

Tokushige Kawakatsu **(original work by Shizuo Fujieda)**

JP: *Yasegaman no setsu* (LEED PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.)
ENG: Grin and Bear It



When I read *Yasegaman no setsu*, I was struck by how much it reminded me of 1960s era *Garo* magazine manga stories created by Tsuge and Tatsumi, and Showa-era Japanese cinema à la Kurosawa or Ozu. But it also has moments that are surreal and whimsical, while tackling serious stuff, like intergenerational conflicts and relationships in postwar Japan. It's a wholly original work that feels traditional and modern at the same time.

-Debora Aoki

Synopsis

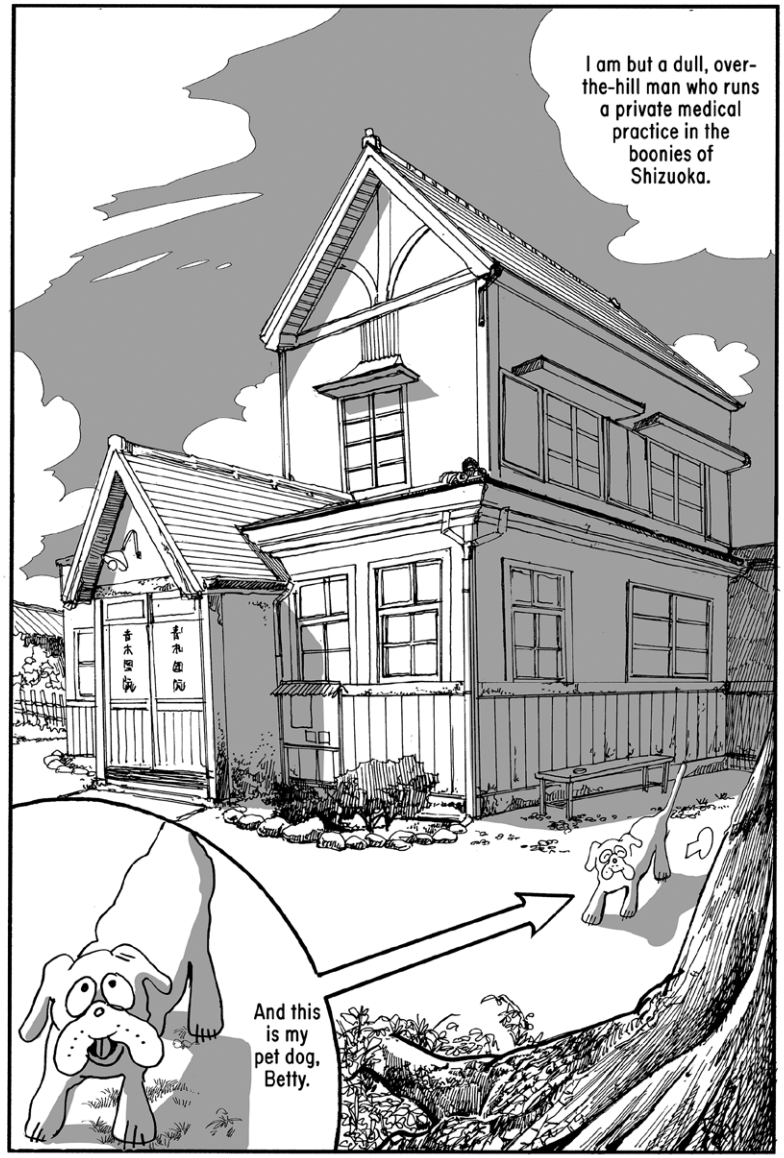
This is a manga adaptation of the novel *Yasegaman no setsu* (1955) by Shizuo Fujieda. Modelled after the original author, a middle-aged doctor runs his practice in the Japanese countryside. His 19-year-old niece Honami frequently runs away from her home in Tokyo, to stay with her uncle and aunt. *Yasegaman no setsu* revolves around the generational gap between the grouchy country doctor and the optimistic, naïve young woman.

Artist Profile



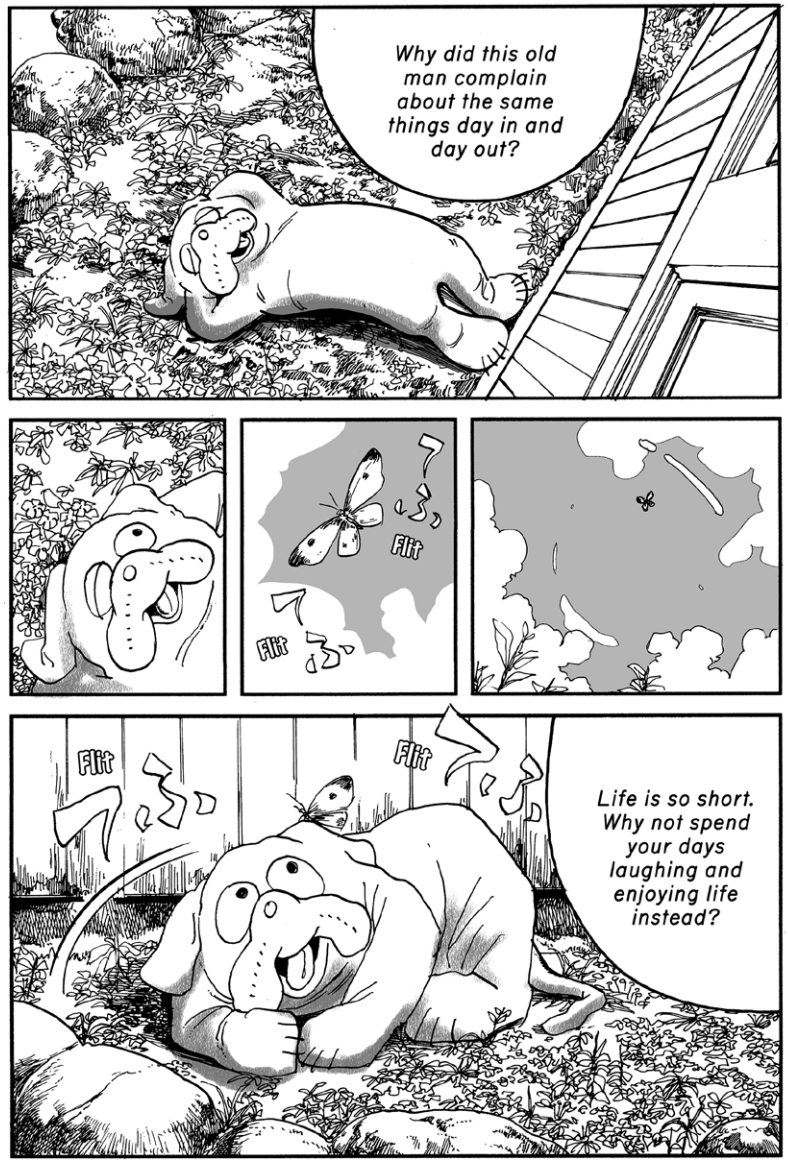
Tokushige Kawakatsu was born in Tokyo in 1992. As a child, he was inspired by gekiga artist Sanpei Shirato's manga adaptation of the collected works of Ernest Thompson Seton, *Shiiton dobutsuki* (Seton's Animal Chronicles). He wrote his first manga in the sixth grade and submitted a manga to the *dojinshi* (independent magazine) *Kaku*, a monthly manga anthology similar to *Garo* magazine, when he was 18. This led to his involvement with Hokuto Shobo which was founded by Shinzo Takano. Driven by his passion for manga and the gekiga style, he resolved to dedicate himself entirely to drawing. Kawakatsu is also a fan of American comics, particularly Bob Powell's horror works and Winsor McCay's *Little Nemo*. Currently, he is especially interested in artist Bob Fujitani who started his career in the 40s.

𝕏 @old_schooooool @kawakatsutokushige

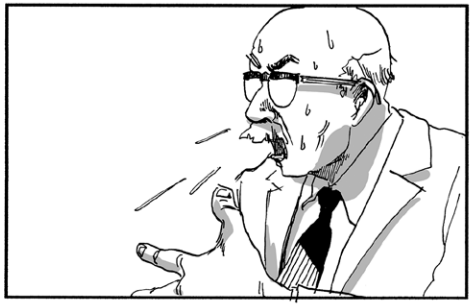

I am but a dull, over-the-hill man who runs a private medical practice in the boonies of Shizuoka.
And this is my pet dog, Betty.

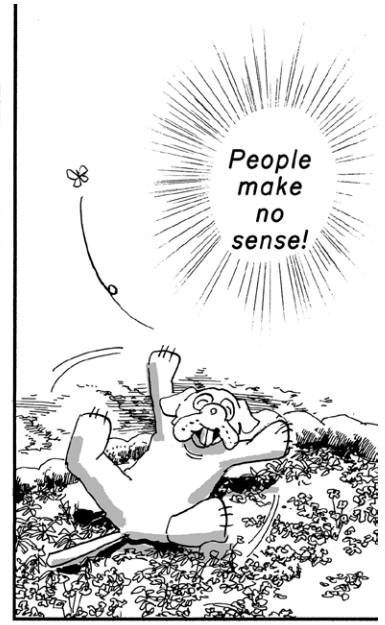

Woe be my dear wife, for yet again today, she's had to listen to my prattle.
Here he goes again...
Tup
Tup
Tup
Do you remember Mr. S? The man who was always screwing things up?
Swup

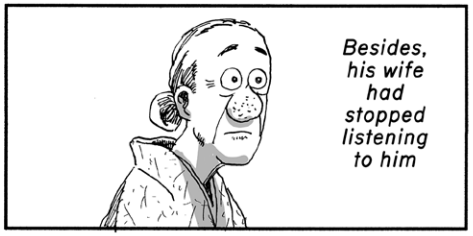

Nope...
Do you know why he was always intentionally screwing things up?!
The one who was always *intentionally* screwing things up?!
That's the kind of man he was!
Because he *enjoyed* it, that's why!
Wham
That's the kind of man he was...
"the great failure."
To feel better about himself, he called himself...


Why did this old man complain about the same things day in and day out?
Flit
Flit
Flit
Flit
Life is so short. Why not spend your days laughing and enjoying life instead?


I understood him perfectly well...
No, he was not having a "hard time."
Maybe I just don't get him, but to me...
he just seemed like he was having a hard time.
For example ...
It was a common affliction of men of our generation.
He just pitied himself...
There's a character in this Shiga Naoya novel. He always...
Betty didn't get it...

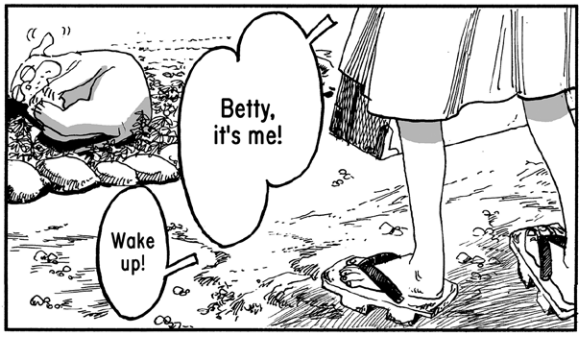


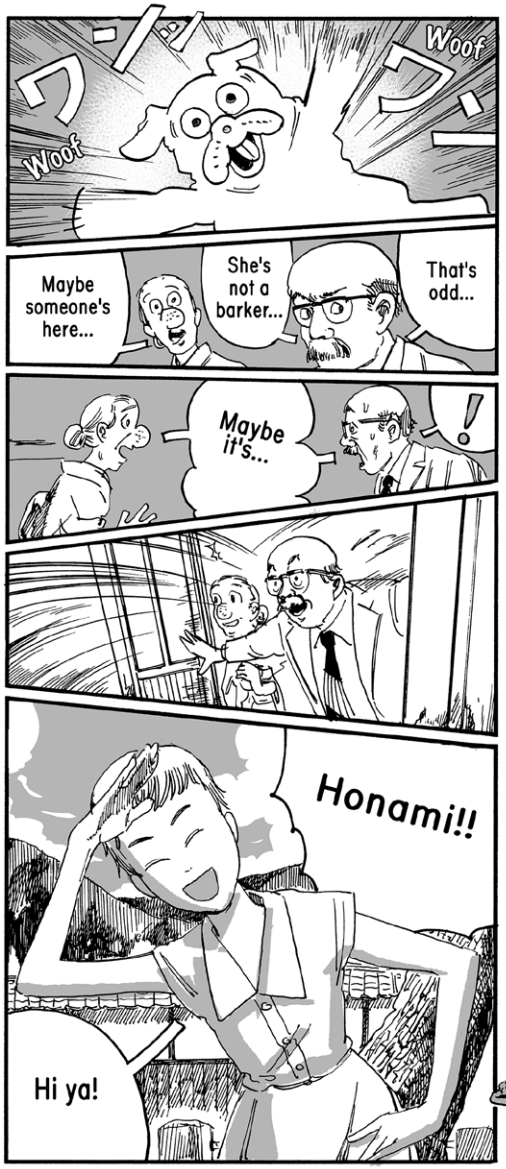

People make no sense!


Besides, his wife had stopped listening to him


ZZZ...
Betty ...
Wake up, Betty...




Betty, it's me!
Wake up!


ワ-!
Woof
ワ-!
Woof
Maybe someone's here...
She's not a barker...
That's odd...
Maybe it's...
!
Honami!!
Hi ya!

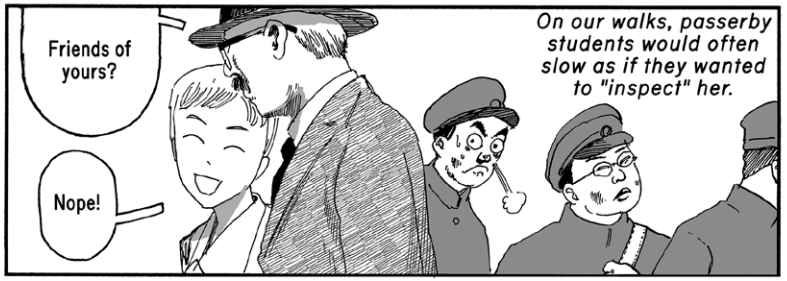


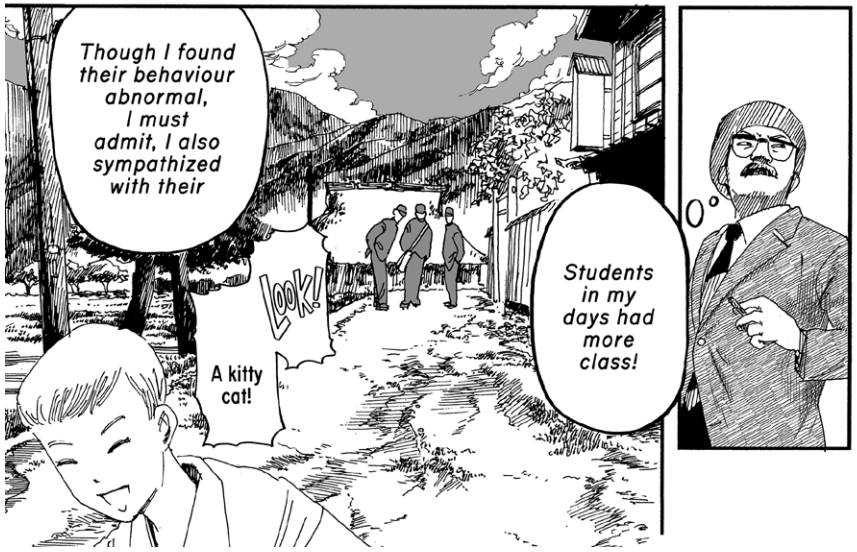

痩我慢の説
GRIN AND BEAR IT
Chapter One


Honami was my niece.
Though she lived in Tokyo, she had the bad habit of frequently running away from home...
and appearing here unannounced.
She was so thin you'd think she was too poor to afford to eat, but that didn't keep the boys away.
Case in point...






Friends of yours?
Nope!
On our walks, passerby students would often slow as if they wanted to "inspect" her.

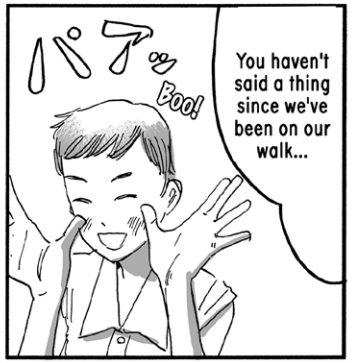

Though I found their behaviour abnormal, I must admit, I also sympathized with their
LOOK!
A kitty cat!
Students in my days had more class!


Wimper...
Wimper...


You're more handsome when you're not angry, uncle.
Hey!
I want to go to one more place. Is that okay?
Great!

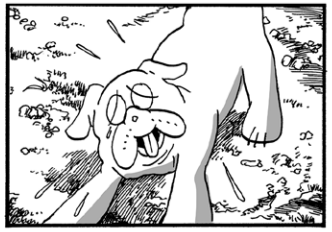

Shh!

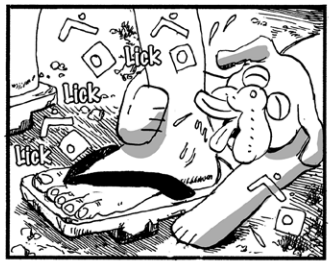

Honami! I asked you a question!

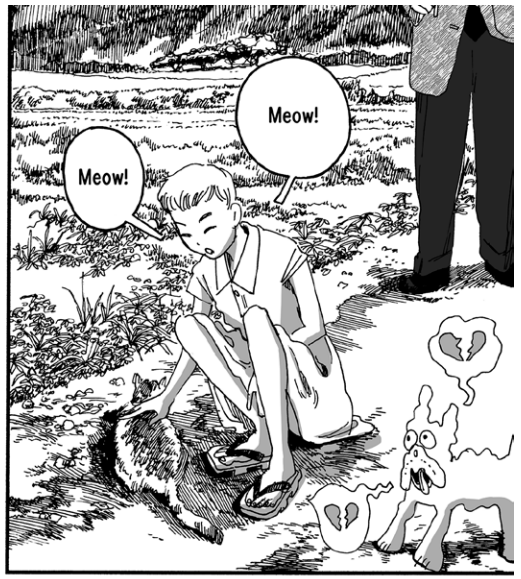

パァ
Boo!
You haven't said a thing since we've been on our walk...



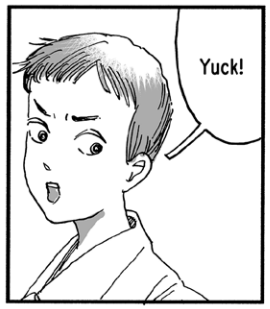

たお
Tao
たお
Tao
Tao
たお
Did something happen?



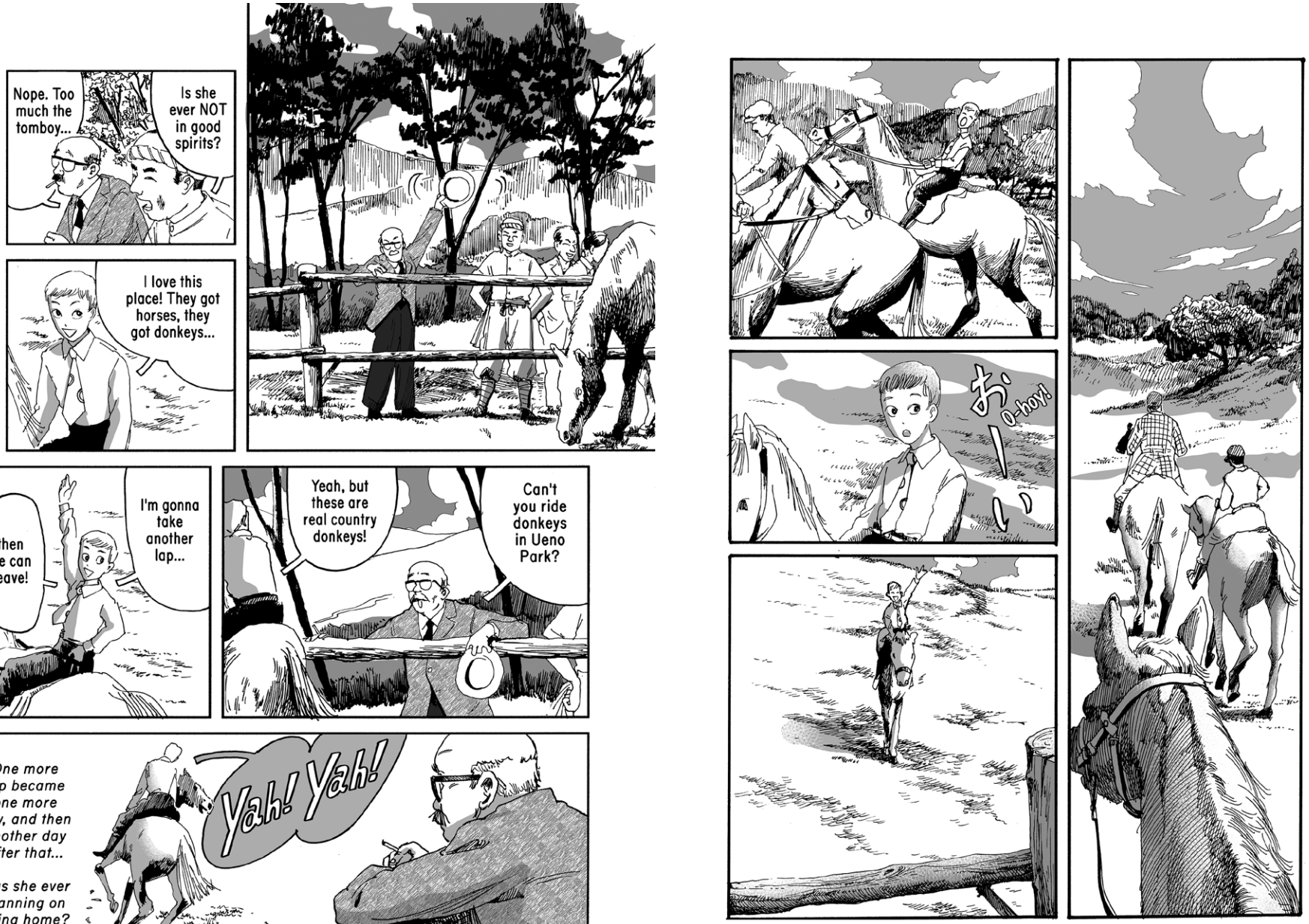

Lick
Lick
Lick


Meow!
Meow!


It's been a whole week since you left home.
By the way... mind telling me what brings you this way?
Grr...


Yuck!


Wimper...



Nope. Too much the tomboy...

Is she ever NOT in good spirits?

I love this place! They got horses, they got donkeys...

Can't you ride donkeys in Ueno Park?

Yeah, but these are real country donkeys!

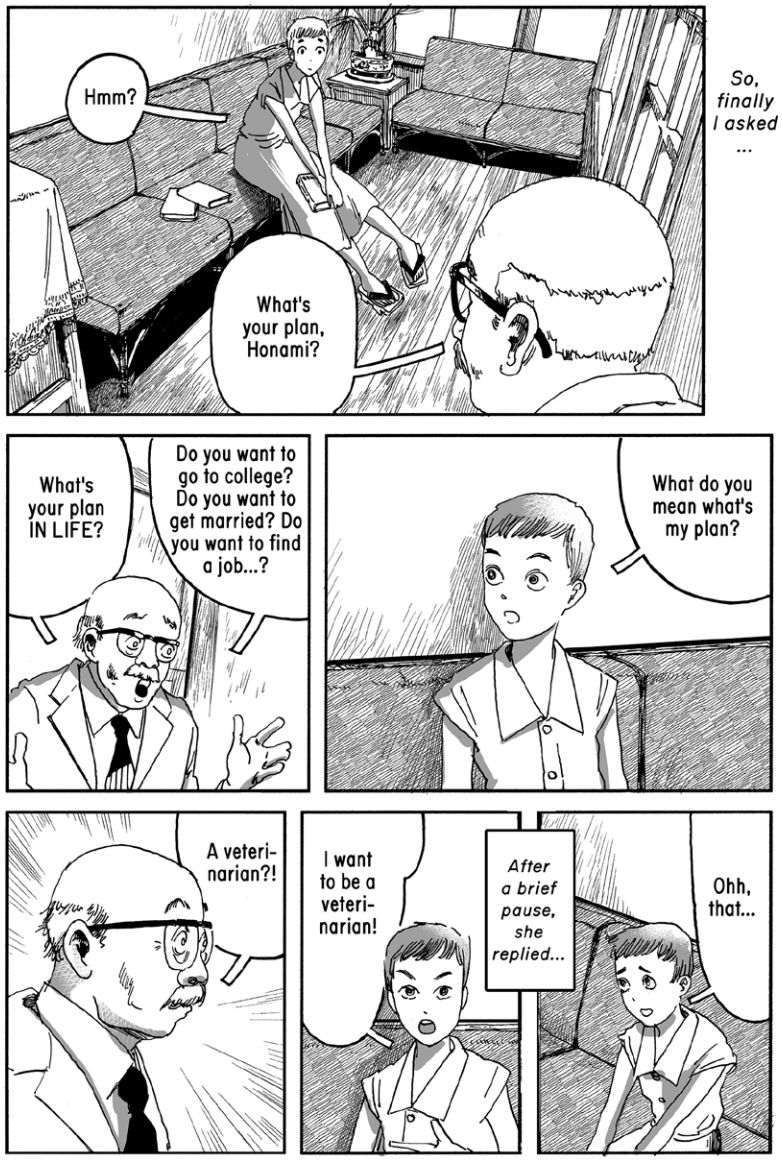
I'm gonna take another lap...

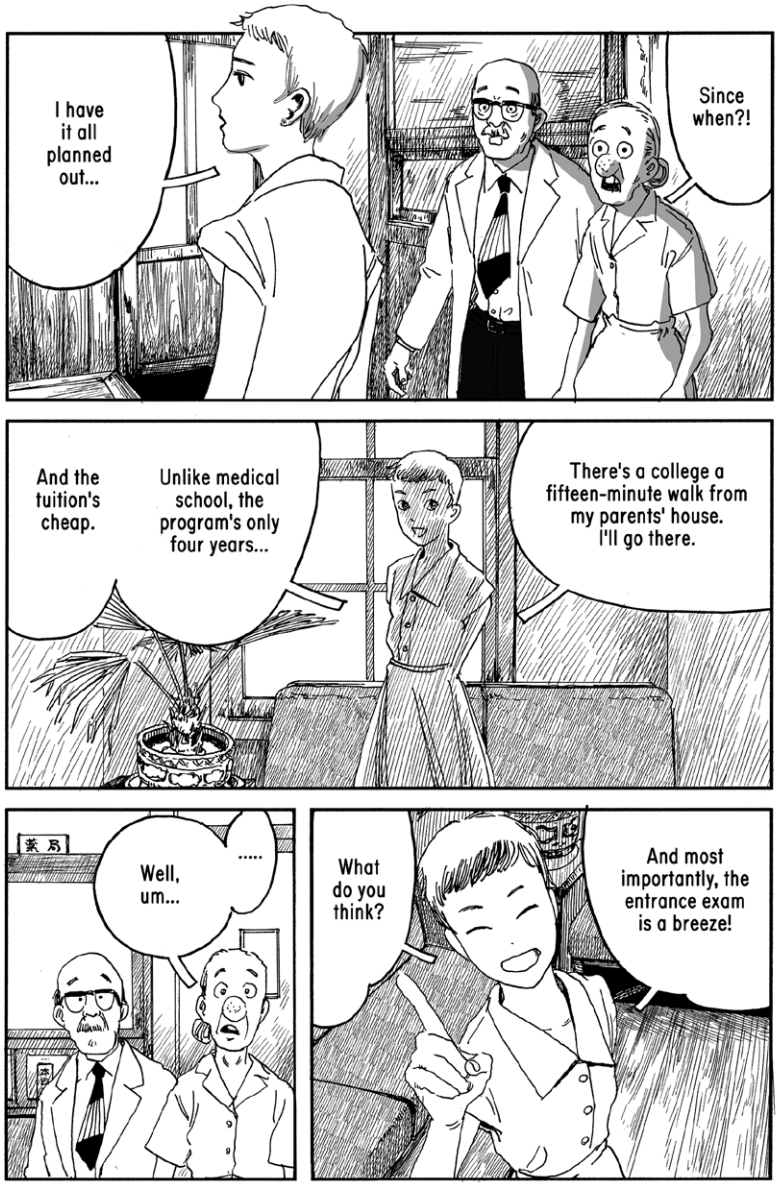
then we can leave!

One more lap became one more day, and then another day after that...

Was she ever planning on going home?

Yah! Yah!


Hmm?
What's your plan, Honami?
So, finally I asked ...
What's your plan IN LIFE?
Do you want to go to college? Do you want to get married? Do you want to find a job...?
What do you mean what's my plan?
A veterinarian?!
I want to be a veterinarian!
After a brief pause, she replied...
Ohh, that...

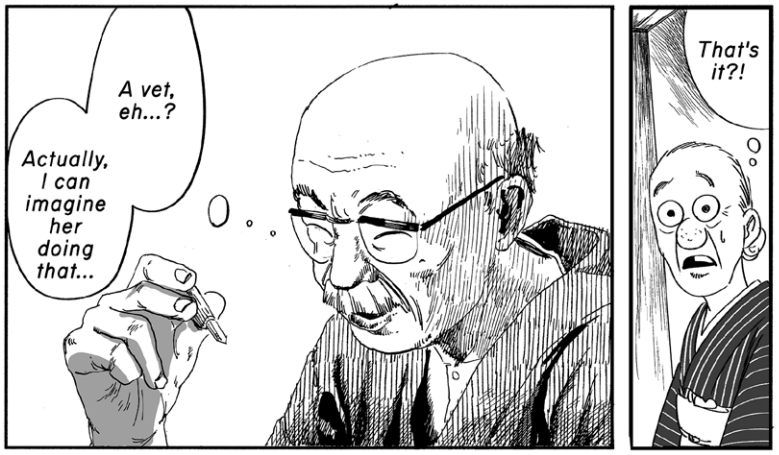

I have it all planned out...
Since when?!
And the tuition's cheap.
Unlike medical school, the program's only four years...
There's a college a fifteen-minute walk from my parents' house. I'll go there.
.....
Well, um...
What do you think?
And most importantly, the entrance exam is a breeze!

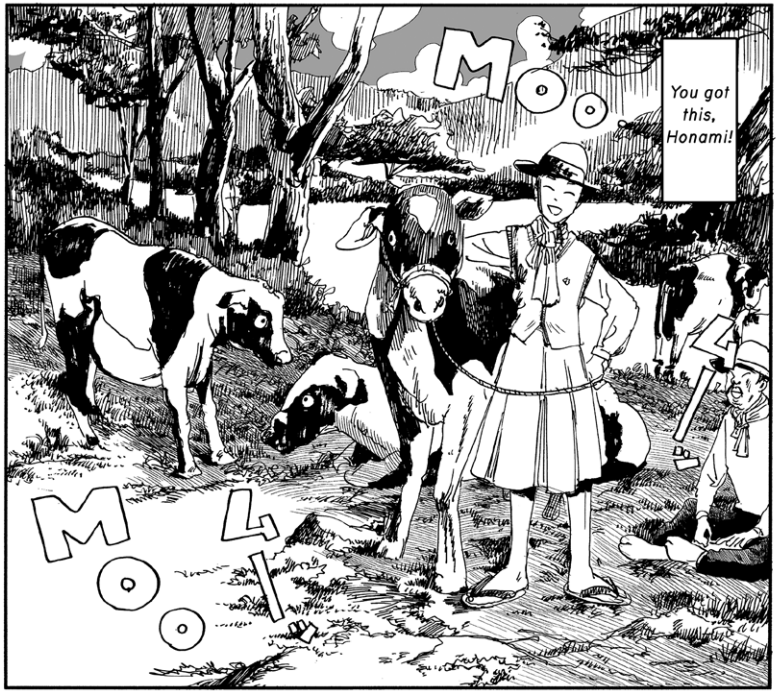

Don't be so old, auntie!
Men and women are equal now!
...
Sure, but...
Women have to find ways to support themselves!
There's nothing women can't do! Right?
Right?!
FWUMP

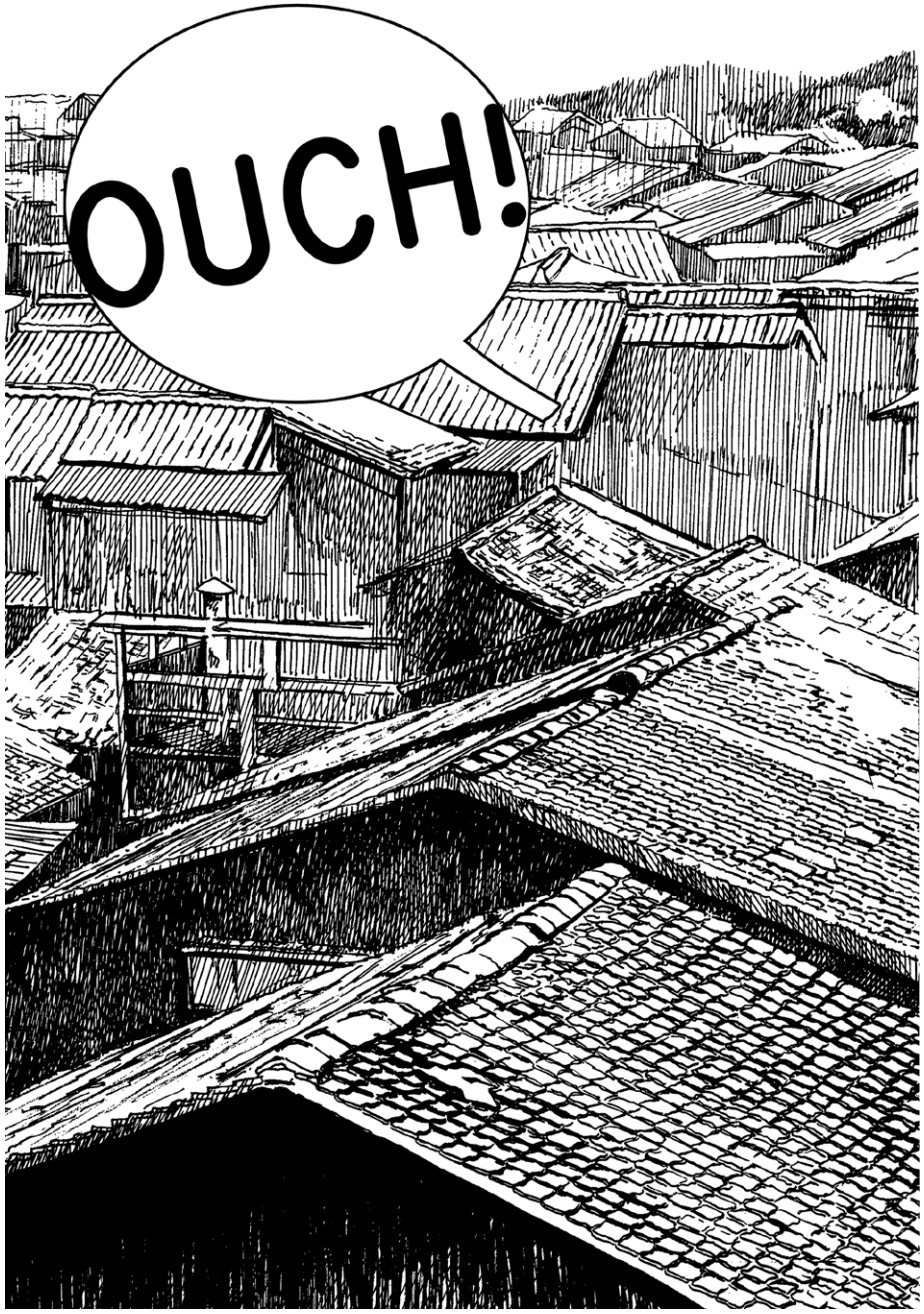

She's right. You'll have to do dissect them, you'll get urine and feces all over yourself...
you do realize that could be a liability, right?
I knew that you liked animals and all, but...
You don't think I can handle it, do you?
Well, I can!
I know, I know. You don't have to tell me.
Don't you remember what hiroyuki said? "Don't make your hobby your job."
hiroyuki: founder of 2channel
But it's not woman's work...
I've already gone to the college and asked them about the entrance exam and everything!


Lo and behold, in the next day's morning paper...
Hey!
Come look at this!
A FEMALE VETERI-NARIAN
WOMEN CHANGING SOCIETY
It's just like she said!
Do you think she knew about this article?


I doubt it...
She's just smart, that's all.
I don't know if she's planning on taking care of cows in Hokkaido or opening a clinic for dogs and cats, or what...
but she does seem serious.
I want to be a veterinarian!
I mean, she researched tuition fees and scholarships and everything...
And quite thoroughly, too.


to her parents and tell them she's staying here for a while.
Where is the stationery? I'm going to write...
Well, dang it! If she's serious about it, then I will be too!
She's still gotta study, and there's no prep school around here.
She says the exam will be easy, but...
Go on!
Out with it, woman!
Umm...
If there's a will, there's a way!
Doesn't matter.
Yeah, but your day was before the war...
Back in my day, we all studied on our own!
You worry too much.

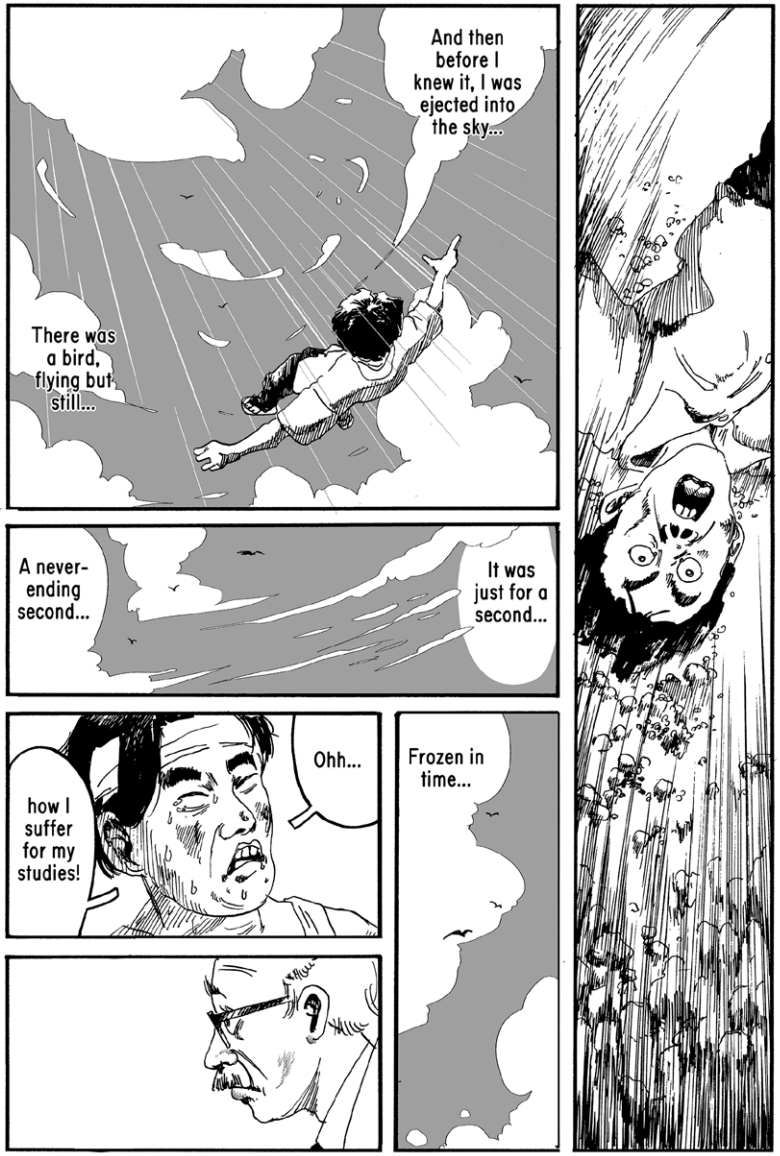

A vet, eh...?
Actually, I can imagine her doing that...
That's it?!
You got this, Honami!
MOO
MOO

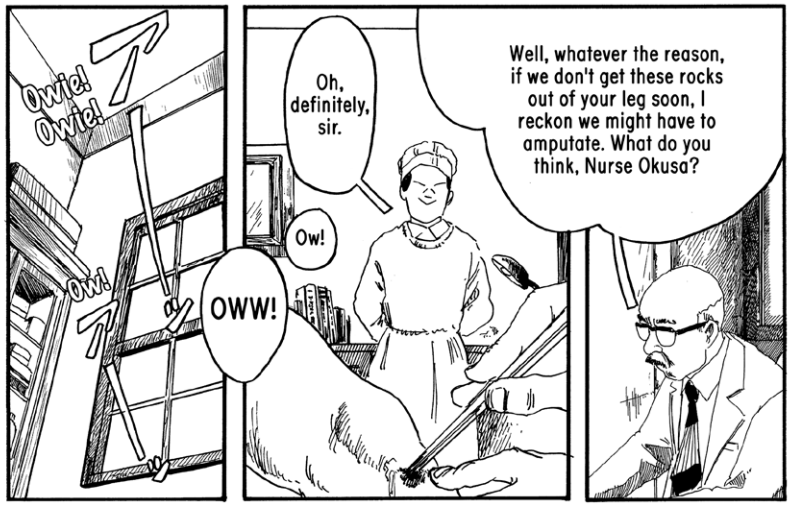

OUCH!


Ow
ウ
Ow
ウ
Ow
ウ
Ow Ow Ow!
アア
Nurse!
Gauze!
Yessir!
I...
I...
I...
Suck it up!




I couldn't brake! It was in front of the liquor store.
The road is loose gravel there.
If I don't crash ...
I'll hit her!
土地 建物

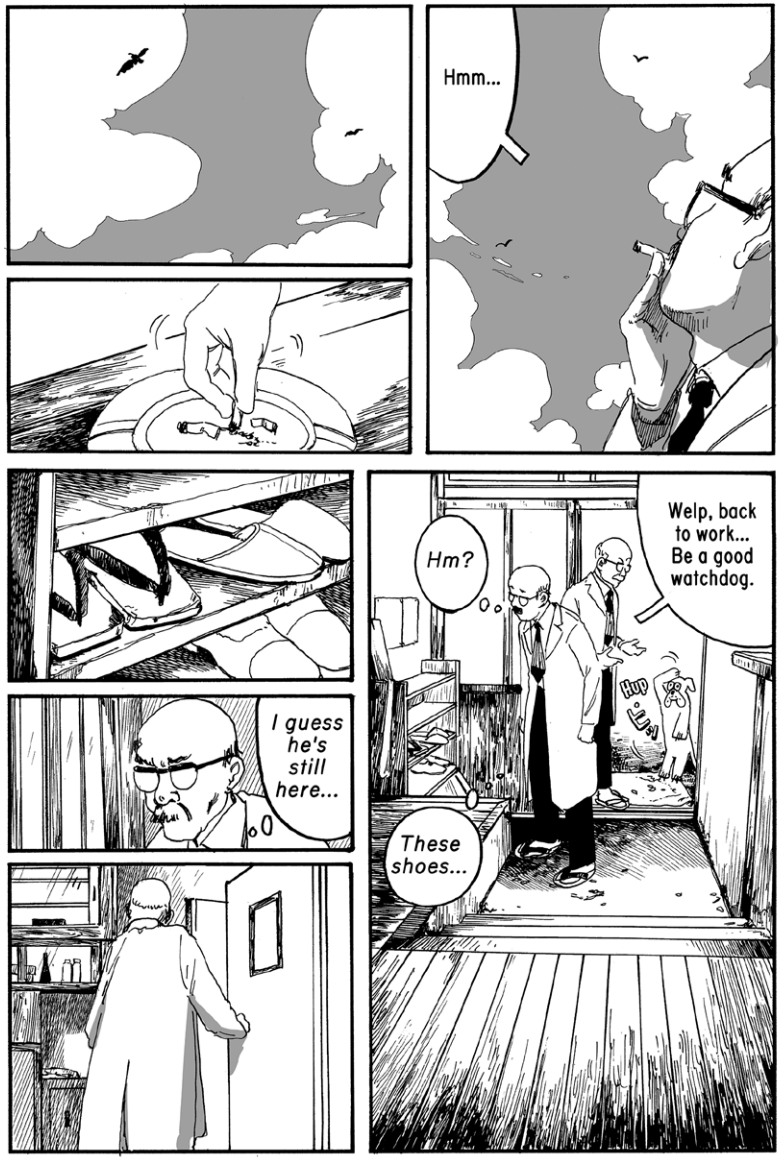

And then before I knew it, I was ejected into the sky...
There was a bird, flying but still...
It was just for a second...
A never-ending second...
Ohh...
how I suffer for my studies!
Frozen in time...


Owie!
Owie!
Owie!
OWW!
Oh, definitely, sir.
Ow!
Well, whatever the reason, if we don't get these rocks out of your leg soon, I reckon we might have to amputate. What do you think, Nurse Okusa?



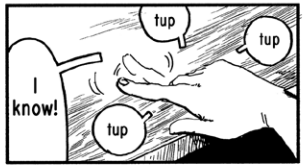

Well...
The thing is...
I'm a little short on...
What does that have to do with anything?
I'm serious. I'm the only student at my school who has to deliver cold beverages to pay for my tuition.
No wonder you were crying.
Look at all these pebbles in your leg!
You weren't kidding about wiping out on gravel...
ガクッ
Slump
Five or six...!
Oh, how I suffer for my studies...
Five or six, I'd say. Hang in there...
How many are left, doc?

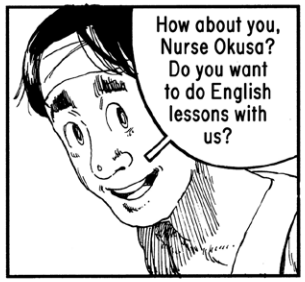

He's got the face of a catfish, and yet... his eyes have a glimmer to them.
That young man talks too much...
I'm exhausted, Betty...
Well, I gotta bad feeling about your bad feeling, since you're usually right about your bad feelings.
I got a bad feeling about something...


Hmm...
I guess he's still here...
Hm?
Welp, back to work... Be a good watchdog.
These shoes...


If only all students these days were like you!
Ha ha ha...
How could I charge you anything?
I practically owe you my life!
Sasano has offered to tutor Honami, and every other day!
Doctor!
Oh!
Listen to this!
Oh, hello.
Who's Sasano?
Me, sir!
I'll say!
Just our luck!
Of course I did!
But he absolutely refuses!
I offered to pay him...
And do you think we're just going to let our niece go to your house alone...?
The nerve on this punk! I didn't treat him for free to get roped into this!
I owe the doctor my life!
After all...
Smile


This looks good!
Let's see now...
Suss
Of course not, sir. I'll come over here.


tup
tup
tup
I know!

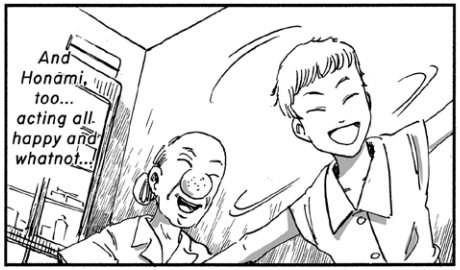

How about you, Nurse Okusa? Do you want to do English lessons with us?

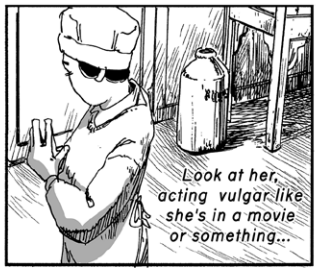

This big desk is perfect! We'll do the lessons here!
tup
tup
tup
tup
tup

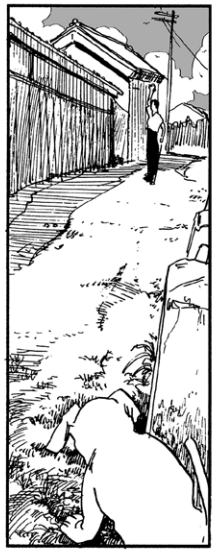

The age of German is kaput!
Yes, you! It's the era of English!
HURRAH!


Whaat?!
Me?!


Hrmph!
Oh, but why?!
I recommend that you decline his offer...
Miss Okusa...


And Honami, too... acting all happy and whatnot...


Look at her, acting vulgar like she's in a movie or something...




You're gonna pass with flying colors!
Well, we'll see you tomorrow then!

TITLE DETAILS

Title	*Yasegaman no setsu*
English title (provisional)	Grin and Bear It
Author & Artist	Tokushige Kawakatsu (original work by Shizuo Fujieda)
Publication date	Aug. 30, 2024
Publisher	LEED PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.
ISBN	978-4-8458-6632-8
Price (JP)	1,430 yen (incl. tax)
Size/Format	210 mm x 148 mm
Extent	280 pp.
Volumes	1 (complete)
Publication platform	*Torch web* (online: https://to-ti.in/)
Translations	French, scheduled for publication Italian, scheduled for publication

Critical Acclaim

Ranked #1 in Freestyle magazine's THE BEST MANGA 2025: Kono manga o yome!. (You should read this manga)

"Though still young, the author's depiction of elderly characters is excellent, down to the detailed wrinkles on their hands. The dog, Betty, also has a wonderfully goofy charm." (Fusanosuke Natsume, manga columnist)

"The *gekiga*-style artwork creates a literary atmosphere that works well. It has a distinct, refined quality." (Osamu Takeuchi, manga critic)

"Kawakatsu is both manga critic and creator—a rare figure in the industry." (Tomofusa Kure)

Comparable Titles

Ikiru (movie directed by Akira Kurosawa, 1952)
Early Summer (movie directed by Yasujiro Ozu, 1951)
Red Flowers and ***Nejishiki (Screw Style)*** (manga by Yoshiharu Tsuge, Drawn & Quarterly)
The Pushman and Other Stories (manga by Yoshihiro Tatsumi, Drawn & Quarterly)
Descending Stories: Showa Genroku Rakugo Shinju (manga by Haruko Kumota, KODANSHA)

