

The girl has a mechanical body. However, she is still an adolescent girl.

GUNSLINGER GIRL

ガンズリンガール

Vol. 3



CREATOR **YU AIDA**

GUNSLINGERGIRL


YU AIDA PRESENTS






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BUT HENRIETTA SHOULD BE EASY TO PLEASE.



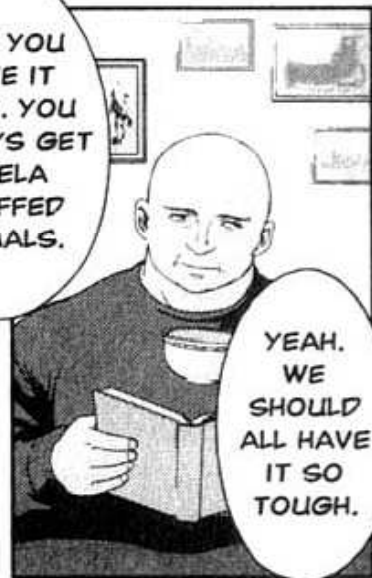
I WANT TO GET HER SOMETHING DIFFERENT.



STRANGE TO SEE YOU IN AN ANTIQUE STORE, GIUSEPPE.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.



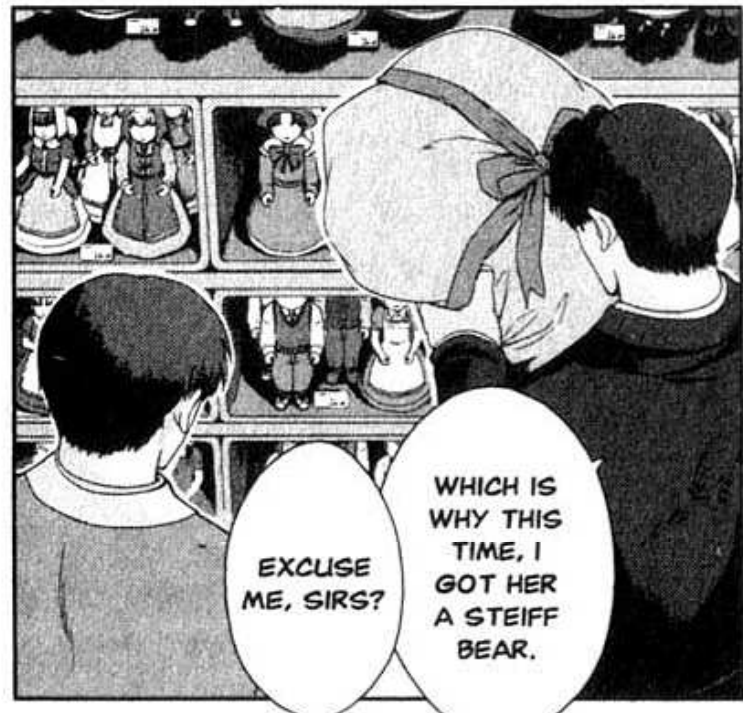
HEY, YOU HAVE IT EASY. YOU ALWAYS GET TRIELA STUFFED ANIMALS.

YEAH. WE SHOULD ALL HAVE IT SO TOUGH.



THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

SHE'S HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT I GET HER.



WHICH IS WHY THIS TIME, I GOT HER A STEIFF BEAR.

EXCUSE ME, SIR?



I CAN'T THINK OF TRIELA AS A REGULAR GIRL...

AND SHE'S STUDYING SO HARD. I CAN'T GET HER JUST ANYTHING.



第12話 Kaleidoscope





NORMAL DAYS LIKE THIS ARE IMPORTANT, TOO.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SOMETHING BIG EVERY DAY.



THAT'S IT?



.....

SKCH SKCH



OH!

WHAT IS IT?



THEN HOW ABOUT WRITING "TRIELA WAS MEAN TO ME TODAY"?

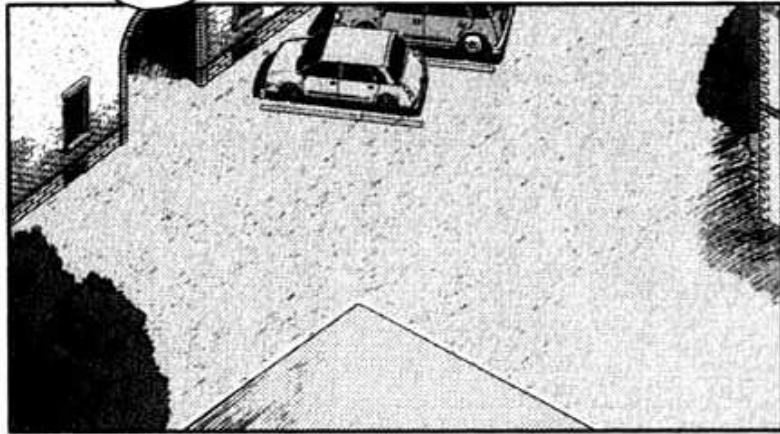
UHM..



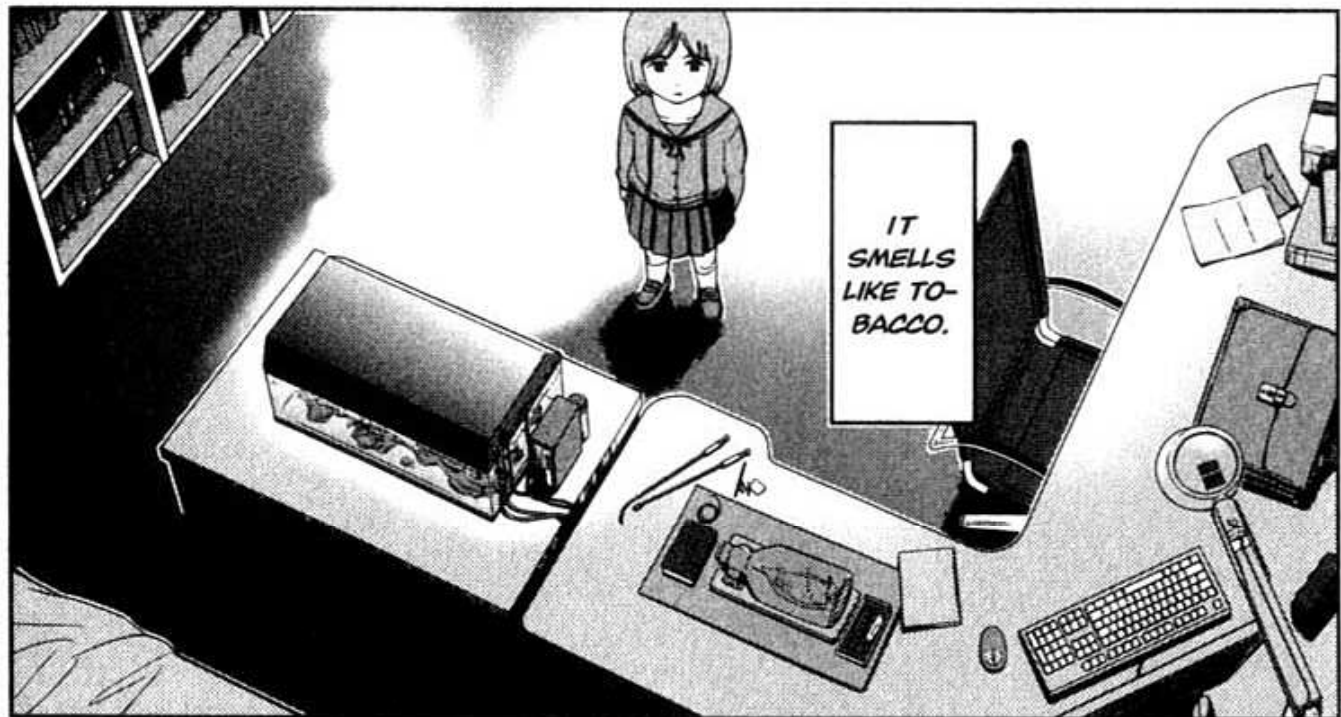
HE MUST BE BACK FROM FRANCE!

CHK

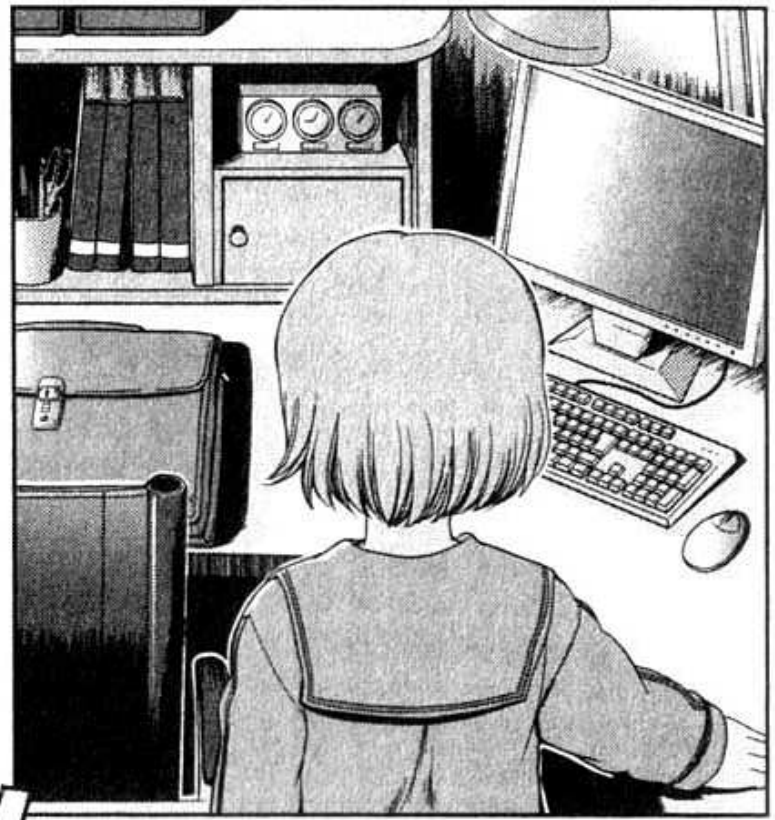
I JUST HEARD GIUSEPPE'S PORSCHE.

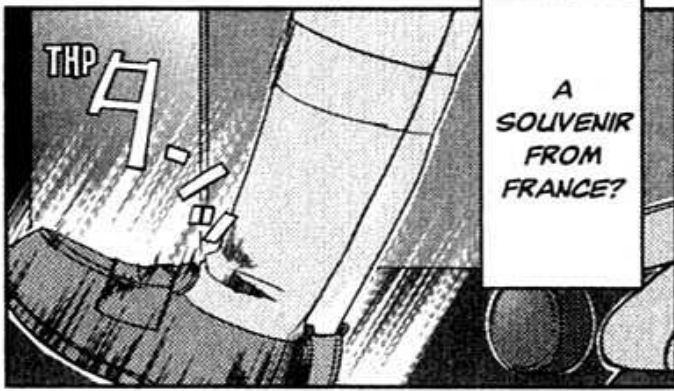












A
SOUVENIR
FROM
FRANCE?





"TO MY BELOVED ..."



WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S IN FRENCH.



"LOUISE ANTOINETTE LAURE?"



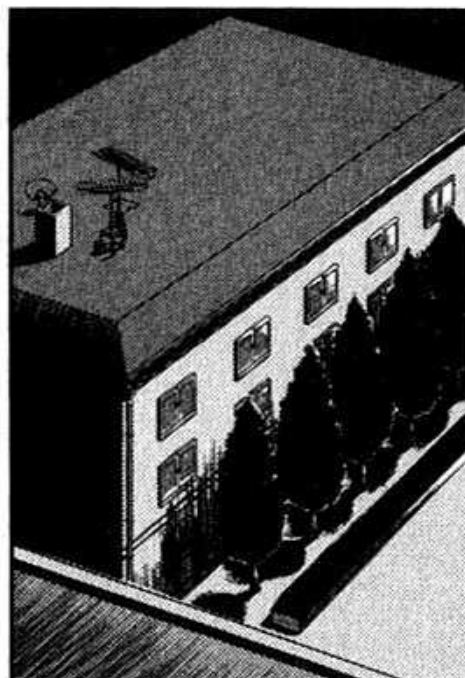
I GUESS SHE FOUND SOMETHING NAUGHTY IN BIG BROTHER'S ROOM.

HUH? SHE'S CRYING.



HEY, SHE FINALLY CAME OUT.

LEMME SEE.





HMM. WHAT WAS THAT NAME AGAIN?



DID YOU ASK GIUSEPPE ABOUT IT?



LOUISE ANTOINETTE LAURE.



SHE'S PROBABLY HIS GIRLFRIEND.



I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S THE NAME OF...

A MARRIED WOMAN THAT SOME FRENCH AUTHOR FELL IN LOVE WITH.



HUH?

I DON'T THINK SO. SHE DIED BACK IN THE 19TH CENTURY.



AN ODD BUT VERY NICE PRESENT.

YES, IT WAS A PRESENT FOR YOU.



AND IN THE BOOK, HE CHANGED HER NAME TO HENRIETTE.

OH.

THE AUTHOR, WHAT'S-HIS-NAME, BASED ONE OF HIS NOVELS ON THEIR ROMANCE.



SO...

THE KALEIDOSCOPE IS PROBABLY AN ANTIQUE THAT HE REALLY GAVE TO HER.

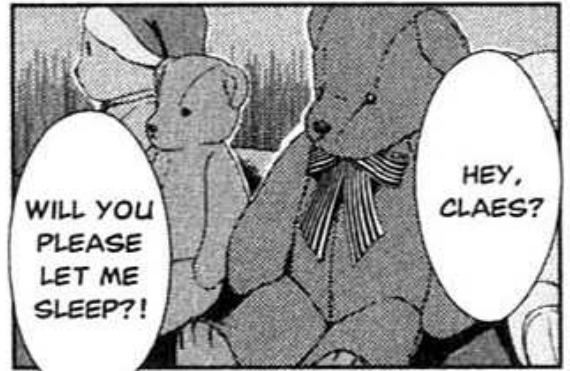


IT COULD JUST BE A FAKE.

IN THE AUTHOR'S TIME...



THEN WON'T IT BRING HER BAD LUCK?



WILL YOU PLEASE LET ME SLEEP?!

HEY, CLAES?



AH.

THE KALEIDOSCOPE HAD ONLY JUST BEEN INVENTED.



NO, IT DIDN'T.

DID THEIR LOVE HAVE A HAPPY ENDING?



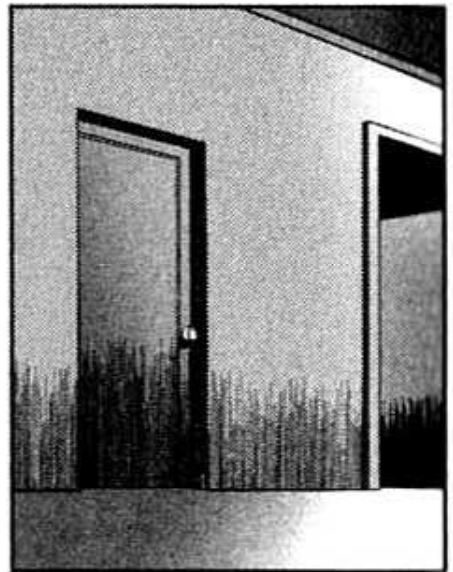
NO.
THANK
YOU,
MA'AM.

ANY MORE
QUESTIONS?



THEN IT
WASN'T
TRUE
LOVE AT
ALL.

BESIDES,
IF THEY
COULDN'T
FIND A
WAY TO
MAKE
THEIR LOVE
WORK...



I STILL
HAVE TO
WRITE IN
MY DIARY...




OH.




IT WAS FROM A STORY ABOUT AN AFFAIR, RIGHT?

IF THIS IS BALZAC'S KALEIDOSCOPE, THEN IT'D HARDLY MAKE A GOOD GIFT.



WAIT A MINUTE.



HMM, THEY BOTH SEEM A LITTLE FISHY TO ME. MAKE IT 300.

SO HOW ABOUT IT? I'LL GIVE YOU THE KALEIDOSCOPE AND THAT GREAT LINE FOR... 900 EUROS.



IF THE PERSON YOU GIVE IT TO FINDS OUT, JUST SAY...

HEY, NO PROBLEM.



YOU JUST TELL HER THAT. IT'LL SWEEP HER RIGHT OFF HER FEET.

"YES, THE GIRL IN THE STORY MET A TRAGIC END, BUT MY LOVE IS REAL. I WOULD NEVER BETRAY YOU."

"YES, THE GIRL IN THE STORY MET A TRAGIC END,

GUNSLINGER GIRL.



RETURN
THE
FAVOR.

IT'S
SIMPLE,
THEN.



YOU'RE
MAKIN'
EXCUSES
BEFORE
YOU EVEN
TRY. IN MY
BOOK...

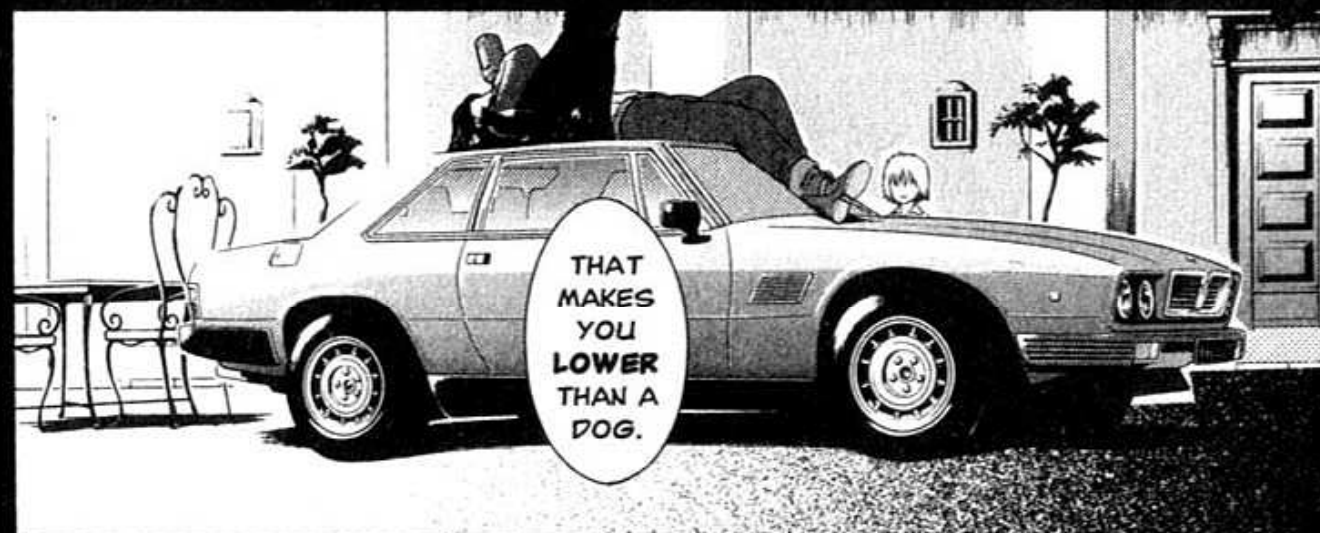


CHI
SE NE
FREGA,
EH? SO
WHAT?

BUT
I'M
JUST
A
KID.



EVEN
A DOG
COULD
DO THAT
MUCH.



THAT
MAKES
YOU
LOWER
THAN A
DOG.



IT'LL BE EASY. JUST STAY CALM.

YES, SIR.



I UNDERSTAND.



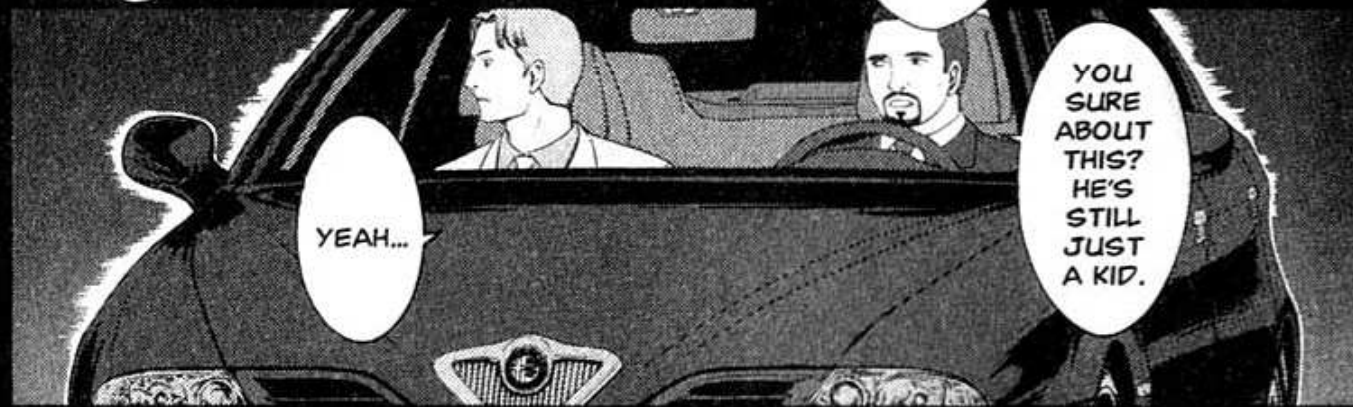
YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, PINOCCHIO?

YES, SIR.



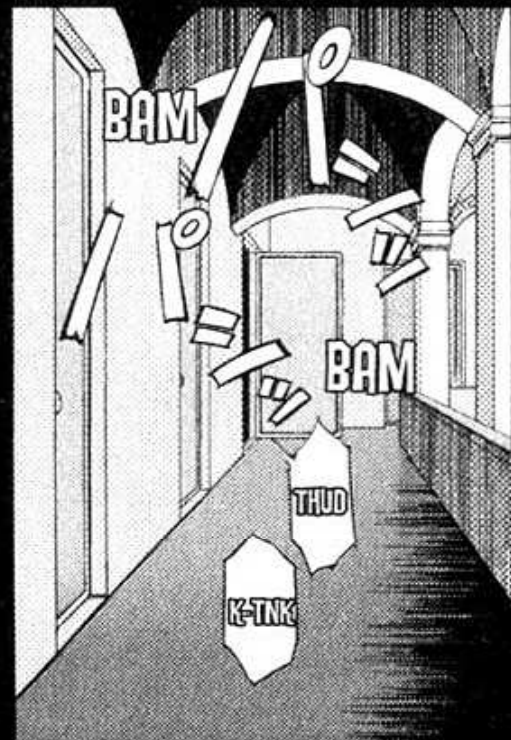
IF YOU'RE NOT BACK BY THEN, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

I'LL WAIT 40 MINUTES.



YEAH...

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? HE'S STILL JUST A KID.



BAM

BAM

THUD

K-TNK

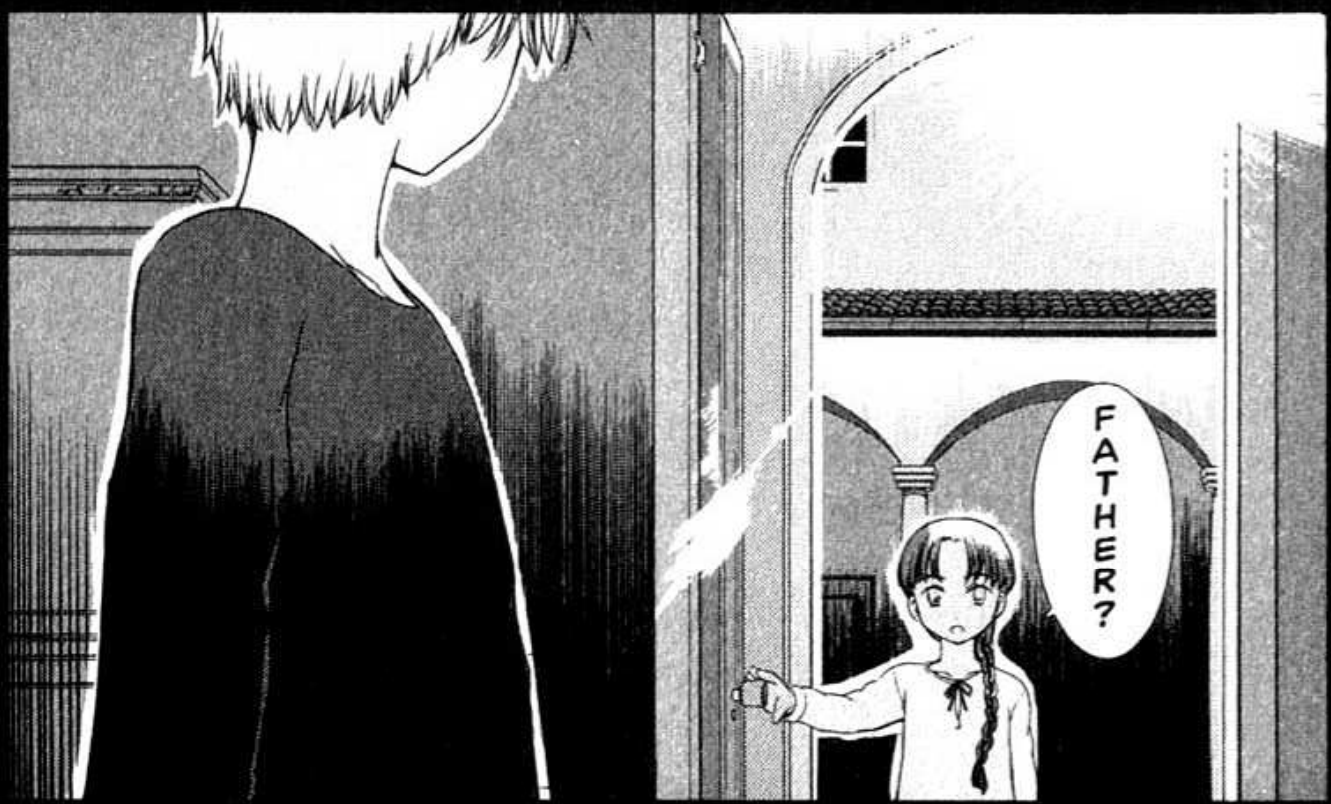


WHOA.



BUT HE WASN'T RECRUITED SO HE COULD BE "JUST A KID."

HE WANTED THIS, YOU KNOW.





OH,
NO.



FATHER!



F-



HELP
ME!



HELP.



BAM



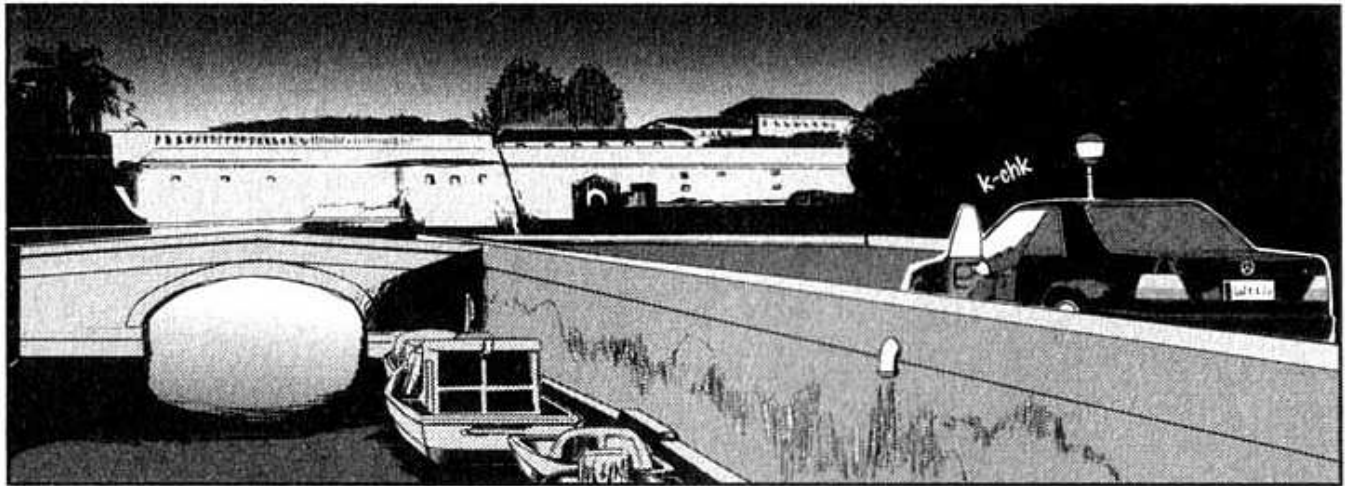
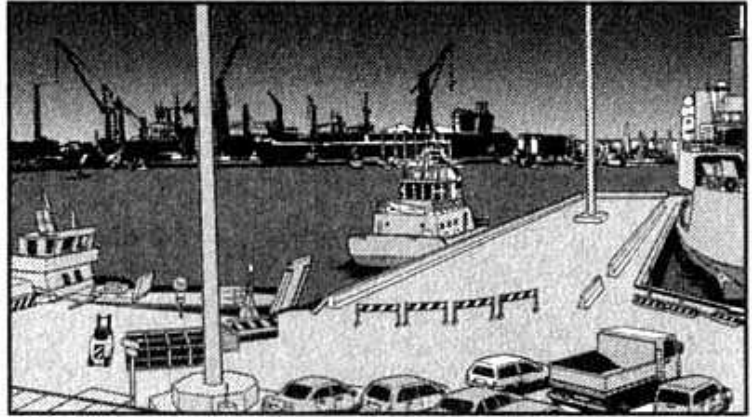
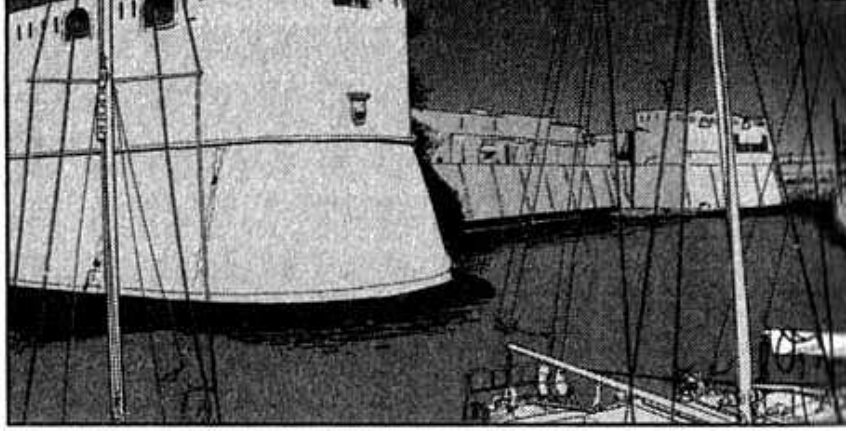
THNK

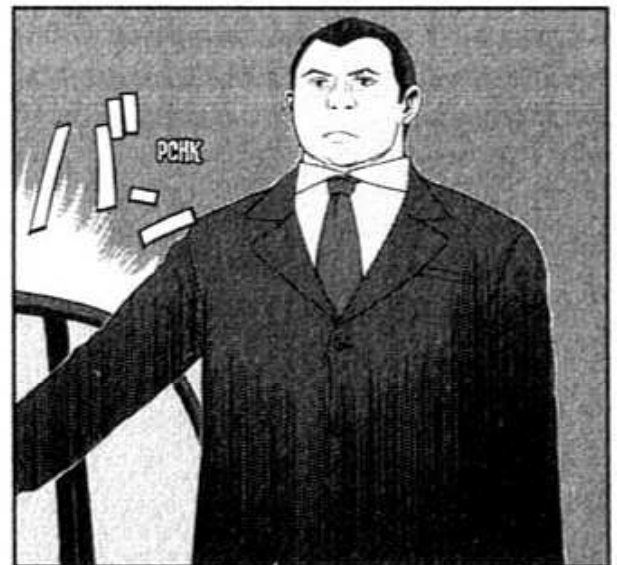
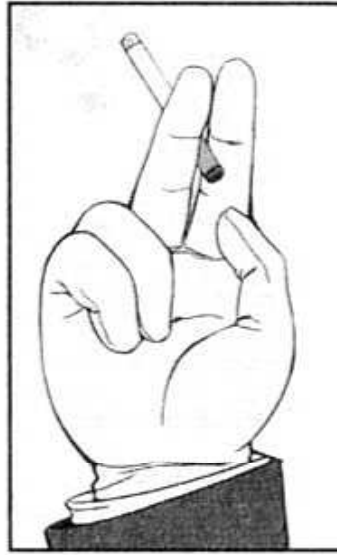
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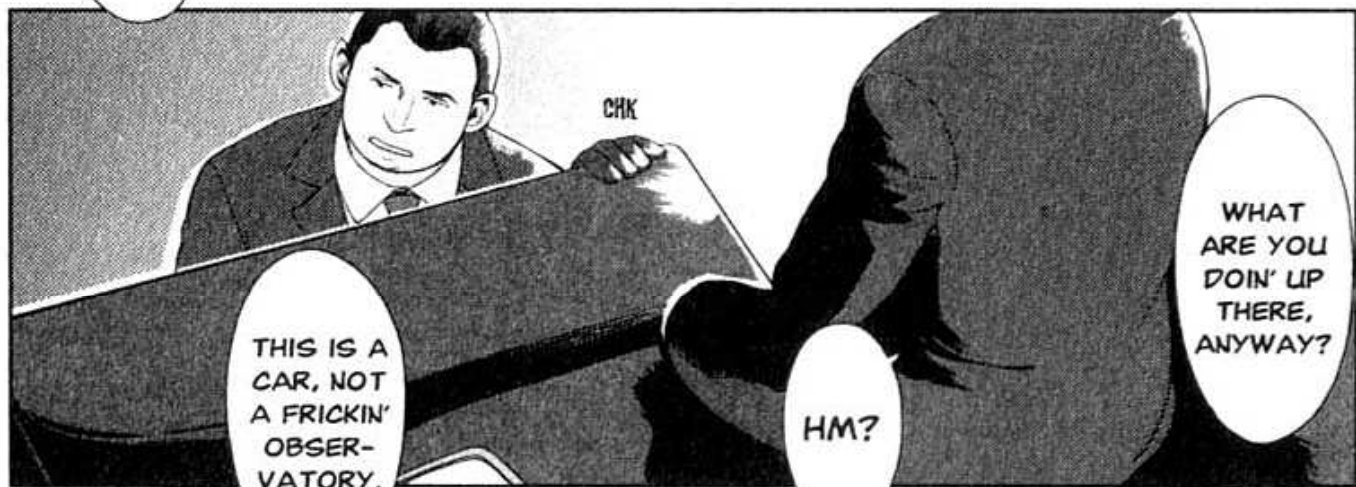


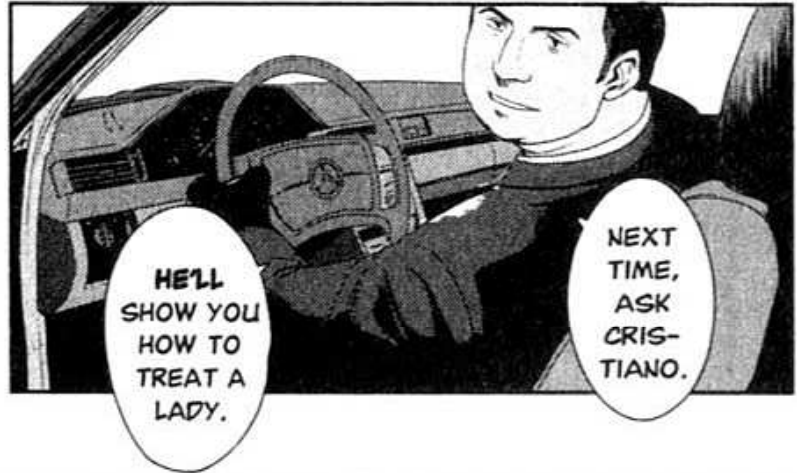
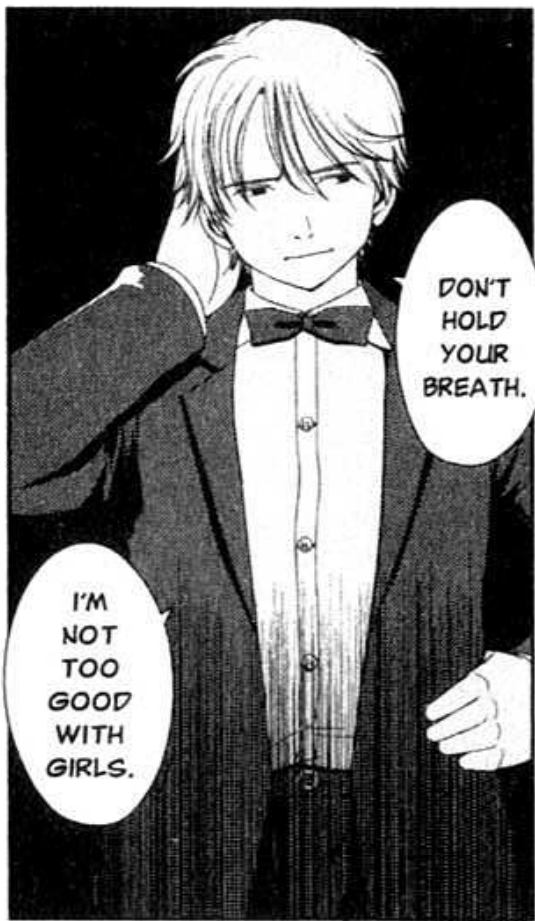
第13話 Pinocchio (Part 1)

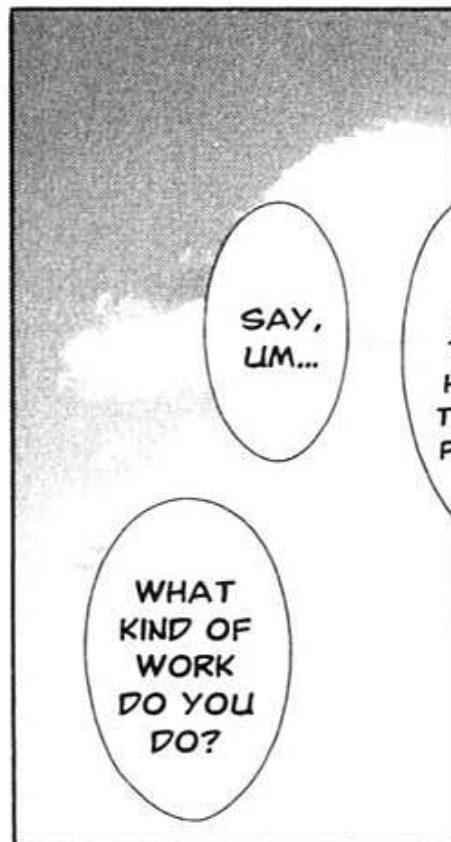
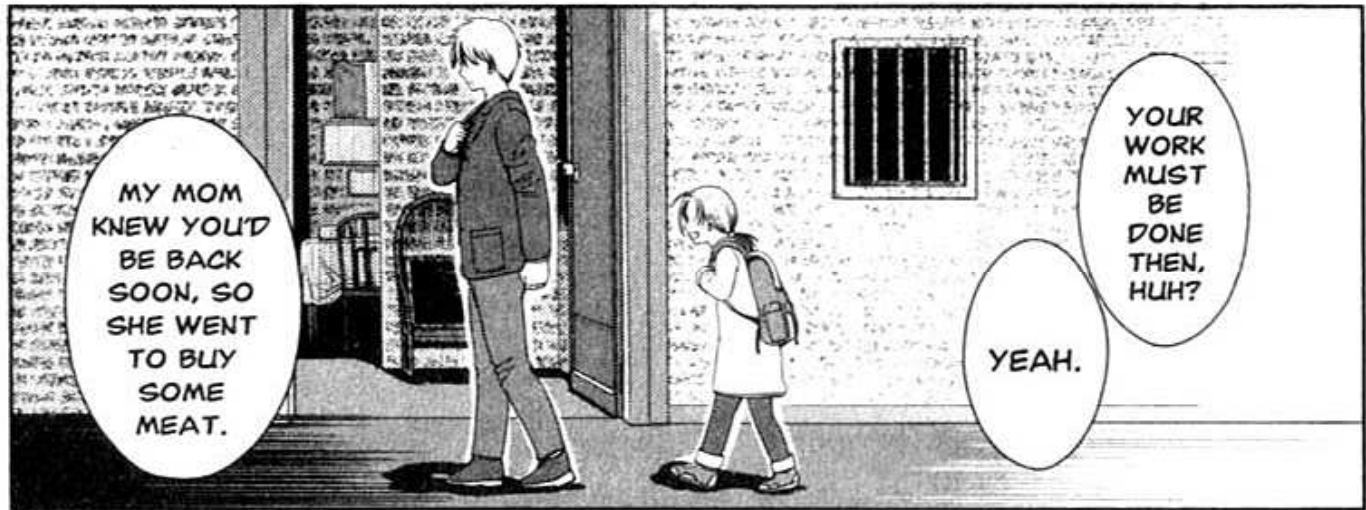






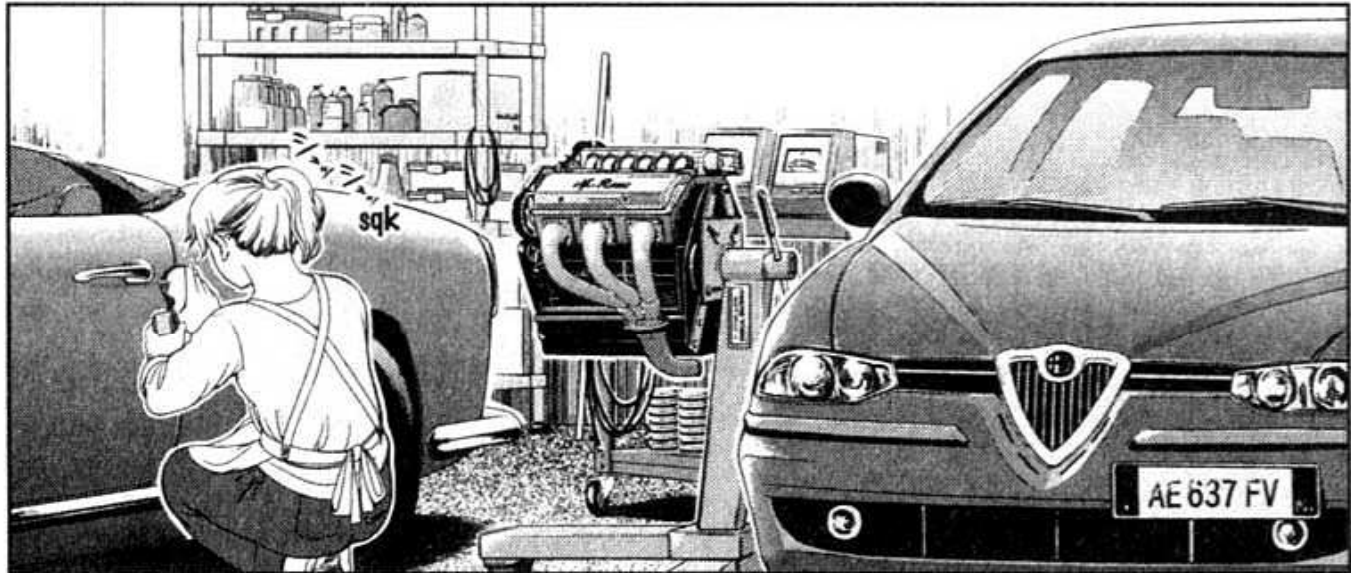
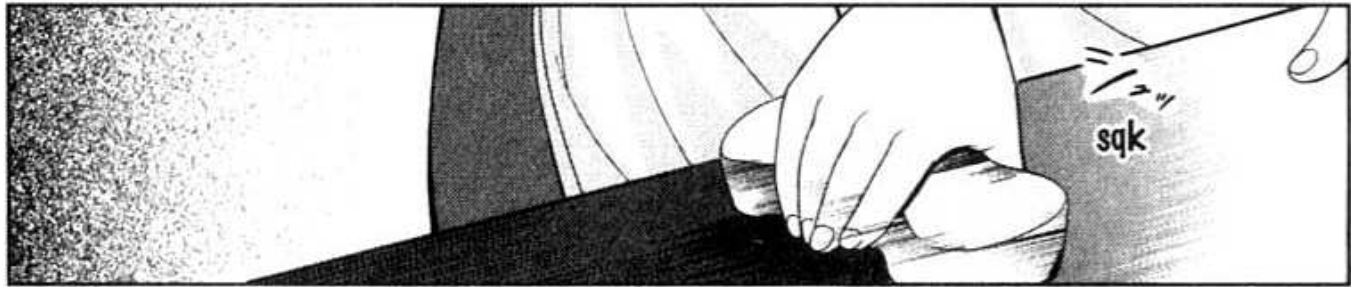


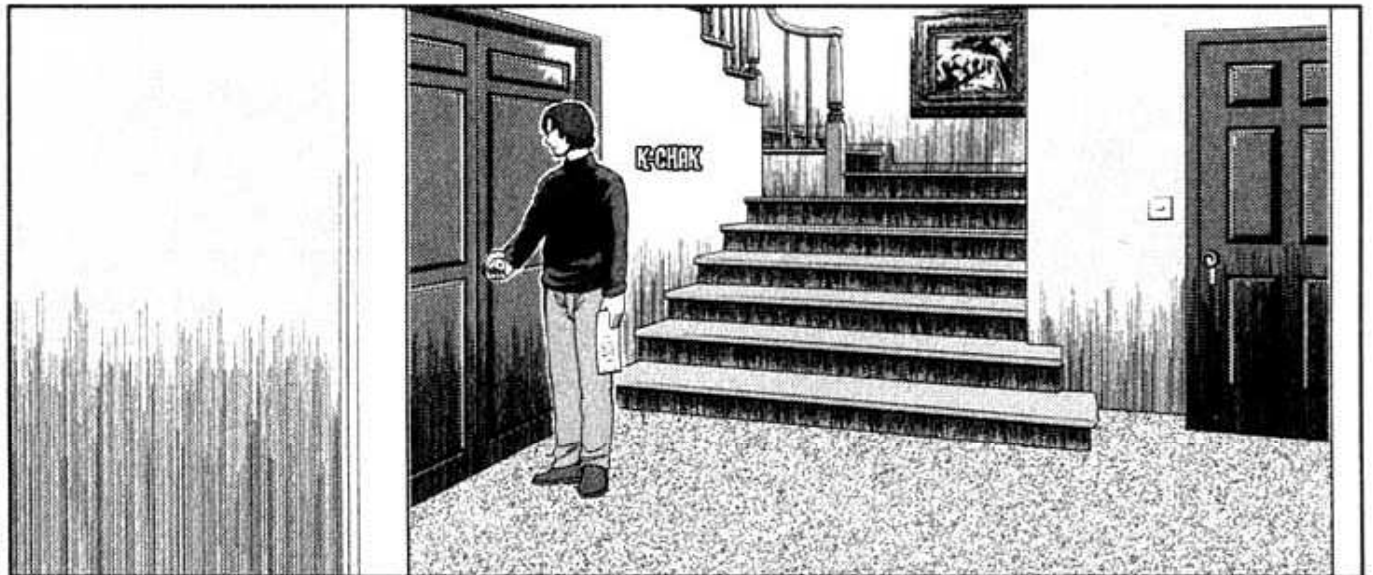
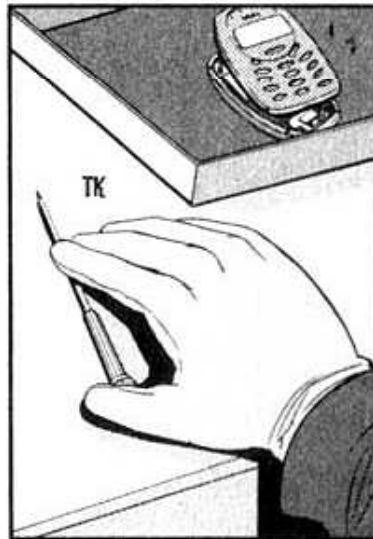














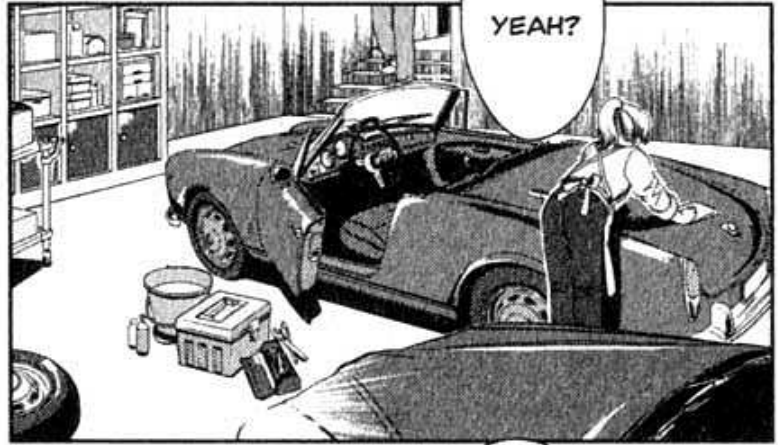
IS IT ABOUT A JOB?

UH-HUH.



I GOT A FAX FROM CRISTIANO.

HEY, FRANCA.



YEAH?



YOU MEAN THOSE TAX EVASION CHARGES?

HIS FACTION'S IN AN UPROAR OVER THE PIRAZZI DEBACLE.



THAT'S KINDA HARD TO SWALLOW.

HMM.



I HEARD THEY HAD AN ASSASSIN, A LITTLE GIRL, IN FLORENCE.



THERE'S A LOT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.

HE'S AFRAID OF THE AGENCY, ISN'T HE?





THAT
WOULDN'T
HAVE
HAPPENED
IF I'D BEEN
THERE.



I
HEARD
THAT
YOU...

HAD
SOME
TROUBLE
IN
FLORENCE.



OH,
HI.

I HEARD
FROM
BRUNO.
GOOD
WORK IN
LIVORNO.

THANKS.
IT WAS
EASY.



SURE
THING.

I'LL GIVE
YOU THE
DETAILS
LATER.



SEEMS
LIKE
LATELY,
WE'VE GOT
MORE MEN
BUT LESS
SKILL.

YEAH. IT
WAS MY
FAULT FOR
USING
THOSE
WORTHLESS
GRUNTS.



A
HIT?

ANYWAY,
I'M SORRY
TO ASK
YOU SO
SOON, BUT
I HAVE
ANOTHER
JOB.



OH,
WAIT A
MINUTE.





RELAX.

THERE WON'T BE ANY MISTAKES THIS TIME.

I TRUST THAT



KCHK



THEIR METHODS ARE THOSE FAVORED BY THE FAR LEFT...

THEY'RE ONLY LIKE THAT ON JOBS THEY DON'T LIKE.



IT'S IN GOOD HANDS.



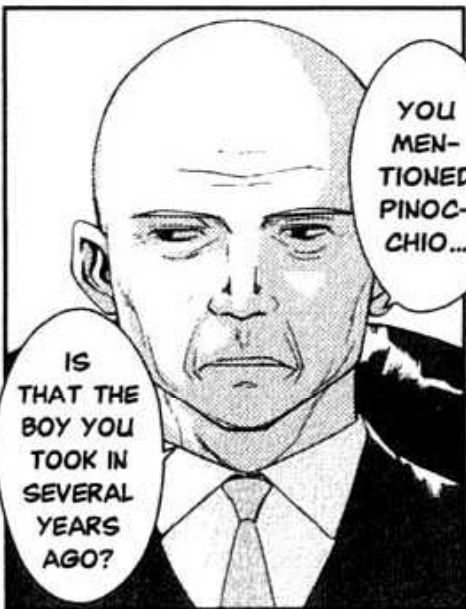
YES, THAT THEY DO WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT.

HM. I'VE HEARD OF FRANCO AND FRANCA.



HE'S PROVEN TO BE QUITE TALENTED.

YES.

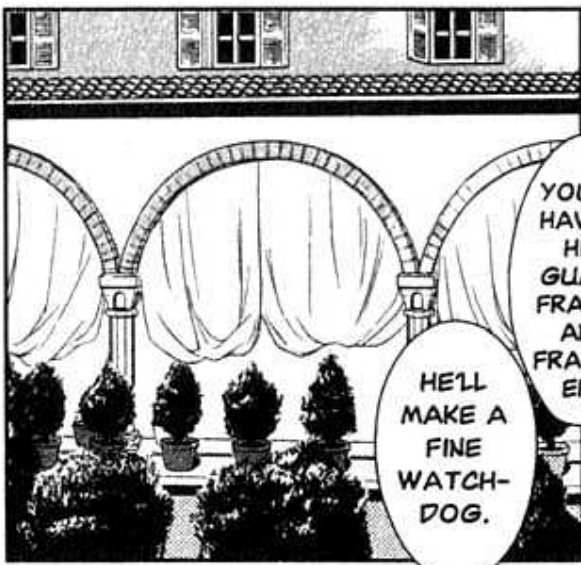


YOU MENTIONED PINOCCHIO...

IS THAT THE BOY YOU TOOK IN SEVERAL YEARS AGO?



RELAX. THEY WON'T TURN AGAINST US.

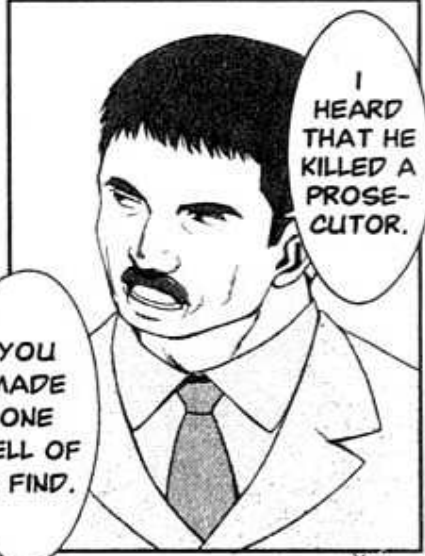


HELL MAKE A FINE WATCH-DOG.

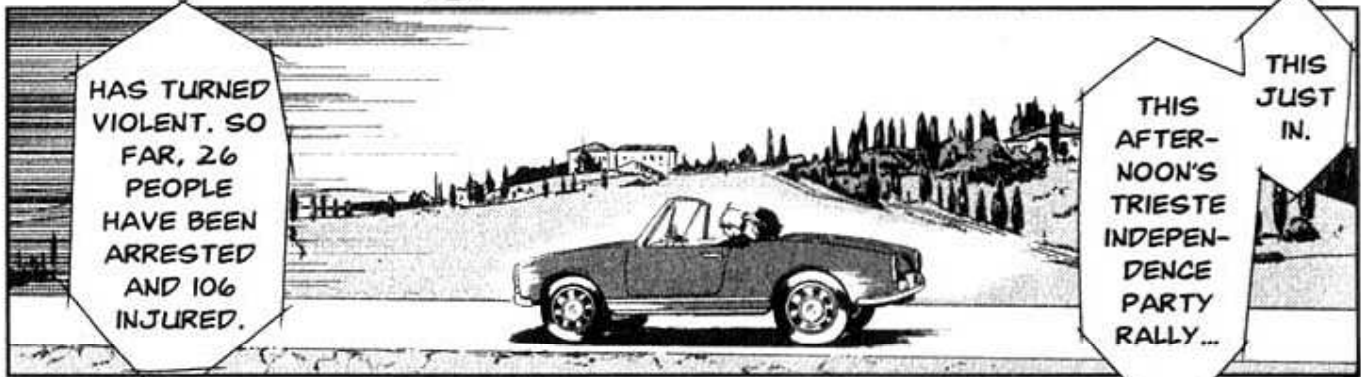
YOU'RE HAVING HIM GUARD FRANCO AND FRANCA, EH?



YOU MADE ONE HELL OF A FIND.



I HEARD THAT HE KILLED A PROSECUTOR.



HAS TURNED VIOLENT. SO FAR, 26 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND 106 INJURED.

THIS AFTERNOON'S TRIESTE INDEPENDENCE PARTY RALLY...

THIS JUST IN.



SIMILAR INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO OCCUR OVER...

THIS IS THE BEST SEASON TO GO FOR A DRIVE, HUH?



UH-HUH.

WHILE THIS IS THE THIRD SUCH INCIDENT IN ITALY THIS MONTH...



AAH, IT'S FINALLY GOTTEN WARM.



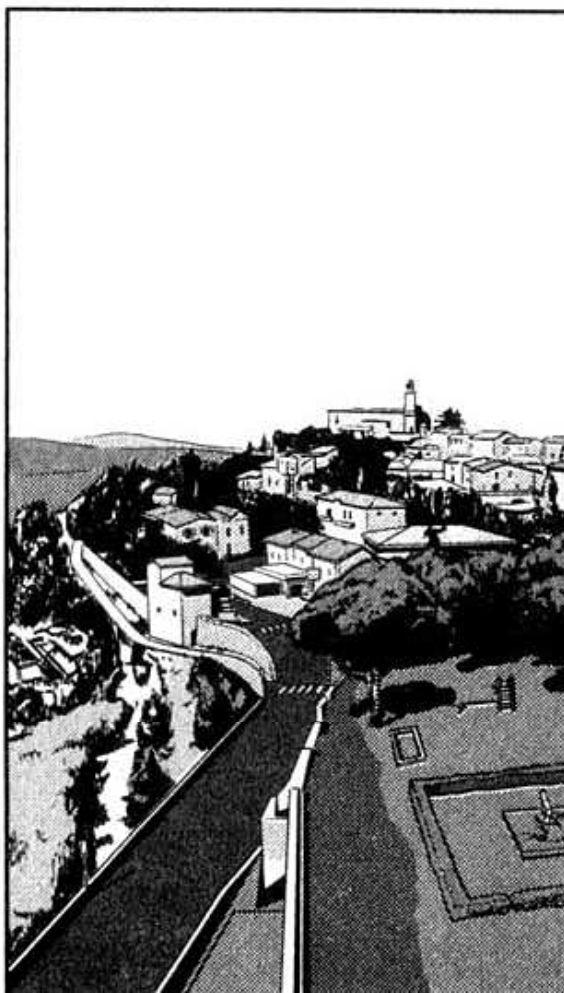
YEAH.



YEAH.



HM?







BY THE WAY, ARE YOU TWO BROTHER AND SISTER?

DO WE LOOK LIKE WE ARE?



BUT YOU CAN'T TELL IT'S AN ALFA-ROMEO?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. YOU'RE ITALIAN...



HMM.

SO THIS ONE'S A GIRL TOO, HUH?



WELL, IT IS. A JULIETTA.



HE EVEN TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE BOMBS.



AND MY BODY-GUARD.



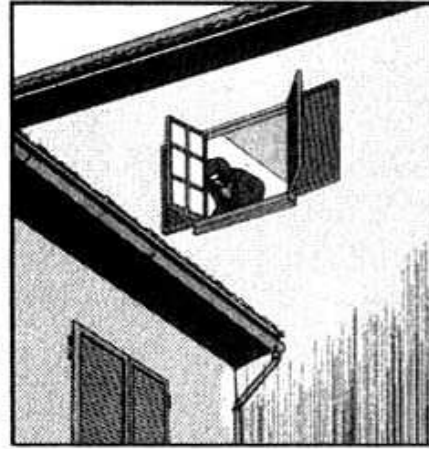
TOK TOK

BINGO. HE'S MY PARTNER.

NO, NOT REALLY.



WE KNEW WE'D BE WORKING TOGETHER, SO WE MADE UP THESE CODE NAMES.





CAN I GET SOMETHING TO DRINK?

SURE.



YEAH.



SATISFIED?



.....



NO.

UM, PINOCCHIO? THIS ISN'T FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER, CORRECT?



THWUMP



AND THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO PUT HIM.

HE WAS A THIEF. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS...



A DEAD BODY'S BOUND TO BRING OTHER PEOPLE.

WE SHOULD LEAVE AS SOON AS WE CAN.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, FRANCO?



WELL, I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER.

I'M NOT GONNA FIND ANOTHER BODY IN THE BATHTUB, AM I?



IS THAT OK, FRANCO?

YEAH.



THE FIXER WILL BE HERE IN A FEW DAYS.



THEN WE CAN LEAVE.

FINE.



GUARD SOME BOMBERS SO THEY CAN EXECUTE THEIR ATTACK.

HE TOLD ME TO...



WE DON'T TRUST 'EM.

WE USUALLY DON'T WORK WITH OTHER PEOPLE.



SO. WHAT WERE CRISTIANO'S ORDERS?







THAT MAKES YOU A WEIRDO, TOO.

OH, SO I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT OUT?



NO. NOT YOU.

EVEN US.



EVERYBODY'S A LITTLE CRAZY.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



LEAVE ME ALONE.



DOES THAT MEAN I CAN STILL BE NORMAL?



WELL, IF I WAS TAUGHT BY A WEIRDO...

YEAH. PROBABLY.



MAYBE IT'S MY MOTHERLY SIDE.



STILL, I KIND OF WORRY ABOUT HIM...

NO WAY. HE'S A STRANGE KID.

YOU LIKE OUR FRIEND PINOCCHIO?



HEH HEH.

I'M HOPELESS. REMEMBER?





GUNSLINGER GIRL.



AND THOSE ARE JUST PADANIA'S ASSASSINATIONS.



EIGHT POLITICIANS, FIVE JUDGES ...

AND FOUR FINANCIERS.



THESE LATEST INCIDENTS ARE THE WORK OF THE MILAN FACTION,

AN ORTHODOX GROUP OPERATING WITHIN PADANIA.



WHAT A DANGEROUS COUNTRY.



IT'S AS IF THEY'RE PICKING THE MOST POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE TARGETS.

INDEED. TACTICS ASIDE, THEY ARE EXTREMELY CLEVER.

ORTHO-DOX, BUT NO LESS DANGEROUS.



SO, YOU WANT US TO LOOK FOR THIS COHEN GLY FROM PUBLIC SAFETY, RIGHT?



THAT GUY OF OURS WHO DISAPPEARED WAS A RIGHT WINGER, TOO.

第14話 Pinocchio (Part 2)



MAKE A COPY OF THIS FOR ME, WILL YOU?

HE WAS FOLLOWING AN ASSASSIN CALLED "PINOCCHIO."

ALRIGHT.



HERE YOU ARE.

SHWP

WHERE IS THAT REPORT?



WE LAST HEARD FROM HIM AT MONT-ALCINO...



NOT AT ALL.

OH. TH-THANK YOU.



THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE BECOMING JUST AS RADICAL AS PADANIA.



THIS IS YOUR ARENA, ISN'T IT?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BRING OPERATIONS IN ON THIS?



BESIDES, WE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH HELP.

I THINK THE HIGHER-UPS MADE SOME KINDA DEAL.



WHAT, DO YOU HAVE A LEAD?

I'M GOING TO TRY A DIFFERENT APPROACH.

HILLSHIRE, YOU GO TO MONTALCINO.



I WON'T.

DON'T PUSH ANGELICA TOO HARD.



AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE LIVES IN MILAN. IT'S TIME I PAID HIM A VISIT.



I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

YES.



WOULD YOU RATHER BE IN THE CITY?

IT'S LIKE A SMALL VILLAGE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TUSCANY.

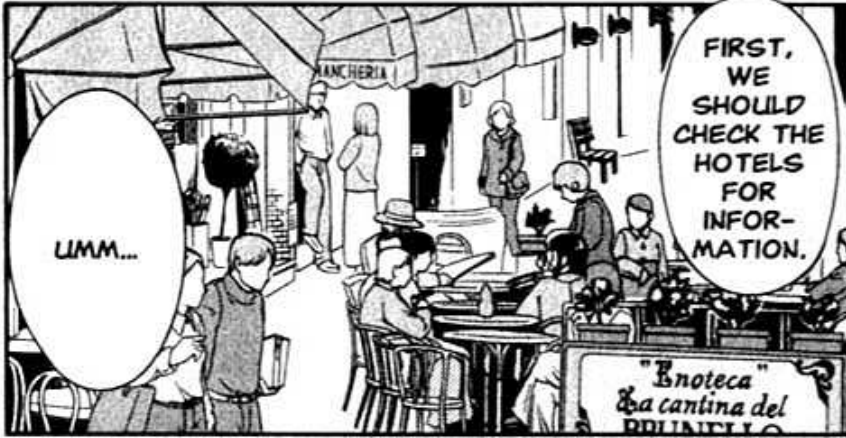


MONTALCINO. HMM.



DO YOU MIND IF I LAUGH?

LIKE WHEN PRETENDING TO BE A DETECTIVE, OR GOING TO A FANCY RESTAURANT.



UMM...

FIRST, WE SHOULD CHECK THE HOTELS FOR INFORMATION.



A FEW THINGS COME TO MIND.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS?



THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE US FAIL?

IT COULD ALL BE A TRAP SET BY PUBLIC SAFETY.



WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE A LOYAL ALLY ON MY SIDE.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU CAN TRUST.

MAYBE.



MAYBE PUBLIC SAFETY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN, SO THEY'RE DOING OUT THE LOW-PRIORITY JOBS.

OR MAYBE THE HIGHER-UPS ARE TAKING THE GOOD STUFF, MAKING THEMSELVES LOOK BETTER.

IF WE REALLY LET OUR IMAGINATIONS RUN WILD...



BESIDES, THESE CLOTHES MAKE ME STAND OUT.

THEY HAVE THEIR USES.



YES.

I DO. IS THAT BAD?

PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU MEAN ME.



sip

.....



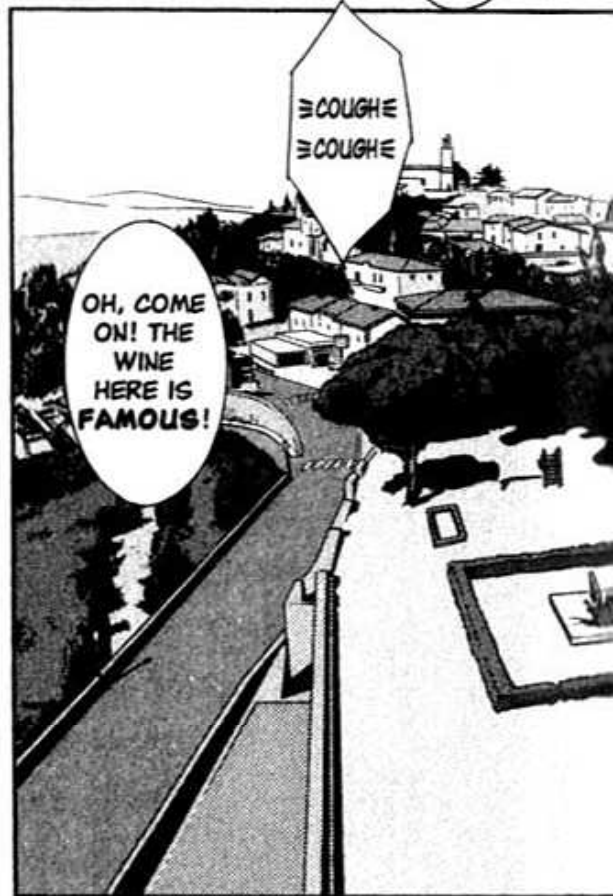
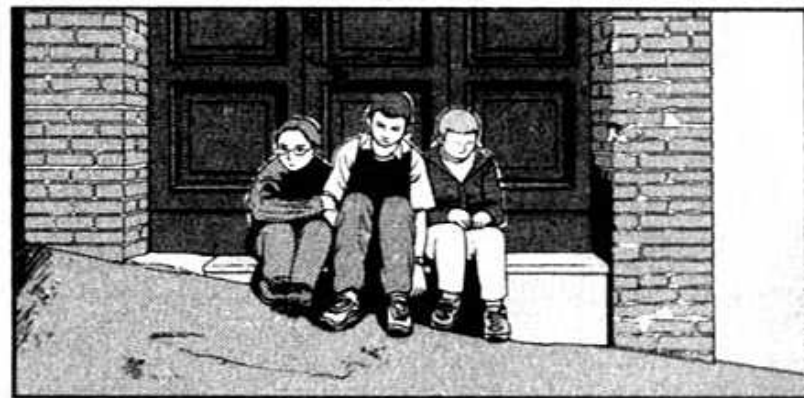
SPARE ME.

SOUNDS LIKE LOYALTY TO ME.



AND I'D NEVER BETRAY YOU.

BUT YOU'D NEVER BETRAY ME.

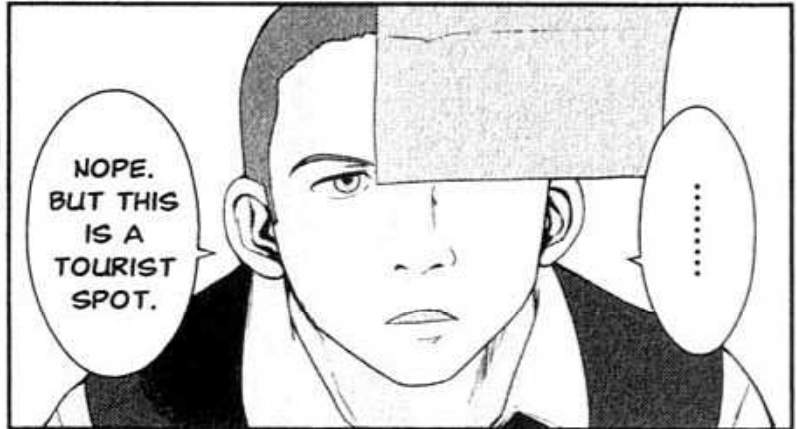


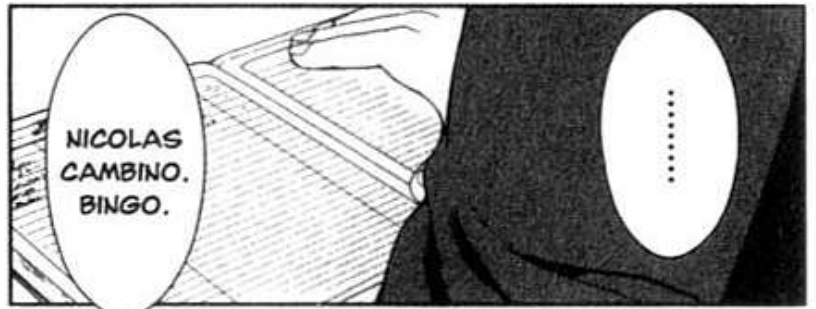
COUGH
COUGH

OH, COME ON! THE WINE HERE IS FAMOUS!



ARE YOU KIDS FROM AROUND HERE?







I'M AN EX-COP.

MY I.D. IS REAL, JUST SLIGHTLY ALTERED.



HE BELIEVED YOU...

OF COURSE.



A DETECTIVE, FROM ROME. WILL THIS COVER THE BILL?

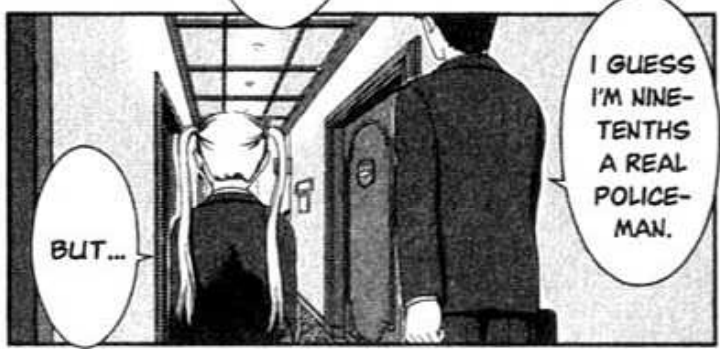
JINGLE

YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



WITH YOUR LOOKS, YOU'D MAKE A GREAT COP.

SHOULD WE MAKE AN I.D. FOR YOU, TOO?



BUT...

I GUESS I'M NINE-TENTHS A REAL POLICEMAN.



HA HA HA!

I'M COMPLETELY FAKE.



HMM.

ANYWAY, IF WE DO IT RIGHT, NOBODY WILL SAY ANYTHING.



OH, AND PAD YOUR CHEST OUT A LITTLE.

YOU'RE A LITTLE SHORT, BUT WE COULD PUT YOUR HAIR DOWN AND GIVE YOU SOME DARK GLASSES...

AGAIN WITH THE JOKES?



TAKE A LOOK AT HIS SUIT-CASE.

OK.



LET'S SEE WHAT CLUES COHEN LEFT US.

NOW, THEN.



I PRACTICED FOR THIS.



IT'S ALRIGHT.

IF NOT, JUST BREAK IT OPEN.



I THINK YOU CAN OPEN IT WITH YOUR TOOLS.



IT'S VERY HARD NOT TO LEAVE EVIDENCE BEHIND, TRIELA.



SOME-THING, YES.

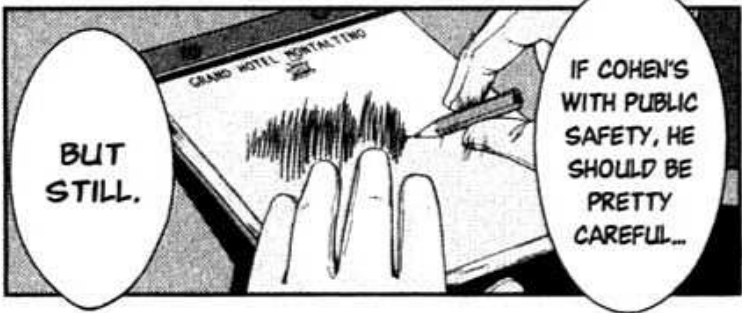


BUT DO YOU THINK WE'LL REALLY FIND SOMETHING HERE?



NUM-
BERS?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
ABOUT
THESE
NUM-
BERS?



BUT
STILL.

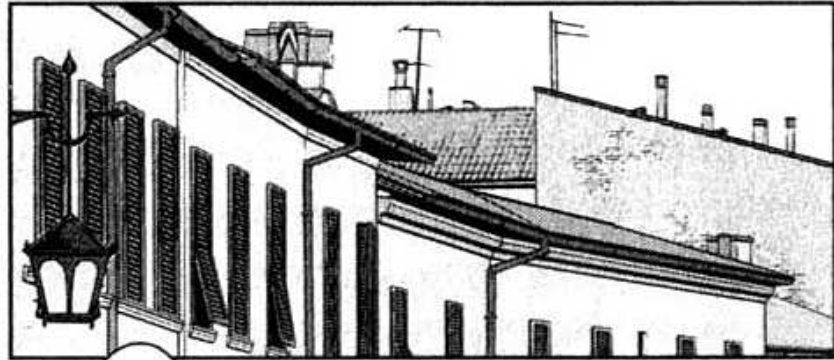
IF COHEN'S
WITH PUBLIC
SAFETY, HE
SHOULD BE
PRETTY
CAREFUL...



TRIELA?

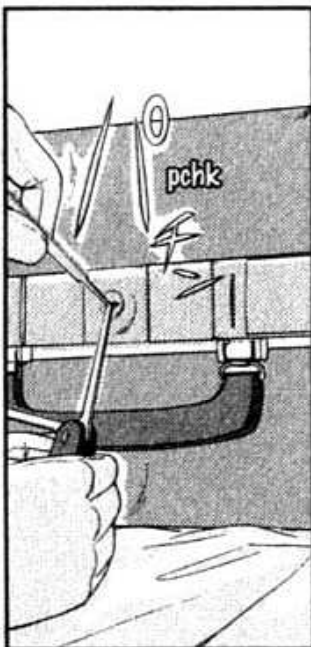


YOU
NEVER
KNOW.



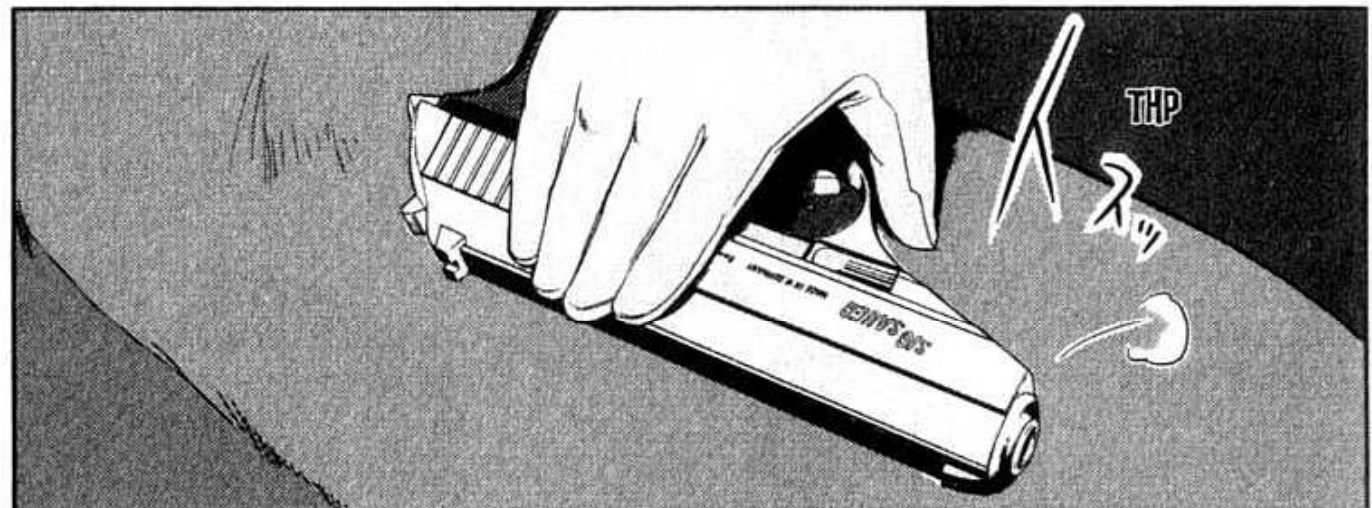
GO
AHEAD
AND
OPEN
IT.

GOT
IT.



PART
OF AN
ADDRESS,
MAYBE?
OR A
PHONE
NUMBER?

WE'LL
ASK AT
THE
FRONT
DESK
LATER.





BUT HIS HEAD WAS WOOD THROUGH AND THROUGH, AND HE WAS ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE.



HE WANTED TO REPAY THE OLD MAN WHO MADE HIM...



PINOCCHIO WAS A PUPPET MADE FROM A PIECE OF FIREWOOD.



AND A BLUE-HAIRED FAIRY TURNED THE PUPPET INTO A REAL BOY.

AFTER HIS ADVENTURE, HE WAS REUNITED WITH THE OLD MAN...



SO HE WENT ON AN ADVENTURE TO FIND HIM.

ONE DAY, PINOCCHIO WAS SEPARATED FROM THE OLD MAN...



WHAT A STUPID STORY.

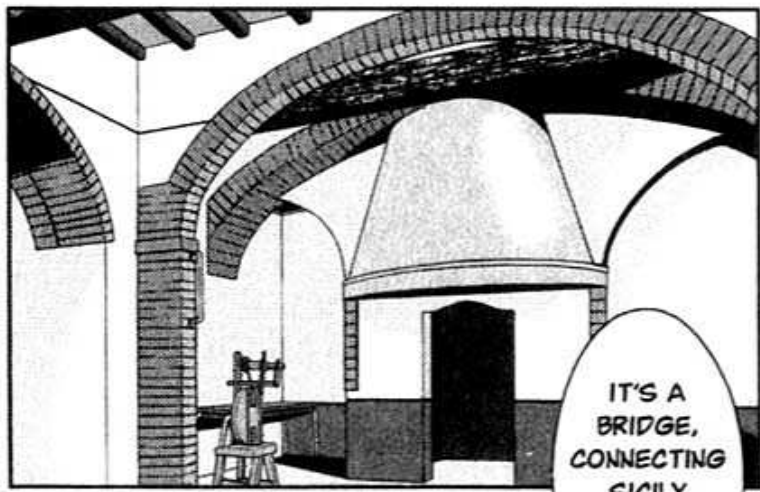


EVERYONE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



SO... THEY BUILT THIS?

NO, THAT'S A CONCEPT SKETCH. THERE'S ONLY ONE PILLAR UP SO FAR.



IT'S A BRIDGE, CONNECTING SICILY TO THE MAINLAND.



SO CRISTIANO WANTS THIS THING STOPPED. PROFITS FROM ITS CONSTRUCTION ARE GOING TO THE SOUTH,



I DON'T THINK THE GOVERNMENT'S GOING TO JUST GIVE IN, THOUGH.

WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO GIVE THEM A SHOW OF FORCE.



WE WON'T IF WE DON'T HAVE TO.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW IT UP?



IF THAT GETS THEM TO STOP, WE WON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

A PARTNER OF OURS IS GOING TO KIDNAP ONE OF THE COMPANY EXECUTIVES.



IF WE LEFT IT TO SOMEONE ELSE, GOD KNOWS WHERE HE'D PUT IT.

IT'S BEST IF THE PERSON WHO MAKES A BOMB SETS IT, TOO.



WE HANDLE OUR OWN EXPLOSIONS.



SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK.

IT IS.



HOW SO?

NO, I MEAN HER ATTITUDE.



OH, YEAH?

SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TERRORISTS I'VE MET.



FRANCA'S A STRANGE WOMAN.

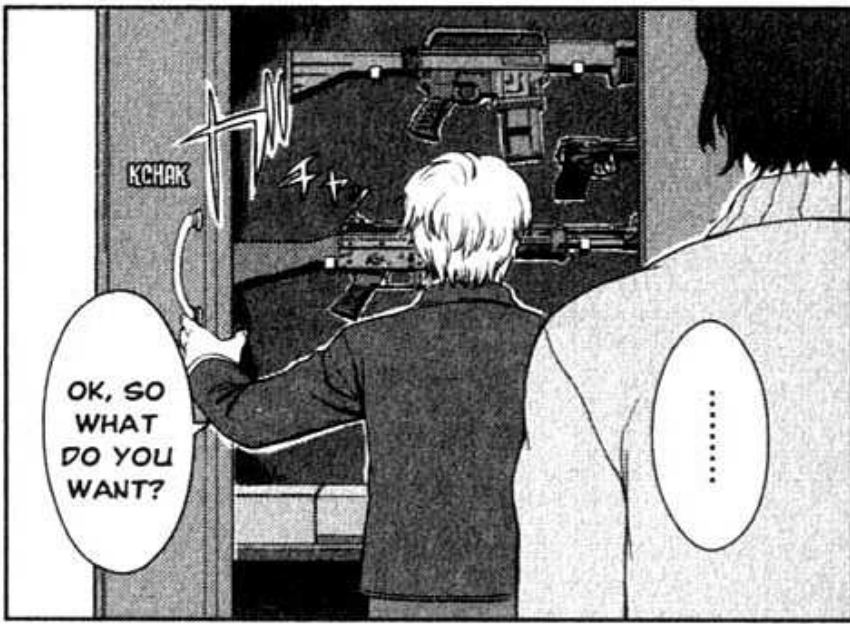
YEAH, A LOT OF PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH HER.



BUT FRANCA'S NICE, EVEN WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.

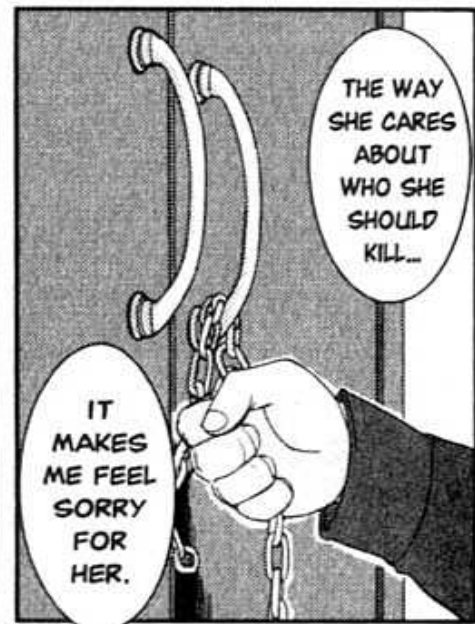
K-KLNK

TERRORISTS ARE ALL ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING...



OK, SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?

.....



IT MAKES ME FEEL SORRY FOR HER.

THE WAY SHE CARES ABOUT WHO SHE SHOULD KILL...



IT HASN'T BEEN USED FOR A WHILE, SO YOU SHOULD CHECK IT YOURSELF.

ALRIGHT.



DO YOU HAVE A SMALL ONE WITH A SILENCER?

A 9MM, I GUESS.



THAT'LL DO.

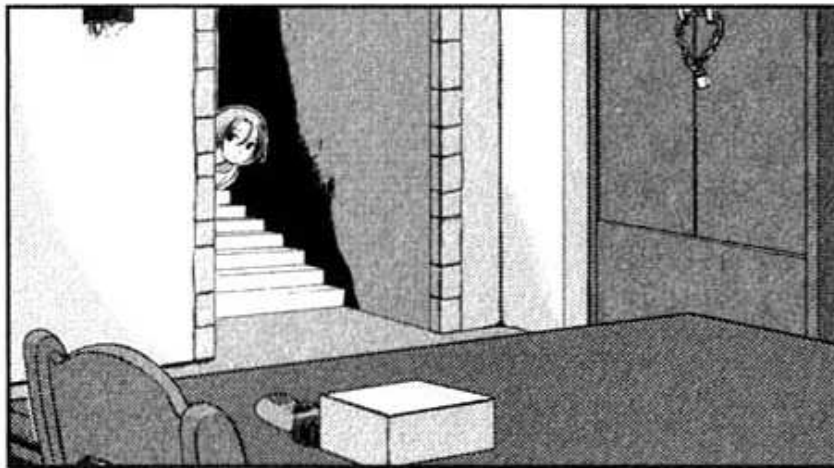
IF YOU DON'T MIND SCORPIONS, I HAVE TWO.









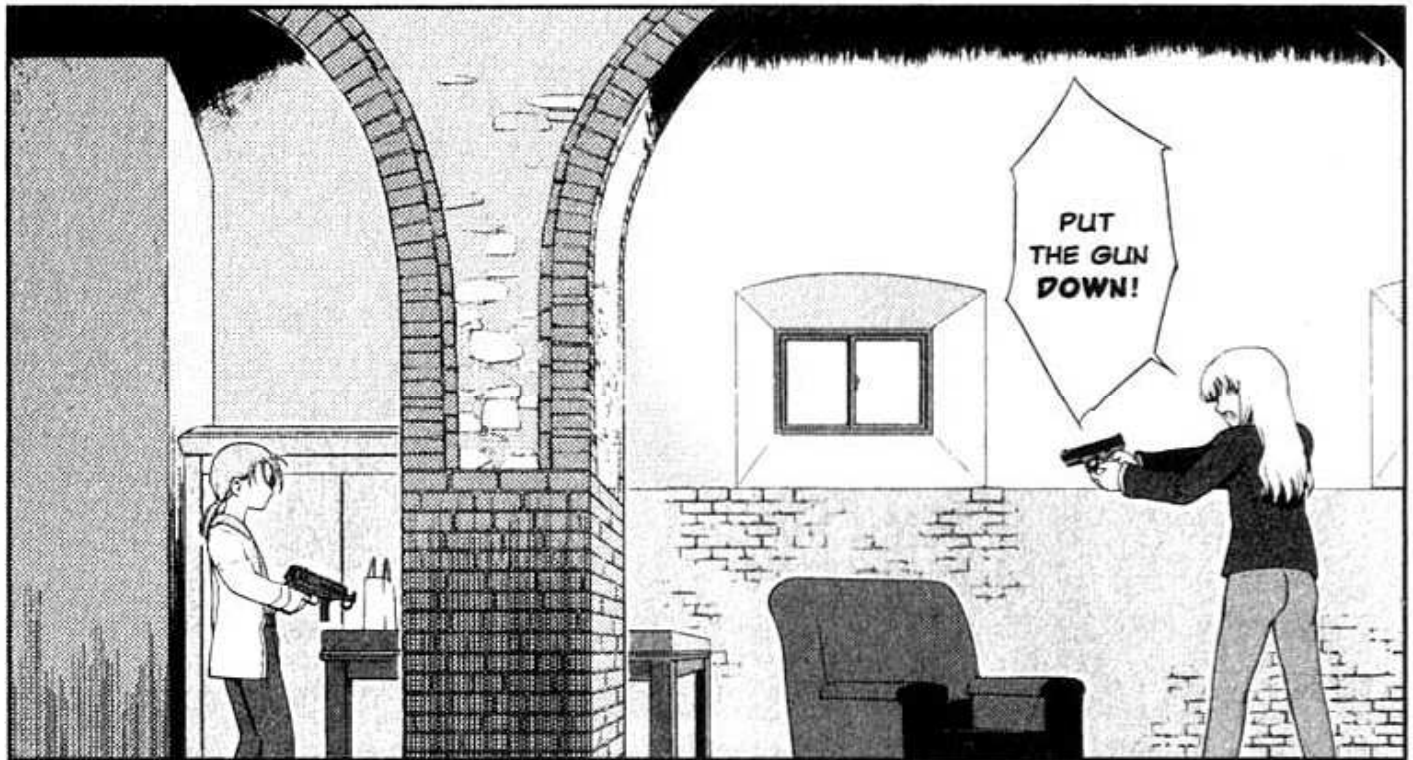




GUNSLINGER GIRL.



第15話 Pinocchio (Part 3)





YANK

AIEE!



WHERE'S PINO?

?



GRAB



BEATS ME.

WHO IS THIS?

LET ME GO!

NO!



YOU KNOW HER?

SHE LIVES NEAR HERE.



HER NAME'S AURORA.



I WARNED YOU.



H-HELP ME!



PINO!



I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ME.

?



SO...

SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY BEING NICE TO ME.



I DID. SHE'S JUST A GIRL.



TELL ME, PINOCCHIO.

WHAT'S GOING ON?



I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE HAPPY OR SAD.

SHE'S NOT A GOVERNMENT ASSASSIN?



!!

THUD



WH-WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO ME?

GRAB

"DO?"



THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!

STOP IT, PINOCCHIO!



!

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, OF COURSE.



SHWP



THIS DOESN'T AFFECT THE MISSION!



SHE SAW YOUR FACES.

WE CAN'T JUST LET HER GO.

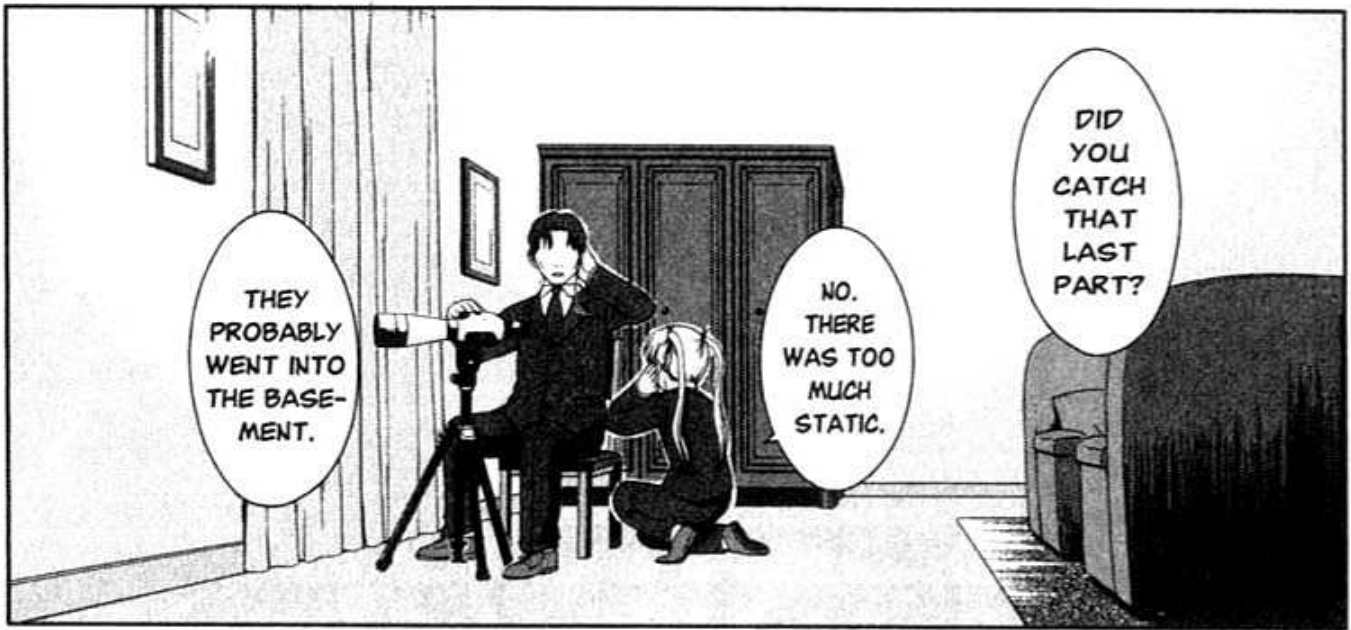
SSHK



YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL. THINK LIKE ONE.

WHAT IF IT DOES? WHAT IF IT FAILS BECAUSE WE LET HER GO?





THEY PROBABLY WENT INTO THE BASEMENT.

NO. THERE WAS TOO MUCH STATIC.

DID YOU CATCH THAT LAST PART?



BUT THE GIRL...

NO. THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE. THAT'S ALL WE KNOW.



I SAY WE GO IN.

IF THERE'S THREE, WE CAN TAKE THEM OUT IN 10 SECONDS.



SO, WE HAVE TWO OR THREE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. IN A BASEMENT.



THAT PUBLIC SAFETY GUY IS STILL MISSING...

WE'LL GET AS MUCH INFO AS WE CAN UNTIL BACKUP ARRIVES.



SHE'LL BE FINE.

THEY HAD THE CHANCE TO KILL HER AND THEY DIDN'T.



D-DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THINKING OF TURNING HER INTO A CYBORG!



WHAT IF THE SITUATION CHANGES?

BUT WHAT IF THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS?



WE CAN'T TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS.



I DON'T WANT TO ABANDON HER, EITHER...

BUT WE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR HER.



IF THEY HAVE COHEN, THEY MIGHT USE HER AS A HOSTAGE. OR KILL HER.

BUT NOW THAT THEY HAVE HER, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO LEAVE THE CITY.



LET'S GO IN.

OK, YOU SOLD ME.

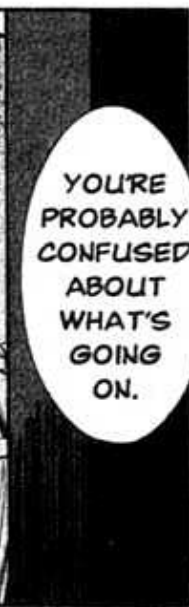


.....

THINGS ARE JUST GOING TO GET WORSE.



I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING.



YOU'RE PROBABLY CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.



AURORA.



CRUELER THAN YOU THINK. THE WORLD IS A LOT



IT'S CRUEL TO EVERYONE.

NOBODY GETS ANY SPECIAL FAVORS...



BESIDES, EVEN IF I TRIED TO EXPLAIN, YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

.....



JUST FORGET ABOUT ME.



IT'S BETTER TO BURN THEM.

SHREDDED DOCUMENTS CAN BE PUT BACK TOGETHER.



I DIDN'T THINK THAT FIREPLACE WOULD EVER BE USEFUL.



DO YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT FRANCA SAYS?

YOU MEAN LIKE HOW YOU DO WHAT CRISTIANO SAYS?



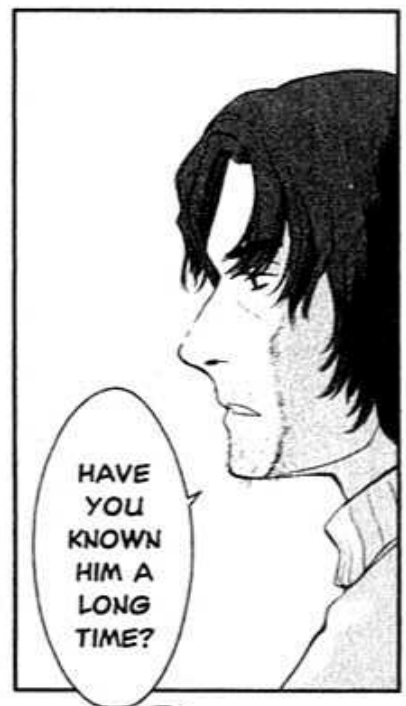
LOOK, FRANCO.



IT'S NOT AS IF I LIKE KILLING...

I KNOW.

BUT WE SHOULD KILL THAT GIRL AND BURY HER.



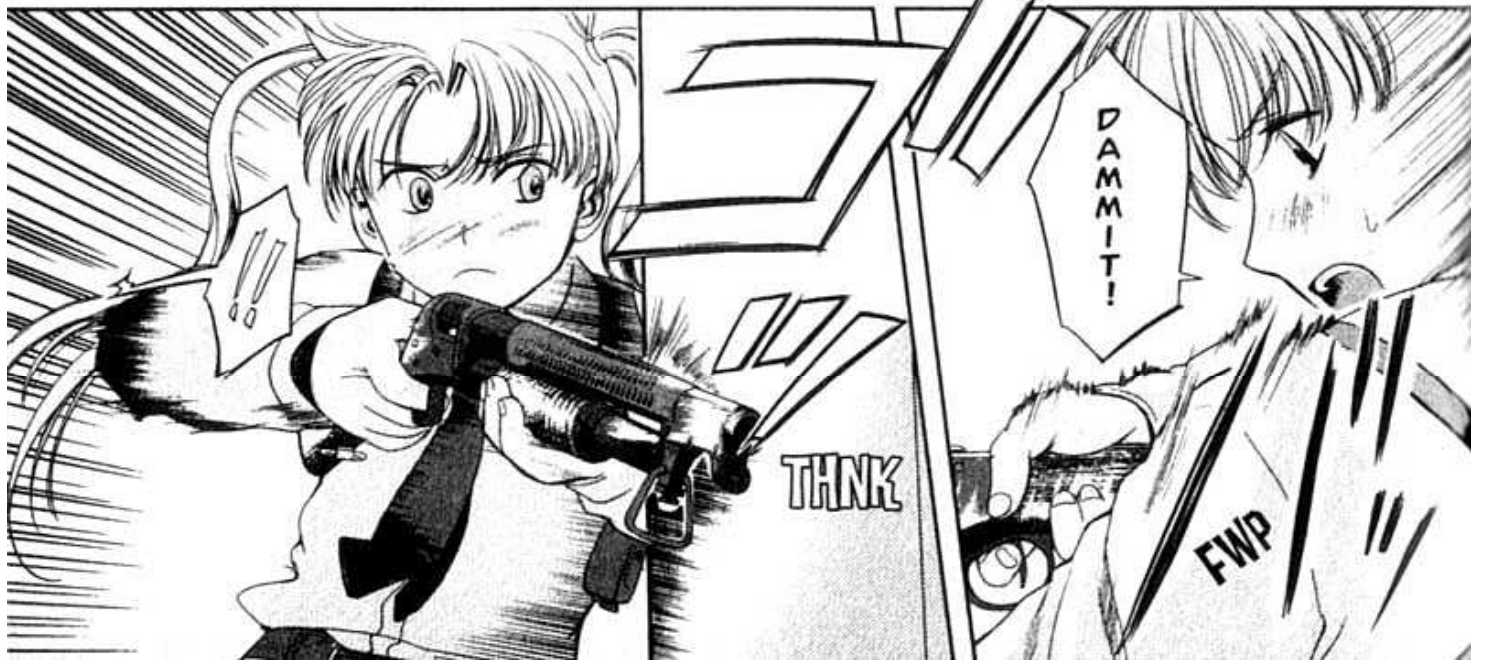


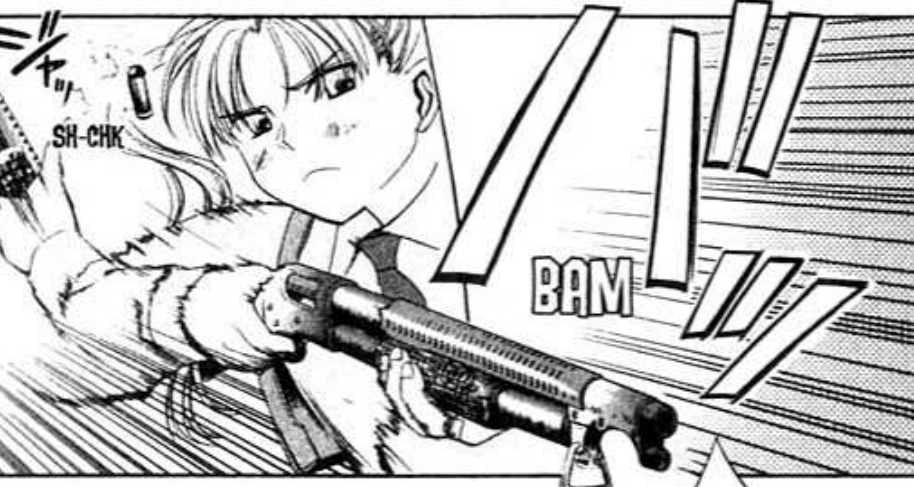
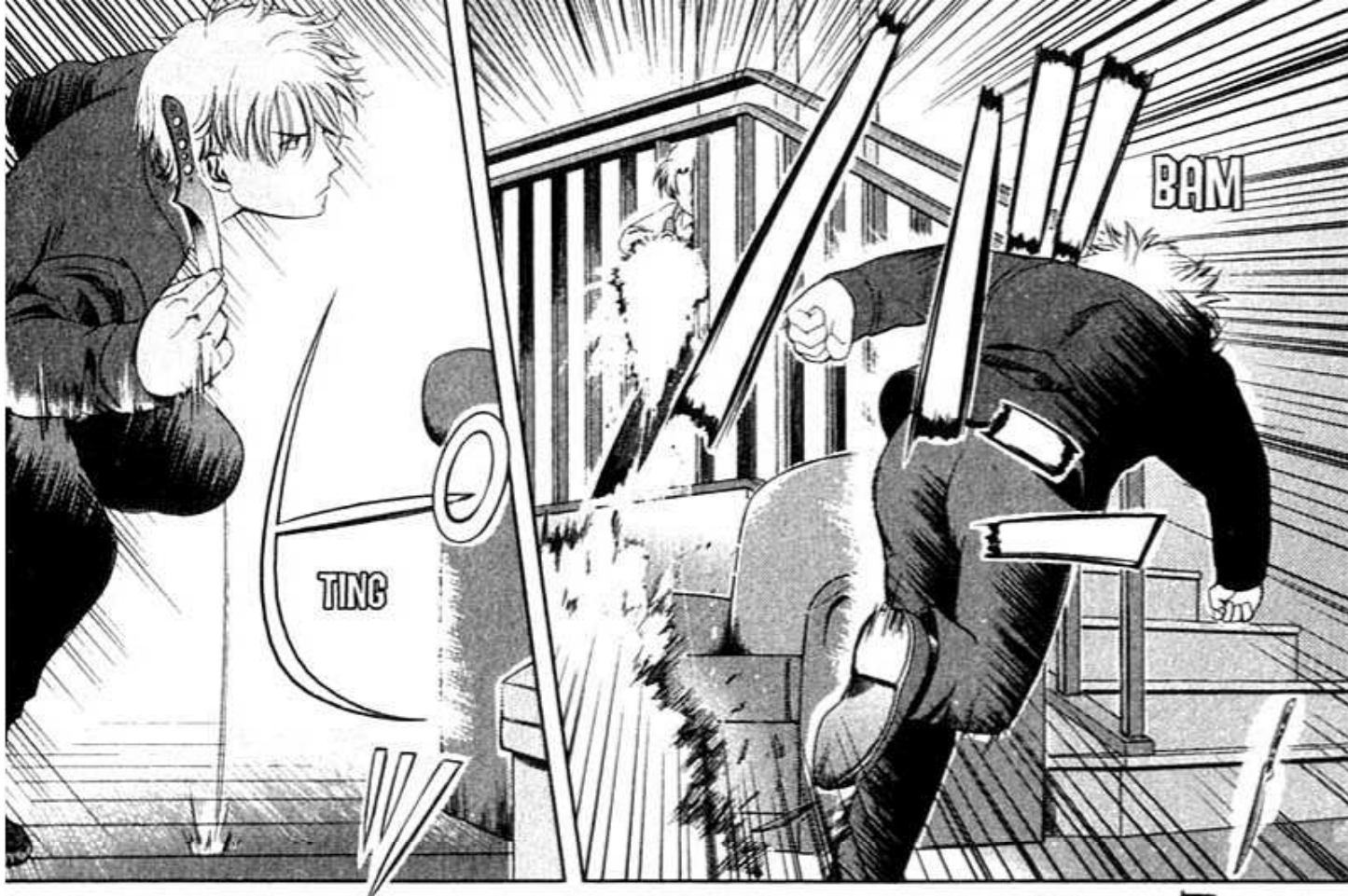


OF COURSE NOT.



IS SHE "JUST A GIRL," TOO?



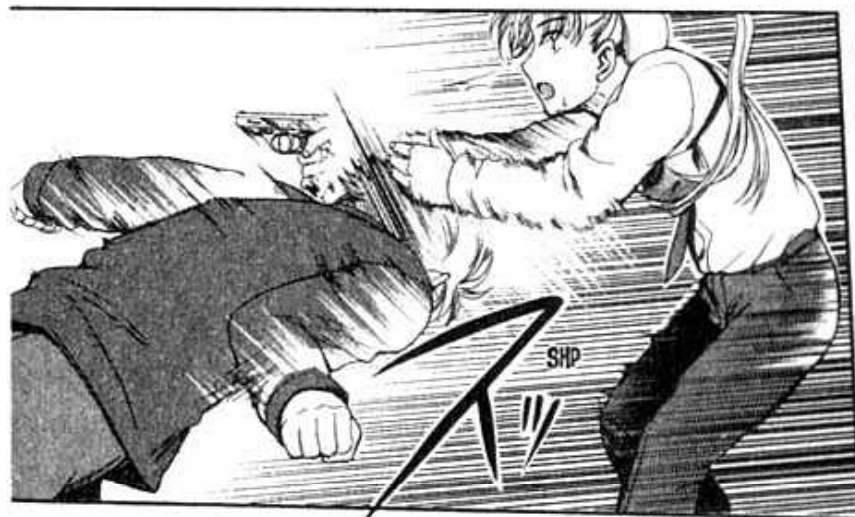


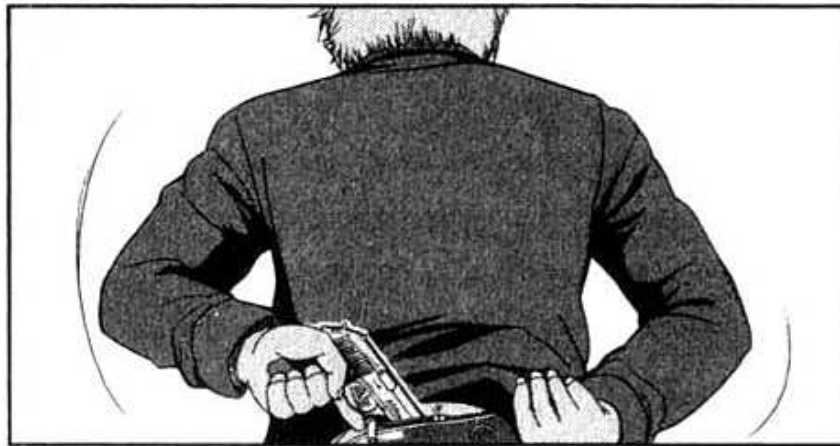




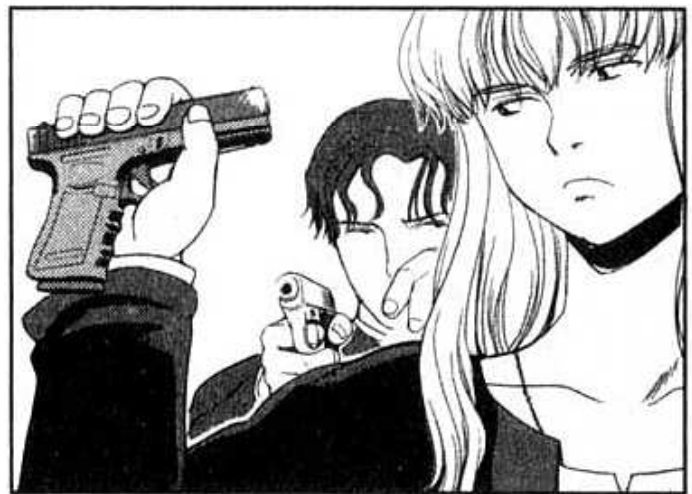


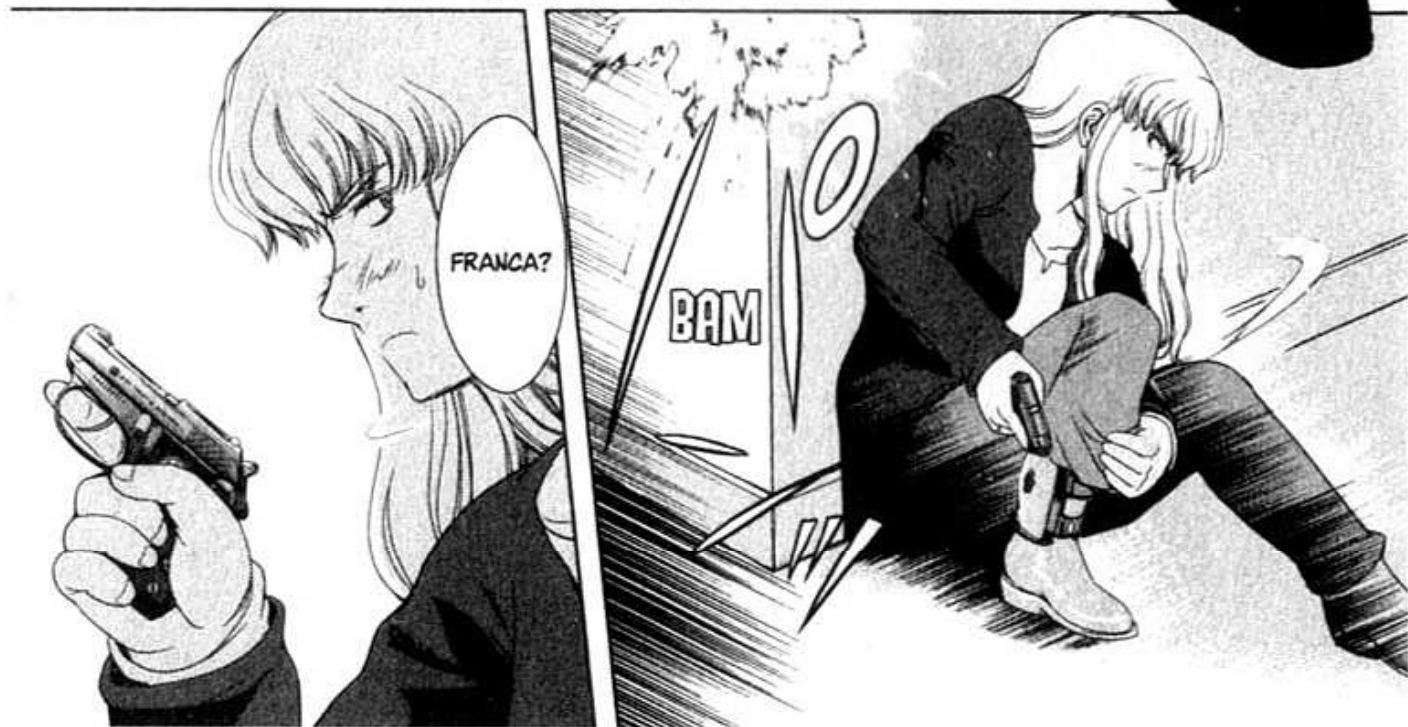






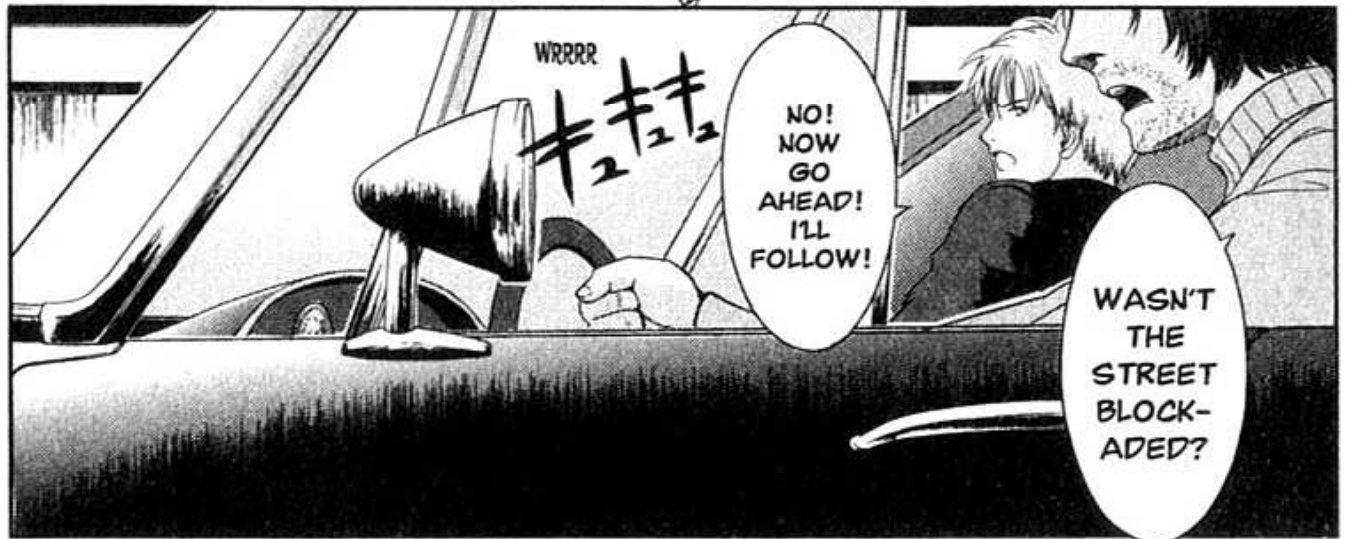














LINGH...

DON'T
MOVE. YOU
PROBABLY
HAVE A
CONCUS-
SION.



TRIELA!

TRIELA.



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
PADANIA
GUYS?

SORRY.
THEY
ALL
GOT
AWAY.



WHAT
ABOUT
THE
GIRL?

I'M
FINE.



THE
LOCAL
POLICE
HAVE
HER
NOW.

SHE
WAS
IN THE
BASE-
MENT.



HE
DID
MAKE
CONTACT
WITH
PINOC-
CHIO.

WE
FOUND
COHEN'S
BODY
IN THE
FRIDGE.



THAT MUST'VE BEEN PINOCCHIO.

I'M JUST GLAD WE'RE BOTH SAFE.



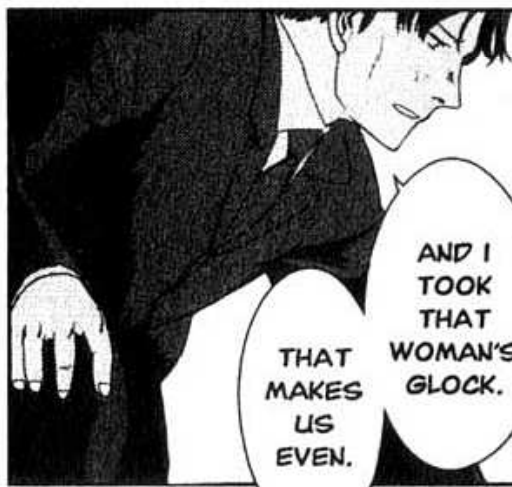
TWO... ONE OF THEM WAS INCREDIBLE.

HOW MANY WERE THERE?



HE WAS REALLY GOOD.

HE KNOCKED ME OUT AND I DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH HIM.



TH- THEY STOLE THE SIG YOU GAVE ME...

THAT MAKES US EVEN.

AND I TOOK THAT WOMAN'S GLOCK.



THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

NO. THE DECISION TO GO IN WAS MINE.



THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

WE JUST PICKED THE WRONG PEOPLE TO GO UP AGAINST.



.....



I'M SORRY...

I GOT YOU HURT.



PINOCCHIO
KNOCKED
ME OUT
WITH HIS
BARE
HANDS!

DON'T
YOU GET
IT?!
I'M A
CYBORG!



ALL
THE RISK,
ALL THE
EFFORT...IT'S
POINTLESS!

BUT IF
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
COULD
HAPPEN,
WHY EVEN
BOTHER?

I CAN
DRESS
UP LIKE
A COP
IF YOU
WANT,



PLEASE,
JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE.



TRIELA...



DON'T
TOUCH
ME.



I'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE BRUISES.

I'LL DRIVE FOR YOU.



YOU'RE JUST TOO SLOW.

FRANCO, CAN YOU NOT GO SO FAST?



I'VE BEEN DRIVING WITH JUST MY LEFT.

I HURT MY HAND.



ALRIGHT.

I KNOW A GUY WHO'S GOT A WINERY IN FRASCATI. LET'S GO THERE FOR NOW.



NEXT TIME, BRING A CAR THAT CAN FIT THREE PEOPLE.

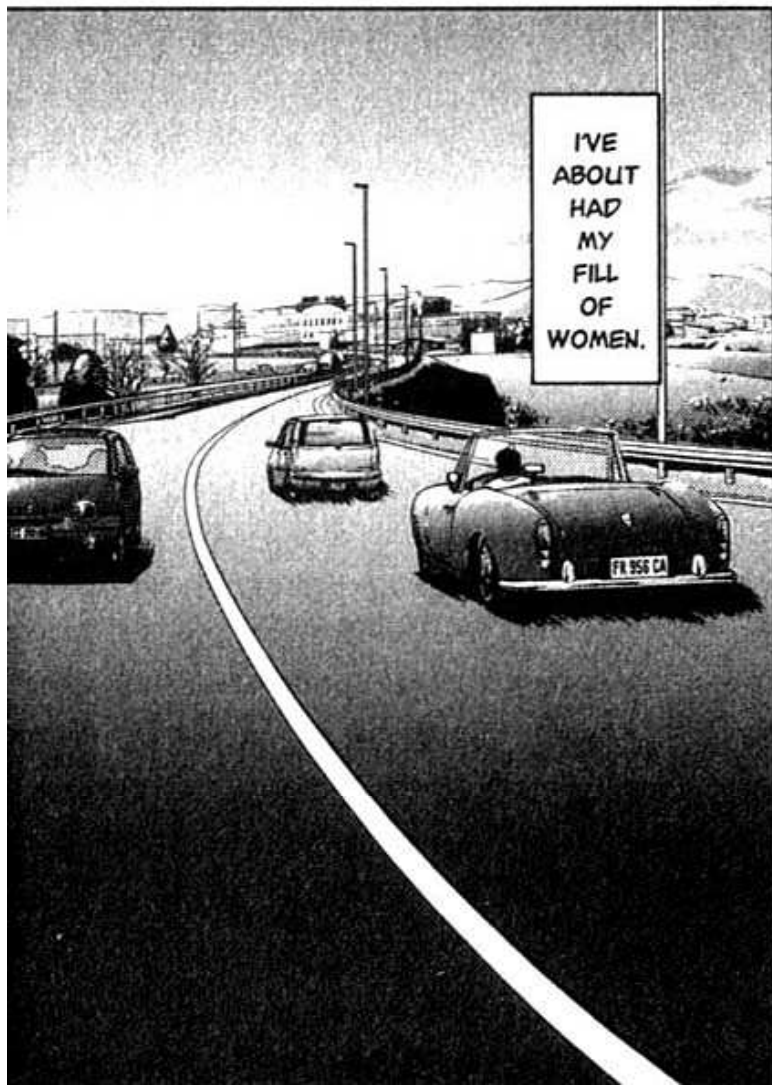
WE WERE PLANNING ON CHANGING CARS ON THE WAY SOUTH.



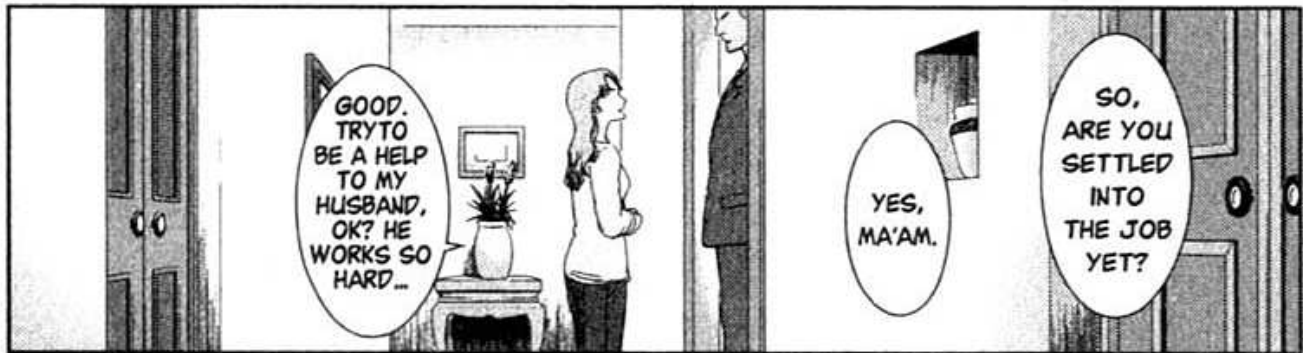
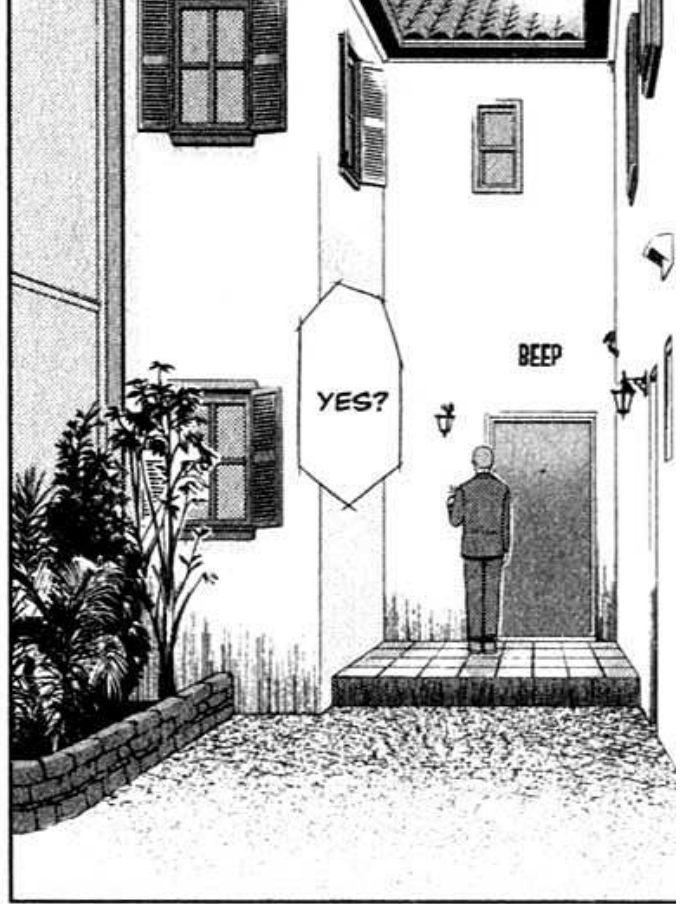
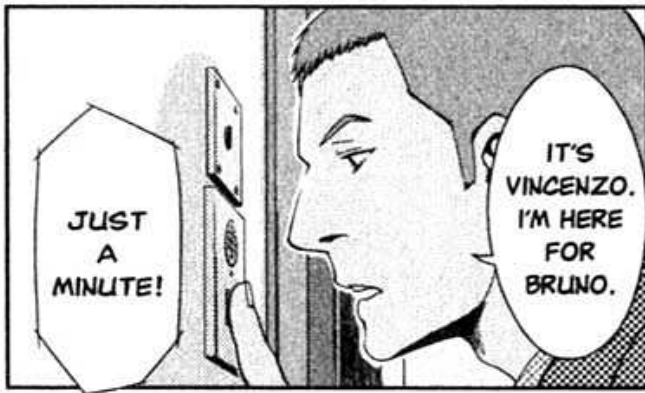
I'M GONNA BUY SOME MEDICINE AND CALL CRISTIANO.

OK.





GUNSLINGER GIRL.







HMM.

WELL, IT'S HARDLY A PRODUCTIVE JOB.

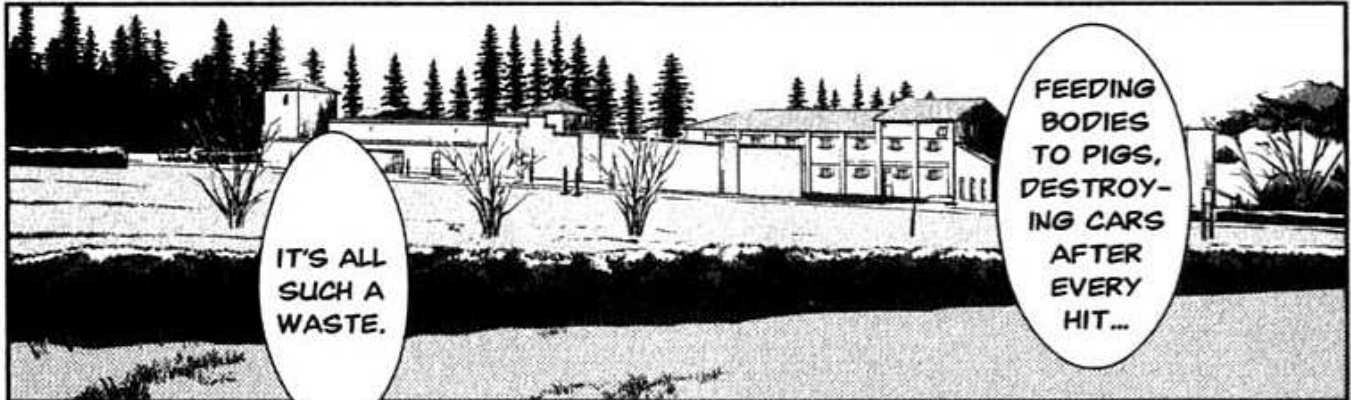


YEAH. BUSINESS IS BOOMING.

A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DYING HERE LATELY. TOO MANY.



I NEVER THOUGHT THERE'D BE SO MUCH MONEY IN THIS.



IT'S ALL SUCH A WASTE.

FEEDING BODIES TO PIGS, DESTROYING CARS AFTER EVERY HIT...



YES. UNFORTUNATELY...

SOME-TIMES IT'S FASTER TO JUST KILL THEM, RIGHT?



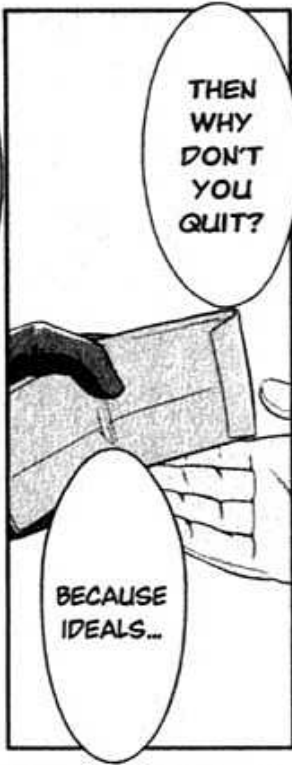
YOU'VE GOT A POINT, BUT...

WE SHOULD TALK THINGS OUT, Y'KNOW? LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE.



AREN'T ENOUGH TO FEED YOUR FAMILY.

UNFORTUNATELY.



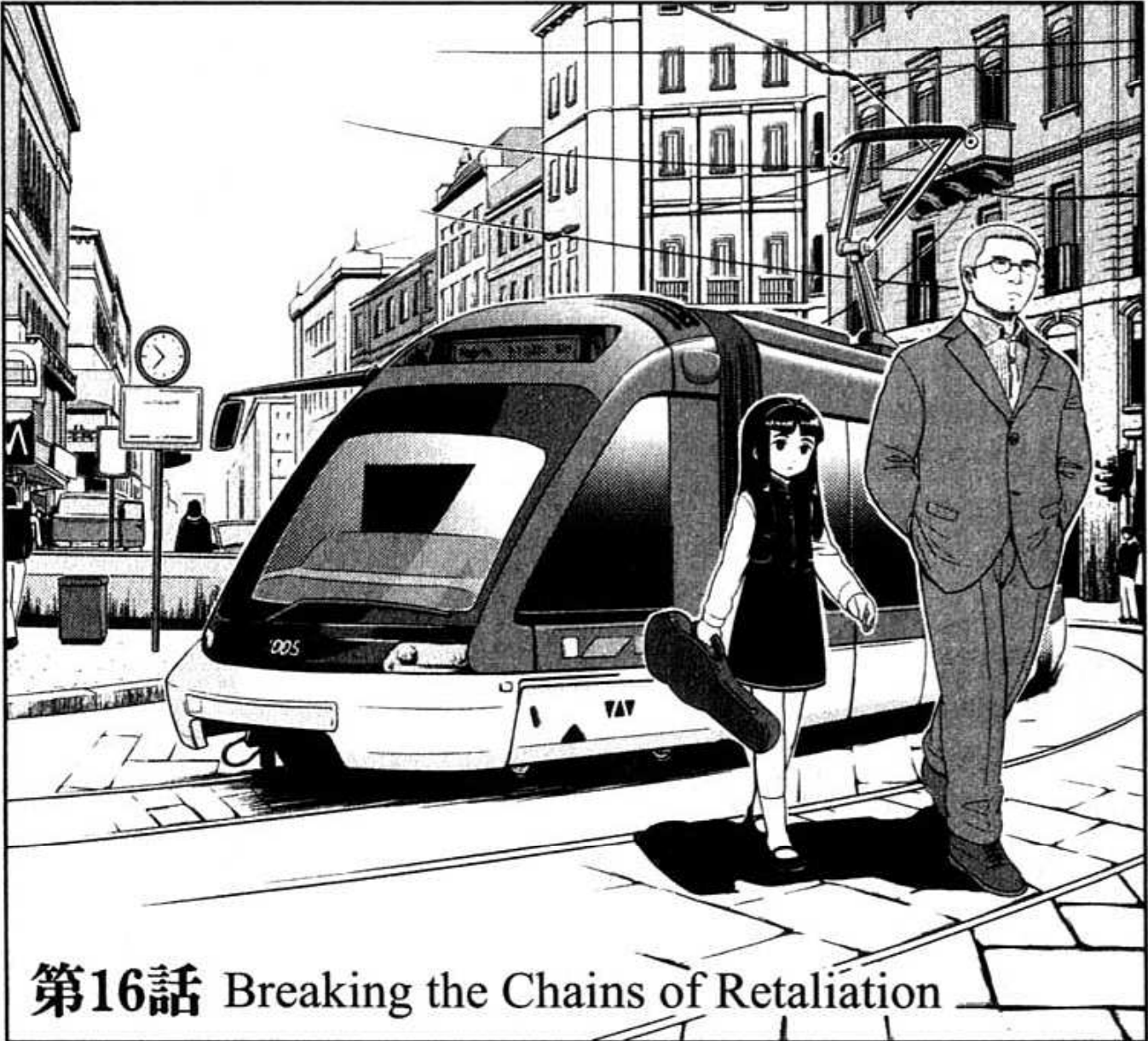
THEN WHY DON'T YOU QUIT?

BECAUSE IDEALS...



KID, YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND, BUT...

AFTER YOU DO THIS JOB FOR A WHILE, IT JUST MAKES YOU EMPTY INSIDE.



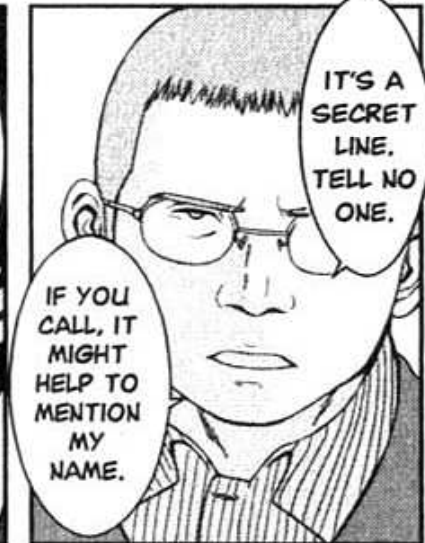
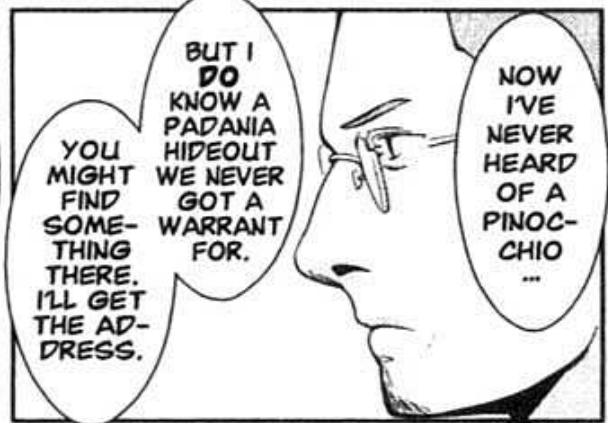
第16話 Breaking the Chains of Retaliation







WHAT IS THIS?







IF EVERY-THING GOES FINE, I CAN STOP BY A BOUTIQUE ON MY WAY HOME.

JEEZ. TALK ABOUT WASTING A DAY OFF.



UH-HUH.

YOU MEAN YOU CAME BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT HER?

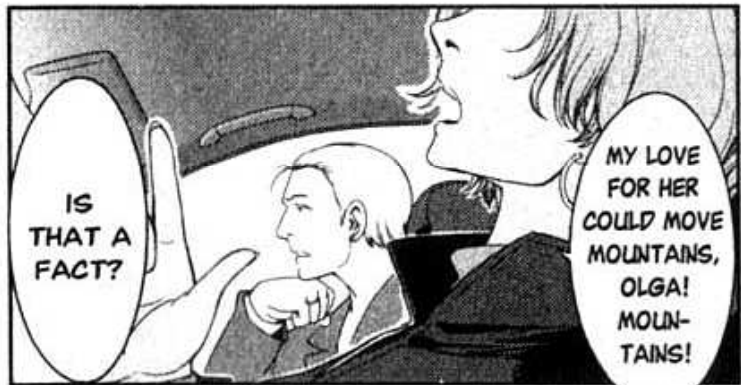


THE ONLY THING LEFT IS TO TRY HER IN THE FIELD.



WAUGH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?



IS THAT A FACT?

MY LOVE FOR HER COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS, OLGA! MOUNTAINS!



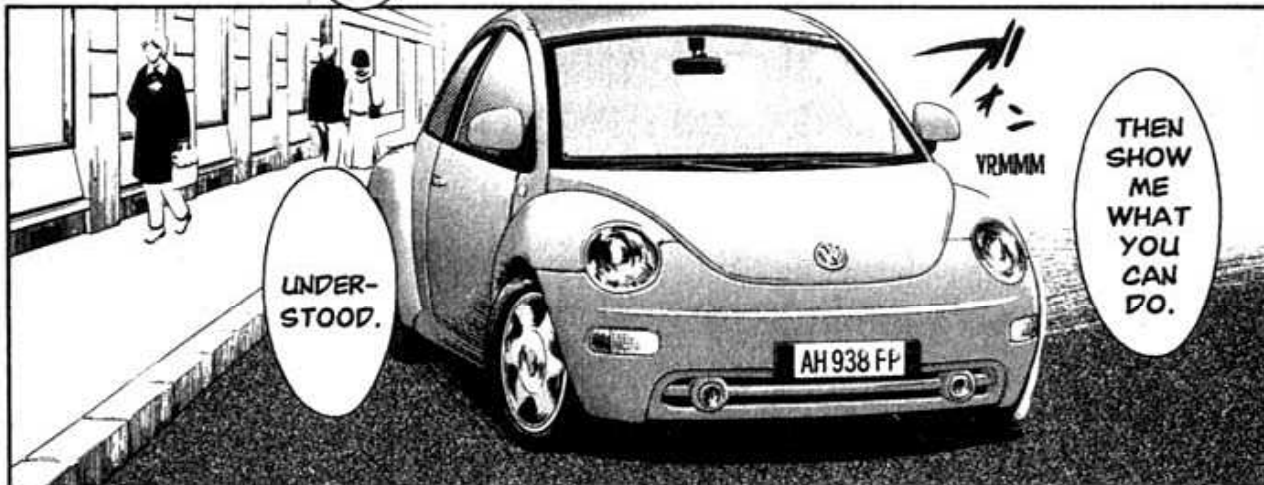
HE PROBABLY LEFT ALREADY.

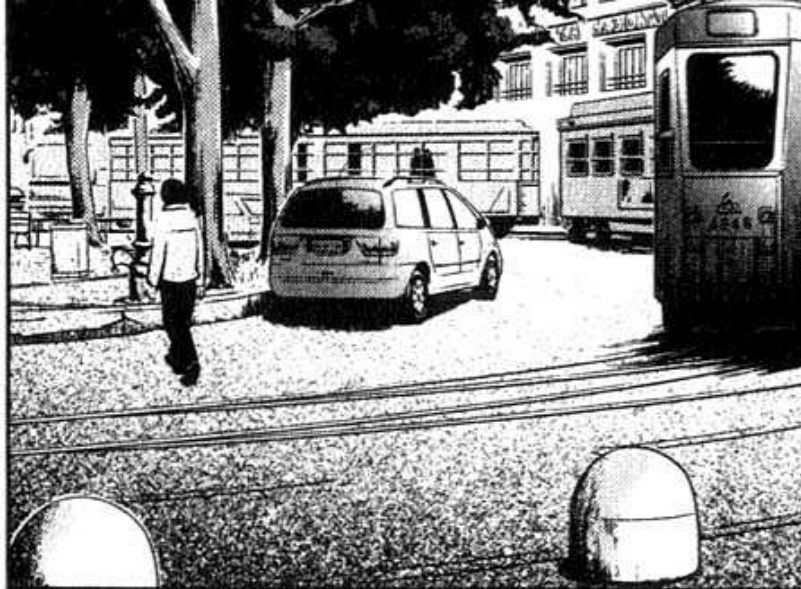
HMM, MARCO HASN'T COME OUT YET.



HE COULDN'T HAVE. I'VE BEEN WATCHING THE ENTRANCE.

TAP TAP







YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT IN THE FIELD IN A WHILE...

BUT LUCKILY, WE FOUND OLGA AND PRISCILLA. YOU HANG BACK AND WATCH.



HUH?

ANGELICA, GIVE PRISCILLA YOUR VIOLIN CASE.



.....



ALSO, THERE ARE A LOT OF COPS OUT THANKS TO THAT BOMB. WE CAN'T RISK ANYONE GETTING SHOT ACCIDENTALLY.

THEIR WORK IS GOING TO BE MORE DANGEROUS.

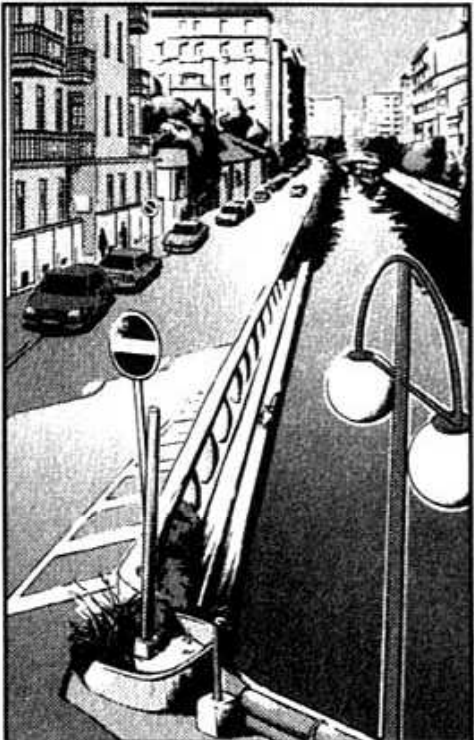


UH, IT'S ALRIGHT. I DON'T NEED A SUB-MACHINE GUN!

HERE.

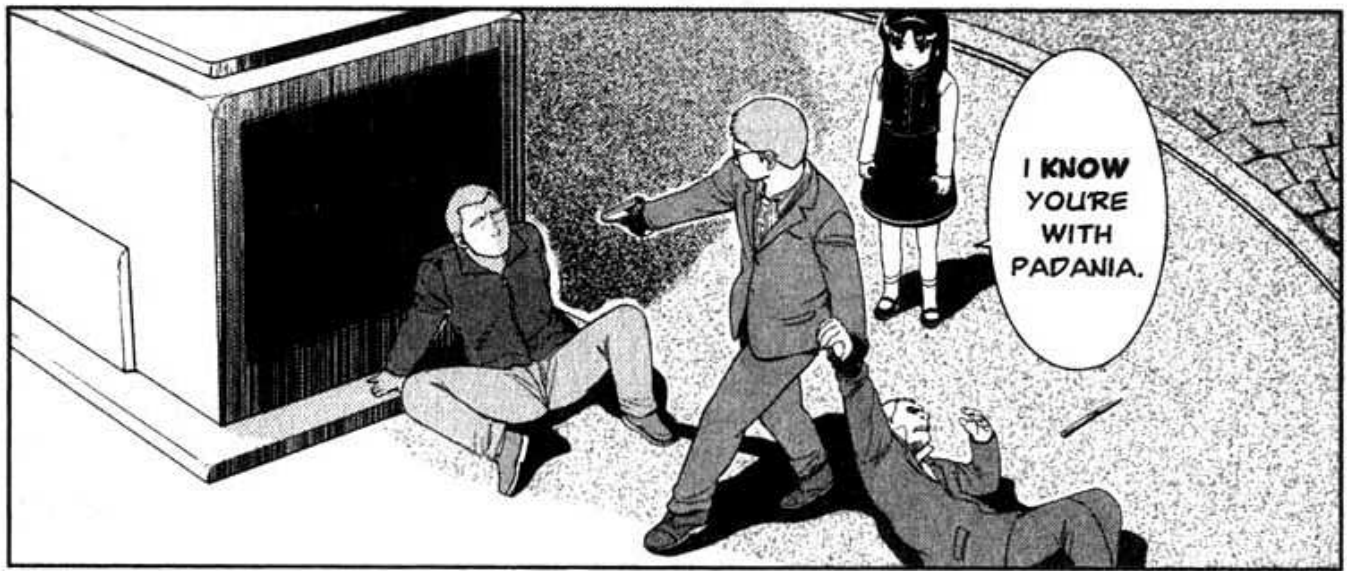


TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO HEAR. NOW.



.....

THIS ISN'T A GAME! TAKE IT!



I KNOW YOU'RE WITH PADANIA.



LAST CHANCE. SHOW ME YOU'RE WORTH A DAMN.

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S POINTED AT PIECES OF SHIT.



I SHOULD WARN YOU. MY GUN HAS A TENDENCY TO SUDDENLY GO OFF.



WERE JUST STREET GRUNTS, ALRIGHT?!

L-LOOK, WE DON'T KNOW ANY PINOCCHIO!



UH... BRUNO. HE'S WHAT THEY CALL A FIXER.



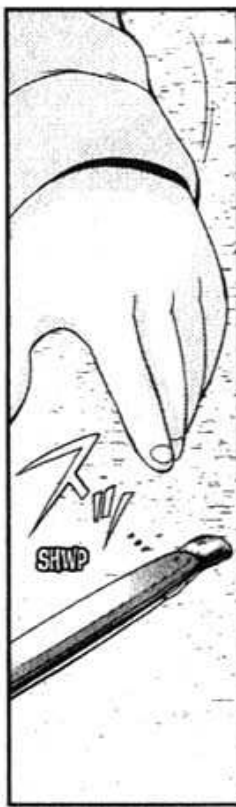
GOOD. WHICH OF YOUR HIGHER-UPS WORKS WITH HIT MEN?

ALRIGHT, I'LL TALK!

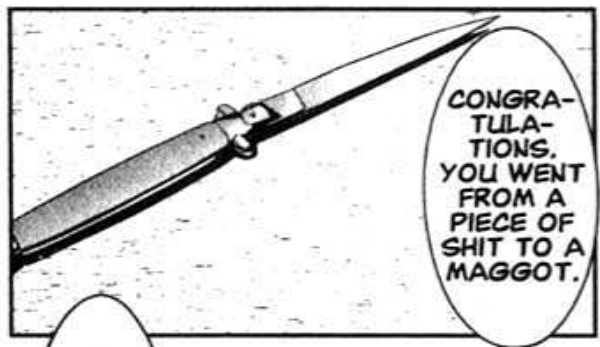


ANGELICA!

FREEZE



SHWP



CONGRATULATIONS, YOU WENT FROM A PIECE OF SHIT TO A MAGGOT.



BRUNO THE FIXER, EH?

BA-DMP

.....



WE'RE LEAVING.



BRUNO.





YES. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?

OH, IT'S ABOUT THAT BOY. PINOCCHIO, WAS IT?



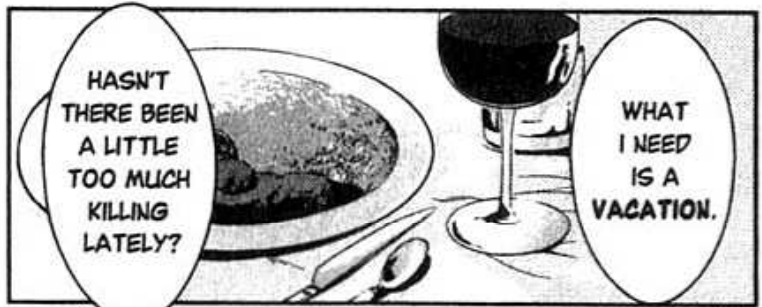
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE, BUT I NEED YOU TO GO TO MONTALCINO TOMORROW.

SHP



THAT'S HOW THE GOVERNMENT DOES THINGS, BRUNO. NOT US.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.



HASN'T THERE BEEN A LITTLE TOO MUCH KILLING LATELY?

WHAT I NEED IS A VACATION.



AND PROBLEMS HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED, IS THAT IT?

THERE HAVE BEEN... PROBLEMS.

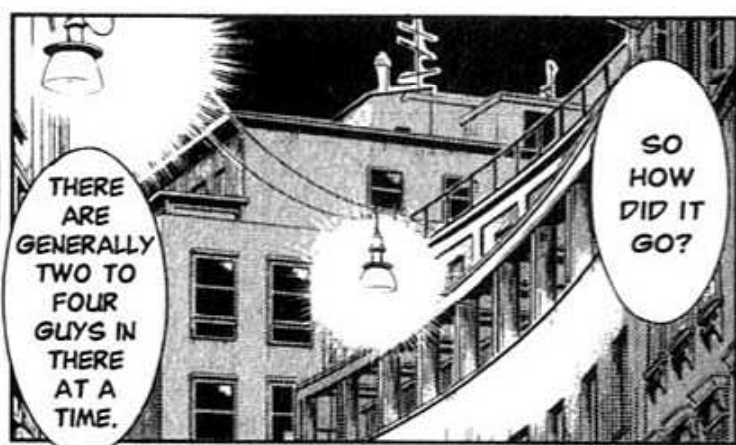
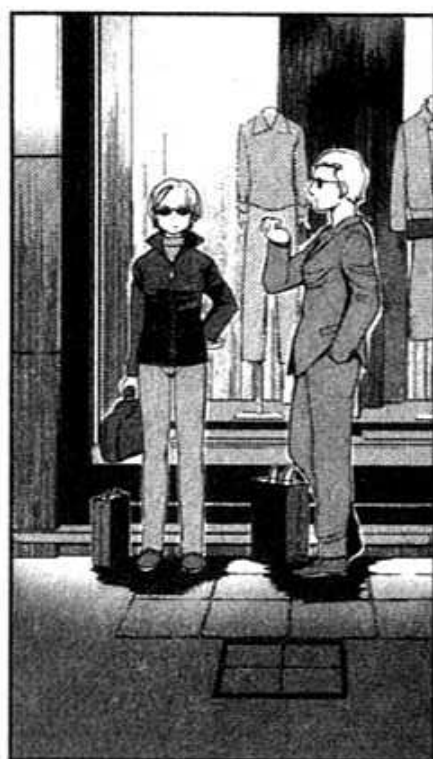


THEN WE SHOULD SUE.

THE WHOLE THING WAS AN ILLEGAL POLICE ACTION.

SOME OF OUR MEN FROM MILAN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.







OF COURSE.

I SAID THIS ISN'T A GAME.

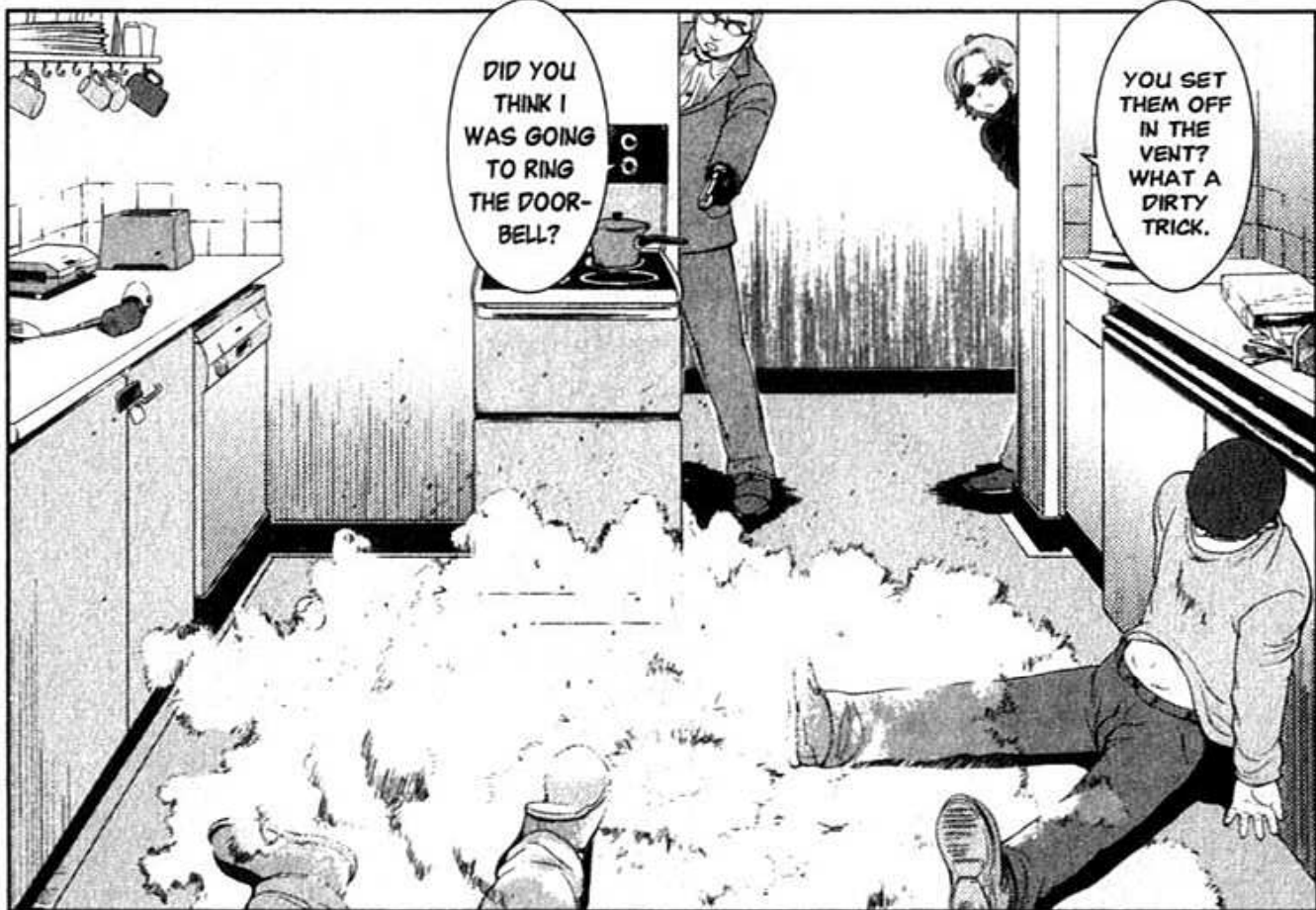


IT SOUNDS LIKE WE CAN TAKE THEM WITH THOSE STUN GRENADES.

TH- THERE ARE GRENADES IN THIS THING?



WHOA...

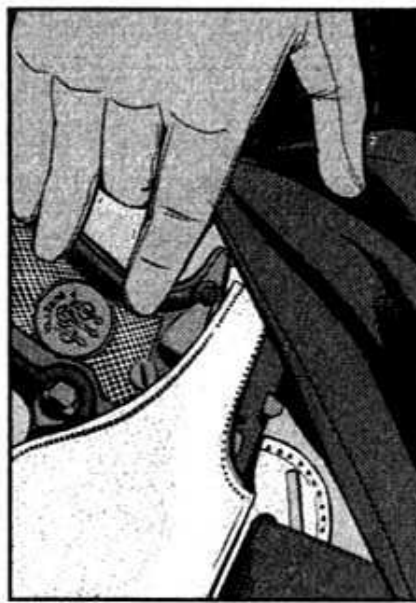


DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO RING THE DOOR-BELL?

YOU SET THEM OFF IN THE VENT? WHAT A DIRTY TRICK.









SHE HASN'T SHOWN ANY SIGNS OF ADDICTION.

SHE'S PROBABLY JUST NERVOUS ABOUT BEING BACK ON DUTY.



IS SHE HAVING WITHDRAWALS?

I DON'T KNOW. HER NEXT DOSE ISN'T 'TIL NEXT WEEK.



WHAT'S WRONG?

MEDICINE.

PLEASE, I NEED IT...



WELL...

SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

WE'RE PROBABLY THE ONES TO BLAME.



I DON'T KNOW.

IS THAT FIELD KIT GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO HELP HER?

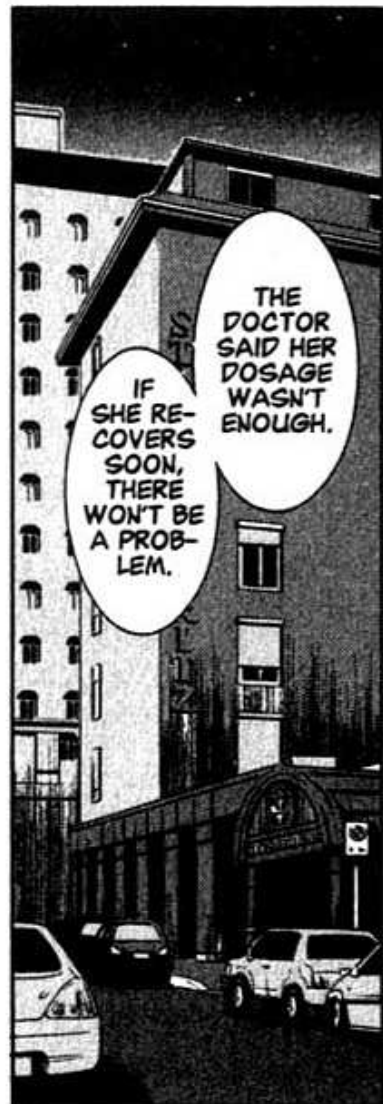


OLGA, TELL JEAN WHAT HAPPENED AND BOOK A HOTEL ROOM NEAR-BY.



HOW ARE YOU DOING? AS MUCH AS THAT HURT.

YOU DIDN'T DRAW YOUR GUN. I'M IMPRESSED.





SHE'S A LOT STRONGER THAN SHE LOOKS.

SHE STOOD THERE AND TOOK THE PAIN.



YOU ASK ME, I THINK SHE'S JUST DENSE.

HEH. "THE POWER OF LOVE," SHE CALLED IT.



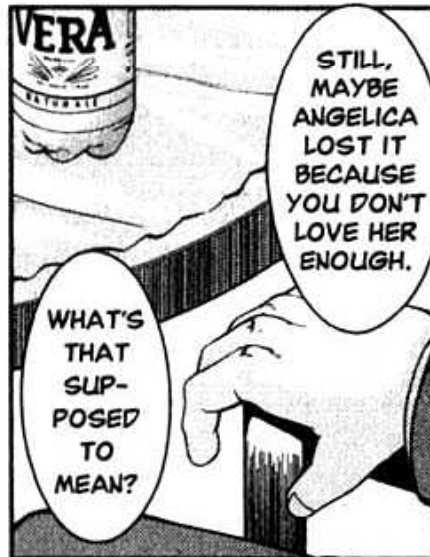
IT LOOKS LIKE PRISCILLA'S WRIST IS BROKEN.

I JUST CAME FROM THE HOSPITAL.



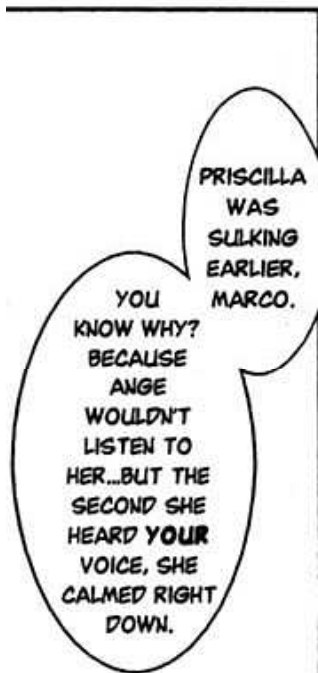
IT WAS HER FIRST JOB IN A WHILE, YOU KNOW.

I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR LEVEL OF CONCERN.



STILL, MAYBE ANGELICA LOST IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T LOVE HER ENOUGH.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE ANGE WOULDN'T LISTEN TO HER...BUT THE SECOND SHE HEARD YOUR VOICE, SHE CALMED RIGHT DOWN.

PRISCILLA WAS SULKING EARLIER, MARCO.



HMPH. EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WORK IN THE FIELD.

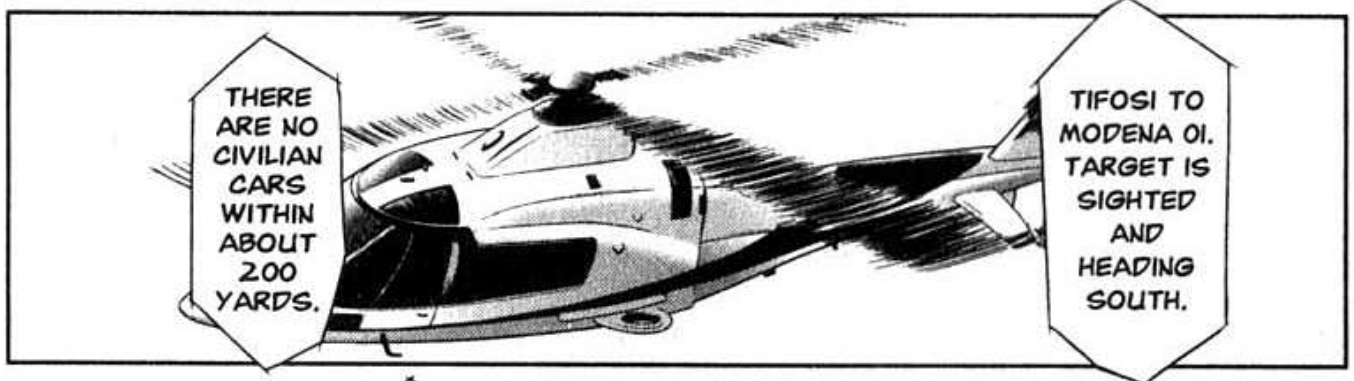
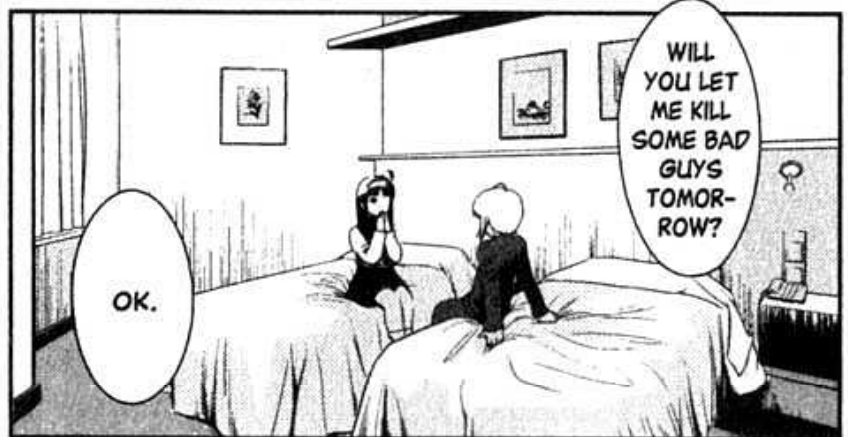


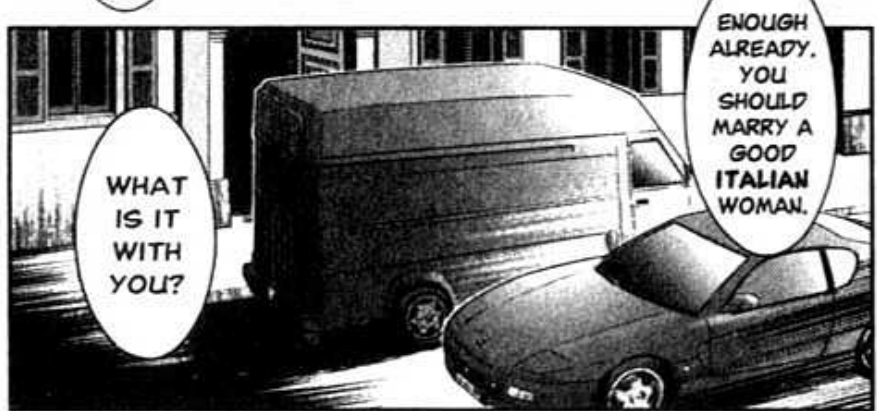
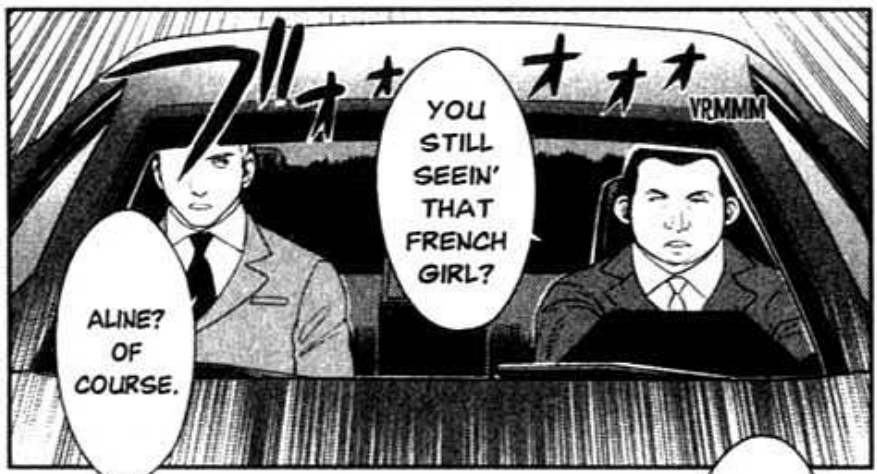
ACTUALLY, THAT'S A LOT LIKE WHAT IT WAS.

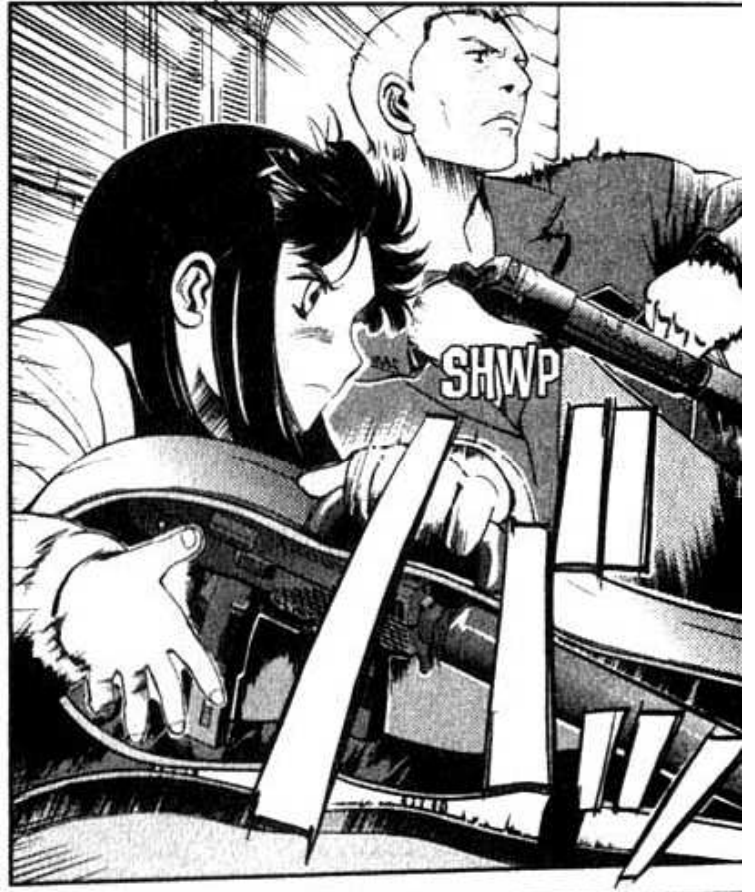
COMING HERE WASN'T SOME WEEKEND GETAWAY WITH A GIRLFRIEND, OLGA.

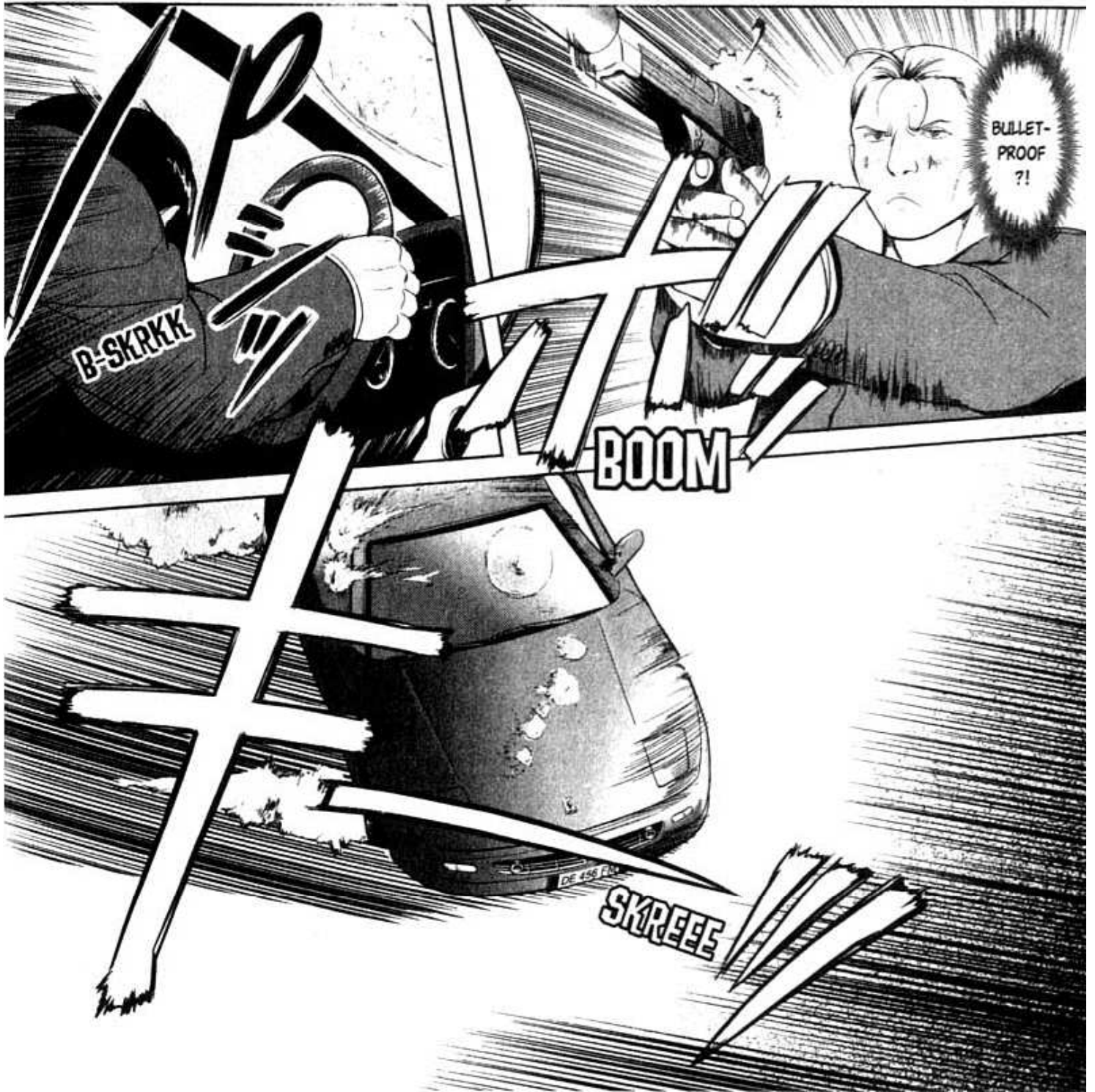
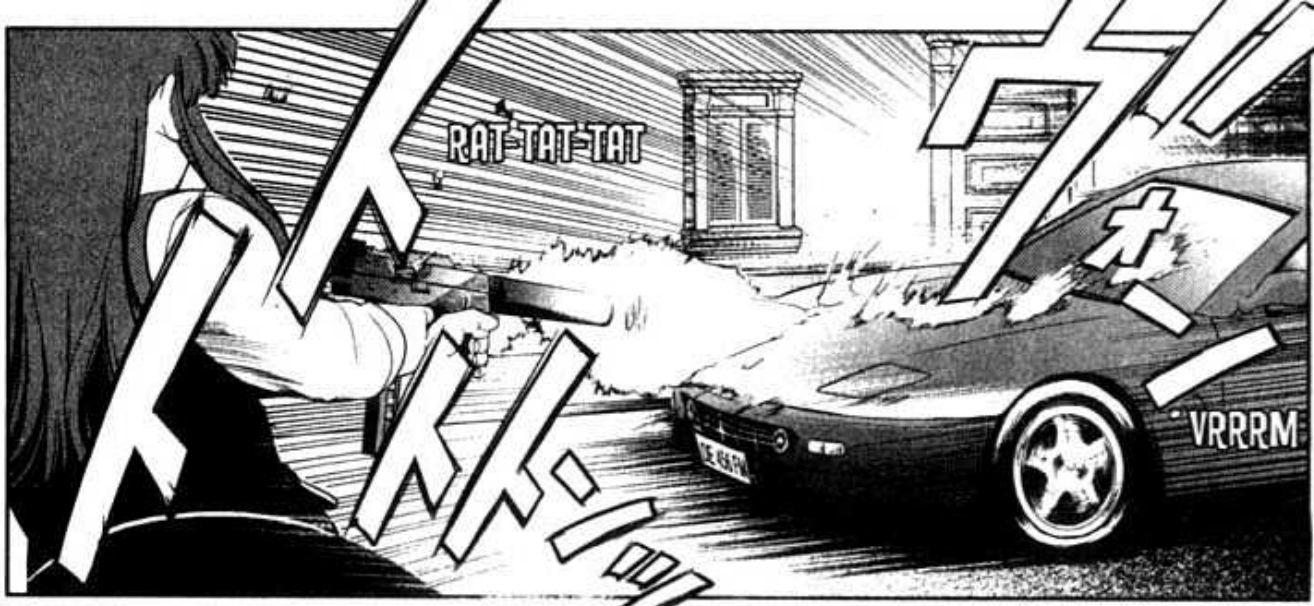


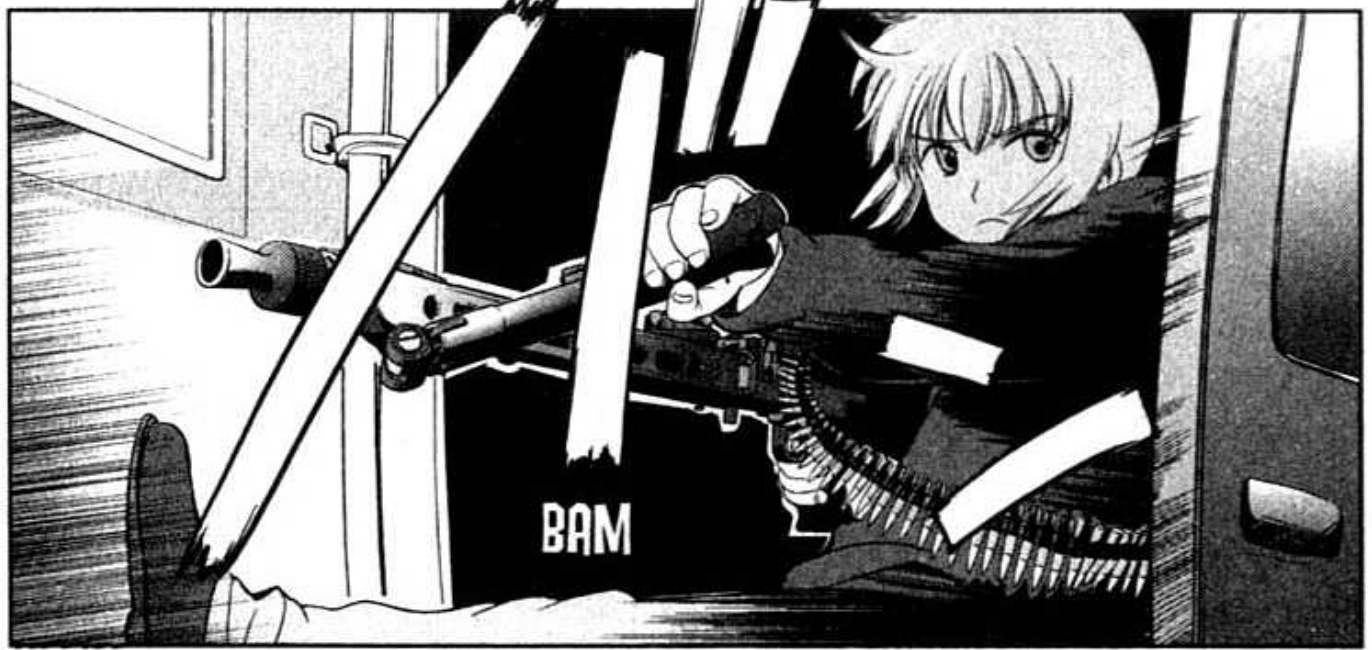
* M.P. = Military Police



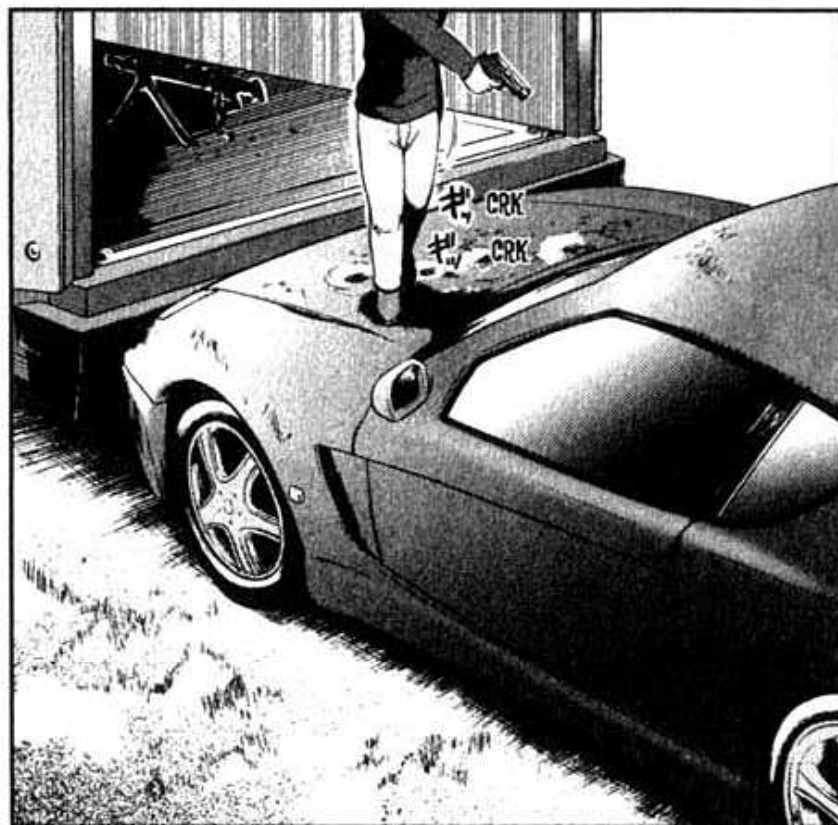


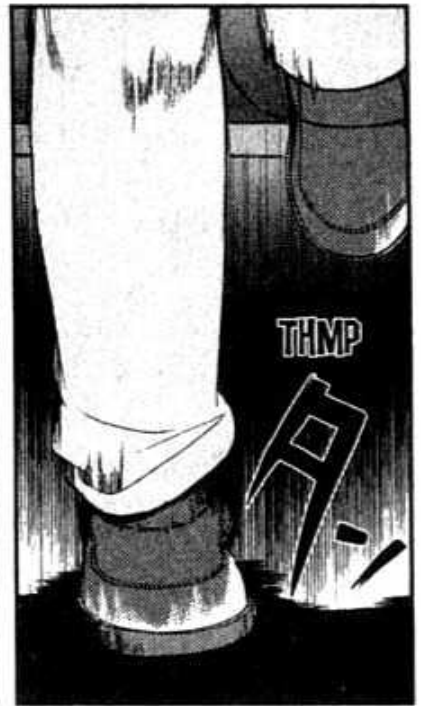




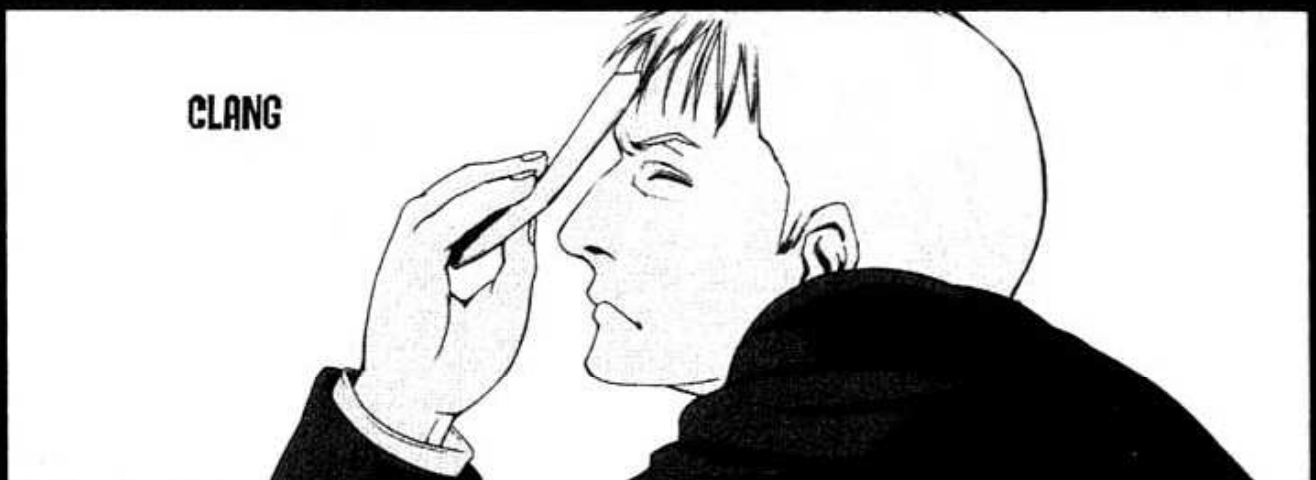
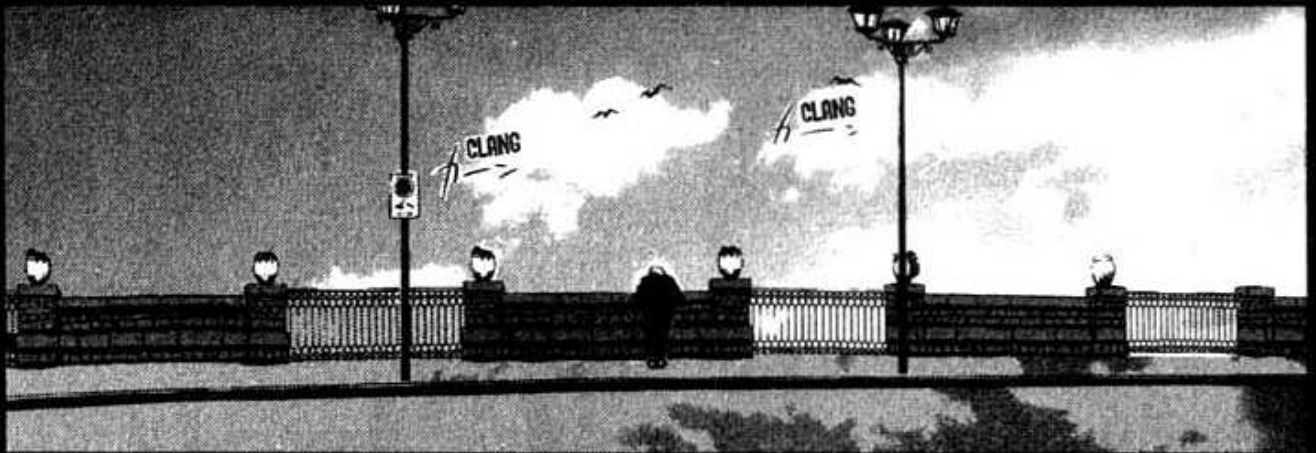
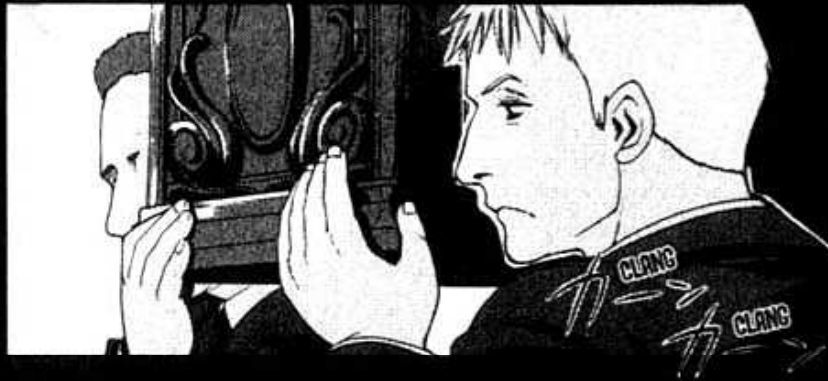


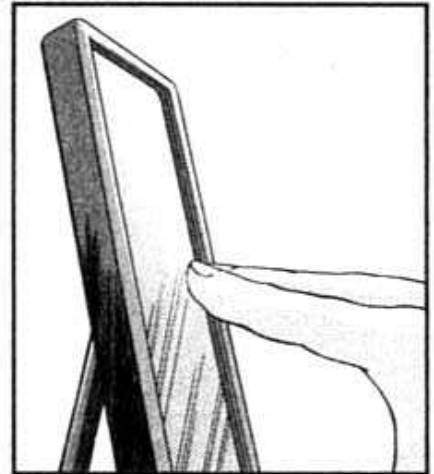
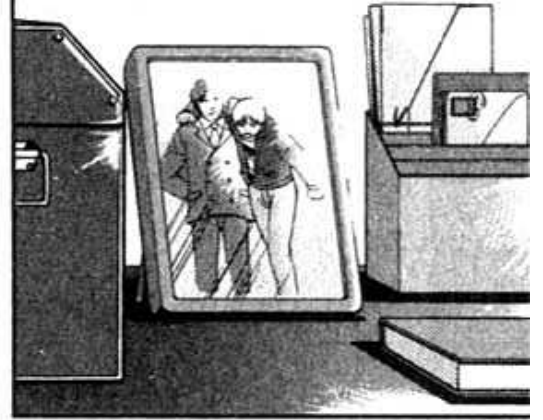
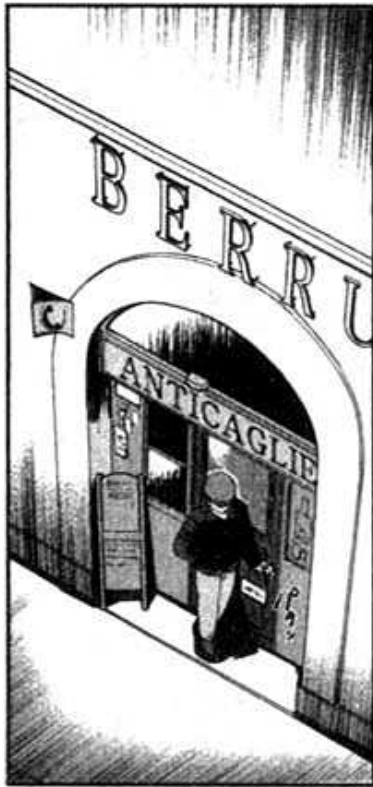






GUNSLINGER GIRL.







TELL COSIMO AND COLLA TO FOLLOW HER.

SHE'S NEVER BEEN BIG ON PROTECTION.



SHE CAME WITHOUT HER CONVOY AGAIN?

THE CHAIR-WOMAN IS HERE.



WE CAN'T MOVE UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

...

IF YOU ASK ME, WE'RE NOT DOING VERY MUCH...



SERGIO SAYS THEY'LL BE TRADING OUT THEIR SECURITY STAFF SOON.

YOUR MEN NEED TO STAY ALERT.



IT'LL BE AT LEAST A WEEK BEFORE WE CAN I.D. THEIR NEW SECURITY DETAIL. UNTIL THEN, WE WAIT.









HOW DID IT GO?



OK.

YOU MUST BE TIRED. GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.



HENRI-ETTA.



IF THE CYBORGS CAN BE USED TO PROTECT IMPORTANT PEOPLE, OPERATIONS WILL GET A LOT MORE CLOUT.

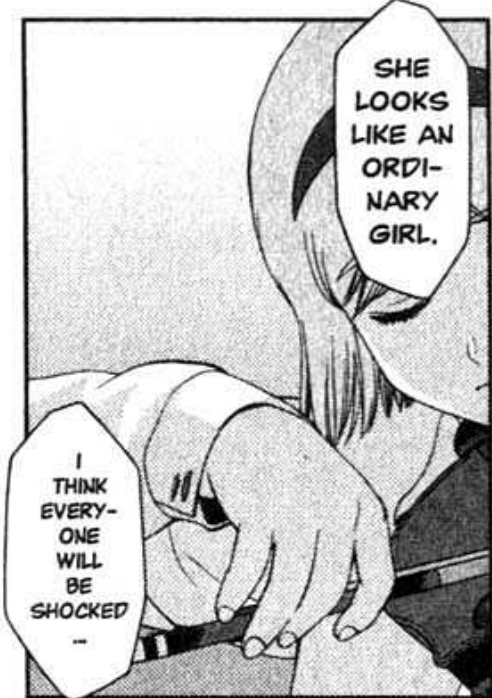
WELL, SHE AND D'ANGELO ARE OLD FRIENDS...



CHAIR-WOMAN D'ANGELO IS BEING GUARDED BY SECTION 2.

THE ORDER CAME FROM THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS.

REALLY? MONICA PUT THE ORDER THROUGH HERSELF?



SHE LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY GIRL.

I THINK EVERYONE WILL BE SHOCKED...



I'M SHOCKED. IS SHE REALLY A CYBORG?



WELL? WHAT DID YOU THINK?



I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.

LORENZO, EXPLAIN HOW CYBORGS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY.



THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR MORALIZING.

HM. I FEEL A LECTURE COMING ON.



I'M NOT CONVINCED.

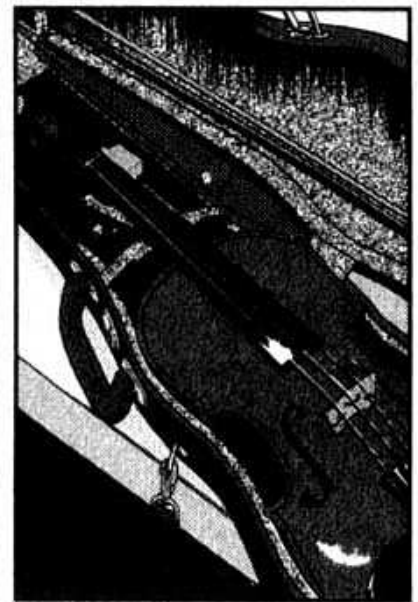
I'M SORRY, MONICA, BUT I'M JUST AN ORDINARY CITIZEN.

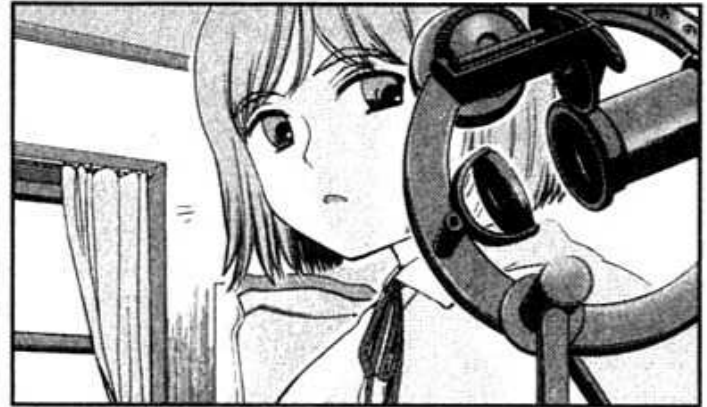


IT'S ALL THANKS TO ADVANCES MADE THROUGH CYBERNETIC RESEARCH.

MS. D'ANGELO, WHY DO YOU THINK OUR COUNTRY HAS RECENTLY RISEN TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE MEDICAL WORLD?









WOW!
IT'S
PRETTY!



LET ME
TRY.

WHEN
YOU TURN
THE KNOB,
THE
GEARS
MOVE
THIS TUBE
HERE.



NAH,
THIS IS
SPECIAL.



CRKK

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



I DON'T
KNOW.
IT'S
STUCK.

WHAT
IS IT?



?

KCHK



TK-TK-TK

no no no no



P-CHK



K-TNK



BE NICE TO YOUR FRIENDS.

A LITTLE.



IT'S MY FAULT. I SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE

IT WORKED FIRST.



YOU DIDN'T YELL AT RICO, DID YOU?

.....



HENRIETTA



SAY SOMETHING, WILL YOU?



IT'S BORING IF I DO ALL THE TALKING.

OK.

.....



WE'LL GET IT FIXED, THOUGH. I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT I'M KINDA BUSY.

I FOUND A GOOD PLACE TO TAKE IT TO.





I THINK IT WAS THE GIRL'S. SHE WAS LOOKING KINDA SAD.

SAD? ABOUT THE KALEIDOSCOPE? MAYBE SHE JUST DID BAD IN CLASS.



NOTHING WRONG WITH PUTTING A LITTLE PRIDE INTO IT.

HEY, THIS IS WHAT I DO.



TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL HAVE IT IN A WEEK.

WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?



A GUY IN A SUIT AND SOME GIRL BRING IN A KALEIDOSCOPE.

SO ANYWAY, ONE AFTERNOON...



IT'S JUST A HUNCH, BUT...

I DON'T THINK SO. SHE SMELLED LIKE ROSIN.



AND THAT'S THE KIND OF JOB THAT'S WORTH DOING.

I SENSE THERE'S SOME KIND OF DRAMA GOIN' ON HERE.



TIRE PRESSURE'S GOOD, AND THE DRIVER'S SIDE AIR BAG IS OFF.

SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

ALFONSO. HOW IS THE CHAIRWOMAN'S CAR?



THE NEXT DAY. ROME. THE CHAIRWOMAN'S RESIDENCE.



MS. D'ANGELO HATES TO BE "GUARDED."

SHE'S ALWAYS USED AS FEW PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

MR. KASCHMANN, WHY DON'T YOU TRAVEL IN A CONVOY?



BUT I THINK IT'S OK TO USE.

THERE'S NO FIRE EXTINGUISHER.



DON'T WORRY. WE WILL PROTECT MS. D'ANGELO.

YOU AND THE REST OF THE STAFF CAN TAKE A BREAK.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

FINE. WE'LL SET UP OUR OWN GUARD DETAIL.



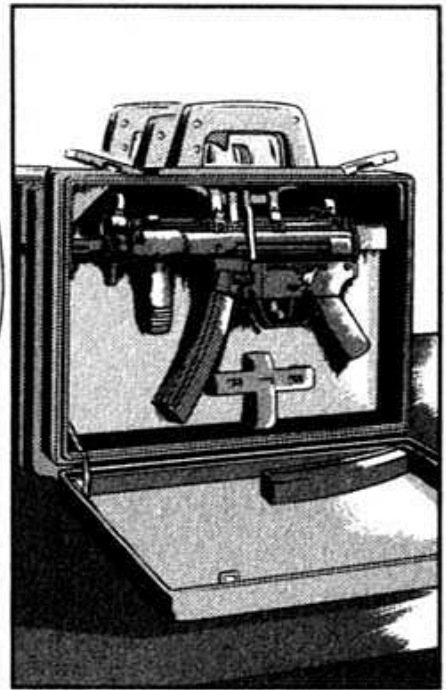
RATHER ODD FOR SOMEONE WHO LOST A HUSBAND TO TERRORISTS...



TONIGHT WE START GATHERING INTEL.

IVE FINISHED SETTING UP THE ALARM SYSTEM.

GOOD.



I UNDERSTAND.

I'LL LEAVE THINGS UP TO YOU.



MS. D'ANGELO, A POWERFUL FACTION OF PADANIA IS TRYING TO KIDNAP YOU.

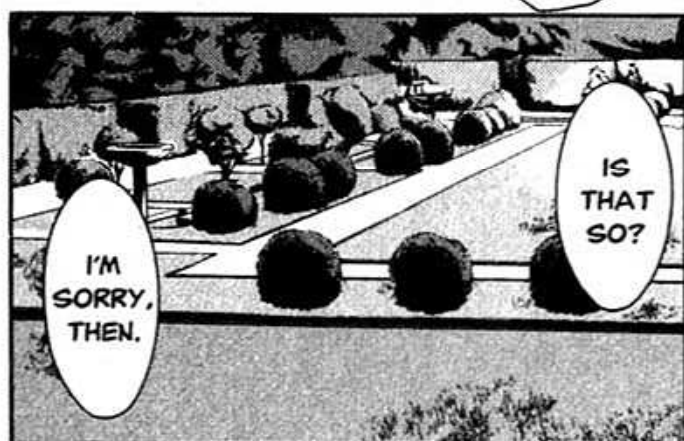


IT FEELS LIKE A WAR HAS STARTED.



DEALING WITH FILTH IS OUR JOB.

YOU MAY NOT LIKE OUR METHODS, BUT I'LL ASK THAT YOU TURN A BLIND EYE TO THEM.





AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

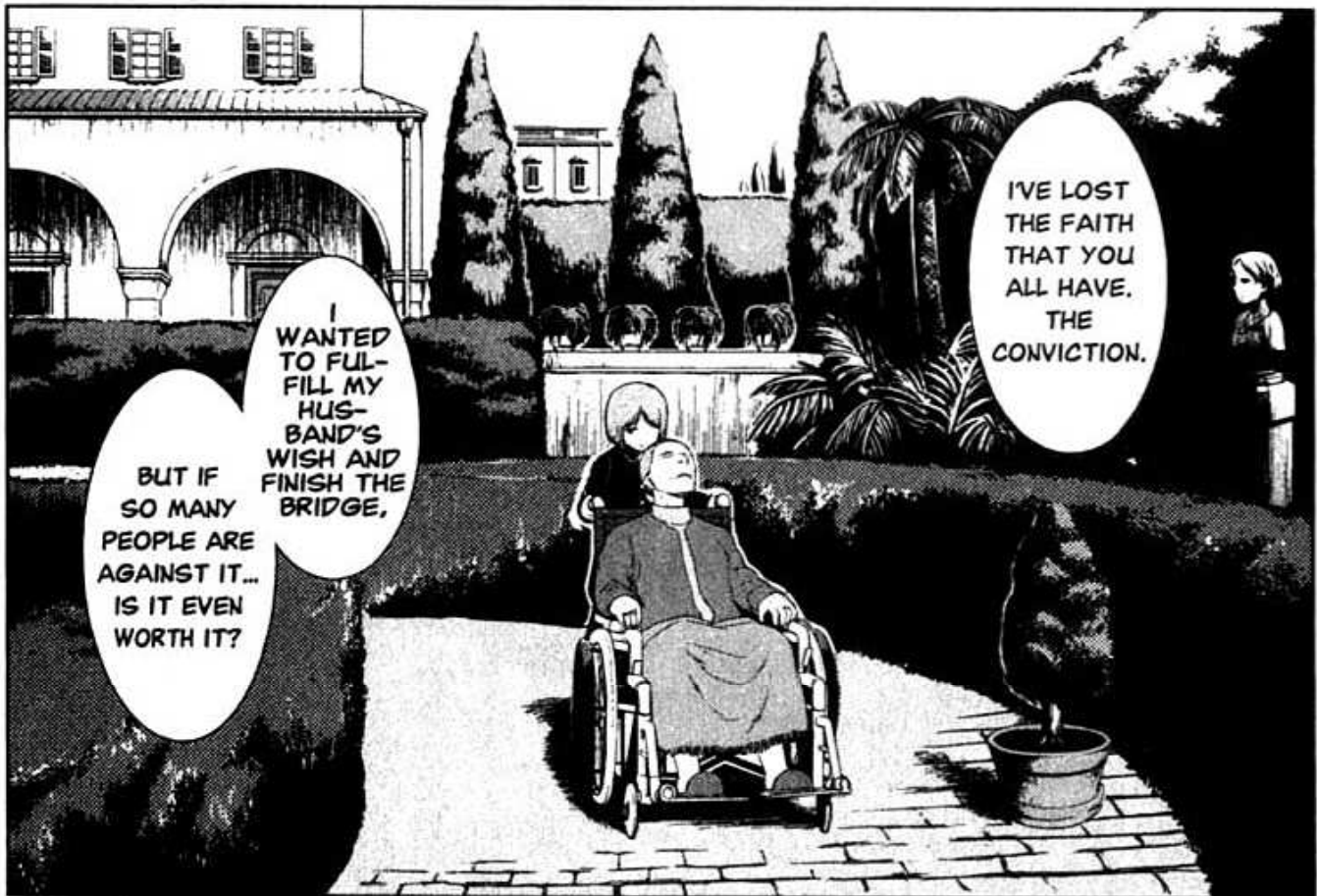
I DID HATE THEM, LONG AGO...

IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU DON'T HATE THE TERRORISTS.



BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF REASONS TO KILL THEM.

ME? I DON'T HATE THEM...



BUT IF SO MANY PEOPLE ARE AGAINST IT... IS IT EVEN WORTH IT?

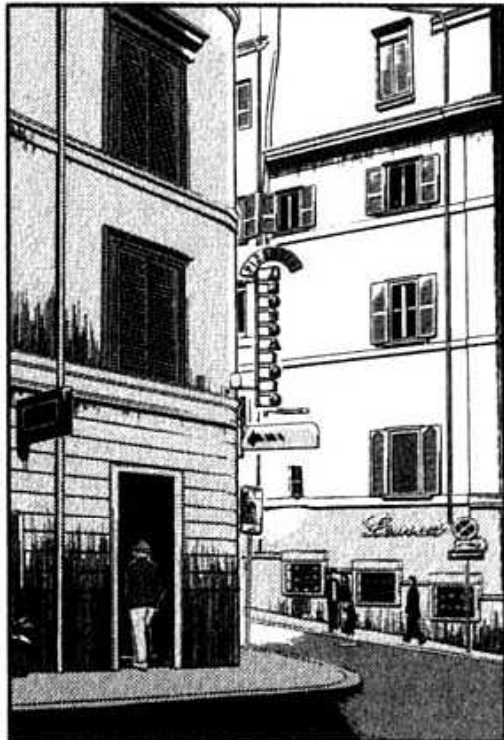
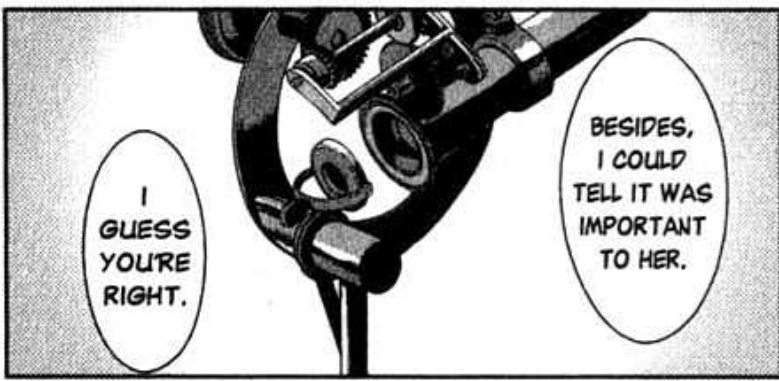
I WANTED TO FULFILL MY HUSBAND'S WISH AND FINISH THE BRIDGE,

I'VE LOST THE FAITH THAT YOU ALL HAVE. THE CONVICTION.



THE GEAR DIDN'T FIT RIGHT, SO I MADE A NEW ONE.







SO THERE WAS A LEAK IN MILAN...

IT LOOKS LIKE SISDE'S ANTI-TERRORIST DIVISION.

WE NOW KNOW WHO THE NEW GUYS ARE.



ONE OF THE CHAIR-WOMAN'S RELATIVES IS STAYING WITH HER.

WE COULD CHANGE OUR TARGET...



WE'LL HAVE TO RETHINK OUR ENTIRE PLAN.

WITH SISDE GUARDING HER, WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.



WE LAID LOW, LIKE YOU SAID.

WELL, NOW WHAT DO WE DO?



DRAG THIS ON LONG ENOUGH AND WE WILL WIN.

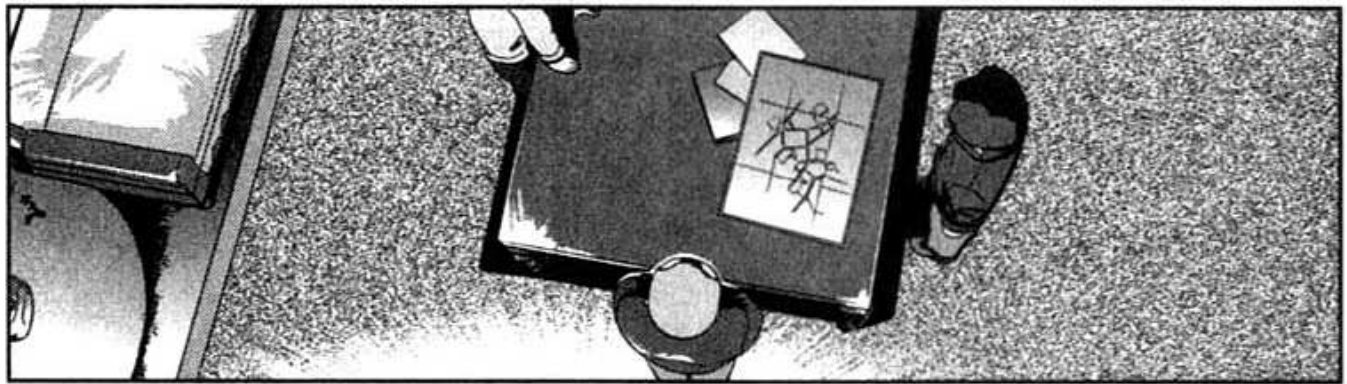
THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL STRIKE, SO THEY'LL HAVE TO GUARD HER AROUND THE CLOCK.

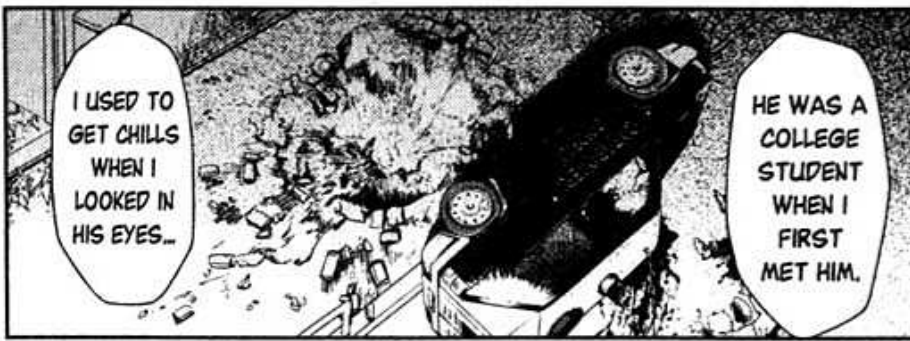


THE THING ABOUT KIDNAPPING IS THAT WE HAVE THE INITIATIVE.

WON'T THEY JUST INCREASE SECURITY?

SERGIO SAID THEY PROBABLY KNOW OF OUR PLAN.





I USED TO GET CHILLS WHEN I LOOKED IN HIS EYES...

HE WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.



DID YOU KNOW HE USED TO BE A RADICAL ACTIVIST?



TIBETAN TERRIER?

IT'S A HERDING DOG. QUICK, BUT DOCILE.



THEN ONE DAY HE CHANGED. HE BECAME A KIDNAPER.

PEOPLE EVEN STARTED CALLING HIM "THE TIBETAN TERRIER."



WE CAN ALWAYS JUST DO THIS OURSELVES, RIGHT?

IF NINO DOESN'T WORK OUT...



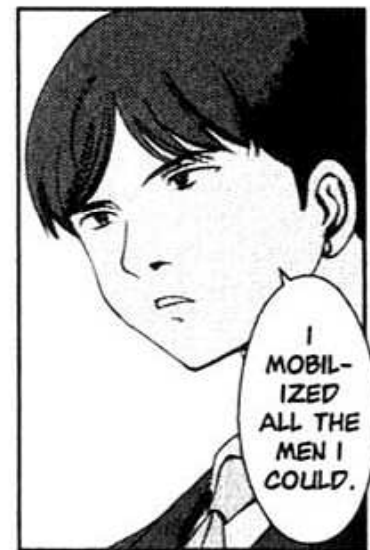
WHERE DID ALL THAT HATE HE USED TO HAVE GO TO?

HE CAN STILL KILL, BUT THEN HE'LL TURN AROUND AND GIVE AWAY CIGARETTES OR ALCOHOL.



I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED MILAN.

THEY WANT THIS SETTLED QUICKLY, TOO...





ANY NEWS ON THE KIDNAPERS?

I WAS JUST WORRIED ABOUT MS. D'ANGELO.



MR. CROCE.

YOU DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF?



MR. KASCHMANN.



WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FOUND OUT...

MR. KASCHMANN? OR SHOULD I SAY, SERGIO AIMARO?



AH. CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT THAT GIRL, HENRIETTA?

NO, NOTHING YET.



BUT I NEVER KNEW MS. D'ANGELO HAD A RELATIVE LIKE HER.

I'VE BEEN IN CHARGE OF SECURITY HERE FOR FIVE YEARS...



WHO IS SHE REALLY?



GRAB

YOU'RE A PADANIA AGENT.

YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR NAME AND YOUR FACE, TWICE. YOU ALSO HAVE A SECRET ACCOUNT.



WE TAPPED PHONES AND LOOKED AT BANK ACCOUNTS AND PUBLIC RECORDS.



WE DID BACKGROUND CHECKS ON EVERYONE HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



BWAM



I SHOULD STOP SKIPPING PRACTICE.

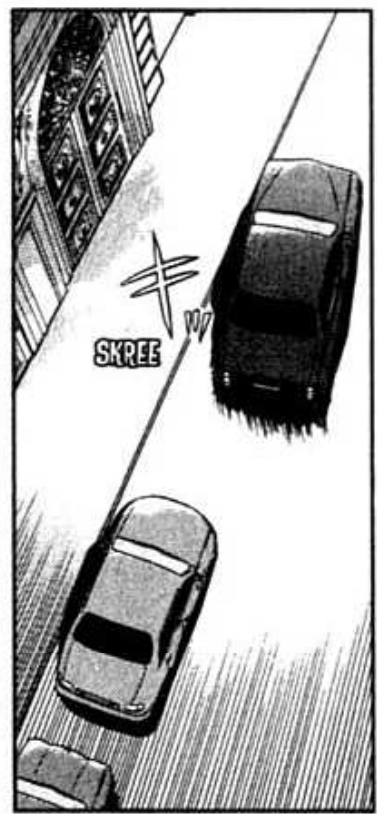
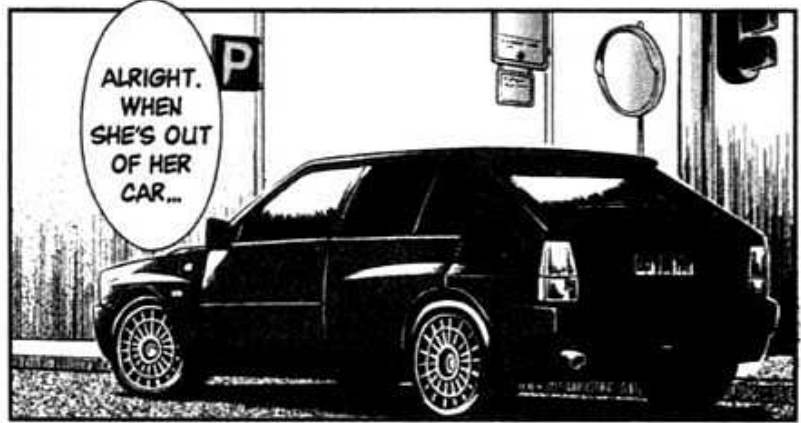


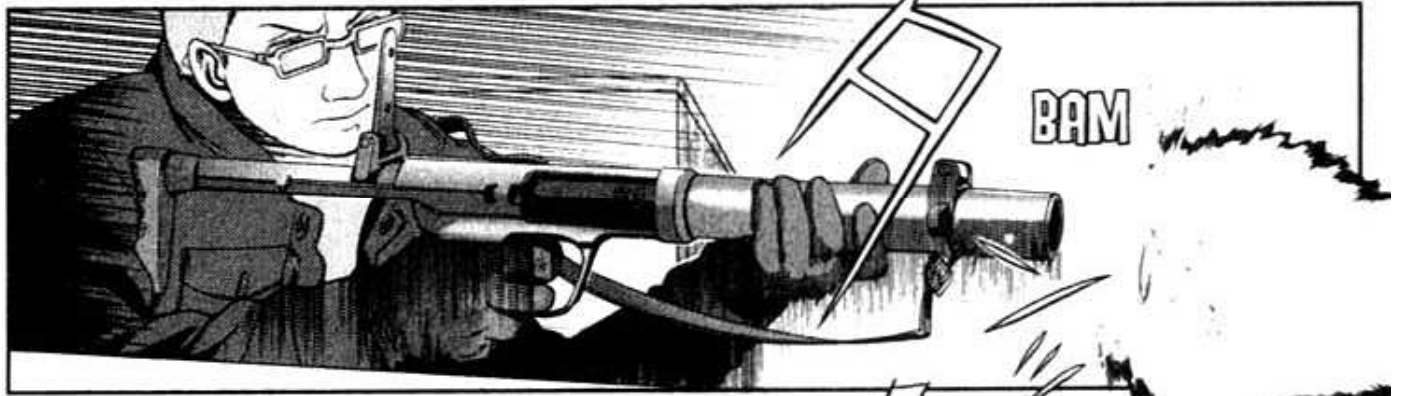
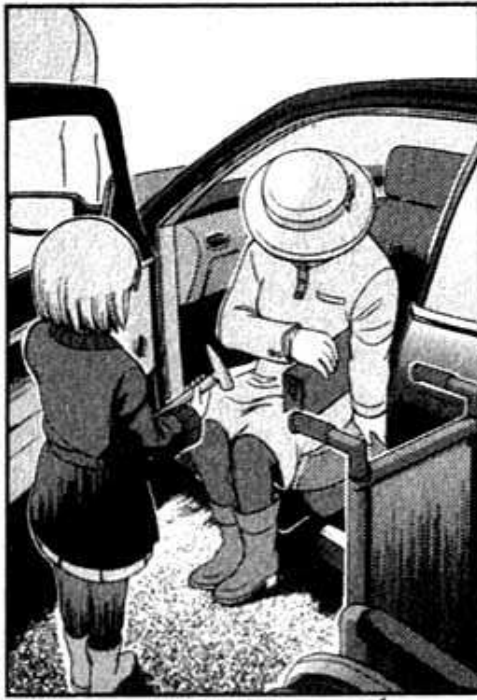
LIGH...

STILL CONSCIOUS, EH?



THUD











AND IF IT IS, I'LL BE SENT PACKING.



IT'S TAKING LONGER THAN I'D LIKE.

HOW IS THE PLAN GOING?



THIS WHOLE OPERATION MIGHT BE HALTED.

SOME OF THE HIGHER-UPS THINK IT'S STILL TOO SOON.



I'M SURE YOU'D GET PLENTY OF WORK.

YOU COULD ALWAYS MAKE BOMBS LIKE YOU USED TO.



A TIBETAN TERRIER WHO CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALL ME, RIGHT?





.....

I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS.



WHO-EVER'S LEFT, HIDE AS WE DISCUSSED.



WE WERE WIPED OUT!

EVEN LEONE'S DEAD!



BE SURE TO KEEP IT OILED.

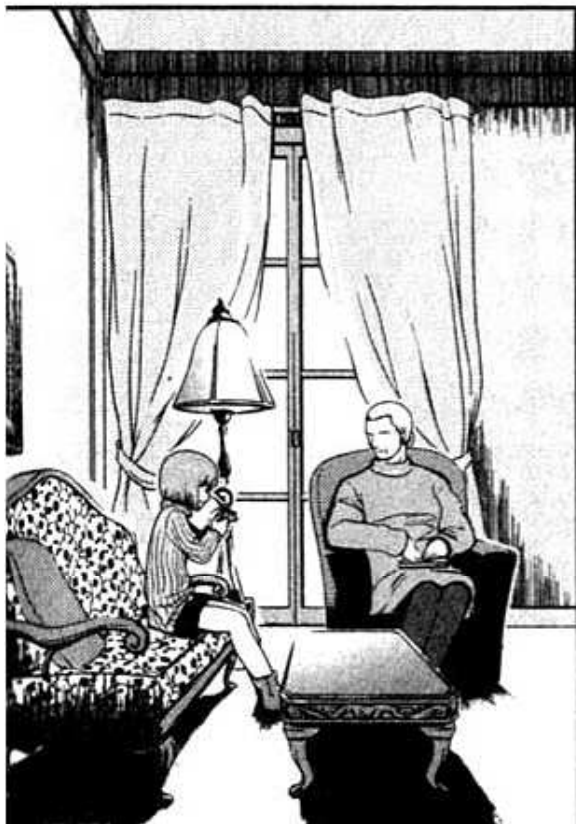
OK.



IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE!



SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?



GUNSLINGER GIRL Vol.3 END



GUNSLINGER GIRL vol.3

■ *STAFF*

Assistant: Takahiro Endo
Special Thanks: Misako Shido,
everyone who encouraged me
and gave me reference materials

Gunslinger Girl Volume Three

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Gunslinger Girl Vol. 03

pg. 2

Steiff Bear

The very first of these classy (and expensive) stuffed bears was designed by Richard Steiff at his aunt Margaret's company in 1902. The following year, some 12,000 of them were sold at the World's Exhibition in St. Louis, and president Theodore Roosevelt was so taken with them that they would later be given the moniker "Teddy bear."

pg. 15

Louise Antoinette Laure

Also referred to as Louise-Antoinette-Laure De Berny. The "French author" mentioned here is Honoré de Balzac (see below), and Laure was his first mistress, whom he described as "more than a friend, more than a sister, almost a mother."

pg. 18

Balzac

Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) was a modestly successful author credited with being one of the originators of realism in literature. The wildly prolific Balzac is best known for his *La Comédie Humaine* ("The Human Comedy"), a mammoth undertaking of nearly 100 novels and short stories and some 2,000 characters set amidst a backdrop of bourgeois France.

pg. 52

Padania

The name Padania (or Padana as it is spelled in Italian) refers to the valley in northern Italy formed by the river Po. Within the context of *Gunslinger Girl*, Padania is used synonymously with the Five Republics, a radical movement pushing for northern independence.

pg. 67

SCORPION

Constructed of aerospace-quality aluminum, this brand of silencer was designed for those times when "low profile, light weight, and world class sound suppression mean the difference between life and death."

pg. 102

(1) SIG

An abbreviation for *Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft*. This Swiss company is one of the oldest and most widely-known manufacturers of small arms. "SIG" can be used to refer to any one of the many models the company makes.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Continued...

pg. 102

(2) Glock

Another small arms manufacturer, this one being founded in 1963 in Austria. It began producing its own firearms in the 1980s, when the Austrian army contracted the company to make a service pistol.

pg. 112

NOCS

NOCS (*Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza*) is the national police unit roughly equivalent to the SWAT of the United States, being deployed in arrest, rescue and counterterrorist operations.

pg. 112

Carabinieri

Short for *il Carabinieri Nazionale*, this is an old and highly-respected Italian military police force. Coincidentally, the first time the *Carabinieri* appeared in a piece of fiction was in *Pinocchio*.

pg. 116

(1) *la Scala*

This is the *Teatro alla Scala*, one of the world's oldest and most famous opera houses. Located in Milan, it was built from 1776-1778, and refurbished after the war in 1945-1946. By the time of this printing, it will have completed yet another refurbishment.

(2) Red Brigade

The *Brigate Rosse* is a terrorist movement founded on Communist principles. Largely inactive since 1989, the group at one time led a campaign of kidnappings and assassinations.

(3) CQB

Short for "Close Quarters Battle." This can include hand-to-hand fighting, as well as the use of knives, sticks, bayonets and so on.

pg. 101

Lily of the Valley

Written by Balzac in 1836, this is one of the stories comprising *The Human Comedy* (see above). As mentioned previously, the heroine's name is Henriette (or more properly, Madame Blanche-Henriette de Mortsau).

pg. 103

SISDE

This stands for *Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Democratica*. It is an Italian security agency which reports directly to the Minister of the Interior.

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GUNSLINGER GIRL

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When the Social Welfare Agency investigates the disappearance of an operative, their inquiry leads them right into the lair of their rival, the Five Republics. The assassin Triela infiltrates the hostile organization, but her search is cut short when she finds herself staring down the barrel of a gun... Meanwhile, a more personal battle rages inside of Henrietta, as the final fragments of her humanity shatter the surface of her mostly mechanical body.

**“Raw action, intriguing story and
cute, kick-ass girls!” —*Newtype USA***



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