

MARUGAME-UCHIWA



# Rooting for Marugame Uchiwa

~Playing Soccer with Ruruka~

Kagawa Prefecture Uchiwa Cooperatives



Rooting for Marugame Uchiwa

~Playing Soccer with Ruruka~

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TO THE RESIN COATED ONES MADE OUT OF PLASTIC THAT COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES THAT YOU CAN PRINT ON, MARUGAME IS A PLACE OF UCHIWAS BOTH OLD AND NEW.



FROM YOUR TRADITIONALLY MADE BAMBOO UCHIWAS

I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, AND BY THAT I MEAN MARUGAME UCHIWA, TO YOU.

HEY THERE! MY NAME'S RURUKA AND I'M THE UCHIWA SPIRIT!

UCHIWAS HAVE BEEN USED FOR A LONG TIME IN JAPAN

FOR EVERYTHING FROM COOLING ONESELF OFF TO FANNING KINDLING TO GET A FIRE GOING.

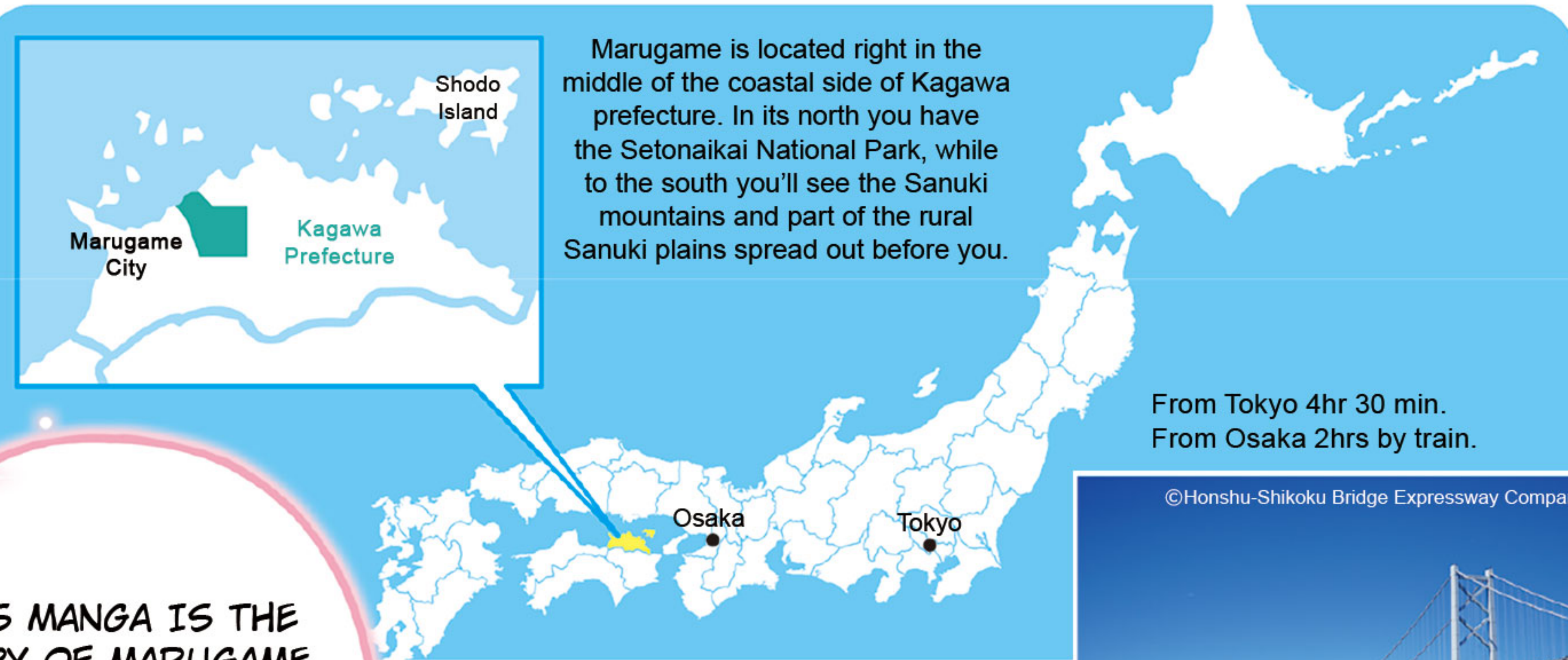


MARUGAME HAS BEEN THE PREMIER UCHIWA MAKING SPOT SINCE LONG, LONG AGO.

IN FACT, THEY SAY THAT 90% OF THE UCHIWAS MADE TODAY ARE MADE IN MARUGAME!



Image from Kagawa Prefecture Uchiwa Cooperatives



Marugame is located right in the middle of the coastal side of Kagawa prefecture. In its north you have the Setonaikai National Park, while to the south you'll see the Sanuki mountains and part of the rural Sanuki plains spread out before you.

From Tokyo 4hr 30 min.  
From Osaka 2hrs by train.



The Great Seto Bridge which connects Shikoku to Honshu

THIS MANGA IS THE STORY OF MARUGAME UCHIWA, THE PEOPLE WHO WORK THERE AND ME, RURUKA. I HOPE YOU ENJOY!



WELL KAMEMARU, I THINK IT'S TIME TO HEAD OUT!

POOF





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# Characters

Hayato's older cousin. She's really good at soccer and belongs to the rival team of Hayato.

## Haruna Takeuchi



## Kamemaru

Ruruka's partner. He can fly and even turn into a giant uchiwa. And just like Ruruka, he can't be seen by people.



## Wataru Takeuchi

Uchiwa maker. He's been able to see Ruruka since he was a child and is very close to her. He's the grandfather to Hayato and Haruna.



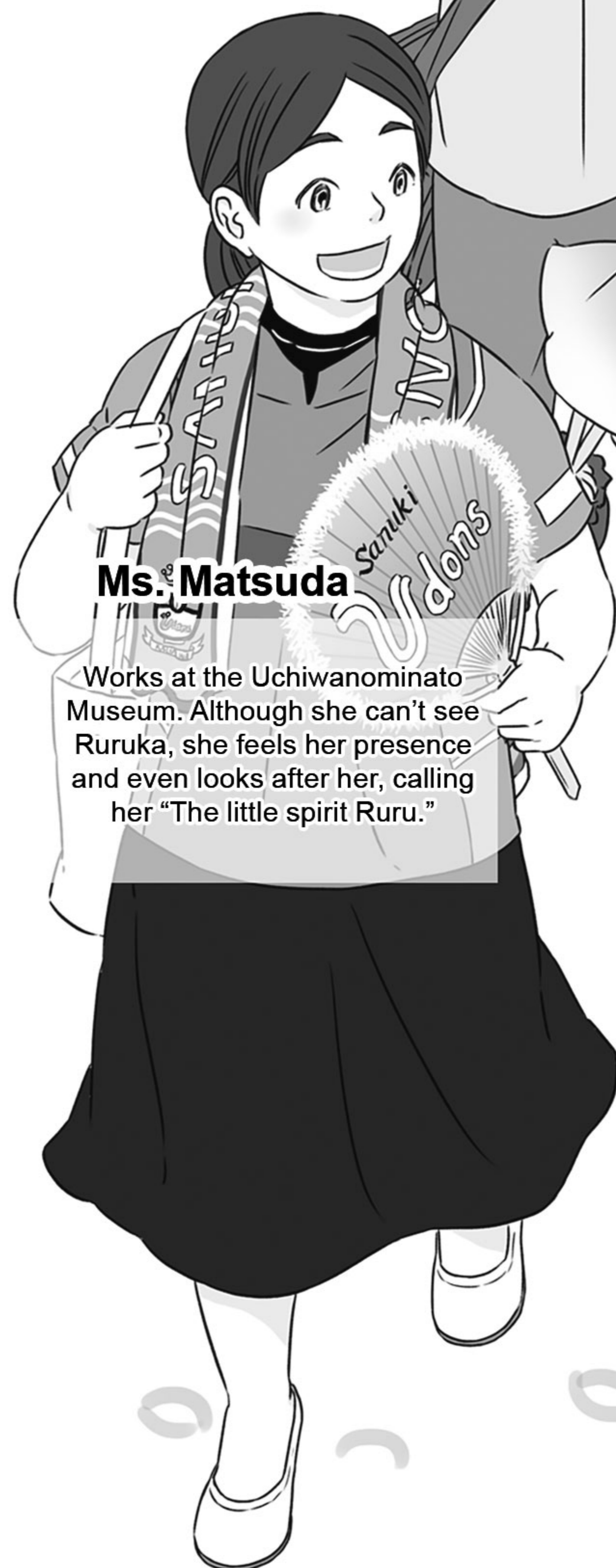
## Ruruka

The uchiwa spirit. She can make the wind blow and fly incredibly fast if she rides on Kamemaru's giant uchiwa. With the uchiwa's gusts she can even chase off the wicked. She can't normally be seen by people and flies around the town at will.



## Ms. Matsuda

Works at the Uchiwanominato Museum. Although she can't see Ruruka, she feels her presence and even looks after her, calling her "The little spirit Ruru."

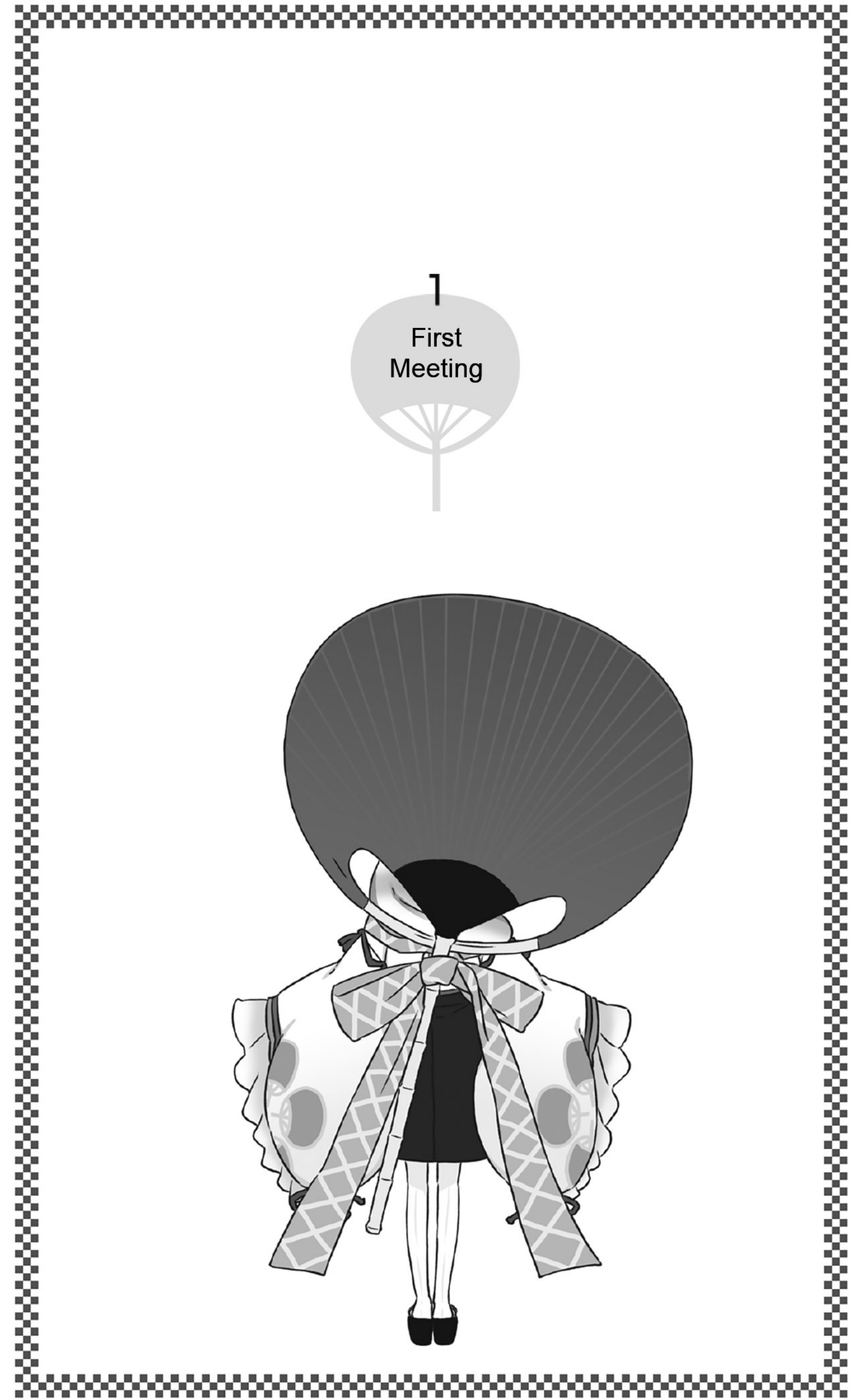
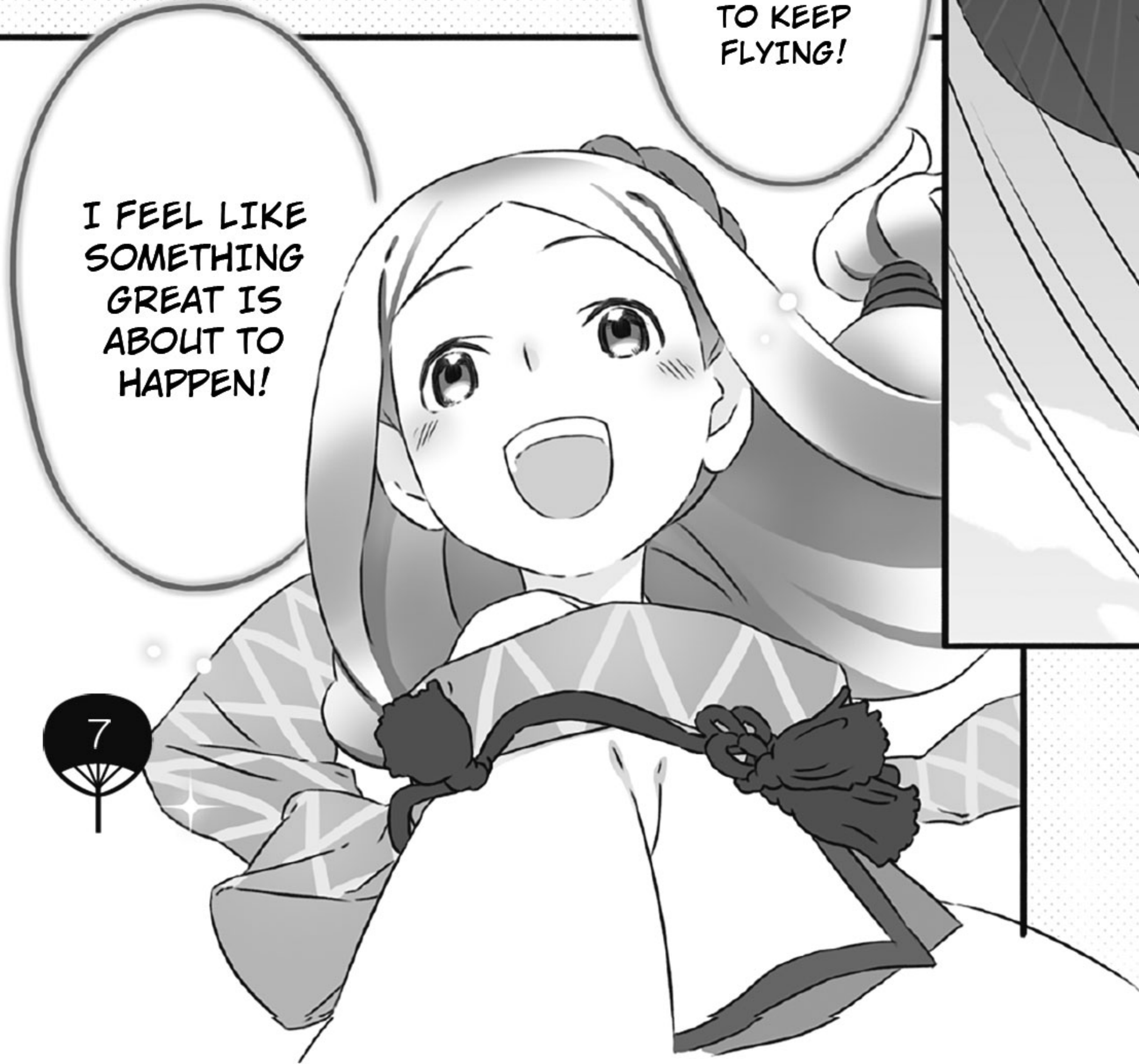
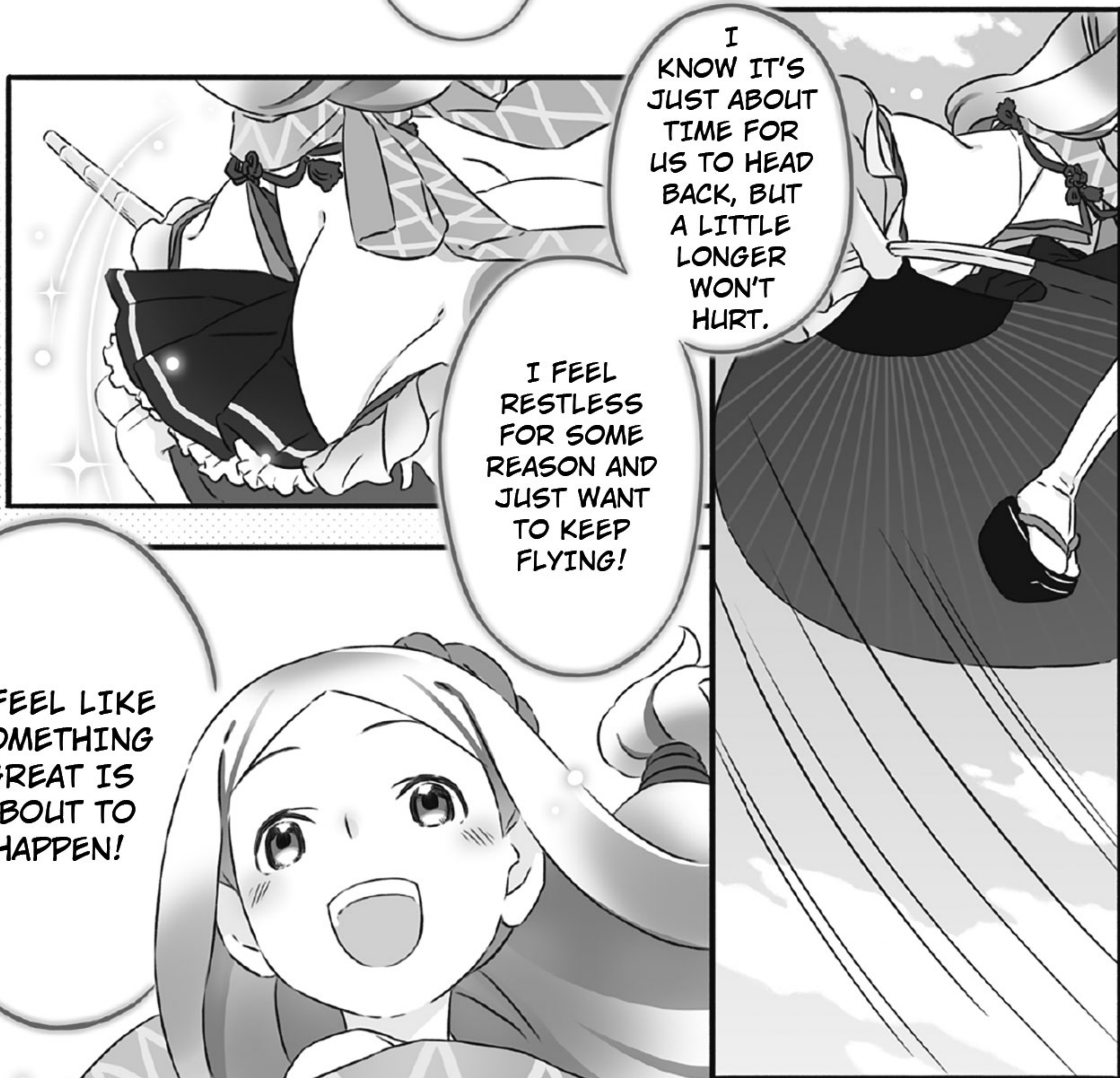
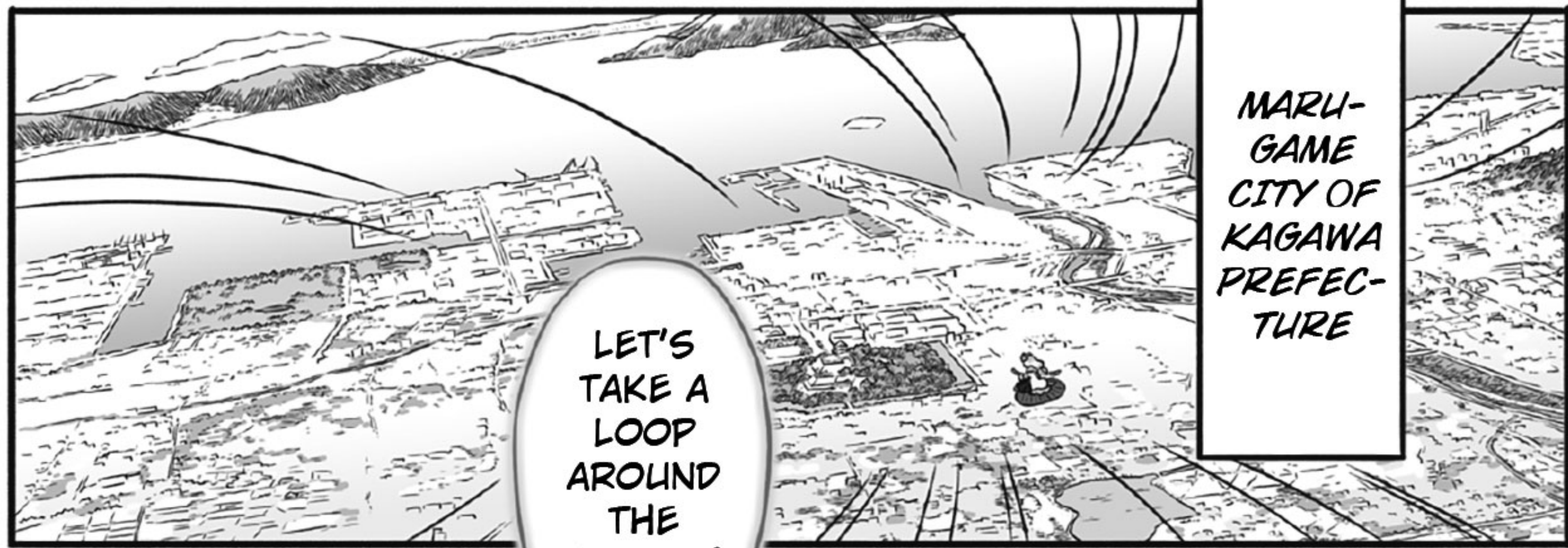
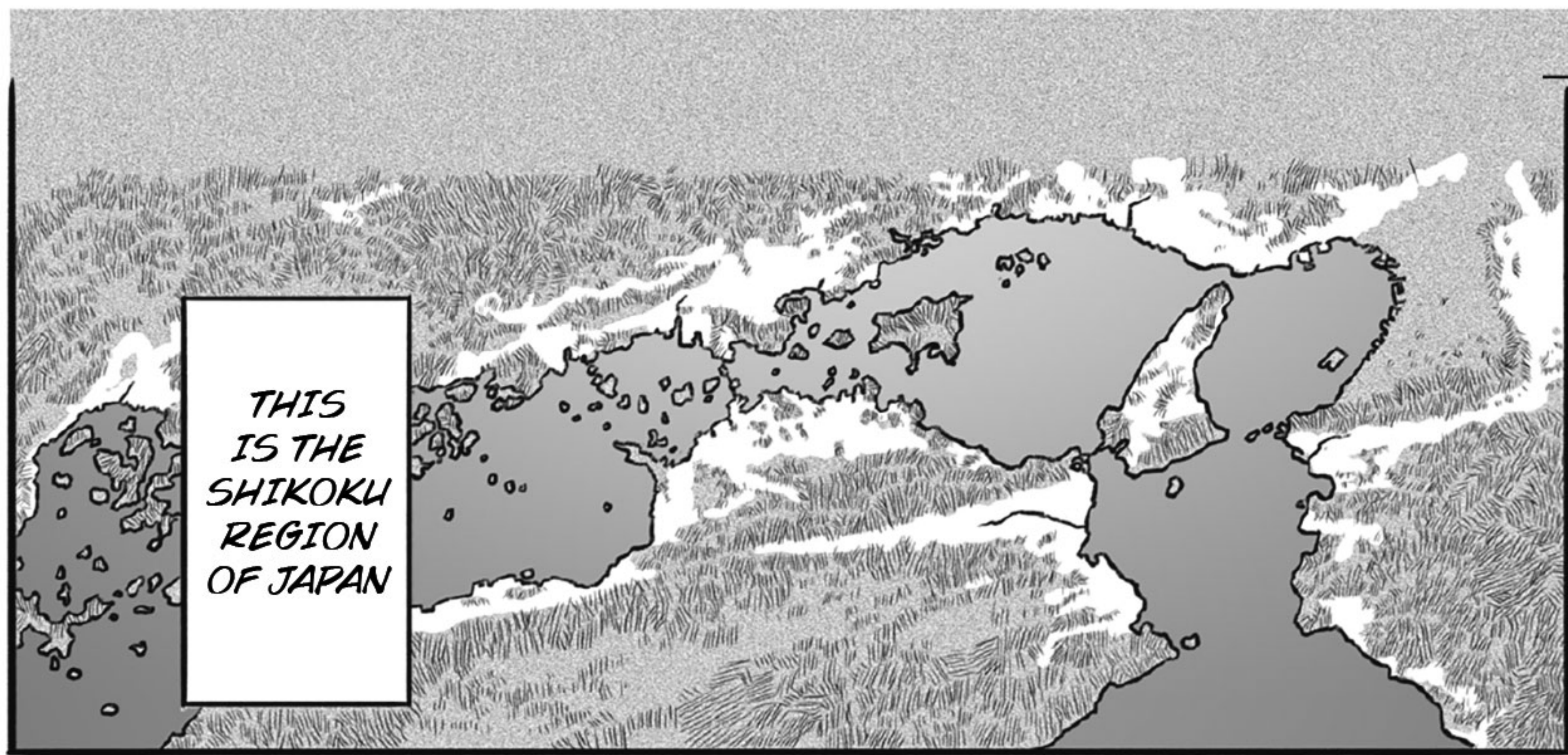


## Hayato Takeuchi

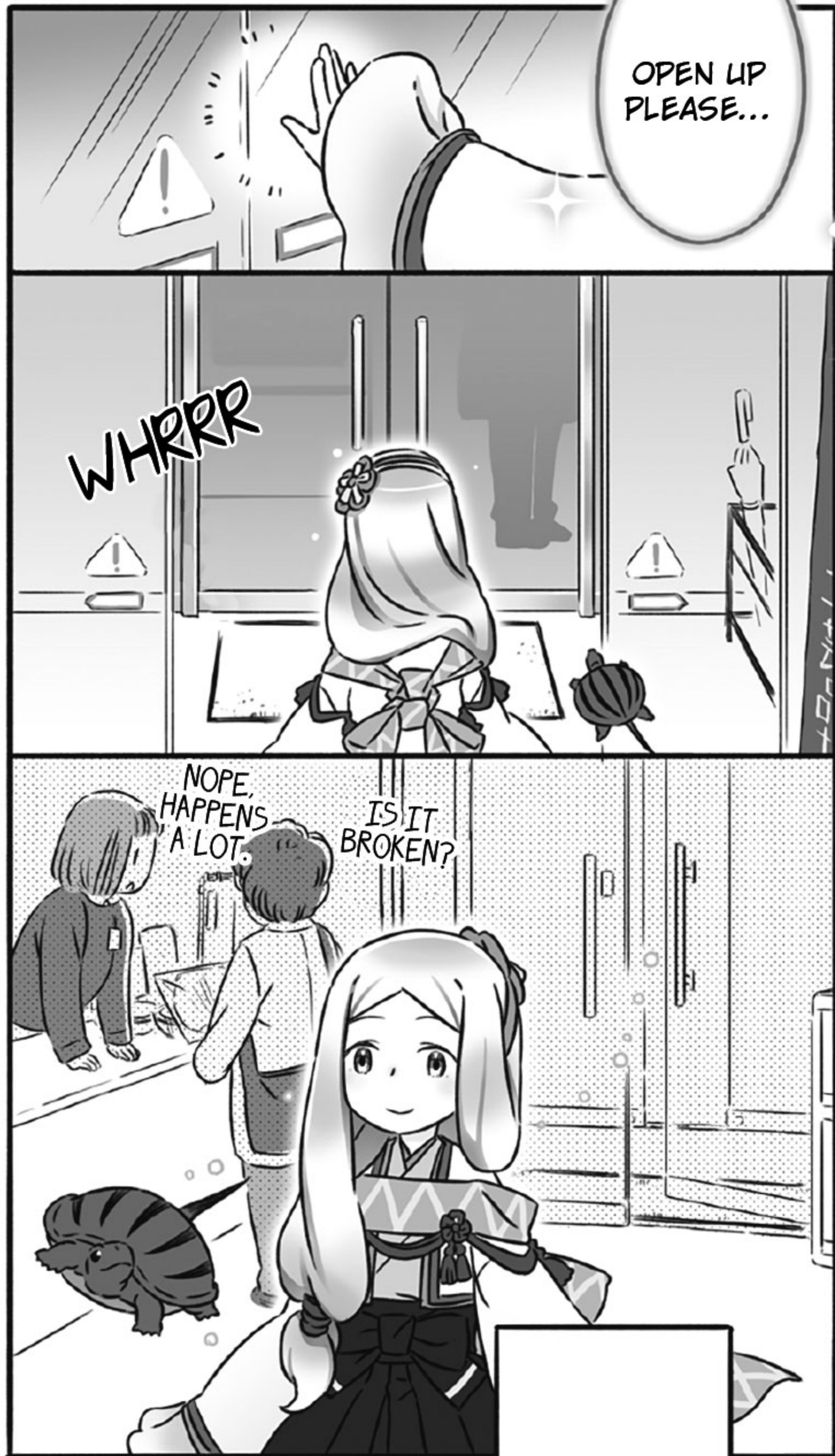
A young boy who loves soccer. He's an active boy brimming with curiosity.











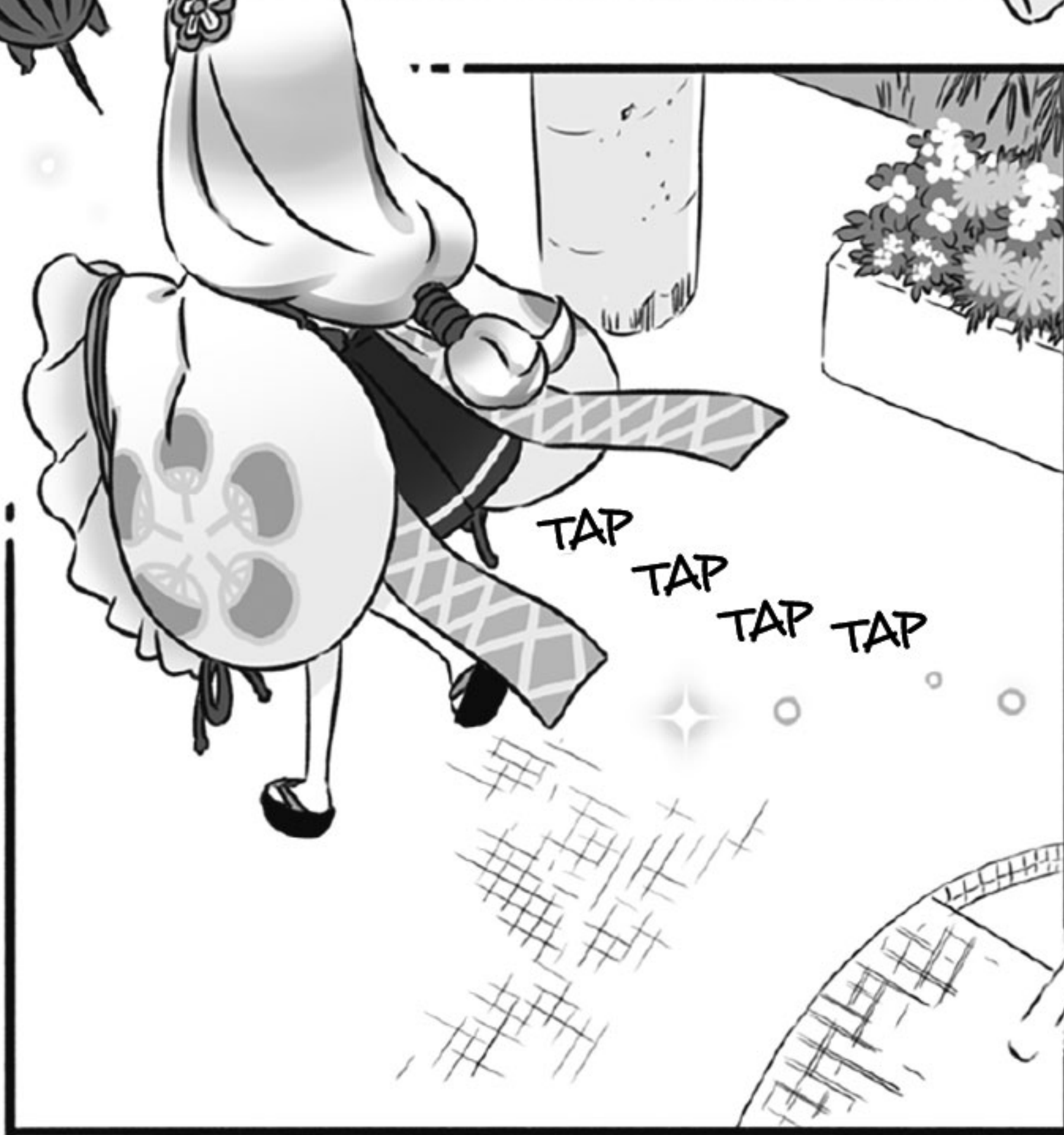
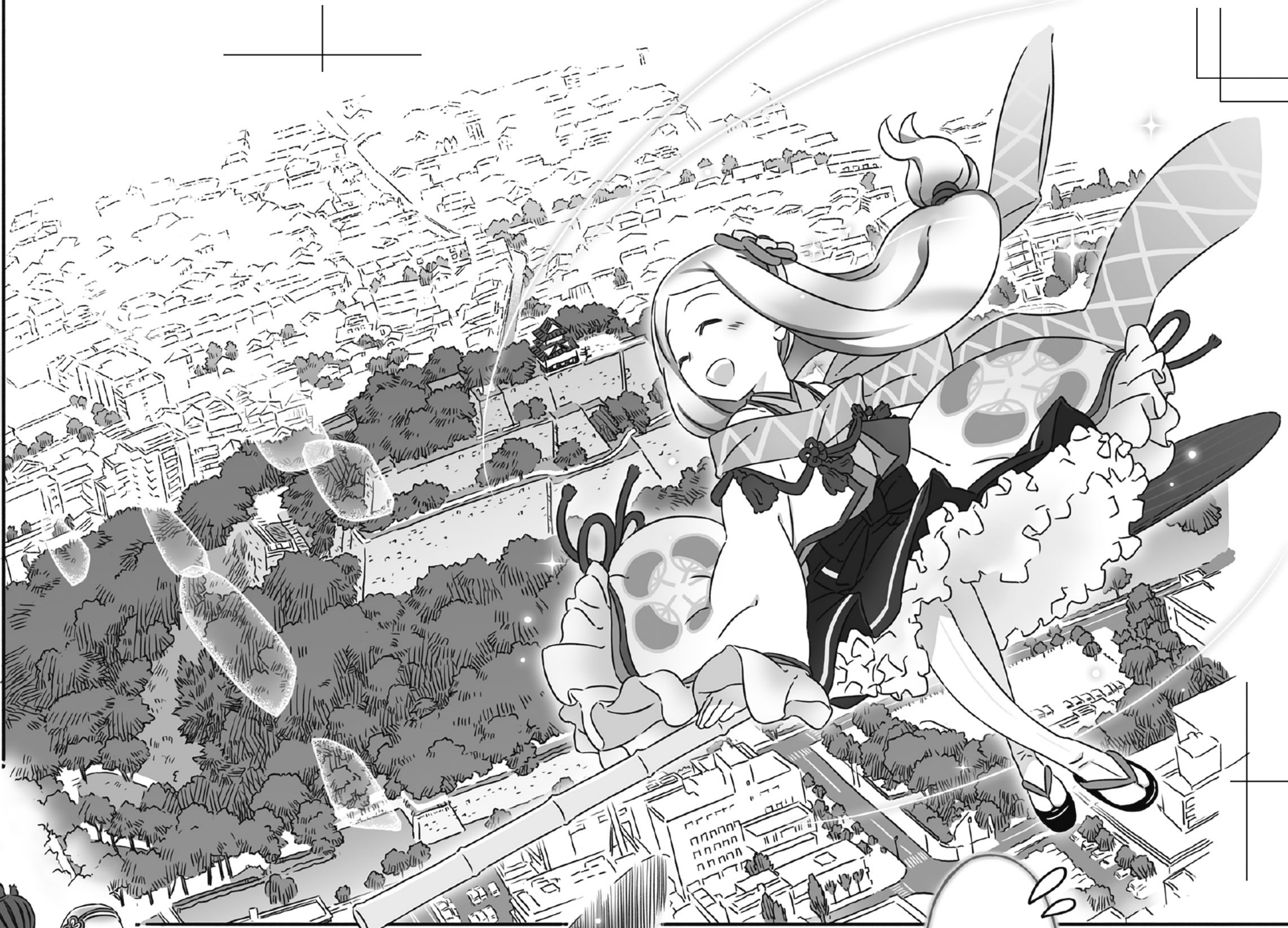
OPEN UP PLEASE...

WHRRR

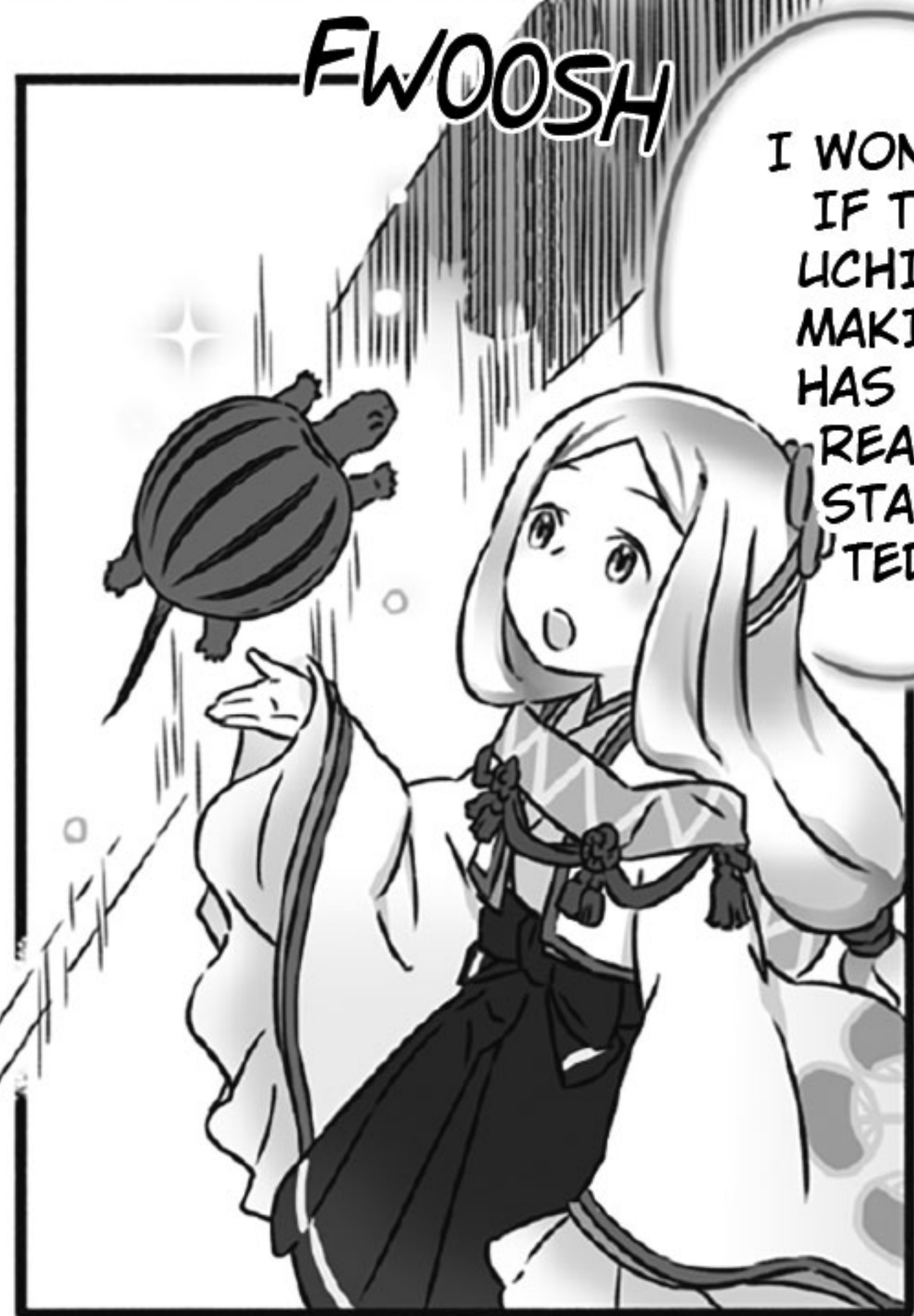
NOPE HAPPENS A LOT.

IS IT BROKEN?

THIS IS THE UCHIWANO-MINATO MUSEUM.



TAP TAP TAP TAP



FWOOSH

I WONDER IF THE UCHIWA MAKING HAS ALREADY STARTED.



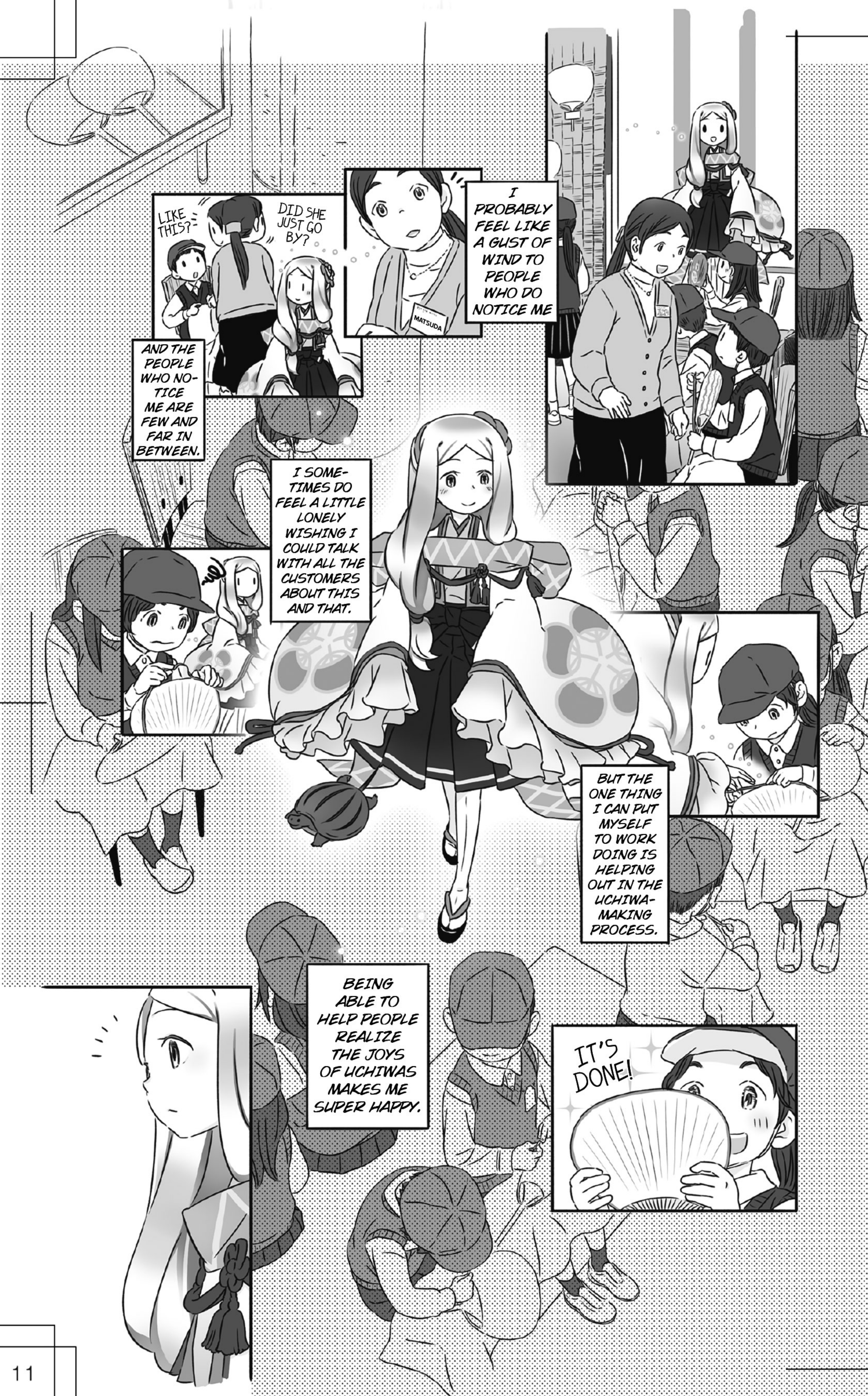
I KNEW I WOULD AND YET I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.



OH MY! NOW I'M RUNNING LATE!

UCHIWANO-MINATO MUSEUM





LIKE THIS? DID SHE JUST GO BY?

MATSUDA  
I PROBABLY FEEL LIKE A GUST OF WIND TO PEOPLE WHO DO NOTICE ME

AND THE PEOPLE WHO NOTICE ME ARE FEW AND FAR IN BETWEEN.

I SOMETIMES DO FEEL A LITTLE LONELY WISHING I COULD TALK WITH ALL THE CUSTOMERS ABOUT THIS AND THAT.

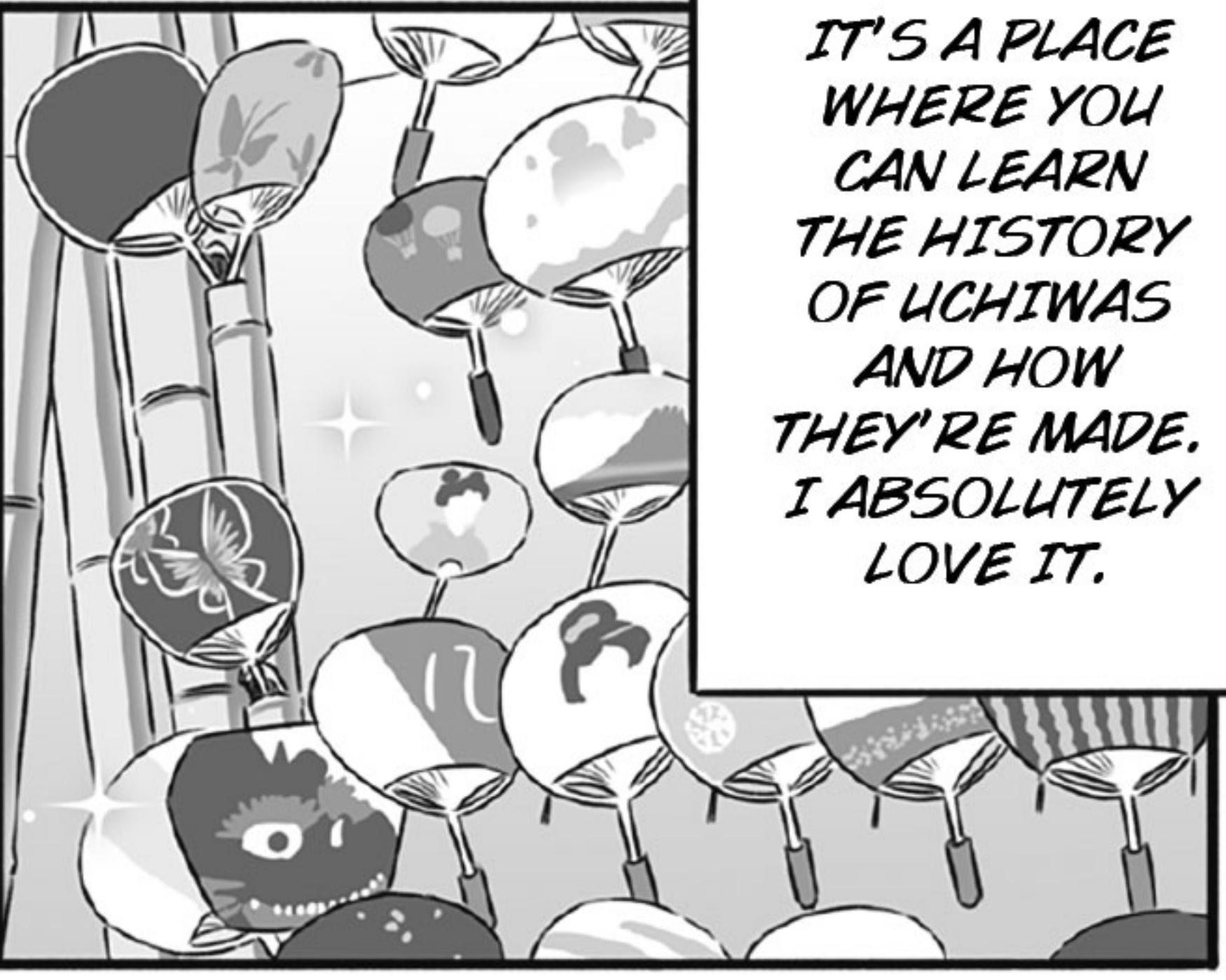
BUT THE ONE THING I CAN PUT MYSELF TO WORK DOING IS HELPING OUT IN THE UCHIWA-MAKING PROCESS.

BEING ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE REALIZE THE JOYS OF UCHIWAS MAKES ME SUPER HAPPY.

IT'S DONE!



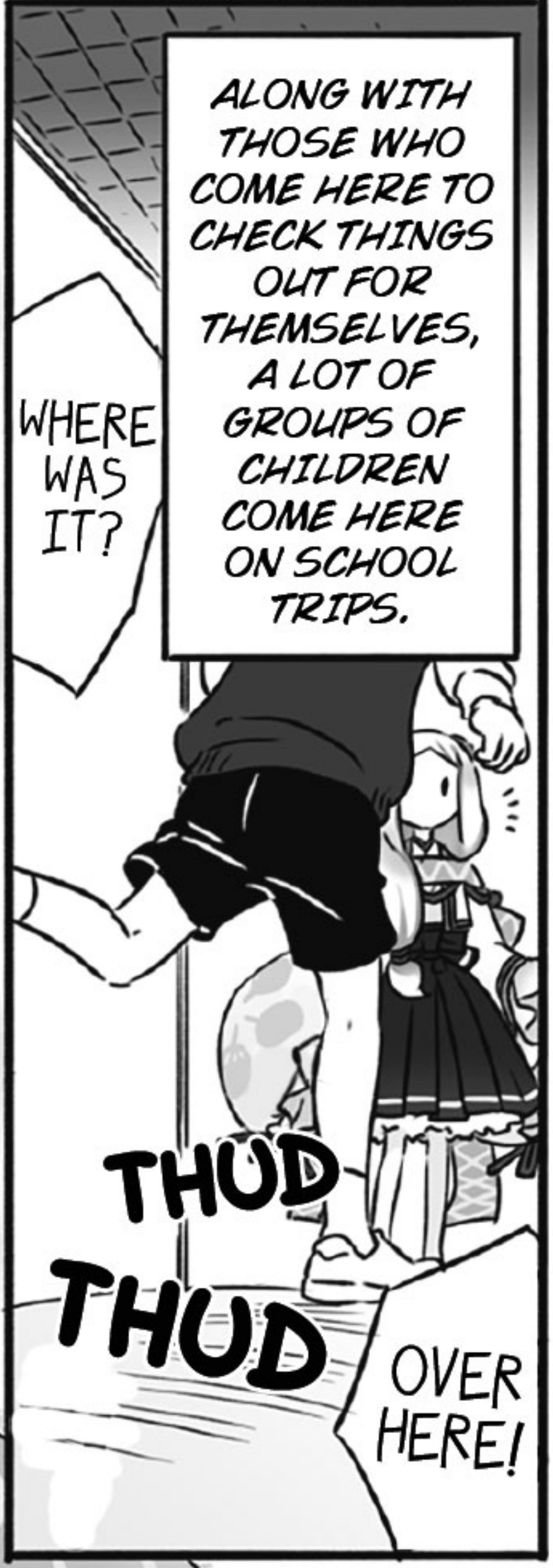
YOU CAN ALSO MAKE AN UCHIWA YOURSELF, WHICH IS VERY POPULAR.



IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LEARN THE HISTORY OF UCHIWAS AND HOW THEY'RE MADE. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT.



FWISH



WHERE WAS IT?

ALONG WITH THOSE WHO COME HERE TO CHECK THINGS OUT FOR THEMSELVES, A LOT OF GROUPS OF CHILDREN COME HERE ON SCHOOL TRIPS.

THUD THUD

OVER HERE!

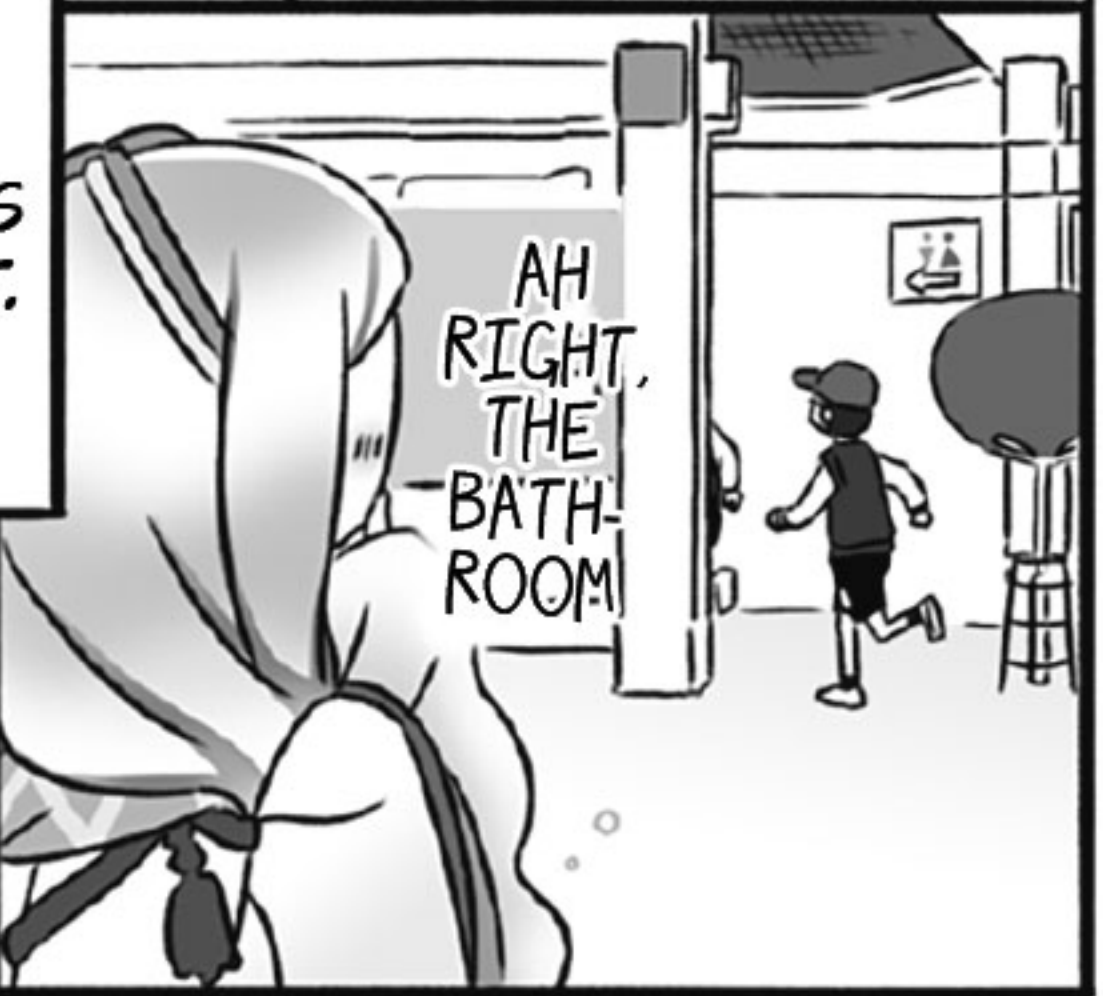


THE CHILDREN HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY

I'M A SPIRIT SO NO ONE CAN ACTUALLY SEE ME.

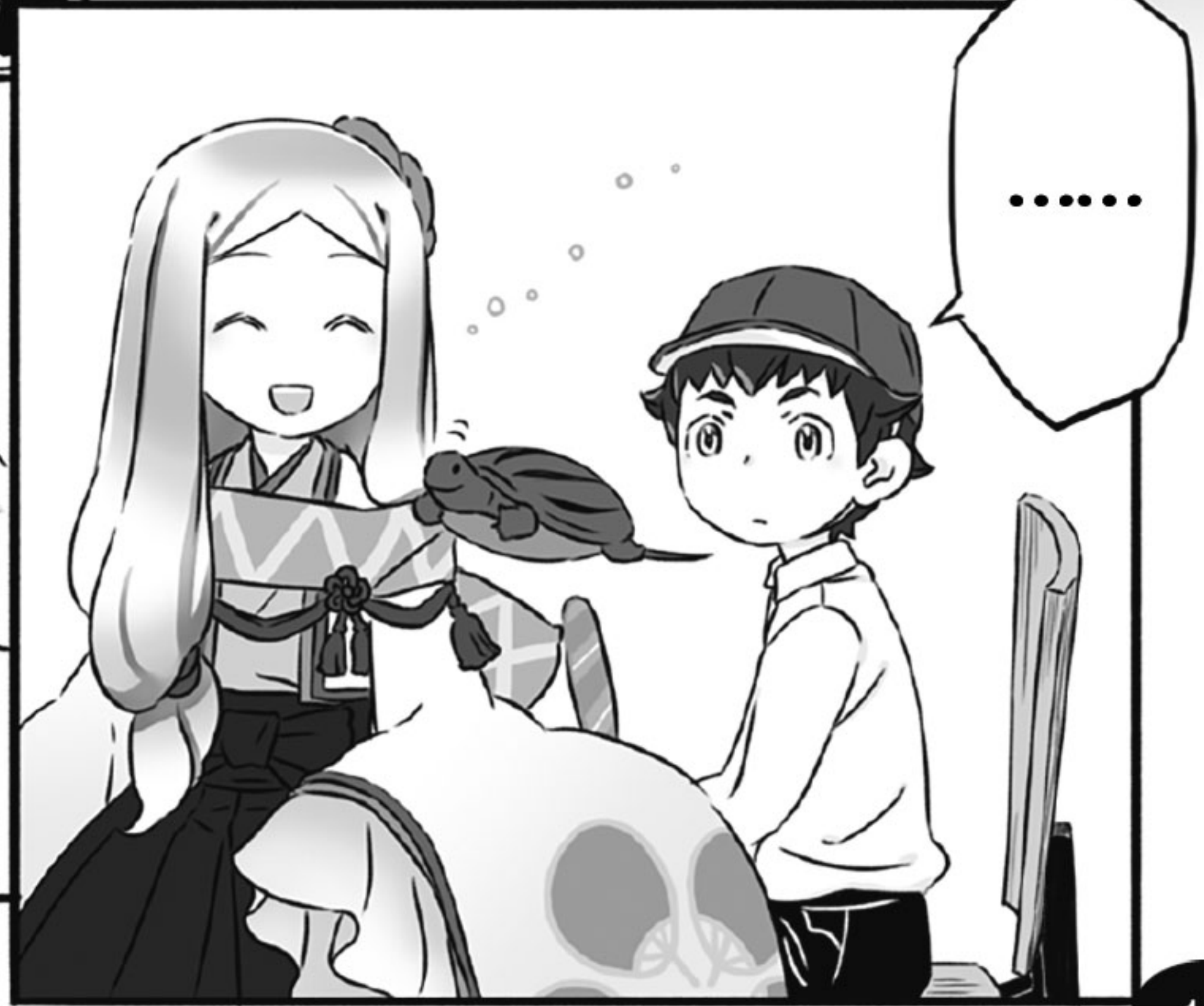
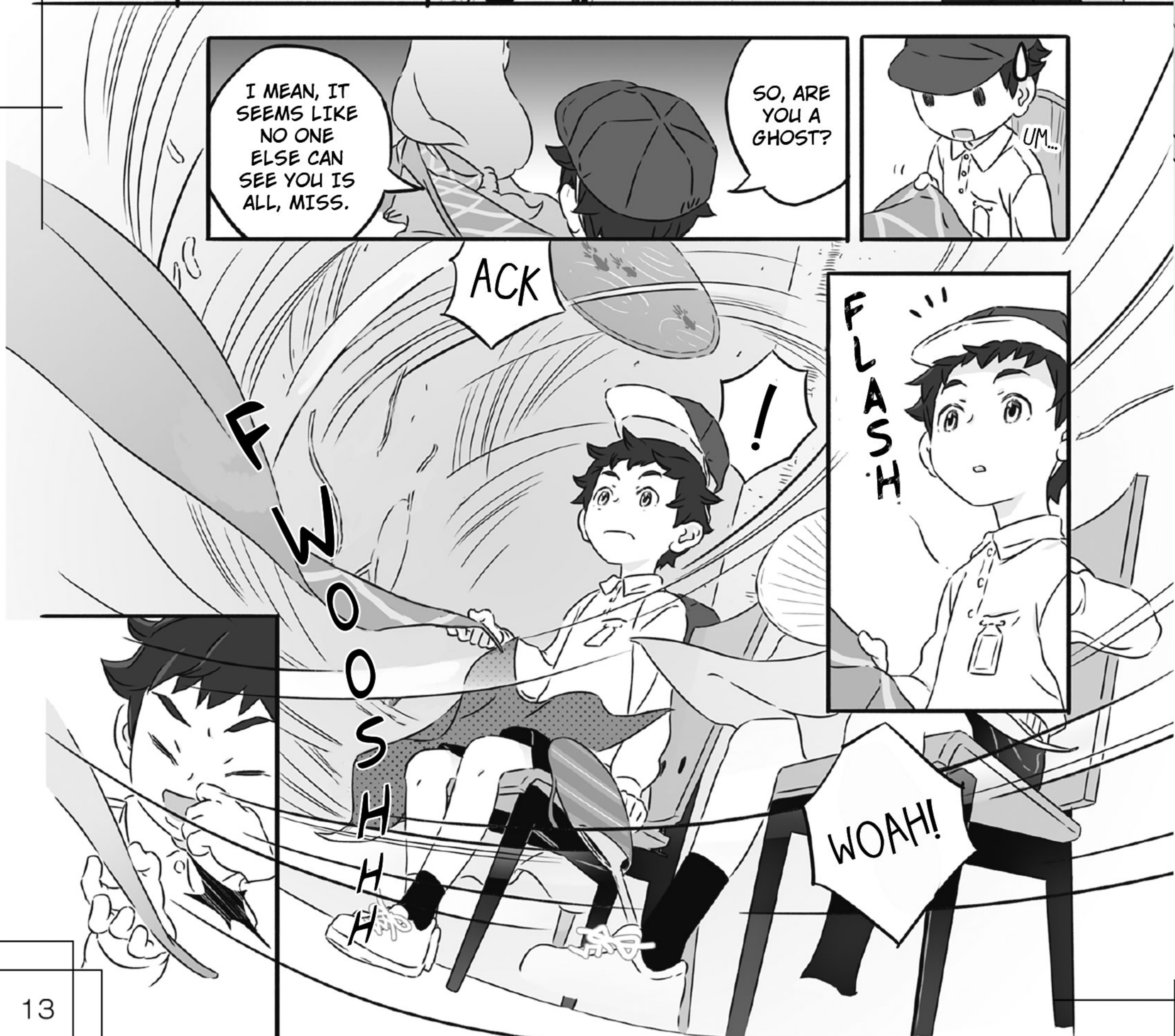
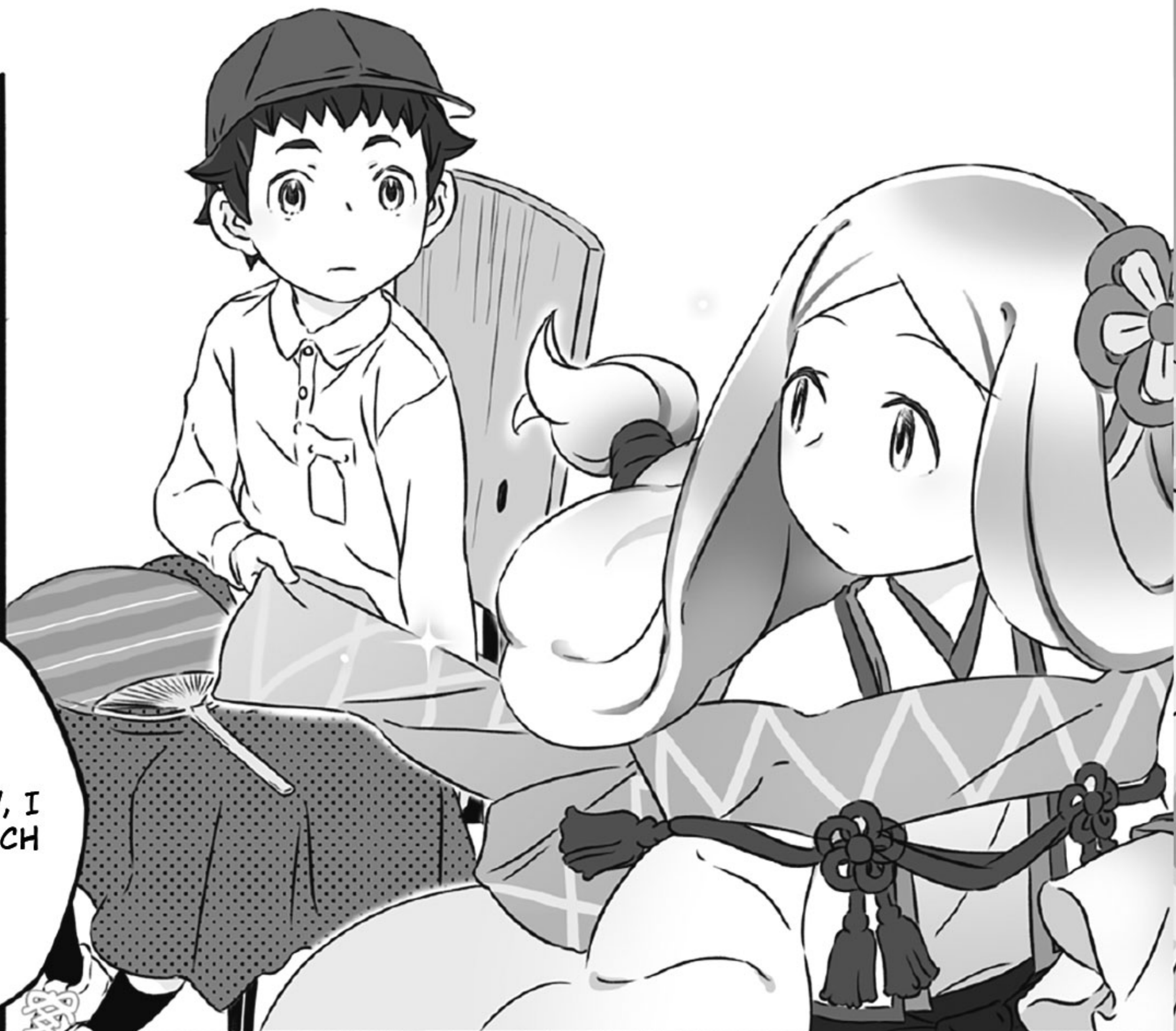
I TOLD YOU NOT TO RUN!

YEP, THAT'S RIGHT.

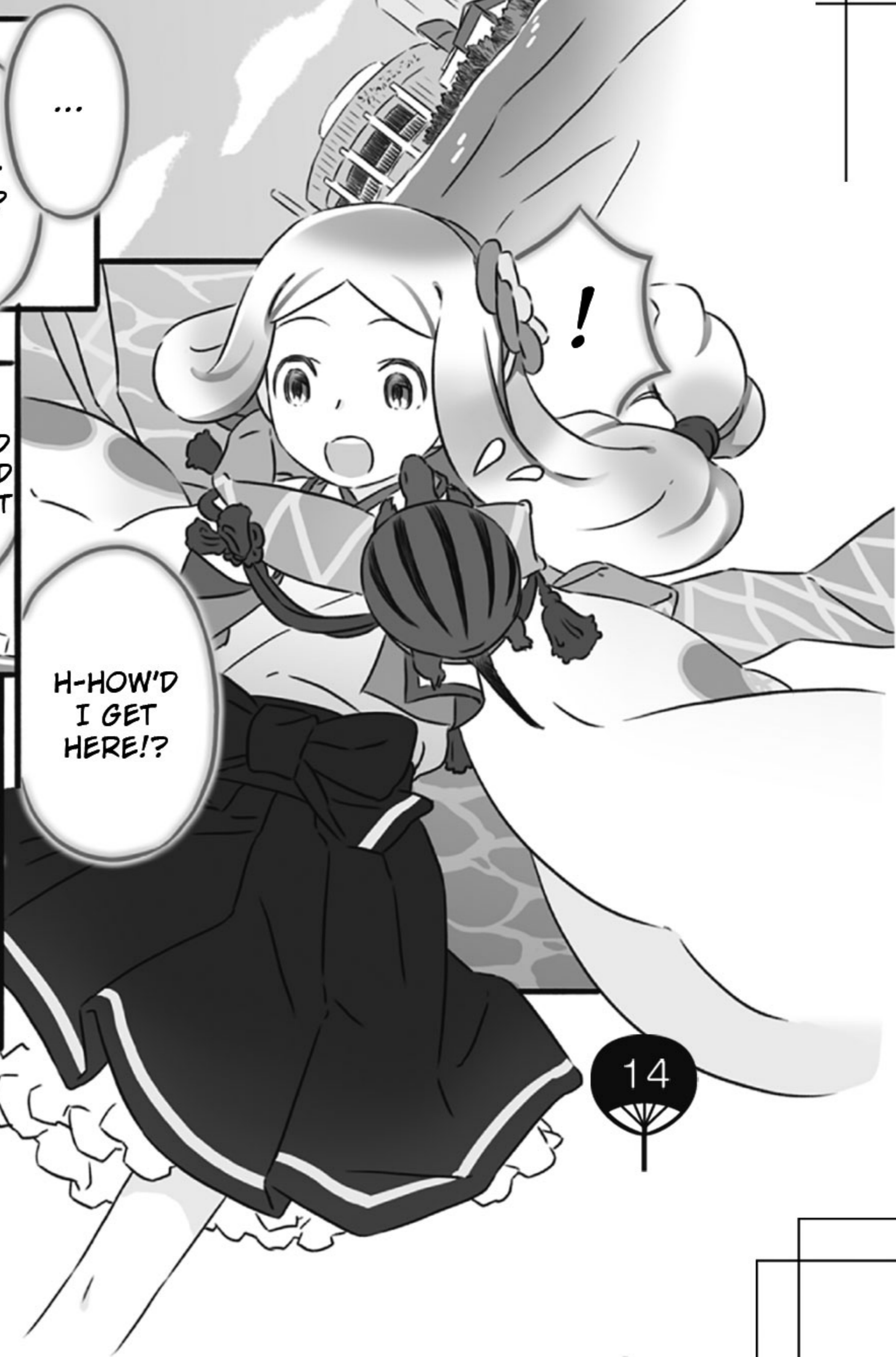
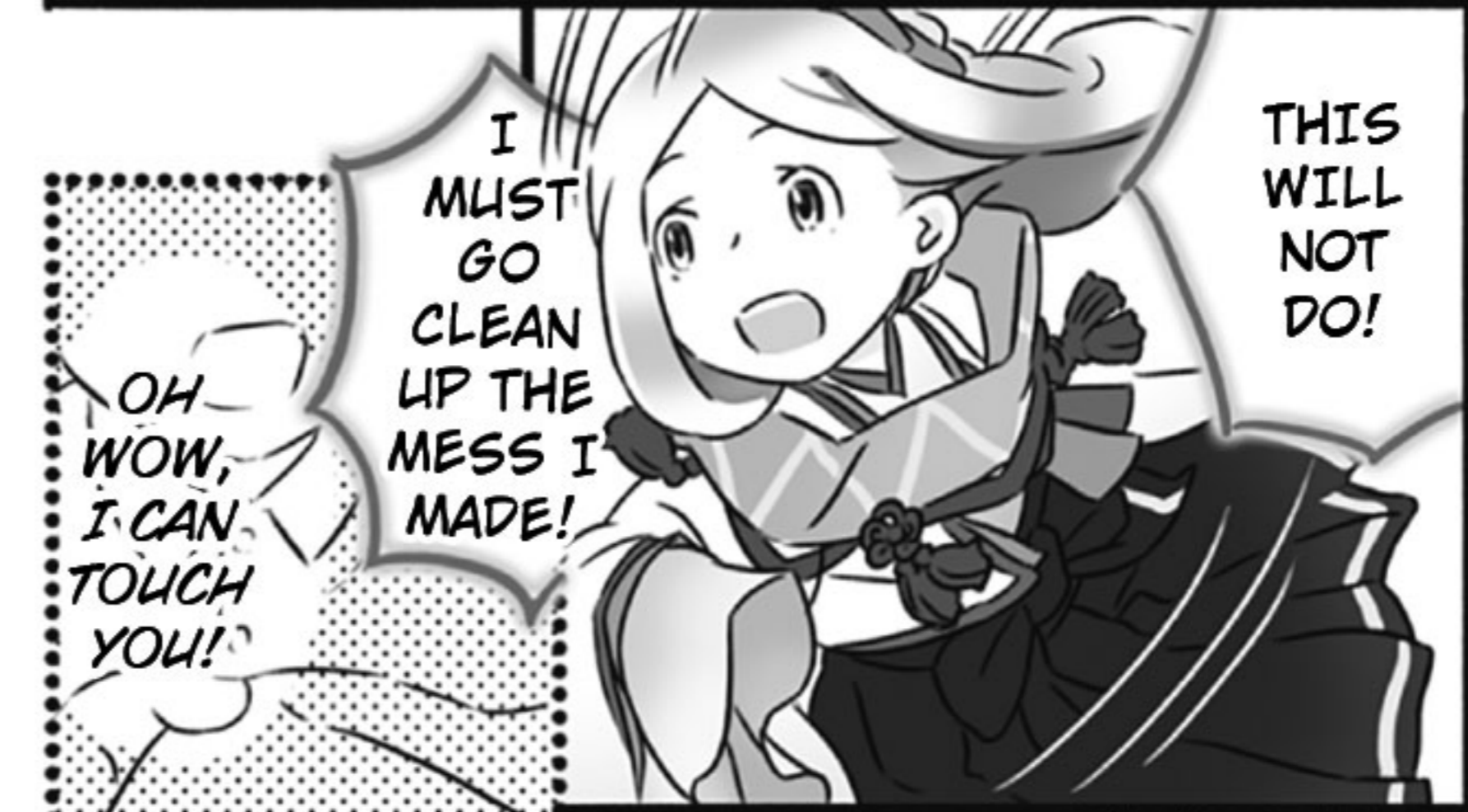
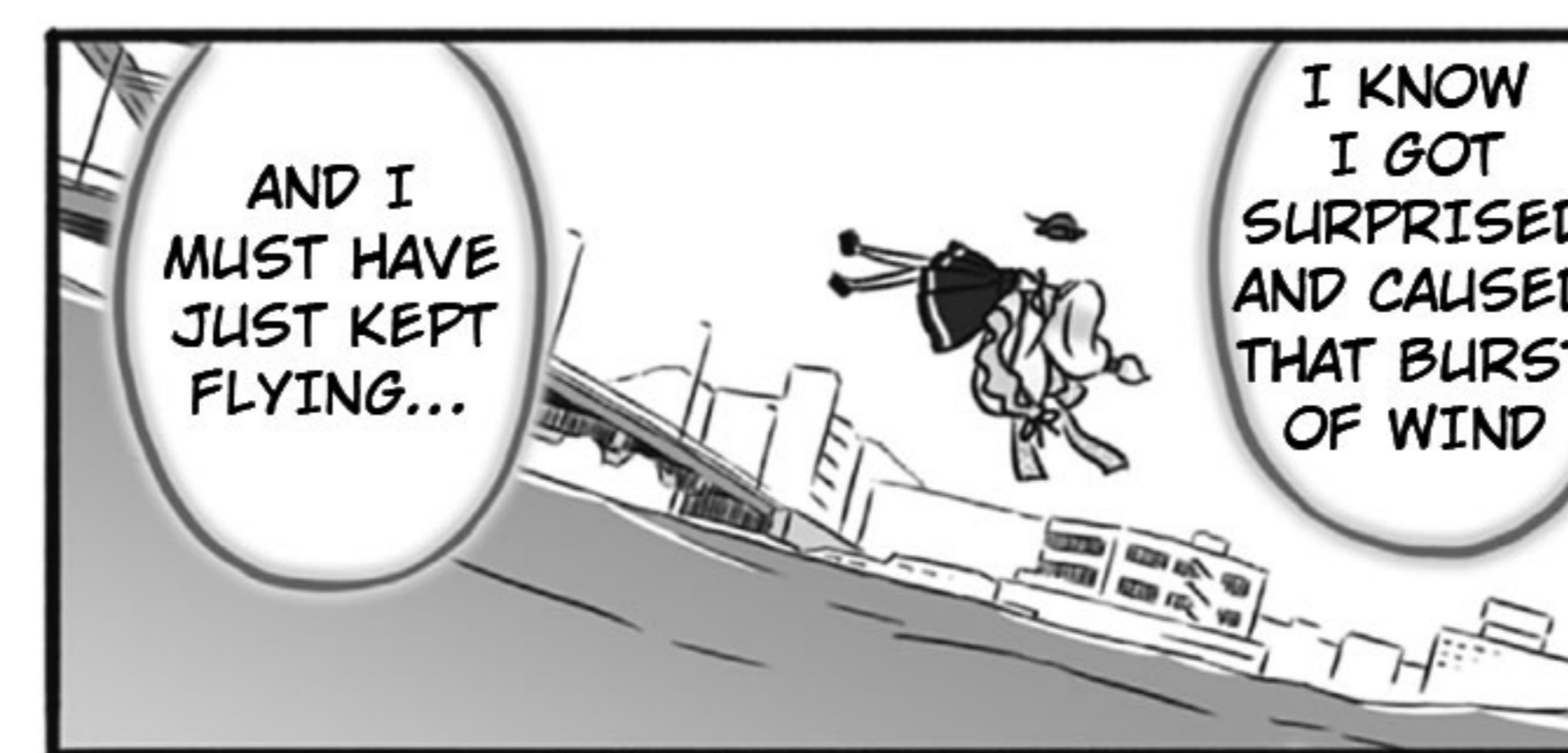
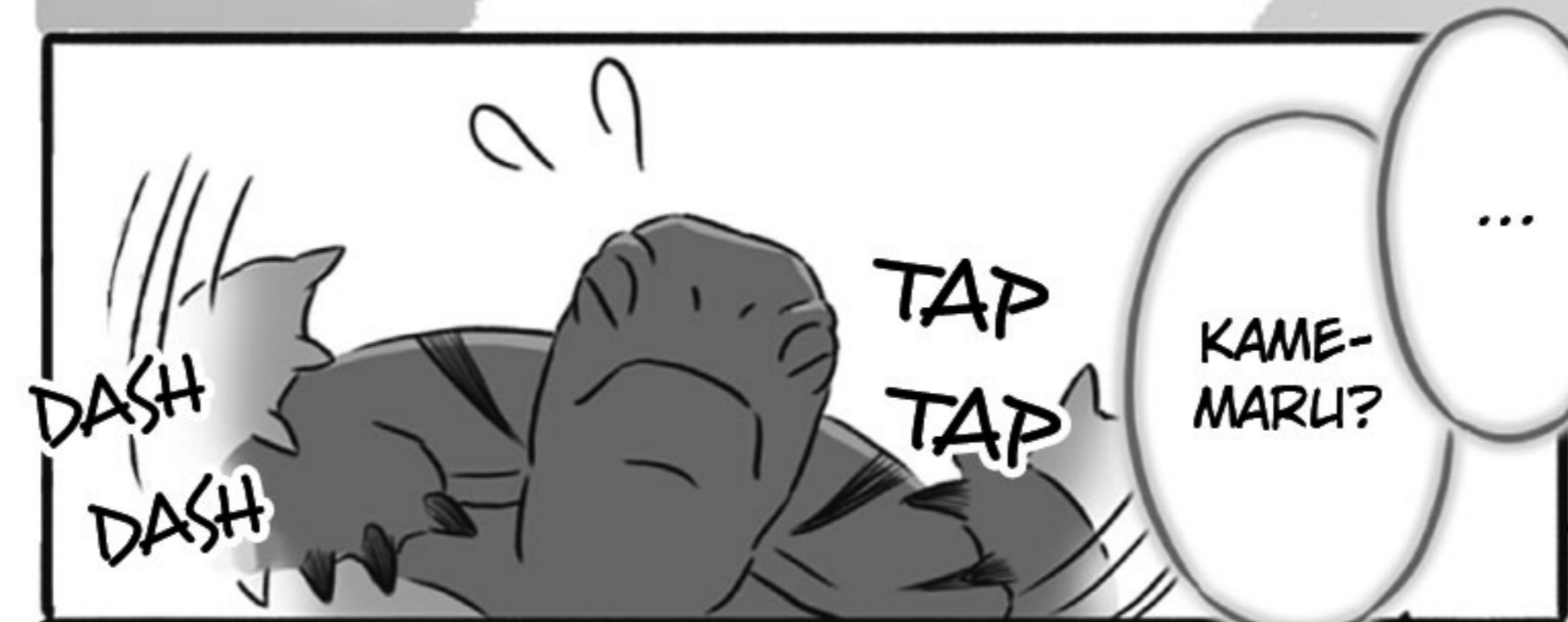
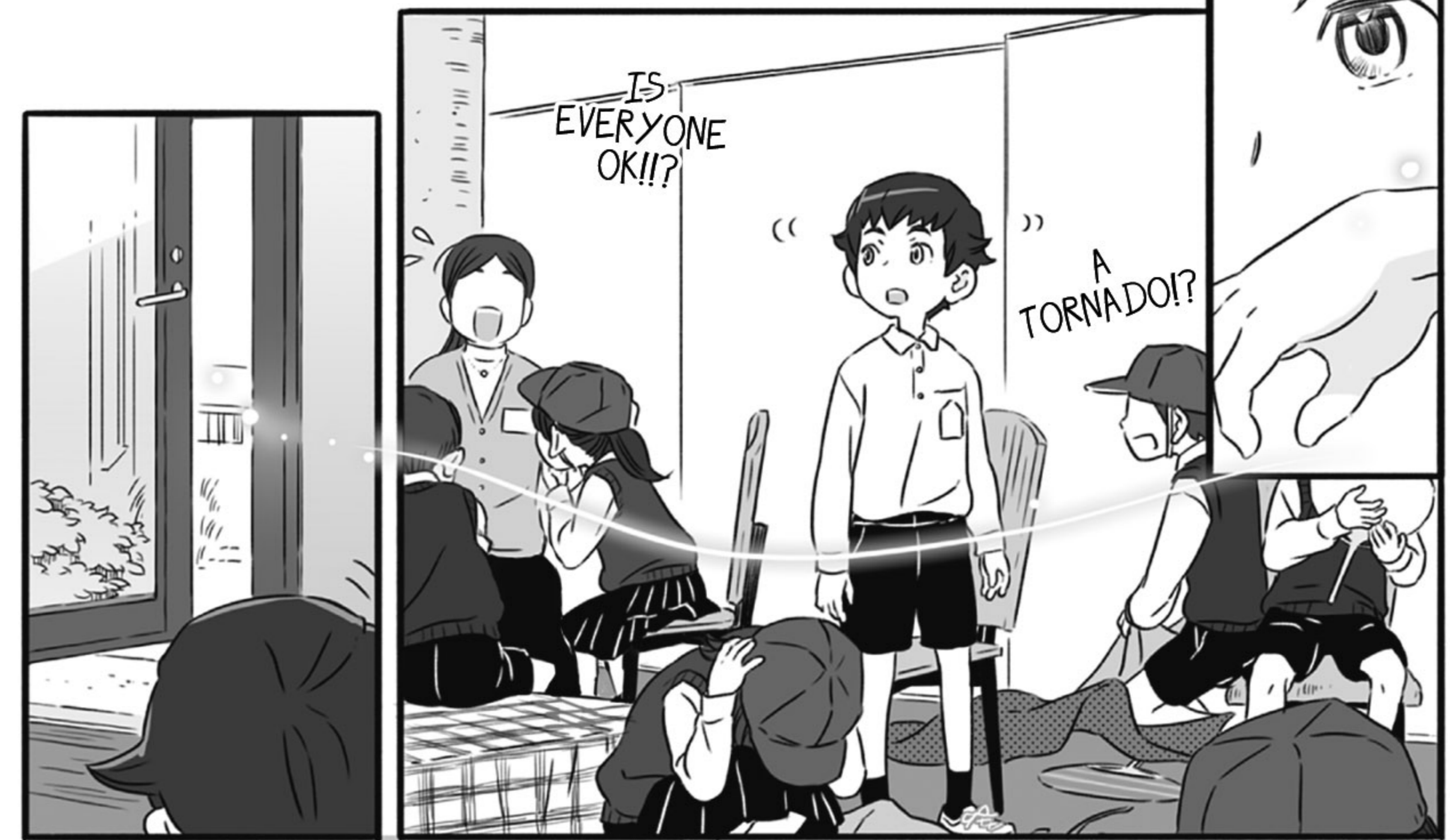
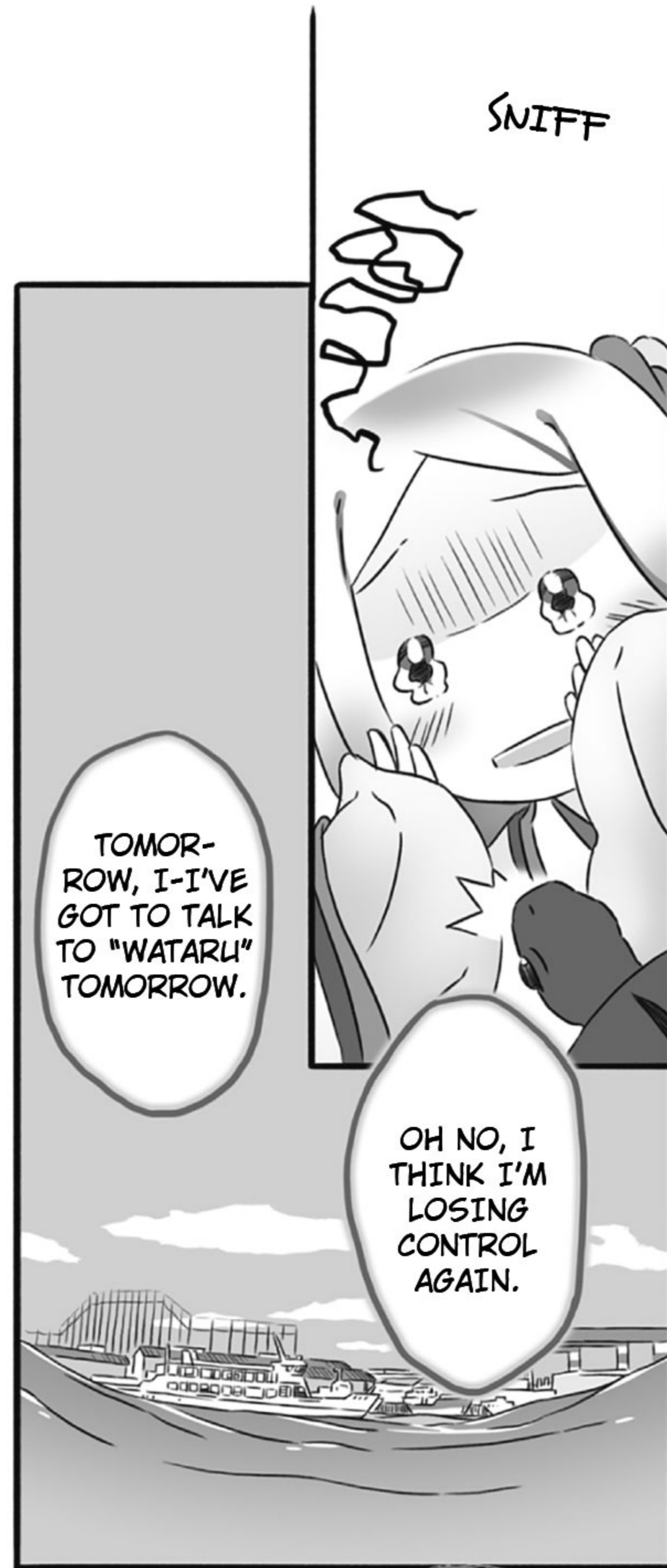


AH RIGHT, THE BATH ROOM







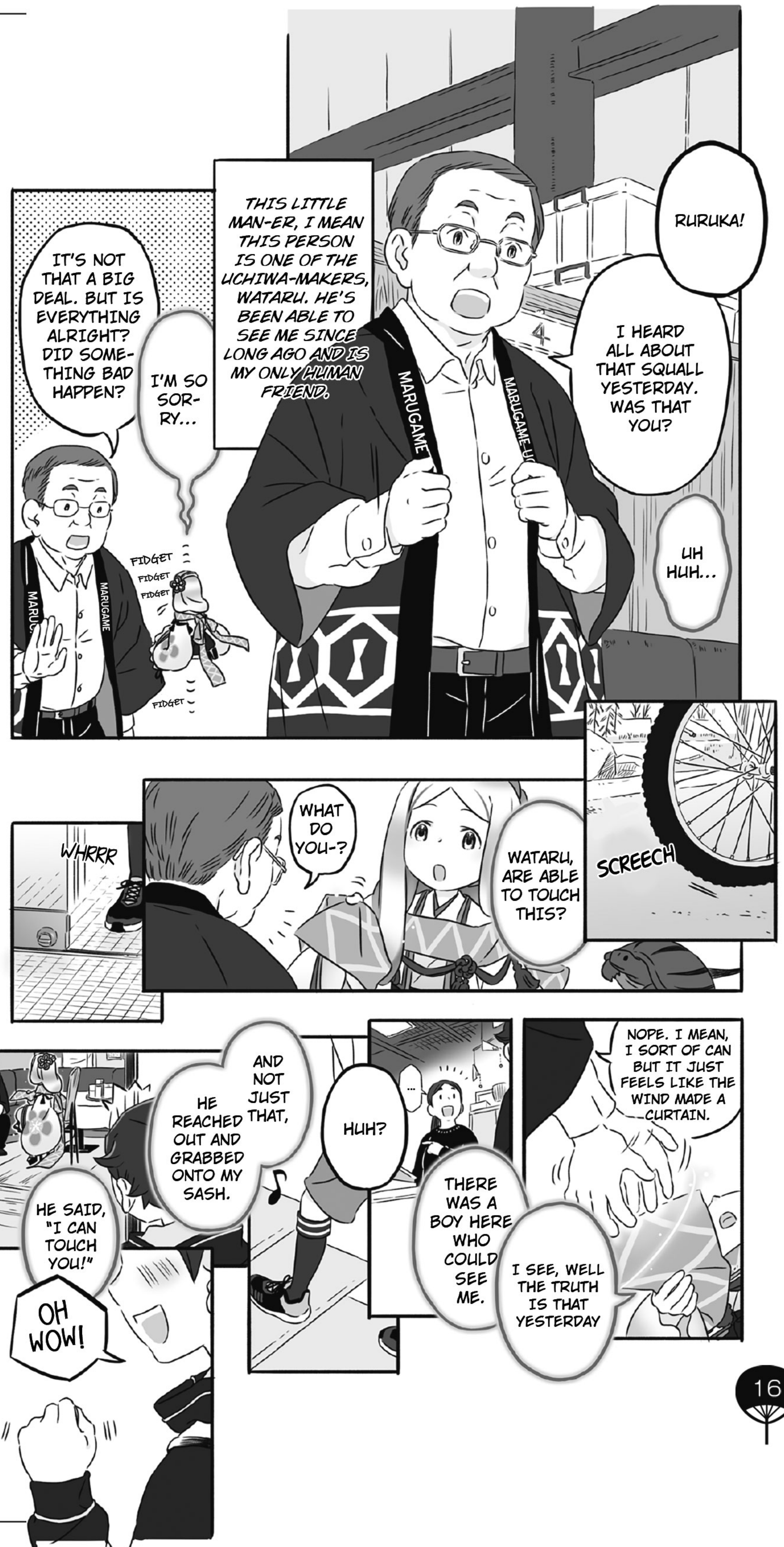
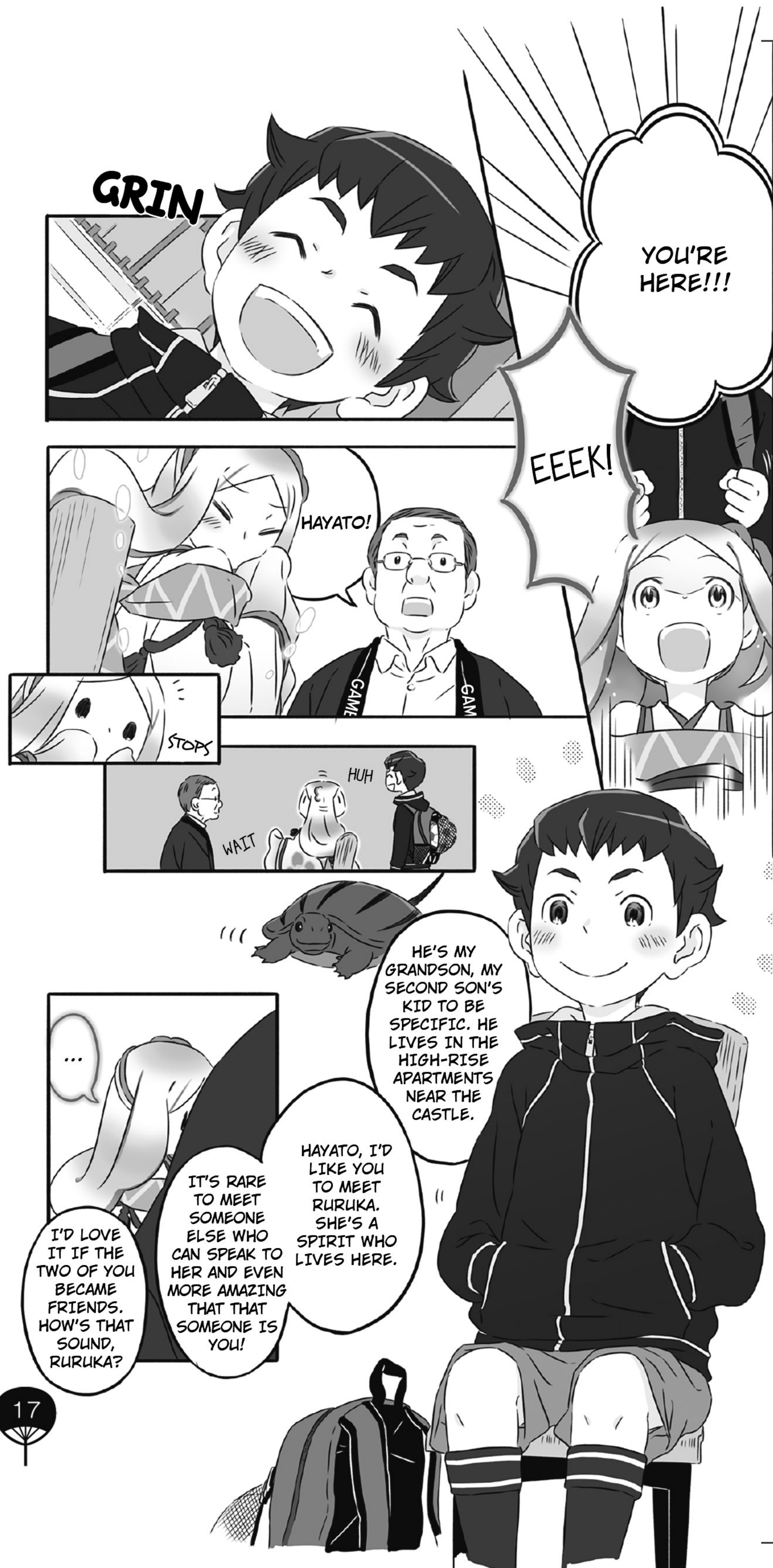


**Uchiwa Column Plus The Uchiwanominato Museum**

The museum is located on the coast facing the Marugame Port. It contains uchiwas from the past until now as well as tools used in the past and documents detailing their history. In the demonstration section, you can get an up-close view of a real uchiwa-maker hard at work. And in the uchiwa-making corner, you can choose your own paper and paste it onto backing to make your very own uchiwa.











FWOOSH



POP!

WHAT THE-?



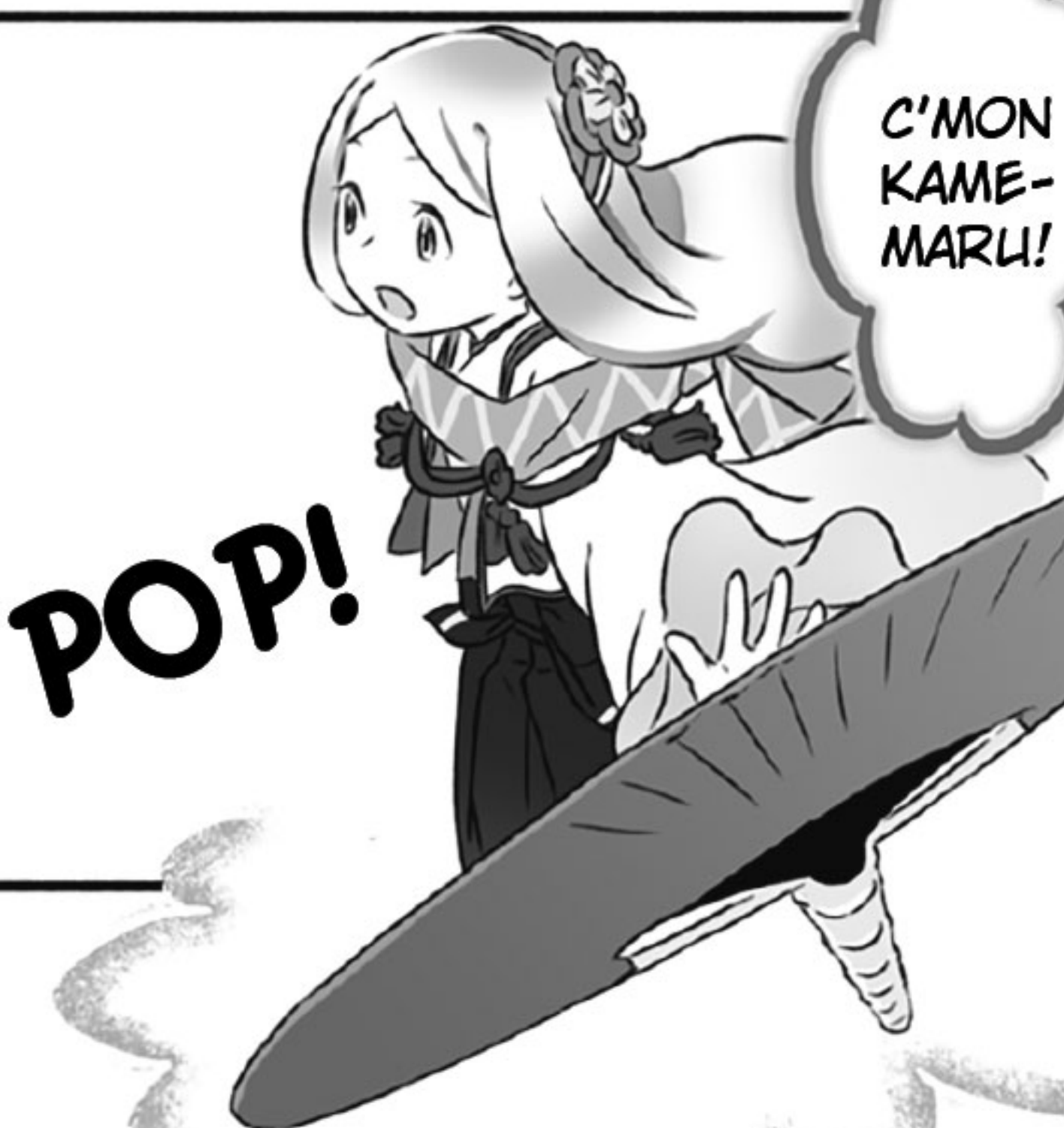
MARUGAME



ACK

...

I WONDER WHERE EXACTLY THIS "PRACTICE" IS.



POP!

C'MON KAME-MARU!

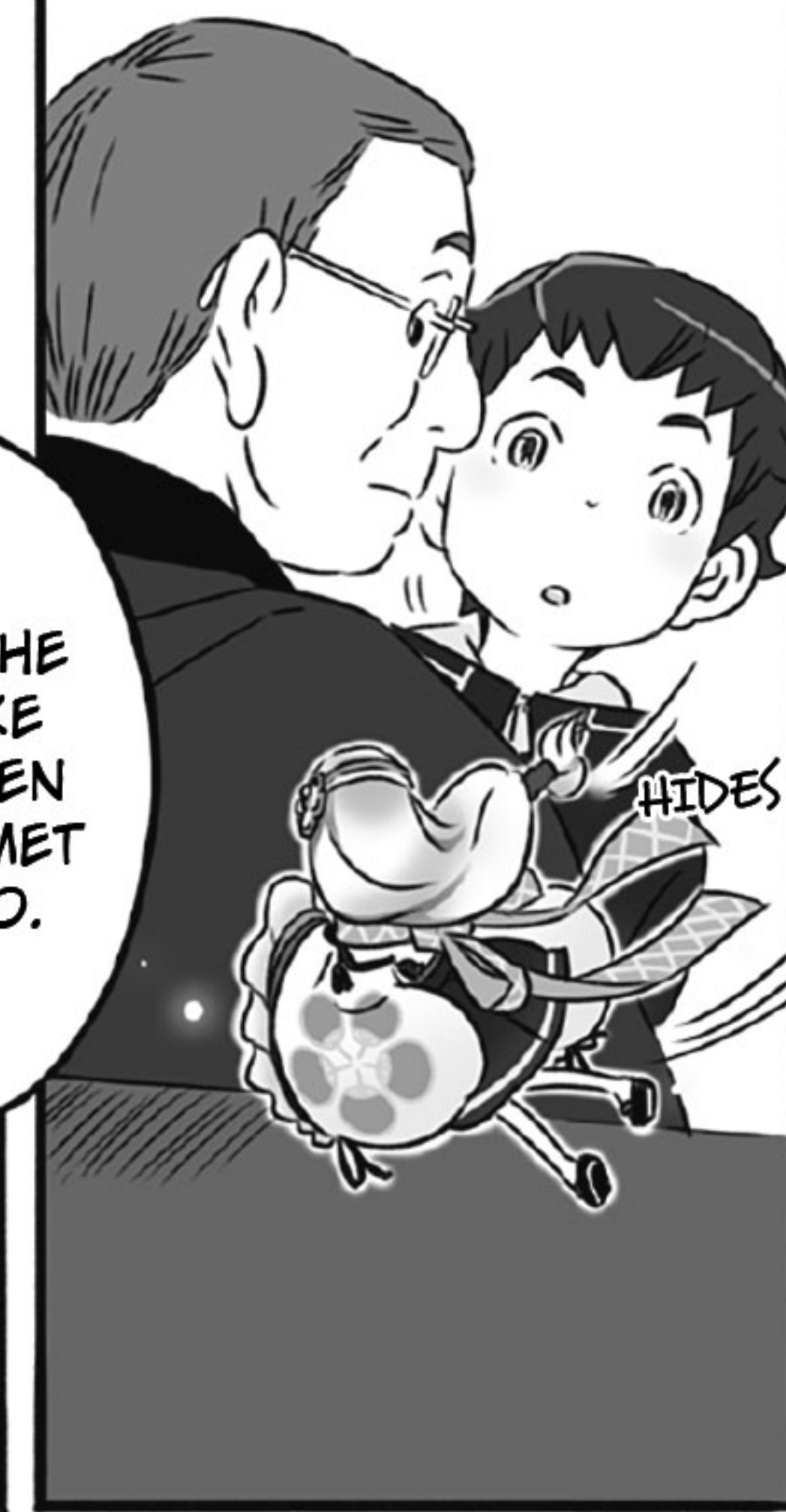


OF COURSE. I STARTED SEEING HER WHEN I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE.

THIS HERE IS KAME-MARU

OH MY, SHE WAS LIKE THIS WHEN I FIRST MET HER, TOO.

YOU KNEW ABOUT HER?



HIDES



AND UCHI WAS DANCING AROUND IN THE AIR LAUGHING

DOORS OPENING AUTOMATICALLY

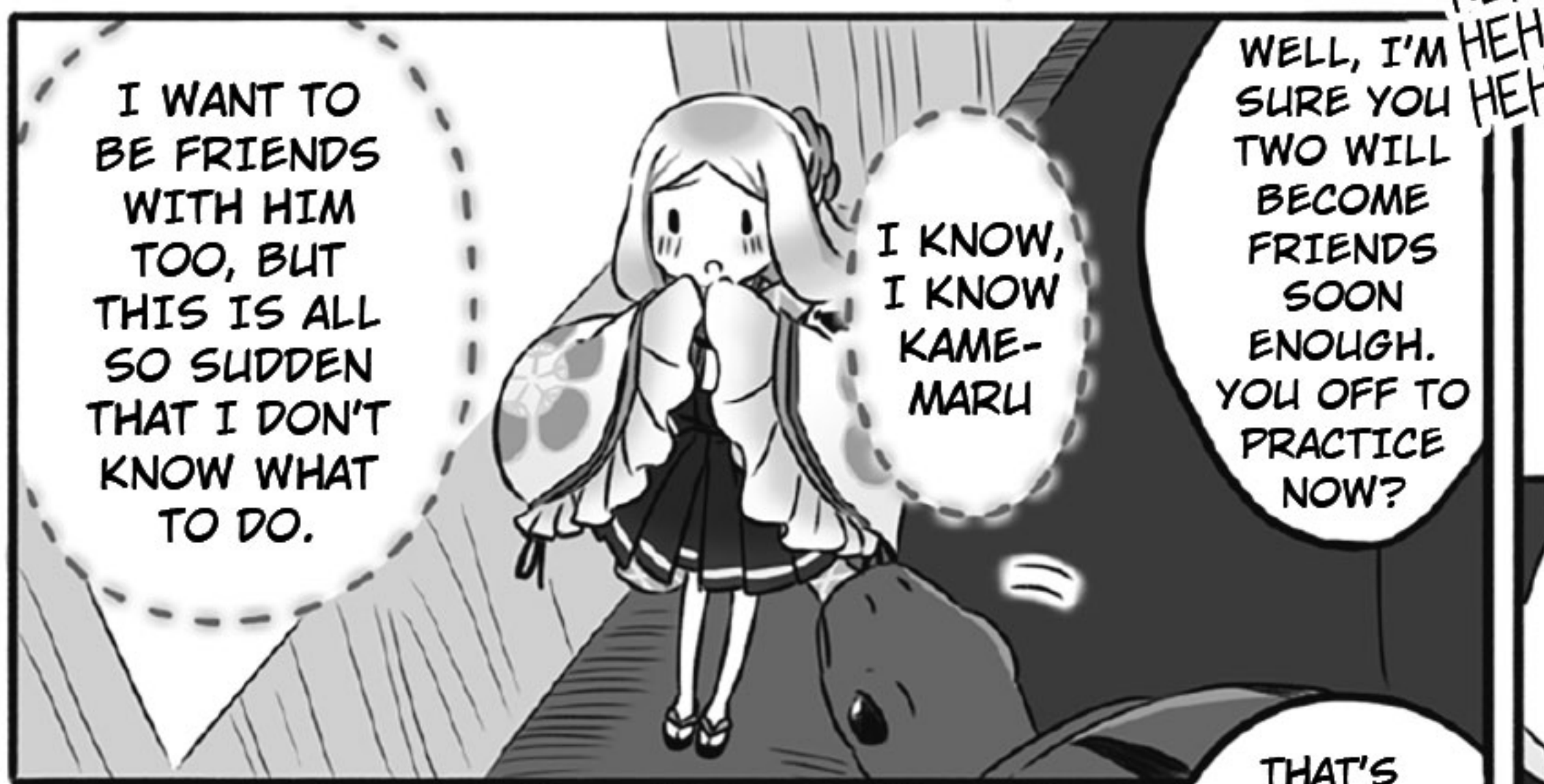
YEAH, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE RUMORS?

OH WOW! SO THE MUSEUM GHOST WAS ACTUALLY JUST A MUSEUM SPIRIT!

NOT SCARY AT ALL

GHOST?

AH THOSE...



I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM TOO, BUT THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

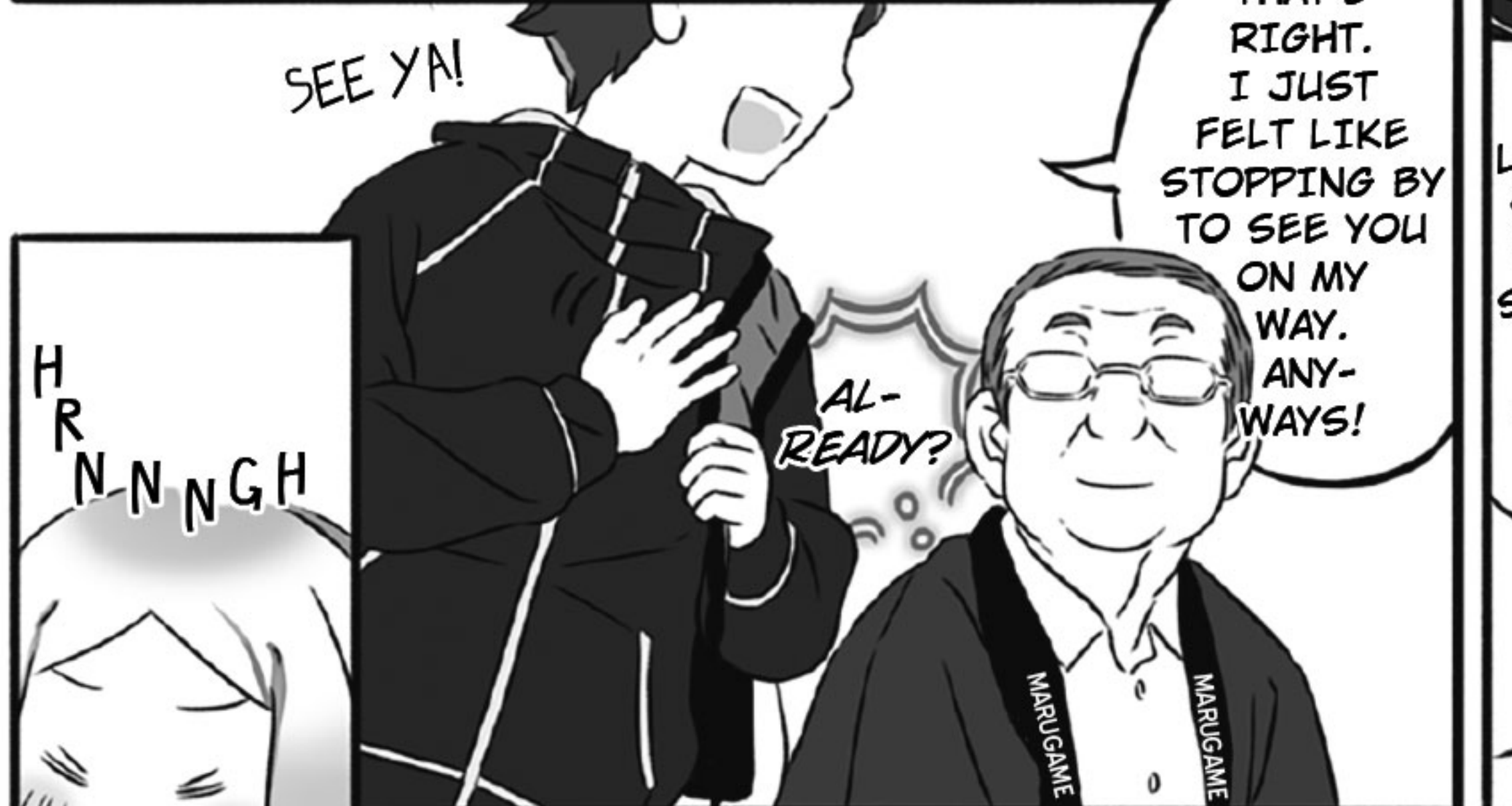
I KNOW, I KNOW KAME-MARU

WELL, I'M SURE YOU TWO WILL BECOME FRIENDS SOON ENOUGH. YOU OFF TO PRACTICE NOW?

HEH HEH HEH

MS. MATSUDA IS ALWAYS SAYING THERE'S A FAIRY AROUND SOMEWHERE.

OH WOW, SHE CAN SEE HER?



SEE YA!

THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST FELT LIKE STOPPING BY TO SEE YOU ON MY WAY. ANYWAYS!

WELL, MORE LIKE SHE FEELS SOME SORT OF PRESENCE AND SO NOW LEAVES HER SNACKS AND HAS MADE HER A BED.

FWOOSH



HRNNNGH

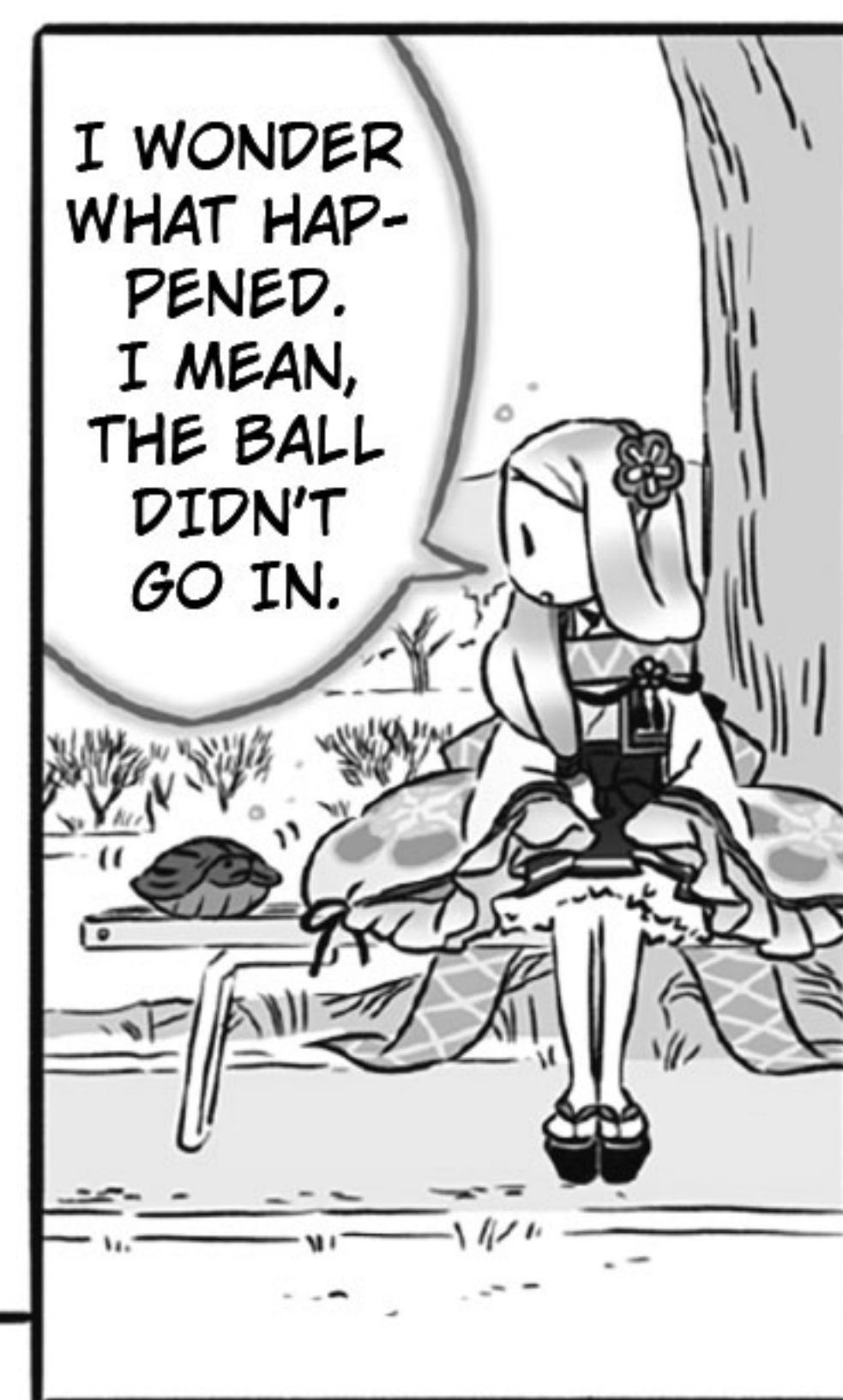
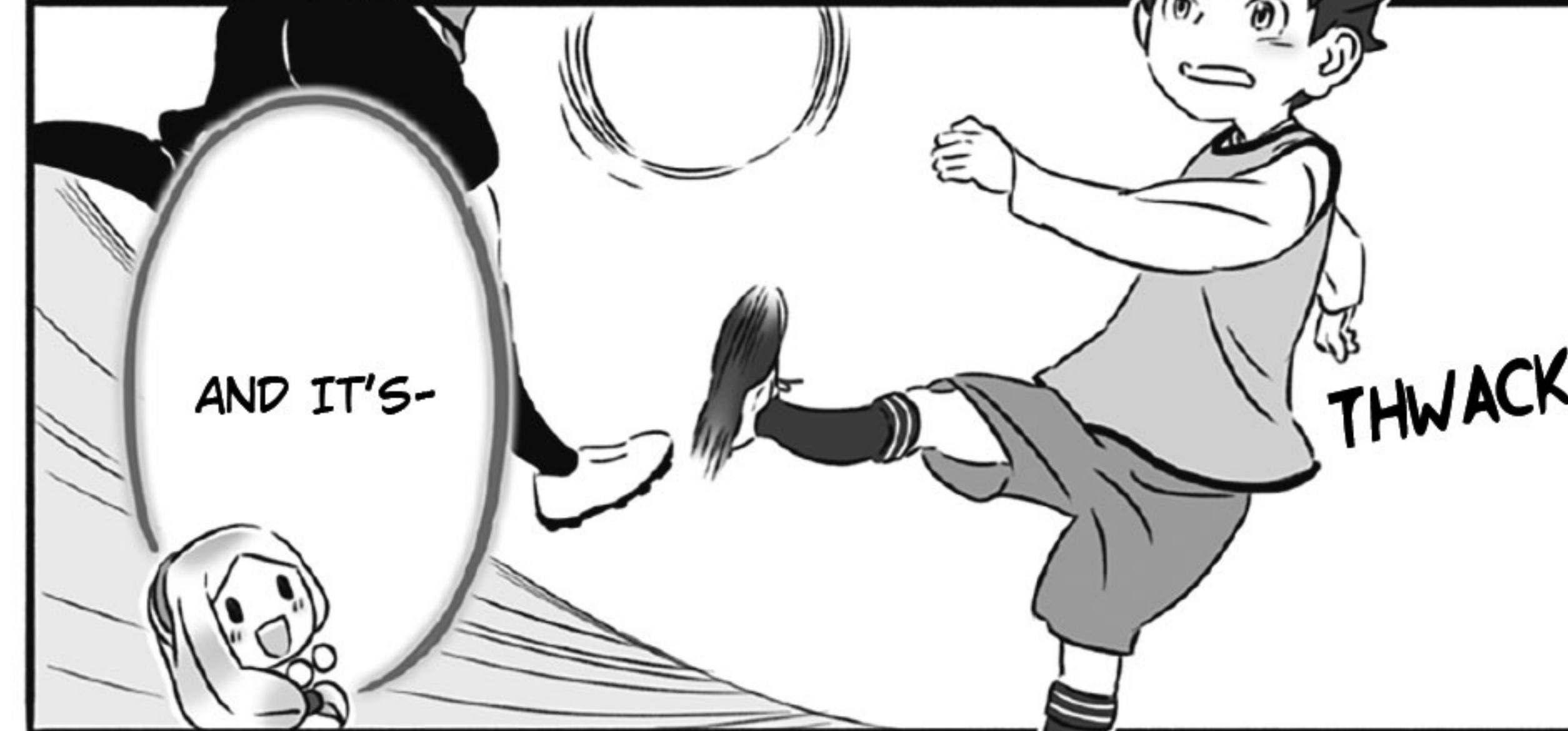
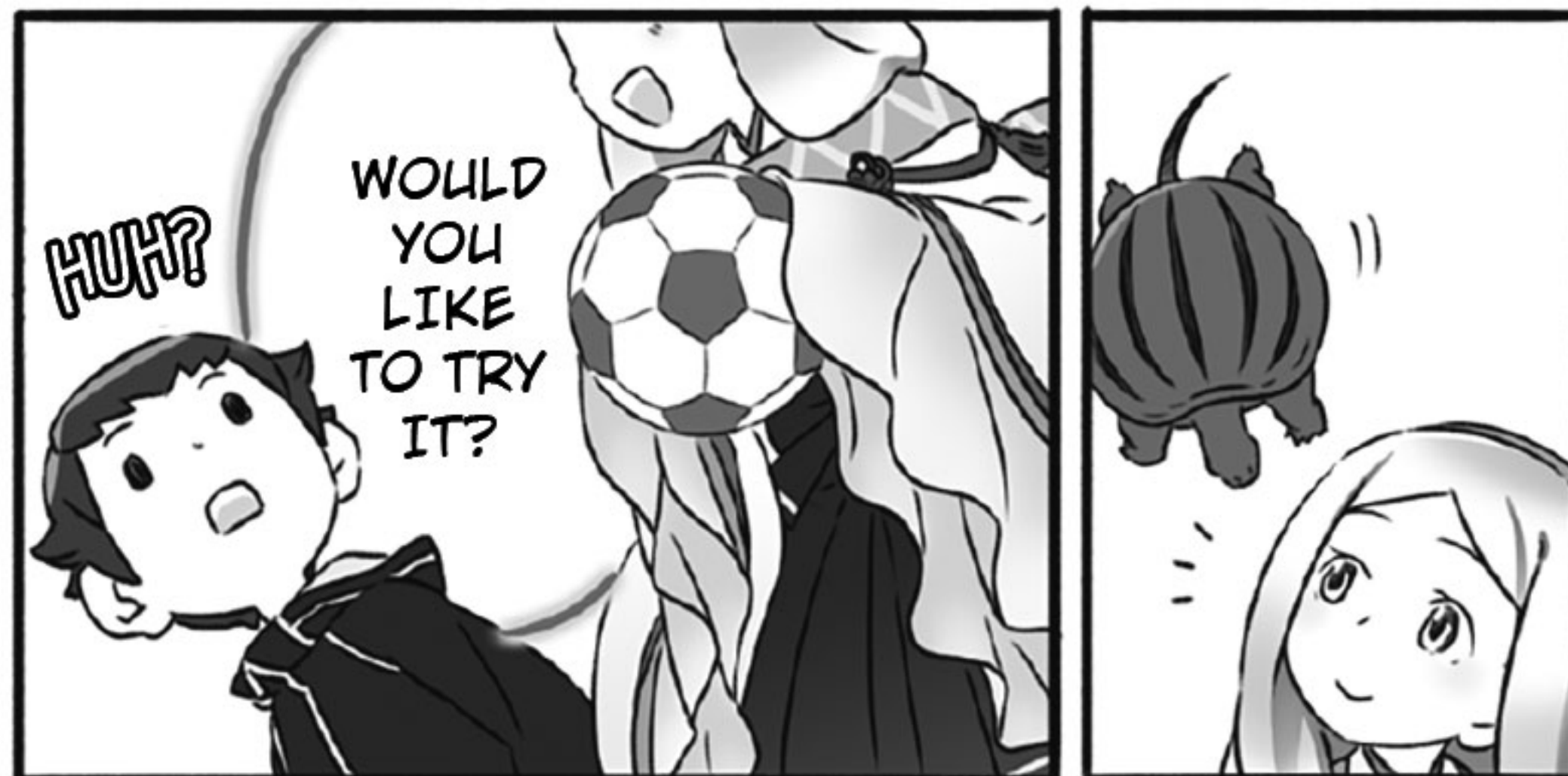
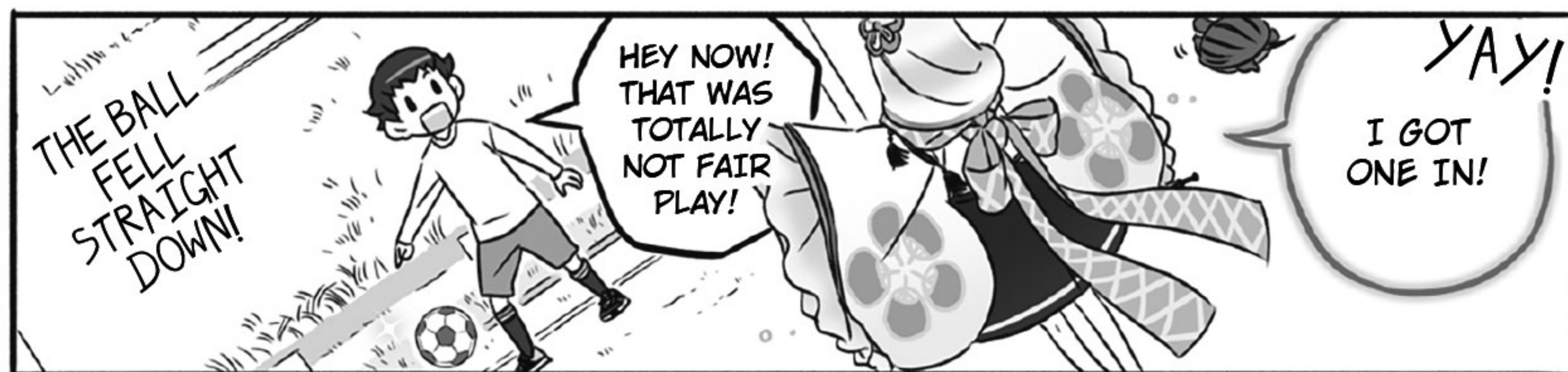
AL-READY?

WOW

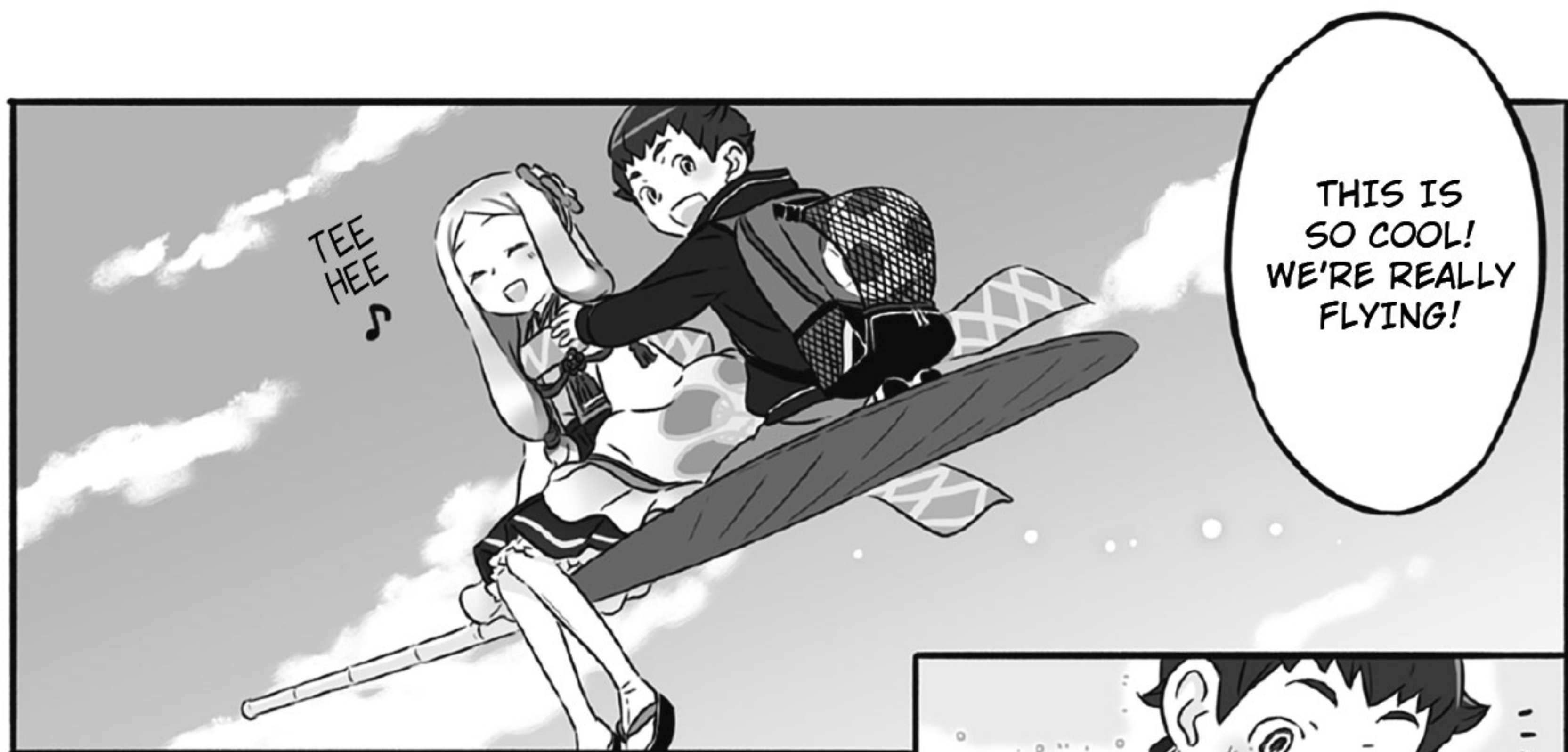












TEE HEE ♪

THIS IS SO COOL! WE'RE REALLY FLYING!



WOO-HOO!

WELL THEN, LET'S GO ALL THE WAY OUT TO SEE.



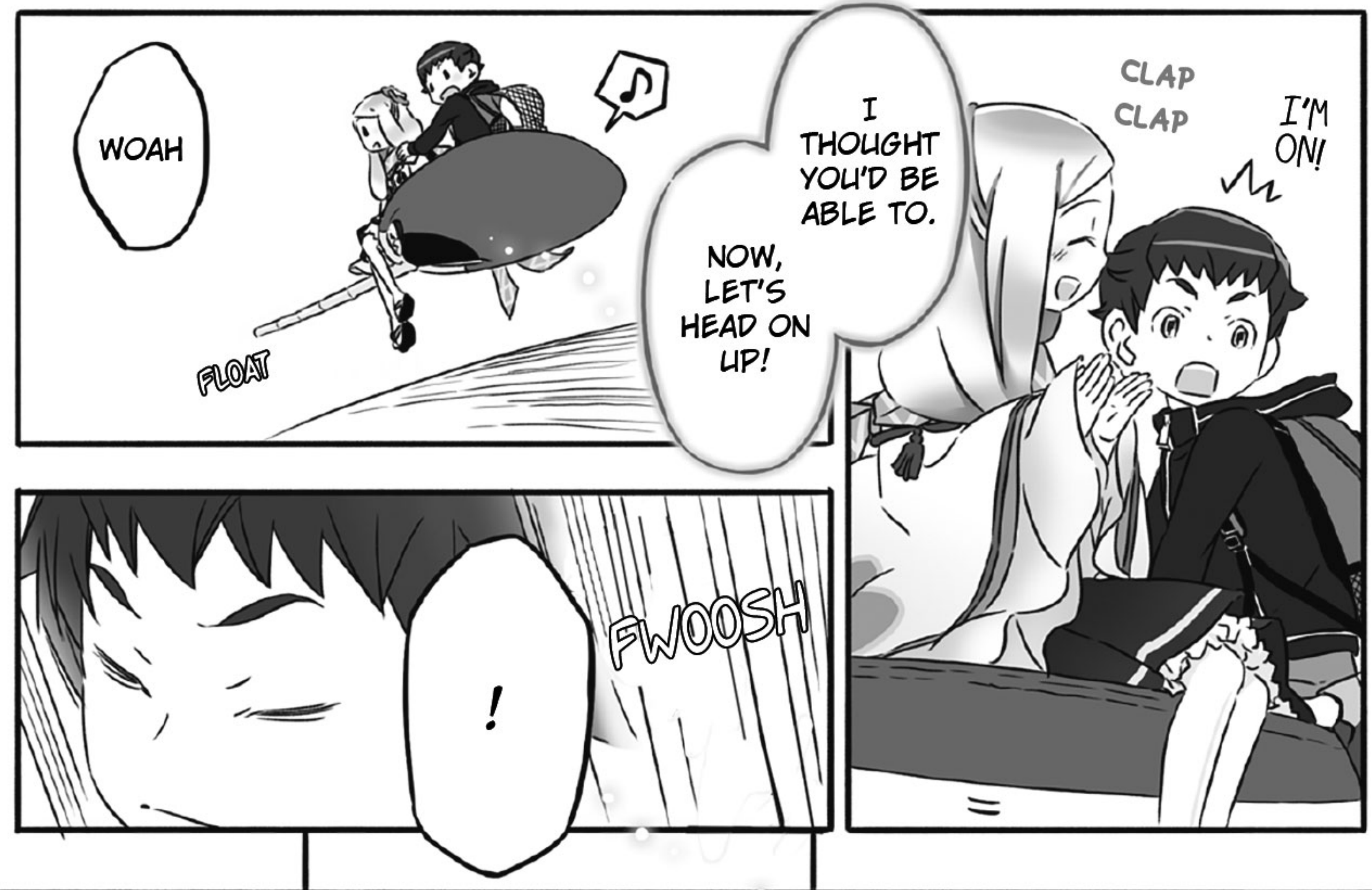
WARMLY



IT'S SUPER WARM.

THANKS!

THE AIR THIS HIGH UP IS RATHER COLD SO I THOUGHT I'D WRAP YOU IN A NICE SPRING BREEZE. HOW IS IT?



WOAH

FLOAT

NOW, LET'S HEAD ON UP!

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABLE TO.

CLAP CLAP

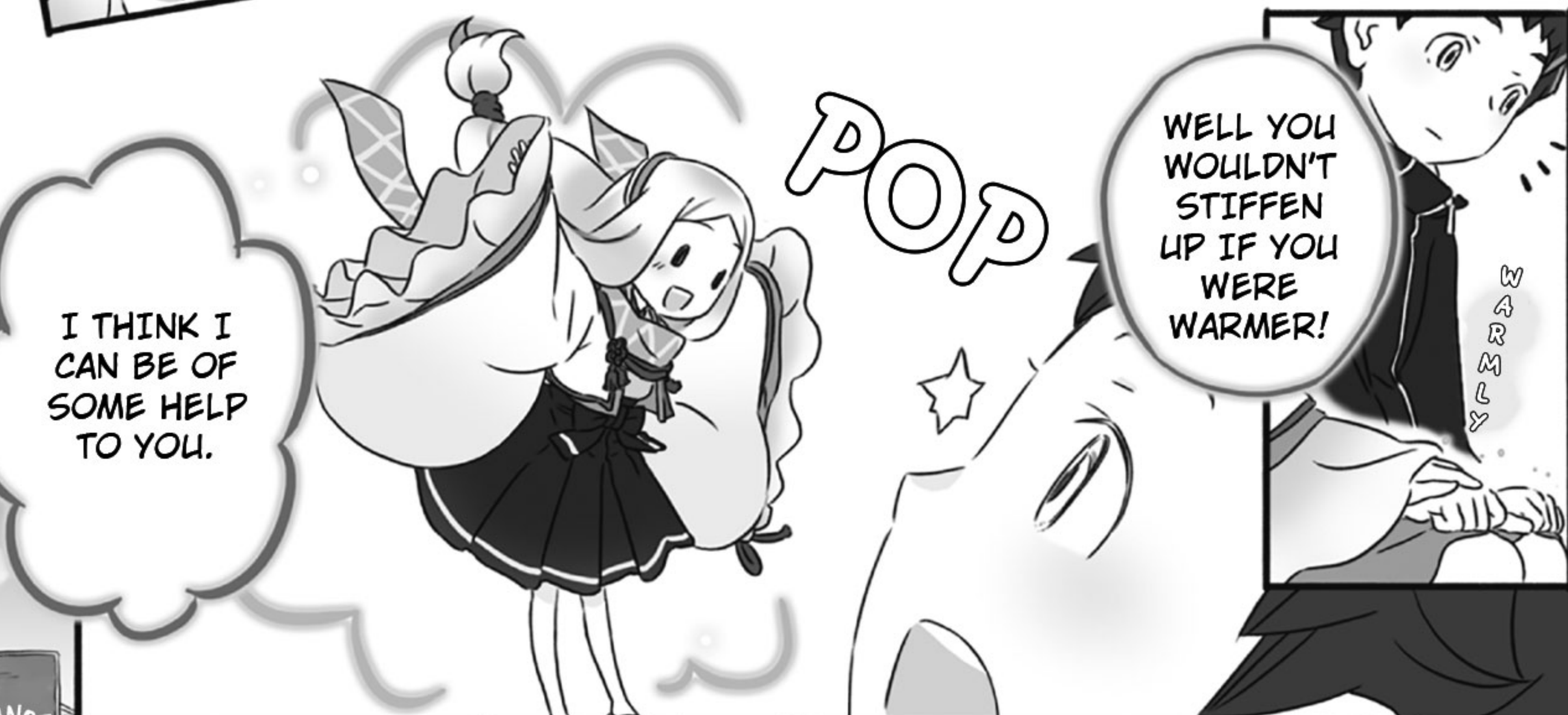
I'M ON!

FWOOSH

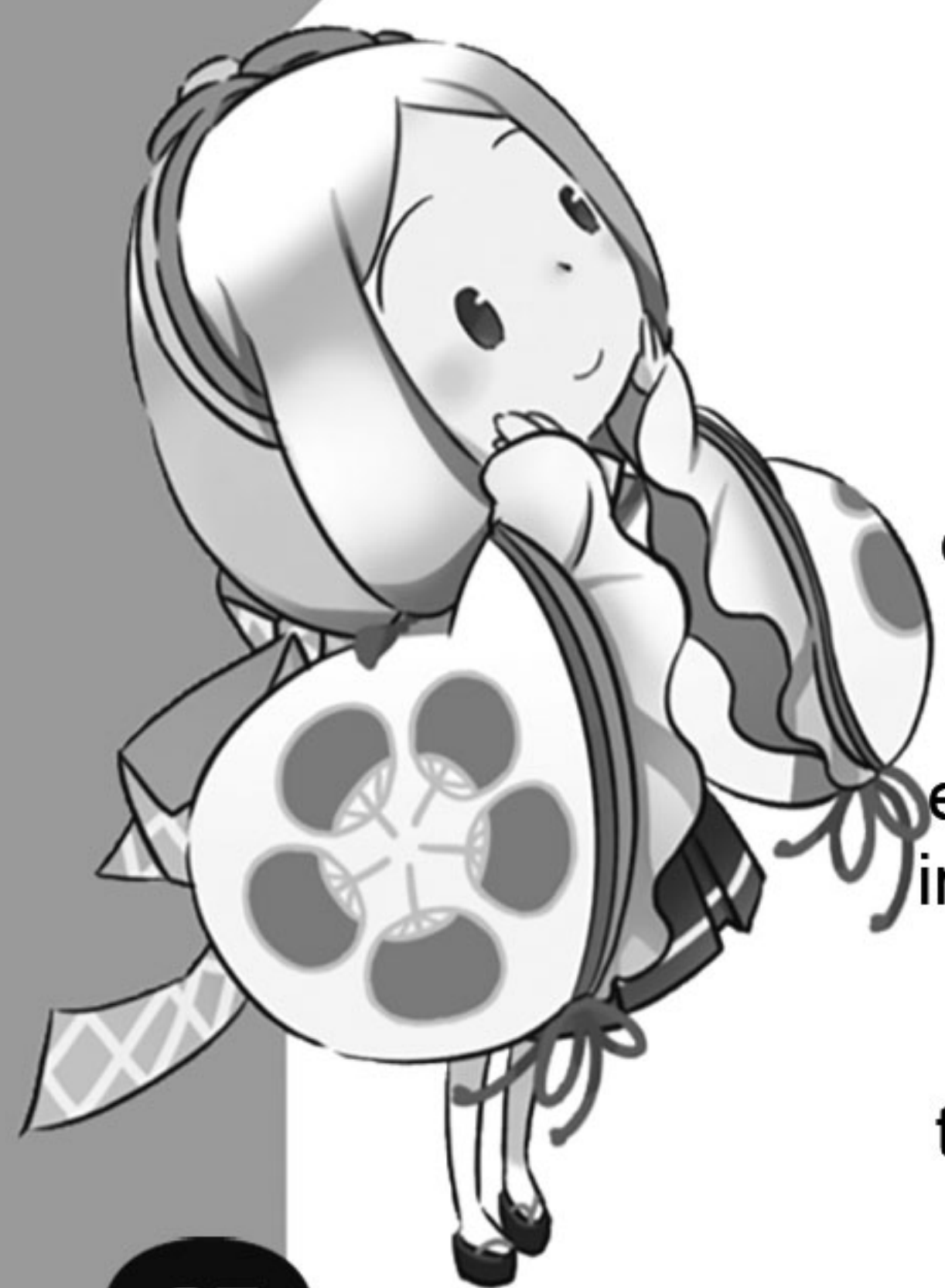


W-WOAH!

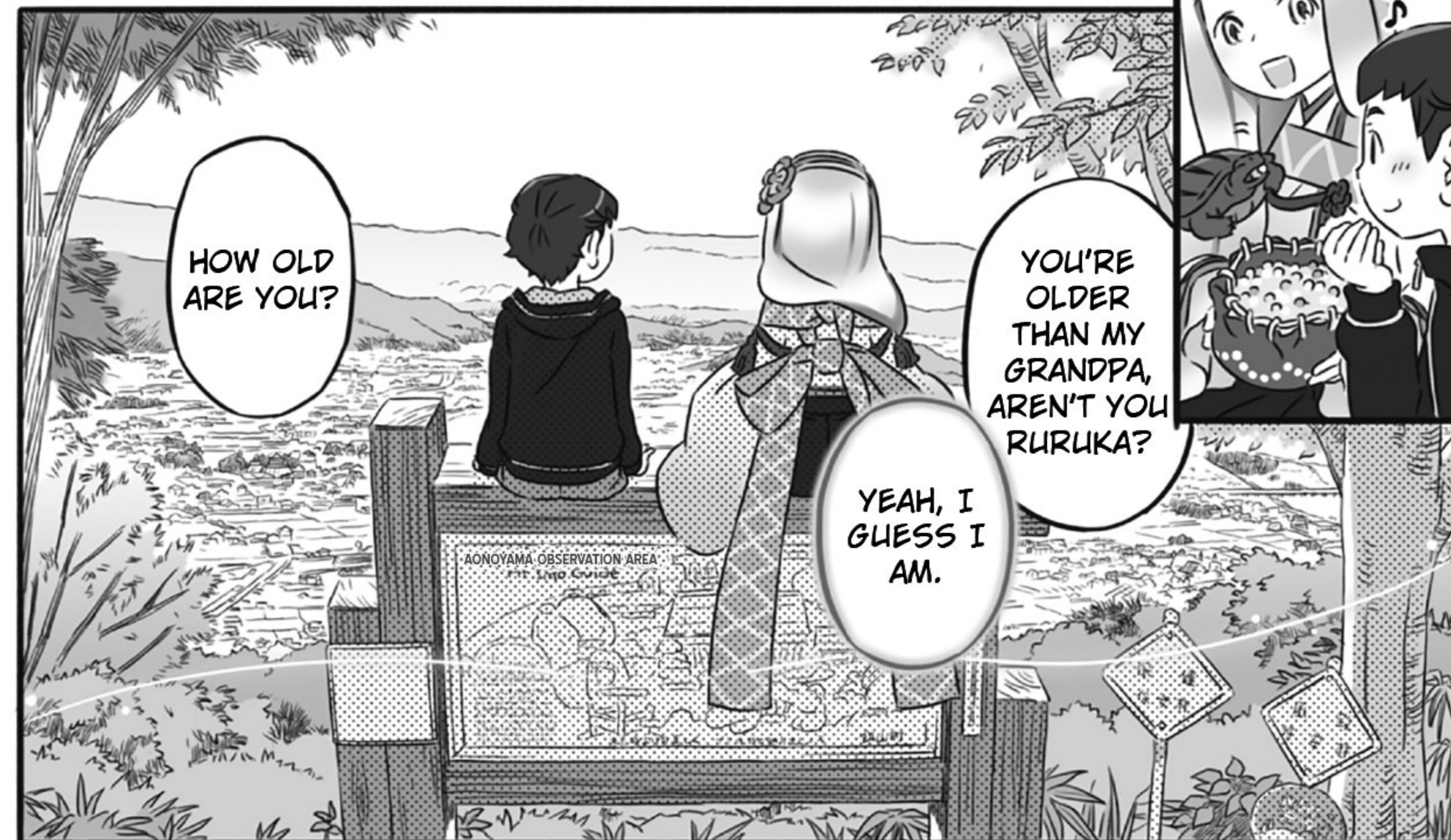




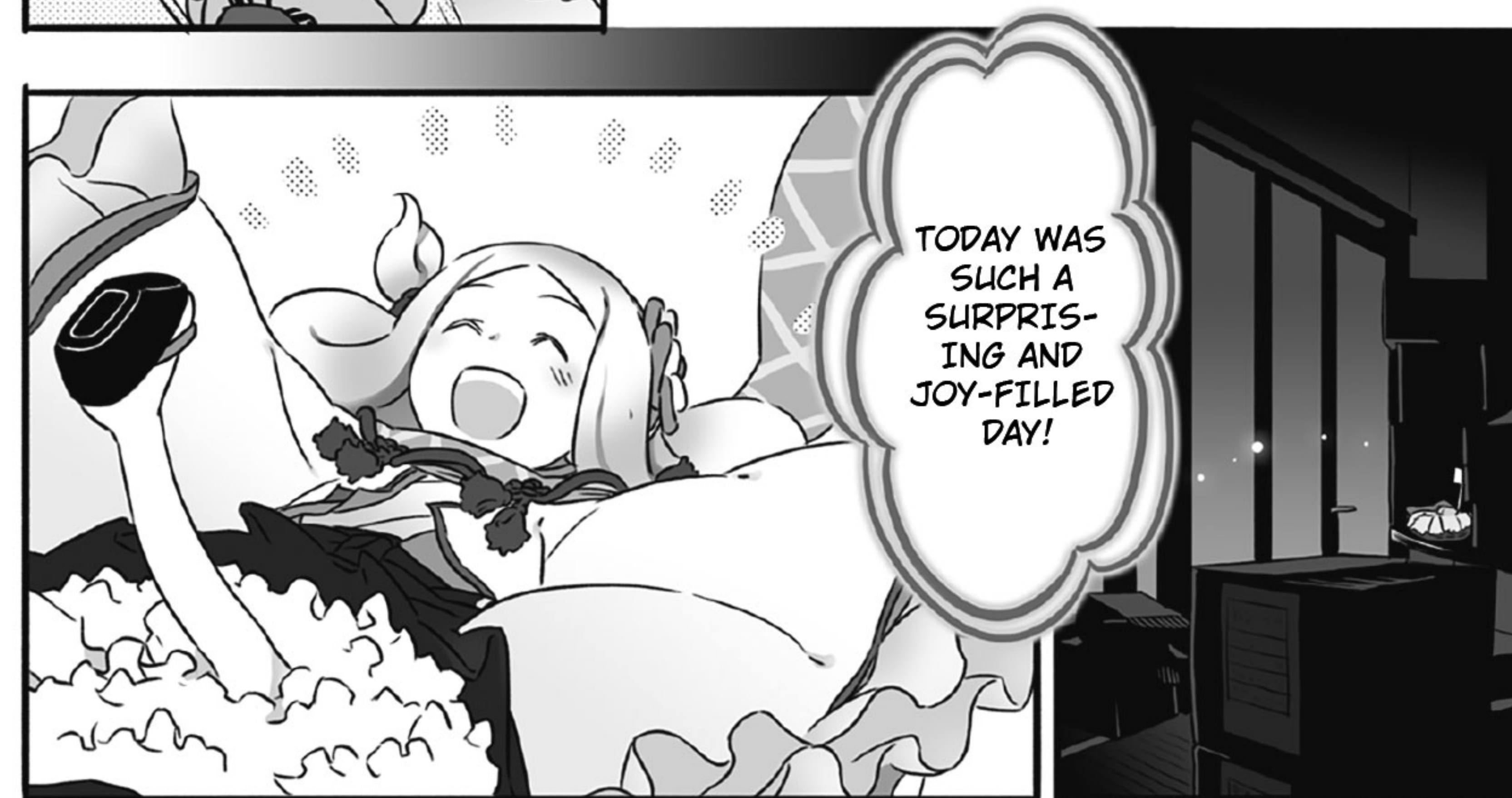
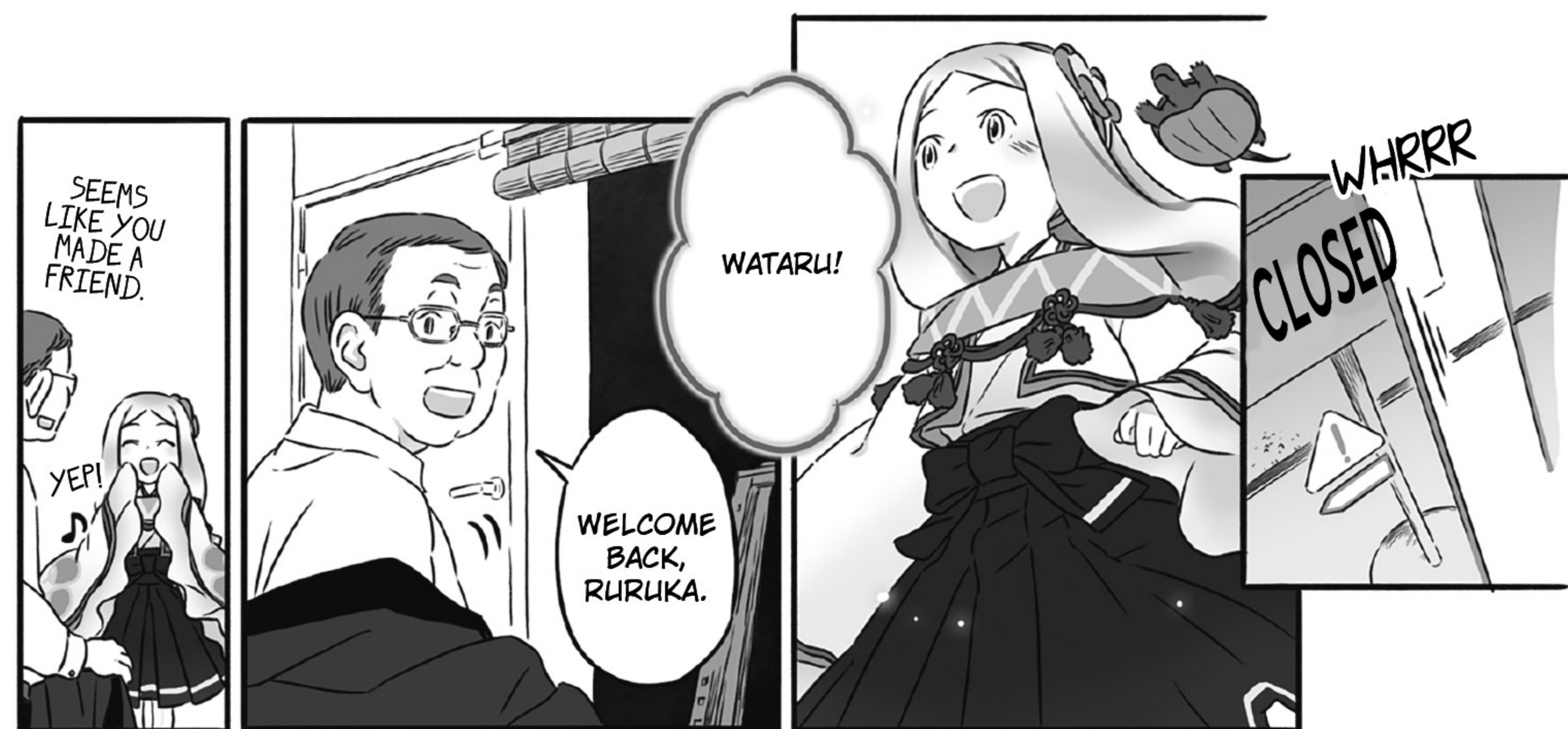
Uchiwa Column Plus **Oiri**



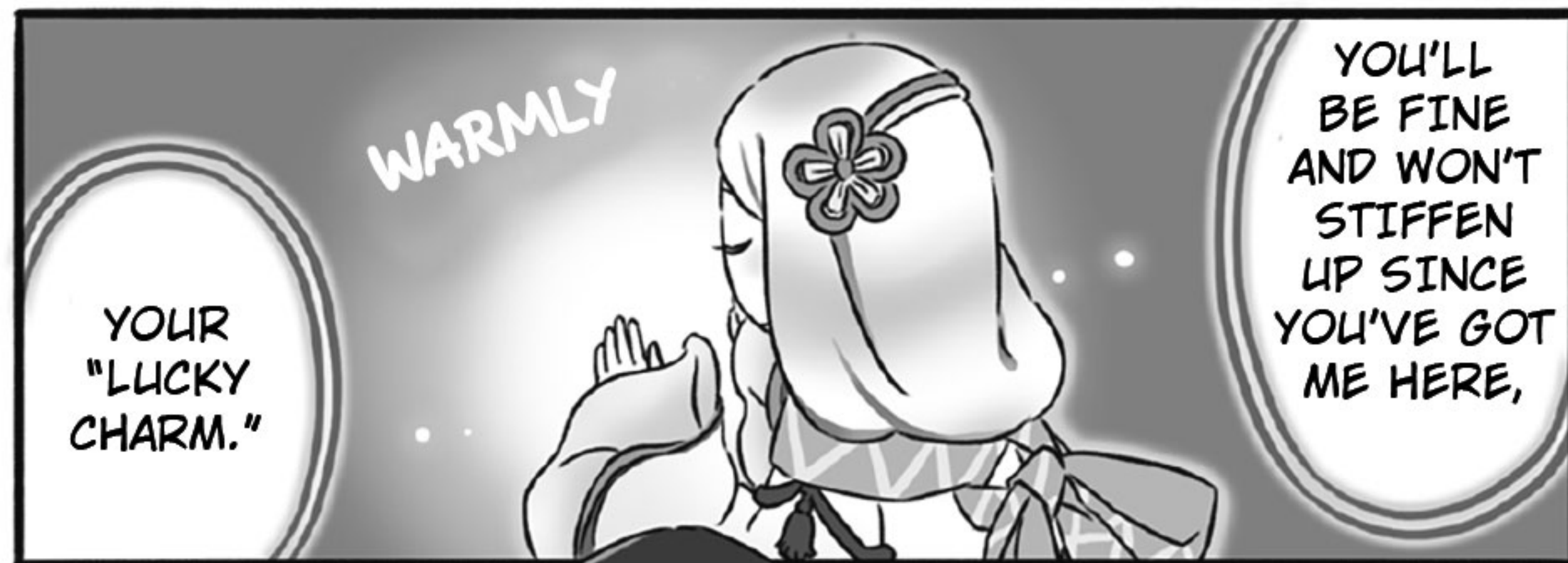
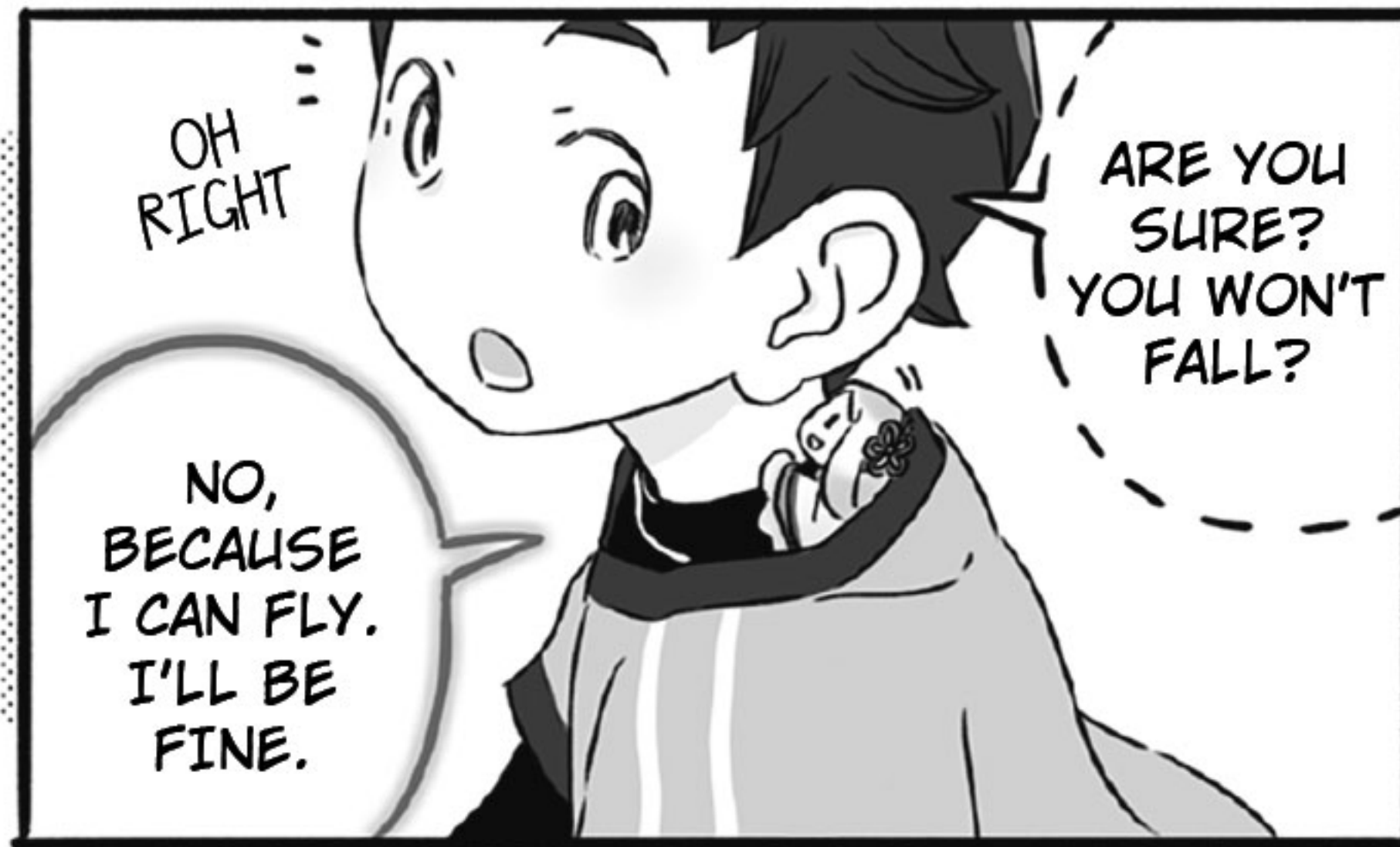
This is a popular snack in the western region of Kagawa prefecture. It's even become a popular present for guests at wedding ceremonies. It's made from mochi rice and has the most surprising texture to it. Puffed up into a perfect round ball, the sweet's outer layer is extremely thin and with nothing inside they melt in your mouth before you have a chance to even bite down. They're coated in pale colors like pink, sky blue, yellow and light purple making them look incredibly cute. They are used as ice cream toppings and in so many other ways as well! They're one of my favorite things to eat!











FWIP



2  
His Lucky Charm



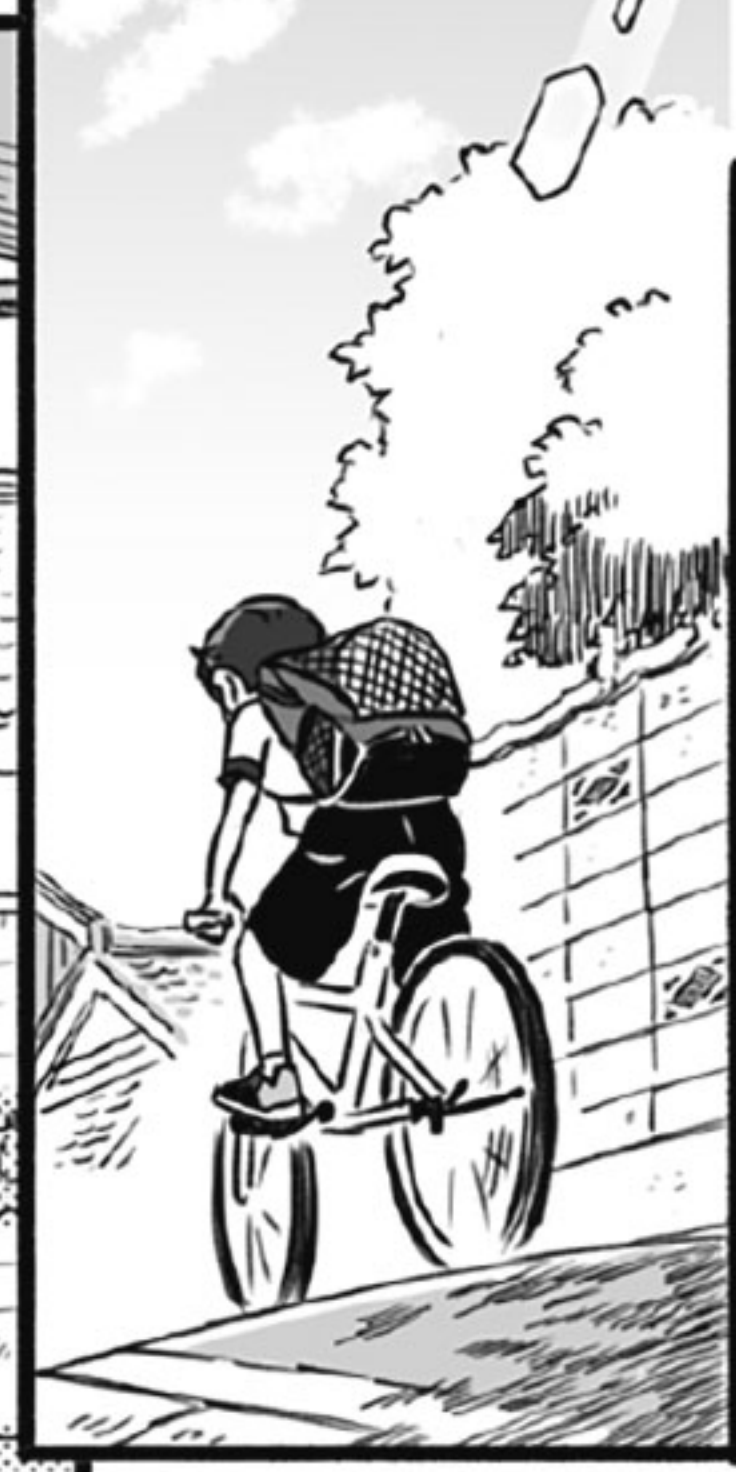




IT'S FINE.

HEY GRANDPA!

OH SORRY, WERE YOU WORKING?



I THINK I HAVE SOME UDON IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN ME.

SURE! EVEN THOUGH I JUST ATE.

OH MY LUNCH TIME ALREADY?



WOAH

WHOOOSH



Y-

THAT'S YOUR FIRST GOAL!

YOU DID IT, HAYATO!



OH RIGHT, I FORGOT BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SHOUT "NICE SHOOT!" WHEN A GOAL IS MADE.

DON'T MENTION IT.

THANKS RURUKA!

YOU MADE IT!

NICE... SHOOT?

Y-YEAH I DID.







HEY HAYATO, I HEARD THAT YOU-  
 COME ON IN  
 ACK! THAT'S HER.  
 NO THANKS. I'D RATHER NOT BE LECTURED OVER ICE CREAM.  
 CLATTER  
 DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY FOR ICE CREAM?

BUT I HEARD YOU SCORED A GOAL IN THE LAST GAME. I'M PROUD OF YA!  
 QUIT TALKING TO ME ABOUT SOCCER WHEN I'M NOT EVEN ON THE SAME TEAM AS YOU!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND I'LL SEE YOU AT PIKKARI STADIUM FINAL THIS SUMMER.  
 I KNOW YOU WERE WORRIED. YOUR OLDER COUSIN IS SO, SO PROUD OF HOW FAR YOU'VE COME.  
 TH- THANKS.  
 ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE UDONS CUP HELD FOR THE JUNIOR LEAGUE?  
 YEAH, BUT NOT JUST THAT!  
 THE PRELIMS HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED.  
 POINT

**Uchiwa Column Plus Sanuki Udon**

Udon is a type of noodle made from kneading flour. Marugame City in Kagawa is Japan's leader producer and consumer of it! I eat it at least twice a week. Kagawa's special udon dish is called sanuki udon and is loved by even those outside the prefecture, enough so that there are people who come to Kagawa just to go around to as many udon shops as they can. Marugame City itself has a big selection of shops to choose from. You should try them!



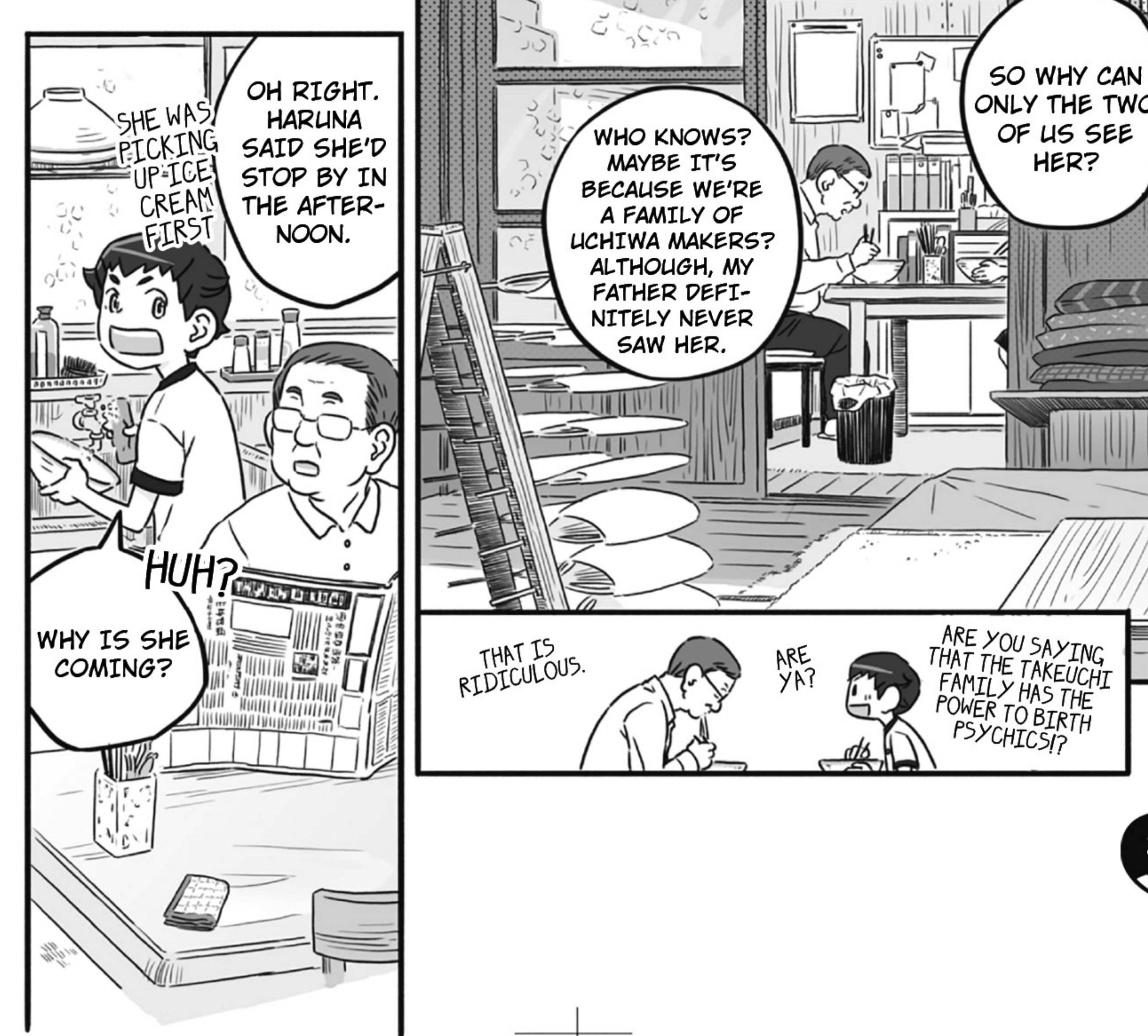
LET'S SEE. THE MARUGAME AREA STARTED MAKING UCHIWAS AROUND 400 YEARS AGO.  
 THAT LONG AGO!?

KYUSHU LEGEND SAYS THAT THE MONK MARUGAME TAUGHT THE PEOPLE HOW TO MAKE UCHIWAS

AND THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AROUND THE YEAR 1600. WHICH MEANS, SHE'S BEEN AROUND LONGER THAN THAT.

SHE SAYS SHE DOESN'T KNOW.  
 GRANDPA  
 YEAH?  
 DO YOU KNOW HOW OLD RURUKA IS?  
 OW

ARE YOU SAYING THAT RURUKA IS OVER 400 YEARS OLD!?

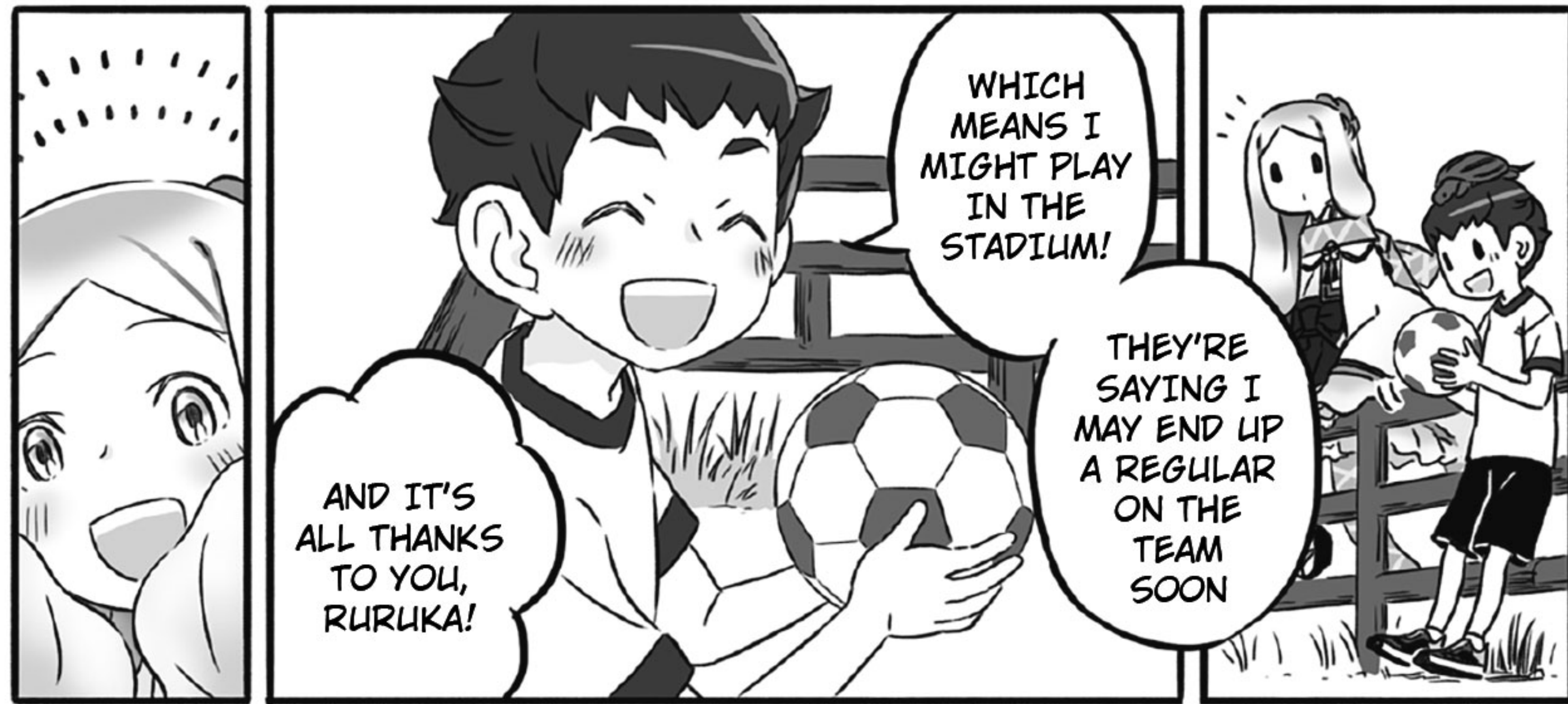


OH RIGHT. HARUNA SAID SHE'D STOP BY IN THE AFTERNOON.  
 SHE WAS PICKING UP ICE CREAM FIRST  
 HUH?  
 WHY IS SHE COMING?

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE A FAMILY OF UCHIWA MAKERS? ALTHOUGH, MY FATHER DEFINITELY NEVER SAW HER.  
 SO WHY CAN ONLY THE TWO OF US SEE HER?

THAT IS RIDICULOUS.  
 ARE YA?  
 ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE TAKEUCHI FAMILY HAS THE POWER TO BIRTH PSYCHICS!?

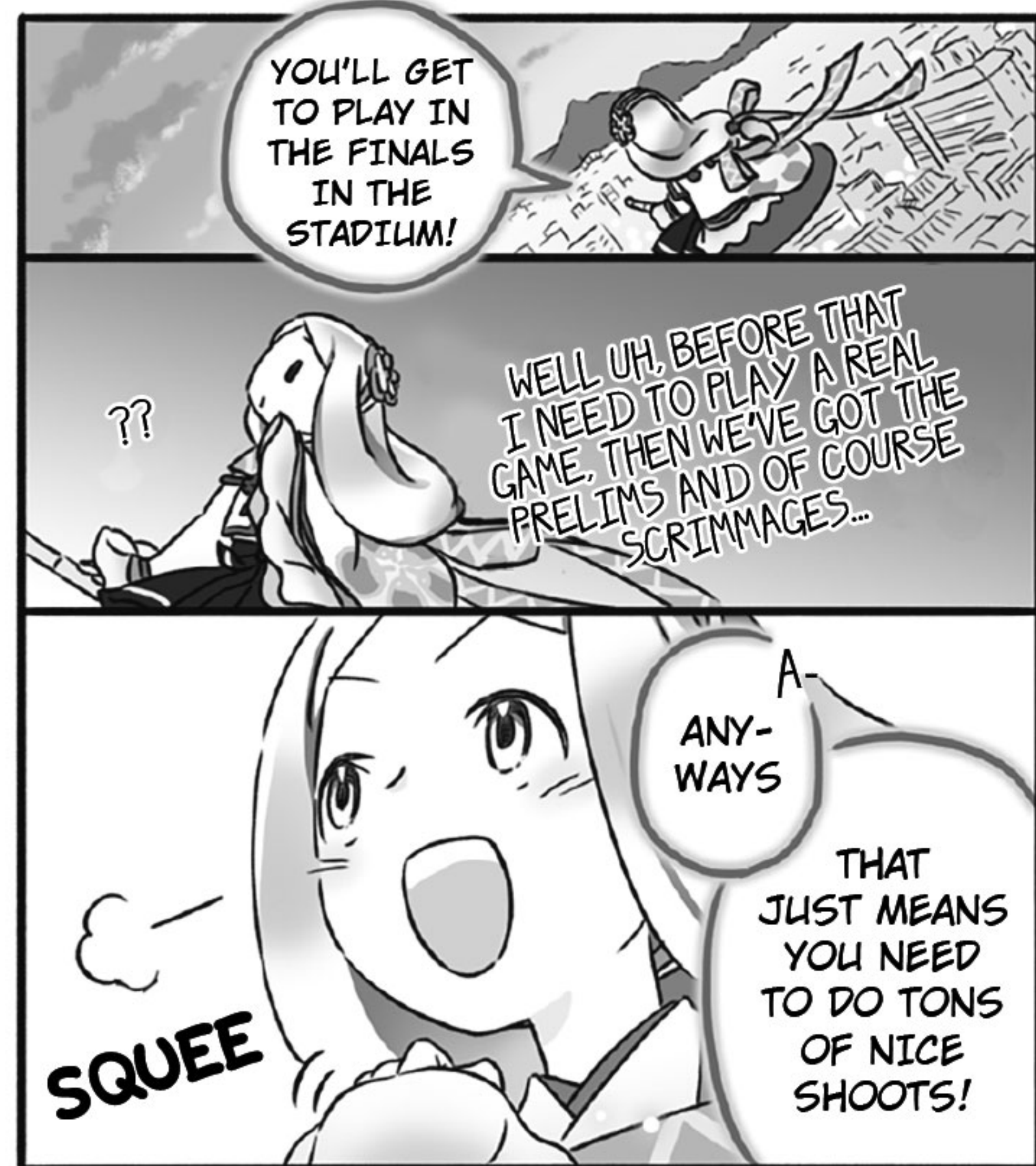




AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, RURUKA!

WHICH MEANS I MIGHT PLAY IN THE STADIUM!

THEY'RE SAYING I MAY END UP A REGULAR ON THE TEAM SOON



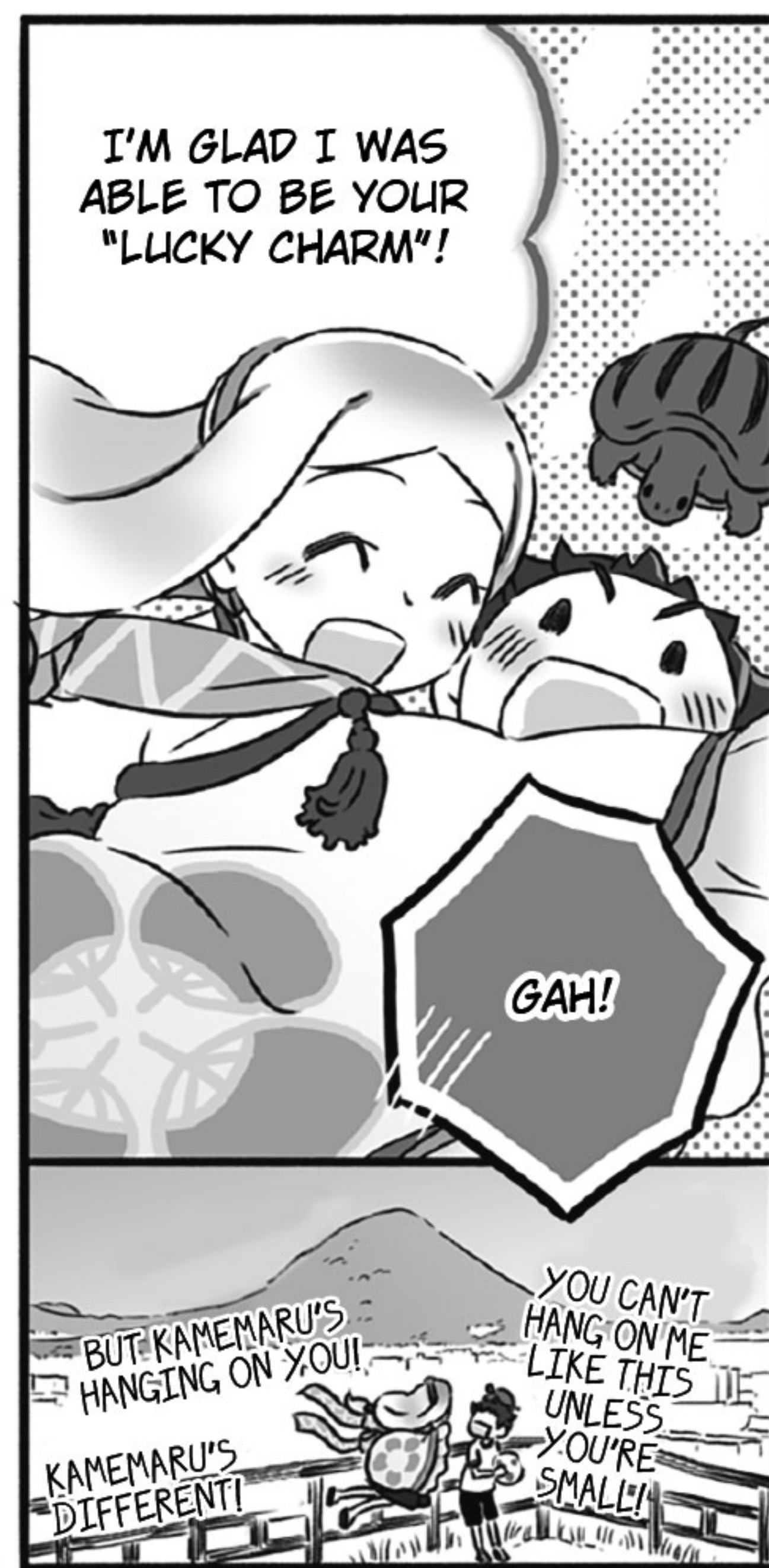
YOU'LL GET TO PLAY IN THE FINALS IN THE STADIUM!

WELL UH BEFORE THAT I NEED TO PLAY A REAL GAME. THEN WE'VE GOT THE PRELIMS AND OF COURSE SCRIMMAGES...

SQUEE

ANYWAYS

THAT JUST MEANS YOU NEED TO DO TONS OF NICE SHOTS!



I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE YOUR "LUCKY CHARM"!

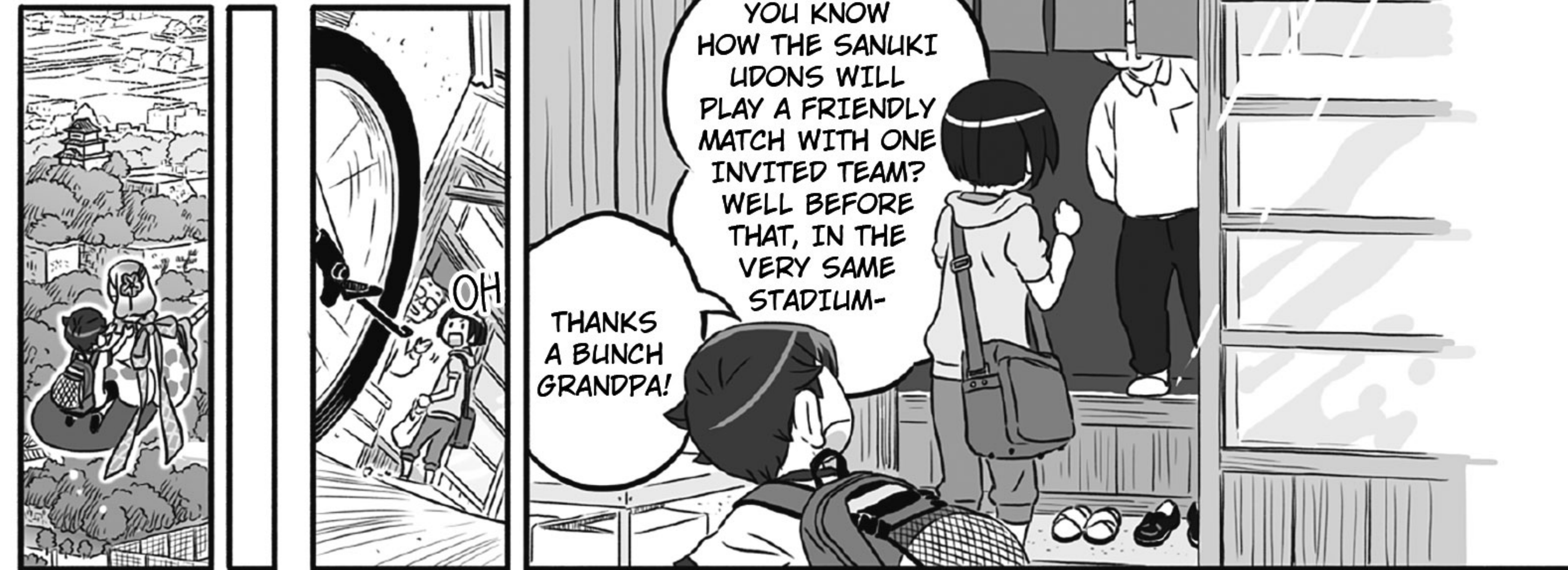
GAH!

BUT KAMEMARU'S HANGING ON YOU! KAMEMARU'S DIFFERENT!  
YOU CAN'T HANG ON ME LIKE THIS UNLESS YOU'RE SMALL!



I'M GONNA DO MY BEST TO HELP HAYATO

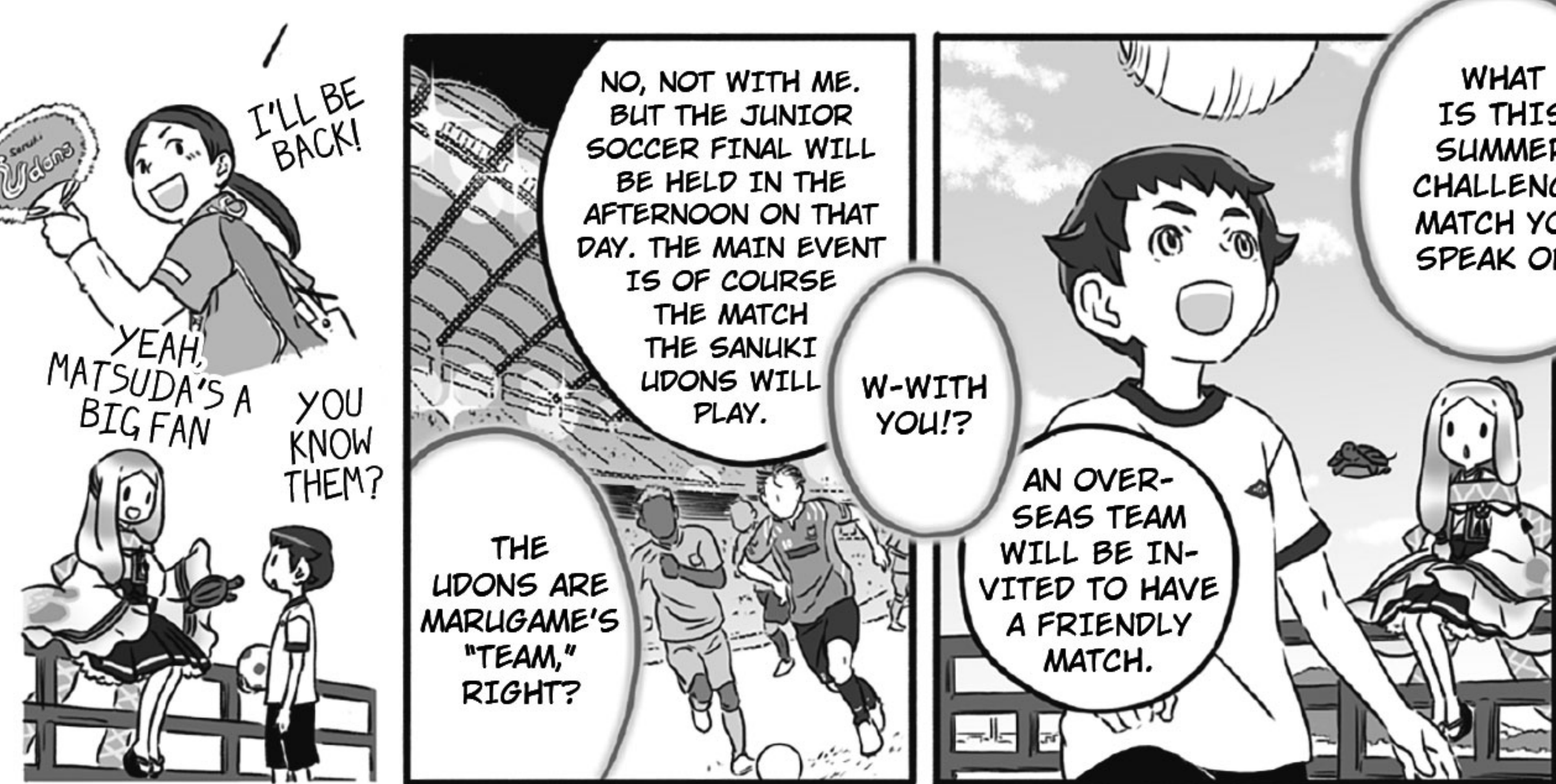
BE ABLE TO PLAY AT THE STADIUM!



TAKEUCHI UCHIWA

YOU KNOW HOW THE SANUKI UDONS WILL PLAY A FRIENDLY MATCH WITH ONE INVITED TEAM? WELL BEFORE THAT, IN THE VERY SAME STADIUM-

THANKS A BUNCH GRANDPA!



I'LL BE BACK!

YEAH, MATSUDA'S A BIG FAN

YOU KNOW THEM?

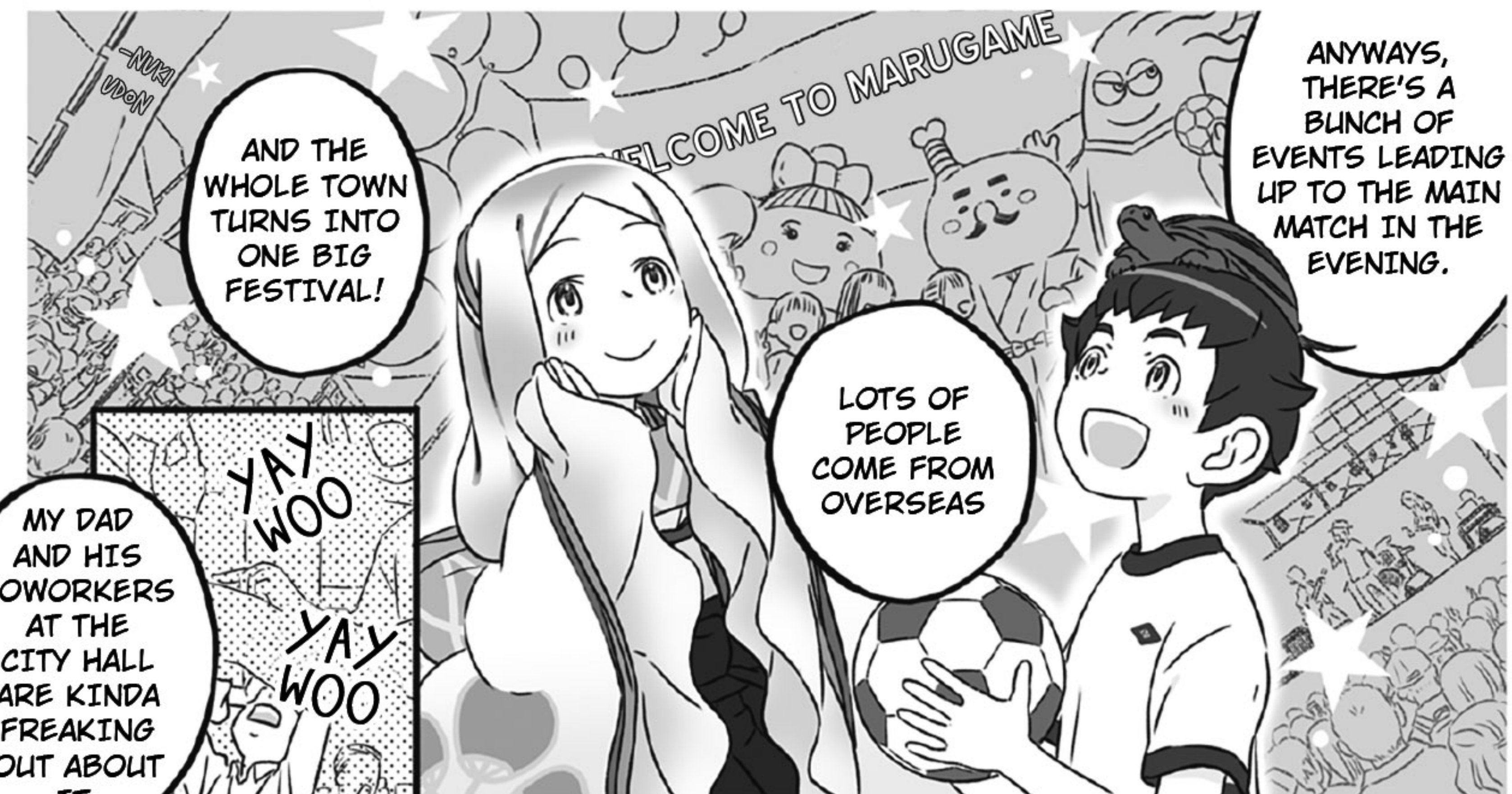
NO, NOT WITH ME. BUT THE JUNIOR SOCCER FINAL WILL BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON ON THAT DAY. THE MAIN EVENT IS OF COURSE THE MATCH THE SANUKI UDONS WILL PLAY.

THE UDONS ARE MARUGAME'S "TEAM," RIGHT?

W-WITH YOU!?

AN OVERSEAS TEAM WILL BE INVITED TO HAVE A FRIENDLY MATCH.

WHAT IS THIS SUMMER CHALLENGE MATCH YOU SPEAK OF?



AND THE WHOLE TOWN TURNS INTO ONE BIG FESTIVAL!

WELCOME TO MARUGAME

LOTS OF PEOPLE COME FROM OVERSEAS

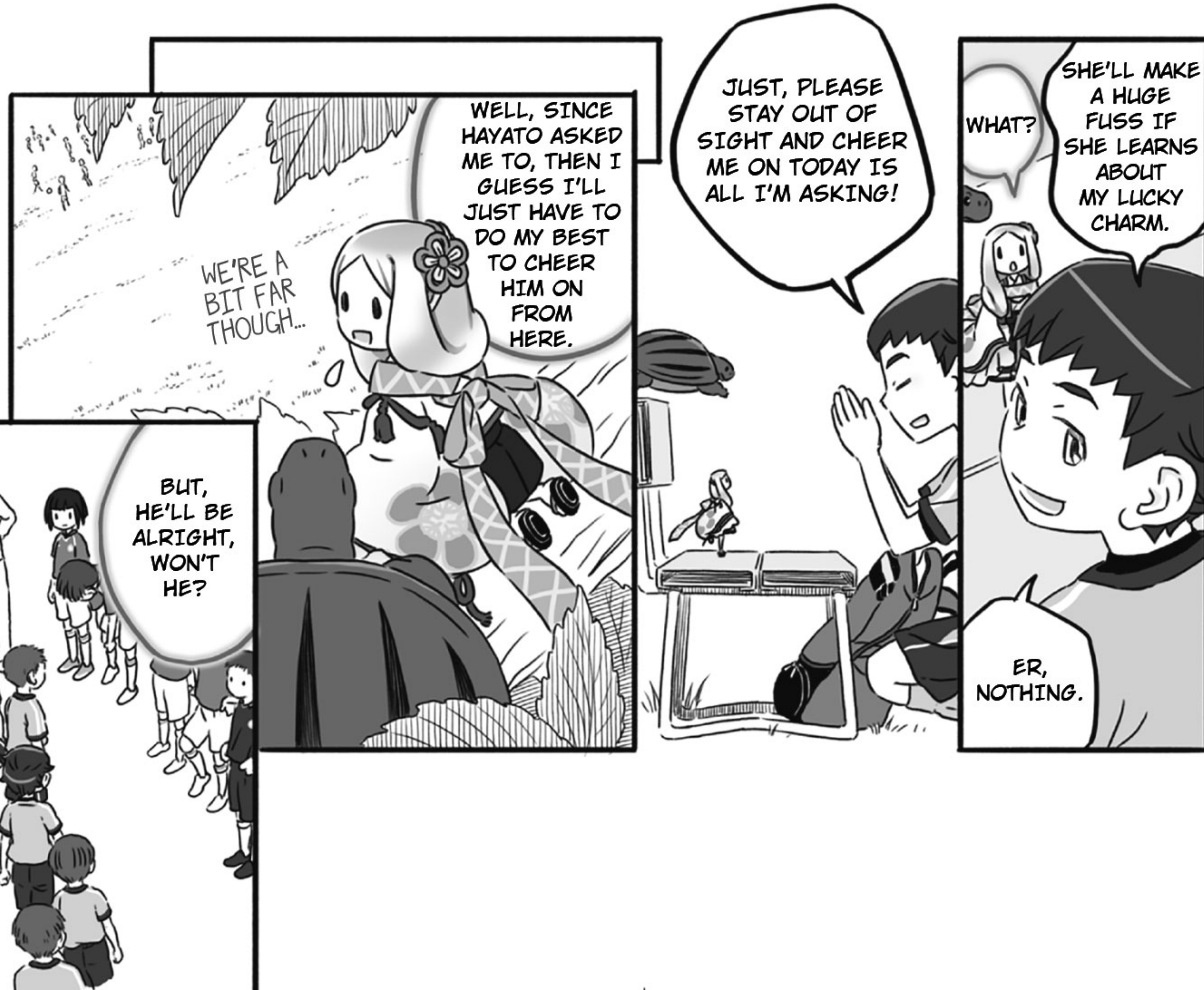
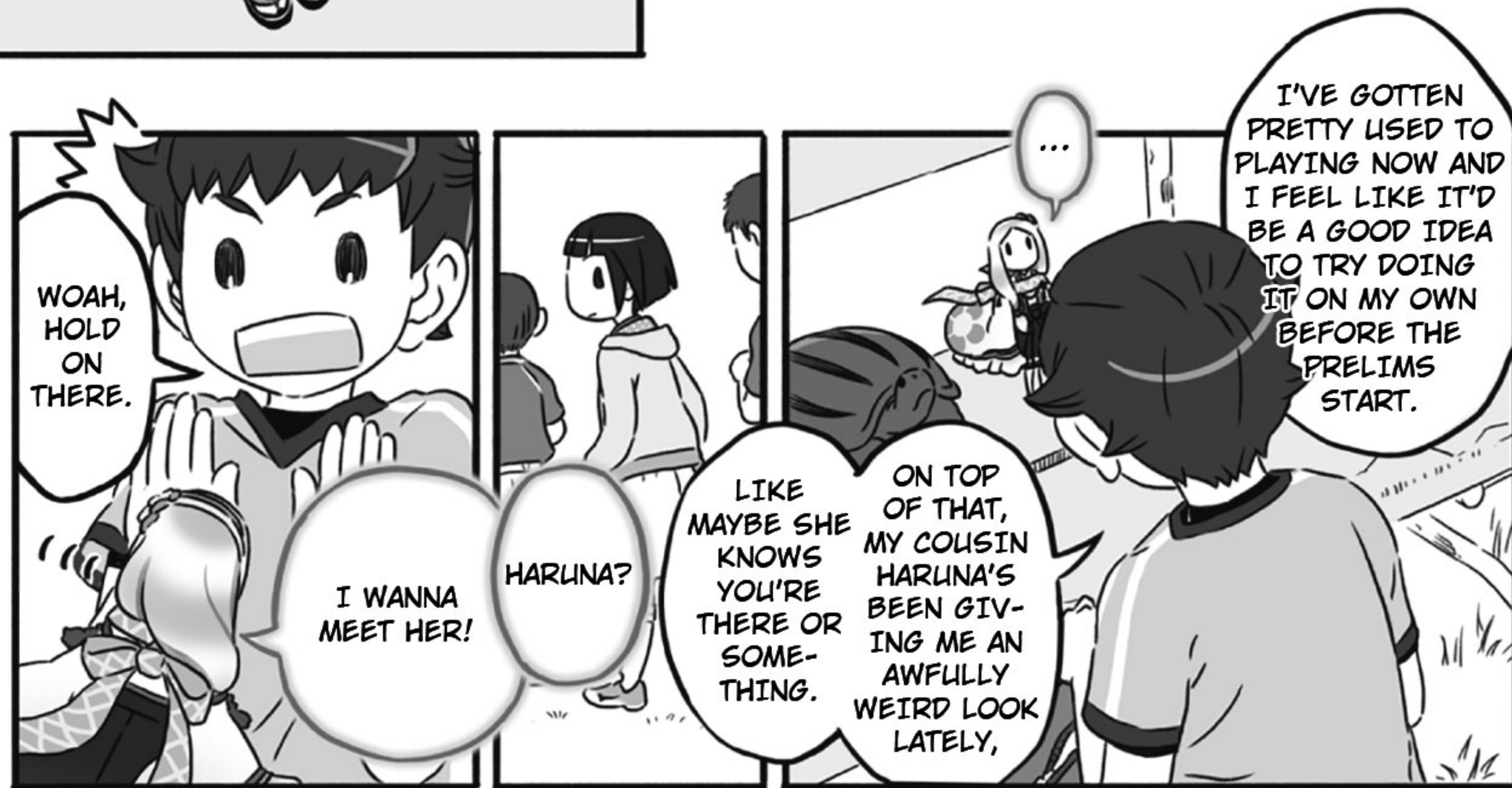
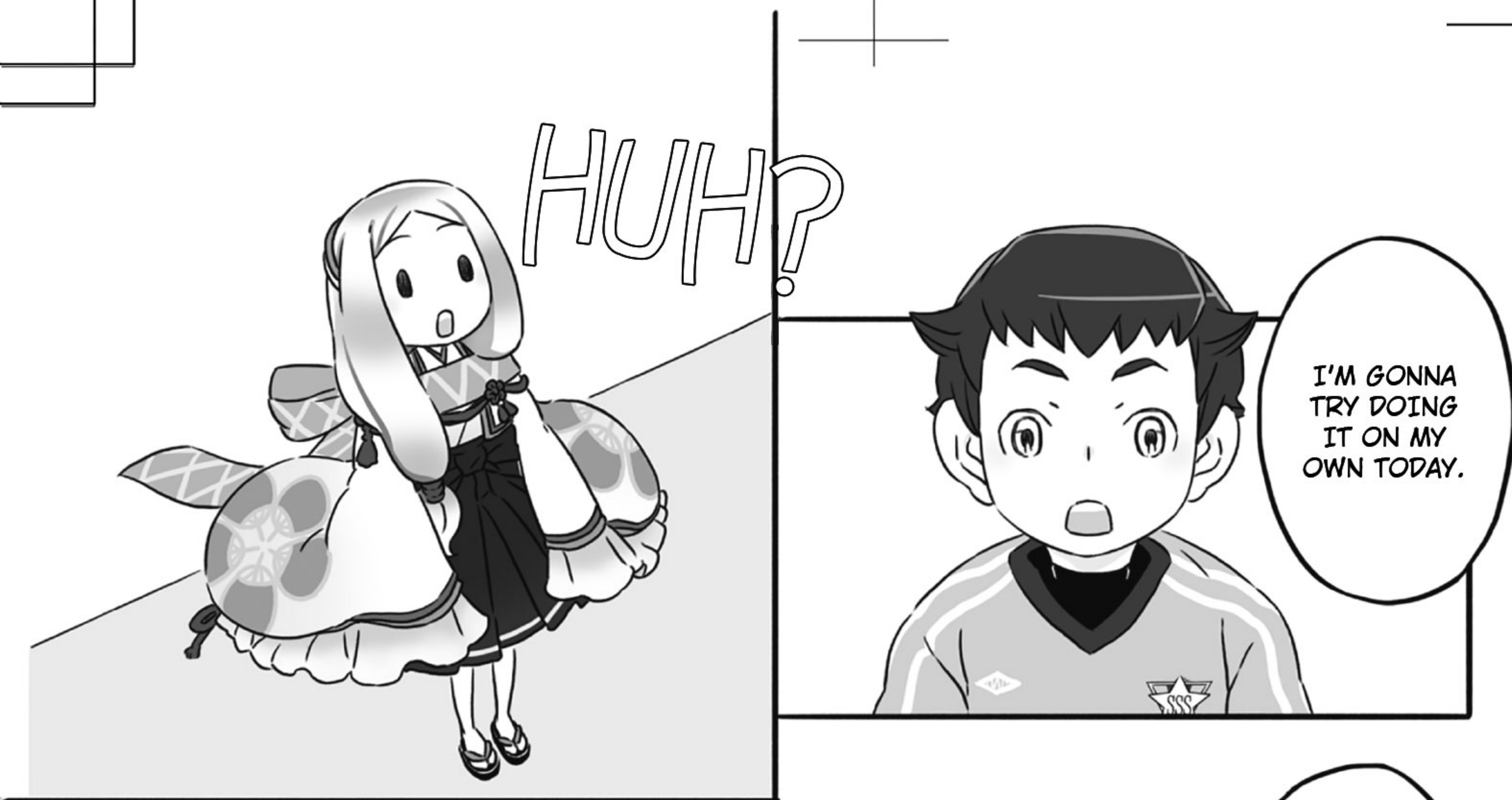
ANYWAYS, THERE'S A BUNCH OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE MAIN MATCH IN THE EVENING.

MY DAD AND HIS COWORKERS AT THE CITY HALL ARE KINDA FREAKING OUT ABOUT IT.

YAY WOO

YAY WOO





Uchiwa Column ①

History of Marugame Uchiwa (Edo to Meiji Era)



Just as Hayato was told, the oldest definitive record of uchiwas being made in Marugame is from the year 1600. That's how we know that they were being made from the Edo era, which began in 1603.

As you can see, the uchiwa on the right is quite an old one. It's from the storage room in a private citizen's home. Upon looking it over, it was determined to be from the Edo era and thus the long history of the Marugame uchiwa was proven.



Chronology

- 1600 (Keicho Year 5) A Marugame monk who had journeyed to Kyushu instructed the owners of the inn he had stayed at in how to make the uchiwa as a thanks for their hospitality. (This is believed to be the beginning of the Kutami uchiwas in the Kumamoto region of Kyushu.)
- 1633 (Kan'ei Year 10) The idea of giving out -to those who made a pilgrimage to Kotohira Shrine- round varnished vermilion colored, but with a gold inscription bamboo uchiwas was conceived.



Marugame in Sanuki Province (Harbors of Japan) by Hiroshige Utagawa. Stored in the archives of Marugame City Museum

Marugame Port and the Kotohira Pilgrimage

Kotohira Shrine is located in the Nakatado District of Kagawa Prefecture. Pilgrimage to the shrine became popular starting in the Edo period, which made Marugame Port into a lively place as the seaside entrance to the area. Marugame uchiwas became a popular take home gift and became well known around the country.

- Approx. 1800 (late Edo period) Shigeyoshi Seyama, the liaison to the Daimyo at the time, promoted round Simon bamboo uchiwas as an industrial enterprise of the area.
- 1874 - 1875 (Meiji years 7-8) A merchant in Osaka became an intermediary in the attempt to export Marugame uchiwas to foreign countries.
- 1888 (Meiji year 21) According to the November 22nd newspaper, production numbers were as follows  
2 million to China 1 million to the US  
30 million to Osaka 5 million elsewhere domestically  
Total: 38 million produced
- 1894 (Meiji year 27) Marugame Uchiwa Partnership is founded. Mass production of Marugame uchiwas begins.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NAMES AND TYPES OF UCHIWA CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 50.







THUNK



FLOAT



WHAT EVEN JUST HAPPENED!?

NICE SHOOT

THAT WAS...



I DID IT!

LOOK AT THAT CURVE

COOL



THANK YOU FOR TODAY!

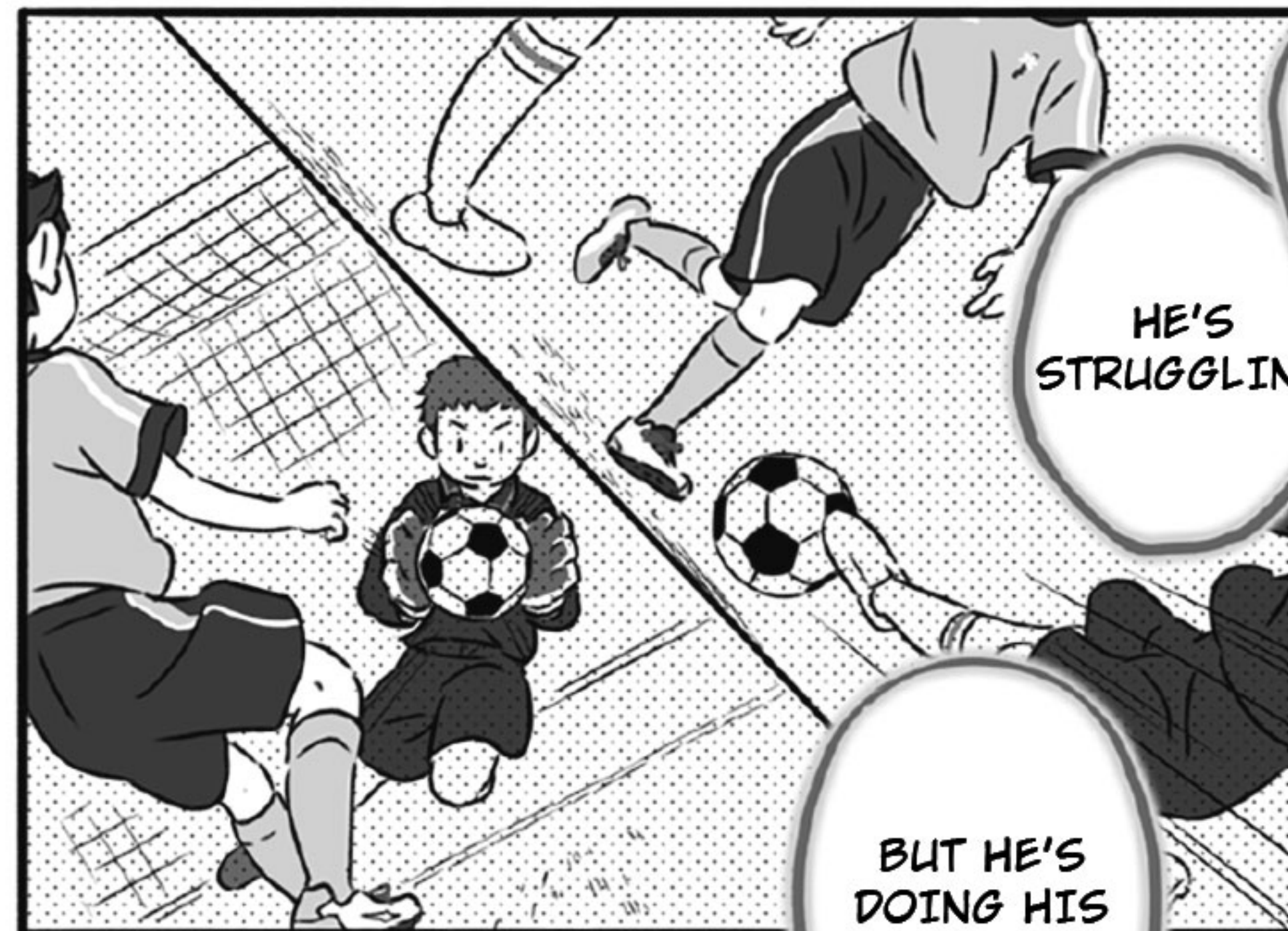


I SAW IT AT YOUR OTHER MATCHES TOO. YOUR BODY GLOWED AND-

YOU DID SOMETHING STRANGE WHEN YOU TOOK THAT SHOT.



WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT, HARUNA?



HE'S STRUGGLING

OH MAN...

BRUSH IT OFF

BUT HE'S DOING HIS BEST.

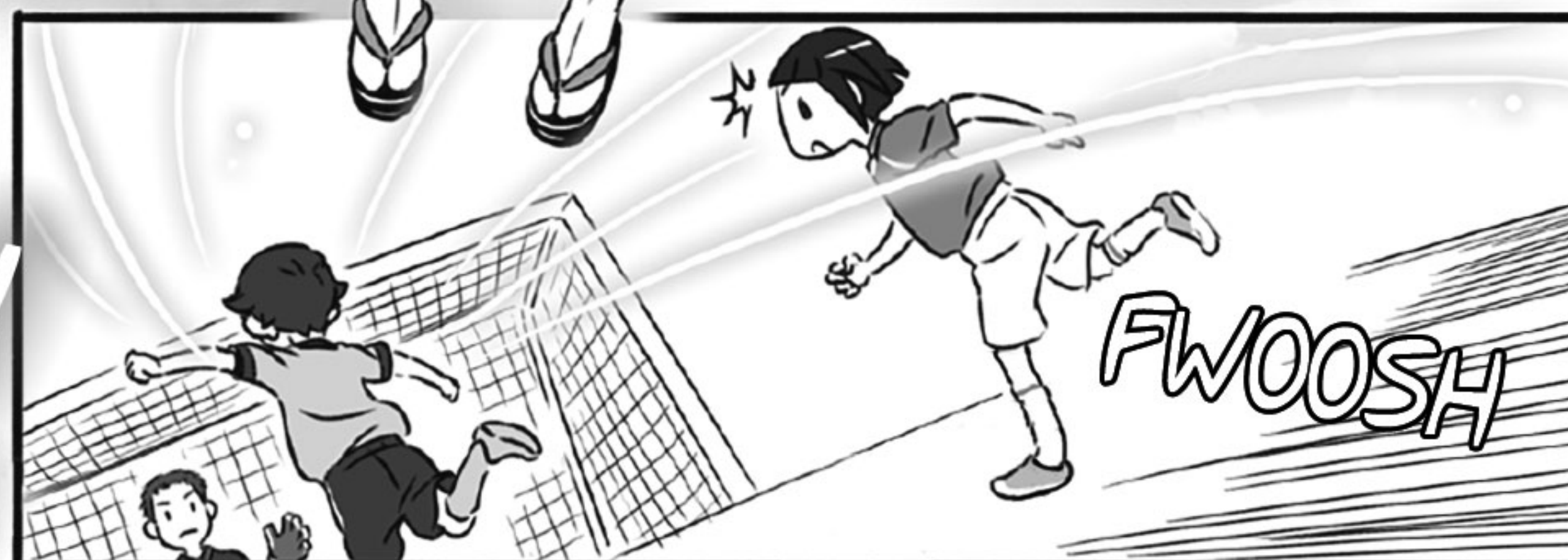
BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING ... SOMETHING I CAN DO!



I'M FAR AWAY BUT I'LL STILL GIVE IT MY ALL!

WOOSH

COME ON LUCKY WIND AND WORK YOUR MAGIC!



FWOOSH



IF YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEN...

JUST NEVER MIND!

GASP J-JUST DO YOU WHAT YOU WANT!

NOTHING CHANGES!

ARE THEY DONE TALKING ALREADY?



HAYATO!

YOU, YOU MADE ANOTHER NICE SHOOT TODAY!

IT WAS A BIT TRICKY THIS TIME, BUT I'M REALLY GLAD I WAS ABLE TO-



I TOLD YOU I WAS GONNA DO IT ON MY OWN!

HUH?

YOU JUST HAD TO GO AND DO THAT.

I DON'T...

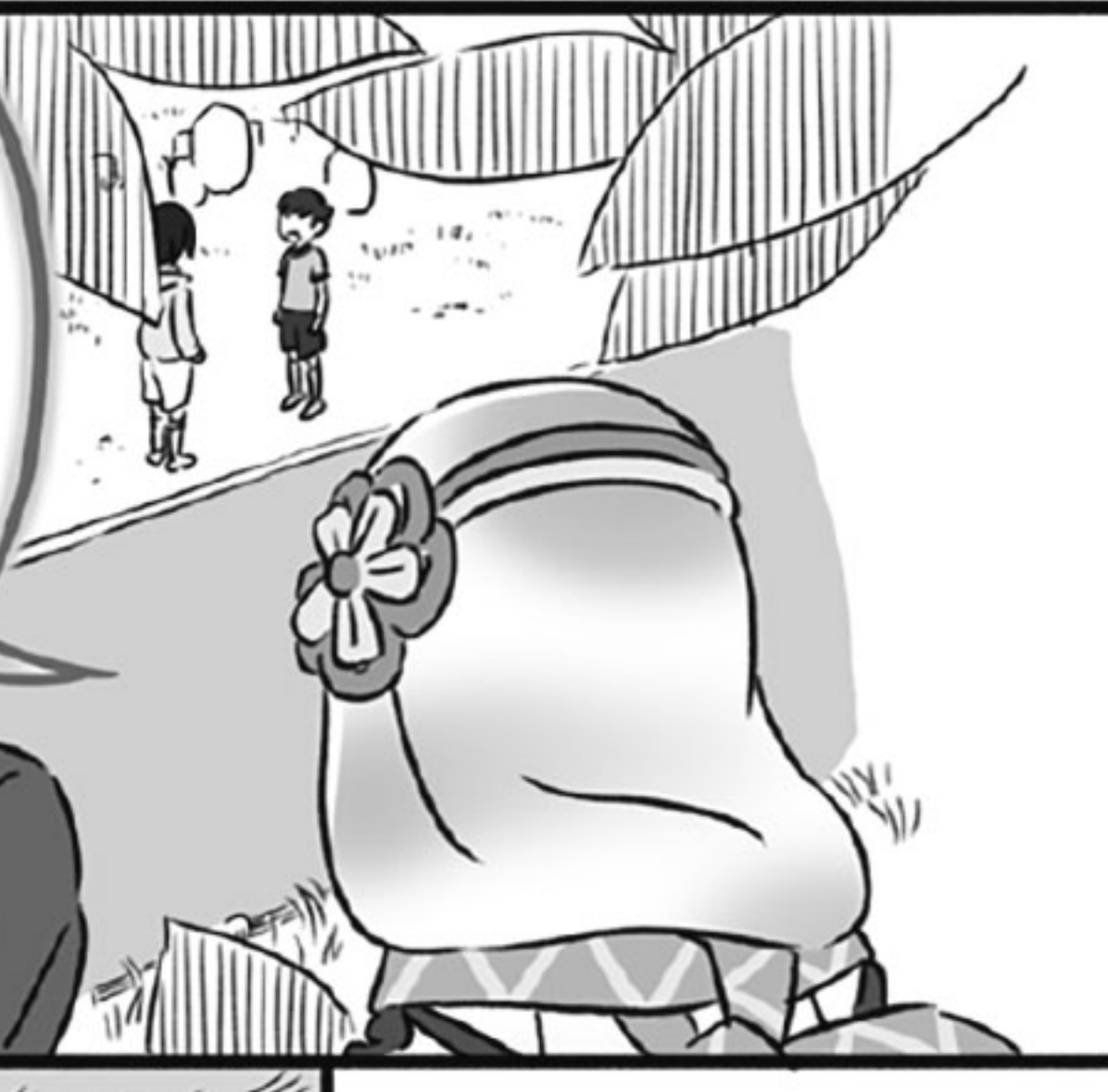


YOU NEED TO CUT THE CHEAP TRICKS OUT AND REALLY THINK ABOUT THE REASON THAT YOU'RE UNABLE TO MAKE THE SHOTS YOU TAKE DURING MATCHES!

I'M NOT-

I GUESS I SHOULD STAY HIDDEN, HUH.

THOUGH I REALLY WANT TO TALK WITH HER TOO...



WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS ON MY CASE!?

DAMMIT!

TODAY WAS JUST A PRACTICE MATCH SO LET IT GO ALREADY!



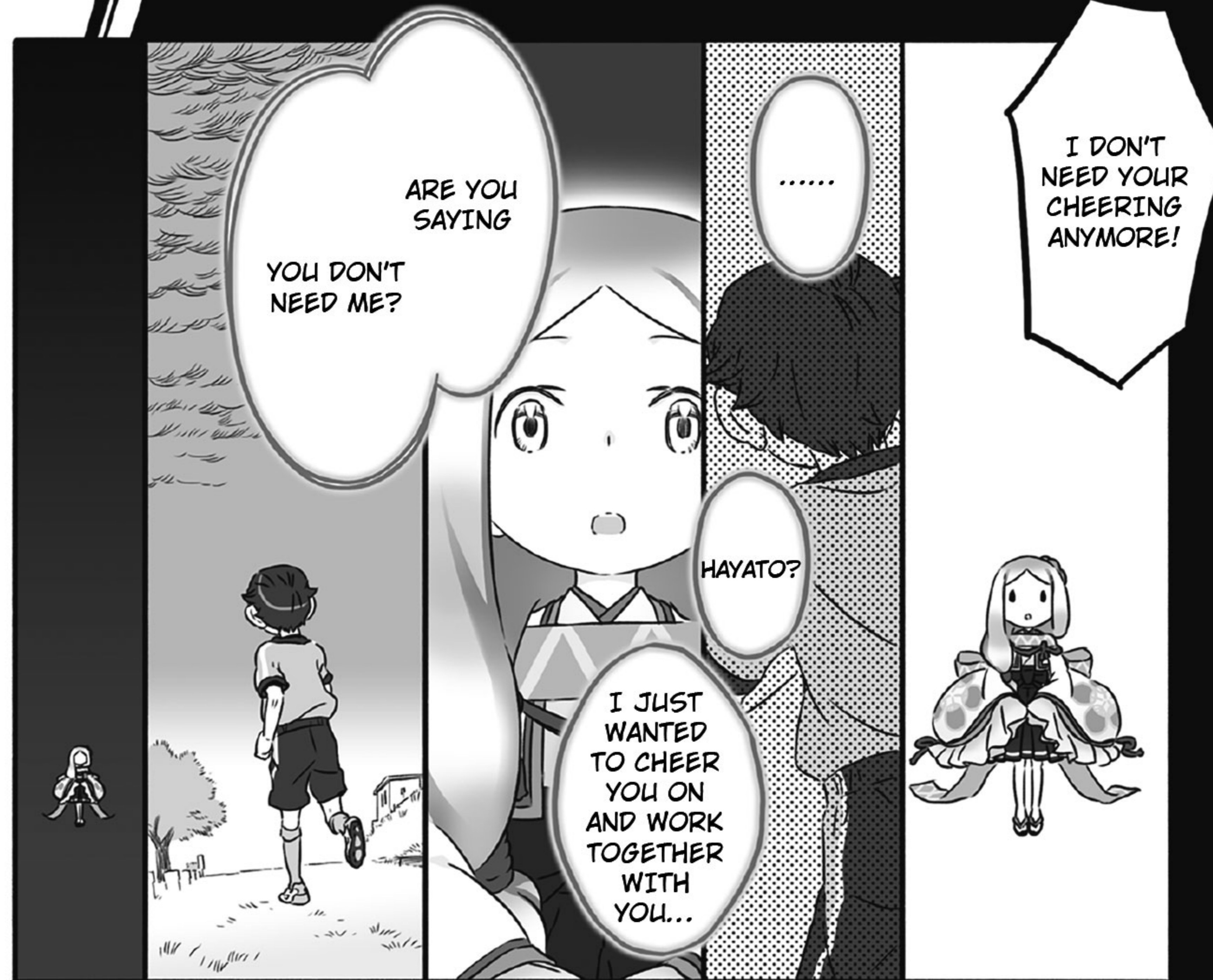
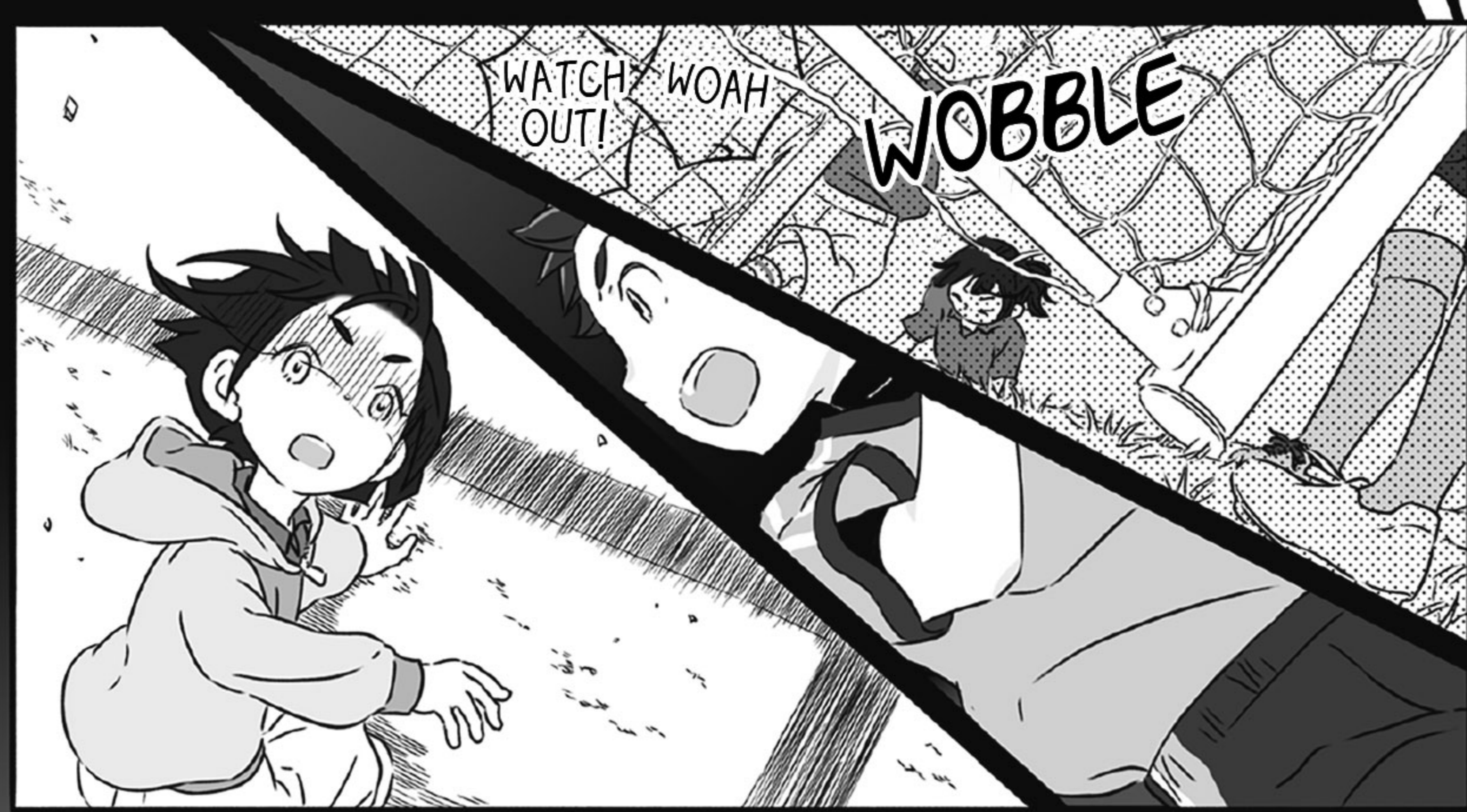
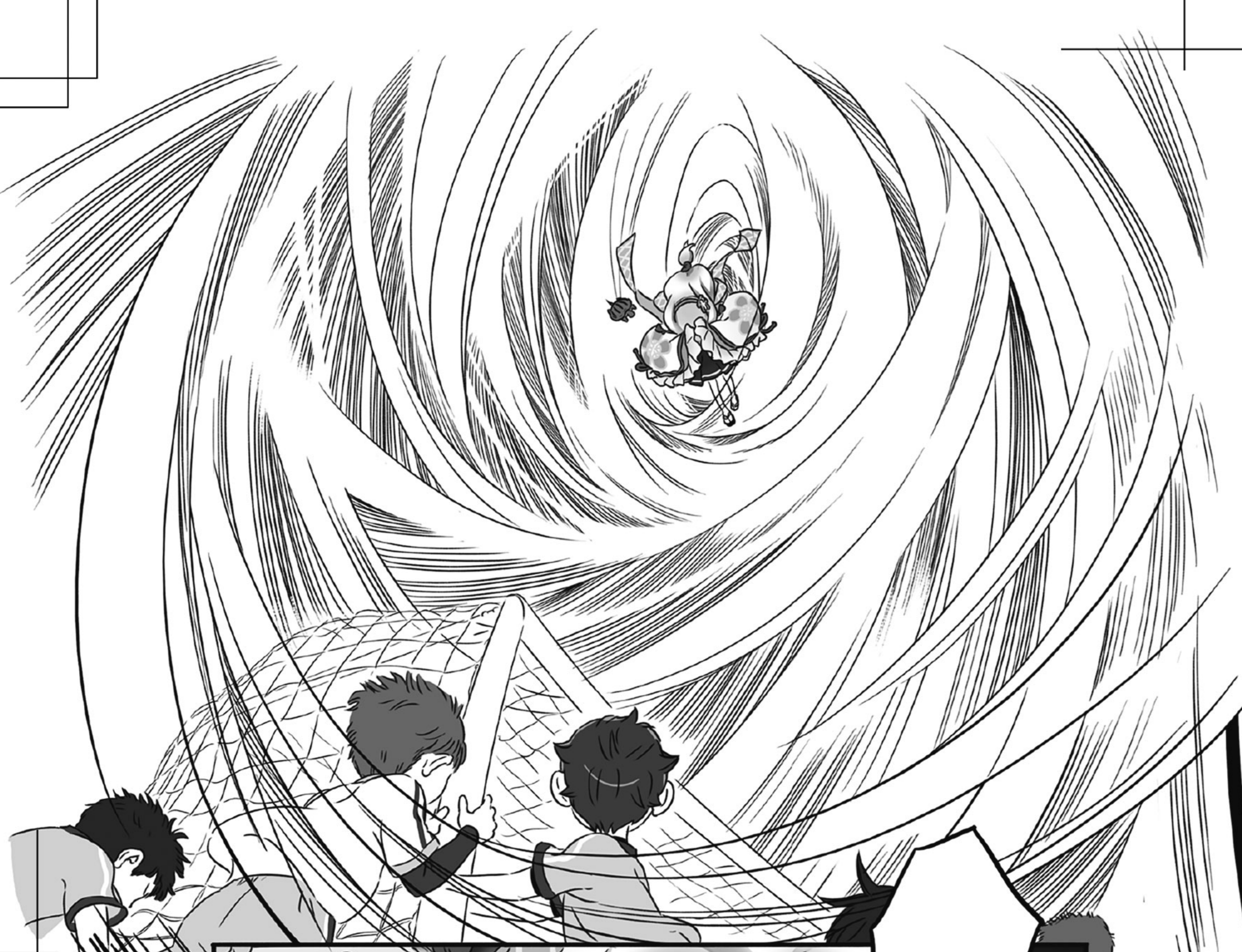
THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T MAKE A GOAL!

YOU SEE!

CUZ IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S PRACTICE OR THE REAL THING WHEN IT COMES TO THEM!



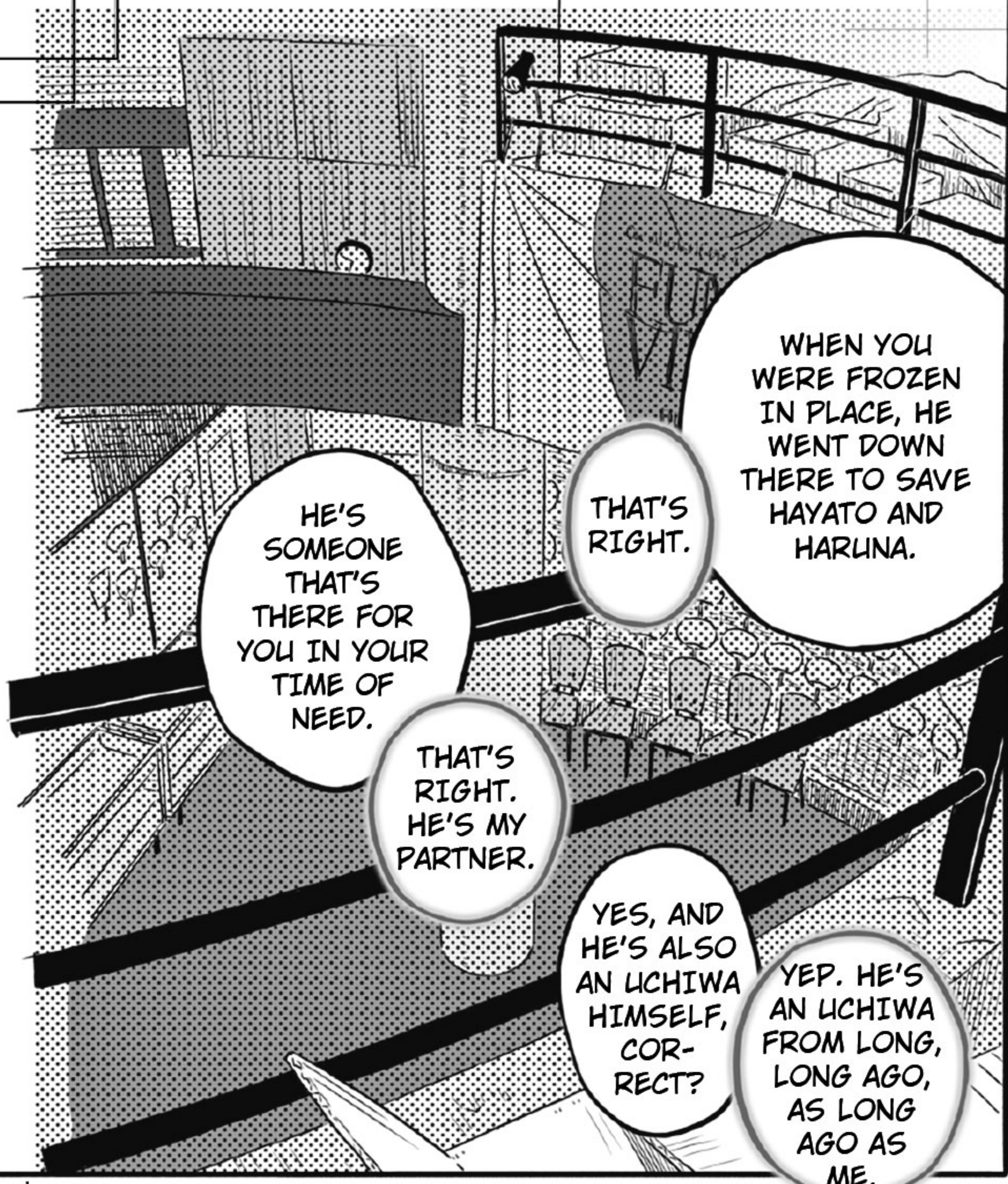












HE'S SOMEONE THAT'S THERE FOR YOU IN YOUR TIME OF NEED.

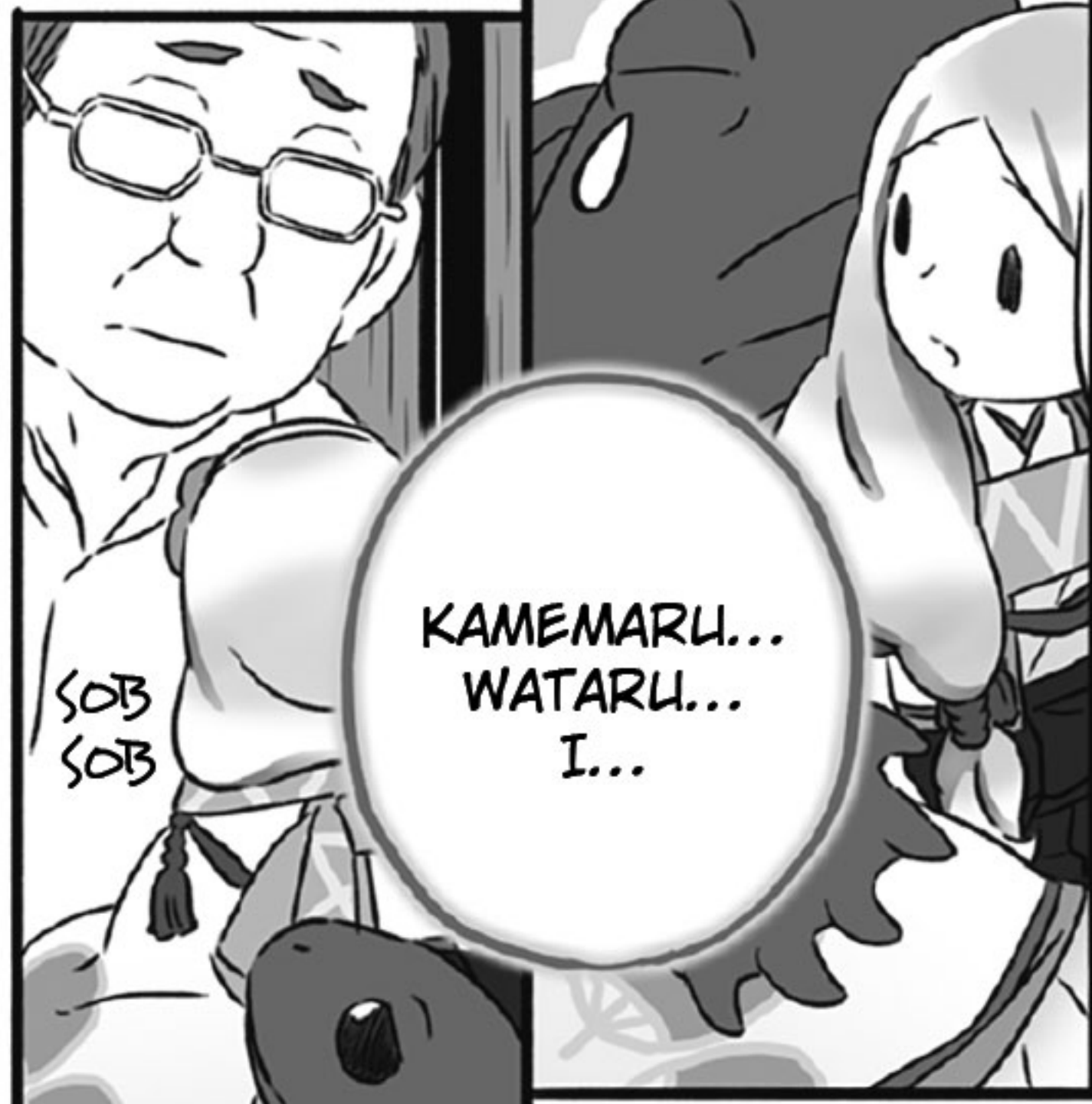
THAT'S RIGHT.

WHEN YOU WERE FROZEN IN PLACE, HE WENT DOWN THERE TO SAVE HAYATO AND HARUNA.

THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S MY PARTNER.

YES, AND HE'S ALSO AN UCHIWA HIMSELF, CORRECT?

YEP. HE'S AN UCHIWA FROM LONG, LONG AGO, AS LONG AGO AS ME.



HUG

KAMEMARU... WATARU... I...



THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT ABOUT KAMEMARU.



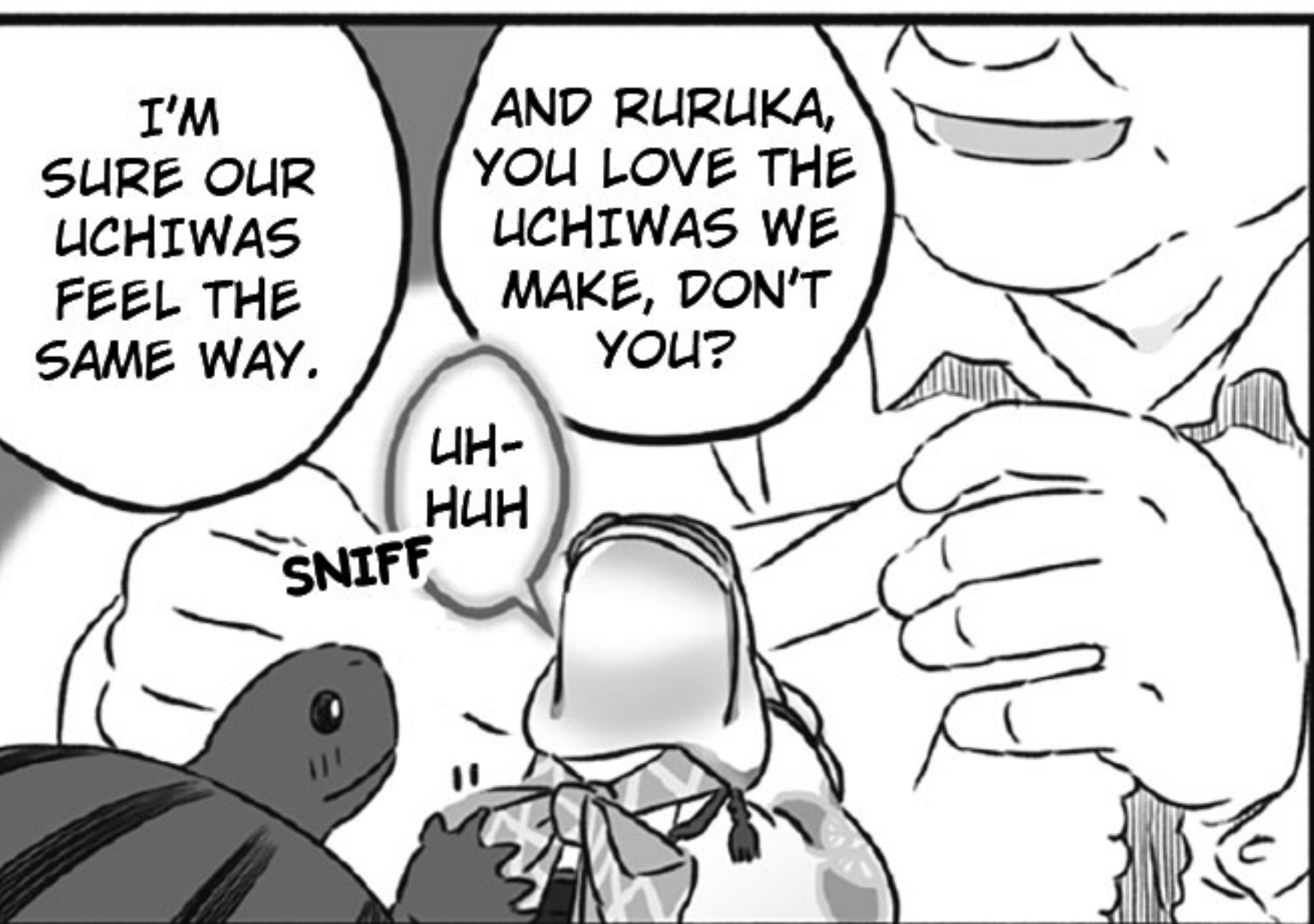
SO WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE UCHIWAS WE MAKE HERE ARE ACTUALLY HIS FRIENDS.



PAT PAT

THOSE UCHIWAS WILL BE OF SOME HELP TO YOU, I PROMISE.

NOW GET SOME REST.



I'M SURE OUR UCHIWAS FEEL THE SAME WAY.

AND RURUKA, YOU LOVE THE UCHIWAS WE MAKE, DON'T YOU?

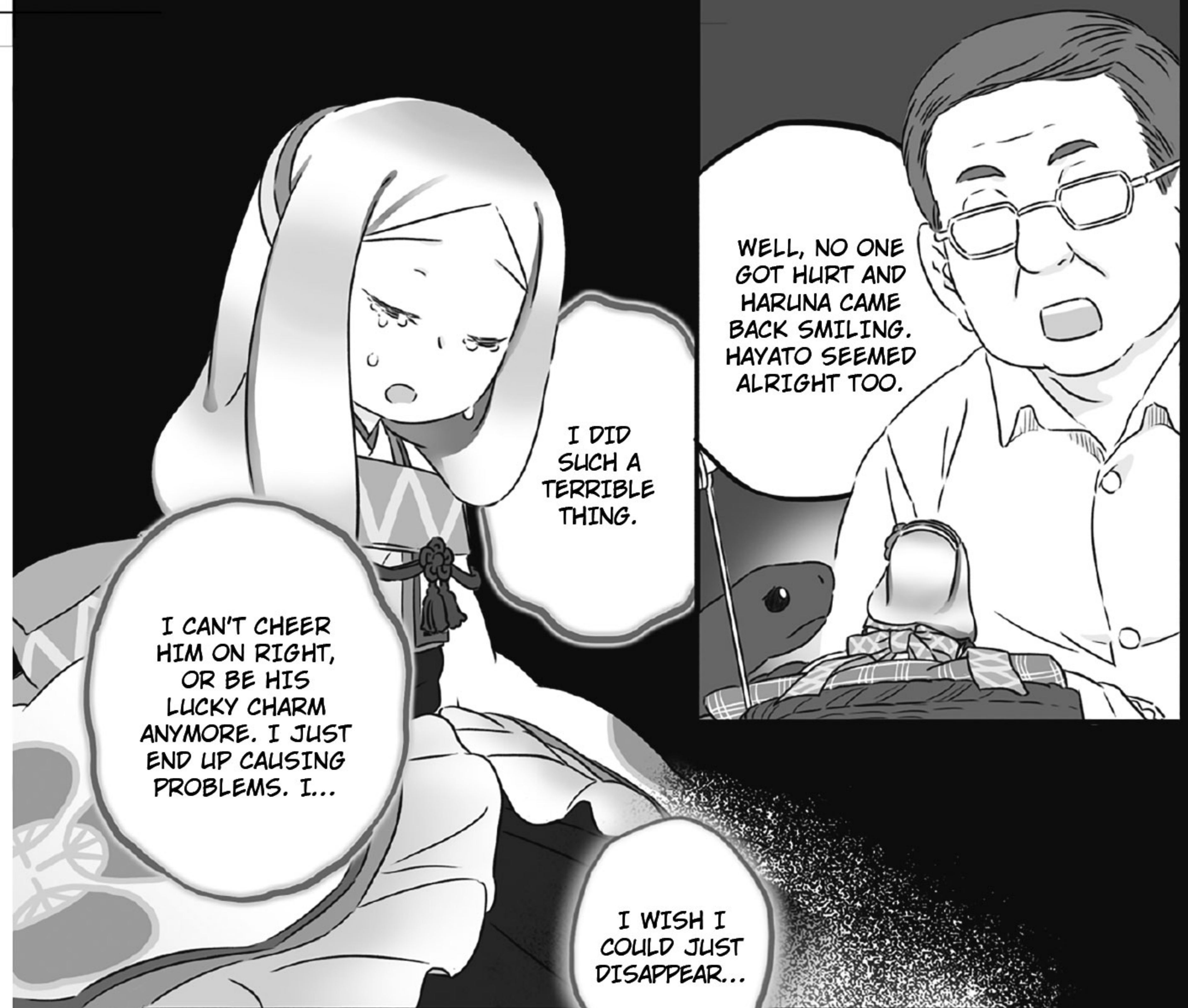
UH-HUH SNIFF



WELL NOW, I NEED TO HEAD HOME. I'M LEAVING HER IN YOUR CARE, KAMEMARU.

THANK YOU, WATARU.

zzzz

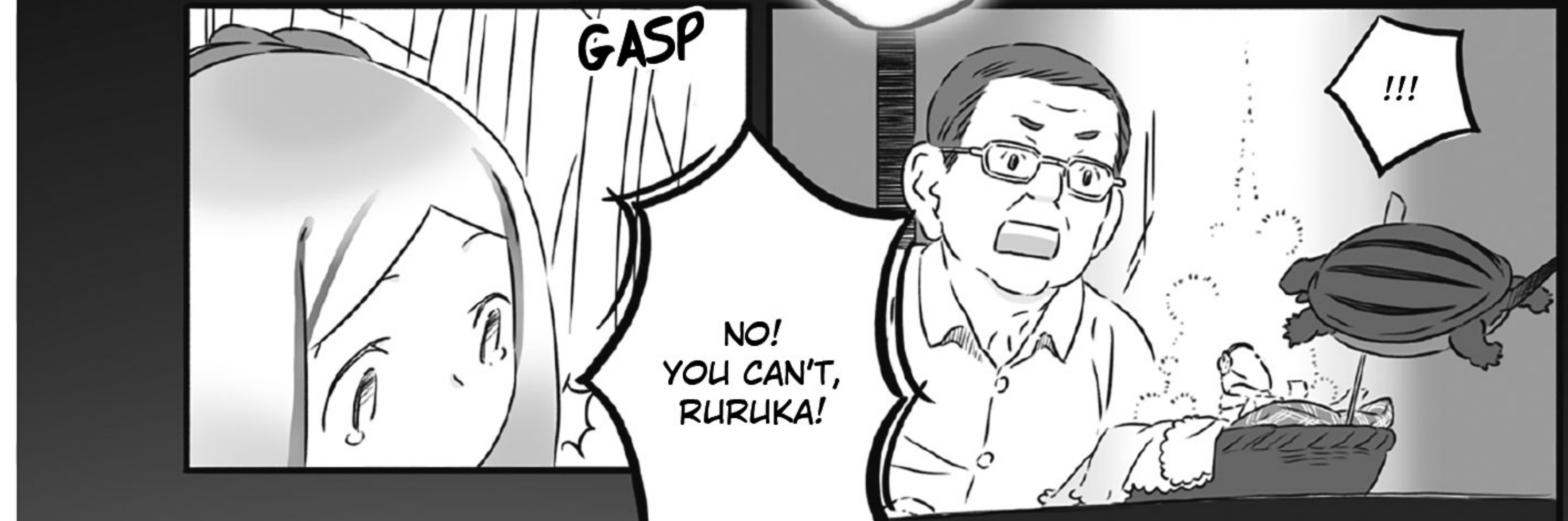


I DID SUCH A TERRIBLE THING.

I CAN'T CHEER HIM ON RIGHT, OR BE HIS LUCKY CHARM ANYMORE. I JUST END UP CAUSING PROBLEMS. I...

I WISH I COULD JUST DISAPPEAR...

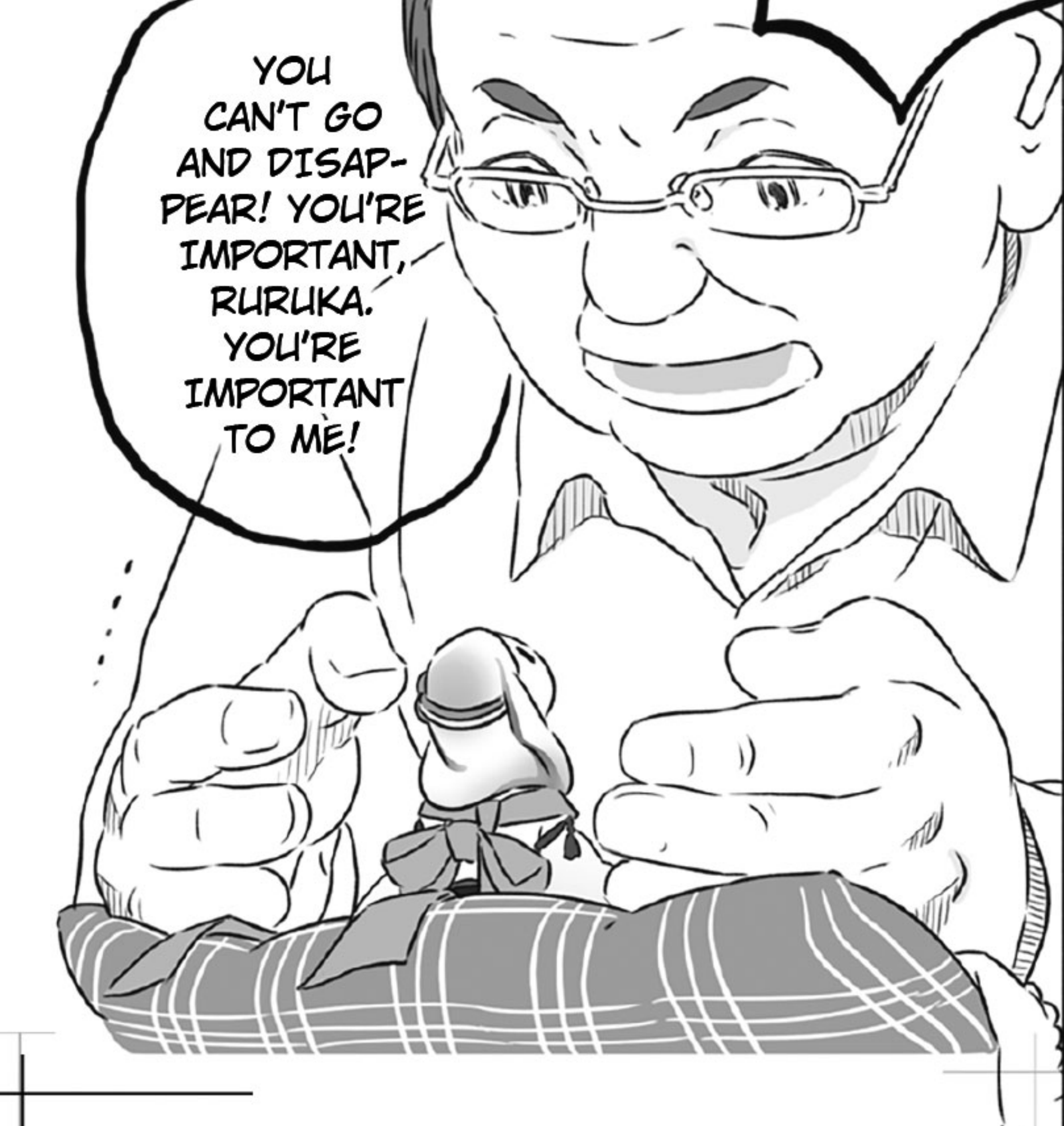
WELL, NO ONE GOT HURT AND HARUNA CAME BACK SMILING. HAYATO SEEMED ALRIGHT TOO.



GASP

NO! YOU CAN'T, RURUKA!

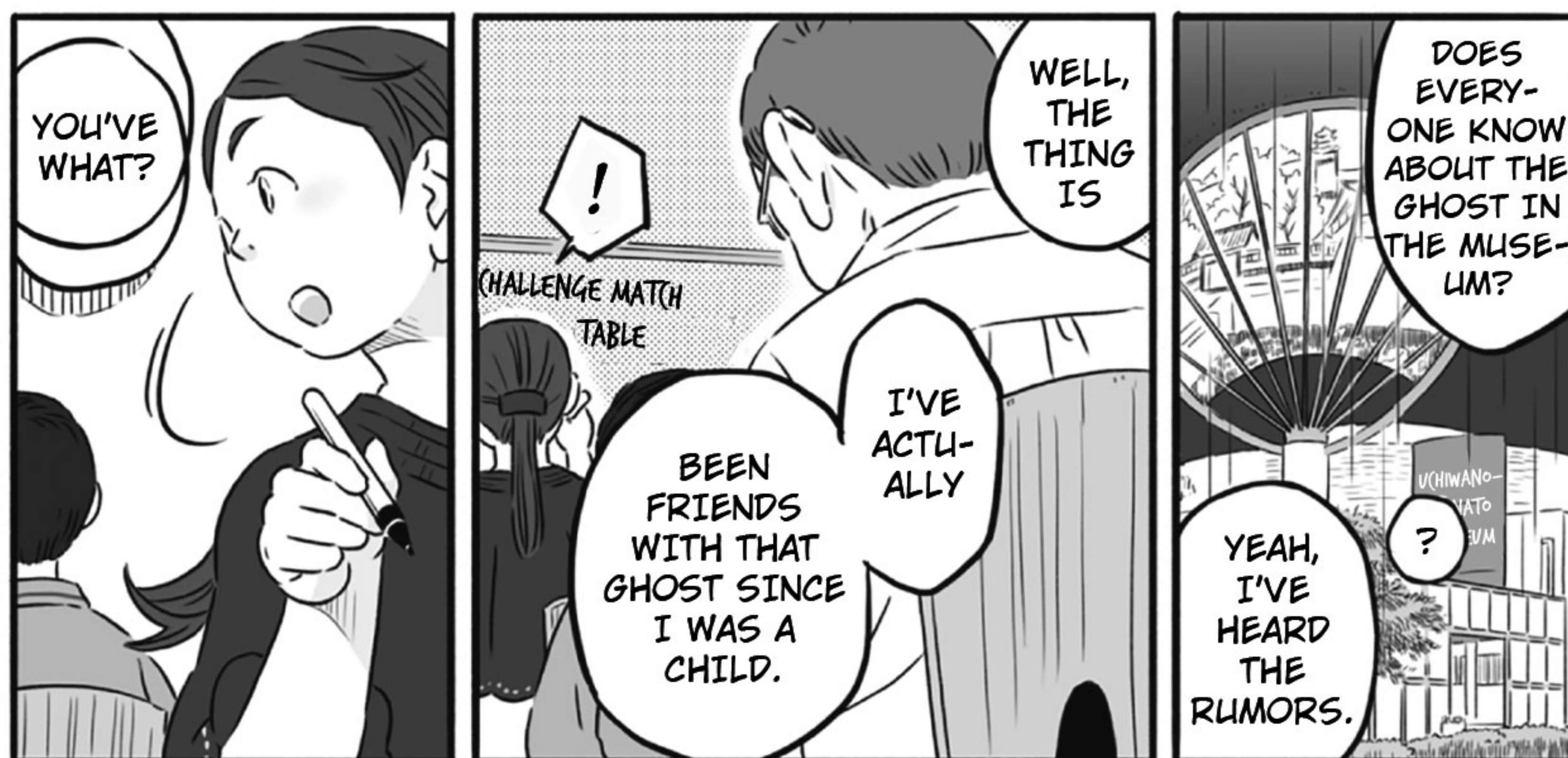
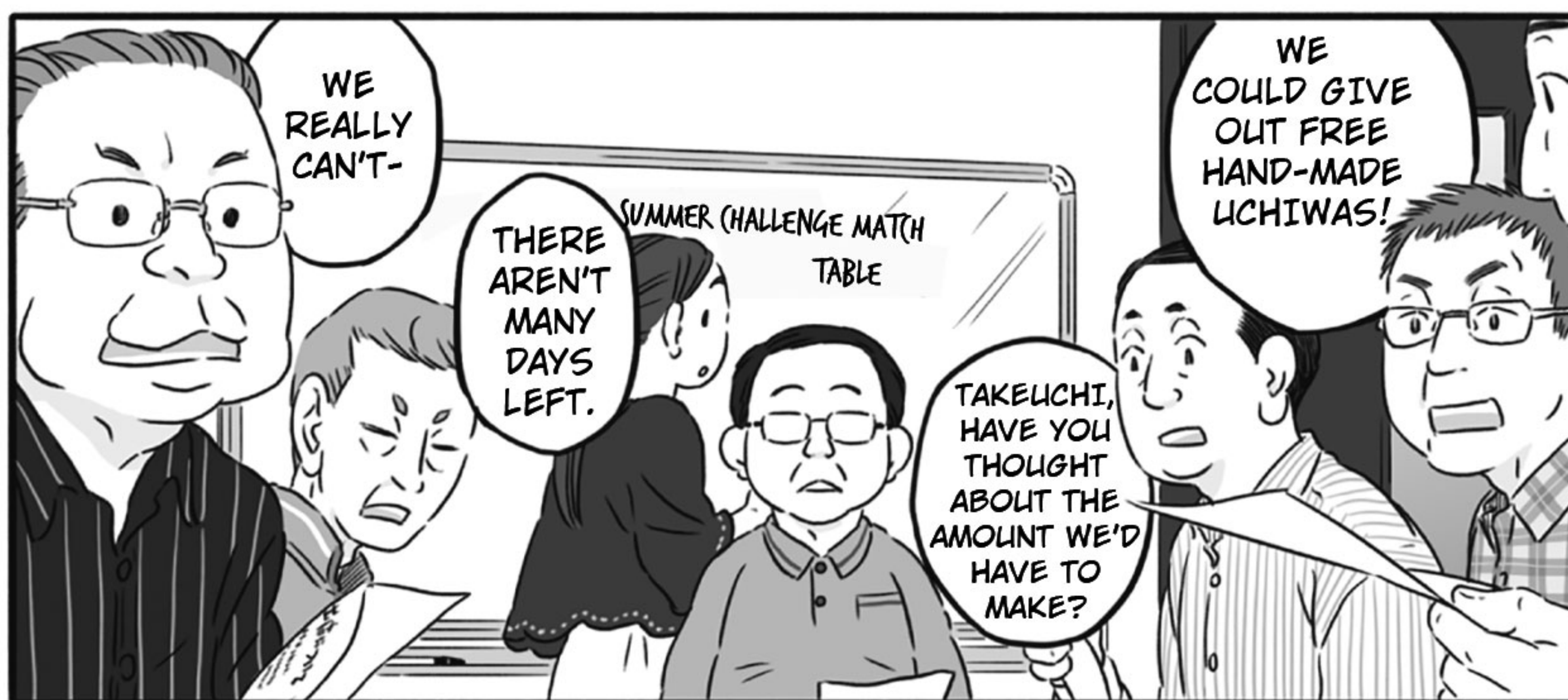
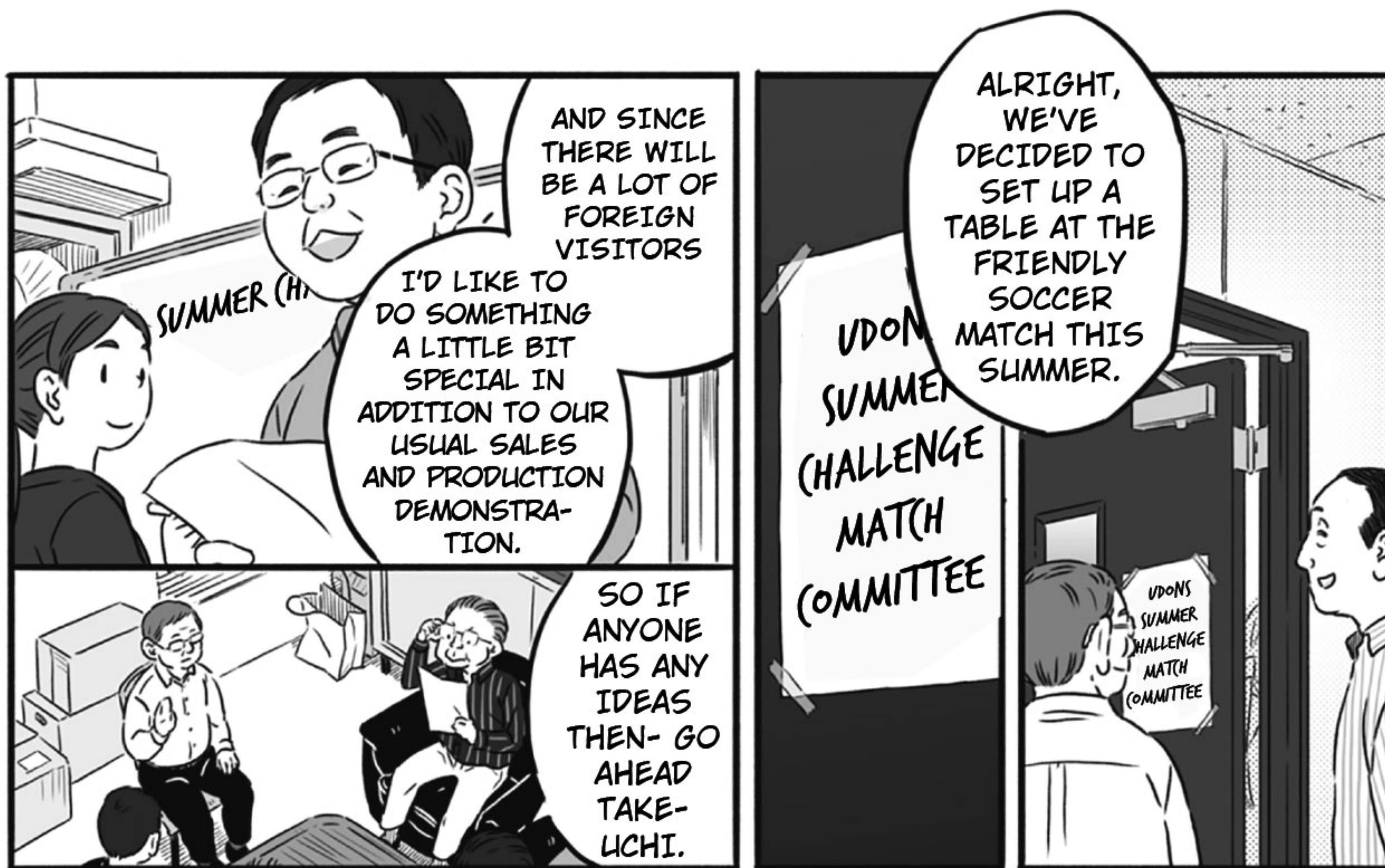
!!!



YOU CAN'T GO AND DISAPPEAR! YOU'RE IMPORTANT, RURUKA. YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME!

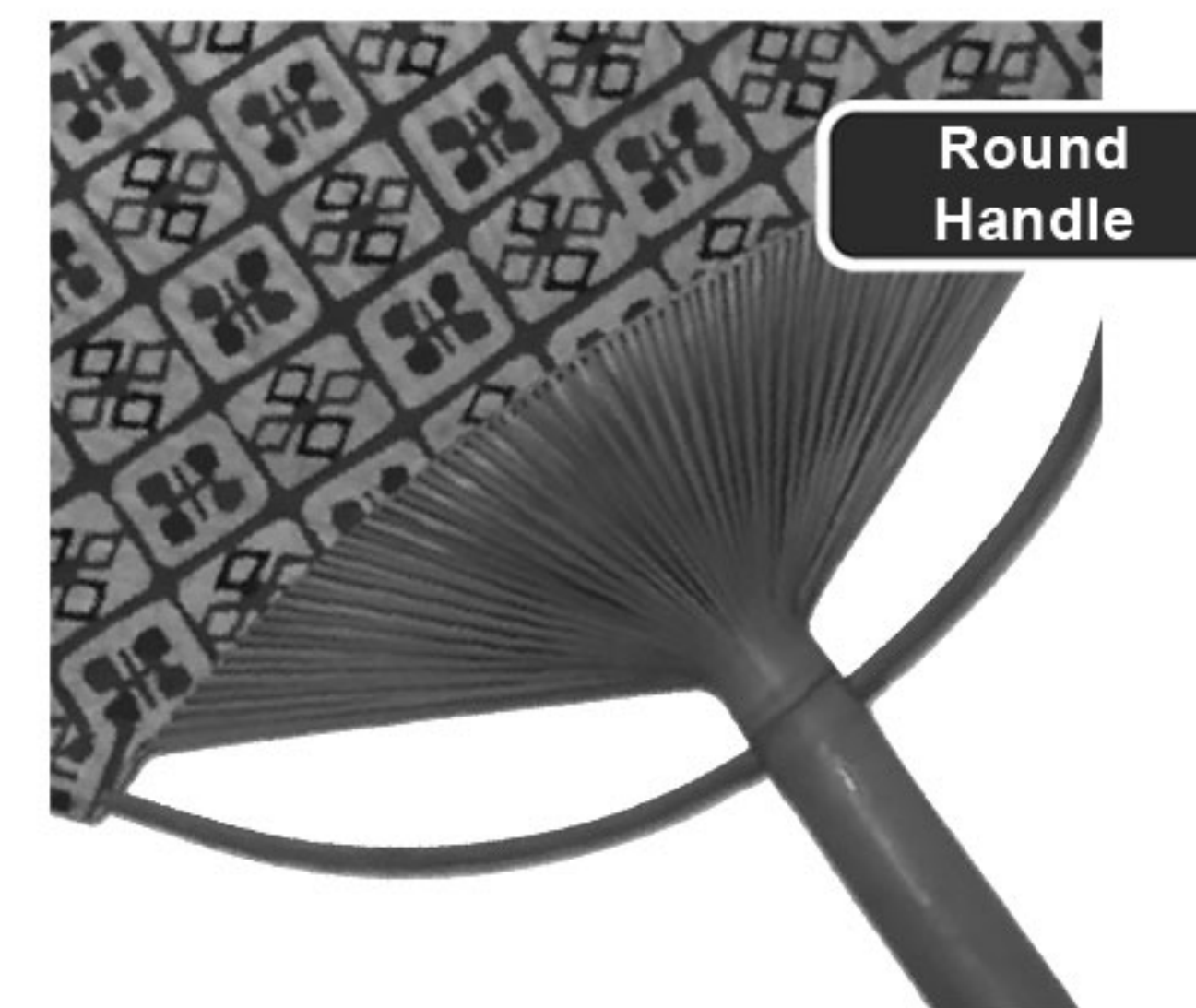
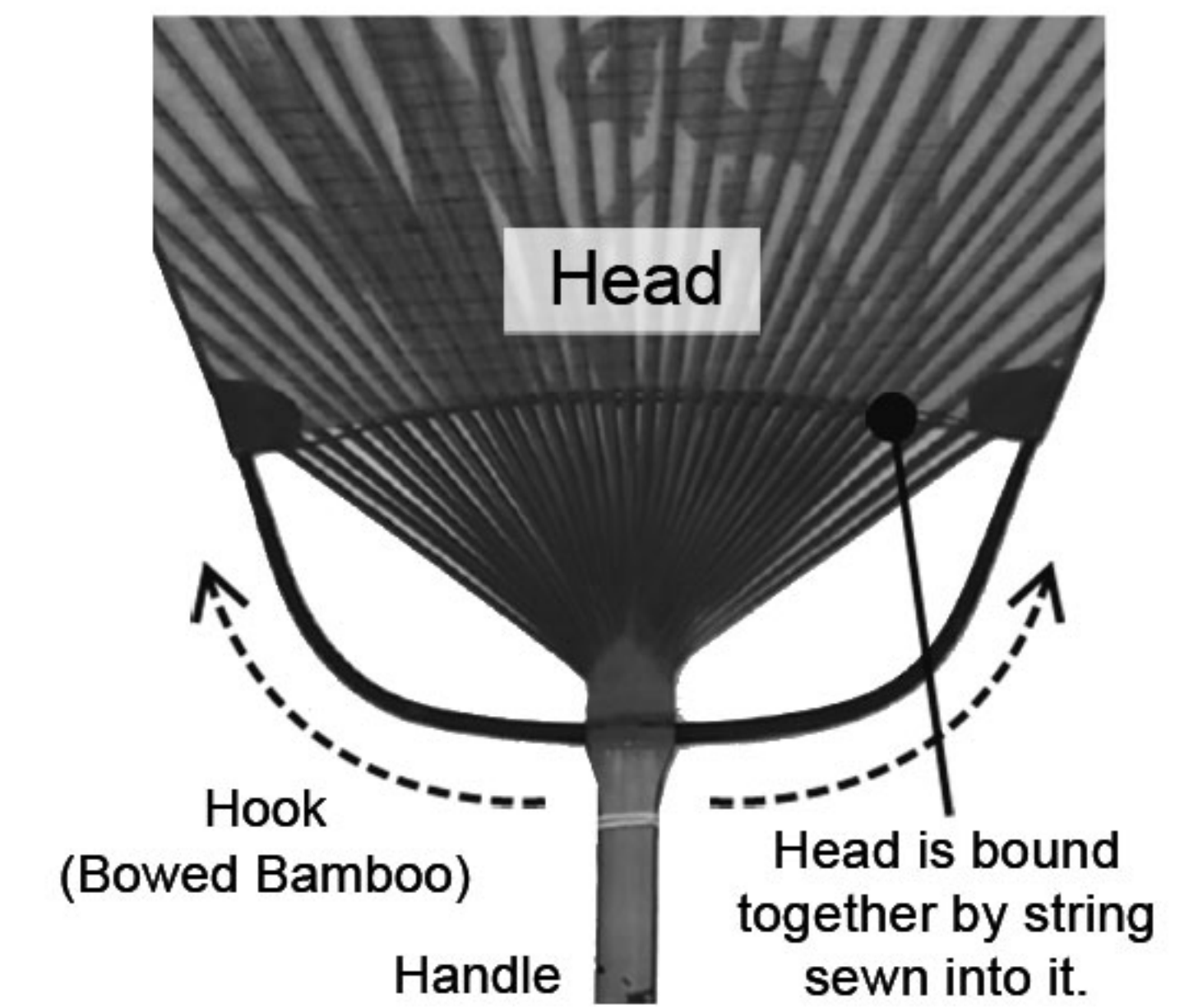






## Names of the Patterns and Shapes

What you see to the right is an uchiwa before the paper has been laid. You could call it a bamboo "skeleton." A rough way of putting it of how the uchiwa get their names is to say that the names come from the shape of the handles and of the head. Let's take a look at handle-based naming style first.



This refers to those uchiwas made that keep the bamboo round. The root of the head forms layers and gives off a more 3D look.



This refers to those uchiwas where the mature bamboo is split and flattened to make the head.

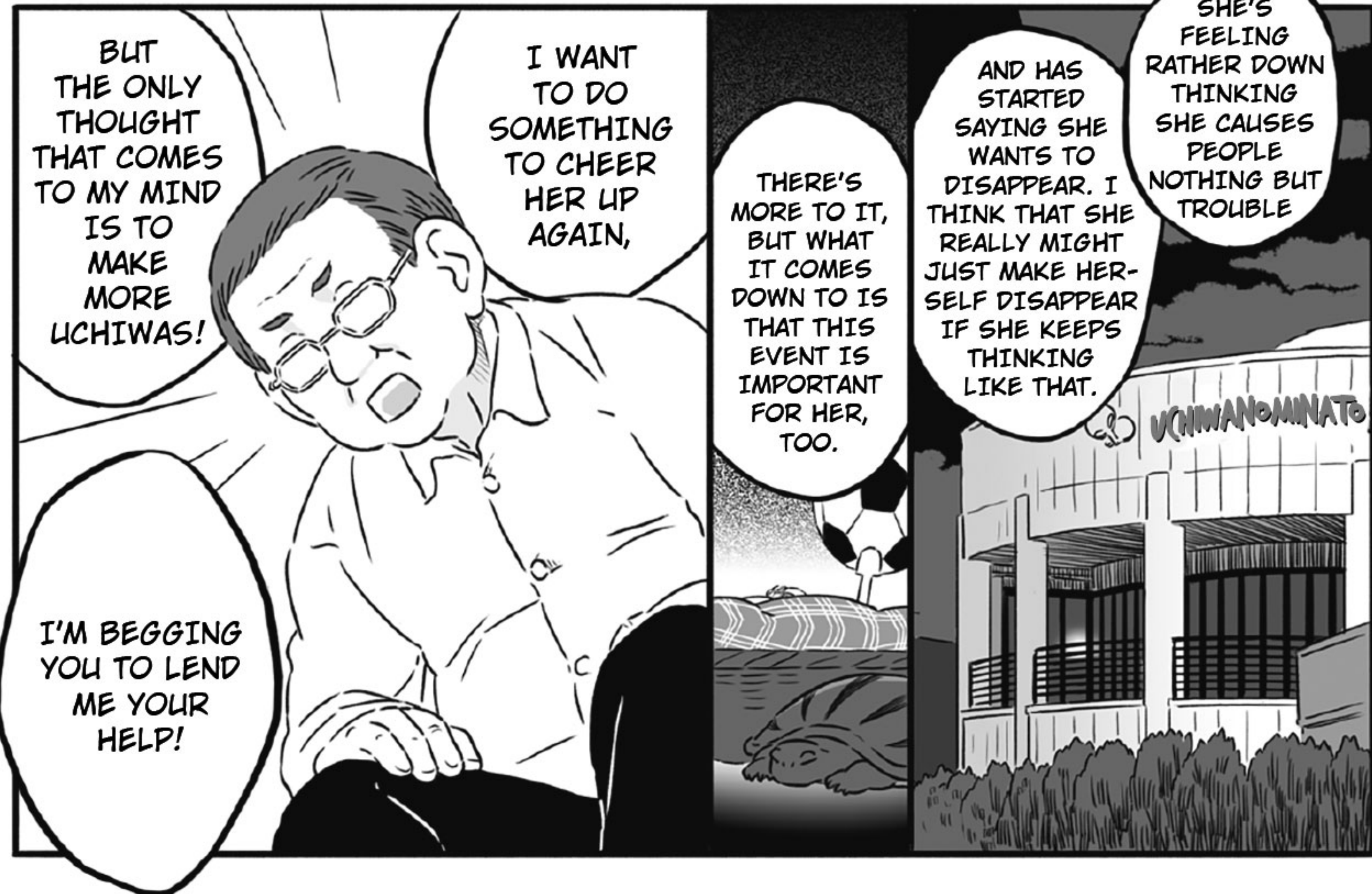
### Masculine and Feminine Bamboo

Feminine bamboo has thin grass, while masculine bamboo has a thicker kind. The bamboo used in Marugame uchiwas includes 3 types: masculine bamboo of the long-jointed timber variety, Henon bamboo and feminine bamboo.

The most well-known type of Marugame uchiwa is the flat-handled type made of masculine bamboo. This type was modeled off the Nara type of uchiwa commonly found in 1880. Around this time, there was an exchange of information regarding manufacturing techniques happening all around Japan and many types of uchiwa came into existence. You can see a wide variety of them at the Uchiwanominato Museum.







BUT THE ONLY THOUGHT THAT COMES TO MY MIND IS TO MAKE MORE UCHIWAS!

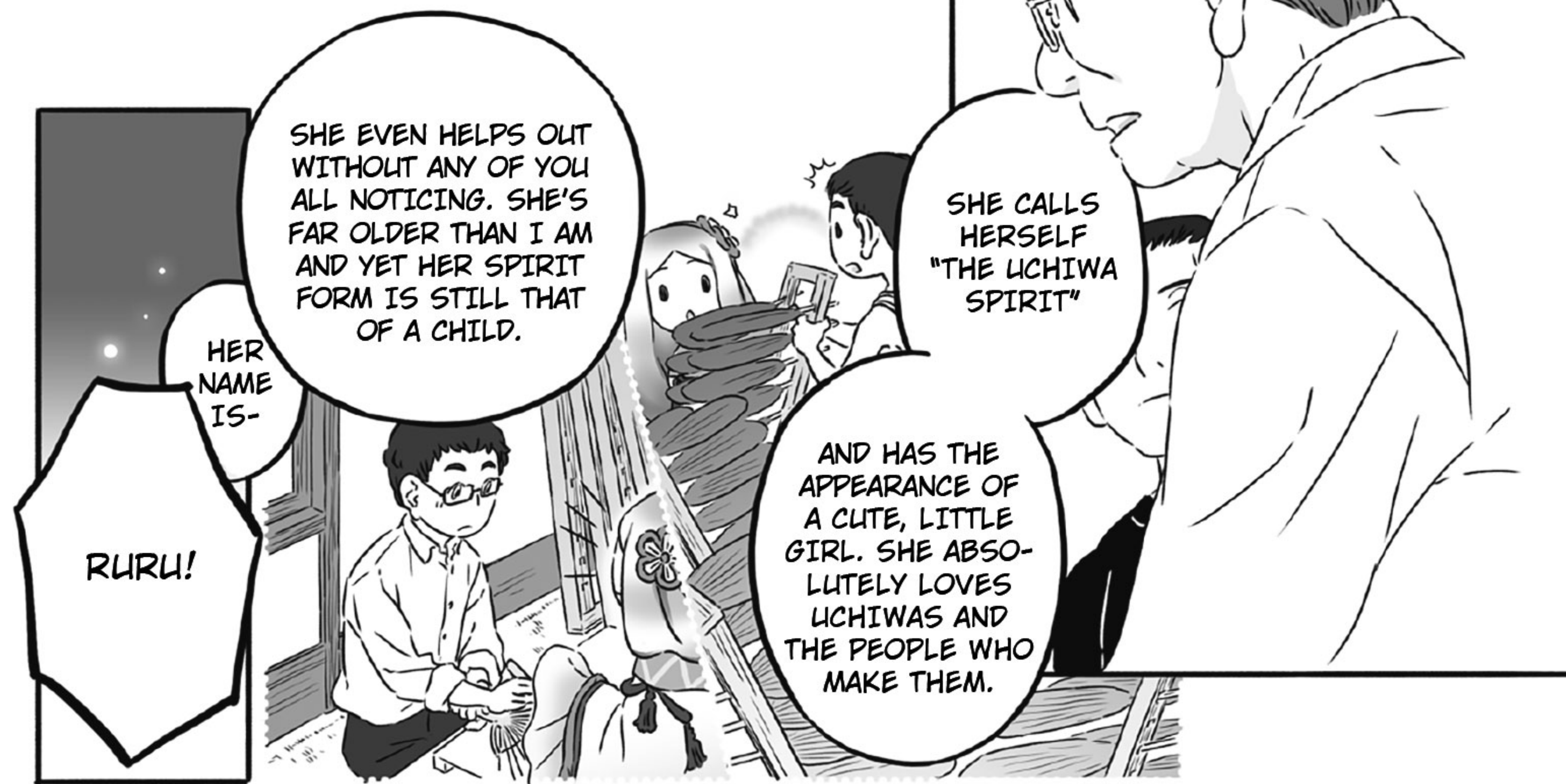
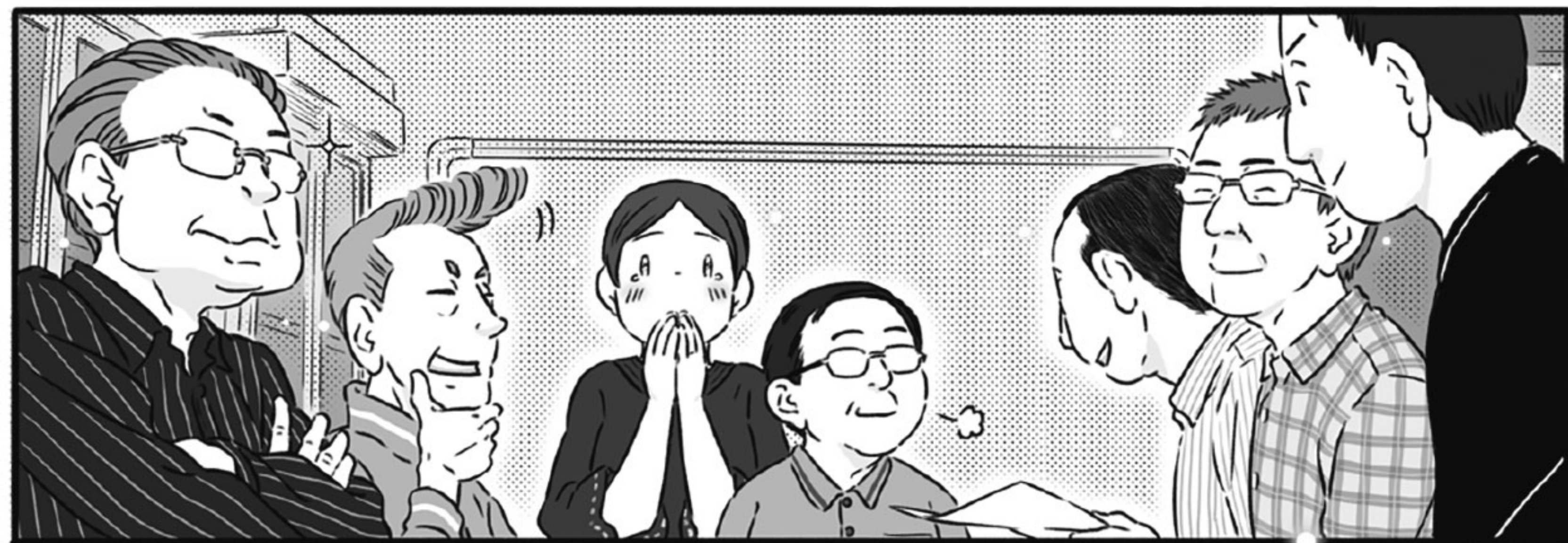
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO CHEER HER UP AGAIN,

THERE'S MORE TO IT, BUT WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO IS THAT THIS EVENT IS IMPORTANT FOR HER, TOO.

AND HAS STARTED SAYING SHE WANTS TO DISAPPEAR. I THINK THAT SHE REALLY MIGHT JUST MAKE HERSELF DISAPPEAR IF SHE KEEPS THINKING LIKE THAT.

SHE'S FEELING RATHER DOWN THINKING SHE CAUSES PEOPLE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE

I'M BEGGING YOU TO LEND ME YOUR HELP!



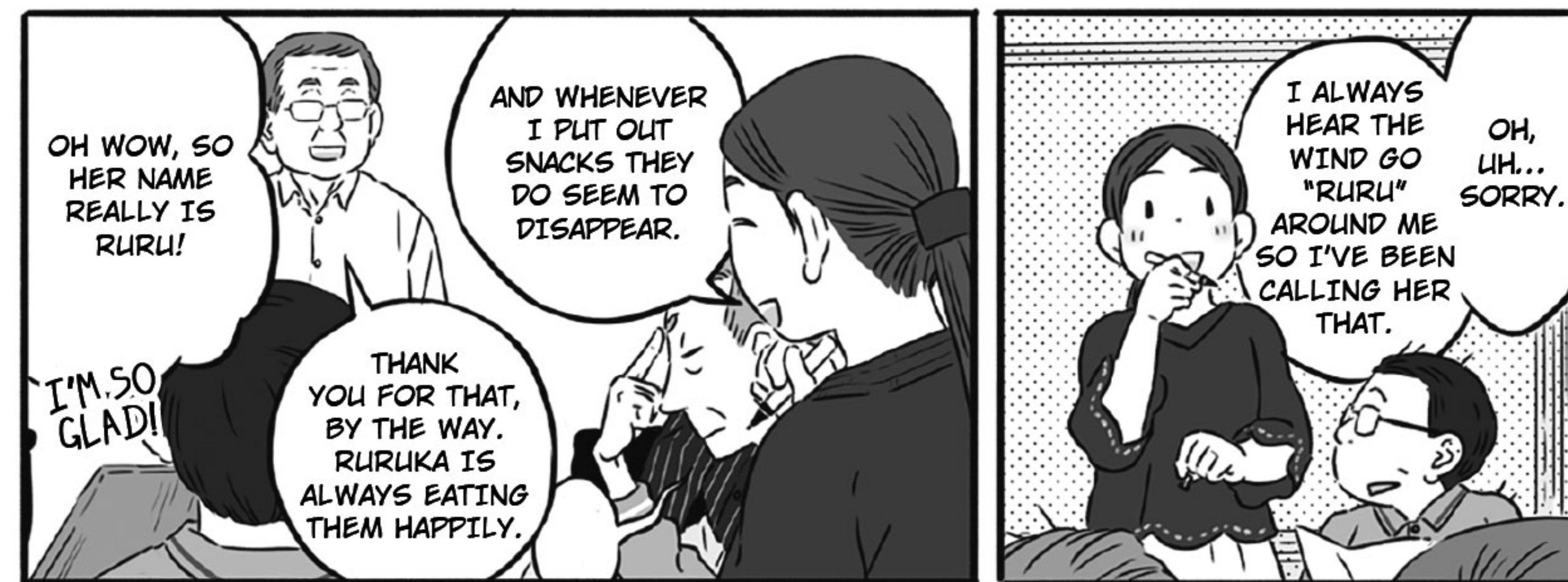
SHE EVEN HELPS OUT WITHOUT ANY OF YOU ALL NOTICING. SHE'S FAR OLDER THAN I AM AND YET HER SPIRIT FORM IS STILL THAT OF A CHILD.

HER NAME IS-

RURU!

SHE CALLS HERSELF "THE UCHIWA SPIRIT"

AND HAS THE APPEARANCE OF A CUTE, LITTLE GIRL. SHE ABSOLUTELY LOVES UCHIWAS AND THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THEM.



OH WOW, SO HER NAME REALLY IS RURU!

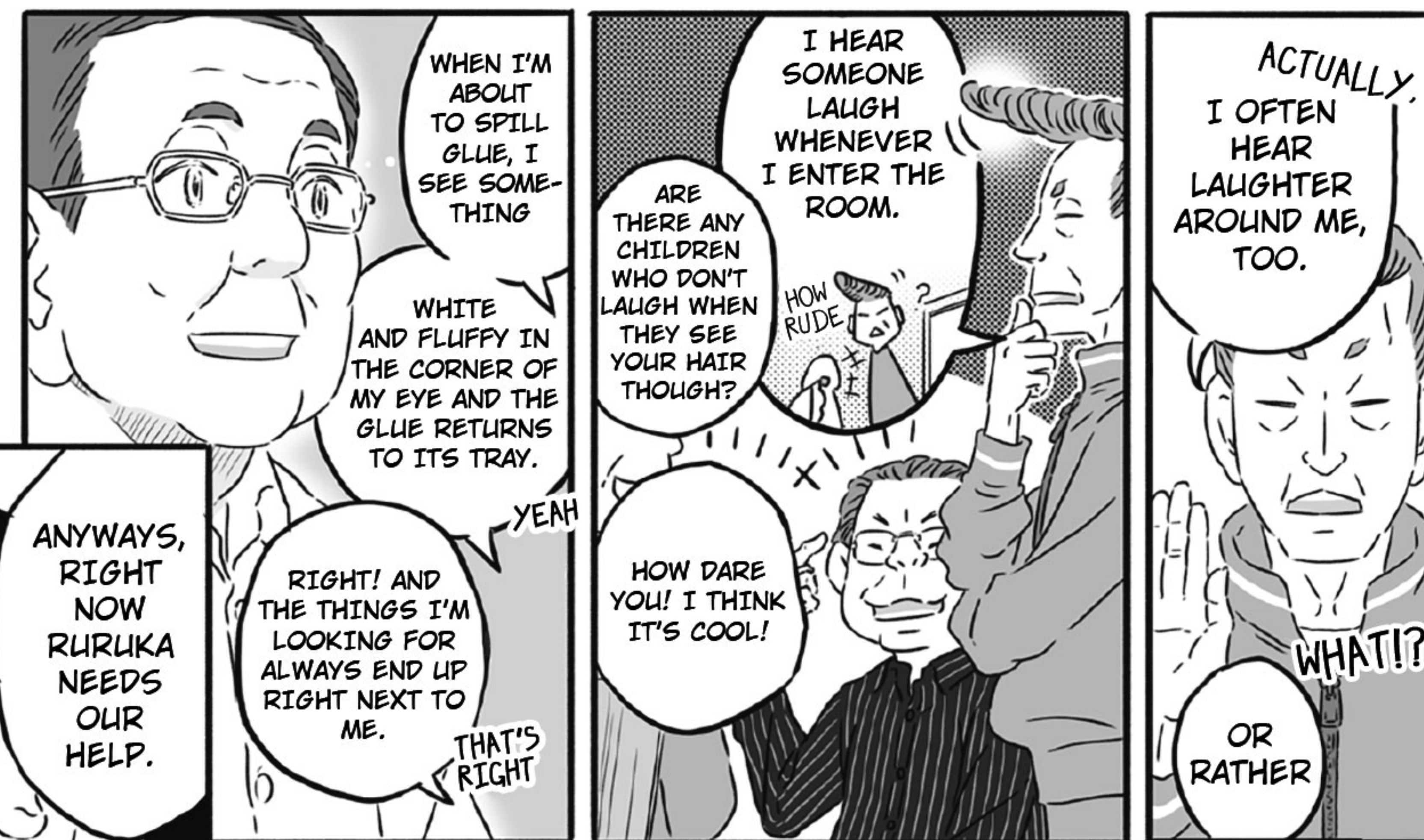
AND WHENEVER I PUT OUT SNACKS THEY DO SEEM TO DISAPPEAR.

I'M SO GLAD!

THANK YOU FOR THAT, BY THE WAY. RURUKA IS ALWAYS EATING THEM HAPPILY.

I ALWAYS HEAR THE WIND GO "RURU" AROUND ME SO I'VE BEEN CALLING HER THAT.

OH, UH... SORRY.



WHEN I'M ABOUT TO SPILL GLUE, I SEE SOMETHING

WHITE AND FLUFFY IN THE CORNER OF MY EYE AND THE GLUE RETURNS TO ITS TRAY.

YEAH

ANYWAYS, RIGHT NOW RURUKA NEEDS OUR HELP.

RIGHT! AND THE THINGS I'M LOOKING FOR ALWAYS END UP RIGHT NEXT TO ME.

THAT'S RIGHT

I HEAR SOMEONE LAUGH WHENEVER I ENTER THE ROOM.

ARE THERE ANY CHILDREN WHO DON'T LAUGH WHEN THEY SEE YOUR HAIR THOUGH?

HOW RUDE?

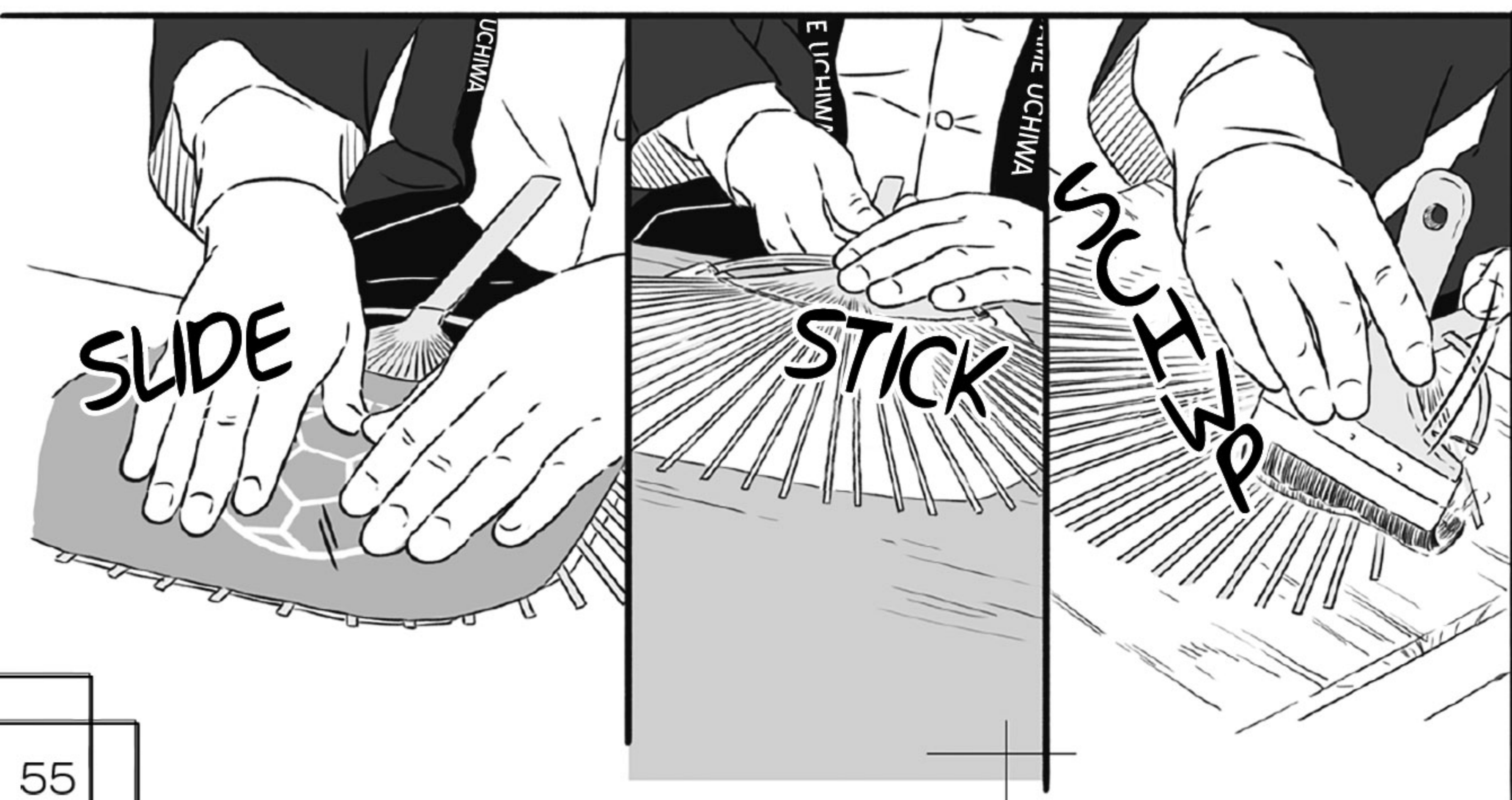
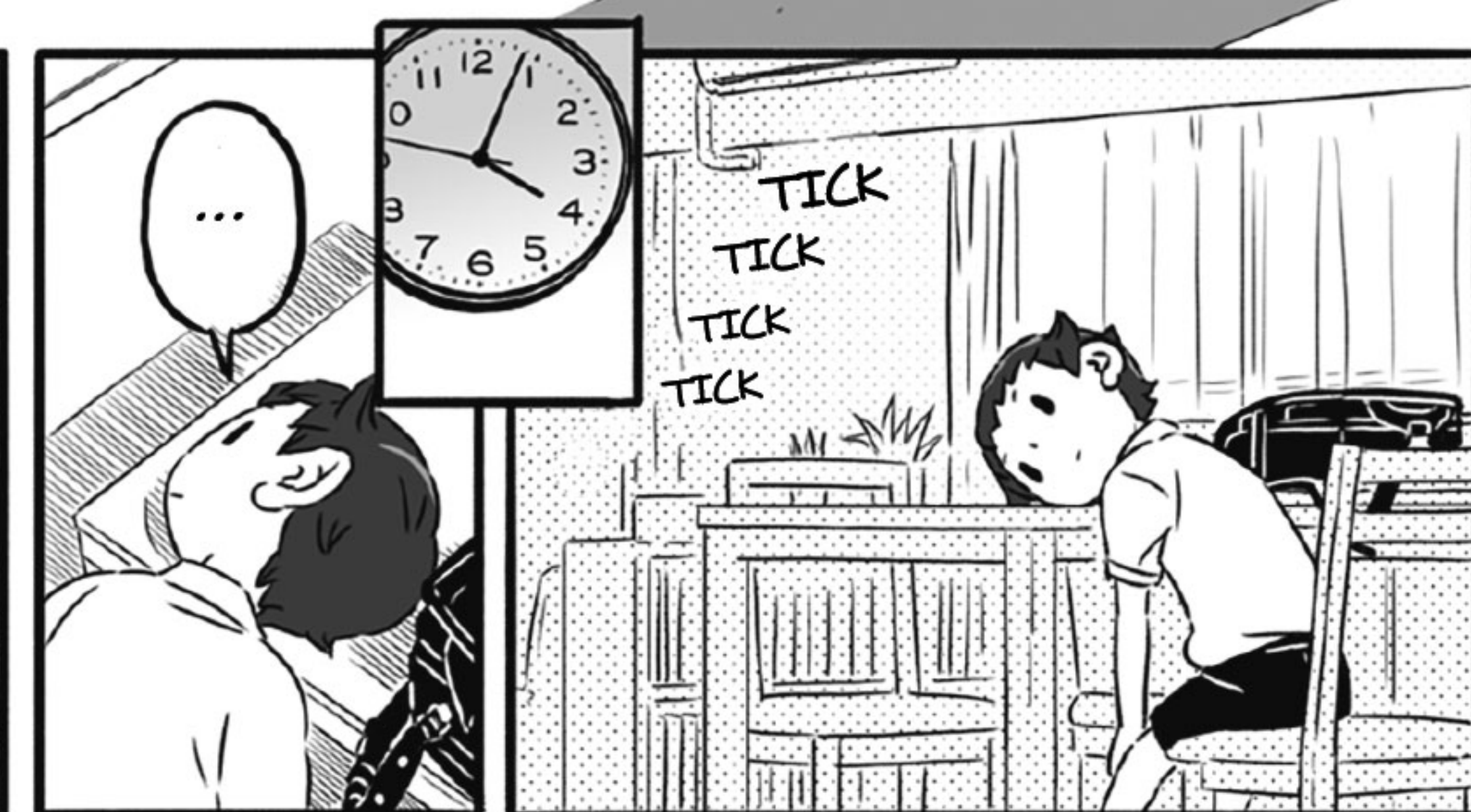
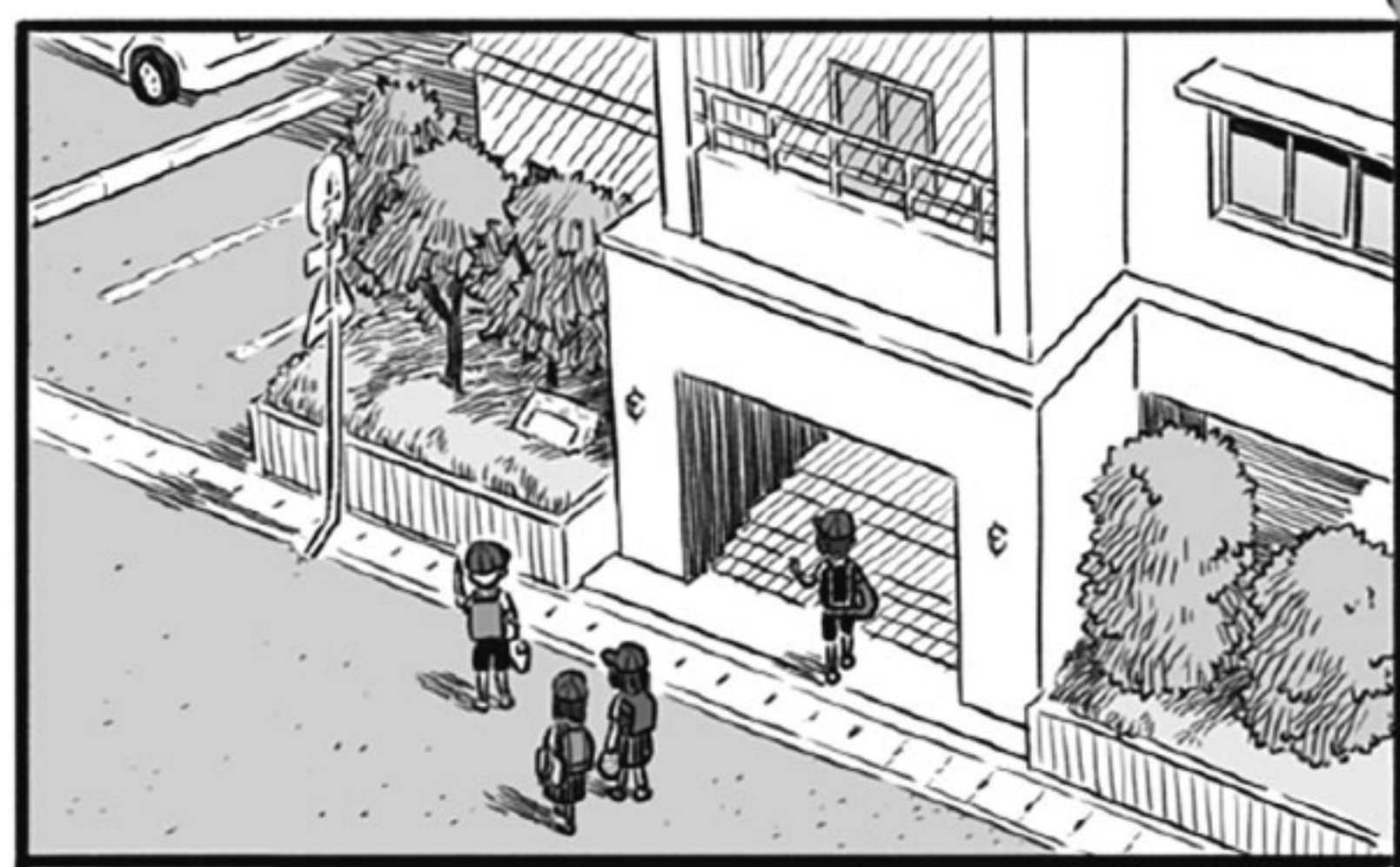
HOW DARE YOU! I THINK IT'S COOL!

ACTUALLY, I OFTEN HEAR LAUGHTER AROUND ME, TOO.

WHAT!?

OR RATHER





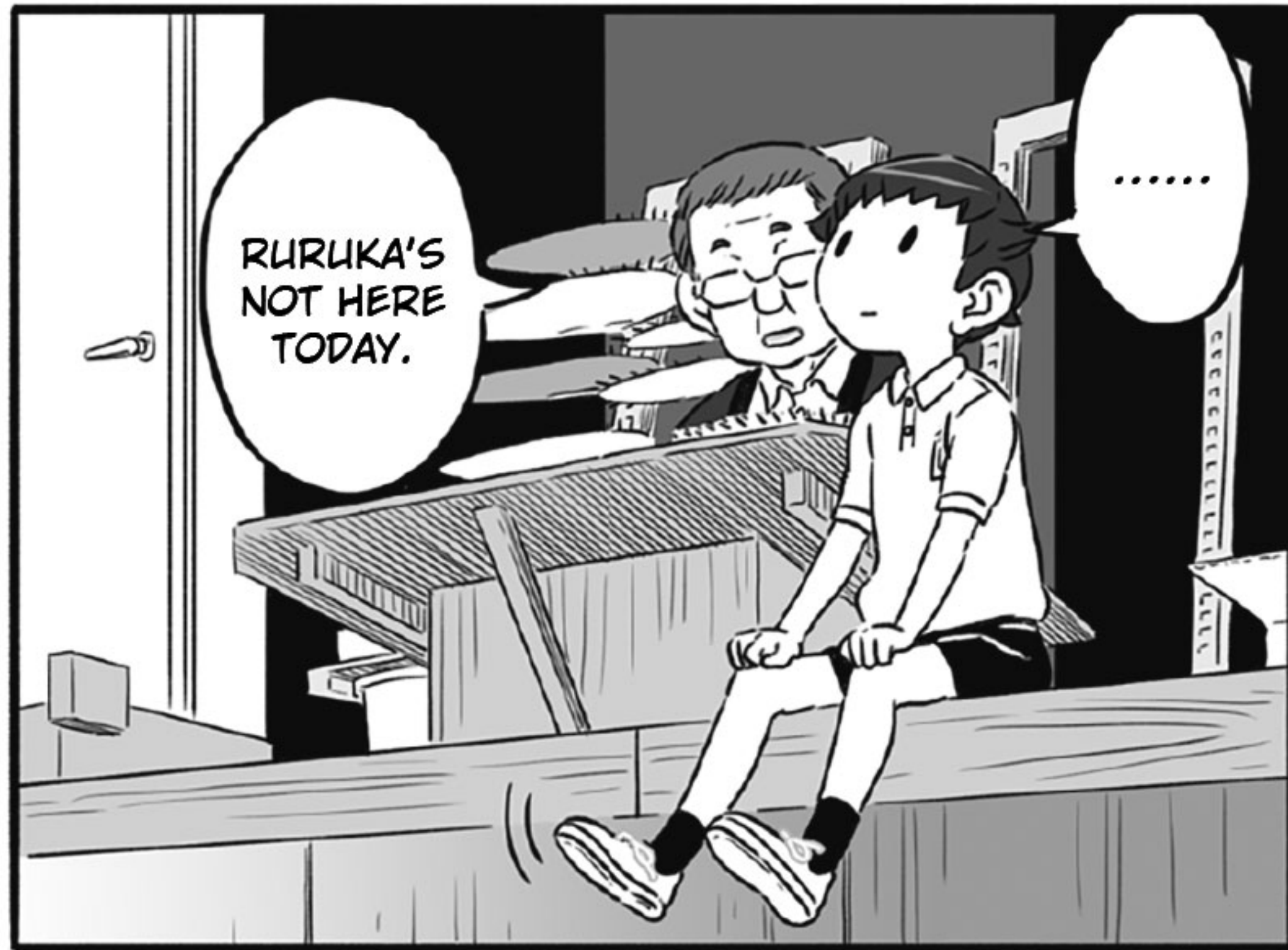
3  
Cheering  
You On



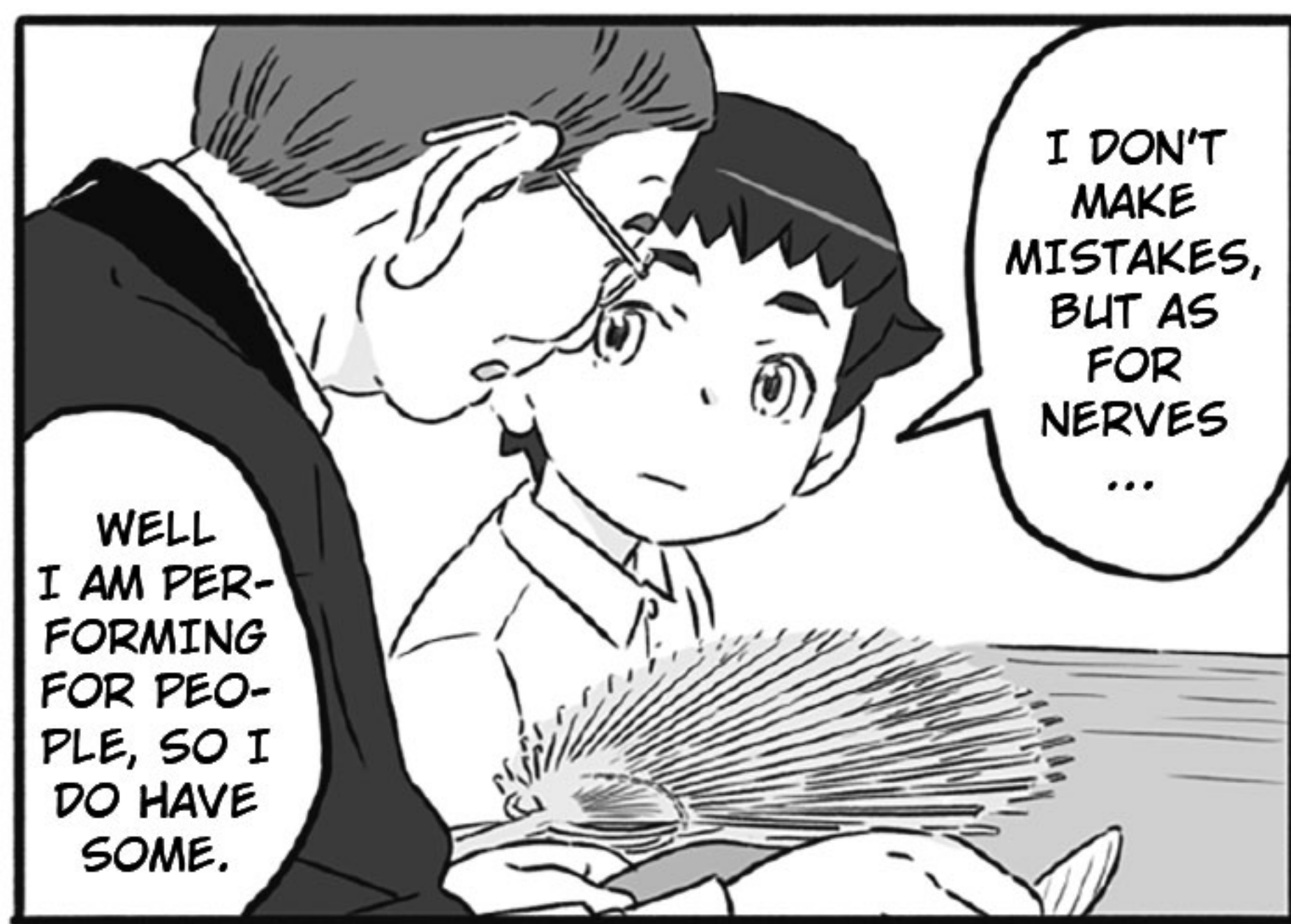




SAID SHE WAS GOING UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND WOULDN'T BE BACK FOR A BIT.

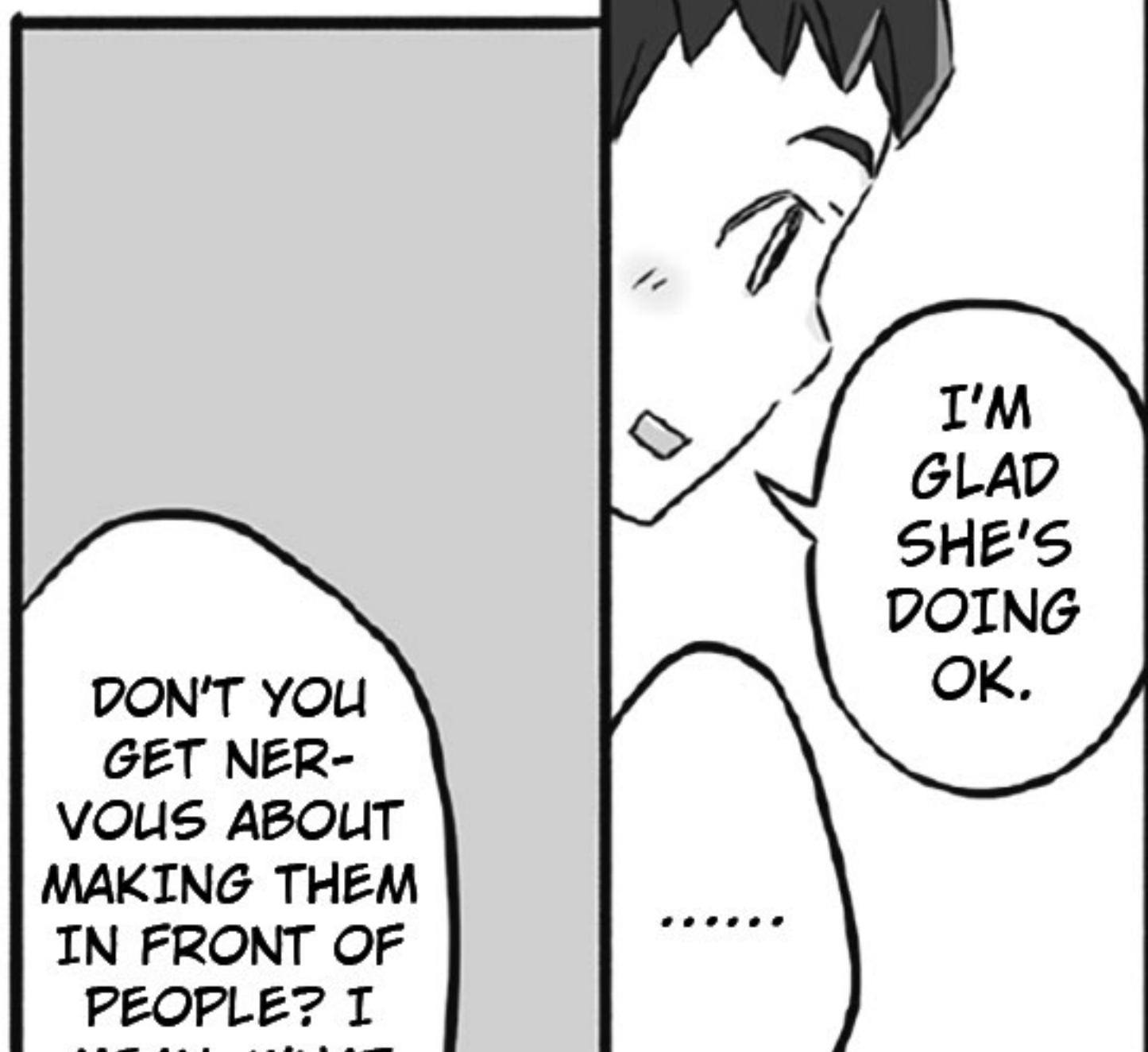


RURUKA'S NOT HERE TODAY.



WELL I AM PERFORMING FOR PEOPLE, SO I DO HAVE SOME.

I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES, BUT AS FOR NERVES ...



I'M GLAD SHE'S DOING OK.

DON'T YOU GET NERVOUS ABOUT MAKING THEM IN FRONT OF PEOPLE? I MEAN, WHAT IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE?



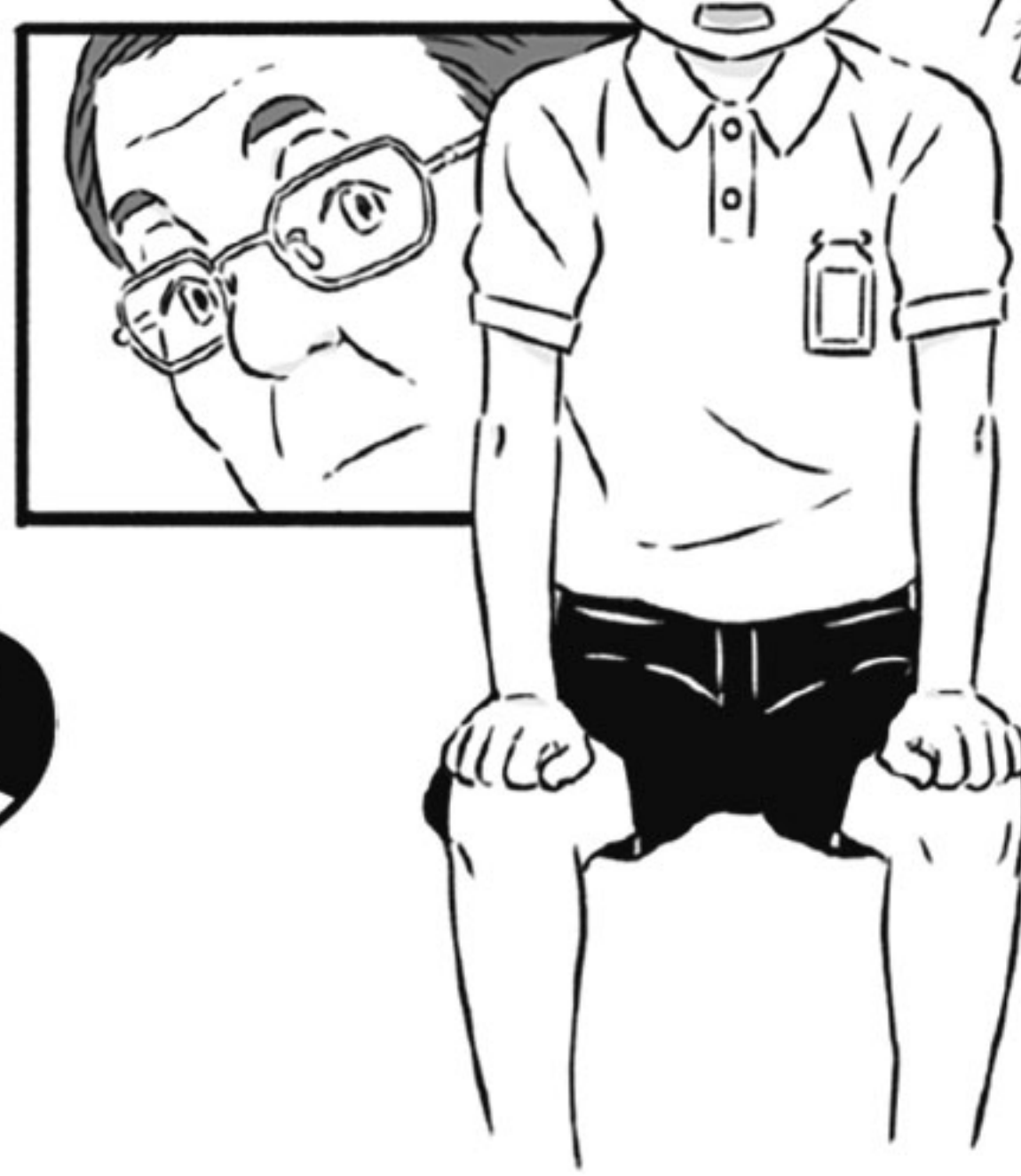
I MESS UP WHEN I KNOW PEOPLE ARE WATCHING.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

BUT THEY ALL GO OUT THE WINDOW AS SOON AS I GET INTO MAKING THE UCHIWA.

ABOUT WHAT?

I WAS WONDERING GRANDPA,



# UCHIWA PRODUCTION DEMONSTRATION

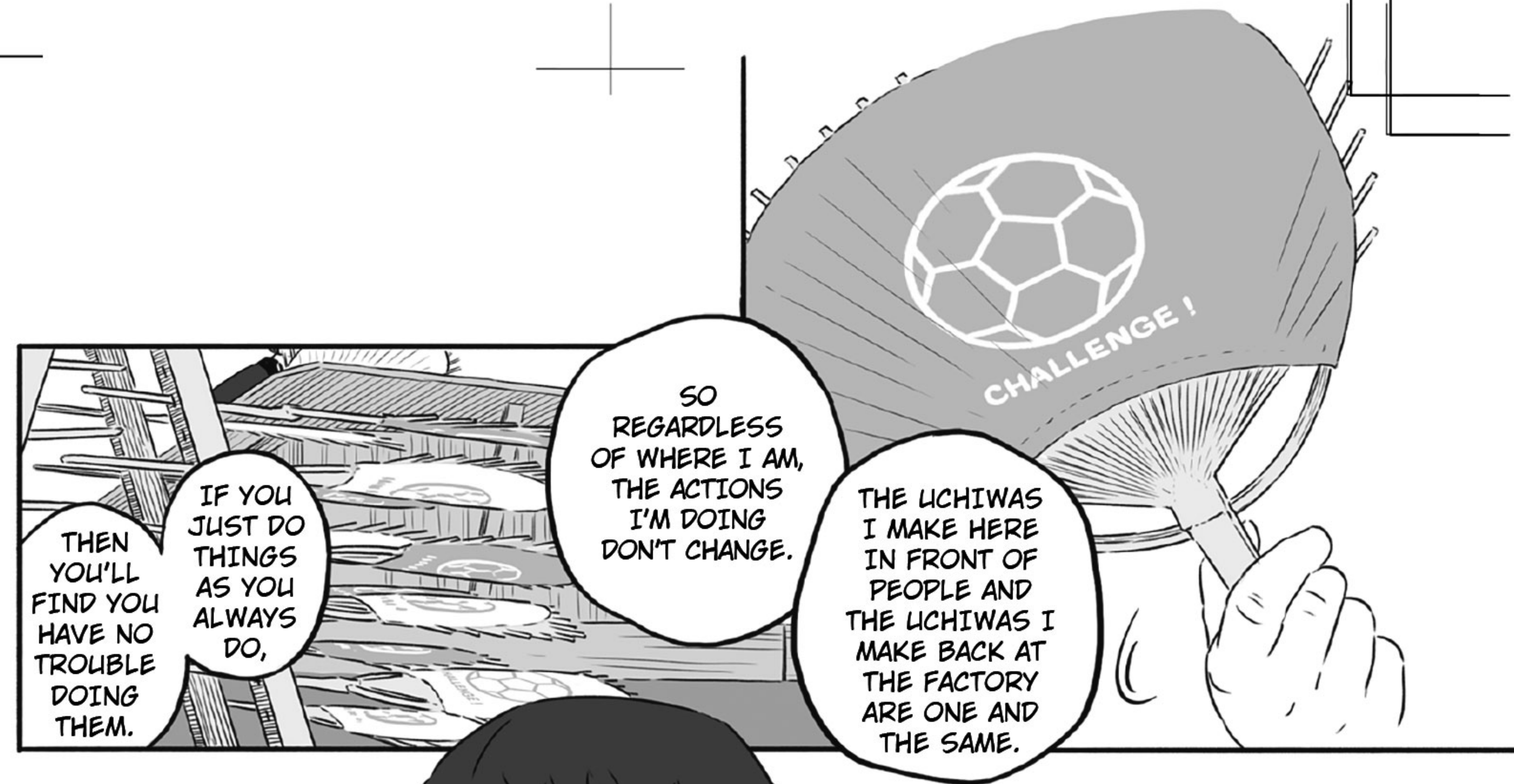
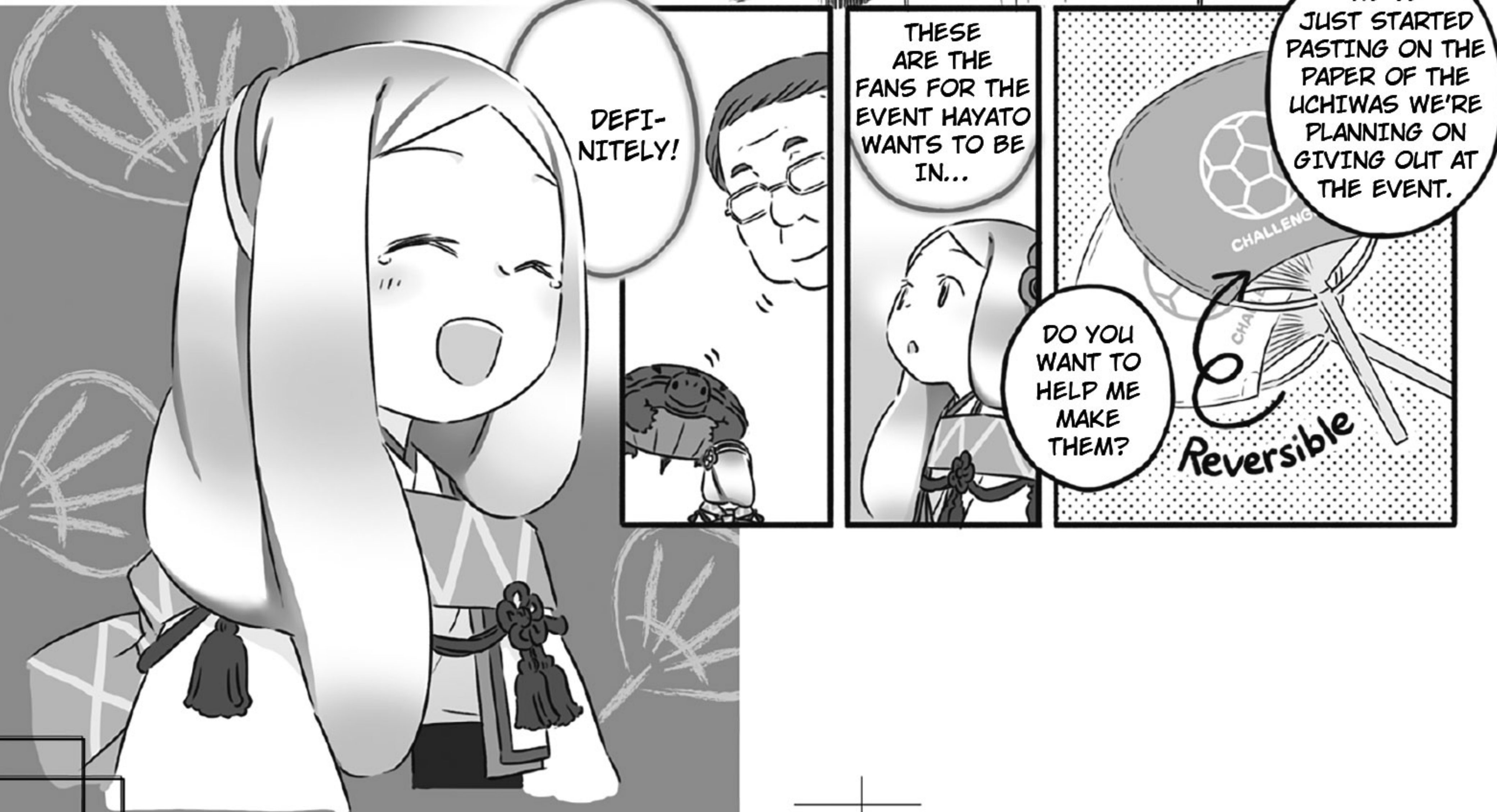
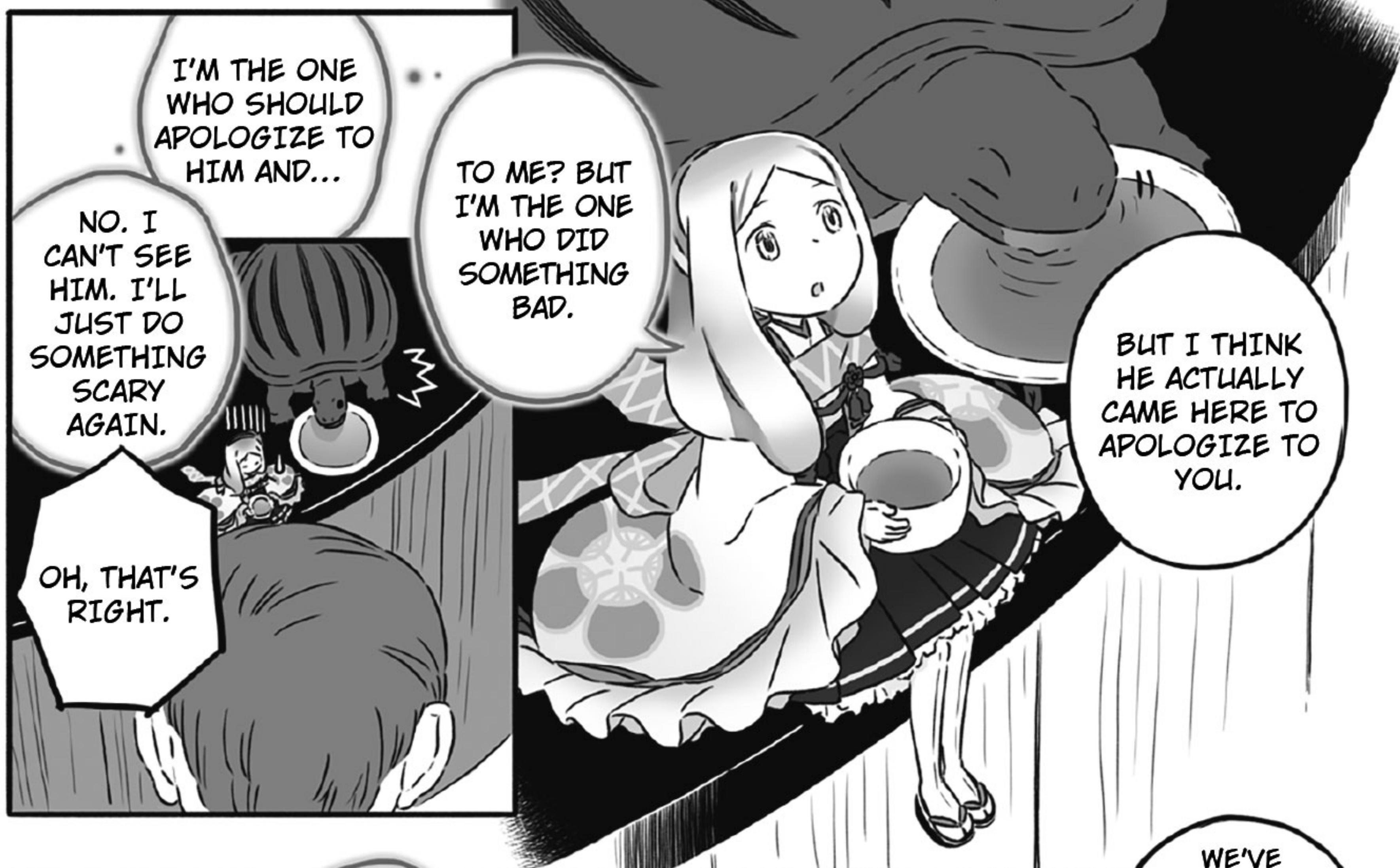
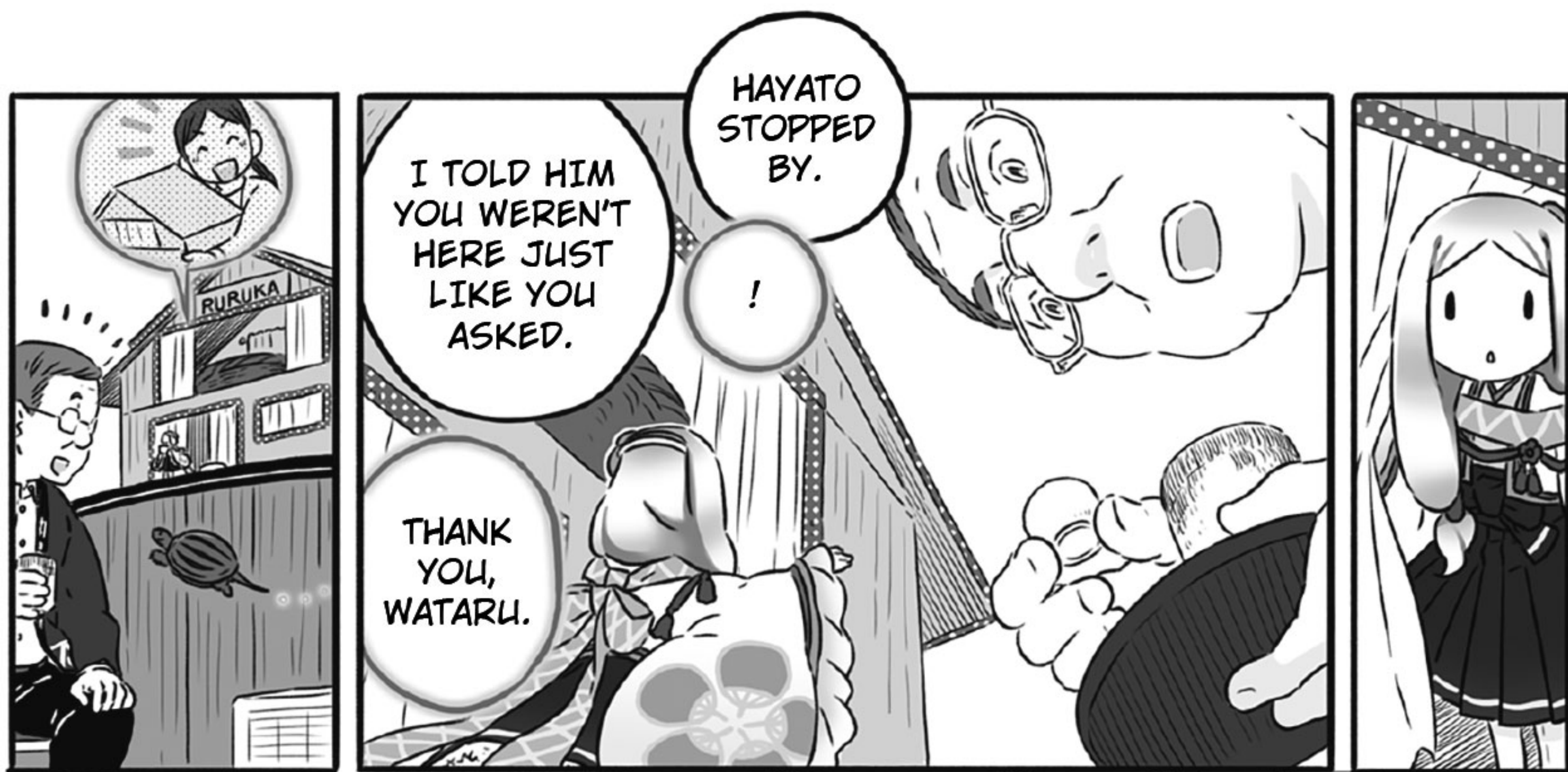


AND THEY'RE SO PRETTY!

HE'S FAST!









# How Uchiwas are Made (The Flat Masculine Type)

AND ALTHOUGH IT MAY LOOK SIMPLE, IT'S QUITE A DIFFICULT PROCESS UNTIL YOU GET THE HANG OF IT.

These slats are rubbed between the maker's hands while being broken down and lowered into their skeletal position

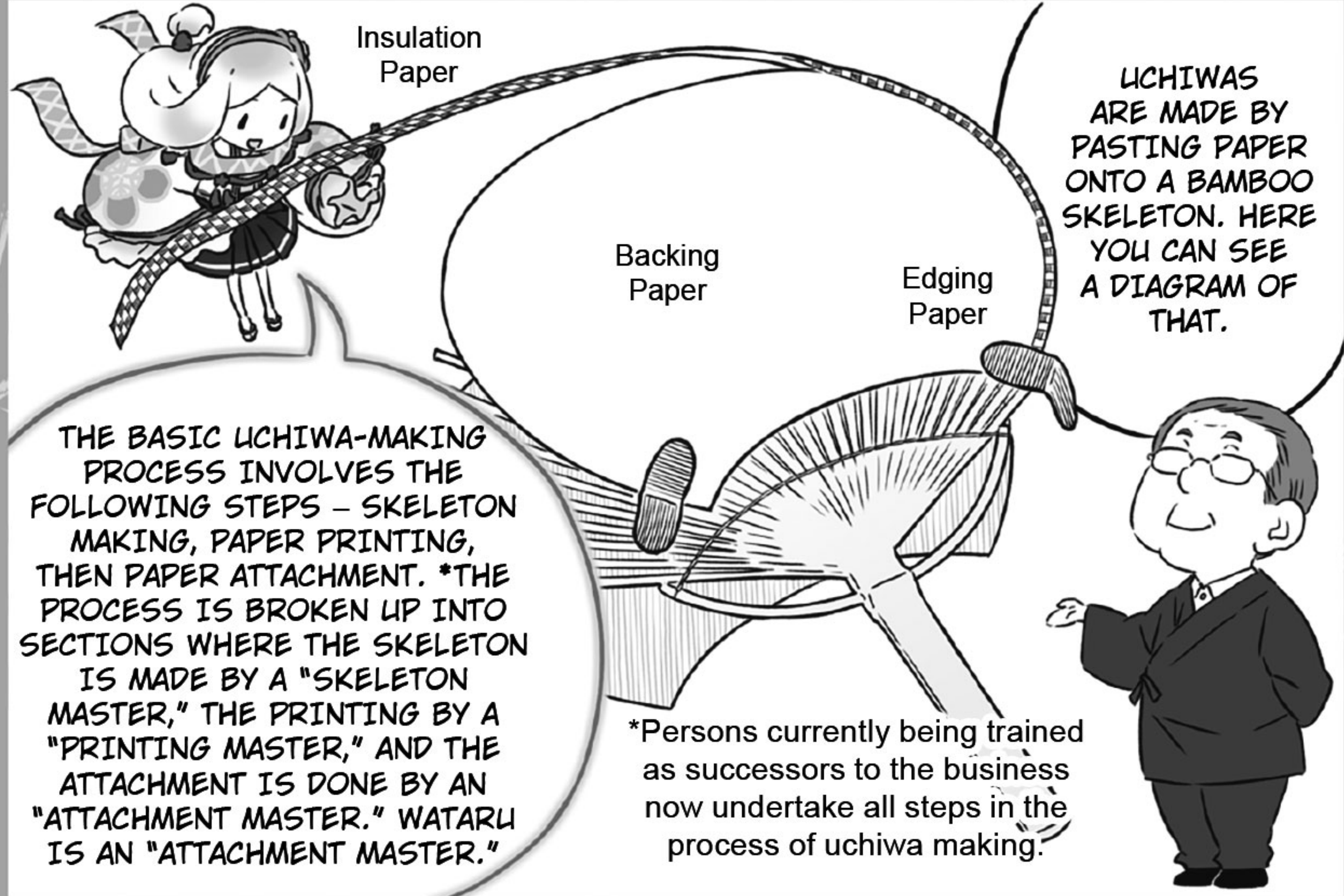
ALTHOUGH IT VARIES BY TYPE, EACH UCHIWA CONTAINS 30 - 40 HALF-MILLI-METER SLATS.

JUST LOOK AT HOW FAST HE'S SLICING THE SKELETON UP NOW!

Some handles have patterns painted on them and others have patterns carved into them

and the handle is shaved down some to make it easier to hold.

A hole is opened where the node is



UCHIWAS ARE MADE BY PASTING PAPER ONTO A BAMBOO SKELETON. HERE YOU CAN SEE A DIAGRAM OF THAT.

THE BASIC UCHIWA-MAKING PROCESS INVOLVES THE FOLLOWING STEPS - SKELETON MAKING, PAPER PRINTING, THEN PAPER ATTACHMENT. \*THE PROCESS IS BROKEN UP INTO SECTIONS WHERE THE SKELETON IS MADE BY A "SKELETON MASTER," THE PRINTING BY A "PRINTING MASTER," AND THE ATTACHMENT IS DONE BY AN "ATTACHMENT MASTER." WATARU IS AN "ATTACHMENT MASTER."

\*Persons currently being trained as successors to the business now undertake all steps in the process of uchiwa making.

THIS PART YOU HAVE TO SEE!

A string is tied to one end of the hook

A HOOK IS MADE OUT OF BOWED BAMBOO AND PASSED THROUGH THE HOLE HERE. AND THIS IS WHY WE LEFT THE NODE WHERE IT WAS.

Then a hatchet is struck into the tube

and submerged in water for around 3 days to make the bamboo more pliable

Tubes of it are cut into a length suitable for each uchiwa

The most commonly used bamboo is long-jointed tinder

AND NOW I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW THE PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Once the string has been woven and the final shape has been arranged, the skeleton is finished

THE WAY THEIR HANDS MOVE WILL SURPRISE YOU. YOU REALLY HAVE GOT TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF AT THE MUSEUM!

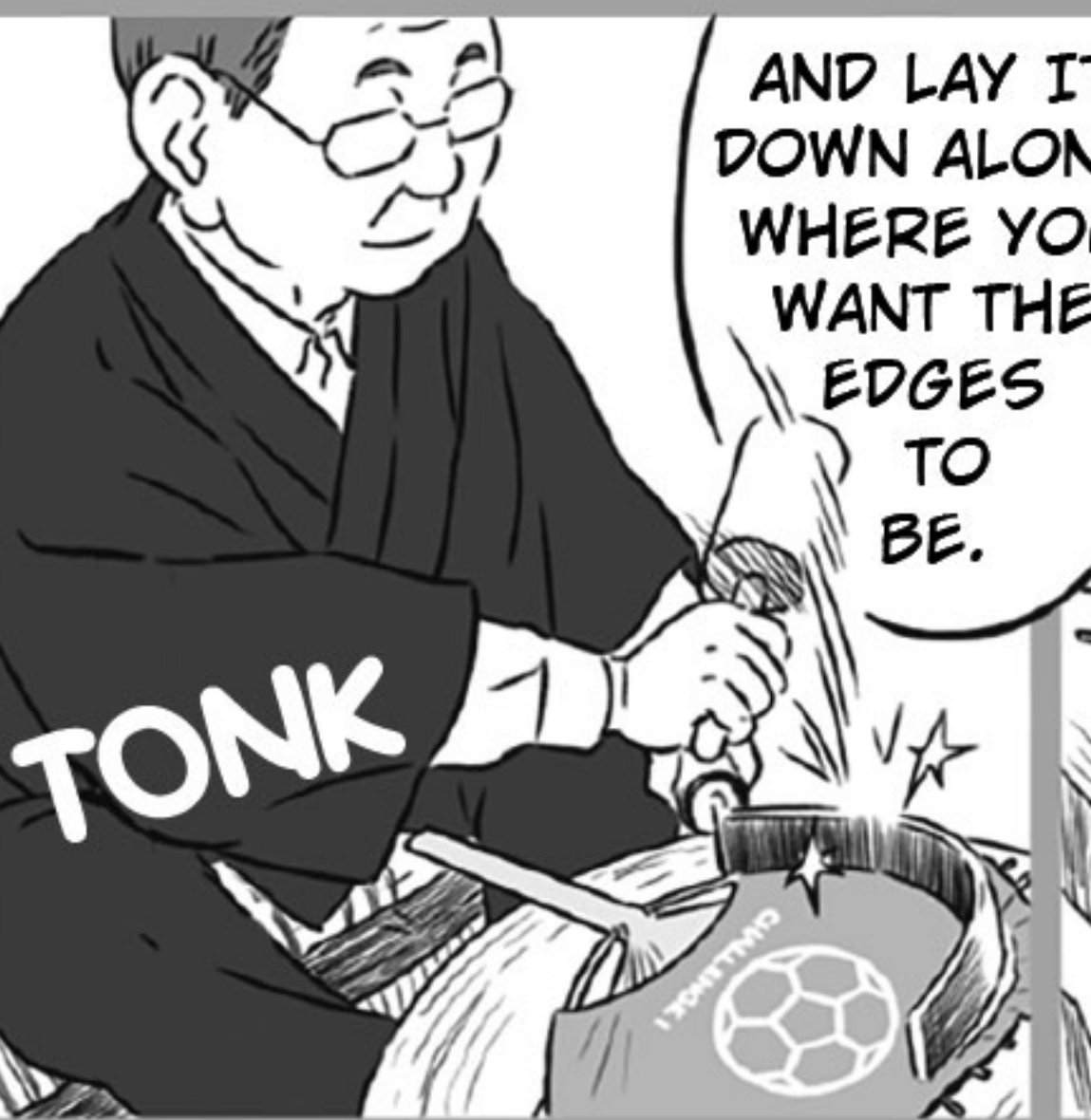
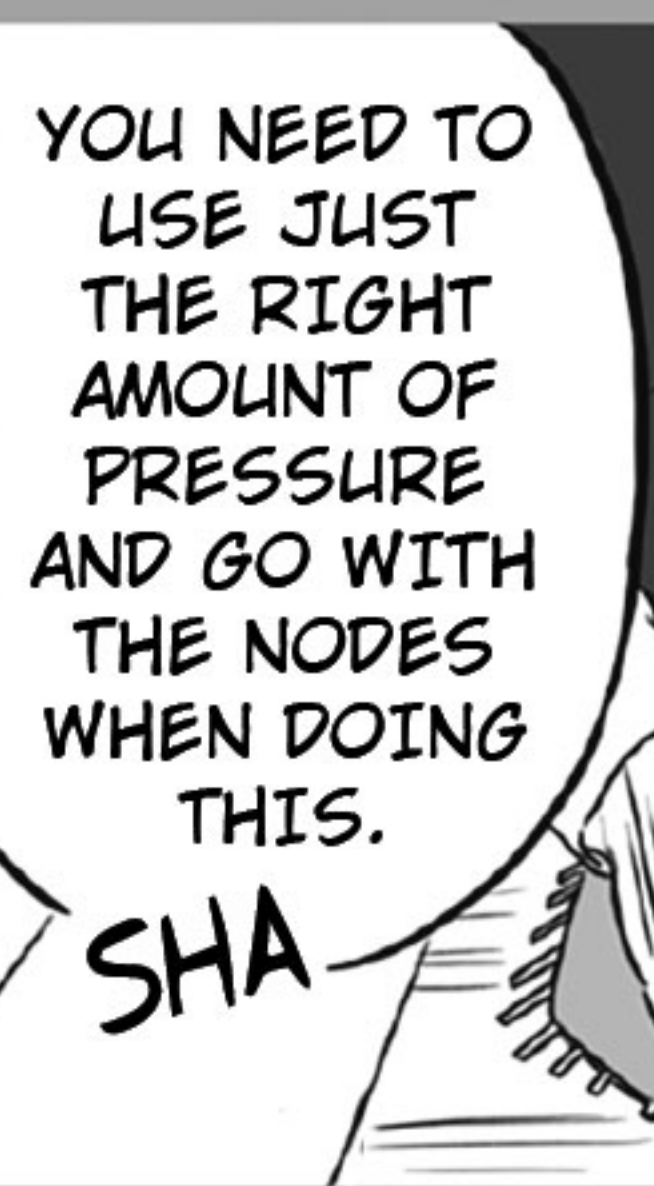
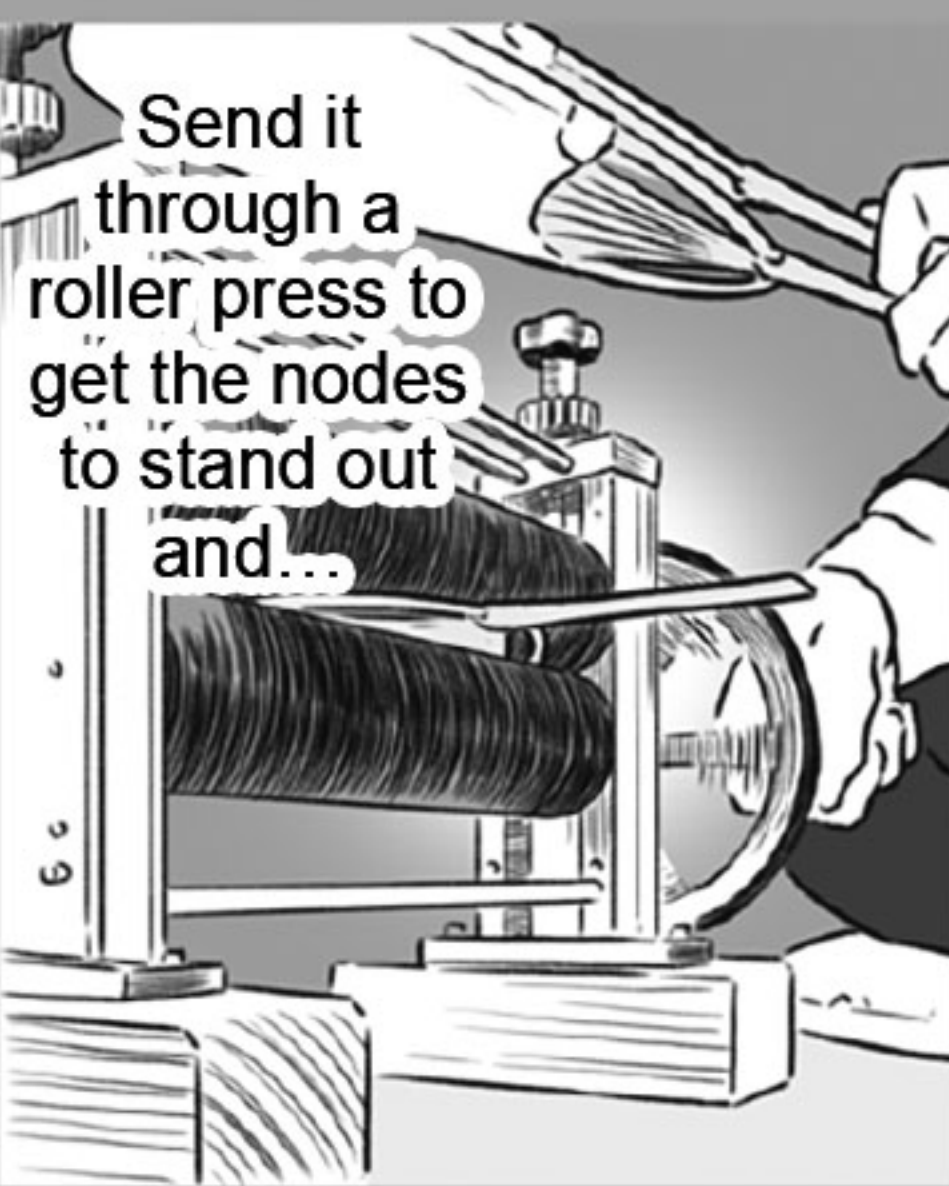
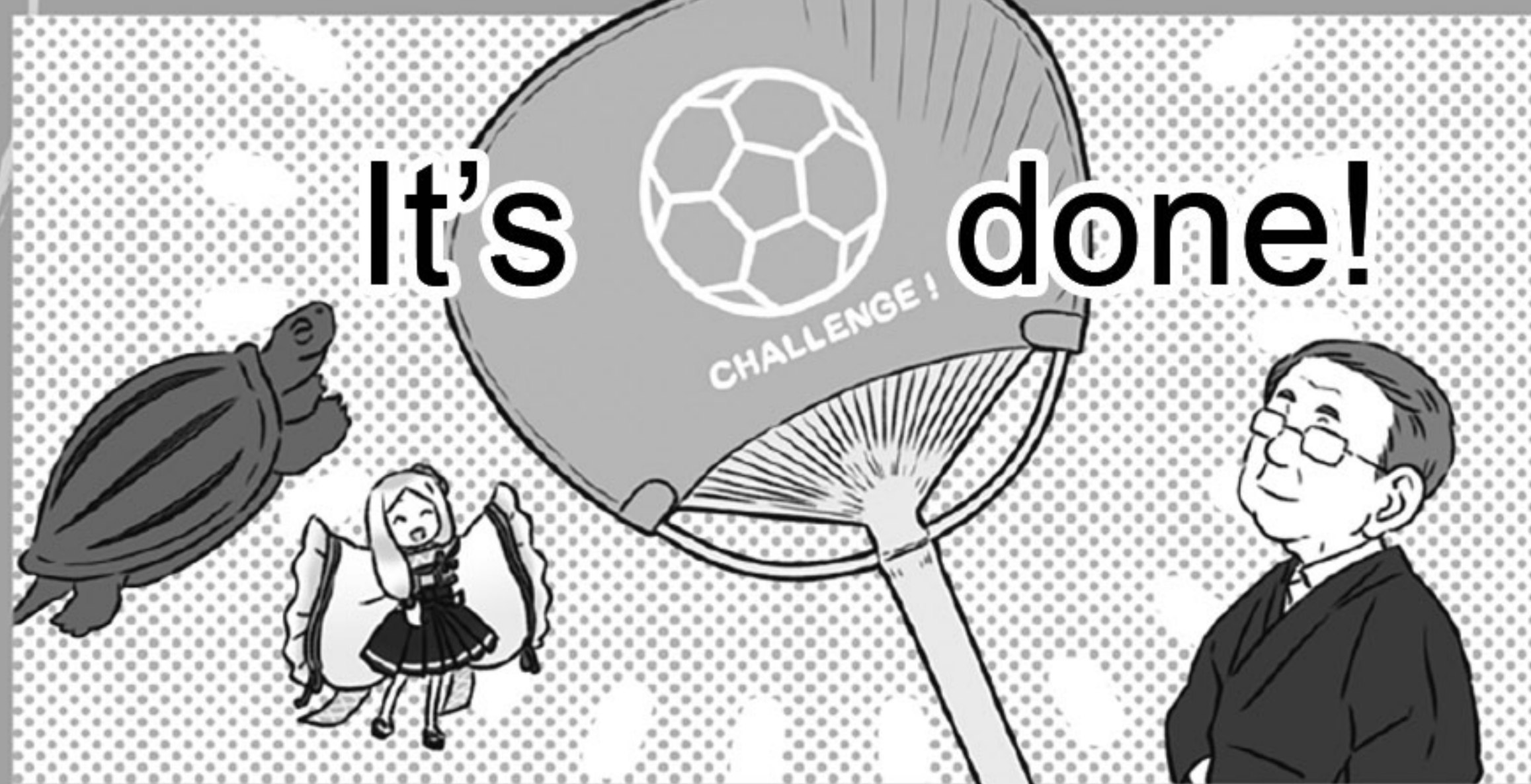
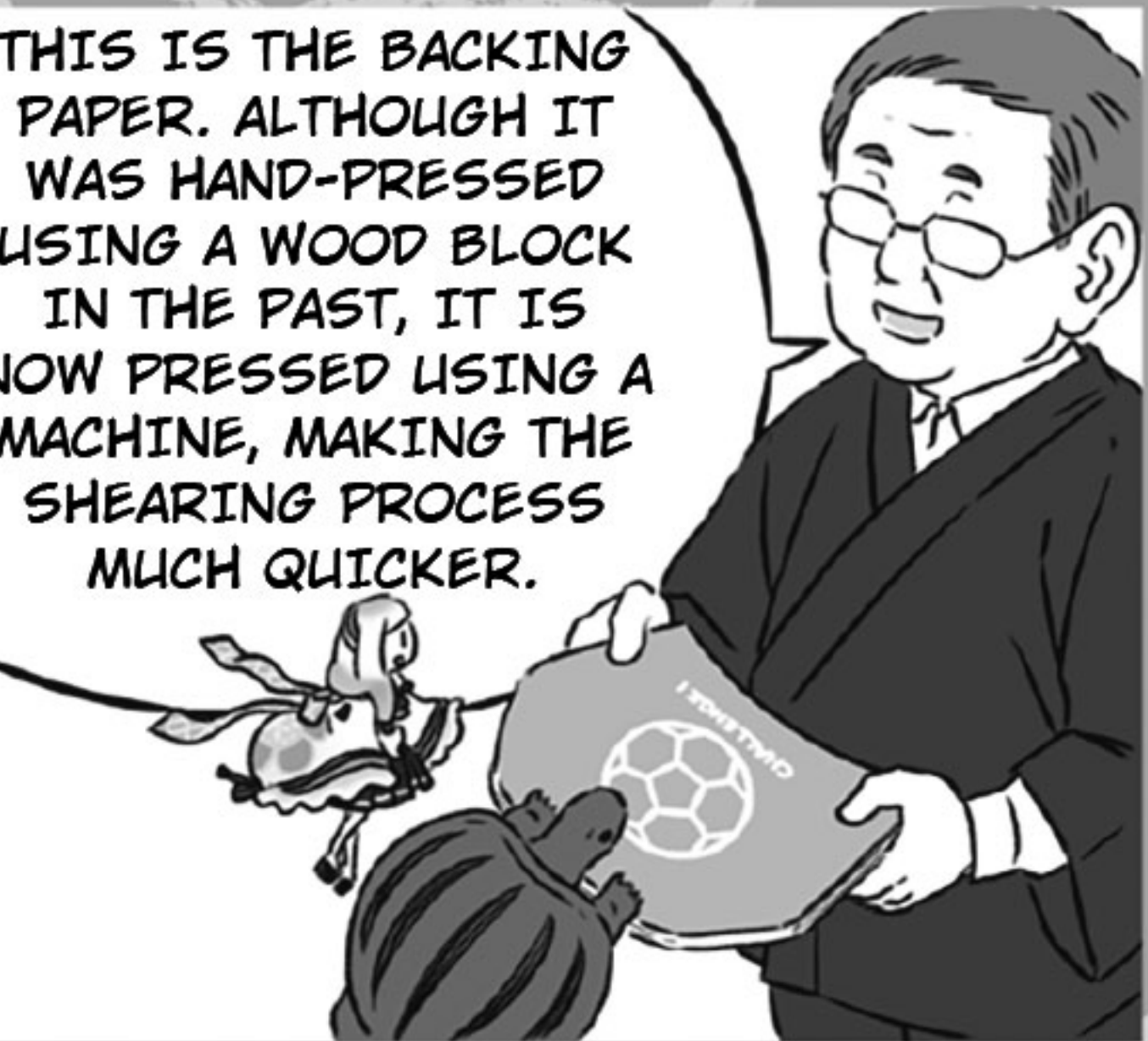
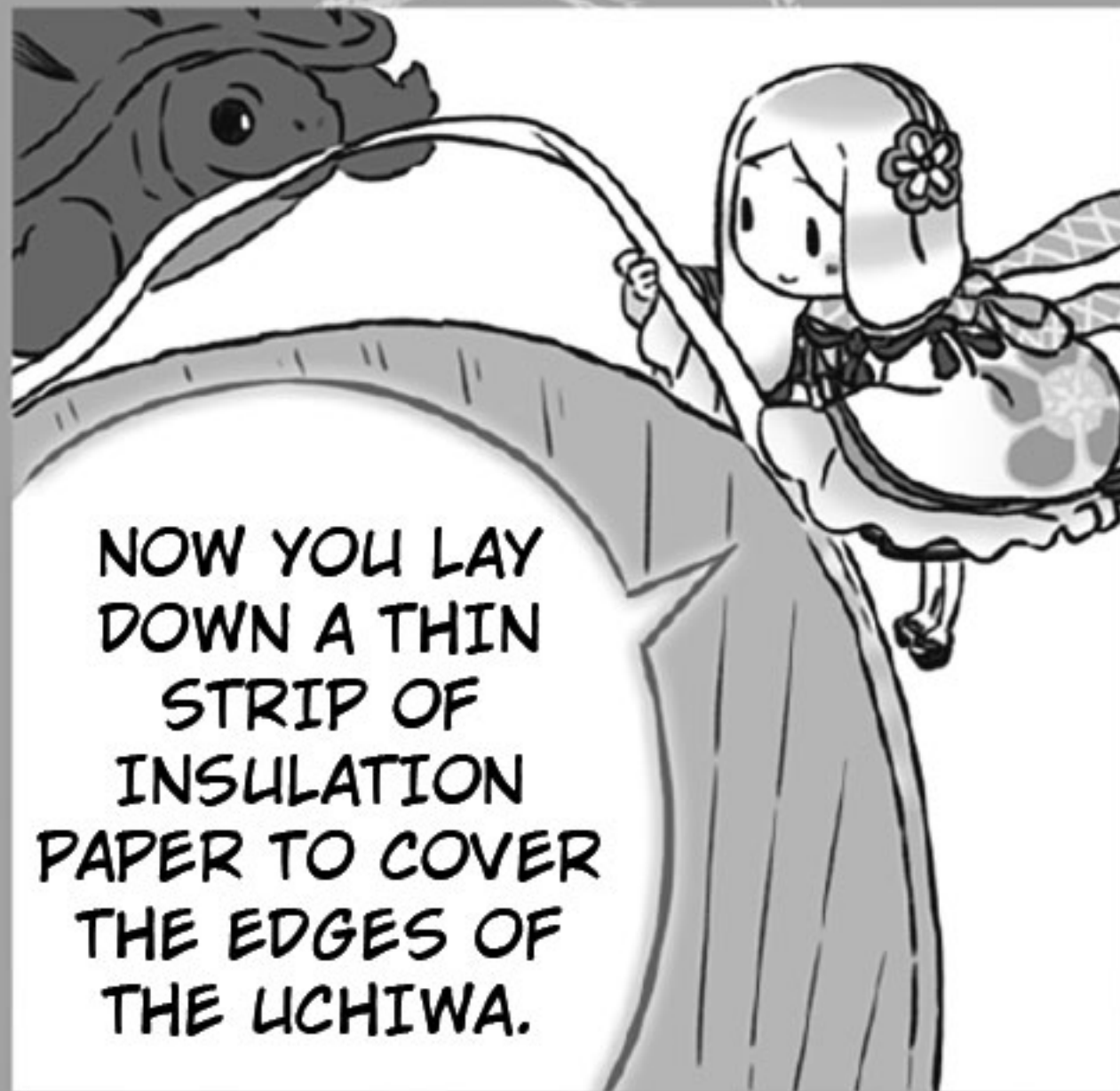
The string is woven in and out of the skeleton

SHA SHA SHA

TO CUT AWAY AND SHAPE IT INTO WHAT YOU SEE HERE.

THE REASON WHY WE LEAVE THE NODE IN PLACE HERE WILL BE MADE CLEAR LATER.





**Uchiwanominato Museum**

(Closed Mon., the Tues. after a Monday Holiday and at year end to year beginning)

Entry Time 9:30 – 11:30, 13:30 – 15:30 (Average stay 40 min.)

Cost 700 yen Tel. 0877-24-7055

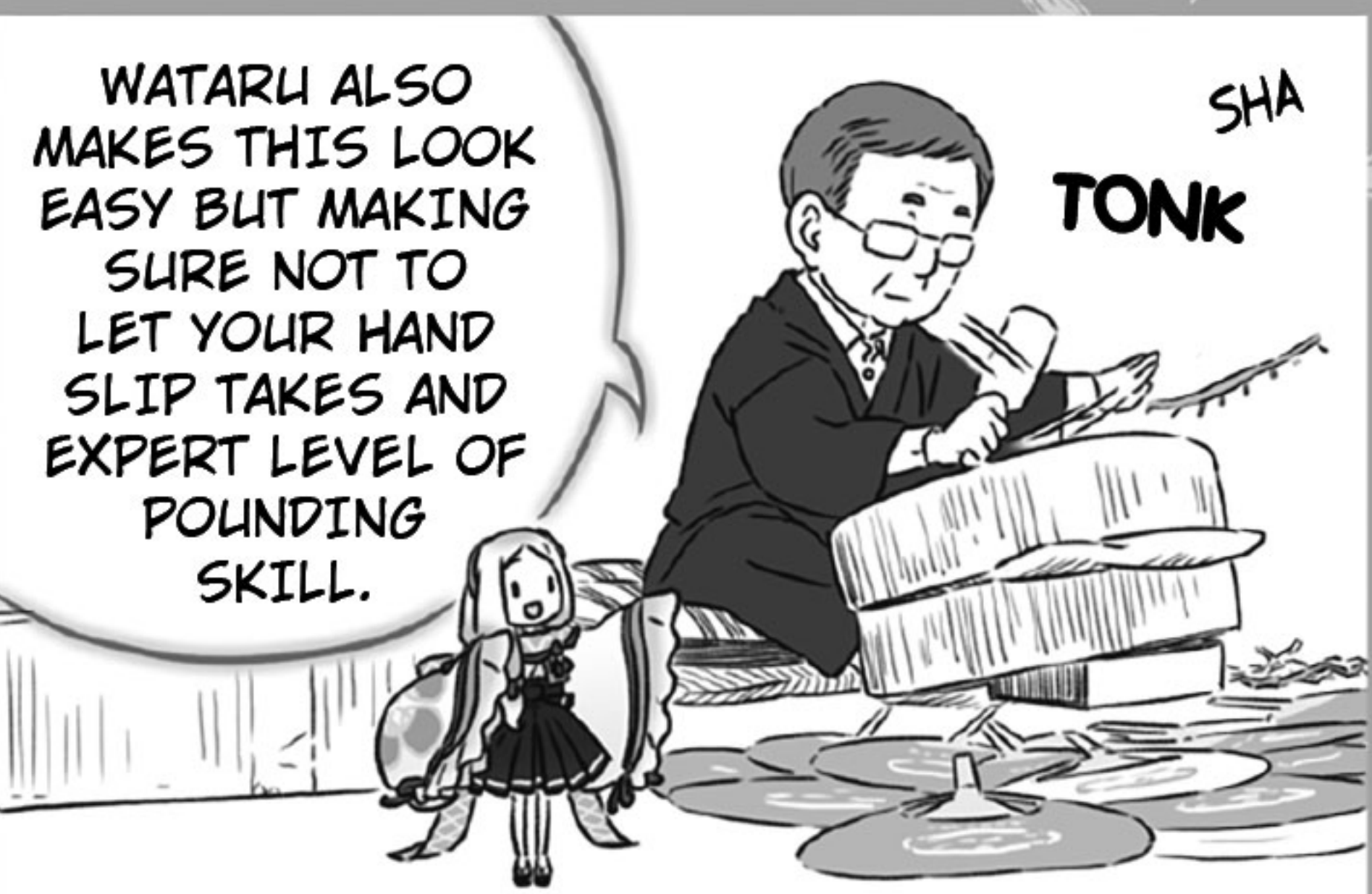
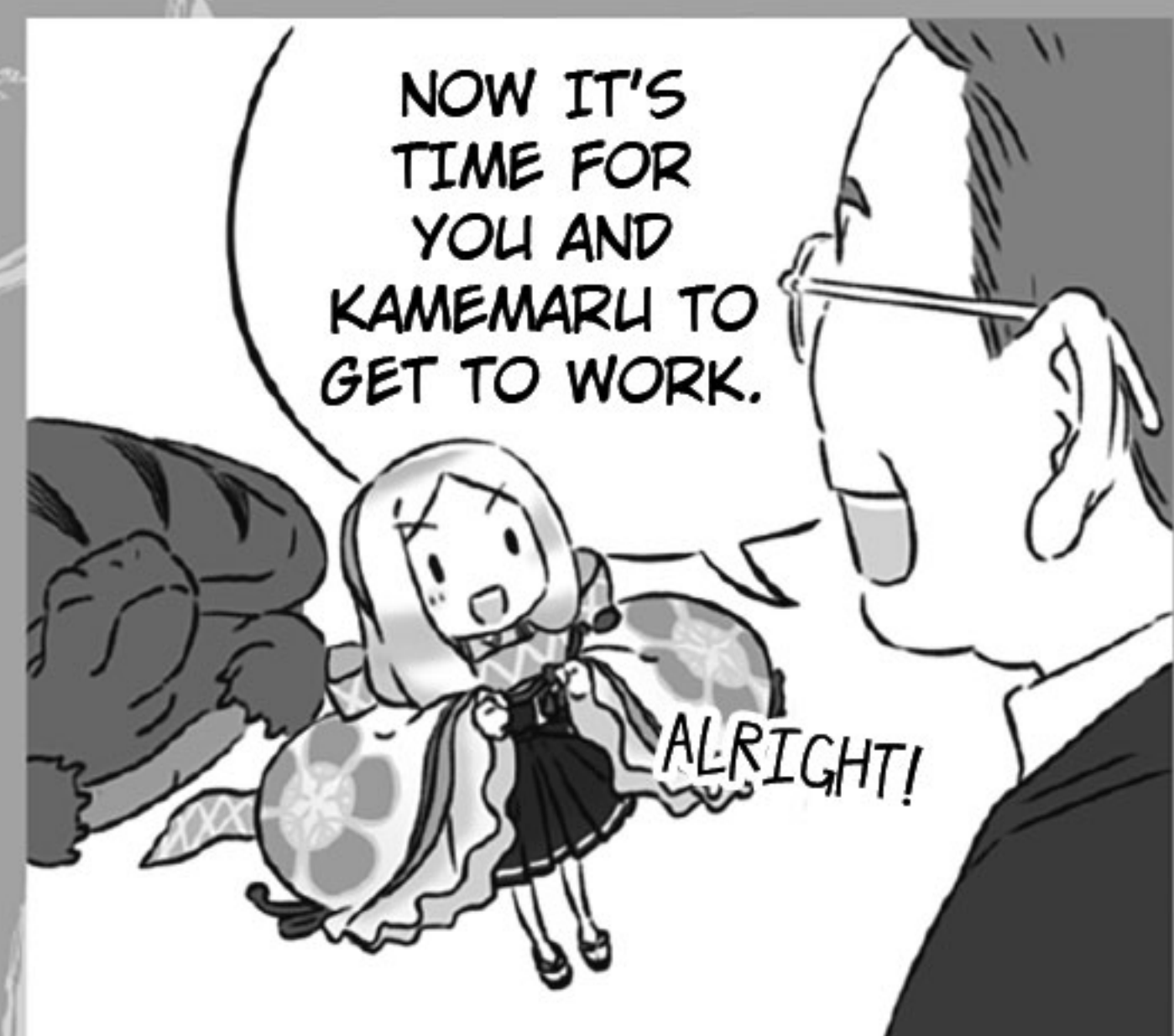
**Marugame Castle Grounds Take Uchiwa Factory**

(Closed Wed. and end of year)

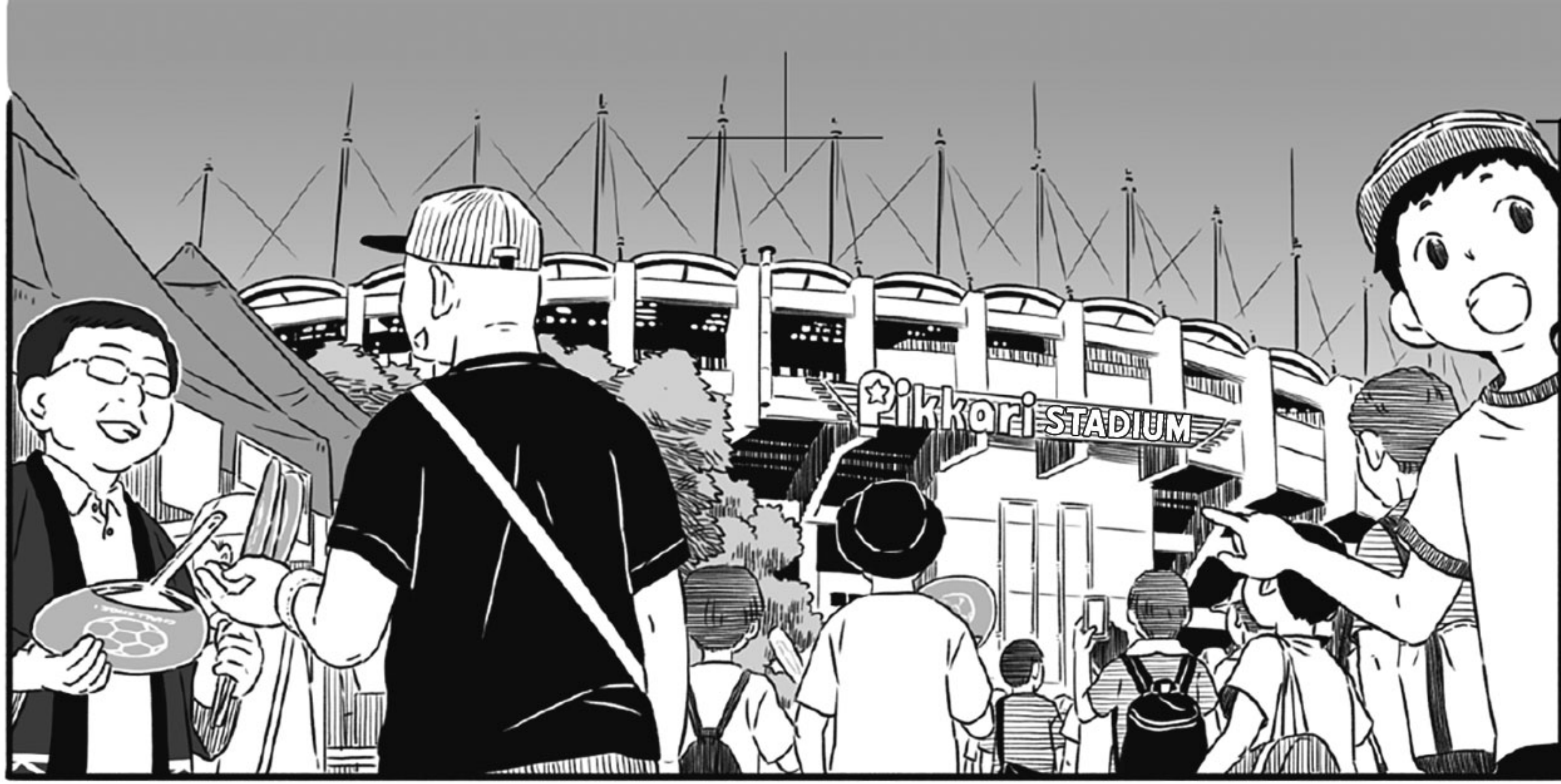
Entry Time 10:00 – 14:00 (Reservations required, average stay 1 hour)

Cost 1000 yen Tel. 0877-25-3882

You can try out the paper application technique introduced here at both the museum and factory!

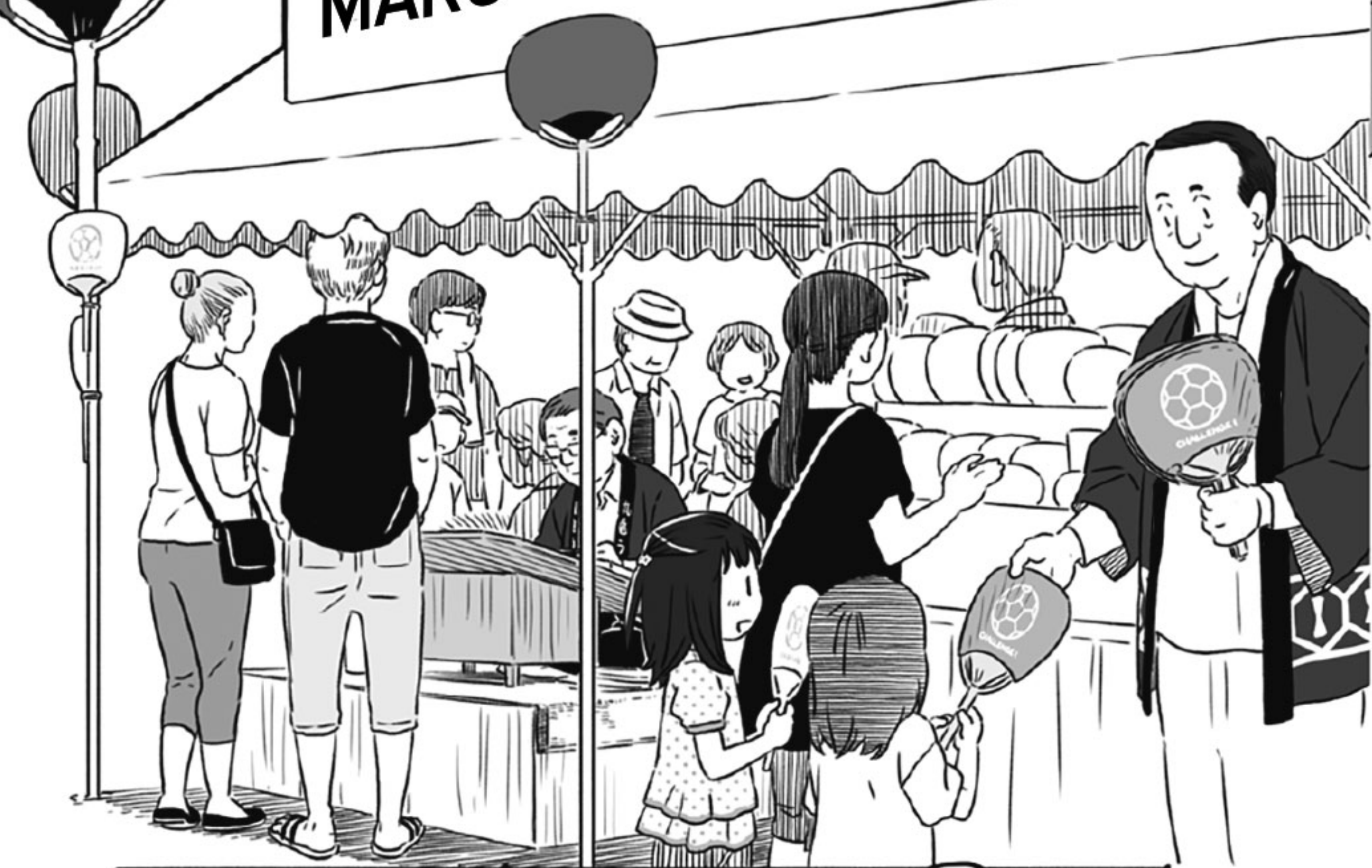






DEMON-STRATION IN PROGRESS

MARUGAME UCHIWA

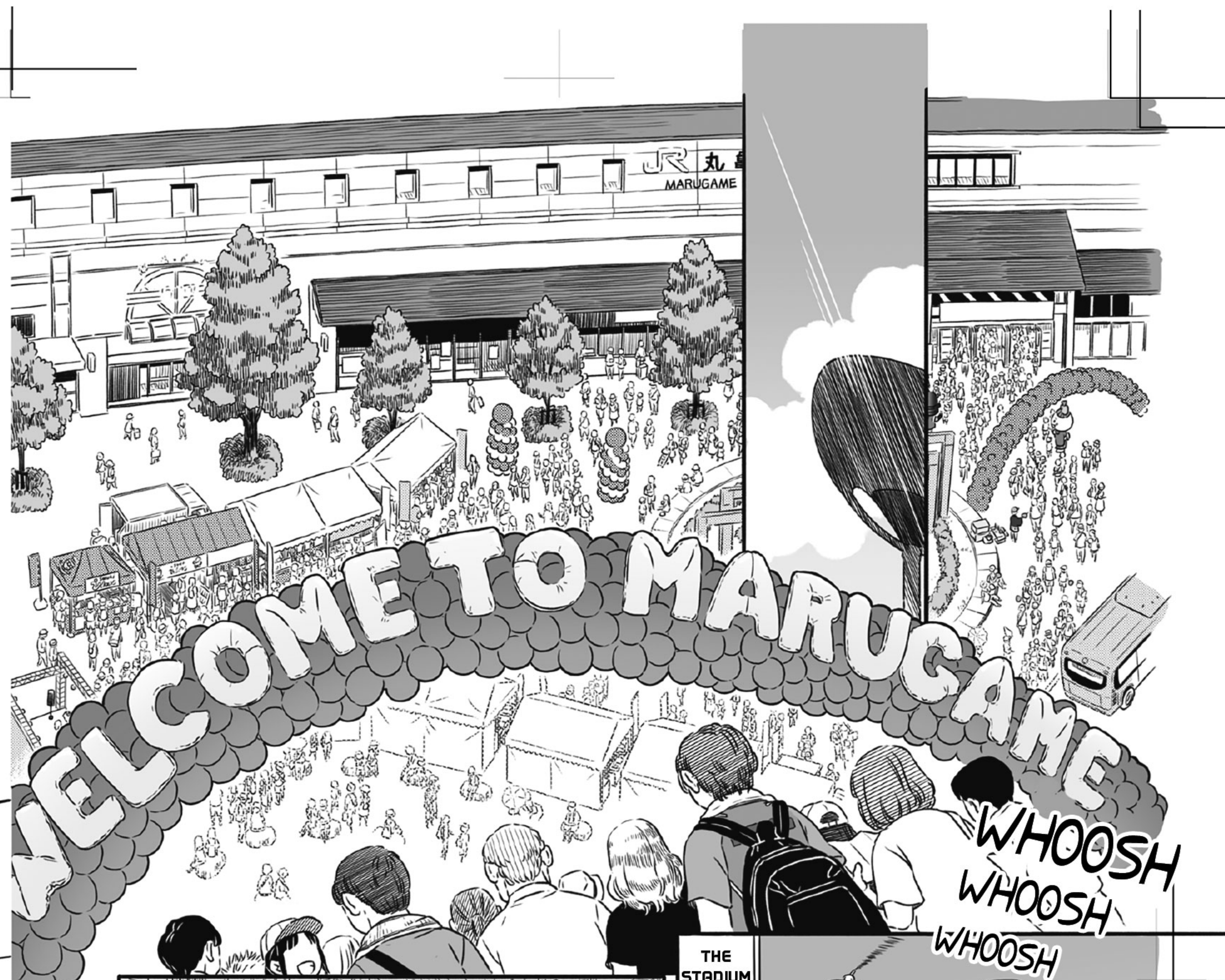


NO NO NO

IF RURUKA REALLY IS GOING TO AVOID COMING AT ALL.

I WON- DER

AT IPDM, THE UDON JR SOCCER CUP WILL BE HELD



WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH



THE STADIUM IS THIS WAY

IF YOU ARE USING THE SHUTTLE BUS-

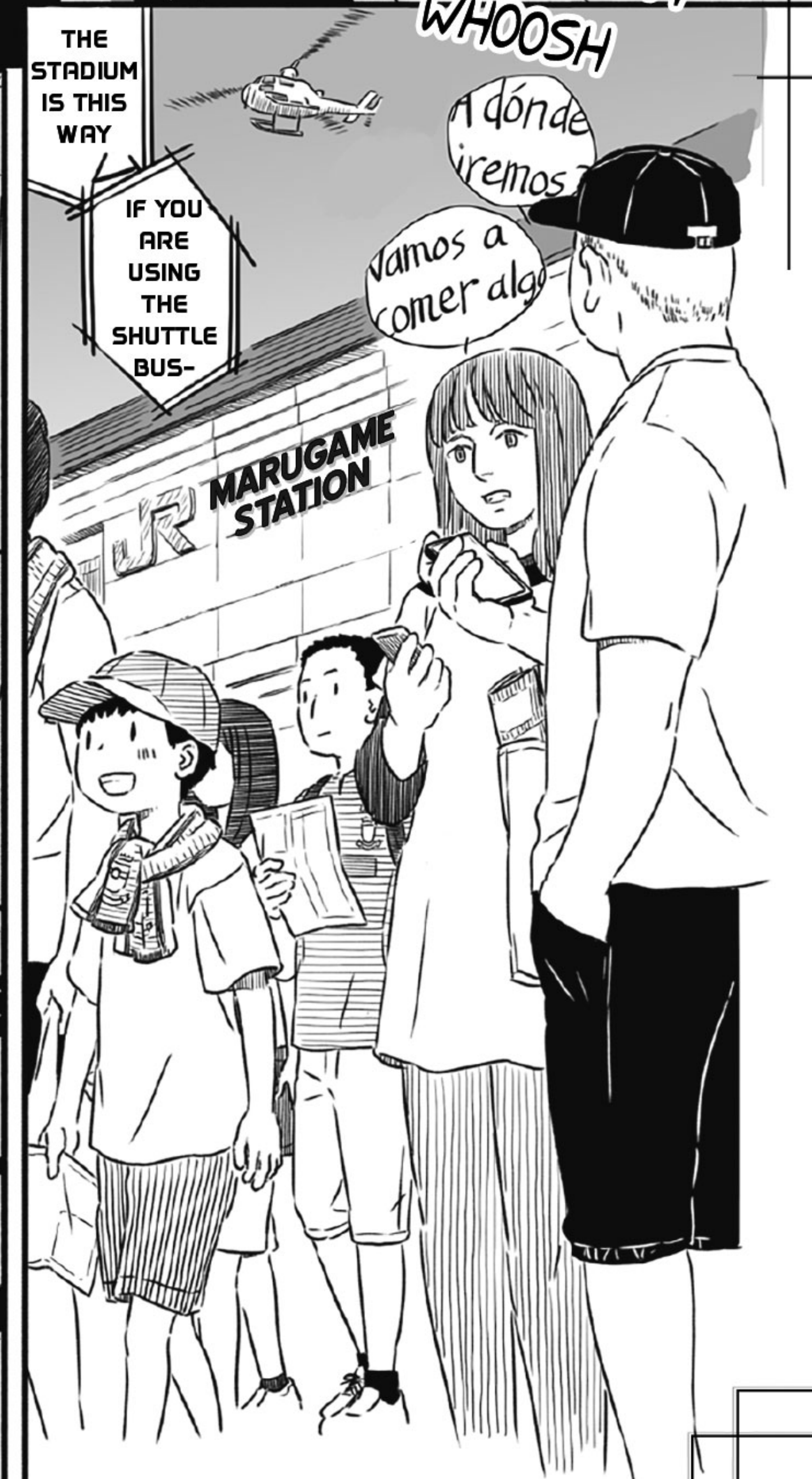
A donde iremos

Vamos a comer algo

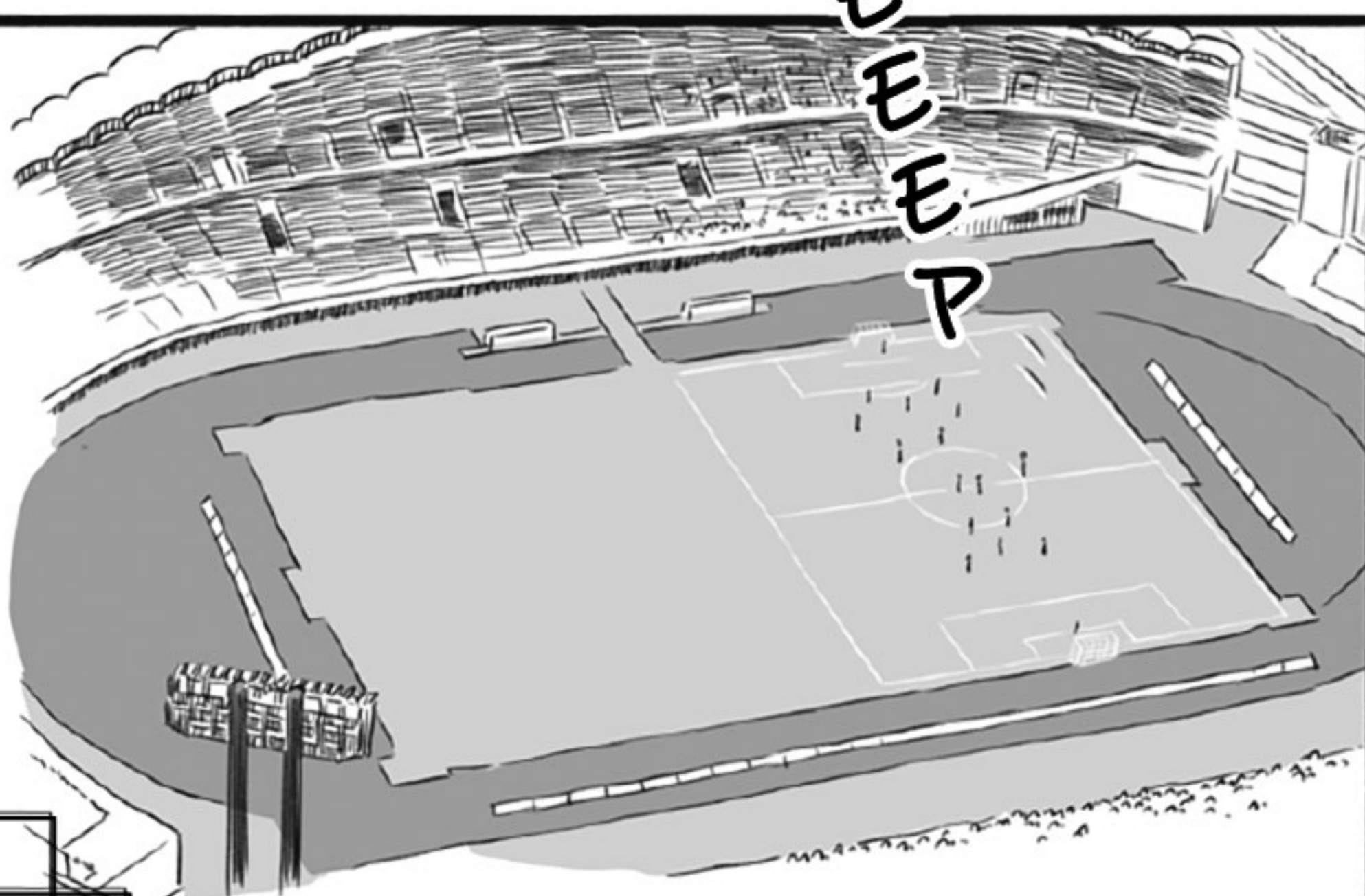
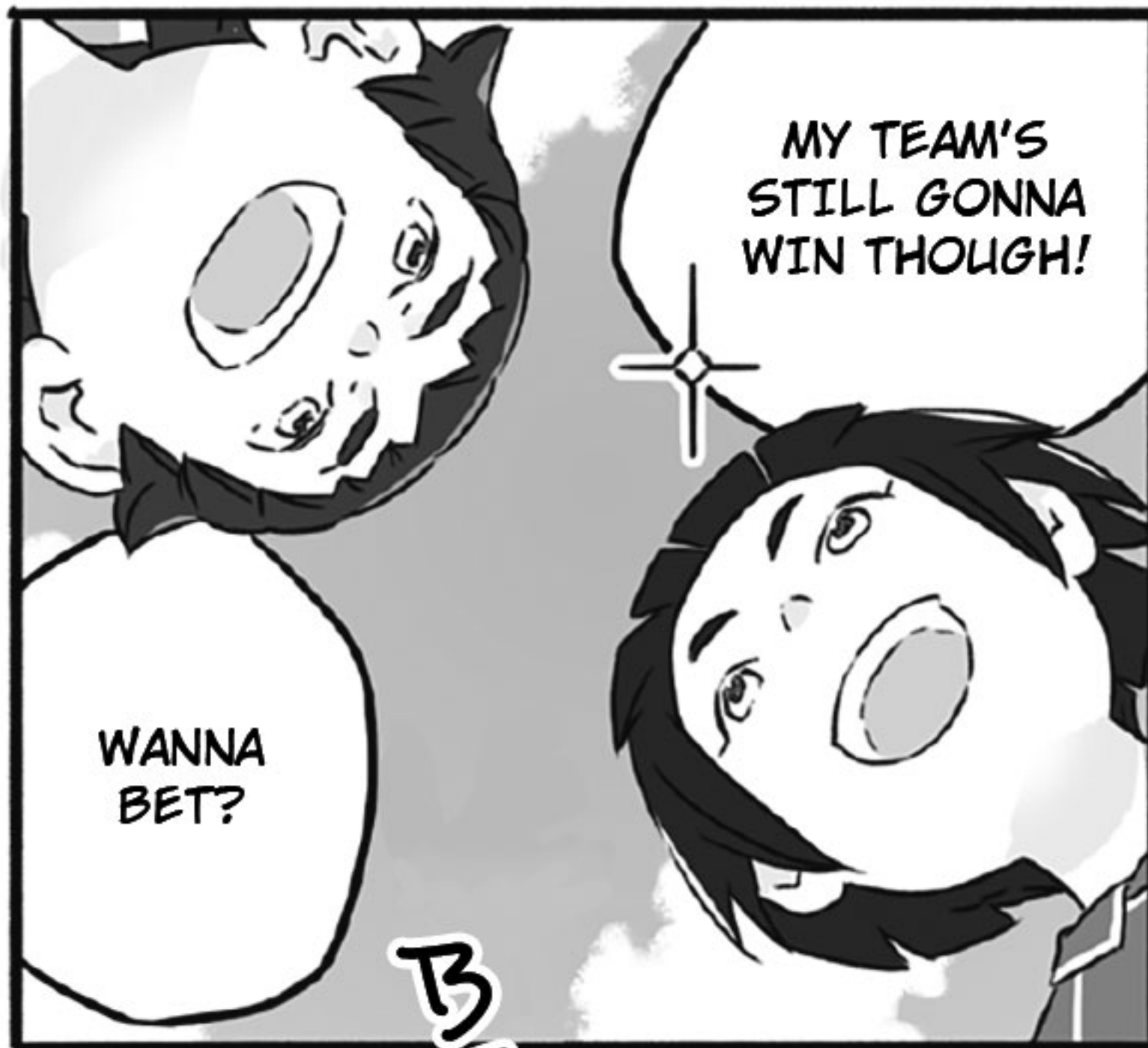
MARUGAME STATION



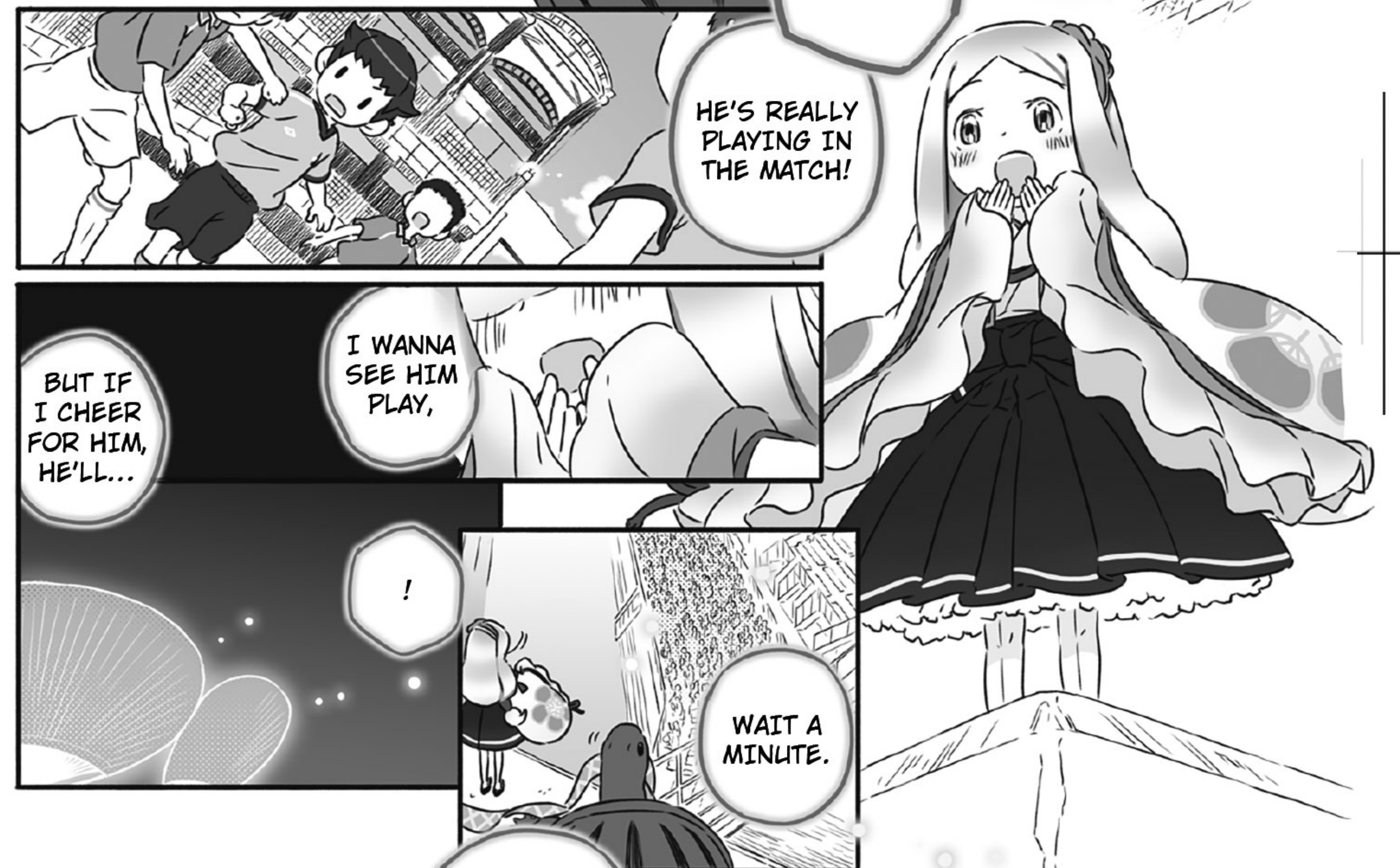
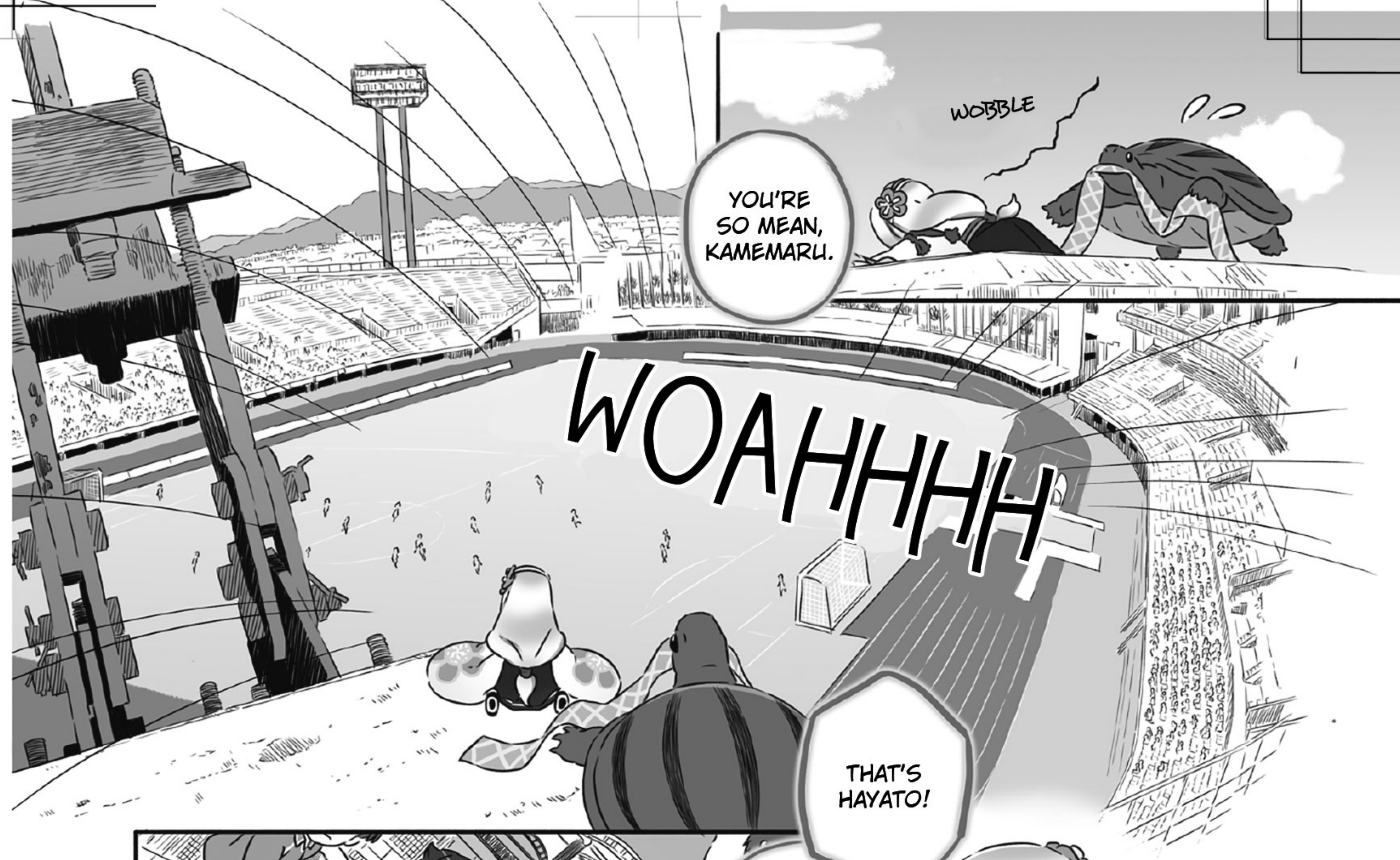
PLEASE CONTINUE MOVING













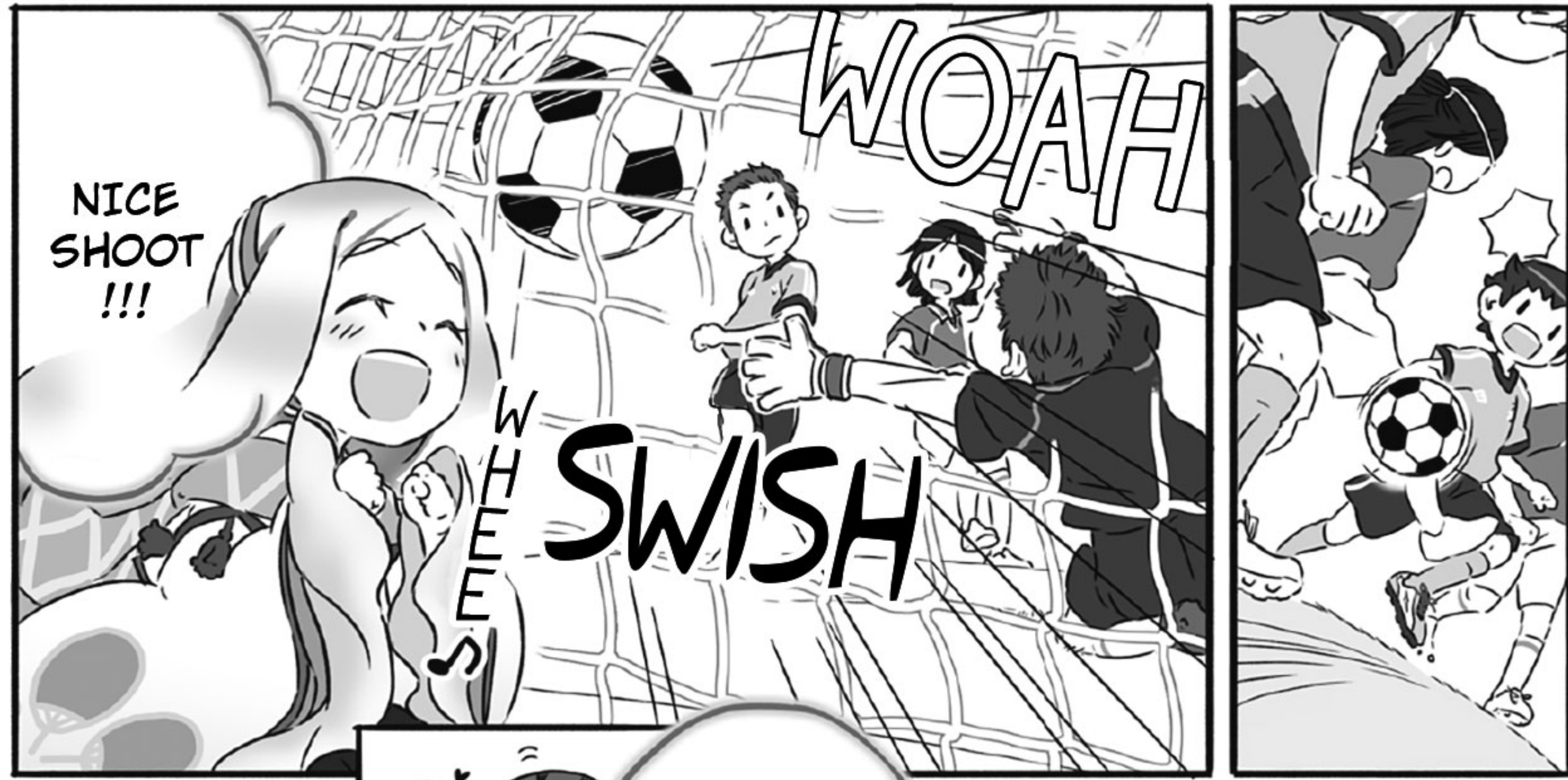


DASH

HE'S GOT THE BALL AGAIN!



IS HE GONNA TAKE THE SHOT?



NICE SHOOT !!!

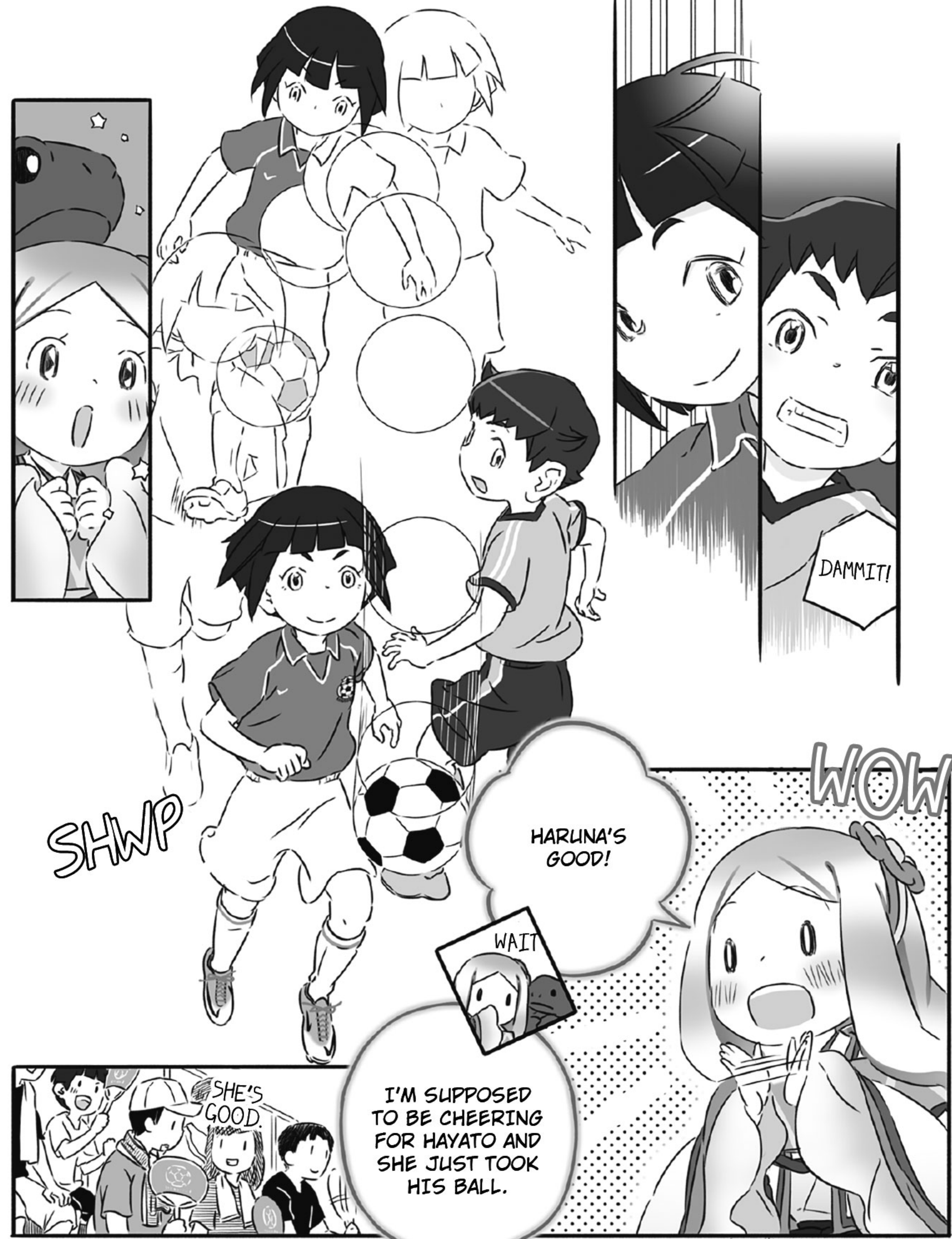
WOAH

SWISH



EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T HAYATO'S SHOT, I'M SO HAPPY HE MADE IT!

AND HAYATO MUST BE SUPER HAPPY, TOO!



SHWP

HARUNA'S GOOD!

WOW

WAIT

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE CHEERING FOR HAYATO AND SHE JUST TOOK HIS BALL.

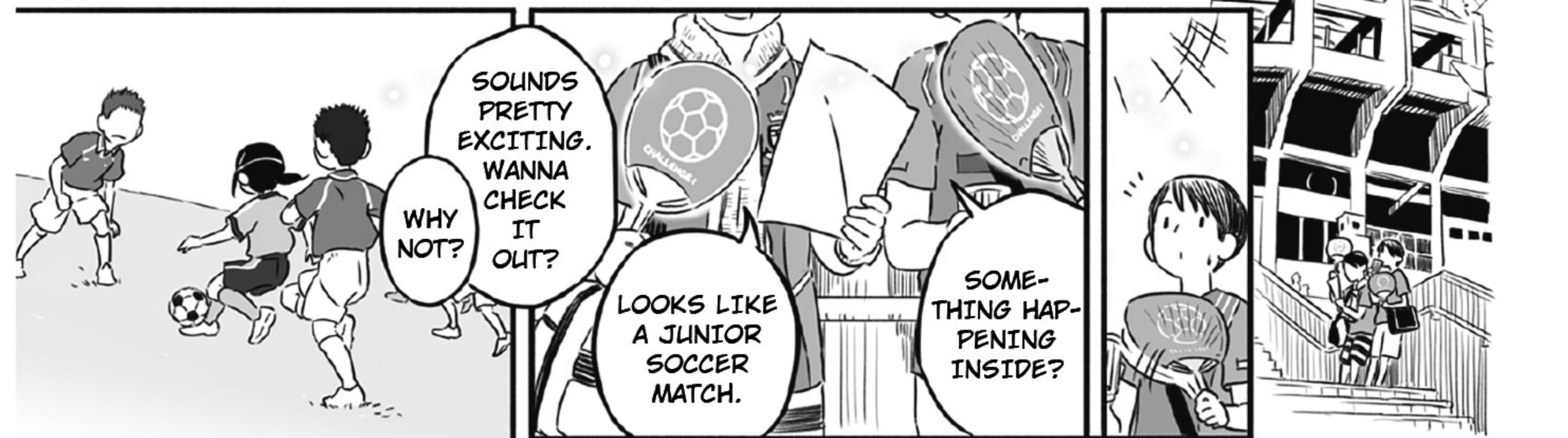


SOUNDS PRETTY EXCITING. WANNA CHECK IT OUT?

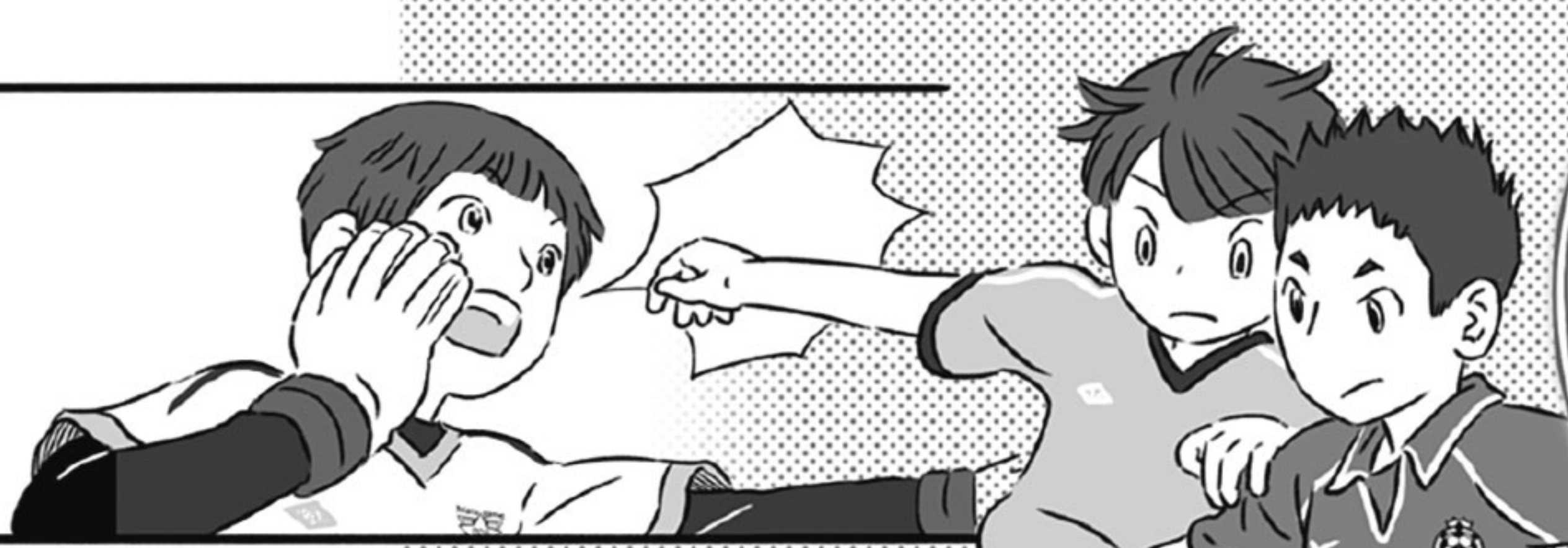
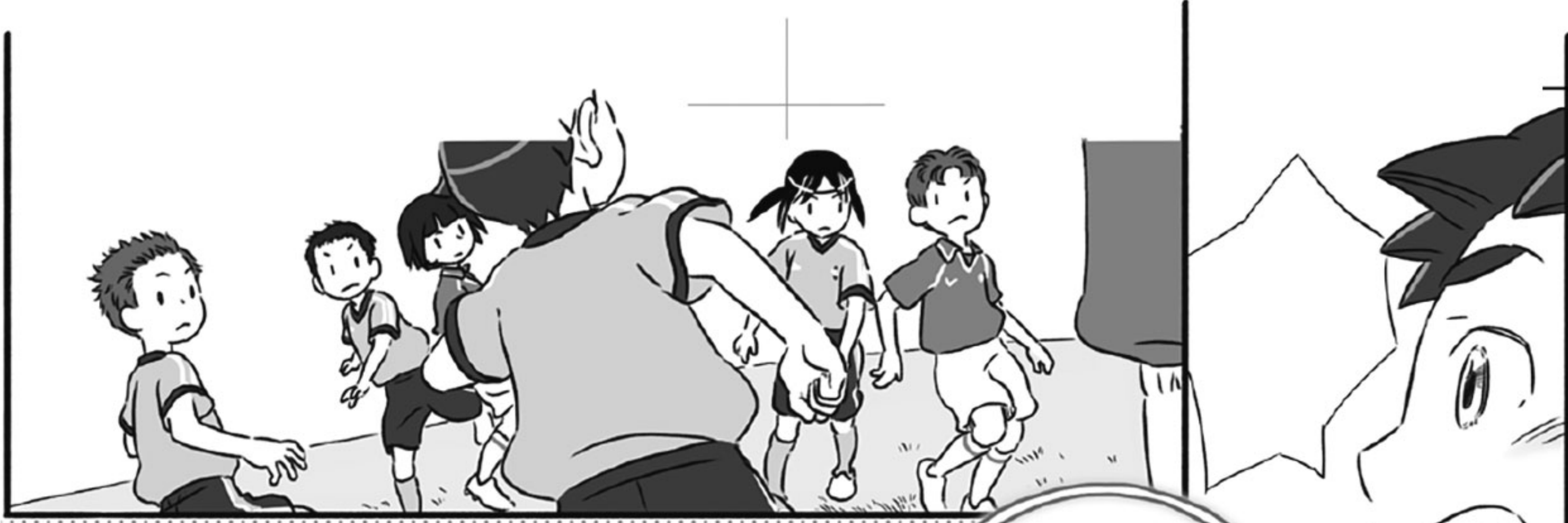
WHY NOT?

LOOKS LIKE A JUNIOR SOCCER MATCH.

SOME-THING HAPPENING INSIDE?







I WAS SO STUCK ON THE IDEA THAT HAYATO MAKING NICE SHOTS WAS THE BEST THING EVER THAT I DIDN'T REALIZE



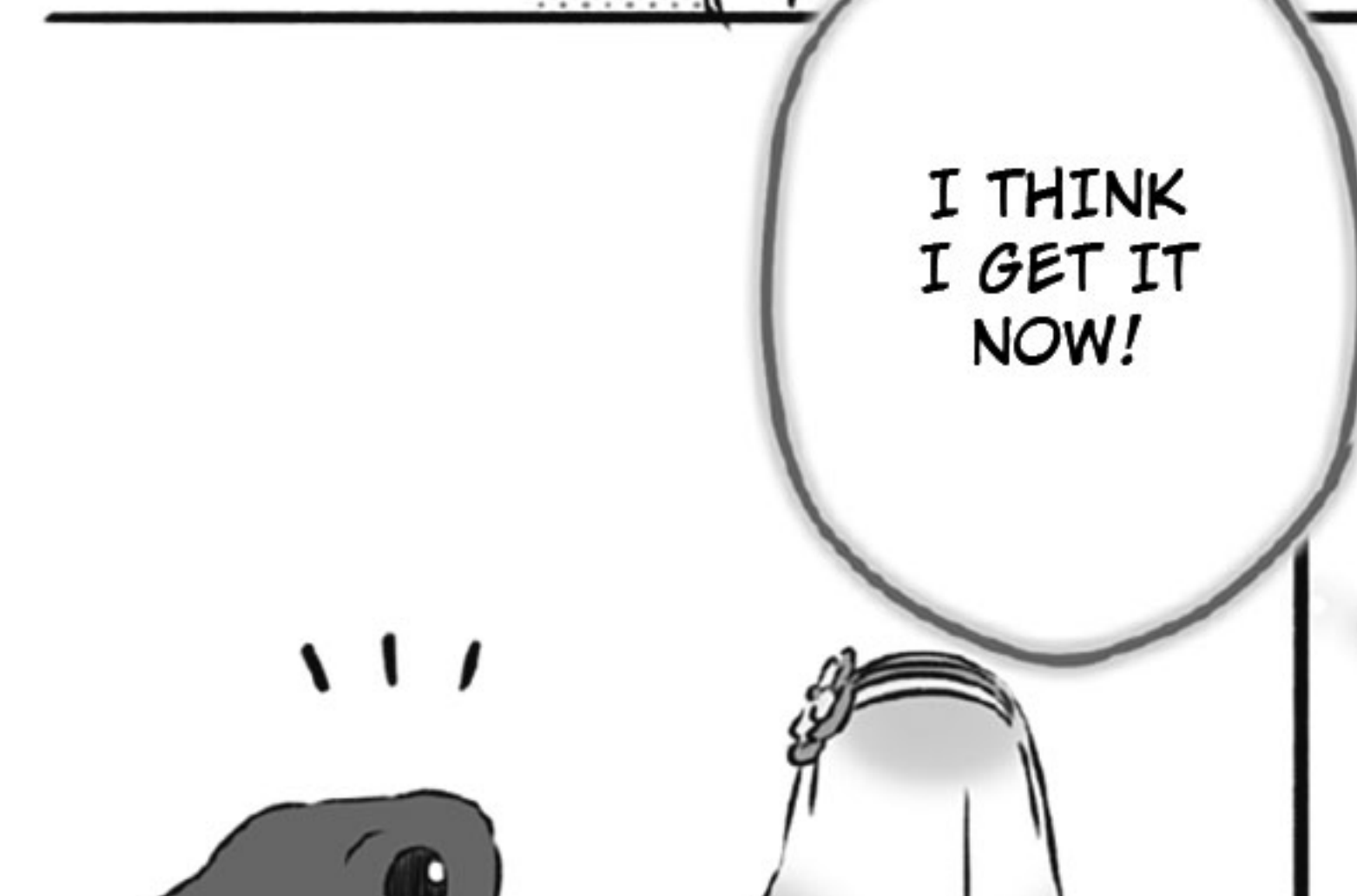
THAT EVERYONE IN THE MATCH, EVEN THE OTHER TEAM'S MEMBERS, IS EQUALLY AMAZING!



EVERYONE WATCHING THEM IS GIVING IT THEIR ALL TOO AND EVERYONE IS HAVING FUN!



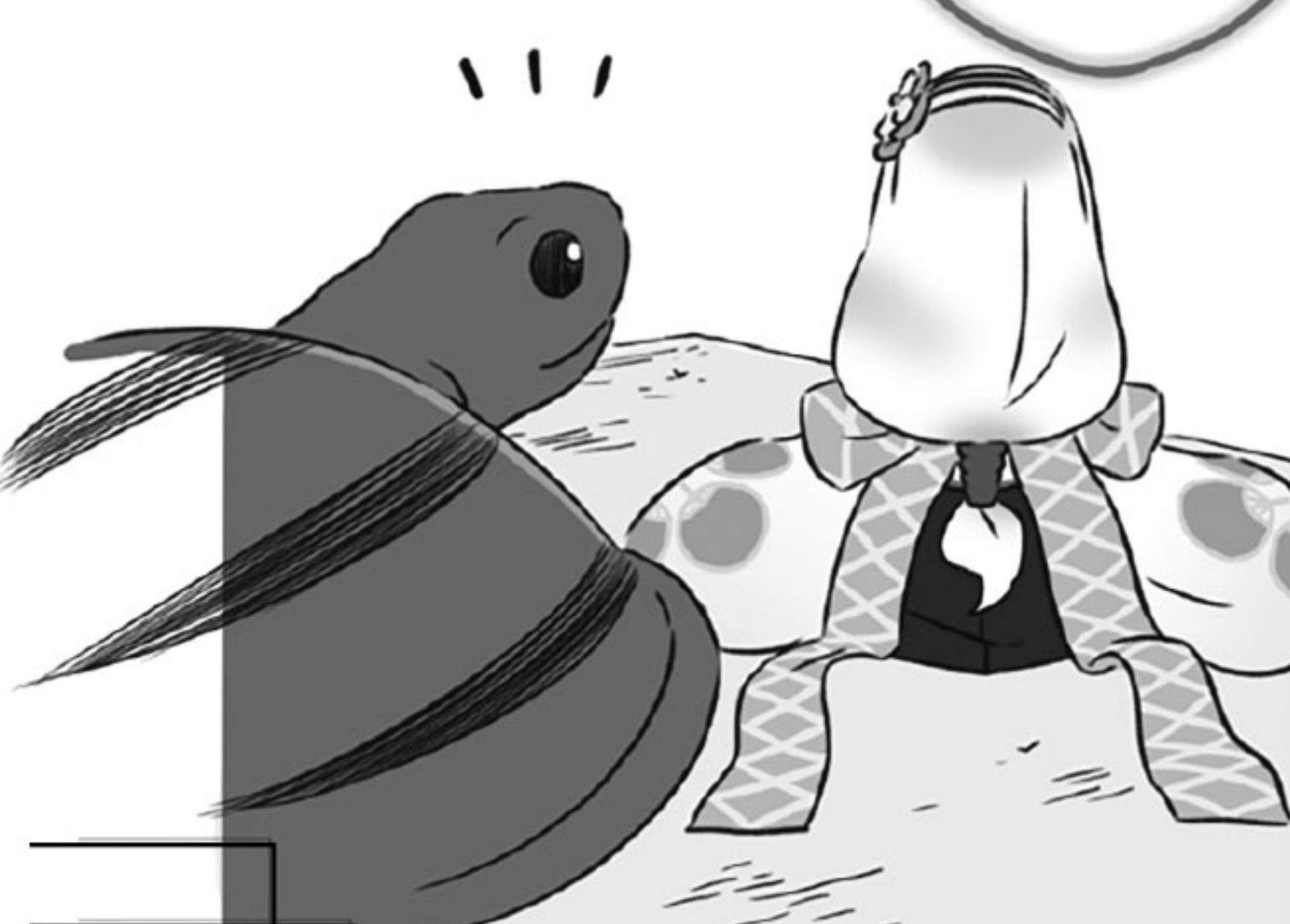
EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO'VE NEVER MET THEM ARE CHEERING THEM ON.



I THINK I GET IT NOW!



WOAH



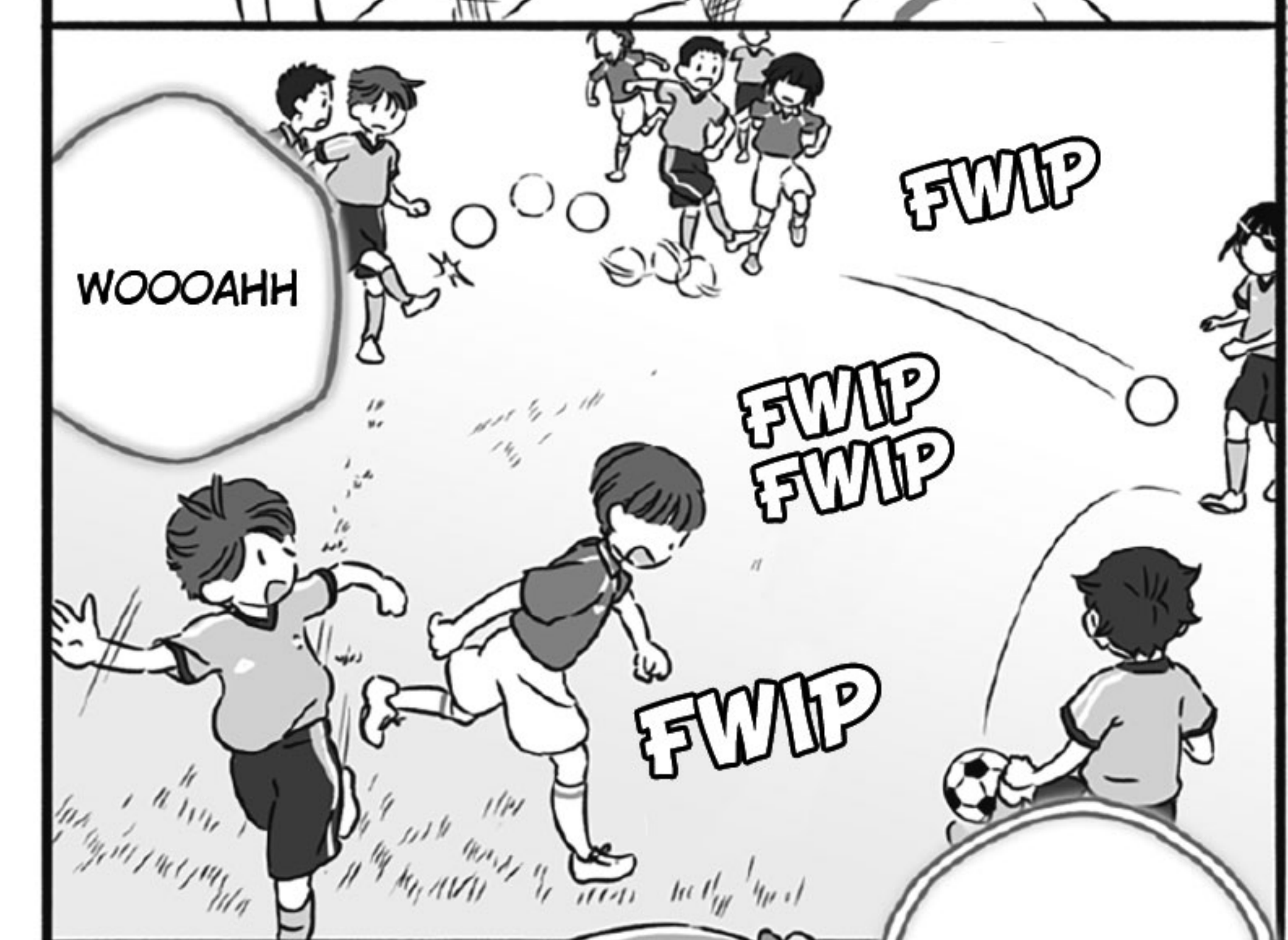
THUD

GAH



FWIP

IS HE AL-RIGHT!?

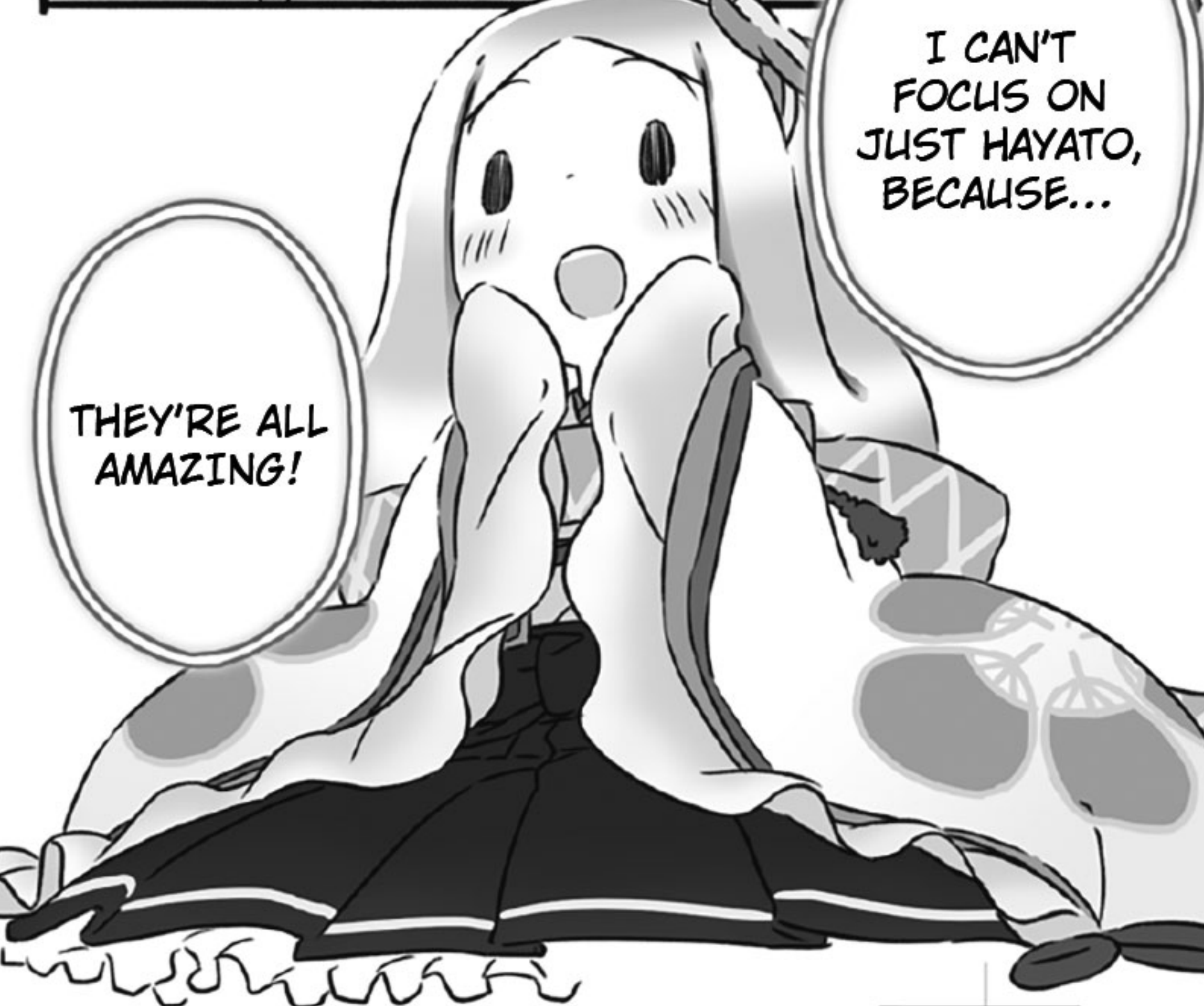


WOOOAAH

FWIP

FWIP FWIP

FWIP

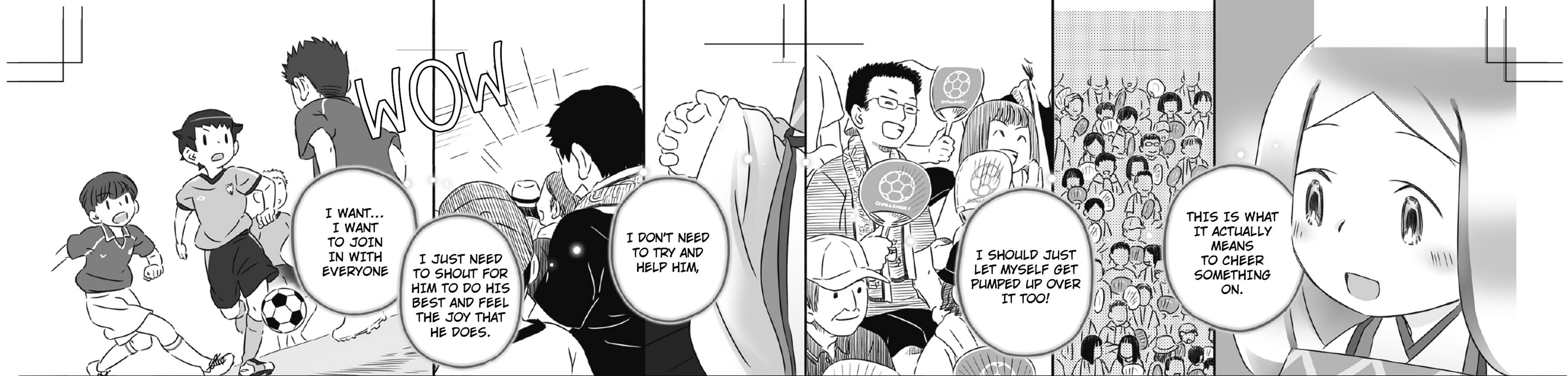


THEY'RE ALL AMAZING!

I CAN'T FOCUS ON JUST HAYATO, BECAUSE...







I WANT... I WANT TO JOIN IN WITH EVERYONE

I JUST NEED TO SHOUT FOR HIM TO DO HIS BEST AND FEEL THE JOY THAT HE DOES.

I DON'T NEED TO TRY AND HELP HIM,

I SHOULD JUST LET MYSELF GET PUMPED UP OVER IT TOO!

THIS IS WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS TO CHEER SOMETHING ON.

WOW



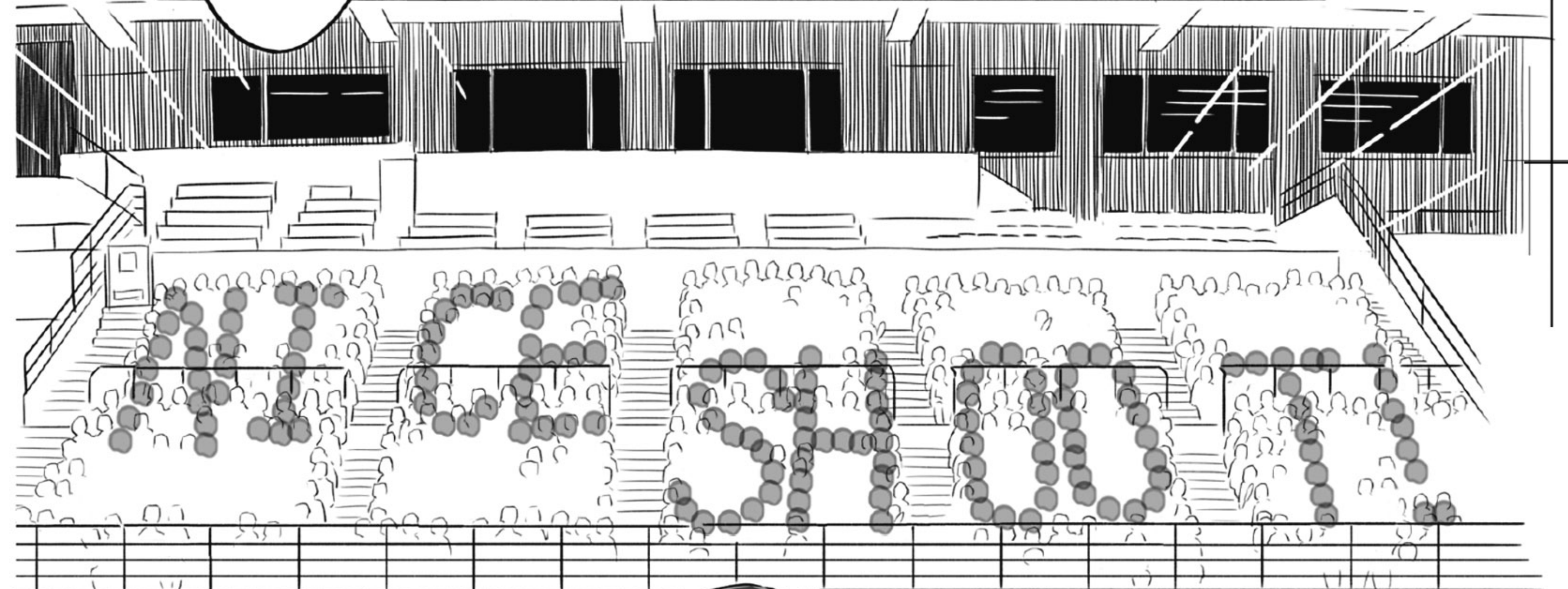
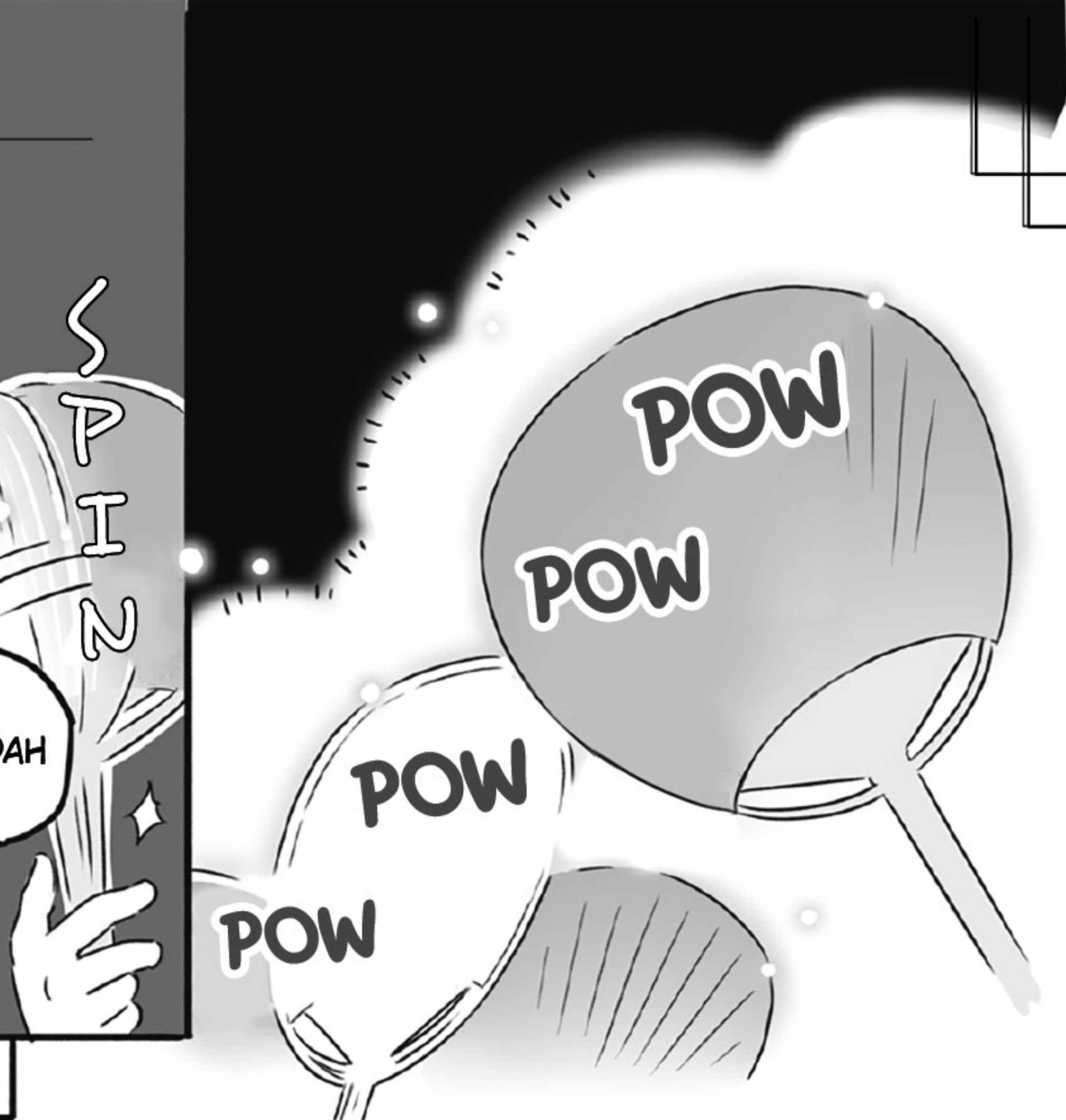
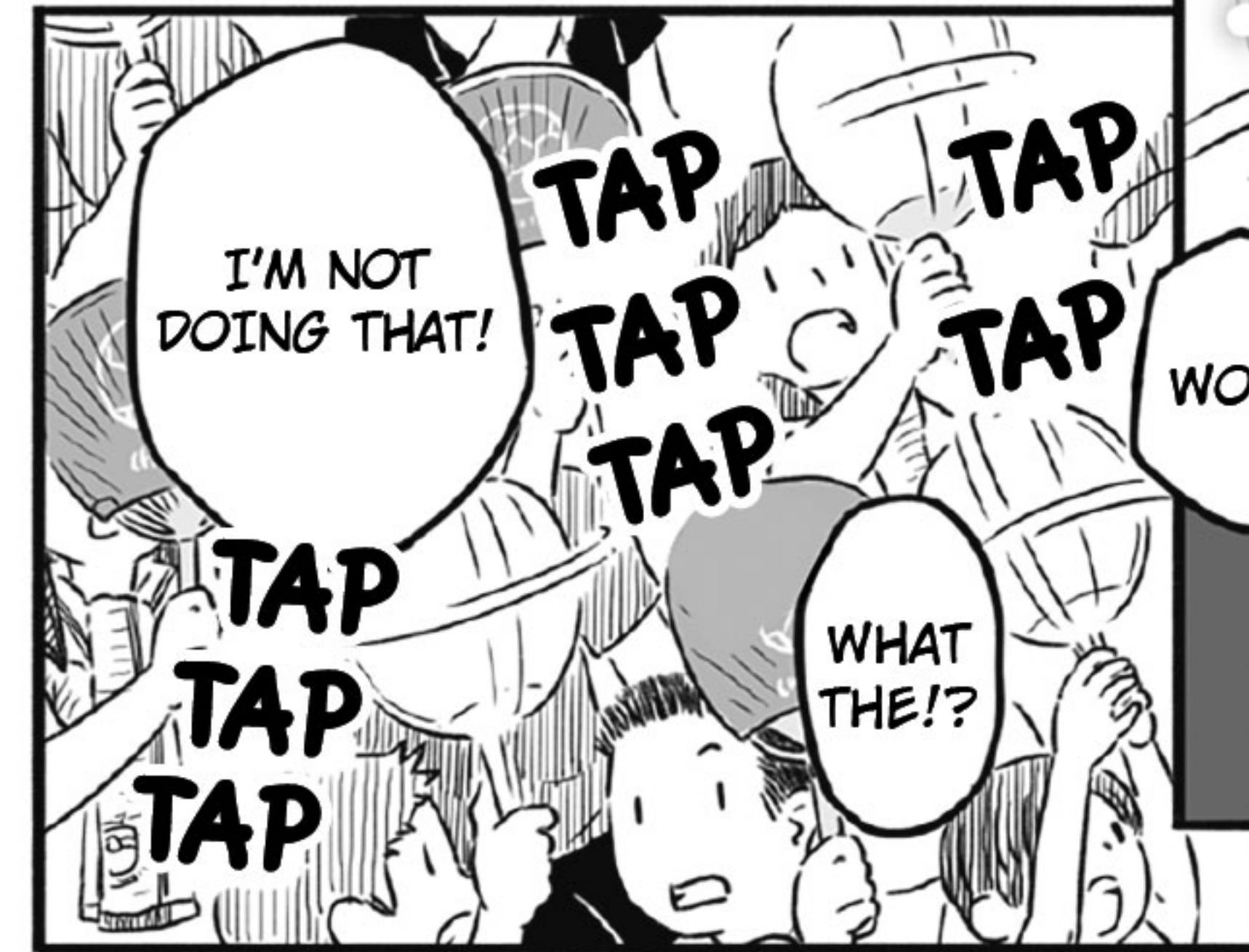
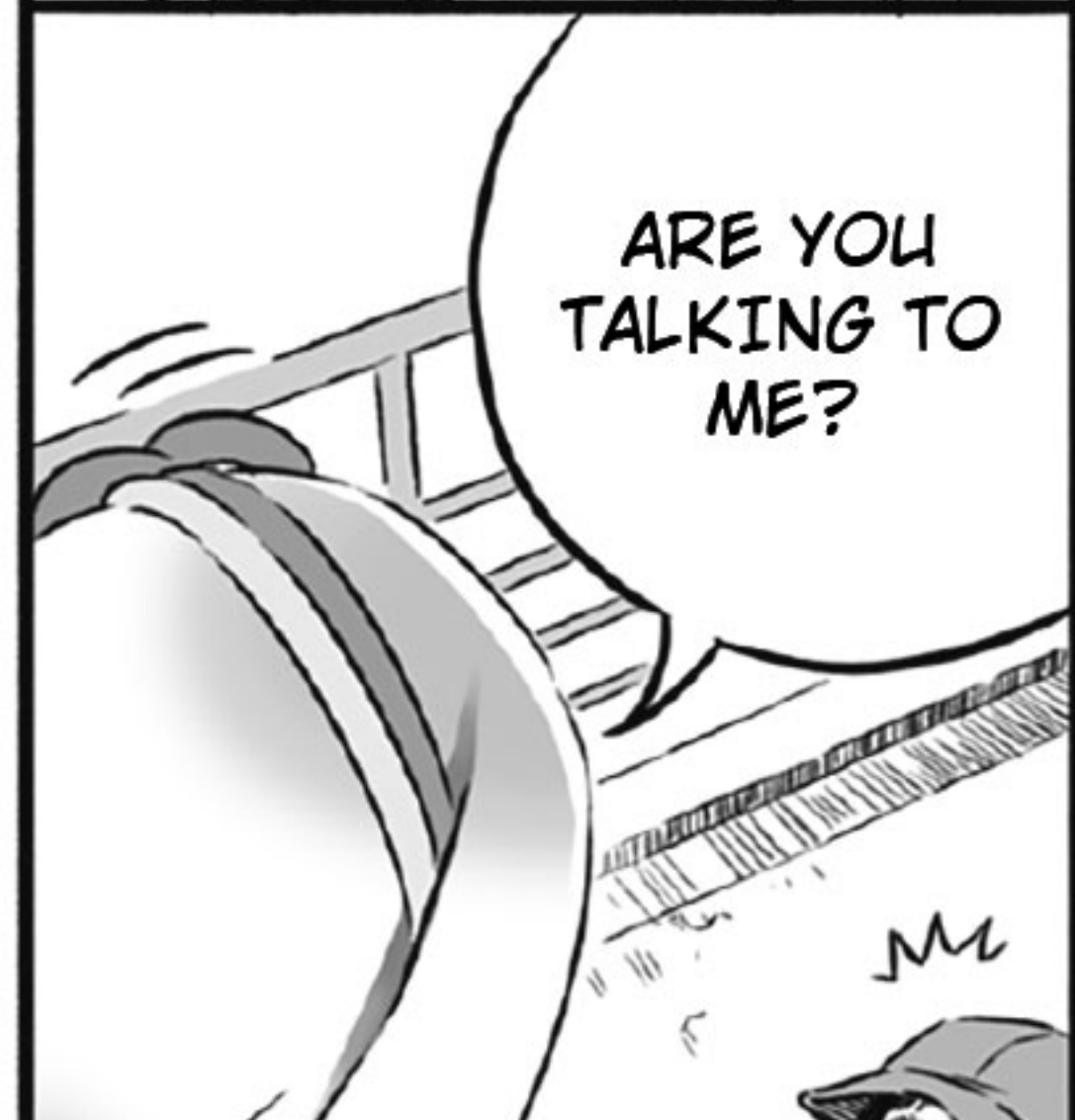
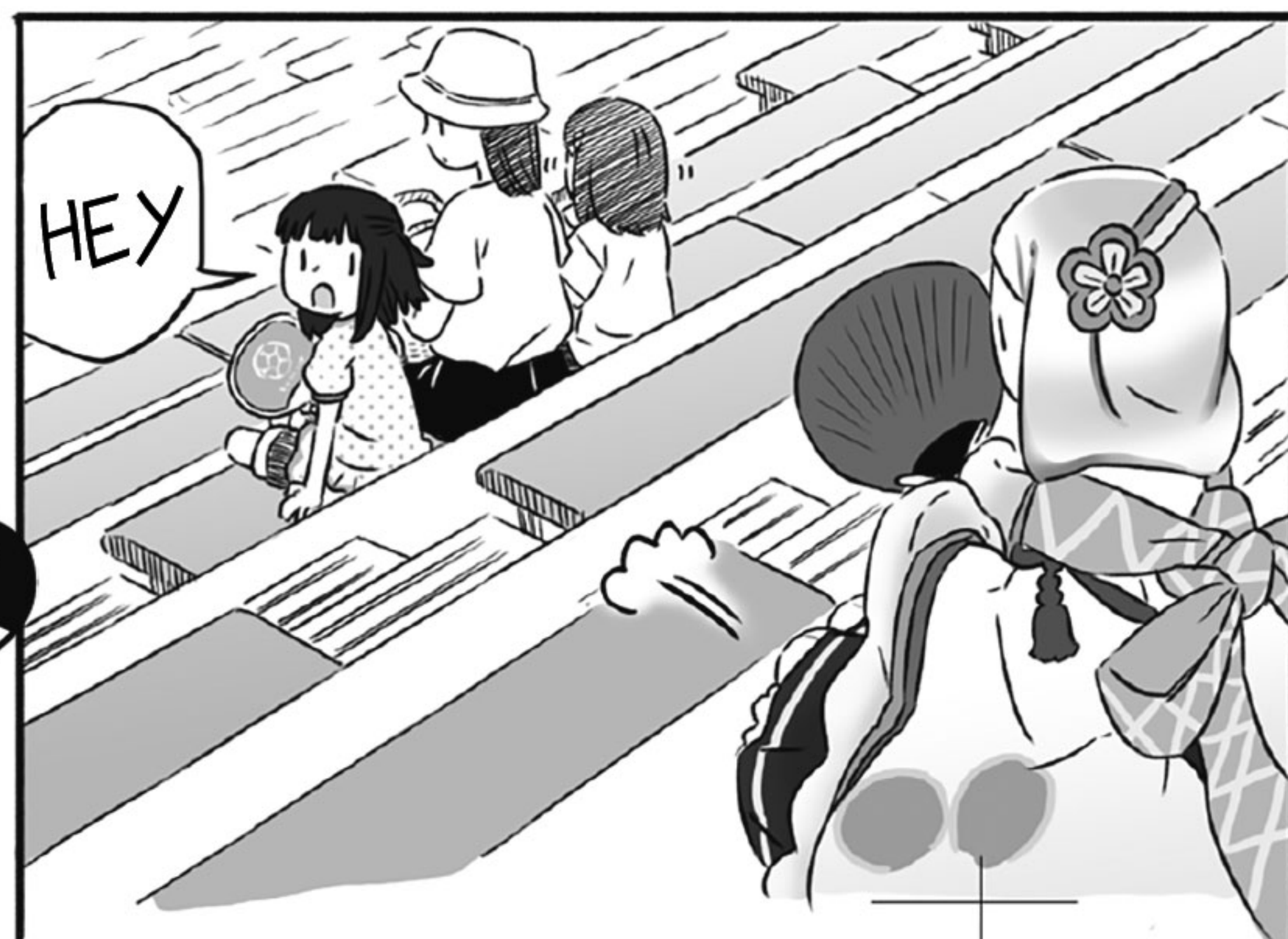
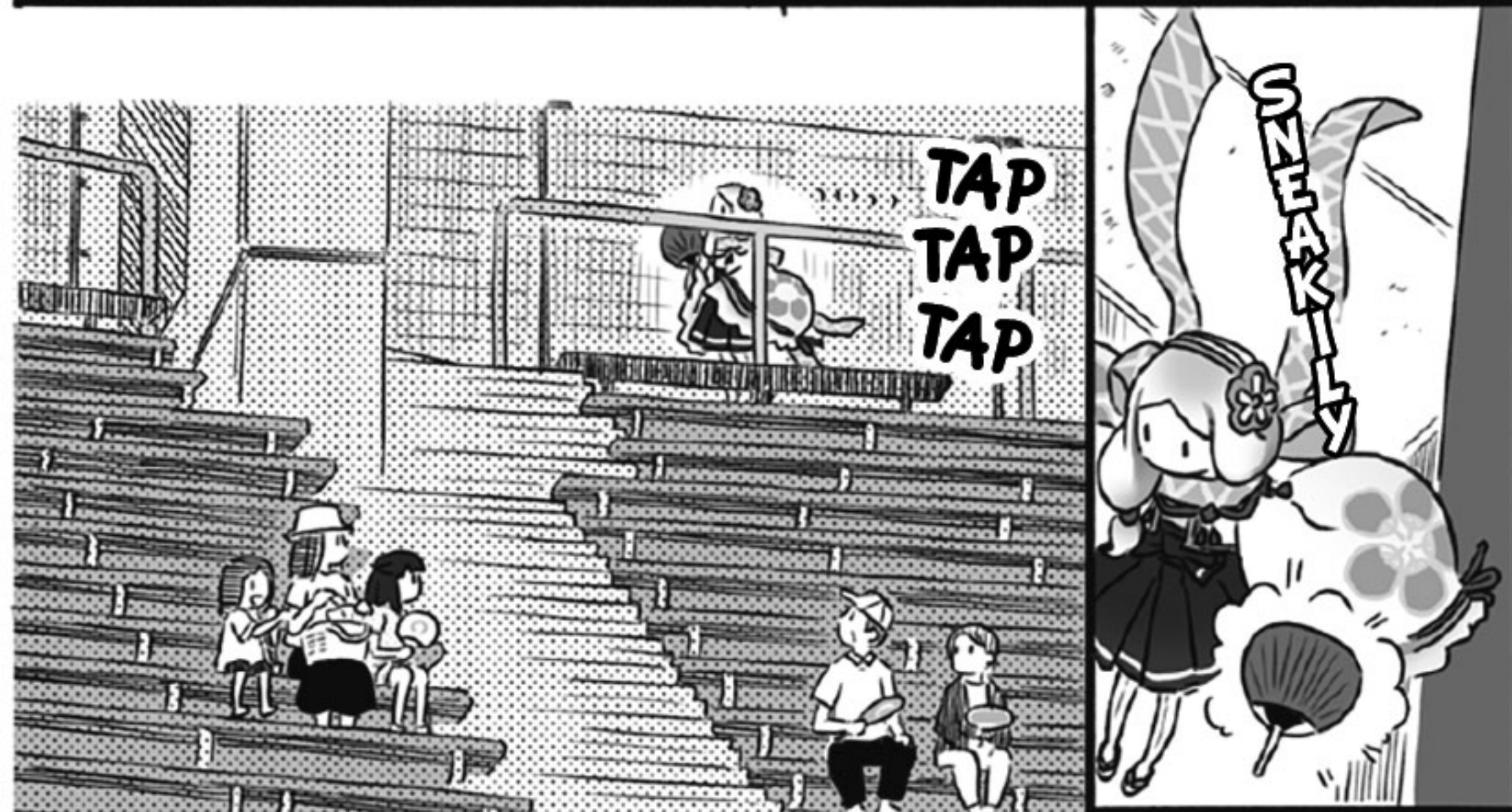
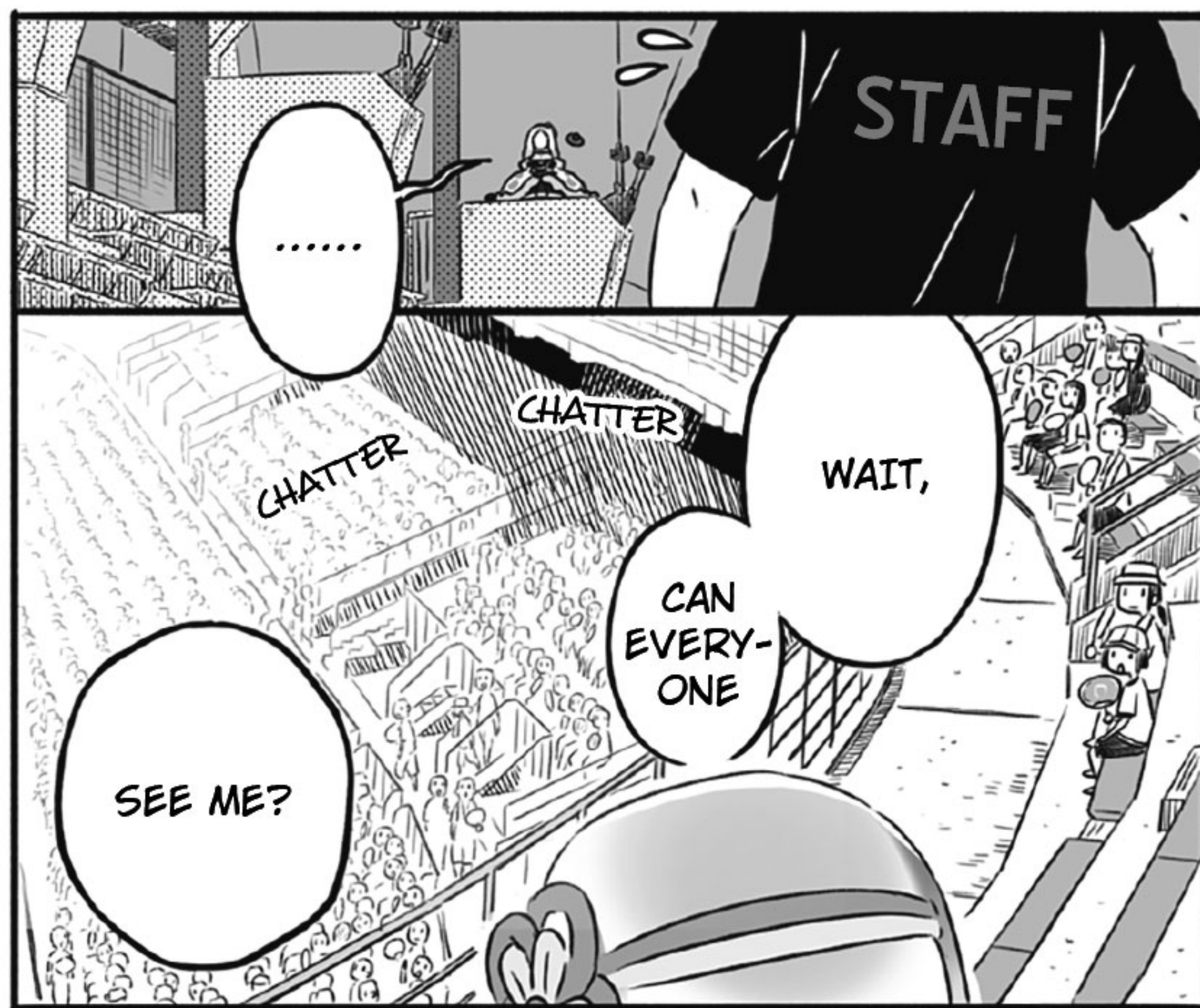
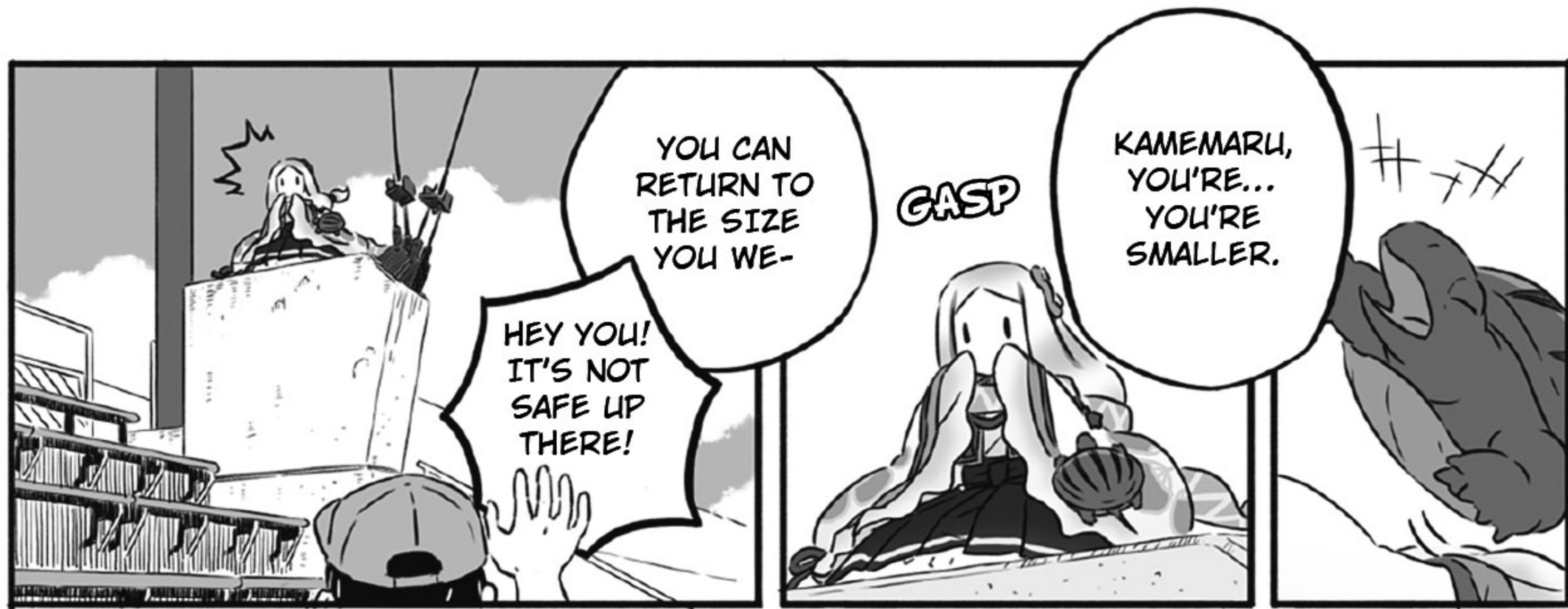
NICE SHOOT!!!

AND CHEER MY HEART OUT!!!

WOO HOOOOOOOO

WOOOSH

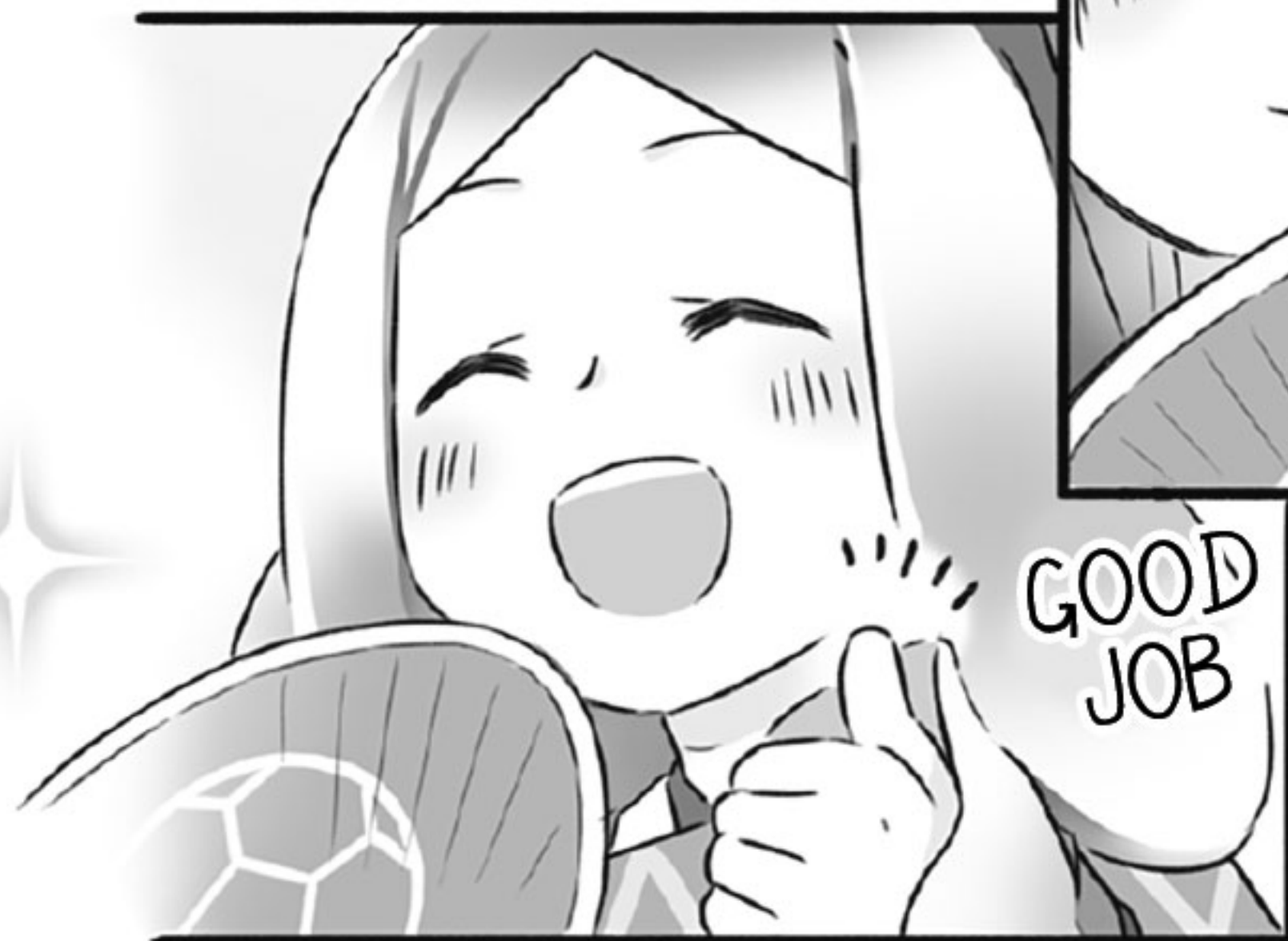




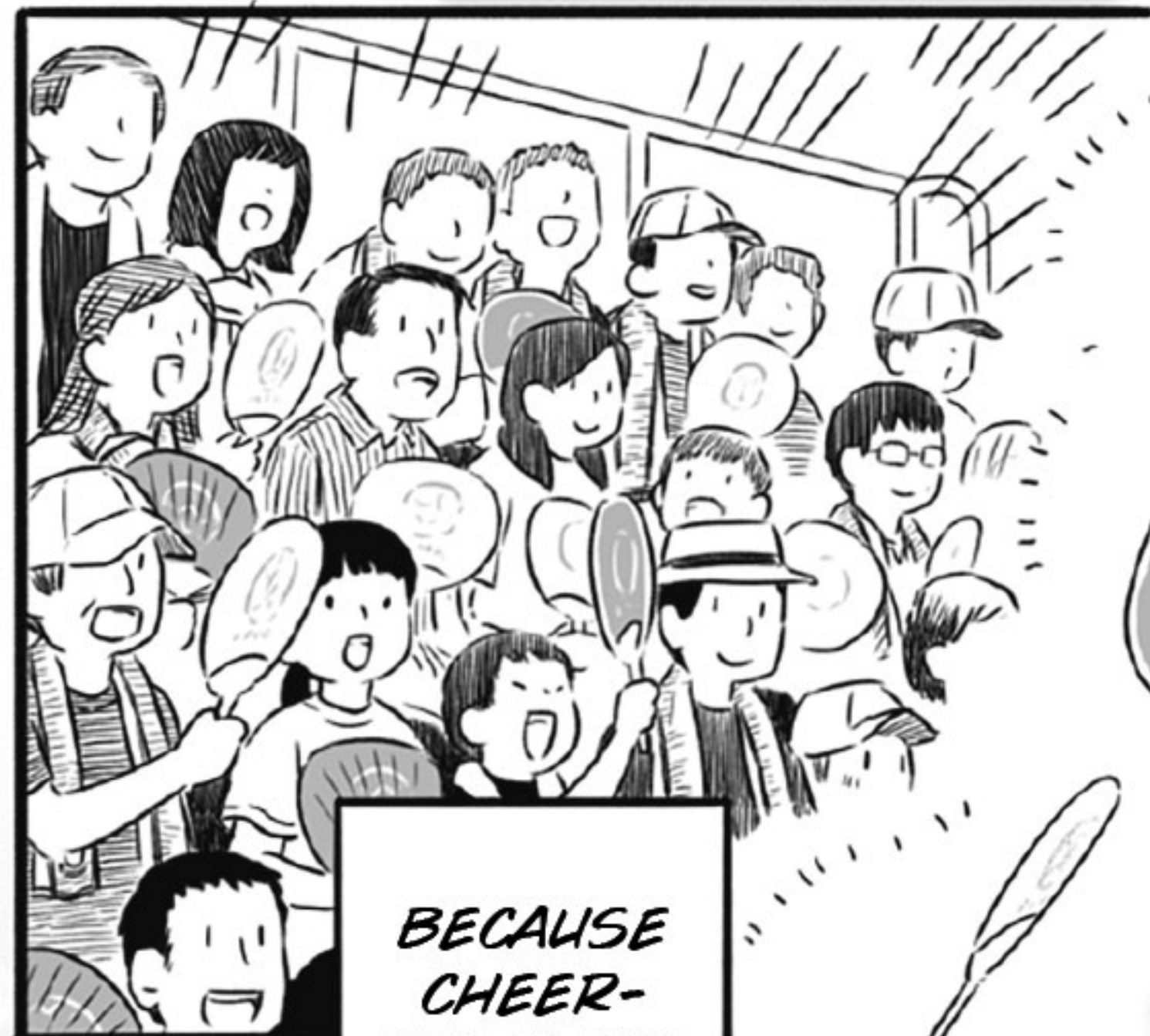




GOOD JOB



GOOD JOB

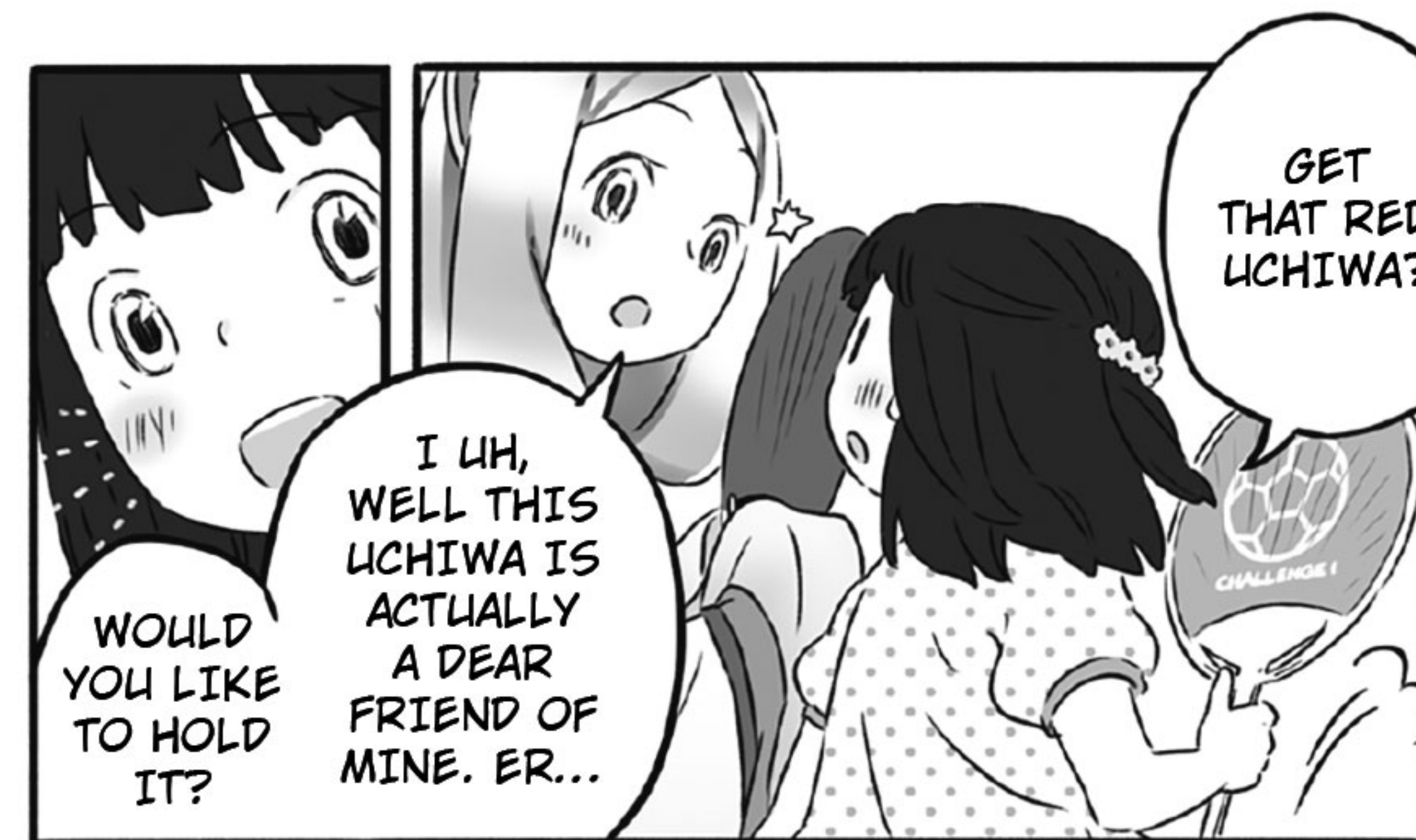
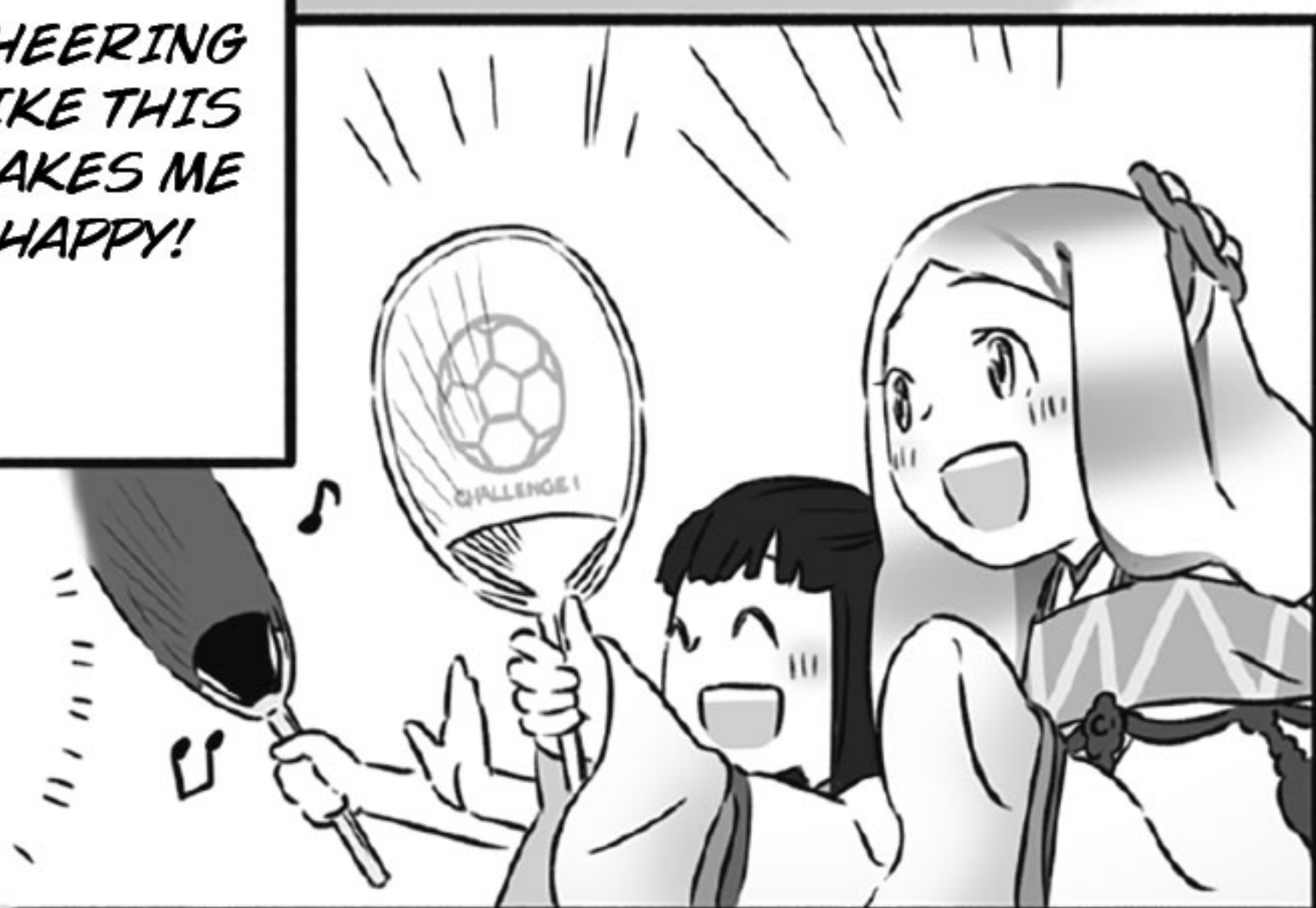


BECAUSE CHEERING ALONG WITH EVERYONE IS SO FUN!

I'M SO GLAD I COULD CHEER FOR YOU,



CHEERING LIKE THIS MAKES ME HAPPY!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD IT?

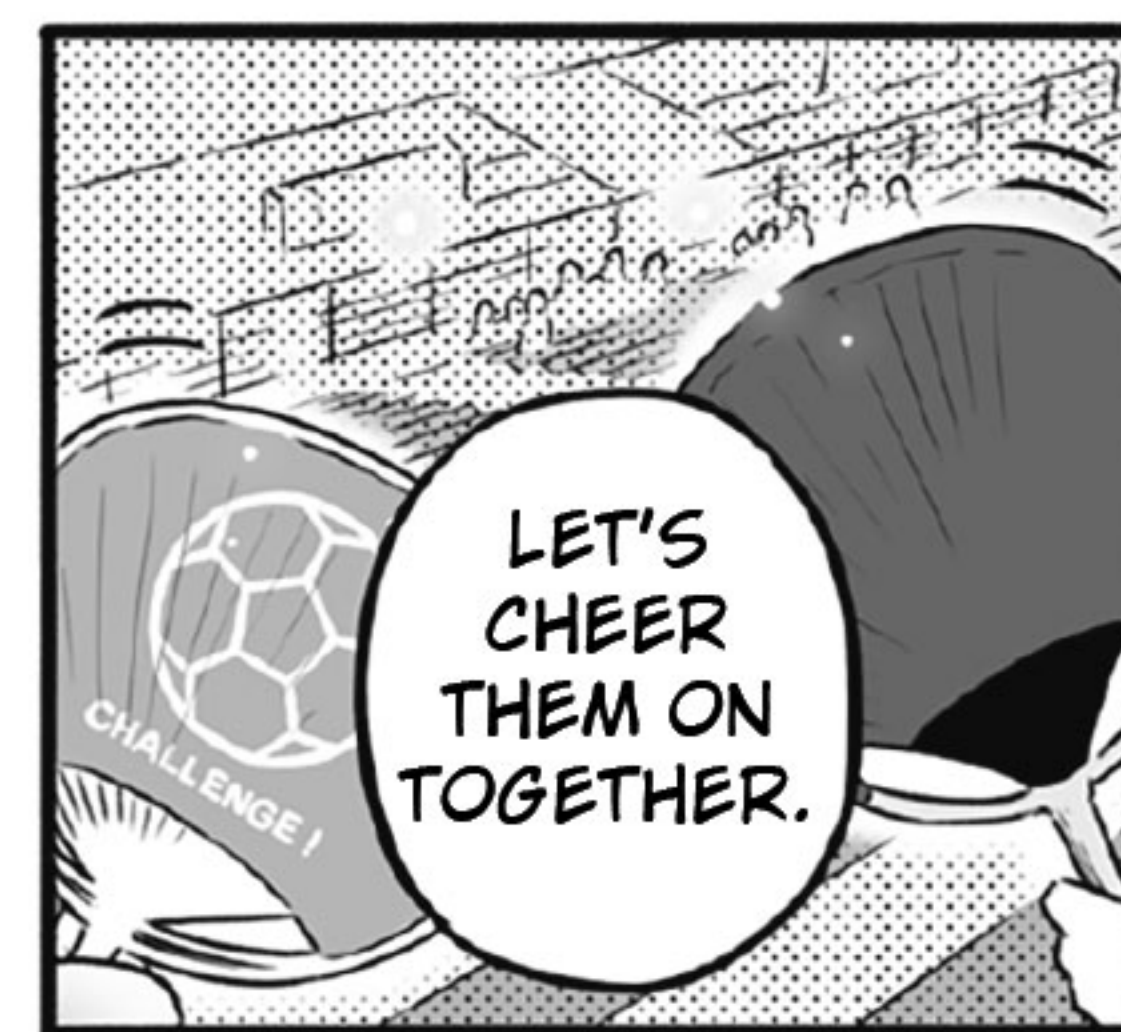
I UH, WELL THIS UCHIWA IS ACTUALLY A DEAR FRIEND OF MINE. ER...

GET THAT RED UCHIWA?

STEP



WHERE'D YOU



LET'S CHEER THEM ON TOGETHER.

SURE!



I-I'M SO SORRY!

HEY! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!

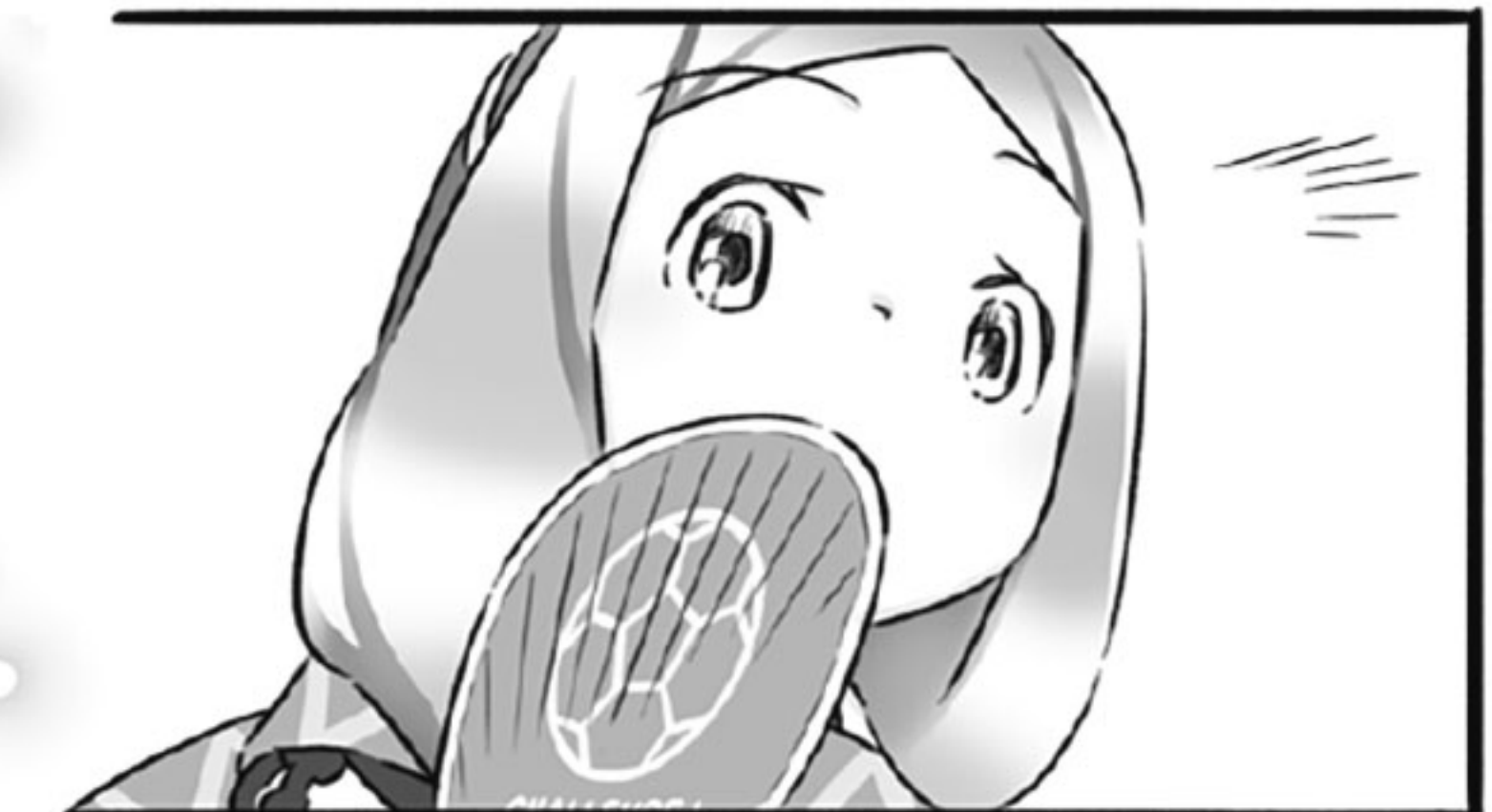


HE SEEMS QUITE HAPPY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRADE FOR A BIT?

SLOWLY

YOU... YOU CAN TOUCH IT!







NOW GO ON  
UCHIWA AND  
DELIVER OUR  
CHEERS TO  
THEM ON THE  
WIND!

WOOOAHHH

CHALLENGE!





Making the difficult decision of whether traditional ways should be preserved or future innovations should be explored had allowed Marugame Uchiwa to maintain a 90% share in the market. On the other hand, the bamboo uchiwas it was synonymous with had been dying a slow death for a long period of time at that point. The company combatted this issue by actively seeking out and importing bamboo skeletons produced in China. This did allow it to make up for the locally produced bamboo skeletons it was lacking in. However, it also meant that the original idea of “locally produced bamboo uchiwas” was close to being destroyed without any countermeasures being taken. It was at that time that Marugame uchiwas received certification as “traditional handicrafts” from the Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry. As such promotional plans were drawn up and carried out. In 1999, with the aim of finding successors who would learn the Marugame manner of sub-divided uchiwa-making methods, courses were offered to the public. These courses were divided into courses for “skeleton masters” and “attachment masters.”

When these courses first started to be offered, the applicants included many members of the general public with interest in being “masters.” This was in addition to those who had some connection to the industry. However, in order to more securely insure that the Marugame uchiwa-making process would be carried on, and in order to avoid the sudden stops in the process that come from segmented work, the objective was changed in 2004 to teaching successors how to shoulder the whole process of uchiwa-making from start to finish. And now, as of those who completed the course in 2017, a total of 226 uchiwa-makers have been produced. Those who finish the course and prove that they have acquired the proper technique are granted the title of “Uchiwa Meister.” These masters work even now as craftsmen trying to save the dying art of creating 100% domestically and locally made bamboo uchiwas. They do this primarily at the Uchiwanominato Museum by Marugame Port and Take Uchiwa Factory on the castle grounds. (According to the 2013 “Marugame Uchiwa New Master” certification system) It is worth mentioning that around this time, another certification of “Traditional Craftsman” was born in the same year to commemorate those who had gotten the certification of “Uchiwa Master” and then worked in the industry for 12 years or more.

\* “Traditional Craftsman” is a government certification granted via the Densan Act by the The Association for the promotion of Traditional Craft Industries in Japan.

Traditional handicrafts will always be set against products which are manufactured overseas. In this age and society where information is digitalized and broadcast around the world, Marugame uchiwa presents its core values as “what it feels like to be human”. “Made by Marugame” is the phrase that should ring out loudly in the future.

~ “To my dear child, may your mother’s mannerisms also remind you fondly of the refreshing breeze of your hometown” ~

(Edited by: Toshiro Yano)

Kagawa Prefecture Uchiwa Cooperatives : Vice President



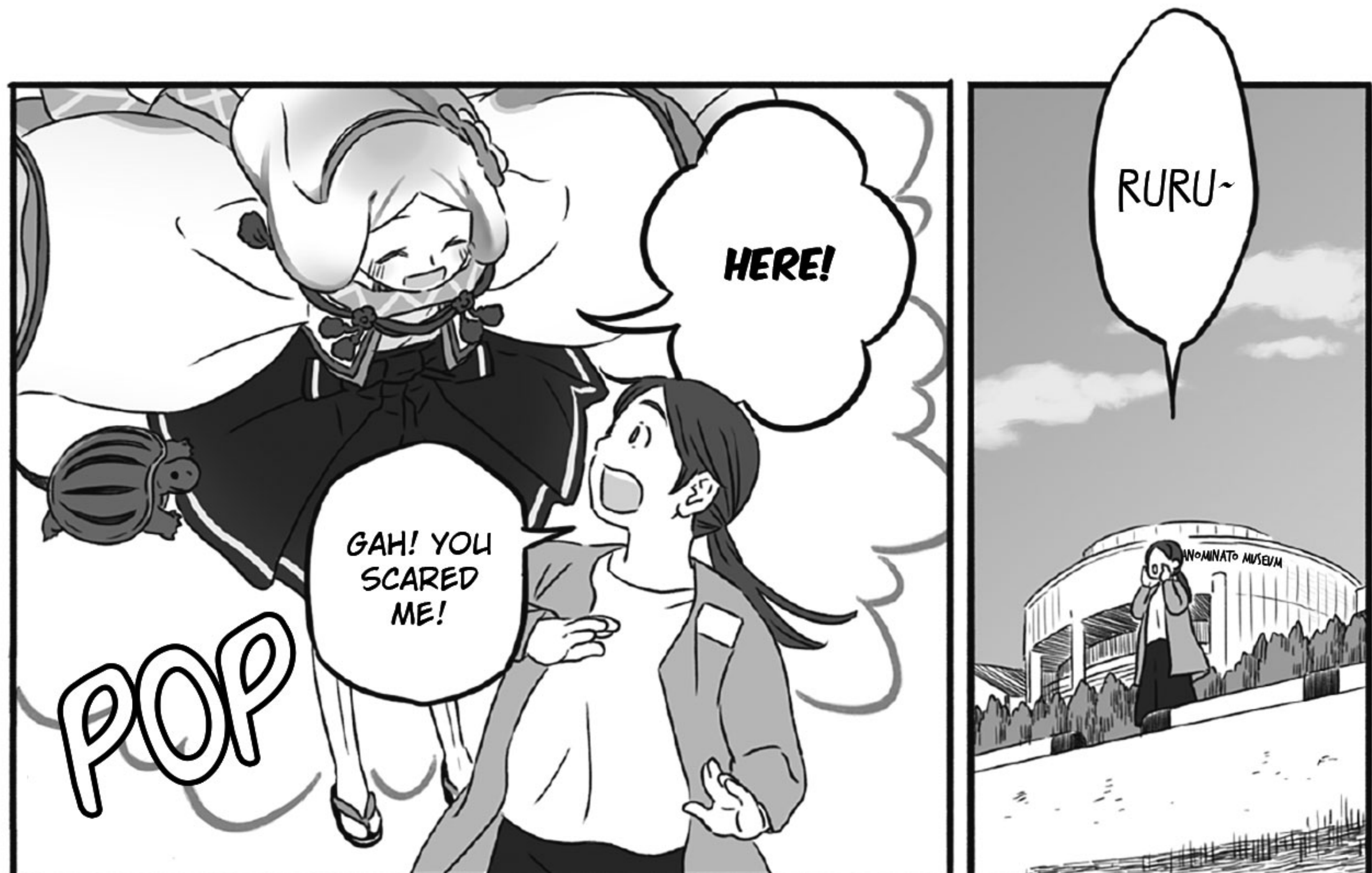
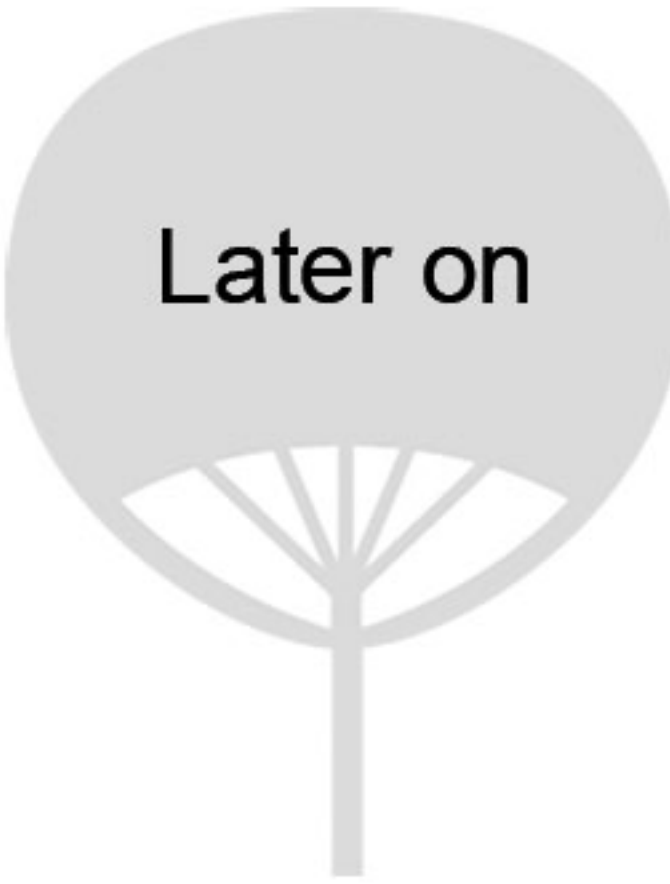
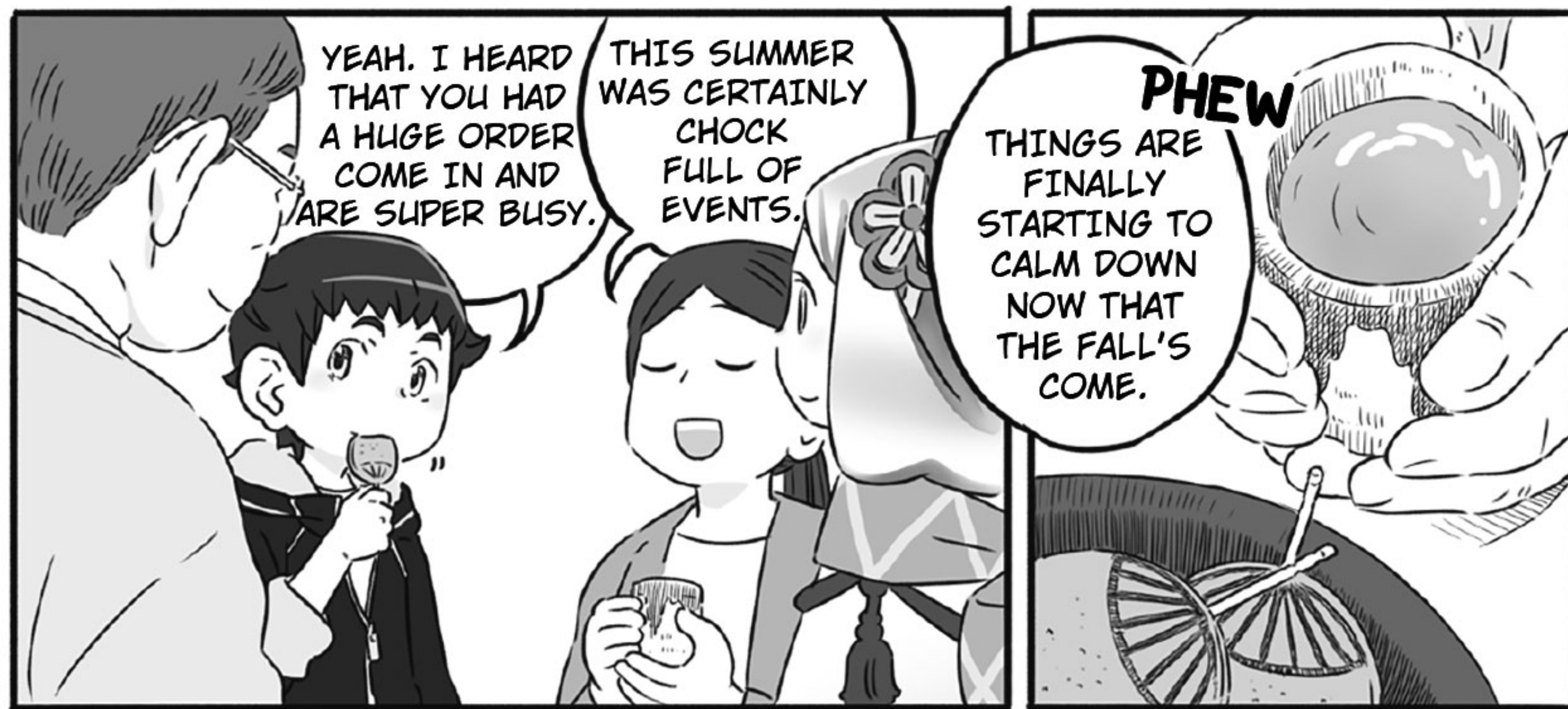
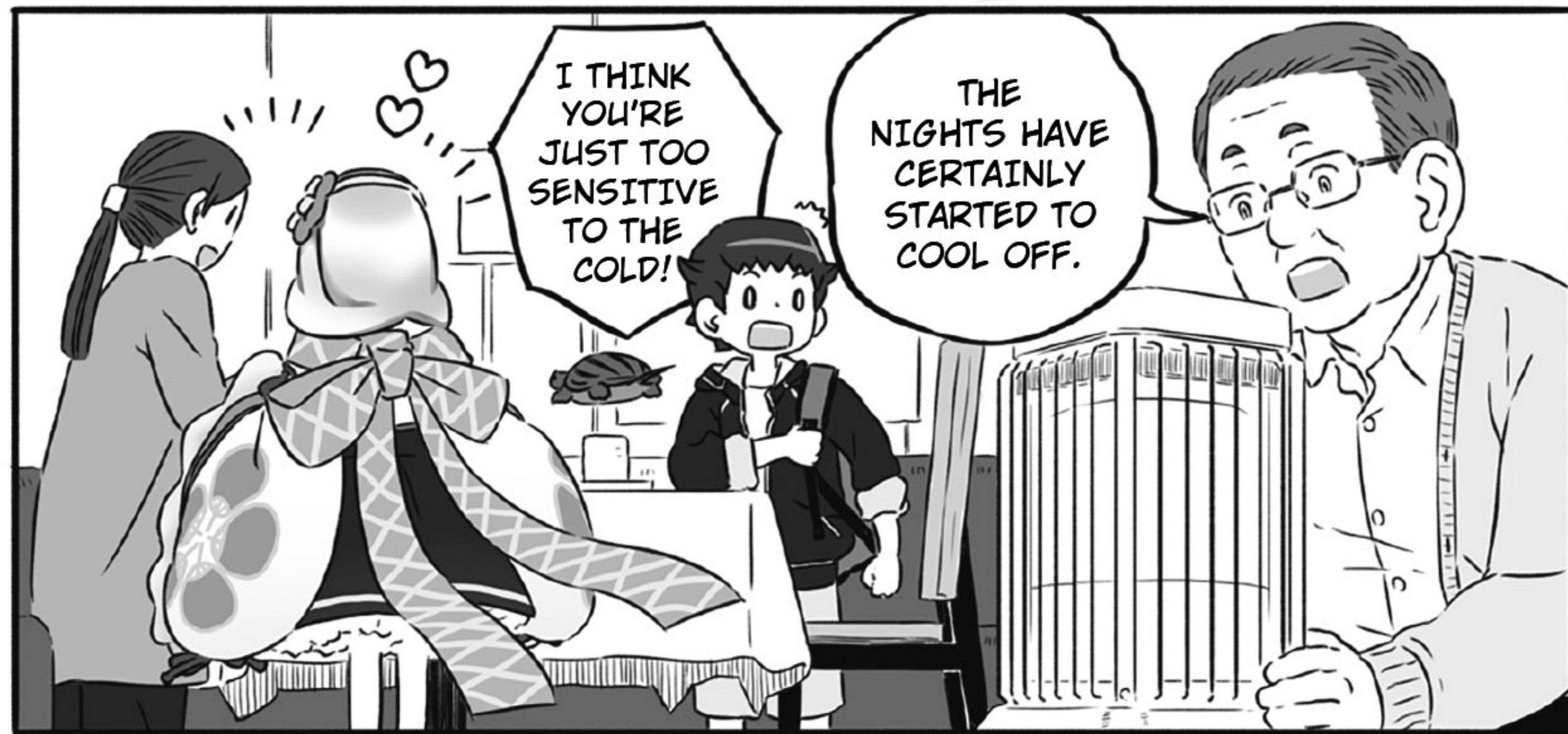
Marugame uchiwas have a history of over 400 years, with their roots tracing back to the round-handled uchiwas of the Edo period. The idea of a flat-handled type was conceived and produced in the Meiji period and soon became just as popular as the round-handled type with production steadily increasing of both. The invention and adoption of machines that could cut and pierce holes into the uchiwas made it so that by the late 1950’s production had peaked and a formidable number of uchiwas were being produced in the local area for use nationwide. (In 1957 the amount shipped was 120 million.) With all parts of the bamboo uchiwa-making process being done by hand, and taking into consideration the productivity required to produce such a number, it is speculated that 10% of the population of around 60,000 of Marugame city at that time was involved in some way in the uchiwa-making process. It can therefore be said in both name and fact that it was the localities number one industry.

**Marugame uchiwas:  
From then  
to now and  
to the future**

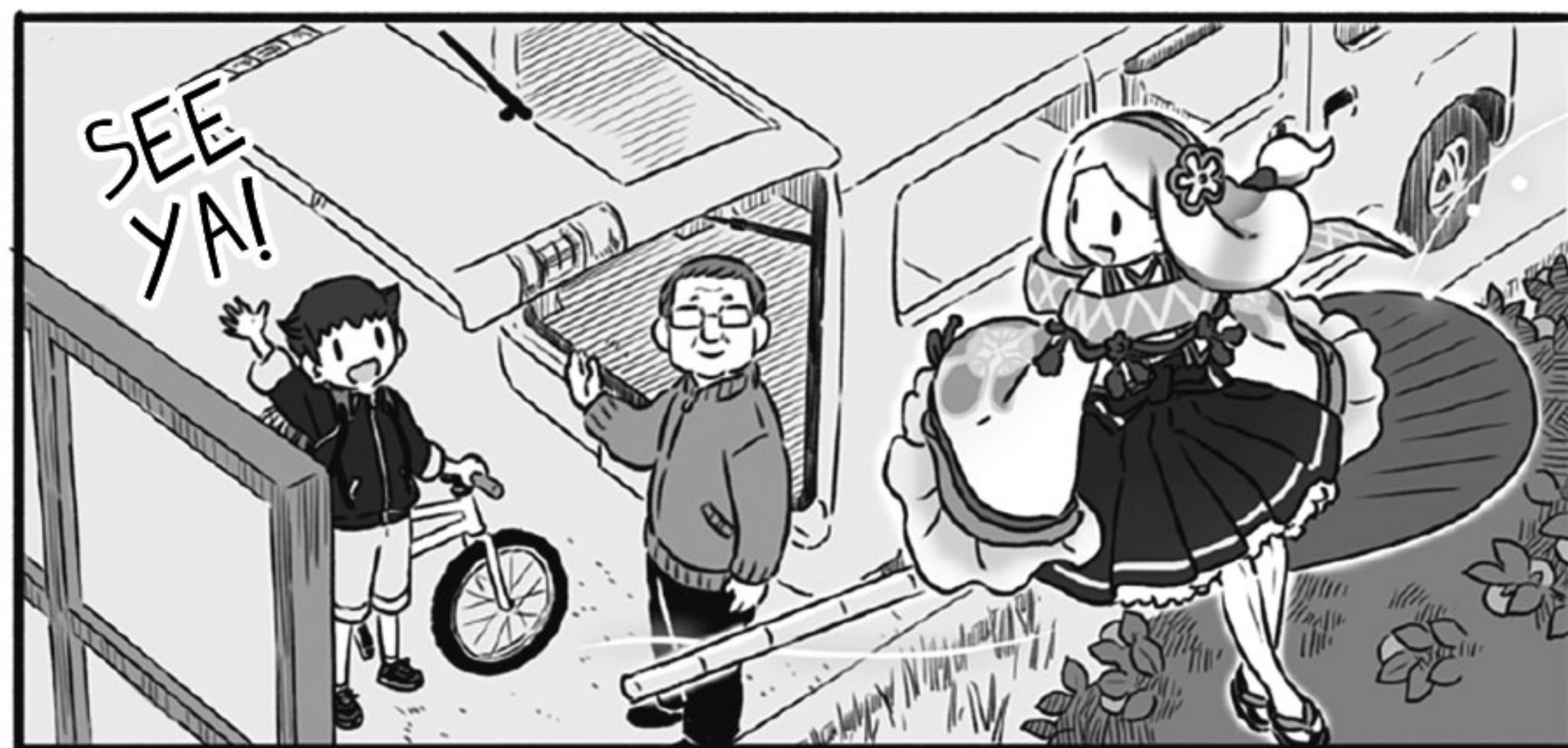
On one hand a period of industrialization was occurring in Japan. However, at almost the same time, gas was beginning to be hooked up in family homes and fans and other cooling appliances had begun to make an appearance. This meant that the trend in demand shifted from “ready-made uchiwas for at home use” to “special order uchiwas for promotional use.” In the past, uchiwa-making would use the summer holiday period as a stopping point and then start up again sometime in October. The makers would then take the uchiwas they had made in the previous season that were adorned with ready-made patterns and apply that year’s message through an additional layer of printing. This was the general way of meeting the next season’s demand. However, in the case of special order uchiwas, work can’t even begin until the prototype is in hand and thus the makers would inevitably face a suddenly busy period where all workers would need to work intensely for a short period of time in order to meet the demand. This in itself became a problem and caused the business to experience a shortage of craftsman it had not seen in the past. To begin with, the industry had been trying to find a solution to the problem of the number of craftsmen needed to undertake the step-by-step creation of uchiwas, the proficiency required in those craftsmen, and how to increase production to meet the customer’s demand. In 1963, at the end of a long period of trial and error in the industry, the use of “plastic skeletons” in uchiwas, otherwise known as a plastic base, was implemented and the problem of not having enough craftsmen in the industry was alleviated for the time being.

The field of “special order” uchiwas expanded even more in the mid 1980’s and with it the industry noticed a shift in the market from the manufacturing model of “local small lot long-term distribution” to a “national mass produced short-term distribution” model. Uchiwa makers decided to take the plunge into using machines to assemble plastic uchiwas, which resulted in an unbelievable difference in the amount of uchiwas able to be mass produced in a short time. You could say this was the historical moment when Marugame uchiwas - made by craftsmen launched itself into the new category of Marugame plastic uchiwas – the industrial product. Now, while this may be a unique circumstance, it was actually the overwhelming power of the machine-made plastic uchiwas that supported the continued production of hand-made uchiwas. In recent years, there had been a lot of praise for these plastic uchiwas which were considered to be “useful everyday goods that can be used immediately in a time of emergency” and this in turn had the effect of providing a valuable experience to those working in the industry.







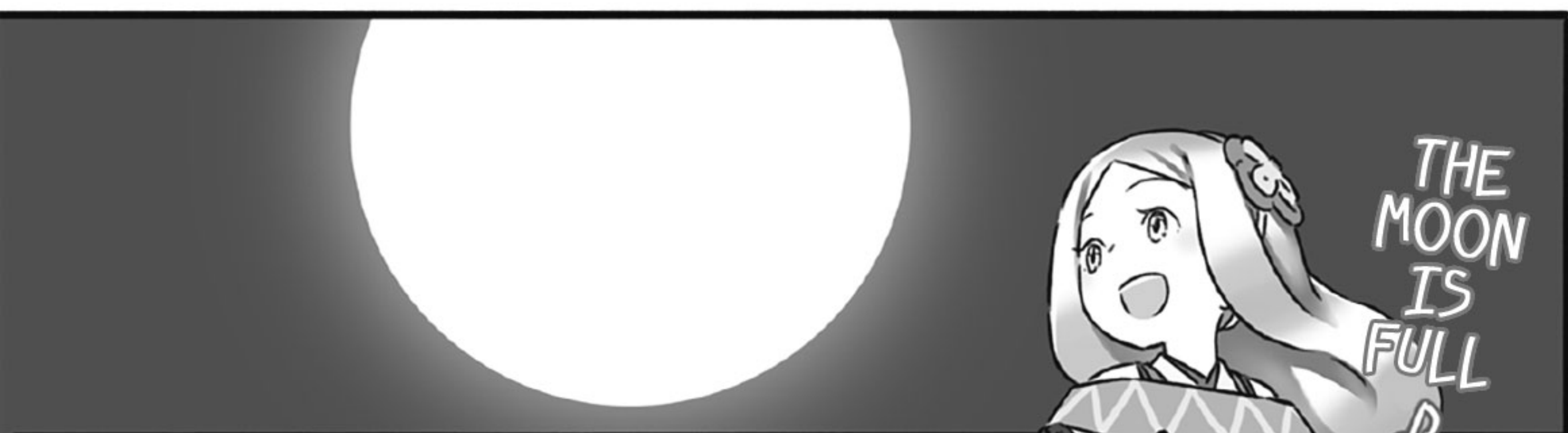


SEE YA!



I'M GOING TO GO STAY UP IN THE MOUNTAINS TONIGHT WITH SOME CATS.

MAKE SURE YOU STAY WARM.



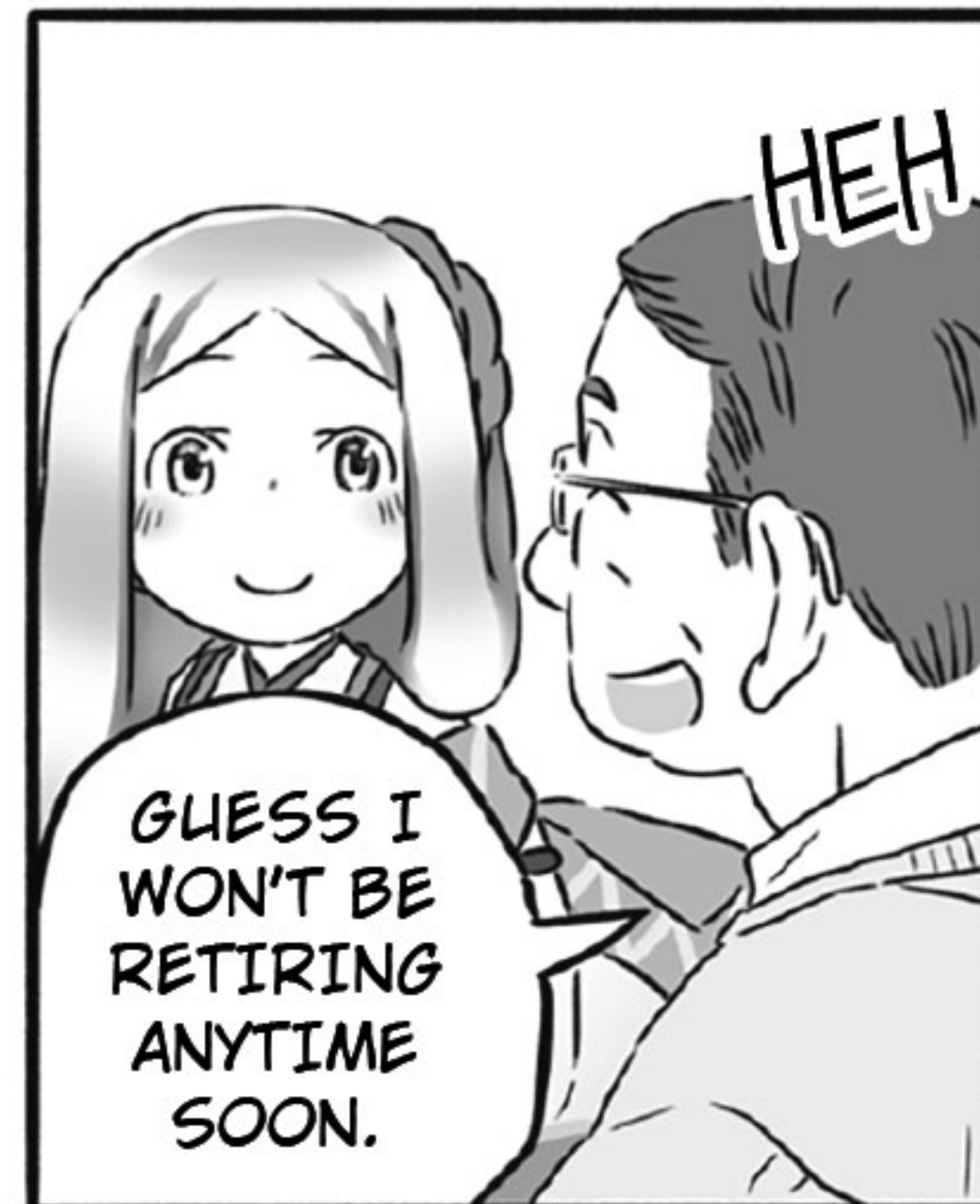
THE MOON IS FULL



TO DELIVER A BLESSED WIND TO EVERYONE FROM HERE ON OUT...

I'LL DO MY BEST

The End



HEH

GUESS I WON'T BE RETIRING ANYTIME SOON.



EVERYONE WAS IN QUITE THE PANIC WHEN I STOPPED BY THE FACTORY THE OTHER DAY.

THE PLASTIC UCHIWA SIDE IS GETTING LOTS OF URGENT ORDERS AS WELL.



I'M GOING TO JOIN THE UDONS TEAM AND BECOME A FORWARD ON JAPAN'S INTERNATIONAL TEAM.

I AM GOING TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER!

SORRY, BUT

HEY HAYATO, HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING AN UCHIWA MAKER YOURSELF?

THAT MEANS YOU HAVE THE SAME QUALITIES AS YOUR GRANDPA.

I MEAN YOU DID SEE RURU RIGHT AWAY

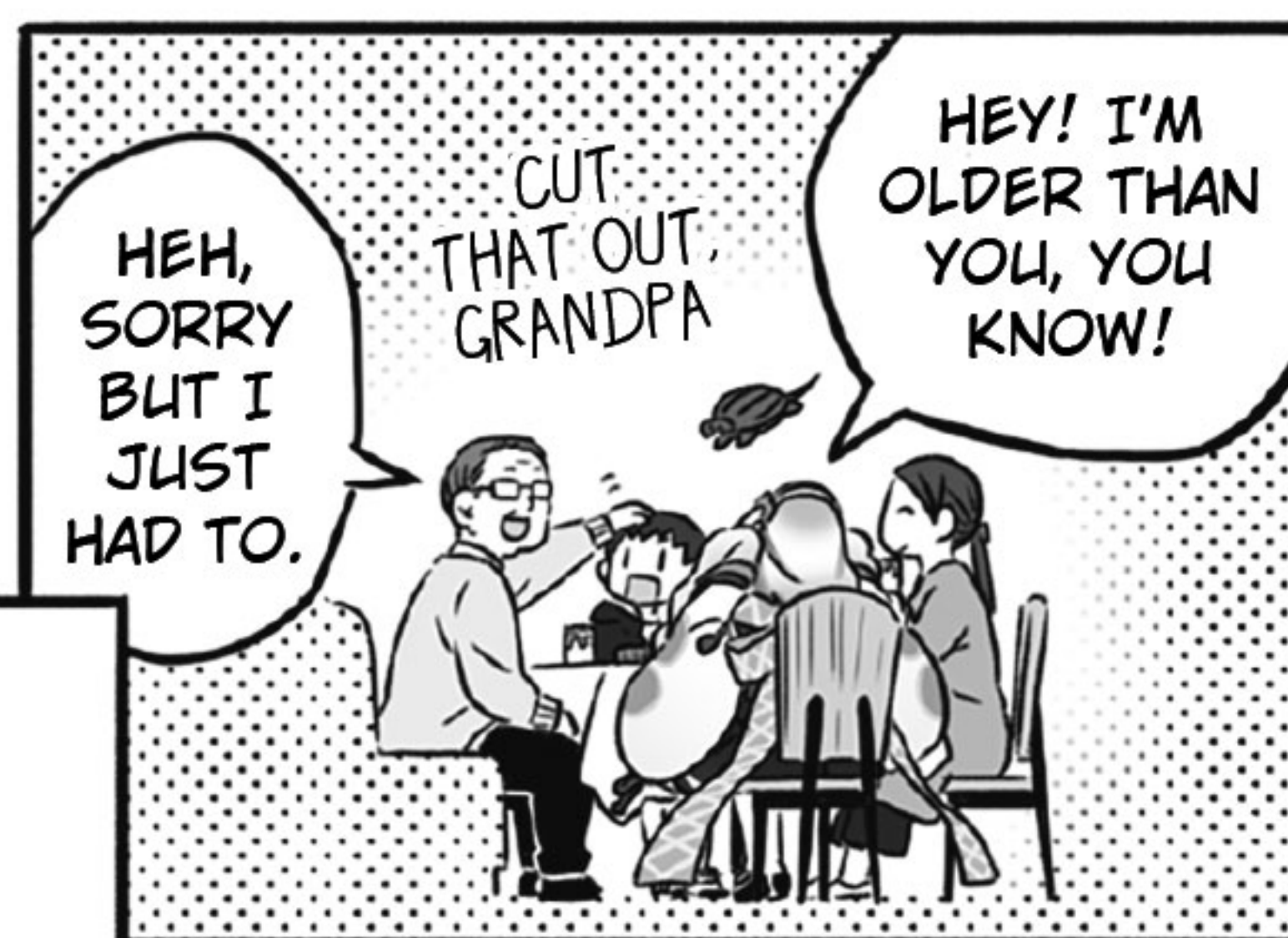


THAT'S STILL A LONG TIME COMING, RURUKA!

BUT I CAN'T WAIT!



AND THEN YOU'LL PLAY MATCHES OVERSEAS!



HEH, SORRY BUT I JUST HAD TO.

CUT THAT OUT, GRANDPA

HEY! I'M OLDER THAN YOU, YOU KNOW!



PAT PAT



I'LL COME ALONG TO CHEER FOR YOU!





Marugame City Homepage

Marugame City Industrial Tourism Desk

Marugame General Tourism Association

<https://www.city.marugame.lg.jp/>  
TEL 0877-23-2111

TEL 0877-24-8844

<http://www.love-marugame.jp/>  
TEL 0877-22-0331

# Map of Related Facilities



The story you just read models its scenes on several different places in Marugame City. Let's take a look at them on the map!



## Marugame Castle

**Ruruka loves flying around the castle!**

With a height of 66m castle on the top of the mountain plateau, located in Kameyama, is also known as Kameyama Castle. Described as a "castle of stone" Marugame Castle is well known as one famous stone castles in Japan. Although erected over 400 years ago, the castles colors have not faded and it lives on even now as a beautiful piece displaying the unique harmony between man and nature.



Location: Kagawa, Marugame, Ichiban-cho  
Tel: 0877-22-0331  
(Marugame Tourism Collective)

Hours:  
Castle Tower: 9:00 ~ 16:30  
(Last entry: 16:00)  
Castle Keep: 9:30 ~ 16:00  
(Closed when raining)



## Uchiwanominato Museum

**Where Ruruka and Hayato first met. It's nearby the sea and right next to the port.**

The history of Marugame uchiwas can be found here through various uchiwas themselves, dioramas of the uchiwa-making process and historical documents on display. And in addition to supporting the Marugame uchiwa industry by hosting a practical demonstration corner that puts on display the rich history, as well as the skill and techniques of the assembly process, this museum displays uchiwas from all around the country as an overall museum of uchiwas.



Location: Marugame, Minatomachi 307-15 Tel: 0877-24-7055  
Hours: 9:30 ~ 17:00 (Last entry: 16:30)  
Closed: Mon. (Tues. following Mon. holiday) Year end / beginning (12/28 ~ 1/3)

## Pikara Stadium (Kagawa Marugame Stadium)

**We call it Pikkari Stadium in the story.**

It is the only location recognized as a Class 1 athletic field by the JAAF. In addition to track and field activities, national and international soccer tournaments are able to be held here. Both lifelong sports and competitive sports can be enjoyed by everyone in this venue.

Location: Kagawa, Marugame, Kanakuracho 830  
Tel: 0877-21-5800  
E-mail: info@marukyou.jp



## Doki River Grounds

**The field where Hayato practiced soccer**

Location: Marugame, Kawanishicho, South Arae

## Mt. Iino

**Where Ruruka and Hayato took their sky stroll. Sometimes called "Sanuki Fuji" by locals.**

Mt. Iino has a height of 422m. It can be climbed from both of the cities it spreads across, Marugame and Sakaide. It is considered a symbol of Marugame and is loved by locals as a beautiful mountain whose features stand out on the Sanuki Plains.







## How to Reach Marugame City



### By Train

- From Tokyo approx.. 4.5 Hours
- From Shin-Osaka approx.. 2 Hours
- From Okayama approx.. 40 Min.
- From Hakata approx.. 2.5 Hours



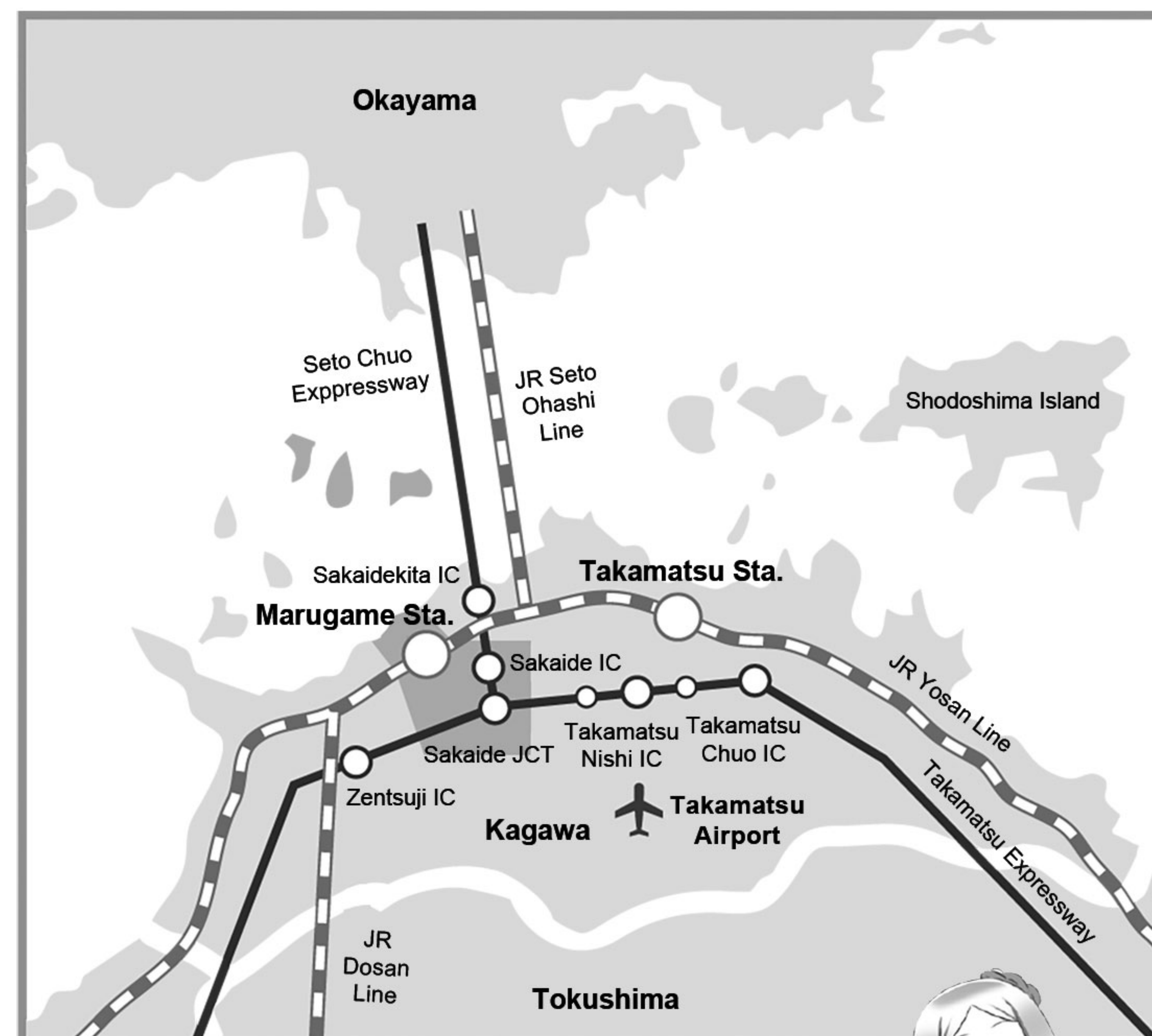
### By Bus

- From Osaka approx.. 4 Hours
- From Kobe approx.. 3 Hours
- From Nagoya approx.. 5 Hours 20 Min.
- From Kochi approx.. 1.5 Hours
- From Matsuyama approx.. 2 Hours



### Takamatsu Airport

- From Tokyo approx.. 1 Hour 10 Min.
  - From Naha approx.. 2 Hours 5 Min.
- From the airport it is around 45 minutes drive on Route 377



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Shioyadansen Business Cooperative

Pikara Stadium

Marugame Castle

Marugame Public Josei Elementary



Ruruka and her uchiwas await you!