

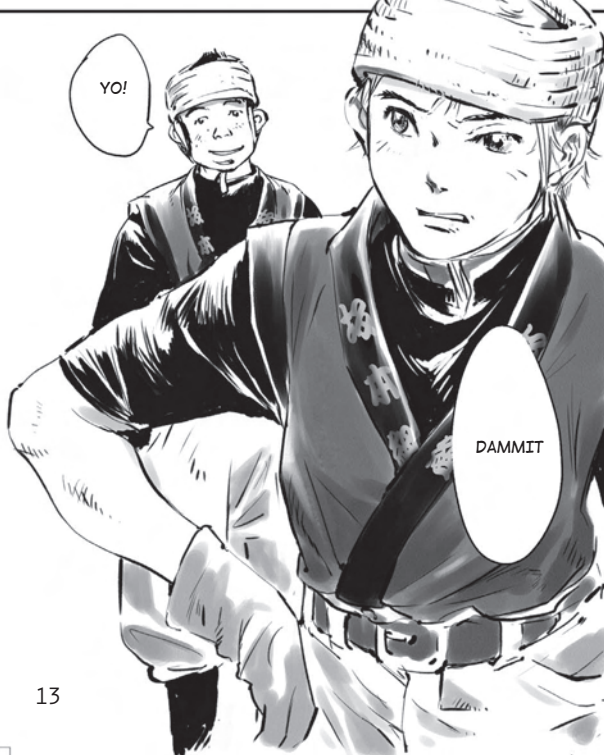
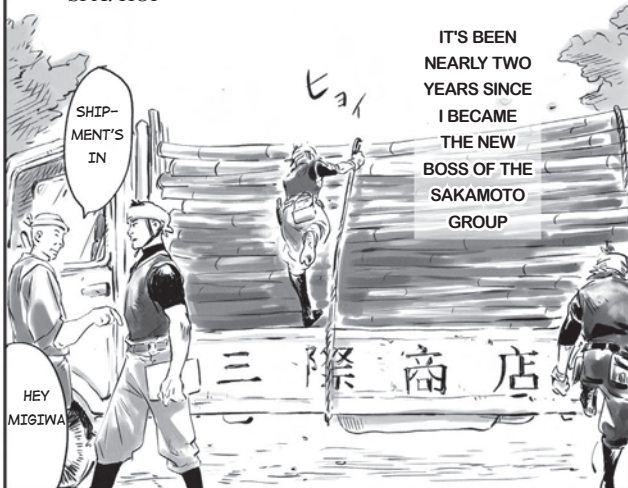
OKAY
...

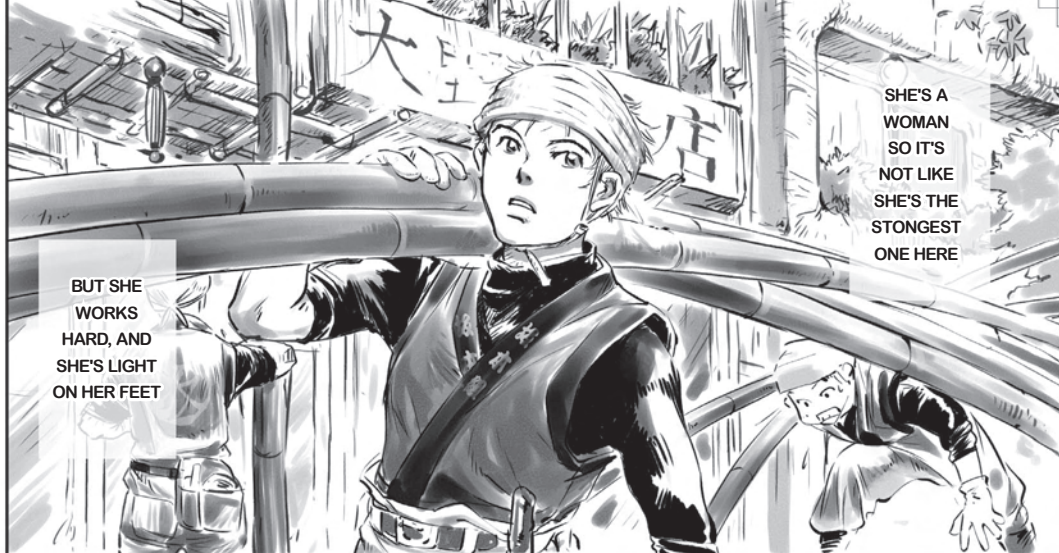


COME
ON

SFX: HOP

SFX: CLANG





BUT SHE
WORKS
HARD, AND
SHE'S LIGHT
ON HER FEET

SHE'S A
WOMAN
SO IT'S
NOT LIKE
SHE'S THE
STRONGEST
ONE HERE



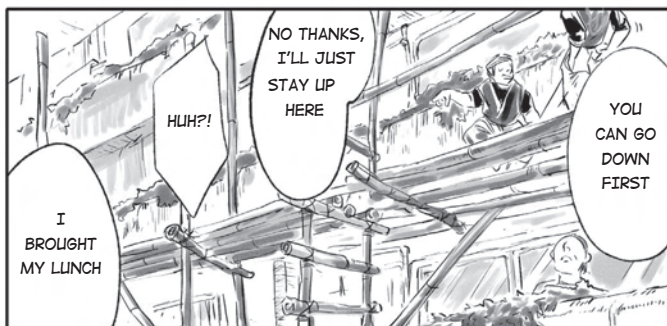
BUT MY
HANDS ARE
SHAKING
...

C'MON! YOU
GOTTA TIE
IT GOOD
AND TIGHT



WE
HAVEN'T
MADE
MUCH
PROGRESS
TODAY...

LUNCH
TIME!



I
BROUGHT
MY LUNCH

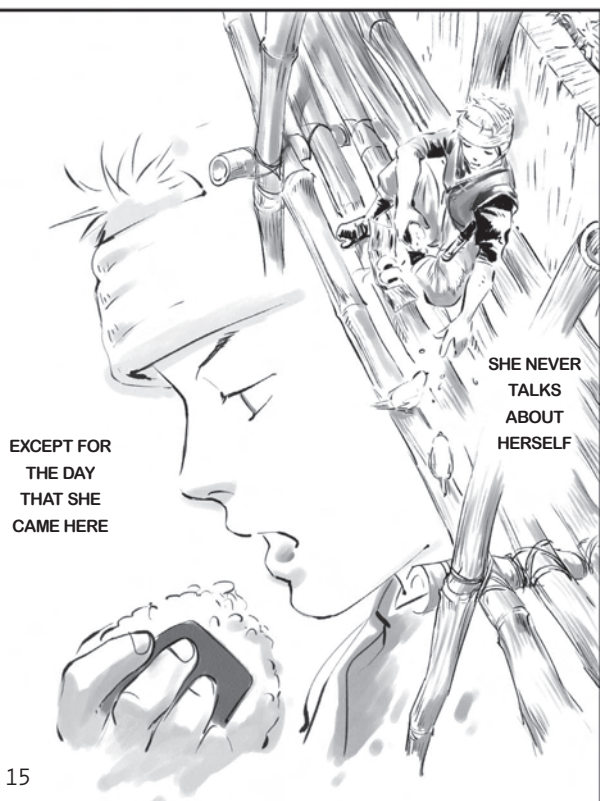
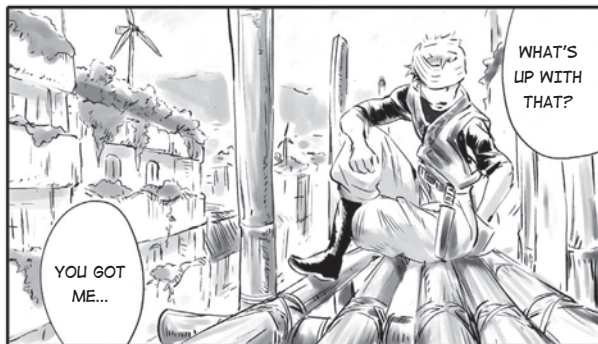
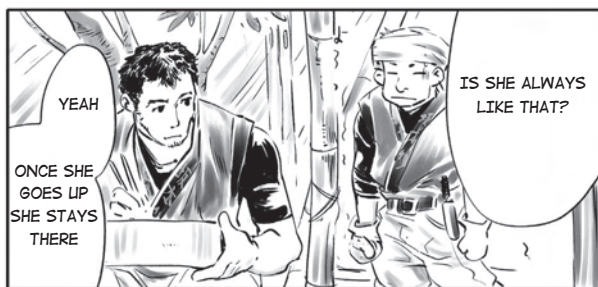
NO THANKS,
I'LL JUST
STAY UP
HERE

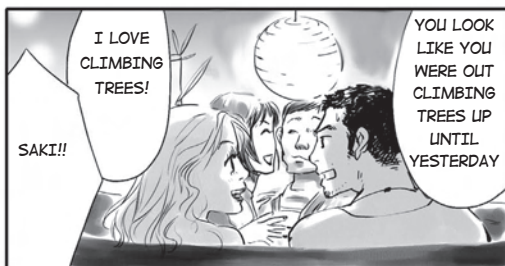
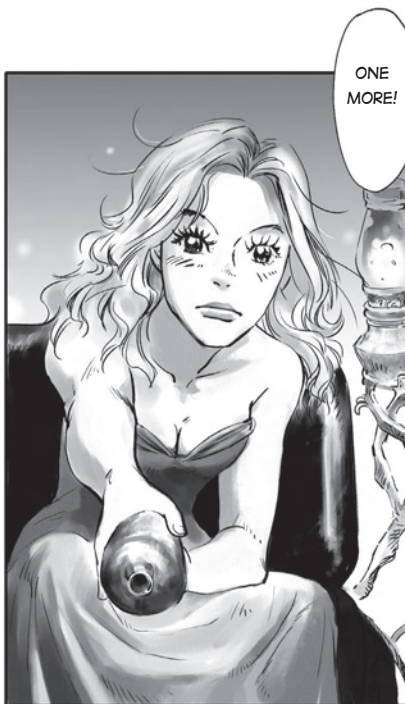
YOU
CAN GO
DOWN
FIRST

HUH?!



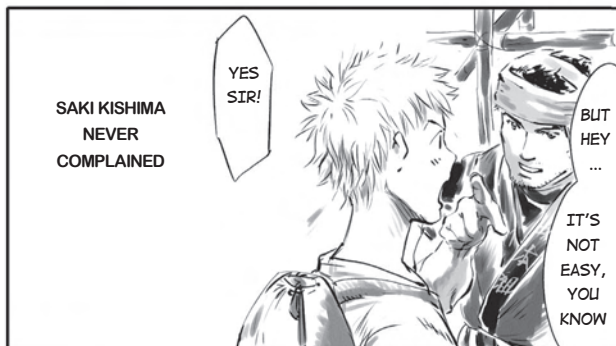
ABOVE ALL
SHE ISN'T
AFRAID OF
HEIGHTS

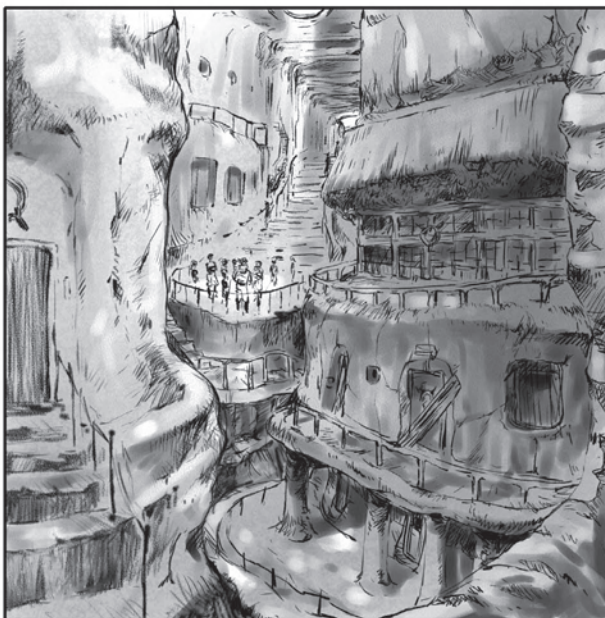


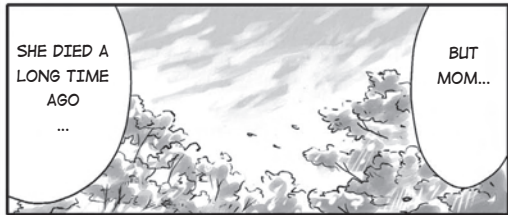
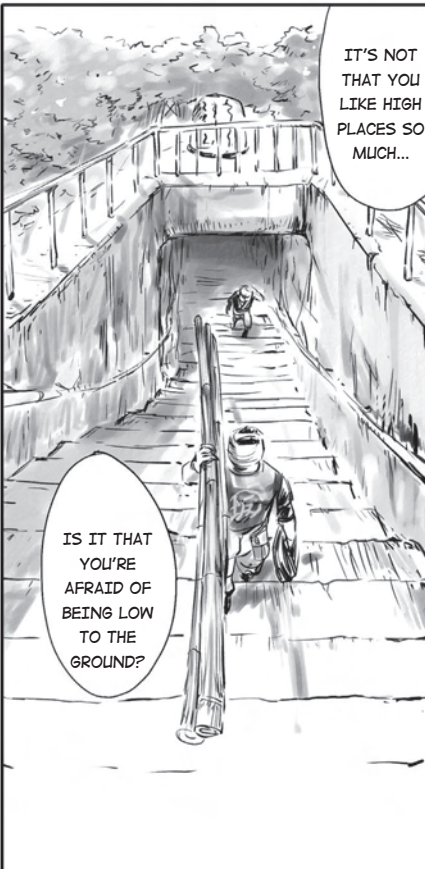


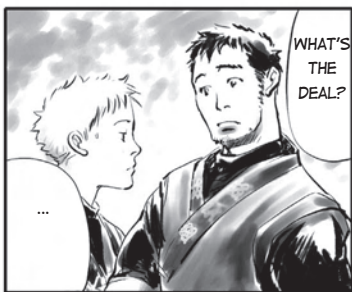


SFX: LAUGHTER









WHAT'S
THE
DEAL?

...



BUT THERE'S
GOING TO
BE A LOT OF
UNDERGROUND
JOBS COMING
UP SO...

DON'T
WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT IT
HUH?



THAT'S WHY
YOU LIVE
ON THE
TOP FLOOR,
WITH THAT
DAMN LOUD
WINDMILL
RIGHT
ABOVE
YOU

AND THAT
CLUB THAT
YOU WERE
WORKING AT
WAS ON THE
TOP FLOOR
TOO...



...YES

I
THOUGHT
SO



PLEASE
WAIT!

I DON'T
NEED ANY
ACCIDENTS ON
MY WATCH

YOU CAN
WORK AS
HARD AS YOU
LIKE... BUT IF
YOU FREAK
OUT...

**PLEASE
DON'T
FIRE ME!**

I'LL WORK
REALLY HARD
SO...
PLEASE...



TENKEN?
THAT'S
NOT FOR
ANOTHER
MONTH...

WHY
WOULD
YOU...?

MANAKA,
THE
INSPECTOR
IS HERE



WAIT UNTIL THE
TENKEN FESTIVAL

IF I'M
NOT BETTER
BY THEN YOU
CAN FIRE
ME AND I
WON'T MIND



THANK YOU



MANAKA!

ANYWAY
GO HOME
FOR THE
DAY



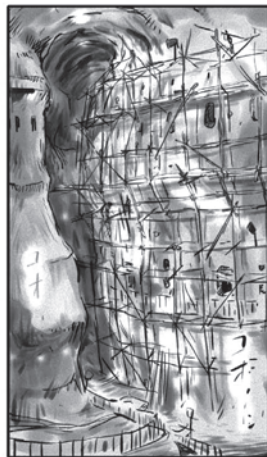
LOOK, THE NEXT
PROJECT IS
GONNA BE A
HIGH-RISE!

SO YOU
BETTER
WORK
TWICE AS
HARD!

I KNOW
HOW TOUGH
YOU ARE
SO...

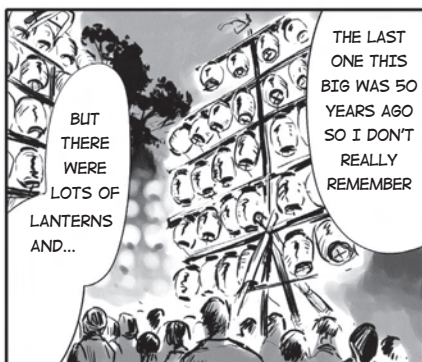


WHAT
WAS SO
IMPORTANT
ABOUT THE
FESTIVAL?



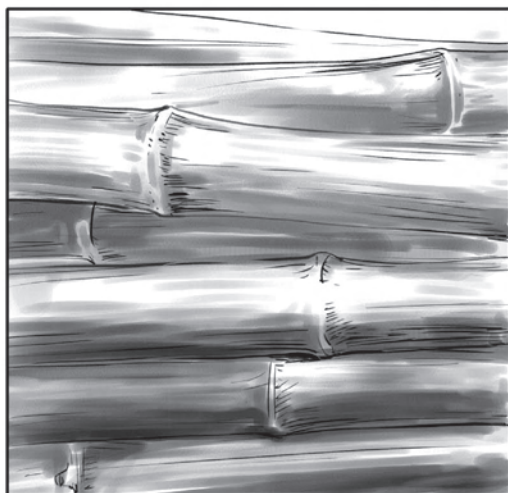
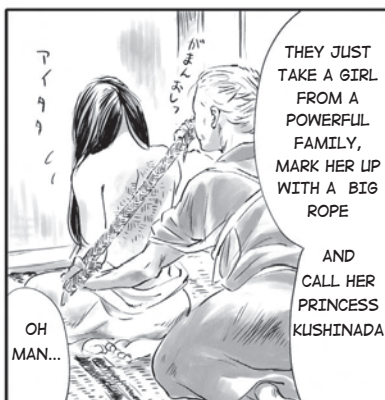
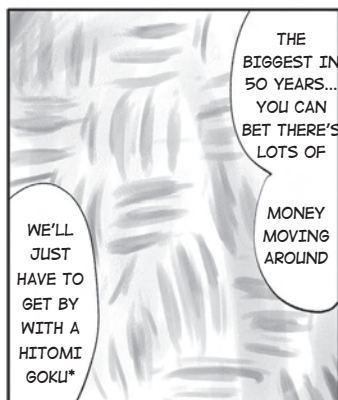
SFX: CLAP CLAP



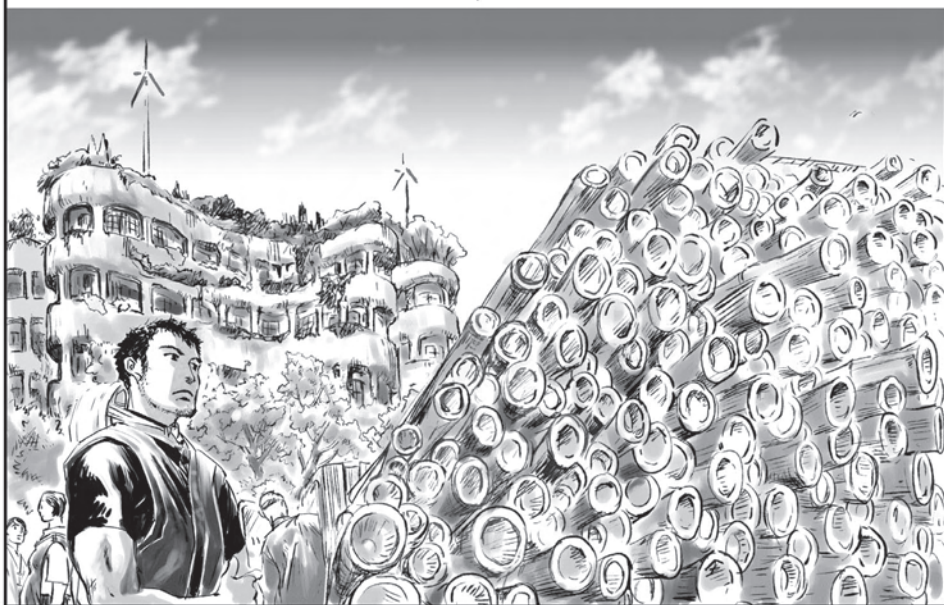


WHEN THE GIANT SERPENT CRAWLS
OVER A GIRL, SCALES WILL FORM ON
HER BACK AND SHE WILL BE THE NEW
PRINCESS

BUT OROCHI IS THE ONE WHO PICKS



* 1 Hitomogoku (See Notes)



MAYBE
...
MAYBE A
BIT *TOO*
GOOD...



LOOKS
LIKE
GOOD
STUFF

CAUSE
IT IS



SIR!
GOOD
MORNING,
SIR!



CUT IT
OUT WILL
YOU?

LOOK
WHO'S
BACK !



C'MON
MIGAWA...
YOU
KNOW I
...

YOU AND
SAKAMOTO
SURE DO
GIVE ME
A LOT OF
SHIT...

I'M
BRINGING
YOU THE
BEST THERE
IS



KISHIMA

I'LL GET
THESE DOWN
RIGHT AWAY
SIR!



SFX: ZAP



WHAT
DID THEY
CALL IT
AGAIN...

WELL, YOU
KNOW HOW
THEY HAD THAT
"DIRTY WAR"
?



SHE'S
BEEN
HAVING
A TOUGH
TIME...

LET'S
JUST
LEAVE
HER
ALONE

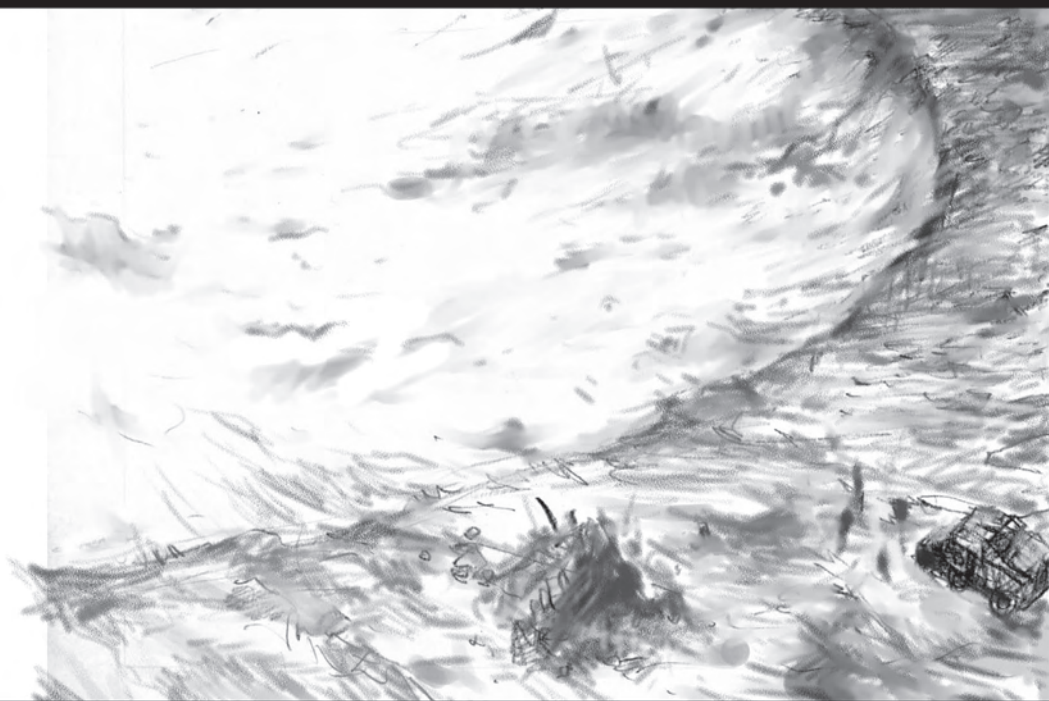
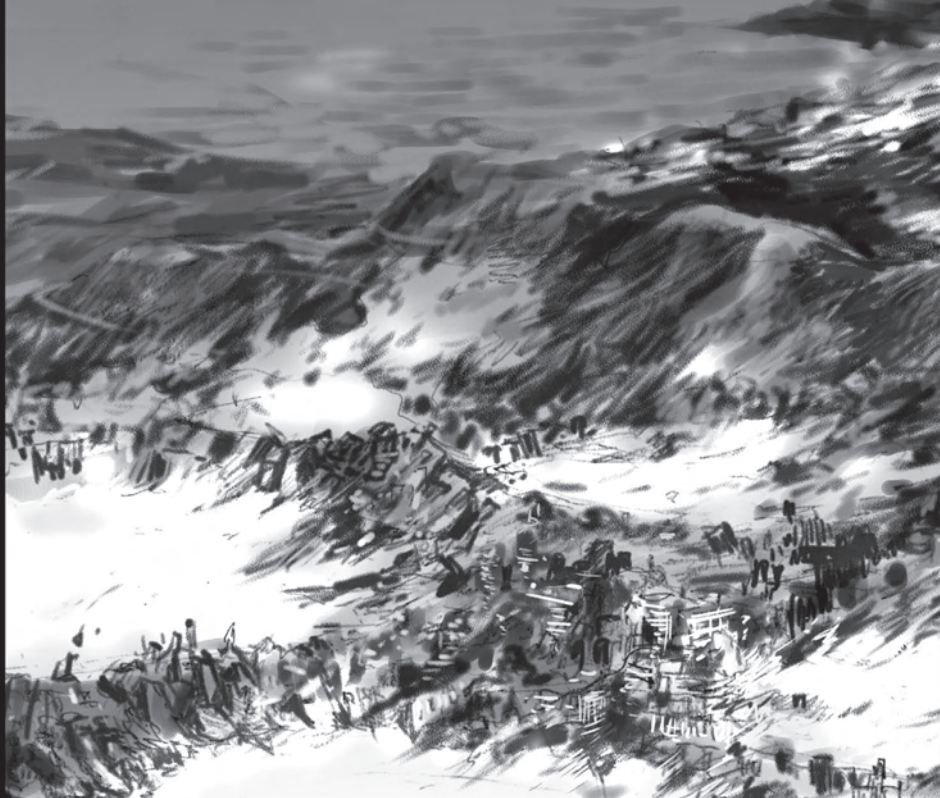
WHAT'S
WITH
HER?



LOOK...

ANYWAY,
MIGIWA.. I'M
SORRY TO SAY
IT BUT...





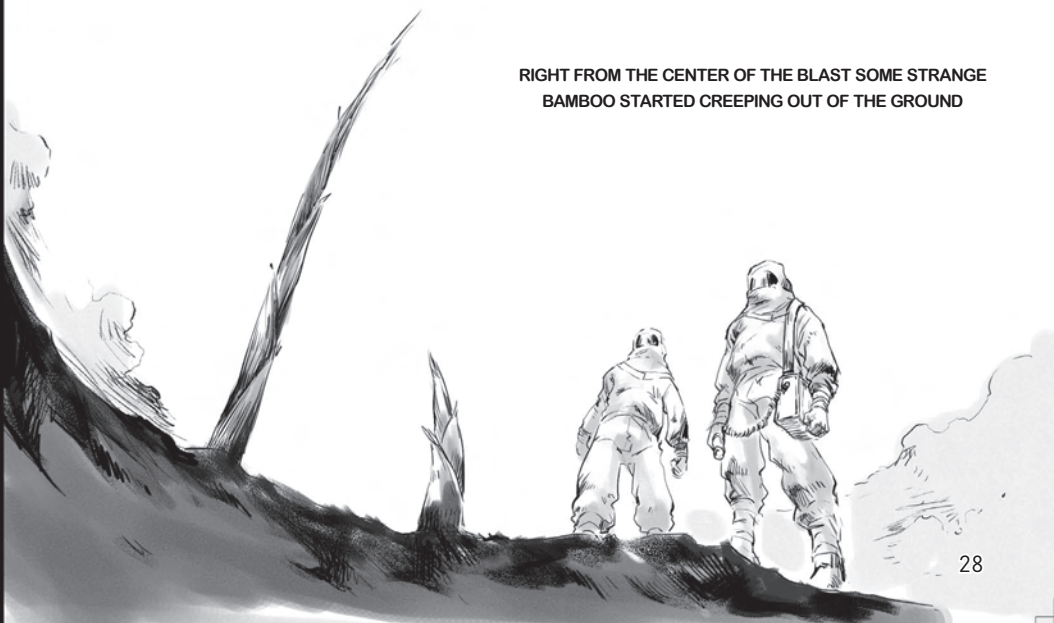
AFTER THE WAR THE WHOLE WORLD
WAS POLLUTED, SOAKED IN POISON
RIGHT DOWN TO ITS CORE. EVERYONE
THOUGHT THAT NOT ONE BLADE OF
GRASS WOULD EVER GROW AGAIN

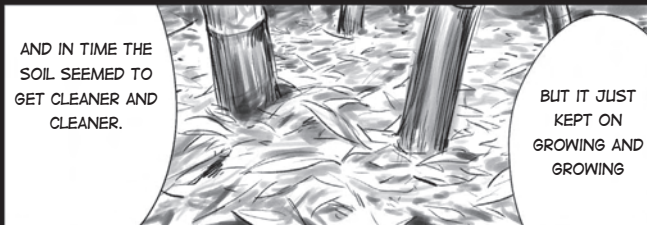


...BUT THEY WERE WRONG



RIGHT FROM THE CENTER OF THE BLAST SOME STRANGE
BAMBOO STARTED CREEPING OUT OF THE GROUND





AND IN TIME THE SOIL SEEMED TO GET CLEANER AND CLEANER.

BUT IT JUST KEPT ON GROWING AND GROWING



FUKASHI* IS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE THE BAMBOO WAS ABSORBING IT

SO MUCH SO THAT IT TURNED BLUE. PEOPLE HAD TO KEEP CUTTING IT DOWN AND HAULING IT OFF



WHICH IS WHAT WE USUALLY USE FOR ALL OUR CONSTRUCTION

SO ONCE THE SOIL WAS RELATIVELY CLEAN THEY REPLACED THE POLLUTED BAMBOO* WITH A NORMAL VARIETY

*3 Polluted Bamboo (See Notes)

*2 Fukashi

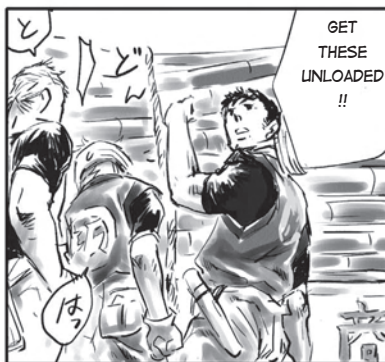
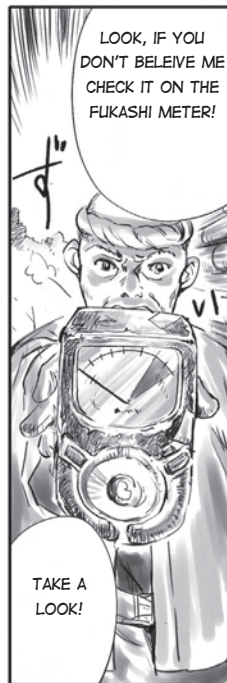


AND THIS SURE LOOKS

A LOT LIKE POLLUTED BAMBOO



PEOPLE FROM THE CITY MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH IT, BUT I'M FROM OUT IN TOBICHI, WHICH IS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A PURIFICATION BAMBOO FOREST



SFX: BANG



YOU'RE FROM THE THIRD MOUNTAIN DISTRICT?

THOUGH WITHOUT PARENTS YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN APPOINTED GUARDIANS

THAT'S THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT



ACTUALLY I'M FROM THE THIRD MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

SO I JUST SORT OF STARTED THINKING ABOUT ...

YOU KNOW ...



AS LONG AS YOU ...

HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?



SOMETHING SEEMS A BIT STRANGE, BUT YOU'RE AN ADULT

AND I DON'T CARE TO GO SNOOPING AROUND IN YOUR PRIVATE LIFE



PLEASE DON'T CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE!

CALM DOWN, WILL YOU



BUT YOU CAN'T LAUGH AT ME

OKAY. I'LL TELL YOU



...



IT'S STILL A WAY OFF!

IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE THIS THEN THE OTHER WORKERS WILL...

JUST WAIT UNTIL TENKEN IS OVER !