

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE GEEZER SHUT UP IN THERE, EH? IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE'S SHOWN HIS FACE AT TOWN HALL.

HE'S SHOWN ME HIS FACE THROUGH THE WINDOW, BRIEFLY, WHENEVER I'VE ASKED HIM.



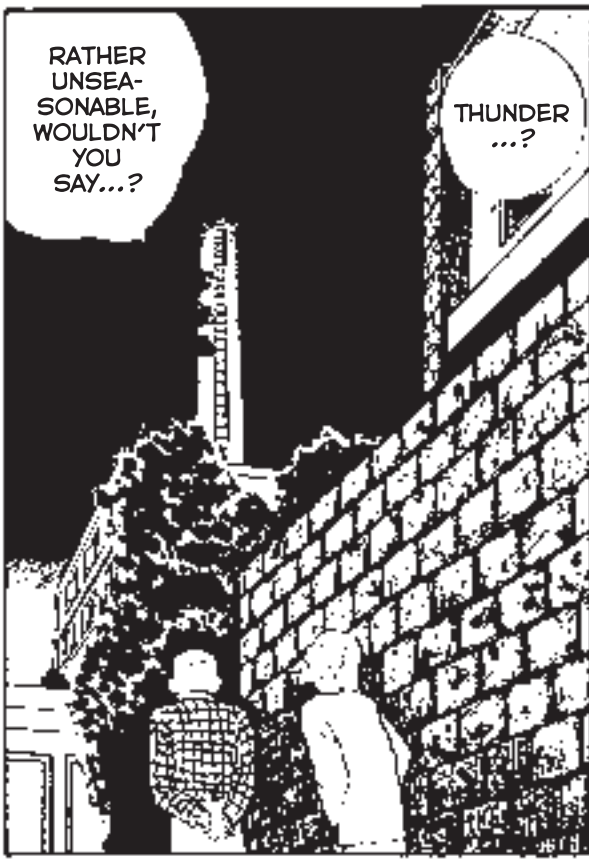
IT'S FASTER WHEN YOU'RE COOPED UP IN A MEETING ALL DAY. HONESTLY.

MY, MY, UKI. HOW QUICKLY LIGHT CAN FADE.



OH, SHE'S THERE. I SEE HER, TIME TO TIME.

AND HIS DAUGHTER?



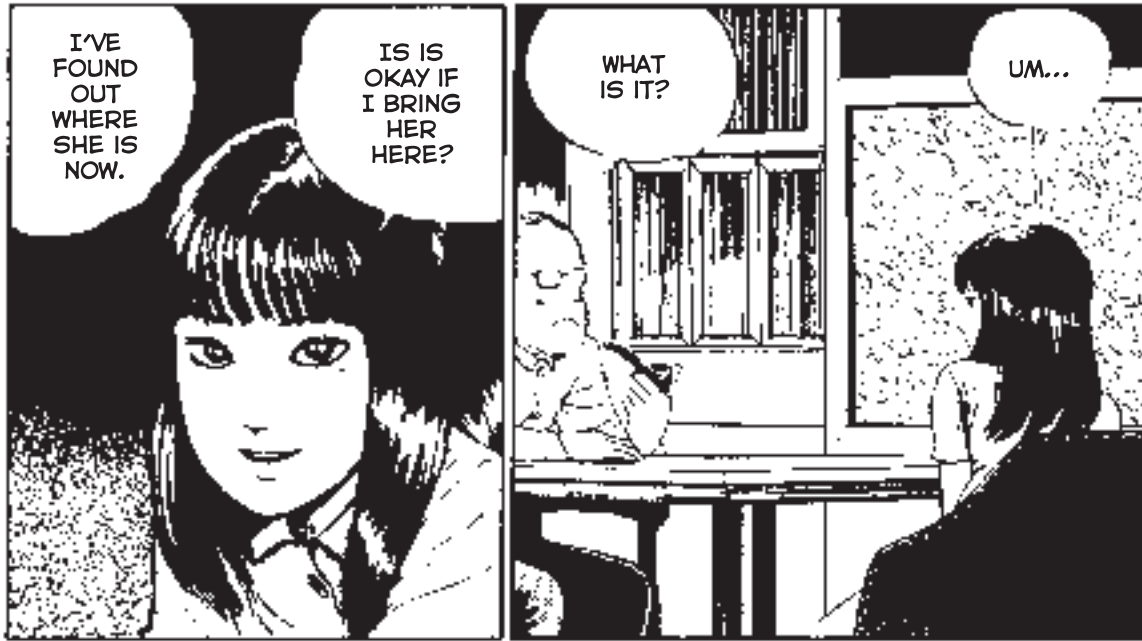
RATHER UNSEASONABLE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY...?

THUNDER ...?



HMM?

THUNDER... THUNDER...

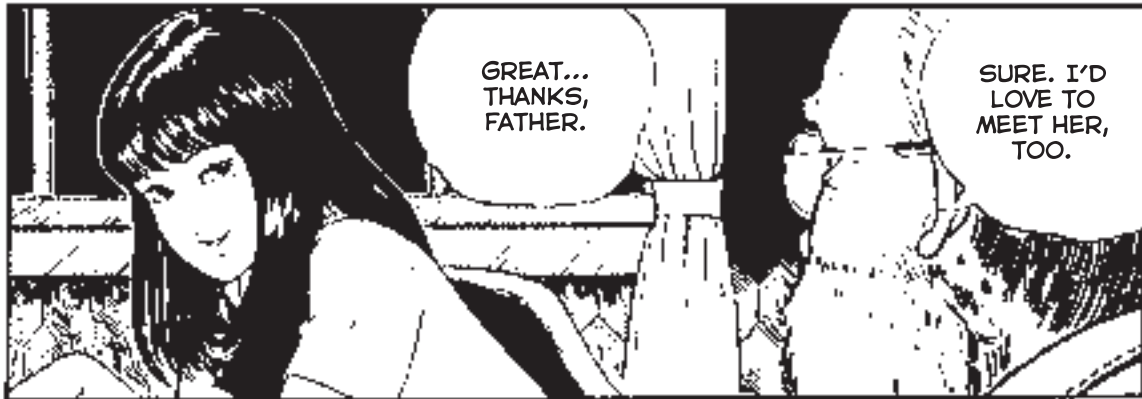


I'VE FOUND OUT WHERE SHE IS NOW.

IS IS OKAY IF I BRING HER HERE?

WHAT IS IT?

UM...



GREAT... THANKS, FATHER.

SURE. I'D LOVE TO MEET HER, TOO.



YOU DON'T NEED TO PRETEND...

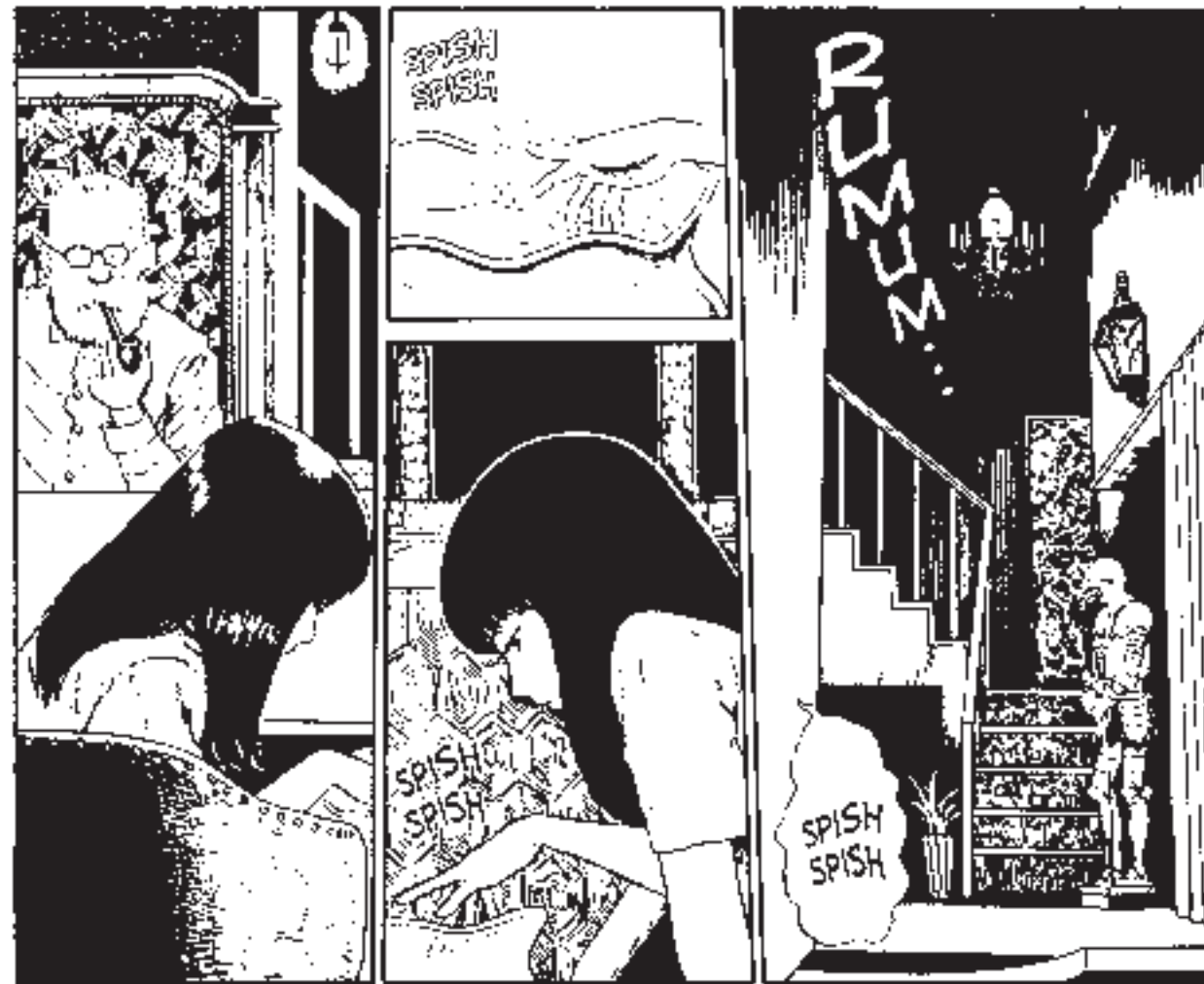
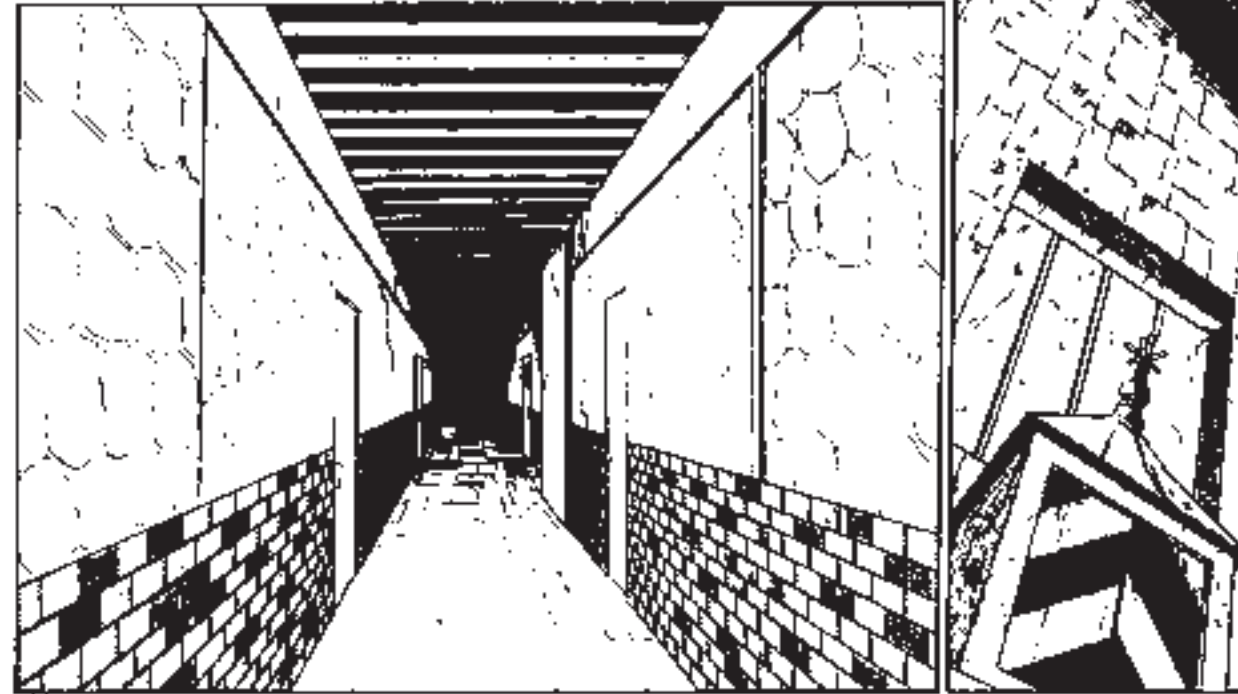
HEY, DROP THE ACT.

HMM... IT'S NOT LETTING UP.

MY DEAR GIRL, DON'T TOY WITH THE FISH TANK. IT'S NOT HEALTHY. COME, PUT THE LID ON.

IT'S NOT THUNDER, AND YOU KNOW IT.

PERHAPS WE'RE DUE FOR SOME RAIN.

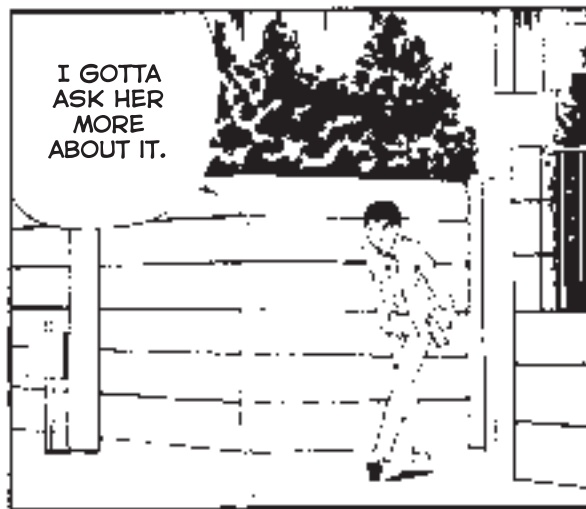


SPISH SPISH

SPISH SPISH

SPISH SPISH

RUMBLING



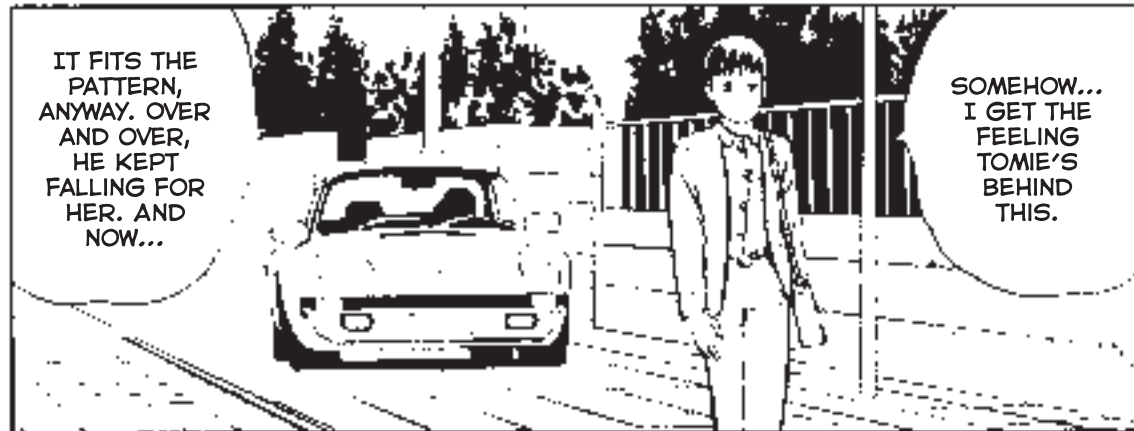
I GOTTA ASK HER MORE ABOUT IT.



I SHOULD GO NOW. CAN'T JUST SIT HERE.

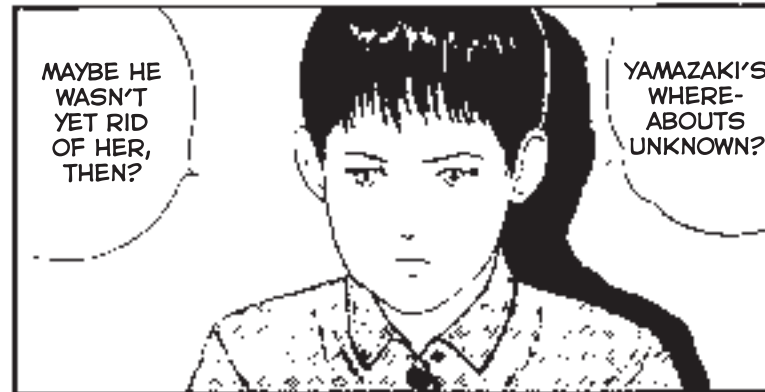
I SHOULD GO SEE MICHIKO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE MISSING...



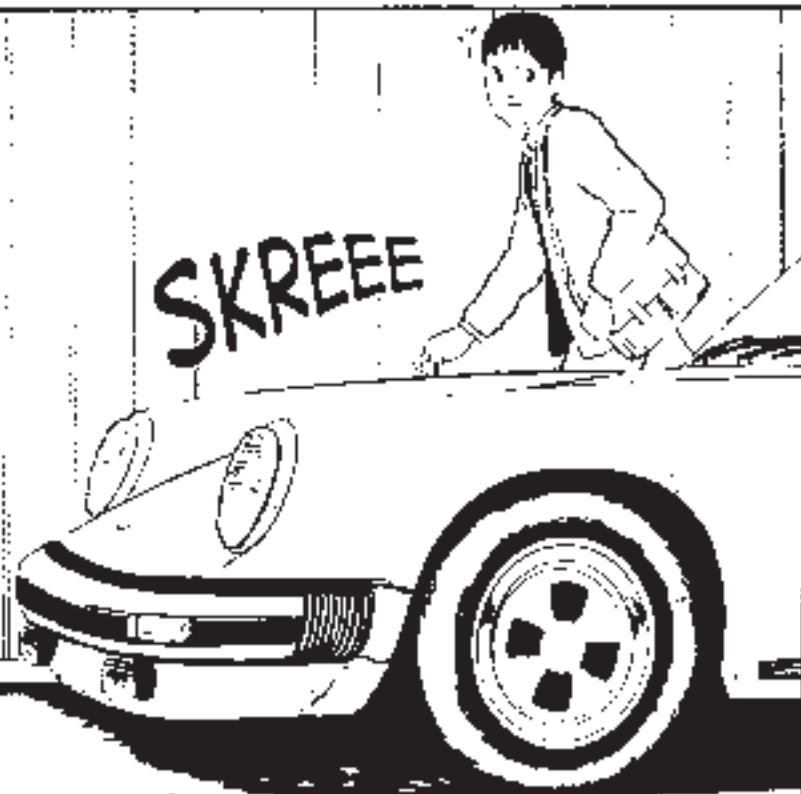
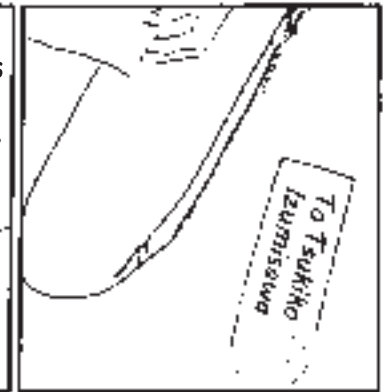
IT FITS THE PATTERN, ANYWAY. OVER AND OVER, HE KEPT FALLING FOR HER. AND NOW...

SOMEHOW... I GET THE FEELING TOMIE'S BEHIND THIS.



MAYBE HE WASN'T YET RID OF HER, THEN?

YAMAZAKI'S WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN?



SKREEEE



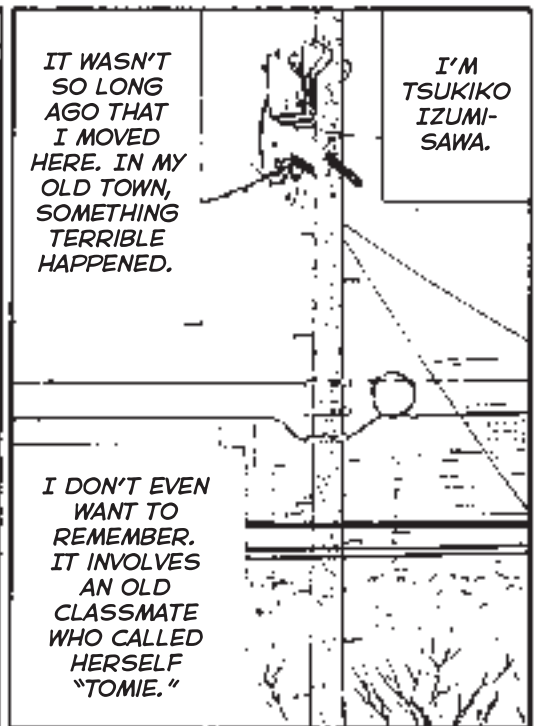
VRRRRM



I HAD BEGUN TO FORGET, AND TO PUT IT BEHIND ME.

WITH IT, EVERYTHING CAME BACK TO ME, NUMBING ME WITH AN OMINOUS FEELING.

THEN THIS LETTER CAME FROM MY BEST FRIEND MICHIKO.



IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT I MOVED HERE. IN MY OLD TOWN, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED.

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO REMEMBER. IT INVOLVES AN OLD CLASSMATE WHO CALLED HERSELF "TOMIE."

I'M TSUKIKO IZUMISAWA.



YOU KNOW, HE'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU... COMING OR NOT?

HE'S NOT DOING WELL. HE'S SO THIN I'M AFRAID THAT IF I LOOK AT HIM HE'LL SNAP.



HE'S AT MY PLACE.

I KNEW IT!

SO, YOU COMING?



HEY... WAIT.

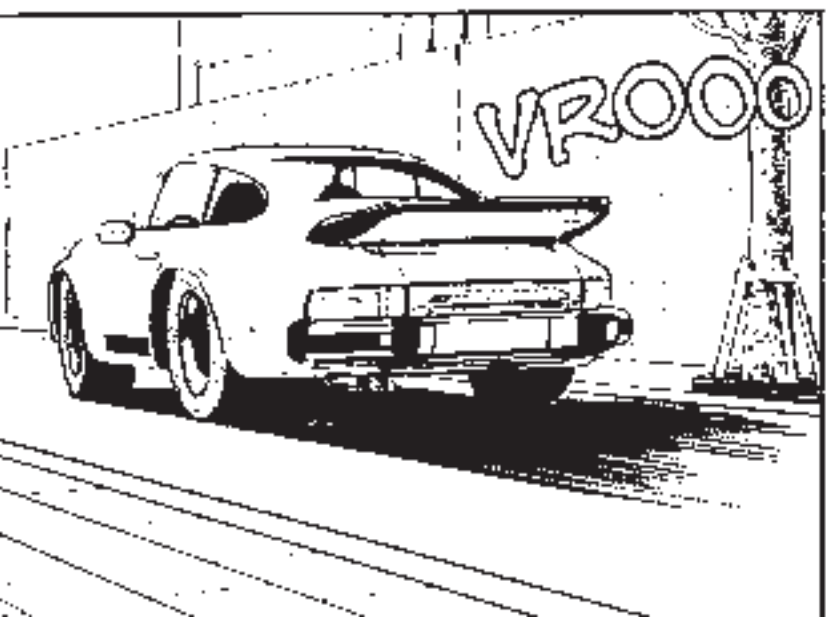
DON'T SAY I DIDN'T ASK. SEE YA!



...



I'LL GO.



THEN GET IN.



LONG TIME NO SEE, TSUKIKO.



?



K-CHAK



TOMIE !!



THEN YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE YAMAZAKI?

W-WHAT?!



I-I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.



THAT SO?



THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, TSUKIKO.

HEY, YOU'RE NOT RUNNING, ARE YOU?



MY DAUGHTER TOLD ME A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU.

THANKS FOR COMING. WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

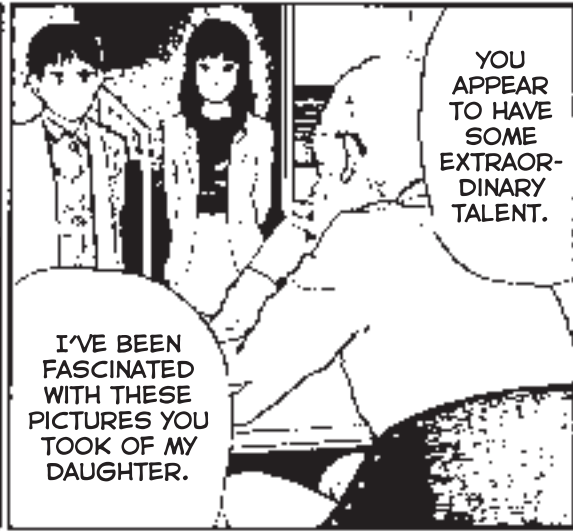


AH...MY CAMERA! IT WAS STOLEN FROM MY ROOM...



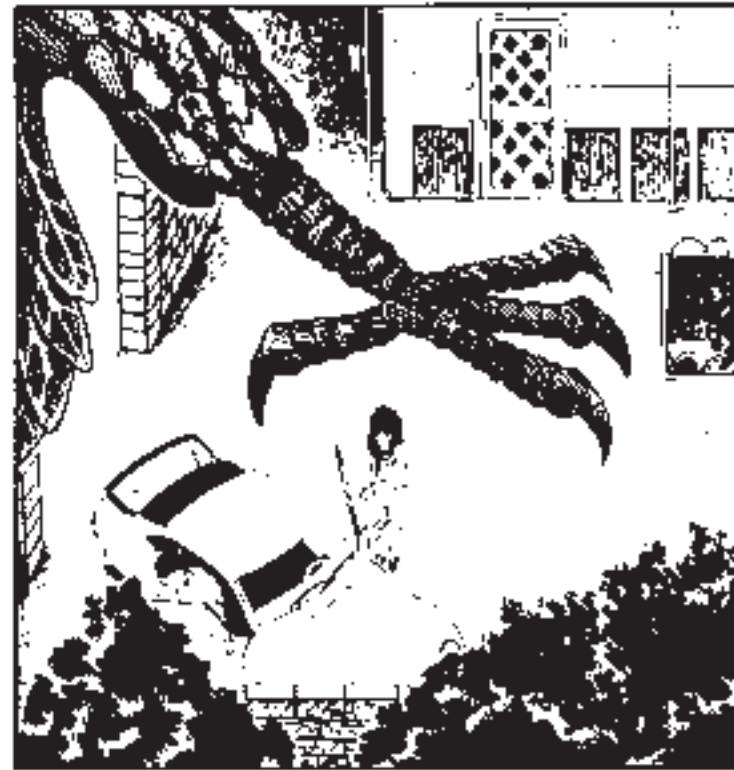
SADLY, MY PICTURES DON'T TURN OUT QUITE SO WELL.

YOUR EYE FOR DETAIL BORDERS ON THE PRETERNATURAL.



YOU APPEAR TO HAVE SOME EXTRAORDINARY TALENT.

I'VE BEEN FASCINATED WITH THESE PICTURES YOU TOOK OF MY DAUGHTER.



AH HA HA HA HA!



TELL ME. WHERE'S YAMAZAKI?
PLEASE LET HIM GO.



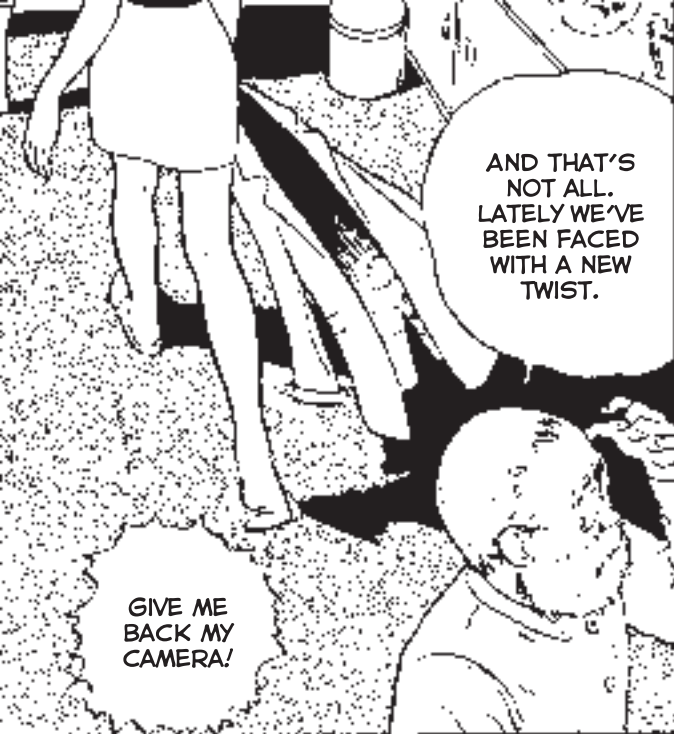
OH, QUIT IT, FATHER.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? WANT TO FIRE IT UP AGAIN?



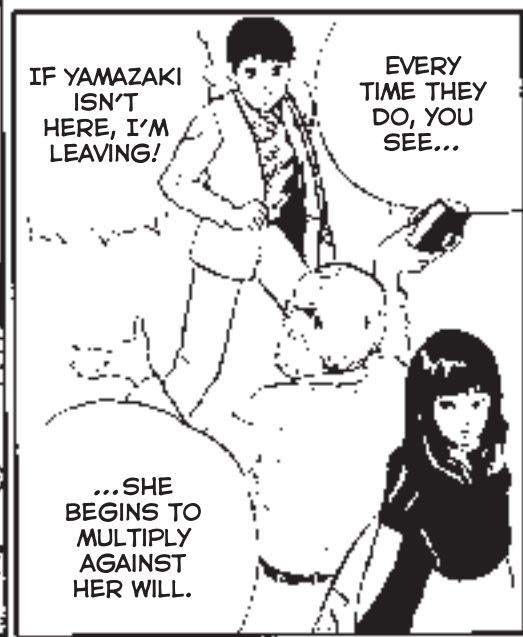
FATHER, WE HAVE A VISITOR.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? BIG, ISN'T IT?



AND THAT'S NOT ALL. LATELY WE'VE BEEN FACED WITH A NEW TWIST.

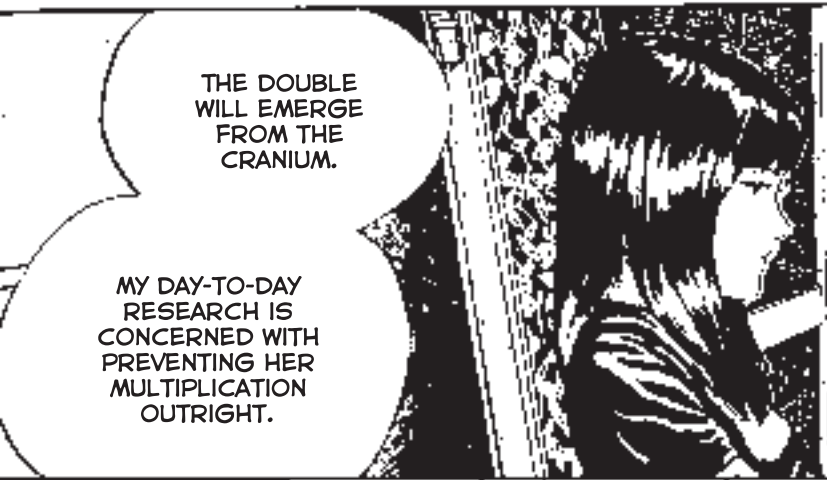
GIVE ME BACK MY CAMERA!



IF YAMAZAKI ISN'T HERE, I'M LEAVING!

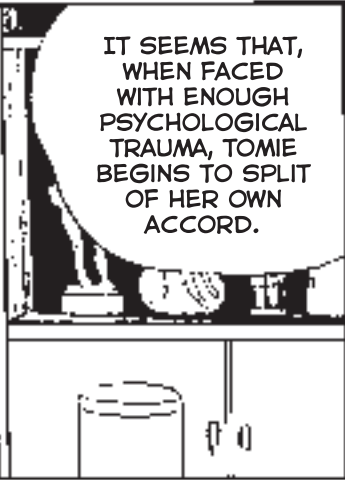
EVERY TIME THEY DO, YOU SEE...

...SHE BEGINS TO MULTIPLY AGAINST HER WILL.

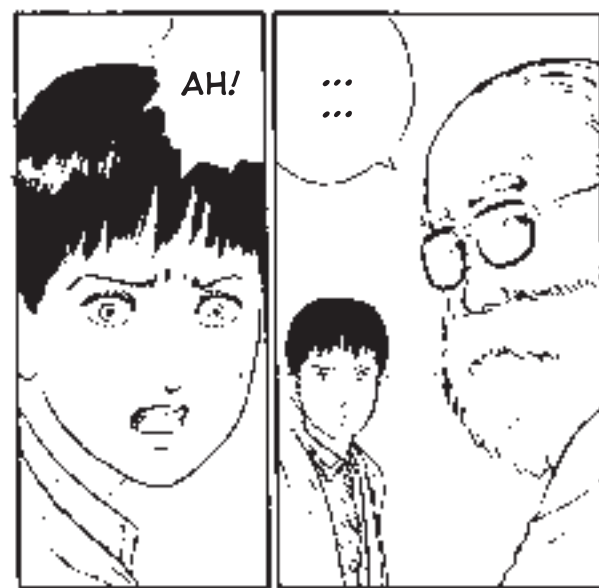


THE DOUBLE WILL EMERGE FROM THE CRANIUM.

MY DAY-TO-DAY RESEARCH IS CONCERNED WITH PREVENTING HER MULTIPLICATION OUTRIGHT.



IT SEEMS THAT, WHEN FACED WITH ENOUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA, TOMIE BEGINS TO SPLIT OF HER OWN ACCORD.



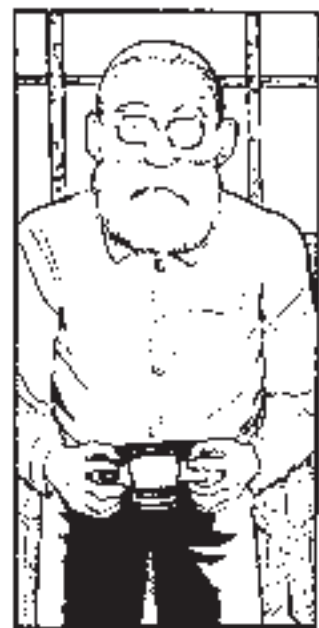
AH!

...



IS THIS A PART OF THAT RESEARCH, TOO?

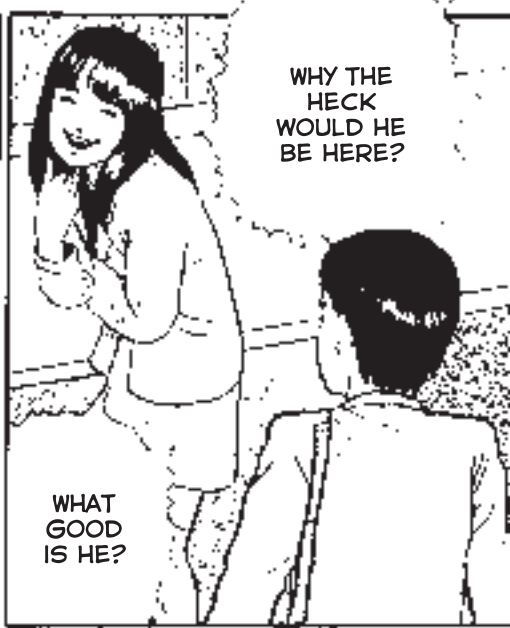
FATHER.



BUT YOU...



YOU THINK I CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT ANY MAN?



WHY THE HECK WOULD HE BE HERE?

WHAT GOOD IS HE?



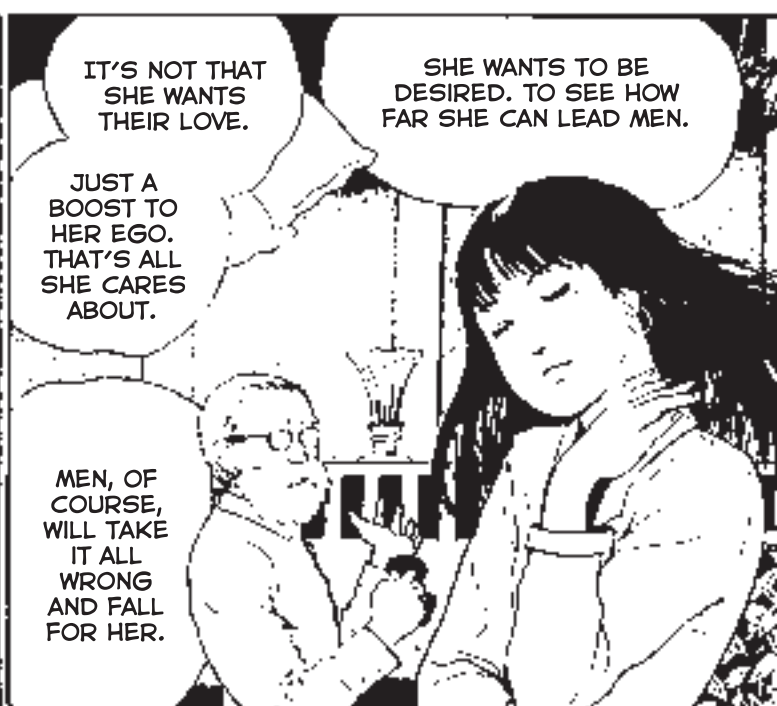
HER ONLY REAL INTEREST IS IN HERSELF.

MY DAUGHTER SEES MEN AS LITTLE MORE THAN ADORNMENTS.



STRANGE THING IS, WHEN A MAN FALLS TOO FAR, TOO HARD, HE WANTS TO CUT HER TO PIECES.

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES THEM DO THAT.



IT'S NOT THAT SHE WANTS THEIR LOVE.

JUST A BOOST TO HER EGO. THAT'S ALL SHE CARES ABOUT.

SHE WANTS TO BE DESIRED. TO SEE HOW FAR SHE CAN LEAD MEN.

MEN, OF COURSE, WILL TAKE IT ALL WRONG AND FALL FOR HER.

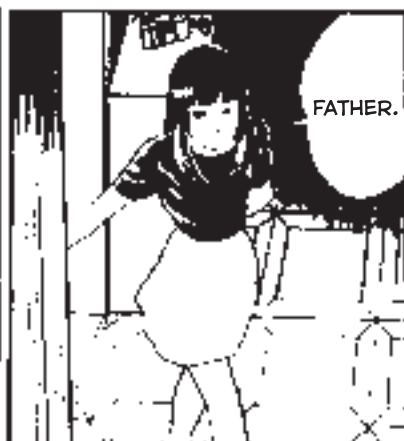


IT...IT WON'T OPEN...
 TOMIE, COVER THAT BOWL!
 ITS VAPORS WILL BURN OUR THROATS!



SPISH
 SPISH

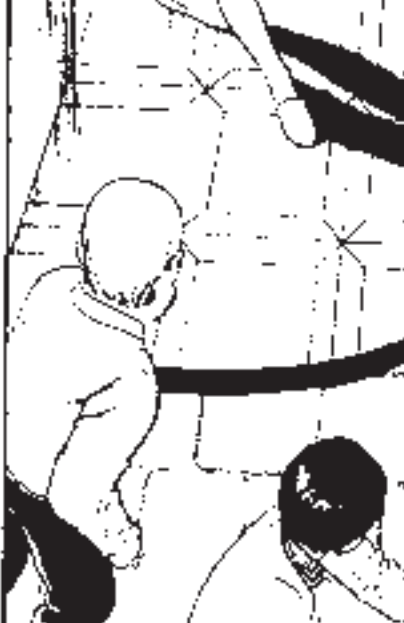
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CHASE YOUR RABBIT?
 WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE. REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST GIRL?
 BE PATIENT, JUST A LITTLE LONGER... I WILL CURE YOU.



FATHER.

BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU QUIT.
 CAN'T YOU TALK TO ME AS AN EQUAL, WITHOUT THAT GETUP?

BUT I'M SICK OF THIS GAME.
 YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT.
 I'VE GONE ALONG SO FAR BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS AMUSING.



...AND YET ITS REGENERATIVE ABILITY IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THE SOLUTION.
 SEE THERE. THAT'S HOW HER HEAD SPLITS. THE STRENGTH OF THE ACID PREVENTS ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ...

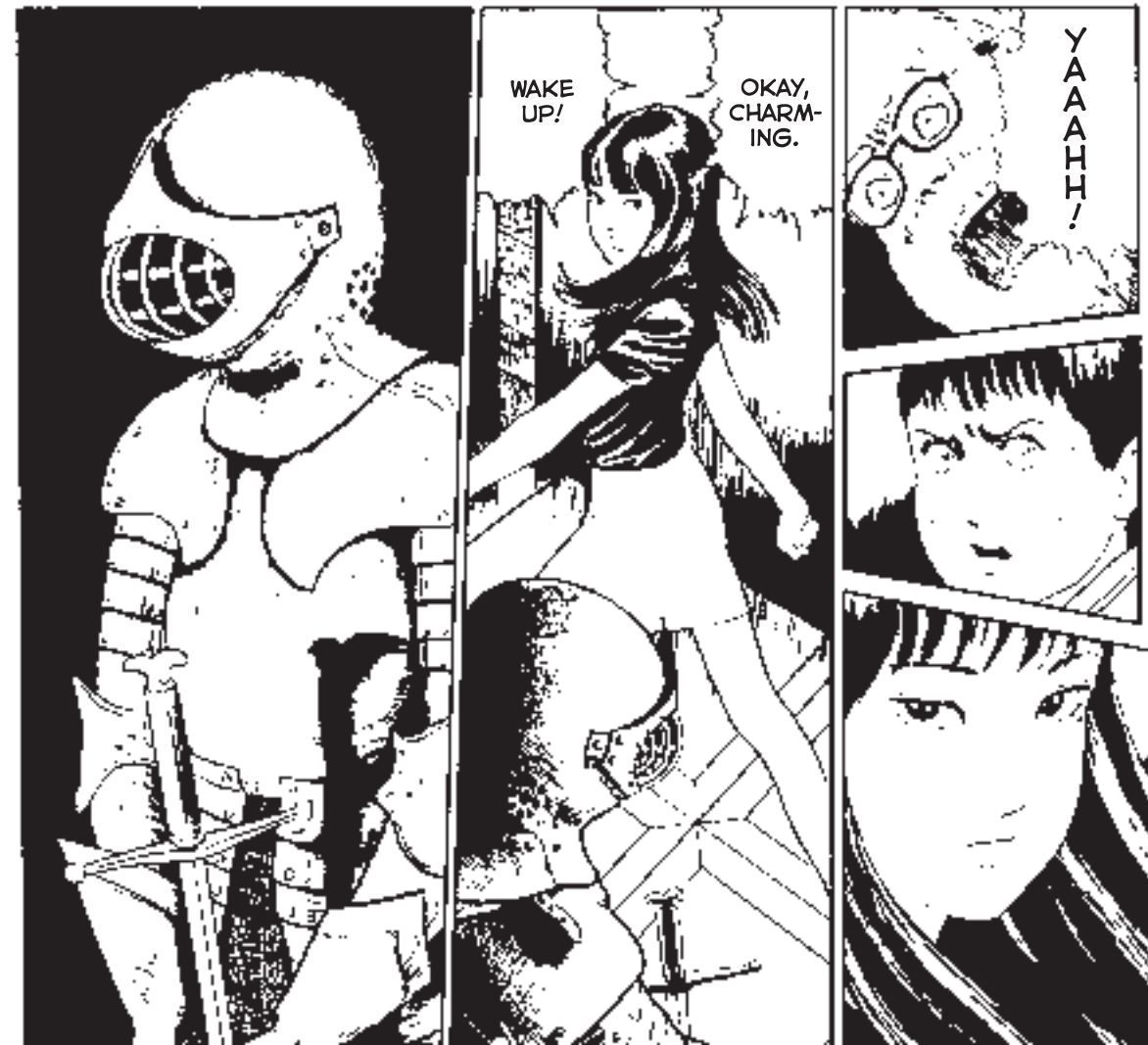
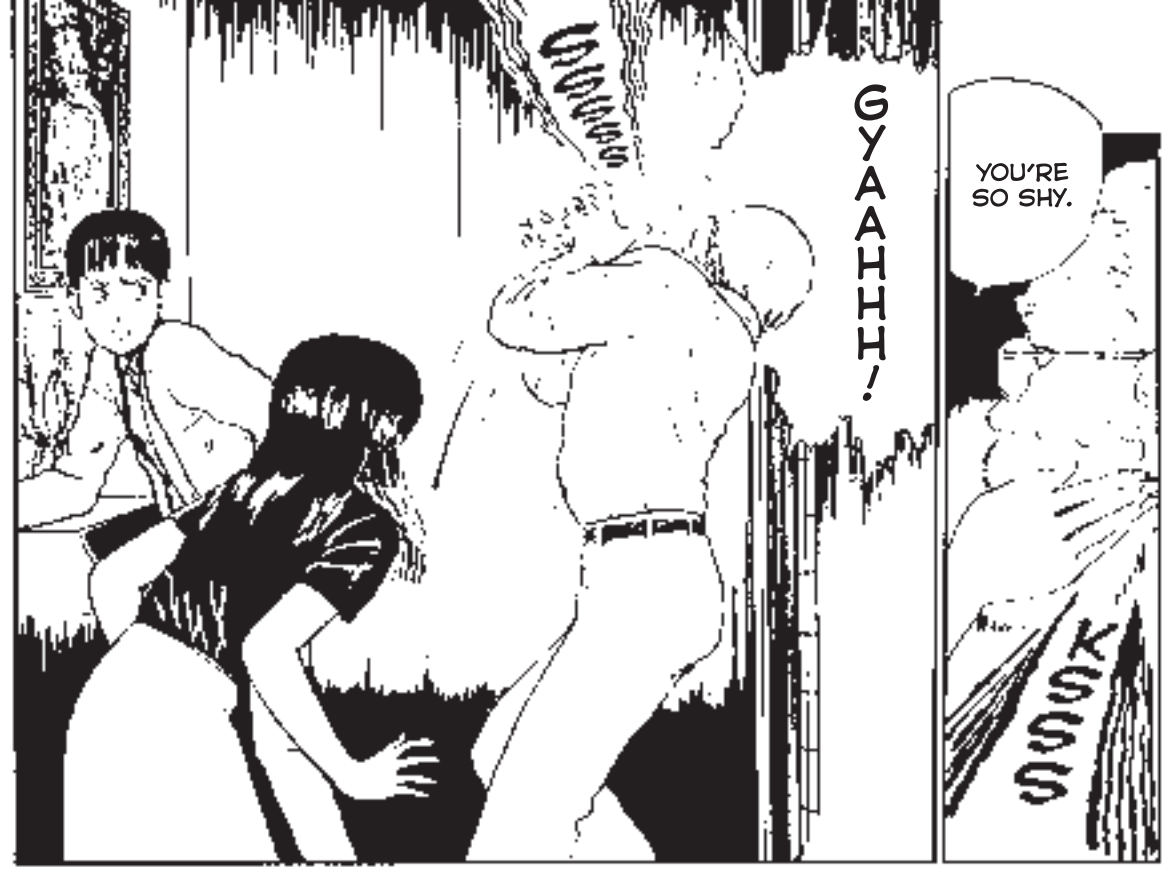
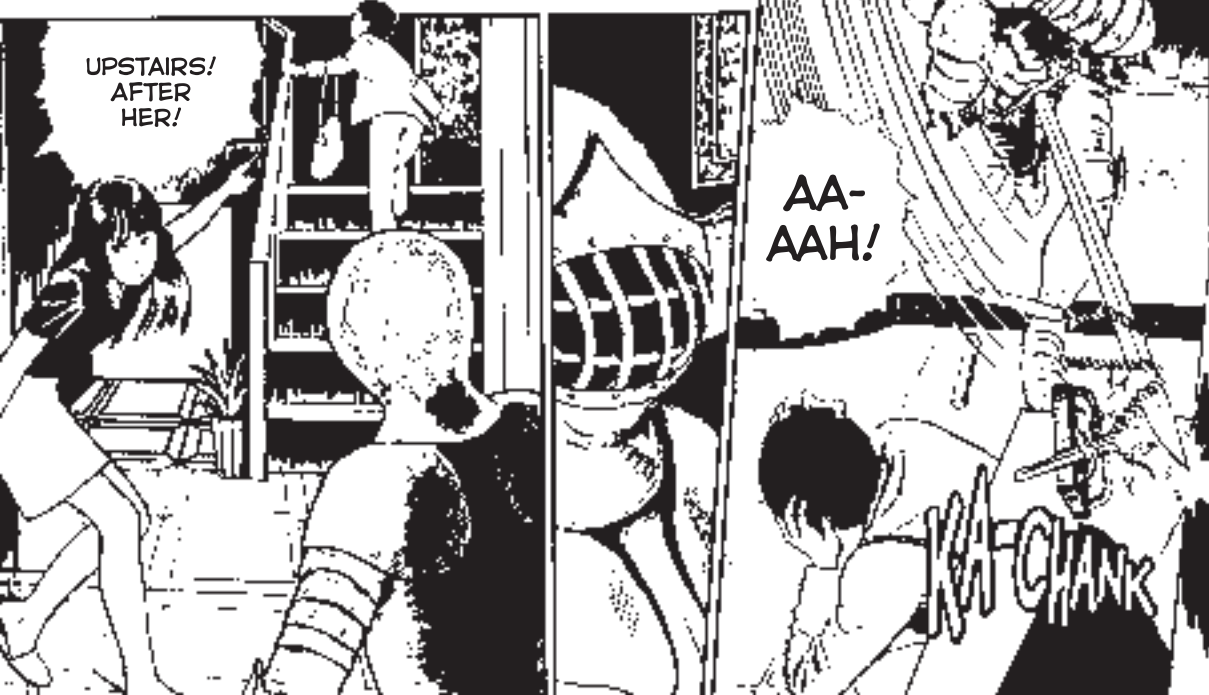
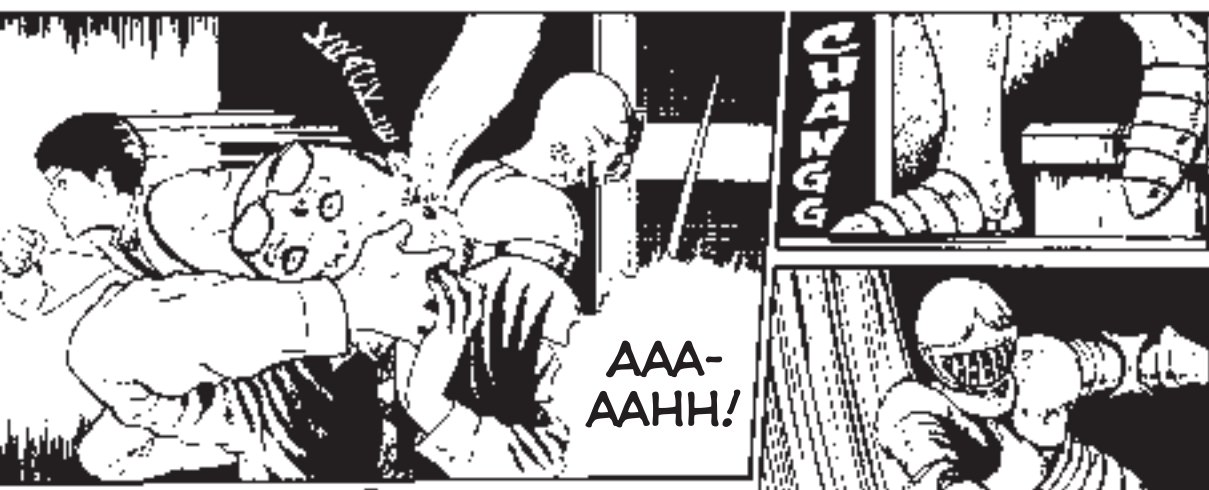
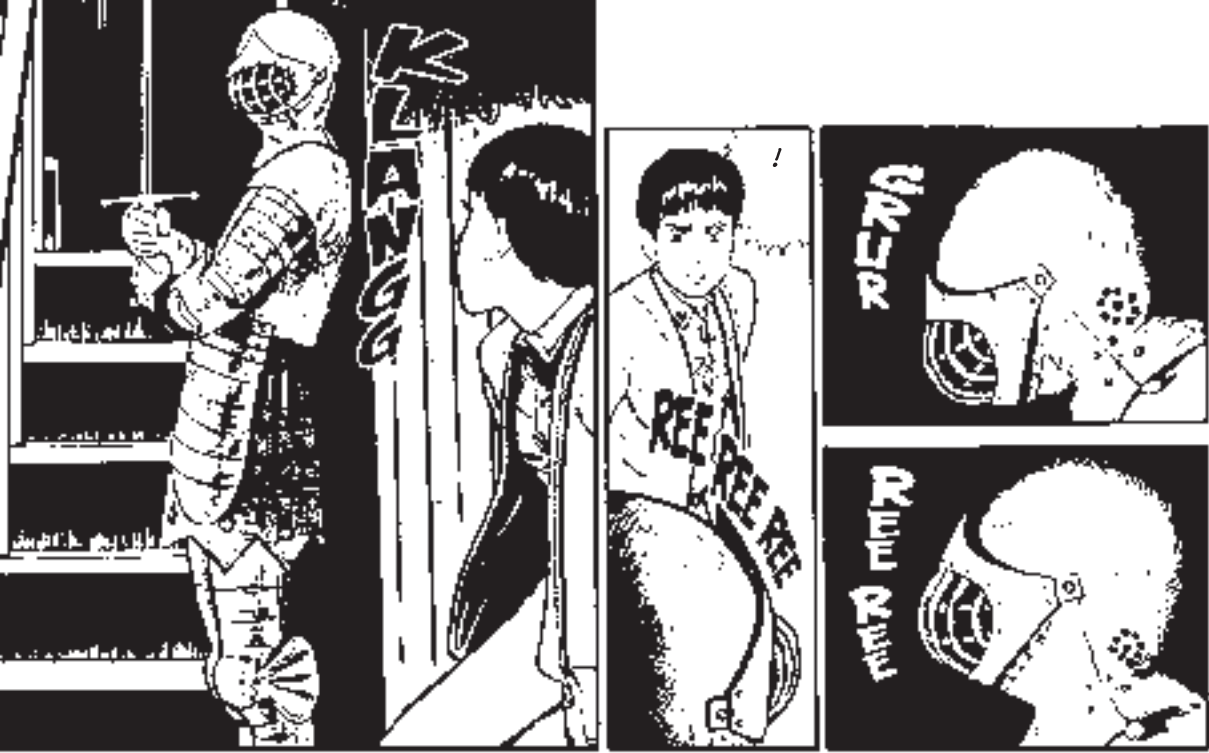
ISN'T IT INCREDIBLE?



...BUT IT'S WORTH THE CHALLENGE.

PLEASE, I BEG YOU... HELP ME IN MY EXPERIMENTS.
 YES, I'LL HAVE TO INJECT YOU WITH MY DAUGHTER'S BODILY FLUIDS AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE SUBSTANCES...

WHAT DO YOU THINK...? WILL YOU LEND ME A HAND IN MY RESEARCH...?
 YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! I'M LEAVING NOW.





WHAT...
ON
EARTH?



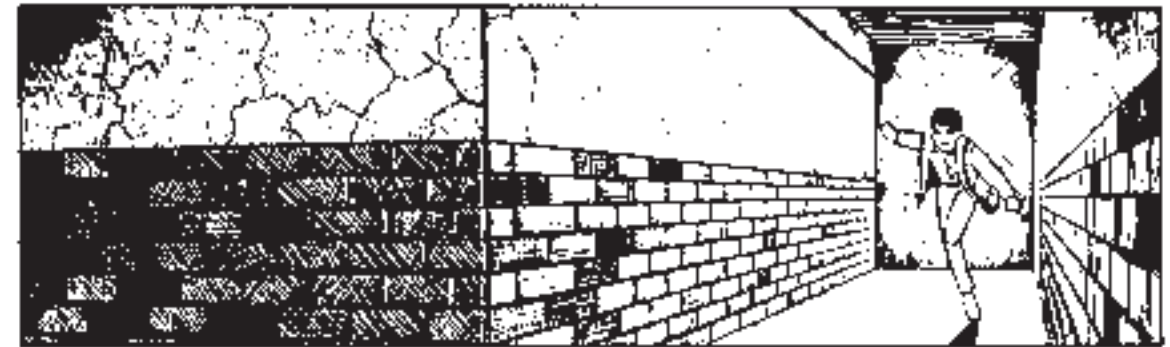
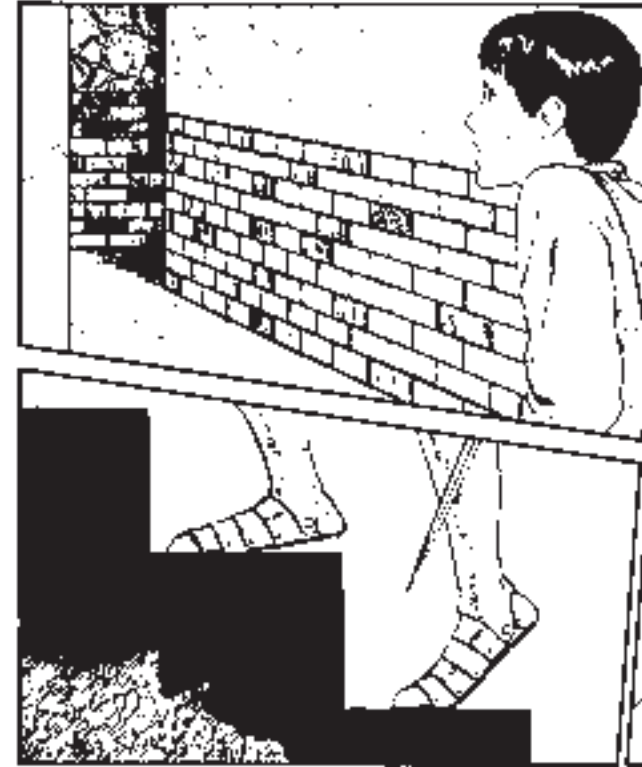
REE REE REE



OH...
MAYBE
IF I...



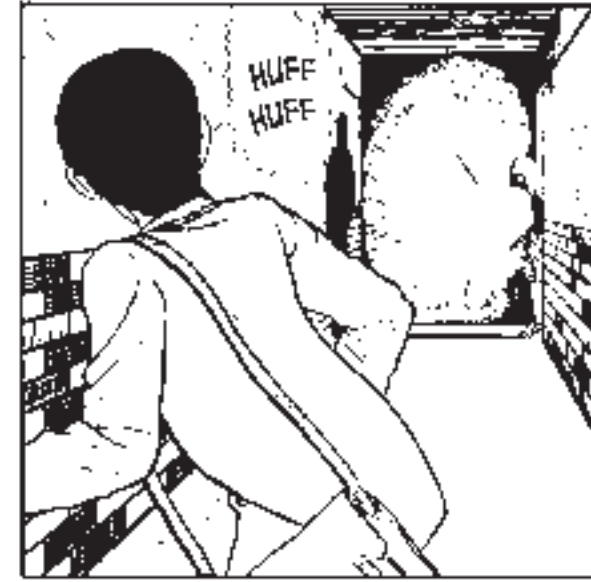
KLANG
KLANG



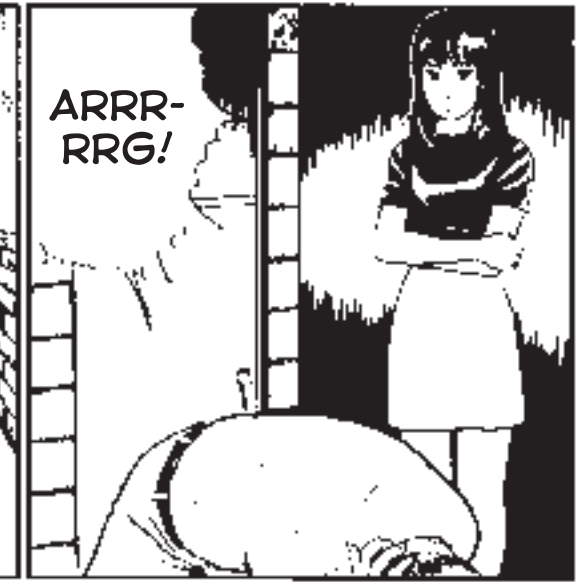
HELP...
ME...



B-TUM



HUFF
HUFF



ARRR-
RRG!



HEE...
HEE HEE
HEE...



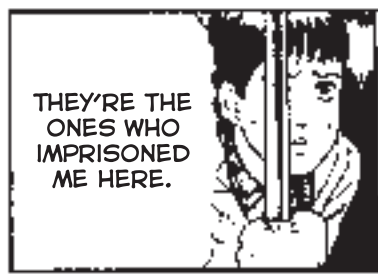
THE MOMENT
THE MASK
COMES OFF
YOU JUST
CLAM UP,
DON'T YOU?

MR.
TAKAGI.

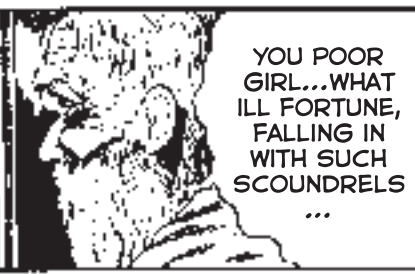


I
WONDER
IF YOU
REALLY
MEAN TO
HEAL ME.

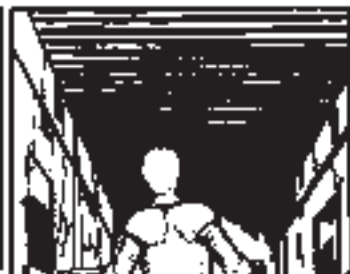
FOR ALL I
KNOW, YOU
COULD HAVE
A HIDDEN
AGENDA.



THEY'RE THE
ONES WHO
IMPRISONED
ME HERE.



YOU POOR
GIRL...WHAT
ILL FORTUNE,
FALLING IN
WITH SUCH
SCOUNDRELS
...



MY
DAUGHTER'S
THE ONE WHO
OPENED THE
DOOR.

...ALONG
CAME A
YOUNG
WOMAN,
DRENCHED
TO THE
BONE.

LISTEN
TO ME,
WILL YOU?
IT BEGAN
IN THE
EARLY
SUMMER.



IT WAS
AFTER
DARK. IT
HAD BEEN
THUNDER-
ING ALL
DAY...



BUT...I
THOUGHT
...

HE'S AN
IMPOSTOR!



SAVE
ME...

I AM THE
MASTER
OF THIS
HOUSE.



WHO
ARE
YOU?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
THERE?



HUFF
HUFF



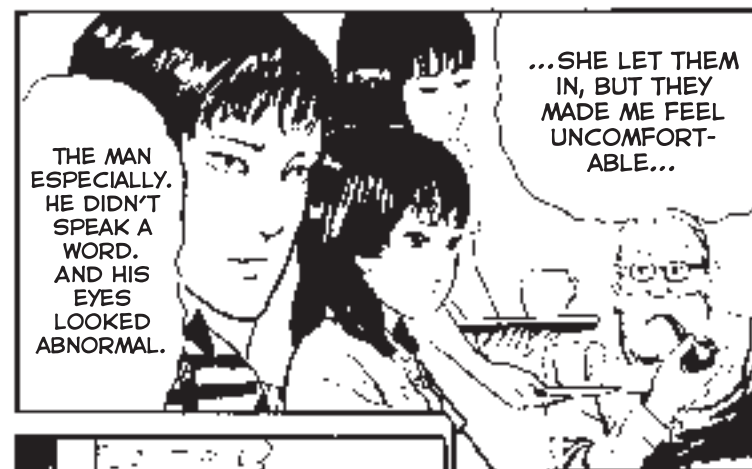
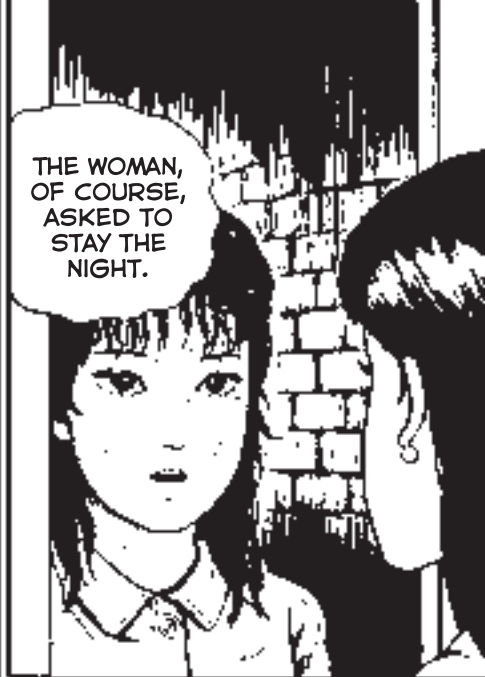
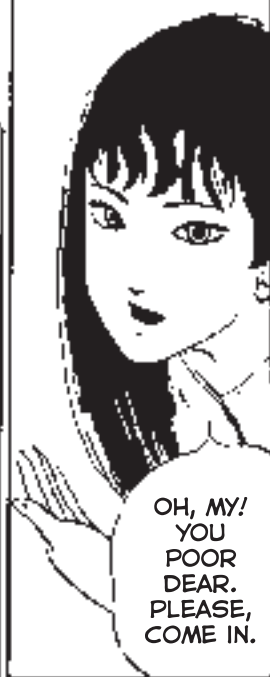
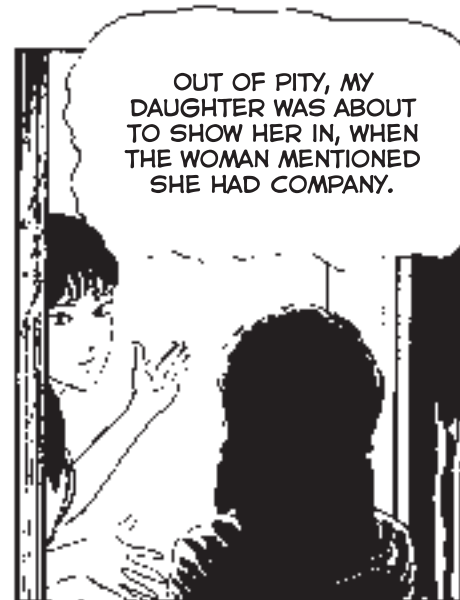
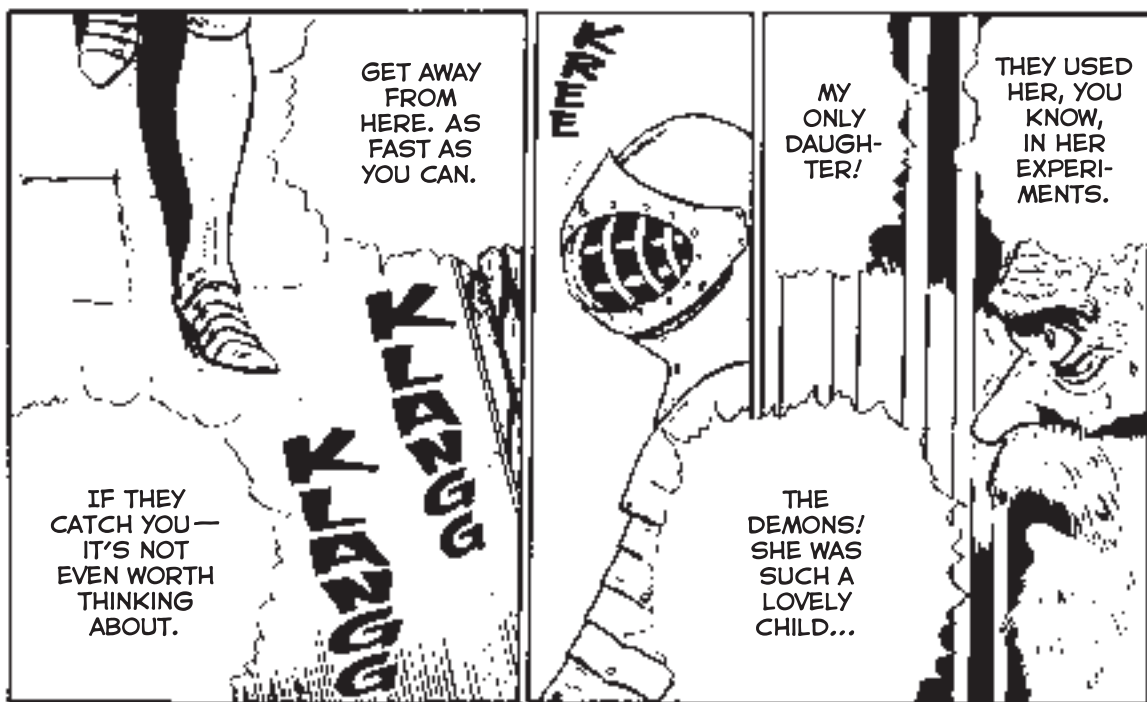
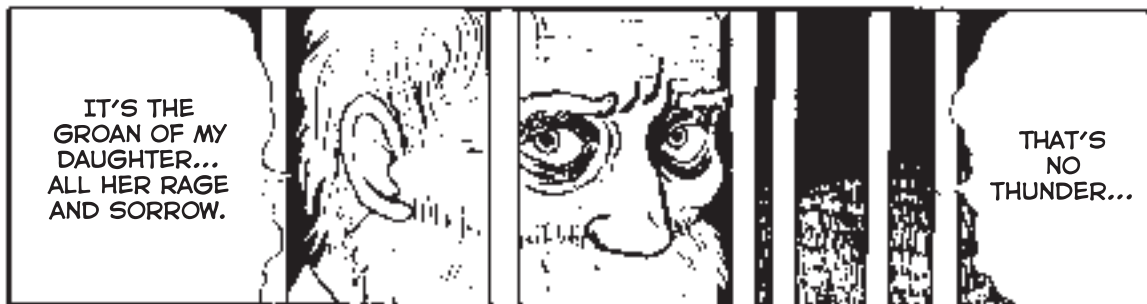
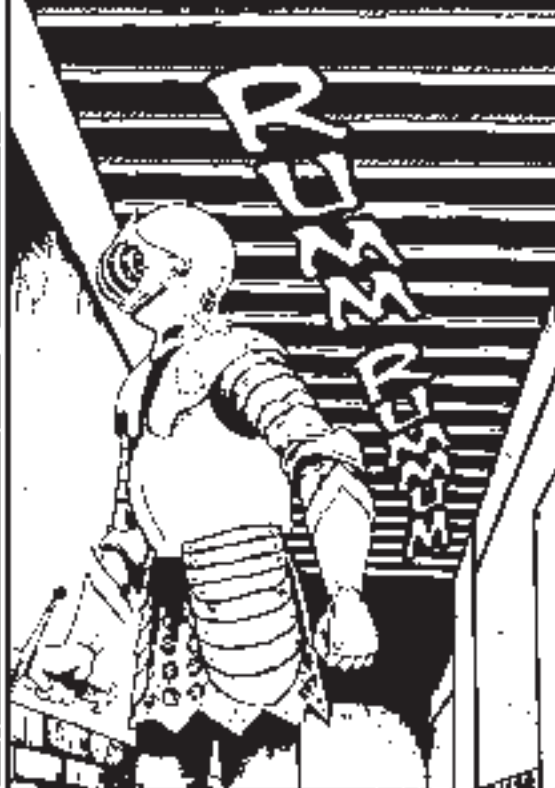
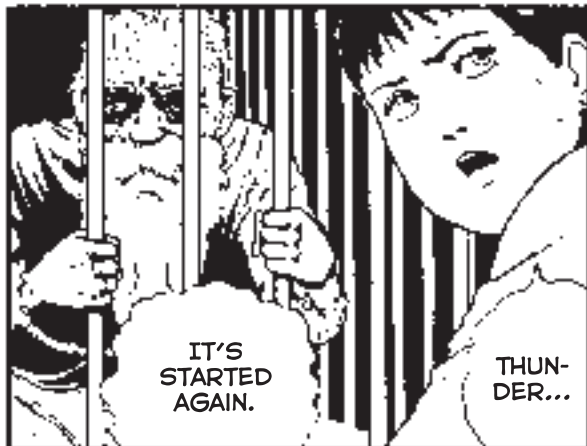
HUFF
HUFF



MR.
TAKAGI.

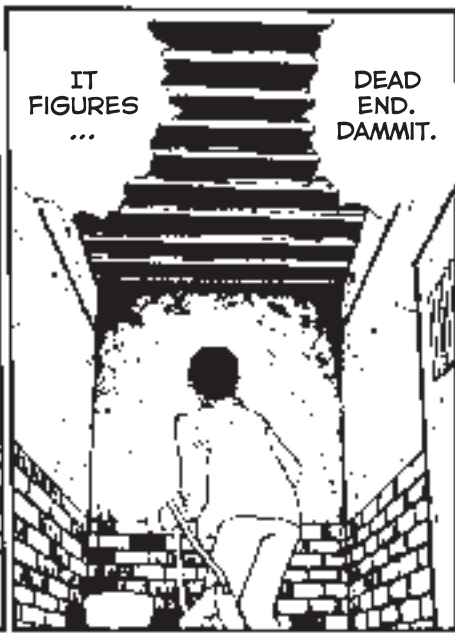


HUFF
HUFF





HEH HEH HEH.



IT FIGURES ...

DEAD END. DAMMIT.



STOP THERE!

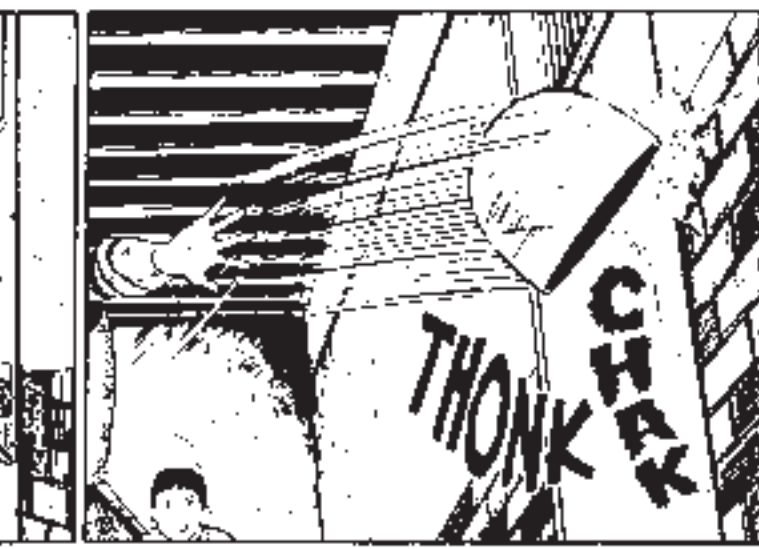
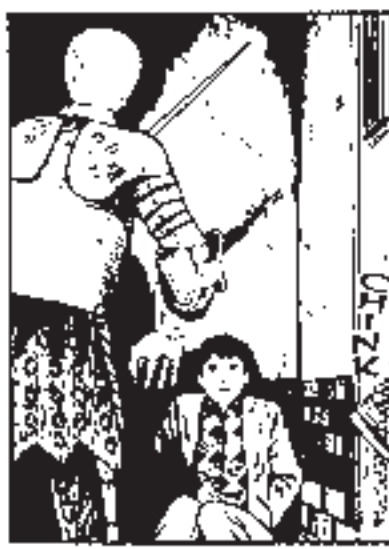


I'M... I'M ARMED!



UH.

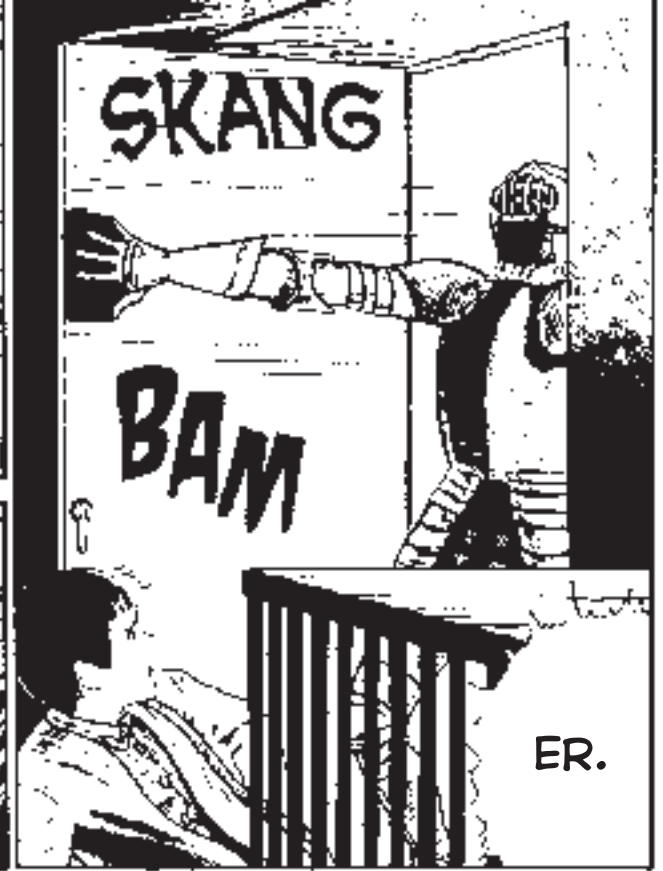
RUNK



THONK CHAK



WHEEE REE REE



SKANG

BAM

ER.

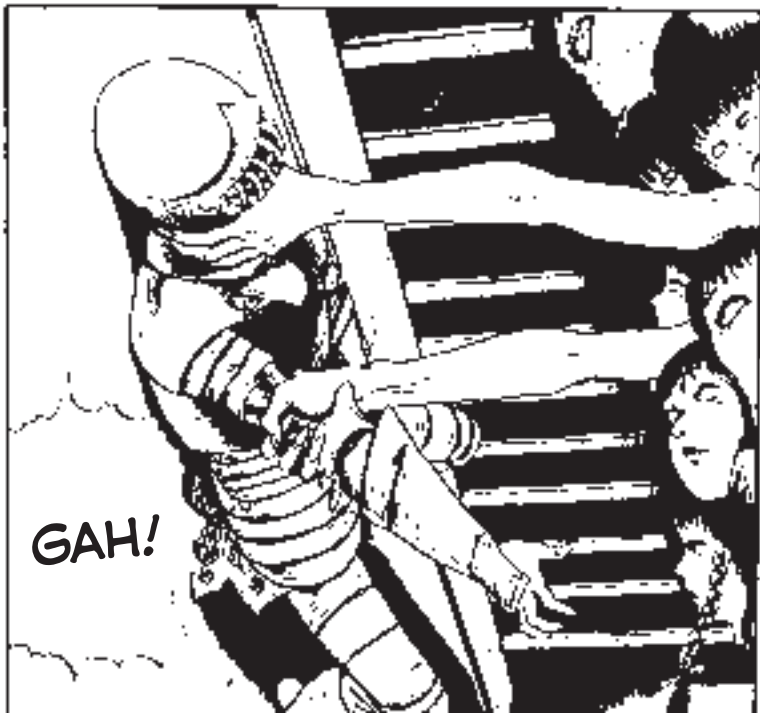


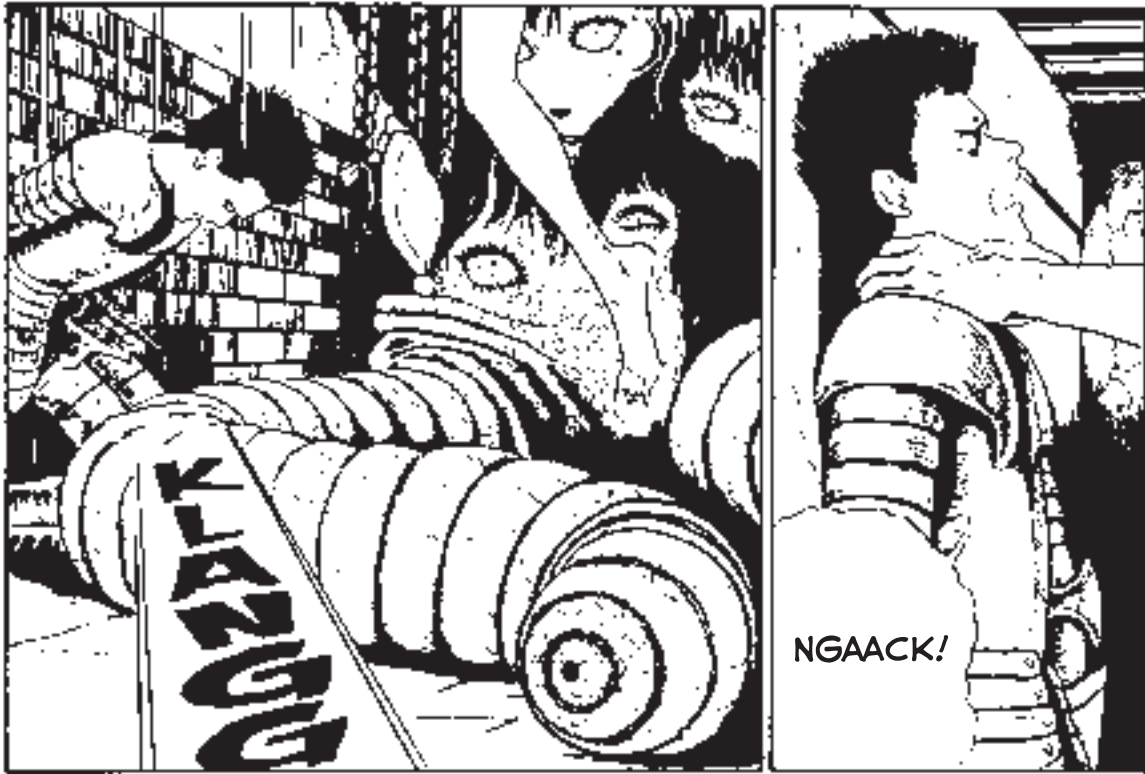
RUN! H-HURRY!



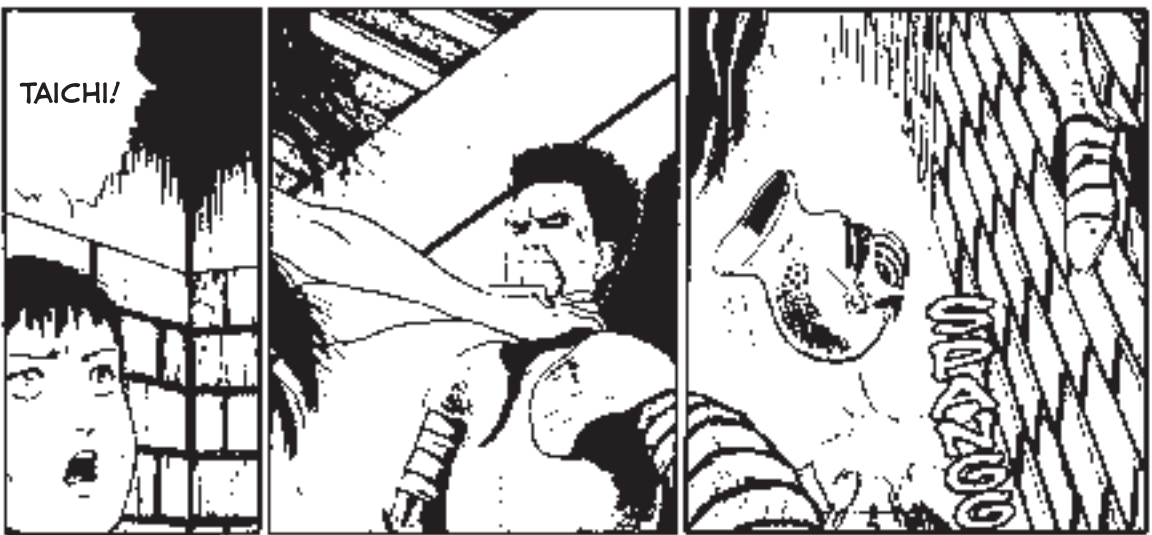
CHONG

EEEEK!





NGAACK!



TAICHI!

GOZZA!
GOZZA!



YOU ARE
A LUCKY
GIRL,
TSUKIKO.

I'LL BE
BACK, OLD
MAN...
JUST
HOLD ON.



IS THAT
WHY... THEY
BROUGHT
ME?

THOSE FACES,
ALL OVER HER
BODY? THEY'RE
ALL TOMIE. BUT
WHY? IS THAT
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING HERE?

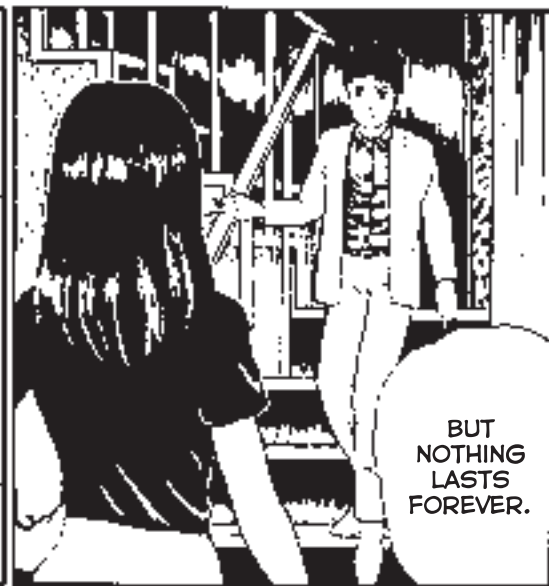
CAN
THAT...
BE THE
DAUGHTER?!



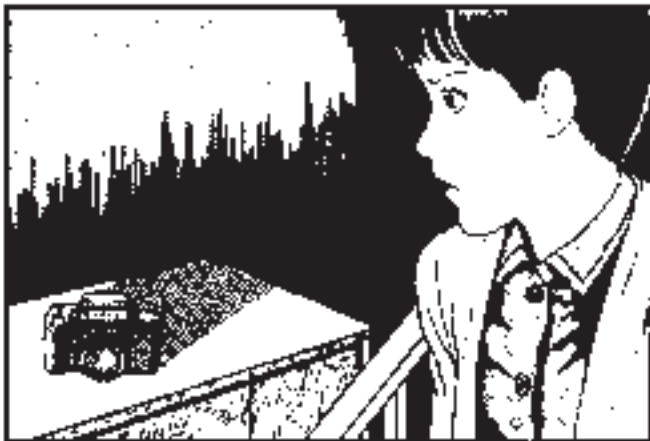
MY TRUE ESSENCE ...?



TOMIE...YOUR TRUE ESSENCE IS ON ITS WAY DOWN NOW.



BUT NOTHING LASTS FOREVER.



YOU CAN'T FLUSTER ME ANY-MORE.

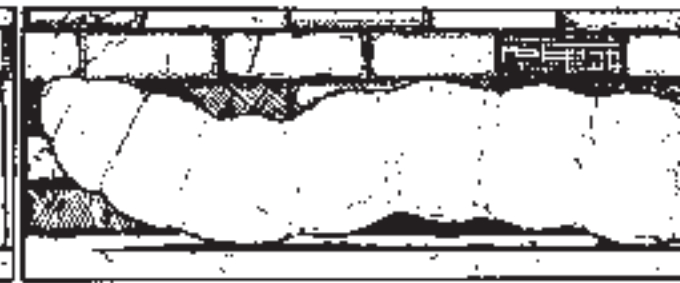
NICE TRY. BUT NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL AFFECT ME.

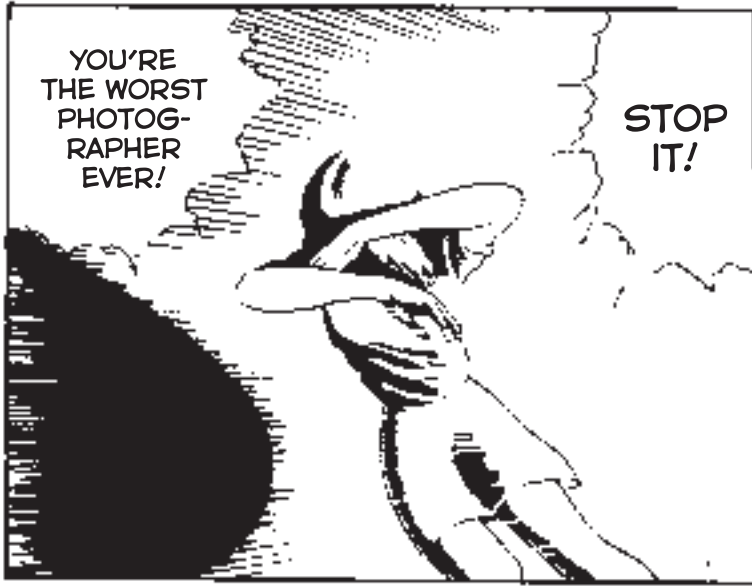


WHO —



YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? I CAN BE REALLY INCISIVE.



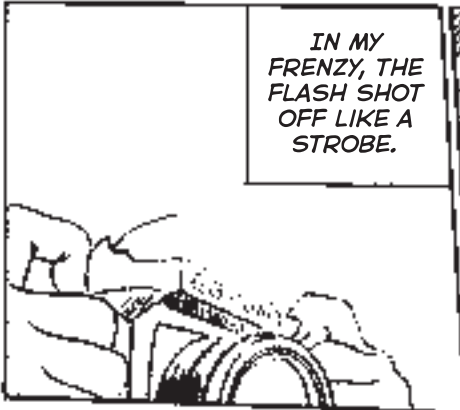


YOU'RE THE WORST PHOTOGRAPHER EVER!

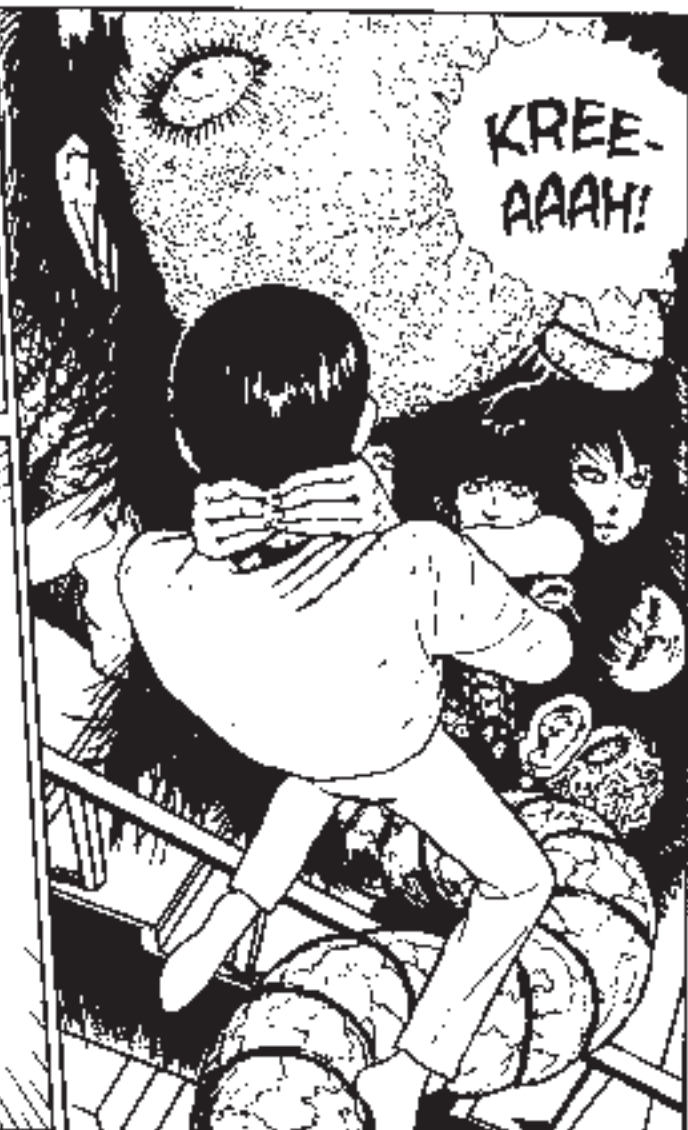
STOP IT!



FWASHH



IN MY FRENZY, THE FLASH SHOT OFF LIKE A STROBE.



KREE-AAAH!

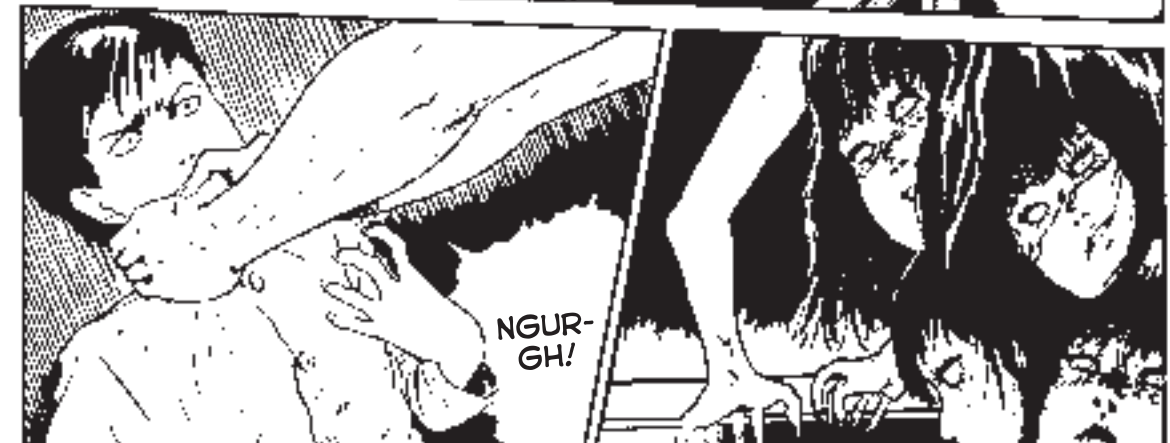


HEH HEH HEH.

TSUKIKO... PLEASE... LET US EXPERIMENT ON YOU.



?



NGUR-GH!



KREE-AAAH!





I GUESS I FOUND THE WAY OUT, AND BOLTED FOR MY LIFE.

AFTER THAT — IT'S ALL BLANK.

NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS OUTSIDE THE MANSION WALLS.



THEY RESCUED THE GAUNT OLD MAN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR. BEYOND THAT, THERE WASN'T A CLUE.

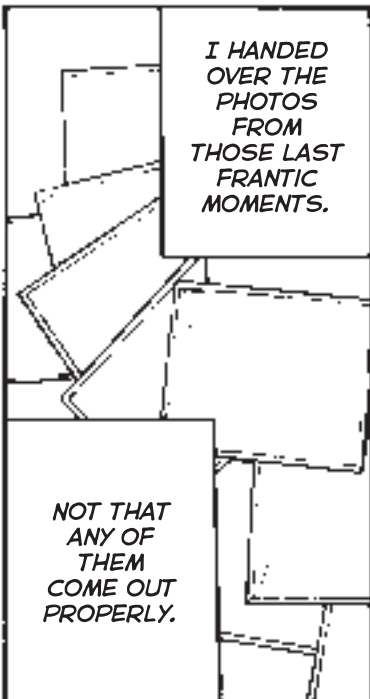
...THE MANSION WAS ALREADY EMPTY.

WHEN THE POLICE CAME...

NO SIGN OF WHERE THEY WENT. NO SIGN OF THE MONSTER.



THERE WAS ONE PICTURE, TAKEN BY THE STAIRS — IT DEPICTED NEITHER TOMIE NOR THE MONSTER.



I HANDED OVER THE PHOTOS FROM THOSE LAST FRANTIC MOMENTS.

RATHER, THE IMAGE OF A SAD YOUNG WOMAN FADING INTO SHADOW.

NOT THAT ANY OF THEM COME OUT PROPERLY.