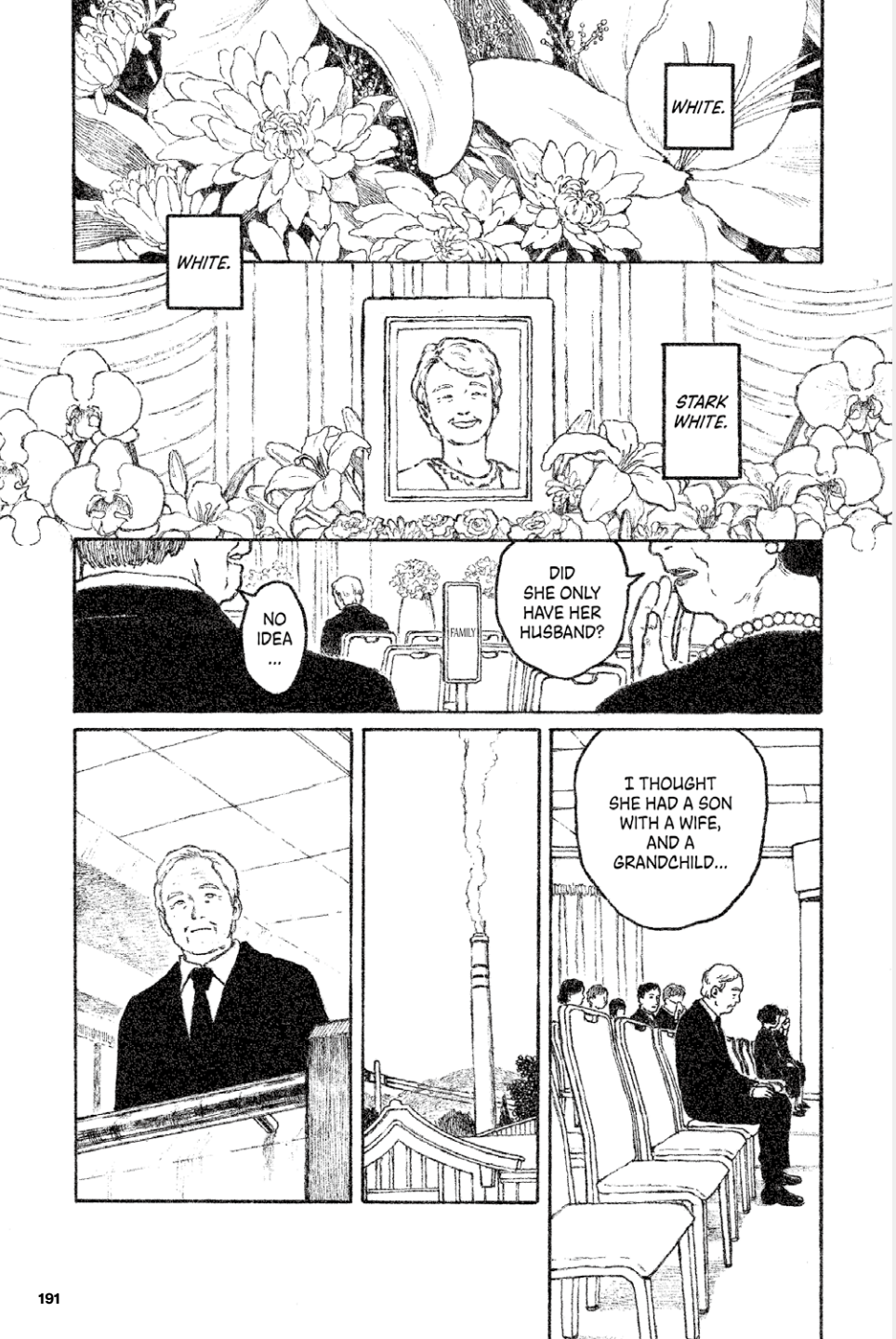


Marco Kohinata

JP: *Akari* (HERO'S INC.)
ENG: *Akari*



Akari will appeal to young adult readers who enjoy modern family and relationship dramas with beautiful, moody art. Kohinata masterfully mixes ink pen and brushwork with soft watercolor washes to create a story that radiates light and conveys deep emotions, even though it's mostly depicted in black, white, and greys.

Akari is complete in a single volume, which makes it a low commitment read for readers, publishers, and libraries who prefer "one and done" stories.

-Debora Aoki

Synopsis

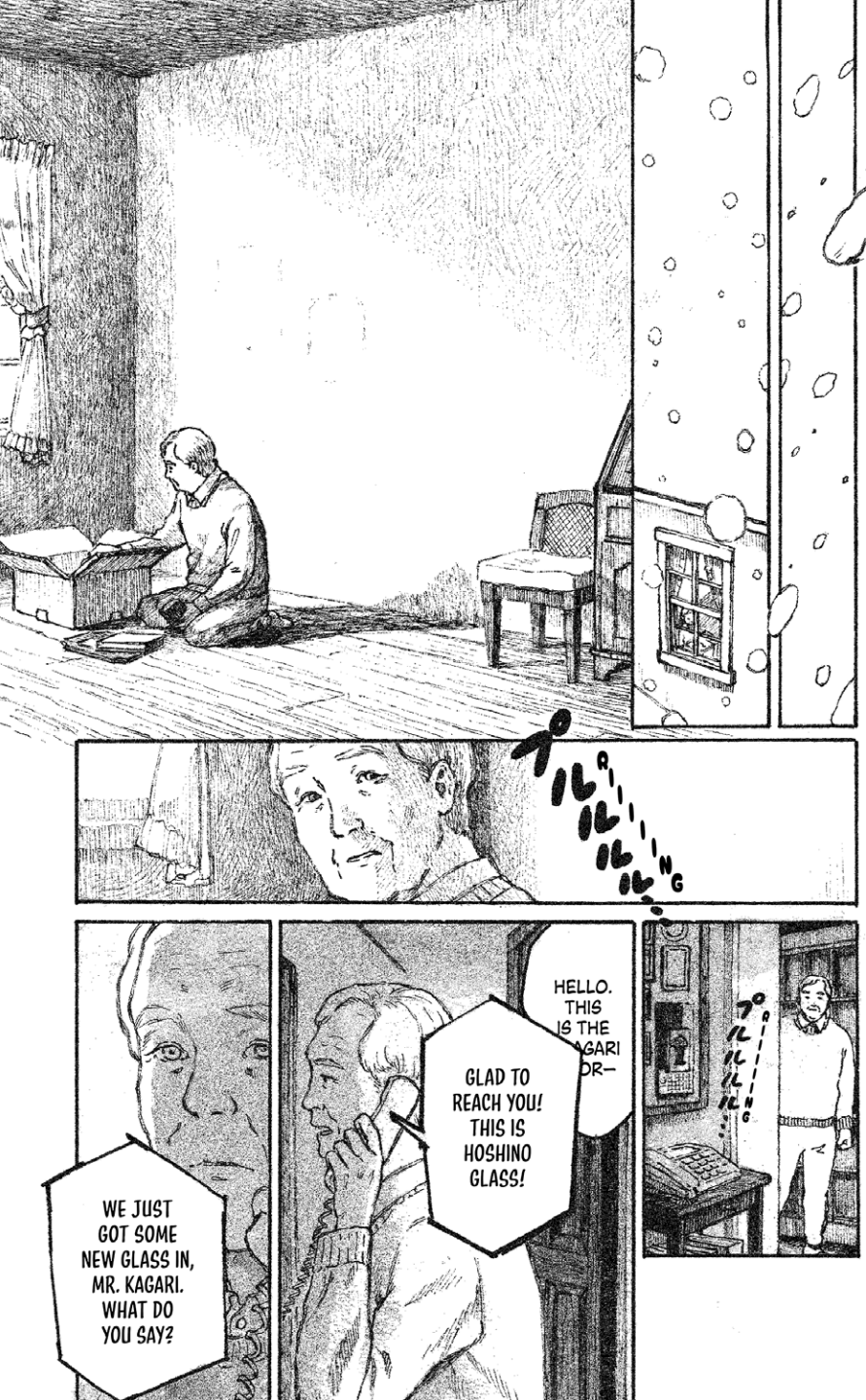
After losing his wife and his will to live, Kagari, an elderly stained-glass artist, is visited by Akari, his long-estranged granddaughter. As they work together creating stained-glass pieces, the two begin to connect on a deeper level. However, their family reunion might be more complicated than what it seems to be. A heartfelt story about the bond between an older craftsman and a young girl just beginning her creative journey.

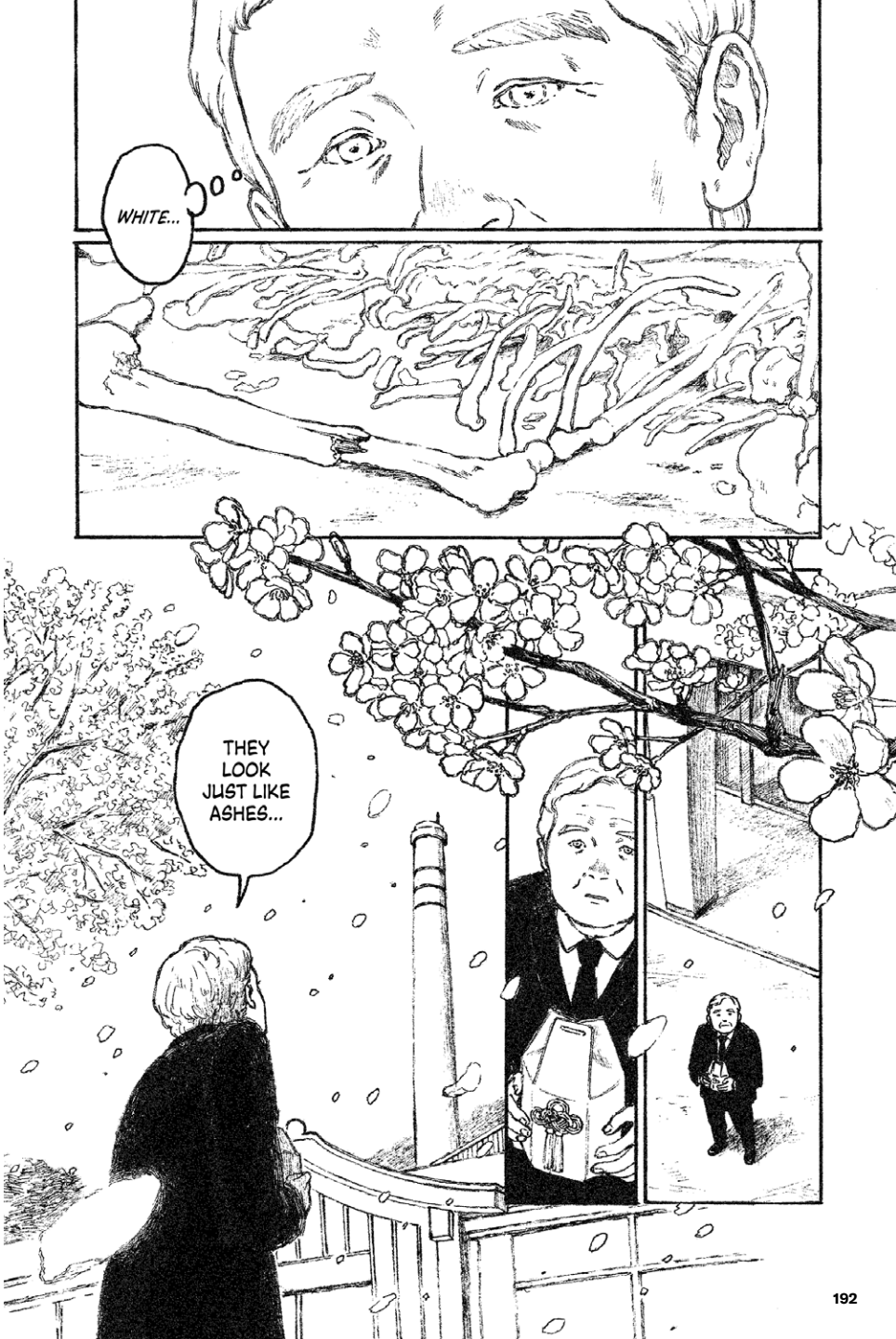
Artist Profile



Marco Kohinata, originally from Osaka Prefecture, made her manga debut in print in 2017 with *Arutisuto wa hana o fumanai* (Artiste ne marche pas sur des fleurs.) after serializing on the manga app Comico (under the pen name MARU-CO). In 2020, this story was a Jury Selection in the Manga Division of the 23rd Japan Media Arts Festival. In 2020, *Hei no naka no biyoshitsu* (The Depth of the Sky), based on an original work by Mina Sakurai, received the Excellence Award in the Manga Division at the 24th Japan Media Arts Festival. Kohinata's latest work, *Akari*, is published by HERO'S INC. and has received critical acclaim from critics and readers alike, with a book signing event and media coverage. In addition to creating manga, Kohinata also works on commercial illustration, animation projects, and picture book creation.

HP: https://kohinatamarco.com/
@MARU_CO_415 @kmarco1994


WE JUST GOT SOME NEW GLASS IN, MR. KAGARI. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
GLAD TO REACH YOU! THIS IS HOSHINO GLASS!
HELLO. THIS IS THE KAGARI DOR—
TRILLING
TRILLING


WHITE...
THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ASHES...

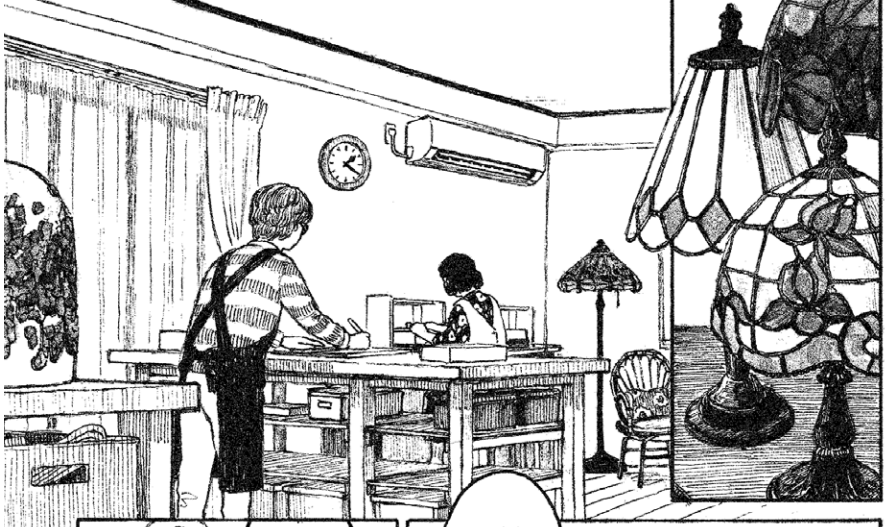

I DON'T HAVE PLANS FOR NEW PIECES AT THIS TIME.

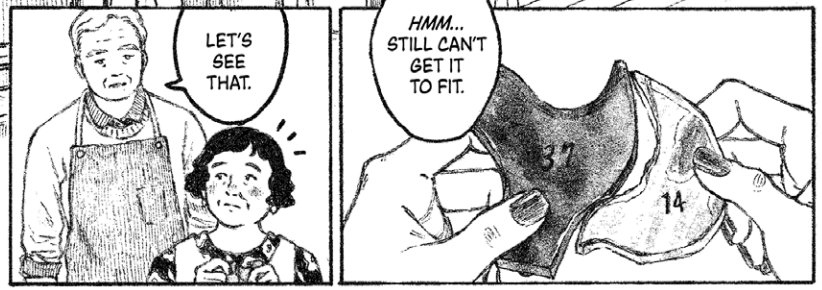

I SAID I DON'T NEED IT!
KLAK
ガチャ
IT'S LIKE A PEARL. FROM THE RIGHT ANGLE, THE COLOR...
I BELIEVE I ASKED YOU TO STOP CALLING ABOUT NEW MERCHANDISE.
WELL, SEE... THIS JUST CAME IN FROM THE NETHERLANDS THE OTHER DAY.
HELLO, THANK YOU. THIS IS GALLERY LUMO.
THIS IS THE KAGARI WORK-SHOP.
RIIING
DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE ANY NEW PIECES, MR. KAGARI?
AFTER WE DISPLAYED YOUR WORK, WE RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES REGARDING YOUR STAINED GLASS.
WE WERE HOPING YOU'D ALLOW US TO DISPLAY YOUR WORK AGAIN...
THANK YOU, BUT...

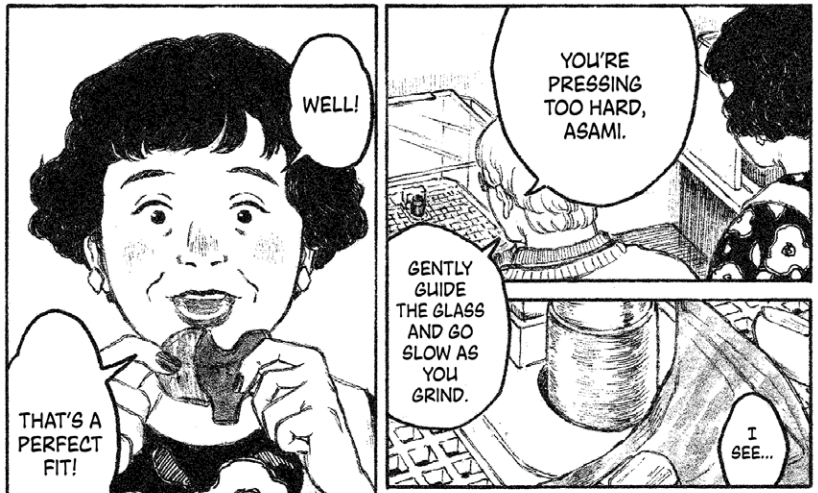

AMAZING, MR. KAGARI! I JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY.
GUESS I RUINED ALL THOSE PIECES...
AH HA HA HA HA...
...
HA HA...

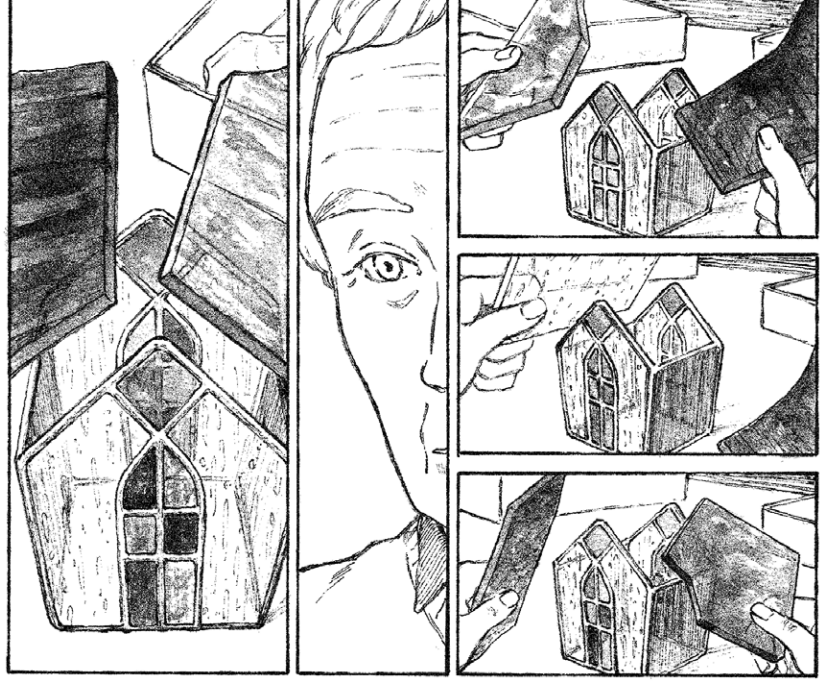

I'M SO SORRY. I'M JUST TERRIBLE AT EVERYTHING.
WHISPER
IT'S OKAY.
WHISPER
YOU GAVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.


HMM, MR. KAGARI HASN'T CHANGED A BIT...
IF ONLY YOKO WERE HERE...

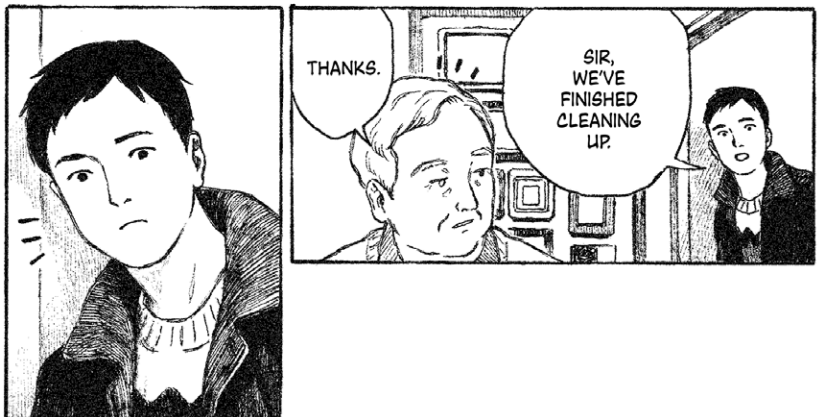


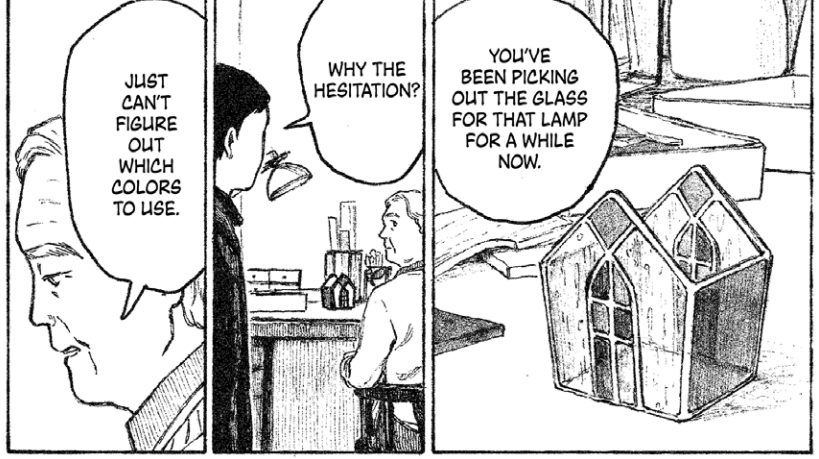

LET'S SEE THAT.
HMM... STILL CAN'T GET IT TO FIT.
37
14


WELL!
THAT'S A PERFECT FIT!
YOU'RE PRESSING TOO HARD, ASAMI.
GENTLY GUIDE THE GLASS AND GO SLOW AS YOU GRIND.
I SEE...

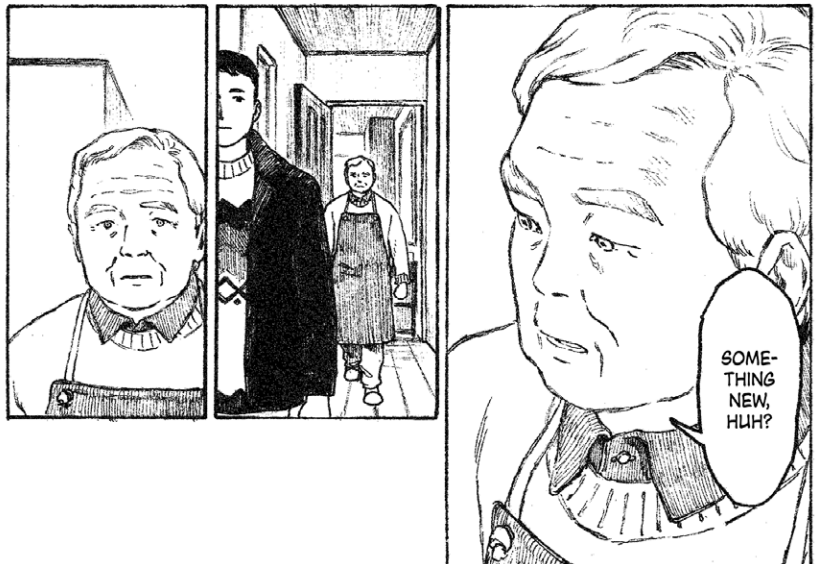



...


THANKS.
SIR, WE'VE FINISHED CLEANING UP.


JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH COLORS TO USE.
WHY THE HESITATION?
YOU'VE BEEN PICKING OUT THE GLASS FOR THAT LAMP FOR A WHILE NOW.

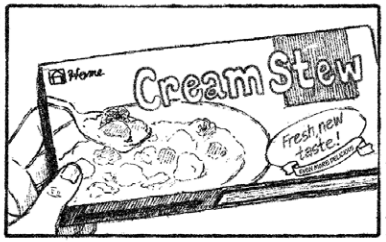

AND THEN I'D WORK ON SOMETHING NEW.
UH? RIGHT ...
FOR STARTERS, I'D PUT IT ASIDE.
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE SITTING ON THE FENCE?

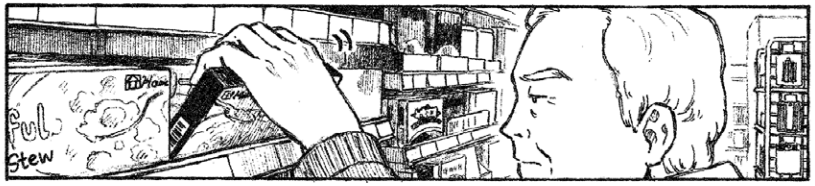

SOME-THING NEW, HUH?

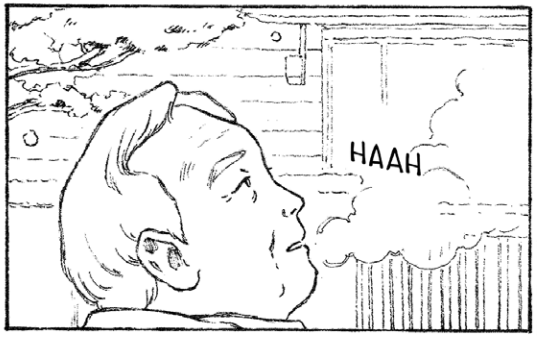



Ful Market

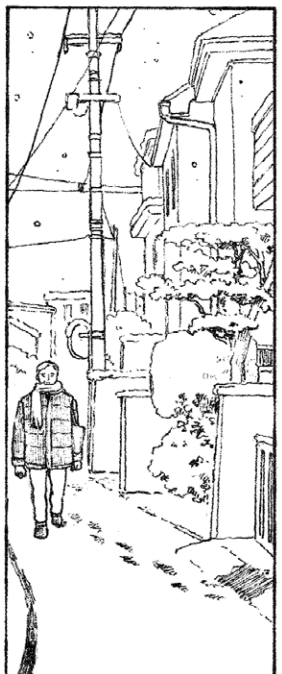

Stew
Fresh, new taste!
EVEN MORE DELICIOUS


Home
Cream Stew
Fresh, new taste!
EVEN MORE DELICIOUS


Ful
Stew

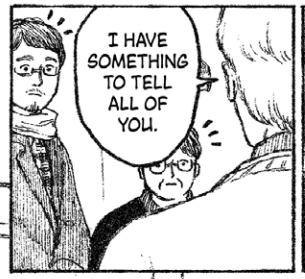

HAAH


You want a bedside lamp?



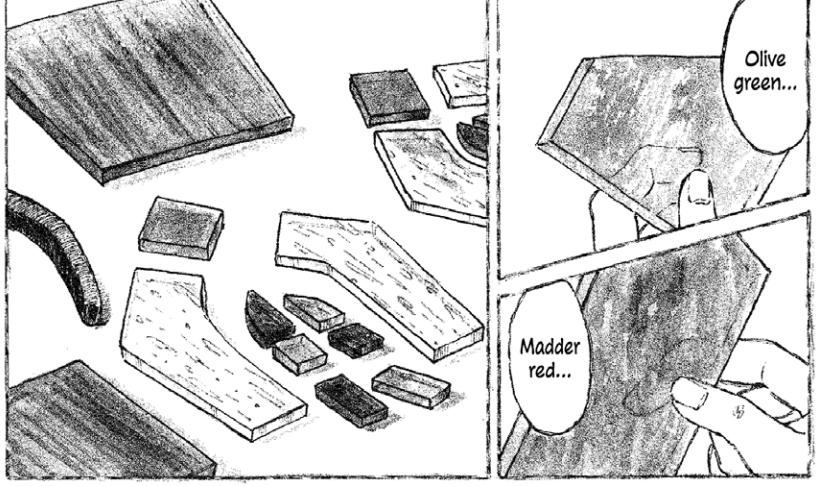




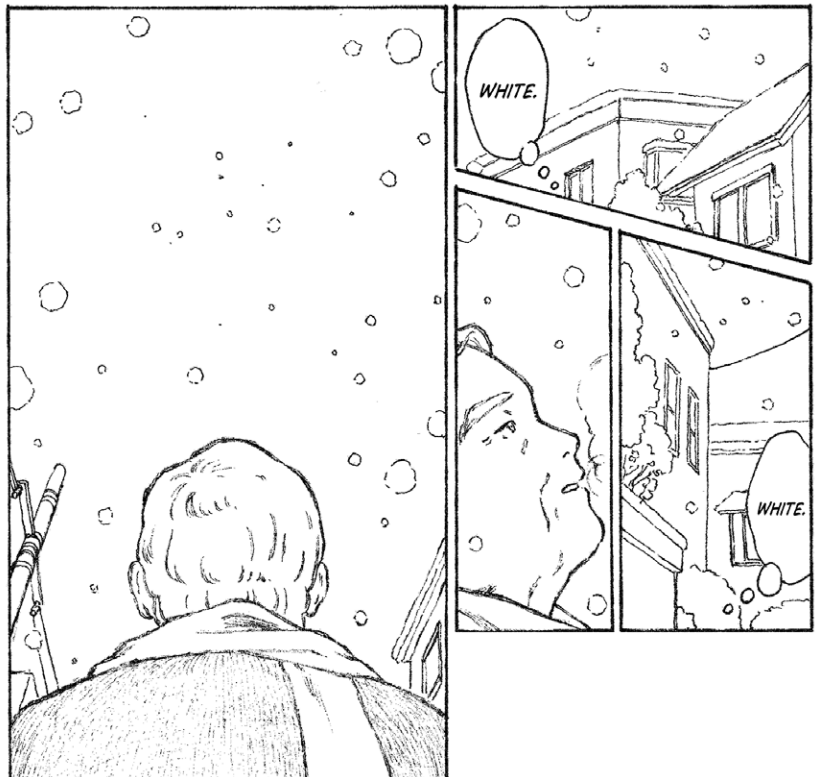

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ALL OF YOU.


...


AFTER THOSE ARE DONE, I'M CLOSING DOWN THE CLASSROOM.
THESE CURRENT PROJECTS YOU'RE WORKING ON WILL BE THE LAST ONES.


Olive green...
Madder red...


はあ
HAAH


WHITE.
WHITE.


All your lamps at home are too big.
Hold on.
I can run you one from home.

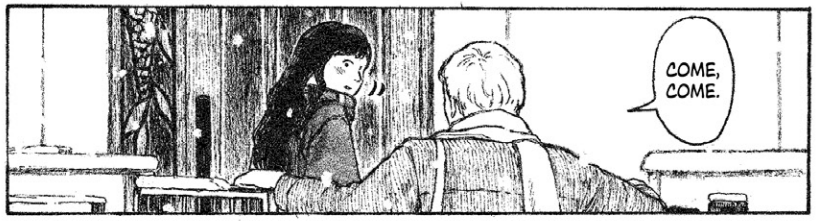

And the color?
Oh, but how about the motif?
All right. I'll go home and get to work on it.
I just need a little one. Something that'll fit in my palm would do just fine...


Make it the way you want.
I'll leave that to you.

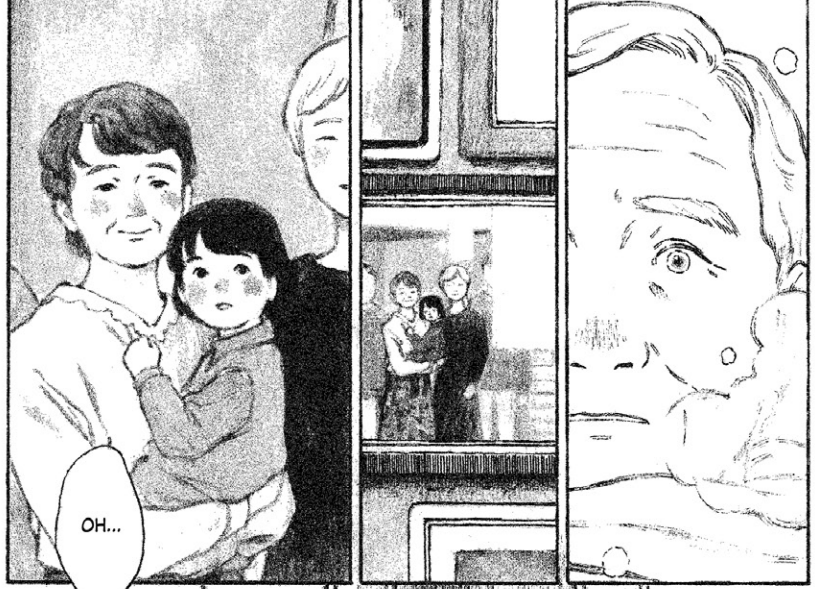

I'll be back before you know it.
All right. I'll head home and come right back with it.


PALE PINK.
RED.

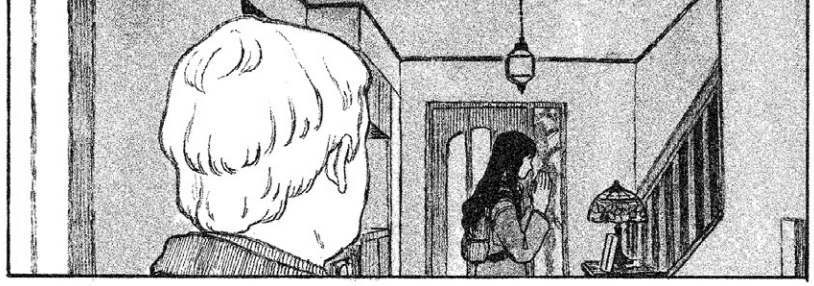

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
COME INSIDE.
YOU...
...
NOD
コクリ


COME, COME.


HAVE YOU HAD DINNER?
N-NO...
UM...
I'LL WHIP SOME-THING UP.

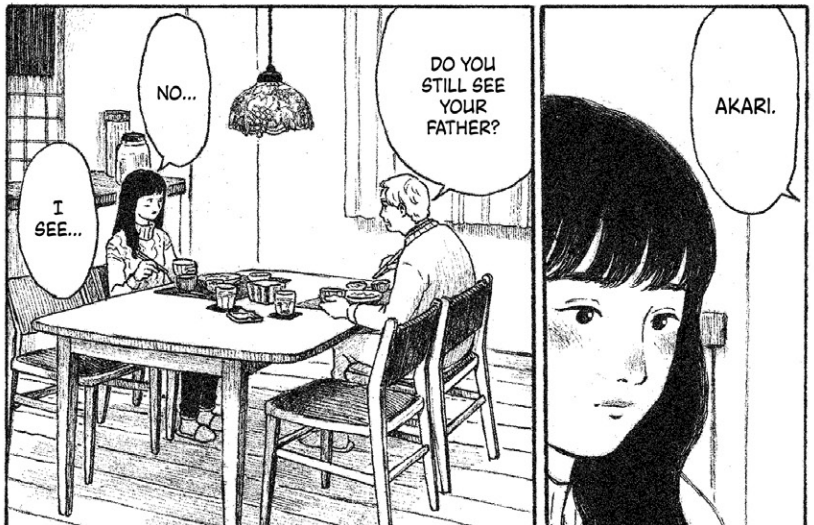

OH...

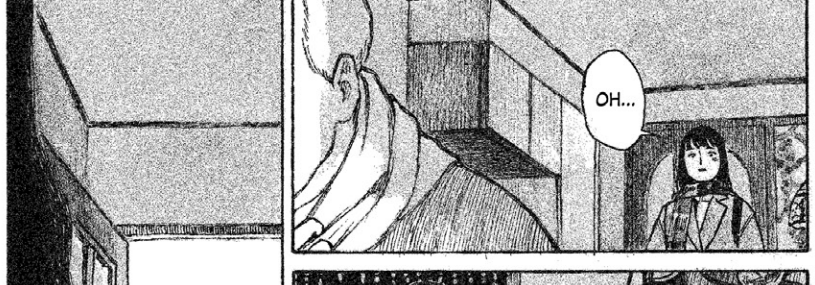

AKARI... IS THAT YOU?




I'M SORRY ...
THANKS. YOKO WOULD BE HAPPY.




I SEE...
NO...
DO YOU STILL SEE YOUR FATHER?
AKARI.


OH...





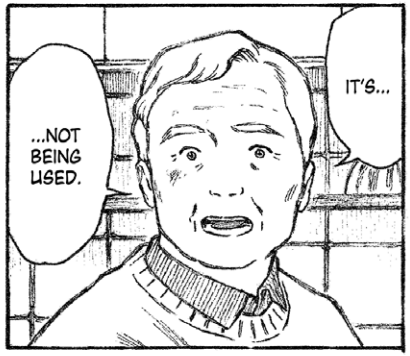

IT HAPPENED LAST YEAR, IN THE SPRING...


I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH, SO I COULDN'T TELL YOU GUYS.




THERE'S A ROOM UPSTAIRS.
I HOULD OBABLY GET OING OON.


WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT?
IT'S SO LATE.


...NOT BEING USED.
IT'S...

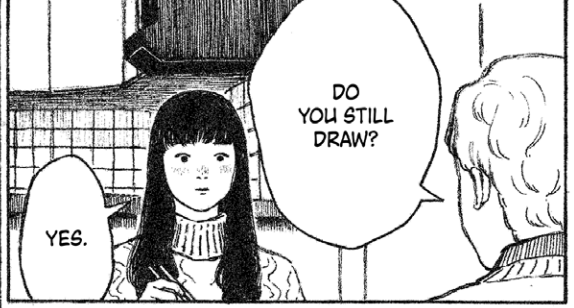

IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN WHOLE YEARS.


WHAT NOW...
HAAH...



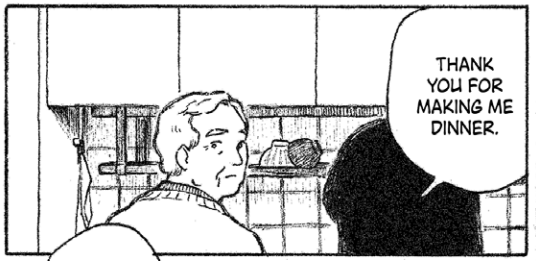





DO YOU STILL DRAW?
YES.


I SEE.

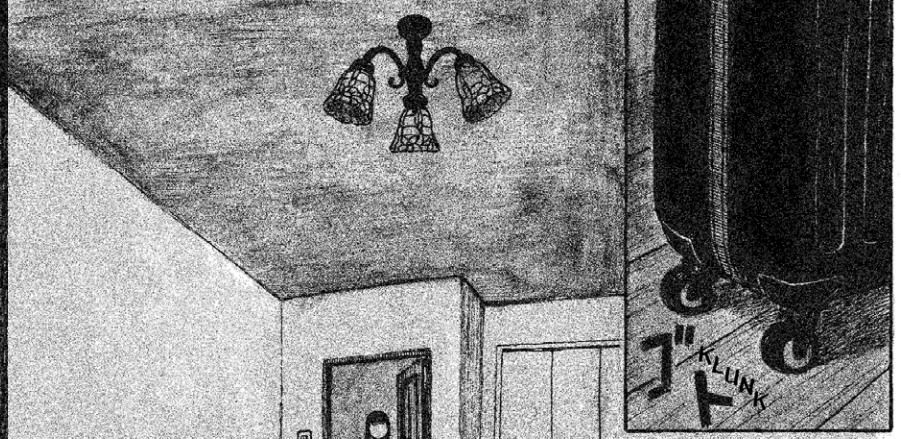



THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME DINNER.


UM.


SO, UM... WELL...

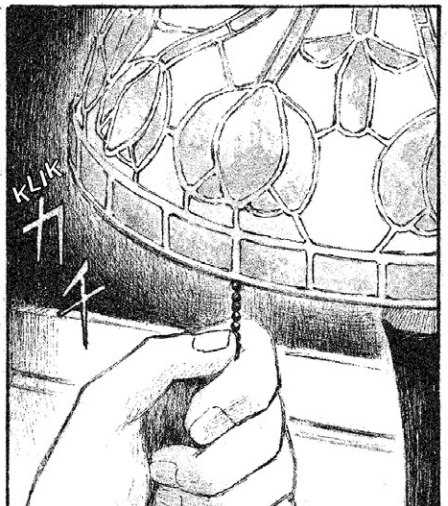


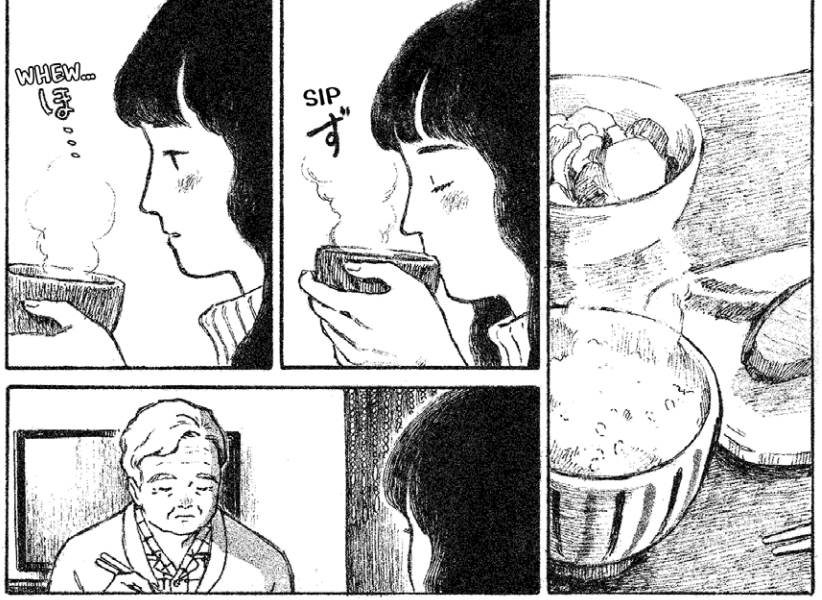

ゴトン
KLUNK

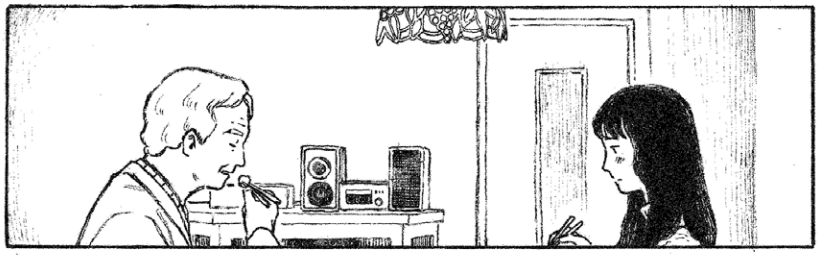




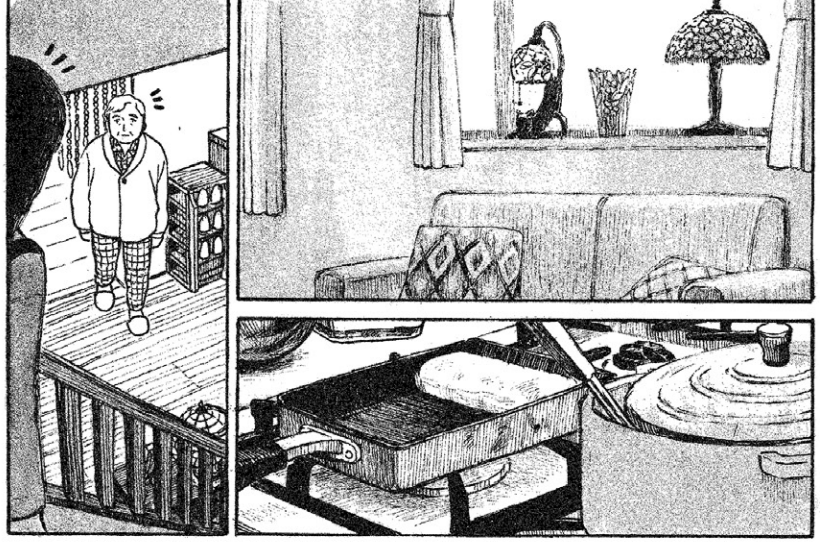


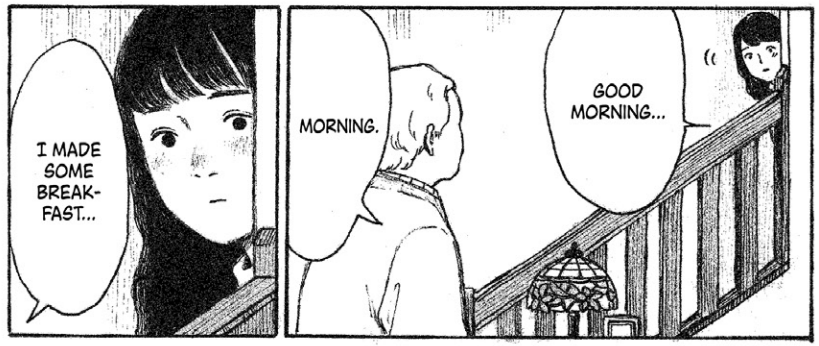

KLIK
カチ

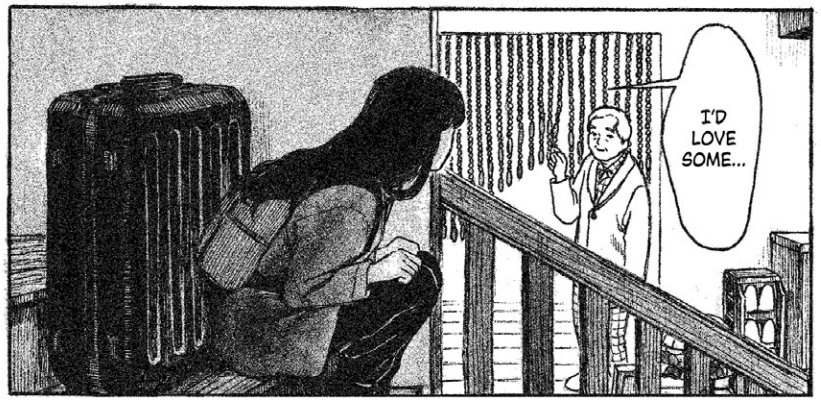

WHEW...
ほ...
SIP
ず



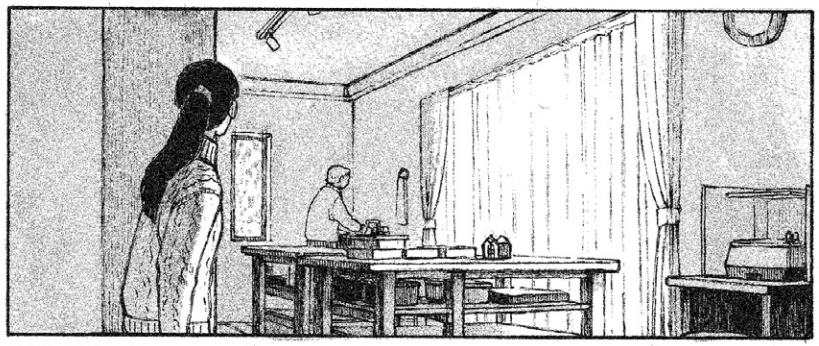

I'D LIKE TO DO THE DISHES.
YOU WOULD? ALL RIGHT...



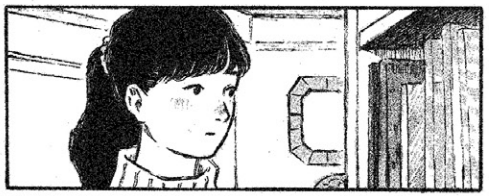

I MADE SOME BREAK-FAST...
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING...


I'D LOVE SOME...


KLAK
カチャ
WHEW...



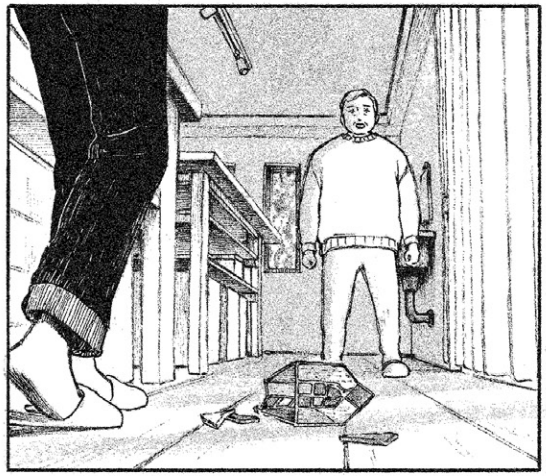

GO ON, TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

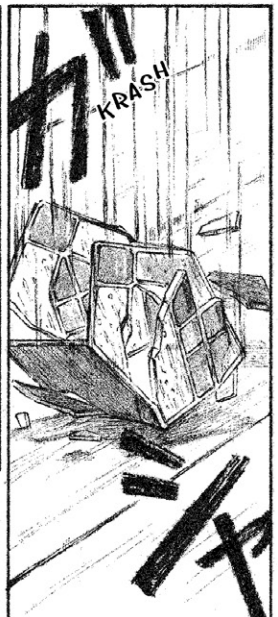


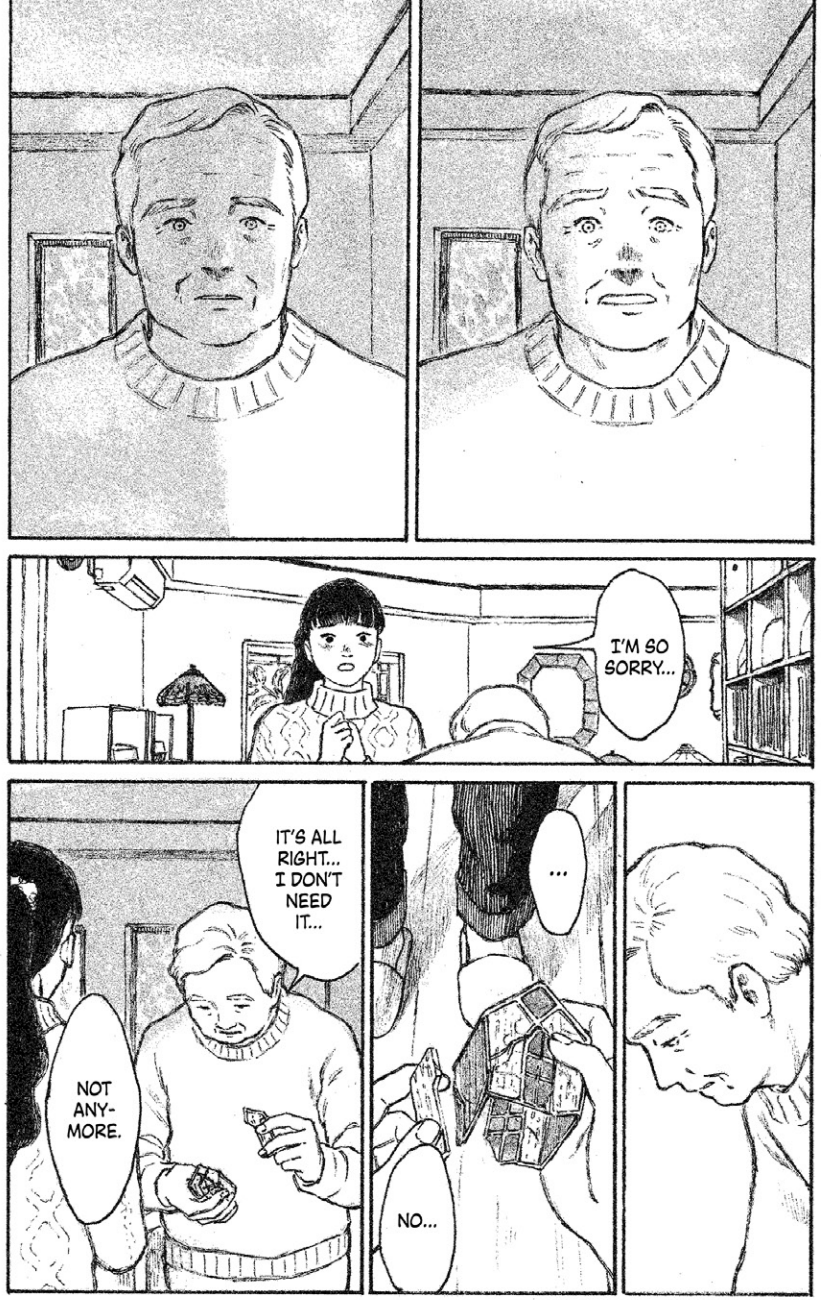

I RUN A CLASS FOR STAINED GLASS IN HERE.
BUT NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.


SURE.
MAY I TOUCH THEM?


FLINCH
ヒ"
!!
BUT NOT THAT ONE!




KRASH!


I'M SO SORRY...
IT'S ALL RIGHT... I DON'T NEED IT...
NOT ANY-MORE.
...
NO...

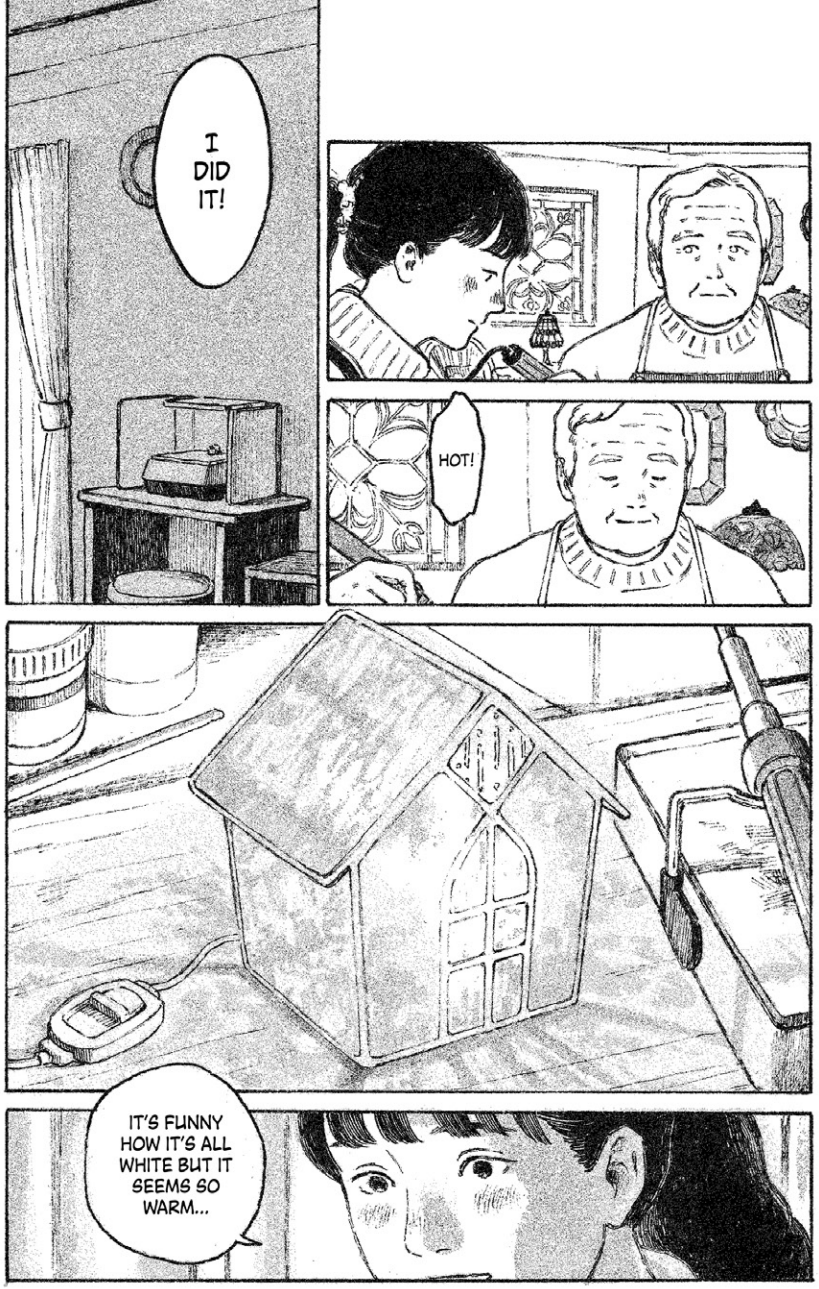

...
SORRY I SHOUTED.
...
WHY AREN'T YOU DOING THE CLASSES ANYMORE?
THE WAY I AM NOW, I CAN'T EVEN FINISH A LITTLE LAMP.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE CAN CUT THE GLASS SO SOMEONE ELSE CAN USE IT.


SORRY. I'M GOING TO GET TO WORK FOR A BIT.
SHRRRRRRK
ジィィィィィィ
...
KRAK
KLINK
KLINK
カン
カン

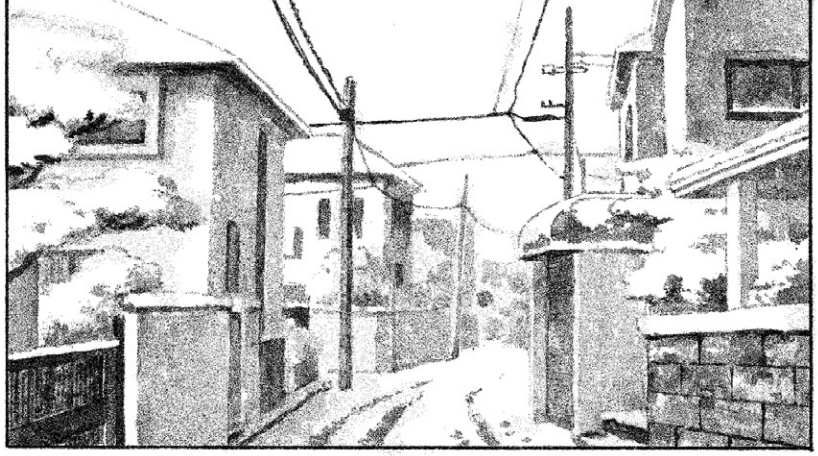

EVEN WHITE HAS SO MANY DIFFERENT COLORS...
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
!
THAT'S RIGHT...
YES...


YOU CAN REUSE BROKEN PIECES.
THAT'S THE NICE THING ABOUT STAINED GLASS.
...
WANT TO GIVE IT A SWING?
UM...
YES!
AFTER POLISHING THE CUT PIECES, THEY NEED TO BE WRAPPED IN FOIL TAPE.
UNROLL THE TAPE WHILE TAKING CARE NOT TO TOUCH THE STICKY SIDE.
START TAPING ABOUT FIVE MILLIMETERS AWAY FROM A CORNER.
MAKE SURE THE GLASS IS CENTERED ON THE TAPE AS YOU GO.


...


I DID IT!
HOT!
IT'S FUNNY HOW IT'S ALL WHITE BUT IT SEEMS SO WARM...


YOU'RE THE REASON IT GOT FINISHED.
SO THANK YOU.
WOULD YOU TAKE IT?
OH...
BUT...
I'M ACTU-ALLY...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TIME TO START DINNER.
UM!
...
OKAY.
...
HOW ABOUT WE GO GET THE GRO-CERIES?

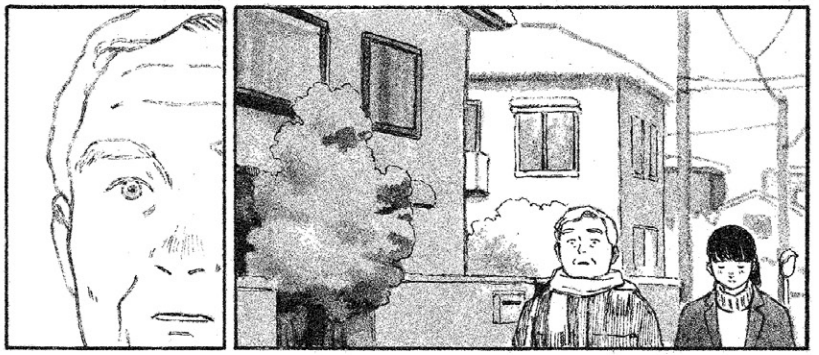


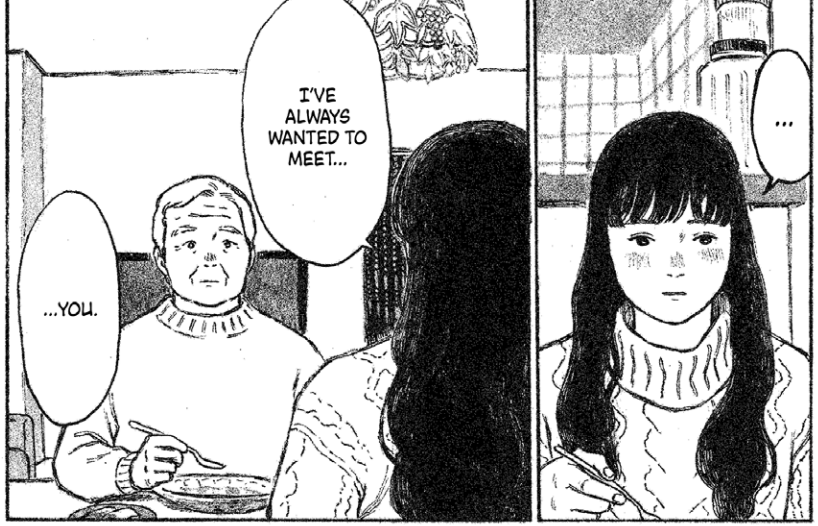

THE COLOR OF DEUTZIA FLOWERS.
WHITE... NO.





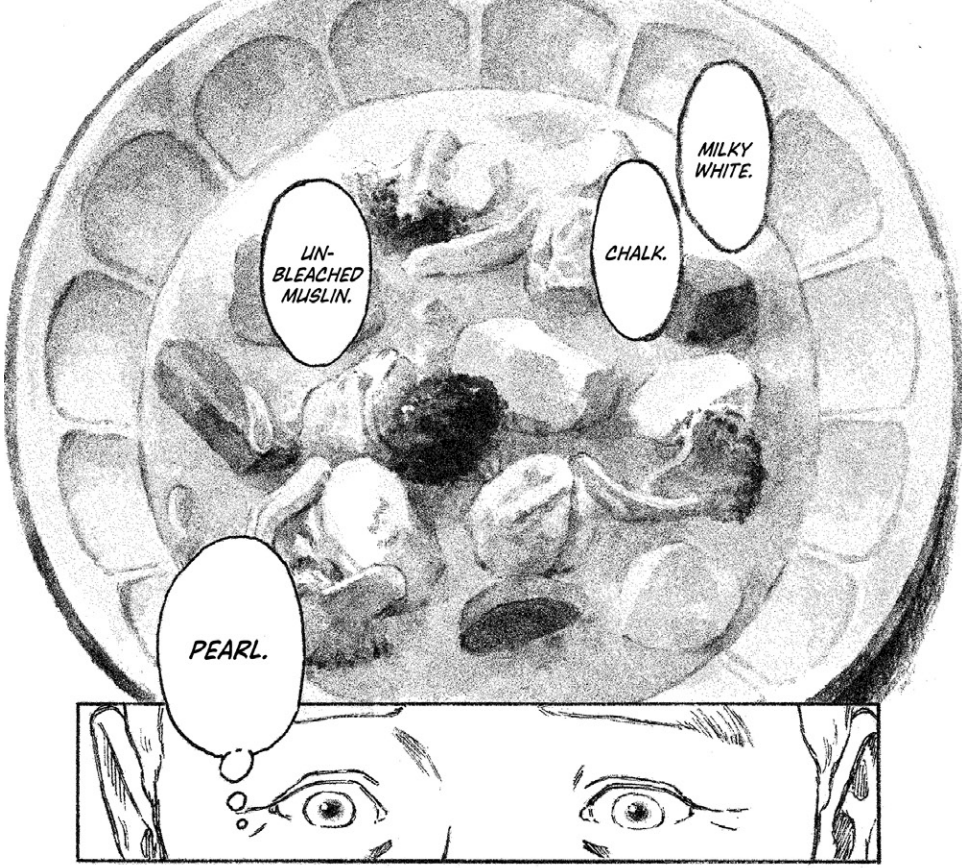

Cream Stew
Fresh, new taste!
EVEN MORE DELICIOUS

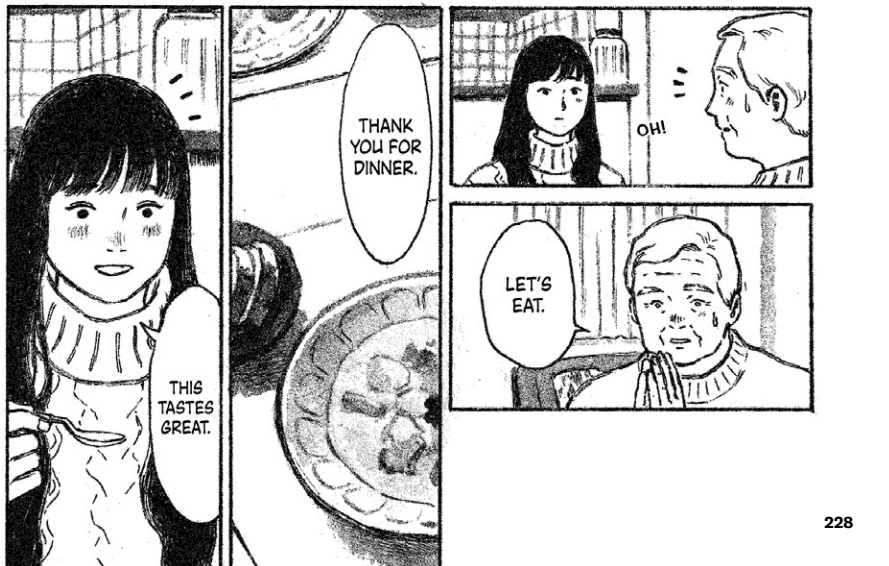


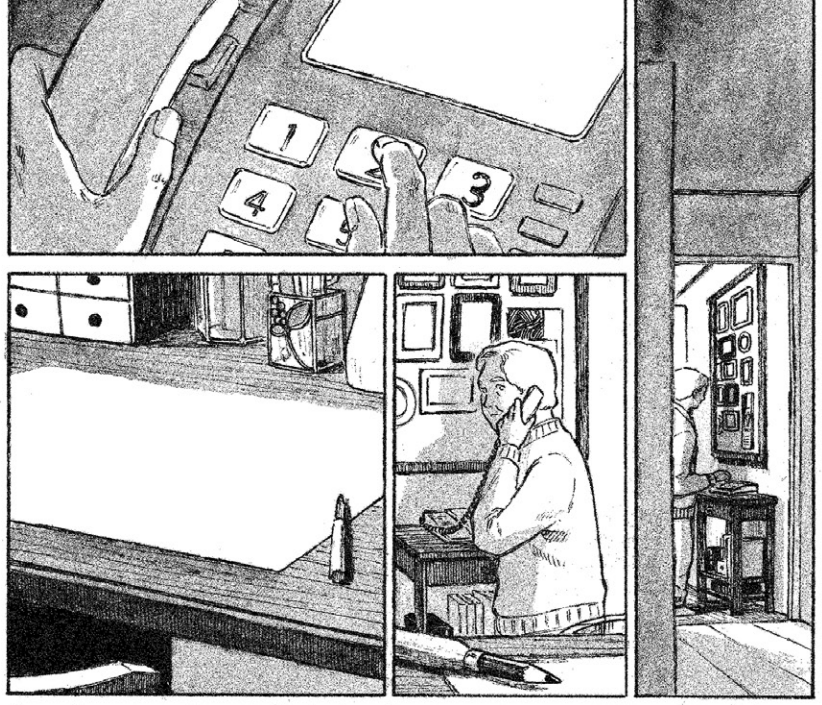

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET...
...YOU.
...


SO I WAS HAPPY TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER.


I'M...
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'M...
I...!


MILKY WHITE.
CHALK.
UN-BLEACHED MUSLIN.
PEARL.


THANK YOU FOR DINNER.
THIS TASTES GREAT.
OH!
LET'S EAT.

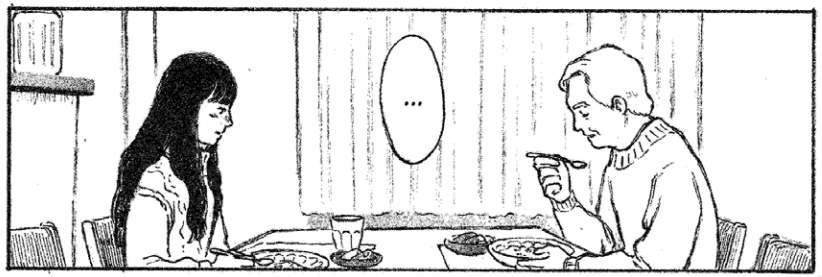

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4
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3


DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT NEW GLASS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?


HELLO, HOSHINO GLASS HERE.
IT'S KAGARI. SORRY FOR CALLING OUTSIDE YOUR NORMAL HOURS.
MR. KAGARI? WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CALL? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO REACH OUT.


STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO SAY IT.


...
...


...

TITLE DETAILS

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Critical Acclaim

Featured in domestic media such as *intoxicate*, *Article*, *Da Vinci*, and the *Asahi Shimbun* (Chujo Shohei's Manga Reviews column).
Offer for film adaptation received from BUN-BUKU Inc. https://www.bunbukubun.com/.
Feature on domestic radio station RAB Radio's *GO!GO! Rajimaru.*

Comparable Titles

Don't Go Without Me (graphic novel by Rosemary Vallero O'Connell, ShortBox)
Blue Period (manga by Tsubasa Yamaguchi, KODANSHA)
Blank Canvas (manga by Akiko Higashimura, Seven Seas Entertainment)
Hirayasumi (manga by Keigo Shinzo, VIZ Media)
The Lines that Define Me (manga by Atsunori Horiuchi and Hiromasa Togami, KODANSHA)

