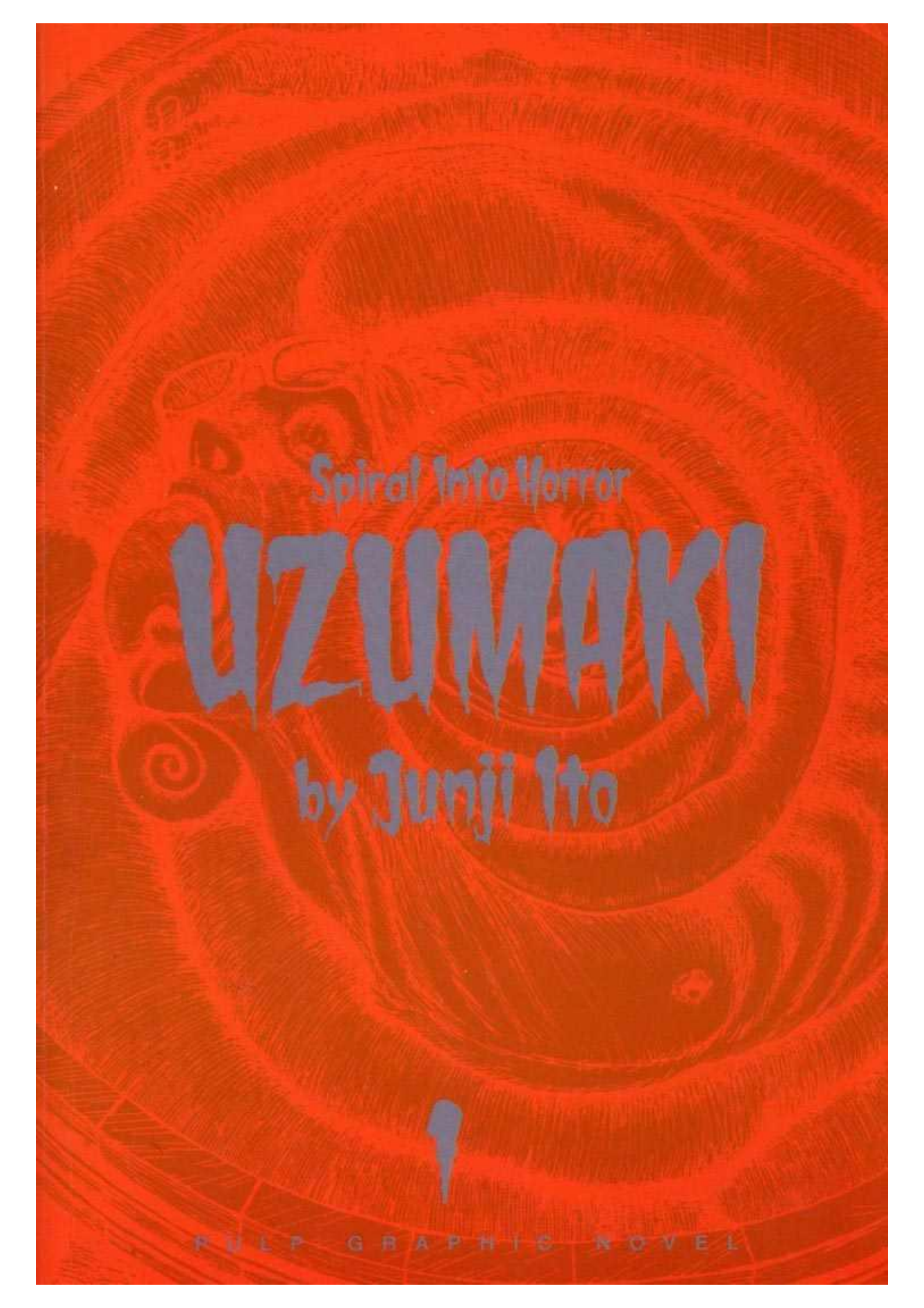




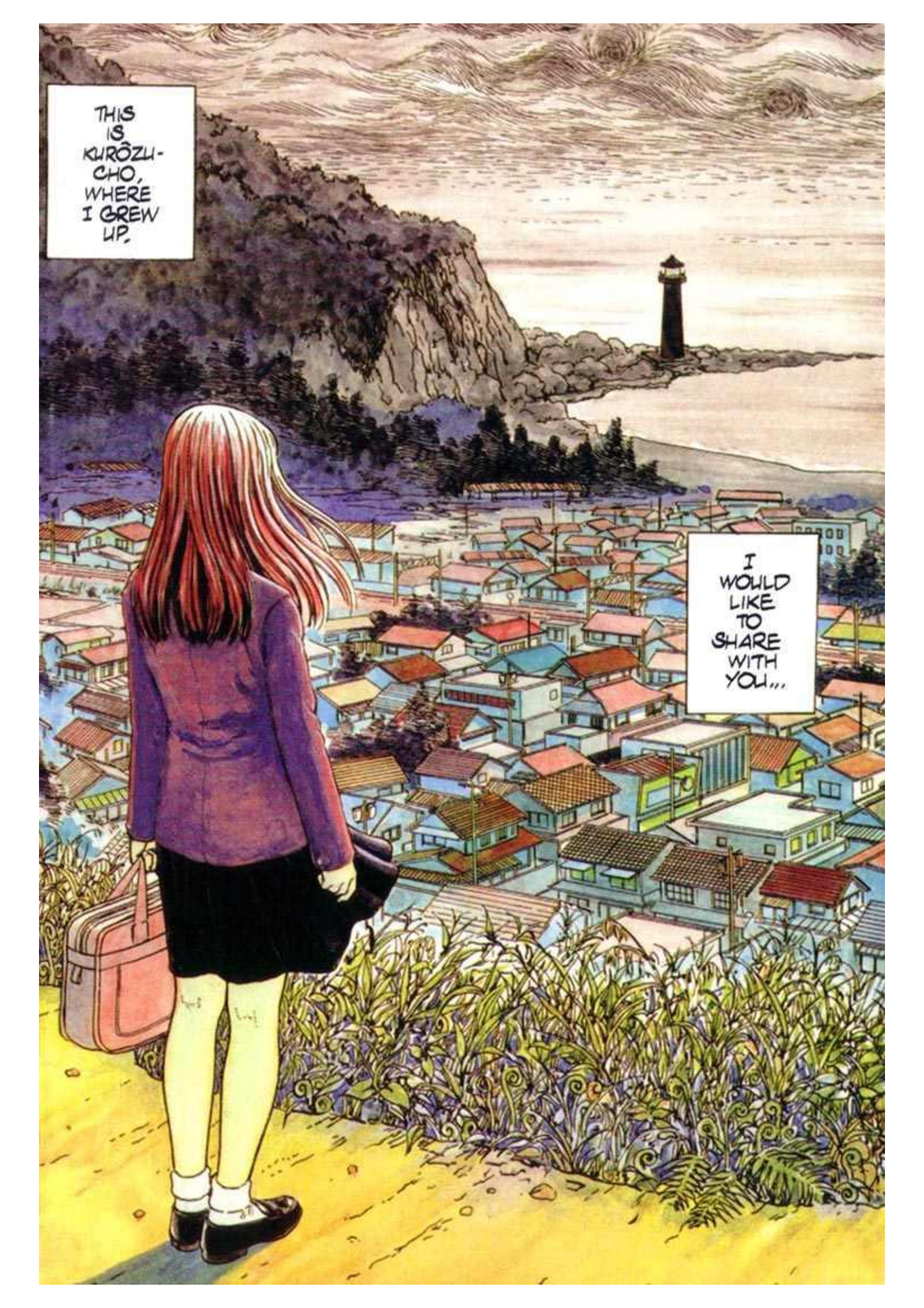
Spiral Into Horror

UZUMAKI

by Junji Ito



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



THIS
IS
KURÔZU-
CHO,
WHERE
I GREW
UP.

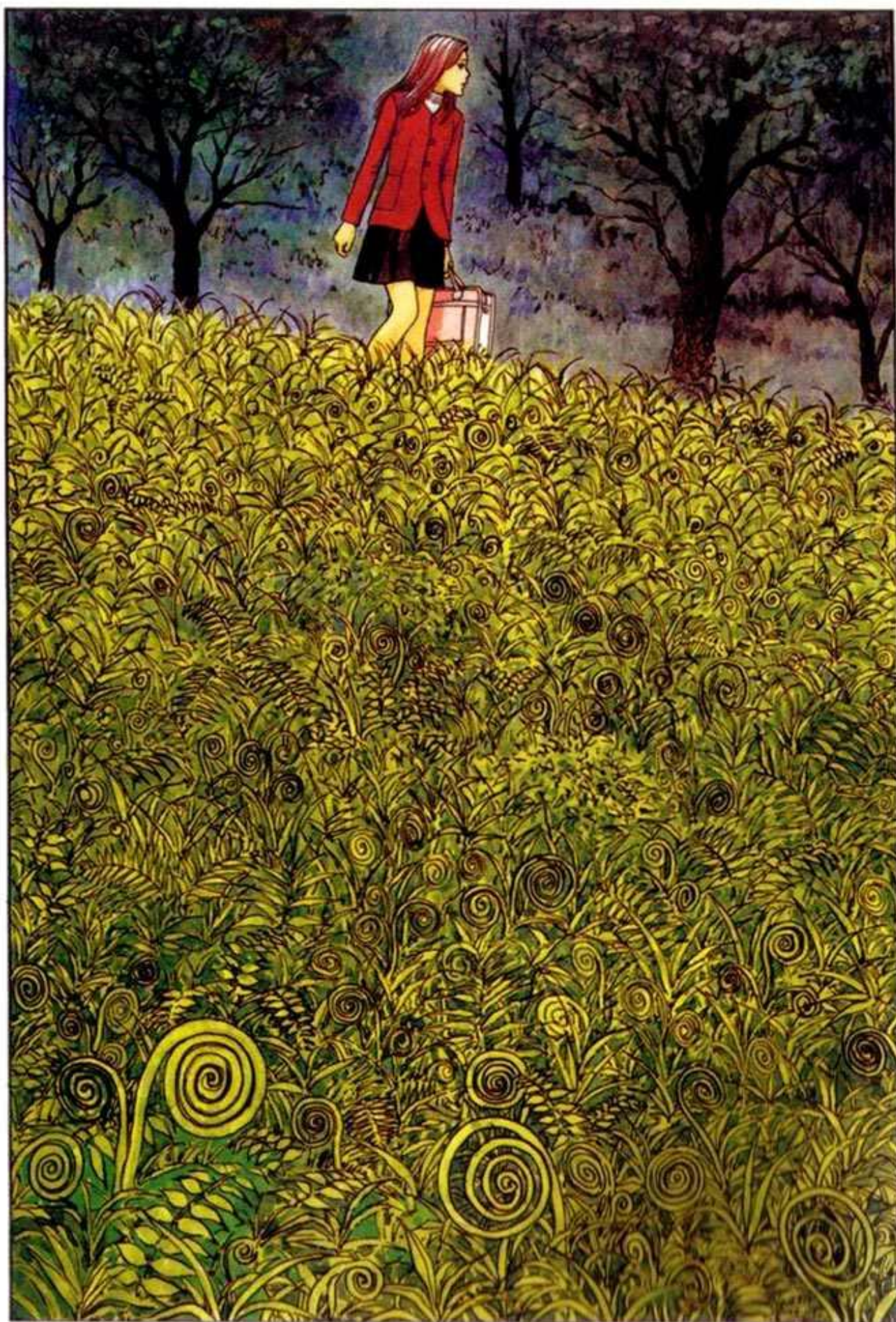
I
WOULD
LIKE
TO
SHARE
WITH
YOU...



CHAPTER

I THE STRANGE EVENTS

...THE
STRANGE
EVENTS
THAT
TOOK
PLACE
HERE.





MY
NAME
IS
KIRIE
GOSHIMA.

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



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

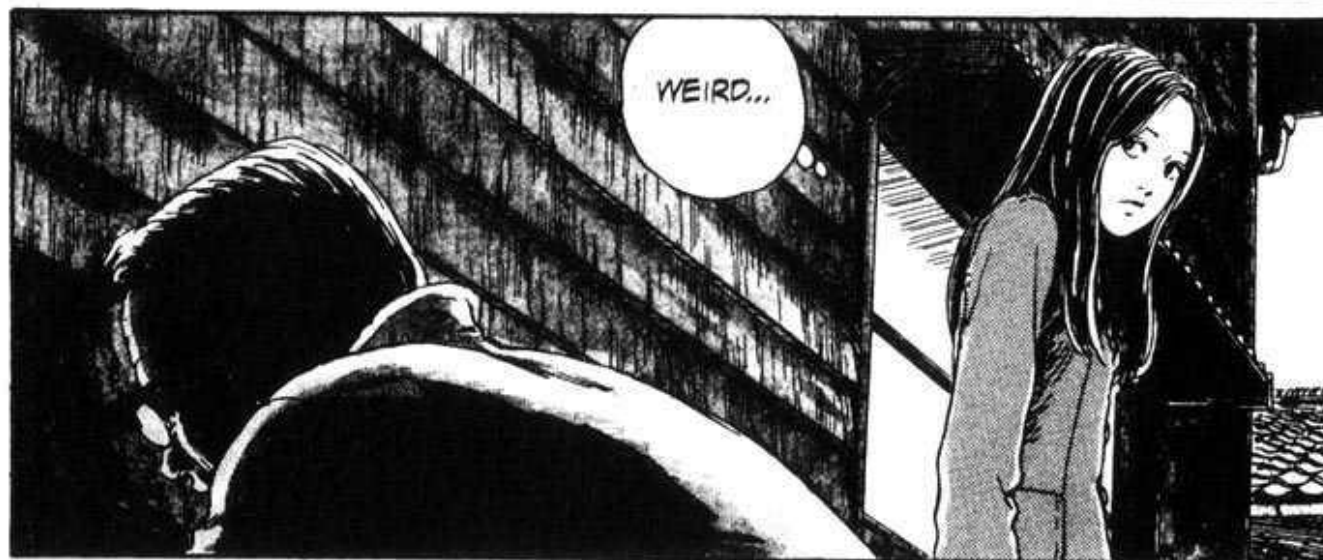
...IN
THE
CENTRAL
DISTRICT
OF
THE
TOWN.

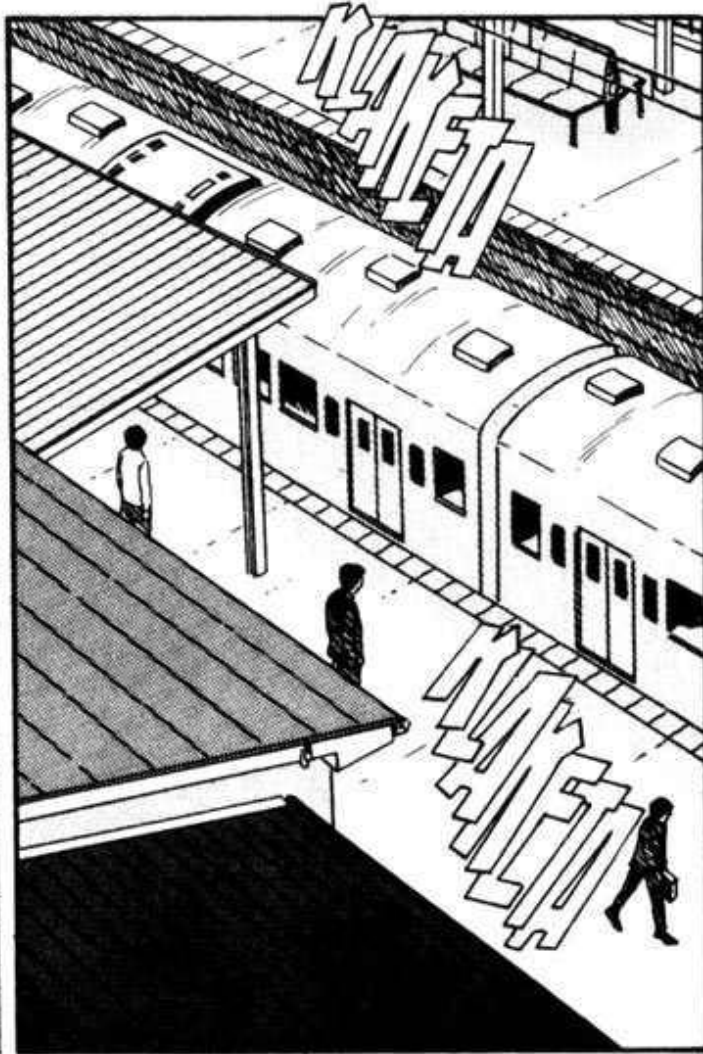
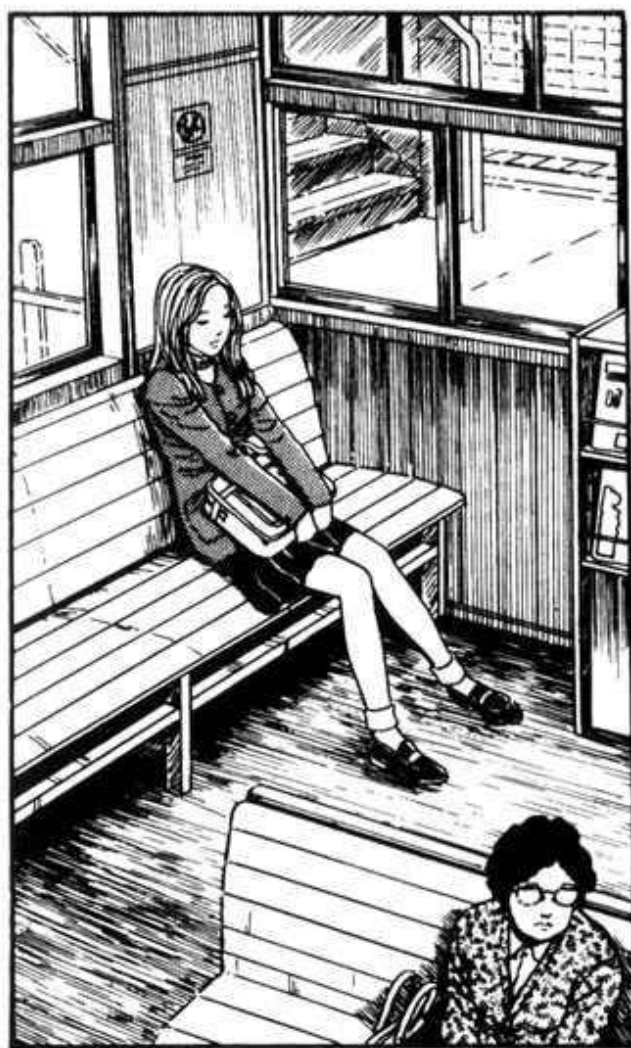


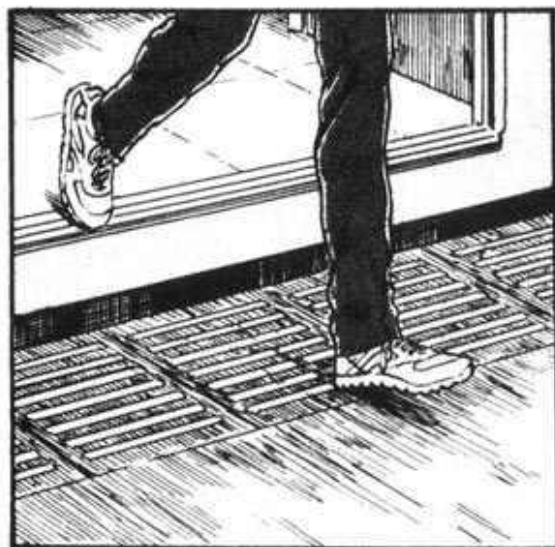
OH NO...
I'M LATE!
I MIGHT
MISS
SHUICHI
AT THE
STATION!

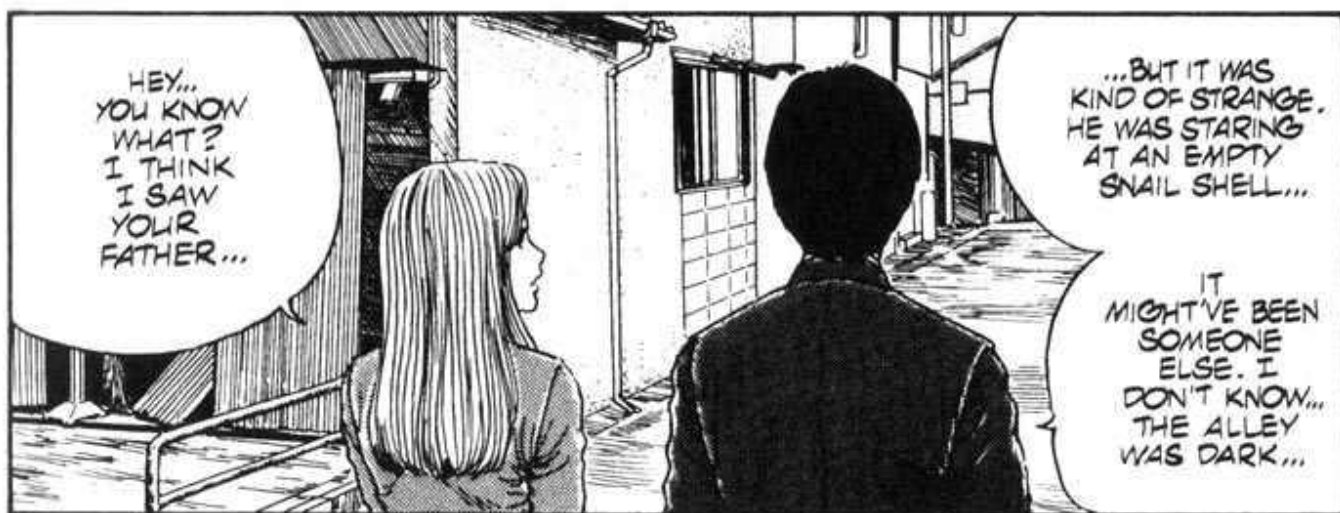
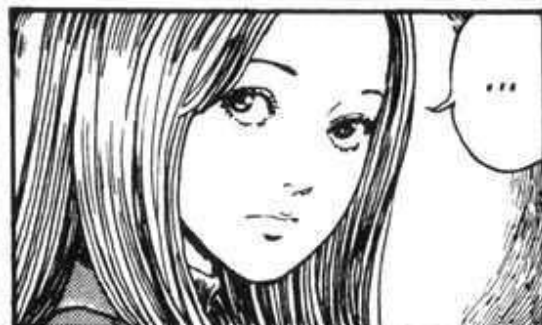


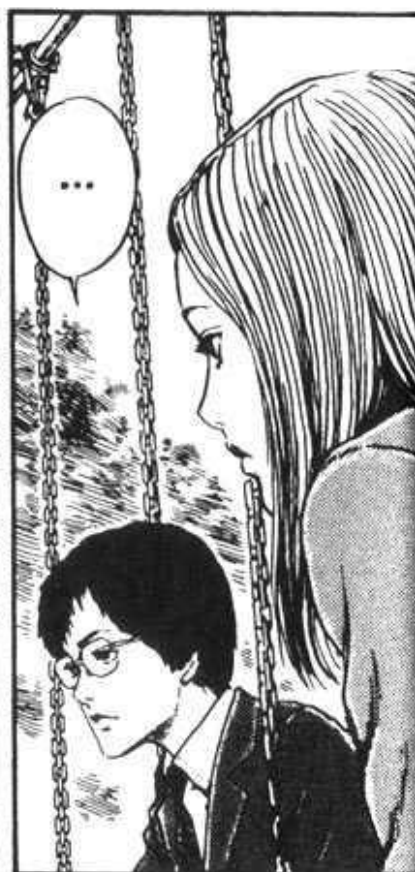


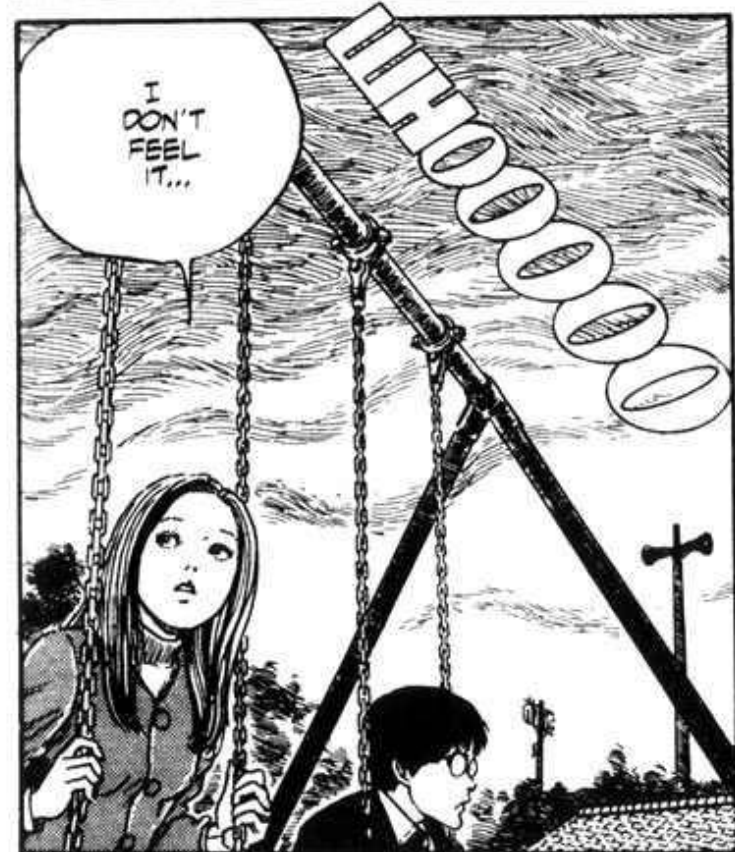


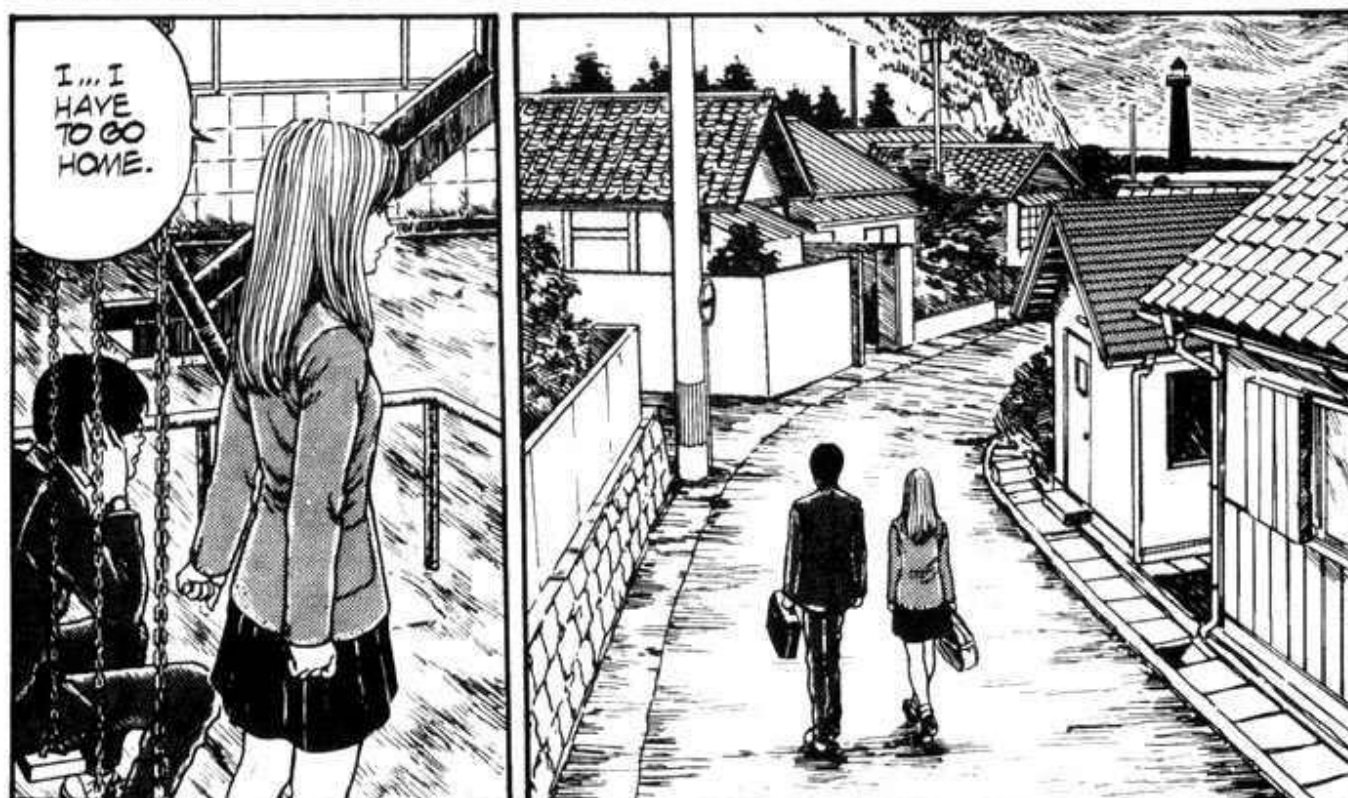


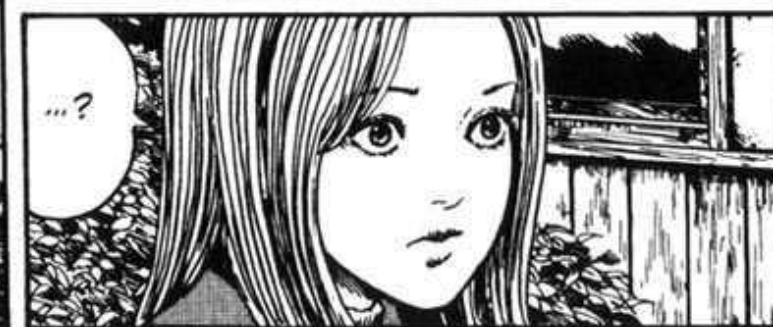
















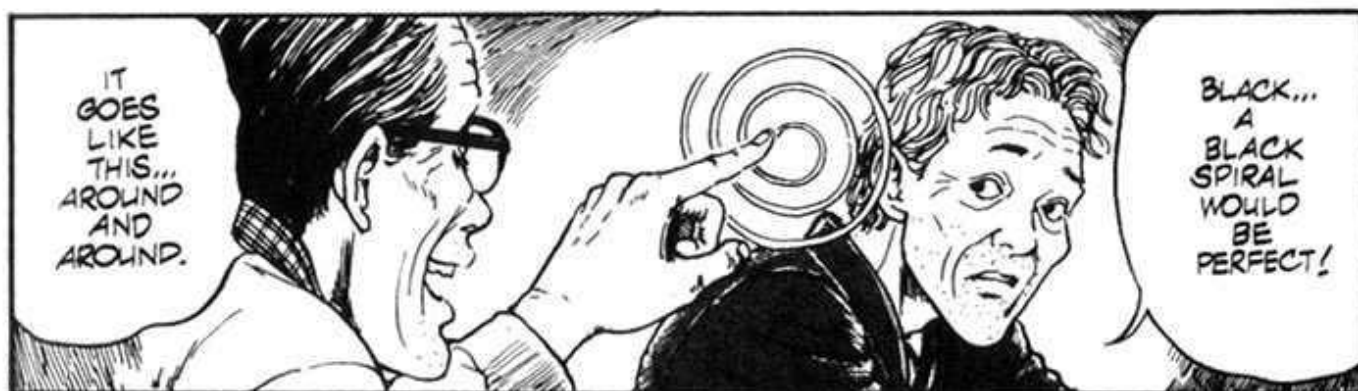
YES!
PLEASE!
CAN
YOU
MAKE
ME
ONE?

I WANT
ONE
THAT
WILL
MAKE
ME
DIZZY.



I
WANT
ONE
WITH
A
SPIRAL
PATTERN.

THE
SPIRAL
PATTERN
IS
CRUCIAL!



IT
GOES
LIKE
THIS...
AROUND
AND
AROUND.

BLACK...
A
BLACK
SPIRAL
WOULD
BE
PERFECT!



LATELY
I'VE
COME
TO
LOVE
THAT
PATTERN.

I'M
COLLECT-
ING
EVERYTHING
THAT
HAS
SPIRALS.



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

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

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





DIDN'T MY DAD VISIT YOUR HOUSE YESTERDAY?

U/HH, YEAH... HE FREAKED ME OUT A LITTLE.



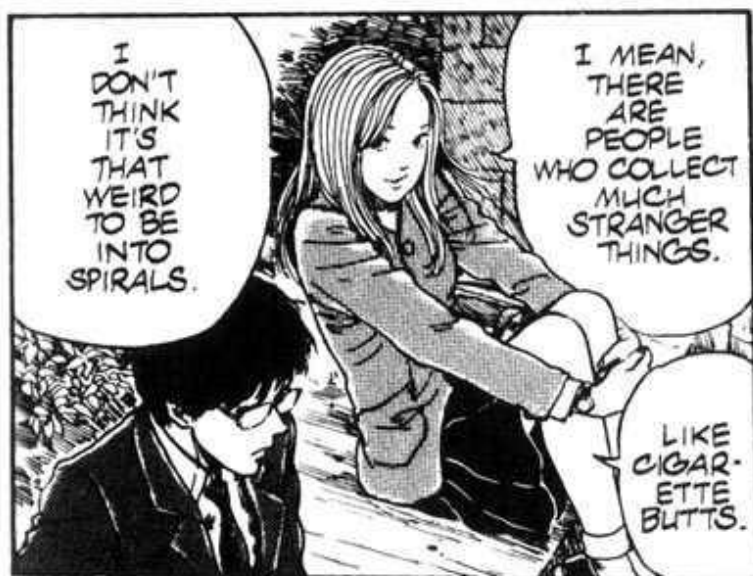
I'M SORRY YOU SAW THAT. HE'S BEEN WEIRD LATELY.

WHY WOULD HE BE FIXATED WITH SPIRALS?



ANYWAY, HE CALLED MY DAD AN ARTIST...

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



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

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

LIKE CIGAR-ETTE BUTTS.



...HOW ABNORMAL HIS OBSESSION'S BECOME.

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



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

...STARING
AT
HIS
SPRAWLING
COLLECTION
OF
SPIRALS.





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



HE
JUST
STARES
INTO
THE
SPIRAL.

AND
WHAT'S
WEIRD
IS
THAT
...



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

WHAT
?



HIS
EYES
SPIN?

THEY
SPIN
LIKE THEY'RE
FOLLOWING
THE
SPIRAL.

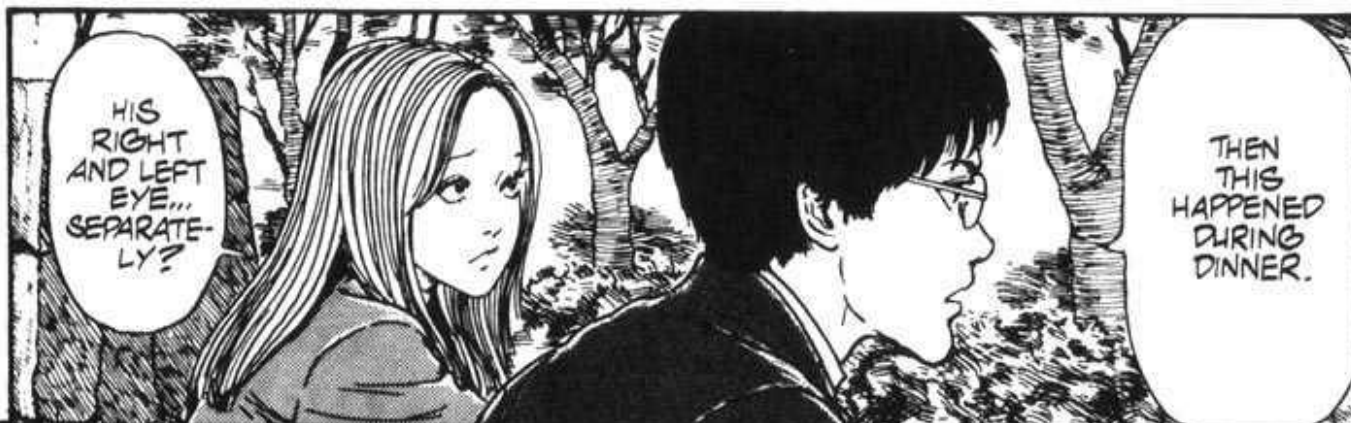


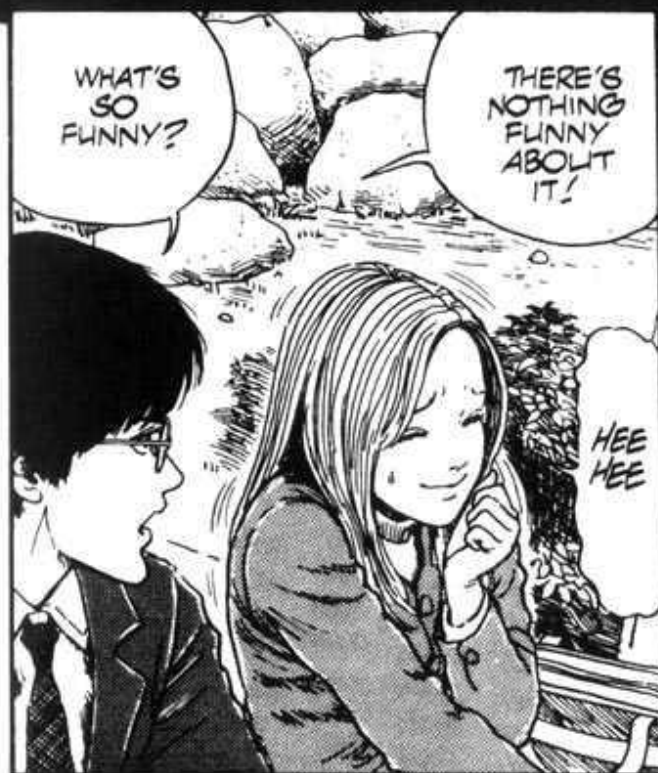
MAYBE
HE'S
TRYING
TO GET
A LAUGH
OUT
OF
YOU.

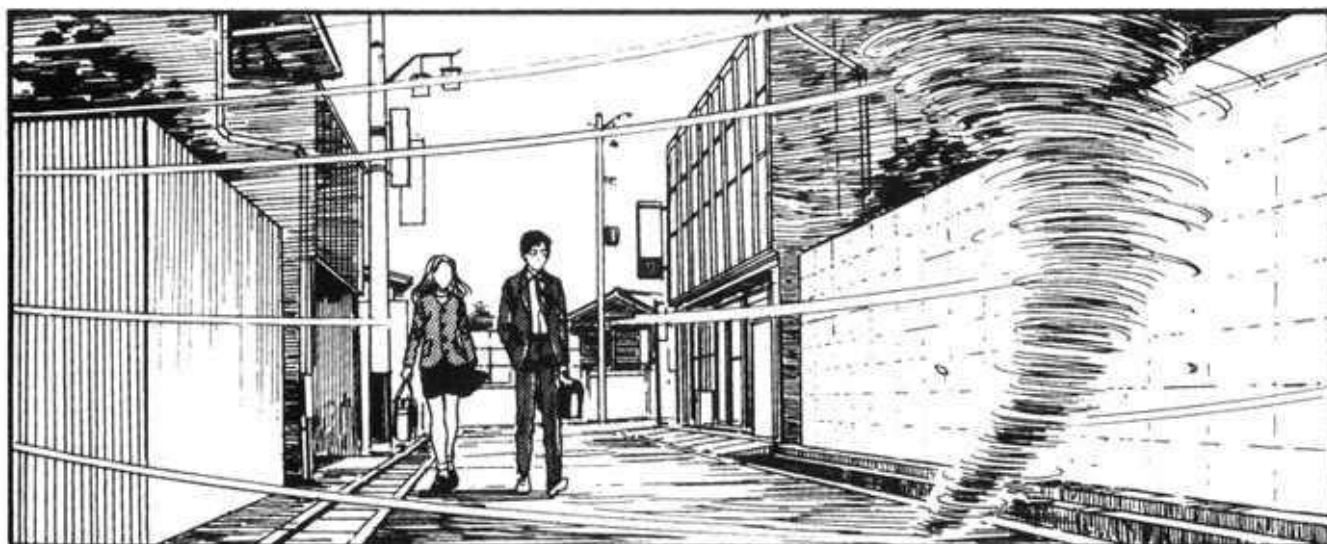


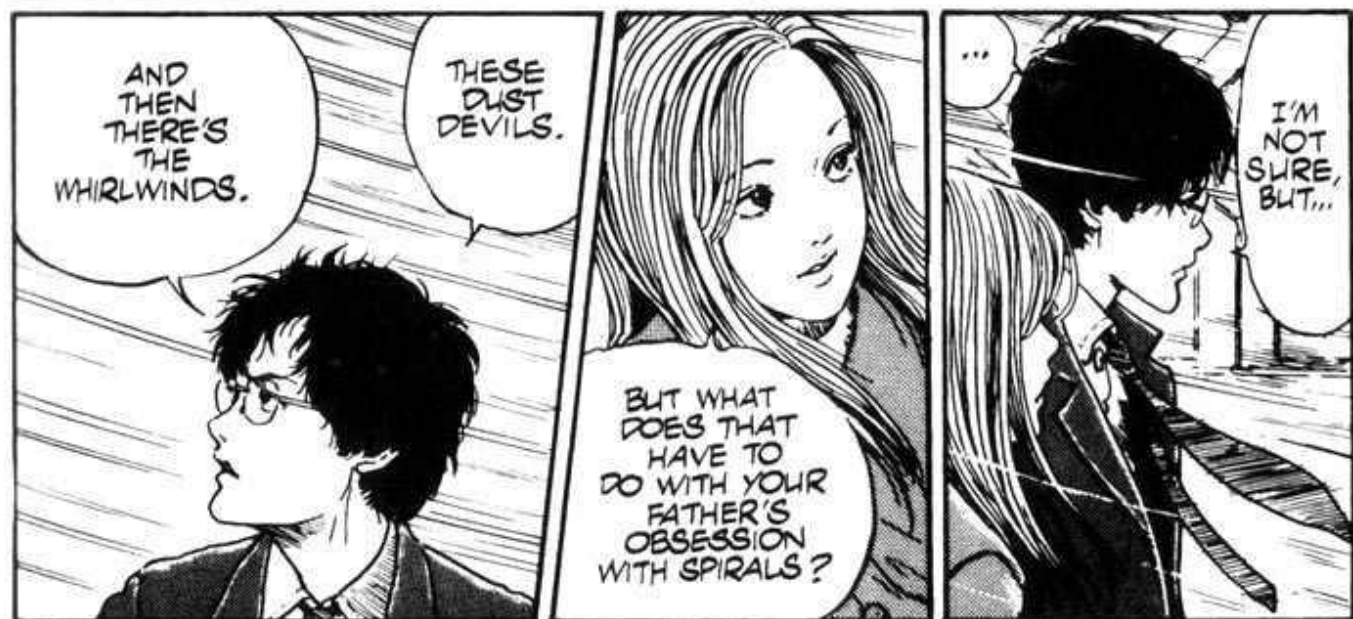
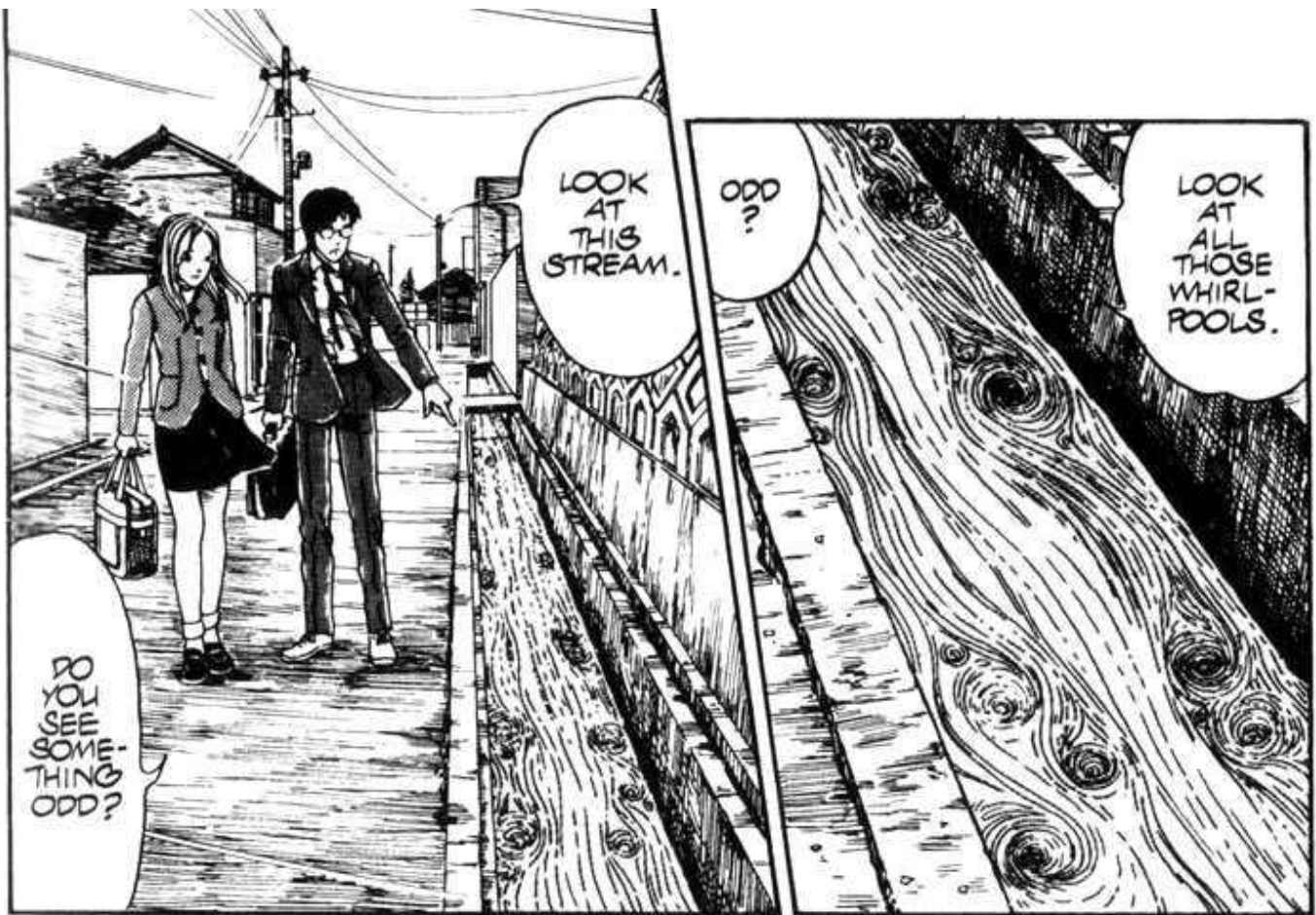
NO
IT'S
NOT
FUNNY
AT
ALL!

HIS
RIGHT
AND
LEFT
EYE
MOVE
INDEPENDENT-
LY OF
EACH
OTHER!



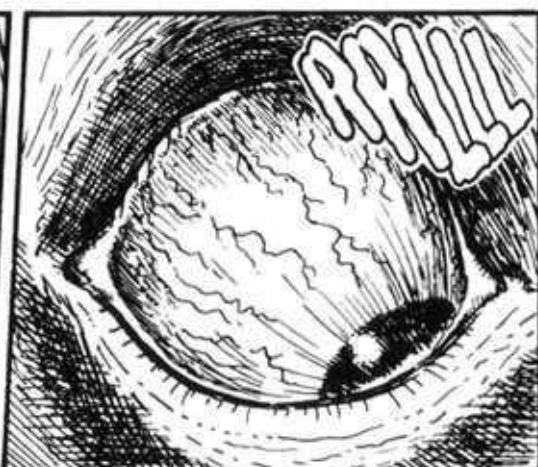
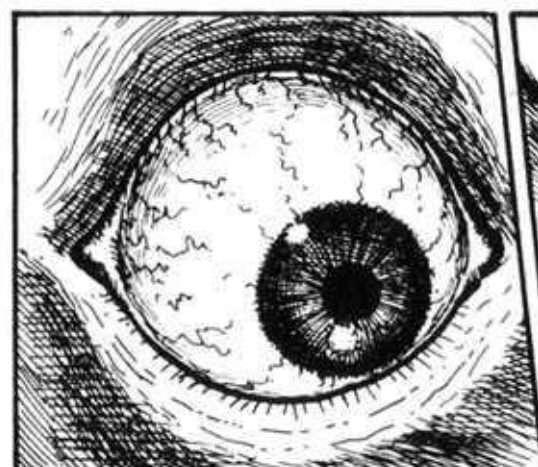
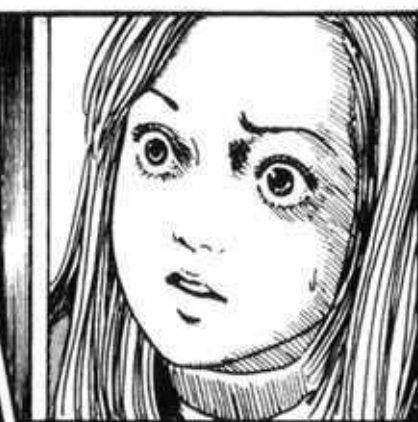
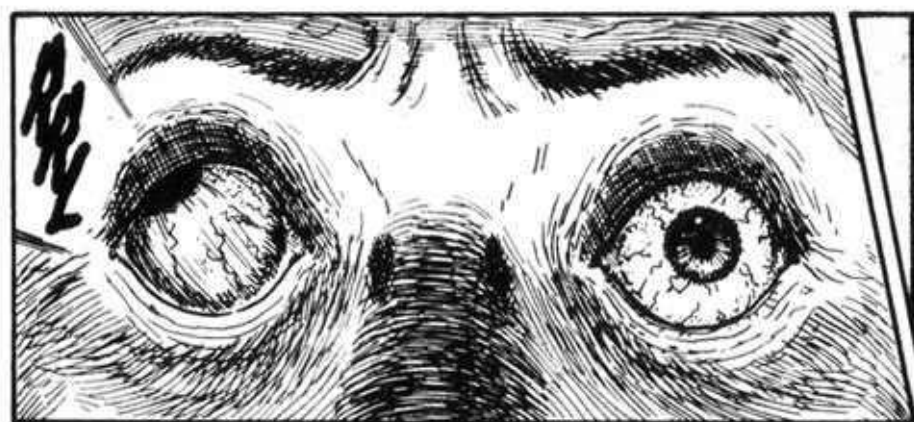
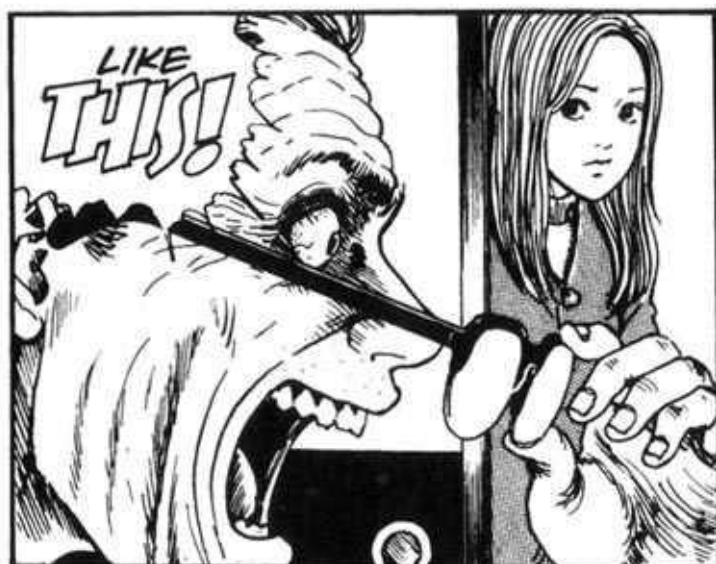




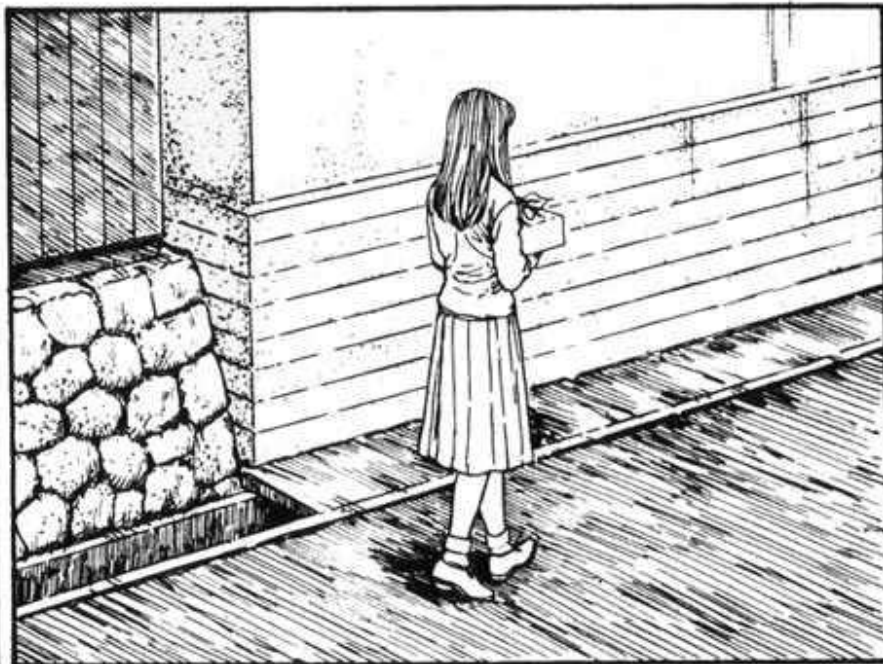
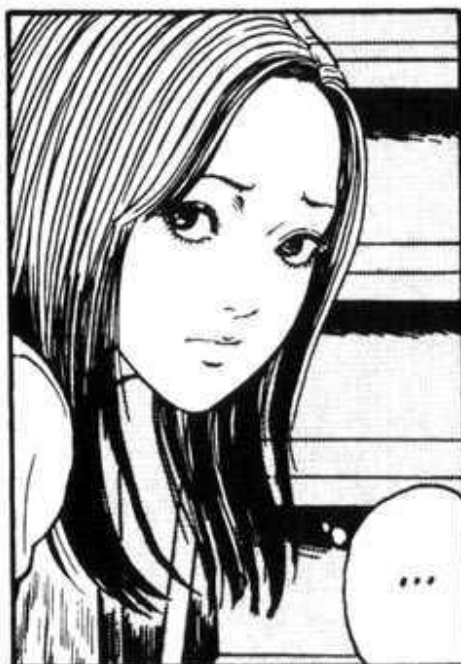
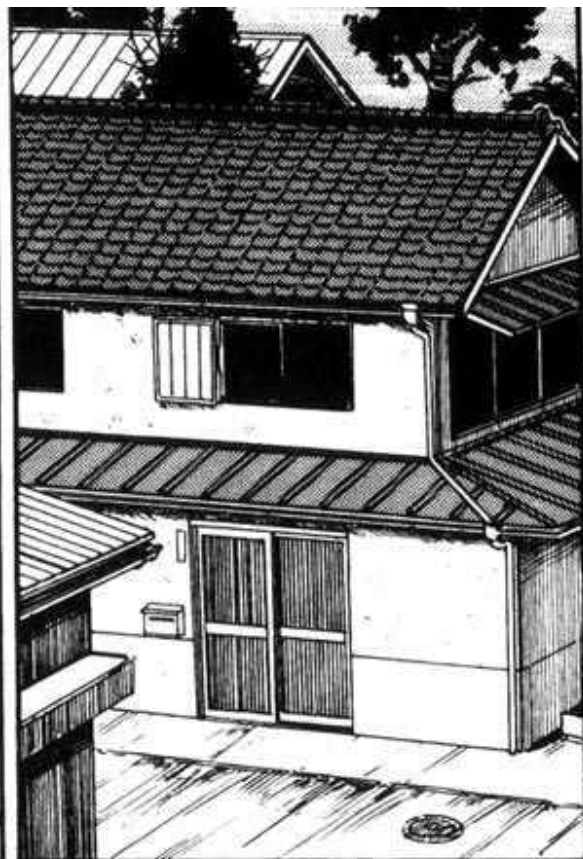






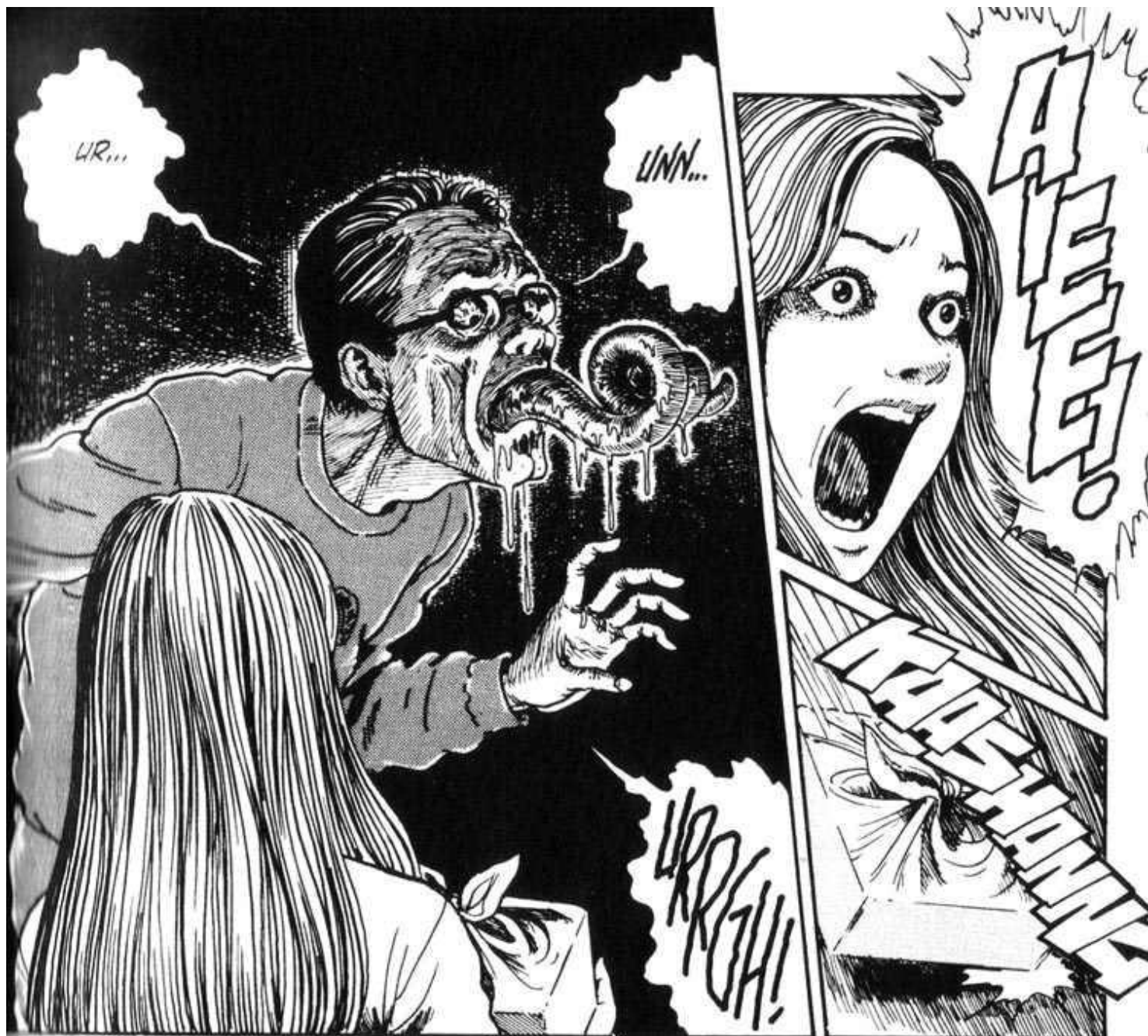


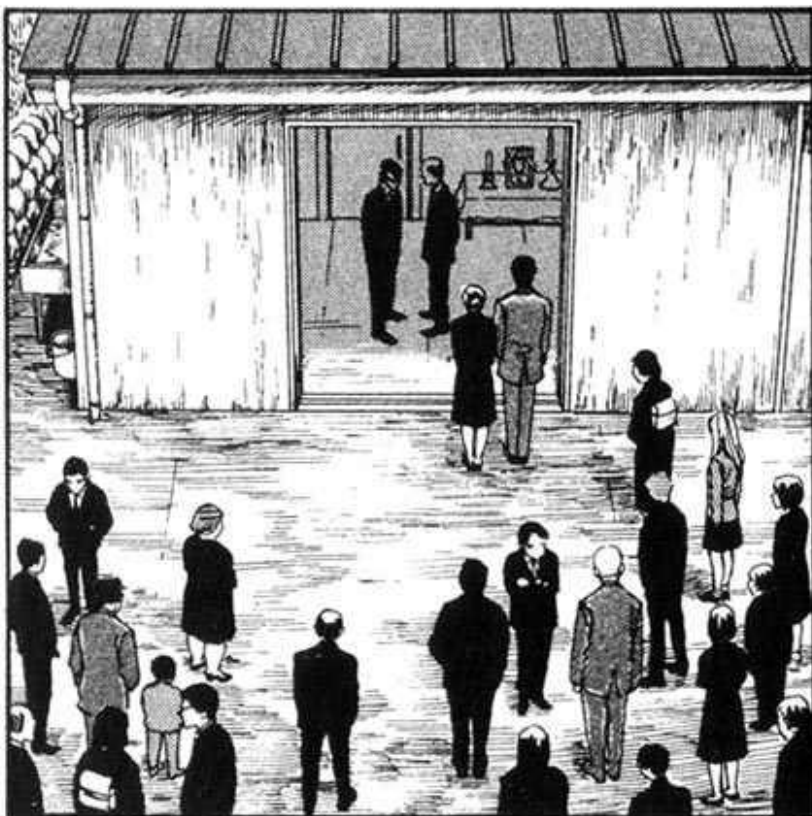
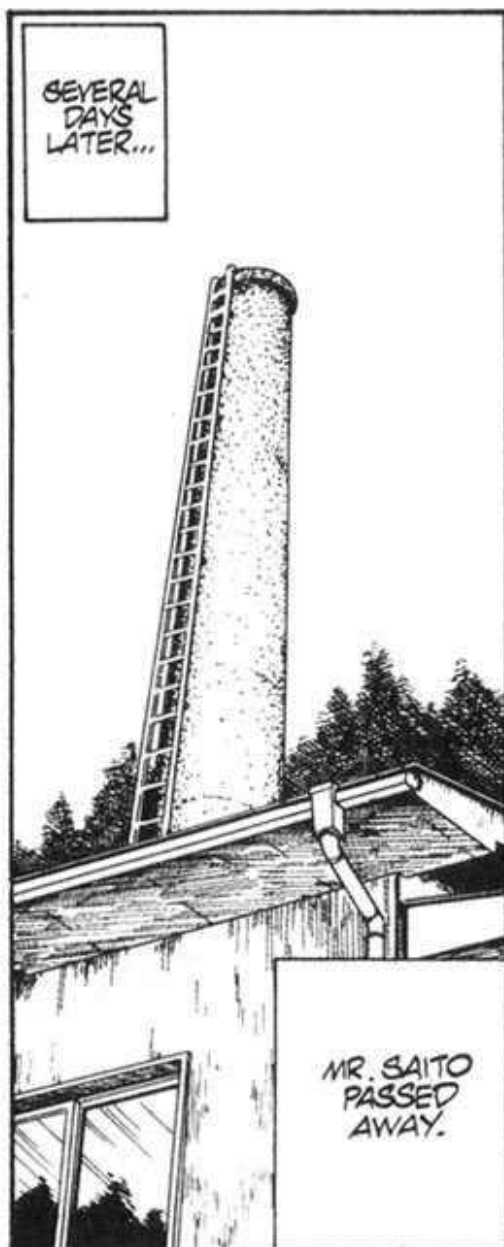
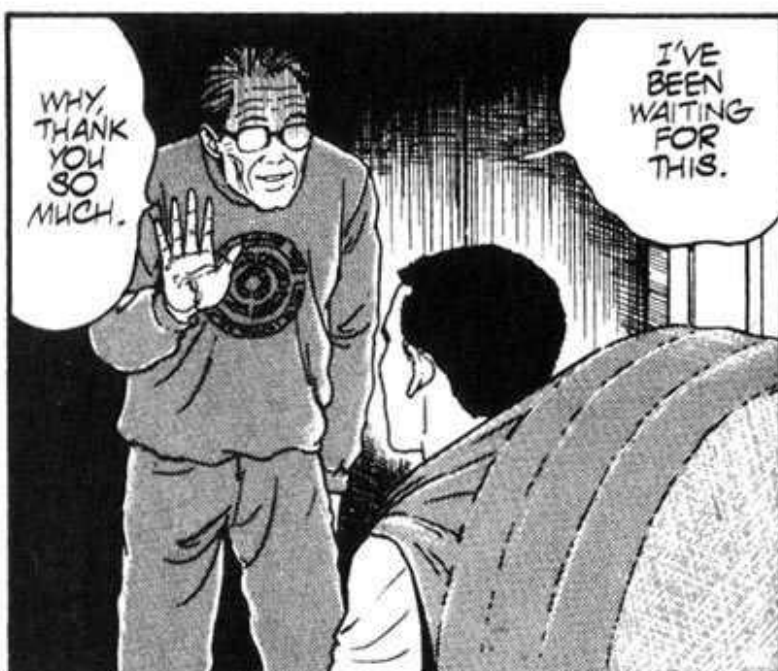


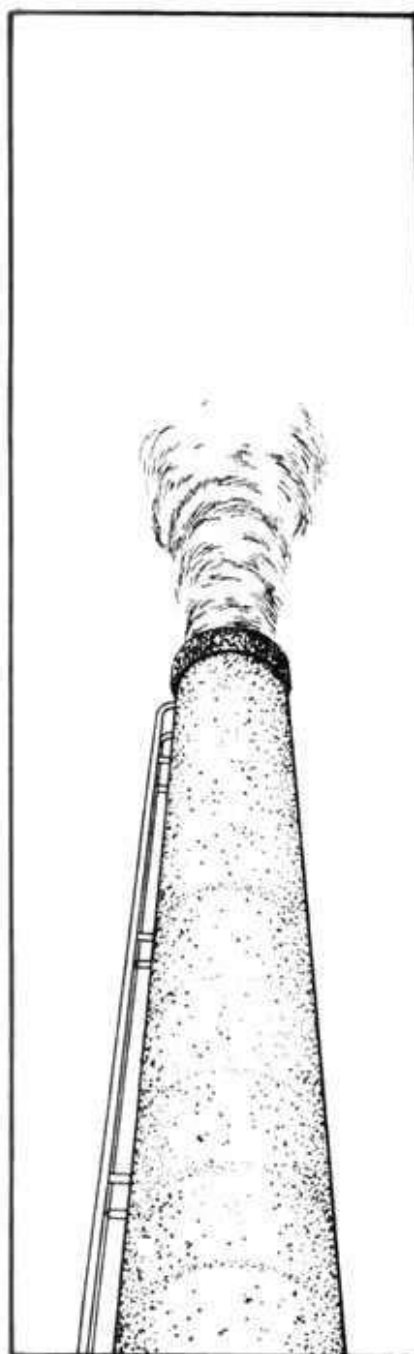






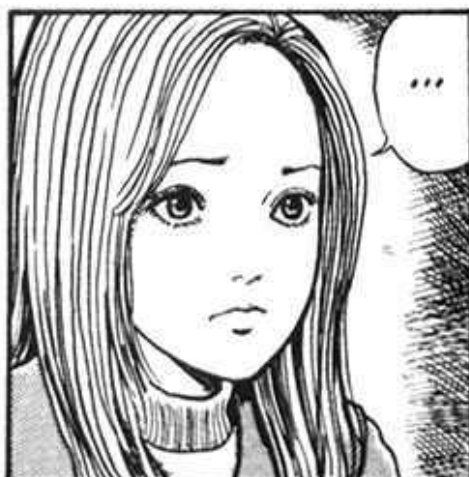








BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED!



MY MOM AND I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL. WE CONSULTED A DOCTOR WITHOUT TELLING HIM.



...WE COULDN'T FIND HIM...

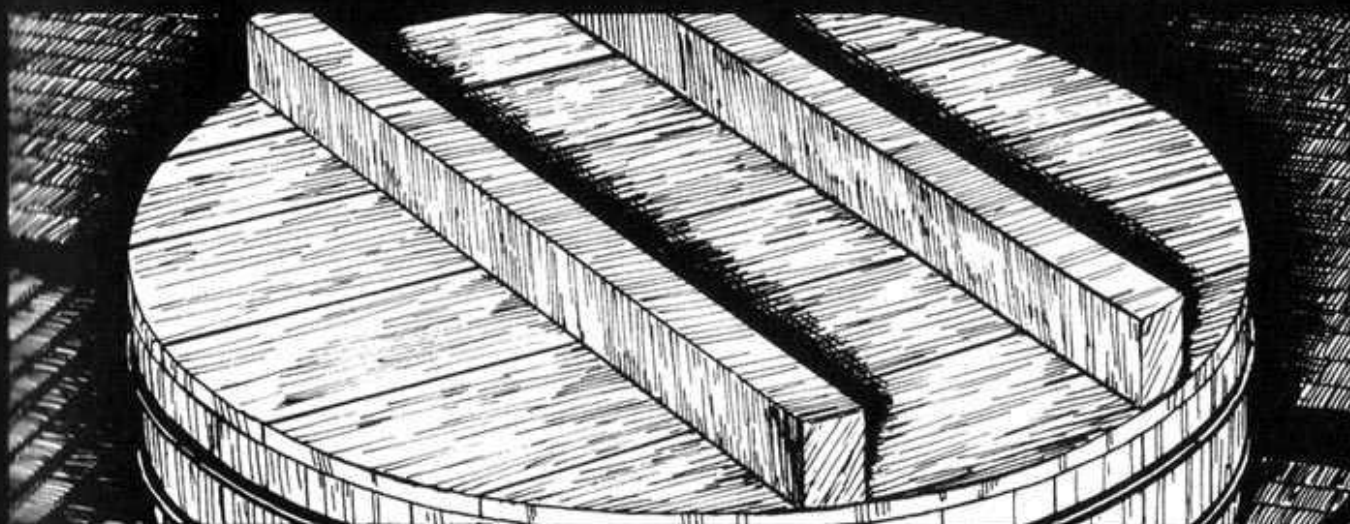


THH

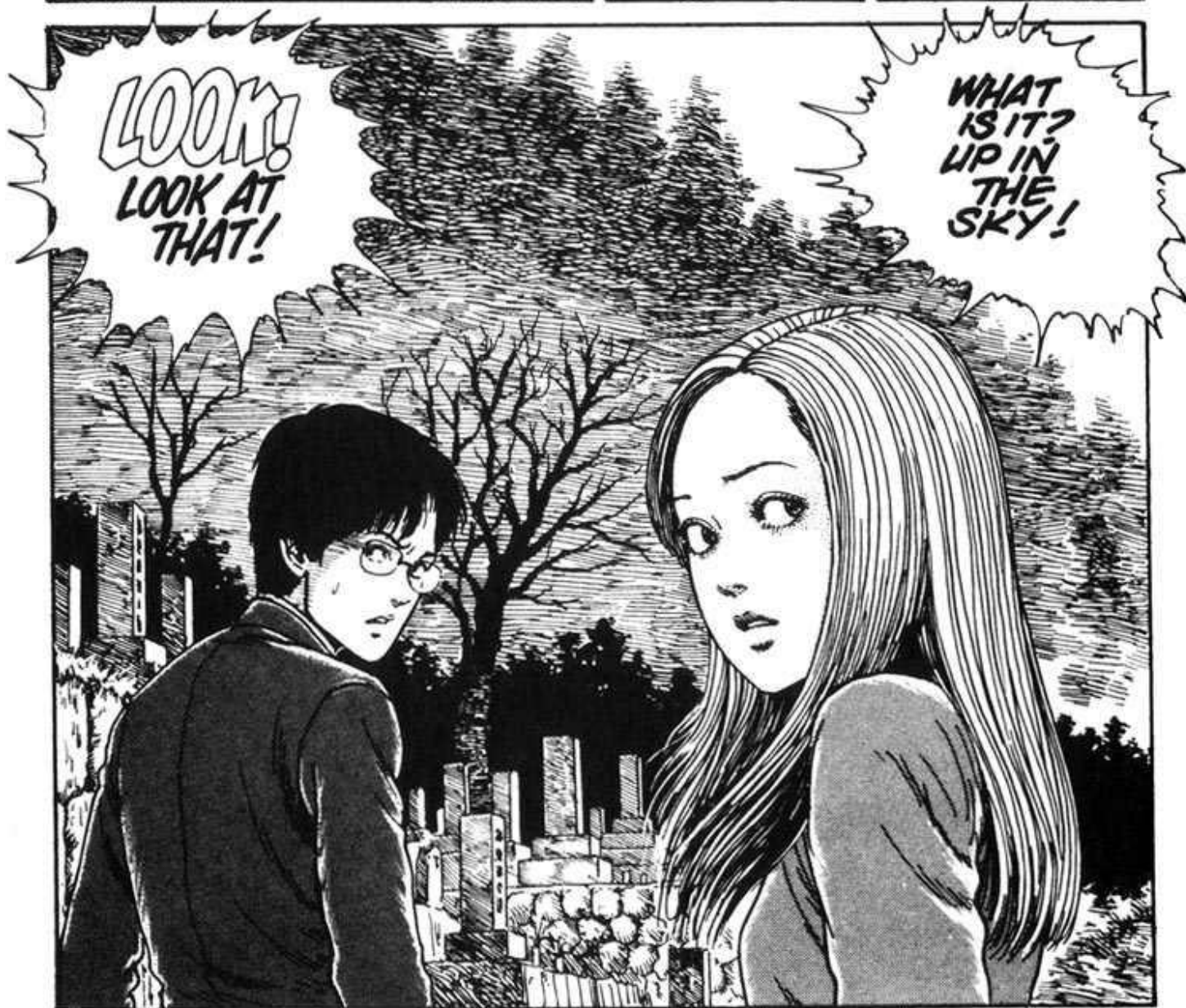


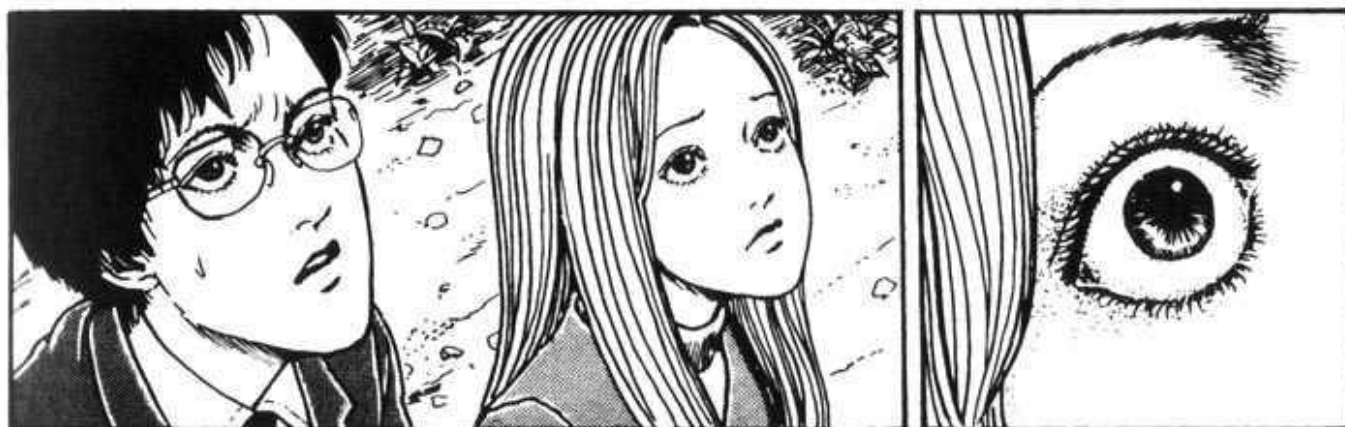
WE FOUND THIS LARGE TUB WE'D NEVER SEEN...

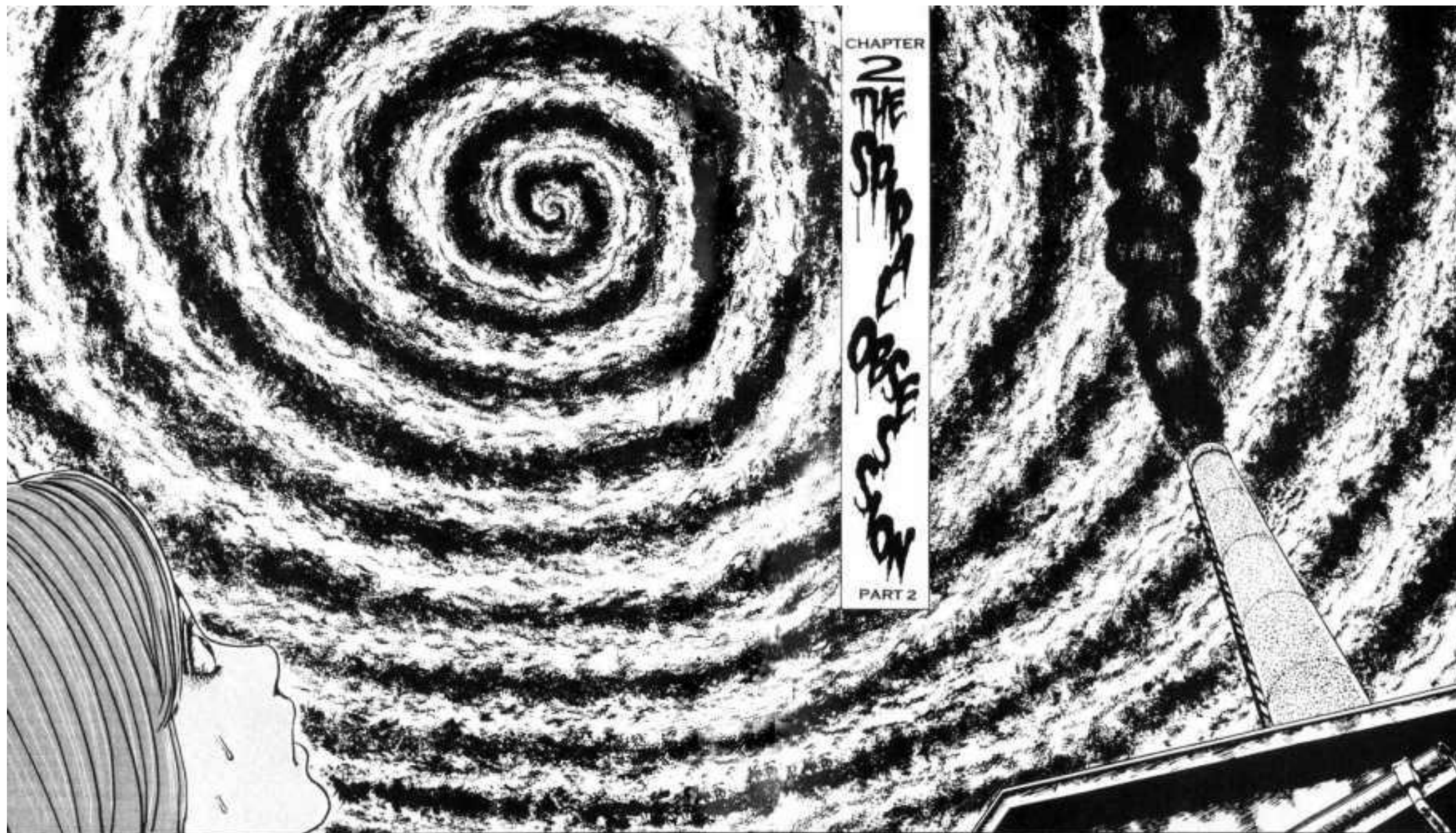
...IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS STUDY.











CHAPTER

IN THE
SAD
OF THE
OF THE
OF THE

PART 2



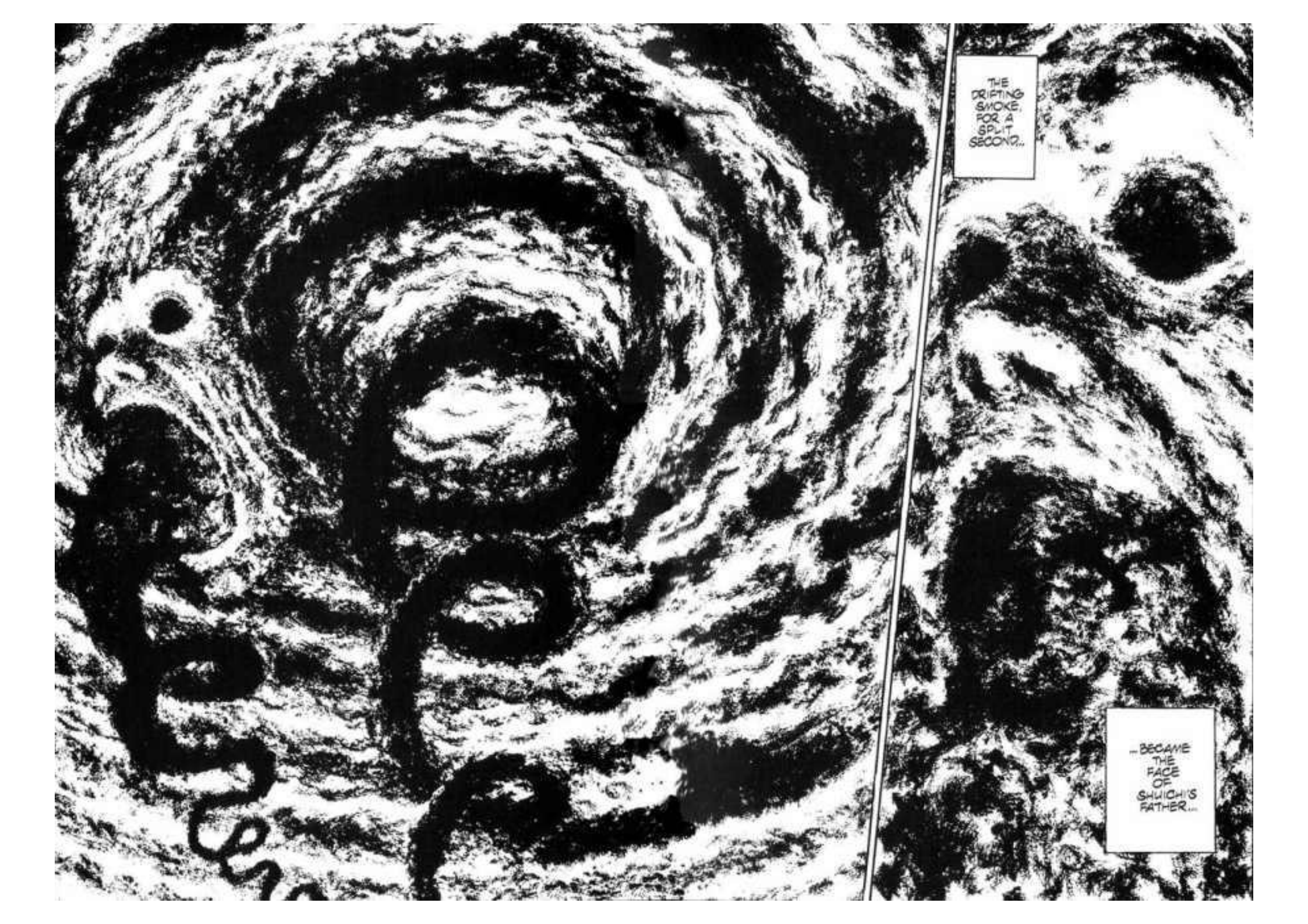
TH-THIS MUST BE...

A BAD OMEN...





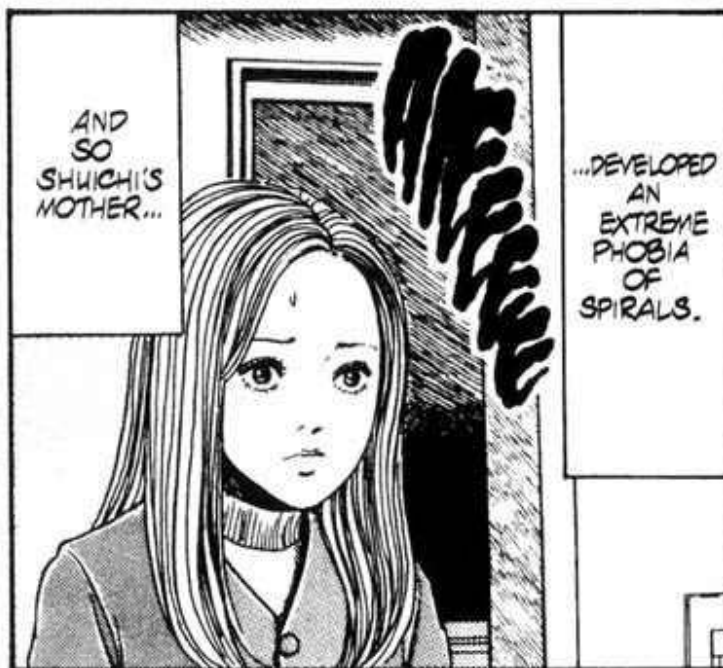
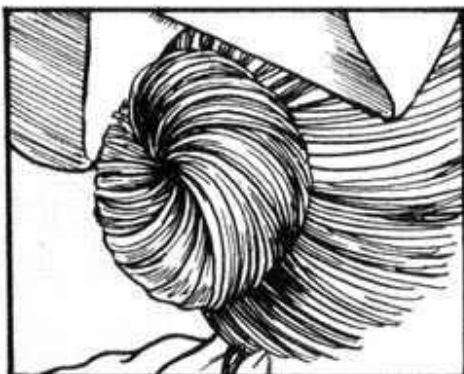


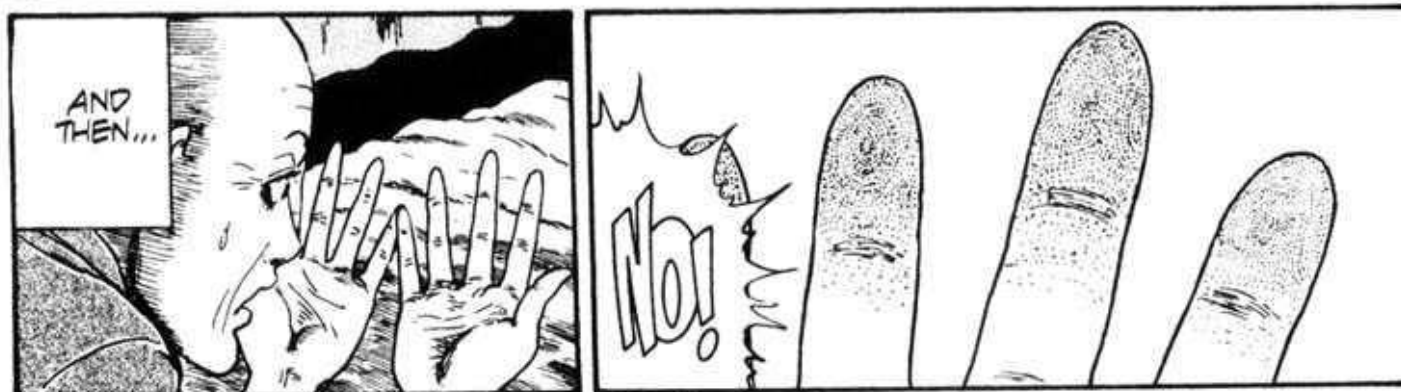
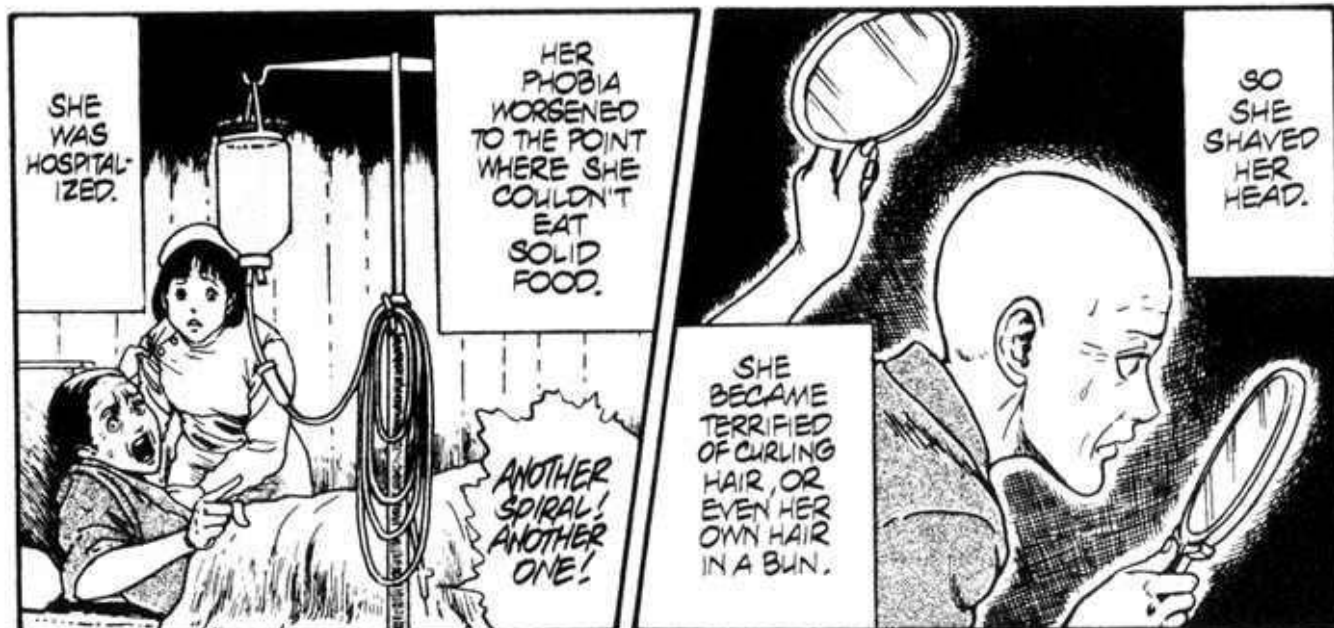


THE
DRIFTING
SMOKE,
FOR A
SPLIT
SECOND...

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

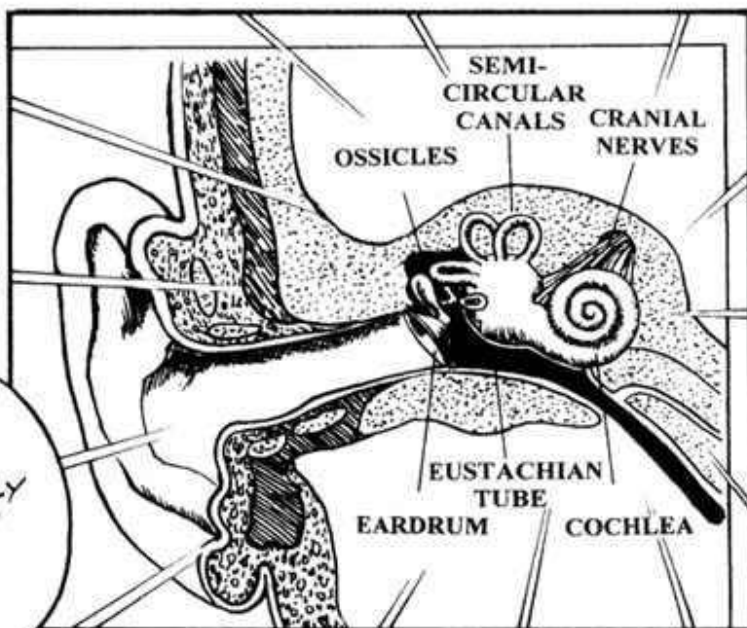
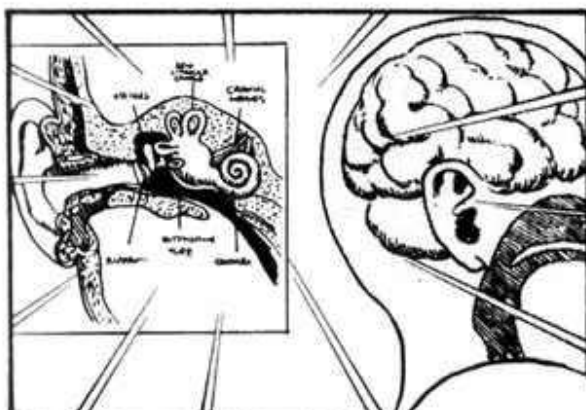
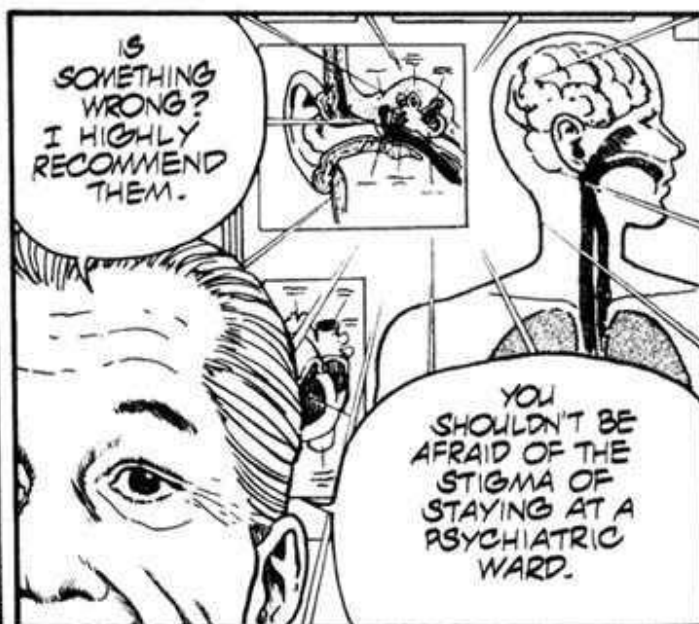
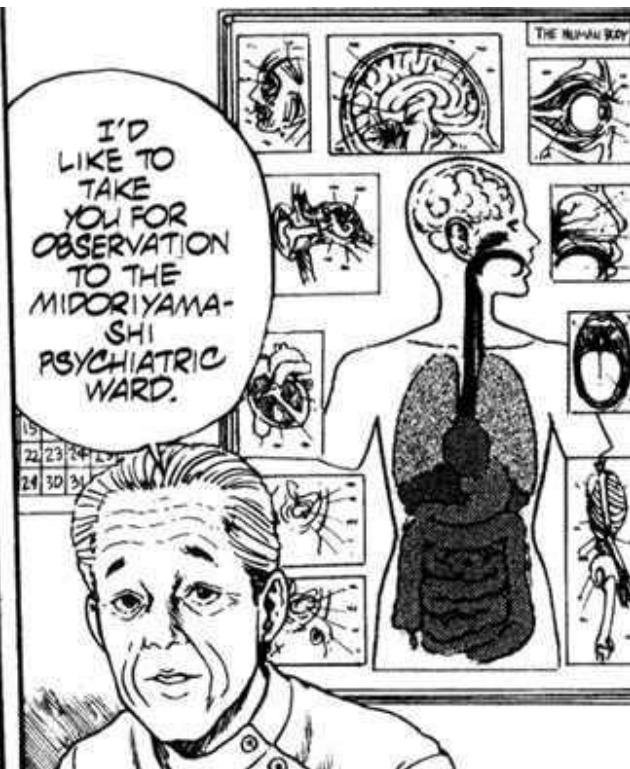






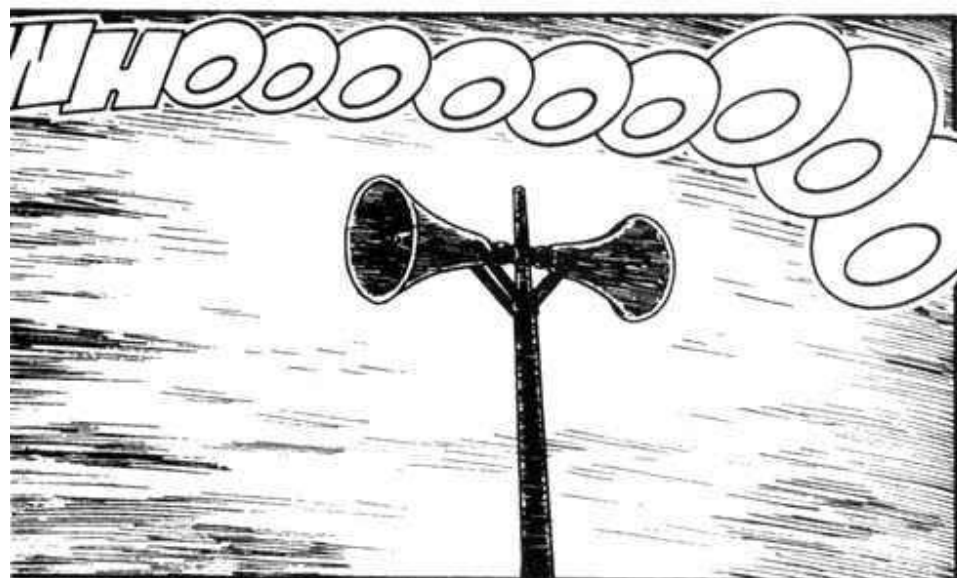






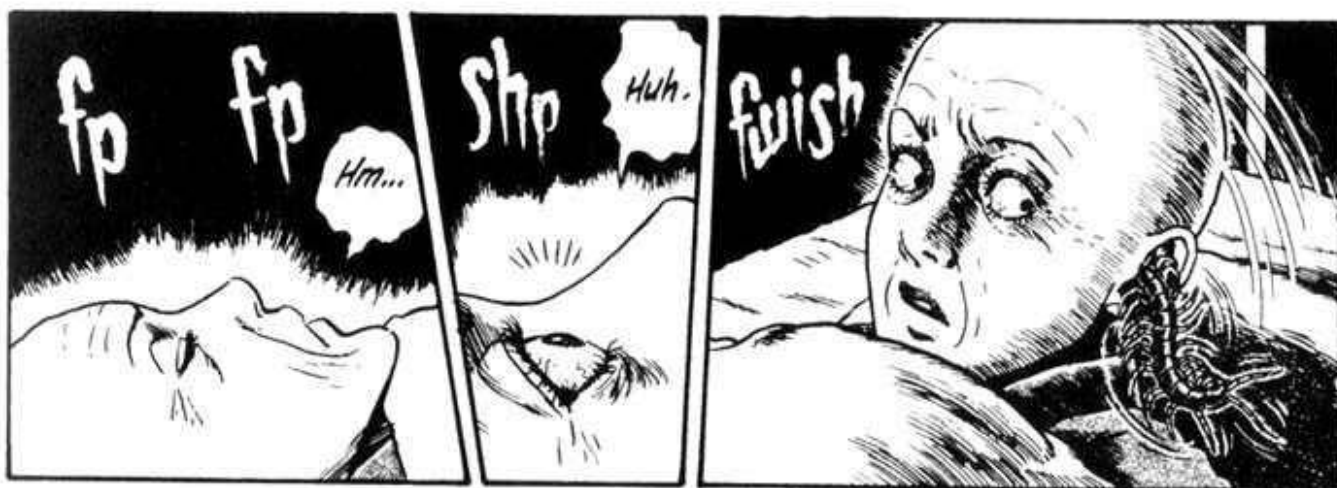


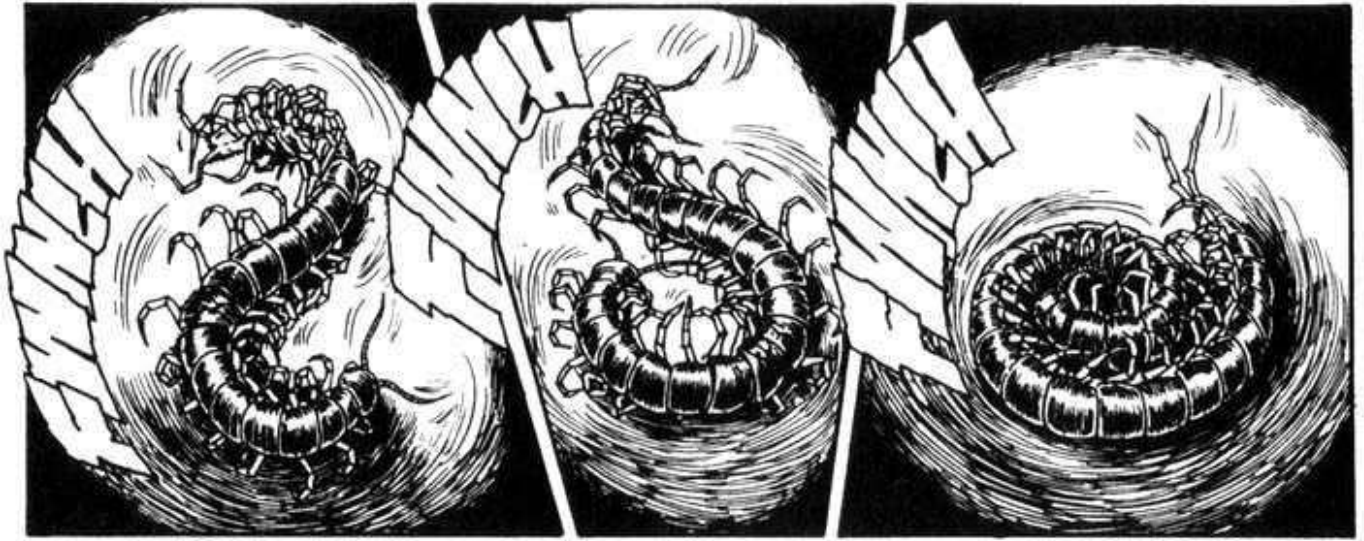


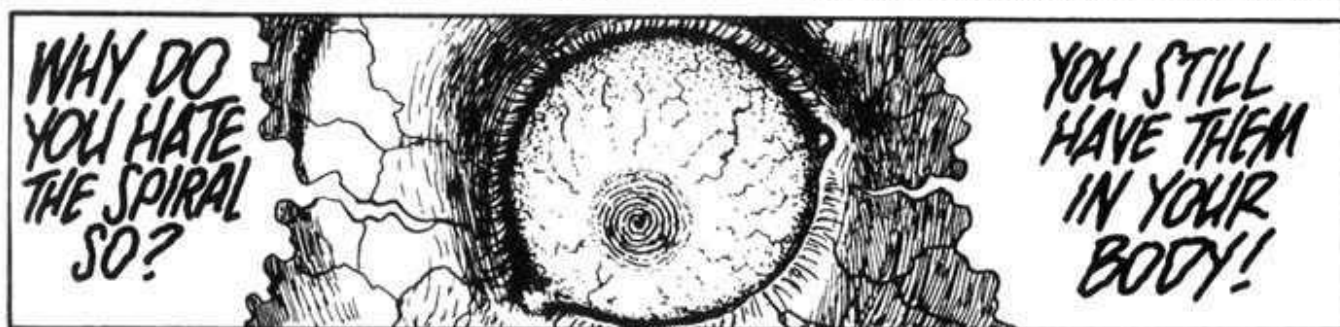


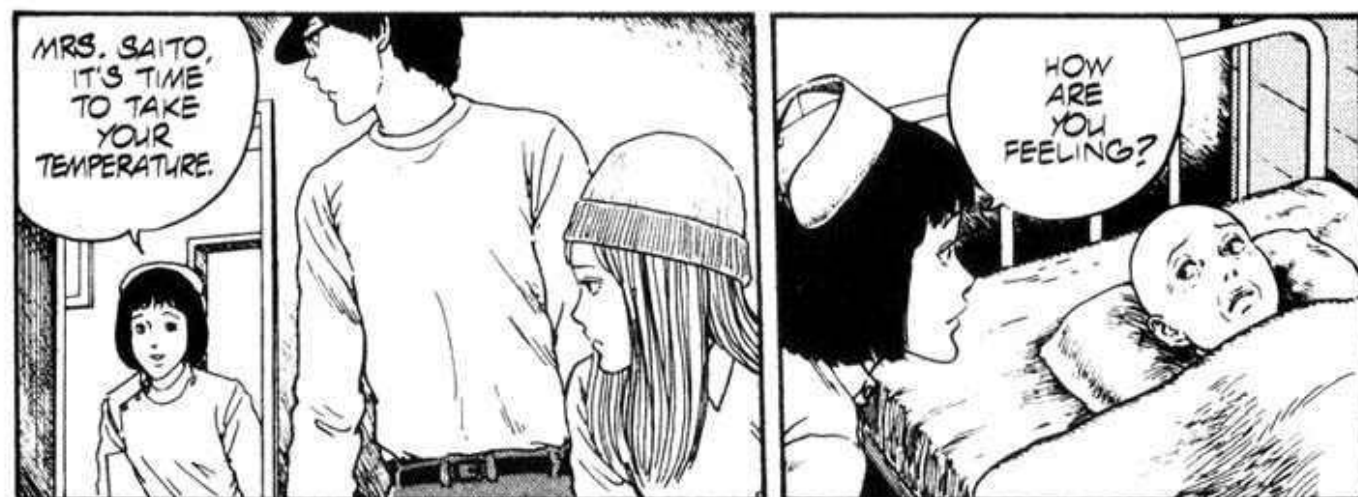
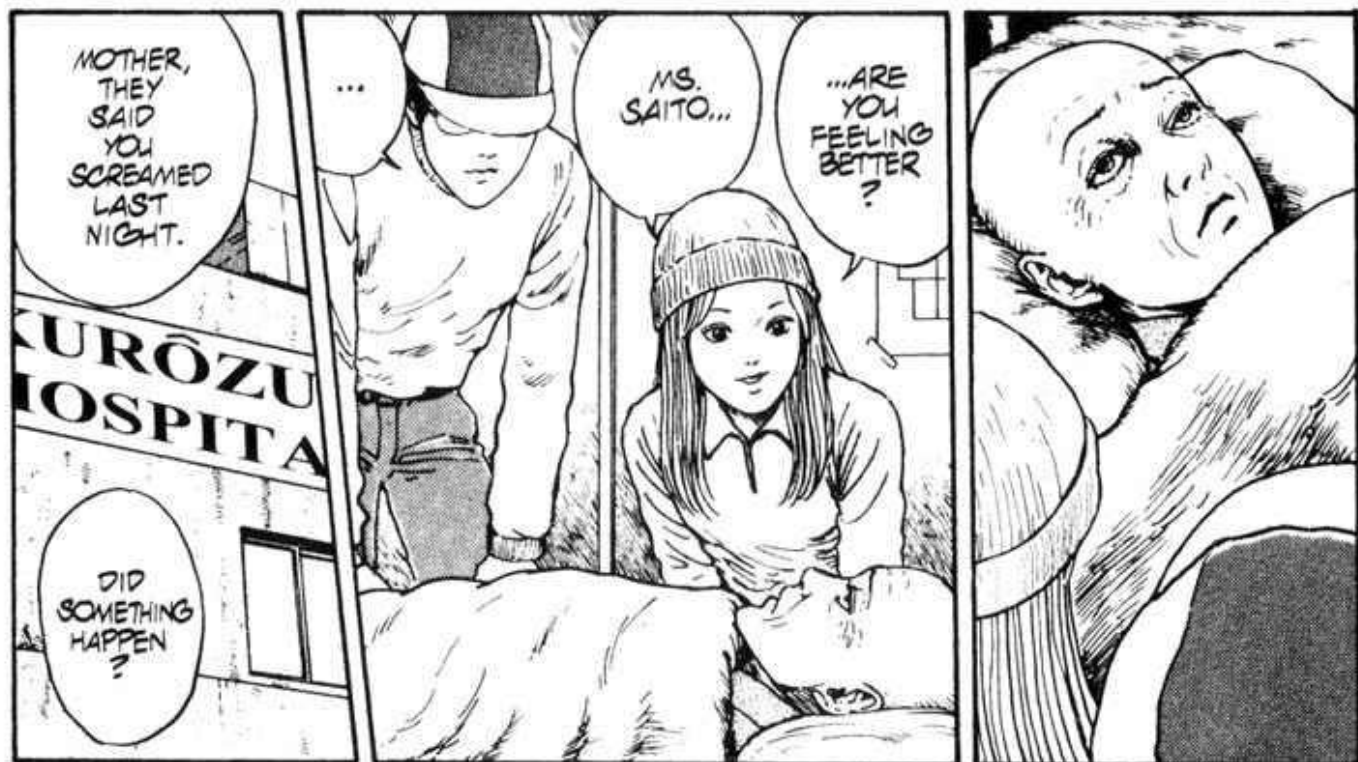








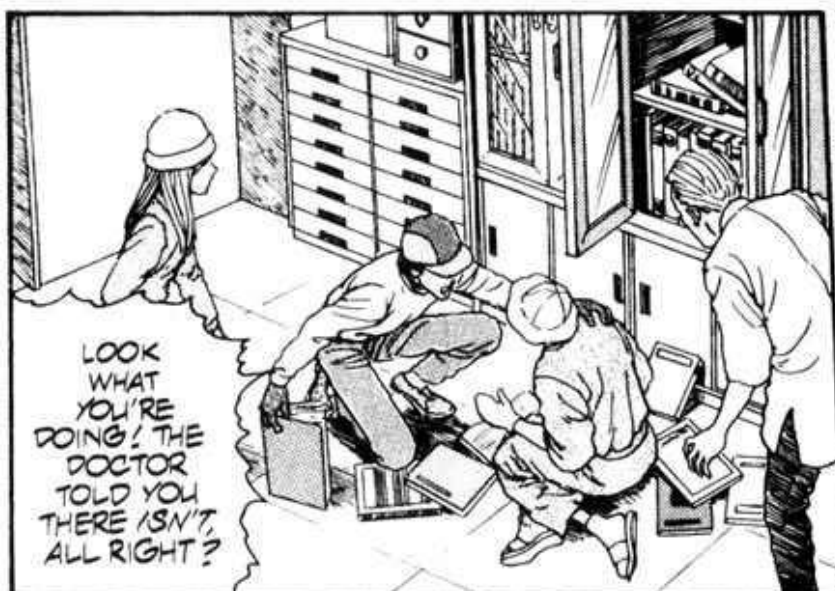


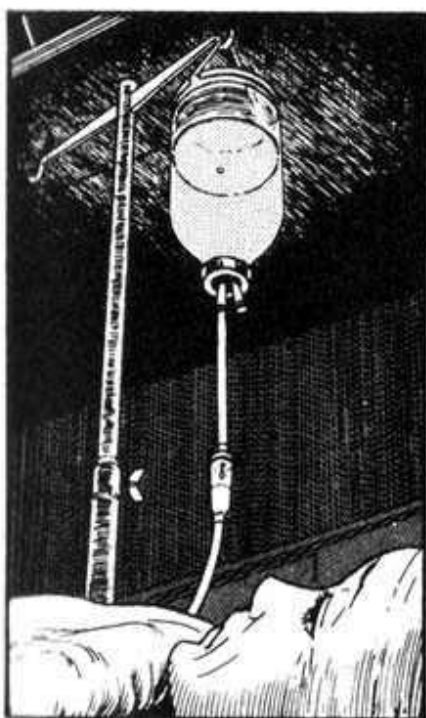
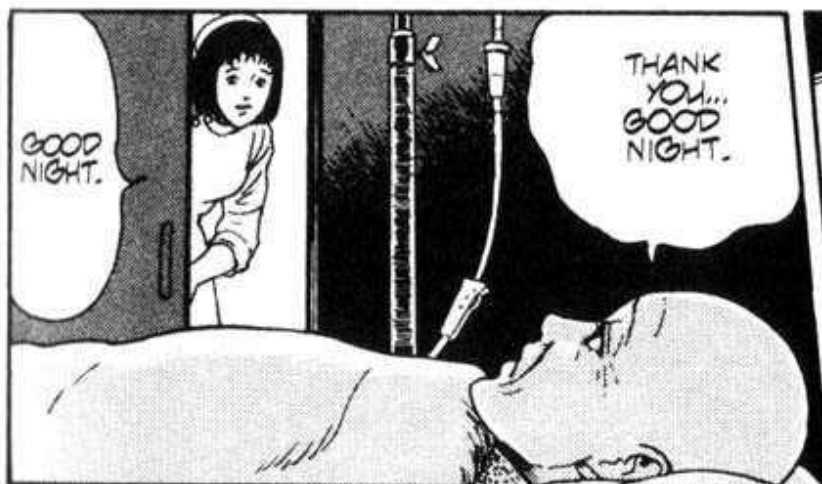


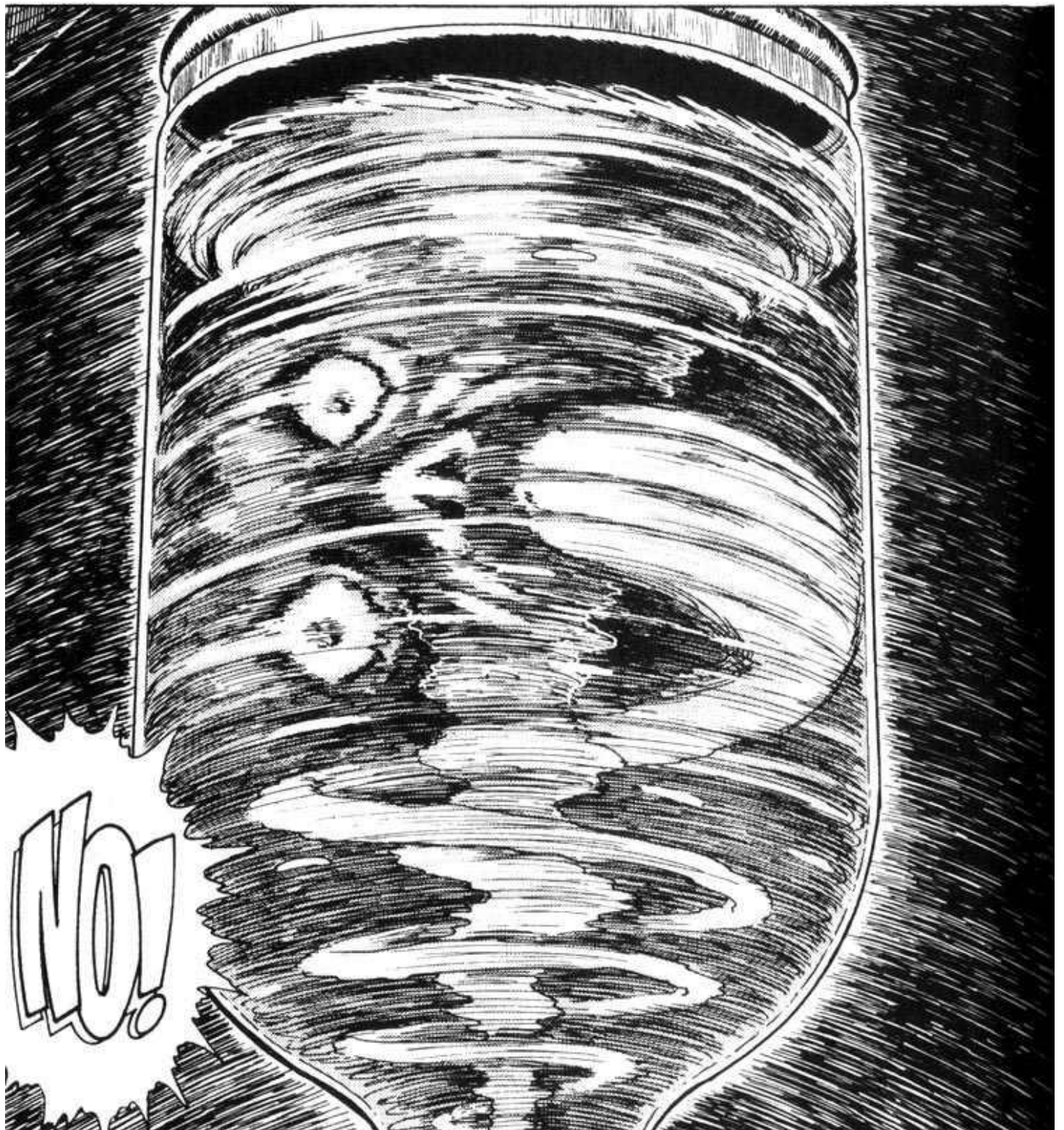


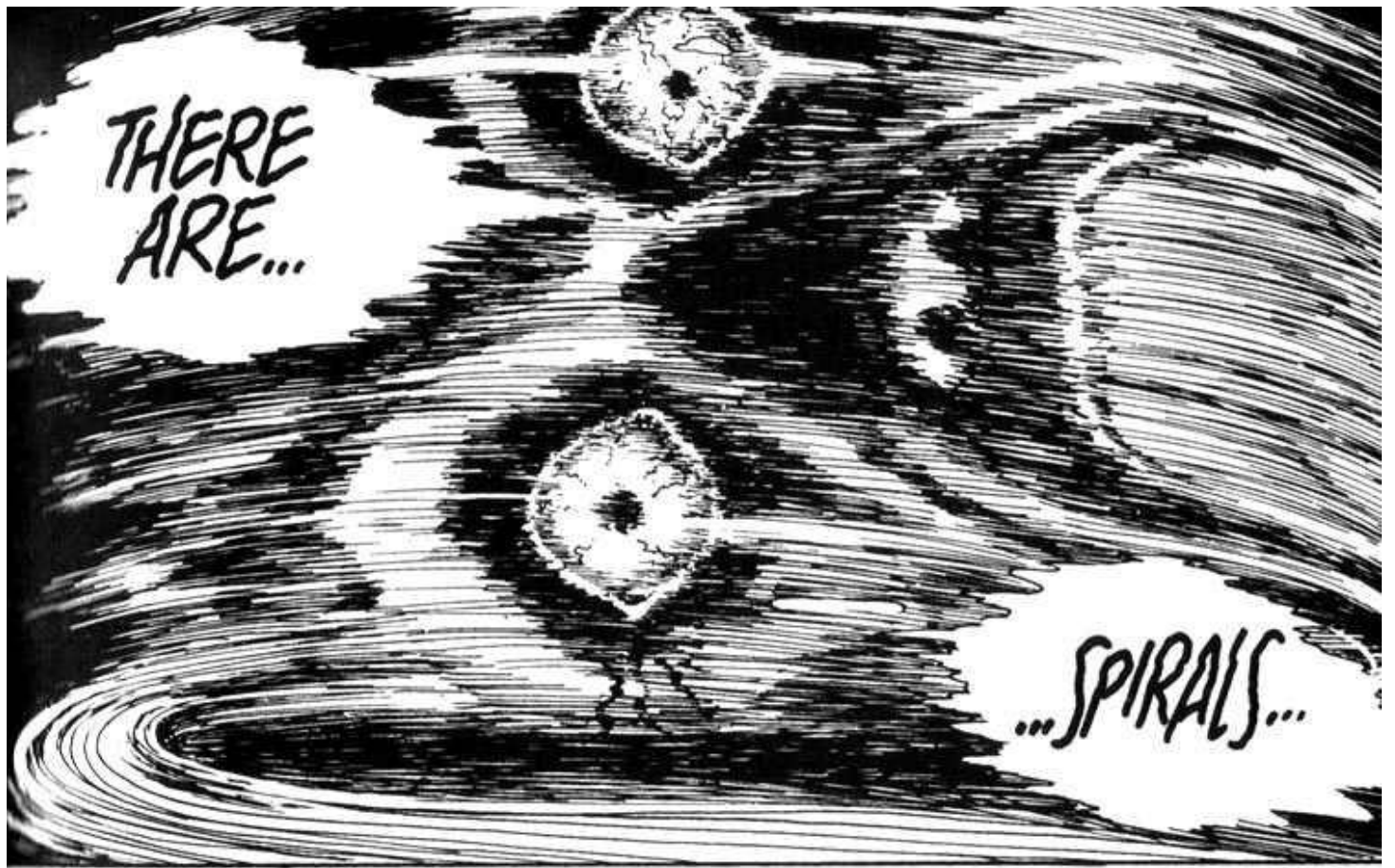


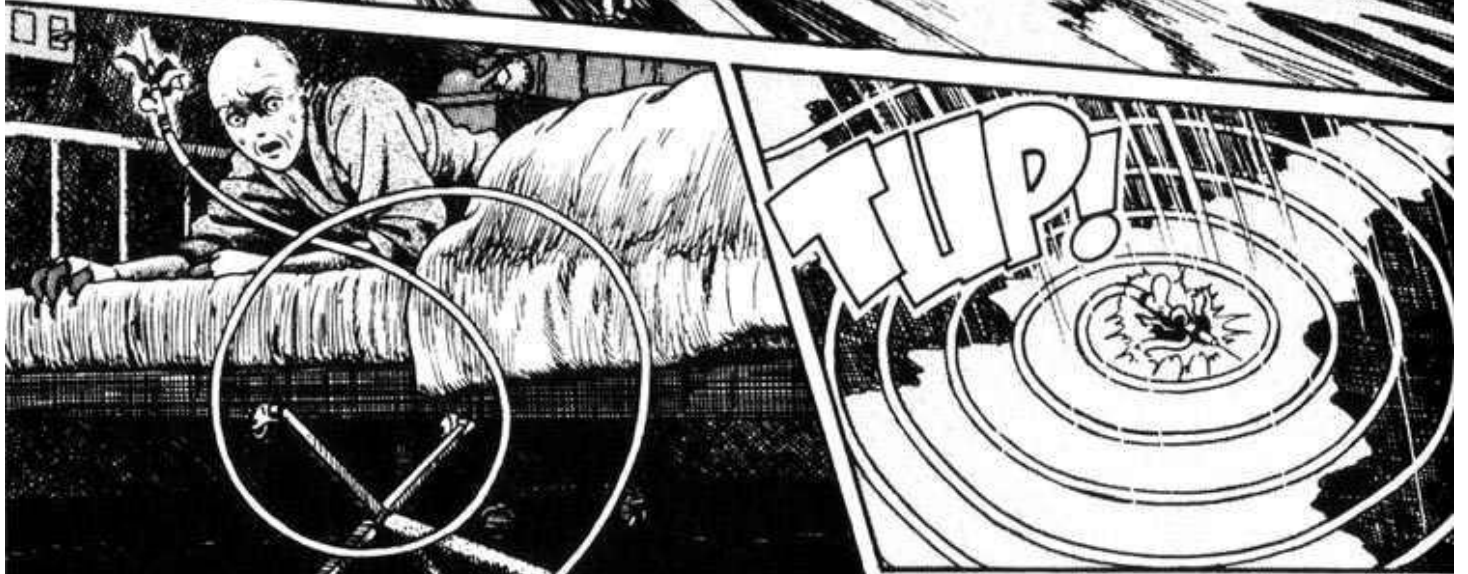
















SHUICHI'S MOTHER WAS HAUNTED BY SPIRALS UNTIL THE MOMENT SHE DIED.

AWH!
I'M SPINNING!
MY BODY... SPIRAL...



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

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

No!

I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A SPIRAL!



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

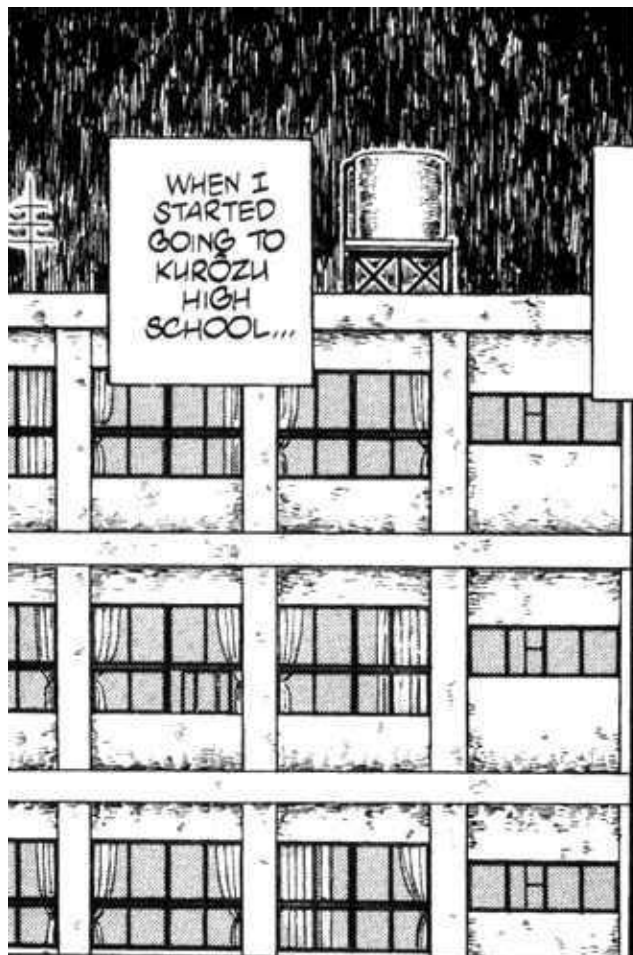
...ANOTHER BLACK SPIRAL... EMERGED IN THE SKY ABOVE OUR TOWN.

CHAPTER

3

THE
SCAR

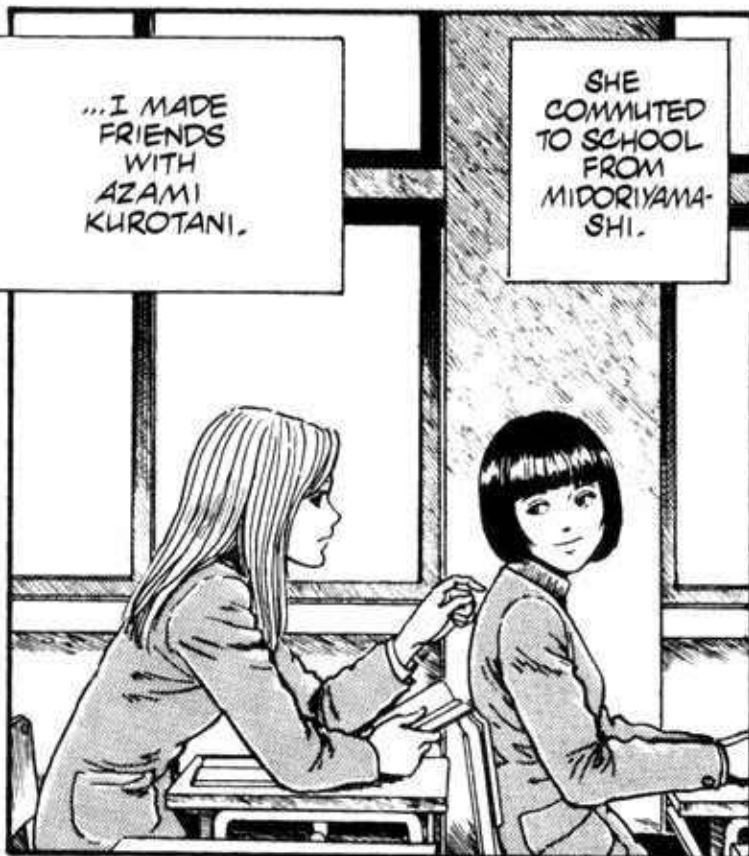




WHEN I
STARTED
GOING TO
KUROZU
HIGH
SCHOOL...

...I MADE
FRIENDS
WITH
AZAMI
KUROTANI.

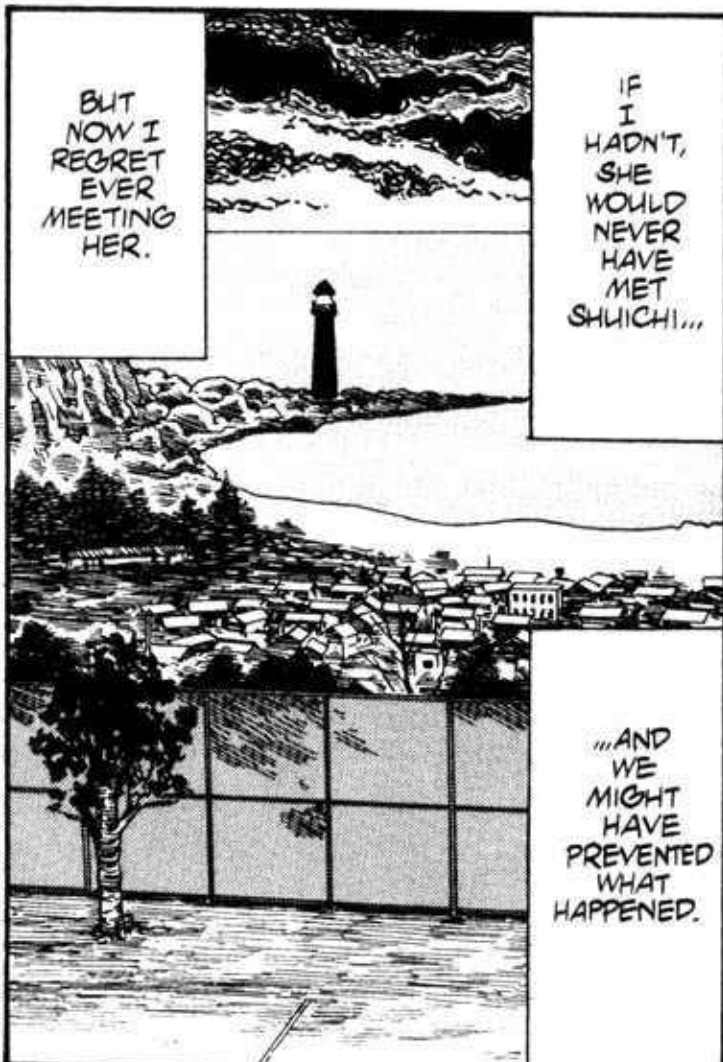
SHE
COMMUTED
TO SCHOOL
FROM
MIDORIYAMA-
SHI.



SHE
WAS ONE
OF THOSE
PRETTY,
RESERVED
GIRLS.

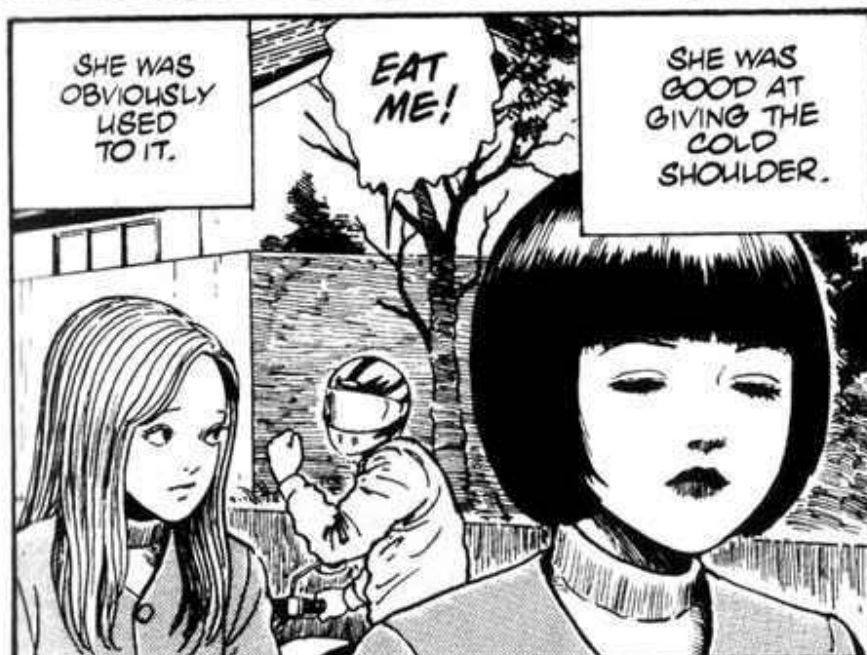
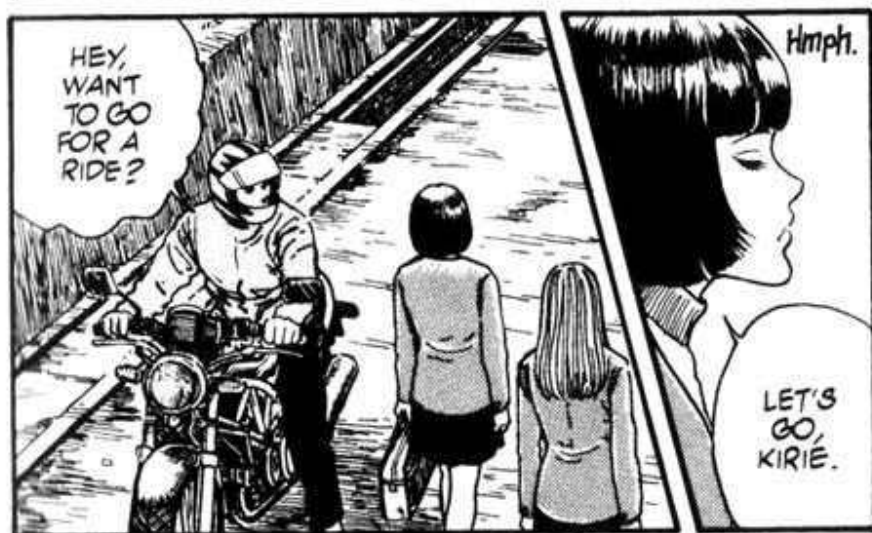


BUT
NOW I
REGRET
EVER
MEETING
HER.

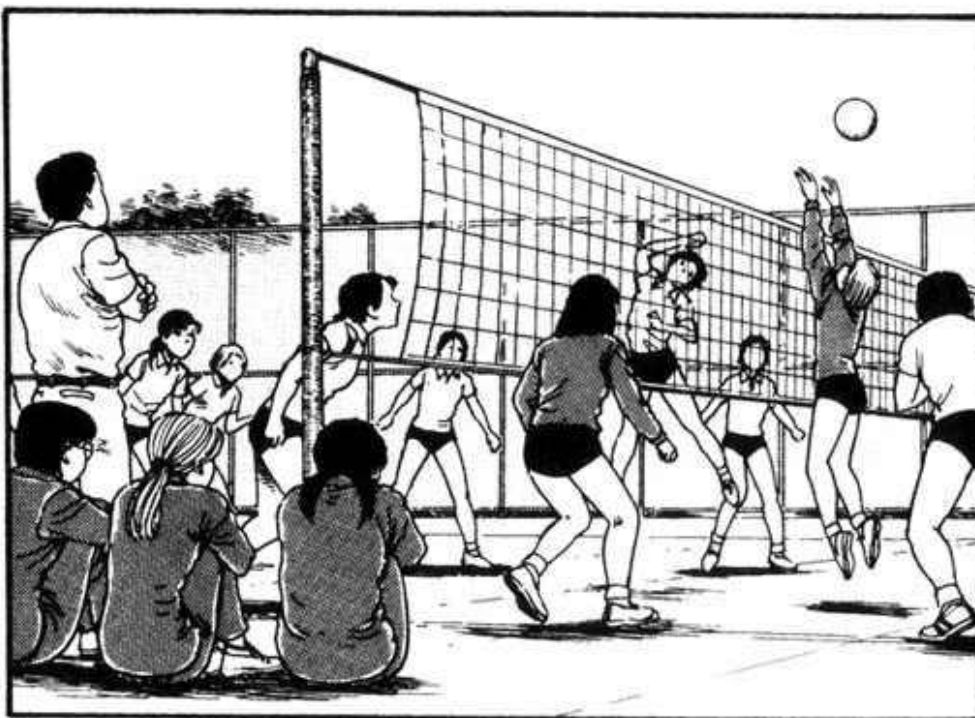


IF
I
HADN'T,
SHE
WOULD
NEVER
HAVE
MET
SHUICHI...

...AND
WE
MIGHT
HAVE
PREVENTED
WHAT
HAPPENED.



AS
TIME
WENT
ON,
A
RUMOR
STARTED.



KIRIE,
ARE YOU
STILL
HANGING
OUT WITH
AZAMI?

Uh,
YEAH...



YOU
REALLY
SHOULDN'T.

WHY
NOT?



SHE'S
GOT A
BAD
REPUTA-
TION.



SHE
USES
HER
LOOKS
TO
GET
GUYS...

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

THEY
SAY
SHE'S
GOT A
MAGIC
POWER.

MAGIC?



DONNG

THE
POWER
TO
ATTRACT
BOYS...

THE
SECRET'S
ON
HER
FOREHEAD.

YOU
CAN'T TELL
BECAUSE
OF HER
BANGS,
BUT SHE'S
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE A
SCAR
THERE.

THEY
SAY
THAT'S
THE
SOURCE
OF HER
POWER.

DONNG

...
YOU'D
BETTER BE
CAREFUL
OR SHE'LL
END UP
STEALING YOUR
BOYFRIEND!



KIRIE,
THE
BELL
RANG.

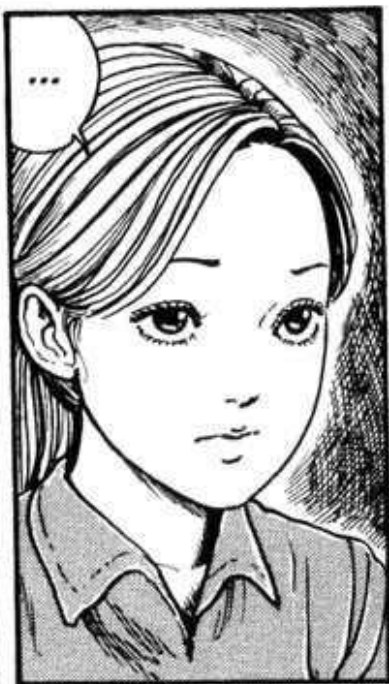
LET'S
GO
BACK
TO
THE
CLASS-
ROOM.

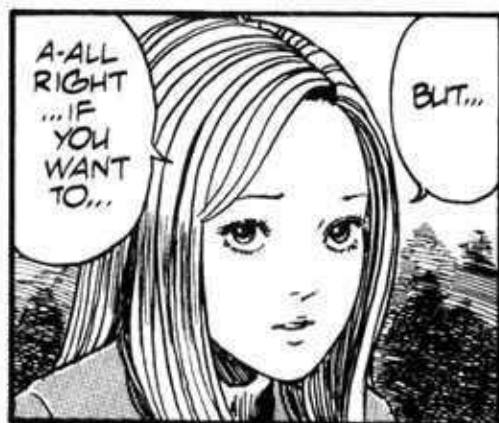
S-
SURE,
AZAMI.

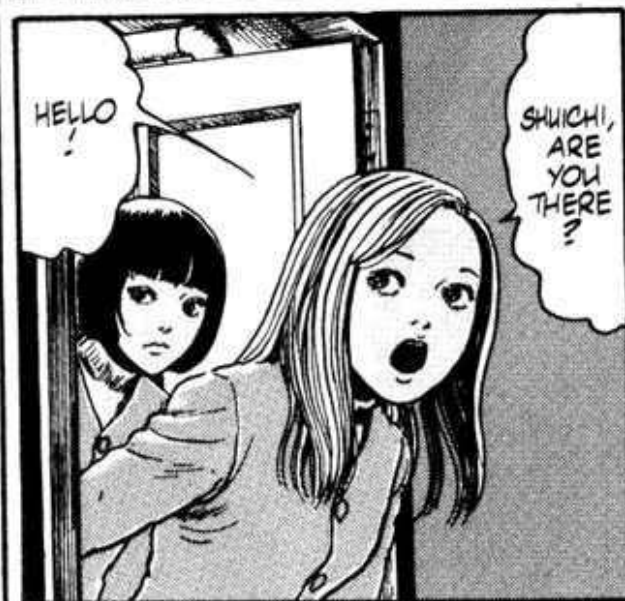
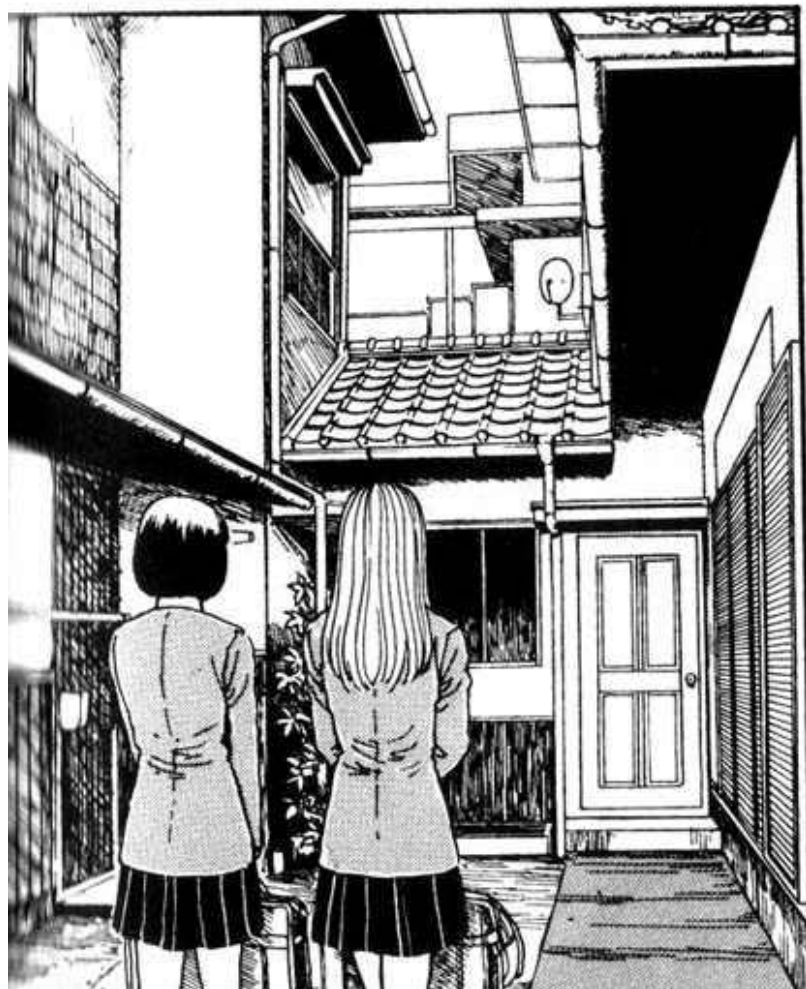
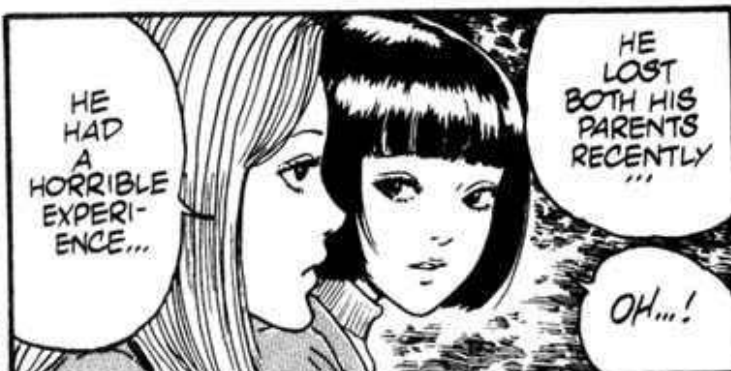


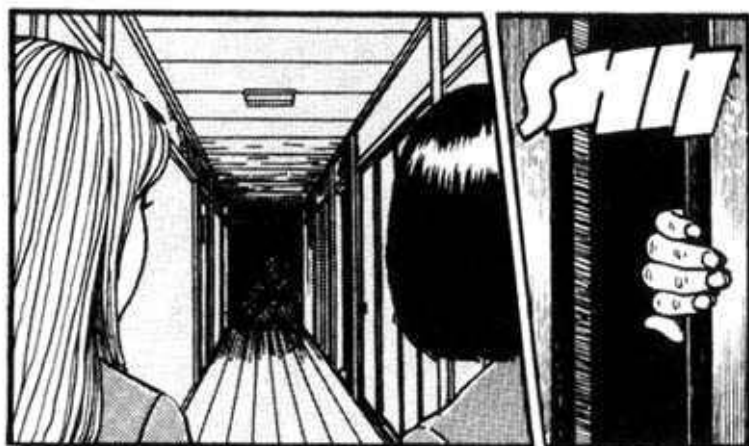
PLISH
SPLASH











SHH

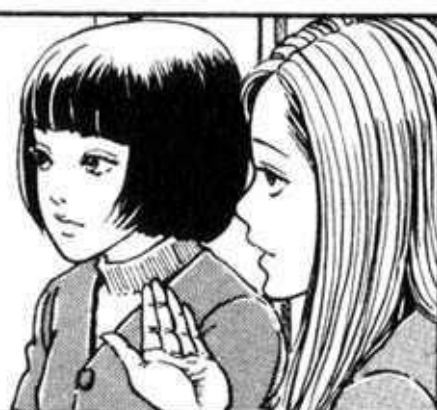


HEY...



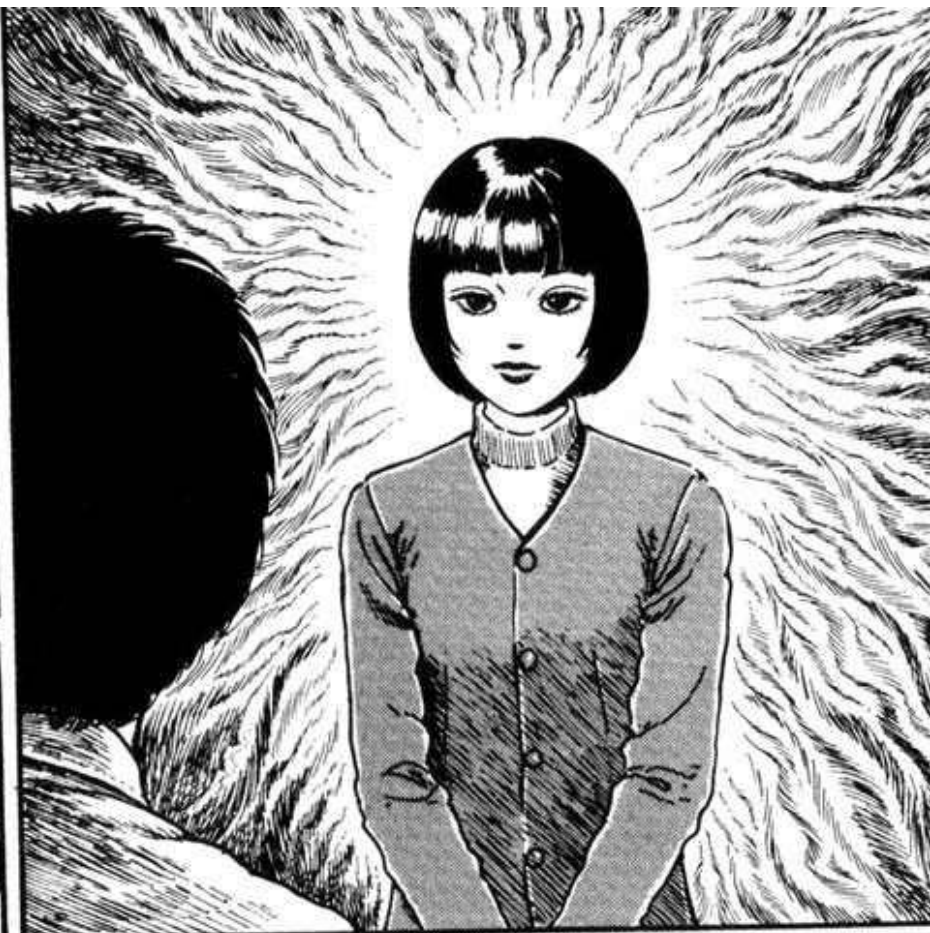
COME
ON
IN...

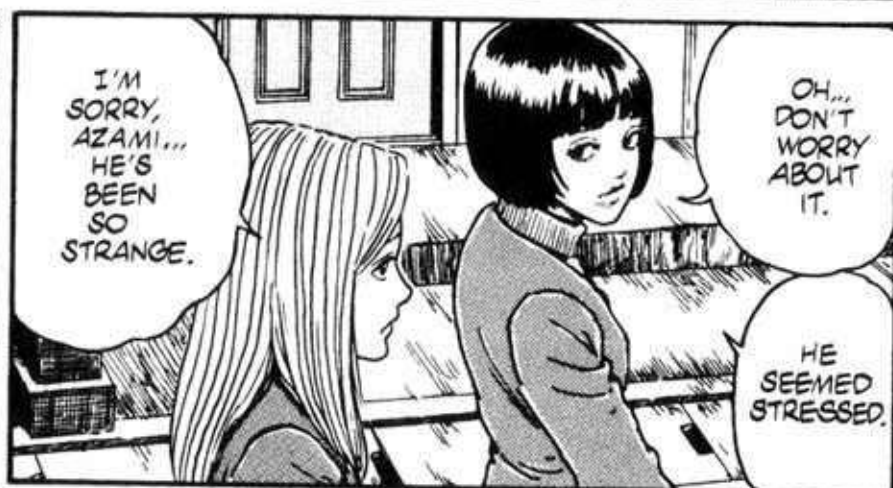
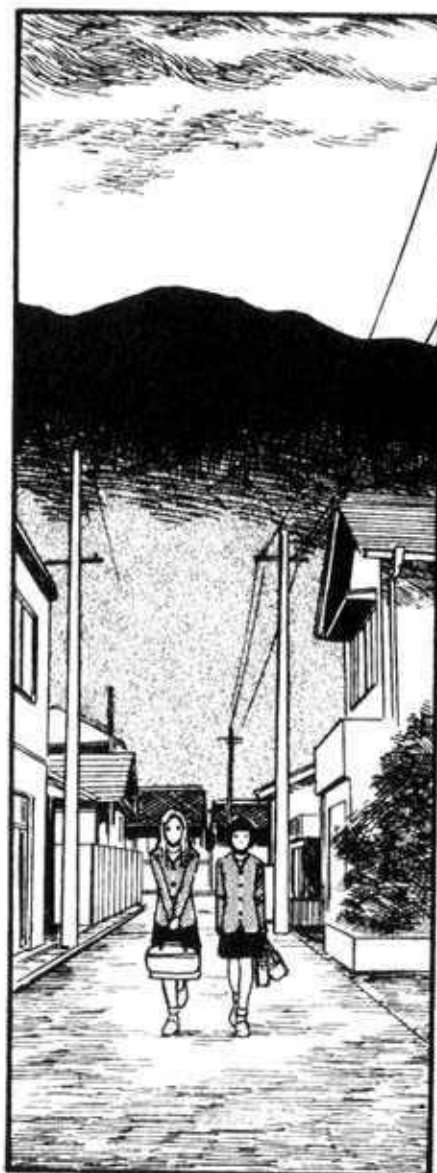
SHUICHI,
THIS
IS MY
CLASSMATE,
AZAMI
KUROTANI.

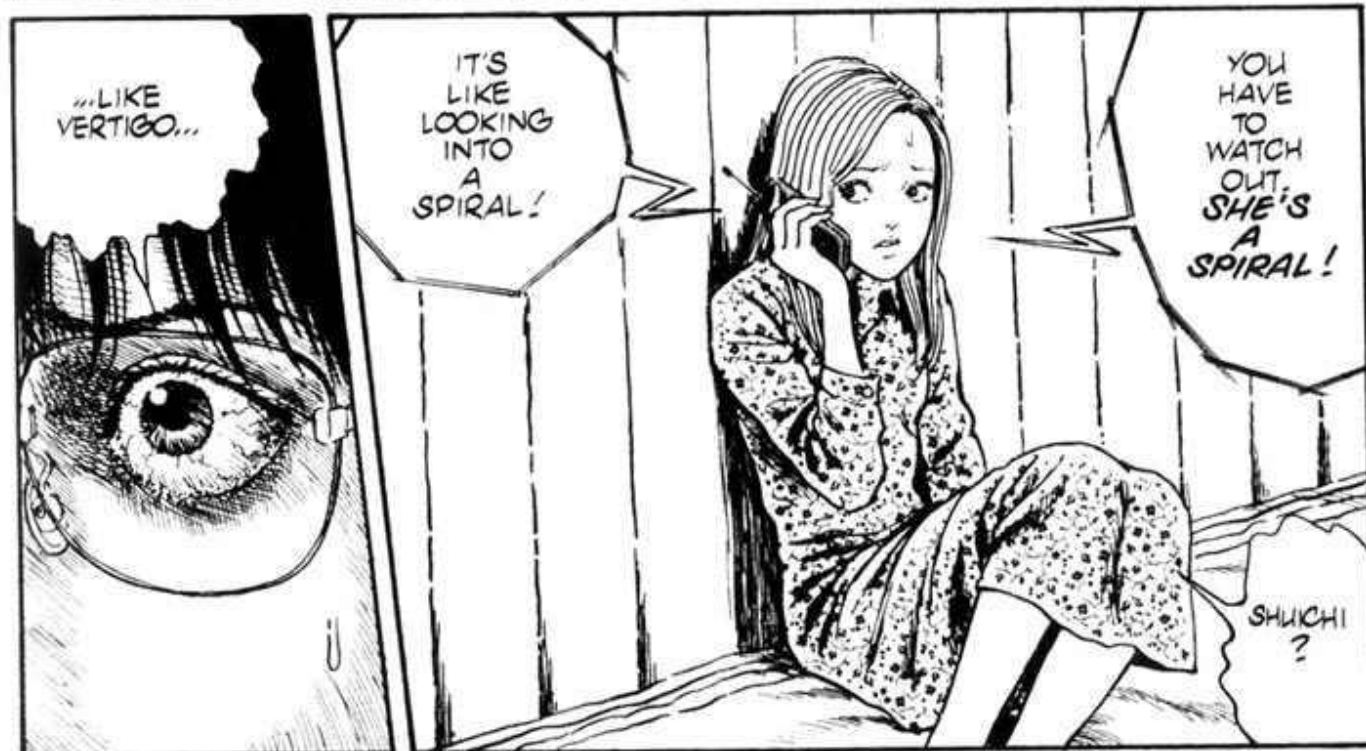


HELLO.

CALL
ME
AZAMI.











AAHH!

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE?



YOU'RE
THE FIRST
BOY
I'VE EVER
MET WHO'S
TREATED
ME LIKE
THIS.



WHAT
IS IT
ABOUT
ME
THAT
YOU
DON'T
LIKE?



JUST
GO
AWAY!

GET
OUT
OF
KURÔZU-
CHO!



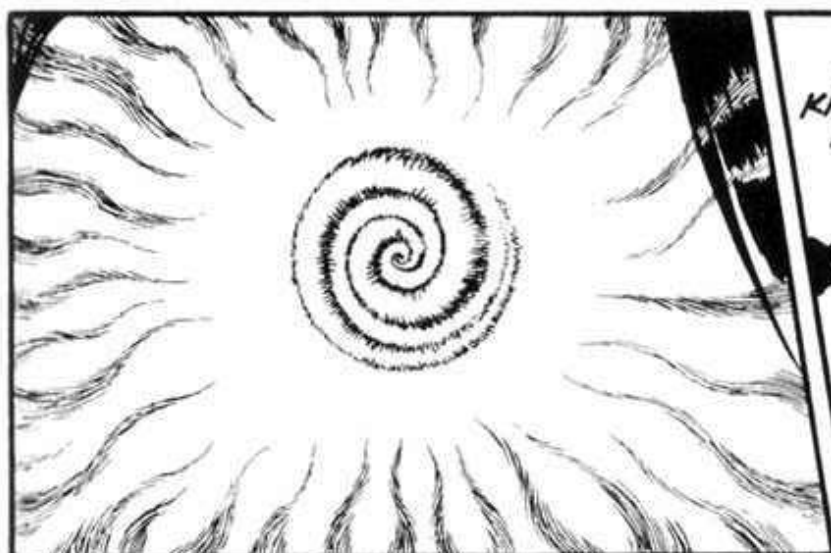
I
WILL
NOT.

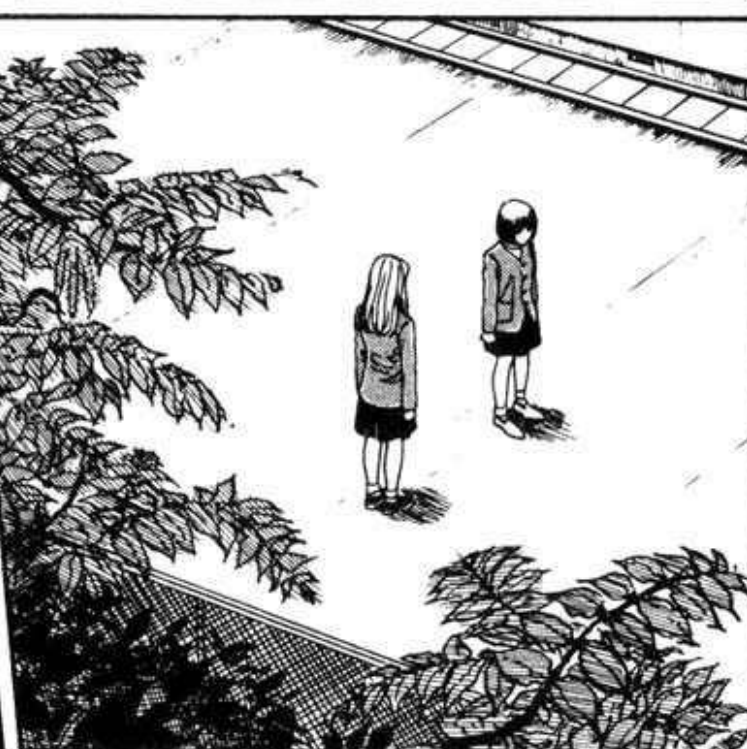
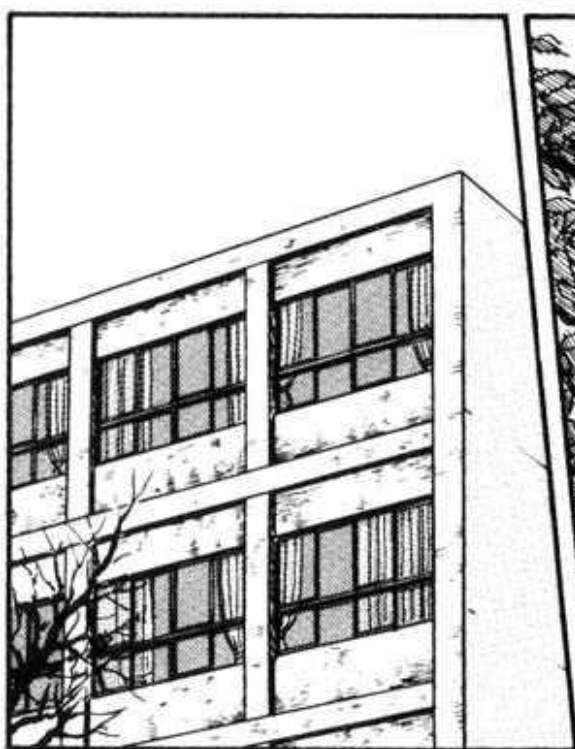


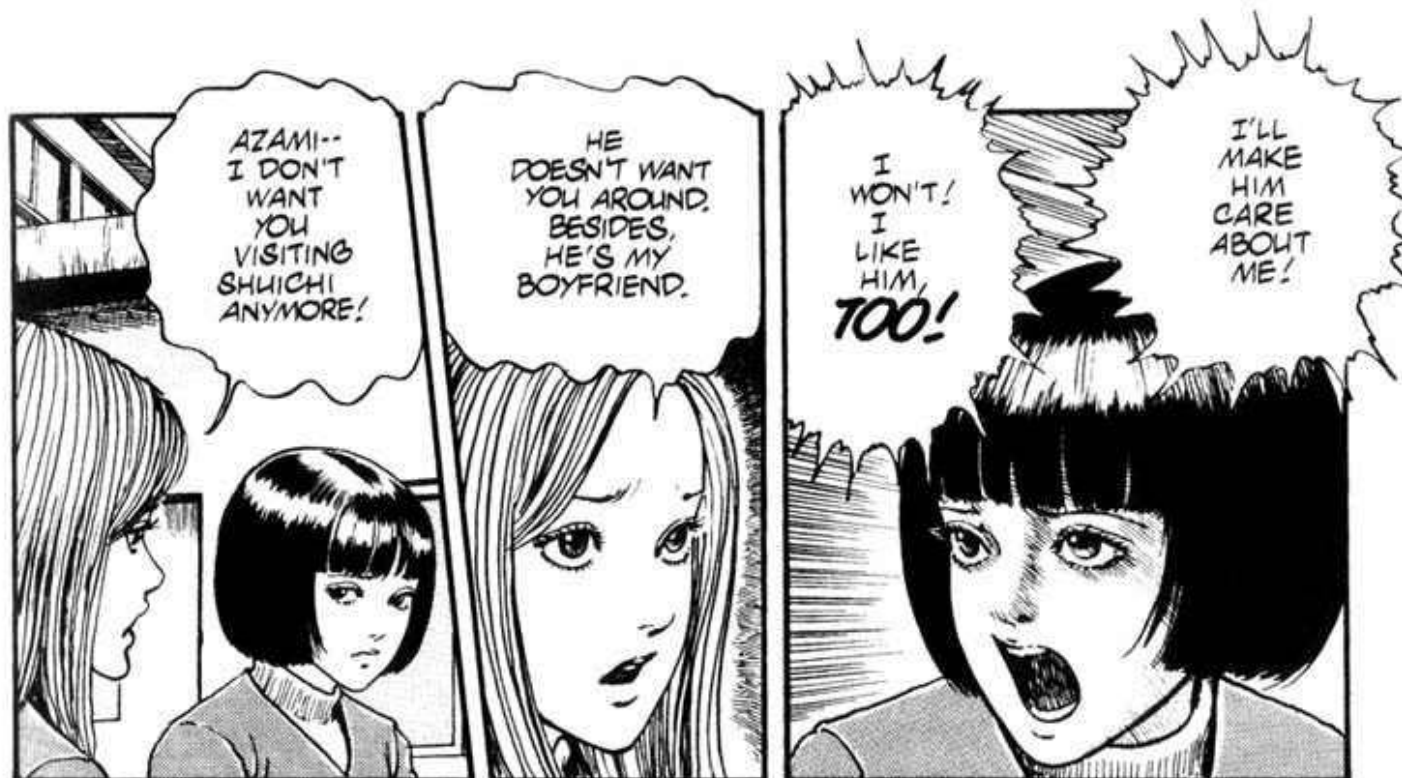
EVERY
BOY
I'VE
EVER
MET
HAS
FALLEN
FOR
ME.

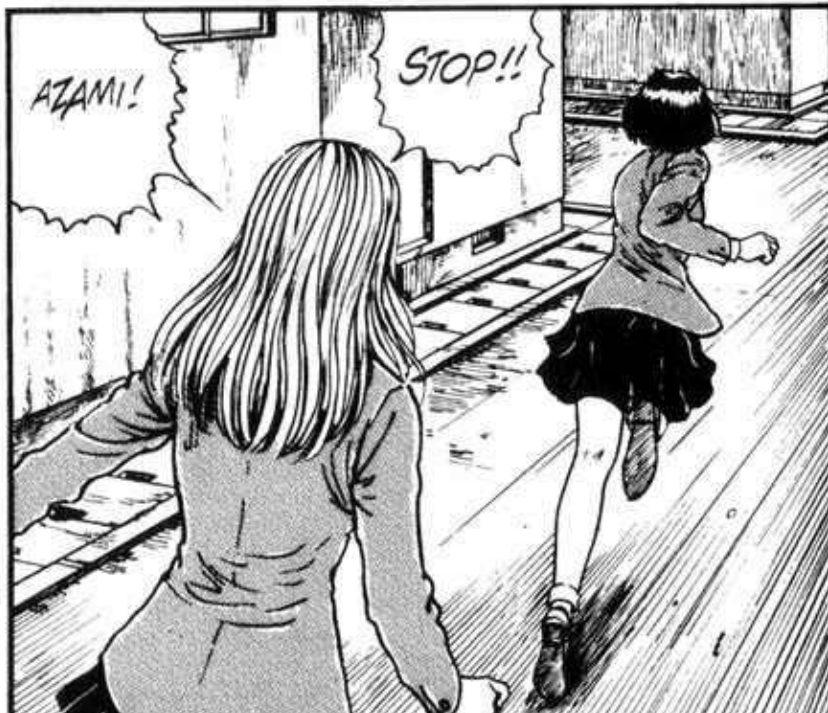
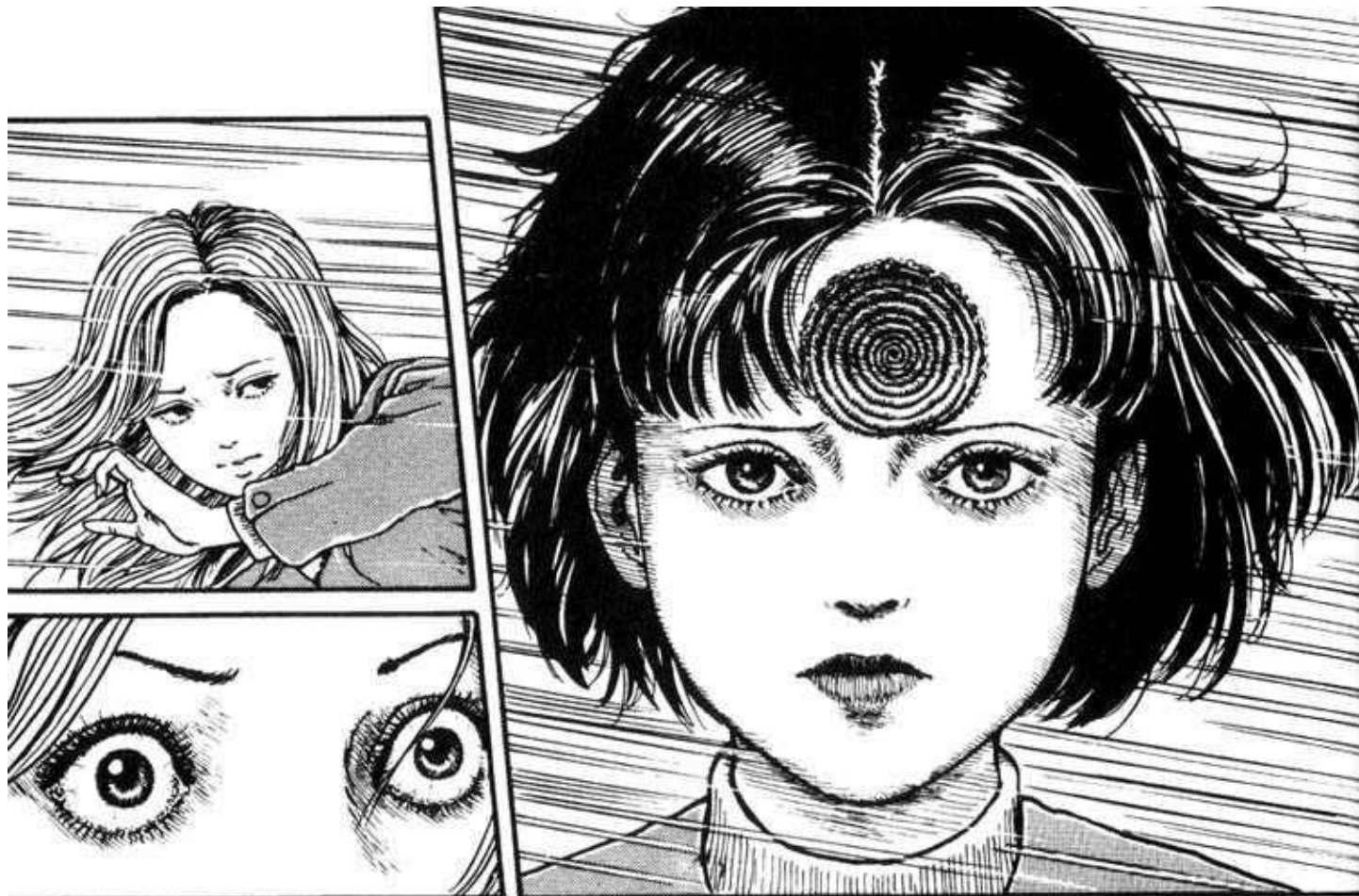
HOW
COULD
YOU
REJECT
ME?

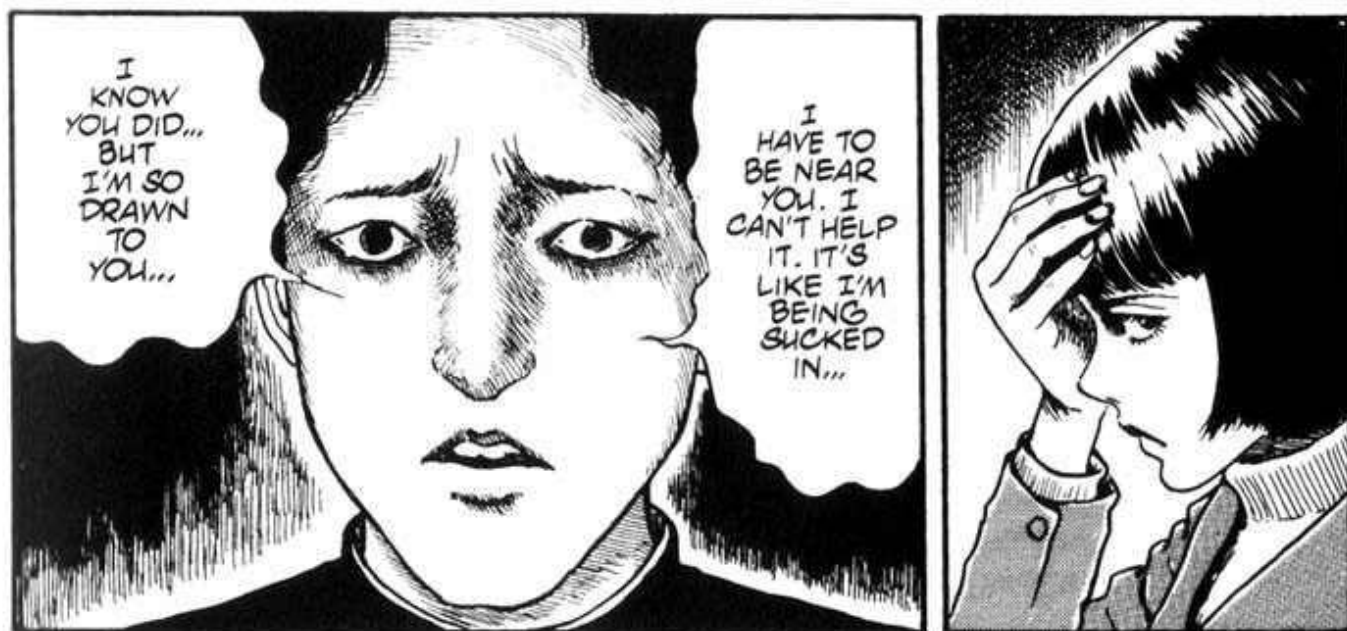


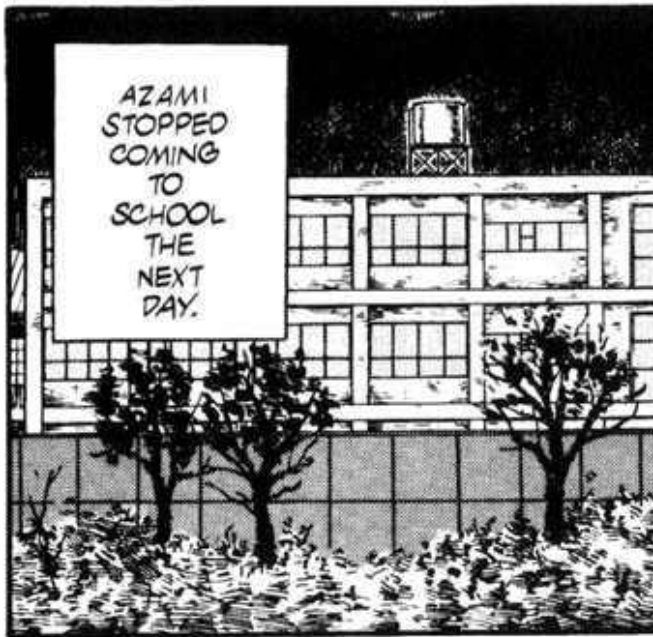




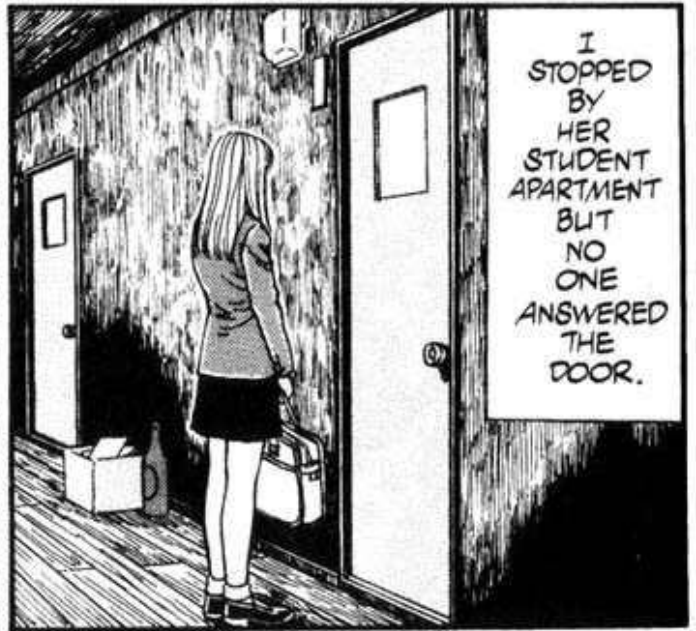




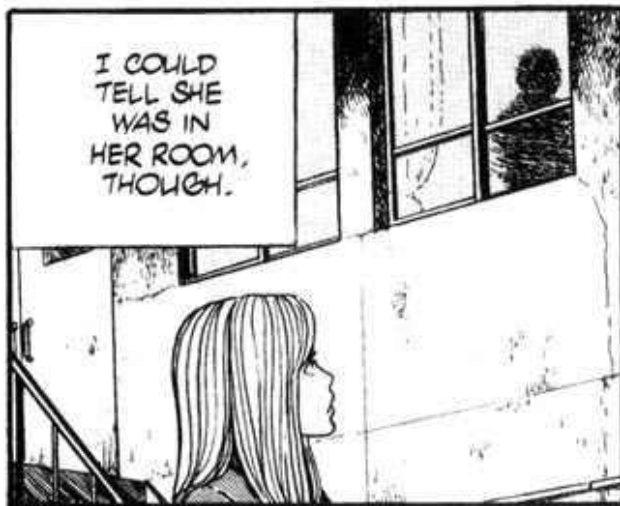




AZAMI
STOPPED
COMING
TO
SCHOOL
THE
NEXT
DAY.



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



I COULD
TELL SHE
WAS IN
HER ROOM,
THOUGH.



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER
FORE-
HEAD?

IT
LOOKED
LIKE A
SPIRAL
DIGGING
INTO
HER
SKULL.



BUT
HOW
CAN
THAT
BE?

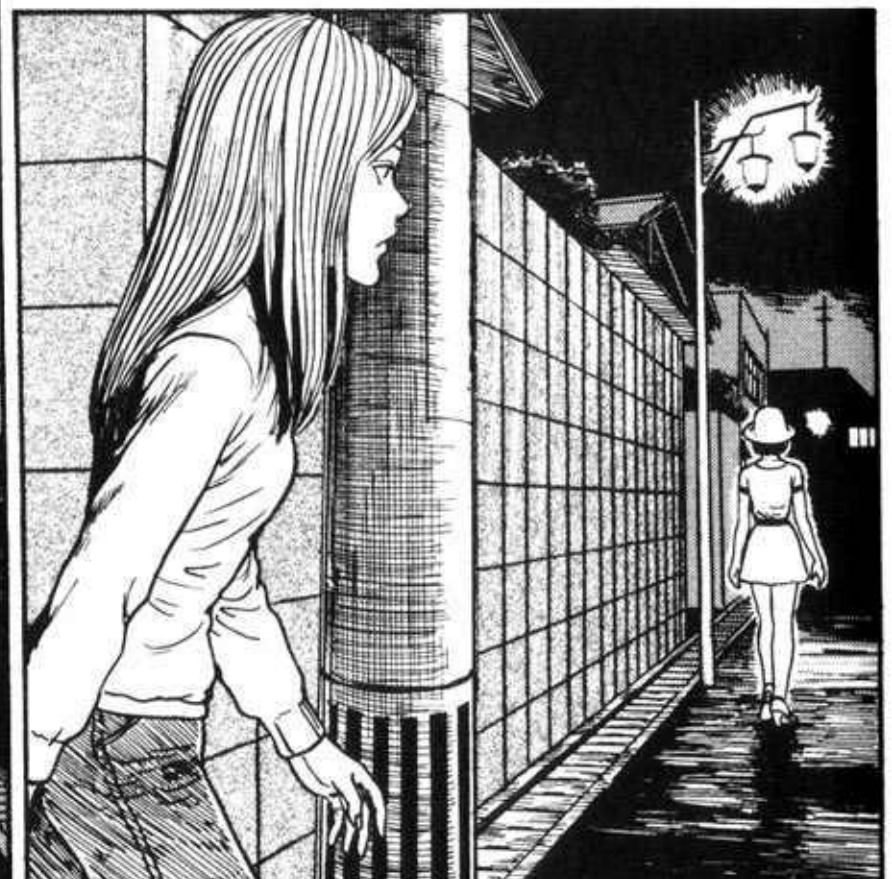
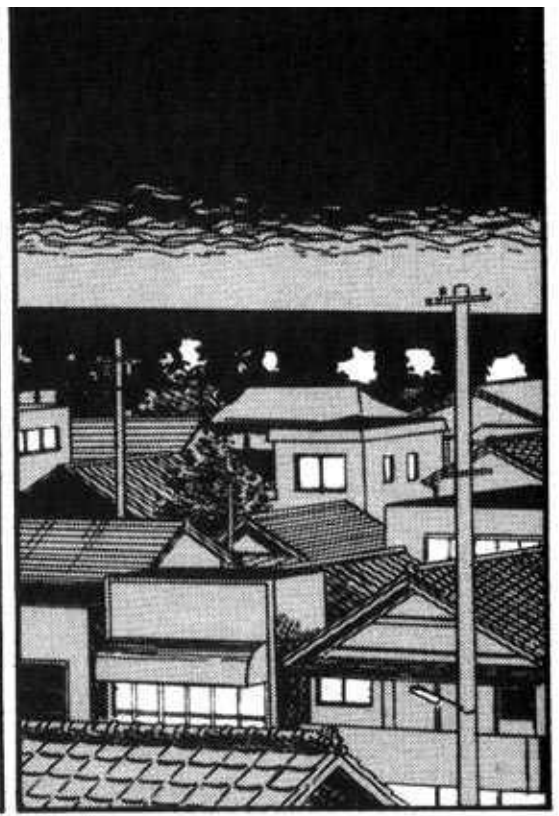
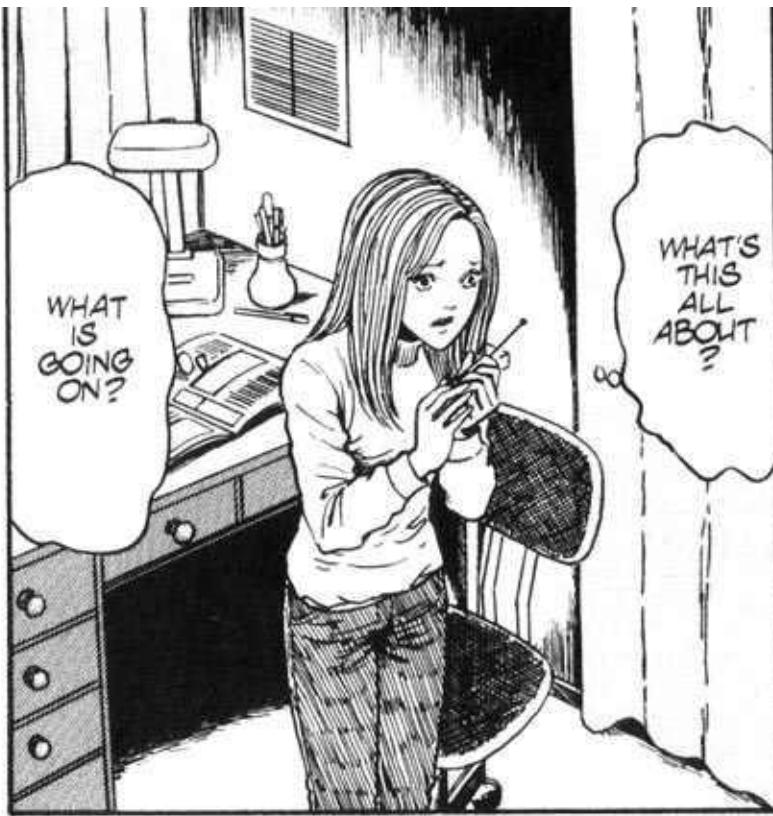
I MUST
HAVE
BEEN
HALLUCI-
NATING...



THEN...

...SEVERAL
DAYS
LATER.

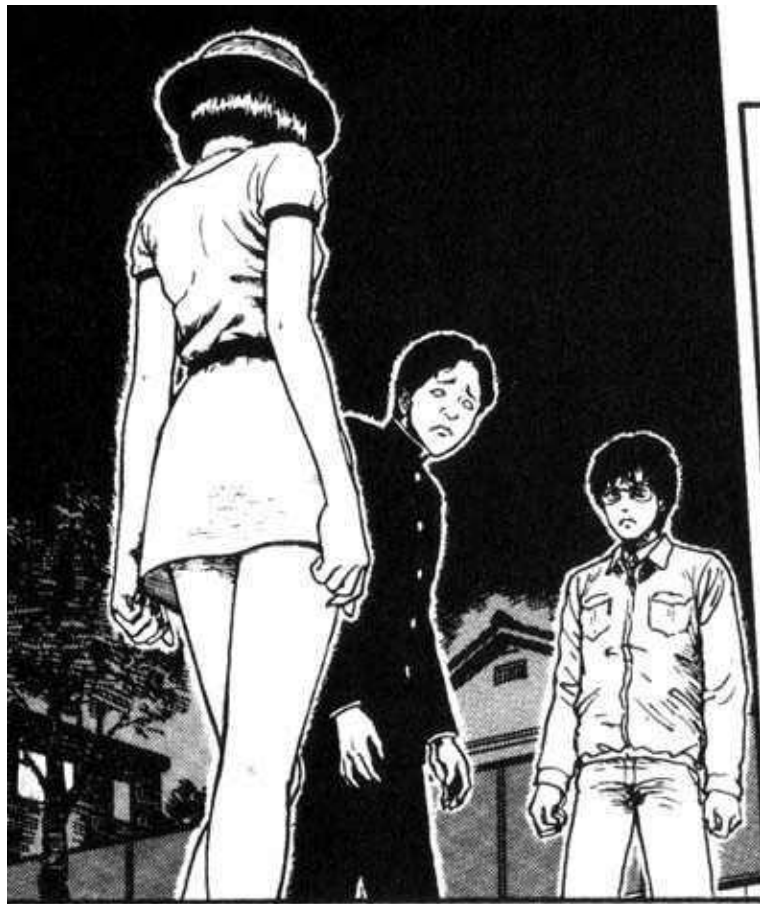






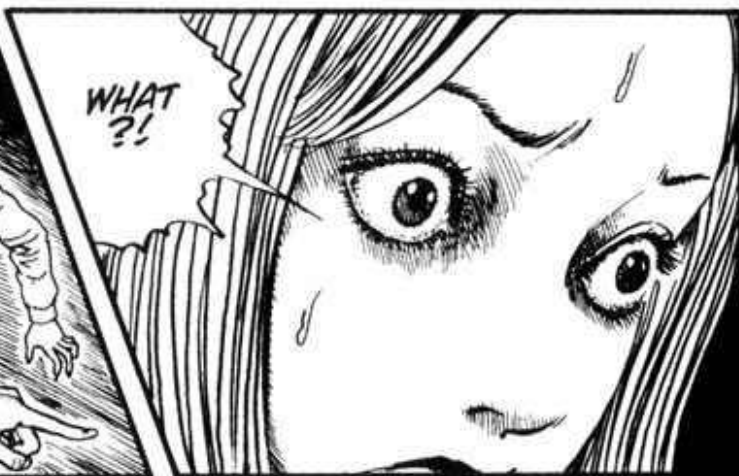
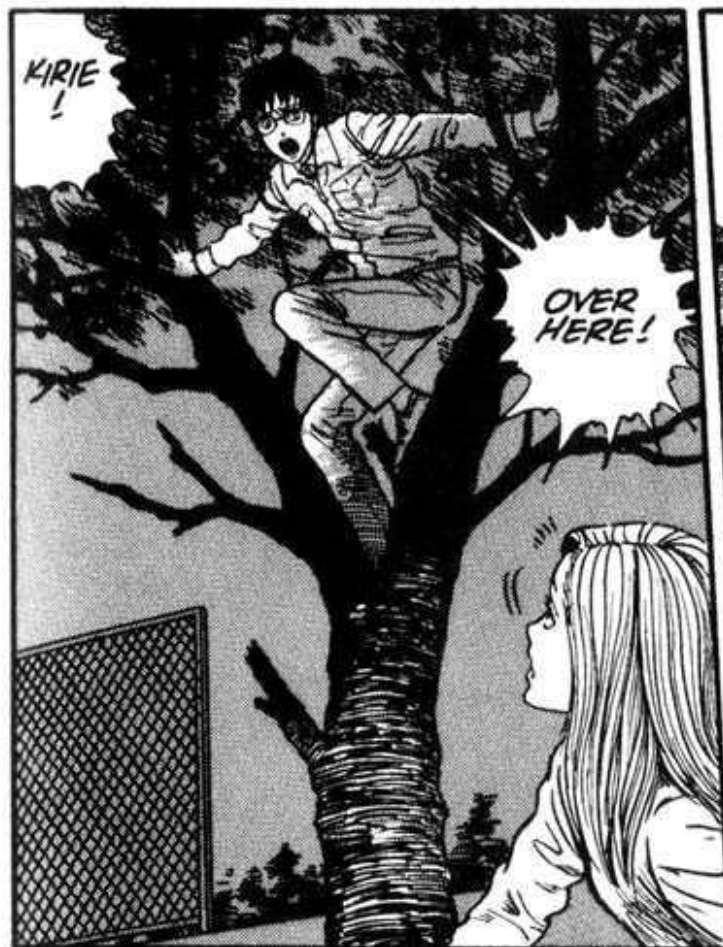














SHE'S
BEING
CONSUMED
BY THE
SPIRAL
THAT
APPEARED
ON HER
BODY!

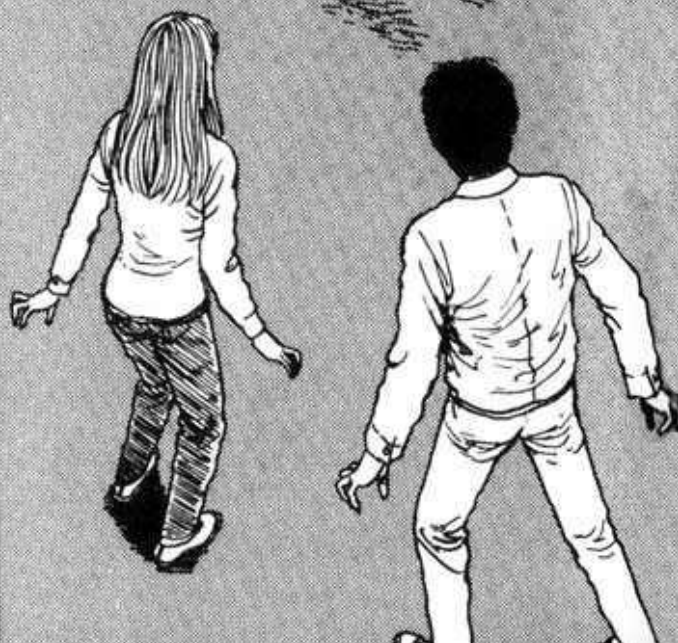
LOOK!
LOOK
WHAT'S
HAPPENING!



SHEEEOOOO

AZAMI
KUROTANI
WAS
DEVOURED
FROM
HEAD TO
TOE...

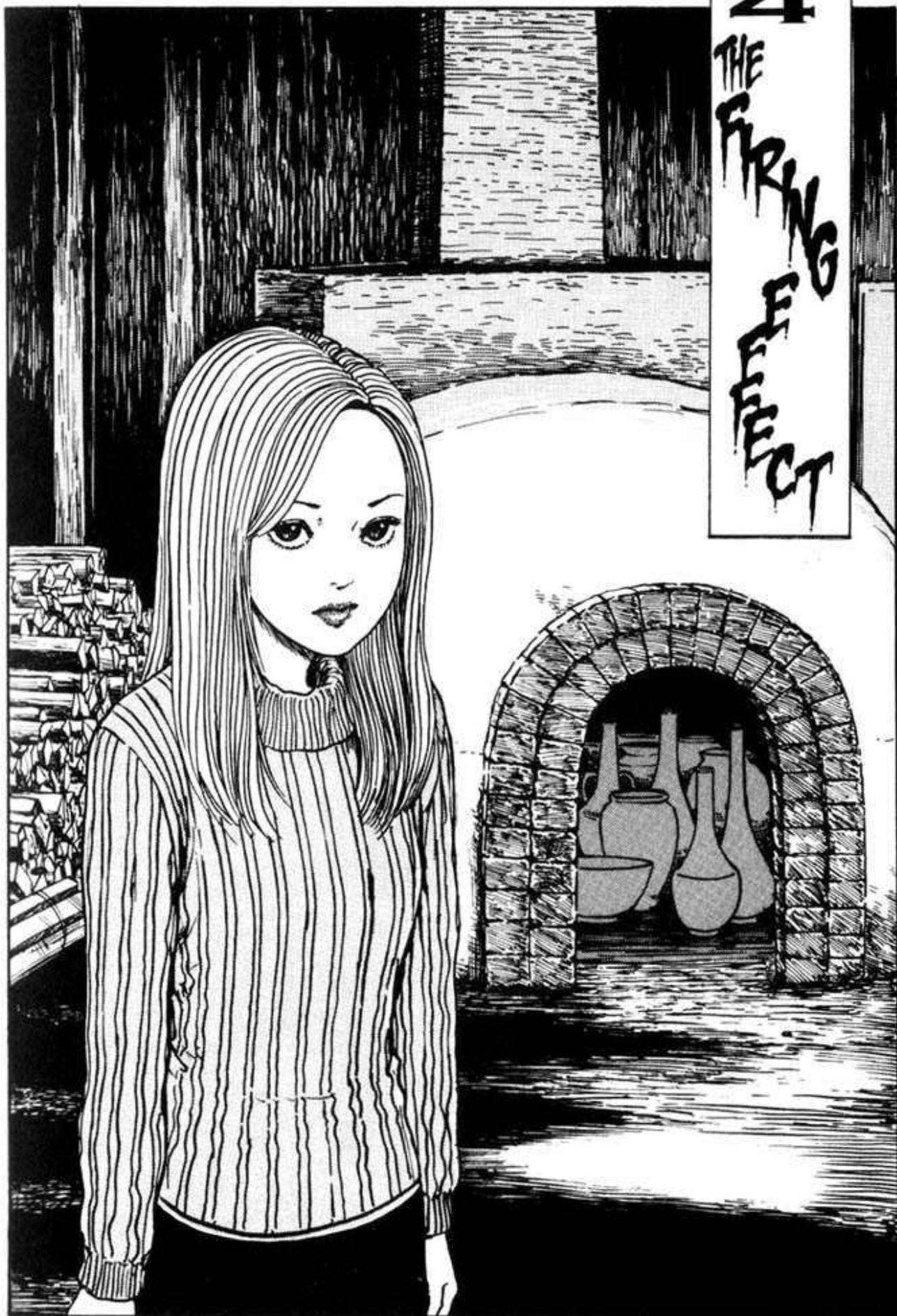
...WITHOUT
LEAVING
A
TRACE
BEHIND.



CHAPTER

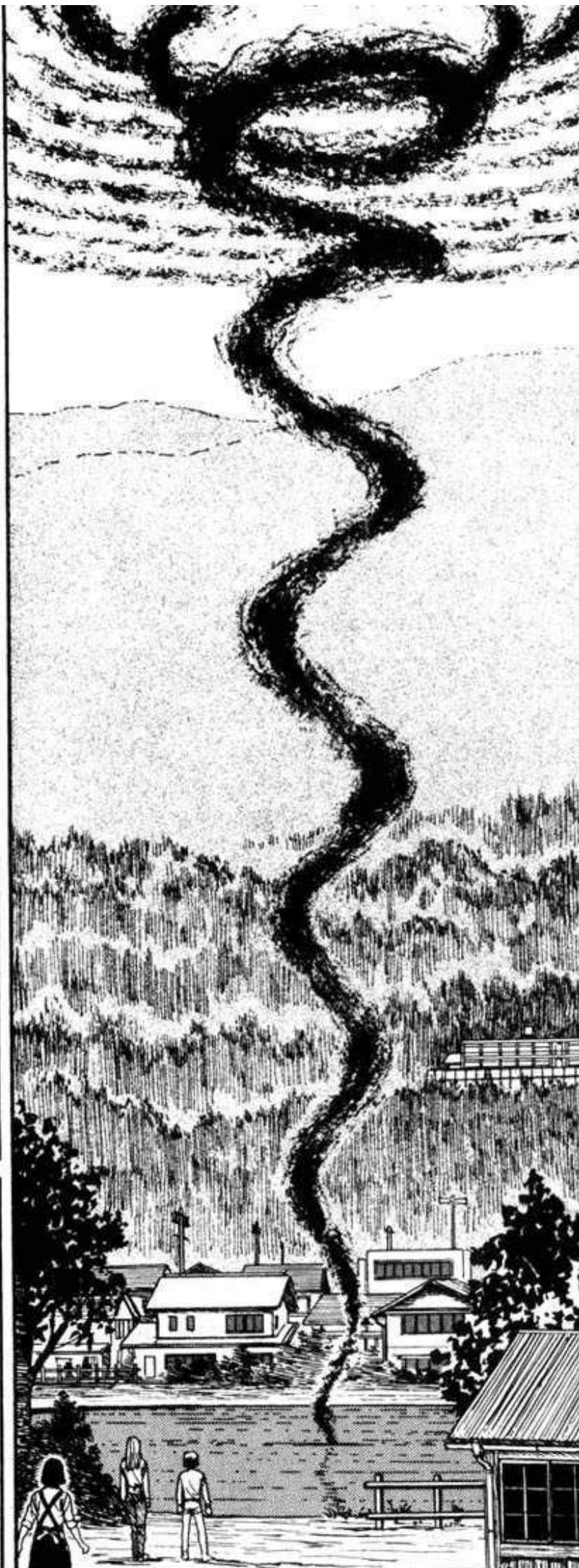
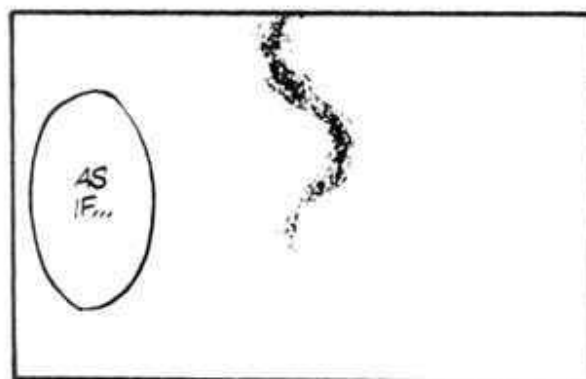
4

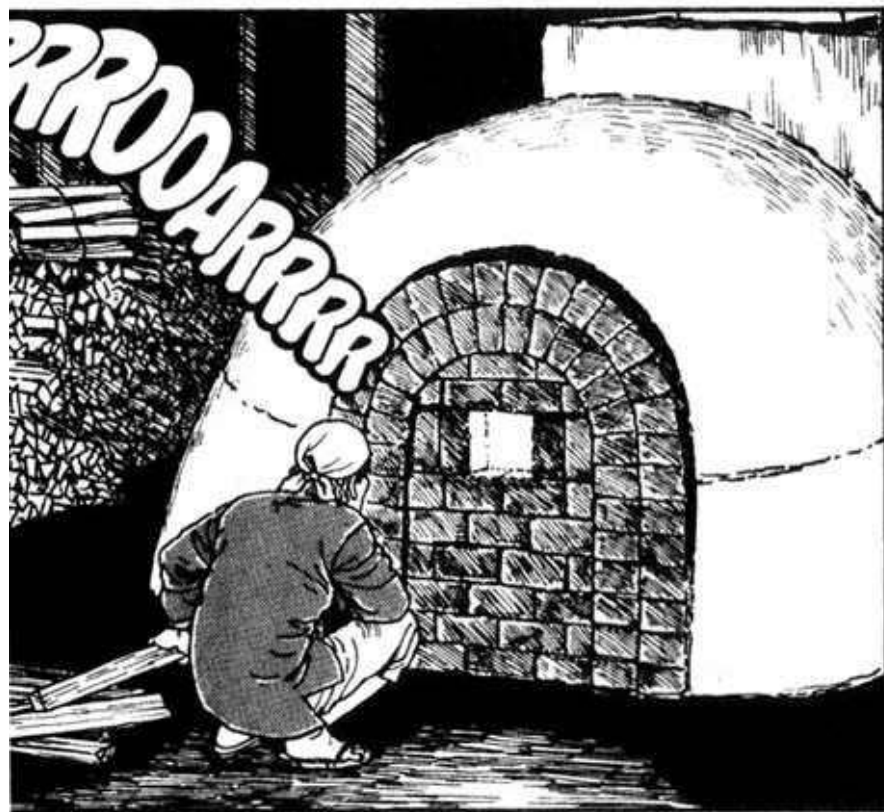
THE
FIRING
EFFECT



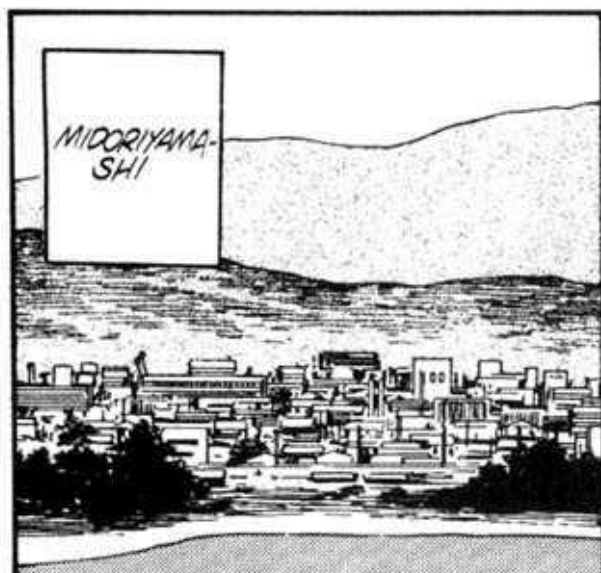
RESEARCH CONSULTANT: HISASHI SATO













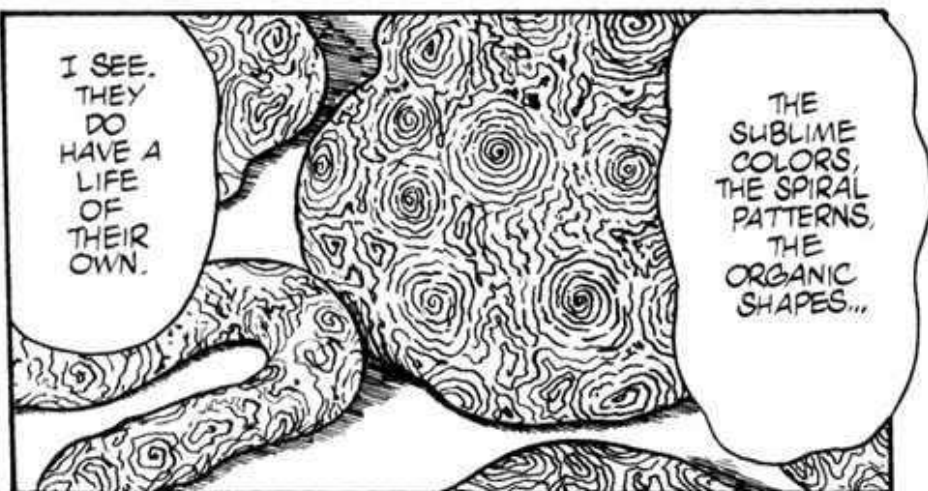
I'M EMBARRASSED. THEY WERE ALL NORMAL POTS AND PLATES...

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

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



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



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

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



OH, I DIDN'T DO THAT.

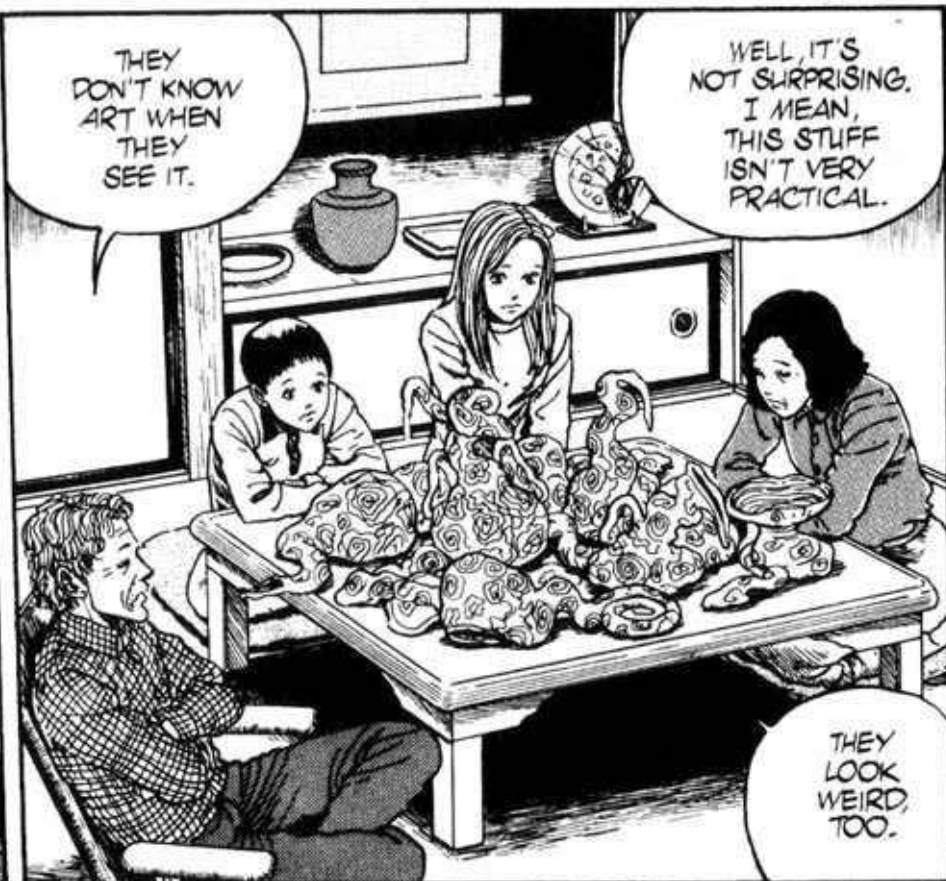
THEY WERE FORMED NATURALLY IN THE KILN.

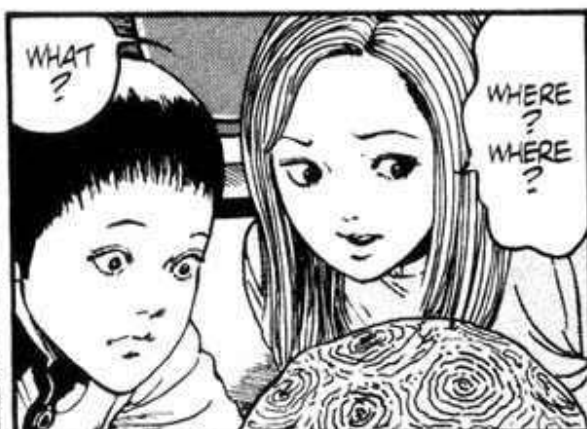
SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL REACTION MUST HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE BURN.



I SEE, "THE FIRING EFFECT"!

BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT CREATE SPIRALS.



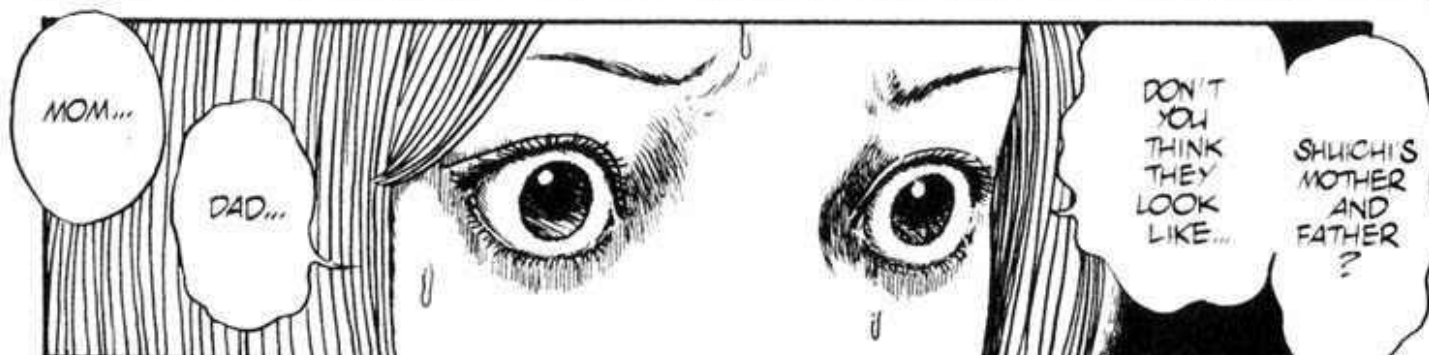




IT
LOOKS
LIKE
A
WOMAN!



Uh...



MOM...

DAD...

DON'T
YOU
THINK
THEY
LOOK
LIKE...

SHUICHI'S
MOTHER
AND
FATHER
?



DON'T
YOU
THINK
SO,
MOM?

OH,
PLEASE
...



Y.
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

THEY
DO
LOOK
LIKE
THEM!



THIS
IS
HORRI-
BLE.

DEAR,
WHAT
IS
THIS?

I
DON'T
KNOW. IT
MUST
BE A
COINCIDENCE.



HOW
COULD
YOU
MAKE
SOMETHING
SO
VICIOUS
?

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

THERE
WERE
FOUR
FACES
IN
ALL.

EACH
HAD
BEEN
CREMATED
IN
KURÖZU-
CHO.

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

THEIR
SMOKE
AND
ASH
HAD
FORMED
THE
SPIRALS...

**HERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE!**



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

HOW
COULD
THIS
HAPPEN?

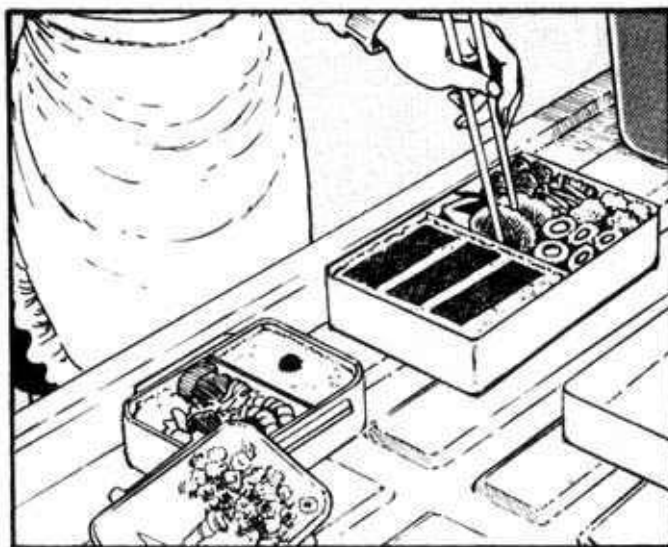
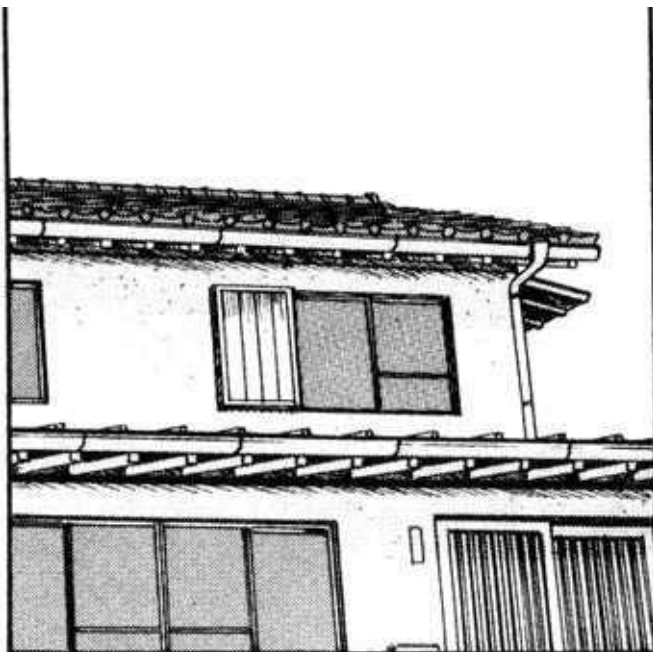


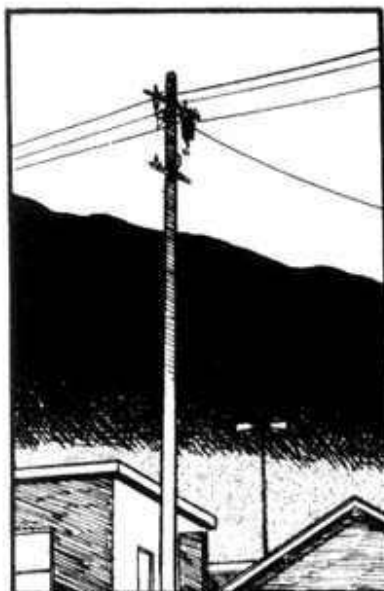
I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW,
BUT...

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

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

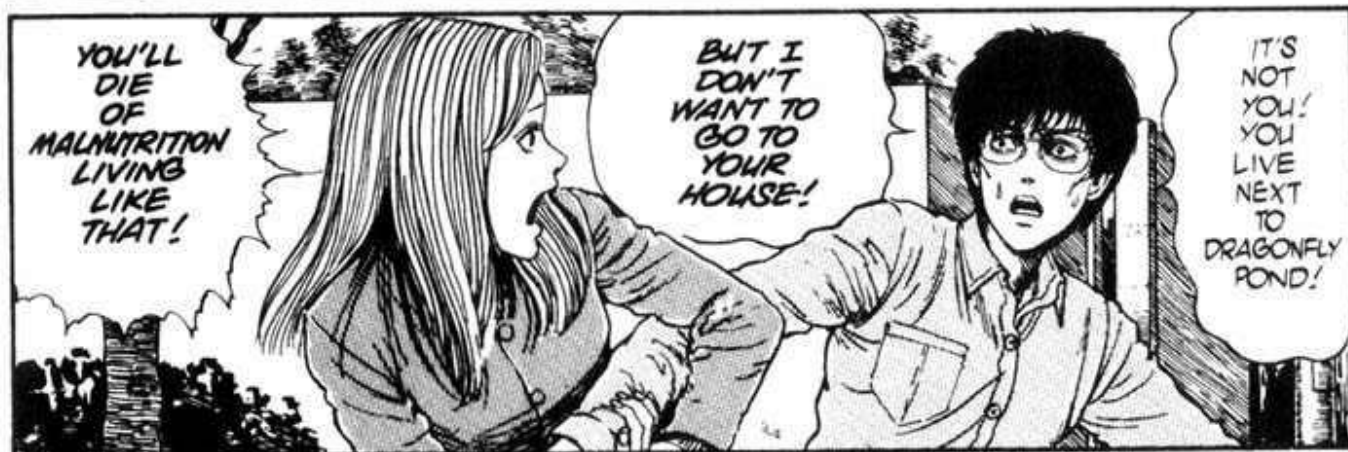
...





YOU
DON'T
HAVE
TO
PULL
ME,
KIRIE!

I
HAVE
TO,
OTHER-
WISE
YOU
WON'T
GO
OUT
!



YOU'LL
DIE
OF
MALNUTRITION
LIVING
LIKE
THAT!

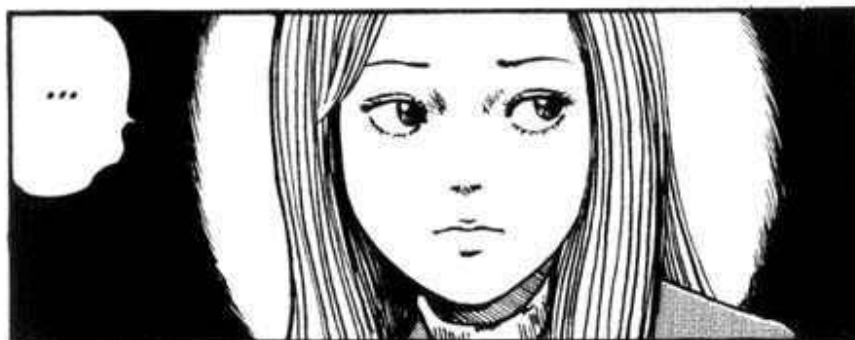
BUT I
DON'T
WANT
TO
GO
TO
YOUR
HOUSE!

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



DRAGONFLY
POND
?

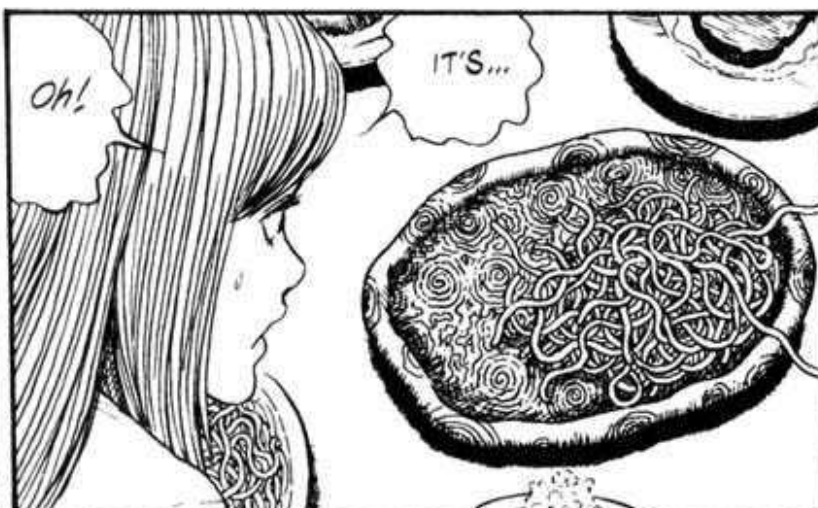
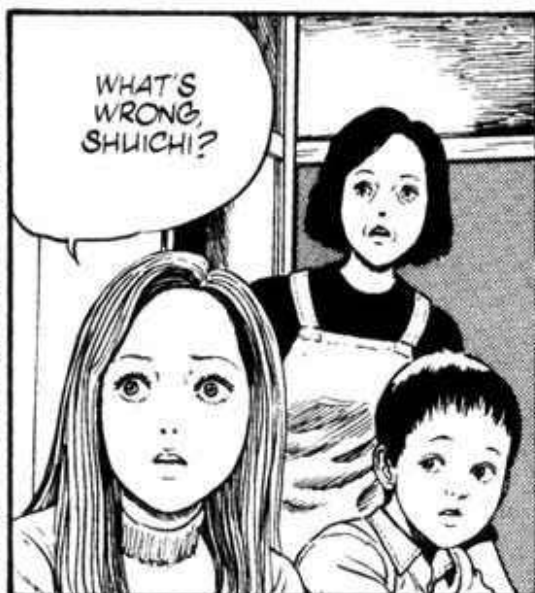
YES.
THAT
POND
IS
INFESTED...
INFESTED
WITH
SPIRALS!



...

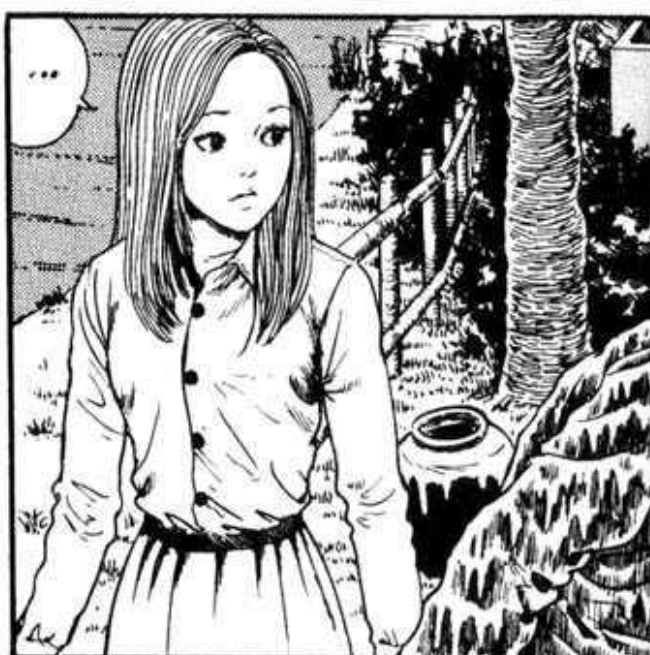
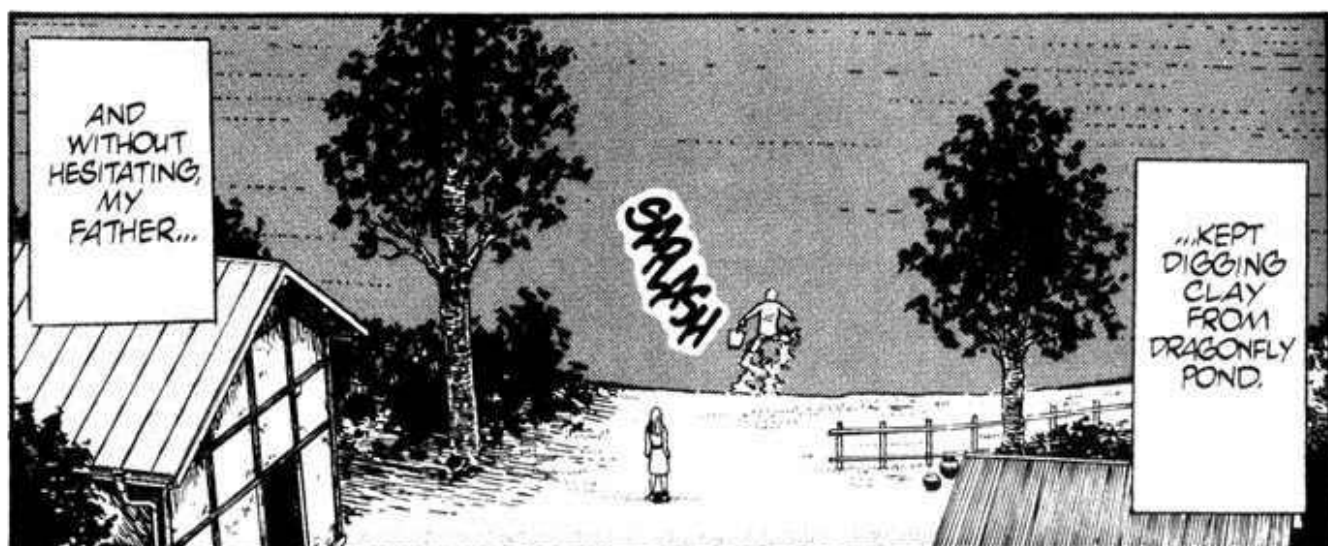


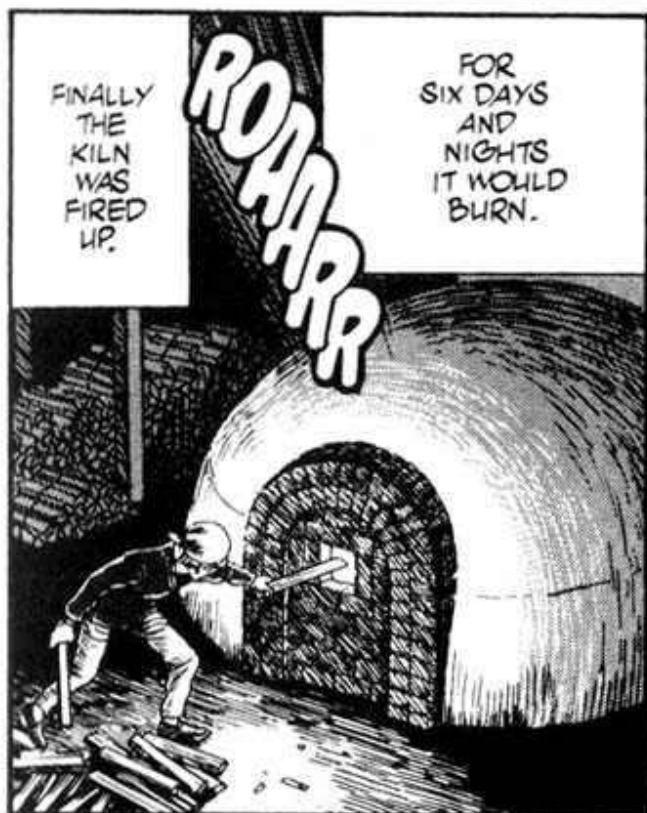
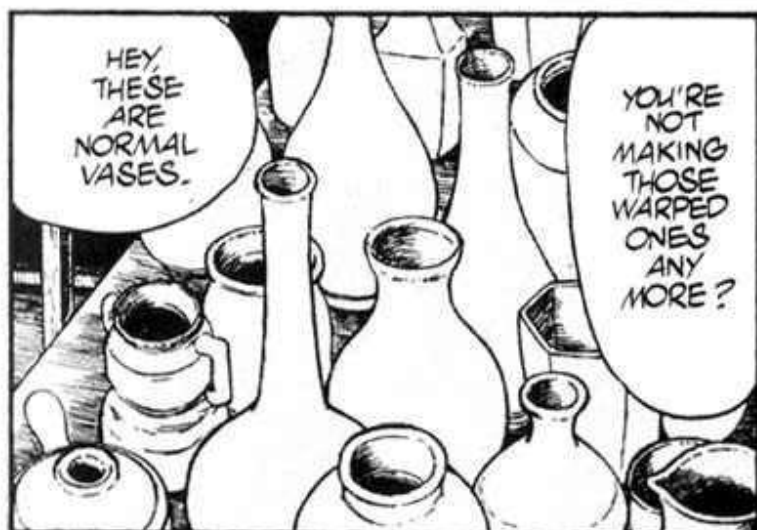
JUST
THE
SAME,
I
FORCED
HIM
TO
COME
OVER.

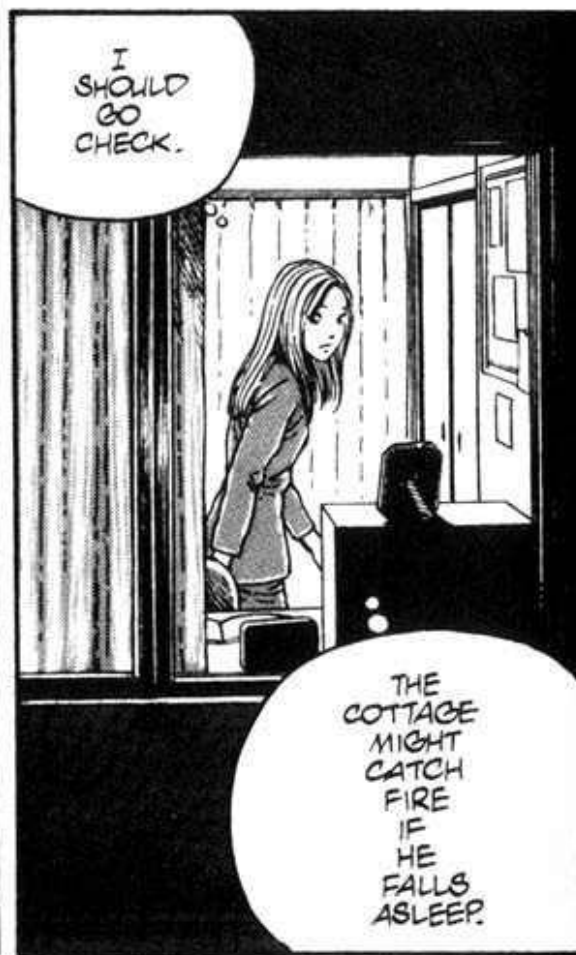


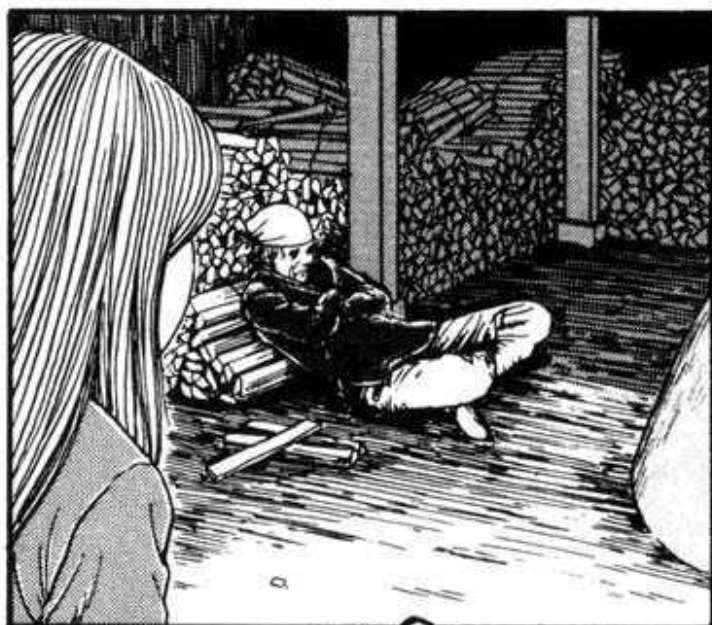






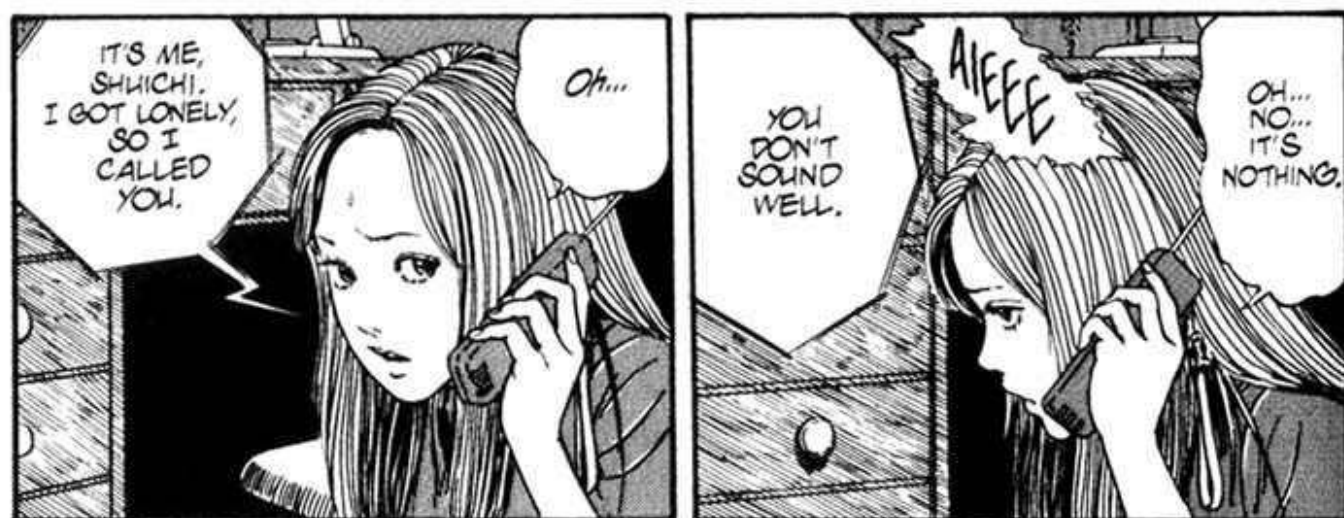
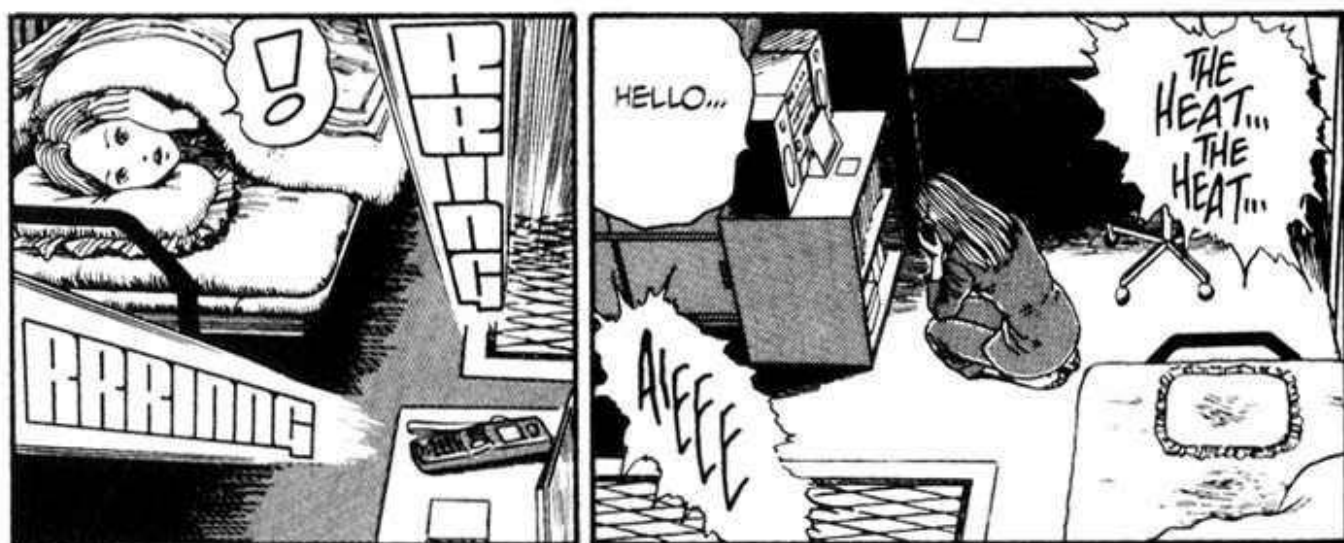


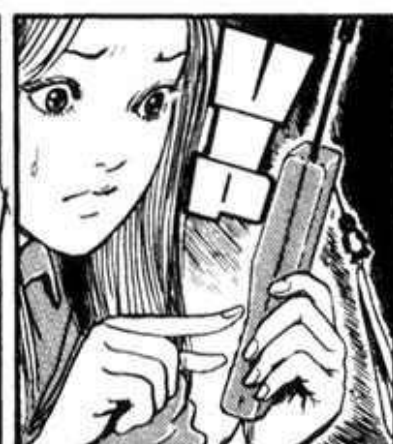










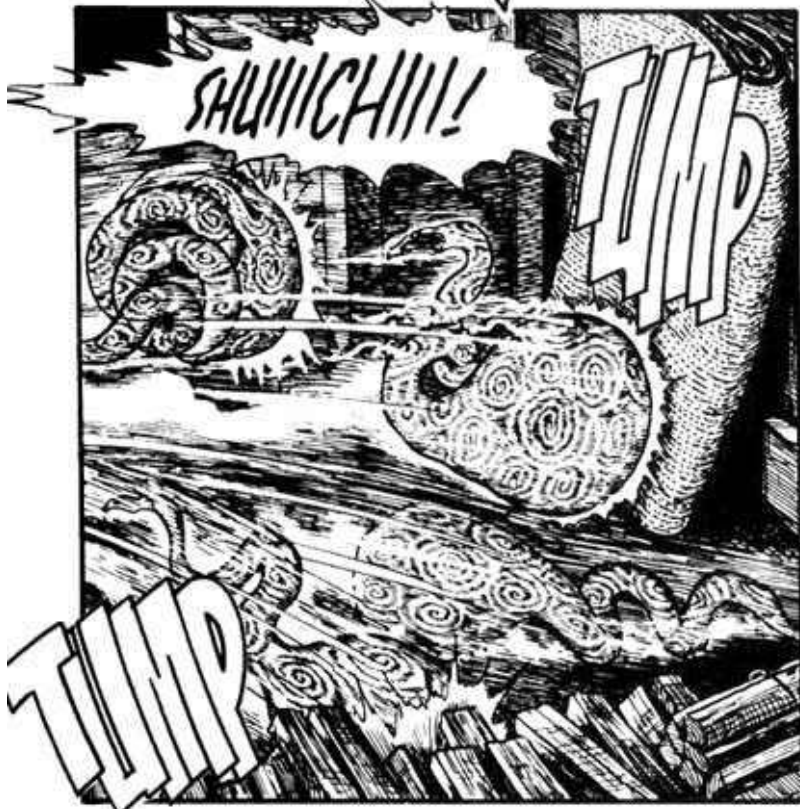


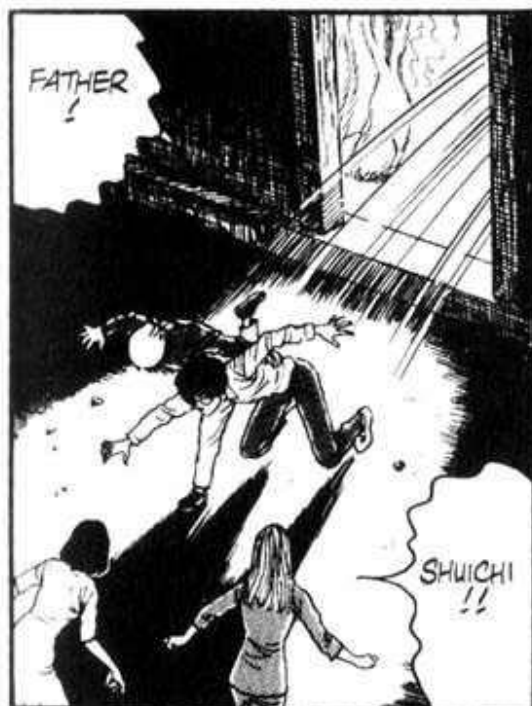














CHAPTER

5

Twisted
Souls



IN
KURÖZU-
CHO...



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



SOME
ARE
HIDDEN
BETWEEN
NEW
BUILDINGS.



SOME
IN THE
OPEN,
SIDE
BY
SIDE.



WHILE
OTHERS,
ON THE
VERGE OF
COLLAPSING
...



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



I
TOLD
YOU
NOT
TO
SEE
HER
AGAIN!



THE
NEXT
TIME
I
CATCH
YOU
WITH
MY
DAUGHTER, I'LL
MAKE
YOU
PAY!



PLEASE,
SIR,
JUST
LET
ME
TALK
TO
HER!

NO!



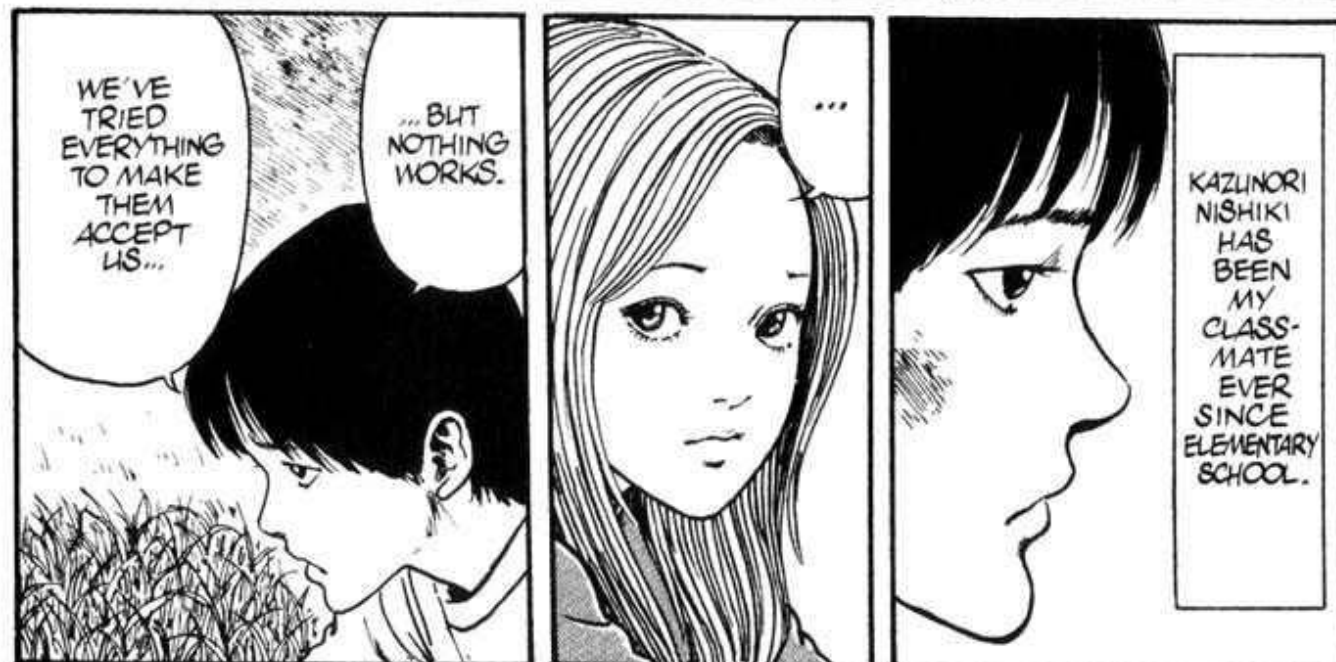
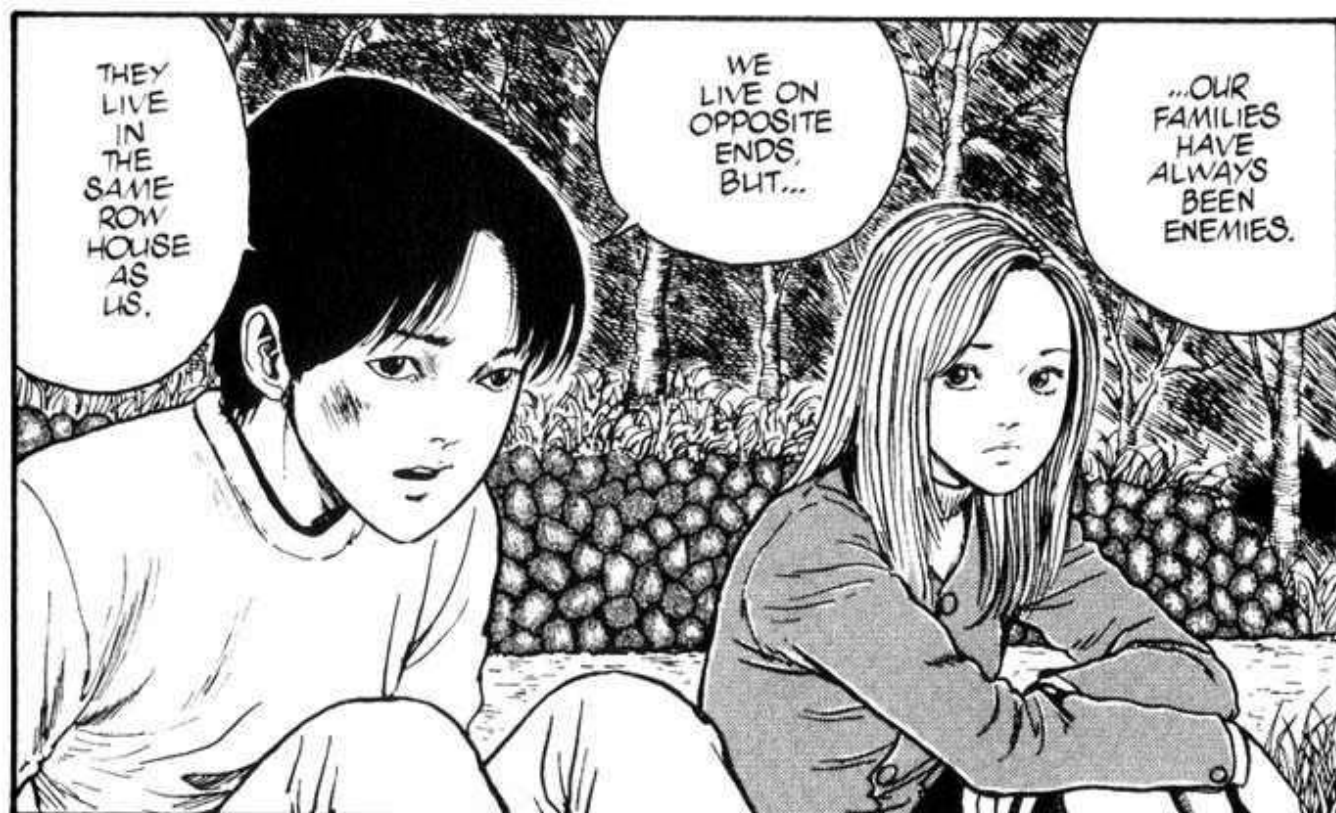
I CAN'T LET
MY PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER NEAR
YOUR WRETCHED
FAMILY!

COME
ON,
YORIKO!

LET
ME
GO,
DAD!

YORIKO!





HE
LIVED
IN ONE
OF
THE
RUINED
ROW
HOUSES.



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

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

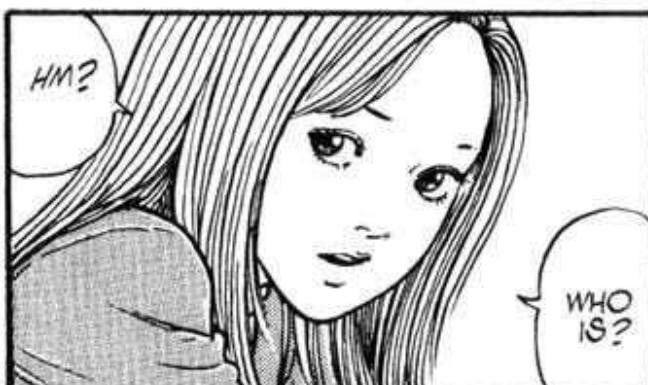


IT'S
CONSIDERED
A POOR
TENEMENT
HOUSE.
EVERYONE
LOOKS DOWN ON
THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVE
THERE.

SO
TWISTED.



HM?



WHO
IS?

OUR
FOLKS.



ASIDE
FROM
YORIKO
AND
ME ...

THEIR
HEARTS
ARE
BENT
OUT
OF
SHAPE.

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



...THAT
THEY
SHIELD
THEM-
SELVES
BY
BECOMING
WARPED.



THAT
SLUM
COLLECTS
PEOPLE
WITH
TWISTED
SOULS.

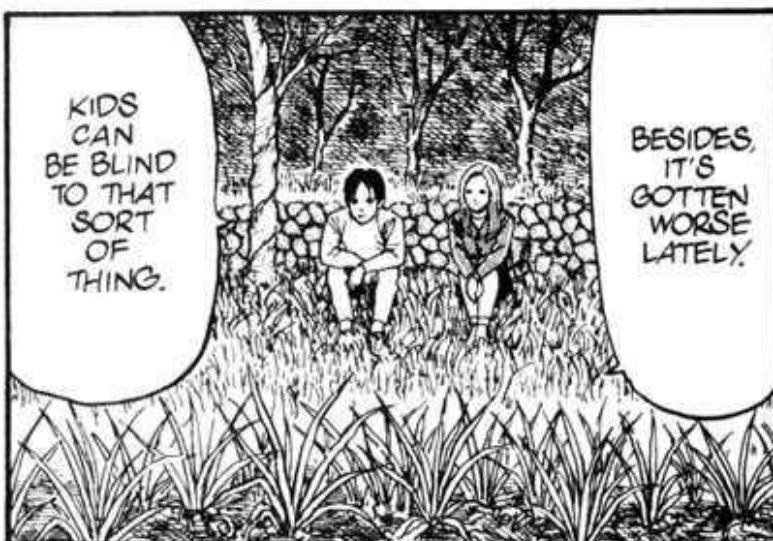
WHEN
THEY
FIGHT,
THEY
CAN'T
CONTROL
THEMSELVES.
THERE'S
NO WAY
OUT. YOU
CAN'T
UNTANGLE
THEM.



BUT
YOU'RE
NOT
LIKE
THAT,
KAZUNORI!



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



KIDS
CAN
BE BLIND
TO THAT
SORT
OF
THING.

BESIDES,
IT'S
GOTTEN
WORSE
LATELY.



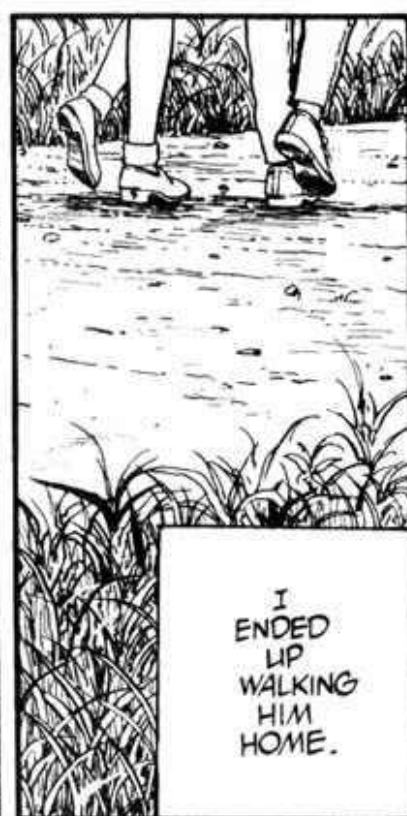
I
SHOULD
GET
GOING,
THOUGH.

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?
CAN
YOU
WALK?

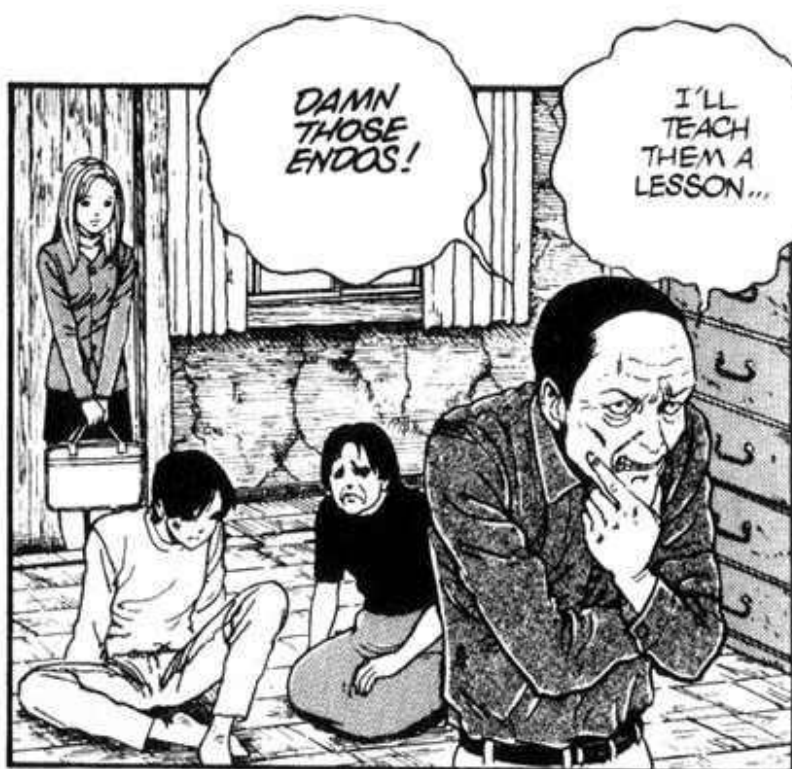
YEAH

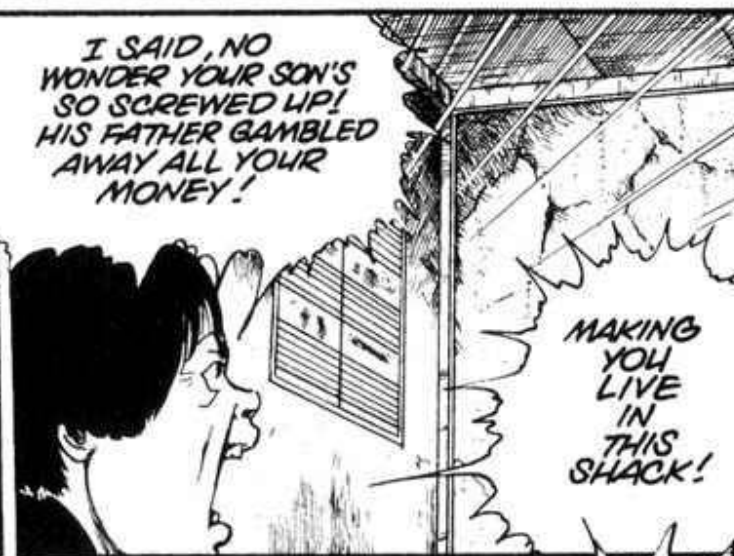


W-
WATCH
OUT!

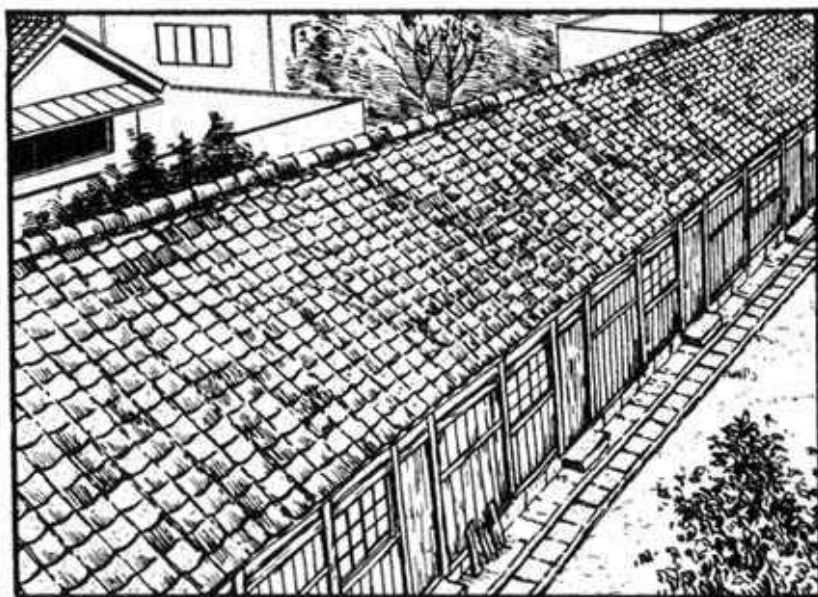
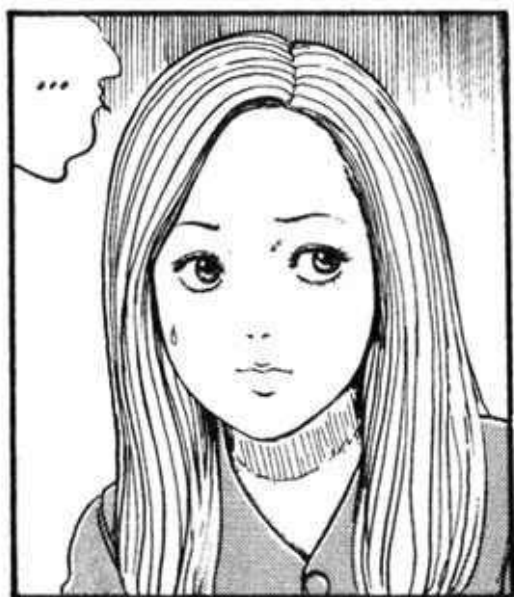


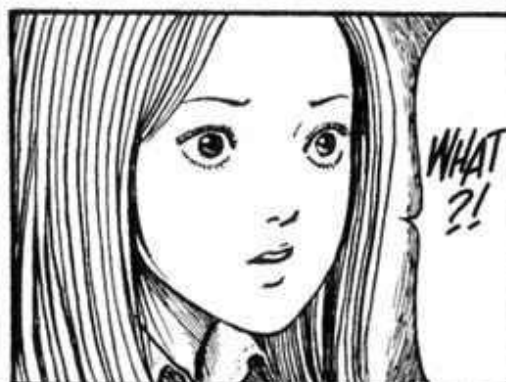
I
ENDED
UP
WALKING
HIM
HOME.

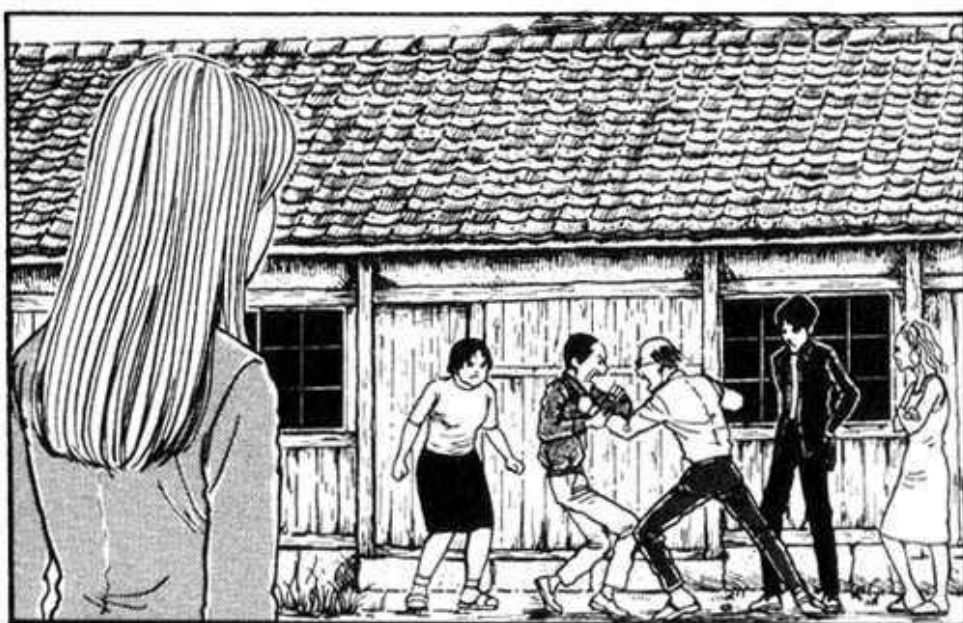








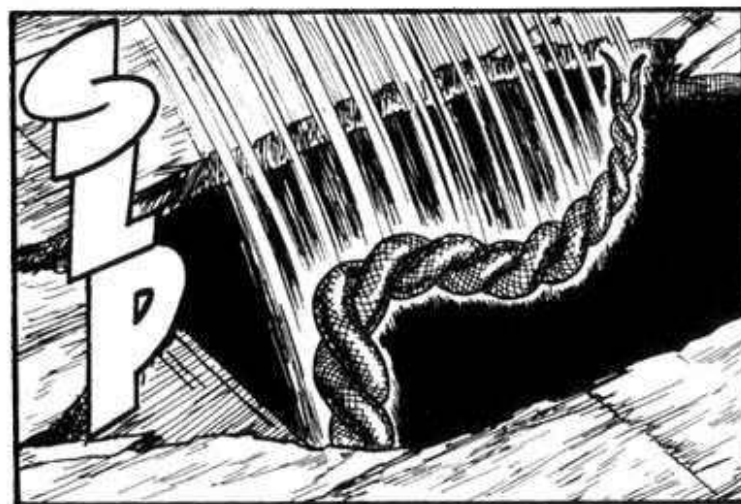
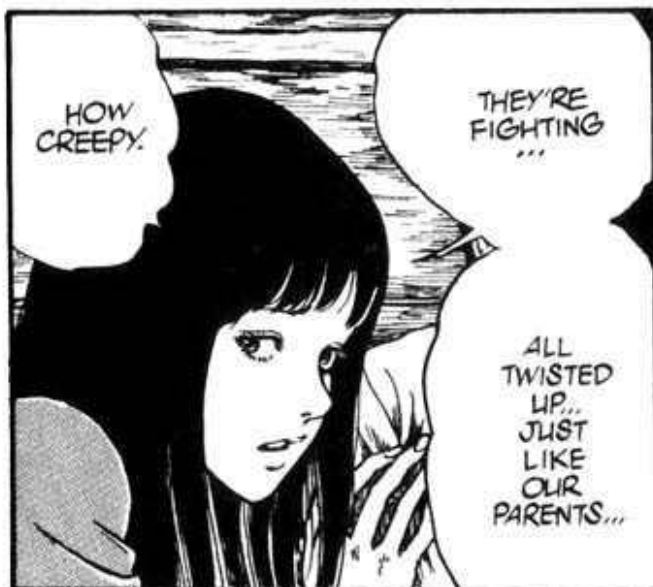


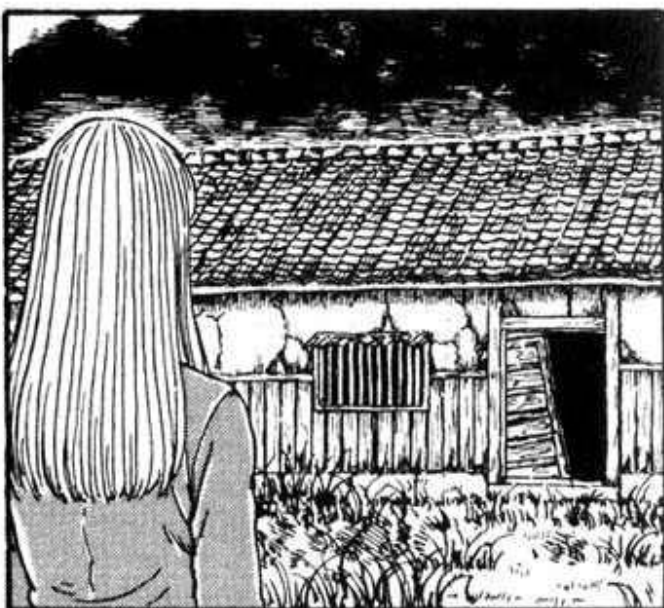














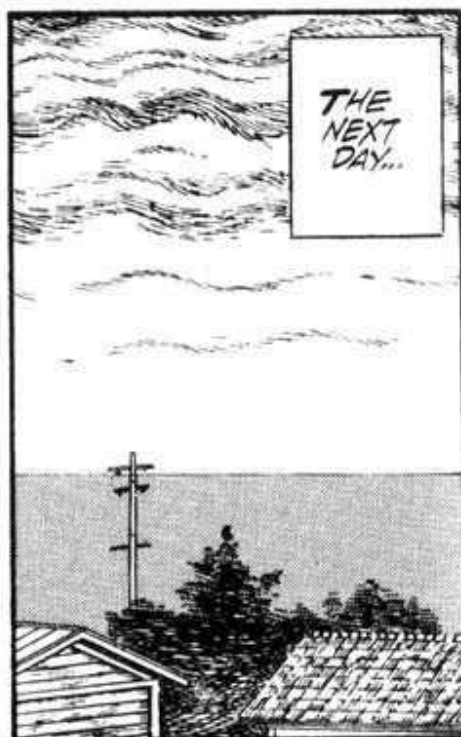






AT
THAT
TIME,
I
JUST
DIDN'T
NOTICE
IT...

I
DIDN'T
SEE
HOW
HIS
BODY
WAS
TWIST-
ED...



THE
NEXT
DAY...



ARE
THEY
REALLY
COMING
?



YES,
THEY
PROMISED
TO
MEET
ME
HERE.



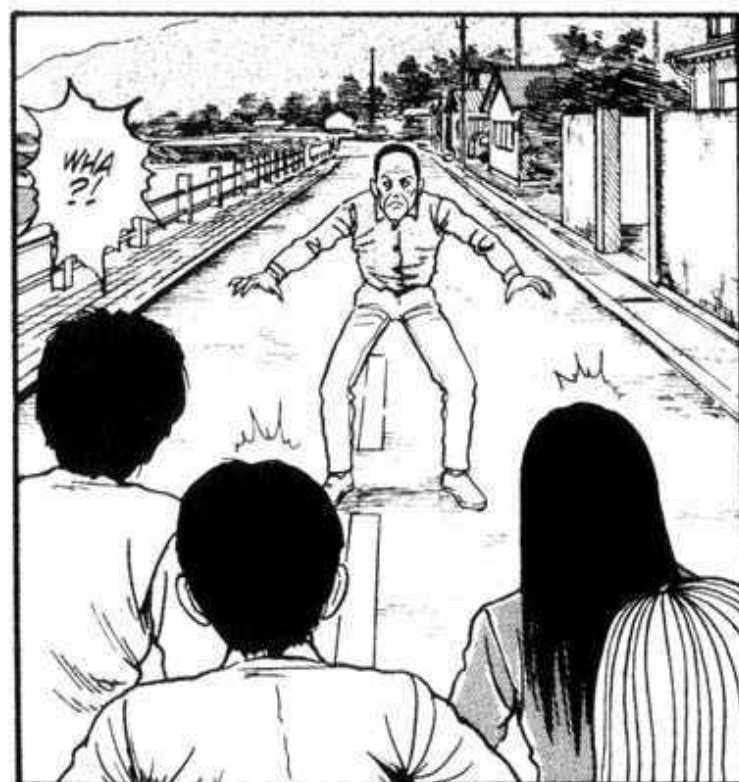
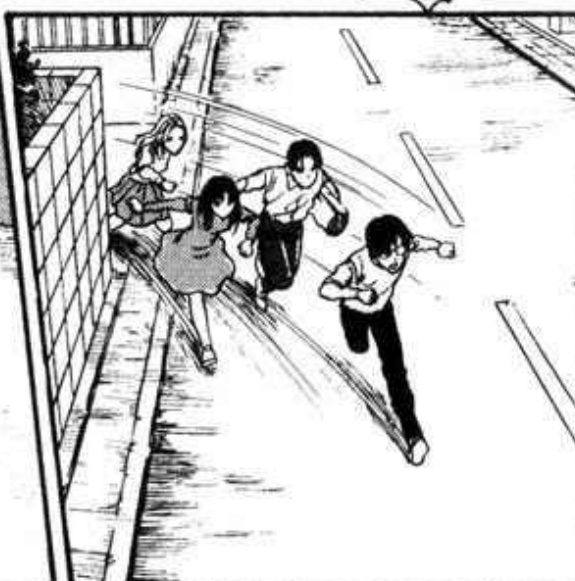
WE'LL
ACCOMPANY
THEM
TO THE
STATION
AND SEE
THEM
OFF.



ELOPING,
HUH...

GOOD
IDEA.



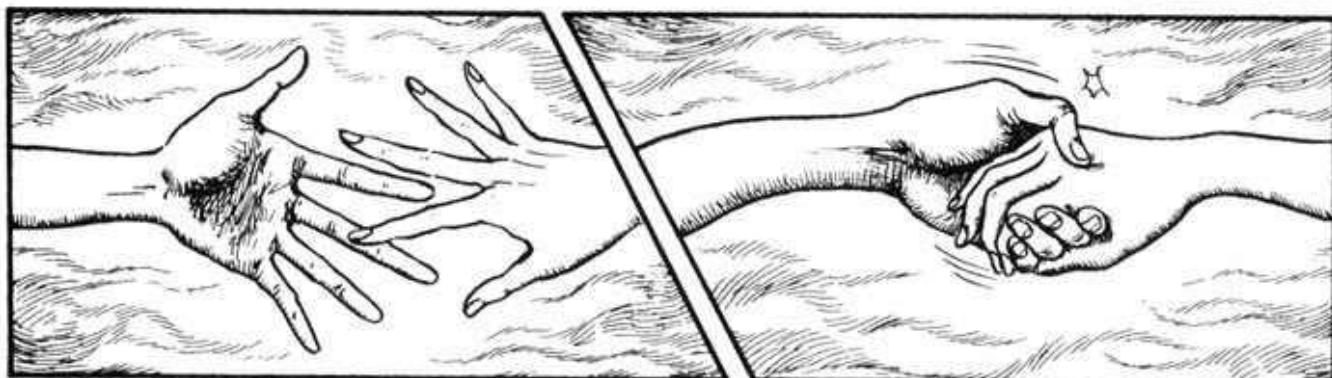




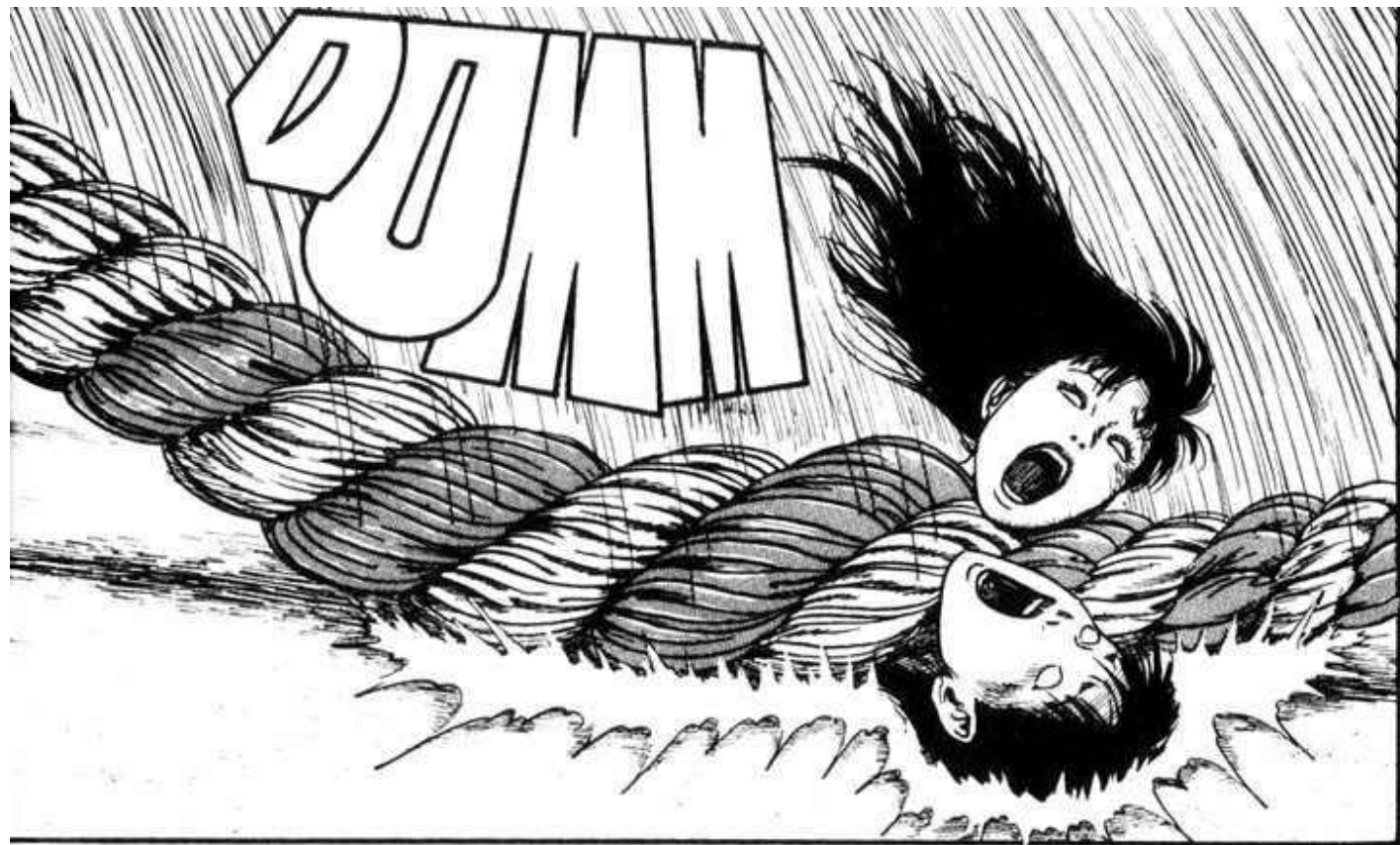














WE'RE NEVER GOING TO BE APART...



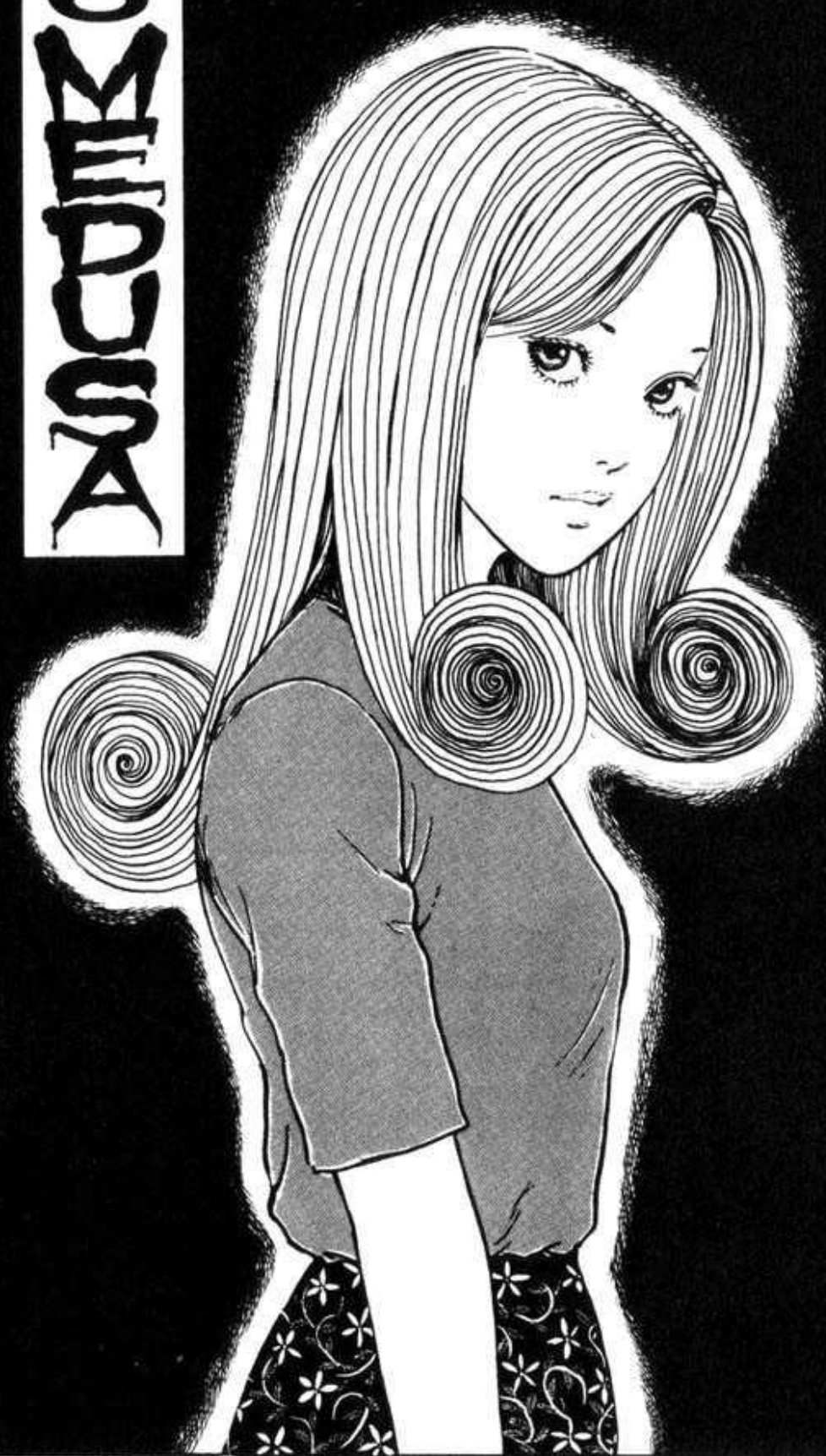
FOREVER...

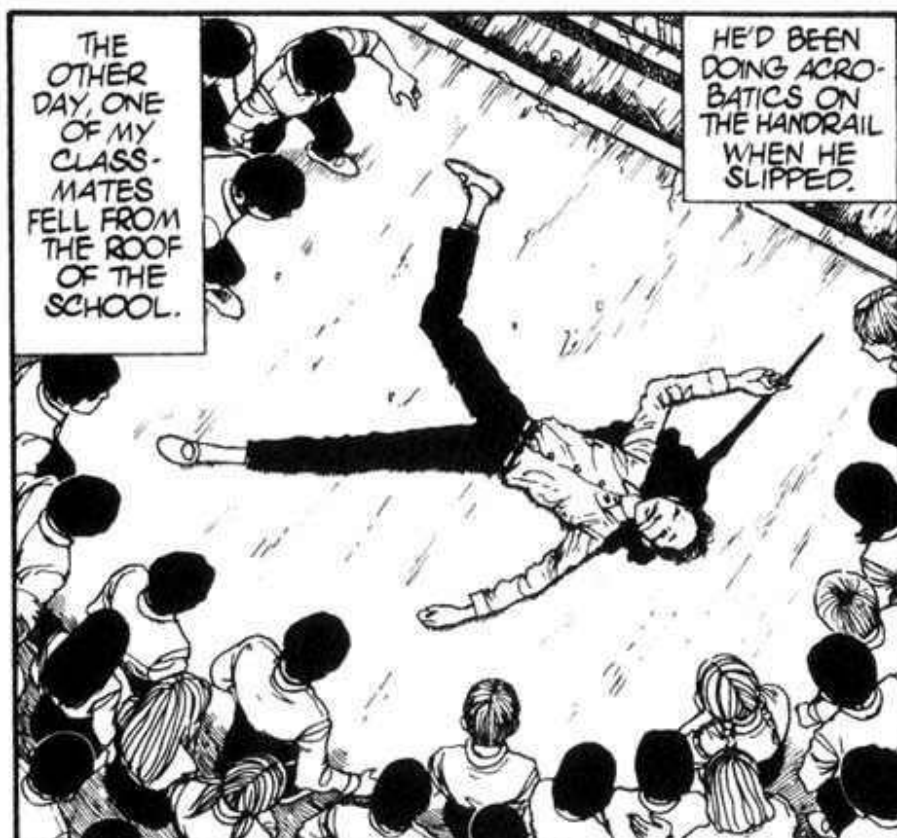


CHAPTER

6

WINDY





THE
OTHER
DAY, ONE
OF MY
CLASS-
MATES
FELL FROM
THE ROOF
OF THE
SCHOOL.

HE'D BEEN
DOING ACRO-
BATICS ON
THE HANDRAIL
WHEN HE
SLIPPED.



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

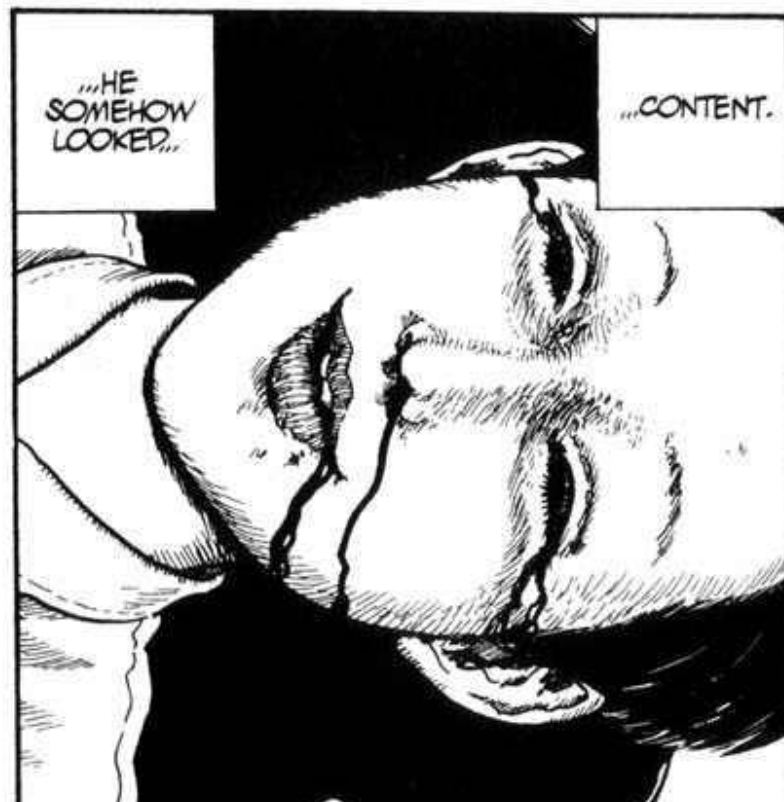


AND
YET,
SURROUNDED
BY THE
CROWD...



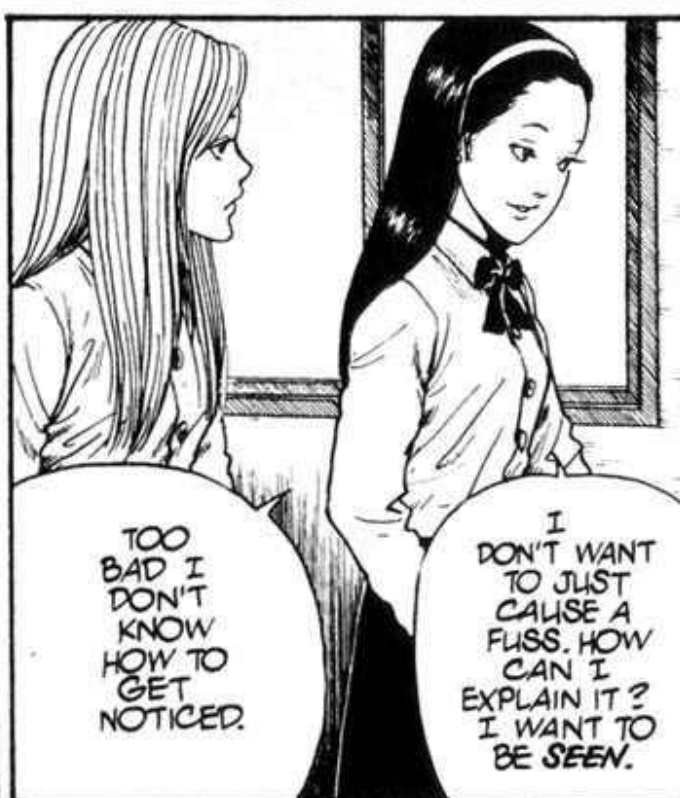
THAT
WAS
SO
HORRIBLE,
SEKINO.

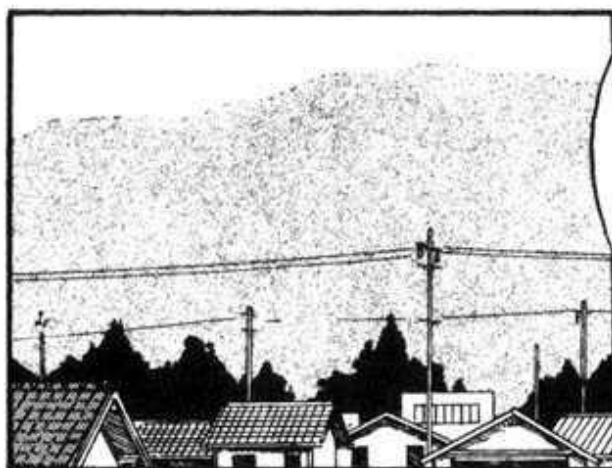
THAT
WAS JUST
CRAZY. HE
SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
TRIED
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT.



...HE
SOMEHOW
LOOKED...

...CONTENT.



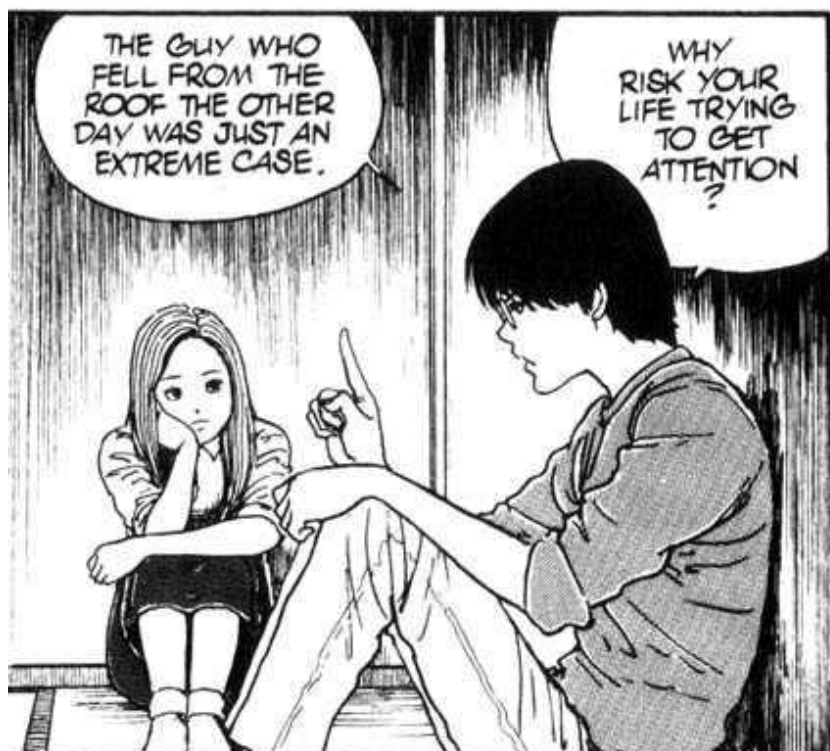


A
LOT OF
PEOPLE IN
KURÔZU-CHO
HAVE
BEEN
ACTING
STRANGE
LATELY.



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

WHY
RISK YOUR
LIFE TRYING
TO GET
ATTENTION
?



I'M
BEGINNING
TO UNDER-
STAND.

WHAT,
SHUICHI
?



THIS
TOWN
IS
CONTAMINATED
BY
THE
SPIRAL.



NOT
AGAIN.

WHAT
DOES
WANTING
ATTENTION
HAVE TO DO
WITH A
SPIRAL?



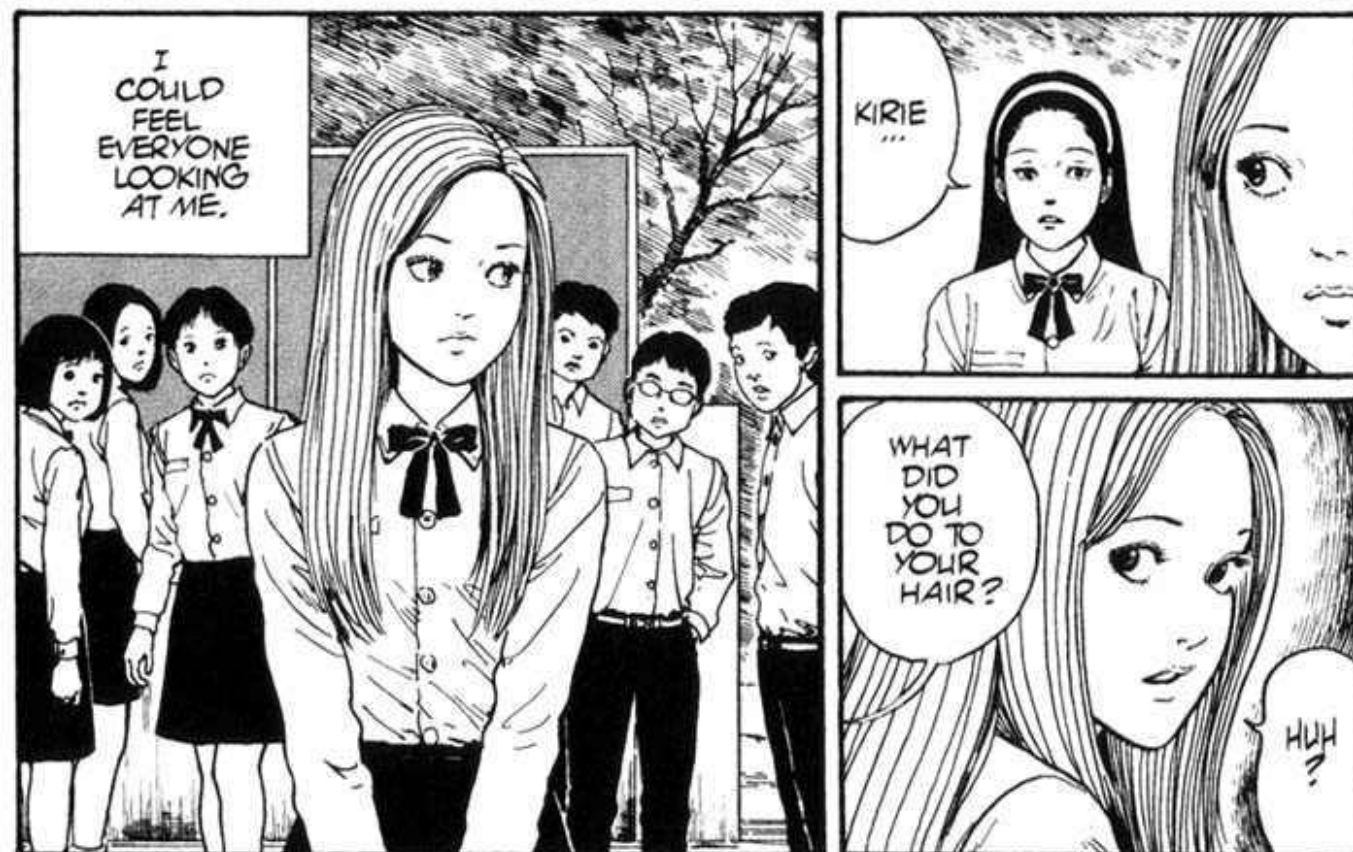
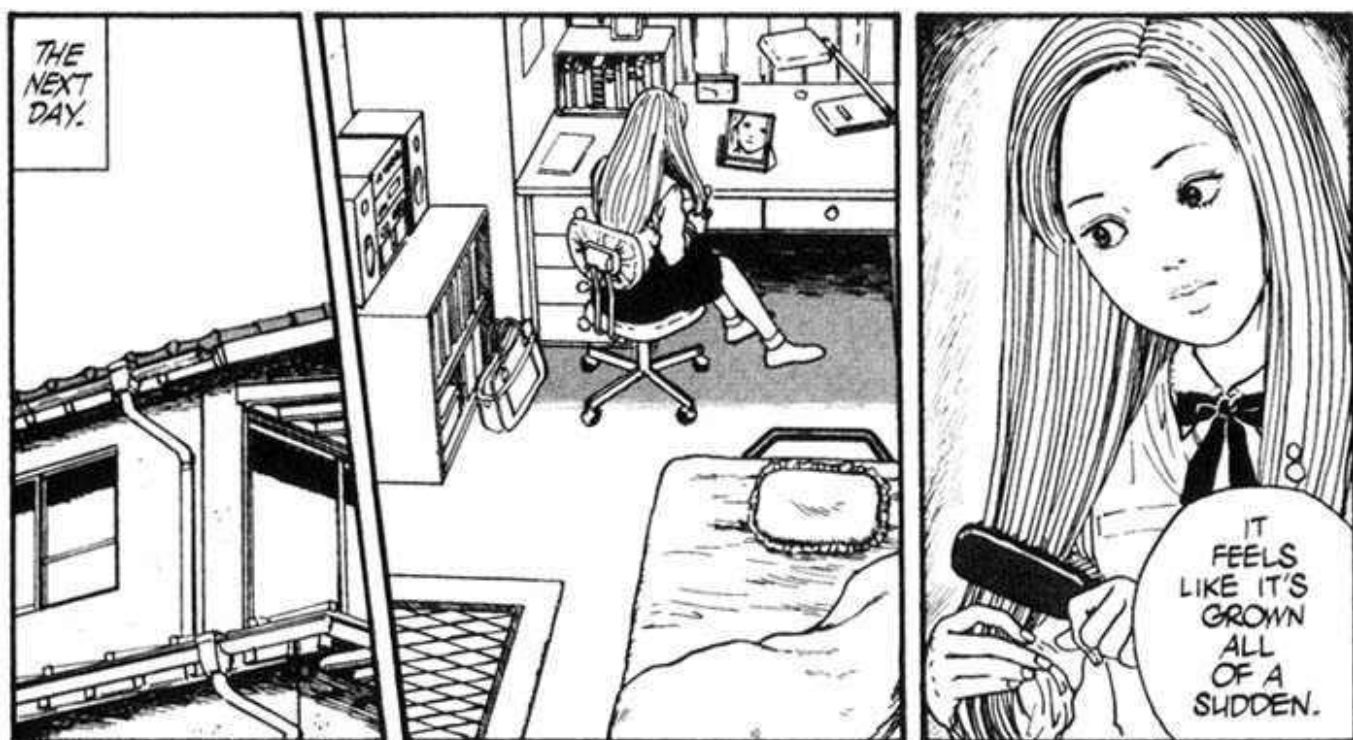
DON'T
YOU
SEE?!

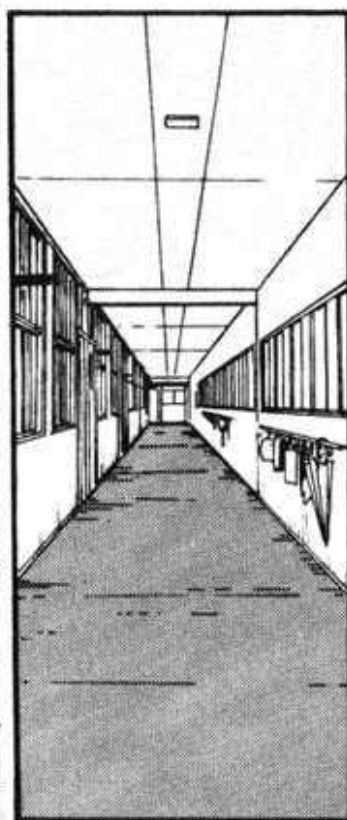
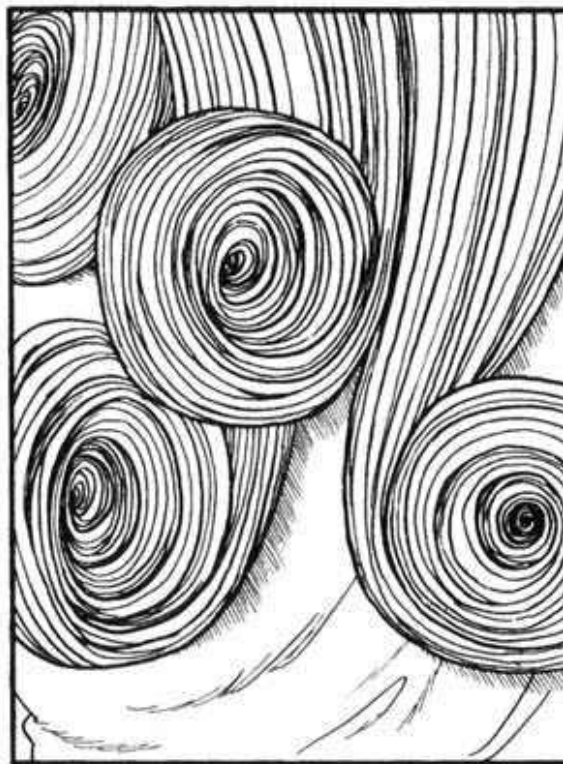
IT'S
ABOUT
MESMERISM.

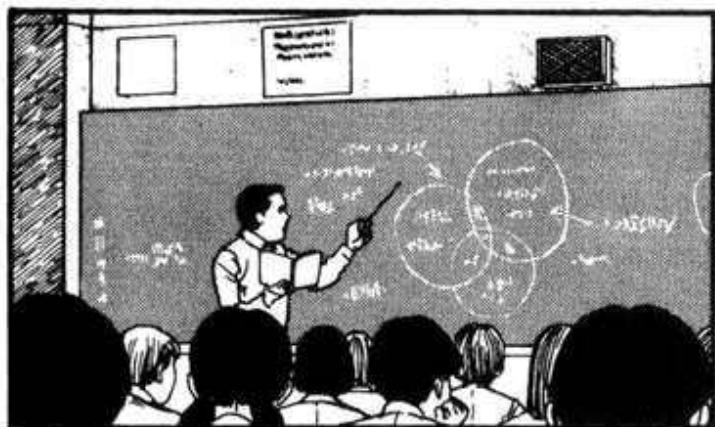
THEY
BOTH
HAVE
THE
POWER
TO
ATTRACT
PEOPLE.



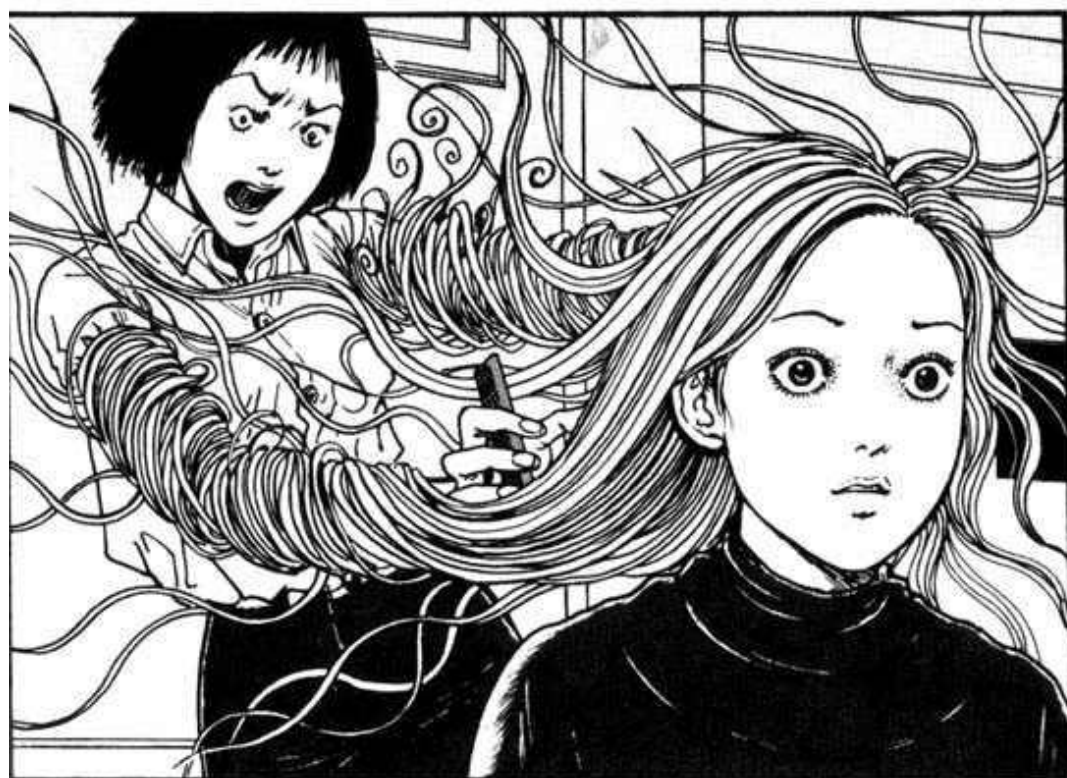




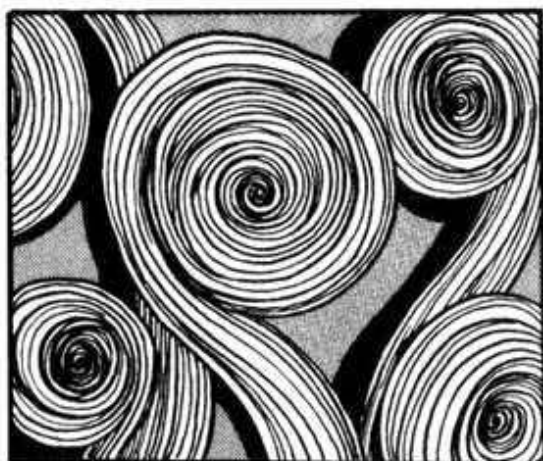


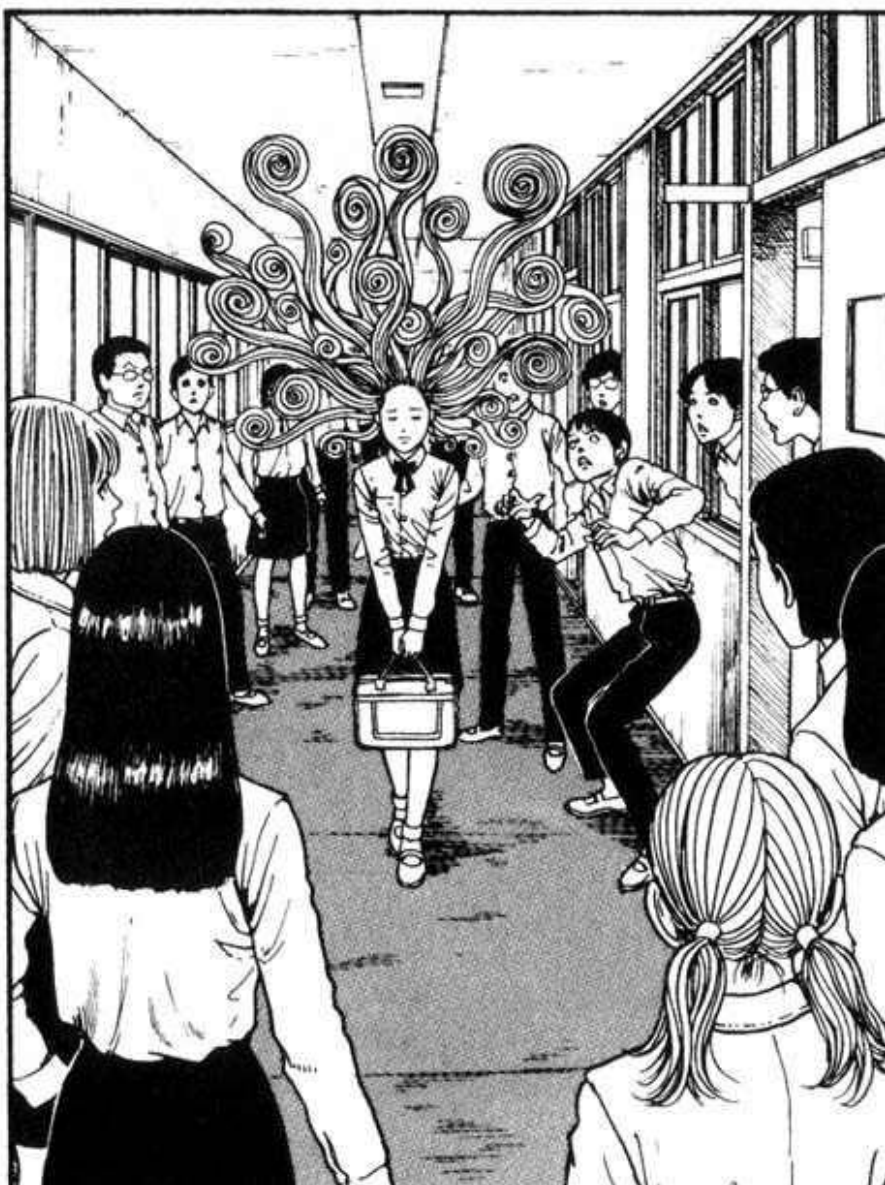
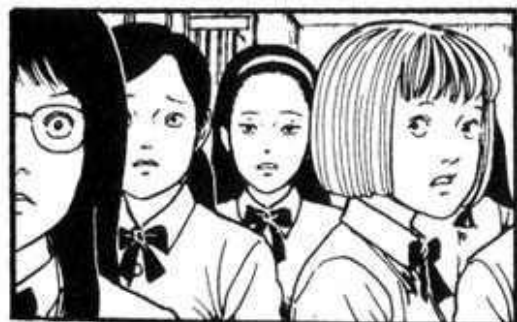


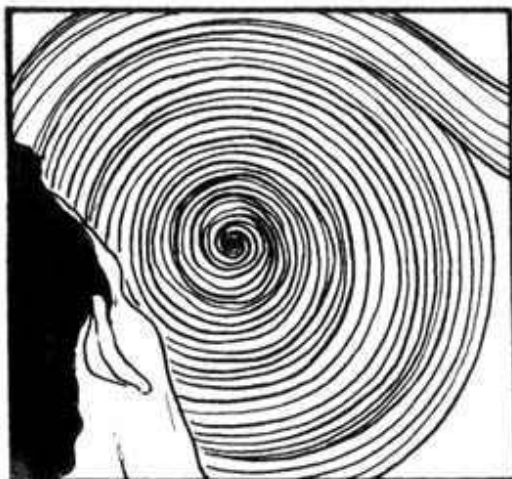


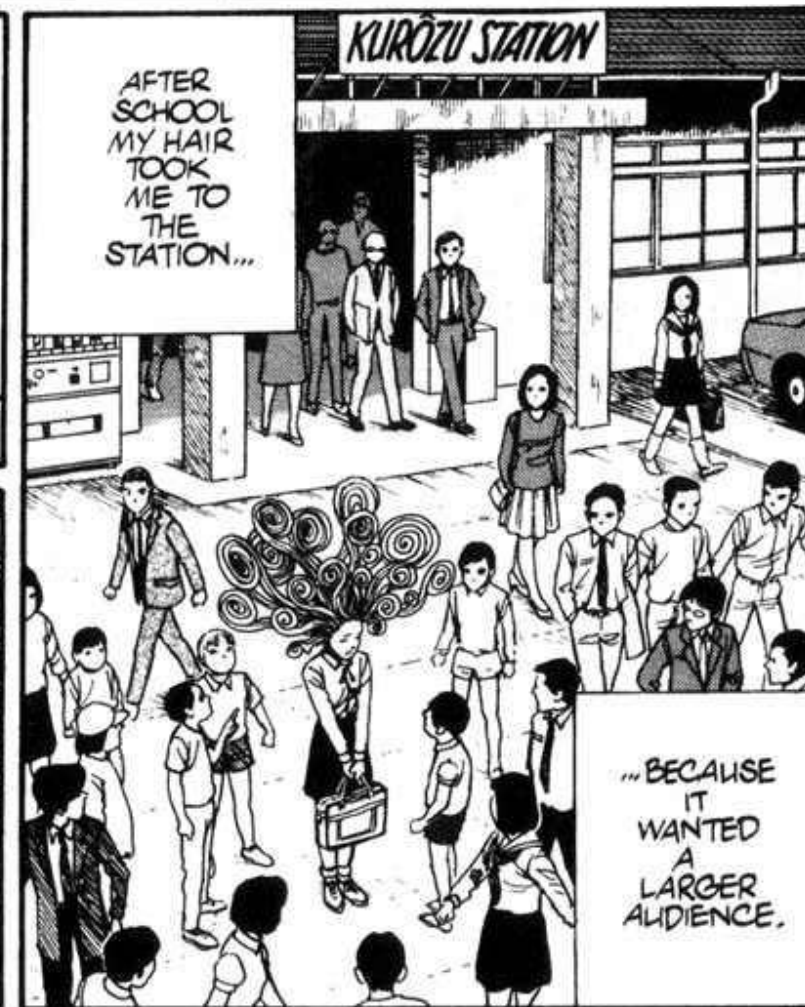
















I
ENDED
UP LIKE
THIS
BECAUSE
OF
THIS
TOWN.

BECAUSE
THIS
TOWN IS
CURSED
BY
THE
SPIRAL.

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



IS
MY
HAIR
DRAINING
ALL
MY
STRENGTH?

MY
HAIR
KEPT
ON...

...GROWING
AND
GROWING.



GOOD
MORNING
KIRIE!

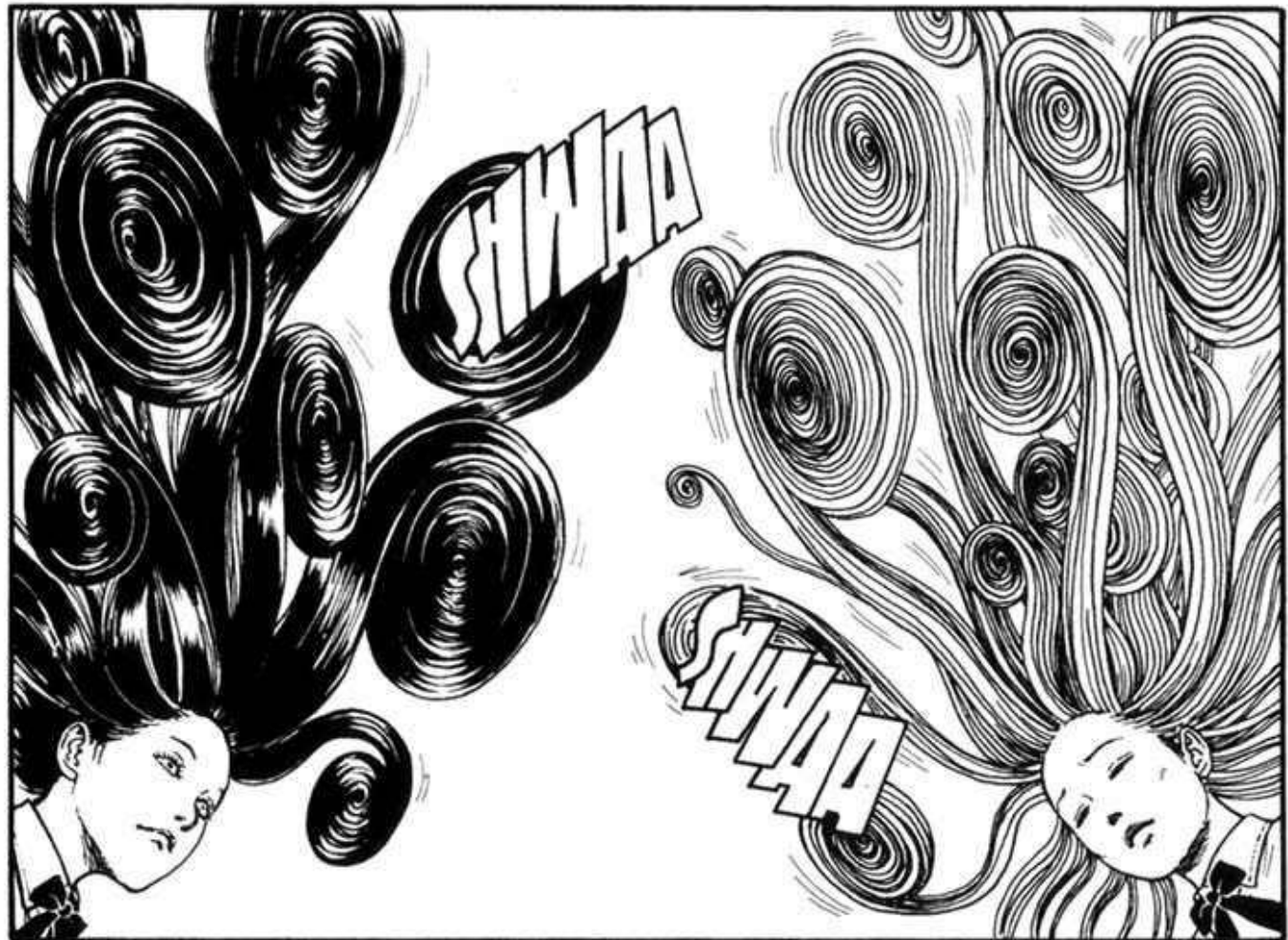
LOOK
AT
ME!

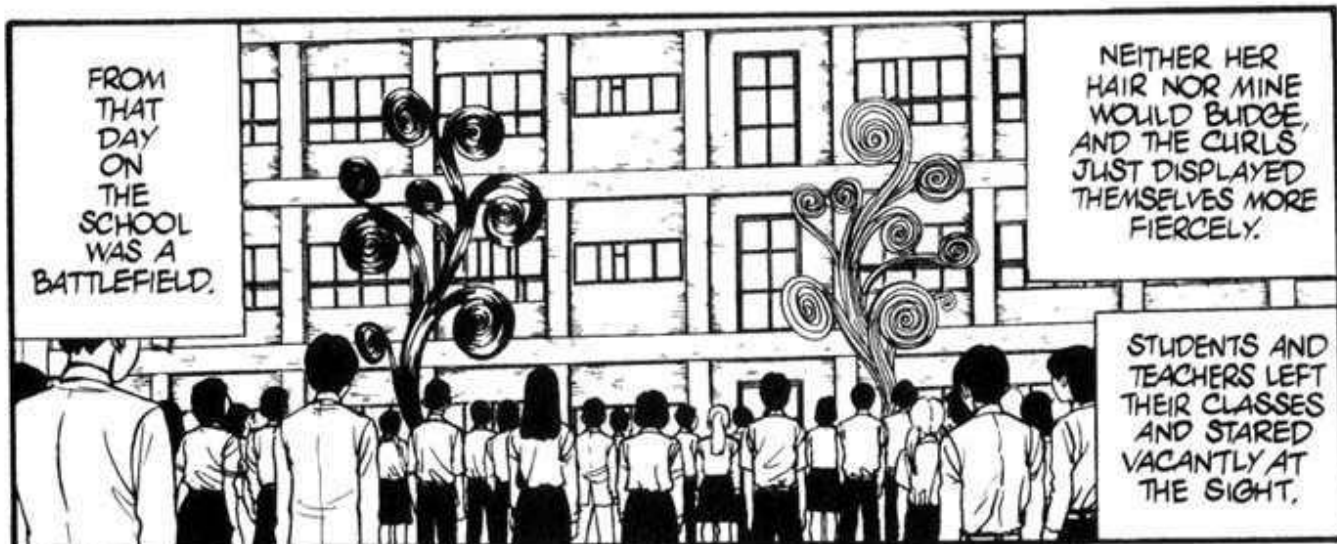


WOW!

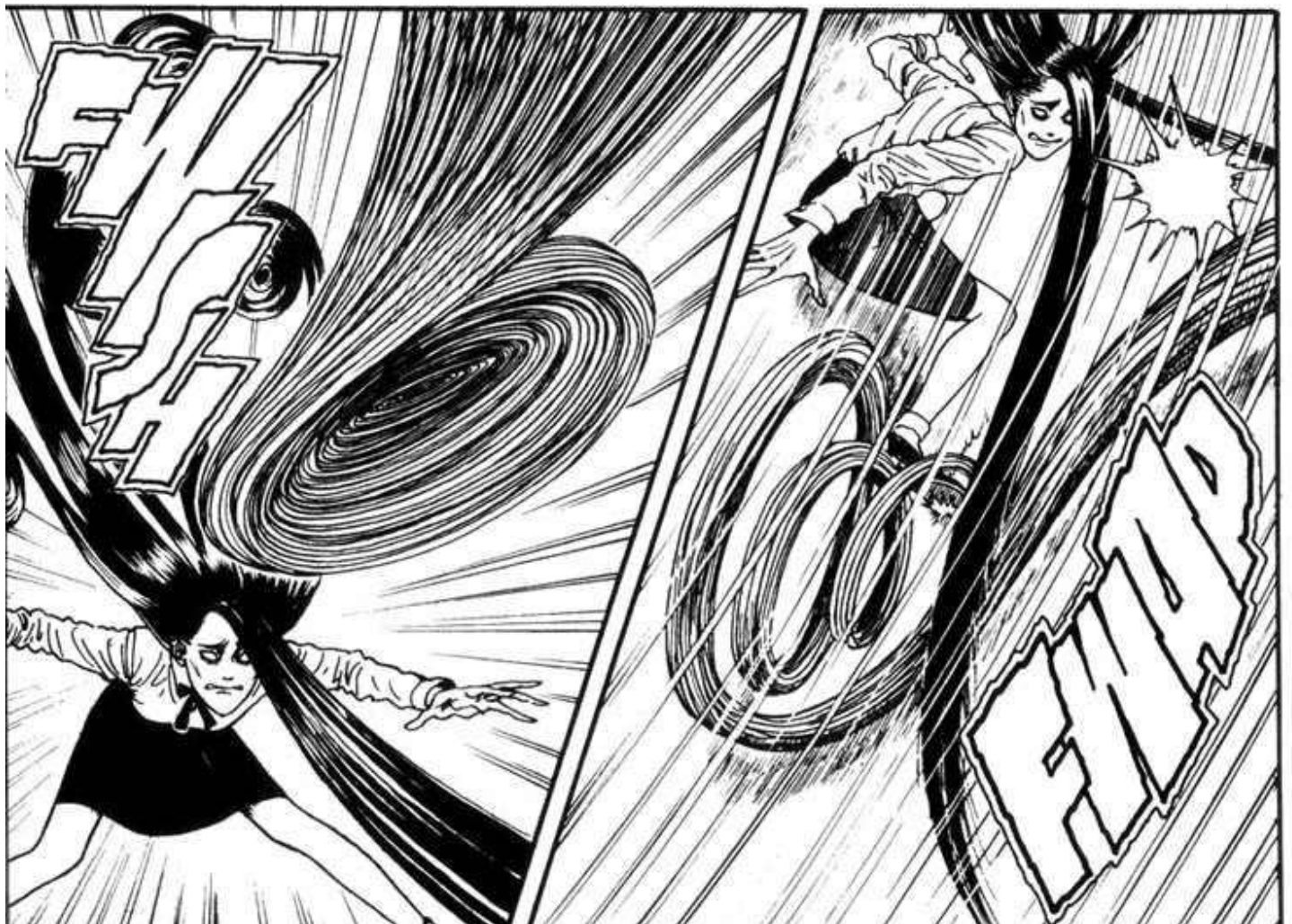
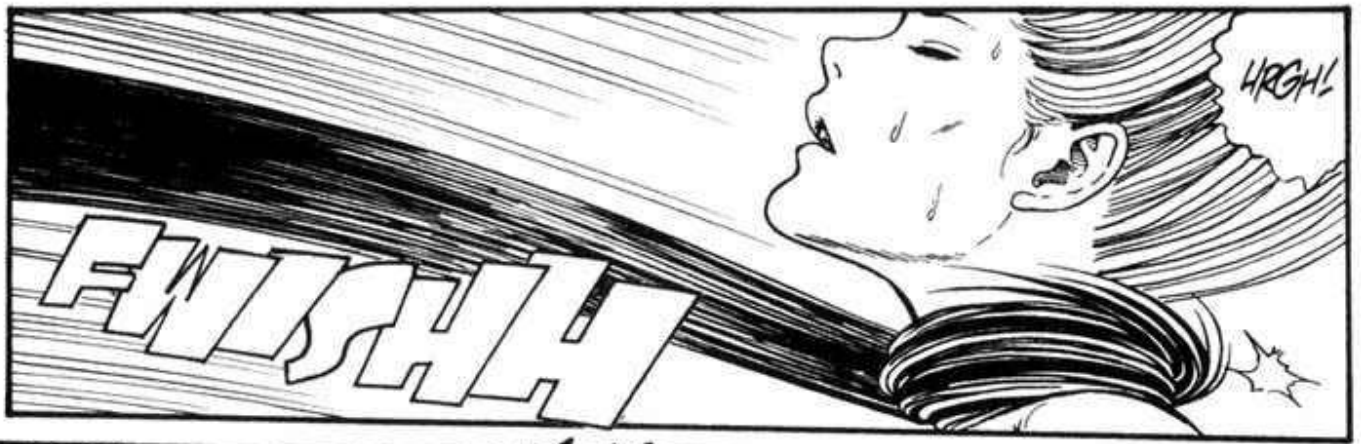


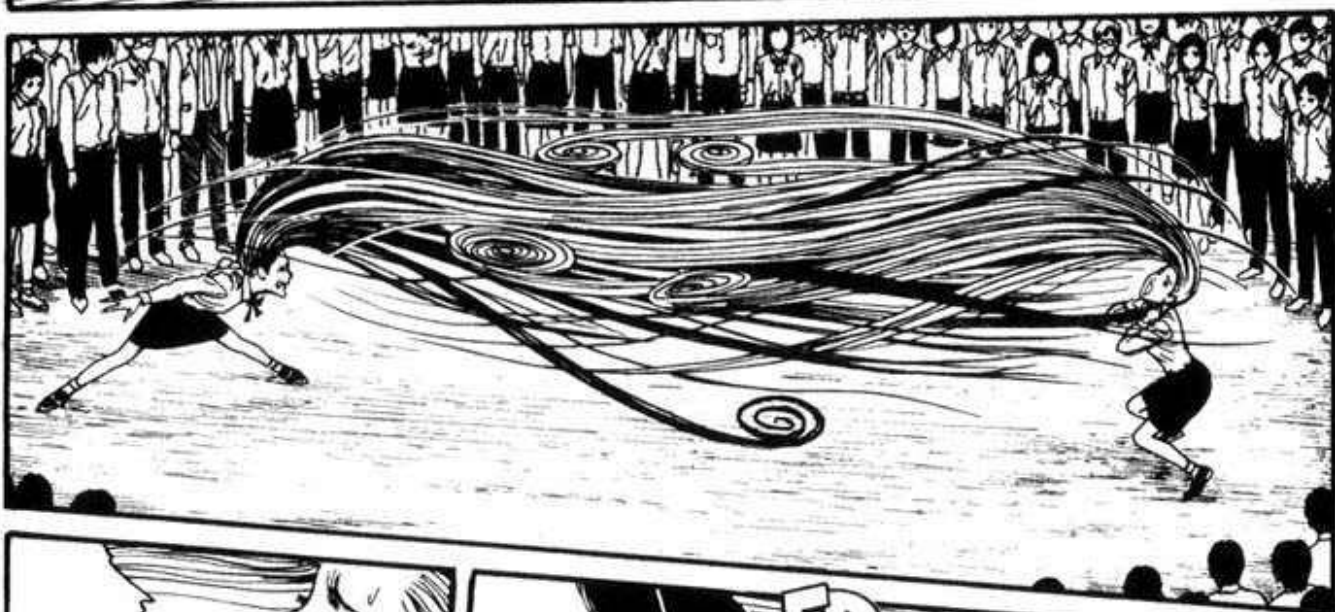
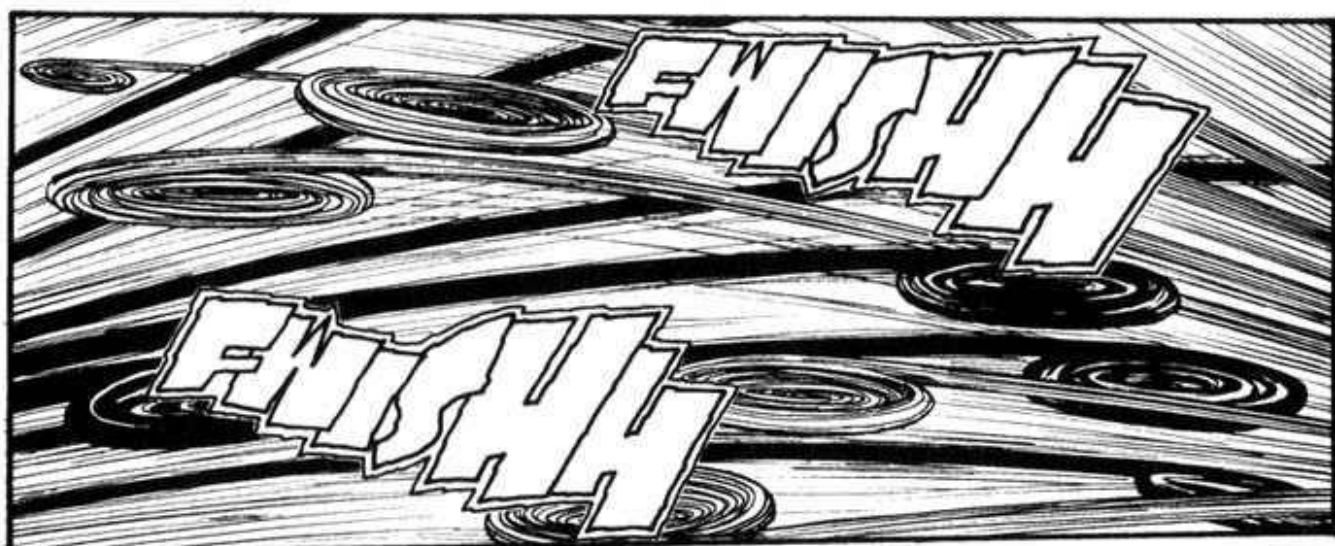




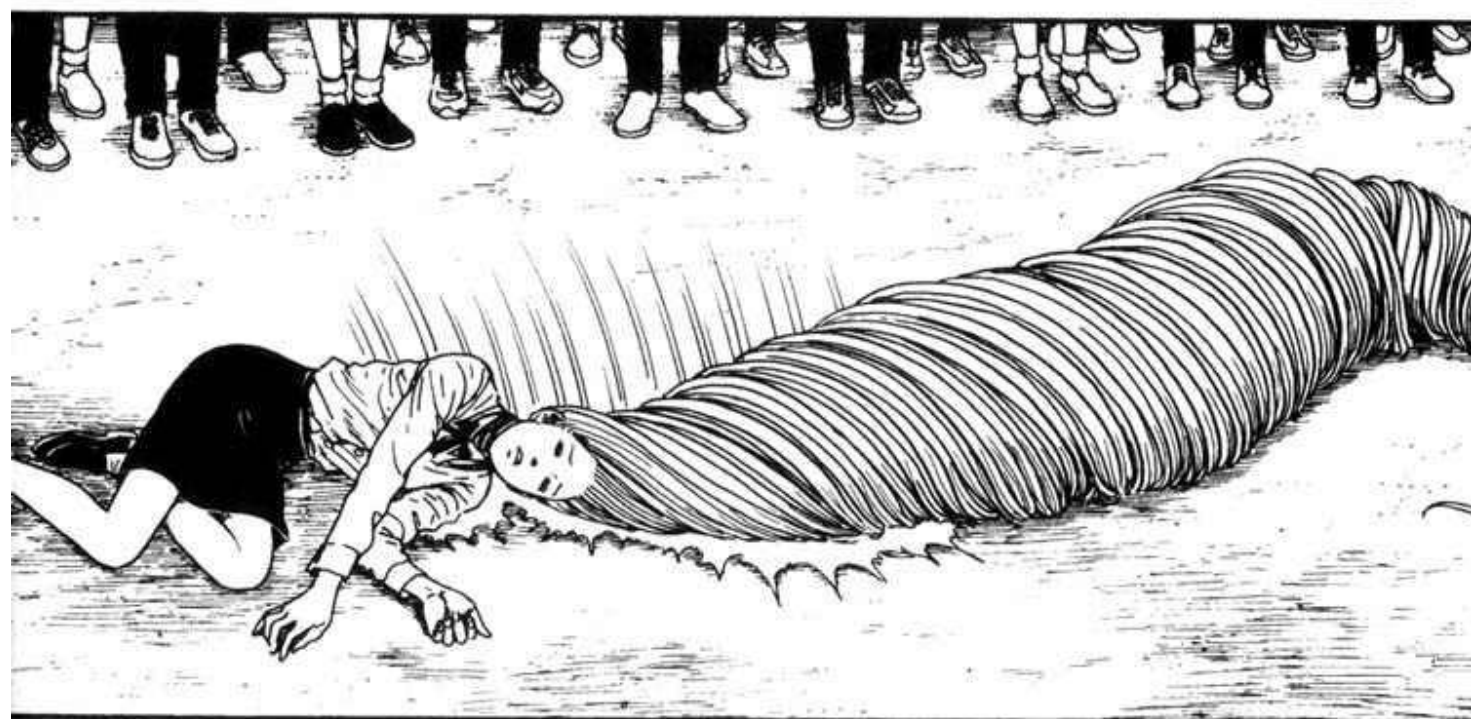
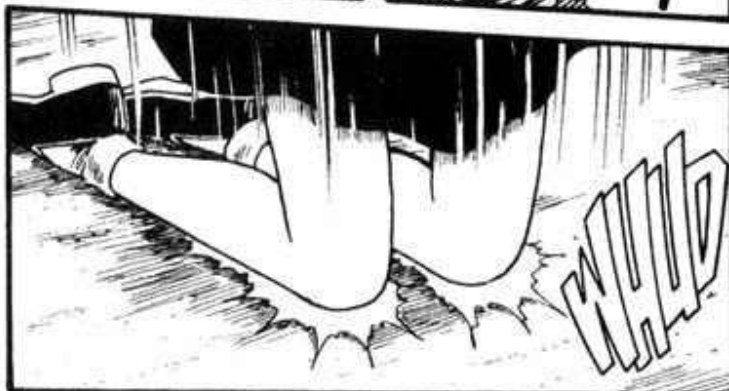










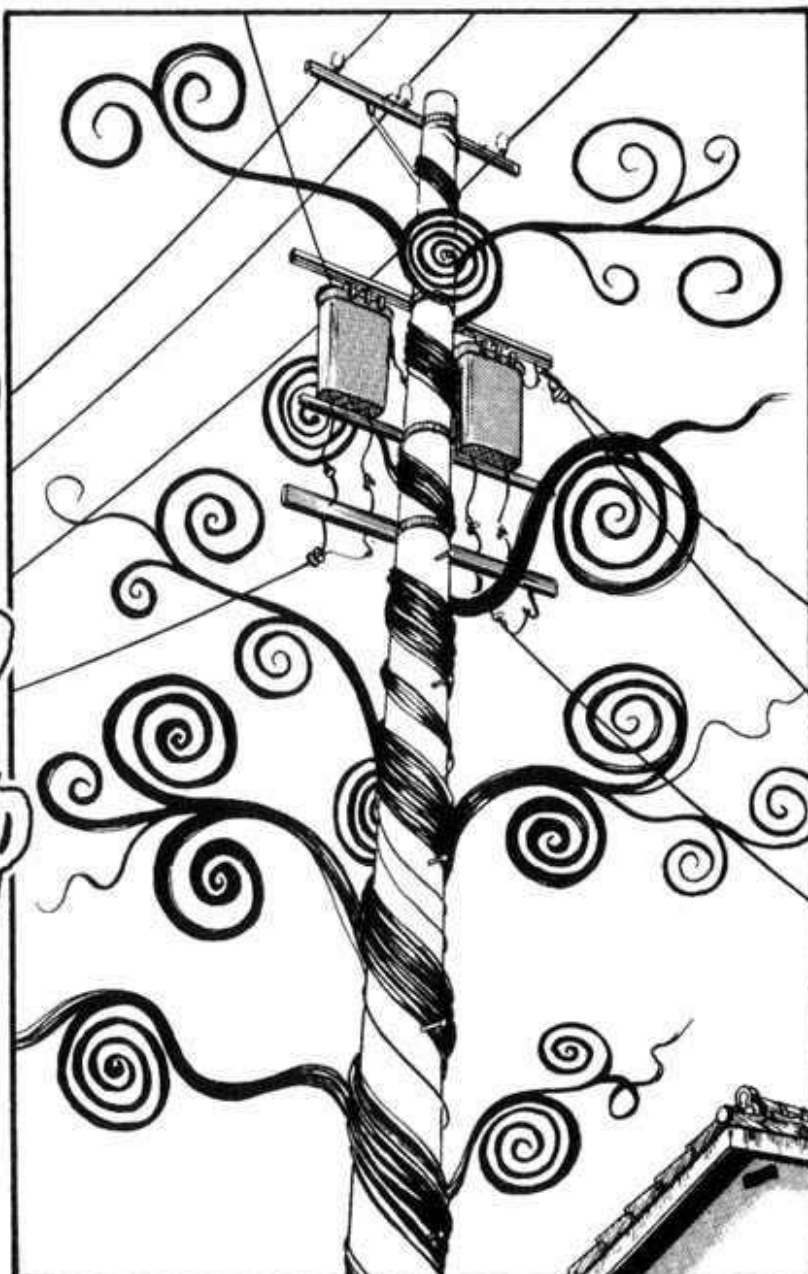


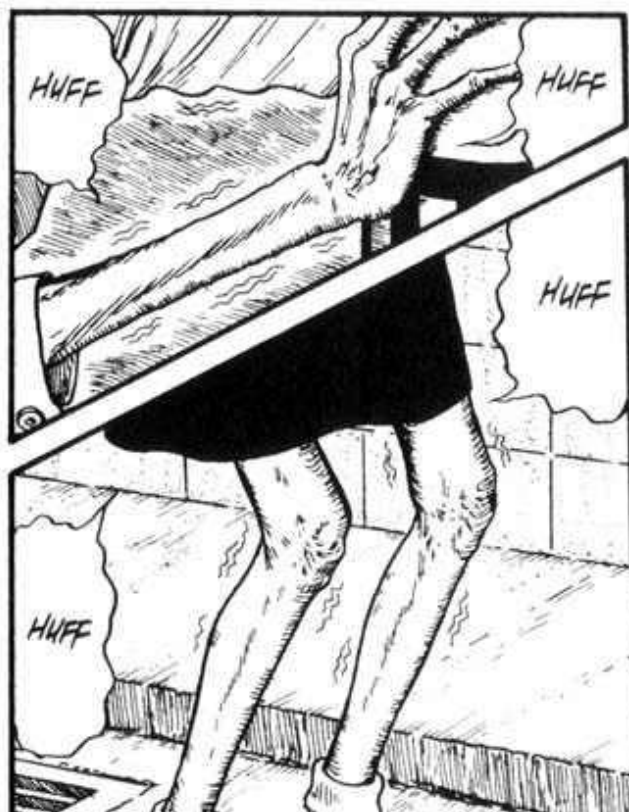
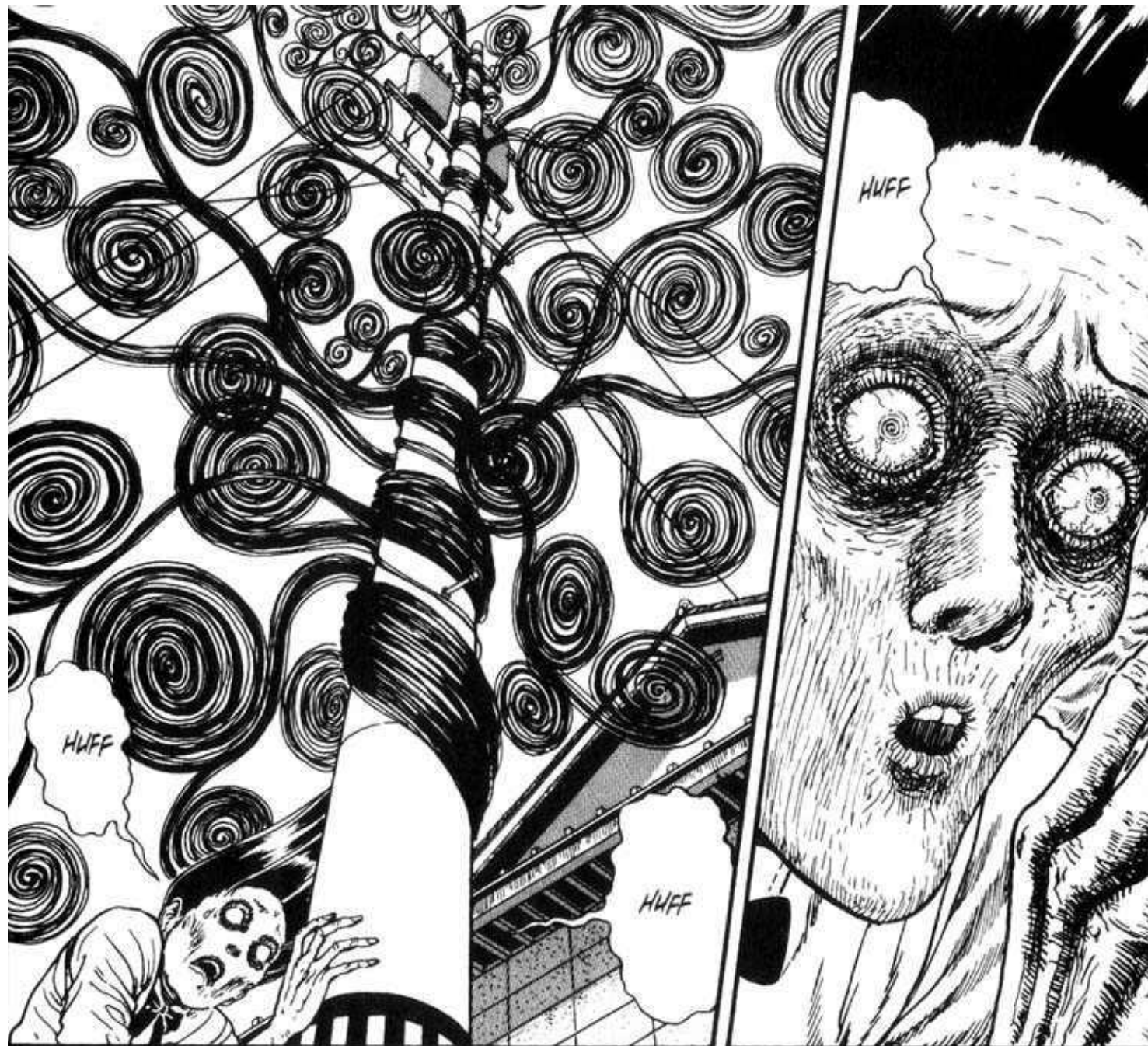














HER HAIR
REMAINED ON
THE TELEPHONE
POLE...
DISPLAYING
ITSELF...
FOR
SEVERAL
HOURS.

To Be Continued...