



BBC
BE=BOY COMICS

AN ARK OF THE PRINCE / YAMIMARU ENJIN PRESENTS COMICS

王子の方舟

／ 円陣闇丸

BIBLOS

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ISBN4-8352-1490-0

9784835214900

C9979 ¥562E



定価： **本体562円** +税

雑誌54436-71

ビブロス

郵便配達見習いのフィリップは、届かない手紙を待ち続ける「王子」に出会う。荒れ野のぼったて小屋に住みながら、美しい容姿と優雅な物腰の彼が待つのは誰からの手紙…？ 様々な光を放つ宝石たち7作を収録した円陣闇丸ファーストBBCへようこそ♥



AN ARK OF THE PRINCE
王子の方舟



AN ARK
OF
THE PRINCE
:
YAMIMARU ENJIN
円陣闇丸

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方舟の方舟

はこぶね

ひぐ

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

A black and white illustration of a scene with two hooded figures. On the left, a figure in a dark hood looks towards the right. In the center, a figure in a dark hood stands with their back to the viewer, looking towards the right. On the right, a figure in a light-colored hood stands near a window with vertical bars, looking towards the center. The scene is set in a room with a window and some furniture.

FROM NOW ON, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,

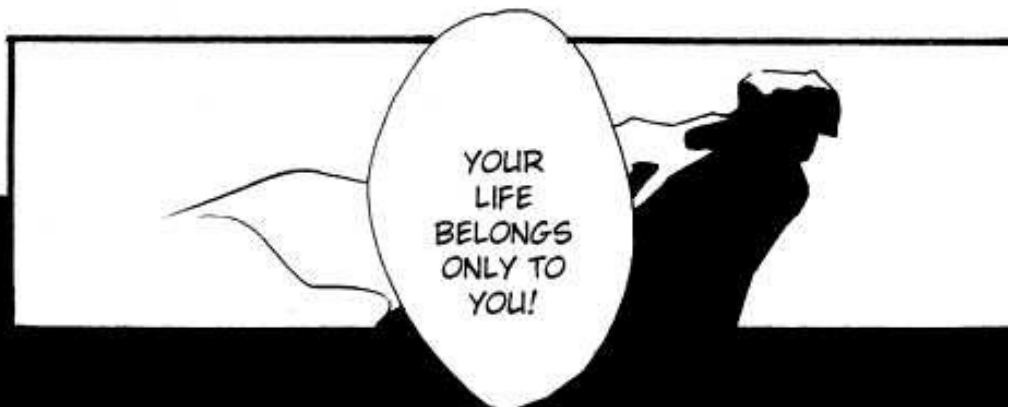
THAT IS THE ONLY NAME YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER.

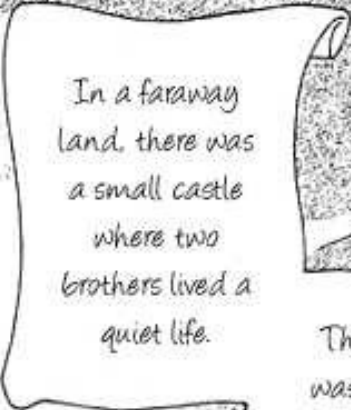
LOUIE TORRENCE LUGARD.

MY NAME IS LOUIE ...


NO, JUST TELL ME YOUR FIRST NAME.

...






In a faraway land, there was a small castle where two brothers lived a quiet life.



The kingdom was completely surrounded by sand, separating it from the rest of the world.



The older brother, Louie, was 18 years old.



At one time Louie was king, but he was stripped of his throne.



flop



PHILLIP WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?



IS YOUR LEG HURTING AGAIN?



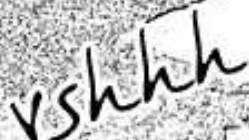
The younger brother, Phillip, was 12 years old.



At this time, due to a previous injury, Phillip was experiencing some discomfort with his leg.



NO IT DOESN'T HURT.



vshhh



NOPE!

This was the younger brother's favorite story.



HEH

AGAIN? DON'T YOU GET TIRED OF LISTENING TO THE SAME STORY?



HMM?

BROTHER,

TELL ME THE STORY OF THE "PRINCE'S CABIN", PLEASE!



THEN I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU!

I WILL FIND YOUR LETTER.

THIS WAS THE AGREEMENT THEY MADE BEFORE SAYING GOODBYE.

AND LATER



A YOUNG MESSENGER CAME TO THE CABIN TO APOLOGIZE FOR A LOST LETTER.

...ONE DAY

HIS NAME WAS ALSO PHILLIP AND HE WAS RUDE BUT GOOD AT MAKING TEA.

THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THE MESSENGER AND HIS BROTHER WAS LINCANNY.



A month before his coronation ceremony, the older brother left the palace to go to the 'Prince's Cabin'. It was just a name they decided to give to an old cabin.

It was a place where one could rest and relax in solitude.



rustle

the elder
Prince lapses
into silence
towards the
end

And so
whenever this
story is told.



clack

Nowadays
it is forbid-
den to even
mutter his
name.

Is the very
person who
holds the fate of
the two princes
in his hand

That is
because the
man who came
for the elder
prince on the
last day

THE WIND
IS GETTING
STRONGER,
LET'S GO
INSIDE

BUT YOU ARE STILL A CHILD!

AH, THOSE AWFUL TIMES?



DOESN'T THIS REMIND YOU OF THE TIME WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN?



CLACK

BROTHER,

IF YOU WEREN'T RUNNING AROUND THE GROUNDS COVERED IN MUD, YOU WERE PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK OR...



AND THEN



That man

CLACK

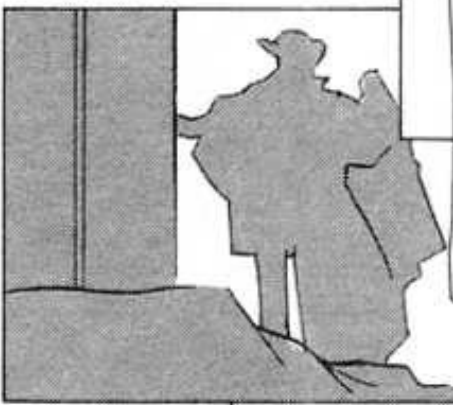


I HAVE BEEN GIVEN CHARGE OF YOUR EDUCATION AND SAFETY, CALL ME ARMAND.

He became an important person to the both of them.



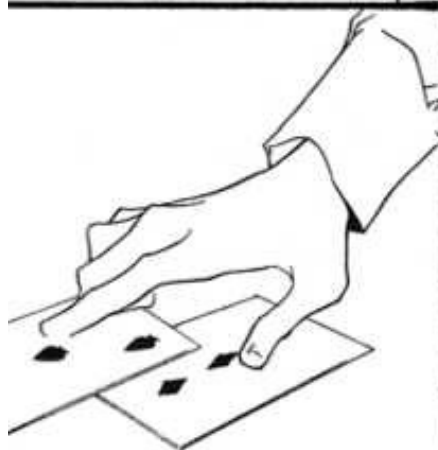
FROM NOW ON WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND-



He was a loyal servant, a true friend, a person who was always by their side...



THE MOMENT OF THE DETHRONEMENT.



PHILLIP



BOTH OF YOU GET TO THE WEST WING OF THE PALACE!

UP UNTIL THAT MOMENT,



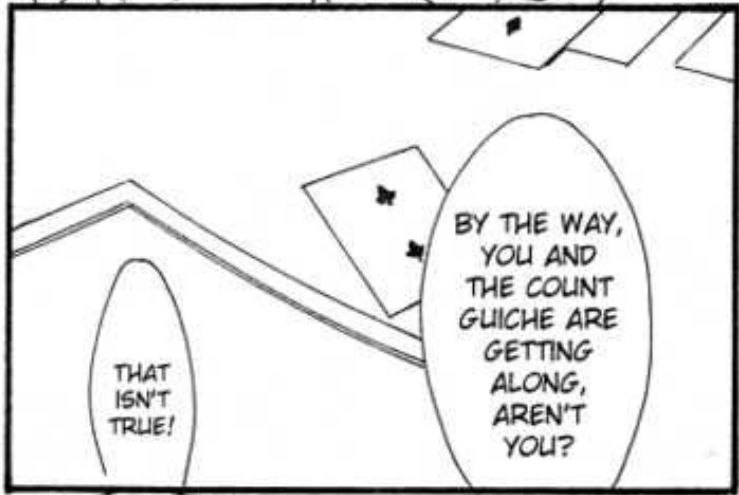
HE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR US BUT LATELY HE HASN'T COME TO VISIT US.

FROM LUYNES, BUT ...



YES, AND YOU BROTHER?

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY LETTERS FROM THE PALACE RECENTLY?



THAT ISN'T TRUE!

BY THE WAY, YOU AND THE COUNT GUICHE ARE GETTING ALONG, AREN'T YOU?



NOT REALLY... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT BROTHER.



IT CAN WORK OUT FOR US, HE'S A MAN WITH HONOR. IT'S NOT REALLY SO BAD!

HE SENT ME A LETTER SAYING HE'D 'KEEP' ME IF I BECAME HIS LOVER.

T/N: 'KEEP' AS IN KEEPING A MISTRESS



LOVER?

SORRY
BROTHER, I
DIDN'T WANT
TO WORRY
YOU..

PHILLIP
...

THERE'S BEEN A
LOT OF SAND-
STORMS
LATELY,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

BY THE
WAY,

FORGET
ABOUT ALL
I SAID
BEFORE...

swipe

rattle

tug

creak

I HAD A QUESTION BEFORE...

ALL DRESSED UP IN RIBBONS, LACES, AND PETTI-COATS. A GIRL'S DRESS IS A FANTASY, YOU KNOW?

WHY ARE YOU DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?

WHY? DON'T YOU THINK THIS DRESS IS CUTE?

NONE OF THESE REEK OF BLOOD.

BROTHER IT HURTS!

IT HURTS!

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, SKIRTS ARE MORE COMFORTABLE FOR YOUR FEET.

I WAS POWER-LESS.

HELP ME...!



I WAS SO STUPID, THAT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT I WAS POWERLESS.

AND

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE A FAIRY TALE PRINCE, BROTHER.

SINCE THAT DAY, HAVE YOU BEEN LAUGHING AT THE POWERLESS ME?



YOU ARE MY ONLY GOD.

RATTLE
RATTLE



AND THOSE WORDS...

ARMAND

YOU ARE...





I WANT TO SEE HIM...

I REALLY WANT HIM.

BROTHER



THOSE HAPPY DAYS,

WHEN WE DIDN'T KNOW PAIN OR SUFFERING, THOSE DAYS OF INNOCENCE...

FULL OF COLORS AND LIGHT...



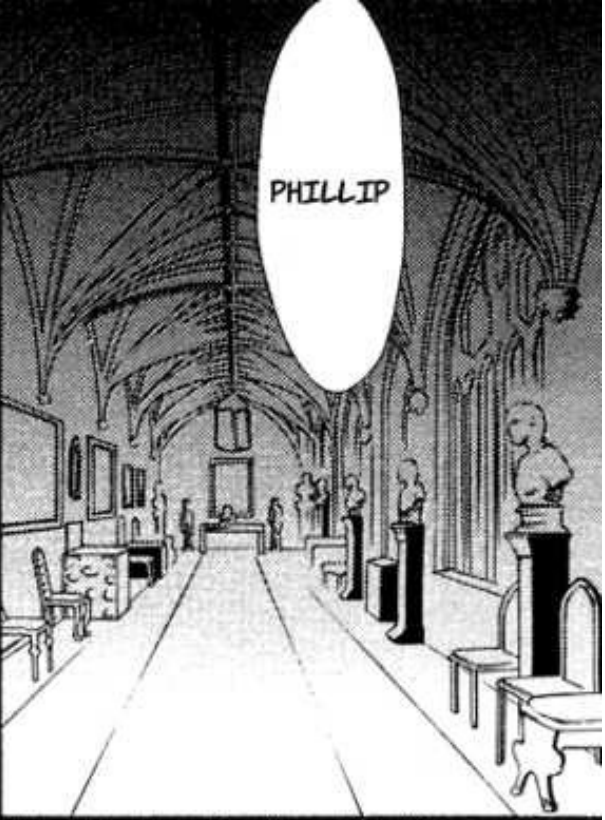
PHILLIP, I'M HERE FOR YOU.
I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER.



THOSE MEMORIES
AND ALL THAT
REMAINED DISAP-
PEARED A LONG
TIME AGO...



IT WAS
BETTER
TO BURY
THEM
WITHIN
THE
SAND.



PHILLIP,
TODAY THE
SAND
STORM IS
STRONGER
THAN
EVER.

PHILLIP!





G
A
A
A
H

glare

cling

shlink



DON'T
TOUCH MY
BROTHER!



YOUR
MAJESTY



YOUR MAJESTY!

SPIN

grab

GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!

SIL-
ENCE!

YOUR MAJESTY...
..YOUR BROTHER-
HE ALREADY ...

I DON'T WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU CALLING ME THAT! WHY PHILLIP?

"YOUR MAJESTY"?



GET AWAY FROM THE DOOR!

CLANG



click



THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME,



WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING?

THUD

AH!

PHILLIP!

WHAT DID
YOU DO?
WHAT IS
THIS
SAND?

WHY?

IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS,
WE HAVE TO
GET OUT OF
HERE!

IT'S
USELESS.
BESIDES, YOU
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
FOR HIM!

LET GO!
PHILLIP
HE'S-

GET UP,
PHILLIP!

HE'S
DISAP-
PEAR-
ING!

COME
BACK!

PHILLIP,

vshhh

CLACK

ANSWER ME,
ARMAND!

WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF THIS?

WHAT ARE
YOU PLAN-
NING ON
DOING?

struggle





WAIT
ARMAND!

ARMAND!



click

YOUR MAJESTY,
PLEASE STAY
HERE!

THE DANGER
ISN'T OVER
YET, IT'S
BETTER IF YOU
STAY HERE
FOR YOUR
SAFETY!



...



CLINKING



OH... ITS A
SMALL CUT
ON YOUR
HAND



YOUR
SWORDS-
MANSHIP IS
GREAT!




TOUCHÉ!
WHAT DO
YOU SAY
NOW?



EH?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

SHLING



SOME
PIECES OF
STONE ARE
IN YOUR
WOUND.

EVEN THOUGH
YOUR FOOT-
WORK IS
SLOW, I HAVE
TO PRAISE
YOU.







ARMAND
...?

⋮
AH



ARMAND!



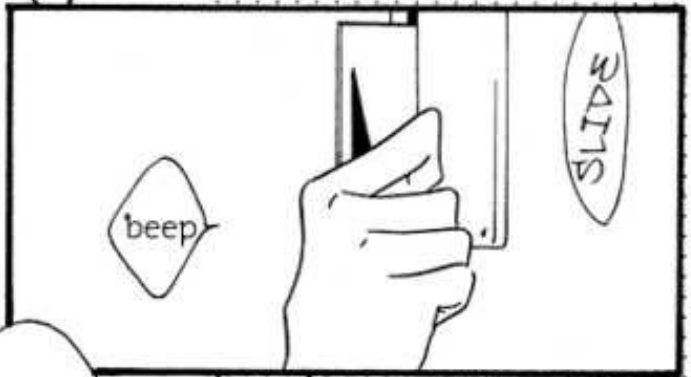
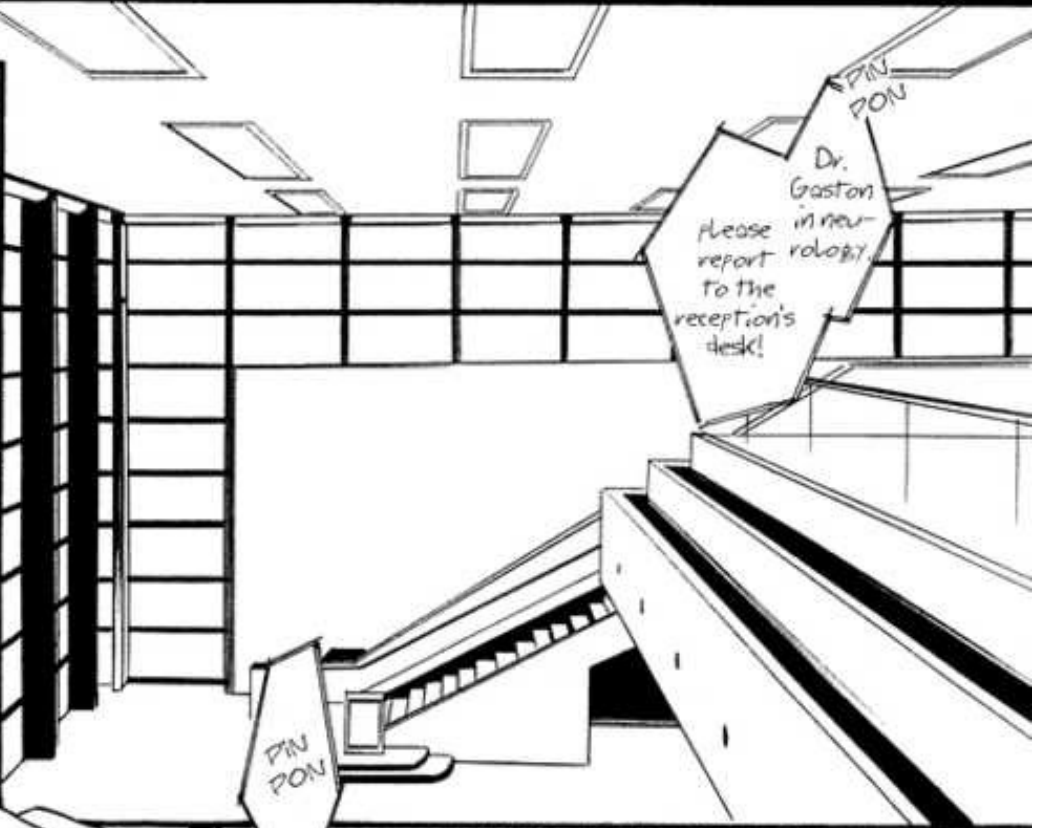
HE WAS
ERASED BY
THE SAND.

MAYBE
EVERYTHING
WAS BURIED
BENEATH
THE SAND.

AND
AFTER,

I CALLED HIM
TIME AND
TIME AGAIN
UNTIL MY
VOICE WAS
HOARSE, BUT

IT FELT
LIKE THE
WORLD WAS
BREAKING...



CLANG



WELL,
FIRST
THING FOR
TODAY, I'LL
TAKE YOUR
TEMPERA-
TURE.



CAN I ASK
YOU SOME
QUESTIONS?

OH,
YOU'RE
HEALING
RATHER
WELL.

YES.

HOW
ARE YOU
FEELING?
I'M GOING
TO CHANGE
YOUR BAN-
DAGES
OKAY?

IT IS A
HOSPI-
TAL

THIS
IS...

ALRIGHT.



N-NO...
I DON'T
REMEM-
BER IT.

OH!



CAN YOU
TELL ME
WHAT
YOUR
NAME IS?

DO YOU
REMEMBER?

crack

mumble

mumble

mumble

AH WELL-

I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.

YOU CAN LEAVE THE HOSPITAL.

AH!

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO PICK YOU UP IN THE WAITING ROOM.

Waiting Room



smile

PHILLIP YOU'VE GROWN UP.



stride

ERM... DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU!

I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP!



Stunned



BUT OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU AND THE PROMISE WE MADE.

...EH? IT CAN'T BE!
YOU REMEMBER ME?



WHAT A GREAT PRINCE!

Hee Hee

hm?

You weren't brain-washed at all!



YAY!

sniffle



SO DID YOU FIND THE LETTER? ARE YOU STILL A MESSENGER?



EH?

BUT...
WHY
BRAIN-
WASH?

THEY DID
AN EXHAUS-
TIVE EXPLO-
RATION,
BUT
MAYBE
THEY
MISSED
SOME-
THING.

NOW
YOU CAN
SLOWLY
RECOVER.

What?

What?

WELL
YOU
SEE...

THAT
WAS
'CUS...

igh
—
ū



IS IT
BECAUSE I'M
NOT A NORMAL
PERSON LIKE
THE OTHERS?
IS THAT IT?

OH, THERE ARE FORESTS HERE TOO.

I AM NO LONGER A PRINCE.

I'VE OBTAINED CITIZENSHIP, SO FROM NOW ON IN THIS WORLD, I AM JUST A NORMAL CITIZEN.

IN THIS REALISTIC WORLD...

AN ARTIFICIAL WORLD.

AN ARTIFICIAL FOREST.

THERE ARE BUILDINGS IN NEAT AND TIDY ROWS...

THERE REALLY WAS A ROYAL FAMILY, AND A PRINCE. YOUR COUNTRY DID EXIST ABOUT A CENTURY AGO.

IT'S NOT ALL ARTIFICIAL!

INSTEAD OF SAYING ARTIFICIALLY MADE, WHY NOT SAY AN EXISTENCE THAT 'NEVER EXISTED',

THAT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE.

RIGHT NOW I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE

THAT MY WORLD WAS ARTIFICIALLY MADE.

THE PRINCE

AN ECCENTRIC WORLD OF DREAMS.

A FANTASTICAL WORLD THAT EXISTED IN A BEAUTIFUL AGE.

YOU COULD SAY HE WAS THE "SLEEPING BEAUTY" OF OUR TIME.

IT'S A SHAME, BECAUSE OF BUDGET ISSUES

WE COULDN'T MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM.

You have arrived on your indicated floor.

DING

WAIT A MOMENT, PLEASE.

I'M CALLING AHEAD TO ASK THEM TO TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONER.

beep

beep

SO AFTER THAT IT BECAME TO DIFFICULT TO SAVE ALL OF THE PRINCE'S DATA-

EH?

THE PRINCE'S MEMORIES WERE PRESERVED AND USED TO CREATE THIS WORLD.





JUST
THAT.

I AM A PRINCE
FROM AN
EXTINGUISHED
COUNTRY FROM
A CENTURY
AGO.



ARE YOU
TRYING TO
GET LOST?

MY
PLACE
IS THIS
WAY!

PRINCE!

And
And

I AM
NO
ONE.

MY COUNTRY,
MY PEOPLE, MY
FAMILY, NONE
OF THEM
REMAIN.

WHY DO I
FEEL SUCH
EMPTINESS?

WHEN WE
ARRIVE, I'M
GOING TO
MAKE YOU A
DELICIOUS
CUP OF TEA!

YES THAT
WOULD BE
GREAT.

I AM
NEITHER
A KING

NOR A
PRINCE

ALL OF MY
MEMORIES
WERE FAKE.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS,
I CAN'T
FORGET...

THINGS LIKE
MY NAME
DON'T MEAN
ANYTHING.

I'M JUST
AN EMPTY
SHELL.

GLUP
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP







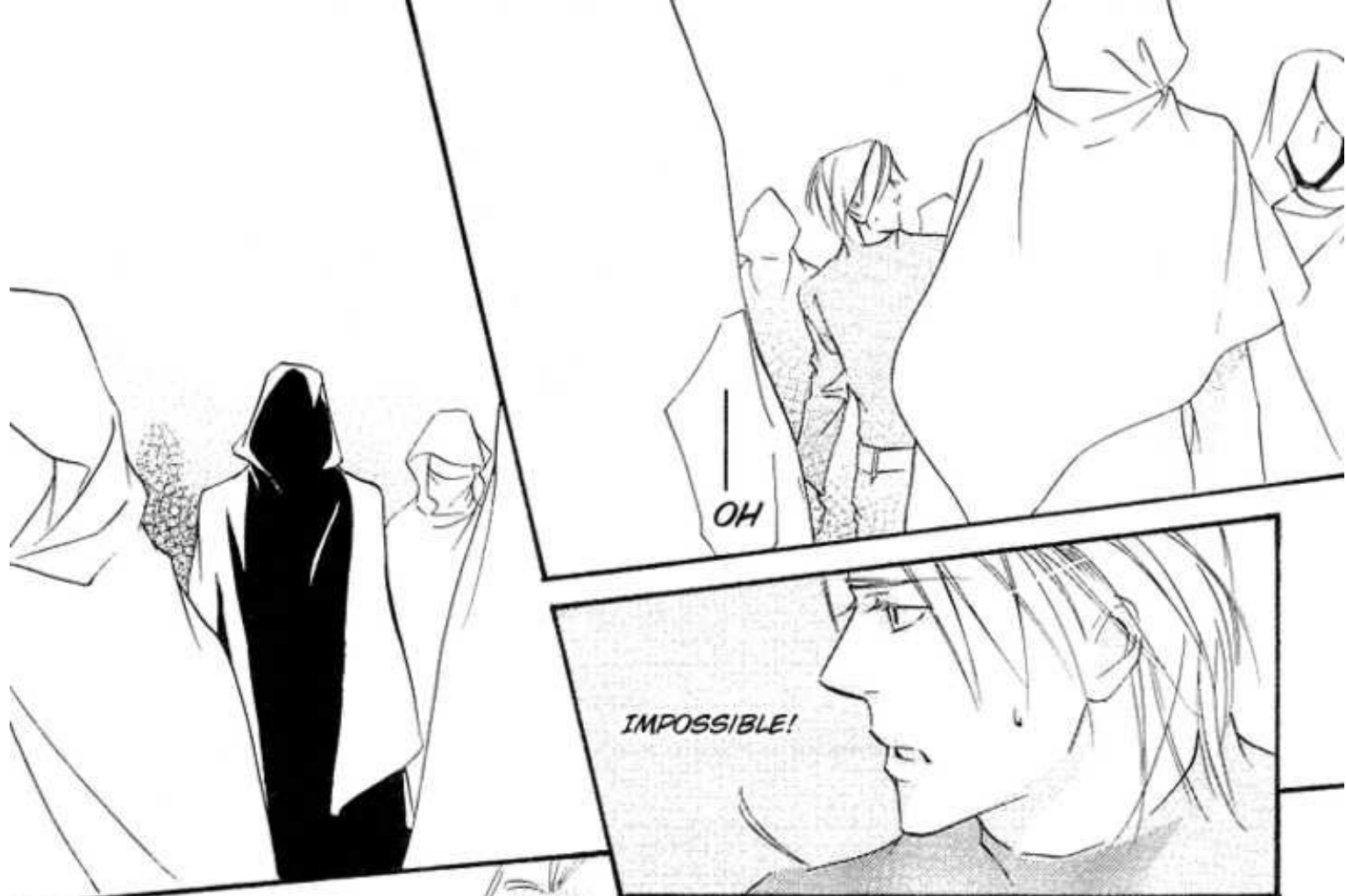
HE TRAINED ME TO BE YOUR GUARDIAN AND HE ALSO LOBBIED AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF THE DATA DELETION LEGISLATION.

THAT PERON JUST NOW,

HE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ALL OF THESE VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS.



NO ONE KNOWS HOW OR WHY SOME OF THOSE STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED.
EH?



OH



IMPOSSIBLE!



IT
CAN'T
BE!



IT'S DAN-
GEROUS
TO BE
OUTSIDE
WITHOUT
A ROBE
BECAUSE
OF THE
ULTRA-
VIOLET
RAYS...



IN THE
PAST AND
IN THE
FUTURE,



MY WHOLE
BEING IS
DEVOTED
TO YOU...



ARMAND!

ARMAND!
ARMAND!

ARMAND
...

I...

HOW
COULD I
HAVE FOR-
GOTTEN
YOU?

.....

...
LOUIE



And
then

The
Prince's
ship grad-
ually

sailed
to the
open
sea



Out, out
into the
open sea.

Gliding on
the water
as if pulled
by the
waves.

The time
that was
frozen
began to
move



AND THE
ONES WHO
REMAIN,

CAN ONLY
PRAY FOR HIS
HAPPINESS.

An Ark of the Prince/End



Where has the ark gone?



I HAVE A LETTER FOR ME THAT HAS NEVER BEEN RECEIVED. WHAT ARE YOU INCOMPETANT PEOPLE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

EVERYTHING STARTED FROM THAT SINGLE TELEPHONE CALL.



WHO'S THAT FREE ANYWAY!

I CAN'T EITHER, THERE ARE LETTERS I HAVEN'T FINISHED!

WHO'S VOLUNTEERING? I DEFINATELY DON'T WANNA GO!

A CLIENT HAS CALLED AND SAID HIS LETTER HASN'T ARRIVED YET.

WHAT HAPPENED?

*SFX: POPS UP



ERM... EXCUSE ME...?

Wince

IS THIS HOW YOU MAKE A LIVING, BY SENDING LETTERS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE DOING? I WANT AN EXPLANATION IMMEDIATELY!

chatter chatter



ME!

LET ME GO BROTHER!

WAIT!

A VERY IRRITATING FELLOW, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE'S CALLED...

GRAB

*SFX: HUH!



THIS IS MY FIRST DAY OF WORK AT THE FAMILY COURIER BUSINESS.

I AM JUST NINE YEARS OLD.

hee hee

I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH HIM!

LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

王子の方舟



SFX:W0A---AA



I WAS A LITTLE SHOCKED, IF BROTHER AND THE REST SAW HIM, I AM SURE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED TOO. BECAUSE...

王子の方舟

おうじ

はこぶね



YOU'RE NOT CRAZY, RIGHT?

OKAY NOW, HOW OLD ARE YOU?

BEFORE YOU PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO FIND MY LETTER, YOU SHALL REMAIN HERE AS MY HOSTAGE,



EH? HOSTAGE?!

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?

ARE YOU LISTENING?



THIS PERSON IS DEFINITELY A PRINCE!!

I HAVE SEEN PICTURES OF PRINCES IN BOOKS.



SFX: POKI POKI



ME?

A PRINCE?

MAY I ASK WHAT YOUR HIGHNESS IS DOING FOR A LIVING AT THE MOMENT?

THANK YOU YOUR HIGHNESS.

HM... THIS FAMILY MOTTO IS PRETTY GOOD!

HA HA HA

ACTUALLY, JUST BEING A PRINCE IS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY, AND MAINTAINING THE TITLE IS A TOUGH JOB.



I AM TALKING TO A PRINCE!

YOUR HIGHNESS, MY NAME IS PHILLIP, AND I TURN NINE THIS YEAR!!

SEE! MY FAMILY MOTTO IS: "PEOPLE WHO DON'T WORK DON'T GET FOOD TO EAT".

RIGHT

HM... NINE YEARS OLD AND YOU ARE ALREADY WORKING PERIOD. VERY GOOD!



?



?



YOU ARE ACTUALLY A HOMELESS DESTITUTE, RIGHT?

AH! I KNOW.

IF YOU'RE A PRINCE, WHY ARE YOU LIVING IN SUCH A RUNDOWN WOODEN COTTAGE?

ESPECIALLY LIVING ALONE?

THIS ...

RUNDOWN... COTTAGE?

SFX: HOHAHAHA



IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR MISPLACING MY LETTER...

MY LETTER ...

I'M SORRY YOUR HIGHNESS...

AH... YES.

Sob Sob



FLOP



Sob Sob

AH... EH...?



twitch

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH YOU CRYING LIKE THIS!

AS A SIGN OF MY SINCERITY, LET ME MAKE YOU CUP OF TEA?

AHEM... I AM REALLY SORRY.



RED TEA?

blazed

tremble
tremble



THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER SEEN SOMEONE SO EMOTIONAL OVER JUST DRINKING RED TEA.



THIS IS SO GOOD...

DON'T TELL ME YOU... DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN ON THE HOT WATER?

NOT TO MENTION COOKING!



sigh

THEN WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY EAT?

WARM AND TOASTY THINGS ARE THE BEST...

HM...THIS IS BECAUSE I HAVE NOT HAD ANYTHING HOT TO EAT FOR THE PAST MONTH.



HAVING AN ICY COLD SHOWER IN THIS WEATHER IS A REAL TORTURE!

I DON'T EVEN HAVE HOT WATER FOR MY BATHS

YOU'RE RIGHT,

IT IS TERRIBLE.

EH?



Is he for real?



ICY COLD SHOWERS?

ceer!



PIECES OF STALE BREAD AND RED WINE.

AND SOME DRY PRODUCTS



PHILLIP, YOU ARE FANTASTIC!



WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT KIND OF LIFE... IS THIS PERSON LIVING?



NONSENSE! YOU HAVE TO TURN ON THE WATER HEATER FIRST!

THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE HERE,

I CAN FINALLY HAVE A GOOD REST TONIGHT.

NOW I SEE, I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT I COULD GET HOT WATER BY JUST TURNING ON THE WATER TAP!



YOU CAN SLEEP HERE TONIGHT.

COME,

PAT
PAT

....



Blush

....



IT'S JUST THAT YOUR HIGHNESS IS TOO STRANGE...

IT'S NOT THAT,



SO I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP ALONE!



OH, YOU HAVE A VERY CLOSE RELATIONS HIP WITH YOUR BROTHERS!

IT'S A GOOD THING.



WELL, I AM USED TO SLEEPING WITH MY BROTHERS AT HOME.



IS THERE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH?



WA!



rub

rub

DAMN, I LOSE TO THIS LITTLE KID'S CHARM... HA HA



WHOSE LETTER ARE YOU ACTUALLY WAITING FOR?

YOUR HIGHNESS,



...

I'VE SENT MY LETTER, WHAT I AM WAITING FOR IS THE REPLY.

PLOFF
YOUR HIGHNESS!
I'VE ALREADY DONE IT.

WAITING FOR?
DIDN'T YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT NOT RECEIVING A LETTER THAT YOU ARE SURE WAS SENT TO YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WRITE TO THE PERSON WHO IS SUPPOSED TO SEND IT? I CAN HELP YOU DELIVER IT!?

IT IS...



A SO-CALLED LOVE LETTER.

For those who are victors, even dogs shall wag their tails for you.

WHAT'S THIS, YOUR HIGHNESS?

HM? OH ...

IT IS STUCK ON THE MIRROR.

THAT IS MY FAMILY MOTTO.

IF... ANYONE IN THE FAMILY FORGETS ABOUT IT, THERE WOULD BE A DAY WHERE HE WILL BE BITTEN BY A DOG.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

DOGS WAGGING THEIR TAILS...

IT'S VERY STRANGE FOR A FAMILY MOTTO!

A MELANCHOLY PRINCE LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL!

SO PRINCES CAN ALSO FALL IN LOVE!

LITTLE KIDS SHOULD SLEEP QUICKLY!

EH?

YOU BETTER HURRY UP...

daga daga daga

?

daga

daga

daga



IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?

WHAT I CHOOSE TO DO IS OF MY FREE WILL,

WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR MAJESTY HASN'T BEEN ANSWERING HIS TELEPHONE CALLS LATELY.



WHAT FREEDOM?

Mmhm

AS THE CROWN PRINCE OF THIS COUNTRY, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO SHRUG OFF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

EH!



YOUR HIGHNESS IS REALLY THE PRINCE?

YOUR MAJESTY!!



WHO WAS THE ONE THAT KEPT CALLING ME "YOUR HIGHNESS"?

WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK I AM?

PHILLIP, GO OUT AND PLAY FOR AWHILE.



SEE? THE DOG IS HERE.



ARMAND, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Pat pat



YOUR HIGHNESS HAS BEEN HERE FOR OVER A MONTH AND THIS RESTING PERIOD IS GETTING UNNECESSARILY LONG,

YOUR MAJESTY.

NO... IT'S JUST THAT YOUR HIGHNESS' BROTHER IS VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!

HAS THE SAME NAME AS YOUR HIGHNESS' YOUNGER BROTHER.

PHILLIP...

SNFF



...I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE...

OF COURSE I REMEMBER

THAT TOMORROW IS YOUR MARRIAGE TO THE PRINCESS OF THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOM?!

HAS YOUR HIGHNESS FORGOTTEN?



THE QUEEN HAS ALREADY GIVEN THE COMMAND FOR YOUR HIGHNESS' RETURN.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE PALACE.

I GET
A CHANCE
AT BEING
IN LOVE!

...THAT
BEFORE
MARRIAGE,



THAT YOUR
HIGHNESS
HAS OTHER
PRINCESSES
IN MIND?

COULD
IT BE
POSSIBLE



IF THAT IS
THE CASE,
WHAT DO
YOU PLAN
TO DO?

WHAT I
REALLY
WANT IS
TO BE
IN LOVE.



THE KING
HAD MANY
FAVORED
CONCUBINES
WHEN HE WAS
YOUR
HIGHNESS'
AGE.

HMMPH!

HOW
COULD YOU
ENCOURAGE
SOMEONE
AS YOUNG
AS ME TO
INDULGE
IN SUCH
AFFAIRS?

CONCUBINES?
I AM ONLY
FIFTEEN.

AND I WILL
SEE TO IT
THAT THEY
BECOME
YOUR
CONCUBINES.

YOUR
HIGHNESS
JUST HAS
TO GIVE ME
THE NAMES
OF THE
LADIES...

IF
THAT
WERE
TRUE,

...



AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN OF GOD!!

IF YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL IN TALKING ME INTO MARRYING, YOU WOULD BE GIVEN CREDIT AND IT WOULD SECURE YOUR POSITION TO BECOME THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER?

YOU ARE VERY EAGER FOR ME TO MARRY THE PRINCESS.

I AM NOT MY FATHER.

BECAUSE THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN BOTH COUNTRIES' ALLIANCE.

IT LOOKS LIKE...



TO ACTUALLY DO SUCH A SHAMELESS THING AS THIS ARMAND!

click

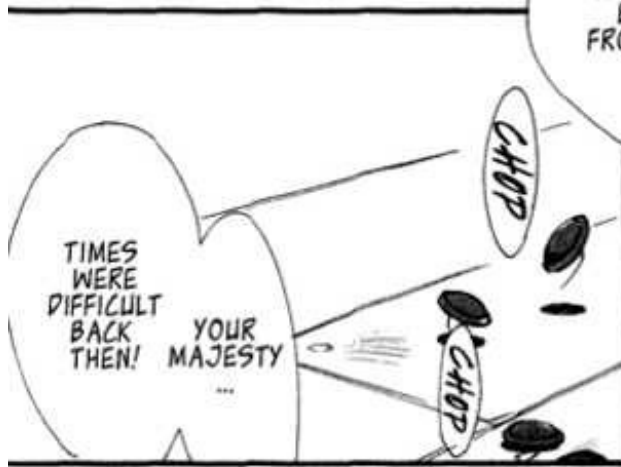


THE ONE WHO MURDERED MY FATHER

WAS FROM THE SAME BAND FROM YOU!



NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,



TIMES WERE DIFFICULT BACK THEN! YOUR MAJESTY ...

CHOP

POP

POP

POP

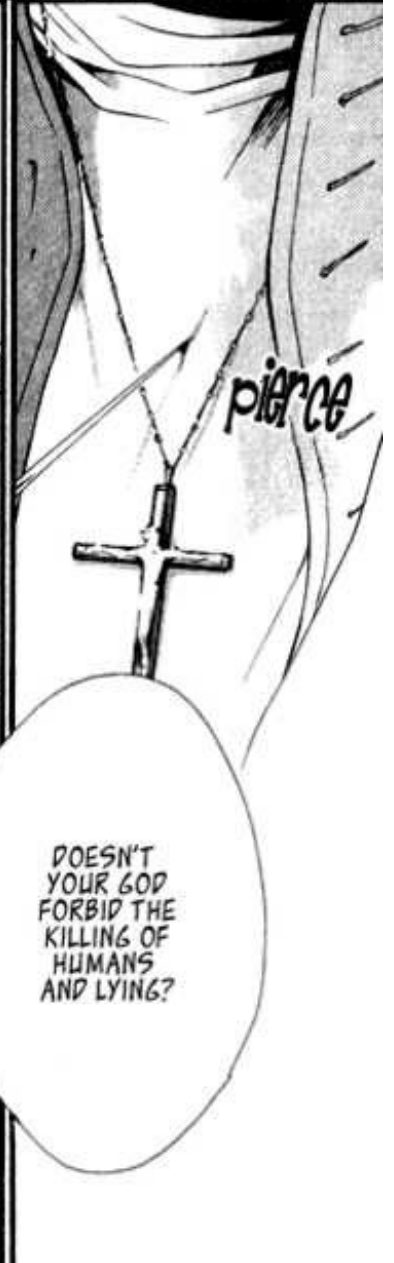


LET'S DUEL!! DRAW YOUR SWORD!!

ARMAND!

IS YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

THE ONLY GOD I HAVE IN MY HEART...



pierce

DOESN'T YOUR GOD FORBID THE KILLING OF HUMANS AND LYING?



LIKE THIS.

giggle

YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING CARE OF US

klink

klink



I WOULD ALWAYS ARGUE WITH MY BROTHER OVER WHO WOULD PLAY THE KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR.

THE GAME WE USED TO PLAY WAS MOCK DUELING,

BROTHER!

*BROTHER, YOU ARE SO DEVIUS!**

AND MOTHER WAS BUSY RULING THE COUNTRY,

LONG AGO... ACTUALLY, JUST A FEW YEARS BACK, WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER

pouring

DO YOU REMEMBER?



AT THAT TIME, PHILIP COULDN'T EVEN LIFT HIS SWORD!



YOU WOULD PLAY THE PRINCESS.
IN THE END...

PHILLIP,
LOUIE.

PLEASE RAISE YOUR SWORD AND SWEAR.



THOSE WERE HAPPY DAYS!

FOR ETERNAL LOVE.

clasp



I AM STILL WHO I WAS,
AND I WOULD SACRIFICE MYSELF FOR YOUR MAJESTY'S SAKE.

THERE IS
A DISTANCE
BETWEEN
US NOW...

IT'S DIFFERENT
FROM BEFORE...
ARMAND.

HOW ABOUT
WE HAVE
ANOTHER GO
AT PLAYING
THE DUELLING
GAME?

IF THAT
IS WHAT
YOUR
MAJESTY
WANTS...

YOU'RE
FINISHED
TALKING,
YOUR
HIGHNESS?

phew

I'M
SORRY
PHILLIP,
FOR
MAKING
YOU WAIT
SO LONG.

rustle

WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR
LETTER?

SORRY
FOR NOT
LETTING YOU
GO HOME
YESTERDAY.

I NEED
TO RETURN
TO THE
PALACE,

YOU'RE
WEARING
YOUR
COAT.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

pat

SORRY
...

!





THE PRINCE
...

MAY WE
MEET
AGAIN!



Gada



WAS
MARRIED
WITHIN
THE NEXT
TWO DAYS
AND
BECAME
THE KING
OF THE
COUNTRY.



HE WAS SO
ADORABLE,
EVEN AT
THAT TIME!

blush

eep!



... THE
PRINCE
HE...





I NEVER EVER
THOUGHT I
WOULD BE
ABLE TO
ATTAIN IT.

PHILLIP,
CAN YOU
PLEASE
HAND ME
A TOWEL?

たからもの

SURE.

THANK
YOU!

dash dash

WHAT'S
WRONG?

stutter



...IS HE THE ARMAND FROM A HUNDRED YEARS AGO?

...OR?

HE HAS BEEN TAKING CARE OF ME SINCE I WAS CHILD. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY

AND LATER ON HE BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER.

THEN...

RIGHT, THE PERSON THAT WAS WEARING THE BLACK HOODED CAPE...

THAT PERSON? YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT ARMAND!

SO WHO WAS THAT PERSON IN THE END?



YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU SAW HIM BEFORE IN THE PRINCE'S CABIN DIDN'T YOU?

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?

smile



OH, I REMEMBER IT, THAT'S WHY IT FEELS SO STRANGE.

THE PRINCE IS STILL SO DAZZLING...

OPEN

Input personal data into the machine.

He was only nine then.

A gaming machine that can allow the player to experience a realistic recreation of a fantasy world.

EVEN I WAS CONFUSED BY THE FAINT DISTINCTION BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION THEN.

EXCUSE ME YOUR HIGHNESS,

REGARDING THAT INCIDENT, IT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED AT THE RIDE IN THE THEME PARK.

THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY REALITY, BUT THE PRINCE SHOULD KNOW THAT.

IT'S MORE OF AN IMAGINED REALITY, OR A FANTASY WORLD.

WHAT'S MORE, DURING THIS ENTIRE EVENT, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS ALLOWED TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH YOUR HIGHNESS!

王子様を探せ!!
2011年7/11~10/13
Amusement Land

OH.

EVERYONE WAS ENVIOUS OF MY POSITION!

BUT BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION, MANY OF THEM FACED TERMINATION...

WHICH IS WHY MANY SUCH THEME PARKS HAVE BEEN CREATED.

NOW, HUMAN BEINGS ONLY HAVE THIS FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT,

AH... I THINK YOU PROBABLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT.

In this amusement park, one can experience a whole host of occupations or even create an imaginary lover.

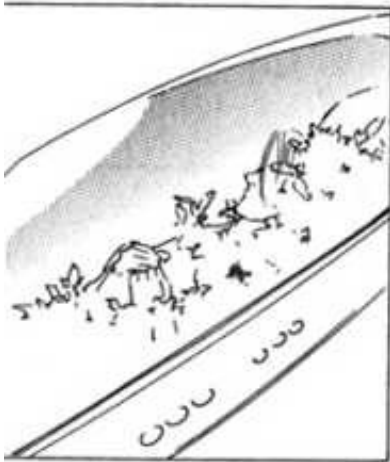
to!

ARMAND, YOU'RE BACK!



IT FEELS WEIRD ACTUALLY SEEING THE PRINCE BEHAVING SO NATURALLY,

YOU ARE HOME ESPECIALLY EARLY TODAY! DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?



AROUND THAT PERSON...

IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE HE HAD SUDDENLY APPEARED FROM AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE INTO OUR REALITY,



What?! Are you trying to pick a fight with me???

huh...


STARES



See you tomorrow!

GOOD-BYE PHILIP!

IT'S STRANGE




THAT YOUNG
MAN, HE
KEEPS LOOKING
AT ME WITH A
STRANGE LIGHT
IN HIS EYES,

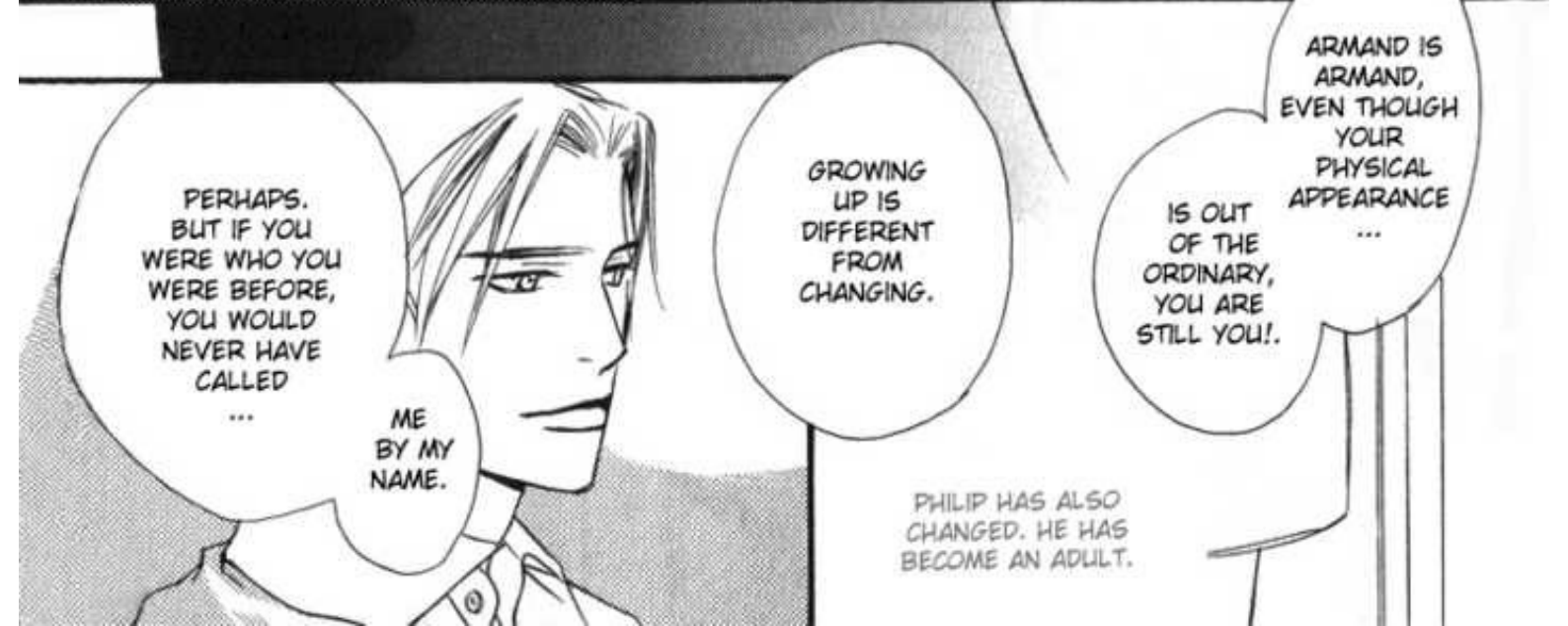
DON'T
YOU THINK
I'M NOT
NORMAL?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

I BEG
YOUR
PARDON?



ARMAND IS
ARMAND,
EVEN THOUGH
YOUR
PHYSICAL
APPEARANCE
...



PERHAPS.
BUT IF YOU
WERE WHO YOU
WERE BEFORE,
YOU WOULD
NEVER HAVE
CALLED
...

ME
BY MY
NAME.

GROWING
UP IS
DIFFERENT
FROM
CHANGING.

IS OUT
OF THE
ORDINARY,
YOU ARE
STILL YOU!.

PHILIP HAS ALSO
CHANGED. HE HAS
BECOME AN ADULT.



ARMAND,

THE REASON
WHY YOU CLING
ON TO THE
ORIGINAL BODY
IS BECAUSE OF
YOUR BELIEFS
AND YOUR GOD,

BUT THE
REALITY IS
THAT I AM
HERE, AND
THAT IS
ENOUGH!

BUT... THIS
REPLICATED
PRODUCT IS
VERY ROUGH.



SIMILARLY,
YOUR ARE
FOREVER
YOURSELF.

THE LETTER...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,

THAT LETTER WAS NEVER OPENED, A VERY IMPORTANT LETTER...

THE HAND-WRITING ON THE LETTER ...

OR ARE YOU REFERRING TO YOU BETRAYING ME?

WHICH IS WHY I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

WHAT'S WORST IS THAT I AM UNABLE TO RECOVER ALL MY MEMORIES.

QUESTIONS?

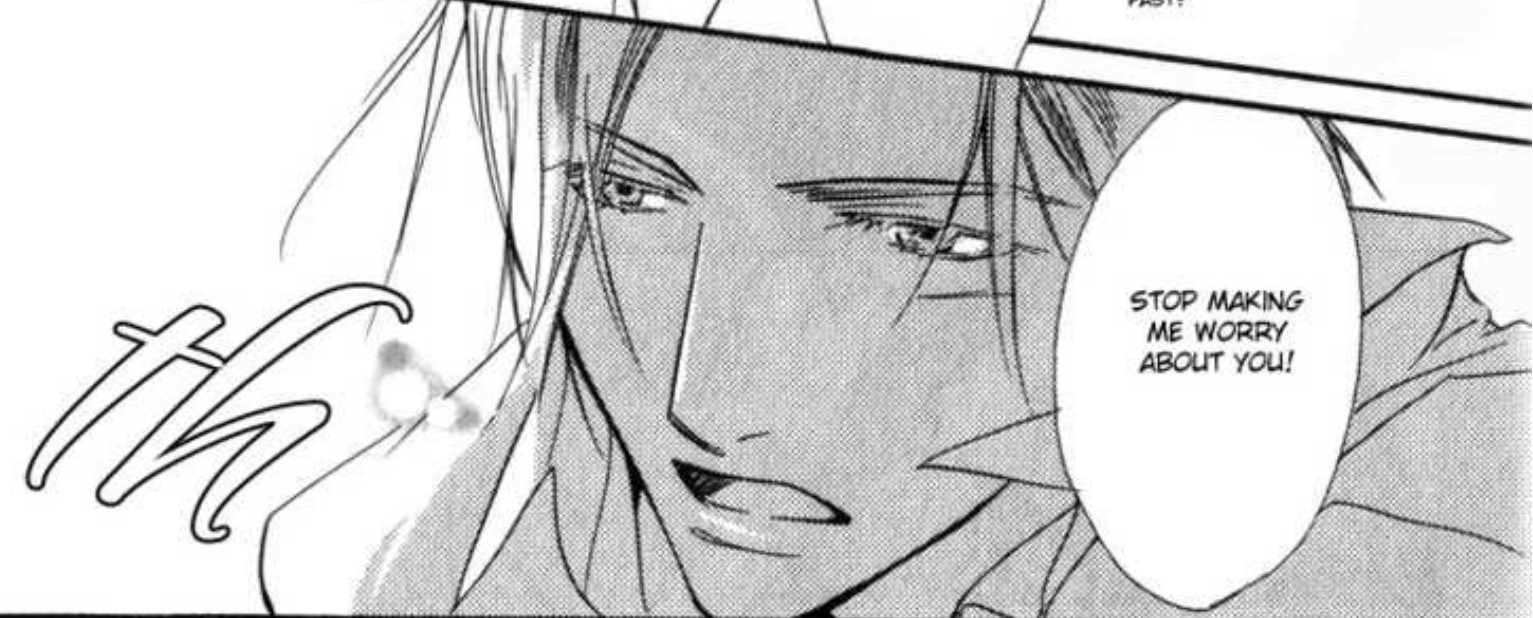
ARE YOU REFERRING TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LETTER?


IF YOU DON'T HAVE THOSE MEMORIES, THAT MEANS THAT THEY ARE THINGS THAT ARE NOT IMPORTANT.

YOUR DEVOTION TO ME AT THAT TIME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FAKED.

US BEING ABLE TO RECONCILE LIKE THIS JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT YOU NEVER DID BETRAY ME!

SO YOU DON'T NEED TO FRET OVER SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS, WHAT'S MORE...





NOW,
ALL THAT
MATTERS IS
YOU. ALL I
WANT IS TO
HEAR SWEET
NOTHINGS
FROM YOU.

rustle



I
UNDER-
STAND...

I REALLY
CAN'T
DENY YOU!

YES...



WHICH IS
WHY THIS
LETTER IS
STILL IN MY
HANDS... IN
MY HEART.



たからもの / END



Where has the ark gone?

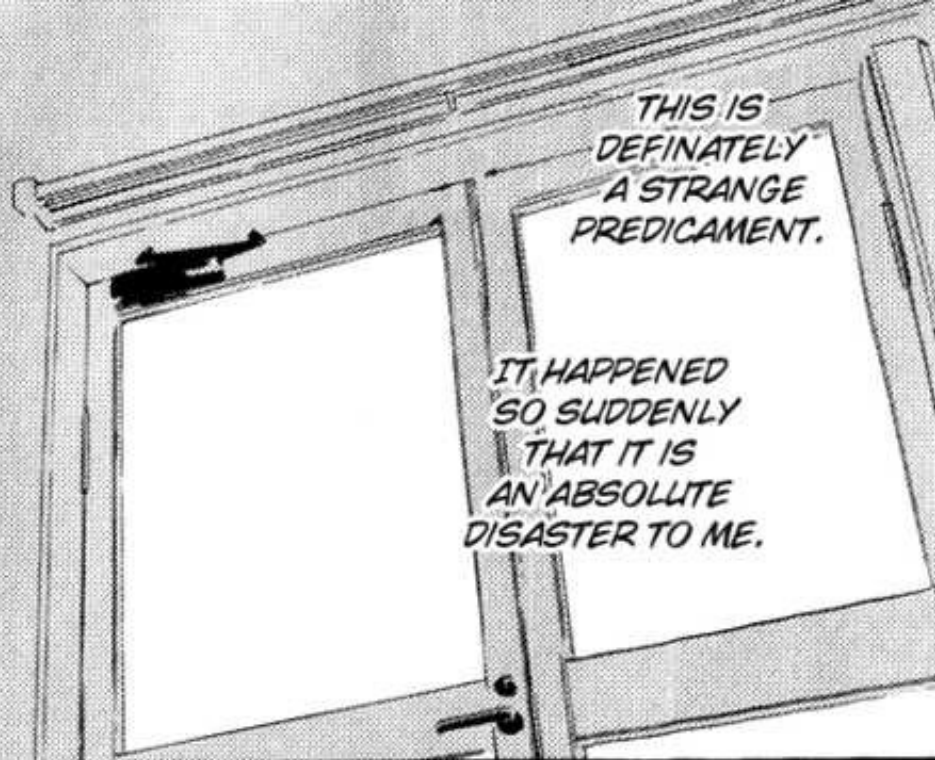


永遠の檻

Cage of Eternity



CLINK



THIS IS DEFINATELY A STRANGE PREDICAMENT.

IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY THAT IT IS AN ABSOLUTE DISASTER TO ME.



URGH...

ah



SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE, SHIBATA.



OUCH
...HN



THIS IS AMUSING,
WHERE DO YOU THINK
YOU ARE GOING?

HEY HEY!

BANG

YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE,
ANYMORE.

SHIBATA, NO ONE'S GOING TO
COME EVEN IF YOU SHOUT
FOR HELP.



BANG



I HAVE RESEARCHED EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

SHIBATA, 22 YEARS OLD, CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED. JOBLESS... AND STILL LIVING SHAMELESSLY.



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

THIS MAN... HE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT STRANGE THINGS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!



struggle

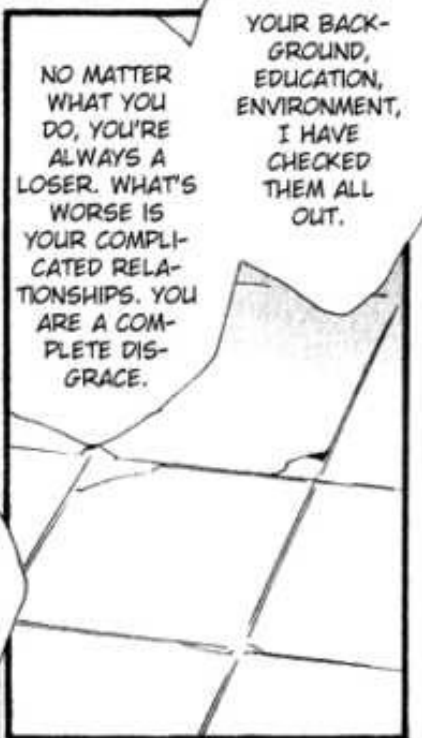
HNN!

YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE YOU DESERVE TO BE ALIVE!



YOU'RE NOT FIT TO LIVE? OR...

DO YOU KNOW,



NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU'RE ALWAYS A LOSER. WHAT'S WORSE IS YOUR COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIPS. YOU ARE A COMPLETE DISGRACE.

YOUR BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, I HAVE CHECKED THEM ALL OUT.



I THINK YOU'RE A CREATURE THAT'S ONLY FIT TO LIVE OFF OF OTHERS.



I HAVE TO BE STUCK IN A DREAM.

MUST BE A DREAM.



THIS...



NO, YOU'RE EVEN LOWER THAN THAT!

DO YOU REMEMBER PLAYING WITH A GIRL?



HN

pinch

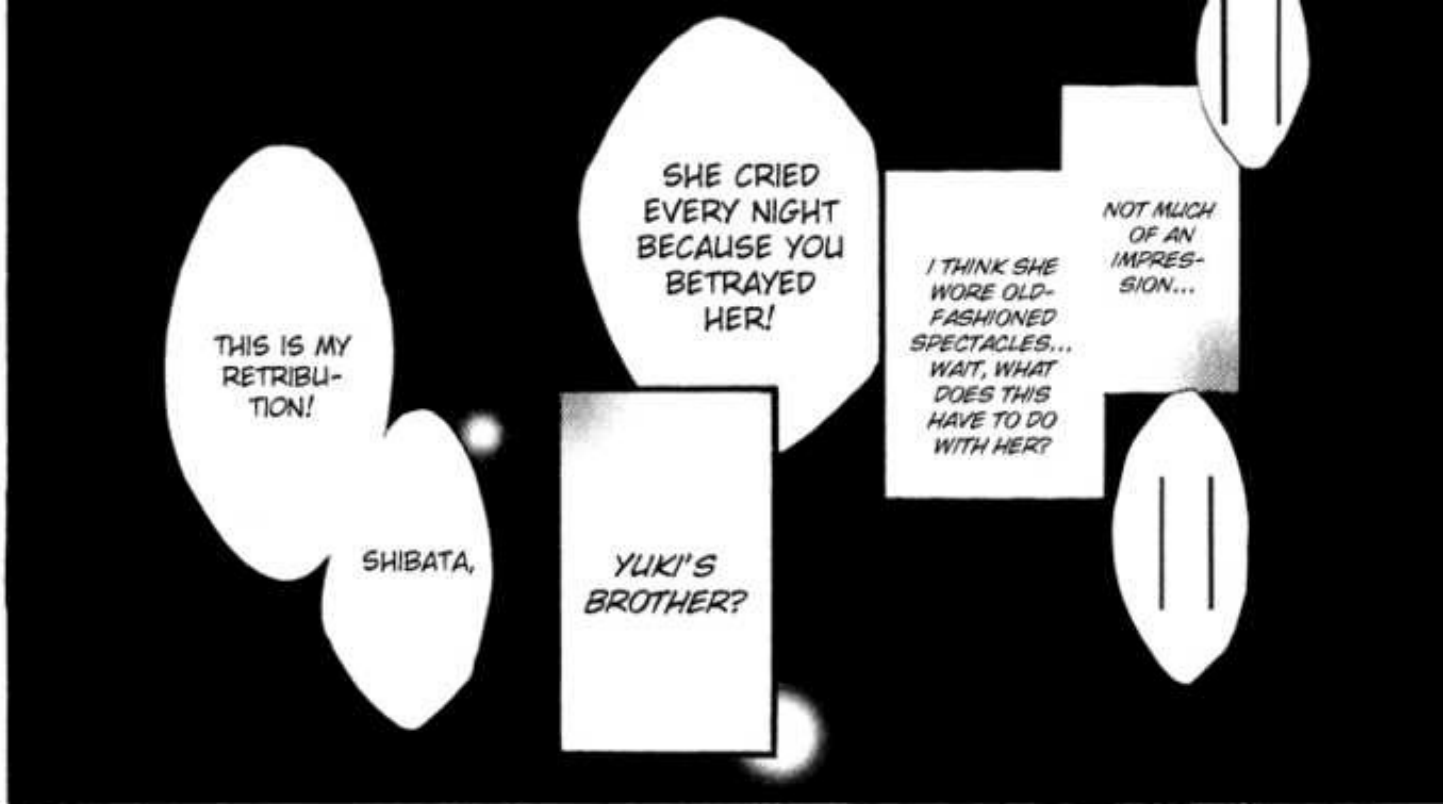
dizzy

OR MAYBE THIS IS A VERY BAD NIGHTMARE...A GIRL?

I HAVE BEEN WITH SO MANY, HOW COULD I REMEMBER?

EH...COULD IT BE HER? I ONLY REMEMBER SLEEPING WITH HER ONCE...

YUKI... OKOUCHI YUKI.







YOU TALK TOO MUCH!

muffle
BASI-CALLY SHE---

WHAT RETRIBUTION? I NEVER DID ANYTHING THAT SHE WOULD HATE ME FOR!

IT COULDN'T BE... THAT YOUR SISTER ASKED YOU TO DO THIS?



WHY DO YOU WANT TO SPEAK?

SINCE YOU'VE BEEN TIED UP, THIS MEANS YOU ARE ONLY AN ANIMAL.

HUH?



SOAK SOAK



rustle

...

... THEN



!!

YOU'RE CRAZY!

BAM



PPFT

YOU HAVE
NO TEMPER,
YOU'RE
EXACTLY
LIKE YOUR
SISTER.

"ELEGANT"
PEOPLE LIKE
YOU AREN'T
SUITED TO
ROUGH
ACTIONS!

IT
DOESN'T
HURT AT
ALL,

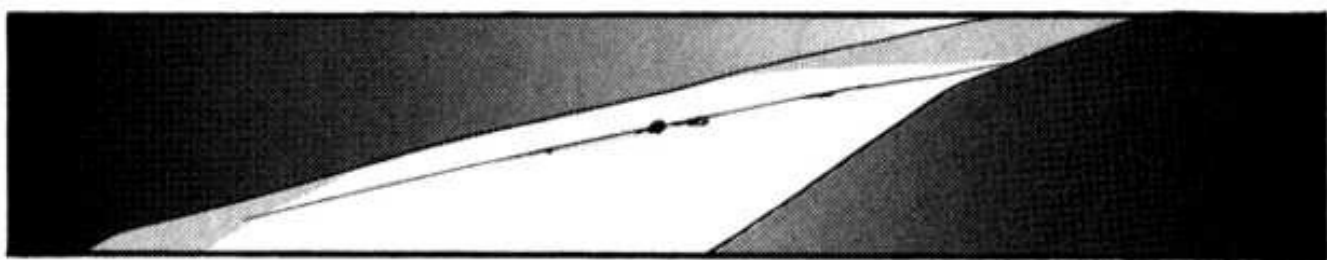
A PER-
VERSE
PERSON
LIKE YOU
DO TO
ME?

WHAT
CAN A ...



PI

KUN





YOU SURE
LIKE TO
BARK A
LOT LIKE
THE DOG
THAT YOU
ARE!



I WANT TO
KEEP YOU
HERE AS
A PET.

I'VE SAID
IT FROM
THE VERY
BEGIN-
NING,

YOU
WANT TO
KNOW
WHAT I
HAVE
PLANNED
FOR
YOU?





IT'S TIME
TO DISCI-
PLINE YOU.



!?



shrik

AH



HEY!

jerk



AH







PERHAPS
I'LL LET YOU
HAVE HAVE A
DRINK OR
SOMETHING
TO EAT.

I WILL
COME AGAIN
TOMORROW,
BUT BEFORE
THEN, YOU WILL
REMAIN IN THIS
POSITION AS
PUNISHMENT.

IF YOU ARE
GOOD AND
LISTEN TO
ME, I WILL
REWARD
YOU.

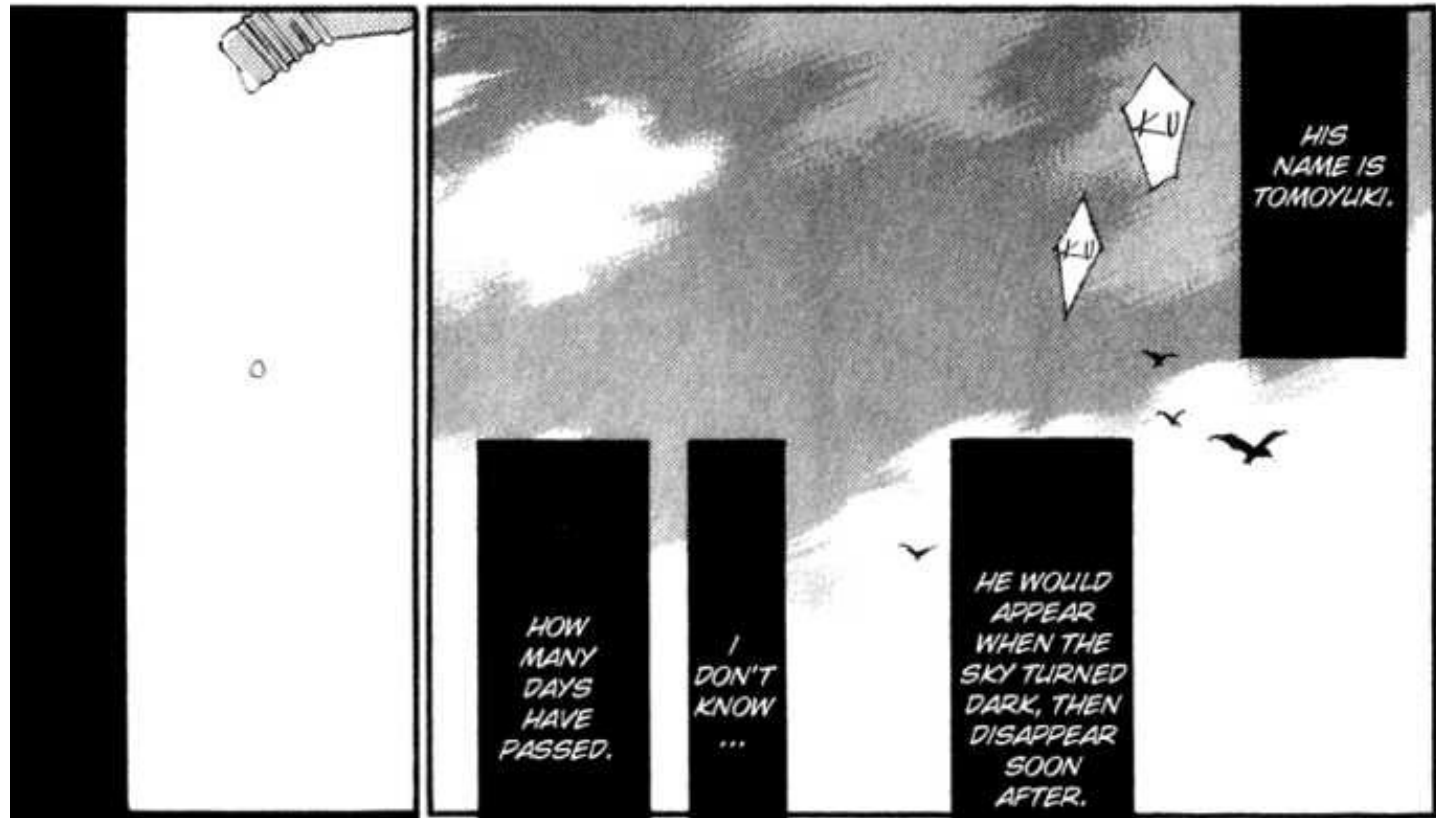
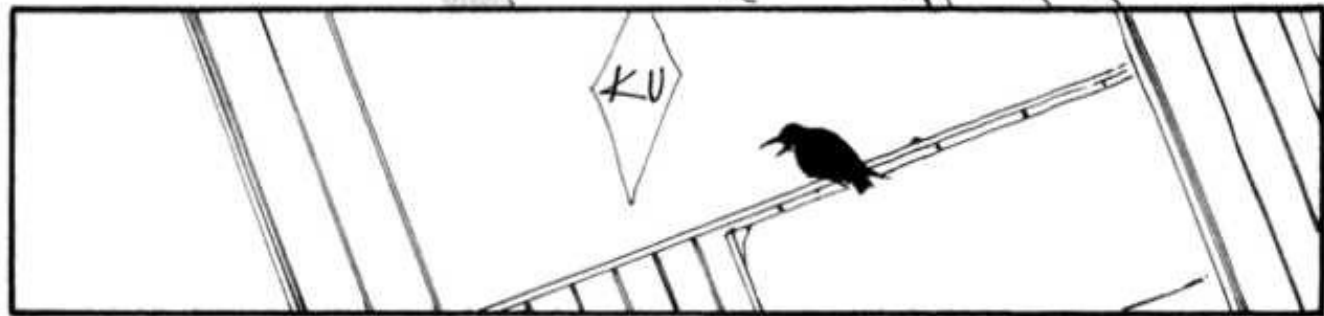




I BECAME
THE PET OF
A TOTAL
STRANGER.

AND
JUST
LIKE
THAT,

SLAM



HIS
NAME IS
TOMOYUKI.

HOW
MANY
DAYS
HAVE
PASSED.

I
DON'T
KNOW
...

HE WOULD
APPEAR
WHEN THE
SKY TURNED
DARK, THEN
DISAPPEAR
SOON
AFTER.



WHERE IS YOUR "PLEASE"?

WATER... GIVE...
GIVE ME SOME DRINKING WATER... WATER.

...
HA

"STAY" OR "BEG", ARE BOTH THINGS I DO TO SURVIVE.

I HAVE BEEN TRAINED LIKE A DOG.

WHICH IS WHY,

TOMOYUKI WILL ONLY GIVE ME VERY SMALL AMOUNTS OF FOOD AND WATER,



PLEASE... I BEG YOU...

drip

CALL ME TOMOYUKI, THAT'S RIGHT...

WHAT'S MORE, HE IS STUBBORN, FORCING ME TO CALL HIS NAME.



TOMOYUKI...

TOMO... YUKI...

— LH

AND I,

AH — AH

CLINK

TOMOYUKI...

AH... AH



I STARTED TO WAIT FOR HIM TO APPEAR, WAITING TO HEAR HIS COMMANDS.



YOU ARE
A GOOD
BOY.

SHIBATA.

THIS IS
SIMILAR
TO SEX.



NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
THIS ISN'T
DIFFERENT
FROM MY
PREVIOUS
LIFE IS IT?

I HAVE
TOYED WITH
SO MANY
WOMEN,
ELICITING
PLEASURE
FROM THEIR
BODIES.



BUT MY
DESIRE,

HAS
BEEN
BUILD-
ING UP,
RAGING
THROUGH
MY BODY,
BURSTING
TO FIND
AN EXIT.



THIS
MAN'S
HAND,



I FEEL THE
ANTICIPATION
BUILD UP IN
MY HEART



IS DIFFERENT
FROM ANY
WOMAN'S.



THE
WAITING
KILLS
ME.

Creak

HIS HAND
WOULD
TOUCH
ME...



SPLURT

Haa

WHAT AM I
DOING...?

I AM NOT
WAITING
FOR HIM!

Creak

DAMN IT,
THIS IS
WRONG!

Creak



HOW CAN I
HAVE SUCH
THOUGHTS!





I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES BEFORE!

I WILL HELP YOU.

IF YOU CAN'T HOLD BACK, THEN YOU SHOULD ASK ME,



PLEASE ...

LOOK, LIKE THIS!



I'M COMING!



... AH

AH... AAH...

STOP TORTURING ME.

THAT'S IT... CONTINUE... PLEASE...







AM I?

YOU'RE
WRONG!

WHAT
SUBSTI-
TUTE...?

I FINALLY
KNOW
THAT I AM
JUST YOUR
SISTER'S
SUBSTITUTE!

AFTER
HEARING
SO MANY
EXCUSES,



YOU
MUST BE
JOKING!

I AM
HERE TO
PUNISH
YOU!

THIS IS
REVENGE!
BECAUSE
YOU PLAYED
AROUND
WITH MY
SISTER,



YOU SHOULD
HAVE DONE
YOUR SISTER
EARLIER,

YUKI'S FIRST
TIME WAS
WITH ME...



IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!



SHUT UP!

YOU'RE TOO NOISY!

pull
pull



...

AAAAA

THAT VIOLATED MY SISTER.

IT'S THIS,

squeeze

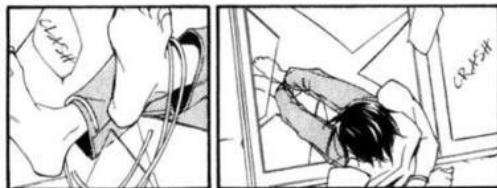
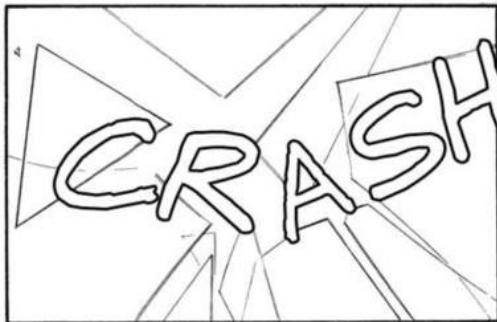


YOU HAD SEX WITH MY SISTER, ONLY TO GIVE THIS SATISFACTION,

ANSWER ME!

RIGHT?

clink
clink



I AM ASKING YOU, DID MY SISTER MAKE YOU FEEL THIS GOOD?

HA



ALSO DID NOT CALL OUT MINE.

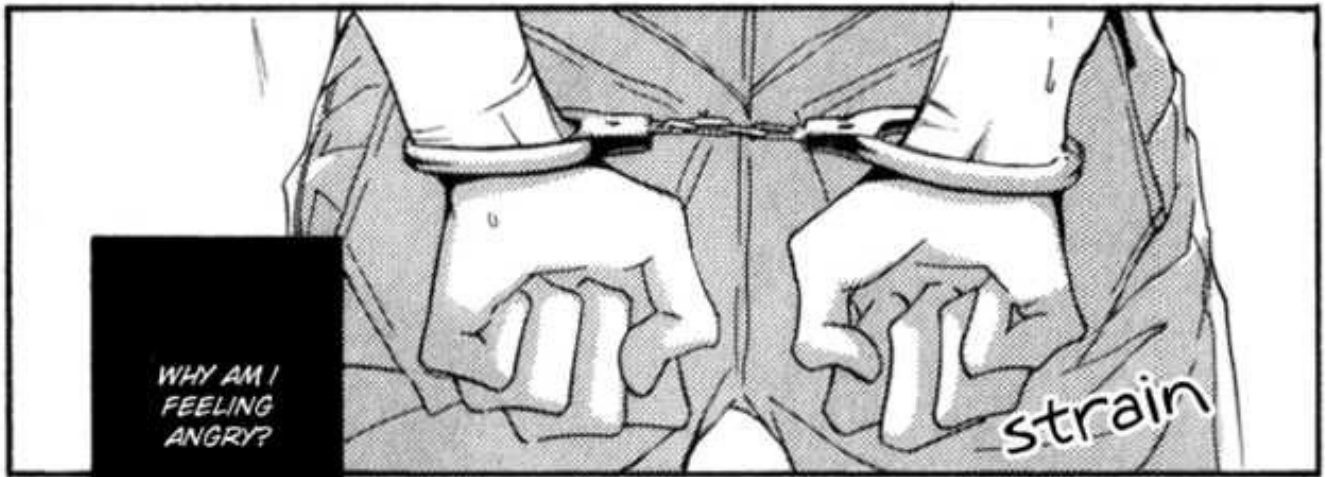
BUT HE...

I DIDN'T CALL OUT HIS NAME...

I GUESS, HE WOULD KILL ME INSTANTLY.

IF I... SAID YUKI'S NAME ONE MORE TIME,





WHY AM I
FEELING
ANGRY?



WHAT IS
THERE TO
REGRET?

I
SWEAR
I'LL KILL
HIM!

I'M JUST BEING
TREATED AS A
SUBSTITUTE.
WHAT'S SO GOOD
ABOUT THAT?

DAMN
THAT
TOMOYUKI!

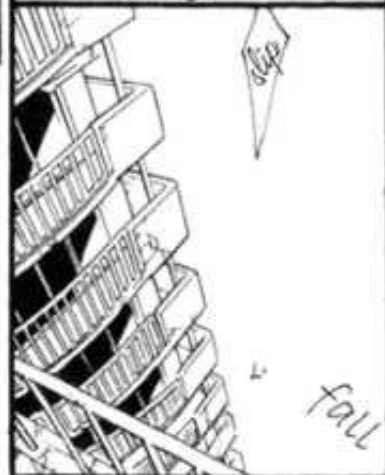
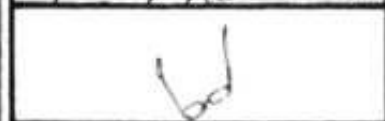


flap

!

flap

flap





—
MY
SISTER

...

...
THEN
?

IT WOULD
BE ENOUGH
IF ONLY
YOU WOULD
BREAK UP
WITH MY
SISTER.

WHICH
IS
WHY.

I CAN'T
TAKE
IT ANY-
MORE,

IN THE END,
I GET PUN-
ISHED FOR
WHAT I DID
TO YOU.

CRIES
EVERY
NIGHT,
WORRYING
ABOUT HOW
YOU HAVE
BEEN
MISSING



YES.



IS YOUR
SISTER REALLY
THAT IMPOR-
TANT?

CAN YOU
REALLY
FORGET?



JUST AS
LONG AS
YOU DIS-
APPEAR
FROM
HERE,
I WILL
FORGET
EVERY-
THING.



TOMOYUKI?

YOU CAN
FORGET,

ARE
YOU
SURE...



FORGET IT.

waves it off



.....



TOMOYUKI.



I'M ACTUALLY HITTING ON YOU.

GRAB

HELL, THIS IS A BAD HABIT.



I JUST THINK I'M WEIRD ... THAT'S ALL.

I DON'T KNOW,

Weren't you just swearing to kill me earlier?

DON'T YOU HATE ME?



YOU REALLY ARE A WEIRD MAN.

.....

OUR MASTER AND PET GAME.

REALLY WANT TO END THIS?

— YOU



MOREOVER,
HE ONLY HAS
EYES FOR HIS
SISTER--

YOUR
FOOT IS
BLEED-
ING.



I'M ACTUALLY
HITTING ON THIS
GUY, WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THIS? WHAT
AM I THINKING?



HANDS IN
CLIFFS.

TREATED
LIKE A
DOG,

I SUDDENLY
FEEL CON-
STRICTED
AGAIN,

OR RATHER,
THIS SUDDEN
DISASTER.

DESPITE THE
SUDDENNESS
OF THE CIR-
CUMSTANCES,



WHAT DO
YOU PLAN
TO DO,

WHEN
YOU GET
OUT OF
HERE?

IT'S
CALLED
THE
ORDER OF
NATURE.

WILL BE
UNABLE TO
RETURN TO
THE WILD,

A
TRAINED
ANIMAL

Cage of Eternity / **END**

YOU
MUST
REALLY
LIKE
ME!

HEY,

WHAT'S
WRONG?





AREN'T YOU AN OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE WORKING CLASS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE DURING OFFICE HOURS?

AND DOING THIS IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE! ARE YOU BECOMING A STALKER AGAIN?

WHY DID YOU BRING CHOCOLATES?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'WHAT'S WRONG'?

gives



THE REASON I AM HERE IS BECAUSE TODAY IS FEBRUARY THE 14TH.

SO...

SIGH, YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT.

glance



HAVE YOU LISTENED TO ME AND BROKEN UP WITH ALL THOSE OTHER WOMEN?

YOU CAN'T ENTER SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE AS IF YOU OWN IT!

slide

slide

OH,

Turn!



YUP...

Sorry, let's break up.

Let's end here.

HUMPH, I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU!

YOU HAVE BEEN MESSING AROUND WITH MY BUSINESS HAVEN'T YOU?

SO YOU HAVE ENDED ALL THOSE RELATIONSHIPS?

THAT'S VERY GOOD!

ALL THE WOMEN WANTED TO END THE RELATIONSHIPS!

Please break up with me, and don't ask why.

.....



SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU HERE FOR?

sigh

WHAT IS SO GOOD ABOUT IT... HE MUST BE SICK IN THE HEAD!



WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? MY MOTHER?

LET ME SEE!?

A MAN'S BODY IS HIS GREATEST ASSET, YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF YOUR DIET!

HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?

there is nothing in the fridge

SWING

WHAT?

GRAB

AHH

WOOSH

HEY,

YOU!!

WHAT YOU
JUST DID
FLIPPED
THE
WRONG
SWITCH!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

COULD IT BE
BECAUSE YOU
EXERCISE IN
ORDER TO
ATTRACT THE
LADIES?

EVEN THOUGH
YOU LIVE THE
LIFE OF A
PAUPER, A
BODY AS FIT
AS THIS IS
HARD TO
MAINTAIN.

GOOD...
IT SEEMS
LIKE YOU
HAVE BEEN
EXERCISING
REGULARLY,

SHOCK

WHATEVER
YOU DID TO
ME BEFORE,
I WILL DO
IT TO YOU!

I WONDER
WHAT
REACTION
YOU WILL
HAVE,

WILL
YOU CRY?

COME!

I HAVE
LEARNED
FROM ALL
THE THINGS
YOU HAVE
DONE TO ME.

DON'T YOU
KNOW THAT
HUMAN BEINGS
ARE VERY
SMART
CREATURES?

I WANT...

TO PRACTICE
ALL THAT
I HAVE
LEARNED
ON YOU.

HONESTLY
SPEAKING, I
AM STILL
QUITE ANGRY
WITH YOU.

WHICH IS
WHY...



SHIBATA?

WHY ARE YOU LAYING ON ME?

R
A
T
T
L
E



BECAUSE... MY SISTER HAS BAKED A CHOCOLATE CAKE FOR YOU!



I'M JUST GOING TO PICK UP MY SISTER. DON'T WORRY I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

h
a
h
a
h
a



DEFEAT

P
R
R
R
R
R

Until now? he was unaware of the situation...

I'LL COME AND PICK YOU UP IMMEDIATELY.

HELLO? THIS IS TOMOYUKI SPEAKING. OH, YOU'RE AT THE BUS STOP ALREADY?



WHO WANTS TO EAT HER CAKE! IDIOT!

she wants to give it to you!



HUH-----? YOUR SISTER?

WHAT ARE YOU BRING YOUR SISTER HERE FOR?



YOU STOP RIGHT THERE,

YOU CAN'T BE THINKING OF ESCAPING ARE YOU?

OH PLEASE!
YOU BETTER GET IT CLEAR!
YOUR SISTER AND I ARE
FINISHED!
WE BROKE UP LONG AGO!
YOU BETTER GIVE UP!
YOU BETTER FACE UP
TO REALITY!

WHY
CAN'T YOU
ACCEPT
HER GIFT?

Stop
Crying!

DON'T BE SO
HEARTLESS...
MY SISTER
IS SO
ADORABLE,



THEN
I'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
LEAVE.

Impossible....

BASICALLY YOU
SHOULD BE
DISCOURAGING ME
FROM DATING
YOUR SISTER....

WELL, IF
THAT IS THE
CASE... THEN
I HAVE NO
CHOICE...

RECONCILIATION
BETWEEN
YOU AND
MY SISTER?



THAT'S RIGHT!
WHY ELSE WOULD
YOU BE HOLDING
A BOX OF
CHOCOLATES?
SYMPATHY
CHOCOLATES?

MY
CHOCO-
LATES?



AS
BAIT?



All those confusing words you said before actually meant this...?

THROWS



EH?

I'VE DECIDED TO EAT YOU UP!

SHIBATA WAIT A MINUTE, STOP STRIPPING!

LvL
Mカ
A
X#

!

OFF



FLOP

YOU HAVE PISSED ME OFF!



Give up!

I WANT YOU!

BECAUSE TODAY IS FEBRUARY THE 14TH!



Love chocolate

for St.Valentine's Day!!



Love chocolate

for St.Valentine's Day!!

一匹狼が二頭
荒野を走る

321
PAGE
ニューパワー
読み切り

ガンマンの
プライドを賭けて
お前の胸を
撃ち抜いてやる

ワイルド サンズ

WILD
SONS
YAMNARDU ENIN
円陣閻丸



LISTEN
ONE MORE
TIME,

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?
WHAT'S THE
PURPOSE
OF YOUR
VISIT?



LIKE I SAID
I'M GOING TO
VISIT A
GRAVE.

TELL ME
YOUR REAL
PURPOSE
AND YOUR
NAME!

I'VE
HEARD
THAT
ALREADY!

!



I
HAVE
A
CONNEC-
TION,

HE'S
MY
FATHER!



HEY,
ANSWER
HIM!

grab



THAT'S
FINE,

LUKE
FLANAGAN
WAS THE
BOSS IN THIS
AREA.

THE LIKES OF
YOU, OUTSIDERS
WITH NO CON-
NECTION WHAT-
SOEVER, YOU'RE
NOT WELCOME
TO VISIT HIS
GRAVE.

CLAK

RECKLESS
BASTARD!

YOU!

FLANAGAN
IS YOUR
DAD, YOU
SAID?

WHAT AN
AMUSING
JOKE.



AAH!

THEN
YOU'RE
VINCENT.

DON'T YOU
KNOW THAT
I'M HIS ONLY
SON?

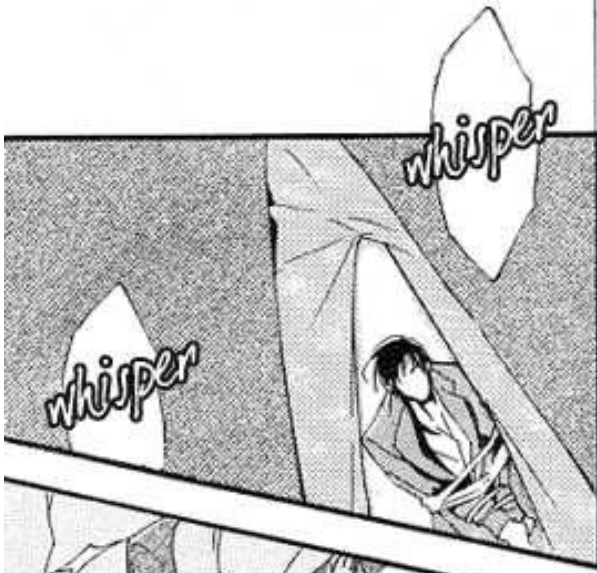
WHAT'S
YOUR
PURPOSE?



I'M NOT
LYING...

BANG

twang



whisper

whisper

THE SAME
NAME
AS MY
FATHER.



TRIGGER

TOO BAD,
I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF
SUCH
THING.



A
LONG TIME
AGO...

AND THE DAY
SHE GAVE
BIRTH TO ME,
SHE GAVE ME
THE NAME
"LUKE",

MY MOM
BECAME HIS
MISTRESS

*SFX: ROPES FALLING



PARA

G A N

*SFX: DRAMATIC SOUND

ROLL
ROLL





BROTHER...

REALLY,

DONT YOU
THINK THIS
KIND OF
WELCOME IS
A BIT TOO
ROUGH?



WHUMP



ZANNA

ZANNA





FOR THE
SAKE OF
MAINTAINING
THE TOWN,
SOMEONE
MUST TAKE
UP THE ROLE
OF THE BOSS,

IN HIS WILL
FLAMAGAN
APPOINTED
HIS SON, ME,
TO SUCCEED
HIM.

HYUU-

BUT!


ANOTHER
CANDIDATE
HAS
APPEARED!!

EVERYONE,
I HAVE AN
ANNOUNCE
MENT TO
MAKE!

ONE
WEEK AGO,
LUKE
FLAMAGAN
PASSED
AWAY!

whisper





THE WINNER
WILL BE
COME THE
NEW BOSS!!

—
WHA

THEREFORE,
TO CARRY
OUT HIS
WILL, A
DUEL WILL
BE HELD.

THE TIME IS
TOMORROW AT
NOON, A ONE
BOUT QUICK
DRAW!

SILENCE

THAT IS ALL.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

WA

THAT WAS ALL, NOTHING TO GET MAD ABOUT.

sikt

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AN OUTSIDER LIKE ME!!

WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

ONLY THE BEST GUNMAN AMONG THEM SHALL BE SELECTED.

THE ONE TO SUCCEED ME IN MY PATH WILL BE ONE OF MY SONS BUT

THIS IS MY FATHER'S LAST WISH AS WELL.

WILD SONS

I WONDER
IF I CAME
AT A BAD
TIME.

THEN...

WHY?

step

WHEN I READ
HIS WILL, I
DID NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT HE
MEANT BUT-

TODAY I
FINALLY UN-
DERSTOOD.

grab

IT'S USE-
LESS FOR
YOU TO
RUN AWAY,

BROTHER?

AT THIS
LATE
HOUR.



...

IN AN INSTANT-
IT WILL BE OVER.



DON'T WORRY,
IT WILL ONLY HURT FOR A MOMENT.



SU

VINCENT!



SEE YA!

OI!





I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO NOON TOMORROW.

OBVIOUSLY!
WHAT A
STUPID
QUESTION!

There's
no sheriff
here
anyway.

I intend
to use
the night
to run
away
quickly!

HUH?

EEH
|
...

IF I CUT
DOWN YOUR
ROPES, I
WONDER IF
YOU'LL RUN
AWAY?

LHM...

SIP

THANK
GOD!

SHERIFF

AS I
THOUGHT,
LIFE IS
SUCH A
PRECIOUS
THING!

NO...
ERR...
WELL...

store

PIKU

LUKE
WAS...

THEN I
WON'T END
UP BEING
THE HEIR ,

WILL
I?

I WOULD OF
GONE, EVEN
IF YOU
DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING!



THE
COMMOTION
WITHIN THE
TOWN WILL
CONTINUE
ON.

LUKE
WAS THE
LAW IN
THIS
TOWN.

THERE WAS
NO WAY
ANYONE EVER
THOUGHT
THAT HE'D
DIE.



WELL,
OBVIOUSLY
I'M TALKING
ABOUT THE
LATE LUKE.




WILL
IT?

IF
THERE'S
ONE IN
TEN
THOUSAND
...

NO--
10 YEARS, 20
YEARS LATER
IF WE EVEN
LIVE THAT
LONG.

OI!

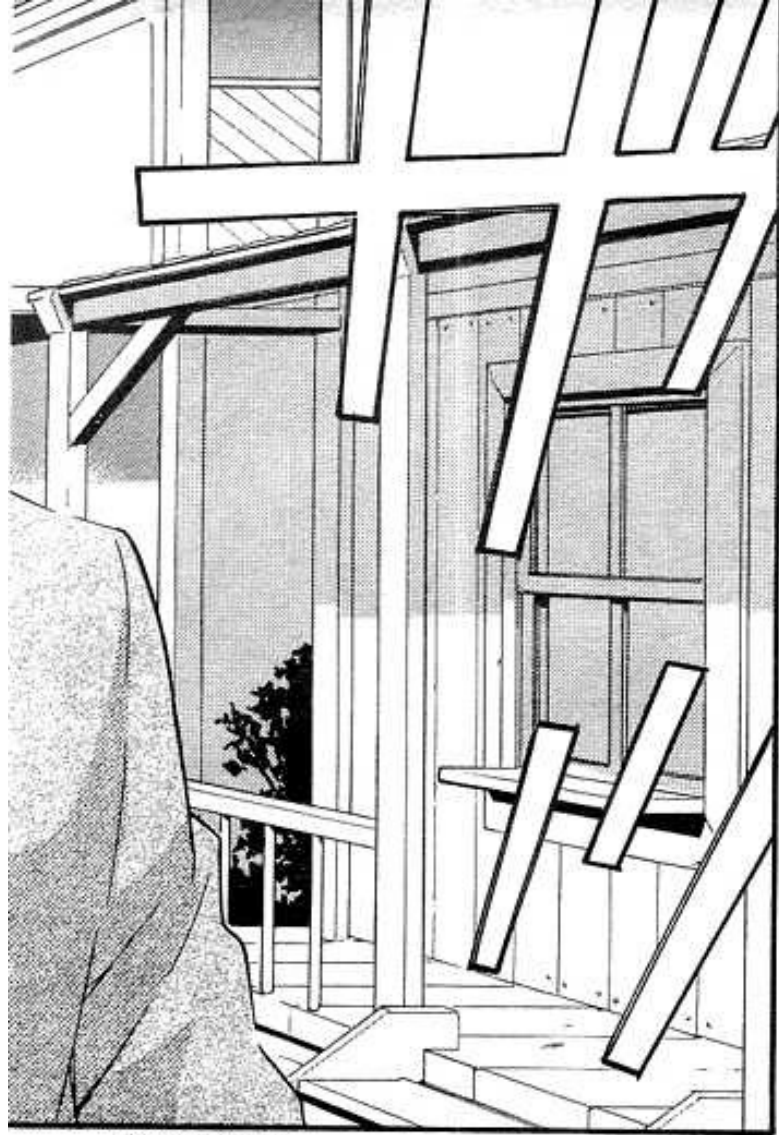
IN ANY CASE,
THIS HAS GOT
TO BE LUKE'S
STATEMENT.



MAYBE
VINCENT
INTENDS TO
BE LIKE HIM
BY GOING
THROUGH THIS
RITUAL.

HE HAS
CONFIDENCE
IN HIS
SKILLS WITH
GUNS.

--BUT



*SFX: GATSU



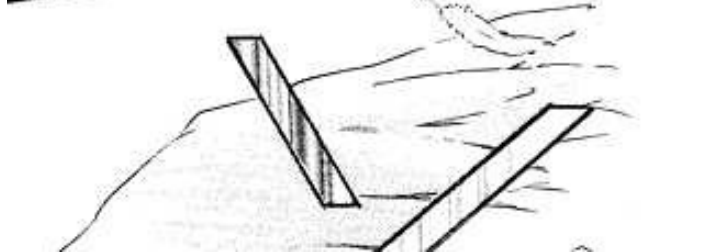
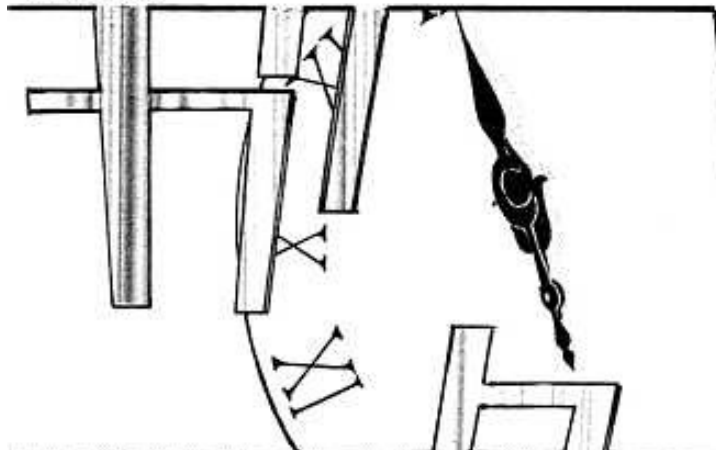
DON'T
TAKE
THINGS

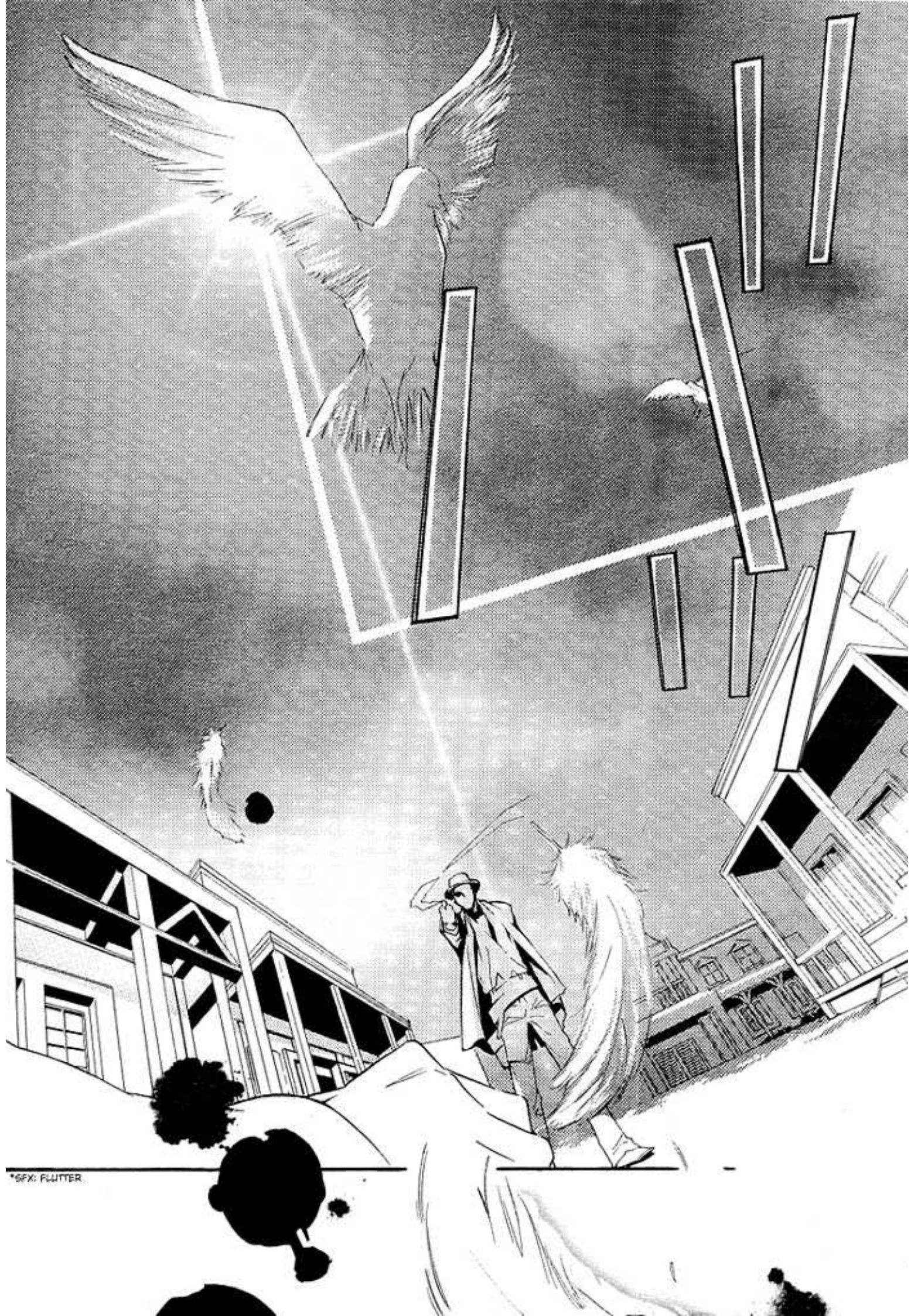
TOO
SERIOUSLY.





*SFX: GATAN





*GFX: FLITTER



THEY'RE
IN AN
LIPROAR
DOWNS
TARIRS.



KNOCK
KNOCK

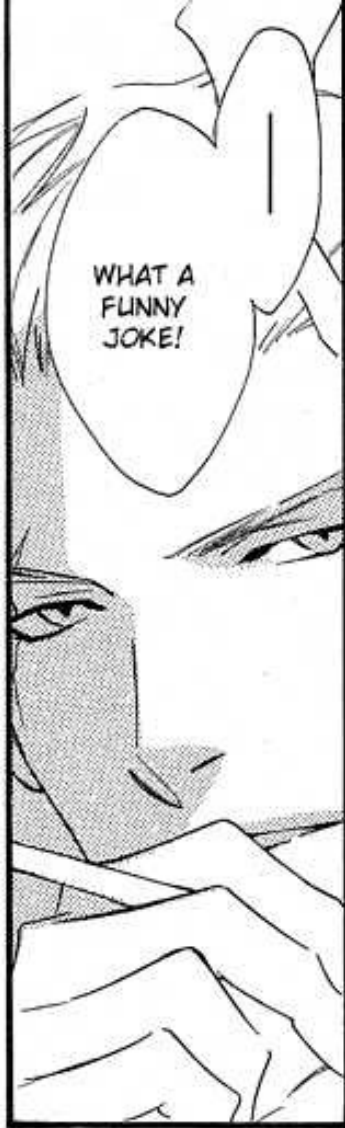
COME
IN!



BESIDES,
LOOK!

THEY'LL BE
OKAY WHEN
THEY'RE
DRUNK.

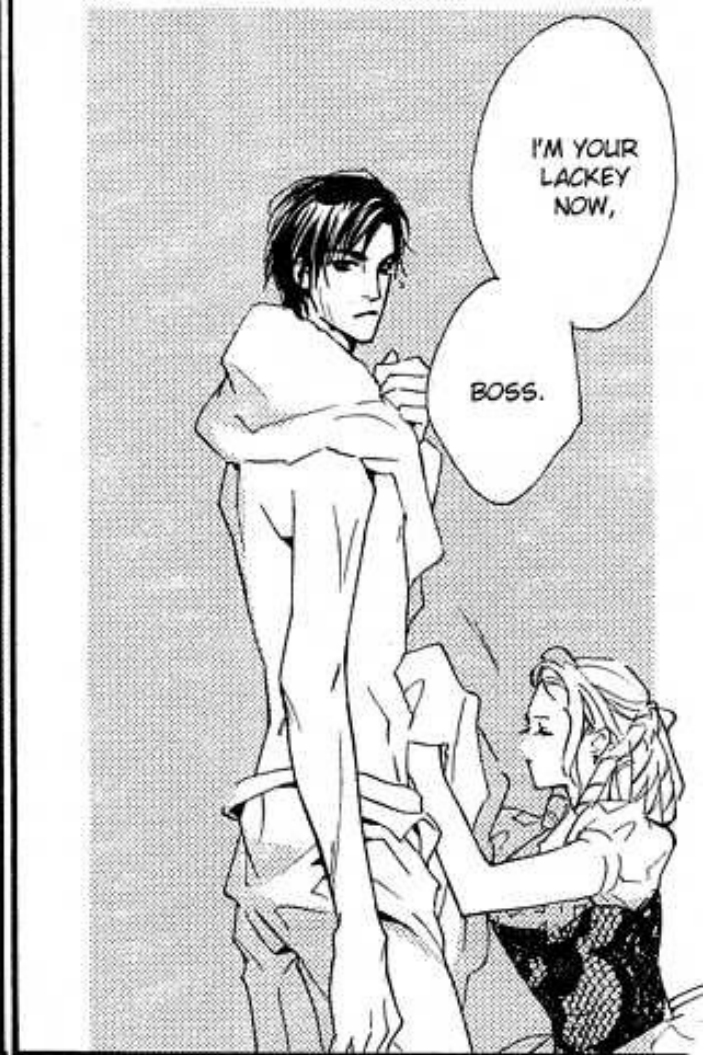
ISN'T
EACH AND
EVERY
ONE OF
THOSE COLD-
HEARTED LOT
NOW YOUR
LACKEY!



WHAT A FUNNY JOKE!



NO THANKS TO YOU!



I'M YOUR LACKEY NOW,

BOSS.



Just a scratch!

THE SAME GOES TO YOU, WHAT AN LITTER MISS!



WHY DID YOU

PURPOSE-
LY AVOID
HITTING
ANYTHING
VITAL?



LUKE...



GOT YOU, DIDN'T I?



HANDICAP!
I THINK I CLOSED MY EYES WHEN YOU SHOT.

I KNOW THAT, BUT WHY DID YOU MISS?



gulp

O!



WHAT THE HELL?

YOU THINK I'M AN IDIOT?

I DON'T LIKE BEING USED.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD SAY THAT.



HOLD IT!

THAT GUY SAID TODAY IS MY FIRST DAY AS HOMAGE TO THE NEW BOSS.

IT'S OK, I WAS PAID!



STOP! I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO DO THAT.



YOU'RE DOING GOOD, CONTINUE.

THAT'S RIGHT,

GOOD GIRL.

OPEN UP YOUR THROAT.

USE YOUR WHOLE MOUTH MORE,



YOU MUST BE REALLY WORRIED,

FOR YOU TO FEEL THAT YOU NEED TO ADD SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

TO TALK ABOUT SUCH A MATTER...

Ha

HEY

BECOMING A BOSS IS JUST LIKE THAT

YOU'LL BE EXPLOITED BY THE TOWNSPEOPLE BUT ON THE OTHER HAND TO BRING ABOUT ORDER

AUTHORITY MUST EXIST FOR THE SAKE OF IMPORTANT RULES.

gulp

lick

gulp



Ha

slide



CHE!

ALWAYS AN IRRITATING GUY!

WHAT IF I ENTRUST MY BODY TO YOUR DESIRE FOR YOUR OBEDIENCE.



kiss

twitch

HMM?



Ha



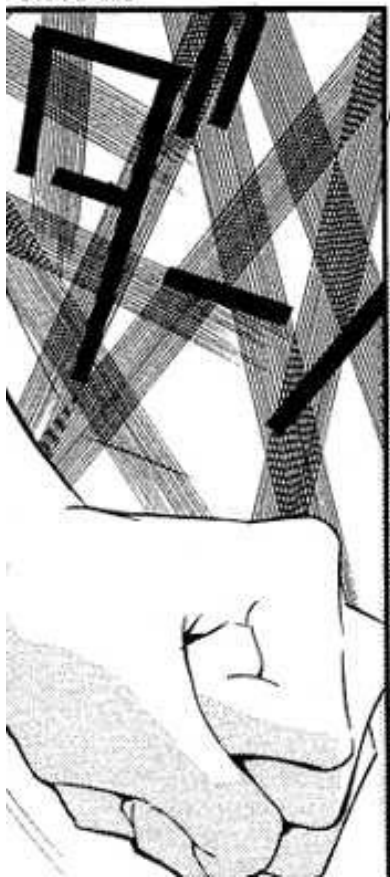
WHAT A
DISAPPOINT-
MENT.

ARE YOU
THAT
WEAK?

DIDN'T
YOU?

YOU
INTENDED TO
LOSE FROM
THE BEGIN-
NING,

*SFX: BANG





....IN ANY CASE, IT DOESN'T MATTER DOES IT?

THE WINNER OF THE DUEL WAS YOU AFTER ALL.



DUEL?

smirk



WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO,

SUCCESSING SUCH AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON WOULD BIND YOU TO THIS TINY TOWN!

SHUT UP!

IT WAS MERELY YOUR ESCAPE.

BY DOING THAT, WEREN'T YOU TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM YOUR FATHER'S CURSE?

THINKING LIKE THAT, YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID.

WHAT?



WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW?



SHUT
UP!



I
KNOW...

I
TOO---

HAVE
HAD A
SIMILAR
PROBLEM.



—
A
H
H



OI!

gaku!



CAN'T
TALK...
MO..E

...UH



SFX: LEAVES RUSTLING



EVEN IN DEATH YOU WERE ABLE TO USE THOSE AROUND YOU, WHAT A CRUEL MAN.

I'VE SEARCHED FOR YOU EVERYWHERE,



YO!

ZATSU



HUH?

I'LL GO TOO!

I FIGURED SINCE I COULDN'T STOP YOU FROM GOING,

WHA... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OLD WORLD RULES WILL BIND YOU, AND EVERYTHING WILL TURN TO SHIT.

UNTIL WE CAN GIVE BIRTH TO THE COUNTRY'S LIBERTY

CAN'T YOU SEE IT?



BRR

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID.



WHUMP

SUCH
A WIDE
PLACE.

THE
WORLD
IS

WHY DON'T
WE SEE THE
NEW WORLD
TOGETHER?

LUKE?

You'll be the
boss for the
time being!

...WHAT A
TERRIBLE
HEIR!

OMAKE

MONEY
AND
FOOD!

Dad's vault
has been
opened!!

he he

OLD
PEOPLE?

WELL THEN,
FROM NOW ON
WE'LL LISTEN TO
WHAT THE OLD
PEOPLE HAVE TO
SAY.

EH...
WHAT'S
THIS?

I
WON-
DER...



LET ME
TELL YOU,
I'M OLDER
THAN
YOU.

I was
already
riding horses
when you
were born!



O!

WAIT
A
SECOND!!!

HOW
OLD ARE
YOU?!

I'M
GOING
AHEAD.

GALLOP
GALLOP

WILD SONS

END

夜明けの音楽

As day
breaks,

Like the
sound of the
snow falling
would seem
delicate if it
could be
heard.

It doesn't
seem to have
a melody yet,
but the sound
is impressive.

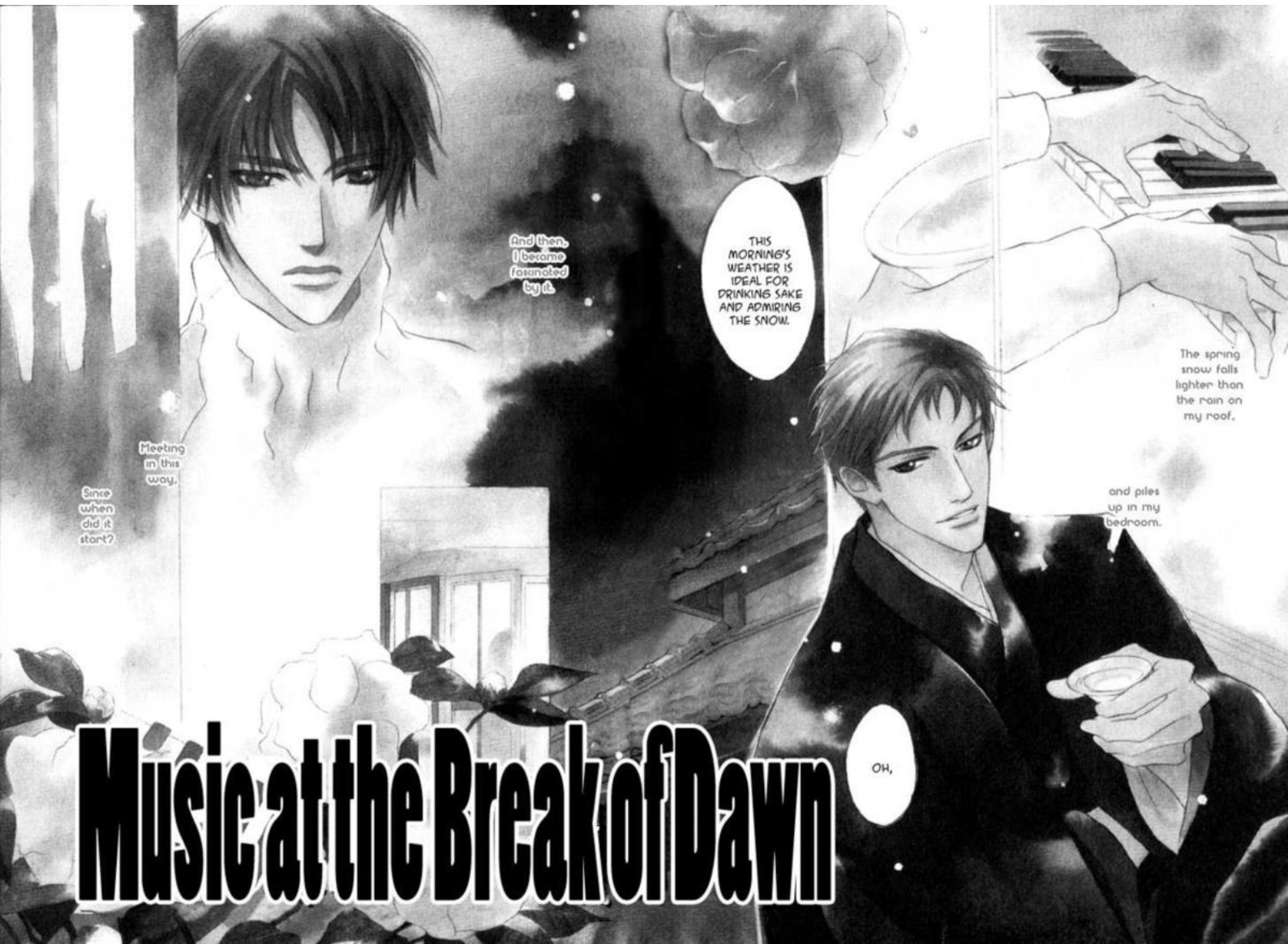
I hear the
sounds
of a piano
from the
neighbour's
house.

for this
sound to
rain upon
me at
daybreak.

the day
after
that as
well,

tomorrow
and the
day after
and

Before I
knew it,
it came to
the point
that I
began
looking
forward



Since when did it start?

Meeting in this way,

And then, I became fascinated by it.

THIS MORNING'S WEATHER IS IDEAL FOR DRINKING SAKE AND ADMIRING THE SNOW.

The spring snow falls lighter than the rain on my roof,

and piles up in my bedroom.

OH,

Music at the Break of Dawn



THE MUSIC AT BREAK OF DAWN



HEY,

WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING AT?
YOU PEEPING
TOM!

...P-
PEEPING
TOM?

tap tap

scratch
scratch

I GET
MADDER AND
MADDER JUST
REMEMBER-
ING IT.

AH
~~~~~



WHAT?

On that day,  
the snow had  
melted  
soon after  
daybreak.



OUR  
MEETING  
SCENE.

This boy, who  
has suddenly  
appeared, how  
is it that he's  
become a natural  
part of my  
everyday life?



I  
PROMISED  
THAT I'D  
SHOW YOU  
WHEN IT'S  
DONE. **NOPE.**

COME  
ON, SHOW  
ME, SHOW  
ME.

pan

pan

pan

pin

SORRY IF  
MY PEN'S  
WORKING  
SLOWLY...

I'M SO  
TIRED OF  
WAITING  
I COULD  
DIE!  
YOU'VE  
BEEN SAY-  
ING THAT  
FOR 2  
MONTHS  
ALREADY,

PFF



Then he led me by the nose, and now I'm writing his novel.

geez

While listening to the sound of that piano, I was so sure it was being played by a sad beautiful girl...

What a fraud!

It was a good example of his naiveté.

All of a sudden calling me a peeping tom was a big shock to me but-

You're drinking too much...

WOW-A NOVELIST?

THEN, COULD YOU WRITE A NOVEL WITH ME AS THE MAIN CHARACTER?

SAY, WAS THE FIRST IMPRESSION YOU HAD OF ME THAT BAD?

...



AKIO!

blink



I'M BORED.

'CAUSE, YOU'RE NOT EVEN PLAYING WITH ME,



**PULL**

—  
YOU SAY THAT, BUT...

...I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS BUTTONS HIS SHIRT WRONG.

LEAVE ME ALONE.



YOU'RE A CHILD. TAKE THAT.

look

*munch*



THERE'S THE TOY PIANO?, PLAY WITH IT.

—  
HARU-YUKI-SAN,

I'M NOT THAT CHILDISH?



AH?

THIS "WATASHI", YOU MEAN HARUYUKI, RIGHT? SOMEWHAT EROTIC.

NON-SENSE.

Or rather unusual



You mismatched the buttons on your shirt again.

ah...it bothers me.

*crunch*

HEY, I WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING,

THE FIRST PERSON USE OF "WATASHI", ISN'T IT SOMEWHAT EROTIC?



LIKE - I - SAID - DON'T READ IT!!

*pinch*

MO MO MO

Sorry if it's special.

I caught a glimpse of it earlier.

\*a very general-usage form of 'I' that's used by both men and women



AKIO-

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS AT THE END OF THIS YEAR...

IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME, YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND STUDY.

GIE



slip



FLOP

BESIDES, I WROTE IN MY COLLEGE YEARBOOK THAT I WANTED TO BE A PHYSICIST.

SORRY...

WHAT'S THAT?

IF YOU DON'T LET ME CONCENTRATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FINISH THIS NOVEL SOON.

AH, JUST A NOVELIST?

SAY HARUYUKI, DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO BE DOING IN THE FUTURE AND STUFF LIKE THAT?



I'LL  
KEEP QUIET  
NOW.

SORRY,  
I JUST  
WANTED TO  
TOUCH IT.



O!?

rub

THAT'S  
CALLED THIS  
WORLD'S  
SADNESS.



AH



DO  
WHAT YOU  
WANT.

As I  
thought,  
Akio's a  
little  
weird.

Weird to the  
point of saying  
that he plays  
piano because  
he likes the  
touch of wood.



It seems  
as though his  
favorite thing  
is my "right  
hand".

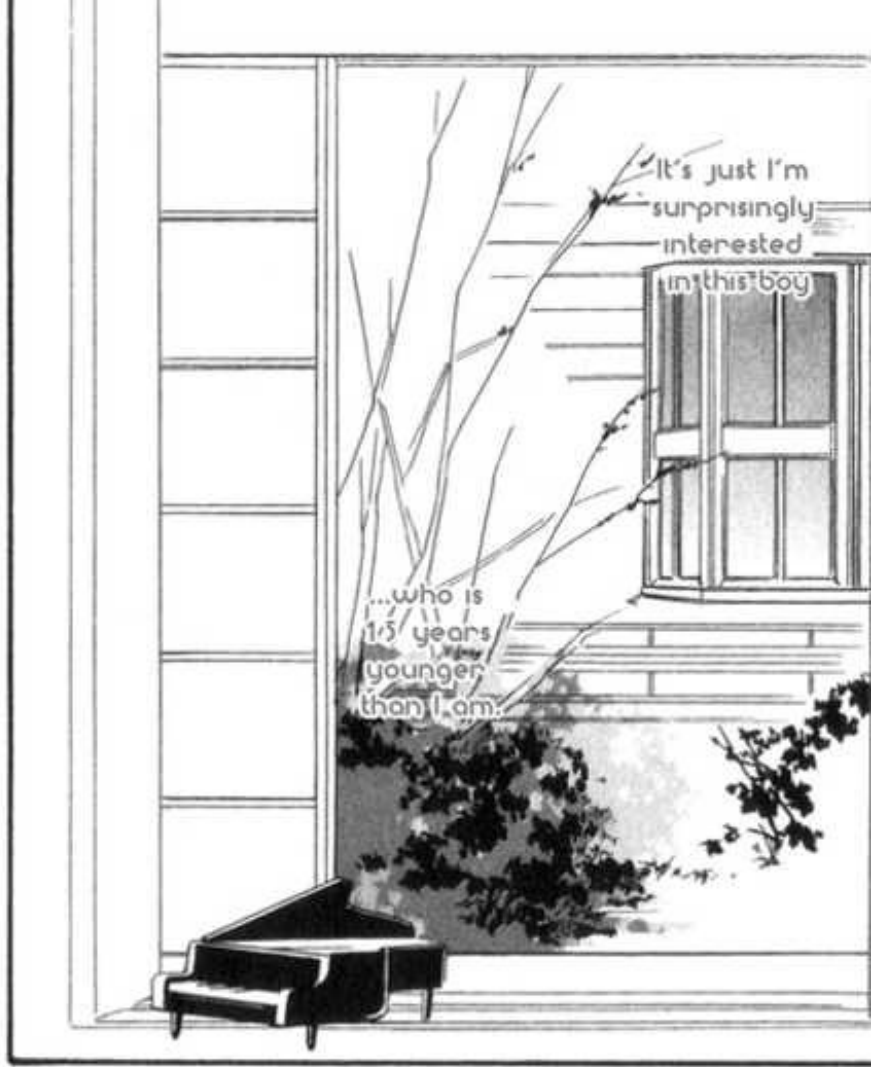
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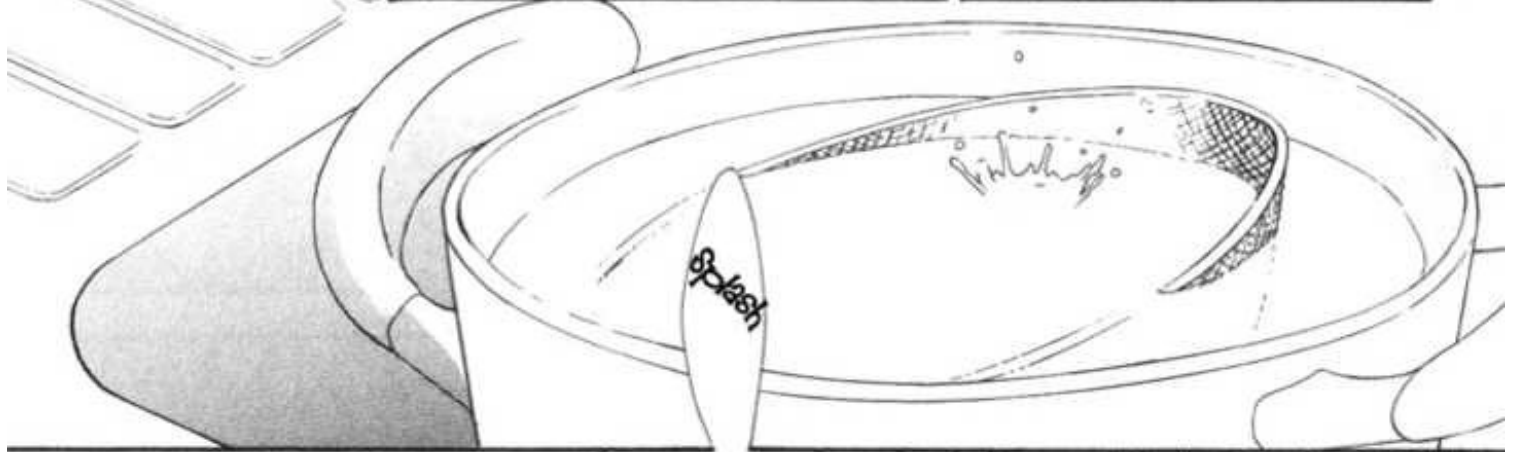


Seeing this  
hand, some  
people have  
looked away  
embarrassed,  
others showed  
compassion  
and curiosity,  
asking how it  
happened.

But I've  
never heard  
a person all of  
a sudden ask  
"is this wood?"









DO YOU EVER FEEL AS THOUGH YOUR BODY WAS DYING, BIT BY BIT?



BUT

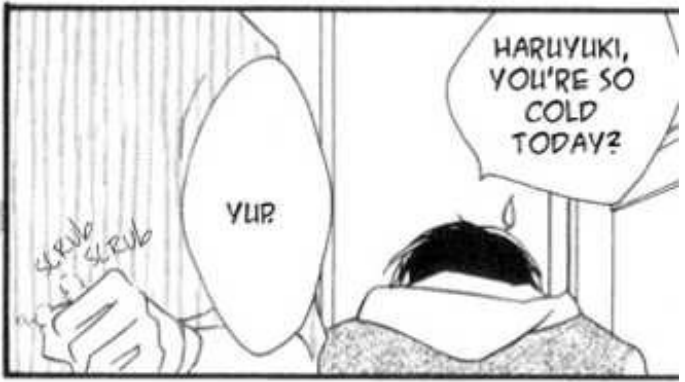
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.



OR MAYBE, I'VE ALREADY DIED.



YOU KEEP SAYING NO LIKE THAT AND THEN MY HOUSE BECOMES YOUR SHELTER.



YUP.

HARUYUKI, YOU'RE SO COLD TODAY?



clink



WELL,  
IF IT'S TOO  
MUCH  
FOR YOU,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
COME,  
IT'S FINE

IF YOU  
MOVE  
YOUR BODY  
YOU'LL  
FEEL LIKE  
YOU'RE  
REALLY  
ALIVE.

HA?



FLOPP

HEY



LET'S GO  
RUNNING.

WHAT?!



...BUT,  
HOW MUCH  
FURTHER  
ARE WE  
GOING?!



I'm  
GOING!



A brain tumor or a cancer.

People like to talk about sad stories.



I learned about Akio's illness through neighborhood rumors.



It happened long before I actually met Akio-

Three days after the Kogayama's arrival next door, the information was coming from all around, even if I didn't want to listen.

Even more so if it doesn't concern them.

step

step



And I don't ask about it either.

Akio doesn't talk about it.



I pretend not to listen to him.

So when Akio provokes me and talks about 'death'.

I'm not kind,

step







HARUYUKI!  
ANOTHER  
LAP!!

That's why I  
pretend not  
to know.



MAYBE HE'S IN THE BATH.

GOOD MORNING-



-HE ISN'T HERE



RATTLE

HARUYUKI-

A BATH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?



NH? IS THAT AKIO? WHAT IS IT?

HARUYUKI, DO YOU NEED HELP?

**RATTLE**



WHAT,  
YOU'RE FINISHED  
ALREADY?

Here,  
a towel



His  
right  
hand?

I ASKED YOU  
IF YOU NEEDED  
HELP, 'CAUSE  
IT MUST BE  
DIFFICULT  
WITH ONLY  
ONE HAND

**FULL OF SCARS**

WHAT ARE  
ALL THESE  
SCARS ?

HOW MANY  
OF THEM DO  
YOU HAVE?

YOU, FOR  
HOW LONG  
DO YOU  
THINK I'VE  
BEEN LIVING  
LIKE THIS?

FOR 12 YEARS,  
12 YEARS.

WOW,  
COOL!



RESPECTFUL

HEY,  
YOU...

THEY  
LOOK SO  
VIOLENT-



WHY ARE YOU ASKING SUCH THINGS?

AND IF I TOLD YOU, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

Very interested

HEY

HEY, THAT TIME YOU WERE IN AN ACCIDENT, DID YOU THINK YOU WERE GOING TO DIE?

IS IT TRUE YOU RETURNED ALIVE EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DANGEROUS?

YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

EVERYONE HAS A PART THAT ISN'T MEANT TO BE KNOWN BY SOMEONE ELSE.

WHY... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

HUH..



HARU-  
YUKI,

YOU'VE  
GOT A  
PRETTY FIRM  
GUARD

EXACTLY.

I SHOULDN'T  
TALK ABOUT  
THE ACCIDENT?

SHY



IT MAY  
MEAN THAT  
THEY DONT WANT  
TO TALK TO ME  
ABOUT SERIOUS  
SUBJECTS  
ANYMORE.

ESPECIALLY  
THOSE I WAS  
CLOSE TO.

MY  
SCHOOL  
FRIENDS ARE  
ON THEIR  
GUARDS  
LATELY  
TOO.

AS THEY  
KNOW I'LL  
DIE SOON.

EVEN WHEN  
WE'RE CHATTING  
CASUALLY,  
I KNOW THEY'RE  
LIFTING UP  
THEIR GUARDS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS 'DEATH' REALLY THAT SPECIAL?

ANYWAY, ALL HUMANS DIE ONE DAY OR THE OTHER.

IT'S A LITTLE AS IF



I SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED ABOUT IT?

AH



AKIO.



I WAS SUFFOCATING.



Shortly after,  
Akio was  
admitted into  
the hospital.

The silent  
mornings  
without  
the piano  
were sad.



But I learned  
that he has a  
high probability  
of a complete  
recovery if  
the operation  
was a success.

Truth-  
fully

I was  
careless.

THE  
CONTIN-  
UATION OF  
THE NOVEL  
CAN WAIT  
UNTIL HE  
RETURNS.

Clang



IT'S NOT BECAUSE  
IT'S FICTION THAT  
YOU CAN WRITE  
ANYTHING YOU  
WANT ABOUT ME.



SAY

YOU'RE  
STILL  
WRITING  
YOUR  
NOVEL?

I thought  
Akio's  
instability  
came from  
his fear of  
the operation.

He's only 14,  
and even an  
adult would  
fear an  
operation  
that opens up  
the skull.

I had  
no due

of the significance  
of the meanings  
behind his casual  
sentences.

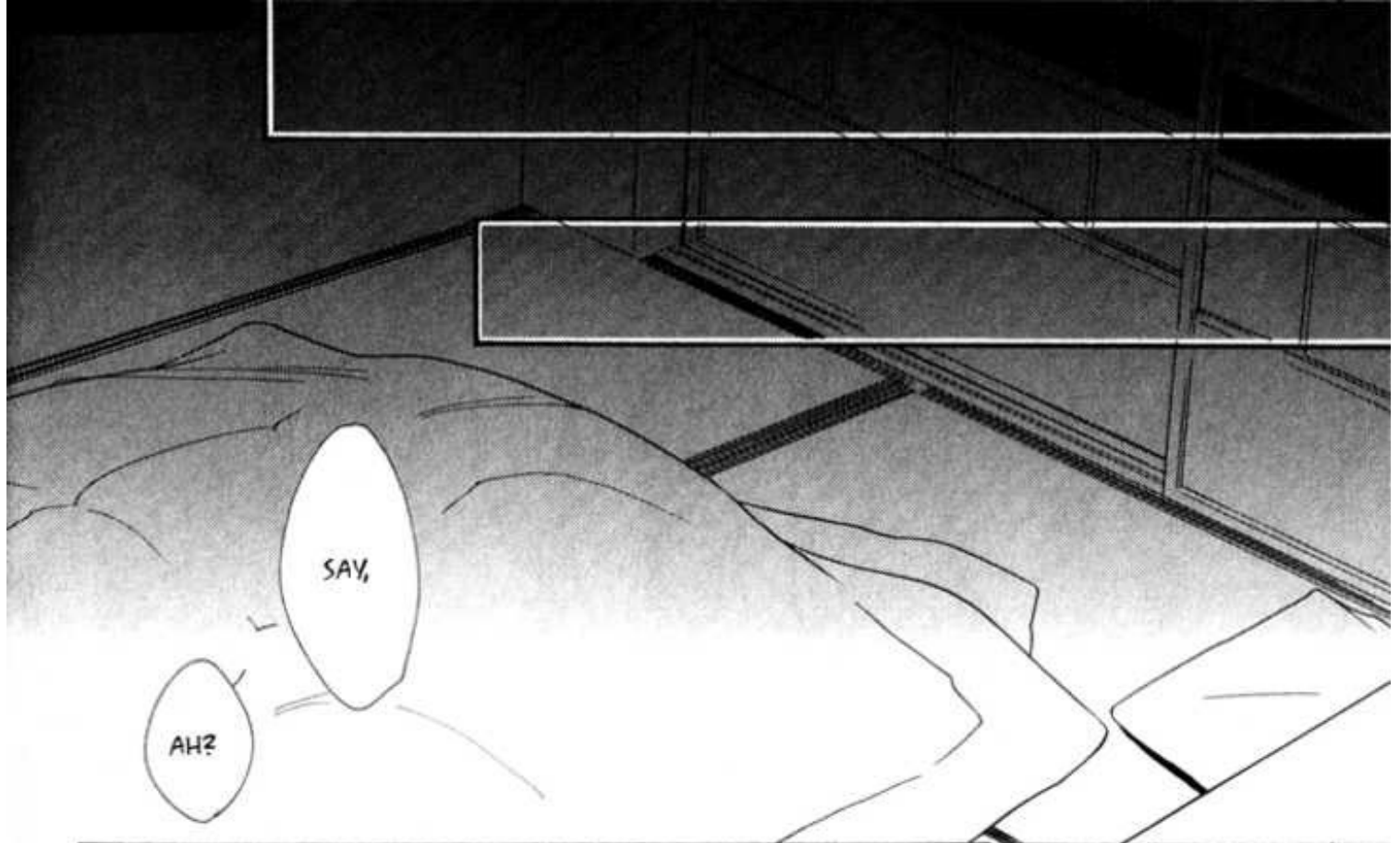
rustle

AH  
I

The bond  
between  
Akio and  
'death'  
weakened.







AH?

SAY,



REALLY?

heavy smoker

EVEN NOW I CAN SMELL IT.

DIDNT YOU SAY YOU'D STOP?

AND YOU WERE STINKING OF SMOKE.



WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN ALOT OF THINKING PREVENTS YOU

FROM SLEEPING?



JUST HAVE SOMETHING SWEET WHEN THAT HAPPENS-

bite

ITS THE LAST PUFF IT'S AS IF MY MOUTH HAD WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS-

smiff

stiff

placc



I DRINK SAKE.

ah

ANYWAY, THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE DRINKING SAKE.

pff



THEY DO-

...MALE PARTNERS DON'T COUNT.

GREAT, I EVEN GOT MY FIRST KISS!



HM, IT TASTES LIKE STRAWBERRY.

Precise



THIS...

THIS IS A BURNING CONFESSION.



OH YAY, DON'T FORGET IN YOUR NOVEL TO SAY,

MY FIRST KISS WAS WITH HARUYUKI!

...

I'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP WRITING.

DON'T WORRY DON'T WORRY,

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT IT. I'M ONLY AN AMATEUR, DON'T RASIE YOUR EXPECTATIONS.



huh? I'M LYING, I'M WAITING FOR IT IMPATIENTLY.

Okay then, the novel itself doesn't interest you.

YET, AS A NOVELIST, IT'S A SUBTLE ANSWER.



HARUYUKI,

I'D LIKE YOU TO ALWAYS THINK OF ME.





MORE.



The next day



!!  
Gone!

THE SUN'S  
ALREADY HIGH  
IN THE SKY...

When I  
opened  
my eyes,  
Akio wasn't  
there.



No way...

COULD IT  
BE HIM...  
WHO TOOK  
IT..?



RATTLE



he whispered  
only one thing  
'I'm afraid.'

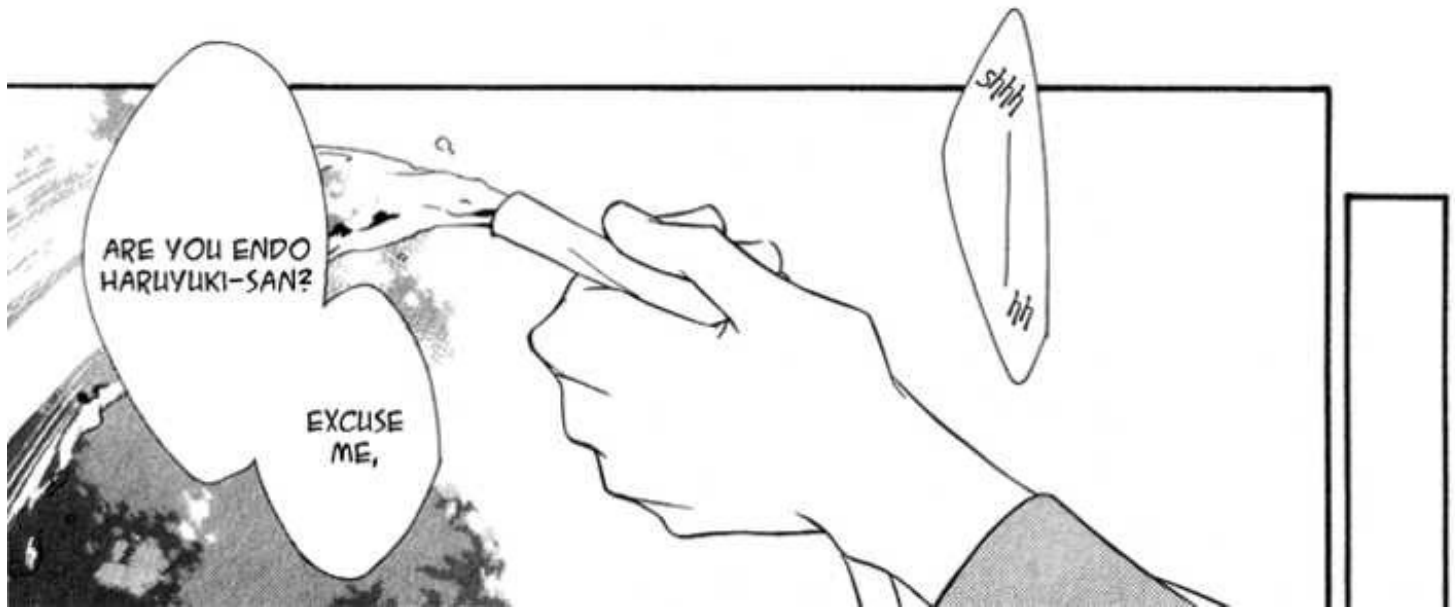
This was  
the only  
moment  
where he  
showed  
me his  
weakness.



SORRY,  
LET ME  
TOUCH IT.

Its a strange  
state of mind  
that such a  
thing is a  
support for  
Akio.

As he was  
falling asleep,



ARE YOU ENDO  
HARUYUKI-SAN?

EXCUSE  
ME,

stih

hi



I SAW YOU  
IN THE  
GARDEN.

I RANG THE  
DOORBELL  
BUT...

MY BAD,  
I DIDN'T  
NOTICE.

EXCUSE  
ME,

HUH, YOU'RE  
AKIO'S FATHER,  
AREN'T YOU?

NICE TO  
MEET  
YOU.



NO-  
HE LEFT A NOTE  
SO WE WOULD  
GIVE IT BACK.

AH, NO,  
I'M AT  
FAULT  
TOO.

I'M  
SORRY TO  
INTRODUCE  
MYSELF  
SO LATE.

IT SEEMS  
LIKE YOU  
TOOK CARE  
OF AKIO  
A LOT.

IT MUST  
BE DIFFICULT  
WITHOUT  
IT.

YES...  
I'VE COME  
TODAY TO  
GIVE YOU  
THIS  
BACK-

I HEARD THE  
OPERATION  
WAS A SUCCESS,  
HOW HAS  
HE BEEN  
DOING?

OOH-  
THIS COULD  
HAVE WAITED TIL  
HE CAME BACK  
FROM THE  
HOSPITAL.



DOESN'T  
REMEMBER  
ABOUT IT  
AT ALL.

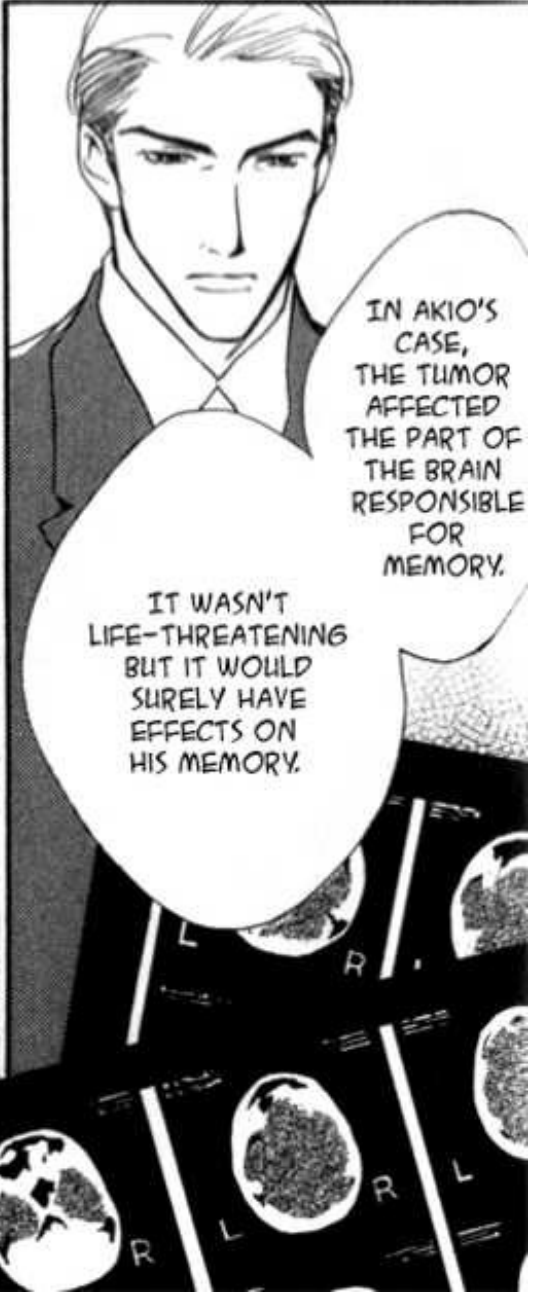
AKIO  
HIMSELF



HAD  
WORRIED  
ABOUT IT  
FOR A  
LONG  
TIME.

THAT  
KID,

WE COULDN'T  
SAY WHAT HE  
WOULD REMEMBER OR  
FORGET BEFORE  
THE ACTUAL END  
OF THE  
OPERATION.



IN AKIO'S  
CASE,  
THE TUMOR  
AFFECTED  
THE PART OF  
THE BRAIN  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR  
MEMORY.

IT WASN'T  
LIFE-THREATENING  
BUT IT WOULD  
SURELY HAVE  
EFFECTS ON  
HIS MEMORY.

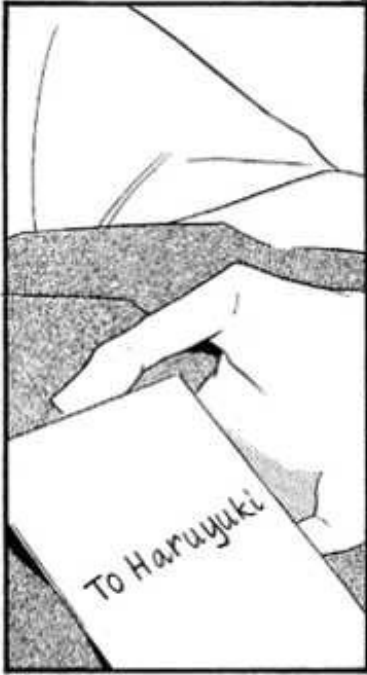
So that's  
what ~~die~~  
meant, huh?

Ahh...

shuu  
shuu  
shuu



Akio says  
he doesn't  
know my  
right hand.



krunk

Sorry  
I thought you'd better read this letter.  
Even though I'm trying my best now,

Sorry if i forgot about you in the middle.  
And sorry for bringing the 'right hand' on my  
own.

This kind of letter will probably confuse you.

Maybe it will make you laugh...  
I'm scared of the truth

I guess it's not very  
manly but it cannot be helped.  
Even if the  
operation will be a success

I wonder if I'll be able to

stay the same as I was before.

The me  
inside  
of you...

has died  
already,  
right?

Sorry  
I thought you'd better read this letter.  
Even though I'm trying my best now,  
sorry if I forgot about you in the middle.  
And sorry for bringing the 'right hand' on my own.  
This kind of letter will probably confuse you.

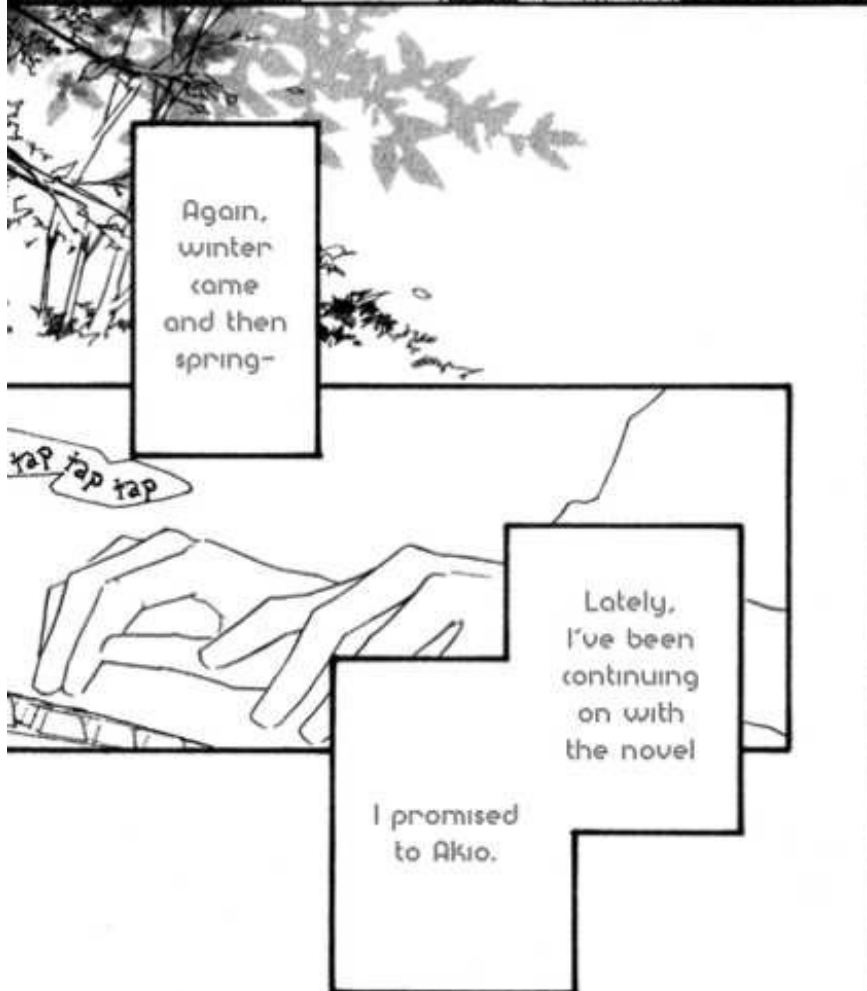


*pent*

*haa*



— Finally,



Again,  
winter  
came  
and then  
spring-

*tap tap tap*

Lately,  
I've been  
continuing  
on with  
the novel

I promised  
to Akio.



Thanks alot for  
treating me like a  
normal person...

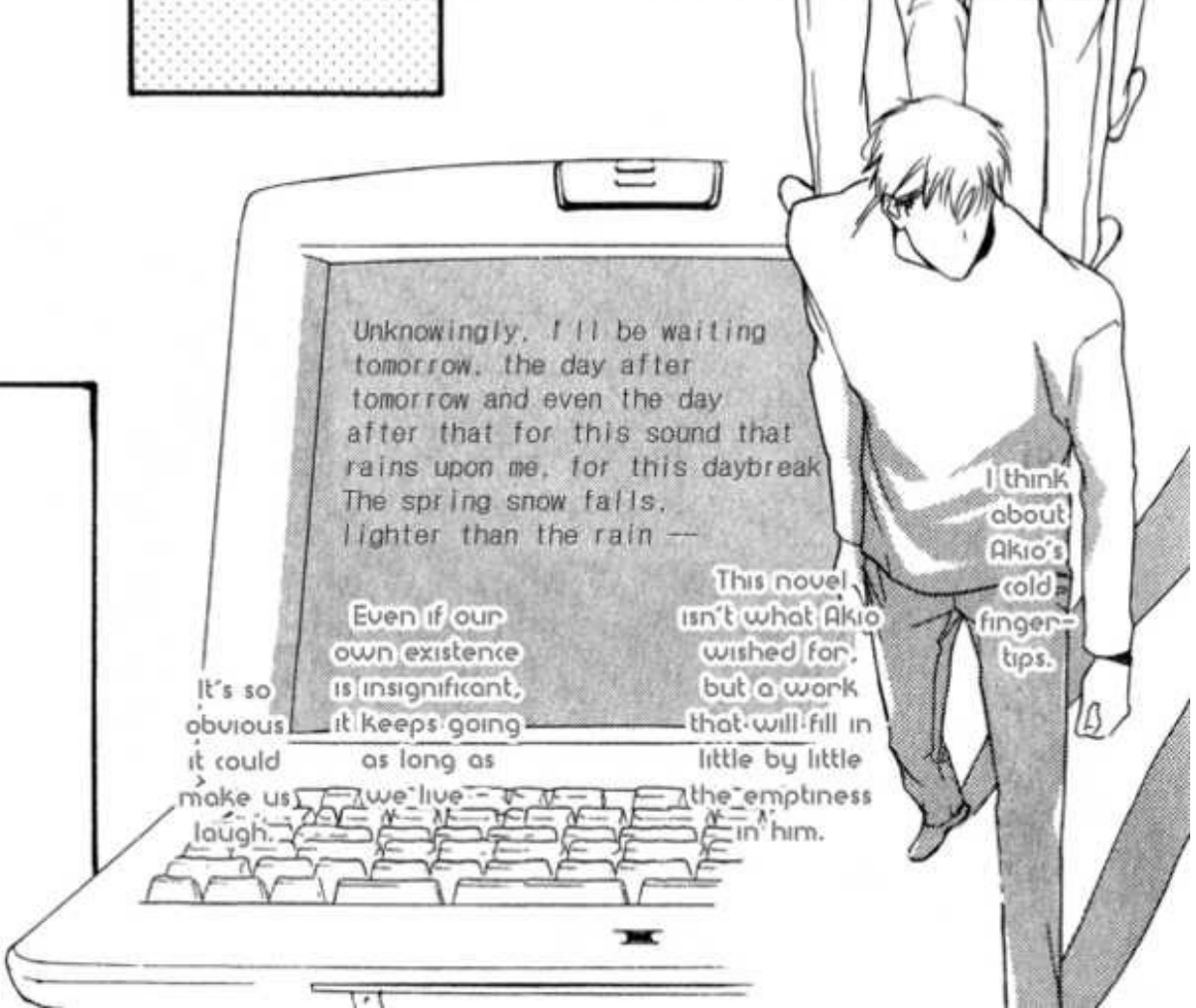
...and not a  
sick one.

I'D LIKE YOU TO ALWAYS THINK OF ME.



When I heard the piano from next door again, I cried a little

This strange free-unchanged sound.



Unknowingly, I'll be waiting tomorrow, the day after tomorrow and even the day after that for this sound that rains upon me, for this daybreak The spring snow falls, lighter than the rain --

Even if our own existence is insignificant, it keeps going as long as

This novel isn't what Akio wished for, but a work that will fill in little by little the emptiness in him.

It's so obvious it could make us laugh.

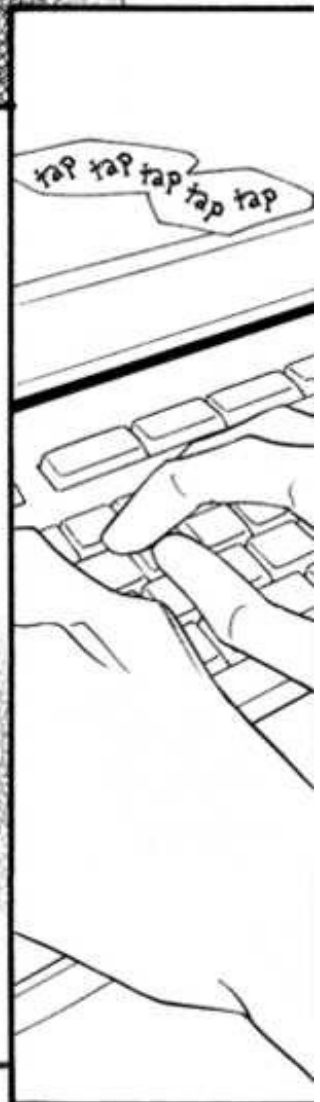
I think about Akio's cold fingertips.

we live - the emptiness in him.



And

it repeats itself.



tap tap tap tap tap

HI,  
THIS MUSIC  
IS VERY  
NICE.

Music at the Break of Dawn/END