

Detective
川口

Criminal
犯人

バス
Bus
トトノウ
Totonou
ナイフ
Knife
カレー
Curry
真実
Truth
父親
Father
鍵
Key
ゴミ
Trash
事実
Fact
別荘
Mansion

DON'T CALL IT MYSTERY

Story & Art by Yumi Tamura

1-2



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Time

Trouble
迷惑

事故
Accident

言葉
Words

事件
Incident

Car

連続殺人
Serial Killer

Jewelry
玉石

Listening
聴取





Lie
嘘

Initials

Will

Mother

Bullet train

Impressionist

Honeybee

Right arm

Donuts

Campage

トロッコ
Truck

Letter
王冠

Secret
秘密

新幹線

母

右腕

ドーナツ

暴



Licket
チケット
Balloon
風船
Amulet
お守り
Kyoto
京都

Victim
善者
Bus station

Straight hand
直毛
Garbage can

ゴミ箱

Wedding
結婚式

Left hand
左利き

DON'T CALL IT MYSTERY

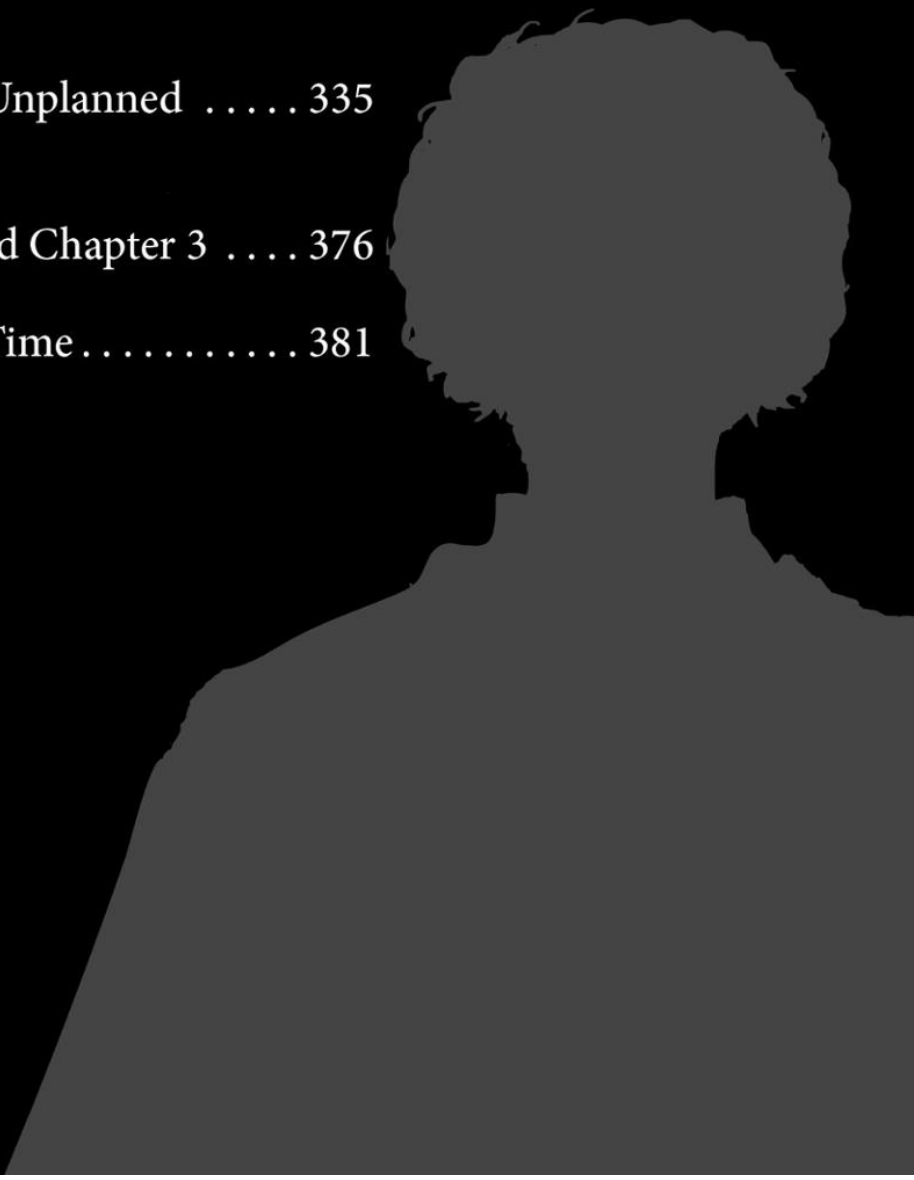
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CONTENTS

Chapter 1: A Single Suspect	7
Chapter 2 (Part 1): Conversation with a Criminal	87
Omake: Tamu Tamu Time	188
Chapter 2 (Part 2): Conversation with a Criminal	191
Chapter 3: A Passing Train	295
Chapter 4: The Planned and the Unplanned	335
[Behind the Curtain] Between Chapter 2 and Chapter 3	376
Omake: Tamu Tamu Time	381



Chapter 1:
A Single
Suspect

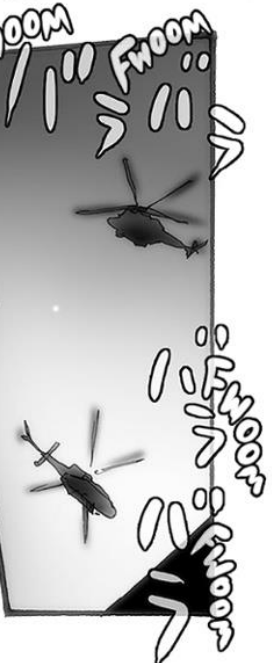




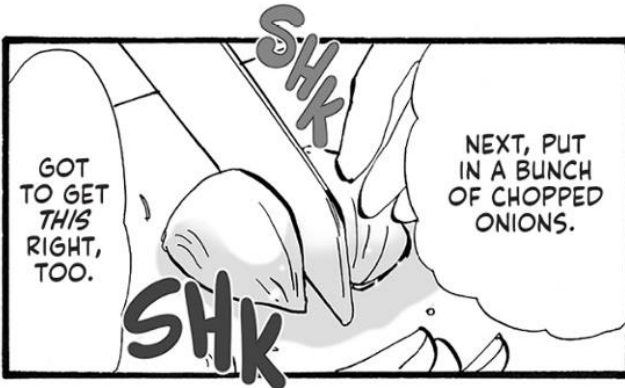
NOT QUITE EARLY MORNING ANYMORE, THOUGH.

"WINTER'S BEAUTY PEAKS IN EARLY MORNING."*

YEP.
THIS IS PERFECT CURRY WEATHER.

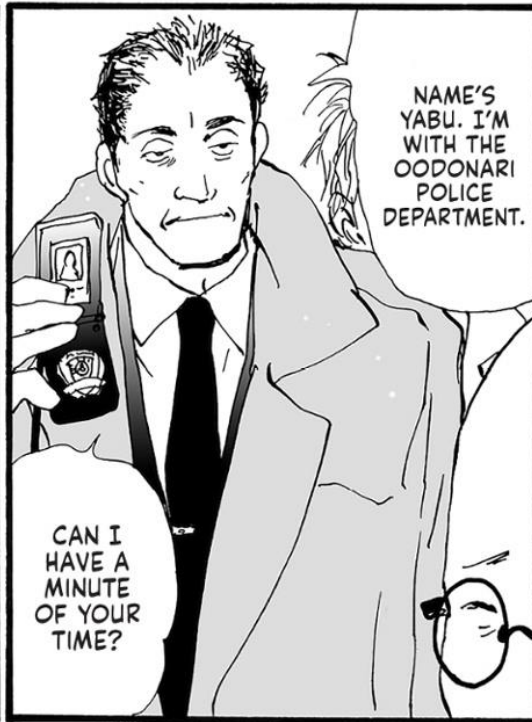


*From The Pillow Book by Sei Shonagon.



*Ground meat cutlet.





*The Japanese characters that make up Kunou's first name can be read in several different ways.





SAGAE?

HE GOES...

TO MY UNIVERSITY.



A BODY WAS DISCOVERED AT THE PARK NEARBY.

YOU KNOW HIM, RIGHT?

SAGAE KEN.



DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

HM...

I DID NOTICE THE RUCKUS THIS MORNING.



JUST COME WITH ME, WILL YOU?

WHY? I BARELY EVEN KNOW HIM.

AND I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.



I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE STATION?

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO SURPRISED BY HIS FATE.



SIGH!
How disappointing.

Click



OKAY. JUST A SEC.

I HAVE TO TURN OFF THE STOVE.



I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.

WHERE WERE YOU AT 10 P.M. LAST NIGHT?

AND YOU DON'T HAVE ANYONE WHO CAN...

KA-CHAK

CORROBORATE THAT?

NO, SIR.

YOU DIDN'T STEP OUTSIDE AT ALL?

THAT'S HIM.

NOPE.

I WAS THERE ALL NIGHT.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU. AFTER I LEFT CAMPUS, I WENT HOME.

AS HIS FORMER CLASSMATE...

WHAT WAS HE LIKE?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE HIM?

LIKE I SAID, I DON'T KNOW HIM VERY WELL.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO BEFORE?

But yeah, we were in the same class when we were third-years.

WERE CLASSMATES IN HIGH SCHOOL, WEREN'T YOU?

KUNOU-KUN.

YOU AND THE VICTIM...



YOU DON'T HAVE MANY NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HIM.

WAS THERE BAD BLOOD?



HE'S POPULAR AND FLASHY. A REAL PLAYER.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU ACTUALLY KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL.



HIS FATHER IS SOME KIND OF CEO.

HE'S A TRUST FUND KID.

AND HE'S GOT FAMILY TIES TO CONGRESS.

HE GETS A PRETTY GENEROUS ALLOWANCE.



UM...

YOU SAID HE WAS A VICTIM, RIGHT?

SOUNDS LIKE YOU HATED HIS GUTS.



SO, WE REALLY DIDN'T INTERACT MUCH.

He didn't seem interested in getting to know me, either.

I WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN GETTING TO KNOW HIM.



NOW LISTEN HERE, KUNOU-KUN.

★ TAP TAP

WE HAVE A WITNESS.



AND YOU THINK THAT SOMEONE IS ME. HAVE I GOT THAT RIGHT?

LET ME GUESS. SOMEONE MURDERED HIM...



YOU GOT A PRETTY DISTINCTIVE HAIRSTYLE, PAL.

MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE.

THAT'S WHY WE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME KNOCKING ON YOUR DOOR.



THEY SAY...

ARGUING AT THE VERY SAME PARK WHERE... HIS BODY WAS LEFT.

THEY SAW YOU AND SAGAE-KUN...



BY THE WAY...

KNOW THIS WITNESS WELL?

DO YOU ALL...



I'M SURPRISED YOUR WITNESS COULD SEE THAT MUCH.

WHAT WERE THEY DOING THERE? WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES DID THEY SAY I WAS WEARING?

WAS THIS AT SAIGOU-ZAKA PARK?

IT GETS PRETTY DARK THERE AT NIGHT.



I HAD A TWIN BROTHER? WHAT IF...

NO.

DO YOU?



WE'RE BOTH STRANGERS, AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED.

SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT, THEN.



OF COURSE NOT.

THE WITNESS IS JUST A GOOD SAMARITAN.

HUH?

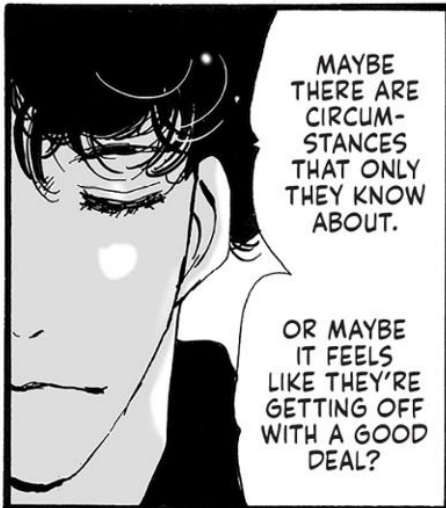


WHY DO YOU THINK...

THAT I'M THE ONE WHO'S LYING?

SO, WHY IS IT...

THAT YOU BELIEVE *THEY'RE* TELLING THE TRUTH?



MAYBE THERE ARE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ONLY THEY KNOW ABOUT.

OR MAYBE IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING OFF WITH A GOOD DEAL?



MAYBE THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN...

AND LYING ABOUT THE MURDER?

BY COMING FORWARD AS A WITNESS...



What a smart-ass!

WHOA! HE SURE HAS A WAY WITH WORDS!



FOR SOMETHING I DIDN'T DO.

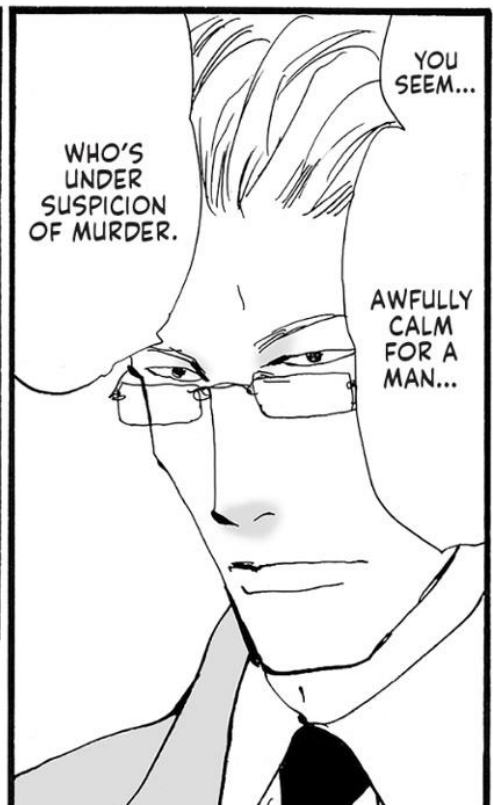
THAT I THINK YOU'RE SO FOOLISH YOU'D LOCK ME AWAY...

I KNOW I'M INNOCENT.

AND I DON'T HAVE SUCH A POOR OPINION OF THE POLICE...



THAT'S BECAUSE I'M NOT GUILTY OF ANYTHING.



YOU SEEM...

WHO'S UNDER SUSPICION OF MURDER.

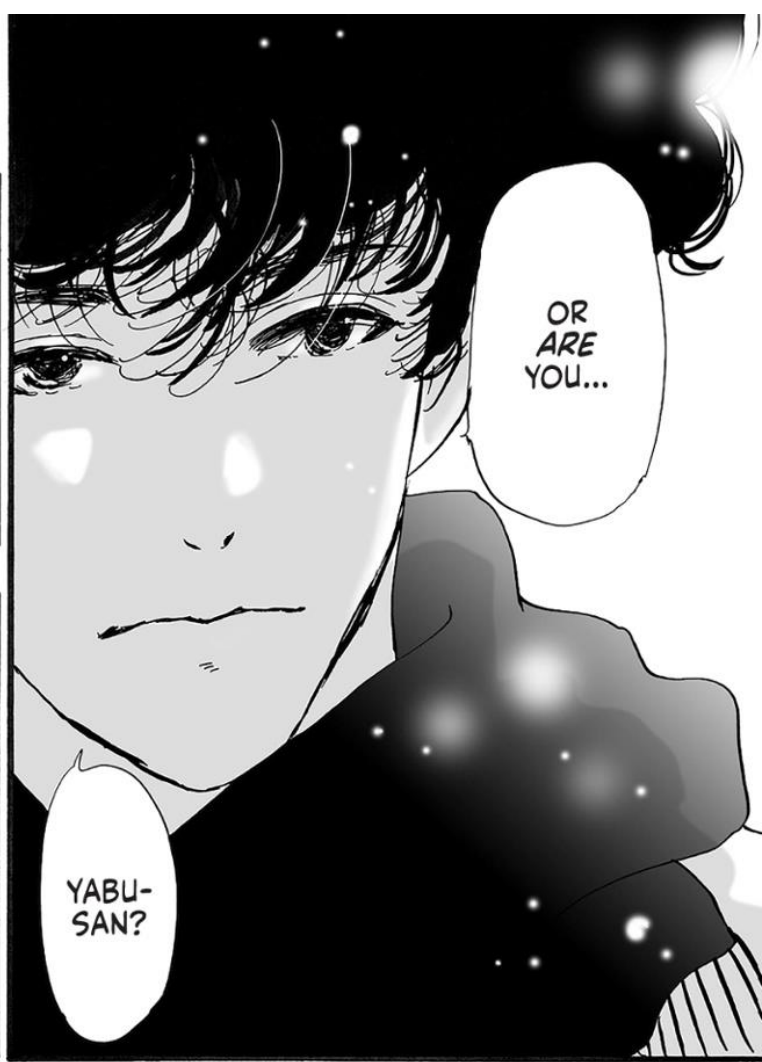
AWFULLY CALM FOR A MAN...



I'M AOTO.

EXCUSE ME, WHO ARE YOU?

I'D ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION, AOTO.



OR ARE YOU...

YABU-SAN?



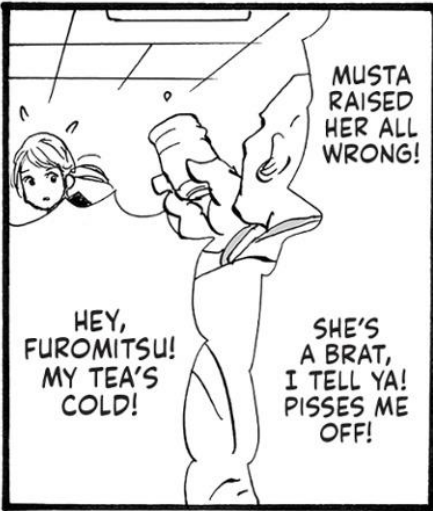
SORRY, PAL.

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!

WHOA! THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS!

BUT YOU NEED TO COME IN AGAIN TOMORROW.

HUH?



MUSTA RAISED HER ALL WRONG!

HEY, FUROMITSU! MY TEA'S COLD!

SHE'S A BRAT, I TELL YA! PISSES ME OFF!



I SPOILED MY GIRL ROTTEN...

AND SHE STILL COMPLAINS THAT I'M SMELLY AND ANNOYING!

WELL, YOU'D BETTER HOPE IT'S NOT A GIRL.



OH, COME ON.

KIDS THESE DAYS, AM I RIGHT?

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, IKEMOTO.



I'm gonna sell you to a bathhouse!

Whoa! That's sexual harassment!

I'M SORRY!

NOW YOU LISTEN HERE! DON'T THINK YOU CAN WALTZ IN LATE JUST 'CAUSE YOUR PET DIED!

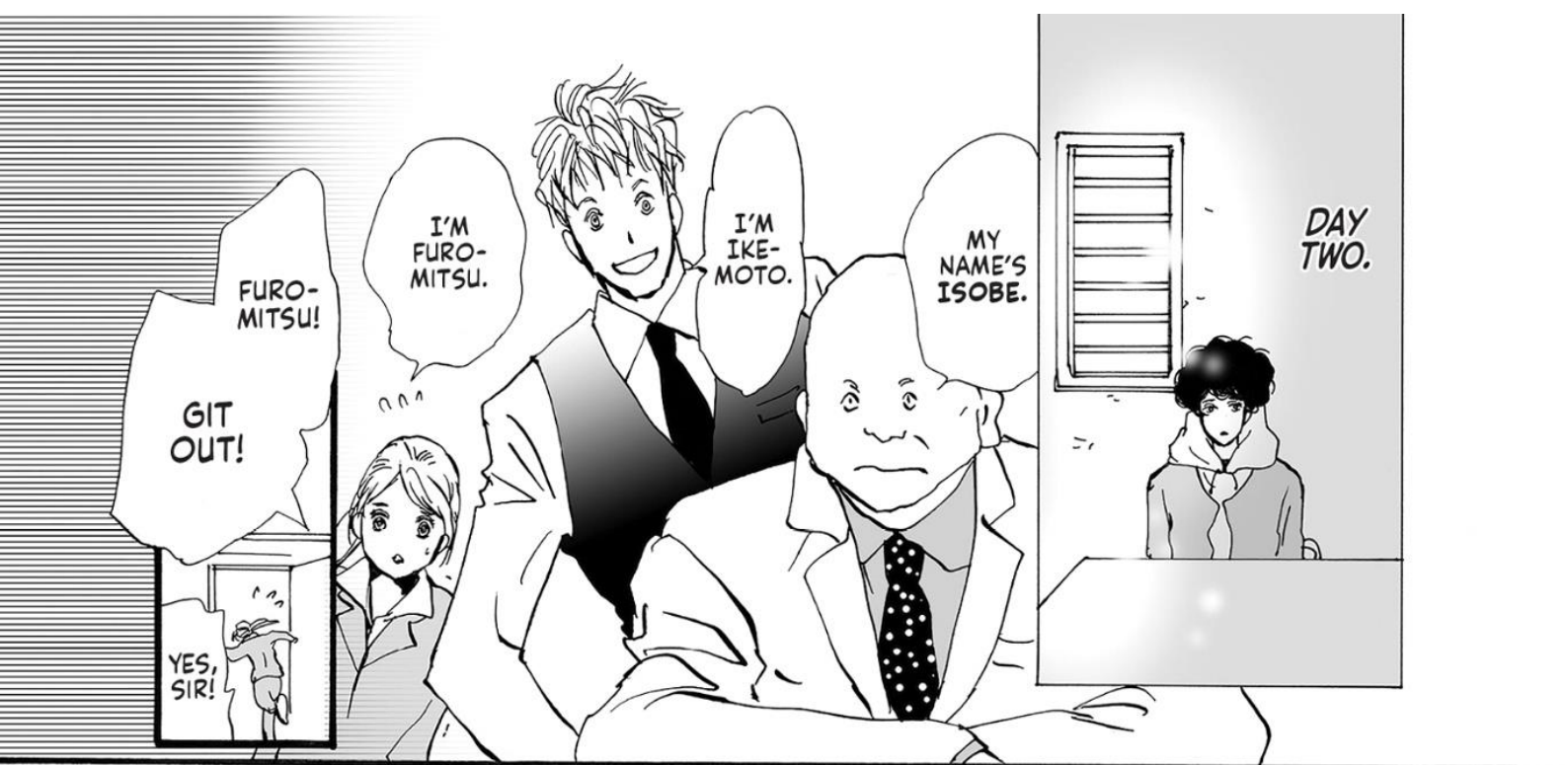
WHAT?!

HEY. YOU A BRAT, TOO?

DON'T KNOW.

BOY OR A GIRL?

HEY! I'M GONNA BE A DAD NEXT YEAR, OKAY?



FURO-MITSU!

I'M FURO-MITSU.

I'M IKE-MOTO.

MY NAME'S ISOBE.

DAY TWO.

GIT OUT!

YES, SIR!



DID YOU RAISE YOUR DAUGHTER WITH LOVE?



HUH?



ARE YOU A DOTING FATHER?

SO, UH, LEMME ASK YOU AGAIN.

WHERE WERE YOU AT 10 P.M. ON THE ELEVENTH?



DOES THAT MAKE YOU ANGRY?



BUT SHE SAYS YOU'RE DIRTY AND SMELLY...

AND DEMANDS THAT HER LAUNDRY AND YOURS ARE DONE SEPARATELY, RIGHT?



HE GOES TO ALL HER PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS AND GRADUATION CEREMONIES.

Imagine seeing his ugly mug in the crowd!

HE'S ACTUALLY A TOTAL SOFTIE!

OH MAN, YOU READ HIM LIKE A BOOK!

WHAT THE...?

HE'S BASICALLY THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF YABU-SAN!

That's why he never gets promotions.



IT'S JUST ANIMAL INSTINCT.



YOUR DAUGHTER'S FAULT, THOUGH.

IT'S NOT...

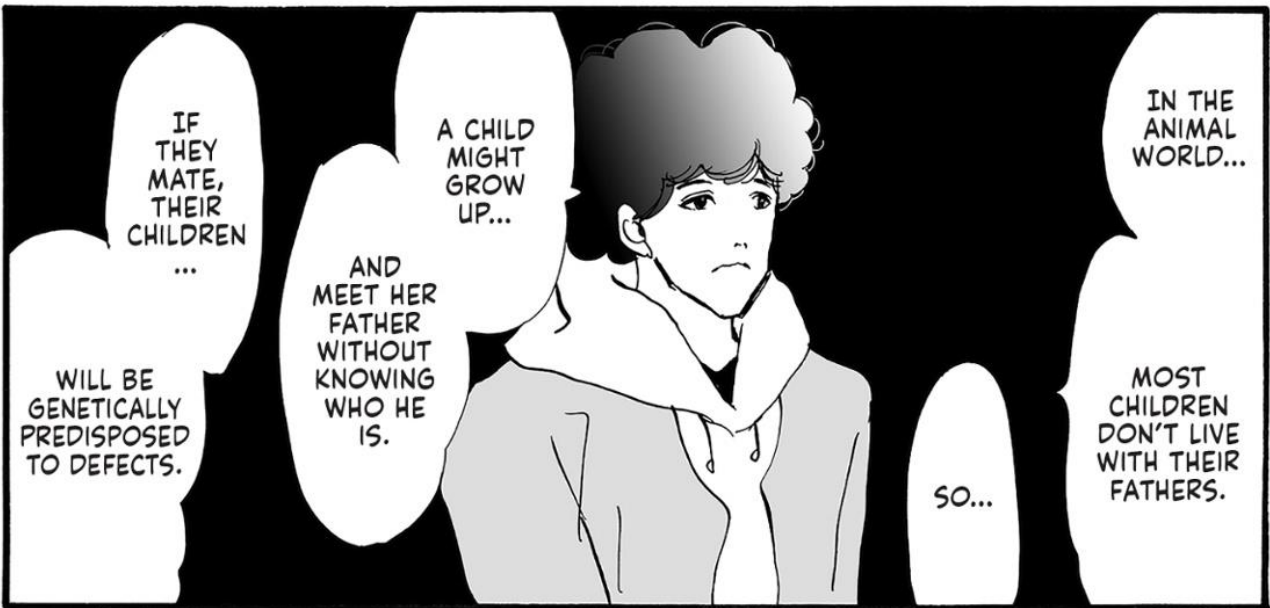


HEY.

YOU TRYIN' ...

TO DODGE MY QUESTION?

**OTOBE KATSUNORI,
POLICE OFFICER.**



IF THEY MATE, THEIR CHILDREN ...

WILL BE GENETICALLY PREDISPOSED TO DEFECTS.

A CHILD MIGHT GROW UP...

AND MEET HER FATHER WITHOUT KNOWING WHO HE IS.

IN THE ANIMAL WORLD...

MOST CHILDREN DON'T LIVE WITH THEIR FATHERS.

SO...



THAT'S WHY SHE ACTS OUT.

IS GETTING THE MESSAGE, "DON'T MATE WITH HIM."

BIO-LOGICALLY, YOUR DAUGHTER ...

THAT'S WHY THEIR GENES...

SEND OUT A WARNING SIGNAL.



YOU'VE RAISED HER WELL.

YOU SAID THAT YOU MUST HAVE RAISED HER WRONG.

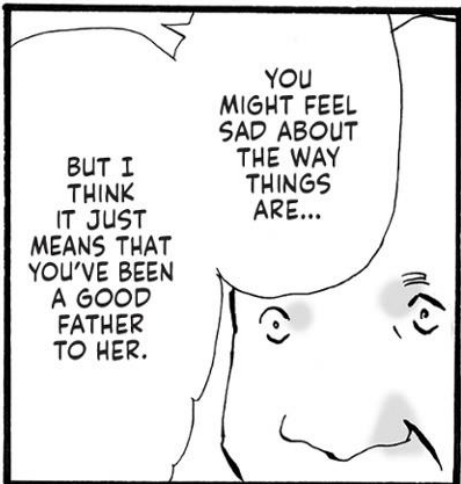
BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE.



OR BECAUSE YOU REALLY DO STINK.

IT'S NOT BECAUSE SHE'S A BRAT.

SOME-TIMES HE DOES, THOUGH.



BUT I THINK IT JUST MEANS THAT YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD FATHER TO HER.

YOU MIGHT FEEL SAD ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE...



IT'S THE SAME WITH MAMA'S BOYS.

SHE'D BE WISHING SHE COULD MARRY YOU.

IF YOU'D FAILED HER AS A FATHER...

SHE'D BE A DADDY'S GIRL, CLINGING TO YOU EVEN INTO ADULTHOOD.

AND...

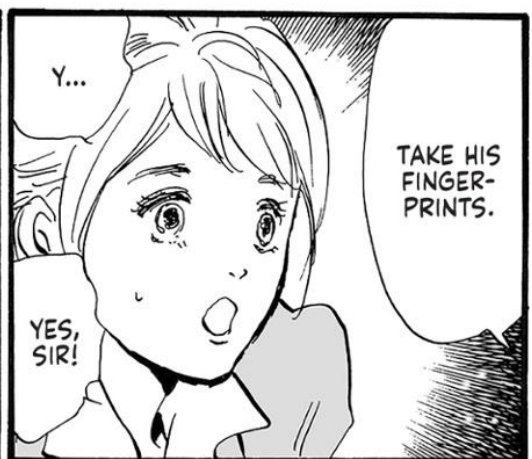
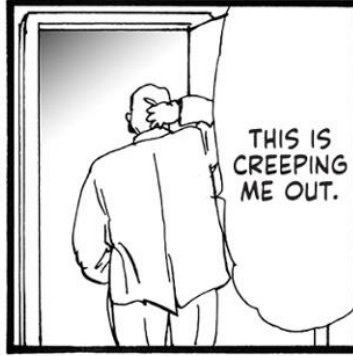


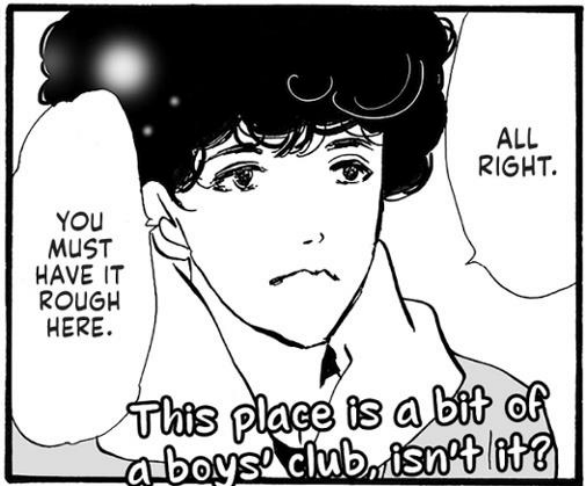
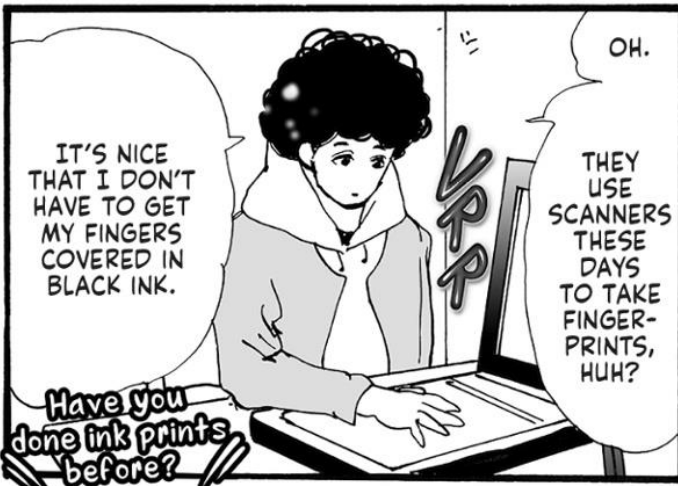
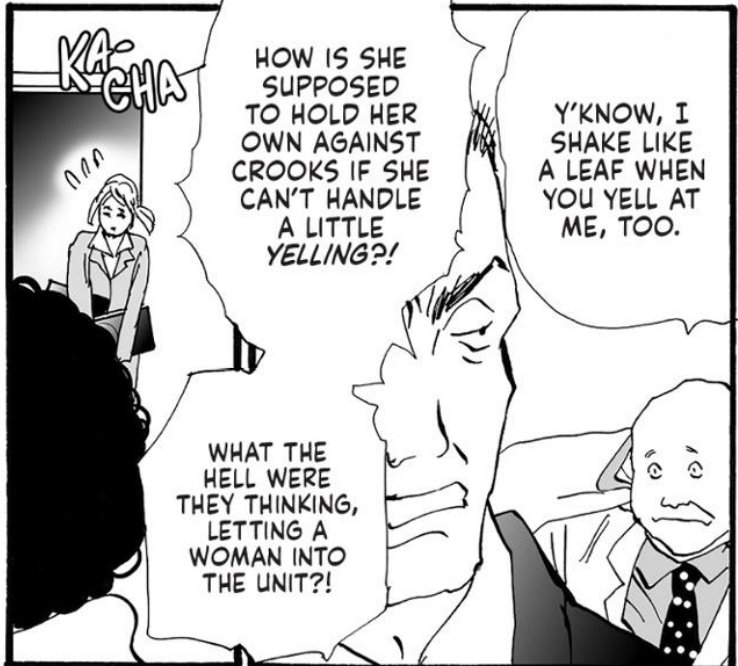
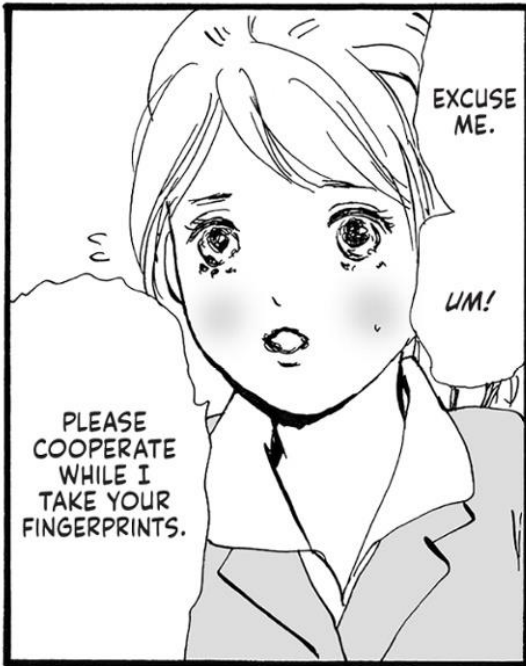
IN FACT, THANKS TO YOU, SHE'S GOING TO GROW UP TO BE A FINE YOUNG WOMAN.

SO, IT'S NOT THAT YOU DID A POOR JOB RAISING HER.

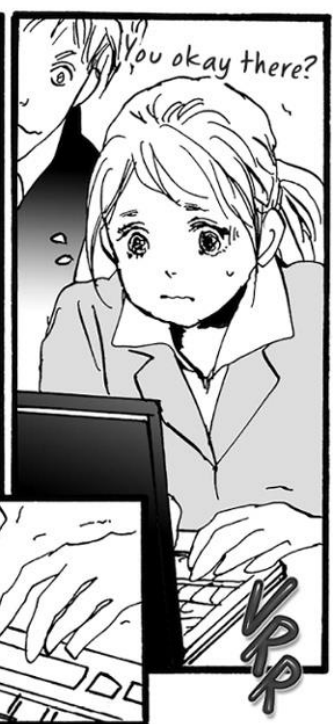
I THINK...

THAT'S WONDERFUL.





FUROMITSU SEIKO, POLICE OFFICER.





YOU'D BEEN TRYING TO NURSE IT BACK TO HEALTH...

IT PASSED AWAY, RIGHT?

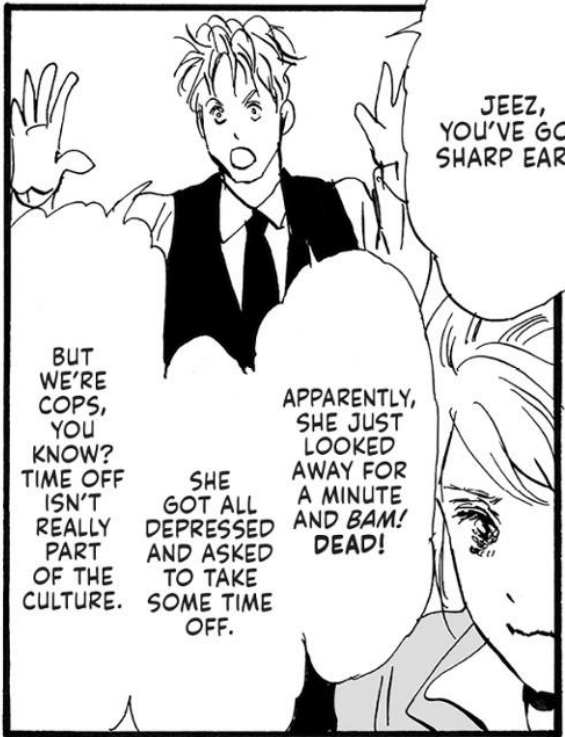
BUT THE SECOND YOU LOOKED AWAY...



WASN'T EVEN THERE WHEN HIS WIFE AND KID DIED...

I MEAN, YABU-SAN...

WAS IT A CAT?



JEEZ, YOU'VE GOT SHARP EARS!

BUT WE'RE COPS, YOU KNOW? TIME OFF ISN'T REALLY PART OF THE CULTURE.

SHE GOT ALL DEPRESSED AND ASKED TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF.

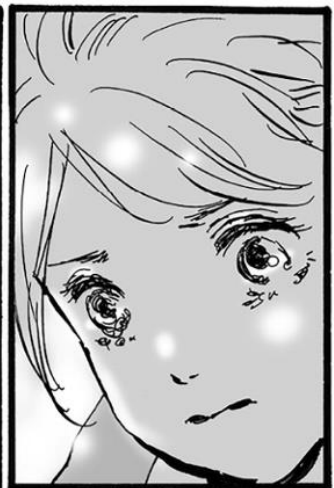
APPARENTLY, SHE JUST LOOKED AWAY FOR A MINUTE AND BAM! DEAD!



YOUR CAT...

JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU...

TO WATCH IT DIE.



THAT'S...

PRETTY PAR FOR THE COURSE WITH CATS, YOU KNOW.



CATS...

ARE VERY PRIVATE CREATURES.



WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE BY HER SIDE.

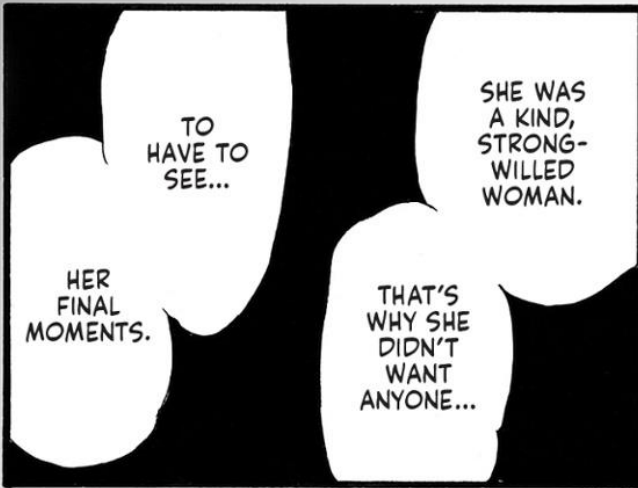
CATS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES THAT DO THAT, ACTUALLY.

WHEN MY GRAND-MOTHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE...



YOUR CAT DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE IT PASS AWAY...

BECAUSE IT LOVED YOU.



TO HAVE TO SEE...

HER FINAL MOMENTS.

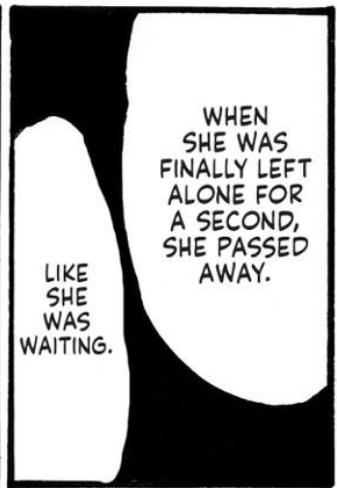
SHE WAS A KIND, STRONG-WILLED WOMAN.

THAT'S WHY SHE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE...



MOM WAS DEVA-STATED...

BUT I THINK THAT'S HOW MY GRAND-MOTHER WANTED TO GO.



WHEN SHE WAS FINALLY LEFT ALONE FOR A SECOND, SHE PASSED AWAY.

LIKE SHE WAS WAITING.



HELD ONTO THAT AS A POINT OF PRIDE.

I THINK THAT BOTH...

AND MY GRAND-MOTHER...

YOUR CAT...