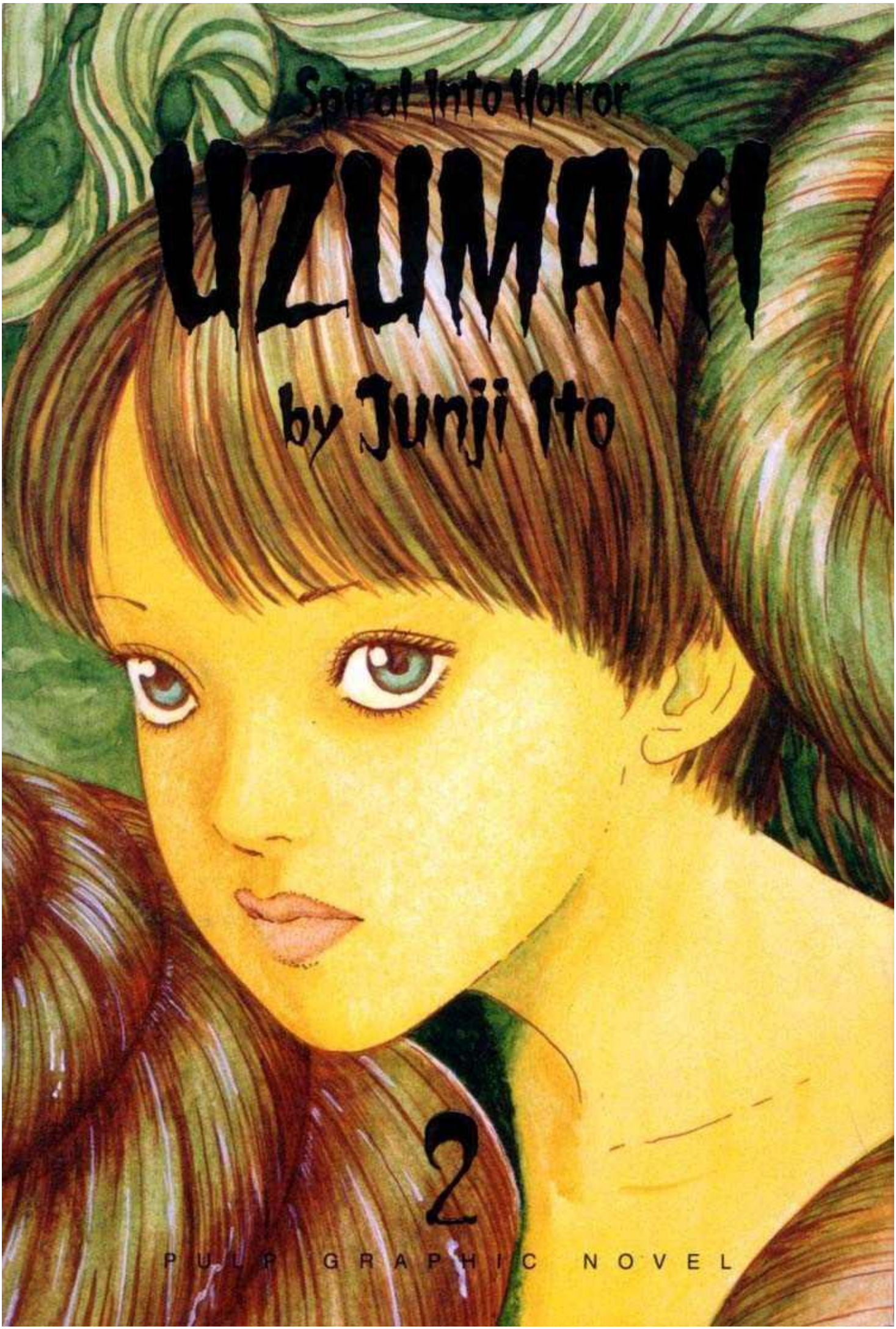
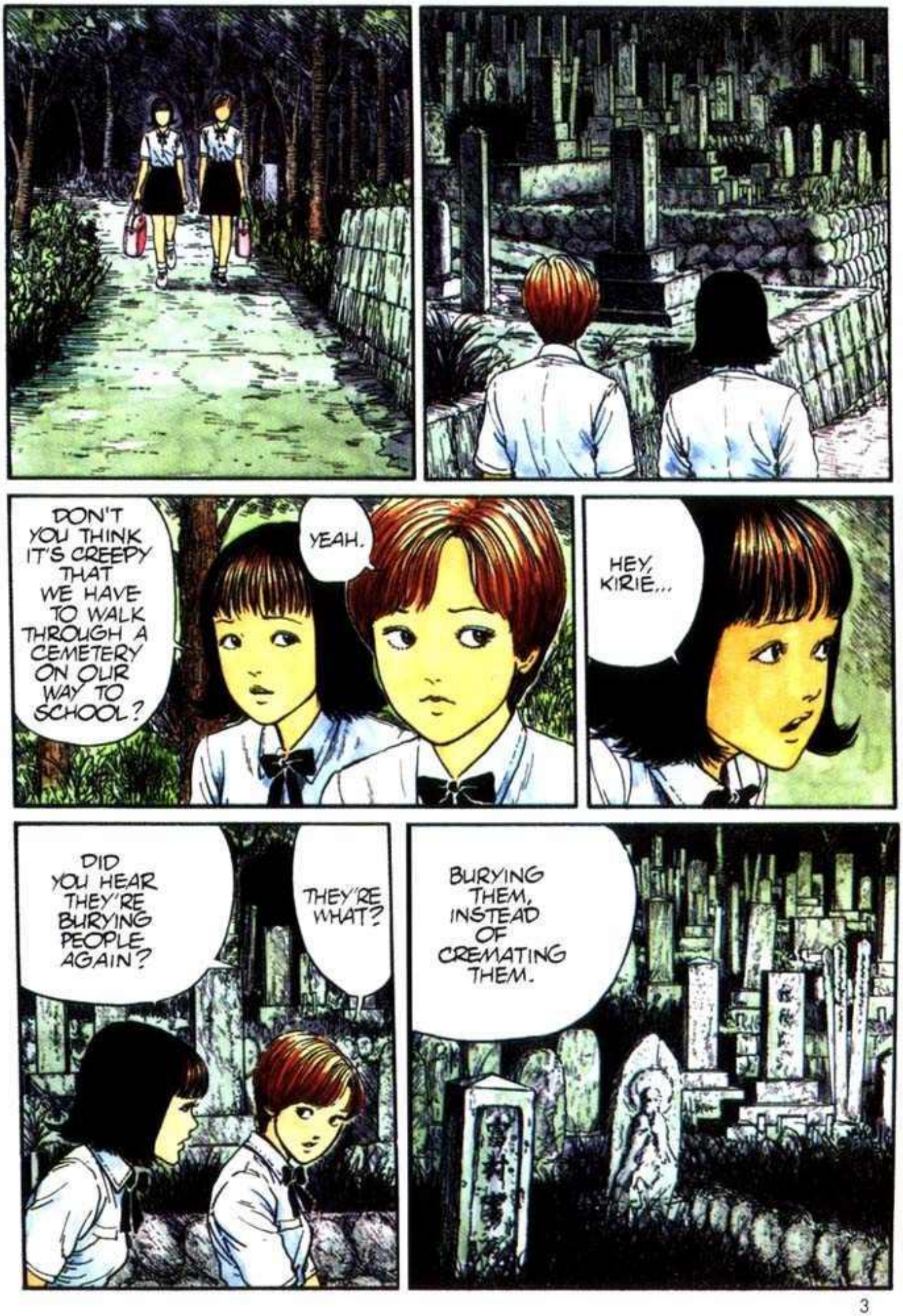
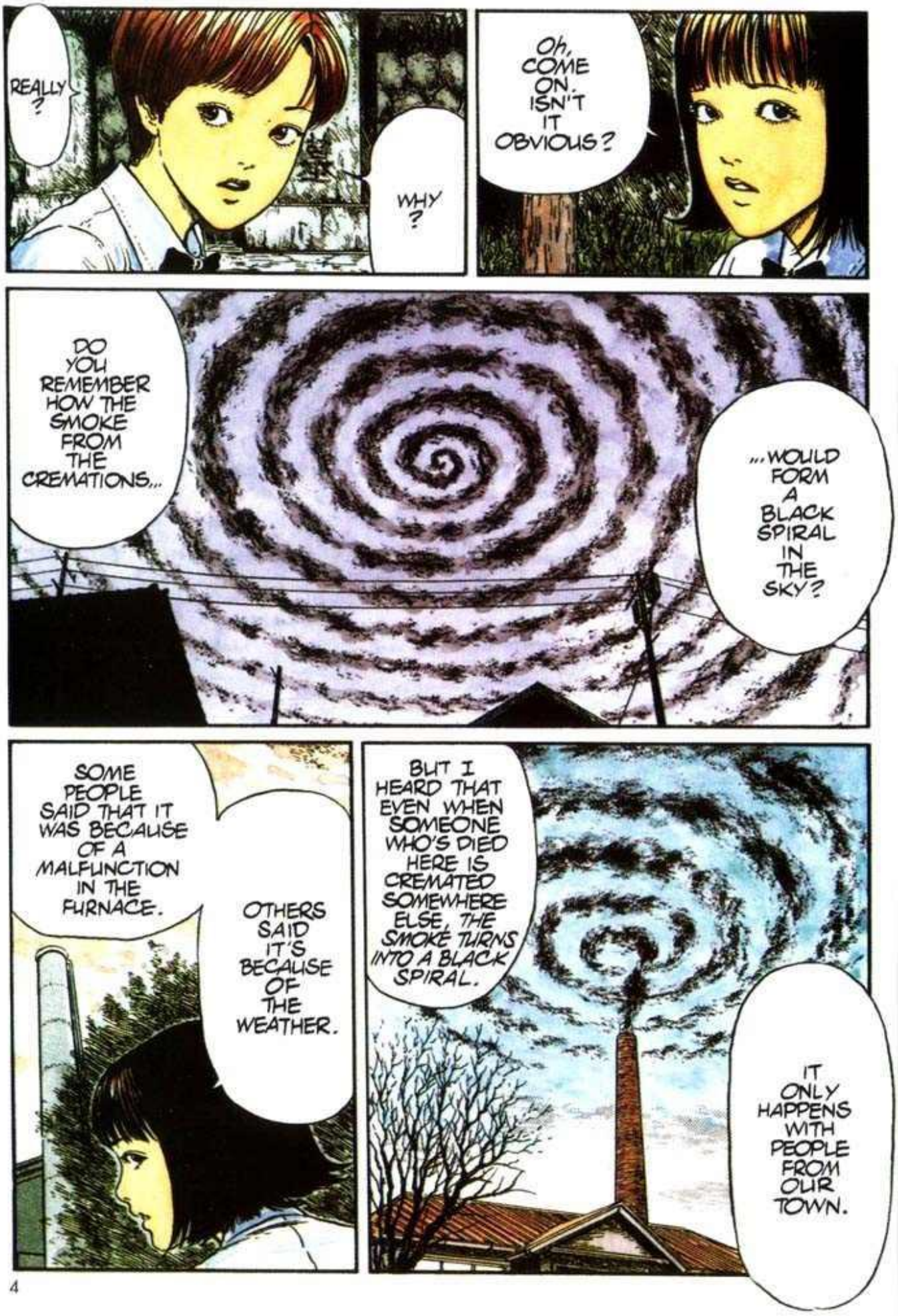
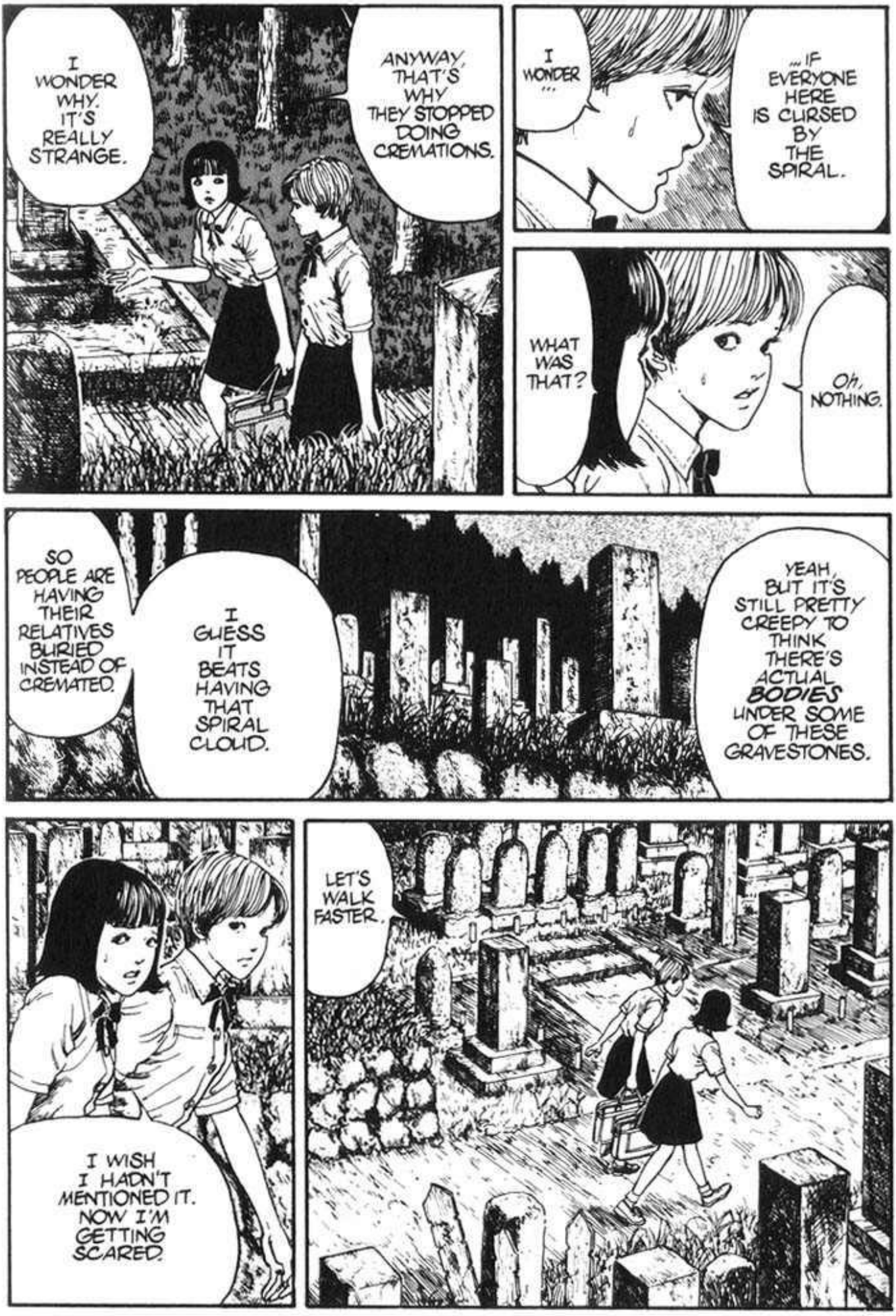

Spiral Into Horror
UZUMAKI
by Junji Ito
2
PULP GRAPHIC NOVEL


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.
BOO!
EVERYONE CALLED HIM "JACK-IN-THE-BOX."
BOO!
ONE DAY I REALIZED HE LIKED ME.
KIRIE! LET'S GO OUT SOME-TIME!
IT GOT ON MY NERVES PRETTY FAST.
I THINK I LOST HIM.
WHAT A PAIN.
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.


I WONDER WHY. IT'S REALLY STRANGE.
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY THEY STOPPED DOING CREMATIONS.
I WONDER ...
... IF EVERYONE HERE IS CURSED BY THE SPIRAL.
WHAT WAS THAT?
Oh, NOTHING.
SO PEOPLE ARE HAVING THEIR RELATIVES BURIED INSTEAD OF CREMATED.
I GUESS IT BEATS HAVING THAT SPIRAL CLOUD.
YEAH, BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY CREEPY TO THINK THERE'S ACTUAL BODIES UNDER SOME OF THESE GRAVESTONES.
I WISH I HADN'T MENTIONED IT. NOW I'M GETTING SCARED.
LET'S WALK FASTER.

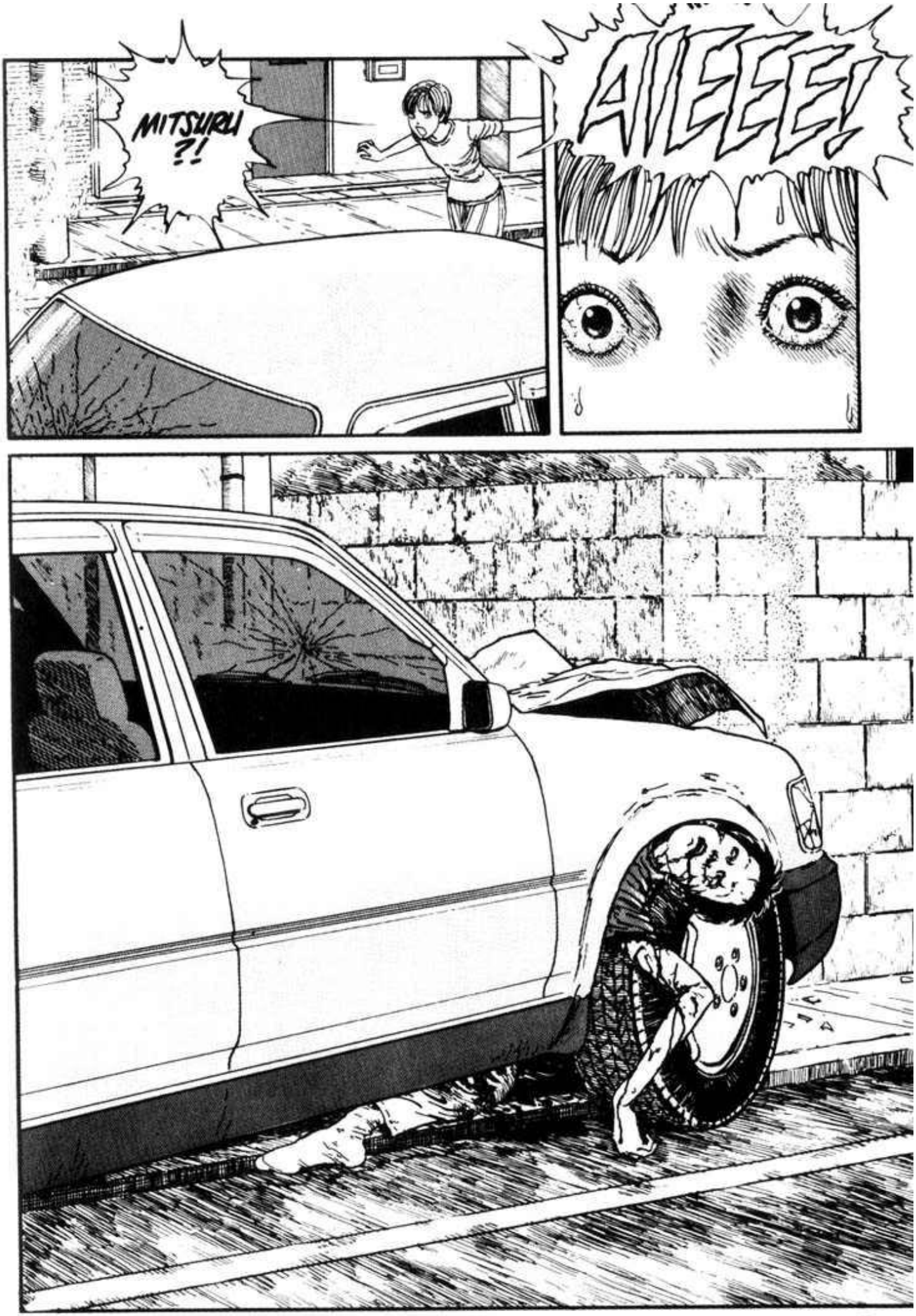

BO!
FIYA!
DID I SURPRISE YOU?
MITSURU! HOW COULD YOU?
HOW ABOUT YOU, KIRIE?
WILL YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU MAD. I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST MY HABIT... TO SURPRISE PEOPLE.


MITSURU, HOW IMMATURE ARE YOU? YOU WON'T WIN ANY POINTS BY SCARING THE WITS OUT OF HER.
BESIDES, SHE ALREADY HAS A BOY-FRIEND.
I KNOW. SHUICHI SAITO, RIGHT?
FORGET ABOUT HIM. HE'S A DRAG.
I WANT TO HAVE A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU AS MY GIRLFRIEND AND IMPRESS EVERYONE!
SURPRISE THEM, YOU KNOW?!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND YOUR HABIT OF SURPRISING PEOPLE!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
LET'S GO, SHIHO.
I WON'T GIVE UP, KIRIE.
YOU'LL TURN TO ME EVENTUALLY!


THE JACK-IN-THE-BOX KEPT FOLLOWING ME.
BO!
I LOVE YOU, KIRIE!
COME OUT, KIRIE!
I LOVE YOU!
I WISH MY HANDS COULD REACH INTO YOUR ROOM!
DELIVERY FOR KIRIE GOSHIMA.
IT'S FOR YOU, KIRIE.
WHO'S IT FROM?
LET'S SEE...
...MITSURU YAMAGUCHI.

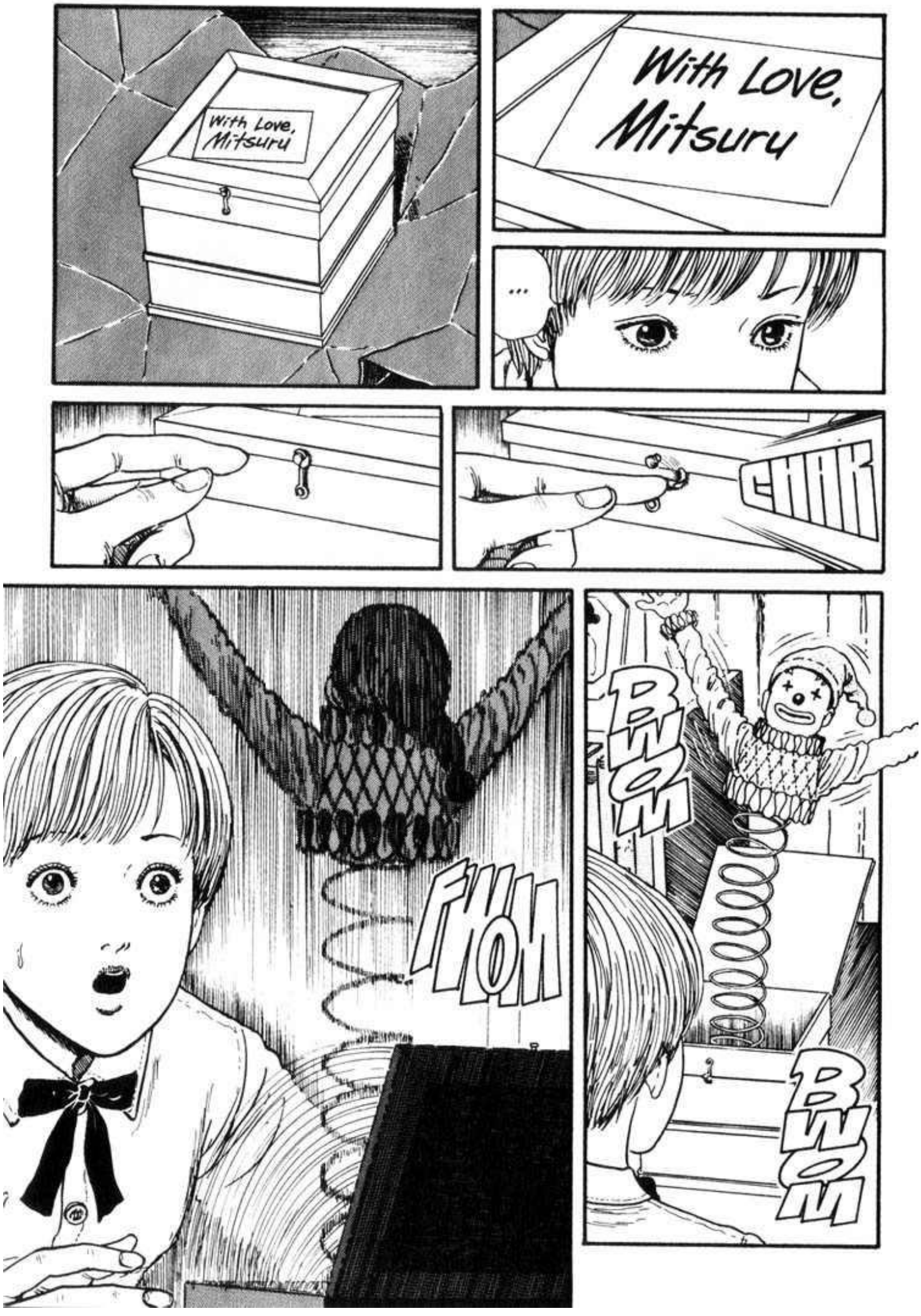

MITSURU, I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
PLEASE DON'T SEND ME ANYTHING ELSE.
BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN OPEN IT.
AT LEAST YOU COULD DO THAT MUCH.
TO BE HONEST, I'M GETTING REALLY IRRITATED.
THE MORE YOU FOLLOW ME, THE LESS I LIKE YOU.
...
I GUESS I DIDN'T TAKE THE RIGHT APPROACH.
I REALLY DO CARE ABOUT YOU... HOW CAN I SHOW YOU?
VROO


THAT'S IT!
I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS ON TV!
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
VRROOOM
THP
MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL STOP THIS CAR!
VRROOM
NO!
STOP!
KREEEH!
KRRSHH!


MITSURU
?!
AIEEE!


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!
SHFF
SHF
SHF


KRCH
KRCH
...

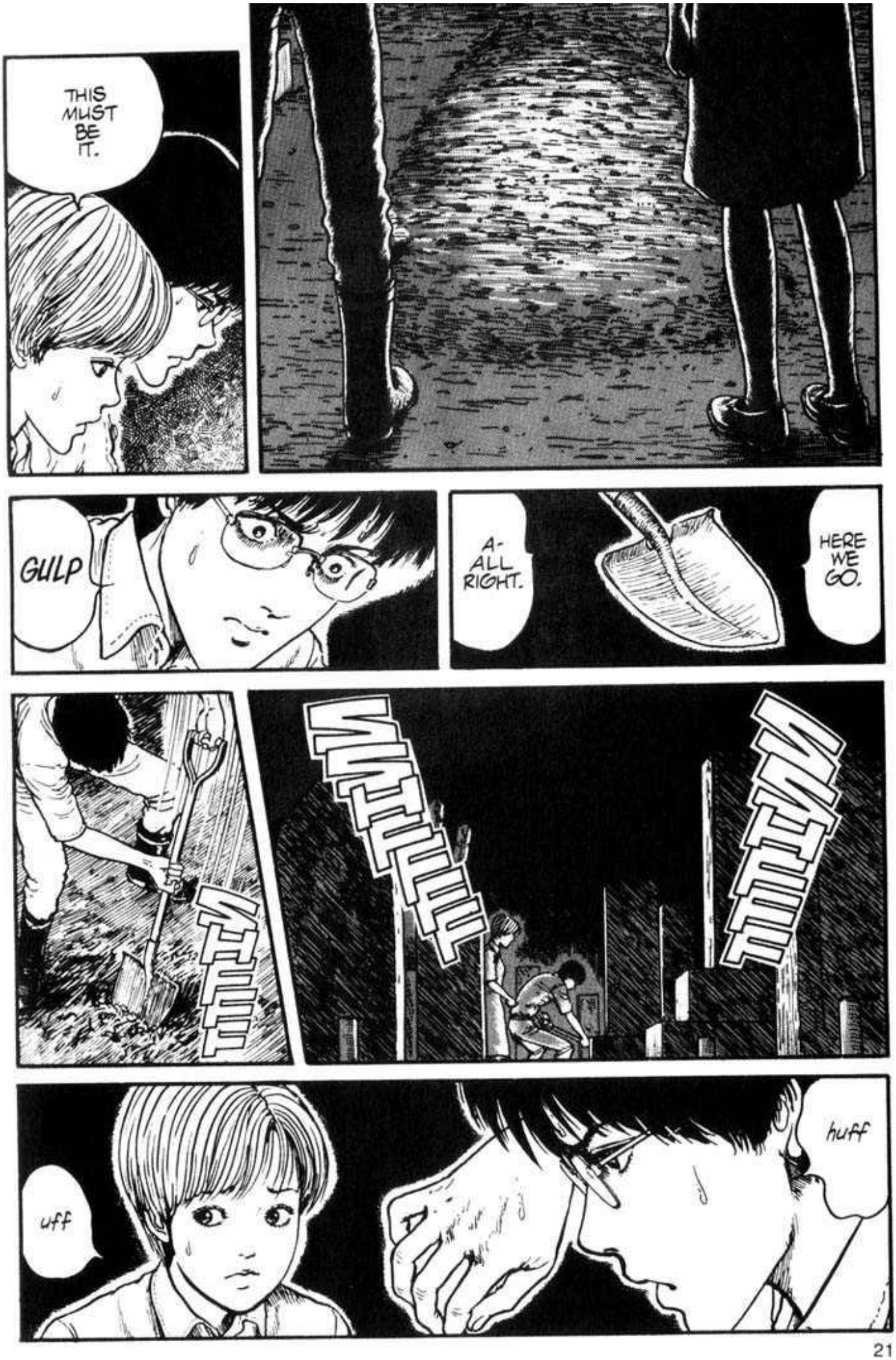

With Love, Mitsuru
With Love, Mitsuru
...
CHAK
FWOOM
BWOM
BWOM

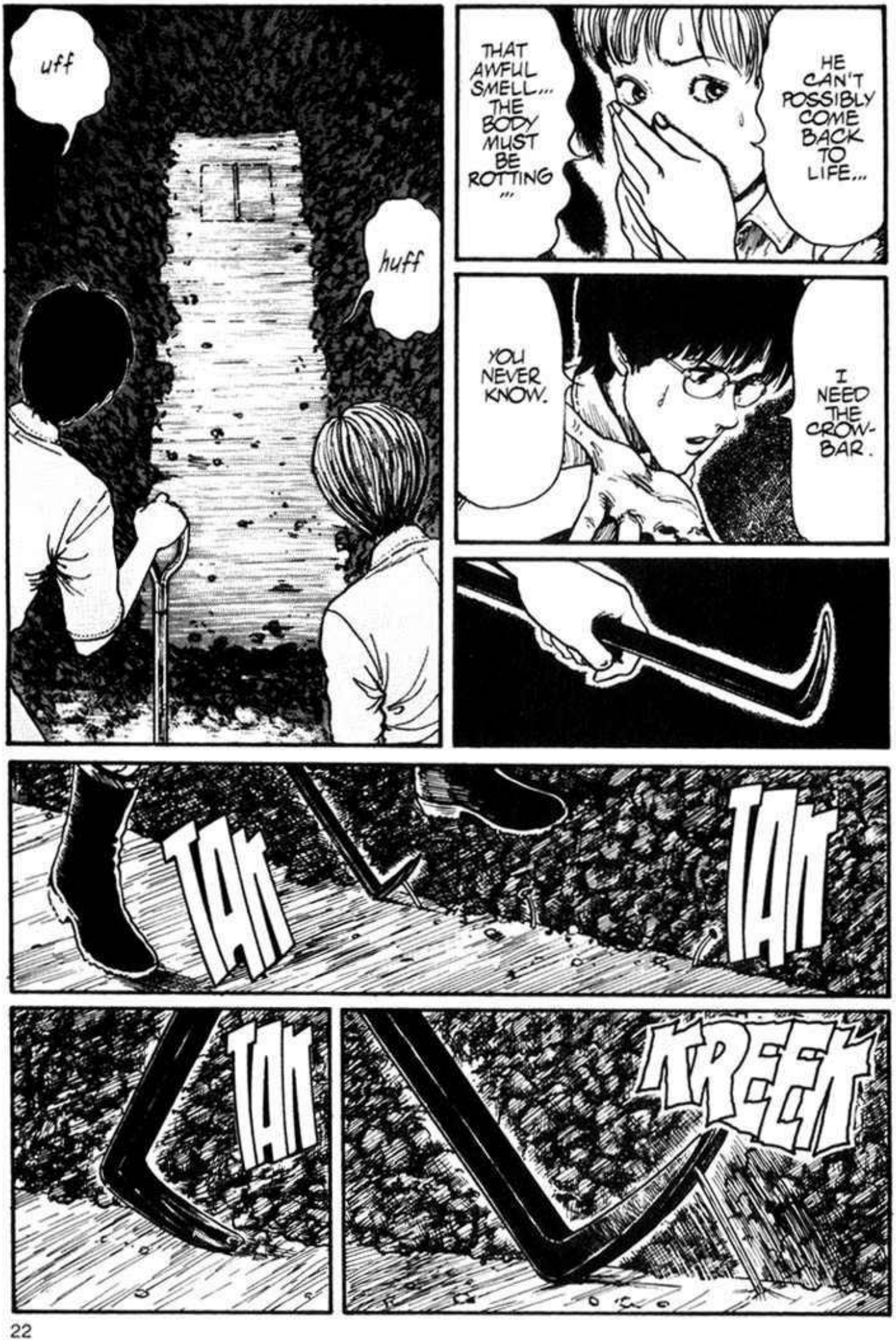

HELLO, SHUICHI?
IT'S ME, KIRIE...
WHAT'S WRONG, KIRIE? YOU DON'T SOUND GOOD.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
YOU MEAN ABOUT MITSURU?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
BUT...
IT IS YOUR FAULT ...
?!


HE DIED FOR YOU, DIDN'T HE?
AND NOW...
AIEEE!
...HE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU...

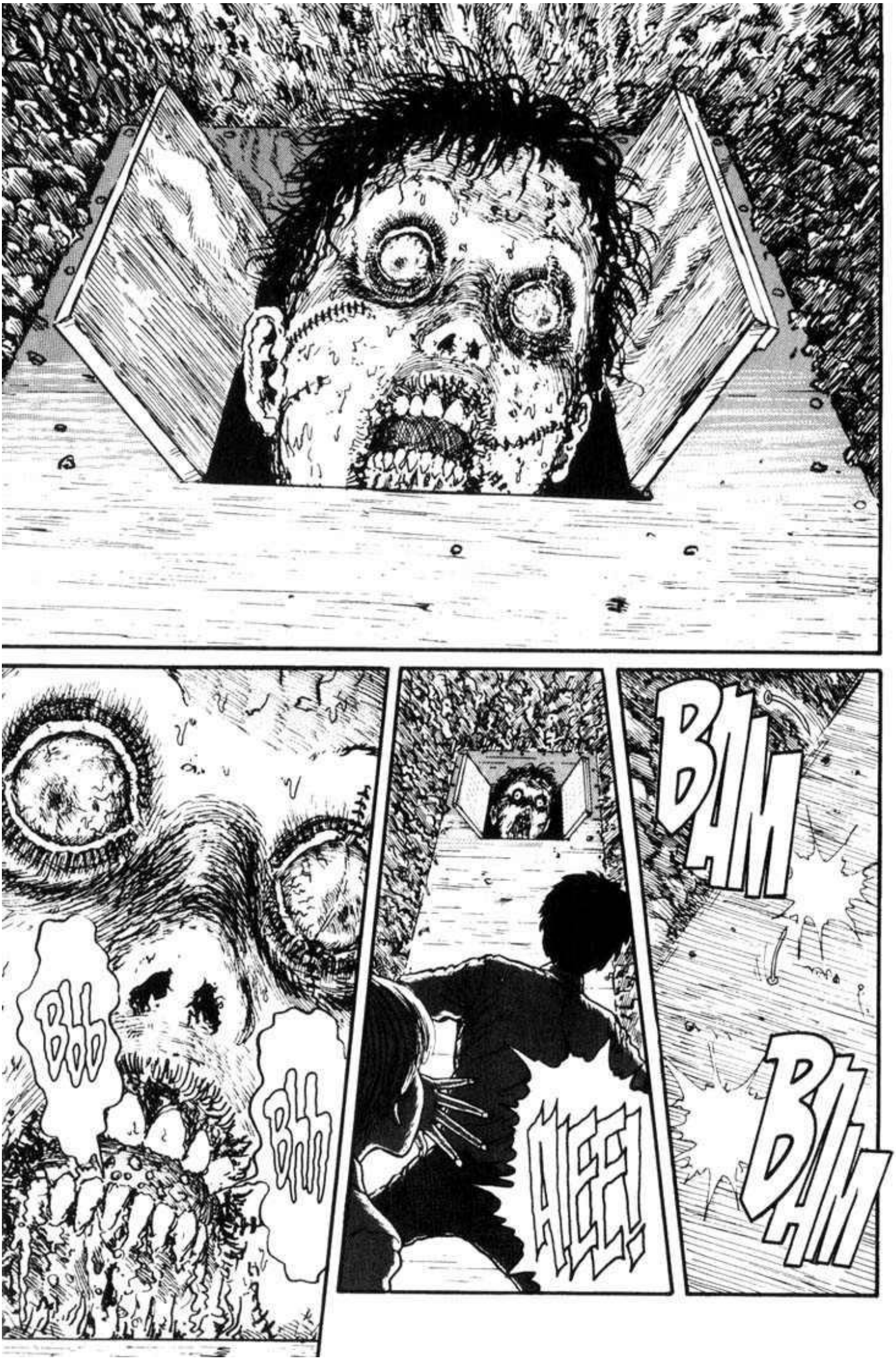

TAK
SHUICHI...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS.
W-WE HAVE TO... JUST TAKE ME TO HIS GRAVE.


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 OBVI-OUS?
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!


THIS MUST BE IT.
GULP
A- ALL RIGHT.
HERE WE GO.
SHEEP
SHEEP
SHEEP
uff
huff


uff
huff
THAT AWFUL SMELL... THE BODY MUST BE ROTTING ...
HE CAN'T POSSIBLY COME BACK TO LIFE...
YOU NEVER KNOW.
I NEED THE CROW-BAR.
TAK
TAK
TAK
KREEK


WAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE PRESSURE FROM PULLING OUT THE NAILS MUST HAVE FORCED THE CASKET WINDOW OPEN.
THIS IS UN-BEARABLE !!!
WELL, STEP BACK THEN.
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
TAK
KREEK
BANG


BDD
BHH
AIEE
BAM
BAM


BAM!
Hhh
CREEK




Hhh


KIRIE...
...RUN!


EEAH!
SPLP
WOM
BWOM


UFF
HFF
BWOM
BWOM
NO!!
HOW CAN HE JUMP AROUND LIKE THAT?
I... I DON'T KNOW!!
PAP
WHOOSH
SHIP

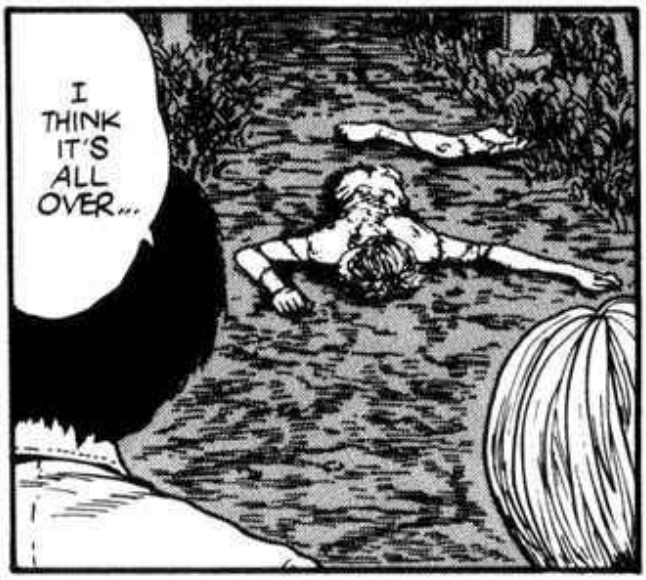

WHOOSH
SHIPSHIP
AAHH!
PLOP PLOP PLOP
BWOM
BWOM
AAIEE!
HIS BODY'S SO ROTTEN IT'S FALLING APART!


WHUD
KRAK
WHUD






uff
huff


I THINK IT'S ALL OVER...


HHH!
EEYAA!
BUM
BWOM
BWOM


No!
POP POP
LOOK!
SHUICHI!
WHOM
WHOM
WHAT THE HELL?
HIS SPINE'S TURNED INTO A SPRING?


IT WON'T STOP!!
BYOM
WHO
HHH!
KYAAA!


BONG
RRRRLLLLL
uff
hff
THAT'S THE SUSPENSION FROM THE CAR!
THE FRONT WHEEL SPRING WAS LODGED INTO HIM!
IT WAS NEVER REMOVED FROM THE CORPSE!
I DON'T THINK "JACK-IN-THE-BOX" ...
...WILL EVER BE BACK AGAIN...


CHAPTER
8
The SNAIL


SHAAAAAAA
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.
SHAAAA


SHAAA
THD
REAK
REAK


I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
MR YOKOTA ...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS, KATAYAMA?
I GOT UP EARLY... BUT IT TOOK A LONG TIME.
IT TAKES HIM TEN TIMES THE TIME IT TAKES A NORMAL PERSON TO GET SOMEWHERE!
KATAYAMA'S THE SLOWEST THERE IS, SIR!
WA HA HA HA!
THAT'S ENOUGH, TSUMURA!
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?
KATAYAMA, YOU'RE SOAKING WET AGAIN! WHY DON'T YOU BUY AN UMBRELLA?
Um...
Uh...


ENOUGH! JUST GO TO YOUR SEAT!
TSUMURA CAN BE A JERK BUT HE'S RIGHT!
KATAYAMA REALLY IS SLOW.
SHAAA
DOG
DOG
HEY! FOURTH PERIOD GYM!
WE'RE PLAYING VOLLEYBALL.
RIGHT ON!
FUH


THUMP
PICK IT UP, SLOW-ASS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...
BOYS' LOCKERS
YOU COST US THE GAME, YOU GLACIAL FUCK!
ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME!?
P-PLEASE ...TSUMURA.
DON'T YOU TALK TO ME LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS!


YOU'RE EVEN SLOW CHANGING YOUR CLOTHES!
WHY DON'T WE CHANGE THEM FOR HIM?
GOOD IDEA!
S-STOP IT!
STRIP HIM!
DRAG HIM OUT HERE!
STOP IT!
AIEEEE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SLUMP
WA HA HA HA!
GET A GOOD LOOK!


HUH?
AN OMINOUS SPIRAL...
...SHINED FROM KATA-YAMA'S BACK.
SLL
SLL
SLL

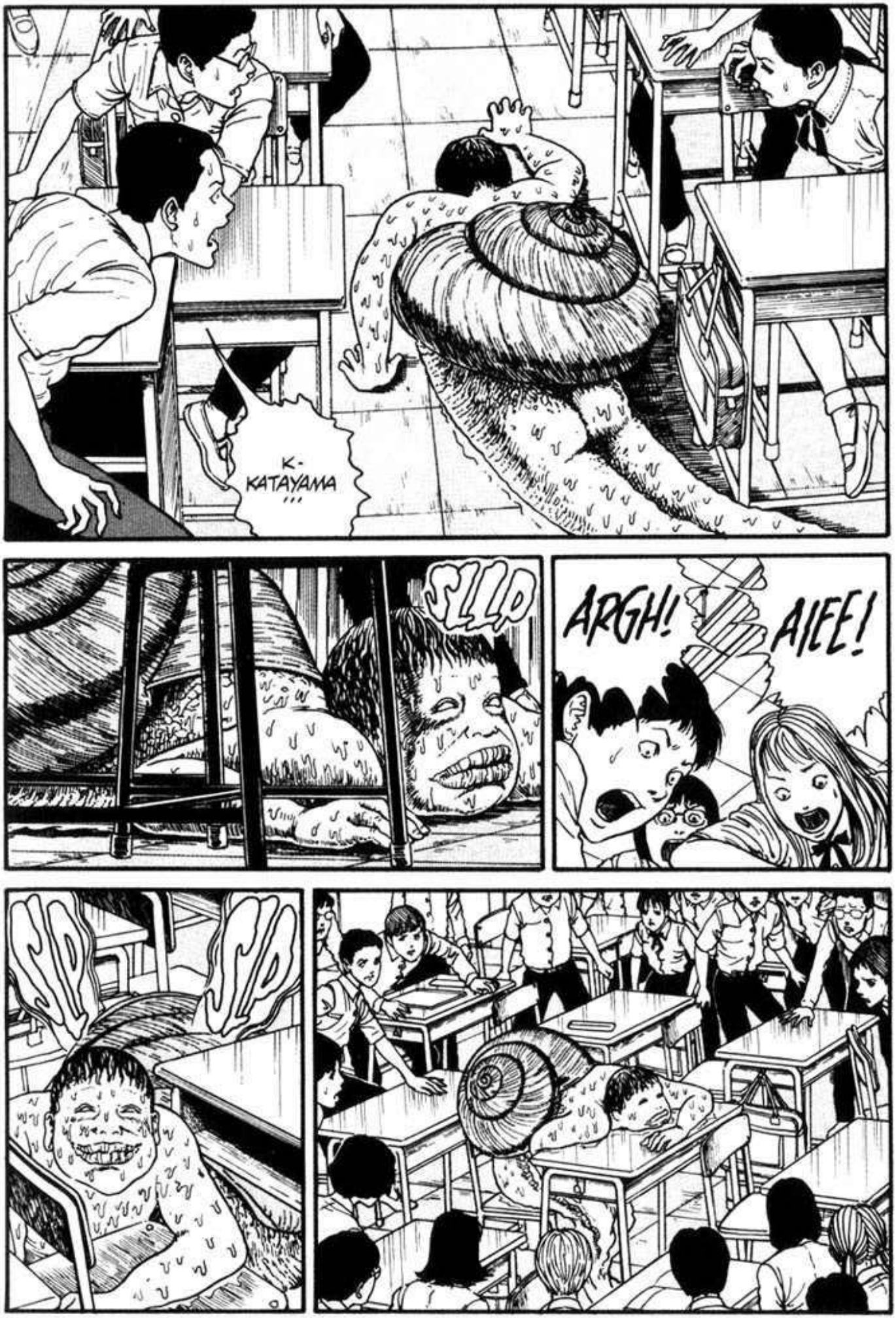

TUESDAY
SHAAAAA
HIS BACK WAS SO SWOLLEN ...
...WE COULD ALL SEE IT.
MR. YO-KOTA...
I'M SORRY I'M LATE AGAIN.
KATA-YAMA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BACK?
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S SWOLLEN UP.
HFF HFF...
...

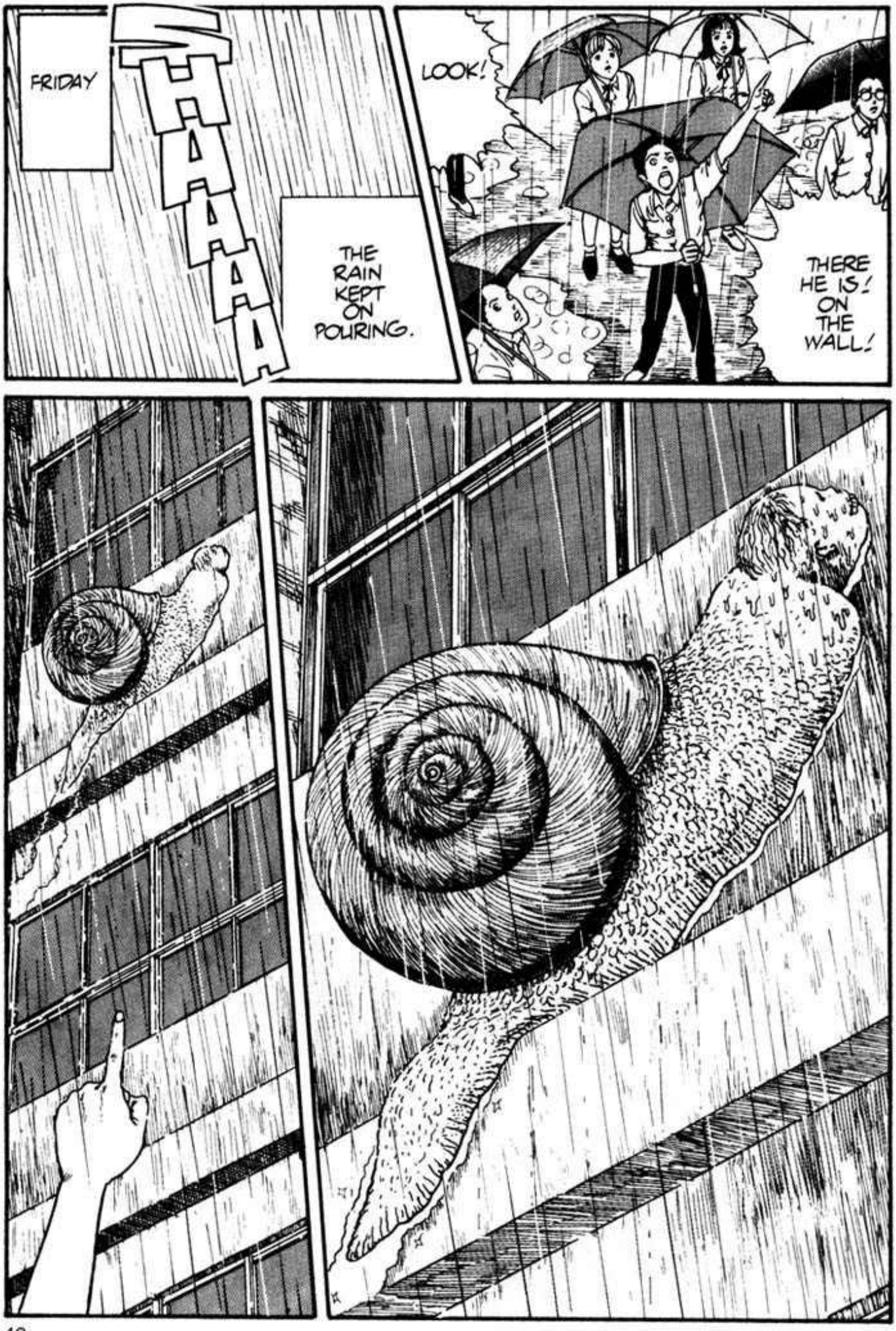

D-DID YOU SEE THAT, KIRIE?
YES...
THE WET CLOTH CLUNG TO HIS BACK...
...SO YOU COULD SEE THROUGH HIS SHIRT.
A SPIRAL...
THE SPIRAL'S RISING.
MBL
MBL
THIS IS CREEPY, KIRIE.
HE LOOKS LIKE...
...A SNAIL.


WEDNESDAY
SHAA
MR. YO-KOTA!!!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
THE GROWTH WAS EVEN LARGER.


THURSDAY
SHAAAAAA
THD
SHHP


SLP
AAHH!
SHP
SHP

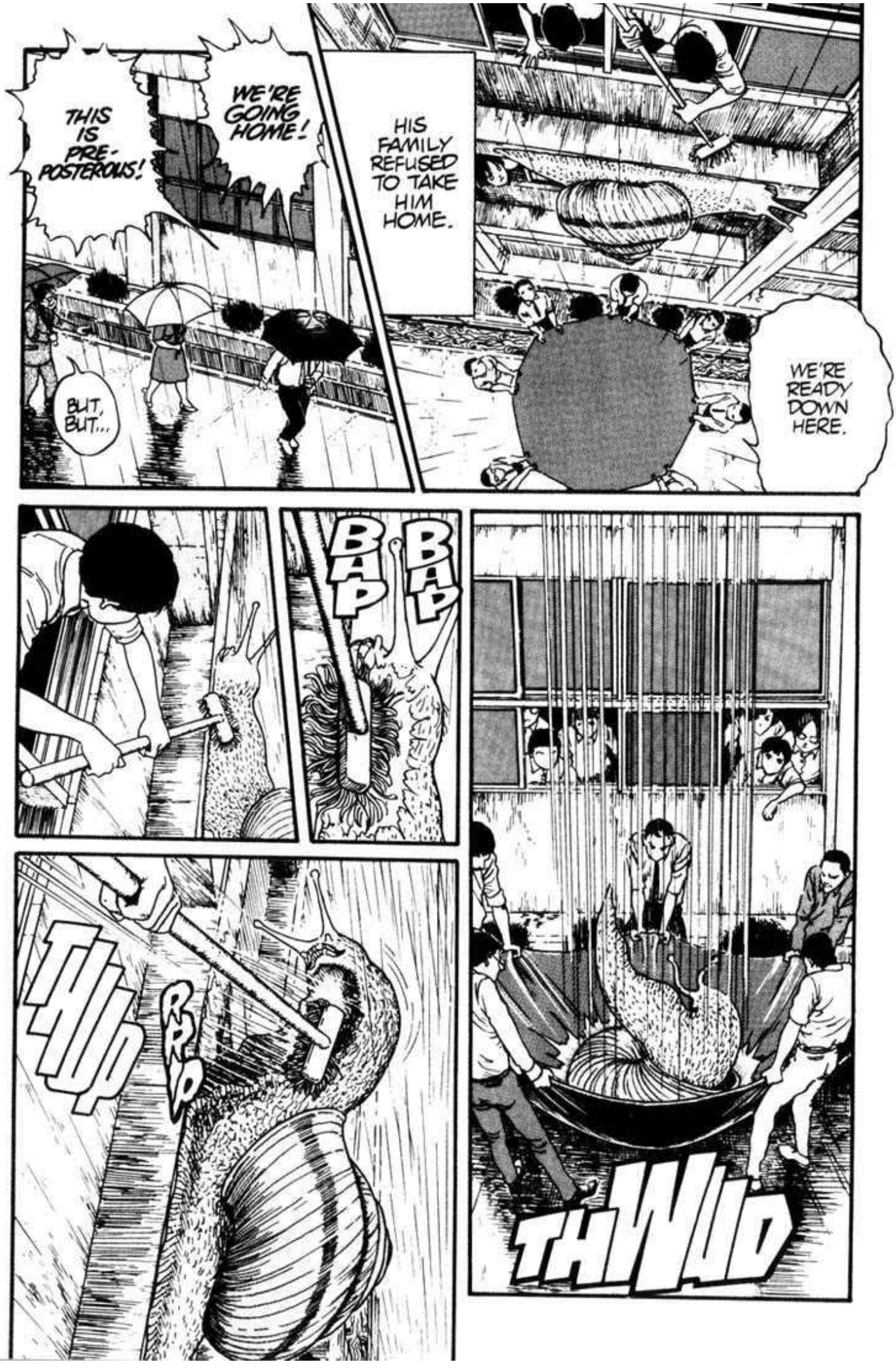

K-
KATAYAMA
...
SLIP
ARGH!
AIEE!
SPLAT
SPLAT


FRIDAY
SHAAAA
THE RAIN KEPT ON POURING.
LOOK!
THERE HE IS! ON THE WALL!

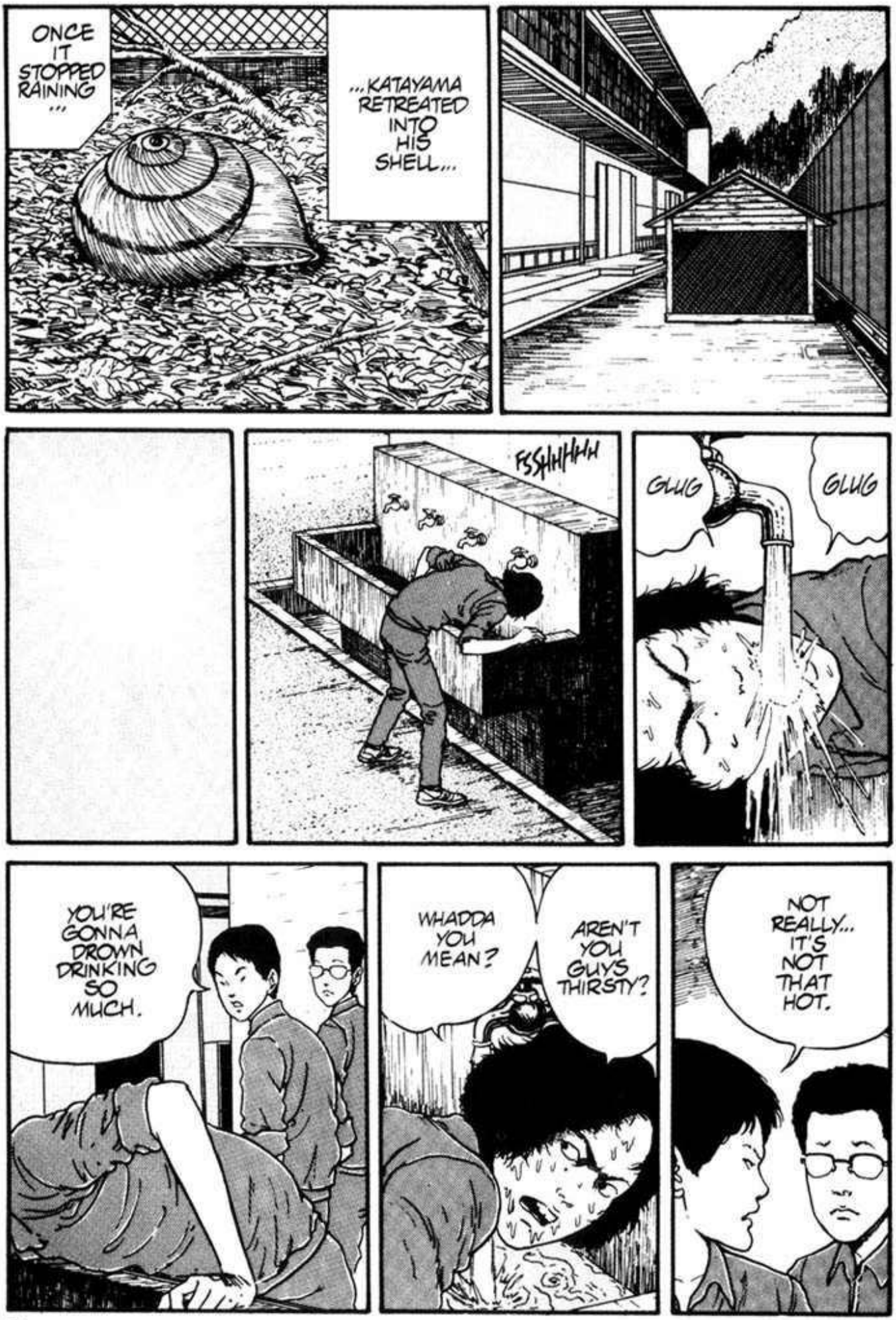

HE'S CURSED...
HE'S CURSED BY THE SPIRAL...


LOOK AT THAT TRAIL HE'S LEAVING BEHIND.
PRINCIPAL
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.
CONTACT HIS PARENTS.
THEY CALLED THIS MORNING. HE HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
HOW COULD HE GO HOME LOOKING LIKE THAT?
HE WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE HILLS.
WE ASKED HIS PARENTS TO COME HERE.
THEY SHOULD BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE.


HAAAAAAAA
WHERE'S MY SON?
WELL, YOU SEE...
H-HE'S UP THERE.
SHAAA
W-WHAT?
THAT CAN'T BE OUR SON!


THIS IS PRE-POSTEROUS!
WE'RE GOING HOME!
BUT, BUT...
HIS FAMILY REFUSED TO TAKE HIM HOME.
WE'RE READY DOWN HERE.
BAP
BAP
THUD
RRP
THWUD


EVENTUALLY THE SCHOOL TOOK CARE OF HIM.
MNC
MNC
FOOSH
TAP
TAP
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!


ONCE IT STOPPED RAINING ...
...KATAYAMA RETREATED INTO HIS SHELL...
FSSHHHHH
GLUG
GLUG
YOU'RE GONNA DROWN DRINKING SO MUCH.
WHADDA YOU MEAN?
AREN'T YOU GUYS THIRSTY?
NOT REALLY... IT'S NOT THAT HOT.


BOO
BOO
HEY, WAIT UP!
WHAT'S THE RUSH?
WAIT UP, GUYS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE SO SLOW!
HFF HFF
I-I DON'T KNOW...
THEN TSUMURA STOPPED COMING TO SCHOOL.


HE HASN'T COME OUT OF HIS SHELL.
WELL, IT HASN'T BEEN RAIN-ING.
WHY DON'T WE SPRAY HIM WITH WATER?
WHAT?
HE MIGHT DIE FROM DEHYDRA-TION.
MAYBE, BUT...
... BUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?
WHAT IF HE SHOWS HIS FACE?
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY NOBODY GIVES HIM WATER.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT FACE ANY MORE.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL HOLD THE HOSE.
YOU JUST TURN THE TAP ON.
SWEEK
SWEEK
SHOSHH


GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
FUP
FUP
KYAA!
SCUPP


HAAAAAAA
LISTEN UP EVERY-ONE.
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...?
...
SHAAAAAA
SHAAAAAA


AIEE!
EEYAA!
ON THE GLASS!
DID KATAYAMA ESCAPE FROM THE CAGE?
NO, MR. YOKOTA!
THAT'S NOT HIM!


THAT'S TSUMURA!
HE'S BECOME A SNAIL, TOO!

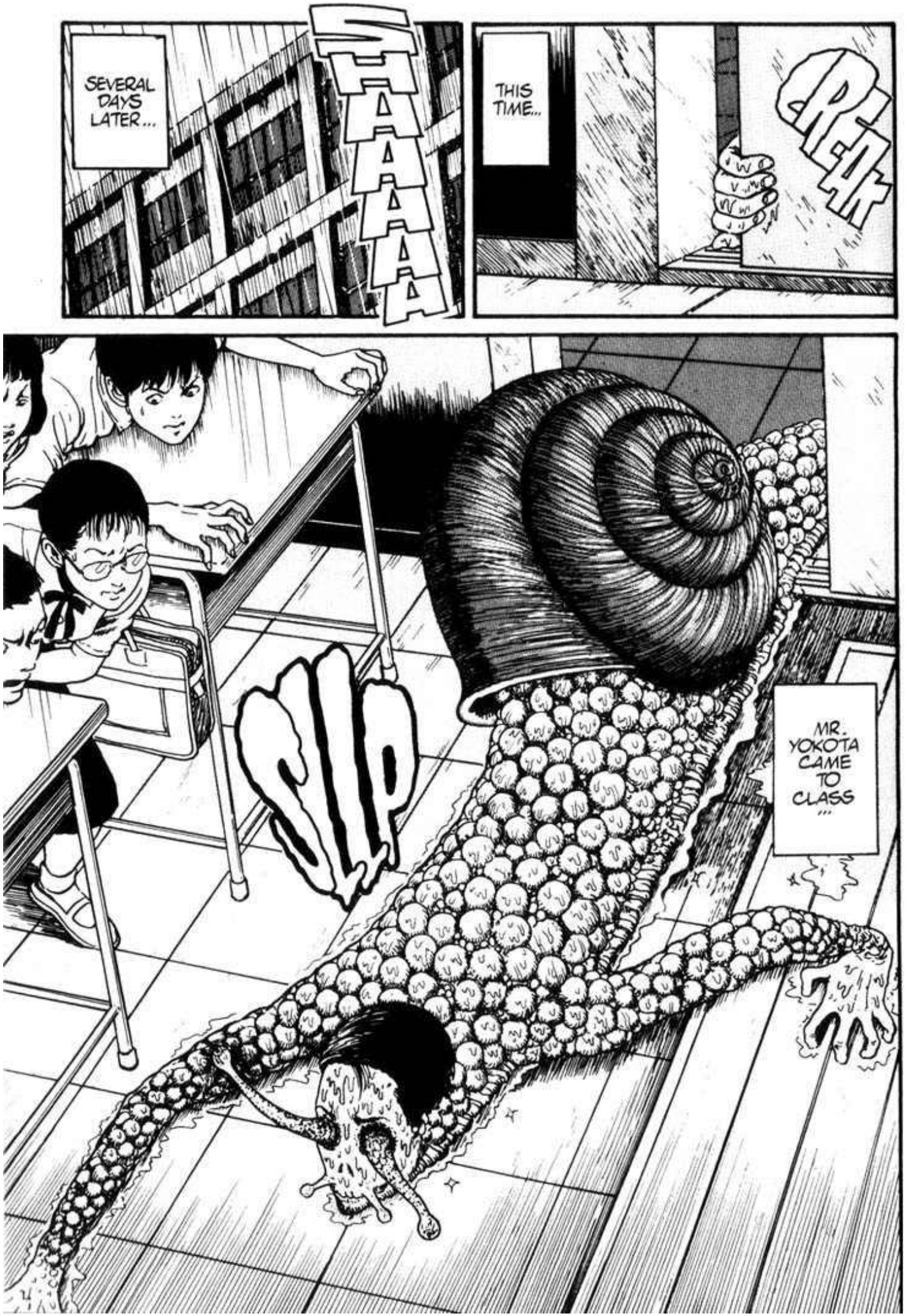

HOW IRONIC.
TSUMURA WAS SUCH A BULLY.
BUT NOW...
NOW THEY'RE GETTING ALONG FINE.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
IT LOOKS KINDA STRANGE.
WH-WHAT THE HELL...
WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE... THEY'RE...
NO WAY! THEY'RE BOTH MALES!
SNALS ARE HERMAPHRODITES!
THEY'RE MATING!

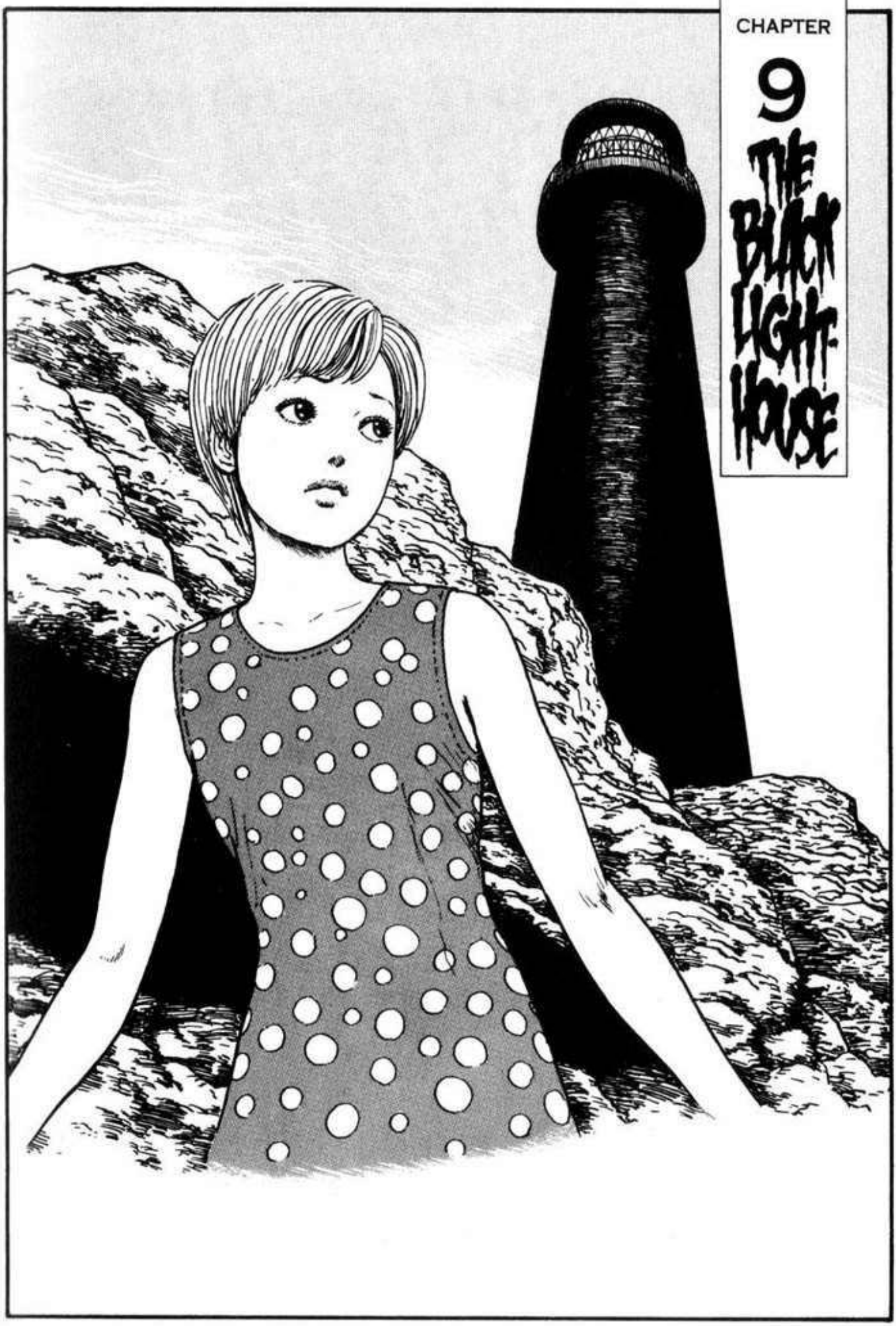

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER THEY ESCAPED FROM THE CAGE.
THEY DUG THROUGH THE GROUND.
SNAILS CAN DIG THROUGH SOIL?
YES...
...THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
BUT LOOK.
THEY'VE LEFT A TRAIL BEHIND.
LET'S FOLLOW IT.
THE TRAIL LED INTO THE HILLS.

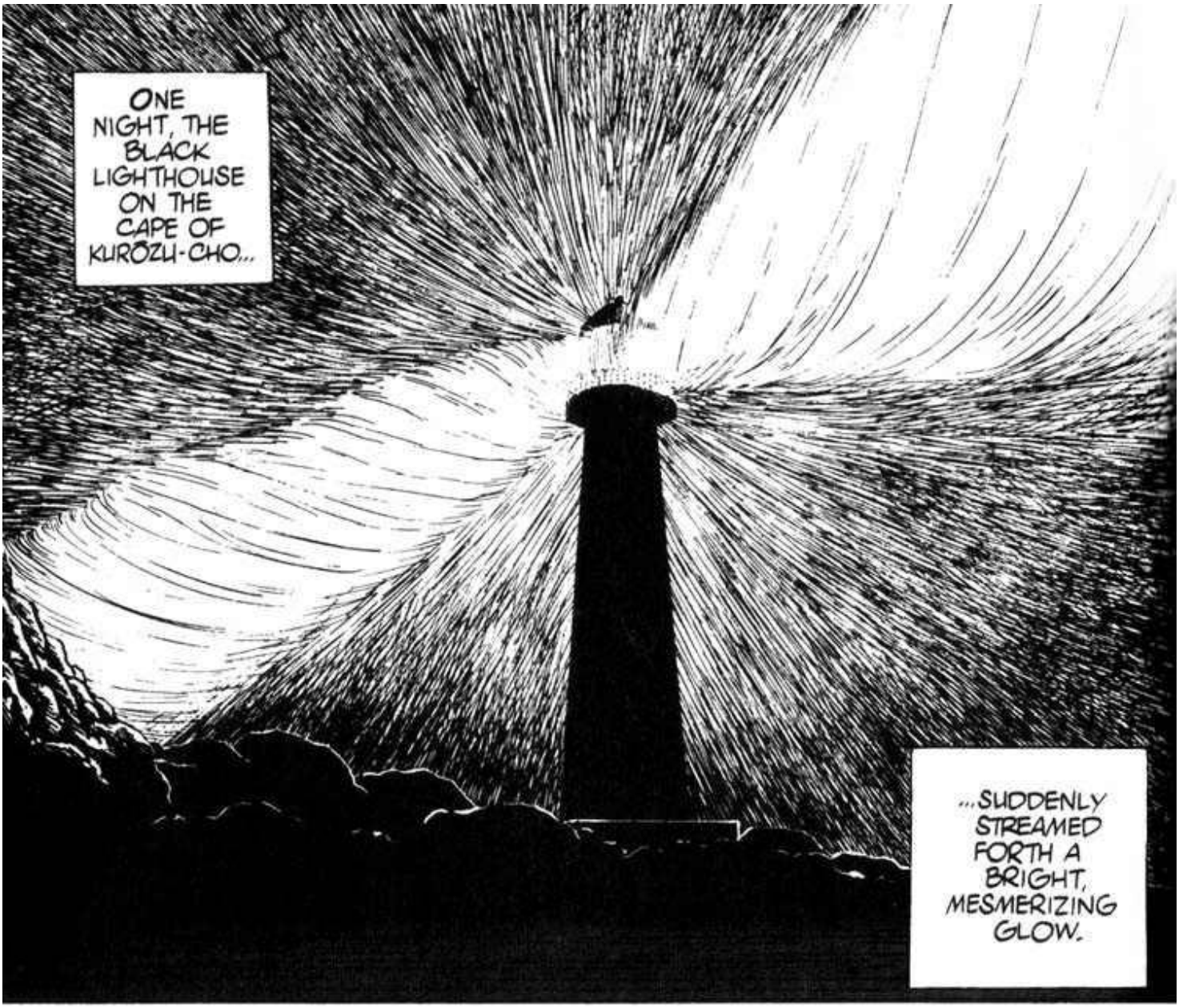

HEY, LOOK!
SOMETHING'S BEEN BURIED OVER THERE.
MR. YOKOTA?
WHAT IS THIS?
I HAVE AN IDEA.
YOU'LL SEE IN A SECOND.
DIG DIG
LOOK!

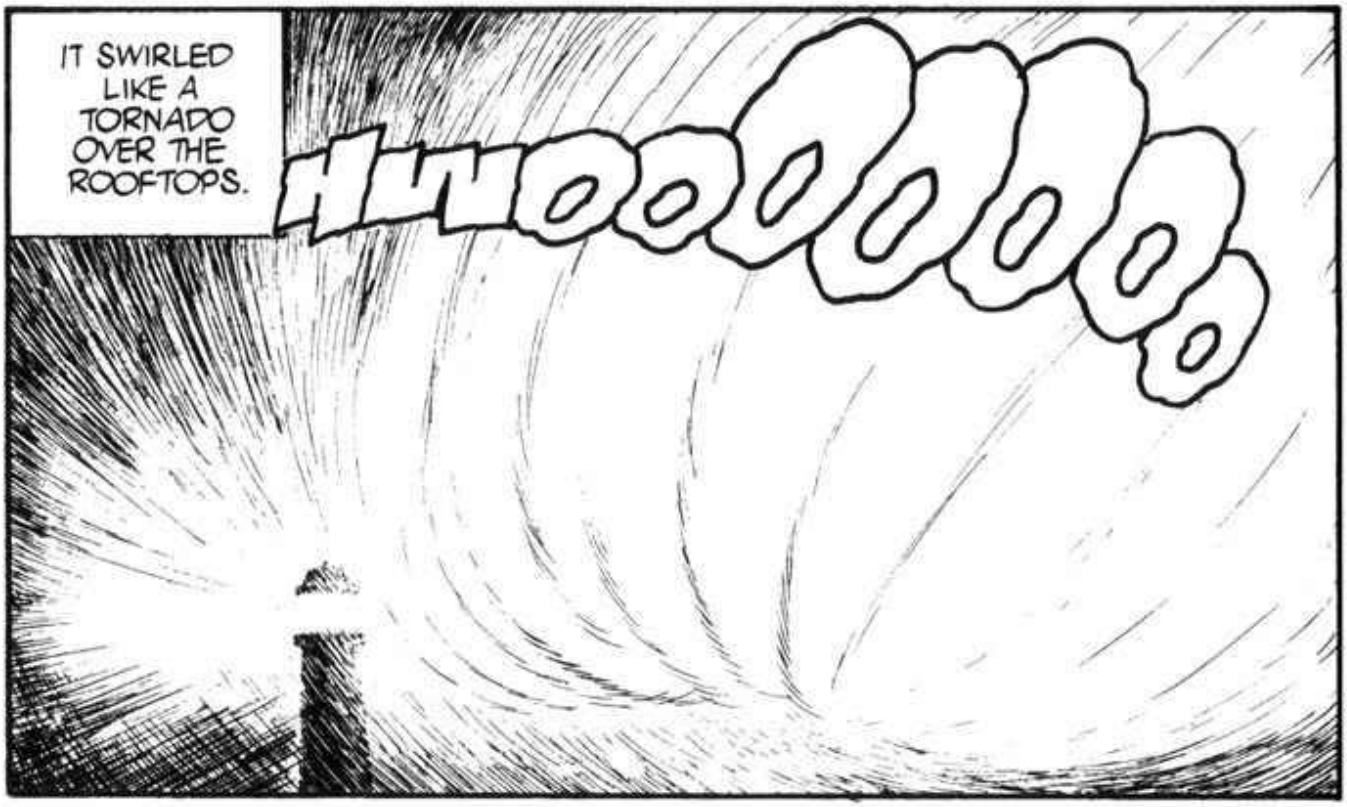

ONE OF THEM LAID EGGS!
TH-THEY LOOK LIKE TENNIS BALLS!
WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE NO LONGER HUMAN. THEY'RE SOME OTHER ORGANISM.
CALL THEM "MOLLUSK PEOPLE."
MOLLUSK PEOPLE?
MOLLUSKS. THAT'S WHAT SNAILS ARE.
SNRK


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!
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP
HFF
HFF
THERE...
THEY MIGHT HAVE LAID OTHER EGGS. WE HAVE TO FIND THEM!
AND WE HAVE TO FIND THOSE SNAILS.
BUT IN THE END WE FOUND NOTHING-- NEITHER THE EGGS NOR THE ORIGINAL PAIR.

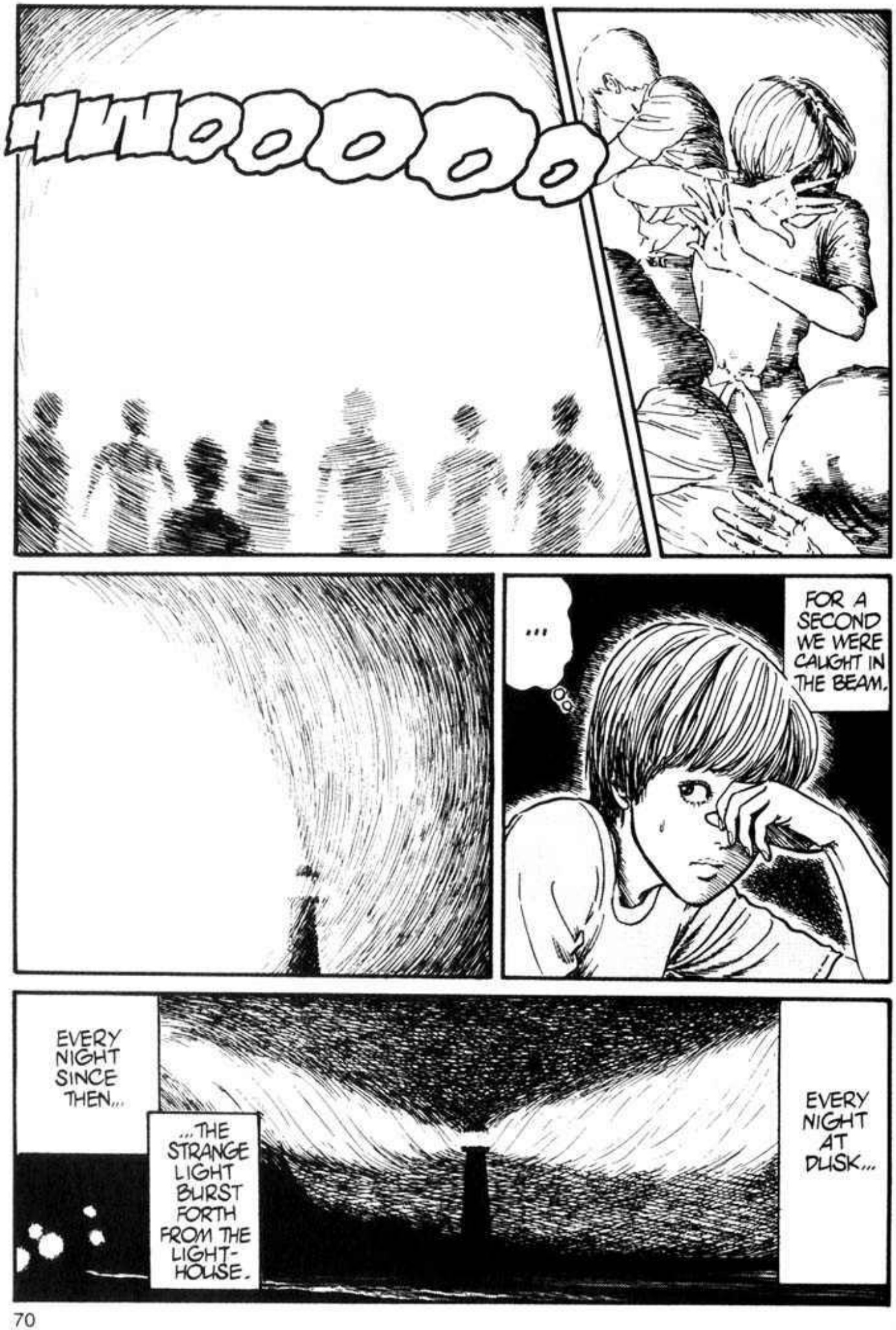

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
SHAAAAA
THIS TIME...
REAK
SLIP
MR. YOKOTA CAME TO CLASS ...


CHAPTER
9
THE BLACK LIGHT HOUSE


ONE NIGHT, THE BLACK LIGHTHOUSE ON THE CAPE OF KURŌZU-CHO...
...SUDDENLY STREAMED FORTH A BRIGHT, MESMERIZING GLOW.


IT SWIRLED LIKE A TORNADO OVER THE ROOFTOPS.
HUWOOOOOOOO

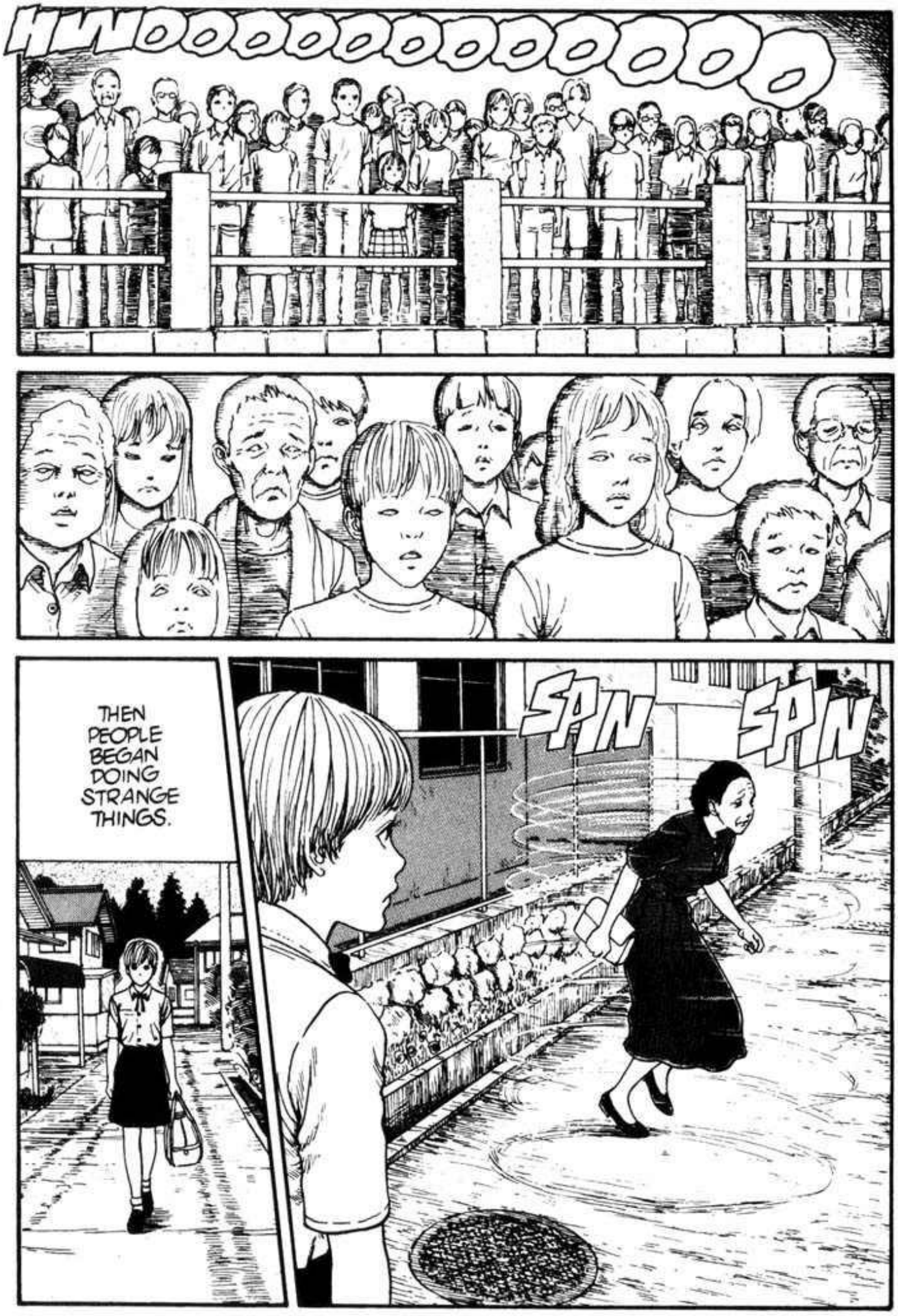

MRA
MRA
MRA
WHAT'S MAKING IT?
ISN'T THAT OLD LIGHTHOUSE ABANDONED?
...
HERE IT COMES AGAIN...
HUUOOOOOOO


HUUOOOOOO
...
FOR A SECOND WE WERE CAUGHT IN THE BEAM.
EVERY NIGHT SINCE THEN...
...THE STRANGE LIGHT BURST FORTH FROM THE LIGHT-HOUSE.
EVERY NIGHT AT DUSK...


KIRIE, ISN'T THAT LIGHTHOUSE COOL?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S LIKE A GIANT ROBOT SPITTING OUT A DEATH RAY!
WROAR!
STOP BEING A BABY.
YOU SHOULDN'T STARE AT THAT LIGHT.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT.
I DON'T LIKE IT, EITHER.
IT MAKES ME FEEL DIZZY.
MITSUO, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GO NEAR THE LIGHTHOUSE.
AW, MOM!

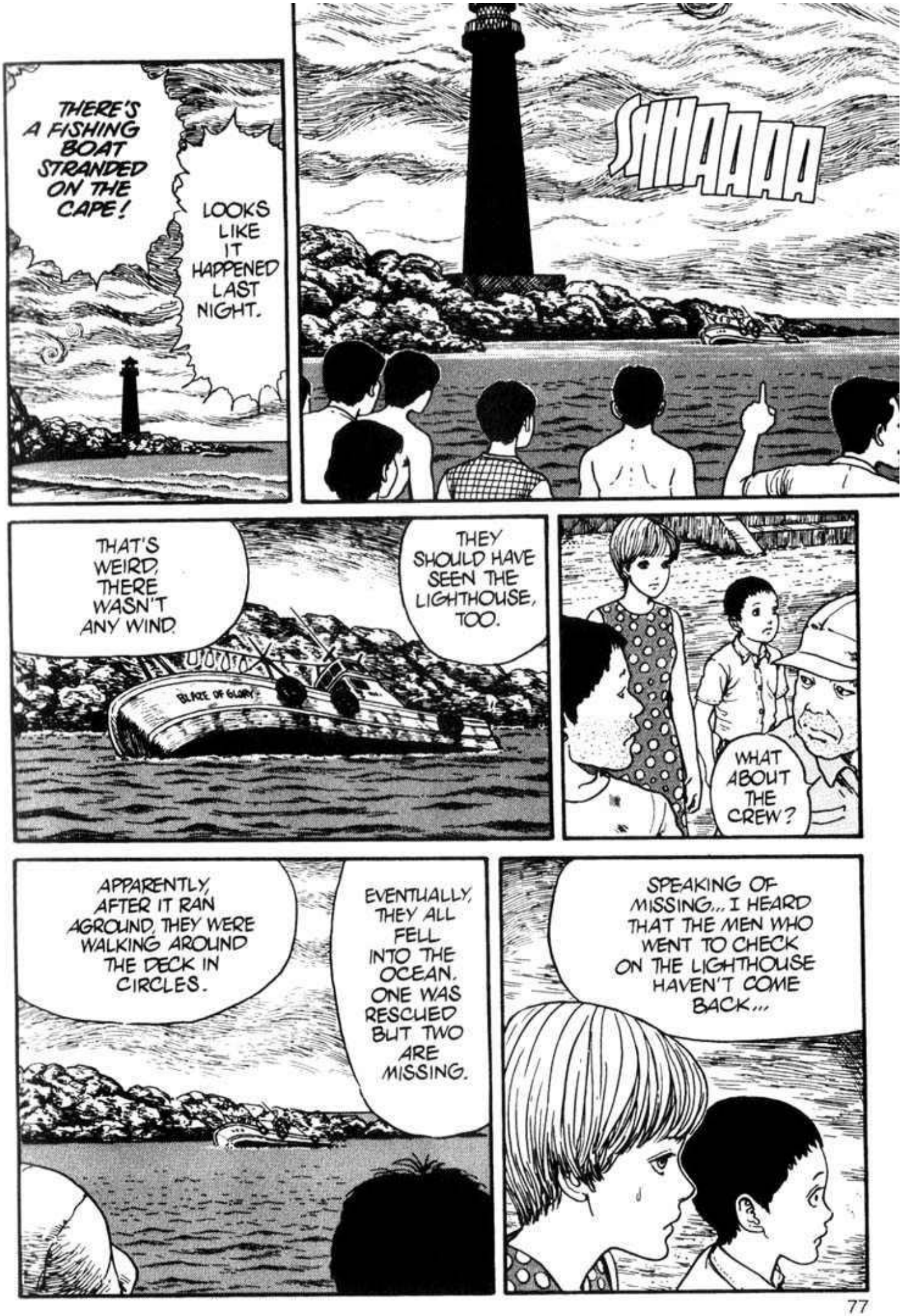

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?
WE'VE BEEN GETTING COMPLAINTS FROM RESIDENTS.
THIS LIGHT WAS PUT OUT OF SERVICE A LONG TIME AGO. IT SHOULDN'T EVEN HAVE POWER.
WE'LL GO INSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG.
KACHA
SCREE
AFTER YOU.


FLASH
HUUOOOOOOOOOOO
HUUOOOOO


HWOOOOOOOOOOOOO
THEN PEOPLE BEGAN DOING STRANGE THINGS.
SAN
SAN


SPIN
SPIN
EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HMM? I'M JUST WALKING HOME...
...BUT IT'S TAKING LONGER THAN I REMEMBER.
...
MRR
MRR


WHAT'S HE UP TO?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S BEEN DOING IT FOR A WHILE.
PLEASE, SOMEONE HELP ME!
I CAN'T WALK STRAIGHT!!
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE RAY FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE!
THAT SWIRLING FLASH IS BURNED INTO MY EYES!!
WHAT IN THE...
LOOK OVER THERE!
uff
hfff
WH-
WHAT IS GOING ON?

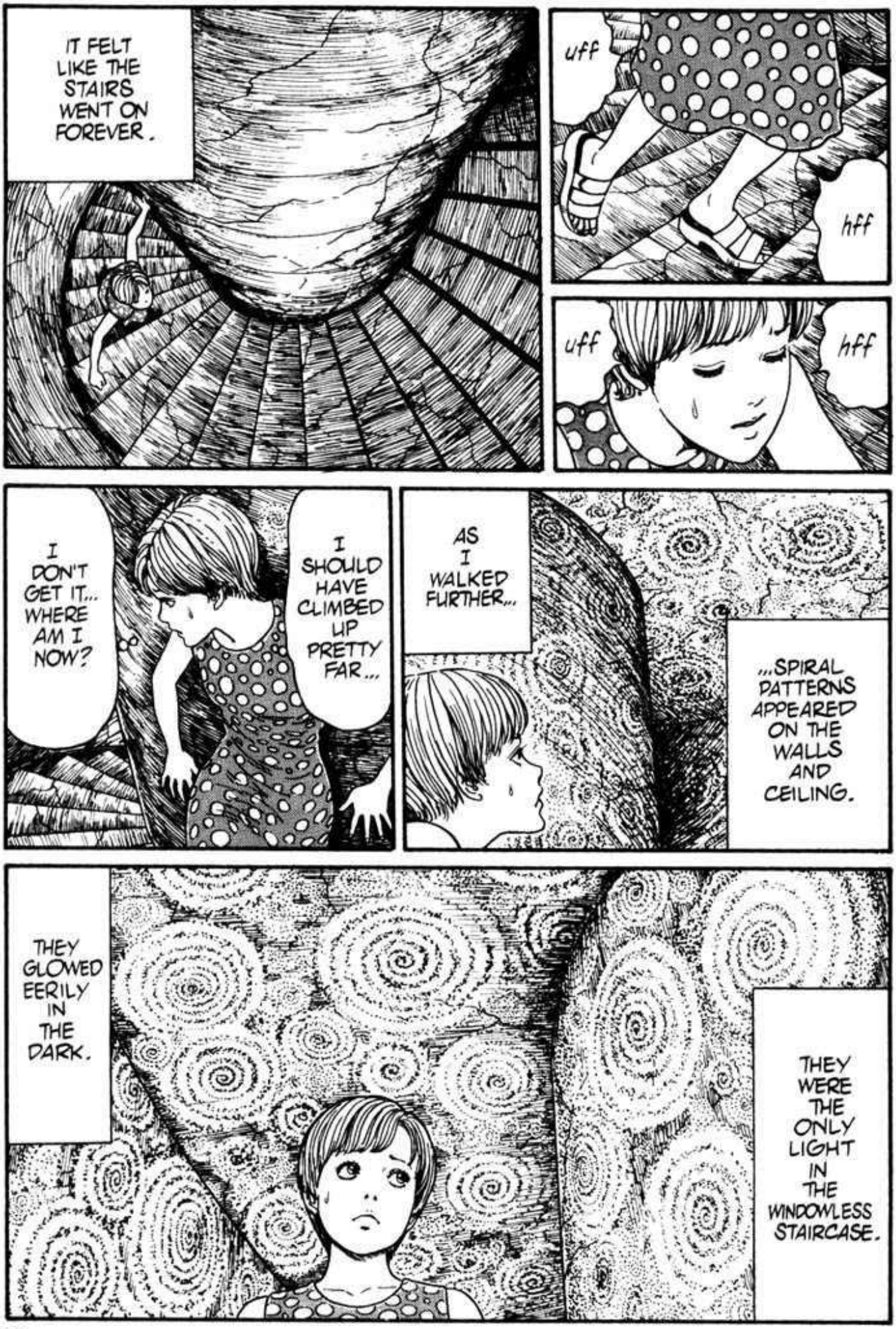

THERE'S A FISHING BOAT STRANDED ON THE CAPE!
LOOKS LIKE IT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.
SHHAAAA
THAT'S WEIRD. THERE WASN'T ANY WIND.
THEY SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE LIGHTHOUSE, TOO.
BLAZE OF GLORY
WHAT ABOUT THE CREW?
APPARENTLY, AFTER IT RAN AGROUND, THEY WERE WALKING AROUND THE DECK IN CIRCLES.
EVENTUALLY, THEY 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...


MITSUO! WE'RE GETTING CLOSER!
YOU CAN SEE THE BOAT BETTER FROM THE CAPE!
WAIT FOR ME!
HEY!
DON'T GO THERE! IT'S DANGEROUS!
NO!


SHHAAAAA
SHAAAA
MITSUO, COME DOWN HERE!
OR ELSE I'LL TELL ON MOM!
DANG!
OKAY, OKAY.
HEY, LOOK! THE DOOR IS OPEN.
LET'S CHECK IT OUT!


YEAH!
STOP!
MITSUO!
TAPTAP
COME BACK!
...
MITSUO!


MITSUO !!
COME DOWN HERE!
...
AHA HA HA!
THESE STAIRS ARE AWE-SOME!
THAT'S IT...
uff
hff
uff
hff


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
hff
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!
UUUUUUUUUU
SOMETHING'S BURNING... I CAN SMELL IT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME ELAPSED.
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING CRAZY...

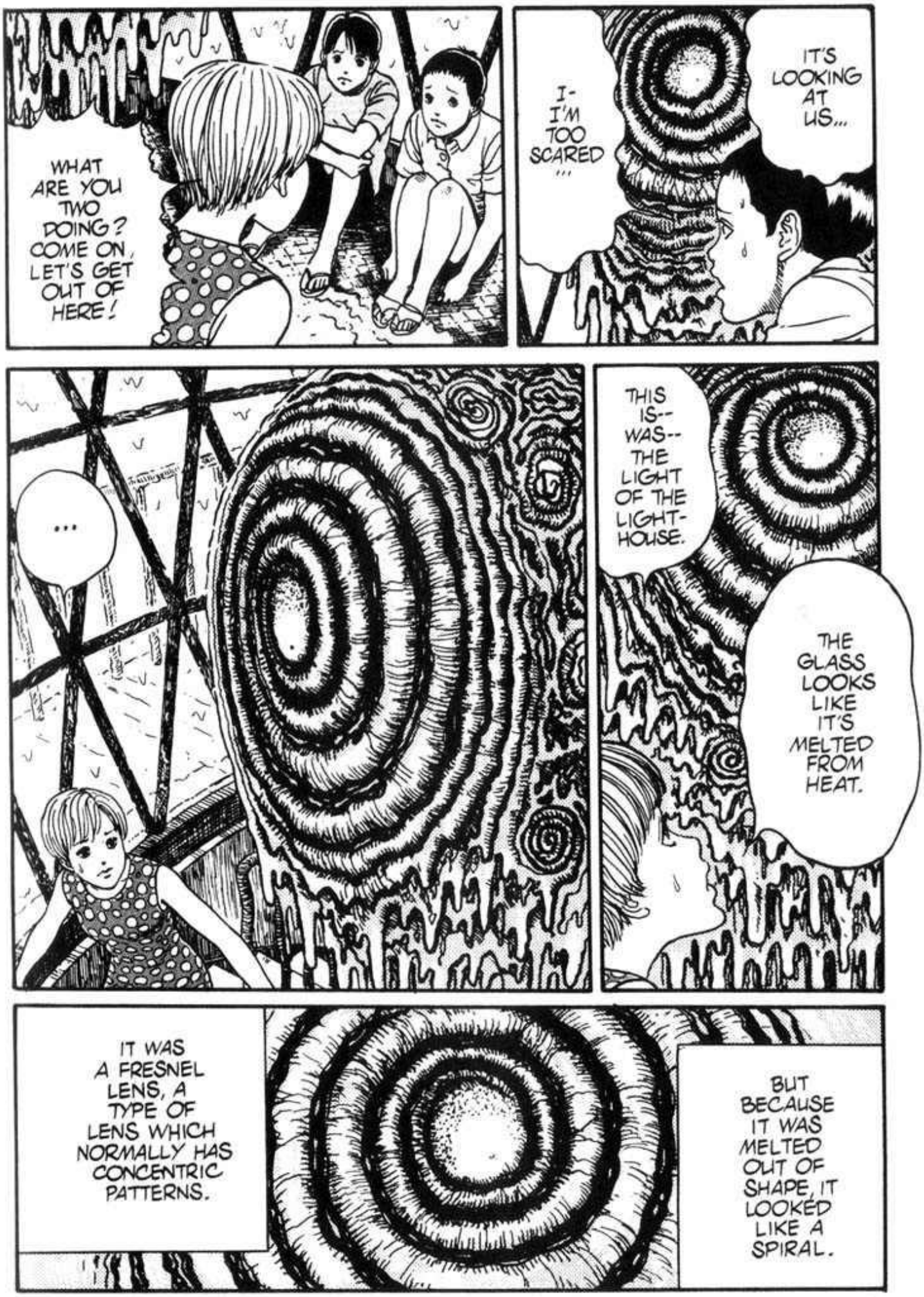

KYAA!


THREE BURNT BODIES...
MITSUO AND HIS FRIENDS? NO!
THEY'RE NOT. THEY'RE ADULTS...
BUT WHO?
MAYBE THE ONES WHO WERE REPORTED MISSING...
WHERE ARE MITSUO AND HIS FRIENDS ?!
MITSUO!
HELP US!
AH!
MITSUO!
HELP!
uff
hff


FINALLY ...
WHAT ?!
TWO MORE BODIES...
WERE THEY WITH THOSE MEN I JUST SAW? WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THEM?

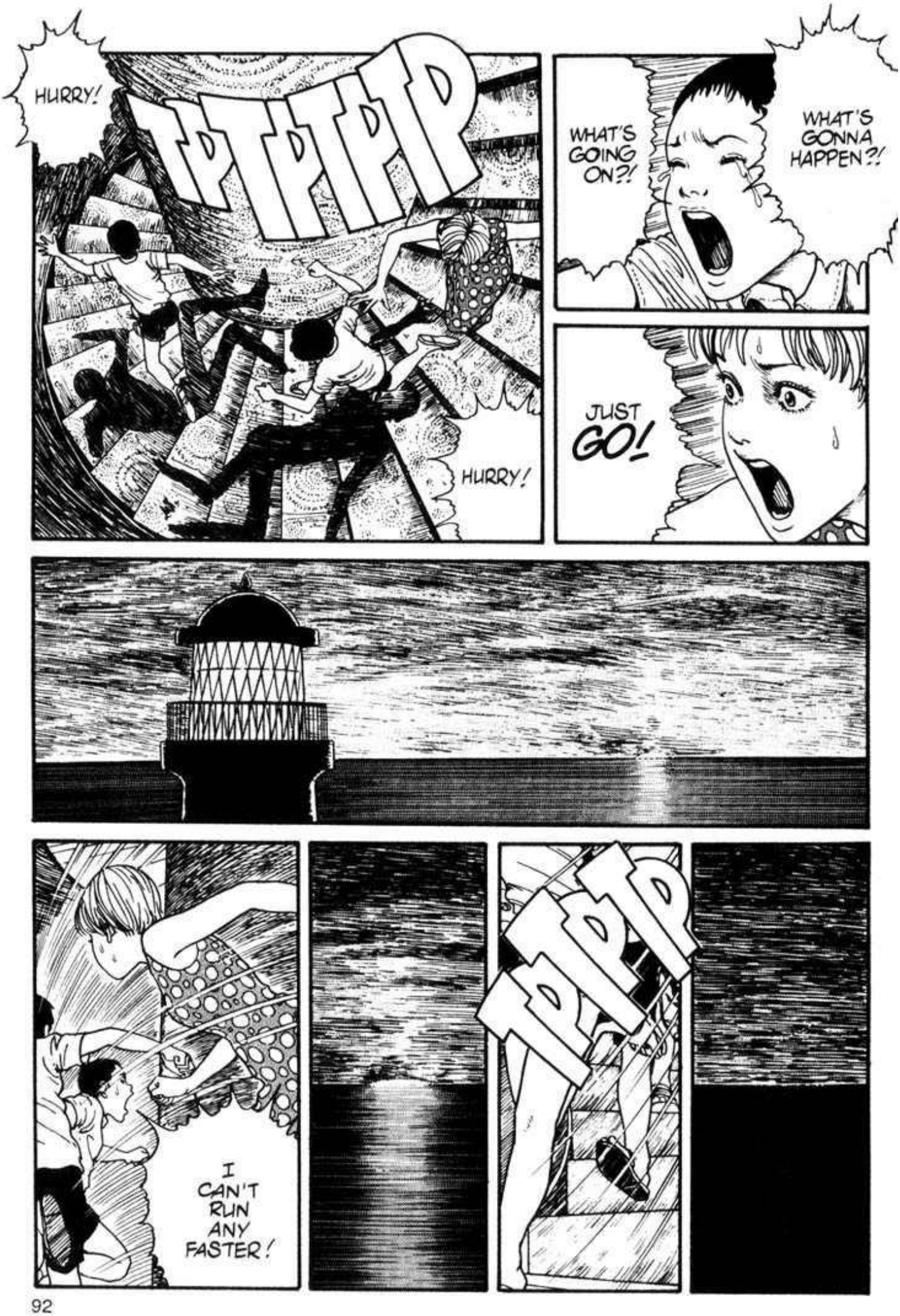

DO YOU KNOW WHERE MITSUO AND HIS FRIEND ARE?
THEY WENT UPSTAIRS.
THEY WANTED TO SEE.
THEY WANTED ?! ..... LISTEN, YOU TWO GO DOWN-STAIRS.
OKAY.
GET OUT OF HERE! HURRY HOME!
TMPTMP

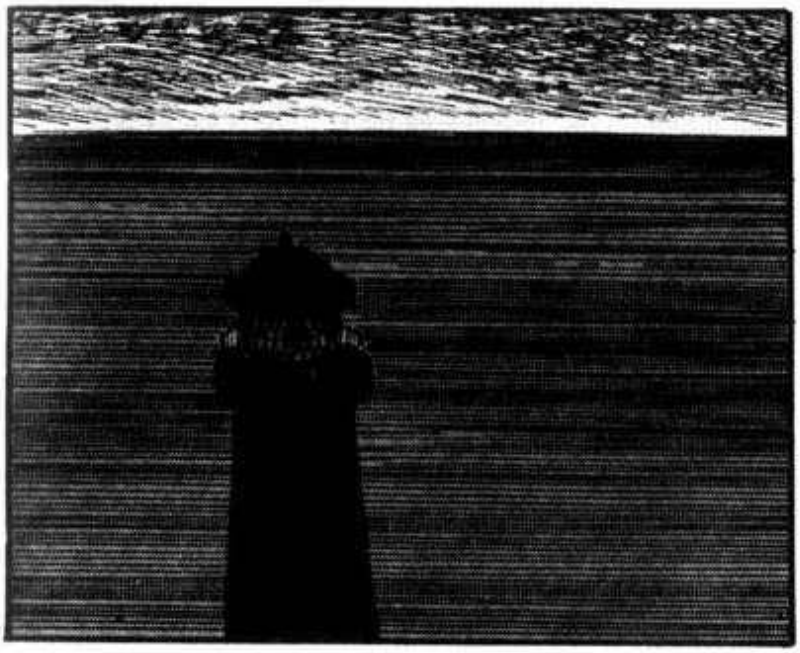



WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
I-I'M TOO SCARED...
IT'S LOOKING AT US...
...
THIS IS--WAS--THE LIGHT OF THE LIGHT-HOUSE.
THE GLASS LOOKS LIKE IT'S MELTED FROM HEAT.
IT WAS A FRESNEL LENS, A TYPE OF LENS WHICH NORMALLY HAS CONCENTRIC PATTERNS.
BUT BECAUSE IT WAS MELTED OUT OF SHAPE, IT LOOKED LIKE A SPIRAL.

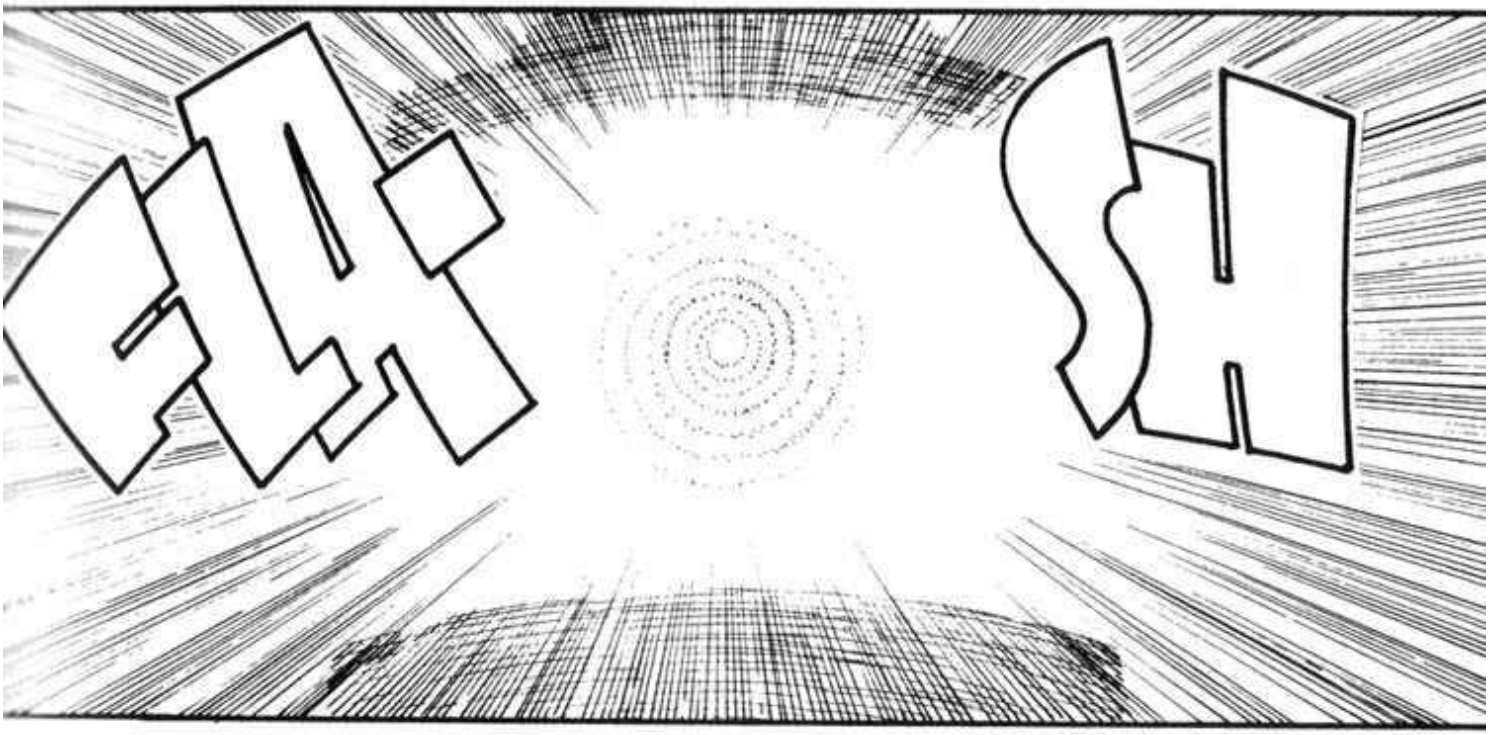

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
IT'S LIKE THE ENTIRE ROOM LIQUEFIED...
...
AND THOSE BURNT BODIES...
...
NO?!
MITSUO! WHAT TIME IS IT?
Uh... I DON'T KNOW.


OH, NO!
IT'S ALMOST DUSK!
GO DOWN-STAIRS NOW!
THE LIGHT BEGINS SHINING AT SUNDOWN! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BY THEN!
W-WHY?
IF THE GLASS IS THIS MELTED, THIS LIGHT MUST BE INCREDIBLY HOT! SO HOT IT CAN MELT...
COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HURRY UP!
RUN!


HURRY!
TRTRTR
HURRY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?!
JUST GO!
I CAN'T RUN ANY FASTER!
tap



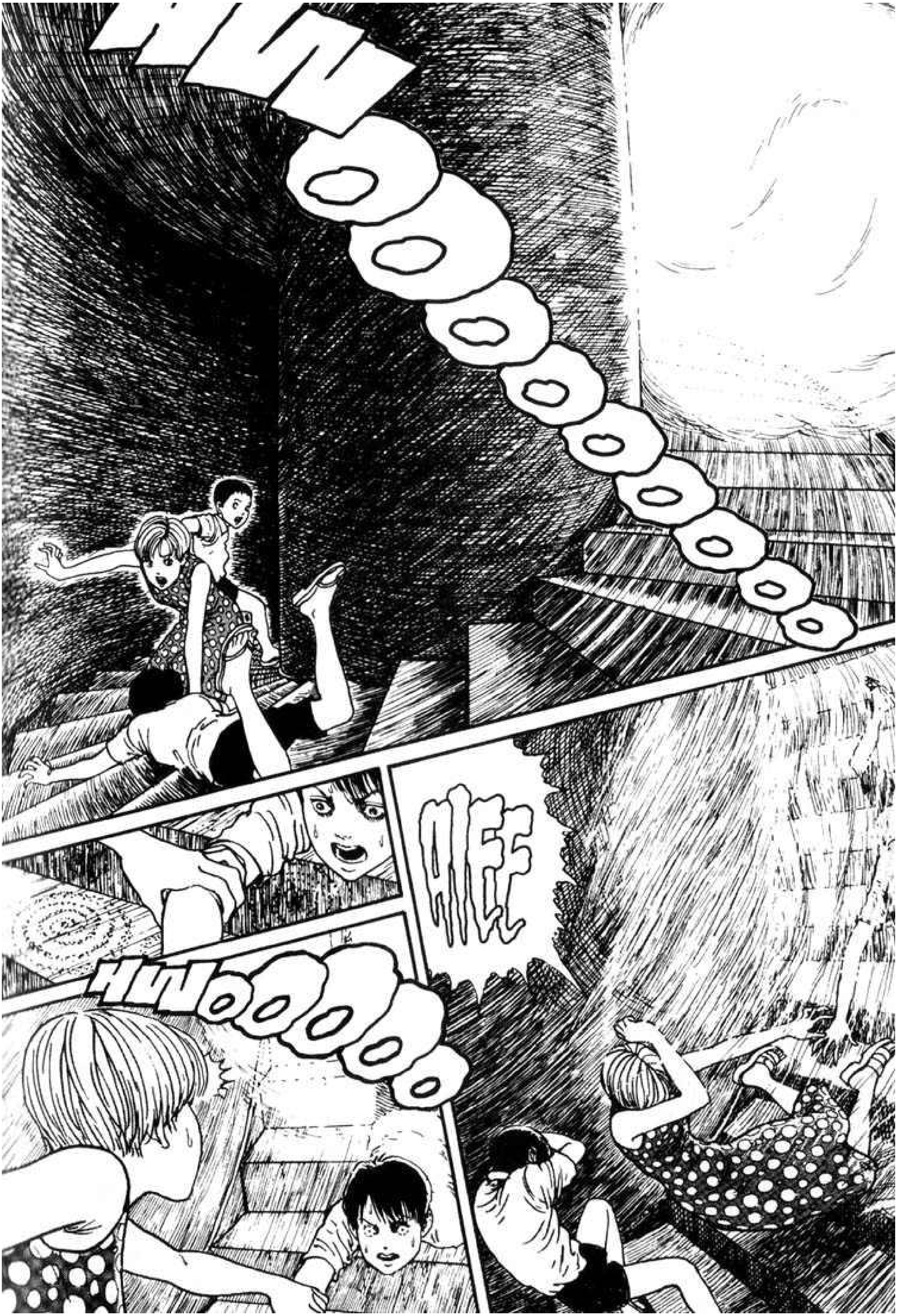


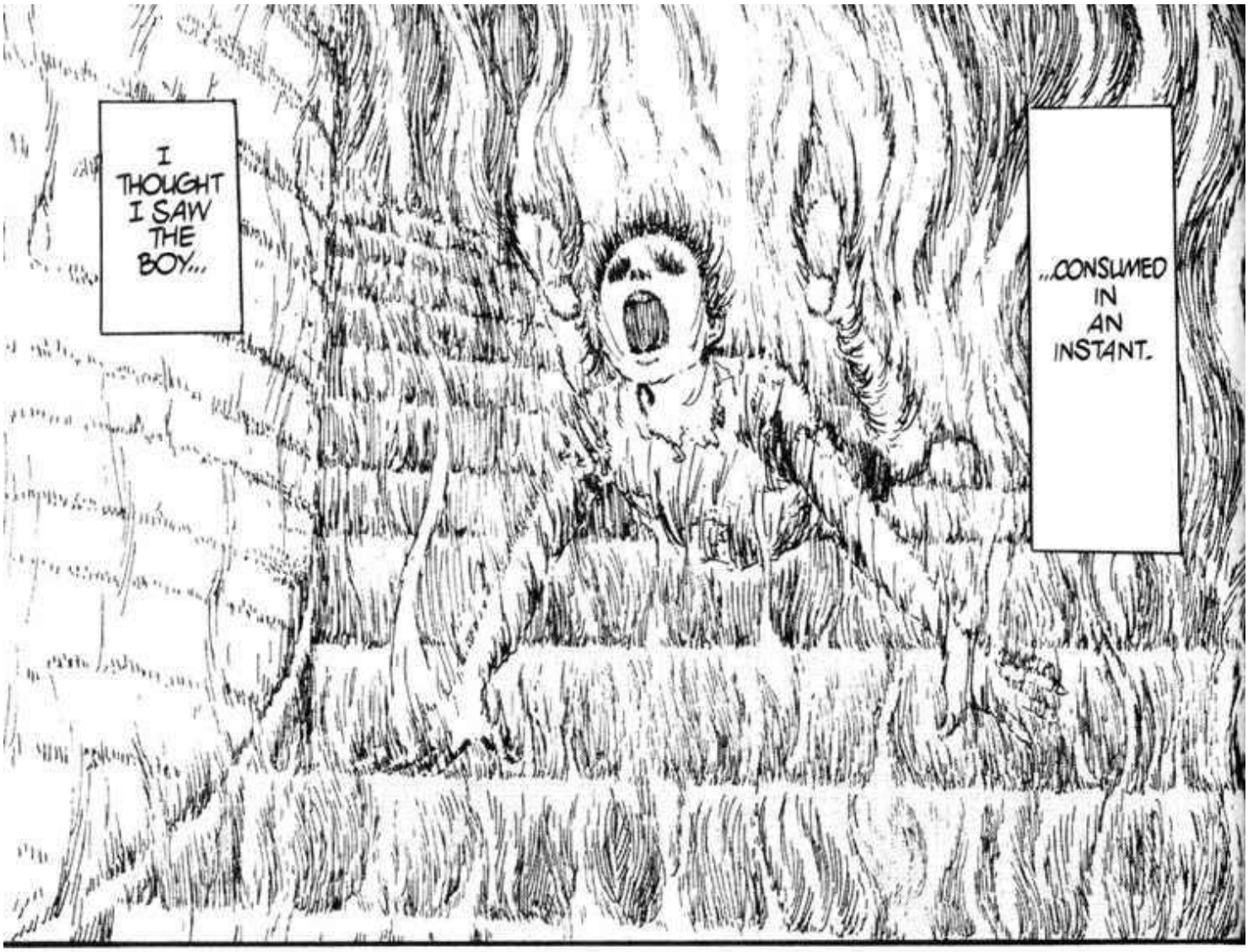

FLA-
SH


WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT OUT OF HERE!


HUUOO


THE LIGHT!
HWOOOOOO
IT'S COMING...
THE HEAT IS COMING!
DON'T LOOK! RUN!
TRIP
UHH!
!

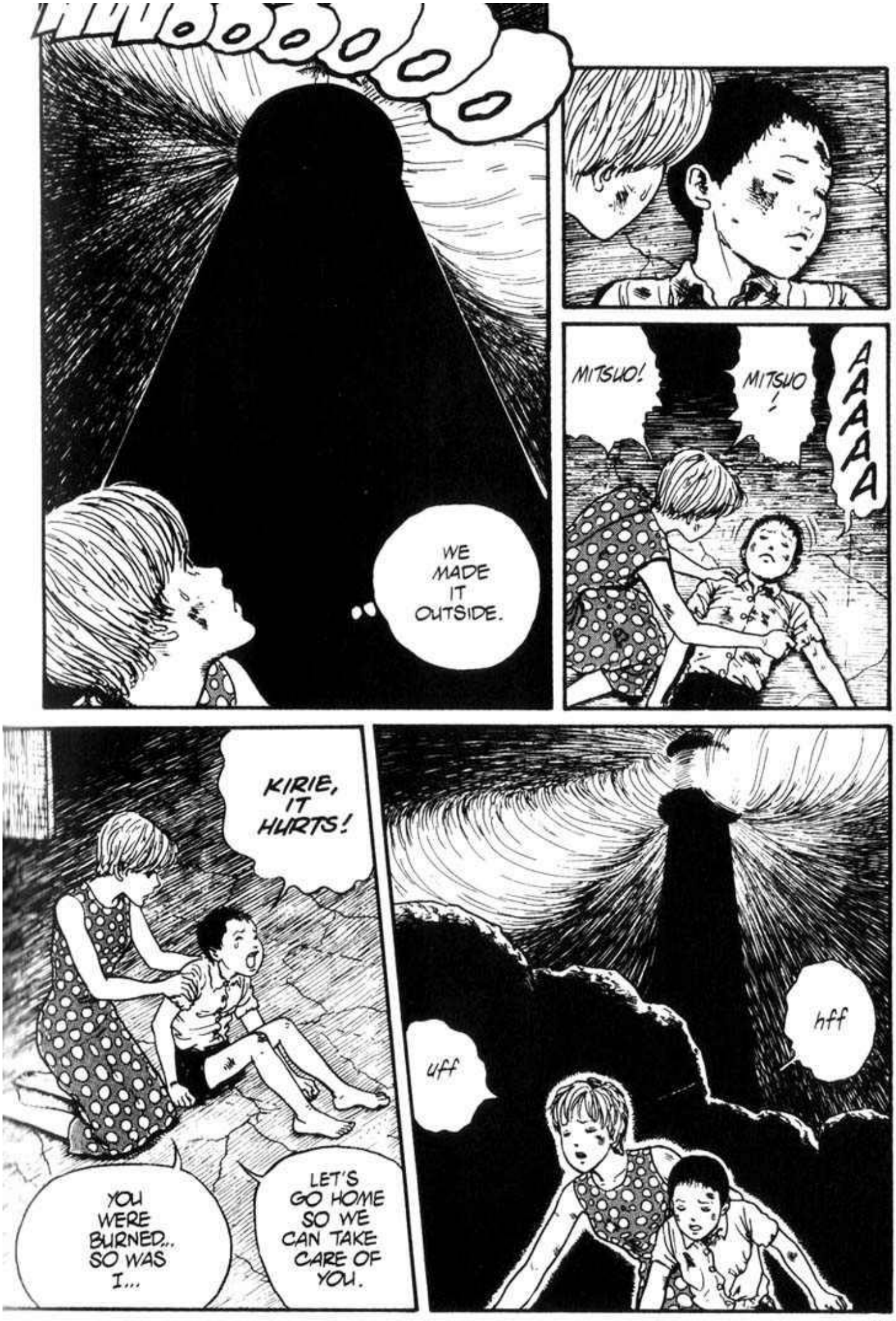

HUUOOOOOOOOO
AIEE
HUUOOOOOO

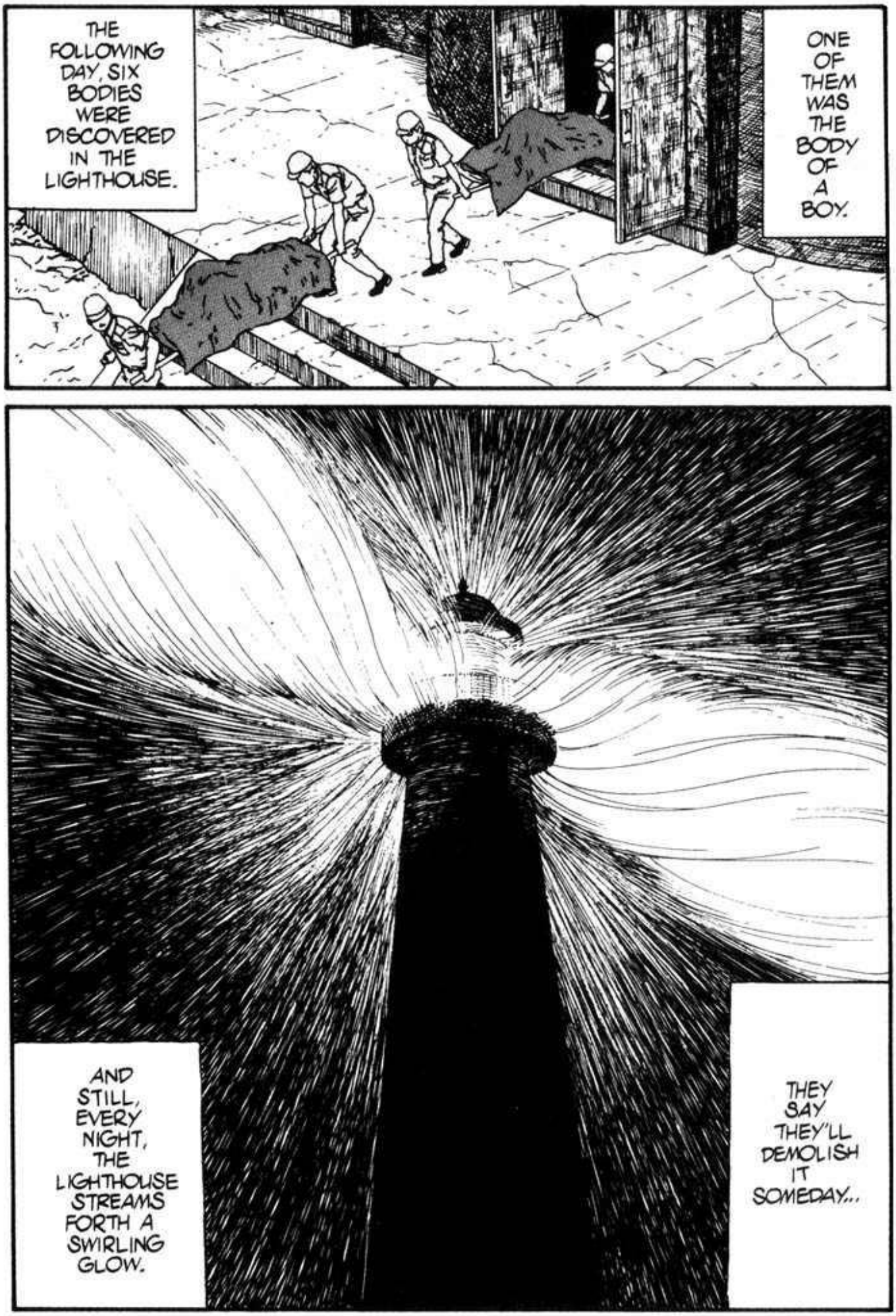

I THOUGHT I SAW THE BOY...
...CONSUMED IN AN INSTANT.


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?

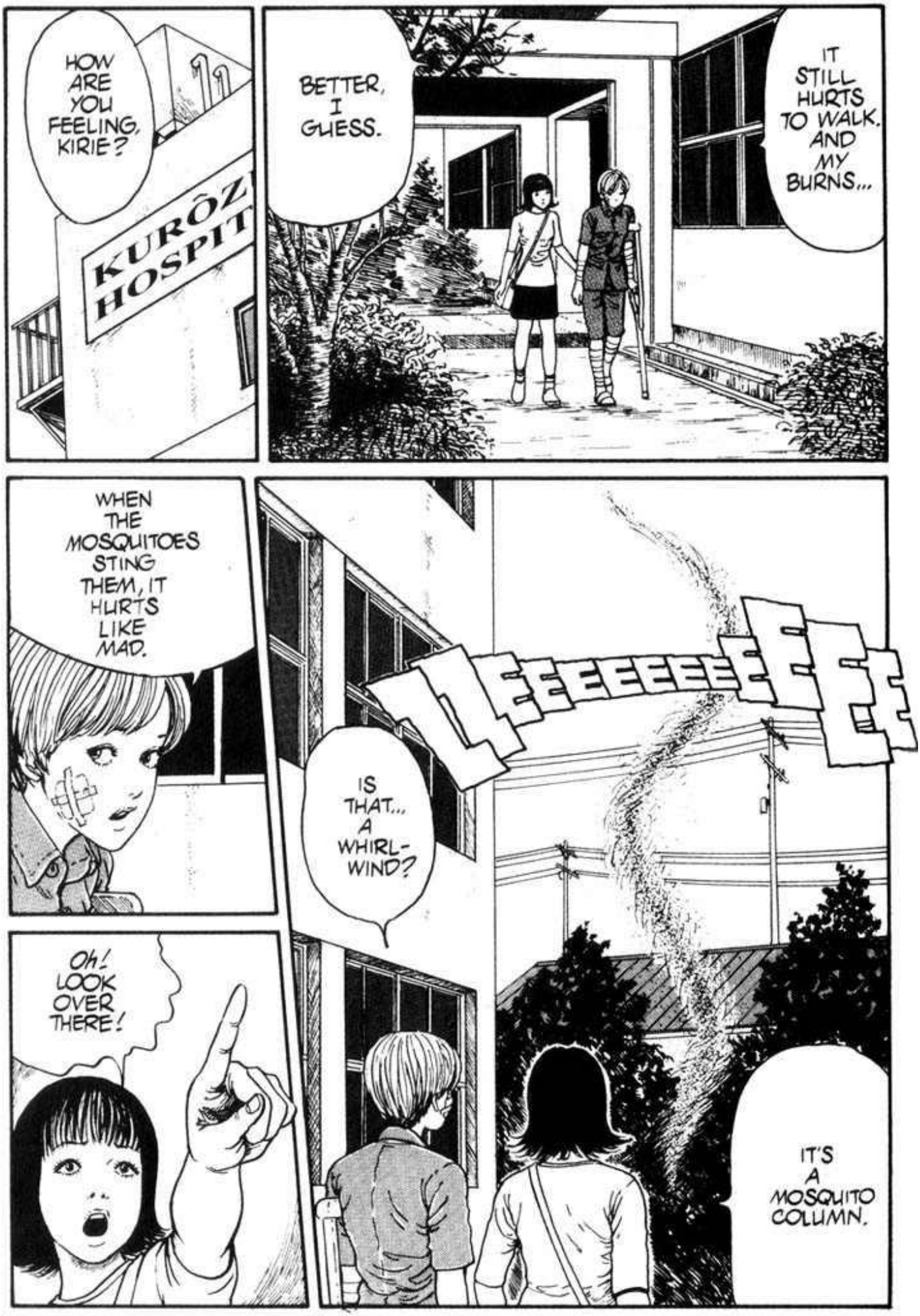

WE MADE IT OUTSIDE.
MITSUO!
MITSUO!
AAAAA
KIRIE, IT HURTS!
YOU WERE BURNED.. SO WAS I...
LET'S GO HOME SO WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU.
uff
hff


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
MOSQUITOES


THAT SUMMER OUR TOWN SWARMED WITH MOSQUITOES.
KUROZU HOSPITAL
LLEEEEE
LLEEEEEE
105
KIRIE GOSHIMA
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.
BIG COMIC
LLEEEEEEE
MY BROTHER MITSUO WASN'T HURT AS BAD, SO HE WAS RELEASED THE OTHER DAY.


NOT AGAIN.
LLEEEEEE
ANOTHER MOSQUITO.
LLEEEEEEEE
WF
WF
LLEEEEEE
LLEEEEEE
...
THE MOSQUITOES THAT YEAR WERE STRANGE.
THEY WOULD FLY IN DROWSY SPIRALS.
JUST WATCHING THEM MADE YOU SLEEPY, AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNEW, YOU WERE STUNG.
LLEEEEE


HOW ARE YOU FEELING, KIRIE?
KURÔZ HOSPIT
BETTER, I GUESS.
IT STILL HURTS TO WALK. AND MY BURNS...
WHEN THE MOSQUITOES STING THEM, IT HURTS LIKE MAD.
IS THAT... A WHIRL-WIND?
FFFFFFFFFFFF
Oh! LOOK OVER THERE!
IT'S A MOSQUITO COLUMN.


"MOSQUITO COLUMN"?
WEEEEEEEEE
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.
?!



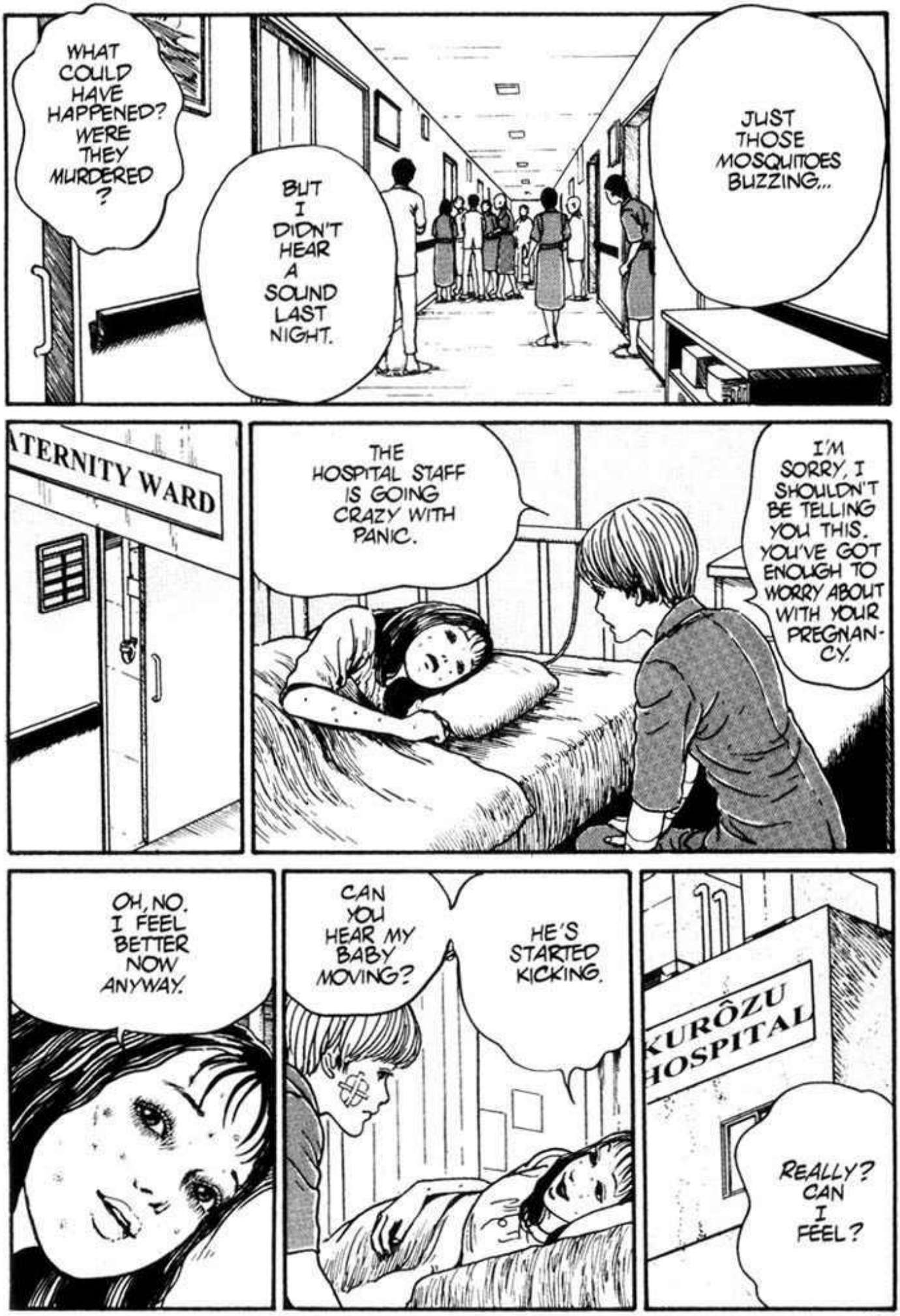

THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODY WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT HAPPENED.


WEOOOO
KLAKETAKLAK
EVERY-ONE'S IN A STIR OVER THIS DEAD WOMAN. NOW WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PREGNANCY.
AGAIN?
THERE'S OVER TEN PREGNANT WOMEN WHO'VE BEEN HOSPITALIZED SUFFERING FROM MOSQUITO SWARM ATTACKS.
KLAKETAKLAKETA
WHAT?!
THAT'S MY COUSIN KEIKO!!


MATERNITY WARD
Ooh...
Ooh...
Oo...
I FEEL...
KEIKO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KIRIE...
I JUST NEED TO REST. I THROW UP EVERYTHING I EAT.
NURSE, SHE'S BEEN BITTEN REALLY BADLY. IS THAT WHAT'S CAUSING IT?
WELL, I CAN'T SAY THAT IT'S NOT RELATED. BUT I THINK IT'S MOSTLY PSYCHO-LOGICAL.
IT'S STRANGE SO MANY PREGNANT WOMEN ARE BEING HOSPITALIZED.


MS. GOSHIMA, COULD YOU UNPACK HER THINGS FOR HER?
HER HUSBAND BROUGHT OVER HER BAG.
SURE.
SHOULD I TAKE OUT HER TOWEL, TOO?
PLEASE.
?
KEIKO, WHAT'S INSIDE THIS WRAPPED CLOTH? IT'S HEAVY...
Oh... JUST LEAVE IT IN THE CUPBOARD.
OKAY.


THE NEXT MORNING ...
KUROZU HOSPITAL
...THE OUTBREAK OCCURRED IN THE HOSPITAL ITSELF.
WE HAVE AN EMER-GENCY!
203
ONE OF THE PATIENTS IN ROOM 203 IS DEAD!
THERE'S TWO MORE DEAD IN ROOM 217!
217
WHAT'S GOING ON?
...
ZEEEEEEE
IT MUST HAVE HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.
ZEEEE
ALL THREE DIED THE SAME WAY.
JUST LIKE THAT BODY WE DISCOVERED YESTERDAY IN THE YARD.
BUT DOCTOR... WHAT ARE THESE HOLES? ARE THEY STAB WOUNDS?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEIR BLOOD'S BEEN DRAINED OUT.
ZEEEEEEE
C-CALL THE POLICE!


WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED? WERE THEY MURDERED?
BUT I DIDN'T HEAR A SOUND LAST NIGHT.
JUST THOSE MOSQUITOES BUZZING...
ATERNITY WARD
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 PREGNANCY.
OH, NO. I FEEL BETTER NOW ANYWAY.
CAN YOU HEAR MY BABY MOVING?
HE'S STARTED KICKING.
KURÔZU HOSPITAL
REALLY? CAN I FEEL?


ZEEEEEEEEEEE
KIRIE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHUICHI!
YOU CAME TO SEE ME?
I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES.
I'VE BECOME SUCH A RECLUSE I HARDLY GO OUT ANYMORE.
GKKCU
GKKCU
KIRIE, YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL.
BUT WHY?
GKKCU
GKKCU
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG IN THIS PLACE.
GKKCU
GKKCU
MS. GOSHIMA?
YES?


I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO SHARE YOUR ROOM.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE BEDS IN THE MATERNITY WARD.
SO YOUR COUSIN KEIKO WILL BE STAYING WITH YOU.
KEIKO.
PLEASE.
THANKS, KIRIE.
SIT DOWN.
LISTEN, YOU CAN'T LET HER STAY.
I GET A WEIRD FEELING FROM THAT WOMAN.
SHUICHI ...
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT MY COUSIN?
...
LLLEEEEEEE

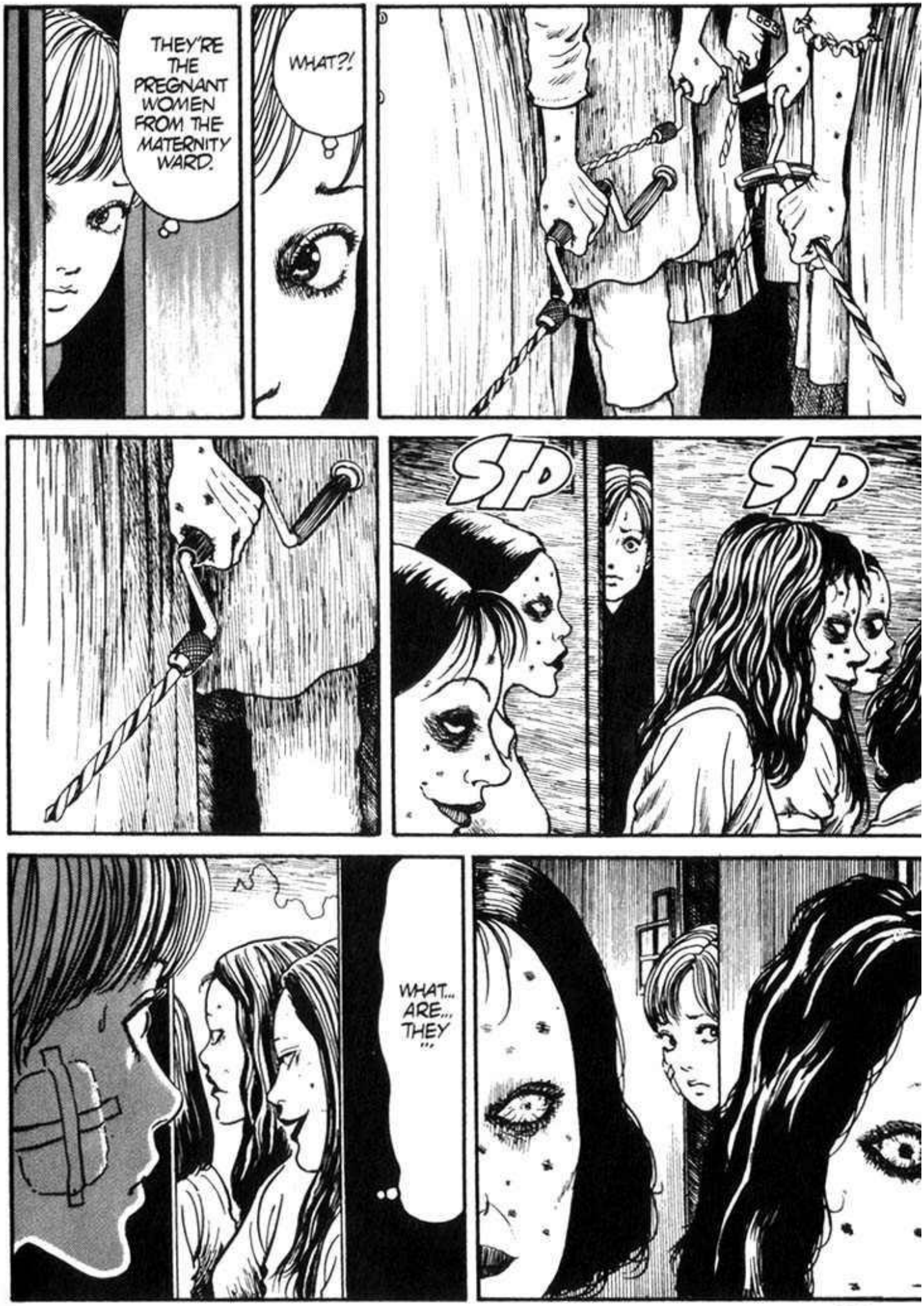

DAMN MOSQUITOES !!
I WON'T LET YOU GET NEAR ME!
FWHHHH
SHUICHI !
COUGH COUGH
FWHHHH
URRGH ...
HEY, YOU!
DON'T YOU DARE SPRAY THAT IN FRONT OF A PREGNANT WOMAN!
FLOOP
PHEW ...
KIRIE, DID YOU KNOW...


...THAT FEMALE MOSQUITOES ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO SUCK BLOOD?
AND ONLY WHEN THEY'RE CARRYING A BATCH OF EGGS.
THEY SUCK THE BLOOD OF ANIMALS SO THE YOUNG IN THEIR BODIES WILL GROW.
COUGH COUGH
THAT SMELL!
PLEASE OPEN THE WINDOW!
YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW!
SHHFFFFFF
COUGH
COUGH
NOW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KEIKO?
I'M SORRY. HE'S BEEN STRANGE LATELY.
huff
huff


THAT EVEN-ING
KURÔZU HOSPITAL
EEEEEEEEEEE
THERE'S ANOTHER MOSQUITO IN THE ROOM.
BE CAREFUL IT DOESN'T STING YOU.
Nooooooo
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


LLEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
ZU
AL
MOSQUITOES AGAIN...
LLEEEEEEEE
NOT IN HERE.
LLEEEEEEEE
THEY'RE IN THE HALL.
LLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE


ZLEEEEEEEEE
STPSTP
ZLEEEEEEEE
ZLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
STP
STP
STP


THEY'RE THE PREGNANT WOMEN FROM THE MATERNITY WARD.
WHAT?!
SIP
SIP
WHAT... ARE... THEY ...


THEY'RE SPLITTING UP INTO DIFFERENT ROOMS.
ROOMS WHERE PATIENTS ARE SLEEPING.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH HAND DRILLS?
WHY ARE THEY...?
SNEESNEE
TWEETWEE
SNEEE


PUP
SHLP
GLUG
SHLP
GLUG
NO...
NO!


YOU...
SAW...
YOU...
SAW
AHH!
AGH!
YOU SAW
YOU SAW


HOHO
AHH!
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S LATE!
HELP ME!
AH!
WHAT?!


GET AWAY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
BLOOD
GIVE US BLOOD
WHO
OHOHOHO


NYEESNYEEEEE
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE?
WHY ARE YOU IN THERE?
GIVE US BLOOD
NYAA!
WHAT?

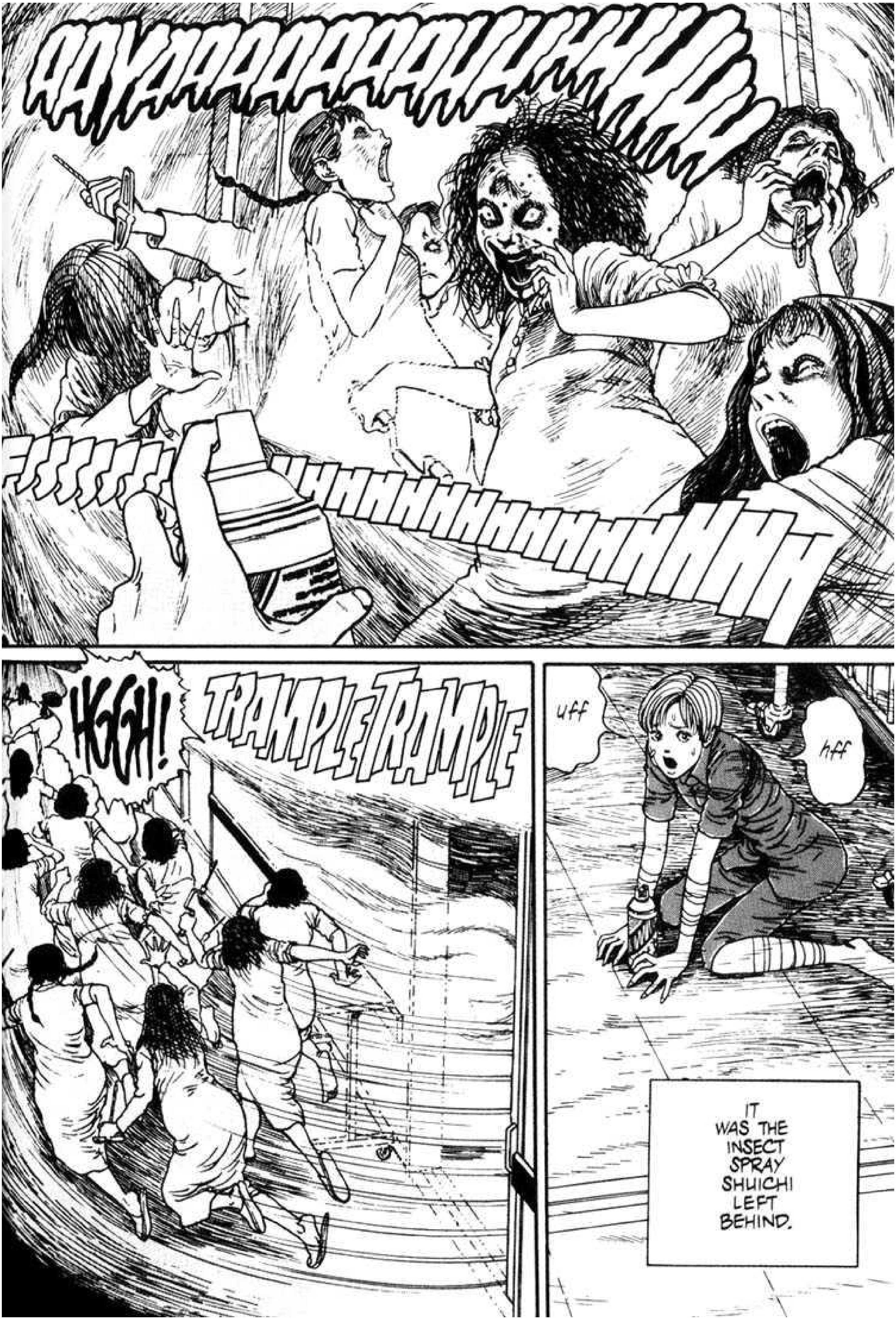

SWEE SMILE
SWEE SWEE
GUG SHLP
SLRP GUG
OH
OHO HO HO
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT
IT WAS SO GOOD...

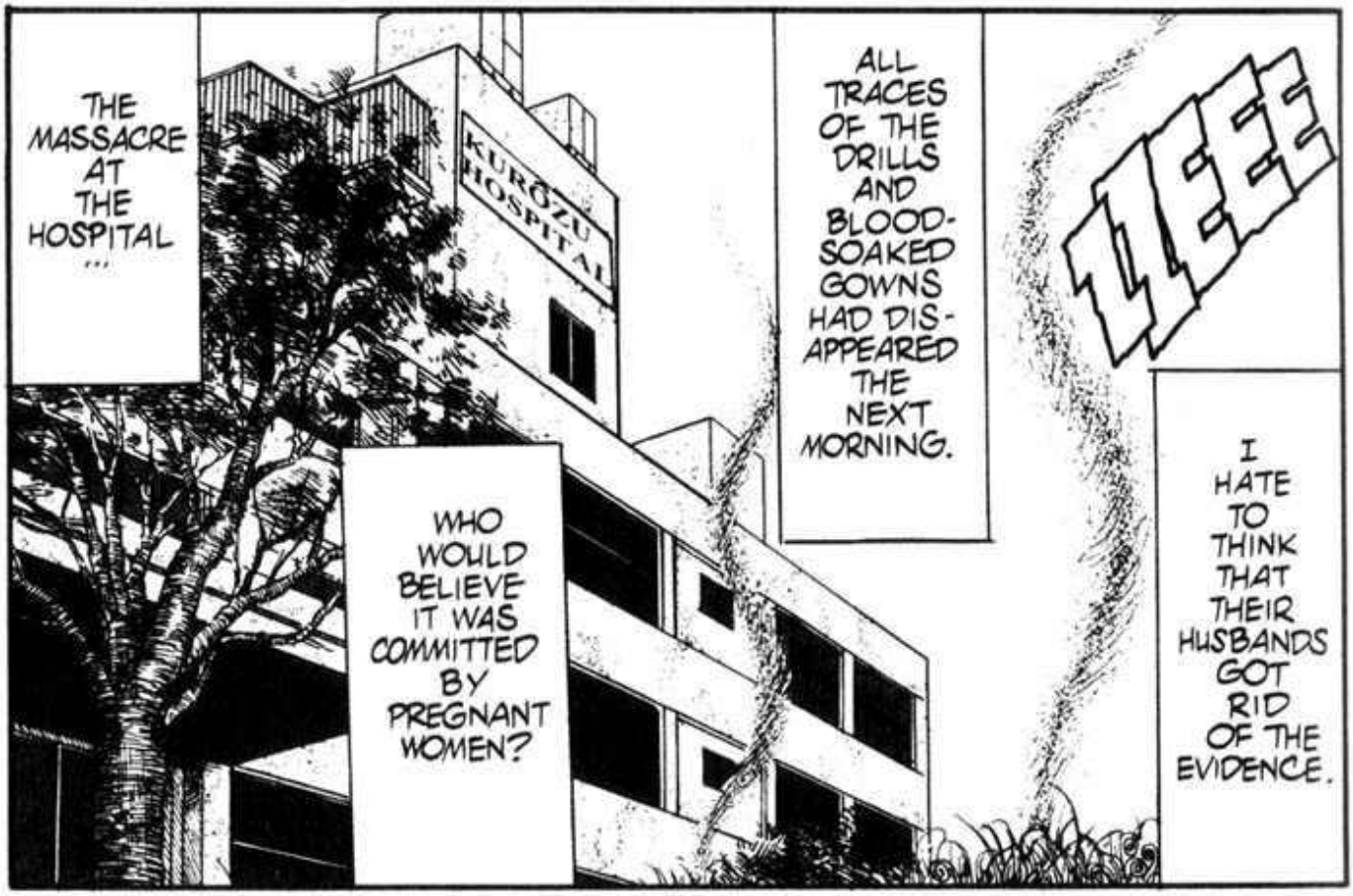

BACK TO OUR ROOMS NOW.
BACK TO SLEEP
WAIT!
SOMEONE SAW WHAT I DID.
A GIRL SAW WHAT WE DID.
THAT GIRL!
WE CAN'T LET HER LIVE IF SHE SAW US!
OH HO HO
hff uff

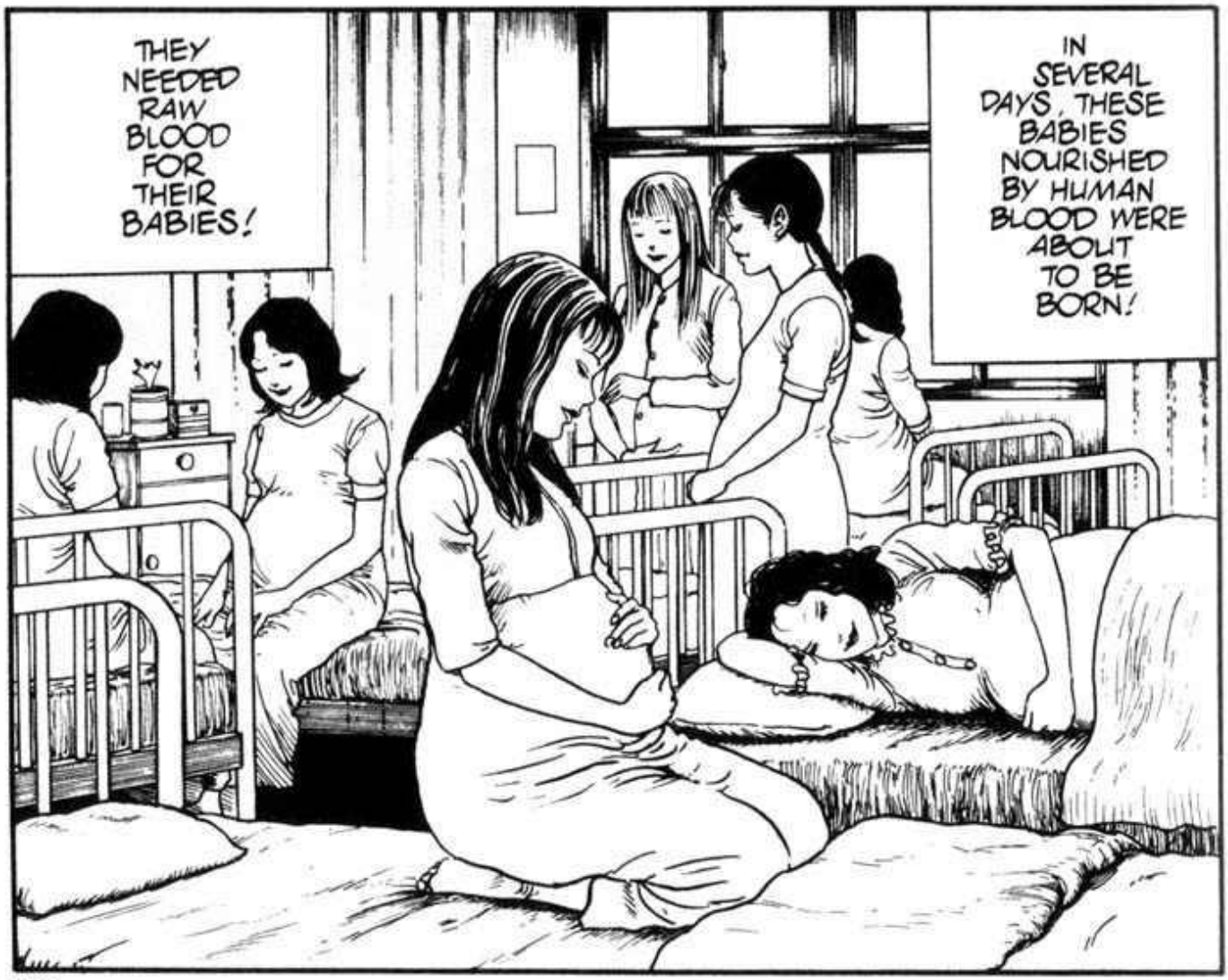

OH HA HA
hff
uff
SHHH
SHHP
KREE
OHH, IT'S USE-LESS.
OPEN THE DOOR.
STOP IT!
SOME-ONE HELP ME!
KEIKO, WAKE UP!
OH HO HO I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!
I'LL DRILL THROUGH YOUR CHEEK AND OUT YOUR EYE!

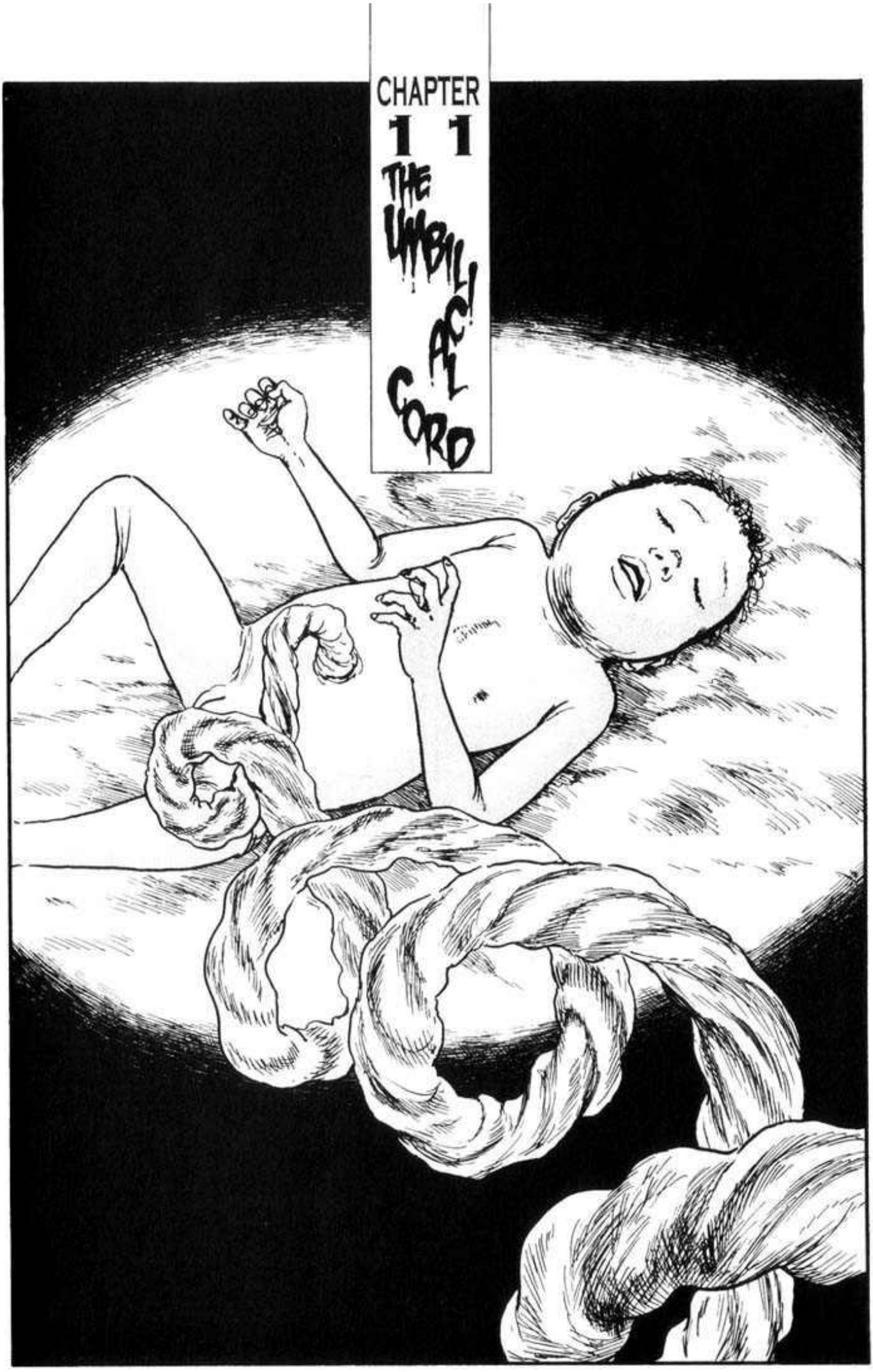

UH?!
GIVE ME YOUR BLOOD.
BLOOD...
KEIKO ?!
AH?!
BAMM


STOP IT!
AHA
HAHA
TUMP
PRAY KILL
!
FFFFFF
SHHH
KILL


AAYAAAAAAAAUUKKHH
FSSSSSSHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
HGGH!
TRAMPLE TRAMPLE
uff
hff
IT WAS THE INSECT SPRAY SHUICHI LEFT BEHIND.


THE MASSACRE AT THE HOSPITAL ...
KUROZU HOSPITAL
WHO WOULD BELIEVE IT WAS COMMITTED BY PREGNANT WOMEN?
ALL TRACES OF THE DRILLS AND BLOOD-SOAKED GOWNS HAD DIS-APPEARED THE NEXT MORNING.
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
11
THE UMBILICAL CORD


THE PREGNANT WOMEN AT KUROZU HOSPITAL WERE APPROACHING THE LAST MONTH OF THEIR TERM.
KUROZU HOSPITAL
AAGHH!
DELIVERY ROOM
DELIVERY ROOM
MY COUSIN KEIKO WAS THE FIRST TO GO INTO LABOR.
EEAGH
I WAS AFRAID TO WATCH.
EEAH!
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?
SLURP
SLURP
I HEARD A STRANGE SOUND COMING FROM THE BATHROOM.
IT WAS KEIKO.
YOU SAW...
EEEAH!

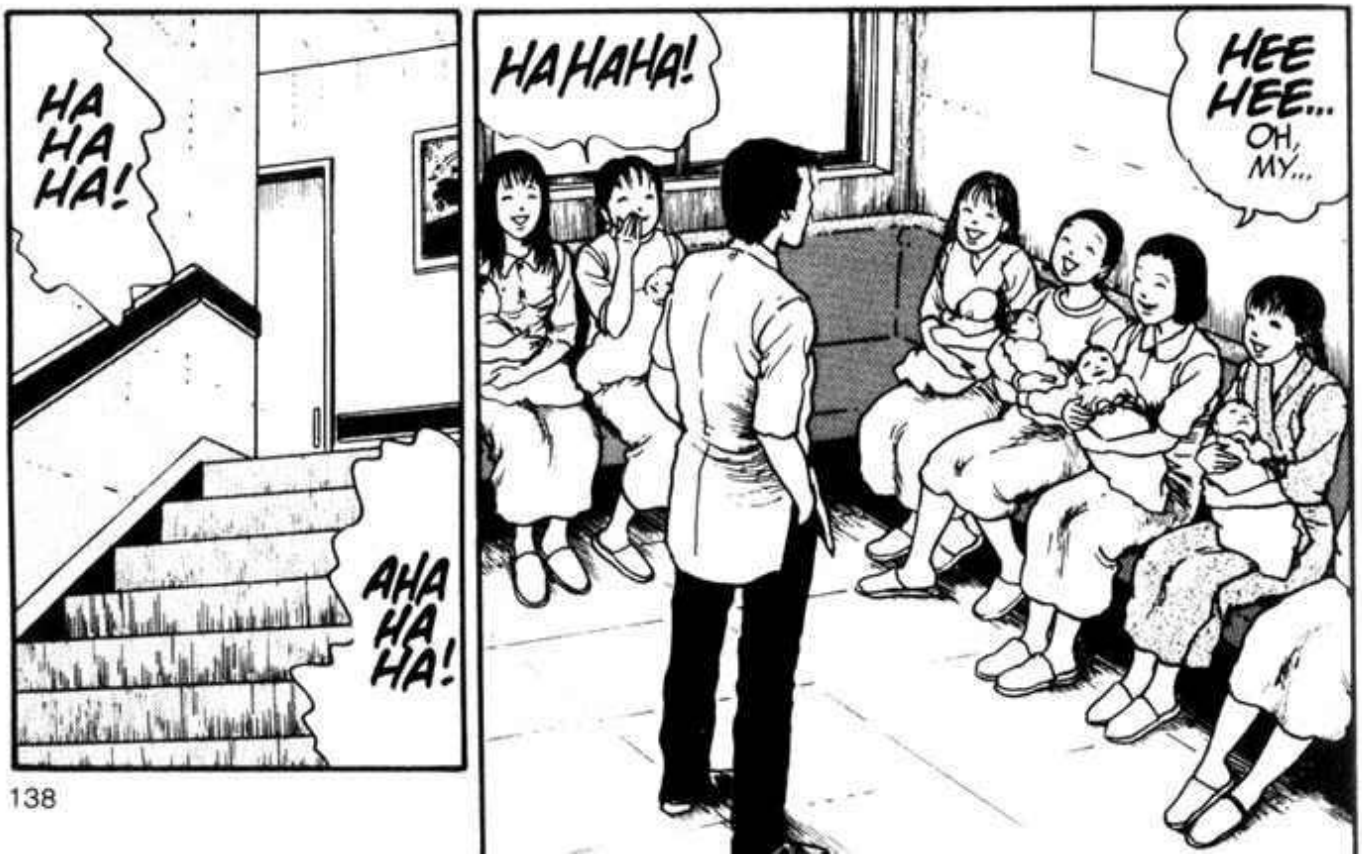

OHHooo
AGH
EEHA EEAH
ONE MORE PUSH!
AAGH
ONE MORE PUSH!
AAAGHH!
AAHHooo
WAAAH!
DELIVERY ROOM
AAHHAA
KURŌZU HOSPITAL
WAAAHH


SO IT'S BORN.
I WONDER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
THIS BABY GORGED WITH HUMAN BLOOD...
NEWBORNS
KEIKO NAKAYAMA
IT WAS THE SWEETEST BABY I HAD EVER SEEN.


Oh, WHAT A DEAR!
WHAT A CUTE BABY!
COO, COO?
Gah, gah!
HE'S SO KEY-UUUTE!
THE BABIES WERE BORN IN SUCCESSION.
AAGH
DELIVERY ROOM
EEYA
NURSERY


LOOK AT THOSE FACES.
HISAKO UME
MIDORI SUGIYAMA
THEY'RE ALL SWEET THINGS.


ORTHOPEDICS
YOU'RE FULLY RECOVERED, MISS GOSHIMA.
YOU CAN BE DISCHARGED ANYTIME.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR.

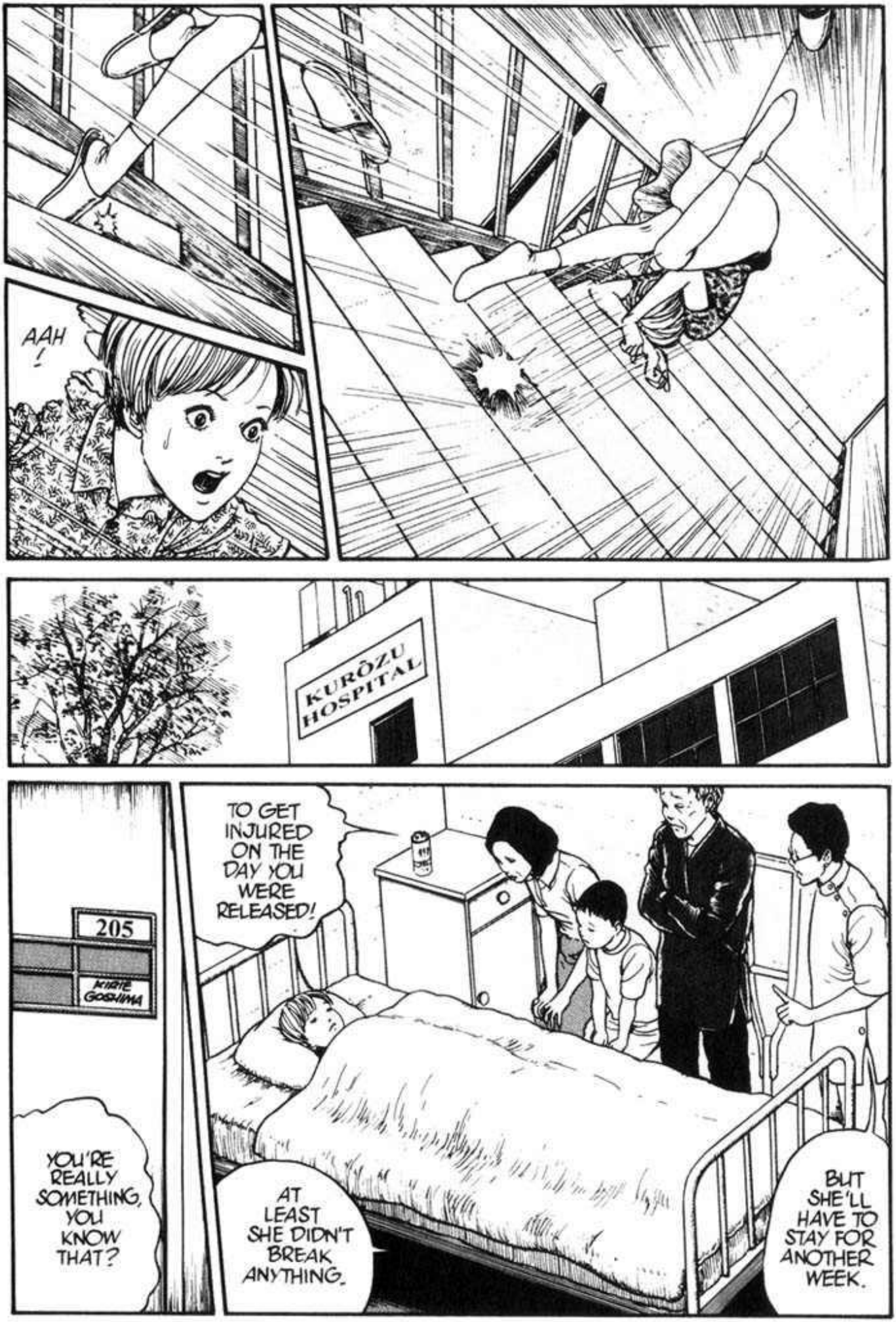

HA HA HA!
AHA HA HA!
HAHAHA!
HEE HEE... OH, MY...


IN ALL MY YEARS AT THE HOSPITAL, I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH WONDERFUL CHILDREN.
WHAT AN HONOR TO HAVE HELPED BRING YOUR BABIES INTO THE WORLD.
Oh, DOCTOR KAWAMOTO!
YOU'RE FLATTERING US!
THERE YOU ARE, KEIKO.
KIRIE...
I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M GOING HOME.
Ohh, HOW GOOD FOR YOU!
Oh! I HAVE A NAME FOR THE BABY.
IT'S MAKIO. MAKIO, SAY HI TO COUSIN KIRIE.


Goo, goo.
...
HE'S SO CUTE.
Hm?
Umm... KEIKO?
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MAKIO'S STOMACH?
IT'S ALL PUFFED UP.
!
...


THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
Oh... Oh, THAT. IT'S NOTHING.
THEY'RE JUST WEARING BELLY BANDS.
...
BUT THEY LOOK SWOLLEN.
URR
AAWHAAA!
WHAT?


AAAWHAAAAHH!!
AAWHAAAAHHH!
THAT SOUND!
IT JUST PIERCES THROUGH MY EARS!
AAAAWWWAHHHH!!
AAAWHAAAAHHH
AAAWHAAAAHHH

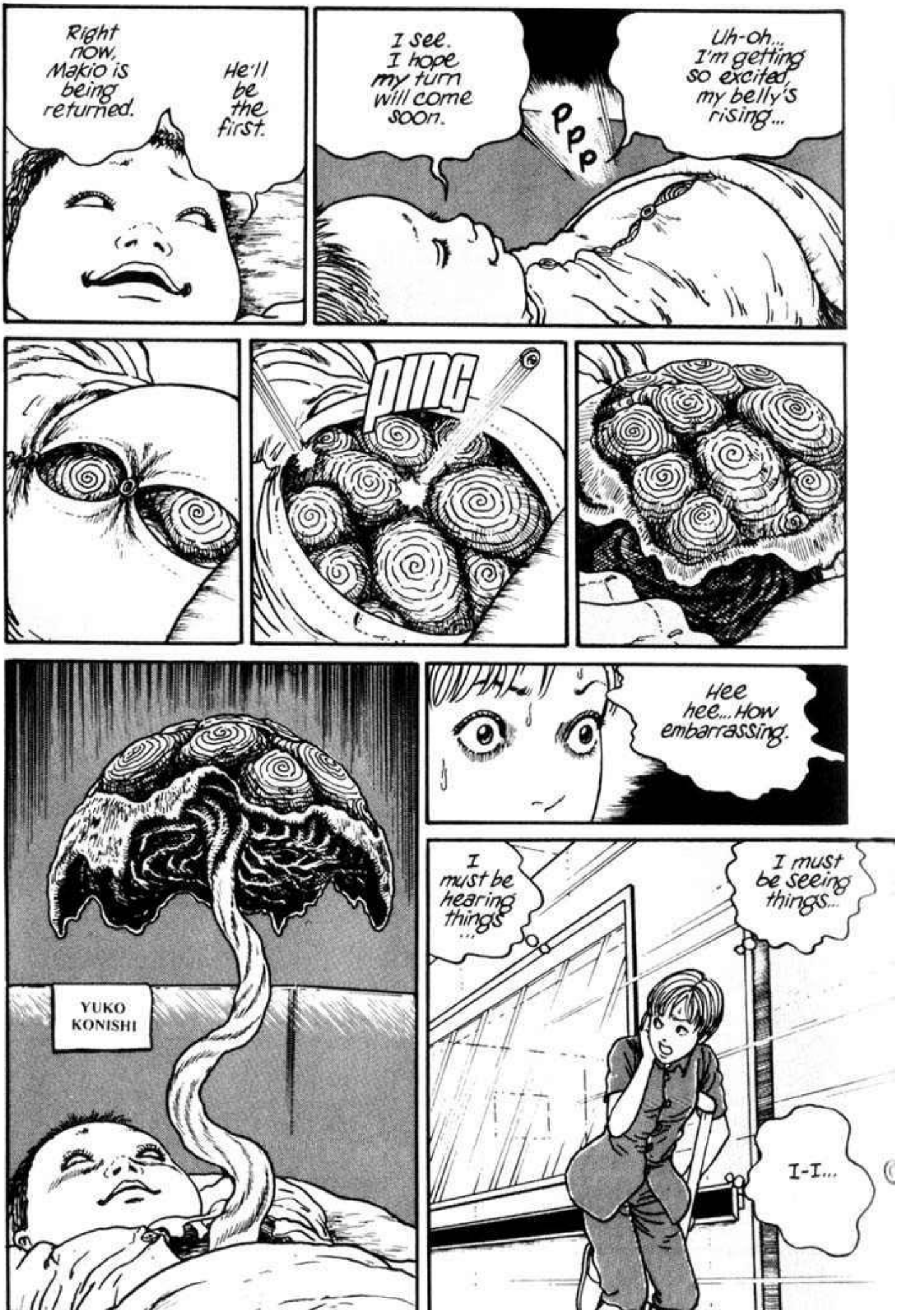

AAH!
KURÔZU HOSPITAL
205
MIGHE GOSHIMA
TO GET INJURED ON THE DAY YOU WERE RELEASED!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT?
AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING.
BUT SHE'LL HAVE TO STAY FOR ANOTHER WEEK.


DOCTOR... 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?
MNCH MNCH
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...
Mrmr Mrmr...


RSERY
mrmr mrmr...
mrmr mrmr...
mrmr mrmr...
It's so cold here.
I want to go back.
Yes... to go back to that warm place.
The water there was like heaven.
I want to go back to mother's womb.
The womb is the best.
MADA
Can we really go back?
YUKO KONISHI
Of course we can. Doctor Kawamoto will do it.
If he took us out, he can put us back in.


Right now, Makio is being returned.
He'll be the first.
I see. I hope my turn will come soon.
Ppp
Uh-oh... I'm getting so excited, my belly's rising...
PING
YUKO KONISHI
Hee hee... How embarrassing.
I must be hearing things...
I must be seeing things...
I-I...


DELIVERY ROOM
"MAKIO IS BEING RETURNED"?
EEH!
OH, GOD!
DELIVERY ROOM
GGHAA
WHAT?
THAT'S KEIKO'S VOICE!
KEIKO!
THUMP
THUMP
DOCTOR!
SCREE
CHK
CHK
CHK



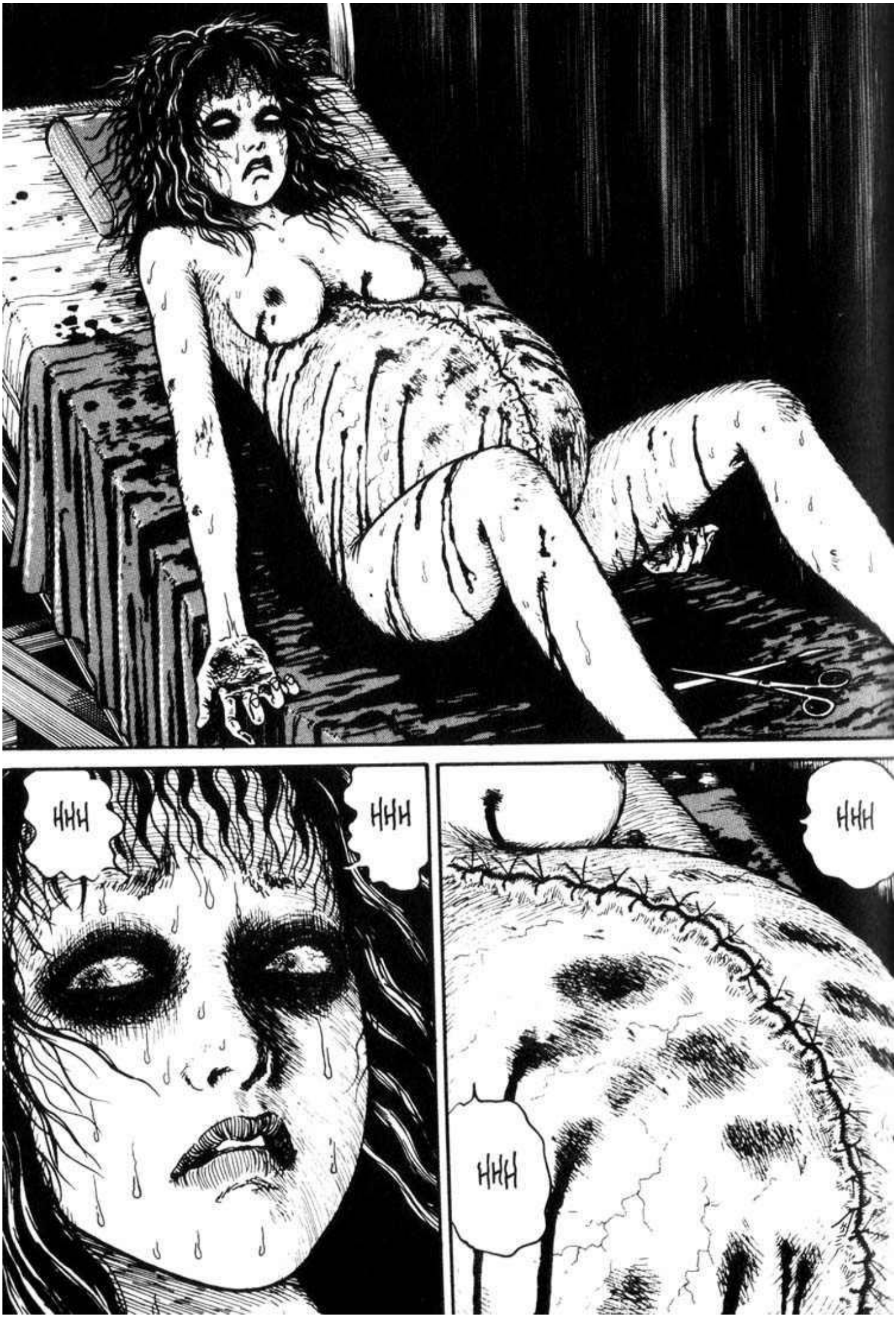

WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS?
CHK
!
CHD
SCREE


DOCTOR KAWA-MOTO!
I JUST HEARD KEIKO'S VOICE!
IS SHE HERE?
WHERE IS MAKIO?!
...
"CUTE-NESS" IS COMMON TO ALL BABY MAMMALS.
?!
IT'S A WEAPON USED BY INFANT CHILDREN.
THEY USE IT TO INFLUENCE ADULTS... TO GET ATTENTION...
BECAUSE THEY NEED US TO SURVIVE.


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.

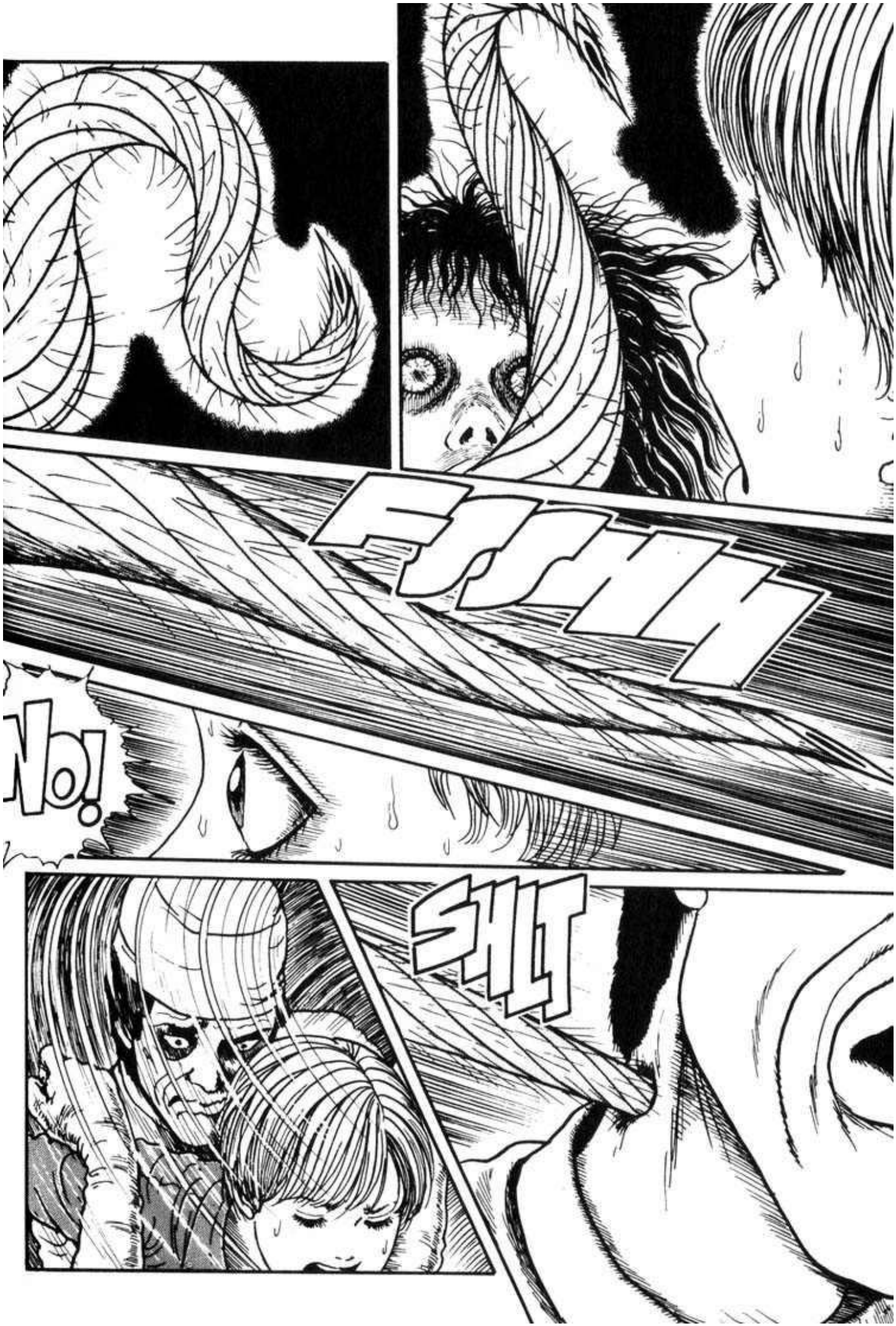

AFTER WE DELIVERED THE BABIES, THESE ORGANS SPROUTED ON THEIR OWN.
THE PLACENTAS TOOK ROOT WHERE WE DROPPED THEM. EVERY BIT OF TISSUE STARTED TO GROW.
AND NOW...
AND NOW, JUST LOOK AT THEM!
I HAD TO TASTE ONE.
AS A DOCTOR, YOU SEE.
AND IT WAS DELICIOUS! IT REVITALIZED ME!
IT'S NATURAL WHEN YOU THINK 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!


D-DOCTOR?
IS KEIKO IN THERE?
YES... THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE IN THAT ROOM.
WHAT... WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO TO THEM?
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAMING?
DON'T WORRY.
THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
OPERATION?!
LET ME THROUGH!
AHH!
CHAK


HHH
HHH
HHH
HHH


KEIKO...
THE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFUL.
THE CHILD HAS BEEN RETURNED TO ITS WOMB.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE BABY INSIDE THE WOMB NOW.
hhh
hhh
ONE THING I KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS THAT SHE WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE TO PROVIDE IT WITH NUTRITION ...
DOCTOR... DOCTOR KAWAMOTO...
BLOOD... I NEED BLOOD...
TUG
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LET ME GO!
LET ME GO!
NO!


HURRY... GIVE ME...
HERE... HERE!
KEIKO!

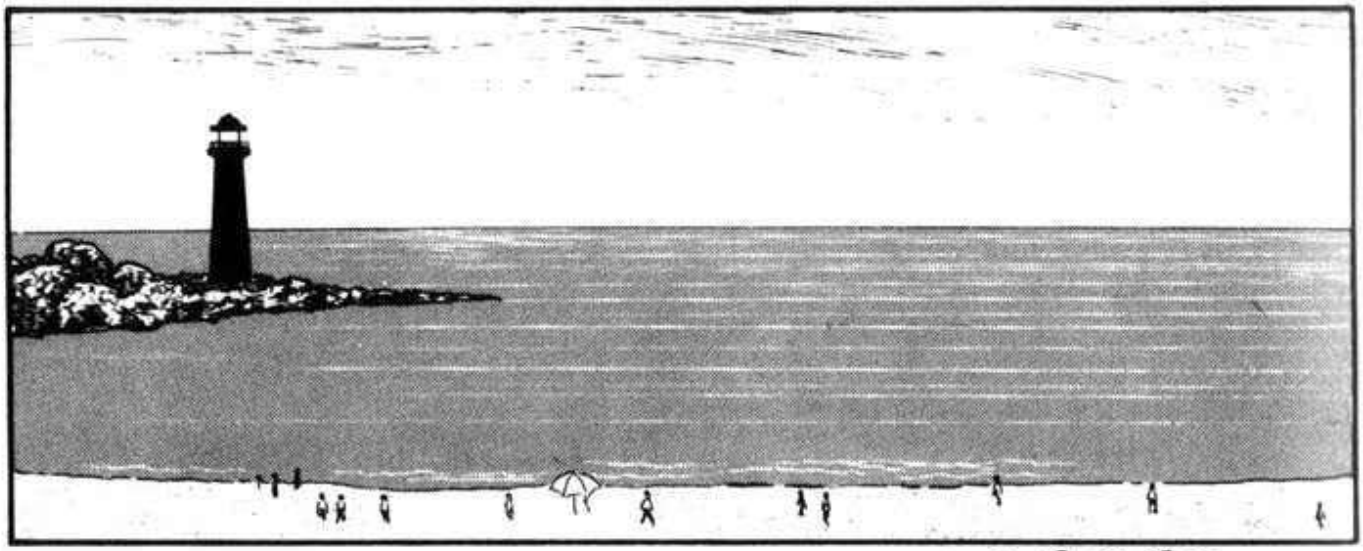

FUHH
No!
SHIT


KHHAA...


uff...
hff...
KYAAH!
MORE... I NEED MORE BLOOD!
Ohh, LOOK AT ALL THESE MUSH-ROOMS!
THIS MUST BE WHERE THEY COME FROM!


PLEASE HELP ME!
LOOK HOW MANY THERE ARE!
LET'S EAT!
GUH
EUAA
EAT
I ESCAPED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
KUROZU HOSPITAL
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED THERE. I WASN'T ABOUT TO GO BACK TO FIND OUT.


CHAPTER
12
THE STORM

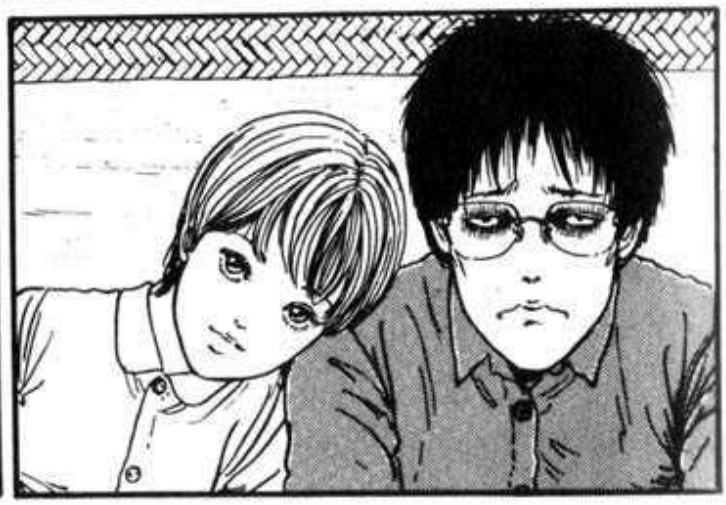


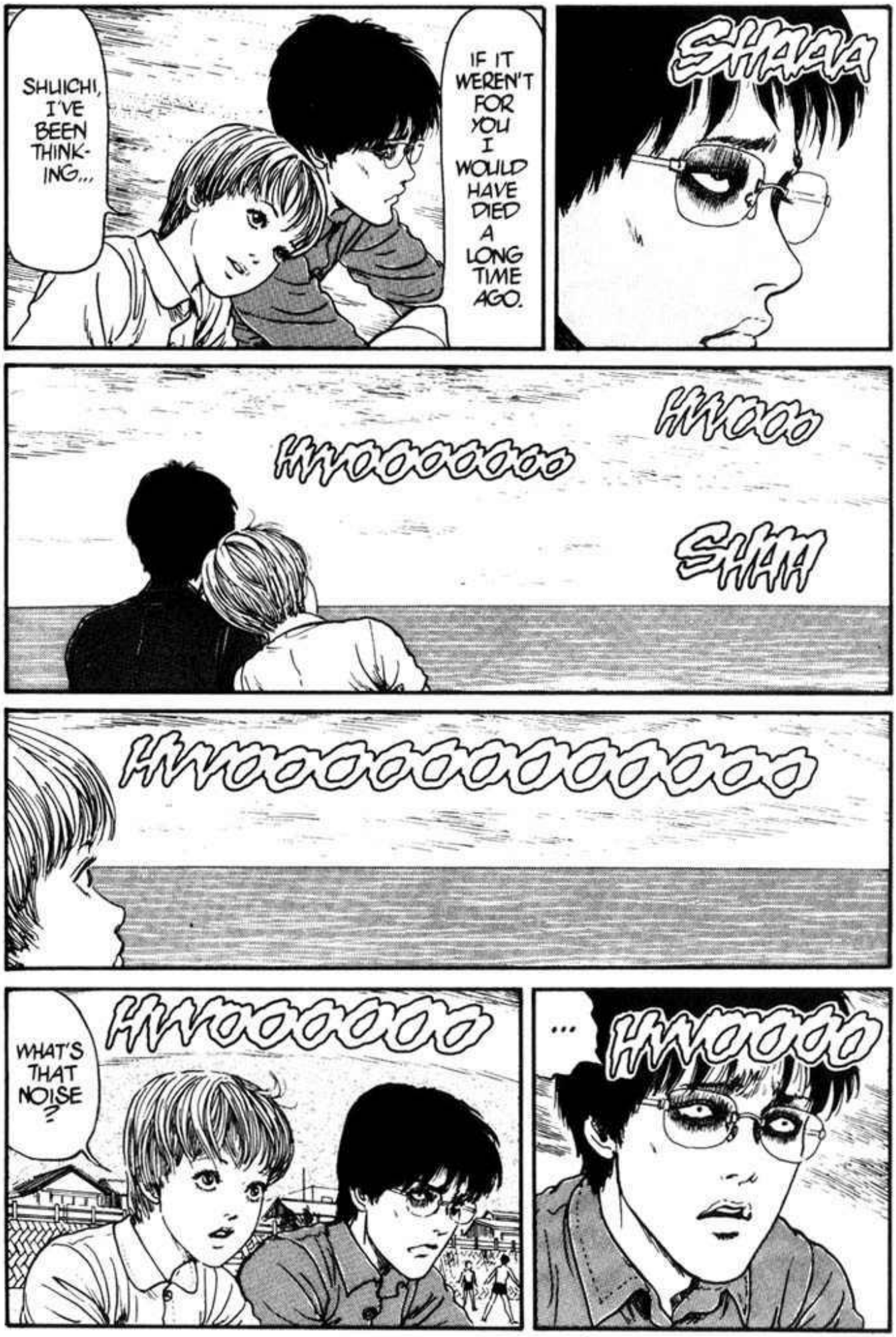

SHAAAAAAAAA


SHAAAAAAAAAAAAA


SHAAAAAAAAAA

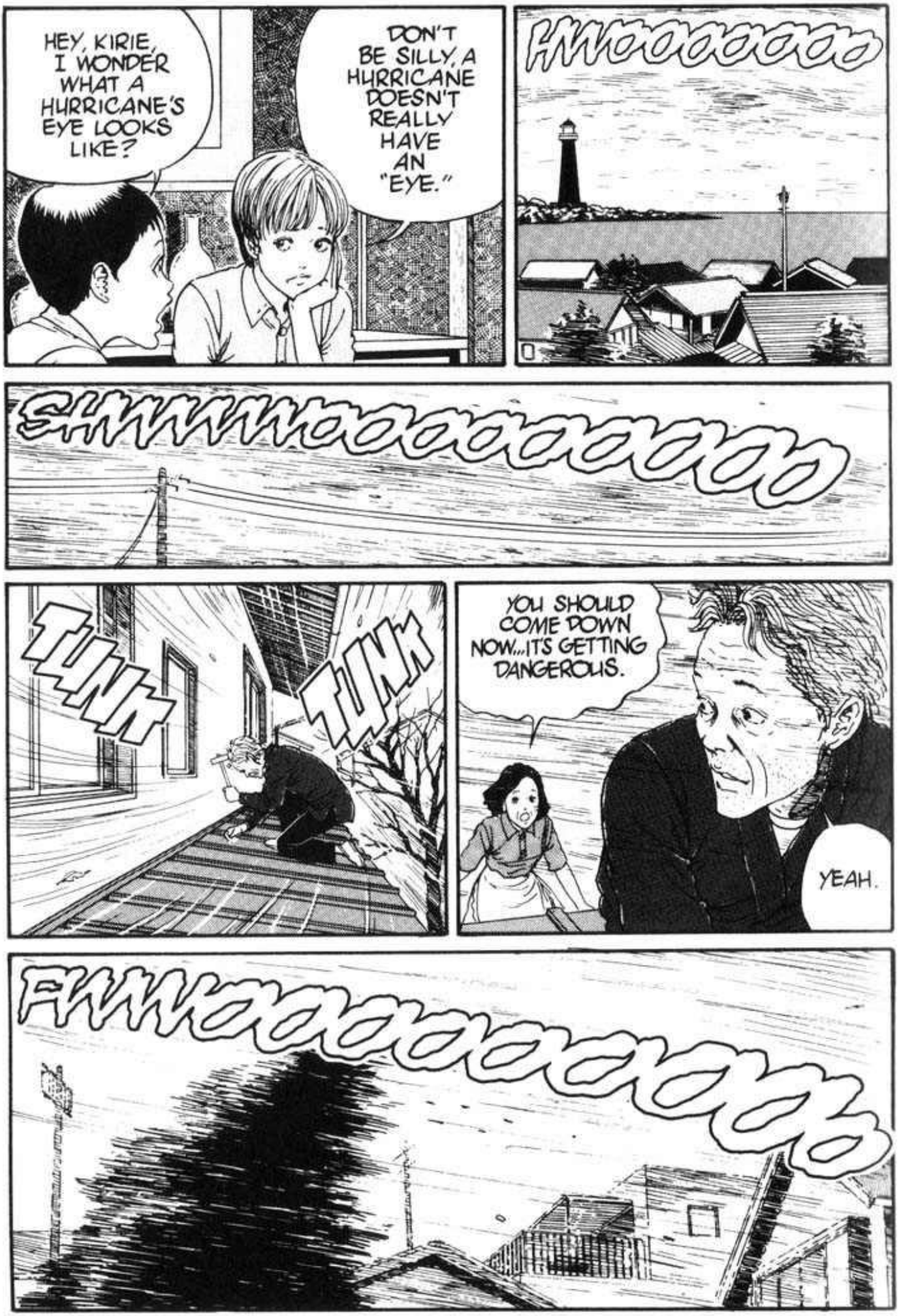




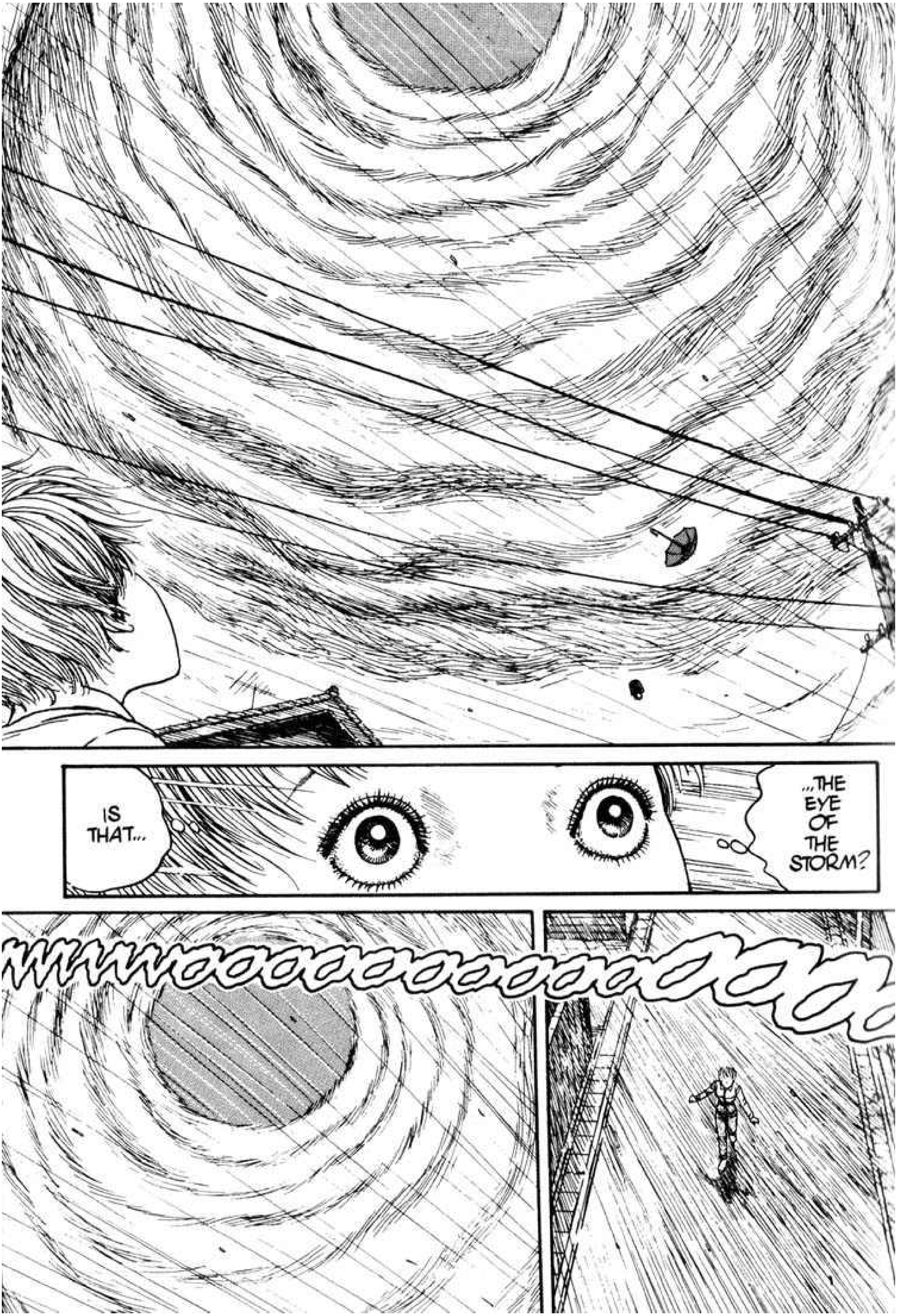

SHUICHI, I'VE BEEN THINK-ING...
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU I WOULD HAVE DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
SHAAA
HVVOOO
HVVOOOOOOOO
SHAAA
HVVOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
HVVOOOOOO
...
HVVOOOOO


IT'S THE WIND
IT MEANS A STORM'S COMING!
TYPHOON SEASON!
IT'S FINALLY HERE... IT'S FINALLY HERE!
TYPHOON! TYPHOON!
WHAT?
...
HWOOOOOO

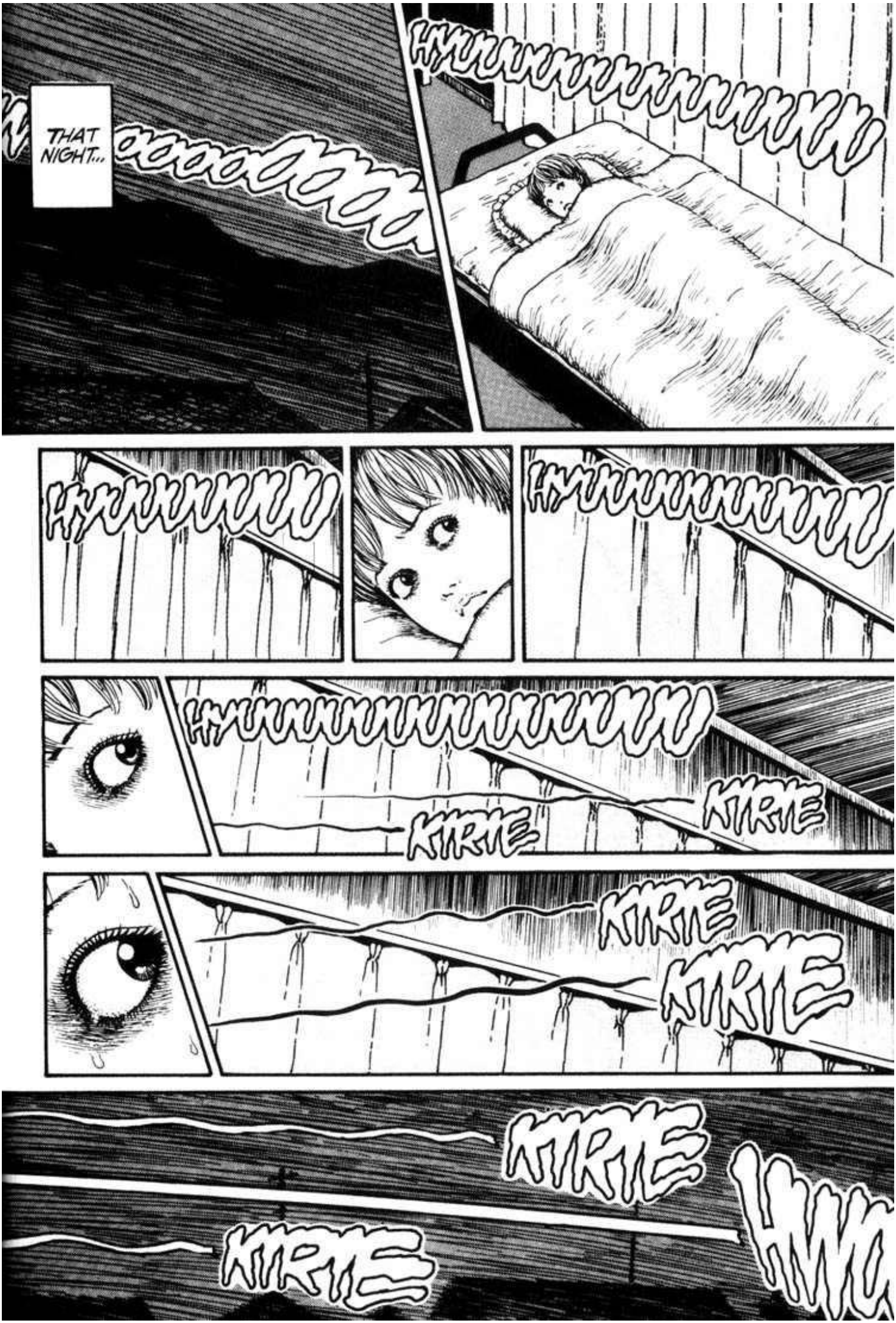

TYPHOON!
A TYPHOON'S COMING!
TPTPTPTP
A TYPHOON'S COMING!
TYPHOON!
BOARD YOUR WINDOWS!
TYPHOON!
WHAT A FREAK!
WE'VE SEEN ABNORMALLY CALM WEATHER SO FAR THIS SUMMER...
BUT GET OUT YOUR SHUTTERS AND RAINCOATS.
HURRI-CANE NO. 1 IS MAKING ITS WAY NORTH AND SHOULD PASS THROUGH KYŪSHŪ, SHIKOKU AND SOUTHERN KANSAI OVER THE WEEKEND.
THIS HURRICANE IS SAID TO HAVE A VERY STRANGE QUALITY.
THE "EYE" OF THE STORM IS VISIBLE DUE TO ITS UNUSUALLY SMALL DIAMETER.
THE JAPAN WEATHER ASSOCIATION HAS ISSUED A HURRICANE WARNING FOR KUROZU-CHO...


HEY, KIRIE, I WONDER WHAT A HURRICANE'S EYE LOOKS LIKE?
DON'T BE SILLY, A HURRICANE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE AN "EYE."
FWOOOOOOOO
SHWWWOOOOOOOOOO
TUNK
TUNK
YOU SHOULD COME DOWN NOW...IT'S GETTING DANGEROUS.
YEAH.
FWWOOOOOOOOOOO


KIRIE!! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO OUT!
THE HURRICANE'S COMING!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MOM.
I JUST HAVE TO DELIVER SHUICHI'S LUNCH.
HWWOOOO
HWWOOOO
FWOM
EEK!
Oh...



IS THAT...
...THE EYE OF THE STORM?
WWWWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO


THAT NIGHT...
HYUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU
HYUUUUUUUU
HYUUUUUUUUUUUU
HYUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU
KIRIE
KIRIE
KIRIE
KIRIE
KIRIE
KIRIE
KIRIE
HWO


poo-tee-weet
poo-tee-weet
poo-tee-weet
poo-tee-weet
MMNN
YAWWN
HM.
poo-tee-weet
GUESS THE STORM'S OVER.
I WONDER WHAT THAT SOUND WAS LAST NIGHT?
IT SOUNDED LIKE THE WIND WAS HOWLING MY NAME...


LIKE THE HURRICANE WAS CALLING ME.
I MUST'VE BEEN HEARING THINGS.
WELL, IT'S GONE ANYWAY.
YAWN
PHEW
...
HEY, IT'S STILL CLOUDY.
...
...
...

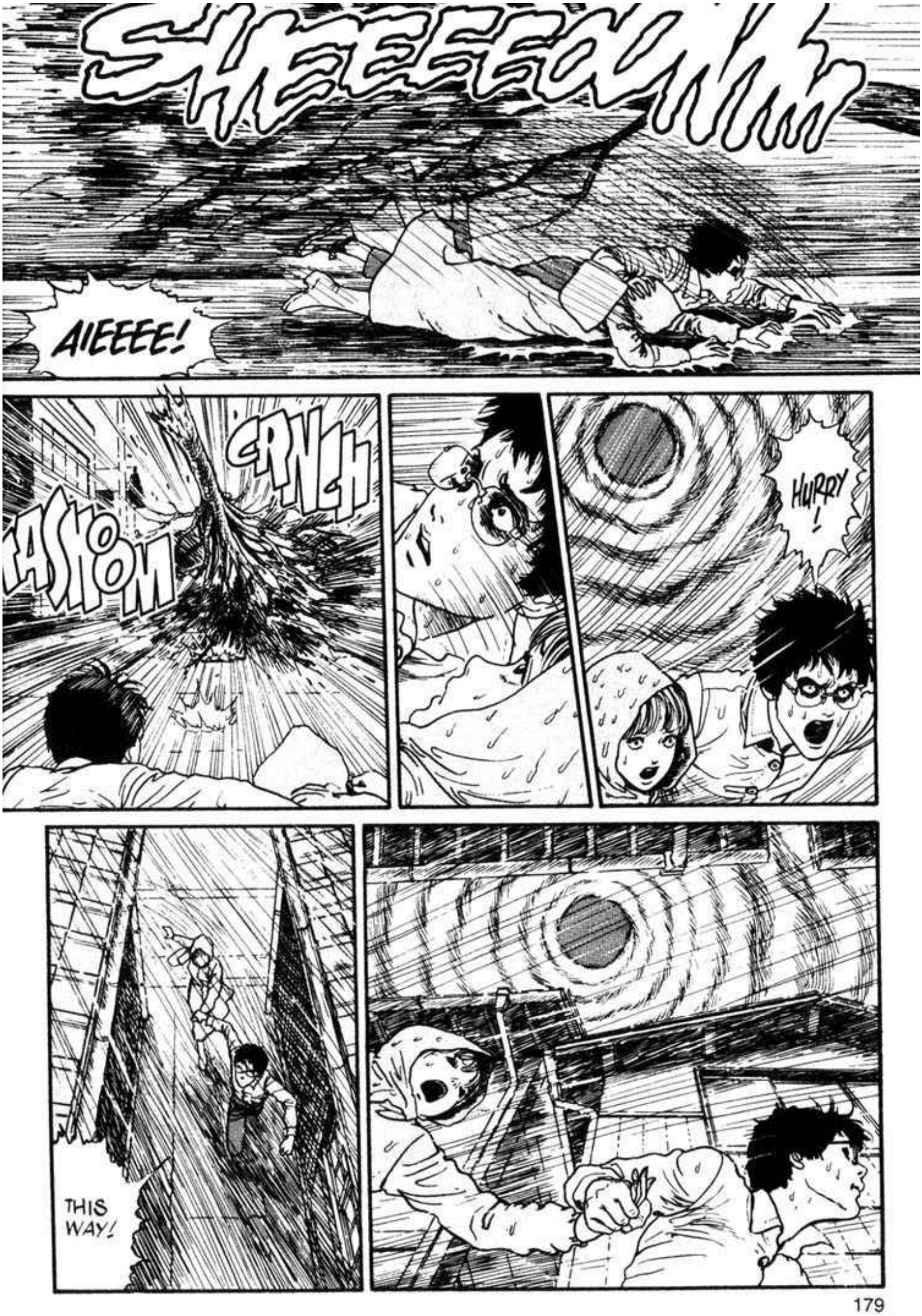



B-BUT.., HOW?!
Hwoaaddo
SHWOO
THIS IS NOW THE SECOND DAY THAT HURRICANE NO. 1 HAS REMAINED STATIONARY OVER KURŌZU-CHO, WHERE IT STRUCK THE COAST YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.
METEOROLOGISTS HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS PHENOMENON. WE BRING YOU NOW TO...
Hwoaaddo
WHERE'S KIRIE?
I TRIED TO STOP HER, BUT SHE WENT TO BRING SHUICHI HIS DINNER.
YOU KNOW, LAST NIGHT...
I HEARD SOMEONE SAYING "KIRIE, KIRIE..." IT SOUNDED LIKE THEY WERE ON THE ROOF.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?


KIRIE!
?!
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.


COME ON!
SHA
SHEEOOOOO
KRAK
KRASH


SHEEEE
AIEEEE!
CRNCH
KASHOM
HURRY!
THIS WAY!

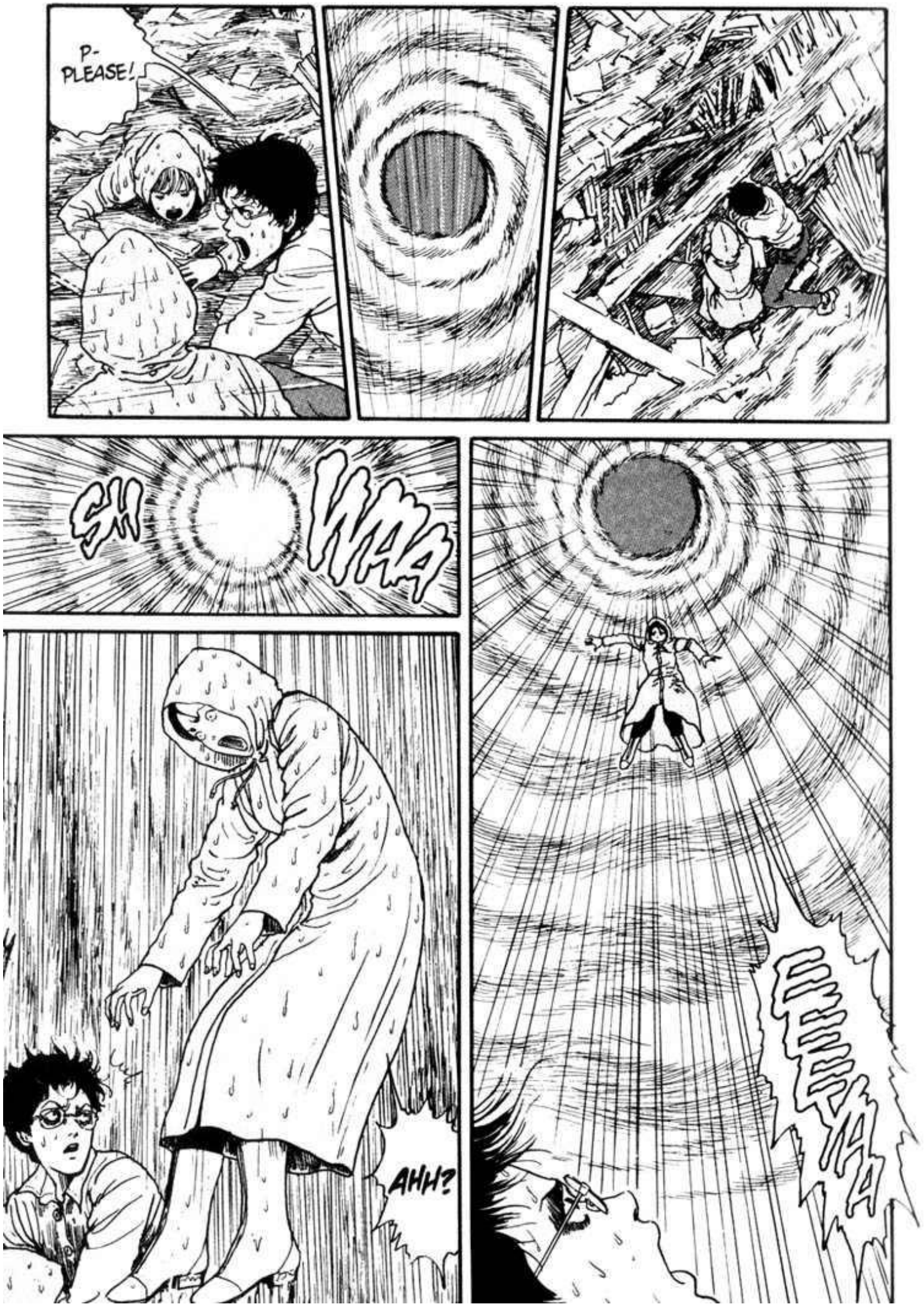

KLAKLATTA
SHAAA
NANANANAN
AAAH!
SHAAA
GRRRR
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB

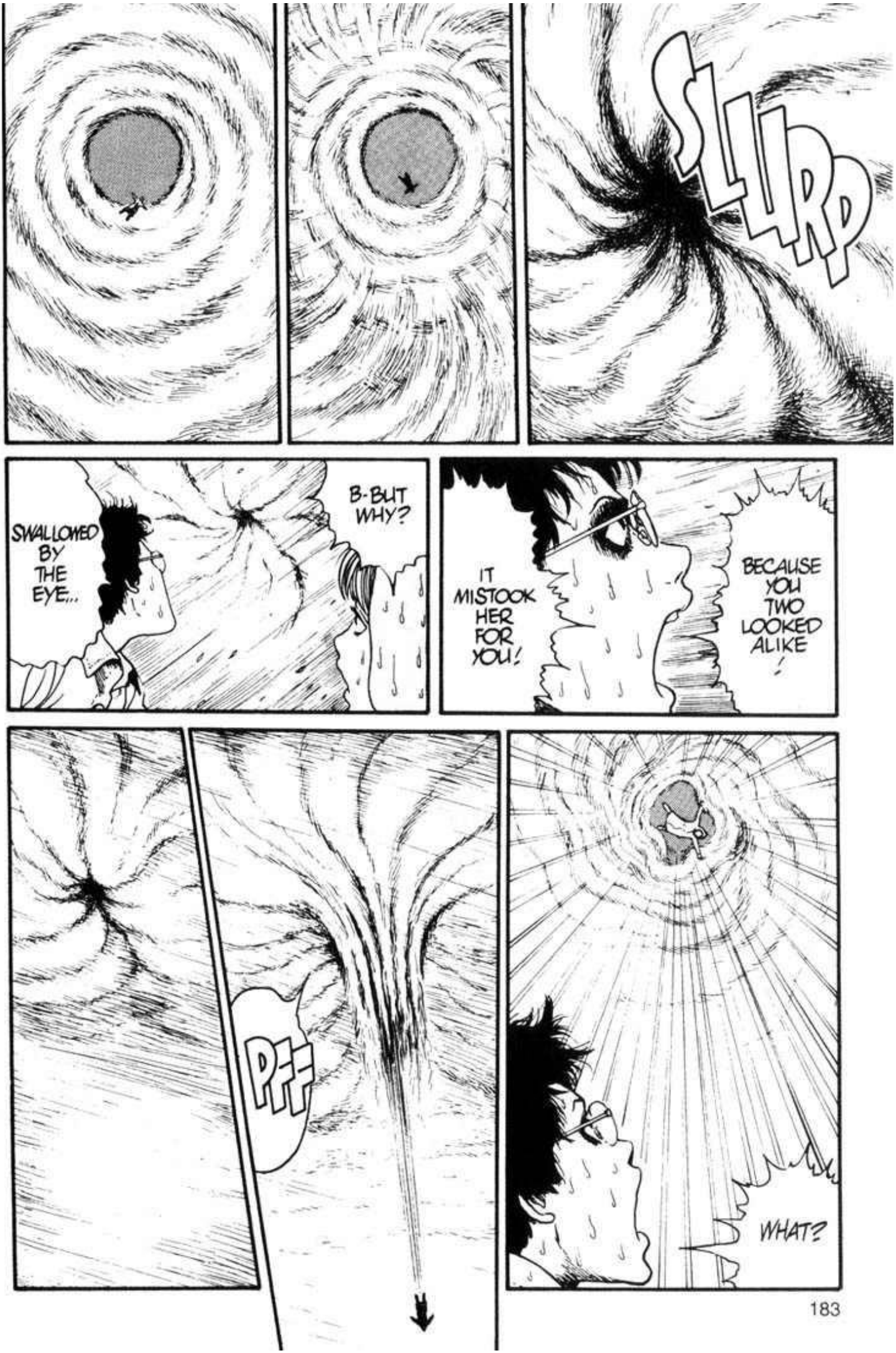

SPP
OMMM


KIRIE?!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?


I'M STUCK!
D-DAMN IT!


P-
PLEASE!
SH
WAA
AHH?


SLURP
B-BUT WHY?
SWALLOWED BY THE EYE...
IT MISTOOK HER FOR YOU!
BECAUSE YOU TWO LOOKED ALIKE!
PFF
WHAT?


LOOK OUT!
AIEEE!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY-MORE.
IT REALIZED ITS MISTAKE.
COME ON!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

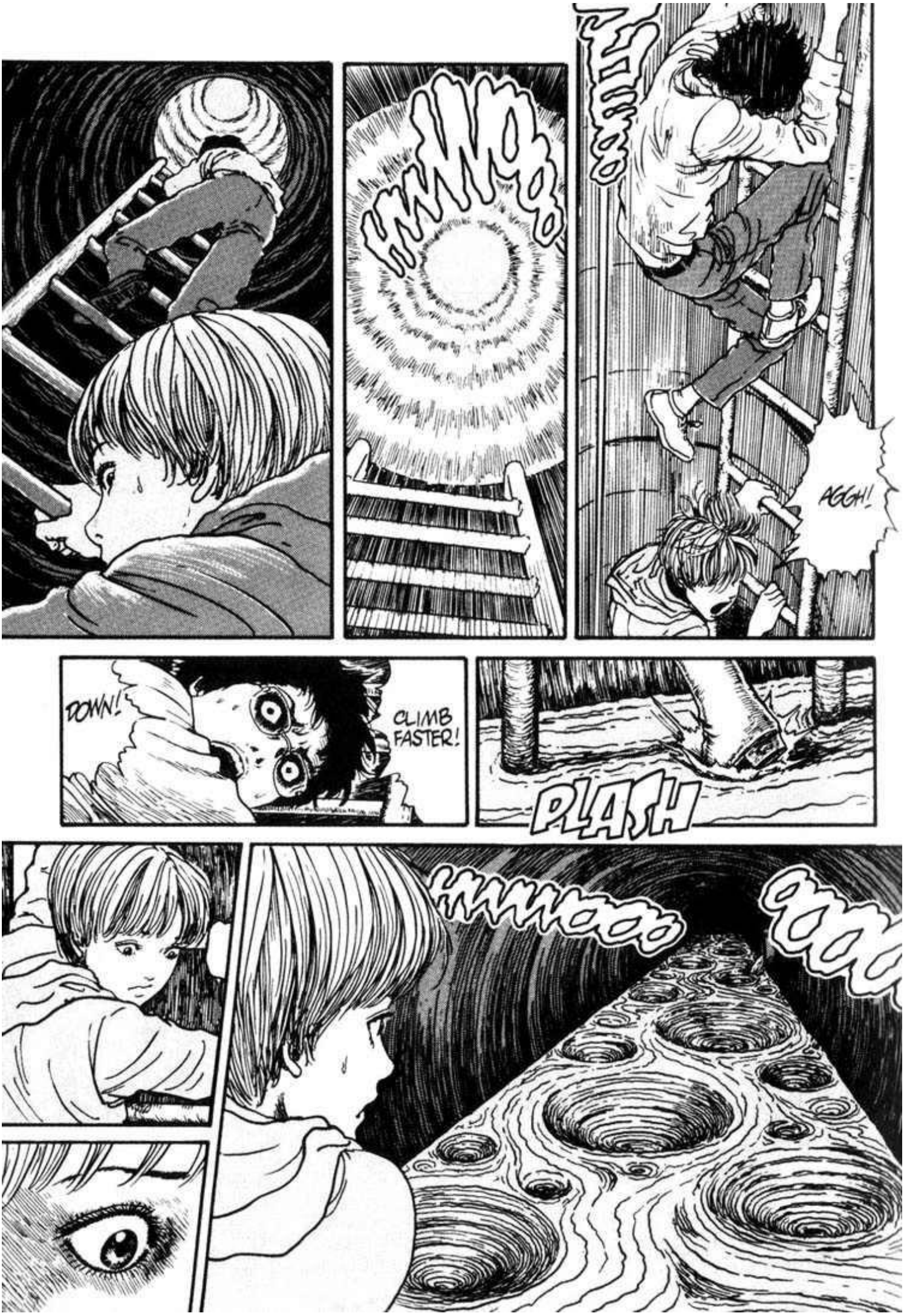

KRRE...
KRRE...
BUHBAM!

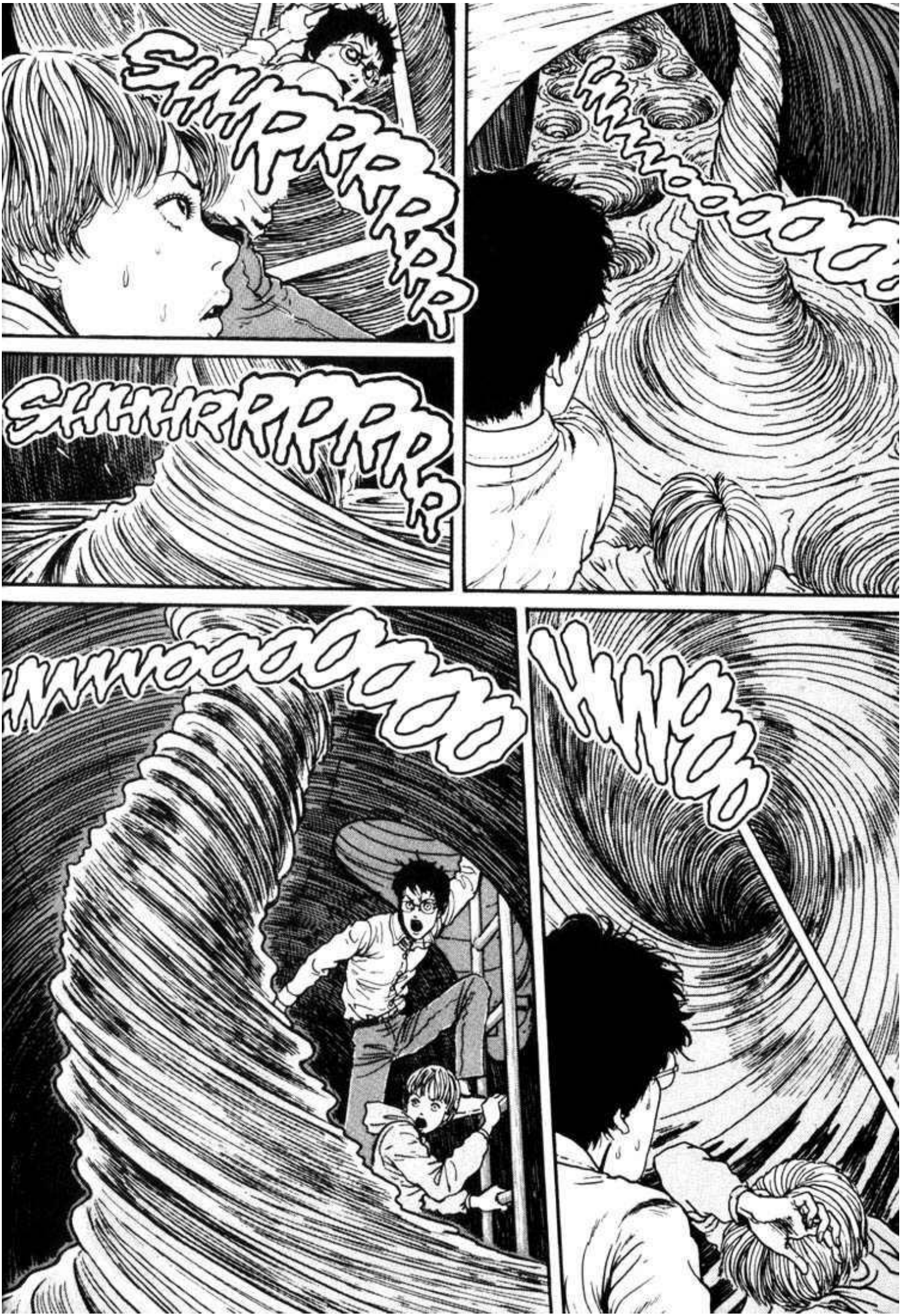

KIRIE
KIRIE
SHWOOSH
KLANG
IT'S TOO MUCH...
KIRIE
IT'S GOING CRAZY TRYING TO FIND YOU.
BUT IT CAN'T SEE US BENEATH THIS OVERPASS.
KIRIE

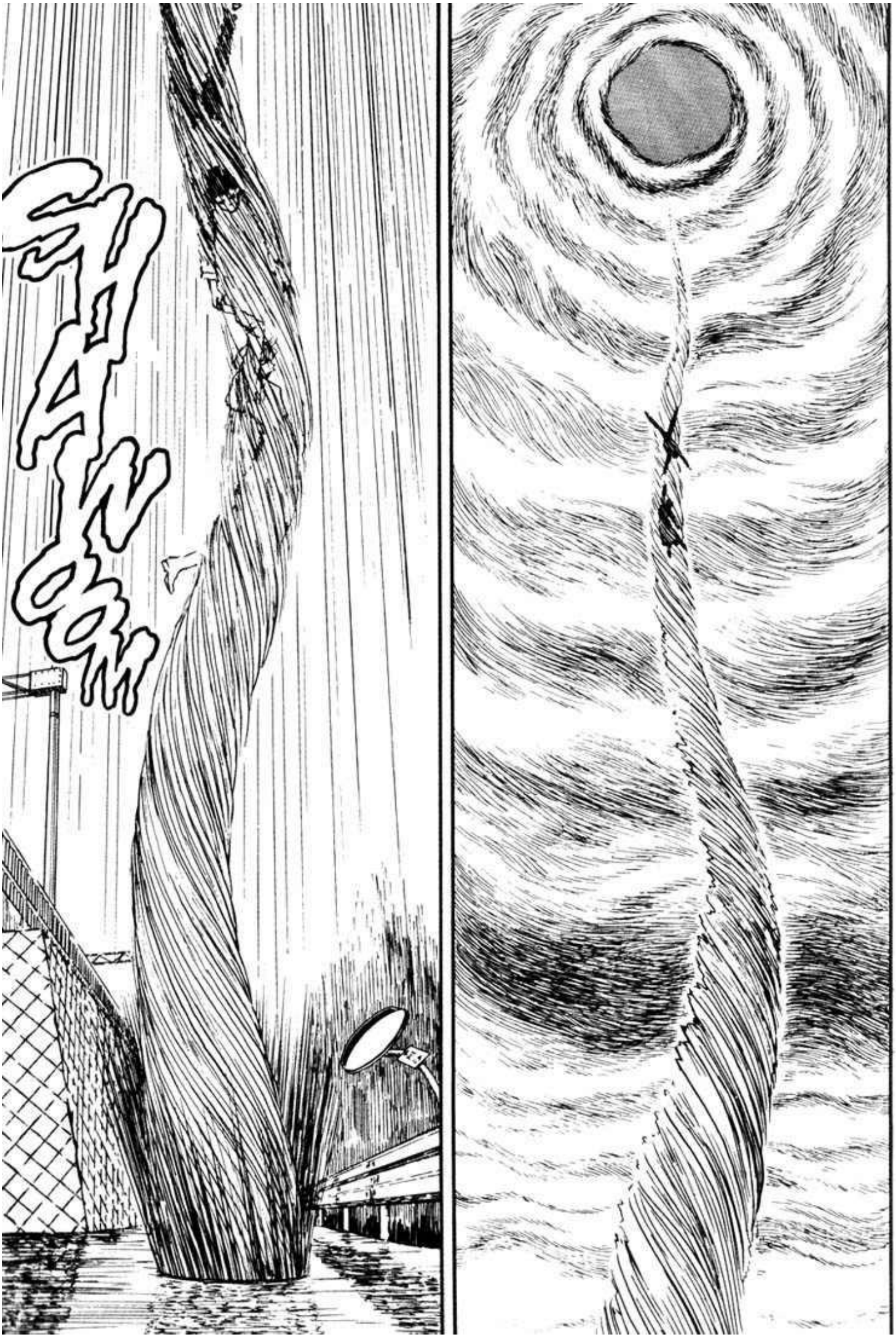

I-IF THIS STORM IS ALL MY FAULT...
BUT THAT WOMAN GOT KILLED BECAUSE OF ME!
THE TYPHOON'S MADLY IN LOVE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO HYP-NOTIC.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK IT YOUR-SELF?
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW? IS THIS HURRICANE JUST GOING TO STAY HERE?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS TOWN?
IF THIS STORM CONTIN-UES...
GET BACK!
IT'S TRYING TO PEEK INSIDE!
HEY!


KIRIE
KIRIE
TUMM
NO!!
IT FOUND US!
THE MIRROR!


SHHH
HHHHOOOO
GET DOWN!
TONK
HHHHOOOOO
THAT'S IT! THE MANHOLE!
DOWN INTO THE STORM DRAIN!
HURRY!


AGGH!
DOWN!
CLIMB FASTER!
PLASH


SHHHRRRRRR
SHHHRRRRRRR
HHHOOOOOOO
HHHOO


SHAW


HMMM


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 KURÔZU-CHO...
HURRICANE NO. 1 HAS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED.
THE NEXT SUMMER STORM, HURRICANE NO. 2...
HWWOOOOOO
IS NOW APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTH CHINA SEA...
GHHH
TO BE CONTINUED...