

# THE LION IN THE MANGA LIBRARY 獅子藏匿的書屋

\* 2021 Golden Comic Award, Grand Prize

*A young woman who works liquidating the stock of manga rental shops has a secret past. A former child prodigy, her career as a tournament go player ended due to unfortunate circumstances. When another elite go player turns up at her door seeking a room to rent, the two begin an unusual friendship that helps each to resolve their conflicted relationship to the game.*

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A young woman who has made a career out of assisting defunct manga rental shops auction off their wares hides a secret past. In a former life she was a go prodigy who began competing professionally at age 12. Then, for reasons not publicly known, she quit the professional go circuit.

One evening, a stranger shows up at her door asking to rent a room. The young man claims to be a former go professional, and, indeed, he is a remarkably talented player. As the two adjust to life together as roommates, they are surprised to find themselves healing from the burnout they experienced as elite players – but a far more unexpected outcome still awaits them.

In preparation for undertaking this work, artist Xiaodao did extensive research by interviewing competitive go players. The result is a refreshingly original graphic novel that merges a realistic portrait of the professional go community with a tension-filled plot, all the while sprinkling in nostalgia for an era when manga rental shops formed the hub of Taiwanese youth culture. No matter their degree of familiarity with the classic strategy game, readers will love this go-themed story about finding oneself and finding companionship.



**Publisher:** Dyna Books

**Date:** 2/2021

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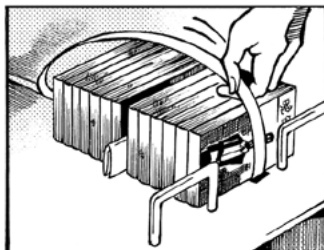
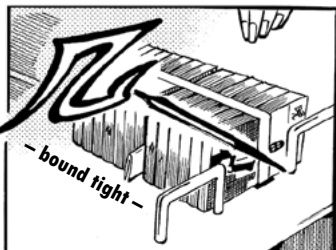
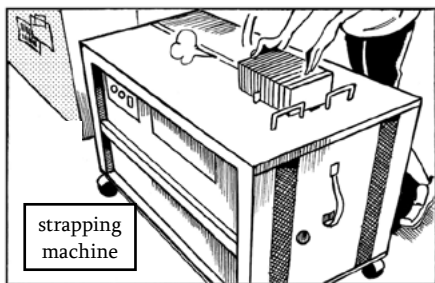
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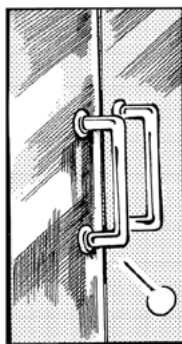
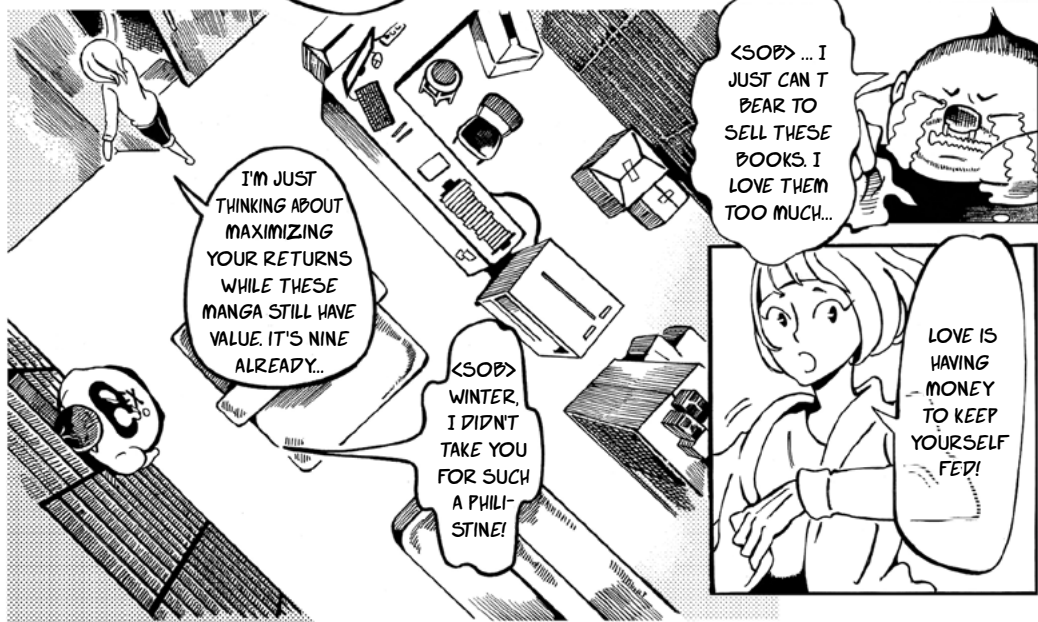
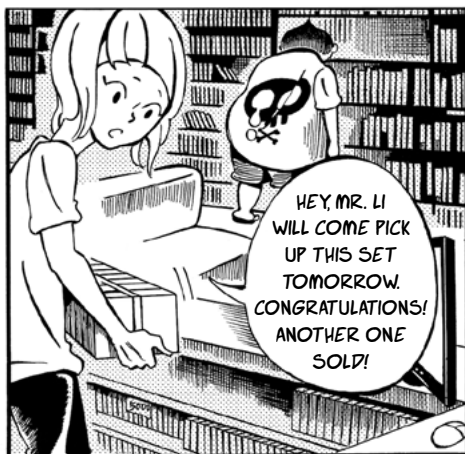
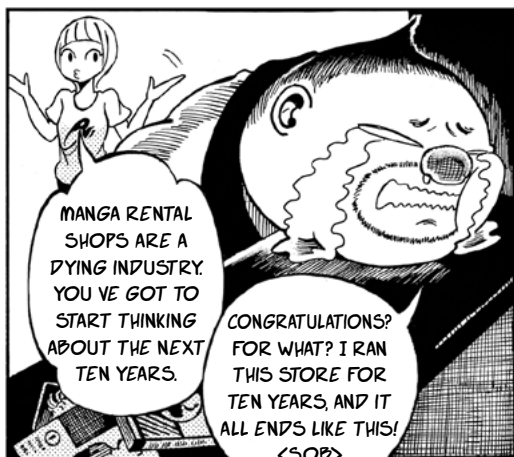
**Pages:** 186

**Volume:** 1 (ongoing)

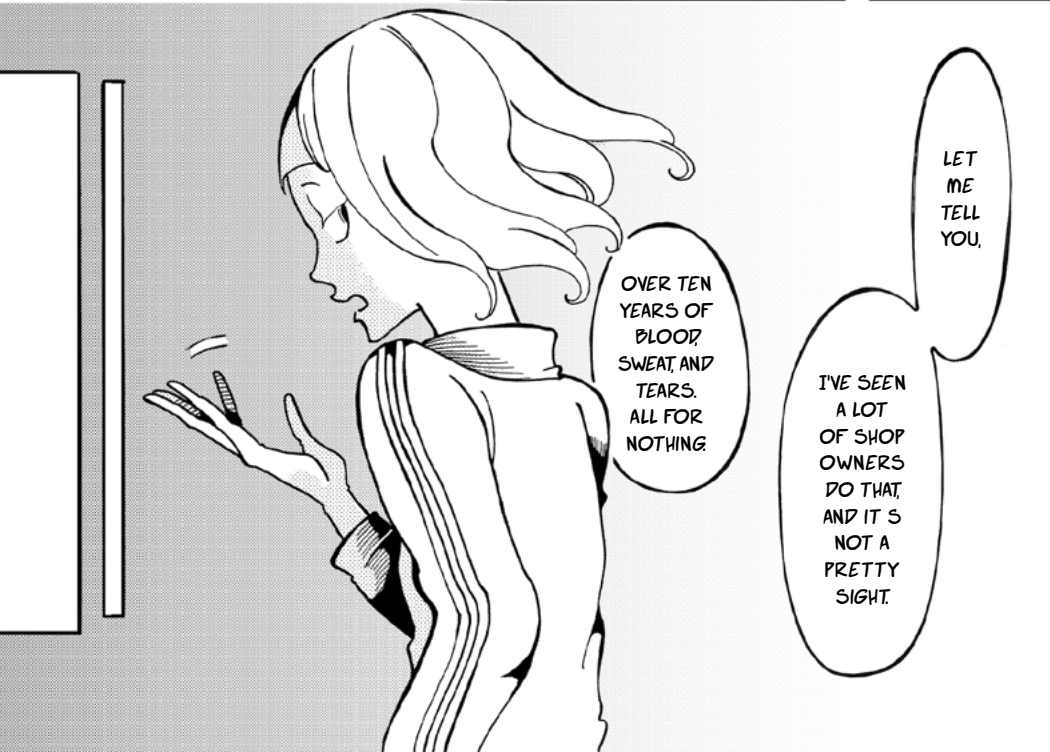
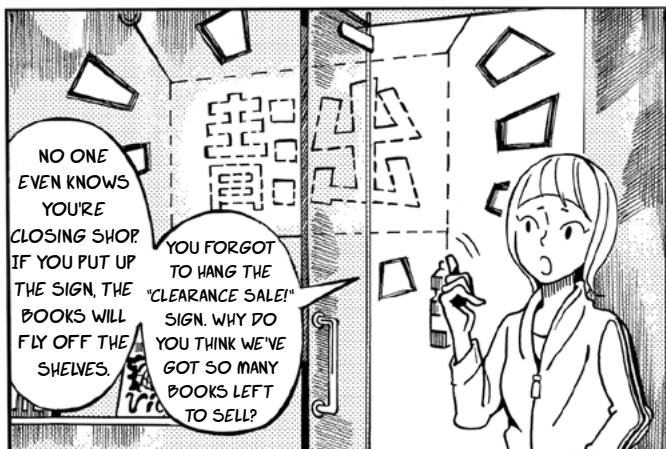
## Xiaodao 小島

Cutting edge comic book artist Xiaodao is celebrated for her unique and immediately recognizable style. *The Lion in the Manga Library* is her first commercial graphic novel.



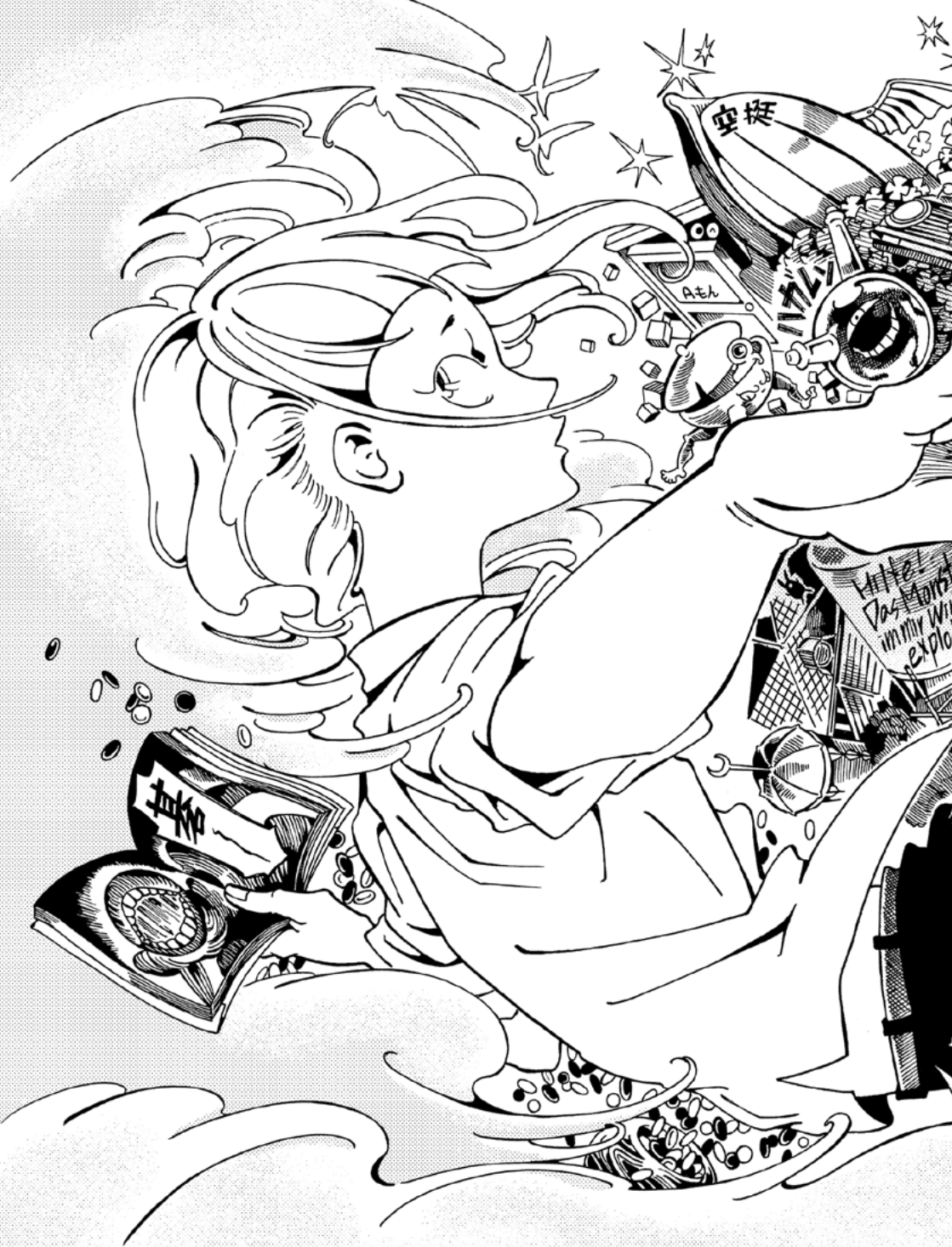








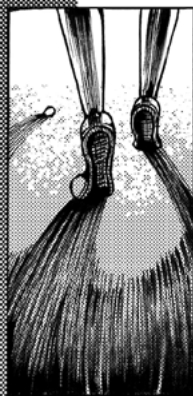
Chapter 1






MOST OF THEM RENTED OUT MANGA, NOVELS, AND DVD'S. SOME ALSO SOLD SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS.

THE LATE 90'S AND EARLY 2000'S WERE THE GOLDEN AGE OF TAIWAN'S MANGA RENTAL SHOPS. AT THE TIME THERE WERE OVER 4000 OF THEM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.



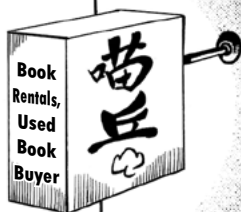
AND SLOWLY MANGA RENTAL STORES WERE DISPLACED AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TAIWAN. WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN AN AVALANCHE OF STORE CLOSURES.



ADD TO THAT THE IMPACT OF RAMPANT ONLINE PIRACY AND COMPETING SOURCES OF ENTERTAINMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PROLIFERATION OF SMART PHONES...

IN RECENT YEARS, INCREASES IN URBAN RENTS AND THE COST OF GOODS ADDED TO THE OVERHEAD OF THESE SMALL STORES.



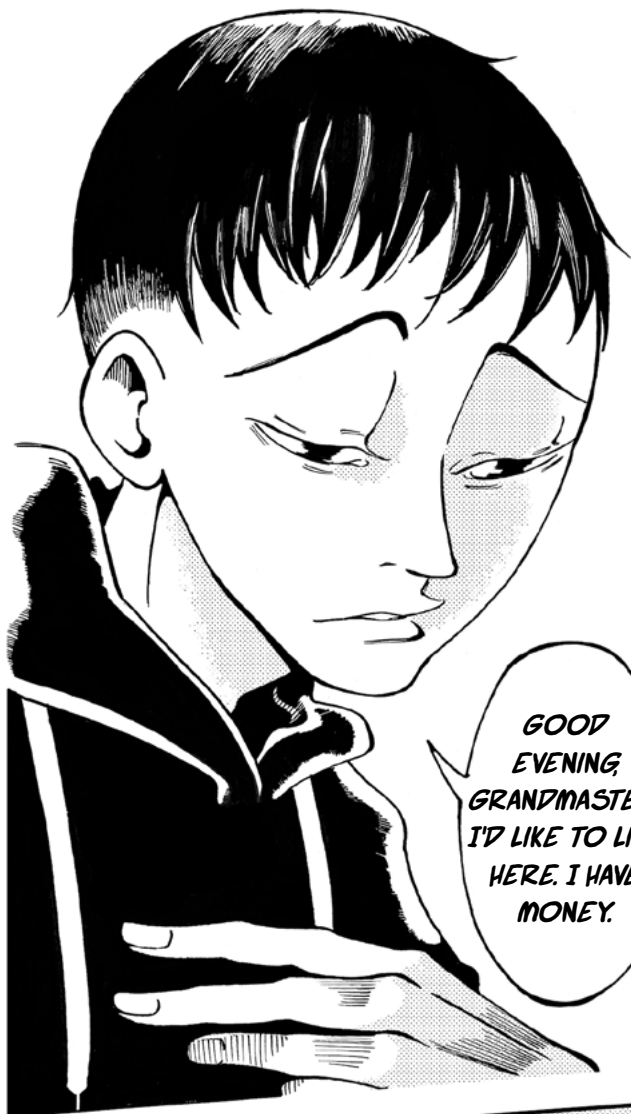






WHO IS THIS GUY? A CRIMINAL?  
A PERVERT? WHY DID HE CALL  
ME GRANDMASTER?  
IS IT SOME KIND OF CODE  
WORD? WHO COMES TO RENT A  
ROOM THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

WHO IS HE?  
AND WHAT DOES HE WANT!?



GOOD  
EVENING,  
GRANDMASTER.  
I'D LIKE TO LIVE  
HERE. I HAVE  
MONEY.







OOOOF!

EEEE-YAAAAA!



EEEEK!



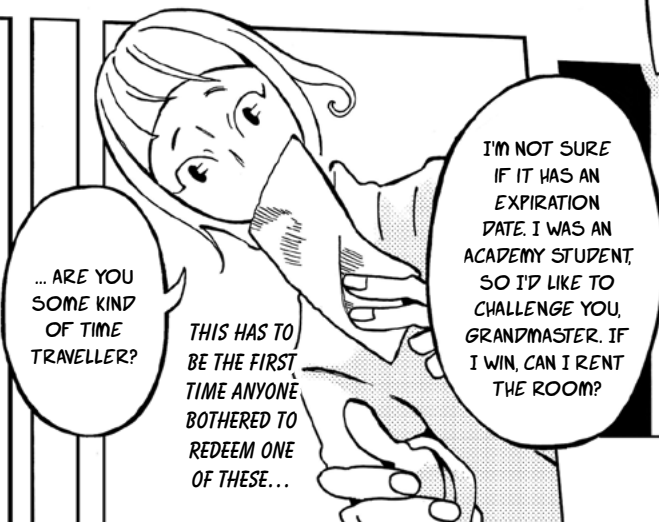
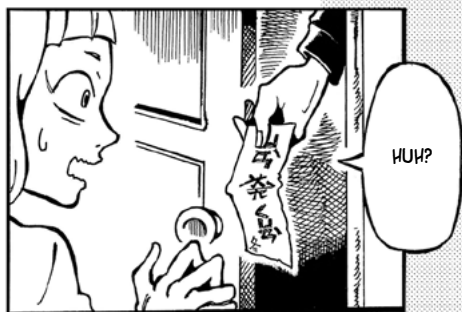
QUICK!  
CLOSE THE  
DOOR AND  
CALL THE  
POLICE!



THIS GUY MUST  
BE DANGEROUS!!!

EVEN A DEBT  
COLLECTOR  
WOULDN'T DO  
THAT!





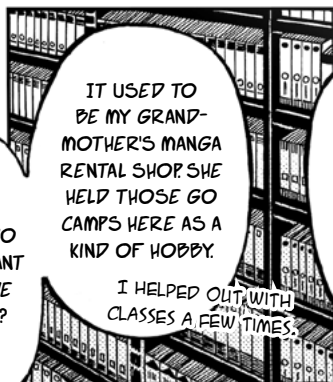


I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RENT THE ROOM FOR A WHILE. SINCE YOU'RE A FORMER STUDENT, OF COURSE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY.



I HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF MY CURRENT PLACE. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME HERE, SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO LIVE SOMEPLACE FAMILIAR.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO LIVE HERE?



IT USED TO BE MY GRAND-MOTHER'S MANGA RENTAL SHOP. SHE HELD THOSE GO CAMPS HERE AS A KIND OF HOBBY.

I HELPED OUT WITH CLASSES A FEW TIMES.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BOOKS HERE. I NOTICED THAT WHEN I USED TO COME PLAY GO.



I LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SOME POINTERS.

OOF MY STOMACH HURTS.

I'VE NEVER BEEN CHALLENGED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THIS SHOULD BE AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE.

THERE SHOULD STILL BE A GO SET HERE SOMEWHERE...



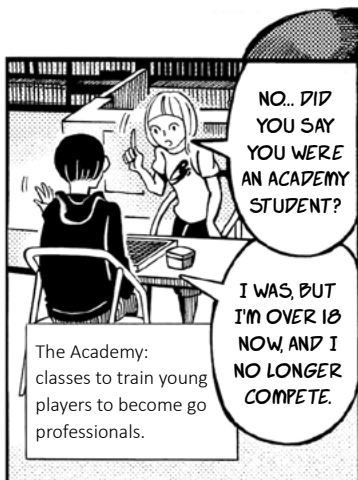
I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER ANYMORE. JUST CALL ME WINTER.

IT FEELS OLD WHEN YOU CALL ME THAT...

DO YOU STILL PLAY, GRAND-MASTER?



FOUND IT! IT'S ALL COVERED IN DUST.

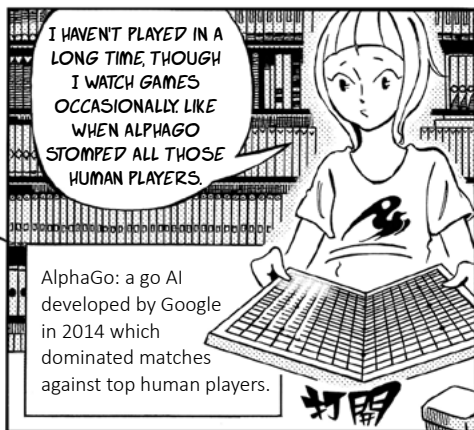


NO... DID YOU SAY YOU WERE AN ACADEMY STUDENT?

I WAS, BUT I'M OVER 18 NOW, AND I NO LONGER COMPETE.

The Academy: classes to train young players to become go professionals.

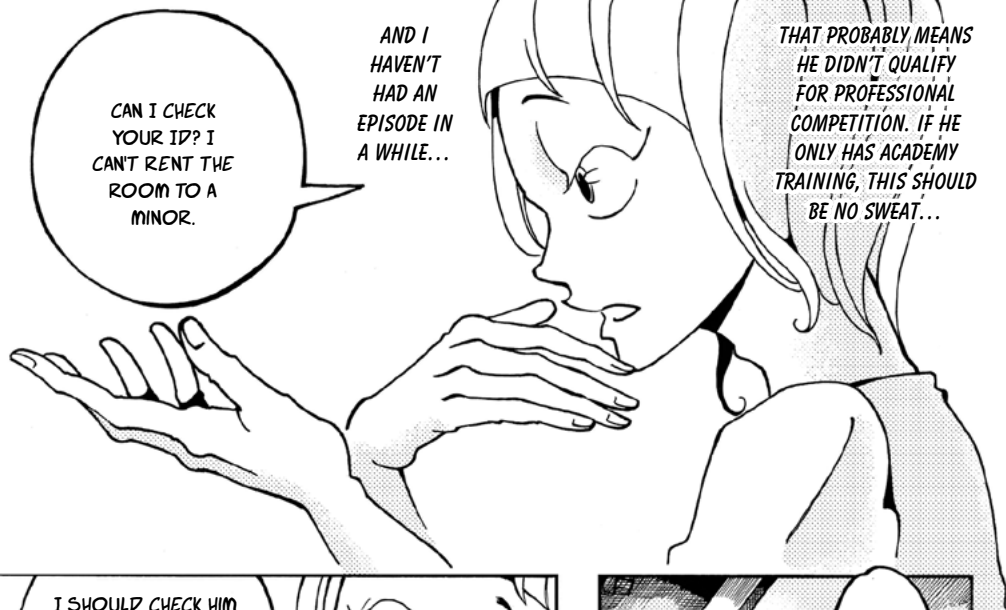
GRAN... I MEAN, WINTER, HAVE YOU WATCHED ANY RECENT PROFESSIONAL MATCHES?



I HAVEN'T PLAYED IN A LONG TIME, THOUGH I WATCH GAMES OCCASIONALLY. LIKE WHEN ALPHAGO STOMPED ALL THOSE HUMAN PLAYERS.

AlphaGo: a go AI developed by Google in 2014 which dominated matches against top human players.

打倒



CAN I CHECK YOUR ID? I CAN'T RENT THE ROOM TO A MINOR.

AND I HAVEN'T HAD AN EPISODE IN A WHILE...

THAT PROBABLY MEANS HE DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION. IF HE ONLY HAS ACADEMY TRAINING, THIS SHOULD BE NO SWEAT...



I SHOULD CHECK HIM OUT JUST TO BE SAFE... FANG CHIU-HSUN... LOOKS LIKE HE'S NEVER PLAYED PROFESSIONALLY.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S PLAY!



SURE.

A NATIONAL HEALTH CARD HE'S STILL A KID IN THE PICTURE. NAME: FANG CHIU-HSUN. TWENTY YEARS' OLD FOUR YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME.





UPPER RIGHT  
STAR POINT\*.

I'LL USE AN  
APP TO KEEP  
TIME. BASIC TIME:  
TWO HOURS.  
ADDITIONAL TIME:  
THREE ONE  
MINUTE  
MOVES.\*



GOT  
IT.

I'LL GIVE  
YOU THE  
FIRST MOVE,  
SINCE I'VE  
PLAYED PRO-  
FESSIONALLY.

THANKS.

STARTING  
BLACK  
TIMER.

STARTING  
WHITE TIMER.

\* Once a player has used up their basic time of two hours, they may take an unlimited number of moves of less than 30 seconds each. If they need more time, they can use up to one minute, but in doing so they use up an "additional move". When all additional moves are used up, they must make all remaining moves in under 30 seconds or forfeit.

\* Star point: A common starting move. Located four points down, and four points over from the corner.

IS A  
CONTEST OF  
OCCUPYING  
TERRITORY.

White territory:  
19 "eyes"

Black territory:  
38 "eyes"

GO  
(JAPANESE),  
OR WEIQI  
(CHINESE),

I NEVER  
IMAGINED I'D  
START PLAYING  
AGAIN UNDER  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
LIKE THESE.

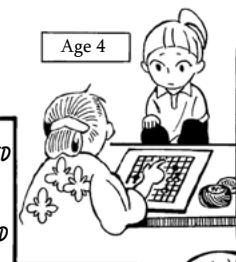
INTER-  
ESTING...



I WAS  
A CHILD  
PRODIGY  
OF GO.

Age 12

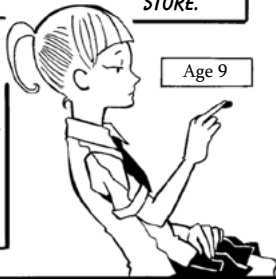
AT NINE I ENTERED  
ONE OF THE GO  
ACADEMIES. AT  
TWELVE I QUALIFIED  
TO COMPETE  
PROFESSIONALLY.



Age 4

I WAS ONLY  
FOUR WHEN MY  
GRANDMOTHER  
BEGAN  
TEACHING ME  
GO IN HER  
STORE.

MY TALENT  
SOON REVEALED  
ITSELF, AND I  
FELT NATURALLY  
DRAWN TO  
LEARNING  
MORE.

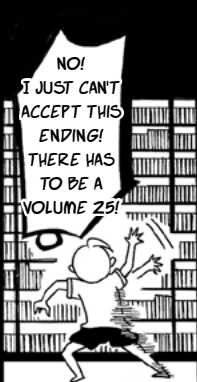


Age 9

THE YEAR I  
STARTED PLAYING  
PROFESSIONALLY, I  
ALSO HELPED OUT  
MY GRANDMOTHER  
WITH HER GO  
SUMMER CAMPS.







THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I READ A MANGA. STARTED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.







AFTER THAT, MANGA BECAME MY WAY OF DEALING WITH THE STRESS OF PLAYING COMPETITIVE GO. WHETHER I WON OR LOST, I ALWAYS READ MANGA AFTER A TOURNAMENT.



THIS KID'S MOVES ARE PRETTY SMART. HOW COME HE COULDN'T QUALIFY TO PLAY PROFESSIONALLY?

I USED TO SPEND HOURS EVERY DAY PRACTICING GO. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ESTABLISH MYSELF AS A TOP PLAYER.

SHE'S A TRUE MASTER. NO WONDER SHE WAS CHAMPION FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW.

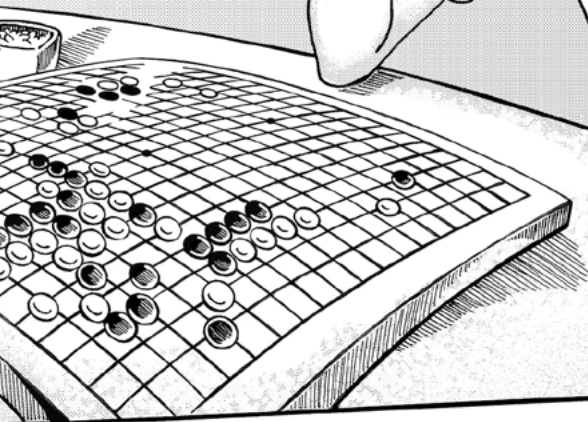
THE PIECES ARE FLYING NOW. JOCKEYING FOR POSITION, FORMING TANGLED PATTERNS...

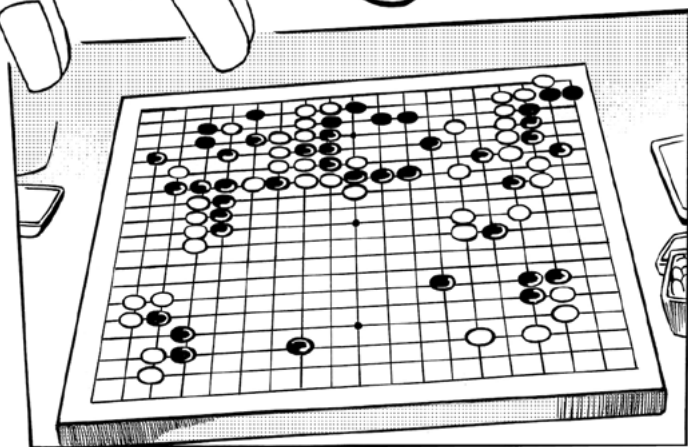
FROM ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES AND CONFLICTS, YOU HAVE TO DISTILL THE ONE ESSENTIAL MOVE...

I LIVED IN SUCH A NARROW SPACE, ENDLESSLY CALCULATING GO STRATEGIES AND SCENARIOS. BUT MANGA LIBERATED ME.



MANGA AND  
GO BOTH  
CONTAIN UNTOLD  
POSSIBILITIES, ALL  
EVOLVING OUT OF  
A SIMPLE GRID OF  
BLACK AND WHITE.







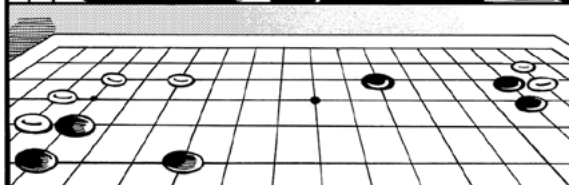
SHE MAY HAVE  
LEFT PROFESSIONAL  
COMPETITION,  
BUT SHE'S STILL A  
GRANDMASTER.

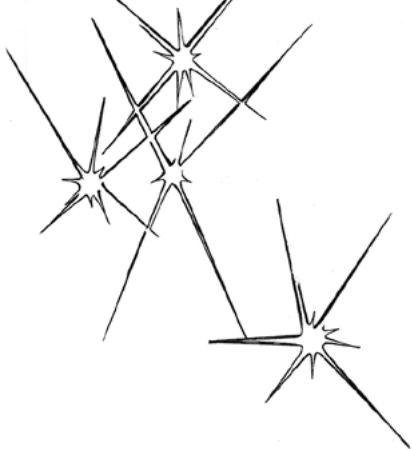
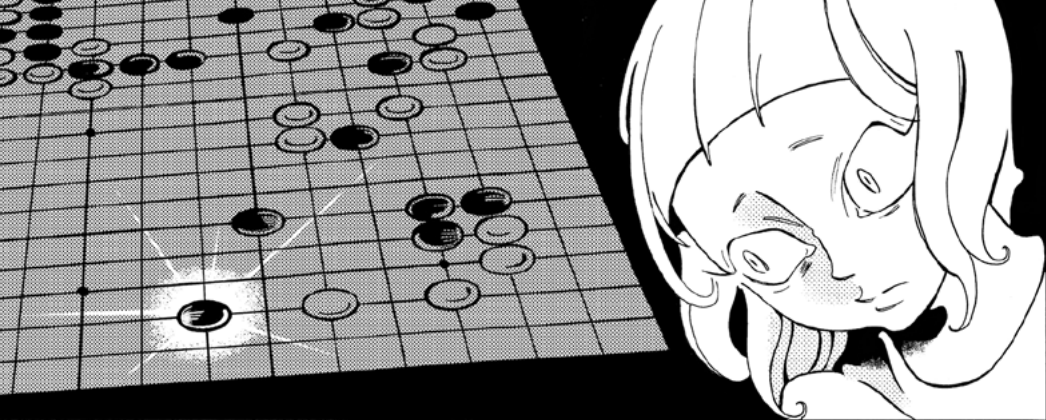
CALM AND STEADY...

MY BASIC  
TIME IS UP.  
I CAN'T GET  
CAUGHT UP IN THE  
COMPLEXITIES.  
KEEP IT  
SIMPLE!

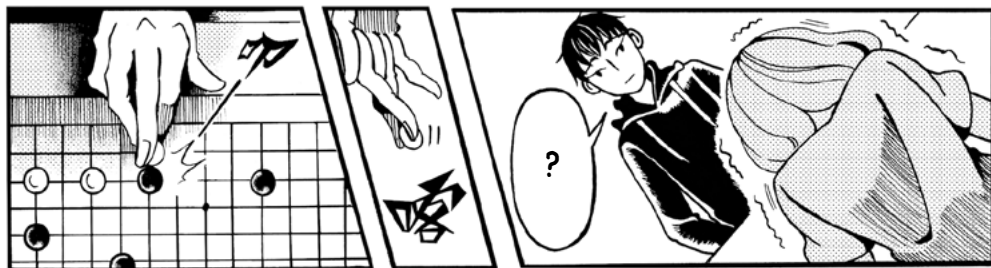
WHY WOULD A  
MASTER LIKE HER  
QUIT PLAYING?

BLACK'S  
BASIC TIME  
IS OVER.  
THREE  
ADDITIONAL  
MOVES OVER  
THIRTY  
SECONDS  
ARE  
ALLOWED.





THAT'S WRONG!







THE  
VITAL  
POINT!\*

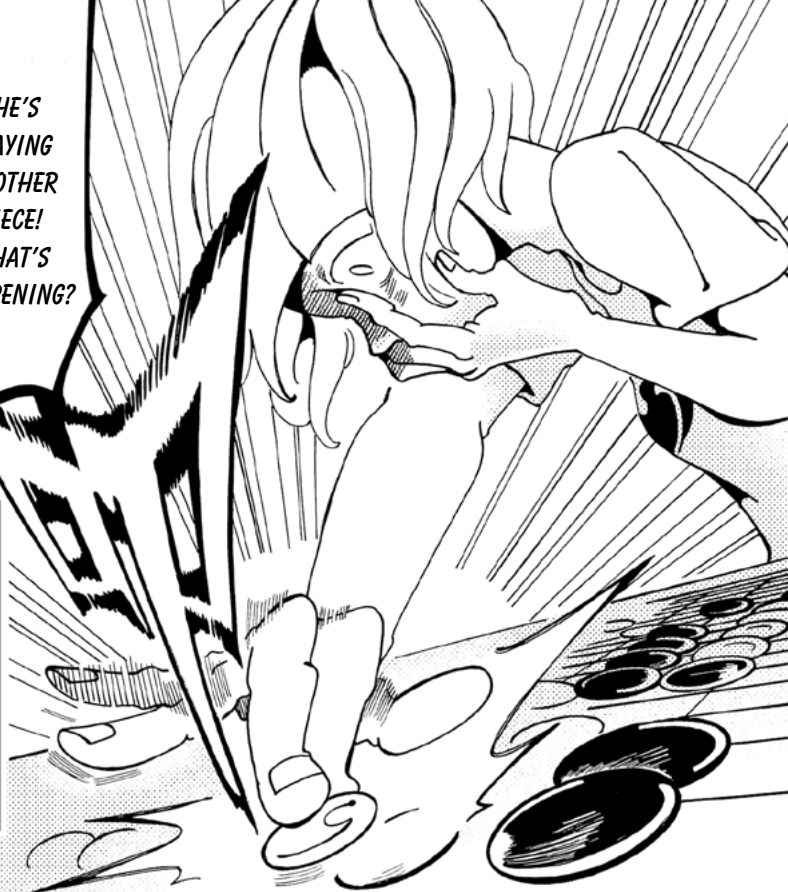
HUH? WHAT  
VITAL POINT?  
DID SHE JUST  
MOVE MY STONE?  
AM I SEEING  
THINGS?

umm...

\* Vital point; a key point that will greatly influence the strength of a player's position.



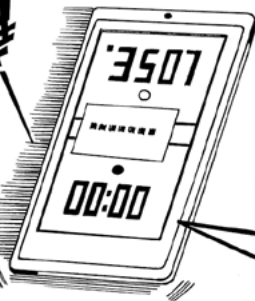
SHE'S  
PLAYING  
ANOTHER  
PIECE!  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?



POSITION  
CORRECTED  
COMMENCING  
ATTACK.



THE  
TIMER'S  
DONE...

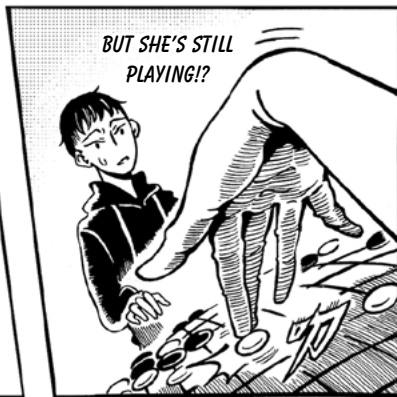
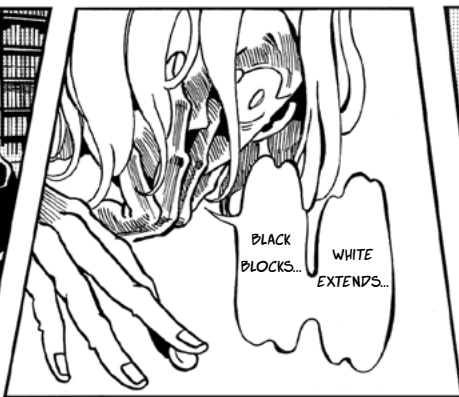


WHITE'S  
TIME IS  
UP. WHITE  
LOSES.

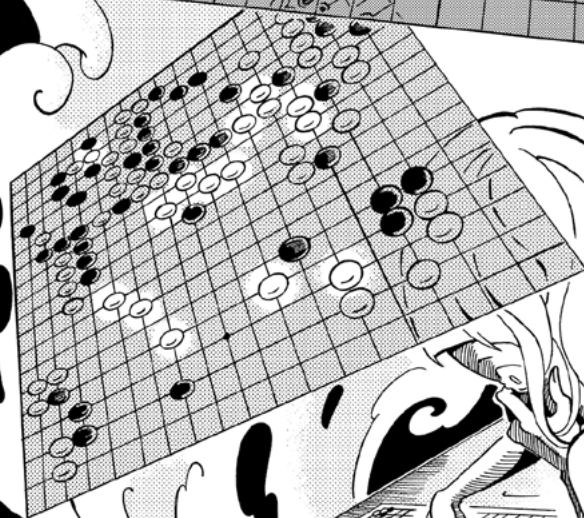
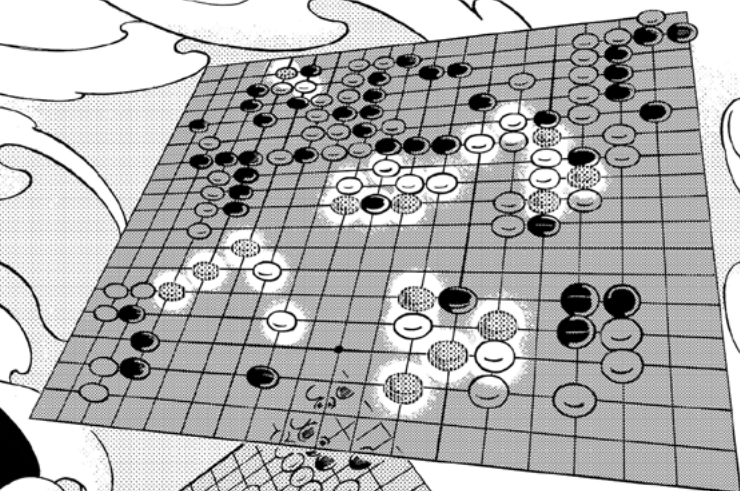


POSITION  
CORRECTED?  
IS THAT  
WHY SHE  
MOVED MY  
PIECE?

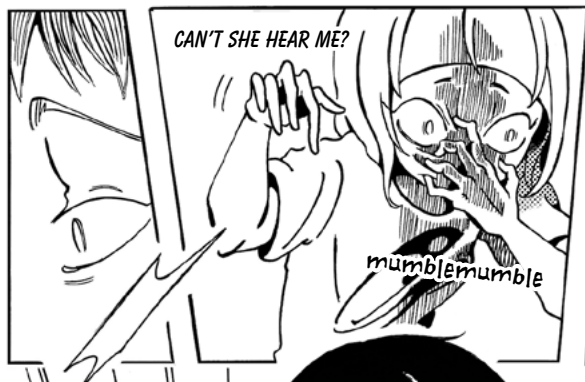


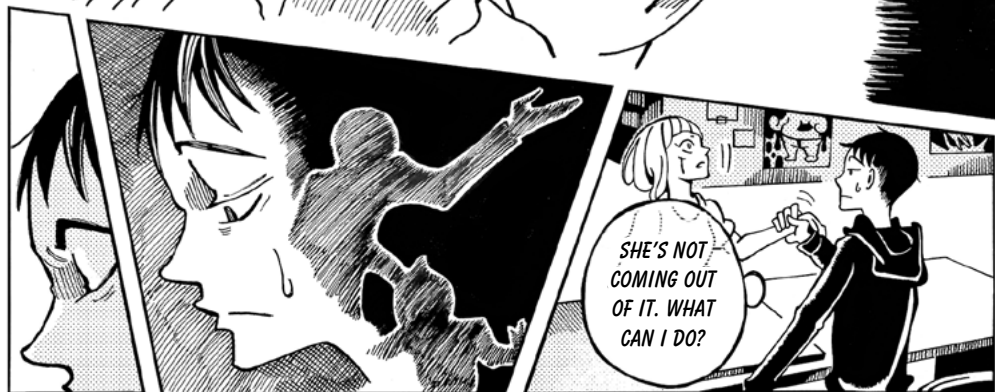
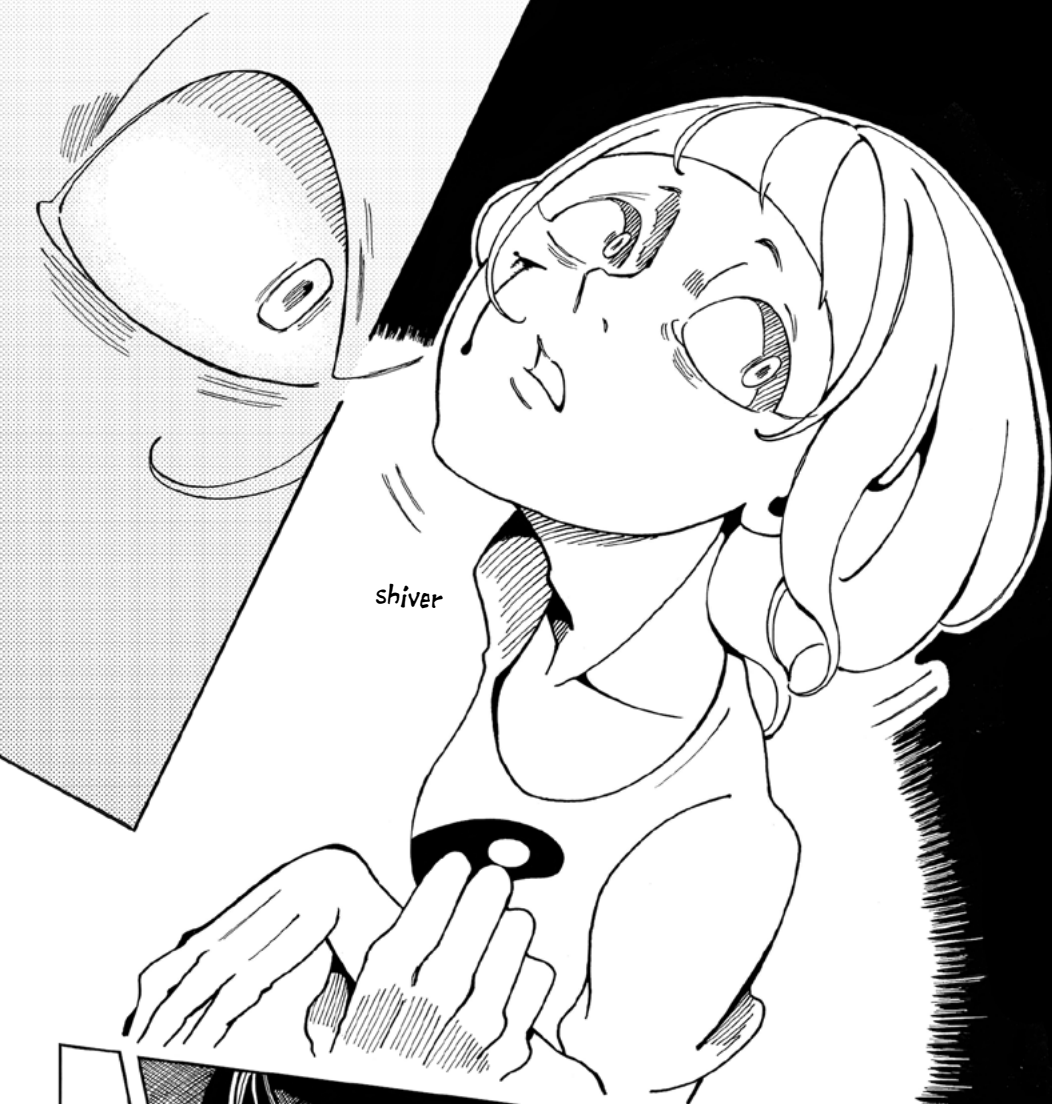


*IS FIGURING OUT SOME KIND OF...*



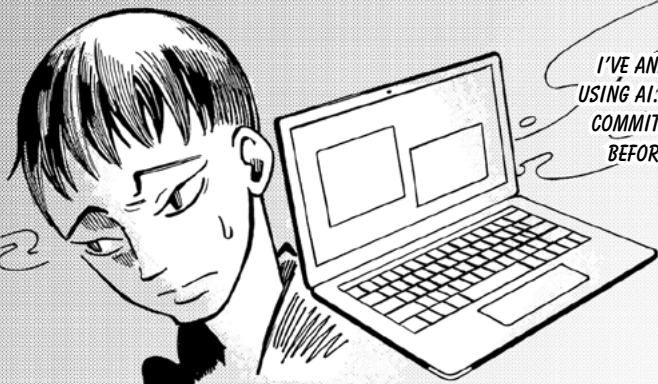
***PERFECT PLAYING POSITION?***







I NEARLY DID  
THE SAME THING.  
OR AT LEAST THE  
GRANDMASTER SAW  
IT THAT WAY.

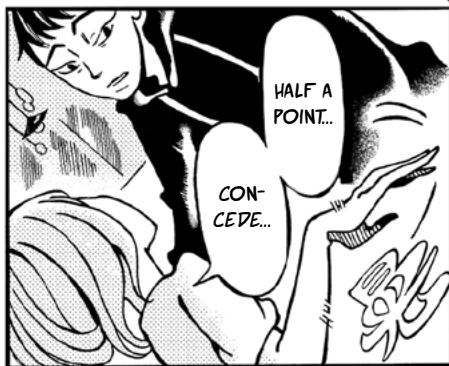


I'VE ANALYZED THAT GAME  
USING AI. HER OPPONENT HAD  
COMMITTED A FATAL ERROR  
BEFORE SHE CONCEDED.



WHITE IS  
AHEAD BY A  
HALF POINT..  
BLACK  
CONCEDES...

THAT'S  
IT...



HALF A  
POINT...

CON-  
CEDE...



COULD IT BE  
THAT A FATAL  
ERROR TRIGGERS  
SOME KIND OF  
CONDITION,  
AND SHE CAN'T  
CONTINUE  
PLAYING?



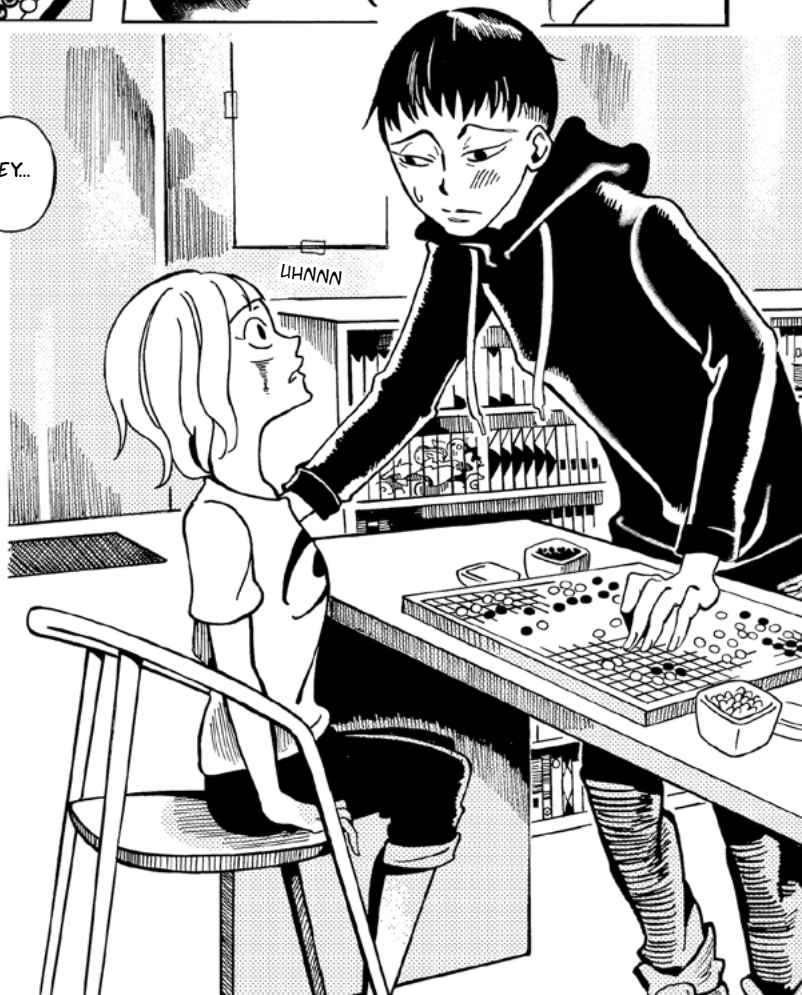
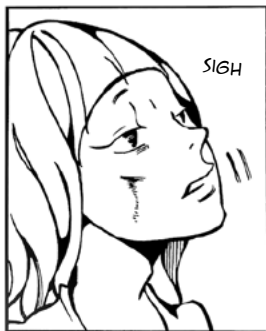
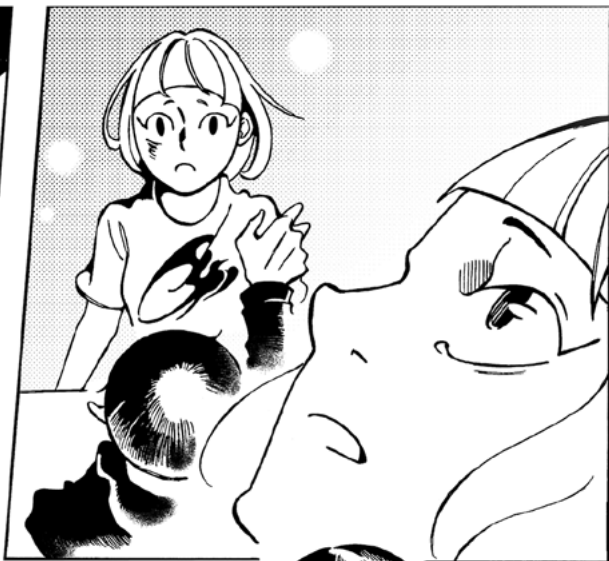
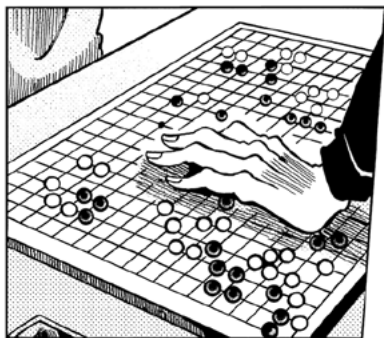




I...

CONCEDE.








IS THIS SOME KIND OF...

AFFLICTION OF  
TOP GO PLAYERS?

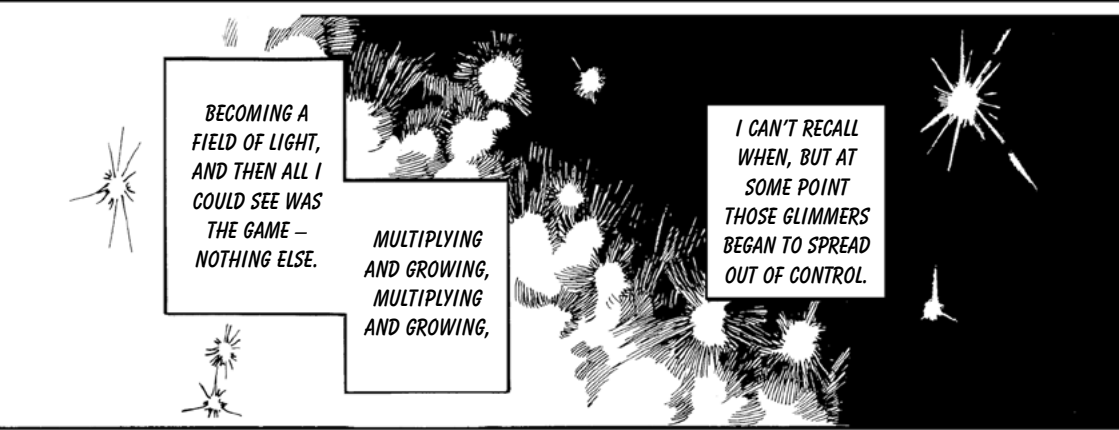
NOTHING COULD DISTURB HER  
WHILE SHE WAS FOCUSED  
ON THE GAME. SHE ONLY  
RETURNED TO NORMAL WHEN  
THE GAME WAS OVER.





ONLY AFTER  
THINKING LONG  
AND HARD WOULD  
A GLIMMER OF  
LIGHT APPEAR,  
ILLUMINATING  
THE LAYOUT OF  
THE BOARD.

AT THE  
BEGINNING,  
PLAYING GO  
— FELT LIKE  
GROPING MY  
WAY THROUGH  
THE DARK.



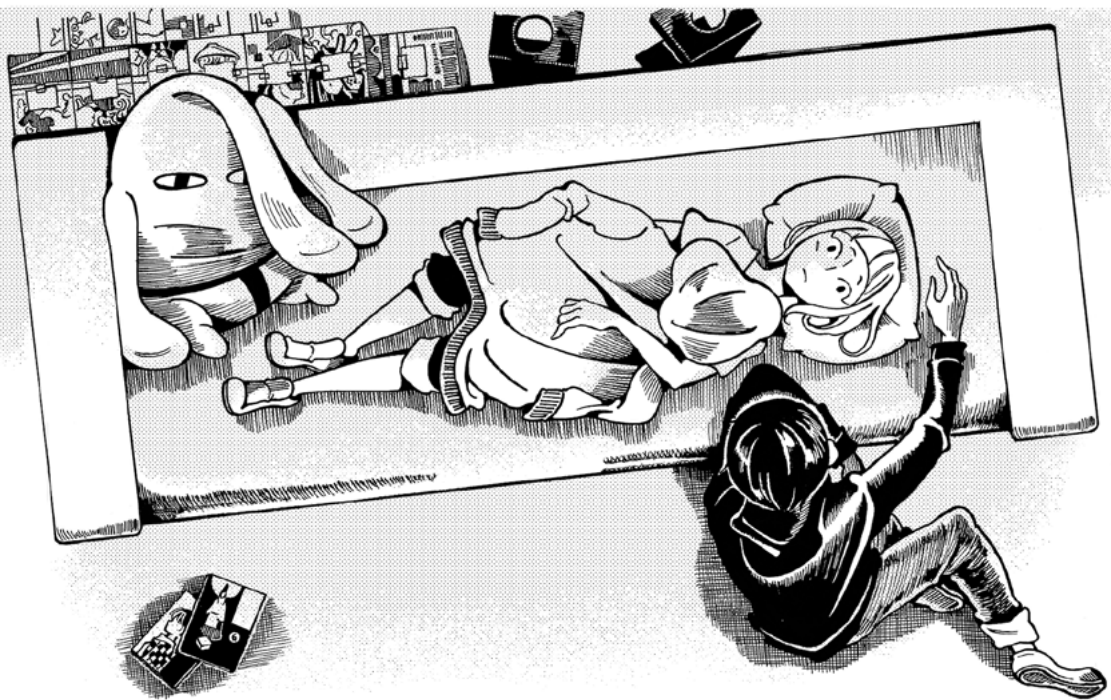
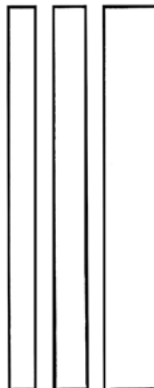
BECOMING A  
FIELD OF LIGHT,  
AND THEN ALL I  
COULD SEE WAS  
THE GAME —  
NOTHING ELSE.

MULTIPLYING  
AND GROWING,  
MULTIPLYING  
AND GROWING,

I CAN'T RECALL  
WHEN, BUT AT  
SOME POINT  
THOSE GLIMMERS  
BEGAN TO SPREAD  
OUT OF CONTROL.



NOTHING BUT  
THE GAME...  
I CAN'T RECALL  
WHEN IT  
STARTED...



\* Dissociation: a mental state in which the personality loses its integrity, causing the person to lose conscious memory of events.

*I REMEMBER PLAYING ONE  
PIECE, THEN ANOTHER,  
AND THEN I WENT BLANK.*

*I MUST HAVE  
DISSOCIATED\*  
AGAIN. I  
THOUGHT  
PLAYING  
WITH AN  
ACADEMY  
STUDENT  
WOULD  
BE SAFE.*

