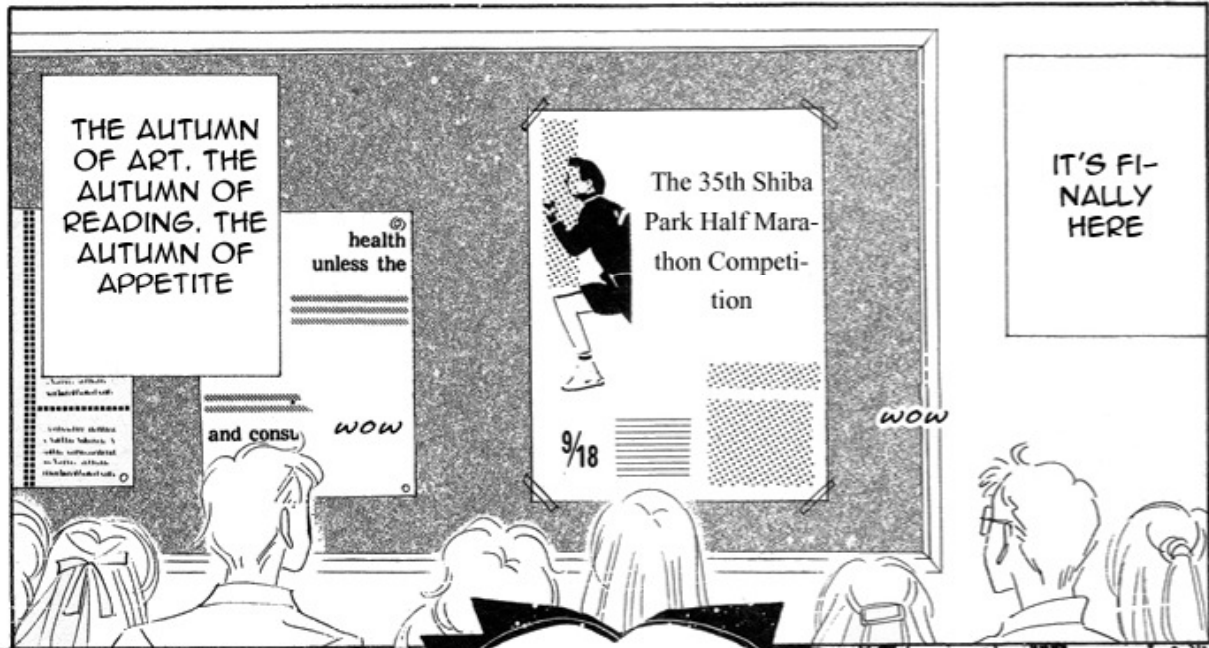# Vol.14

THE YOUTH BETS ON THE HACHIMAKI STONE!!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT

THE HACHIMAKI STONE?

THE AUTUMN OF ART, THE AUTUMN OF READING, THE AUTUMN OF APPETITE

health unless the

and consu

wow

The 35th Shiba Park Half Marathon Competition

9/18

wow

IT'S FINALLY HERE

MY NAME IS AINO MINAKO

AND I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS. AN AUTUMN OF SPORTS!

ALL RIGHT! I CAN'T WAIT TO COMPETE IN THE BIG MARATHON! (IT'S GONNA BE SO FUN!)

I CANT WAIT TO SHOW OFF MY WINNING POSE!

WHENEVER THE CONVERSATION TURNS TO SPORTS

WOW, A MARATHON... MAYBE I'LL SKIP SCHOOL TO GO

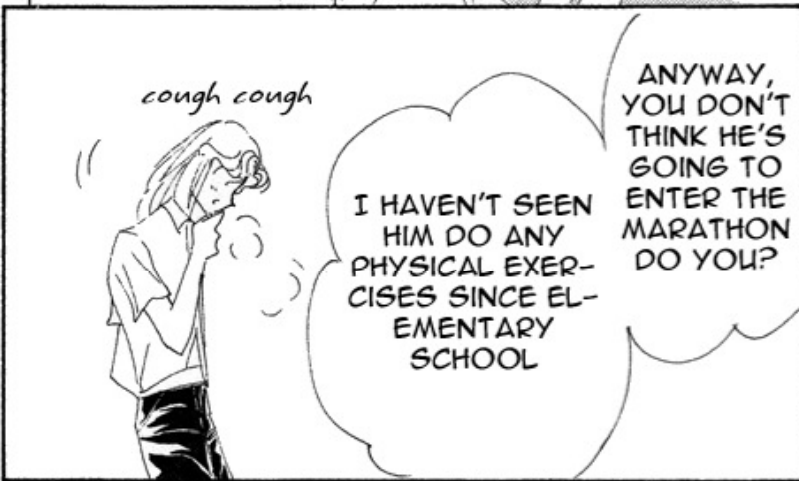MY ROLE MODEL SAID HE WAS GOING TO RANK IN THE TOP 20 THIS YEAR

THERE'S THIS ONE REALLY CUTE GUY

WHO STARES OUT OF THE WINDOW LONGINGLY

AND I, MINAKO, CALL HIM THE SCHOOL'S MOST MYSTERIOUS IDOL

HE'S A QUARTER RUSSIAN, AND IN MY CLASS. HIS NAME IS OTONARU MAIKU
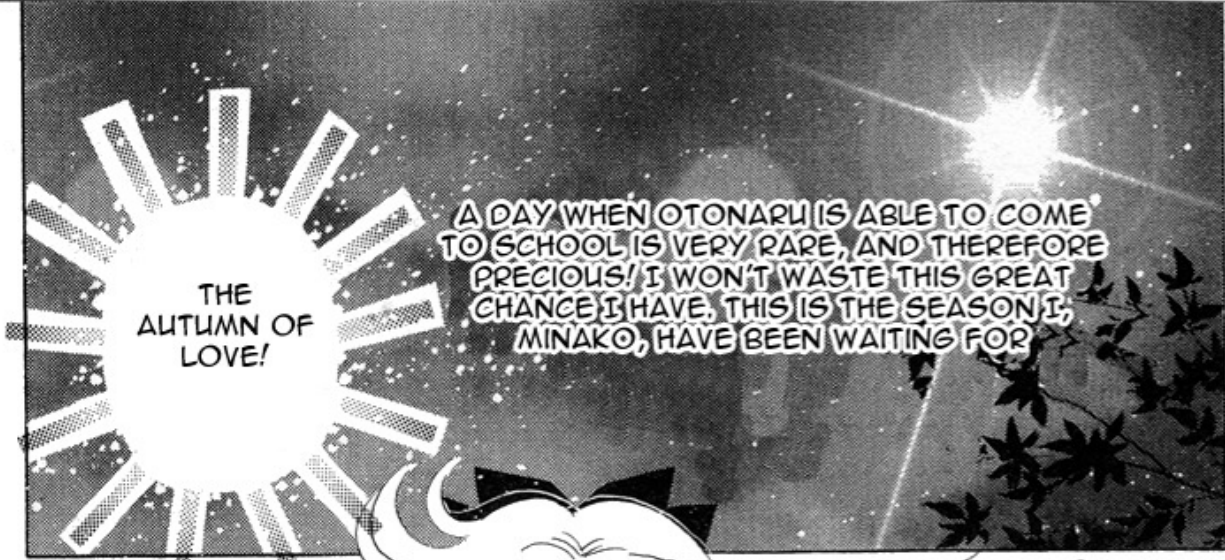
cough cough

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM DO ANY PHYSICAL EXERCISES SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ANYWAY, YOU DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO ENTER THE MARATHON DO YOU?
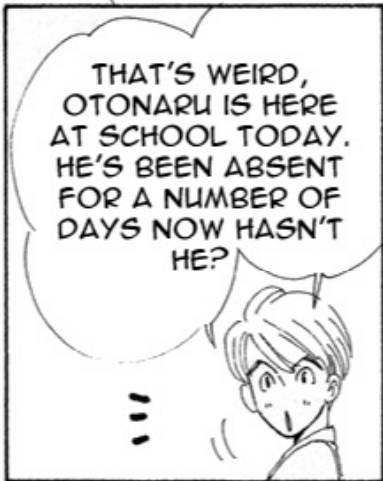
THAT'S WEIRD, OTONARU IS HERE AT SCHOOL TODAY. HE'S BEEN ABSENT FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS NOW HASN'T HE?

WE DIDN'T CALL HIM MAIKU, WE CALLED HIM TOOTHPICK

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS NICKNAME WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? BECAUSE HE'S THINNER AND WEAKER THAN A BEANSPROUT

sway

sway

OTONARU REALLY IS SO PALE (BUT HE'S STILL COOL)

IS OTONARU'S BODY REALLY THAT FRAGILE?

DO YOU THINK HE FAKES BEING SICK SO HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO GYM CLASS?

STOP THAT!

swoon

AH

wobble

shove

HEY TOOTH-PICK!

huff

huff

LISTEN UP!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, AINO

THE AUTUMN OF LOVE!

A DAY WHEN OTONARU IS ABLE TO COME TO SCHOOL IS VERY RARE, AND THEREFORE PRECIOUS! I WON'T WASTE THIS GREAT CHANCE I HAVE. THIS IS THE SEASON I, MINAKO, HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR
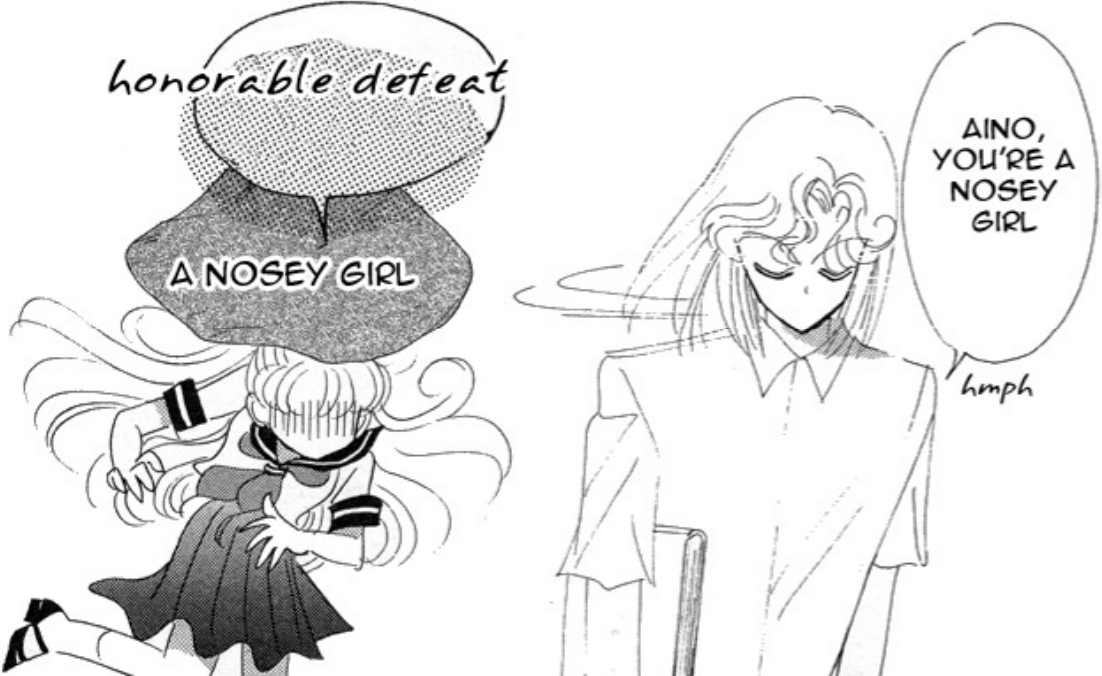
I AM FINALLY GOING TO BECOME CLOSE TO OTONARU!

DO YOU WANT TO COME AND PRACTICE WITH US? THEN YOU CAN ENTER THE MARATHON COMPETITION TOO!

HEY OTONARU, THE MEMBERS OF OUR CLASS ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER TO TRAIN FOR THE MARATHON

hmph

honorable defeat

A NOSEY GIRL

AINO, YOU'RE A NOSEY GIRL

hmph

DON'T EVEN WASTE YOUR TIME. HE DOESN'T HAVE THE MOTIVATION TO DO ANYTHING, JUST LEAVE HIM BE

A NOSEY GIRL

BUT HE'S CUTE (SOB SOB)

OTONARU HAS A TERRIBLE PERSONALITY!

BUT...

ugh

ignore

HMMPH

journal →

plop

AH!

LUCKY! OTONARU CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY!
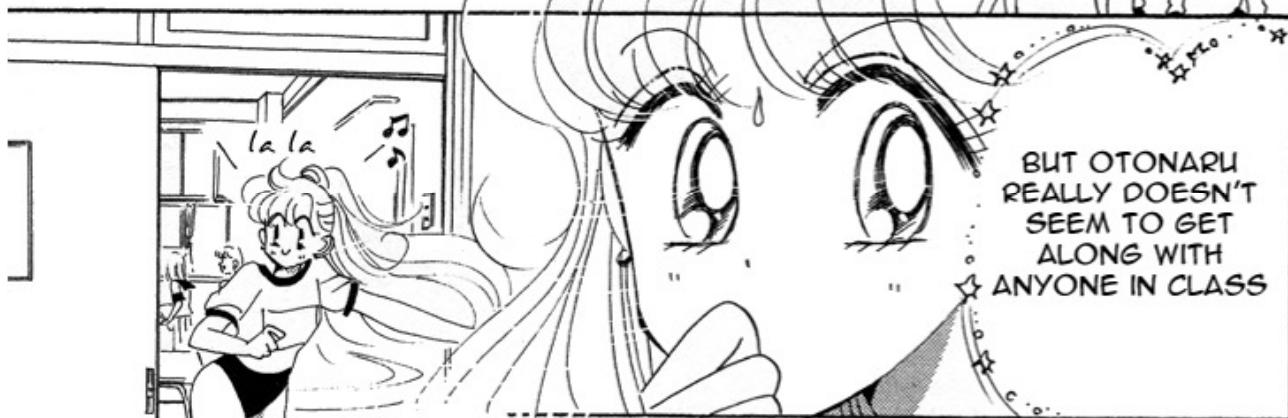
I DON'T THINK HE'S AS WEAK AS ALL THE BOYS SAY HE IS
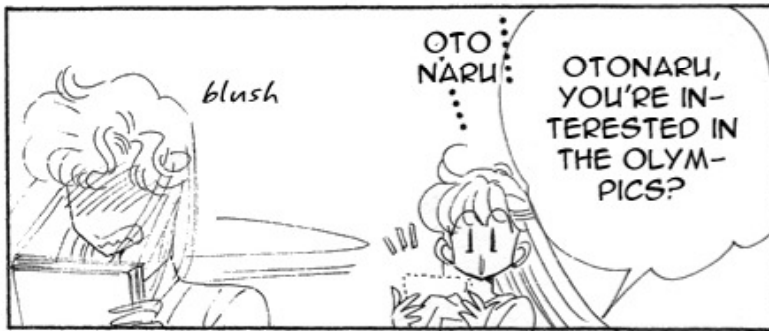
BUT THIS WAS MY CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM

AH HA HA

sweat drop

AH HA HA

BUT OTONARU REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO GET ALONG WITH ANYONE IN CLASS

la la

187

OTONARU, I'M SO SORRY!

S-SORRY

bam

blush

OTO NARU

OTONARU, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE OLYMPICS?

ROAD TO THE OLYMPICS SURMOUNTING (THE) CHALLENGE OF ESCAPING YOUR HEART PRACTICE

WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT TO PRACTICE FOR THE MARATHON WITH ME? EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO CHECK IT OUT. HOW ABOUT IT?

HEY! JUST READING ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS IS BORING! OTONARU, YOU SHOULD GET OUT THERE AND DO IT! IT'S FUN!
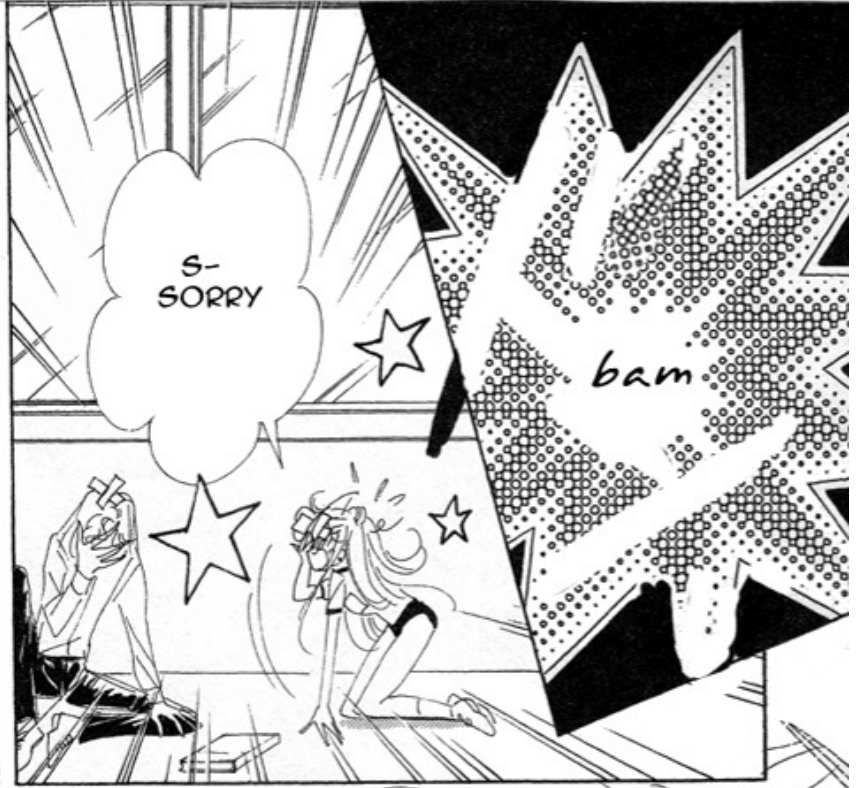
EVEN IF YOU JUST WATCH US

HMM?

OKAY ?

HEY LOOK, IT'S OTONARU!

AINO GOT HIM TO COME TO PRACTICE? WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!

SORRY I'M LATE!

stare

kyaa no way

LET'S DITCH HIM

giggle

HEY

OKAY, LET'S DO A QUICK LAP AROUND THE SCHOOL!

dash

AH

I CAN'T KEEP UP, I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!

running along side the boys

OH, IS IT?

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE BOYS AT ALL

pant pant

ack

HEY WAIT UP

HE'S NOT HERE!

HEY, WHERE DID OTONARU GO?

OTON ARU?!

Kyaaaa!!

HUH?!

HE'S HAD A WEAK HEART EVER SINCE HE WAS BORN

I TOLD YOU IT WAS USELESS

....

gui lty

HE'LL COME TO SCHOOL AGAIN TO-MORROW

YEAH

I KNOW

MINA, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF

step

step

MINA

sob

HE MIGHT BE THE TYPE TO EVEN HATE GIRLS FOREVER OVER THIS

HE MIGHT EVEN HATE ME NOW

BUT HE MIGHT NOT LISTEN TO ME ANY-MORE

666-999 ROPPONGI 7-DISTRICT... THIS IS THE PLACE!

vroooom

honk honk

KARAOKE ♫

beep

beep

♫ sing your heart out ♫

naru naru ☆ karaoke bar

sparkle

sparkle

IS THIS REALLY WHERE OTONARU LIVES?

WOW, THIS IS THE BIGGEST KARAOKE HALL IN ALL OF ROP-PONGI*!

*ROPPONGI IS A DISTRICT IN TOKYO, KNOWN FOR BEING A ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

I'M REALLY SORRY YOU'RE ILL. PLEASE GET WELL SOON

AINO?!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D GET SICK, I FEEL REALLY TERRIBLE ABOUT EVERYTHING

OTONA-RU! SORRY!

I LOVE, I LOOOOOOVE YOUUUU AK-KKOOOOOO

screeeech

HOW CAN YOU SLEEP WHEN THE KARAOKE PLACE DOWNSTAIRS IS SO FREAKIN' LOUD ALL THE TIME?

WOW THAT'S LOUD MUSIC

IT'S ALL RIGHT

bang

bang

IT MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE

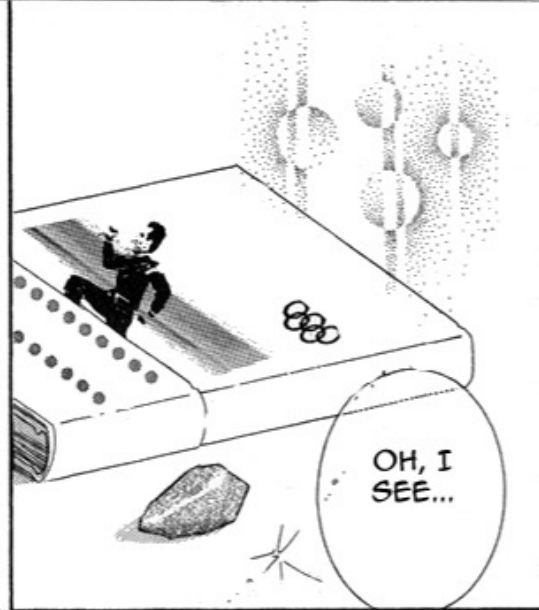I LOVE HEARING PEOPLE SING THEIR HEARTS OUT LIKE THAT

BUT I'M SORRY, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE MARATHON. IT'S ON THE SAME DAY AS MY NEXT HEART SURGERY.

AINO. YOU MADE SUCH AN EFFORT TO GET INVOLVED IN MY LIFE

lala

shala

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE IN A HOSPITAL, BUT I STAY AT HOME SO I CAN LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE SING.

WHAT KIND OF STONE IS THIS?

IT'S STRANGE. THERE'S A PERFECT WHITE LINE GOING THROUGH IT

OH, I SEE...

IT'S A HACHIMAKI STONE

IT'S FROM AN OLD RUS-SIAN LEGEND

IF YOU HAVE A HACHIMAKI STONE, YOU CAN GET FIRST PLACE AUTOMATI-CALLY IN ANY SPORTING EVENT

smile

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE IT, I'M STILL SURE YOU'D BEAT OUT ALL THE BOYS AND COME IN FIRST PLACE IN THE MARATHON

AINO, EVEN IF

AINO, YOU SHOULD HAVE IT

HUH?

194

A GOOD LUCK CHARM FROM OTONARU?!

FOR OTONARU MAIKU'S SAKE, I, MINAKO, AM GOING TO COME IN FIRST PLACE IN THE MARATHON!!

ALL RIGHT!

THIS YEAR

AND THEN NEXT YEAR, YOU AND I WILL SQUARE OFF TO SEE WHICH ONE OF US WILL COME IN FIRST PLACE!
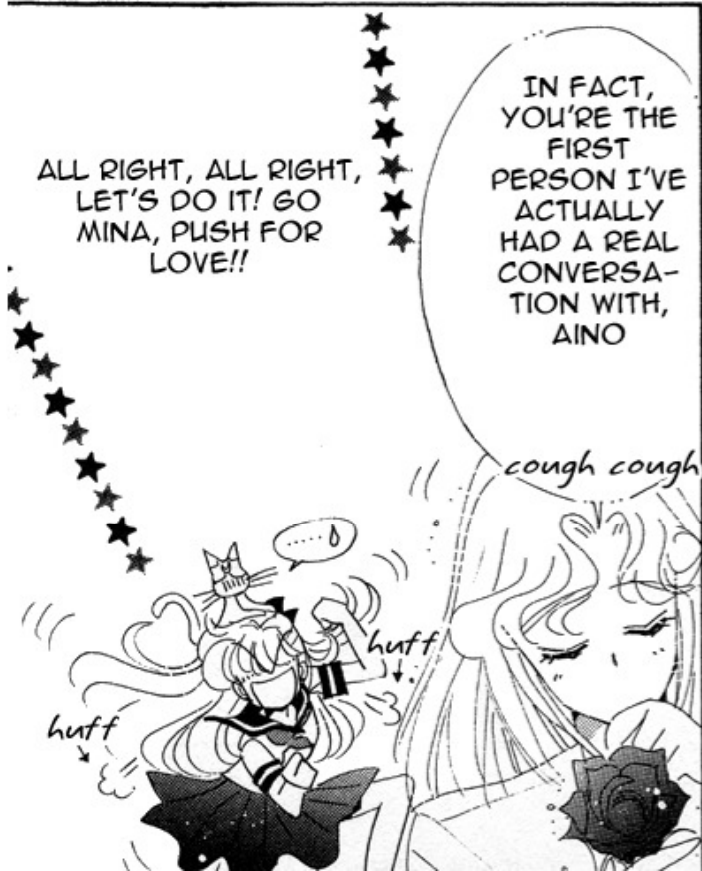
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO IT! GO MINA, PUSH FOR LOVE!!

IN FACT, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE ACTUALLY HAD A REAL CONVERSATION WITH, AINO

I HAVEN'T EVEN PARTICIPATED IN A REAL ATHLETICS EVENT AT SCHOOL BEFORE OR ANYTHING

ALL I EVER DID IS STAY AT HOME, AND HAVE A BITTER AND DARK PERSONALITY

I GUESS BECAUSE I WAS BORED

smile

AINO, I CAN'T BEAT YOU

cough cough

.....

huff

huff

POP

wow

sparkle

sparkle sparkle

AINO, SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO SEE ME, SING A SONG!

OH, I KNOW!!

tug

YOUR SWEET VOICE

not bad

clap clap

BUT THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT IF HIS SPIRITS ARE LIFTED, HE MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER FROM HIS ILLNESS AND SING SOMEDAY

yo yo yo

Maiku's mom

WATCHING OVER TOKYO

THAT KID HAS A MIC INSIDE OF HIM (SNIFFLE)

OKAY, NOW I'LL SING ONE TOO!

ARTE-MIS!!

LET'S GO TO THE KARAOKE BOX AGAIN!!

AWAKEN, MOTHER OF THE GALAXY!

I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO SING A HUNDRED SONGS!

ANYWAY, NEXT I'M GOING TO CALL UPON THIS IDOL FOR HELP!

IT'S SO I CAN BECOME CLOSER WITH OTONARU, THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO STARTING A RELATION-SHIP

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? OUT OF NOWHERE NOW YOU'RE COMING HERE ALL THE TIME

flip flip flip

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES, I'LL STILL BE YOURS

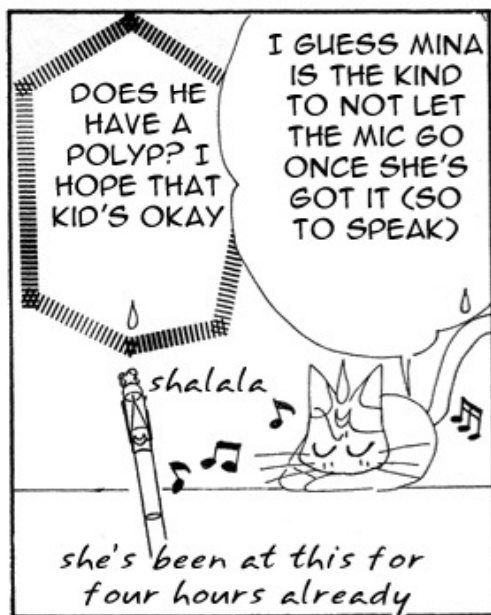SHE'S LIKE TERESA TENG*

*NOTE: TERESA TENG WAS A TAIWANESE JAPANESE POP STAR IN THE 1970'S

YOU'RE SO SWEET TO ME, YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING

OH, ARTEMIS, I CAN FEEL MY HEART SKIPPING A BEAT!

AHH... IT'S SO MUCH FUN TO SKIP OUT ON MARATHON PRACTICE TO COME HERE AND SING IN-STEAD

MINA

197

RED
SWEET
PEA

OTON ARU

MORE LIKE #2981

MAYBE YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY FIRST LOVE

DOES HE HAVE A POLYP? I HOPE THAT KID'S OKAY

I GUESS MINA IS THE KIND TO NOT LET THE MIC GO ONCE SHE'S GOT IT (SO TO SPEAK)

shalala ♪ ♫

she's been at this for four hours already

I MAY SEEM COLD BUT WHEN YOU TEASE ME I WILL ATTACK ATTACK

ANY WAY

fwooosh

chirp *chirp*

caw *caw*

can be seen late at night

honk honk vrooooooooom

198

THE ENTHUSIASTIC ENERGY OF THE HUMANS FILLS UP THESE ABNORMAL NIGHT TIME CONCERTS THEY HOLD! THIS ENERGY MUST BE WHAT GIVES THEM THE POWER TO PULL THROUGH!

ka ra o ke

karaoke

karaoke opera

karaoke box lovely
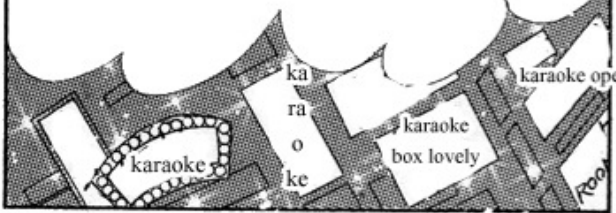
TWEET TWEET

WITH THE BIRDS

LOVE IS NUMBER ONE

OHH!

THIS PASSIONATE POWER IS OVERFLOWING FROM THE HUMANS EVEN THIS EARLY IN THE MORNINGS!
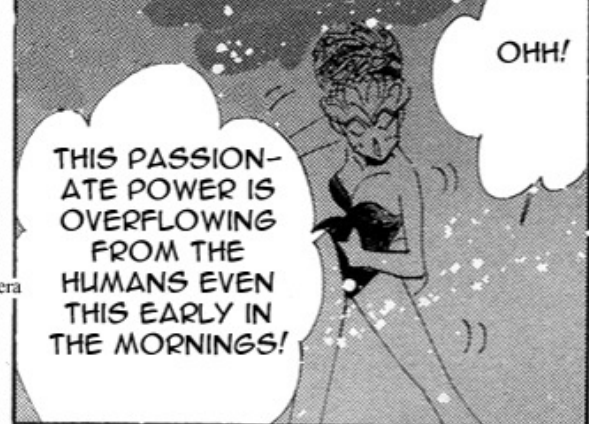
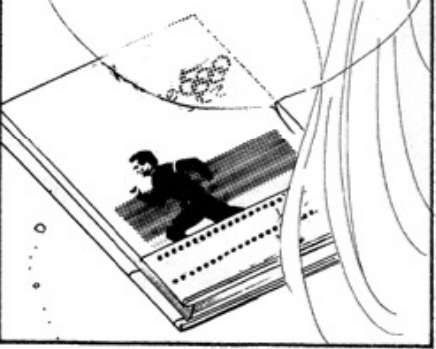shriek   shriek

SOON I WILL HAVE ALL OF THE ENERGY OF THE HUMANS GATHERED HERE!

THIS SOUND! THIS TENSION! THIS SPIRIT! THIS IS THE KIND OF STAGE I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR!!
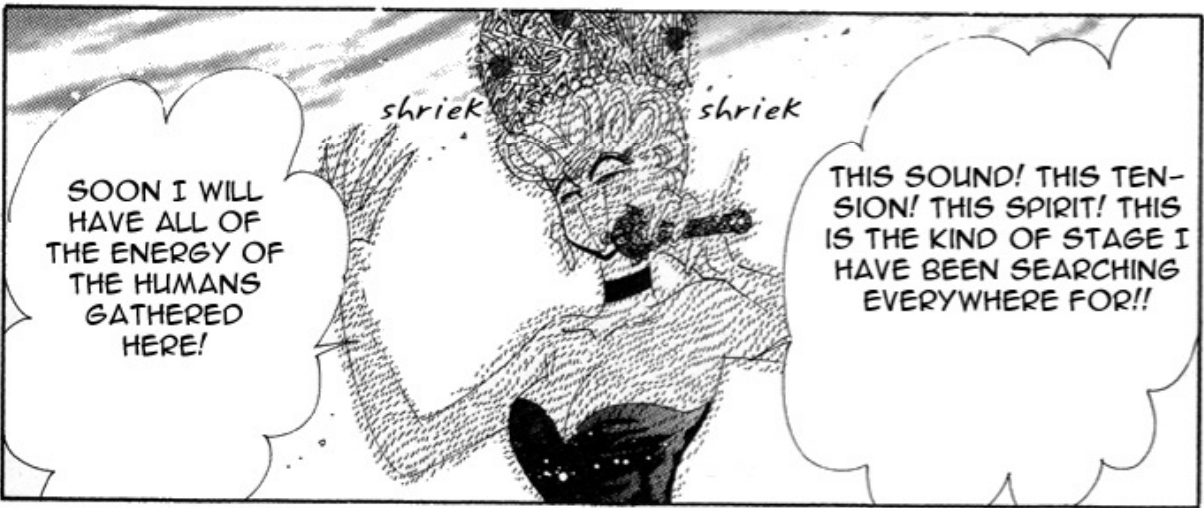
I'VE BEEN FEELING SO WELL LATELY, MAYBE I COULD GET AWAY WITH PUTTING OFF THE OPERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT MARATHON SHE'S GOING TO ENTER...
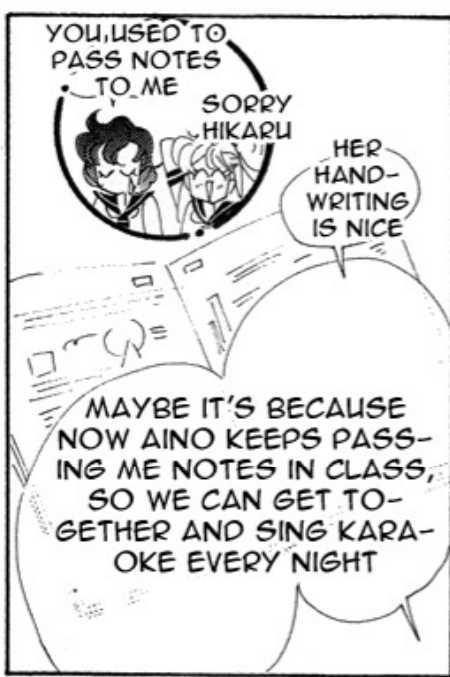
YOU USED TO PASS NOTES TO ME

SORRY HIKARU

HER HANDWRITING IS NICE

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE NOW AINO KEEPS PASSING ME NOTES IN CLASS, SO WE CAN GET TOGETHER AND SING KARAOKE EVERY NIGHT

AHH, MY BODY FEELS MUCH BETTER NOW

stretch

199

fwooooosh

AHH

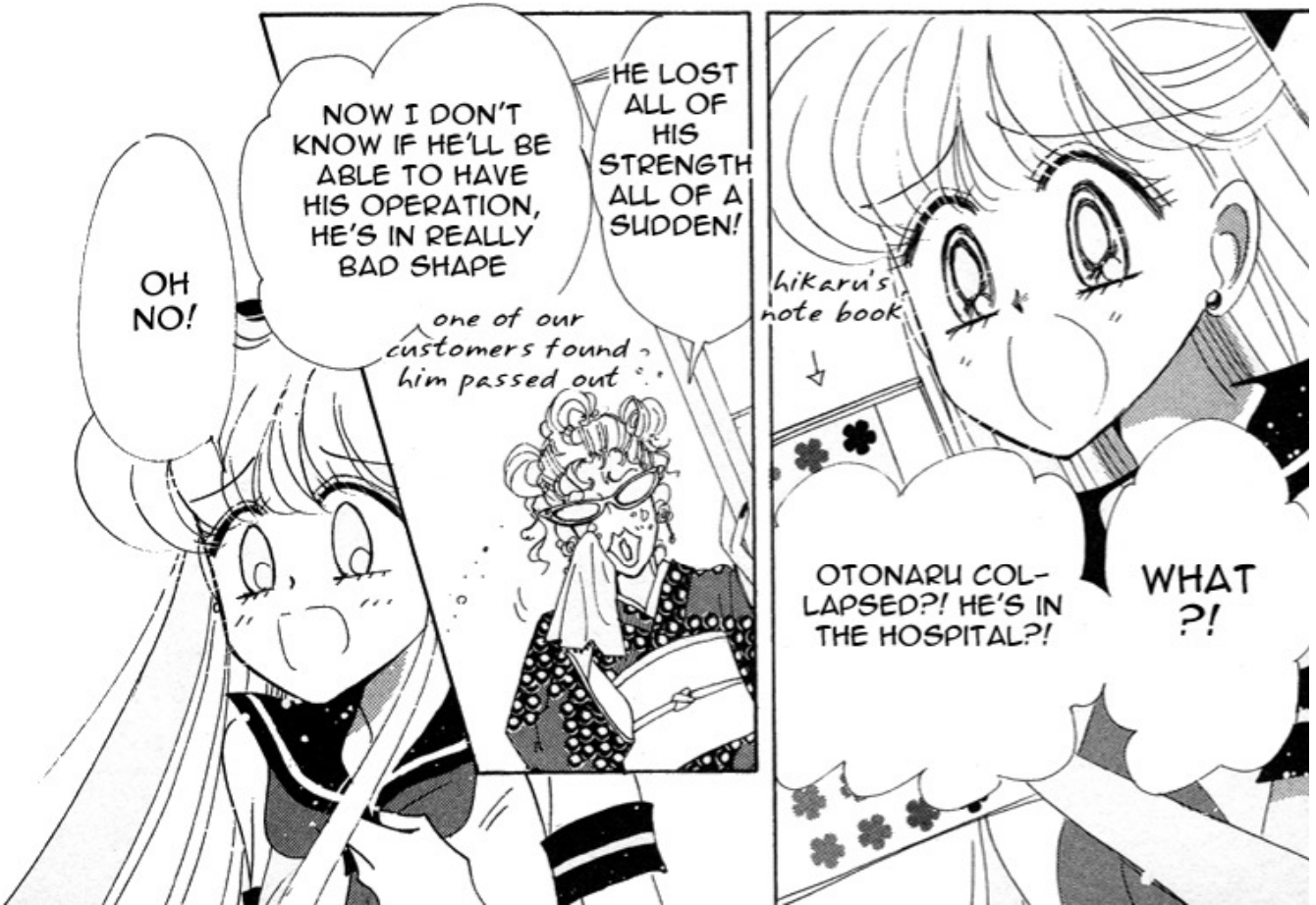OKAY! NOW FOR A LIVELY SONG...BUT WAIT, WHEN DID WE BUY THIS NEW MICROPHONE?

RIGHT THIS WAY

HEY THERE, COME IN

I THINK I'LL GO DOWN TO THE SHOP TO SING FOR A WHILE

spraaaay

collapse

NOW I DON'T KNOW IF HE'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE HIS OPERATION, HE'S IN REALLY BAD SHAPE
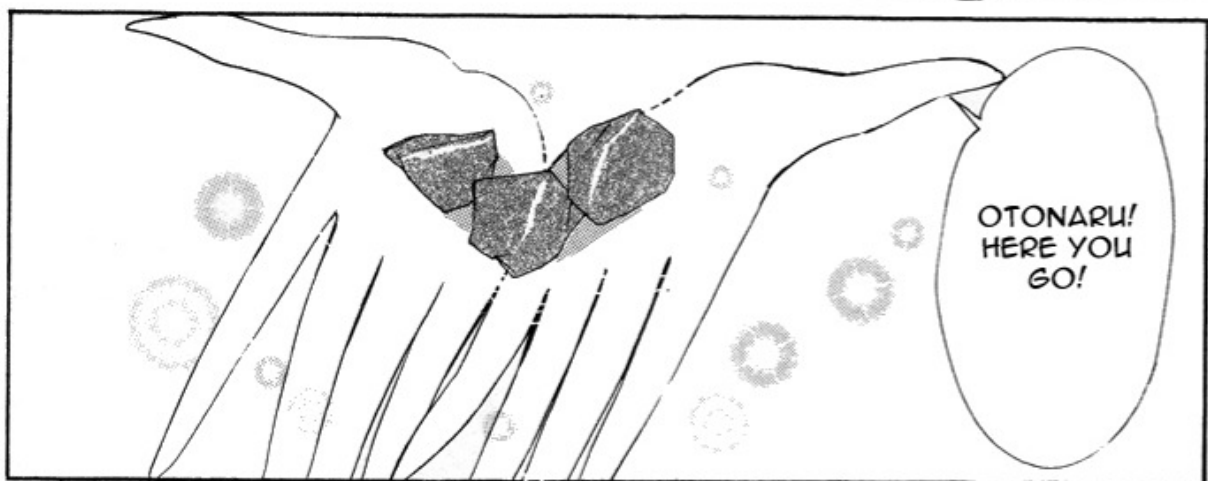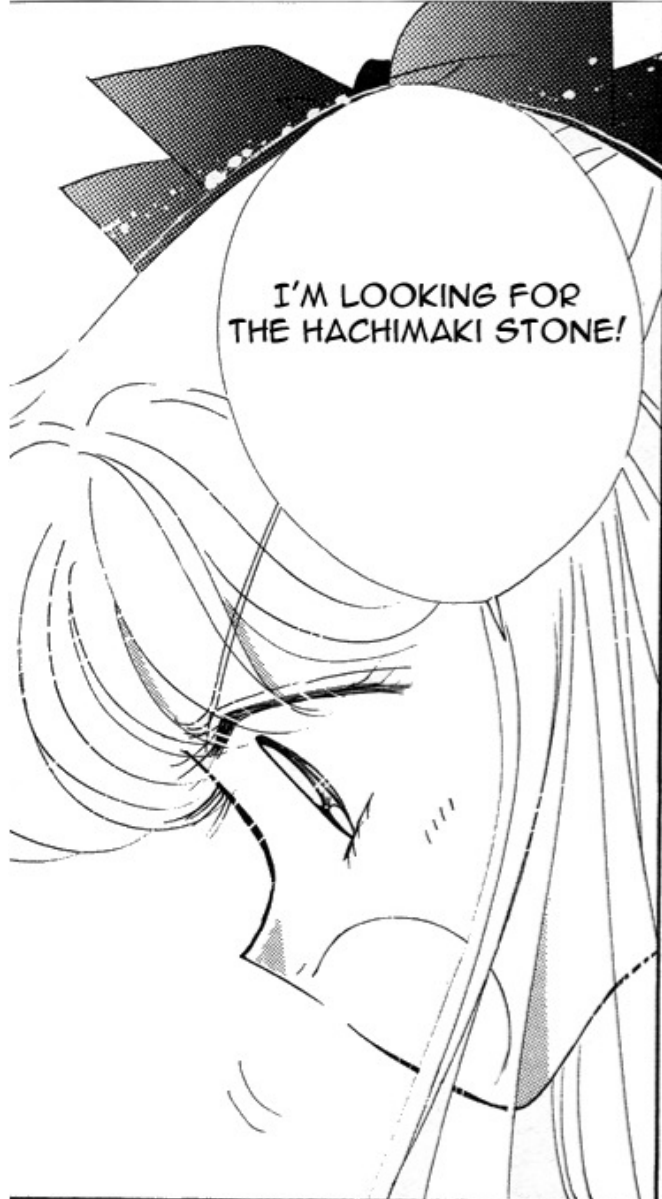
HE LOST ALL OF HIS STRENGTH ALL OF A SUDDEN!

OH NO!

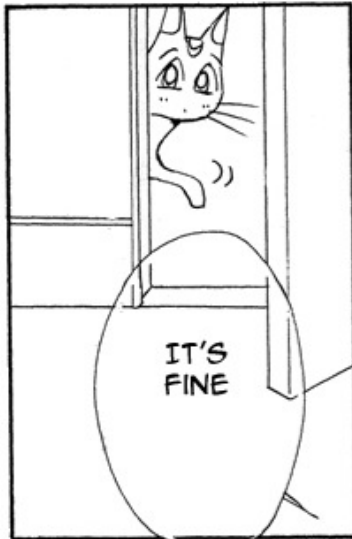*one of our customers found him passed out*

hikaru's note book

↓

OTONARU COLLAPSED?! HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL?!

WHAT ?!

I'M LOOKING FOR THE HACHIMAKI STONE!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

MINA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT?

THE HACHIMAKI STONE!

OTONARU! HERE YOU GO!

AINO!

IT'S FINE

HERE, SOME GOOD LUCK CHARMS FOR YOUR OPERATION!

HERE, I FOUND THREE OF THESE AT SCHOOL

IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF THEY DIE YOUNG OR OLD

ALL HUMANS DIE SOMEDAY ANYWAY

I ALREADY KNOW

I WAS BORN WITH THIS PROBLEM, AND MY HEART WILL NEVER FULLY RECOVER

BEING A HUMAN

TAKES HARD WORK AND COURAGE

YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO HOLD OUT HOPE. WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS KIND OF STUFF?

I'VE GIVEN UP
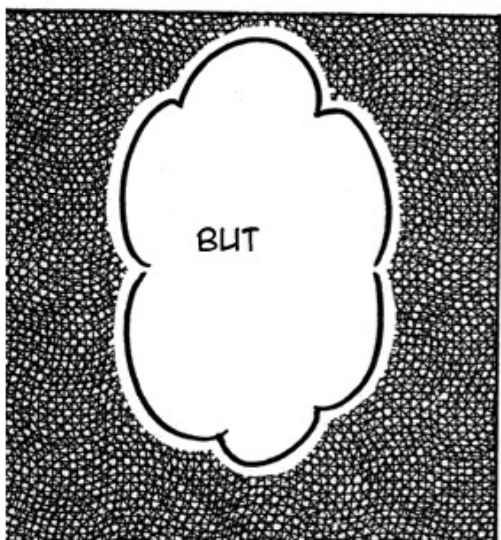
'GIVING UP' ARE THE WORDS THAT DISGUST ME THE MOST!

I HATE THEM!

I SAID SOMETHING REALLY BAD

MINA

ALL THIS TIME OTONARU HAS BEEN PERSE-VERING AND TRYING TO STAY STRONG ALL BY HIMSELF

AINO!!

BUT

203

I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP!

BUT THIS WON'T BE THE END OF MINAKO

LET'S GO TO OTONARU'S KARAOKE SHOP!!

EVERY-ONE, PLEASE!

COME WITH ME

WE'RE SUP-POSED TO BE PRACTICING

yell

MAIKU HAS SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT SINCE HE HATES IT THERE I'M BRINGING HIM HOME TOMORROW TO RECOVER HERE

HEY MINA, DO YOU THINK OTONARU WILL GET BETTER IF WE SING?

ta~da!

WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW OTONARU LIVED AT A KARAOKE PLACE (THAT'S AMAZING!)

shala

lala

stare

stare

NOW, EVERYONE! HERE, TAKE A MIC, THYE'RE KIND OF WEIRD LOOKING BUT WHO CARES, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

shrieeeek

HEARING THEM SING MAKES ME FEEL ALIVE

toss

IF WE ALL SING TOGETHER, OUR VOICES IN UNISON WILL HELP GIVE OTONARU THE STRENGTH AND WILL TO KEEP ON LIVING!!

shreeiiiiiiik

fwooosh

EVERYTHING IS SPINNING... LIKE A MERRY GO ROUND...

dizzy dizzy dizzy

OHHHH H

AAACK!
EVERY-
ONE!!

fwoosh fwoooosh

!?

ughhh

HANG IN
THERE
EVERYONE!
WHAT HAP-
PENED?!

WHAT,
THE
MICS?!

f.wooosh

HURRY AND GIVE YOUR ENERGY TO ME
GIVE YOURSELF TO ME,
BECOME MY SERVANTS,
LA LA LA

THESE DARK MICS
DO A GREAT JOB
OF COLLECTING
EVERYONE'S
ENERGY FOR ME,
TEE HEE! I'M SO
HAPPY!

HOW LUCKY,
TODAY WAS A
FULL HOUSE TOO!
I'VE PUT THESE IN
KARAOKE JOINTS
ALL OVER ROP-
PONGI

HEH
HEH
HEH

206

WHAAAT?!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT

EACH SINGER IS LIKE A PETAL IN THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF LIFE, EACH PERSON SINGING THE DREAMS OF THEIR YOUTH

la la la

THE DANCE OF LOVE, GLOWING IN NEON LIGHTS! THE SONG OF LIFE, RECORDED BY THE MICRO-PHONE!

YOU HAVE PISSED ME OFF

I'LL DESTROY YOUUUU

HEY, HOLD UP, WE DON'T ALLOW TRAVELLING MUSICIANS HERE! (GO BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM!)

HOW DARE YOU TURN THOSE FLOWERS INTO BLOS-SOMS OF YOUR EVIL DESIRE!

YOU'VE MADE THE BLOOD OF THIS ENKA* SINGER BOIL IN ANGER!

*note: enka is a form of tra-ditional japanese singing

MOON POWER TRANS- FORM!

ONCE I WAS A SOLITARY RUNNER IN A MARATHON RACE! THEN I BECAME A LOVING SINGER! BUT NEITHER OF THOSE DEFINE ME, NEITHER ARE MY TRUE IDENTITY!

I AM THE PRETTY SAILOR-SUITED SOLDIER OF LOVE AND JUSTICE, SAILOR VENUS! AND IN THE NAME OF THE COPYRIGHT PROTEC- TION LAW OF 1899, I SHALL PUNISH YOU FOR YOUR DEEDS!

MY CODE- NAME IS SAILOR V. THE CHEATED ANGEL OF THE KARAOKE BAR!

BUT SOON ALL OF THE MICROPHONES IN ROPPONGI WILL BE UNDER MY CONTROL!

la la la la

gwaaa

shaa

shalala

blah blah

shala

l'ala

screeeeech

I AM THE KARAOKE SOLDIER, MICMAKKI!

HMPH, SO YOU'VE FINALLY SHOWN UP, MY RIVAL, SAILOR V!

crackle crackle

HOW DARE YOU CHALLENGE ME WHEN I'VE ONLY TAKEN OVER ONE KARAOKE BAR!

I'LL PUT YOU ON STAGE ALL RIGHT, AS MY FIRST VICTIM!

shreeiiiiik

scream

MICMAKKI, I GAVE UP

I'LL GET THE VOICES FLOWING! GOOD SONGS, GOOD DANCES!

I HAVE TO COME IN FIRST PLACE IN THE MARATHON LIKE I PROMISED HIM TOO!

I'VE GOTTA SING FOR OTONARU'S SAKE

YOU'RE RIGHT! I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP!

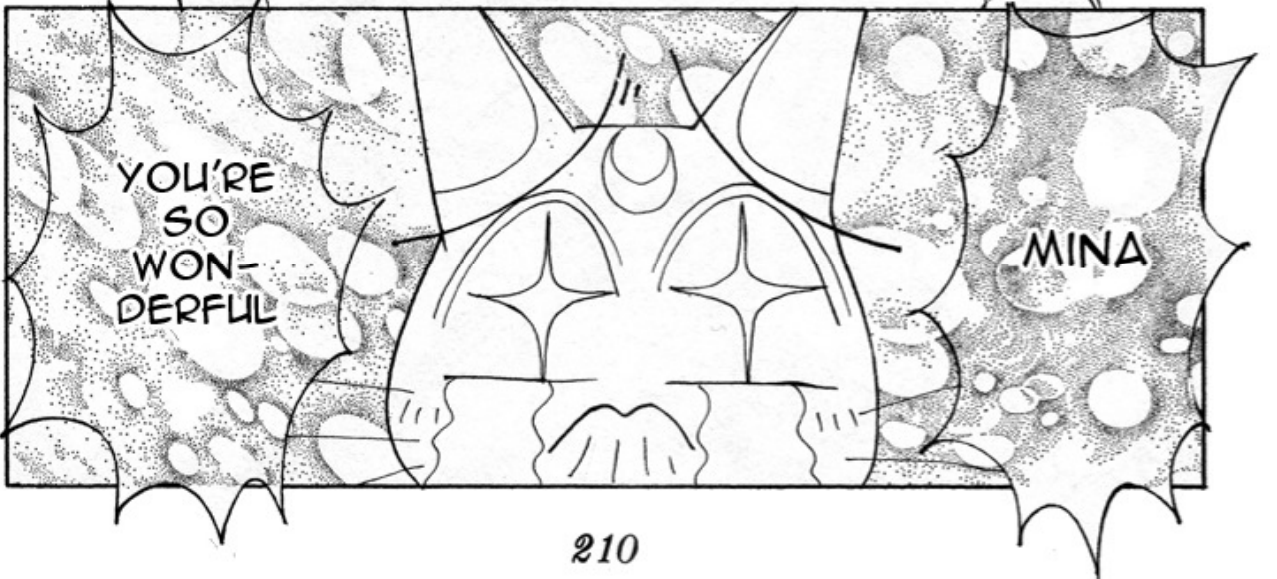DON'T GIVE UP VENUS!! DON'T LET HER BEAT YOU WITH HER SHRILL VOICE!!

gasp

wobble

wave wave

I'LL SHOW HIM ALL THE THINGS THERE ARE TO LIVE FOR!

音鳴クン

I HAVE TO SHOW OTONARU THE JOYS OF BEING ALIVE!

YOU'RE SO WON- DERFUL

MINA

HERE'S A REWARD FOR YOU, MINA!

spin

OHH, YOU REALLY PROVED YOURSELF TO ME THIS TIME, YOU MADE ME CRY IN ADORATION!!

sniffle sniffle

glow

HERE'S YOUR NEW ITEM, THE "VENUS MIC"!!

waaaaaaaahhhhhh

shine

shine

THANK YOU ARTEMIS! AND THANK YOU TO ALL MY FANS!

PLEASE ENJOY MY NEW SONG, WHICH I AM SINGING FROM MY HEART! (AND TO MY MAIKU!)

VENUS TEN BIL- LION VOLT ROCK 'N' ROUGE!!
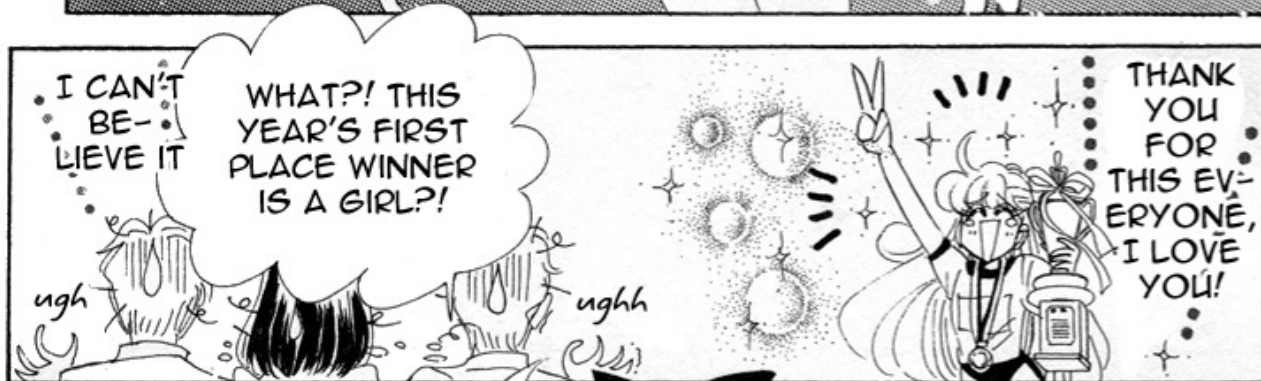
glow

wahhhhh

cheering fans

cry

cry

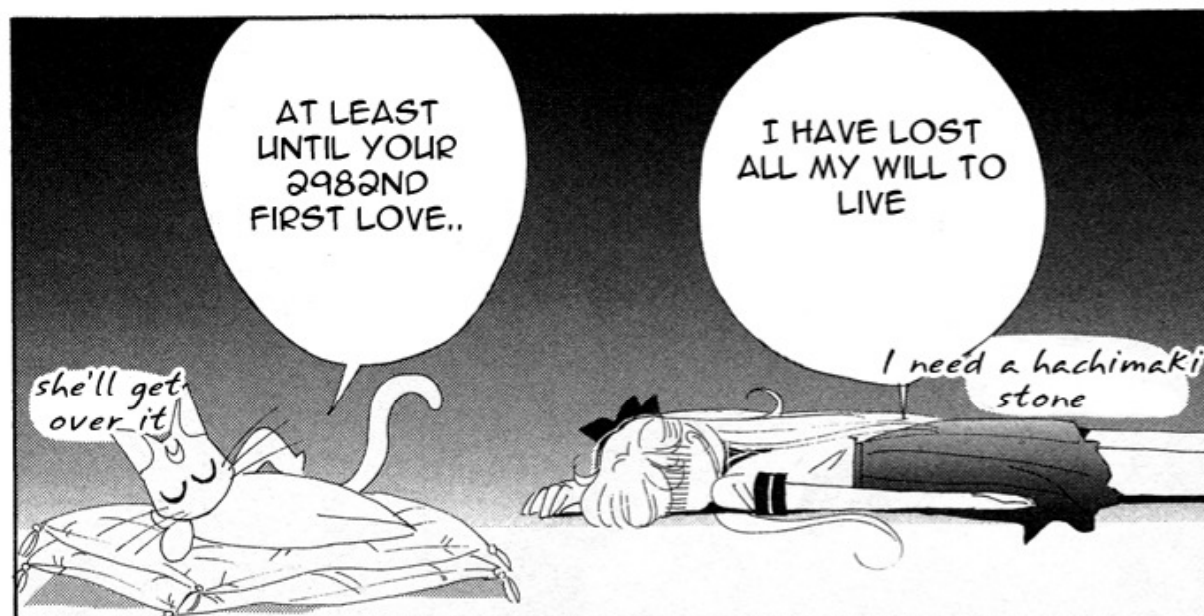AND NOW, I'M GOING TO RETURN TO BEING THE ORDI- NARY GIRL MINAKO

THANK YOU EVERY- ONE!!

I DEDICATE THIS TO YOU, MY FANS!

KYAA A

glow

SHIBA PARK HALF MARATHON RACE

glow

shine

waaaaaaa

...aaah

AINO

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT

WHAT?! THIS YEAR'S FIRST PLACE WINNER IS A GIRL?!

ugh

ughh

THANK YOU FOR THIS EV-ERYONE, I LOVE YOU!

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO THE HACHIMAKI STONE YOU GAVE ME! (AND NOW WE CAN START OUR LIVES TO-GETHER, MAIKU)

OTONARU! THIS IS PROOF OF OUR LOVE! I'M BRINGING YOU THE GOAL TAPE I RAN THROUGH AT THE FINISH LINE! IT WAS ALL FOR YOU

213

Oh, Minako, I've heard so much about you!

MY OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND WHEN I TOLD HER SO SHE CAME RUSHING TO SEE ME!

HUH?

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY PENPAL FROM RUSSIA!

AINO!!

thud

AND NOW WE'RE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED!

SHE'S GIVEN ME THE HOPE I NEEDED TO KEEP LIVING

AT LEAST UNTIL YOUR 2982ND FIRST LOVE..

I HAVE LOST ALL MY WILL TO LIVE

she'll get over it

I need a hachimaki stone

● *The End* ●

うらみ・ます　　　　（207ページ）
作詞・作曲　中島みゆき