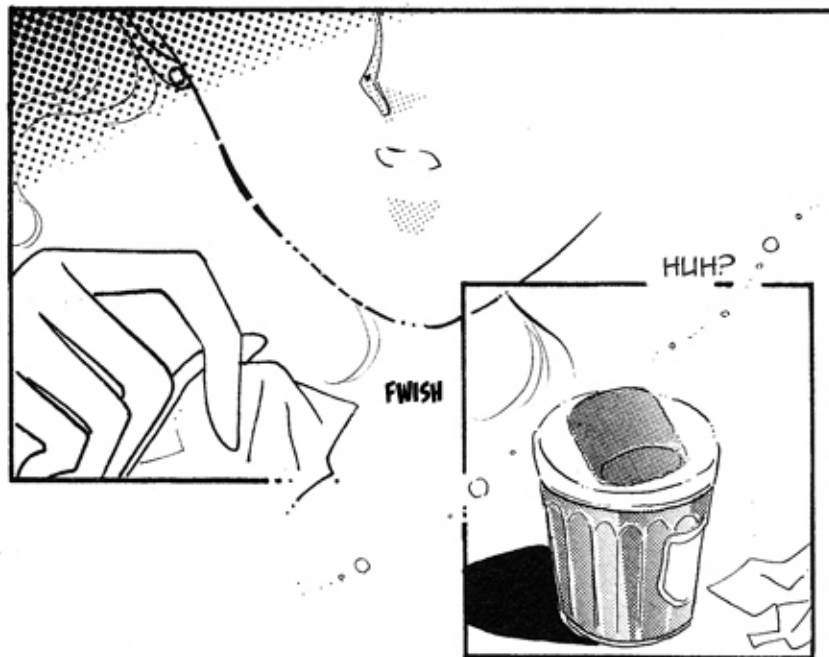
I'VE BEEN SO LONELY, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S A HOLE IN MY HEART



IT'S SO LONELY

IS THE ONE I LOVE

SLIP



HUH?

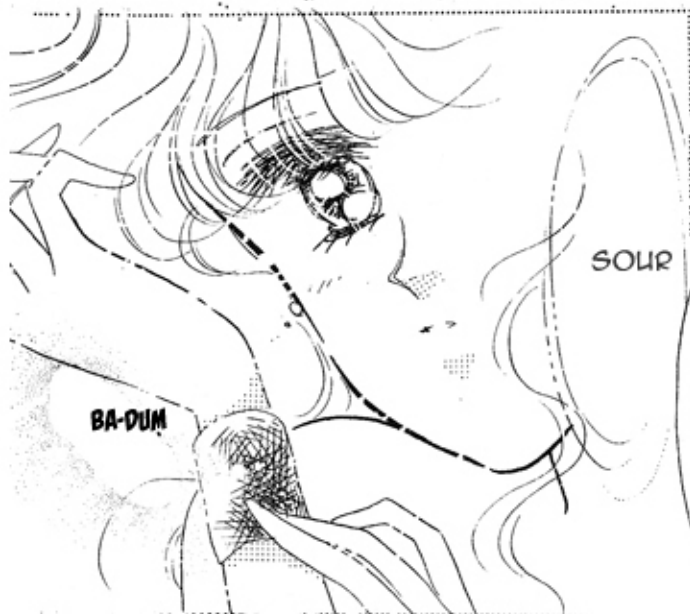
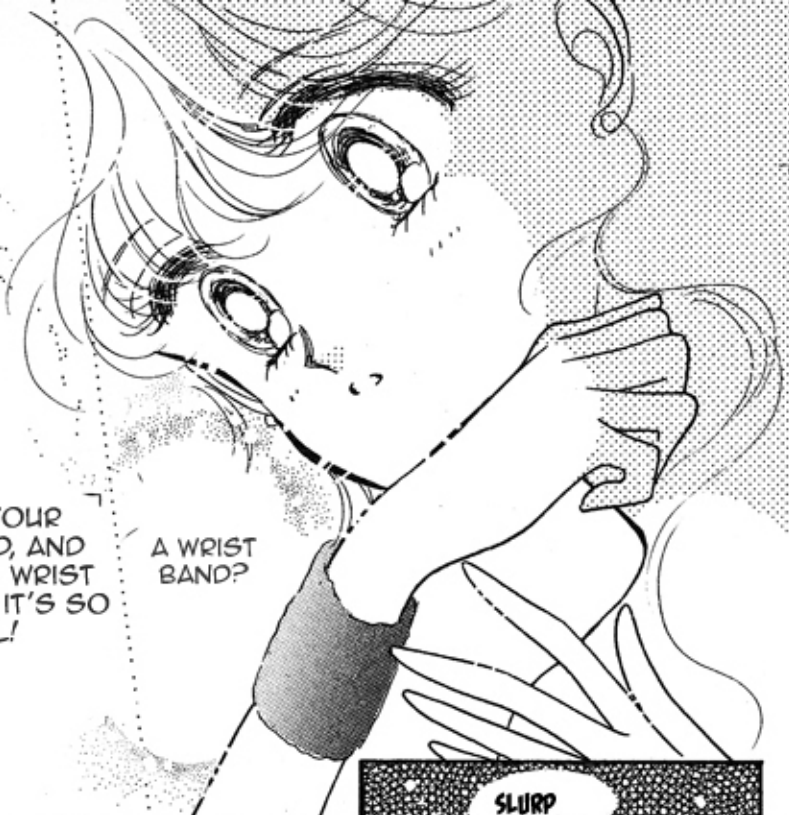
FWISH

NO WAY! I JUST BOUGHT THIS ONE! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY NEXT YEAR!



I WANT YOUR HEADBAND, AND YOUR NEW WRIST BAND TOO, IT'S SO COOL!

A WRIST BAND?



BA-DUM

SOUR

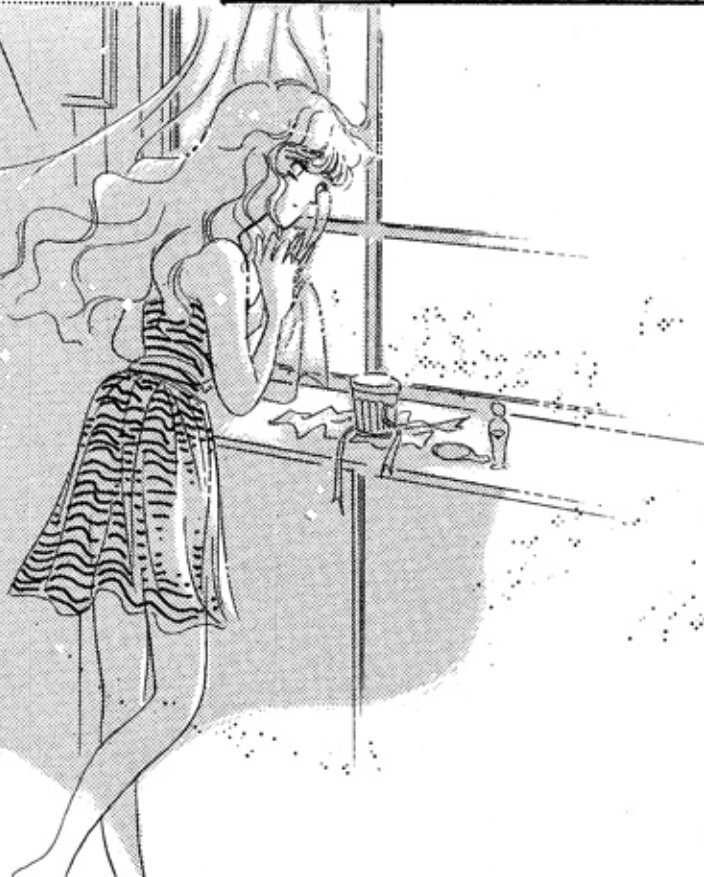
WHAT THE HECK?

THIS ISN'T SWEET, IT'S LEMON MARMALADE?

IT'S SOUR



AMARI





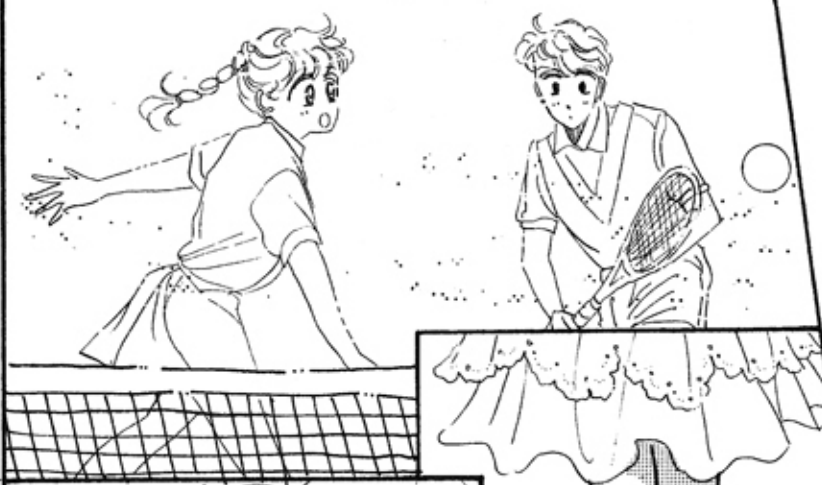
SO IT WAS AMARI AFTER ALL?

HE DID REMEMBER

AND GAVE ME

THIS FOR MY

BIRTHDAY



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY GIRLS IN AMARI'S COURT?

I GUESS I'LL GO CHEER FOR HIM ANYWAY



TAP

TAP

WOO HOO!

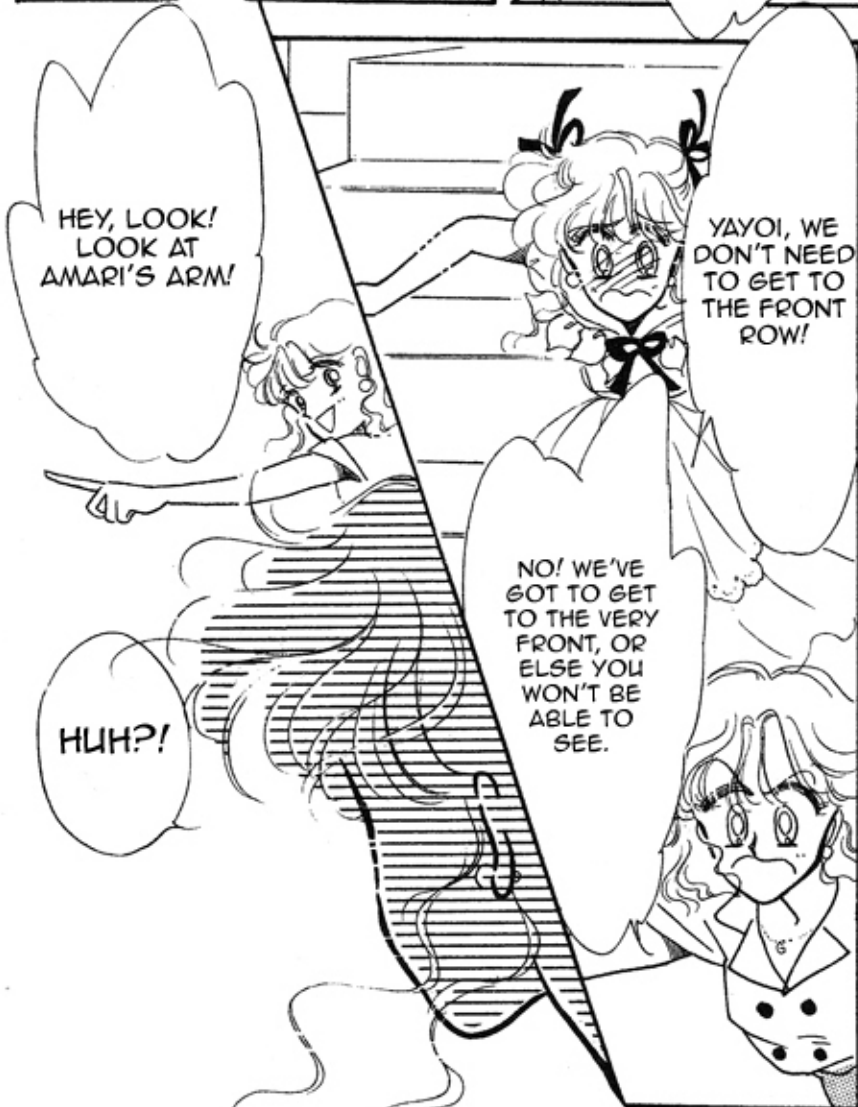


YA-YAYOI...

COME ON HURRY UP, IT'S ABOUT TO START!



MIINA! YOU'RE LATE! I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO SHOW UP!



HEY, LOOK! LOOK AT AMARI'S ARM!

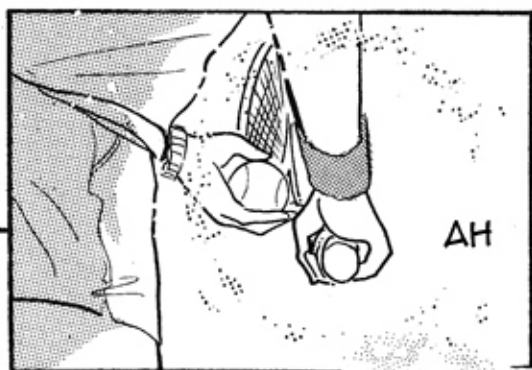
HUH?!

YAYOI, WE DON'T NEED TO GET TO THE FRONT ROW!

NO! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE VERY FRONT, OR ELSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE.



WOO HOO!



ISN'T THIS EXCITING ?

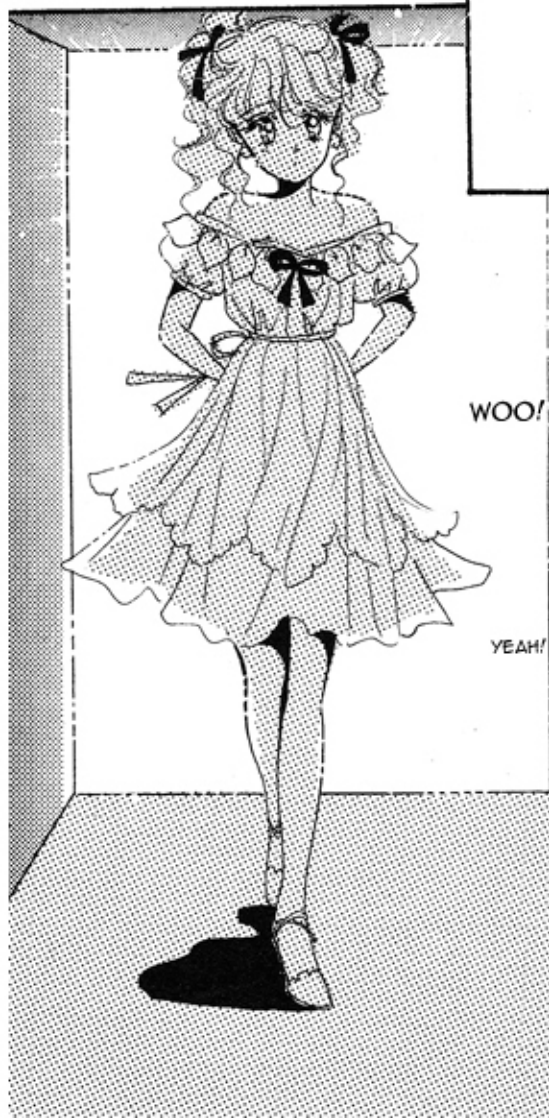
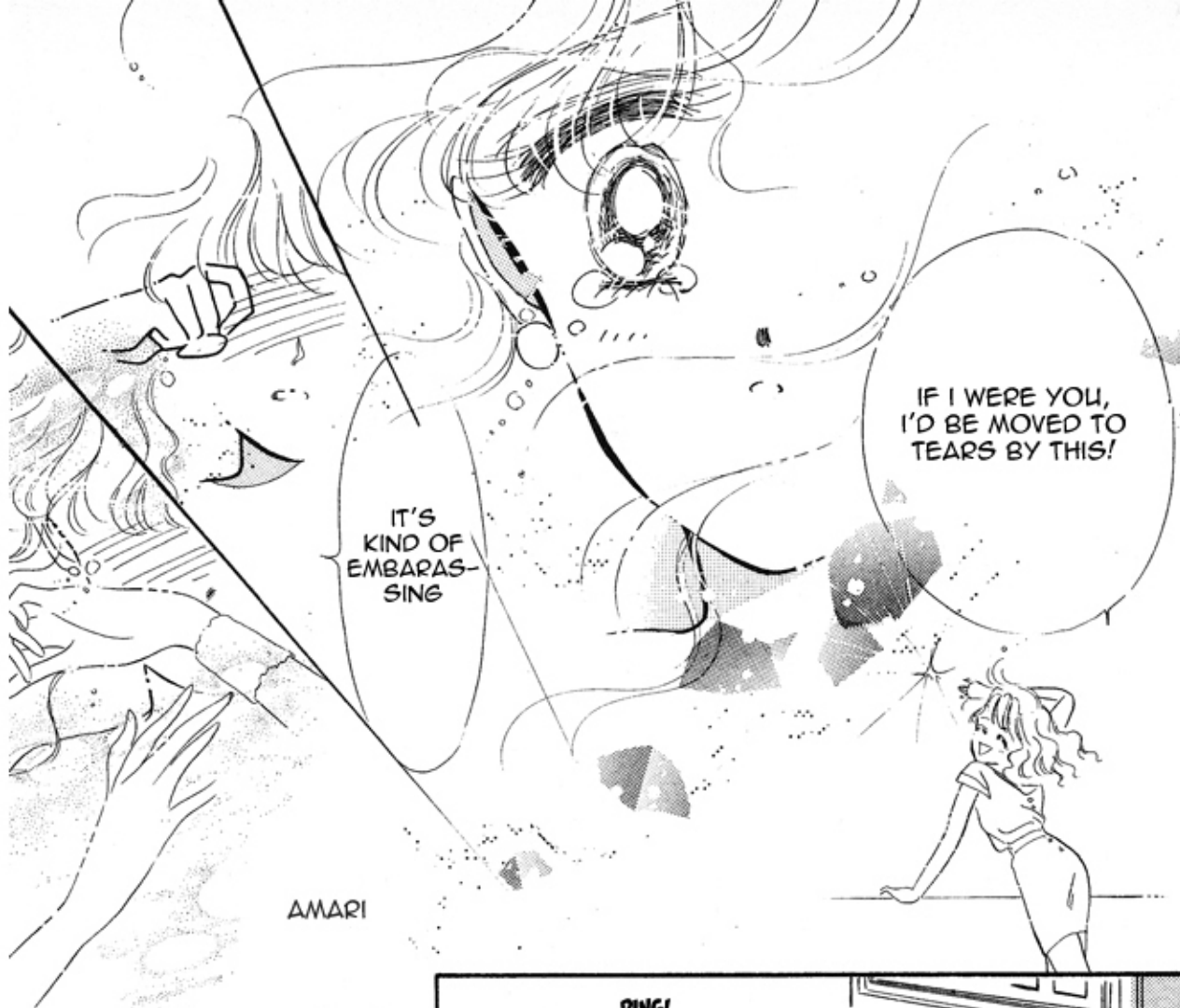
THE PERSON YOU LOVE, PLAYING A MATCH USING YOUR RACKET

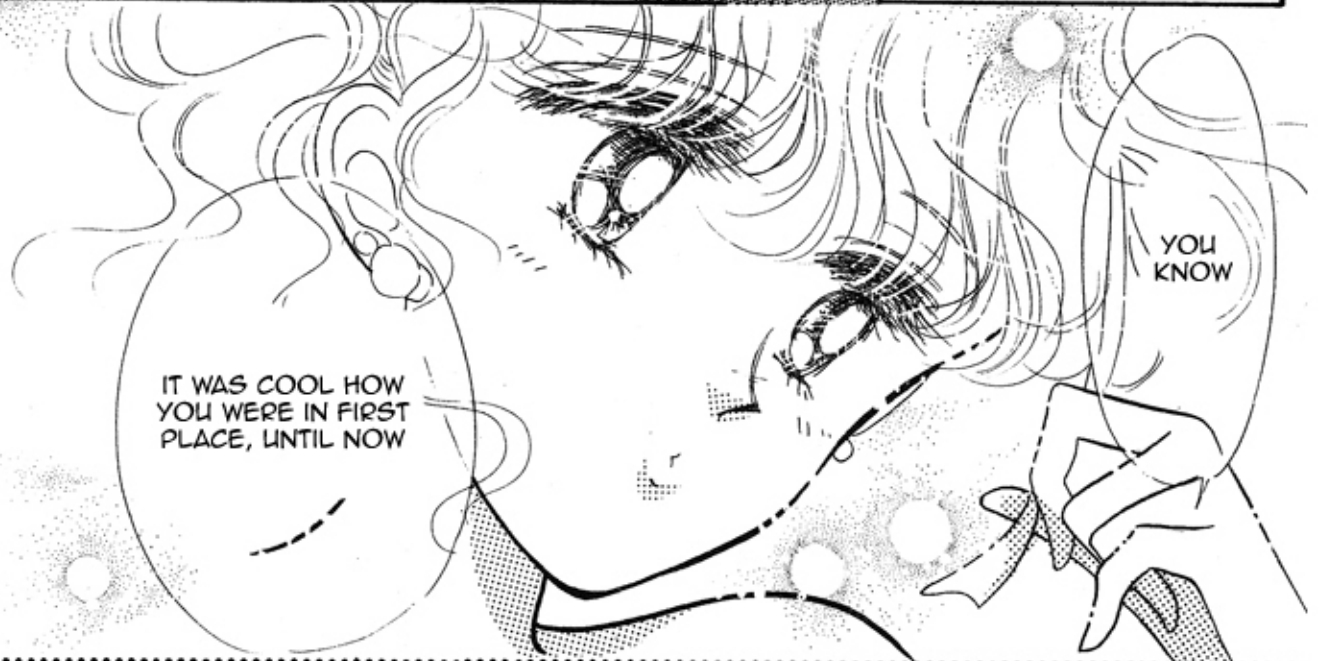
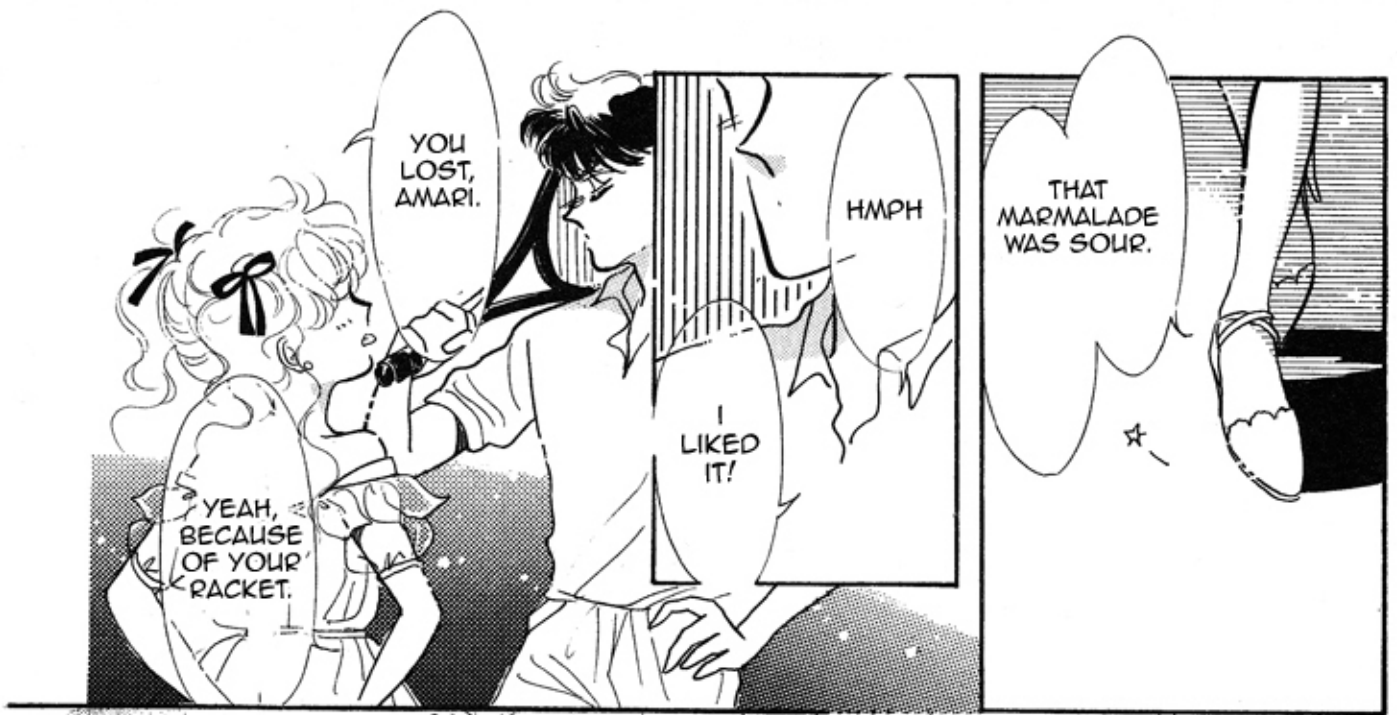
IT'S THE SAME WRIST BAND



LOOK, AMARI IS USING YOUR RACKET, MIINA!





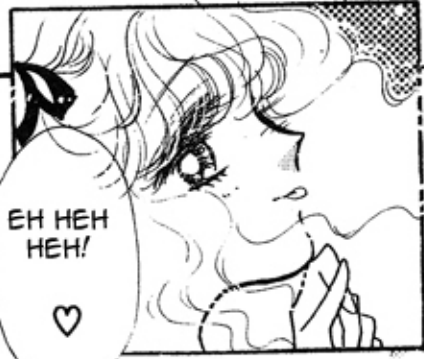




BRUSH

ARE YOU GOING OUT SOMEWHERE?

YOU'RE ALL DRESSED UP.

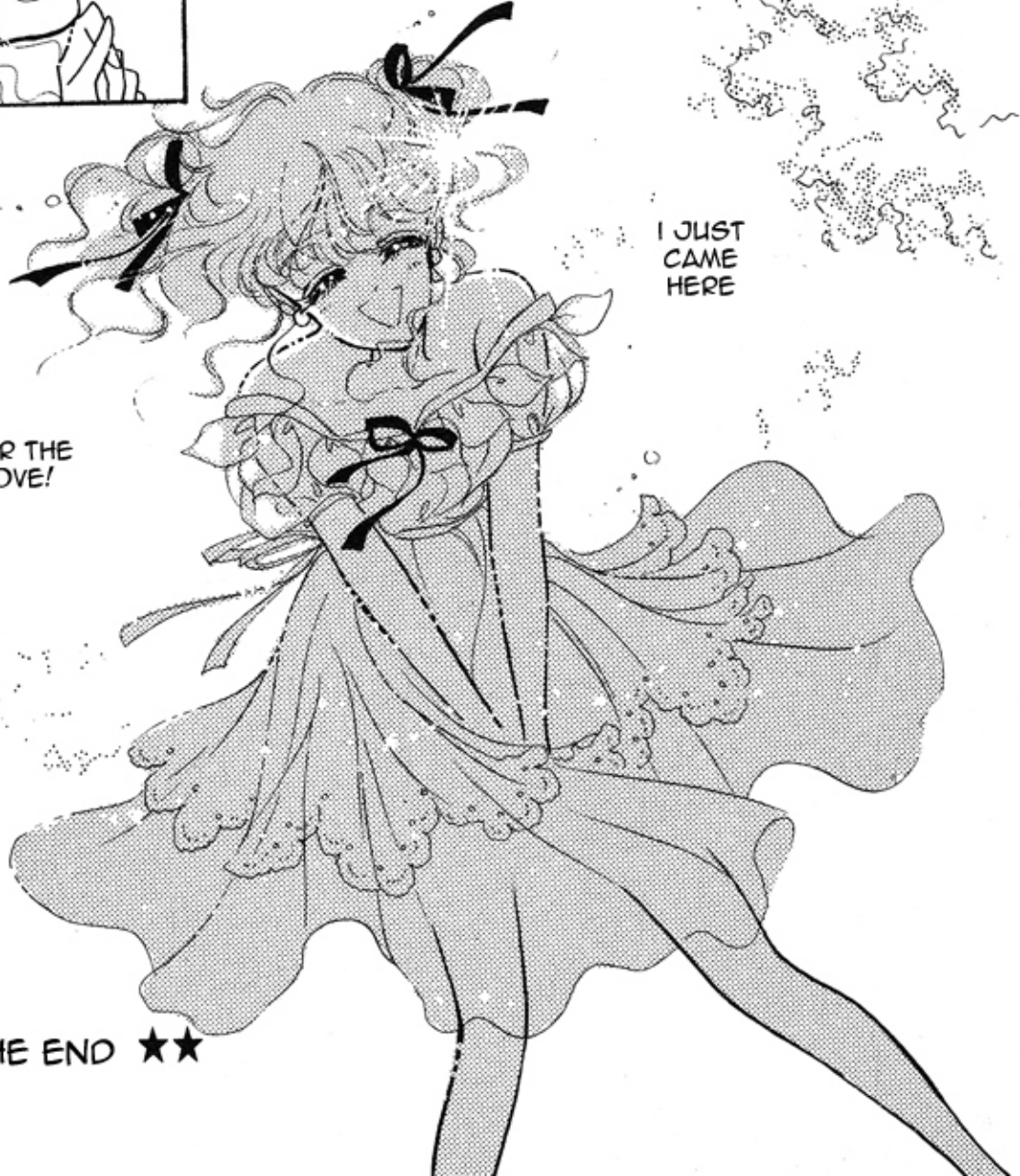


EH HEH HEH!



TO TORTURE YOU.

JUST



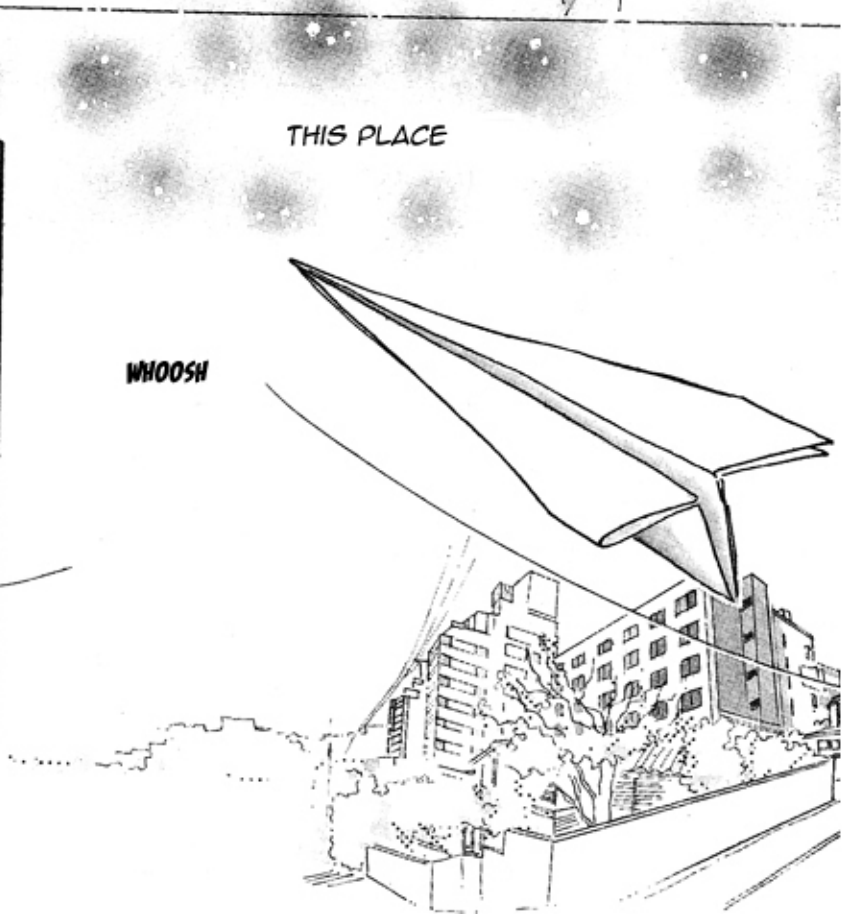
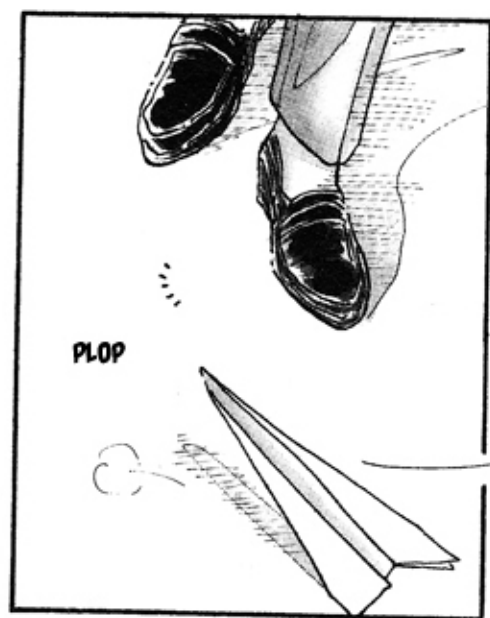
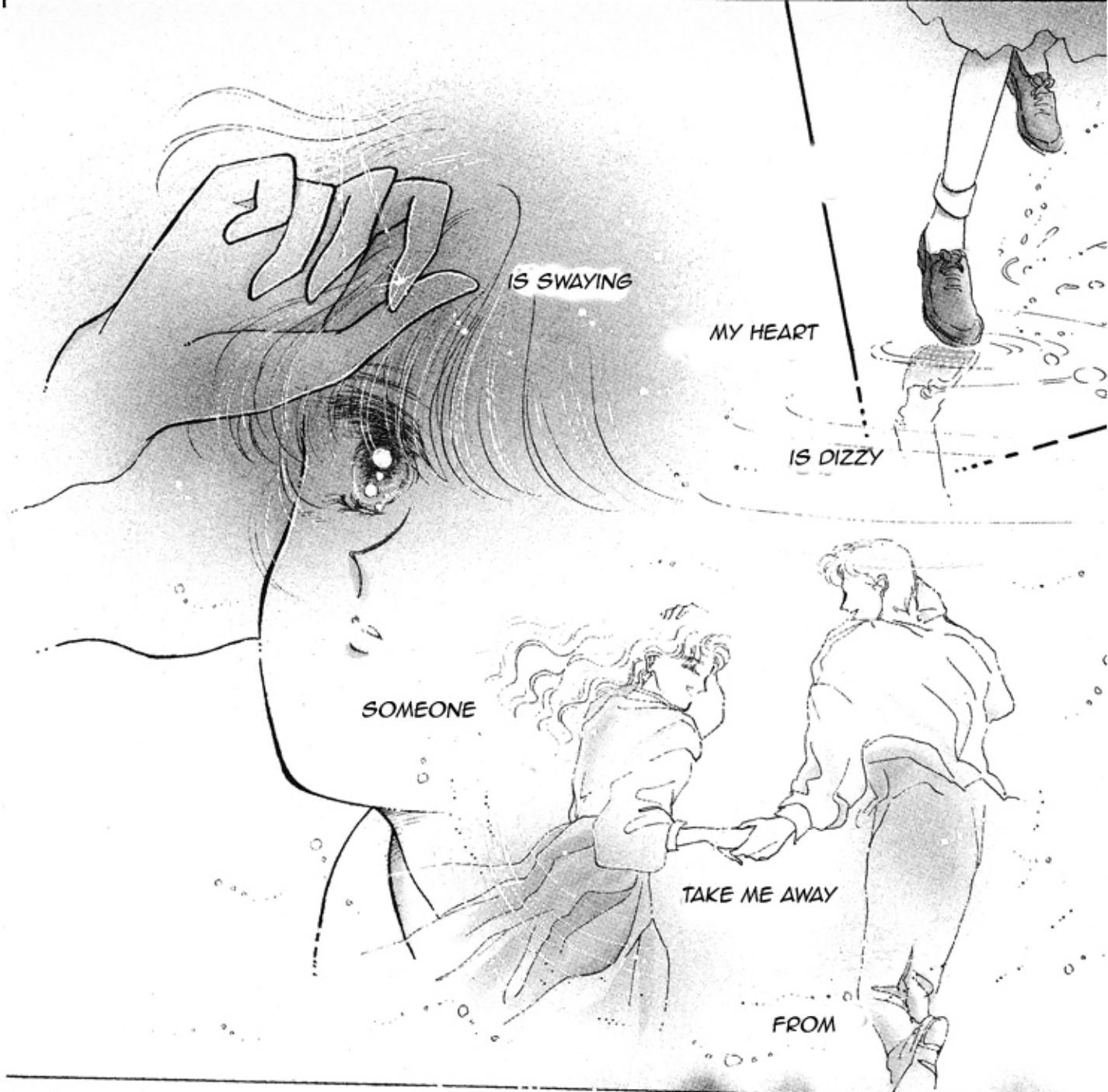
I JUST CAME HERE

TO CHEER FOR THE PERSON I LOVE!

★★ THE END ★★



*The Lost
Child's Swing*





HEY TEACHER, GIVE THAT BACK!

THAT'S MY EXAM.



CRINKLE

CROSSING THE OCEAN*, IS IT?

*mima's last name, "toka", literally means overseas travel



MS. TOKA MIMA, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL IF YOU KEEP GETTING THE SAME GRADES AS YOUR STUDENT NUMBER.

THAT TEACHER

IS SUCH A JERK



HEH, AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO PAY YOU A VISIT.



LATELY THAT TEACHER HAS BEEN COMING OVER TO MY HOUSE

STEAM



I DON'T UNDERSTAND



MAAAAAN, OF ALL THE PEOPLE TO FIND MY TEST GRADE, WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THAT TEACHER? I WAS GONNA TRASH THAT EXAM.

SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

JEAZ, HE'S SNOOZING
EVEN THOUGH HE'S
SUPPOSED TO BE MY
PRIVATE TUTOR!

SNORE

HEY
SAN!

SHH

I THINK
HE'S AMUSING.
I LIKE HIM.

TEACHER MAEJIMA IS
QUITE A CHARACTER. I
HEAR HE FOUND YOUR
PAPER AIRPLANE TEST
AND SCOLDED YOU...

GIGGLE
GIGGLE

ISN'T SHE
PRETTY?
ARE YOU
AWAKE
NOW?

TEACHER,
THIS IS
SAWAKO, A
10TH
GRADER

HOW
LONG WAS
I ASLEEP
FOR?

GASP

JUMP

ISN'T SHE
PRETTY?



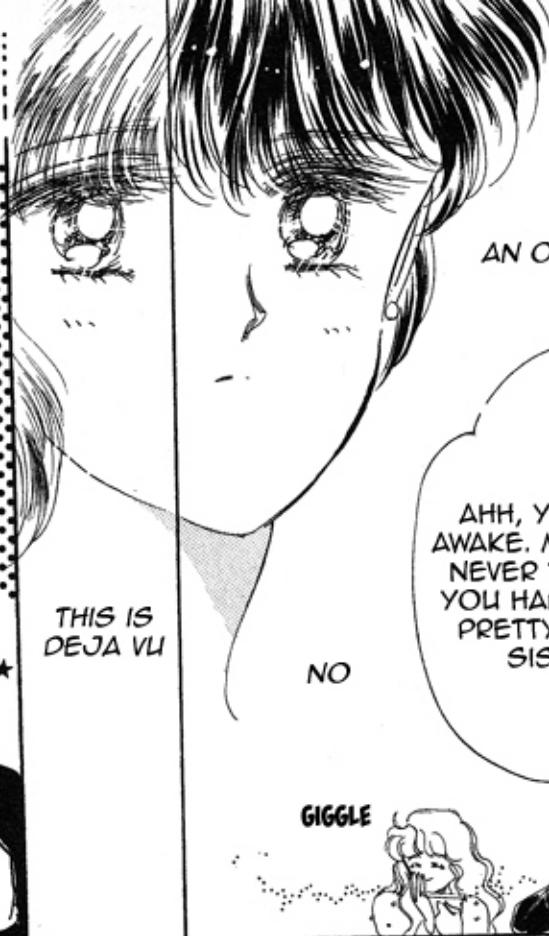
SO TEACHER,
HOW IS MIMA
DOING?

OH, HER? IT'S
NO GOOD, SHE
STILL NEEDS
TO STUDY
HARDER.

RUB
RUB

RIGHT?

THIS IS
DEJA VU

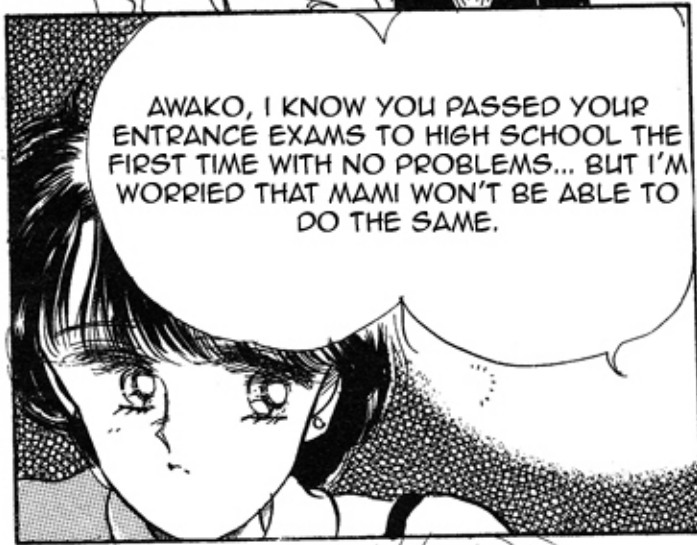


AN OMEN

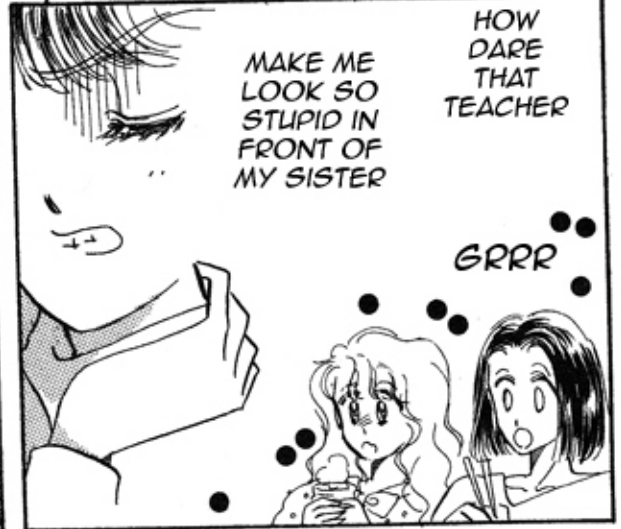
NO

AHH, YEAH, I'M
AWAKE. MIMA, YOU
NEVER TOLD ME
YOU HAD SUCH A
PRETTY OLDER
SISTER!

GIGGLE



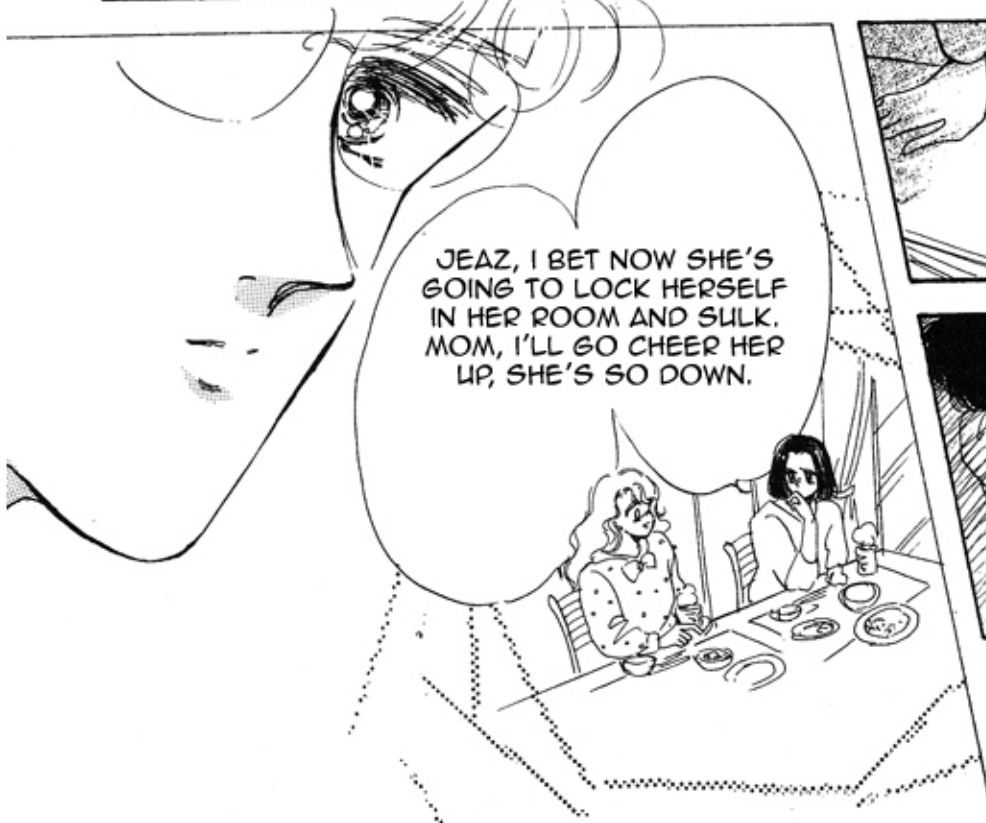
AWAKO, I KNOW YOU PASSED YOUR
ENTRANCE EXAMS TO HIGH SCHOOL THE
FIRST TIME WITH NO PROBLEMS... BUT I'M
WORRIED THAT MAMI WON'T BE ABLE TO
DO THE SAME.



MAKE ME
LOOK SO
STUPID IN
FRONT OF
MY SISTER

HOW
DARE
THAT
TEACHER

GRRR



JEAZ, I BET NOW SHE'S
GOING TO LOCK HERSELF
IN HER ROOM AND SULK.
MOM, I'LL GO CHEER HER
UP, SHE'S SO DOWN.

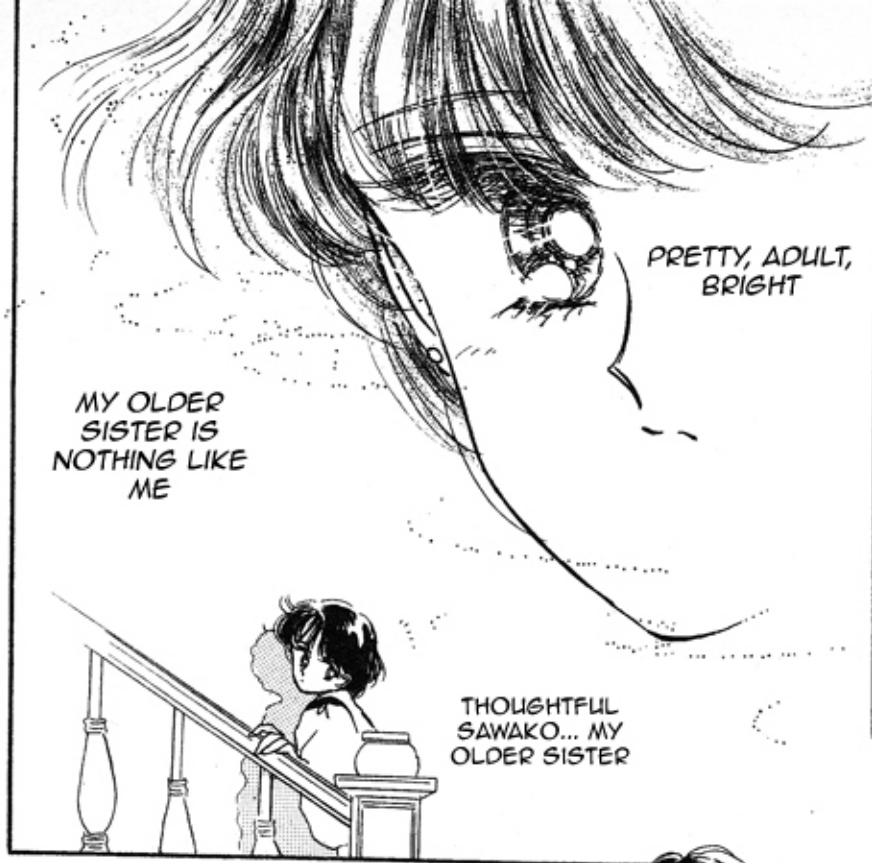


THUD



FWISH

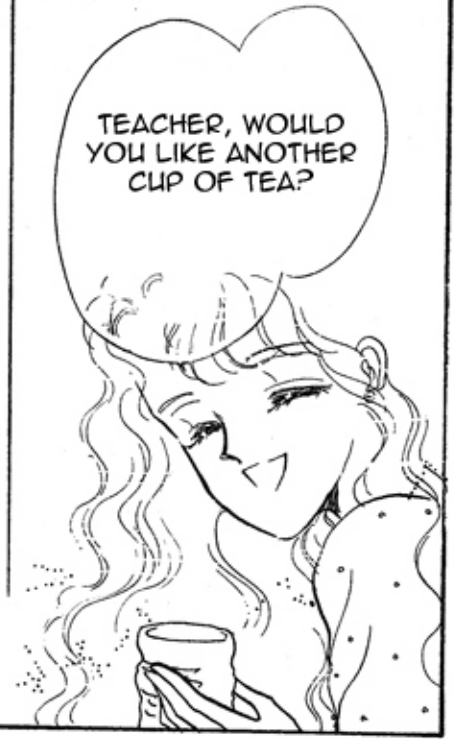
HEY,
MIMA!



PRETTY, ADULT,
BRIGHT

MY OLDER
SISTER IS
NOTHING LIKE
ME

THOUGHTFUL
SAWAKO... MY
OLDER SISTER



TEACHER, WOULD
YOU LIKE ANOTHER
CUP OF TEA?



SAN REALLY IS MY IDOL...
I THINK I MIGHT BE

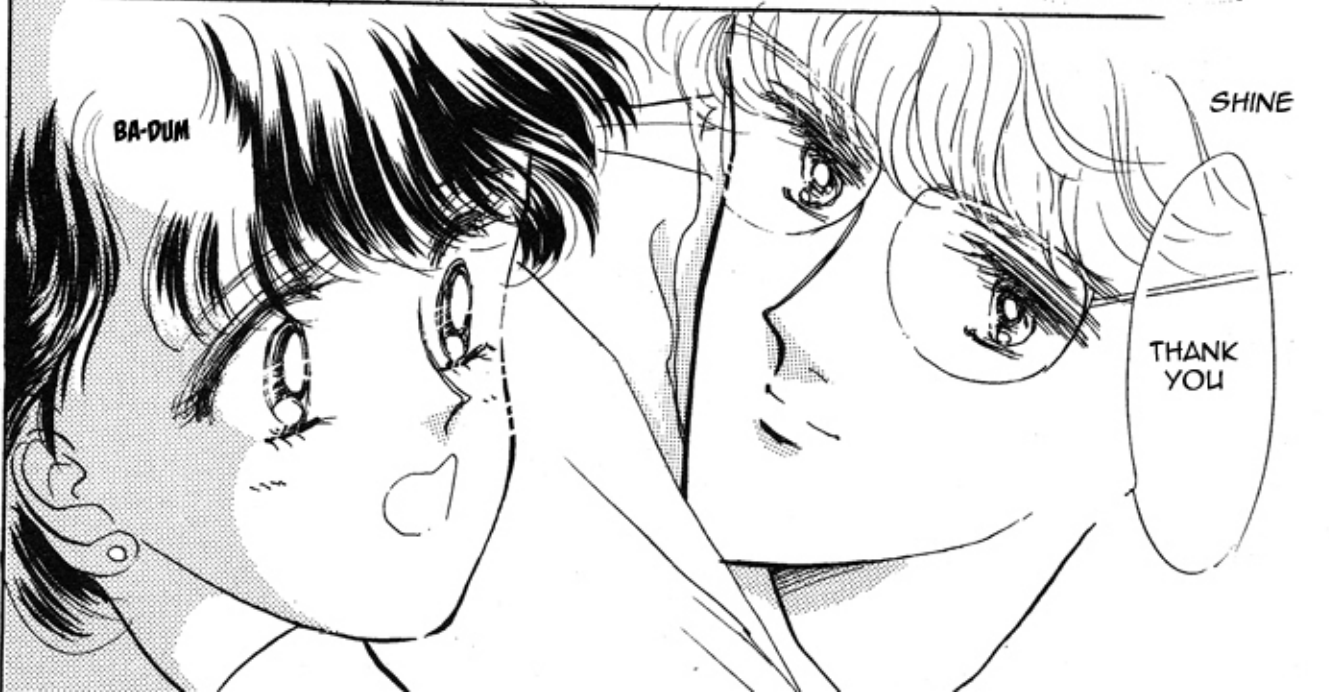


CLICK



MAYBE

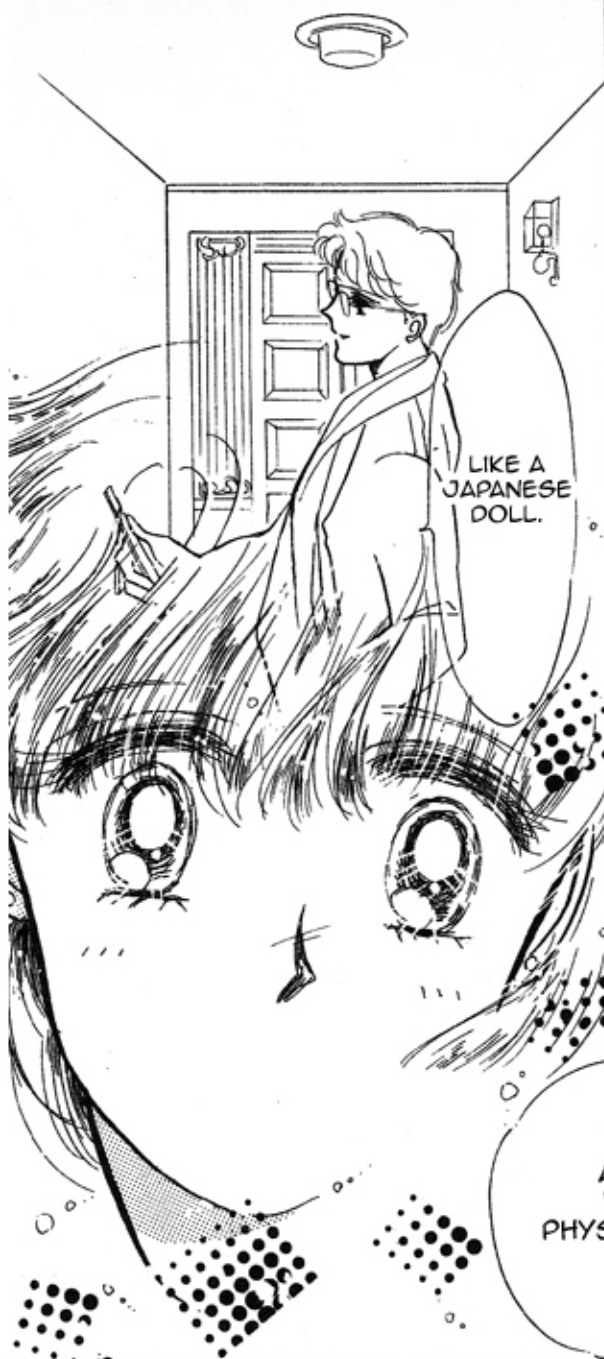
FOREVER



BA-DUM

SHINE

THANK
YOU



LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL.



BLUSH

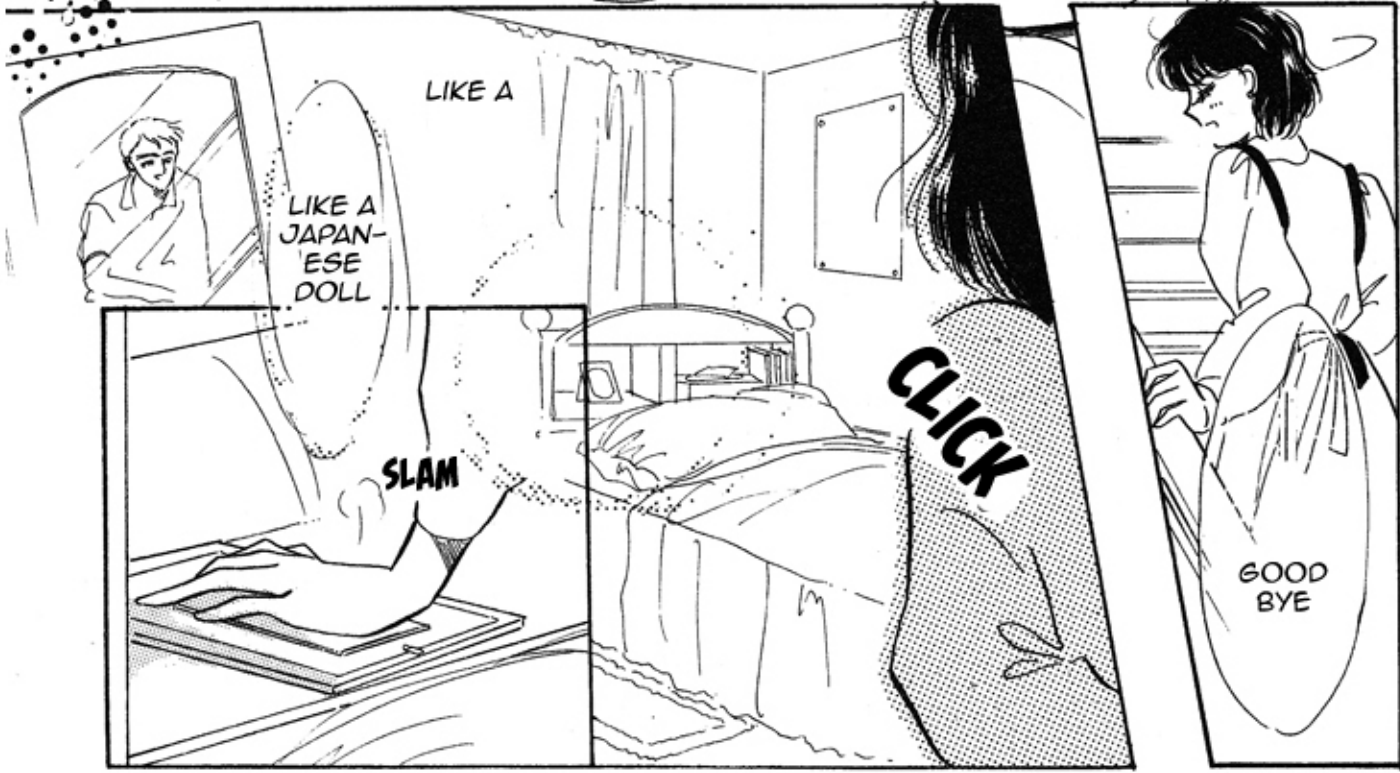
IS THIS YOU WITH LONG HAIR?

HE SHOULD SAY SOMETHING BEFORE SNEAKING UP FROM BEHIND.



YOUR EXPRESSION SEEMS SO DIFFERENT.

ANYWAY, KEEP WORKING ON PHYSICS HOMEWORK!



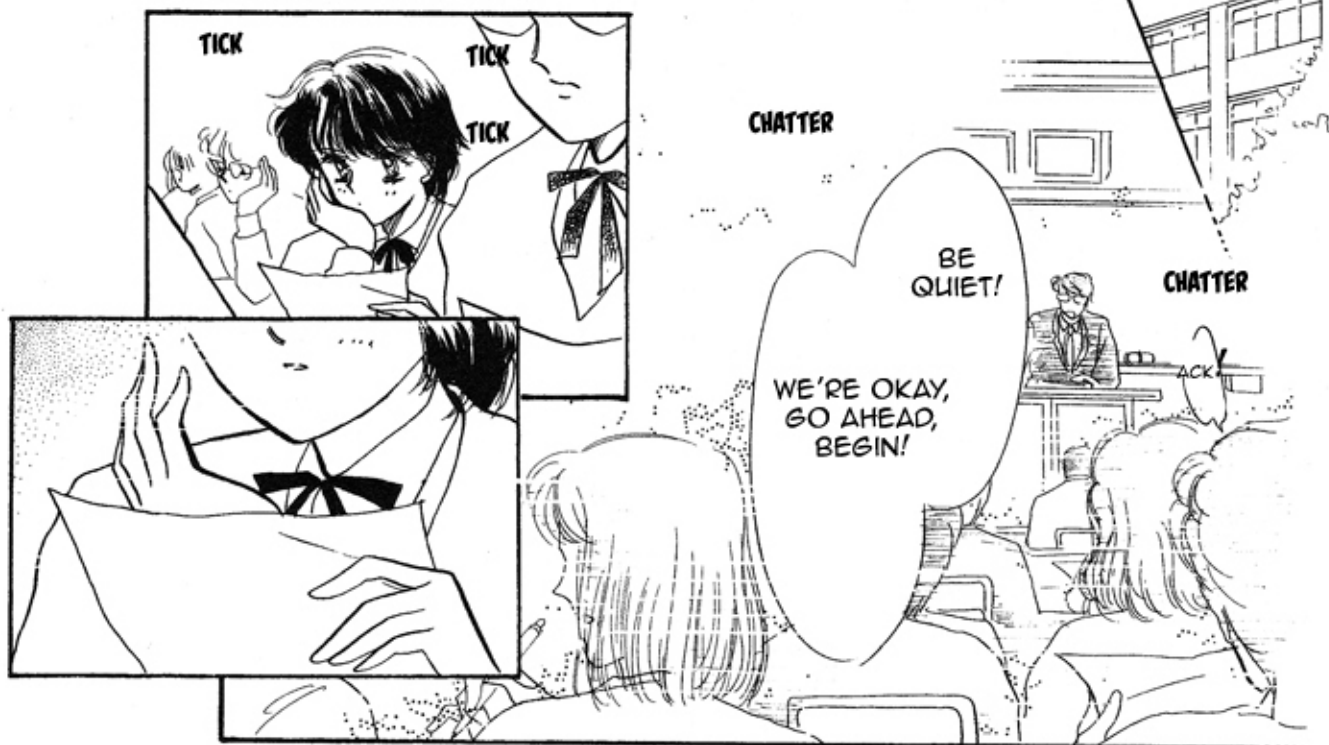
LIKE A

LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL

SLAM

CLICK

GOOD BYE





BA-DUM

SO

I'M GLAD YOU AT LEAST COMPLETED THE EXAM. WHY DON'T YOU COME BY LATER AND WE'LL RUN THROUGH SOME PRACTICE PROBLEMS TOGETHER.

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THE DRIVE TO TRY?

I THINK YOU CAN LEARN THIS MATERIAL.

KNOCK
KNOCK



CREAK

FWISH

AH! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE! YOU ALWAYS TAKE TOO GOOD OF CARE OF ME!

TEACHER, DO YOU LIKE SWEETS? I JUST BAKED A CAKE.



SO IS YOUR SPECIALTY PHYSICS?

OH TEACHER!

YOUR BOYFRIEND SURE IS A LUCKY GUY, SAWAKO! YOU'RE ALWAYS COOKING SOMETHING!

MS TOKAI, I THINK YOU'RE REALLY GREAT.



NAH,
NO WAY.



DO YOU THINK
YOU'LL BE A
TRANSLATOR
SOMEDAY?



MY
SPECIAL-
TY



IF I CAN, I'D
LIKE TO BE
ABLE TO
JOIN NASA
IN THE
FUTURE.

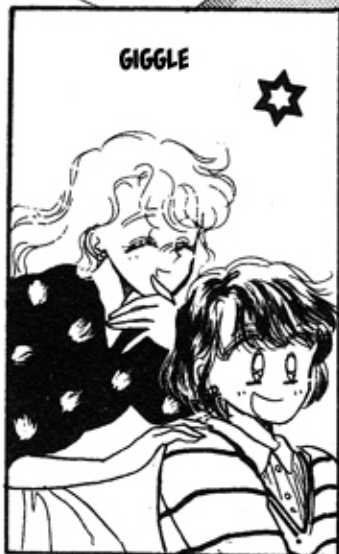
THAT'S
WHY I'M
STUDYING
ENGLISH SO
HARD AND
GOING TO
CONVERSATION
CLASSES AND
SO FORTH.

MY DREAM
IS TO
BECOME A
PILOT.

BUT RIGHT NOW
MY ENGLISH ISN'T
GOOD ENOUGH.
WHEN I LISTEN TO
THE FAR EAST
NETWORK ON THE
RADIO, EVERYONE
IS SPEAKING WAY
TOO QUICKLY
FOR ME TO
UNDERSTAND.

AND WHEN
PEOPLE TELL ME
JOKES IN
ENGLISH, I
SPEND LOTS OF
TIME LOOKING UP
THE MEANING
AFTERWARD.

WHEN I
UNDER-
STAND AT
LAST, I'M
SO HAPPY I
CAN CRY.





YOU TWO
LOOK JUST
ALIKE WHEN
YOU LAUGH
LIKE THAT.



°° A
PILOT,
EH?

HE'S
STILL
A KID
HIMSELF.

SOME-
HOW...

YEAH...

BUT EVEN THEN,
YOU'RE STILL



ONLY LOOKING

AT SAWAKO

BA-DUM

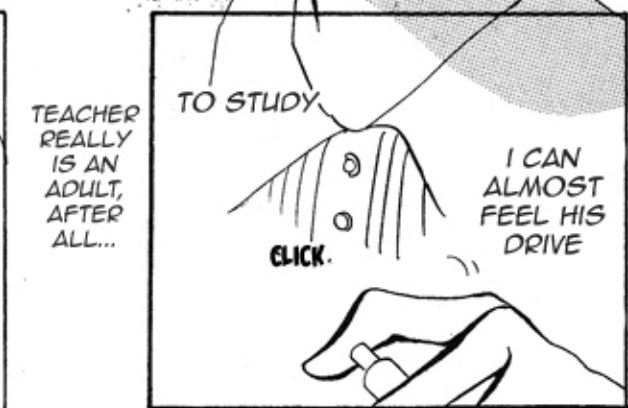
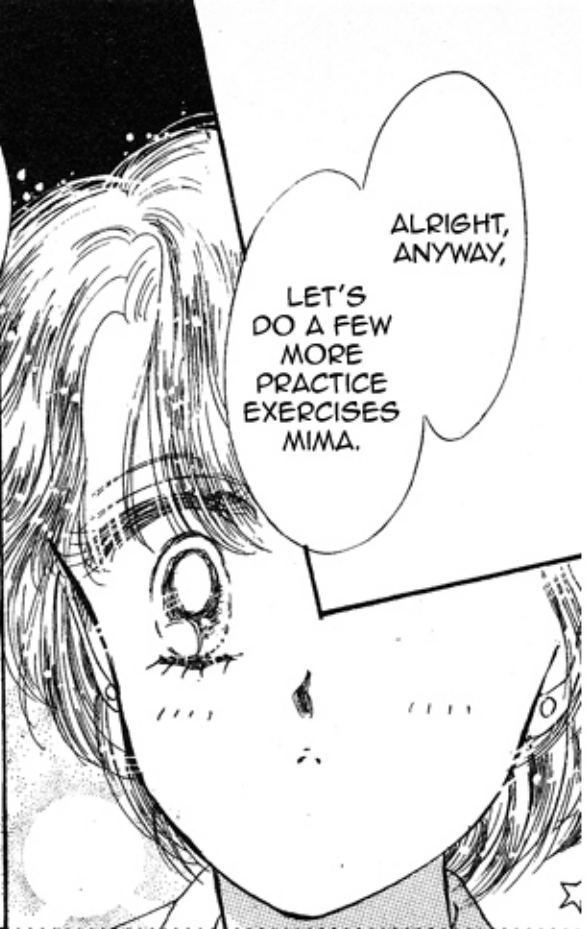


YOUR EYES

ARE ALWAYS
WATCHING SAWAKO .

I THINK
THAT'S THE
FIRST TIME
ANYONE
HAS EVER
SAID WE
LOOK
ALIKE







EVERYONE

YEAH,
YOU'RE
RIGHT

THINKS THAT TOO,
TEACHER



TAKING

me along
with him by
ourselves

SMILE



I'M DOING AN EXPERIMENT AT
COLLEGE NOW, GROWING SOME E.
COLI AND TUBERCLE BACILLI
CULTURES, AND I COULDN'T GET
AWAY.. WANNA COME WITH ME TO
SHIBUYA? I'VE GOTTA PICK UP SOME
REFERENCE BOOKS.



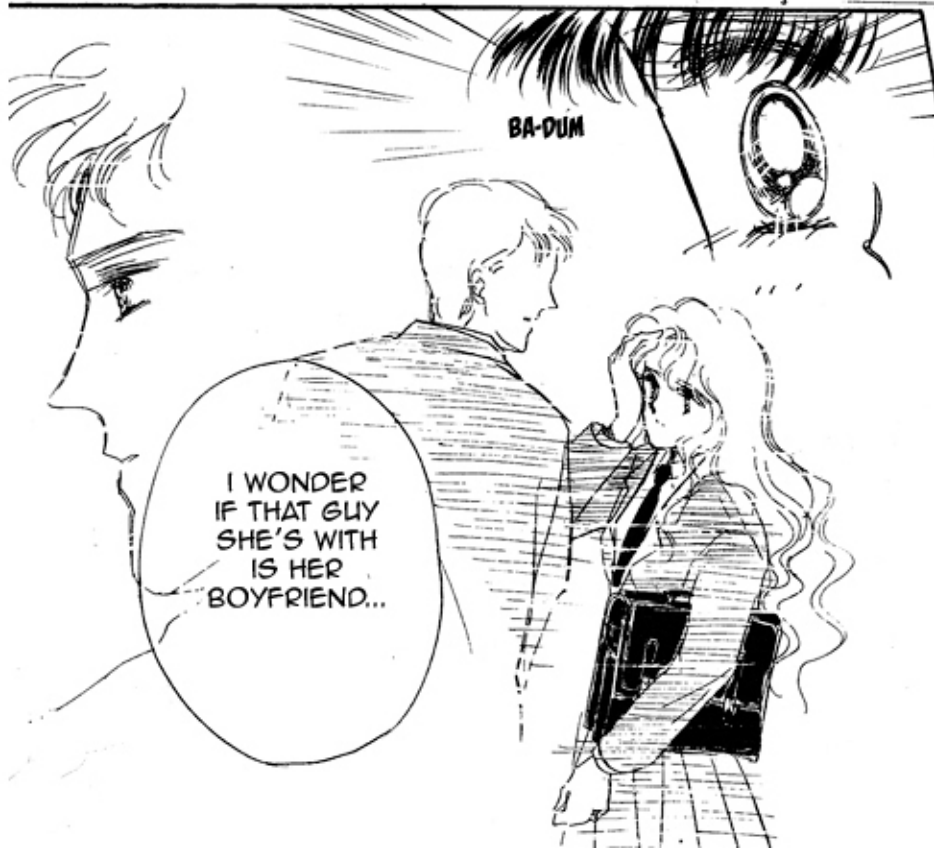
SORRY,
HAVE I
KEPT
YOU
WAITING
?



AH

HUH?

IT ALMOST
FEELS LIKE
GOING ON A
DATE



BA-DUM

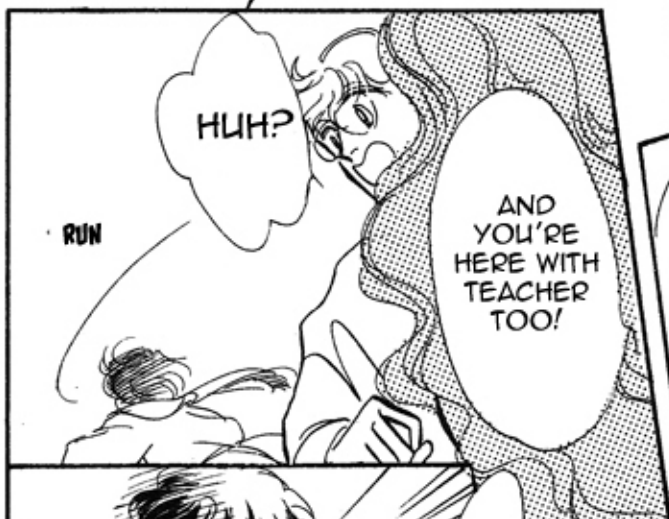
I WONDER
IF THAT GUY
SHE'S WITH
IS HER
BOYFRIEND...



HEY LOOK,
SAWAKO
IS OVER
THERE.



IT'S HIM...



HUH?

AND YOU'RE
HERE WITH
TEACHER
TOO!

RUN



HEY MIMA!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?



BA-DUM

dash HUH?

AFTER
SAWAKO
WENT
THROUGH
ALL THAT
TROUBLE
TO....

I
WONDER
WHAT'S
WRONG.



BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM



I THINK I'M JUST
GOING TO GO HOME.
WHY DON'T YOU GO
AHEAD WITH SAWAKO
INSTEAD?

TEACHER

WHAT IS
WRONG
WITH ME?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

MIMA!

DID YOU
GET IN AN
ARGUMENT
WITH
SAWAKO?

DID SOME-
THING
HAPPEN
?

BA-DUM

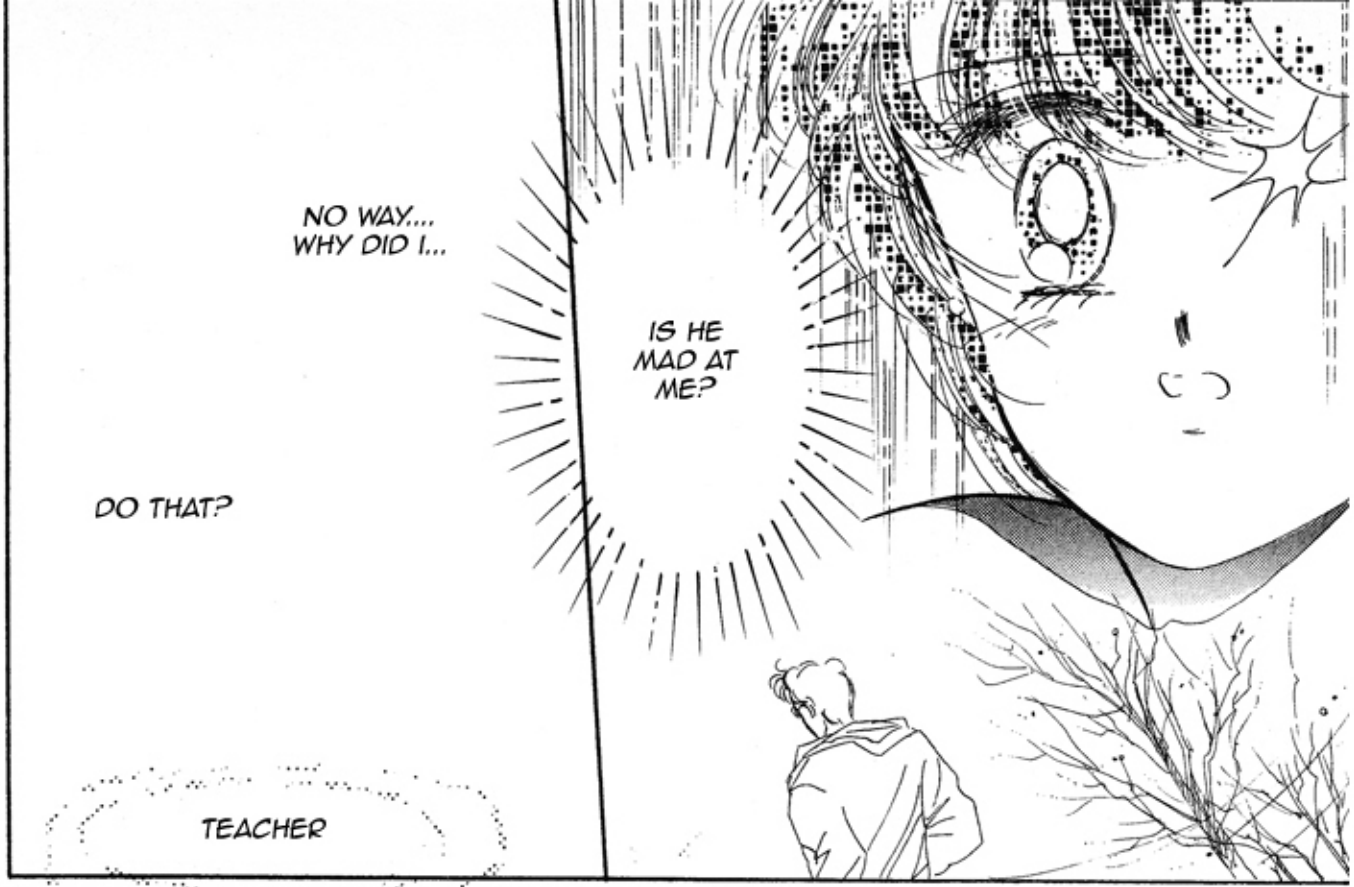
GETTING SO
ANGRY WITH
TEACHER

JUST STAY OUT OF
IT!

IT'S NOTHING!
IT'S NONE OF
YOUR
BUSINESS,
TEACHER!

...AH

GASP



NO WAY... WHY DID I...

IS HE MAD AT ME?

DO THAT?

TEACHER

NO WAY



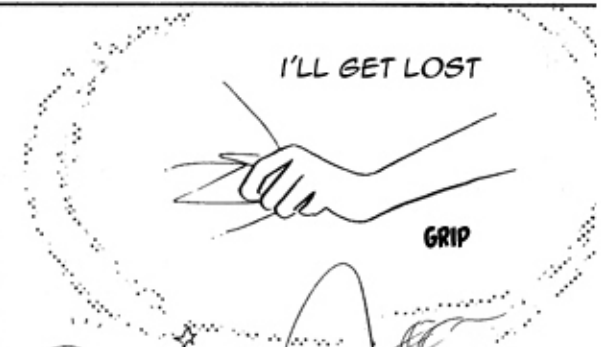
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND



ARE YOU

IN A BETTER MOOD NOW?

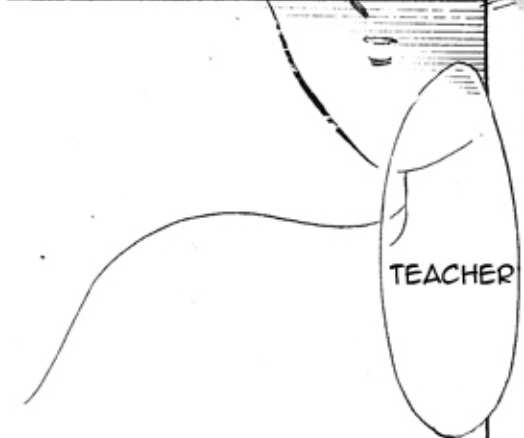
HUH?



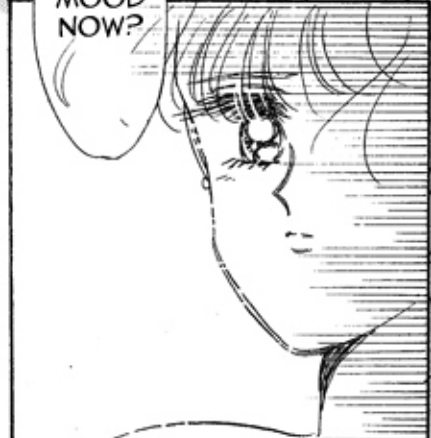
I'LL GET LOST

GRIP

TEACHER YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST



TEACHER



WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I ACCIDENTALLY CRASHED MY BIKE INTO A DUMP TRUCK. AS A RESULT, I COULDN'T HEAR ANYTHING FOR A WEEK. SO EVER SINCE THEN

BACK



DO YOU ALWAYS STARE INTO PEOPLE'S EYES WHEN YOU SPEAK TO THEM LIKE THIS?

REALLY FRUSTRATED IF I CAN'T LOOK DIRECTLY AT SOMEONE'S FACE WHEN TALKING TO THEM.



I ALWAYS GET



AND IT DROWNS OUT EVERYTHING ELSE.

SOME-TIMES THERE'S A HIGH PITCHED NOISE IN THE AIR



ON CLEAR DAYS

ON THE
OTHER HAND
I SEE
HOW SILENCE



IS IT SCARY
WHEN YOU CAN'T
HEAR WHAT'S
GOING ON
AROUND YOU?



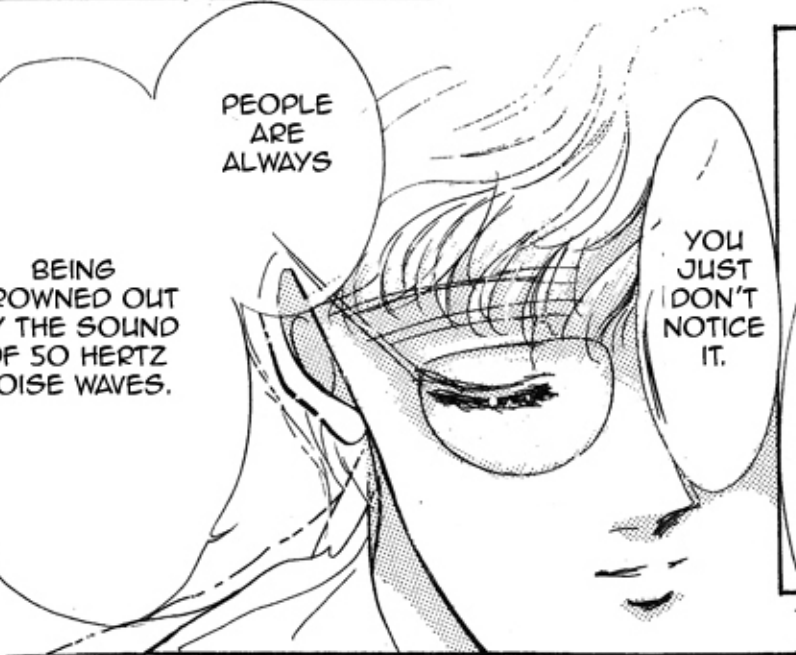
PEOPLE
ARE
ALWAYS

BEING
DROWNED OUT
BY THE SOUND
OF 50 HERTZ
NOISE WAVES.

YOU
JUST
DON'T
NOTICE
IT.

COULD BE
NICE

IT'S
LIKE
THAT
EVEN
NOW.



AND IT
MADE ME
FEEL MORE AT
EASE WITH MY
TEMPORARY
HEARING
LOSS.

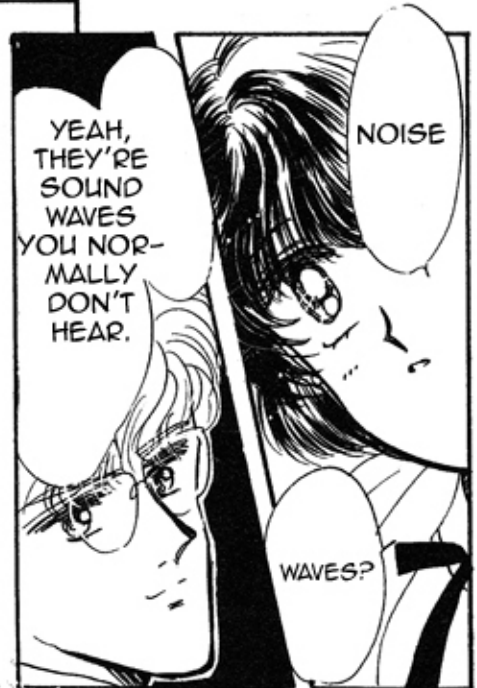
I COULDN'T
HEAR
ANYTHING,
I THOUGHT
ABOUT
THOSE
NOISE

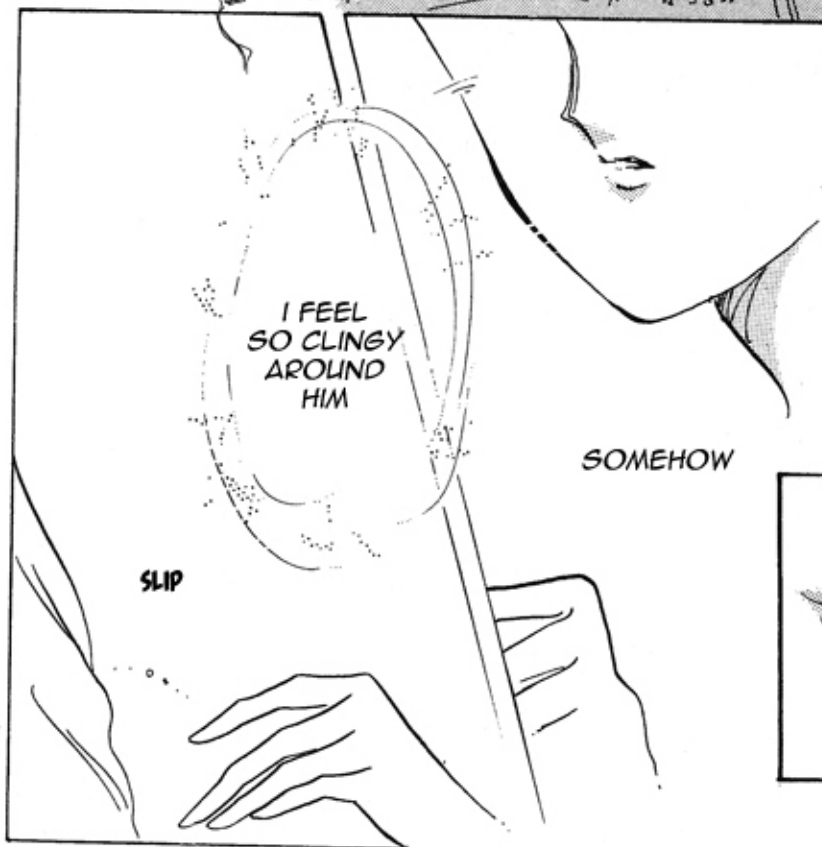
BACK
WHEN

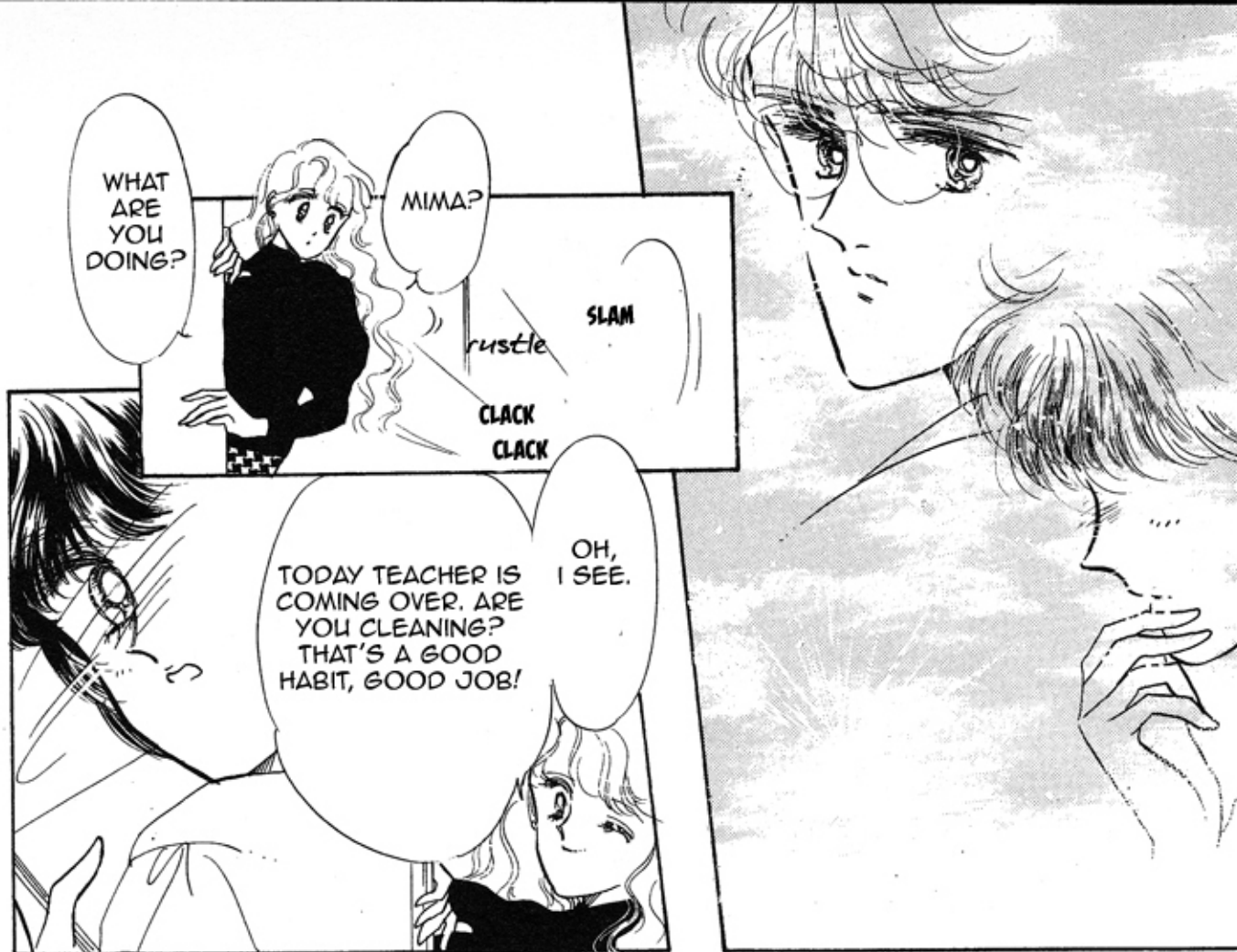
YEAH,
THEY'RE
SOUND
WAVES
YOU NOR-
MALLY
DON'T
HEAR.

NOISE

WAVES?







WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MIMA?

SLAM

rustle

CLACK CLACK

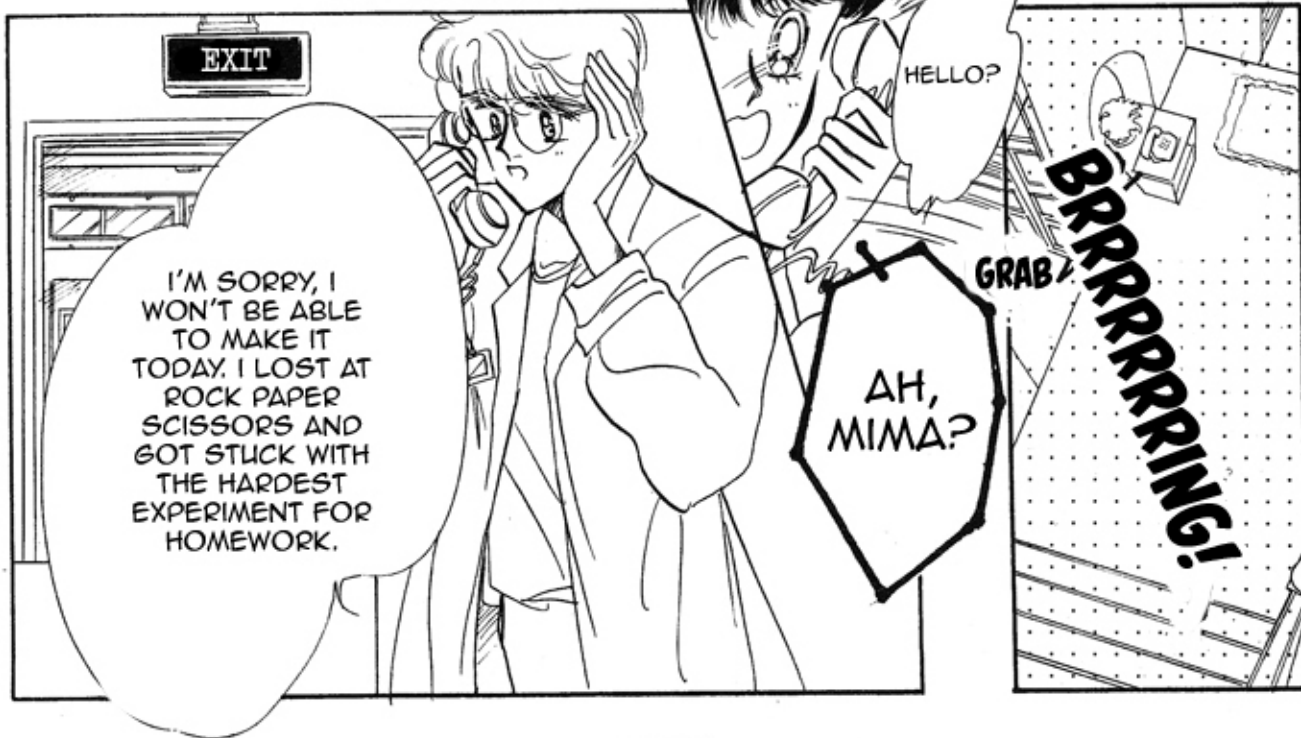
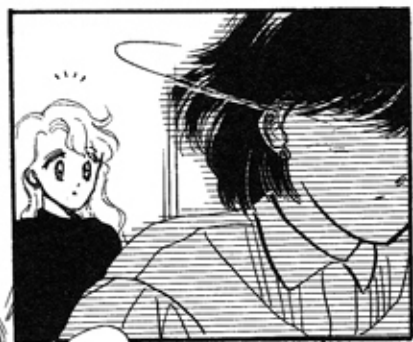
OH, I SEE.

TODAY TEACHER IS COMING OVER. ARE YOU CLEANING? THAT'S A GOOD HABIT, GOOD JOB!



HEY, CAN I BORROW YOUR DICTIONARY? I FORGOT MINE AT SCHOOL.

MIMA.



I'M SORRY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TODAY. I LOST AT ROCK PAPER SCISSORS AND GOT STUCK WITH THE HARDEST EXPERIMENT FOR HOMEWORK.

HELLO?

AH, MIMA?

GRAB

BRRRRRING!

EXIT



IF YOU CAN'T COME THEN FINE.

WHAT-EVER.



I'm sure if you ask around, you can find someone in your class to tutor you in my place.

YOU CAN'T COME?

I can't, but if you....

Actually,

It doesn't look like I'll be able to come for the next three weeks, this experiment is a long one.

SLAM



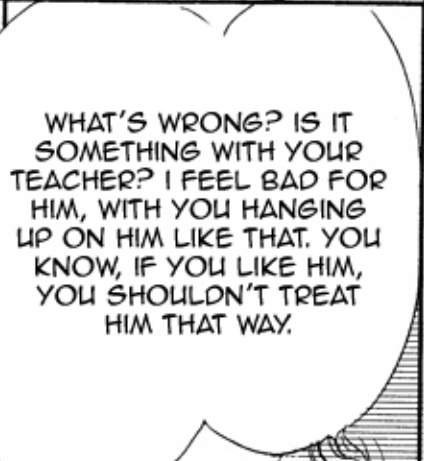
GASP

MAYBE FROM NOW ON HE SHOULD BE YOUR PRIVATE TUTOR INSTEAD.

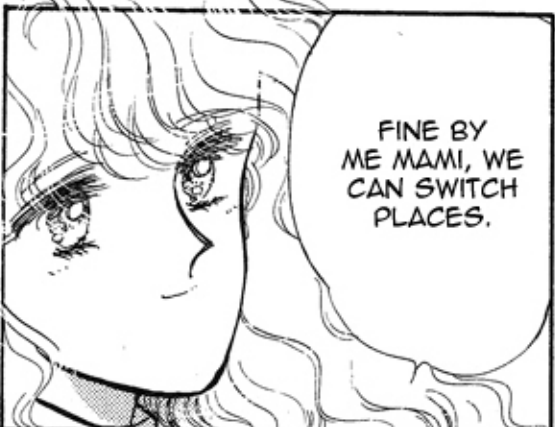
YOU'RE THE ONE HE LIKES, HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED, SAWAKO?



blush

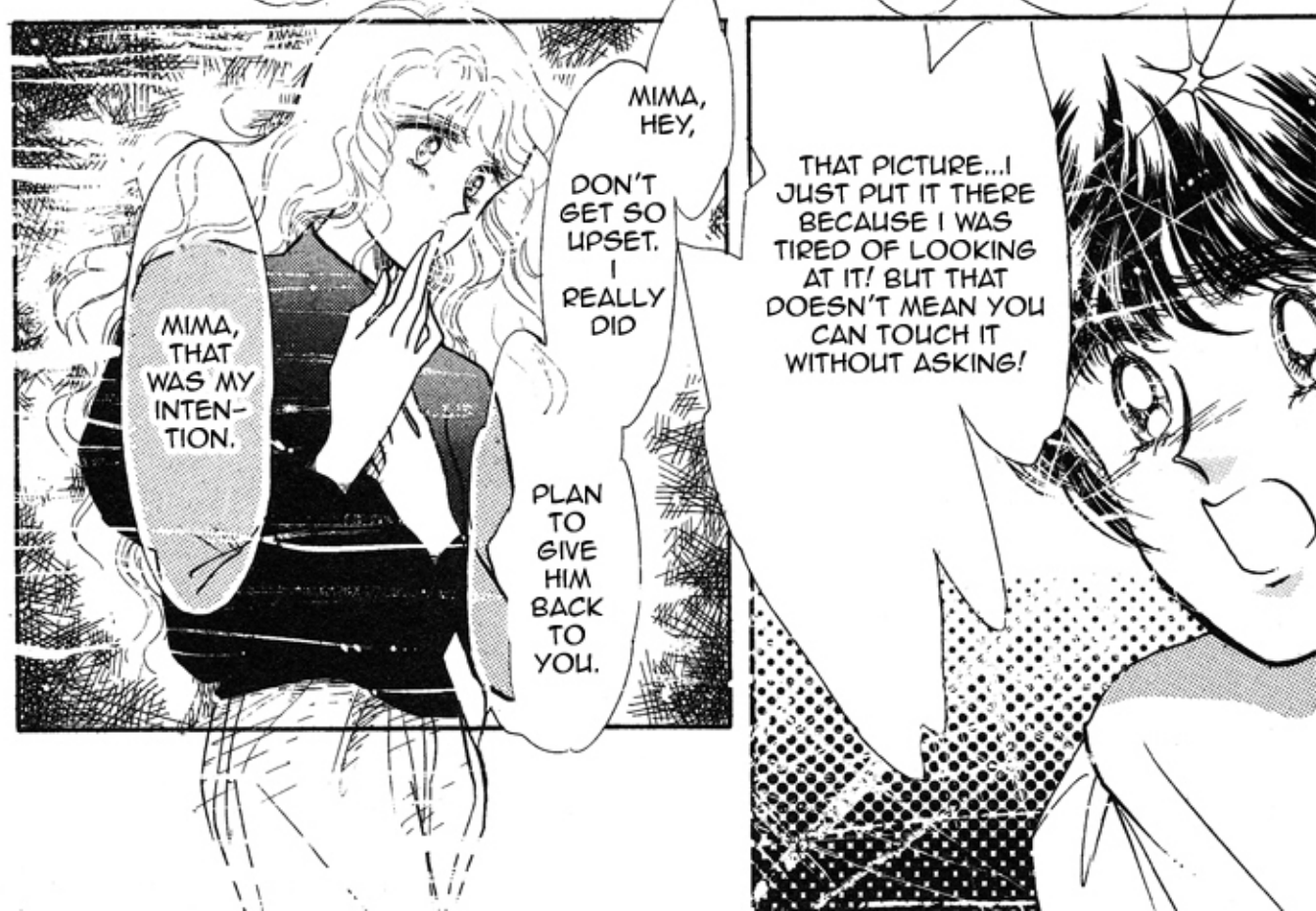


WHAT'S WRONG? IS IT SOMETHING WITH YOUR TEACHER? I FEEL BAD FOR HIM, WITH YOU HANGING UP ON HIM LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW, IF YOU LIKE HIM, YOU SHOULDN'T TREAT HIM THAT WAY.



FINE BY ME MAMI, WE CAN SWITCH PLACES.







GET
OUT!

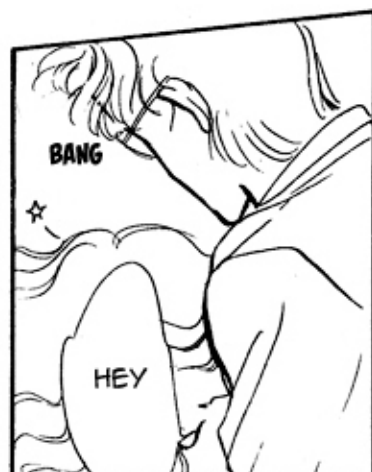
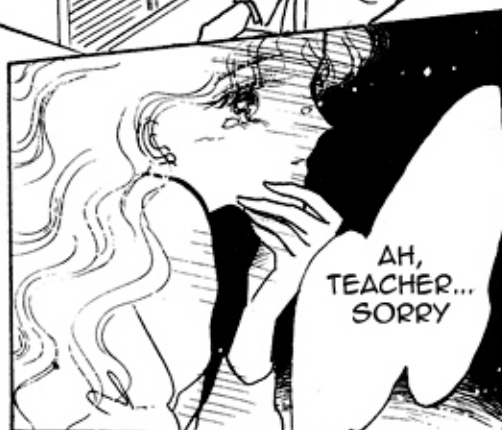
GIVE HIM BACK!



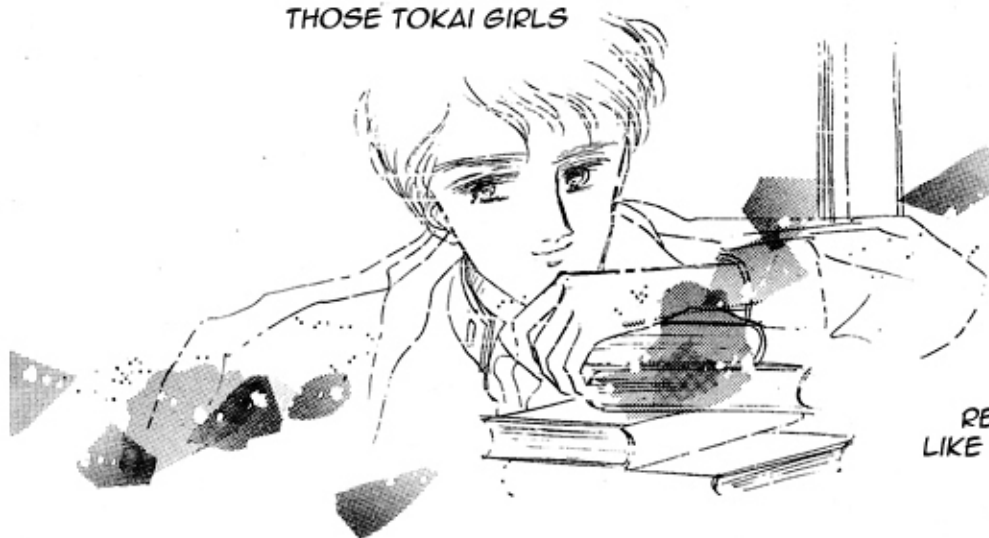
GIVE HIM
BACK TO
ME?



WHAT DID
SHE MEAN



THOSE TOKAI GIRLS



REALLY DO LOOK
LIKE JAPANESE DOLLS

WOW
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT
YOUR HAIR IS AS LIGHT AND FLUFFY
AS A BIRD'S FEATHERS?

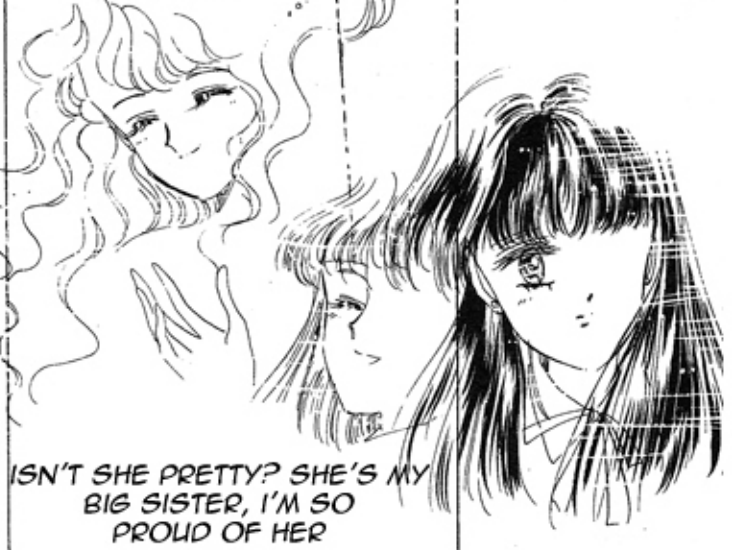


YOU TWO LOOK SO ALIKE

THIS IS
SAWAKO

ISN'T SHE PRETTY? SHE'S MY
BIG SISTER, I'M SO
PROUD OF HER

HEY



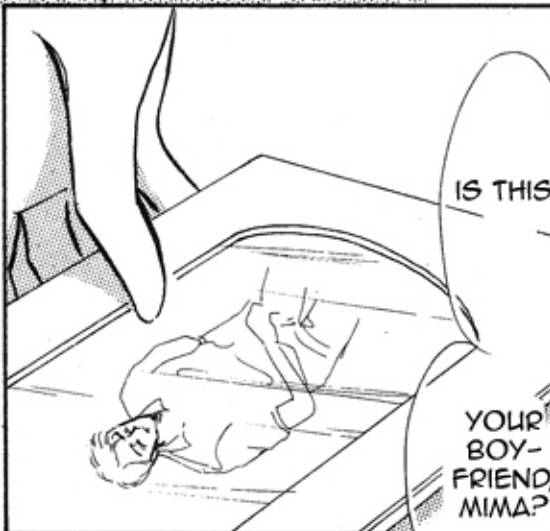
MIMA, KEEP WORKING HARD!



SOON YOU'LL BE IN HIGH
SCHOOL WITH US!



YEAH, COME WITH US TO HIGH SCHOOL, MIMA



IS THIS

YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND,
MIMA?

I THOUGHT I
TOLD YOU
NOT TO GET
IN ANOTHER
FIGHT.



CLICK

GETTING TO
TEACH A GIRL
LIKE YOU
ALONE ISN'T
FAIR TO MY
FRIENDS.

DON'T
YOU
AGREE?

TEACHER, I
THOUGHT
YOU SAID.

MIMA.

I CAN'T
TEACH
YOU
ANYMORE,

I'VE
GOTTA
GO.

TEACHER,

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
DRIVE

TEACHER

DON'T
GIVE UP

YOU
CAN'T,
YOU
JUST
CAN'T
QUIT.

haha

HMM?

YOU
CAN'T
QUIT.

I CAN'T
FOCUS



RUB

ON

ME

COME ALL THIS WAY
OUT HERE... SO,
SHALL WE?

WELL,
I DID

SPELL



SOMEONE

HAS CAST



TEA-
CHER?



TEACHER?



SAWAKO?



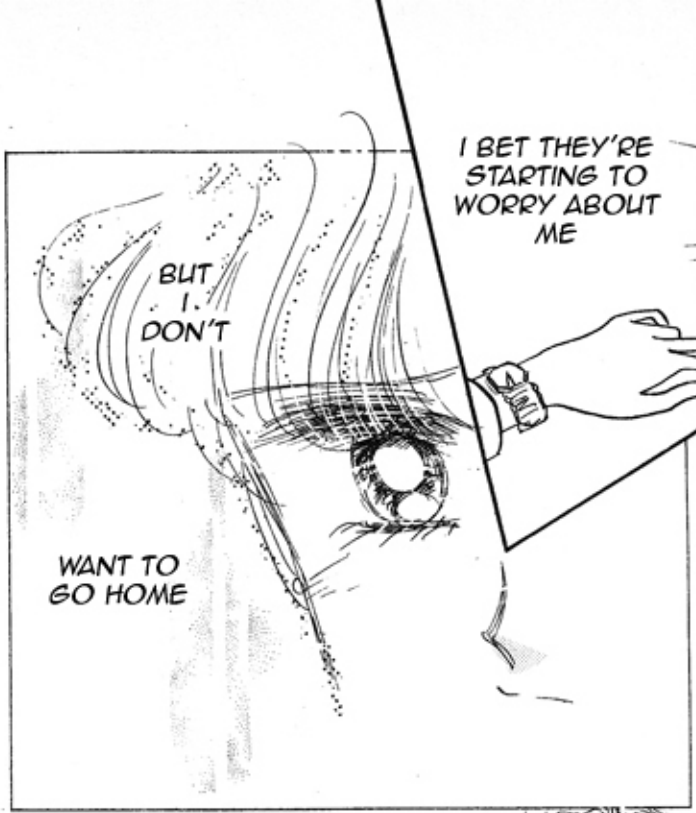
IT'S ALWAYS

GOING TO BE

LIKE THIS

PLIP

I'M NO MATCH FOR
SAWAKO



BUT
I
DON'T

WANT TO
GO HOME

I BET THEY'RE
STARTING TO
WORRY ABOUT
ME



I DON'T WANT TO THINK
ABOUT THIS ANYMORE

POUR



I SAID HORRIBLE
THING AND GOT
REALLY NASTY

SPLASH

TEACHER WILL
HAVE GOTTEN
MAD AND LEFT
BY NOW
ALREADY



I DON'T
KNOW WHY I
SAID SUCH
THINGS



YOU FOOL! YOU'RE
GOING TO CATCH A
COLD! NOW COME
ON, HURRY UP AND
COME OVER HERE!

BA-DUM

MIMA!!



I FEEL SO DIZZY

MIMA!

SPLASH

I CAN'T FACE SAN OR MY
TEACHER ANYMORE, I JUST CAN'T



Mima?
Where the
heck are
you?

MOM?

RING

HELLO?



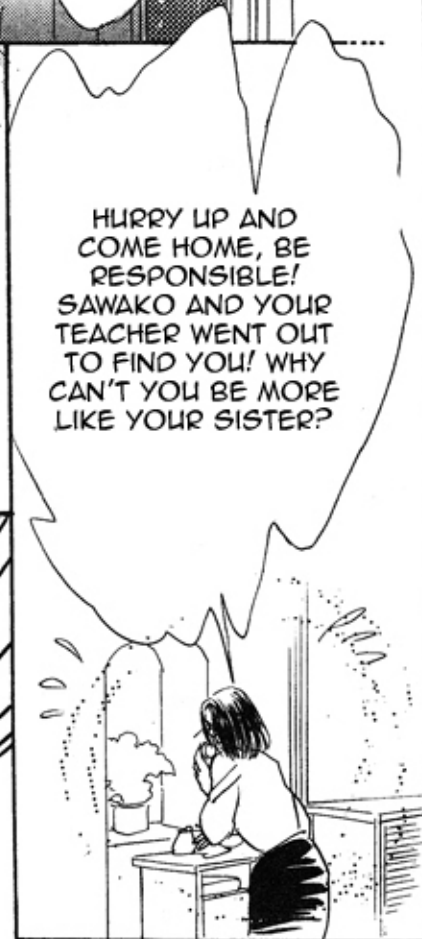
UNTIL

I CAN'T
BE LIKE
HER



I'M NOT
SAWAKO

BUT
MOM

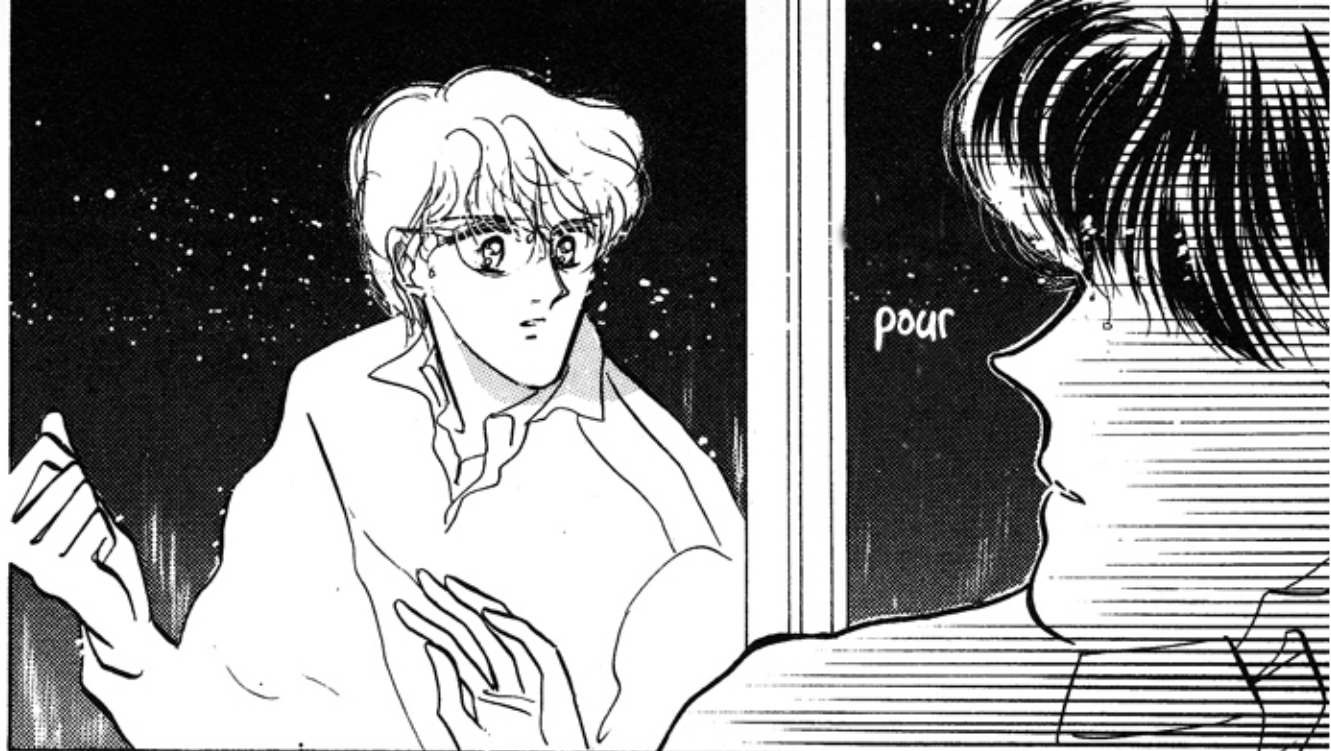


HURRY UP AND
COME HOME, BE
RESPONSIBLE!
SAWAKO AND YOUR
TEACHER WENT OUT
TO FIND YOU! WHY
CAN'T YOU BE MORE
LIKE YOUR SISTER?



KNOCK

UNTIL TEACHER
GETS BACK THERE,
I'M NOT COMING
HOME.



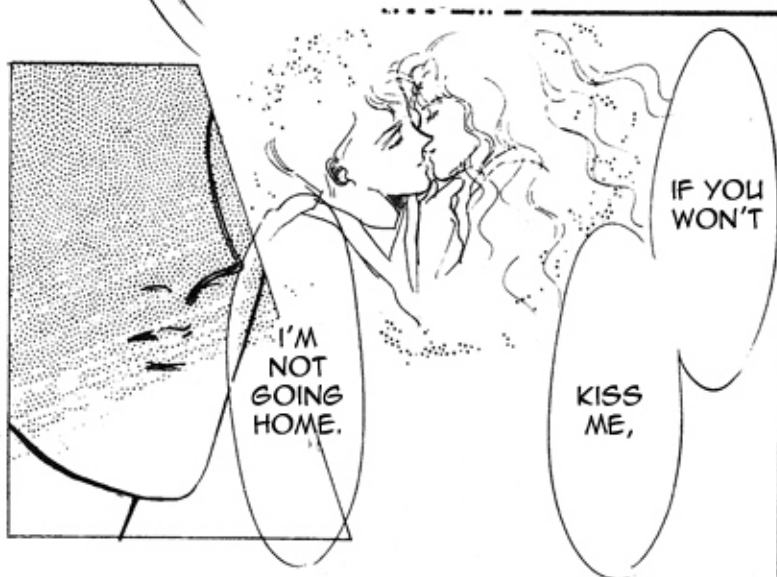
LET'S GO HOME,
OKAY?

YOUR MOM IS AT HOME WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.



COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

creak



I'M NOT GOING HOME.

KISS ME,

IF YOU WON'T

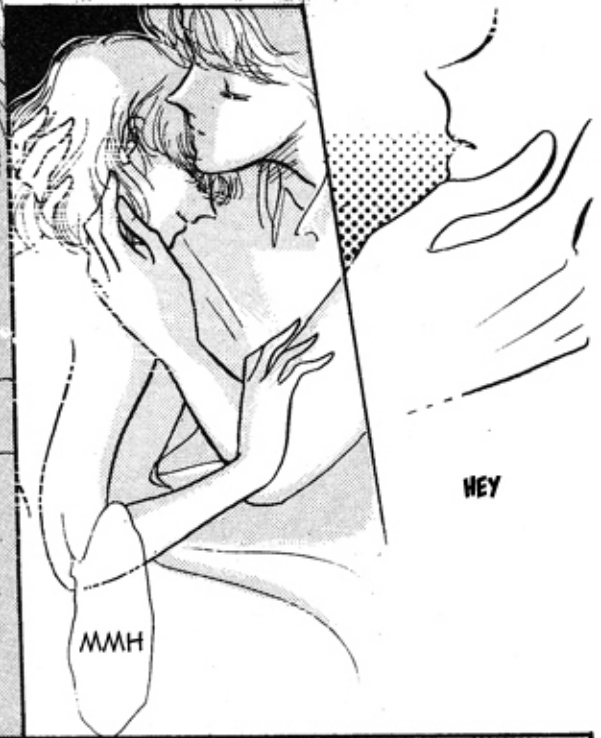


pour

TEACHER, KISS ME.



YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE THEM WORRY ABOUT YOU SO MUCH, YOU KNOW?



HEY

MMH



sob

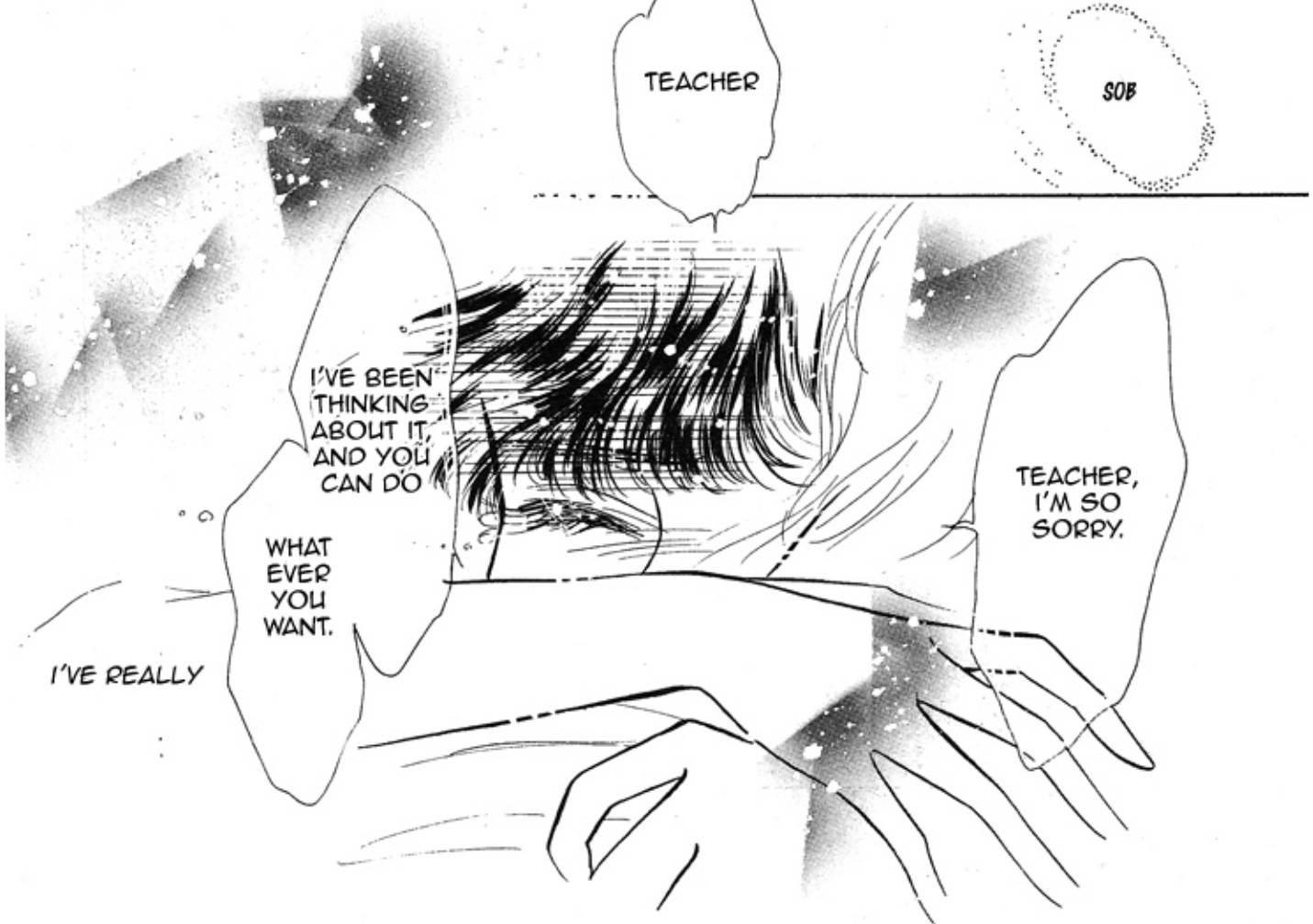
WHAT'S WRONG?



HUG

TEACHER

SOB



I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, AND YOU CAN DO

WHAT EVER YOU WANT.

TEACHER, I'M SO SORRY.

I'VE REALLY

I WATCHED
EVERYONE
FAVOR HER
OVER ME FOR
SO LONG

SHE'S NOT
THE BIG
SISTER I
PRETEND TO
BE SO
PROUD OF

I'VE BEEN
SO

SO
JEALOUS
OF SAWAKO
I COULD DIE



IT'S

AND SO
PAINFUL

NO MATTER
WHAT I DO, I'LL
NEVER BE A
MATCH FOR
SAWAKO.

ALWAYS
BEEN SO
HARD



I
KNOW
THAT

SAWAKO
IS
SAWAKO

I KNOW THAT
DEEP DOWN,
I'M A BAD
PERSON.

BUT NO
MATTER
HOW
HARD I
WORK

I CAN
NEVER BE
LIKE
SAWAKO.

AND MIMA
IS MIMA.



TEACHER

PET

BUT I DIDN'T

REALLY TERRIBLE.

WHY ARE YOU SO KIND TO ME?

MEAN ANY OF IT.

I SAID

SO MANY HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU AND SAWAKO

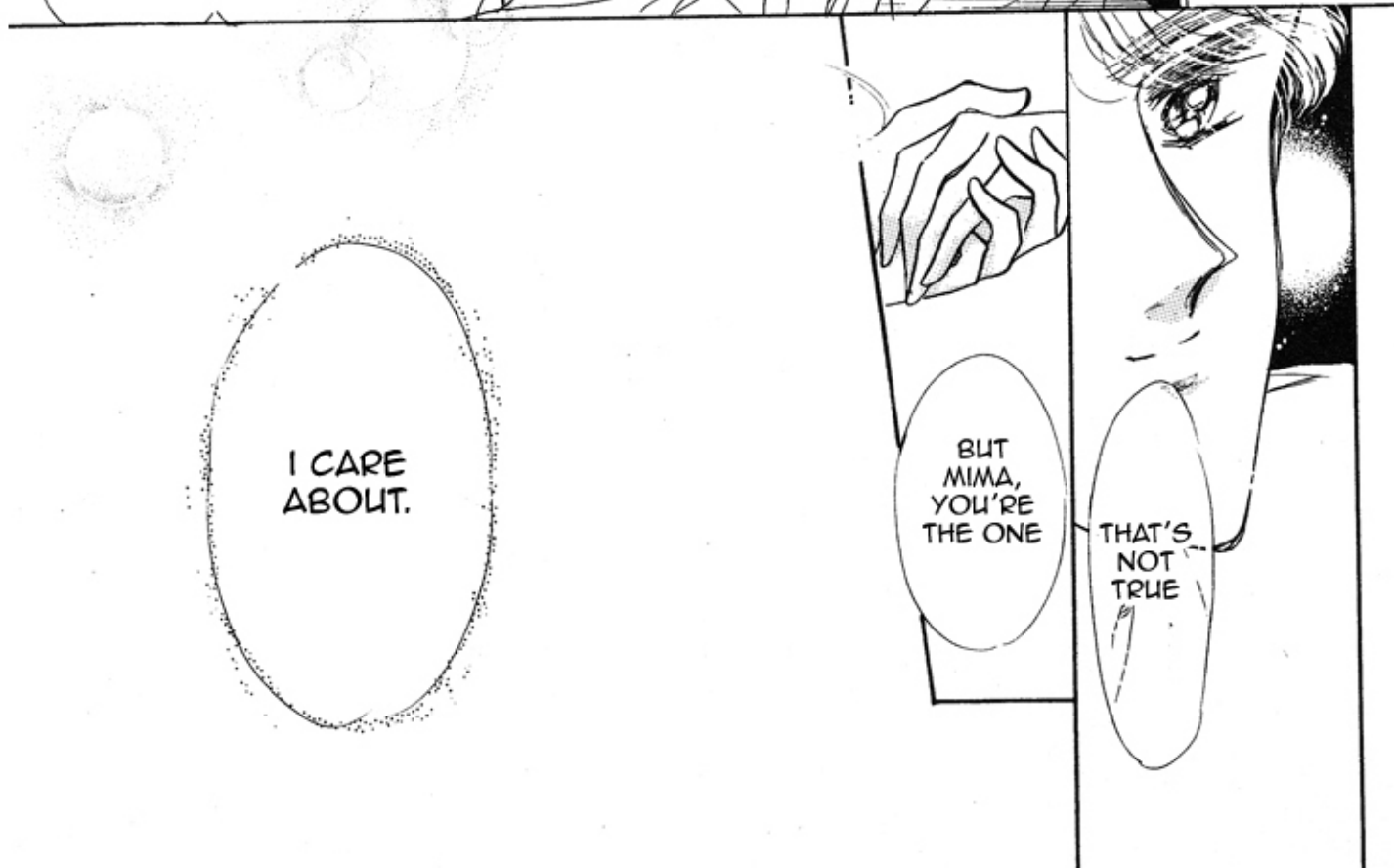


I'VE IRRITATED YOU SO MUCH...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN PUT UP WITH SUCH A TROUBLESOME GIRL LIKE ME

THE TRUTH IS, I'VE

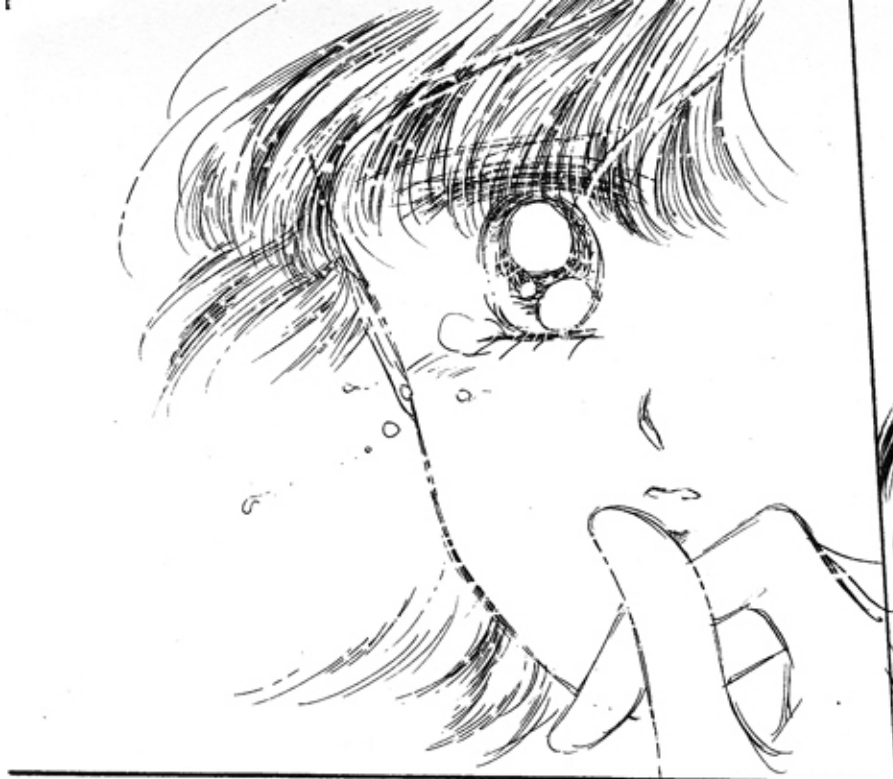
CREAK



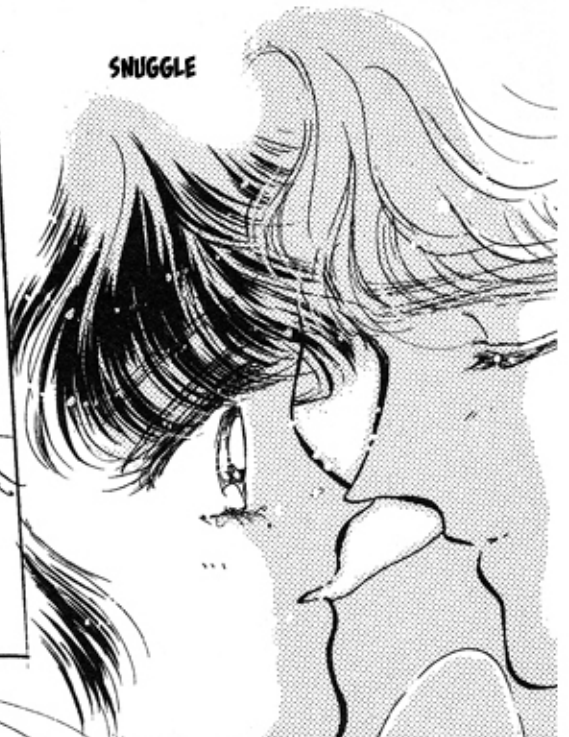
I CARE ABOUT.

BUT MIMA, YOU'RE THE ONE

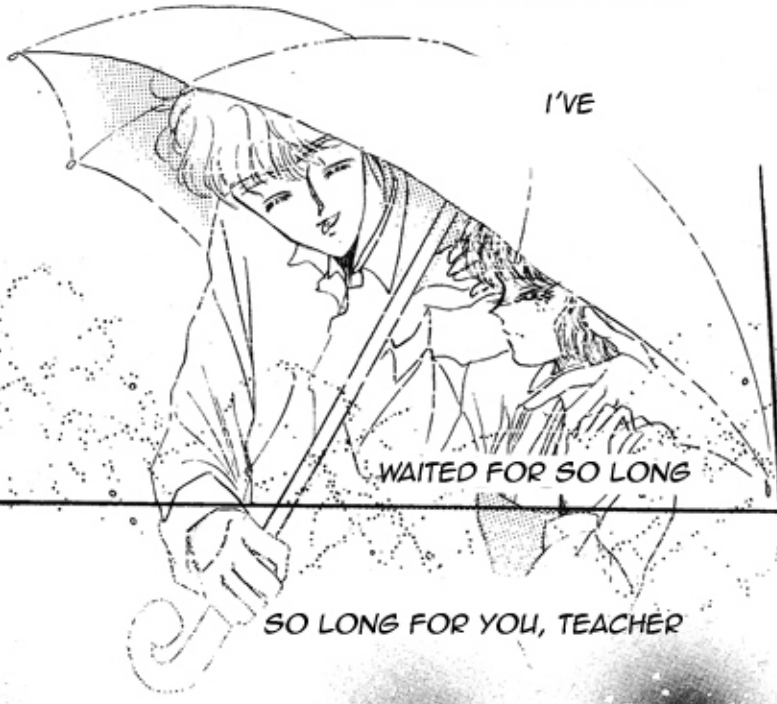
THAT'S NOT TRUE



SNUGGLE



THE MAGIC IS WEARING OFF



I'VE

WAITED FOR SO LONG

SO LONG FOR YOU, TEACHER

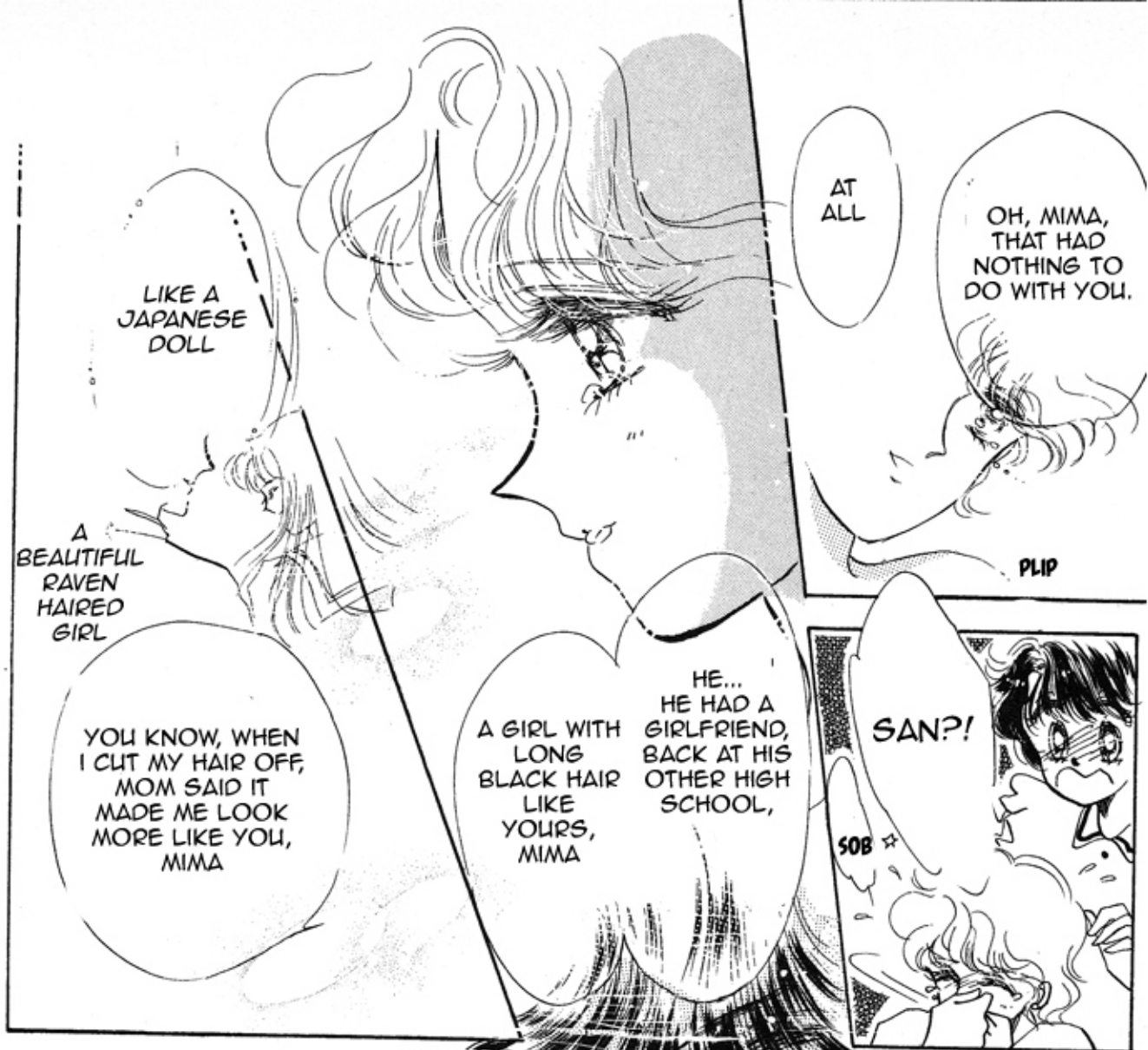
FOR THE RIGHT PERSON

I CAN'T

LEAVE
YOU
ALONE.

TO TAKE ME FAR AWAY FROM HERE





LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL

AT ALL

OH, MIMA, THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.

A BEAUTIFUL RAVEN HAired GIRL

PLIP

YOU KNOW, WHEN I CUT MY HAIR OFF, MOM SAID IT MADE ME LOOK MORE LIKE YOU, MIMA

A GIRL WITH LONG BLACK HAIR LIKE YOURS, MIMA

HE... HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND, BACK AT HIS OTHER HIGH SCHOOL,

SAN?!

SOB ☆



I WISH I COULD SEE YOU

MORE

TEACHER

MOM IS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU, YA KNOW?

NOW SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME LIKE SHE WORRIES ABOUT YOU.





IT'S ONLY

A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN I DID BEFORE

IT'S NOTHING

EVEN IF

HUH?

TEACHER



LIKE 50 HERTZ SOUND WAVES

I WANT TO HEAR SO MANY THINGS

IT'S NOTHING.



WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

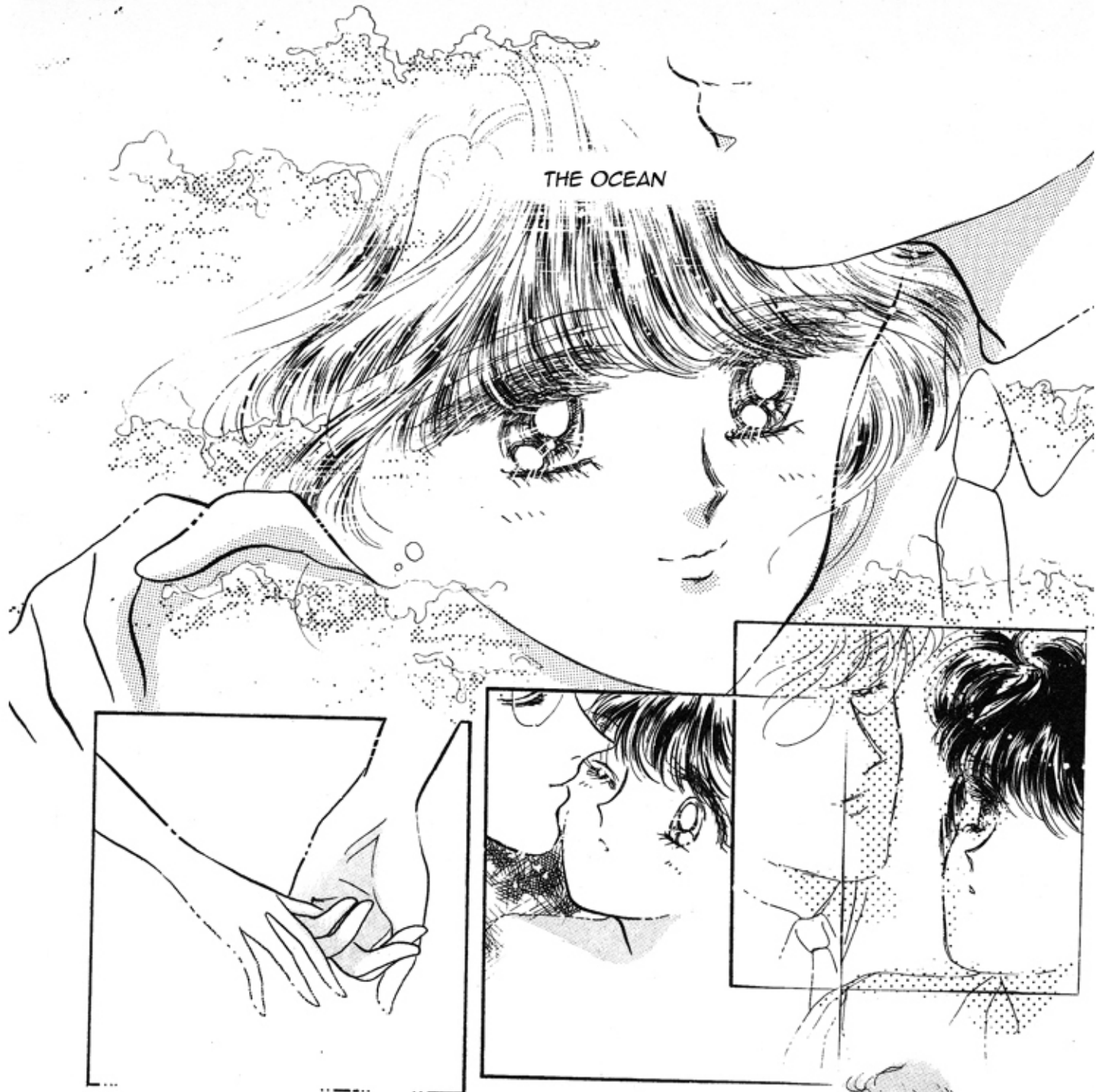
TEACHER?

AND THE SWAYING

CROSSING THE OCEAN. TEACHER, YOU ARE

RUSTLING SOUND OF THE WIND

THE OCEAN



★★ THE END ★★



When I wrote "The Lost Child's Swing", I was in a stage where all I did was irritate the guy I had a crush on. I really, really loved him. But I was terrible at telling him about it...he had a really sweet face, and when he asked me, "What's the matter, what do you want?" I loved that too. So much so that I bothered him with nothing problems.

ANYWAY! Off topic. I am really bad at physics! (Even though I think it's fascinating). Even though I'm terrible at the subject, my senior thesis in college was on the field medical use of electrical engineering in ultrasound. (In fact, I was an intern at my university's hospital for a while). The paper was a really difficult one to write. The title of the thesis was "Heightened Effects of Thombolytic Actions Due to Ultrasound". Or something like that...

Speaking of which, when I was in the process of writing this comics, I was actually doing experiments like the one I mentioned, intently growing E.Coli and Tubercle Bacilli cultures. For real!

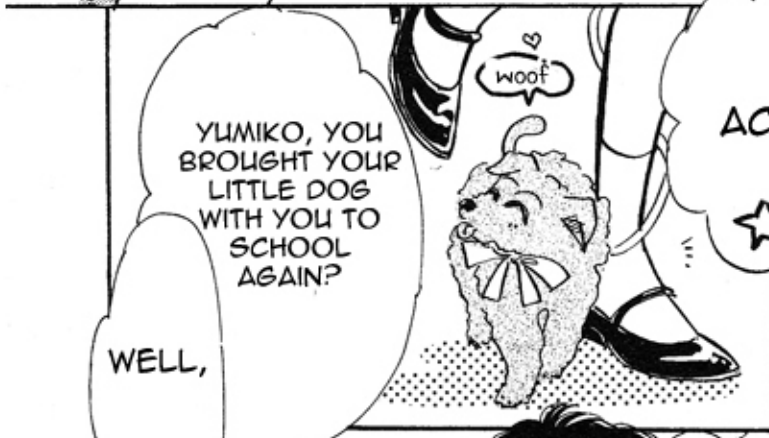




always
together ♡



YUMIKO~!



YUMIKO, YOU BROUGHT YOUR LITTLE DOG WITH YOU TO SCHOOL AGAIN?

woof

ACK!



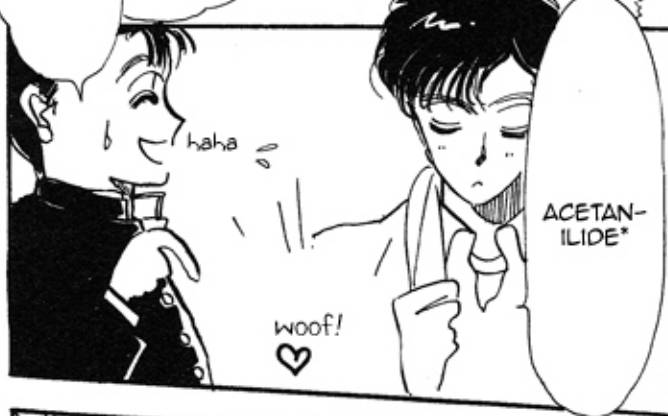
WELL,



WAH!

TOSHI!
MR. KUBO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW EARLY THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GETS OUT.



haha

ACETANILIDE*

woof!
♡



woof
woof!
♡

RIGHT?

TOSHI?
♡

THAT'S THE NAME TOSHI HERE CAME UP WITH.

ACETANILIDE.

*note: Acetanilide is an odourless solid chemical of leaf or flake-like appearance. It is also known as N-phenylacetamide, acetanil, or acetanilid, and was formerly known by the trade name Antifebrin (this is pretty much old-school aspirin).

MR KUBOI,
I'LL SEE
YOU LATER!

ACK

YOU
CAN'T HAVE
FORGOTTEN
WHAT TODAY
IS!

TOSHI!

ANYWAY,
I'VE GOT
TO GET
GOING,

THEY'RE
DOING ROAD
WORK ON THE
PATH I TAKE
HOME SO...

TODAY
TOSHI IS
COMING TO
MY HOUSE.

ARE YOU
DOING
SOMETHING
SPECIAL
TODAY?
GO?

we
just
met
up

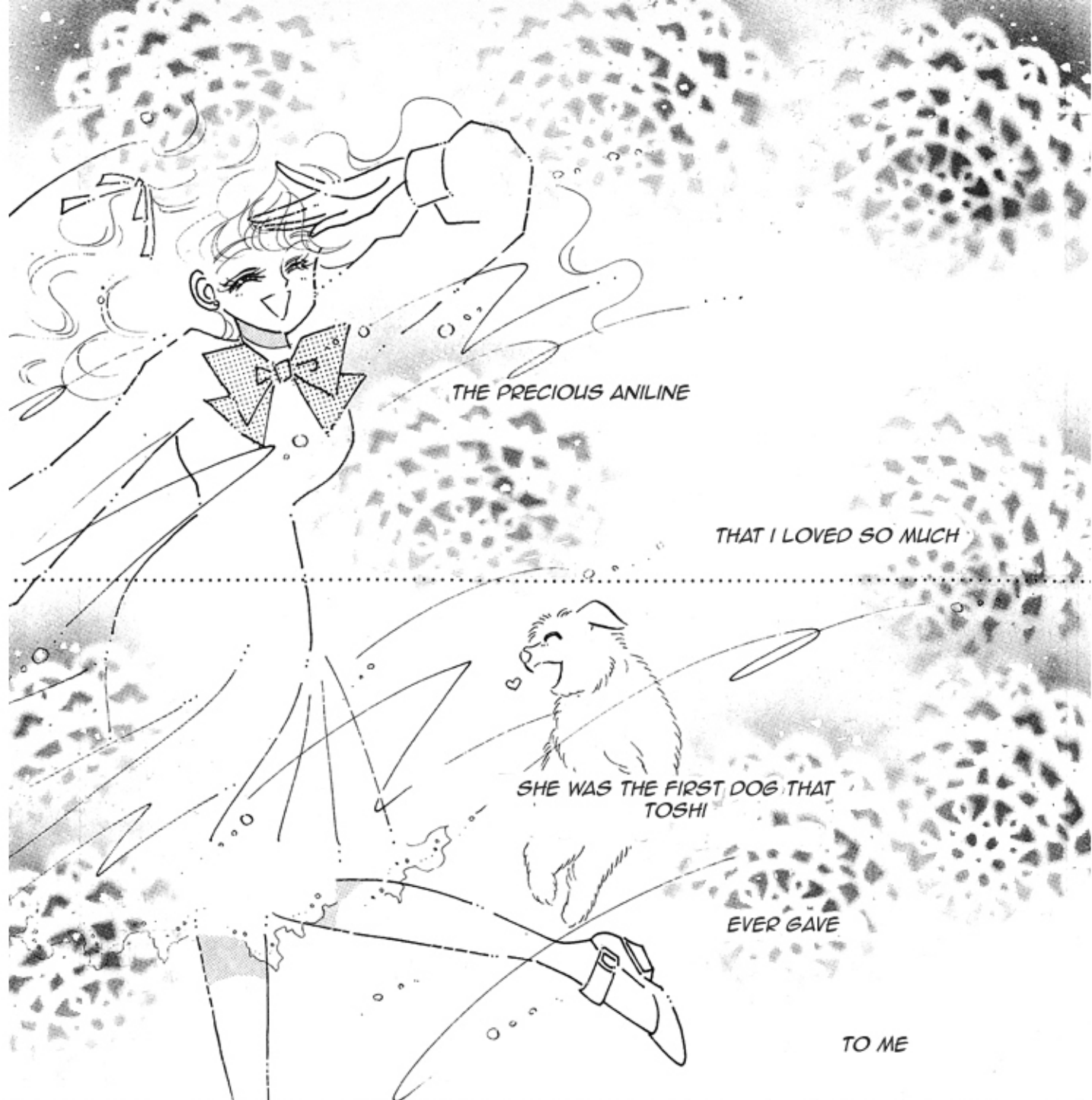
TODAY

IS A REALLY,
REALLY
IMPORTANT DAY

THE DAY THAT TOSHI
COMES TO PAY
RESPECTS TO ANILINE*

TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF
ANILINE'S DEATH

*note: Aniline, phenylamine or aminobenzene is an organic compound with the formula $C_6H_5NH_2$. Consisting of a phenyl group attached to an amino group, aniline is the prototypical aromatic amine. Being a precursor to many industrial chemicals, its main use is in the manufacture of precursors to polyurethane.



THE PRECIOUS ANILINE

THAT I LOVED SO MUCH

SHE WAS THE FIRST DOG THAT
TOSHI

EVER GAVE

TO ME



TO WHEN
ANILINE WAS
STILL A
HEALTHY DOG

THAT
TAKES
ME BACK



YOU BROUGHT ANILINE WITH YOU TO SCHOOL AGAIN?

MY BELOVED ANILINE

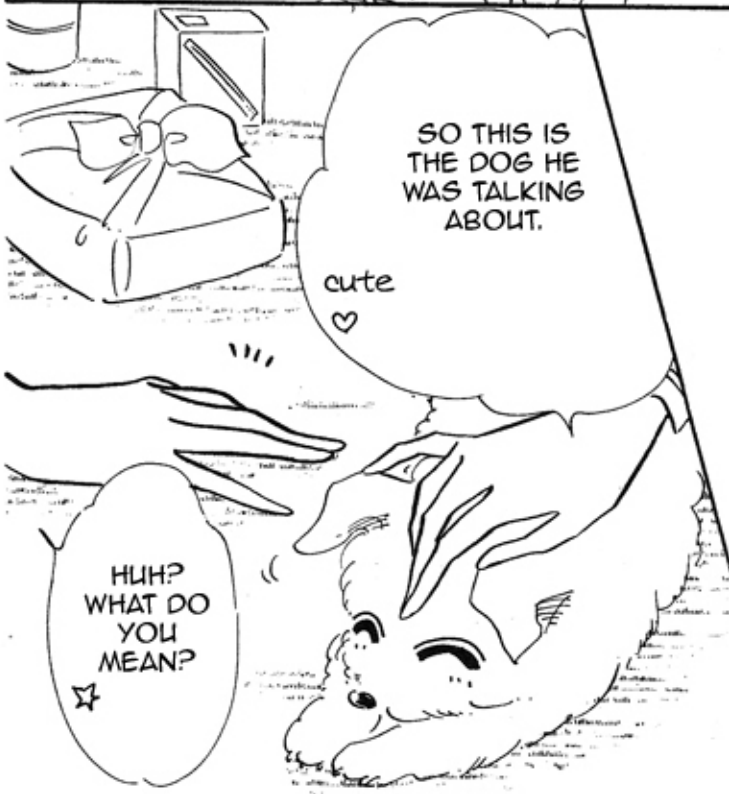
CHATTER



BUT ANILINE HASN'T BEEN FEELING TOO WELL LATELY, I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER SO I WANTED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

WHAT DID YOU BRING IN FOR LUNCH TODAY?

YUMIKO, YOU'RE UNBELIEVABLE.



SO THIS IS THE DOG HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

cute
♡

HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



ANILINE!
♡

woof!
♡

ISN'T TOSHI THAT GUY YOU USED TO PLAY A LOT WITH WHEN YOU WERE BOTH LITTLE KIDS?

I BET NOW SINCE HE'S TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL, YOU GUYS ARE CLOSE AGAIN RIGHT?

SHINE

THAT'S NOT NICE!

snuggl

woof

MR. KUBOI SAID THAT SOMEONE YOU WERE REALLY CLOSE TO WAS SICK, YUMIKO.

well

BLUSH

nyaahh

woof!

ANYWAY, ANILINE IS YOUR PRECIOUS DOG THAT GUY TOSHI GAVE TO YOU, RIGHT YUMIKO?



RUN AWAY

woof!

YEAH, I USED TO ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT SOMEDAY

CAN'T REALLY MAKE OUT ANYTHING EXCEPT MY FACE ANYMORE.

HIROMI, IT'S NO USE. ANILINE

YUMIKO, WHAT THE HECK KIND OF THINGS ARE YOU TEACHING TO THAT DOG OF YOURS?

is it dumb?

AT FIRST
GLANCE



HE WOULD
RECOGNIZE
ME

BITE!



WAHHH

IF I HAPPENED
TO RUN INTO
TOSHI
AGAIN...



HEY,
SORRY TO HAVE TO SAY
THIS, BUT WOULD YOU
MIND KEEPING YOUR DOG
AWAY FROM ME?

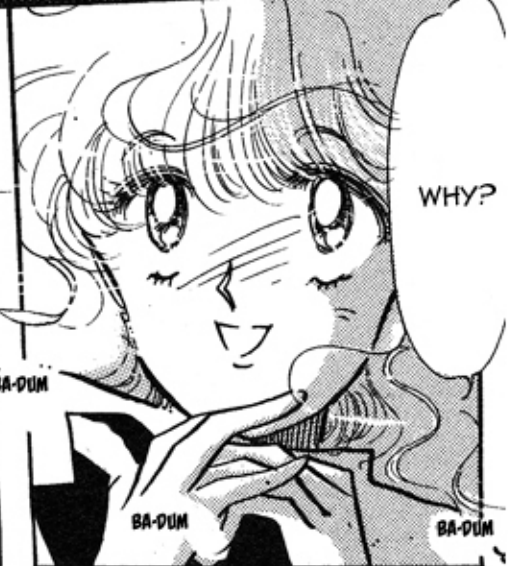
hey

woof

I HATE
DOGS.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
WHY?



WHY?

BA-DUM

BA-DUM

BA-DUM



I FELT SOME KIND OF INSPIRATION

BUT THEN WHY DID I
THINK THAT WAS
TOSHI?

THAT WAS
DEFINITELY
SOMEONE ELSE,
I'VE NEVER
MET THAT GUY
BEFORE

WHOOSH



WHY I THOUGHT IT WAS HIM,
AT JUST A GLANCE...



YEAH YUMIKO, I
HEAR THAT MR.
KUBOI WANTS ONE
OF YOUR GOOD
LUCK CHARMS
TOO.

SO YUMIKO, YOU
SHOULD MAKE A GOOD
LUCK CHARM FOR HIM
TOO, DON'T YOU
THINK?



WOW, SO
CUTE!

THIS IS NICE, WHERE
DID YOU BUY THIS
CLOTH?



I'LL
MAKE
ONE.

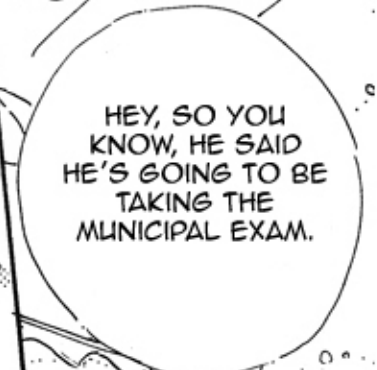
THAT'S SHOCKING,
SO SHOCKING IN
FACT THAT I
DON'T THINK.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
★ TOO SHOCKED?!

ANILINE LOOKED SO
HAPPY, I'M REALLY
SHOCKED THAT IT
WASN'T TOSHI AFTER
ALL....

I KNOW WHAT'S
BOTHERING YOU! THAT
★ GUY ANILINE JUMPED ON
THE OTHER DAY, IT
★ WASN'T TOSHI WAS IT?



HEY, SO YOU
KNOW, HE SAID
HE'S GOING TO BE
TAKING THE
MUNICIPAL EXAM.

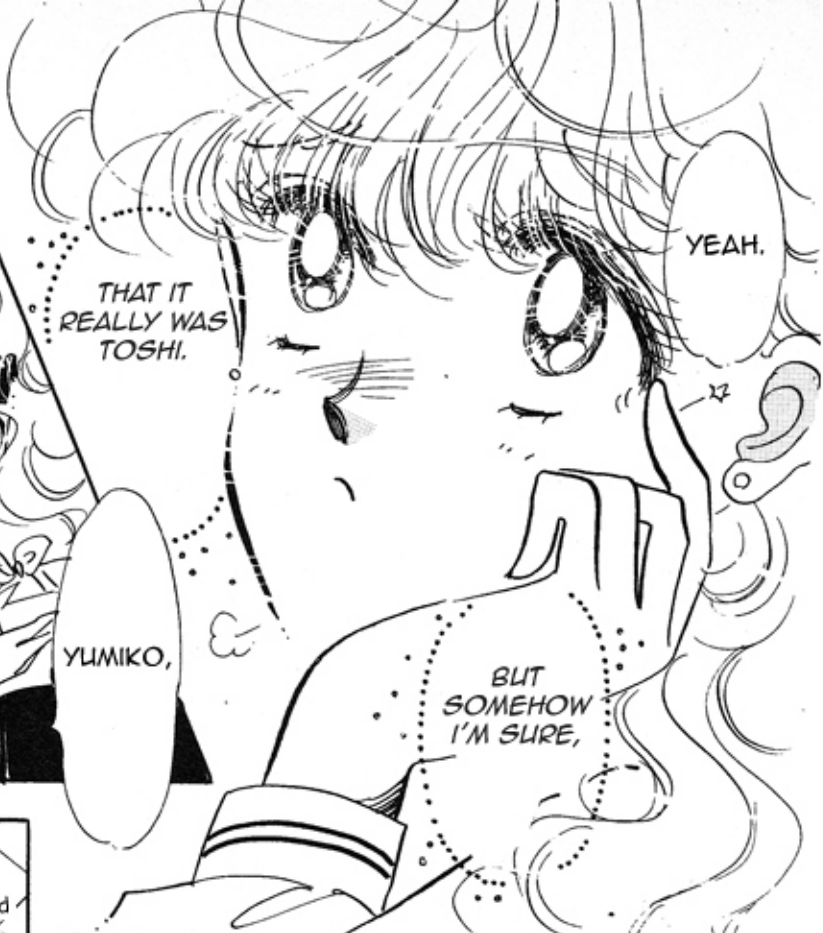


HEY YUMIKO! MR. KUBOI WAS HERE DURING LUNCH BREAK TRYING TO,

FIND YOU.=,

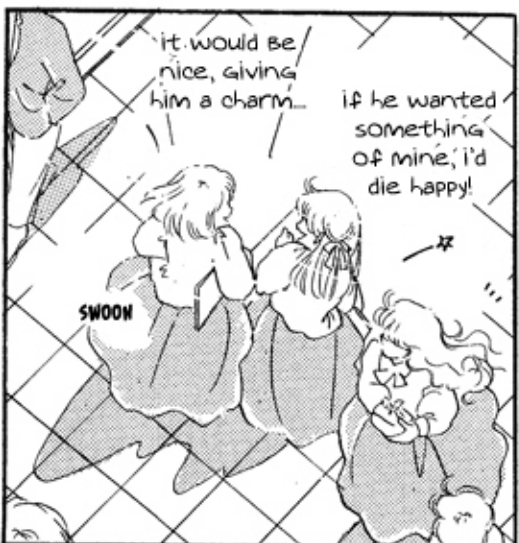
THAT IT REALLY WAS TOSHI.

YUMIKO,



YEAH.

BUT SOMEHOW I'M SURE,



It would be nice, giving him a charm...

if he wanted something of mine, i'd die happy!

SWOON



HE MUST REALLY WANT ONE OF YOUR GOOD LUCK CHARMS FOR THE EXAM!

WELL WELL



JUST THE PERSON I WAS LOOKING FOR!

you're hard to get a hold of!

CHATTER

AH, YUMIKO!

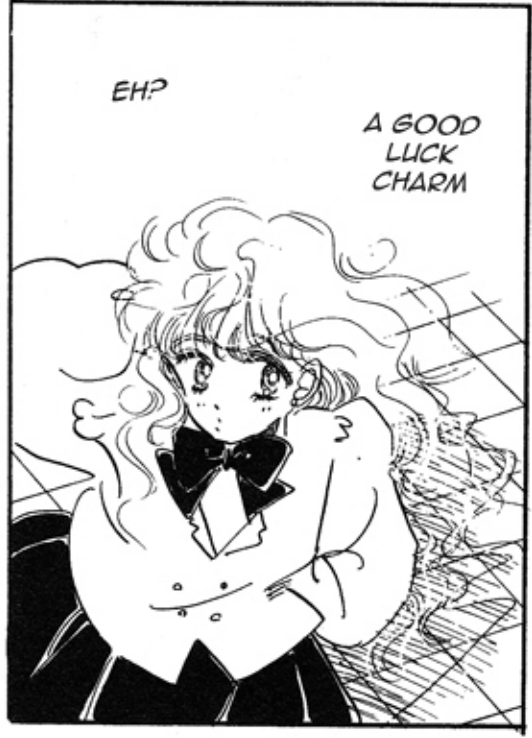
♡

WAIT HERE A MINUTE.



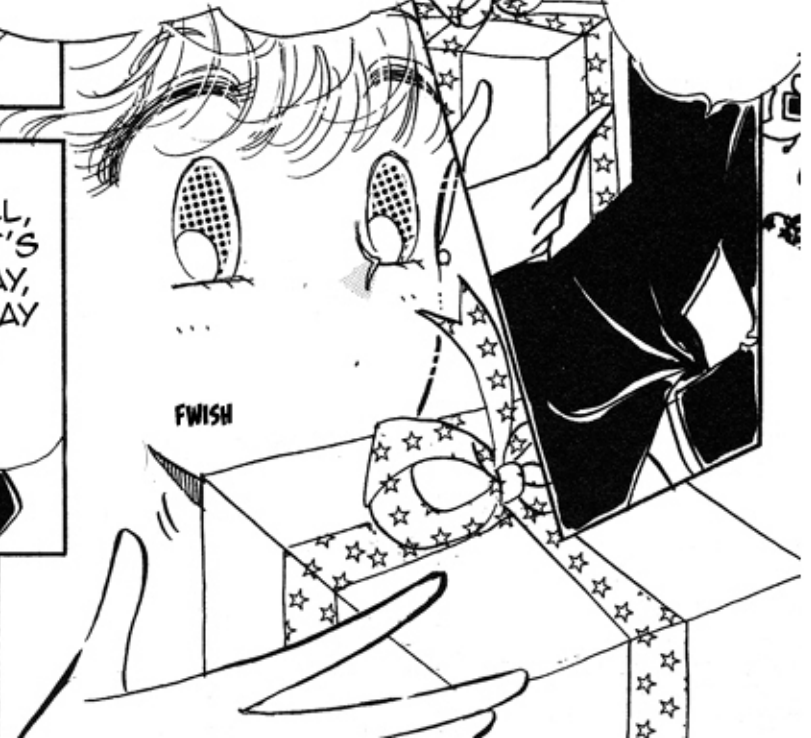
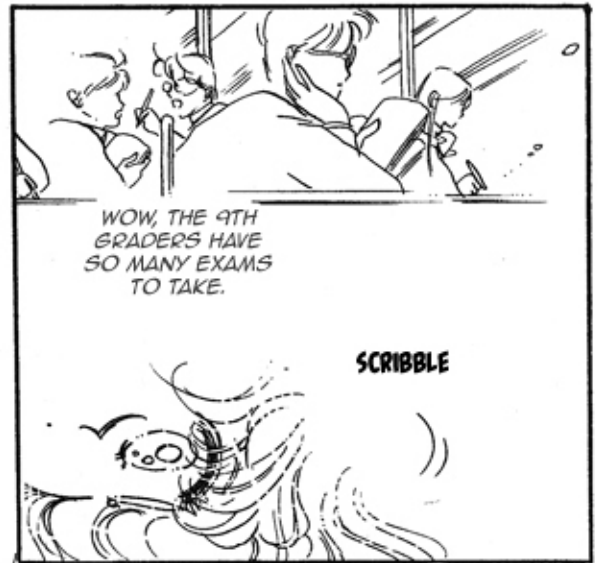
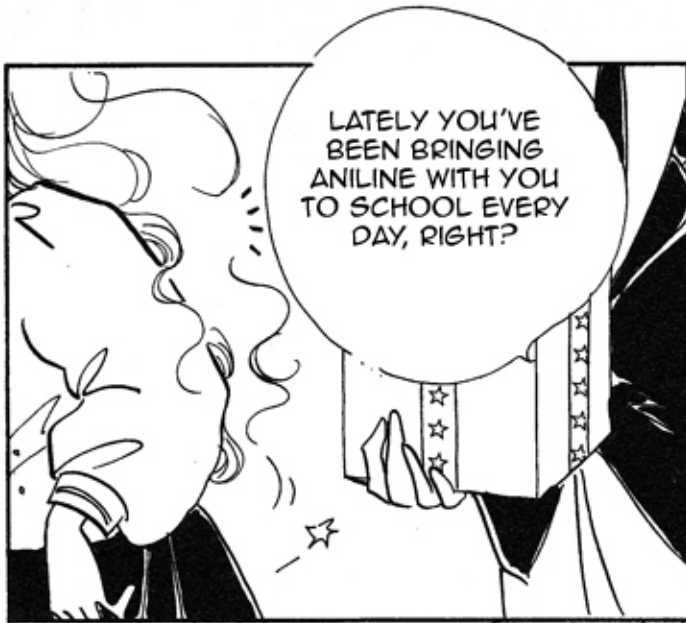
MR. KUBOI, PLEASE!

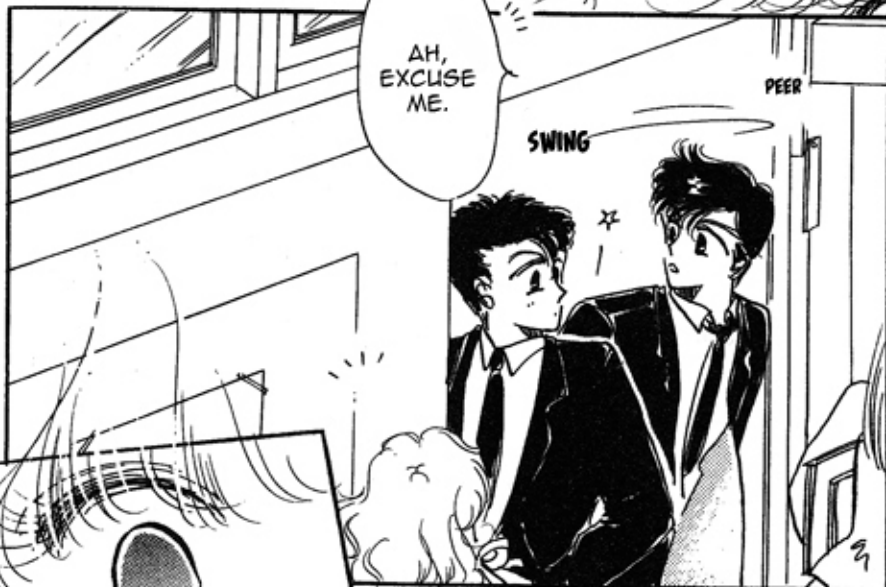
CHATTER



EHP?

A GOOD LUCK CHARM

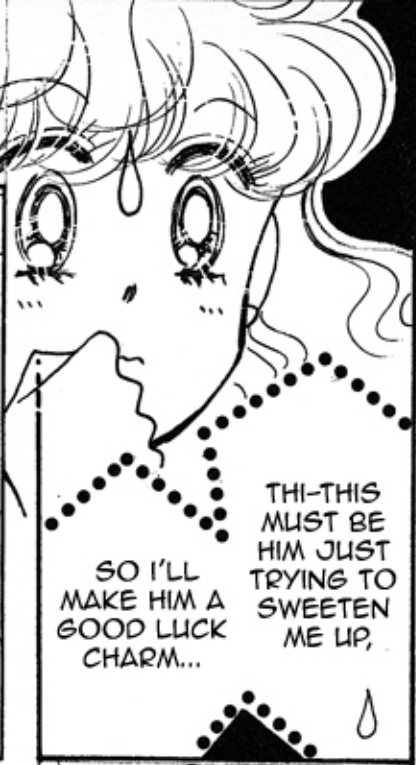




AH, EXCUSE ME.

SWING

PEER



THI-THIS MUST BE HIM JUST TRYING TO SWEETEN ME UP, SO I'LL MAKE HIM A GOOD LUCK CHARM...



i've still got some stuff to finish up on

you're,

still just the same!



TOSHI-!



OH NO, HE'S LEAVING ALREADY!

HE-



WAS THAT TOSHI BACK THEN, TOO?



what should i do?

TO-

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING, CHASING HIM AROUND LIKE THIS?

DASH

HUHP



HEY YOU!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!



PANT PANT

EHP?

ARE YOU TALKING TO ME? WHAT'S GOING ON?



TOSHIIII ~



sweatdrop

i don't think we've met.

BUT I JUST TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL. I USED TO LIVE HERE A REALLY LONG TIME AGO THOUGH.

WELL, MY NAME IS TOSHIO,



PANT PANT

EVER SEEN ME BEFORE?

HAVEN'T YOU,

SOME WHERE?



A DOG...

AND THEN THE DOG WAS GIVEN AWAY TO SOMEONE.



I KNEW IT!

DO YOU REMEMBER THE LITTLE GIRL YOU USED TO PLAY WITH BACK THEN?

WELL, DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK THEN,

AND YOU FOUND A PUPPY BACK THEN TOO, TOSHI.



I WAS THE GIRL FROM BACK THEN!
YUMIKO SAKO!

YES! EXACTLY,
YES EXACTLY!

WELL?

HUH?

OH, IS THAT
RIGHT?

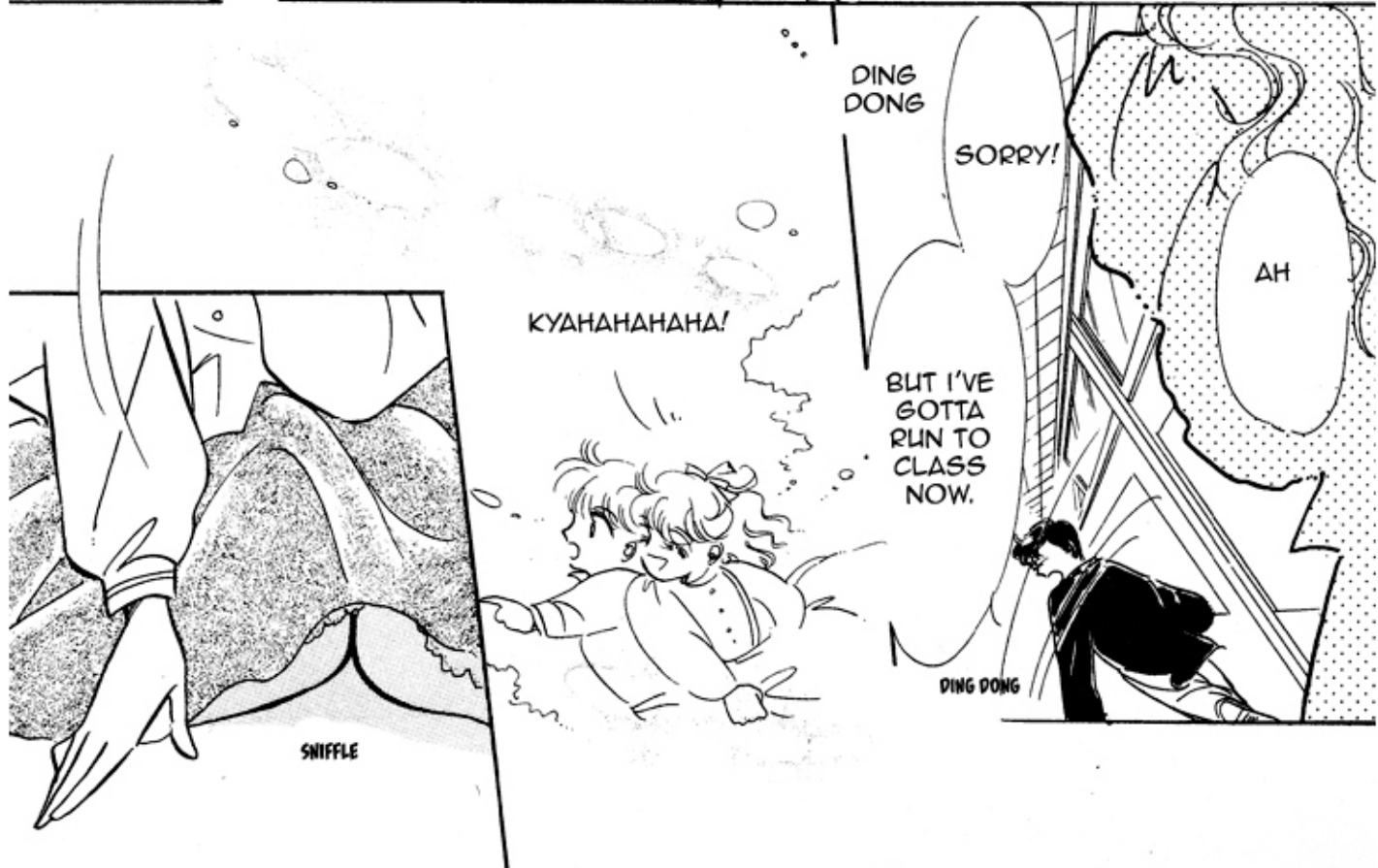


NOTHING.

IT'S,

I JUST
THOUGHT,

YOU
MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING
TO SAY.



DING
DONG

SORRY!

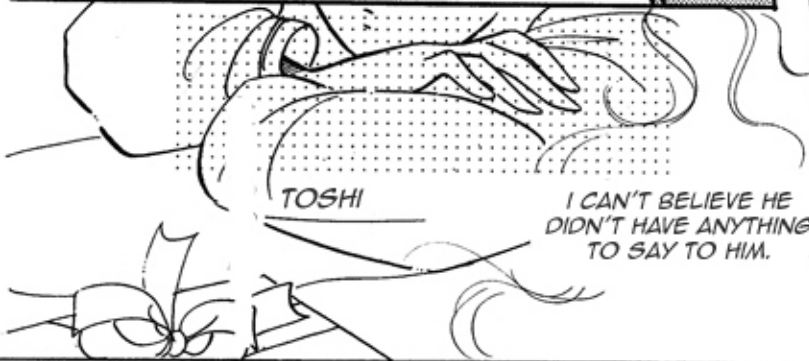
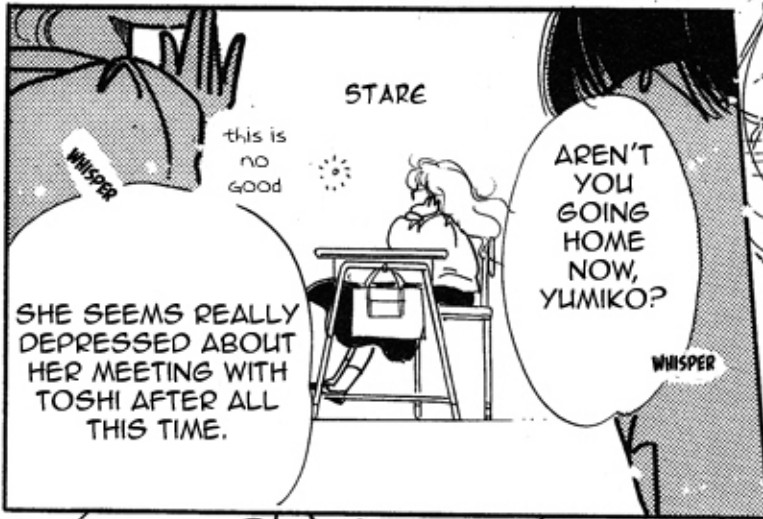
AH

KYAHAAAAAAAA!

BUT I'VE
GOTTA
RUN TO
CLASS
NOW.

DING DONG

SNIFFLE



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GAVE ME SUCH A CURT RESPONSE.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WHEN WE MET AGAIN



CHATTER

CHATTER



MR. KUBOI'S PRESENT.

ANILINE,
SORRY TO
KEEP YOU
WAITING...
LET'S GO
HOME.

I FEEL LIKE
SUCH AN
IDIOT.

BONK

PEEK

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
WAS
DREAMING
ALL THIS
TIME OF A
DRAMATIC
REUNION.

TOSHI DIDN'T
REMEMBER ME
OR ANILINE AT
ALL.

I GUESS WE
JUST WEREN'T
THAT IMPORTANT
TO HIM AFTER
ALL.

NO
WAY

ANILINE
IS
GONE!

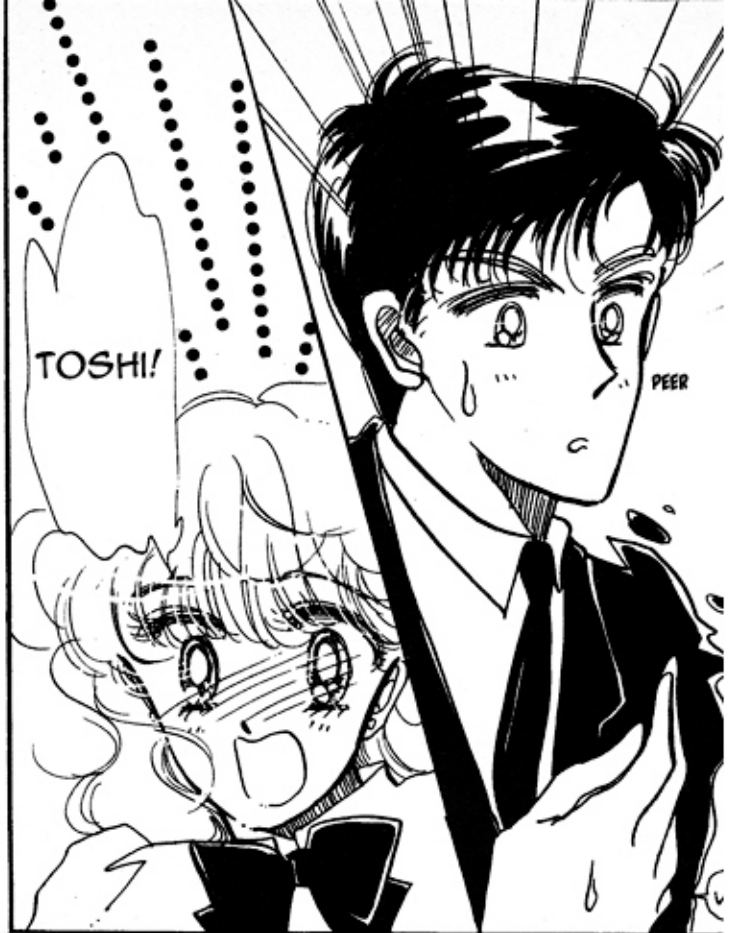
WHO COULD
HAVE TAKEN
MY DOG?!

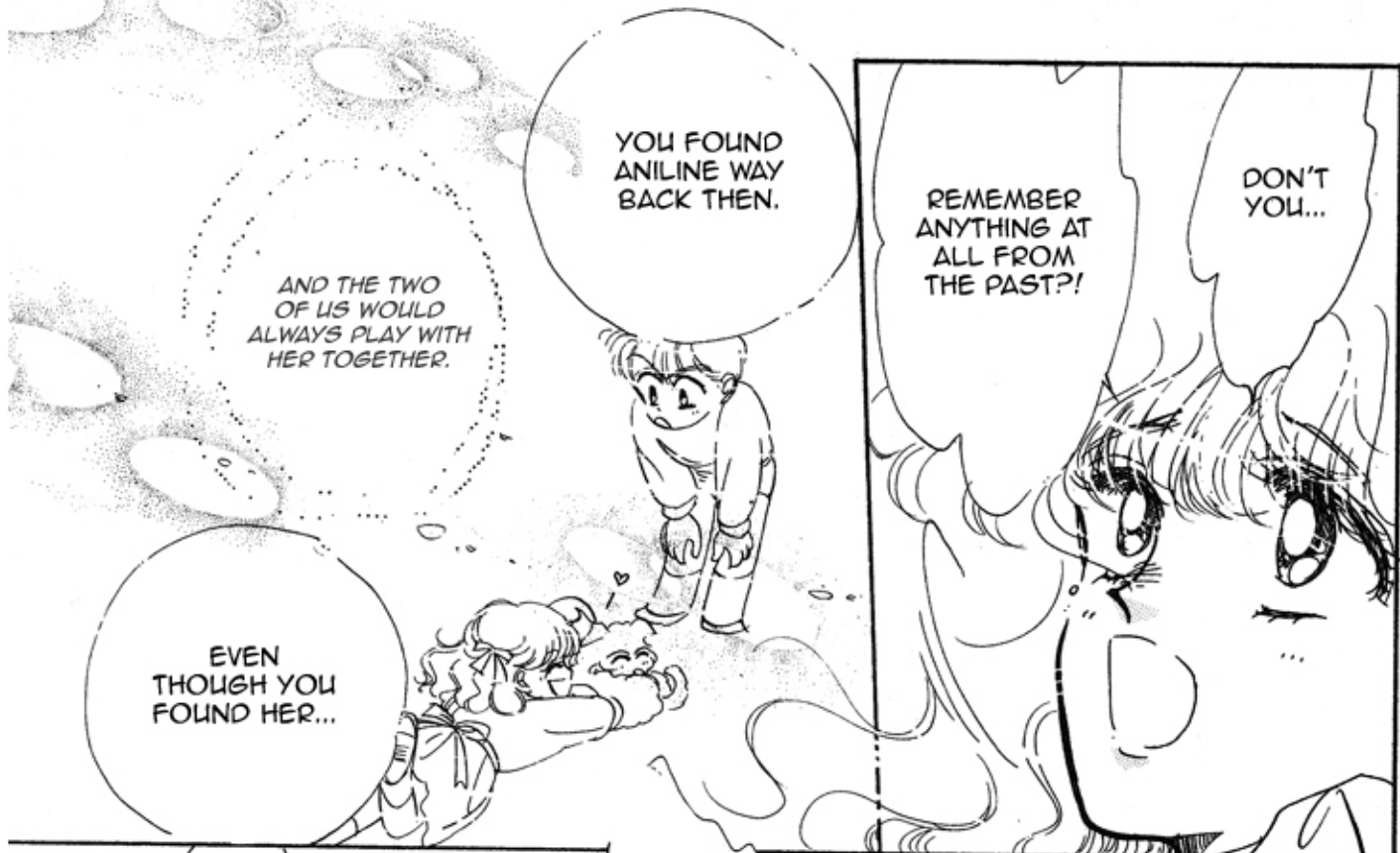
WHERE
COULD
ANILINE
BE?

BANG

ANILINE!
ANILINE!

I KNOW I
TIED ANILINE
UP REALLY
TIGHTLY.





YOU FOUND ANILINE WAY BACK THEN.

AND THE TWO OF US WOULD ALWAYS PLAY WITH HER TOGETHER.

EVEN THOUGH YOU FOUND HER...

REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL FROM THE PAST?!

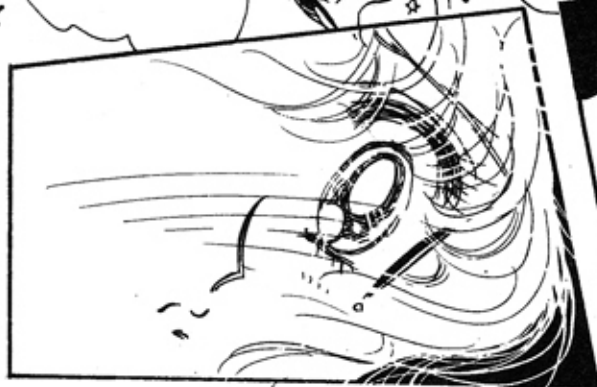
DON'T YOU...



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??

WAHH

YOU USED TO ALWAYS MAKE FUN OF ANILINE.



LISTEN, I'VE GOTTA GO, I HAVE TO STUDY FOR AN ENTRANCE EXAM I HAVE TOMORROW.

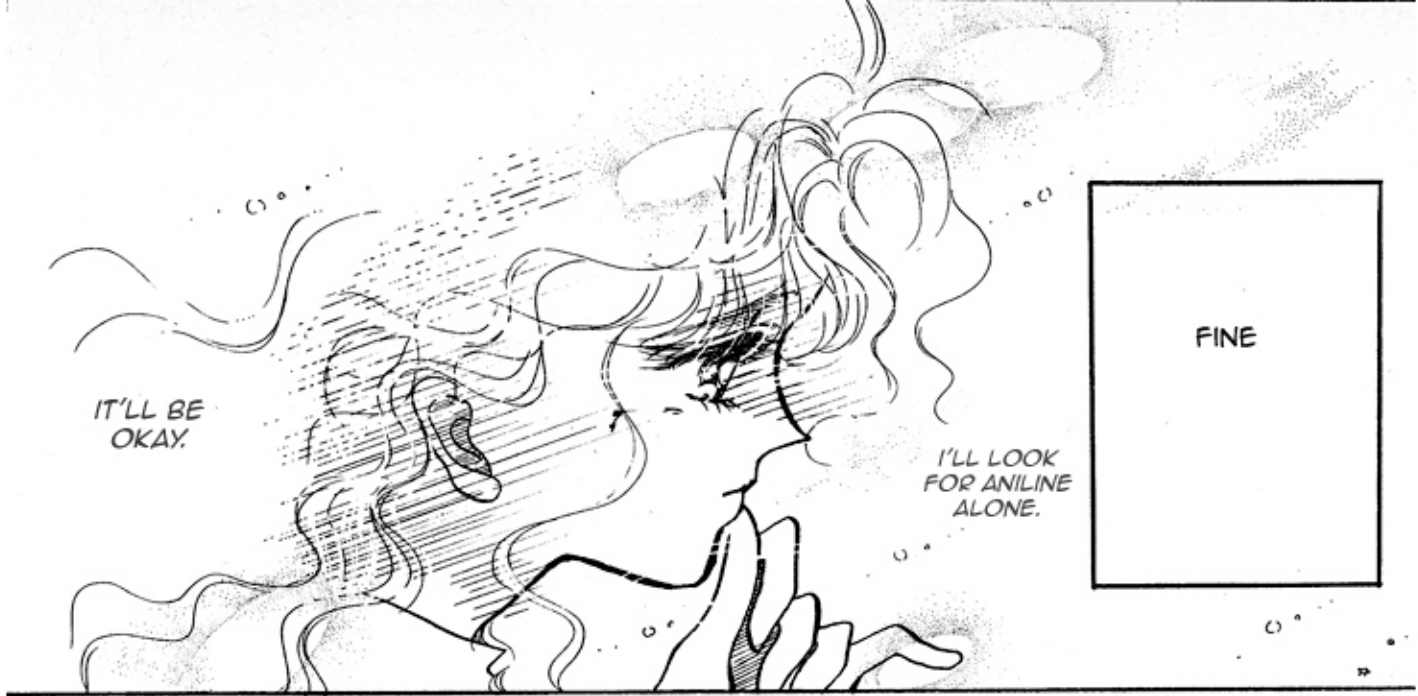
I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



TURN



DASH

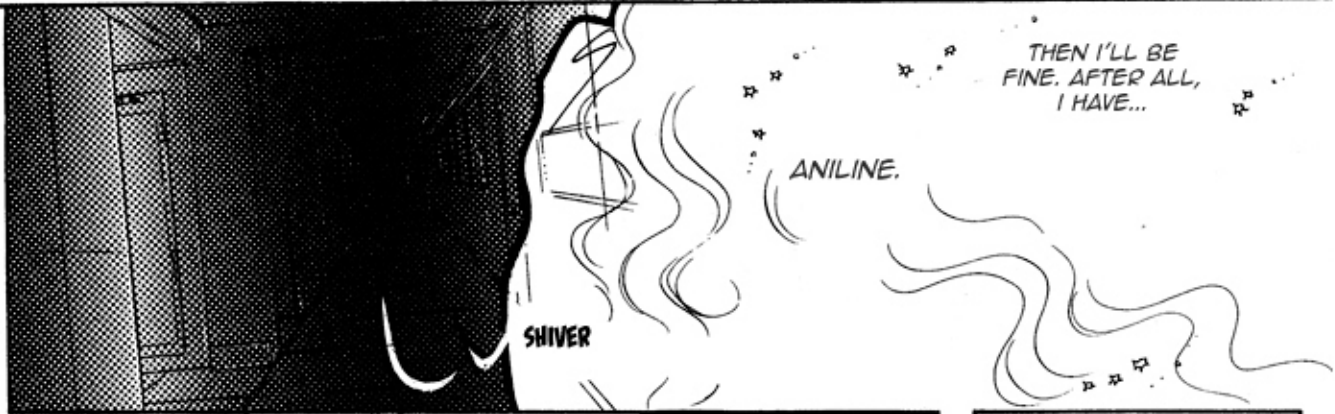


IT'LL BE
OKAY.

I'LL LOOK
FOR ANILINE
ALONE.

FINE

IF TOSHI HAS REALLY FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING.



THEN I'LL BE
FINE. AFTER ALL,
I HAVE...

ANILINE.

SHIVER



SLIP

TRIP

ACK!!

THUD

BOUNCE



ANILINE!



SHIVER



boing

KYA

☆
KYAAA!!

BOING BOING

HUH?

BA-DUM

SWOON

HUG

HAHA, YOU DORK. BEING STARTLED BY YOUR OWN JACK IN THE BOX, WHAT THE HECK.

BOING BOING

GASP

PANT

ほい



COME ON.

JANITOR'S CLOSET



DID THE REAL TOSHI FINALLY RETURN?



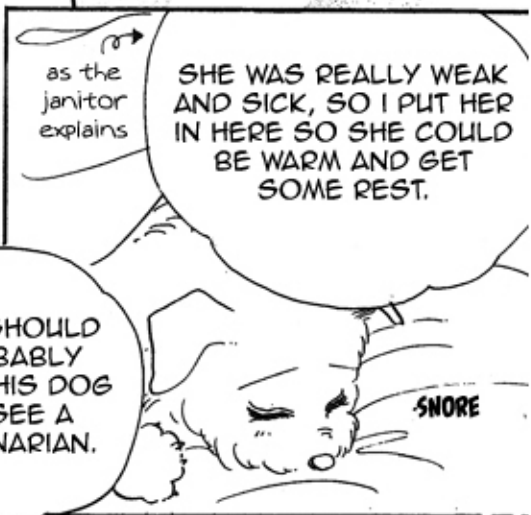
THANKS.

BOW

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.



ANI-LINE.



SNORE

as the janitor explains

SHE WAS REALLY WEAK AND SICK, SO I PUT HER IN HERE SO SHE COULD BE WARM AND GET SOME REST.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE THIS DOG TO SEE A VETRINARIAN.



*note: JR stands for "Japan railway" - but this probably refers to their most popular route, the yamanote line which runs through Tokyo

haha



LICK

WHAT?
UHM...
NO,
I'M
GOING TO
TAKE THE
SUBWAY.

ARE YOU
TAKING
THE JR
LINE*?



LICK



MY HANDS
USUALLY GET
WARM JUST
FROM
HOLDING
ANILINE.

OH, NO.



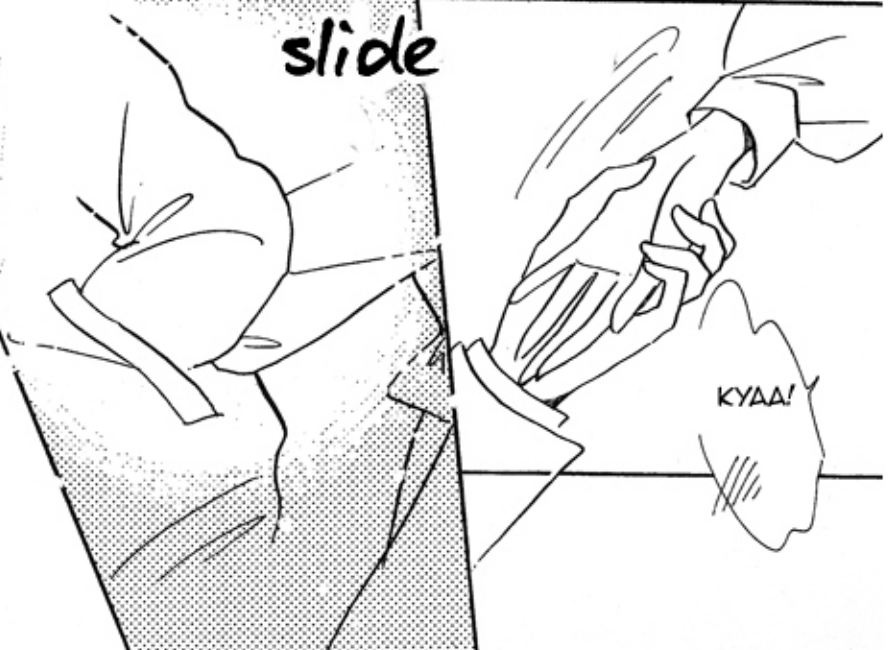
WITH
YOU?



DO YOU
HAVE
GLOVES,

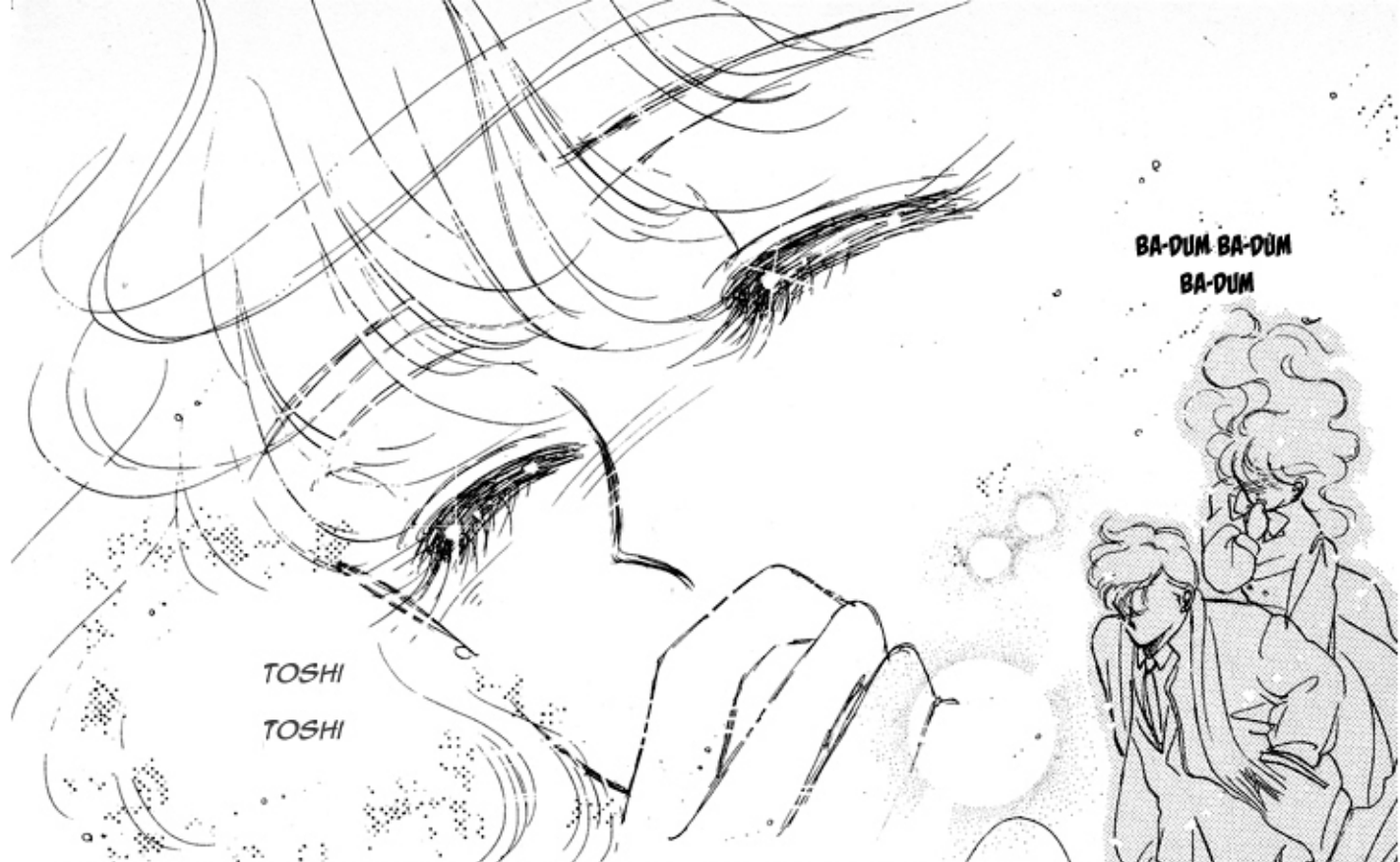


TOSHI.



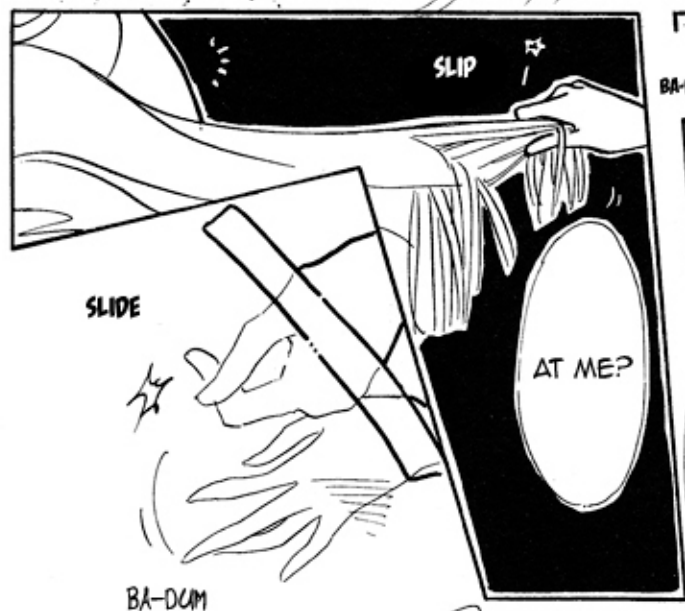
slide

KYAA!



BA-DUM BA-DUM
BA-DUM

TOSHI
TOSHI



SLIDE

SLIP

AT ME?

BA-DUM



BA-DUM

BA-DUM

LIMMM ...

ARE YOU MAD...



SUBWAY

TOSHI-



LATER.

SEE YA.

NO!

TO-



TOSHI

WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?



SORRY MR. KUBOI, BUT YOU'LL DO JUST FINE ON YOUR EXAMS WITHOUT ANY HELP.

SO SINCE I'M MAKING SOME.

LIAM



MAKING GOOD LUCK CHARMS FOR YOUR GRADE'S EXAMS.

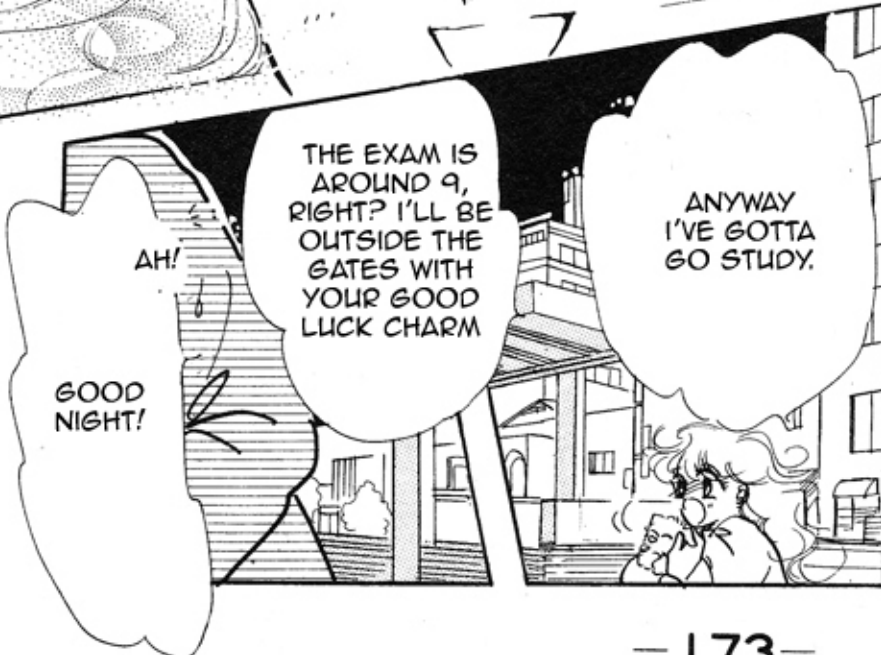
HEY, IN MY CLASS WE'RE

WIGGLE



SIGH

I GUESS.

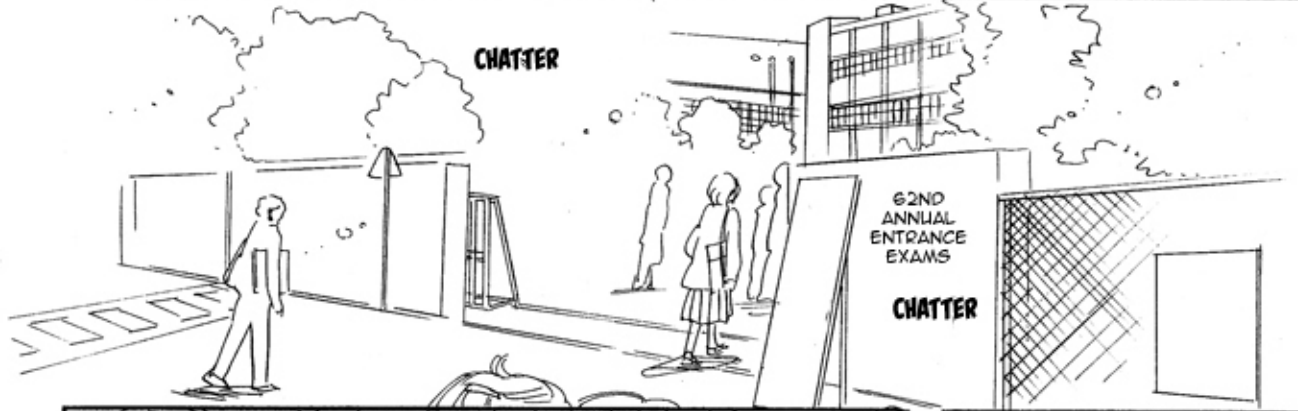
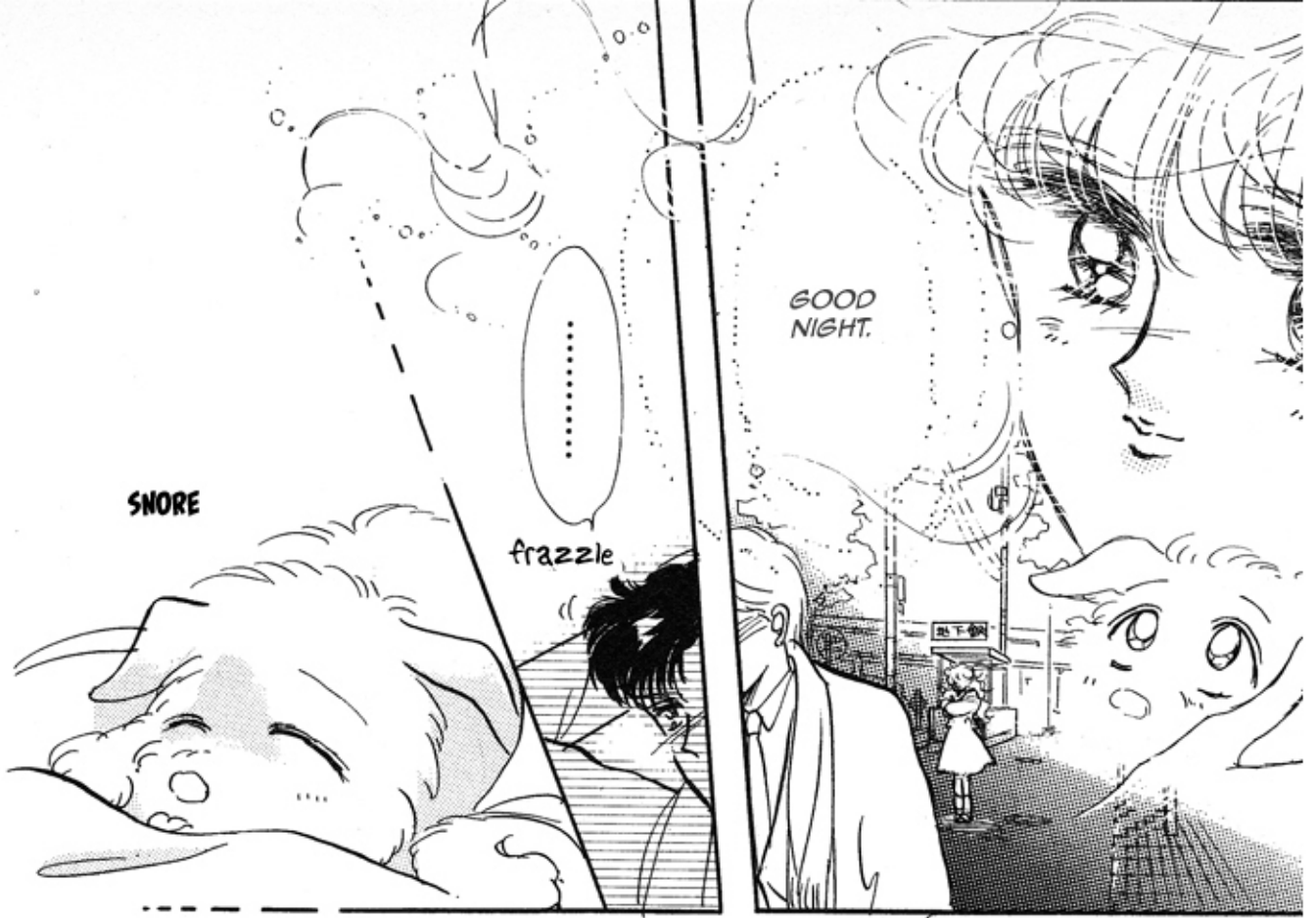


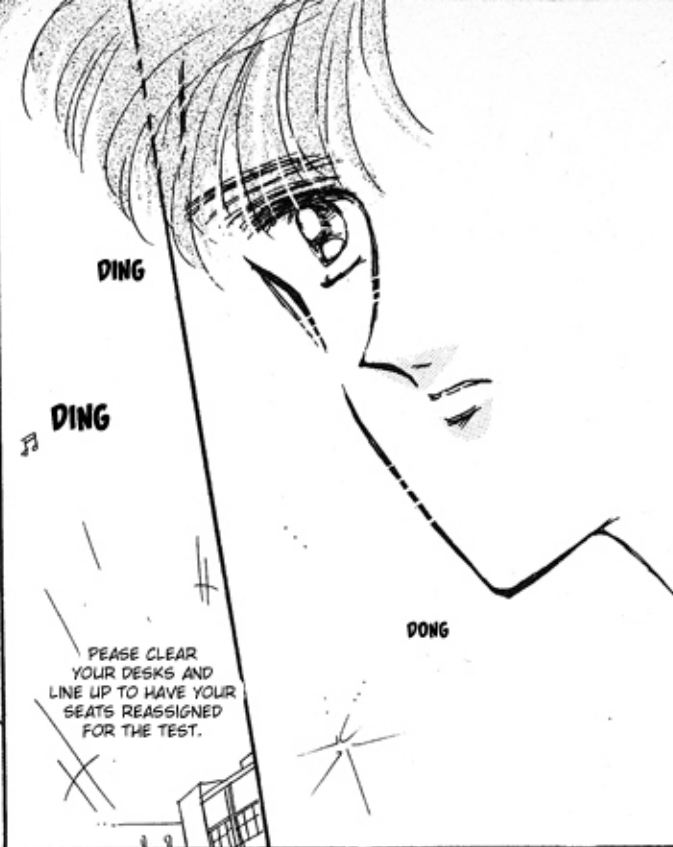
AH!

THE EXAM IS AROUND 9, RIGHT? I'LL BE OUTSIDE THE GATES WITH YOUR GOOD LUCK CHARM

ANYWAY I'VE GOTTA GO STUDY.

GOOD NIGHT!





DING

DING

DONG

PLEASE CLEAR YOUR DESKS AND LINE UP TO HAVE YOUR SEATS REASSIGNED FOR THE TEST.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS.

KYAHAAAA



AHHAHAHA!

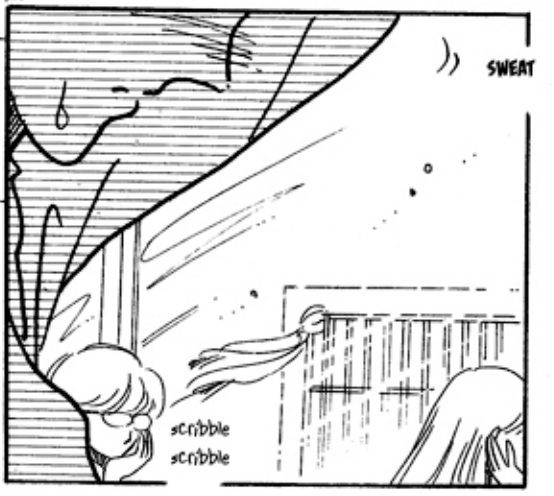
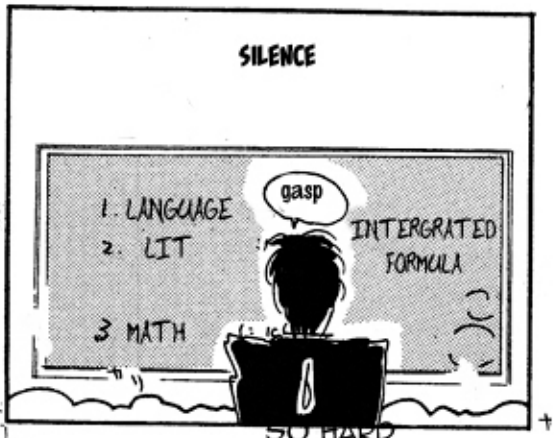
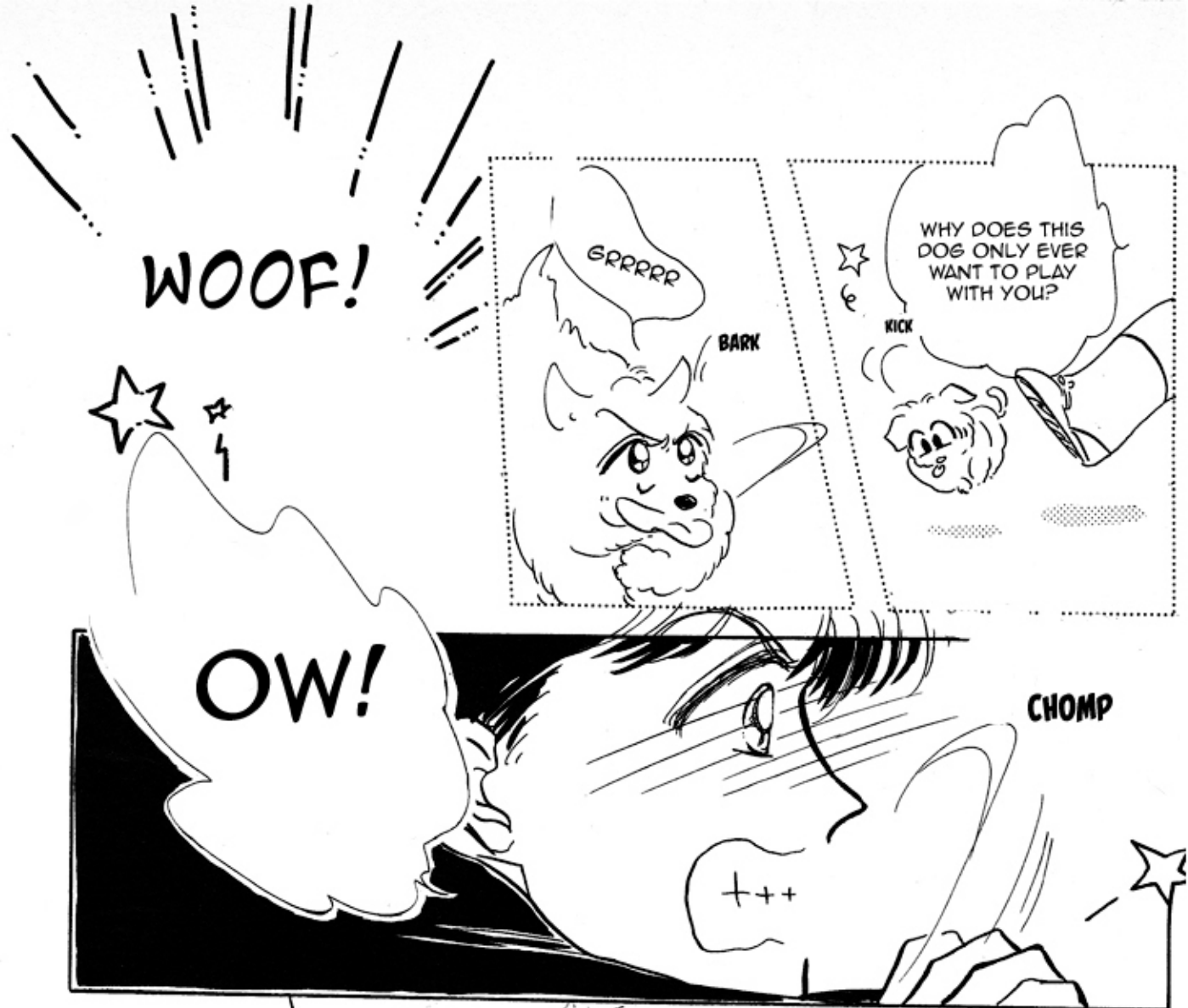


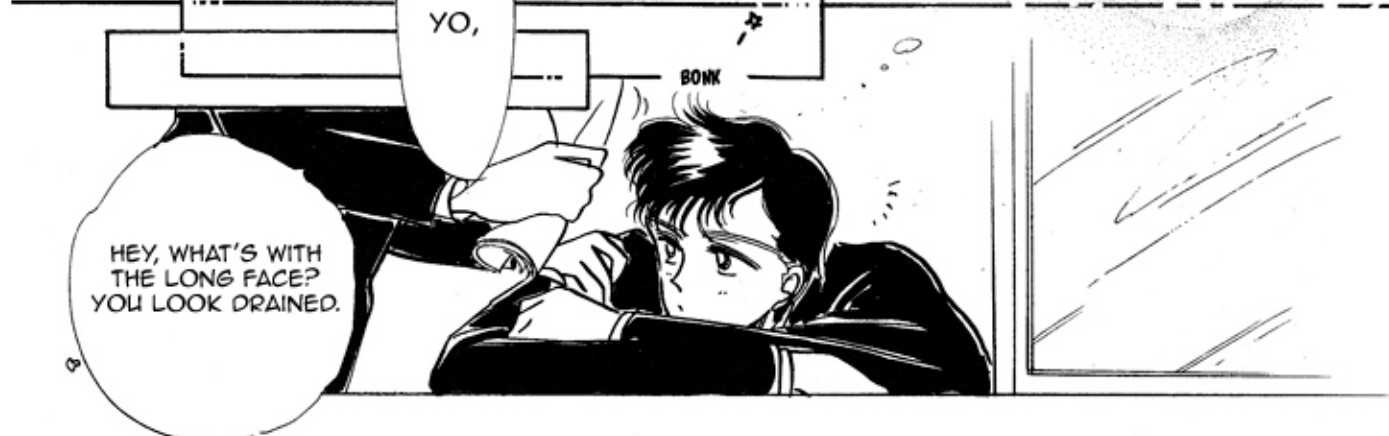
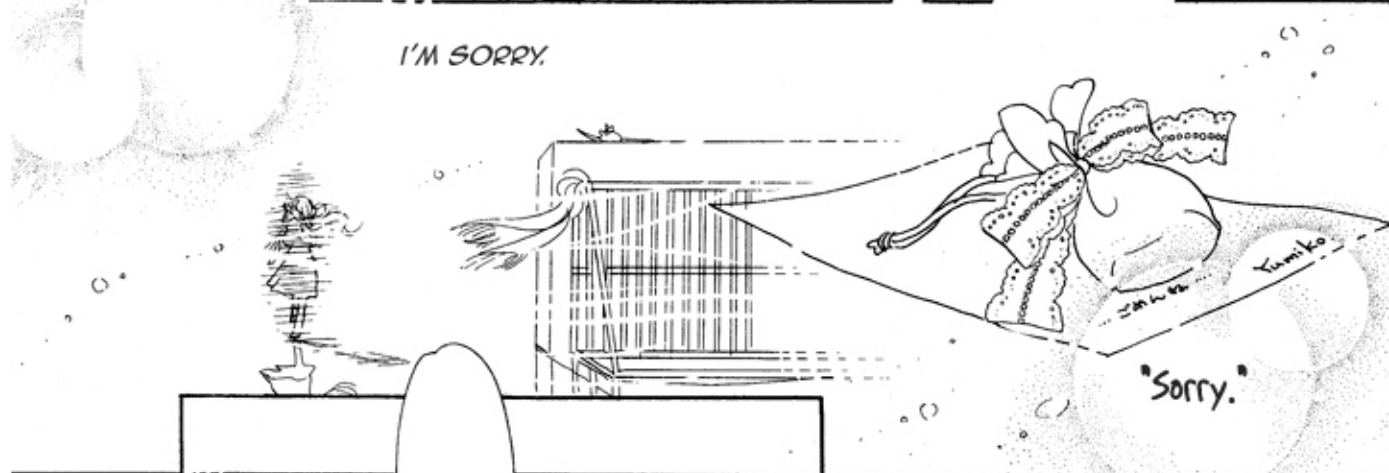
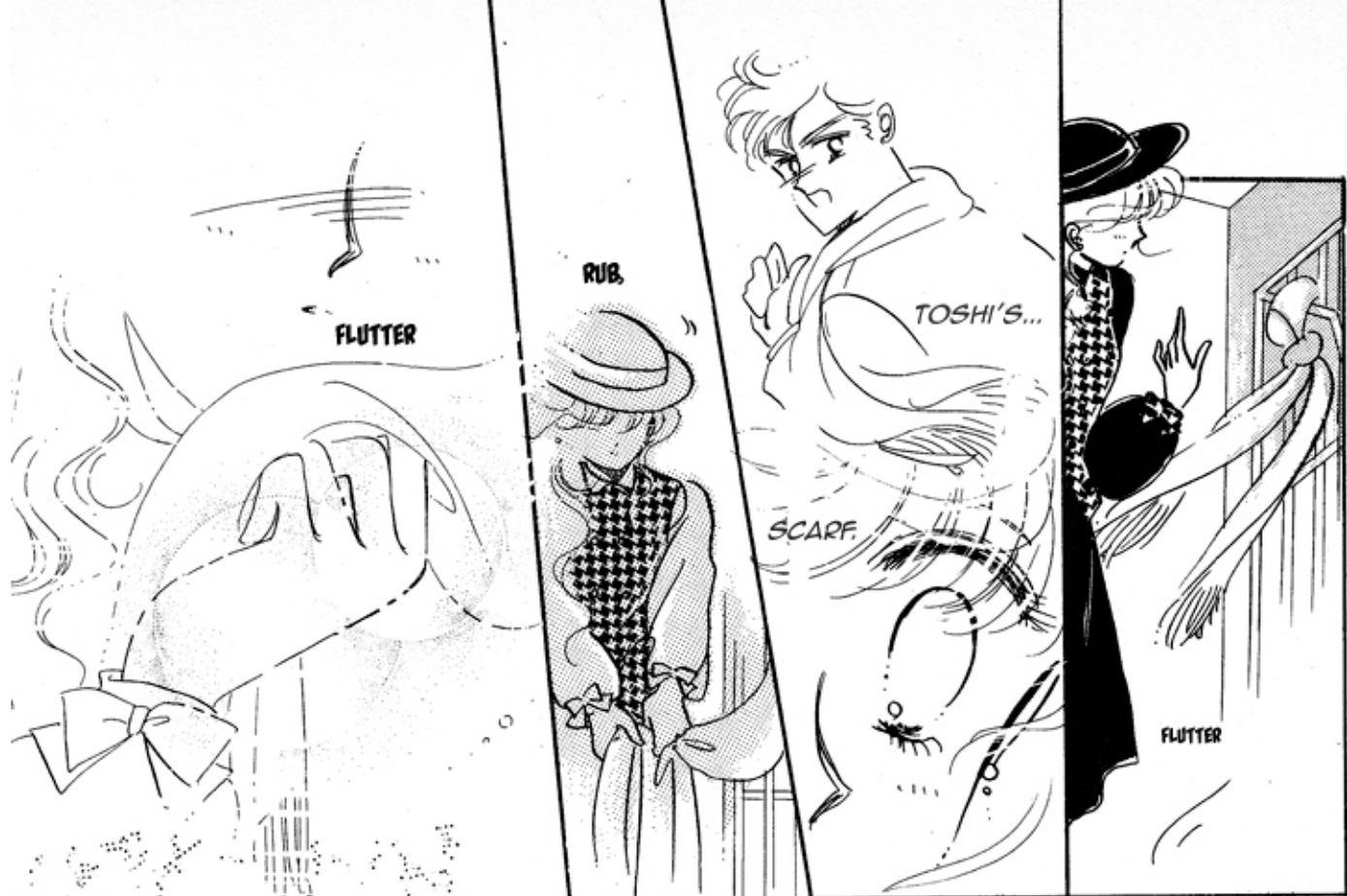
AHHAHAHA



WOW! CUTE! IT'S A LITTLE PUPPY!

KYAHAAAA!







YUMIKO'S GUY? WHHAAAAAT?!

YEAH, THAT'S YUMIKO'S GUY, HIS NAME IS TOSHI!

EEEK!

what the heck?

sigh

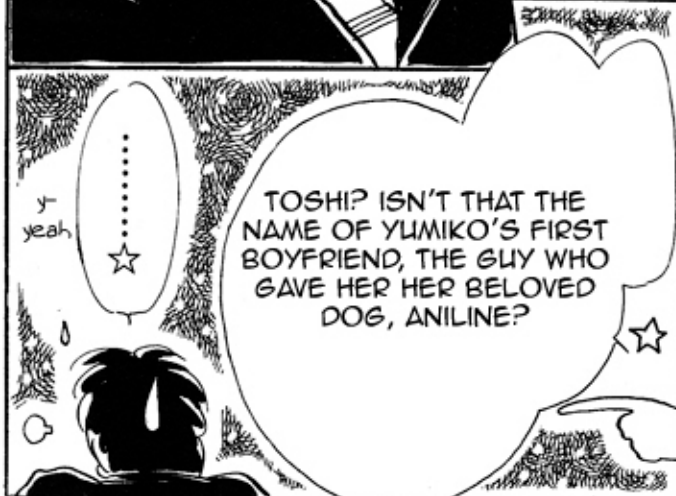
HEY, ISN'T THAT THE GUY YOU GAVE ONE OF YOUR GOOD LUCK CHARMS TO, YUMIKO?



WOO HOO

I'M JUST FREAKED OUT NOW THAT THE EXAMS ARE OVER AND WE HAVE FREE TIME AGAIN.

Hey! The graduation ceremony is starting, hurry!



y-yeah

TOSHI? ISN'T THAT THE NAME OF YUMIKO'S FIRST BOYFRIEND, THE GUY WHO GAVE HER HER BELOVED DOG, ANILINE?



"TOSHI."

kyaaa

WOW, REALLY? NO WAY?! THAT'S TOSHI! YOU'RE KIDDING!!



MEMORIAL SERVICE?

YEAH, ANILINE IS THE DOG THAT YUMIKO RAISED SO LOVINGLY IN MEMORY OF YOU AFTER YOU LEFT YOU KNOW. SO, DID YOU GO TO THE MEMORIAL SERVICE?

PUNCH

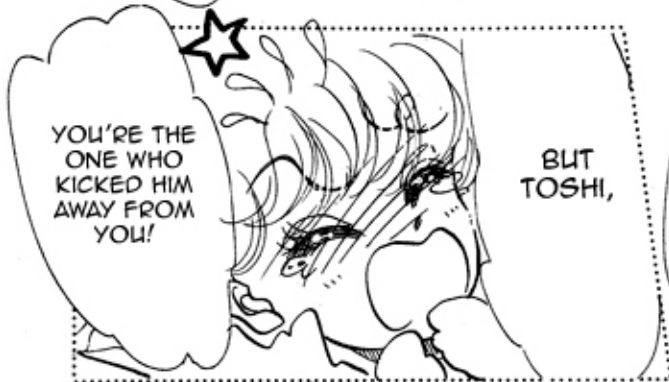
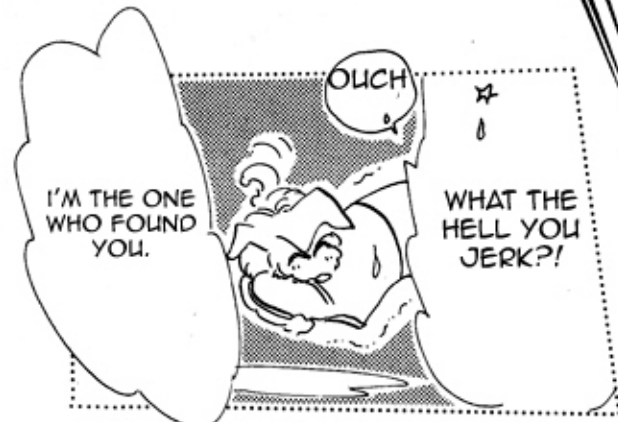


WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

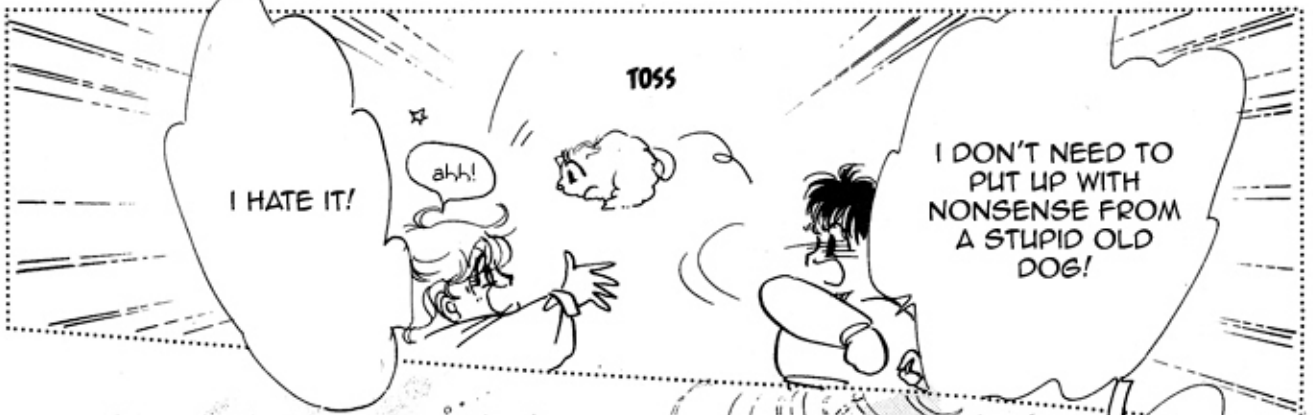
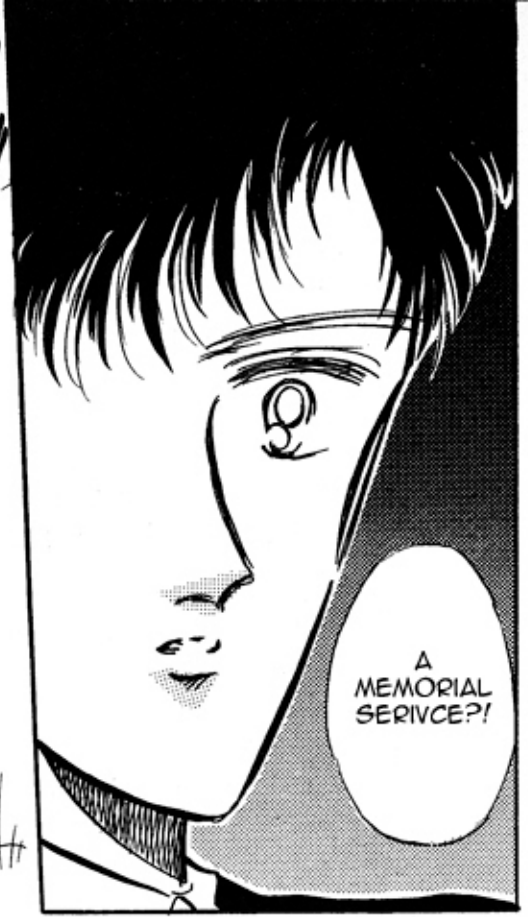
WHAT THE HELL?! YOU MEAN YOU'RE TOSHI, YOU'VE BEEN THAT GUY ALL ALONG?!

SHAKE SHAKE

are you freakin' serious?



woof!



DASH

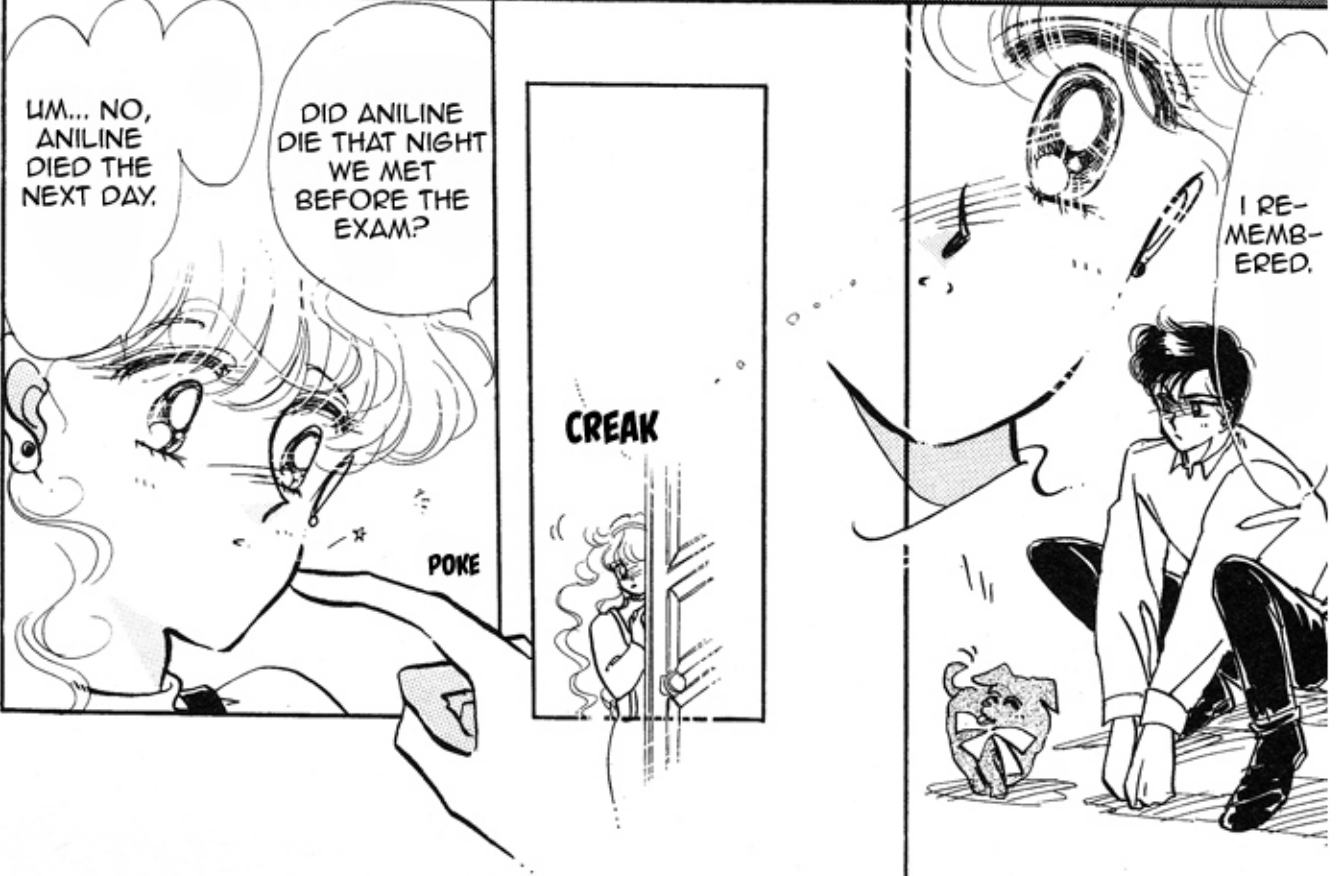
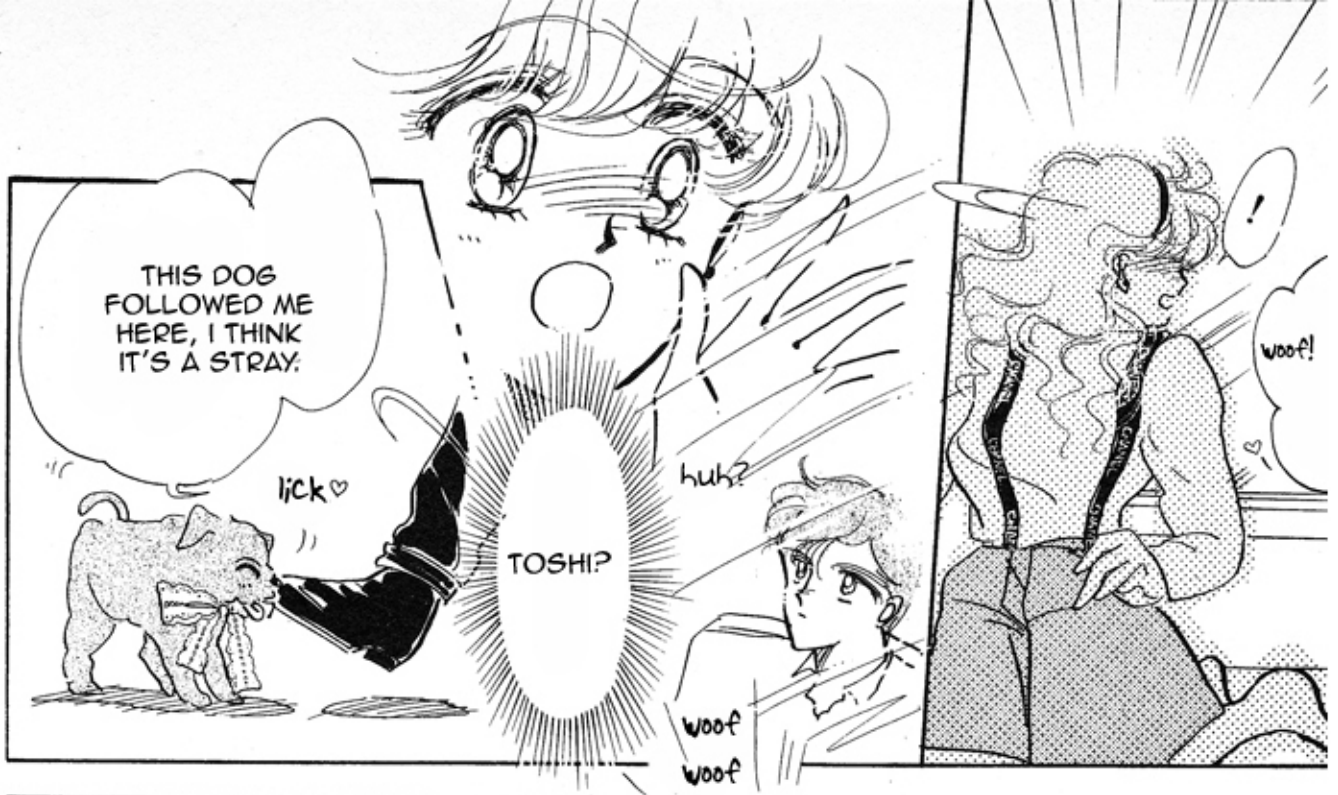
TOSHI!

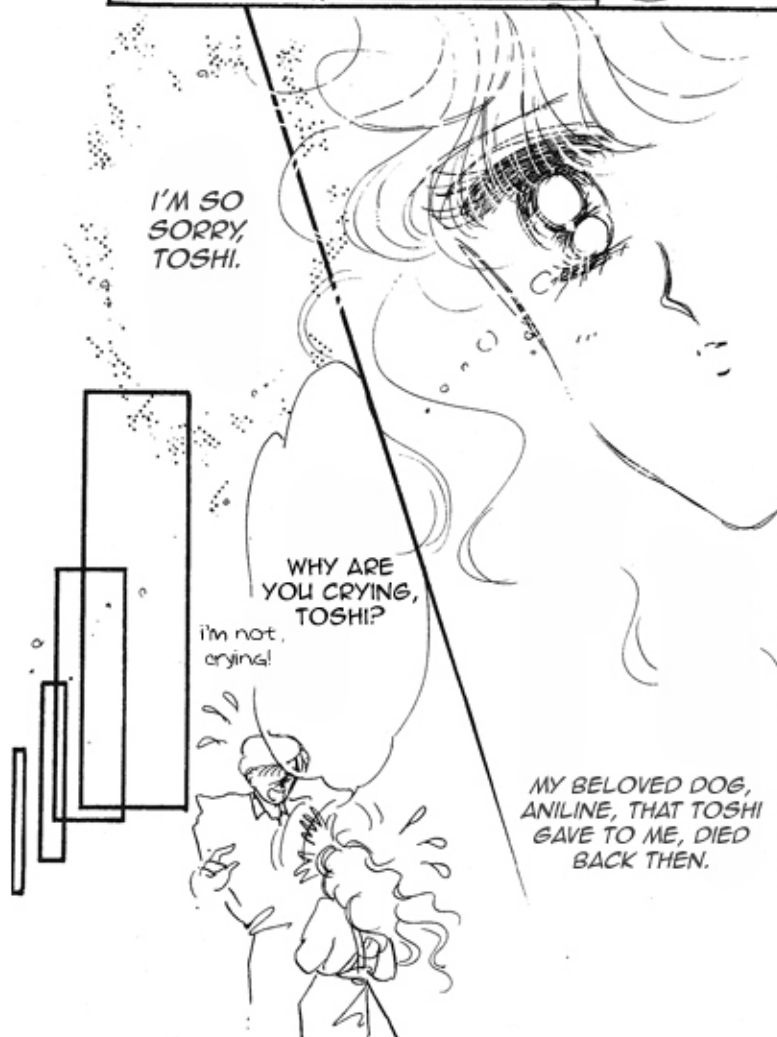
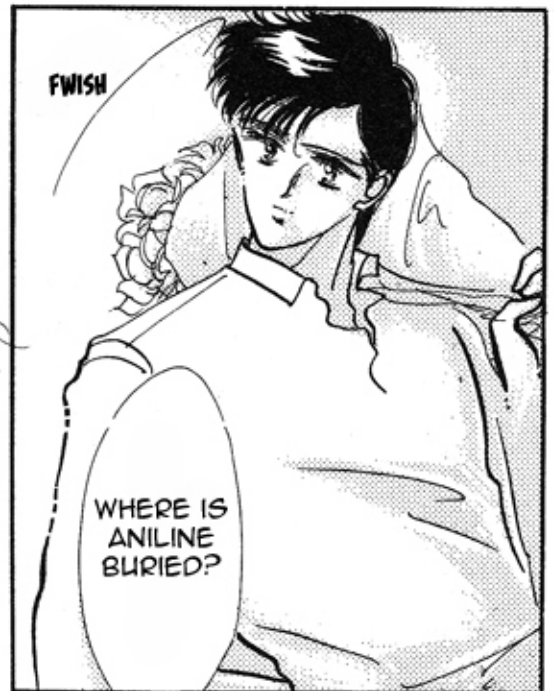
mmm

A DREAM?

bark

bark





SINCE THEN

IT'S BEEN TWO MONTHS SINCE I
LOST ANILINE,

AND SINCE HE CAME TO
MY HOUSE TO BRING ME
MY NEW DOG,
ACETANILIDE.





TO THE
FLORIST.

BUT TOSHI, I
WANTED TO GO
WITH YOU

EVER SINCE
ANILINE

I, YUMIKO
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH
ACETANILIDE, JUST LIKE I WAS
WITH ANILINE, AND NOW THE TWO
OF US, ALONG WITH

woof!

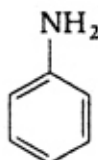
TOSHI

ARE ALWAYS TOGETHER.

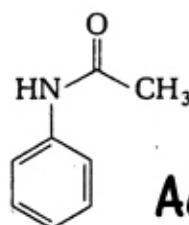
★★ THE END ★★

" Always Together ♡ "

My editor just loved the names I chose for the dogs in this story; Aniline and Acetanilide. Actually, those names... are kind of scary. They're both the names of compounds that came up over and over again in the organic chemistry class I had to take in college, which I hated so much I wanted to die to escape having to go to it.



Aniline



Acetanilide

Anyway, thank you for reading my unusually personal short stories! I wonder what your impressions of them are. The next book that will be published of mine is Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon volume 4! I'll see you again there. Remember, the password is Moon Crystal Power, Make Up!



I've written it with love so that Sailor Moon transforms beautifully.



Thank you so very much for reading this story.

April 1993
Naoko Takeuchi



1993. 4.

Naoko ♡ Takeuchi