



THIS  
IS  
KURÔZU-  
CHO,  
WHERE  
I GREW  
UP,

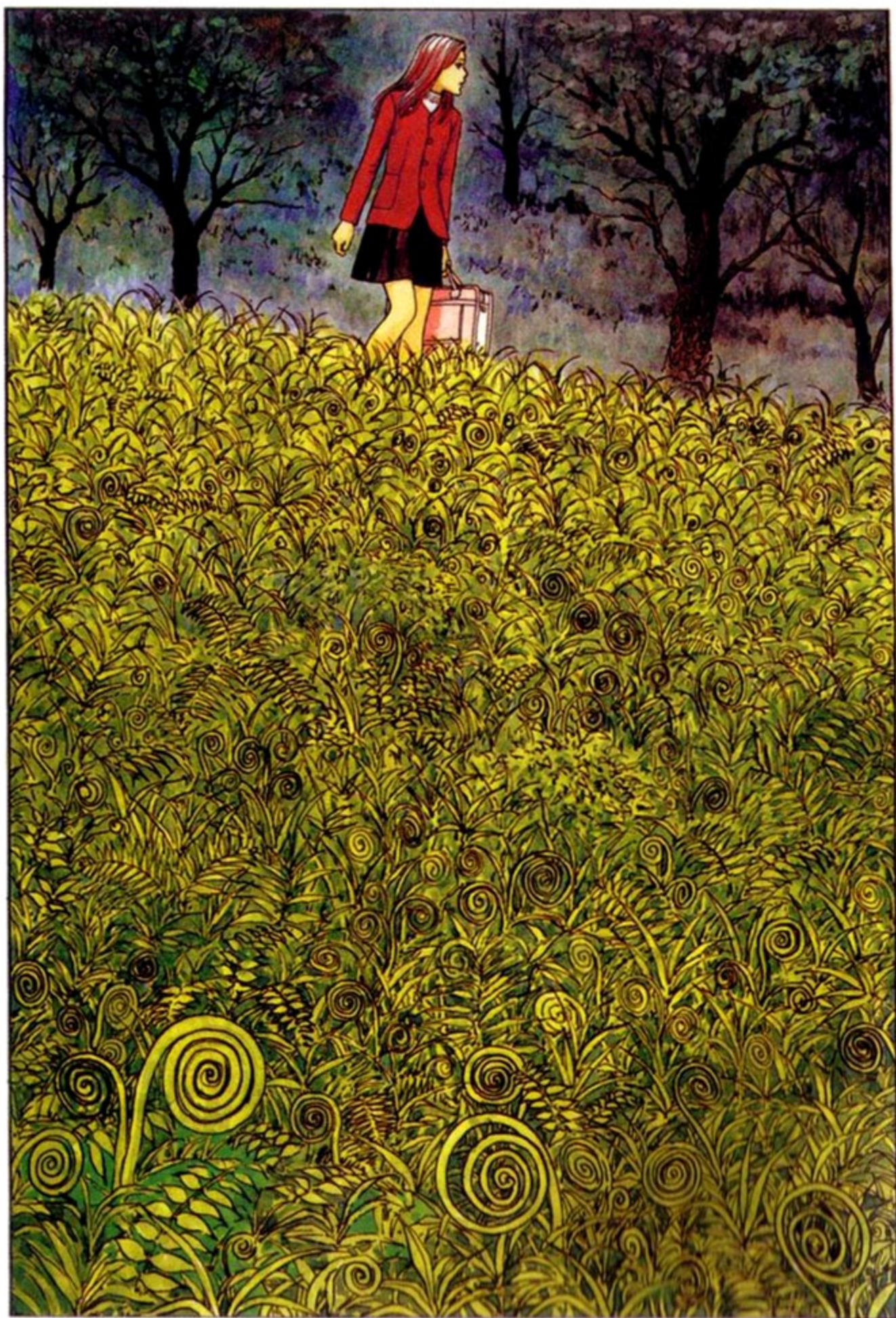
I  
WOULD  
LIKE  
TO  
SHARE  
WITH  
YOU...



CHAPTER

# 1 THE MURDER MYSTERY

...THE  
STRANGE  
EVENTS  
THAT  
TOOK  
PLACE  
HERE.





# UZUMAKI

by Junji Ito



# UZUMAKI VOL. 1

This graphic novel contains the UZUMAKI installments originally published in PULP Vol. 5, No. 2 through Vol. 5, No. 7.

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BANANA FISH VOL. 4  
BANANA FISH VOL. 5

BLACK & WHITE VOL. 1  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 2  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 3

DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 2  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 3  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 4

STRAIN VOL. 1  
STRAIN VOL. 2  
STRAIN VOL. 3  
STRAIN VOL. 4  
STRAIN VOL. 5

UZUMAKI VOL. 1

VOYEUR  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 1  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 2

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MY  
NAME  
IS  
KIRIE  
GOSHIMA.

I ATTEND  
KURÖZU  
HIGH SCHOOL  
LOCATED  
HALFWAY  
UP THE  
MOUNTAIN  
OVERLOOKING  
OUR  
TOWN.

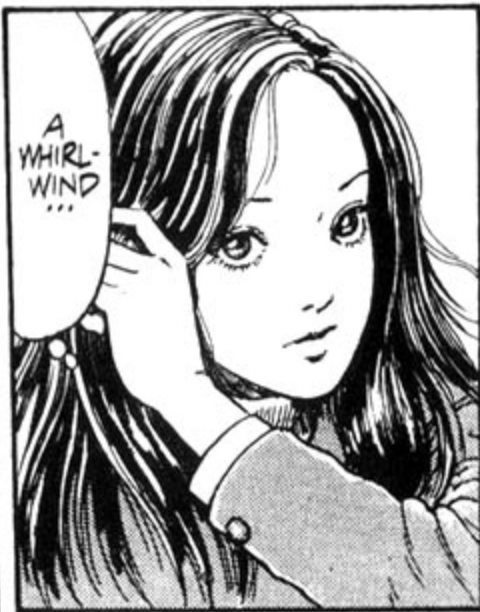


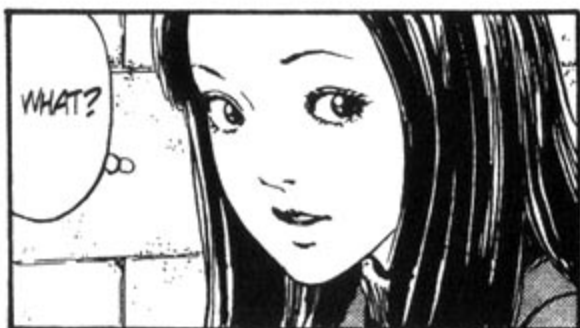
I LIVE  
WITH MY  
FATHER WHO  
IS A  
POTTER, MY  
MOTHER AND  
MY YOUNGER  
BROTHER...

...IN  
THE  
CENTRAL  
DISTRICT  
OF  
THE  
TOWN.

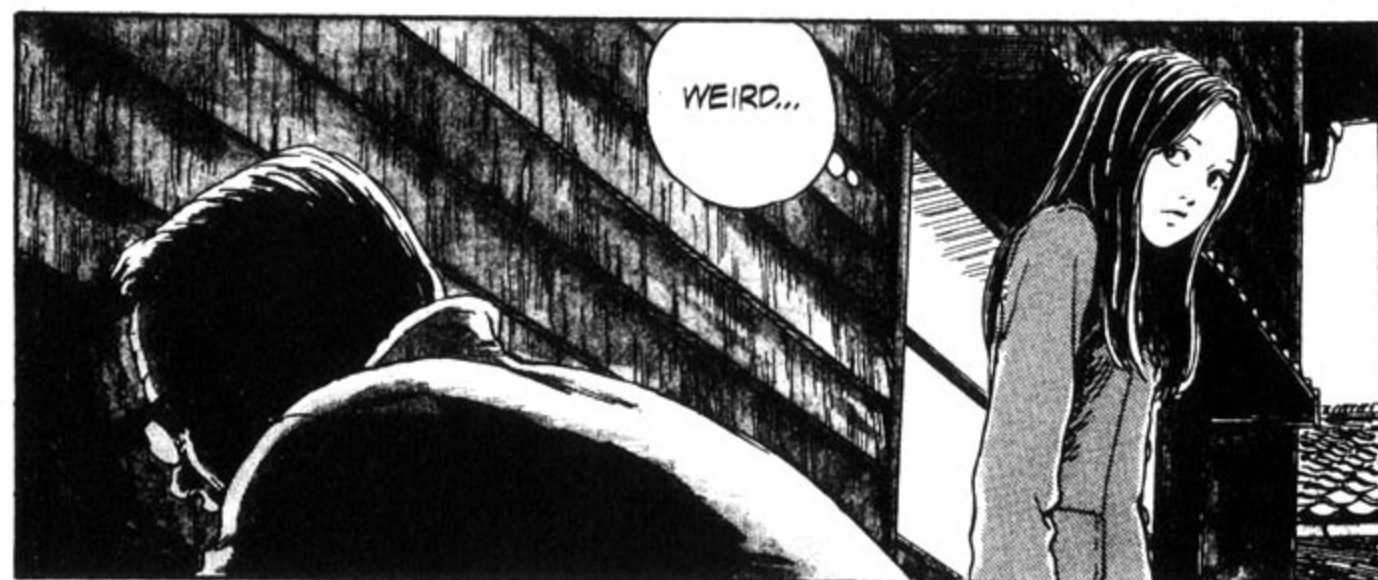
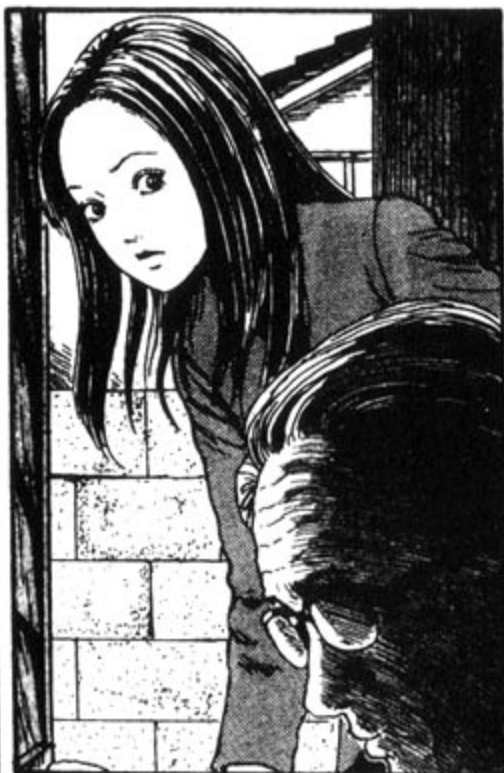


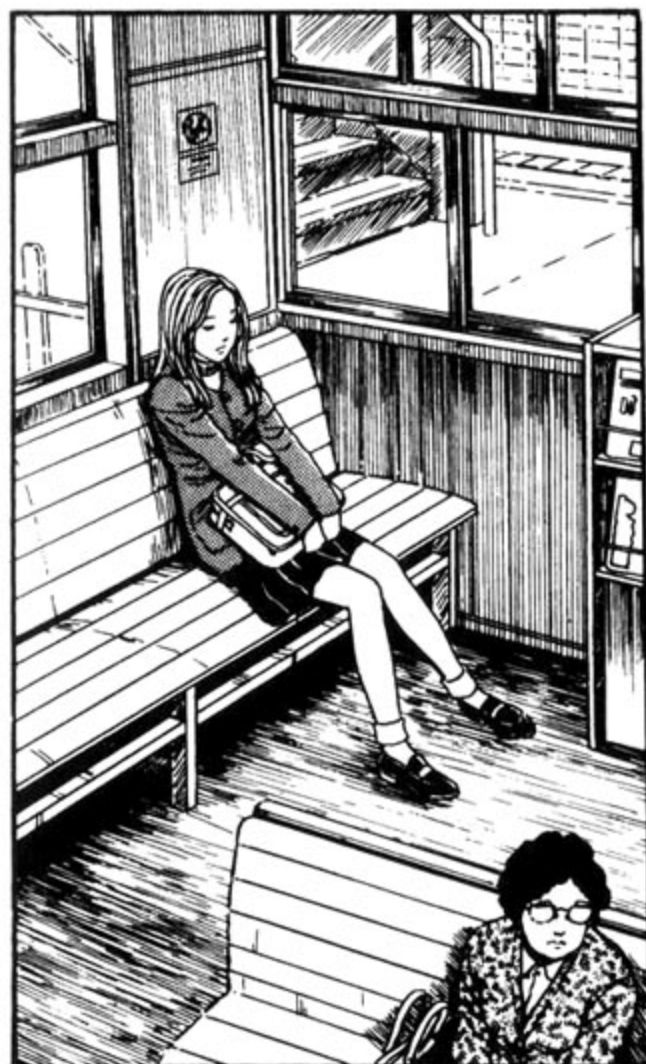
OH NO...  
I'M LATE!  
I MIGHT  
MISS  
SHUICHI  
AT THE  
STATION!

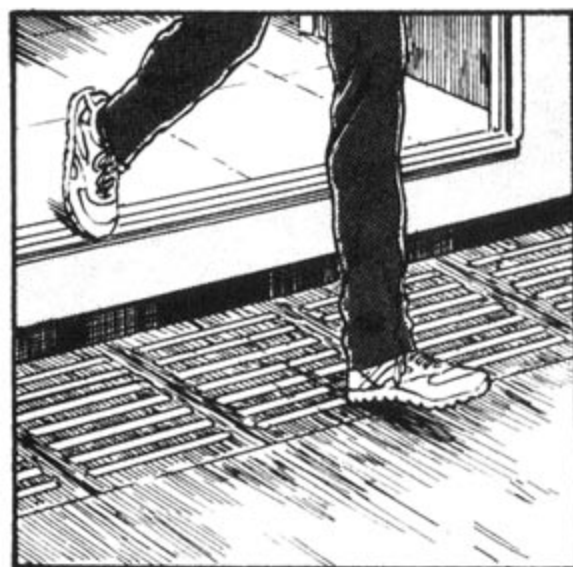


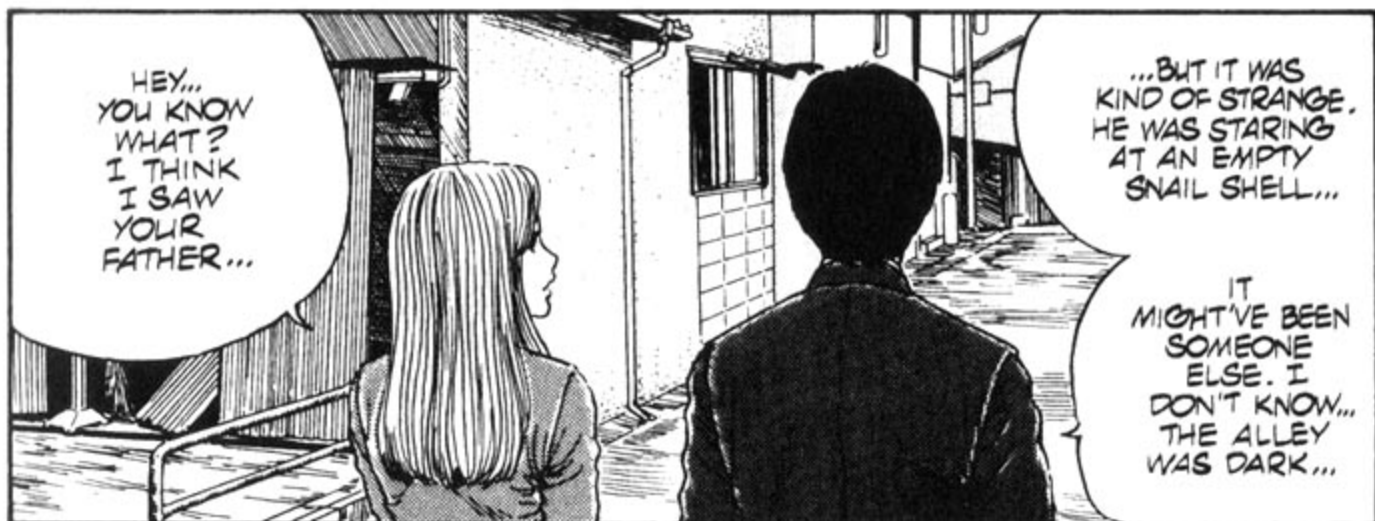
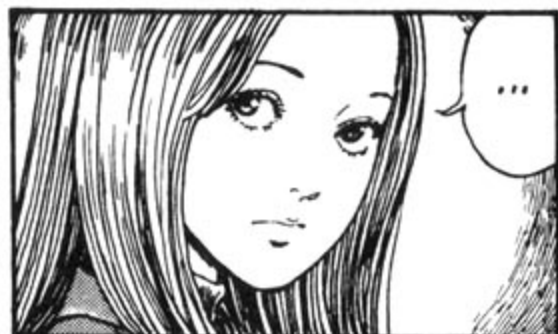
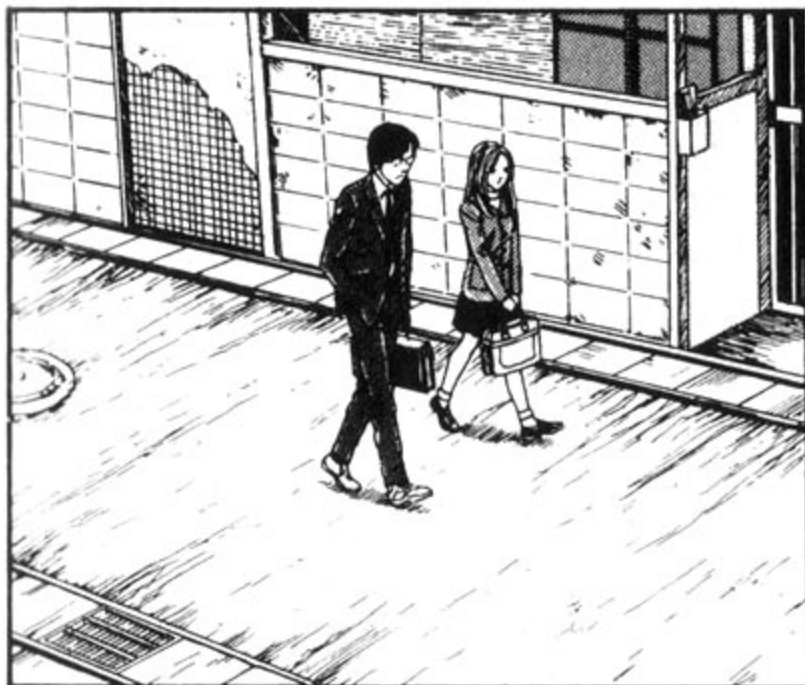












HEY...  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT?  
I THINK  
I SAW  
YOUR  
FATHER...

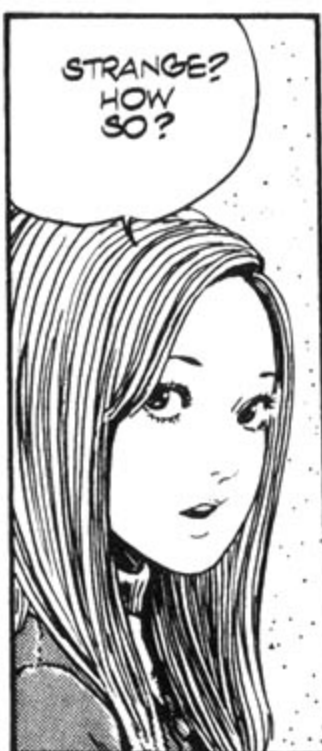
...BUT IT WAS  
KIND OF STRANGE.  
HE WAS STARING  
AT AN EMPTY  
SNAIL SHELL...

IT  
MIGHT'VE BEEN  
SOMEONE  
ELSE. I  
DON'T KNOW...  
THE ALLEY  
WAS DARK...

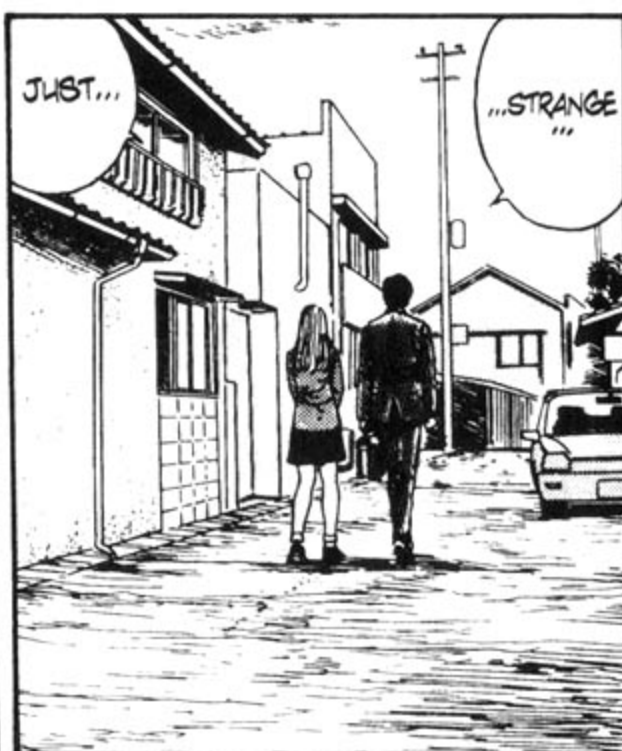


OH...  
YEAH,  
THAT'S  
DAD.

HE'S  
BEEN  
STRANGE  
LATELY.

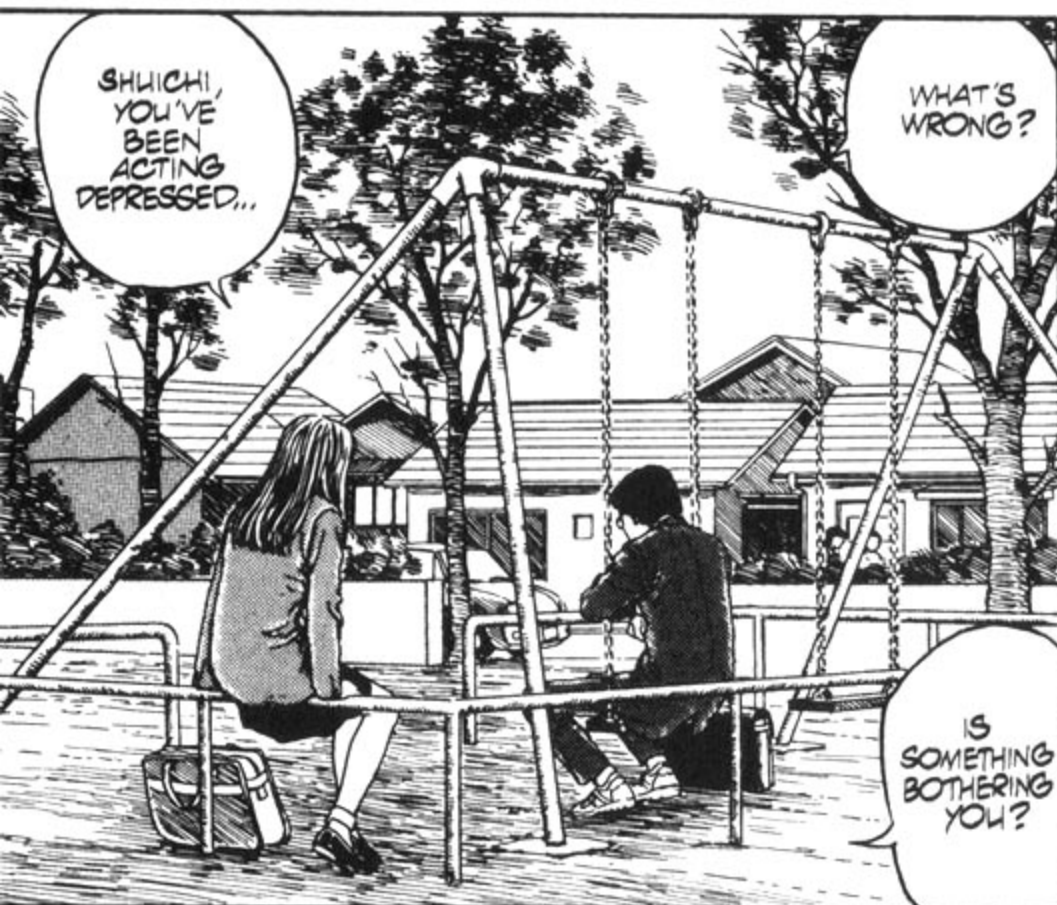


STRANGE?  
HOW  
SO?



JUST...

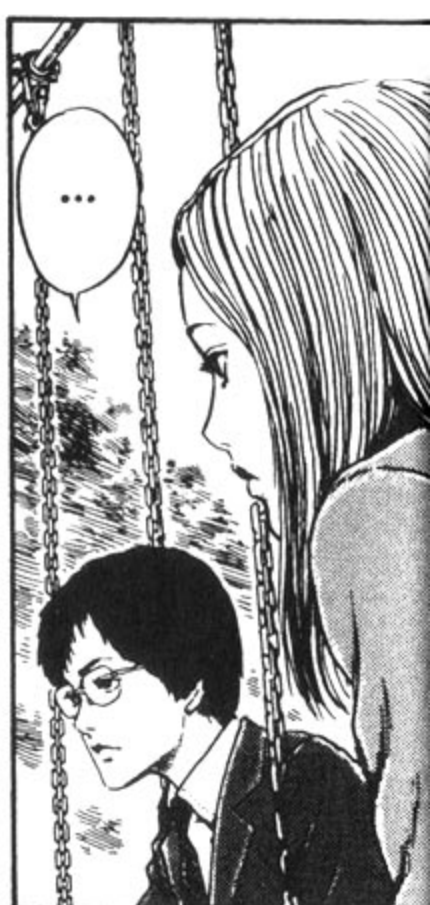
...STRANGE  
...



SHUICHI,  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
ACTING  
DEPRESSED...

WHAT'S  
WRONG?

IS  
SOMETHING  
BOTHERING  
YOU?



...



KIRIE...

LET'S  
LEAVE  
THIS  
TOWN  
TOGETHER.



LEAVE?

WHAT?  
YOU  
MEAN  
RUN  
AWAY?



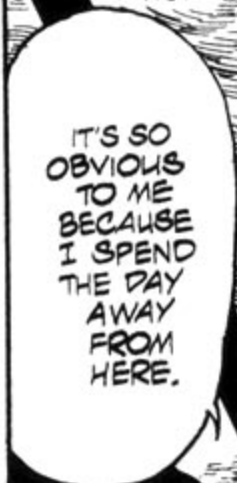
I'M  
SERIOUS.

I  
WANT  
TO  
GET  
OUT  
OF  
HERE.



I CAN'T STAND THIS PLACE.

WE'LL GO CRAZY IF WE STAY HERE.



IT'S SO OBVIOUS TO ME BECAUSE I SPEND THE DAY AWAY FROM HERE.



I FEEL DIZZY EVERY TIME I GET OFF AT THE STATION PLATFORM.



I DON'T GET IT.

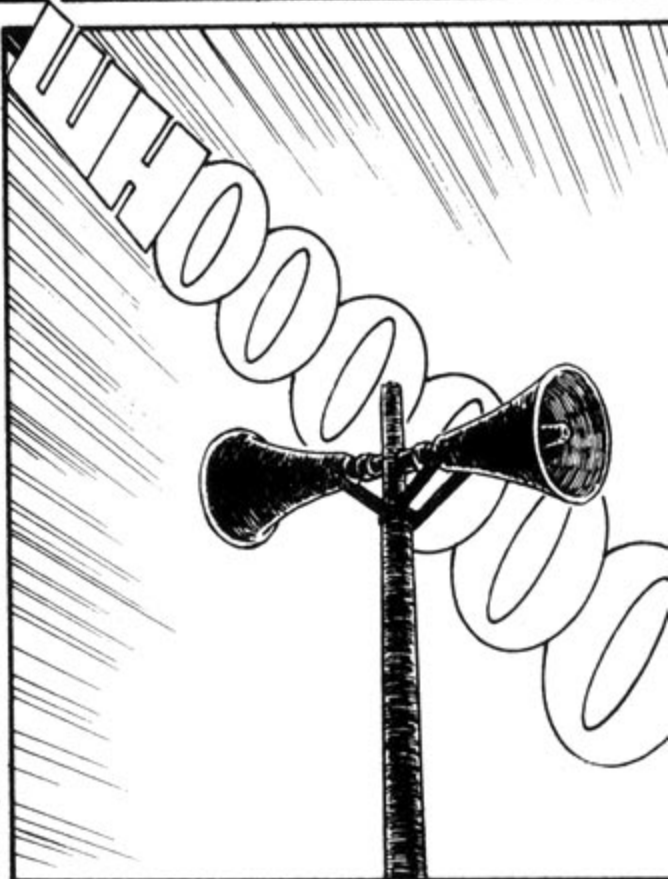
BUT... DON'T YOU FEEL IT?

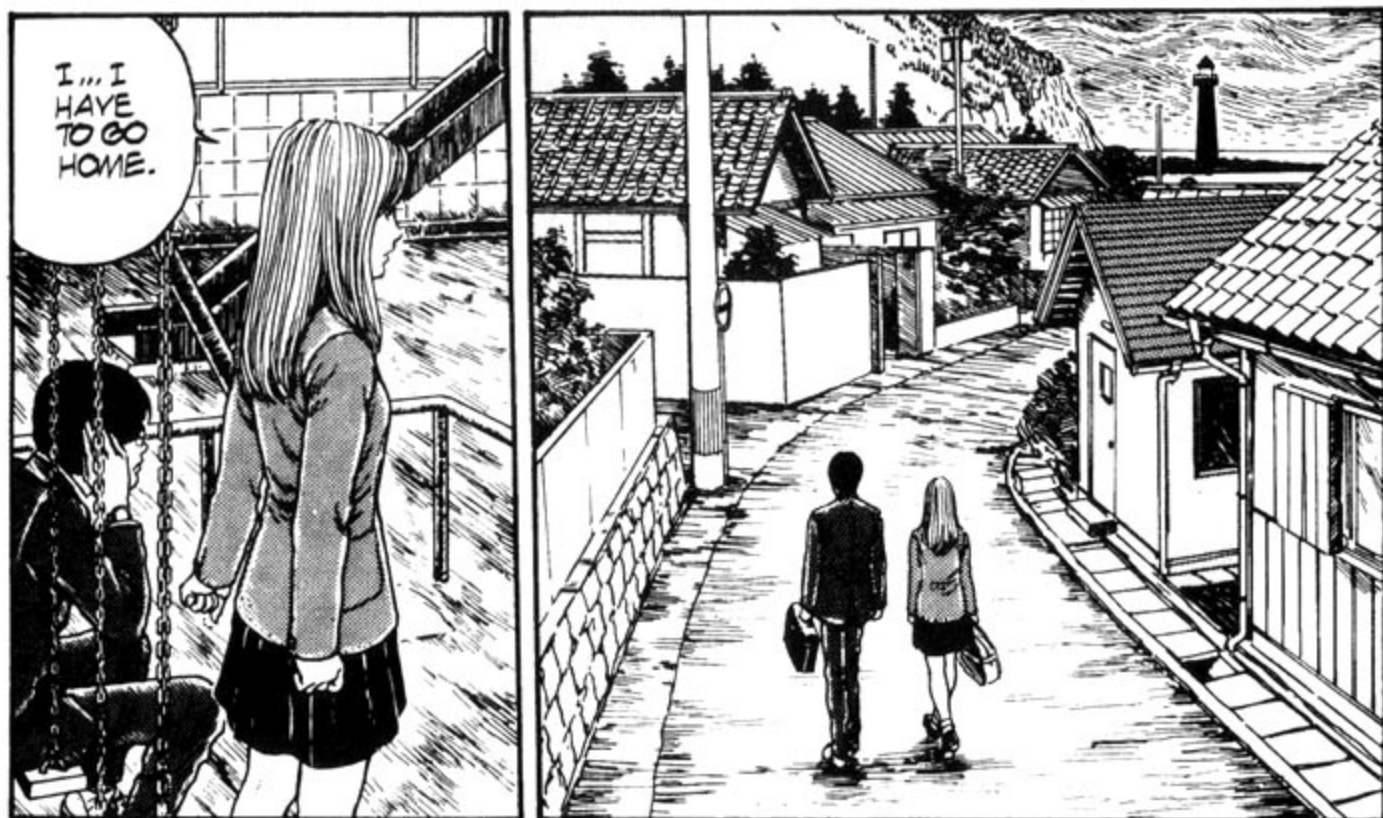


THIS TOWN IS DRIVING ME INSANE!



I DON'T FEEL IT...







THE OCEAN LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THIS IN MIDORIYAMA-SHI, WHERE I GO TO SCHOOL.

THAT BLACK LIGHTHOUSE IS EVIL, TOO.



THE LOOMING MOUNTAINS BEHIND US.

THE WINDING STREETS... IT GETS ON MY NERVES...



YES, WINDING... I'M GETTING WOUND UP...

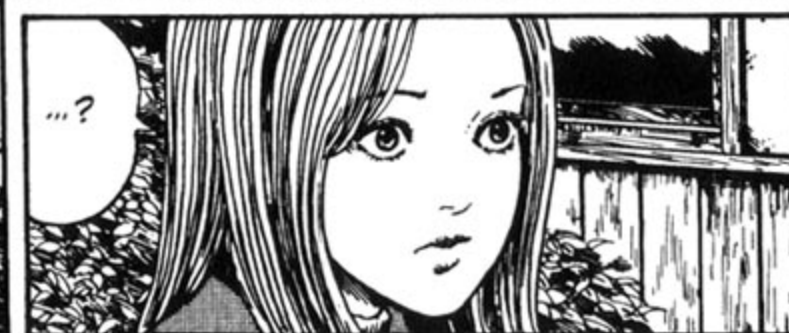
SPIRALS... THIS TOWN IS CONTAMINATED WITH SPIRALS...



HUH... WHAT? WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

OH...

...NO- NOTHING...



...?





THE NEXT DAY, SHUICHI'S FATHER VISITED MY FATHER AT WORK.



MR. GOSHIMA, YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING SO HARD...

WELL, YOU KNOW...



...IT'S MORE "WORKING SLOW" THAN WORKING HARD.

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A CRAFTSMAN.



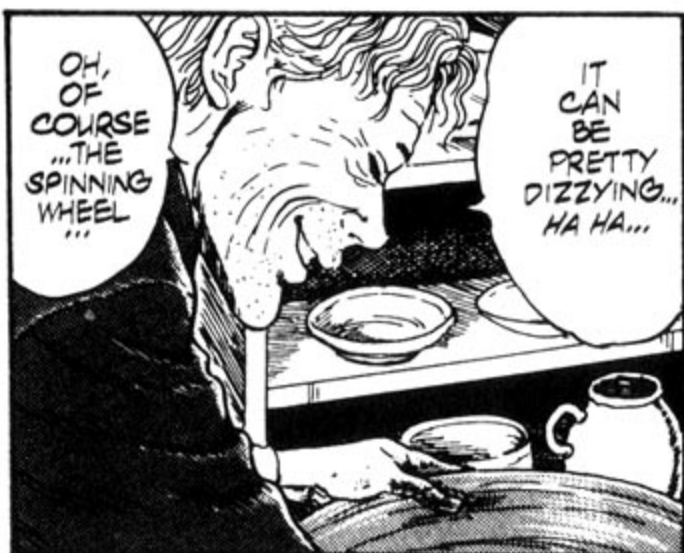
NO, NO! I TRULY RESPECT YOU, MAKING THESE TRADITIONAL CERAMICS ...

IT'S REALLY THE ART OF THE SPIRAL!



I'M SORRY?

THE ART OF THE SPIRAL?



OH, OF COURSE ... THE SPINNING WHEEL ...

IT CAN BE PRETTY DIZZYING... HA HA...



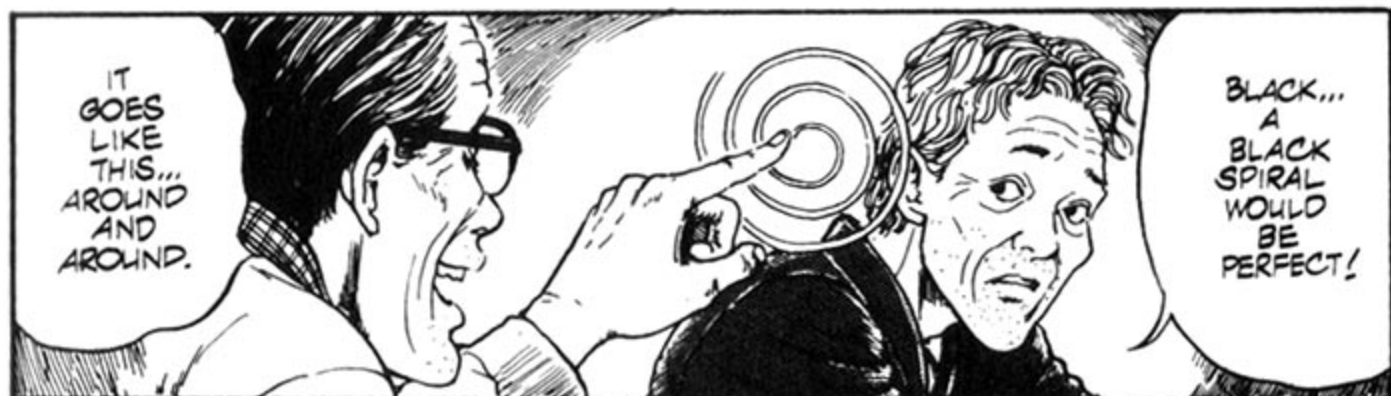
YES!  
PLEASE!  
CAN  
YOU MAKE  
ME  
ONE?

I WANT  
ONE  
THAT  
WILL  
MAKE ME  
DIZZY.



I  
WANT  
ONE  
WITH A  
SPIRAL  
PATTERN.

THE  
SPIRAL  
PATTERN  
IS  
CRUCIAL!



IT  
GOES  
LIKE  
THIS...  
AROUND  
AND  
AROUND.

BLACK...  
A  
BLACK  
SPIRAL  
WOULD  
BE  
PERFECT!



LATELY  
I'VE  
COME TO  
LOVE  
THAT  
PATTERN.

I'M  
COLLECT-  
ING  
EVERYTHING  
THAT  
HAS  
SPIRALS.



OLD  
AND NEW  
KIMONOS  
WITH  
VOLUTE  
PATTERNS,  
CONCHES,  
SNAIL  
SHELLS,  
AMMONITE  
FOSSILS...

WIND-UP  
SPRINGS,  
SCOTCH TAPE,  
MOSQUITO  
REPELLENT  
INCENSE,  
EVEN  
TWISTING  
VINES...

THEY'RE  
EVERY-  
WHERE  
ONCE  
YOU  
LOOK  
FOR  
THEM!



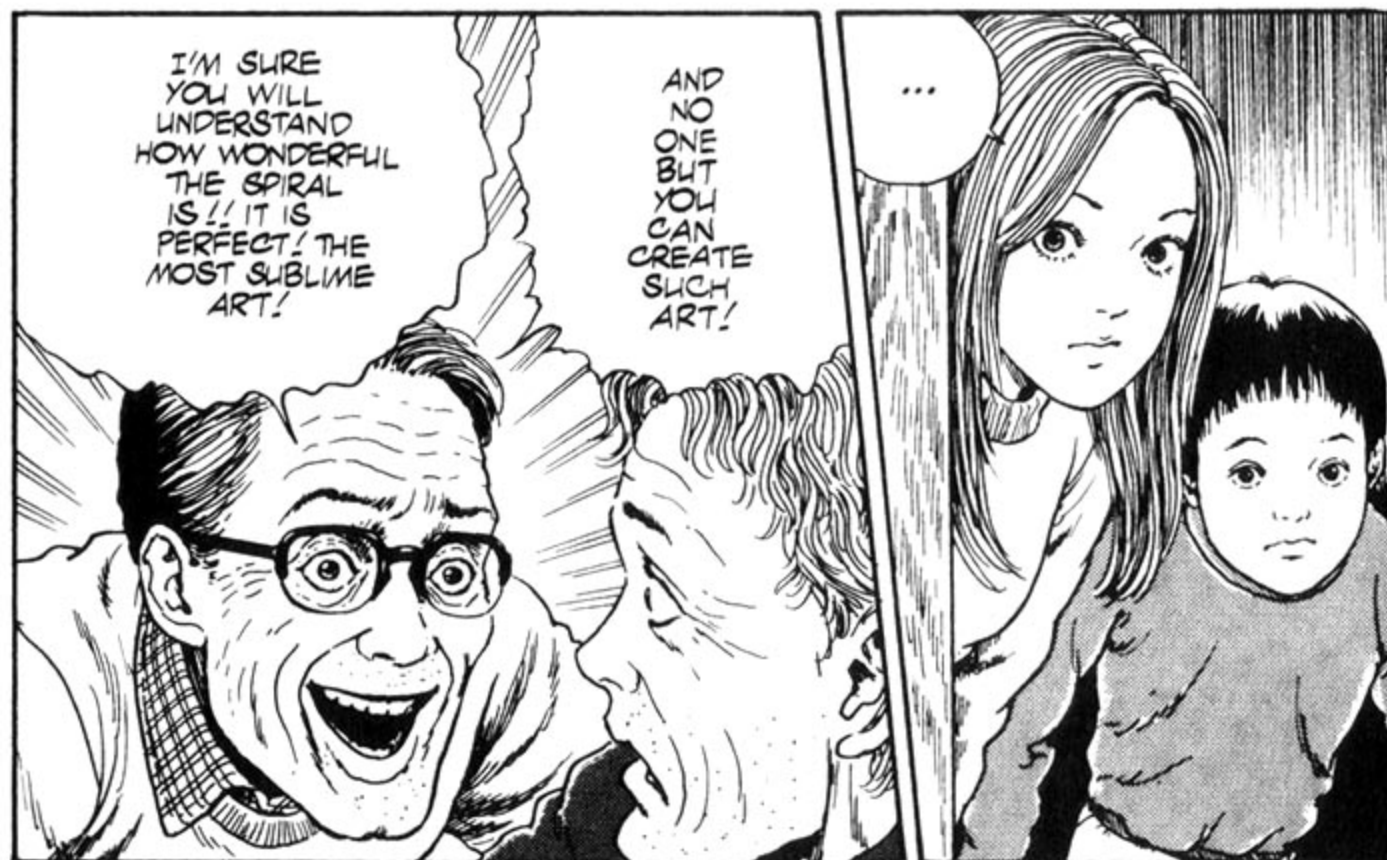
SO I THOUGHT,  
"WHY  
NOT ASK  
THE  
TOWN'S  
BEST  
POTTER  
TO MAKE  
ME A  
SPIRAL  
BOWL?"

MONEY  
IS NO  
OBJECT.  
NAME  
YOUR  
PRICE.



MR.  
GOSHIMA,  
I FIND  
THE  
SPIRAL  
TO BE  
VERY  
MYSTICAL.

IT  
FILLS  
ME WITH  
A DEEP  
SENSE  
OF MYSTERY...  
LIKE  
NOTHING  
ELSE IN  
NATURE...  
LIKE NO  
OTHER  
SHAPE...



I'M SURE  
YOU WILL  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW WONDERFUL  
THE SPIRAL  
IS!! IT IS  
PERFECT! THE  
MOST SUBLIME  
ART!

AND  
NO  
ONE  
BUT  
YOU  
CAN  
CREATE  
SUCH  
ART!

...



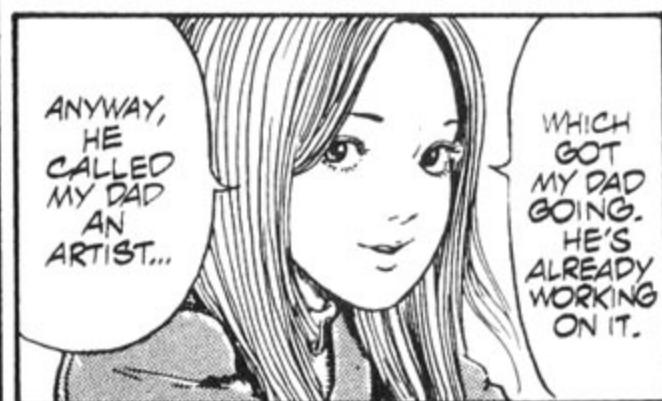
DIDN'T MY DAD VISIT YOUR HOUSE YESTERDAY?

UHM, YEAH... HE FREAKED ME OUT A LITTLE.



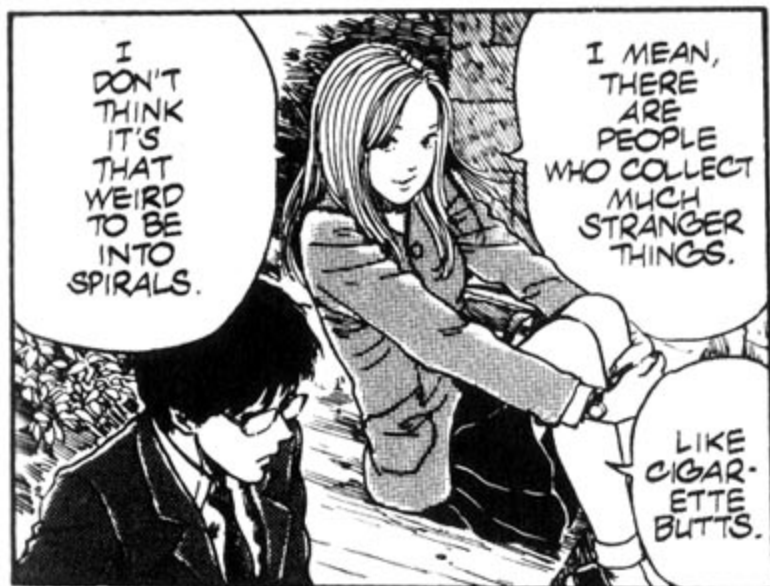
I'M SORRY YOU SAW THAT. HE'S BEEN WEIRD LATELY.

WHY WOULD HE BE FIXATED WITH SPIRALS?



ANYWAY, HE CALLED MY DAD AN ARTIST...

WHICH GOT MY DAD GOING. HE'S ALREADY WORKING ON IT.



I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT WEIRD TO BE INTO SPIRALS.

I MEAN, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO COLLECT MUCH STRANGER THINGS.

LIKE CIGAR-ETTE BUTTS.



...HOW ABNORMAL HIS OBSESSION'S BECOME.

HE STOPPED GOING TO WORK. NOW HE JUST SPENDS ALL DAY IN HIS STUDY...



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW...

...STARING  
AT  
HIS  
SPRAWLING  
COLLECTION  
OF  
SPIRALS.





ONCE HE'S  
FIXATED  
HE CAN'T  
HEAR  
US.



HE  
JUST  
STARES  
INTO  
THE  
SPIRAL.

AND  
WHAT'S  
WEIRD  
IS  
THAT  
...



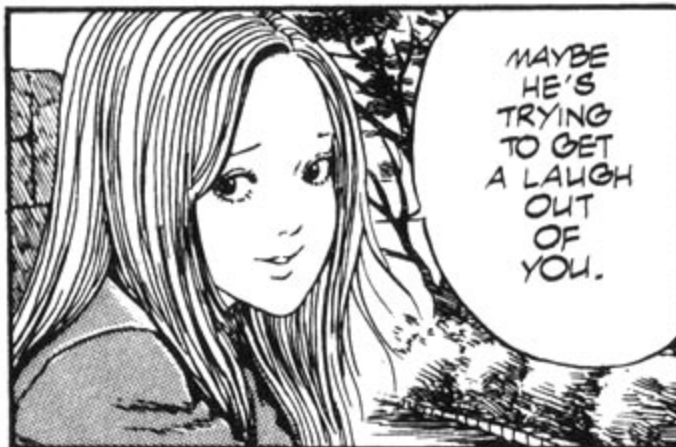
...HIS  
EYES  
START  
SPINNING  
AROUND...  
AROUND  
AND  
AROUND...  
IT'S SO  
STRANGE.

WHAT  
?



HIS  
EYES  
SPIN?

THEY  
SPIN  
LIKE THEY'RE  
FOLLOWING  
THE  
SPIRAL.

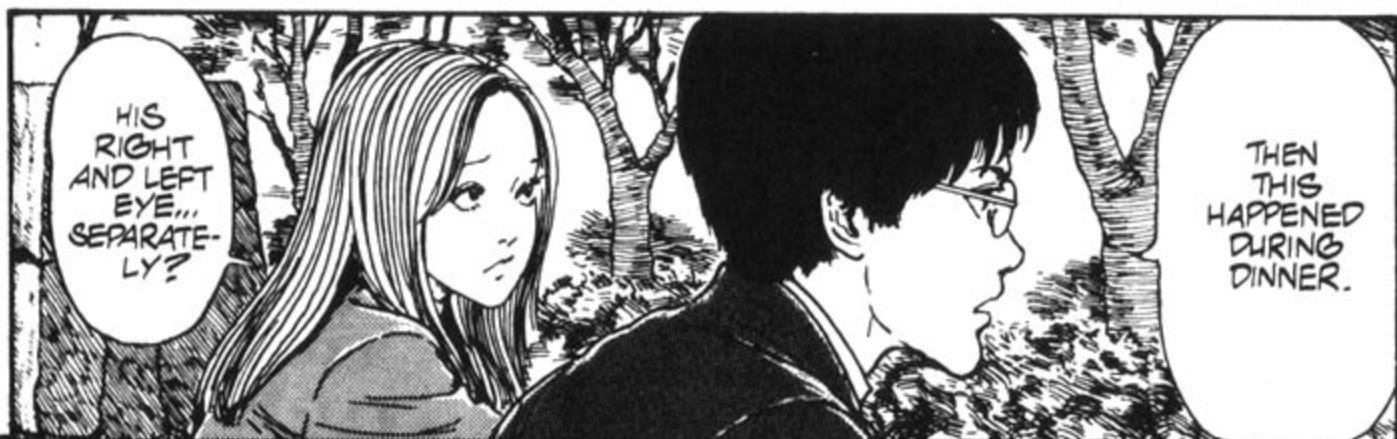


MAYBE  
HE'S  
TRYING  
TO GET  
A LAUGH  
OUT  
OF  
YOU.



NO,  
IT'S  
NOT  
FUNNY  
AT  
ALL!

HIS  
RIGHT  
AND  
LEFT  
EYE  
MOVE  
INDEPENDENTLY  
OF  
EACH  
OTHER!



HIS  
RIGHT  
AND LEFT  
EYE...  
SEPARATE-  
LY?

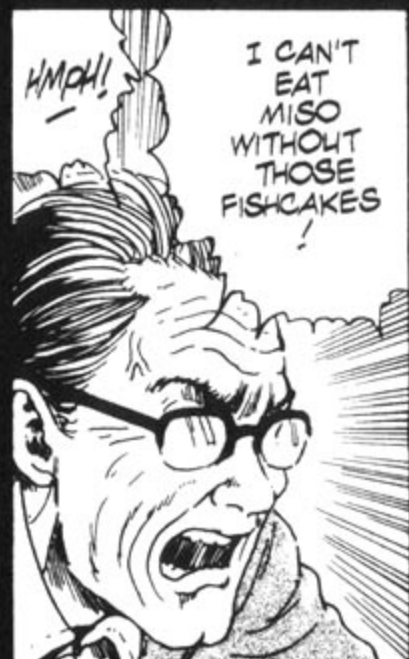
THEN  
THIS  
HAPPENED  
DURING  
DINNER.



HE GOT  
REALLY ANGRY  
BECAUSE THERE  
WEREN'T SPIRAL  
PATTERNED FISHCAKES  
IN THE MISO  
SOUP.



MY MOM  
EXPLAINED  
THAT SHE  
RAN  
OUT OF  
THEM.



HMPH!

I CAN'T  
EAT  
MISO  
WITHOUT  
THOSE  
FISHCAKES



SUDDENLY  
HE  
STARTED  
TO STIR  
THE  
MISO,  
VERY  
FAST...

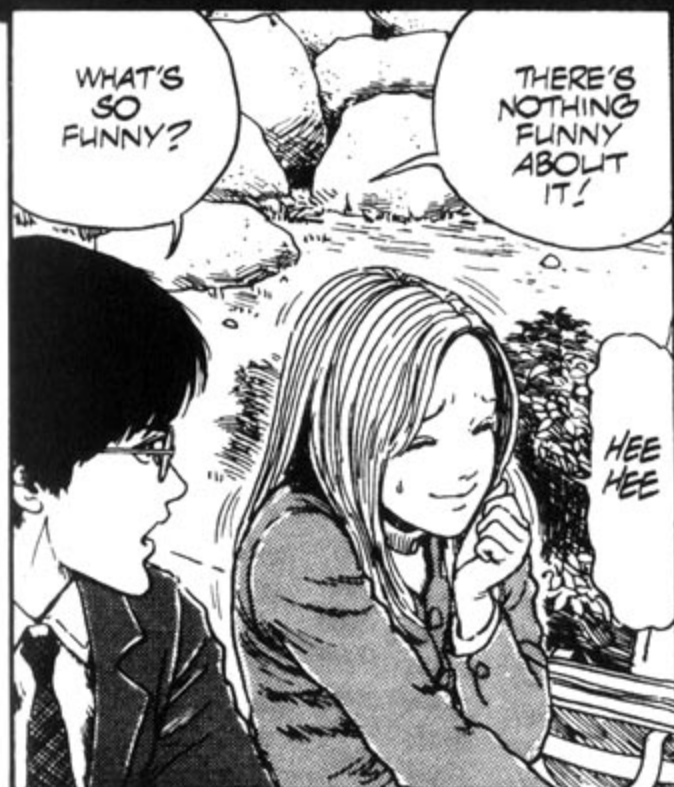
TAK TAK TAK



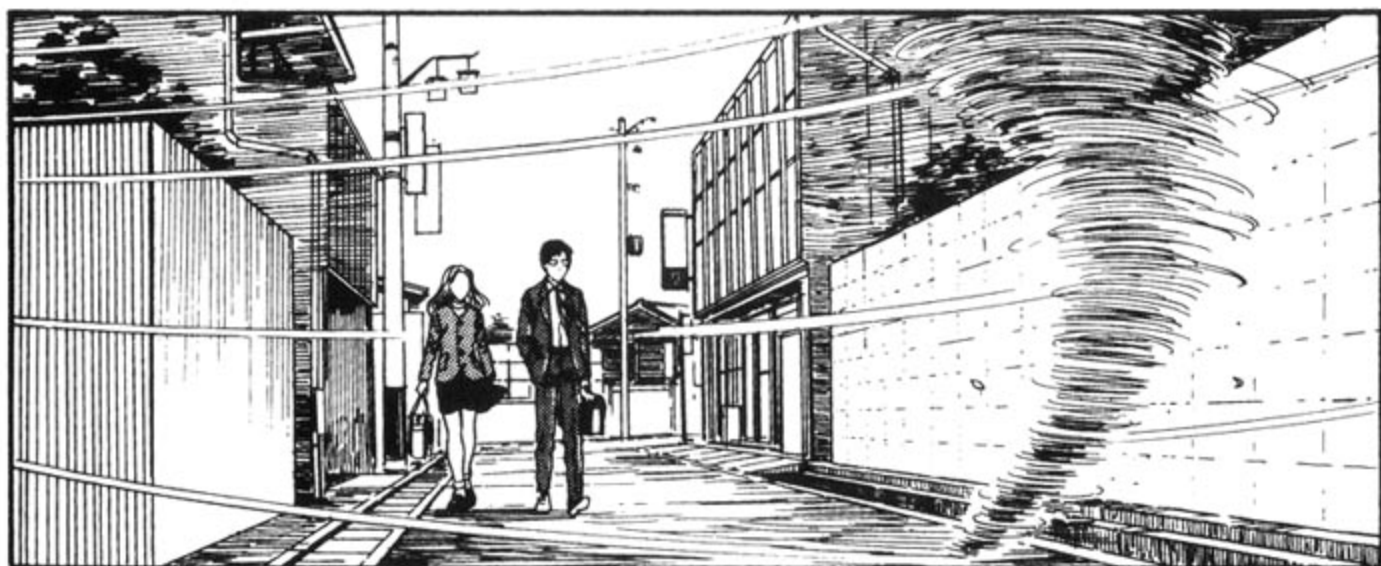
HE  
WAS  
SATISFIED.

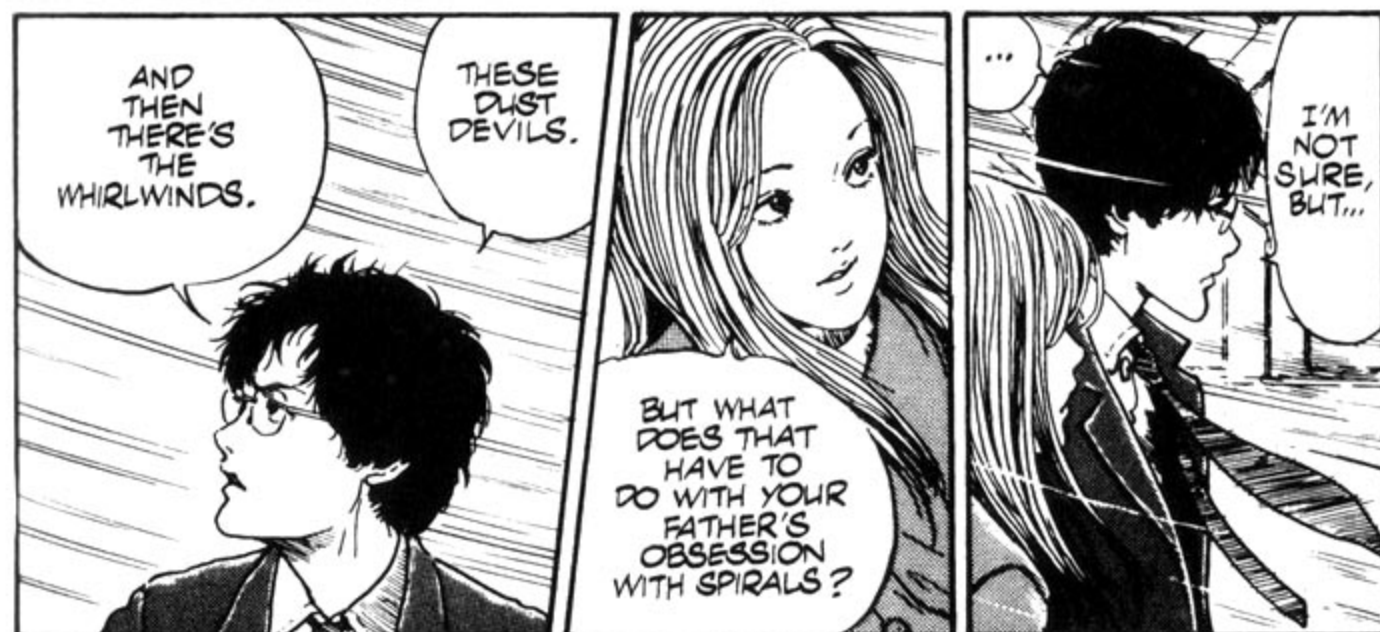


SHRRRRRRR

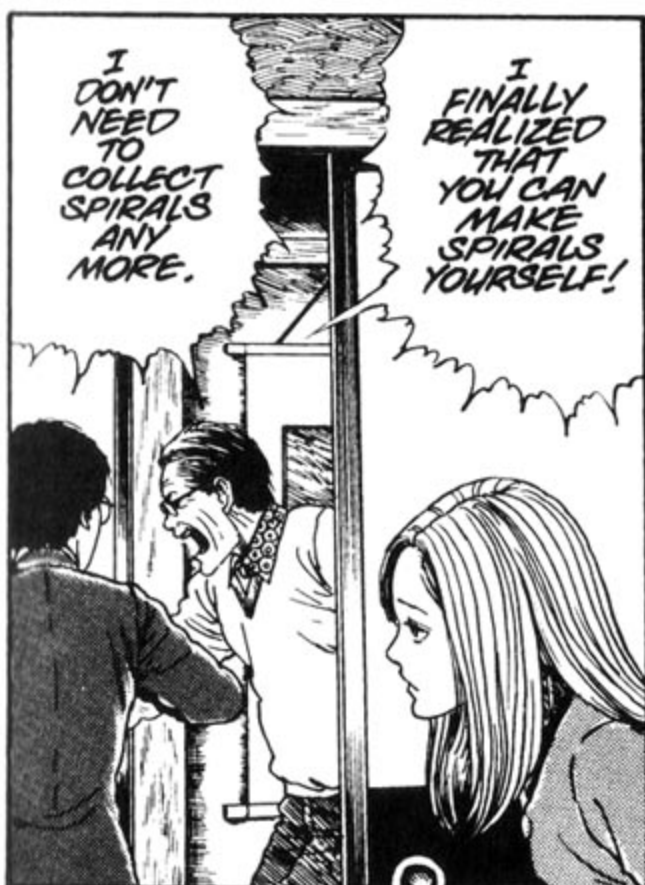


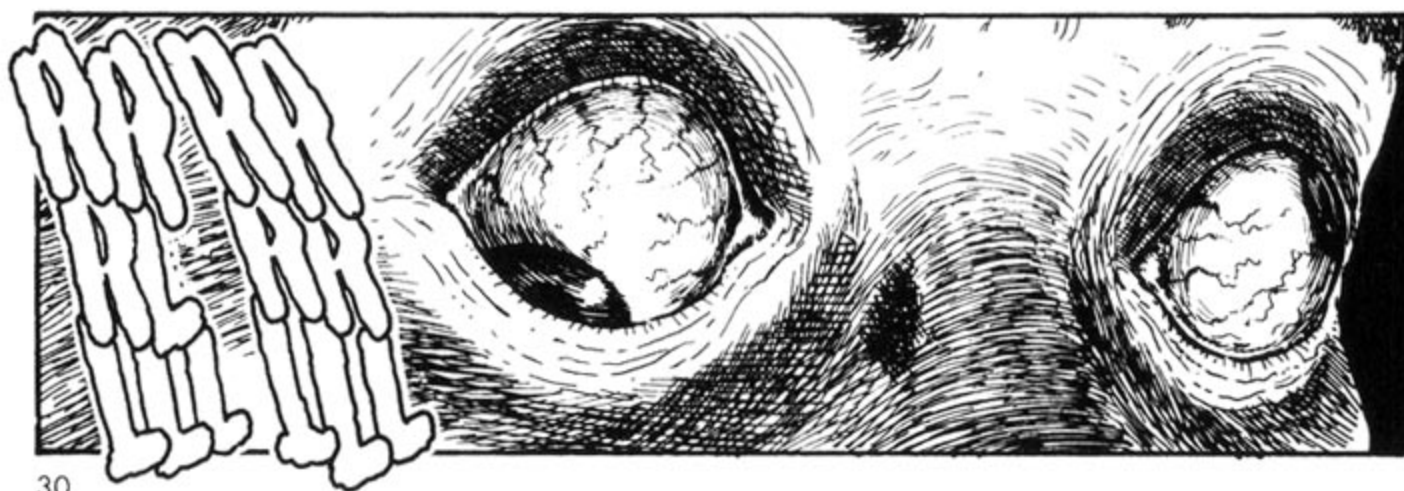
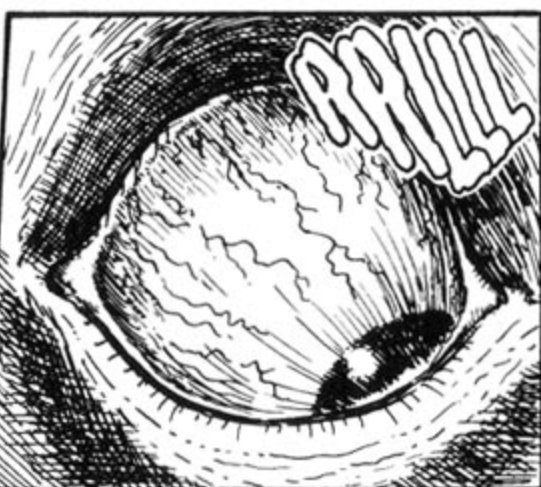
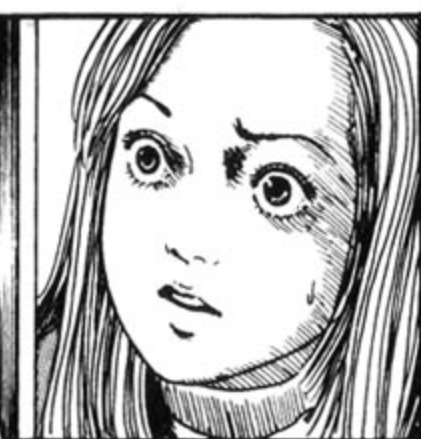
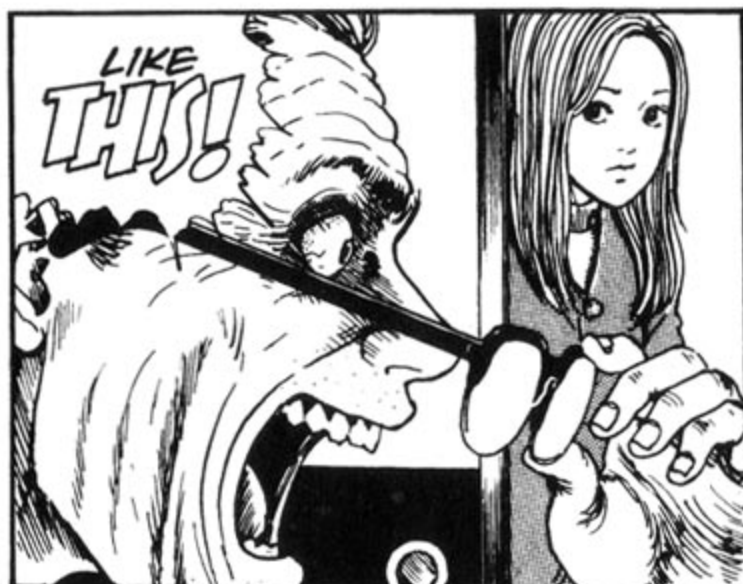














HA  
HA  
HA

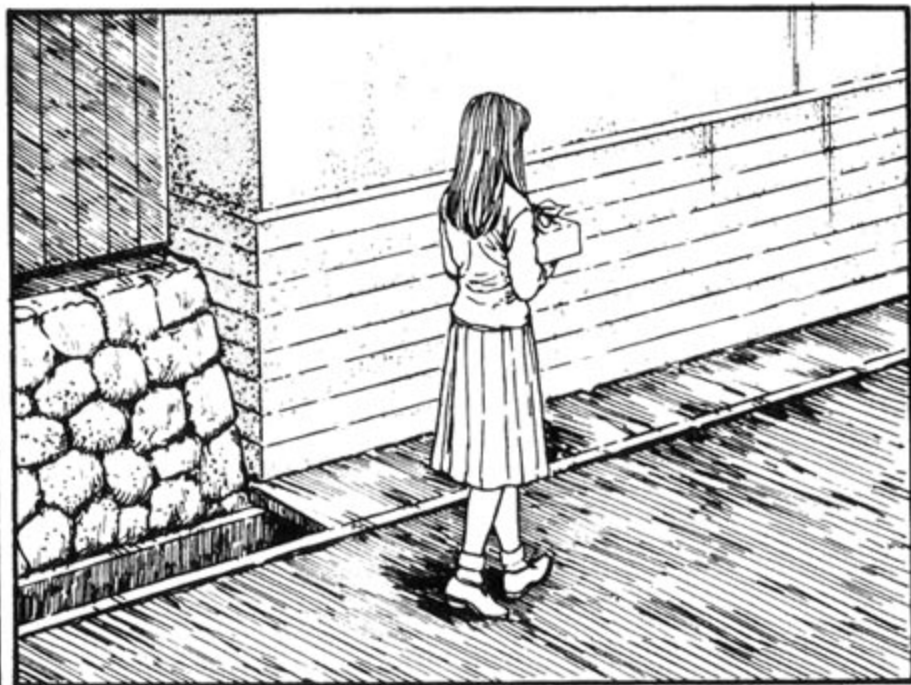
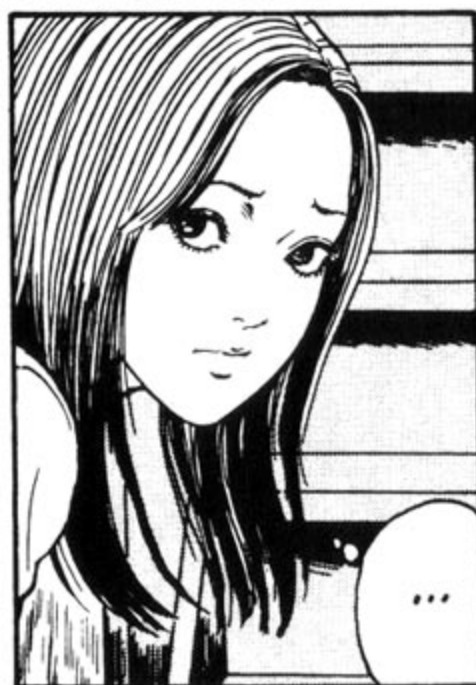
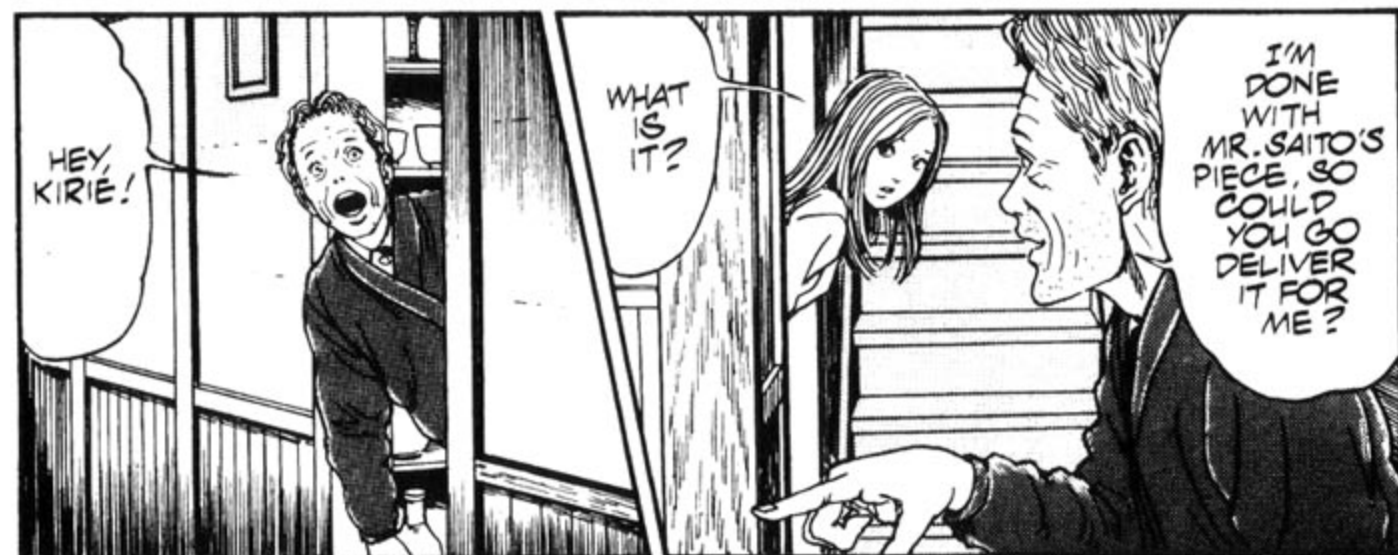
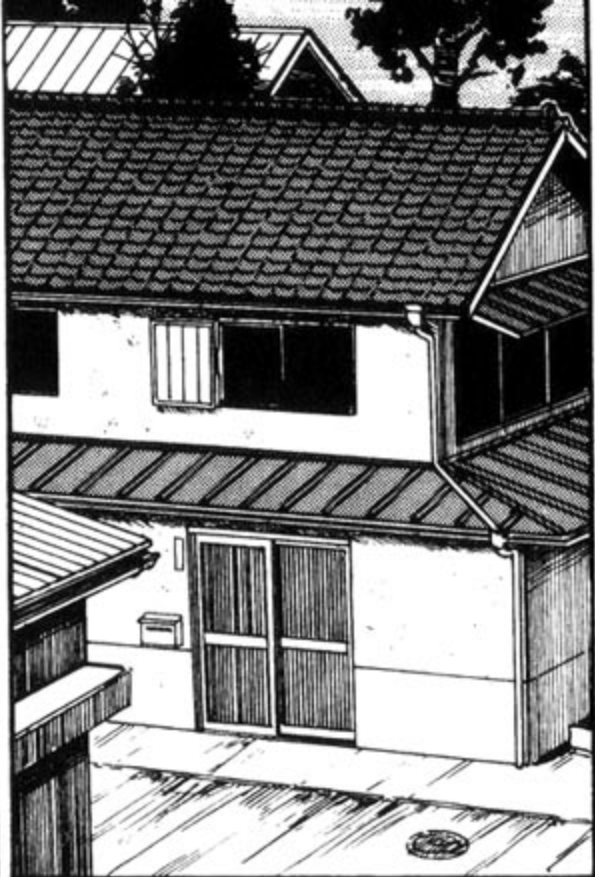


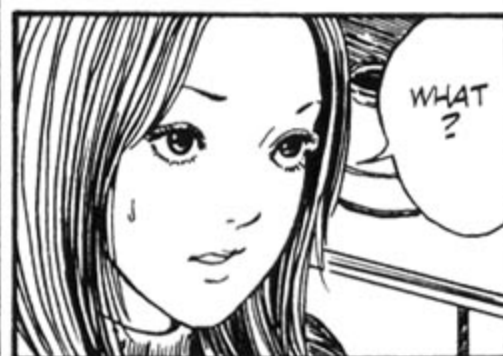
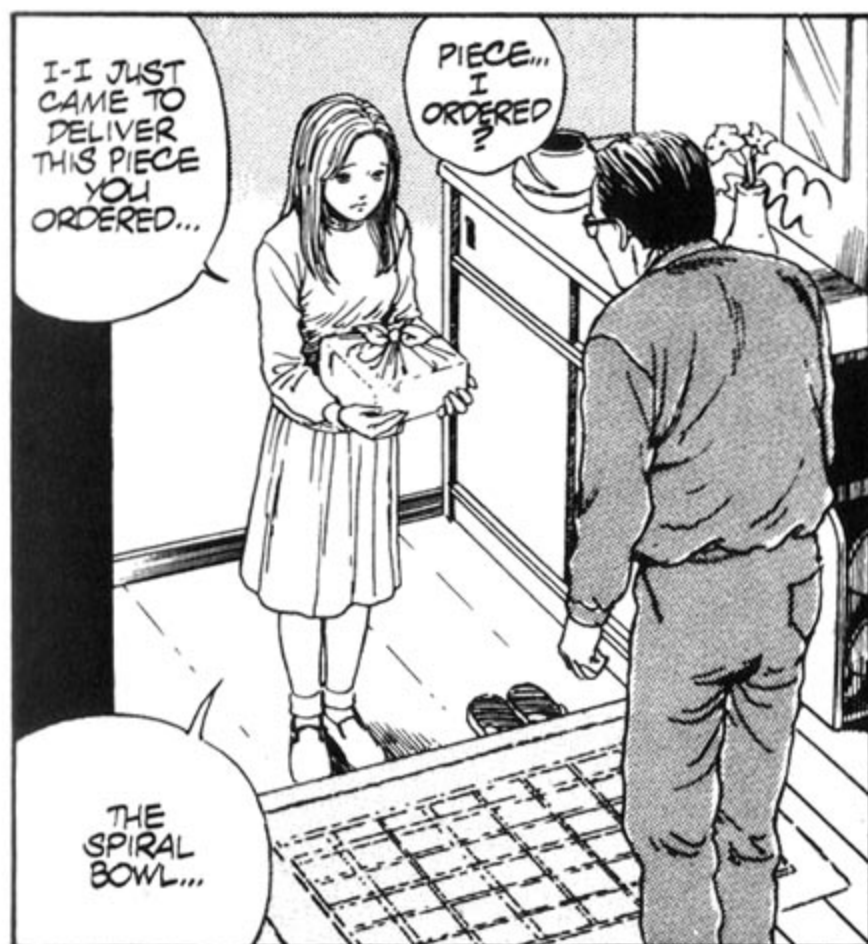
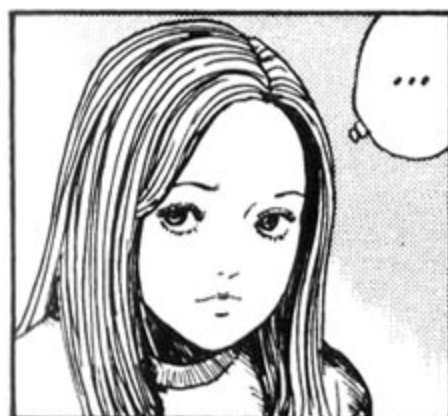
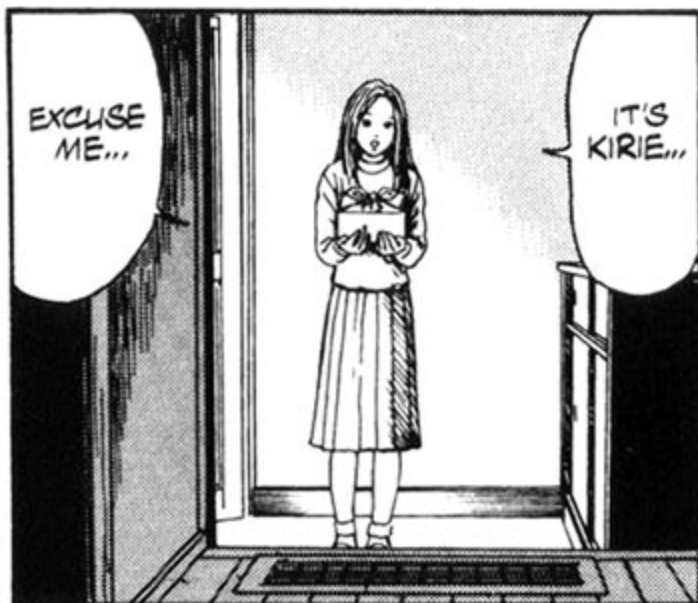
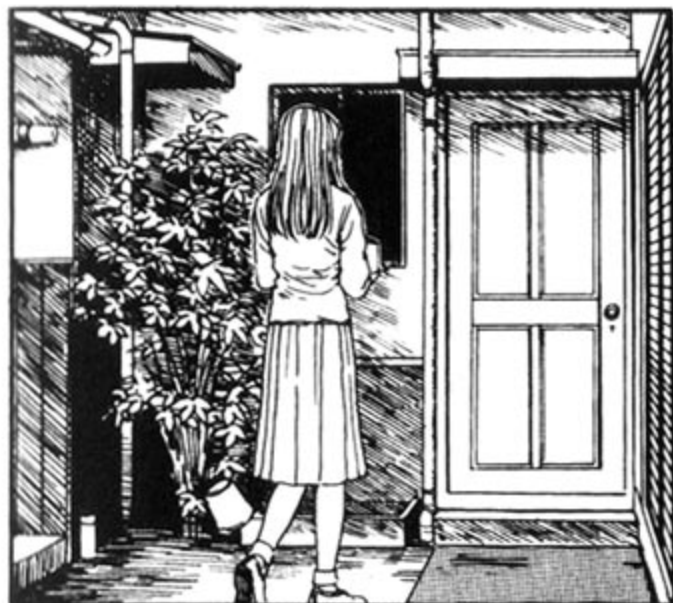
I  
SAW  
IT  
MYSELF  
NOW.

HA  
HAHA  
HAHA  
HA!

HIS  
EYES  
WERE  
SPINNING  
AROUND  
AND  
AROUND  
...

...SEPARATELY  
...

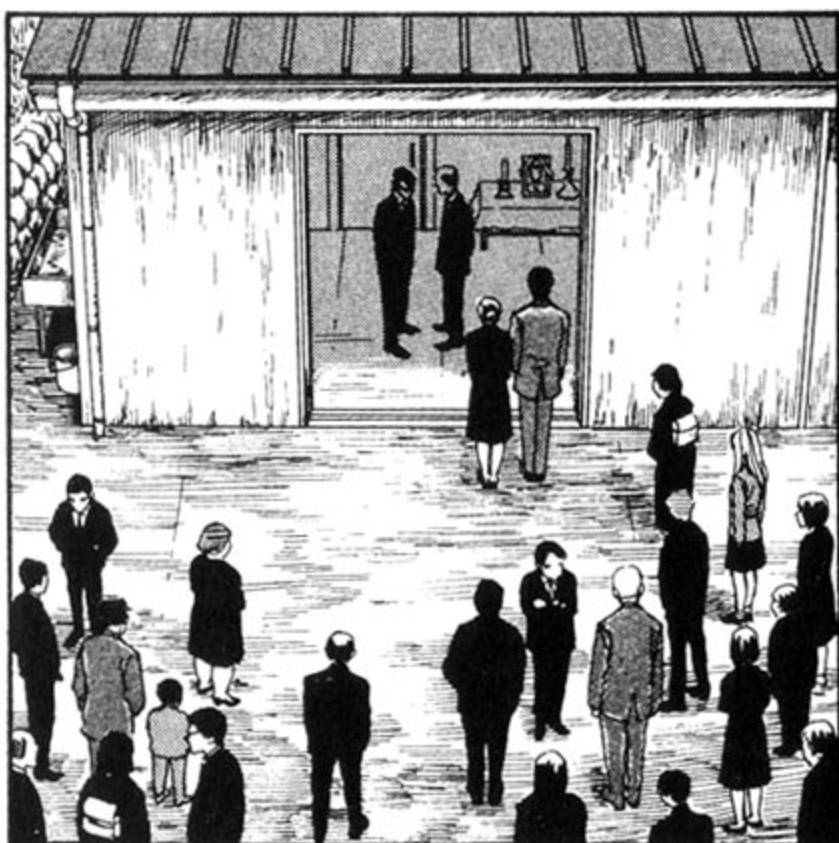
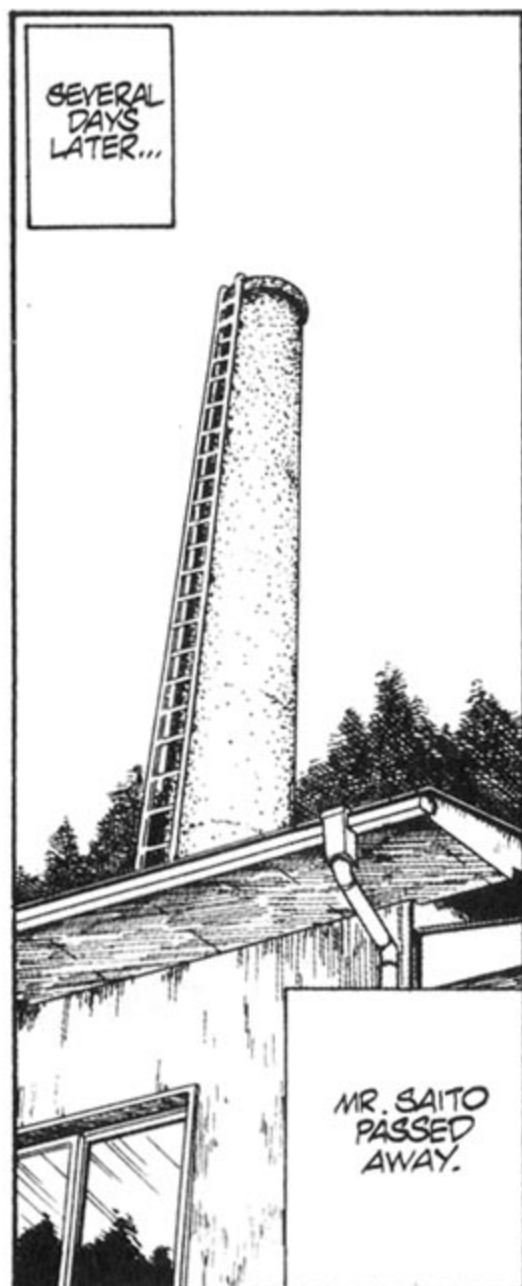
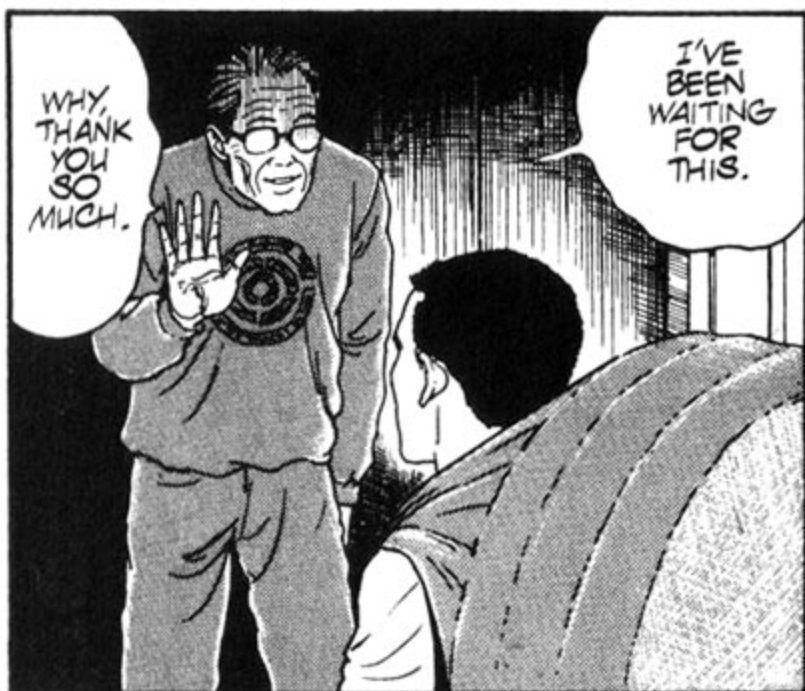


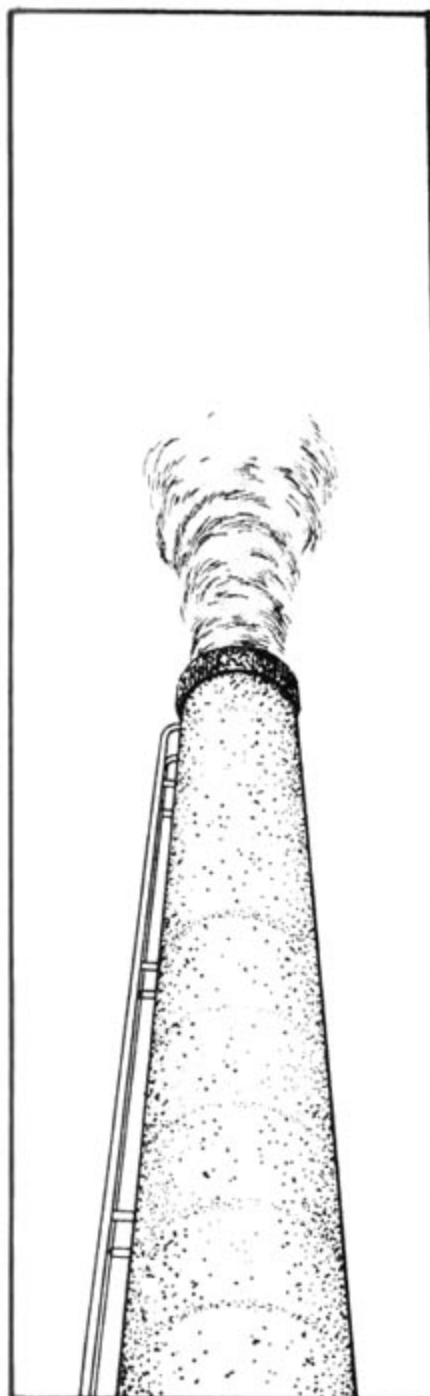












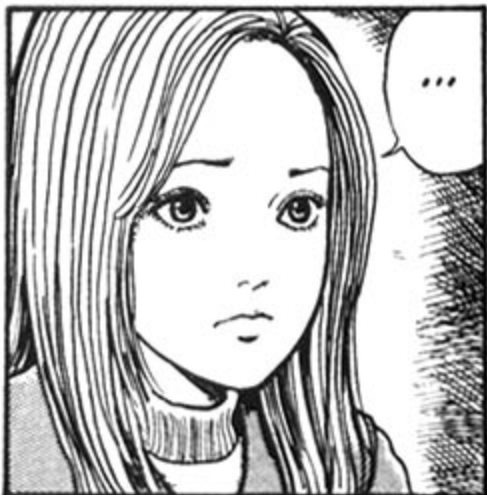
KIRIE...

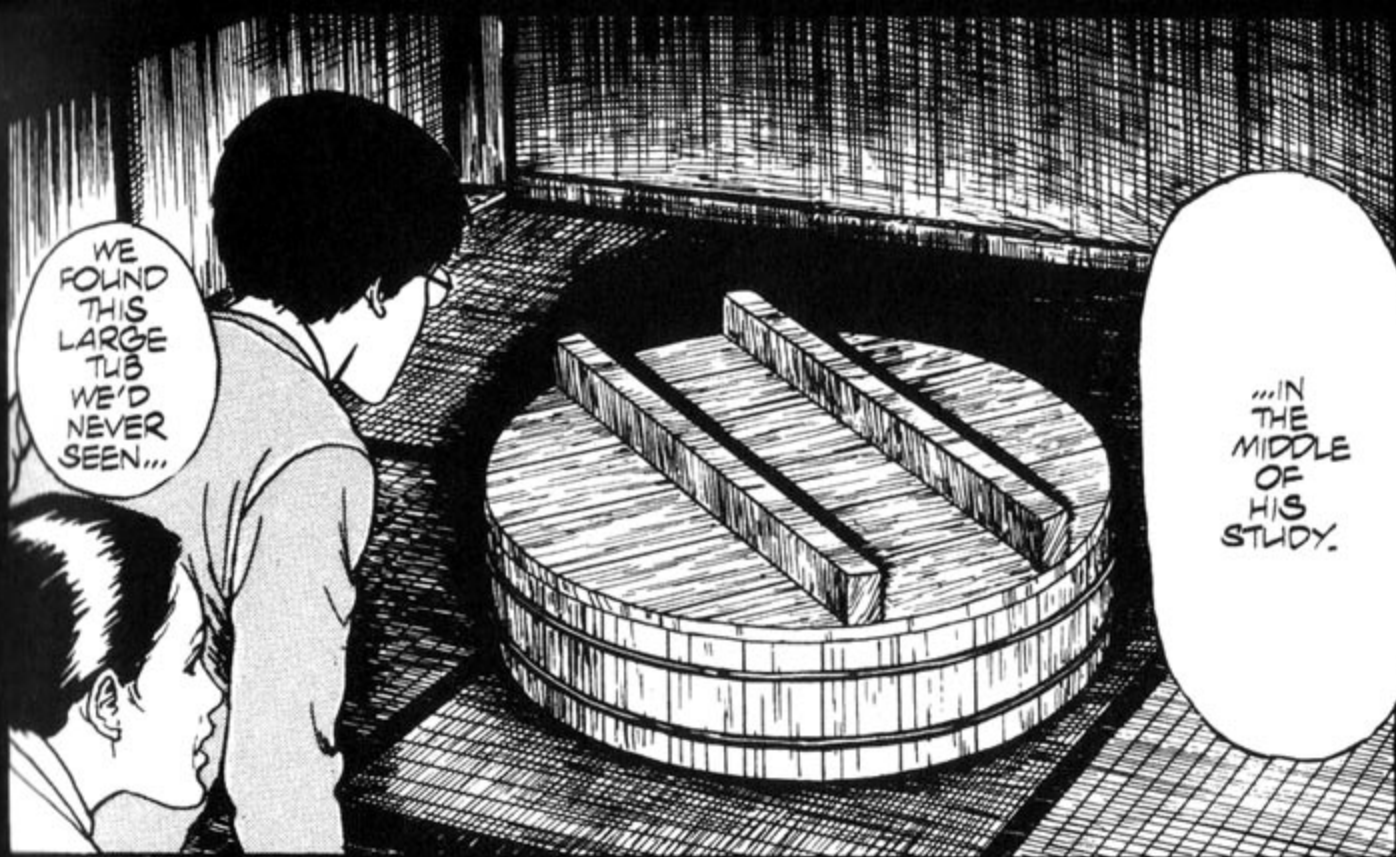
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW MY FATHER DIED?



HM?

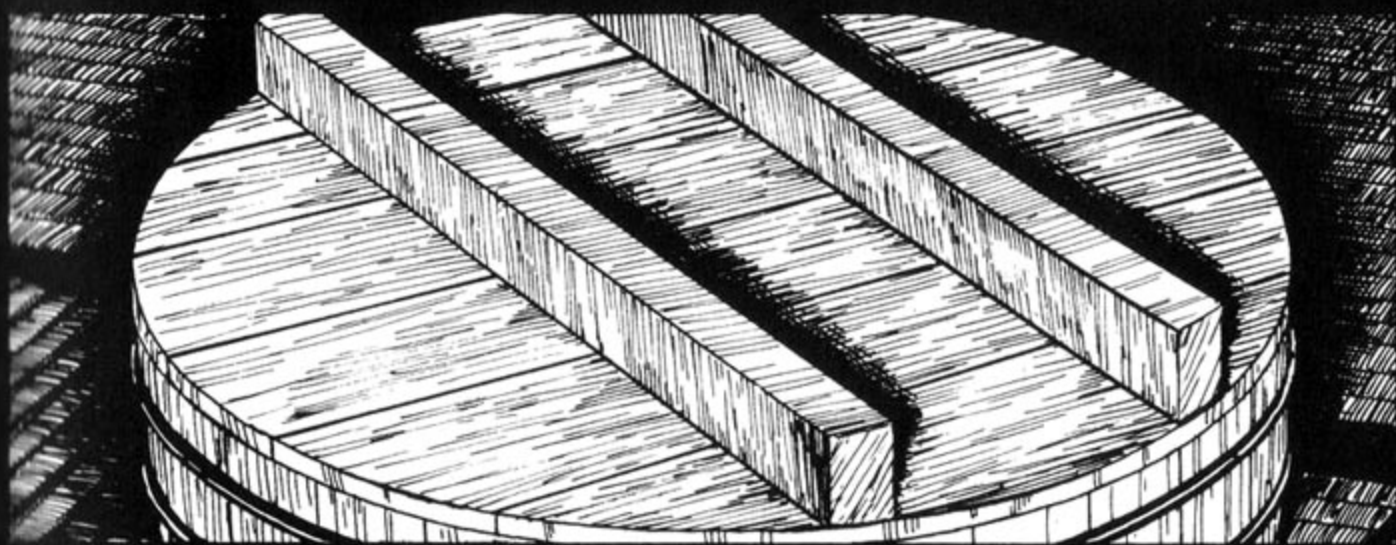
I THOUGHT HE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS?





WE FOUND THIS LARGE TUB WE'D NEVER SEEN...

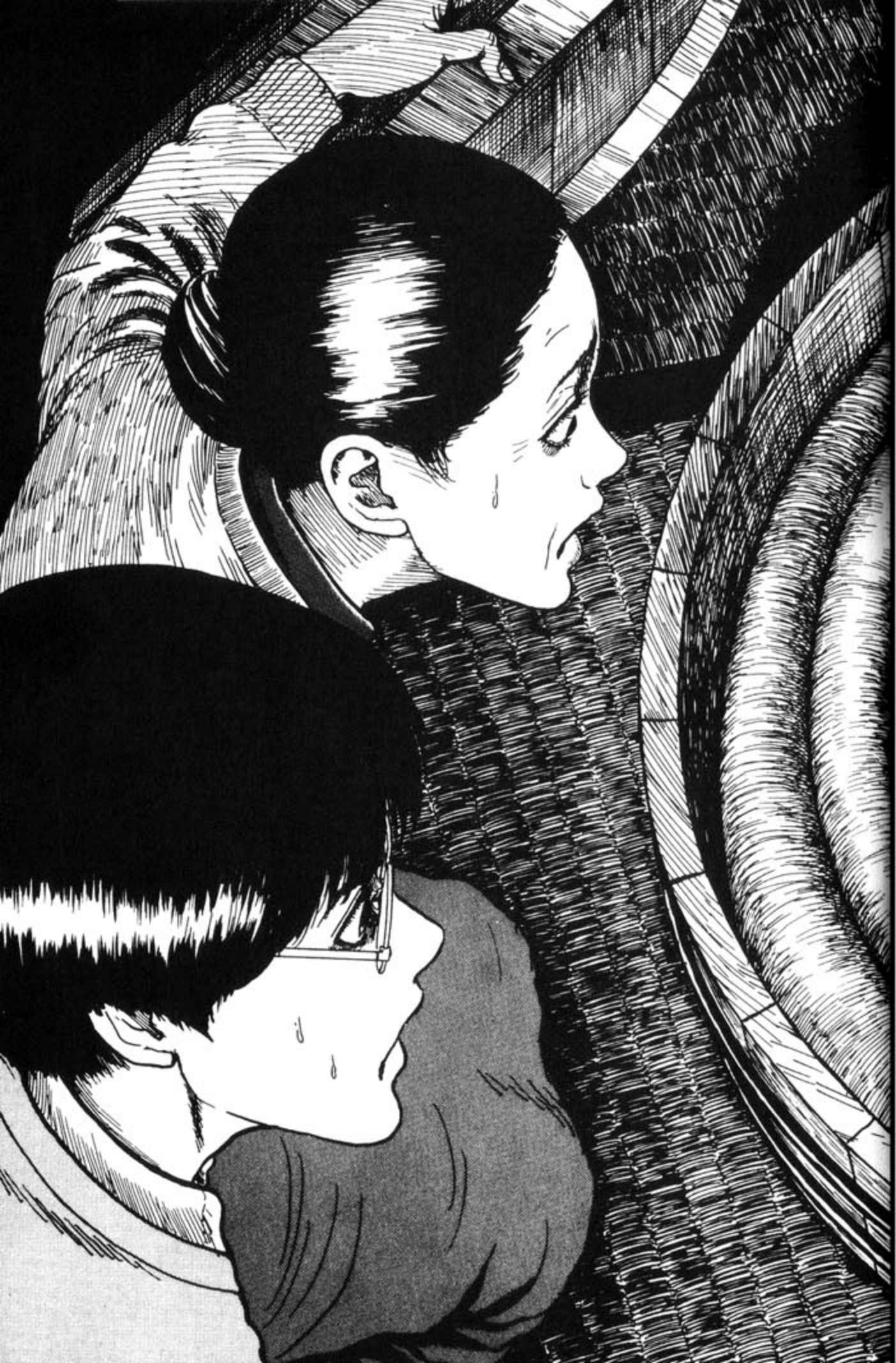
...IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS STUDY.

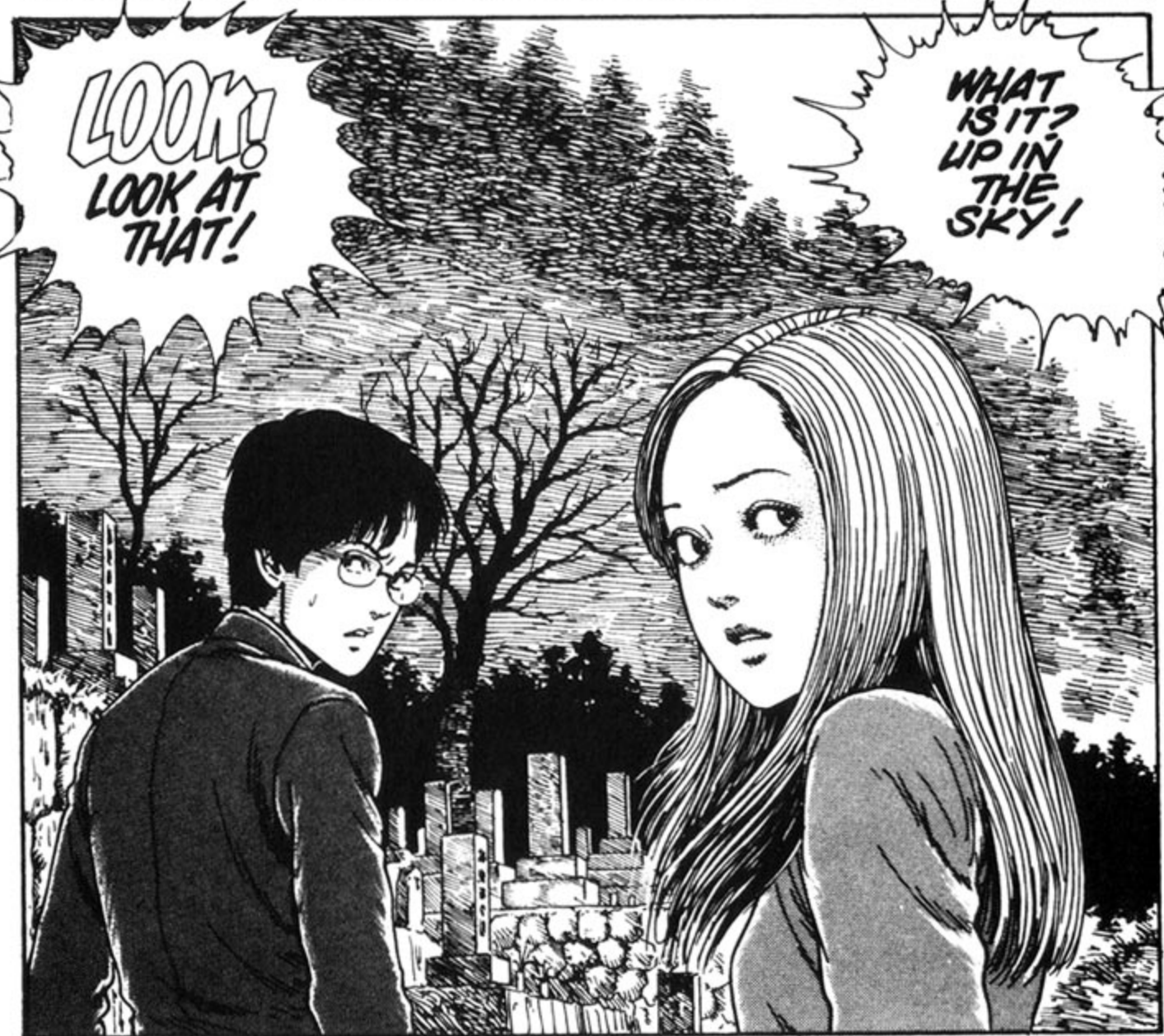


I WONDER...

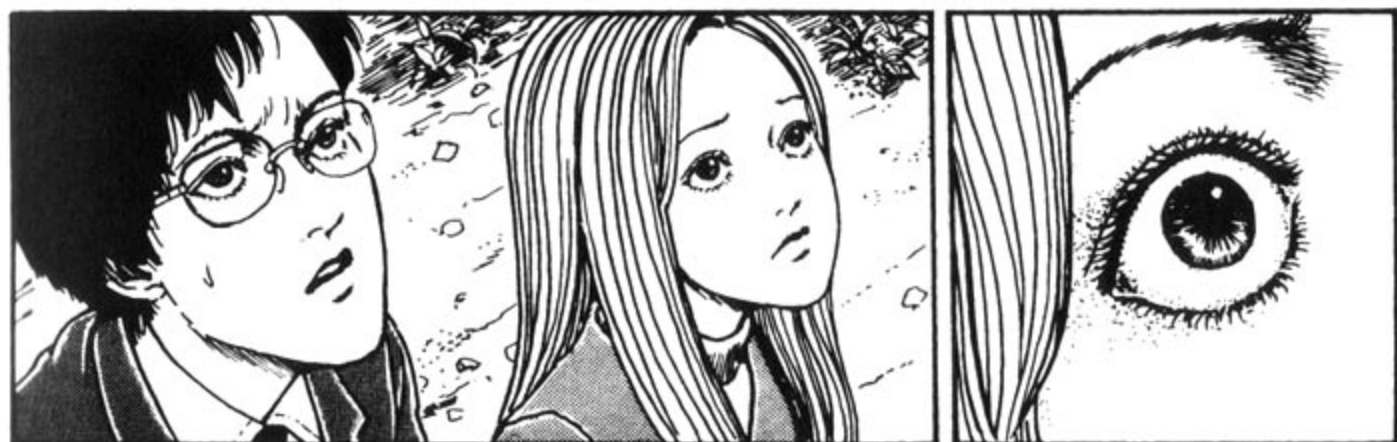
...WHAT THIS IS...

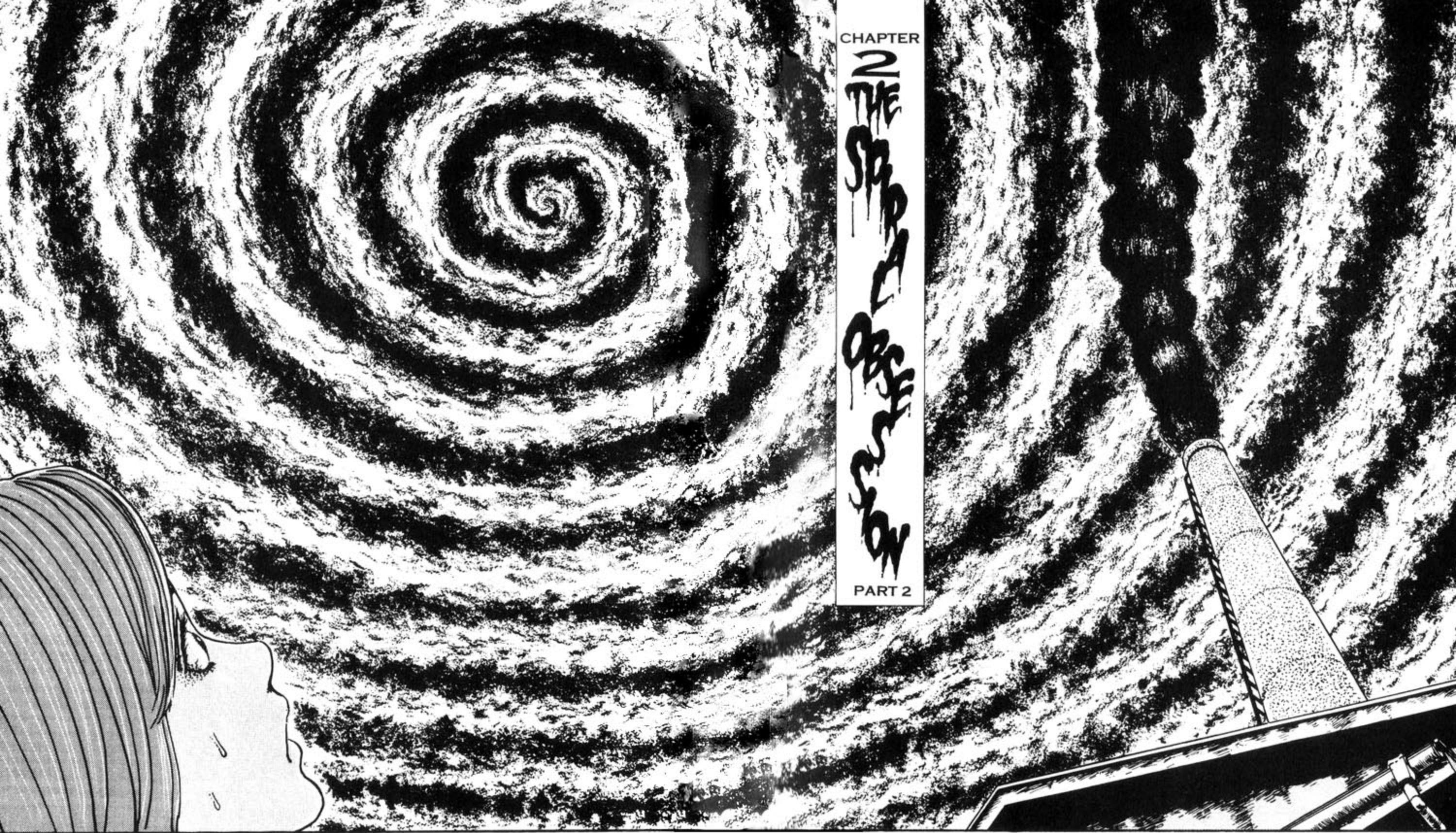












CHAPTER

# THE SMOKE OF CREMATION

PART 2



WH-WHAT IS IT?

THE SMOKE FROM THE CREMATION...

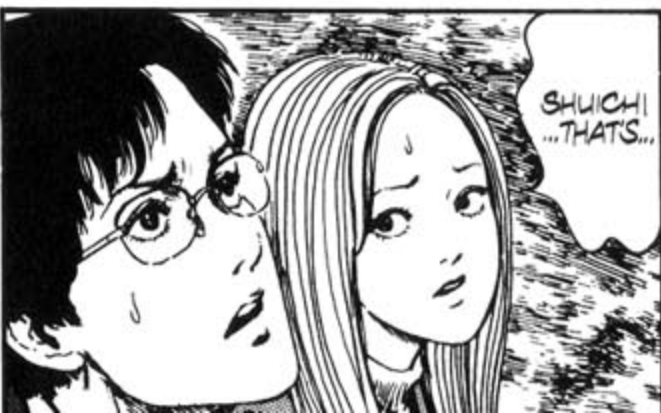


TH-THIS MUST BE...

...A BAD OMEN...



AAA... EERIE...



SHUICHI... THAT'S...



FATHER'S ASHES...



LOOK!  
THE  
SMOKE  
IS  
SETTLING  
!



IT'S  
SWIRLING  
DOWN  
TOWARDS  
THE  
WATER!

IT'S  
GOING  
INTO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND!



THE POND  
IN THE  
CENTER OF  
TOWN.

IT'S  
TOO  
STRANGE...



DRAGONFLY  
POND...

...IS  
RIGHT  
BEHIND  
OUR  
HOUSE,  
RIGHT  
NEXT  
DOOR.



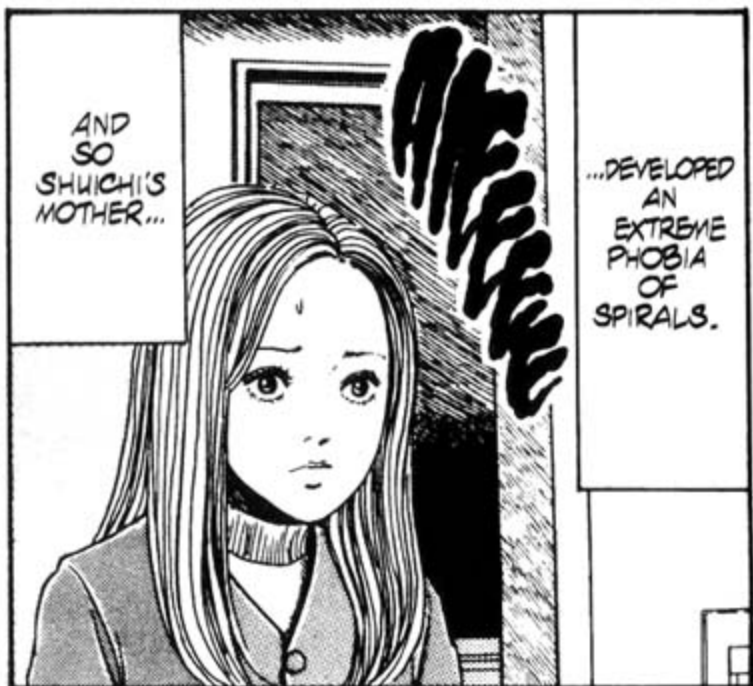
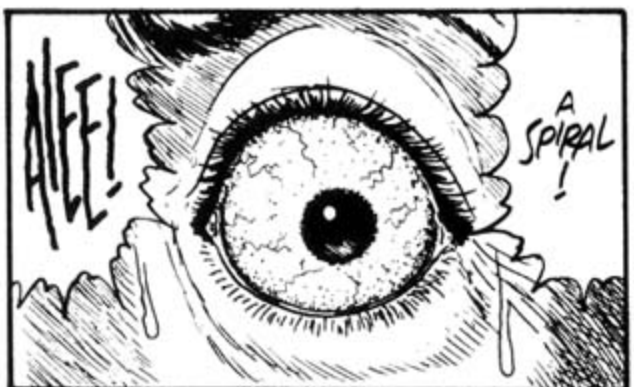
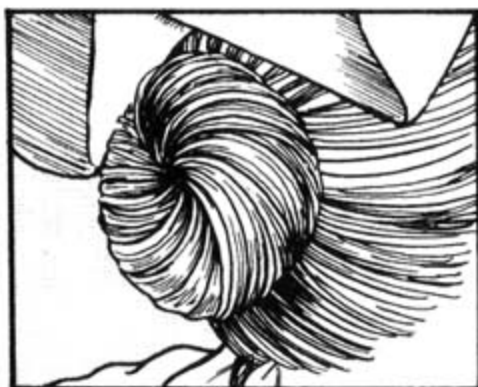


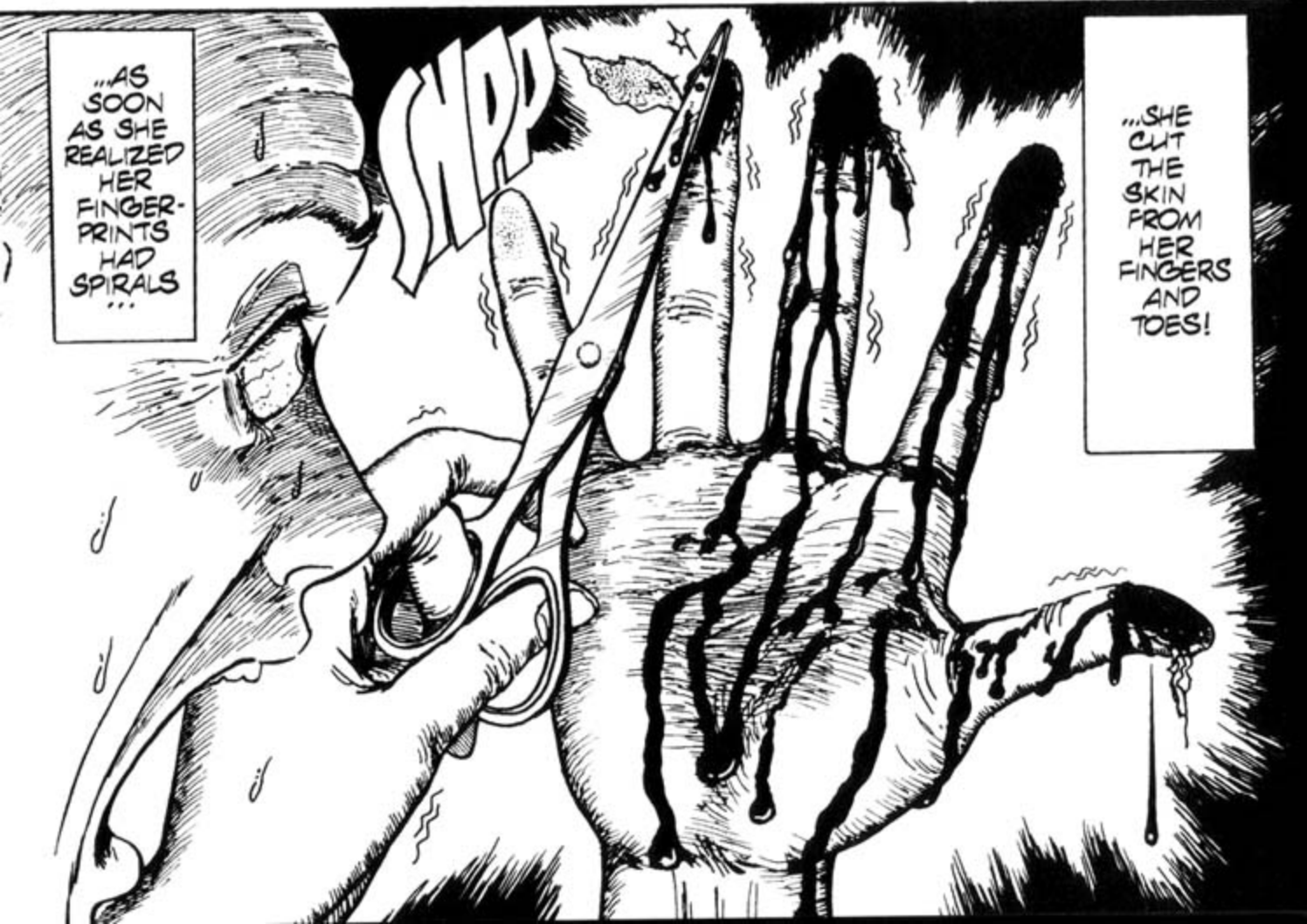
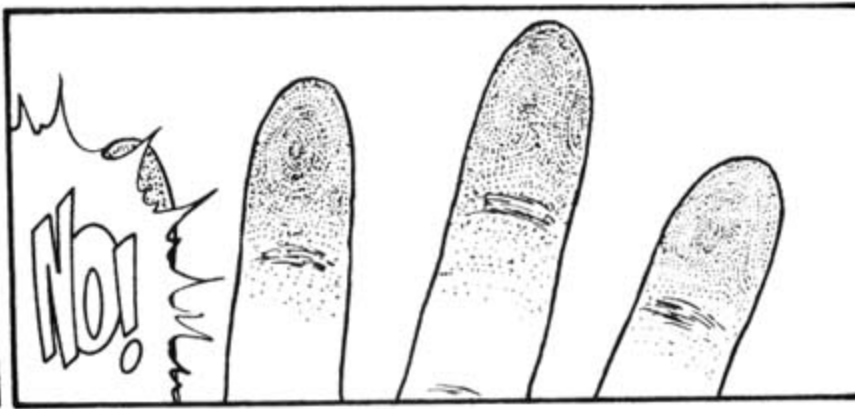
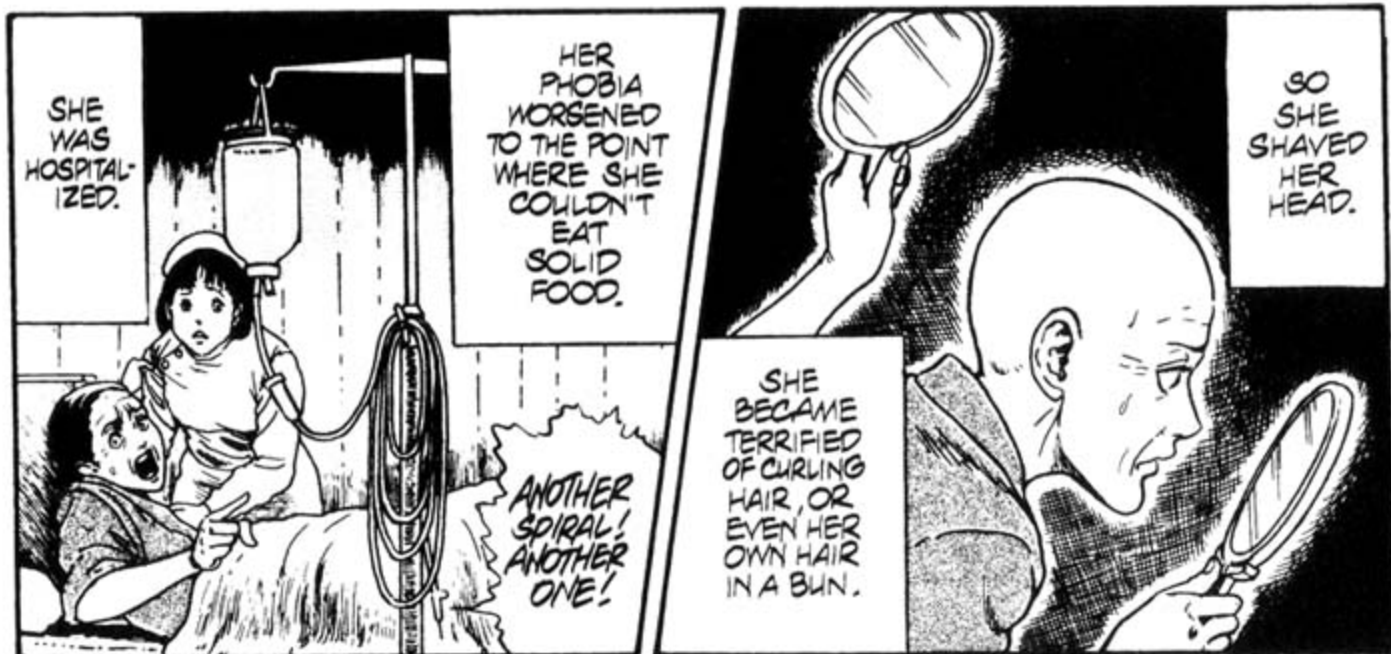


THE  
DRIFTING  
SMOKE,  
FOR A  
SPLIT  
SECOND...

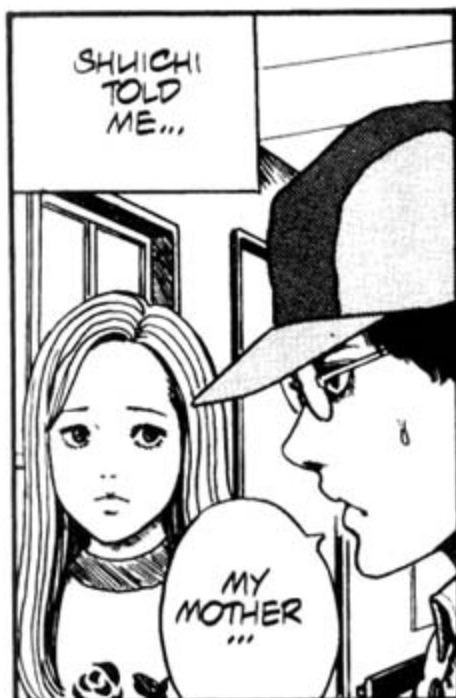
...BECAME  
THE  
FACE  
OF  
SHUICHI'S  
FATHER...

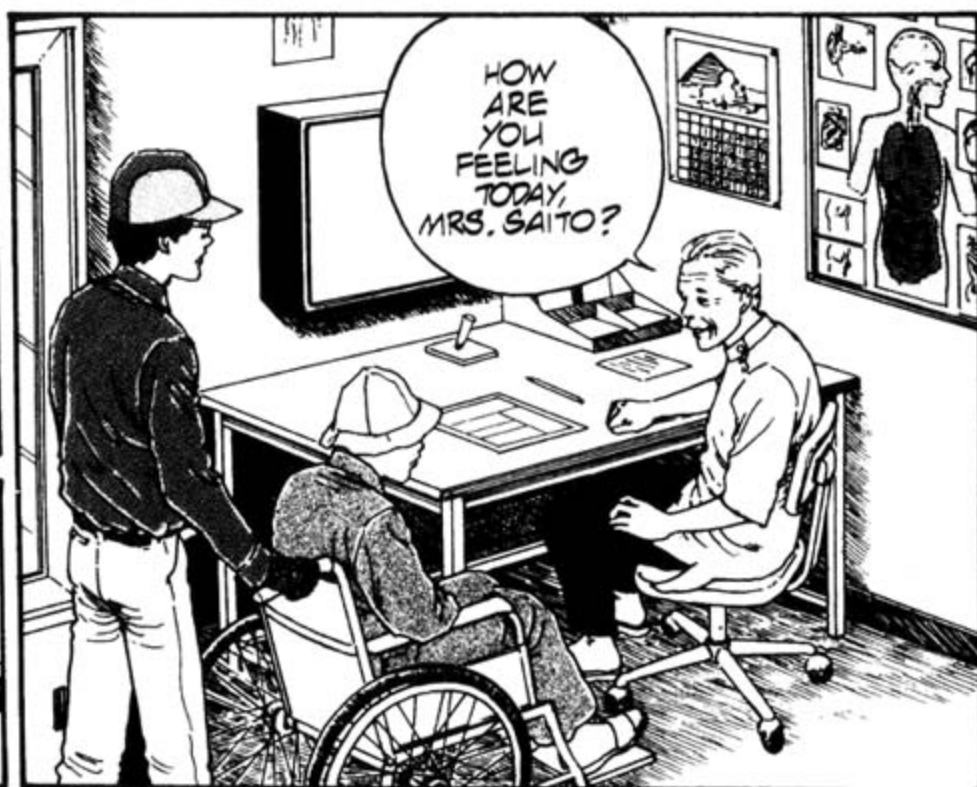


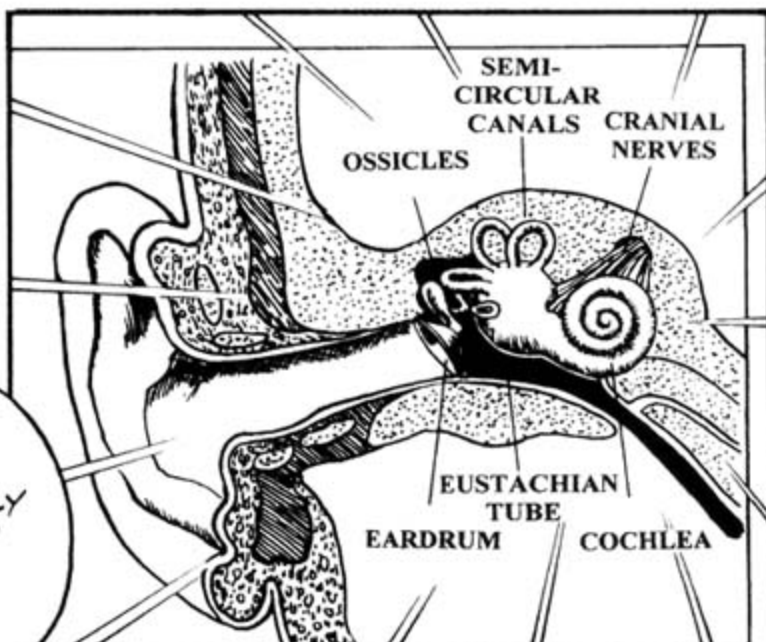
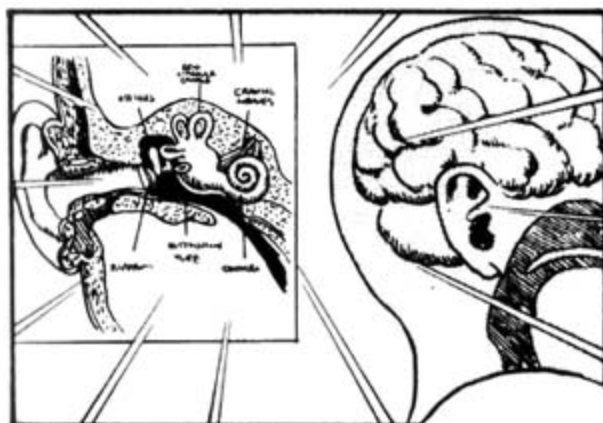
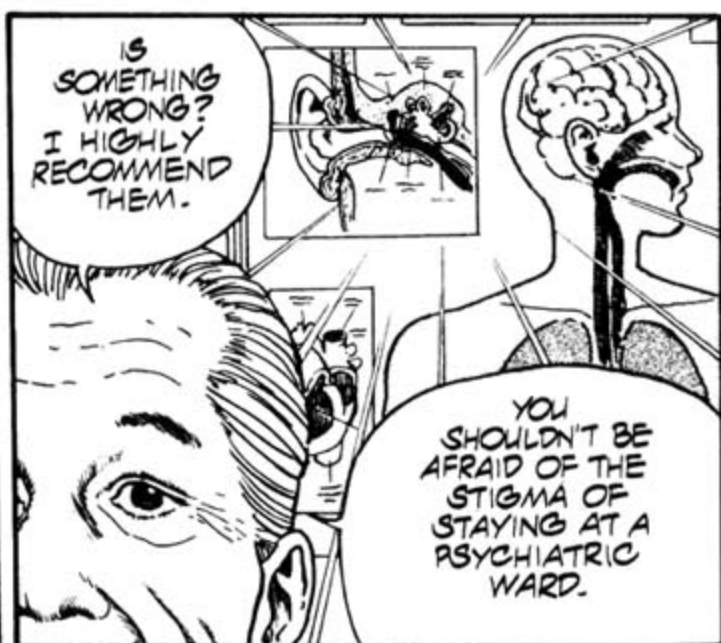
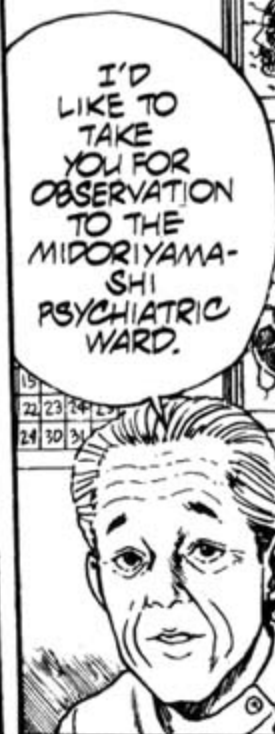




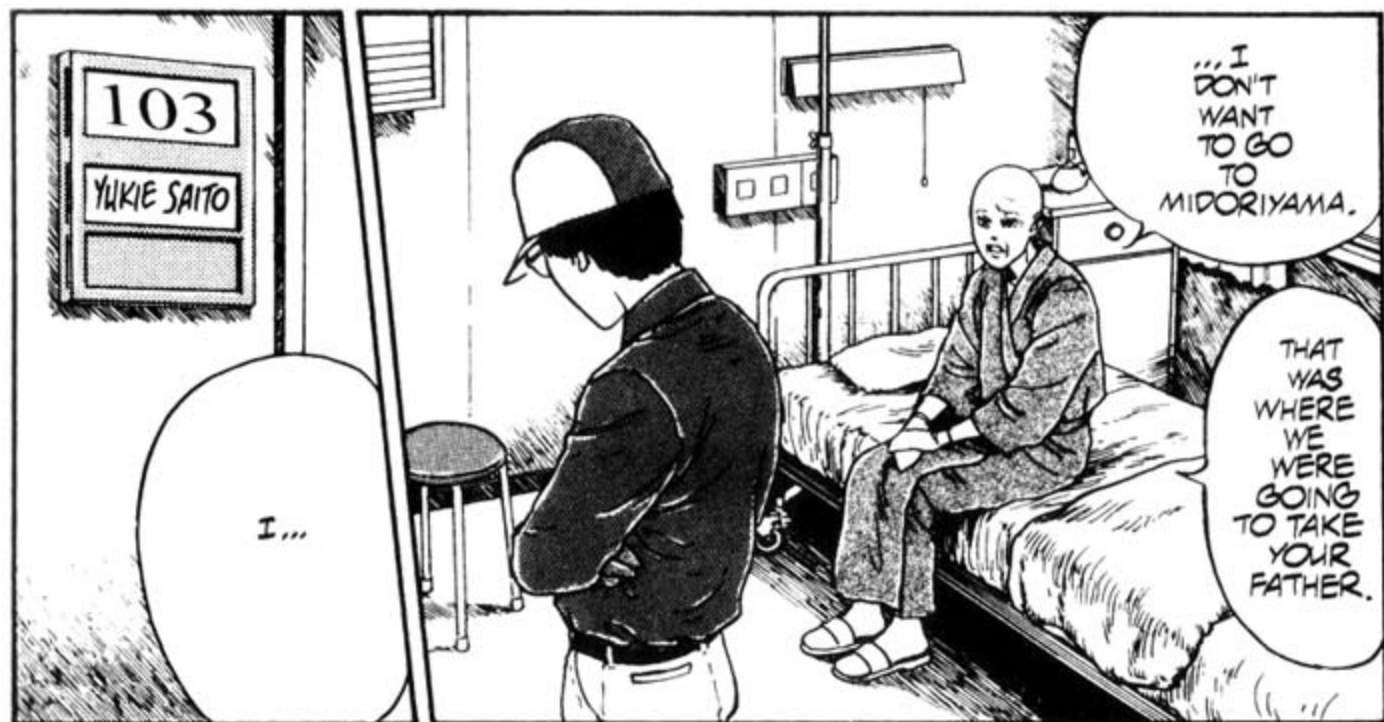


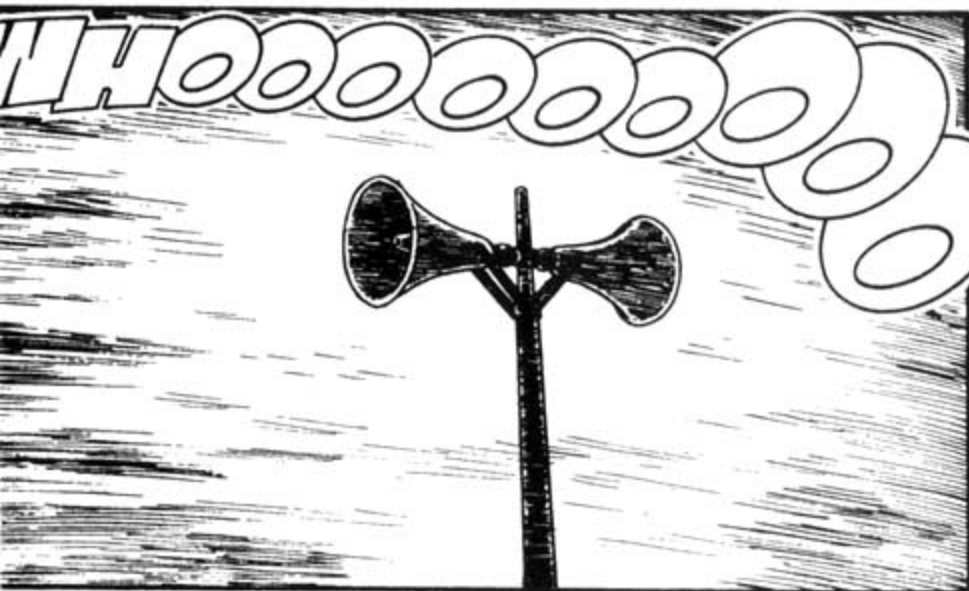


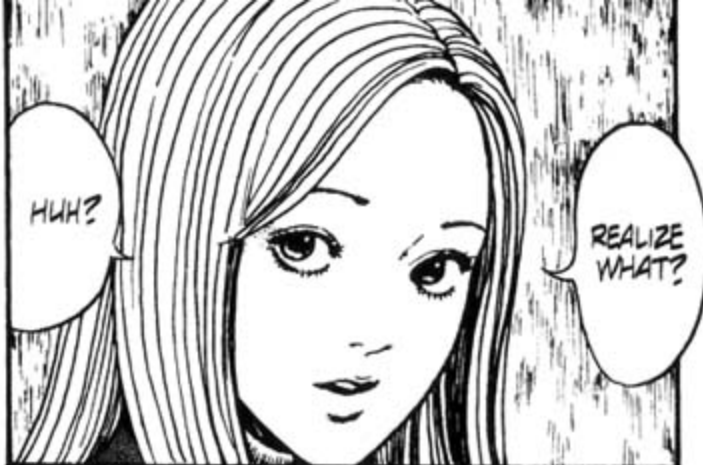


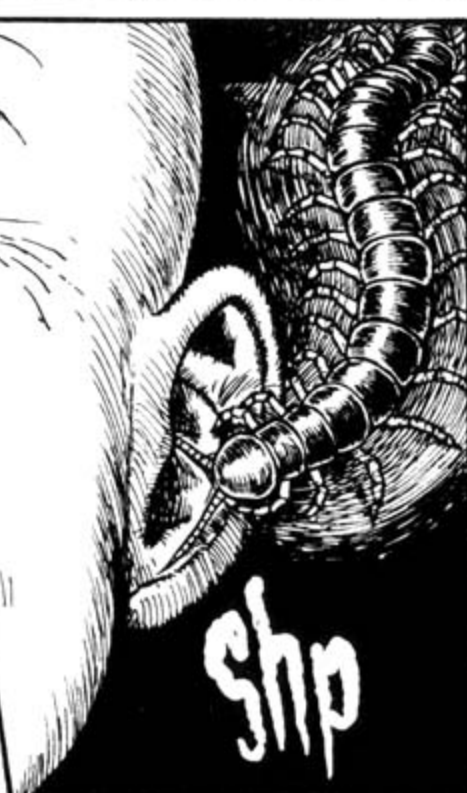
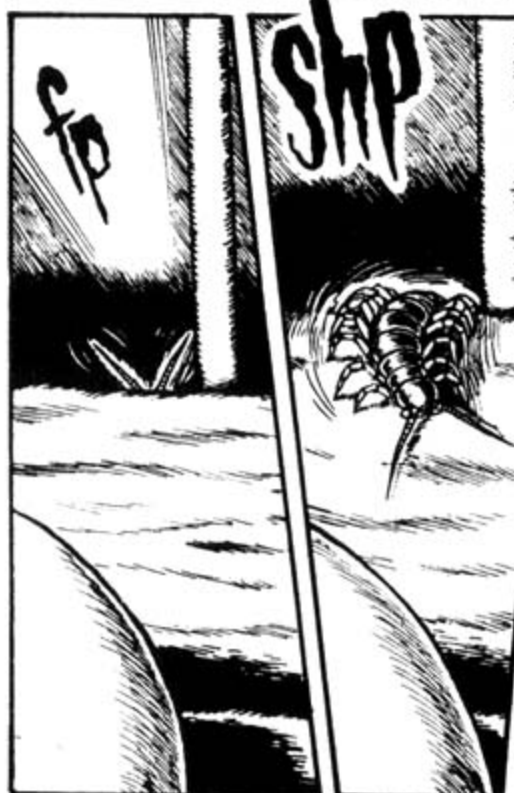




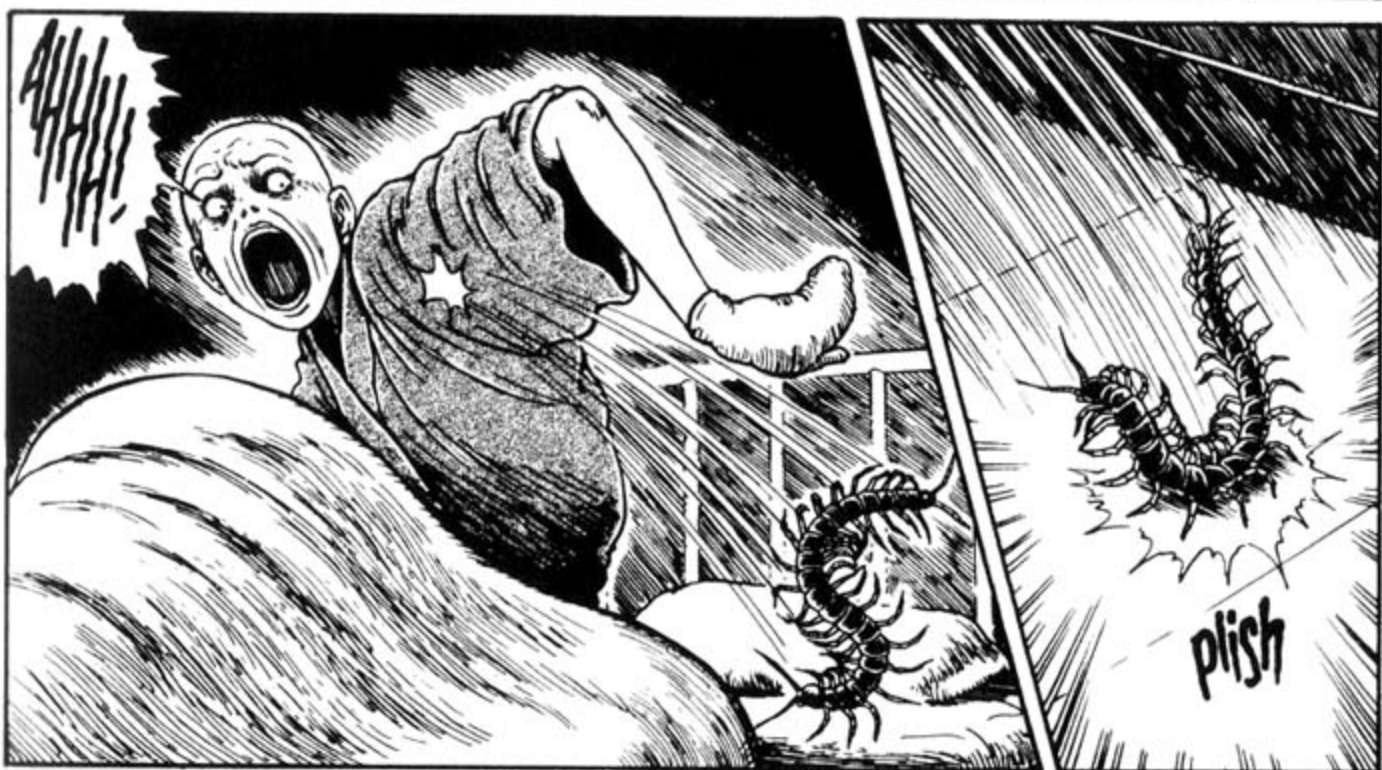
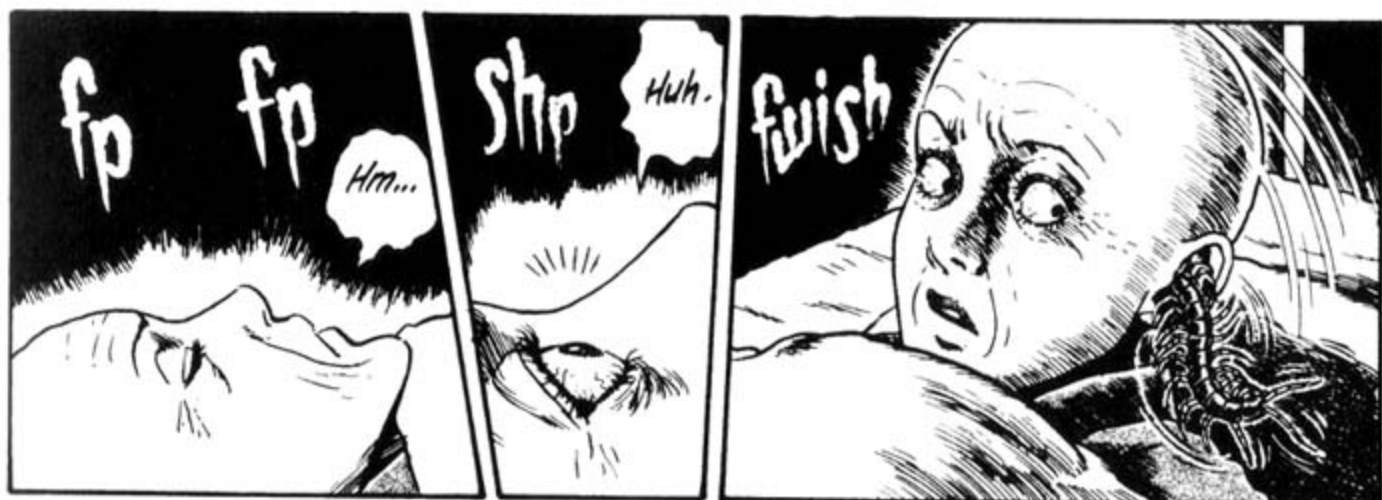
















YUKIE,  
DEAR...

COME  
JOIN  
ME IN  
THE  
SPIRAL  
...



NO--

NO!



WHY DO  
YOU HATE  
THE SPIRAL  
SO?

YOU STILL  
HAVE THEM  
IN YOUR  
BODY!



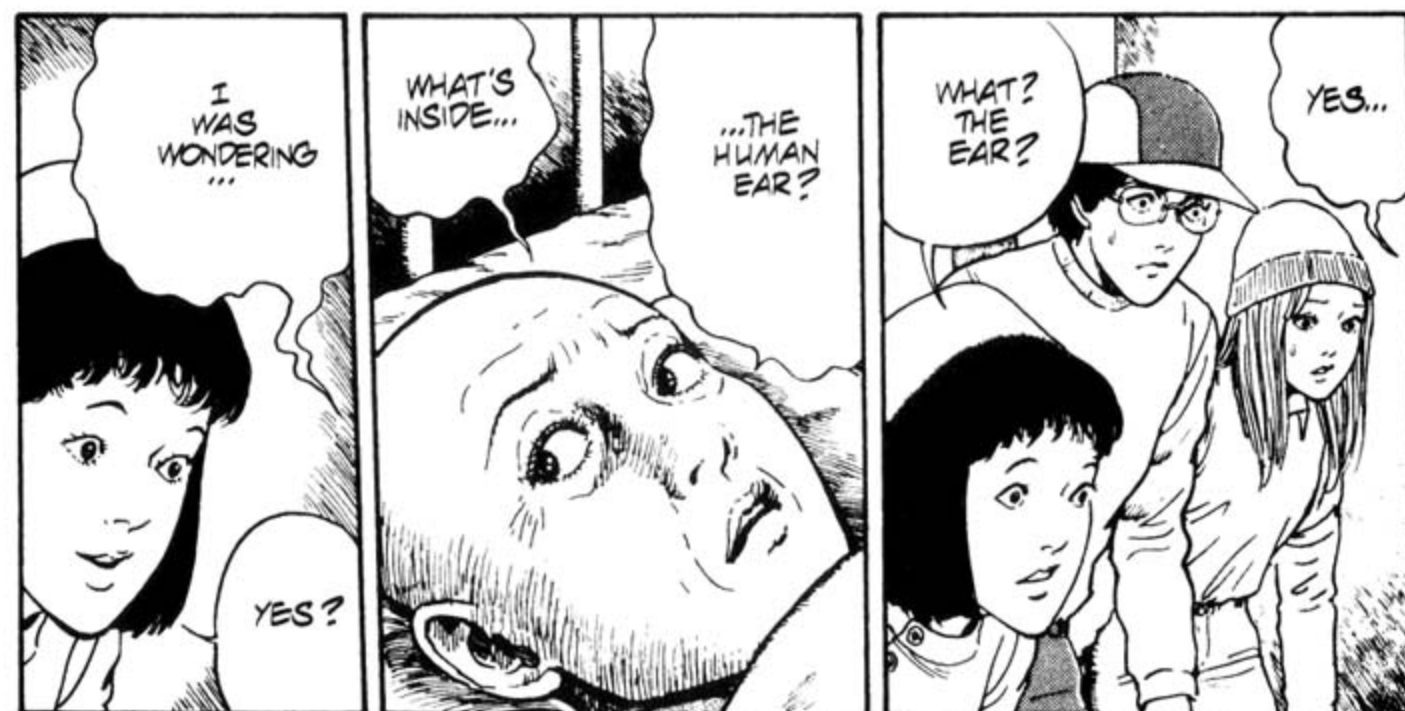
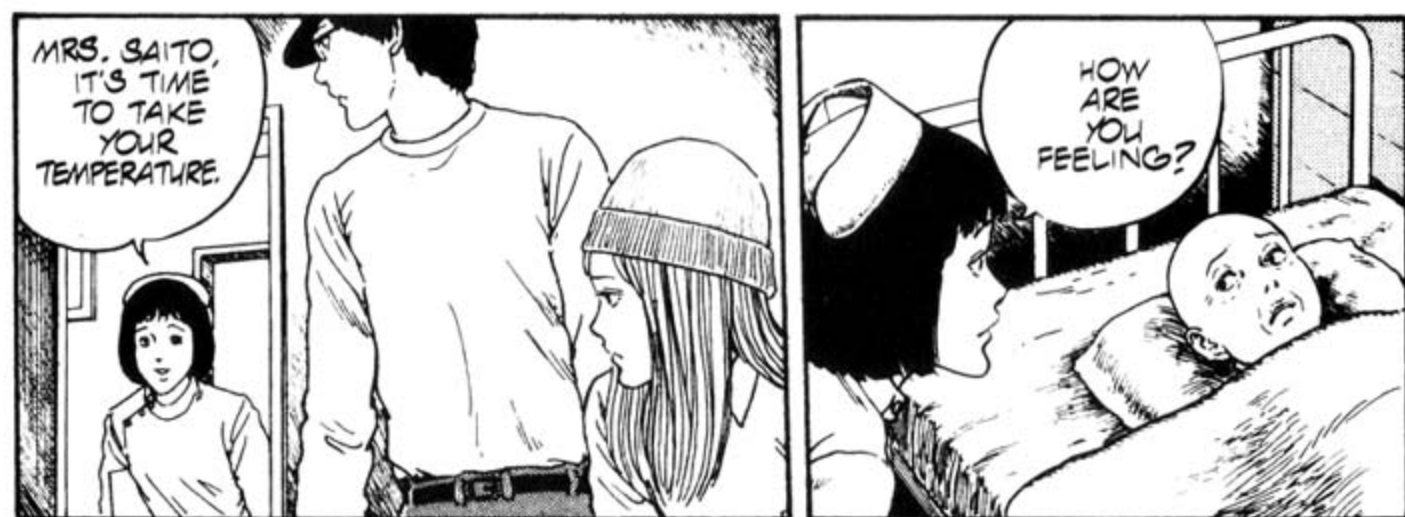
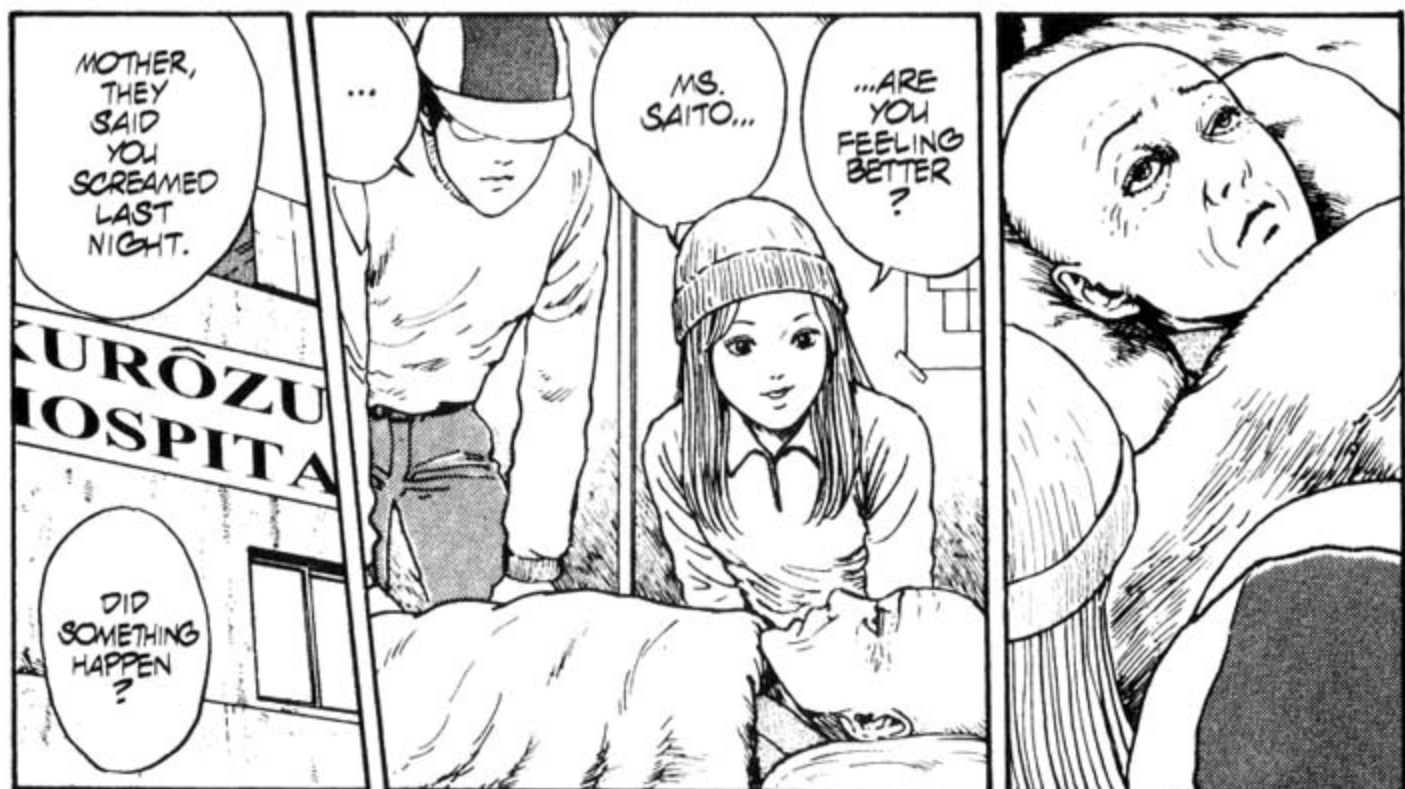
AAA... I WANT  
TO CRAWL INTO  
YOUR EARS SO  
BADLY.

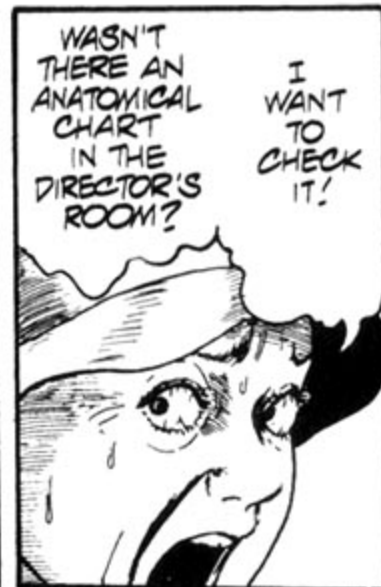


I WANT TO  
CURL UP  
INSIDE YOU  
AND SLEEP  
THERE...

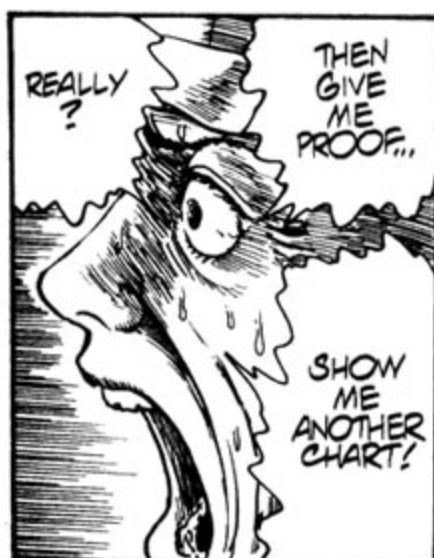
...DEEP  
INSIDE  
YOUR  
EARS  
...

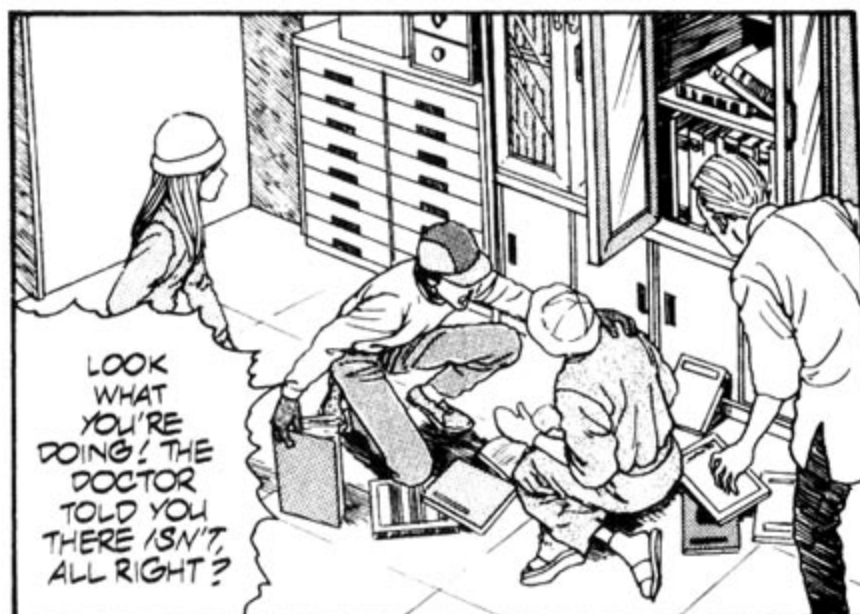












LOOK  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
DOING! THE  
DOCTOR  
TOLD YOU  
THERE ISN'T,  
ALL RIGHT?

BUT  
SHUICHI...  
LAST  
NIGHT...

...YOUR  
FATHER  
SAID  
SOMETHING  
VERY  
STRANGE...

...ABOUT  
MY  
EARS.



DAD  
IS  
DEAD!

YOU  
WERE  
DREAMING!



LET'S  
GO  
BACK  
TO  
YOUR  
ROOM...

DIRECTOR

A-  
ALL  
RIGHT...



GOOD  
THING  
I TOOK  
THE  
CHART  
DOWN...

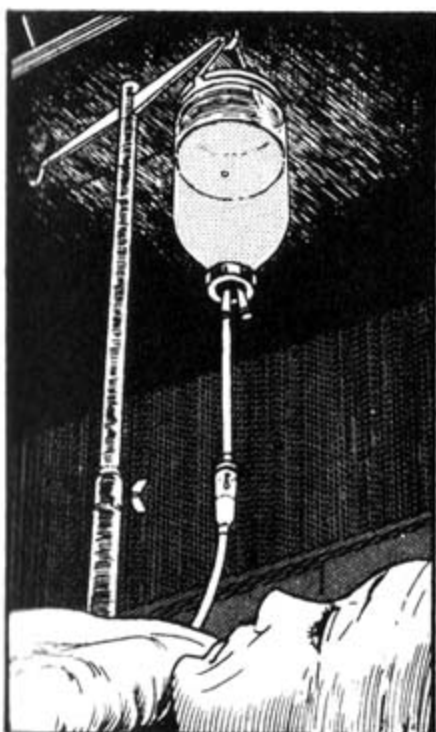
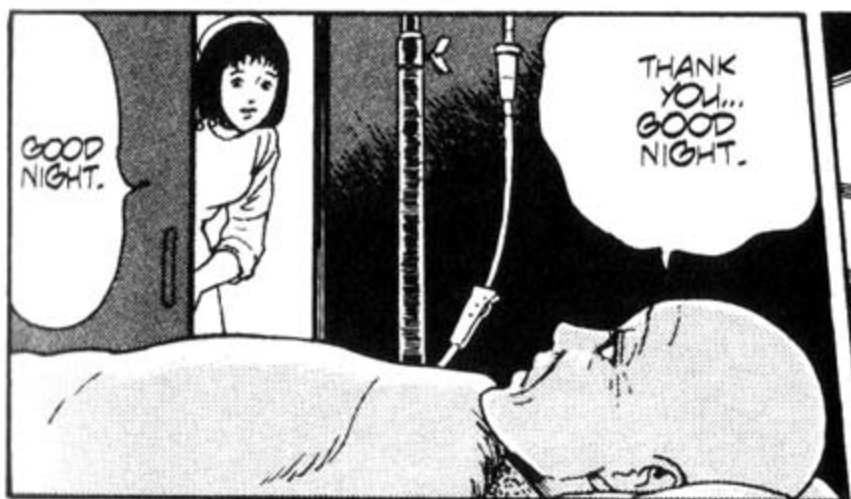
THANK  
YOU,  
DOCTOR.



WE  
NEED  
TO  
HAVE  
A  
SPECIALIST  
TREAT  
HER AS  
SOON  
AS  
POSSIBLE.

OTHER-  
WISE,  
AS YOU  
SAID,  
SHE'S  
IN  
DANGER.







THERE  
ARE...

...SPIRAIS...

...IN  
YOUR  
EARS...

AHH...  
AHHH...

blup

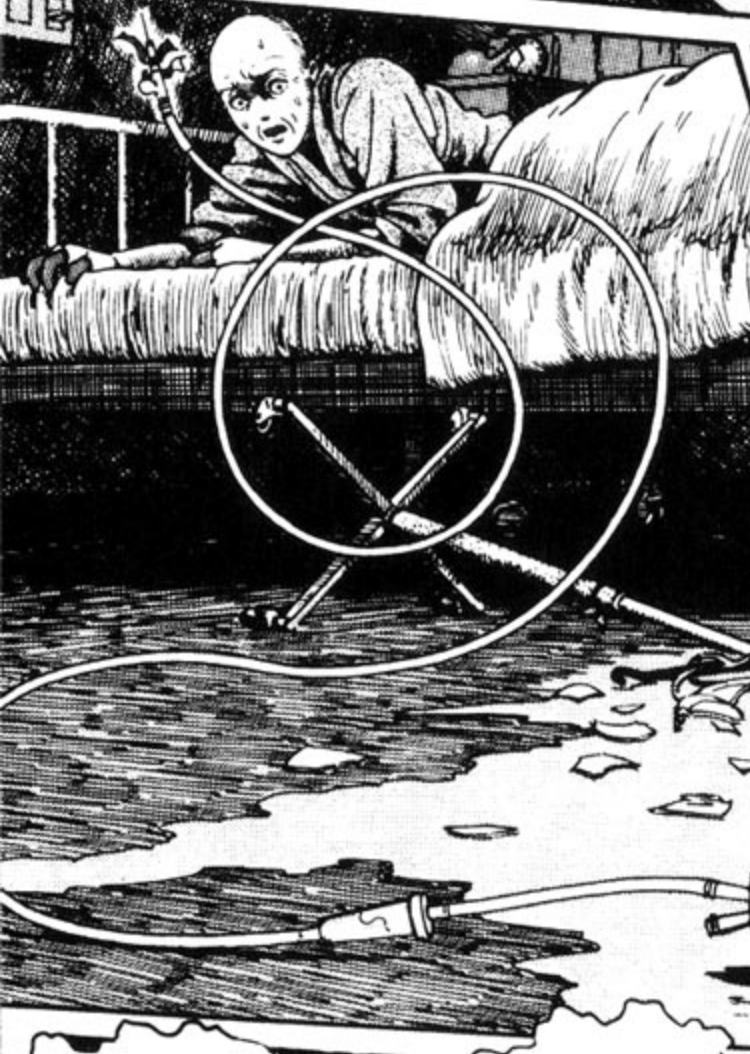
THERE  
ARE  
SPIRAIS...

WING

TRIP

YEAHHH!









SHUICHI'S MOTHER WAS HAUNTED BY SPIRALS UNTIL THE MOMENT SHE DIED.

**AHH!**  
**I'M SPINNING!**  
**MY BODY... SPIRAL...**

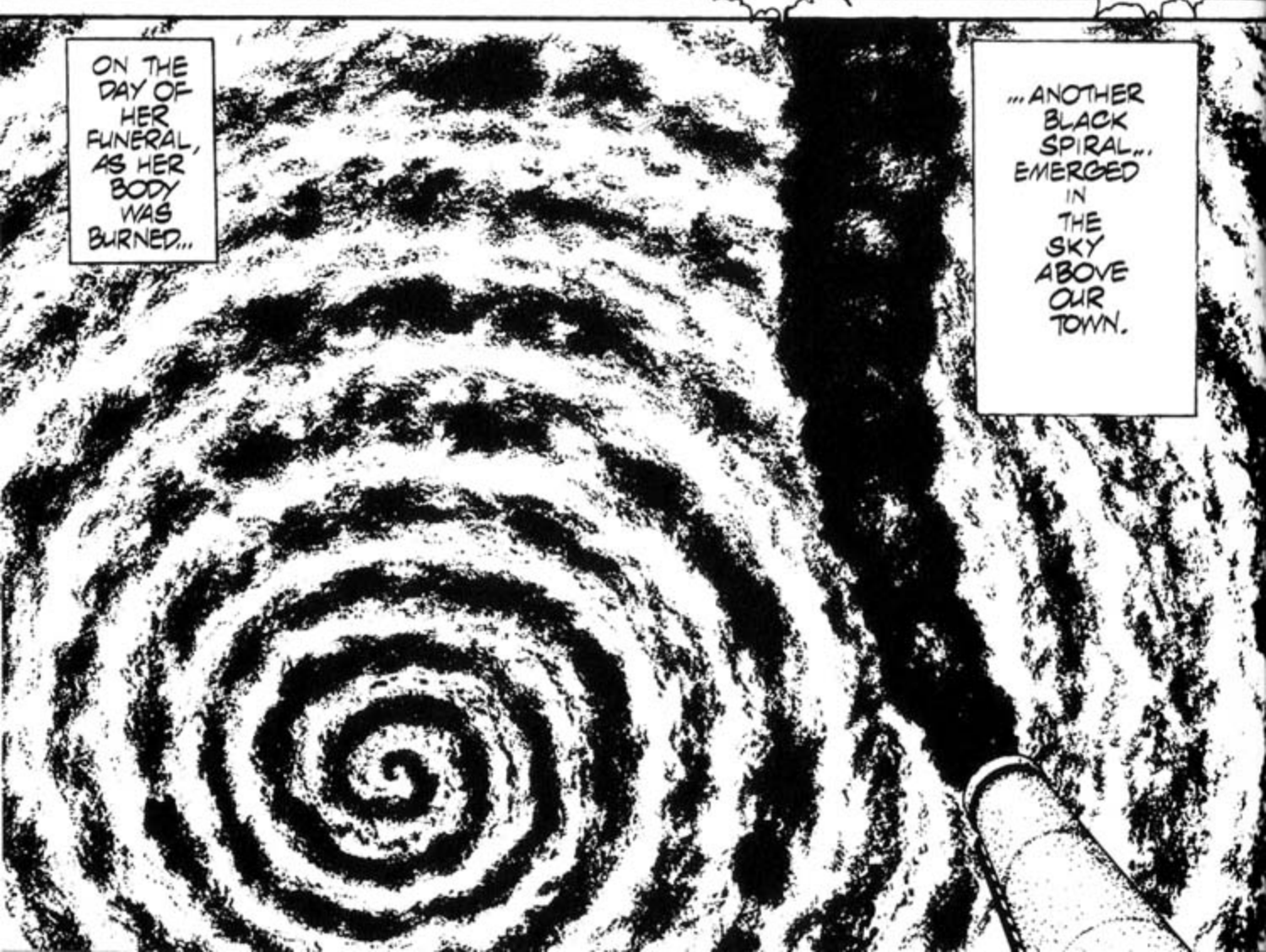


BY STABBING HER EARS, SHE DESTROYED NOT ONLY HER HEARING BUT HER SENSE OF BALANCE.

AS A RESULT, SHE WAS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF VERTIGO...

**NO!**

**I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A SPIRAL!**



ON THE DAY OF HER FUNERAL, AS HER BODY WAS BURNED...

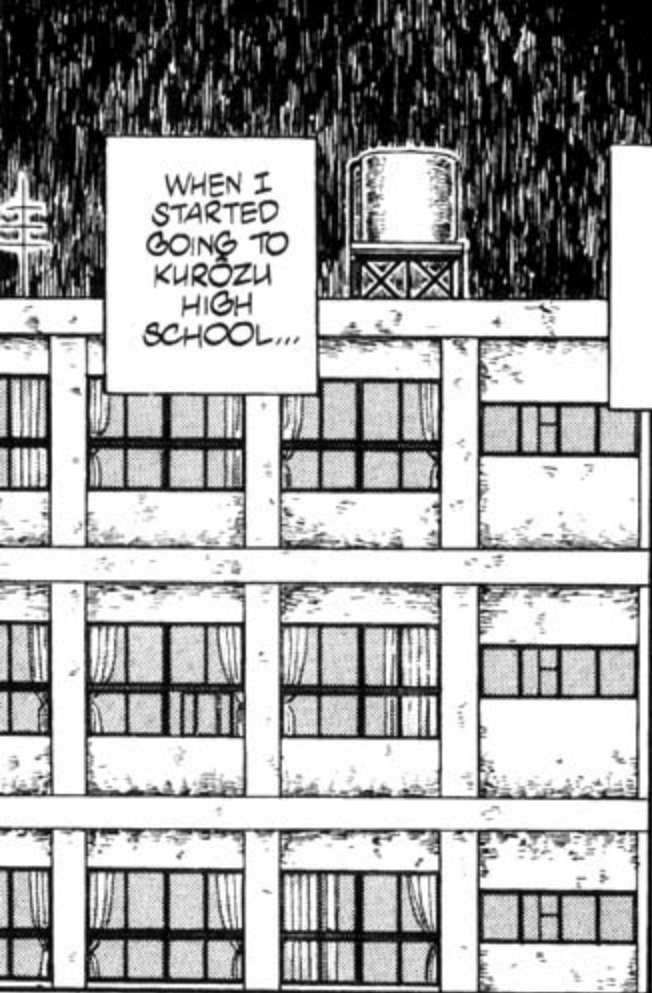
...ANOTHER BLACK SPIRAL... EMERGED IN THE SKY ABOVE OUR TOWN.

CHAPTER

3

THE SCAR

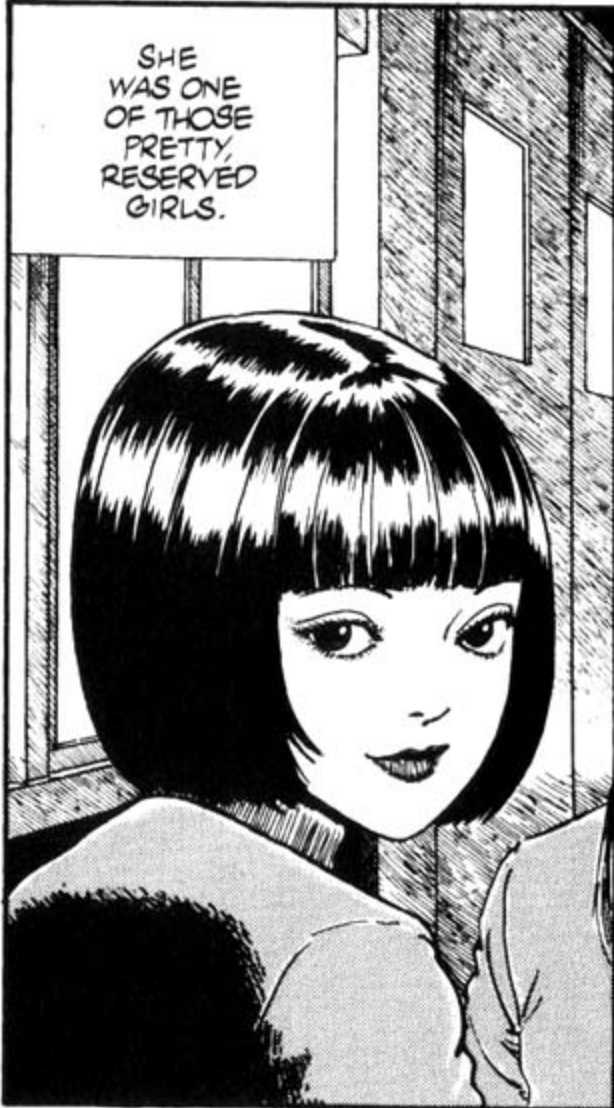




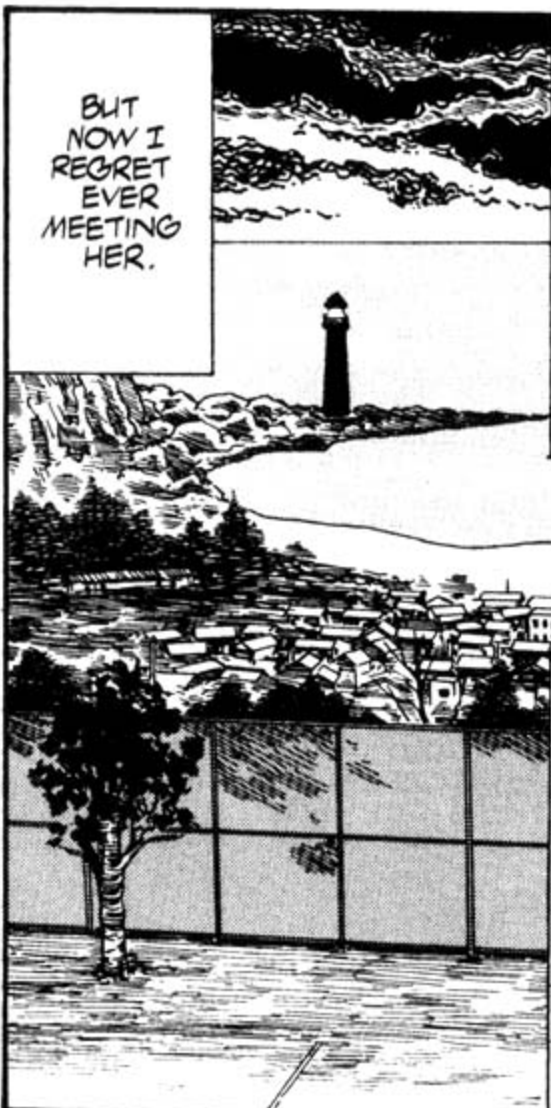
WHEN I  
STARTED  
GOING TO  
KUROZU  
HIGH  
SCHOOL...

...I MADE  
FRIENDS  
WITH  
AZAMI  
KUROTANI.

SHE  
COMMUTED  
TO SCHOOL  
FROM  
MIDORIYAMA-  
SHI.



SHE  
WAS ONE  
OF THOSE  
PRETTY,  
RESERVED  
GIRLS.

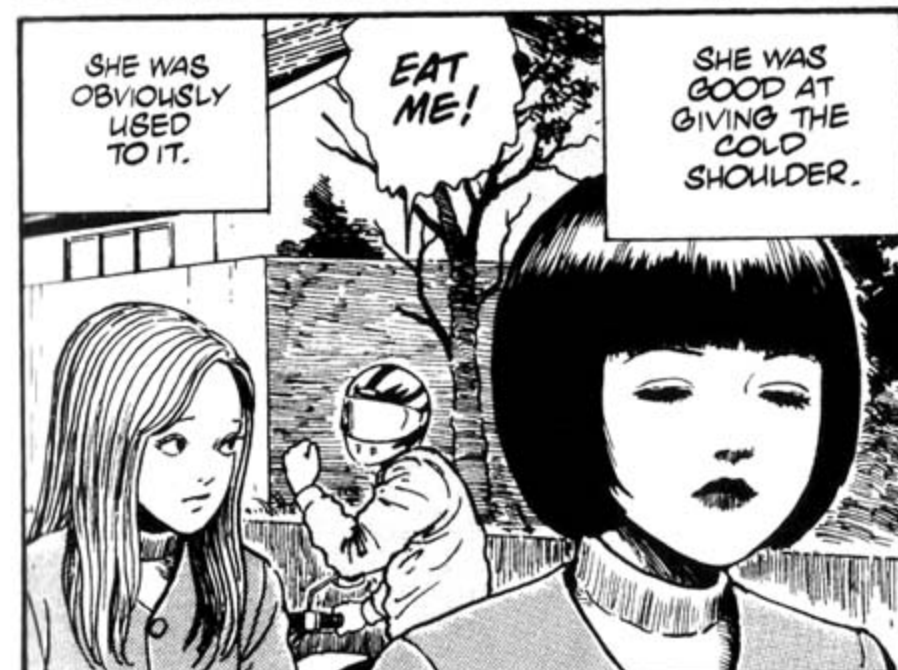
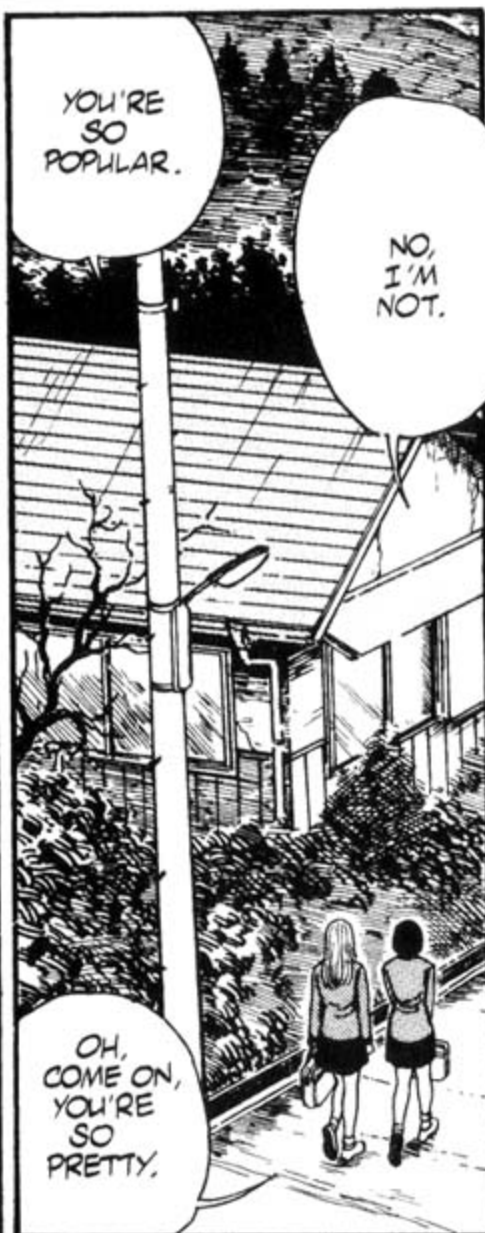


BUT  
NOW I  
REGRET  
EVER  
MEETING  
HER.

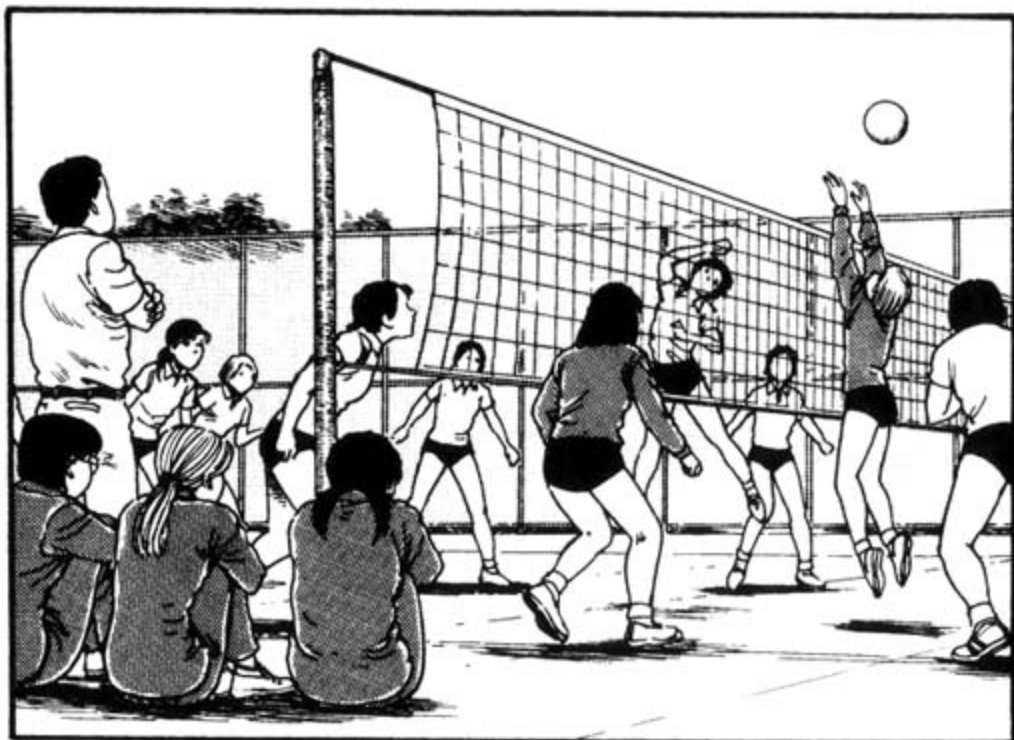
IF  
I  
HADN'T,  
SHE  
WOULD  
NEVER  
HAVE  
MET  
SHUICHI...

...AND  
WE  
MIGHT  
HAVE  
PREVENTED  
WHAT  
HAPPENED.





AS  
TIME  
WENT  
ON,  
A  
RUMOR  
STARTED.



KIRIE,  
ARE YOU  
STILL  
HANGING  
OUT WITH  
AZAMI?

Uh,  
YEAH...



YOU  
REALLY  
SHOULDN'T.

WHY  
NOT?



SHE'S  
GOT A  
BAD  
REPUTA-  
TION.



SHE  
USES  
HER  
LOOKS  
TO  
GET  
GUYS...

SHE  
GETS  
THEM  
OBSESSED  
...AND THEN  
DUMPS  
THEM.

THEY  
SAY  
SHE'S  
GOT A  
MAGIC  
POWER.

MAGIC?









IT'S TRUE, THOUGH, THAT THIS SCAR MEANS SOMETHING TO ME.



WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THERE WAS THIS BOY I HAD A CRUSH ON. I WANTED TO IMPRESS HIM SO MUCH...

...SO I TRIED WALKING ON THE ROPES IN THE PLAYGROUND. I FELL AND THAT WAS HOW I GOT THIS SCAR.

HEY! GET DOWN HERE!



THE FUNNY THING IS, WE BECAME FRIENDS BECAUSE OF THAT.

I TOLD YOU SO! ARE YOU OKAY?!

WAHH!  
I'LL GO GET THE TEACHER!



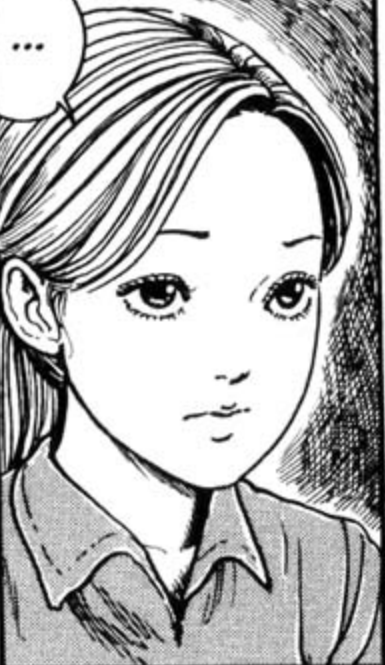
SO SOMETIMES I ACTUALLY WONDER ...

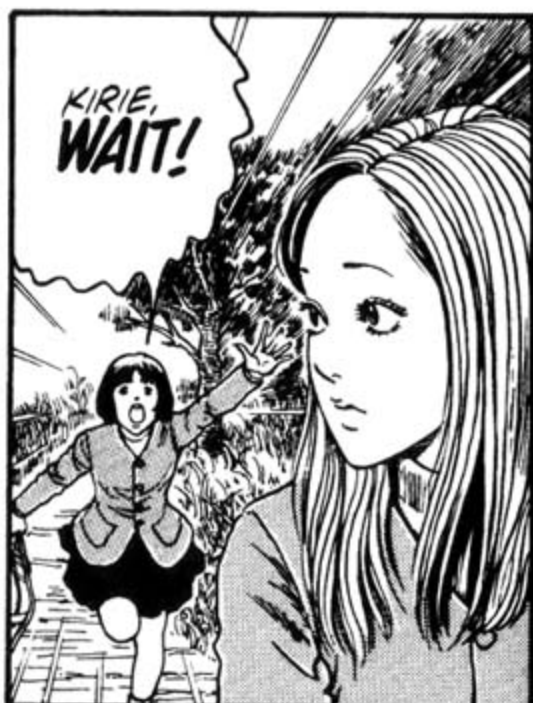
...IF THIS SCAR HAS THE POWER TO ATTRACT BOYS.



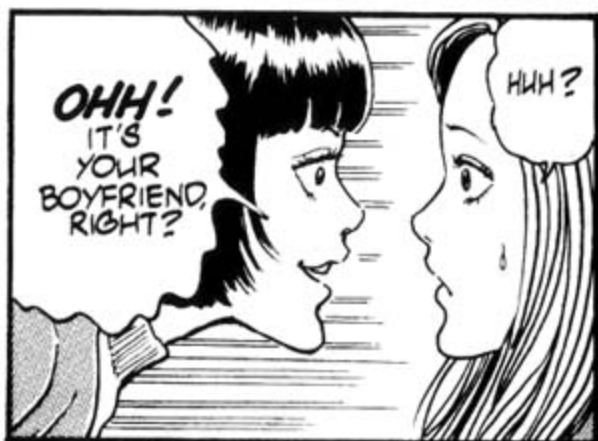
EVER SINCE I GOT IT, I'VE HAD EVERY BOY I EVER LIKED.

BUT OF COURSE IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE. NO ONE HAS THAT KIND OF POWER!





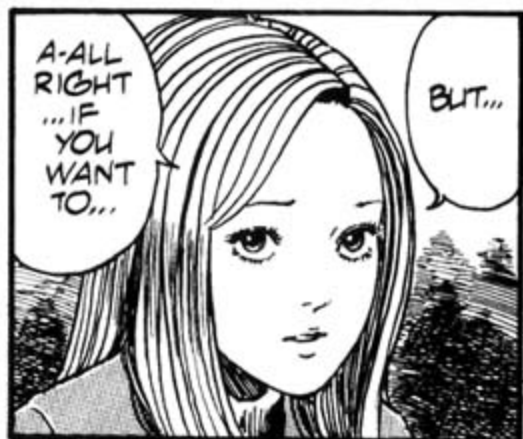
I'M SORRY... TODAY I HAVE TO GO SEE SOMEBODY.

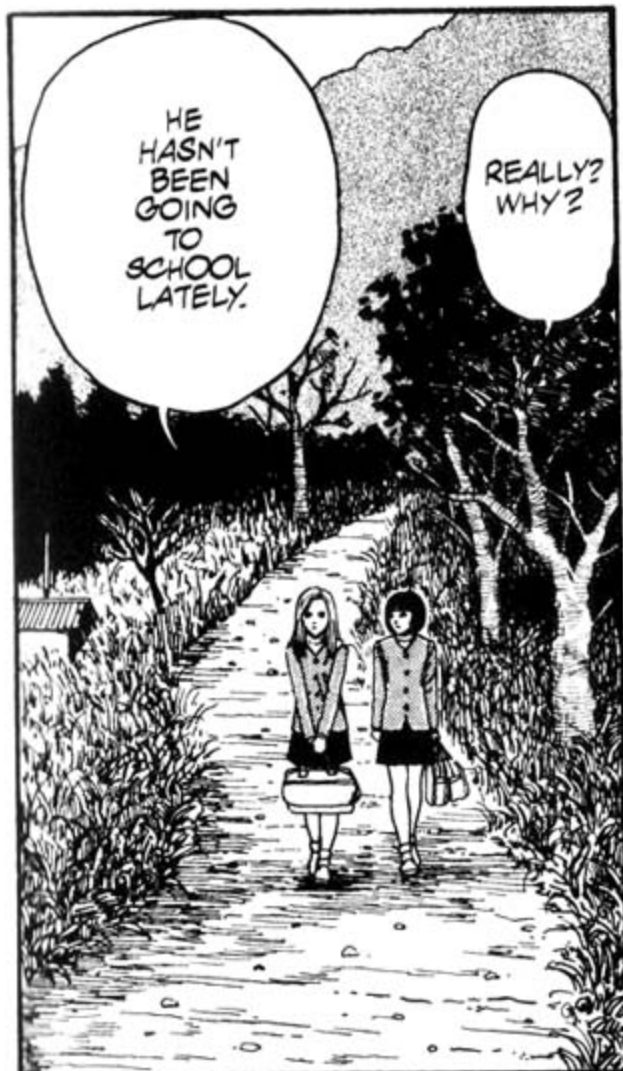


I KNEW IT! SHUICHI SAITO! DOESN'T HE GO TO MIDORIYAMA HIGH SCHOOL?

I MIGHT HAVE SEEN HIM AT THE STATION WITHOUT KNOWING IT!

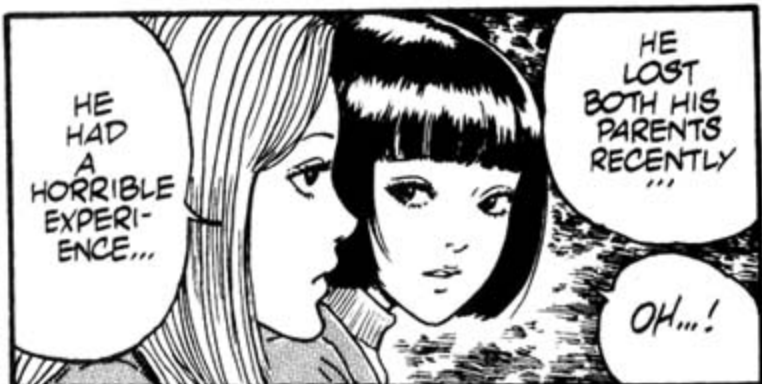
WHAT'S HE LIKE? WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME TO HIM? I WANT TO MEET HIM RIGHT NOW!





HE HASN'T BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL LATELY.

REALLY? WHY?



HE HAD A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE...

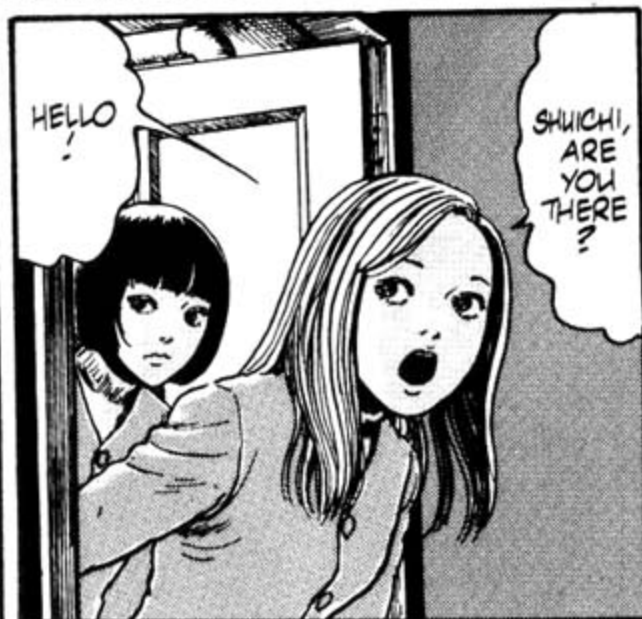
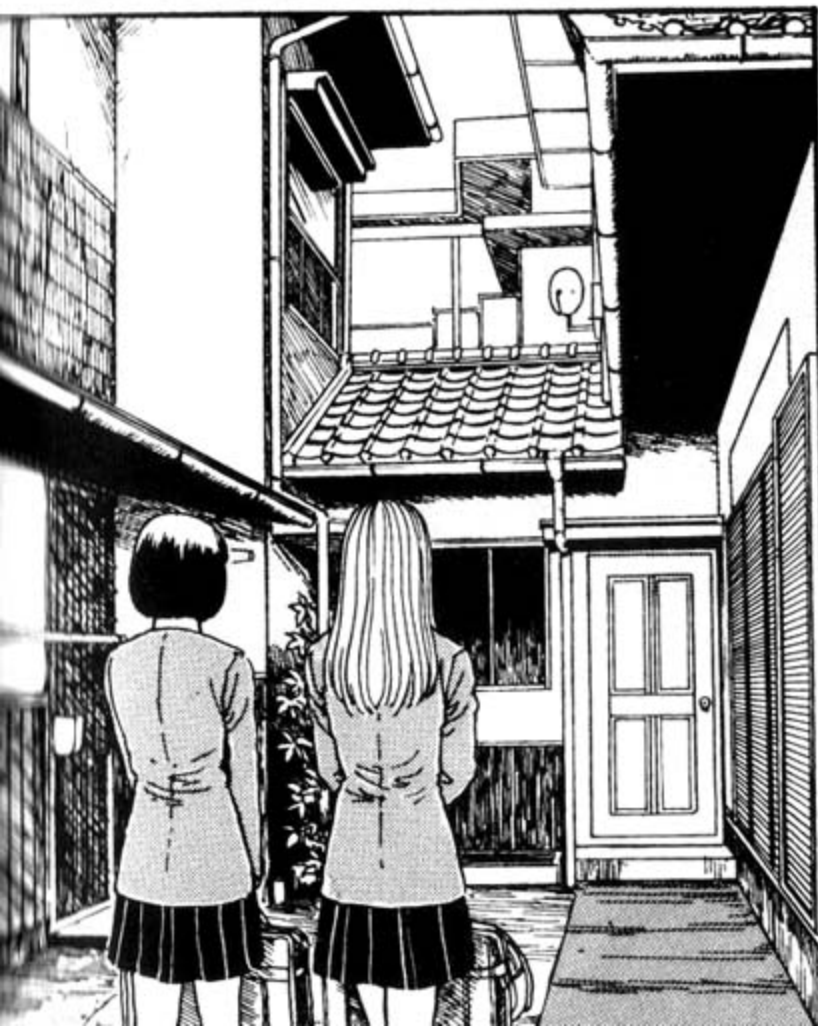
HE LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS RECENTLY ...

OH...!



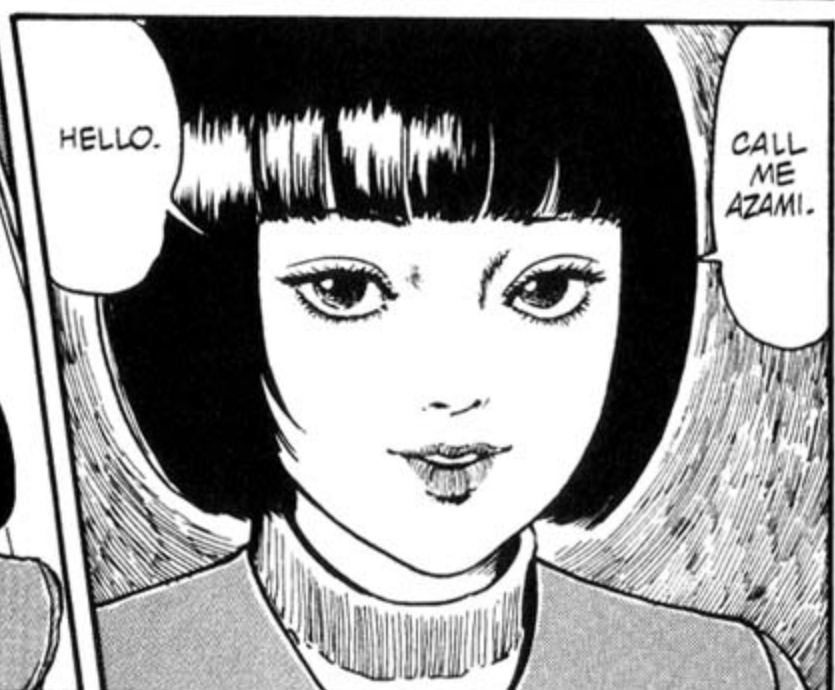
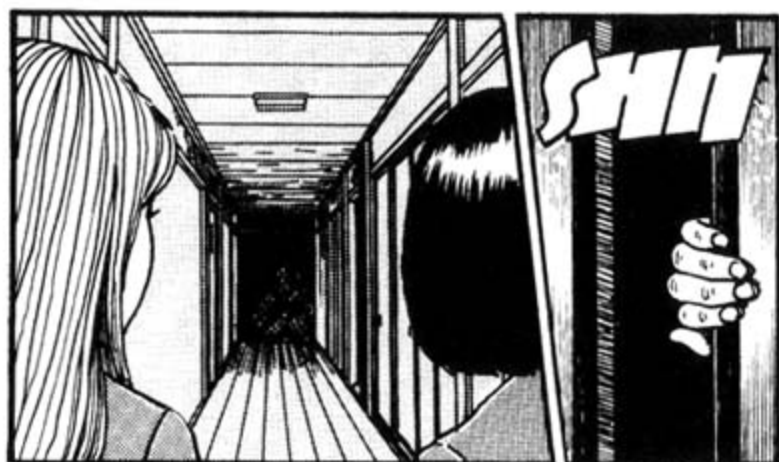
I WAS RELUCTANT TO LET HER MEET SHUICHI.

BUT SHE INSISTED ON IT SO I GAVE IN.

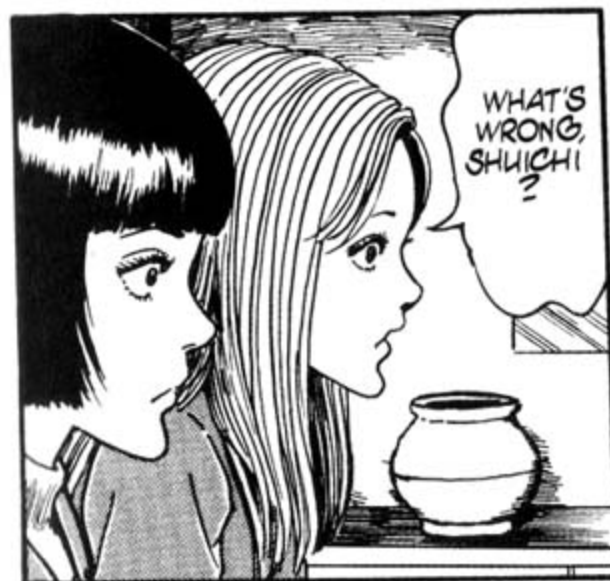


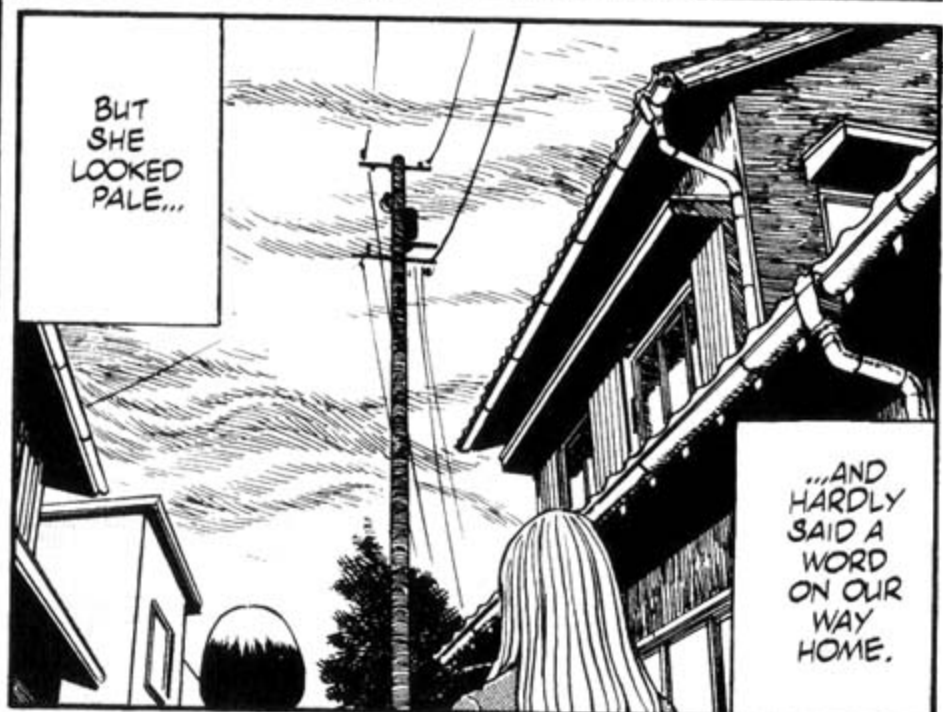
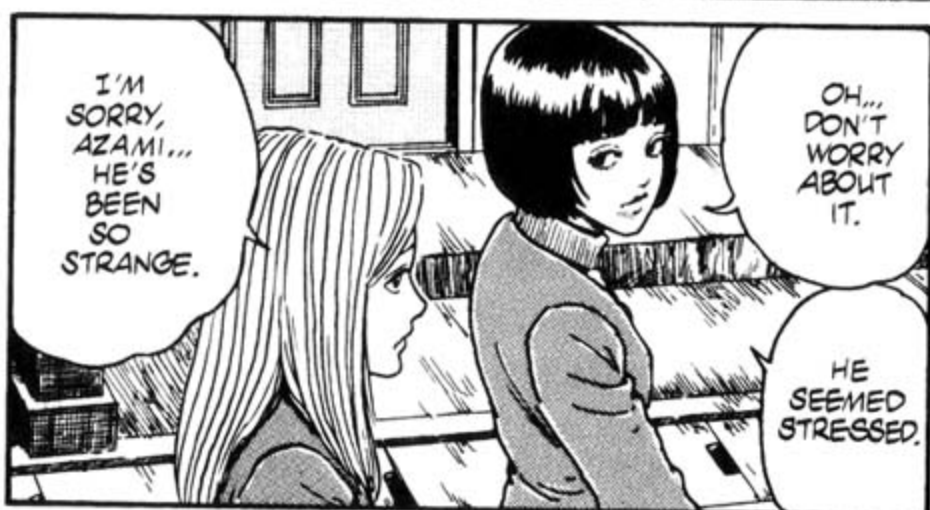
HELLO!

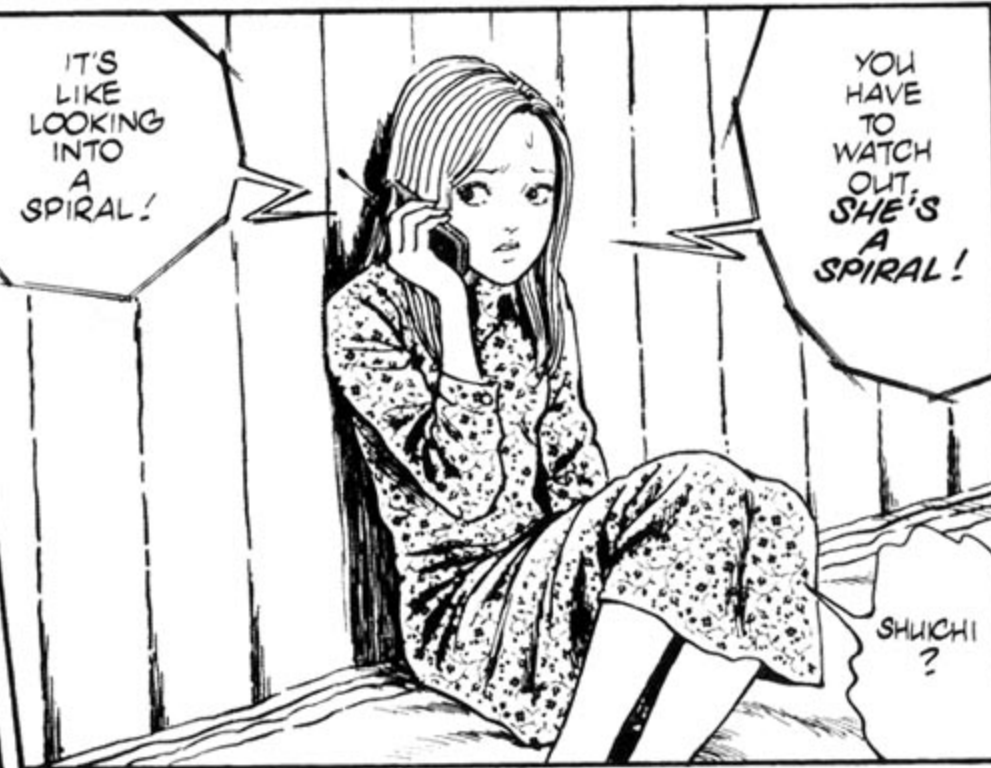
SHUICHI, ARE YOU THERE?







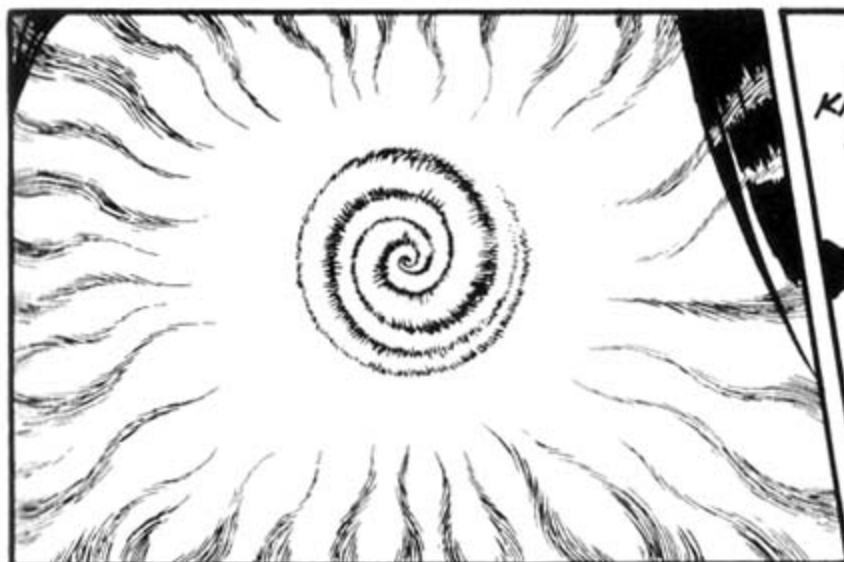












I  
KNEW  
IT!

TAKE  
A LOOK  
IN THE  
MIRROR  
BY THE  
ENTRANCE  
!!

IT'S  
NO  
CRESCENT.  
IT'S  
A  
SPIRAL  
!



WHAT  
?!



I  
DON'T  
...



MAYBE  
IT USED  
TO BE  
SHAPED  
LIKE A  
CRESCENT  
...

...BUT  
THEN THE  
ENDS  
STARTED  
GROWING  
AND FORMED  
THAT  
SPIRAL.



IT'S  
ALL  
BECAUSE  
OF THIS  
PLACE...  
KUROZU-  
CHO!

THIS  
TOWN  
IS  
CONTAMINATED  
WITH  
SPIRALS!

GO TO  
SCHOOL  
IN  
MIDORIYAMA-  
SHI! GET  
OUT OF  
TOWN AS  
FAST AS  
YOU CAN!



INSTEAD  
OF  
HEEDING  
SHUICHI'S  
WARNING...

...AZAMI  
KURUTANI  
TALKED HER  
PARENTS  
INTO  
RENTING  
AN APARTMENT  
FOR HER IN  
KUROZU-  
CHO.



NIGHT  
AFTER  
NIGHT,  
SHE  
VISITED  
HIM.

SHUICHI!  
OPEN  
THE  
DOOR!

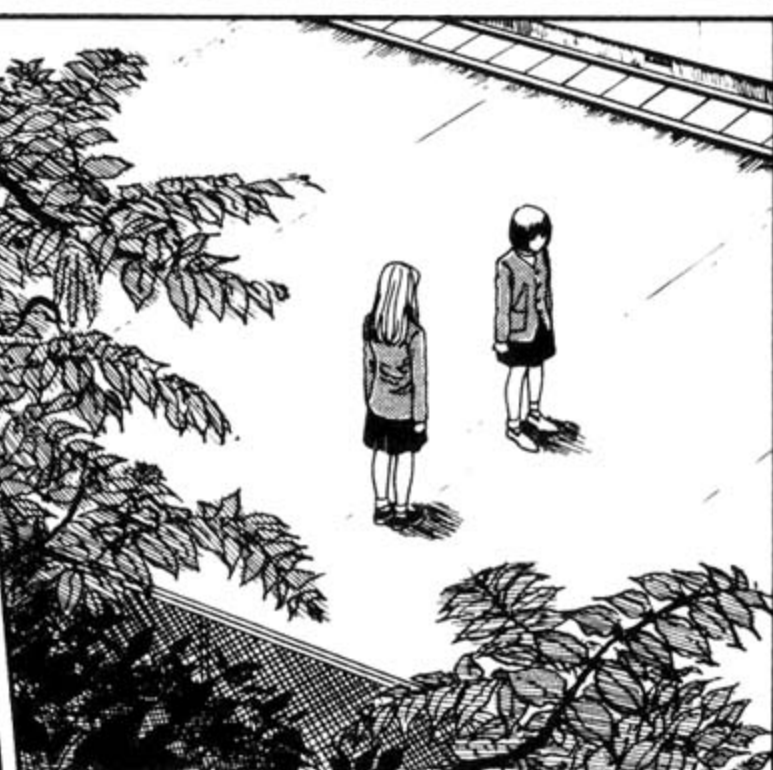
**BAM**

**BAM**



PLEASE!  
I'VE NEVER  
FELT THIS WAY  
BEFORE! ALL THE  
BOYS I KNEW  
COULDN'T STOP  
THINKING ABOUT  
ME!

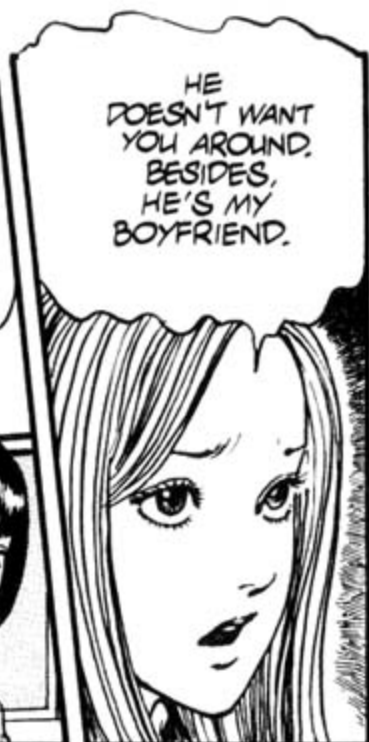
BUT  
NOW I  
KNOW WHAT  
IT FEELS  
LIKE. I  
CAN'T STOP  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
YOU!







AZAMI--  
I DON'T  
WANT  
YOU  
VISITING  
SHUICHI  
ANYMORE!

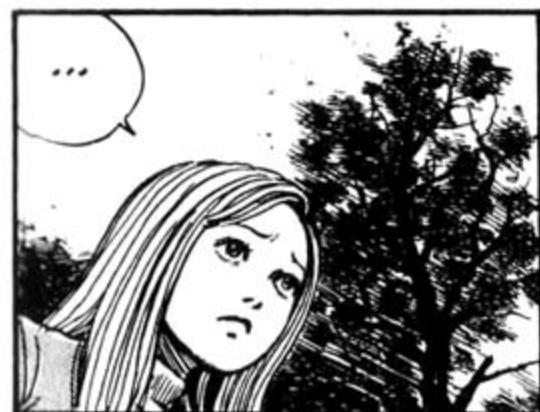


HE  
DOESN'T WANT  
YOU AROUND.  
BESIDES,  
HE'S MY  
BOYFRIEND.



I  
WON'T!  
I  
LIKE  
HIM,  
**TOO!**

I'LL  
MAKE  
HIM  
CARE  
ABOUT  
ME!



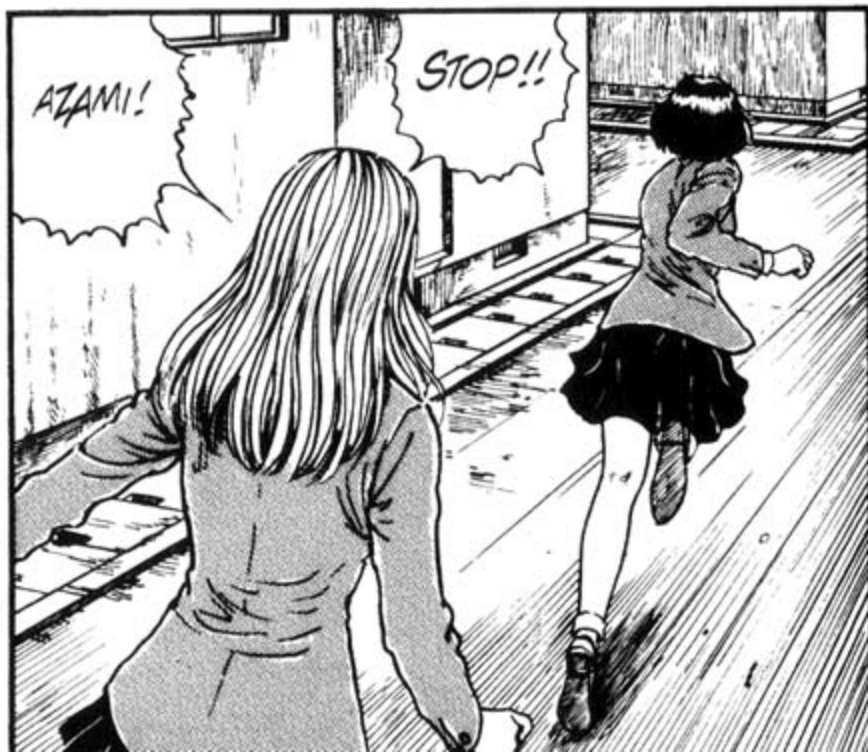
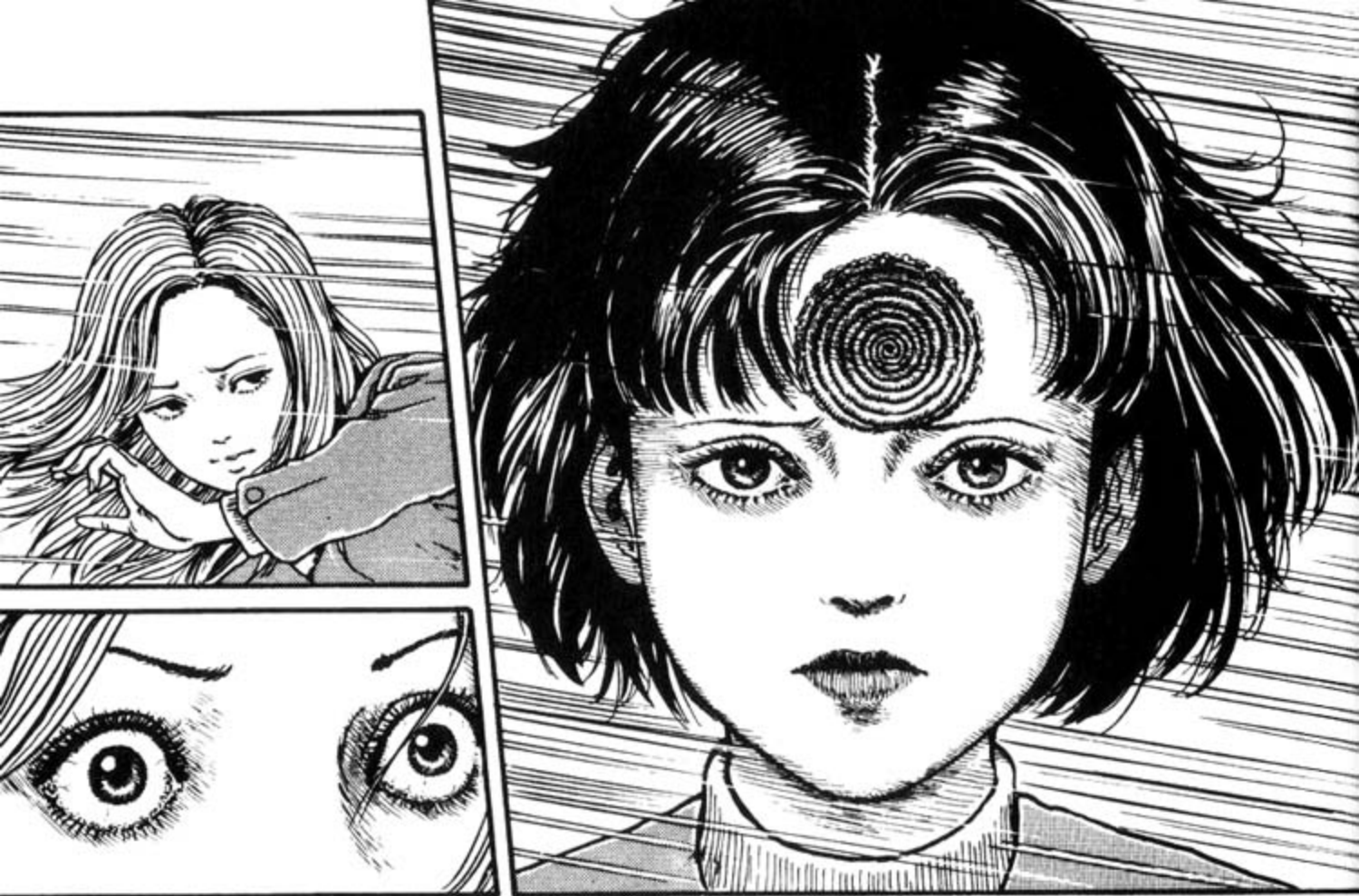
...

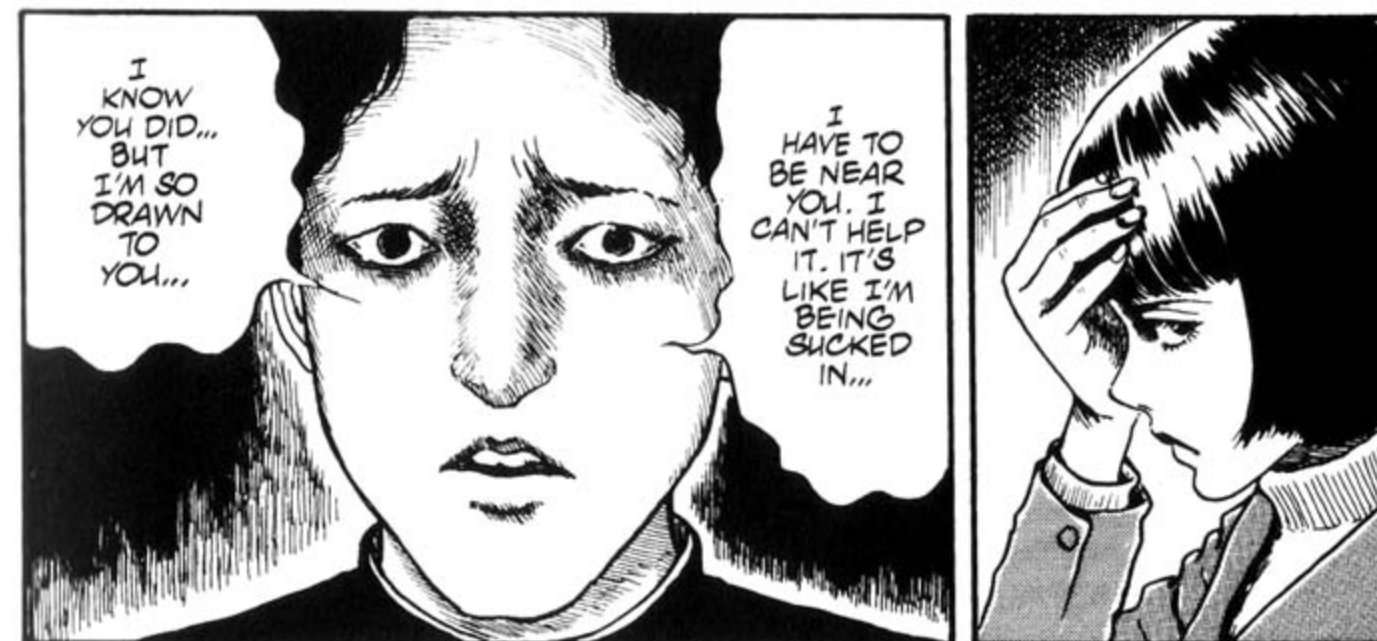
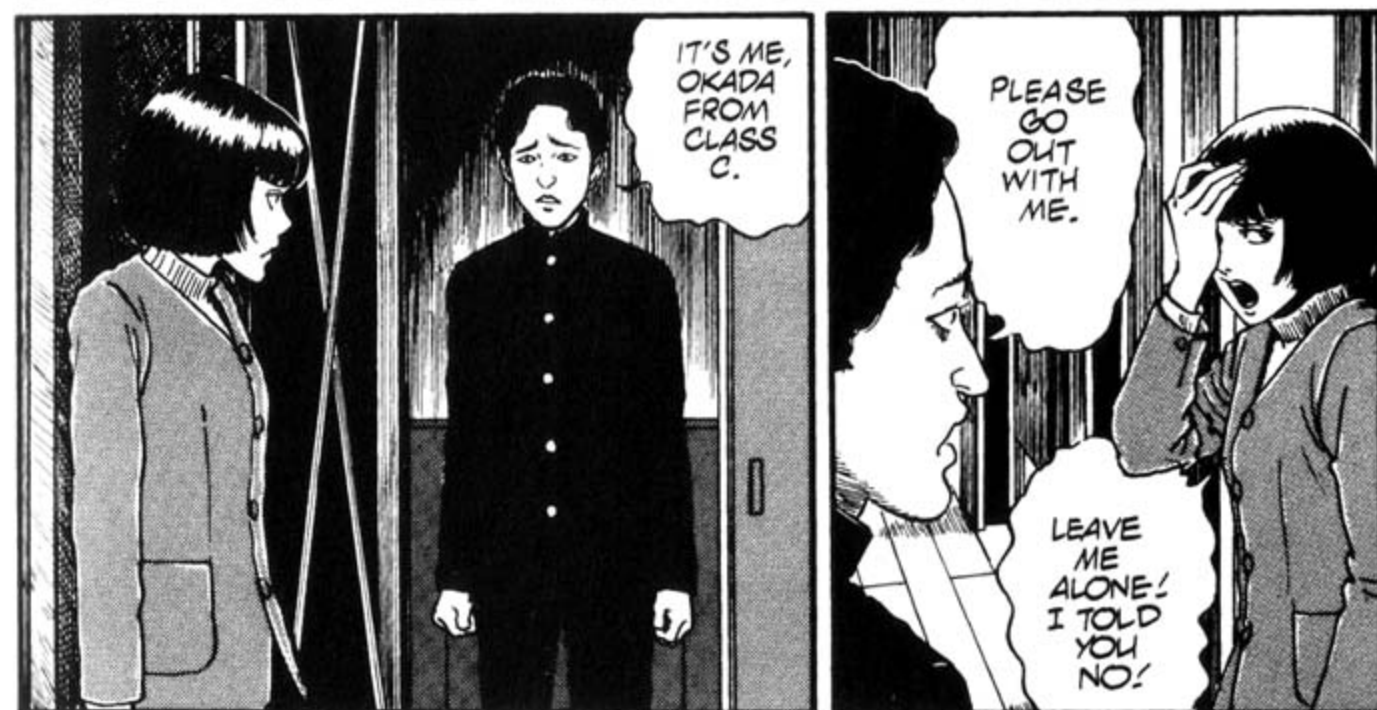


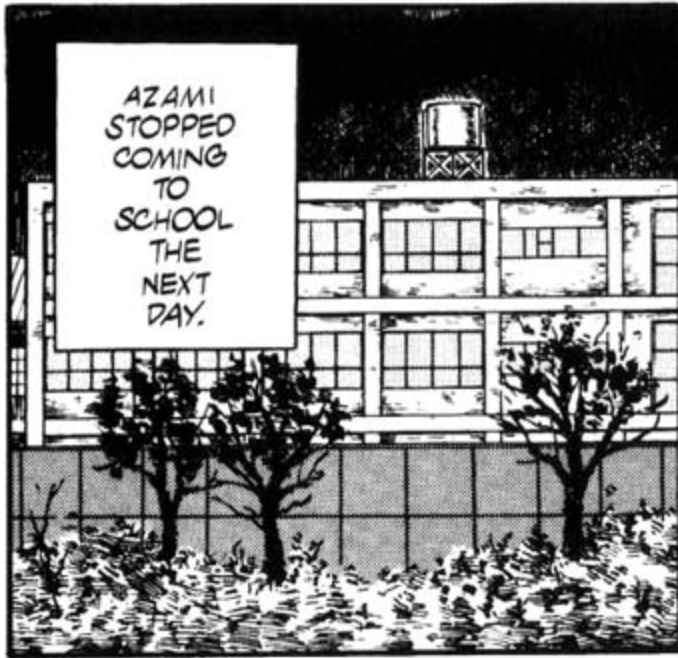
**WEEFOOO**



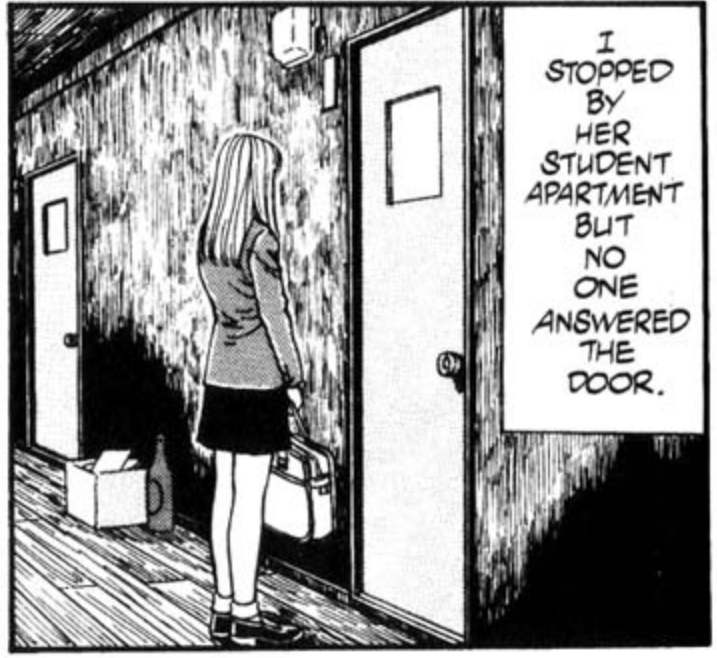
**AAHH!**



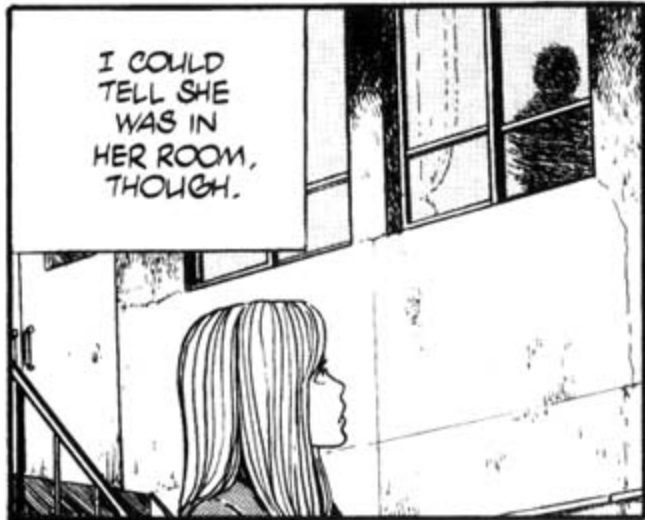




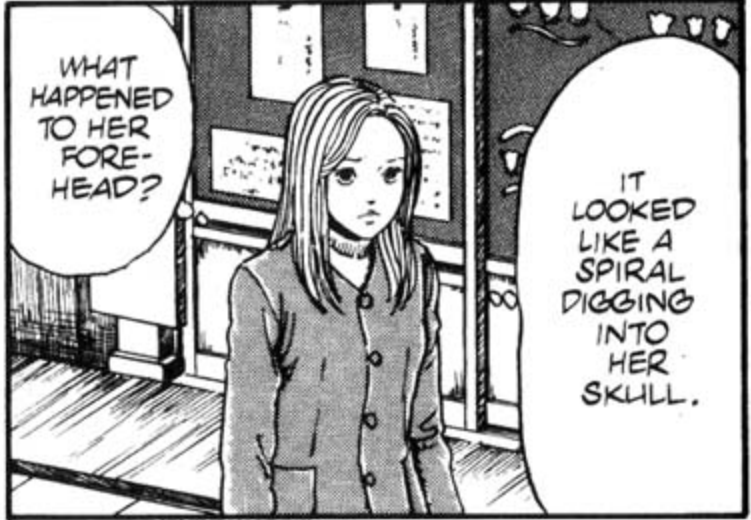
AZAMI STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY.



I STOPPED BY HER STUDENT APARTMENT BUT NO ONE ANSWERED THE DOOR.



I COULD TELL SHE WAS IN HER ROOM, THOUGH.



WHAT HAPPENED TO HER FORE-HEAD?

IT LOOKED LIKE A SPIRAL DIGGING INTO HER SKULL.



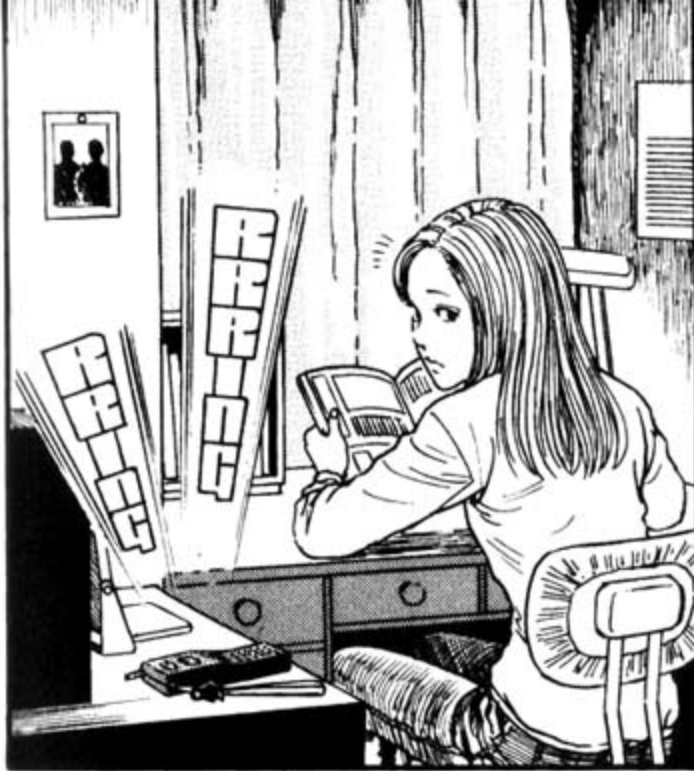
BUT HOW CAN THAT BE?

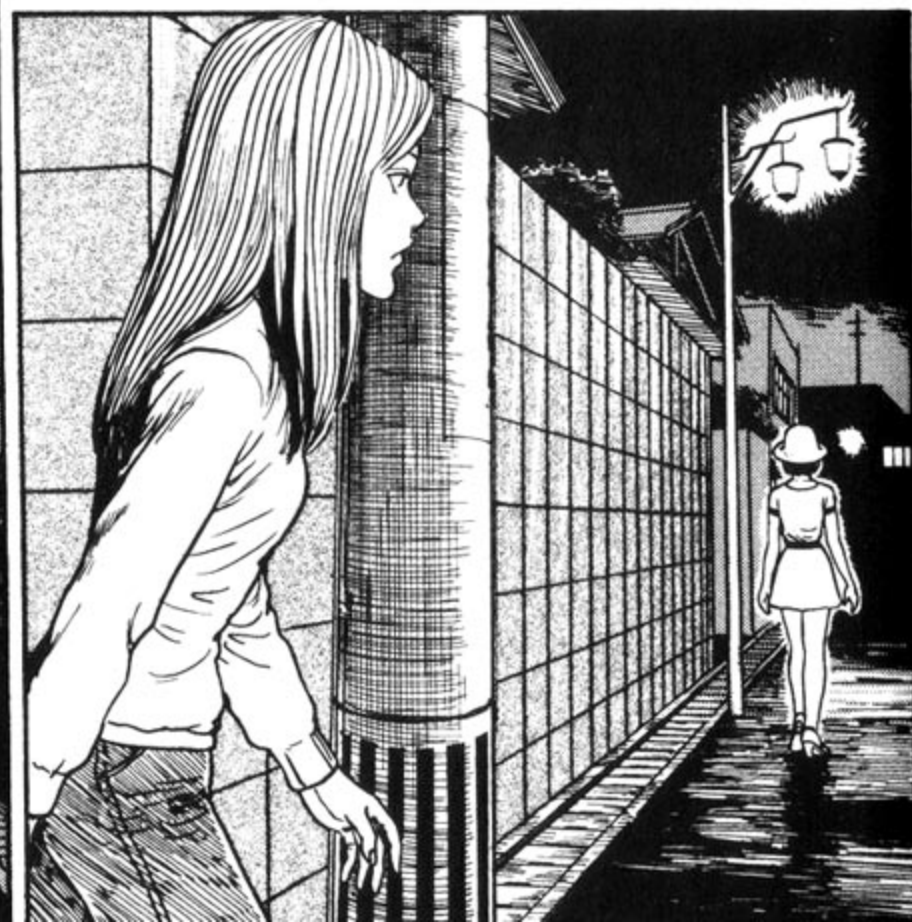
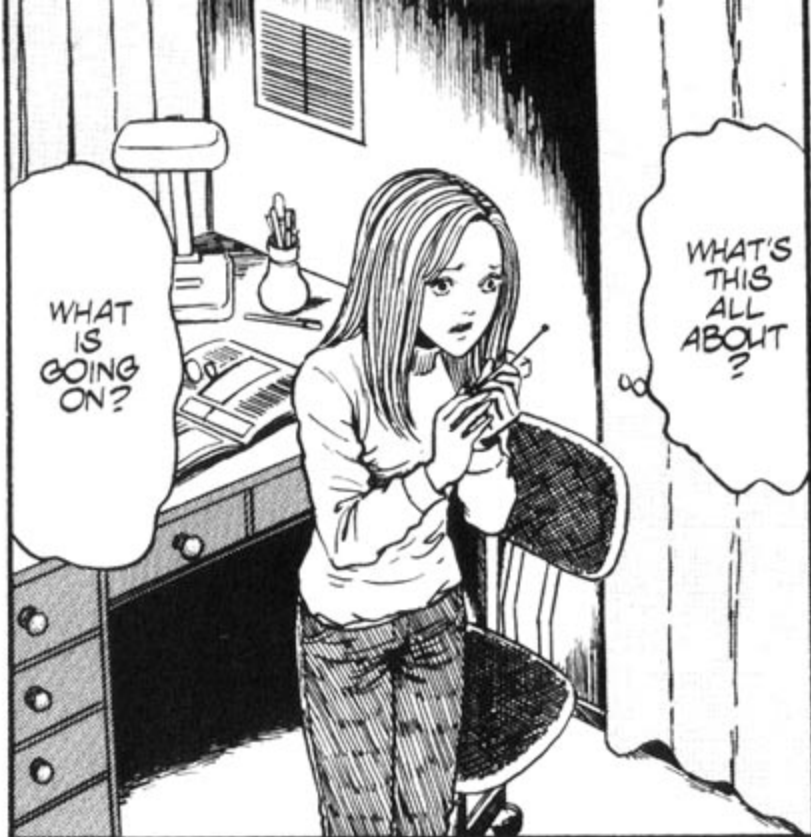
I MUST HAVE BEEN HALLUCINATING...

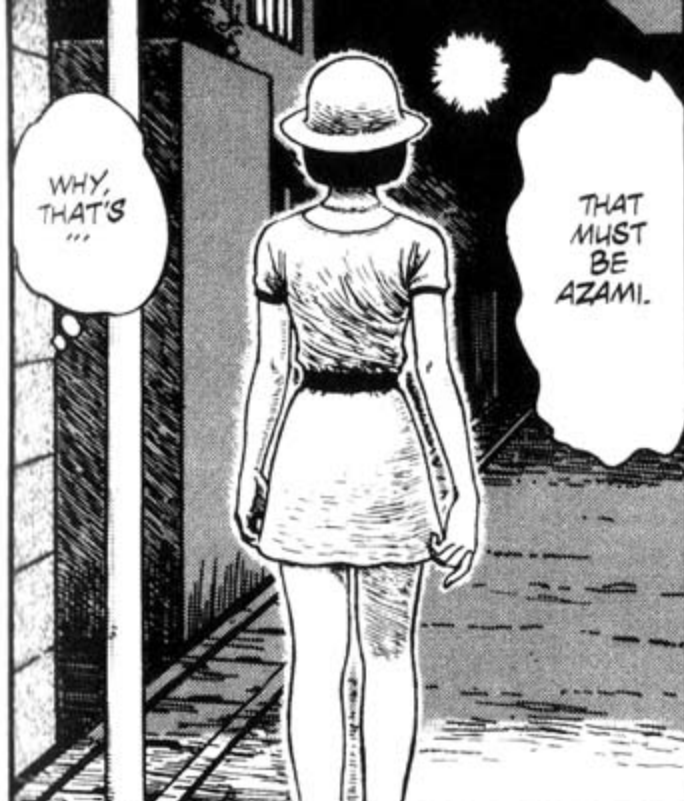


THEN...

...SEVERAL DAYS LATER.







WHY,  
THAT'S ...

THAT  
MUST  
BE  
AZAMI.



IT'S  
YOU,  
RIGHT?

AZAMI!



I  
KNEW  
IT!

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?  
I WAS  
SO  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
YOU!



KIRIE...  
I  
FEEL  
STRANGE...  
MY  
LEFT  
EYE  
...

...I  
CAN'T  
SEEM  
TO  
FOCUS  
...



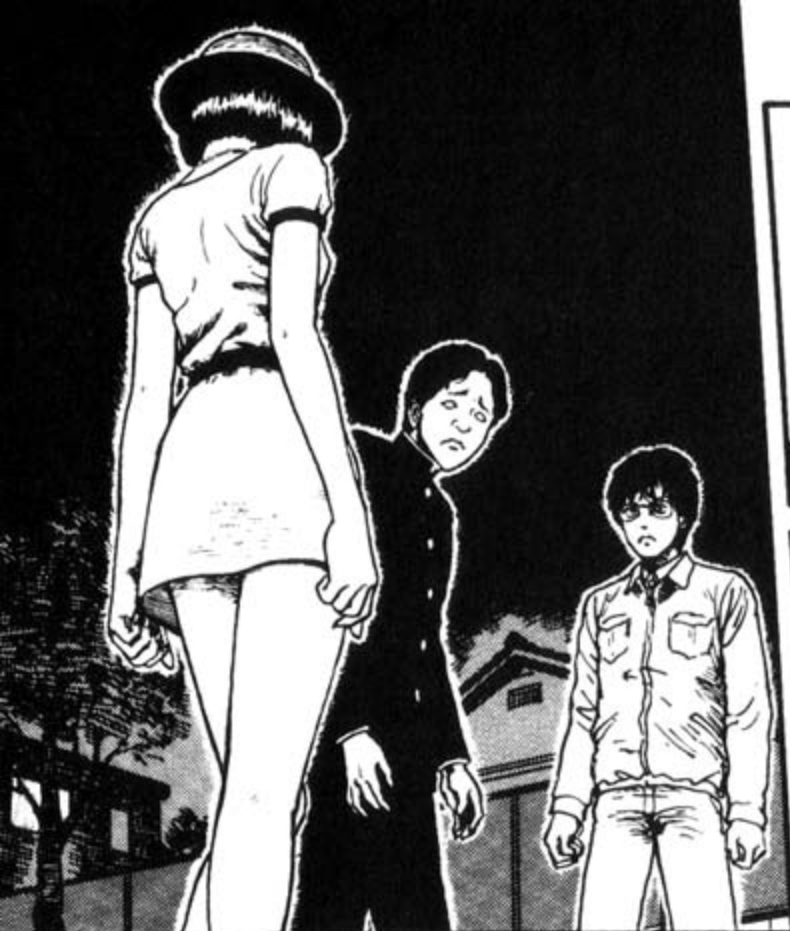
CAN  
YOU  
TAKE A  
LOOK?





カゲ





ALL RIGHT.  
I BROUGHT  
SHUICHI  
SAITO  
LIKE  
YOU  
ASKED.

NOW  
YOU'LL  
GO  
OUT  
WITH  
ME,  
RIGHT?



NO, I  
HAVE  
NO USE  
FOR  
YOU  
ANY  
MORE.

GO  
HOME.



WH-  
WHAT?  
BUT  
YOU  
PROMISED!

YOU  
SAID IF  
I BROUGHT  
HIM  
YOU'D  
GO OUT  
WITH  
ME!



HA HA...  
I DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
MY  
PROMISES.

I  
JUST  
WANTED  
TO SEE  
SHUICHI.



WH-

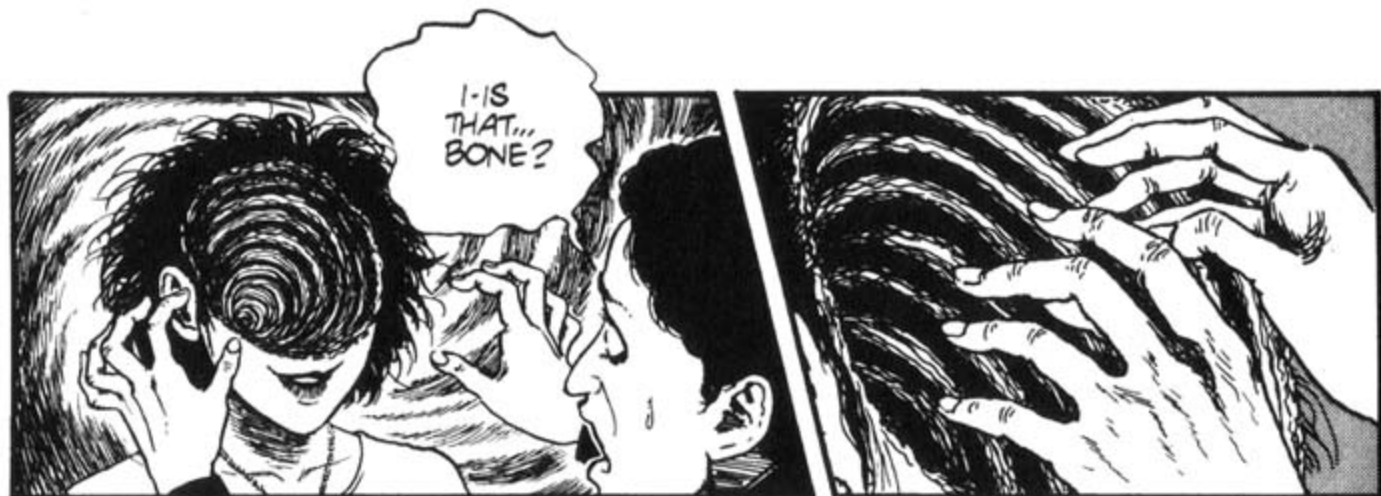
WHAT  
?!



YOU  
LIED  
TO ME!

**FAPI!**







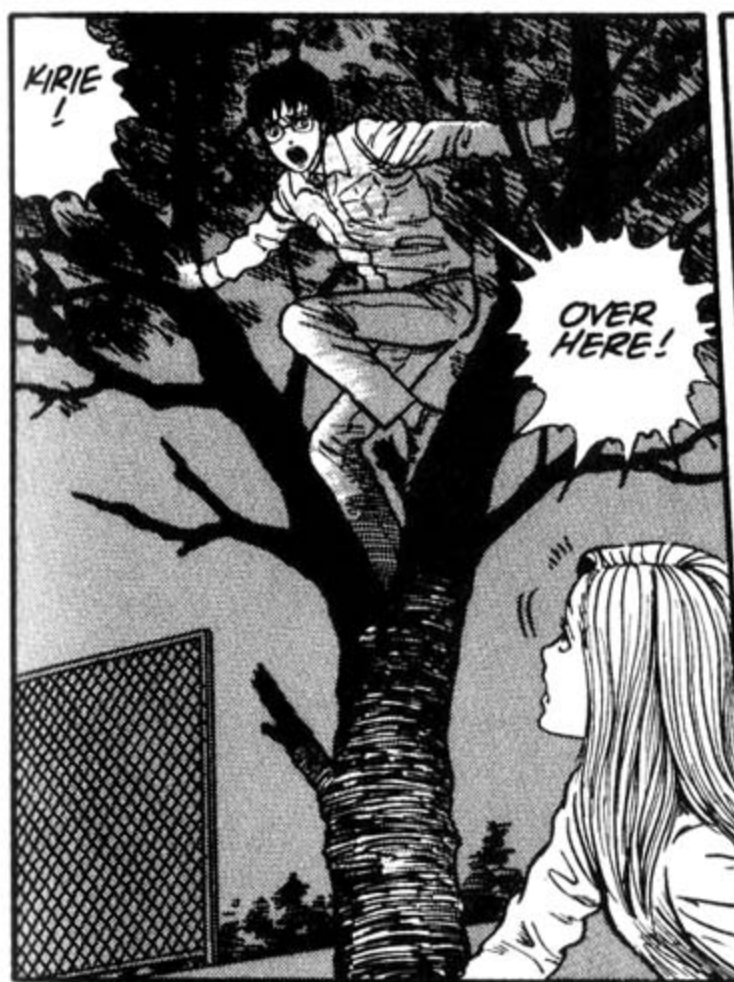
WHO WAS THAT?

SHUICHI ?!

WHERE ARE YOU?

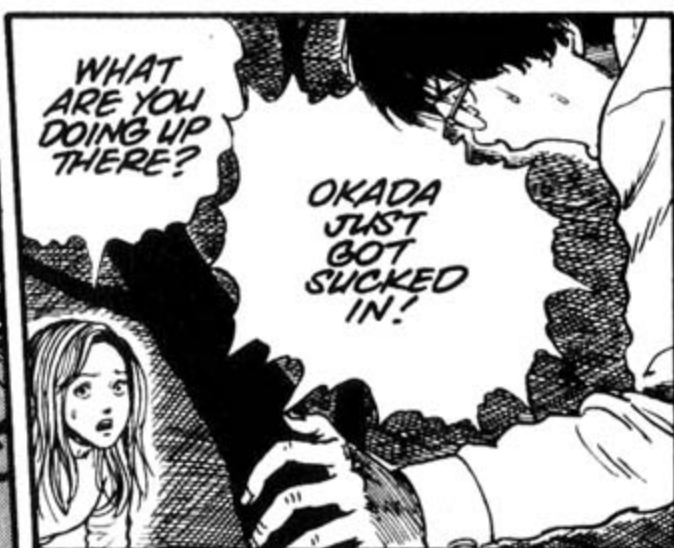


CAN YOU HEAR ME?



KIRIE !

OVER HERE!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?

OKADA JUST GOT SUCKED IN!



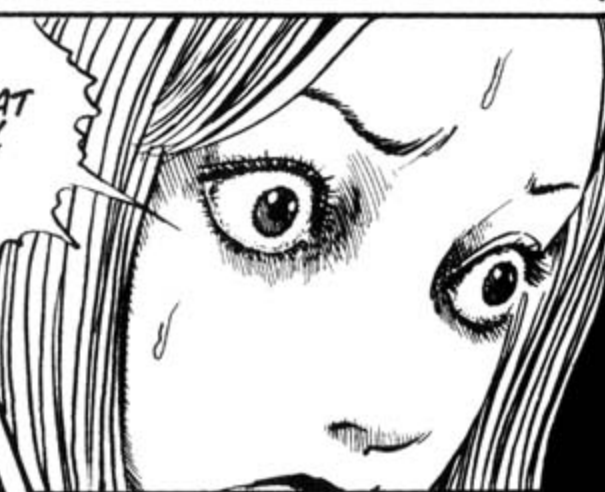
HE'S GONE!

NOW SHE'S GOING TO VANISH, TOO!



LOOK !

WHAT ?!





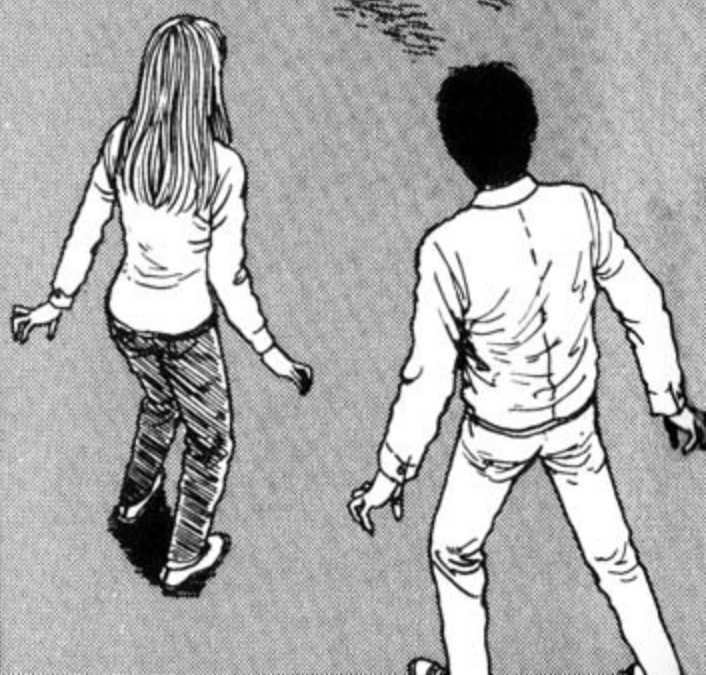
SHE'S  
BEING  
CONSUMED  
BY THE  
SPIRAL  
THAT  
APPEARED  
ON HER  
BODY!

LOOK!  
LOOK  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
!

SHEEEOOOO

AZAMI  
KUROTANI  
WAS  
DEVOURED  
FROM  
HEAD TO  
TOE...

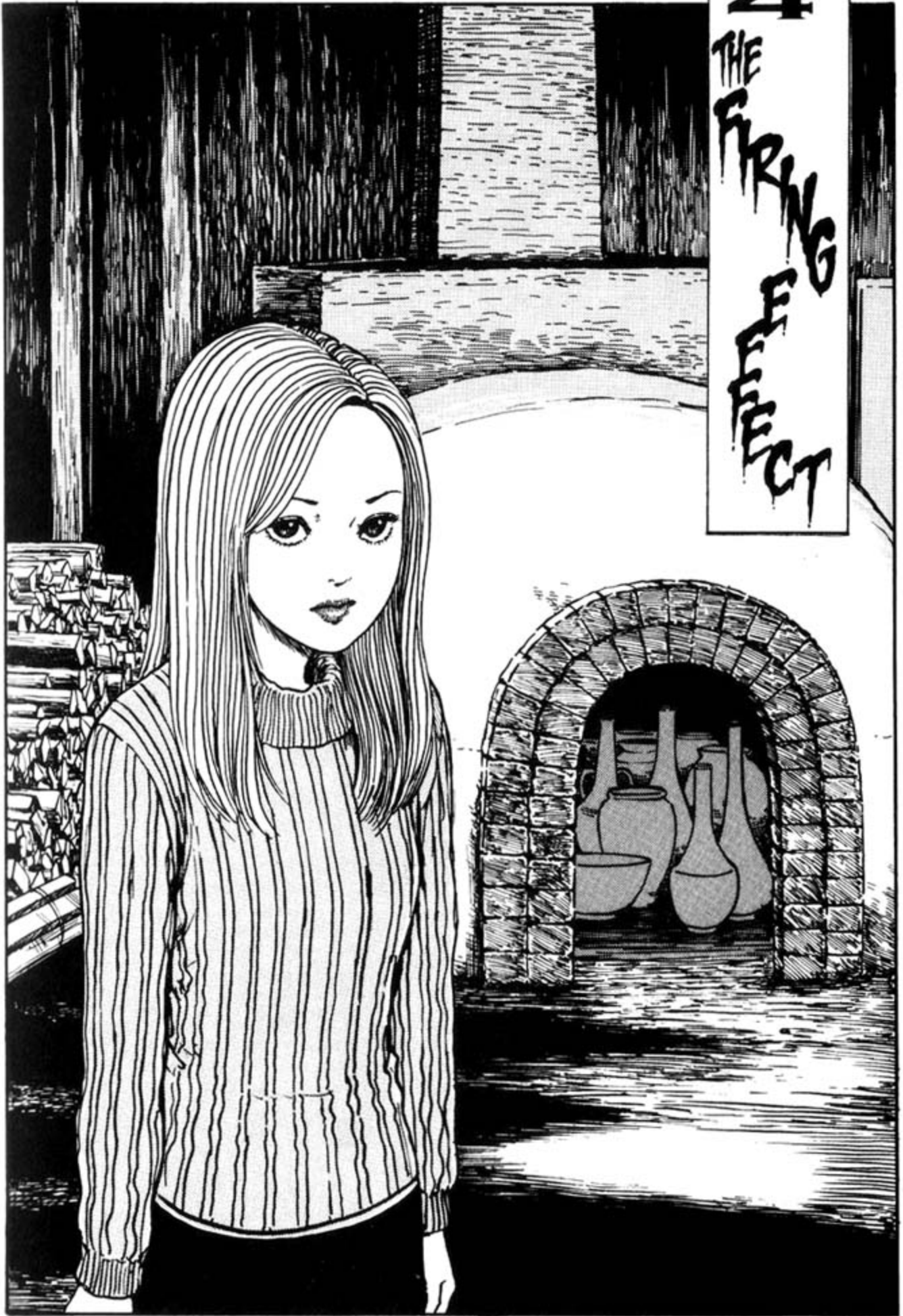
...WITHOUT  
LEAVING  
A  
TRACE  
BEHIND.



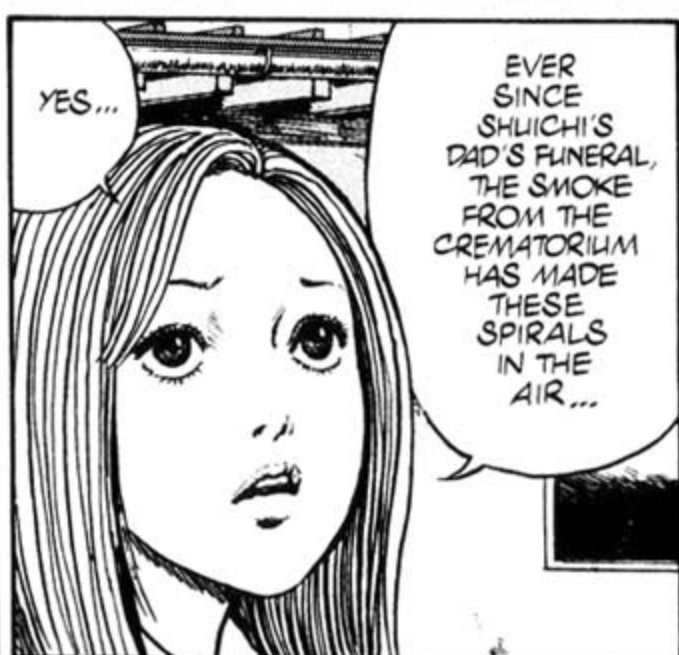
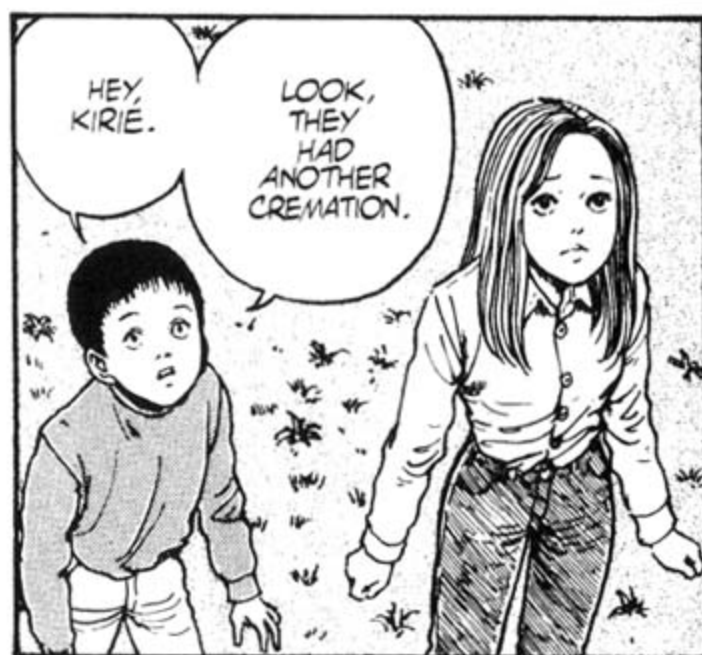
CHAPTER

4

THE  
FRINGE  
EFFECT



RESEARCH CONSULTANT: HISASHI SATO





LOOK,  
MITSUO...

SOON  
IT'LL  
FALL  
INTO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.

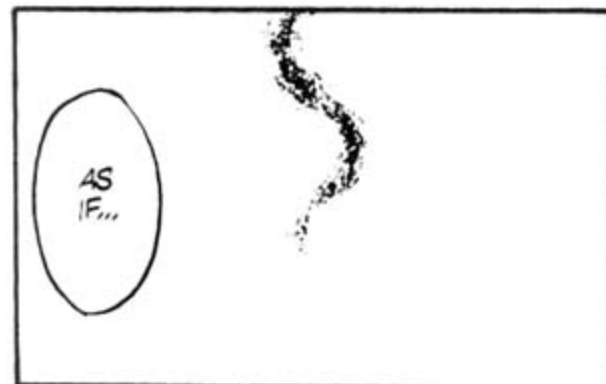


SEE?

IT'S  
FALLING  
SLOWLY...

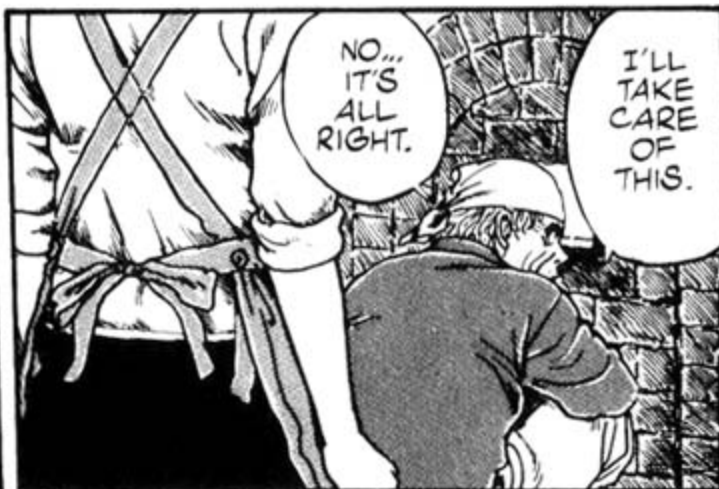
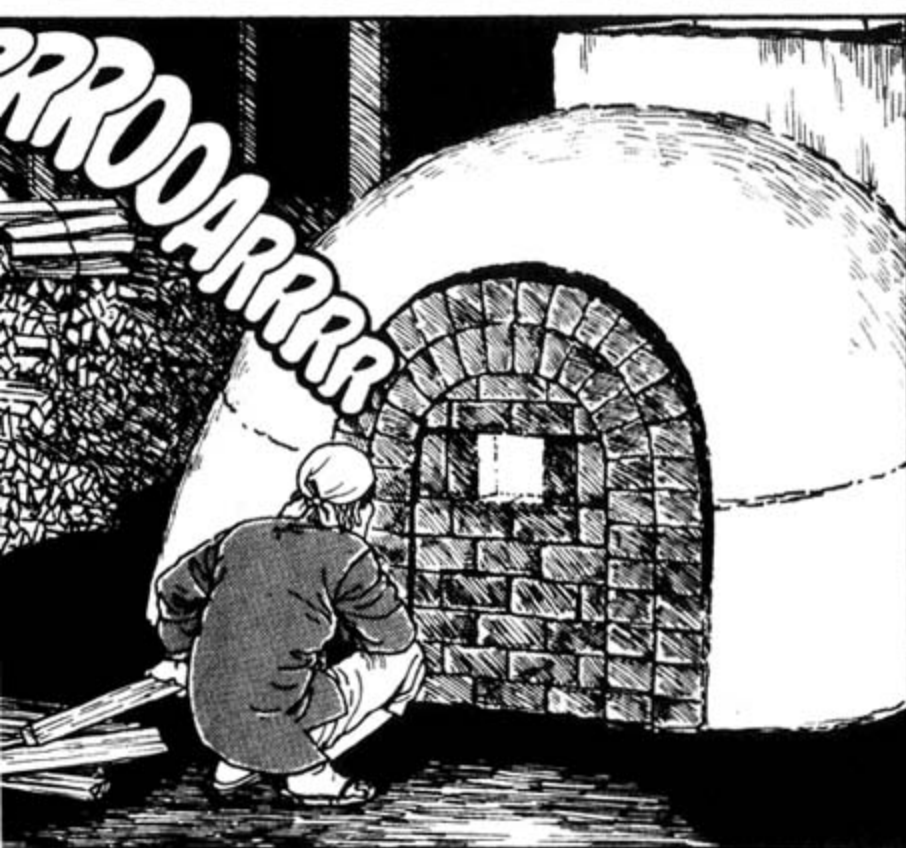
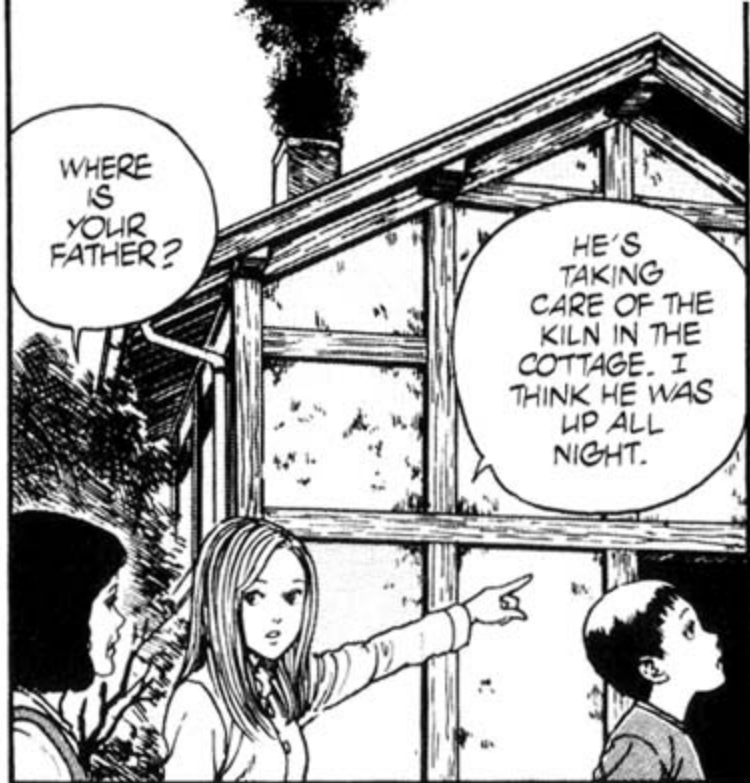


AS  
IF...

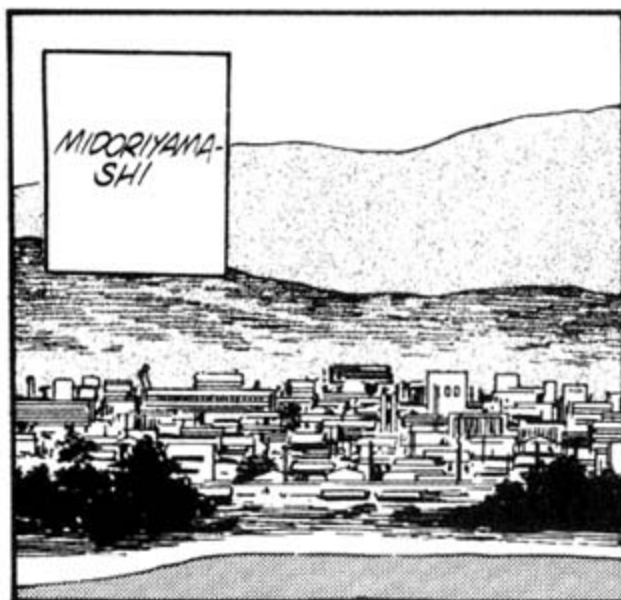


...THE  
POND  
IS  
SUCKING  
IT  
IN...











I'M EMBARRASSED. THEY WERE ALL NORMAL POTS AND PLATES...

...BUT AS SOON AS I PUT THEM IN THE KILN THEY BECAME RADICALLY DEFORMED.

I USED A NEW CLAY, SO I SUPPOSE THE TEMPERATURE WASN'T RIGHT.



BUT I BELIEVE AS WORKS OF ART THEY'RE QUITE SUCCESSFUL.



I SEE. THEY DO HAVE A LIFE OF THEIR OWN.

THE SUBLIME COLORS, THE SPIRAL PATTERNS, THE ORGANIC SHAPES...



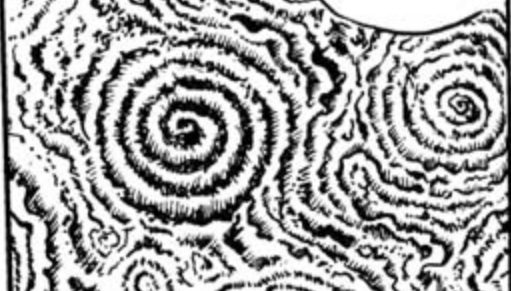
OH, I DIDN'T DO THAT.

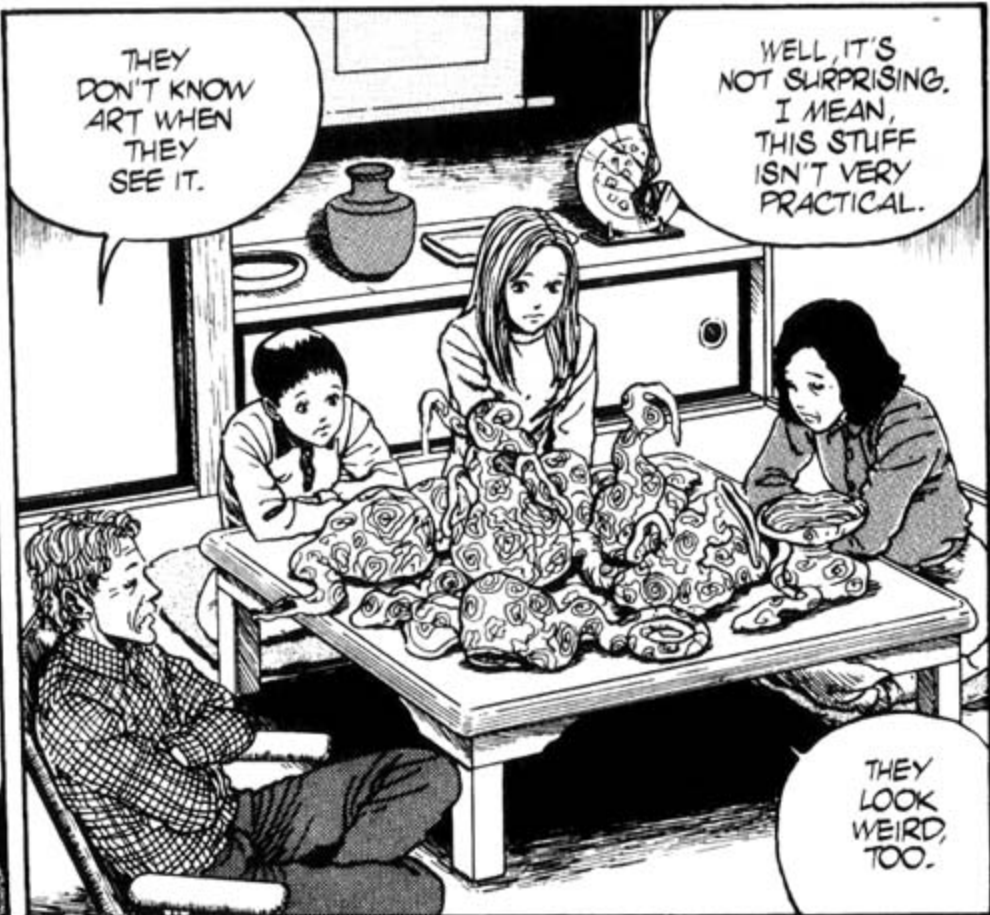
THEY WERE FORMED NATURALLY IN THE KILN.

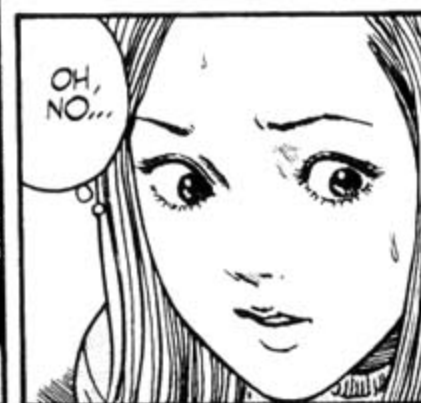
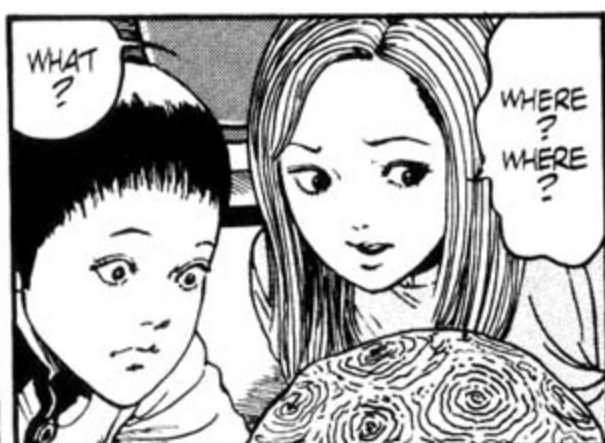
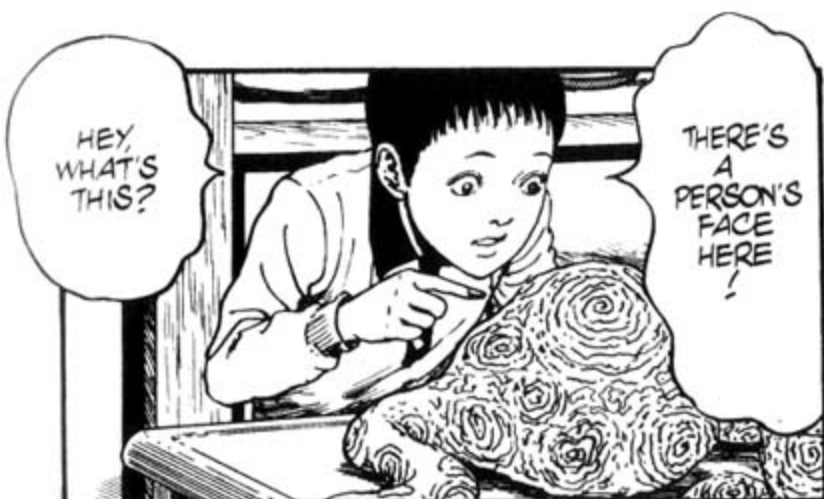
SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL REACTION MUST HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE BURN.

I SEE, "THE FIRING EFFECT"!

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT CREATE SPIRALS.













HOW  
COULD  
YOU  
MAKE  
SOMETHING  
SO  
VICIOUS  
?

**BUT  
I  
DIDN'T  
DO  
ANY-  
THING!**

**HERE'S  
ANOTHER  
ONE!**



THERE  
WERE  
FOUR  
FACES  
IN  
ALL.

THE  
TWO  
NEW  
FACES  
WERE  
IDENTIFIED  
AS  
CITIZENS  
WHO  
HAD  
RECENTLY  
DIED.

EACH  
HAD  
BEEN  
CREMATED  
IN  
KURŌZU-  
CHO.



THEIR  
SMOKE  
AND  
ASH  
HAD  
FORMED  
THE  
SPIRALS...



WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON, DAD?  
WHY  
WOULD  
THEIR  
FACES  
APPEAR  
ON  
YOUR  
POTTERY?

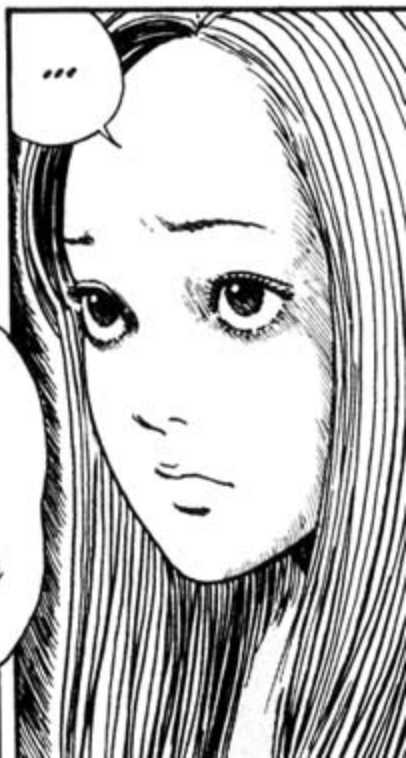
HOW  
COULD  
THIS  
HAPPEN?



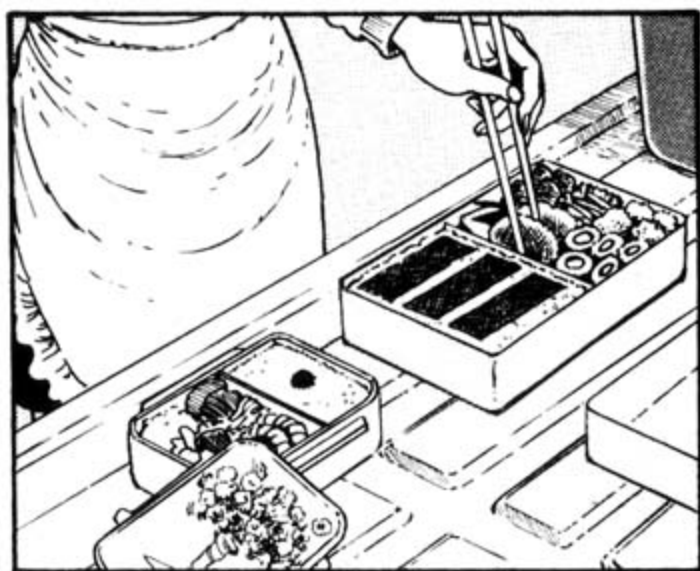
I DON'T  
REALLY  
KNOW,  
BUT...

CERAMICS  
ARE  
MADE  
FROM  
EARTH  
AND  
FIRE, IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
IT'S THE  
WORK  
OF NATURE...

WE TRY  
OUR  
BEST  
WITH  
HUMAN  
HANDS,  
BUT  
SOMETIMES  
NATURE  
CAN  
CREATE  
THINGS  
BEYOND  
OUR  
IMAGINATION.  
AFTER  
ALL, MOST  
SHAPES  
ARE  
REALLY  
PATTERNS,  
BUT  
WE  
CAN  
ONLY  
SEE  
A  
PIECE  
OF  
THEM  
AT  
A  
TIME.

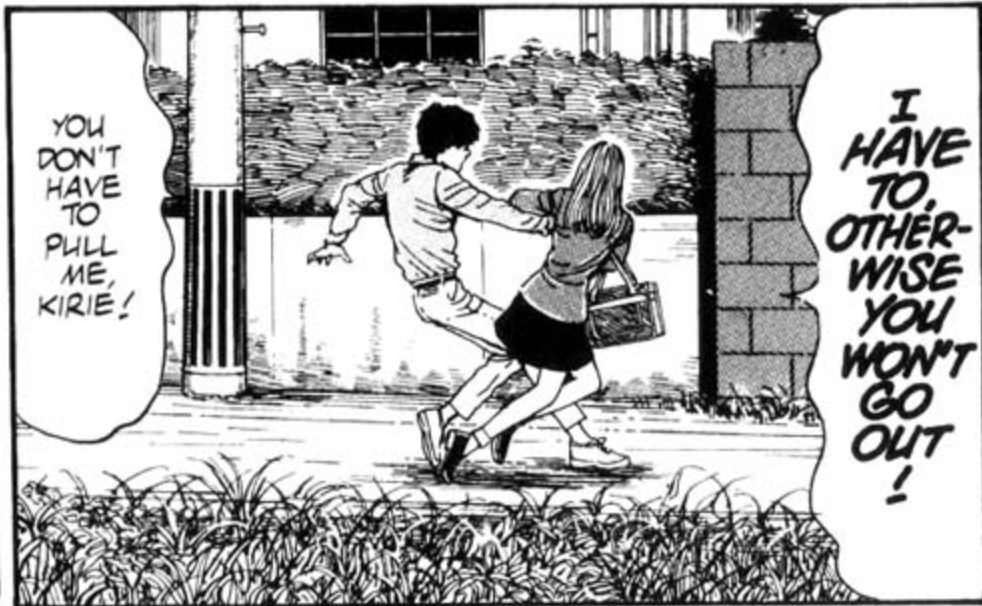


...

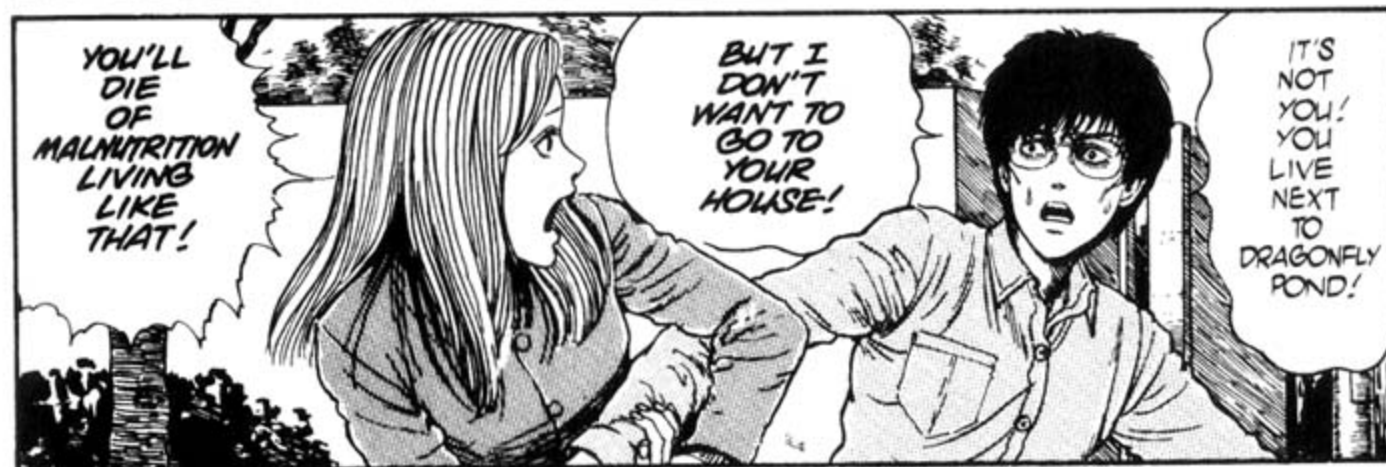




YOU DON'T HAVE TO PULL ME, KIRIE!



I HAVE TO, OTHERWISE YOU WON'T GO OUT!



YOU'LL DIE OF MALNUTRITION LIVING LIKE THAT!

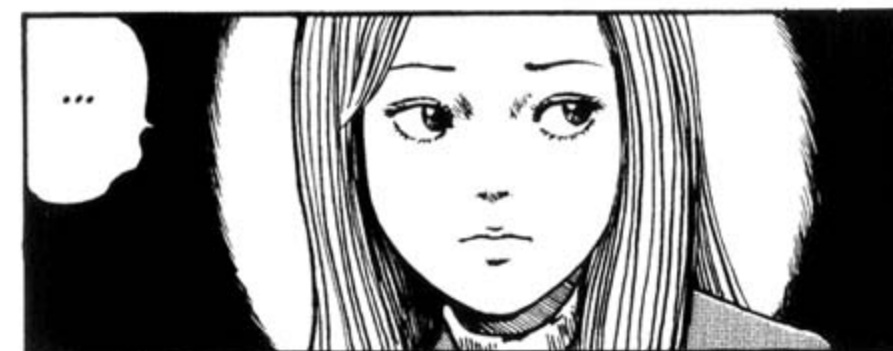
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TO YOUR HOUSE!

IT'S NOT YOU! YOU LIVE NEXT TO DRAGONFLY POND!



DRAGONFLY POND?

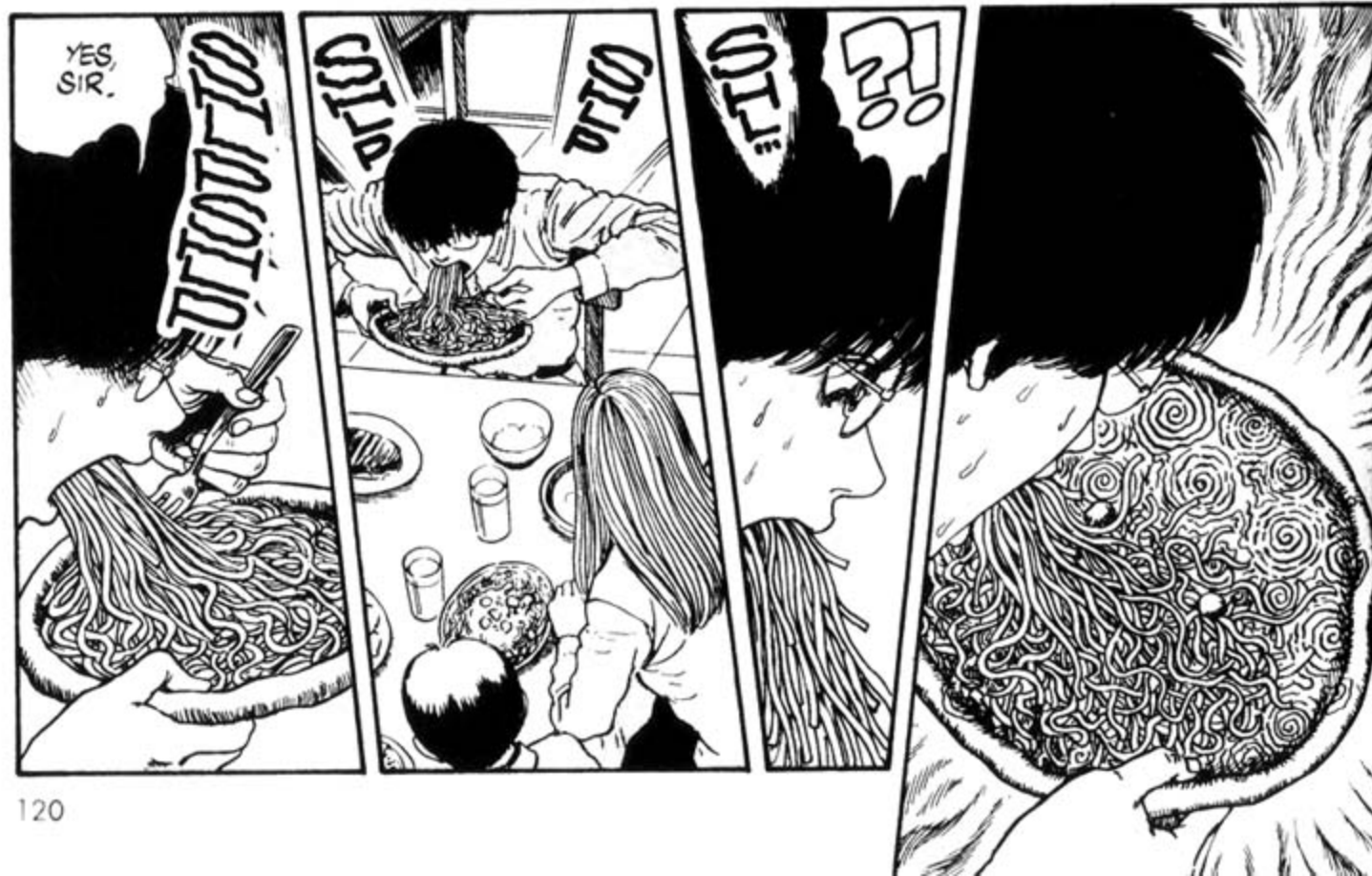
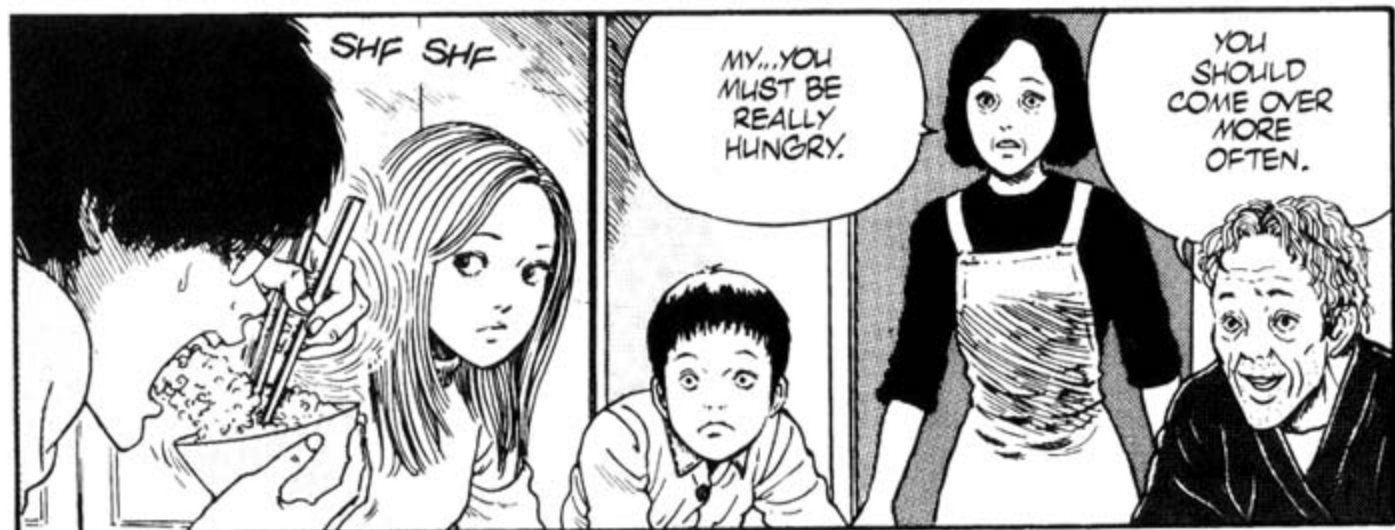
YES. THAT POND IS INFESTED, INFESTED WITH SPIRALS!

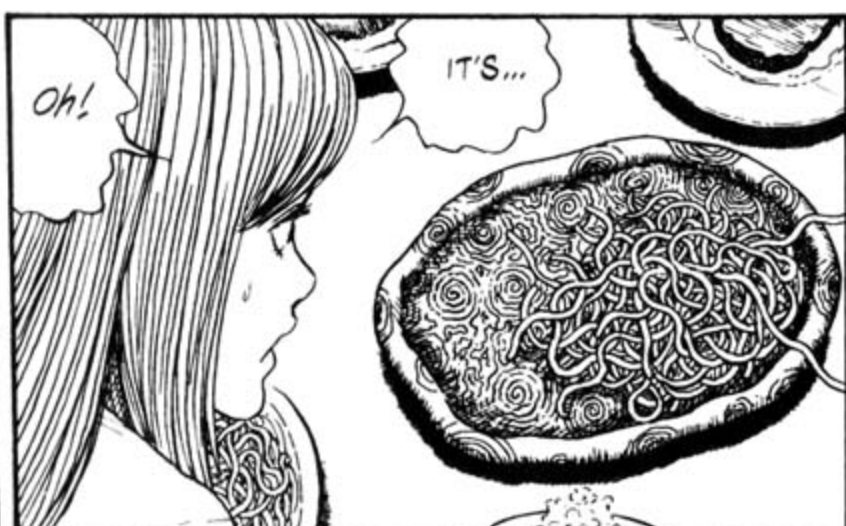
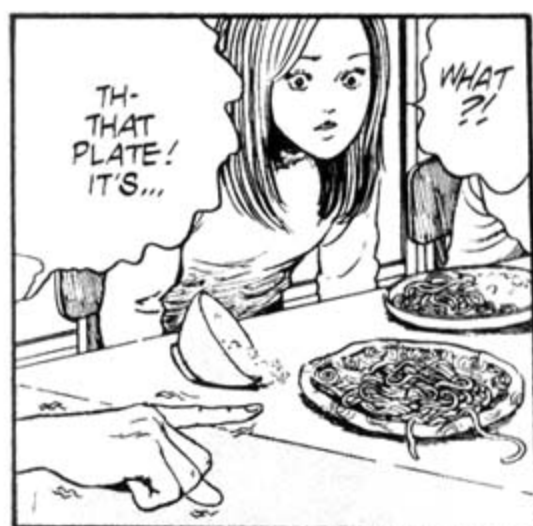
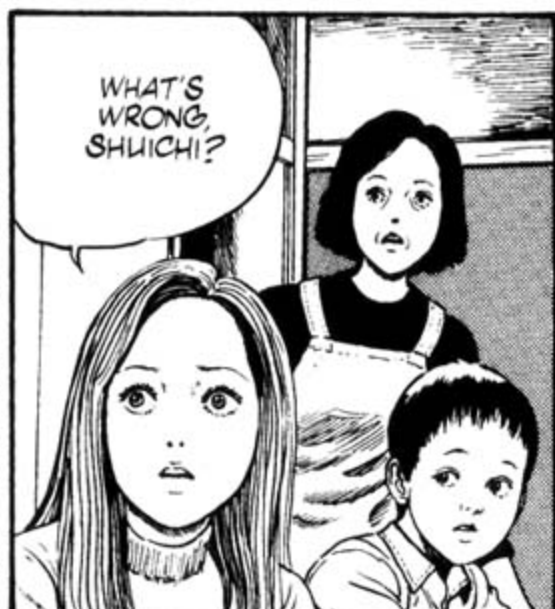


...



JUST THE SAME, I FORCED HIM TO COME OVER.





WELL, THE PLATE WAS FLAT ENOUGH TO EAT ON, SO I BROUGHT IT OUT ESPECIALLY FOR SHUICHI.

WHAT?

HOW COULD YOU GIVE HIM THAT TWISTED THING?

TWISTED? IT'S A WORK OF ART.

I THOUGHT, IF ANYONE, SHUICHI WOULD LIKE IT.

BECAUSE YOUR FATHER UNDERSTOOD ART.

I STILL REMEMBER WHEN HE TOLD ME, "CERAMICS IS THE ART OF THE SPIRAL."

HE WAS A HUGE INFLUENCE. BEING AN ARTIST, NOT JUST A CRAFTSMAN. I EXPERIMENTED BY TRIAL AND ERROR AND FINALLY I FOUND THE MOST AMAZING CLAY...

AND THIS IS THE WORK I CAME UP WITH!

S-SIR...

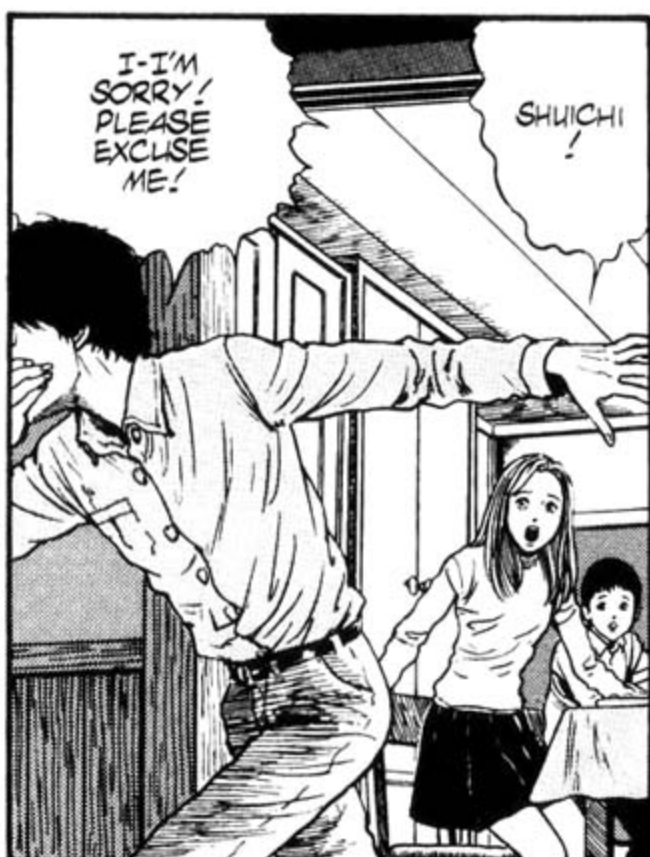
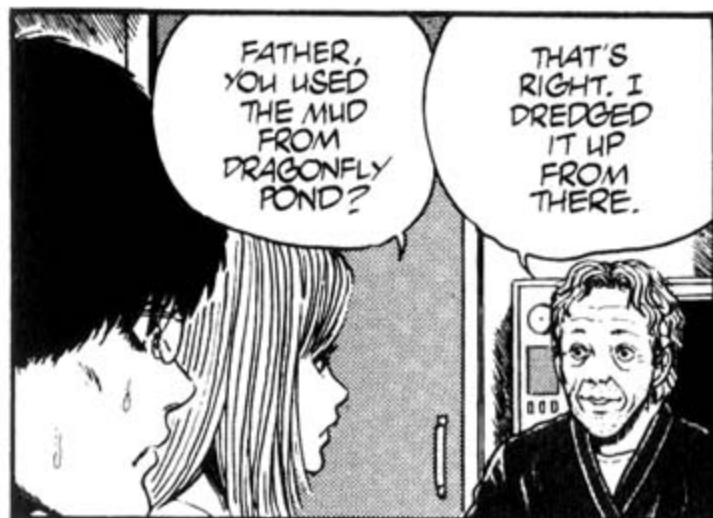
WHERE DID THIS CLAY COME FROM?

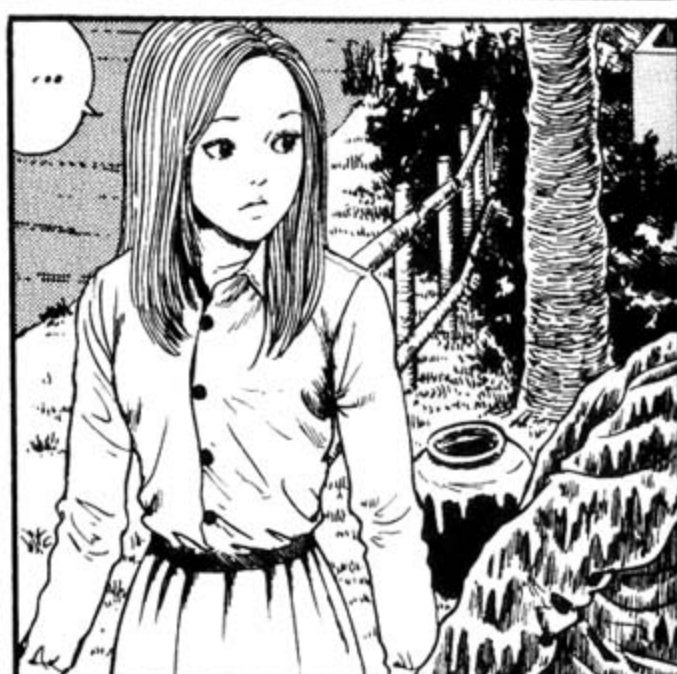
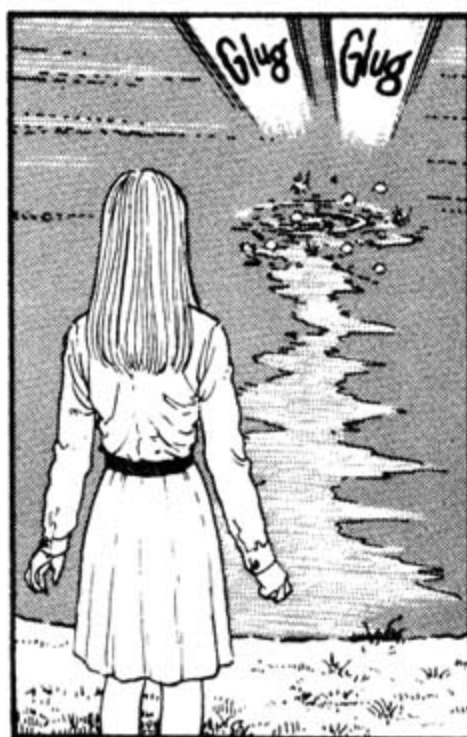
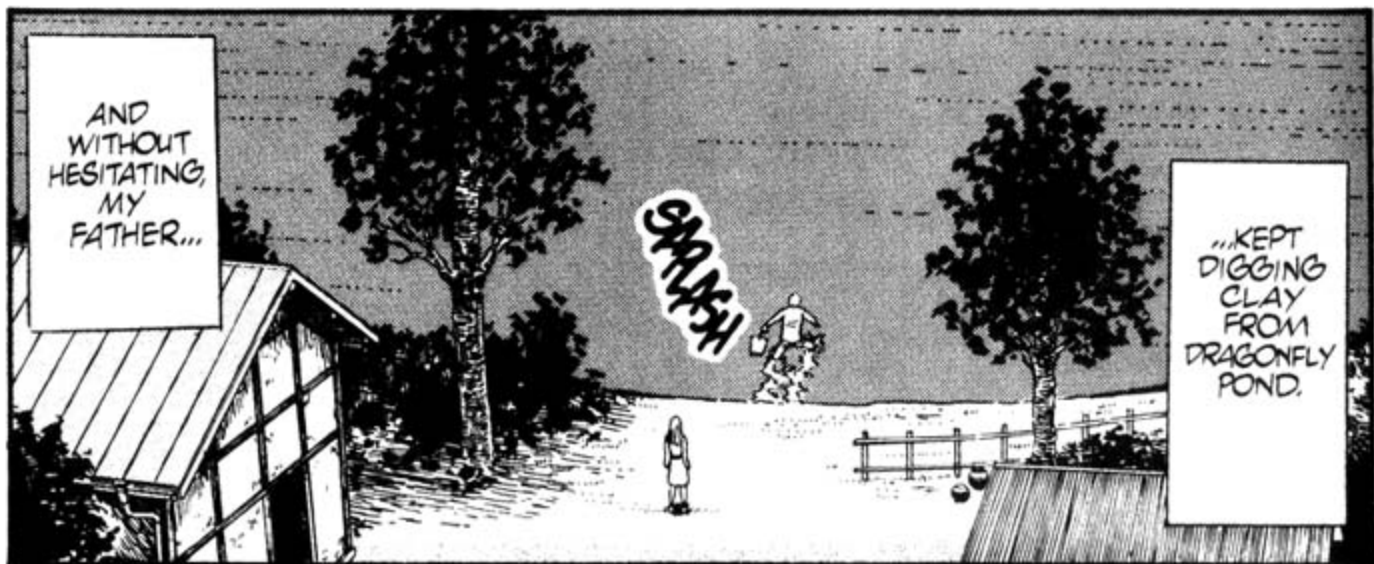
...

DRAGONFLY POND.

DR-

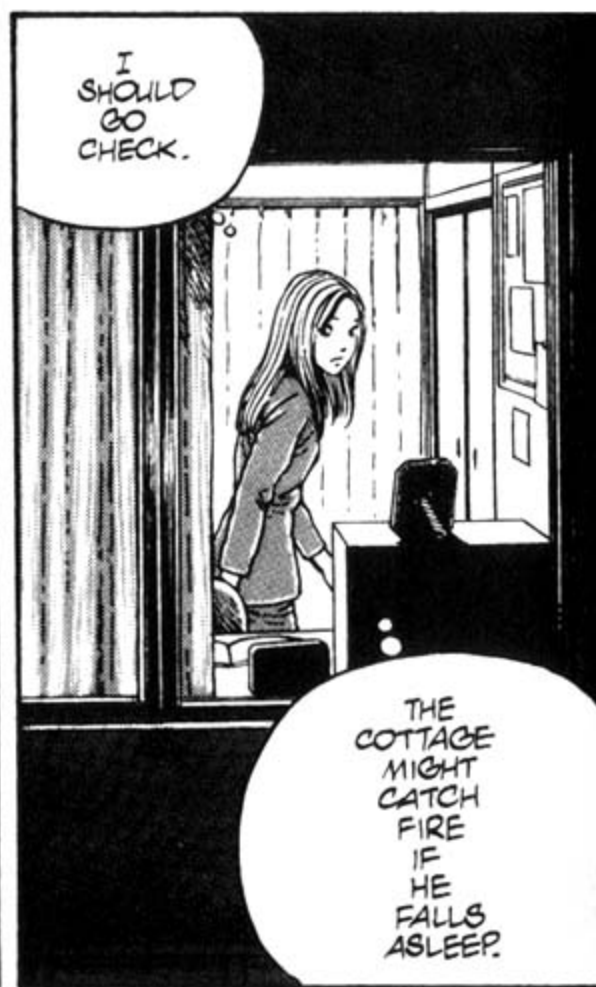
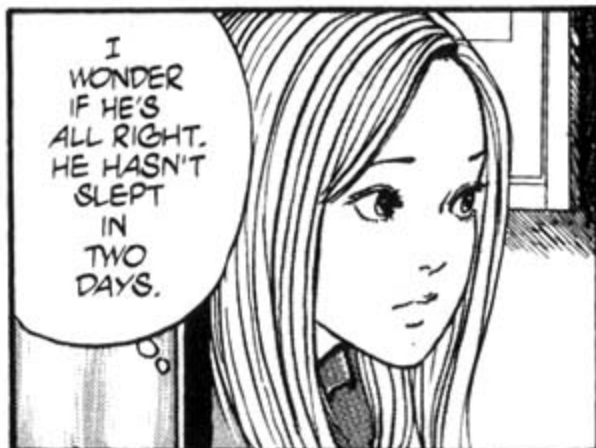
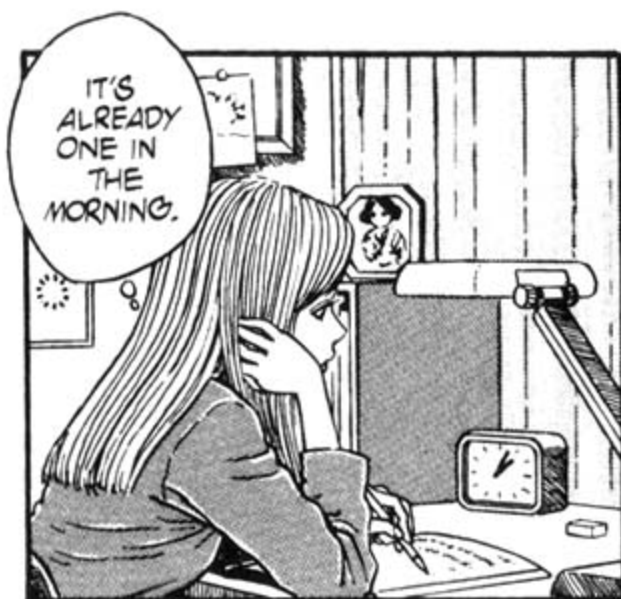
DRAGONFLY POND?













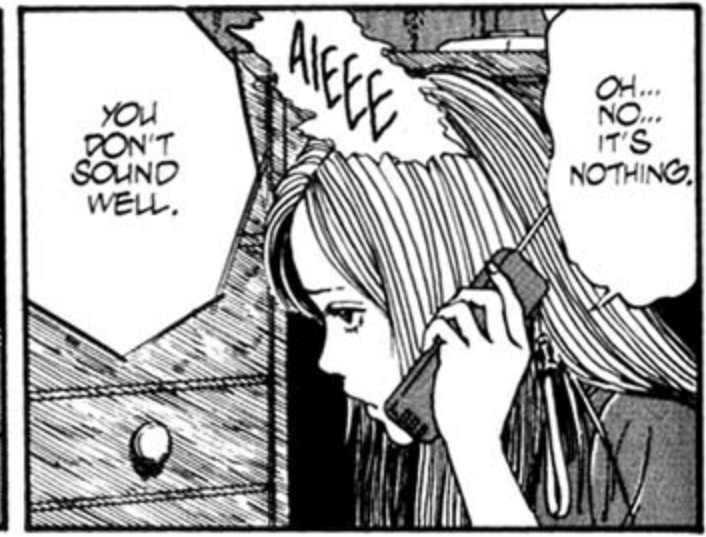
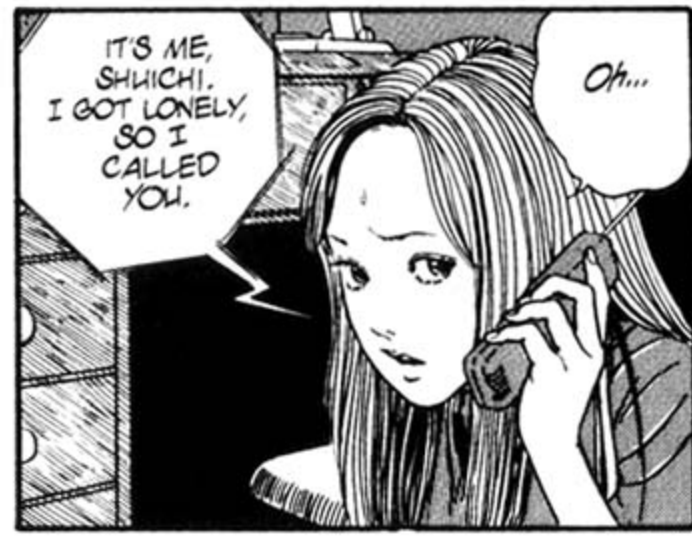
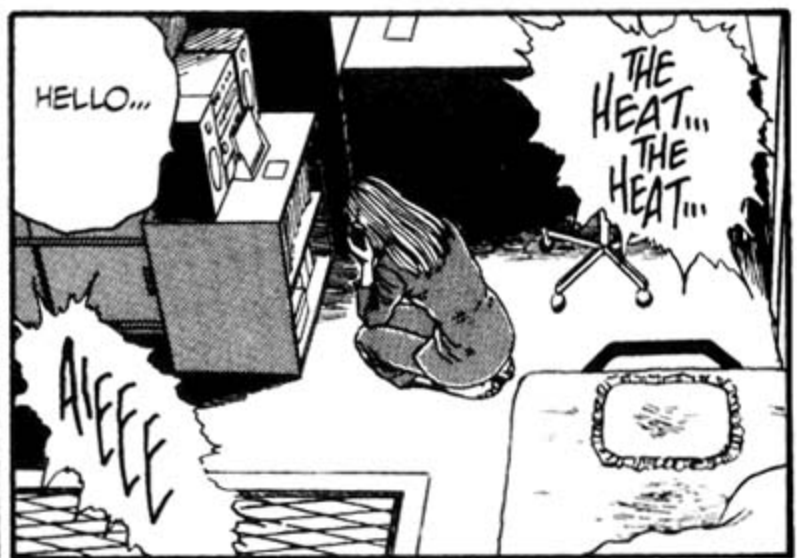
RRRRRR

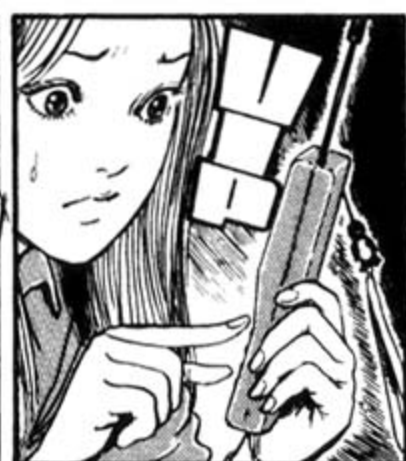
RRRRRR

RRRRRR









SHUICHI,  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE?!  
IT'S  
LATE!

GO  
HOME  
!

?!  
oo

MR.  
GOSHIMA,  
I NEED  
TO  
SEE  
YOUR  
KILN!

NO!  
GO  
HOME!

SHUICHI  
...?

YOU'RE  
HERE  
?

SOMEONE'S  
CALLING  
FOR  
ME!

ROAR

CALLING  
ME  
FROM  
THE  
KILN!

SHUICHI

IT  
SOUNDS  
LIKE  
MY  
MOTHER!

HELP  
ME!

I  
SAID  
GO  
HOME  
!

NO,  
THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE!

SHUICHI...

ROAR

SHUICHI...





YES...  
IT'S  
HER...

MY  
FATHER'S  
THERE,  
TOO!

WHY?

HOW  
COULD  
THEY  
BE IN  
THERE  
?



GET  
OUT  
OF  
THE  
WAY!



WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?



RRR



WFW



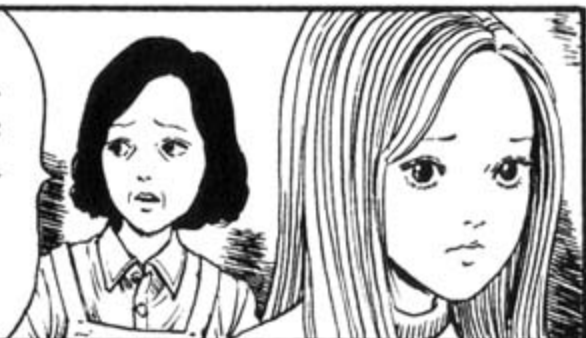








I  
SUPPOSE  
WE WERE  
LUCKY  
WE ONLY  
LOST THE  
KILN.



EVEN  
BY  
DAYLIGHT,  
FATHER'S  
OBSESSION  
CONTINUED.



AHH,  
YES,  
HERE WE  
GO!

WHAT  
A NICE  
SURPRISE...  
THIS  
TURNED  
OUT  
WELL...

THERE  
MUST  
BE  
OTHERS  
BURIED  
AROUND  
HERE...

CHAPTER

5

Five Souls



IN  
KURÔZU-  
CHO...



...THERE  
HAVE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
ROW  
HOUSES  
IN RUINS.



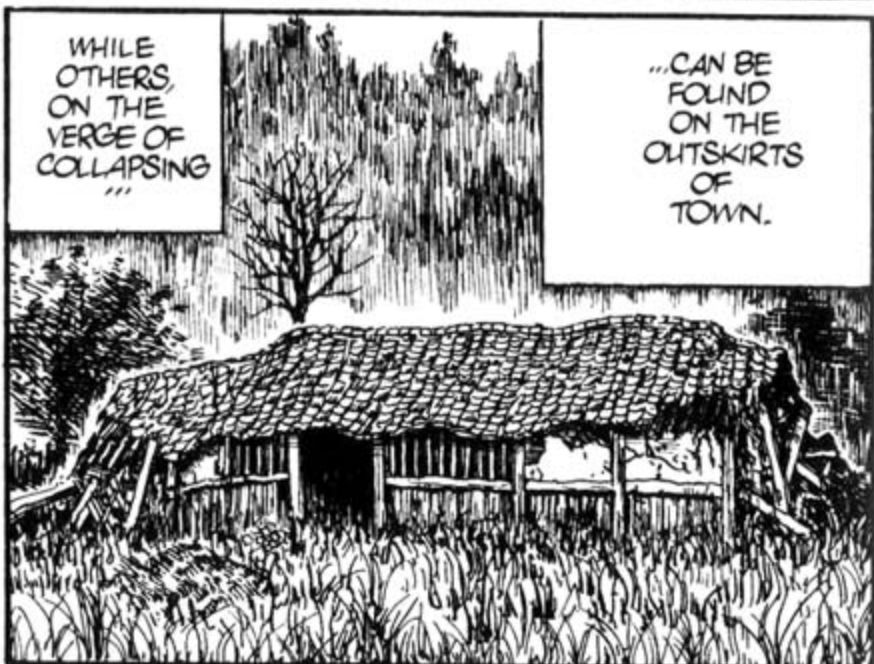
SOME  
ARE  
HIDDEN  
BETWEEN  
NEW  
BUILDINGS.



SOME  
IN THE  
OPEN,  
SIDE  
BY  
SIDE.

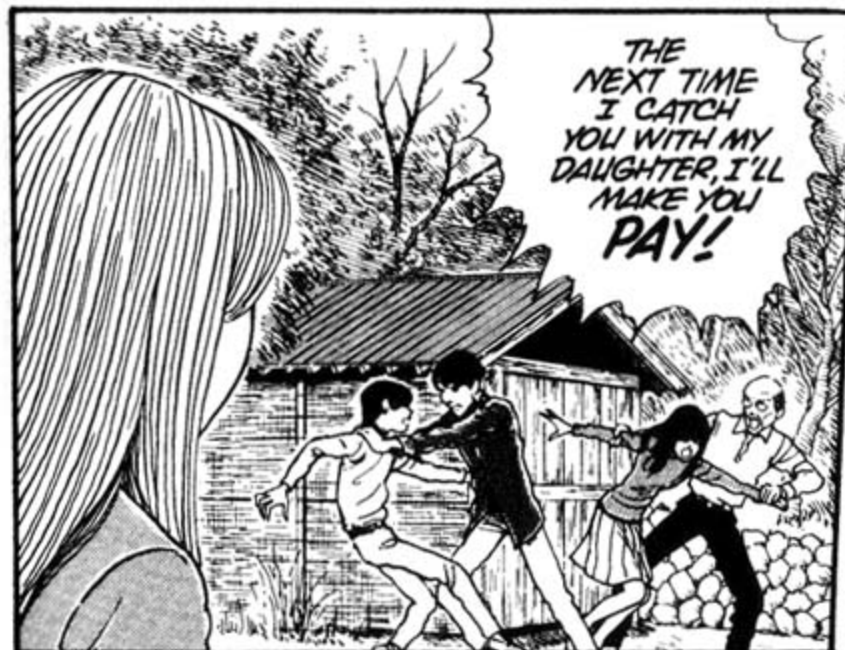
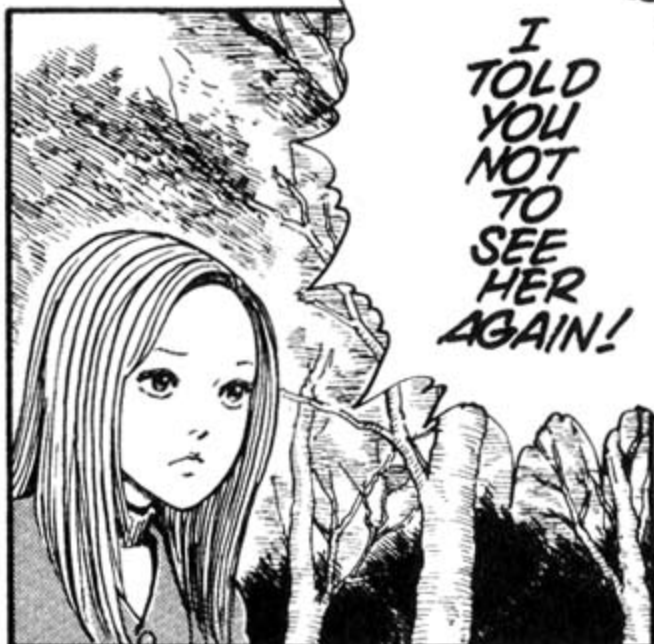
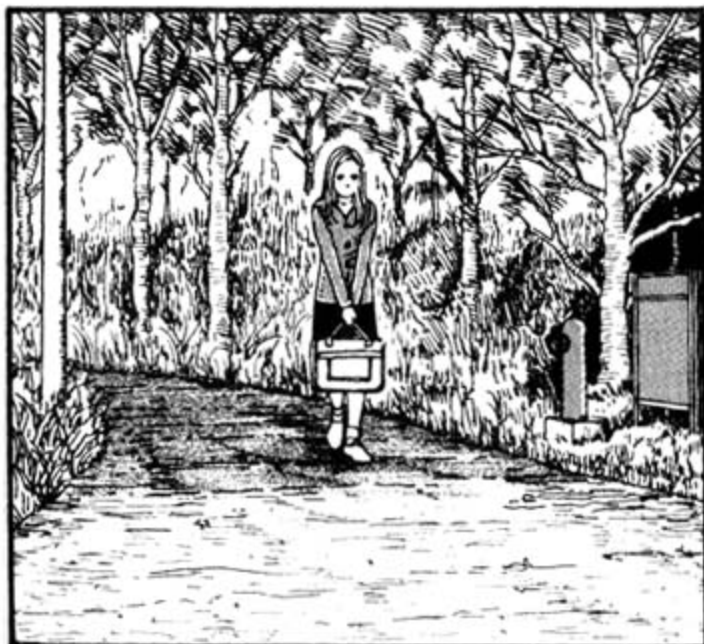


WHILE  
OTHERS,  
ON THE  
VERGE OF  
COLLAPSING  
...

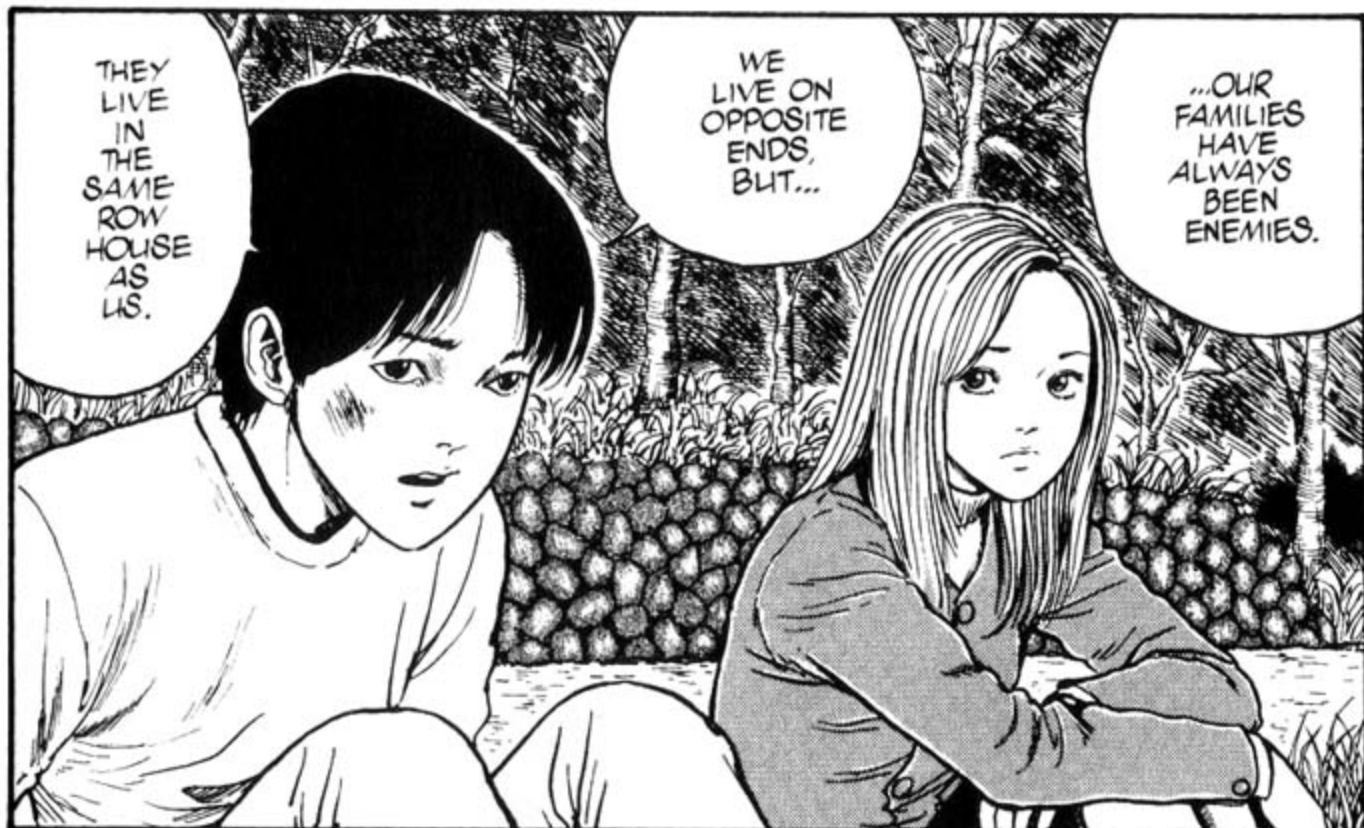


...CAN BE  
FOUND  
ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS  
OF  
TOWN.





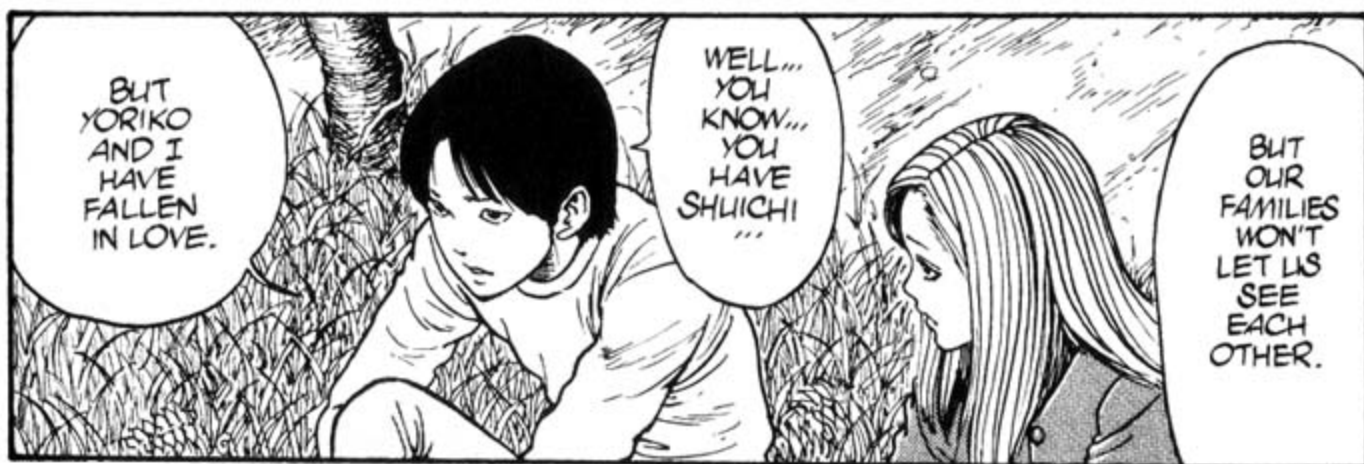




THEY LIVE IN THE SAME ROW HOUSE AS US.

WE LIVE ON OPPOSITE ENDS, BUT...

...OUR FAMILIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ENEMIES.



BUT YORIKO AND I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE.

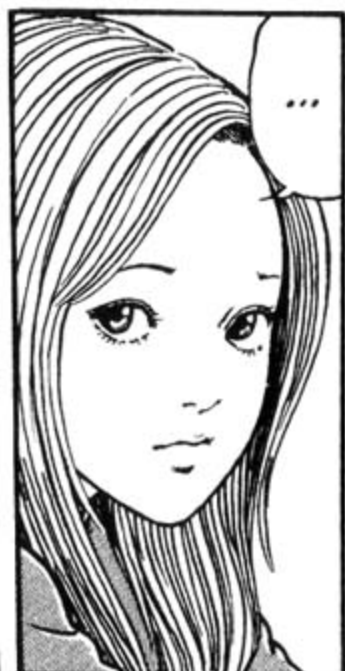
WELL... YOU KNOW... YOU HAVE SHUICHI...

BUT OUR FAMILIES WON'T LET US SEE EACH OTHER.



WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO MAKE THEM ACCEPT US...

... BUT NOTHING WORKS.



...



KAZUNORI NISHIKI HAS BEEN MY CLASSMATE EVER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

HE LIVED IN ONE OF THE RUINED ROW HOUSES.



IT WAS FAIRLY WELL-PRESERVED, SO THE OWNER REFURBISHED IT AND RENTED THE ROOMS...

WHEN THEY MOVED TO KURŌZU-CHO, KAZUNORI'S FAMILY MOVED INTO THIS BUILDING, WHERE SEVERAL OTHER POOR FAMILIES LIVED.

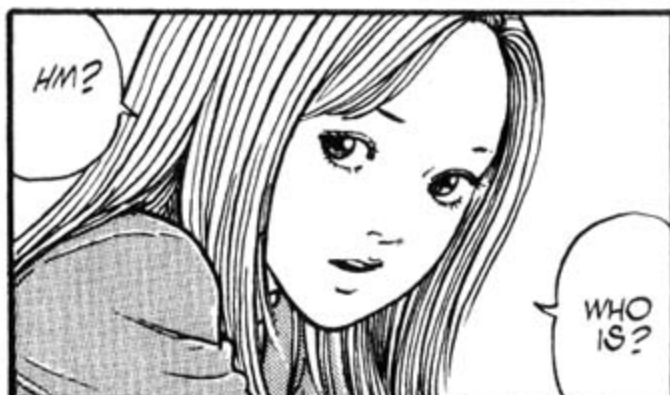


IT'S CONSIDERED A POOR TENEMENT HOUSE. EVERYONE LOOKS DOWN ON THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.

SO TWISTED.

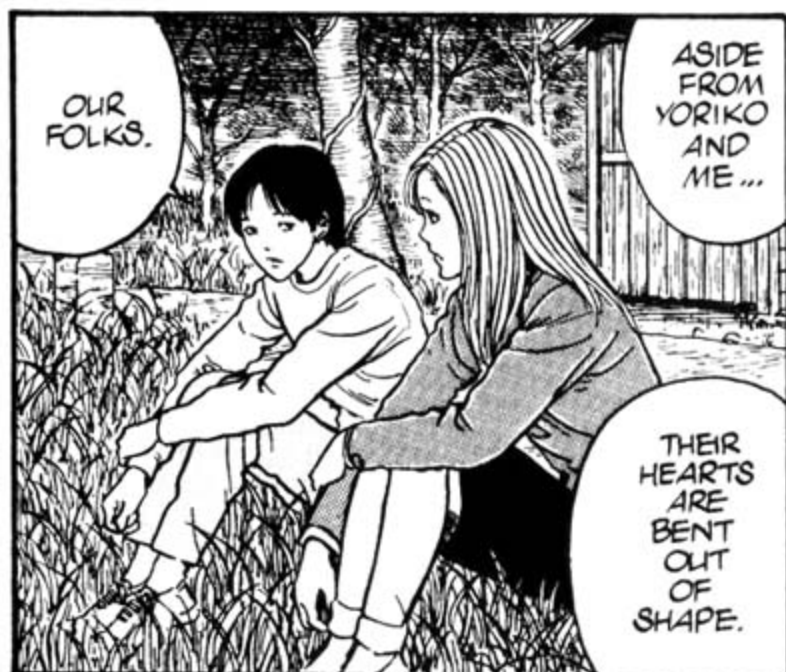


HM?



WHO IS?

OUR FOLKS.



ASIDE FROM YORIKO AND ME ...

THEIR HEARTS ARE BENT OUT OF SHAPE.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T ACCEPT THEIR POVERTY ...

...THAT THEY SHIELD THEMSELVES BY BECOMING WARPED.

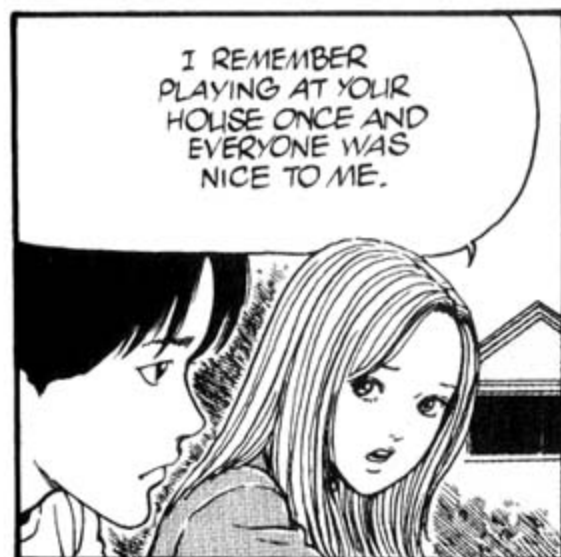


THAT  
SLIM  
COLLECTS  
PEOPLE  
WITH  
TWISTED  
SOULS.

WHEN  
THEY  
FIGHT,  
THEY  
CAN'T  
CONTROL  
THEMSELVES.  
THERE'S  
NO WAY  
OUT. YOU  
CAN'T  
UNTANGLE  
THEM.



BUT  
YOU'RE  
NOT  
LIKE  
THAT,  
KAZUNORI!

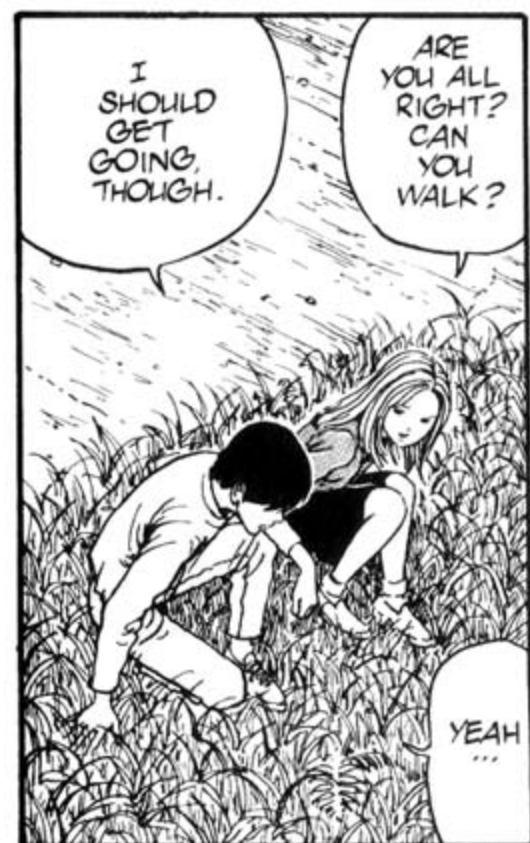


I REMEMBER  
PLAYING AT YOUR  
HOUSE ONCE AND  
EVERYONE WAS  
NICE TO ME.



KIDS  
CAN  
BE BLIND  
TO THAT  
SORT  
OF  
THING.

BESIDES,  
IT'S  
GOTTEN  
WORSE  
LATELY!



I  
SHOULD  
GET  
GOING,  
THOUGH.

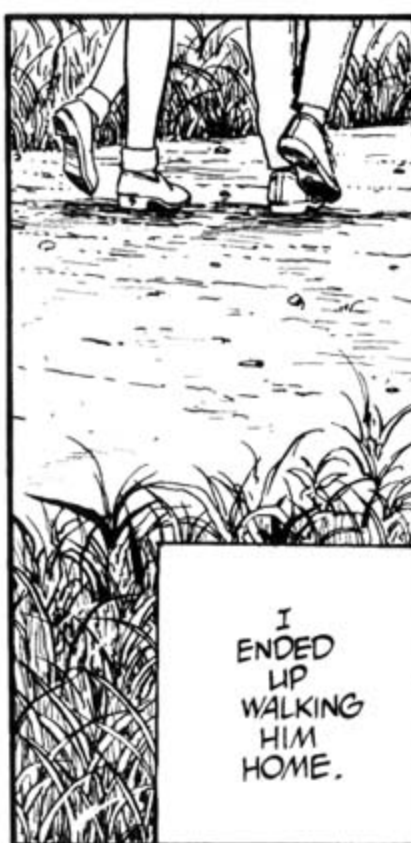
ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?  
CAN  
YOU  
WALK?

YEAH  
...



W-  
WATCH  
OUT!

SLP



I  
ENDED  
UP  
WALKING  
HIM  
HOME.

**KAZUNORI!  
I TOLD  
YOU NOT  
TO SEE  
THAT  
GIRL!!**

**AND  
THEN  
YOU  
LET  
THEM  
BEAT  
YOU UP?  
HOW  
PATHETIC!**

**DAMN  
THOSE  
ENDOS!**

**I'LL  
TEACH  
THEM A  
LESSON...**

**THEY  
HURT  
MY POOR  
KAZUNORI  
...**

**SO  
THEIR  
SON DID  
THIS  
TO  
YOU?**

**OW,  
MOM...**

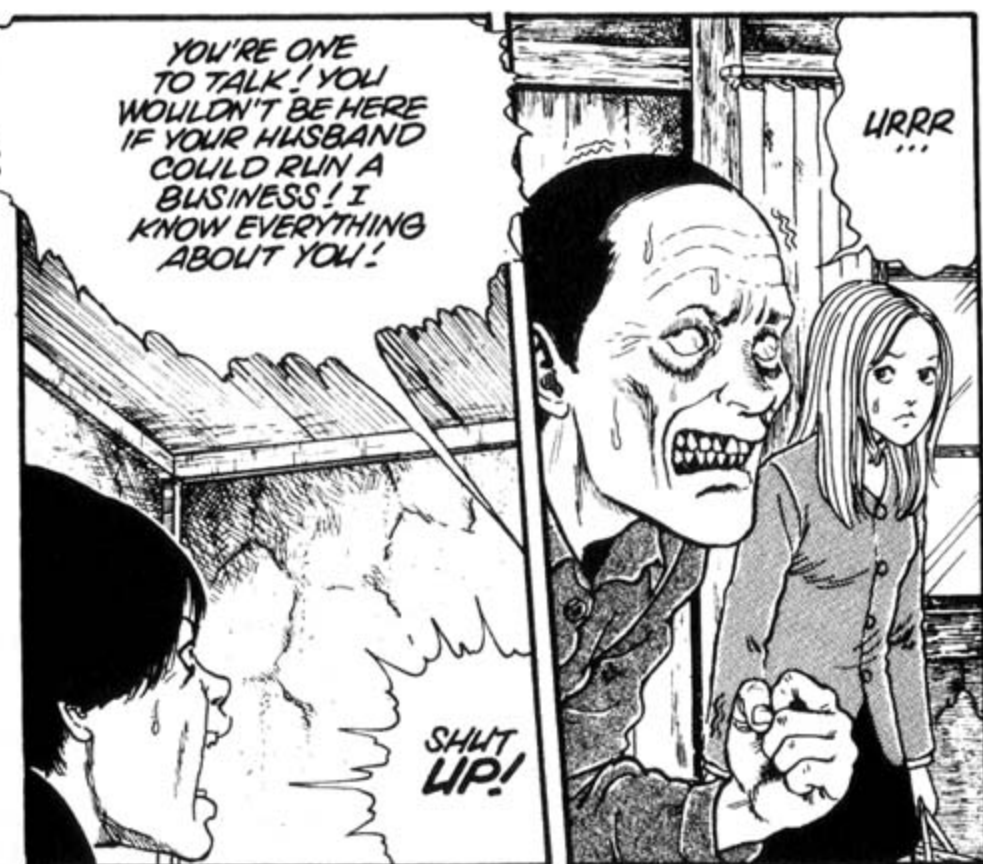
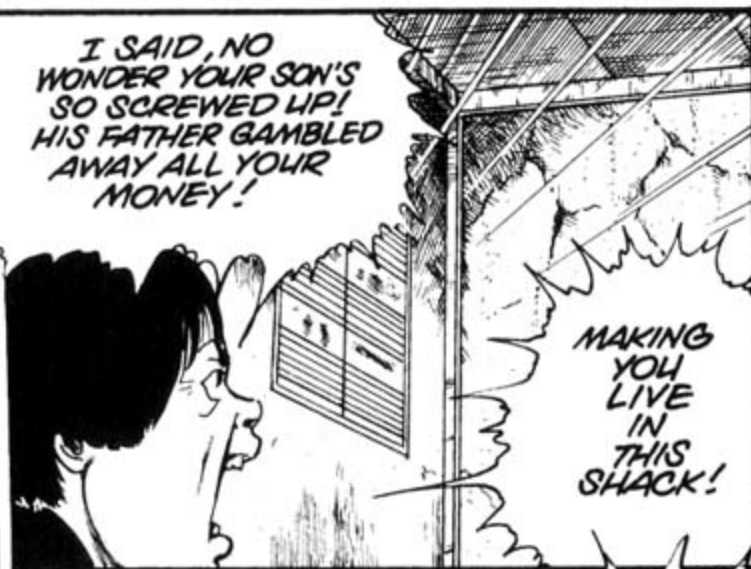
**MAYBE  
IF HE GOT  
A JOB HE  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE TIME  
TO HURT  
MY BOY!**

**INSTEAD  
OF LYING  
AROUND  
ALL  
DAY  
LIKE A  
PARASITE!**

**SHUT  
UP,  
BITCH!  
OR  
I'LL  
KILL  
YOU!**

**W-  
WHAT?  
WHY,  
YOU  
THUG!**

**THEY LIVE  
AT OPPOSITE  
ENDS, BUT THEIR  
VOICES GO  
RIGHT THROUGH  
THE WALLS...**



I CAN'T STAND IT!

WHY CAN'T YOU STOP FIGHTING?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

I LOVE YORIKO!

IT'S ALL POINTLESS! FORGET ABOUT IT!

WHY CAN'T WE JUST GET ALONG?

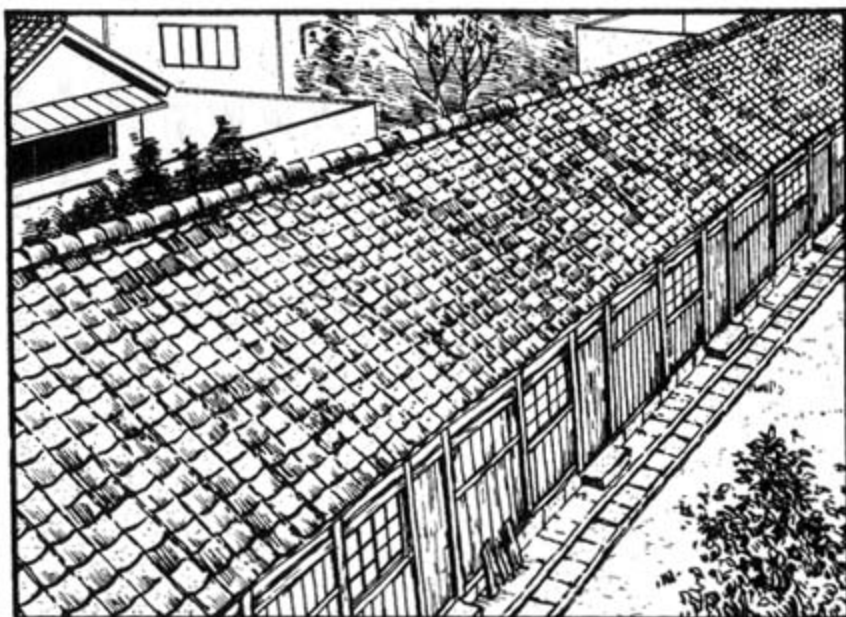
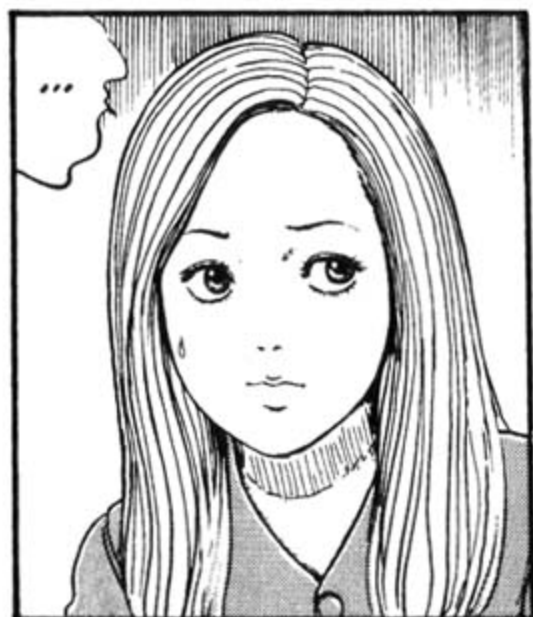
SLAM

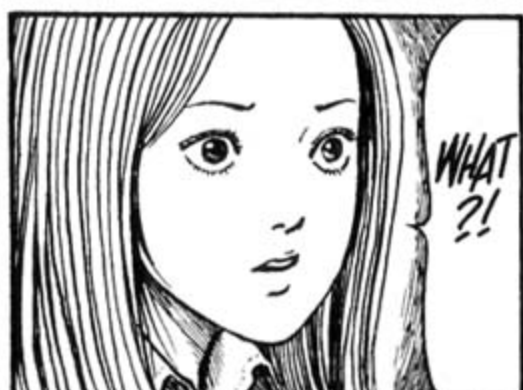
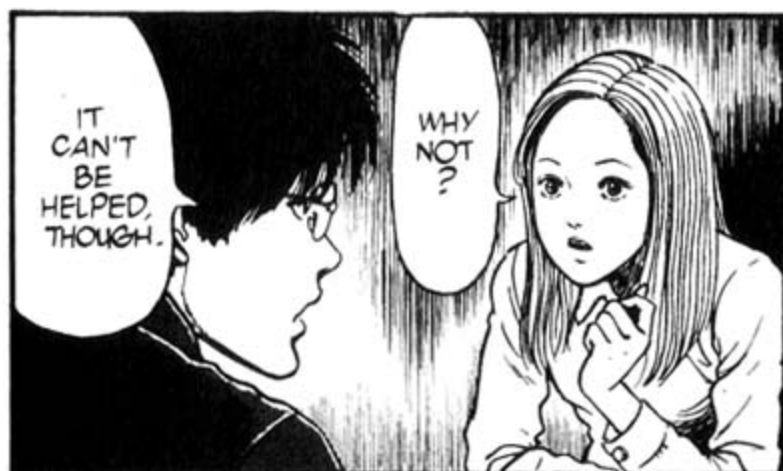
SLAM

KAZUNORI!

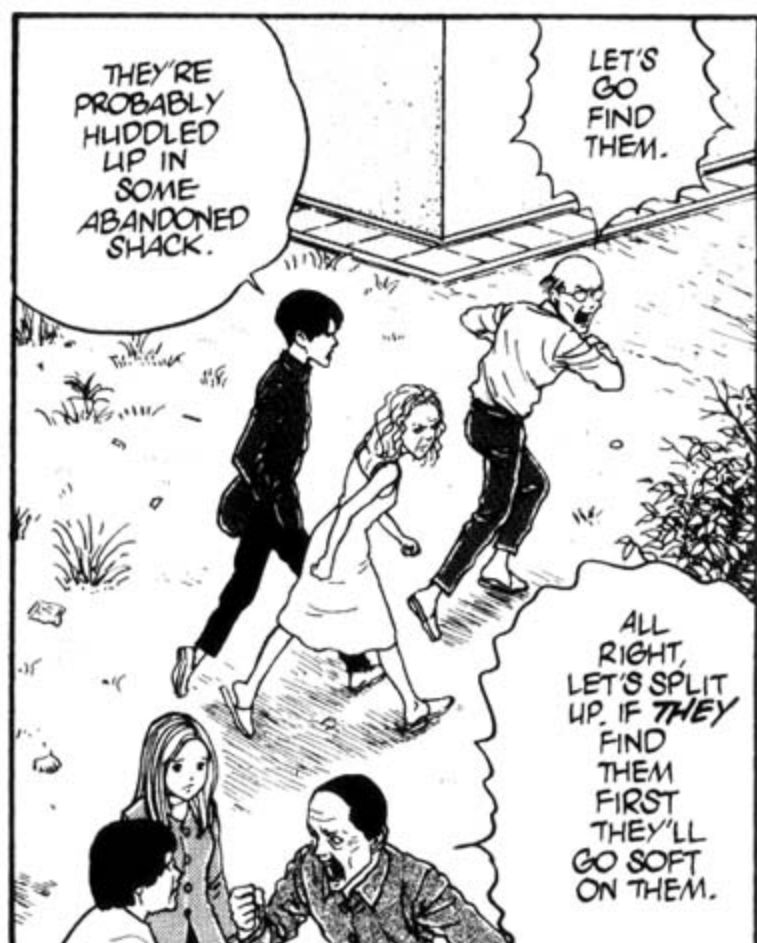
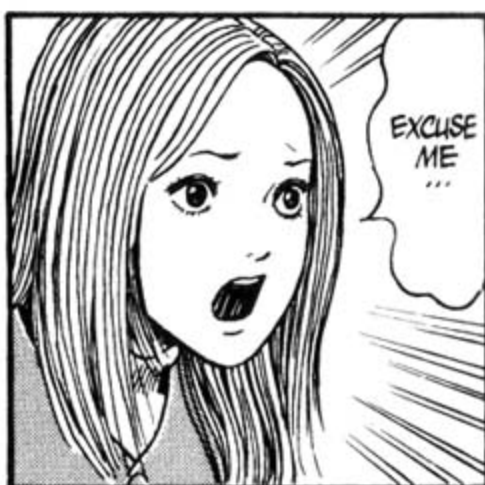
YORIKO!





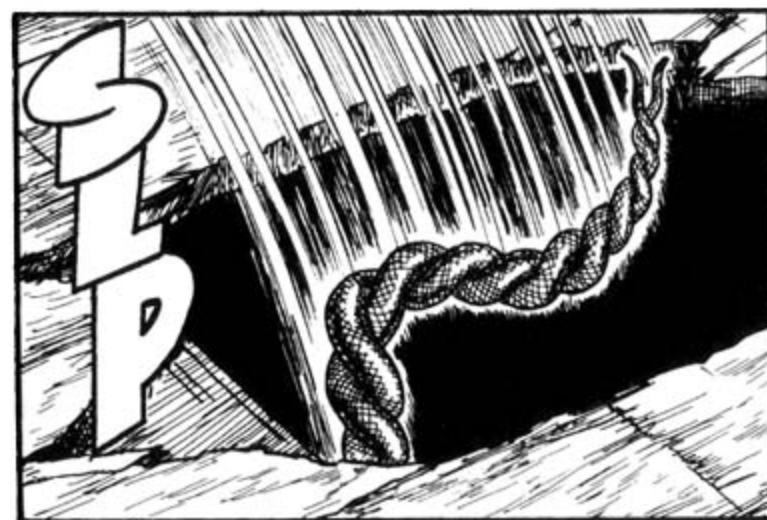
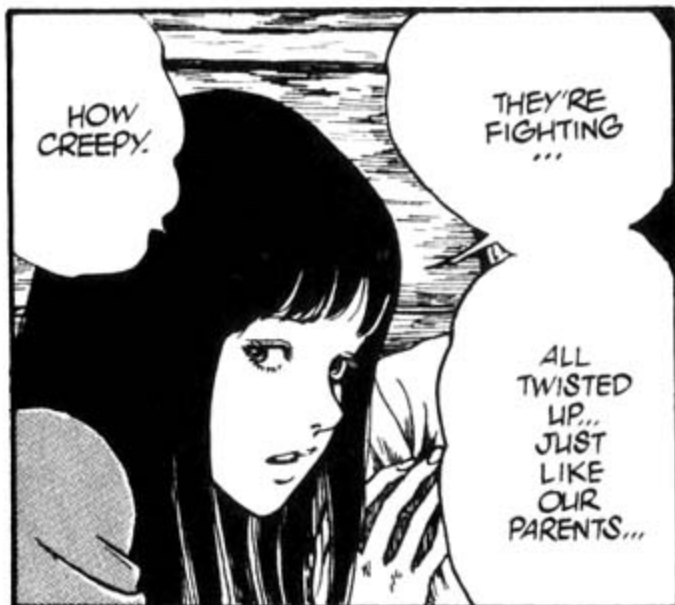


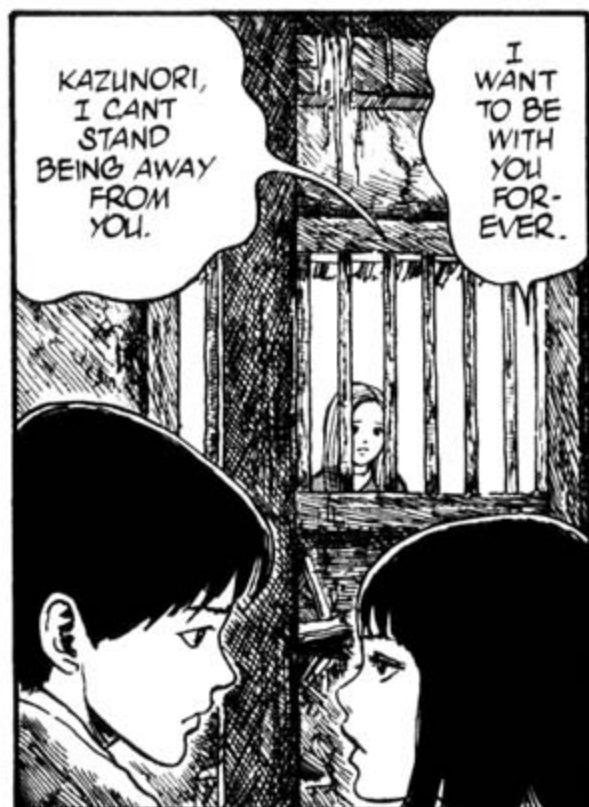
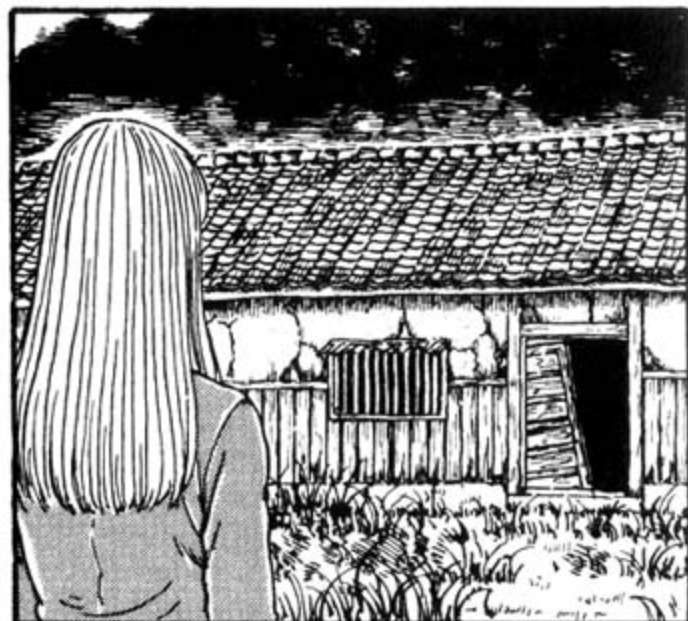












KAZUNORI,  
I CANT  
STAND  
BEING AWAY  
FROM  
YOU.

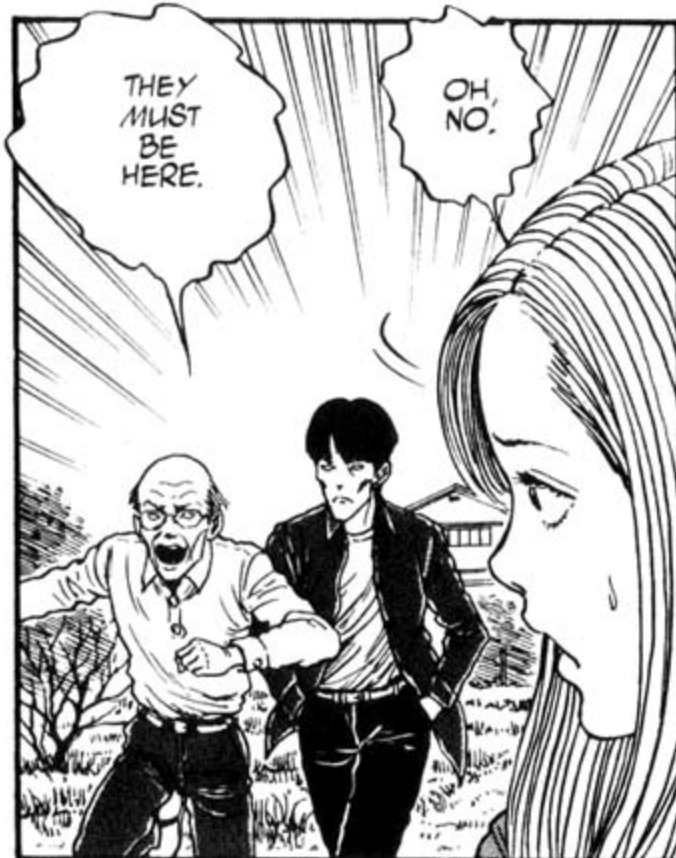
I  
WANT  
TO BE  
WITH  
YOU  
FOR-  
EVER.

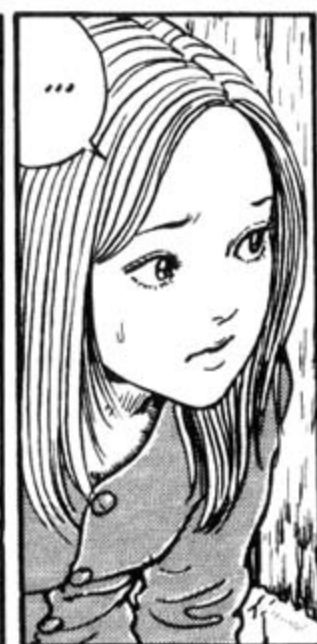
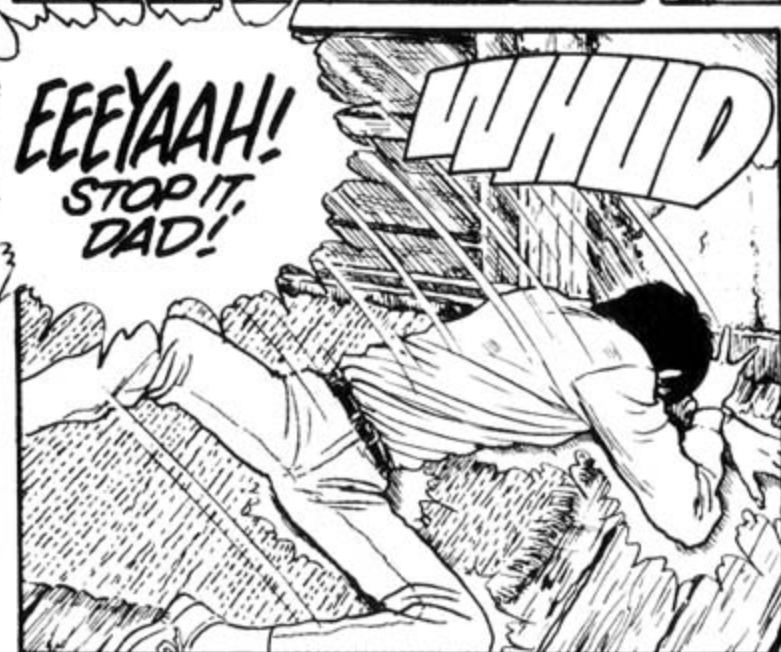
SHOULD  
WE  
JUST  
RUN  
AWAY?

YOU  
MEAN  
ELOPE  
?

YES.









THEY'RE  
TERRIBLE.

POOR  
YORIKO...



MAYBE  
IT  
WOULD  
BE  
BEST  
FOR  
YOU  
TWO  
TO  
RUN  
AWAY.

IF  
THERE'S  
ANYTHING  
I  
CAN  
DO  
TO  
HELP...



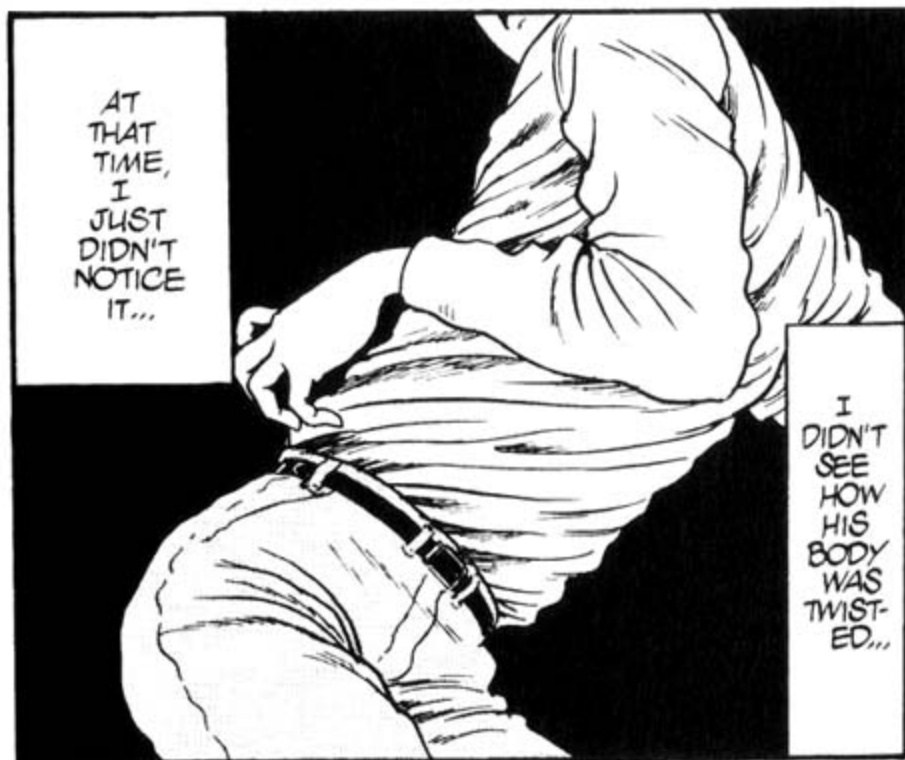
LRR...



Oh...

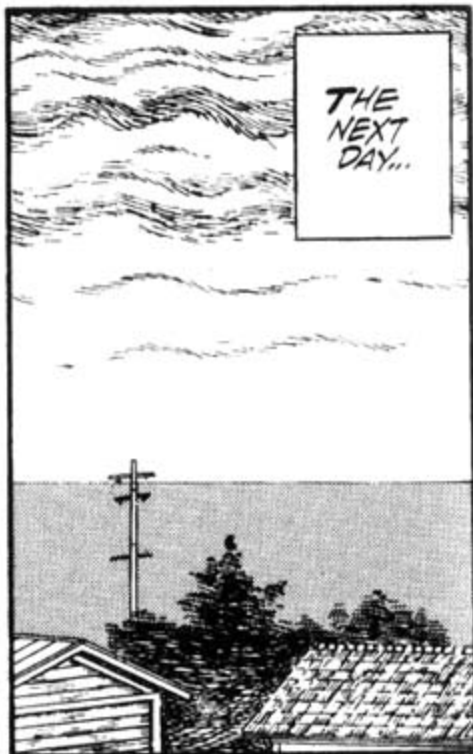
IT'S  
YOU.



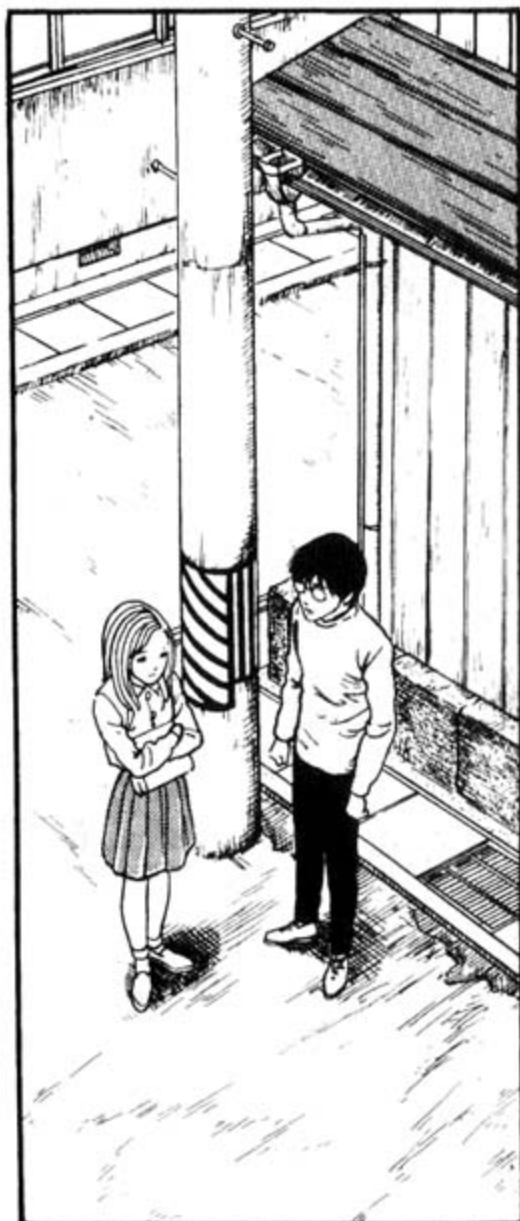


AT THAT TIME, I JUST DIDN'T NOTICE IT...

I DIDN'T SEE HOW HIS BODY WAS TWISTED...



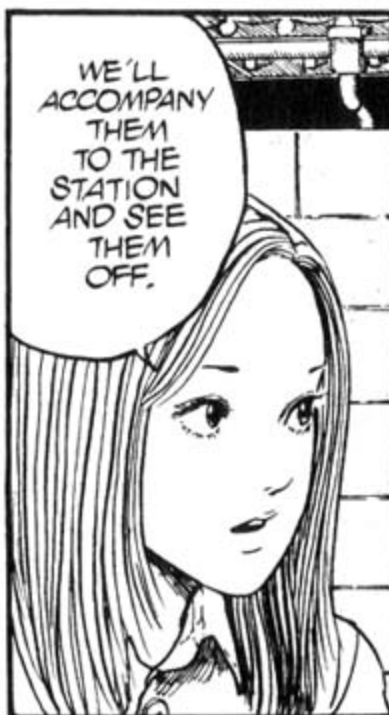
THE NEXT DAY...



ARE THEY REALLY COMING?



YES, THEY PROMISED TO MEET ME HERE.



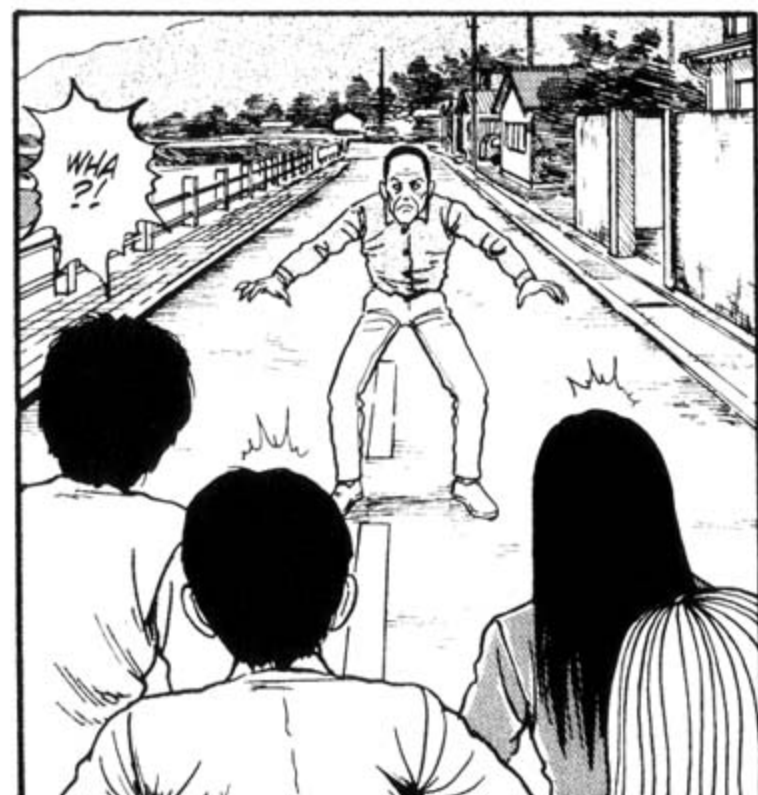
WE'LL ACCOMPANY THEM TO THE STATION AND SEE THEM OFF.



ELOPING, HUH...

GOOD IDEA.









krich

huff

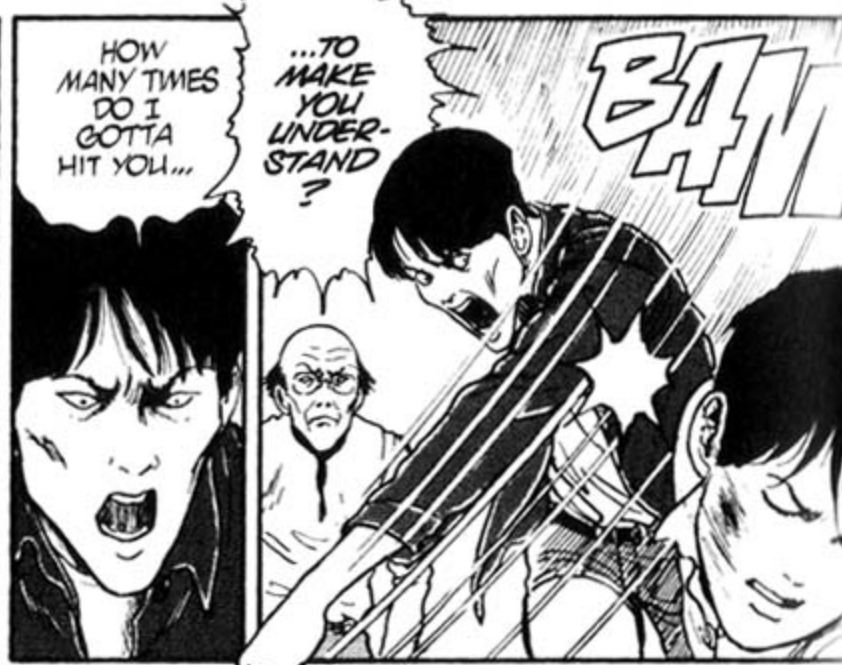
huff  
huff

huff

krich

krich

YOU'RE  
BEING  
A REAL  
PAIN.



HOW  
MANY  
TIMES  
DO I  
GOTTA  
HIT  
YOU...

...TO  
MAKE  
YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND  
?

**BAN**



huff  
huff

**SHAAA**

huff

huff



KAZU-  
NORI  
...

THEY'RE  
SEPARATING  
HIS  
AGAIN.



HUF

HUF



NO...



NOT  
THIS  
TIME,  
YURIKO!



YORIKO,  
DO IT!  
LIKE  
BEFORE!







Y...  
YORIKO  
?!

YORIKO  
!

YORIKO  
!!

KAZUNORI!







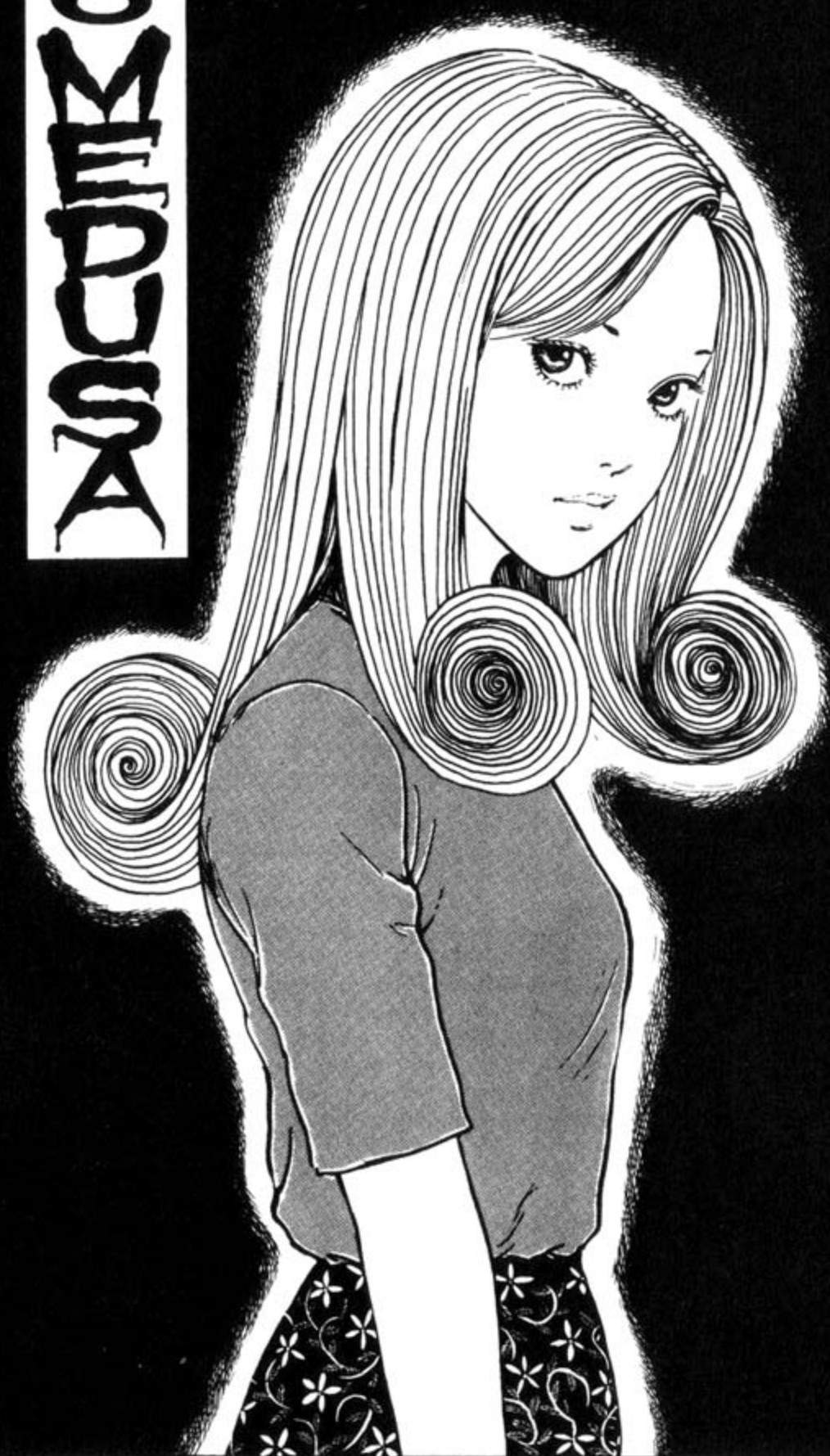


CHAPTER

# 6

# WILD

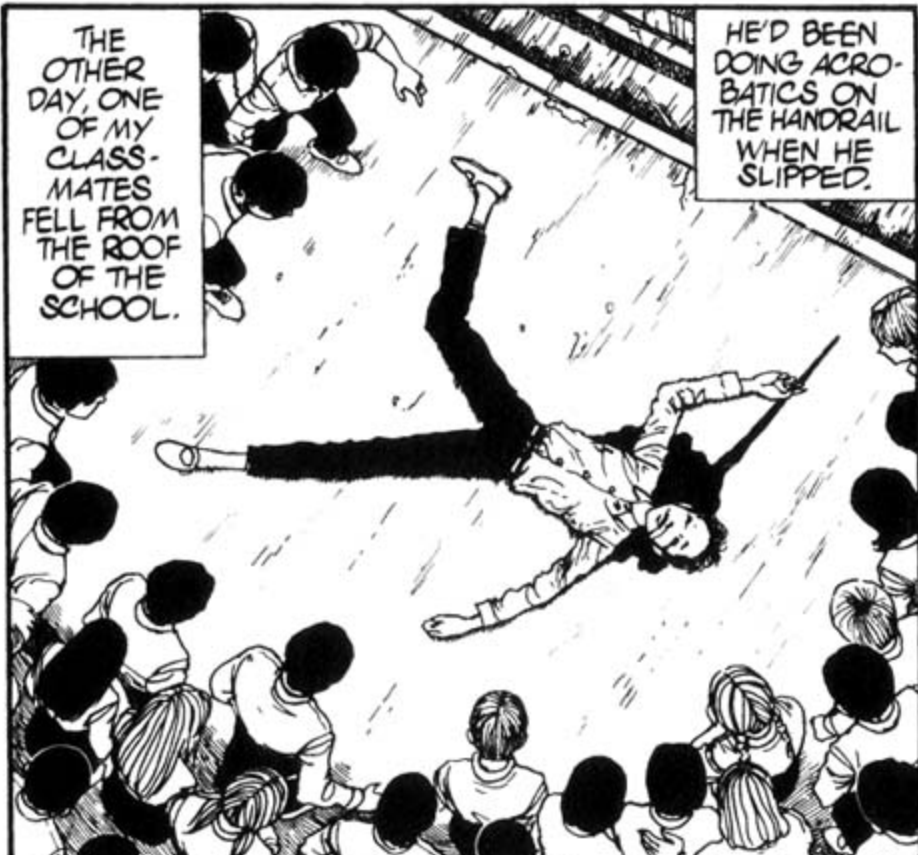
# BOSS



THE OTHER DAY, ONE OF MY CLASSMATES FELL FROM THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL.

HE'D BEEN DOING ACROBATICS ON THE HANDRAIL WHEN HE SLIPPED.

HE'D ALWAYS BEEN A SHOW-OFF, TRYING TO GET PEOPLE'S ATTENTION.



AND YET, SURROUNDED BY THE CROWD ...



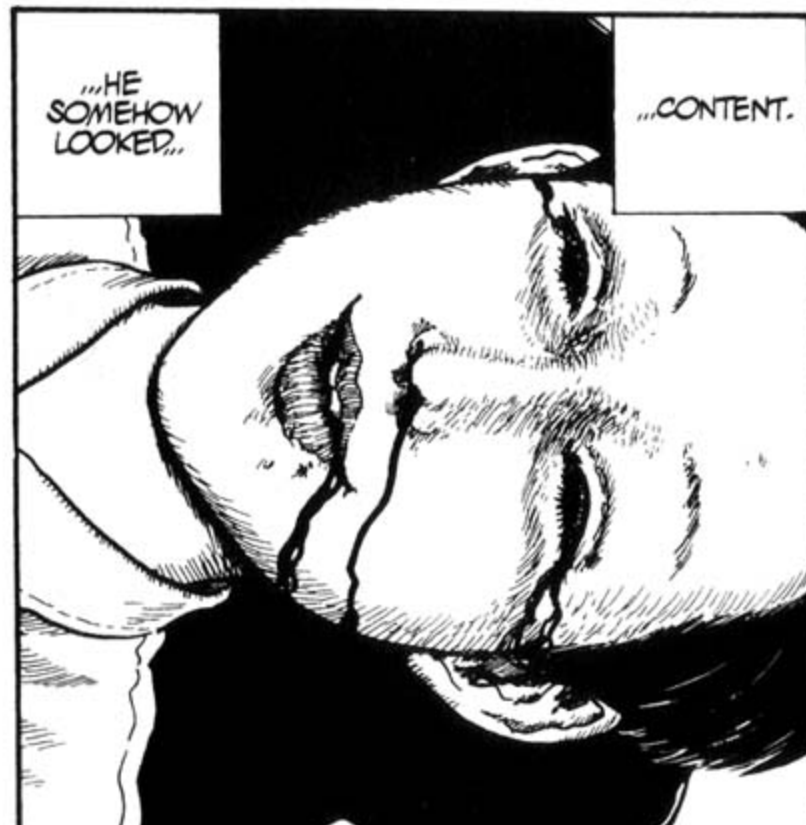
THAT WAS SO HORRIBLE, SEKINO.

THAT WAS JUST CRAZY. HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRIED SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

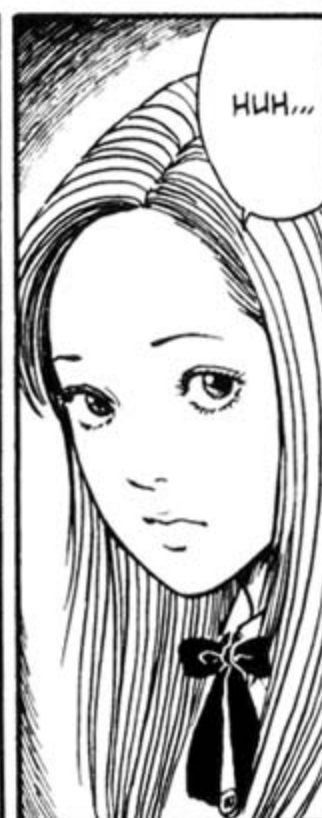
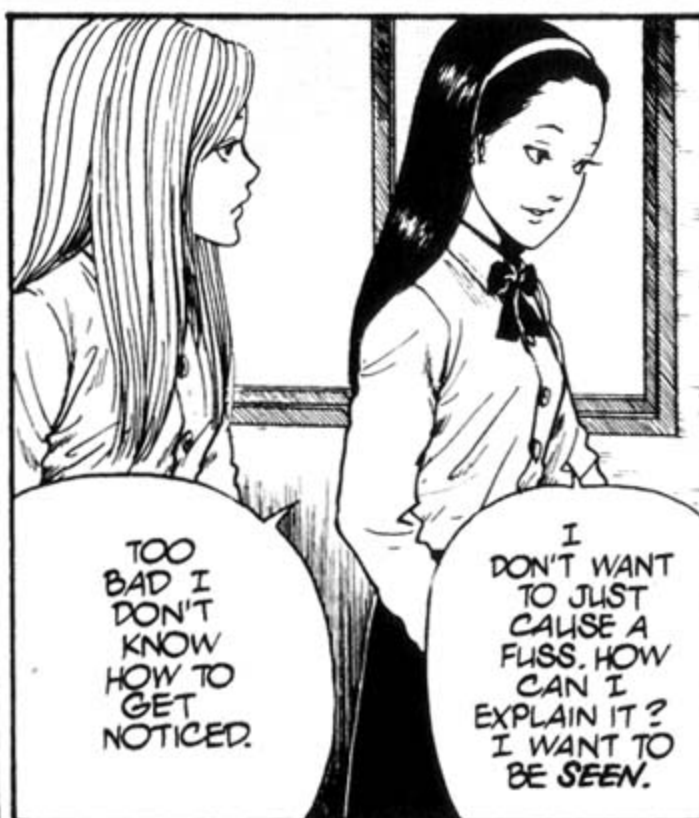
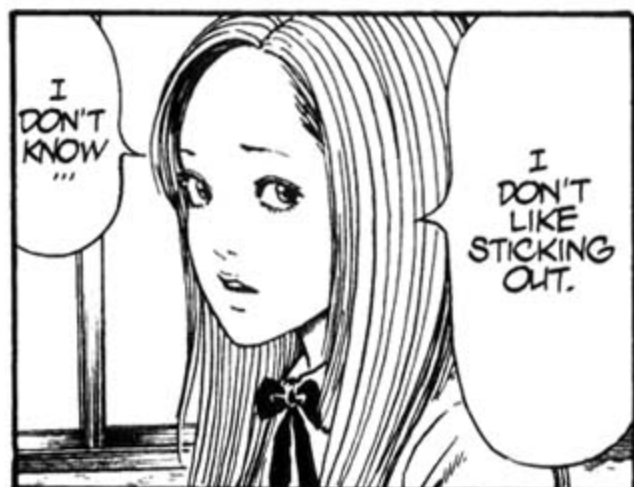
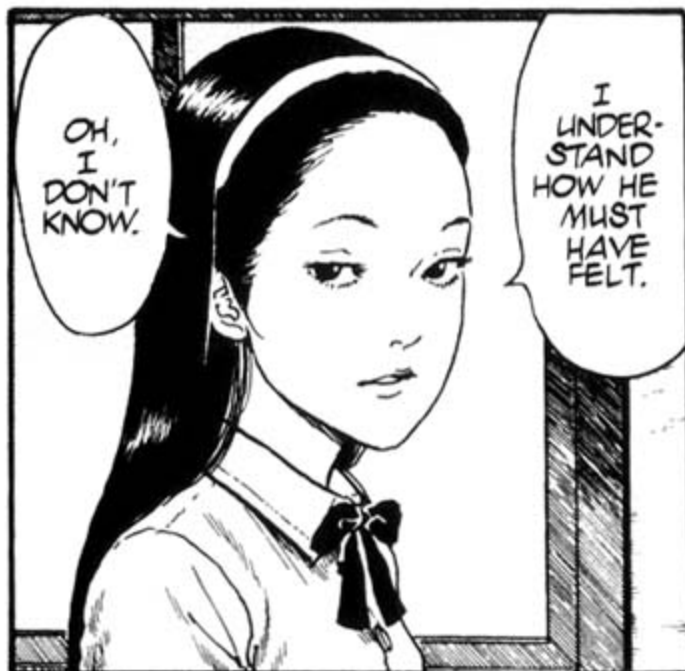


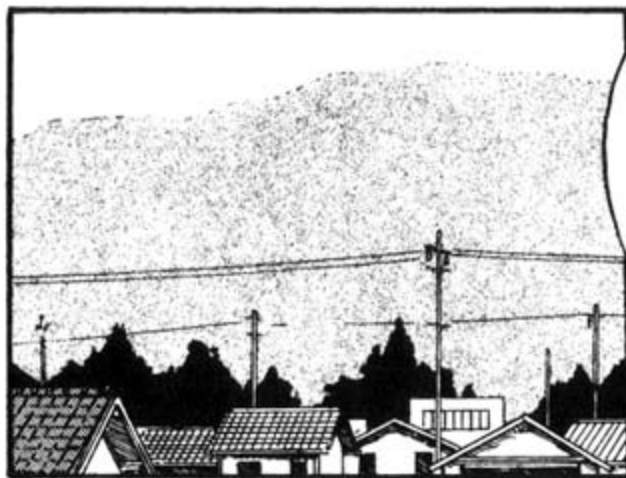
...HE SOMEHOW LOOKED...

...CONTENT.









A  
LOT OF  
PEOPLE IN  
KUROZU-CHO  
HAVE  
BEEN  
ACTING  
STRANGE  
LATELY.

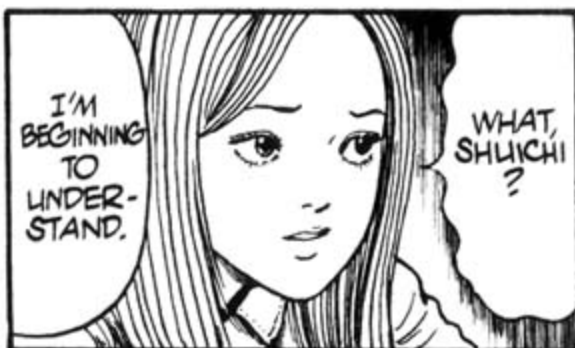
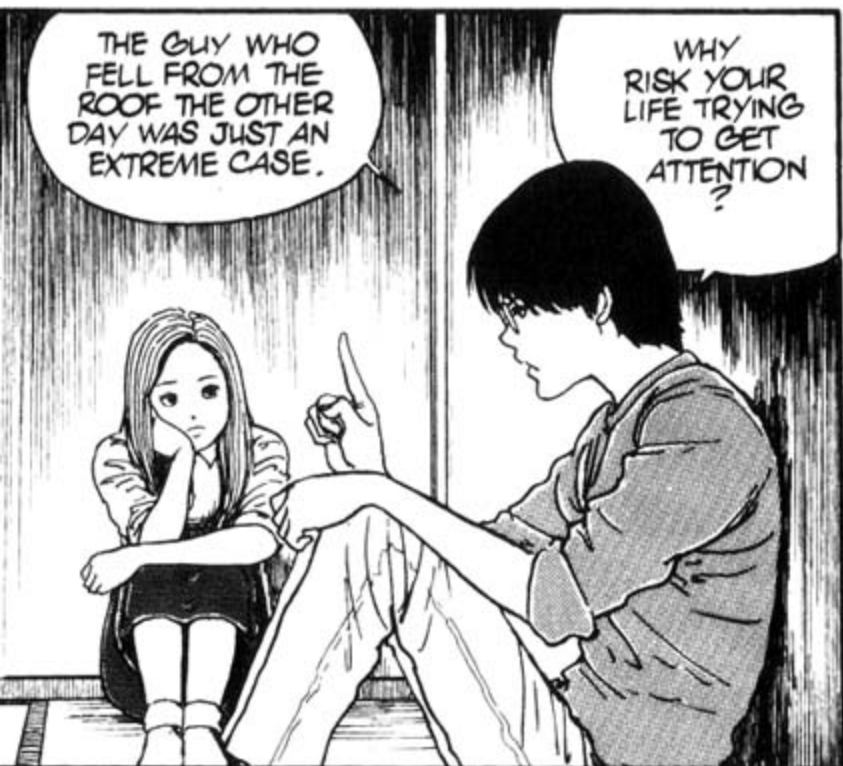


THE GUY WHO  
FELL FROM THE  
ROOF THE OTHER  
DAY WAS JUST AN  
EXTREME CASE.

WHY  
RISK YOUR  
LIFE TRYING  
TO GET  
ATTENTION  
?

I'M  
BEGINNING  
TO  
UNDER-  
STAND.

WHAT,  
SHUICHI  
?



THIS  
TOWN  
IS  
CONTAMINATED  
BY  
THE  
SPIRAL..

NOT  
AGAIN.

WHAT  
DOES  
WANTING  
ATTENTION  
HAVE TO DO  
WITH A  
SPIRAL?



DON'T  
YOU  
SEE?!

IT'S  
ABOUT  
MESMERISM.



THEY  
BOTH  
HAVE  
THE  
POWER  
TO  
ATTRACT  
PEOPLE.

SPIRALS  
SLICK THINGS  
IN... THE EYE  
FOLLOWS THE  
PATTERN  
TO THE  
CENTER.

THAT'S  
WHY  
PEOPLE  
POSSESSED  
BY THE  
SPIRAL  
WANT  
TO  
GET  
THE  
ATTENTION  
OF  
OTHERS.

SO  
YOU'RE  
SAYING  
HE DIED  
BECAUSE  
OF  
THE  
SPIRAL?

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

NOT  
JUST  
HIM,  
BUT  
EVERYONE  
WHO'S  
OBSESSED  
WITH  
ATTENTION.

TH-THAT  
SOUNDS LIKE  
SEKINO. SO  
SHE'S ALSO  
AFFECTED  
BY THE  
SPIRAL?

I  
WONDER  
IF  
SHE'S  
ALL  
RIGHT.

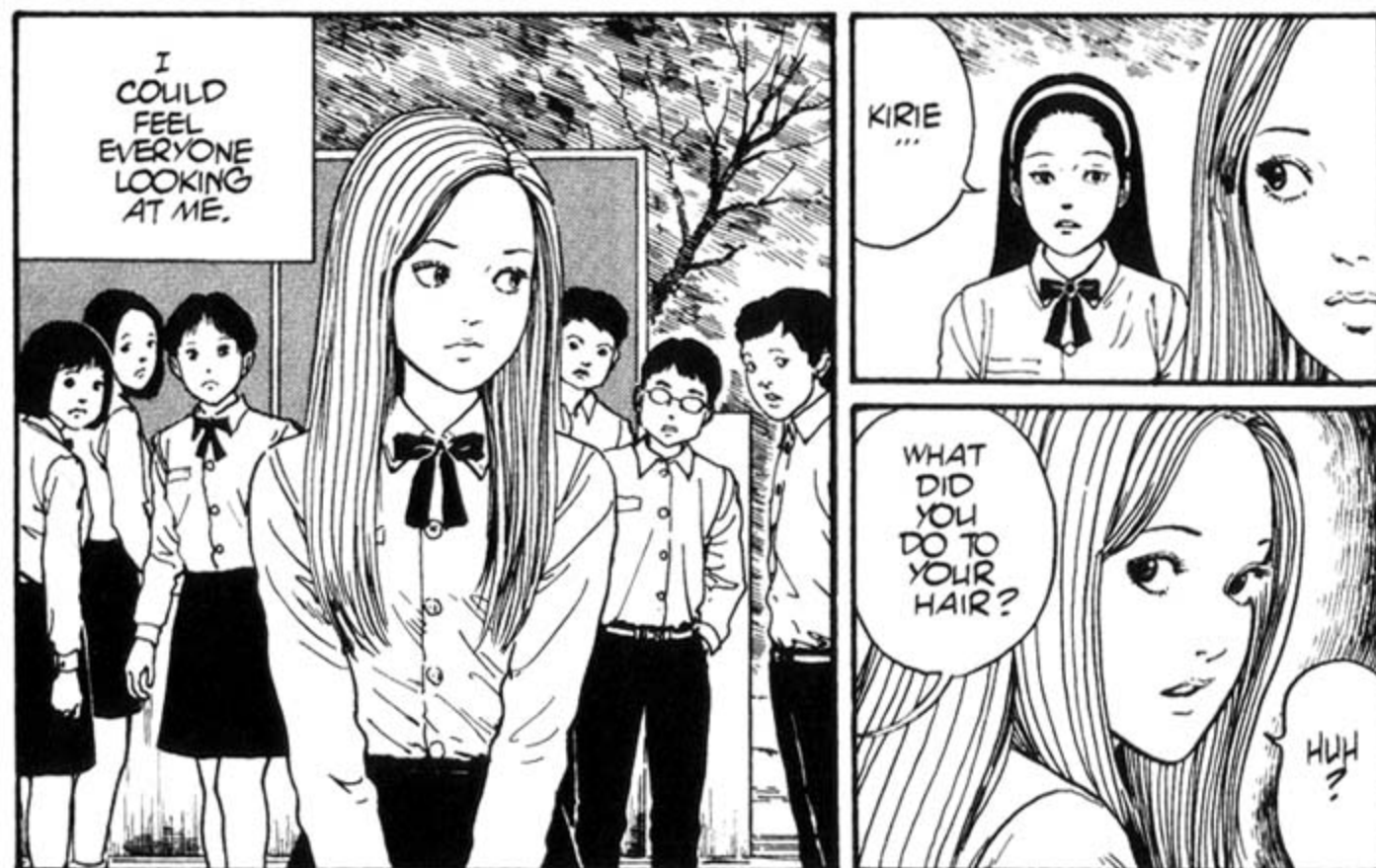
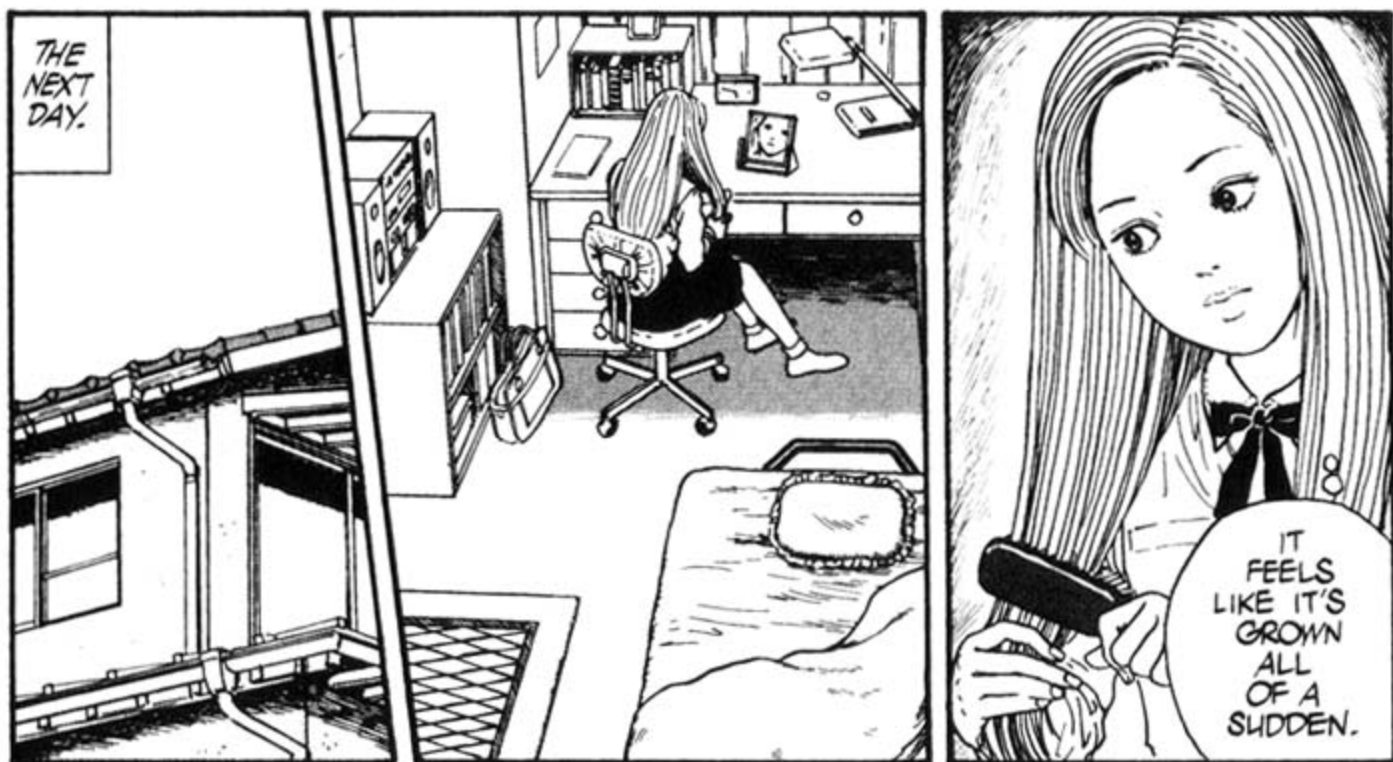
PROBABLY.

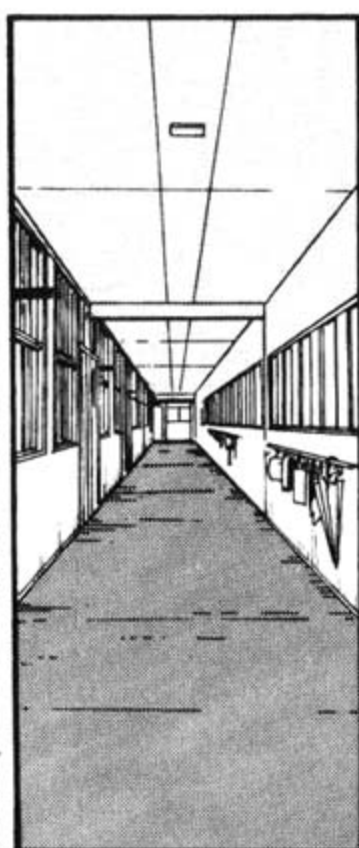
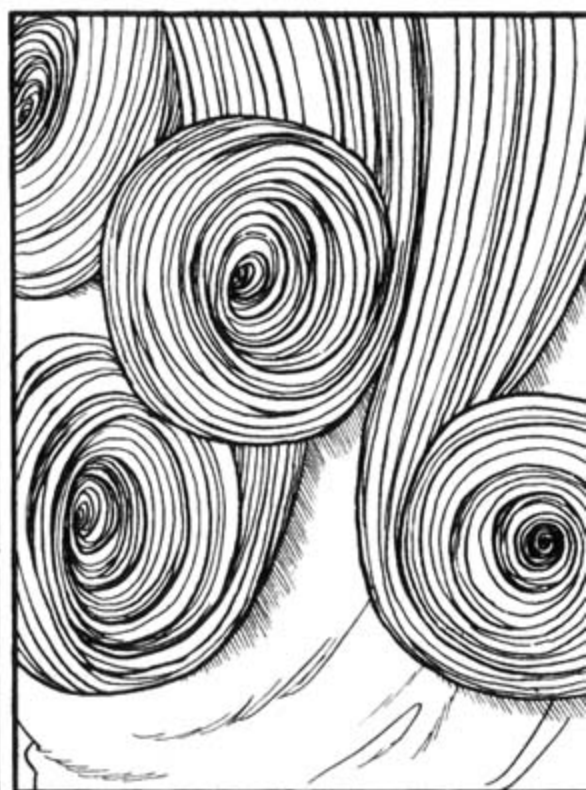
HEY,  
YOU  
KNOW...

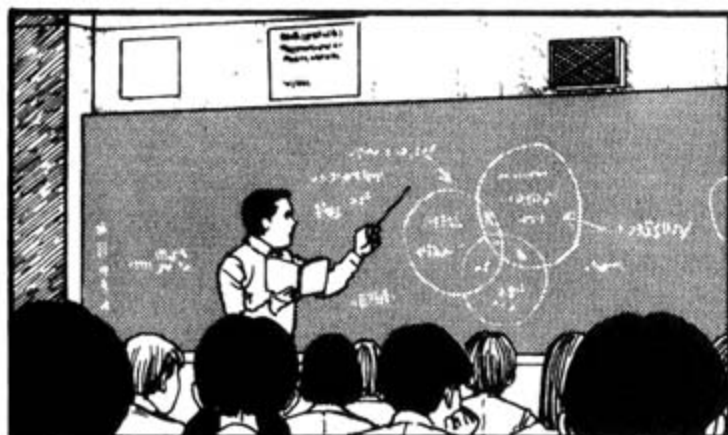
YOUR  
HAIR'S  
GETTING  
LONG.

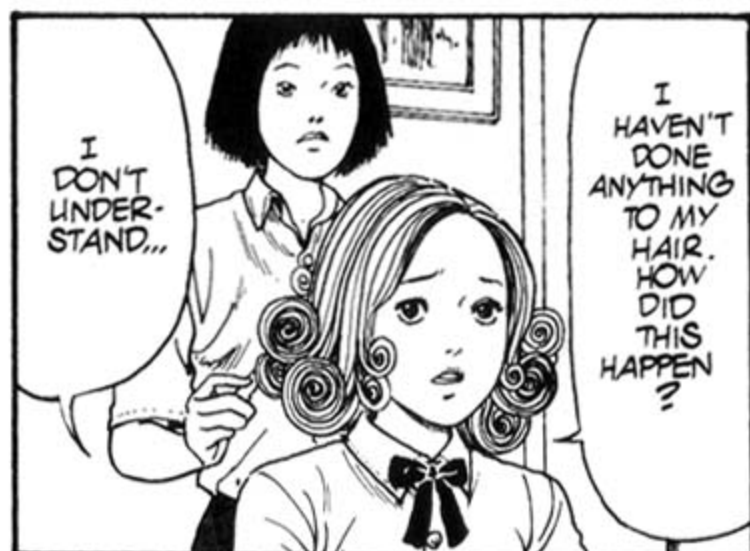
MAYBE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
GET  
A  
HAIRCUT.

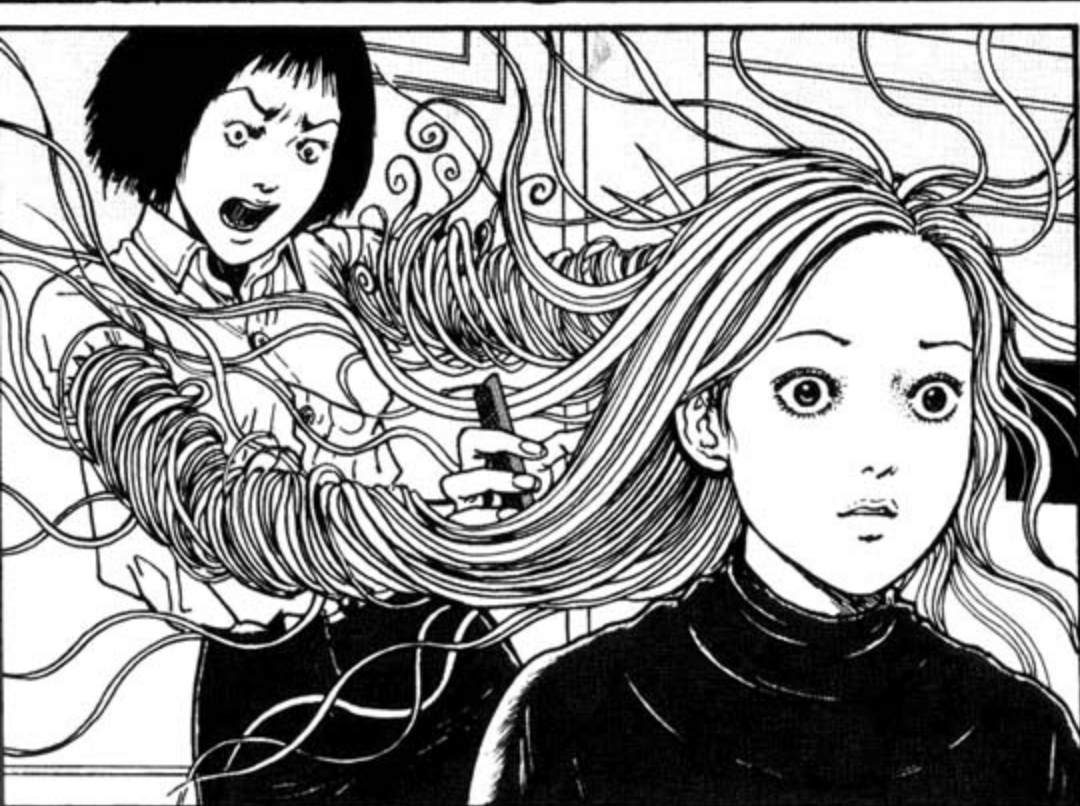
HUH?



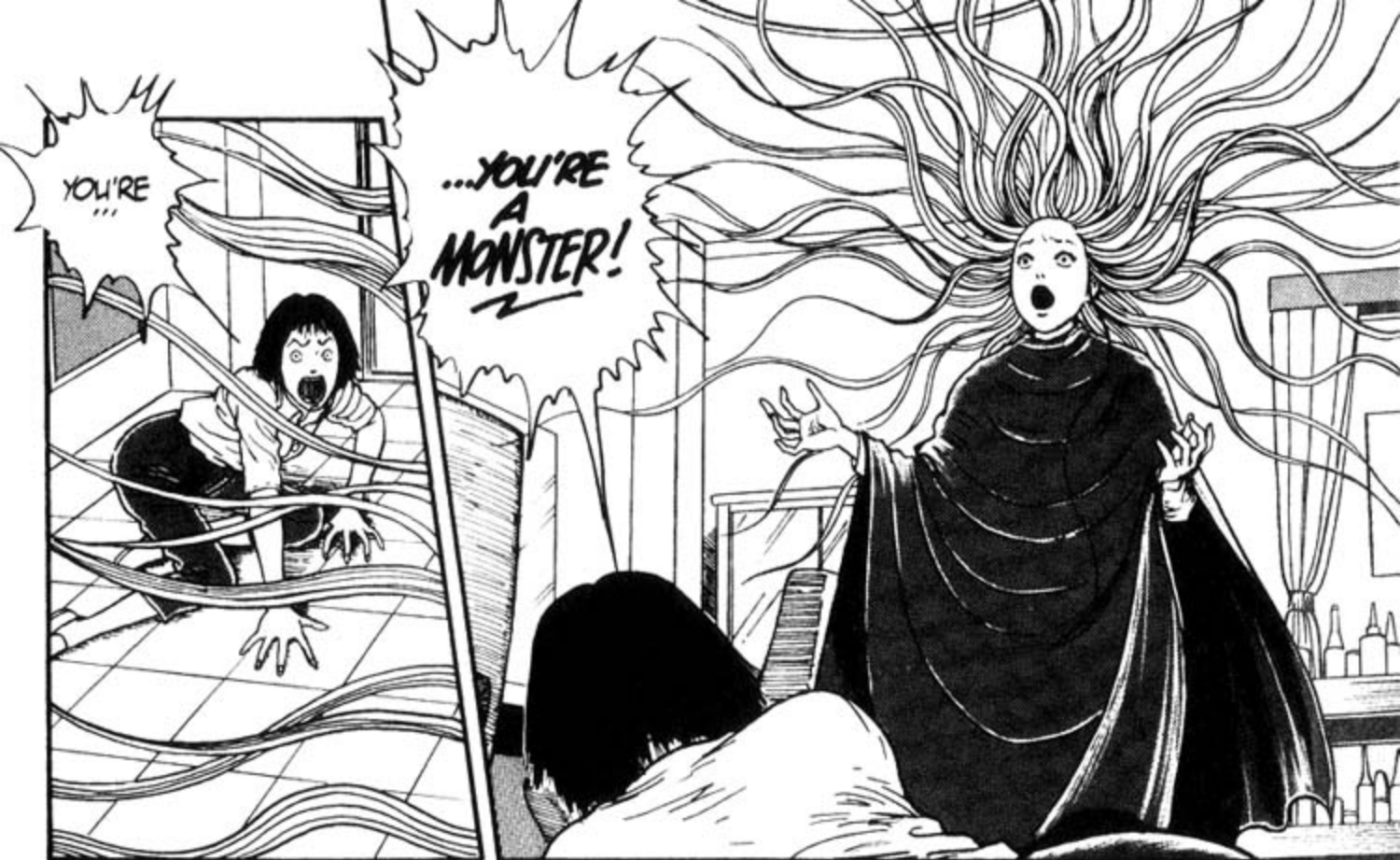












YOU'RE ...

...YOU'RE  
A  
MONSTER!



WAS  
MY  
HAIR  
...

...CURSED  
BY  
THE  
SPIRAL?



IT  
GREW  
RAPIDLY  
ON ITS  
OWN AS  
IF IT  
WAS  
ALIVE.

EVERY  
TIME I  
TRIED  
TO CLIP  
IT OFF  
IT STARTED  
TO CHOKE  
ME.



WHEN  
MY FAMILY  
TRIED  
TO TAKE  
ME TO  
THE  
HOSPITAL...

YAAH!

I  
CAN'T  
BREATHE!

...IT  
STRANGLING  
ME  
AGAIN.



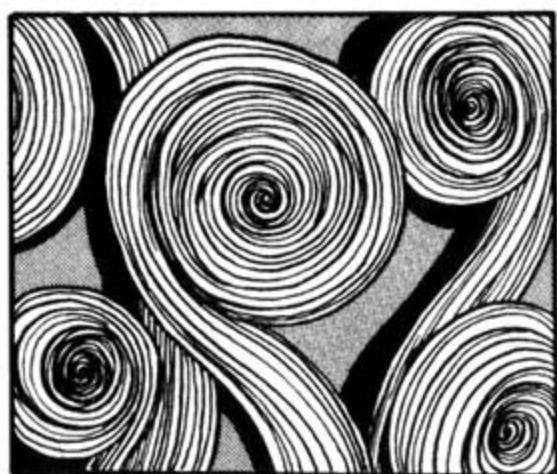
EVEN WHEN I STOPPED RESISTING, IT KEPT MOVING.

IT SWIRLED IN PLACE, DISPLAYING ITS CURLS.



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

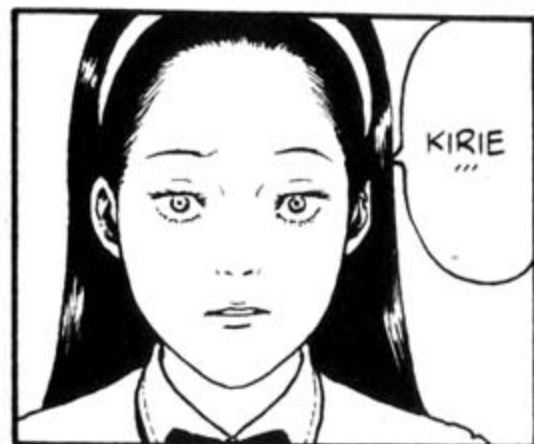
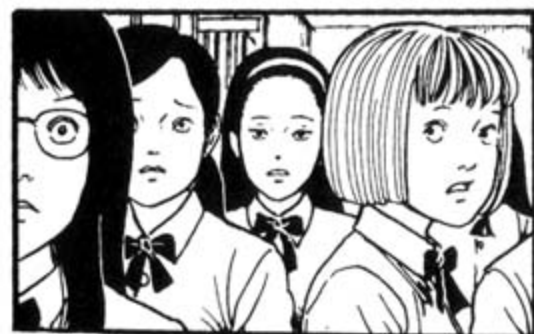




I SOON  
UNDERSTOOD  
THAT MY HAIR  
HAD THE POWER  
TO MESMERIZE  
PEOPLE WHO  
LOOKED  
AT IT.



AND  
IT WAS  
ATTRACTED  
TO  
CROWDS.



MY  
HAIR  
CONSTANTLY  
CHANGED  
SHAPE...

...THE  
BETTER  
TO  
DRAW  
THEIR  
ATTENTION.



GOSHIMA!  
WHAT  
IS THAT  
HAIR?!

YOU  
BETTER  
FIX  
IT  
NOW!

SASHH





I'M IMPRESSED, KIRIE.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE ATTENTION, BUT NOW YOU STAND OUT MORE THAN ANYONE AT SCHOOL.



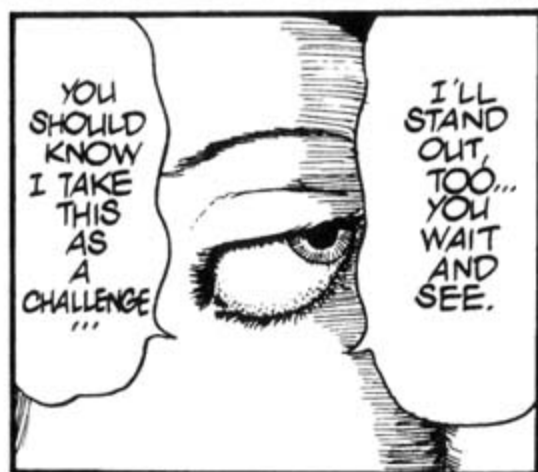
IT MUST BE NICE.

I ENVY YOU.



EVERYONE WHO LOOKS AT YOU IS CAPTIVATED.

I SHOULD WATCH OUT... NOT LOOK TOO MUCH.



YOU SHOULD KNOW I TAKE THIS AS A CHALLENGE...

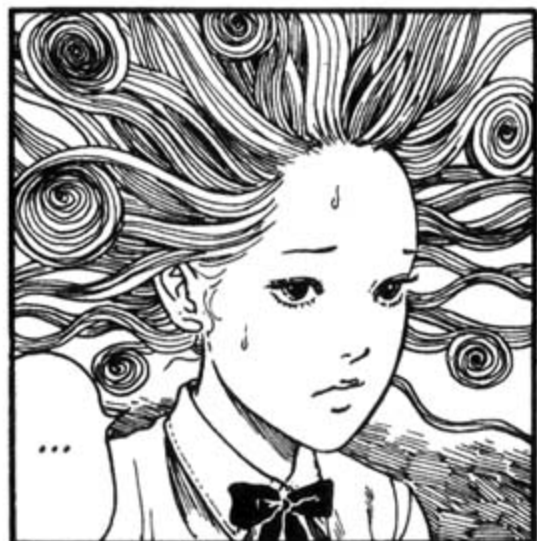
I'LL STAND OUT, TOO... YOU WAIT AND SEE.



AFTER SCHOOL MY HAIR TOOK ME TO THE STATION...

KUROZU STATION

...BECAUSE IT WANTED A LARGER AUDIENCE.



...





I ENDED UP LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF THIS TOWN.

BECAUSE THIS TOWN IS CURSED BY THE SPIRAL.

NOW I'M TOO WEAK TO GET AWAY FROM HERE...

IS MY HAIR DRAINING ALL MY STRENGTH?



MY HAIR KEPT ON...

...GROWING AND GROWING.

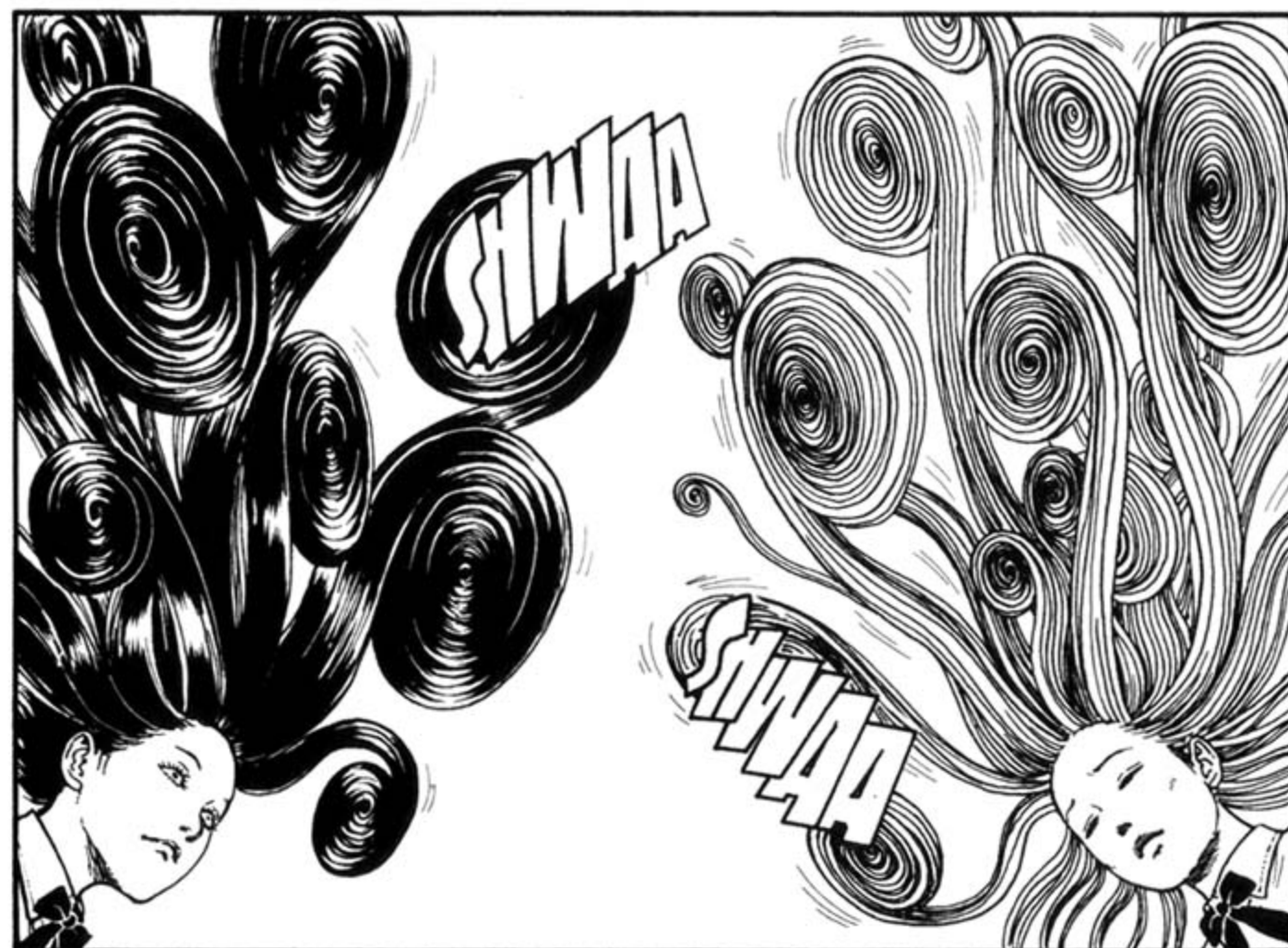
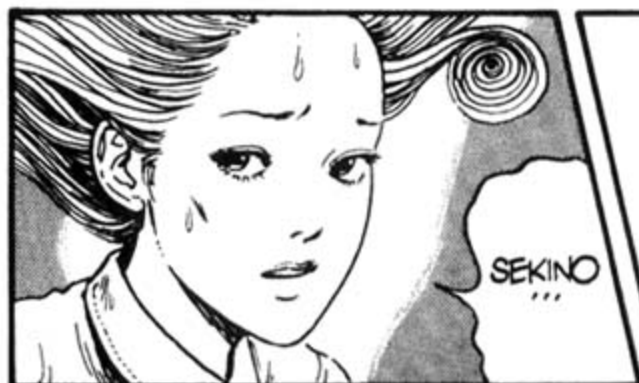
GOOD MORNING, KIRIE!

LOOK AT ME!









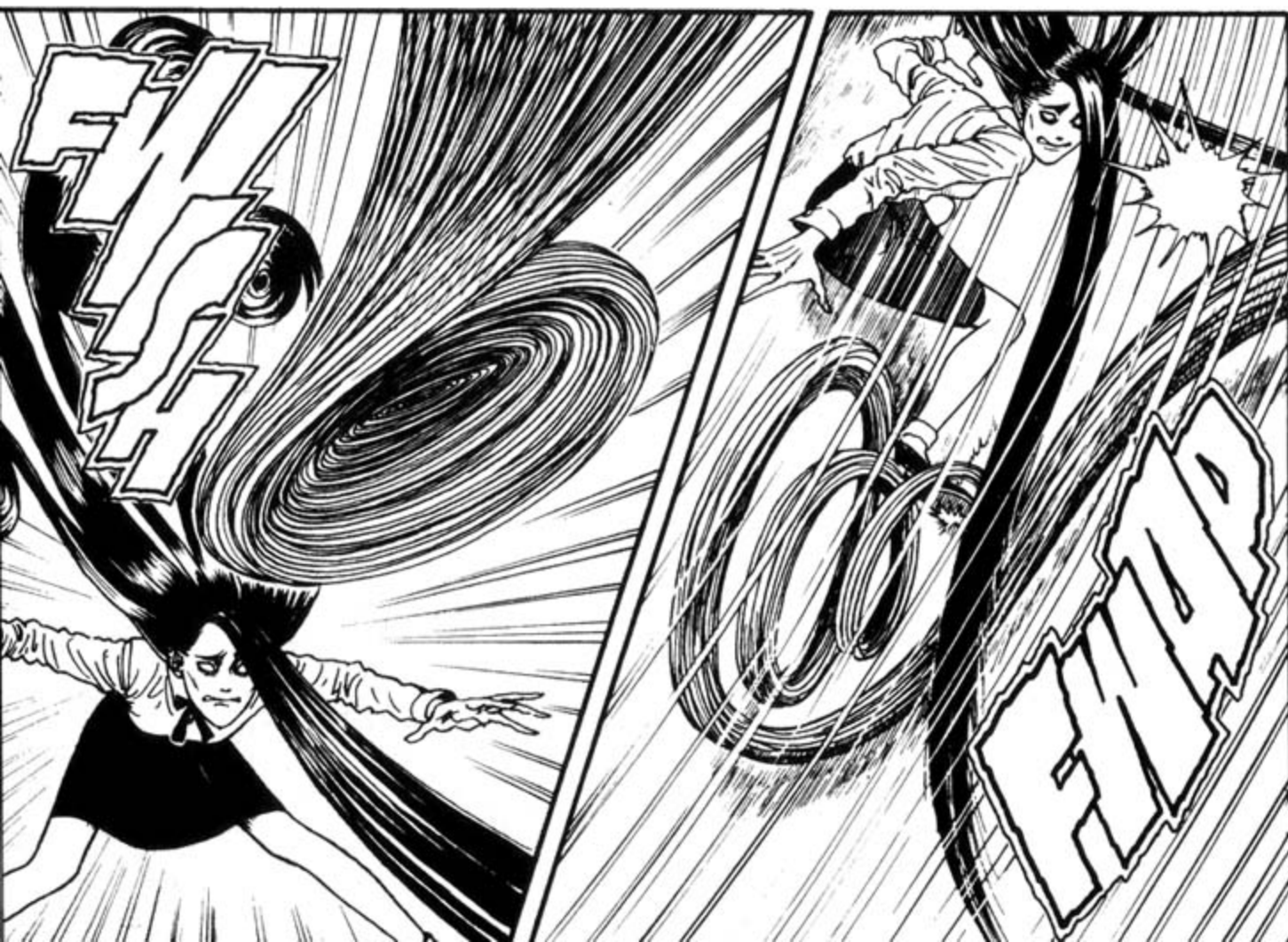
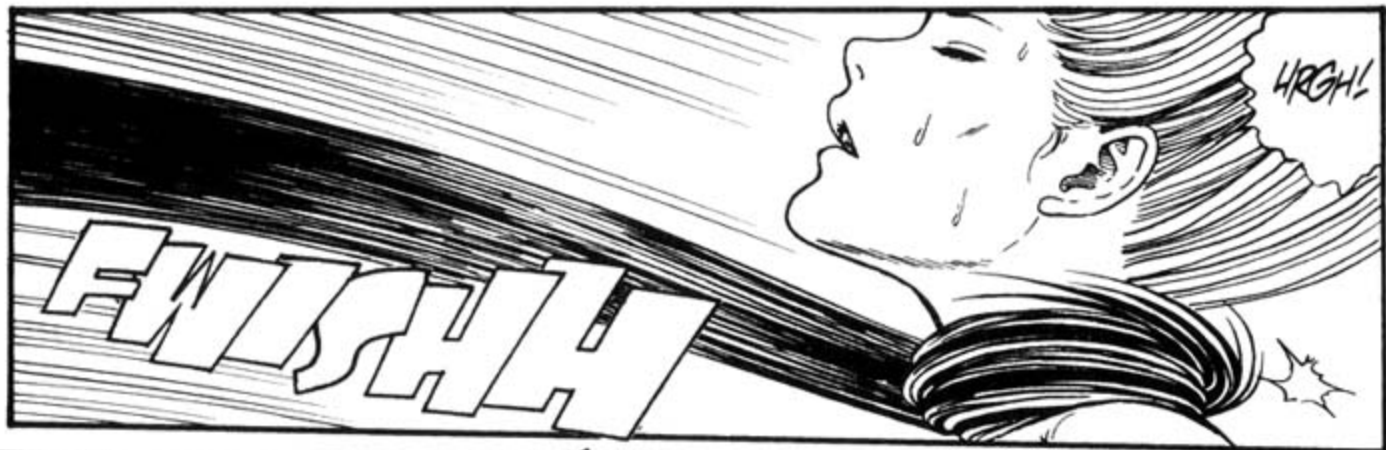
FROM  
THAT  
DAY  
ON  
THE  
SCHOOL  
WAS A  
BATTLEFIELD.

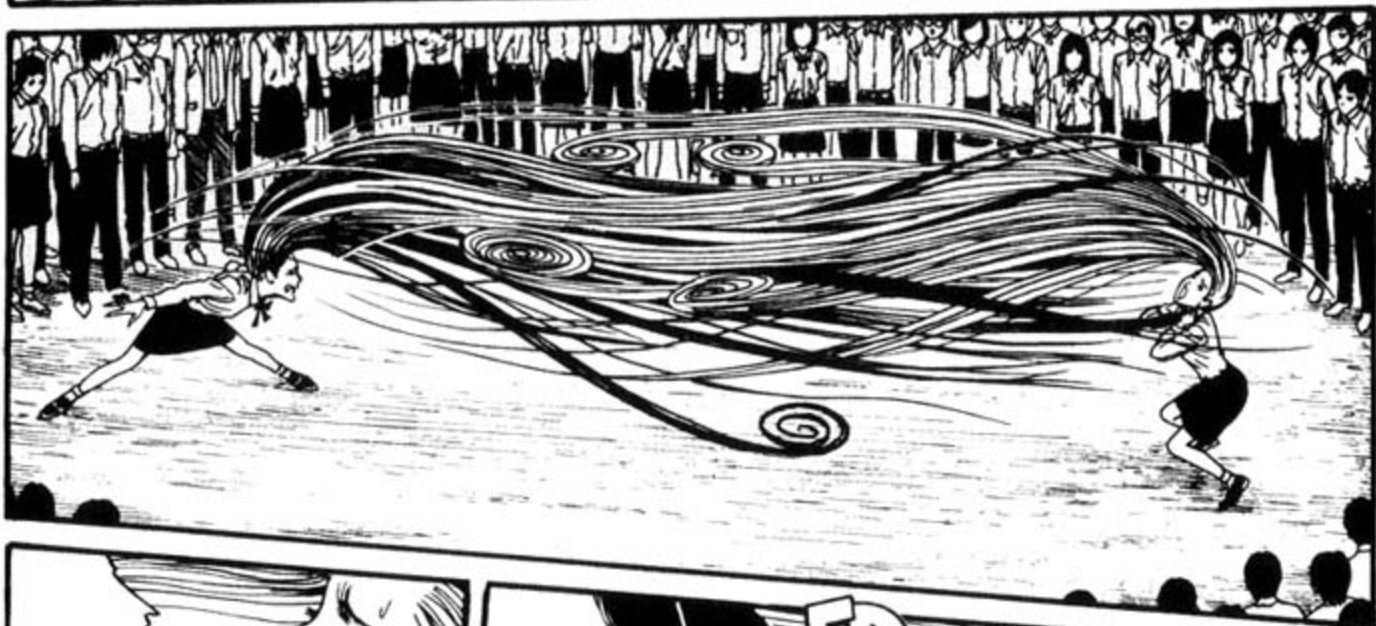
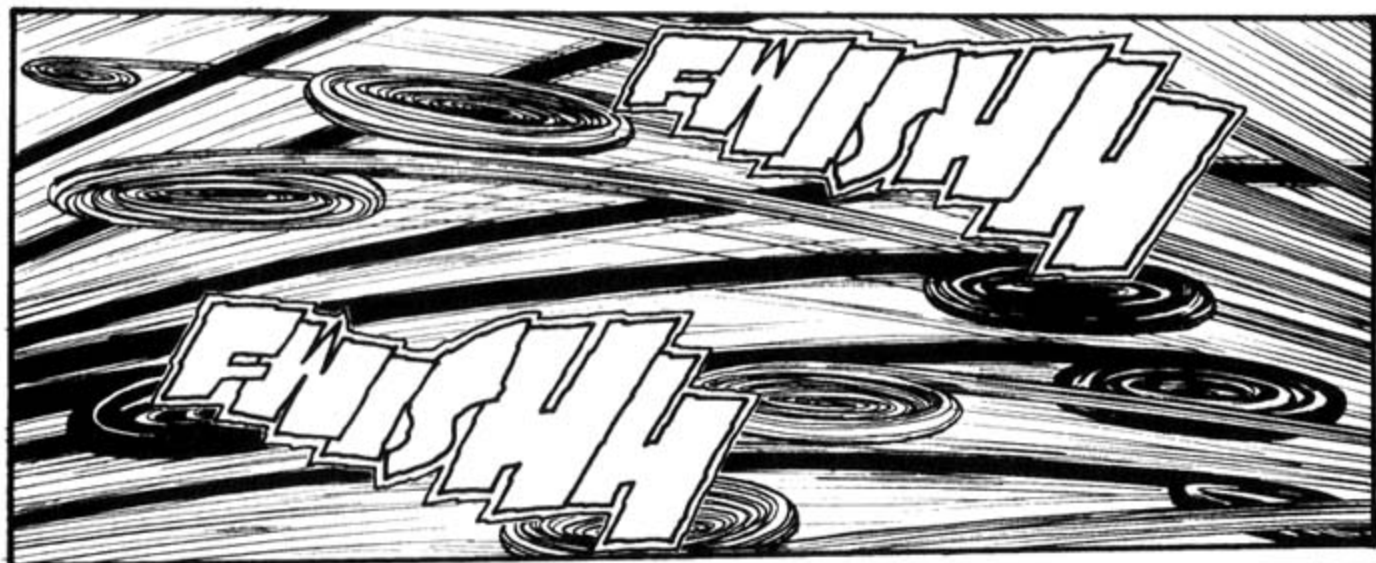
NEITHER HER  
HAIR NOR MINE  
WOULD BUDGE,  
AND THE CURLS  
JUST DISPLAYED  
THEMSSELVES MORE  
FIERCELY.

STUDENTS AND  
TEACHERS LEFT  
THEIR CLASSES  
AND STARED  
VACANTLY AT  
THE SIGHT.



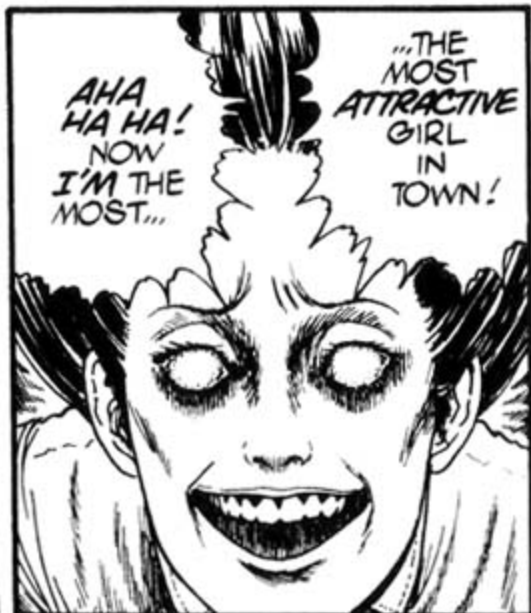










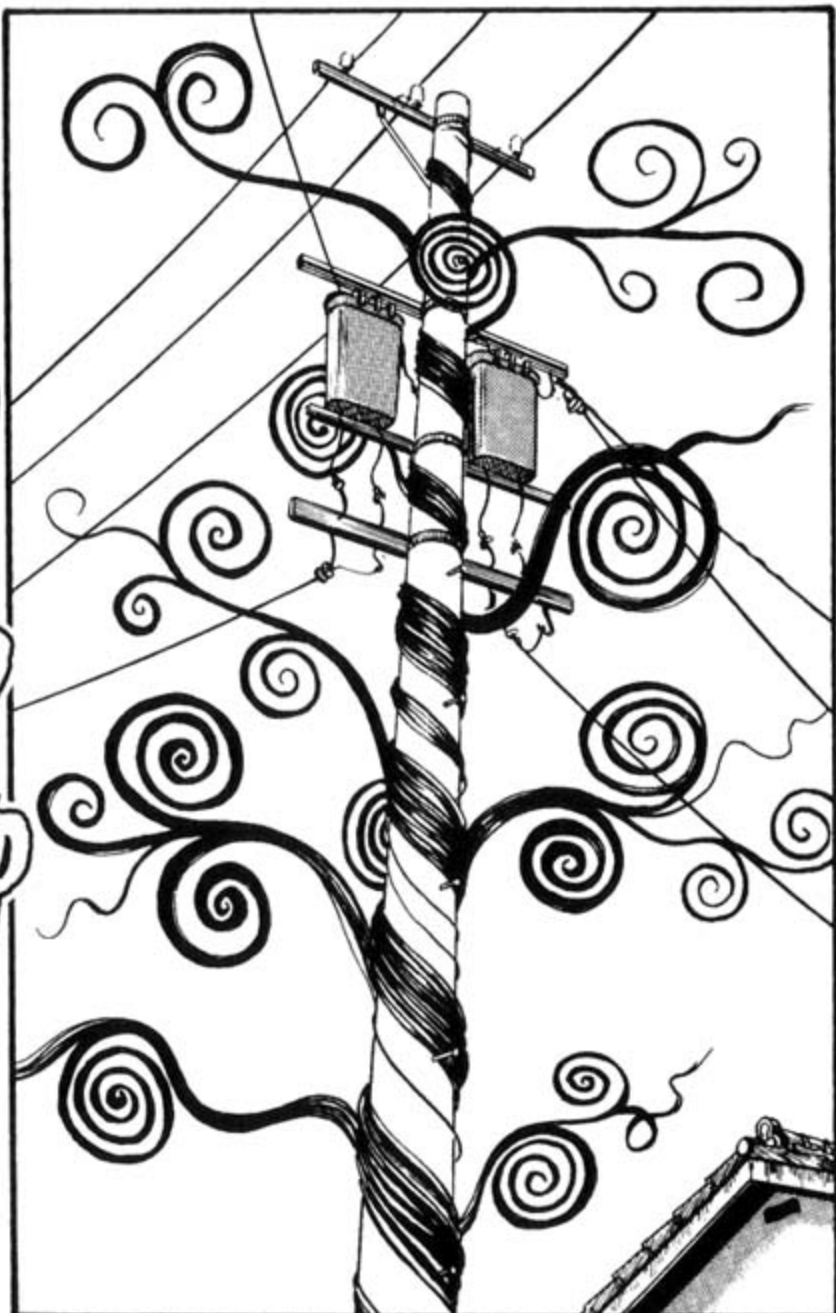


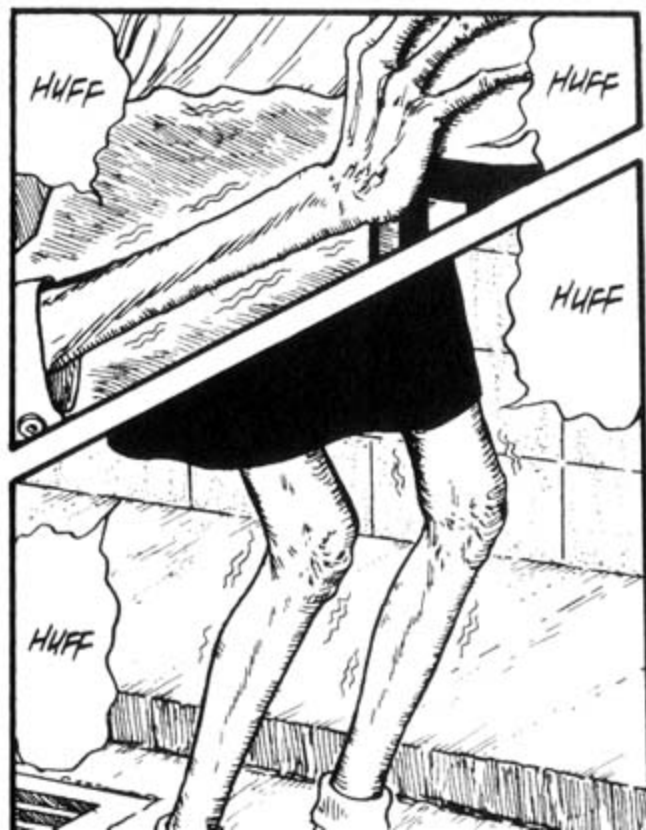














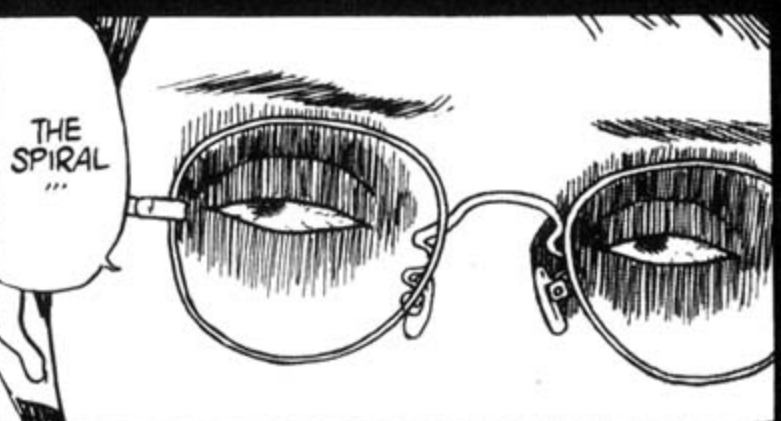
HER HAIR  
REMAINED ON  
THE TELEPHONE  
POLE...  
DISPLAYING  
ITSELF...  
FOR  
SEVERAL  
HOURS.

To Be Continued...

## ORIGINAL DATES OF PUBLICATION IN JAPAN

Chapter 1	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #7, 1998</i>
Chapter 2	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #8, 1998</i>
Chapter 3	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #12, 1998</i>
Chapter 4	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #17, 1998</i>
Chapter 5	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #21-22 (Double Issue), 1998</i>
Chapter 6	—————	<i>Weekly Big Spirits #26, 1998</i>

**DRUM**

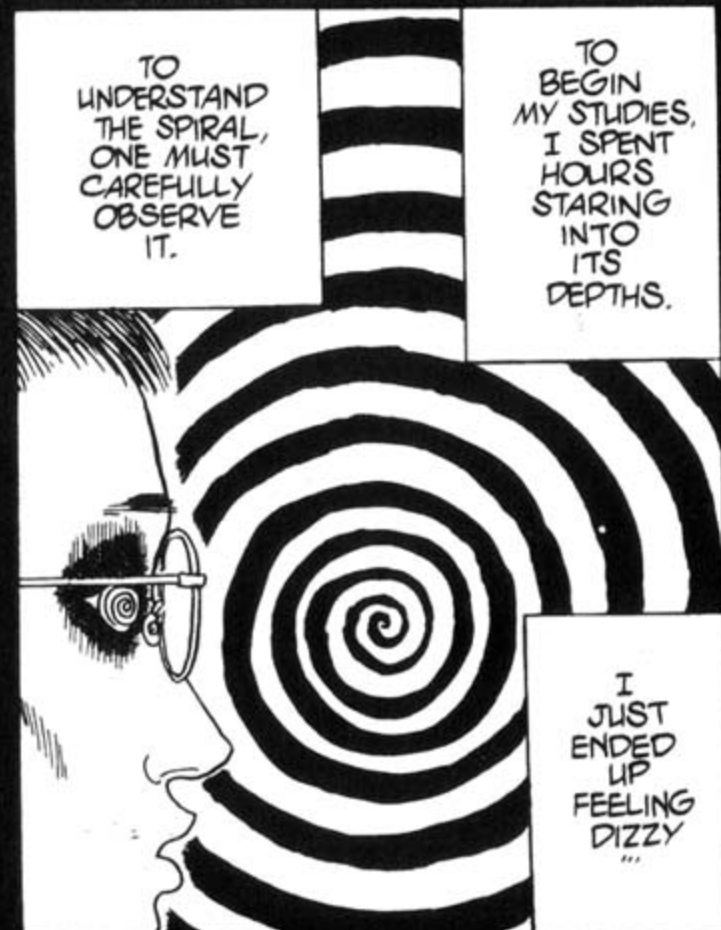


THE SPIRAL ...



SUCH A MYSTERIOUS PATTERN...

WITH THE MANGA *UZUMAKI*, I, JUNJI ITO, ATTEMPTED TO FIND AN ANSWER TO THE SECRETS OF THIS ENIGMATIC SHAPE.



TO UNDERSTAND THE SPIRAL, ONE MUST CAREFULLY OBSERVE IT.

TO BEGIN MY STUDIES, I SPENT HOURS STARING INTO ITS DEPTHS.

I JUST ENDED UP FEELING DIZZY ...



NEXT, I DECIDED TO READ ALL THE REFERENCE MATERIALS ABOUT SPIRALS THAT I COULD FIND.

I ALWAYS ENDED UP FALLING ASLEEP PART WAY THROUGH ...





THE WATER IN THE TUB WOULD FORM A WHIRLPOOL AND DRAIN AWAY.



SUSHI ROLLS, MORIGUCHI PICKLES, FIDDLEHEAD FERNS, ZENMAI, TURBAN SHELLS...

SOFT ICE CREAM, SPIRAL-SHAPED COOKIES, NEJIRINBO RICE CANDY... IT WAS ALL DELICIOUS.

FINALLY, I RAISED SNAILS.

ALL THEY DID WAS LEAVE BEHIND ORANGE-COLORED FECES.



AND SO... AS A RESULT OF MY RESEARCHES, THE ANSWER TO THE ENIGMA IS NEAR AT HAND. SOON I WILL REPORT MY FINDINGS... BUT IS THE WORLD READY?



ITO, WHERE'S THIS MONTH'S COMIC ?!

My editor, Naka-guma.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito was born July 31, 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. As a child, he was fascinated by the manga of Kazuo Umezu, possibly Japan's most influential horror manga artist.

In 1987, while working as a dental technician, Ito submitted a short story to Asahi Sonorama's shōjo horror manga magazine *Gekkan Halloween* ("Monthly Halloween"), and won a honorable mention in their "Kazuo Umezu Award" (judged by a panel including Umezu himself). This was the beginning of his manga career, which has produced many works with a strong sense of horror and the absurd, including multiple volumes of the *Tomie* series, about an immortal, regenerating girl whose beauty drives men mad. His work has appeared in horror magazines, such as *Gekkan Halloween* and *Nemurenu Yoru no Kimyo na Hanashi* ("Strange Tales of Sleepless Nights"), and mainstream publications such as Shogakukan's *Weekly Big Spirits* (where *Uzumaki* was published). *Tomie* has been adapted into two live-action movies, and the live-action film version of *Uzumaki* was recently released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures.

Ito's influences include manga artists Kazuo Umezu, Hideshi Hino and Shinichi Furuka, science-fiction author Yasutaka Tsutsui, and American horror author H.P. Lovecraft.

"A brilliant book...This is a book you need to have in your collection."

—Christopher Butcher, PopImage

Kurôzu-cho, a small fogbound town on the coast of Japan, is cursed. According to Shuichi Saito, the withdrawn boyfriend of teenager Kirie Goshima, their town is haunted not by a person or being but by a pattern: *uzumaki*, the spiral, the hypnotic secret shape of the world. It manifests itself in small ways: seashells, ferns, whirlpools in water, whirlwinds in air. And in large ways: the spiral marks on people's bodies, the insane obsessions of Shuichi's father, the voice from the cochlea in your inner ear. As the madness spreads, the inhabitants of Kurôzu-cho are pulled ever deeper, as if into a whirlpool from which there is no return...

*Junji Ito* debuted as a horror manga artist in 1987 with the first story in his successful *Tomie* series. *Uzumaki*, drawn from 1998 to 1999, was adapted into a live-action movie which has been released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures. Ito's influences include the classic manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, and the authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.

**PULP** GRAPHIC NOVEL \$15.95 USA/\$25.95 CAN PUBLISHED BY VIZ  
www.viz.com



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CHAPTER

7

JACK  
IN THE  
BOX



IN MY SCHOOL THERE WAS A SEVENTH-GRADER NAMED MITSURU YAMAGUCHI.

HE LOVED TO JUMP OUT AND SURPRISE PEOPLE.

EVERYONE CALLED HIM "JACK-IN-THE-BOX."

**BOO!**

**BOO!**

ONE DAY I REALIZED HE LIKED ME.

**KIRIE! LET'S GO OUT SOMETIME!**

I THINK I LOST HIM.

WHAT A PAIN.

IT GOT ON MY NERVES PRETTY FAST.

LET'S HURRY HOME BEFORE HE FINDS YOU.

GOOD IDEA, SHIHO.



DON'T YOU THINK IT'S CREEPY THAT WE HAVE TO WALK THROUGH A CEMETERY ON OUR WAY TO SCHOOL?

YEAH.



HEY, KIRIE...



DID YOU HEAR THEY'RE BURYING PEOPLE AGAIN?

THEY'RE WHAT?



BURYING THEM, INSTEAD OF CREMATING THEM.



REALLY?

WHY?

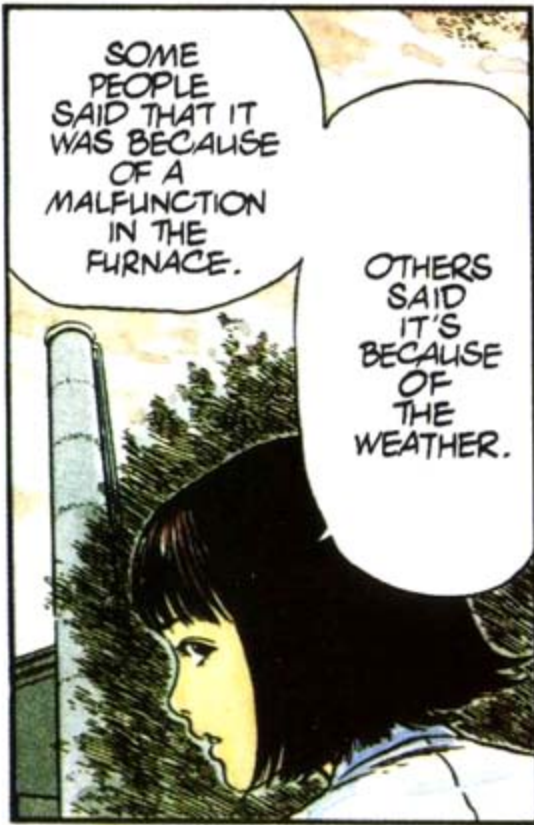


Oh, COME ON. ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?



DO YOU REMEMBER HOW THE SMOKE FROM THE CREMATIONS...

...WOULD FORM A BLACK SPIRAL IN THE SKY?



SOME PEOPLE SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF A MALFUNCTION IN THE FURNACE.

OTHERS SAID IT'S BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER.



BUT I HEARD THAT EVEN WHEN SOMEONE WHO'S DIED HERE IS CREMATED SOMEWHERE ELSE, THE SMOKE TURNS INTO A BLACK SPIRAL.

IT ONLY HAPPENS WITH PEOPLE FROM OUR TOWN.



Spiral Into Horror

# UZUMAKI

by Junji Ito

2

F U L P G R A P H I C N O V E L

# UZUMAKI VOL. 2

This graphic novel contains the UZUMAKI installments originally published in PULP Vol. 5, No. 8 through Vol. 6, No. 1.

## STORY & ART BY JUNJI ITO

### ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY YUJI ONIKI

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Find out more about the Viz Films/Tidepoint Pictures release of "Uzumaki"  
at [www.jpocinema.com](http://www.jpocinema.com)

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BANANA FISH VOL. 1  
BANANA FISH VOL. 2  
BANANA FISH VOL. 3  
BANANA FISH VOL. 4  
BANANA FISH VOL. 5  
BANANA FISH VOL. 6

BLACK & WHITE VOL. 1  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 2  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 3

DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 2  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 3  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 4  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 5

STRAIN VOL. 1  
STRAIN VOL. 2  
STRAIN VOL. 3  
STRAIN VOL. 4  
STRAIN VOL. 5

VOYEUR  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 1  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 2  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 3

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DID I SURPRISE YOU?

**MITSURU!  
HOW  
COULD  
YOU?**



HOW ABOUT YOU, KIRIE?

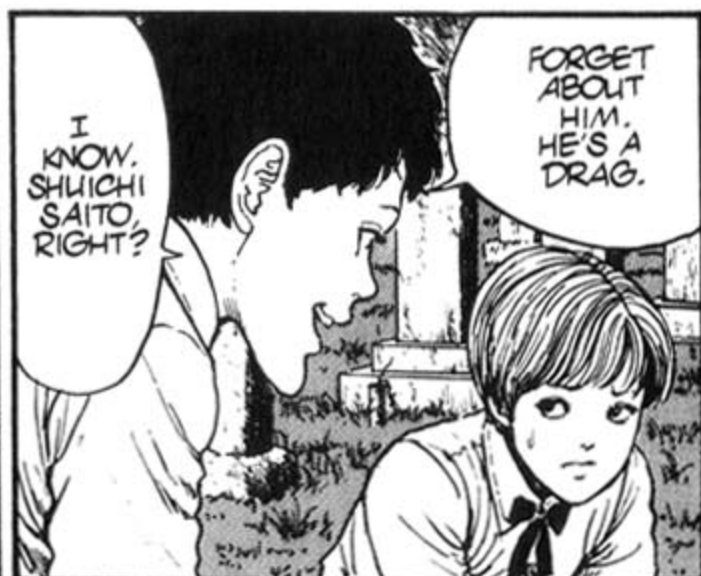


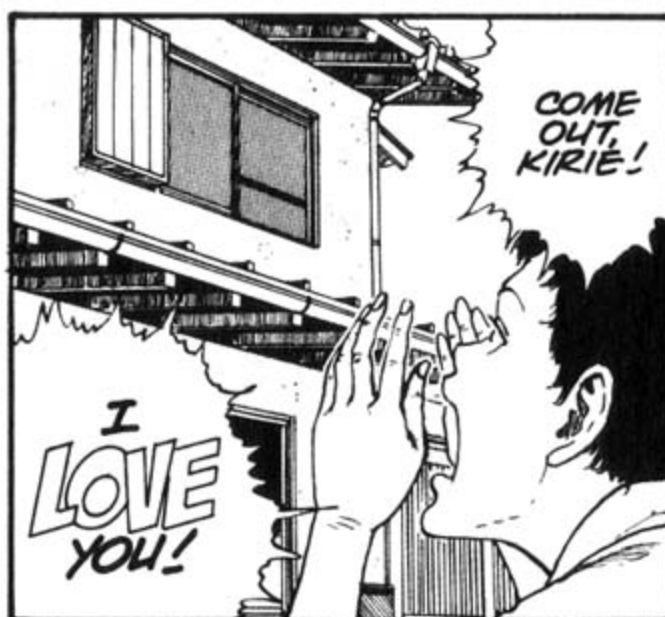
WILL YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?

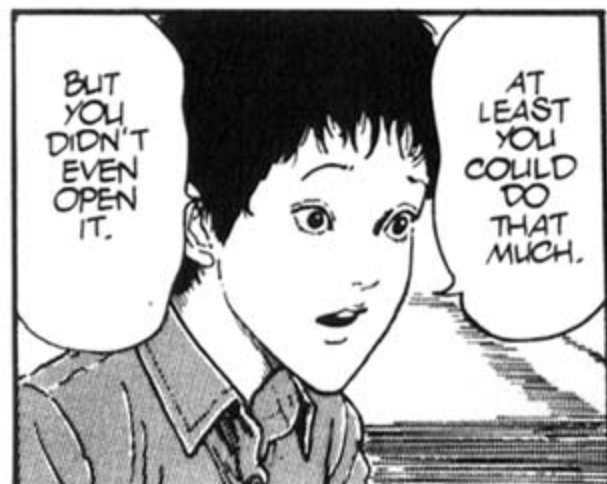
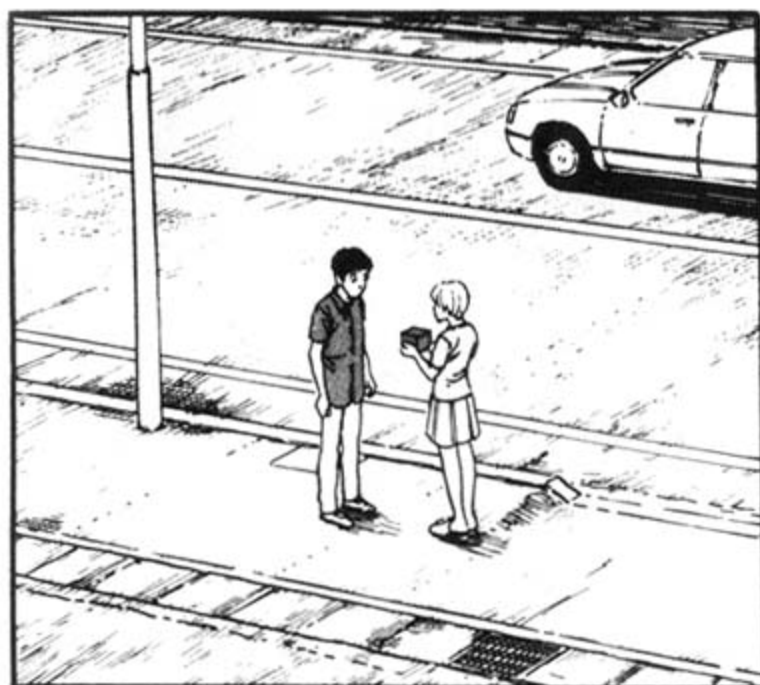


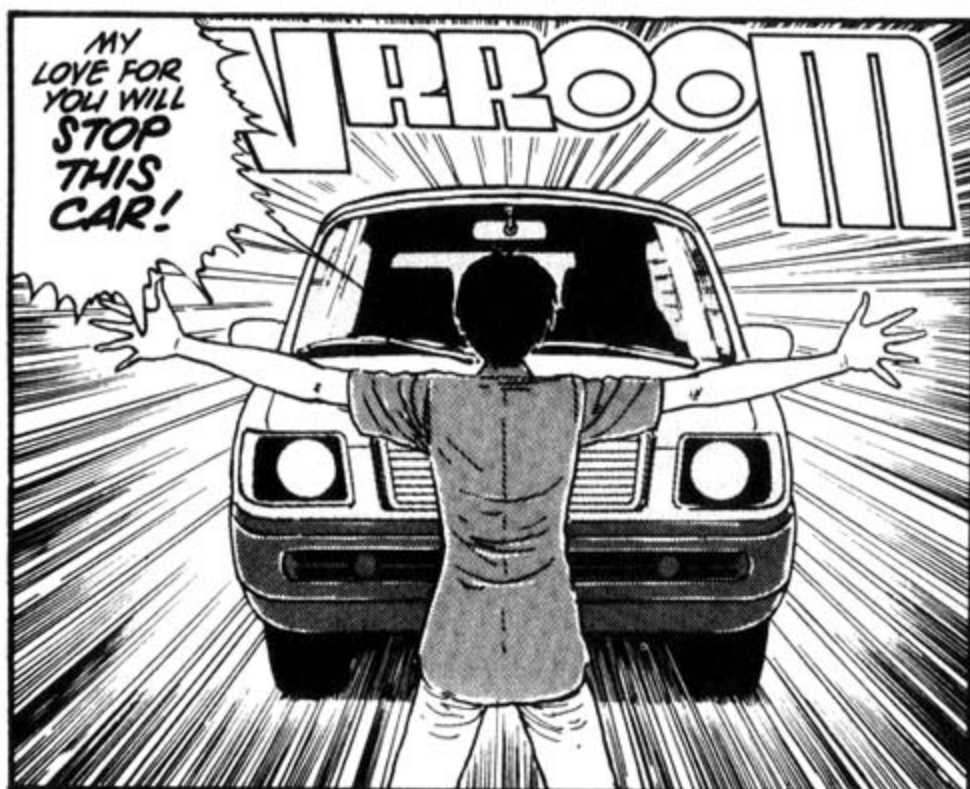
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU MAD. I'M SORRY.

IT'S JUST MY HABIT... TO SURPRISE PEOPLE.















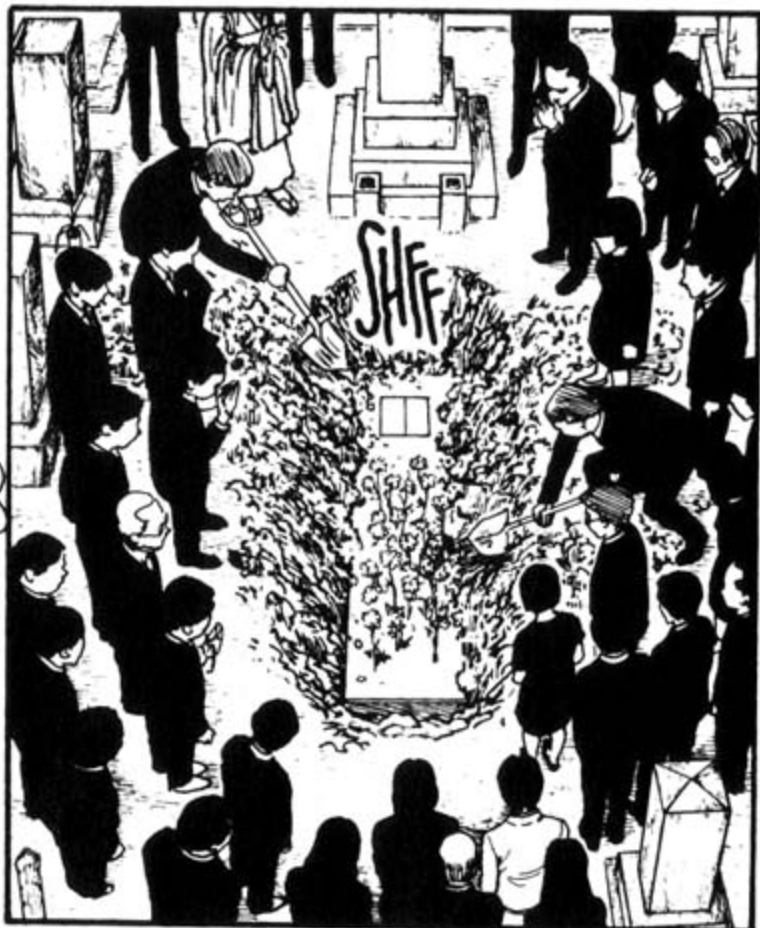
I HEARD JACK-  
IN-THE  
BOX WAS  
KILLED  
IN A  
CAR  
CRASH!

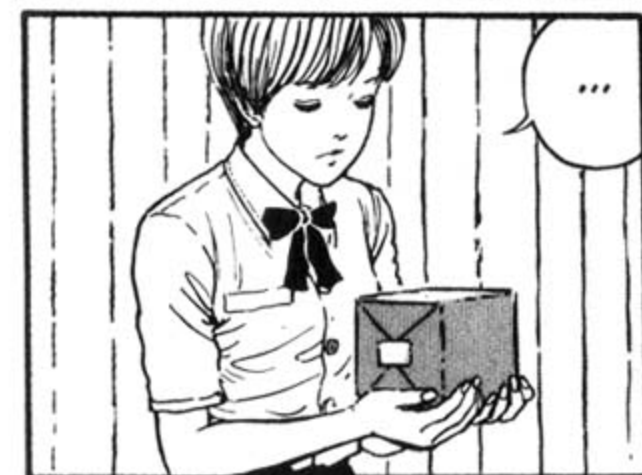
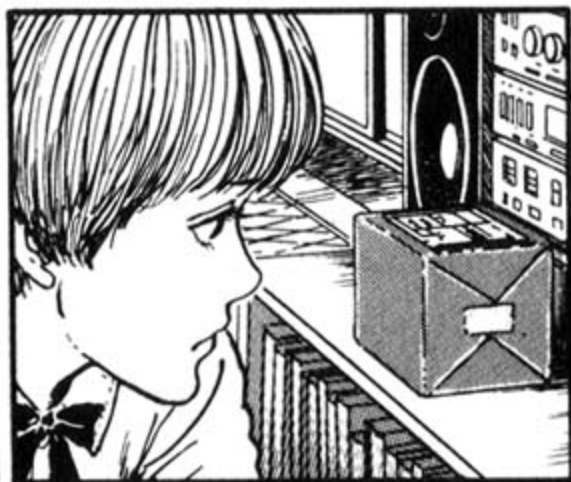
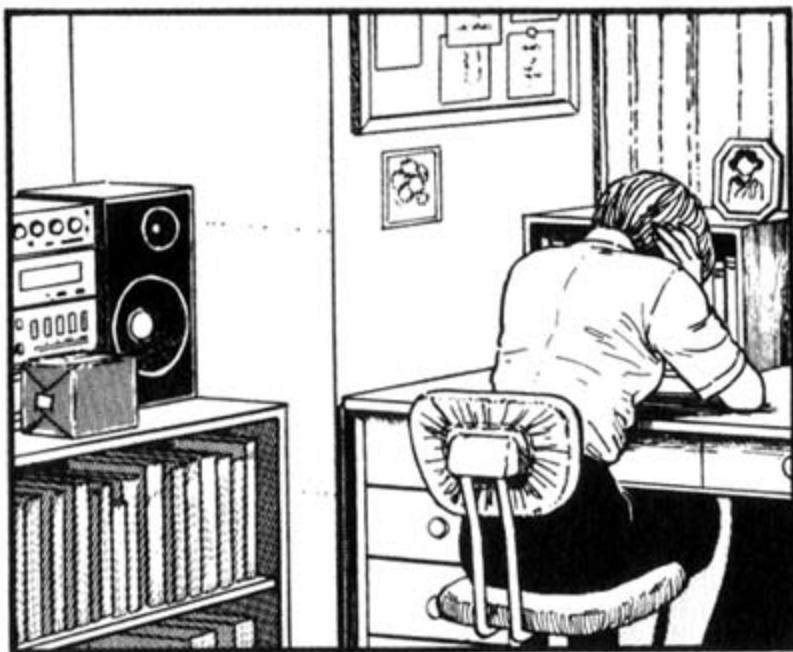
YOU'VE  
GOT  
TO BE  
KIDDING  
!

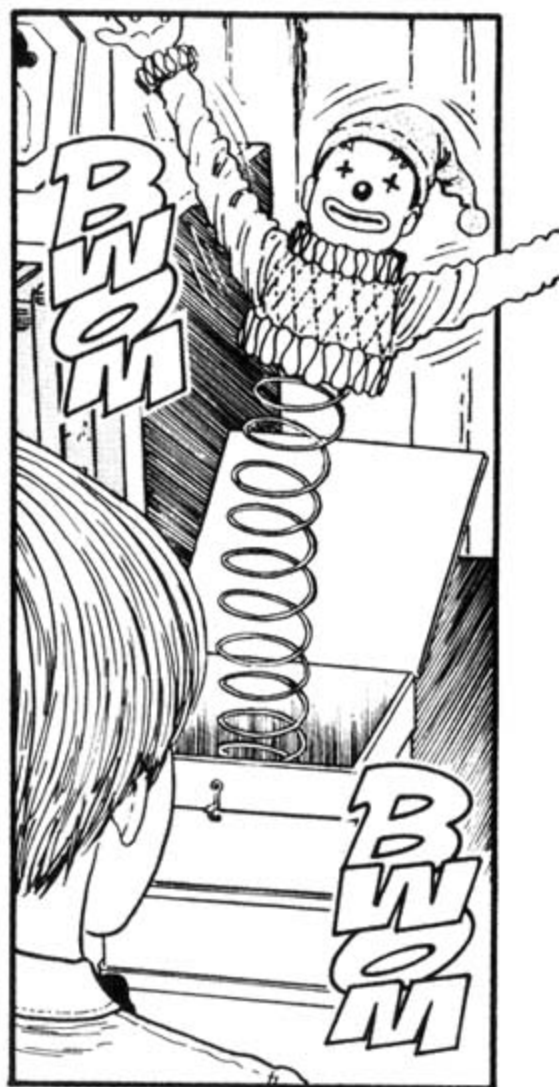
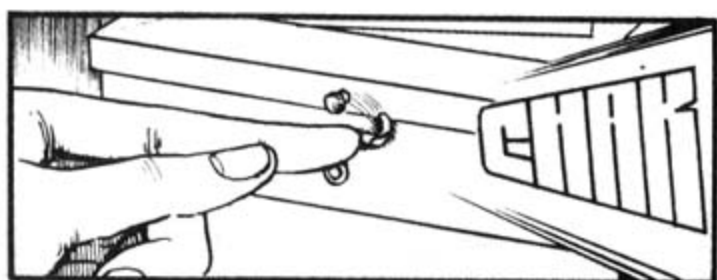
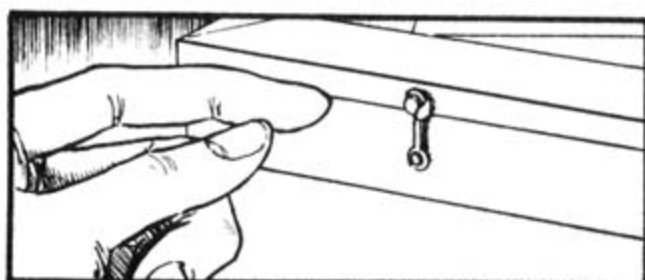
HIS  
BODY  
GOT  
JAMMED  
IN  
THE  
FRONT  
WHEEL!

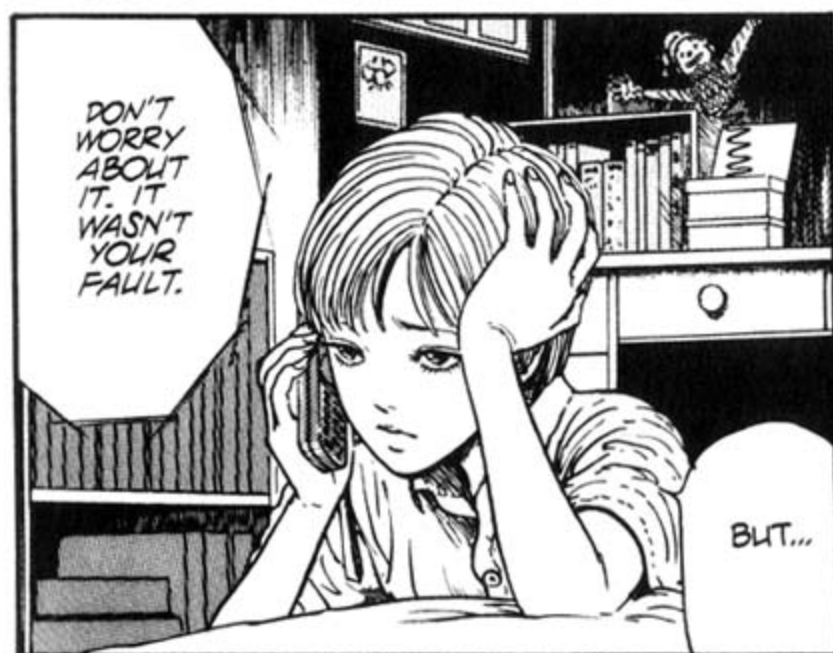
THEY  
HAD TO  
USE A  
BLOWTORCH  
TO EXTRACT  
HIS BODY  
FROM THE  
CAR!

IT'S  
GOING  
TO BE  
A  
CLOSED-  
CASKET  
FUNERAL!







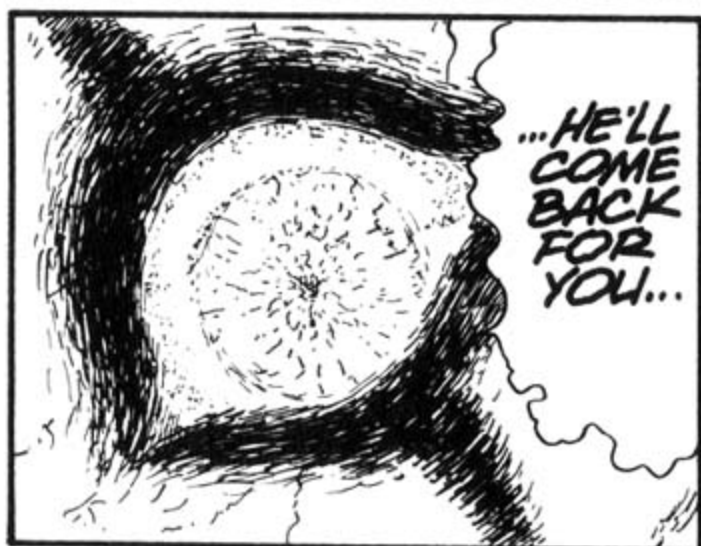




HE  
DIED FOR  
YOU,  
DIDN'T HE?



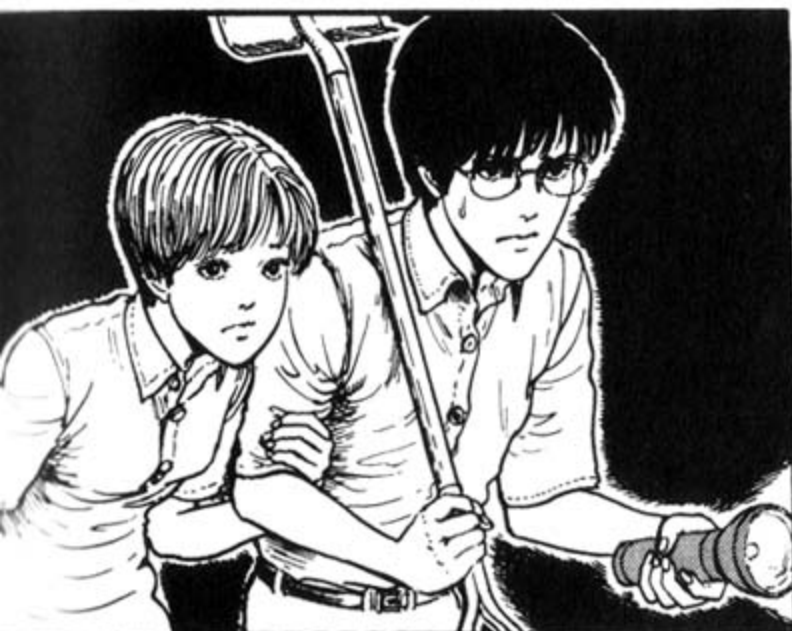
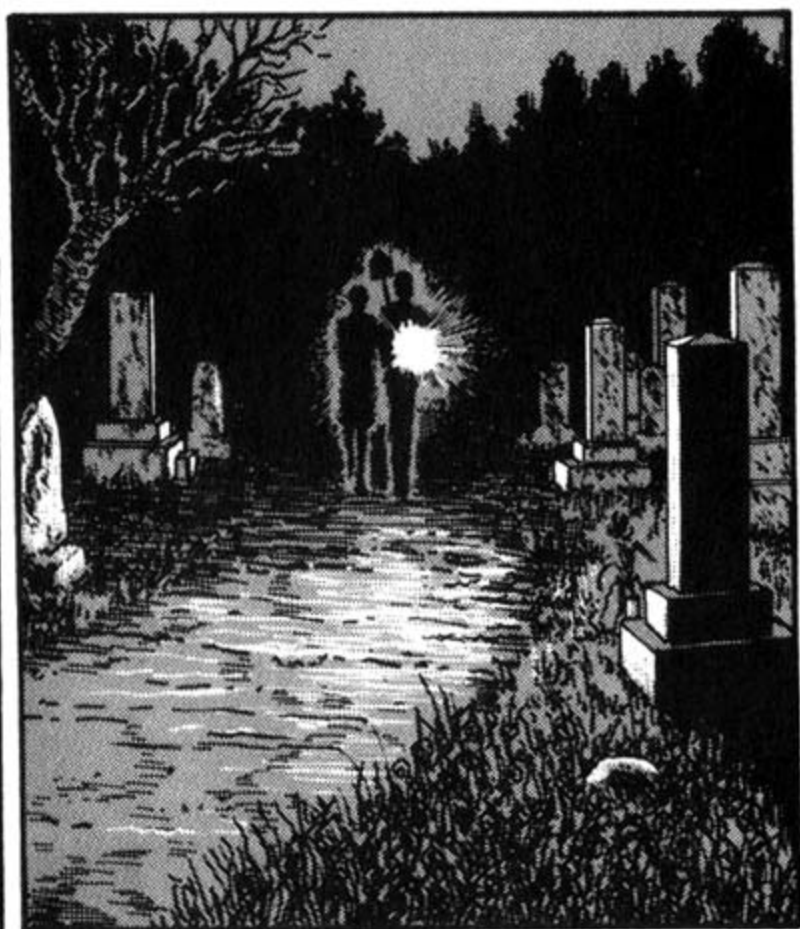
AND  
NOW...

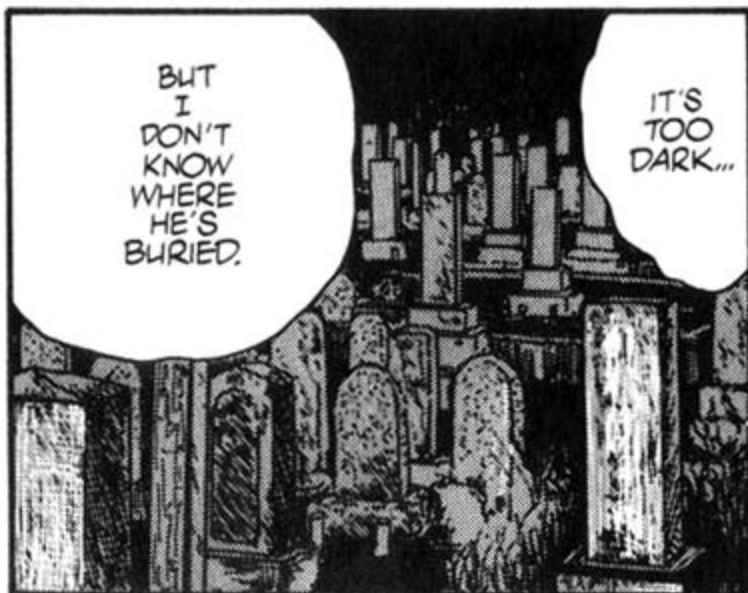


...HE'LL  
COME  
BACK  
FOR  
YOU...



AIEEE!





BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE'S BURIED.

IT'S TOO DARK...



WELL, WE CAN'T DIG HIM UP IN THE DAY-TIME.

THIS IS THE ONLY TIME WHEN WE WON'T GET CAUGHT.



BUT, uh...

WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN?



ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

I'M GOING TO HAMMER THIS STAKE INTO HIS HEART BEFORE HE CAN COME BACK TO LIFE!



SO YOU BELIEVE WHAT THAT CLOWN SAID?  
Uh... I don't think he's a VAMPIRE...

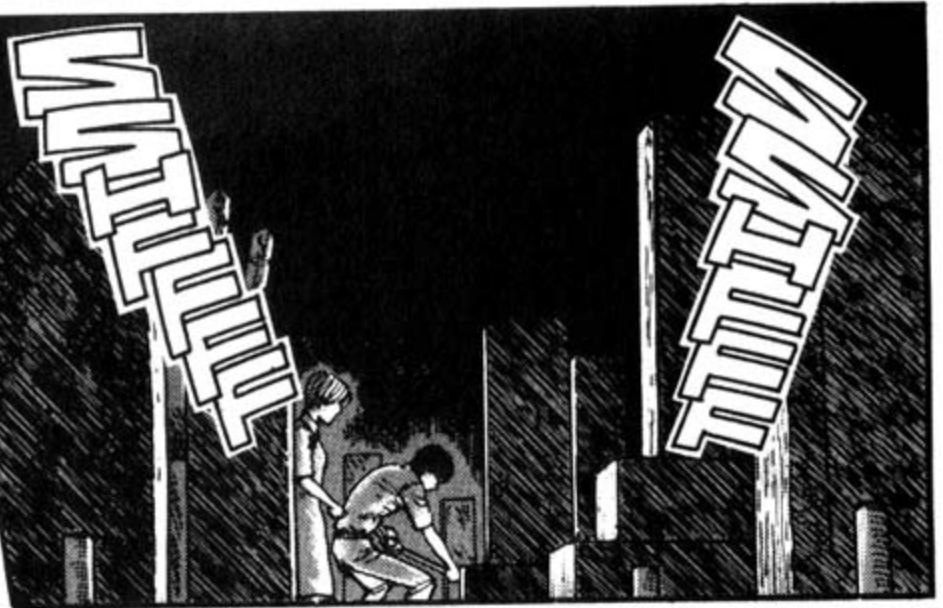
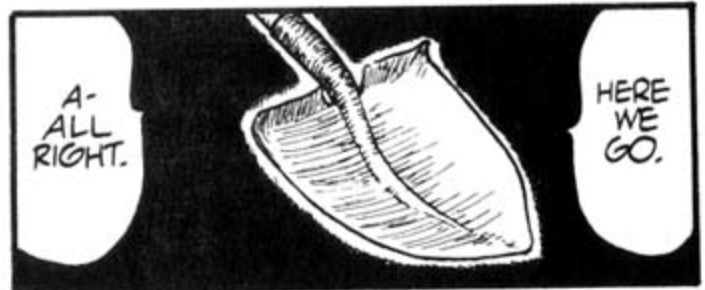
TELL ME, HOW YOU CAN BELIEVE A TOY CLOWN SAID ANYTHING AT ALL?

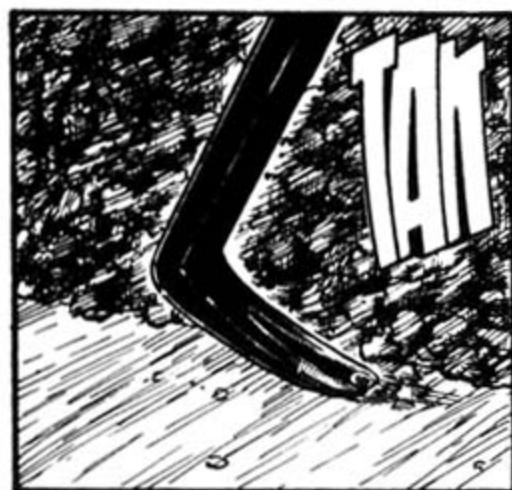


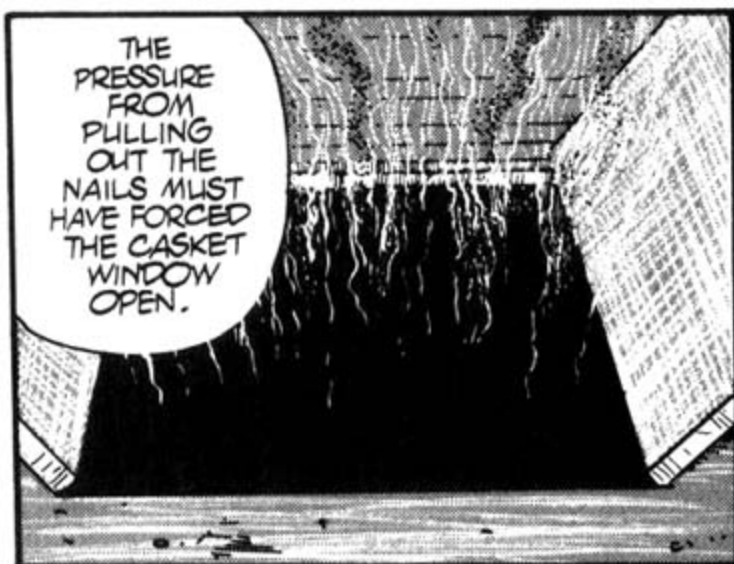
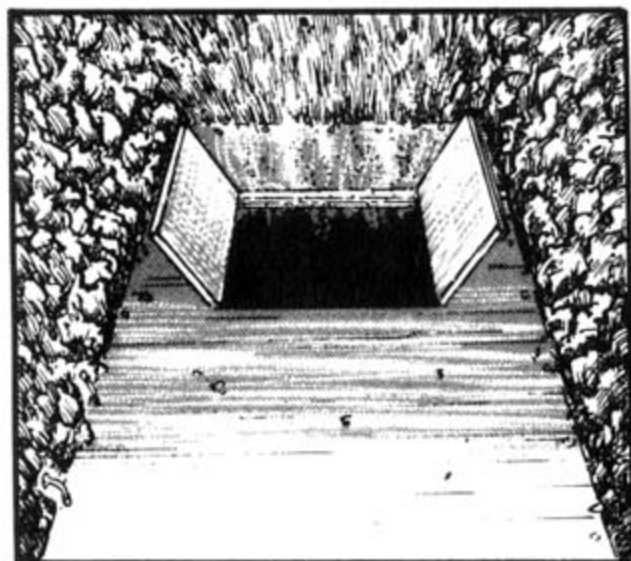
NOTHING IS UNBELIEVABLE IN THIS TOWN!









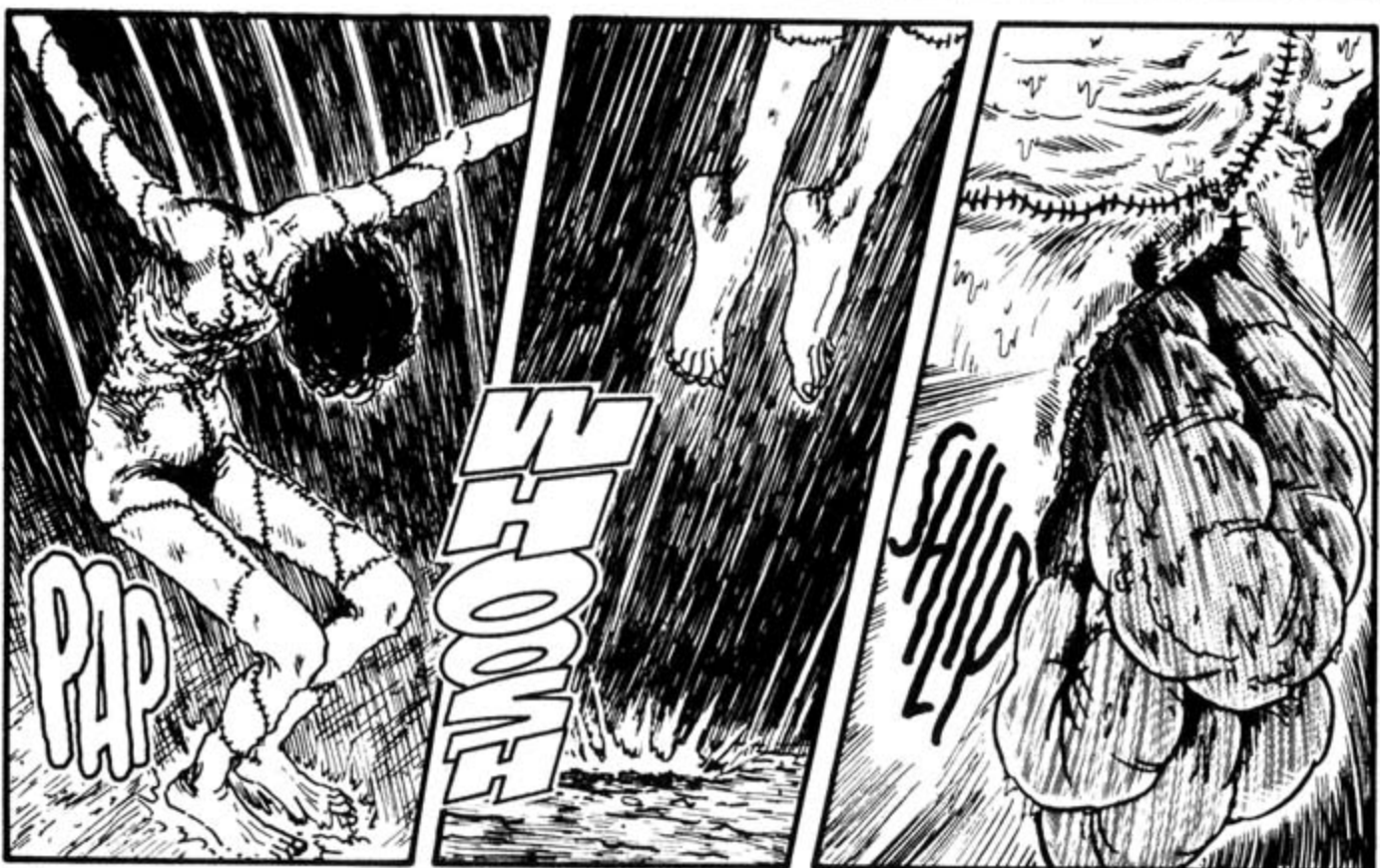
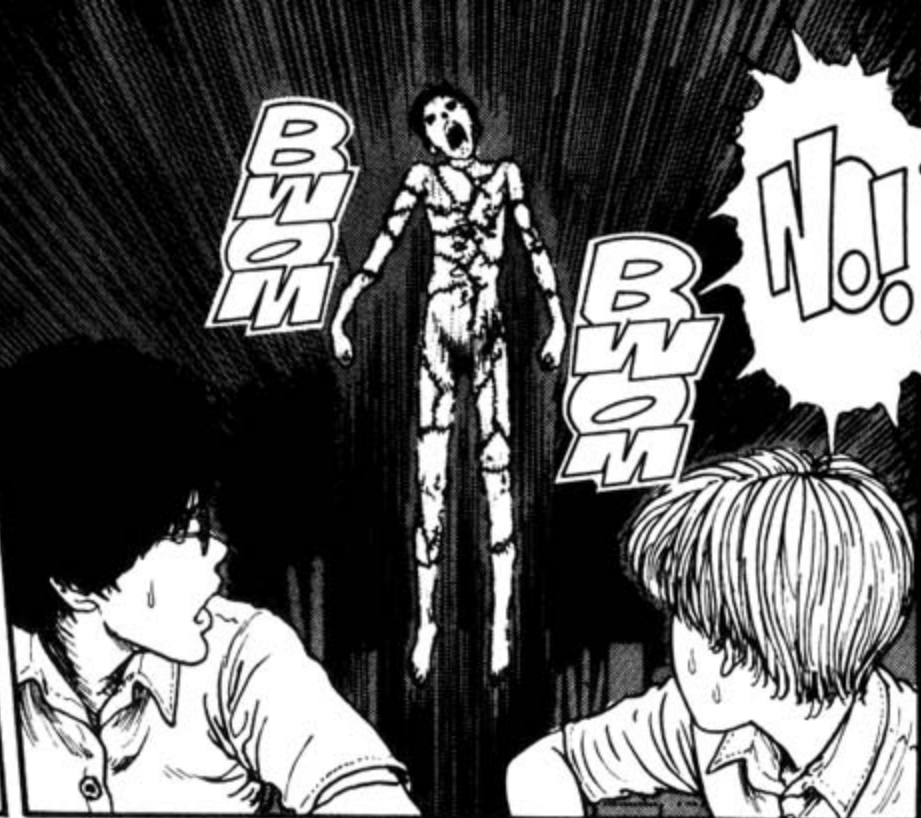




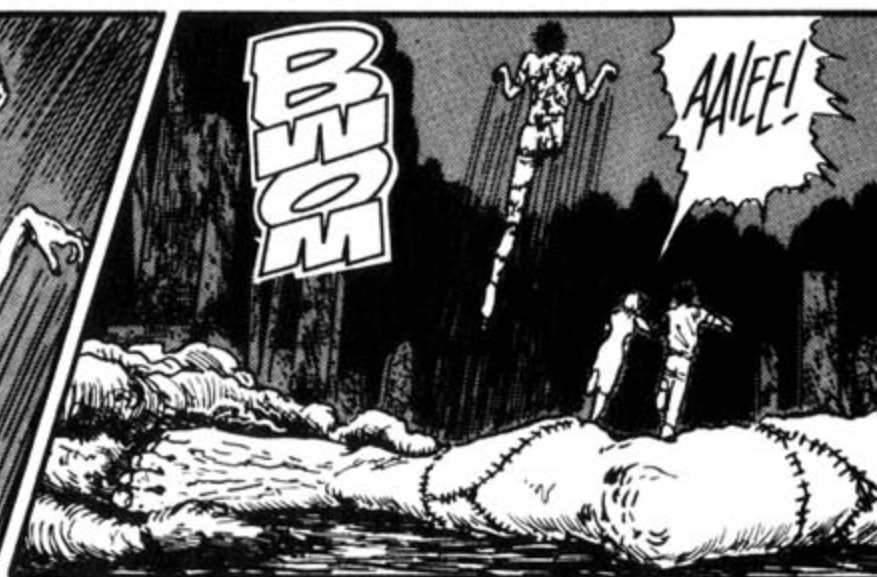










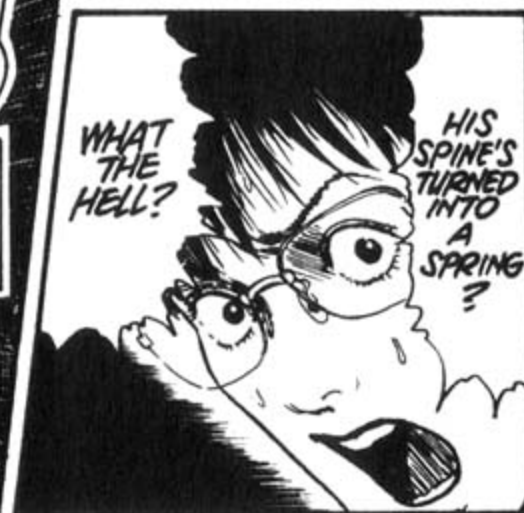


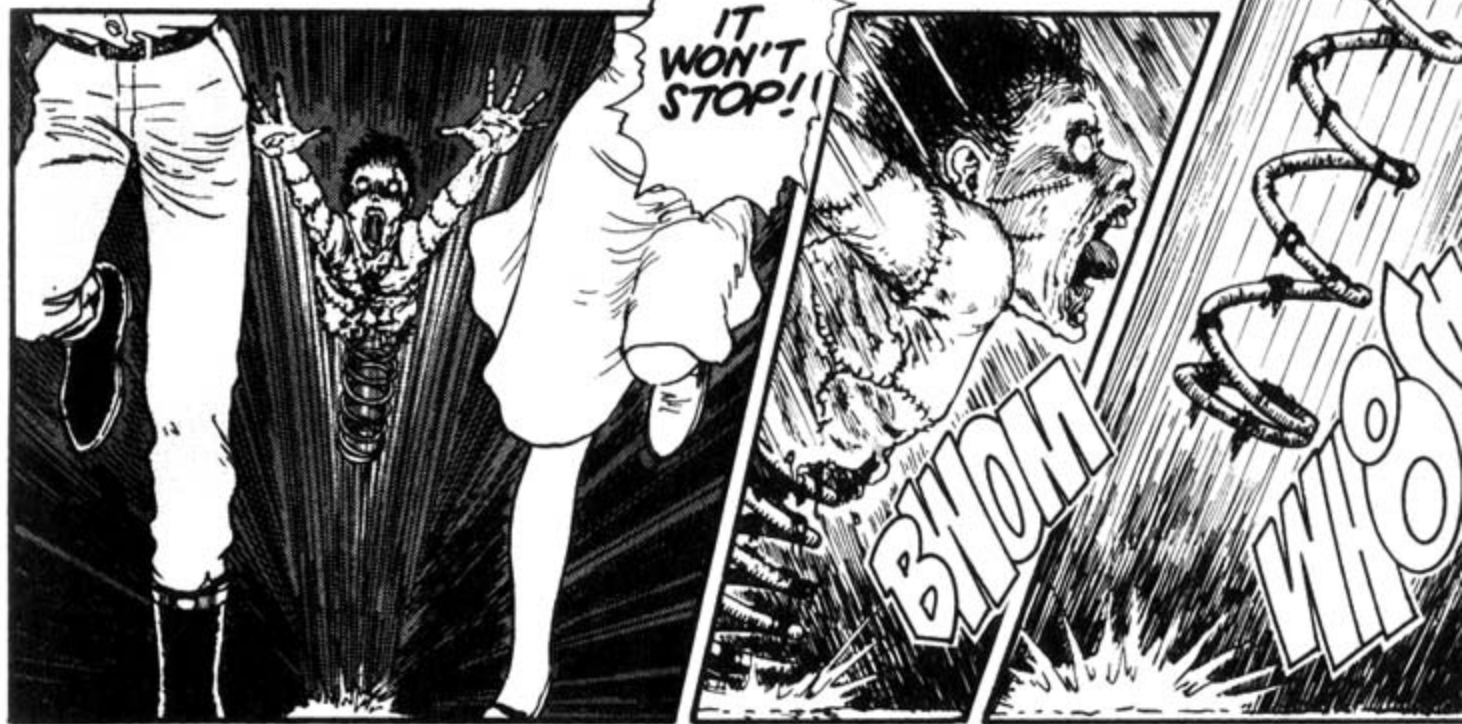




EEYAA!









CHAPTER

8

The  
SNAIL





IT HASN'T RAINED IN A WHILE.

I HEARD IT'S GOING TO RAIN FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

IT'S REALLY POURING OUTSIDE.

I BET KATAYAMA COMES TODAY.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

HE ONLY SHOWS UP WHEN IT'S RAINING.

SHAAAAA







DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS KATAYAMA?

MR YOKOTA ...

I'M SORRY I'M LATE.



I GOT UP EARLY... BUT IT TOOK A LONG TIME.



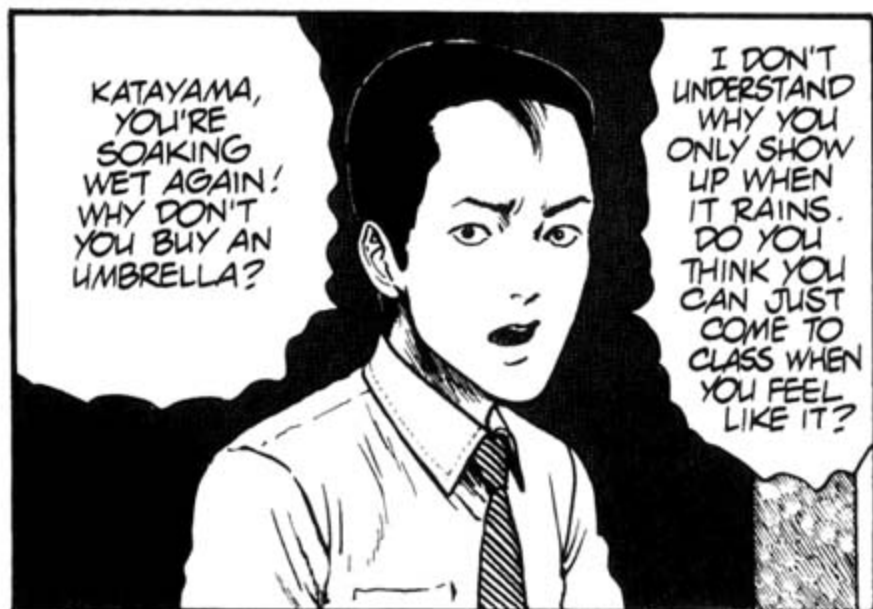
KATAYAMA'S THE SLOWEST THERE IS, SIR!

IT TAKES HIM TEN TIMES THE TIME IT TAKES A NORMAL PERSON TO GET SOMEWHERE!



WA WA WA!

THAT'S ENOUGH TSUMURA!



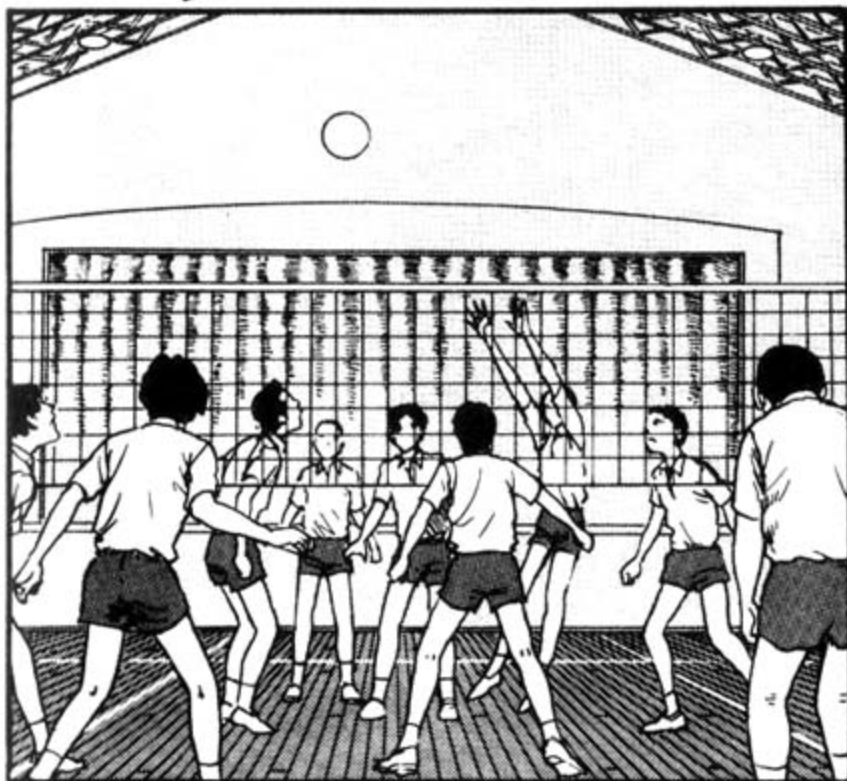
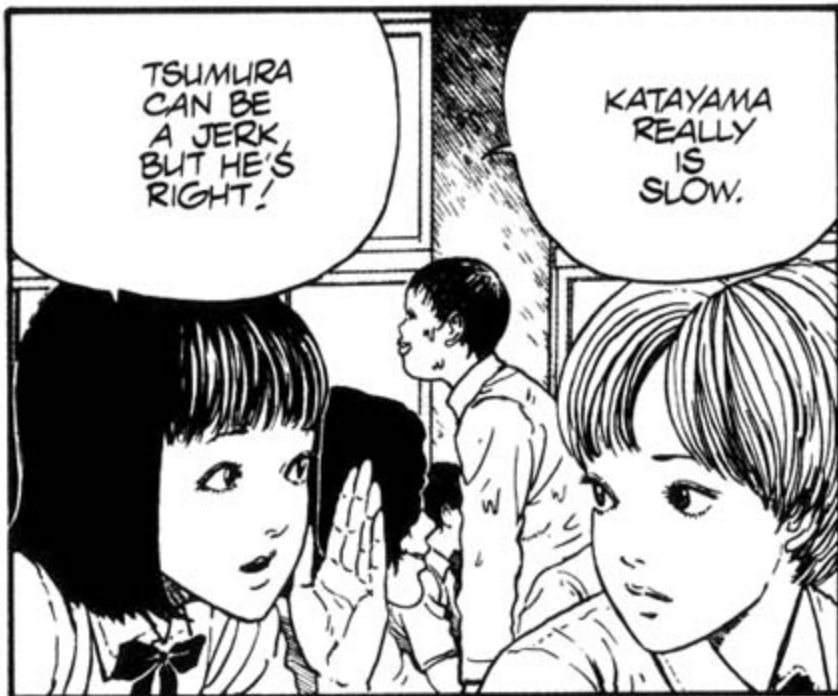
KATAYAMA, YOU'RE SOAKING WET AGAIN! WHY DON'T YOU BUY AN UMBRELLA?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ONLY SHOW UP WHEN IT RAINS. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST COME TO CLASS WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT?



Um...

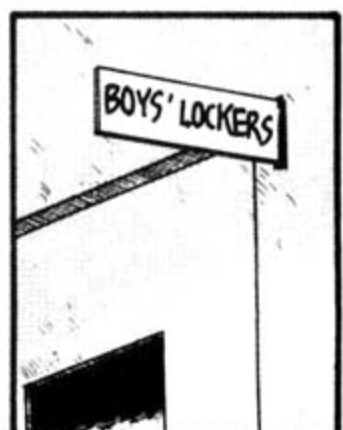
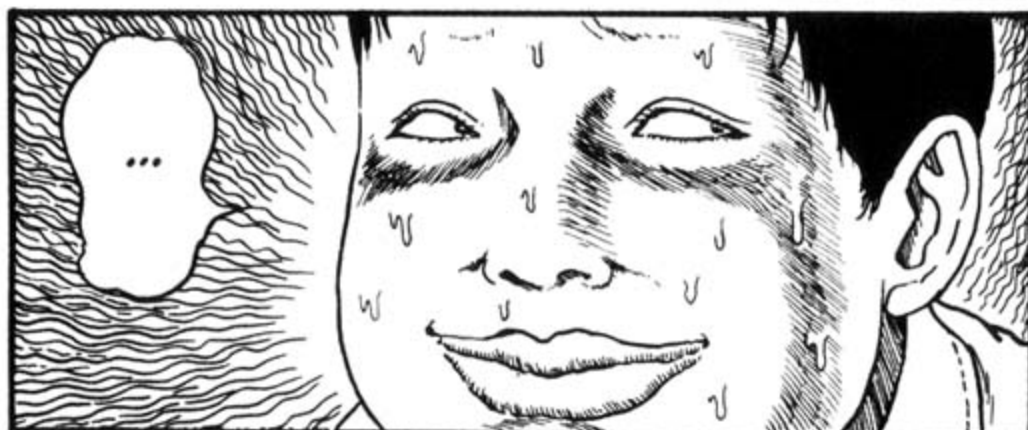
Um...





PICK  
IT UP,  
SLOW-  
ASS!

WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
?



YOU  
COST  
US THE  
GAME, YOU  
GLACIAL  
FUCK!

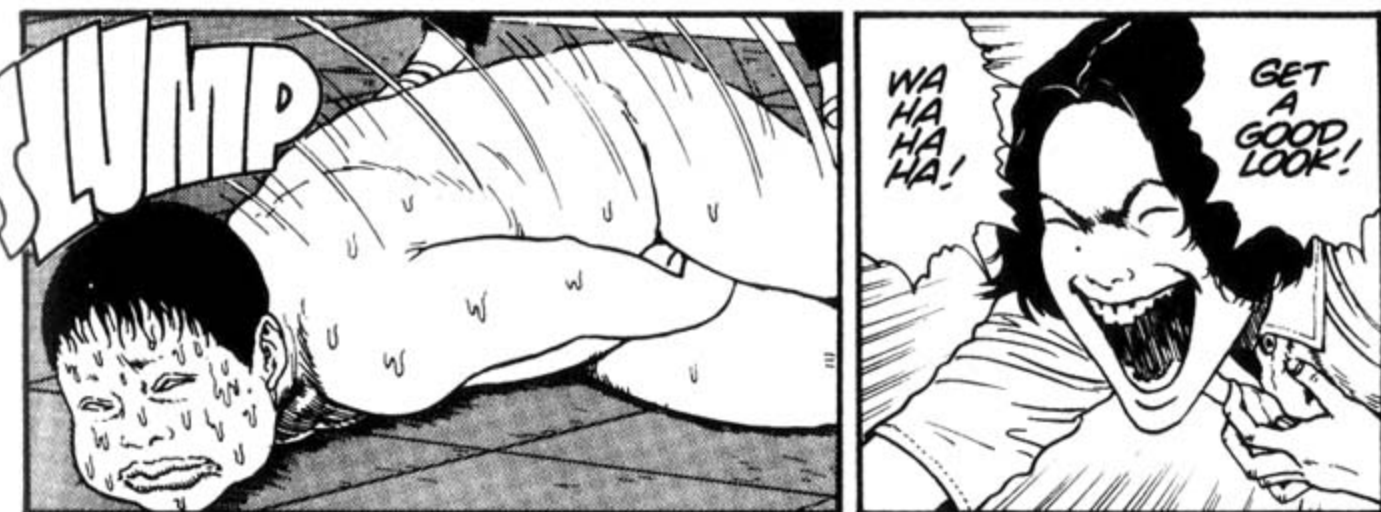
ARE  
YOU  
MESSING  
WITH  
ME!?



P-PLEASE  
...TSUMIURA.

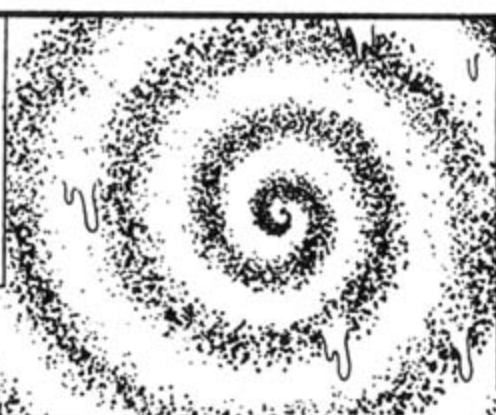


DON'T  
YOU  
TALK  
TO ME  
LIKE  
WE'RE  
FRIENDS!



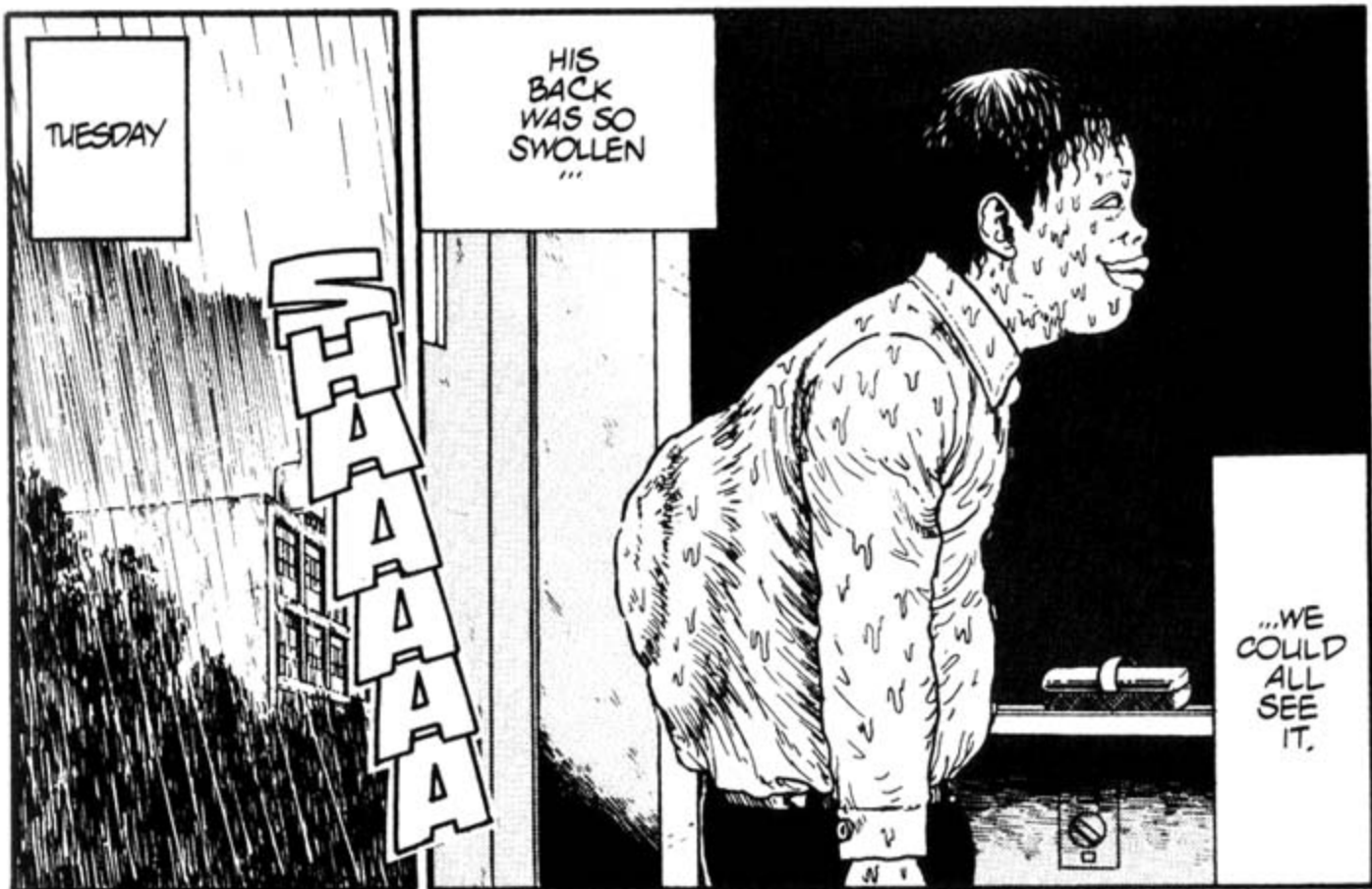


AN OMINOUS SPIRAL...



...SHINED FROM KATA-YAMA'S BACK.



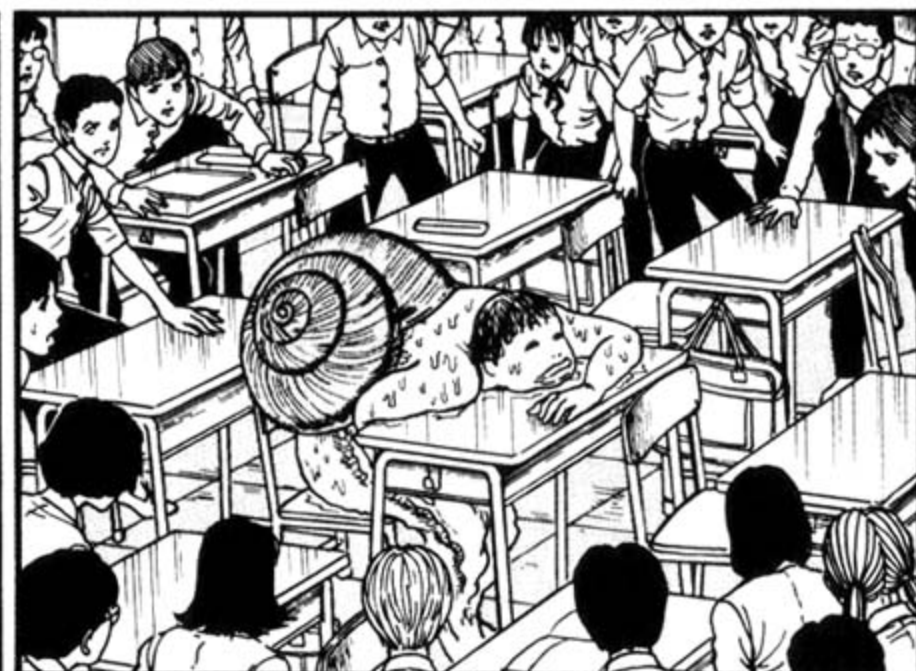
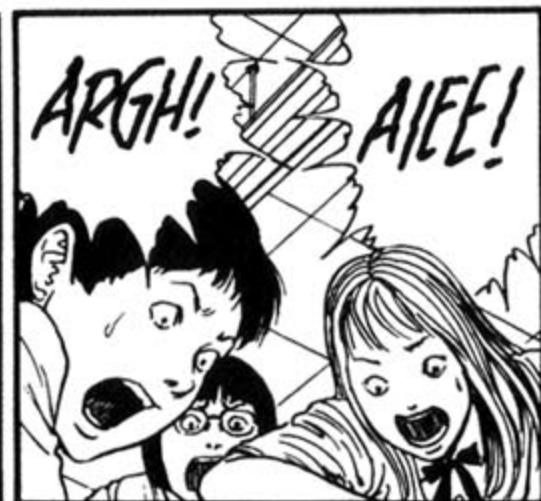
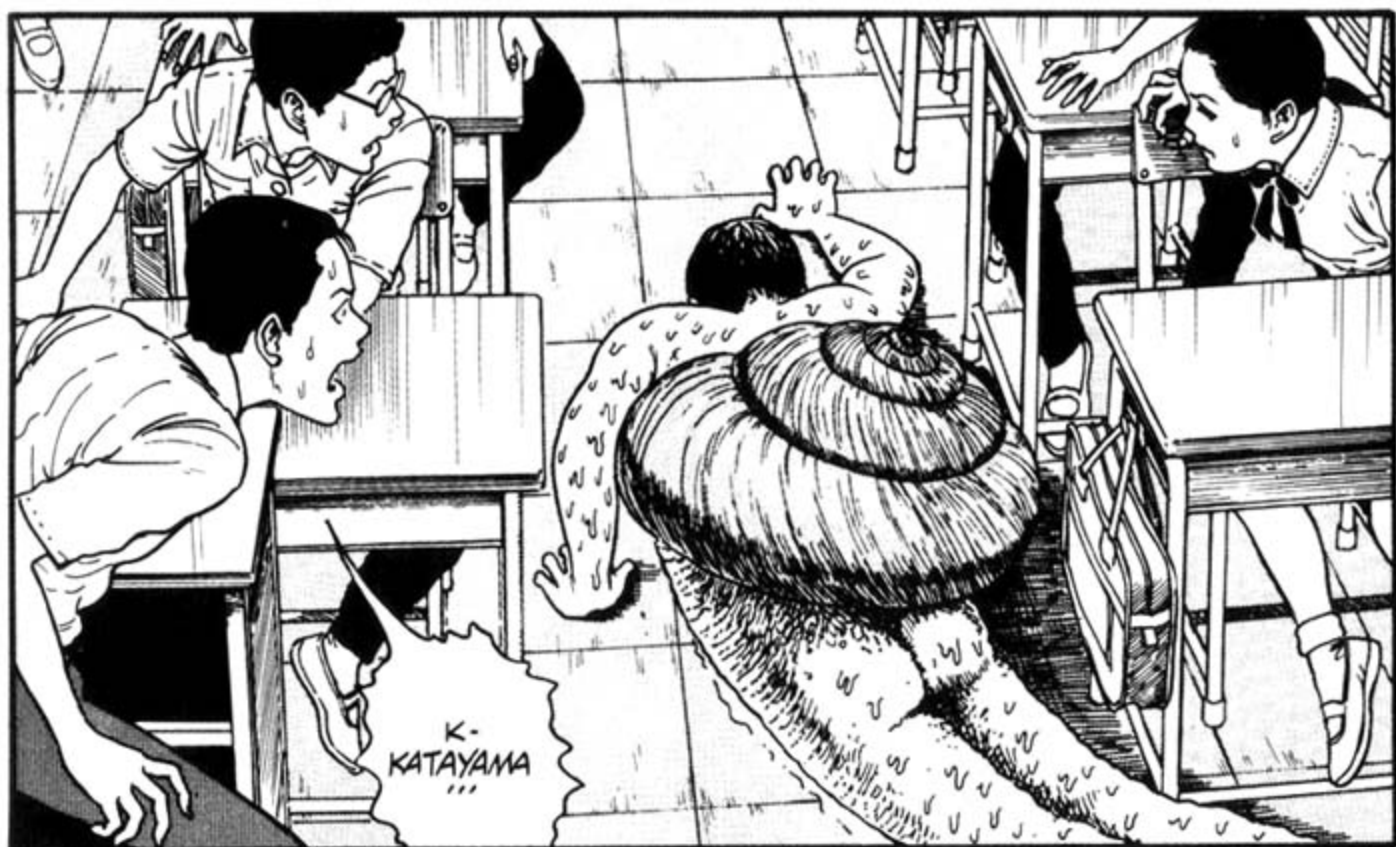


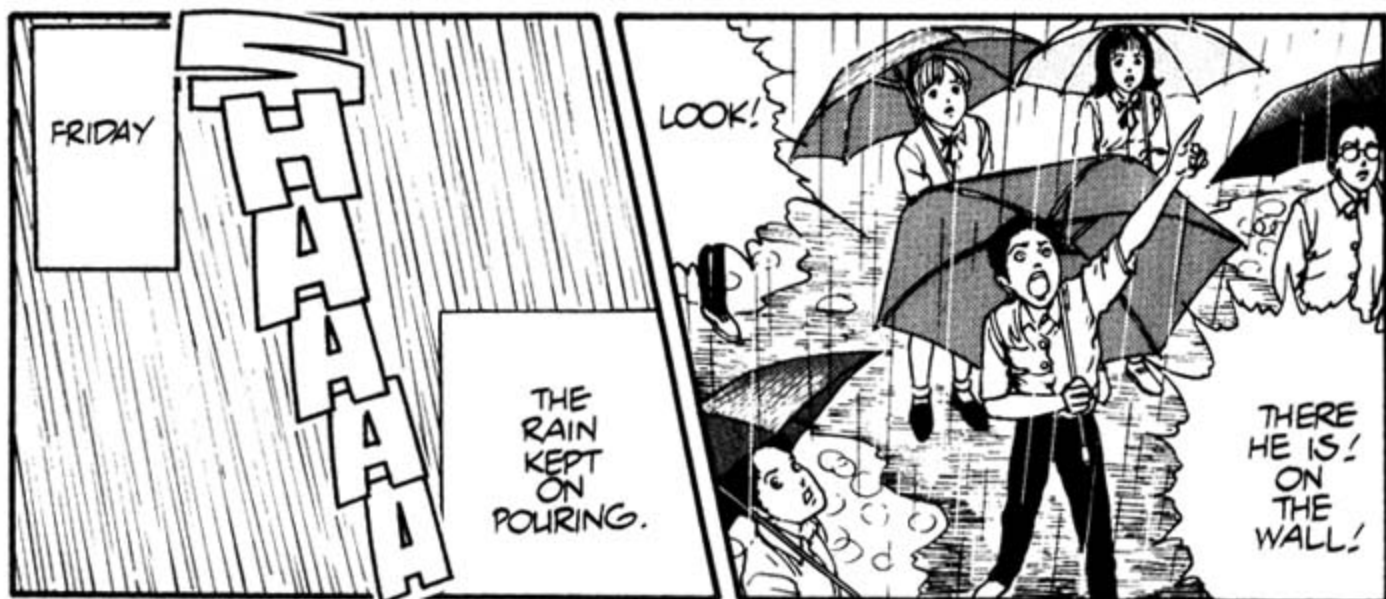


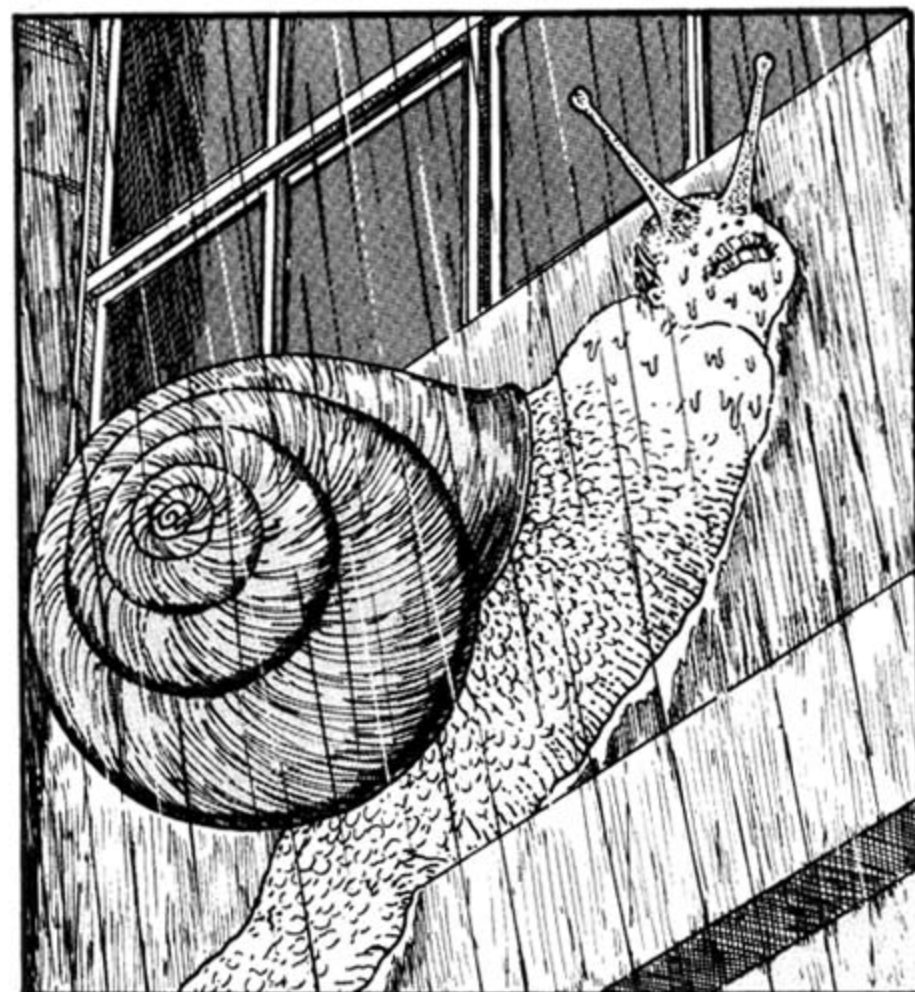
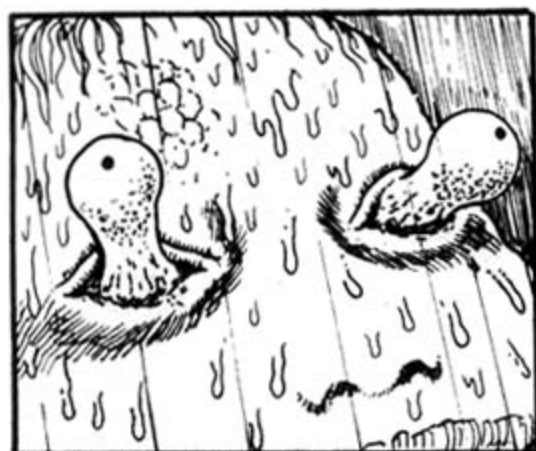












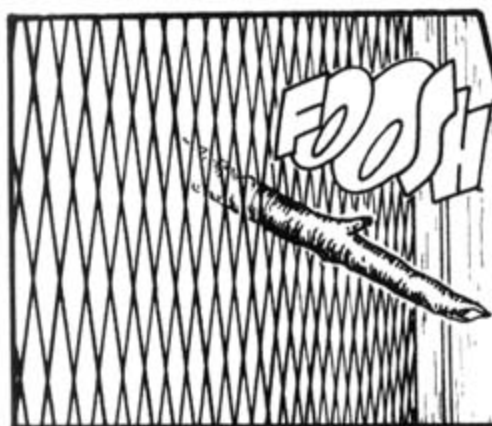








EVENTUALLY  
THE SCHOOL  
TOOK CARE  
OF HIM.



WA HA  
HA HA!  
THIS IS  
GREAT!

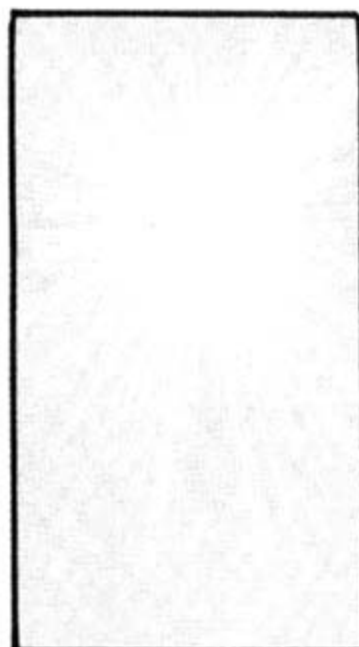
STOP  
IT,  
TSUMURA!

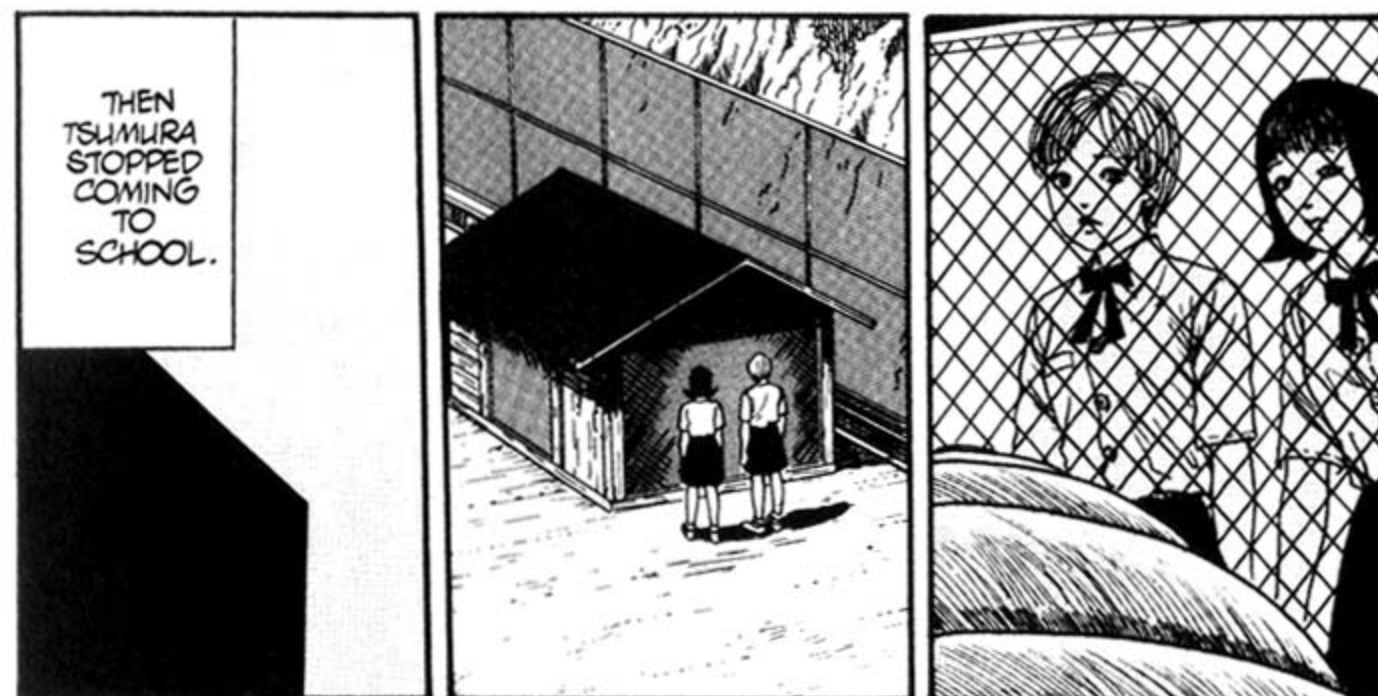
LEAVE  
HIM  
ALONE!



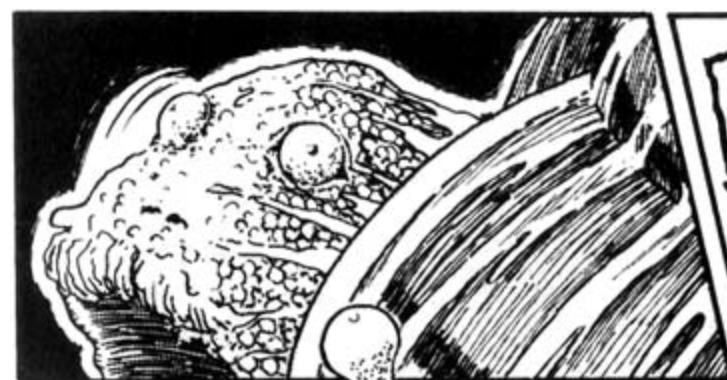
GET  
OFF  
MY  
BACK!  
HE'S JUST  
A SLUG  
NOW!

HE'S  
NOT  
HUMAN  
ANY-  
MORE!











LISTEN UP EVERYONE.

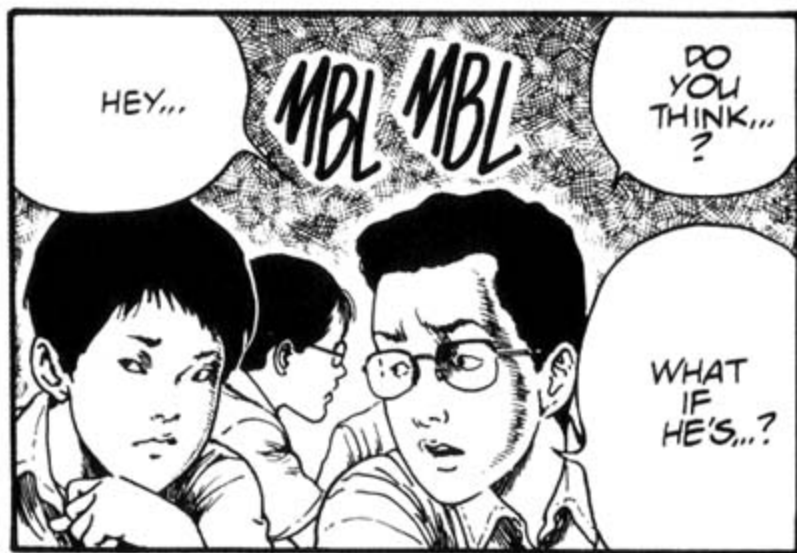
TSUMURA HASN'T COME TO SCHOOL LATELY. IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN MISSING.



IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE HE IS, I WANT YOU TO TELL ME.

MRMR

MRMR



HEY...

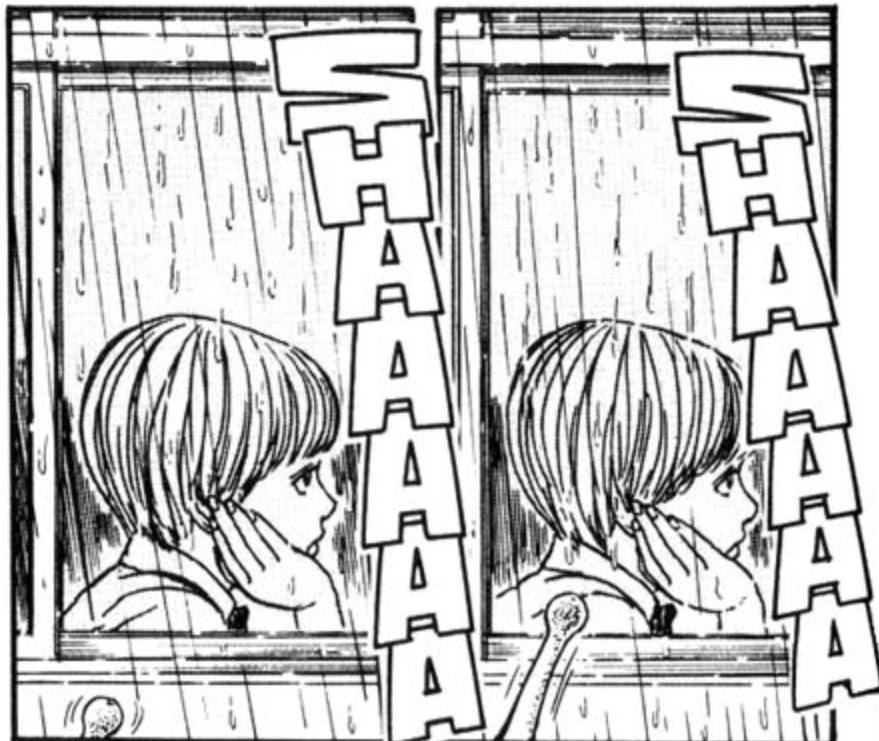
MBL MBL

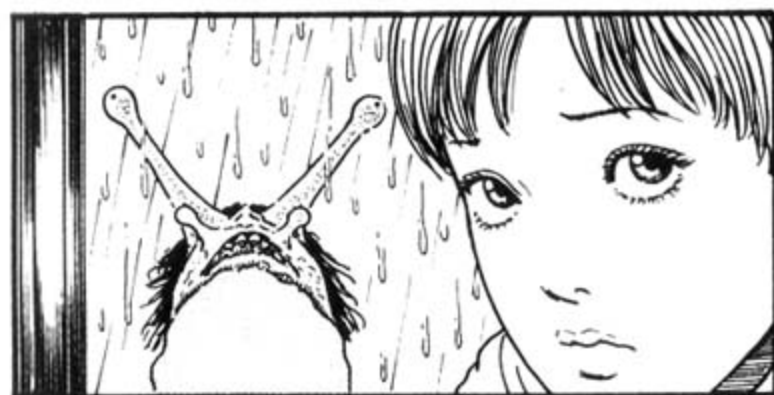
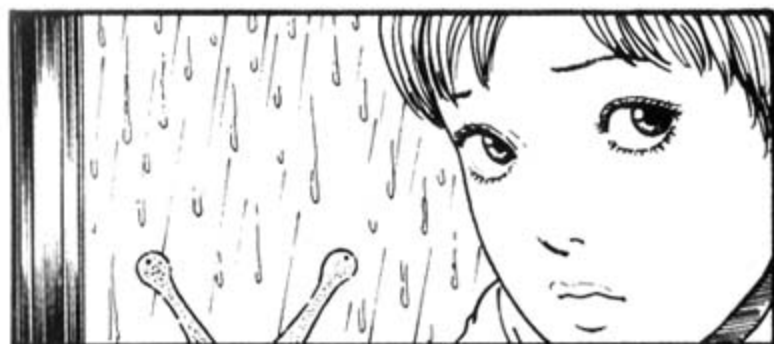
DO YOU THINK...?

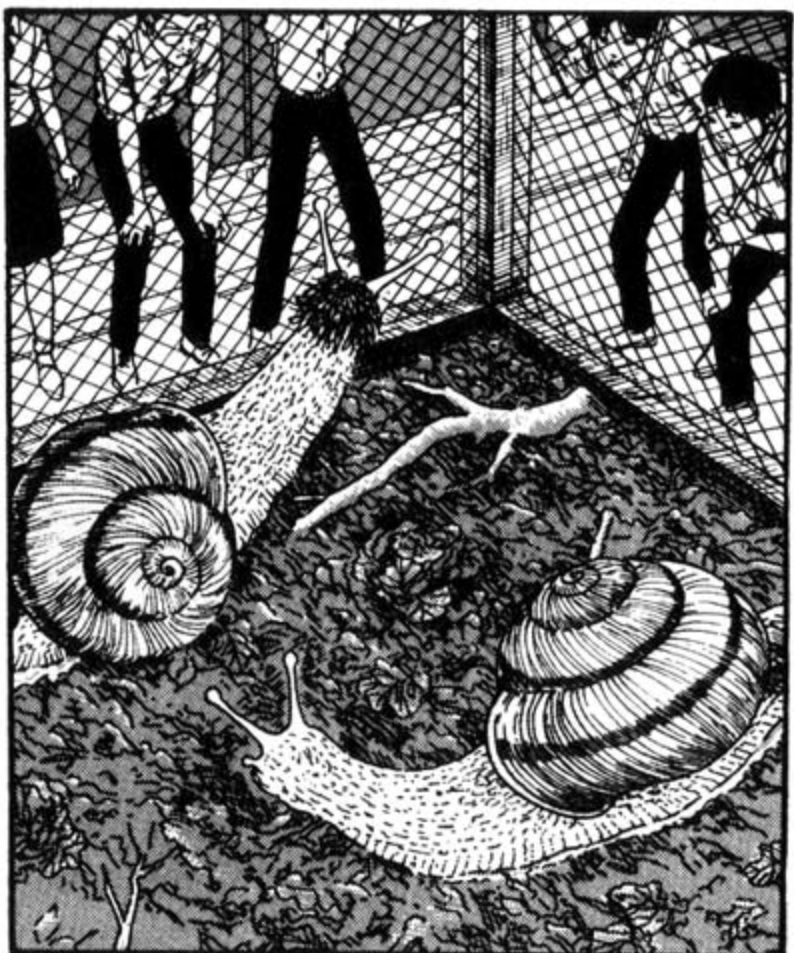
WHAT IF HE'S...?



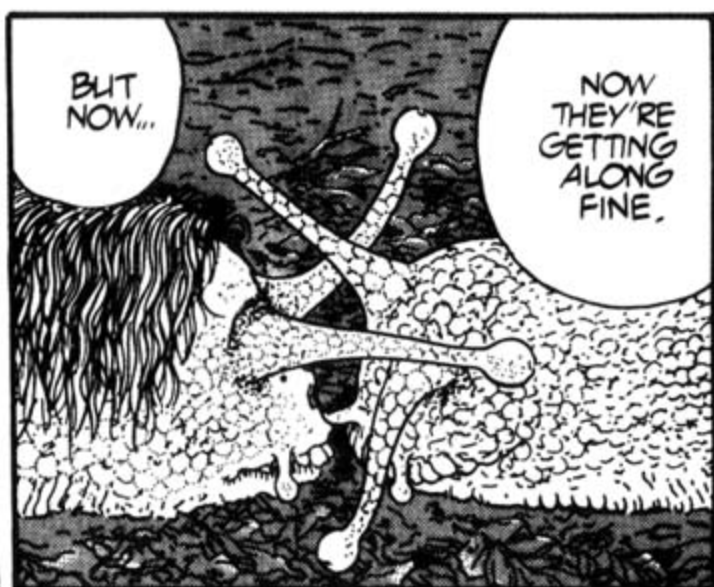
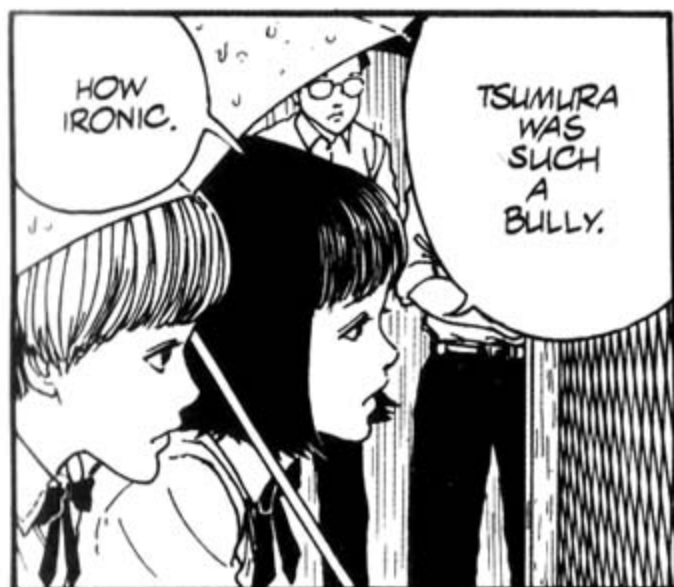
...

















ONE OF THEM LAID EGGS!



TH- THEY LOOK LIKE TENNIS BALLS!



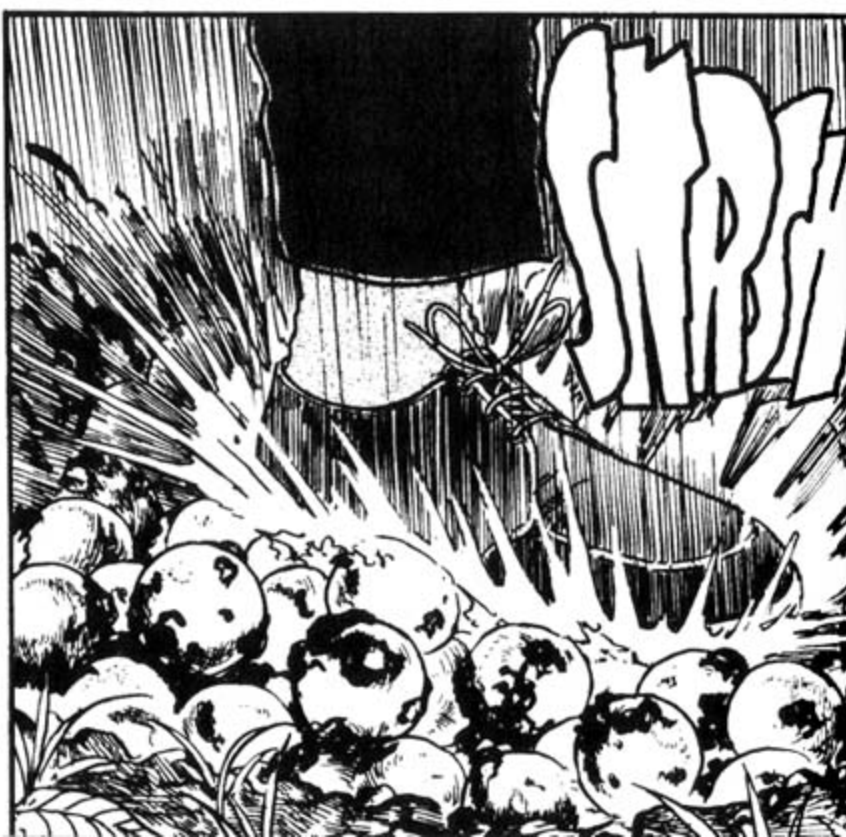
WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE NO LONGER HUMAN. THEY'RE SOME OTHER ORGANISM.

CALL THEM "MOLLUSK PEOPLE."



MOLLUSK PEOPLE?

MOLLUSKS. THAT'S WHAT SNAILS ARE.



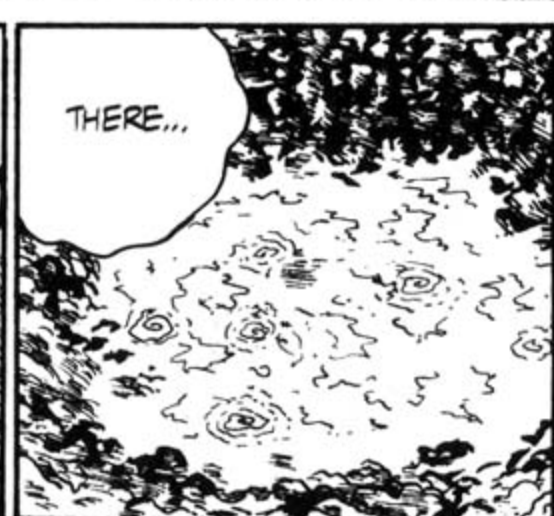
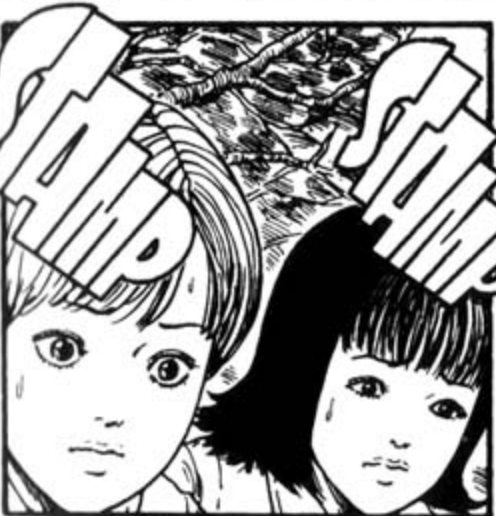


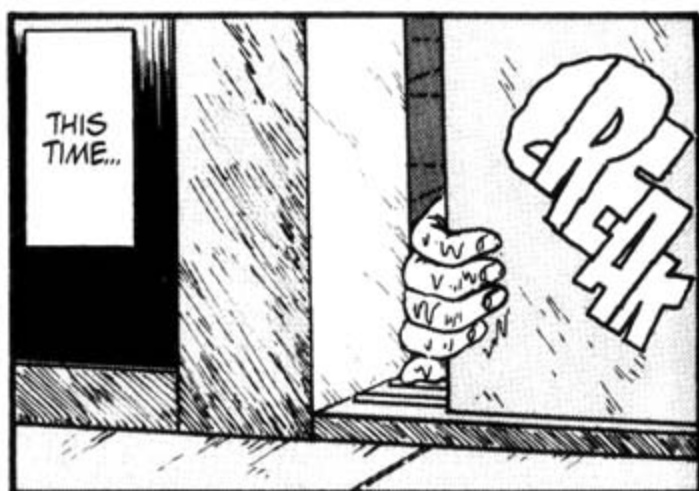
MR. YOKOTA!  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



WHAT DO YOU THINK?  
I'M CRUSHING THEM!

IT'S DISGUSTING!  
IT'S UNNATURAL!  
WE CAN'T LET THESE CREATURES BREED!

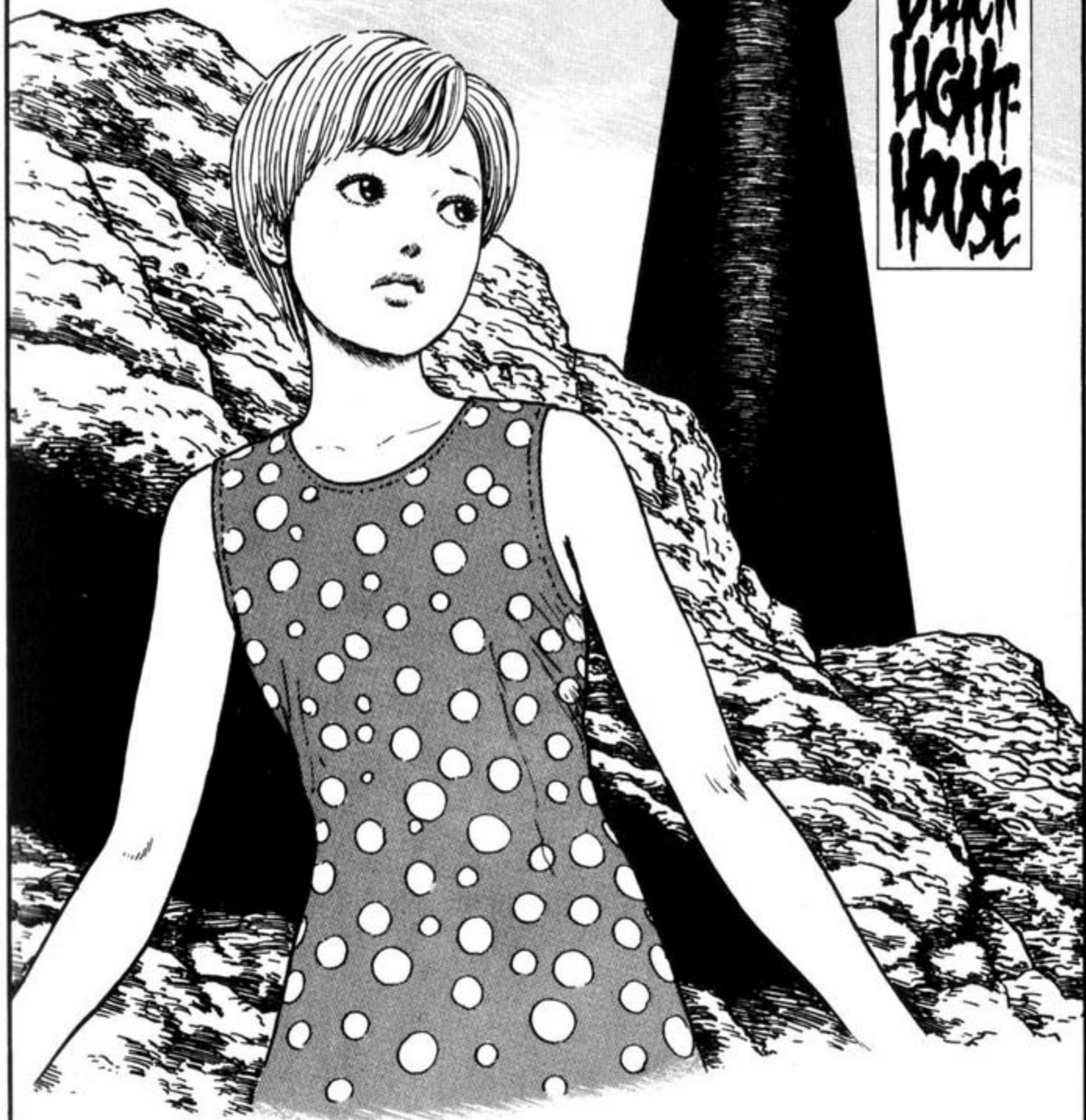




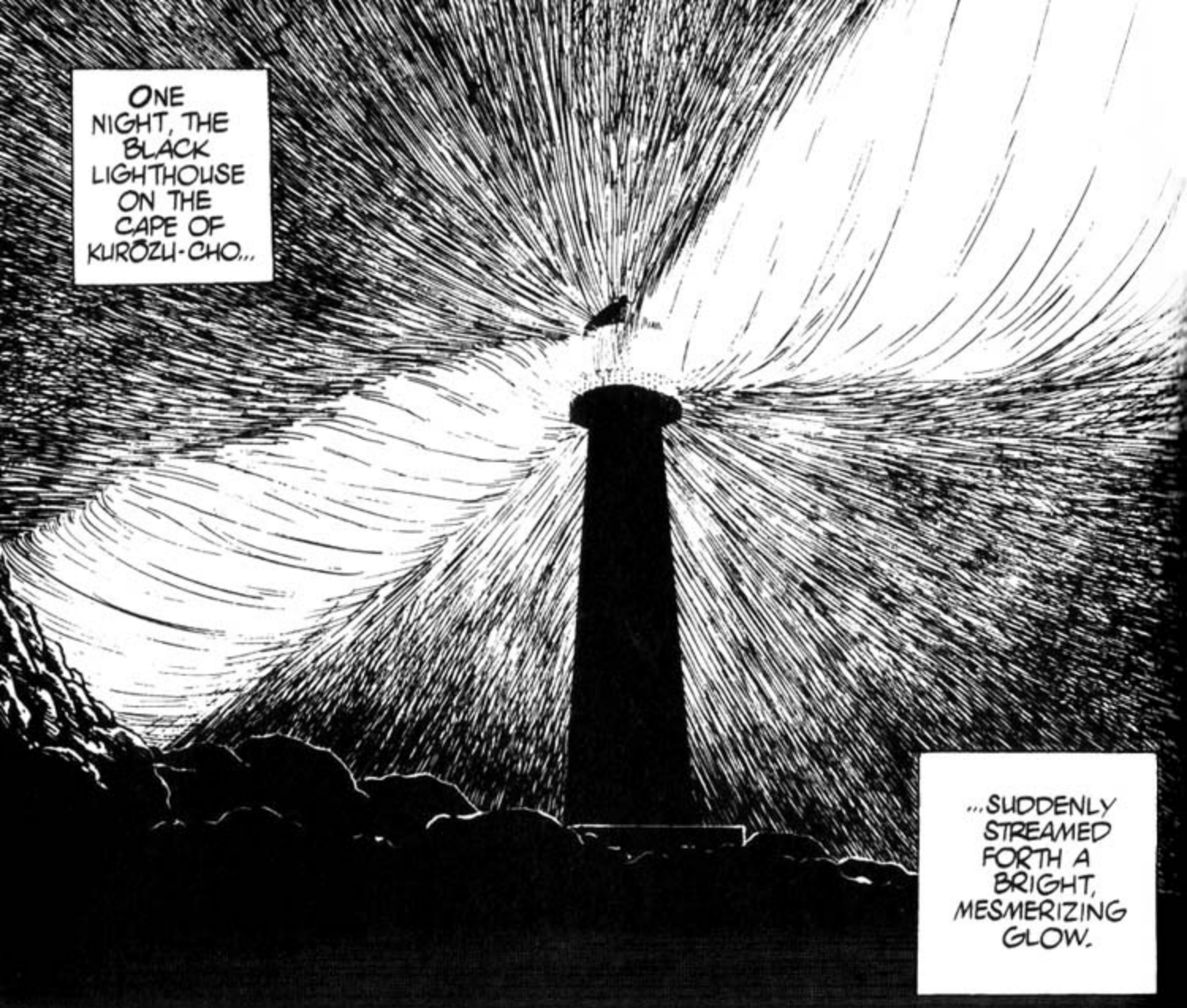
CHAPTER

9

THE  
BLACK  
LIGHT-  
HOUSE



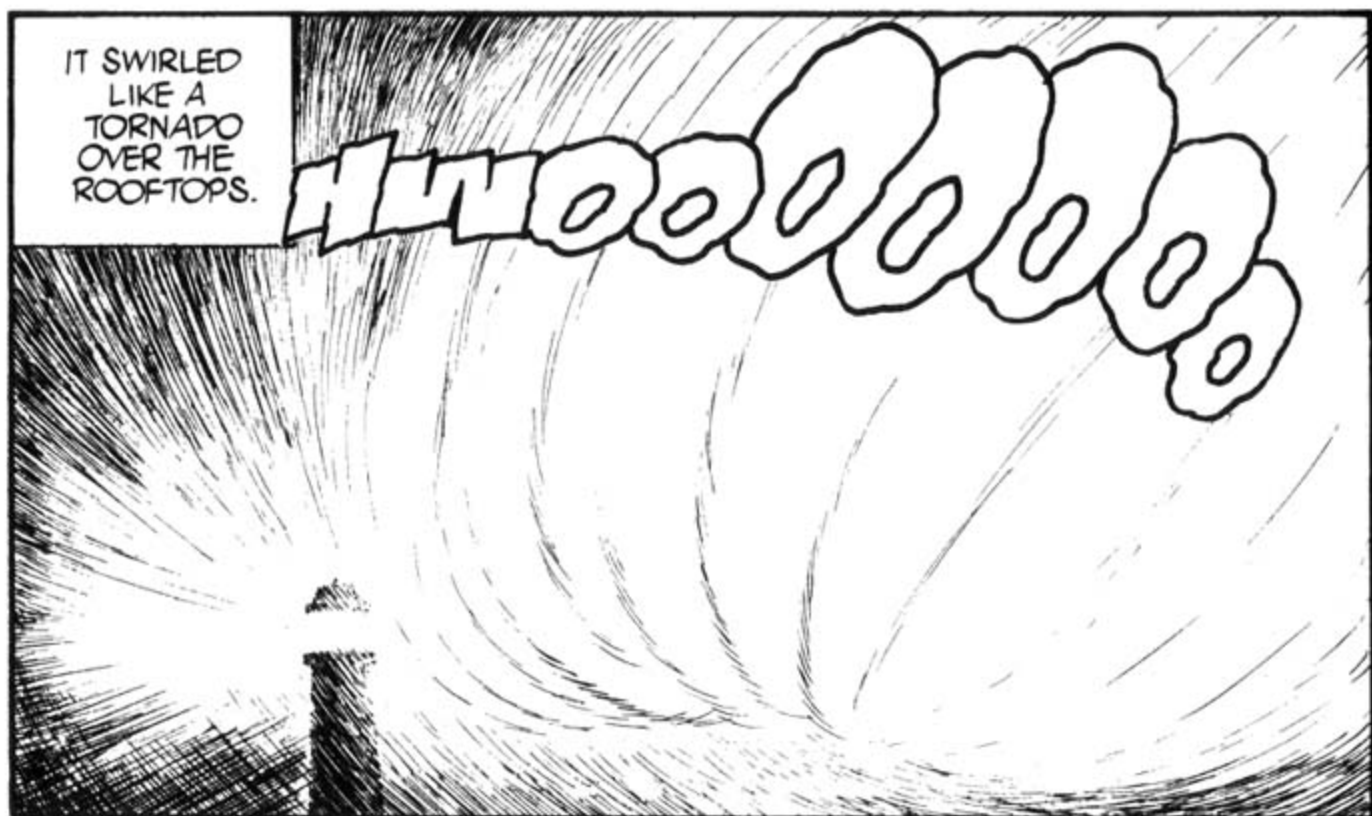
ONE  
NIGHT, THE  
BLACK  
LIGHTHOUSE  
ON THE  
CAPE OF  
KUROZU-CHO...



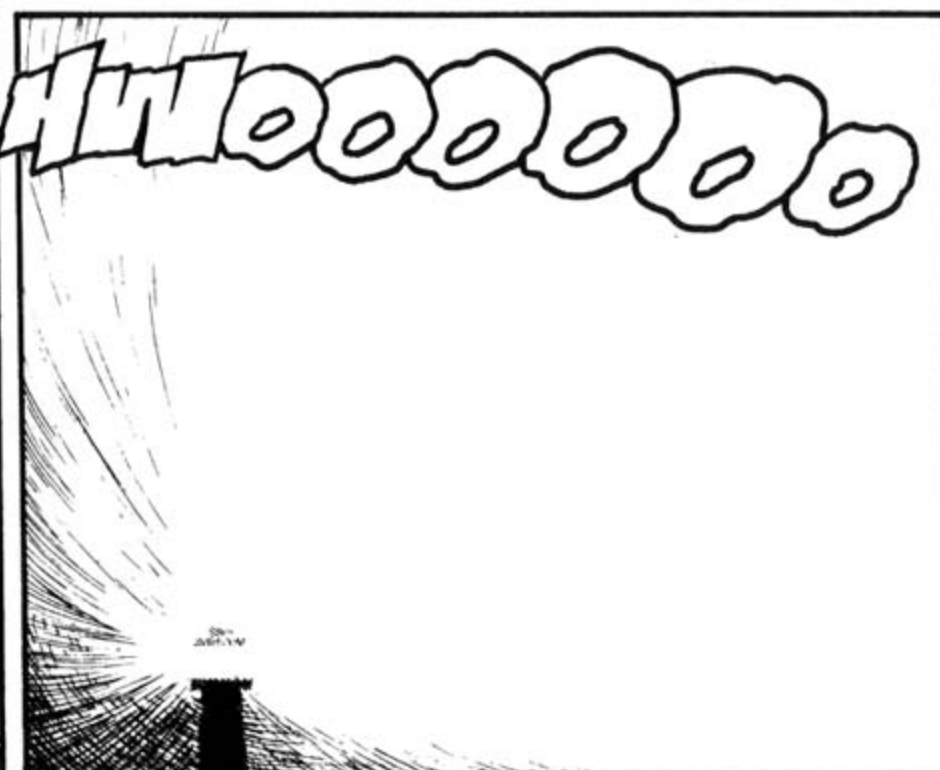
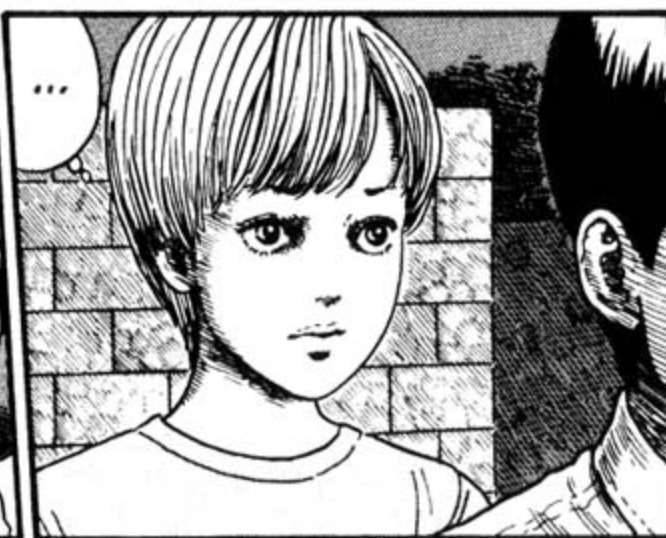
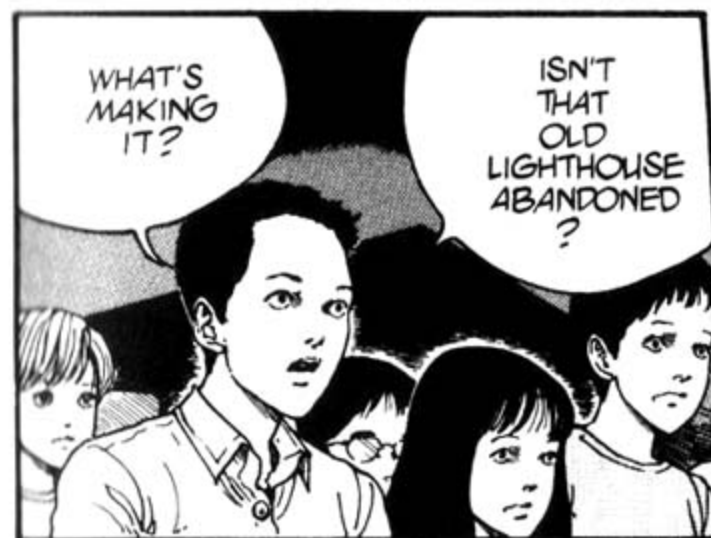
...SUDDENLY  
STREAMED  
FORTH A  
BRIGHT,  
MESMERIZING  
GLOW.

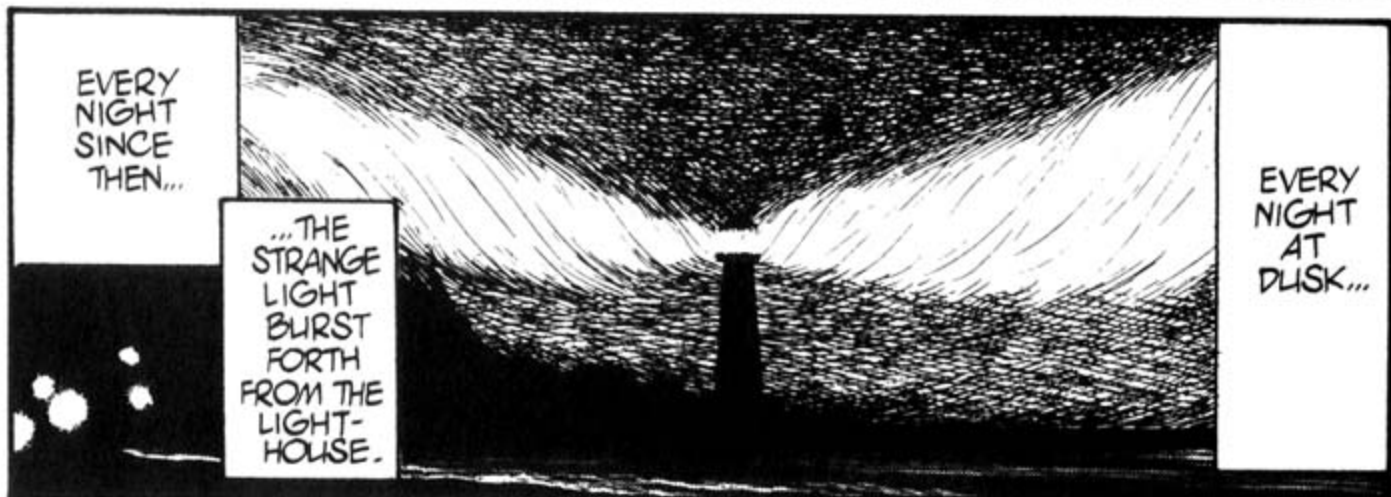
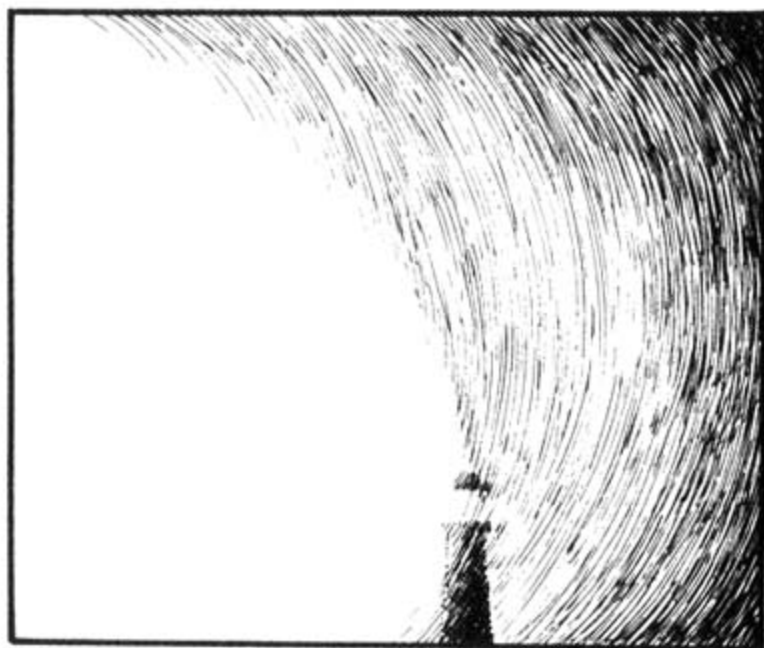
IT SWIRLED  
LIKE A  
TORNADO  
OVER THE  
ROOFTOPS.

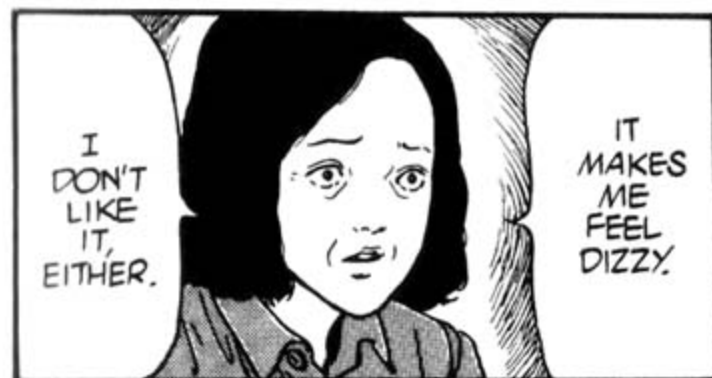
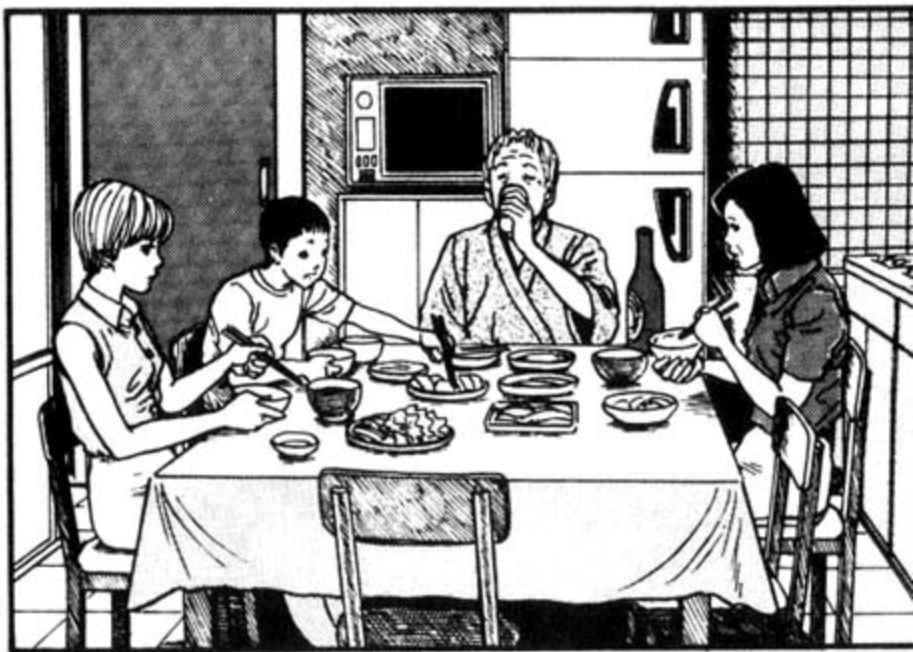
Huuooooo













WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?



WE'VE BEEN GETTING COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS.

THIS LIGHT WAS PUT OUT OF SERVICE A LONG TIME AGO. IT SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE POWER.



WE'LL GO INSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG.



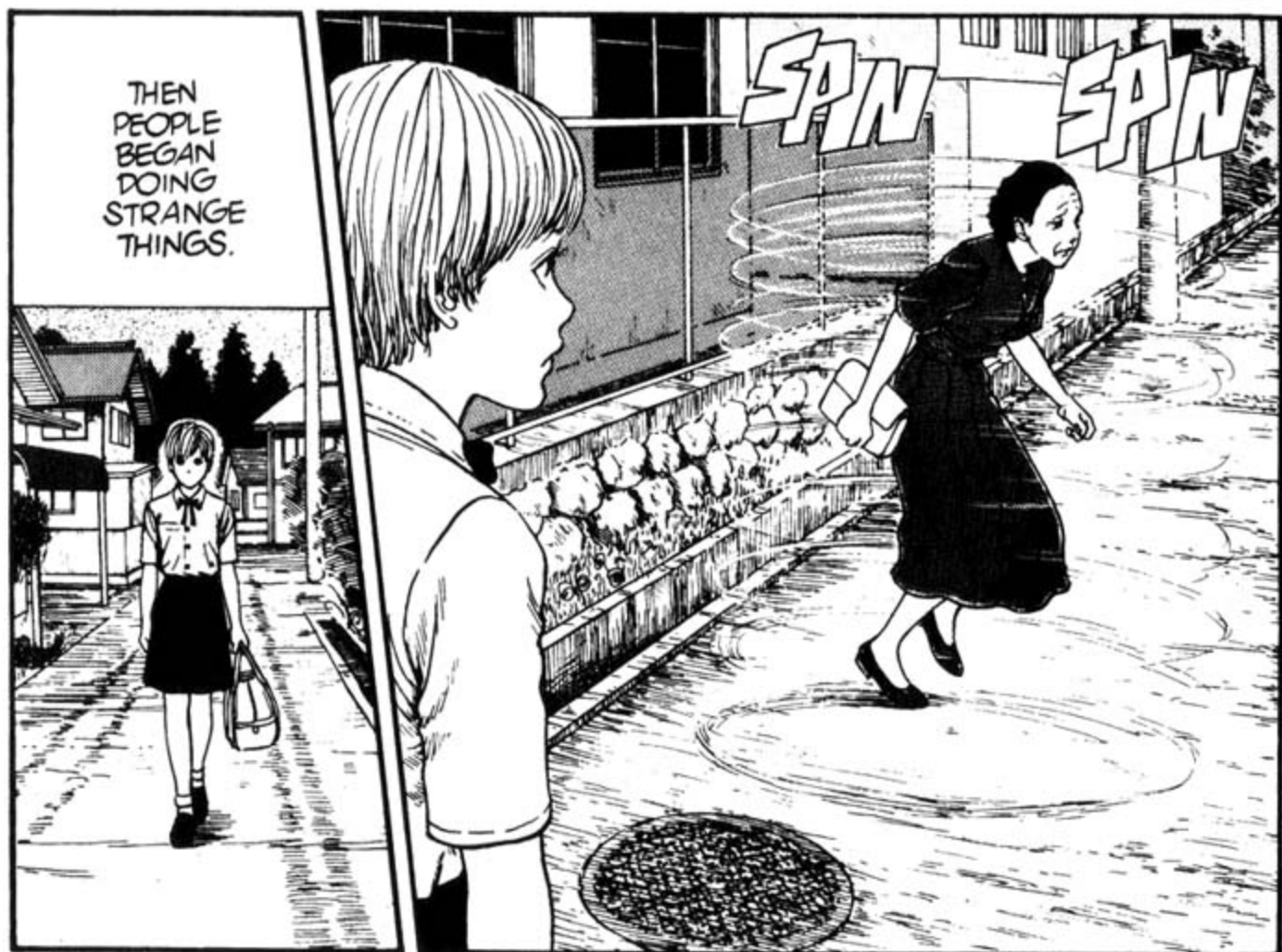
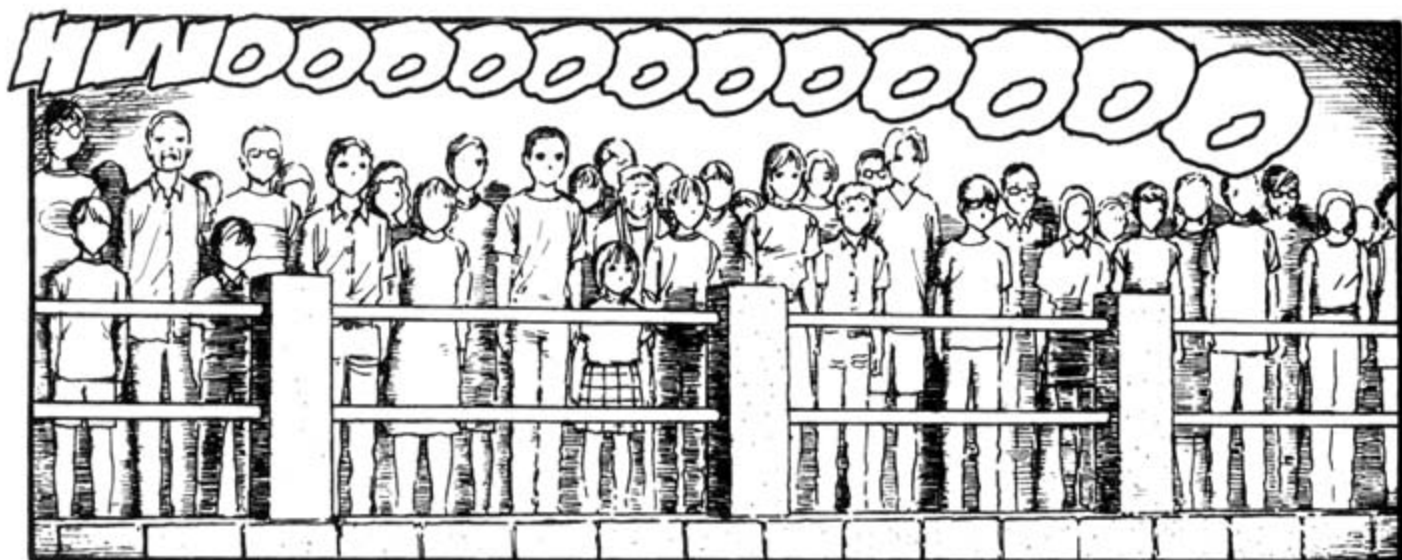
KACER

NOZUMI



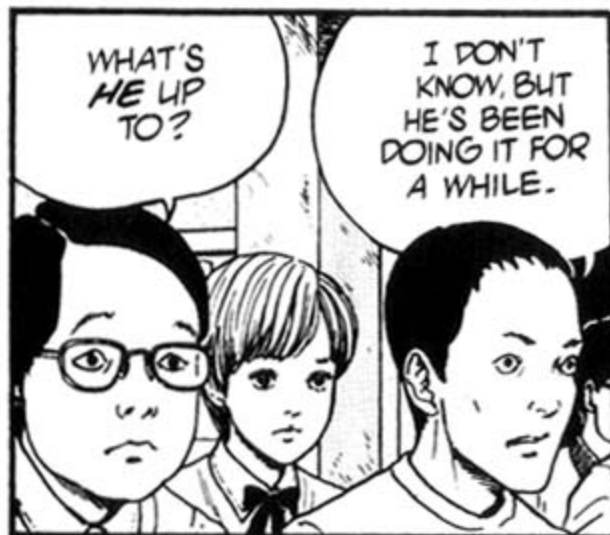
AFTER YOU.





THEN  
PEOPLE  
BEGAN  
DOING  
STRANGE  
THINGS.







THERE'S  
A FISHING  
BOAT  
STRANDED  
ON THE  
CAPE!

LOOKS  
LIKE  
IT  
HAPPENED  
LAST  
NIGHT.

SHHAAAAA

THAT'S  
WEIRD,  
THERE  
WASN'T  
ANY WIND.

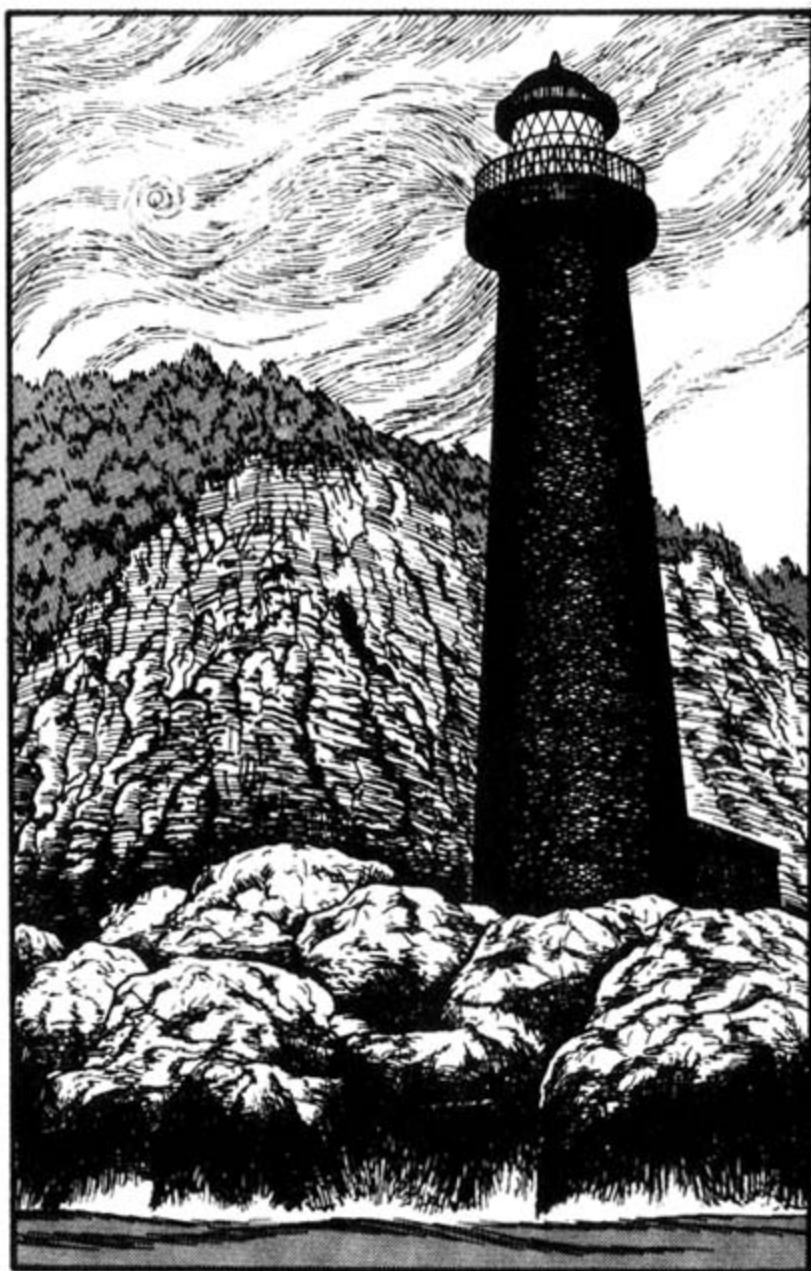
THEY  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
SEEN  
THE  
LIGHTHOUSE,  
TOO.

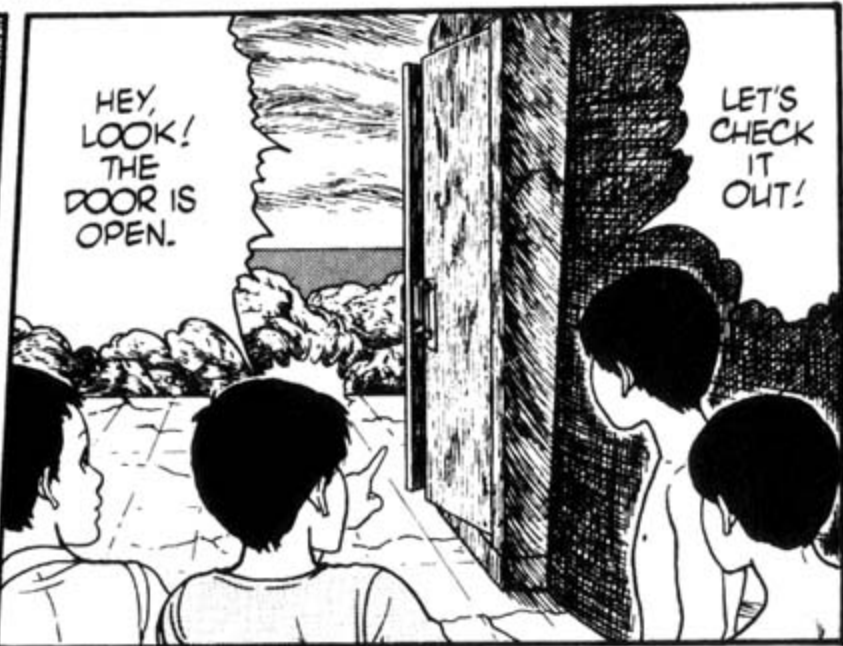
WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE  
CREW?

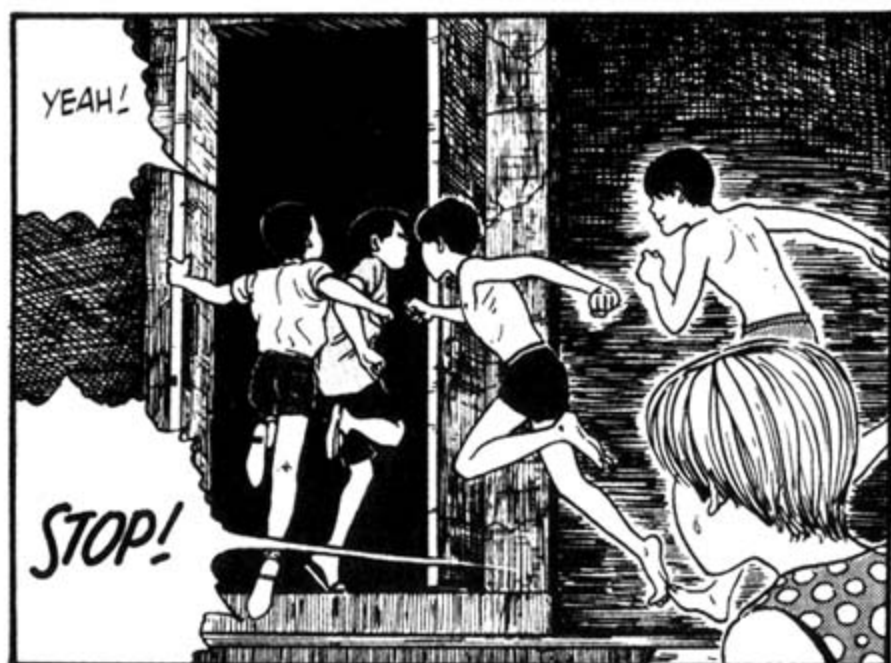
APPARENTLY,  
AFTER IT RAN  
AGROUND, THEY WERE  
WALKING AROUND  
THE DECK IN  
CIRCLES.

EVENTUALLY,  
THEY ALL  
FELL  
INTO THE  
OCEAN.  
ONE WAS  
RESCUED  
BUT TWO  
ARE  
MISSING.

SPEAKING OF  
MISSING... I HEARD  
THAT THE MEN WHO  
WENT TO CHECK  
ON THE LIGHTHOUSE  
HAVEN'T COME  
BACK...

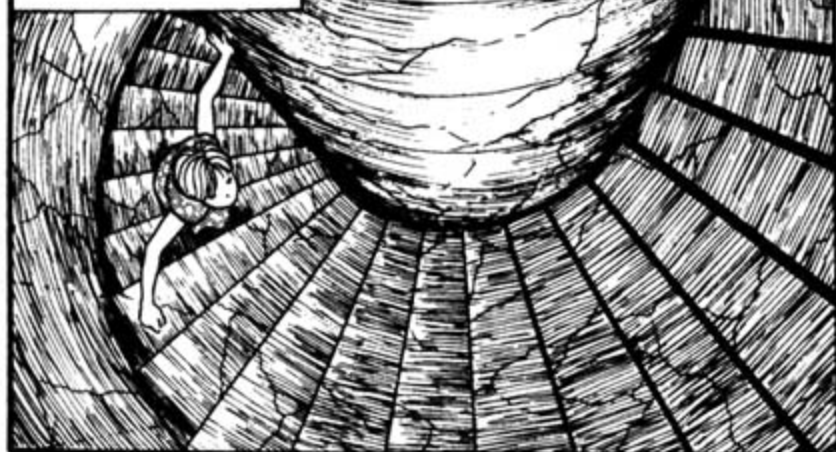








IT FELT  
LIKE THE  
STAIRS  
WENT ON  
FOREVER.



uff



hff

uff



hff

I  
DON'T  
GET IT...  
WHERE  
AM I  
NOW?



I  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
CLIMBED  
UP  
PRETTY  
FAR...

AS  
I  
WALKED  
FURTHER...



...SPIRAL  
PATTERNS  
APPEARED  
ON THE  
WALLS  
AND  
CEILING.

THEY  
GLOWED  
EERILY  
IN  
THE  
DARK.



THEY  
WERE  
THE  
ONLY  
LIGHT  
IN  
THE  
WINDOWLESS  
STAIRCASE.



THE  
LIGHTHOUSE  
HAS  
BECOME  
PART  
OF THE  
SPIRAL...



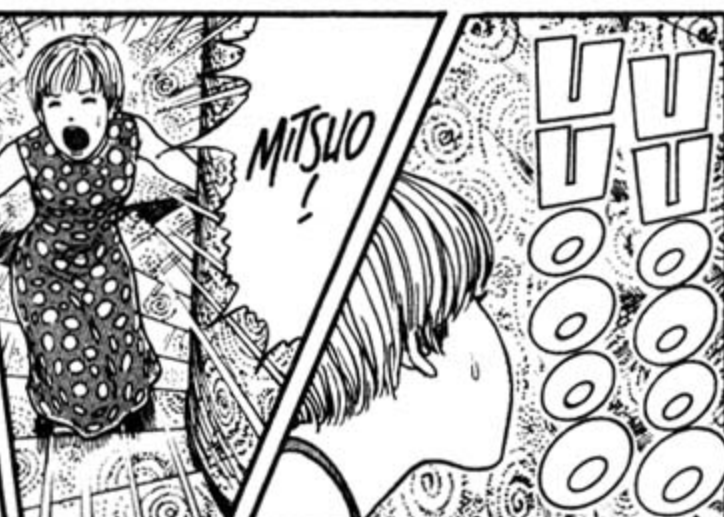
uff

uff



THIS IS  
TOO STRANGE...  
NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH I  
CLIMB THE  
STAIRS, I  
CAN'T REACH  
THE TOP.

I  
FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
JUST  
GOING  
AROUND  
IN  
CIRCLES.



MITSUO  
!



SOMETHING'S  
BLURNING...  
I CAN  
SMELL  
IT...

I  
FEEL  
LIKE  
I'M  
GOING  
CRAZY...



I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
HOW  
MUCH  
TIME  
ELAPSED.









THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...

THREE  
BURNT  
BODIES...



FINALLY  
...

WHAT  
?!

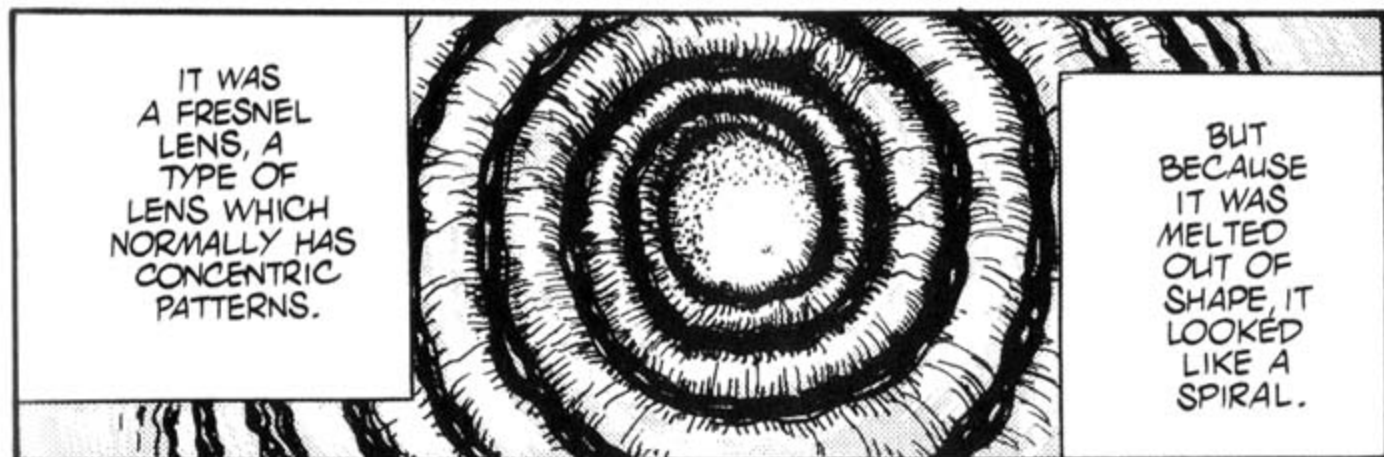


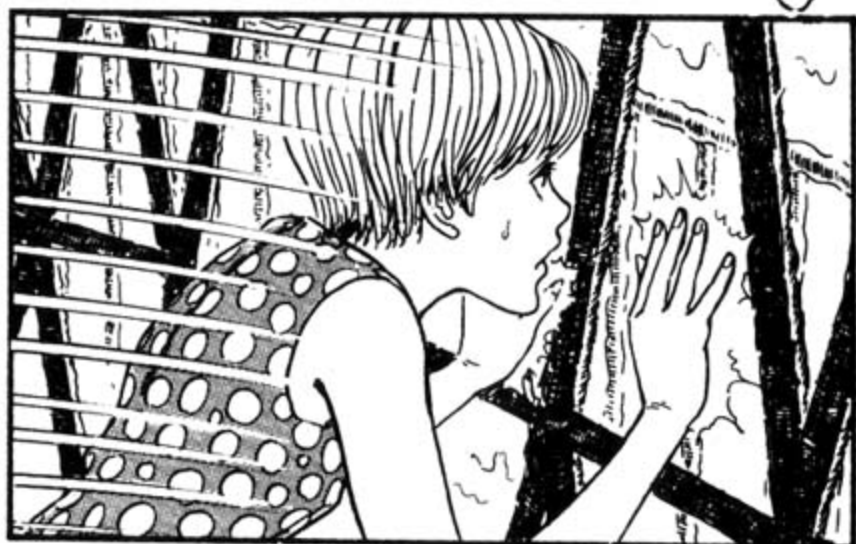
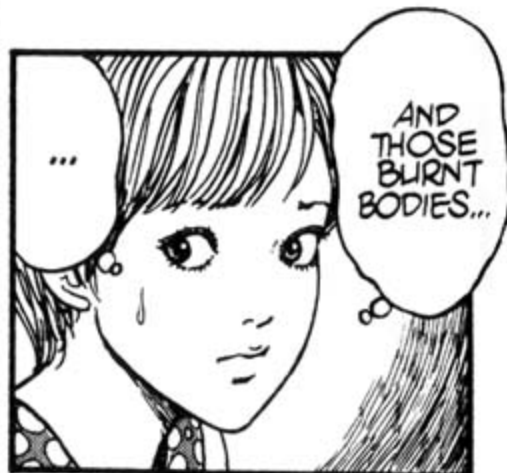
TWO  
MORE  
BODIES...

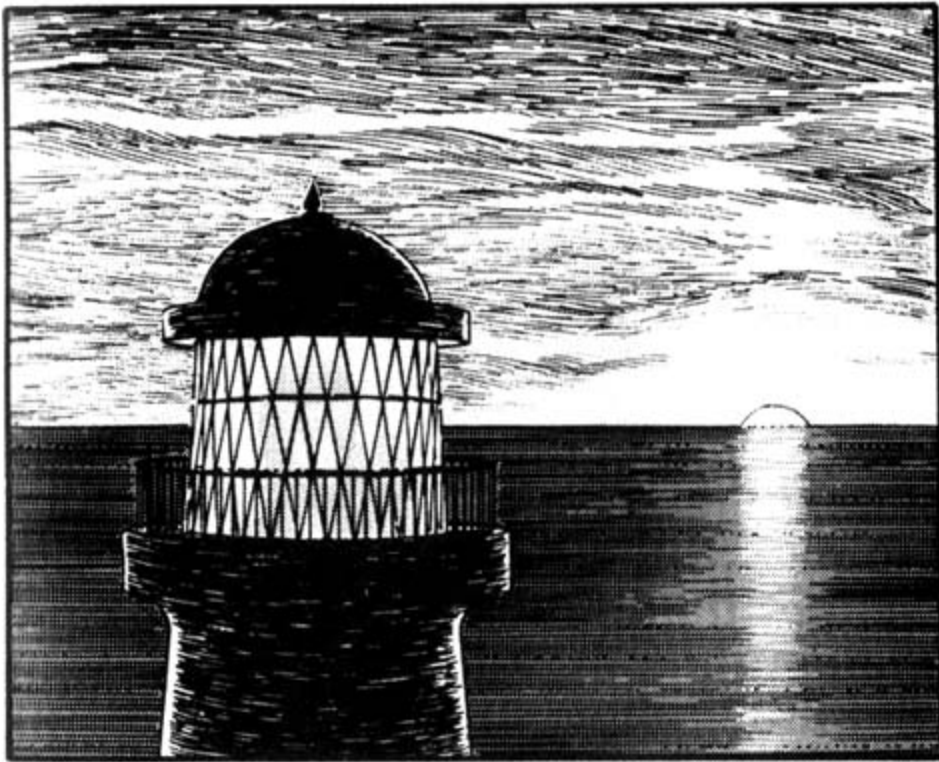
WERE  
THEY  
WITH  
THOSE  
MEN I  
JUST  
SAW? WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO ALL  
OF  
THEM?

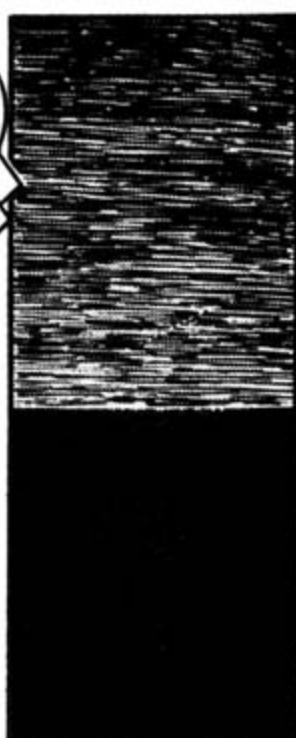
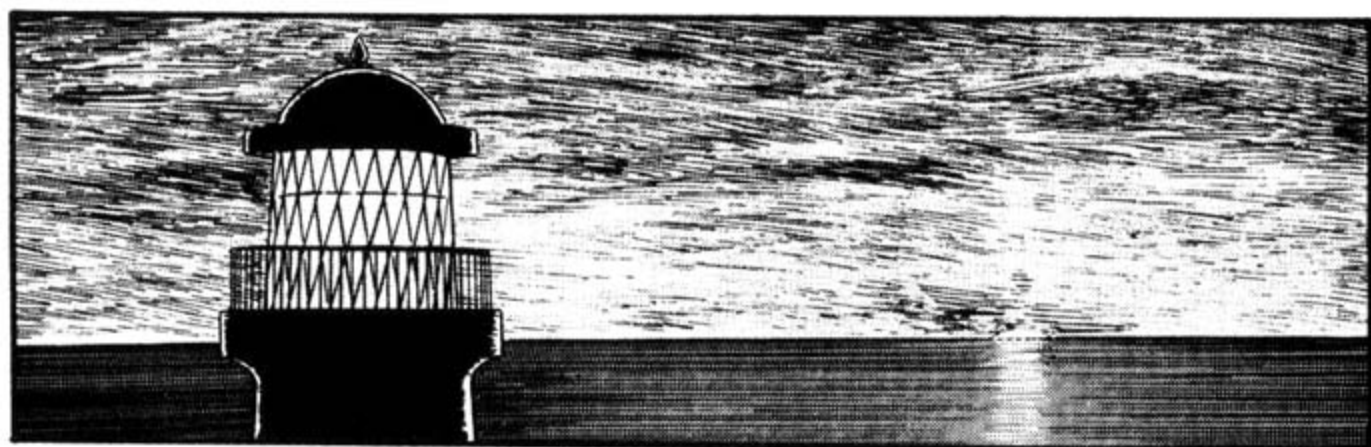




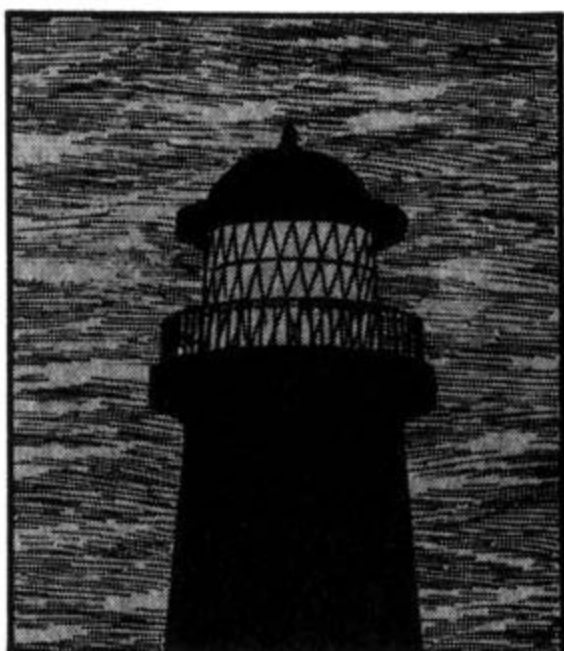
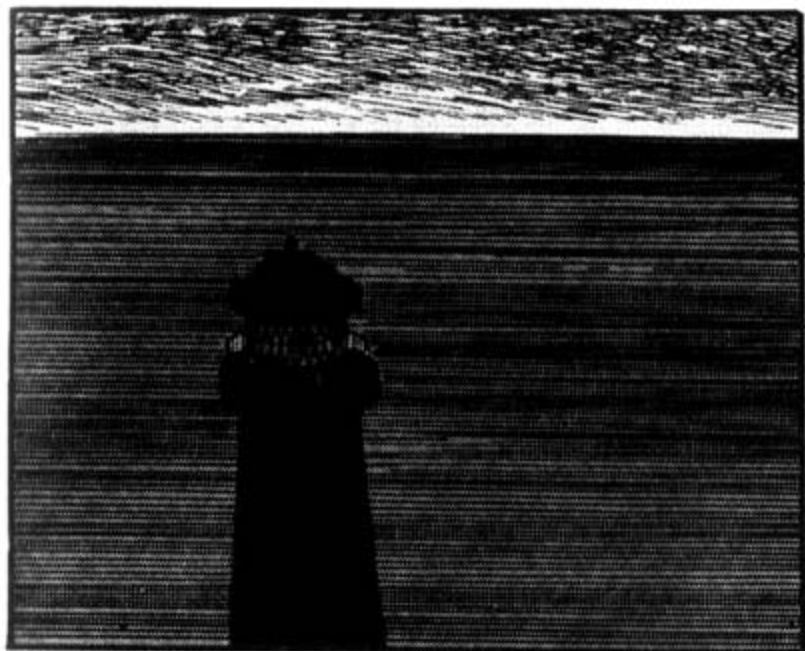
















I  
THOUGHT  
I SAW  
THE  
BOY...

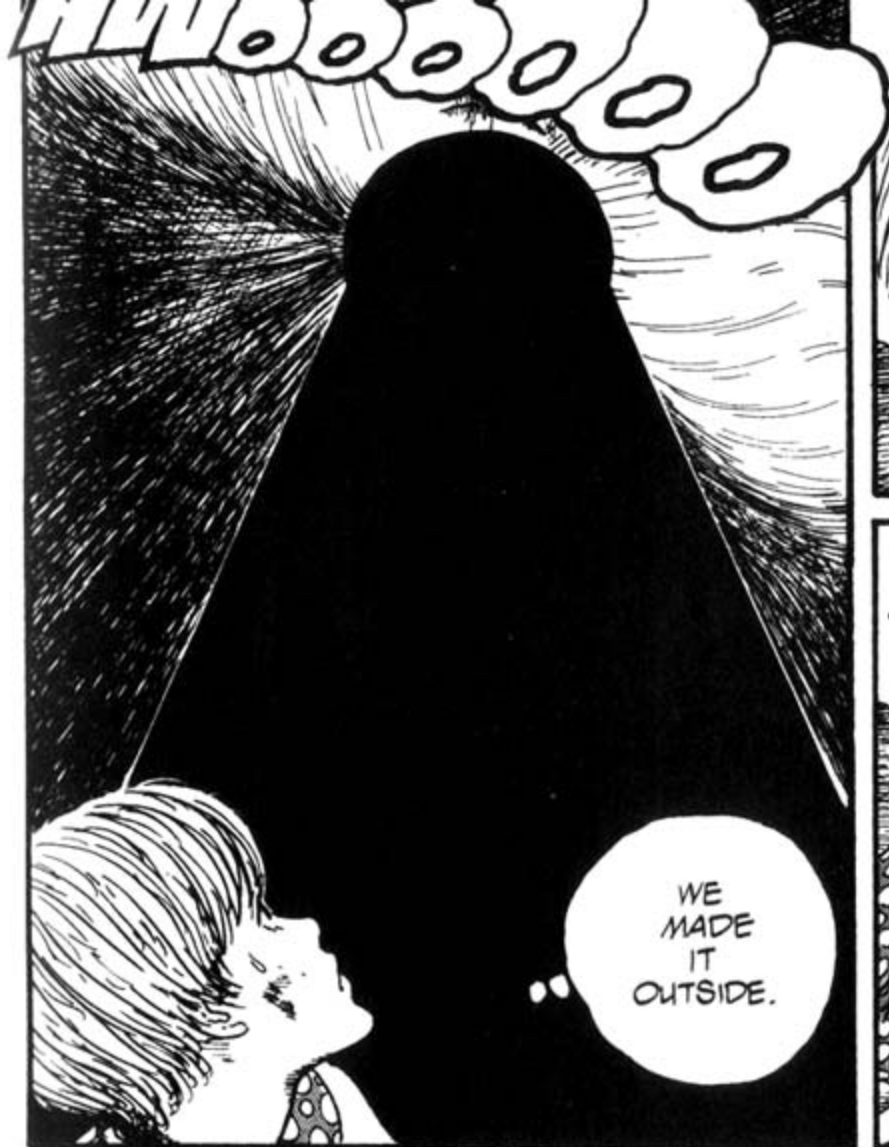
...CONSUMED  
IN  
AN  
INSTANT.

IT FELT  
AS IF  
WE WERE  
BLOWN  
BACK  
BY A FIERY  
BLAST...

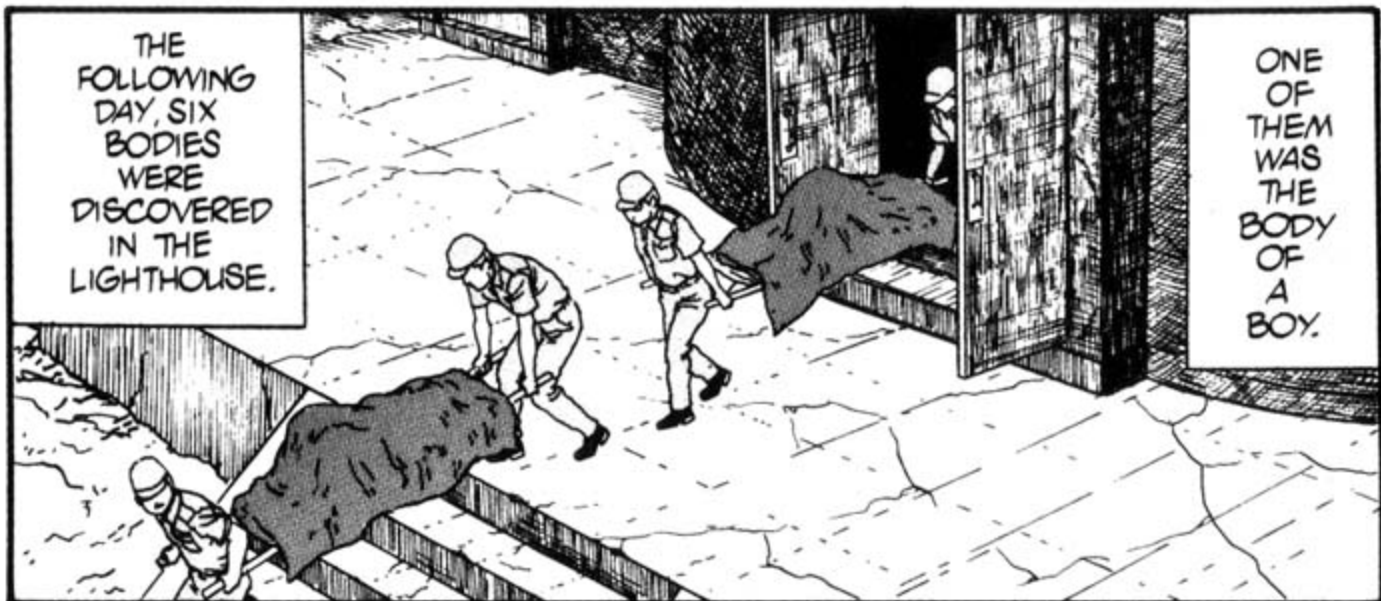
...BUT  
I  
CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
ANYTHING  
AFTER  
THAT.

WHEN  
I  
AWOKE...

WHERE  
ARE  
WE?



THE  
FOLLOWING  
DAY, SIX  
BODIES  
WERE  
DISCOVERED  
IN THE  
LIGHTHOUSE.



ONE  
OF  
THEM  
WAS  
THE  
BODY  
OF  
A  
BOY.



AND  
STILL,  
EVERY  
NIGHT,  
THE  
LIGHTHOUSE  
STREAMS  
FORTH A  
SWIRLING  
GLOW.

THEY  
SAY  
THEY'LL  
DEMOLISH  
IT  
SOMEDAY...

CHAPTER

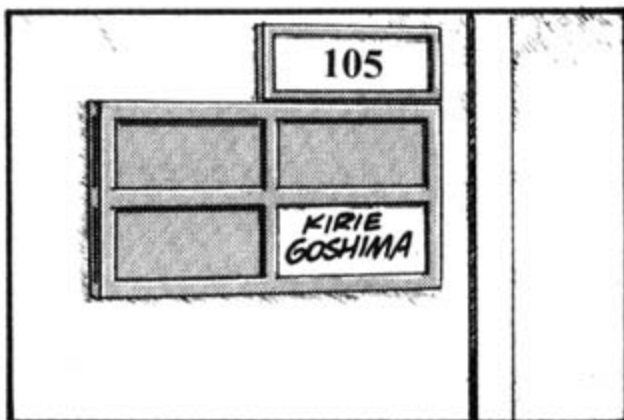
10

THE  
BOAT  
ES





THAT  
SUMMER  
OUR  
TOWN  
SWARMED  
WITH  
MOSQUITOES.



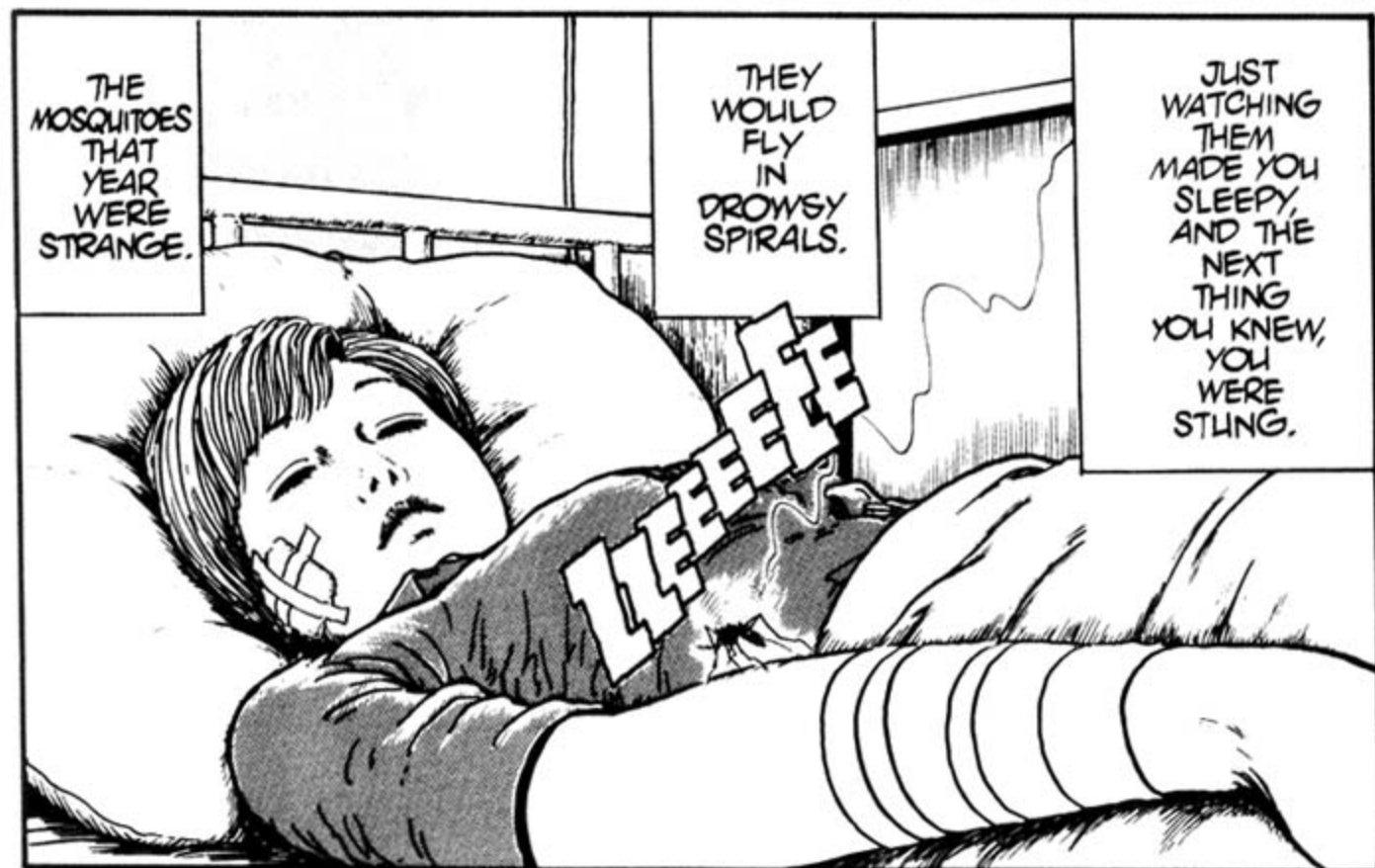
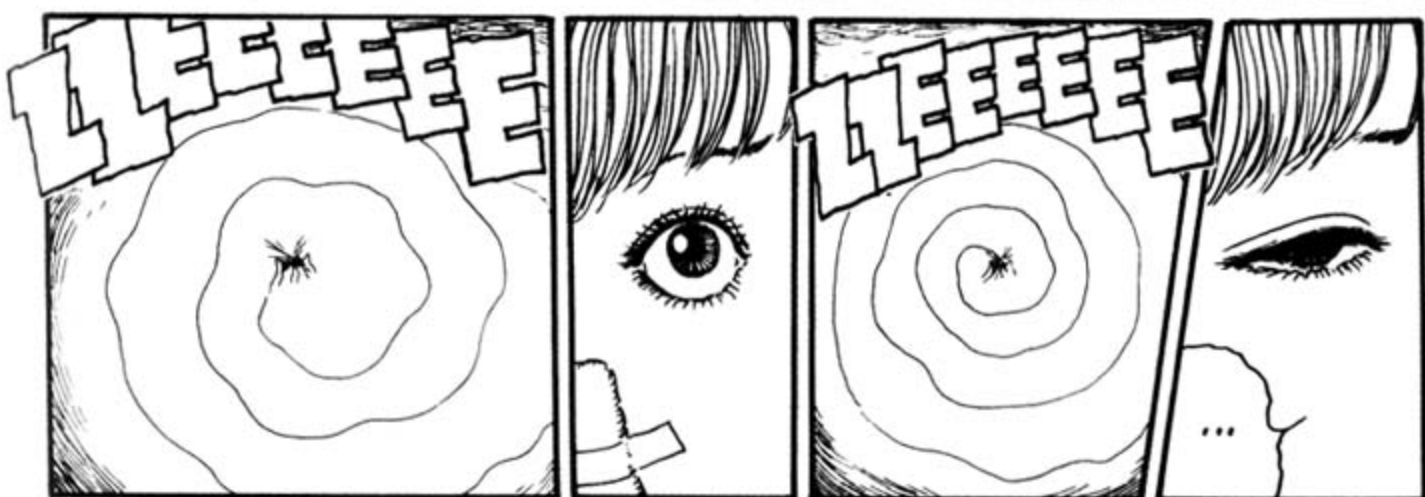
AS FOR  
ME, I  
HAD TO  
SPEND HALF  
THE SUMMER  
IN THE  
HOSPITAL.

THE BURNS  
AND BRUISES  
I RECEIVED  
IN THE  
LIGHTHOUSE WERE  
UNEXPECTEDLY  
SEVERE.



MY BROTHER  
MITSUO WASN'T  
HURT AS BAD,  
SO HE WAS  
RELEASED  
THE OTHER  
DAY.









"MOSQUITO COLUMN"?

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEM WHEN THEY SWARM LIKE THAT. THEY'RE ALL MALE MOSQUITOES WAITING TO MATE.



I'VE SEEN A LOT OF THEM LATELY.

THEY BREED OVER IN DRAGON-FLY POND.



I DON'T KNOW IF I'D CALL IT A COLUMN ...

THE WAY THEY SPIN AROUND LIKE THAT ...



IS THIS ANOTHER SIGN OF THE SPIRAL?



YOU LOOK TIRED. LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

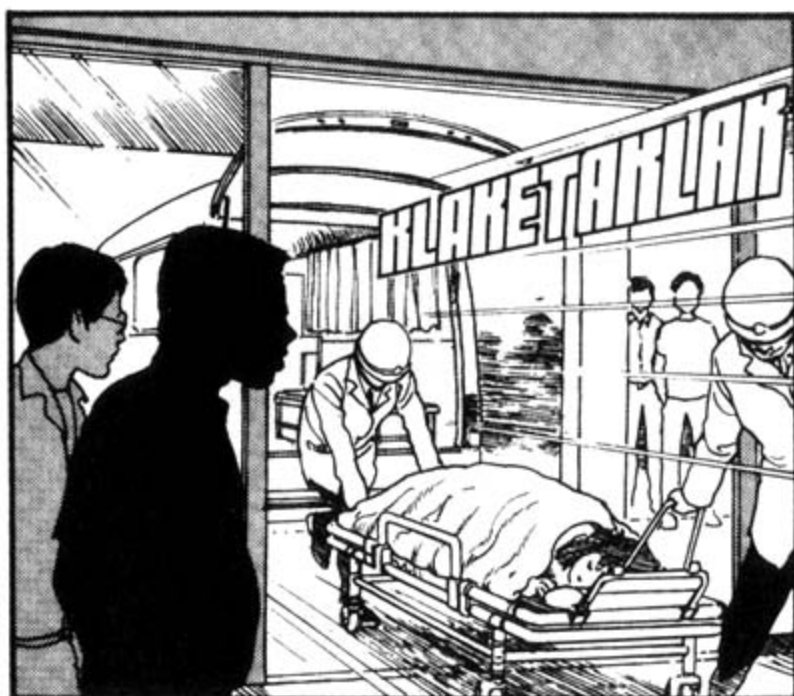
YES.

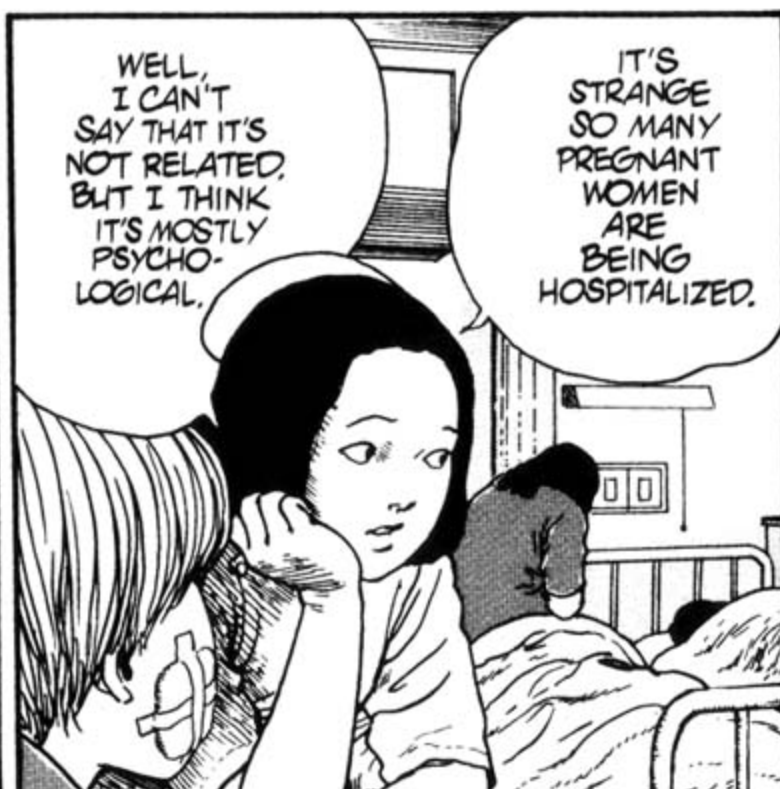


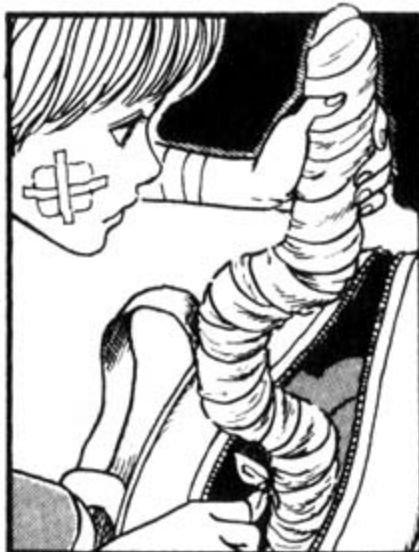
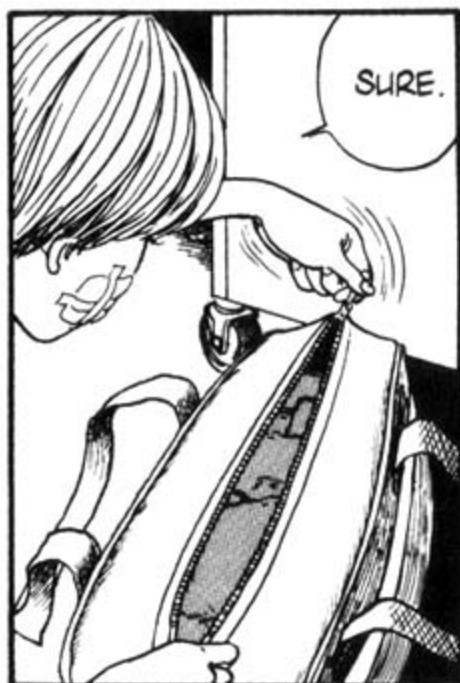


THE  
DISCOVERY  
OF THE BODY  
WAS ONLY  
THE BEGINNING  
OF WHAT  
HAPPENED.











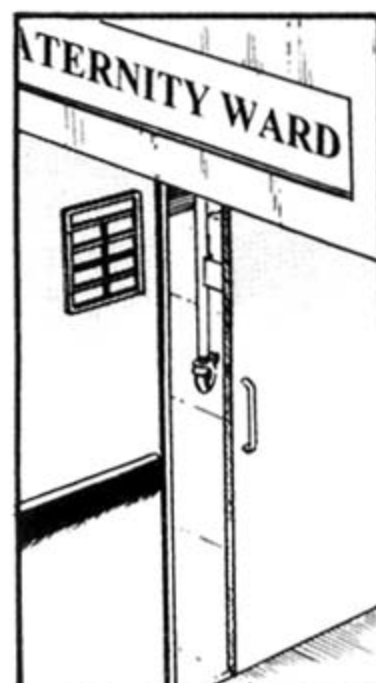




WHAT  
COULD  
HAVE  
HAPPENED?  
WERE  
THEY  
MURDERED  
?

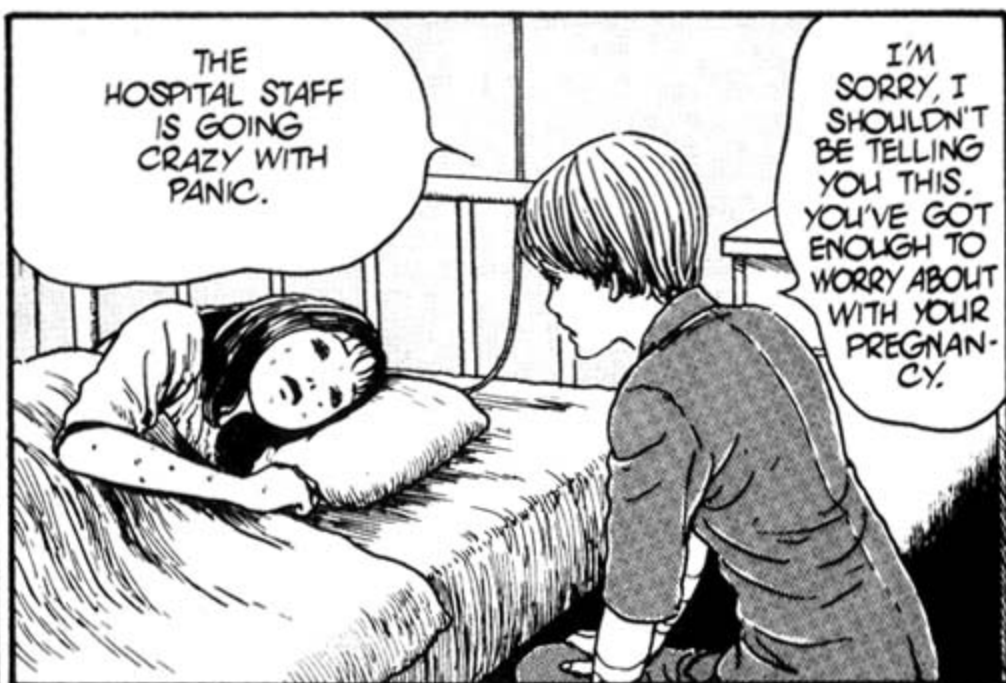
BUT  
I  
DIDN'T  
HEAR  
A  
SOUND  
LAST  
NIGHT.

JUST  
THOSE  
MOSQUITOES  
BUZZING...



THE  
HOSPITAL  
STAFF  
IS  
GOING  
CRAZY  
WITH  
PANIC.

I'M  
SORRY,  
I  
SHOULDN'T  
BE  
TELLING  
YOU  
THIS.  
YOU'VE  
GOT  
ENOUGH  
TO  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
WITH  
YOUR  
PREGNAN-  
CY.



OH, NO.  
I  
FEEL  
BETTER  
NOW  
ANYWAY.

CAN  
YOU  
HEAR  
MY  
BABY  
MOVING?

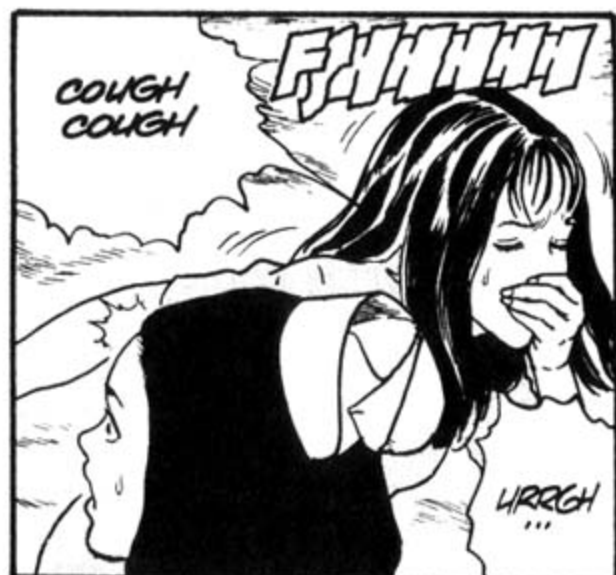
HE'S  
STARTED  
KICKING.

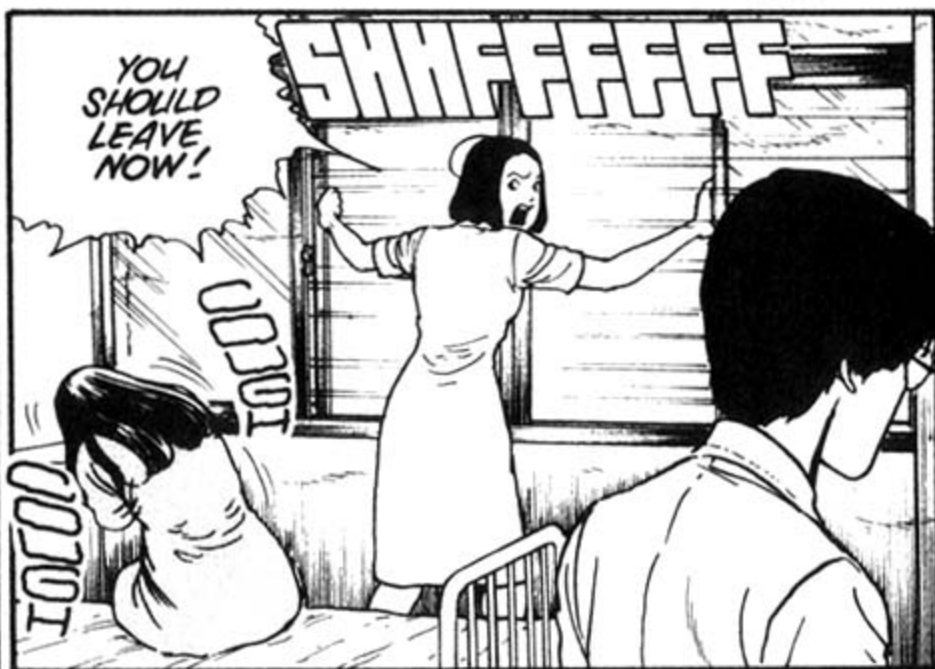
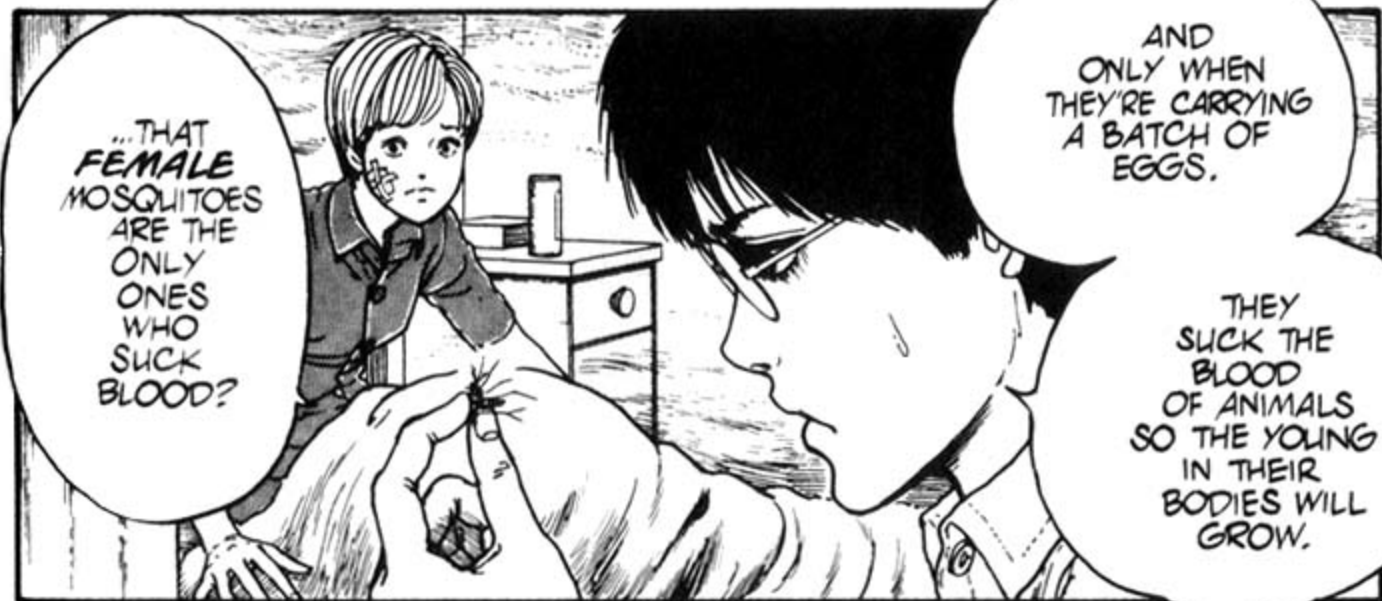


REALLY?  
CAN  
I  
FEEL?









THAT EVENING

KURÓZU HOSPITAL

WEEEEEEEEEE

THERE'S ANOTHER MOSQUITO IN THE ROOM.

BE CAREFUL IT DOESN'T STING YOU.

THANK YOU, BUT I'LL BE FINE.

I DON'T MIND MOSQUITOES.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU GOT SICK FROM BEING ATTACKED BY MOSQUITOES?

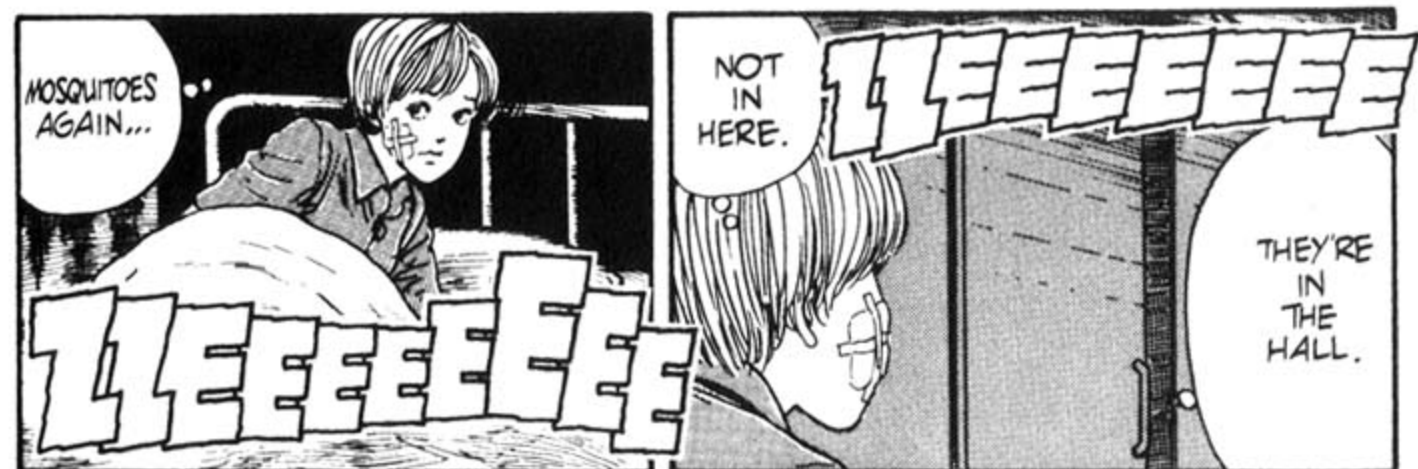
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT...

I LIKE MOSQUITOES ... I LOVE THEM...

HMM...

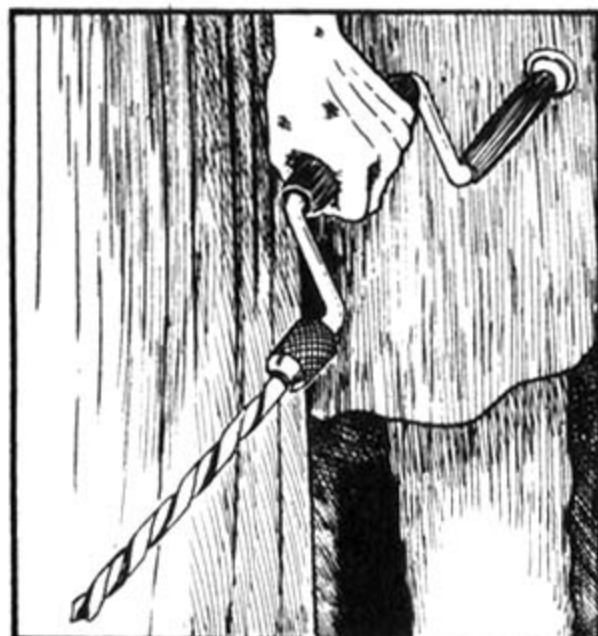
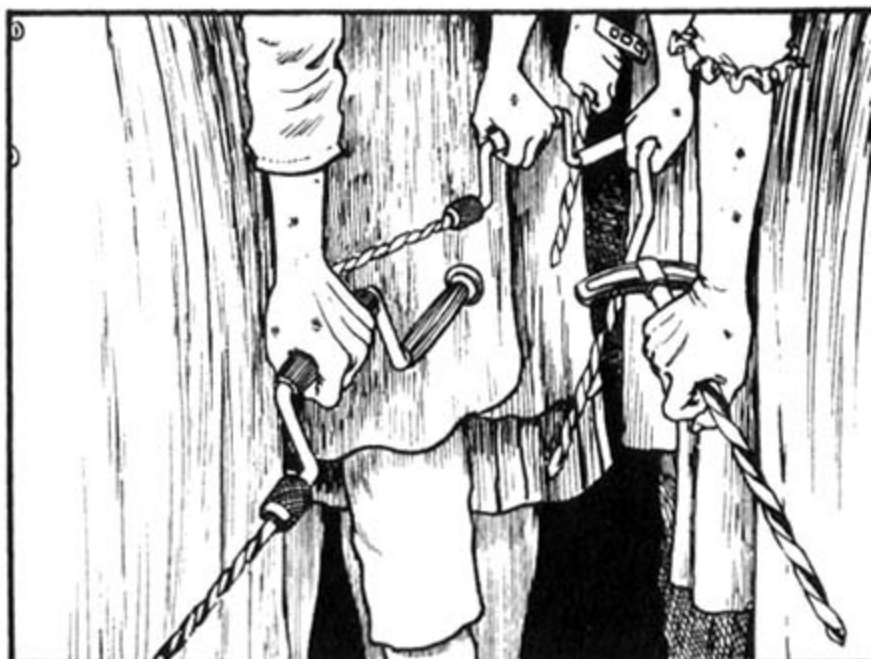
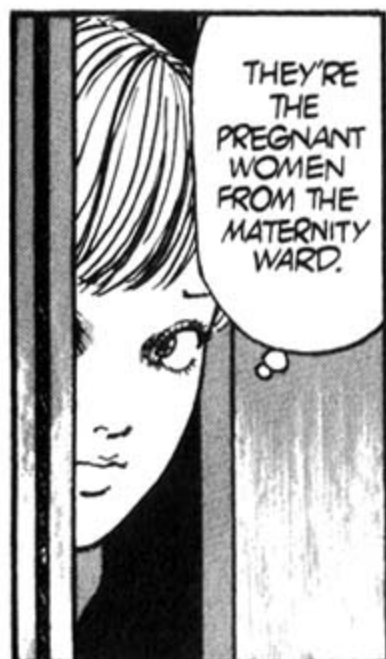
Zzz

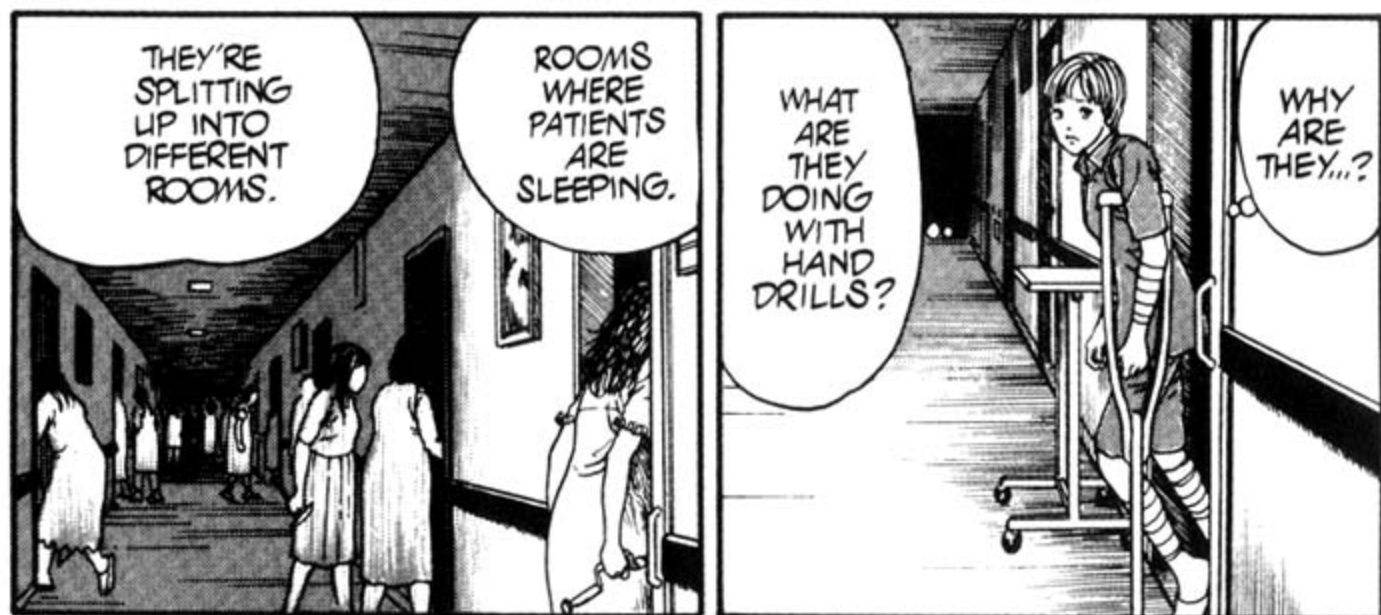
Zzz

















GET AWAY!



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?



GIVE US BLOOD





GIVE US BLOOD

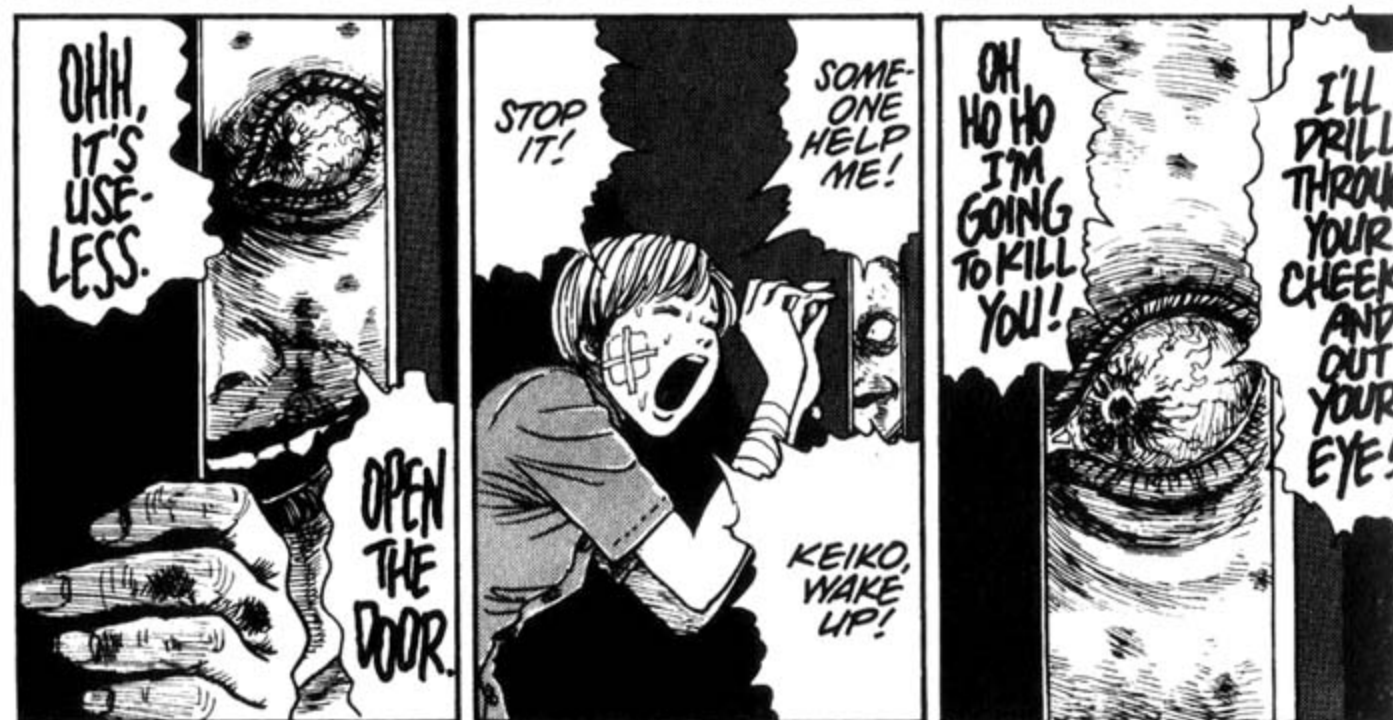
WAA!

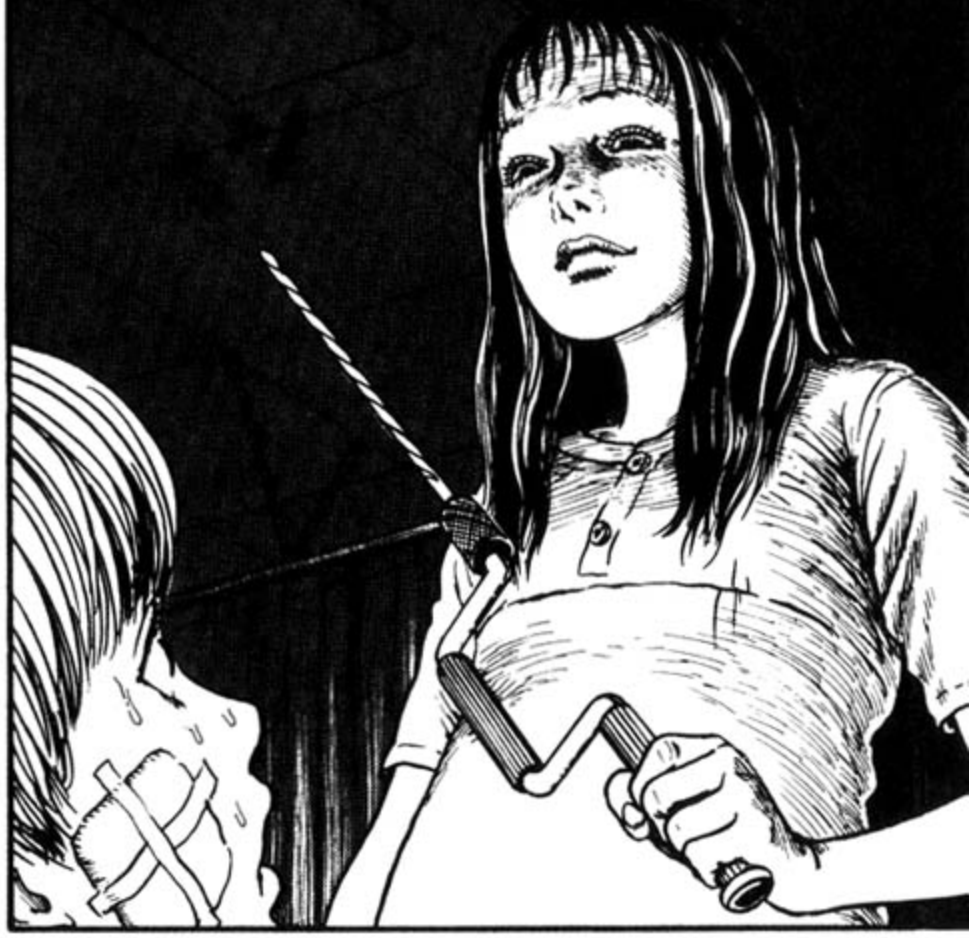


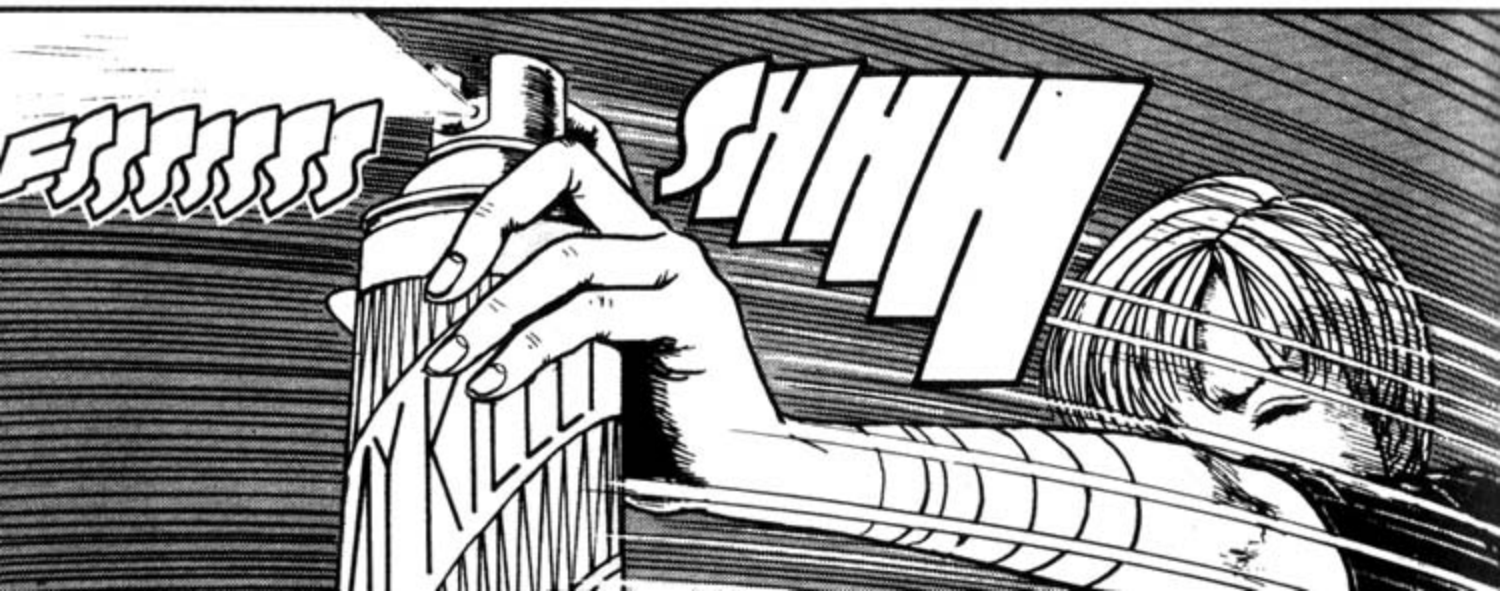














THE  
MASSACRE  
AT  
THE  
HOSPITAL  
...

KUROZU  
HOSPITAL

ALL  
TRACES  
OF THE  
DRILLS  
AND  
BLOOD-  
SOAKED  
GOWNS  
HAD DIS-  
APPEARED  
THE  
NEXT  
MORNING.

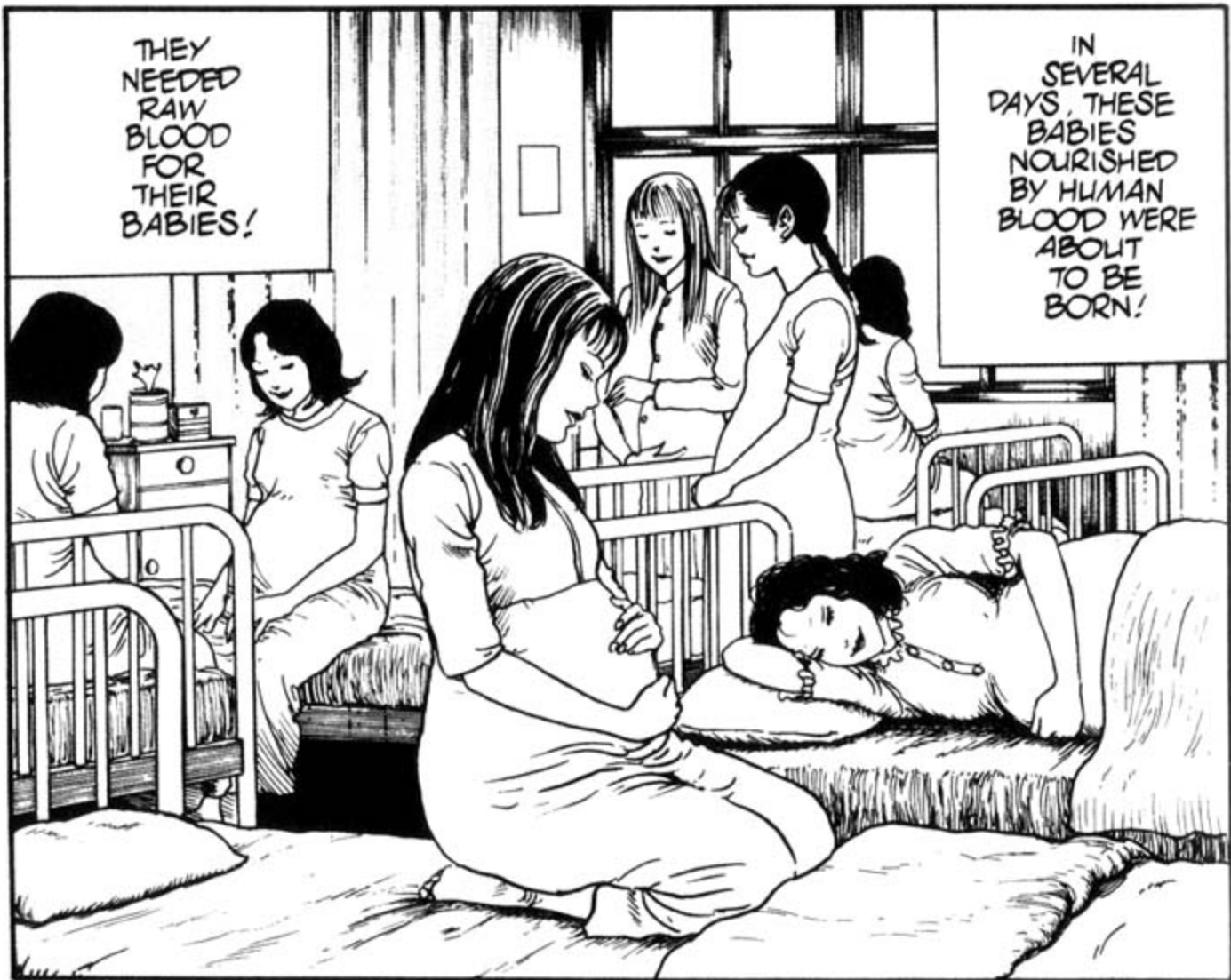
WEE

WHO  
WOULD  
BELIEVE  
IT WAS  
COMMITTED  
BY  
PREGNANT  
WOMEN?

I  
HATE  
TO  
THINK  
THAT  
THEIR  
HUSBANDS  
GOT  
RID  
OF THE  
EVIDENCE.

THEY  
NEEDED  
RAW  
BLOOD  
FOR  
THEIR  
BABIES!

IN  
SEVERAL  
DAYS, THESE  
BABIES  
NOURISHED  
BY HUMAN  
BLOOD WERE  
ABOUT  
TO BE  
BORN!



CHAPTER

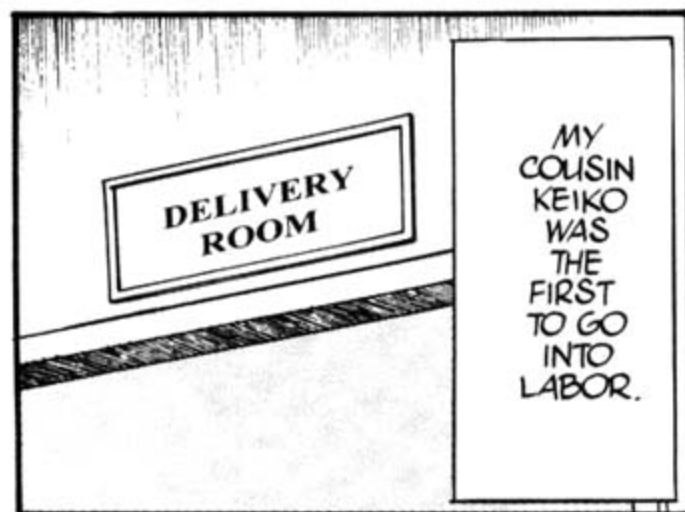
1 1

THE  
UMBILICAL  
CORD





THE PREGNANT WOMEN AT KUROZU HOSPITAL WERE APPROACHING THE LAST MONTH OF THEIR TERM.

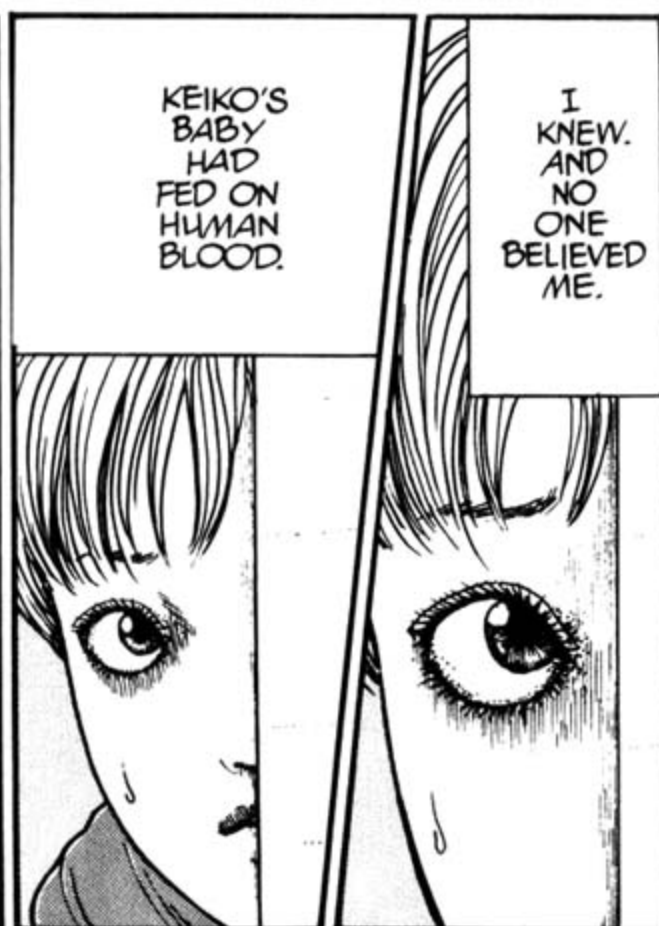


MY COUSIN KEIKO WAS THE FIRST TO GO INTO LABOR.



I WAS AFRAID TO WATCH.

EVERY PREGNANT WOMAN AT THE HOSPITAL HAD MURDERED PATIENTS AND DRANK THEIR BLOOD.



KEIKO'S BABY HAD FED ON HUMAN BLOOD.

I KNEW. AND NO ONE BELIEVED ME.



AFTER  
THE  
NIGHT  
OF  
THE  
MASSACRE  
...



I  
TOLD  
MY  
STORY  
TO  
THE  
DIRECTOR  
AND  
DR.  
KAWAMOTO,  
THE  
HEAD  
OF  
THE  
MATERNITY  
WARD.



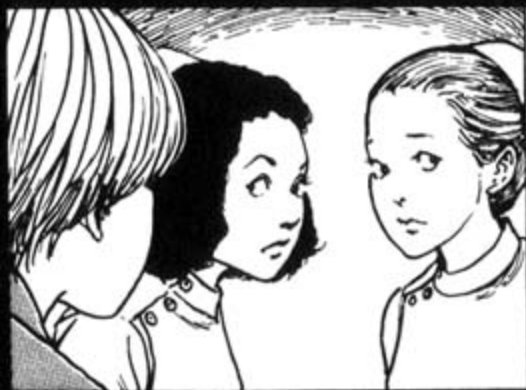
IT'S  
TRUE!  
THOSE  
WOMEN  
DID IT! IF  
WE DON'T DO  
SOMETHING,  
THEY'LL  
KILL  
AGAIN!



MISS  
GO-  
SHIMA  
... YOU  
MUST  
HAVE  
HAD  
A  
BAD  
DREAM.



NO  
ONE  
I  
TALKED  
TO  
BELIEVED  
ME.



THE  
MORE  
I  
INSISTED  
THE  
MORE  
THEY  
LOOKED  
AT  
ME  
LIKE  
I WAS  
CRAZY.

EVEN  
MY  
FAMILY  
WOULDN'T  
LISTEN.

KIRIE,  
THAT'S  
RIDICULOUS!

HOW  
COULD  
YOU  
ACCUSE  
KEIKO  
OF  
DOING  
SUCH  
A  
HORRIBLE  
THING?



I  
WAS  
COMPLETELY  
ALONE.



OF COURSE, THE PATIENTS WERE ALL TERRIFIED BECAUSE THE MURDERER WAS NEVER FOUND.



PERHAPS DUE TO THE MOUNTING POLICE INVESTIGATION, NO ONE ELSE WAS ATTACKED AFTERWARDS.

BUT IT WASN'T OVER.

THEY STILL DRANK BLOOD IN SECRET.

ONCE I CAUGHT ONE OF THEM.

AH?

I HEARD A STRANGE SOUND COMING FROM THE BATHROOM.

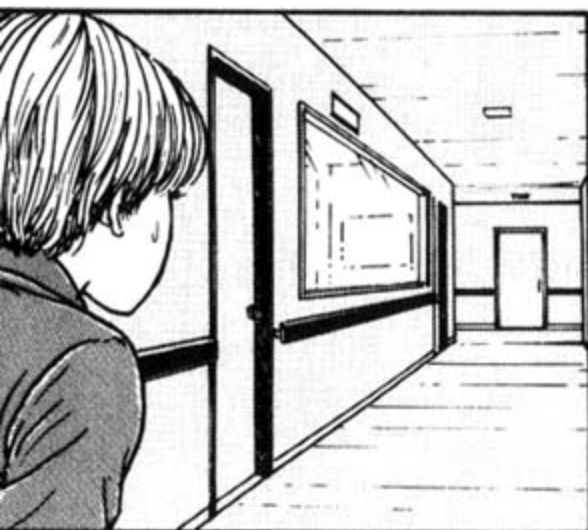
SHOCK

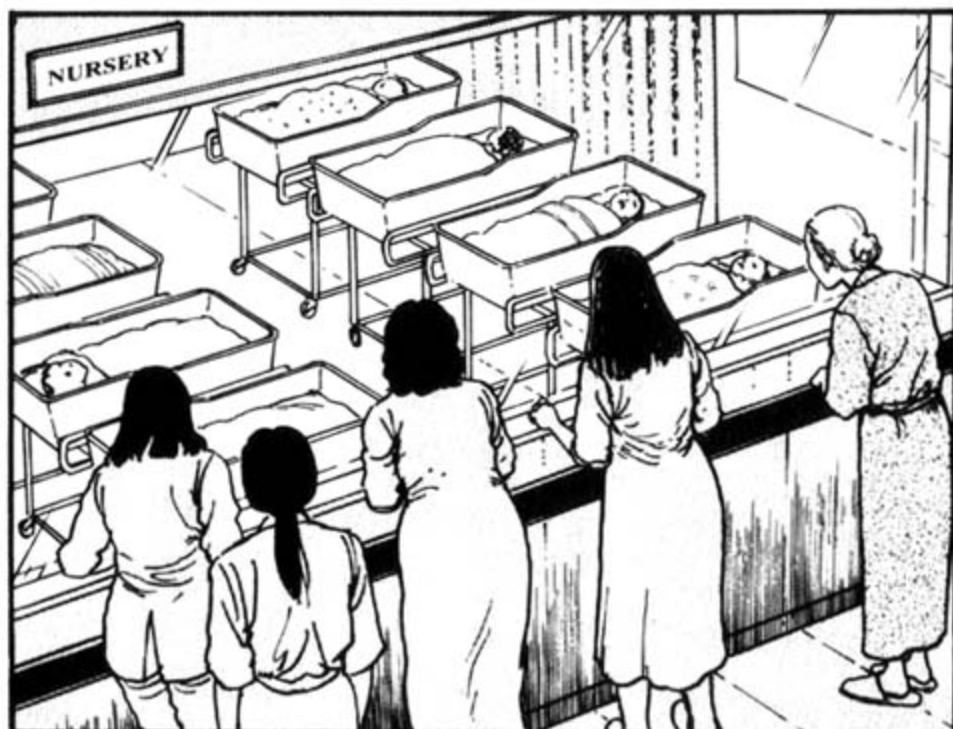
IT WAS KEIKO.

YOU SAW...

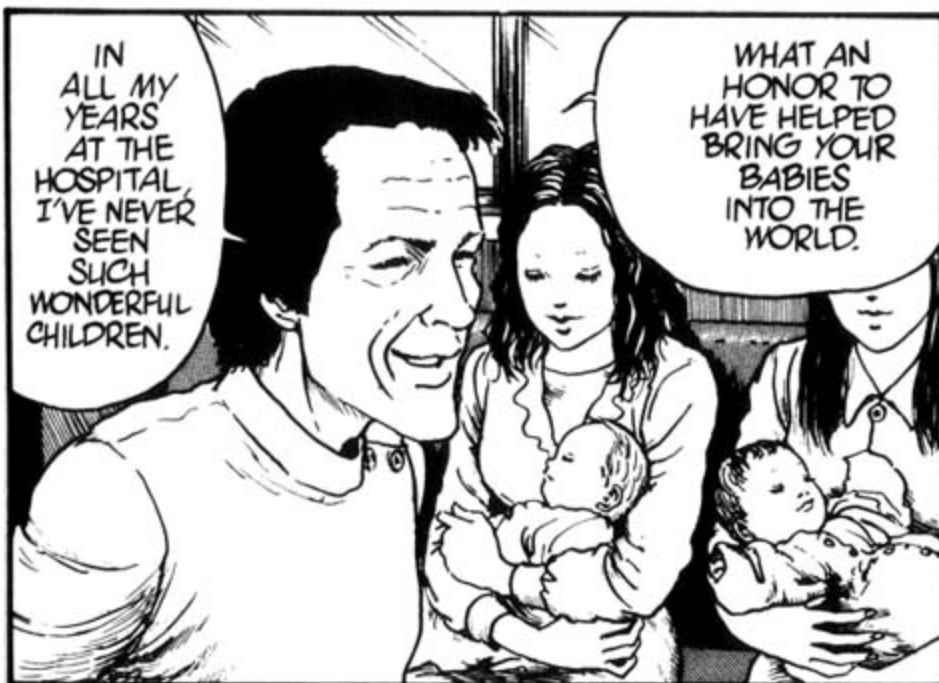


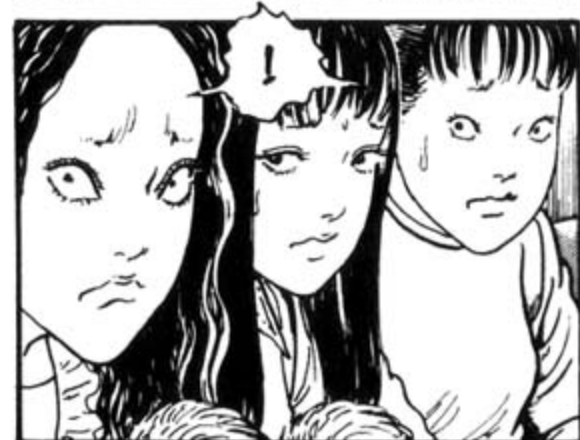
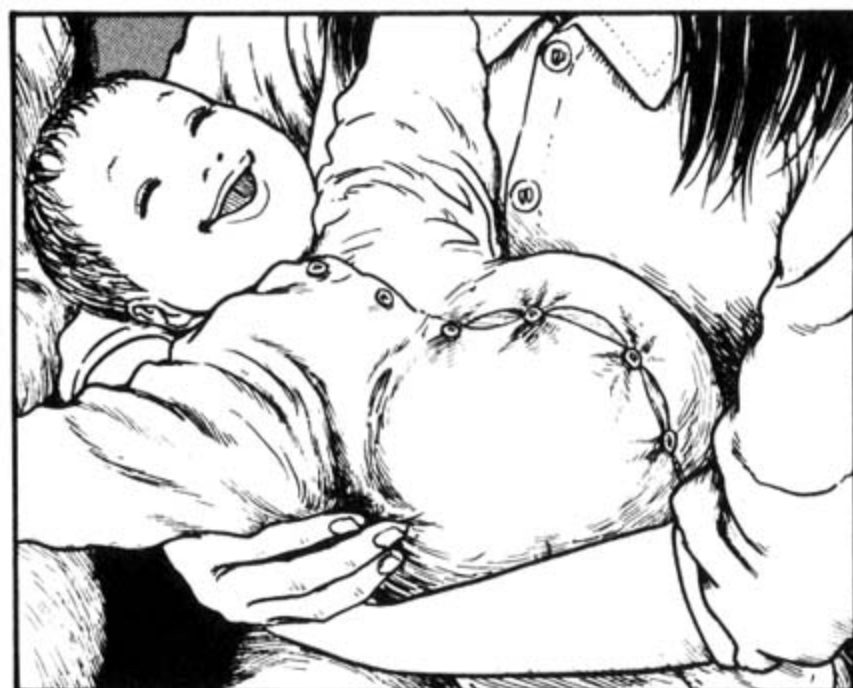
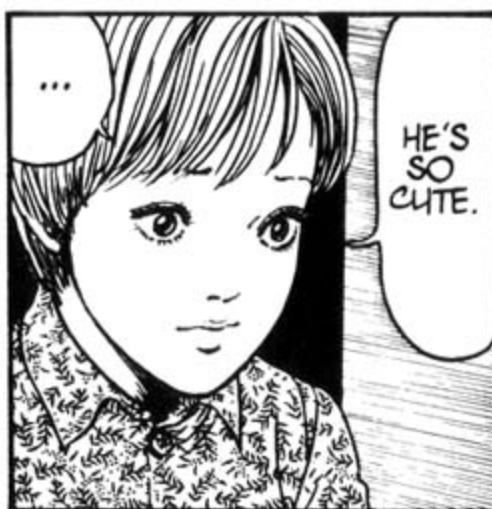
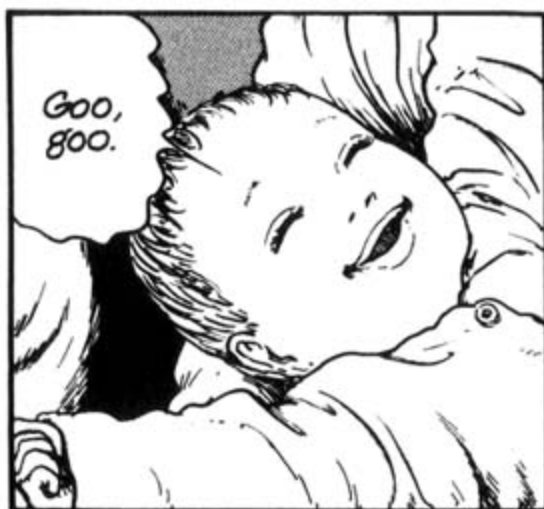
















THEY'RE  
ALL  
THE  
SAME.



Oh...  
Oh,  
THAT.  
IT'S  
NOTHING.

THEY'RE  
JUST  
WEARING  
BELLY  
BANDS.



BUT  
THEY  
LOOK  
SWOLLEN.



URR

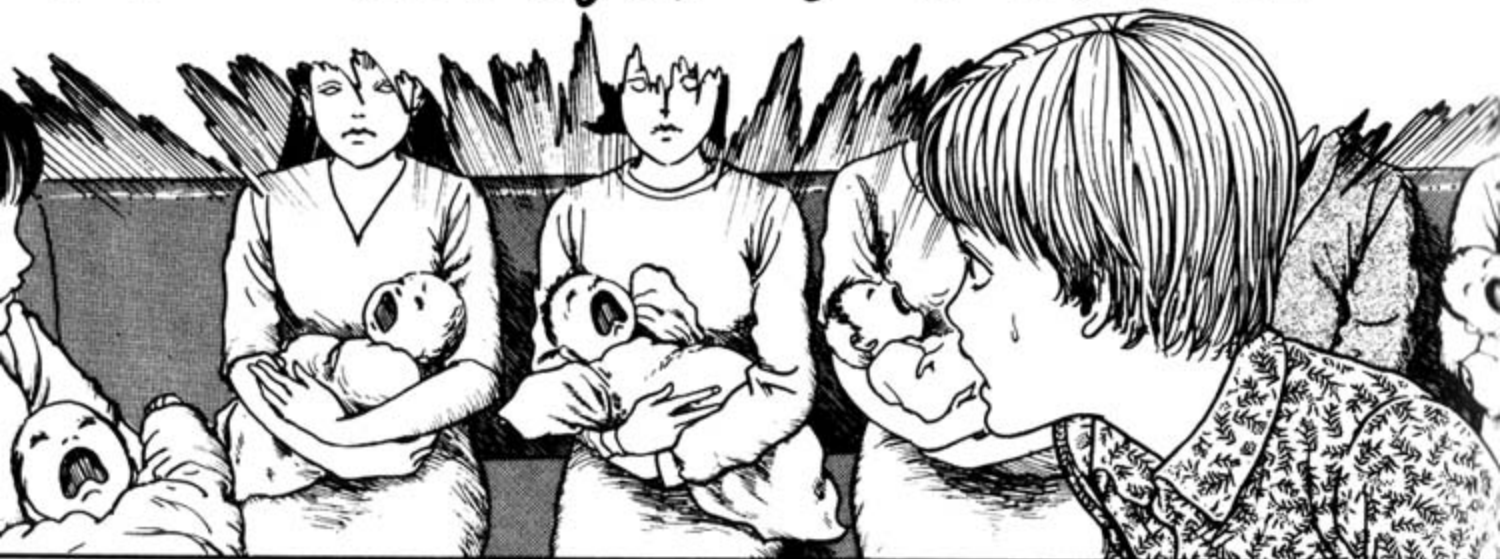


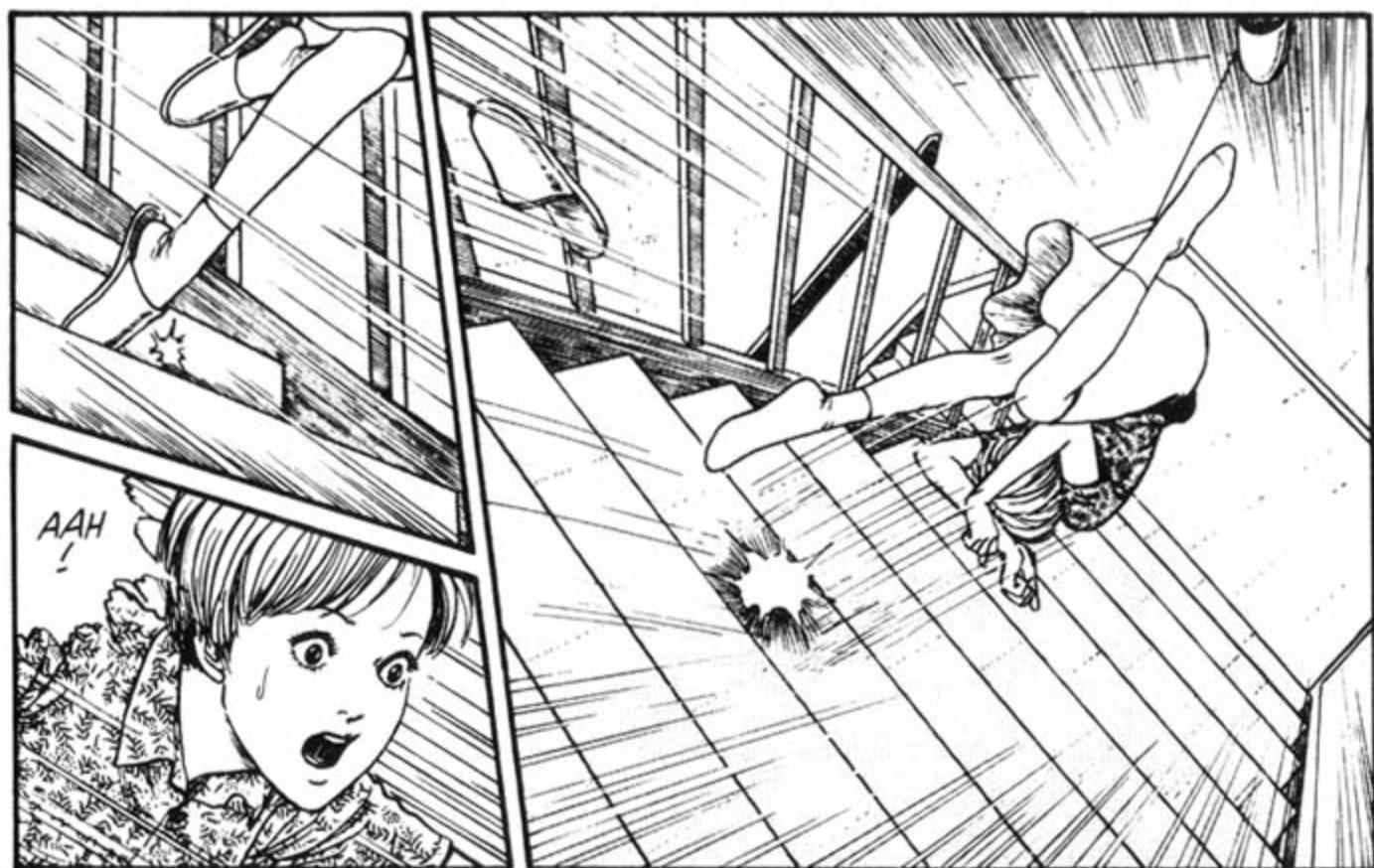
WHAT?



AAMPHAAA!

AAAWWAAAAH!

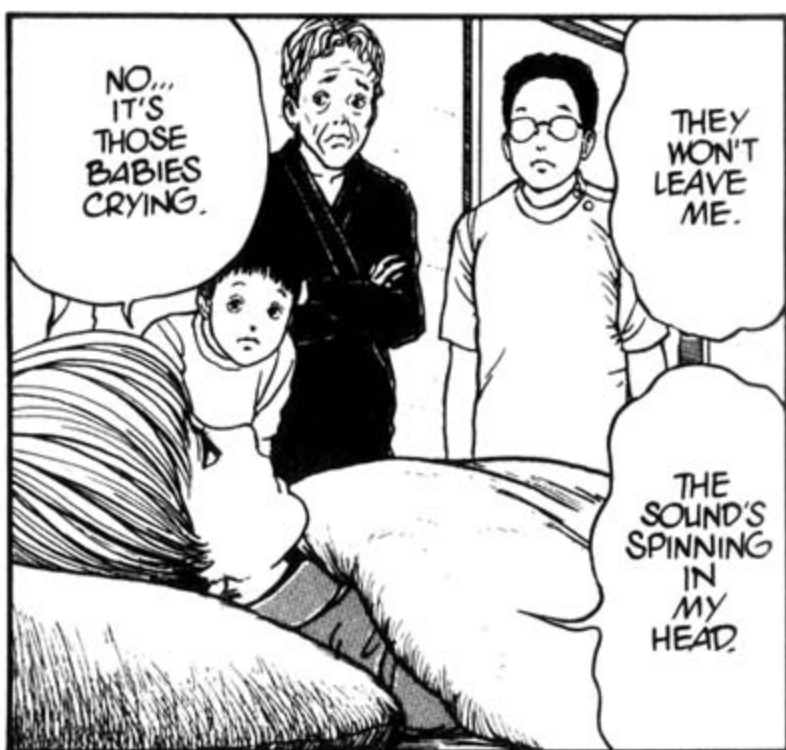






DOC-  
TOR...  
IT'S  
NOT MY  
LEG  
THAT  
HURTS...  
IT'S MY  
EARS.

THEY  
JUST  
KEEP ON  
RINGING.



NO...  
IT'S  
THOSE  
BABIES  
CRYING.

THEY  
WON'T  
LEAVE  
ME.

THE  
SOUND'S  
SPINNING  
IN  
MY  
HEAD.



YOUR  
EARS  
?

WAS  
IT  
FROM  
THE  
FALL  
?

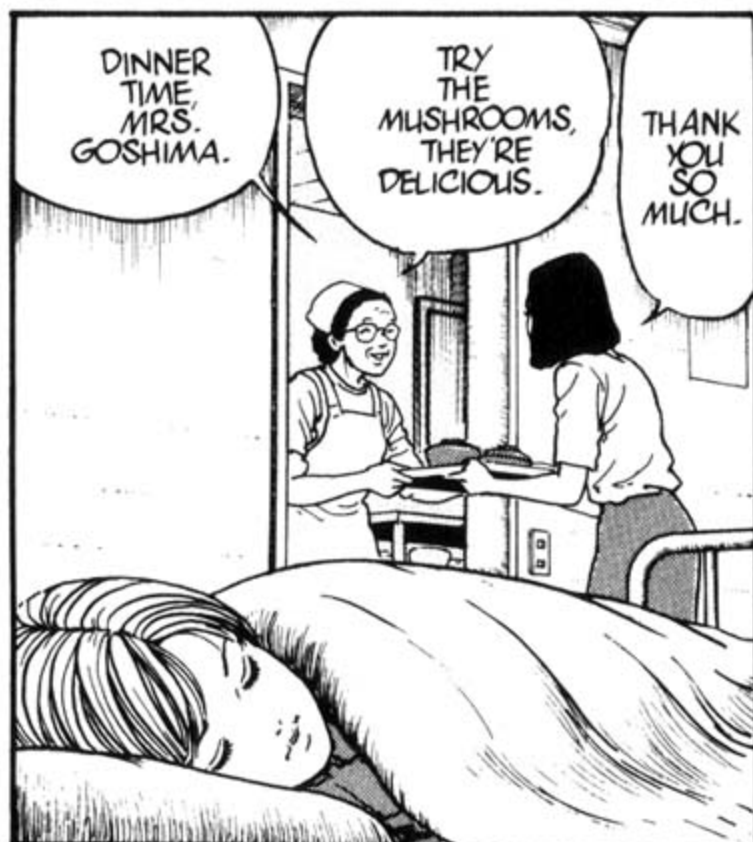


KIRIE  
?

ARE  
YOU  
REALLY  
ALL  
RIGHT  
?



KREEK  
KREEK



DINNER  
TIME,  
MRS.  
GOSHIMA.

TRY  
THE  
MUSHROOMS,  
THEY'RE  
DELICIOUS.

THANK  
YOU  
SO  
MUCH.



CAN  
YOU  
GET  
UP?

YES...





WHAT'S THIS?

MUSH-ROOMS?



MUNCH  
MUNCH



Ur...



ARE THESE REALLY MUSH-ROOMS?

THEY TASTE LIKE MEAT.

DON'T BE SO FUSSY WITH YOUR FOOD.



THE STRANGE FUNGUS BECAME A REGULAR INGREDIENT IN THE HOSPITAL MEALS.

I NEVER ATE THEM.



THANK YOU!

WHAT ARE THESE MUSHROOMS? THEY'RE SO GOOD!





THOSE MUSHROOMS ARE SO TASTY!

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE CALLED.



THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD FOR YOU.

THAT'S WHAT DOCTOR KAWAMOTO SAID.



Oh, THEY DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TO EAT THEM!

I JUST CAN'T STOP!

I CAN'T GET ENOUGH! I WANT MORE!

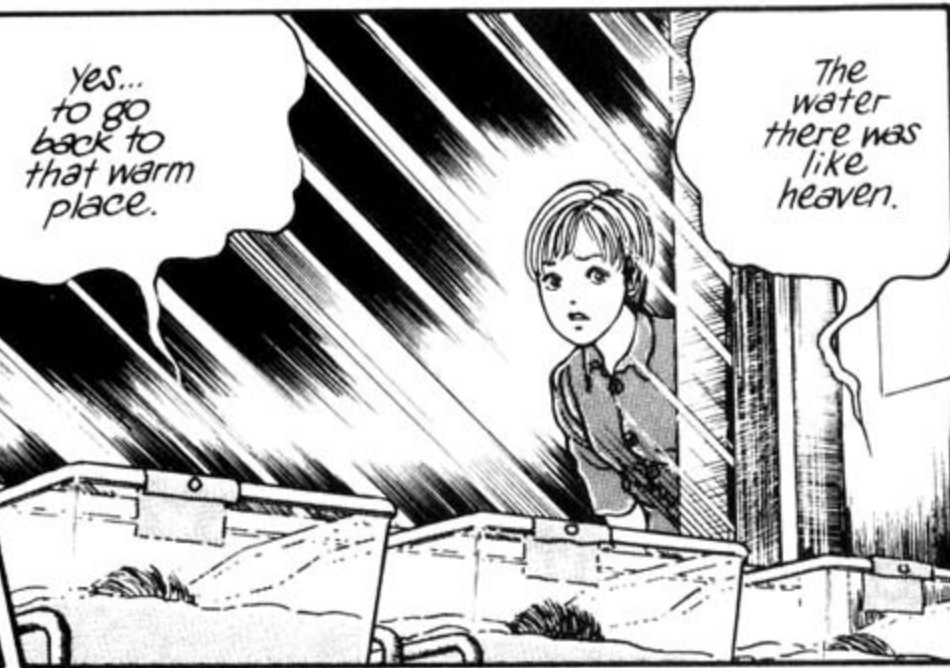


I DON'T FEEL GOOD.

MY EARS ARE STILL RINGING...



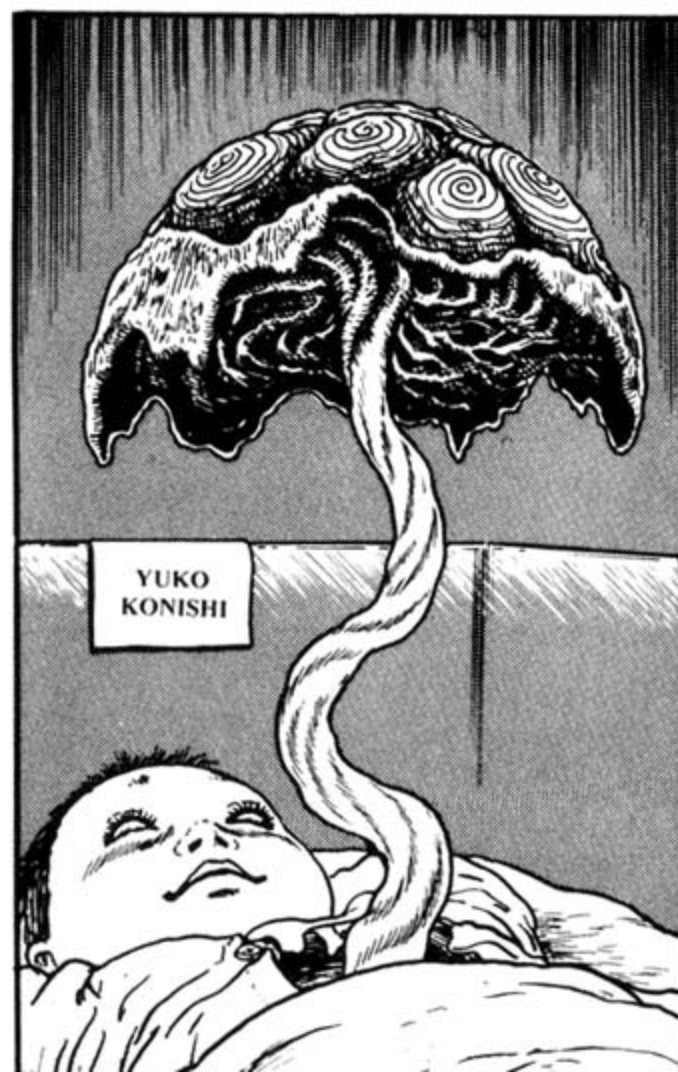
Mmr Mrmr...



YUKO KONISHI

MADA





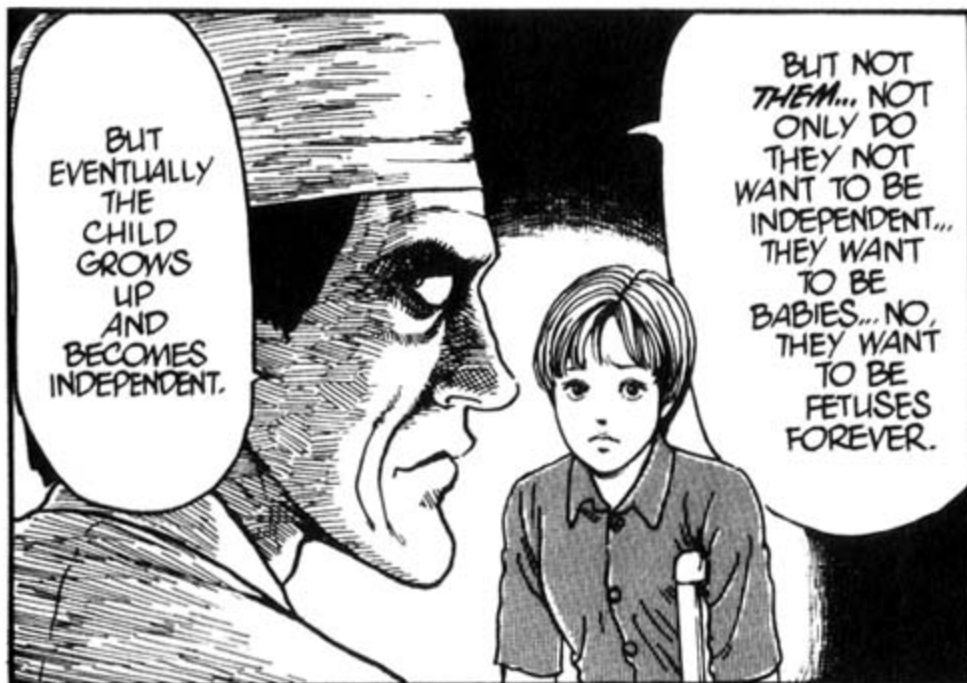










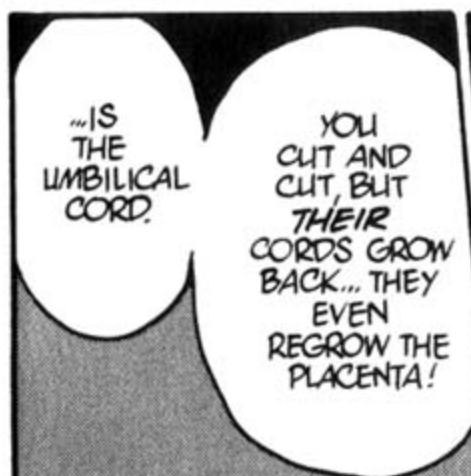


BUT EVENTUALLY THE CHILD GROWS UP AND BECOMES INDEPENDENT.

BUT NOT THEM... NOT ONLY DO THEY NOT WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT... THEY WANT TO BE BABIES... NO, THEY WANT TO BE FETUSES FOREVER.

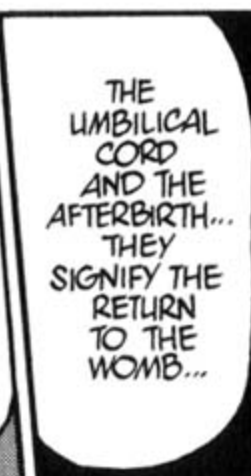


THE PROOF OF THAT...



...IS THE UMBILICAL CORD.

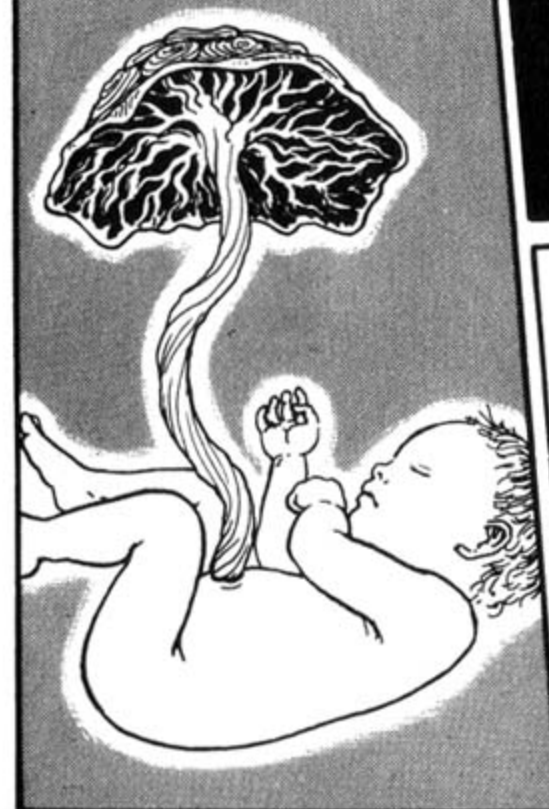
YOU CUT AND CUT, BUT THEIR CORDS GROW BACK... THEY EVEN REGROW THE PLACENTA!



THE UMBILICAL CORD AND THE AFTERBIRTH... THEY SIGNIFY THE RETURN TO THE WOMB...



THOSE SWEET CHILDREN WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR MOTHERS' WOMBS!



DOC-TOR ...

SO THESE MUSH-ROOMS...



THAT'S RIGHT.

THEY'RE NOT MUSH-ROOMS.



AFTER WE DELIVERED THE BABIES, THESE ORGANS SPROUTED ON THEIR OWN.

THE PLACENTAS TOOK ROOT WHERE WE DROPPED THEM. EVERY BIT OF TISSUE STARTED TO GROW.



AND NOW...

AND NOW JUST LOOK AT THEM!



I HAD TO TASTE ONE.



AS A DOCTOR, YOU SEE.

AND IT WAS DELICIOUS! IT REVITALIZED ME!



IT'S NATURAL WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT. ALL LIFE SPRINGS FROM THE PLACENTA AND UMBILICAL CORD.

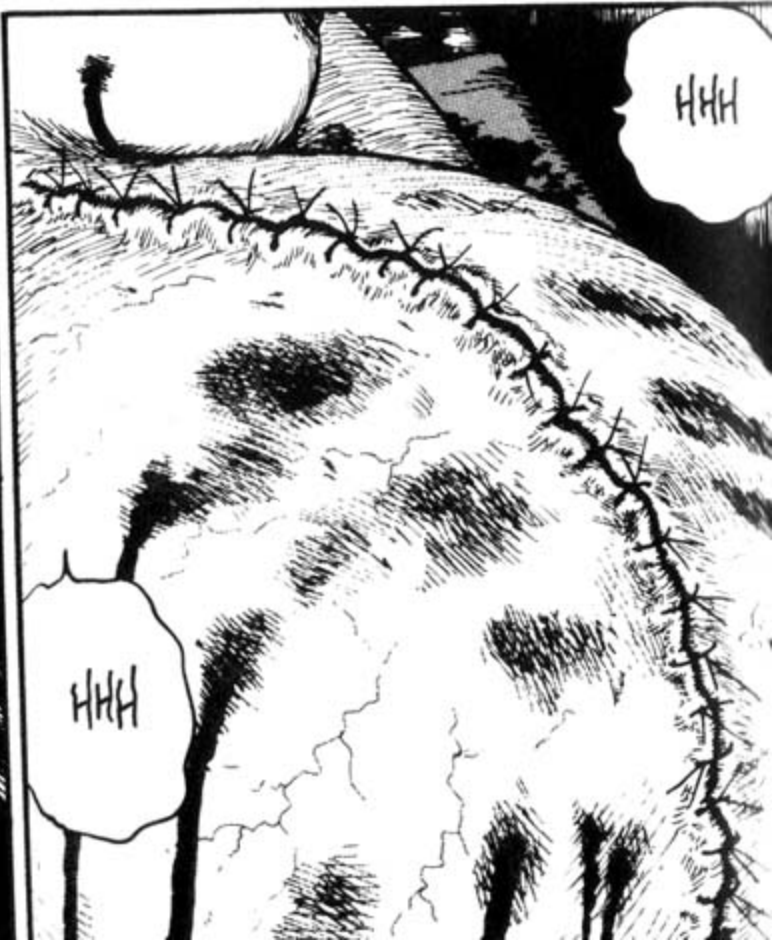
IF IT WAS FED TO THE SICK, WOULDN'T THEY GET BETTER?



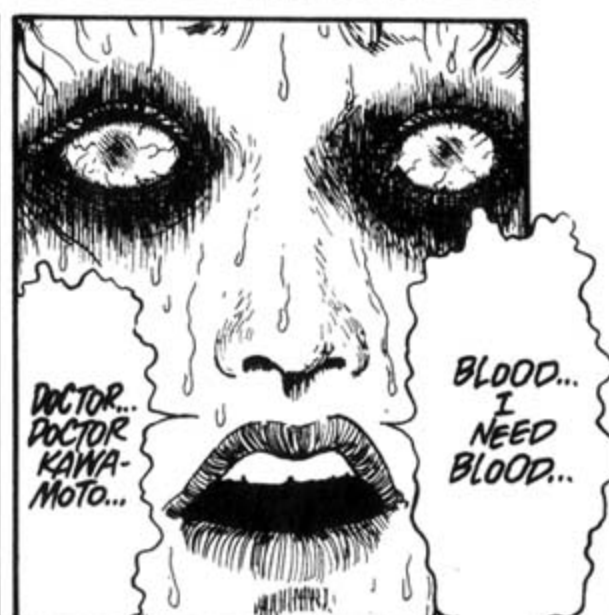
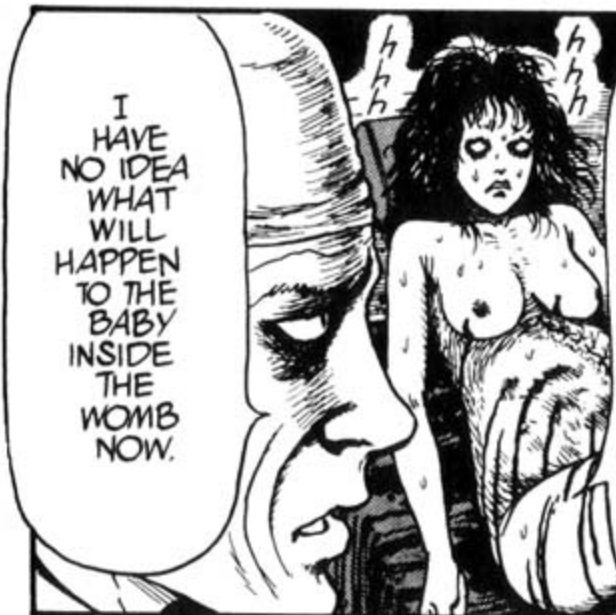
D-DOCTOR!





















PLEASE HELP ME!

LOOK HOW MANY THERE ARE!

LET'S EAT!



SHUWA



I ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

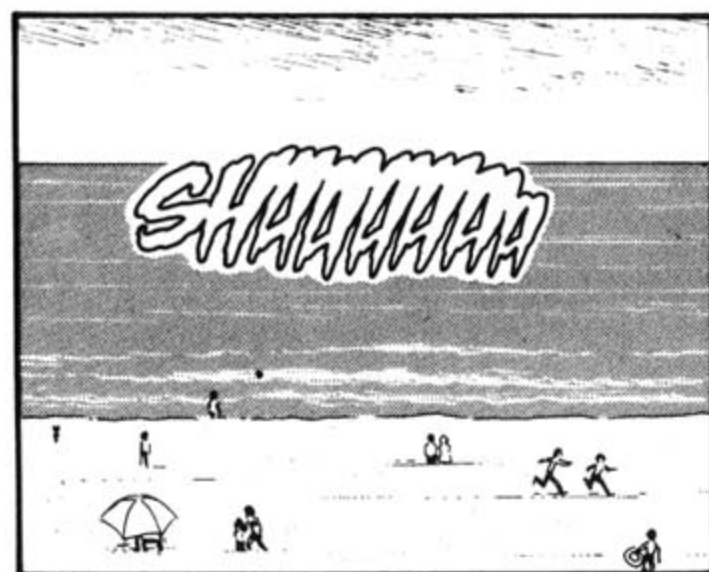
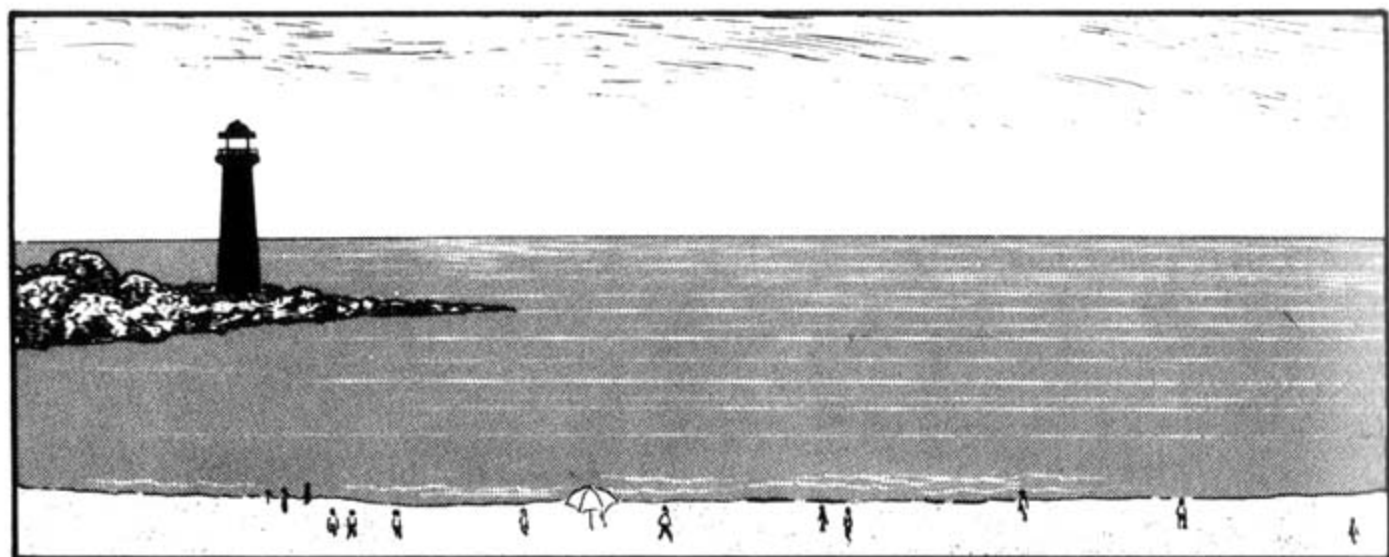
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED THERE. I WASN'T ABOUT TO GO BACK TO FIND OUT.

CHAPTER

12

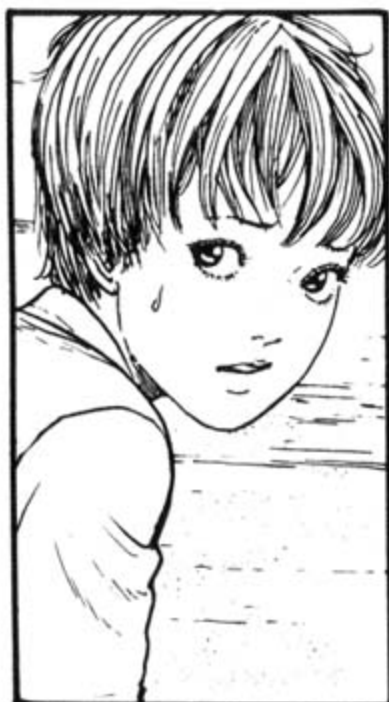
THE  
STORM

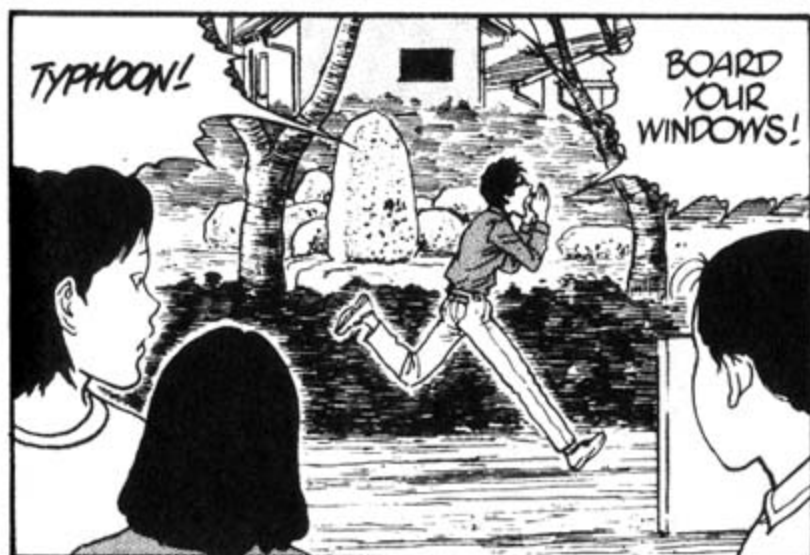
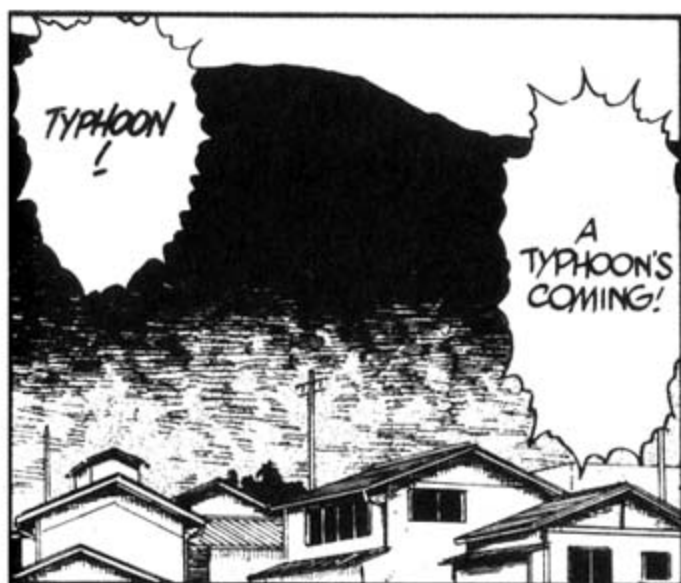




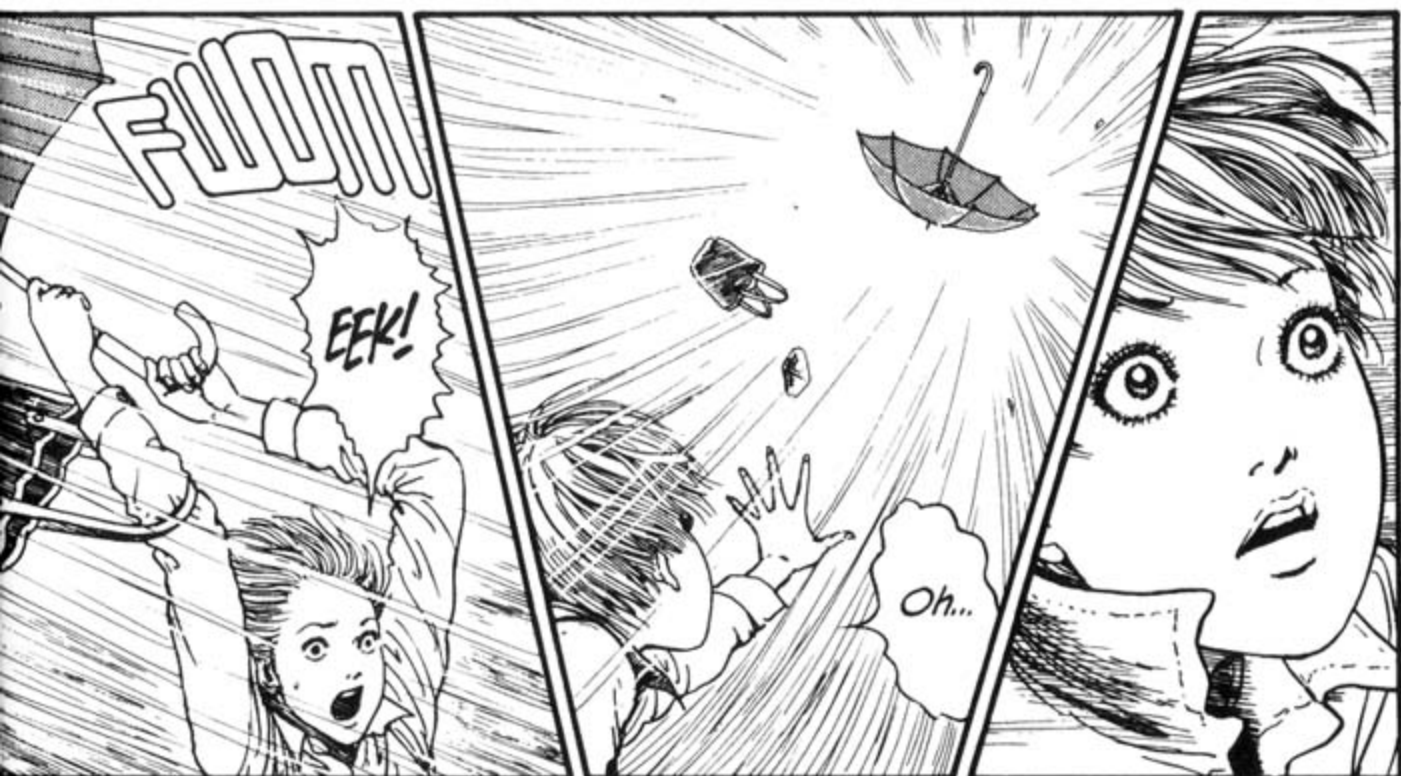
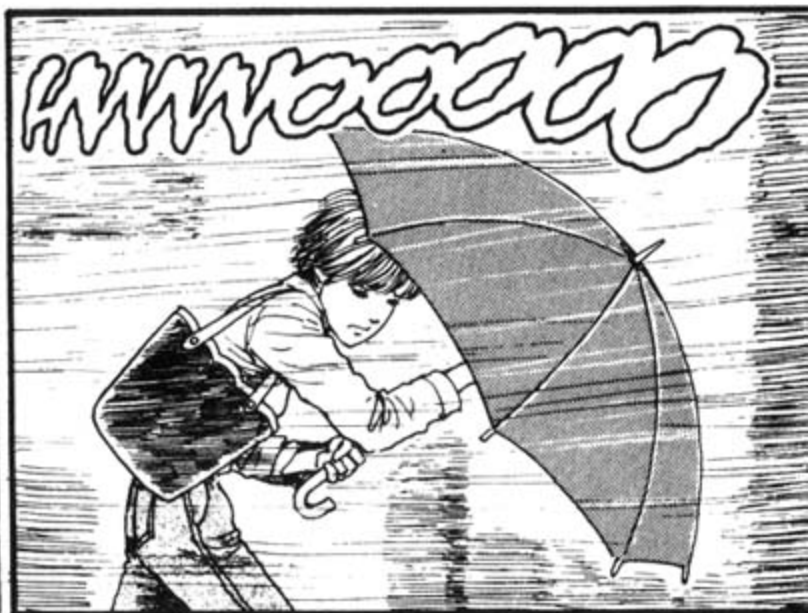
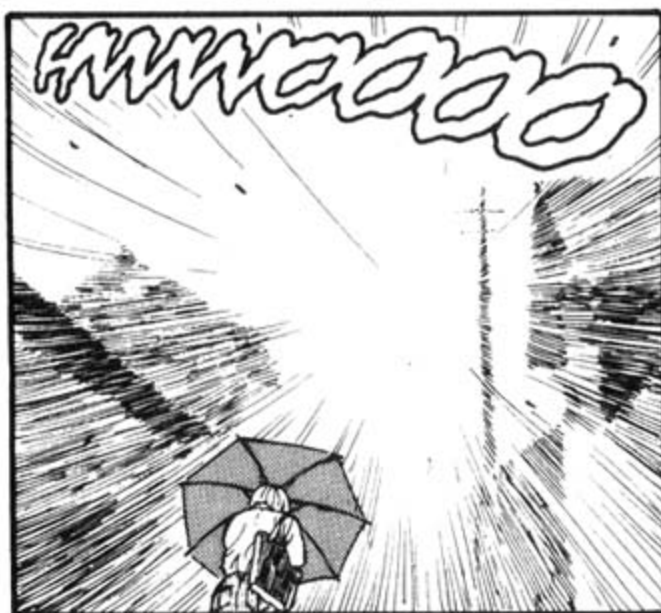


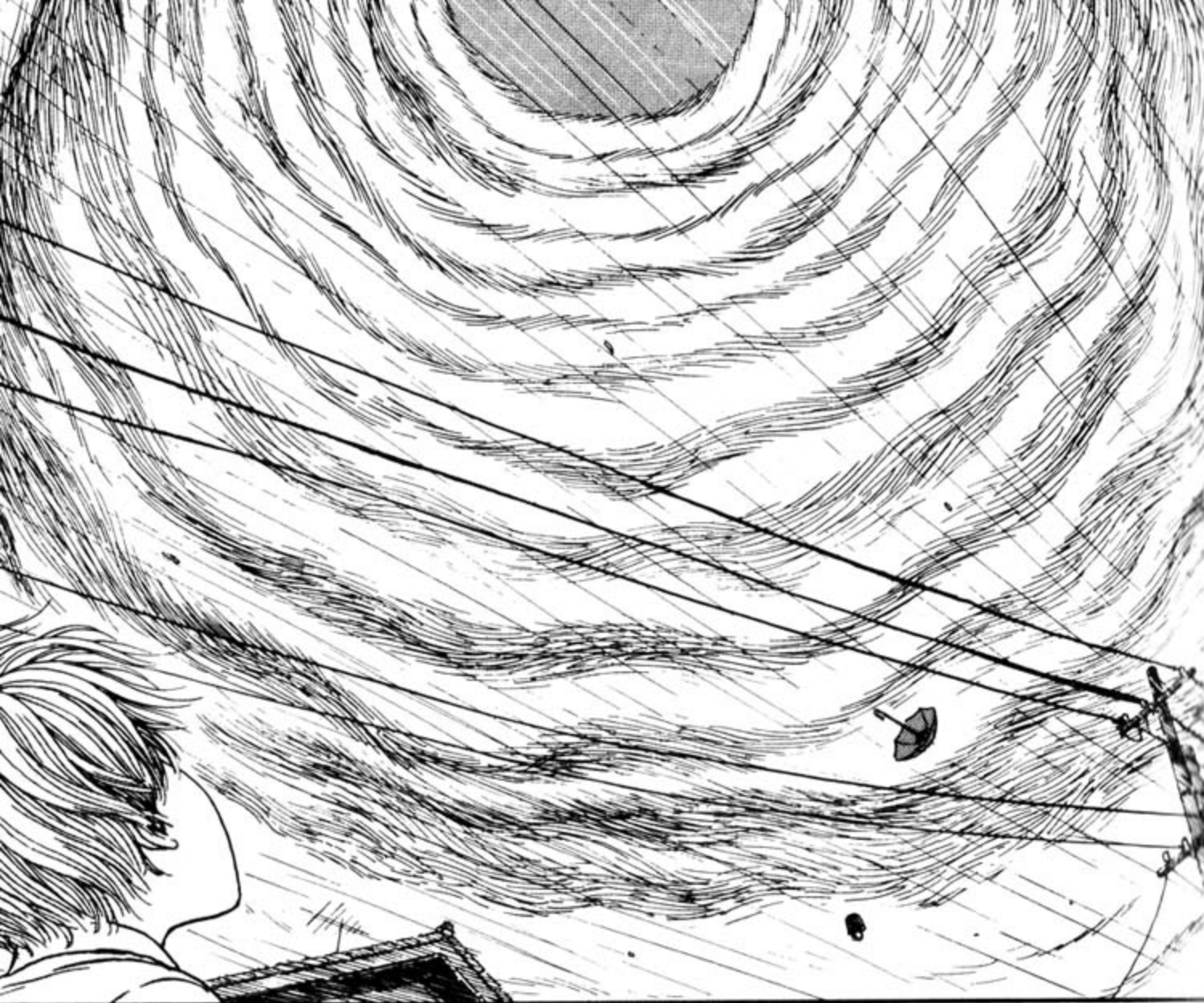










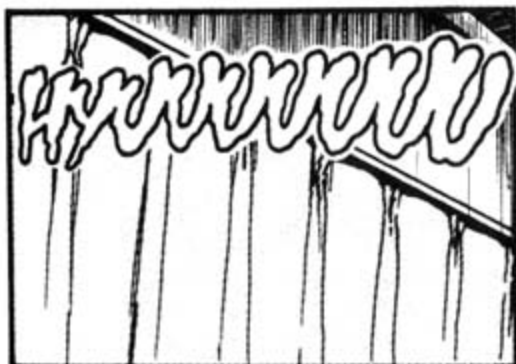
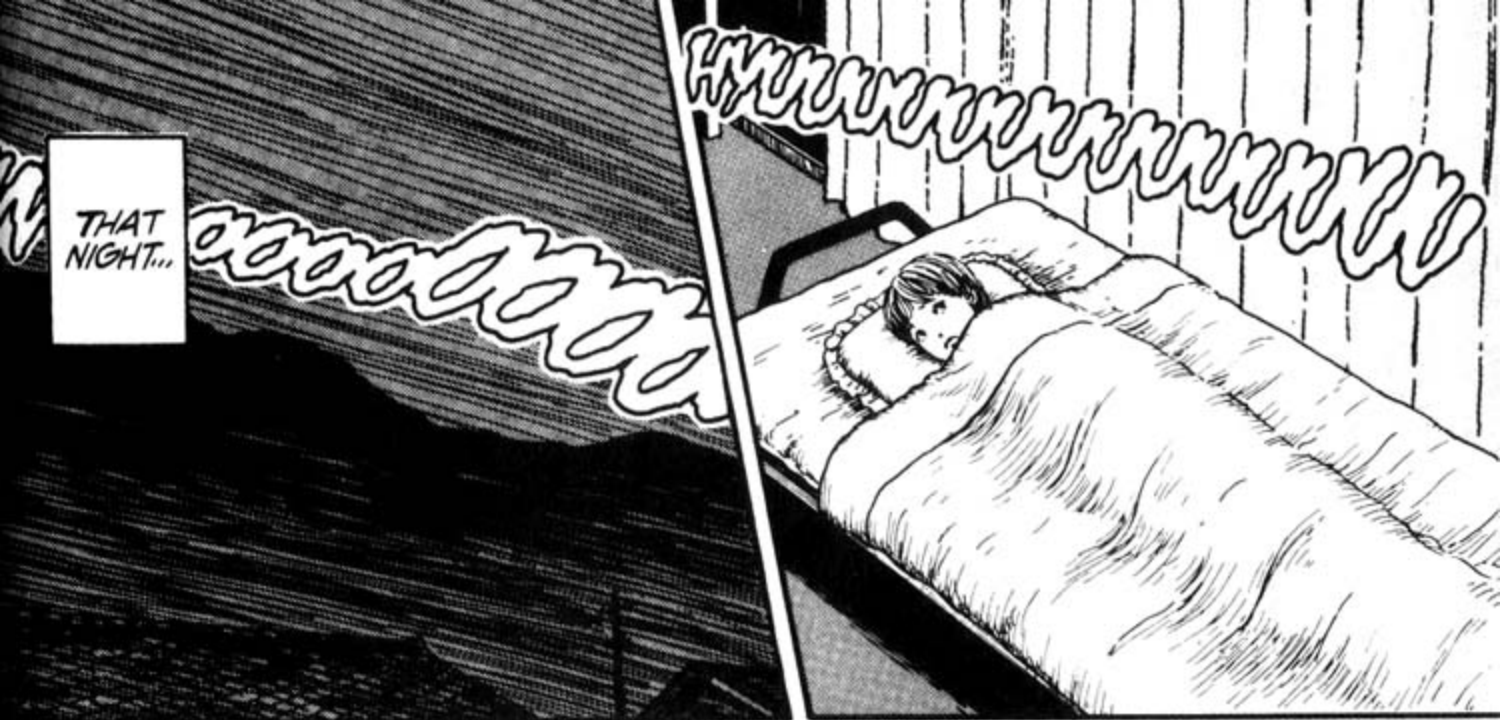


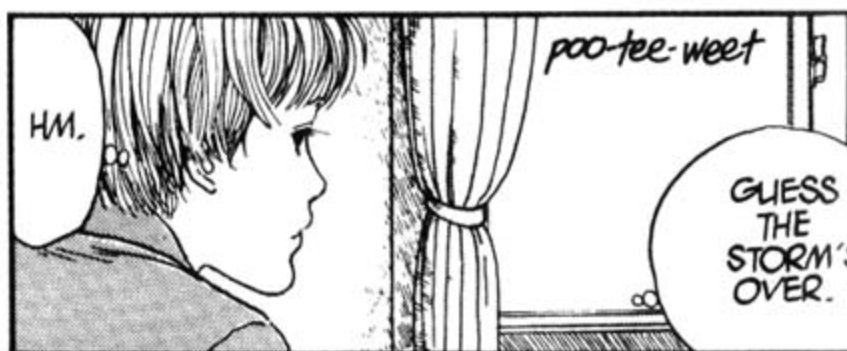
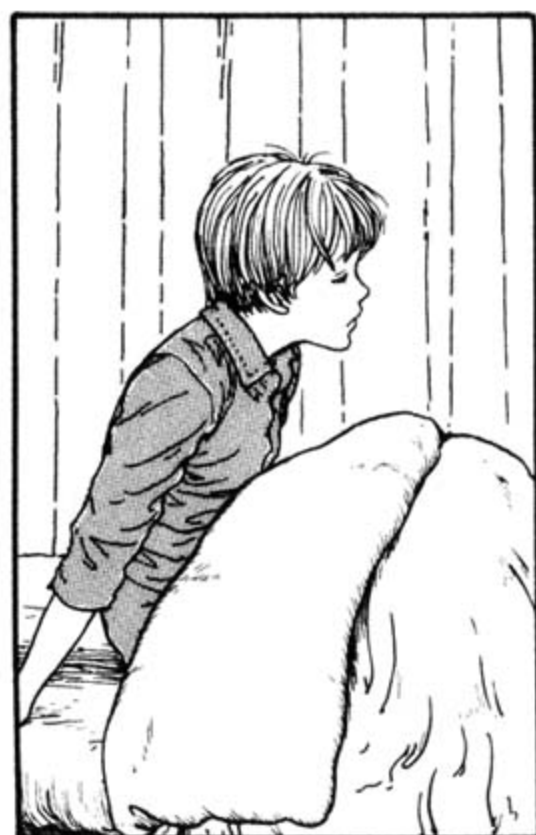
IS THAT...

...THE EYE OF THE STORM?



THAT NIGHT...









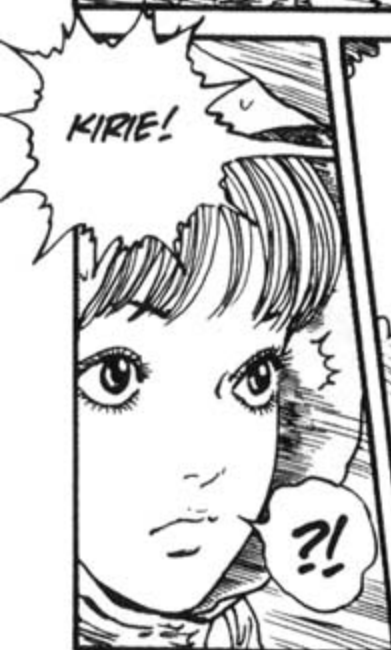




THIS IS NOW THE SECOND DAY THAT HURRICANE NO. 1 HAS REMAINED STATIONARY OVER KURÖZU-CHO, WHERE IT STRUCK THE COAST YESTERDAY AFTER-NOON.

METEOROLOGISTS HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS PHENOMENON. WE BRING YOU NOW TO...





KIRIE!

?!  
SHUICHI?

WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
DOING JUST  
WALKING  
AROUND?

SHUICHI?



I  
BROUGHT  
YOUR  
DINNER.

YOU  
IDIOT!



CAN'T  
YOU SEE  
THE EYE OF  
THE STORM?  
THE CENTER  
OF THOSE  
SWIRLING  
CLOUDS?

THAT  
GIANT  
SPIRAL  
EYE...



...IS  
WATCHING  
YOU!



WHAT?!



THAT'S  
RIDICU-  
LOUS.



DIDN'T  
YOU  
HEAR  
THE  
WIND  
LAST  
NIGHT?

THE  
VOICE  
OF THE  
STORM  
WAS  
CALLING  
YOUR  
NAME!



WHAT  
?!

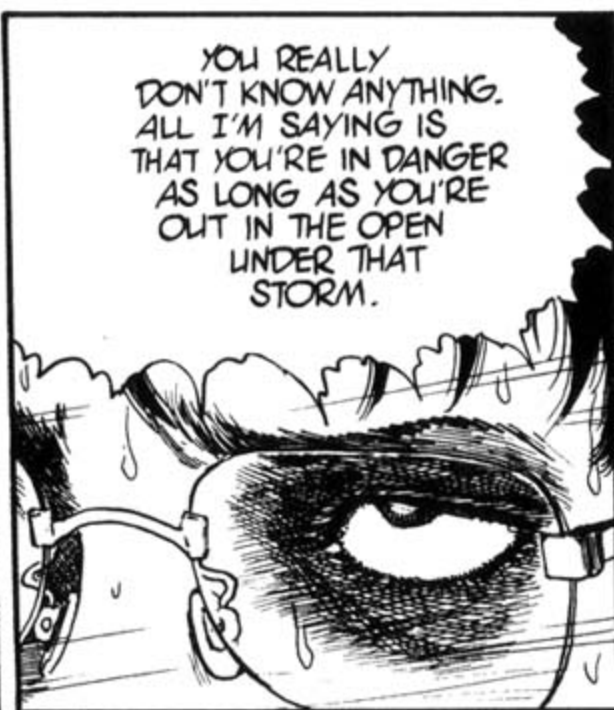


SOUNDS  
LIKE IT'S  
TAKEN  
QUITE A  
FANCY  
TO YOU.

I  
THINK  
I MAY  
HAVE  
A  
RIVAL.



TH-THAT  
CAN'T  
BE...



YOU REALLY  
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.  
ALL I'M SAYING IS  
THAT YOU'RE IN DANGER  
AS LONG AS YOU'RE  
OUT IN THE OPEN  
UNDER THAT  
STORM.



# SHREEEOW!

AIEEEE!

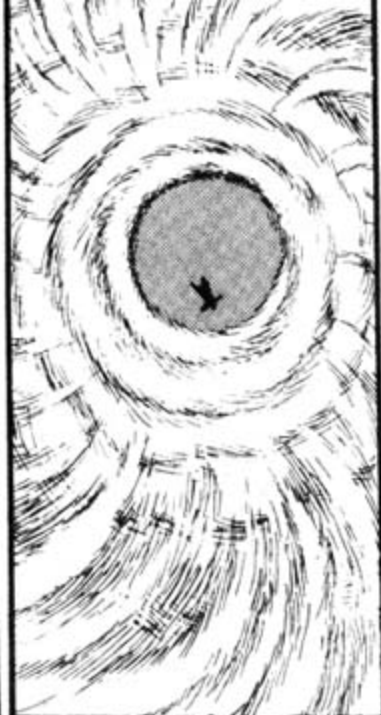
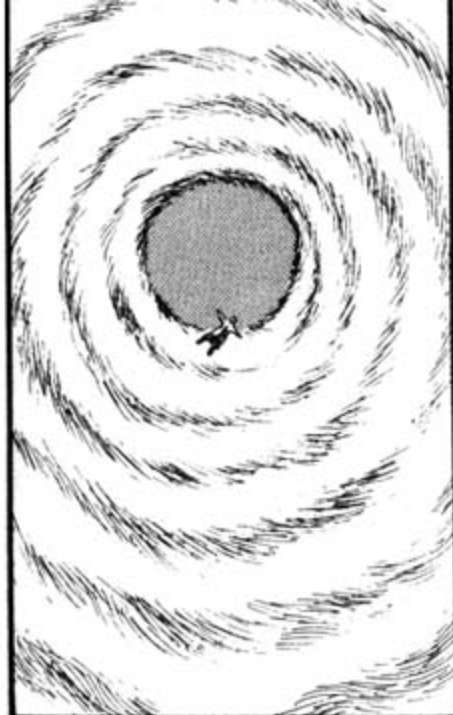






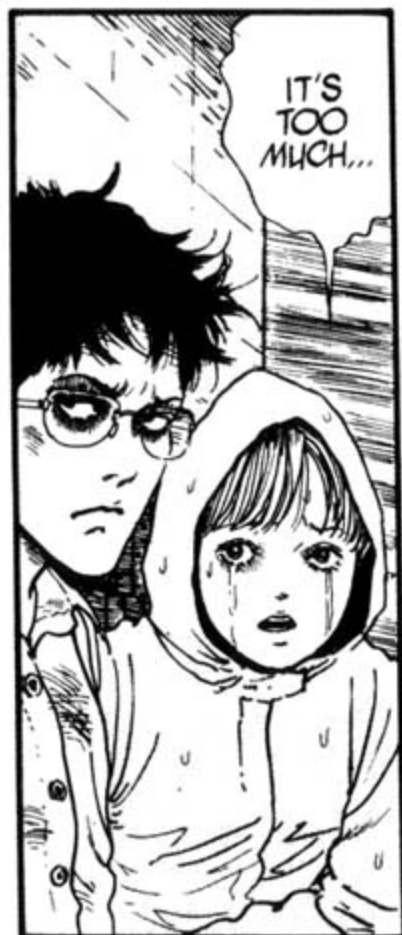
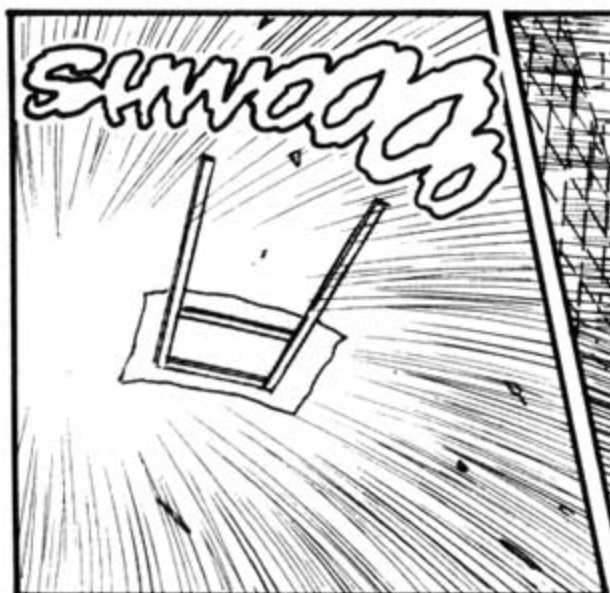


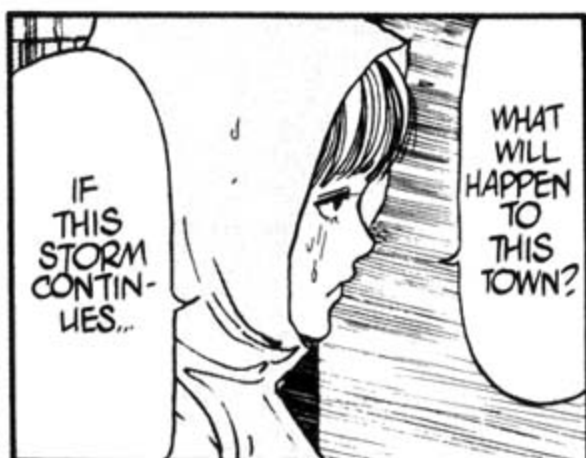


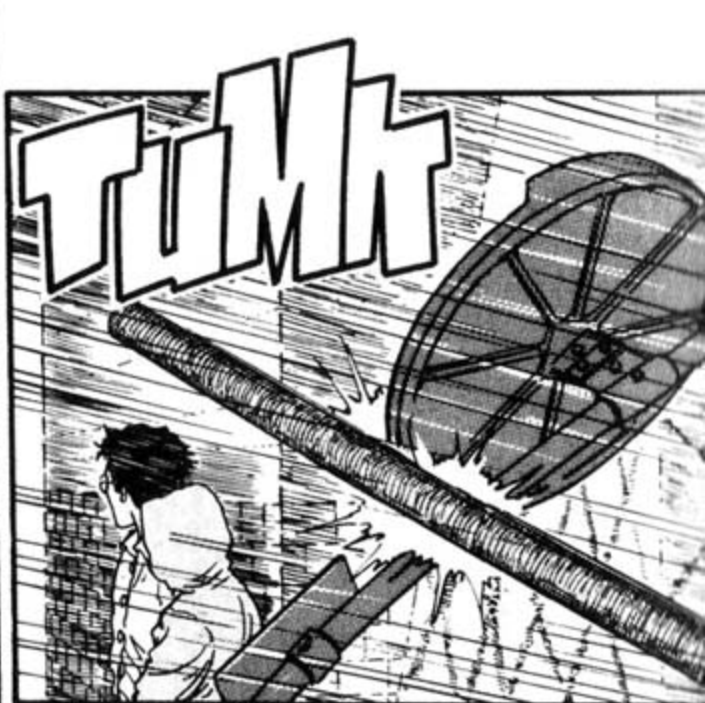




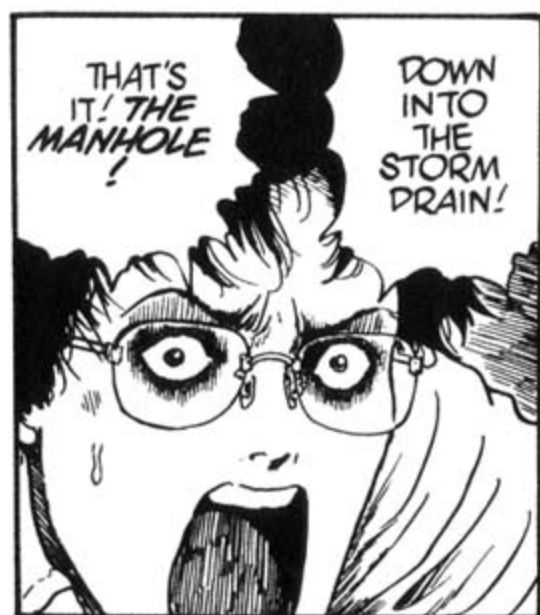






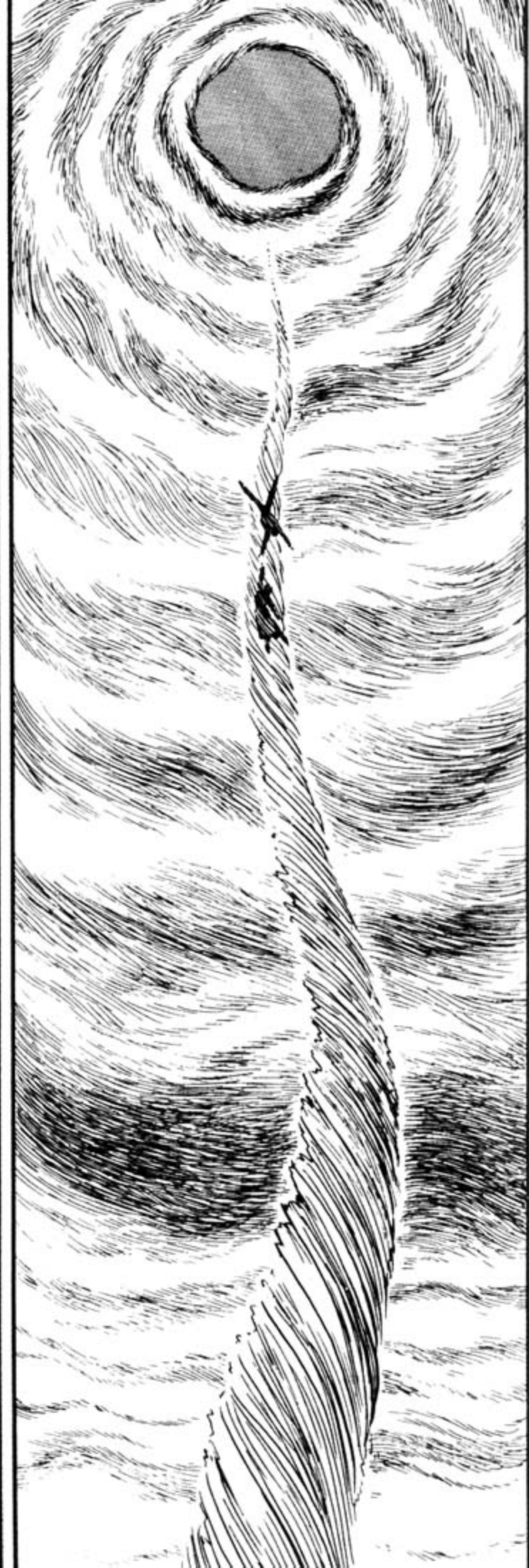














SOMETIME LATER THEY PULLED US OUT OF DRAGONFLY POND.

KIRIE, WAKE UP!

SHUICHI

LIKE THE SMOKE FROM THE CREMATORIUM BEFORE IT, THE HURRICANE WAS DRAWN INTO THE LAKE.

THE LAKE WATER STIRRED FOR HOURS, SPLASHING THE GRASS, HEAVING UP CLAY...

AFTER HOVERING FOR TWO DAYS OVER KURŌZU-CHO...



HURRICANE NO. 1 HAS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.

THE NEXT SLIMMER STORM, HURRICANE NO. 2...

HHHHHHHHHH

IS NOW APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA...

SHHHH

TO BE CONTINUED...

## ORIGINAL DATES OF PUBLICATION IN JAPAN

Chapter 7	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #30, 1998</i>
Chapter 8	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #35, 1998</i>
Chapter 9	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #39, 1998</i>
Chapter 10	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #43, 1998</i>
Chapter 11	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #48, 1998</i>
Chapter 12	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #52, 1998</i>

# AFTERMATH

## RRRRRRRRRRRRRR

HELLO, THIS IS SPIRAL RESEARCH LABORATORY.

I MEAN, uh, JUNJI ITO MANGA INCORPORATED.

ITO!  
THIS IS NAKAGUMA FROM BIG COMIC SPIRITS! I'VE GOT INCREDIBLE NEWS!

WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

LISTEN! THIS IS BIG! B-I-G!

I'VE FOUND SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE SPIRAL!

WHAT? SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE SPIRAL? WHO IS IT?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE. ALL I KNOW IS IT'S SOME GUY WHO LIVES BY HIMSELF UP IN THE MOUNTAINS OF G\_\_\_\_\_ PREFECTURE!

ITO!  
LET'S GO MEET HIM!

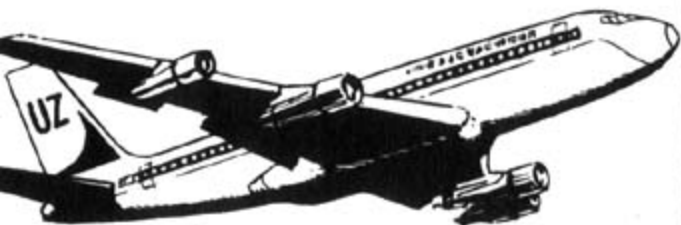
YES!  
SEE YOU IN G\_\_\_\_\_ PREFECTURE!

K. MINAMI!  
TAKE CARE OF THINGS WHILE I'M GONE!

YES, SIR!

# SLAM





**SHOOOOM**

EVEN I  
COULDN'T SOLVE THE  
ENIGMA OF THE  
SPIRAL. WHO COULD  
THIS MYSTERIOUS  
MAN BE?

MY  
CURIOSITY  
GROWS  
DEEPER  
BY  
THE  
SECOND!



HMM... HE LIVES ALONE DEEP  
IN THE MOUNTAINS. COULD  
THAT MEAN HE'S AN OLD  
HERMIT, SOME DEGENERATE  
BACKWOODSMAN? OR... PERHAPS  
HE'S A MAD SCIENTIST WHO WAS  
KICKED OUT OF THE SCIENTIFIC  
COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF HIS  
UNSPEAKABLE FINDINGS!

WILL  
WE  
EVEN  
COME  
BACK  
FROM  
THIS  
ALIVE?



AND WHAT  
IS THE  
SECRET OF  
THE SPIRAL  
?!



AT  
LAST  
OUR  
DESTINATION  
LAY  
BEFORE  
US!

BUT  
WERE  
THOSE  
LOWERING  
CLOUDS A  
PREMONITION  
OF THE  
DOOM THAT  
AWAITED  
US BEYOND  
THOSE  
MOUNTAINS  
OF--



IT WAS  
JUST  
A  
DREAM  
!?

WHAT  
A  
RIP-  
OFF!  
!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito was born July 31, 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. As a child, he was fascinated by the manga of Kazuo Umezu, possibly Japan's most influential horror manga artist.

In 1987, while working as a dental technician, Ito submitted a short story to Asahi Sonorama's shōjo horror manga magazine *Gekkan Halloween* ("Monthly Halloween"), and won a honorable mention in their "Kazuo Umezu Award" (judged by a panel including Umezu himself). This was the beginning of his manga career, which has produced many works with a strong sense of horror and the absurd, including multiple volumes of the *Tomie* series, about an immortal, regenerating girl whose beauty drives men mad. His work has appeared in horror magazines, such as *Gekkan Halloween* and *Nemurenu Yoru no Kimyo na Hanashi* ("Strange Tales of Sleepless Nights"), and mainstream publications such as Shogakukan's *Weekly Big Comic Spirits* (where *Uzumaki* was published). *Tomie* has been adapted into two live-action movies, and the live-action film version of *Uzumaki* was recently released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures.

Ito's influences include manga artists Kazuo Umezu, Hideshi Hino and Shinichi Furuka, science-fiction author Yasutaka Tsutsui, and American horror author H.P. Lovecraft.

*"Junji Ito is delivering some of the best horror works the medium has seen in years. If you like horror, you need to read Ito's work."*

—NinthArt.com

*"Two hundred pages of complete bloody lunacy...From a simple, almost funny idea, **Uzumaki** achieves moments that are seriously disturbing. Tell me the last time any book disturbed you. When you give up, buy **Uzumaki**."*

—Warren Ellis (*Transmetropolitan, Planetary, The Authority*), ArtBomb.net

Kurôzu-cho, a small fogbound town on the coast of Japan, is cursed. But the spirit which haunts it does not have a name or a body, only a shape: *uzumaki*, the spiral, the hypnotic secret shape of the world. It possessed the father of teenage Kirie's withdrawn boyfriend Shuichi, causing him to remake himself in its image before he died. It grows in ferns, in seashells, in curls of hair, and in the crooked folds of the human brain. Giant snails are sighted near the high school. An eerie glow shines from the abandoned lighthouse. Mosquitoes fly in drowsy curves and feed on blood. As more people are caught in the pattern, over the town of Kurôzu-cho hangs the spiral smoke of cremated corpses; because even in death, there is no escape...

*Junji Ito* debuted as a horror manga artist in 1987 with the first story in his successful *Tomie* series. *Uzumaki*, drawn from 1998 to 1999, was adapted into a live-action movie which was released in America in May 2002 by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures ([www.j-popcinema.com](http://www.j-popcinema.com)). Ito's influences include manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, and the authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.

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Spiral Into Horror

# UZUMAKI!

by Junji Ito

2

P U L P   G R A P H I C   N O V E L

CHAPTER

13

THE

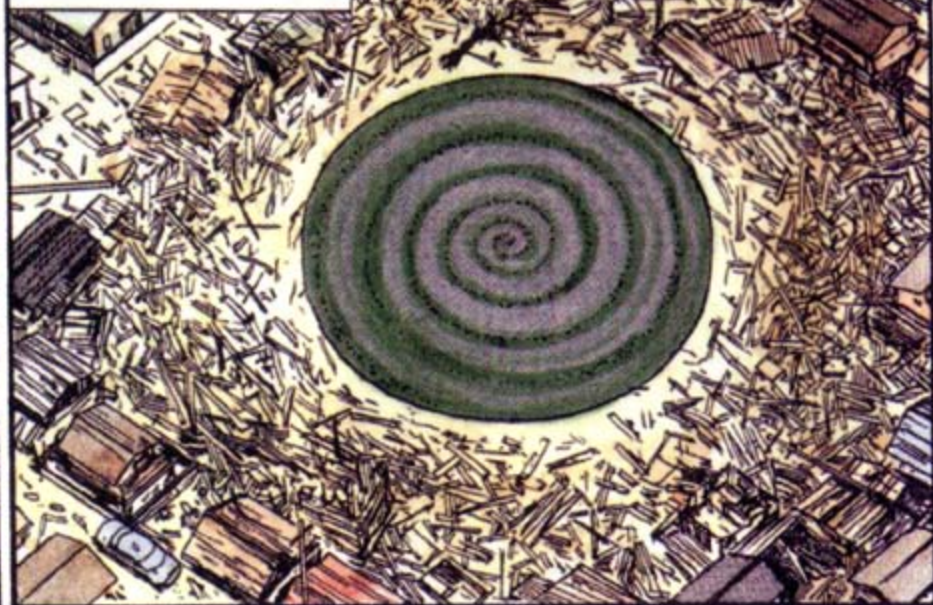
HOUSE



SEVERAL  
DAYS AGO,  
KURŌZU-CHO  
WAS  
DEVASTATED  
BY A  
HURRICANE.



THE  
CENTER  
OF TOWN  
SUFFERED  
THE WORST  
DAMAGE.



ALL THE HOUSES  
AROUND  
DRAGONFLY POND  
WERE REDUCED  
TO RUBBLE,  
INCLUDING OURS.

AS IF  
BY SOME  
MAGNETIC  
ATTRACTION,  
THE HURRICANE  
WAS SUCKED  
INTO THE  
POND.



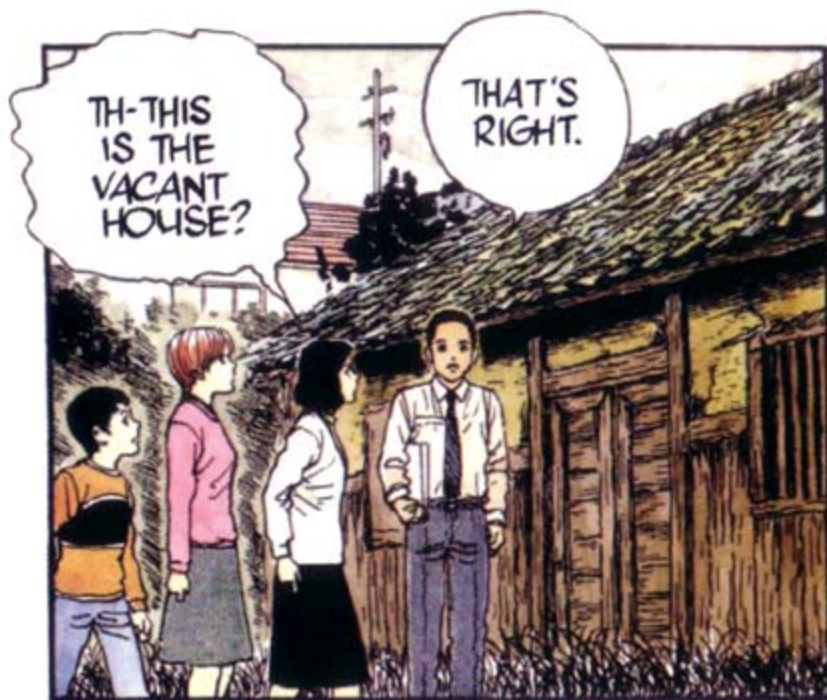
THE  
HOUSES  
NEARBY  
WERE  
DESTROYED.

MY  
FAMILY  
MIRACULOUSLY  
SURVIVED  
...



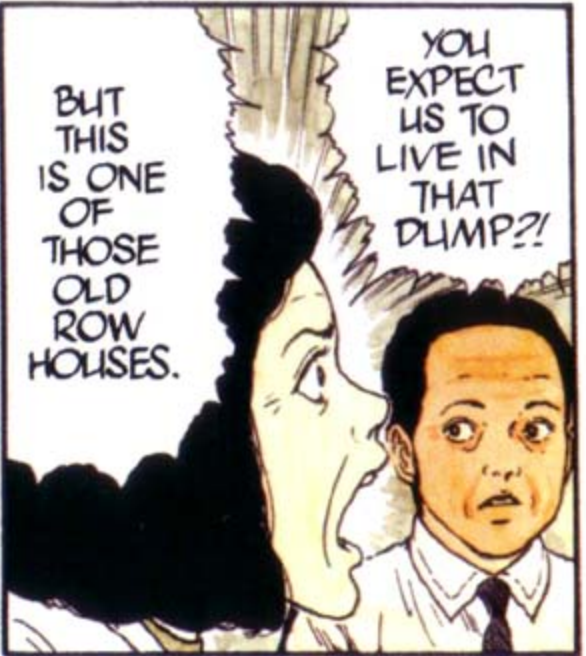
BUT WE  
HAD TO  
FIND  
ANOTHER  
PLACE  
TO  
LIVE.





TH-THIS IS THE VACANT HOUSE?

THAT'S RIGHT.



BUT THIS IS ONE OF THOSE OLD ROW HOUSES.

YOU EXPECT US TO LIVE IN THAT DUMP?!

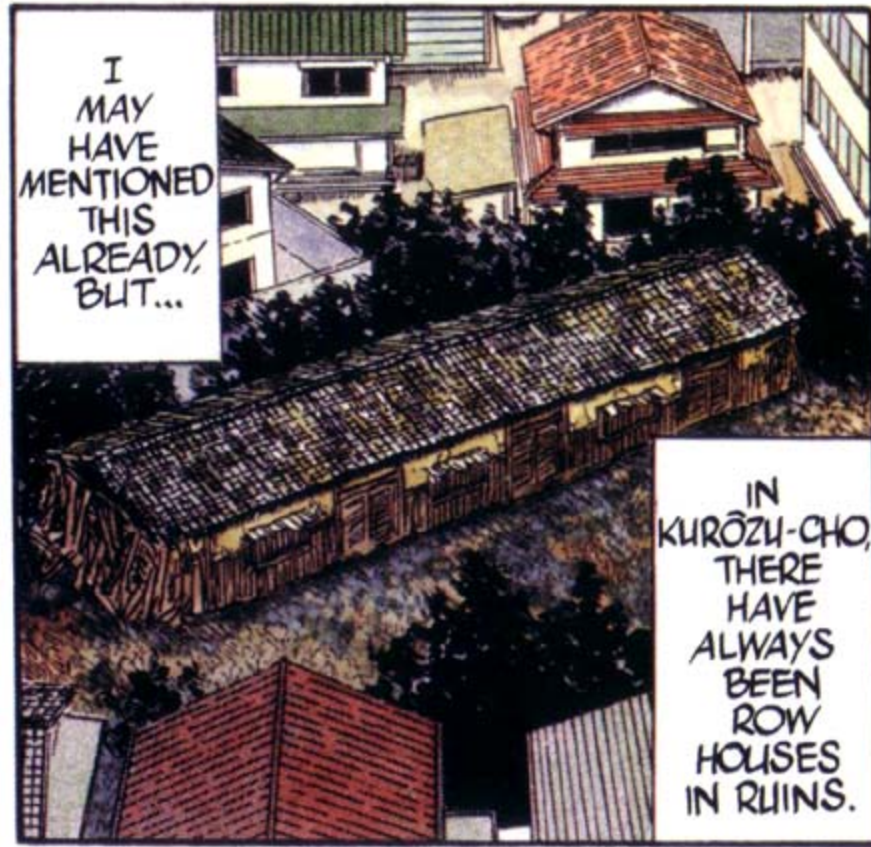


NOT THIS PLACE ...

MOM, WE CAN'T!

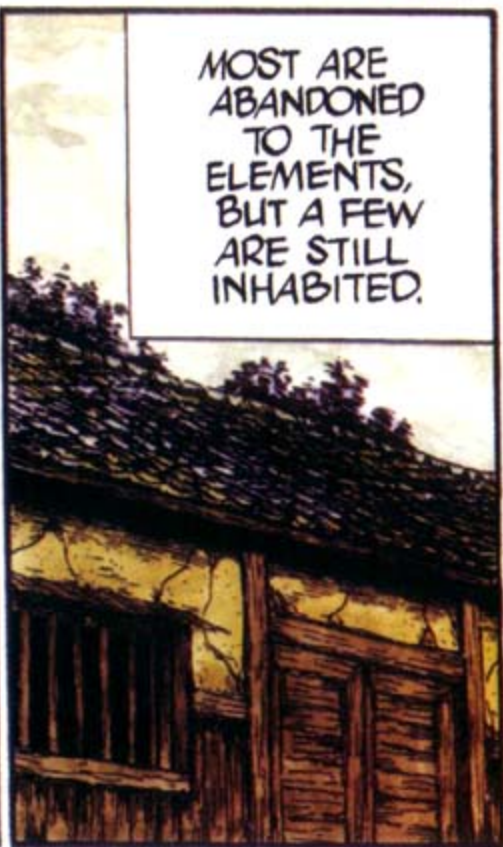


DON'T YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT THIS HOUSE?!



I MAY HAVE MENTIONED THIS ALREADY, BUT...

IN KURŌZU-CHO, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ROW HOUSES IN RUINS.



MOST ARE ABANDONED TO THE ELEMENTS, BUT A FEW ARE STILL INHABITED.





Spiral Into Horror

# UZUMAKI

by Junji Ito

3

P U L P   G R A P H I C   N O V E L

# UZUMAKI VOL. 3

This graphic novel contains the UZUMAKI installments originally published in PULP Vol. 6, No. 2 through Vol. 6, No. 8, as well as an additional chapter published here for the first time in English.

## STORY & ART BY JUNJI ITO

### ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY YUJI ONIKI

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Find out more about the Viz Films/Tidepoint Pictures release of  
"Uzumaki" at [www.jpocinema.com](http://www.jpocinema.com)

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BANANA FISH VOL. 1  
BANANA FISH VOL. 2  
BANANA FISH VOL. 3  
BANANA FISH VOL. 4  
BANANA FISH VOL. 5  
BANANA FISH VOL. 6

BLACK & WHITE VOL. 1  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 2  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 3

DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 2  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 3  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 4  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 5

#### JUNKO MIZUNO'S CINDERALLA

STRAIN VOL. 1  
STRAIN VOL. 2  
STRAIN VOL. 3  
STRAIN VOL. 4  
STRAIN VOL. 5

VOYEUR  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 1  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 2  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 3

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BUT THERE WAS MORE TO THIS PARTICULAR HOUSE.



THE HOUSE ON THIRD STREET WAS SAID TO BE HAUNTED BY A MONSTER WHO CAME OUT AT NIGHT.

SEVERAL PET DOGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAD BEEN FOUND SLAUGHTERED, EATEN ALIVE.



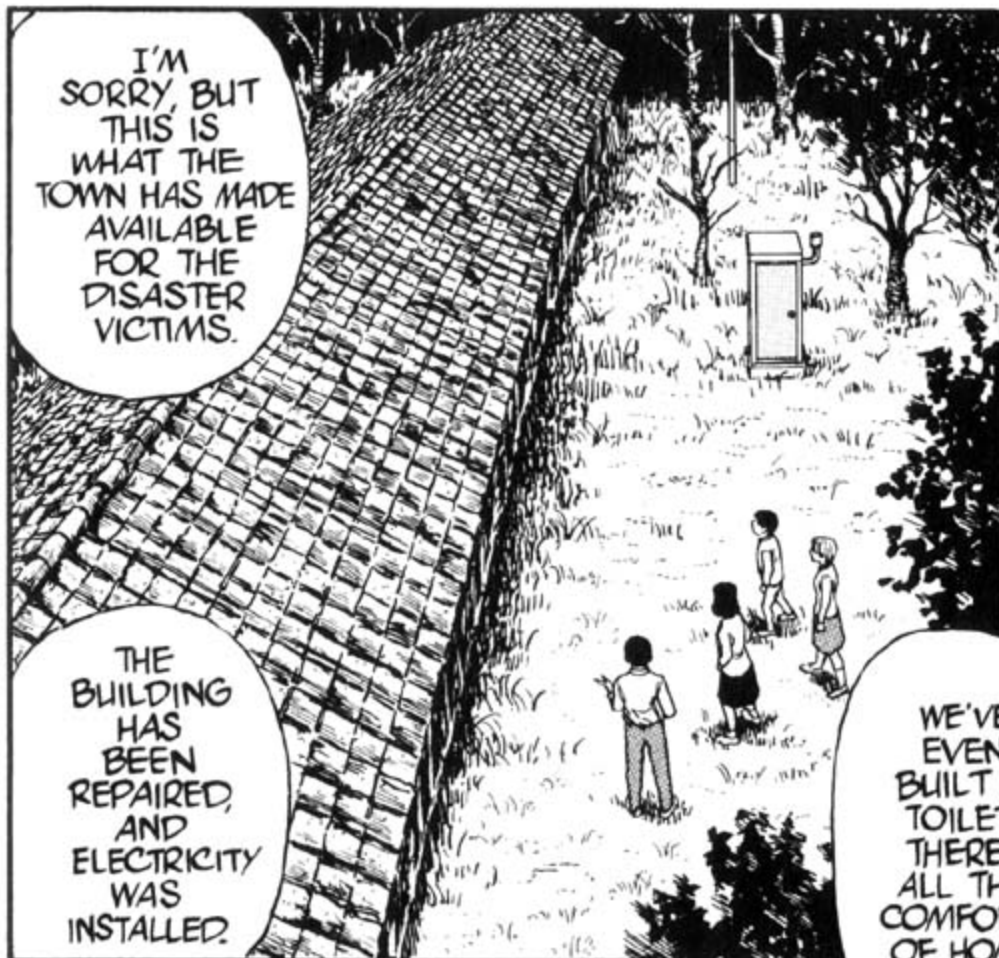
HA HA HA... THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS.



NEVER MIND THAT NONSENSE, BUT WE ARE **NOT** GOING TO LIVE IN THIS WRECK!



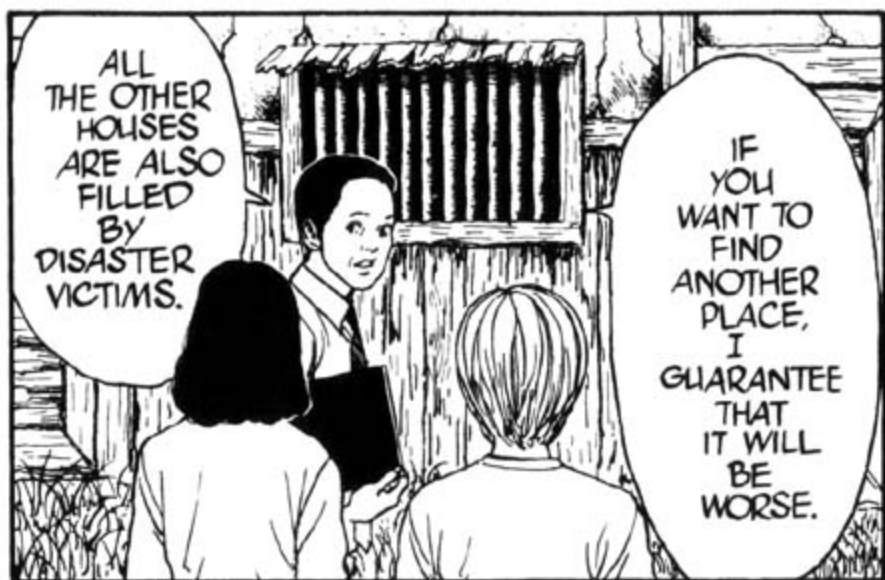
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS WHAT THE TOWN HAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE DISASTER VICTIMS.



THE BUILDING HAS BEEN REPAIRED, AND ELECTRICITY WAS INSTALLED.

THERE'S THREE SEPARATE APARTMENTS... TWO ARE ALREADY OCCUPIED.

WE'VE EVEN BUILT A TOILET. THERE'S ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME.

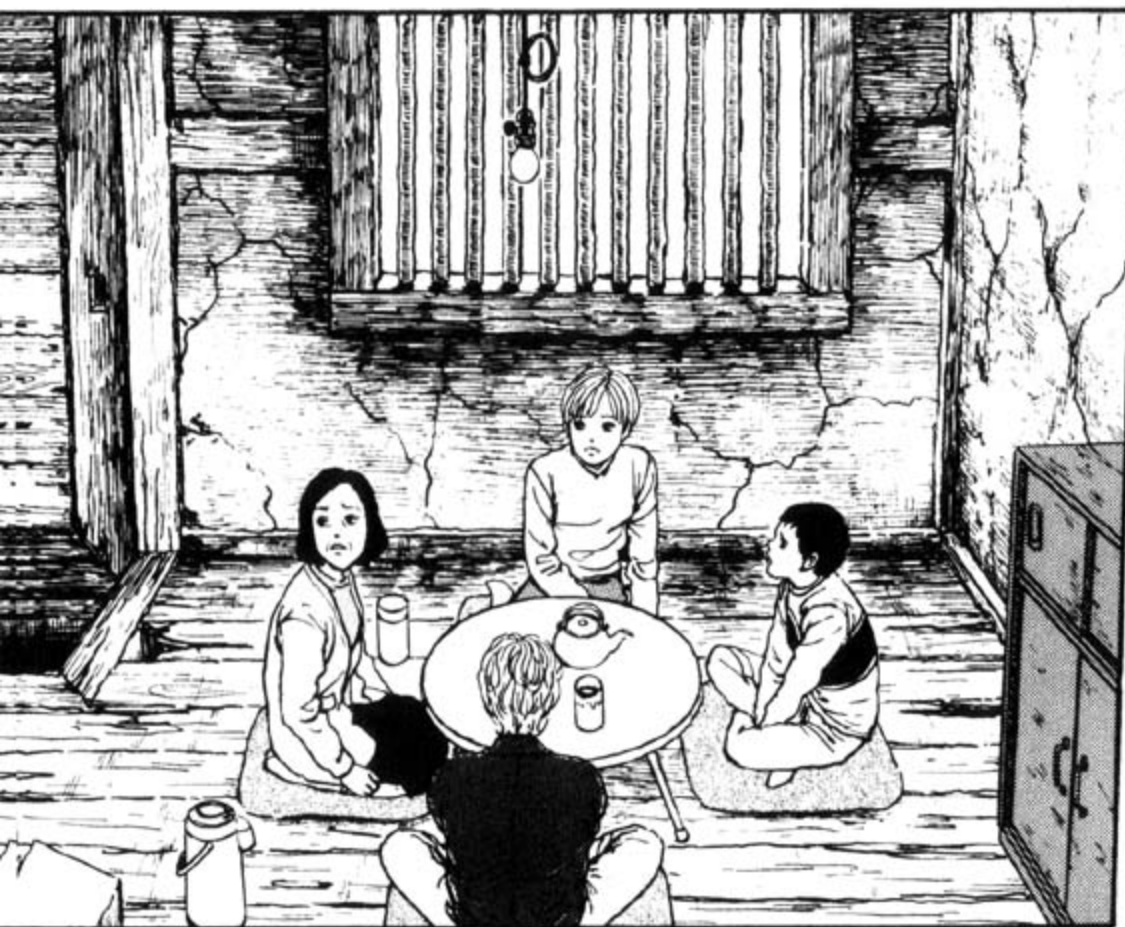


ALL THE OTHER HOUSES ARE ALSO FILLED BY DISASTER VICTIMS.

IF YOU WANT TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE, I GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BE WORSE.



HE MADE IT CLEAR WE HAD NO CHOICE.



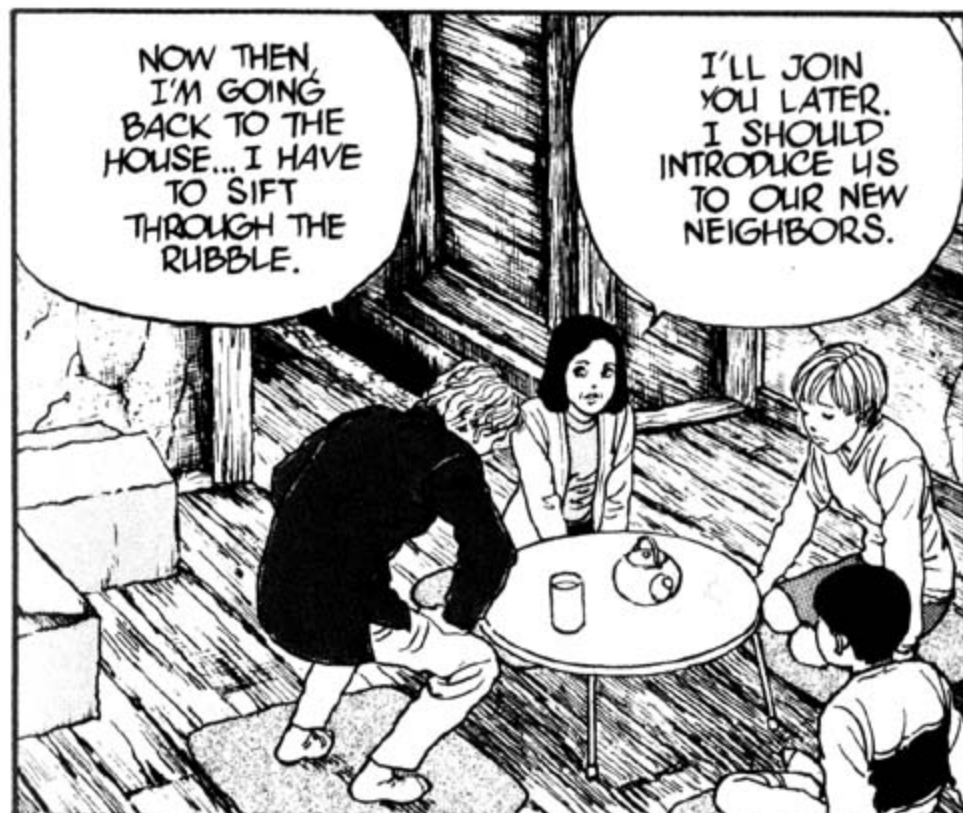
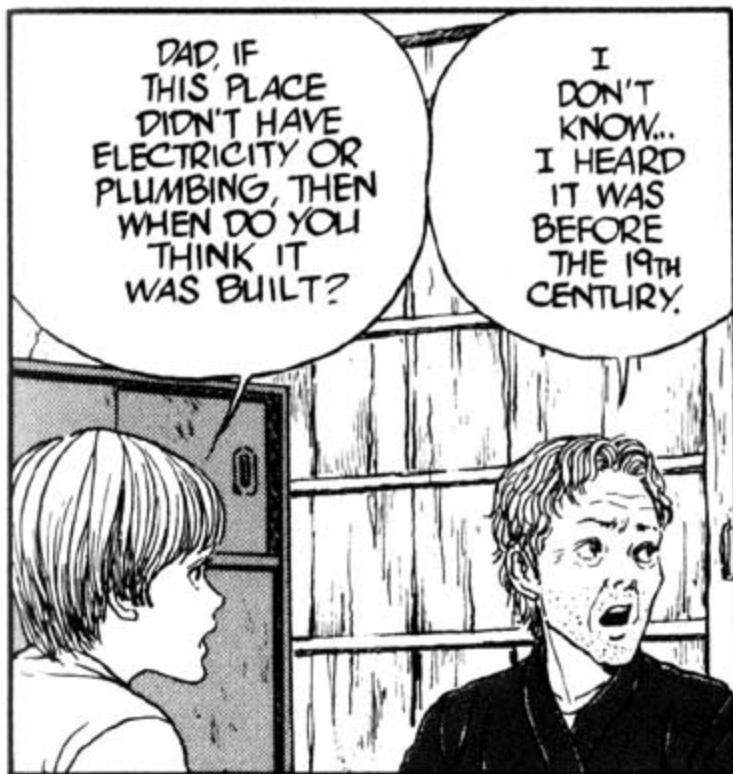
SOUNDS LIKE MICE.



THIS IS AWFUL! WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

ALL THEY DID FOR REPAIRS WAS COVER UP THE HOLES IN THE WALLS.

SO WHAT IF WE HAVE ELECTRICITY? WE HAVE NO WATER.





GOOD AFTERNOON!  
WE'RE THE GOSHIMAS.  
WE JUST MOVED IN.



OH,  
HELLO.  
MY NAME  
IS WAKA-  
BAYASHI.

IT WAS  
A  
TERRIBLE  
STORM,  
WASN'T  
IT?



Oh... YOU  
PROBABLY  
SHOULDN'T  
BOTHR  
VISITING  
THE  
PEOPLE  
NEXT  
DOOR.

THEY'RE  
NOT  
DISASTER  
VICTIMS.  
THEY  
MOVED  
IN THERE  
WITHOUT  
PERMISSION  
LONG  
BEFORE  
THE  
STORM.



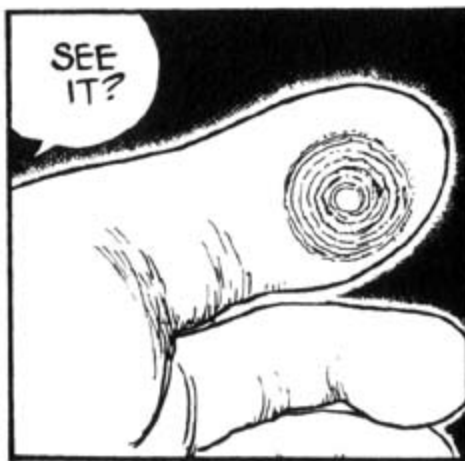
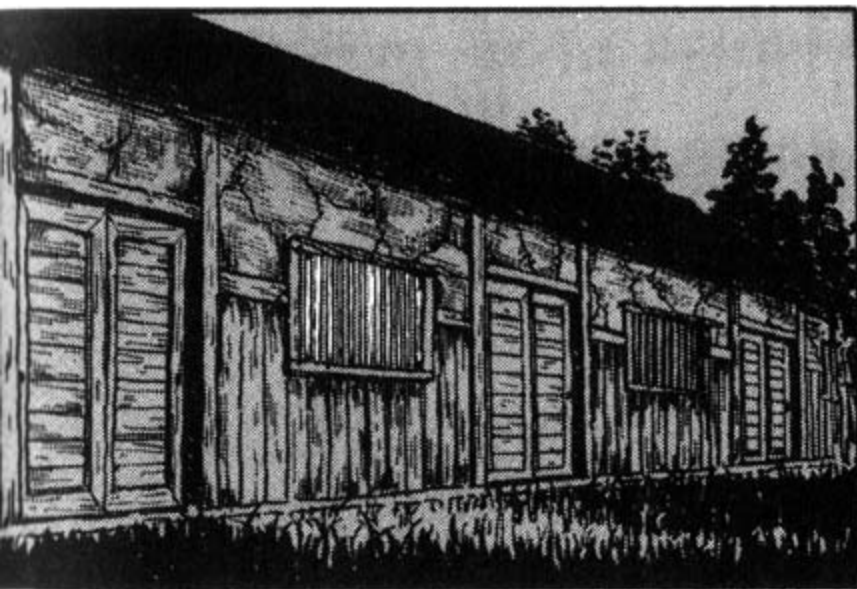
KNOCK  
KNOCK

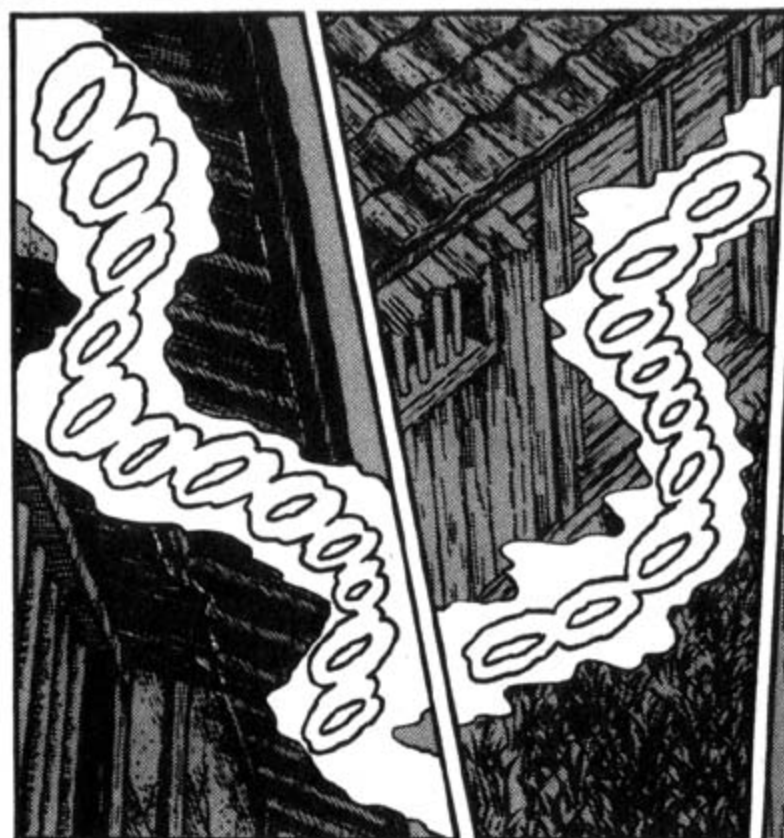
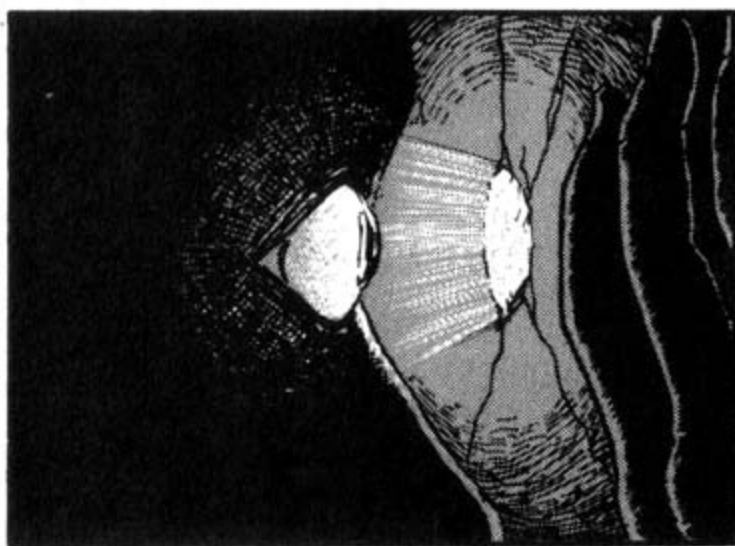
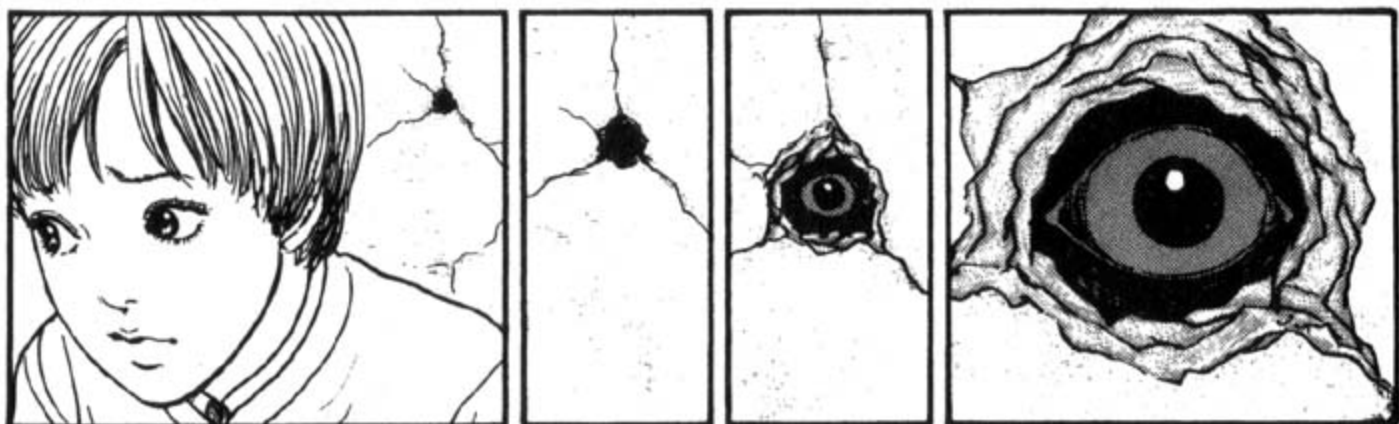


KNOCK  
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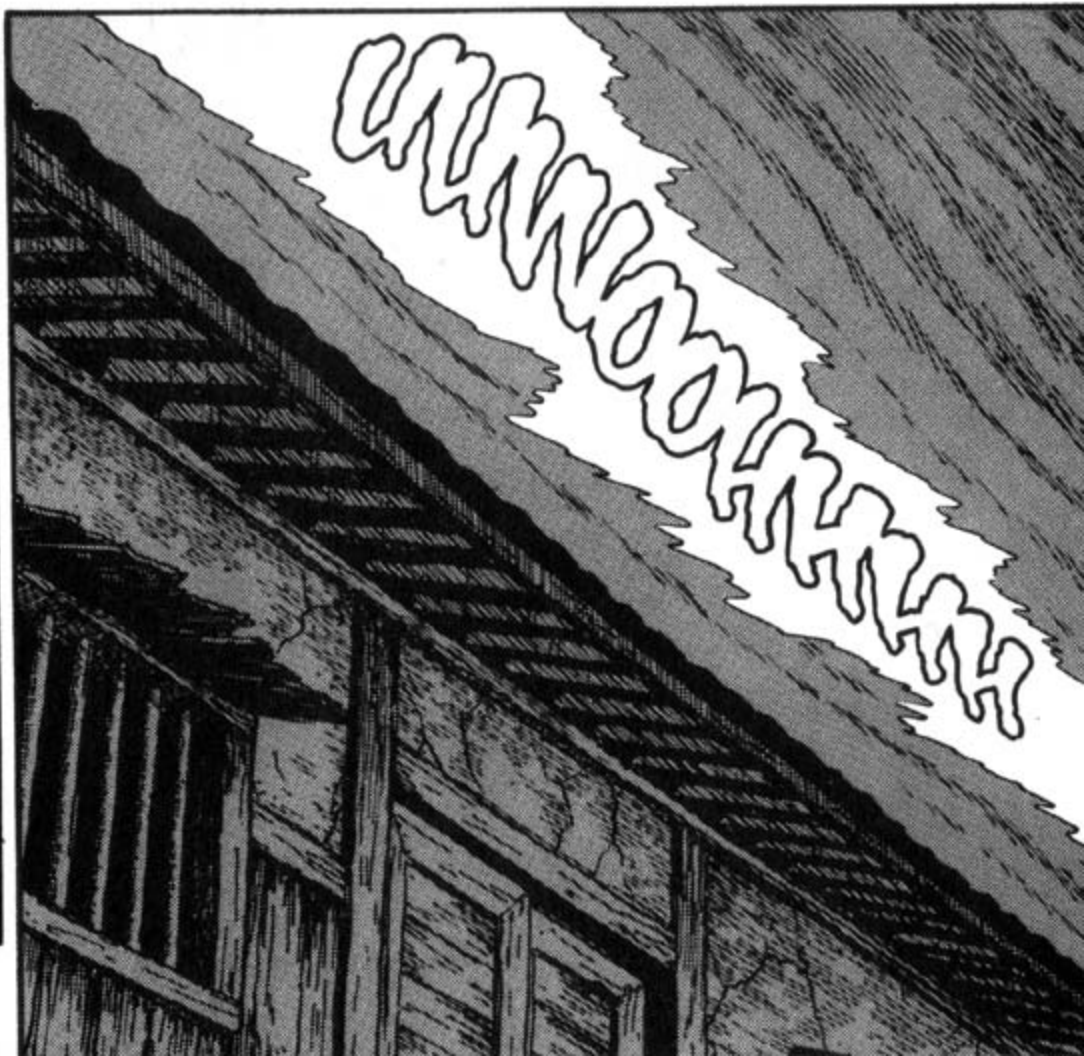
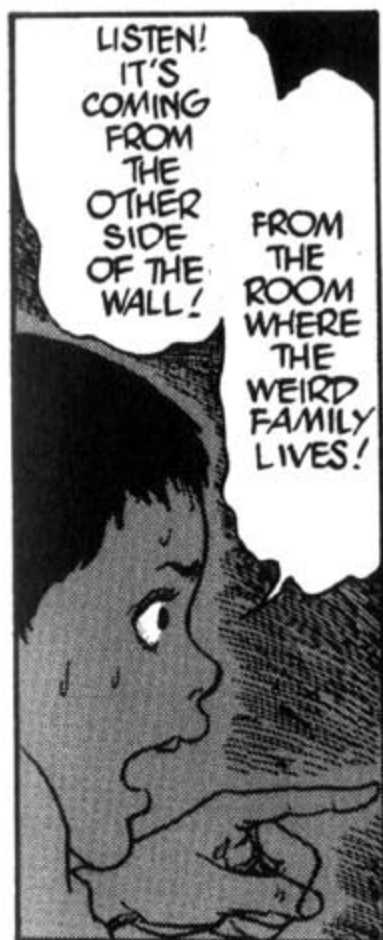


...













APPARENTLY,  
THE SON  
HAS A  
SERIOUS  
MEDICAL  
CONDITION.  
THAT WAS  
HIM, CRYING  
FROM THE  
PAIN.

BUT  
NO ONE  
KNOWS  
WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH HIM.  
THE OLD WOMAN  
WON'T LET  
HIM BE  
SEEN.



THEY  
SAY  
HE'S  
DEFORMED  
DUE TO  
HIS  
ILLNESS.

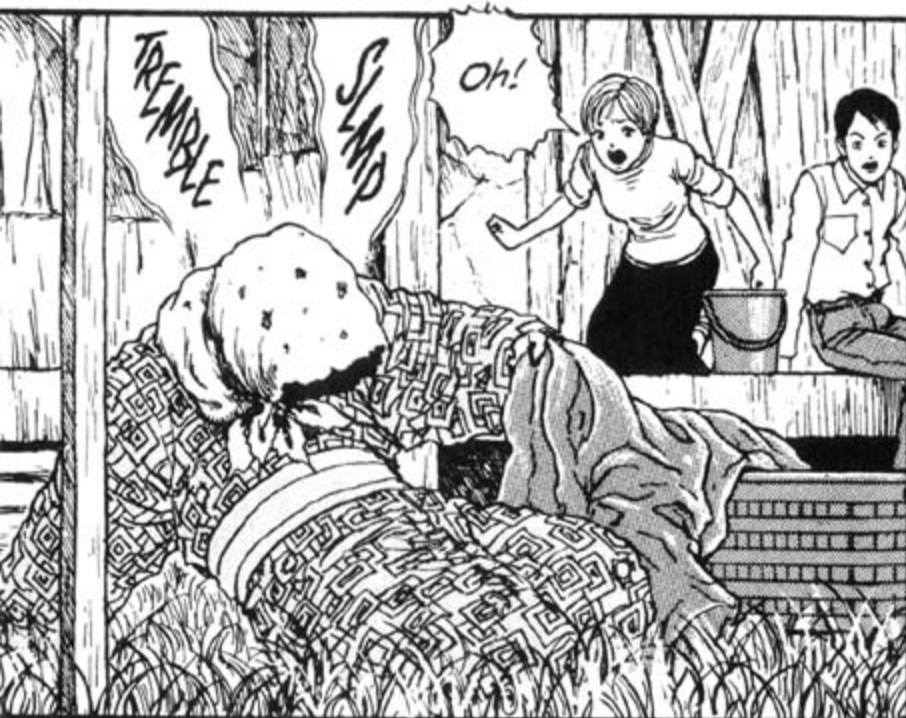
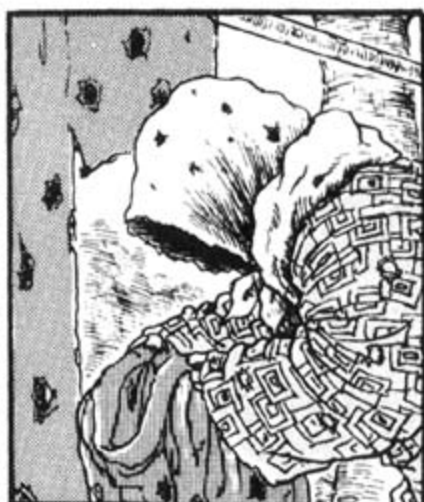
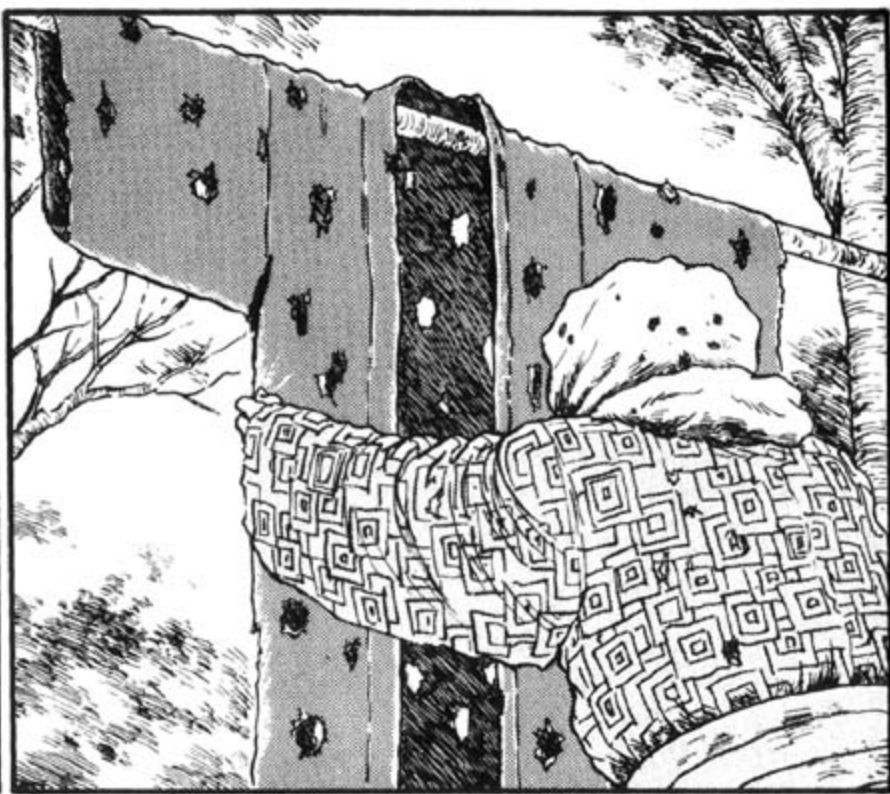
IF  
HE  
LOOKS  
BAD  
ENOUGH...

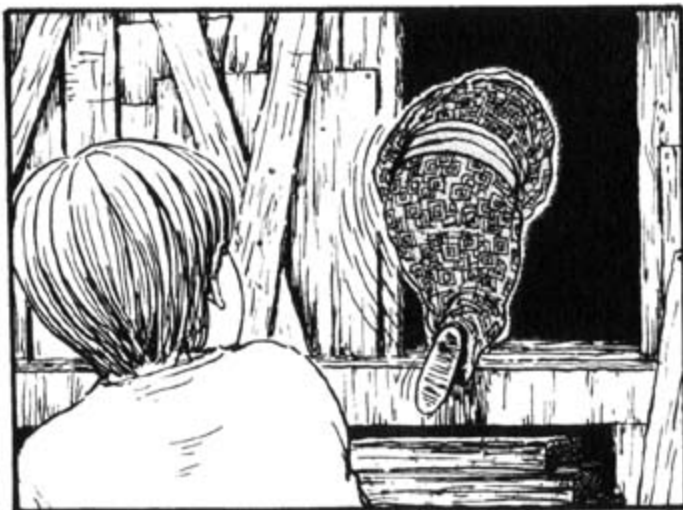
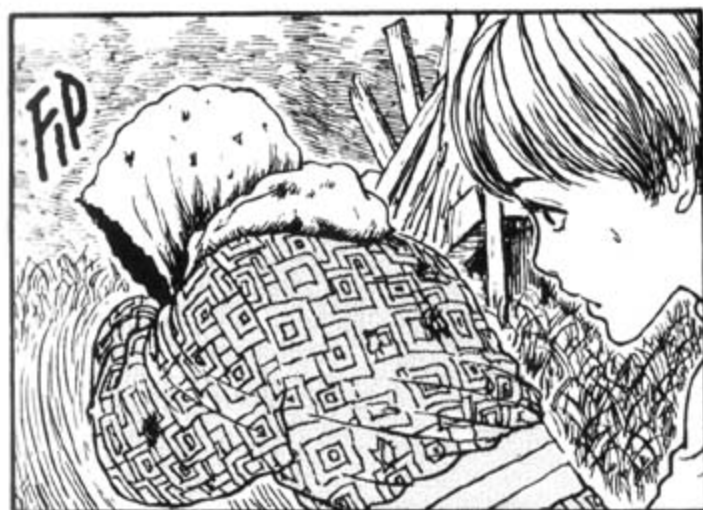
THAT  
WOULD  
EXPLAIN  
RUMORS  
ABOUT  
A  
MONSTER.



SPEAKING  
OF  
WHICH...

THERE  
SHE  
IS  
NOW.





THAT  
AFTERNOON  
...

**AWAAAAH!**

**AWAAAAH!**



IT'S  
HOWLING  
AGAIN!



NO!  
THAT'S A  
DIFFERENT  
NOISE!  
THAT'S  
THE  
OLD  
WOMAN  
CRYING!



AND  
IT  
SOUNDS  
URGENT!

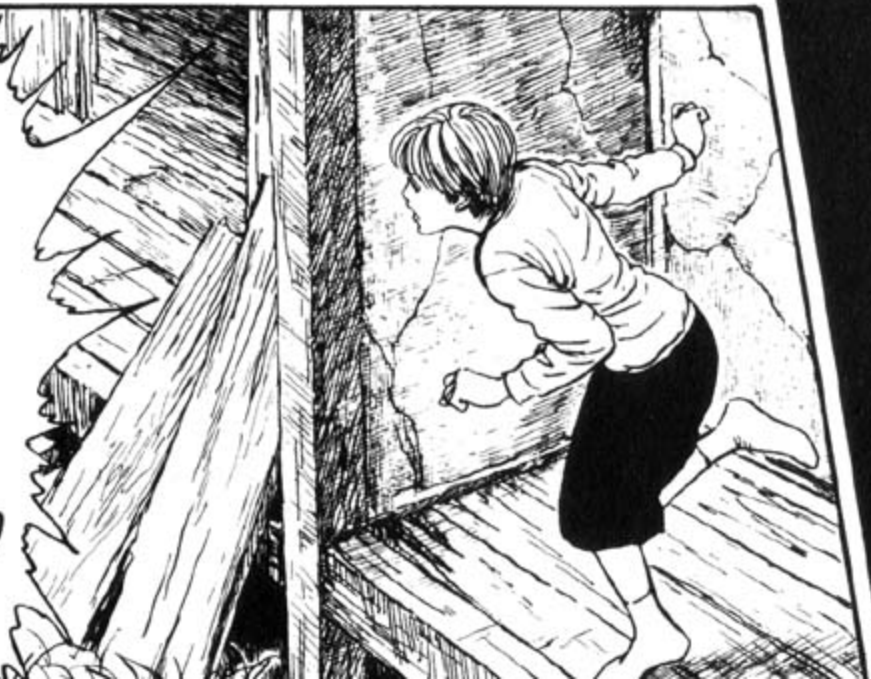
SHE  
MIGHT  
BE  
IN  
DANGER!



KIRIE!

**AWAAAAH!**

**AWAAAAH!**



EXCUSE  
ME!



**AWAH**



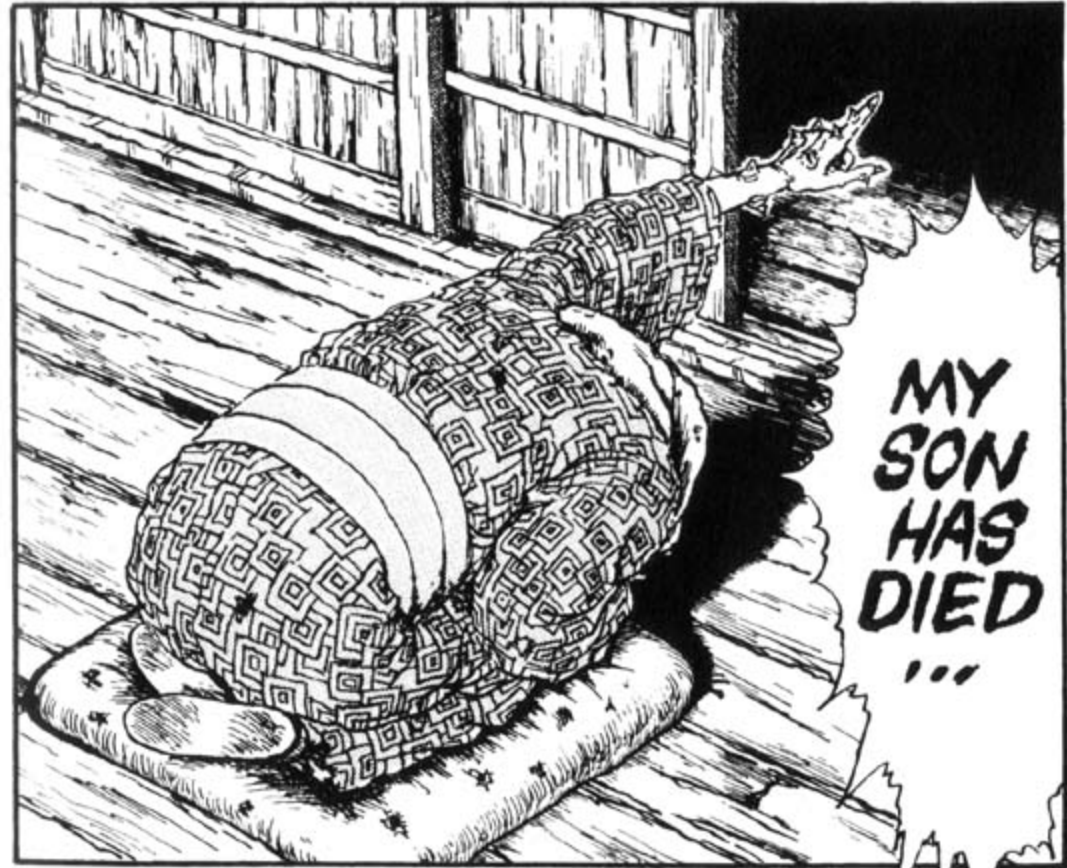
**AWAH**



**ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!**

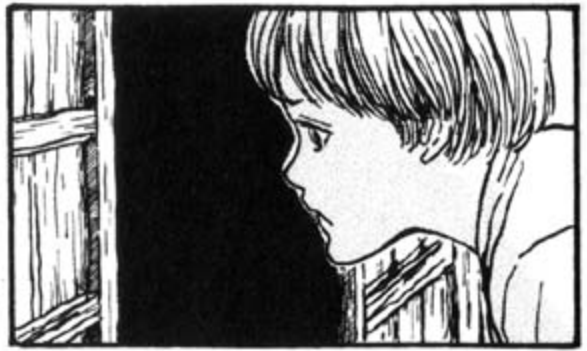


**MY SON... MY SON...**



**MY SON HAS DIED**





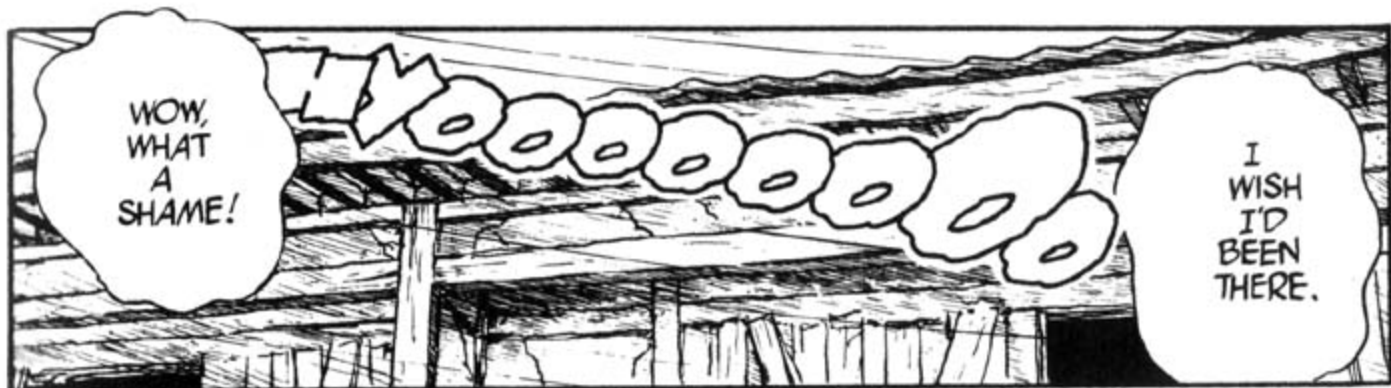
THE AMBULANCE  
CREW TOOK A  
LONG TIME  
REMOVING THE  
SON'S BODY  
FROM THE  
HOUSE.



AT THE  
HOSPITAL,  
DOCTORS  
DIAGNOSED  
THE OLD  
WOMAN WITH  
AN UNKNOWN  
SKIN  
DISEASE,  
AND KEPT  
HER FOR  
OBSERVATION.

THE  
SON  
HAD  
SUFFERED  
FROM  
THE  
SAME  
THING.





WOW,  
WHAT  
A  
SHAME!

I  
WISH  
I'D  
BEEN  
THERE.



SO  
HOW  
DID  
THE  
SON  
LOOK?

PLEASE  
TELL  
ME. I'M  
REALLY  
INTERESTED.



YOU  
SEE...

I  
WENT  
INTO  
THEIR  
ROOMS  
THE  
OTHER  
NIGHT.



THE  
FLOOR  
WHERE  
THE  
SON  
SLEPT  
WAS  
COVERED  
WITH  
SMALL  
HOLES.

SMALL  
HOLES...  
NOW  
WHAT  
WERE  
THEY?



I  
HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO  
TELL  
YOU.

BUT  
HE  
WASN'T  
NORMAL,  
WAS  
HE?



COME  
ON,  
I  
PROMISE  
NOT  
TO  
TELL  
ANYONE.

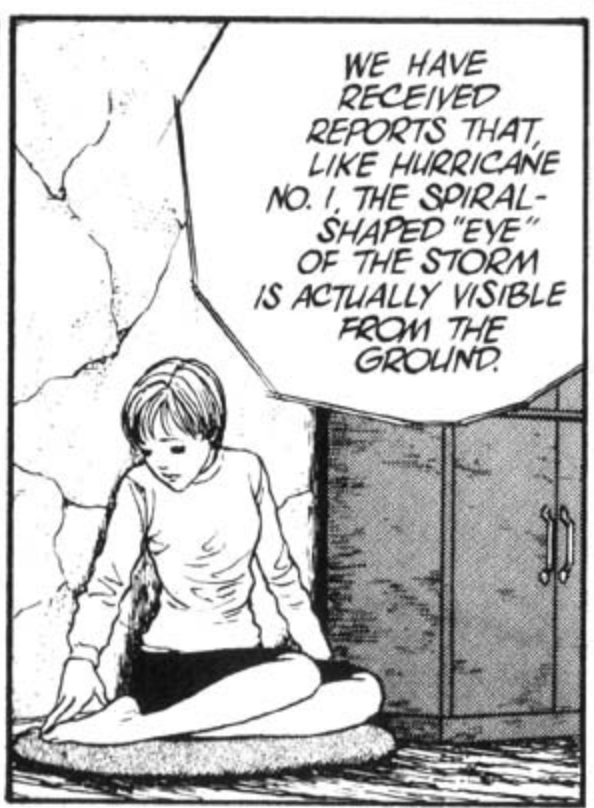


I'M SORRY, I'D RATHER NOT.

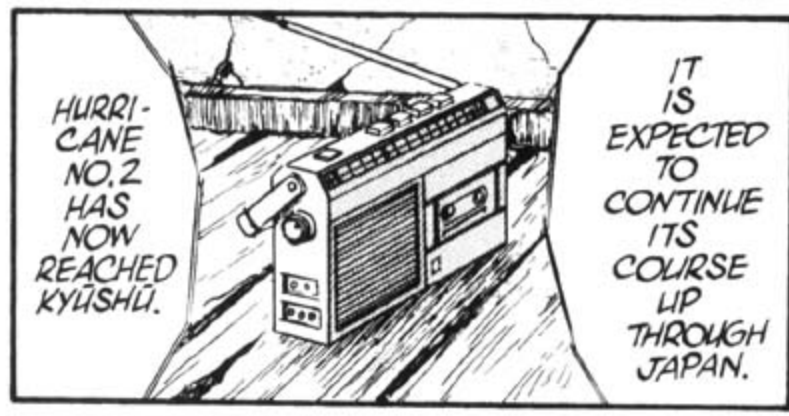


HAH...

I SEE... YOU'RE PRETTY HEADSTRONG, AREN'T YOU?



WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT, LIKE HURRICANE NO. 1, THE SPIRAL-SHAPED "EYE" OF THE STORM IS ACTUALLY VISIBLE FROM THE GROUND.



HURRI-CANE NO. 2 HAS NOW REACHED KYUSHU.

IT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS COURSE UP THROUGH JAPAN.



I'VE GOT SOME KIND OF WARTS ON MY FEET.

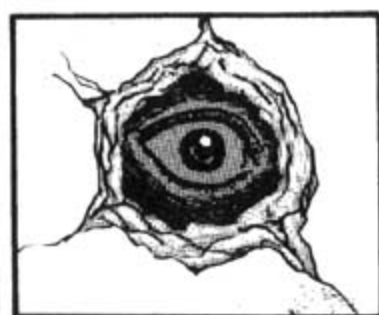
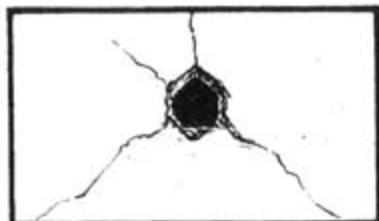
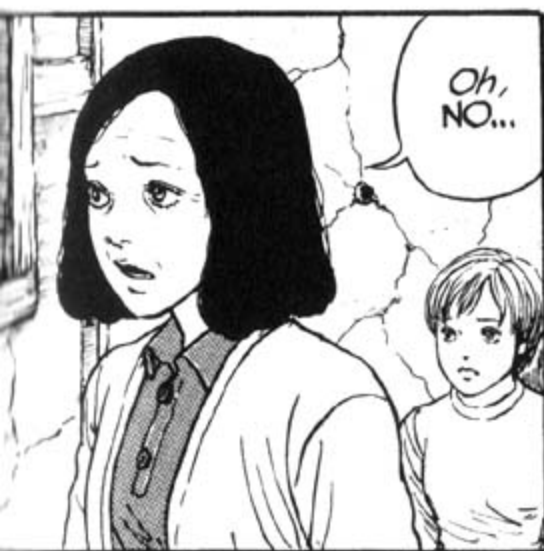
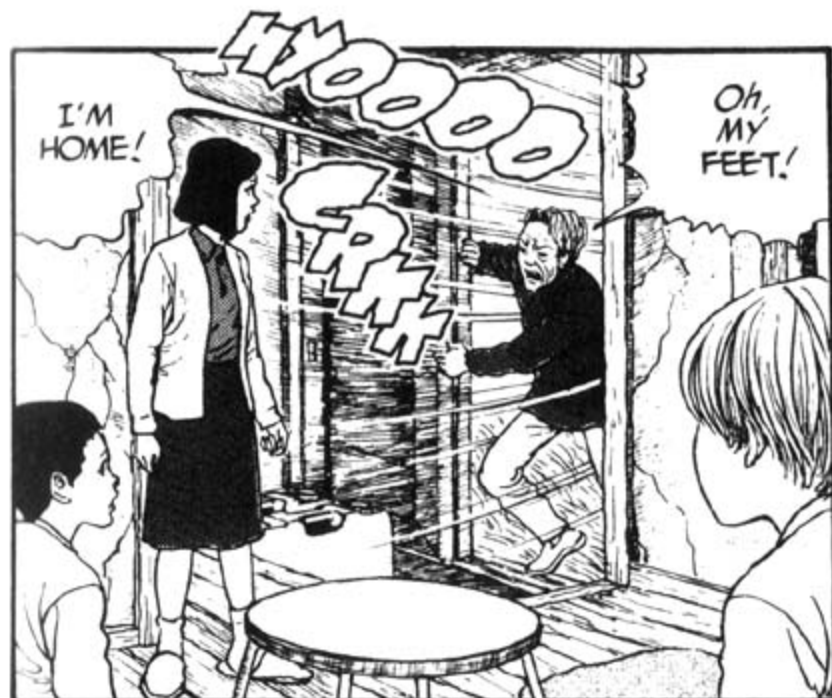
THERE'S LOTS OF THEM.

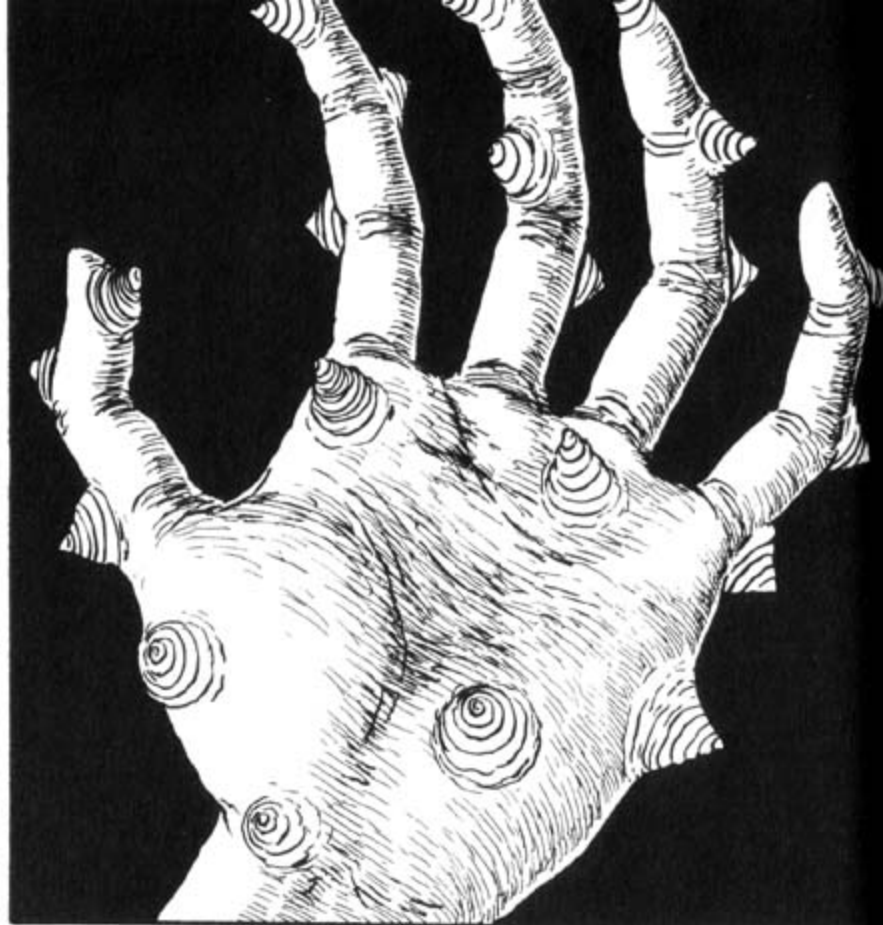


ME, TOO. THEY HURT!

THEY'RE ON MY HANDS.

BOTH OF YOU? I HAVE THEM, TOO.





IT HURTS!  
IT HURTS!

W-W-WE  
CAN'T  
GO TO THE  
HOSPITAL,  
THOUGH, IN  
THIS  
STORM...



THOSE  
THINGS  
ON MY  
FEET!

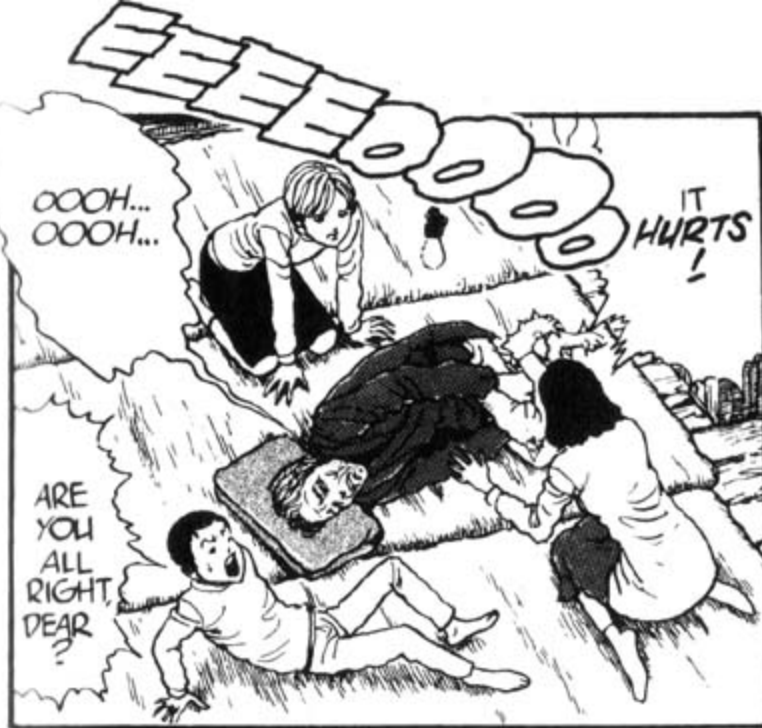


THESE...  
THESE...

THESE ARE  
THE SAME  
THINGS I SAW  
ON THAT OLD  
WOMAN AND  
HER SON!

THESE  
AREN'T  
WARTS!





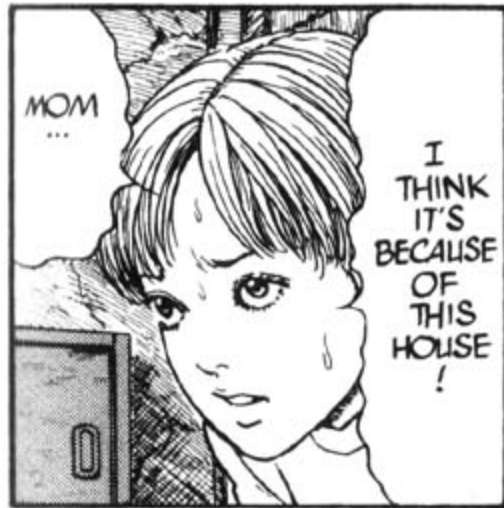
OOOH...  
OOOH...

IT  
HURTS!

ARE  
YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT,  
DEAR?



WE HAVE  
TO DO  
SOMETHING!  
HIS LIFE'S  
IN  
DANGER!



MOM  
...

I  
THINK  
IT'S  
BECAUSE  
OF  
THIS  
HOUSE!



WHAT?!



THE  
VIRUS,  
OR WHAT-  
EVER IT  
IS, MIGHT  
BE ALL  
OVER THE  
FLOORS AND  
WALLS OF  
THIS ROW  
HOUSE.

WE  
HAVE  
TO GO,  
EVEN  
IF  
IT'S  
NOT  
SAFE  
OUTSIDE!



I...  
I'M  
GOING  
TO  
CALL  
FOR  
HELP!

S-STOP  
...KIRIE!



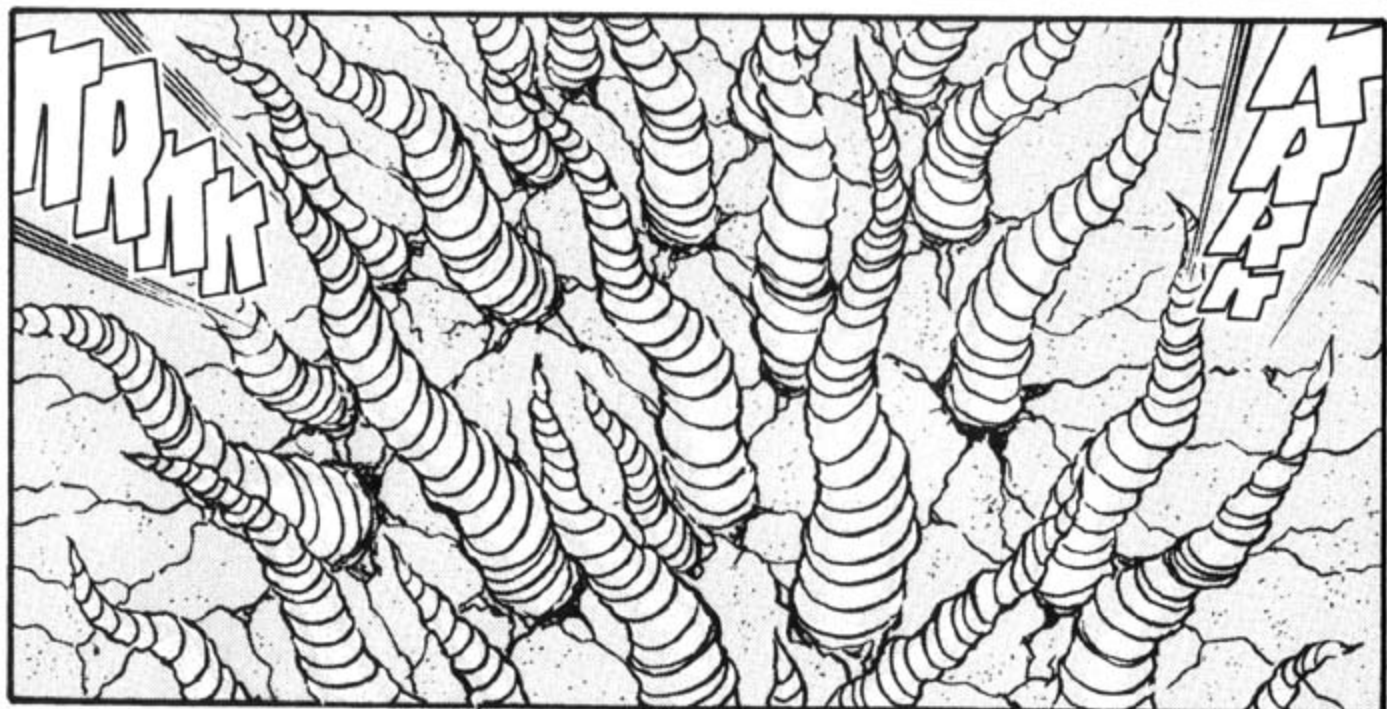
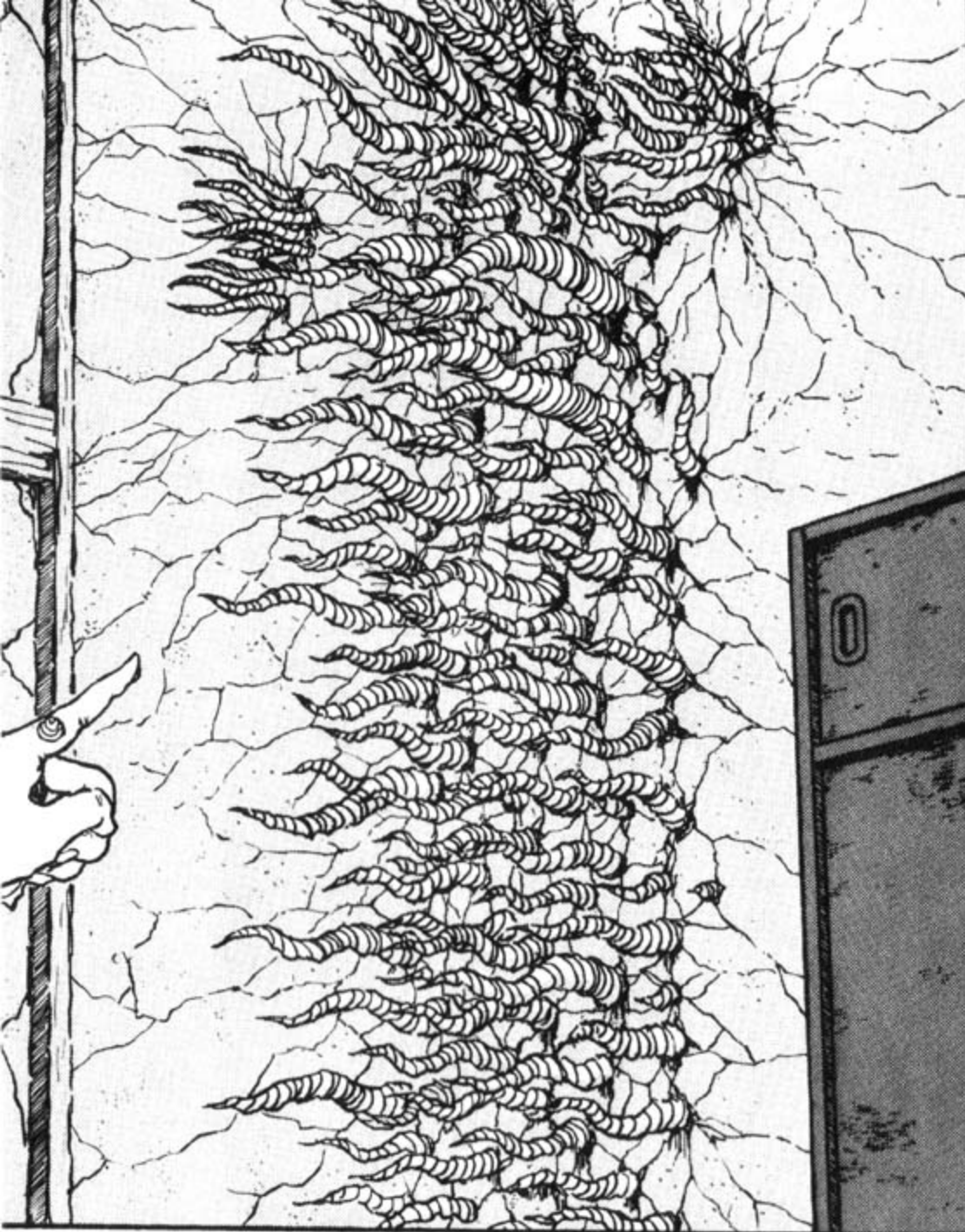
YOU  
WON'T  
MAKE  
IT!

THE  
WIND'S  
TOO  
STRONG!



LOOK!

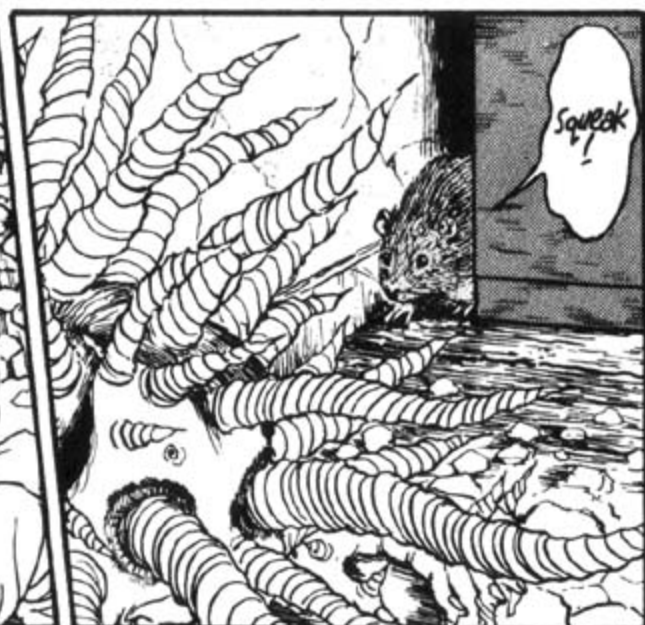
WHAT'S  
THAT?

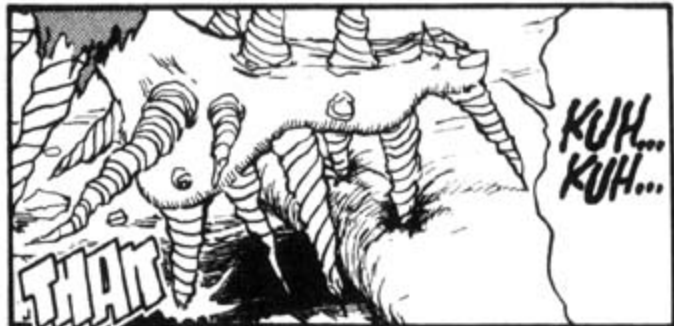




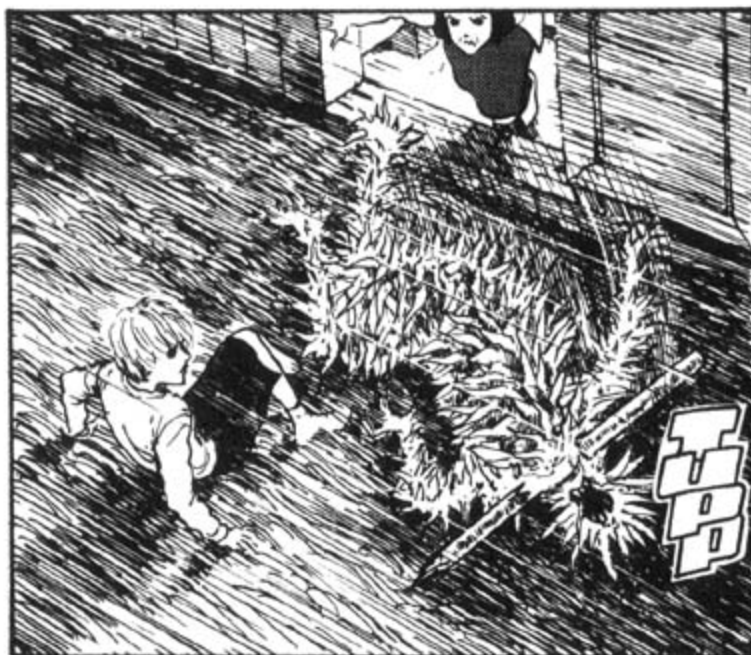
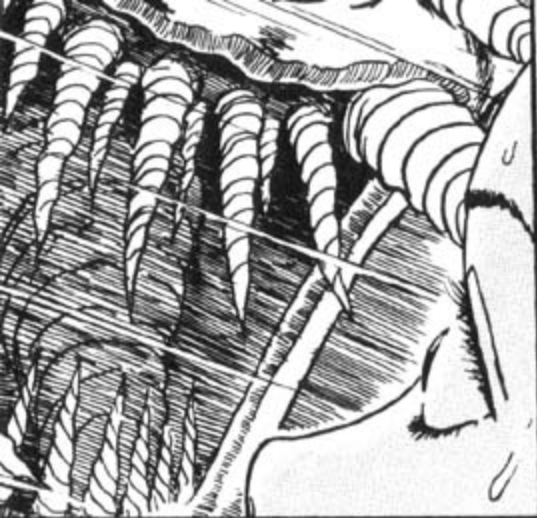












NOT LONG AFTER,  
HURRICANE NO.2  
AND ITS ROAR  
WERE SUCKED  
INTO DRAGONFLY  
POND.

WE  
CRAWLED OUR  
WAY OUT  
OF THE  
ROW HOUSE,  
AND OUR  
SKIN DISEASE  
SOON WENT  
AWAY.

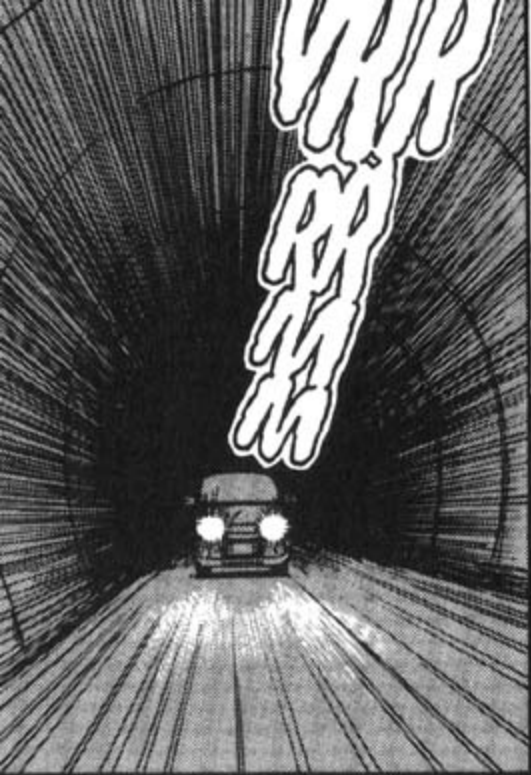


CHAPTER

14

BUTTERFLIES





SO  
WHAT KIND  
OF PLACE  
IS THIS  
KURŌZU-  
CHO,  
ANYWAY?

IT'S A  
LITTLE TOWN  
TO THE WEST  
OF MIDORIYAMA-  
SHI, MS.  
MARIYAMA.

POPULATION  
6,000, TUCKED  
BETWEEN  
THE SEA  
AND THE  
MOUNTAINS.



I WISH  
THERE WAS  
MORE I  
COULD TELL  
YOU.

AFTER  
HURRICANE NO.1  
AND NO.2 THERE  
WERE REPORTS ON  
THE DAMAGE...

BUT  
WITH  
THE  
ONSLAUGHT  
OF  
HURRICANES  
3,4,5 AND 6,  
WE'VE LOST  
ALL CONTACT  
WITH THE  
INSIDE.

THERE  
COULD BE  
ANYTHING  
GOING ON  
IN THERE.



WE CAN'T  
BE THE FIRST  
REPORTERS TO  
GO IN. I WONDER  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE  
OTHERS?

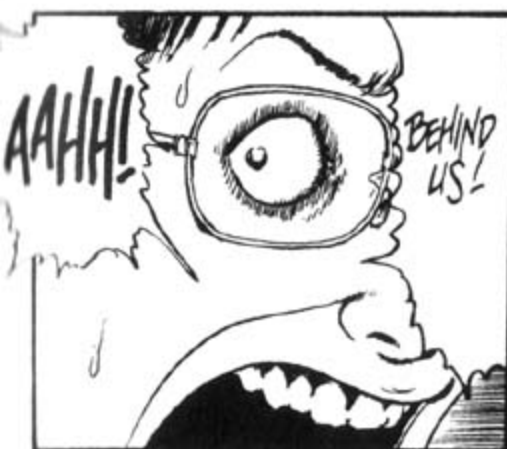
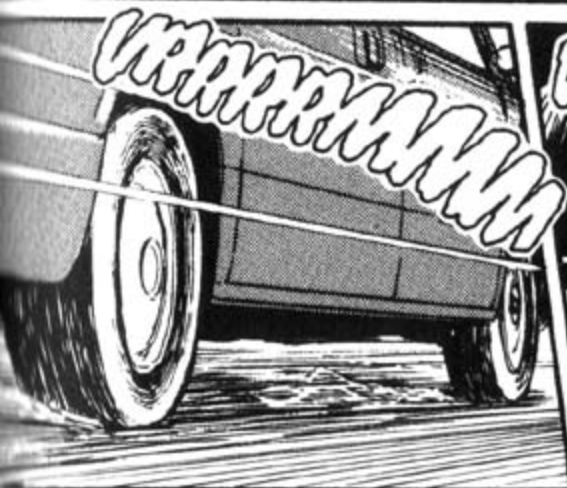
WELL,  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THEY  
SENT  
US TO  
FIND  
OUT.



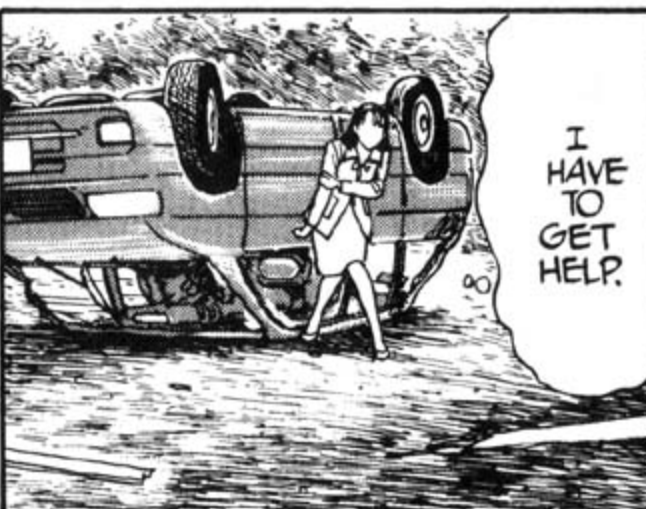
THERE  
IT  
IS.

AT  
THE  
END OF  
THE  
TUNNEL.











huff

huff



IT'S STRANGE ...

huff

THE AIR FEELS HEAVY...



OR IS IT JUST ME?

huff

IT'S NOT THAT COLD, BUT I CAN SEE MY BREATH ...



Oh! MORE OVER-TURNED CARS!



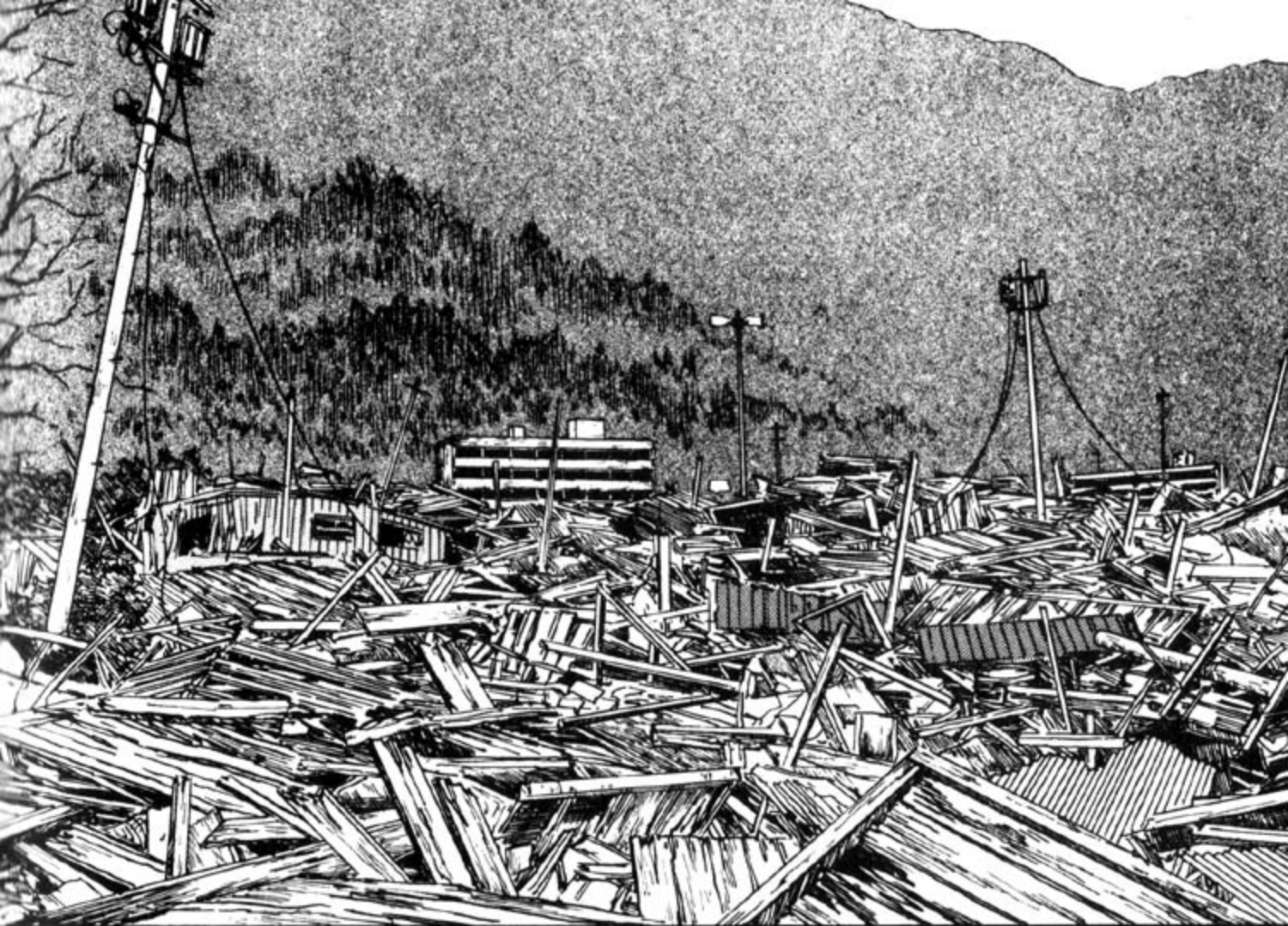
BUT WHY IS IT SO QUIET?



I SHOULD BE NEAR THE TOWN...



WHAT?!



THERE'S NOTHING BUT RUBBLE.

DID THE HURRICANES DO THIS?



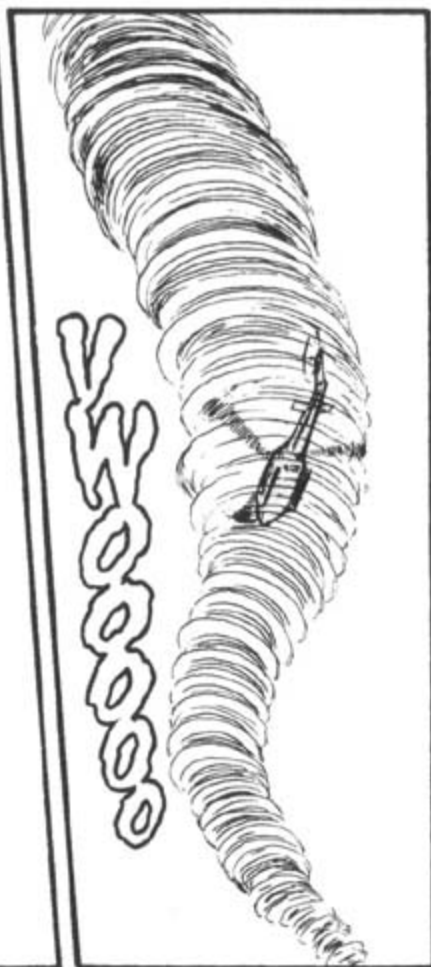
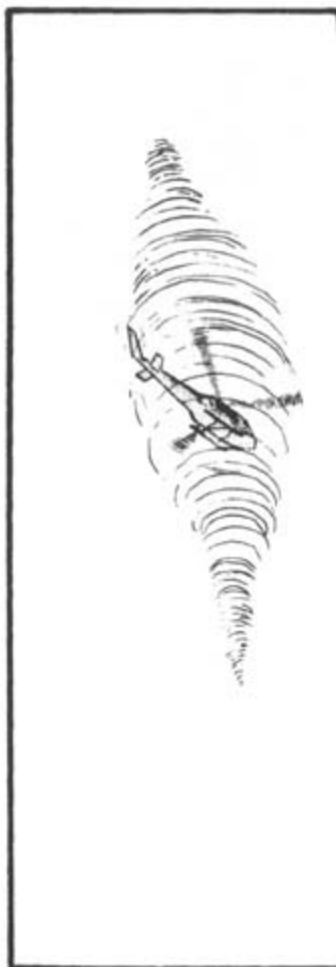
WUPWUPWUP



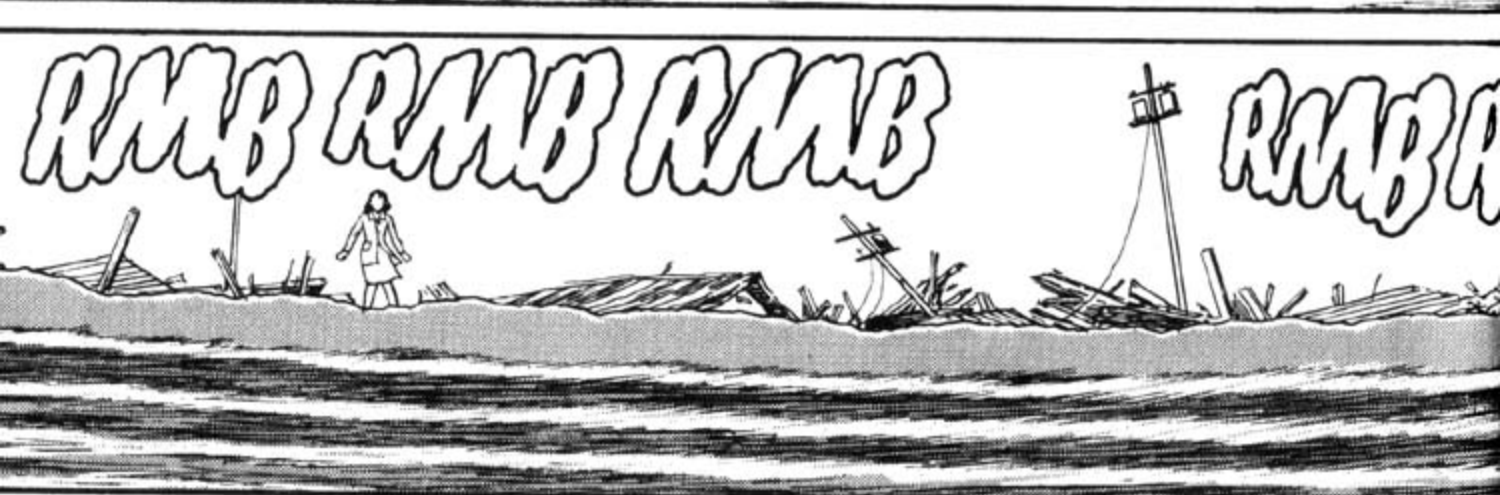
IT'S A TV HELICOPTER.



Ah!



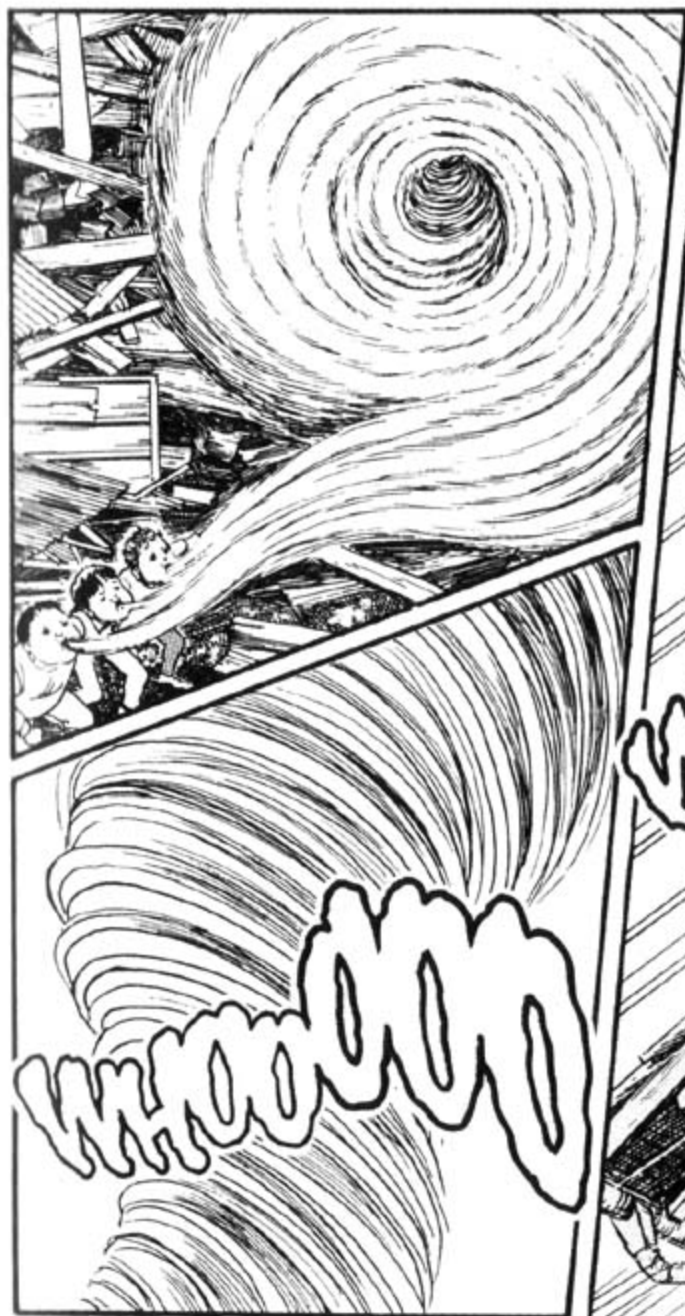














Wooooo



HEY, IT'S THAT WOMAN FROM BEFORE.

Ah, SHE SUCKS.



LET'S GET RID OF HER.

YEAH!

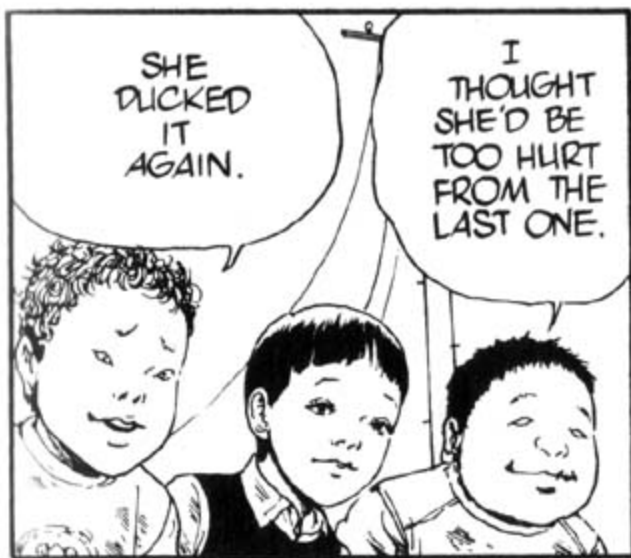


THIS'LL DO IT.



HM?!









YOU  
LOOK  
HURT... CAN  
YOU  
WALK?

MITSUO,  
SLOW  
DOWN!

I-I'M  
A  
REPORTER  
FOR  
TOYO  
TELEVISION.  
MY  
NAME IS  
CHIE  
MARUYAMA...

TOYO  
TV?  
I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
LOOKED  
FAMILIAR.

I'M  
KIRIE  
GOSHIMA.

THIS IS  
MY BROTHER  
MITSUO. RIGHT  
NOW WE'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
FOOD.

I'M  
REALLY  
CONFUSED.

WHAT...  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
HERE?

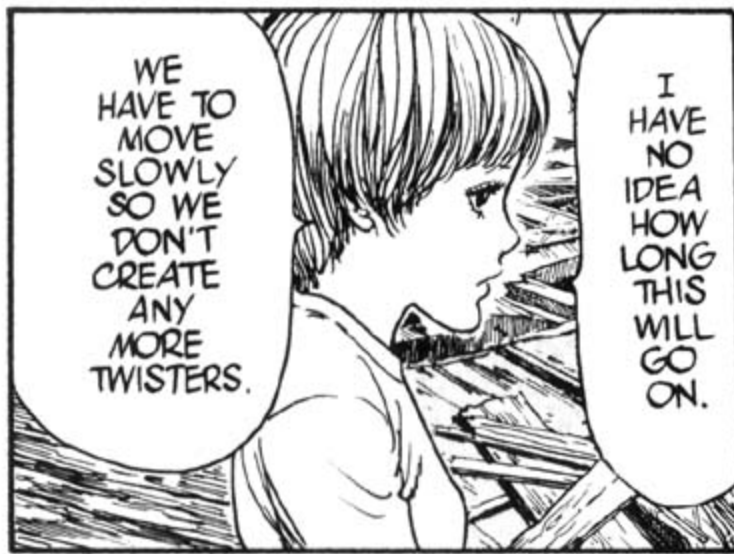
SSHHH!  
YOU'RE  
MORE  
WINDED  
THAN  
YOU  
THINK...

EVEN THE  
SLIGHTEST  
SUDDEN  
MOTION  
OR LOUD  
NOISE HERE  
CREATES  
AN  
IMMENSE  
WHIRLWIND.

THEY  
SAY IT'S  
BECAUSE OF  
THE FORCE, THE  
AIR PRESSURE,  
FROM THE  
HURRICANES  
SUCKED IN  
BY DRAGONFLY  
POND.

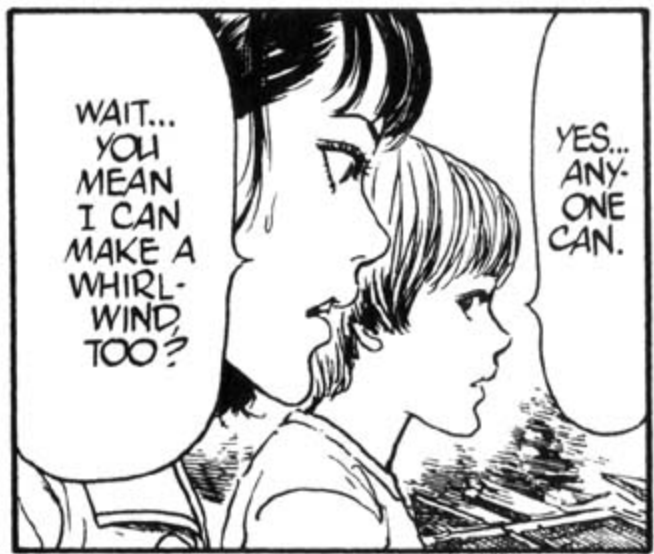
THAT  
LAKE  
SUCKED IN  
ALL THE  
HURRICANES.  
IT SWALLOWED  
ALL SIX  
OF THEM.

NOW  
IT'S A  
WHIRLPOOL  
THAT  
NEVER  
STOPS.



WE HAVE TO MOVE SLOWLY SO WE DON'T CREATE ANY MORE TWISTERS.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG THIS WILL GO ON.



WAIT... YOU MEAN I CAN MAKE A WHIRLWIND TOO?

YES... ANYONE CAN.



SO PLEASE KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

EVEN YOUR BREATH CAN CREATE ONE.



IM-POSSIBLE... THEN I WAS RESPONSIBLE...

FOR BLOWING THOSE KIDS AWAY?



HOW HORRIBLE... I DID SOMETHING HORRIBLE... THOSE KIDS ARE PROBABLY...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?



WHAT'S WRONG?

THOSE KIDS... AND MY CREW... AND THAT HELICOPTER...



PLEASE DON'T CRY. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR PLACE.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE OUTSIDE.



WE'RE ALMOST THERE.



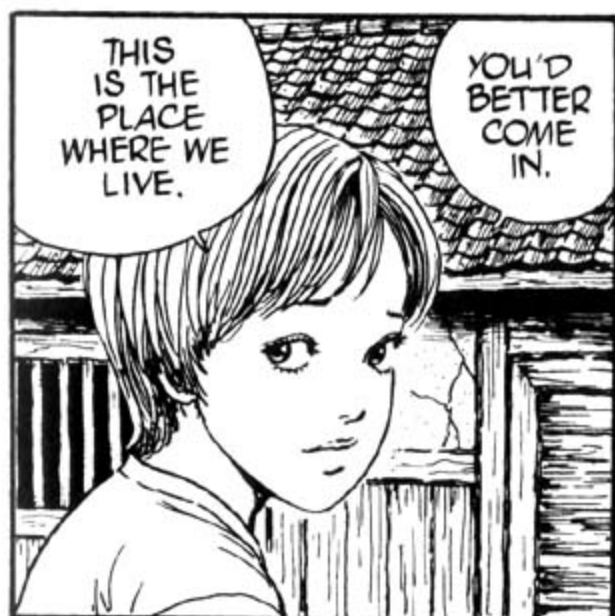
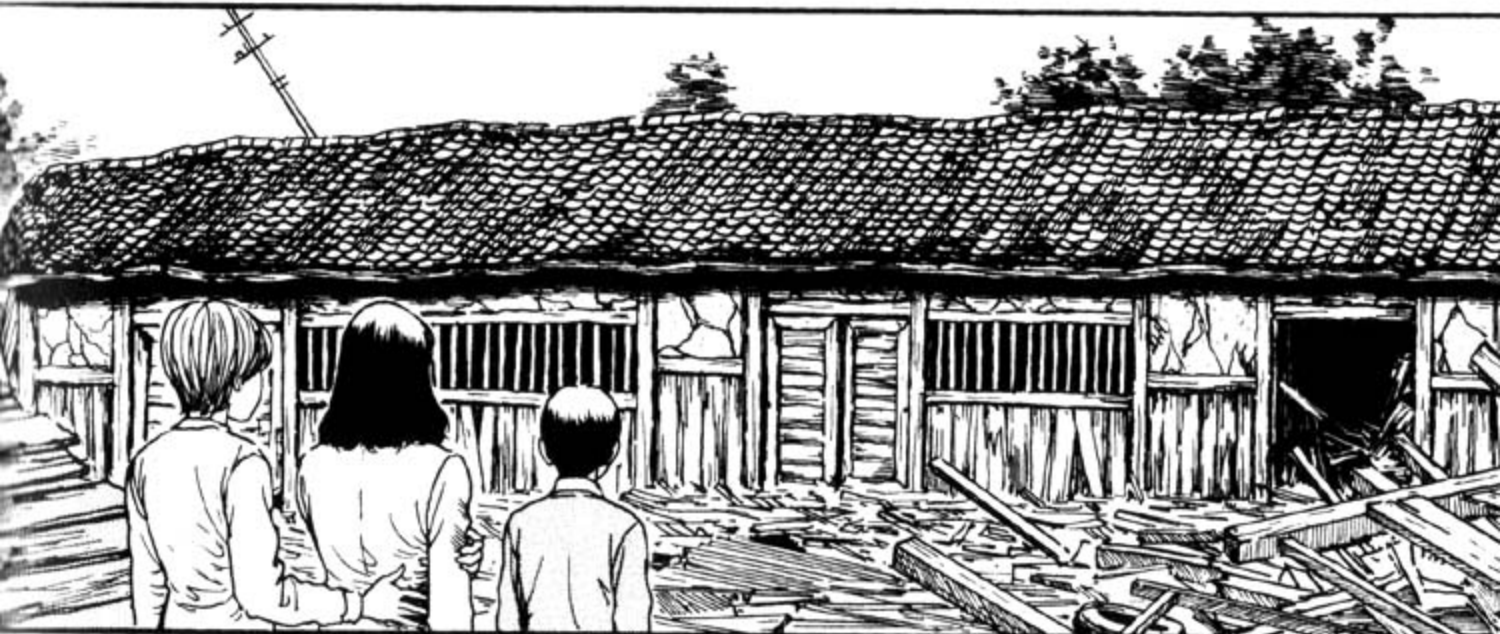
THIS IS LIKE THE "BUTTERFLY EFFECT"...

Hm?



"A BUTTERFLY FLAPPING ITS WINGS CAN CAUSE A HURRICANE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD."

THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS TOWN.



THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE.

YOU'D BETTER COME IN.



IT'S AN OLD RUN-DOWN SHACK.

THERE'S LOTS OF THEM AROUND HERE.



FOR WHATEVER REASON, THOUGH, THIS BUILDING DIDN'T SUFFER ANY DAMAGE.

THE OTHER ROW HOUSES ARE FINE, TOO. IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE THEY WERE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE TO BEGIN WITH.



WE'RE HOME.



COME ON IN.

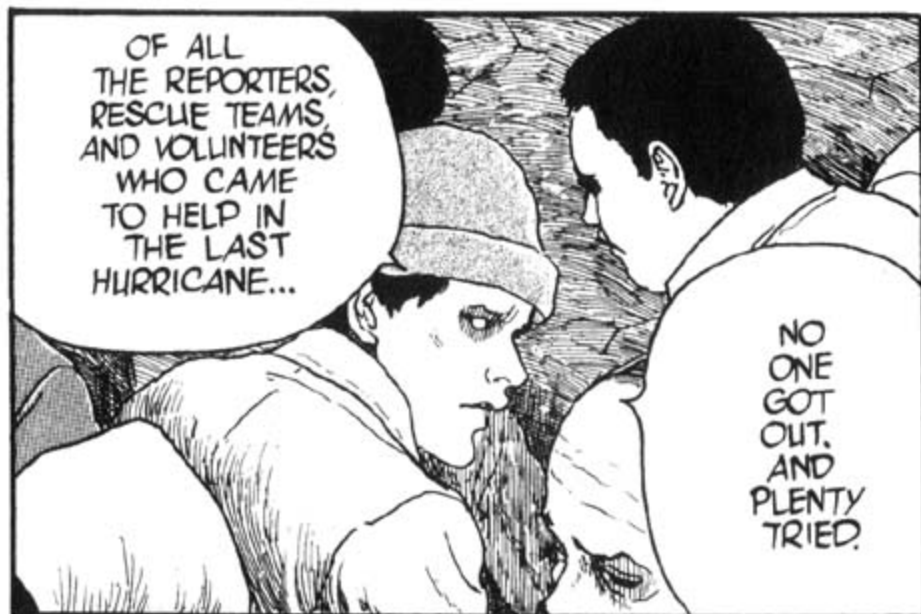
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE. UNLIKE OUR OLD PLACE, IT'S NOT INFECTED.

Infected



KIRIE... DID YOU BRING OVER A GUEST?





OF ALL THE REPORTERS, RESCUE TEAMS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO HELP IN THE LAST HURRICANE...

NO ONE GOT OUT, AND PLENTY TRIED.



NO ONE GOT OUT?



THERE'S A TERRIFYING POWER IN THIS TOWN. IT'S SUCKING US INTO ITS SPIRAL.

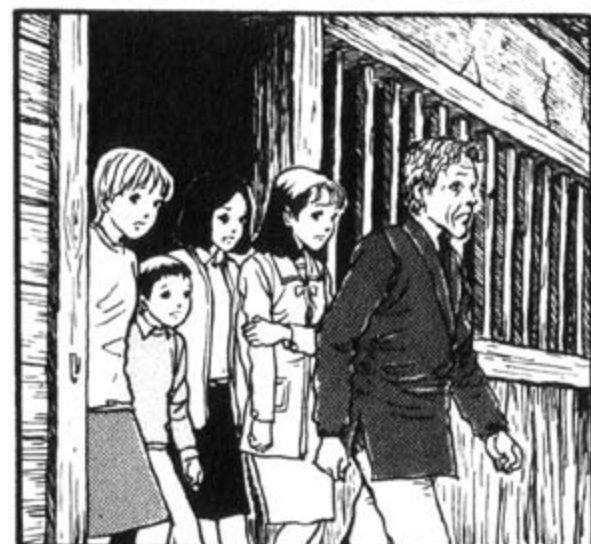
EVEN THE SIGNAL FROM A CELL PHONE CAN'T GET OUT OF KURŌZU-CHO.



DON'T LISTEN TO THEM. LET'S GO.



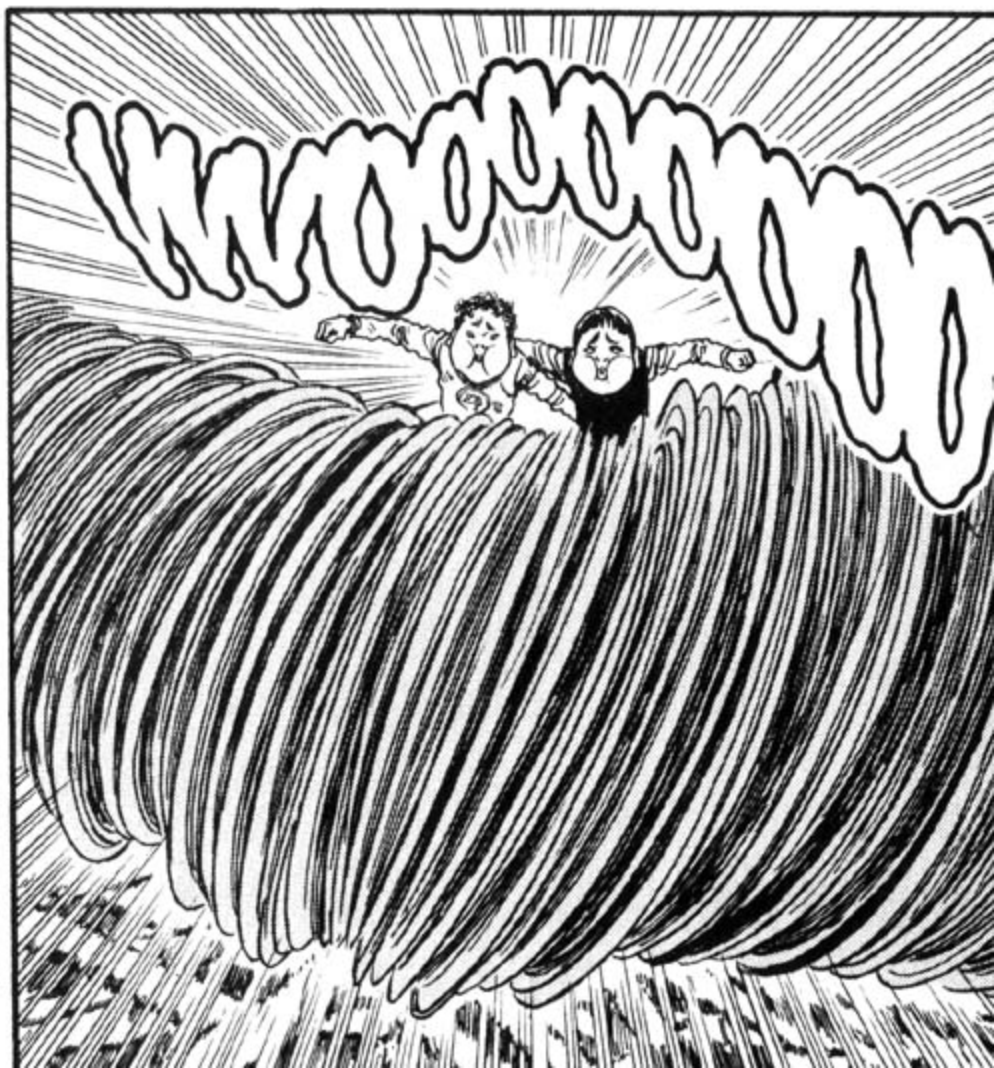
Ah!

















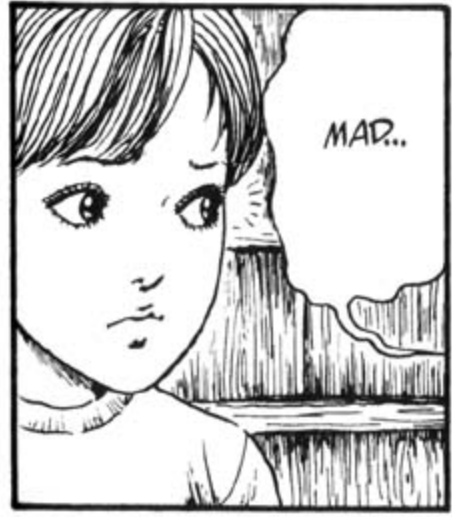


HA HA HA!  
LOOK AT  
THEM GO  
FLYING!

THEY  
DESERVED  
IT!



AHAHAHAHA



MAD...



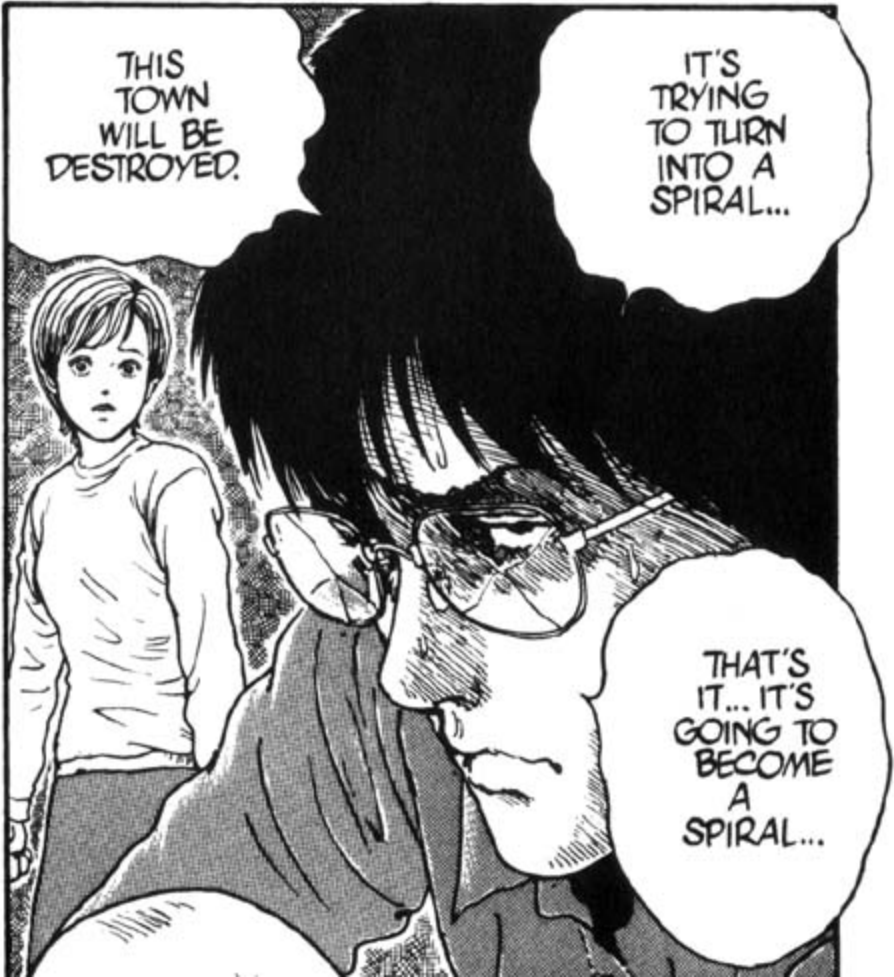
MAD...

MAD...



THIS  
TOWN'S  
GOING  
MAD...

A  
MAD  
SPIRAL  
...



THIS  
TOWN  
WILL  
BE  
DESTROYED.

IT'S  
TRYING  
TO TURN  
INTO A  
SPIRAL...

THAT'S  
IT... IT'S  
GOING TO  
BECOME  
A  
SPIRAL...



SHUCHI  
...

ARRGH!  
NO WAY!



HOW  
DID THEY  
LEARN  
TO DO  
THAT?

LOOK  
AT  
THAT!



THEY'RE  
WHEELING  
AROUND  
LIKE  
BUTTERFLIES!



KYA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

KURŌZU-  
CHO...  
WAS  
GOING  
MAD.

CHAPTER

15

CHASS

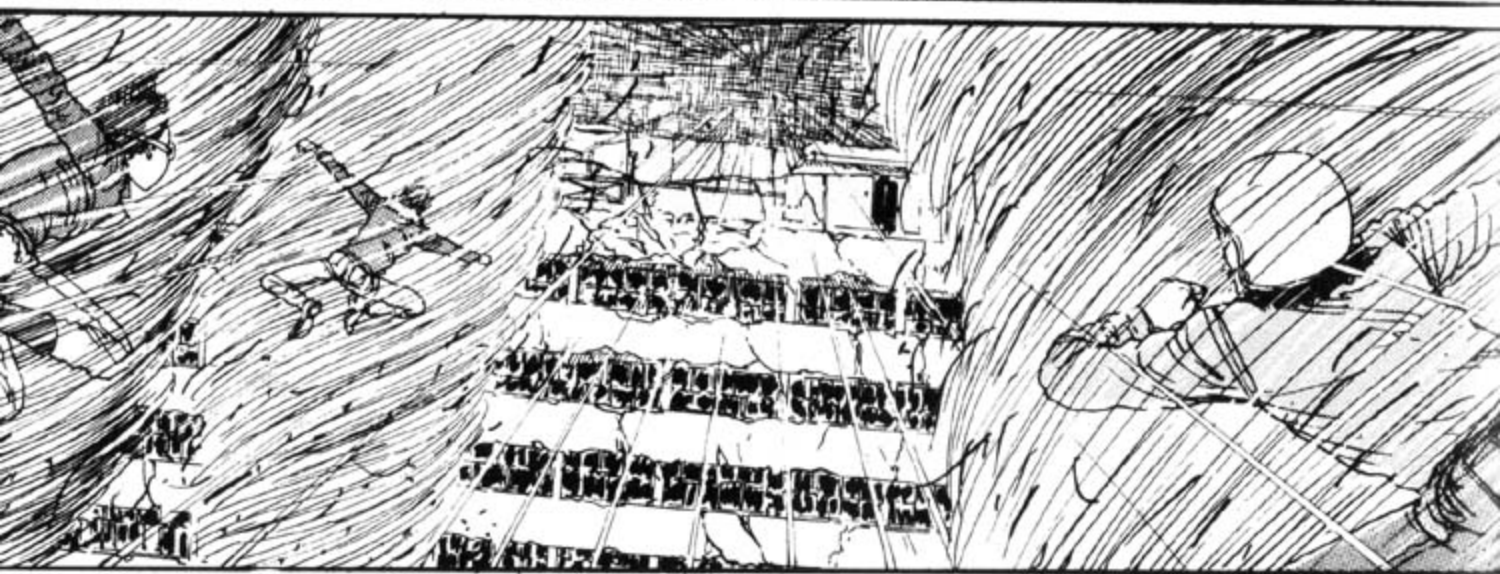








# YEEAAHHH!

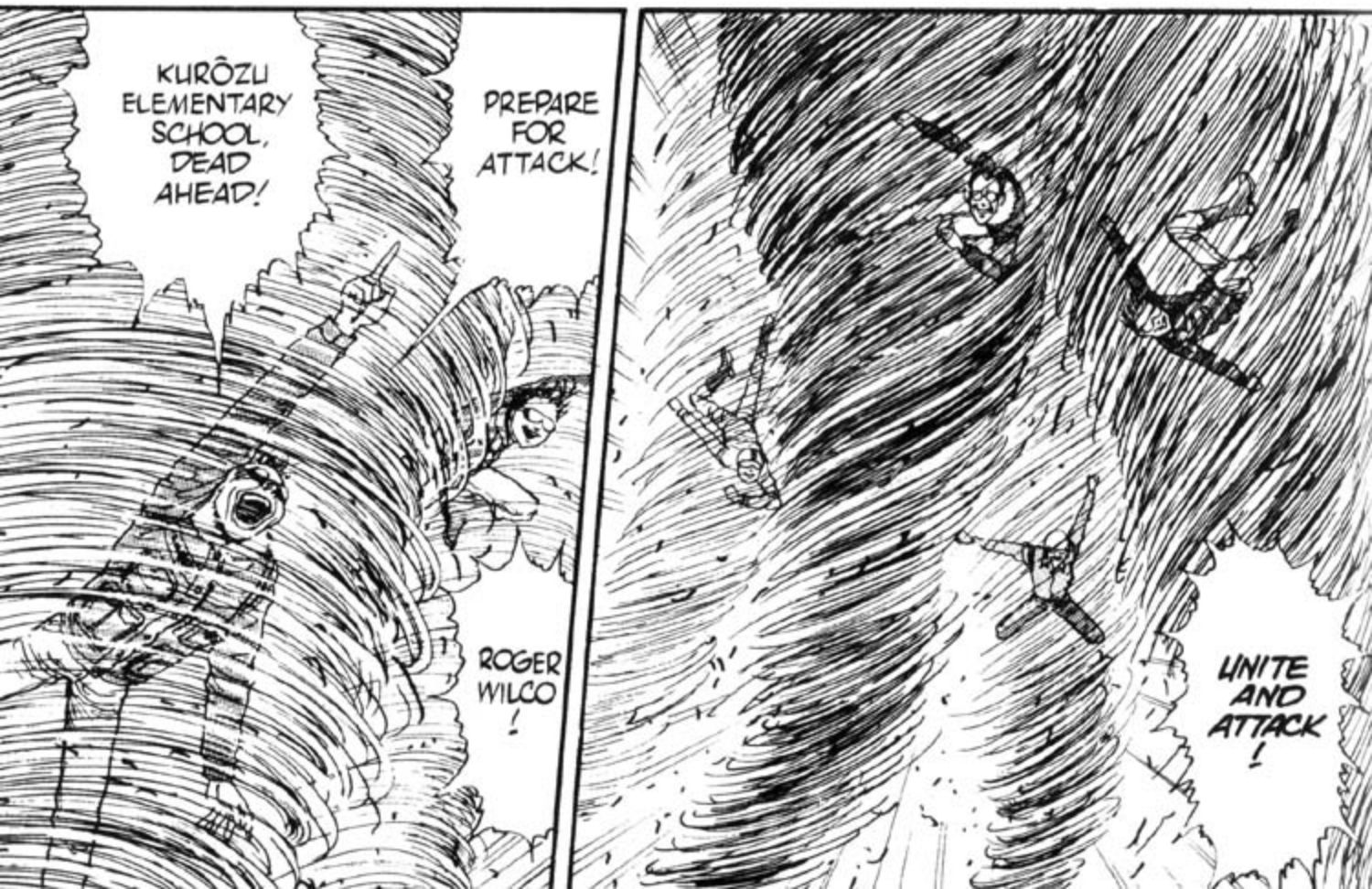


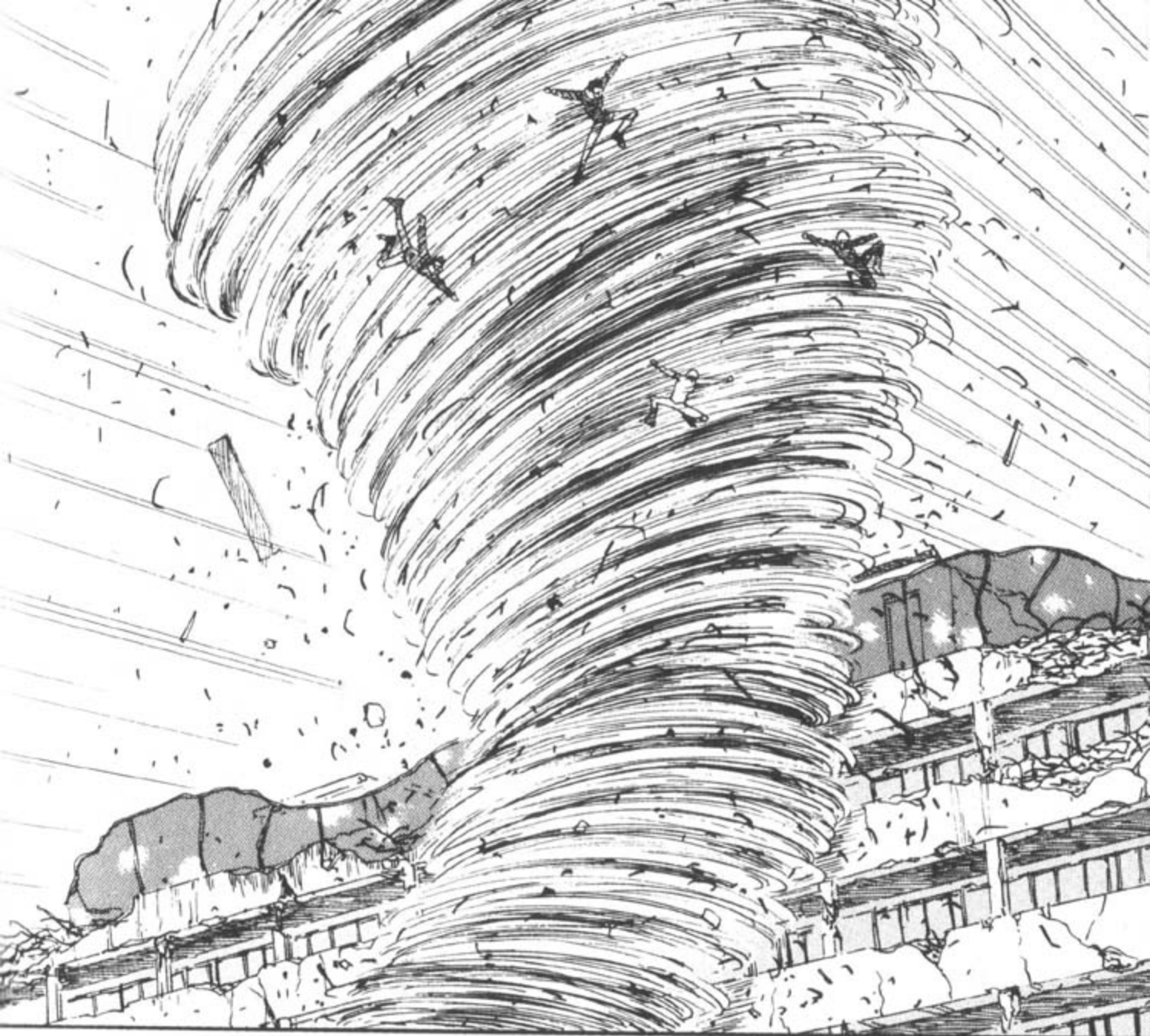
KURŌZŪ  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL,  
DEAD  
AHEAD!

PREPARE  
FOR  
ATTACK!

ROGER  
WILCO  
!

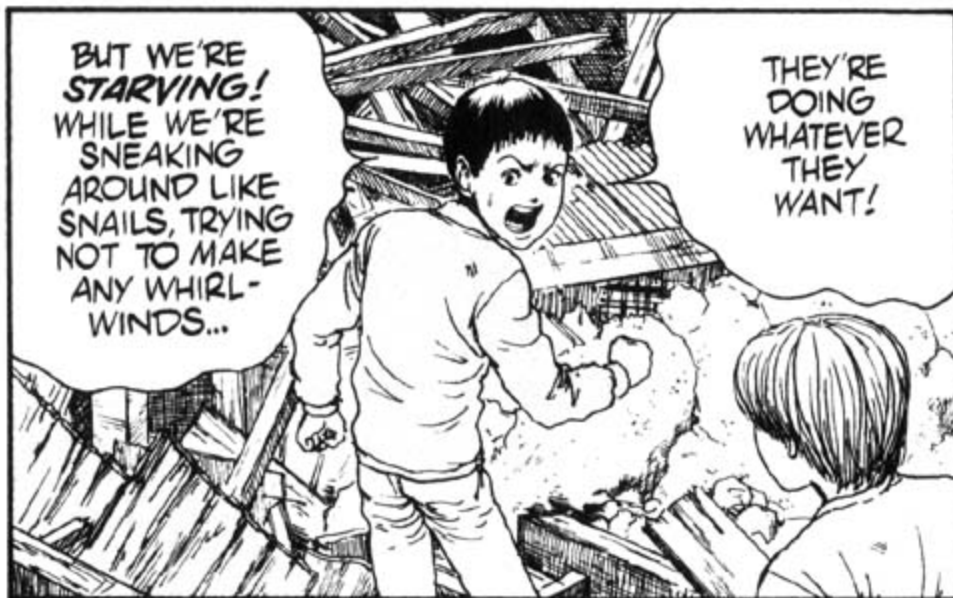
UNITE  
AND  
ATTACK  
!











BUT WE'RE  
**STARVING!**  
WHILE WE'RE  
SNEAKING  
AROUND LIKE  
SNAILS, TRYING  
NOT TO MAKE  
ANY WHIRL-  
WINDS...

THEY'RE  
DOING  
WHATEVER  
THEY  
WANT!

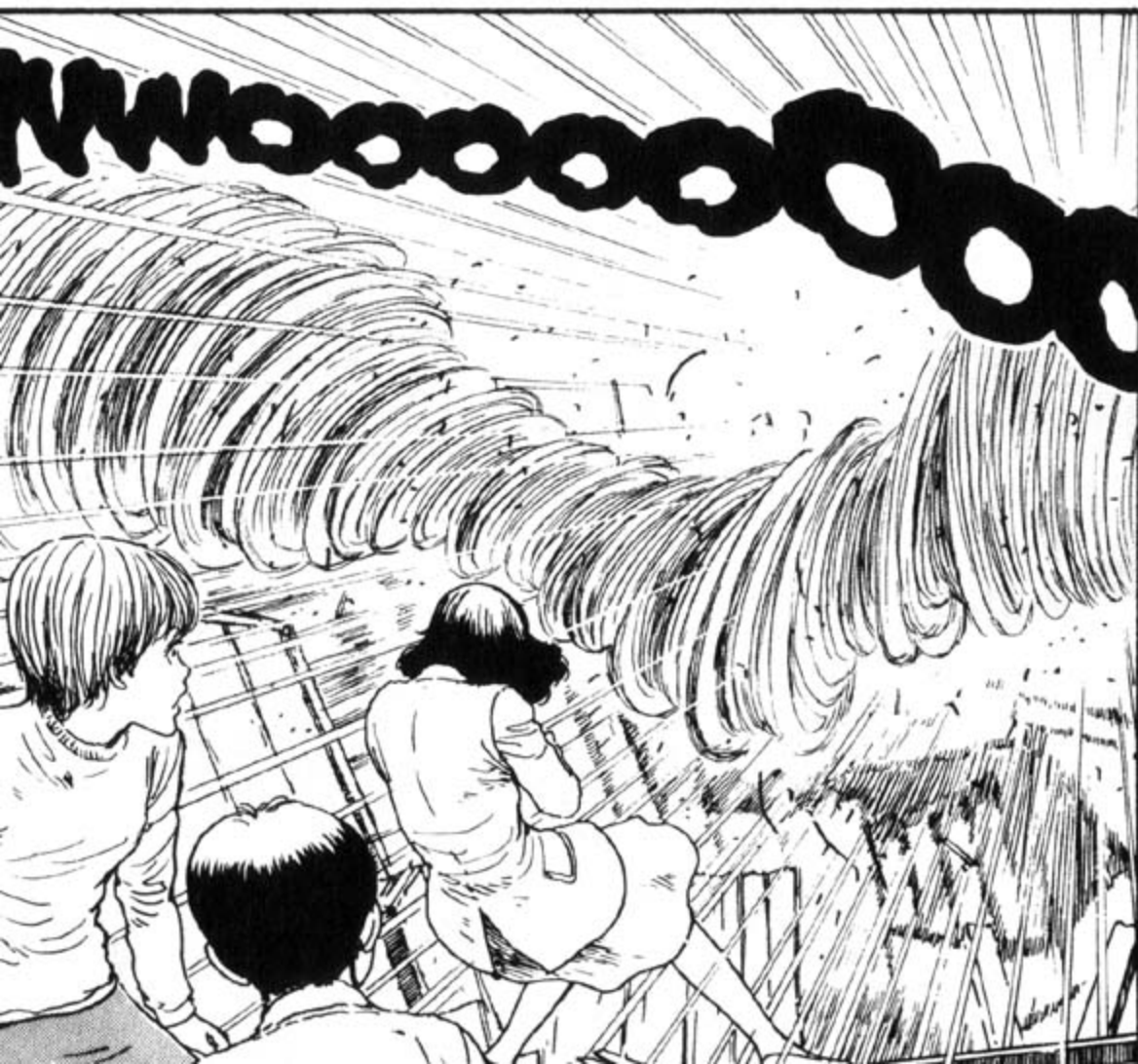


SHUT  
UP,  
MITSUO!

KEEP  
QUIET  
OR  
YOU'LL  
MAKE A  
TORNADO!



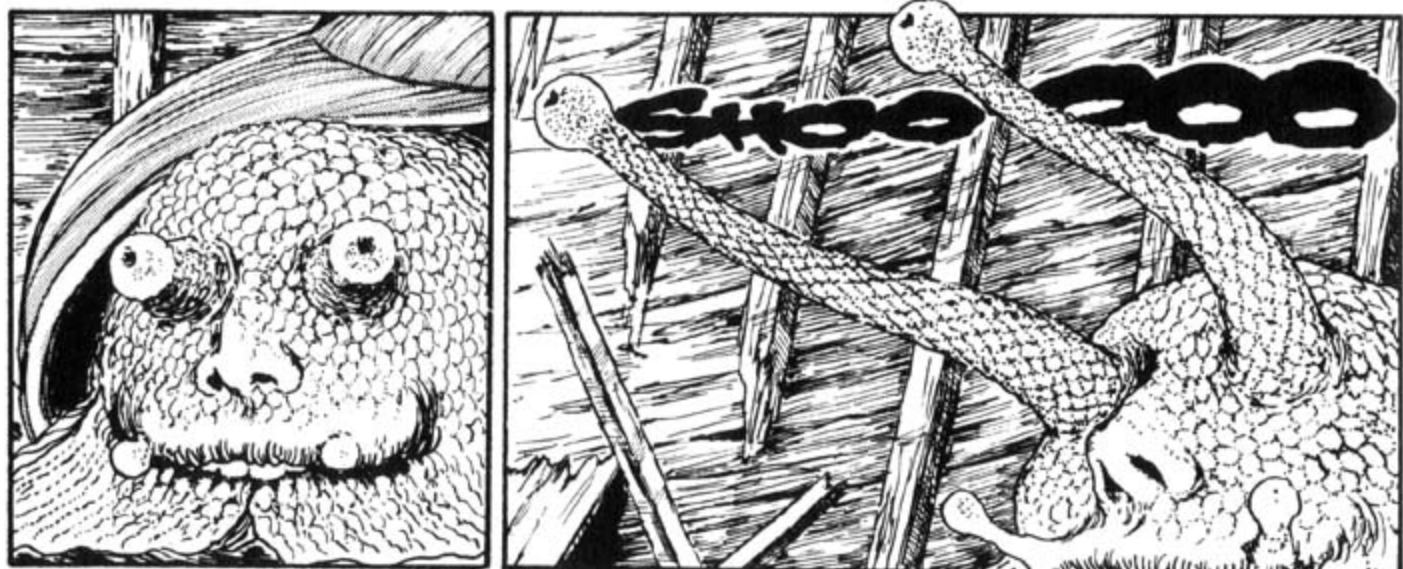
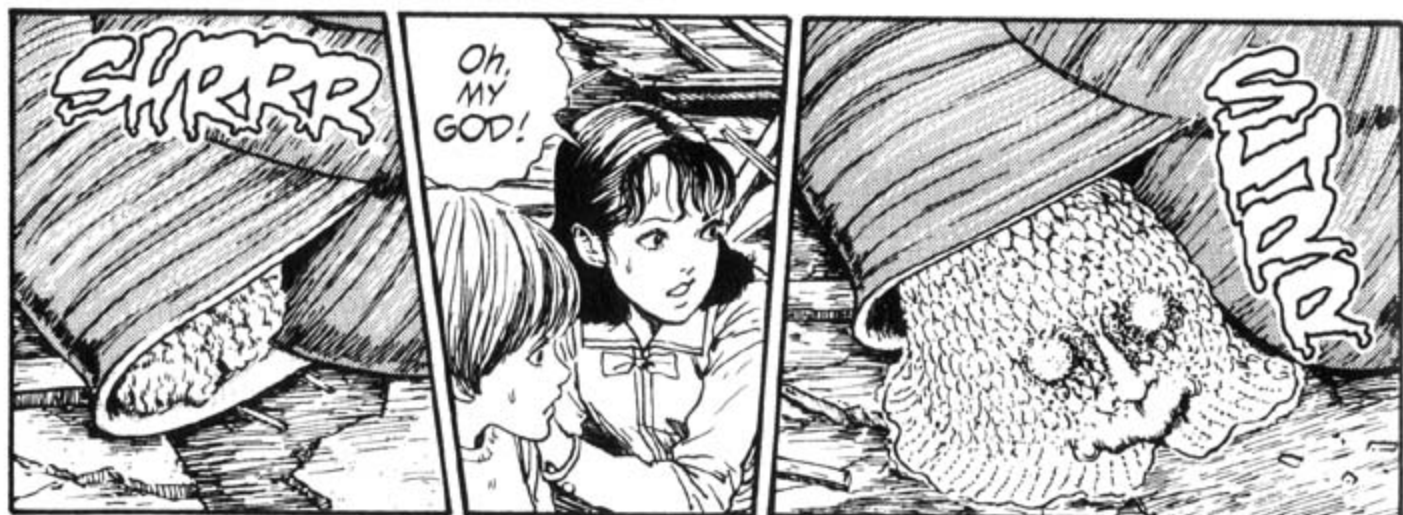
**EEYAAAAH!**



CHIE...?!



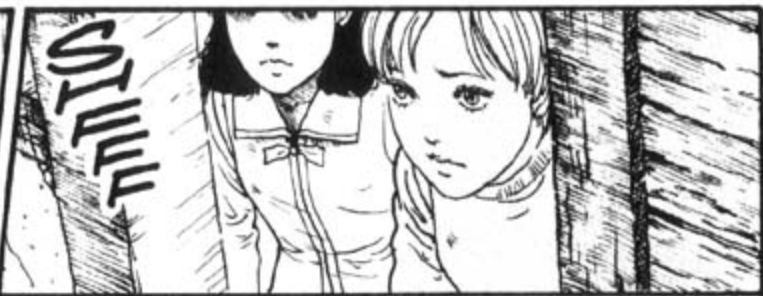




THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THIS TOWN TURN SOME PEOPLE INTO SNAILS.









GET OUT OF HERE!  
THERE'S NO ROOM!



BUT WE WERE LIVING HERE BEFORE YOU PEOPLE EVEN CAME!



KIRIE...  
KIRIE!  
COME OVER  
HERE!

MOM!




GOD, IT'S  
GETTING  
CROWDED...



THESE  
OLD  
SHACKS  
ARE THE  
ONLY  
BUILDINGS  
THE WHIRL-  
WINDS  
CAN'T  
DESTROY.

AND  
WE CAN  
MOVE  
AND TALK  
NORMALLY  
WITHOUT  
BRINGING  
THE PLACE  
DOWN ON  
OUR HEADS.



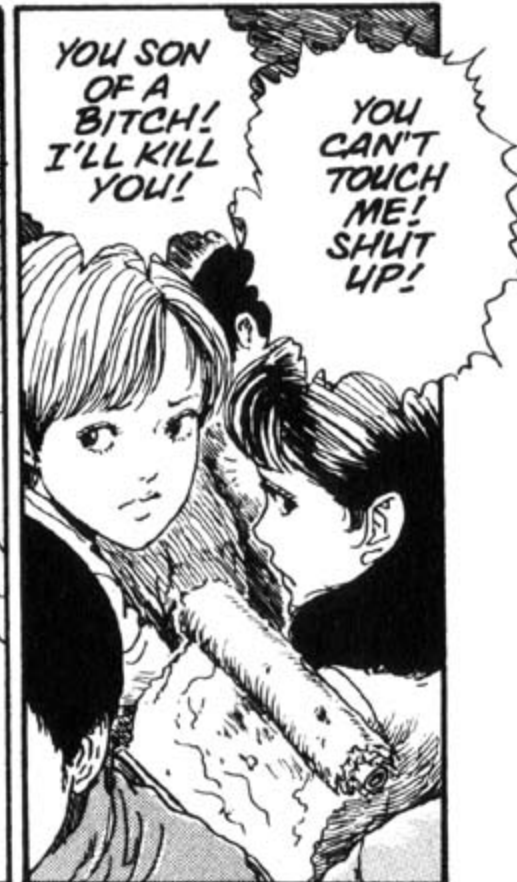
IT MUST  
BE THE  
SAME IN  
THE OTHER  
ROW  
HOUSES.

WHAT'S  
THIS...?



BUT  
HOW  
MANY  
PEOPLE  
CAN  
IT  
HOLD?

IF  
THIS  
GOES  
ON  
WE'LL BE  
PACKED  
LIKE  
SARDINES.

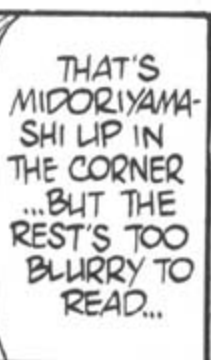




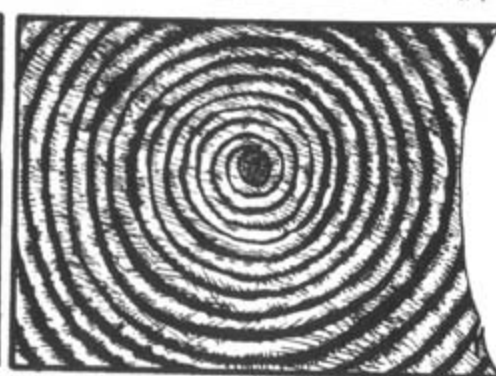
WHAT IS IT?



IT LOOKS LIKE A MAP OF KURŌZU-CHO.



THAT'S MIDORIYAMA-SHI LIP IN THE CORNER ...BUT THE REST'S TOO BLURRY TO READ...



AND WHERE WE ARE... THEY DREW THIS...



DAD... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!



MM ...

Ahmm...



MOM... I'M WORRIED ABOUT DAD.

I KNOW.



HEY!  
THROW  
THAT  
UP  
HERE!

I'M THE  
ONE WHO  
FOUND  
IT, YOU  
THIEVES!



...



I  
CAN'T  
TAKE  
MUCH  
MORE  
OF  
THIS...

EVERY-  
ONE'S  
ON  
EDGE.



I'M HUNGRY!  
YOU'RE FROM THAT  
RED CROSS TEAM,  
DON'T YOU HAVE  
ANY MORE  
FOOD?

I'M  
SORRY,  
WE RAN  
OUT  
YESTERDAY.



THEN WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?  
WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
GET THE  
HELL OUT?

TH-  
THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
UNCALLED  
FOR!

please  
stop...



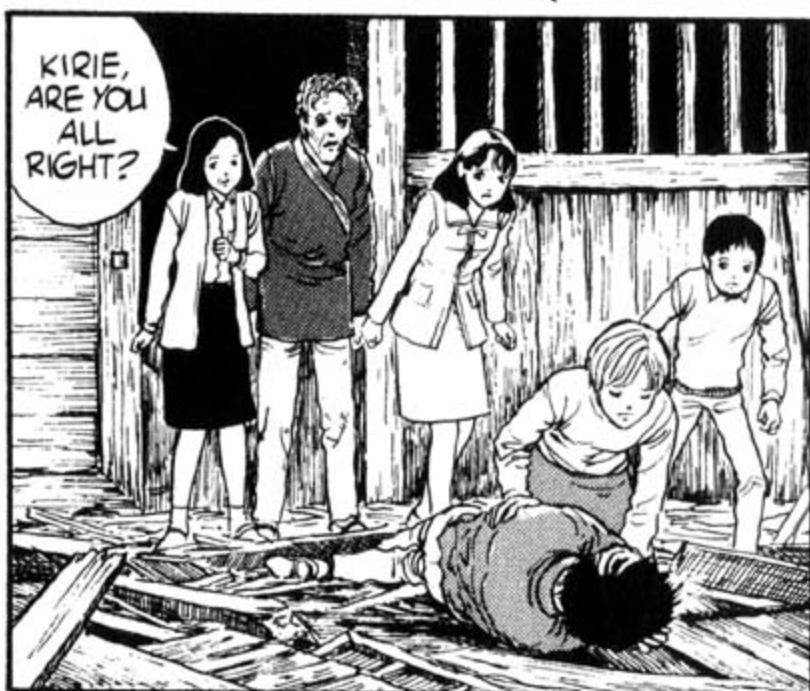
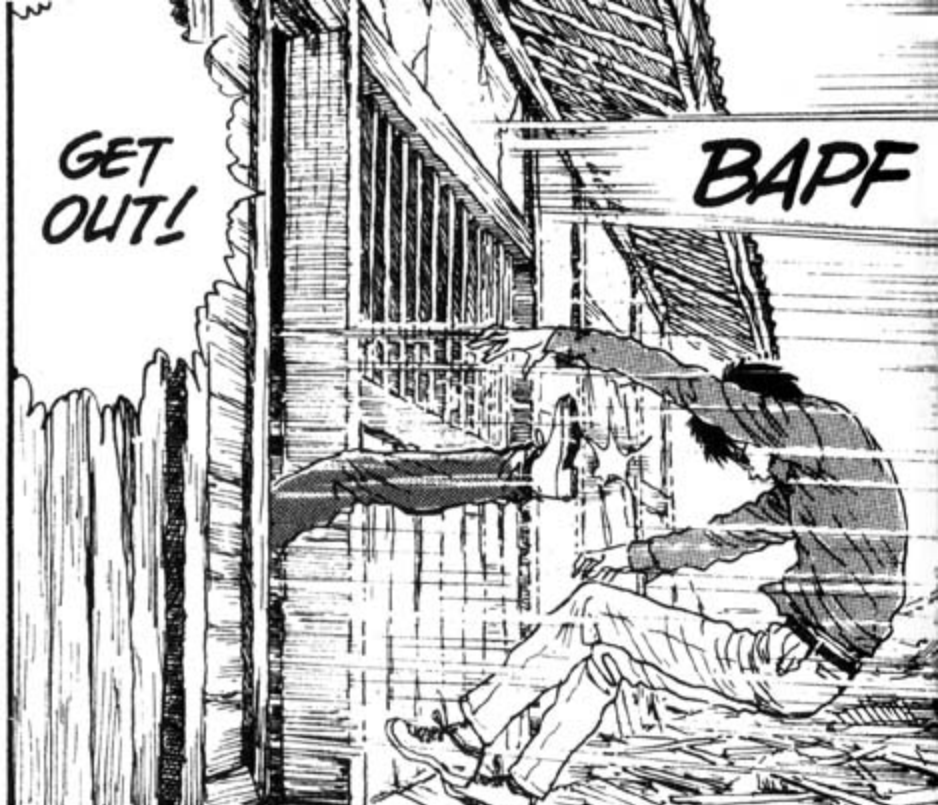
MAD...  
MAD...

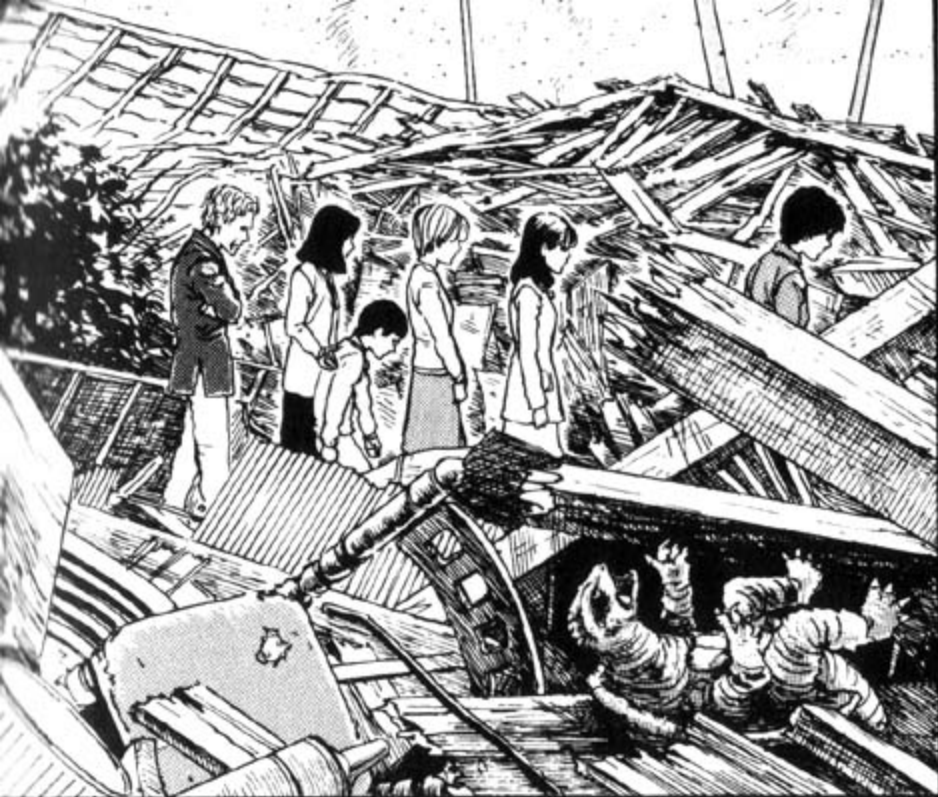
THIS  
TOWN'S  
GOING  
MAD...



YOU! ALL YOU  
DO IS MUMBLE  
TO YOURSELF!  
WELL IT'S MAKING  
ME FUCKING  
DEPRESSED!

DO  
YOU  
HEAR  
ME?





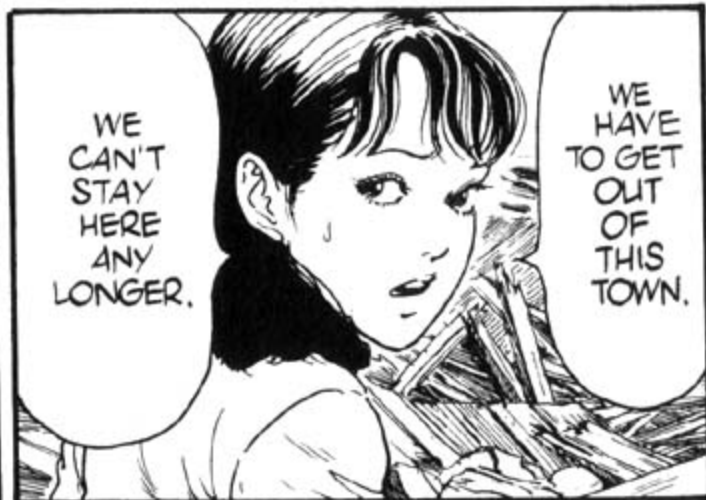
ARRGH!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?



WE'LL FIND ANOTHER ROW HOUSE ...SOME OTHER SPACE...

BUT IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE CROWDED EVERYWHERE!



WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER.

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS TOWN.



BUT EVERYONE SAYS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

YOU TRIED IT ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?



YES...

...JUST ONCE.



I TRIED GOING BACK THROUGH THE SAME TUNNEL I CAME THROUGH. I WAS GOING TO TELL THE REST OF THE WORLD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, ABOUT THE DEATHS OF MY COWORKERS AND THE TOWN.

BUT THE TUNNEL DIDN'T END...



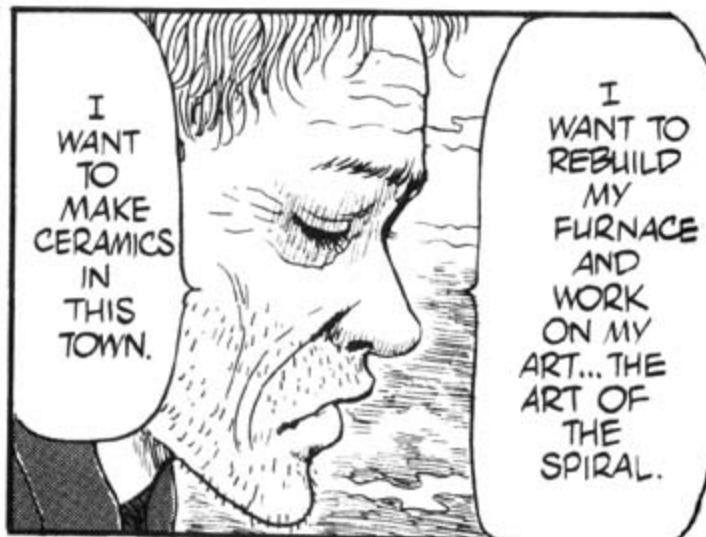
THE SPIRAL WON'T LET US GO. IT'S JUST LIKE SHUICHI SAID ALL ALONG.

BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ESCAPE!



IT'S OKAY.

I'M NOT LEAVING.



I WANT TO MAKE CERAMICS IN THIS TOWN.

I WANT TO REBUILD MY FURNACE AND WORK ON MY ART... THE ART OF THE SPIRAL.



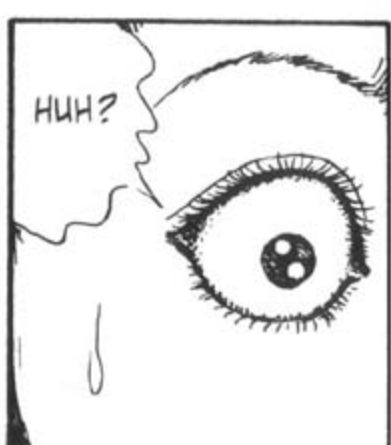
FOR THAT, I NEED THE MUD FROM THE BOTTOM OF DRAGONFLY POND.

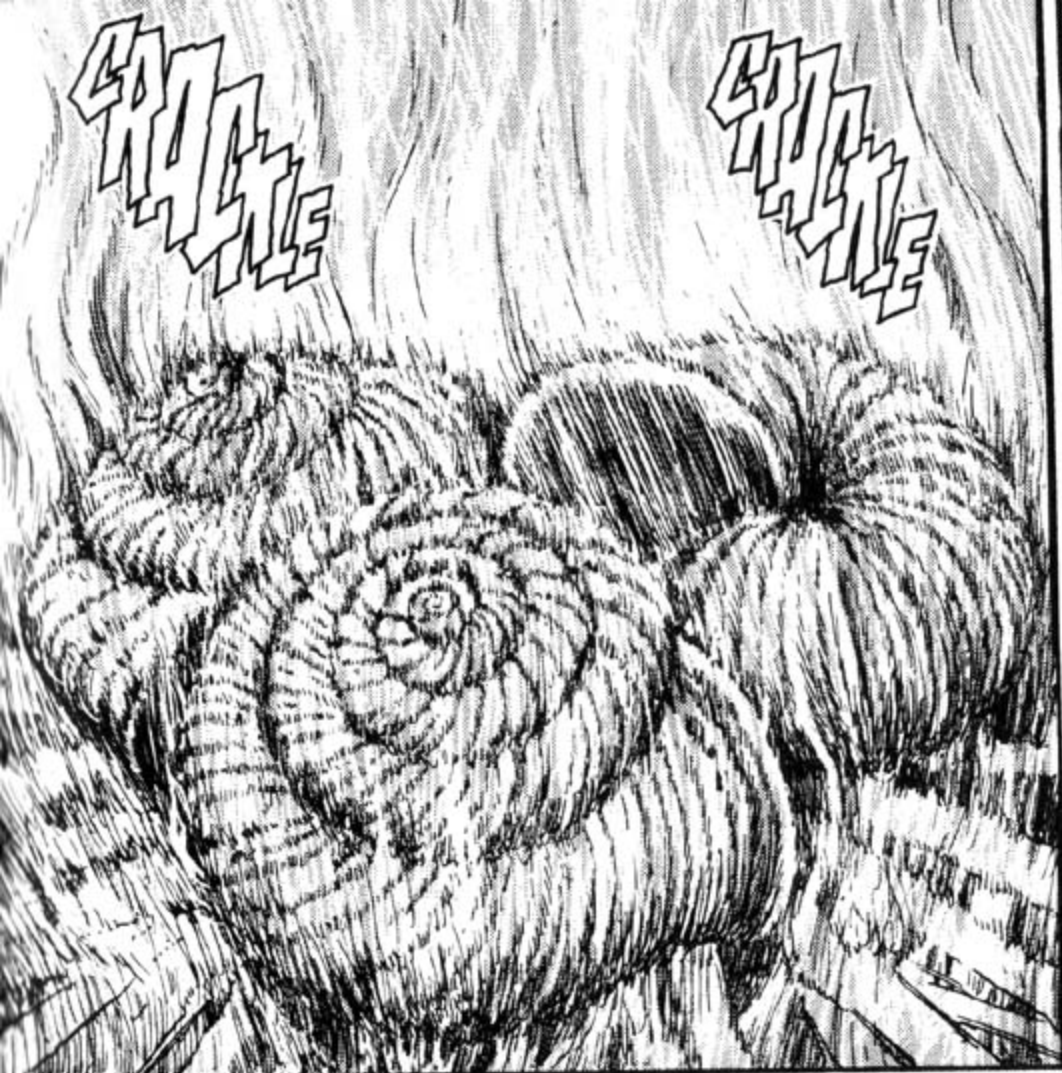
THE MUD FROM DRAGONFLY POND? BUT DEAR... DRAGONFLY POND'S JUST A WHIRLPOOL. YOU CAN'T DIG UP MUD THERE ANYMORE.















HOW ABOUT YOU PRETTY LADIES?

THIS STUFF'S REAL GOOD. KEEPS YOU MOVING. JUST THINK OF IT AS ESCARGOT.



BUT THAT'S NOT ESCARGOT ... THEY'RE HUMAN...

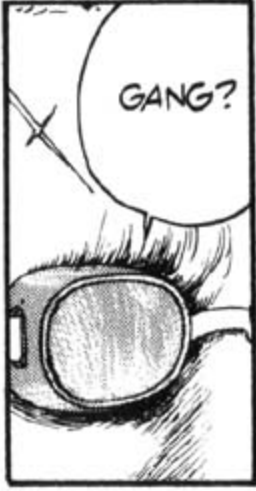


DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

WHY DON'T YOU GIRLS STAY HERE, AND YOU CAN EAT LIKE THIS EVERY NIGHT.



WE'RE NOT JOINING YOUR GANG.



GANG?



COME ON. WE'LL TEACH YOU TO FLY. REMEMBER THOSE LITTLE KIDS WHO DID IT FIRST?

"THEY'RE FLYING AROUND LIKE BUTTERFLIES!" HA HA! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?



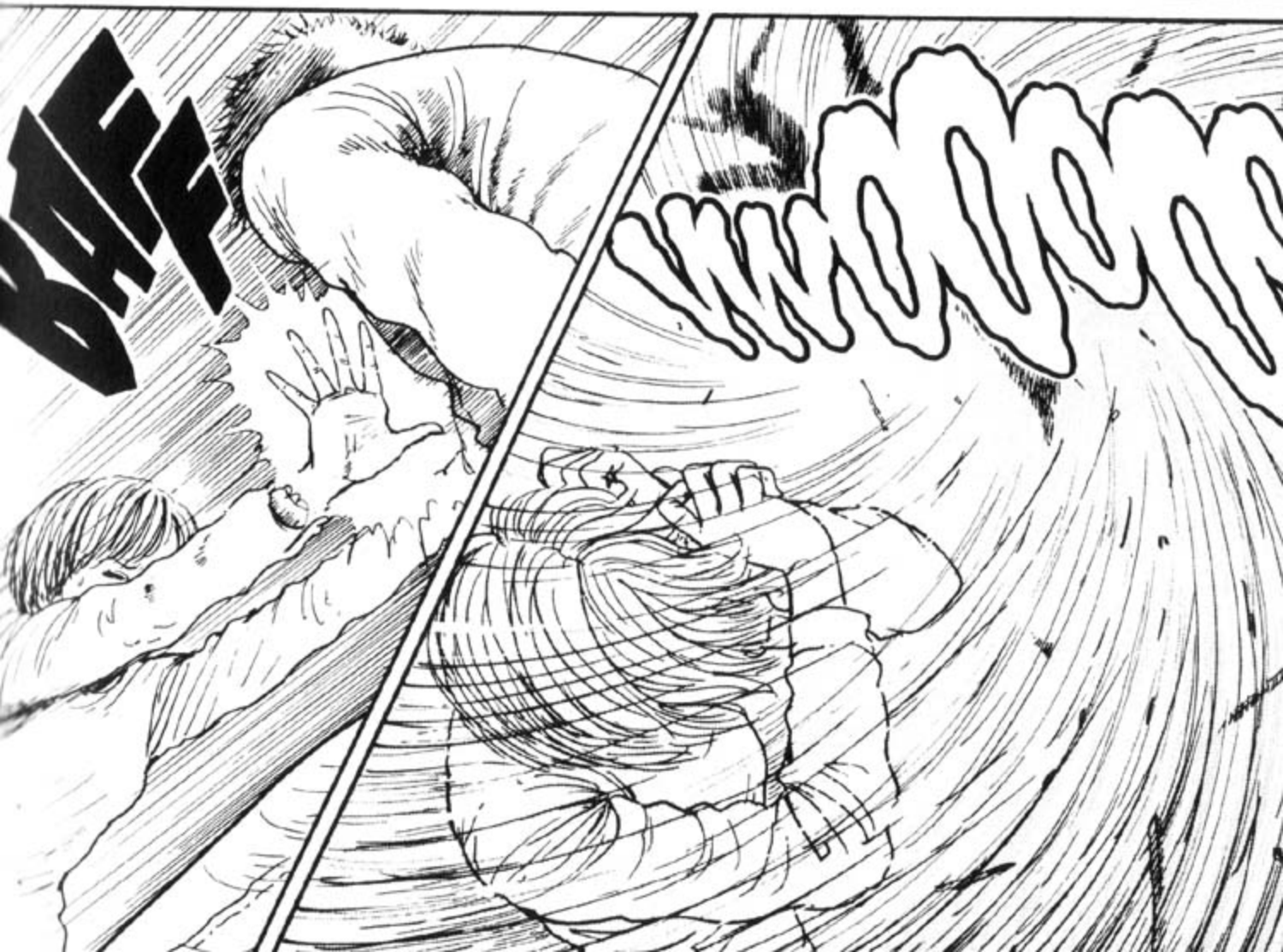
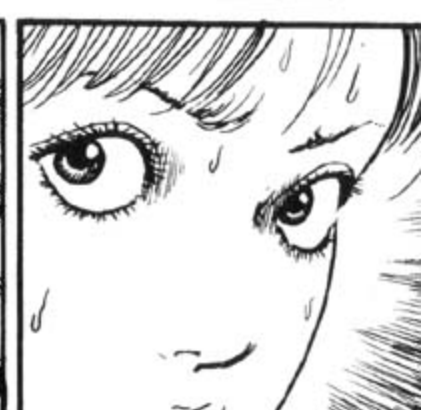
WE'RE MORE LIKE DRAGON-FLIES.

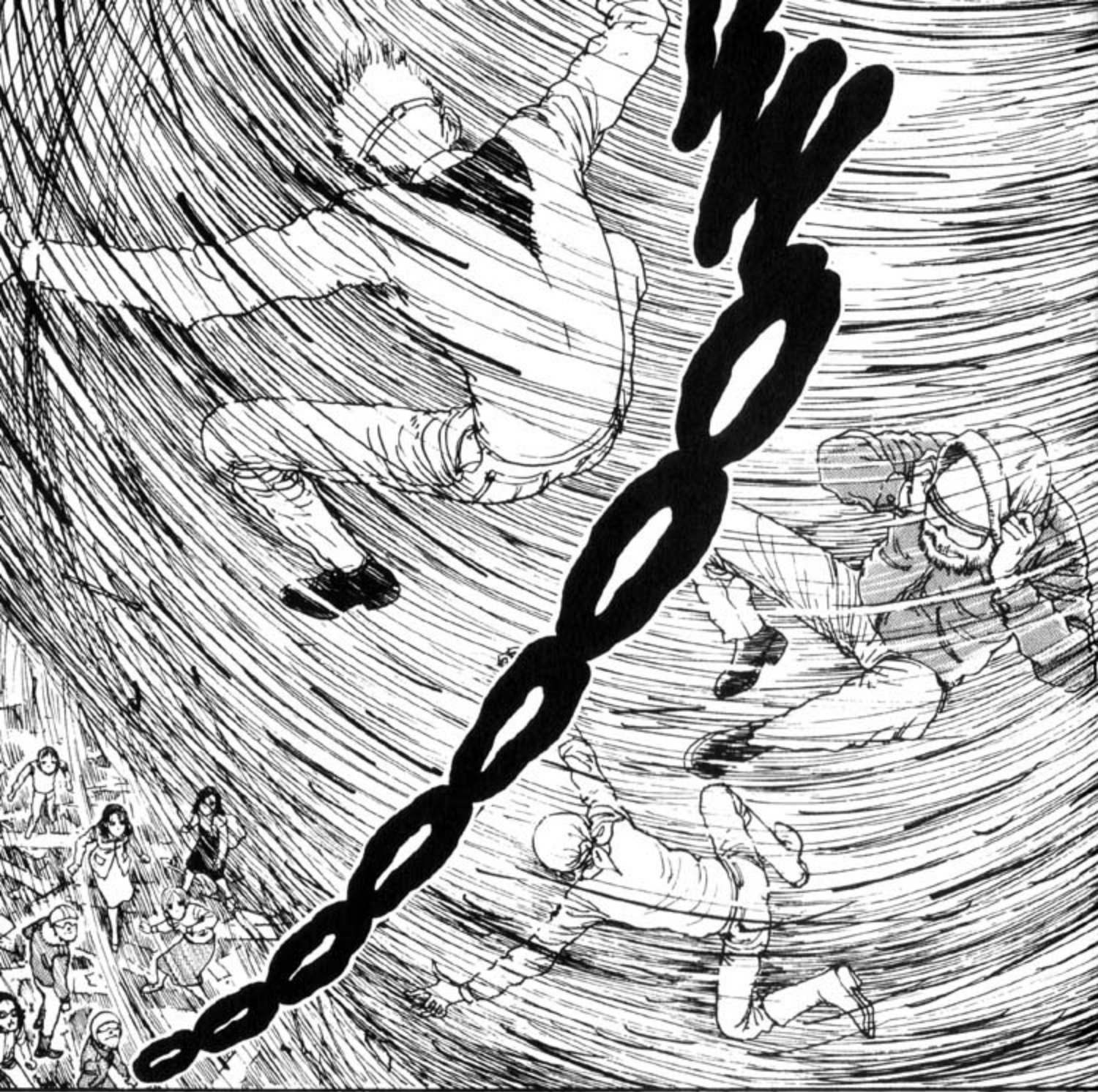
DRAGON-FLIES EAT MEAT.



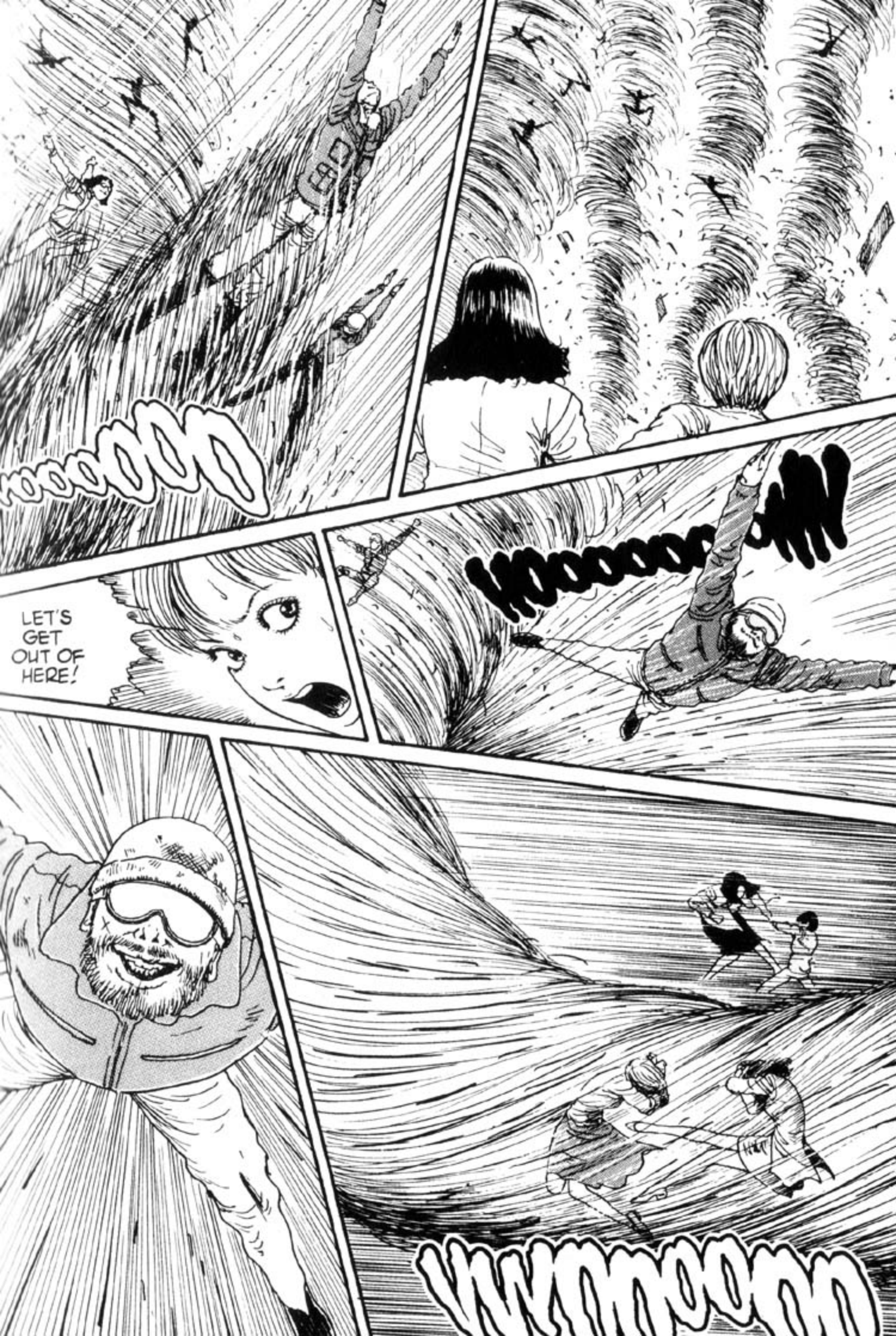
WE'LL TEACH YOU THINGS ...











oooooooooooo

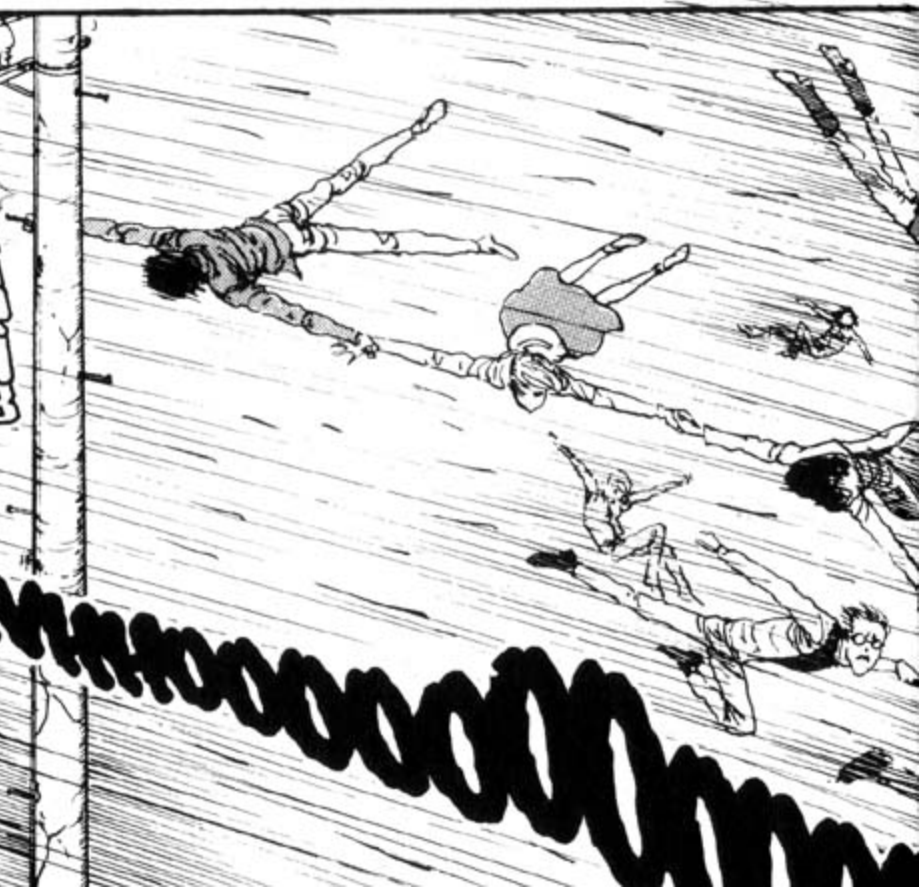
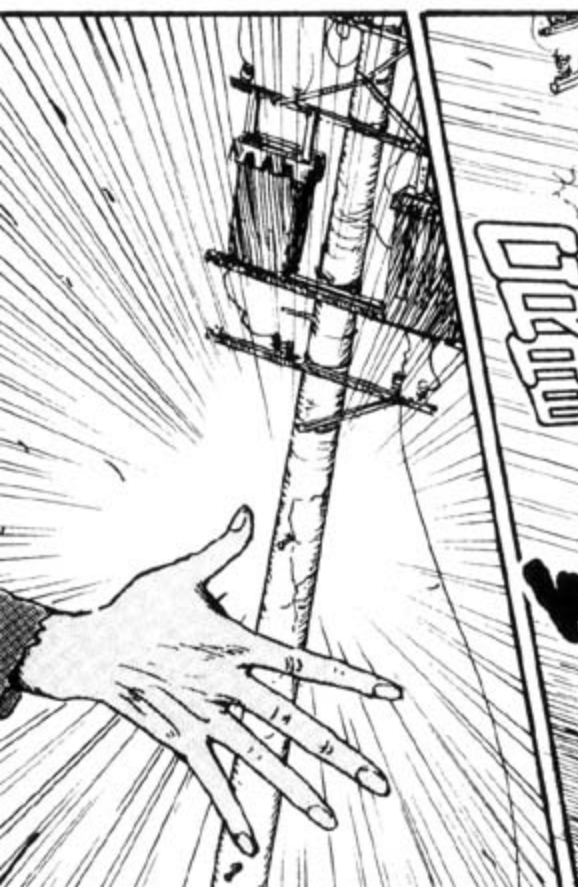
LET'S  
GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!

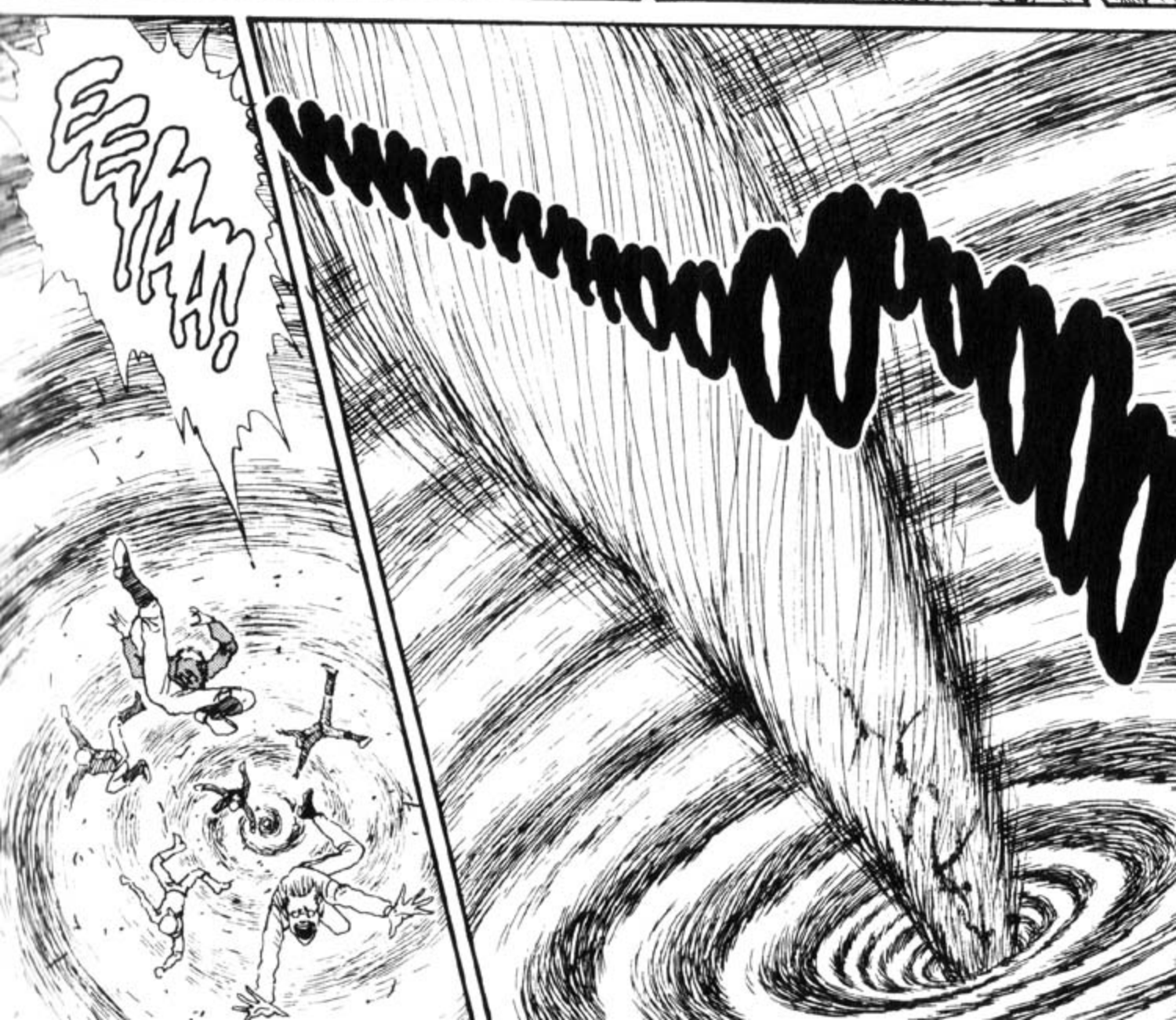
oooooooooooo

oooooooooooo











CHAPTER

16

FRONT  
W









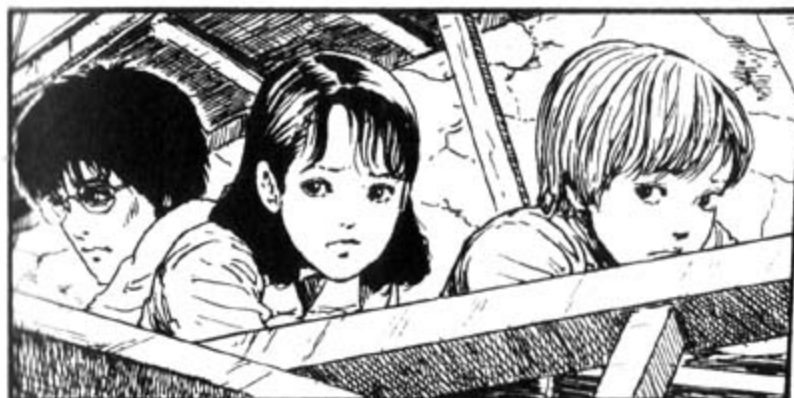
WE  
LOST  
SOMEONE  
AGAIN...

THE  
WIND'S STILL  
STIRRED UP  
FROM THOSE  
TWISTER  
GANGS.



HEY  
YOU!

ARE  
YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?



YES...  
WE'RE  
OKAY.



I  
WALKED  
HERE  
FROM  
MIDORIYAMA-  
SHI FIVE  
DAYS  
AGO.

I  
HEARD  
THERE  
WAS A  
DISASTER  
IN KUROZU-  
CHO SO  
I CAME  
AS A  
VOLUNTEER.



I  
HAVE  
RELATIVES  
HERE. I  
CAME FOUR  
DAYS AGO  
LOOKING  
FOR THEM...

BUT  
NOW I'M  
DOING  
MY  
BEST  
JUST  
TO  
SURVIVE.



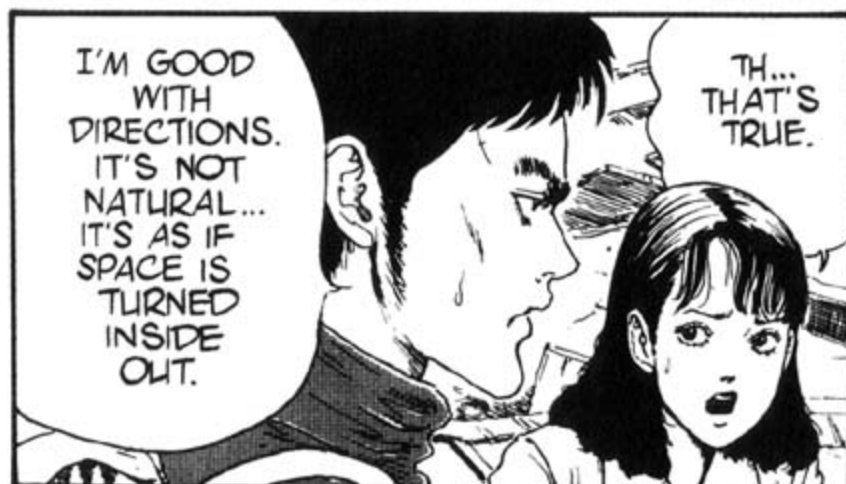
I'VE TRIED OVER AND OVER TO ESCAPE ... TO JUST TURN AROUND AND WALK IN A STRAIGHT LINE...

BUT NOTHING WORKS...



THAT'S RIGHT.

NO MATTER WHICH ROAD YOU TAKE, YOU END UP BACK HERE.



I'M GOOD WITH DIRECTIONS. IT'S NOT NATURAL... IT'S AS IF SPACE IS TURNED INSIDE OUT.

TH... THAT'S TRUE.



I TRIED GOING THROUGH THE TUNNEL.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS WRONG BECAUSE I COULDN'T SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END.



THEN THE TUNNEL STARTED TO TWIST LIKE A STRANGE SPIRAL GOING DOWN INTO THE DARKNESS.

I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO FALL INTO IT... I HAD TO CRAWL TO MAKE MY WAY BACK.



I'D BEEN TELLING MYSELF THAT IT WAS JUST ME... THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

I ALSO TRIED TO ESCAPE BY SEA.

ALL THE FISHING BOATS IN THE HARBOR WERE WRECKED. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO GO IN THE STORM.

A COUPLE OF US DECIDED TO BUILD A RAFT.

WHILE WE WERE GATHERING BUILDING MATERIALS, WE SAW ANOTHER GROUP LEAVING.

THEY MUST HAVE BUILT THEIRS JUST BEFORE US.

ALL RIGHT, HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...

BUT THEN...

LOOK!

Ahh

SSSSUUURR

SAARRRRRR

Ahh



THE SEA HAD TURNED INTO A GIGANTIC WHIRLPOOL, SWALLOWING THE RAFT RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.



SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT.

BUT CONSIDERING WHAT I'VE HEARD, WE COULD BE WORSE.



YEAH... SOME PEOPLE ARE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE. THEY'VE GONE CRAZY.



BY THE WAY, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

ARE YOU IN ONE OF THE ROW HOUSES? IF SO, CAN YOU LET US IN? I HEAR THEY'RE THE ONLY SAFE PLACES LEFT.



NO... ALL THE ROW HOUSES ARE FULL. WE'RE STAYING UNDER A HOUSE THAT'S COLLAPSED.

RIGHT NOW WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME.



MY MOTHER WAS HIT BY A WHIRLWIND AND CAN'T MOVE.



MOM, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DOES IT HURT AGAIN?



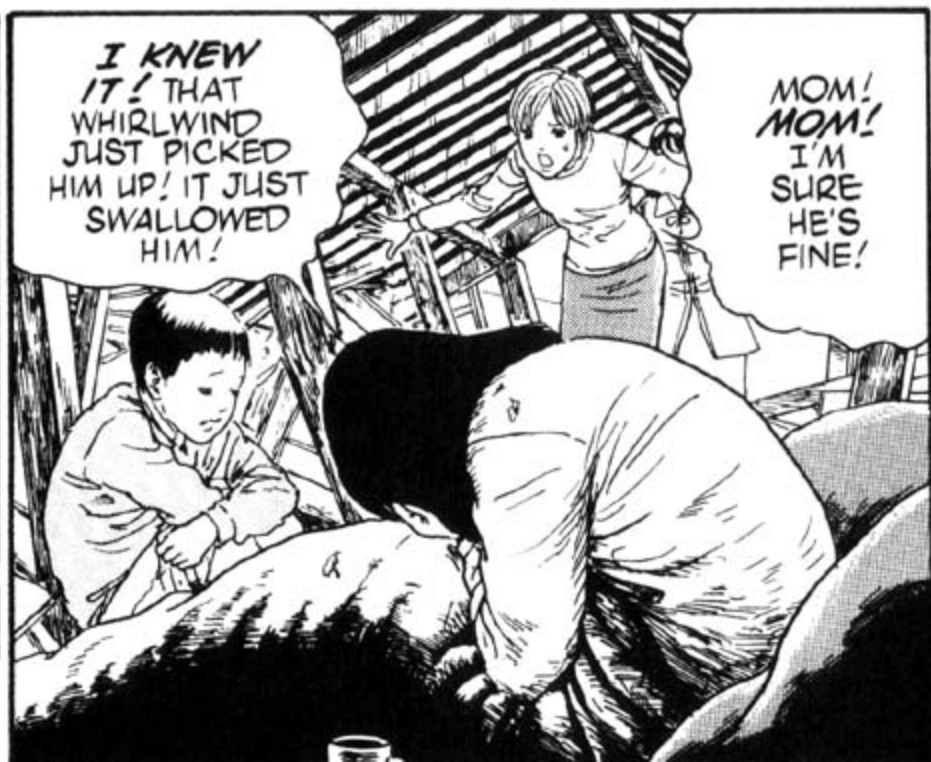
Oh, I'M FINE. I'M SORRY I CAN'T GET UP.

DID YOU FIND YOUR FATHER?



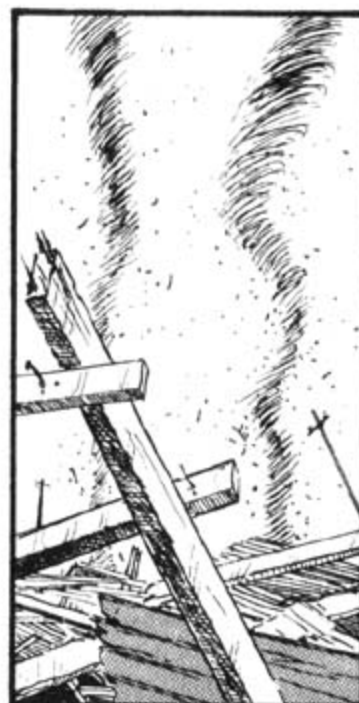
NO. WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE...

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM...

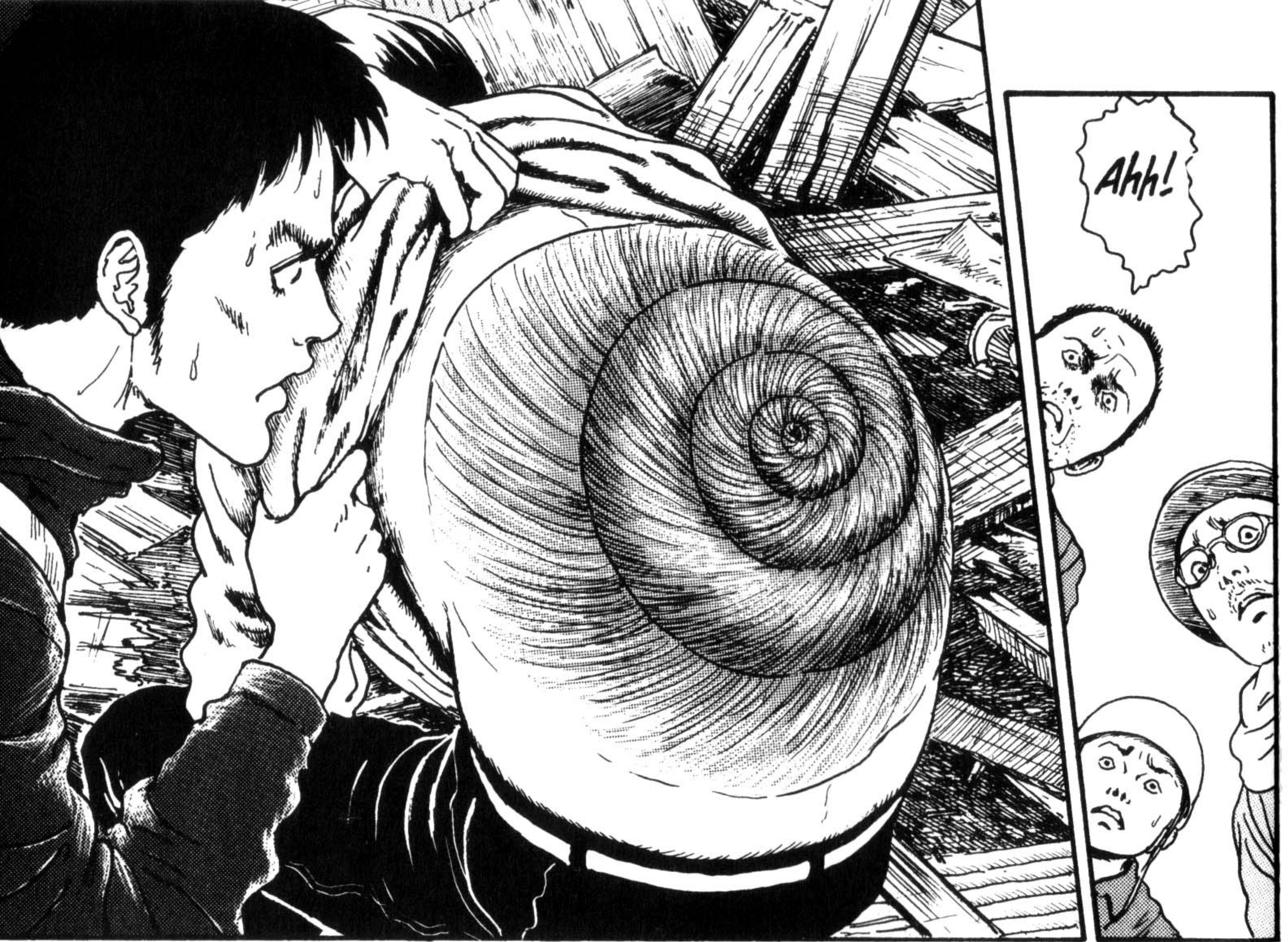


I KNEW IT! THAT WHIRLWIND JUST PICKED HIM UP! IT JUST SWALLOWED HIM!

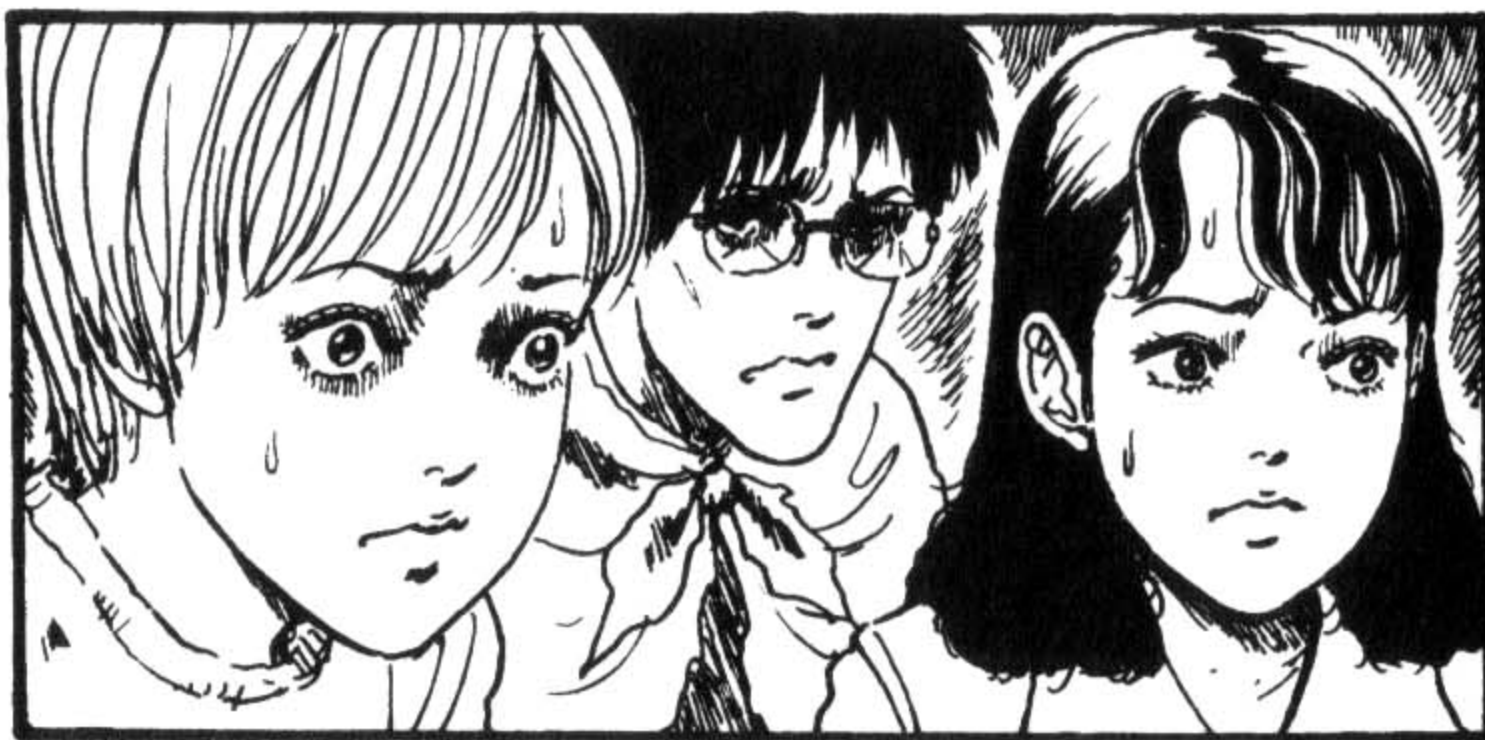
MOM! MOM! I'M SURE HE'S FINE!





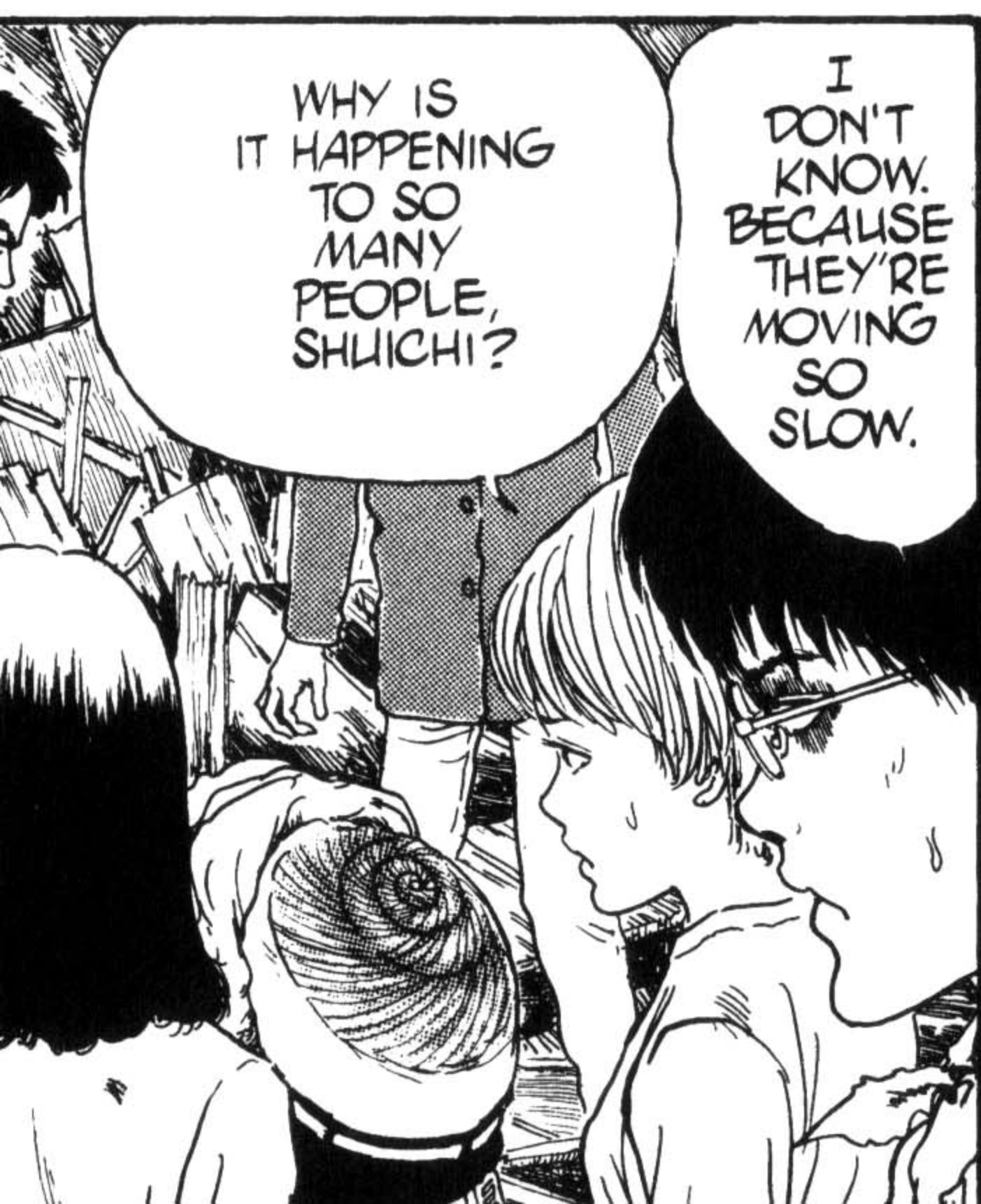


Ahh!



HE'S  
STARTED  
CHANGING.

HE'LL  
BECOME  
A SNAIL  
PERSON  
SOON.



WHY IS  
IT HAPPENING  
TO SO  
MANY  
PEOPLE,  
SHUICHI?

I  
DON'T  
KNOW.  
BECAUSE  
THEY'RE  
MOVING  
SO  
SLOW.



THEY  
MOVE  
SO SLOW,  
THE  
SPIRAL  
CAN  
CATCH  
THEM.

WE  
MIGHT  
BE  
NEXT.



WHAT...?







IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE TO FIND A ROW HOUSE WITH SPACE TO SLEEP.

THERE WE WON'T HAVE TO MOVE SO SLOWLY.




BUT HOW SAFE DO YOU THINK THESE HOUSES ARE?

I MEAN, WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAKING PEOPLE CHANGE INTO SNAILS.



THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT YOU CAN'T DENY THAT THESE HOUSES ARE THE SAFEST PLACE IN TOWN RIGHT NOW.



S-SAY, TANIZAKI... DO YOU THINK THE SPIRAL WILL DISAPPEAR AS LONG AS I'M INSIDE THE ROW HOUSE?

I DON'T KNOW, TOGAWA.



I DON'T WANT TO... I DON'T WANT TO!

Shh! LOWER YOUR VOICE!



I-I DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO A SNAIL.

SOME-BODY HELP ME!

AND WALK SOFTLY.



WE SHOULD SEE ONE SOON.



HERE IT IS.



LOOKS LIKE IT'S FULL.



PLEASE LET US IN!

NO! IT'S FULL! GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!



THEY'RE ALL FULL! IF WE STAY OUTSIDE WE MIGHT TURN INTO THOSE THINGS! YOU HAVE TO HELP US!

WHO CARES? GO AWAY!











WH-  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



I  
TOLD  
YOU IT  
WAS  
FULL.



NO  
MATTER  
HOW HARD  
WE TRIED  
TO KEEP  
PEOPLE  
OUT, THEY  
MANAGED TO  
SNEAK IN  
LATE AT  
NIGHT.

AND  
THIS  
IS THE  
RESULT...



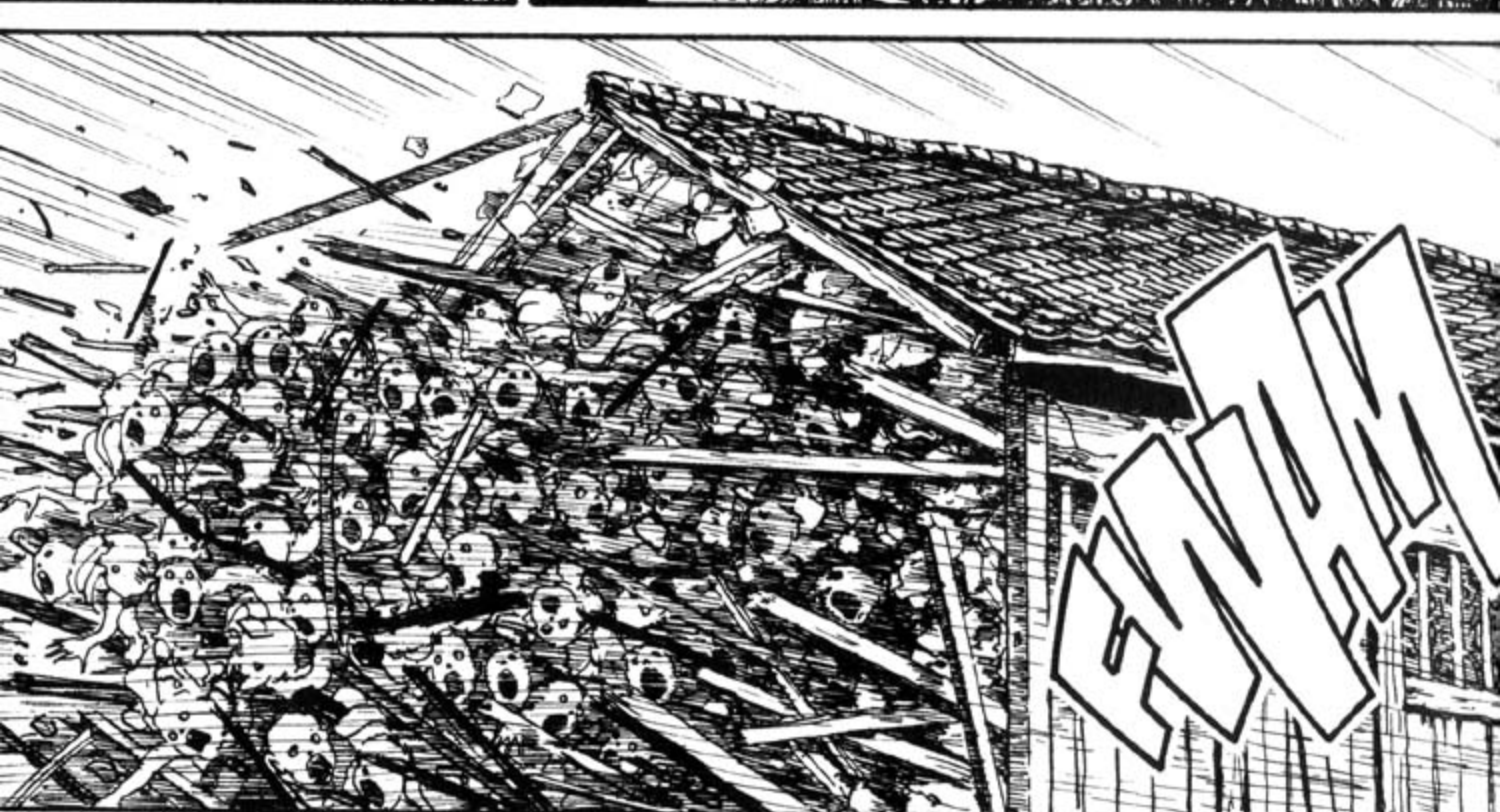
OUR  
BODIES  
PRESSED  
TOGETHER,  
AND WE'VE  
BECOME  
TIED IN  
KNOTS...

AND  
NOW  
WE  
CAN'T  
BE SEP-  
ARATED...

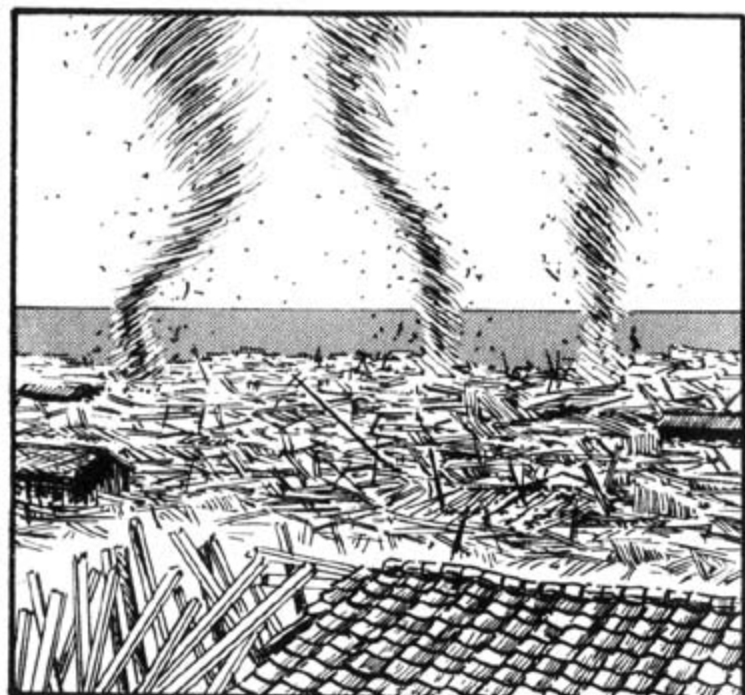














S-SO...

DID THIS HAPPEN IN ALL THE ROW HOUSES?



HEY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ...



WHAT IF WE FIND A ROW HOUSE AND EXTEND IT?

THEY'RE OLD BUT THEY CAN TAKE THE WHIRLWINDS. IF WE EXPAND THEM HORIZONTALLY WE COULD MAKE ENOUGH ROOM FOR OURSELVES.



HEY, WAIT. YOU DON'T PLAN ON STAYING HERE FOR GOOD, DO YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT. EXPAND A ROW HOUSE? WE SHOULD COME UP WITH A WAY TO ESCAPE.



AND EVEN IF WE WERE TO GET INSIDE A ROW HOUSE, WE WOULD TURN INTO ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS...

WHICH WOULD BE LIVING HELL.



HUH?



GET DOWN!



THAT'S RIGHT!  
IT'S HELL  
EITHER WAY!

SO WHICH IS IT? TO DIE IN A WHIRLWIND, OR LIVE IN A ROW HOUSE?



I WANT TO GET OUT!

THAT'S RIGHT! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY OUT OF HERE!

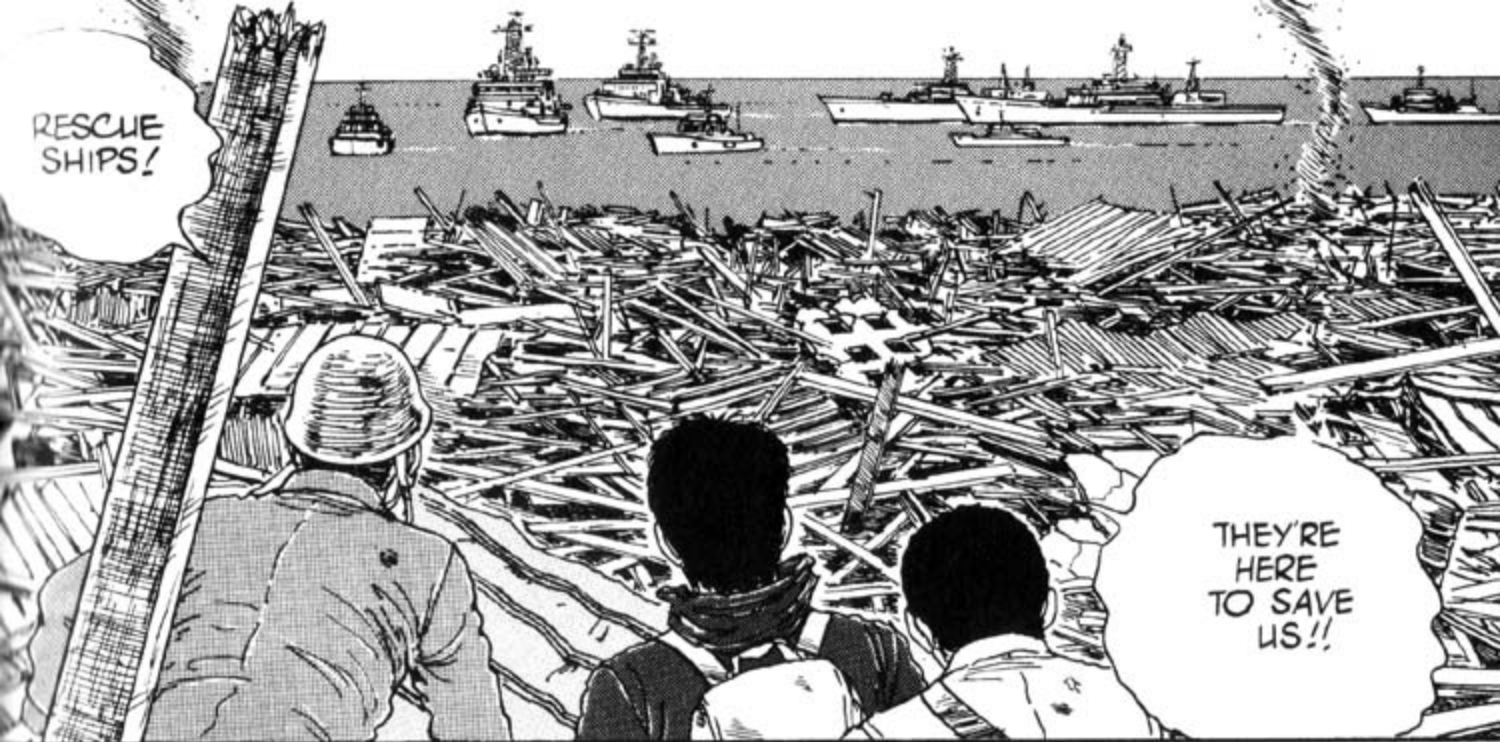


WHAT IS IT?

THE SEA! A SHIP A SHIP'S COMING!



LOOK OVER THERE!



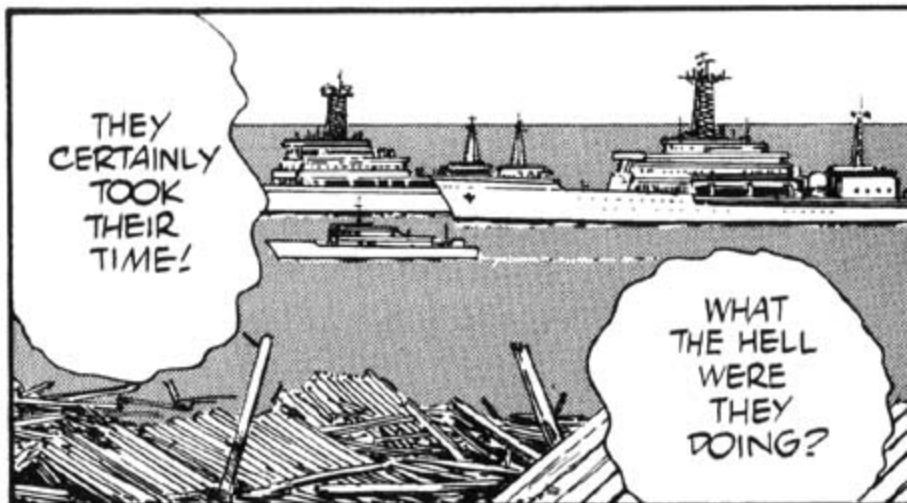
RESCUE SHIPS!

THEY'RE  
HERE  
TO SAVE  
US!!



THEY  
MUST HAVE  
BEEN  
DISPATCHED  
BY THE  
COAST  
GUARD OR  
THE SELF  
DEFENSE  
TROOPS.

REAL  
BIG  
SHIPS.



THEY  
CERTAINLY  
TOOK  
THEIR  
TIME!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
WERE  
THEY  
DOING?



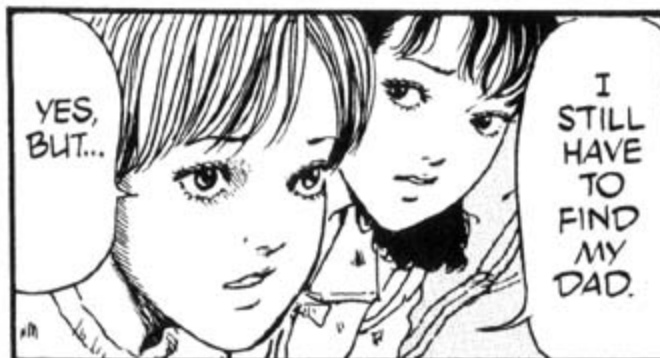
WELL,  
WE'RE  
SAFE  
NOW.

I'M  
GOING  
TO RUN  
ON  
BOARD AND  
NEVER  
GET OFF.



KIRIE,  
YOU LOOK  
LIKE  
YOU DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!

THEY'RE  
HERE!  
WE'LL  
HAVE  
TO  
TELL  
YOUR  
MOTHER!



YES,  
BUT...

I  
STILL  
HAVE  
TO  
FIND  
MY  
DAD.



Huh?

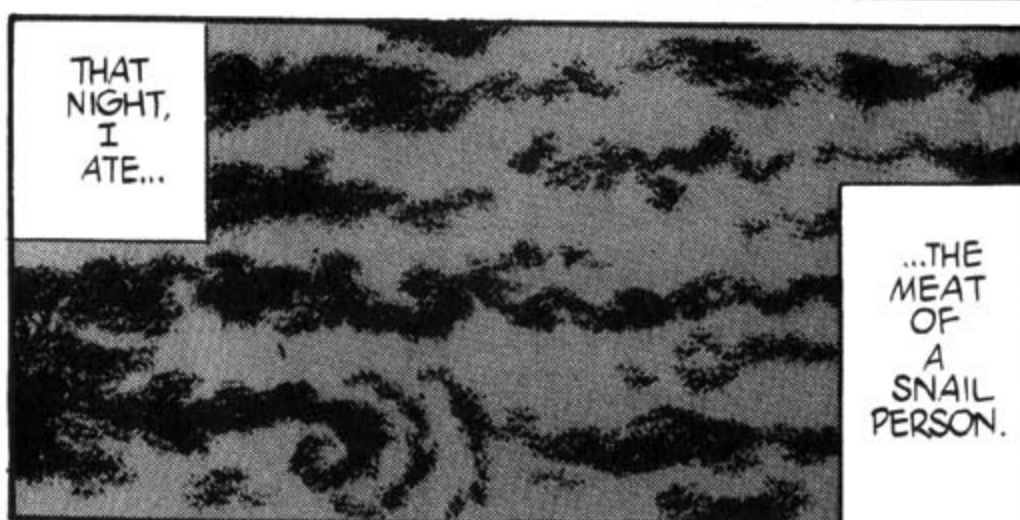
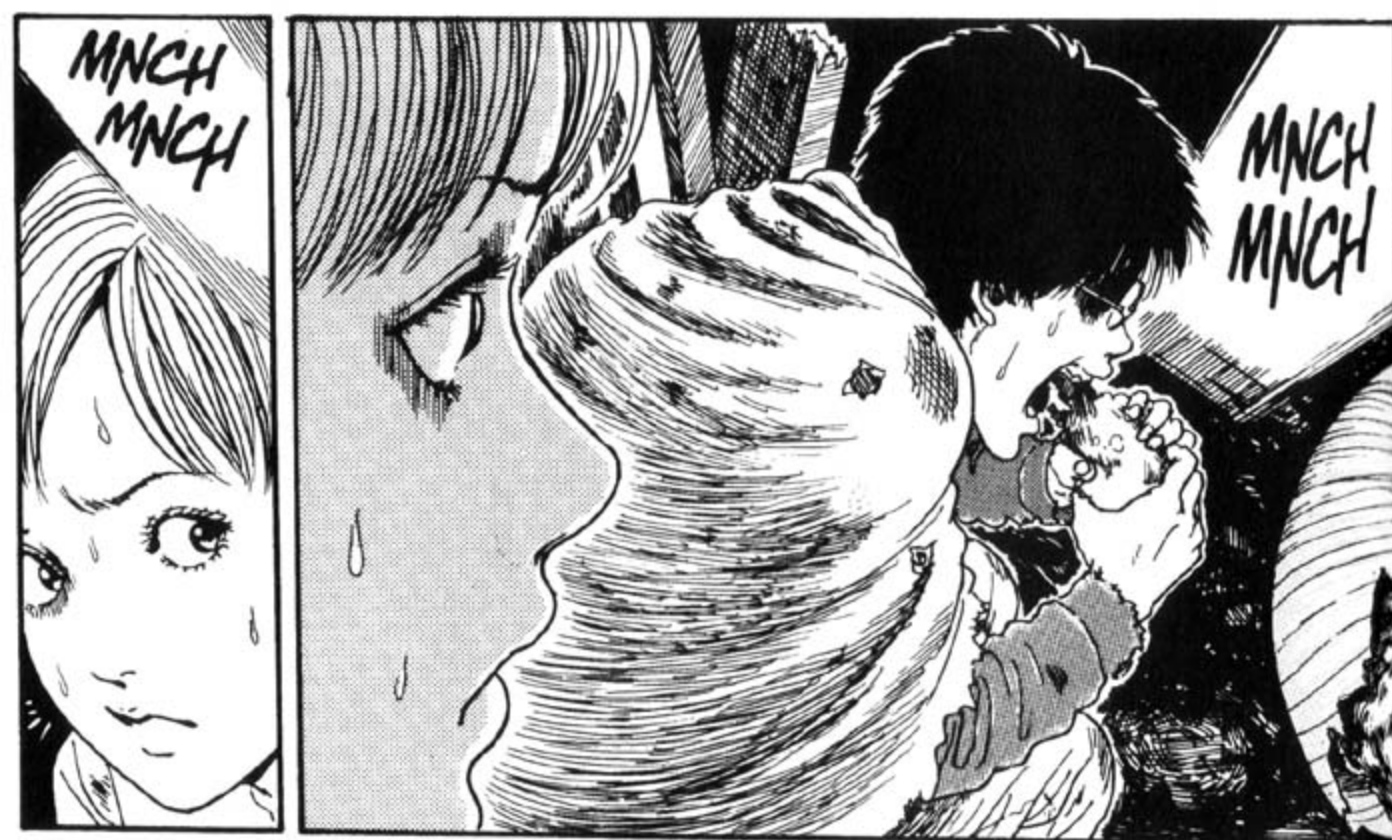
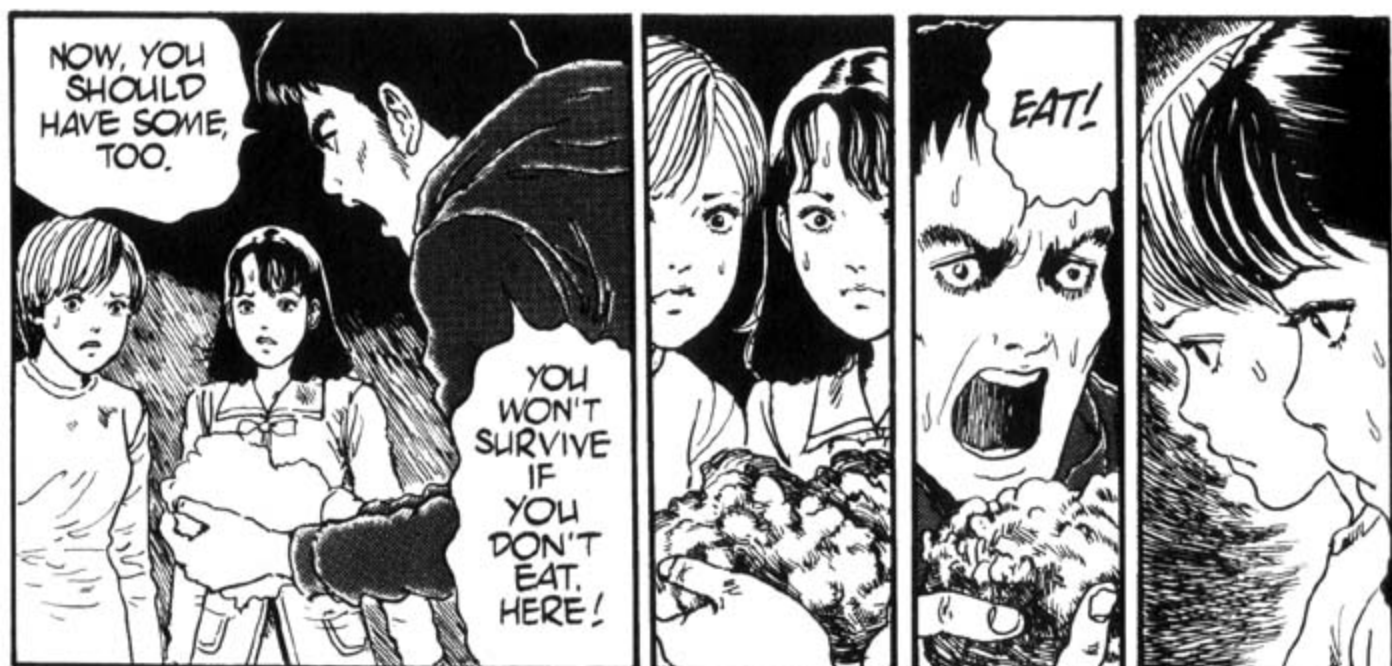














THE NEXT MORNING, WE PARTED WAYS WITH TANIZAKI'S GROUP, AND HEADED BACK TO THE SHACK WHERE MY MOTHER AND MITSUO WERE.



WE BROUGHT THE REMAINING SCRAPS OF MEAT WITH US IN AN OLD PLASTIC BAG.

Hm?



I THOUGHT IT WAS AROUND HERE.

THE SHACK IS GONE!

N-NO...



KIRIE!



KIRIE!  
I'M STUCK!

MITSUO!



I'LL GET YOU OUT!

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND, RIGHT?



MOM!

MITSUO,  
WHERE'S  
MOM?



SH-SHE  
GOT  
BLOWN  
AWAY!



WHAT  
DID  
YOU  
SAY?



Oh,  
GOD...

HIS  
BACK...



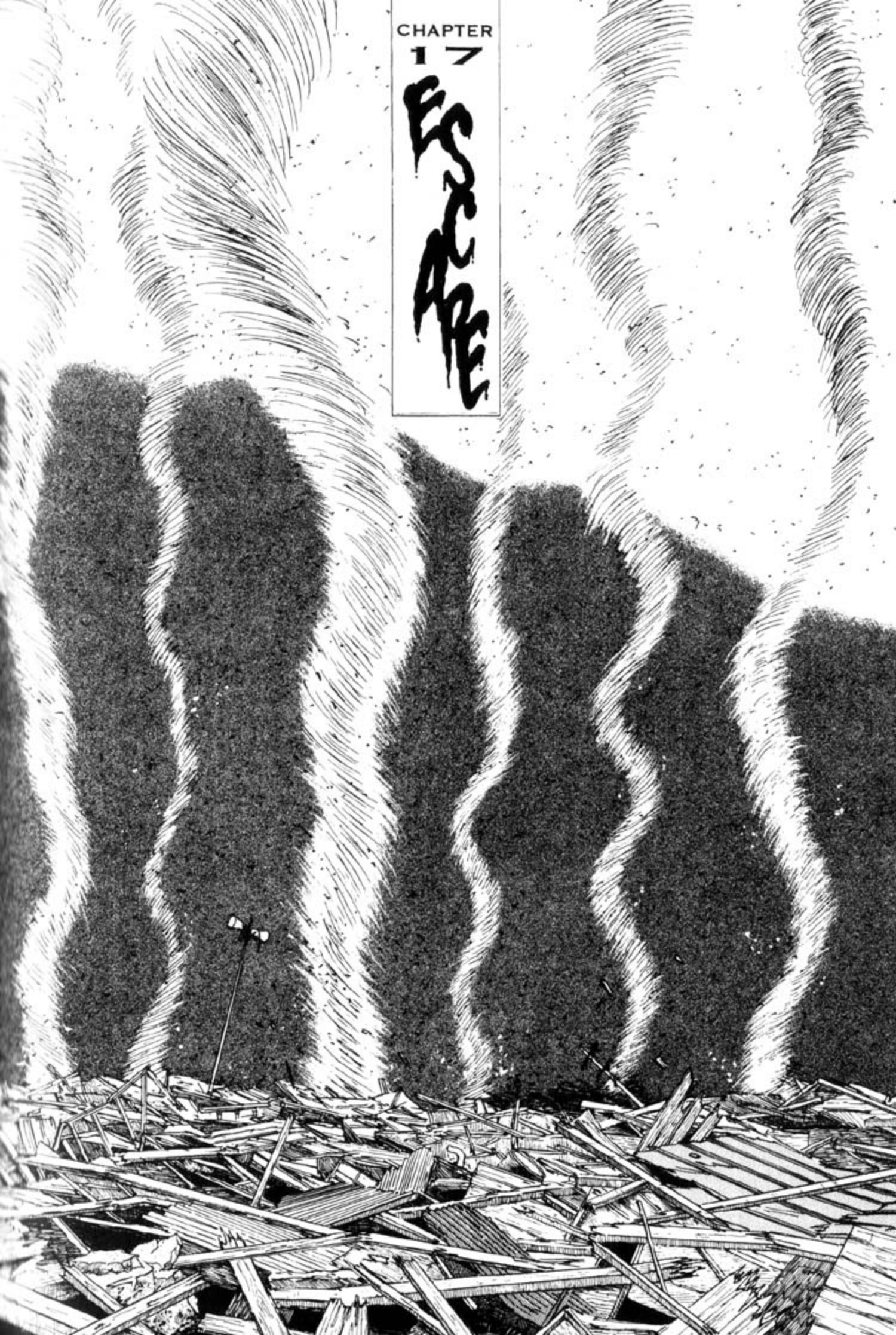
AT  
THAT  
MO-  
MENT...

I  
KNEW  
I  
HAD  
TO  
ESCAPE.

CHAPTER

17

ESCAPE





WE'RE GOING.

I'VE GOT TO GET MITSUO OUT OF HERE...



...BEFORE HE TURNS COMPLETELY INTO A SNAIL.



HE'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL ONCE WE'RE OUTSIDE KURŌZU-CHO.



AFTER THAT I'LL KNOW THE WAY OUT...

AND SO I'LL COME BACK FOR MY PARENTS.



BUT HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET OUT?

WE CAN'T GO BY THE ROAD OR BY SEA...



WHAT ABOUT THE HILLS?





THE HILLS? BUT IF IT WERE THAT EASY, SOMEONE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT BY NOW.



MAYBE THERE'S A TRAIL NO ONE'S TRIED.

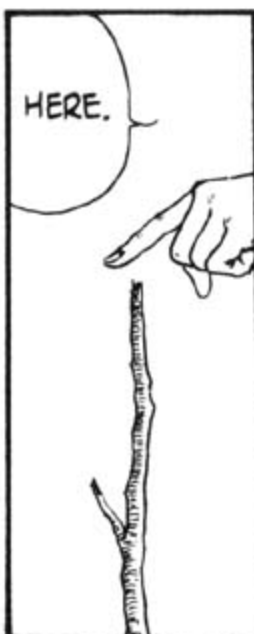


IT'S NO USE.

THE SPIRAL'S ALL AROUND US.



WE COULDN'T DECIDE WHICH WAY TO GO, BUT WE HAD NO TIME TO DEBATE.



HERE.



**TOK**

**FVVOO**



**SHVVOO**

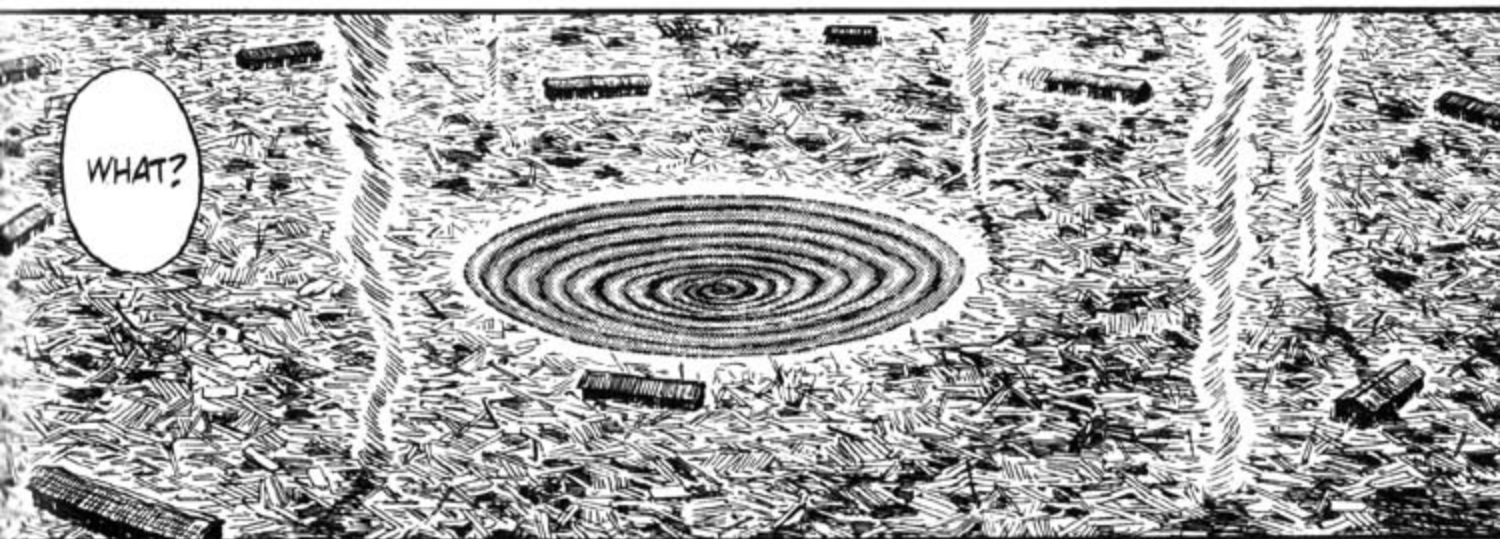


SO WE END UP WITH THE STEEP HILL.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY IT. NORTH IT IS.

IT'S NO USE...





THE WIND'S COMING FROM THAT MAN ON THE ROW HOUSE! HE'S NAILING NEW PLANKS TO THE ROOF!



THAT'S ...

THAT'S MR. TANIZAKI!



HEY YOU! ARE YOU TRYING TO ESCAPE?

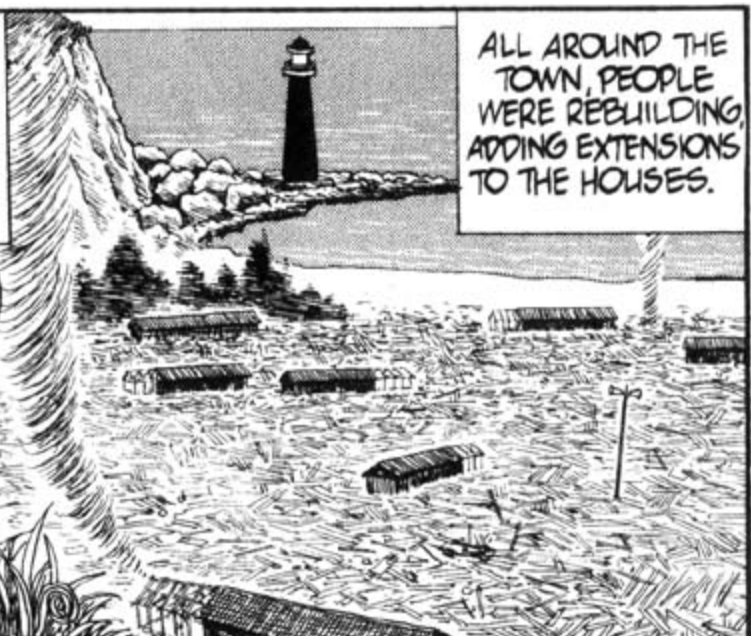
I'LL BE DONE BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK! THERE'LL BE A PLACE FOR ALL OF YOU!



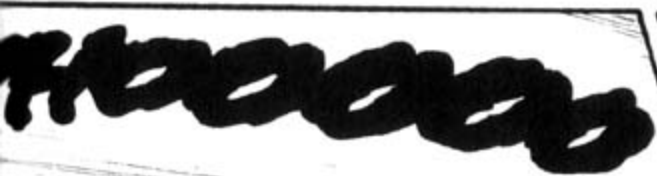


L-LET'S GO.

WHEN I LOOKED MORE CLOSELY, I COULD SEE THAT MR. TANIZAKI WASN'T ALONE.



ALL AROUND THE TOWN, PEOPLE WERE REBUILDING, ADDING EXTENSIONS TO THE HOUSES.





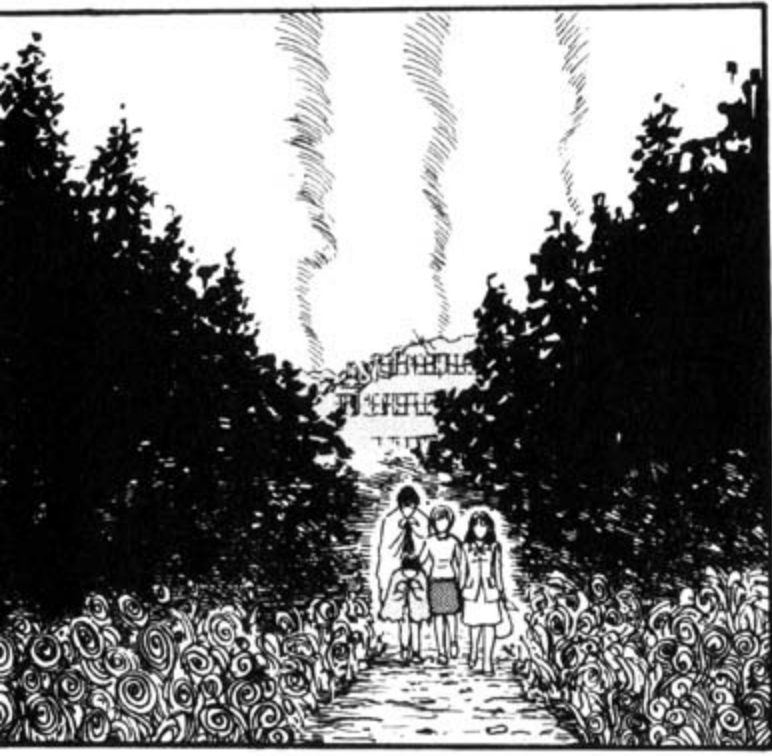
I CAN'T STAND THAT SOUND!

IT JUST PIERCES THROUGH MY EARS!

AARG!  
COME ON!

THE POWER HAD BEEN OFF SINCE THE STORM, BUT THE SIREN STILL BLARED.

IT MADE ITS NOISE AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS, AS IF SIGNALING THE ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.



THE GRASS, THE TREES...

HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN LIKE THIS?





THE PATTERN'S HERE, TOO.

IT'S DOWN TO THE LEVEL OF GROWING CELLS.



WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR A WHILE... HOW LONG DOES THIS TRAIL GO ON?

NOT MUCH LONGER... IT SHOULD LEAD TO A PAVED ROAD SOON.



HFF

BUT IT'S LONGER THAN I REMEMBER.

UFF

HFF

KIRIE, MY BACK HURTS... WE'RE WALKING TOO FAST...



TMP

TMP



LOOKS LIKE MORE VISITORS TO KURÖZU-CHO.



Ah!



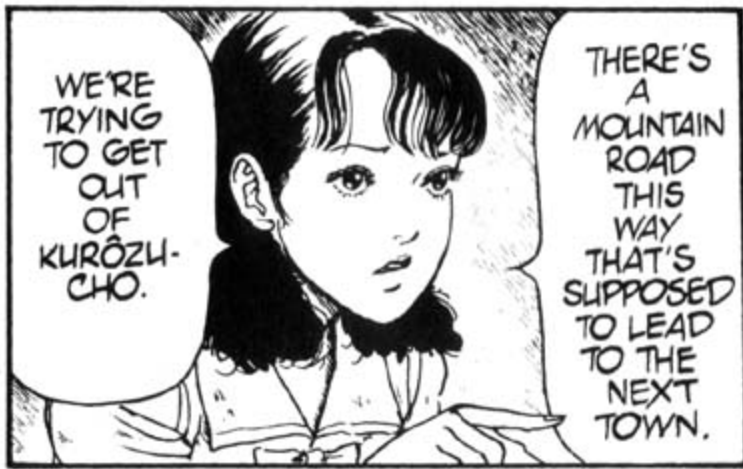
MR. TAKEMOTO?

WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS WAY?

WHAT?

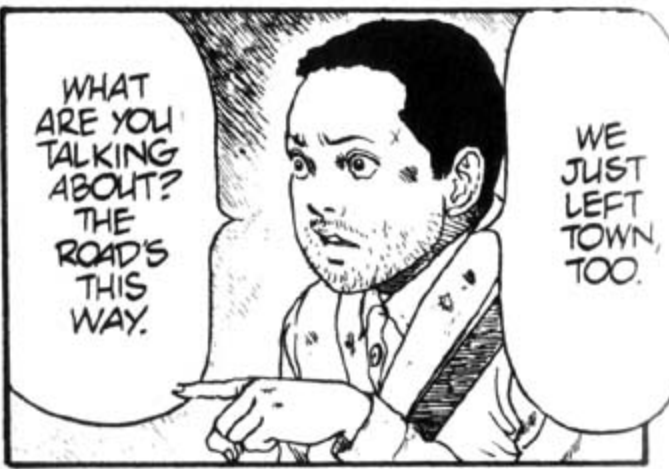


WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



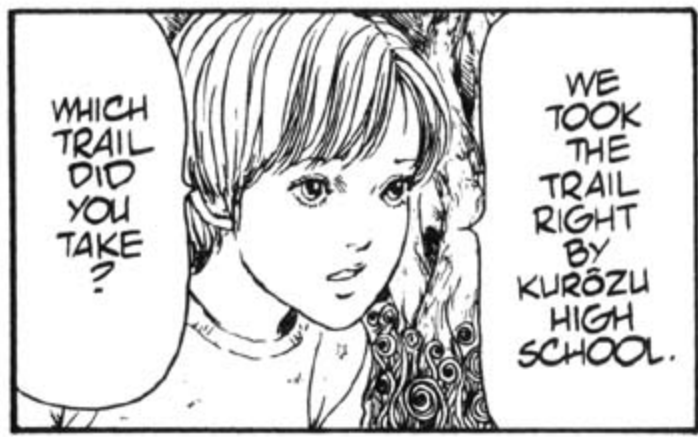
WE'RE TRYING TO GET OUT OF KURŌZU-CHO.

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN ROAD THIS WAY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO THE NEXT TOWN.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE ROAD'S THIS WAY.

WE JUST LEFT TOWN, TOO.



WHICH TRAIL DID YOU TAKE?

WE TOOK THE TRAIL RIGHT BY KURŌZU HIGH SCHOOL.

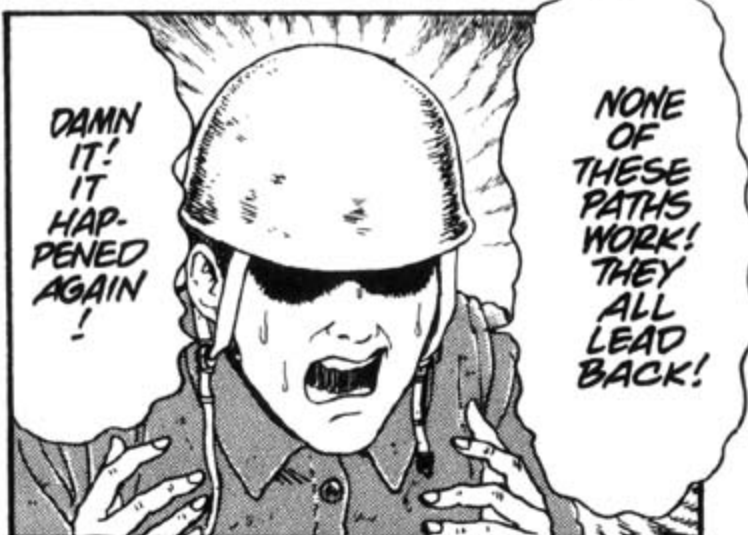


WE TOOK THE SAME ONE, BECAUSE WE SAW YOU AHEAD.

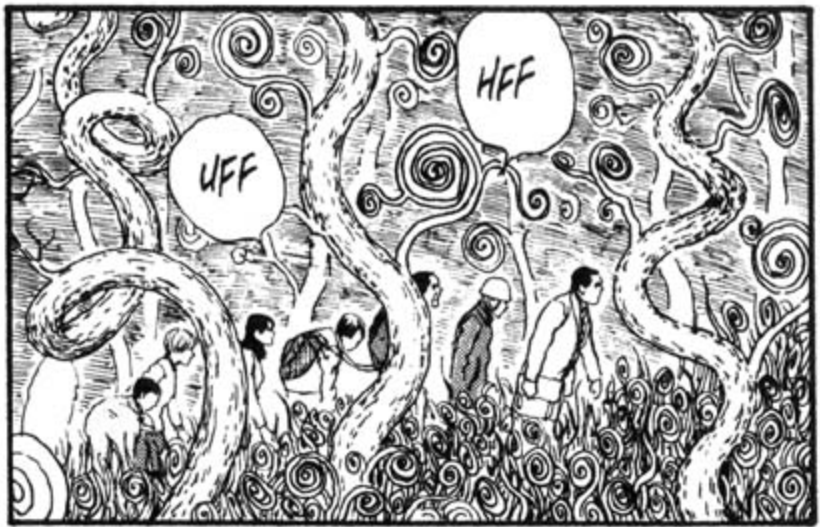
SO WE WERE JUST FOLLOWING YOU.

IT SEEMS YOU CAME BACK HERE WITHOUT REALIZING IT.

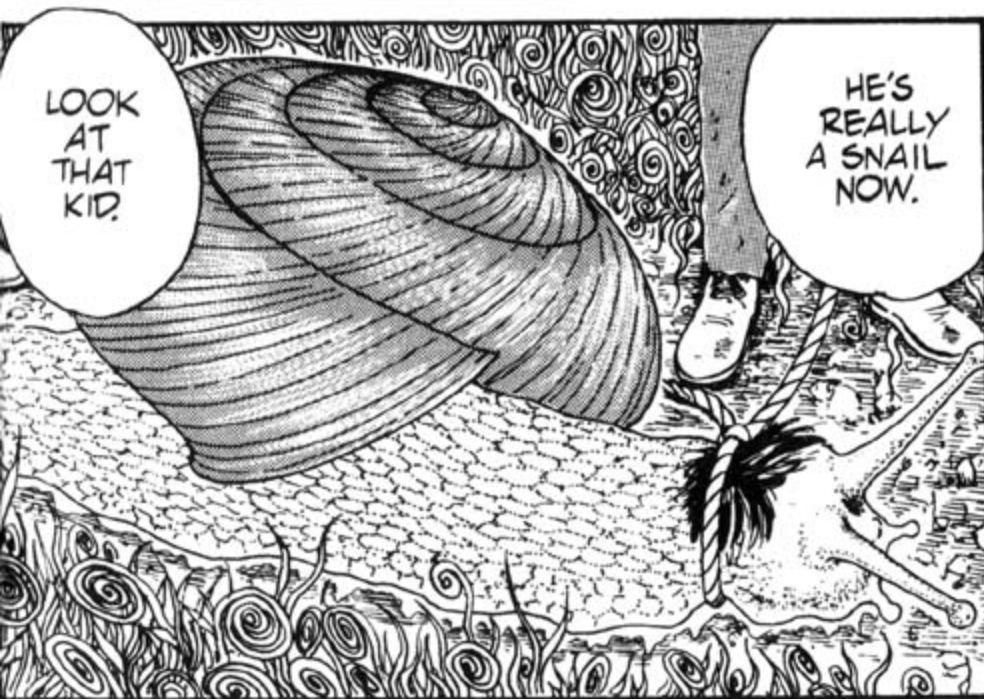


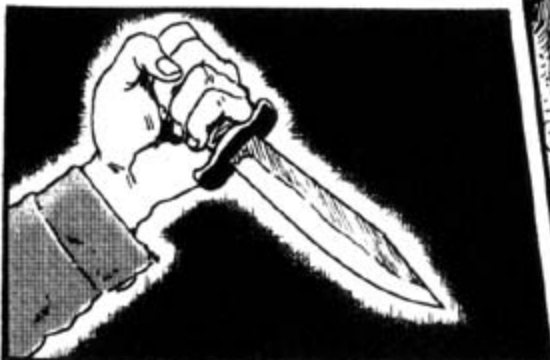












HEY!

HE'S HIDING FROM US!



SCREW IT, LET'S JUST CRACK HIM OPEN.

STOP THAT, YOU'LL MAKE A WHIRLWIND IF YOU THROW THAT.



WE DON'T NEED THAT.

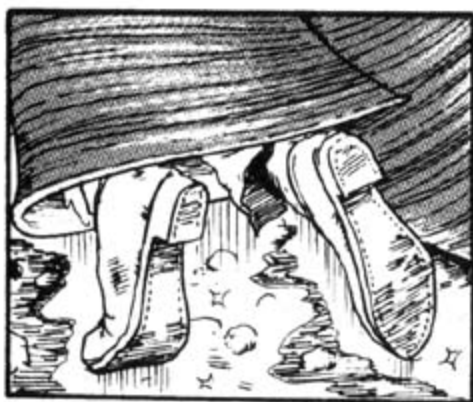
I'LL SHOW YOU THE BEST WAY TO EAT HIM!



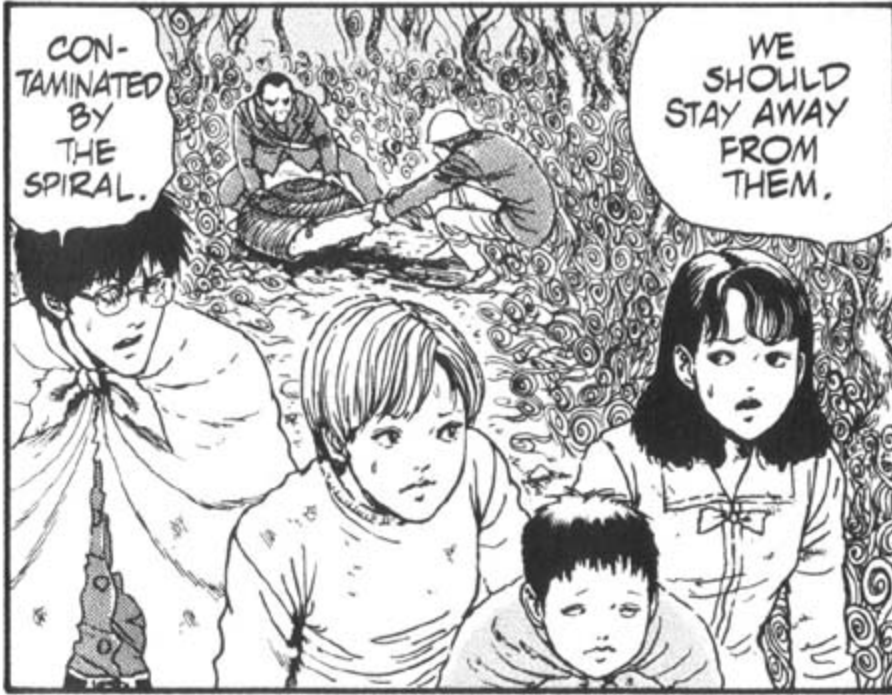
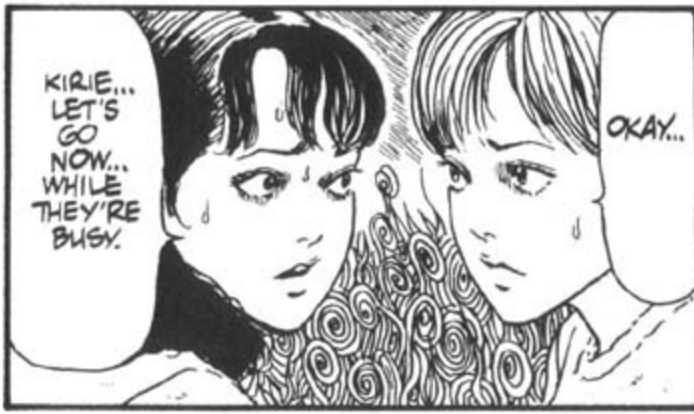
DID YOU KNOW THAT SOME INSECTS EAT SNAILS THIS WAY?

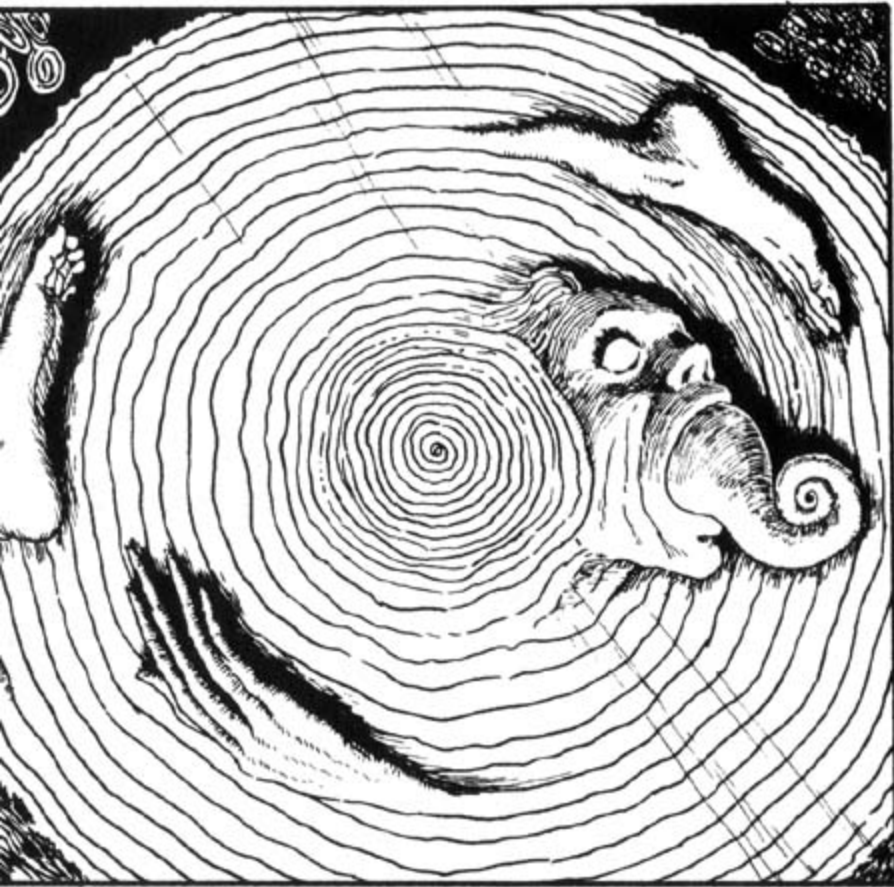


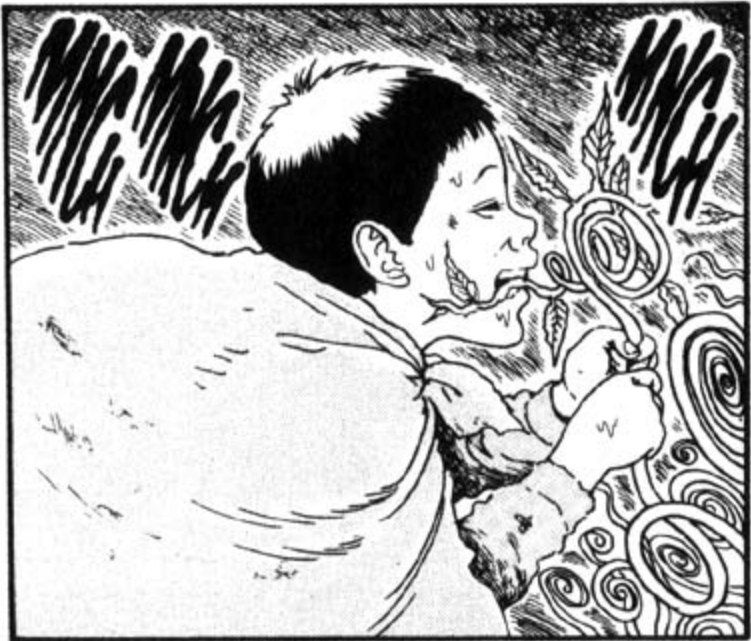


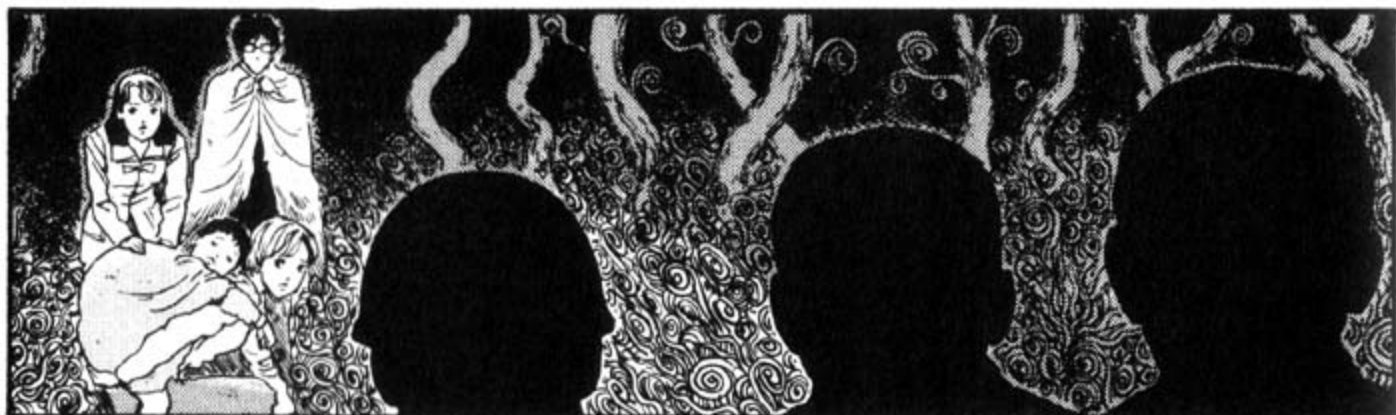
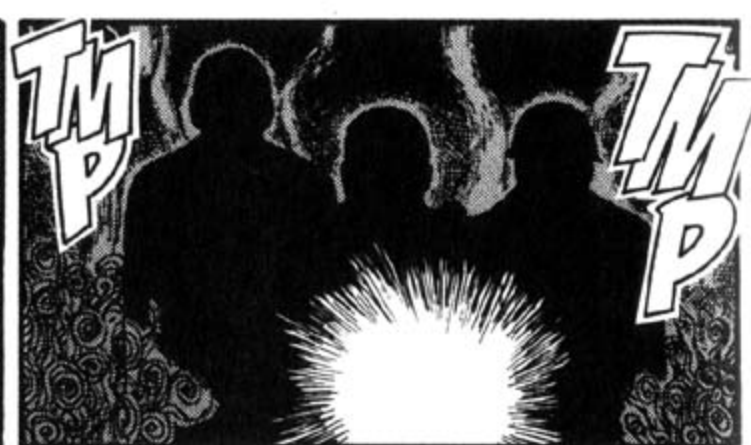


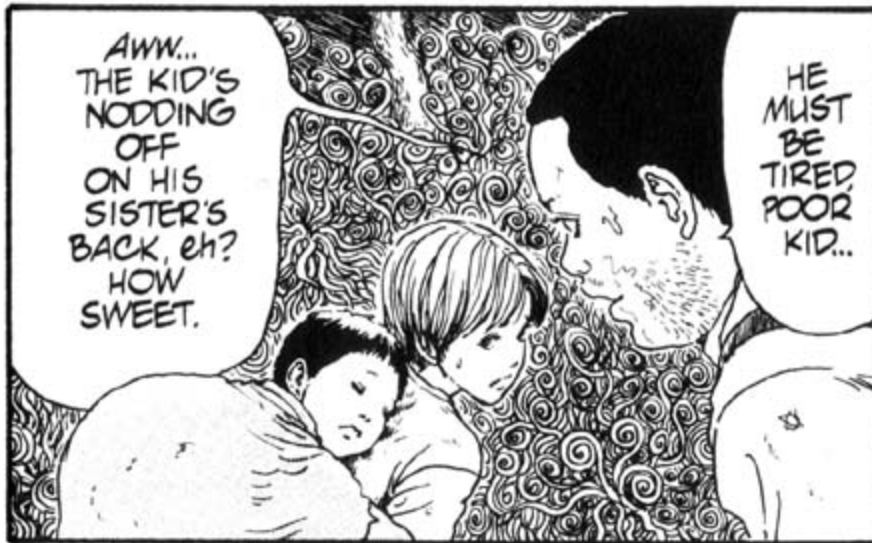


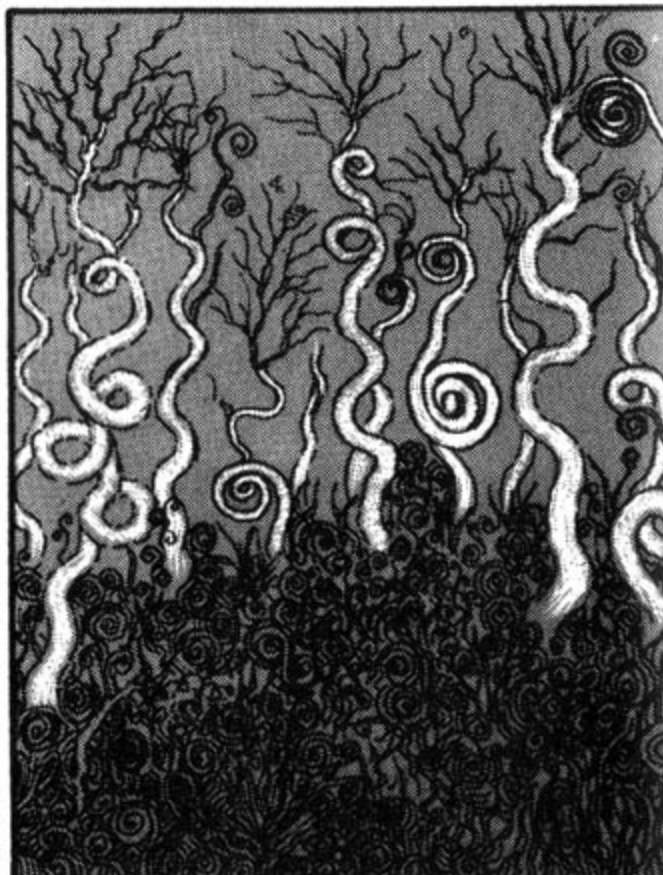
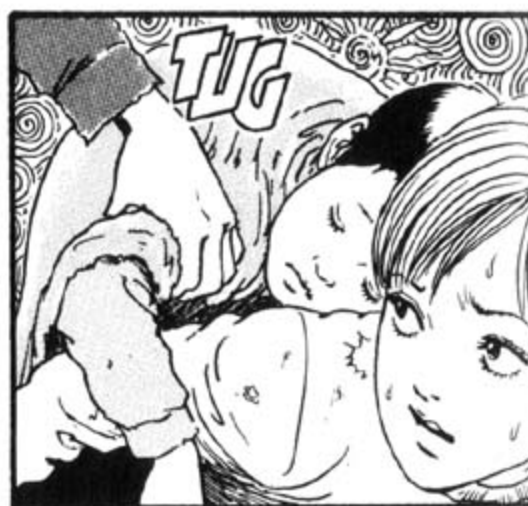


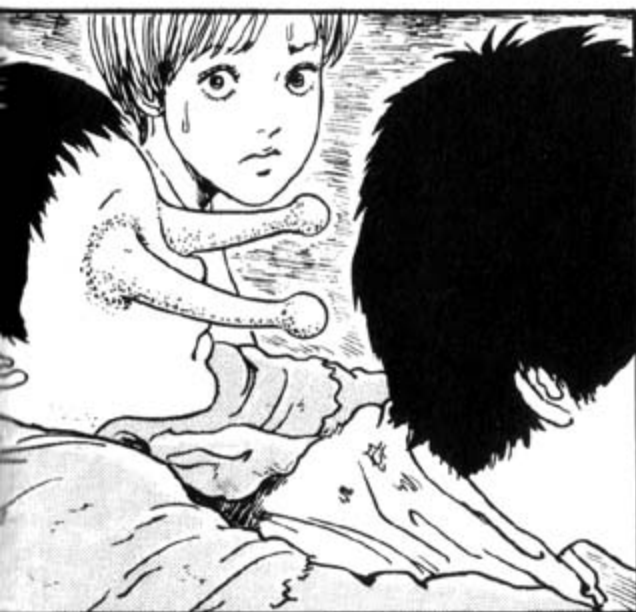








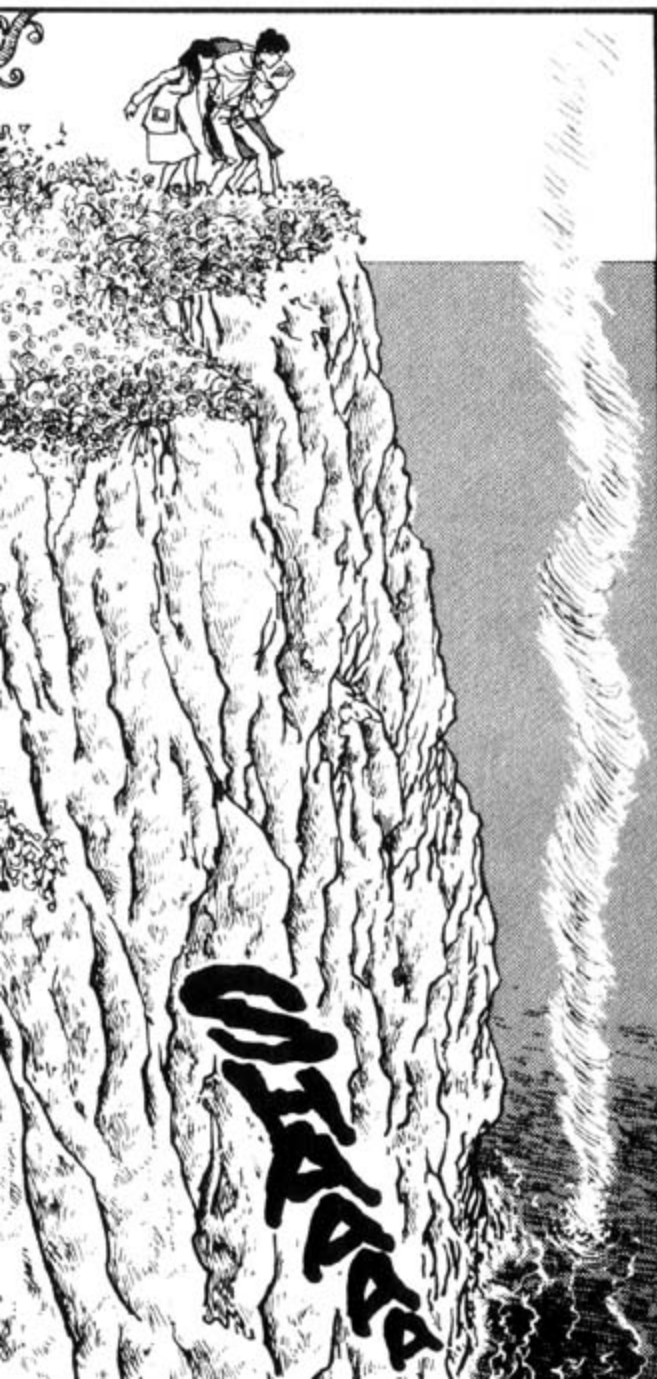




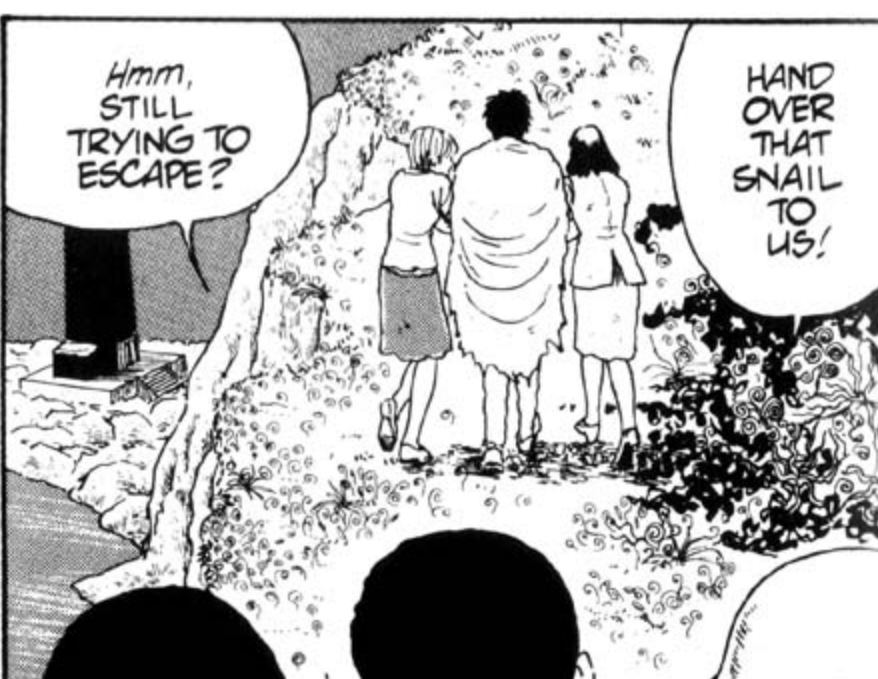














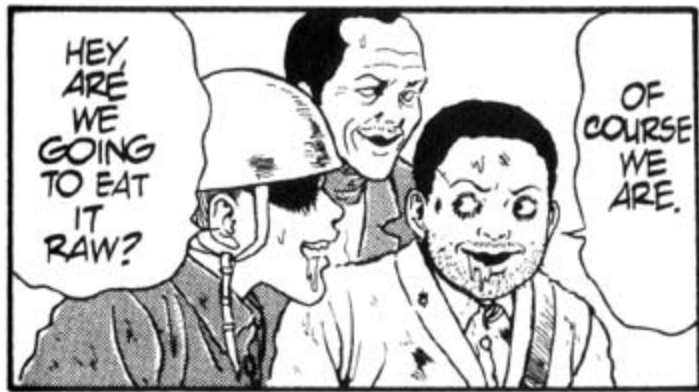
HEY, KUROZU-CHO'S THAT WAY!

ARE YOU GOING TO GO BACK? HAHHAHA...



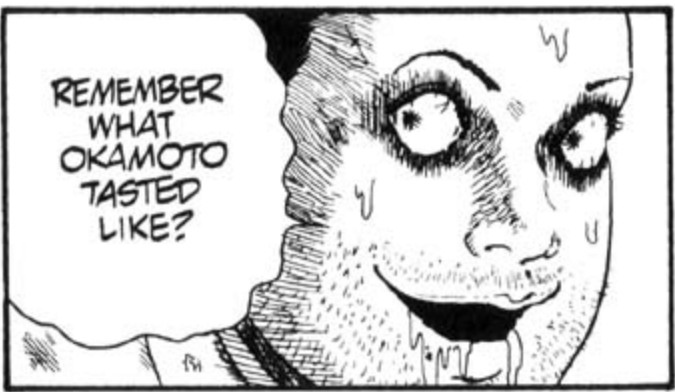
WE HAVE NO CHOICE. LET'S KEEP GOING..

WE'LL FIND MITSUO LATER.



HEY, ARE WE GOING TO EAT IT RAW?

OF COURSE WE ARE.

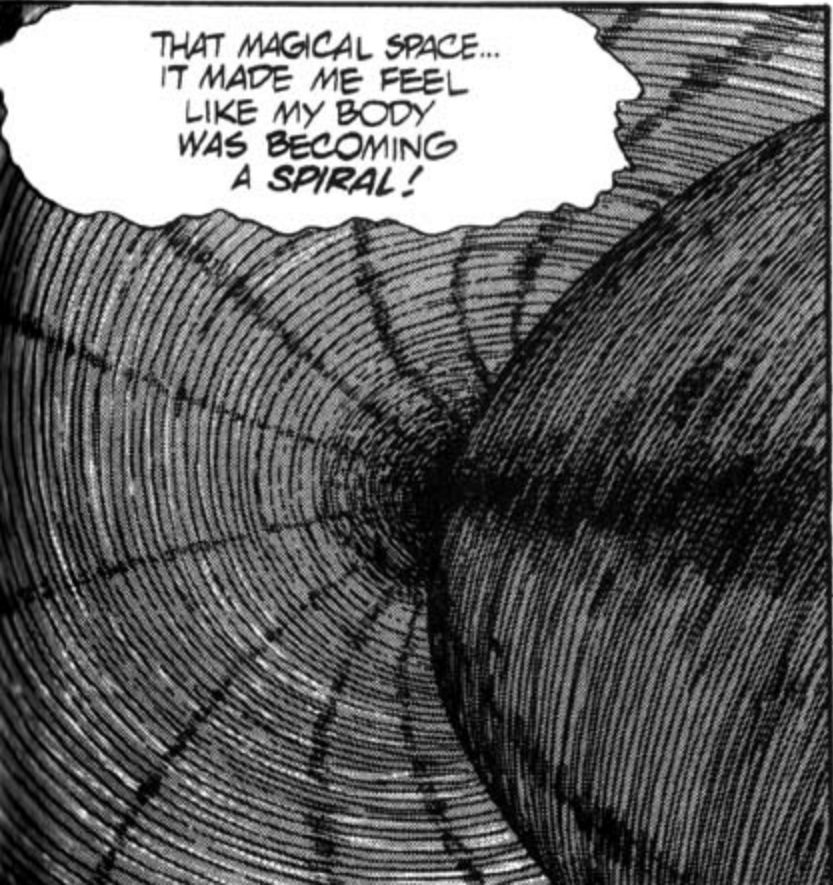


REMEMBER WHAT OKAMOTO TASTED LIKE?



THAT SENSATION OF BEING INSIDE HIS SHELL, CHEWING ON THE SOFT PARTS OF HIS FACE...

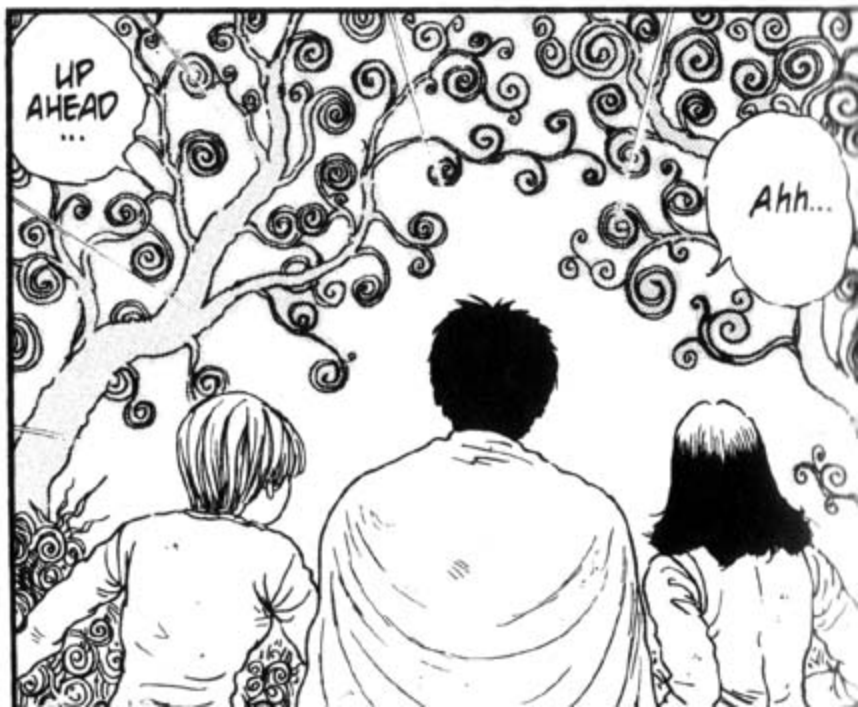
FITTING YOUR WHOLE BODY INTO THOSE WET, WONDERFUL CURVES...



THAT MAGICAL SPACE... IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE MY BODY WAS BECOMING A SPIRAL!



JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO...

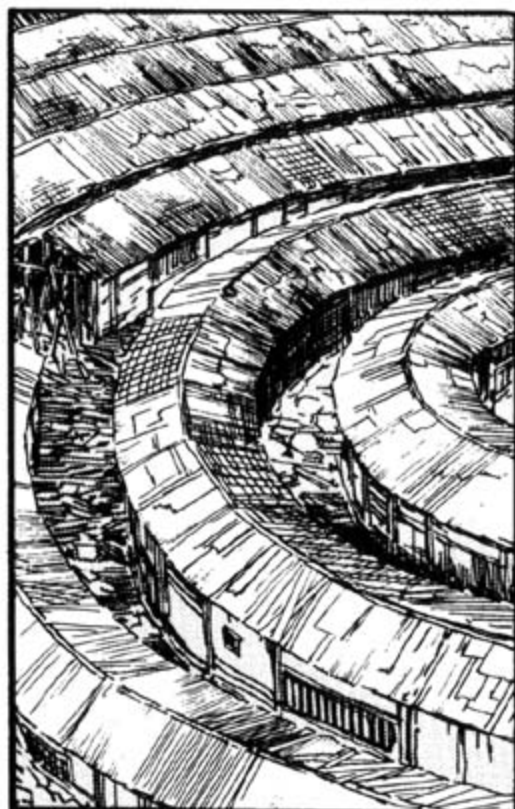
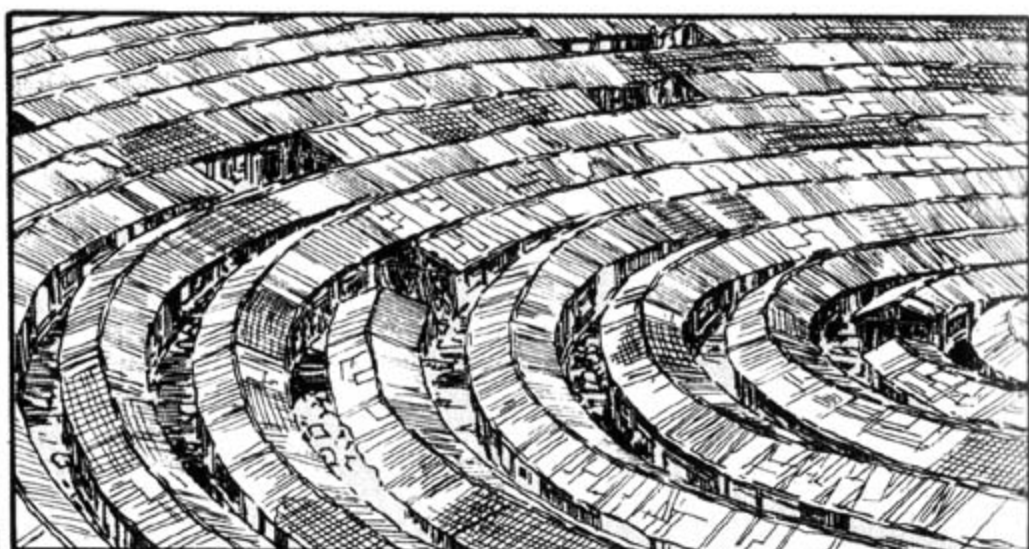


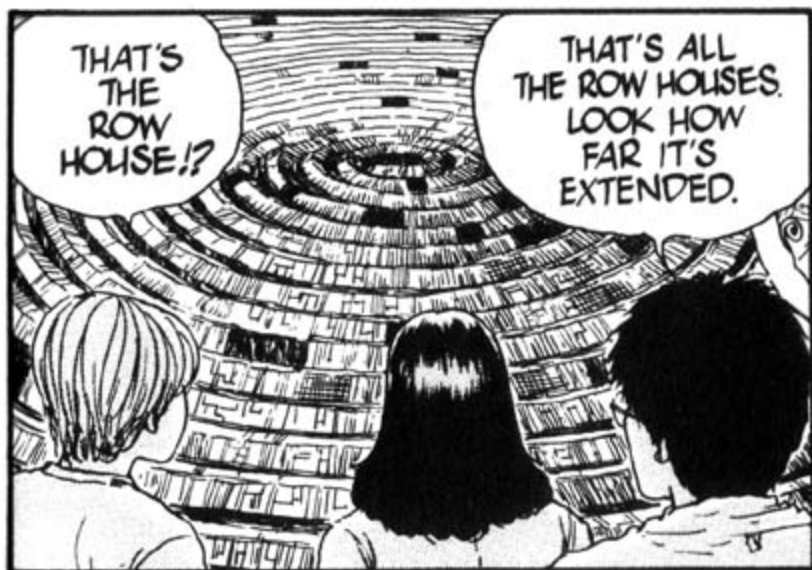


CHAPTER  
18  
THE  
LABYRINTH









THAT'S THE ROW HOUSE!?

THAT'S ALL THE ROW HOUSES. LOOK HOW FAR IT'S EXTENDED.



B-BUT HOW?



LET'S... LET'S GO DOWN AND SEE.



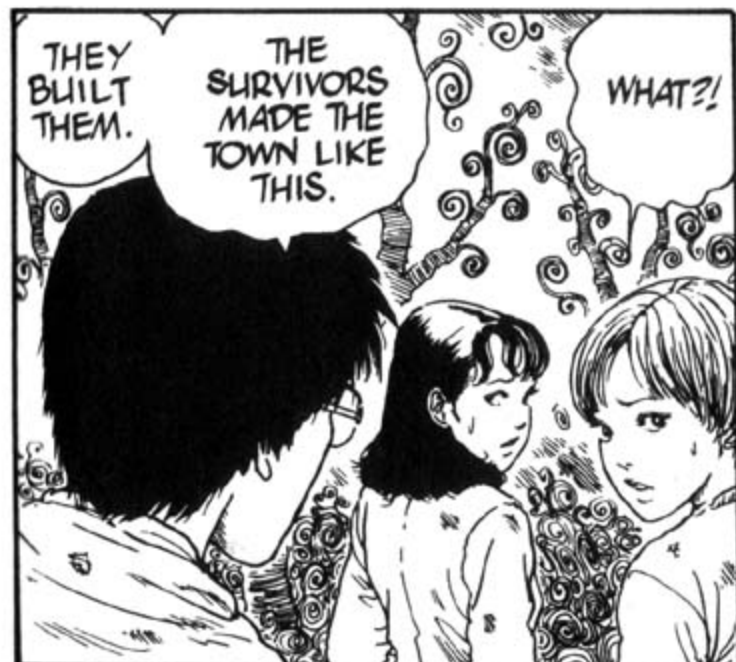
uff

hff



HOW DID OUR TOWN TURN INTO THIS?

I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING MAD.



THEY BUILT THEM.

THE SURVIVORS MADE THE TOWN LIKE THIS.

WHAT?!



YOU REMEMBER HOW PEOPLE ALL OVER TOWN WERE EXPANDING THE ROW HOUSES?

WITH ALL THOSE ROW HOUSES EXTENDED ON BOTH SIDES, THEY FINALLY ENDED UP CONNECTING LIKE THAT.



B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY ...

THEY ONLY JUST STARTED CONSTRUCTION WHEN WE LEFT TOWN.



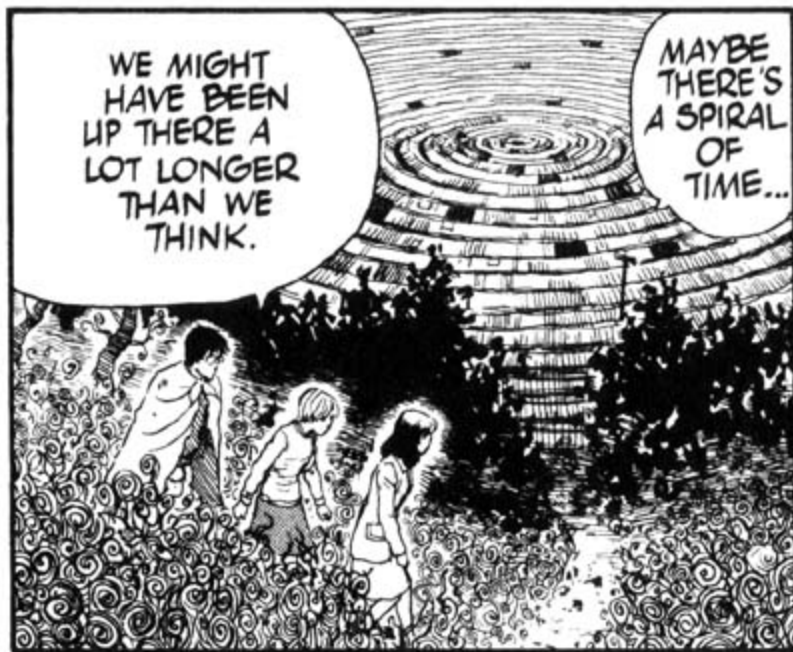
IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN A FEW DAYS TO BUILD SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

WE WERE ONLY IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR...



WAIT... HOW LONG WERE WE THERE?

I CAN'T REMEMBER... I COULDN'T TELL...

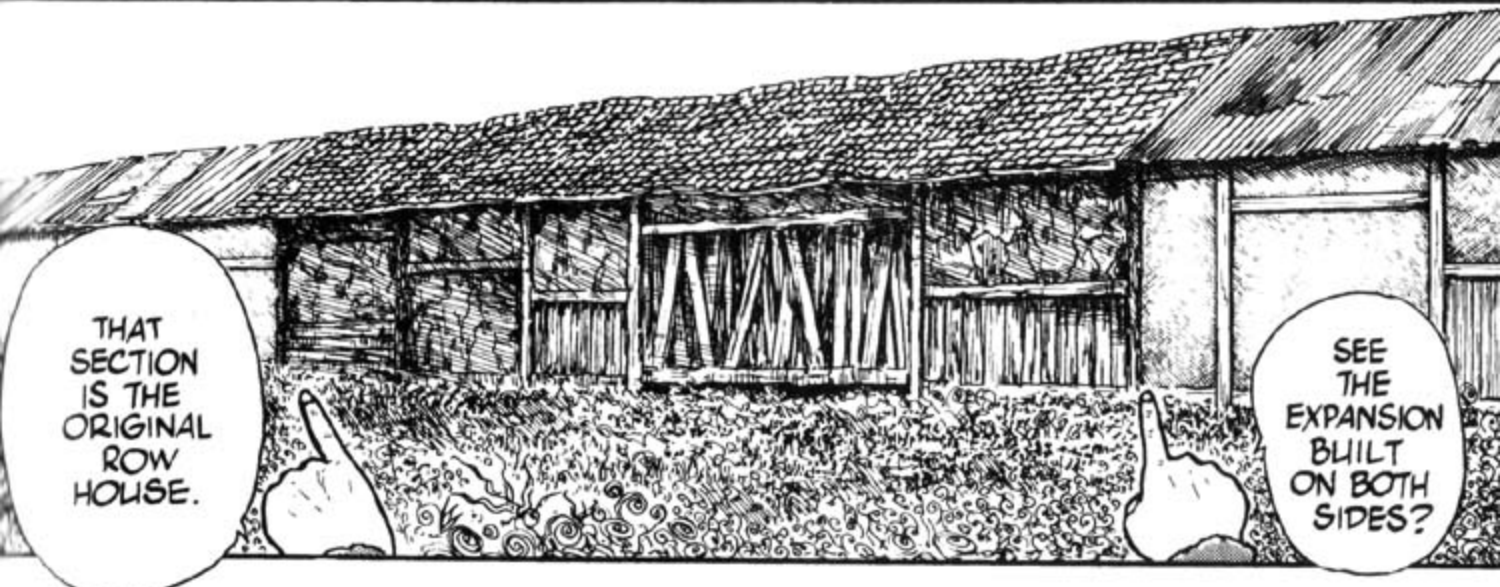


WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN UP THERE A LOT LONGER THAN WE THINK.

MAYBE THERE'S A SPIRAL OF TIME...



AAAAA





BUT IT'S WEIRD... THEY WEREN'T WORKING TOGETHER ...

...SO HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO MAKE THEM FIT SO PERFECTLY?

AS IF THEY'D PLANNED ON THIS MASSIVE SPIRAL STRUCTURE ...



OR MAYBE IT WASN'T CONSCIOUS...

MAYBE THESE ABANDONED ROW HOUSES FORMED A SPIRAL A LONG TIME AGO.

Huh?



MAYBE THIS WHOLE TOWN WAS A SPIRAL.

BUT IT GRADUALLY FELL APART OVER THE YEARS, LEAVING BEHIND THESE SCATTERED RUINS.



WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT NOW...

...MIGHT ONLY BE A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WAY KURŌZU-CHO USED TO BE.



...

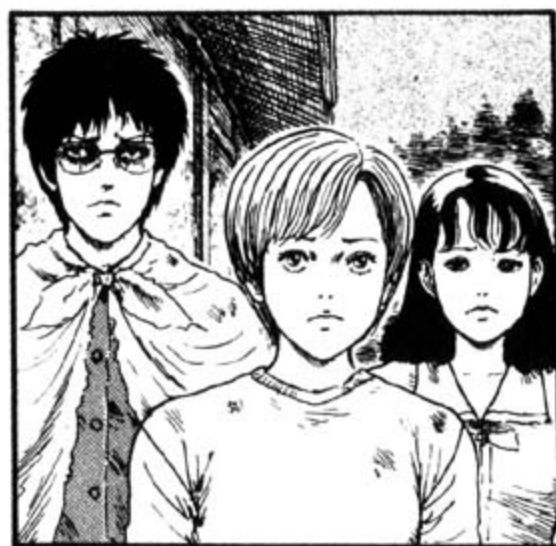
WHAT IS-- WHAT IS-- WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK ABOUT THIS?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?



WE WALKED  
EVEN  
FARTHER,  
AND AT  
LAST...

WE  
FOUND  
THE  
WAY  
INTO  
THE  
ALLEY.





IT'S MAKING ME DIZZY ...

I DON'T THINK I COULD REMEMBER A STRAIGHT LINE.



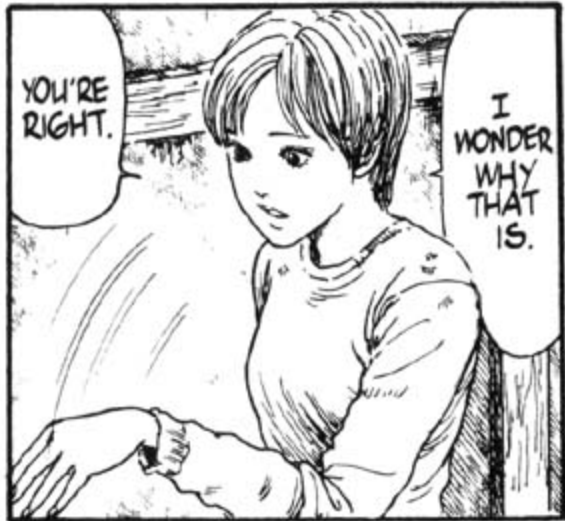
THIS IS STRANGE ...



LOOK... I MOVE MY ARM...AND NO TWISTERS!

WHFF

IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE WE ENTERED THE ALLEY.



YOU'RE RIGHT.

I WONDER WHY THAT IS.



MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THE ROW HOUSES.

THEN WE'RE SAFE IN HERE?

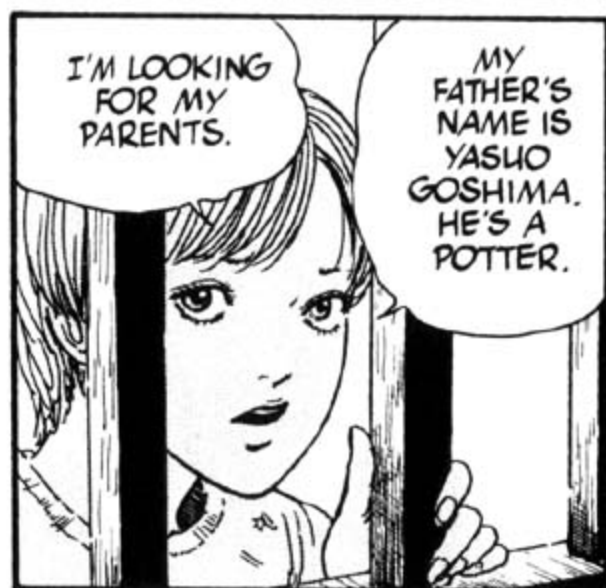
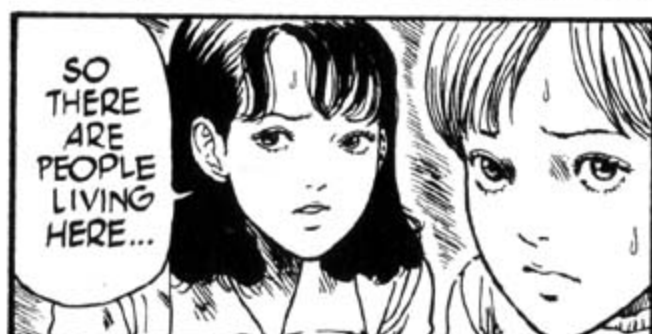


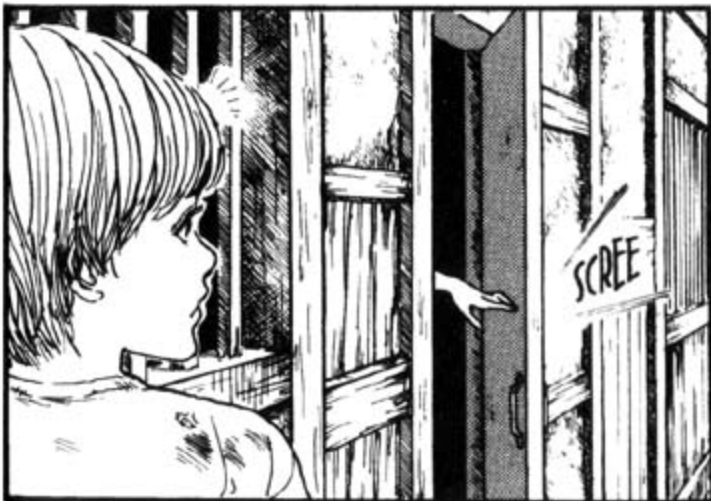
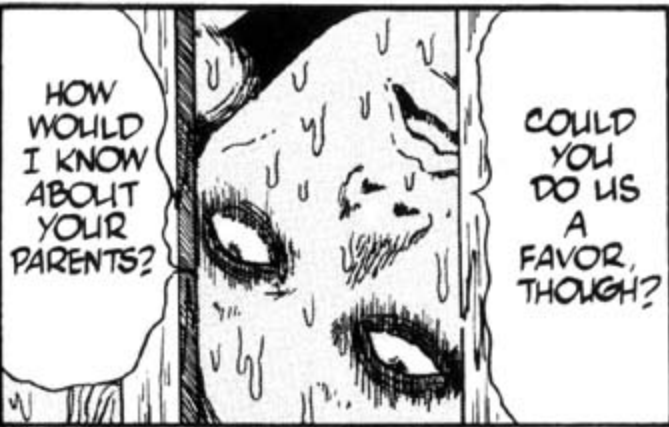
SAFE?

THAT'S HORRIBLE... THINK OF WHERE WE ARE...









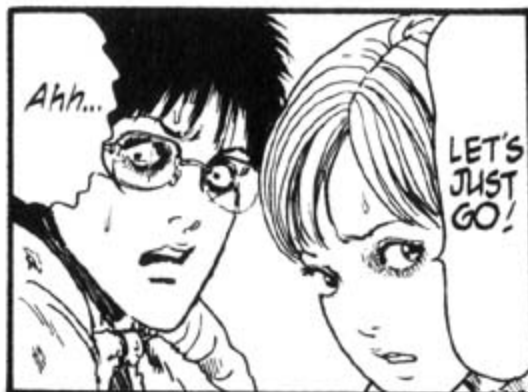


HE  
DIED  
THIS  
MORNING.



IT WAS  
SUCH AN ORDEAL  
TO UNTANGLE  
THAT CORPSE  
FROM US...

PLEASE TAKE  
IT SOMEWHERE  
AND BURN IT...THE  
SMELL WILL BE  
UNBEARABLE SOON...



Ahh...

LET'S  
JUST  
GO!

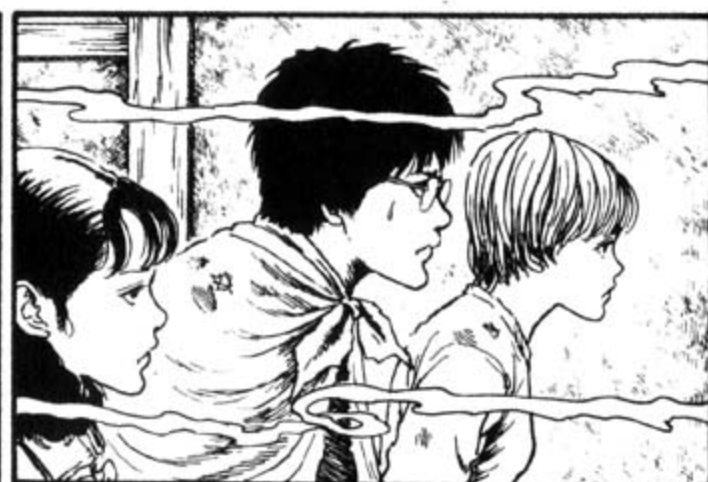


MBL  
MBL

RR  
RR

NNMBL  
NNMBL

MURMUR

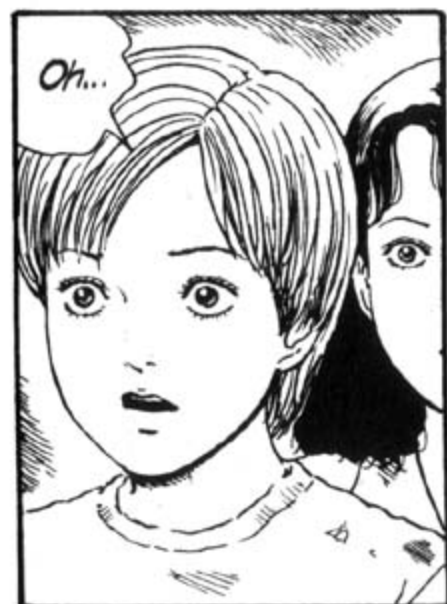
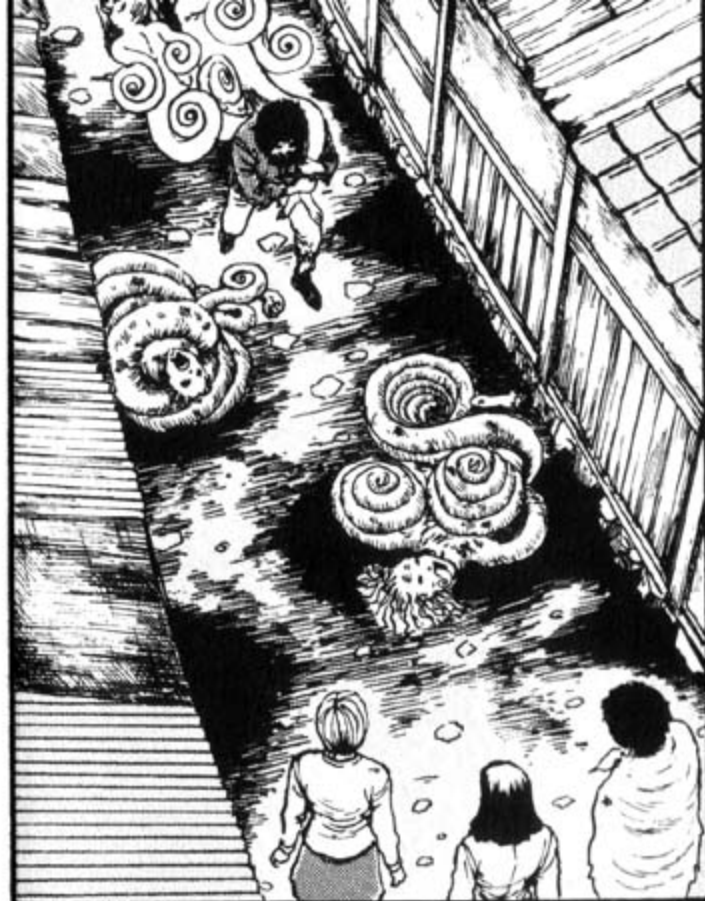


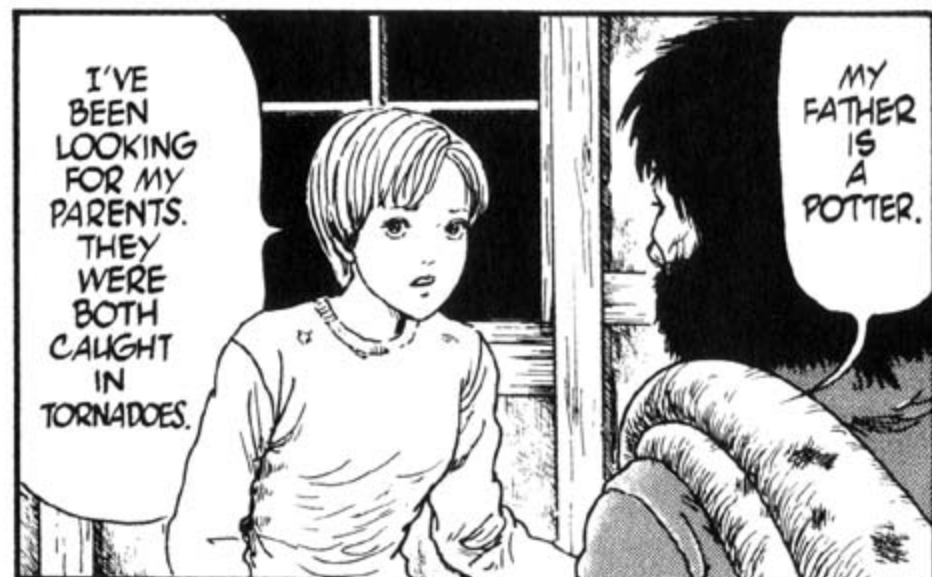
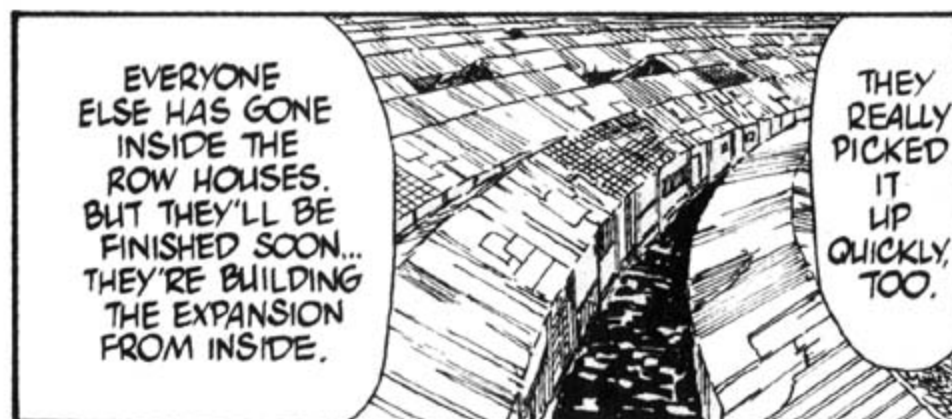
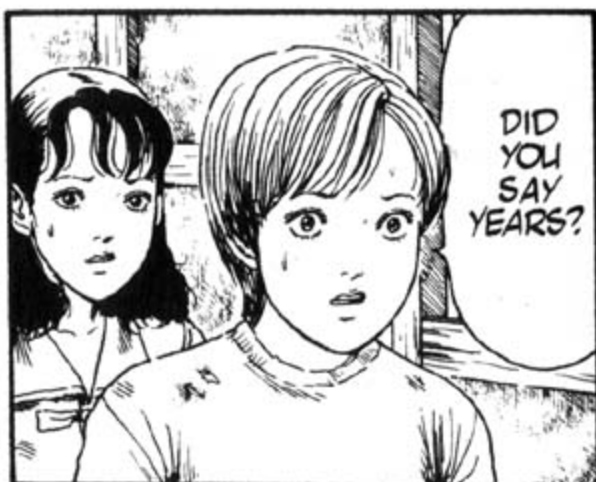
WHAT'S  
THAT  
SMELL  
?

IT'S  
COMING  
FROM  
UP  
AHEAD.











Oh...  
CERAMICS...  
YOU KNOW,  
I HEARD ABOUT  
A COUPLE  
THAT WAS STILL  
MAKING POTTERY  
BY DRAGONFLY  
POND.

WHAT?!

REALLY?!

Oh,  
YES.

I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN  
THEM  
MYSELF  
THOUGH.



I  
HEARD  
HE SAYS,  
"CERAMICS  
IS THE ART  
OF THE  
SPIRAL."



TH-  
THAT'S  
HIM!  
THAT'S  
HIM!


THEY'RE  
ALIVE!

THAT'S  
WONDERFUL,  
KIRIE!



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH,  
MR. TANIZAKI!  
I'M GOING  
THERE NOW.

YOU  
DO  
THAT.



BUT IT  
WON'T BE EASY  
TO GET THERE!  
THERE'S LOTS  
OF DEADFALLS  
FURTHER ON.



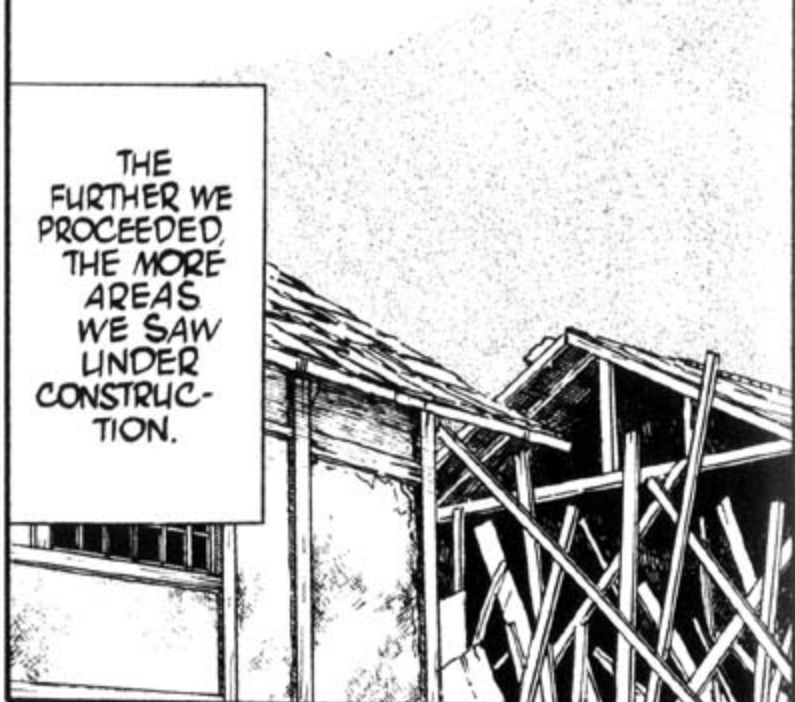
EVEN  
I'VE NEVER  
BEEN TO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.





AS  
MR.  
TANIZAKI  
HAD  
SAID...

THE  
FURTHER WE  
PROCEEDED,  
THE MORE  
AREAS  
WE SAW  
UNDER  
CONSTRUC-  
TION.



MOST OF  
ALLEYS WERE BLOCKED  
BY HEAPS OF RUBBLE  
OVER WHICH WE WERE  
TOO EXHAUSTED TO CLIMB.



WE KEPT  
MAKING  
OUR WAY  
THROUGH THE  
LABYRINTH.



ANOTHER  
DEAD  
END.



I  
WONDER  
WHERE  
WE ARE?

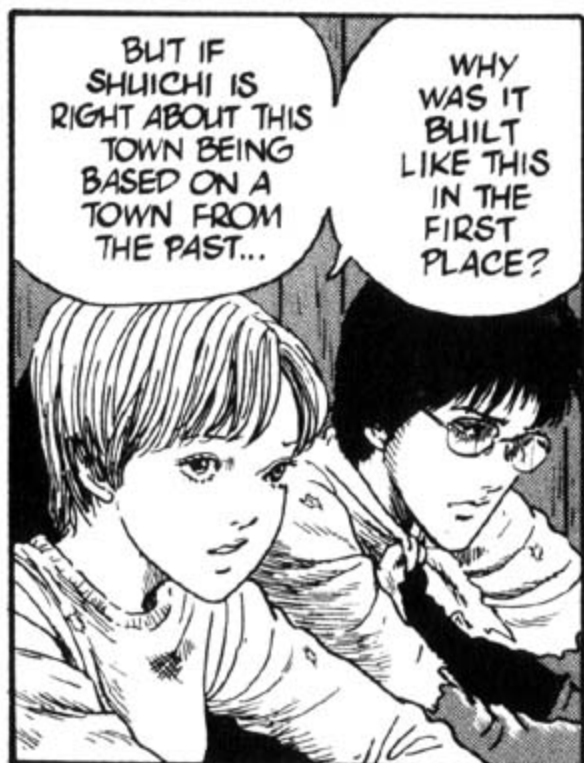
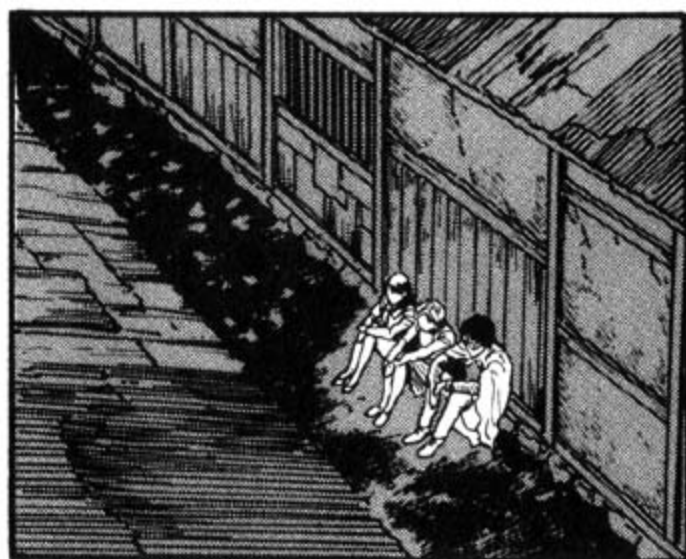
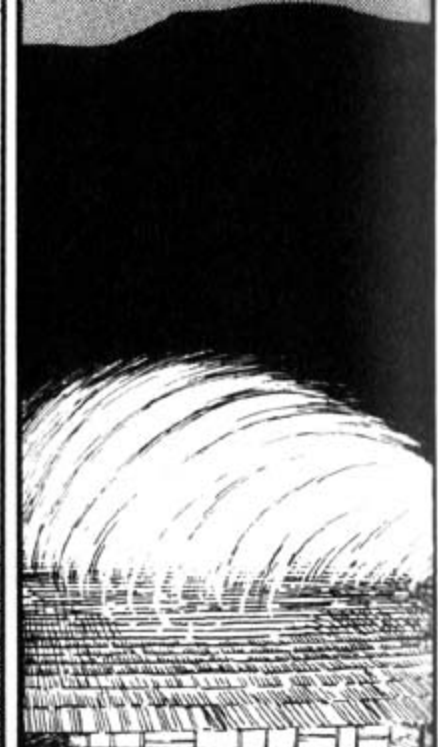
THERE'S  
AN OPENING  
THIS  
WAY.





I  
WONDER  
IF ALL  
THE  
BUILDINGS  
IN  
TOWN...

...ARE  
STUFFED  
WITH  
PEOPLE  
LIKE  
THAT.



MAYBE  
IT'S BEEN  
REPEATED OVER  
AND OVER  
SINCE ANCIENT  
TIMES.

EVERY  
CENTURY,  
OR EVERY  
FEW CENTURIES,  
THE SPIRAL  
COMES  
TO HAUNT  
THIS  
TOWN...

AND  
EVERY TIME  
IT DOES, THE  
INHABITANTS  
BUILD THEIR  
TOWN IN THIS  
SHAPE.

WHAT  
?

BUT  
WOULDN'T  
THERE  
HAVE  
BEEN  
RECORDS  
OF  
THIS?

OR  
WAS  
IT  
TOO  
LONG  
AGO?

NO...

THE  
OLD HOUSES  
ARE MADE OF  
WOOD SO  
THEY CAN'T  
BE THAT  
ANCIENT.

AND  
YET THE  
STORY  
WAS NEVER  
PASSED  
ON.

MAYBE  
ALL  
THE  
RECOLLECTIONS  
WERE  
LOST.

LOST  
?

FOR  
EXAMPLE...  
MAYBE EVERY  
PERSON WHO  
COULD HAVE  
TOLD THE  
STORY  
VANISHED.

AS WE  
WANDERED  
THROUGH THE  
LABYRINTH,  
WE LOST  
TRACK OF  
WHICH WAY  
WE WERE  
GOING.

WHERE  
ARE  
WE  
NOW?

I  
CAN'T DO  
THIS  
ANYMORE  
...I CAN'T  
WALK...

HEY.

LOOK  
UP  
THERE







LOOK!  
THERE'S  
A  
GAP  
OVER  
THERE!



COME  
ON!

IF  
WE DON'T  
HURRY,  
THIS WAY  
WILL  
BE  
SEALED!

OKAY!



TUK

NO!







A RUMBLING SOUND ROARED THROUGH THE ENTIRE TOWN.

SOME-THING WAS MOVING THROUGH THE HOUSES.

IT MOVED TOWARDS THE CENTER, TRACING A CIRCLE...



THEN IT WAS GONE.

AND THE ENTIRE AREA WAS DEAD SILENT.







WH-  
WHAT  
IS  
THIS?!



THIS MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.

THE  
WATER'S  
RECEDED  
...



WHAT  
ABOUT MY  
MOTHER  
AND  
FATHER?

I THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
MAKING  
POTTERY  
HERE.



KIRIE ...

IF THEY WERE HERE ONCE, THEY'RE NOT HERE NOW.



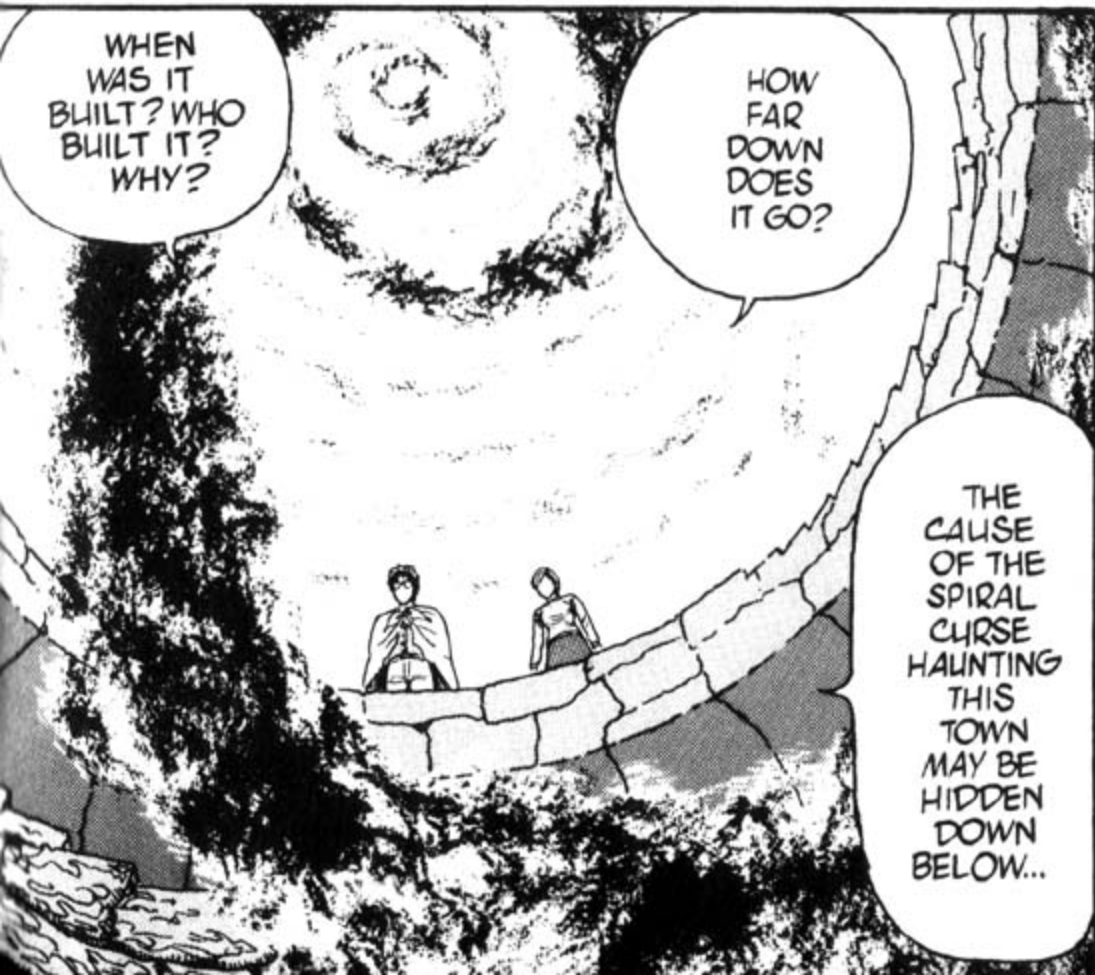
LOOK DOWN THERE. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS HERE ALL THIS TIME, THIS WELL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POND?

SOMEONE BUILT THESE SPIRAL STAIRS. THEY LOOK LIKE ANCIENT RUINS.



THE PEOPLE IN THE ROW HOUSES ...

... MUST HAVE FALLEN DOWN THIS HOLE ALL AT ONCE.

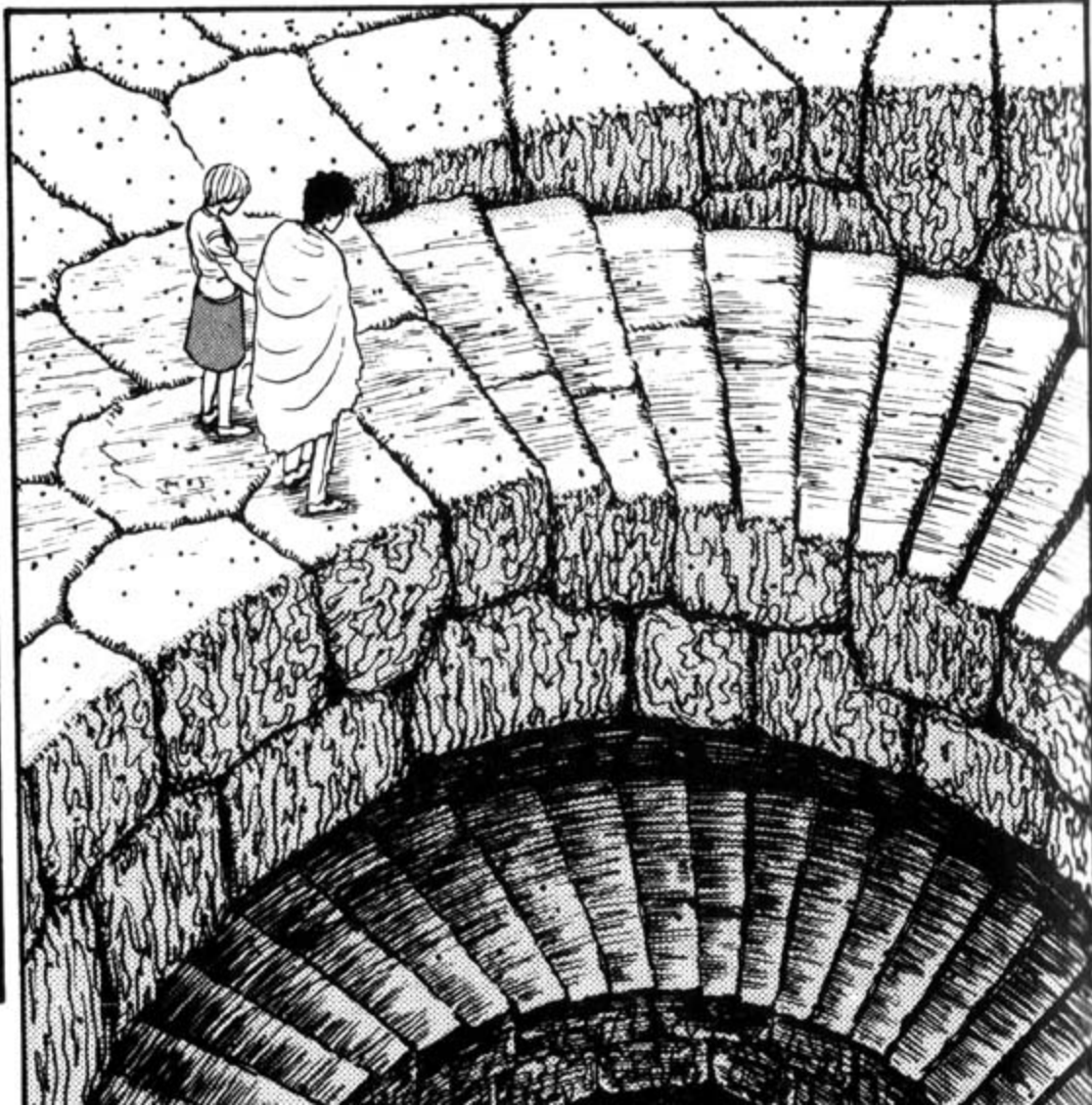


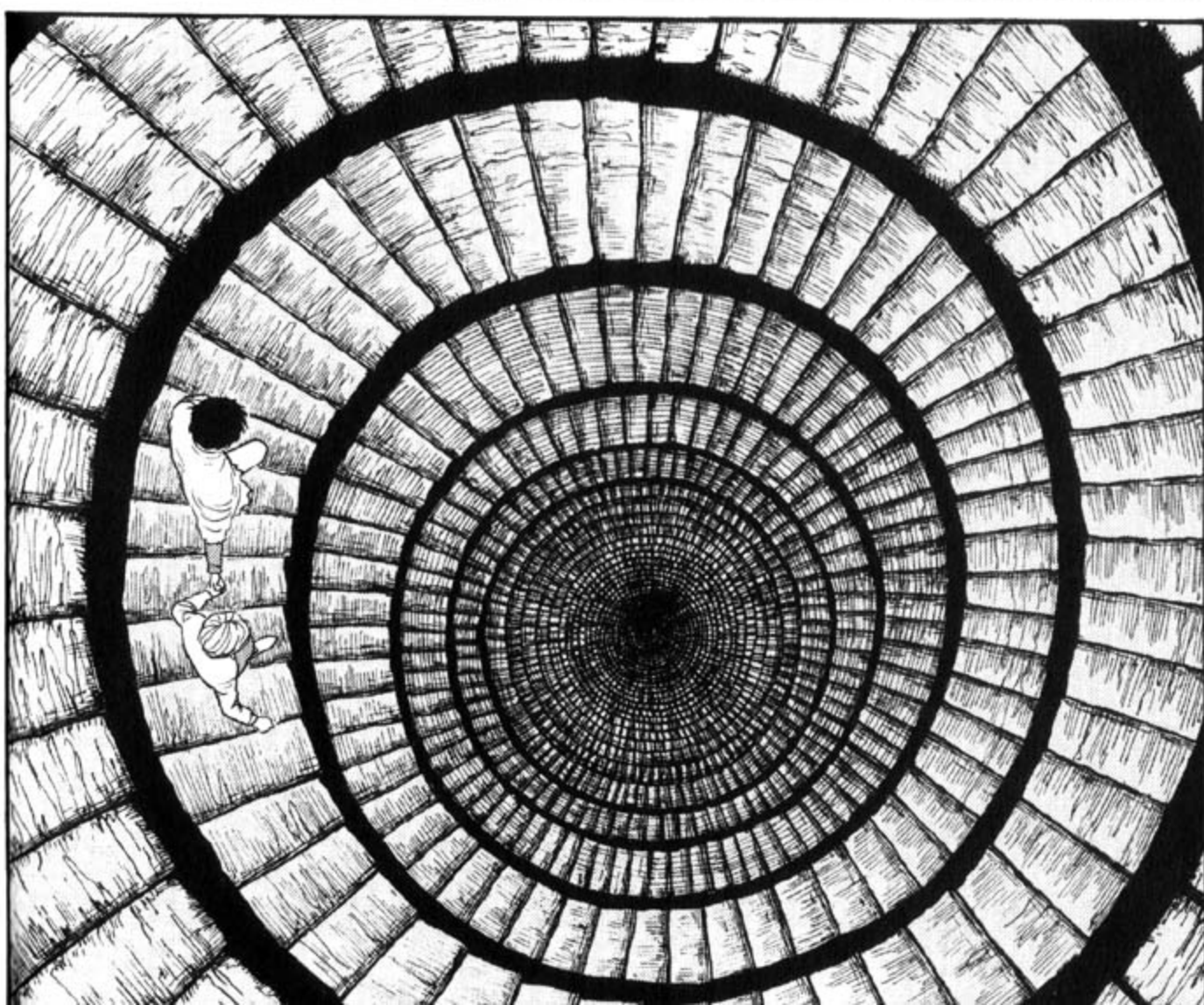
WHEN WAS IT BUILT? WHO BUILT IT? WHY?

HOW FAR DOWN DOES IT GO?

THE CAUSE OF THE SPIRAL CURSE HAUNTING THIS TOWN MAY BE HIDDEN DOWN BELOW...



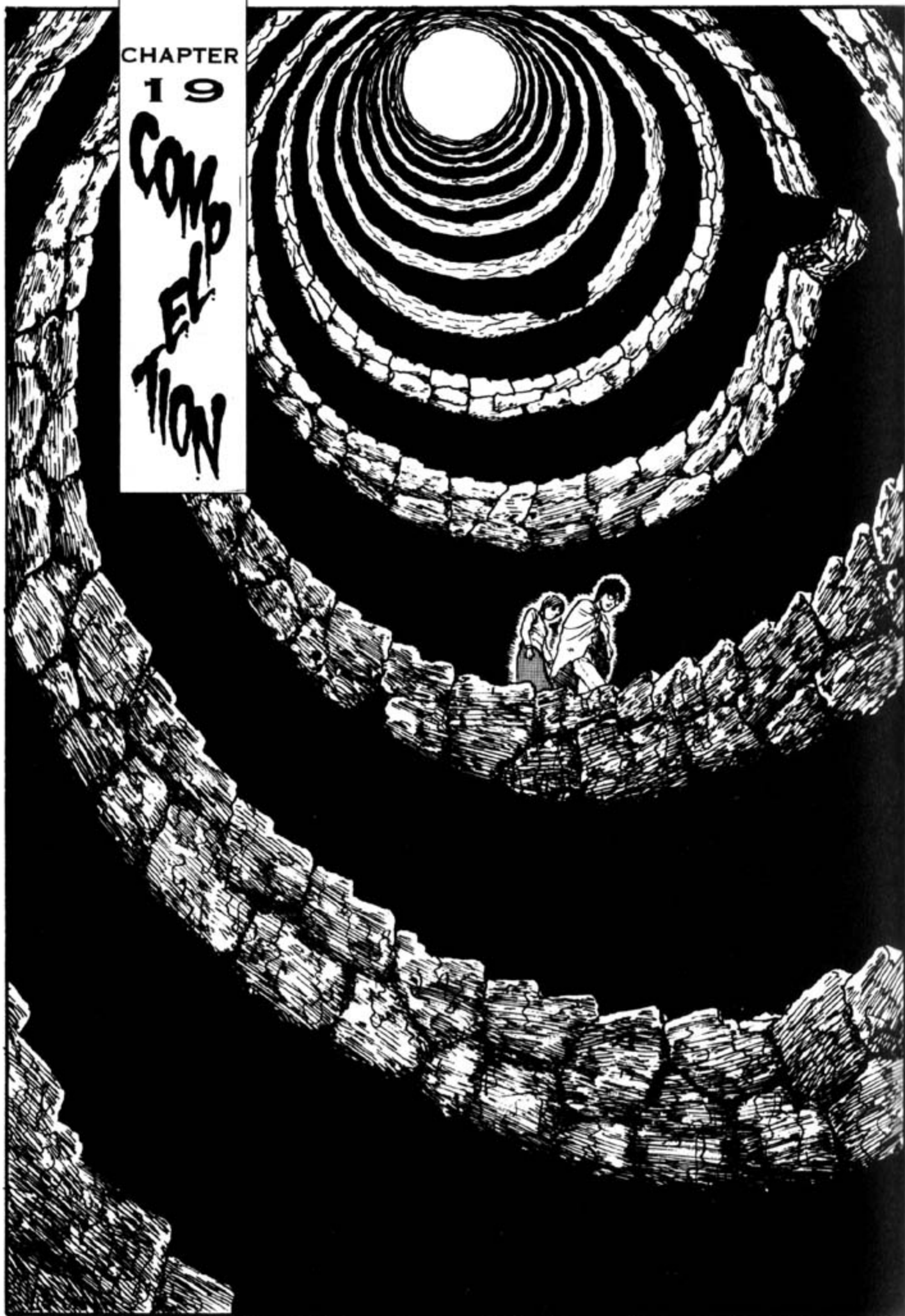


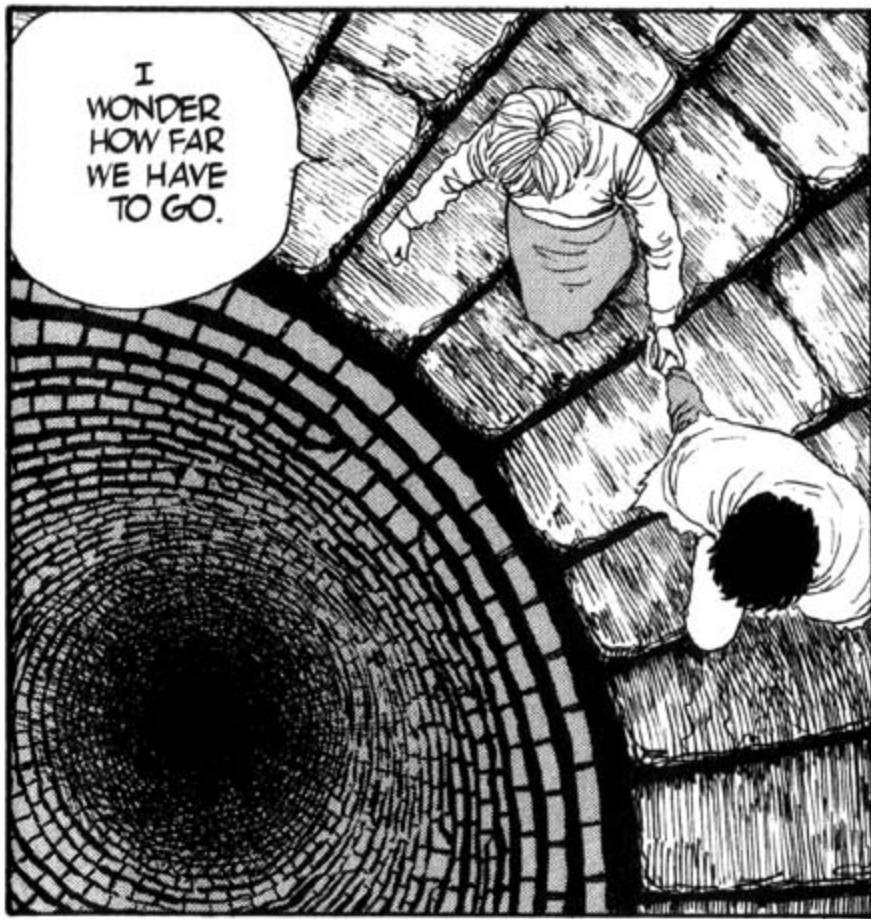


CHAPTER

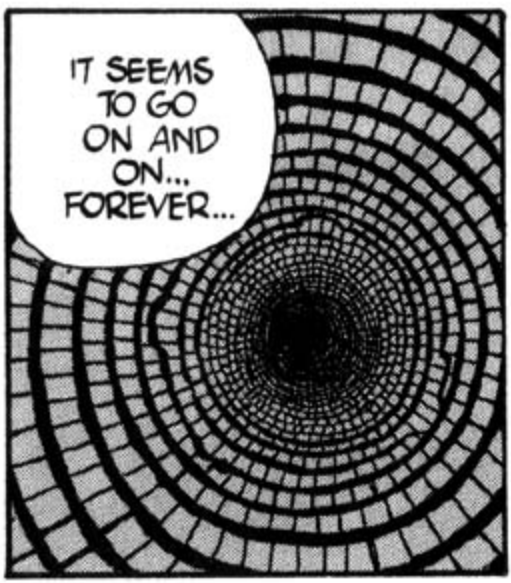
19

CONFESSION





I  
WONDER  
HOW FAR  
WE HAVE  
TO GO.



IT SEEMS  
TO GO  
ON AND  
ON...  
FOREVER...



SWAY



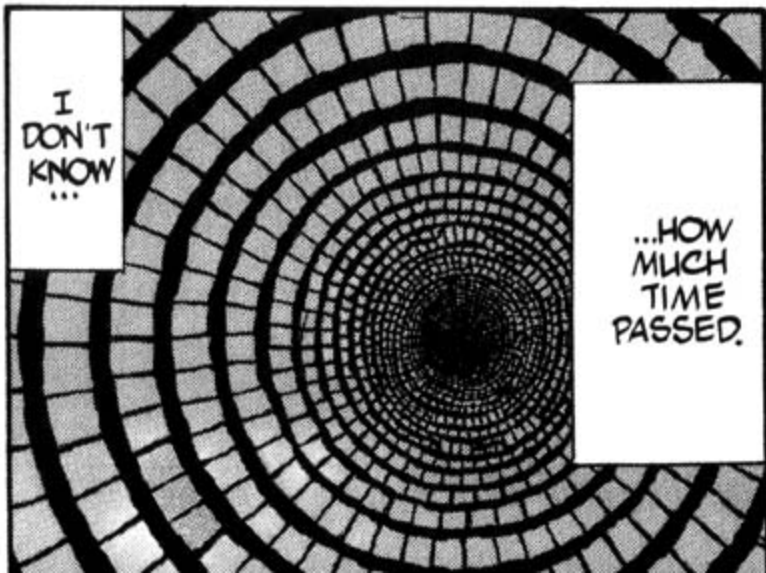
!

SWAY



KIRIE!  
BE  
CAREFUL!

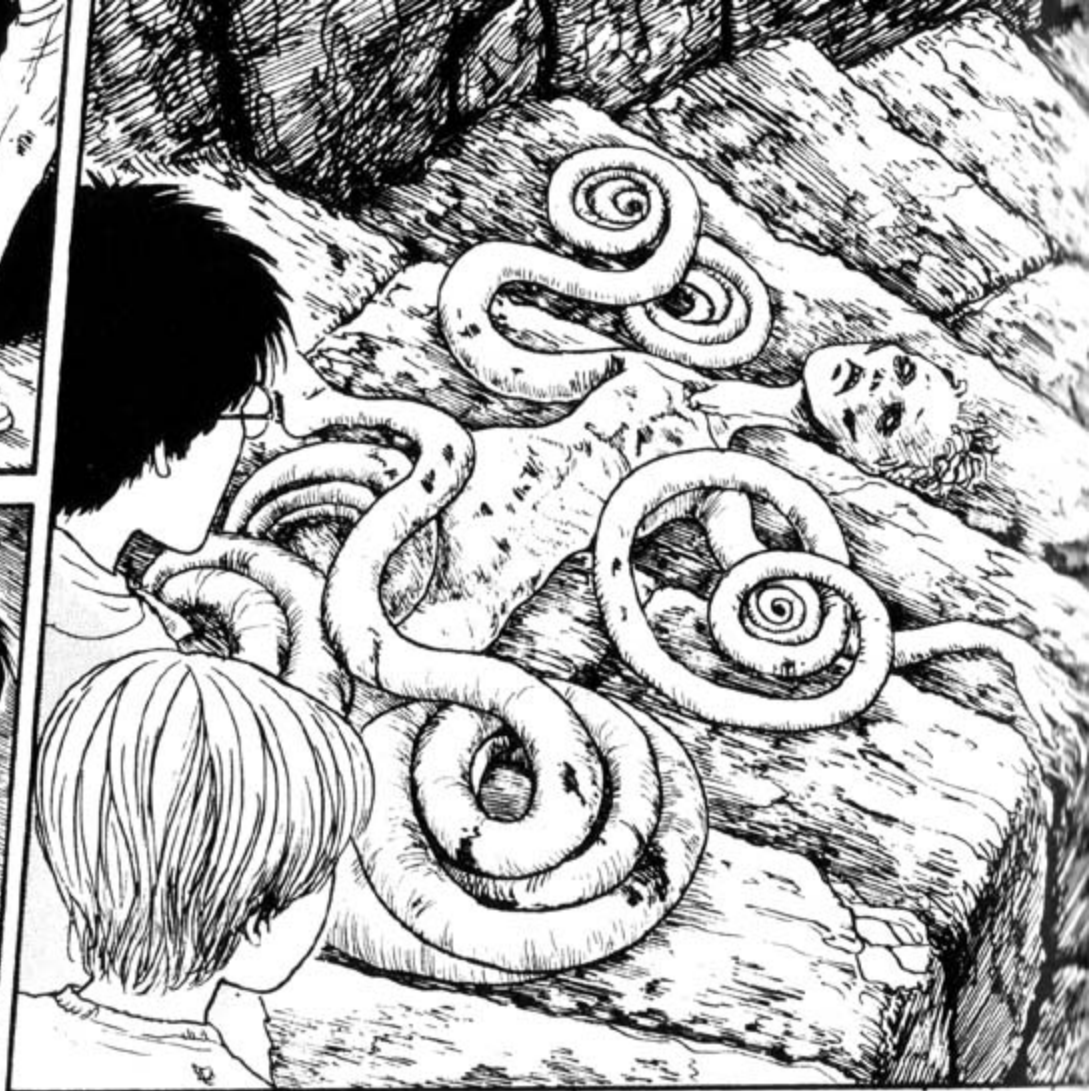
DON'T  
LOOK  
DOWN  
THERE!



I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
...

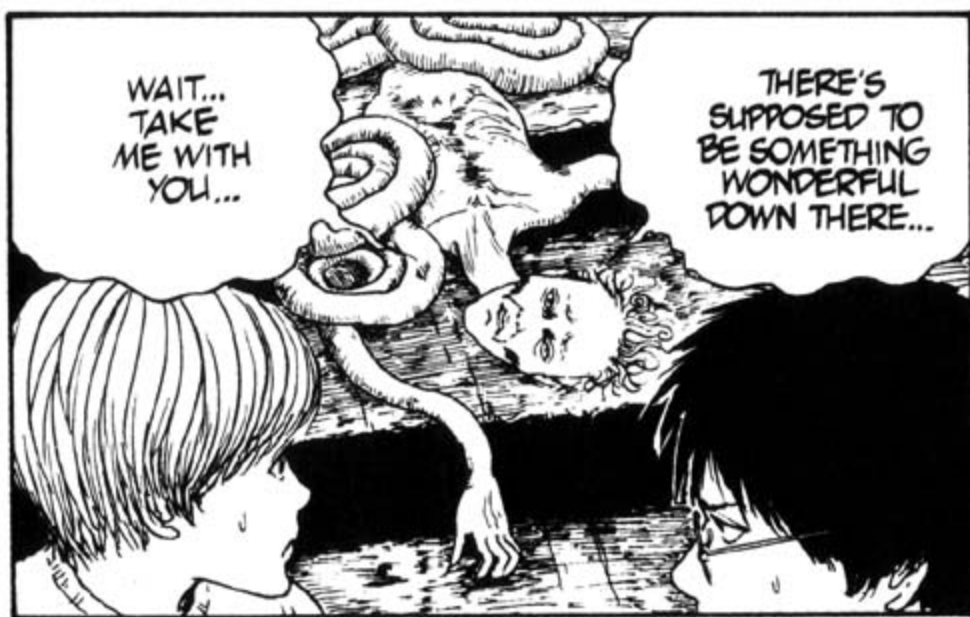
...HOW  
MUCH  
TIME  
PASSED.



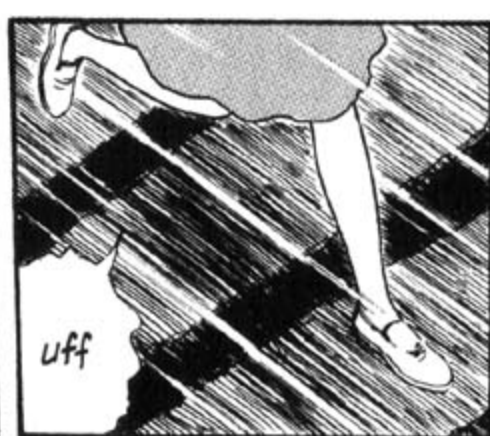
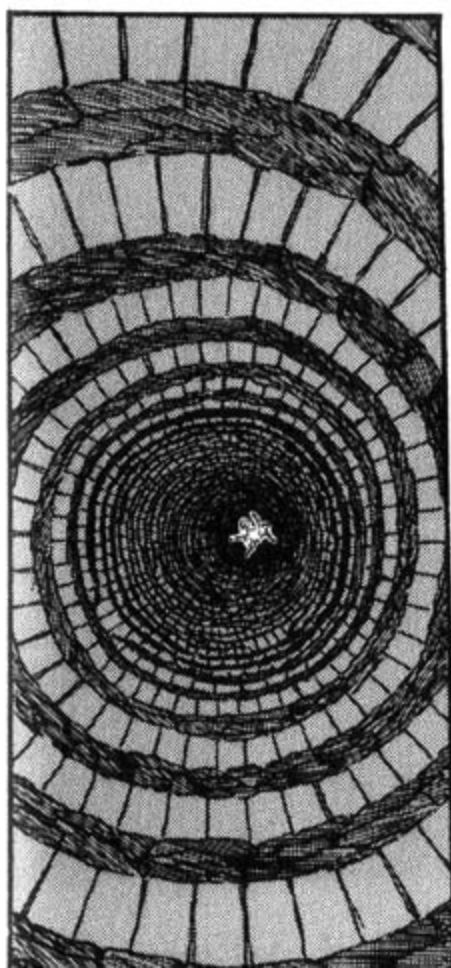
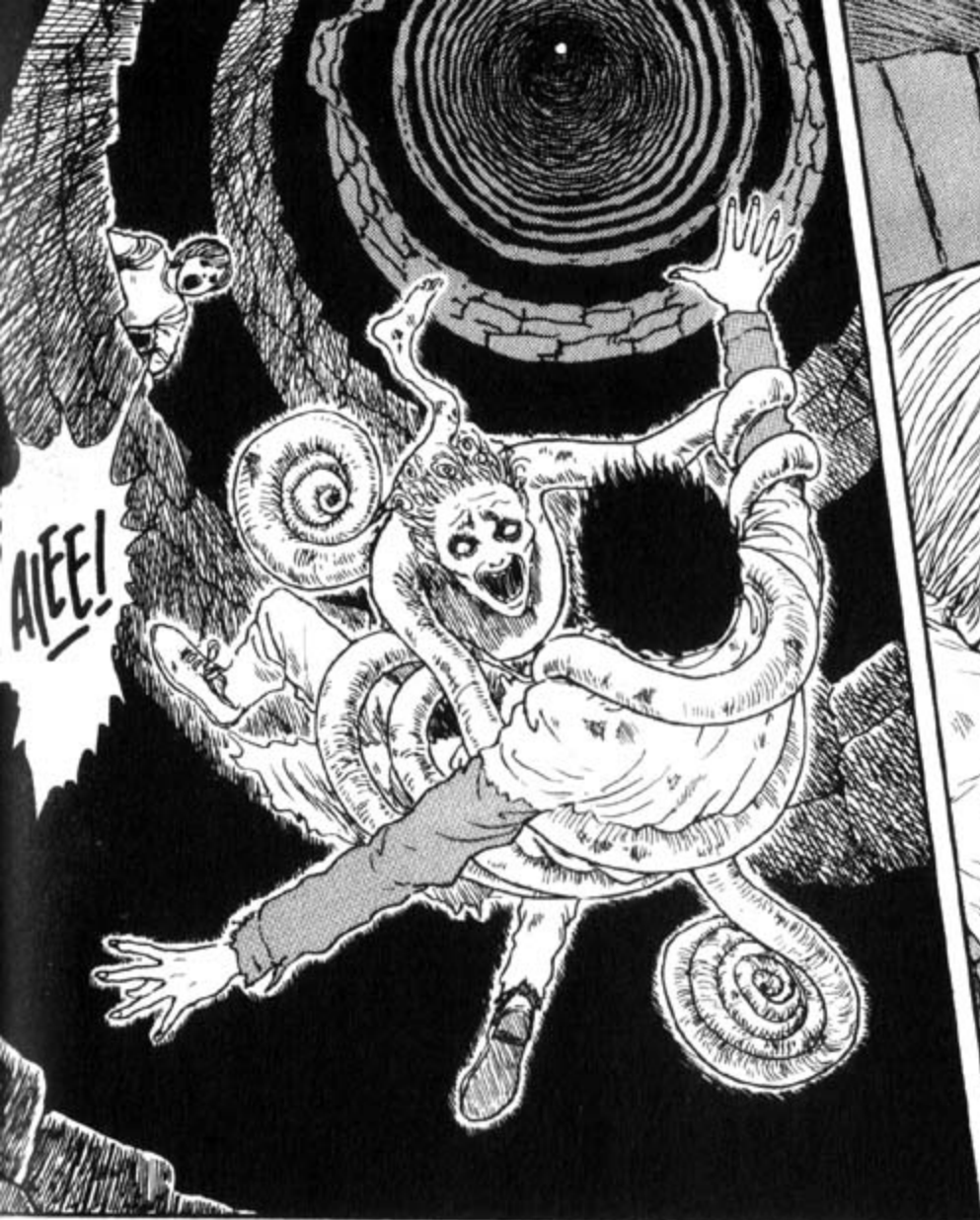


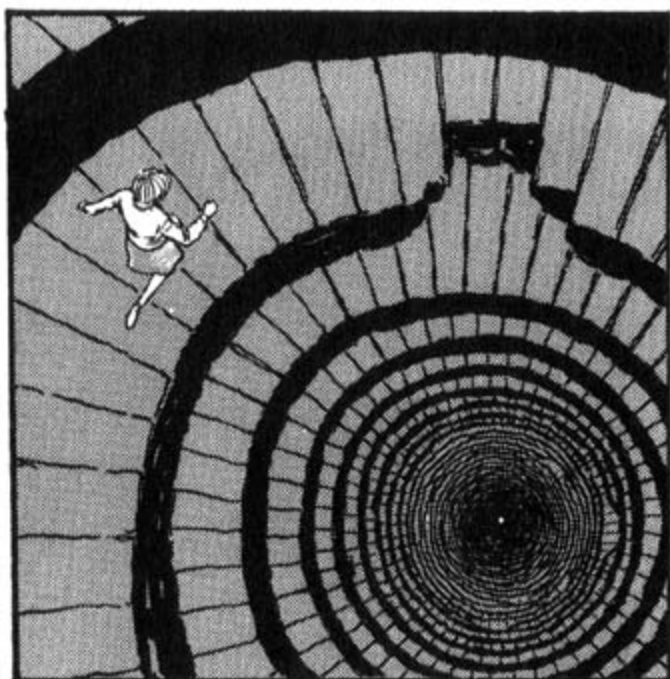
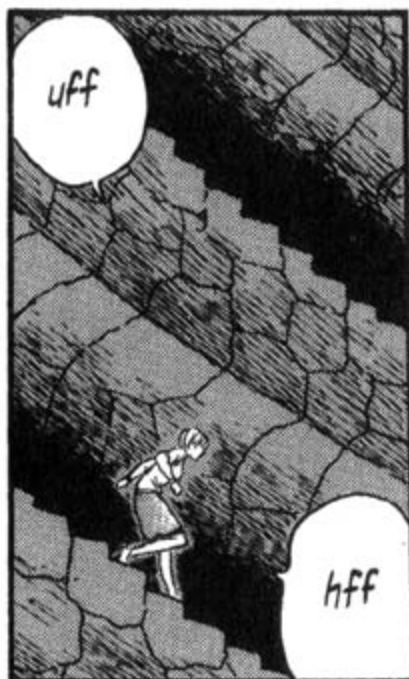
I GUESS HE WAS LEFT BEHIND.

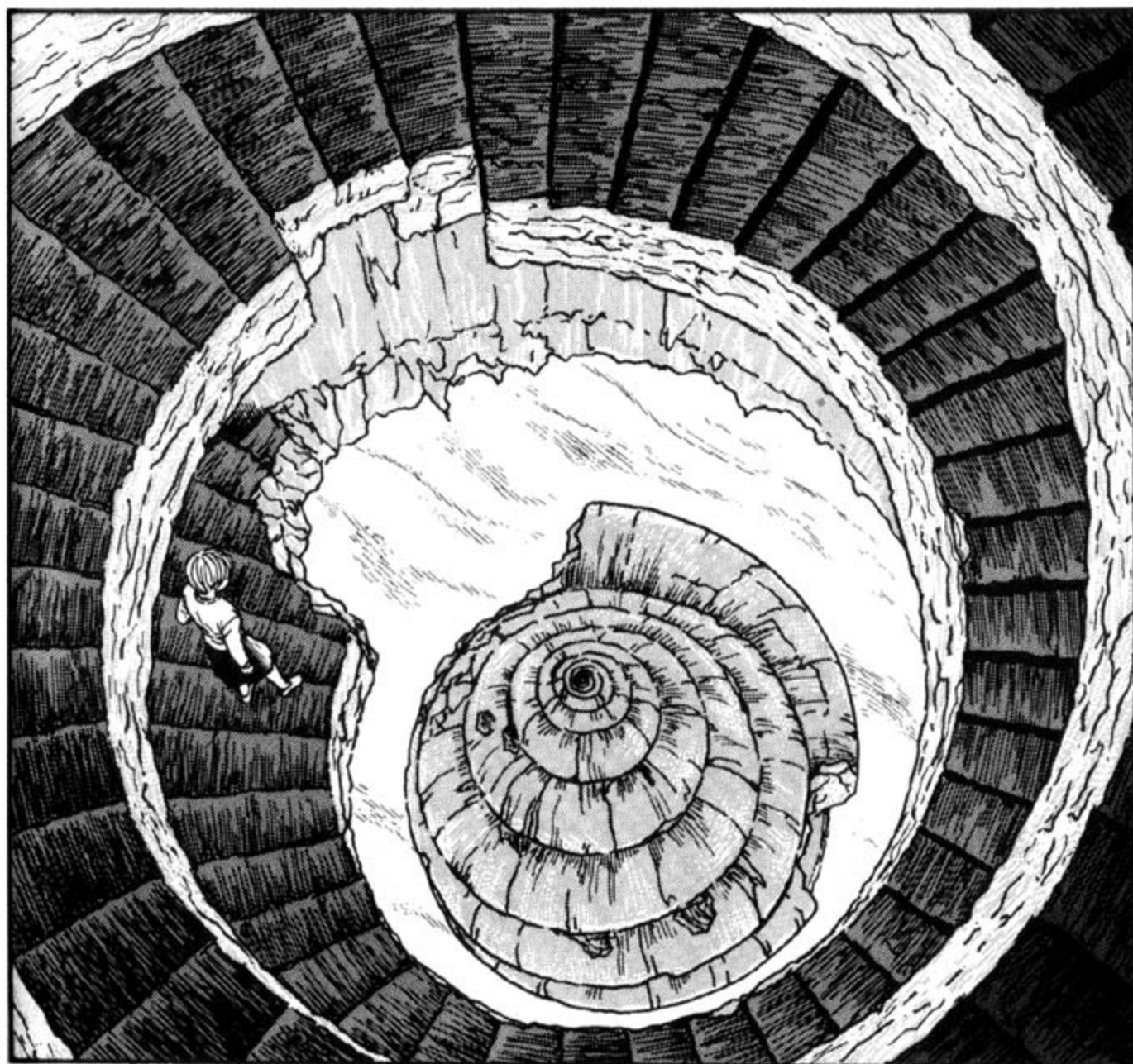


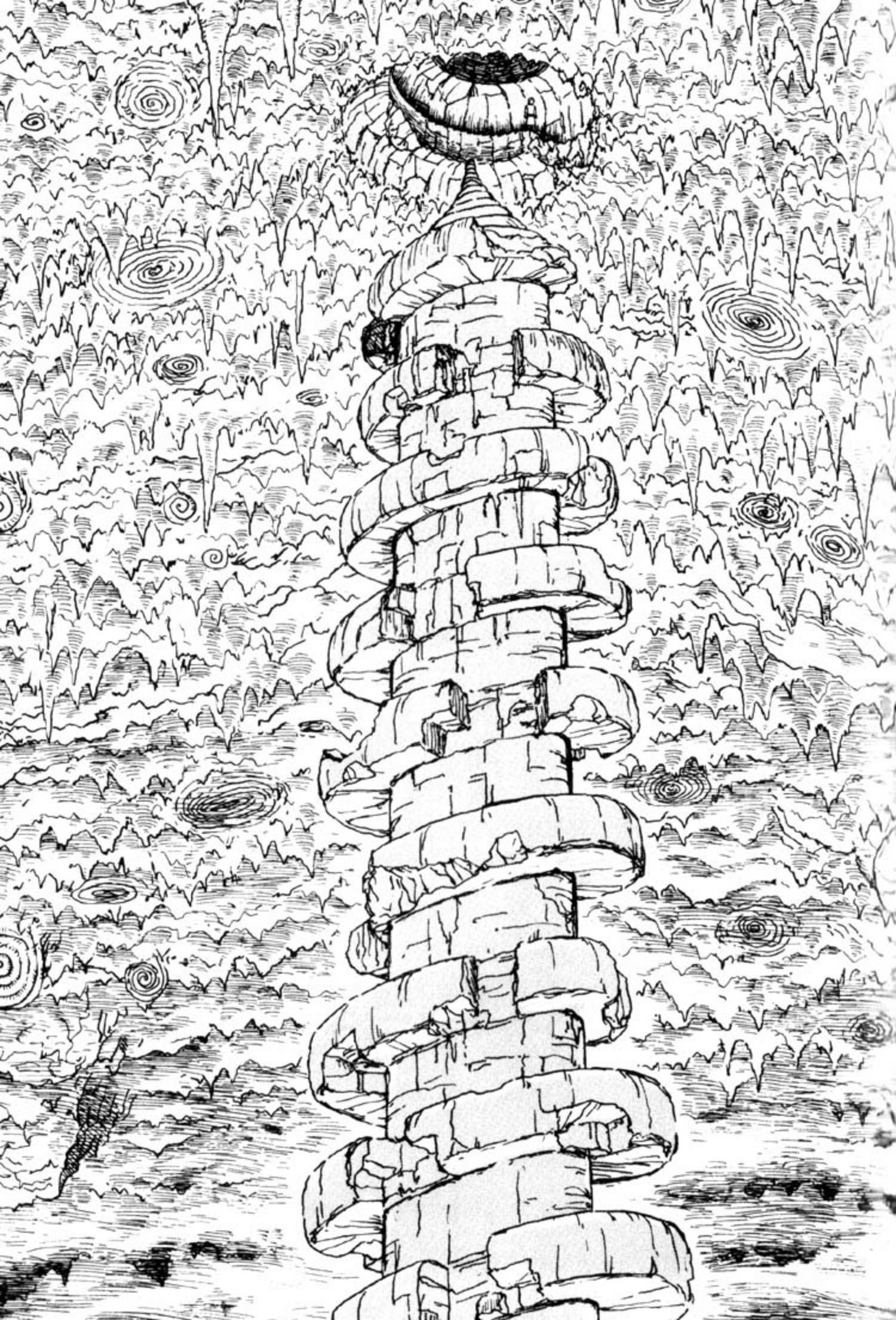




















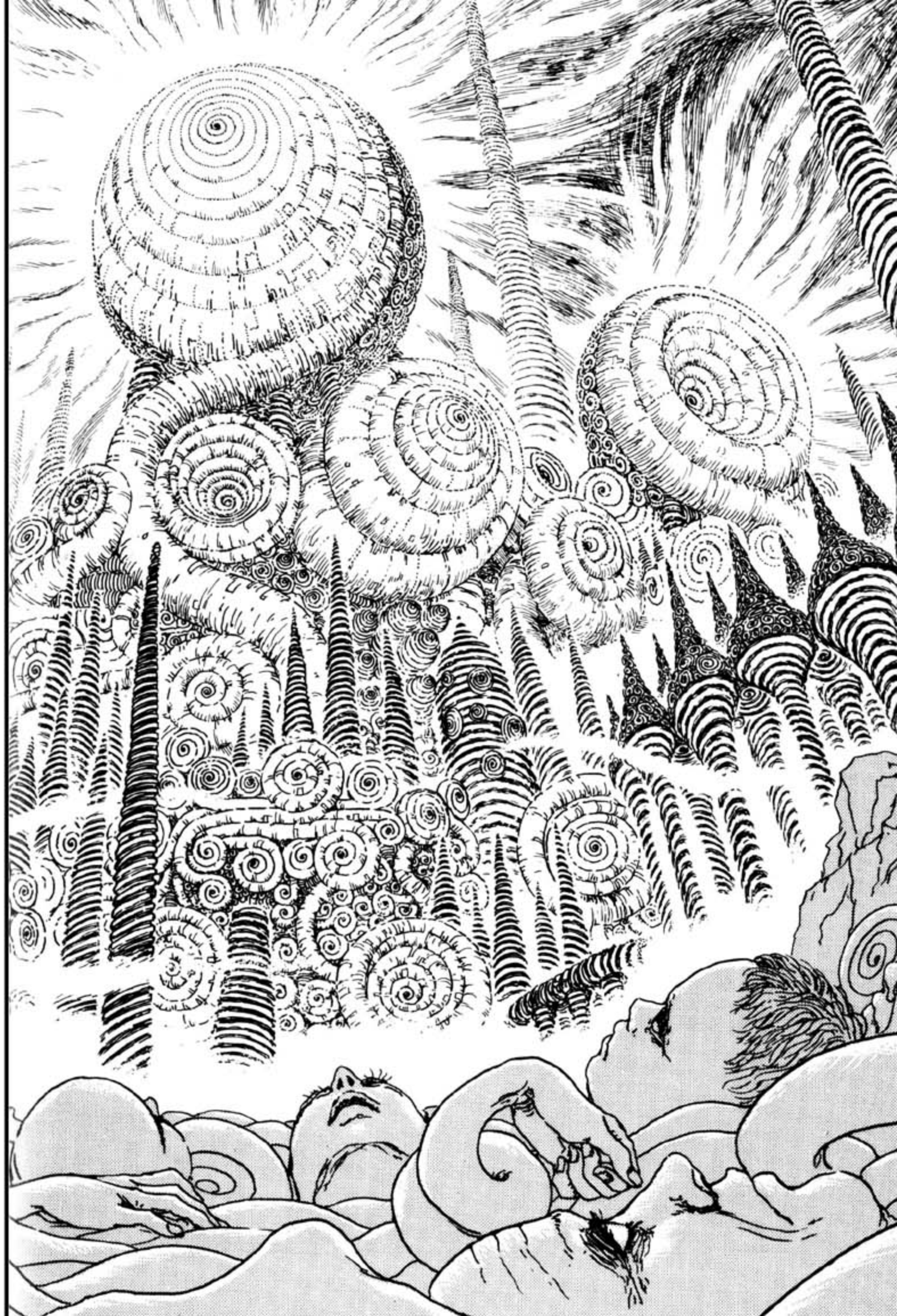
I  
THOUGHT  
I WAS  
GOING  
TO DIE.

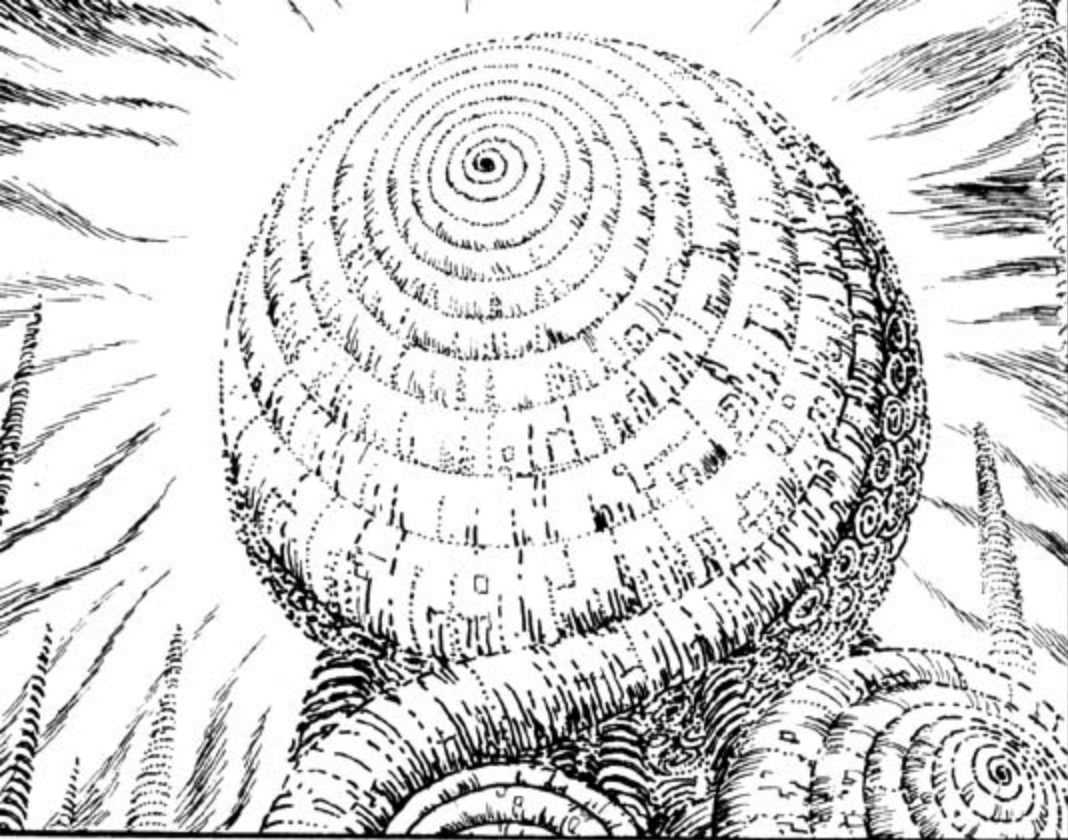


**FWAHH**

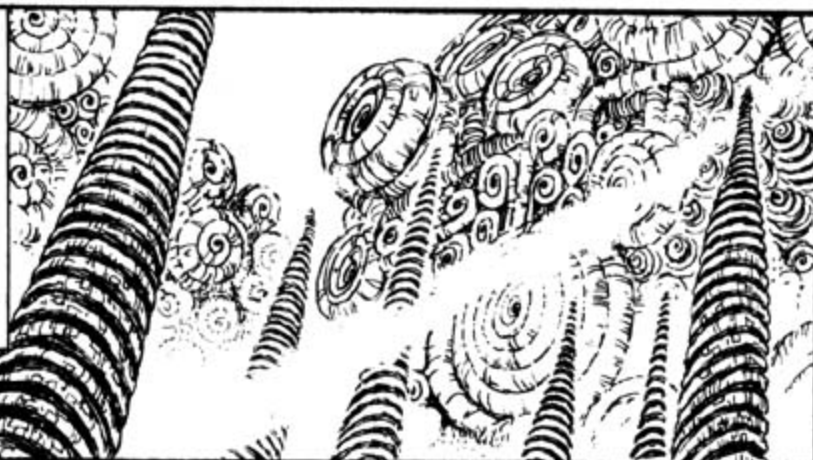
BUT  
FOR SOME  
REASON,  
MY BODY  
FELL  
SLOWLY,  
AS IF A  
GREAT  
WHIRLWIND  
WERE  
CARRYING  
ME DOWN.





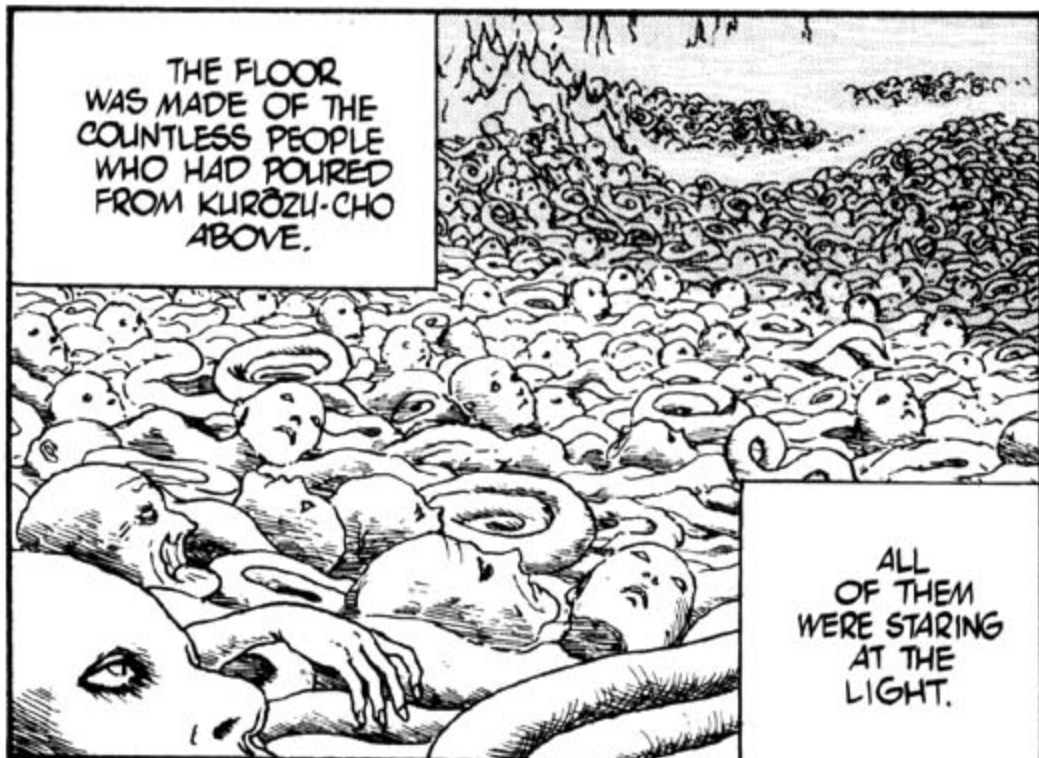


IT WAS  
A CITY OF  
SPIRALS.  
UNLIKE  
ANYTHING  
I HAD EVER  
SEEN.



THE  
ANCIENT  
RUINS  
EMITTED A  
MESMERIZING  
LIGHT.

THE FLOOR  
WAS MADE OF THE  
COUNTLESS PEOPLE  
WHO HAD POURED  
FROM KUROZU-CHO  
ABOVE.



ALL  
OF THEM  
WERE STARING  
AT THE  
LIGHT.

WHERE IS  
SHUICHI  
?



HE  
SHOULD  
HAVE FALLEN  
HERE  
NEAR ME!









I FEEL LIKE IT'S INVADING ME EVERY MOMENT.

IT'S LIKE IT'S CURSING US FOR BEING UNDERGROUND, HIDDEN FROM ALL THE EYES UP THERE.



SPIRALS SUCK THINGS IN... THE EYE FOLLOWS THE PATTERN TO ITS CENTER.

I DON'T KNOW WHO... OR WHAT BUILT IT HERE, OR WHY...



BUT EVERY SO OFTEN, EVERY FEW HUNDREDS, OR THOUSANDS, OR TENS OF THOUSAND YEARS, IT CAN REACH THE PEOPLE ABOVE GROUND. AND EVEN THOUGH ITS BUILDERS ARE GONE...

MAYBE IT'S STILL BUILDING ITSELF.



SHUICHI...

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



...

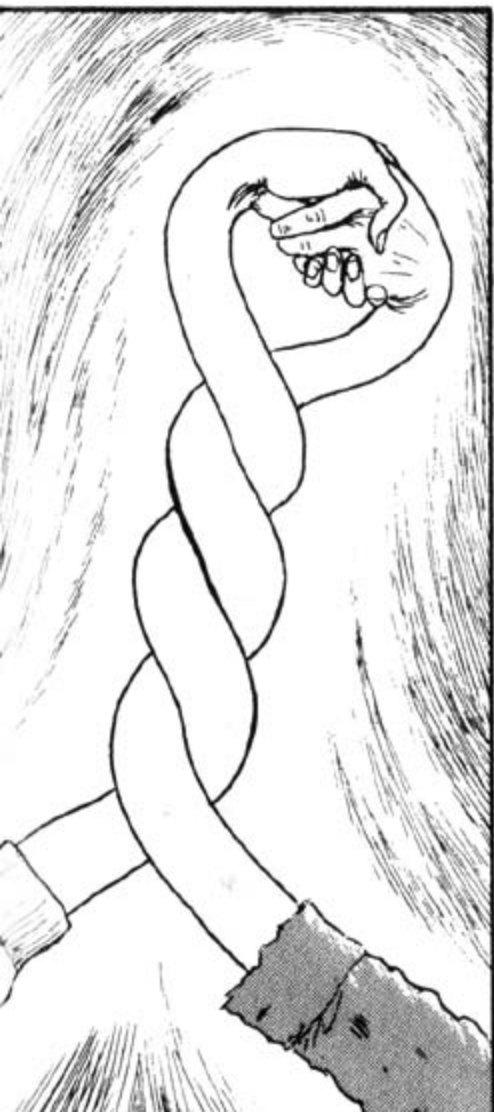
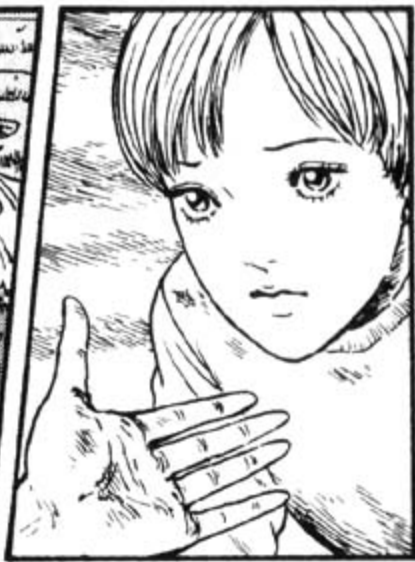


KIRIE... I CAN'T RUN AWAY ANY LONGER.

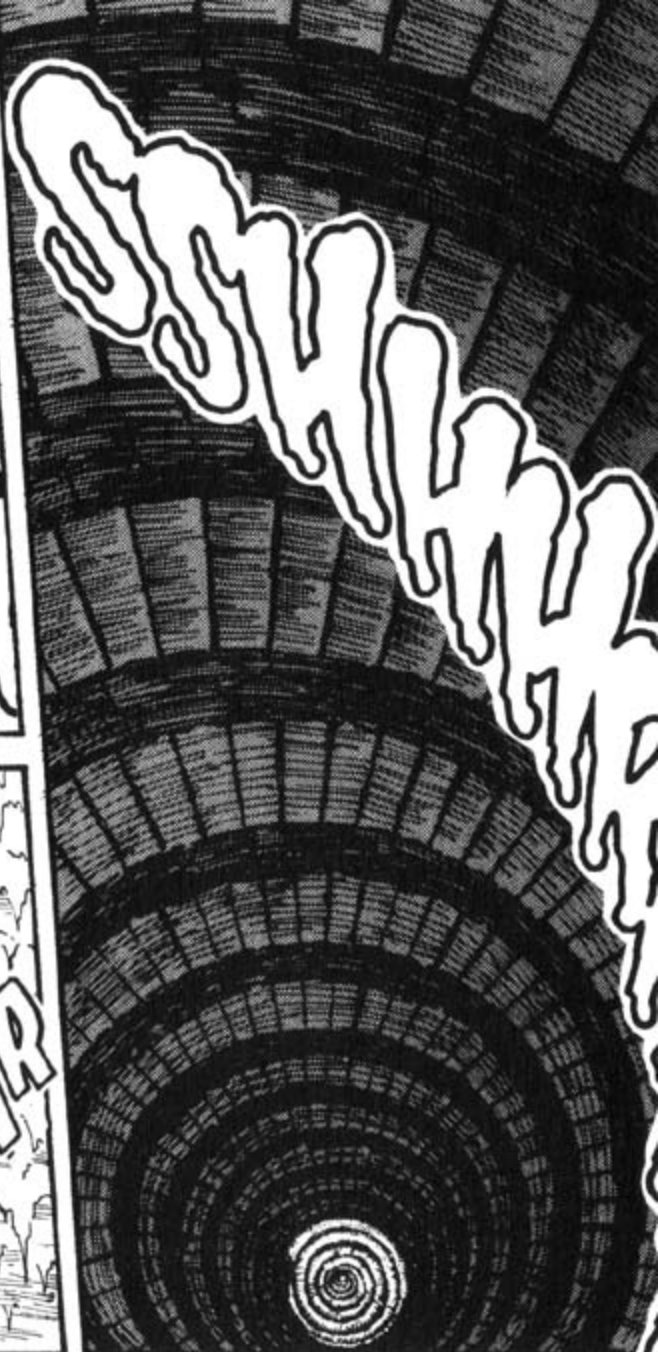
LEAVE ME HERE. YOU HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING.

I THINK SOON THIS CURSE WILL BE OVER.







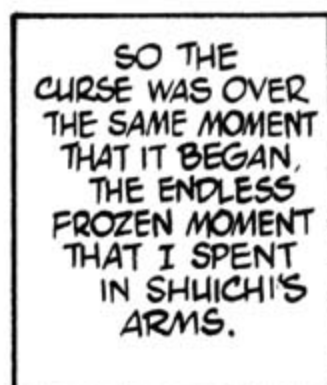




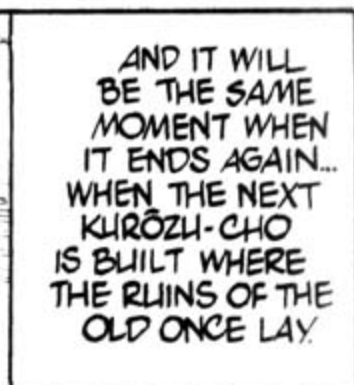
AND WITH  
THE SPIRAL  
COMPLETE,  
A STRANGE  
THING  
HAPPENED...



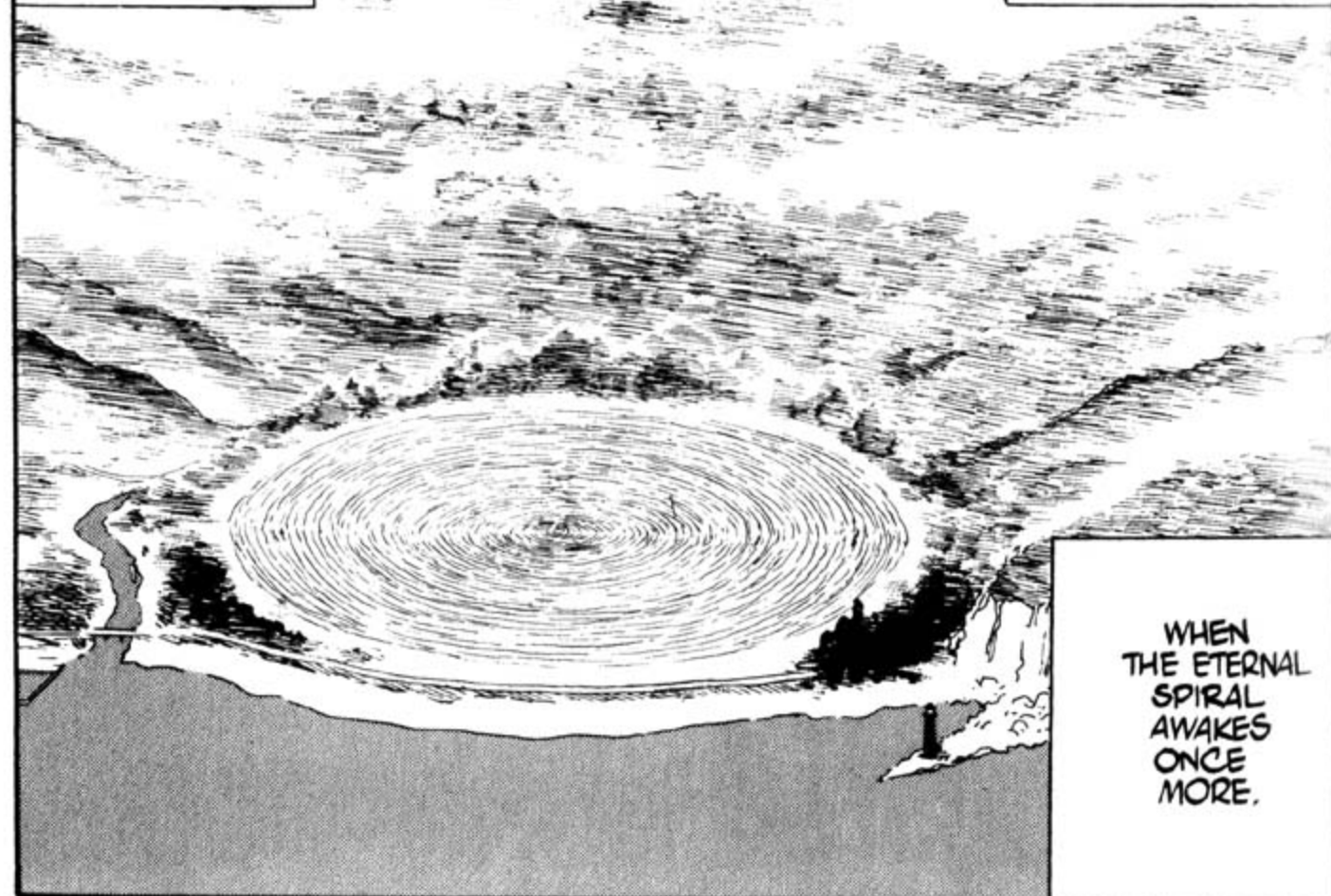
JUST AS TIME  
HAD SPED UP WHEN  
WE WERE ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS, IN THE  
CENTER OF THE  
SPIRAL IT STOOD  
STILL.



SO THE  
CURSE WAS OVER  
THE SAME MOMENT  
THAT IT BEGAN,  
THE ENDLESS  
FROZEN MOMENT  
THAT I SPENT  
IN SHUICHI'S  
ARMS.



AND IT WILL  
BE THE SAME  
MOMENT WHEN  
IT ENDS AGAIN...  
WHEN THE NEXT  
KURŌZU-CHO  
IS BUILT WHERE  
THE RUINS OF THE  
OLD ONCE LAY.

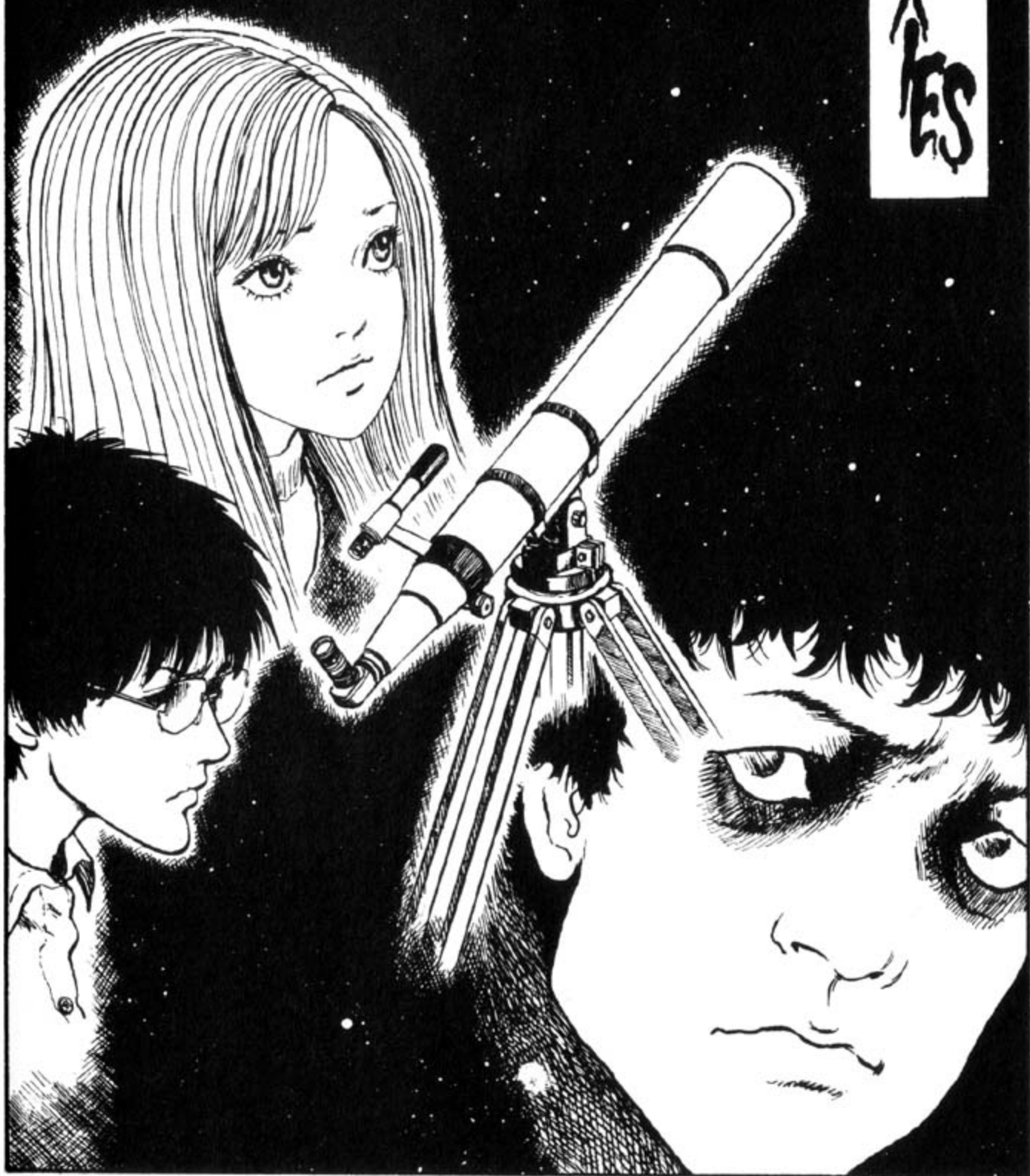


WHEN  
THE ETERNAL  
SPIRAL  
AWAKES  
ONCE  
MORE.

The End

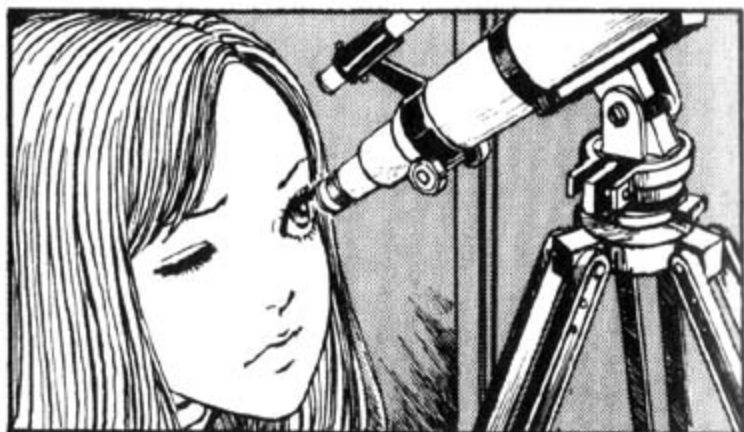
LOST  
CHAPTER:

# GALAXIES



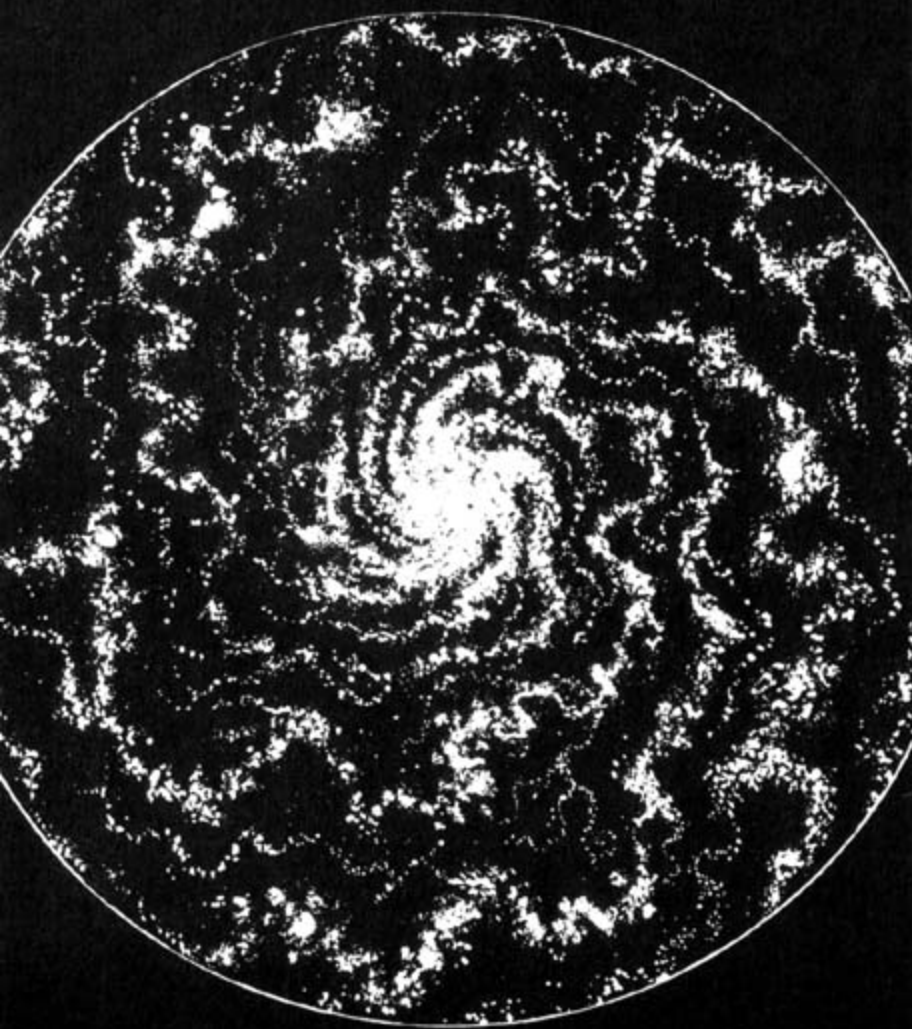
LOOK  
AT THAT,  
KIRIE.

CAN  
YOU  
SEE  
IT?



WOW,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

I  
SEE IT,  
SHUICHI.



I  
FOUND  
IT  
LAST  
NIGHT.

THIS  
GALAXY  
ISN'T  
LISTED  
IN ANY  
BOOK.



THE  
NEXT  
DAY...



WHAT?  
YOU  
DISCOVERED  
A NEW  
GALAXY?

YES,  
MR. YOKOTA.

THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE  
...NOW A  
COMET,  
MAYBE...

BUT AN  
ENTIRE  
GALAXY?  
YOUR  
TELESCOPE  
WOULD  
HAVE TO  
BE PRETTY  
STRONG.

BUT  
SHUICHI'S  
REALLY GOOD  
AT ASTRONOMY.  
I'M SURE  
HE HASN'T  
MADE A  
MISTAKE.

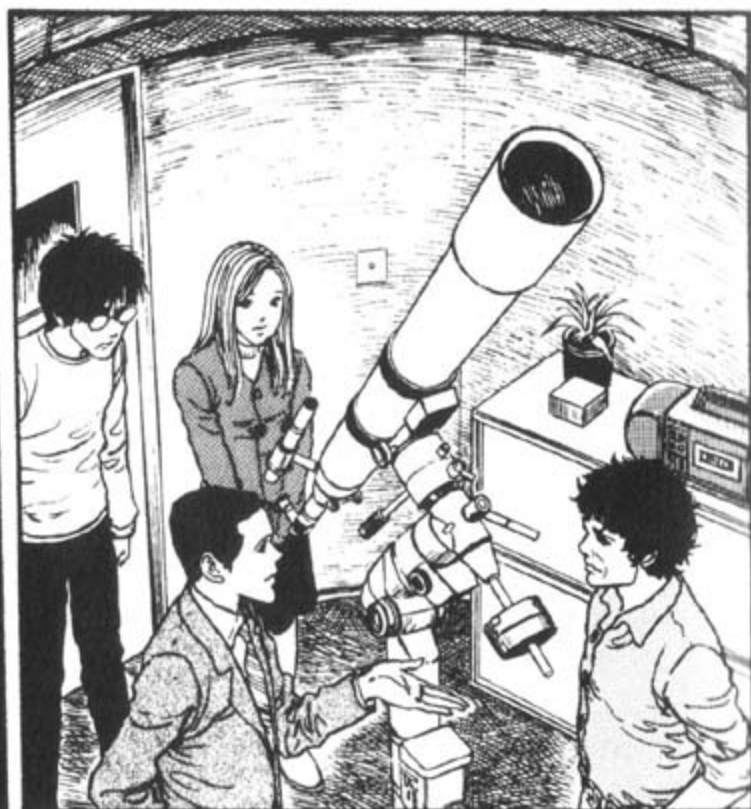
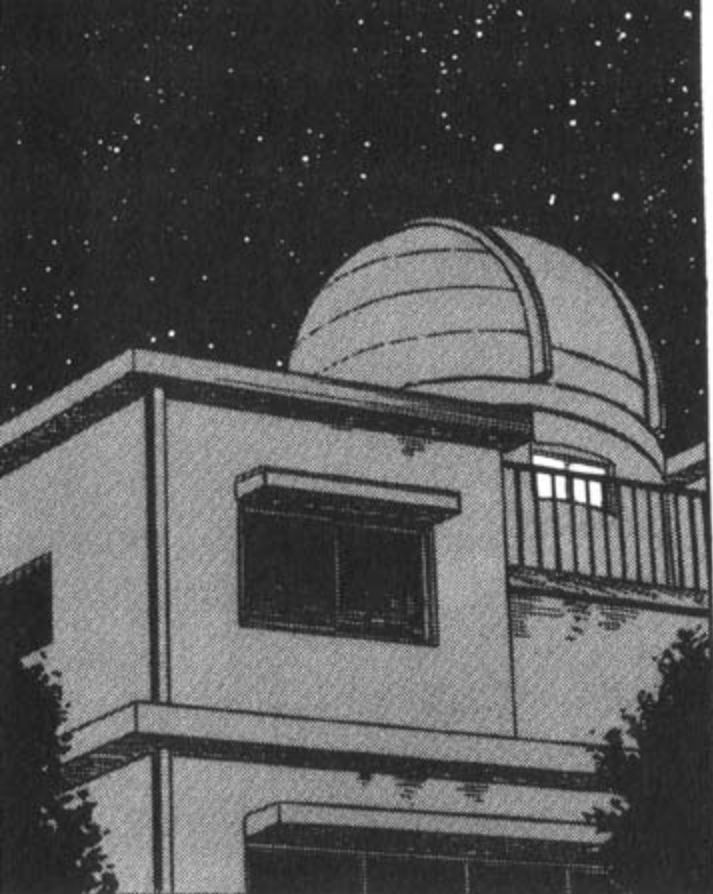
PLEASE  
COME  
AND  
TAKE A  
LOOK!

Hmm...

ALL  
RIGHT. I  
HAVE A  
FRIEND WHO'S  
AN ARMCHAIR  
ASTRONOMER.  
I'LL ASK  
HIM.

HE'S  
SUCH A  
MANIAC  
HE ACTUALLY  
BUILT AN  
OBSERVATORY  
IN HIS  
HOUSE.





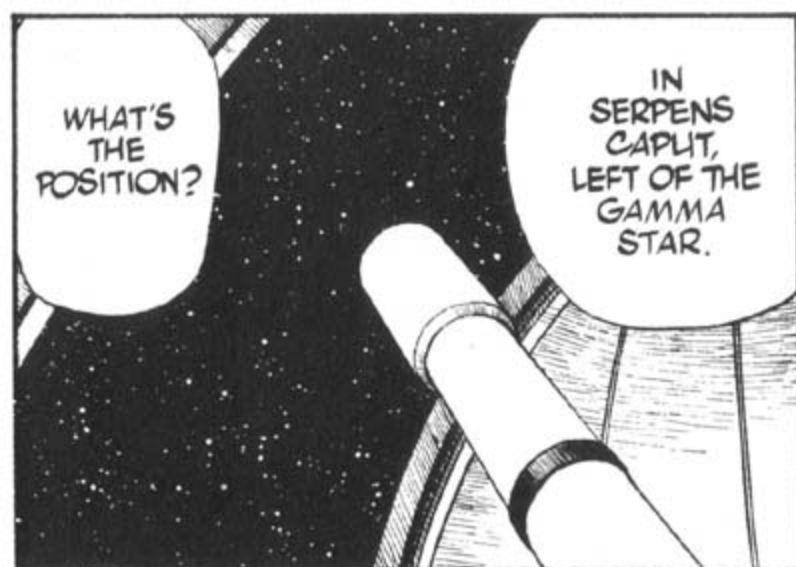
SO  
ANYWAY,  
TORINO  
...

...WE  
WERE  
WONDERING  
IF YOU  
COULD  
CHECK THIS  
OUT.



I  
SEE...  
YOU'RE  
SHUICHI,  
RIGHT?

WHY  
DON'T  
WE  
TAKE A  
LOOK  
THROUGH  
MY TELE-  
SCOPE?

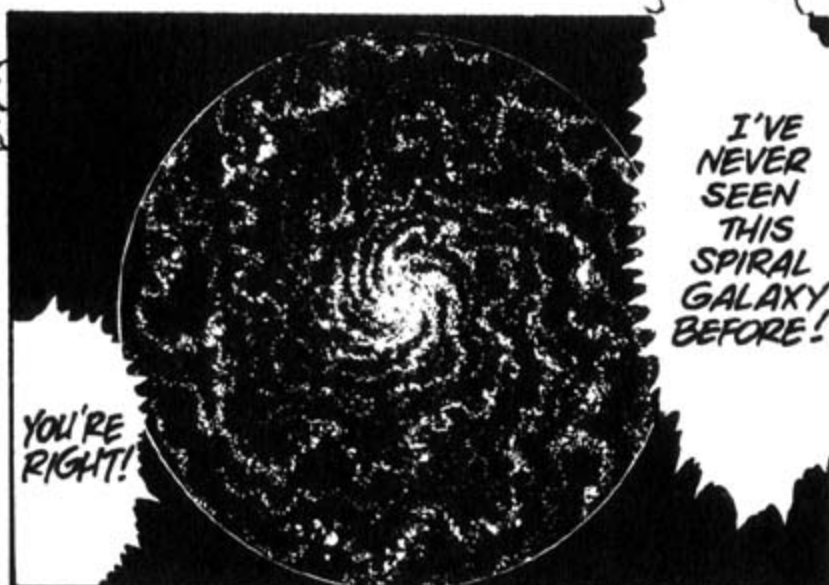


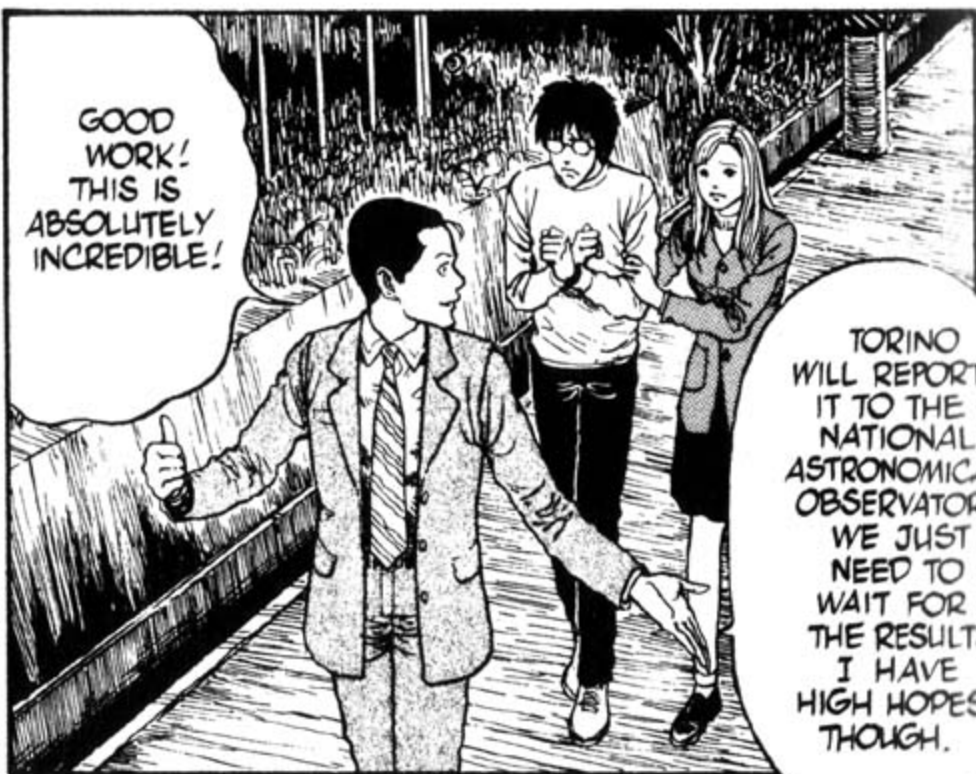
WHAT'S  
THE  
POSITION?

IN  
SERPENS  
CAPUT,  
LEFT OF THE  
GAMMA  
STAR.



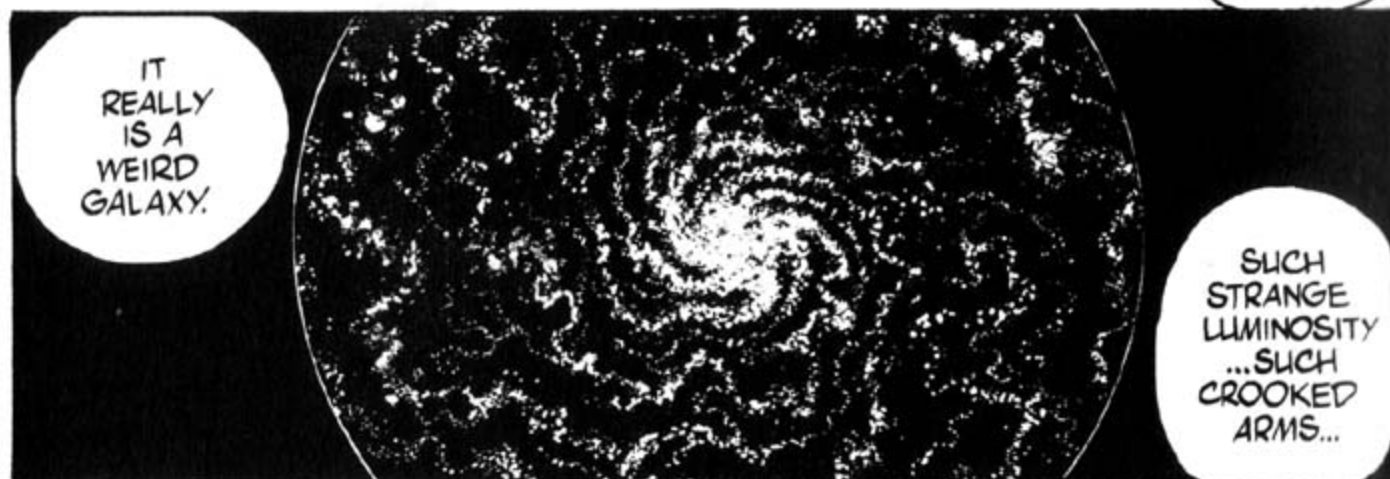






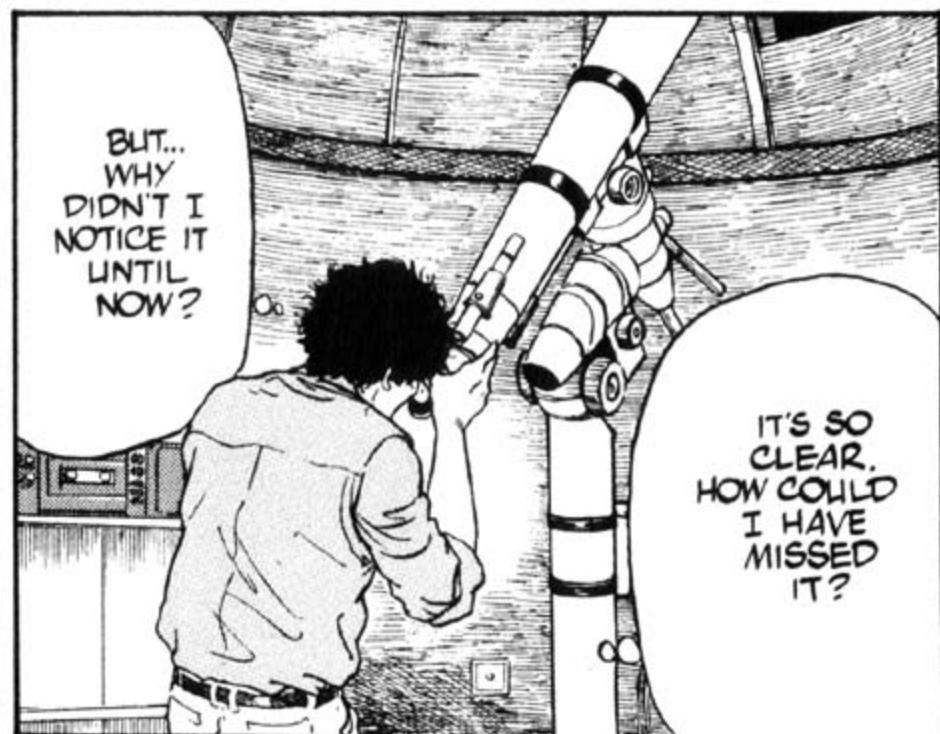
GOOD WORK!  
THIS IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
INCREDIBLE!

TORINO  
WILL REPORT  
IT TO THE  
NATIONAL  
ASTRONOMICAL  
OBSERVATORY.  
WE JUST  
NEED TO  
WAIT FOR  
THE RESULTS.  
I HAVE  
HIGH HOPES,  
THOUGH.



IT  
REALLY  
IS A  
WEIRD  
GALAXY.

SUCH  
STRANGE  
LUMINOSITY  
...SUCH  
CROOKED  
ARMS...



BUT...  
WHY  
DIDN'T I  
NOTICE IT  
UNTIL  
NOW?

IT'S SO  
CLEAR.  
HOW COULD  
I HAVE  
MISSED  
IT?



IF  
THIS  
IS A  
NEW  
DISCOVERY  
...

THEN IT'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
AMAZING!



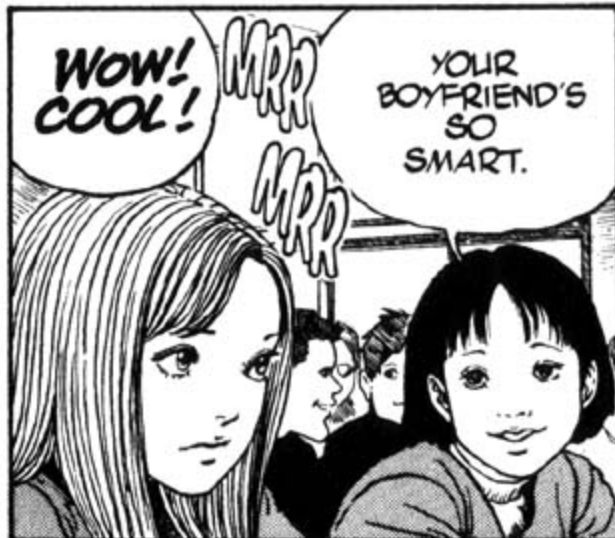
...SO ONE OF KIRIE'S FRIENDS MIGHT HAVE MADE A GREAT DISCOVERY!

I WAS SO EXCITED I COULDN'T SLEEP!



IF ANY OF YOU HAVE TELESCOPES YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK TONIGHT.

I'M ORDERING ONE MYSELF.



WOW! COOL!

YOUR BOYFRIEND'S SO SMART.

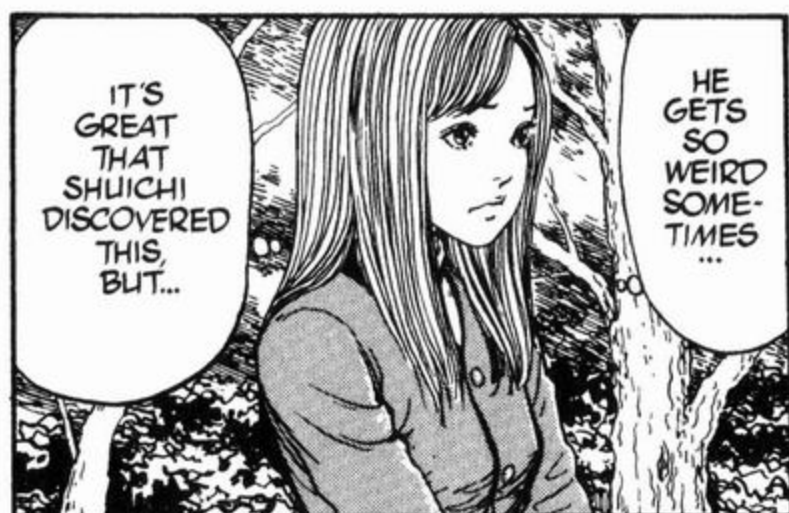


THERE WAS A SUDDEN ASTRONOMY BOOM AT OUR SCHOOL.

THE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING, SO...

DID YOU SEE THE METEOR SWARM IN THE LEO CONSTELLATION?







THE  
RADIO  
WAVES!

I  
FEEL  
THE  
**RADIO  
WAVES!**



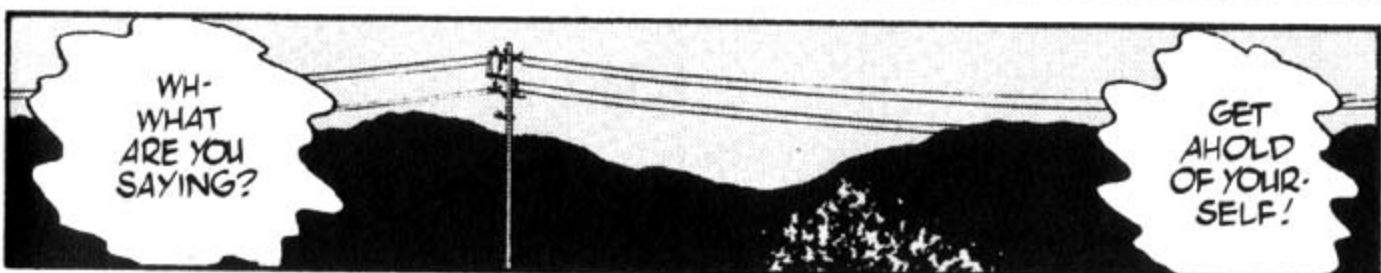
RADIO  
WAVES  
...?

POWERFUL  
WAVES!



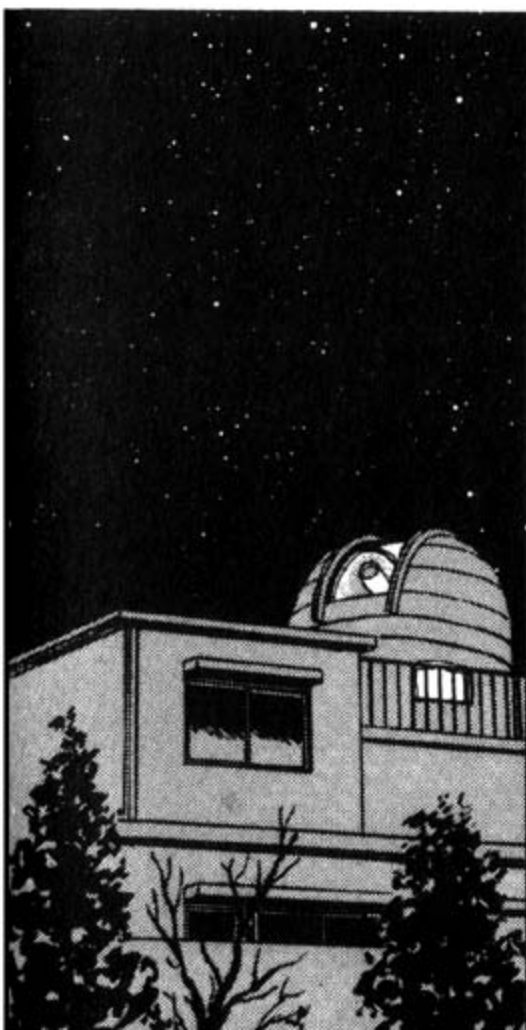
THEY'RE  
BEING  
TRANS-  
MITTED  
INTO MY  
HEAD!

THEY'RE  
SENDING  
A  
MESSAGE  
...TALKING  
TO  
ME!



WH-  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?

GET  
AHOLD  
OF YOUR  
SELF!



uff

hff



uff

hff



IT'S BEAUTIFUL ...

THE MORE I LOOK AT IT, THE MORE BEAUTIFUL IT GETS...



WH-WHAT IS THIS SENSATION?



SOMETHING'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING...

Aghh!



Aghh!

Aghh! STOP!

STOP IT!



PLEASE!



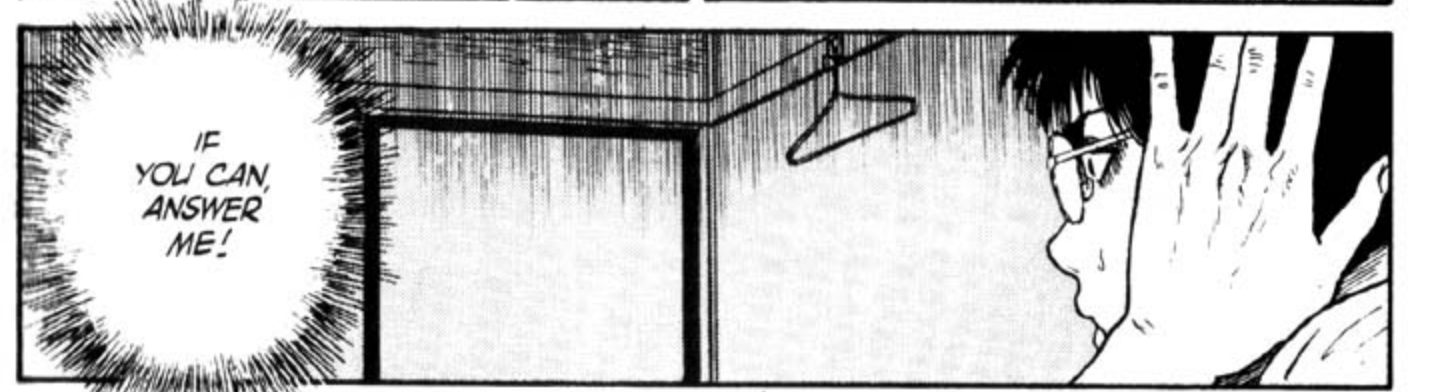
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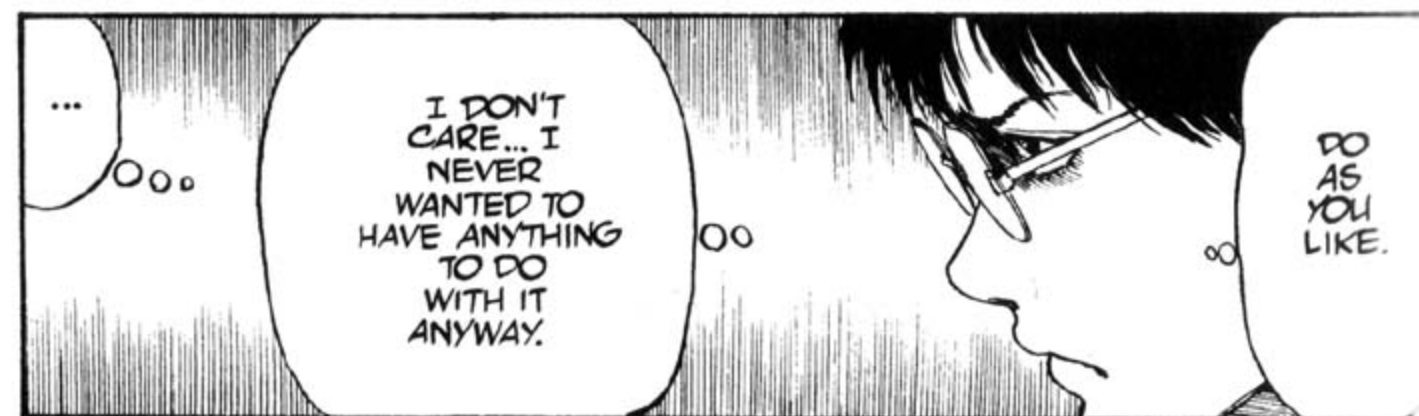
TP



uff

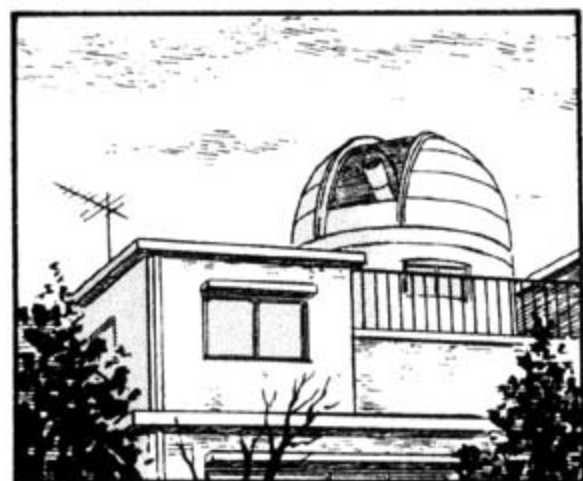
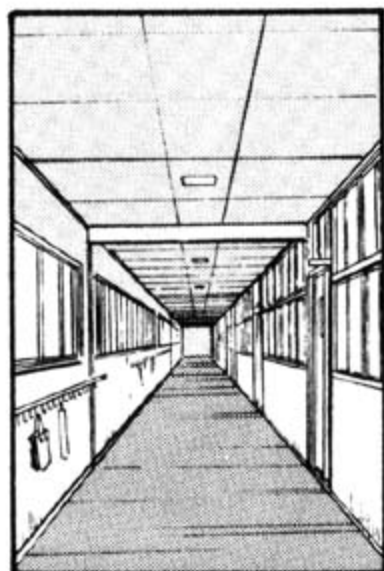
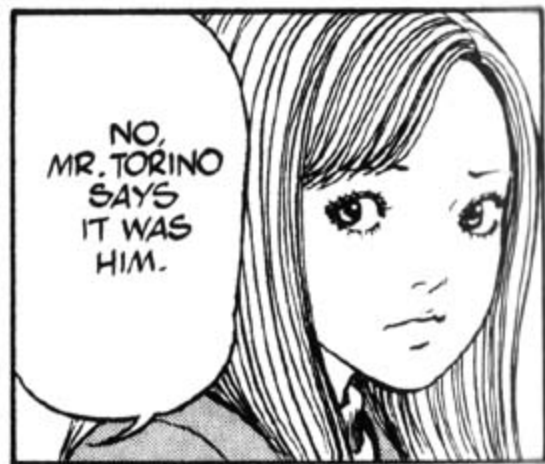
uff













YES...  
I DID  
MAKE THAT  
CLAIM.

I AM  
IN FACT  
THE  
DISCOVERER.



WH-

WHAT?!



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?  
SHUICHI  
FOUND IT  
BEFORE  
YOU DID!



HE  
RELINQUISHED  
HIS CLAIM,  
SO I  
DISCOVERED  
IT BY  
DEFAULT.



TH-  
THAT'S  
PRE-  
POSTEROUS  
!

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
TORINO  
...IT'S  
NOT  
FAIR!



Oh,  
YES  
IT IS.

I  
TALKED  
IT  
OVER  
WITH  
HIM.



IN  
ANY CASE,  
IT'S A  
SPECTACULAR  
GALAXY.

IT'LL  
PROVIDE  
YEARS OF  
SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH,  
AND I'M SURE  
IT'LL YIELD  
UP ITS  
MYSTERIES.



THERE'S  
ONE  
THING  
I  
ALREADY  
KNOW.

IT  
SENDS OUT  
POWERFUL  
TRANSMISSIONS,  
FAR GREATER  
THAN MOST  
SO-CALLED  
"RADIO  
GALAXIES."





HEY...  
WHAT'S  
THIS?!

DID  
YOU FIND  
SOMETHING?!



I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN THIS  
GALAXY.  
IT'S NOT  
THE ONE  
IN THE  
SERPENT  
CONSTEL-  
LATION.

HEY,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN  
THIS IN  
ANY  
STAR  
CHART.



I'VE  
GOT THE  
SAME THING  
OVER  
HERE.

I'VE  
BEEN  
OBSERVING  
IT FOR  
A WHILE  
NOW.

ANOTHER  
DISCOVERY?  
LET'S GO  
HOME AND  
CHECK  
OUR  
BOOKS!



STRANGELY,  
MANY  
MORE NEW  
GALAXIES  
WERE  
DISCOVERED  
...

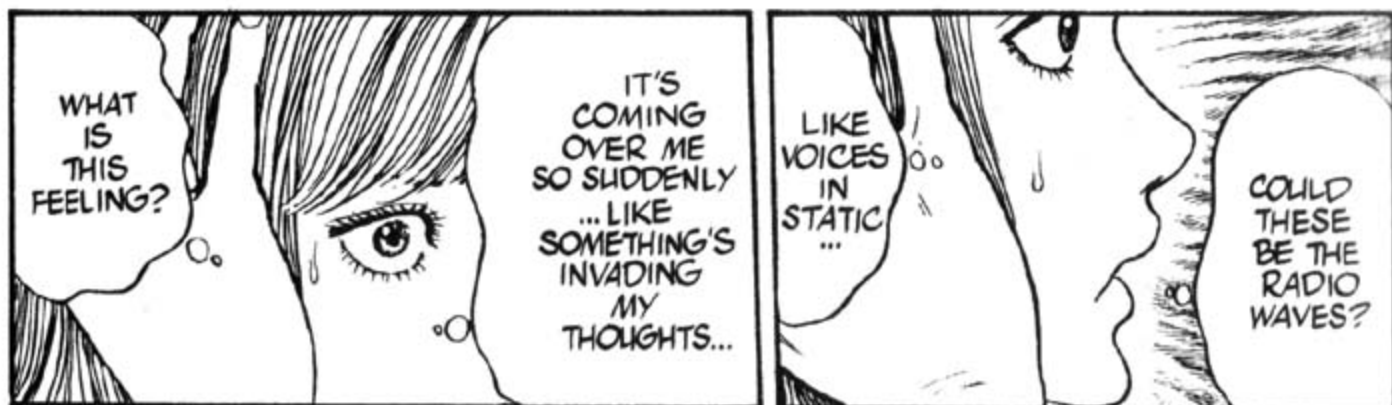
...BY  
PEOPLE  
ALL  
OVER  
TOWN.



ONE NIGHT  
...

uff

hff

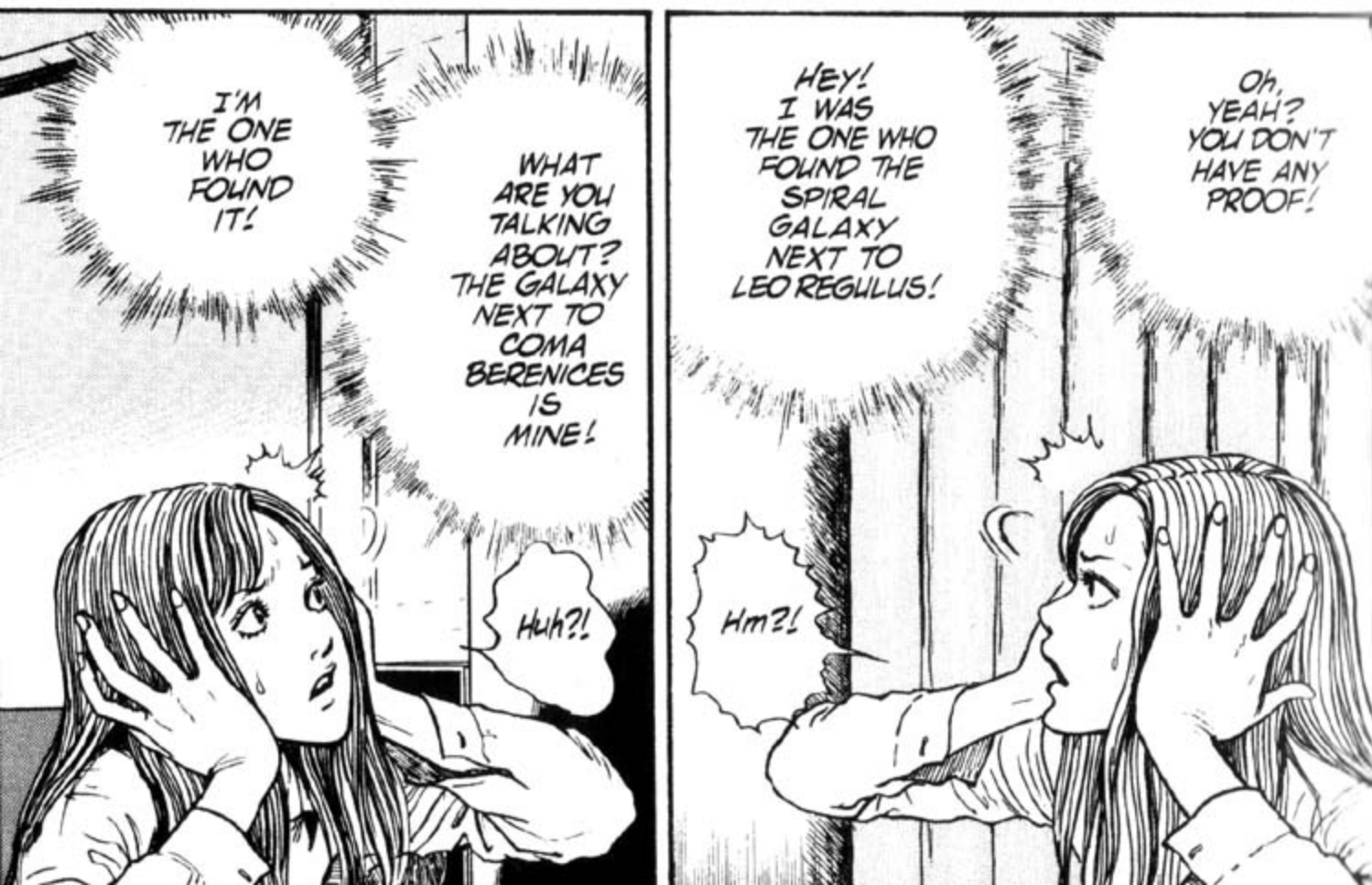


WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

IT'S COMING OVER ME SO SUDDENLY ... LIKE SOMETHING'S INVADING MY THOUGHTS...

LIKE VOICES IN STATIC ...

COULD THESE BE THE RADIO WAVES?



I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND IT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE GALAXY NEXT TO COMA BERENICES IS MINE!

Huh?!

HEY! I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND THE SPIRAL GALAXY NEXT TO LEO REGHLUS!

Oh, YEAH? YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF!

Hm?!



YOU DAMN THIEF! YOU STOLE MY DISCOVERY!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

I'M HEARING PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS IN MY HEAD!



YOU'LL BE THE DEAD ONE IF YOU SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE. I DARE YOU!

I'M ALREADY HEADED YOUR WAY. YOU'LL SEE.



THE STARS ARE TELLING ME, KILL, KILL...

LIAR! THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!



COME ON, THEN YOU BETTER BE ARMED!

NOW I SEE YOU!

I'M COMING CLOSER... 100 METERS... 90...80...



Huff... hff... gasp... ahh...

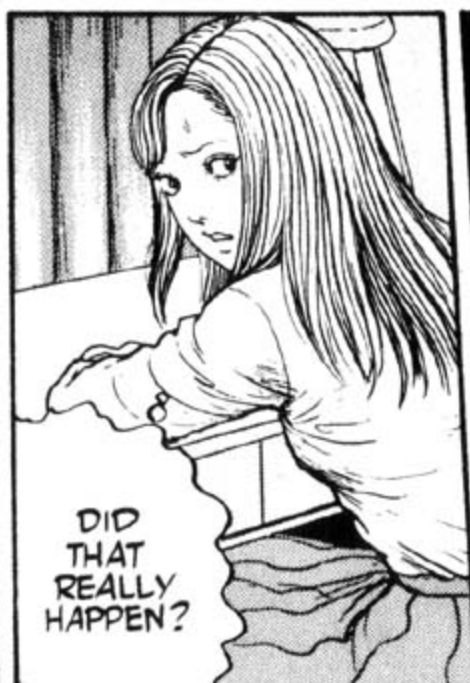
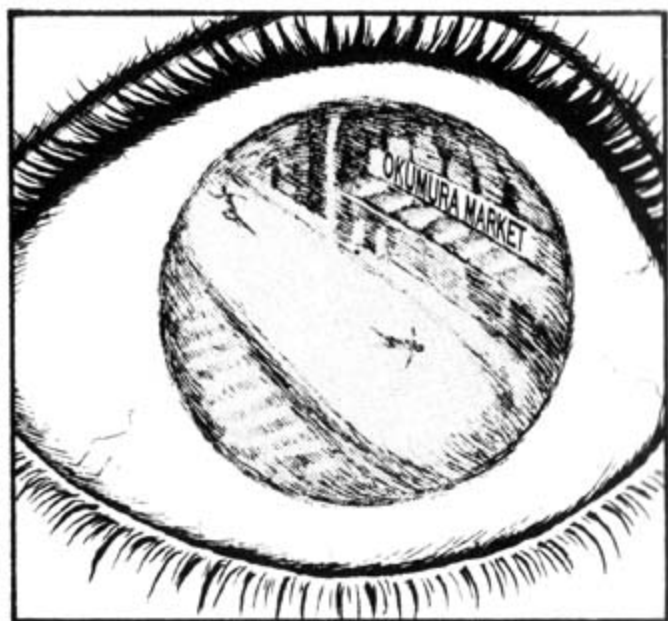
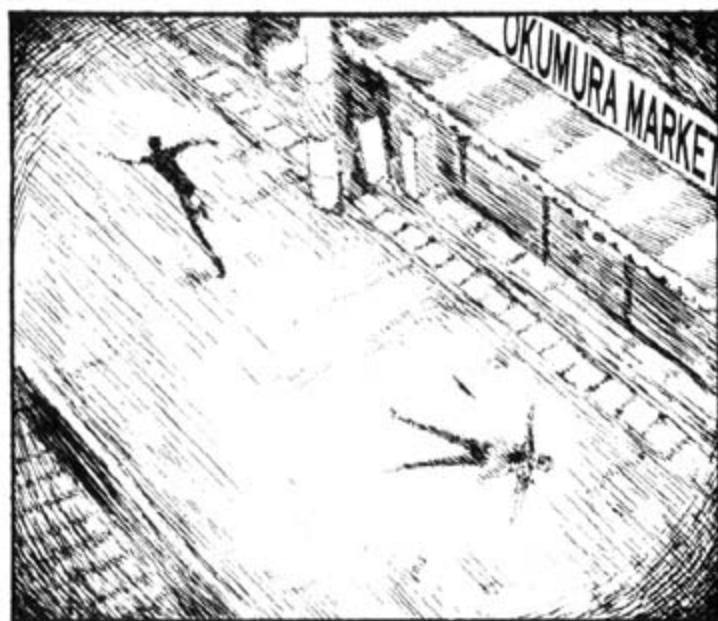
uff... hff... hff... hhh...



TAKE THIS, YOU BASTARD!

AAAGH!

KYAA!







YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS, BUT... I SAW IT ALL HAPPEN...



ME, TOO!  
IT JUST APPEARED IN MY HEAD, AND THEN I WENT HERE AND THERE WAS A CROWD. I GUESS EVERYONE ELSE SAW IT, TOO.

THIS IS SO STRANGE... CLAIRVOYANCE? I WONDER IF IT'S FROM THE RADIO WAVES.



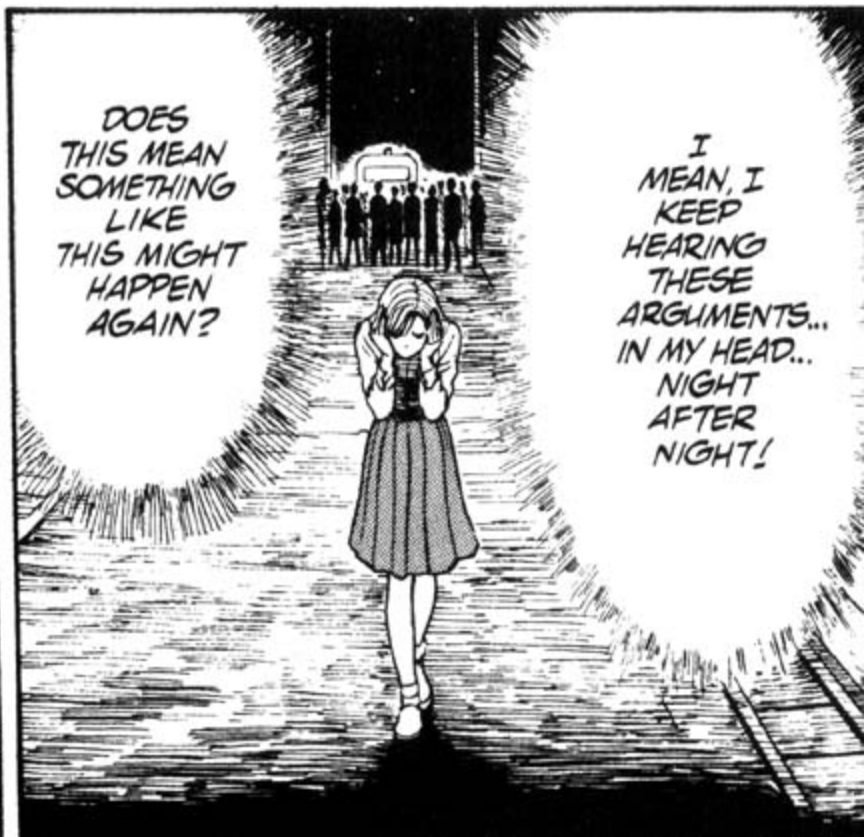
WELL... ISN'T THAT HOW WE'RE TALKING RIGHT NOW?

YOU'RE RIGHT! OUR LIPS AREN'T EVEN MOVING!

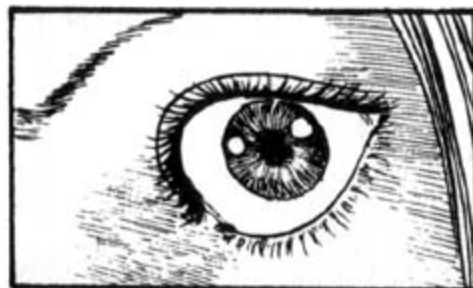
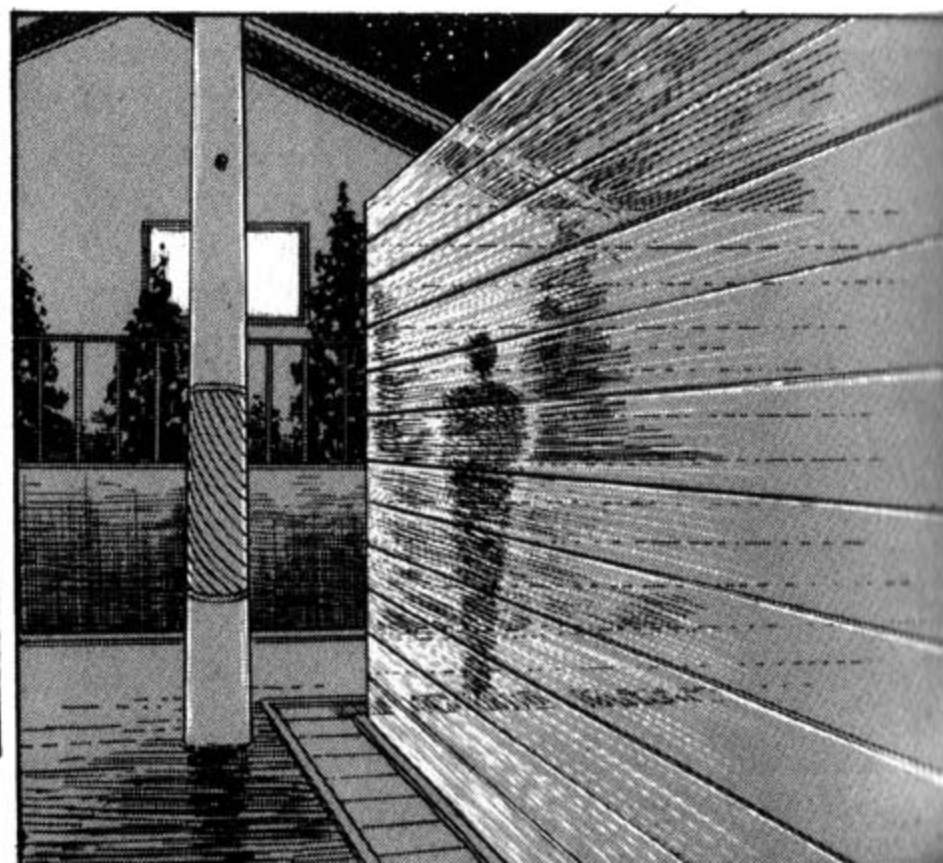
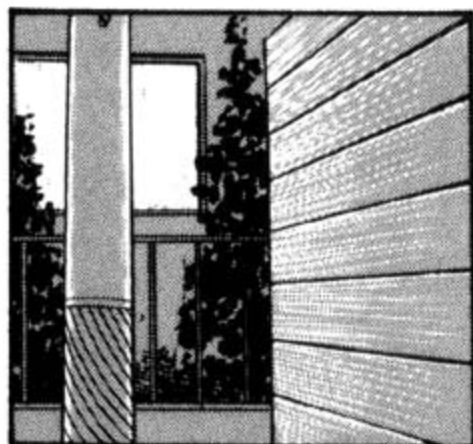


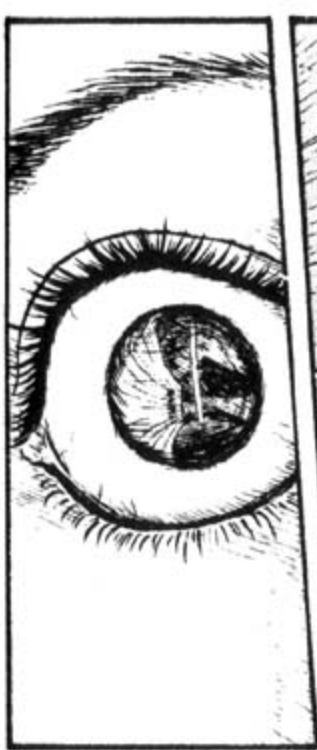
SO THE SPIRAL GALAXIES ARE CAUSING THIS, TOO?

DOES THIS MEAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN?



I MEAN, I KEEP HEARING THESE ARGUMENTS... IN MY HEAD... NIGHT AFTER NIGHT!





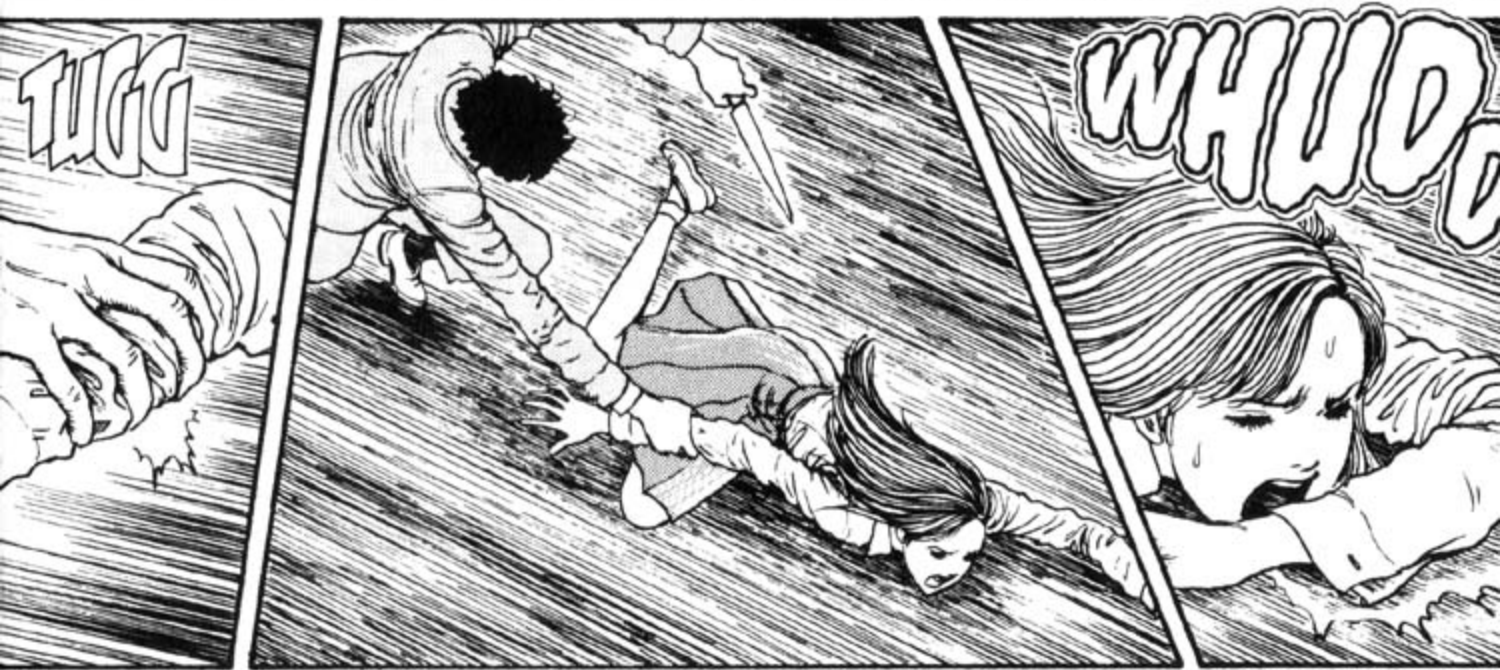




HELP!  
PLEASE!

HAHAHAHA

SOMEONE  
PLEASE  
HELP ME!



TUGG

WHUID



HA  
HA  
HA!

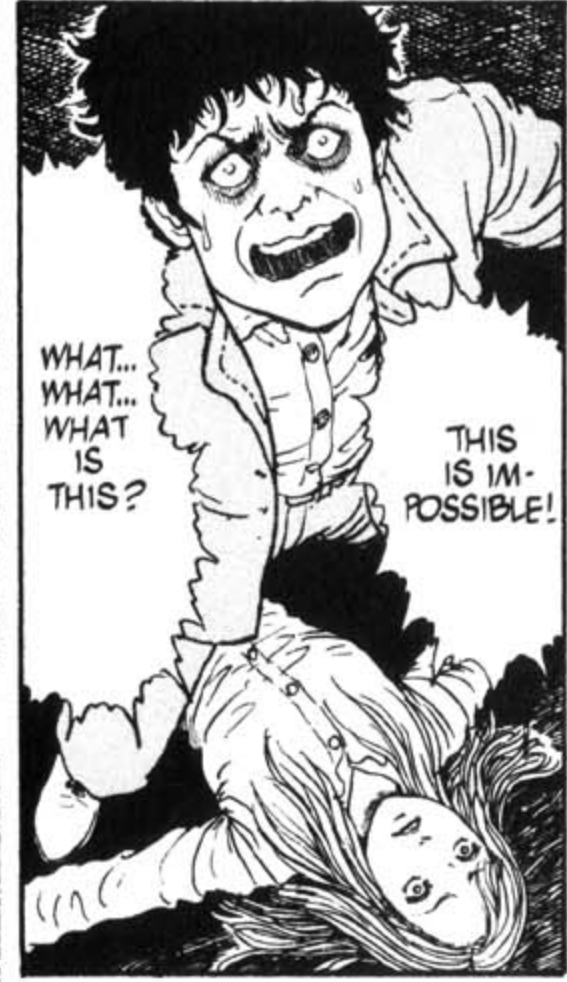
NOW  
IT'S  
OVER!

ONCE  
YOU'RE  
DEAD  
I SAW  
IT  
FIRST!

DE!

WHAT...?







THIS IS WONDERFUL!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

AND I... I DISCOVERED IT!

I WAS THE FIRST HUMAN TO SEE!



AM I RIGHT? ANSWER ME, GALAXIES!



IF IT'S "YES," SEND ME A SIGNAL! SEND ME ALL OF THEM! BEAM ME ALL YOUR TRANSMISSIONS AT ONCE!

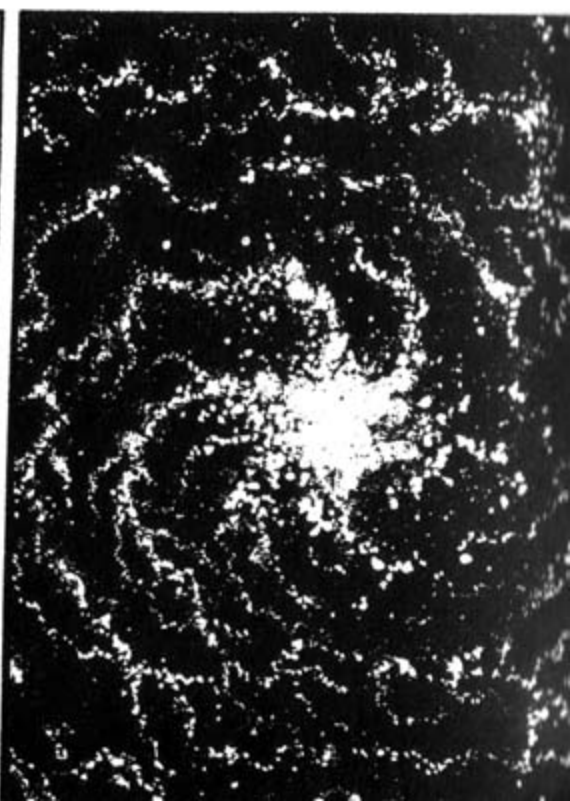


TELL ME, STARS!

ANSWER ME! NOW!



NOW!









SHIMAZU





WAS  
IT A  
NIGHTMARE?  
I ONLY  
KNOW  
WHAT I  
SAW.

AFTER  
EXPLODING  
LIKE AN EGG  
IN A MICROWAVE,  
TORINO'S HEAD  
TURNED INTO  
A SMALL  
GALAXY, AND  
FLEW OFF  
INTO THE  
NIGHT SKY.



ACCORDING TO THE  
NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL  
OBSERVATORY'S DATA  
ANALYSIS CENTER, NONE  
OF THE NUMEROUS  
GALAXY SIGHTINGS REPORTED  
IN KIRŌZU-CHO  
WERE CONFIRMED.

THEY  
WERE NEVER  
SEEN AGAIN  
IN THIS  
TOWN AS  
WELL.

**THE END**

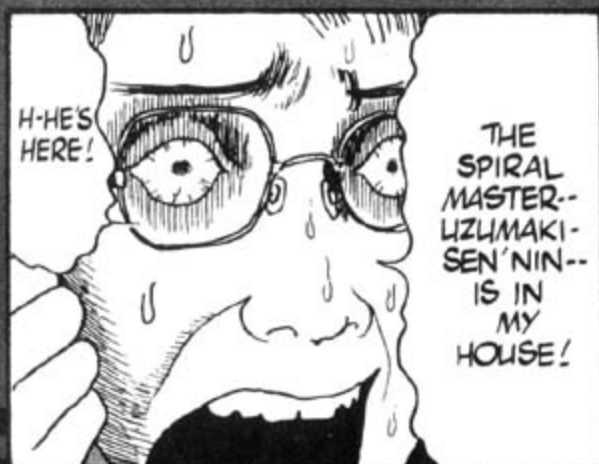
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Chapter 16	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #21-22 (Double Issue), 1999</i>
Chapter 17	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #26, 1999</i>
Chapter 18	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #30, 1999</i>
Chapter 19	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #39, 1999</i>
Lost Chapter	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits #9, 2000</i>

# AFTER WORD

THE  
HORROR  
...

THE  
HORROR...





THE END

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Japan. Beginning with his debut story "Tomie" in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Drochi*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the U.S., including *Tomie* and *Flesh-Colored Horror*. *Uzumaki* is his most popular work to date, first published in Japan in 1998-9, and is his most recent work to appear in English. It was adapted into an innovative live-action film that has been released in the U.S. by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures.

He is currently working on *Gyo*, a horror manga about fish.

**NOMINATED FOR A 2002 EISNER AWARD!**

*"A superb example of Japanese manga...Ito's execution of this tale is magnificent—he infuses the often frenetic layouts of manga with...the leisurely pace of Poe, the organic grotesqueries of Lovecraft."*

—Rain Taxi

With their town devastated by titanic hurricanes, the citizens of the spiral-haunted town of Kurôzu-cho—including Shuichi, Kirie and her family—find themselves cut off from the outside world. Reporters and rescue teams cross the mountain range into Kurôzu-cho only to find themselves unable to leave. Trapped inside the cursed ruins, the desperate survivors struggle and huddle together, waiting to turn into giant snails or worse. The very laws of nature are changed as the spiral sucks them in. And to fight it, or to escape, the last survivors must go to the heart of the horror to witness what may be their eventual fate...

Junji Ito debuted as a horror manga artist in 1987 with the first story in his successful *Tomie* series. *Uzumaki* was adapted into a live-action movie which has been released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures. Ito's influences include manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, and the authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.

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3

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