

There's
a divine
entity
residing
in this
moun-
tain.

ほふ からだ いのち
美しき神...奉ずはその身と性命

She
is a
bea-
utiful,
twin-
horned
god-
dess.

As I
passed
under
the
gates,
which
only
open

for
those
offered
up as
a sac-
rifice,

My
short
life
offic-
ially
ended.

或る人の記憶の柱

アル
ヒトバシラノ
キオク

冬良坂比作



...WHY
HAVE
YOU
COME?

Or
rat-
her,
that
was
supposed
to be the
case,

but the
woman
standing
there
was!



LIM,

THEY
TOLD
ME...TO
GO BE
A
SCAPE-
GOAT.

She
just
clicked
her
tongue
at me,
didn't
she?

SO
BECAUSE
SOMEONE
TOLD YOU
TO GO
DIE, YOU
ACTUALLY
DID IT?

YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT A
FOOL.

LIM,
ARE YOU...
THE
DEITY
HERE...?



I
certainly
am.

IF I SAY
"I WANT TO
CONSUME
SOME MEAT,"
WATCH WHAT
HAPPENS.



YOU CAN
COOK AT
LEAST,
RIGHT?

CALL
ME WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE.



SO,
WHY?

FROM
WHAT I CAN
SEE, YOU'RE
A HEALTHY
YOUNG MAN
WITH NO
LARGE DEFIC-
IENCIES.

TO ME,
SACRIFICING
YOU SEEMS
LIKE QUITE
THE WASTE.

DID YOU VOLUN-
TEER FOR THE POS-
ITION?

...I
HAVE NO
RELATIVES
OR
FAMILY.



SACRI-
FICES
END UP
LIKE
THAT.

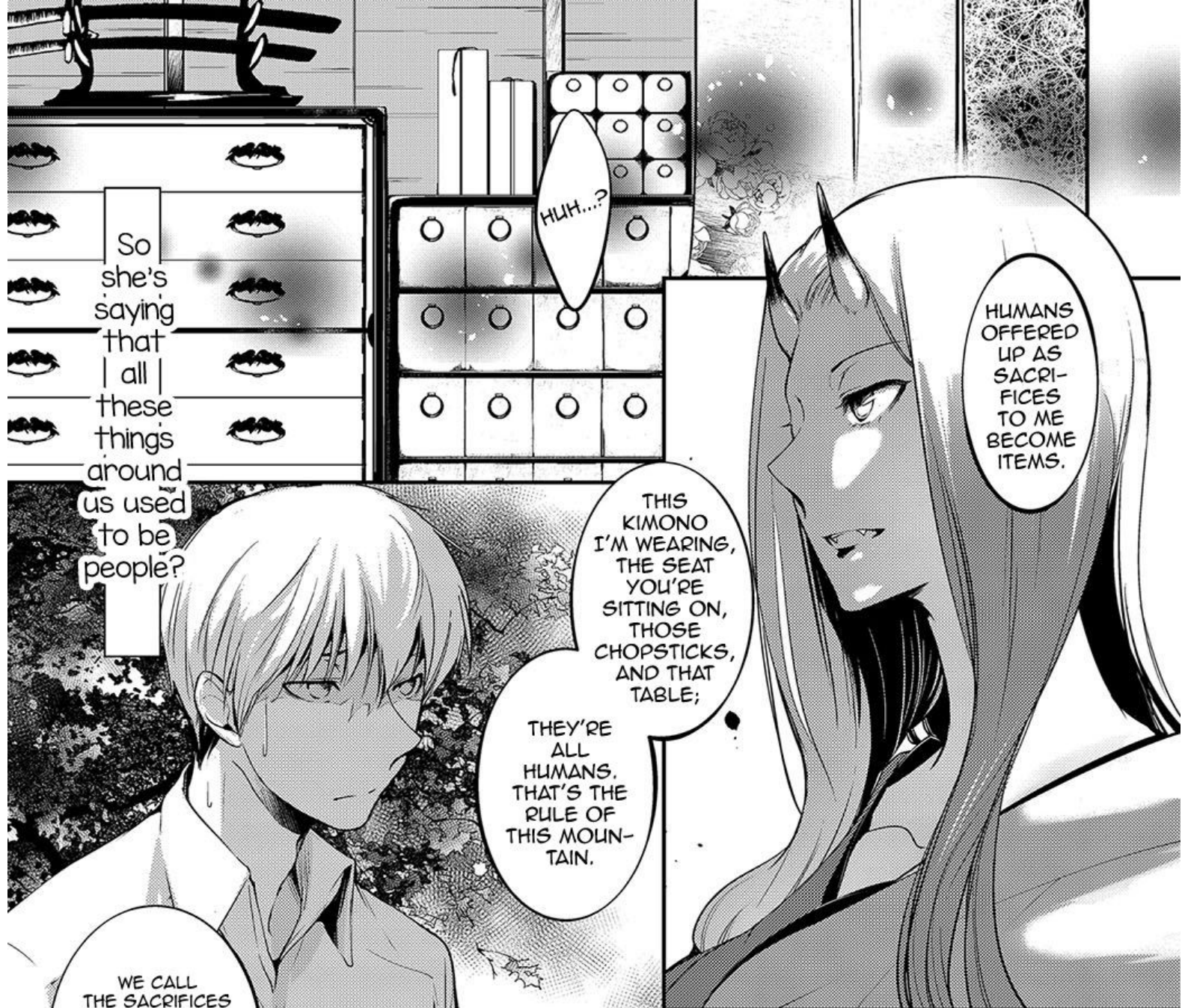


I
SEE.

SO THEY
WERE
GETTING RID
OF A NUI-
SANCE AS
WELL AS
SENDING ME
AN OFFER-
ING.

LISTEN
UP, YOU
FOOL.





So she's saying that all these things around us used to be people?

HUH...?

HUMANS OFFERED UP AS SACRIFICES TO ME BECOME ITEMS.

THIS KIMONO I'M WEARING, THE SEAT YOU'RE SITTING ON, THOSE CHOPSTICKS, AND THAT TABLE;

THEY'RE ALL HUMANS. THAT'S THE RULE OF THIS MOUNTAIN.

WE CALL THE SACRIFICES THAT ARE MADE HERE "HUMAN PILLARS", BECAUSE THEY ALL BECOME OBJECTS OWNED BY ME, A DEITY.

NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO, HUMAN?

...OKAY, I'LL DO IT.

It's not like I have anywhere else to go at this point, anyway.

IT'S AN HONOR
TO BECOME A
SACRIFICE.

YOU HAVE NOWHERE
ELSE TO GO, ANYWAY.

THE DEITY OF THIS
MOUNTAIN IS
TERRIFYING.

IF ALL YOU
CAN DO IS EAT
OUR FOOD,

THEN AT
LEAST MAKE
YOUR-
SELF USE-
FUL HERE!

YOU
ACCEPT
WHATEVER
PEOPLE SAY,
OR WHAT
THEY TELL
YOU TO
DO.

YOU
HAVE NO
TRUE
HEART,
DO YOU?

I
SEE.

THAT'S
HOW
THEY...

TOLD
ME TO
BE.

AND
YOU'LL
EVEN
BE
ABLE
TO
MAKE
THE
DEITY
HAPPY.

THERE'S
NOTHING
GREATER
INSIDE
YOU.

IF YOU TURN
AS YOU ARE NOW,
YOU WON'T EVEN
BE ABLE TO
BECOME A SIMPLE
SCRAP OF PAPER.

I'LL
PRAISE
THAT
PURE,
INNOCENT
ATTITUDE
OF
YOURS,
BUT...



HOW
PITIFUL.



SINCE
YOU'VE
ALREADY
OPENED
THE GATES,
YOU CAN
NEVER LEAVE
THIS
PLACE.
IT WOULD
BE A GOOD
IDEA FOR
YOU TO LIVE
HERE AS A
HUMAN FOR
A TIME.

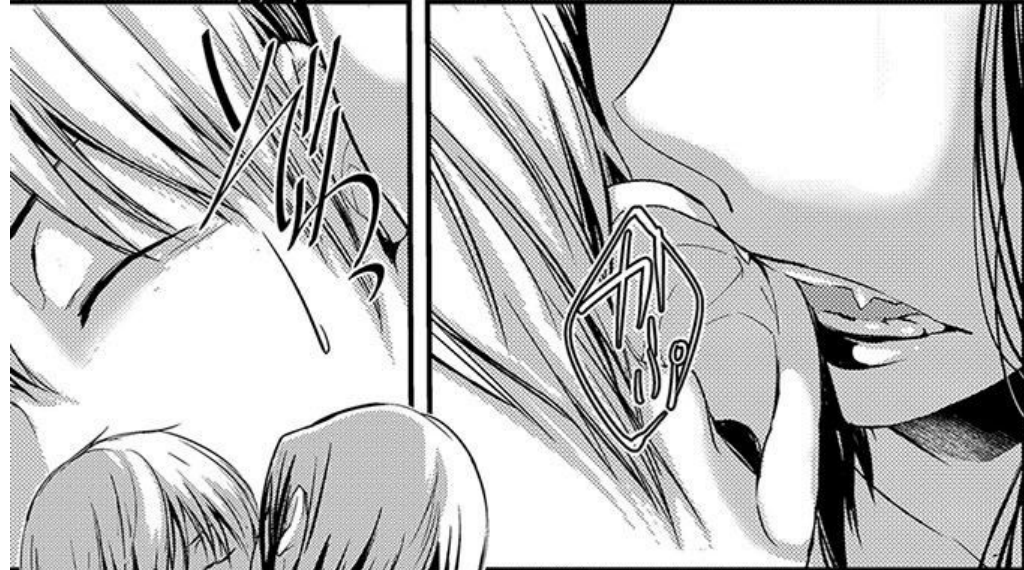


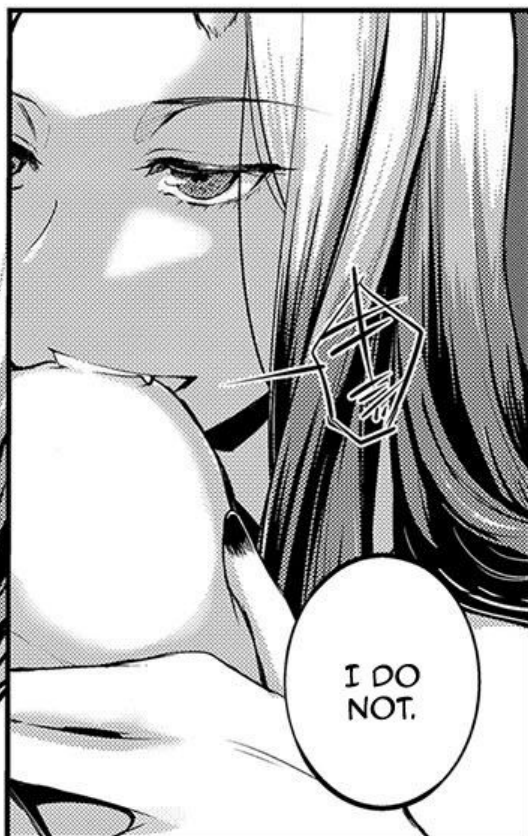
IT'S AN
ENJOY-
ABLE
SCENT.
THE
SCENT
OF ONE
STILL
ALIVE.

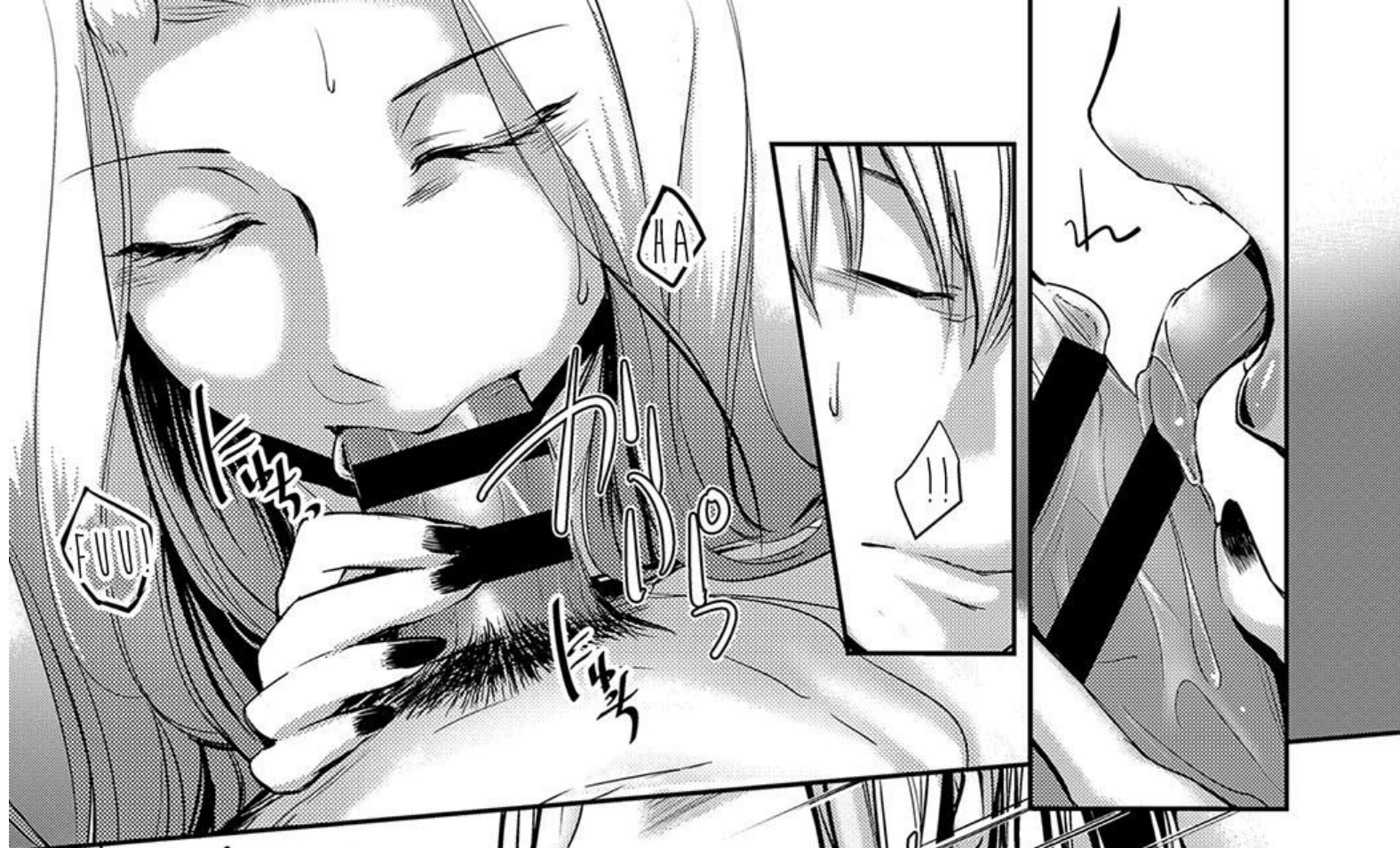
...YOU
HAVE A
PLEASANT
SCENT.

IT'S...
THE
SCENT
OF A
MAN.

IT'S
A NOST-
ALGIC
SCENT
OF A
HUMAN
FROM
LONG
AGO.









human-
like than
I, or any-
one else
had
originally
imagined
her to
be.

Perhaps
this
person
is much
more



She also
seems...
as alone
in this
world as
I am.





THE
FIRST
HUMAN
PILLAR;
THE ONE
THAT BE-
CAME THIS
ENTIRE
MANSION,

CALLED
ME
"SENKI."

The
human
pillar
who
became
this
entire
man-
sion!?



look-
ing
at
us.

They're
here
right
this
mom-
ent,

There
are people
other
than this
woman
here with
us right
now.

We're
being
watched
right
now...



They're
watch-
ing her..!

Watch-
ing...

We're
being
wat-
ched!

Ah...!?

W-
WHY
ARE
YOU
SUDD-
ENLY
SO...!?

They've
been
watching
the whole
time we've
been
doing
this!

Aah

Aah!





Nooo!

I'm
going
to...
cum!!

CUM-
MING!

suddenly
get so
passionate
about
this?

W-why
did you

HI





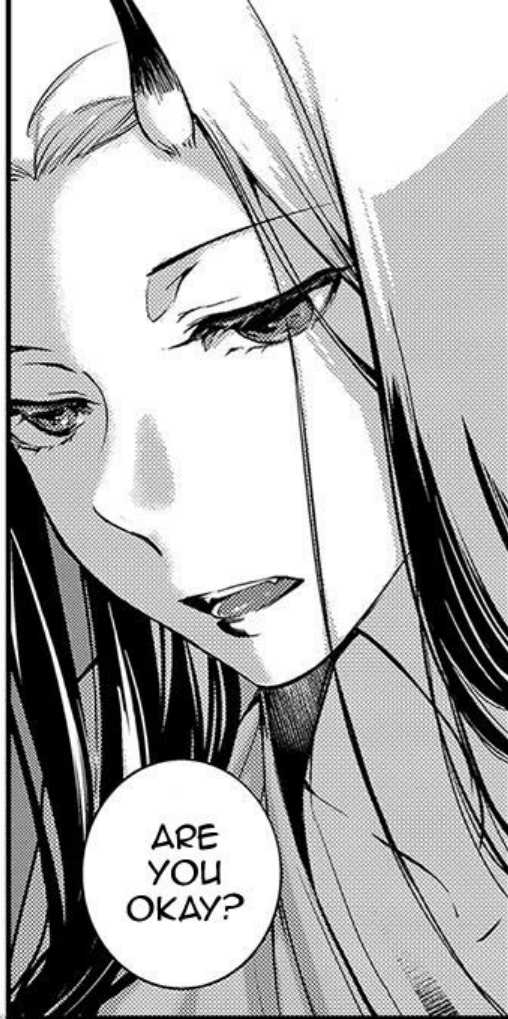
CUM-
MING

A
A
H
H

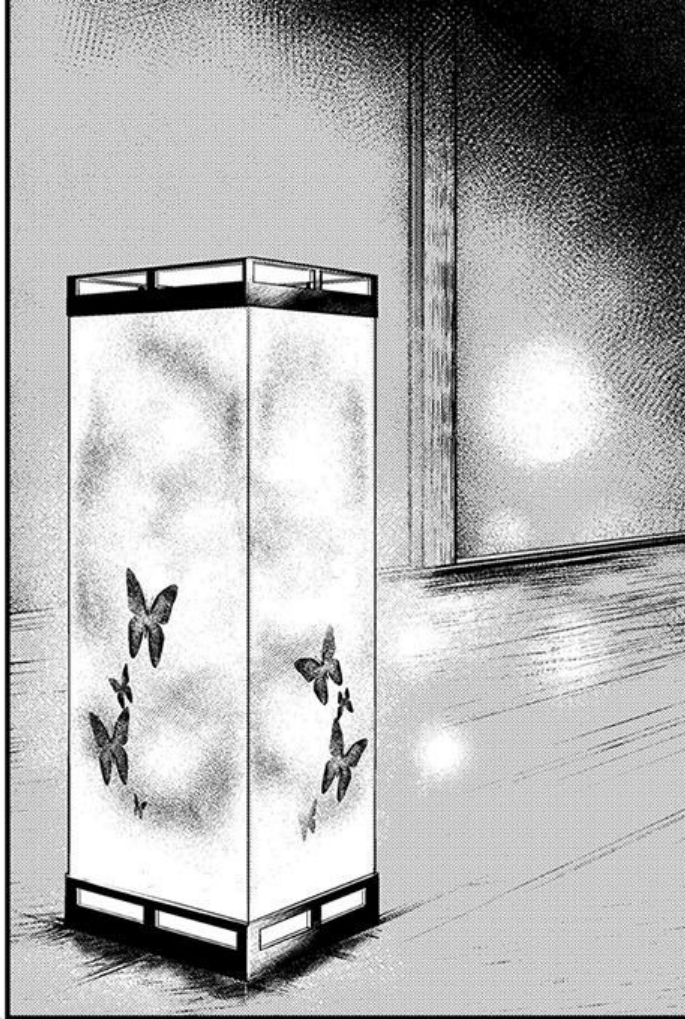
I'm
the
only
other
person
here
that
has a
physical
body.

X
A
B
H
!!

How-
ever,
I
still...



ARE
YOU
OKAY?



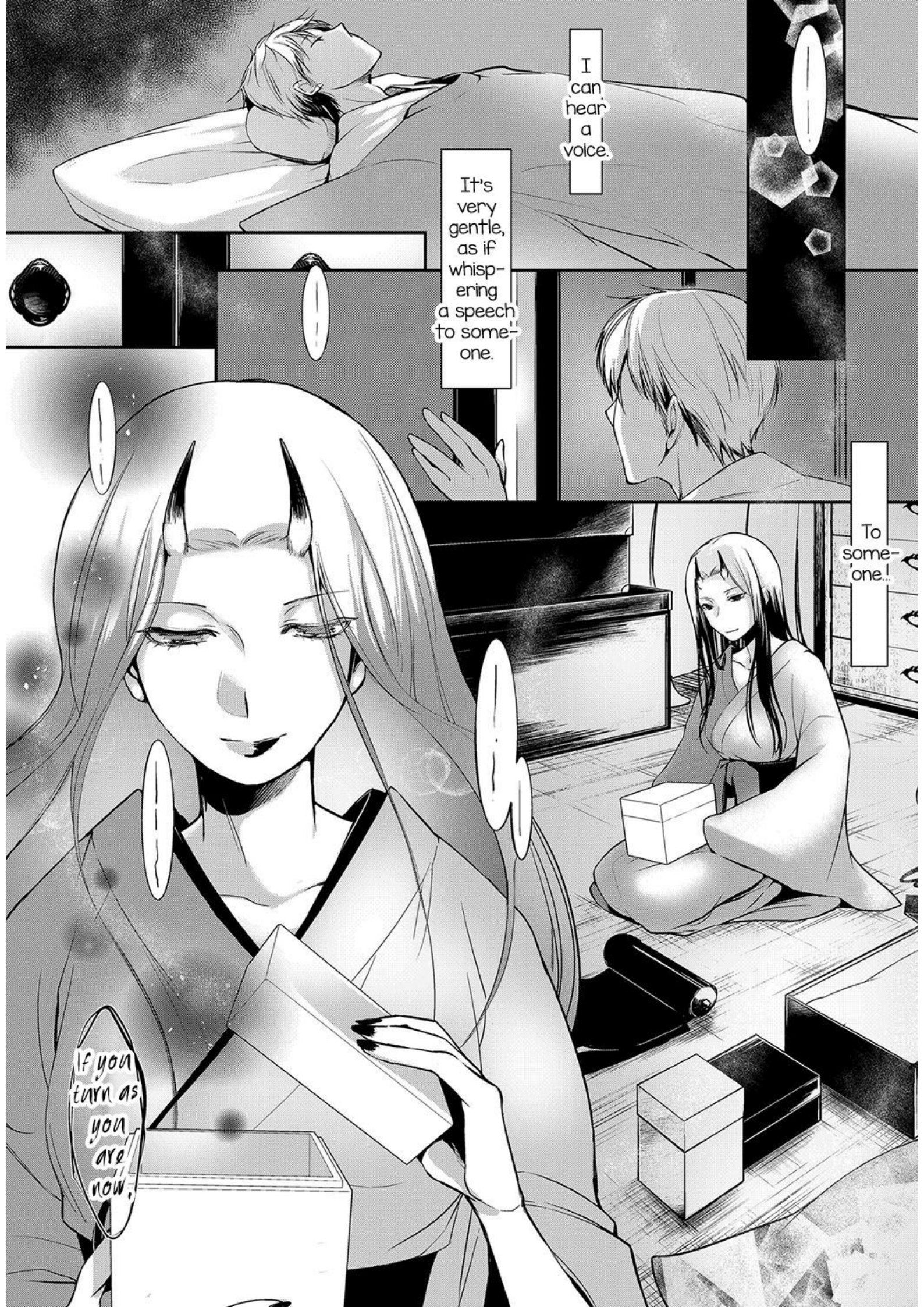
FOR
TONIGHT,
JUST
SLEEP
WELL.

I
can
hear
a
voice.

It's
very
gentle,
as if
whisp-
ering
a speech
to some-
one.

To
some-
one..

If you
turn as
you
are
now.



*you won't even be able to
become a simple scrap
of paper.*

then
I'm
count-
ing
down
the
mom-
ents
until I
can
become
an
item.

If it
means
that
I'll
be
loved
by
some-
one
forever
like
that,

ARU HITOBASHIRA
NO KIOKU



TO BE CONTINUED...