

帰郷 COMING HOME



MASASHI!

I'M STILL
29, MOM.

YOU'RE
ALREADY 30
YEARS OLD.

MASASHI, PLEASE
LISTEN TO ME.

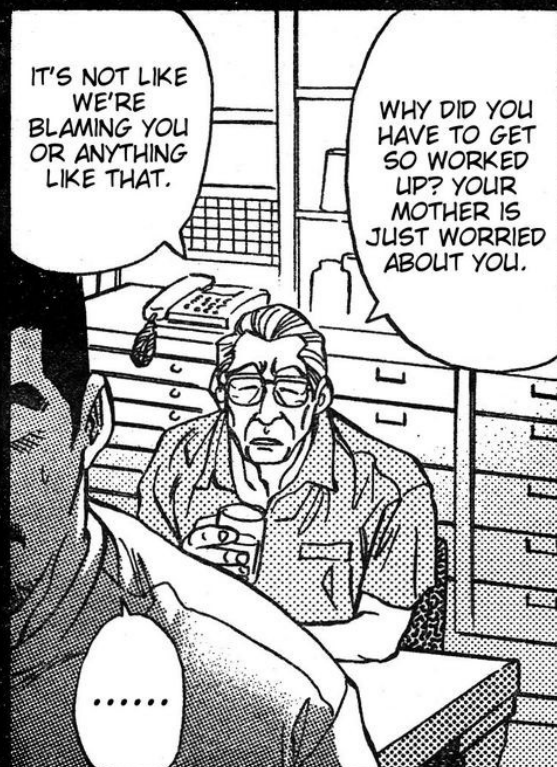


I...

YOU
ALWAYS
BRING
THIS UP
WHEN I'M
BACK FOR
A VISIT.

WHEN ARE
YOU GOING
TO FIND A
GIRLFRIEND
AND SETTLE
DOWN?

SFX: BANG



IT'S NOT LIKE
WE'RE
BLAMING YOU
OR ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

WHY DID YOU
HAVE TO GET
SO WORKED
UP? YOUR
MOTHER IS
JUST WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.

.....



IT'S ABOUT
TIME YOU PUT
MY MIND AT
EASE!

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
YOUR
EXCUSES!



HEY.
HOLD ON,
MASASHI.

I'M
TIRED.
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.

SFX: GETS UP



帰郷 COMING HOME

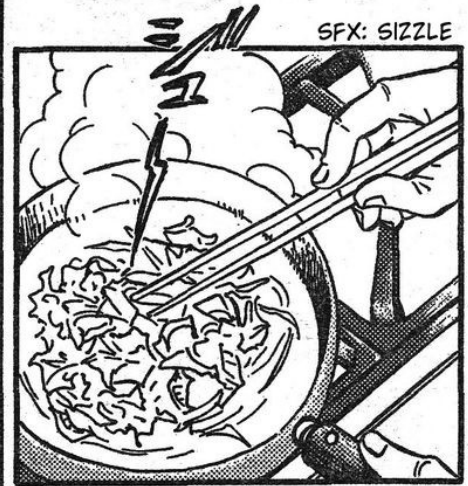




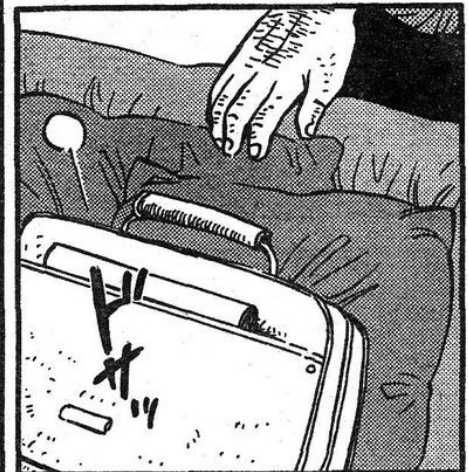
I SAID,
"I'M HOME!"

HAHAHA!
WELCOME
BACK!

DINNER'S NOT
READY YET. WHY
DON'T YOU GO AND
TAKE A SHOWER
FIRST? YOU SMELL
TERRIBLE.



SFX: SIZZLE



SFX: HUGS

SFX: THUMP



FINE. I'LL
GO TAKE
THAT
SHOWER.

BUT IT'S NOT
MY FAULT
THAT I STINK.
IT'S THE
WEATHER'S
FAULT.



MOM...?



HELLO?
KAJIYAMA
SPEAKING.



SFX: RINGING



SFX: FLOMP



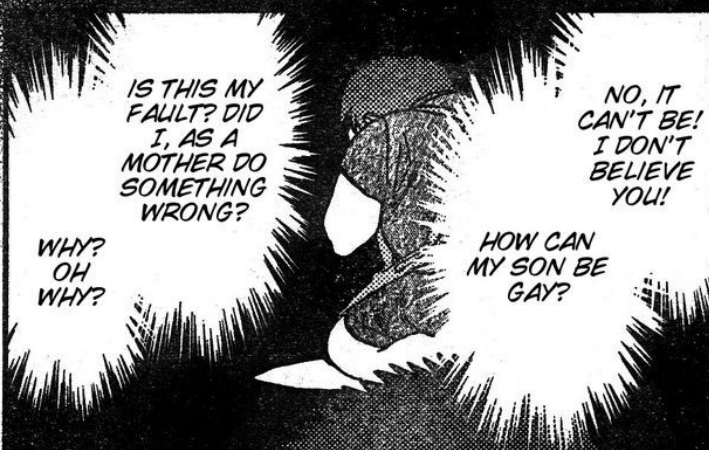


SFX: SPLASH



I DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BE LIKE THIS.

STOP WITH YOUR NONSENSE RIGHT NOW!
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN SAY, AND SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T.



IS THIS MY FAULT? DID I, AS A MOTHER DO SOMETHING WRONG?

WHY? OH WHY?

NO, IT CAN'T BE! I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

HOW CAN MY SON BE GAY?



NO MOM... I'M REALLY GAY...

TELL ME THE TRUTH!
YOU'RE SAYING ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED, RIGHT?

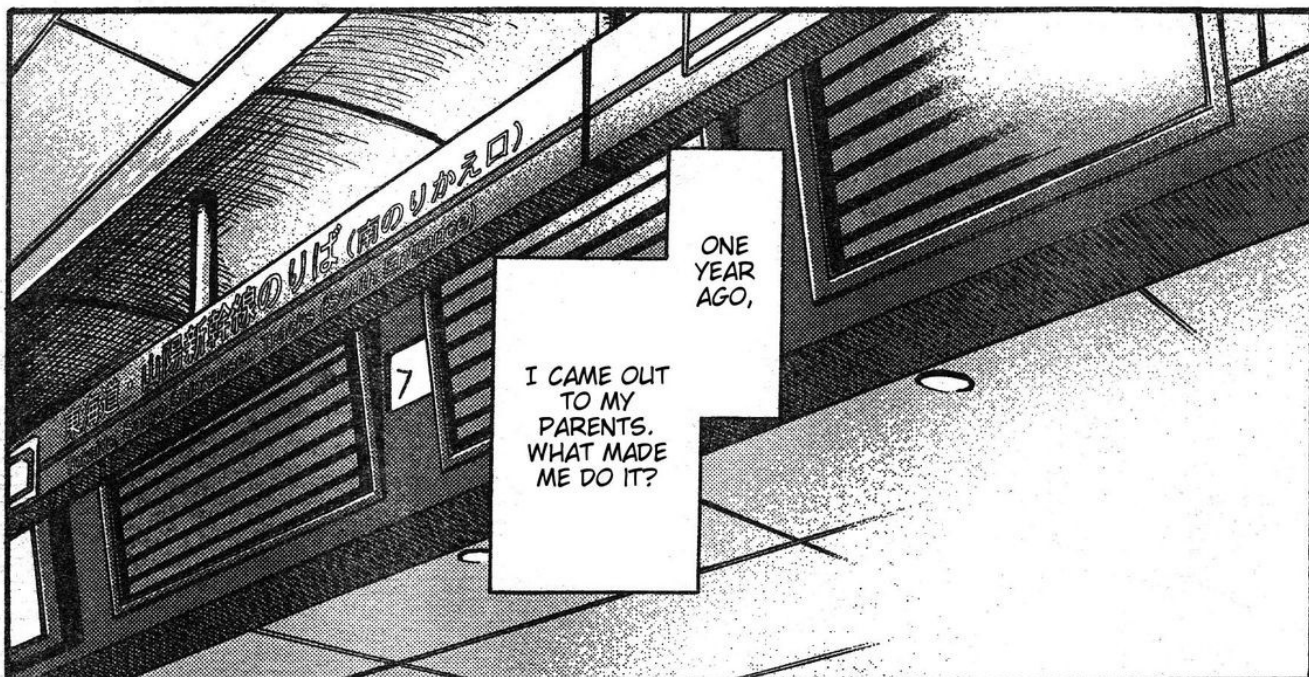


HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG?

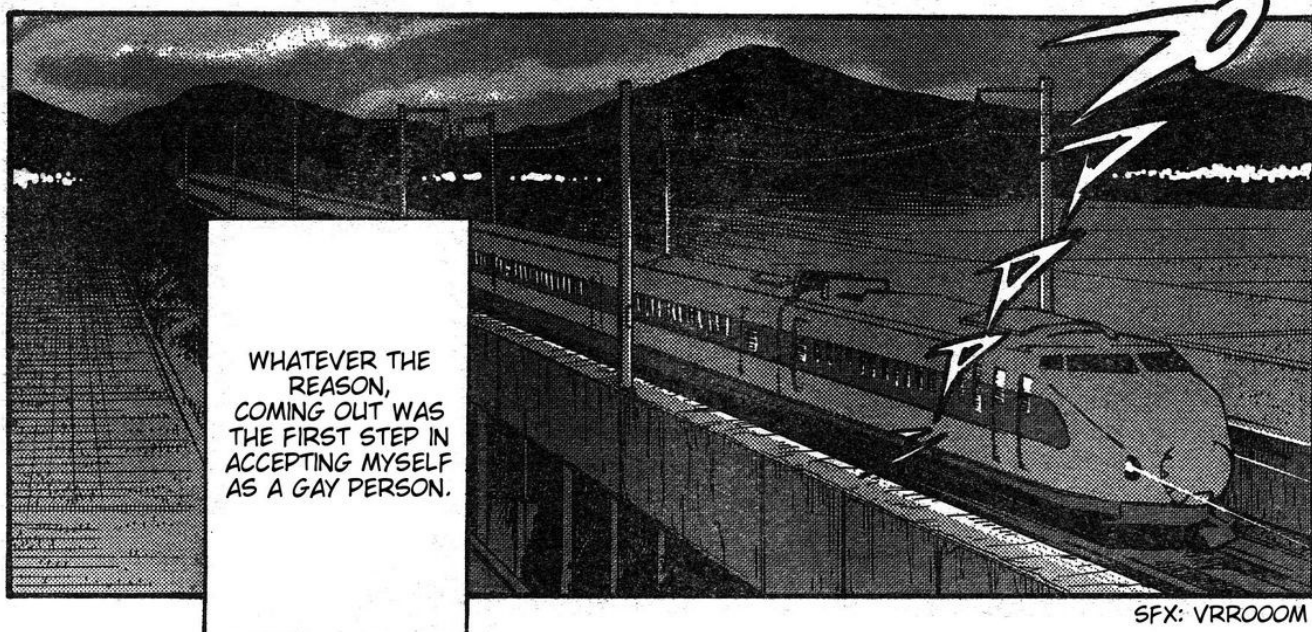


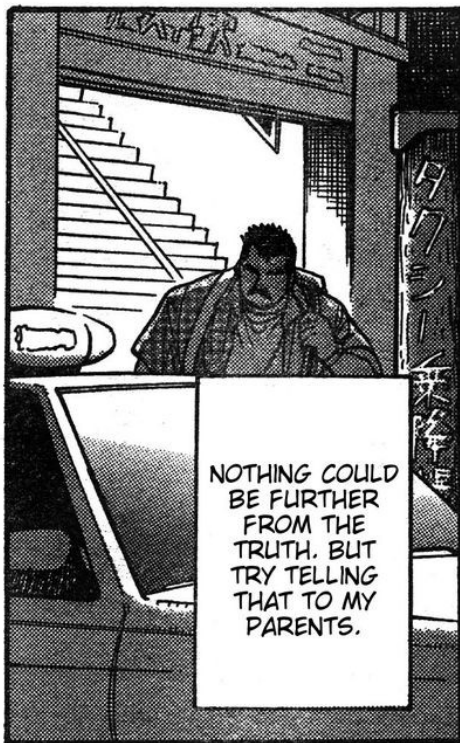
MASA... SHI...





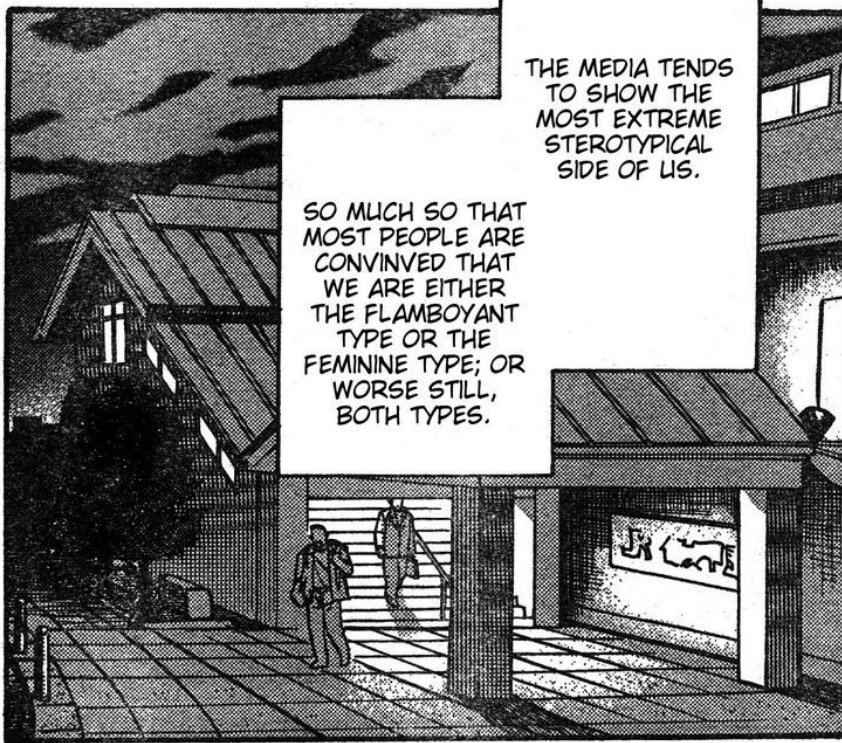
SIGN: TOKAIDO SANYO SHINKANSEN TRACKS (SOUTH ENTRANCE)





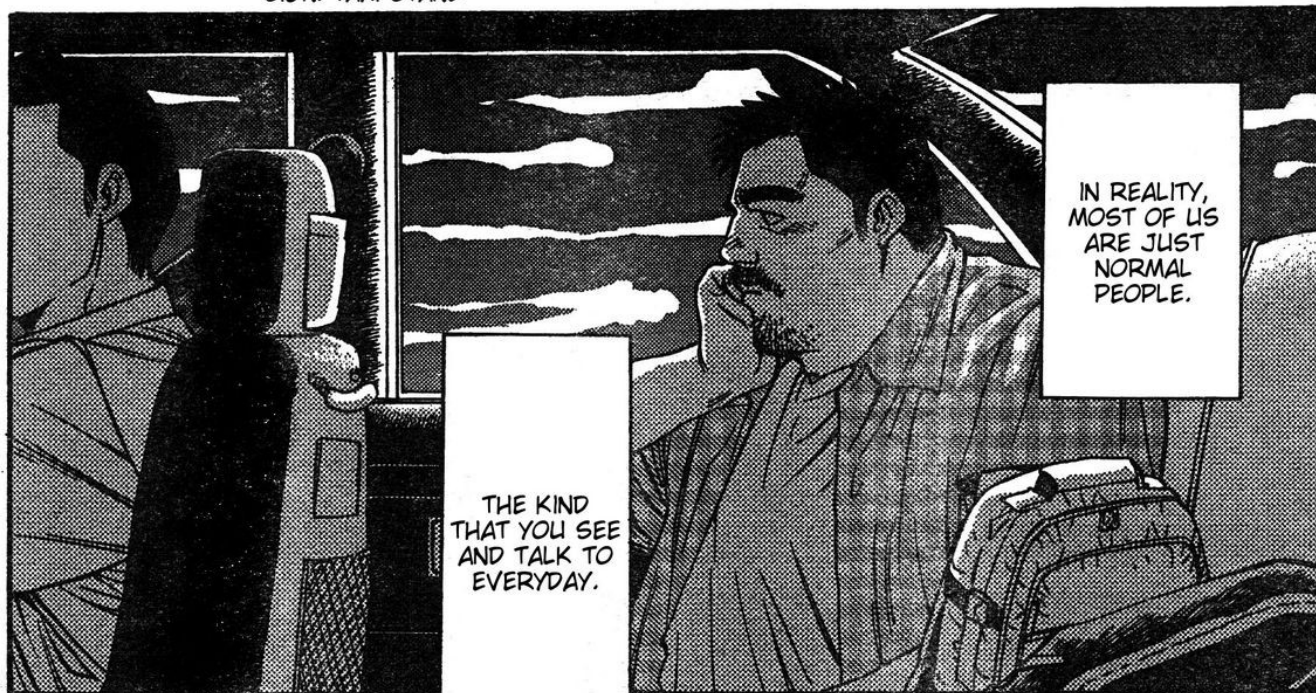
NOTHING COULD
BE FURTHER
FROM THE
TRUTH. BUT
TRY TELLING
THAT TO MY
PARENTS.

SIGN: TAXI STAND



THE MEDIA TENDS
TO SHOW THE
MOST EXTREME
STEROTYPICAL
SIDE OF US.

SO MUCH SO THAT
MOST PEOPLE ARE
CONVINCED THAT
WE ARE EITHER
THE FLAMBOYANT
TYPE OR THE
FEMININE TYPE; OR
WORSE STILL,
BOTH TYPES.

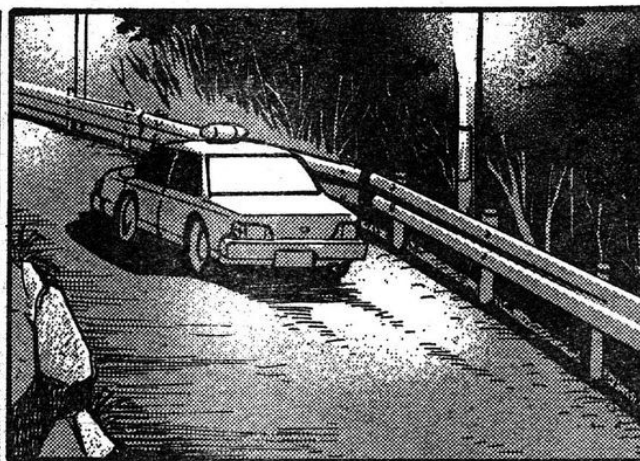


IN REALITY,
MOST OF US
ARE JUST
NORMAL
PEOPLE.

THE KIND
THAT YOU SEE
AND TALK TO
EVERYDAY.



THE KIND THAT
NEED FOOD TO
LIVE.



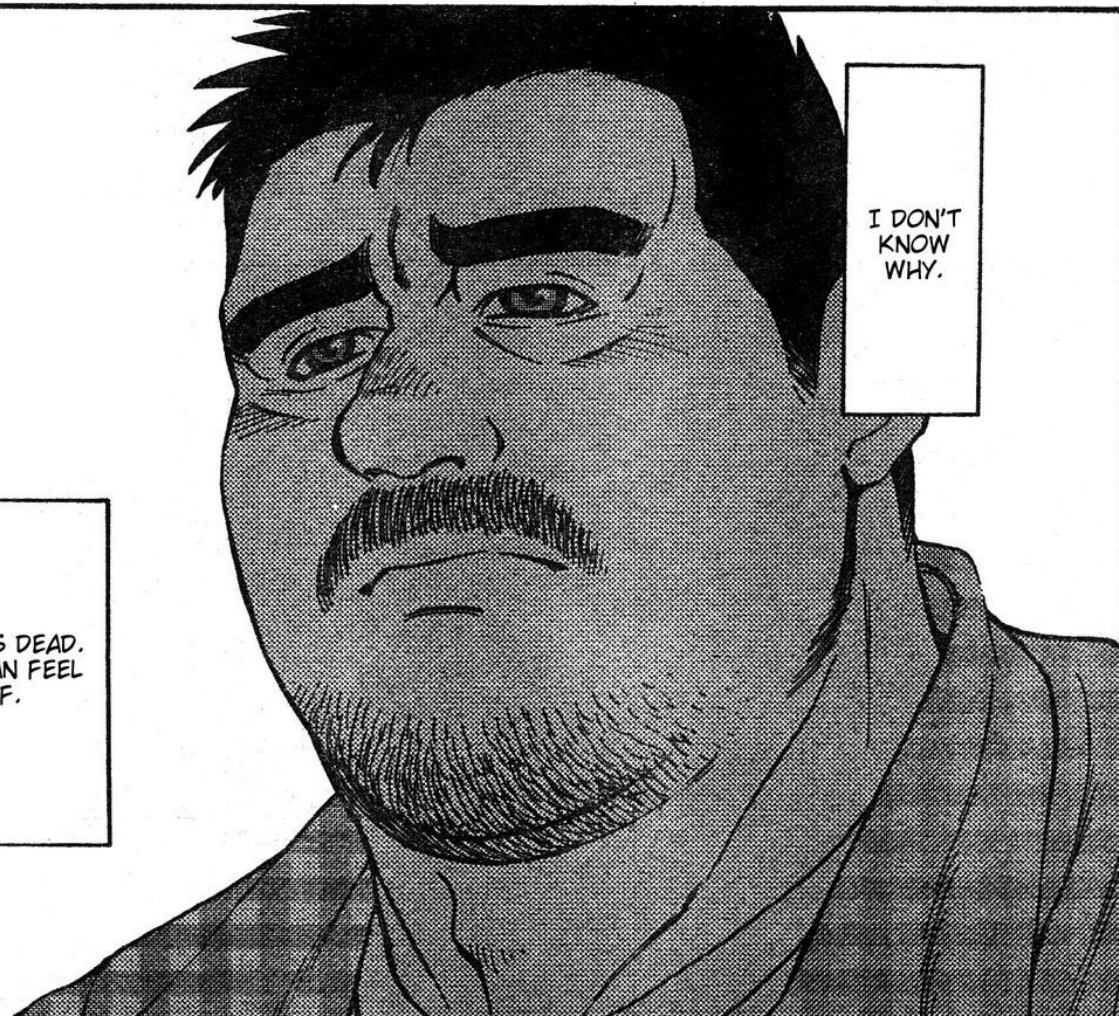


THE ONLY
DIFFERENCE
IS THAT WE
ARE IN LOVE
WITH A
PERSON OF
THE SAME
SEX.

IT'S BAD
ENOUGH THAT
WE'RE
SHUNNED BY
SOCIETY.

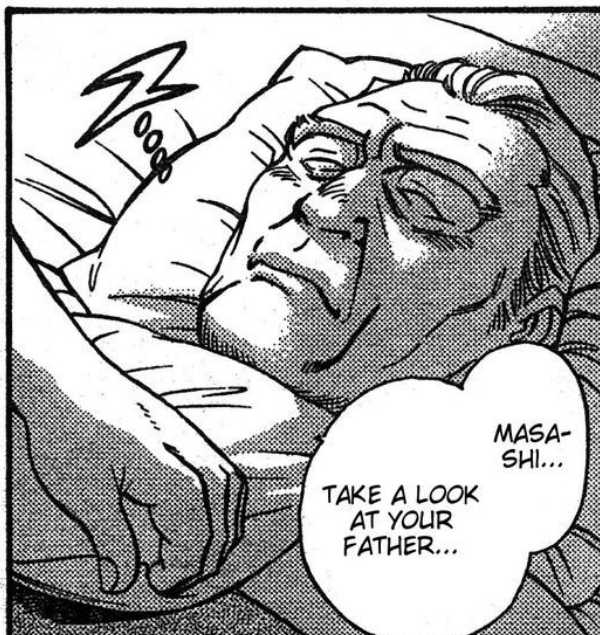
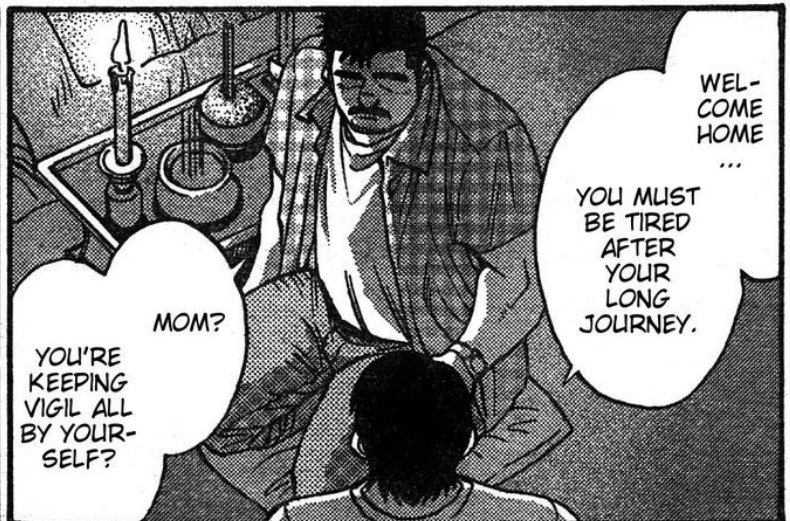
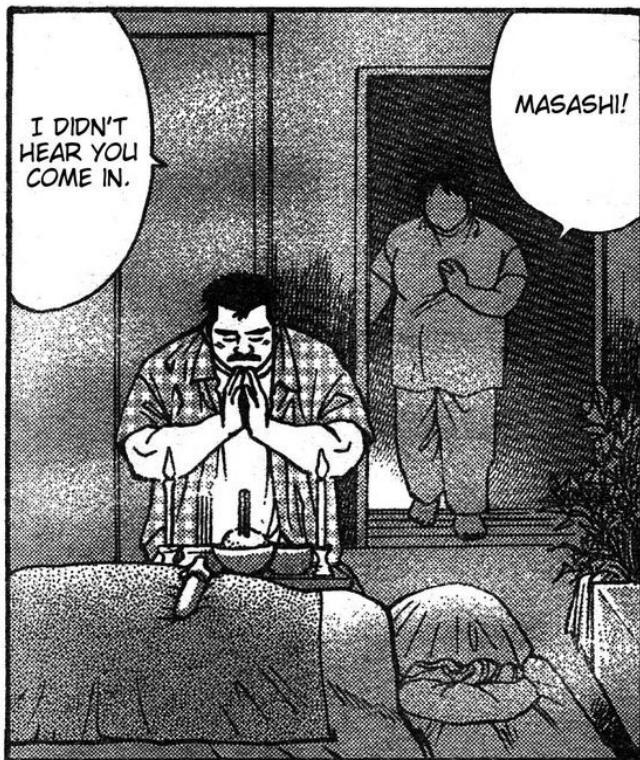
BUT WHY MUST
WE ALSO BE CAST
OUT BY OUR OWN
PARENTS?

SIGN: BEFORE THE SPIRIT OF THE DECEASED



I DON'T
KNOW
WHY.

MY FATHER IS DEAD.
AND ALL I CAN FEEL
IS RELIEF.





SFX: TREMBLE



SFX: COLD TO THE TOUCH



YOUR FATHER
WAS EAGER TO
HAVE SOME
WORK DONE IN
HIS GARDEN THIS
MORNING.

WE'VE BEEN
HAVING SUCH
GOOD WEATHER
LATELY.

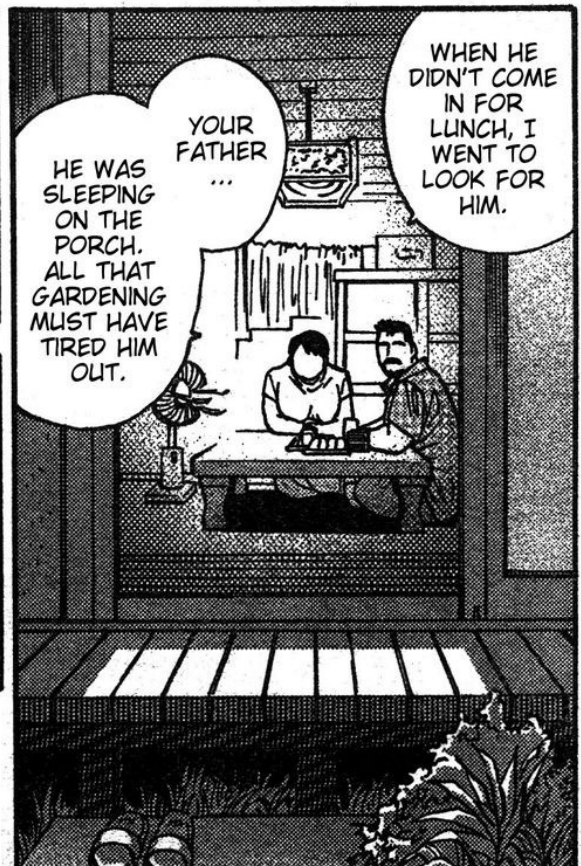


HE WAS SLEEPING LIKE
A BABY. I DIDN'T HAVE
THE HEART TO WAKE
HIM UP SO I LEFT HIM
ALONE.

MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE...



YOU KNOW
WHAT HE'S
LIKE... NO
MATTER HOW
TIRED HE IS,
HE DOESN'T
REALLY LIKE
TO TAKE NAPS.



YOUR
FATHER
...

HE WAS
SLEEPING
ON THE
PORCH.
ALL THAT
GARDENING
MUST HAVE
TIRED HIM
OUT.

WHEN HE
DIDN'T COME
IN FOR
LUNCH, I
WENT TO
LOOK FOR
HIM.



I... I THOUGHT
HE WAS ONLY
JUST SLEEPING...

I... I
SWEAR I
DIDN'T
KNOW...

THERE WAS
EVEN A SMILE
ON HIS FACE...

SFX: CRYING



SFX: DRIP DRIP



WE EVEN TALKED
ABOUT PLANNING
A LEISURE TRIP
AROUND THE
COUNTRY.

AFTER YOUR
FATHER'S
RETIREMENT,

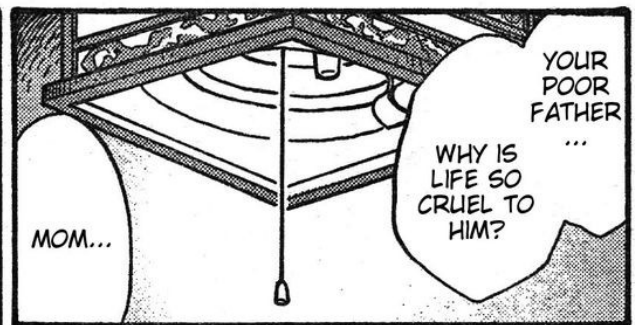
I WAS LOOKING
FORWARD TO
SPENDING SOME
QUALITY TIME
WITH HIM.

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MASASHI! YOU
UNGRATEFUL
CHILD! ALL THIS
WHILE, YOU
COULD HAVE
COME BACK AND
VISIT HIM! WHY
DIDN'T YOU?
WHY?

WHAT
THE...?



MOM...

YOUR
POOR
FATHER

...
WHY IS
LIFE SO
CRUEL TO
HIM?



HUH?

...
IT'S YOUR
FAULT...



DID YOU
FORGET WHO
WAS THE ONE
WHO TOLD ME
NEVER TO
COME BACK?



HUBBY!

PLEASE,
DEAR.

IF HE
WANTS
TO GO,
JUST
LET HIM.

PLEASE,
TRY
TALKING
IT OVER
WITH
YOUR
FATHER
AGAIN.

MASASHI!
WAIT!



!

THAN
STAYING
HERE AND
BRING
SHAME AND
DISGRACE TO
THE FAMILY
NAME.

ANYWAY,
IT'S BETTER
FOR HIM TO
RETURN TO
THE CITY...



IT'S
BECAUSE
OF
NARROW-
MINDED
PEOPLE
LIKE HIM
THAT THE
WORLD
ISN'T A
BETTER
PLACE TO
LIVE IN!

THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG
BEING
GAY!

WHY
SHOULD
I? HE IS
THE ONE
THAT IS
ASHAMED
OF ME!



HUBBY,
DON'T SAY
ANOTHER
WORD!

AND
MASASHI!
APOLOGIZE
TO YOUR
FATHER
NOW!

WHAT DID
YOU JUST
SAY? I'M
AN EMBAR-
RASSMENT
TO YOU
JUST
BECAUSE
I'M GAY?



SFX: CRASH



SFX: SLAM





I KNOW
PEOPLE
WHO HAD
CAME OUT
TO THEIR
FAMILIES.

LISTENING
TO THEIR
ADVICE AND
ANALYZING
THEIR
MISTAKES,
I THOUGHT
I WOULD
BE
PREPARED.



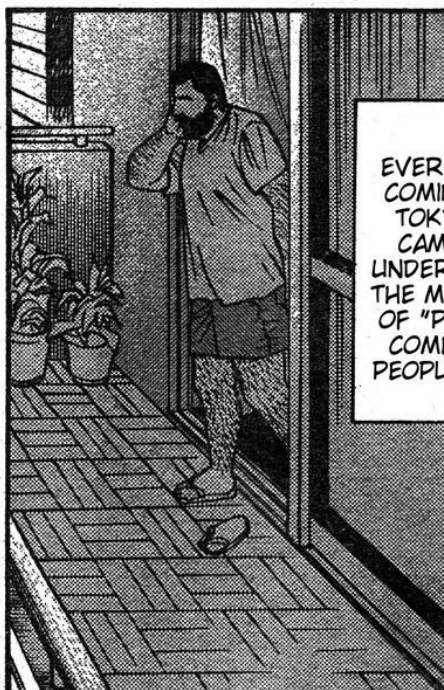
BUT NOTHING
COULD PREPARE
ME THE SHOCK
OF WHAT
HAPPENED WHEN
I CAME OUT TO
MY OWN FAMILY.



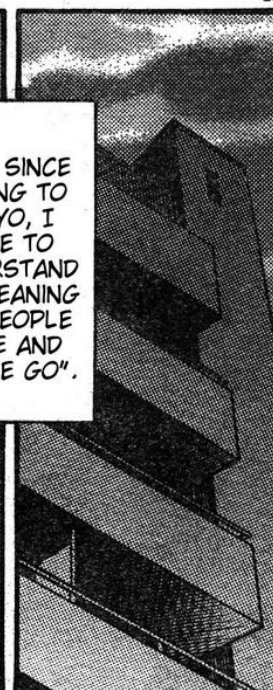
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BUT AKIRA-SAN
IS NOT ONE OF
THEM. HE'S THE
ONE WHO HAS
ALWAYS BEEN
THERE FOR ME.



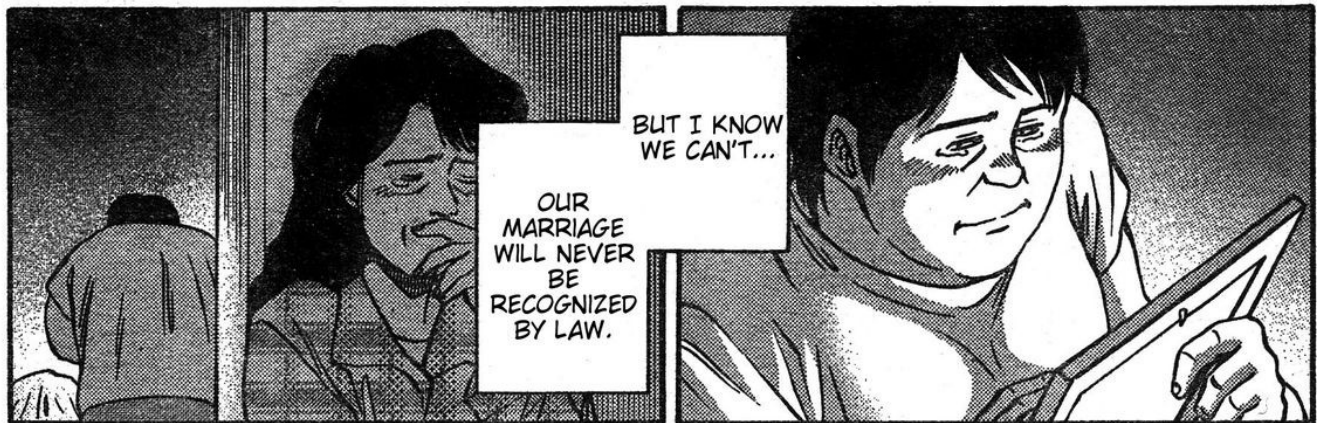
EVER SINCE
COMING TO
TOKYO, I
CAME TO
UNDERSTAND
THE MEANING
OF "PEOPLE
COME AND
PEOPLE GO".





I WOULD
MARRY HIM
IN A
HEARTBEAT.

AKIRA-SAN IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
PERSON TO
ME IN THE
WORLD.



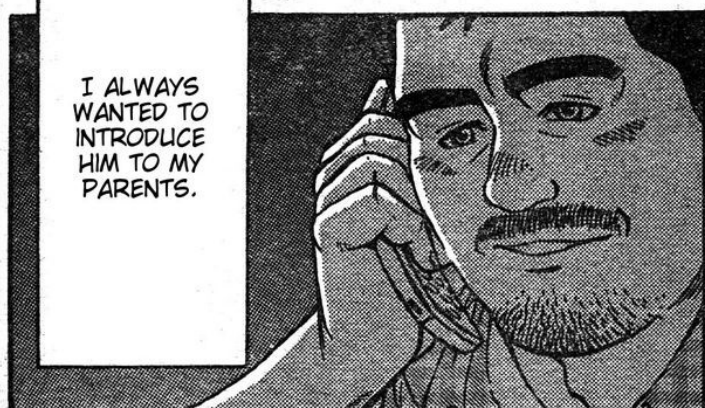
OUR
MARRIAGE
WILL NEVER
BE
RECOGNIZED
BY LAW.

BUT I KNOW
WE CAN'T...

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AND PROUDLY
TELL THEM
THAT THIS IS
THE MAN THAT
I WANT TO
SPEND THE
REST OF MY
LIFE WITH.



I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
INTRODUCE
HIM TO MY
PARENTS.

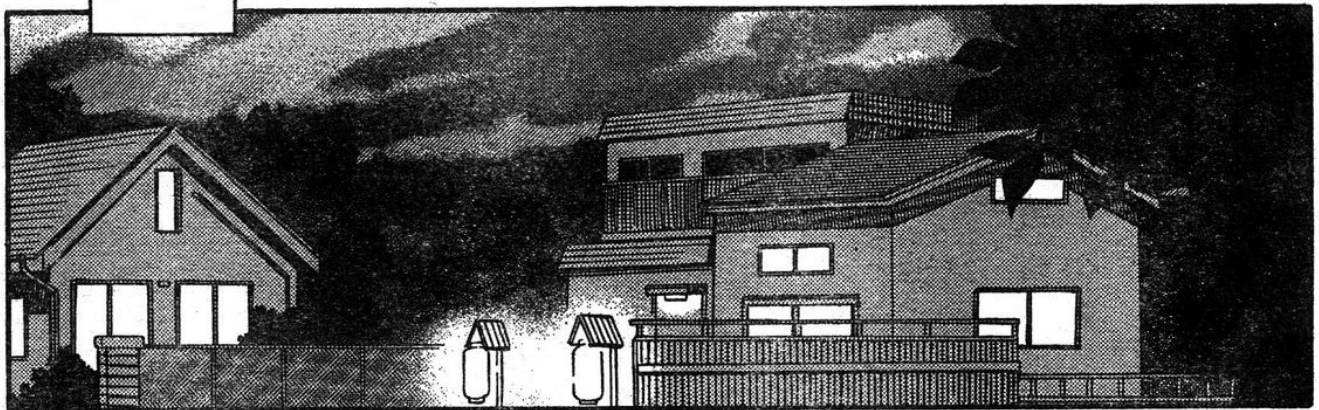


THE WAKE
WAS HELD
THE NEXT DAY.

MY MOTHER
WAS UNABLE
TO CONTROL
HER EMOTIONS.

EACH TIME
SHE SAW
MY
FATHER'S
LIFELESS
BODY,

SHE
COLLAPSED
IN TEARS,
HUGGING
HIM,
REFUSING
TO LET GO.



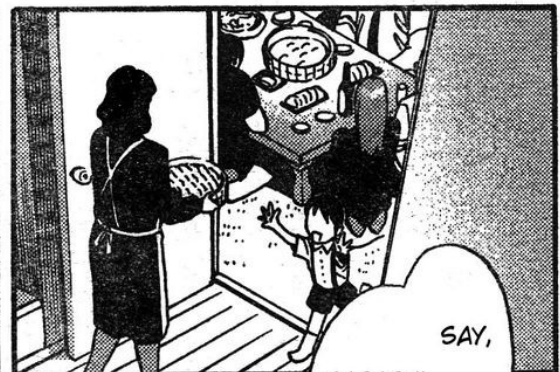
WELL, AT
LEAST
YOU'RE
STILL
SINGLE.
YOU CAN
AFFORD TO
STAY HERE
WITH HER
FOR A
WHILE
LONGER,
YOU KNOW.

I KNOW
YOU HAVE
YOUR JOB
BACK IN
TOKYO.

BUT YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
LET YOUR
MOTHER STAY
HERE ALL BY
HERSELF,
RIGHT?

WHAT?

MASASHI-
KUN, YOU'RE
NOT MARRIED
YET?



SAY,
MASASHI.



WHAT ARE
YOUR PLANS
AFTER ALL
THIS IS
OVER?





DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER WENT THROUGH?

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK FOR MORE THAN A YEAR...

MASA-CHAN ...



I...

DO I REALLY HAVE TO MOVE BACK HERE?

.....

19



AND YES, I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT YOU...

I WAS THE ONE WHO HAD TO SEE YOUR MOTHER CRIED HER HEART OUT EVERYTIME.



HUH?

I DO. I WAS THE PERSON WHOM YOUR MOTHER TURNED TO WHEN SHE HAD NO ONE TO TALK TO.



YOUR MOTHER ...

HER MIND WAS NEVER AT PEACE SINCE THE DAY YOU LEFT.

.....

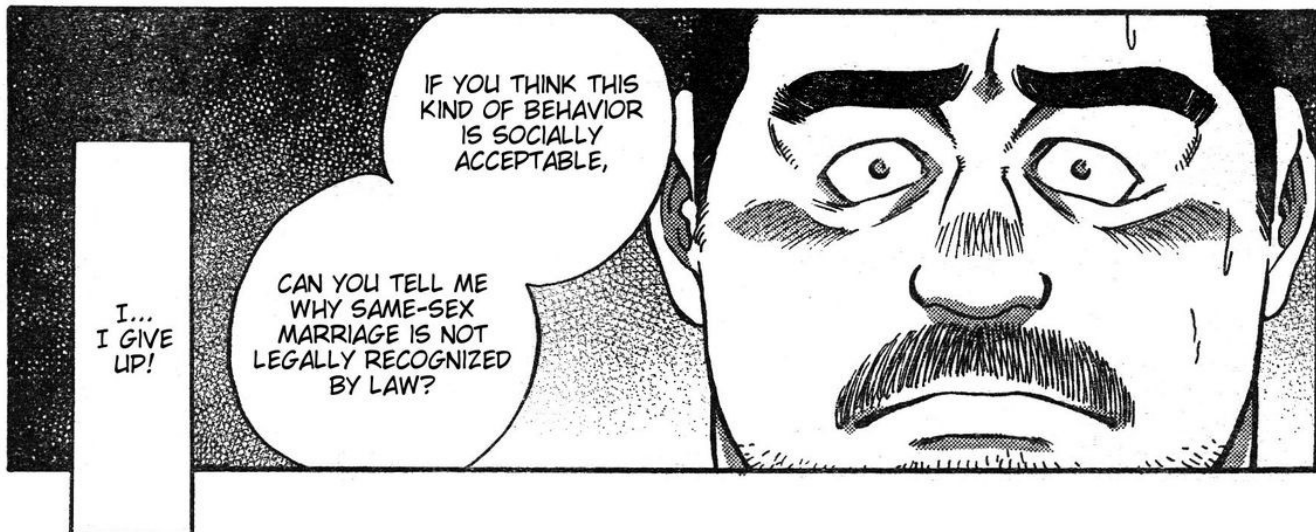
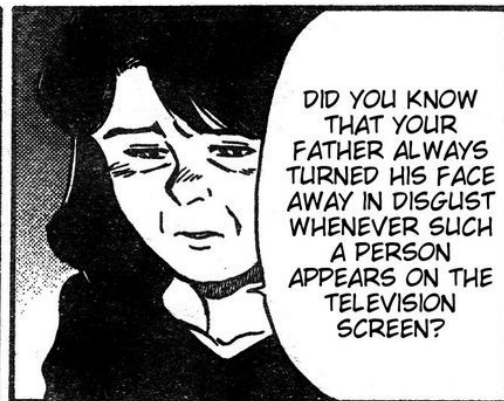


HE GAVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION IN A MOMENT OF FOOLISHNESS.

MY SON ALWAYS HAS BEEN A CONSIDERATE AND UNDERSTANDING CHILD.

THERE'S A CURE FOR IT, ISN'T IT? I KNOW THERE MUST BE A CURE!

I'M SURE HE'LL COME AROUND EVENTUALLY.





MASA-
CHAN!

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
EXPLANATION
WE GIVE,

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
PAIN AND
SUFFERING WE
ENDURE,

THESE PEOPLE
HAVE ALREADY
DENIED OUR
EXISTENCE IN
THEIR MIND.



AKIRA-
SAN...



AKI...



SFX: EH?



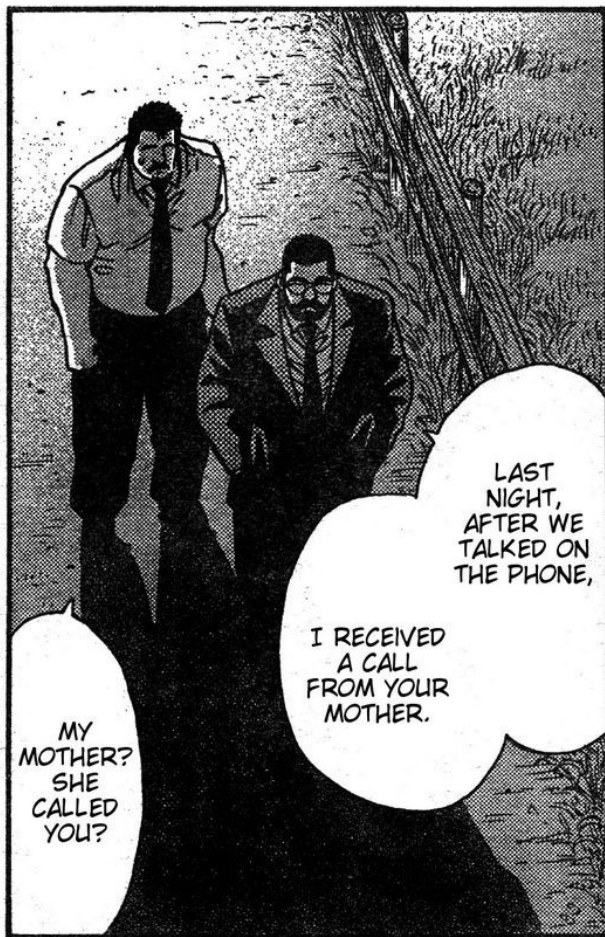
AKIRA-SAN!

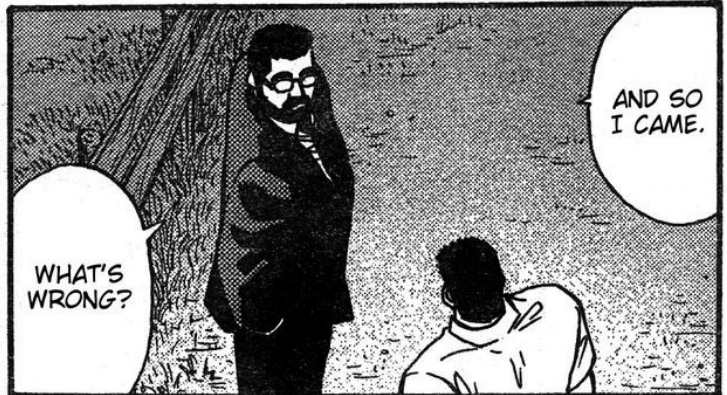
IT'S SO
FRUSTRAT-
ING.

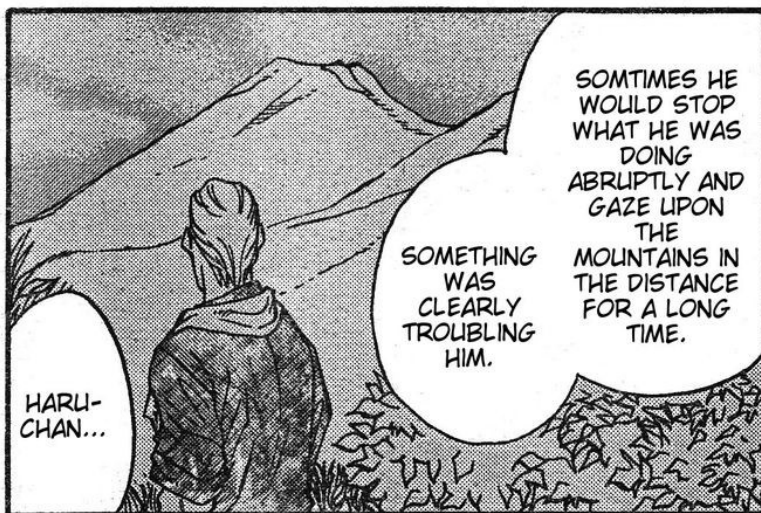


SFX: SMILE





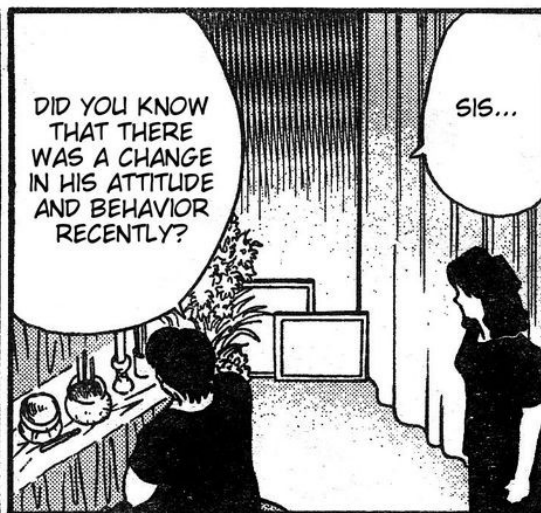




HARU-
CHAN...

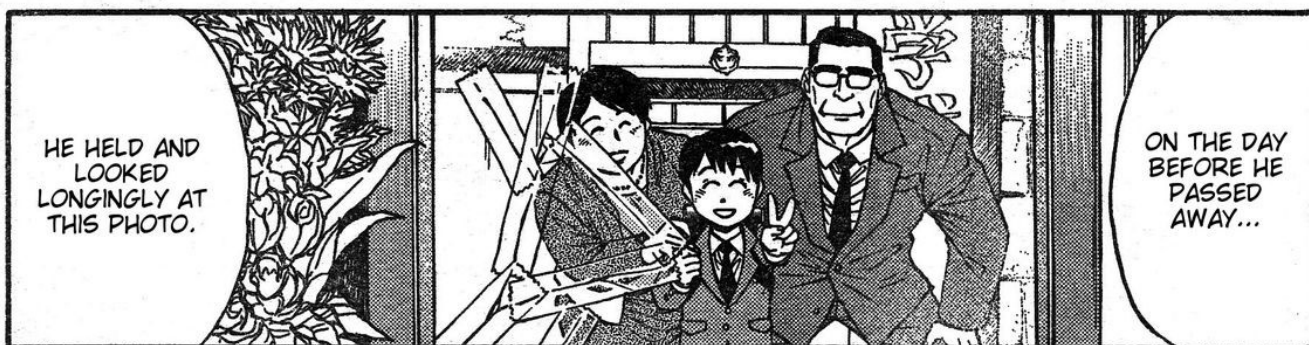
SOMETHING
WAS
CLEARLY
TROUBLING
HIM.

SOMTIMES HE
WOULD STOP
WHAT HE WAS
DOING
ABRUPTLY AND
GAZE UPON
THE
MOUNTAINS IN
THE DISTANCE
FOR A LONG
TIME.



SIS...

DID YOU KNOW
THAT THERE
WAS A CHANGE
IN HIS ATTITUDE
AND BEHAVIOR
RECENTLY?



HE HELD AND
LOOKED
LONGINGLY AT
THIS PHOTO.

ON THE DAY
BEFORE HE
PASSED
AWAY...



I HEARD HIM
MUMMERING TO
HIMSELF, "I MISS
YOU SO MUCH."



WHEN HE SAID
THAT, IT WAS AS IF
A HEAVY WEIGHT
HAD BEEN LIFTED
FROM OUR HEART
AND MIND.

HE LOOKED UP TO ME
AND SAID, "HE'S OUR
FLESH AND BLOOD.
WHY ARE WE DOING
THIS TO HIM?"



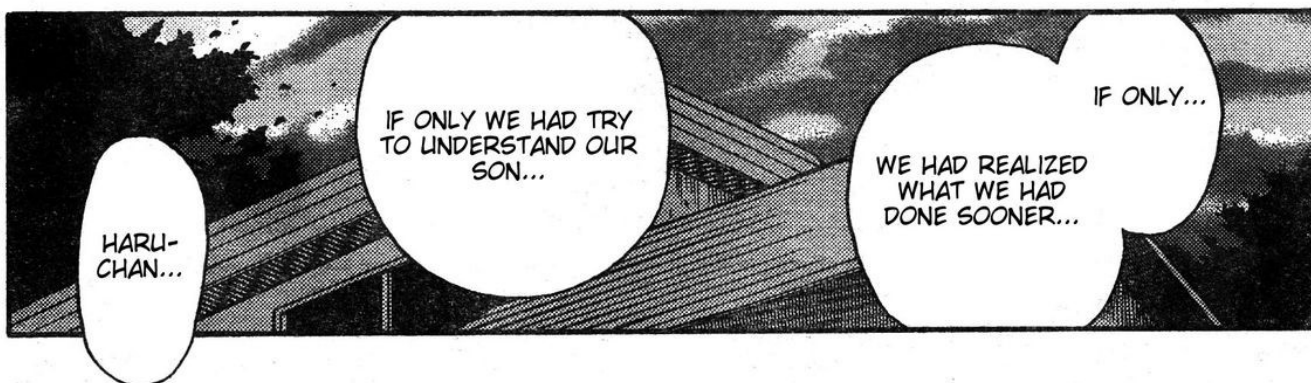
BUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S GONE LIKE THAT...



AND THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS WE ALL NEED TO TALK ABOUT...

WE DECIDED TO WAIT TILL FRIDAY BEFORE CALLING HIM BACK FOR THE WEEKEND. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE THREE OF US HAD A MEAL TOGETHER. I WANTED TO PREPARE ALL HIS FAVORITE DISHES.



HARU-CHAN...

IF ONLY WE HAD TRY TO UNDERSTAND OUR SON...

IF ONLY...

WE HAD REALIZED WHAT WE HAD DONE SOONER...



.....



AKIRA-SAN...

WERE YOU SCARED AT ALL ABOUT COMING HERE?

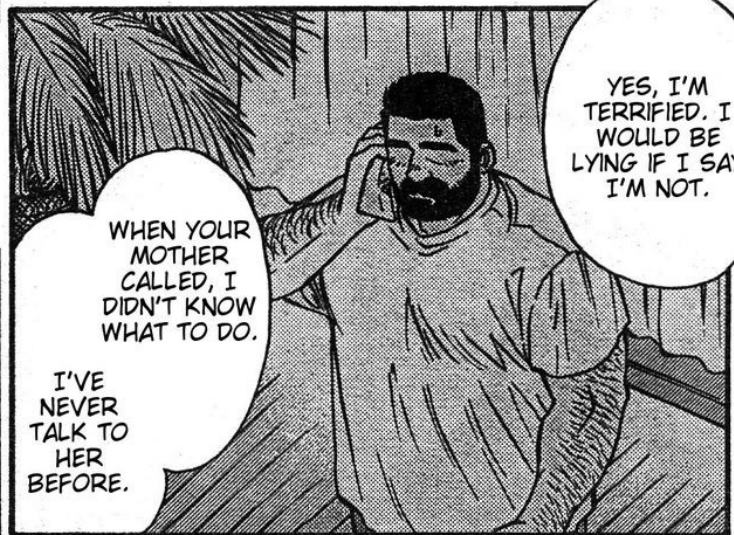




TOOK MORE
COURAGE AND
STRENGTH
THAN I COULD
HAVE POSSIBLY
IMAGINED...

FOR HER TO
MAKE THE
FIRST MOVE,
TO PICK UP
THE PHONE
AND CALL
ME...

SUDDENLY
I
REALIZED
THAT...



WHEN YOUR
MOTHER
CALLED, I
DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

I'VE
NEVER
TALK TO
HER
BEFORE.

YES, I'M
TERRIFIED. I
WOULD BE
LYING IF I SAY
I'M NOT.



HER VOICE
STARTED TO
FALTER.

BUT
THEN
...



.....



MASA-
SHI.

LISTEN,



I TOLD MYSELF
THAT I COULDN'T
BE SOMEONE
LESSER THAN
YOUR MOTHER. I
HAD TO COME.

FOR YOU
AND FOR
ME.

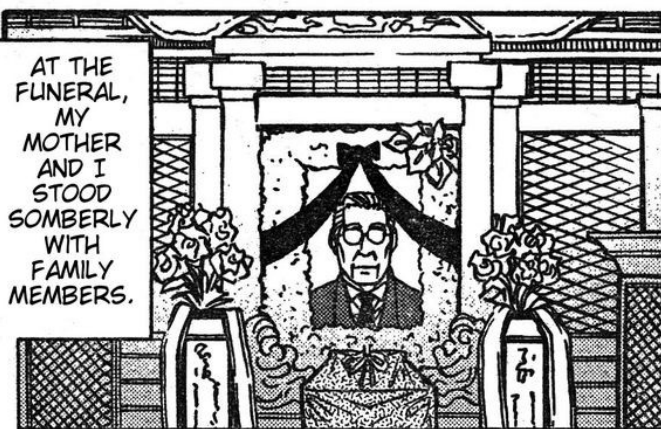


THAT'S WHY WE
MUSTN'T BE AFRAID.

I KNOW IT SEEMS
THAT NO MATTER
WHAT WE DO, THE
WORLD DOESN'T
WANT TO CHANGE.
BUT TRUST ME, IT'S
CHANGING FOR THE
BETTER LITTLE BY
LITTLE.



WE BOWED
OUR HEADS
REPEATEDLY
TO FRIENDS
AND
RELATIVES
WHO CAME TO
PAY THEIR
RESPECTS.

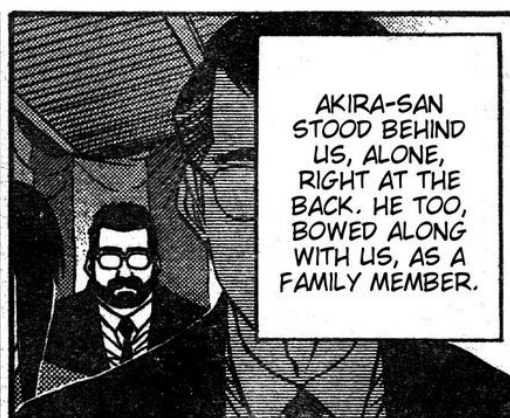


AT THE
FUNERAL,
MY
MOTHER
AND I
STOOD
SOMBERLY
WITH
FAMILY
MEMBERS.



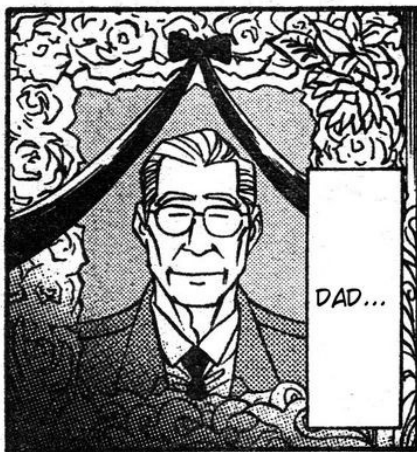
THEY ASKED
MY MOTHER
WHO HE WAS.
BUT SHE
POLITELY
DECLINED TO
ANSWER THEIR
QUESTION.

SOME OF MY
RELATIVES
WERE
PUZZLED
WHEN THEY
SAW AKIRA-
SAN FOR THE
FIRST TIME.



AKIRA-SAN
STOOD BEHIND
US, ALONE,
RIGHT AT THE
BACK. HE TOO,
BOWED ALONG
WITH US, AS A
FAMILY MEMBER.





DAD...



MOM...



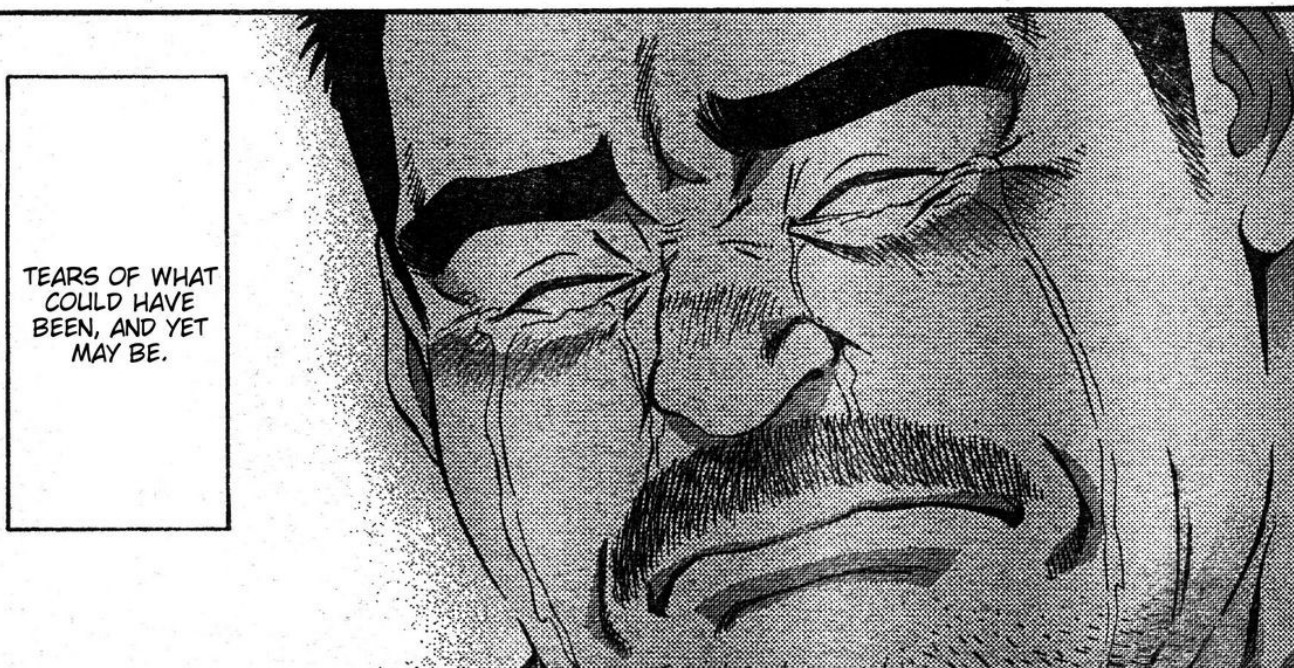
AKIRA-SAN...



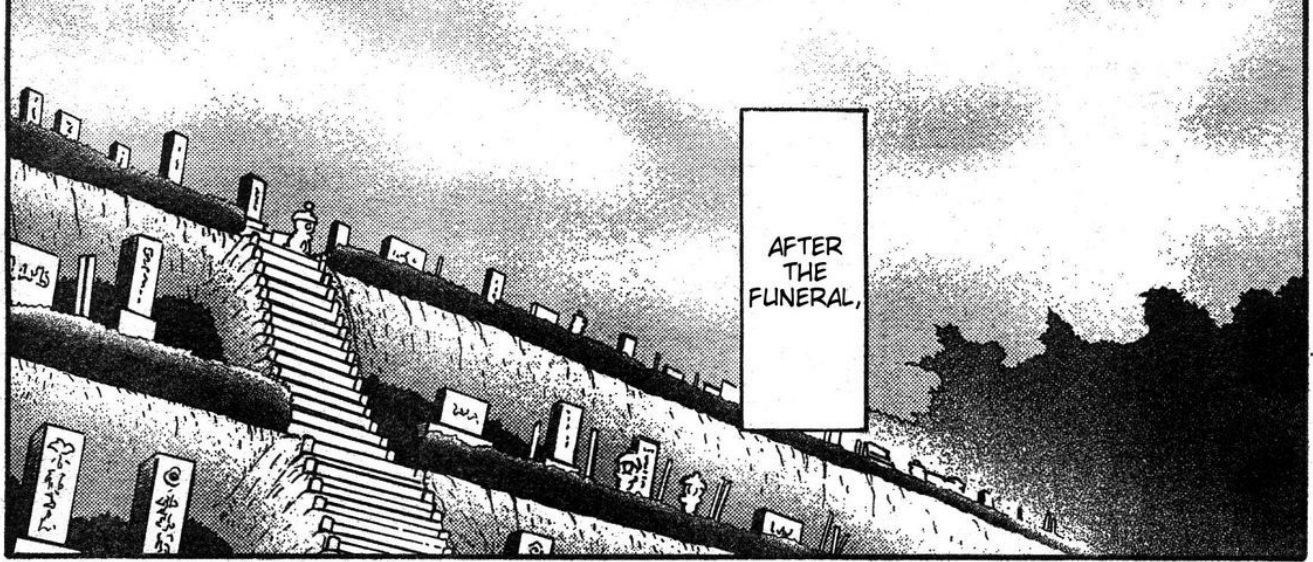
I FOUND MYSELF CRYING.

MY EYES WERE FILLED WITH TEARS.

TEARS THAT WOULD NOT STOP.



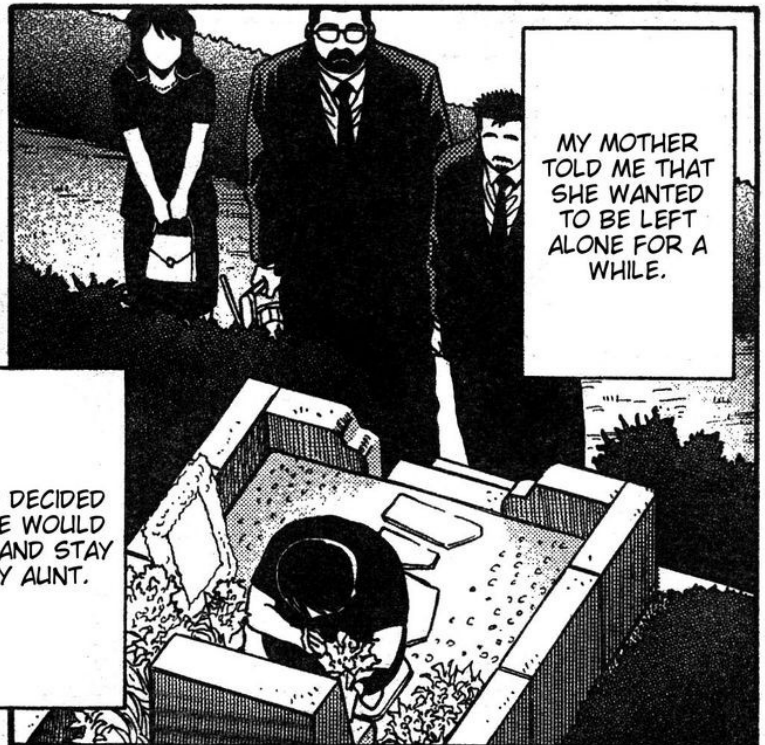
TEARS OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, AND YET MAY BE.



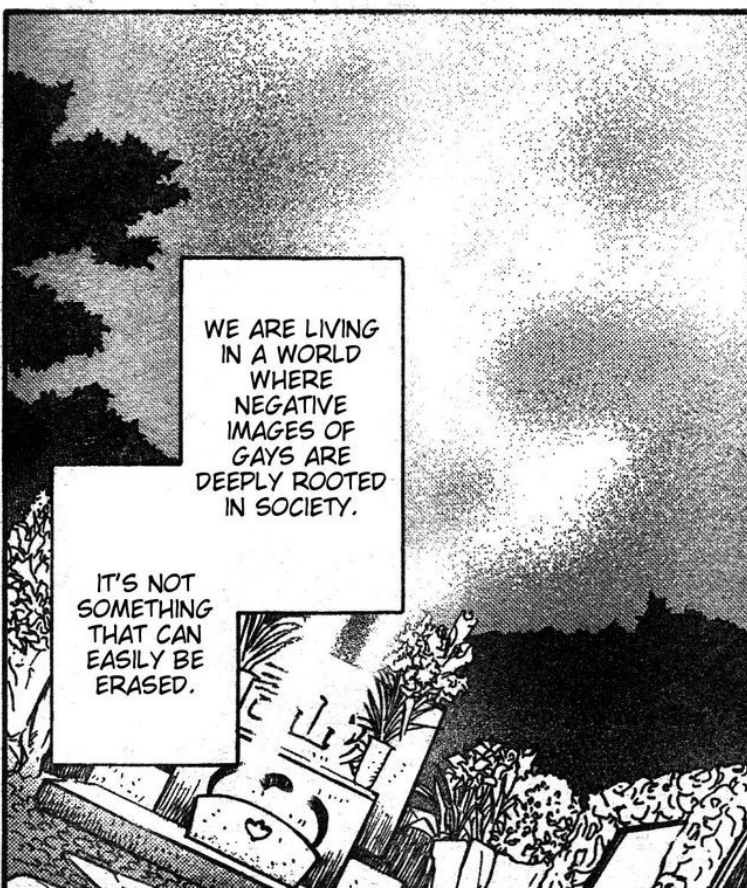
AFTER
THE
FUNERAL,



SHE HAD DECIDED
THAT SHE WOULD
MOVE IN AND STAY
WITH MY AUNT.



MY MOTHER
TOLD ME THAT
SHE WANTED
TO BE LEFT
ALONE FOR A
WHILE.



WE ARE LIVING
IN A WORLD
WHERE
NEGATIVE
IMAGES OF
GAYS ARE
DEEPLY ROOTED
IN SOCIETY.

IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
THAT CAN
EASILY BE
ERASED.



ON THE
SURFACE, IT
SEEMED THAT
MY MOTHER
HAD ACCEPTED
AKIRA-SAN AND
ME. BUT DEEP
DOWN, WE
BOTH KNEW
OTHERWISE.



I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER FIRST.

WELCOME HOME. I JUST GOT BACK TOO.



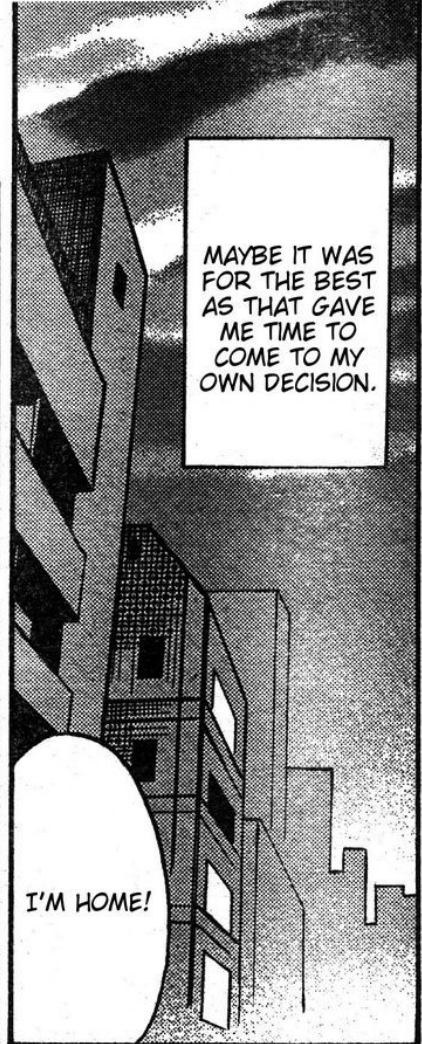
ABOUT MY FATHER. ABOUT AKIRA-SAN.

UNLESS YOU DON'T WANT DINNER!

HUH? NOPE! ME FIRST!

I KNEW WHAT I MUST DO.

AND SO I WROTE DOWN MY FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS.



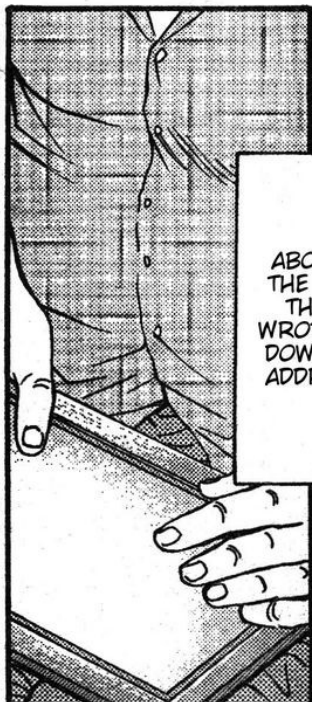
MAYBE IT WAS FOR THE BEST AS THAT GAVE ME TIME TO COME TO MY OWN DECISION.

I'M HOME!



AND MOST OF ALL, ABOUT MYSELF.

TEXT: MRS HARUKO KAJIYAMA

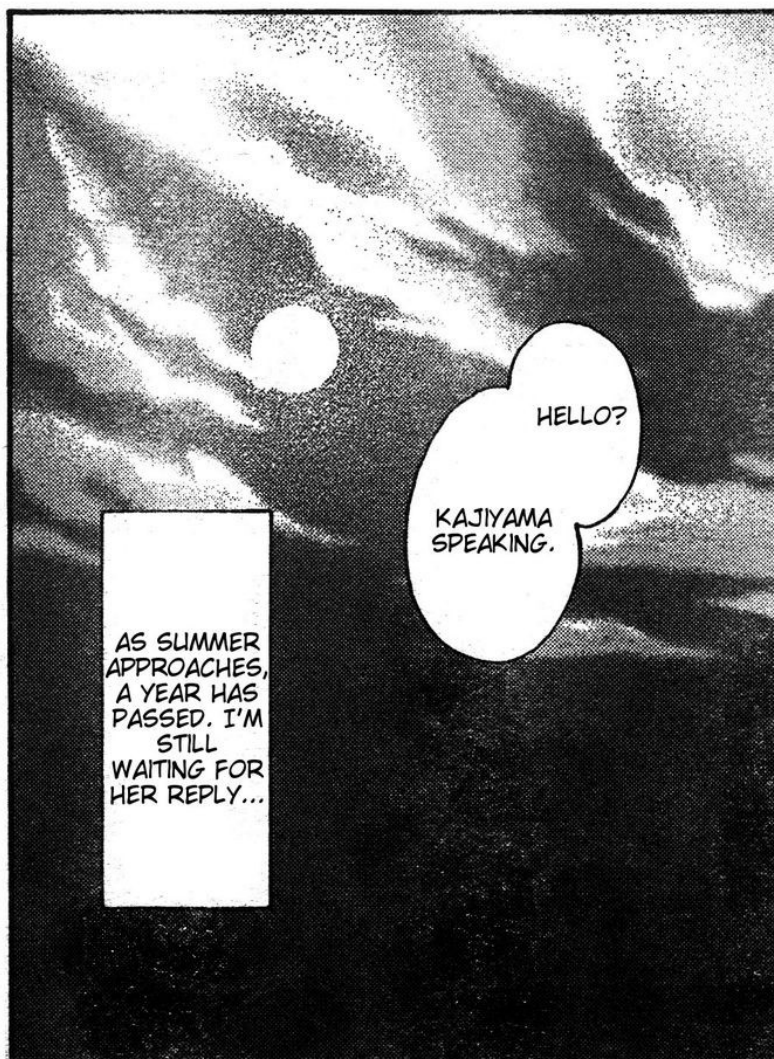


ABOUT THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. I WROTE EVERYTHING DOWN IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO MY MOTHER.





☆全てを昇華した母からの電話。新しい形の家族誕生か...!? 藤本郷氏の進化する次回作もお楽しみに!!



HELLO?

KAJIYAMA
SPEAKING.

AS SUMMER
APPROACHES,
A YEAR HAS
PASSED. I'M
STILL
WAITING FOR
HER REPLY...



I'M
WAITING
...

SFX: RINGING



OH!

SFX: GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE

END

