

# 帰郷 COMING HOME



MASASHI!

I'M STILL 29, MOM.

YOU'RE ALREADY 30 YEARS OLD.

MASASHI, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.

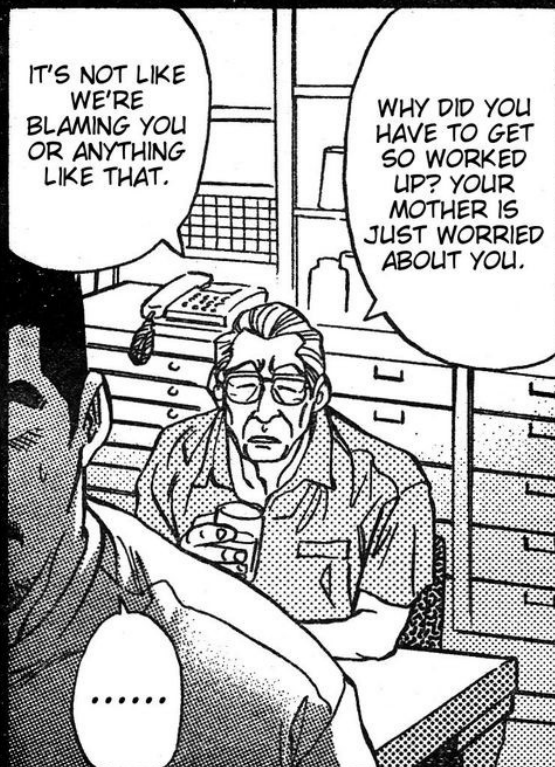


I...

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



I'M...

I'M GAY.



DAD...  
MOM...

EH?

# 帰郷 COMING HOME



I'M HOME!

GO FUJIMOTO

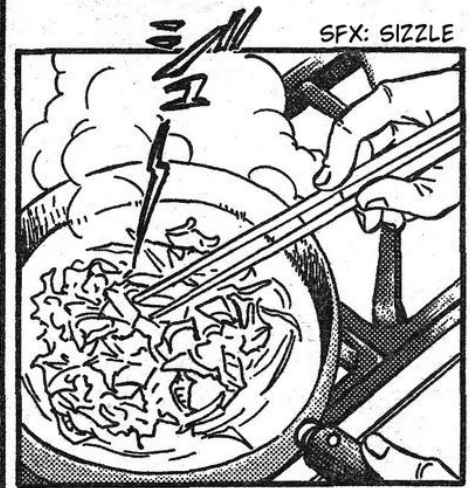
# 藤本郷



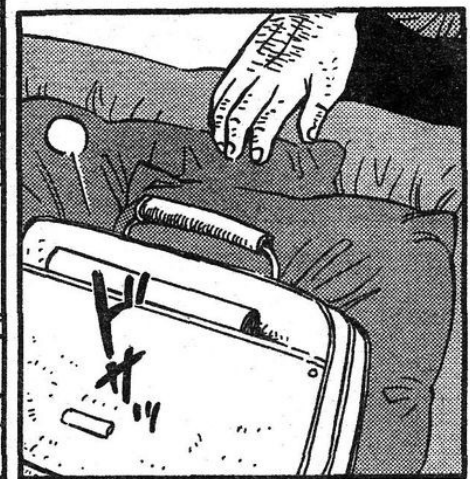
I SAID, "I'M HOME!"

HAHAHA! WELCOME BACK!

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

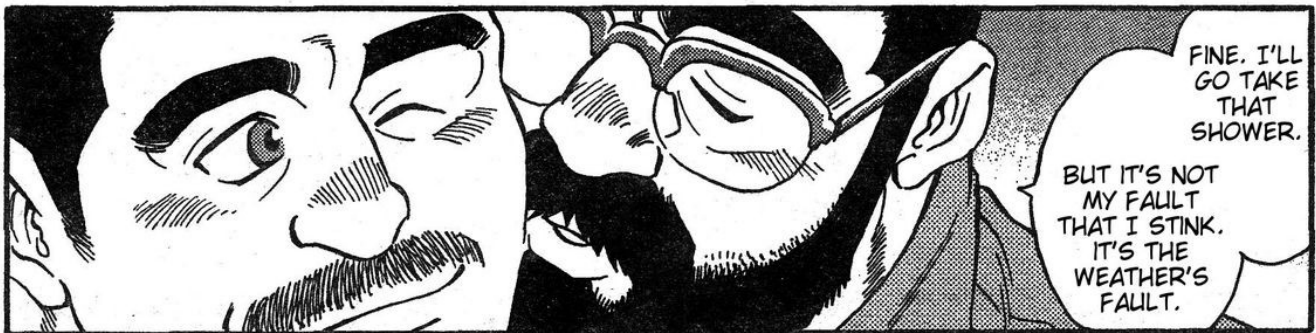


SFX: SIZZLE



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.

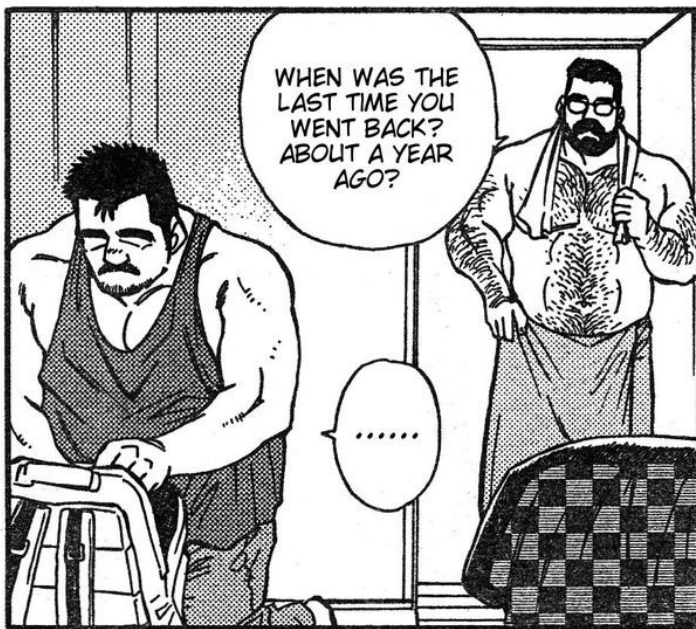


SFX: RINGING



DAD...

HE PASSED AWAY...?



WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT BACK? ABOUT A YEAR AGO?

.....



SFX: FLOMP



HE WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

HE HAD A STROKE.



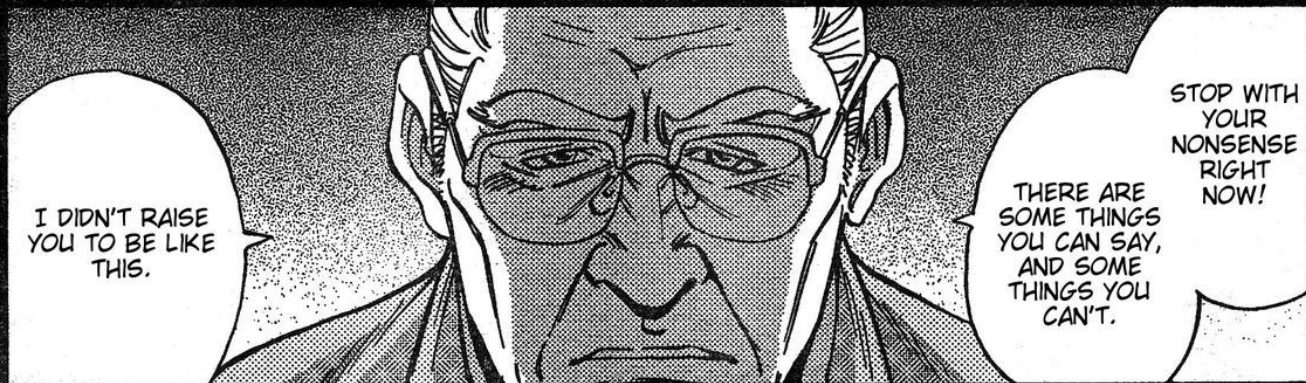
GAY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE GAY, MASASHI?

I'M SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO GUYS, MOM. I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS. BUT THERE'S THIS GUY I'M IN LOVE WITH. WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR SOME TIME.

THAT'S WHY I...



SFX: SPLASH



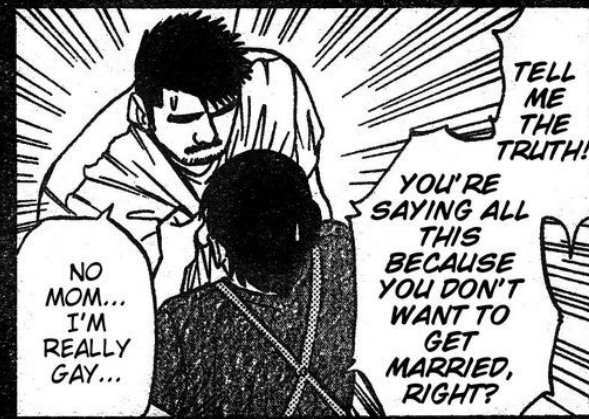
I DIDN'T RAISE YOU TO BE LIKE THIS.

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...

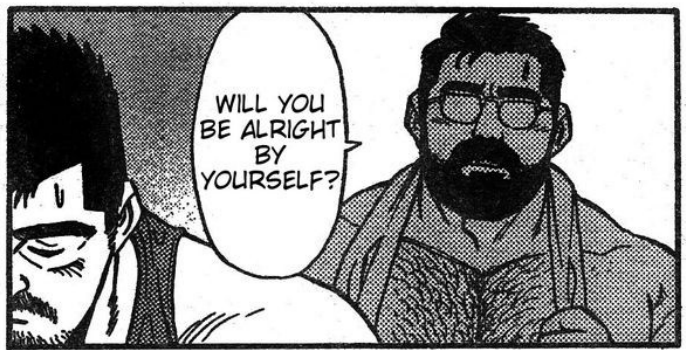
TELL ME THE TRUTH!  
YOU'RE SAYING ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED, RIGHT?

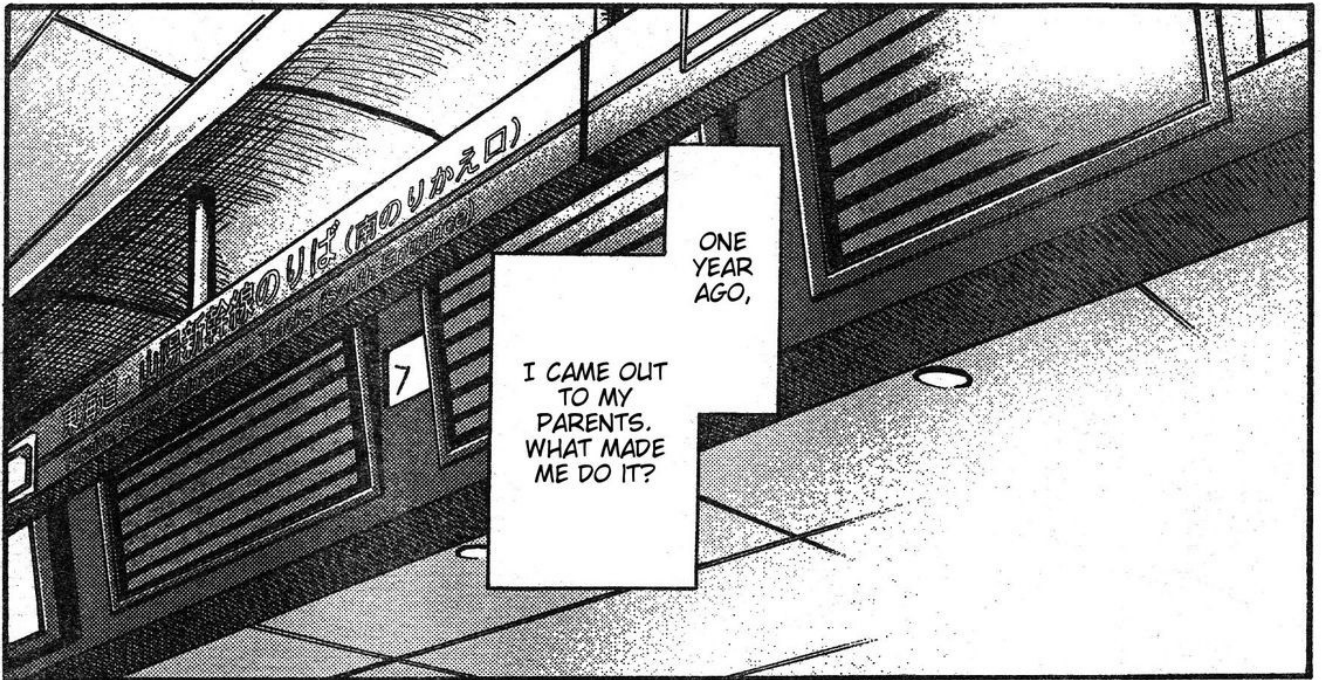


HAS IT REALLY BEEN THAT LONG?



MASA... SHI...

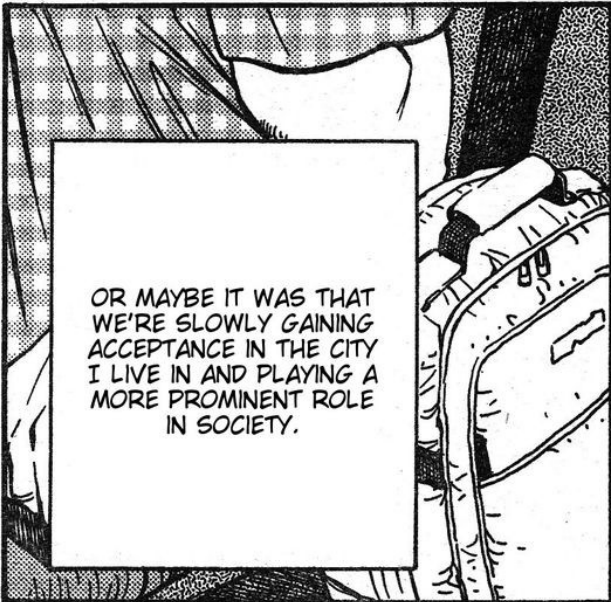




ONE  
YEAR  
AGO,

I CAME OUT  
TO MY  
PARENTS.  
WHAT MADE  
ME DO IT?

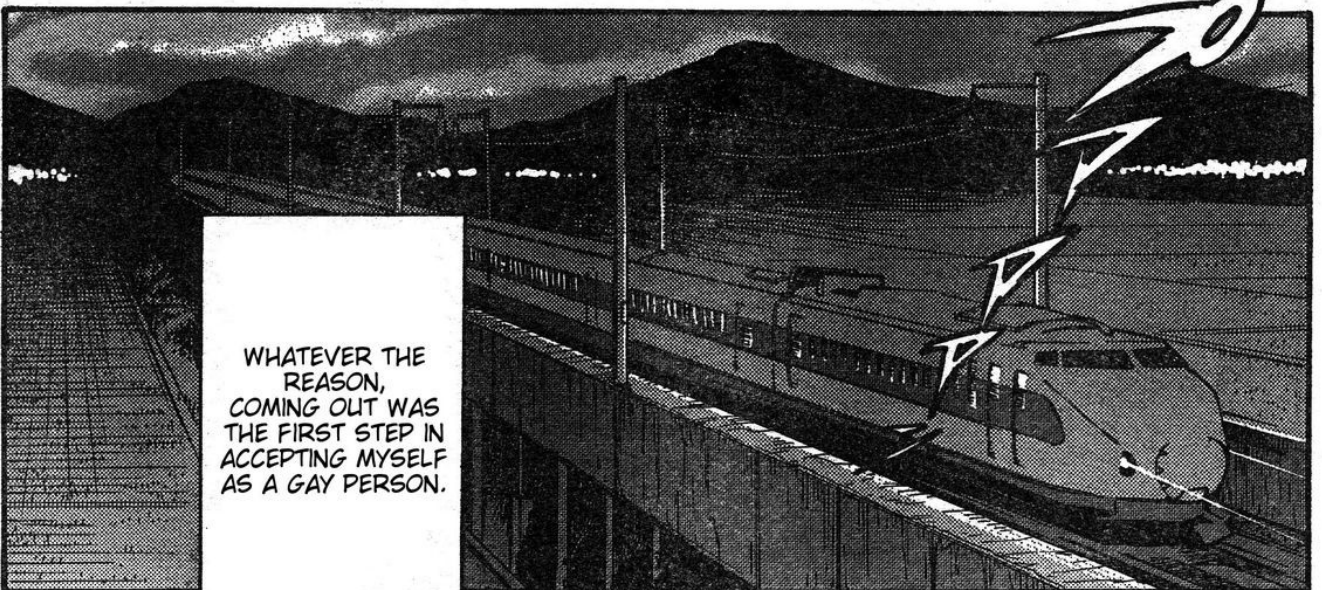
SIGN: TOKAIDO SANYO SHINKANSEN TRACKS (SOUTH ENTRANCE)



OR MAYBE IT WAS THAT  
WE'RE SLOWLY GAINING  
ACCEPTANCE IN THE CITY  
I LIVE IN AND PLAYING A  
MORE PROMINENT ROLE  
IN SOCIETY.

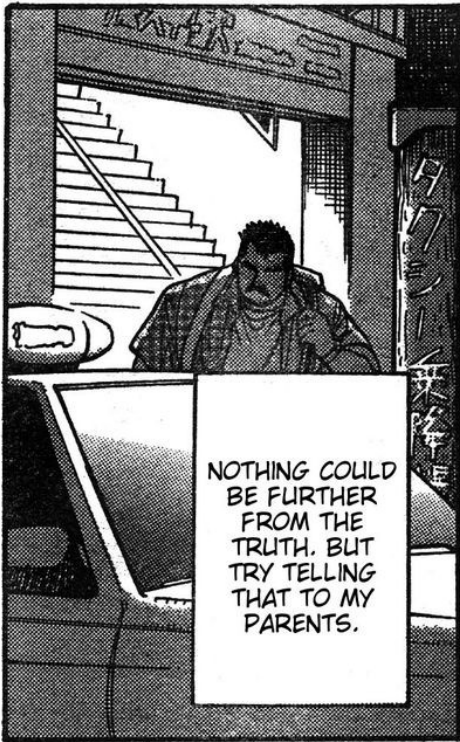


MAYBE IT WAS THE  
HEAVY BURDEN I  
FELT WHEN MY  
MOTHER BROACHED  
THE SUBJECT OF  
MARRIAGE EVERY  
TIME I WENT BACK  
FOR A VISIT.

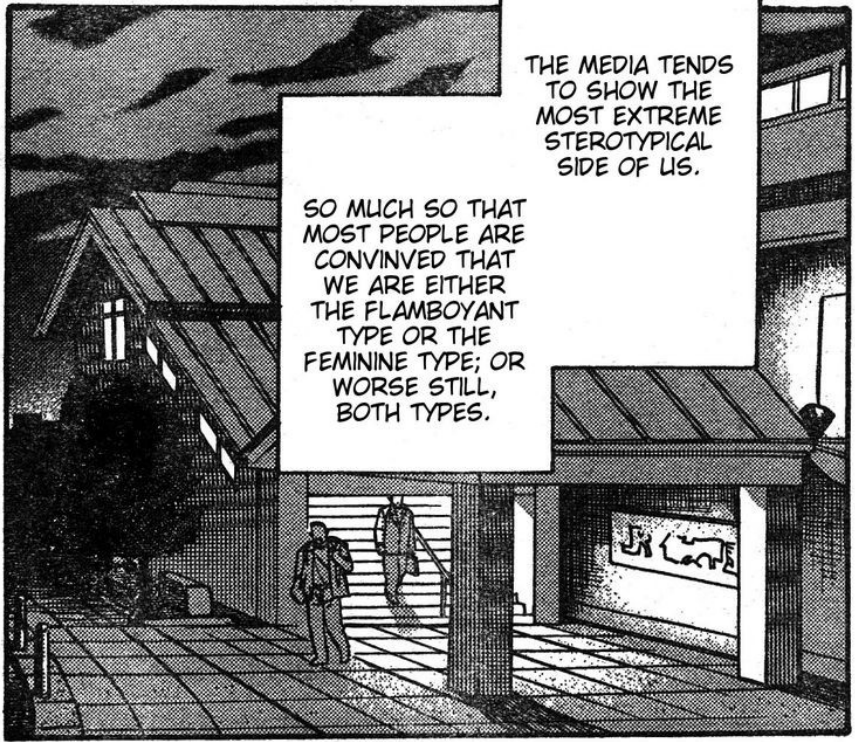


WHATEVER THE  
REASON,  
COMING OUT WAS  
THE FIRST STEP IN  
ACCEPTING MYSELF  
AS A GAY PERSON.

SFX: VRRROOM



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



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.

SIGN: TAXI STAND

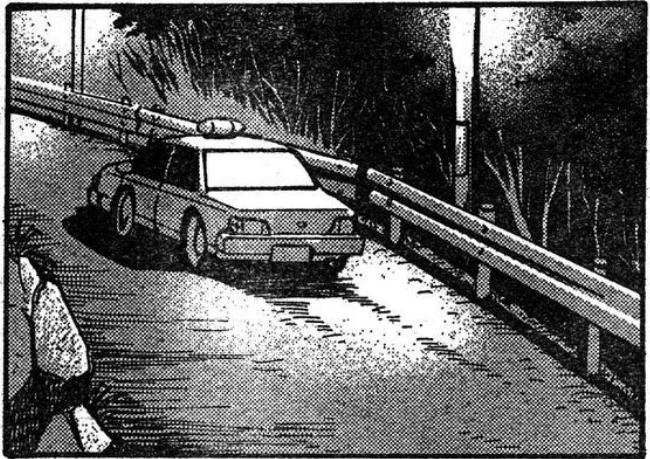


IN REALITY, MOST OF US ARE JUST NORMAL PEOPLE.

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.

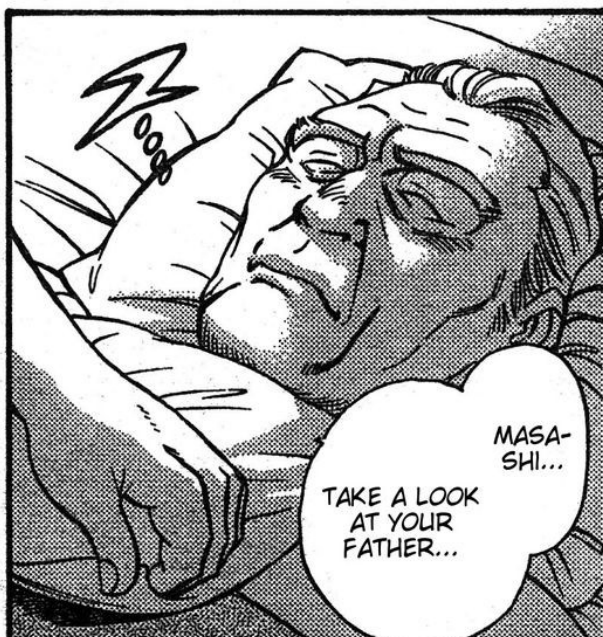
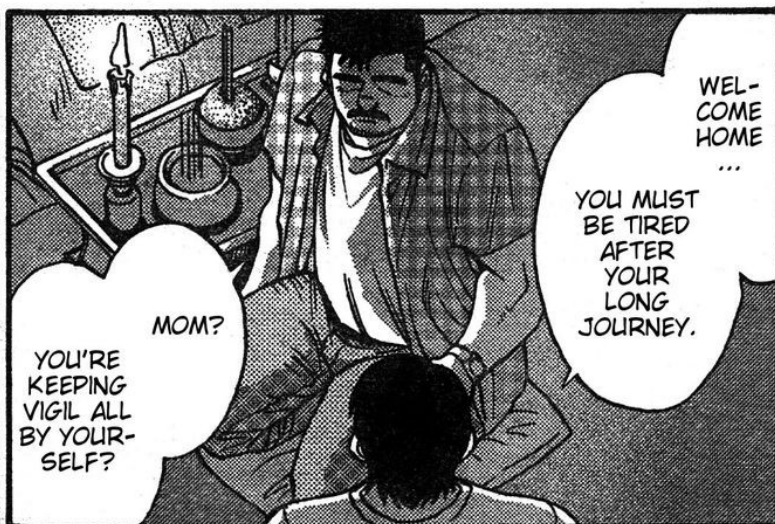
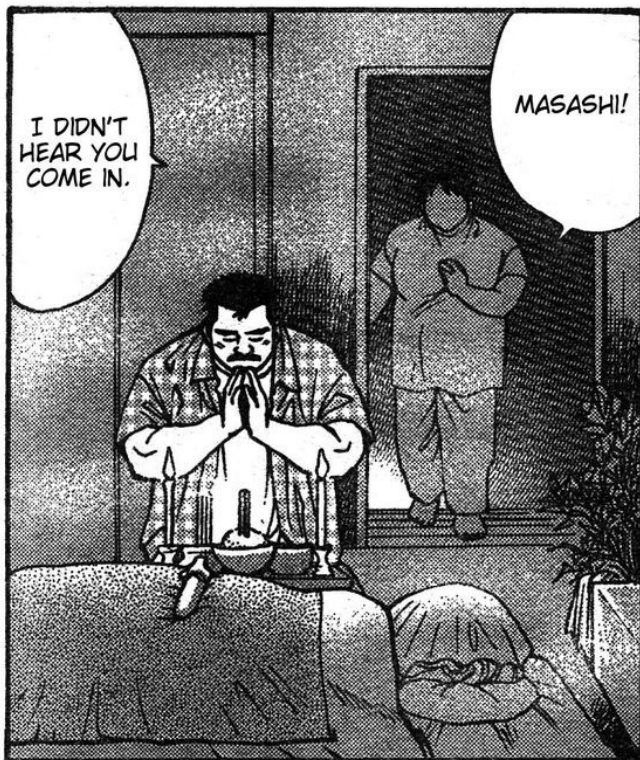
BUT WHY MUST WE ALSO BE CAST OUT BY OUR OWN PARENTS?

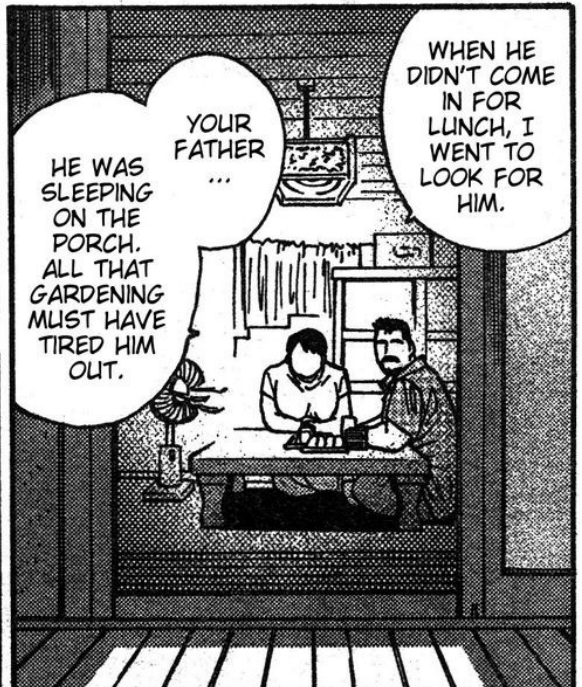
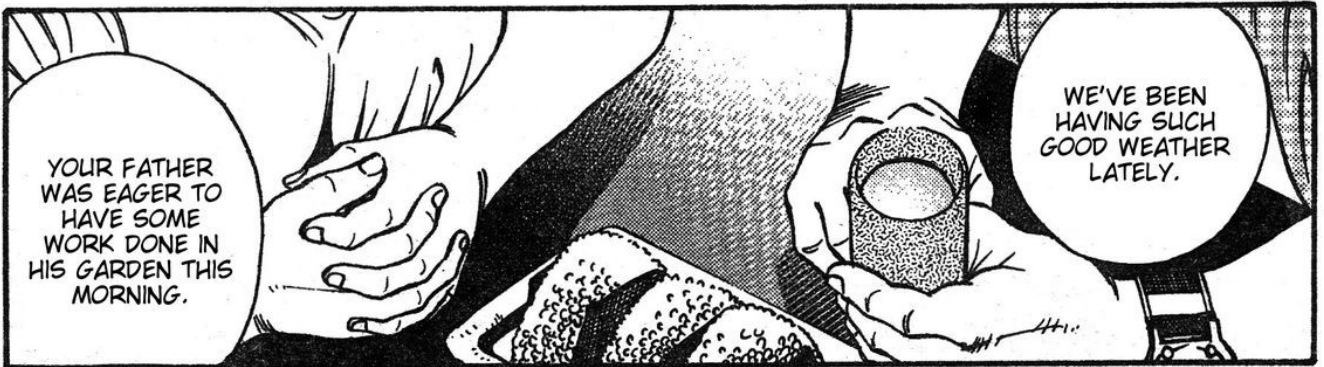
SIGN: BEFORE THE SPIRIT OF THE DECEASED



I DON'T KNOW WHY.

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







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.

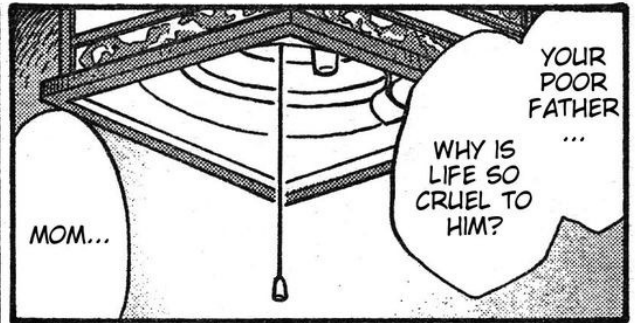
AFTER YOUR FATHER'S RETIREMENT,

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



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!



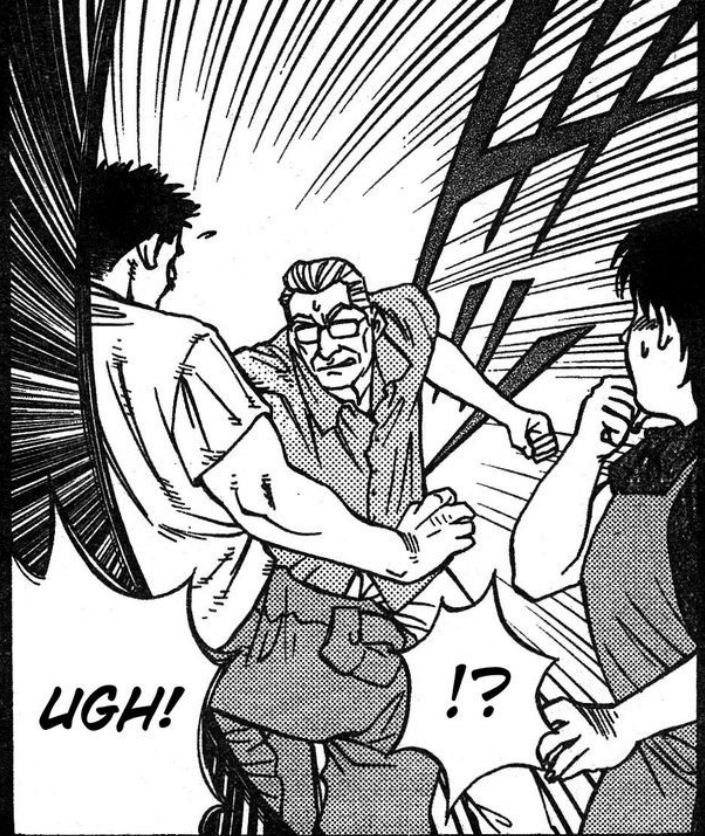
HUBBY, DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD!

AND MASASHI! APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FATHER NOW!

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY? I'M AN EMBARRASSMENT TO YOU JUST BECAUSE I'M GAY?



SFX: CRASH



SFX: SLAM



IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO ME AND AN INEXCUSABLE BEHAVIOR IN SOCIETY.

THE SON I BROUGHT UP WITH MY OWN HANDS... HE IS IN LOVE WITH A MAN.



GET OUT OF HERE WHILE I'M STILL IN CONTROL OF MYSELF.



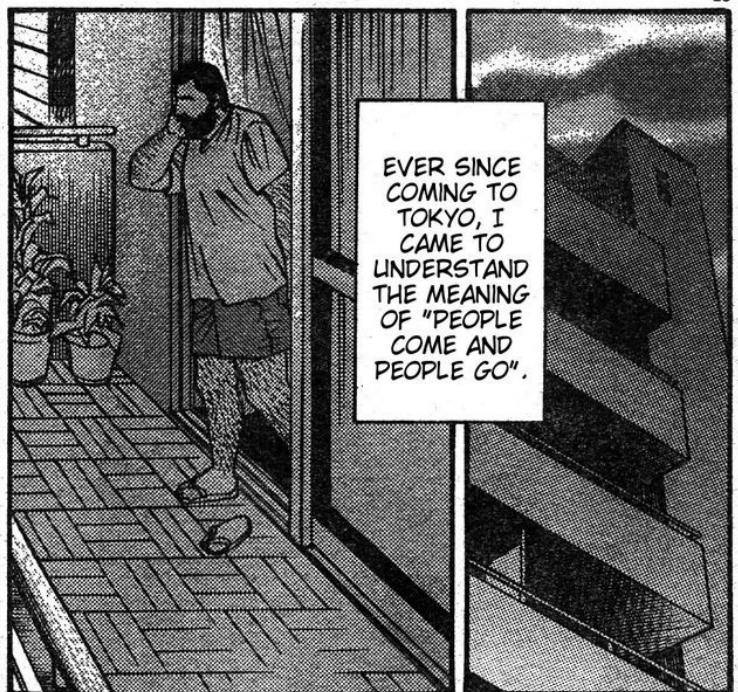


I KNOW PEOPLE WHO HAD CAME OUT TO THEIR FAMILIES.

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.



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



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



I WOULD MARRY HIM IN A HEARTBEAT.

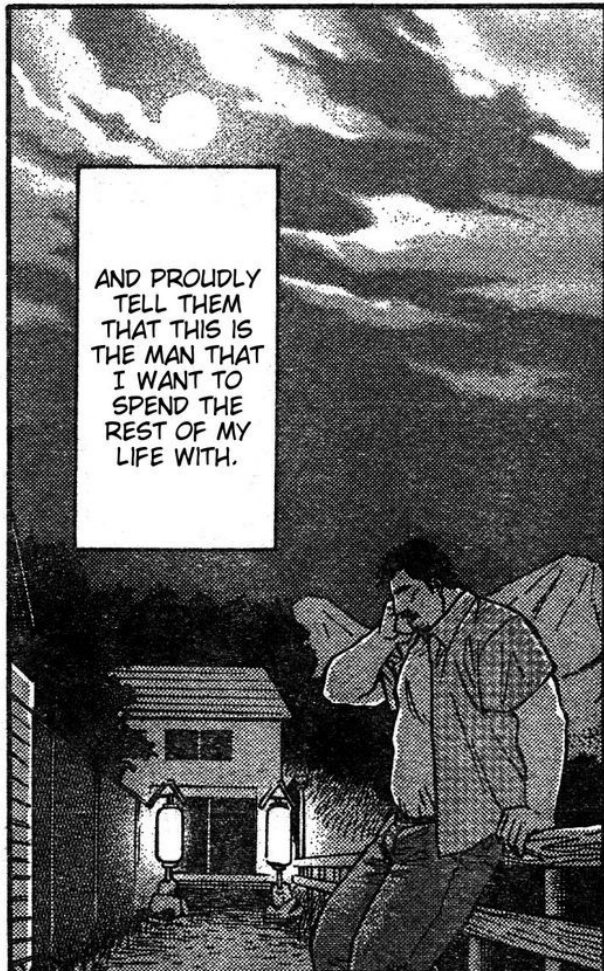
AKIRA-SAN IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME IN THE WORLD.



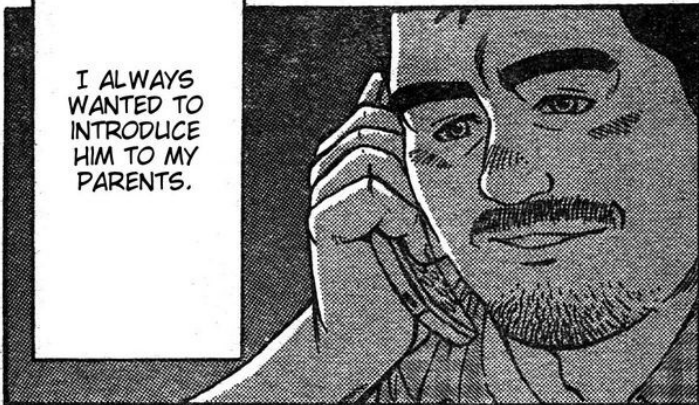
OUR MARRIAGE WILL NEVER BE RECOGNIZED BY LAW.



BUT I KNOW WE CAN'T...



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

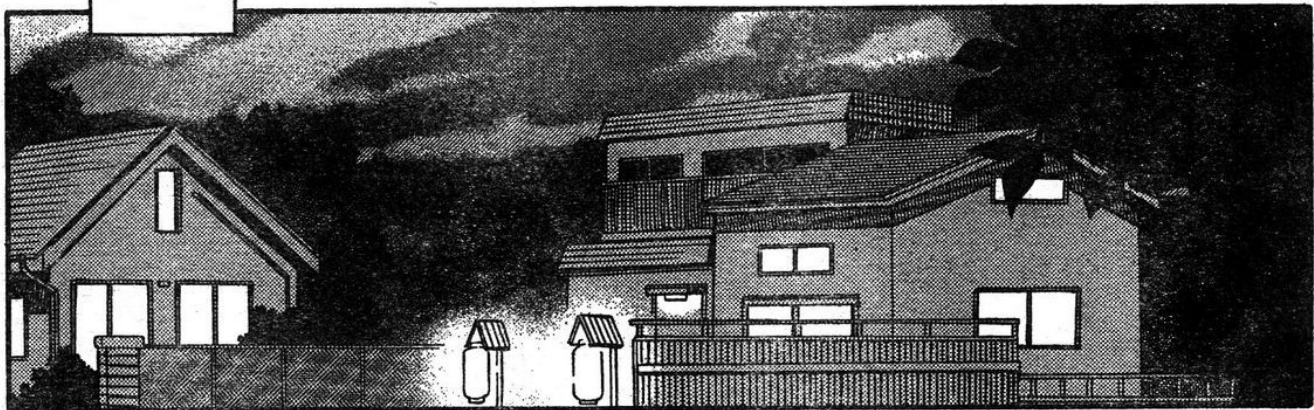


I ALWAYS WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIM TO MY PARENTS.



EACH TIME SHE SAW MY FATHER'S LIFELESS BODY, SHE COLLAPSED IN TEARS, HUGGING HIM, REFUSING TO LET GO.

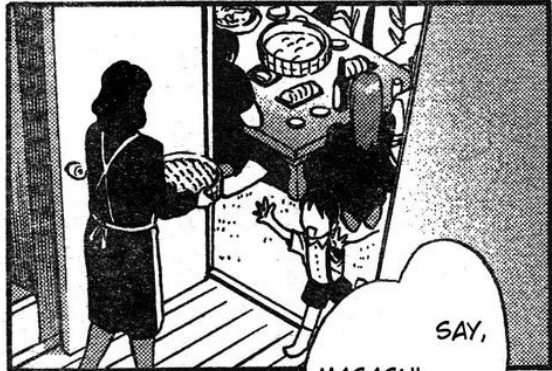
THE WAKE WAS HELD THE NEXT DAY. MY MOTHER WAS UNABLE TO CONTROL HER EMOTIONS.



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?



T..THAT'S RIGHT...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HARU-CHAN?



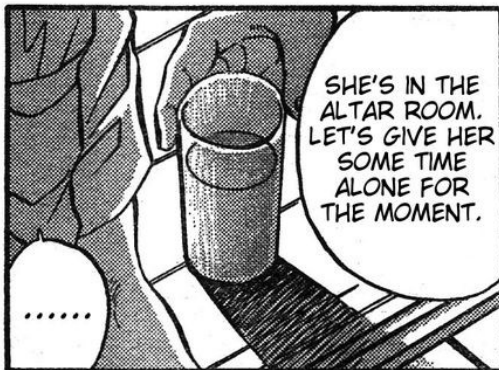
IF YOU WANT, I CAN HELP WITH MATCH-MAKING.

YOU REALLY SHOULD START LOOKING FOR A WIFE.



AND HERE WE GO AGAIN, RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART.

.....



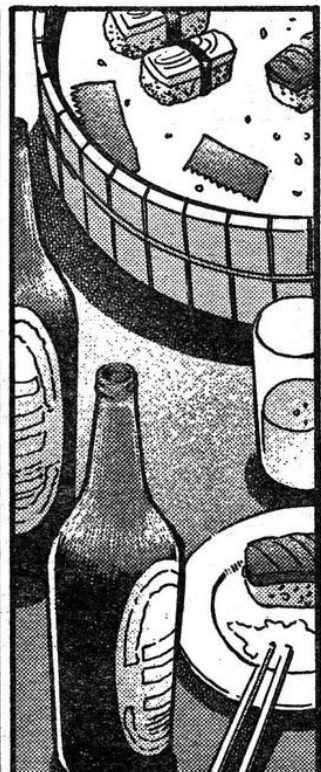
.....

SHE'S IN THE ALTAR ROOM. LET'S GIVE HER SOME TIME ALONE FOR THE MOMENT.



THANKS, AUNTIE. BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MOM?

FINALLY... THE LAST OF THE GUESTS HAD LEFT.



YES?

AUNTIE...



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

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



.....

I...  
DO I REALLY HAVE TO MOVE BACK HERE?



AND YES, I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT YOU...

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



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

HUH?



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

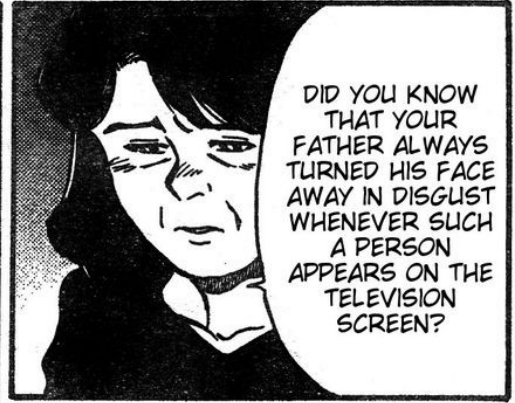
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MY SON ALWAYS HAS BEEN A CONSIDERATE AND UNDERSTANDING CHILD.  
I'M SURE HE'LL COME AROUND EVENTUALLY.

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

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





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?



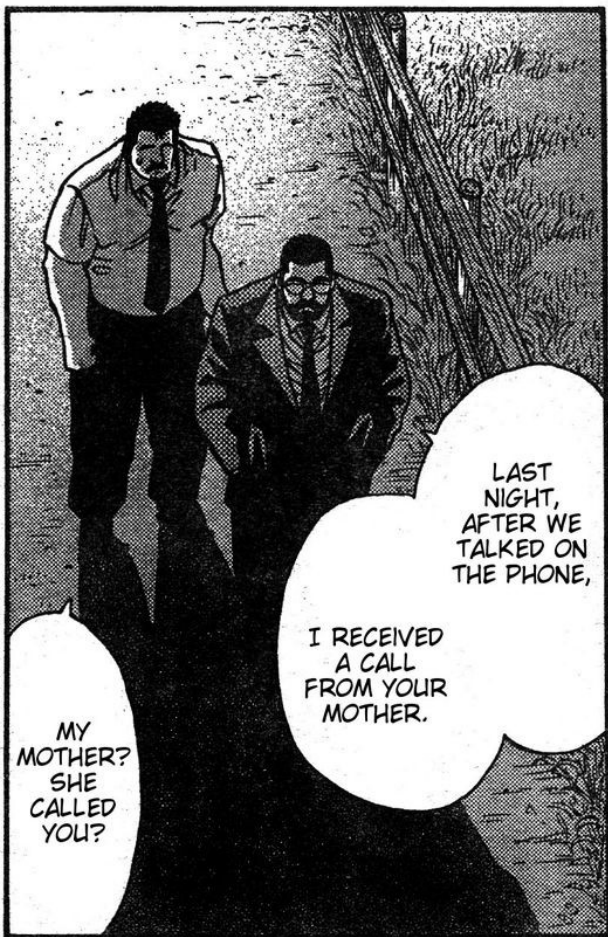
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING.

AKIRA-SAN!



SFX: SMILE







A...AND SO YOU...

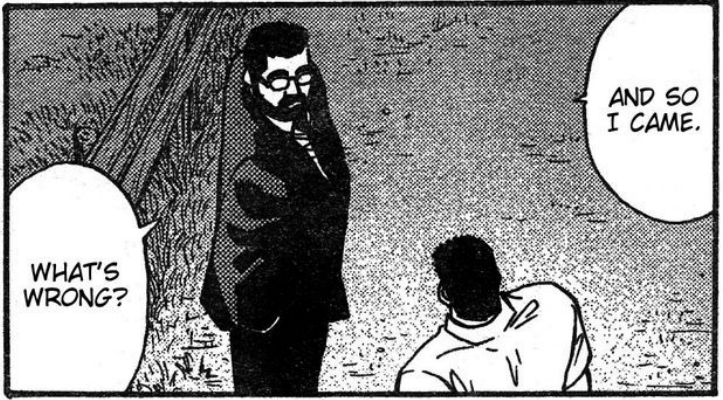


SHE TOLD ME THAT IF I'M GOING TO BE IN THIS RELATIONSHIP FOR THE LONG TERM, I SHOULD BE HERE.



UH HUH...

COME HERE, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.



WHAT'S WRONG?

AND SO I CAME.



NOTHING ...



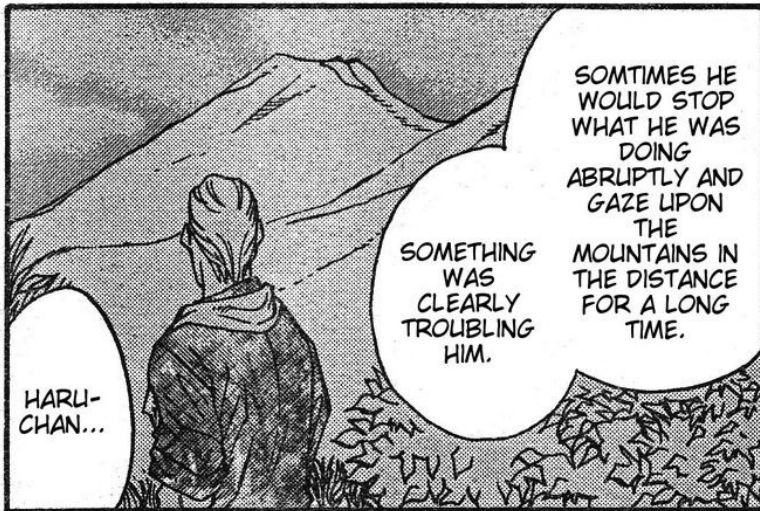
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WHY DID YOU INVITE HIM?



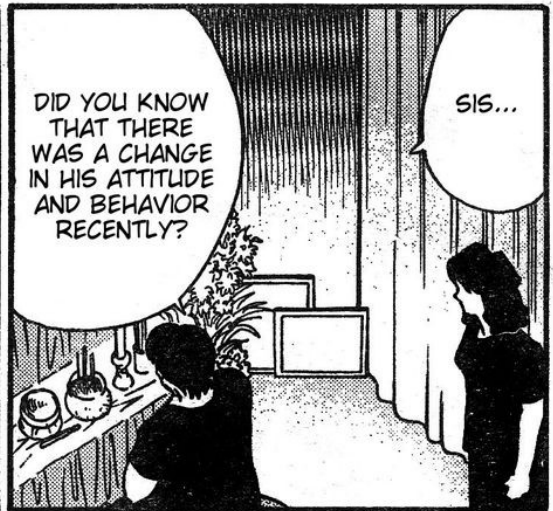
HARU-CHAN...



HARU-CHAN...

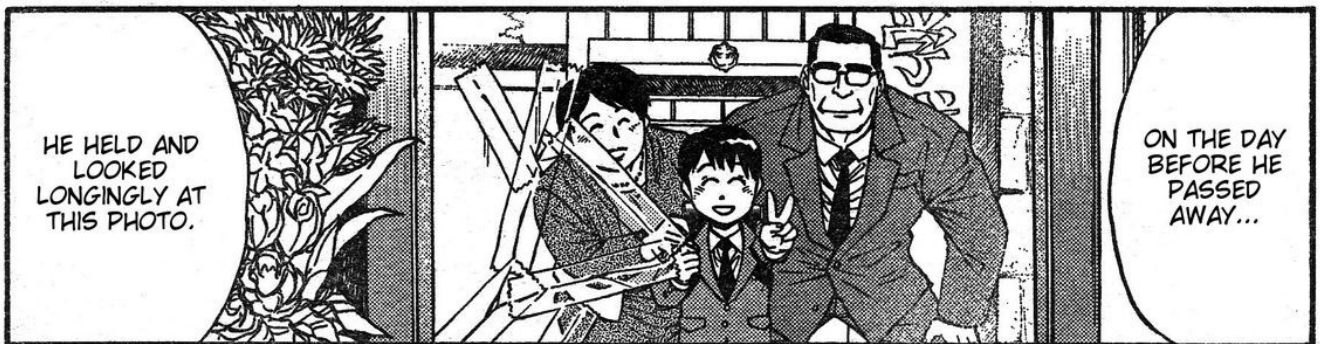
SOMETHING WAS CLEARLY TROUBLING HIM.

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



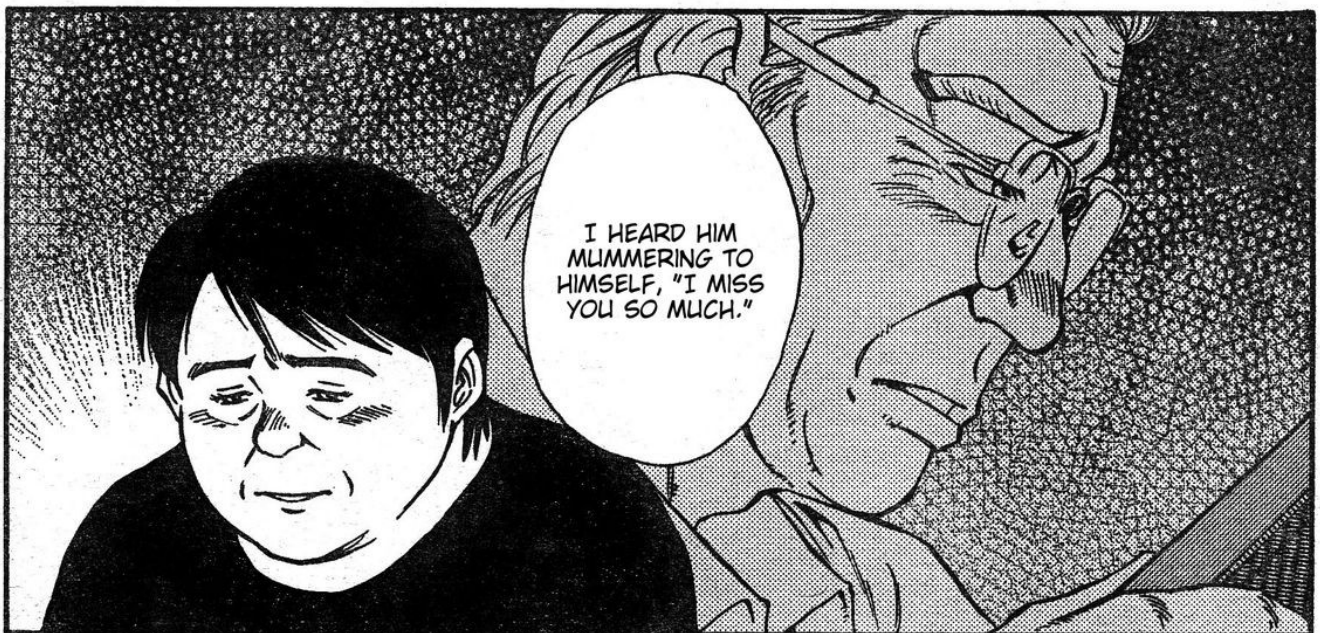
SIS...

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 MUMMURING 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?"



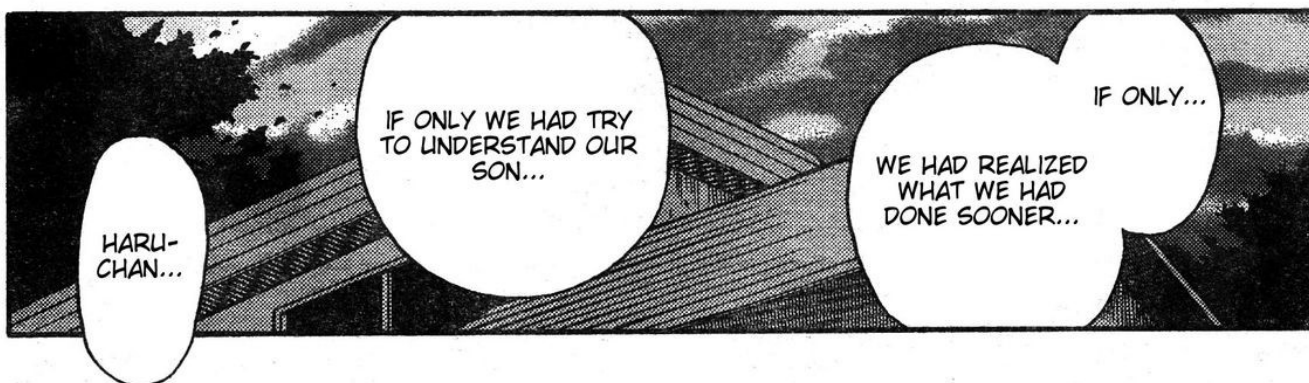
BUT...

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...

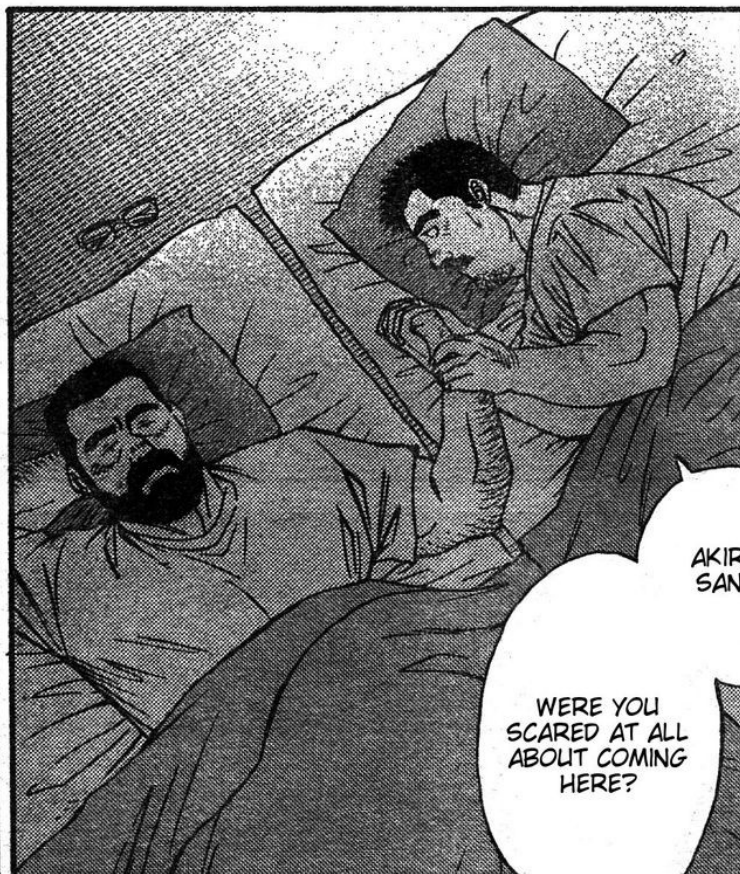
IF ONLY WE HAD TRY TO UNDERSTAND OUR SON...

IF ONLY...

WE HAD REALIZED WHAT WE HAD DONE SOONER...



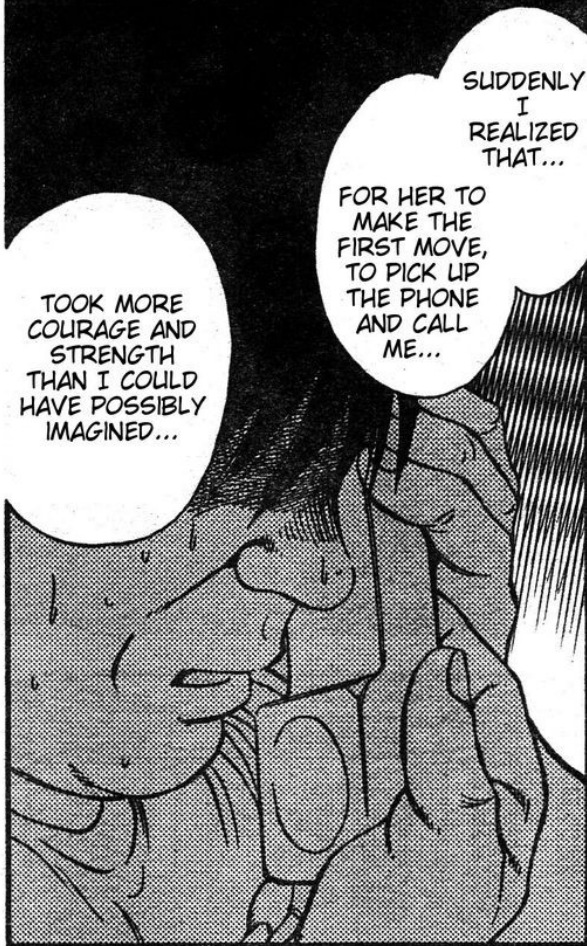
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WERE YOU SCARED AT ALL ABOUT COMING HERE?



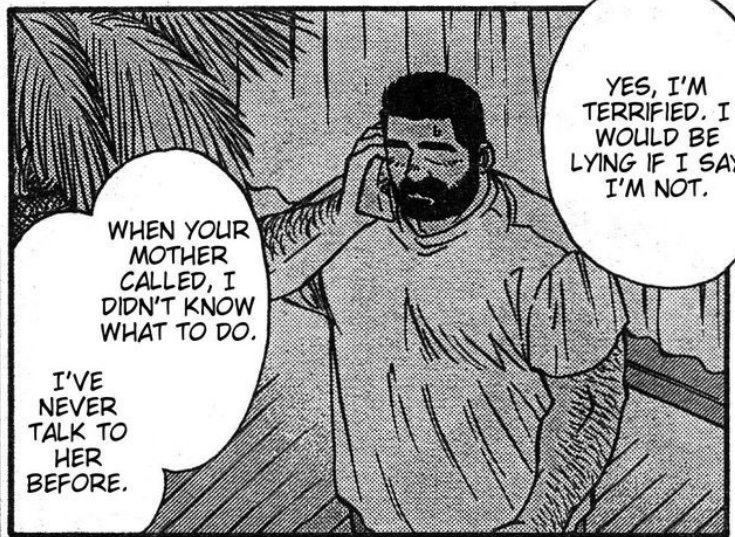
AKIRA-SAN...



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...



I'VE NEVER TALK TO HER BEFORE.

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

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



HER VOICE STARTED TO FALTER.

BUT THEN ...



MASA-SHI.

LISTEN,



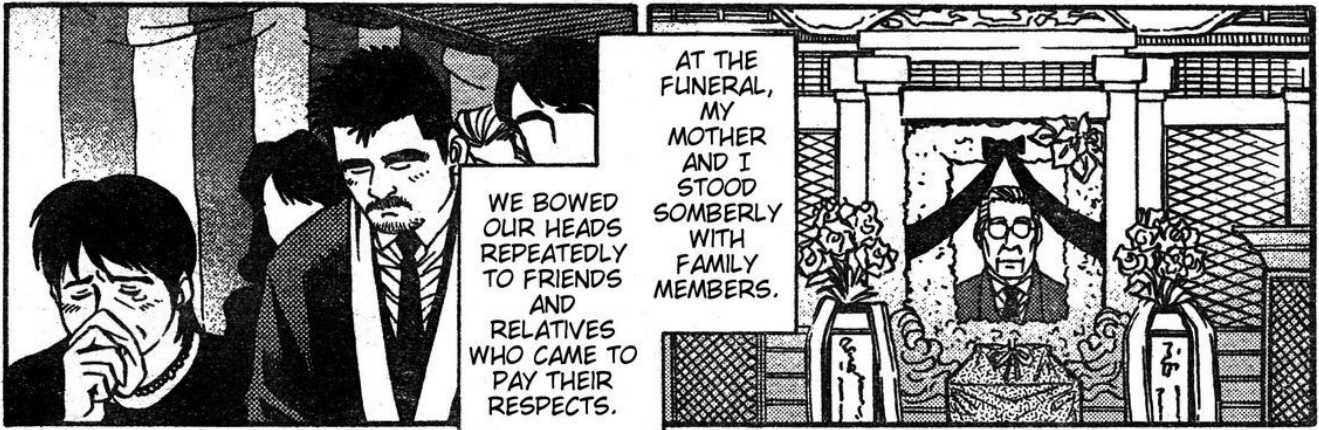
FOR YOU AND FOR ME.

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



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.



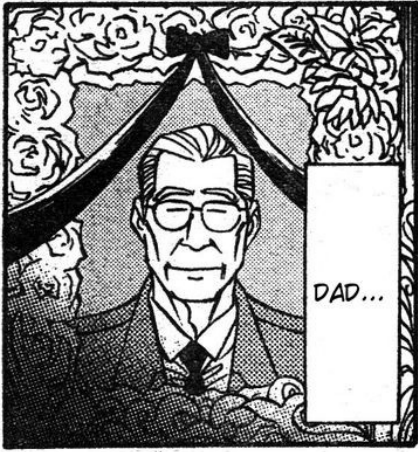
THEY ASKED MY MOTHER WHO HE WAS. BUT SHE POLITELY DECLINED TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTION.

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...



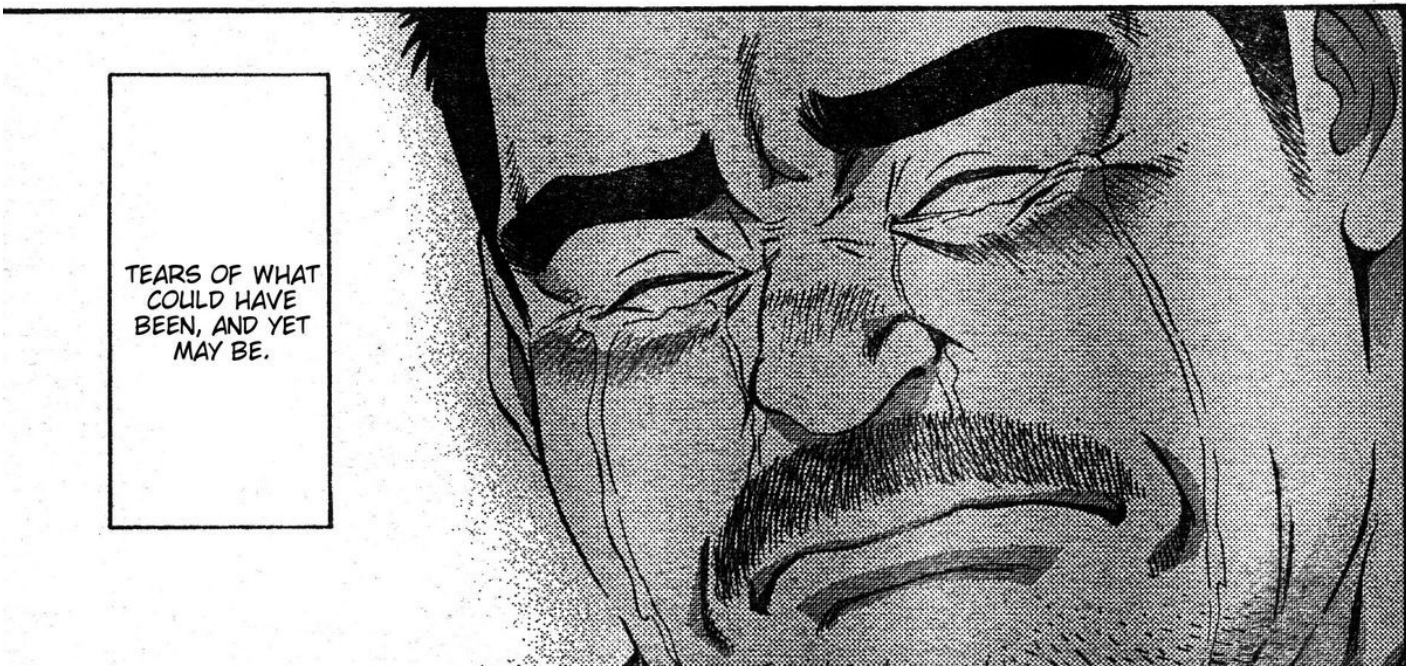
AKIRA-SAN...



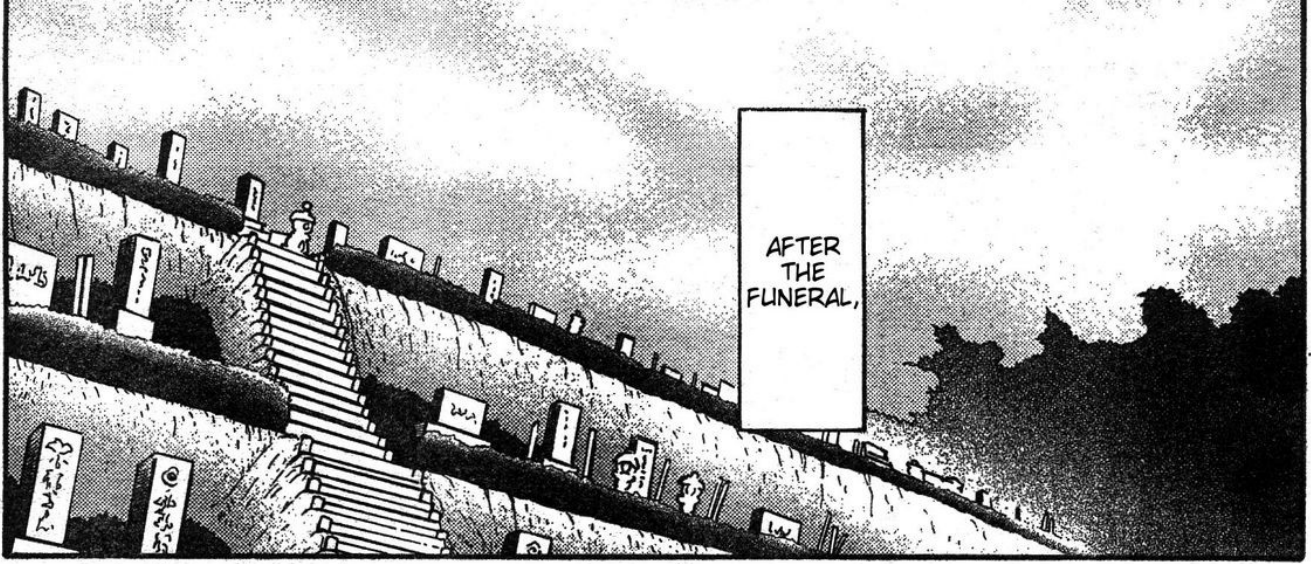
TEARS THAT WOULD NOT STOP.

MY EYES WERE FILLED WITH TEARS.

I FOUND MYSELF CRYING.



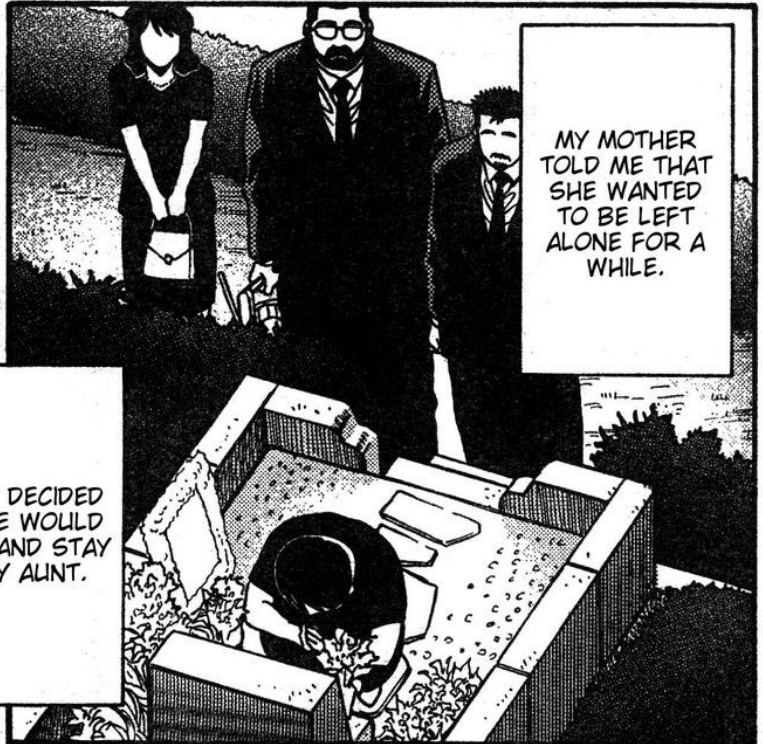
TEARS OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, AND YET MAY BE.



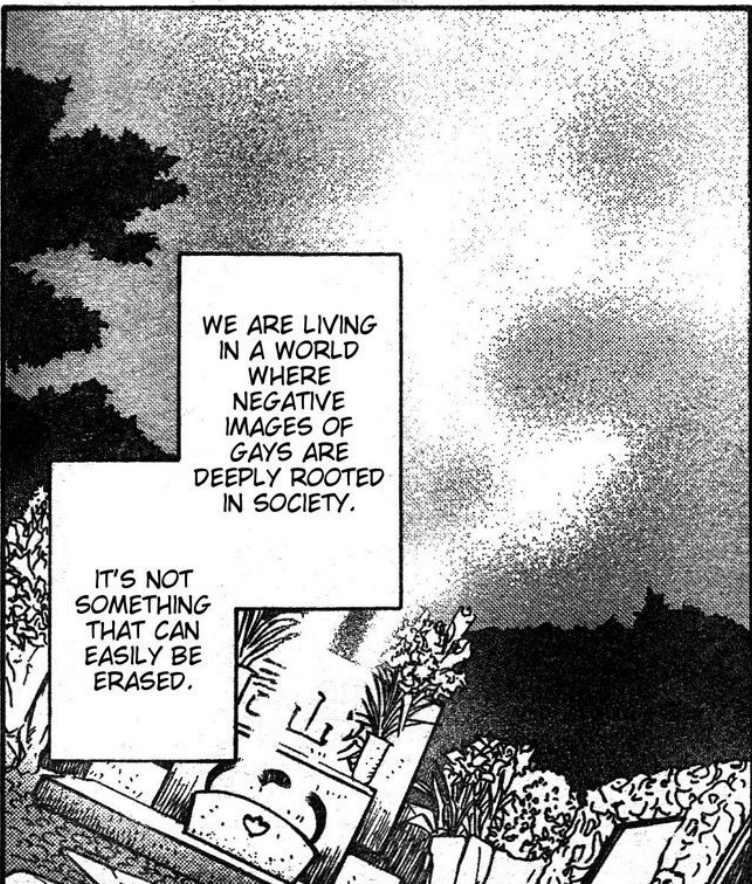
AFTER THE FUNERAL,



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.

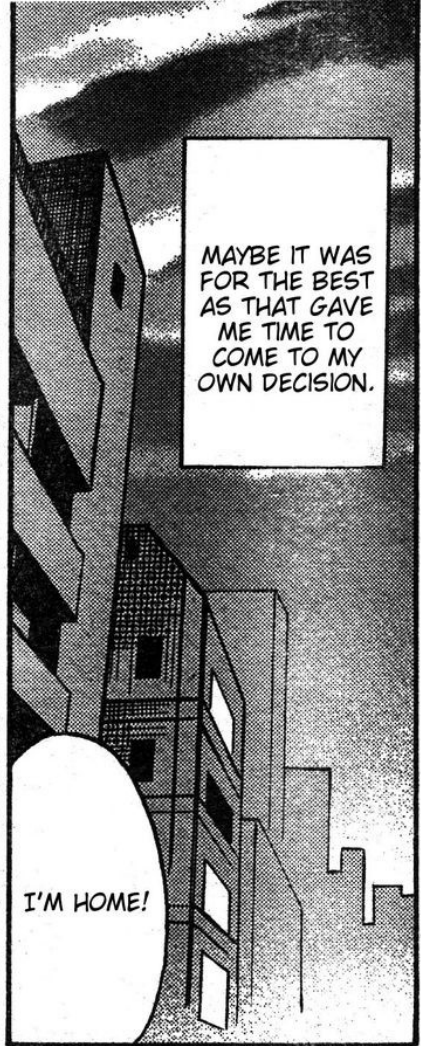


WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE NEGATIVE IMAGES OF GAYS ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN SOCIETY.

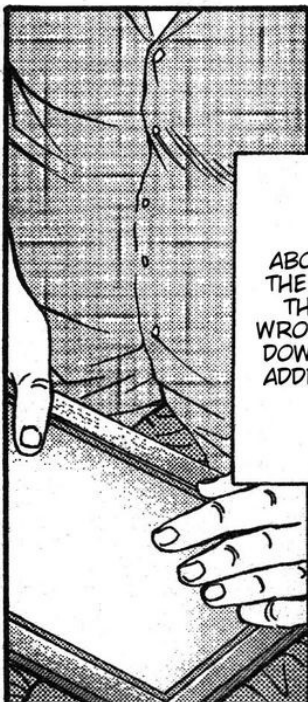
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN EASILY BE ERASED.



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



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  
...

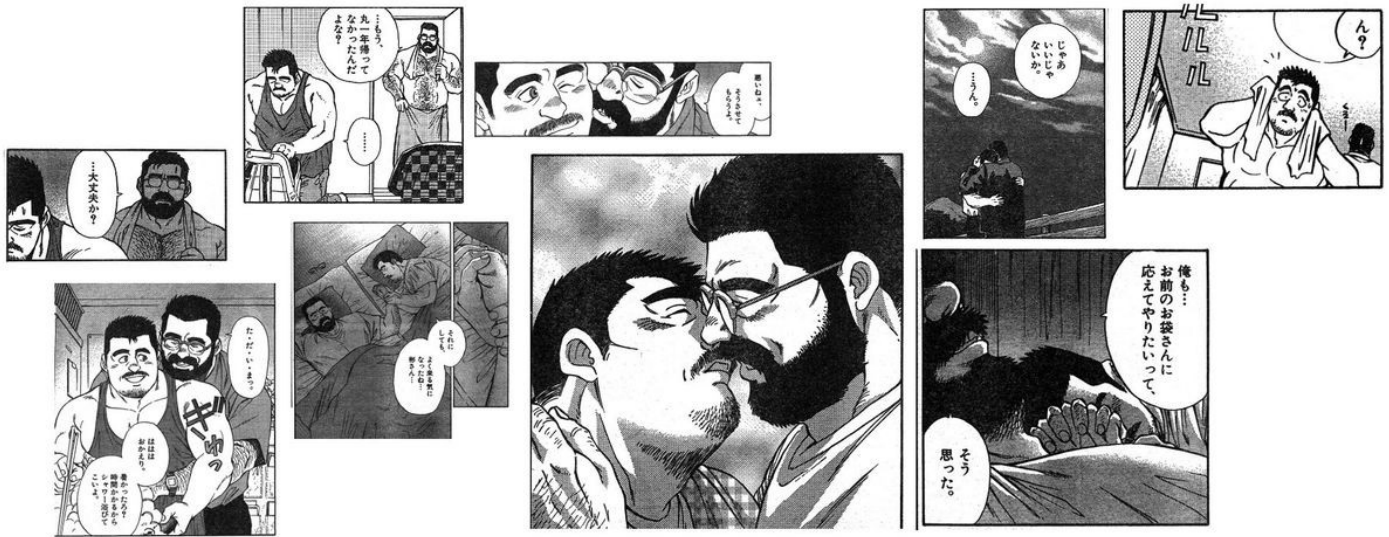
SFX: RINGING



OH!

SFX: GRUMBLE  
GRUMBLE

END



## TRANSLATOR'S NOTES:

- USUALLY I'LL CLEAN UP THE SCANS BEFORE TYPESETTING. BUT THIS ONE IS JUST TOO MUCH WORK. THE ONLY THING I DID WAS TO USE THE BURNING TOOL TO DARKEN THE BLACKS.
- I DIDN'T REALLY FOLLOW THE DIRECT TRANSLATION.
- I USED BOTH PAST AND PRESENT TENSES FOR THE NARRATION PORTIONS. SORRY ABOUT THAT. I COULDN'T FIND A WAY TO KEEP THEM IN THE SAME TENSE.
- BARE CHEST SHOWN 3 TIMES, A FEW HUGS AND KISSES, AND THAT'S IT.
- SO DOES THE STORY MAKES UP FOR IT? NOT REALLY, IT'S FULL OF CLICHES AND PLOT HOLES.

PAGE 1 PANEL 1 - MY TRANSLATED TITLE IS A WORD PLAY ON "COMING OUT".

PAGE 9 PANEL 1- HOMEWORK TIME! PLEASE READ ABOUT THE JAPANESE BUDDHIST FUNERAL CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES TO FIND OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE LANTERNS, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WAKE AND FUNERAL, PLUS OTHER STUFF YOU WILL SEE LATER ON.

PAGE 25 PANEL 1 - JAPANESE TEXT DID SPECIFIC THAT THE AUNT IS THE ELDER SISTER.

PAGE 26 PANEL 1 - JAPANESE TEXT SPECIFIC THEY WILL CALL MASASHI TOMORROW (THE DAY THE FATHER DIED). BUT THIS MAKES NO SENSE. WHY DIDN'T THEY CALL STRAIGHT AWAY? OR WHY DIDN'T THEY CALL THE NEXT MORNING AS AGREED? SO I CHANGED IT THAT THEY DECIDED TO WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS BEFORE CALLING HIM.

PAGE 30 - ALTHOUGH NOT TRANSLATED, THE JAPANESE TEXT DID MENTION THAT THE AUNT IS CHILDLESS. I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS IS STATED. THE WHOLE STORY NEVER MENTION ABOUT THE AUNT'S HUSBAND. SO TO ME, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO TRANSLATE THIS INFORMATION.

PAGE 32 - THE STORY KIND OF ENDS IN A CLIFF HANGER DOESN'T IT? BUT WAIT! WHAT ABOUT THAT LINE OF JAPANESE TEXT? WELL, BASICALLY IT SAYS: IS THAT THE MOTHER CALLING? WILL WE SEE A NEW TYPE OF FAMILY EMERGING? WE WAIT EAGERLY FOR THE NEXT INSTALLMENT FROM MR. GO FUJIMOTO.

FROM THAT WE CAN GUESS WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THAT LETTER. MASASHI WANTED HIS MOTHER TO COME STAY WITH THEM.

AND NO, I'M QUITE SURE GO FUJIMOTO DIDN'T DRAW A SECOND PART TO THIS STORY. I ACTUALLY THINK THIS STORY ENDED VERY NICELY.

OH, AND IN CASE IT ISN'T OBVIOUS, AKIRA WAS GRUMBLING THAT HE DIDN'T GET TO BATH FIRST.

FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS AROUND BUT DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY OUT OF IT.

THANKS AGAIN FOR READING. YOU CAN SEND COMMENTS, CRITIQUES AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE EMAIL FOUND BELOW.

IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THEM YET, ALL MY PAST MANGA TRANSLATIONS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM MY SKYDRIVE PUBLIC FOLDER AT [HTTP://SDRV.MS/KPJSIQ](http://sdrv.ms/kpjsiq)

IF THE LINK IS DOWN THEN MOST PROBABLY MY ACCOUNT GOT SUSPENDED. :)

## ADDITIONAL INFO:

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RAW MANGA SCANS FROM: THE EDONKEY NETWORK AND THE KAD NETWORK

ORIGINAL MANGA FROM: ビッグコミックスペリオール増刊号

EDITING PROGRAM: GIMP ON UBUNTU

FONTS: WILD WORDS / KOMIKA TITLE / ZAP RAYGUN V2.0

SFX TRANSLATIONS: [HTTP://THEJADEDNETWORK.COM/SFX/](http://THEJADEDNETWORK.COM/SFX/)