

THE SISTER OF THE BAMBOO STOOL AND OTHER TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL

婆娑島妖事錄

Five legendary creatures lurking in Taiwan's recent past are catalogued in five short graphic novels. This collection puts on display the colorful variety of Taiwan's traditional tales of the supernatural by blending spooky thrills with human pathos.

Water ghouls that were once human but remain bound to rivers in death, a child-like spirit that dispenses advice via a Ouija-board-like ritual, a pair of fearsome guardians that escort the dead to the Netherworld to face judgment... readers will veer between fascination, sympathy, and terror as they learn about the unlikely creatures that inhabit Taiwanese myths and legends.

These supernatural creatures vary in type and origin. Some began life as humans, but in death were transformed into spirits that remain in contact with the human realm. In certain circumstances cats and dogs are said to lead a second life on this earth in the form of cat-demons or hell-hounds. Other creatures introduced here are entirely other-worldly, such as the ox and horse-headed generals that serve King Yama of the Netherworld. Far from being purely malevolent, many of these entities have feelings and even a sense of morality, righting the wrongs of the human world, or providing guidance to those in need.

Artist Ticker's ink-painted panels perfectly capture the rich and darkly alluring atmosphere of the macabre that permeates these supernatural tales.



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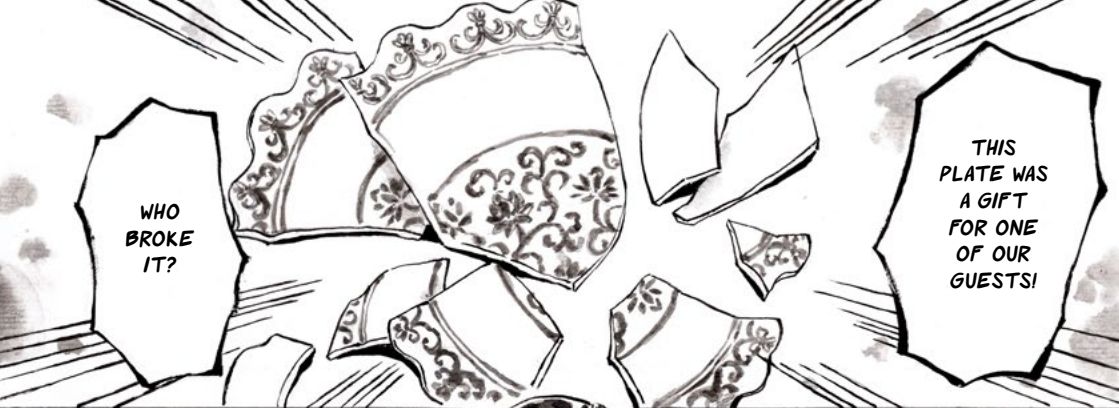
Pages: 232

Volume: 1 (END)

Ticker 提克

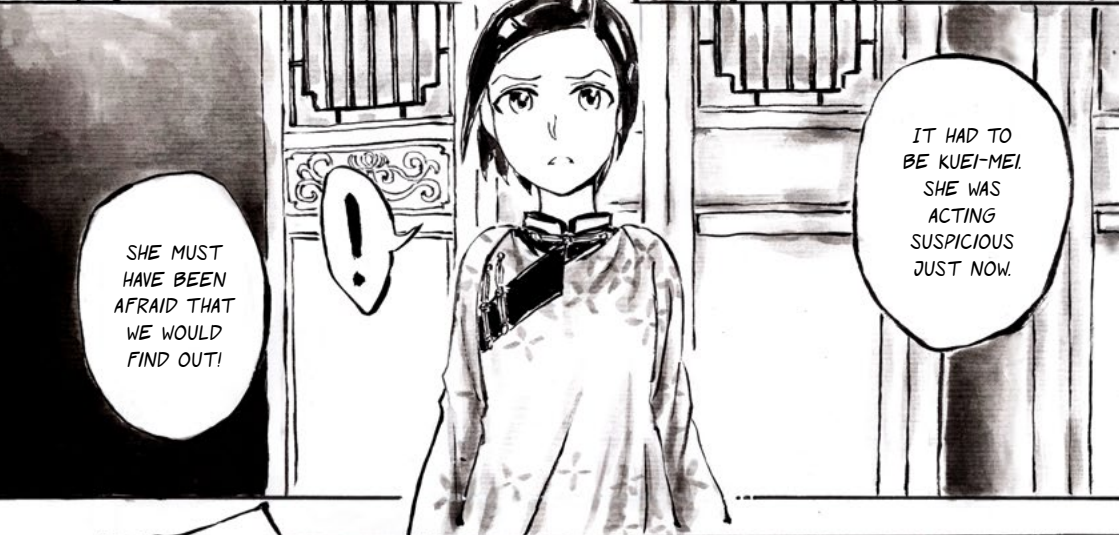
Originally a comic strip artist for the children's newspaper *Mandarin Daily News*, Ticker has adapted the techniques of ink and brush painting to the comic book medium. *The Sister of the Bamboo Stool and Other Tales of the Supernatural* is his first commercial graphic novel.





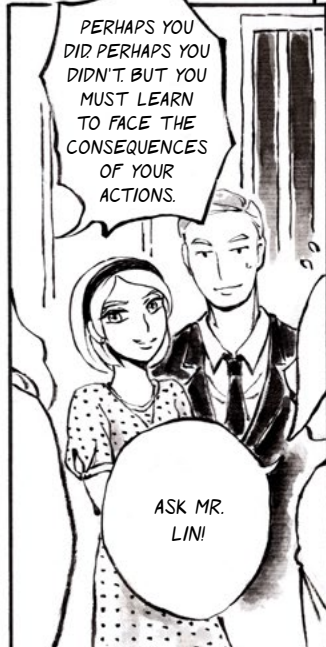
WHO
BROKE
IT?

THIS
PLATE WAS
A GIFT
FOR ONE OF
OUR
GUESTS!



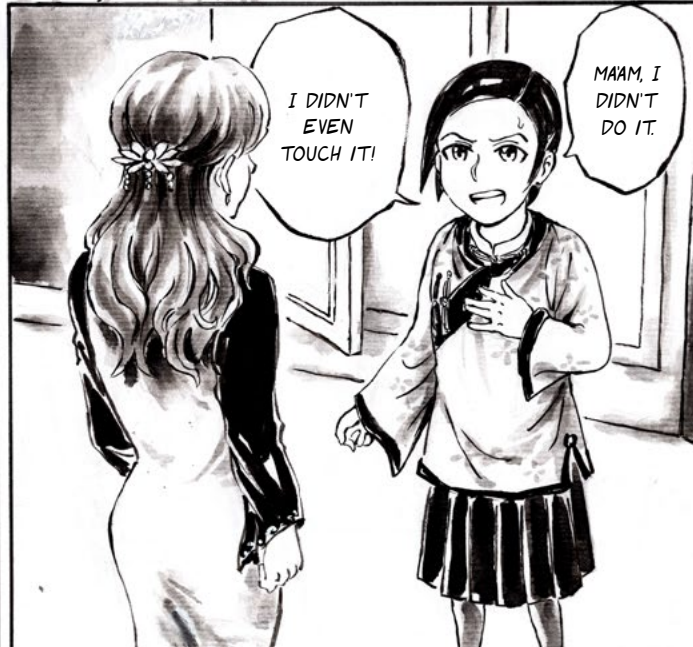
SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN
AFRAID THAT
WE WOULD
FIND OUT!

IT HAD TO
BE KUEI-MEI.
SHE WAS
ACTING
SUSPICIOUS
JUST NOW.



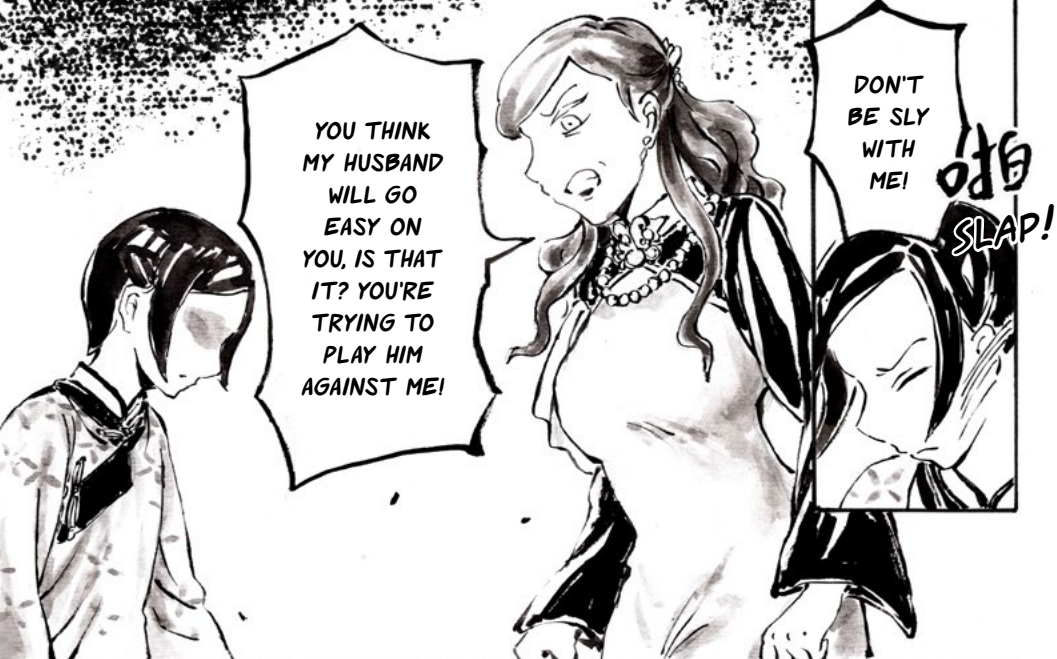
PERHAPS YOU
DID PERHAPS YOU
DIDN'T. BUT YOU
MUST LEARN
TO FACE THE
CONSEQUENCES
OF YOUR
ACTIONS.

ASK MR.
LIN!



I DIDN'T
EVEN
TOUCH IT!

MAAM, I
DIDN'T
DO IT.



YOU THINK
MY HUSBAND
WILL GO
EASY ON
YOU, IS THAT
IT? YOU'RE
TRYING TO
PLAY HIM
AGAINST ME!

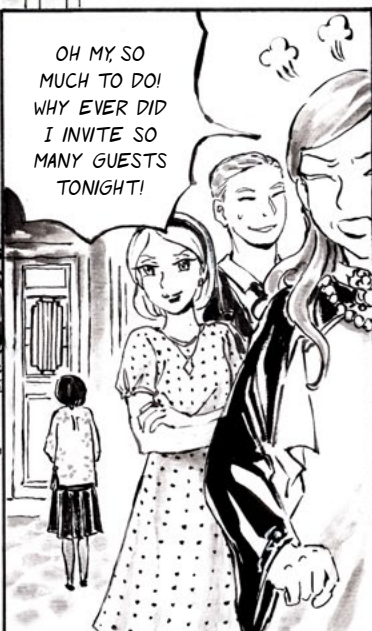
DON'T
BE SLY
WITH
ME!

SLAP!



CLEAN UP THIS
MESS, AND
THEN SPEND
SOME TIME
REFLECTING
ON WHAT
YOU'VE DONE!

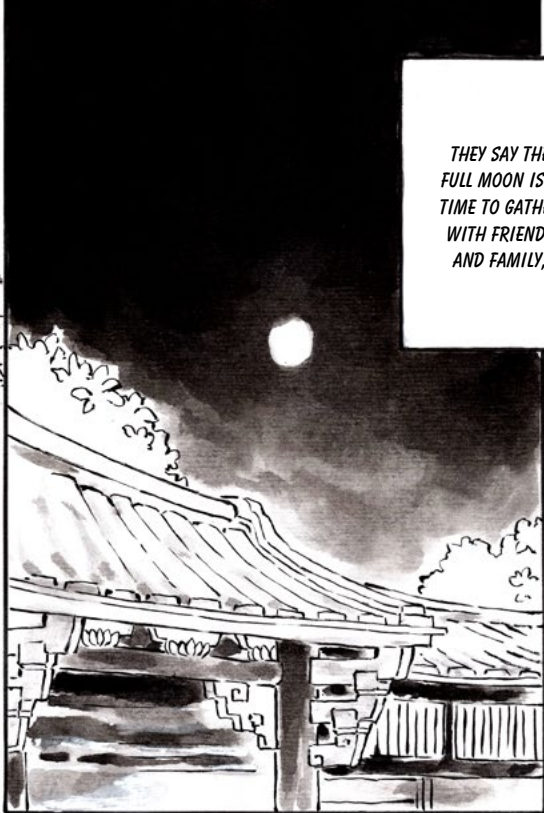
YOU WILL
NOT BE
ATTENDING
DINNER
TONIGHT,
YOUNG LADY!



OH MY, SO
MUCH TO DO!
WHY EVER DID
I INVITE SO
MANY GUESTS
TONIGHT!



BUT I'VE
NEVER
CARED
MUCH FOR
IT.

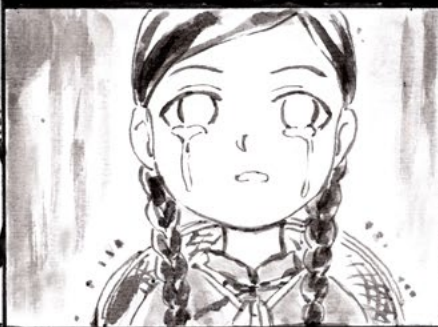


THEY SAY THE
FULL MOON IS A
TIME TO GATHER
WITH FRIENDS
AND FAMILY,



IT WAS MID-
AUTUMN FESTIVAL,
THE NIGHT OF THE
FULL MOON.

EXACTLY EIGHT
YEARS AGO I
WAS SOLD TO
THE LIN FAMILY
TO BE RAISED
AS THEIR
DAUGHTER,



IAKOO,

SISTER
OF THE
BAMBOO
STOOL,

ON THE
FIFTEENTH
NIGHT COME
TAKE YOUR
SEAT.

SETTLE
IN,

AND I
WILL BEG
YOUR
WISDOM.



I INVOKE
YOUR
SACRED
PRESENCE.

WITH
THREE
BOWS.

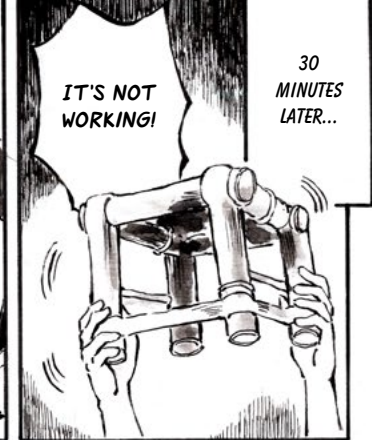
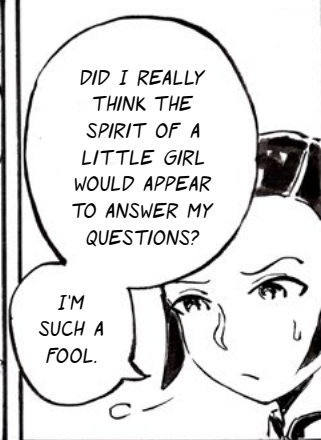


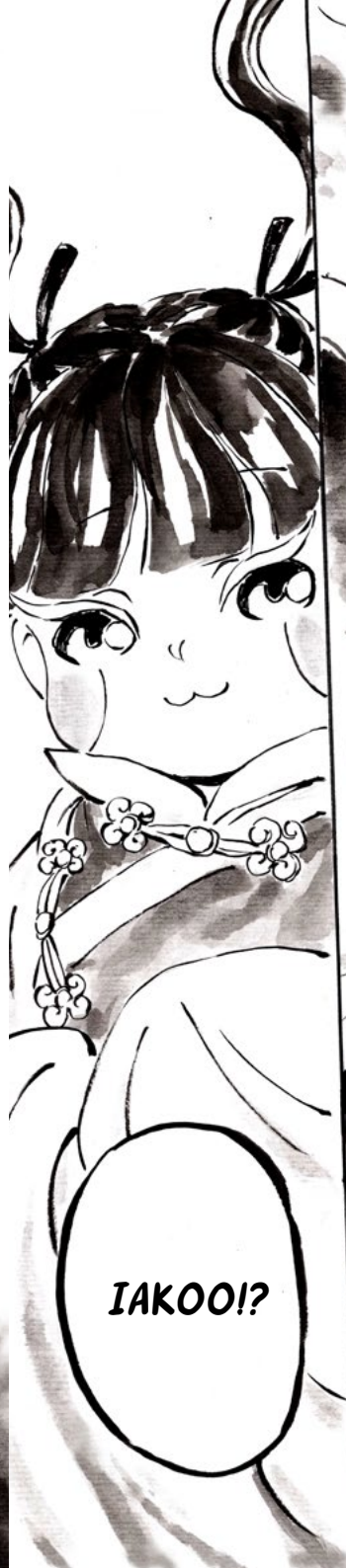
I'LL TRY A
FEW MORE
TIMES...

IAKOO,
SISTER
OF THE
BAMBOO
STOOL...

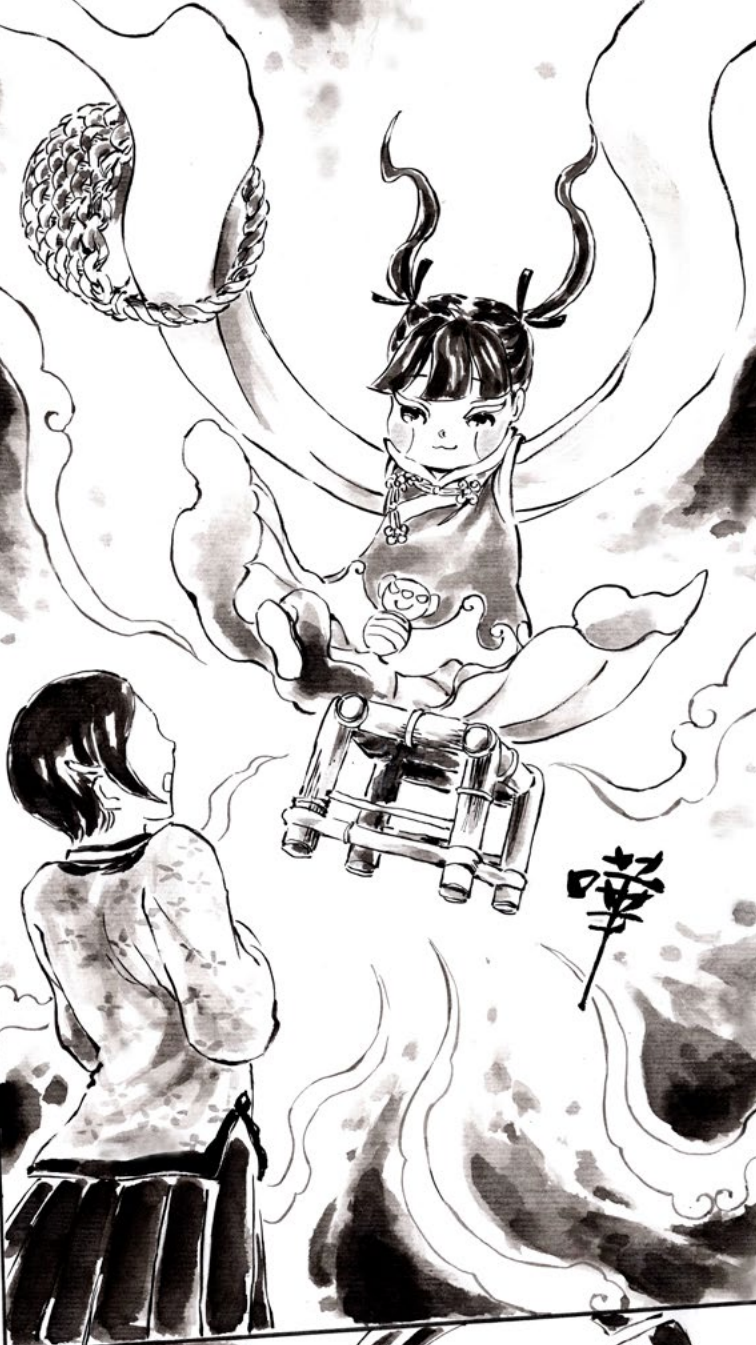
...







IAKOO!?



IS IT...

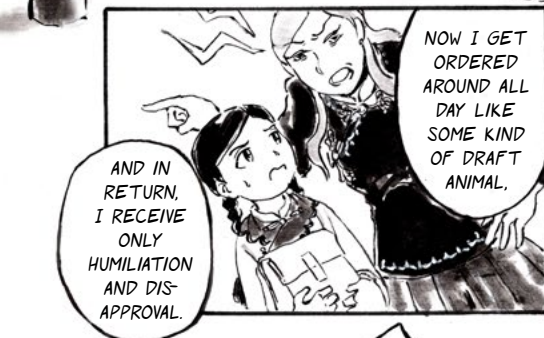




MY
FAMILY
WAS
POOR.

MY NAME
IS HUANG
KUEI-MEI.

...



AND IN
RETURN,
I RECEIVE
ONLY
HUMILIATION
AND DIS-
APPROVAL.

NOW I GET
ORDERED
AROUND ALL
DAY LIKE
SOME KIND
OF DRAFT
ANIMAL.



AND SOLD
ME TO MR.
AND MRS. LIN
TO RAISE
AS THEIR
DAUGHTER.

I TRIED MY
BEST TO
BE A GOOD
DAUGHTER,
BUT THEY
CRUELLY
ABANDONED
ME.

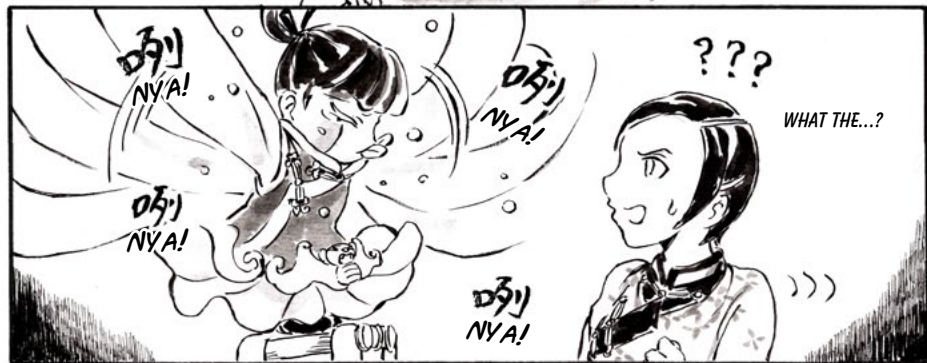


SO YOU
MUST
KNOW HOW
I FEEL!

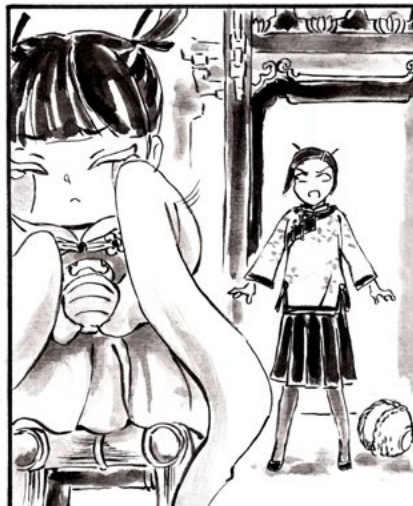
IAKOO, YOU
DIED FROM
ABUSE AT
THE HANDS
OF YOUR
SISTER-IN-
LAW.



I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF THIS
LIFE!



**SHE
STUCK
OUT HER
TONGUE
AT ME!**





STOP
FLYING
AROUND
LIKE
THAT,
IAKOO!

HEY!



IAKOO, I
WASN'T
FINISHED
TALKING!

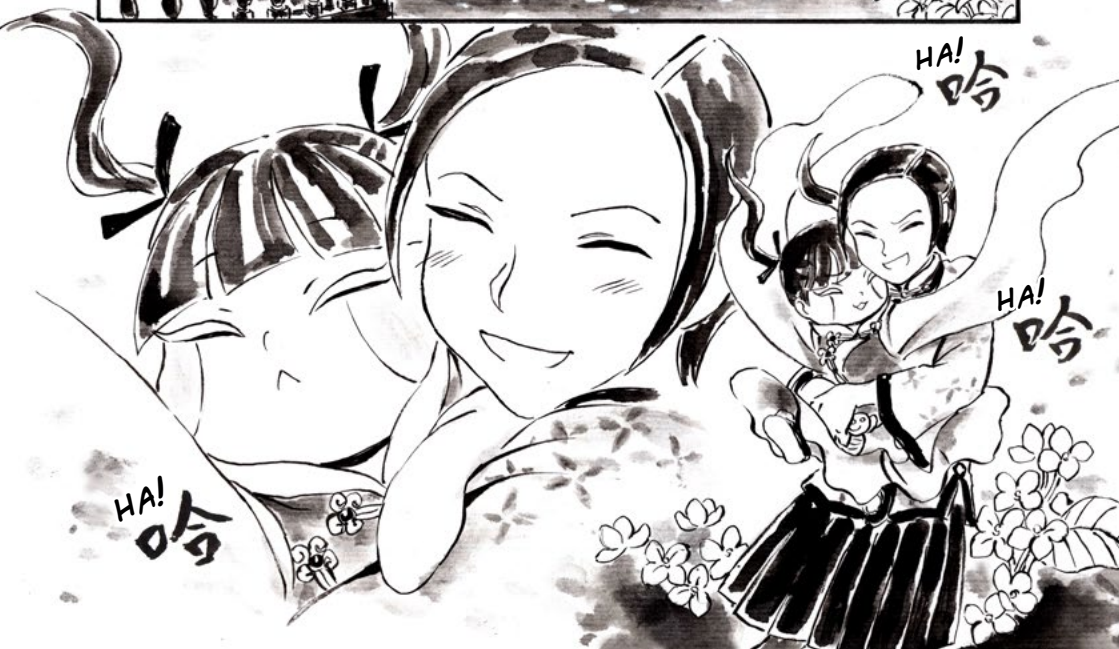
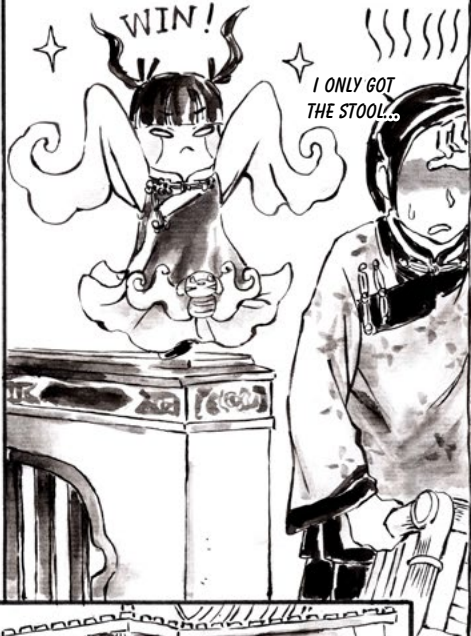


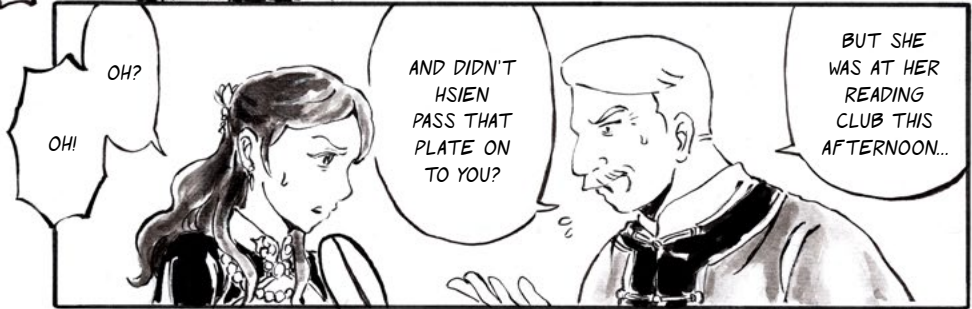
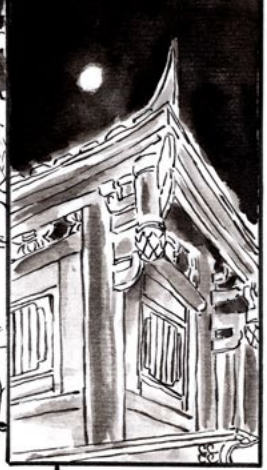
GET
BACK
HERE!



VAY!

LISTEN
TO ME!







MY
SISTER-
IN-LAW...



MR. AND
MRS. LIN!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
OUT HERE?



WAAAA!

IAKOO?

WAHAAAA!

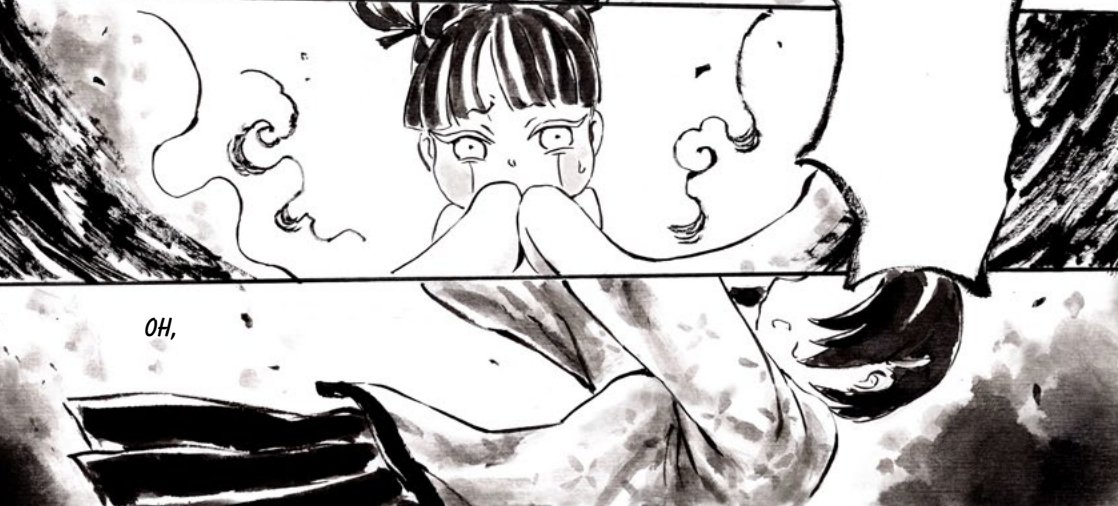
WAHAAAA!

...SHE'S
HORRIBLE!

哇
WAAAA!

I STILL
HAVEN'T
ASKED MY
QUESTION!

IAKOO,
DON'T RUN
ON THE
BRIDGE!



HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN
SINCE I ADMIRING THE
FULL MOON DURING
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL?

THE MOON IS SO BIG.



WILL THINGS GET
BETTER FOR ME?

IAKOO,
SISTER OF THE
BAMBOO STOO.

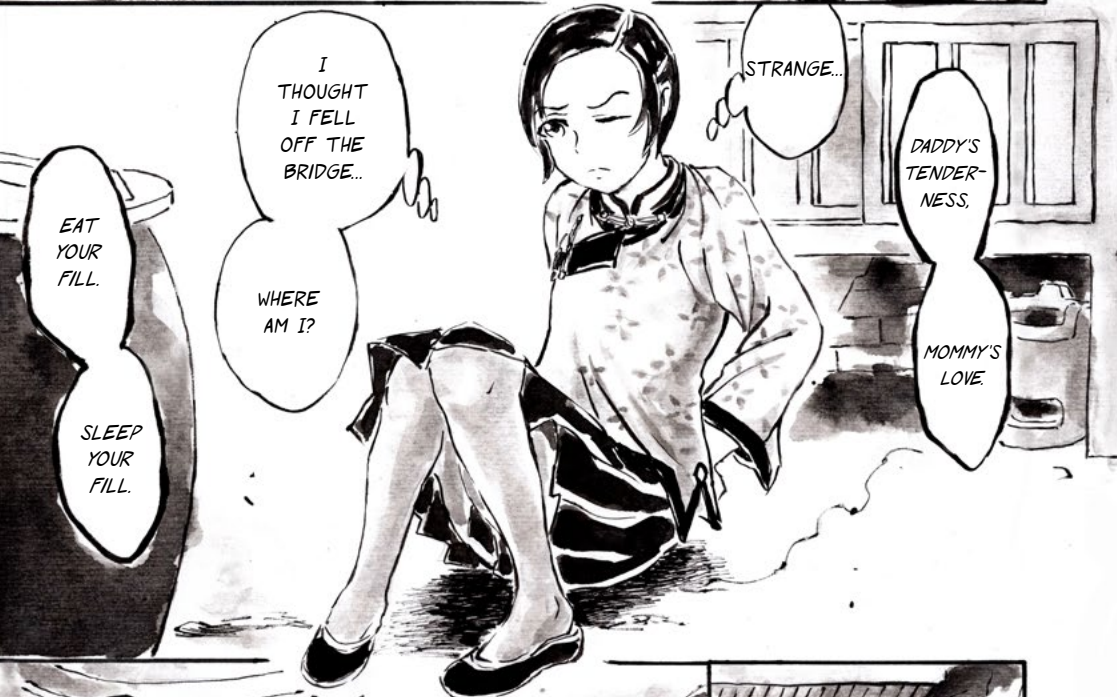




HA HA

HEE

HEE



I
THOUGHT
I FELL
OFF THE
BRIDGE...

STRANGE...

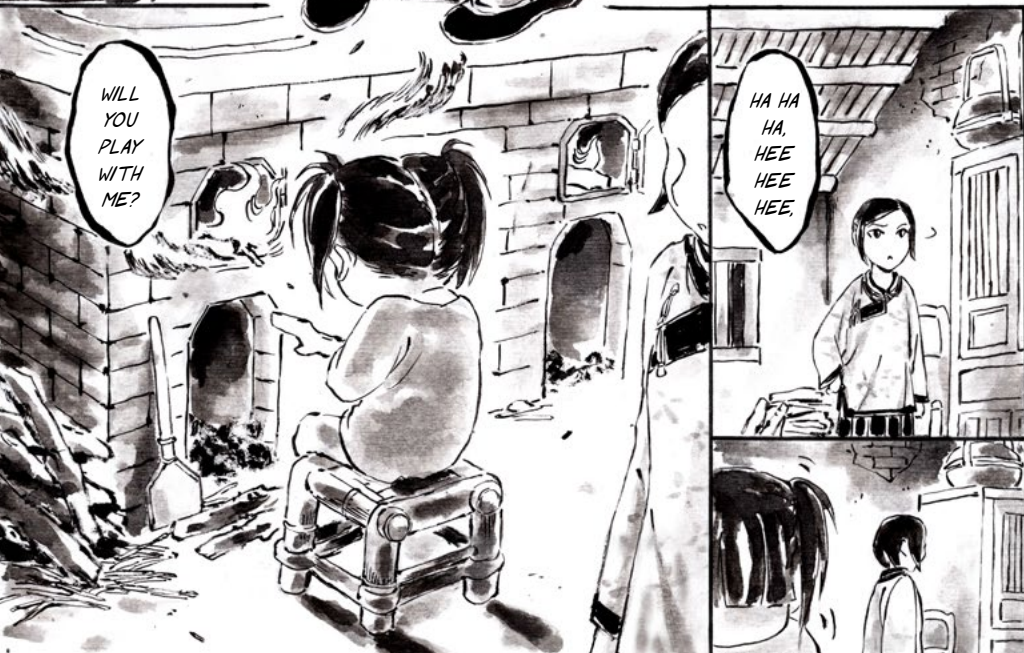
DADDY'S
TENDER-
NESS,

MOMMY'S
LOVE

EAT
YOUR
FILL.

SLEEP
YOUR
FILL.

WHERE
AM I?



WILL
YOU
PLAY
WITH
ME?

HA HA
HA,
HEE
HEE
HEE,
HEE,





AND MY
BROTHER
DOESN'T
CARE.

SISTER-
IN-LAW
SCOLDS
AND BEATS
ME.

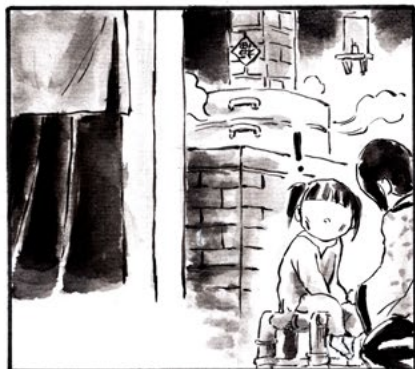
I'M
TIRED

AND
HUNGRY.



I MISS MY
MOMMY
AND DADDY.

SUCH A SMALL
GIRL MINDING
THE FIRE ALL BY
HERSELF...
COULD SHE
BE...



SISTER-IN-
LAW TOLD
ME TO WATCH
THE FIRE. I
CAN'T LET
IT GO OUT.

DON'T CRY
LITTLE
GIRL. TELL
ME WHAT'S
WRONG.



QUICK!
HIDE! MY
SISTER-
IN-LAW IS
COMING!



THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO.

NOT THAT I CAN
DO ANYTHING
TO HELP HER.

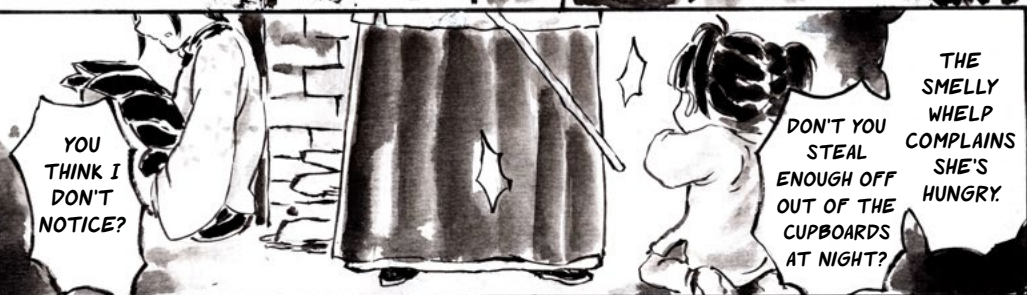


NOWHERE! I STAYED HERE WATCHING THE FIRE...

WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?

STUPID CHILD!

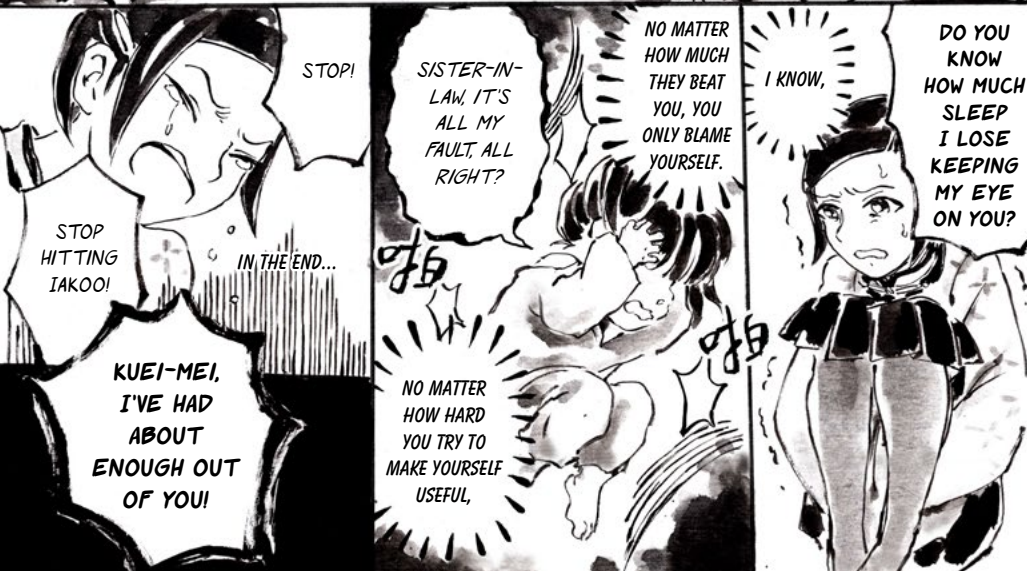
... I'M SO HUNGRY.



YOU THINK I DON'T NOTICE?

DON'T YOU STEAL ENOUGH OFF OUT OF THE CUPBOARDS AT NIGHT?

THE SMELLY WHELP COMPLAINS SHE'S HUNGRY.



STOP!

SISTER-IN-LAW, IT'S ALL MY FAULT, ALL RIGHT?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY BEAT YOU, YOU ONLY BLAME YOURSELF.

I KNOW,

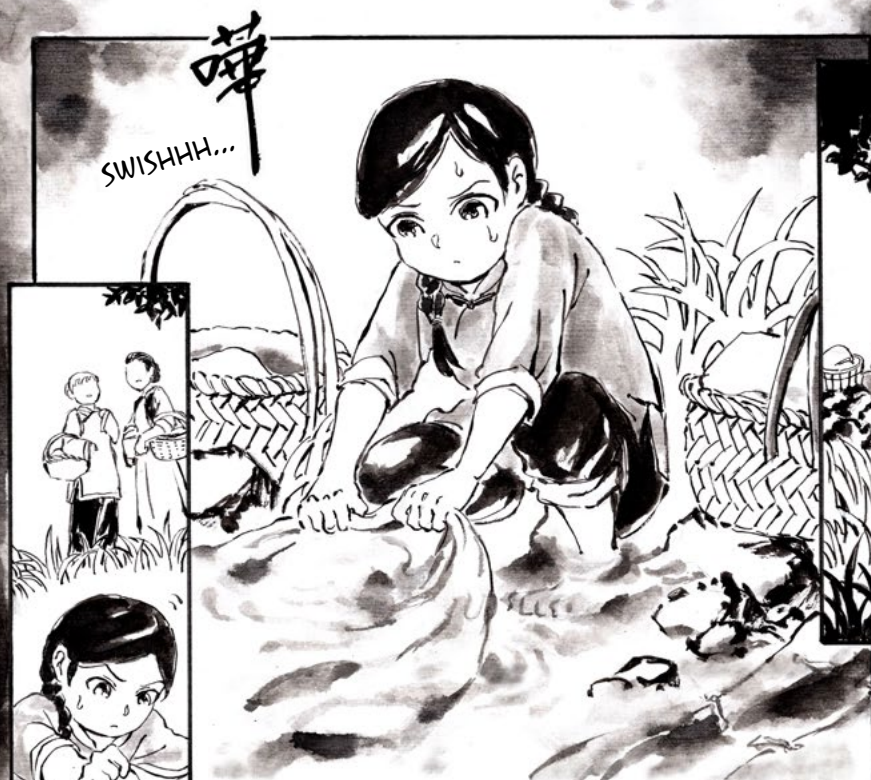
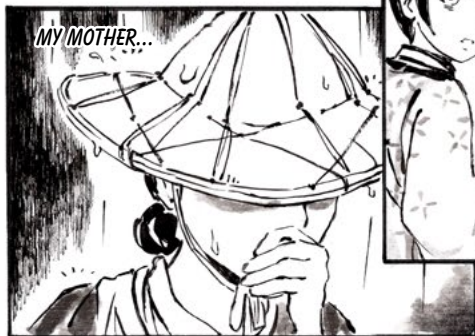
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH SLEEP I LOSE KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU?

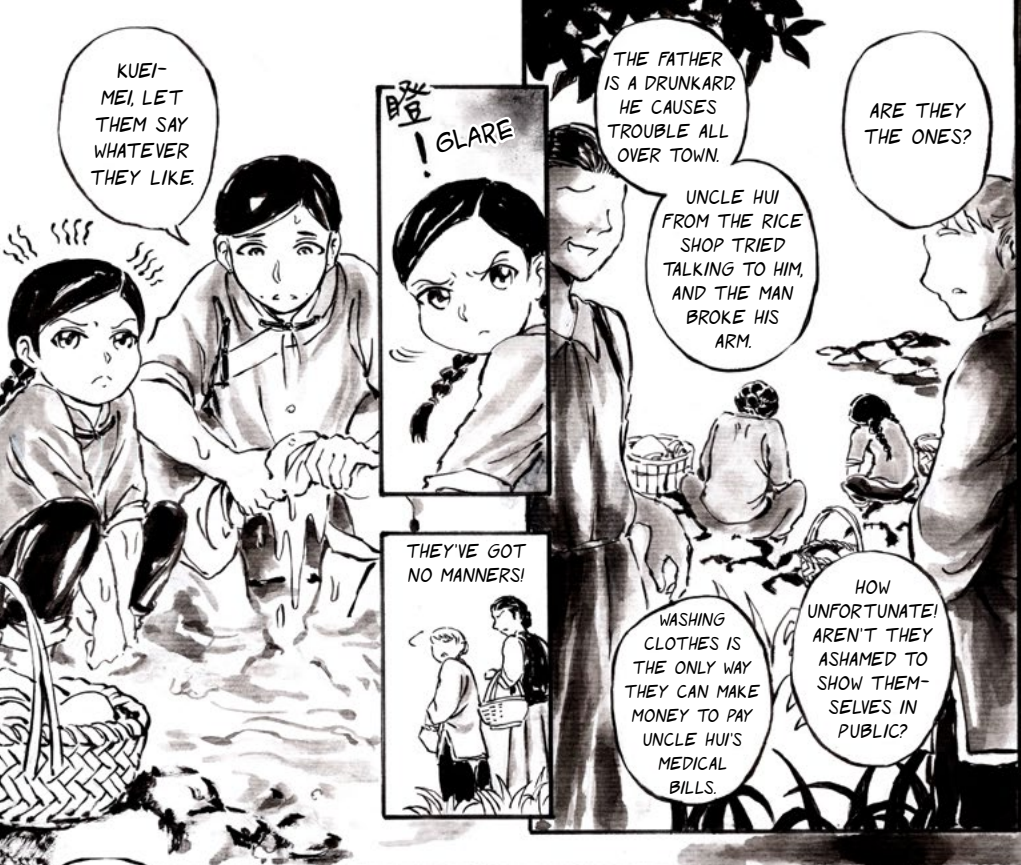
STOP HITTING IAKOO!

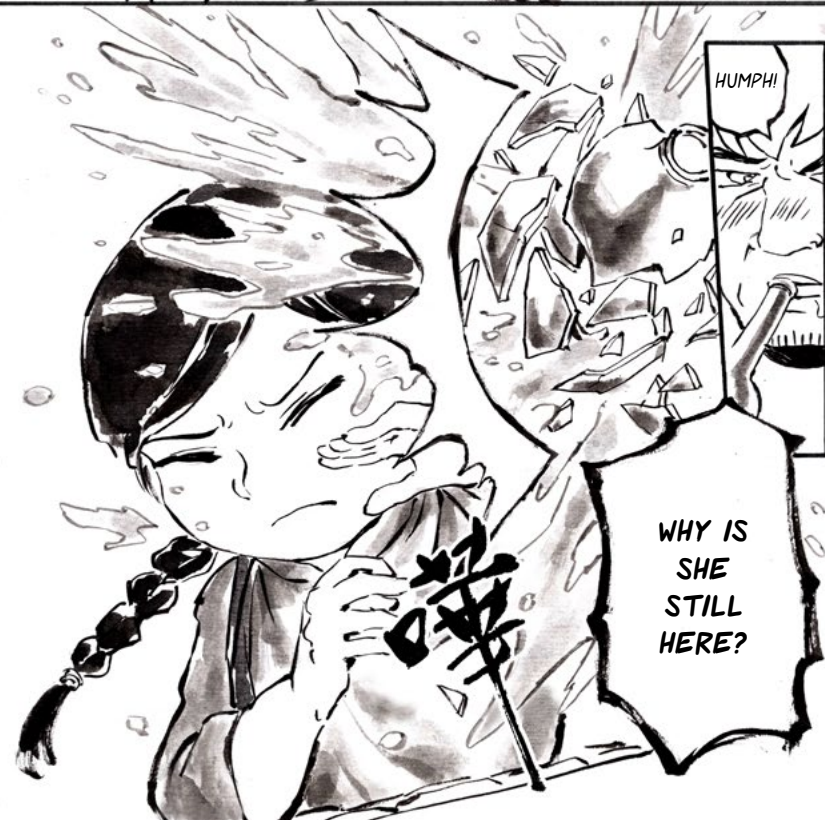
IN THE END...

KUEI-MEI, I'VE HAD ABOUT ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!

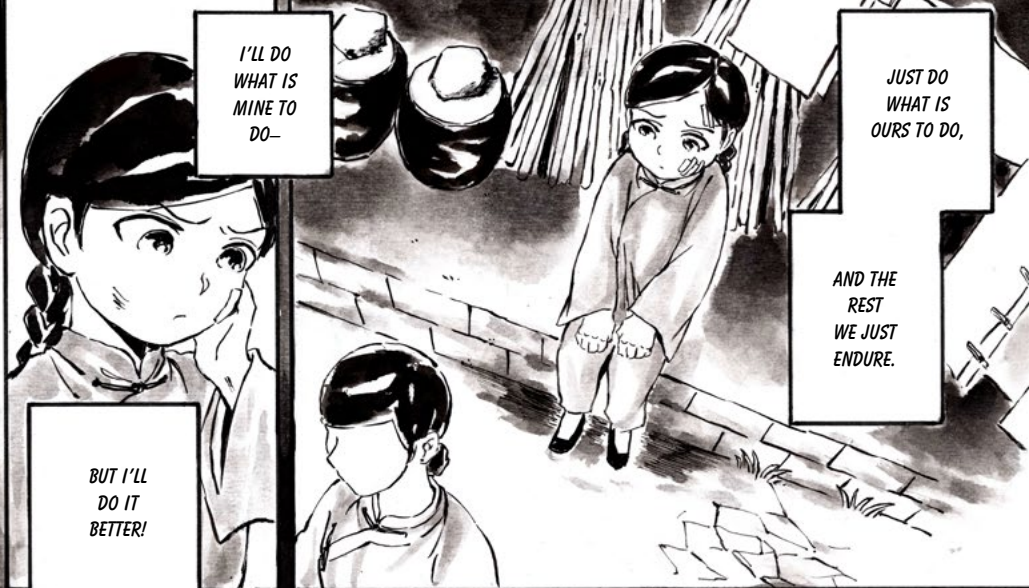
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL,









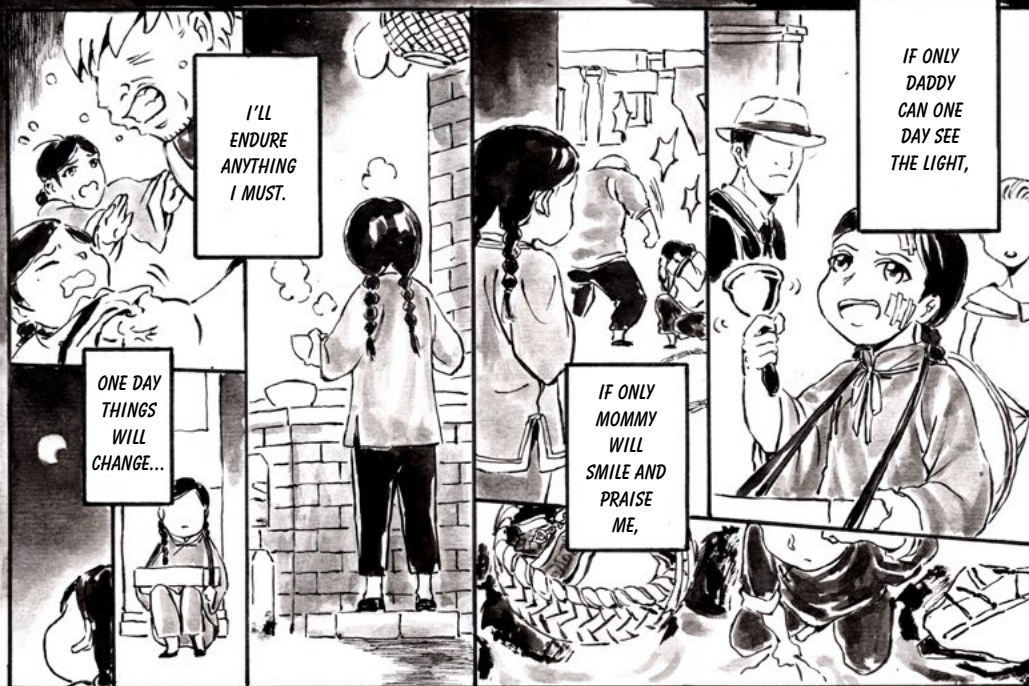


I'LL DO
WHAT IS
MINE TO
DO—

JUST DO
WHAT IS
OURS TO DO,

AND THE
REST
WE JUST
ENDURE.

BUT I'LL
DO IT
BETTER!



I'LL
ENDURE
ANYTHING
I MUST.

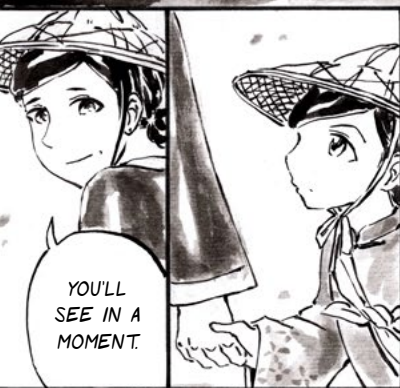
IF ONLY
DADDY
CAN ONE
DAY SEE
THE LIGHT,

ONE DAY
THINGS
WILL
CHANGE...

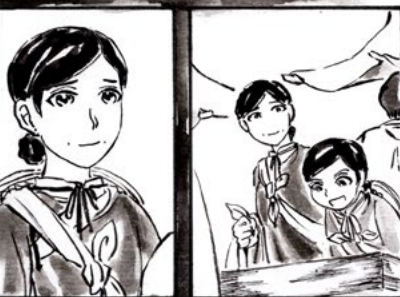
IF ONLY
MOMMY
WILL
SMILE AND
PRAISE
ME,

ONE DAY...





YOU'LL
SEE IN A
MOMENT.



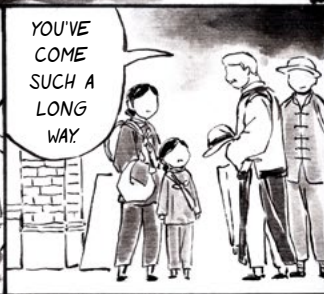
MOMMY,
TOMORROW
IS MID-
AUTUMN
FESTIVAL.

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

AND WHY
AM I ALL
DRESSED
UP?



AND THIS
IS KUEI-
MEI?



YOU'VE
COME
SUCH A
LONG
WAY.



WHAT ARE
THEY TALKING
ABOUT? TAKE CARE
OF ME? WHAT
DECISION?

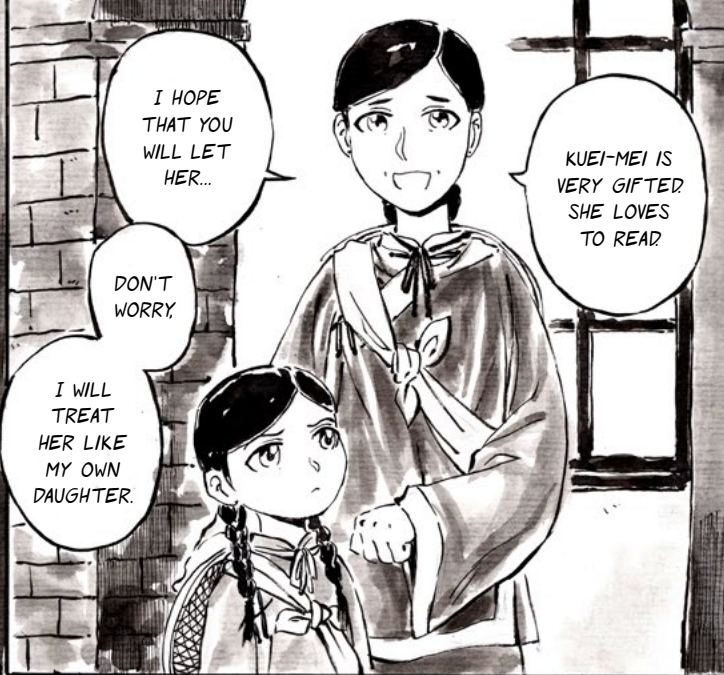


I TRUST
YOU TO TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HER.

IT GOES
WITHOUT
SAYING
SO YOU'VE
MADE YOUR
DECISION?



MR. LIN.






KUEI-
MEI



IS IT
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T DO
ENOUGH?
WAS I NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH?

IS IT
BECAUSE I
COULDN'T
ENDURE
LIKE YOU
SAID?



IT'S NOT LIKE
THAT. PLEASE
LISTEN TO ME

NO,
KUEI-
MEI.



OR IS
IT LIKE
DADDY
SAID?

DON'T
SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT!



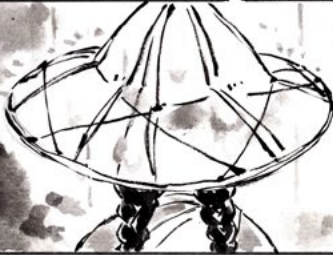
BETTER
TO SELL
ME FOR A
LITTLE
CASH?



MY
NORMALLY
SOFT-
SPOKEN
MOTHER



BECAME
ANGRY
WITH ME.



FORGET IT,
THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO...

THEY'VE
THROWN ME
AWAY.



WHAT DID
YOU TELL ME
MOMMY?

I COULDN'T
HEAR YOU.



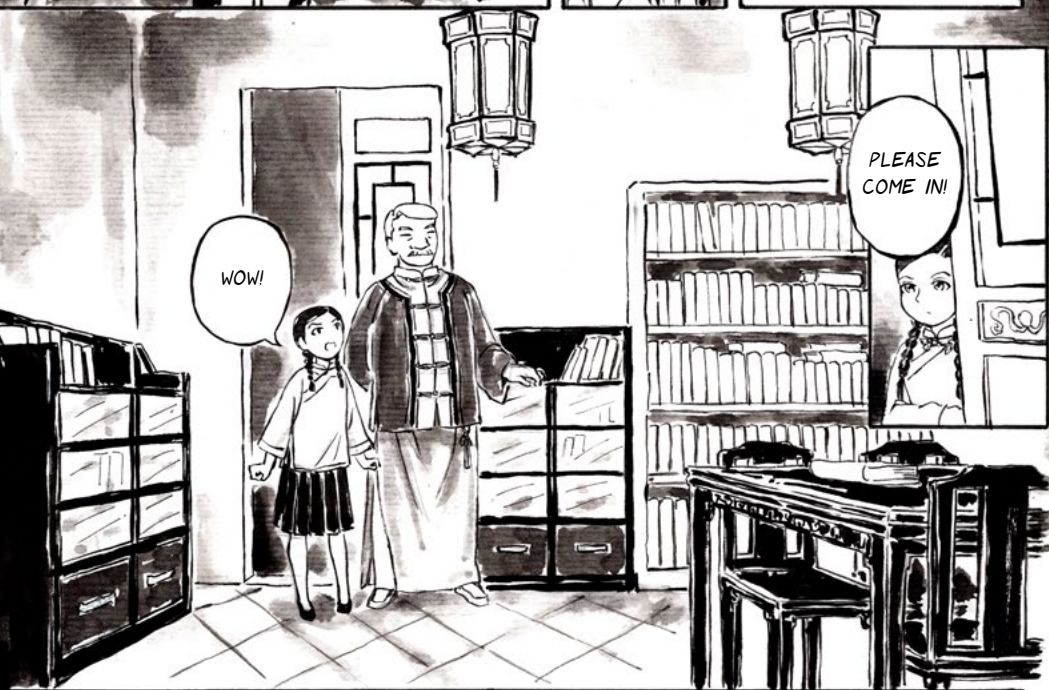
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
READ MORE
BOOKS
AND LEARN
MORE NEW
WORDS?



HOW...



ARE YOU
GETTING
COMFORTABLE
HERE?



WOW!

PLEASE
COME IN!

AND ONCE I
FINISH THE
REGISTRATION
PROCESS YOU
CAN START
ATTENDING
SCHOOL!



YOU CAN READ
ANY OF THE
BOOKS IN THIS
STUDY ANYTIME
YOU LIKE.



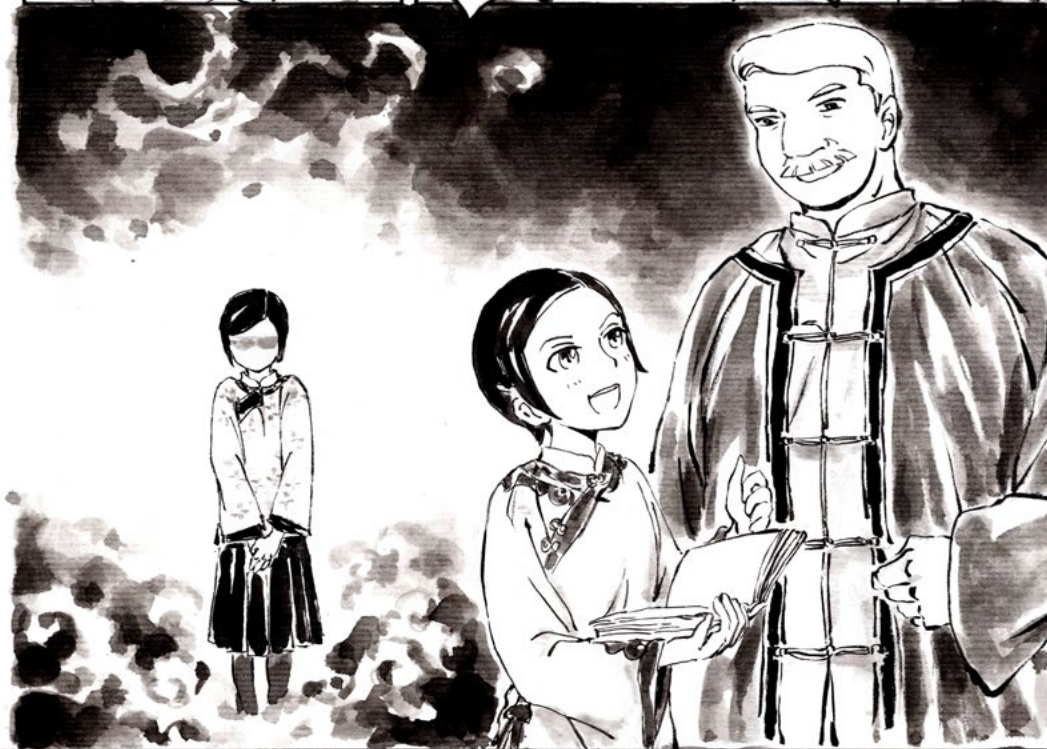
I'M JUST
AFRAID SHE
DOESN'T READ
WELL ENOUGH.
IT WOULD BE
A WASTE!

MARK MY
WORDS, SHE
WILL BE
THE BEST
STUDENT IN
THE ENTIRE
LIN FAMILY!



SHE'S NOT
QUALIFIED
TO
STUDY!?

HOW
DARE YOU
SAY SUCH
A THING?



AND YOU
ALSO
HAVE...

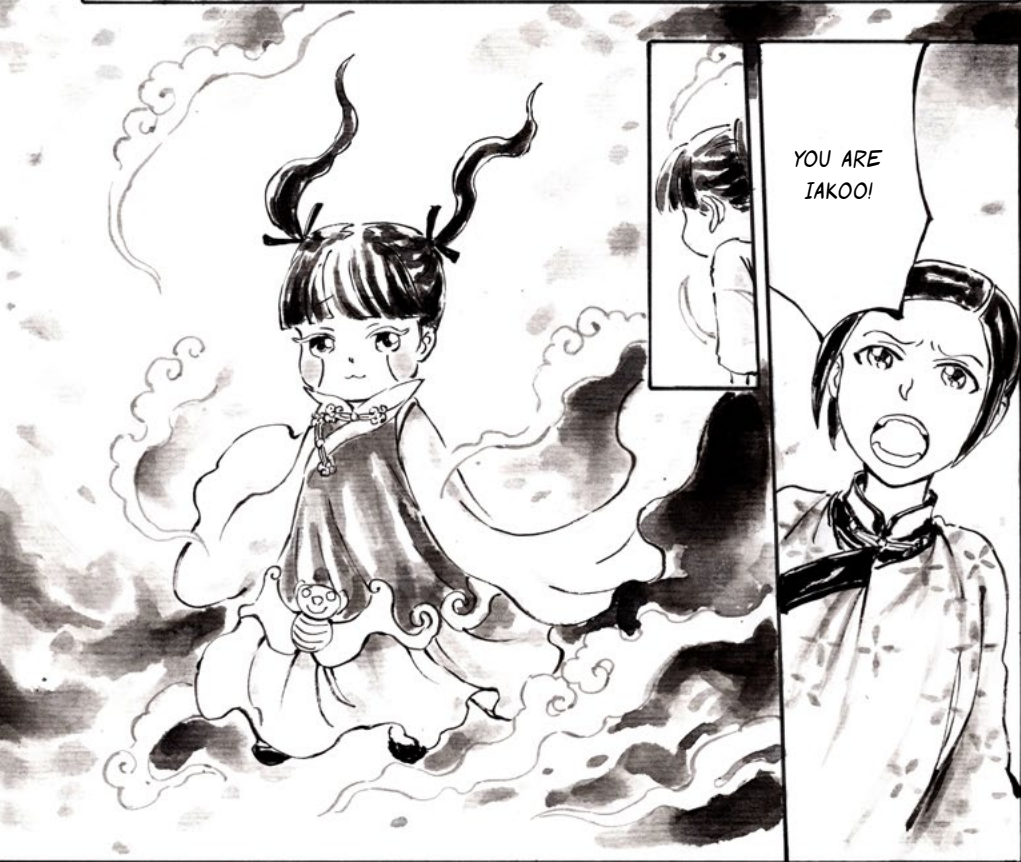
YOUR
ADOPTED
PARENTS
CARE FOR
YOU DEEPLY.

KUEI-MEI...





A MOTHER
WHO LOVES
YOU.



YOU ARE
IAKOO!



I HAD FUN
PLAYING
TOGETHER.

KUEI-MEI.



LOOK,
SHE'S
WAKING UP



IAKOO!



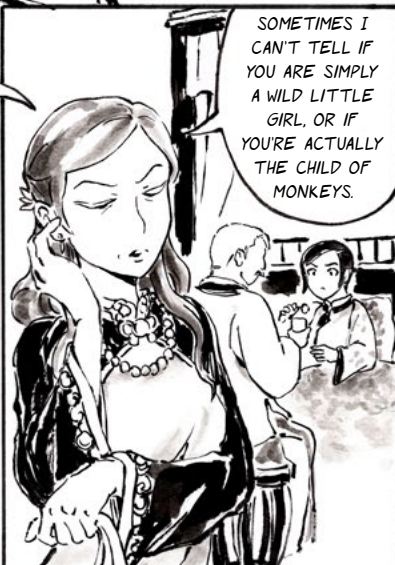
HUH?

MR. LIN?
MRS. LIN?



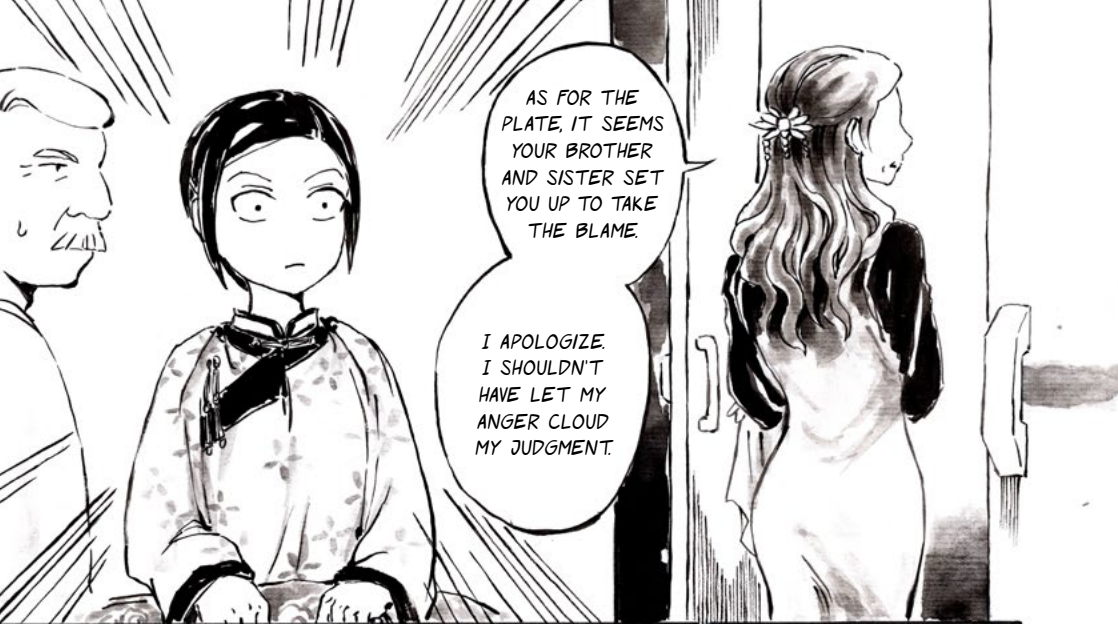
WITH YOU
AROUND,
THERE'S NO
POINT IN
TRYING TO
MAINTAIN ANY
SEMBLANCE OF
PROPRIETY.

ARE YOU
SATISFIED?
YOU SCARED
OUR GUESTS
HALF TO DEATH.



SOMETIMES I
CAN'T TELL IF
YOU ARE SIMPLY
A WILD LITTLE
GIRL, OR IF
YOU'RE ACTUALLY
THE CHILD OF
MONKEYS.





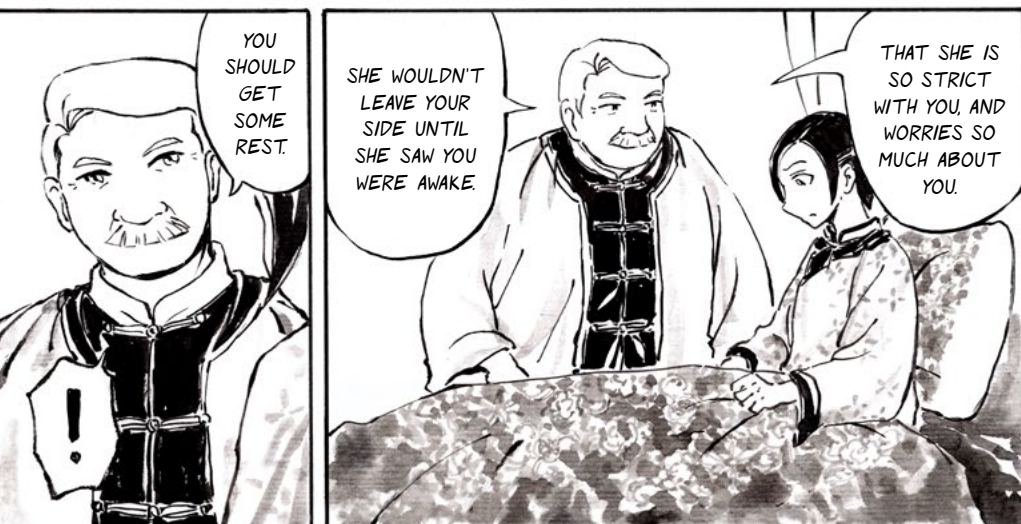
AS FOR THE
PLATE, IT SEEMS
YOUR BROTHER
AND SISTER SET
YOU UP TO TAKE
THE BLAME.

I APOLOGIZE.
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET MY
ANGER CLOUD
MY JUDGMENT.



<SIGH> IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE
SHE ALREADY
SEES YOU AS
HER DAUGHTER...

NOW I'M REALLY
SCARED. MRS.
LIN HAS NEVER
APOLOGIZED TO
ME BEFORE.



YOU
SHOULD
GET
SOME
REST.

SHE WOULDN'T
LEAVE YOUR
SIDE UNTIL
SHE SAW YOU
WERE AWAKE.

THAT SHE IS
SO STRICT
WITH YOU, AND
WORRIES SO
MUCH ABOUT
YOU.



STRANGE...

WHY AM I
CRYING?

KUEI-MEI!

KUEI-
MEI!



HUH?

KUEI-
MEI?



PERHAPS
YOU WILL
HATE ME
FOR THIS.



I'M
SORRY.



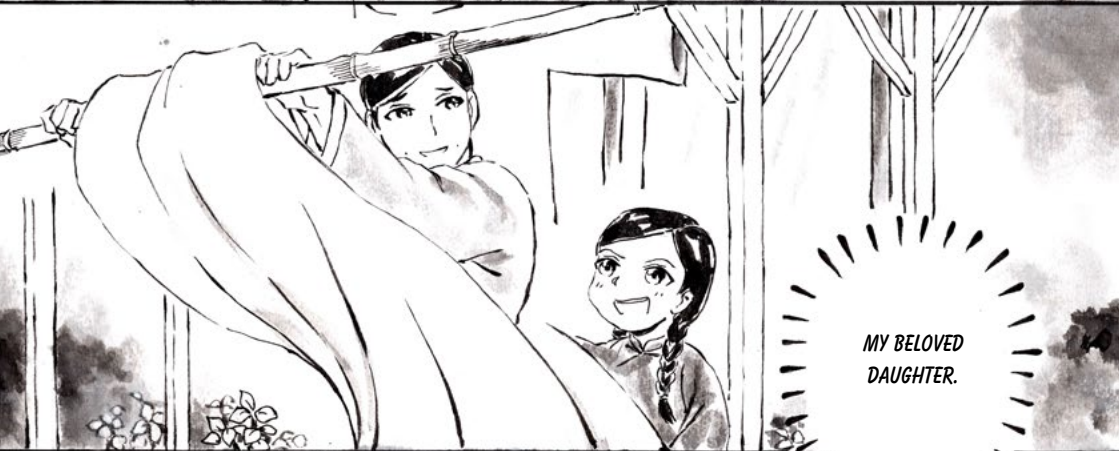
THE
REASON I'M
SENDING
YOU AWAY...

BUT I KNOW
ONE DAY
YOU WILL
UNDERSTAND



THAT IS MY
ONLY WISH.

IS BECAUSE
I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
SUFFER THE
WAY I HAVE.



MY BELOVED
DAUGHTER.



SOB

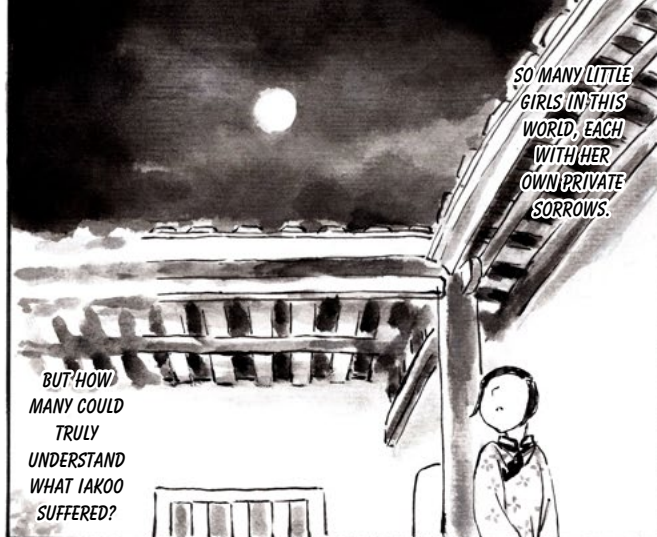
SOB

SOB

SO MUCH
BETTER!

SOB

MOM,
LIFE IS
BETTER
NOW.



SO MANY LITTLE
GIRLS IN THIS
WORLD, EACH
WITH HER
OWN PRIVATE
SORROWS.

BUT HOW
MANY COULD
TRULY
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IAKOO
SUFFERED?



IAKOO,

ONE DAY I
WILL PLAY
WITH YOU
AGAIN.



STARTING FROM
TODAY, I WILL
ALWAYS MAKE
TIME TO ADMIRE
THE MID-
AUTUMN MOON.

Playing by the Light of the Full Moon:
The Tale of Iakoo

Legend has it that lakoo, literally “little girl of the stool”, died of abuse at the hands of her sister-in-law. On the evening of Mid-Autumn Festival and Lantern Festival, unmarried men and women summon lakoo by placing rouge, flowers, scissors, a mirror, and little girl’s clothing in a basket. Spirit money and incense are burned as they recite an invocation. Finally, they ask lakoo questions while holding a bamboo stool, with each participant gripping a separate leg. The stool will move in the manner of a Ouija board to convey lakoo’s answers.