


TATENO MAKOTO

立野真琴

荒野の如く

LIKE THE BARREN WASTELAND



WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE DUEL -

BETWEEN
LORD WILLIAM
PRESTON...



AND LORD
CHRIS CLOUDER,



AS
WITNESSED
BY THEIR
SECONDS,

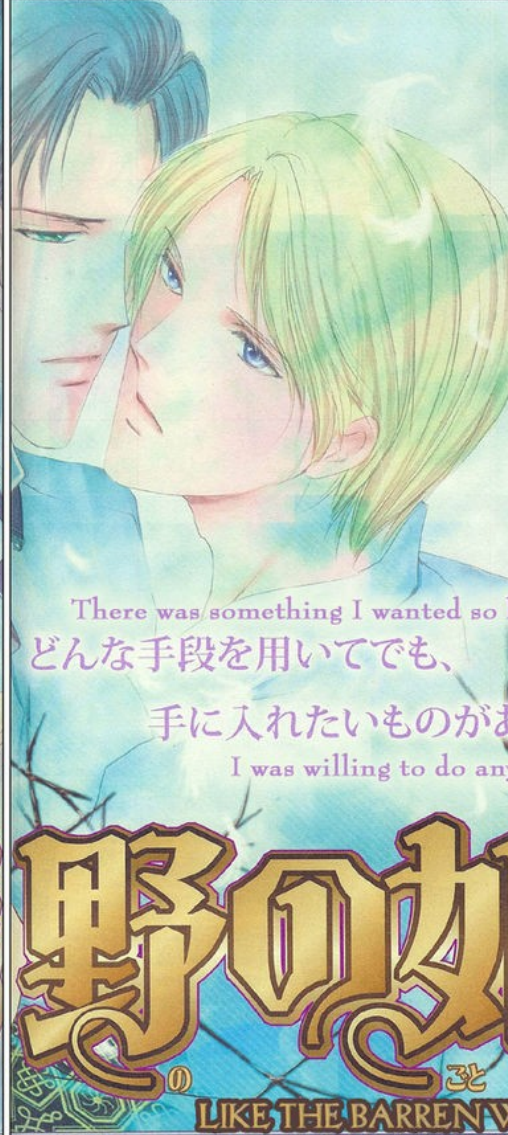
PETER
LARKIN
AND JOHN
AUSTIN.

立野真琴 MAKOTO TATENNO PRESENTS

SHOENISHI WOODS 英雄と源次
「大好評発売中!!」



荒野の如く
あれ



DRAW YOUR WEAPONS.

There was something I wanted so badly,
どんな手段を用いても、

手に入れたいものがあった——。

I was willing to do anything to have it.

荒野の如く
おと
LIKE THE BARREN WASTELAND

SO HOT...

MY CHEST
HURTS...

MY BODY,
MY ENTIRE
BODY IS...

WILLIAM,

AREN'T YOU
GOING TO GET
UP SOON?

WHO'S
THERE...?

OPEN
YOUR
EYES...

AND LOOK
AT ME, LORD
PRESTON.



WHERE IS THIS?

FELL CASTLE,
MY COUNTRY HOUSE.

YOUR...?

CHRIS...
LORD CLOUDER..?



HUH?
AH!

HOW YOU GOT THAT WOUND?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?

WHY AM...
I...?



TAKE 20 PACES AND TURN.



THE ONE WHO SHOTS FIRST IS THE VICTOR.



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

BANG!

0!



WHEN MY BULLET STRUCK YOUR SHOULDER,

YOU STUMBLERD AND FELL OFF THE CLIFF.



THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU...



...WERE DEFEATED IN YOUR DUEL WITH ME.



LUCKILY,

MY MANSERVANT WAS UNDER THE CLIFF WHEN YOU FELL AND SAVED YOU.



LUCKILY... YOU SAY?





HOW HUMILIATING.

WHY DID YOU LET HIM SAVE ME?

TO BE RESCUED...

BY THE VERY MAN WHOM I CHALLENGED TO A DUEL.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE TO MY FATHER!



IT'S A DISGRACE!



ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO BODY,

YOUR FUNERAL WAS HELD DURING THAT TIME.

WILLIAM,

YOU WERE IN A COMA...

FOR A WHOLE WEEK.



YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY.

YOU'RE ALREADY "DEAD."



THE ELDEST CHILD OF THE EARL OF PRESTON...

IS DEAD.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND,

ISAAC?



BECAUSE EVEN IF HE'S ALIVE, HE'LL BRING NOTHING BUT SHAME.



A PERSON WHO RECENTLY BOUGHT HIS BARONY... I SUPPOSE YOU THINK IT'S EXPECTED THAT I NOT UNDERSTAND?



IT'S SO OBVIOUS! THE HOUSE OF PRESTON HAS A DISTINGUISHED HISTORY, DATING BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS! UNLIKE YOU...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

UNLIKE ME?



IF I WERE TO RETURN, IT WOULD ONLY CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THEM.

FATHER IS RIGHT. IT'S BETTER THIS WAY...



IS YOUR "HOUSE" MORE PRECIOUS TO YOU THAN YOUR LIFE?



THAT'S RIGHT...

EH?

YES...



LIKE A SERVANT'S QUARTERS?

WHY IS THIS ROOM SO SPARSE? IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GUEST ROOM. IT'S ALMOST LIKE...



turn

I'D HEARD THAT THE CLOUDERS WERE BOURGEOIS, ADVANCING THEMSELVES THROUGH TRADE, BUT...



THIS IS A SERVANT'S ROOM...
WILLIAM.

YOU ARE CORRECT.



IT'S FITTING, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE NO LONGER THE SON OF AN EARL.
YOU'RE LESS THAN A COMMONER.

OW!
WHAT...

flump



WELL THEN...
WILLIAM, WHO'S NOT EVEN A COMMONER...

WHAT THE...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

I AM A BARON, YOU KNOW.
LET ME GO!

YOU'RE THE ONE BEING INSOLENT.

DON'T BE INSOLENT, CLOUDER!



THE ONLY THINGS YOU HAVE...

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD OTHERS TO DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU,

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING ON SURVIVING?

LIKE A GOOD UPSTAIRS BOY...

ARE A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE AND USELESS PRIDE.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

AND THIS...

THIS SLIGHTLY INJURED, BUT BEAUTIFUL BODY.

!?

RIIP



BECOME
MY LOVER.

I'LL GIVE
YOU WORK,
WILLIAM.

AHHH!

Thrust

LINH...

AAH...

WHY
DID
THIS...?





I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU, BUT YOU'D BEST...

CLOUDER, SHE'S BEEN DEPRESSED SINCE SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE YOU.

YES, LADY BEATRIX.

YOUR COUSIN?

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S BECAUSE HE...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT HAPPENED"? I MERELY HAD TEA WITH HER ONCE.

WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?



I DON'T THINK SO.

I CAN'T IGNORE THAT INSULT. RECANT AT ONCE!

AN EXCESS OF SELF-WORTH...

IS SO UNBECOMING IN A LADY.

SHE MUST HAVE...

MISUNDERSTOOD MY INTENTIONS.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHAT?



MURMUR MURMUR

WILLIAM!

SLAP

!



!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CALLING A WOMAN WHO WOULD LOOSEN HER OWN CORSET IMMODEST?



SHOCK

HE PICKED UP THE GLOVE...!



DO YOU ACCEPT?

I DEMAND A DUEL FOR HER HONOR!

LORD CHRIS CLOUDER,

YOU JUST INSULTED MY COUSIN!



I NEVER EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HAPPEN...

IT'S A DUEL!



ha

GET USED TO IT, WILLIAM.

CLOUDER...

IT HURTS,

creak

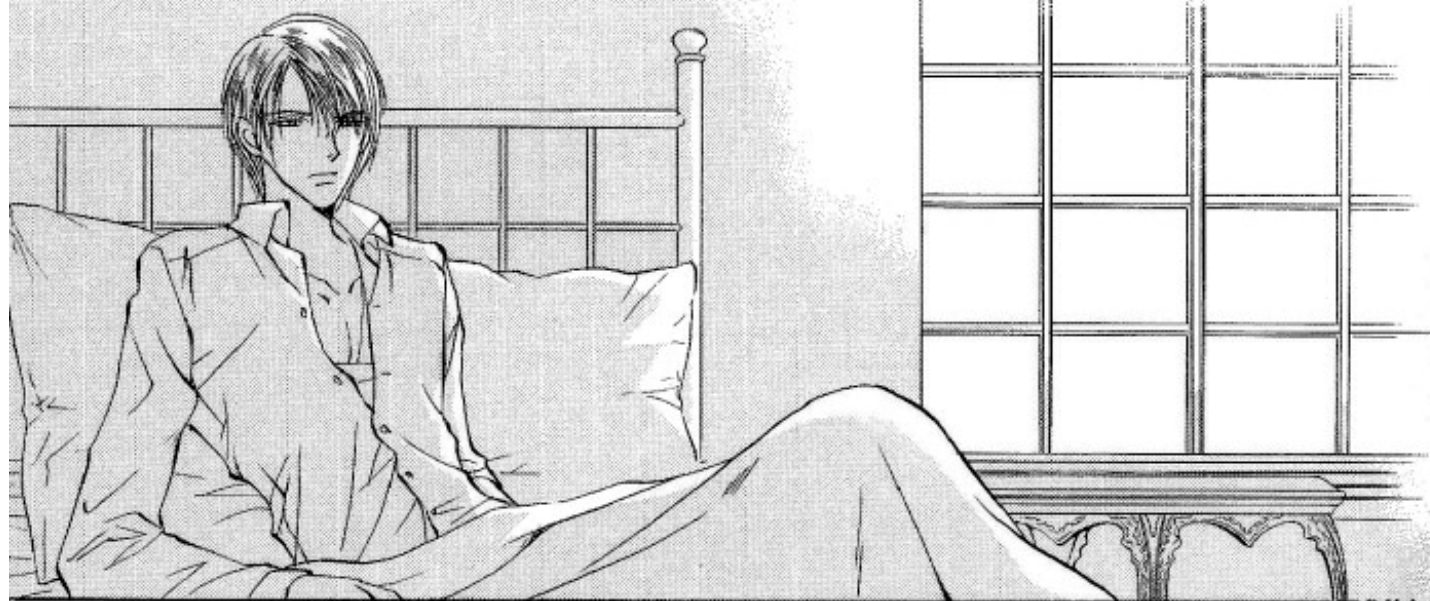
IT...

creak



HONESTLY, I'D RATHER DIE...

I TRULY THOUGHT THAT.



...

YOU
DON'T
INTEND
TO EAT?

IT'S NO
USE TRYING
TO STARVE
YOURSELF
TO DEATH.

grab

YOUR
MEAL.



I CAN'T
EVEN BITE MY
TONGUE...*

*BITING THE TONGUE IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WAY OF COMMITTING SUICIDE WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE.





AHH...

I WANT...

TO SEE
YOUR BODY
IN THE
SUNLIGHT.



DON'T...

LOOK...

I WANT TO DIE.



AHH!

twitch

STOP—

AHHH!

WHY
NOT?

YOU
ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL.

gasp

THIS...

THIS...

GO ON...

EAT THIS...

WHILE YOU'RE STILL ON TOP OF ME.

NOW THEN...

THAT'S IT...

LHWAH...

thrust

LICK





AHHH...



bite

NNN...

GRIND

THIS IS NOT ME.



I'M SORRY,
FORCING YOU LIKE THIS WHEN YOUR WOUND IS NOT YET HEALED.



WELL,
I HIRE TEMPORARY HELP WHEN I NEED IT.

ISN'T THAT AN INCONVENIENCE?



I EMPLOY A BUTLER AND A FEW OTHERS.



IT'S QUITE LARGE, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN MANY SERVANTS.

THIS HOUSE-
HM?



I AGREE.

THE FACT THAT A BARONY CAN BE BOUGHT OR SOLD IS ITSELF UNSEEMLY.



YES, I REALIZE THAT.

BUT THE BARONY WAS MY DAD'S DREAM, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD BUY IT IF I COULD.

THAT'S PRACTICAL BUT LOW-BRED.

YOU'RE NOT SUITED FOR THE NOBILITY.



BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE UNAPPROACHABLE WITHOUT A TITLE, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.



IF I'D BEEN A COMMONER, I COULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR CHALLENGE.

EVEN THE DUEL...



TO ME, THAT WAS LUCKY.

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU'RE HERE NOW.



ONLY THOSE OF EQUAL STATUS ARE ALLOWED TO DUEL EACH OTHER. NOBLEMEN WITH NOBLEMEN AND COMMONERS WITH COMMONERS.

IT'S QUITE ABSURD.



IF I
WERE
A MERE
COMMONER,

I
COULDN'T
EVEN KISS
YOU.

-I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



IT'S DANGEROUS OVER THERE!

MASTER WL...



MASTER WILLIAM!



MASTER WILLIAM, ARE YOU THERE?

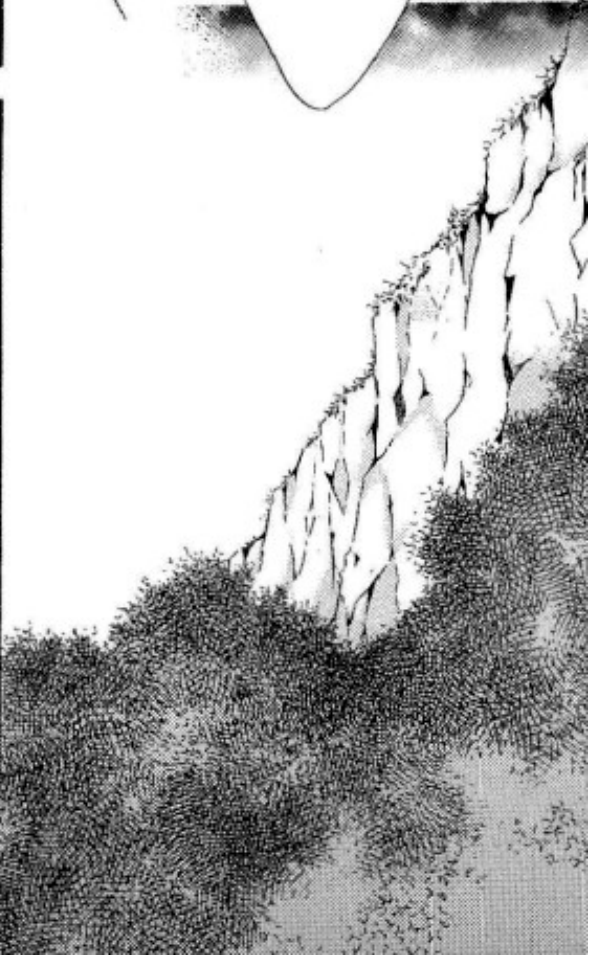


MASTER WILLIAM!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING...

OR...
WHAT I'M THINKING...





EH?



THAT CLIFF IS MORE UNSTABLE THAN IT LOOKS.

THE OTHER DAY, SOMEONE FELL FROM THERE AND GOT HURT.



EVEN THOUGH HE'S A MERCHANT...



HMM...
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT IT WAS
THE "CRUEL" OR
"FEROCIOUS"
MEANING OF
FELL.

THIS
MANSION'S
NAME IS
"FELL
CASTLE."

IT MEANS
"CASTLE ON
THE BARREN
WASTELAND."

HA, HA,
VERY
FUNNY.



THE PEOPLE
OF THIS
REGION ARE
USED TO
HARDSHIP.

WELL,
THAT
SORT OF
THING...

AS THE NAME
SUGGESTS, THE
LAND WAS
BARREN,
SO MY
GRANDFATHER
AND HIS FAMILY
HAD A HARD
TIME OF IT.



SUCH A
LAND IS
A PLACE
BATHED
IN LOVE.
MY DAD
SAID TO
PROTECT THE
PEOPLE HERE
THAT GIVE IT
THEIR ALL.



IF I HAD...

HAVE I EVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO WORK ON MY LAND?

DIDN'T I THINK OF THEM AS SIMPLY SOMETHING THAT WOULD COME ALONG WITH THE TITLE I WOULD INHERIT?



IS THAT SO...?

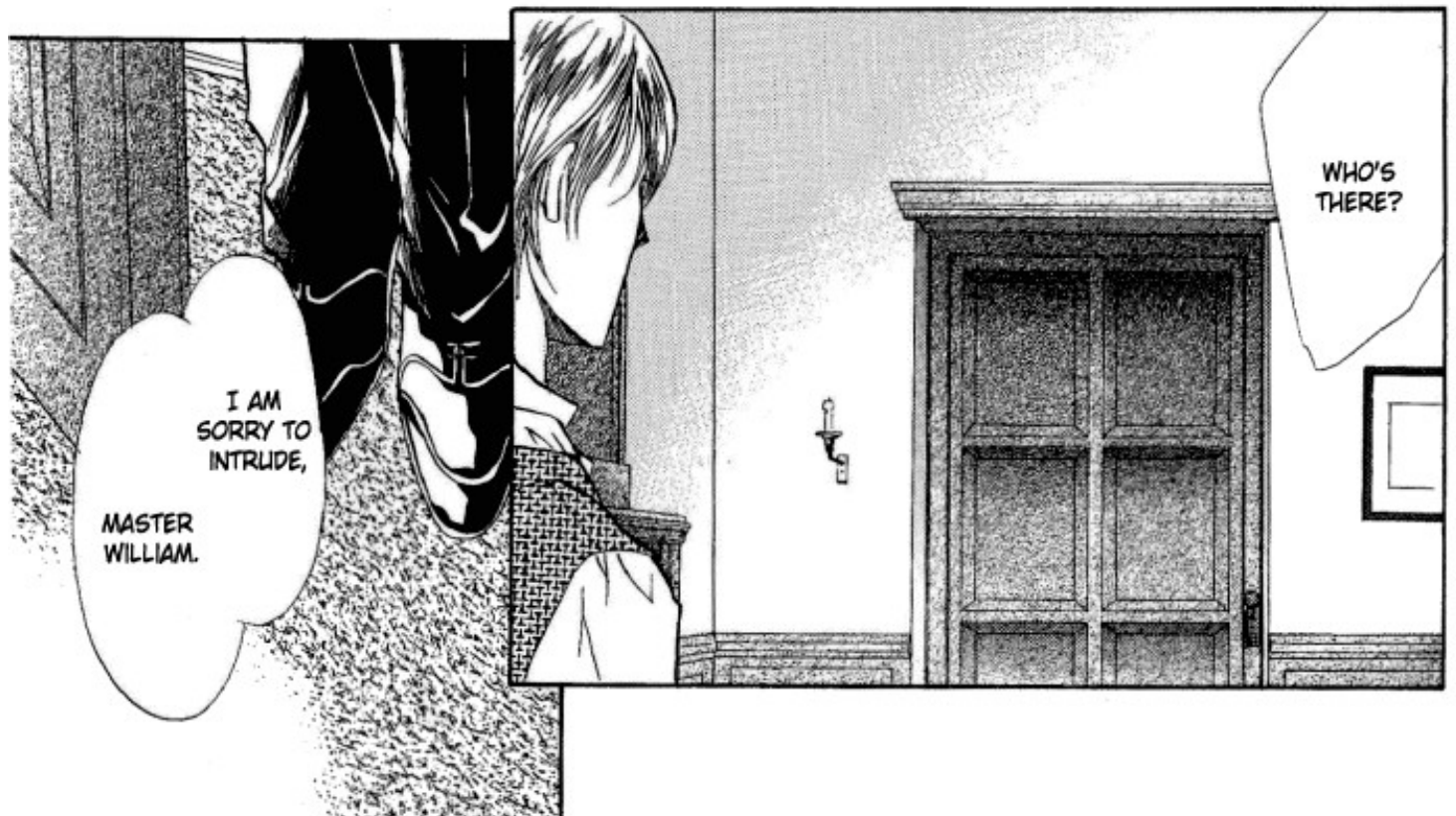
SUCH A THING MUST BE NATURAL TO YOU, A BORN NOBLEMAN.



knock knock

ah!

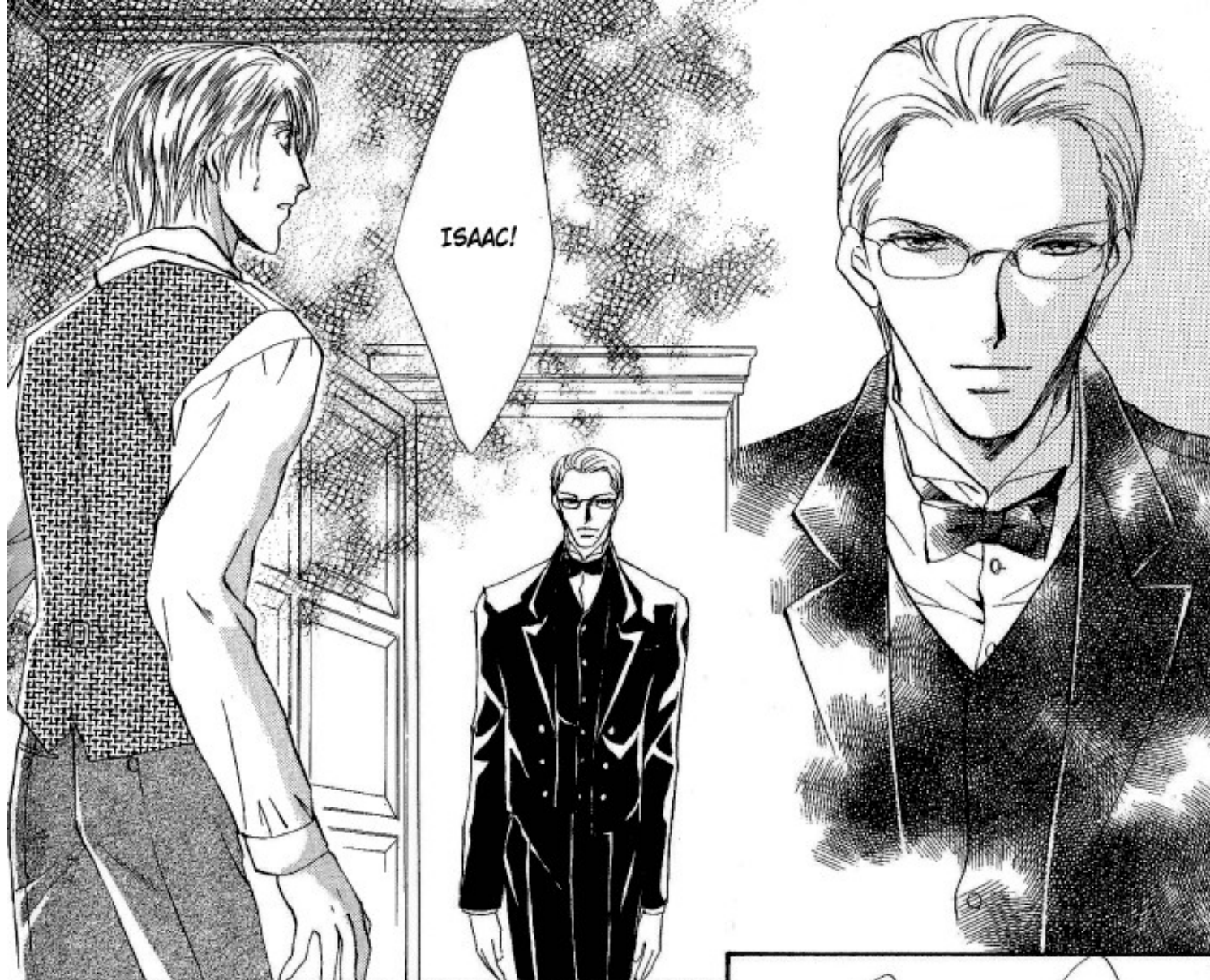
...CONSIDERED MYSELF IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE WORKING ON MY LAND THE WAY HE DOES, I MIGHT NOT HAVE CHALLENGED HIM TO A DUEL...



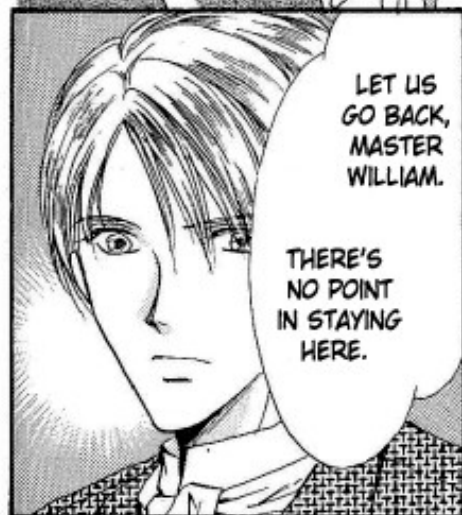
MASTER WILLIAM.

I AM SORRY TO INTRUDE,

WHO'S THERE?



ISAAC!



LET US
GO BACK,
MASTER
WILLIAM.

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN STAYING
HERE.



IT
DOES NOT
APPEAR
THAT YOU
ARE BEING
TREATED AS
A GUEST.



HOW...

HOW
DID YOU
FIND ME
HERE?

MASTER
WILLIAM,

I WAS
POSITIVE
THAT YOU
WERE
ALIVE.



NO,
MASTER
WILLIAM.

NO...
I CAN'T!

IF I
RETURN NOW,
IT WILL ONLY
SHAME MY
FATHER.

ONE OF THE
SERVANTS OF
THE ESTATE
TOLD ME...
THAT
THERE WAS
A GUEST WHO
HAD FALLEN
FROM THE CLIFF
AND BEEN
INJURED.

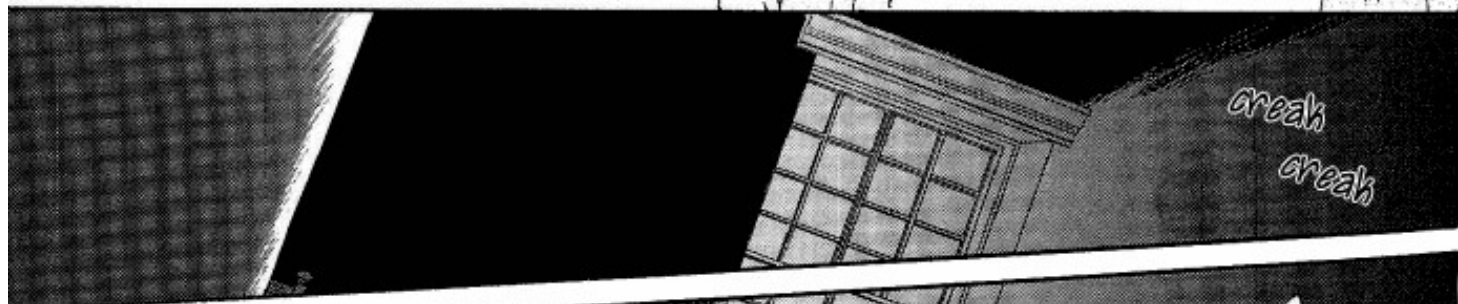


WHOOSH

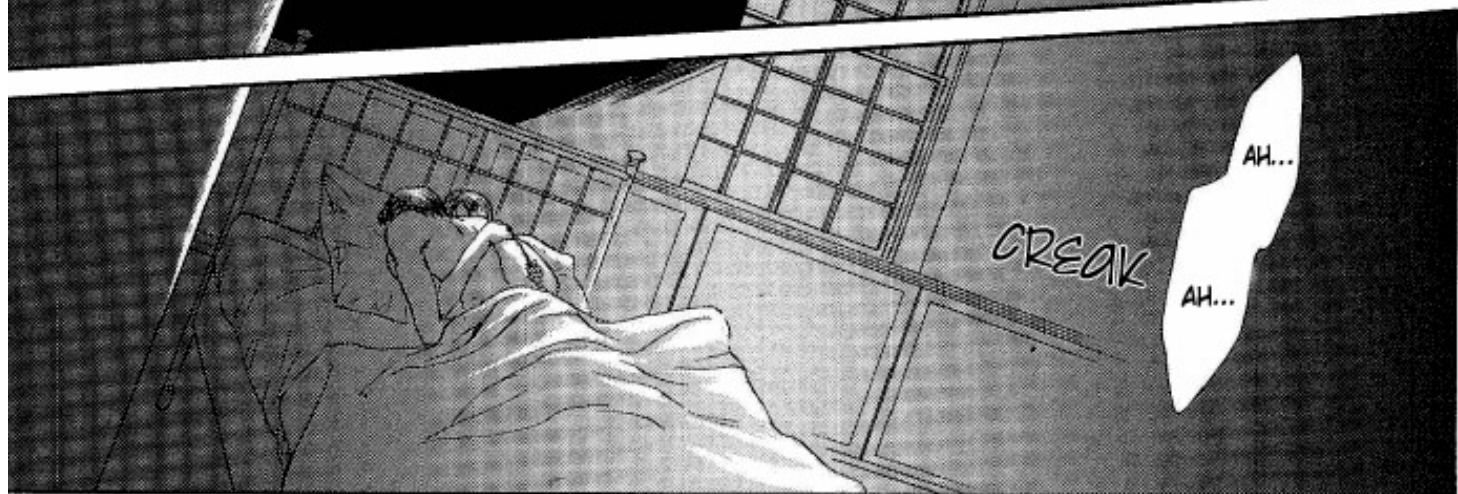


PLEASE
ENTRUST
IT TO ME,

TO
ISAAC.



creak
creak



CREAK

AH...

AH...



WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU'RE SO
WILLING
TODAY.

NNNN...



SQUEEZE

AH...

AH!

PERHAPS YOU'RE READY TO GO OUTSIDE.

YOUR WOUND IS ALMOST HEALED.

OUTSIDE?

THAT'S RIGHT...

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE THAT?



AFTER THIS MANY TIMES, I'VE LEARNED THE KNACK FOR IT.

SO I SEE.

YOU'VE BECOME QUITE GOOD.

HA...



IN THAT CASE,

WHY DON'T WE GO OUT...



IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO GO OUTSIDE?

THIS AREA IS ALL PART OF MY ESTATE.

IN THIS SEASON, THERE ARE NO OTHER NOBLEMEN AROUND.



ARF

ROB,

DON'T GO TOO FAR AWAY!

...TO GO HUNTING?



DON'T YOU GO HUNTING ALL THAT OFTEN?

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, SO HE'S EXCITED.

WOOF
WOOF



SORRY...

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT OUTFIT SUITS YOU.

WHAT?



ONCE HE IS DEAD, WE CAN SOMEHOW MANAGE EVERYTHING ELSE.

WE CAN SPREAD A RUMOR THAT, ON THE DAY OF THE DUEL, CLOUDER SOMEHOW SET A TRAP AND THEN IMPRISONED YOU.

YOU MUST KILL THAT MAN, MASTER WILLIAM, AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.



IT SHOULD.

HUNTING IS A NOBLE-MAN'S SPORT.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE IT LOOK AS THOUGH HE USED SOME COWARDLY MEANS TO WIN.

IF THE DUEL APPEARS TAINTED, THEN THE OUTCOME WILL NO LONGER MATTER.

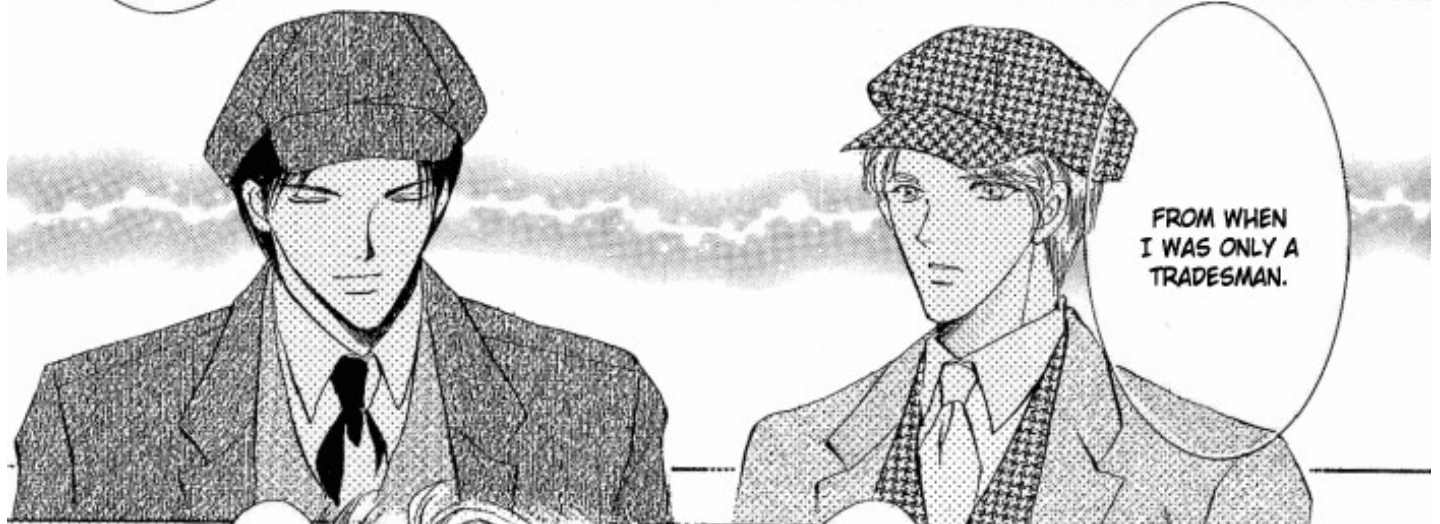


EH?

Ah!

...RIGHT?

I DOCTORED ALL OF CLOUDER'S BULLETS. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS INVITE HIM TO GO HUNTING.





I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU...

LORD PRESTON.



FOUND 'EM!

COULD IT BE...?

BA-BUMP

WOULD HE SAY THAT... AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

LET'S GO!

WELL, THEN-

THE DOGS JUST RAN OFF AFTER SOME GAME!

MY LORD!

WHY...



DOES HE KNOW?

NOW...

IF YOU
FIRE THAT
GUN...

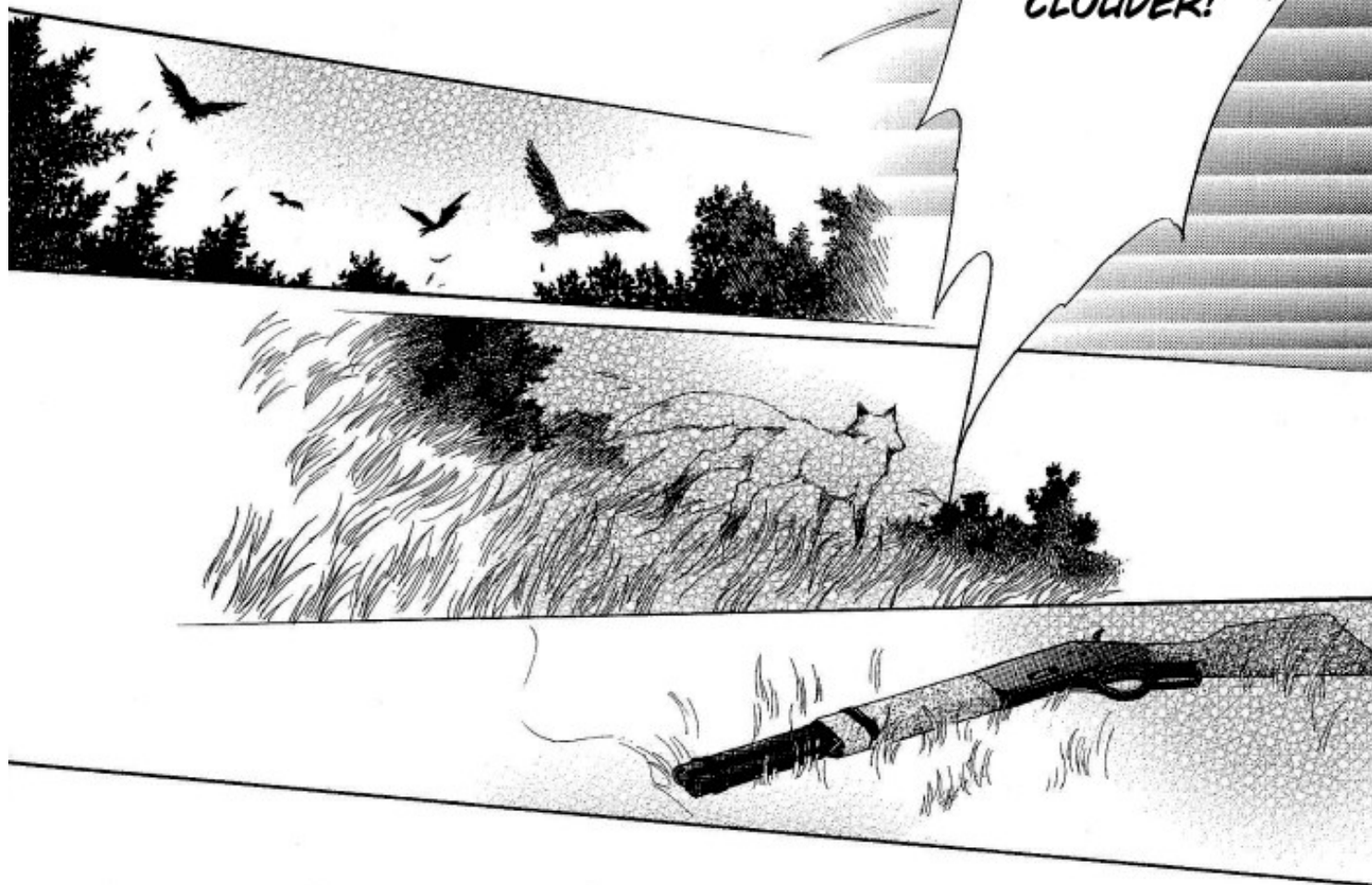
CLOUDER!

YOU'LL...



BANG

**DON'T FIRE!
CLOUDER!**





...LIAM...



WILLIAM...



IT'S
ALL RIGHT.

I'M
ALL RIGHT.



SO,
I'M FINE.

AS SOON AS I PICKED THEM UP...
I COULD TELL THERE WAS TOO MUCH GUN POWDER.

I CHANGED ALL THE BULLETS.



WILLIAM...

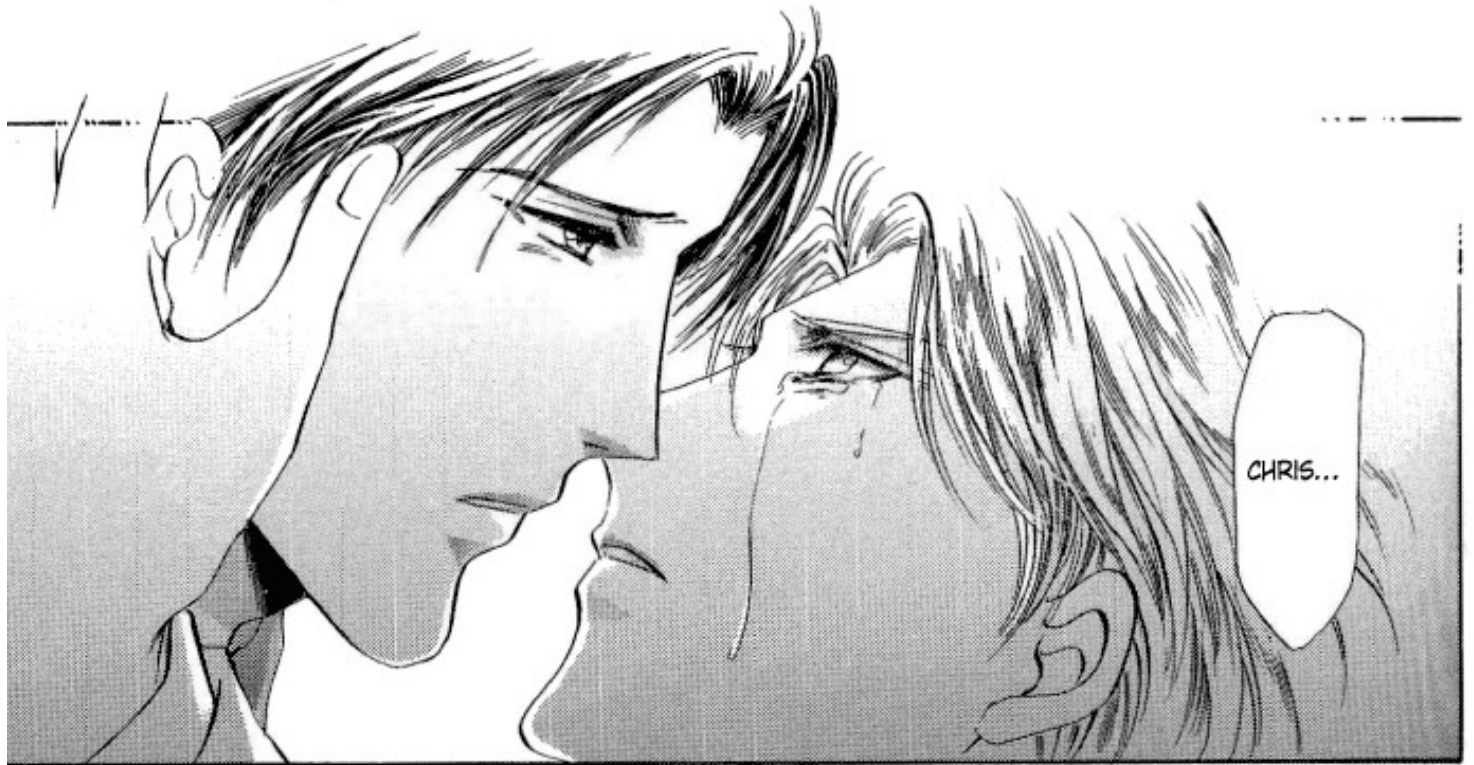


IT WAS YOU WHO TAUGHT ME...

TO BE A GENTLEMAN.

THAT MY HEART,

*WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED PROPERLY,
WAS COWARDLY AND SMALL.*





CARE FOR ME WITH
THOSE STRONG ARMS?



I'M PENNILESS,
AND LIKE A BARREN WASTELAND,
BUT...

WILL YOU HELP ME TO BE REBORN...

LET'S
GO
HOME...

WILL.

I'LL TAKE
YOU TO MY
ROOM...

LIKE THIS LAND...

THAT YOU LOVE...?

AND
TOGETHER...

AND WE'LL
STAY THERE
A FEW
DAYS,

UNTIL YOU
GET USED
TO IT...

WE'LL
THINK OF A
NEW NAME
FOR YOU.



END