

CROSSED
HEARTS
PRESENTS

1
COVER NOT FINAL

Emma and the Eyes That Bid Farewell

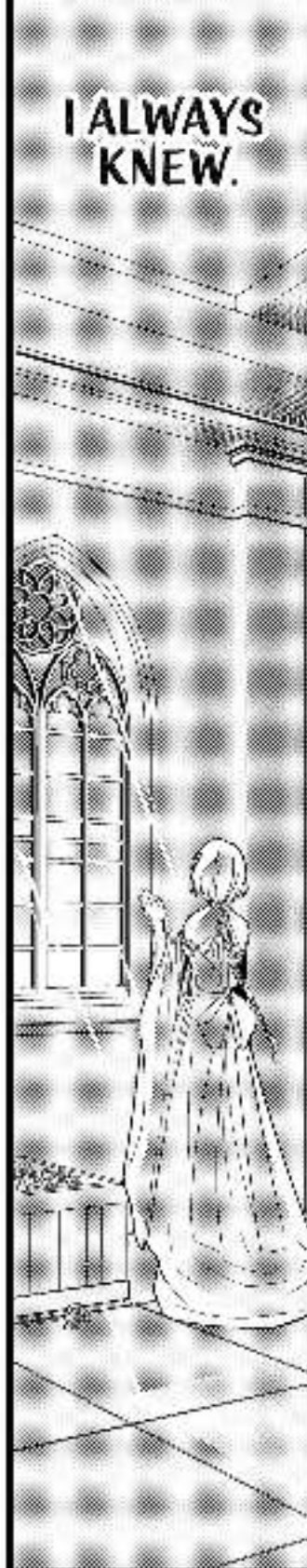
Art and Story by Higure Sakino



THAT ONE
DAY,

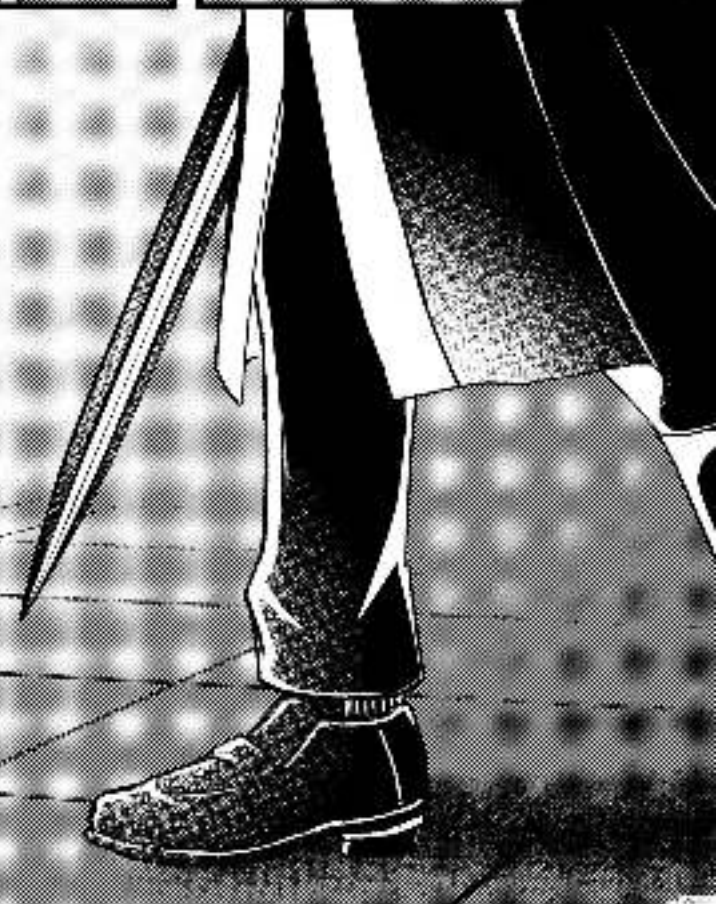
SILVER LIGHT,
SHINING LIKE
THE MOON...

I ALWAYS
KNEW.



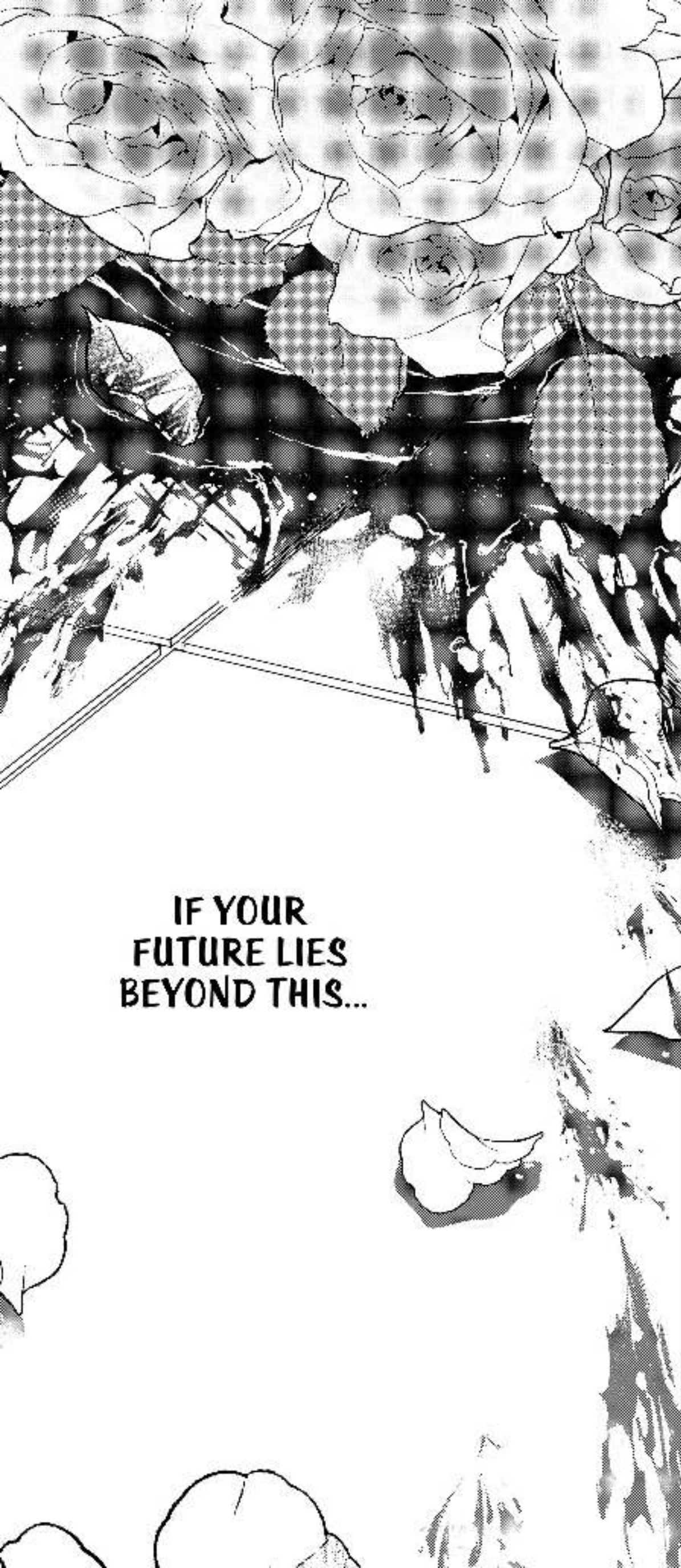
...IT'S
OKAY.

WOULD PIERCE
STRAIGHT
THROUGH ME.



AFTER
ALL,

THIS IS
OUR PROMISE.



IF YOUR
FUTURE LIES
BEYOND THIS...



GRIP



IT'S A
PROMISE~!



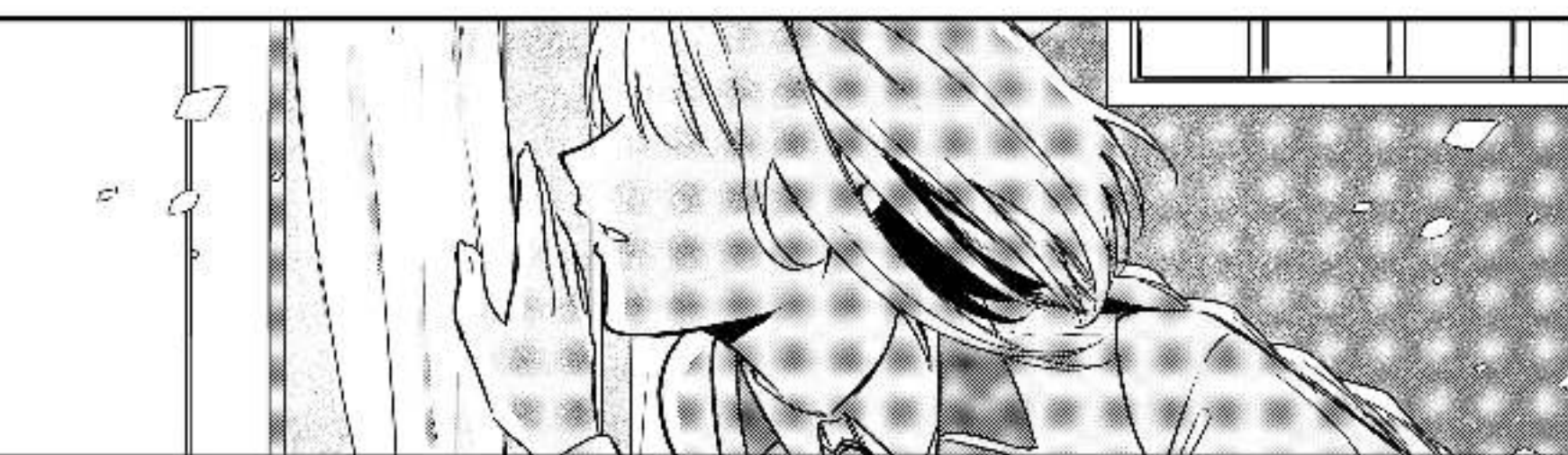
THEN
NEXT
TIME,

I'LL BE
THE ONE
TO SAVE
YOU!

AND I'LL
BECOME YOUR
GUARDIAN
KNIGHT, EMMA.

I'M GOING
TO BECOME
THE LADY
GEM, NO
MATTER WHAT!











GOOD
MORNING,
LADY EMMA!

WAIT! IS
THAT WHAT
I THINK IT
IS IN THE
DISTANCE...?



THE
GRANERTZ
MAGIC
ACADEMY?!



THIS IS
AMAZING!
THE WHOLE
TOWN'S IN
A FESTIVE
MOOD!

I'VE NEVER
SEEN SO
MANY PEOPLE
OR SO MUCH
MAGIC ALL
IN ONE PLACE...!

WHOA...







THEN CAME
A MAN AND WOMAN
BLESSED WITH BEAUTIFUL,
JEWEL-LIKE EYES.

WAS
ONCE LITTLE
MORE THAN
A DESOLATE
LAND.

OUR KINGDOM'S
FOUNDING STORY
HAS ALWAYS
BEEN HOPELESSLY
ROMANTIC!

THE
GRANERTZ
MAGIC
ACADEMY?!

THE TWO
WOULD
EVENTUALLY
RISE TO THE
PINNACLE OF
ALL MAGES,

PROTECTING
THE KINGDOM
AS THE LADY
GEM AND HER
GUARDIAN
KNIGHT.

ALL WHILE
SHARING
A LOVE THAT
LASTED EVER
AFTER...!

AND THE
POWER OF
SACRED
MAGIC.

TOGETHER,
THEY HEALED
THE RAVAGED
LAND AND LAID THE
FOUNDATIONS OF
A NEW KINGDOM.



JUST BEYOND
THOSE GATES
IS THE PLACE
I'VE DREAMED
ABOUT FOR
SO LONG...

AND
EVERYONE
HERE IS
GOING TO
THE SAME
ACADEMY!



SQUIRM

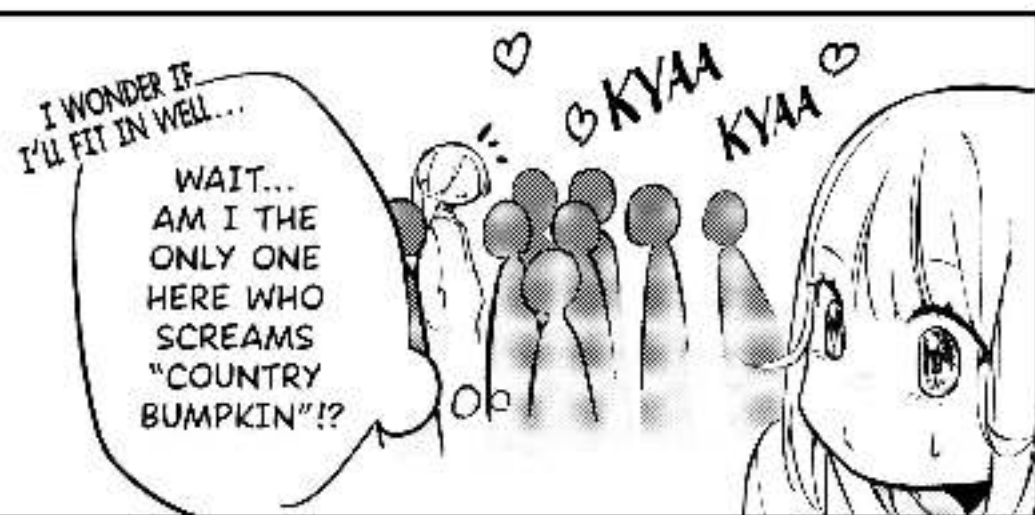
SQUIRM

I CAN'T WAIT
TO MAKE
FRIENDS AND
SPEND HOURS
TALKING
ABOUT MAGIC
TOGETHER...!

ALTHOUGH...



I STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M REALLY
GOING TO BE
A STUDENT
AT GRANERTZ
MAGIC
ACADEMY...!









THOSE
EYES...

THEY'RE SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL
BLUE... I FEEL
LIKE I COULD
FALL RIGHT
INTO THEM...



PROMISE ME,
EMMA.



WHAT A
WEIRD
GUY...

TURN
WAIT...
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
HELP ME UP?

THANK
YOU...?

MY PRECIOUS
UNPOLISHED
GEMS.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR
ADMISSION TO
GRANERTZ MAGIC
ACADEMY,

3-3-3



YOUR FIRST TASK WILL BE TO MAKE YOUR WAY TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

SWOOSH

WHOOSH

THE HEADMASTER!



THOUGH, REGRETTABLY, SOME OF YOU MAY FAIL TO REACH THE CEREMONY AND FIND YOURSELVES EXPELLED BEFORE YOU EVEN BEGIN...



YOUR DESTINATION IS THE ASSEMBLY HALL.

THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY WILL BEGIN THREE HOURS FROM NOW, AT SIX O'CLOCK.



NO WAY...!

YOU CAN FAIL ON THE VERY FIRST DAY...?!

WAIT... IS GETTING THERE PART OF THE ENTRANCE EXAM?

MURMUR

MURMUR

ONCE YOU ARRIVE AND YOUR LONG-AWAITED PAIRS HAVE BEEN DECIDED,

YOU WILL OFFICIALLY BE RECOGNIZED AS STUDENTS OF THIS ACADEMY.



EVEN OUR
UPPERCLASSMEN
HAVE BEEN
KNOWN TO LOSE
THEIR WAY,
SO DO TAKE
CARE.

AS FOR
THE
GARDENS...

A NUMBER
OF RATHER
TROUBLESOME
CREATURES HAVE
MADE THEIR
HOMES THERE.



HOW YOU
REACH THE
HALL IS
ENTIRELY UP
TO YOU. JUST
BE SURE TO
ARRIVE SAFELY.

SHOULD
YOU FIND
YOURSELVES
IN ANY
REAL DANGER,
OUR FACULTY
WILL COME
TO YOUR
AID, SO
REST ASSURED.



WHAT DO
I DO...?

WHOOSH

WELL
THEN...

I LOOK
FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU
ALL AGAIN
SHORTLY.



I CAN'T
EVEN
USE
MAGIC!



DOES GETTING
THERE FASTER
EARN US EXTRA
POINTS...?

IF WE USE A
BROOM, WE CAN
AVOID THOSE
DANGEROUS
GARDENS
ALTOGETHER,
ISN'T IT?

LET'S
FOLLOW
THE
HEADMASTER!

HUH. THIS IS
EASIER THAN
I THOUGHT.

HE NEVER
SAID THE
SKY OR
THE LAKE
WERE SAFE.

LET'S GET
MOVING!



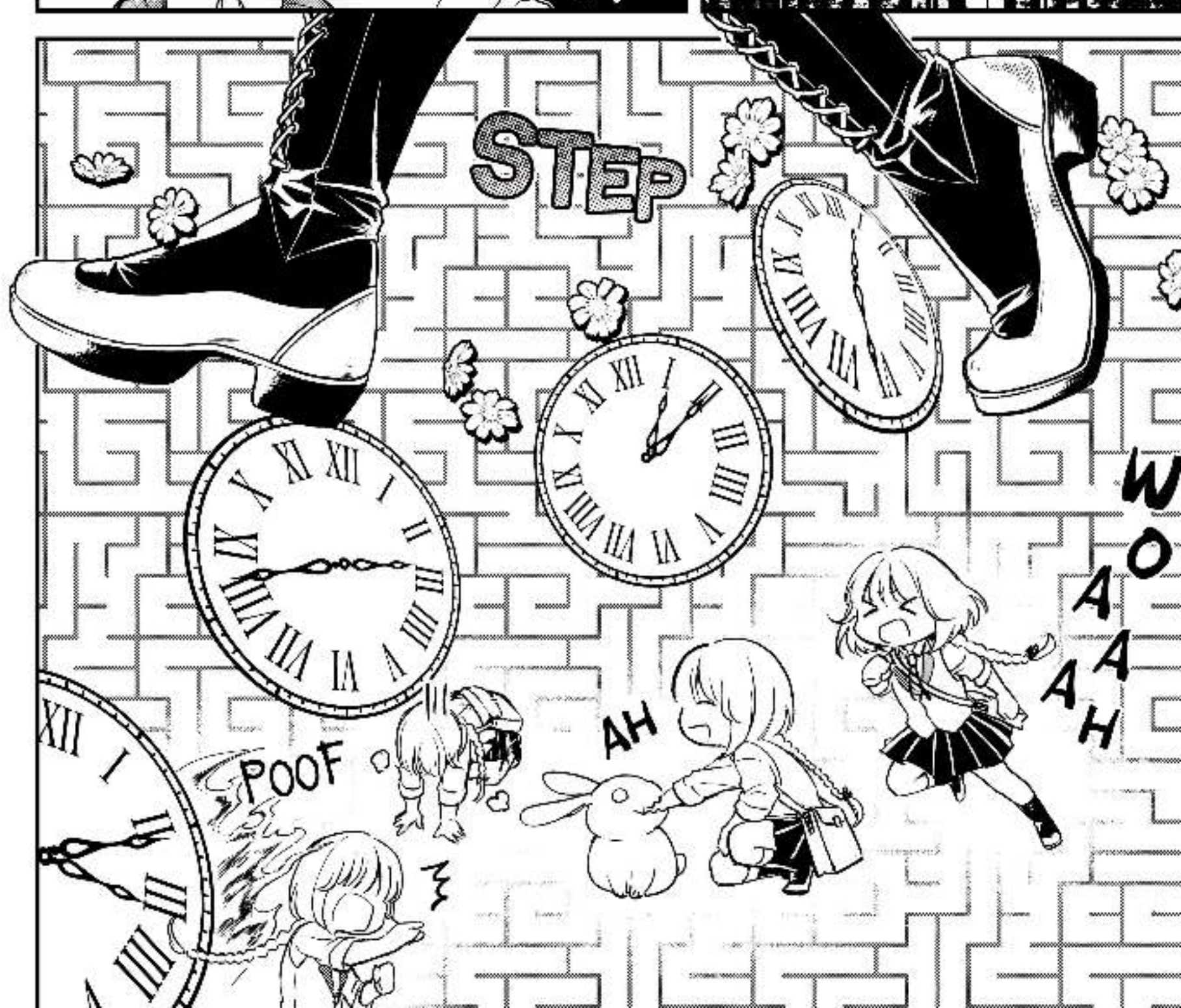
I'VE NEVER
MANAGED TO
FLY A BROOM
PROPERLY...

EVERYONE'S
ALREADY ON
THE MOVE...

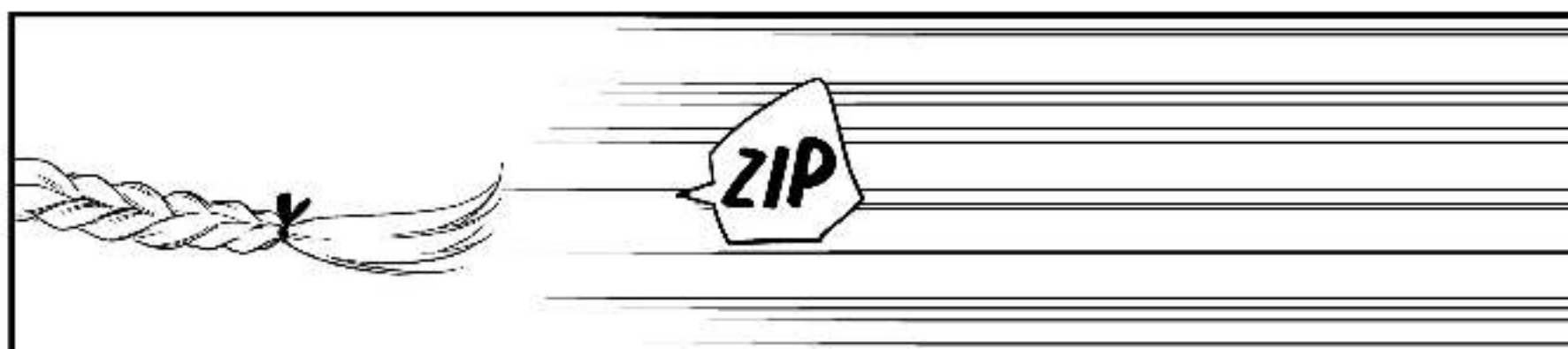




THE PATH
CLOSED
BEHIND
ME...?









SK-OOOAA--

U
R
O
O
O
O

KOOO

OOOOH!!

JOLT

RUSTLE

CREAK

GASP





I-I-
I'M SO
SORRY!
I'LL PAY
YOU BACK....!

CRACK



IT'S THAT
WEIRD GUY
FROM BEFORE!

SORRY!
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?!

...YES.



UM...

WOULD YOU
MIND IF I...
CAME WITH
YOU?



SIGH...

GUESS I'M
WALKING...



DON'T
BOTHER.

IT WAS
FALLING APART
ANYWAY. I
WAS GOING
TO REPLACE
IT.

BUT THERE
MIGHT STILL
BE SOMETHING
I CAN HELP
WITH...!

I MEAN...
I STILL
CAN'T USE
MAGIC,

NOW HE
REALLY DOESN'T
WANT ME TO

I GUESS
THAT MAKES
SENSE

SO
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

...JEWELLS

TH-
THANKS!

I'M EMMA
KLEIN!



HE'S COMPLETELY IGNORING ME...!

TAP
TAP

...

HE WALKS SO FAST...



PHYLLIS!
GOT IT.
NICE TO MEET YOU!



CAA-AW



COME ON...
THINK OF
SOMETHING...

.....SO, WHY
DID YOU
DECIDE TO
JOIN THE
ACADEMY?
KIDDING.



I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE
TALKING ABOUT
WITH SOMEONE
MY OWN AGE~!

I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE
TALKING
ABOUT WITH
SOMEONE MY
OWN AGE~!

...

SU...

S-SURE IS
A BEAUTIFUL
SUNSET...

...JUST
KIDDING.





YOU'RE AN
EYESORE.

YOU'LL
ONLY END
UP FALLING
BEHIND.

IF YOU'VE
GOT NO
TALENT, GO
HOME AND
STAY THERE.



BUT...

CLUTCH

I KNOW.

...YEAH.

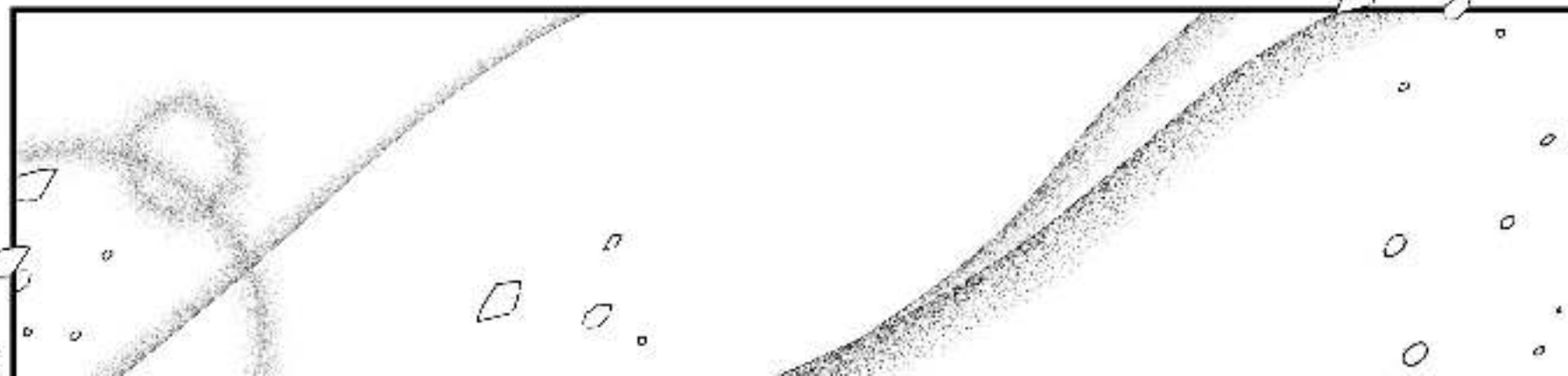
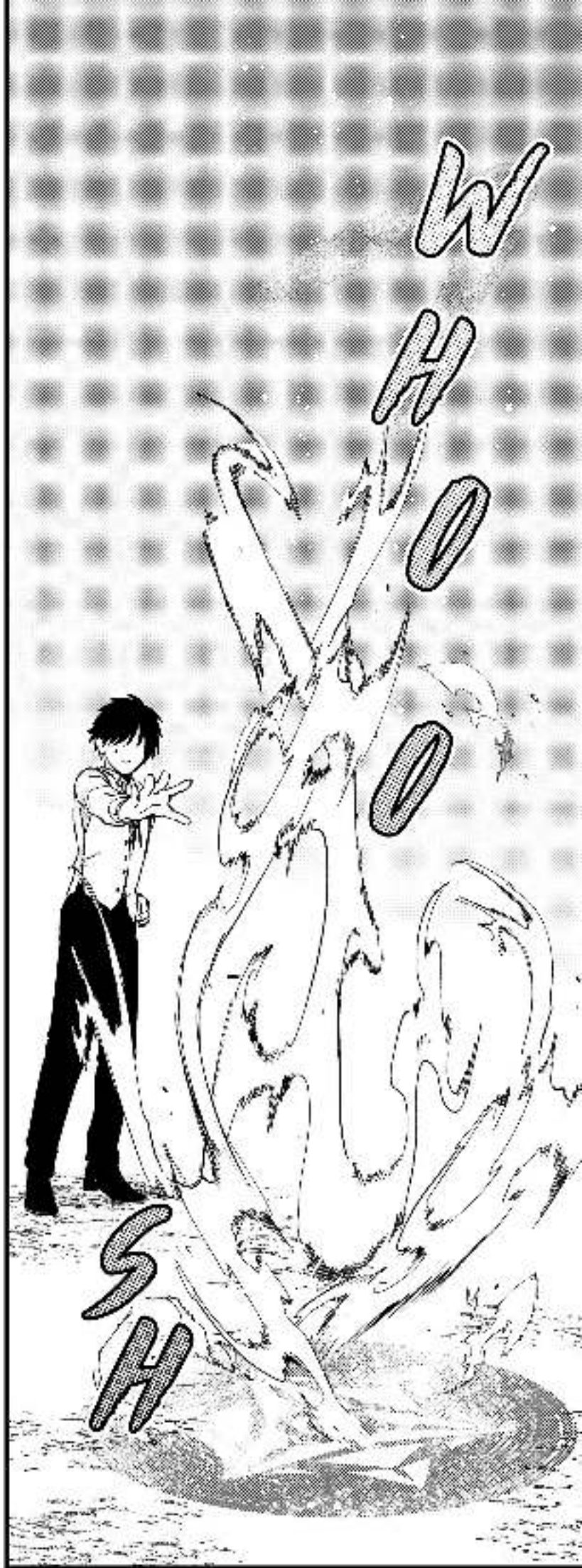
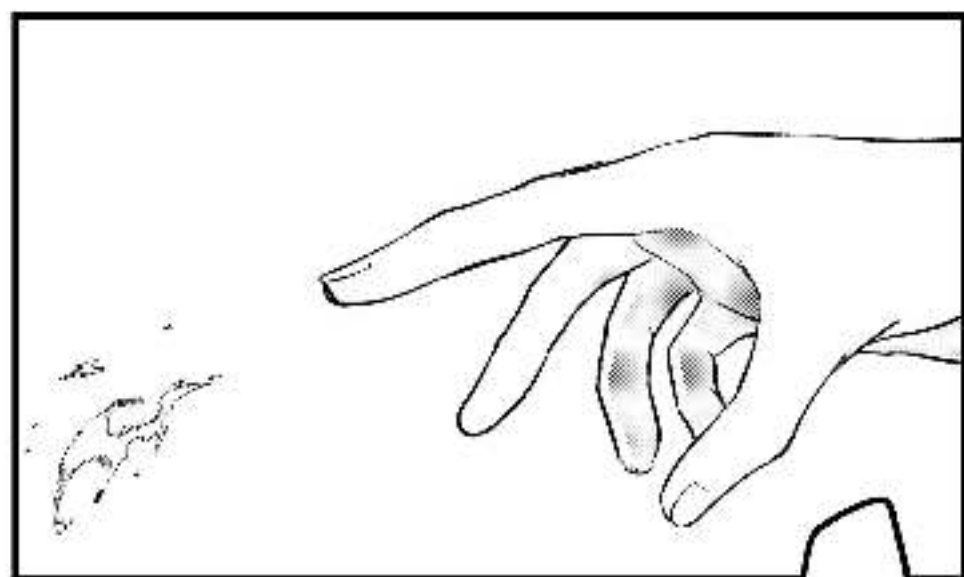


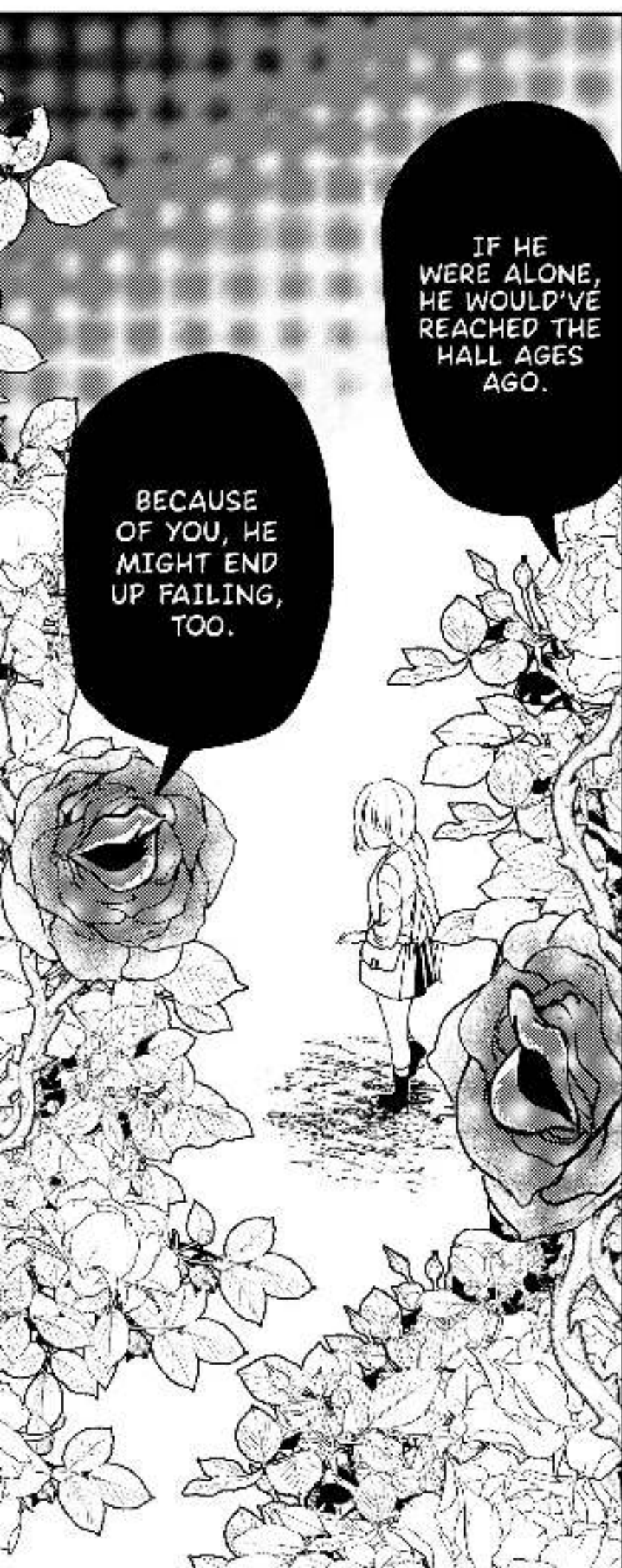
I MADE A
PROMISE
THAT MEANS
EVERYTHING
TO ME.



SO I'M NOT
GIVING UP ON
BECOMING THE
LADY GEM.









...WHAT
HORRIBLE
FLOWERS.

YOU CAN'T
USE MAGIC.
YOU'RE NO
GOOD AT
STUDYING.

AND YOU
DON'T EVEN
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS TO
COME SAVE
YOU.

T-TALKING
ROSES...?



DON'T
LISTEN
TO THEM.

RUNNING
AWAY,
ARE WE?

SHE
RAN
AWAY.

BOLT



STOMP

AH...

ARE
YOU
SURE?



I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE
I AM RIGHT
NOW. I NEED
TO FIND A
WAY OUT.

I'M SURE
PHYLLIS IS
LOOKING FOR
ME, TOO...



WHAT'S THE
POINT OF TRYING
WHEN YOU DON'T
EVEN HAVE
ANY TALENT?
IT'S GETTING
PATHETIC...

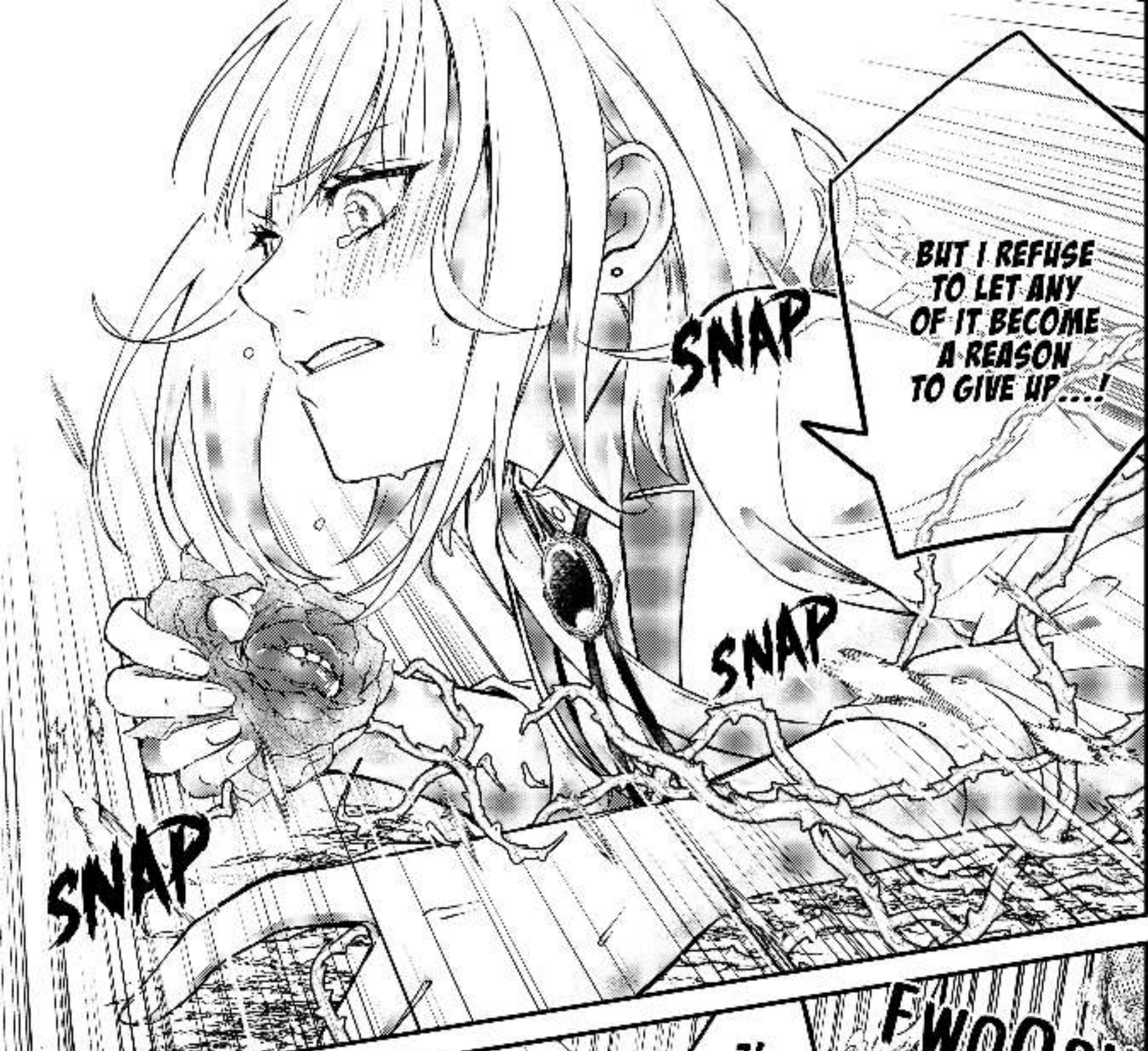
NO MATTER WHAT
YOU TRY, YOU
ALWAYS MANAGE
TO MESS IT UP,
DON'T YOU? HOW
EMBARRASSING.



WHAT AM
I EVEN
DOING...?

I...







PHYL-
LIS...



THOSE
ARE
MIRROR
BLOOMS.

THEY READ THE
INNERMOST
THOUGHTS OF
ANYONE WHO
GETS CLOSE,
THEN USE THOSE
THOUGHTS TO
CONFUSE AND
LURE THEM
IN BEFORE
DEVOURING
THEM.

THEY'RE
NASTY
PIECES
OF WORK.



...YOU'
RE
HURT.



QUIT
MAKING ME
GO THROUGH
SO MUCH
TROUBLE.



HE COULD'VE
GONE STRAIGHT
TO THE HALL
INSTEAD OF
COMING TO
LOOK FOR ME...



GLANCE



DON'T
PRETEND
YOU'RE
FINE.

IT
DOESN'T
HURT. I'M
FINE!

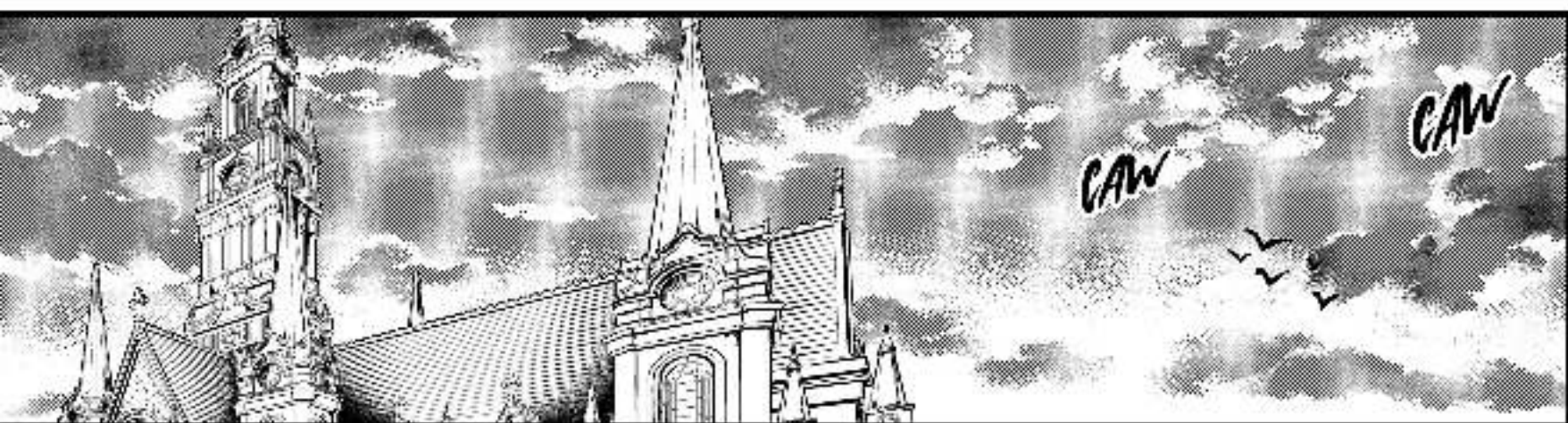
GLEAM

...THANK
YOU.



A LITTLE
FOND OF
ME...?







WHAT'S
THAT?



I CAN
TELL.

UGH. HE
REALLY
DOES
HAVE AN
ATTI-
TUDE.

I NEVER
WOULD'VE
MADE IT
HERE IF
NOT FOR
YOU.

STILL...
THANK
YOU.



APPARENTLY,
YOU WRAP IT
AROUND YOUR
HAND AND IT
LEADS YOU TO
WHOEVER
YOU'RE MOST
COMPATIBLE
WITH.

YOU WEREN'T
LISTENING!
WERE YOU?!

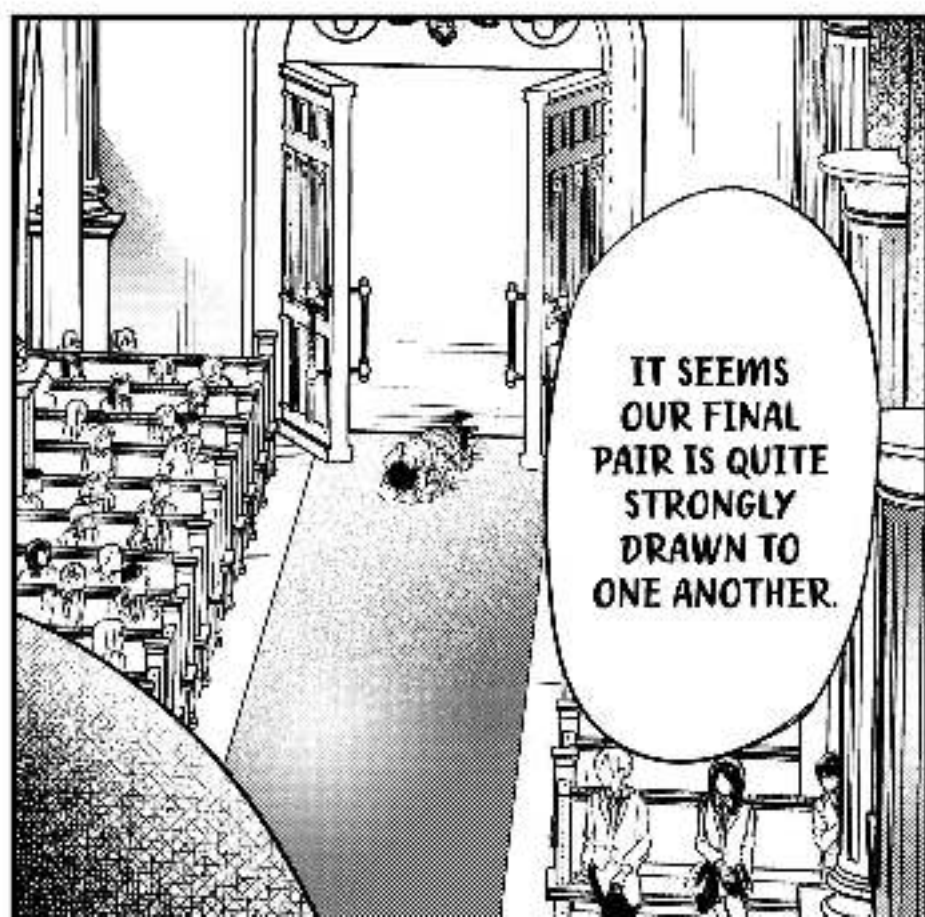
THE
CORD FOR
CHOOSING
OUR PAIRS.



I HOPE WE
BOTH GET
PAIRED WITH
SOMEONE
NICE!

OOH~! IT'S
LIKE THE
THREAD OF
FATE! HOW
ROMAN-
TIC~!







PHYLLIS
BERNARD.

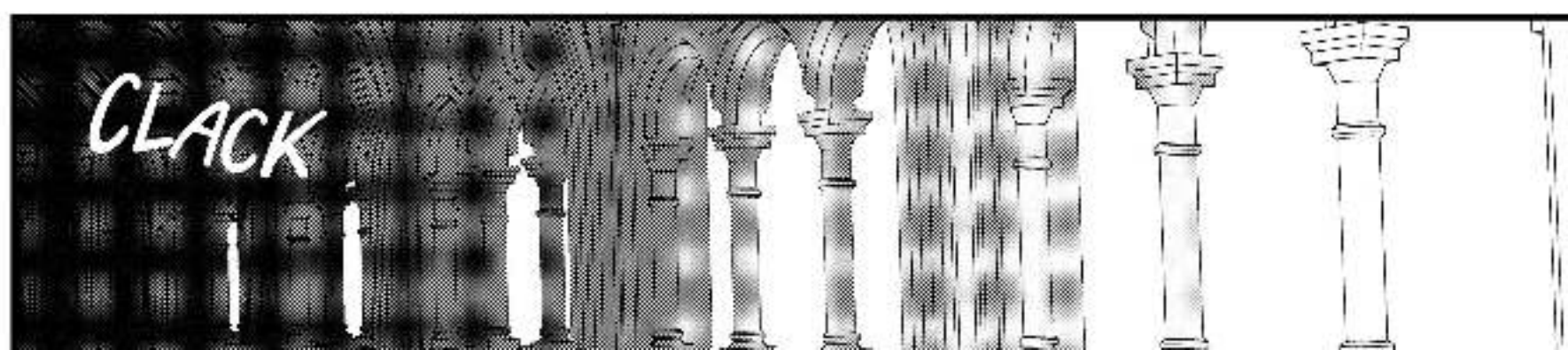
A black and white manga panel showing two students lying on a table. On the left is a boy with dark, spiky hair, looking down with a somber expression. On the right is a girl with long, light-colored hair and a surprised or excited expression, her mouth open. She is wearing a school uniform with a tie and a brooch. A speech bubble from her says "EMMA KLEIN." The boy's speech bubble says "PHYLLIS BERNARD."

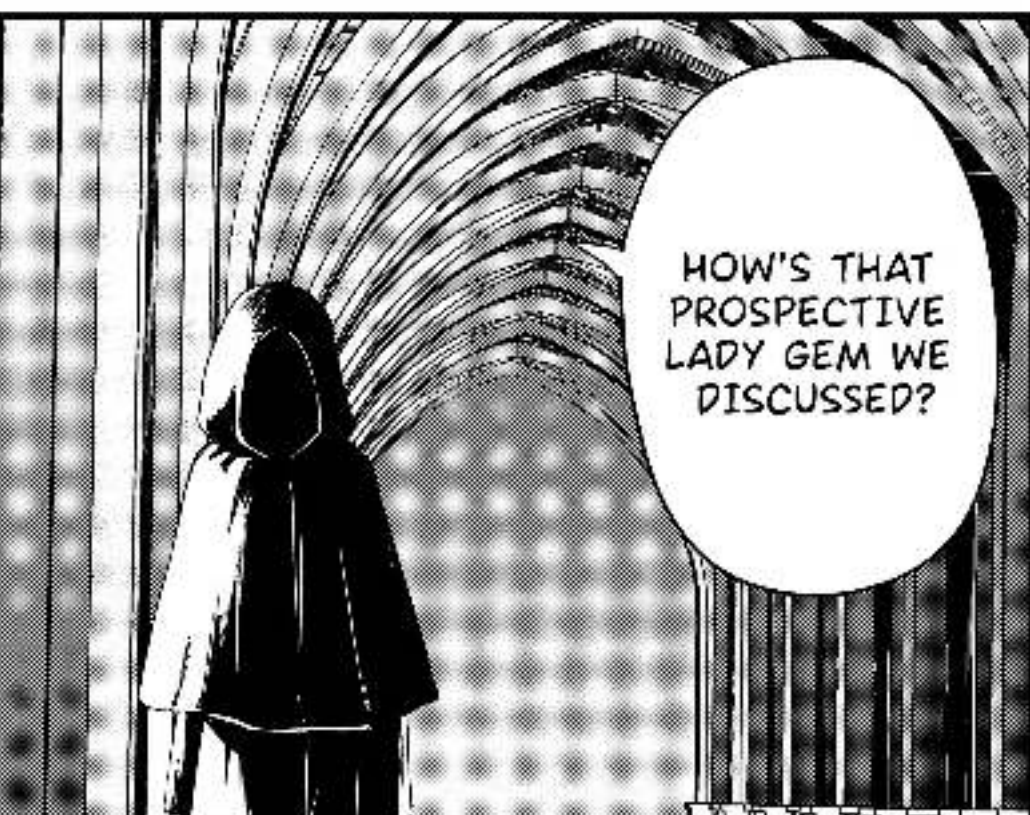
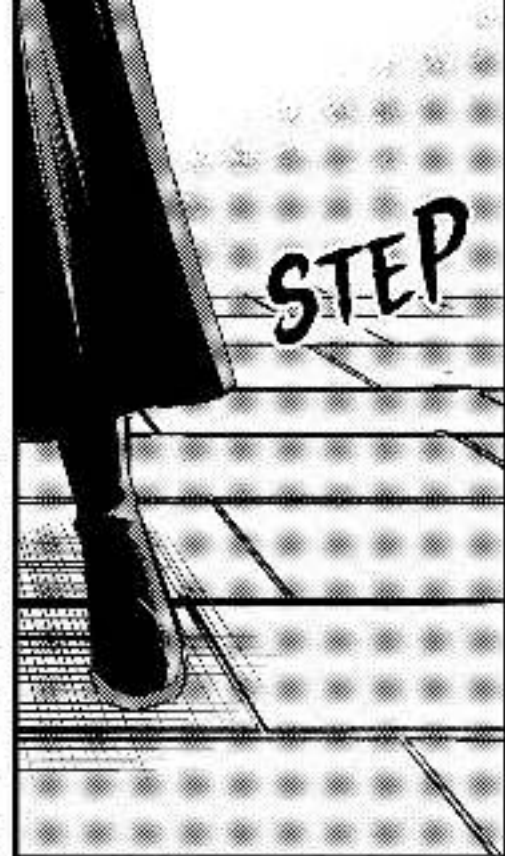
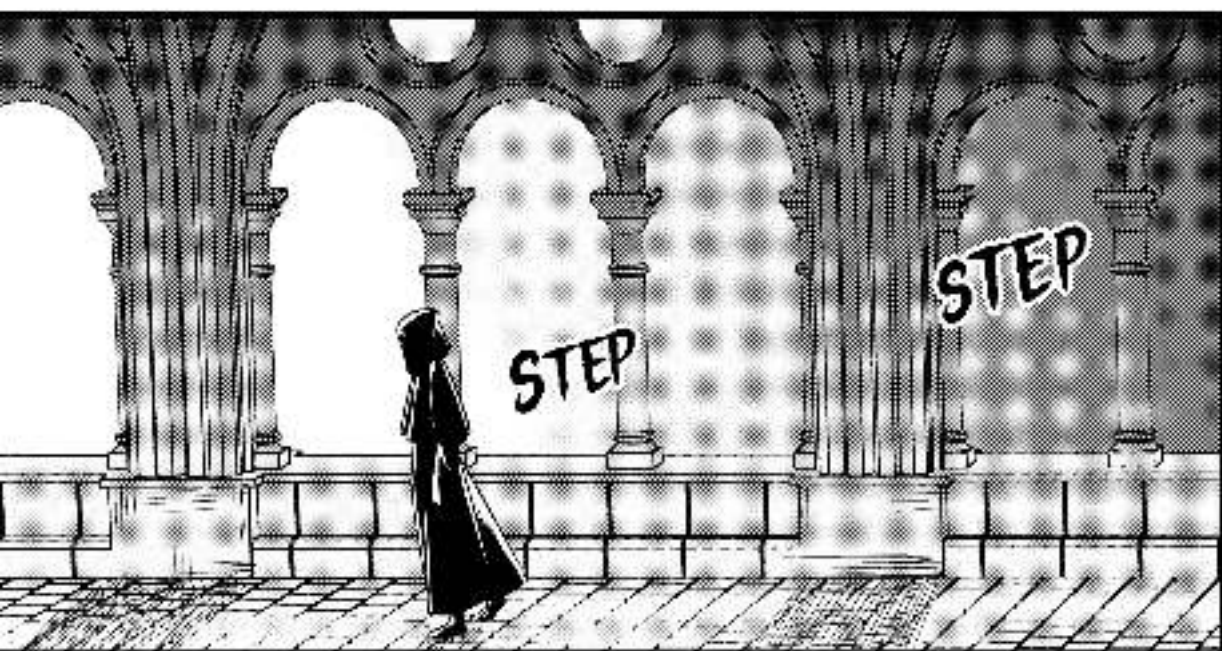
EMMA
KLEIN.



ONCE AGAIN,
WELCOME TO
GRANERTZ MAGIC
ACADEMY.

A close-up manga panel of a girl's face. She has large, expressive eyes and a slightly open mouth, looking directly at the viewer. A hand is visible in the foreground, holding a small object. A speech bubble from the hand says "ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME TO GRANERTZ MAGIC ACADEMY."





HOW'S THAT
PROSPECTIVE
LADY GEM WE
DISCUSSED?



YOU'RE
WORRYING
OVER
NOTHING.

I WONDER
IF YOU'LL
BE ABLE
TO FINISH
YOUR JOB
PROPERLY...?



A LOT
HAPPENED
ON MY VERY
FIRST DAY,
BUT...

TOMORROW,
MY LIFE AT
THE ACADEMY
FINALLY
BEGINS FOR
REAL...!



EMMA
KLEIN...

I CAN'T
WAIT...!

**I'LL
MAKE SURE
SHE'S DEAD.**