

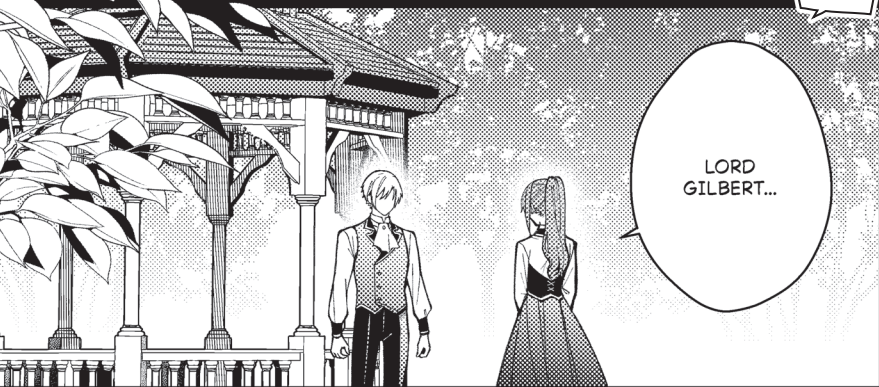
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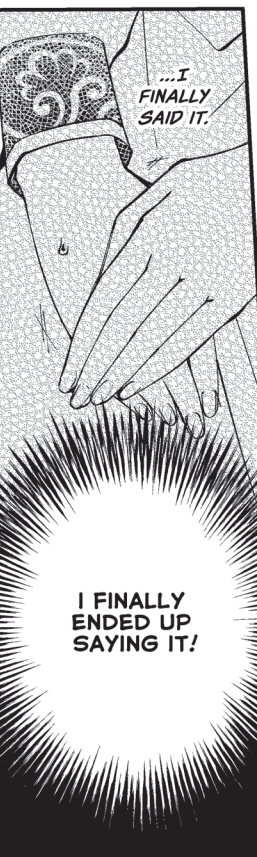
THE
MATCHMAKER'S
FIANCÉE

MY FIANCÉ WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE
WHILE I'M FINDING HIM THE IDEAL BRIDE.

Story by Hanami Nishine Illustrated by Satsuki Amamiya



LORD
GILBERT...



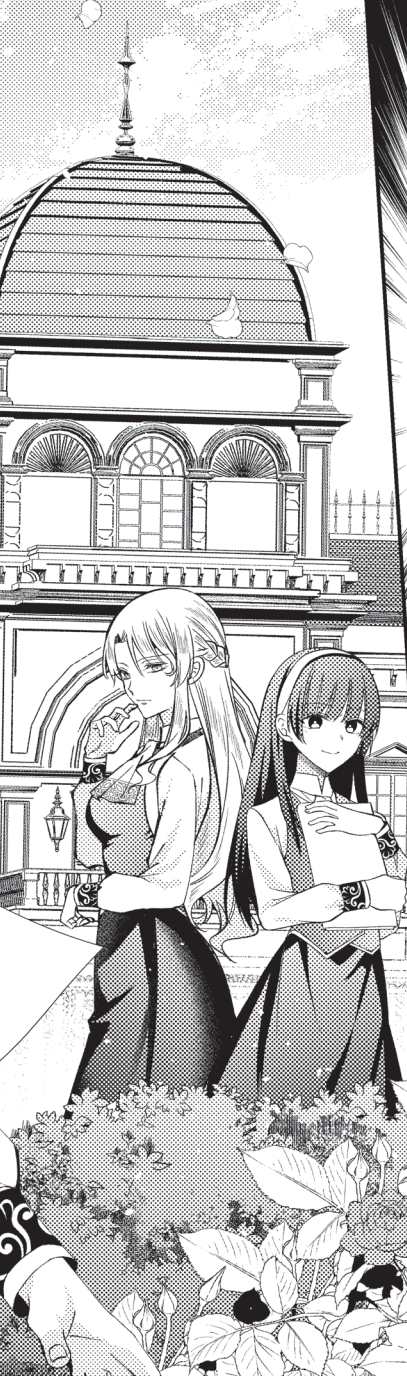
...I
FINALLY
SAID IT.

I FINALLY
ENDED UP
SAYING IT!

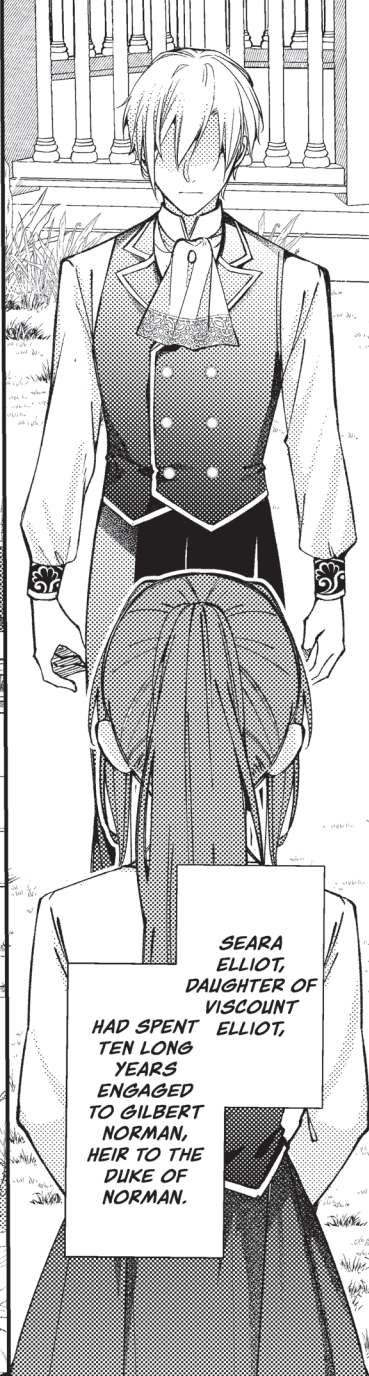


PLEASE
DISSOLVE OUR
ENGAGEMENT.

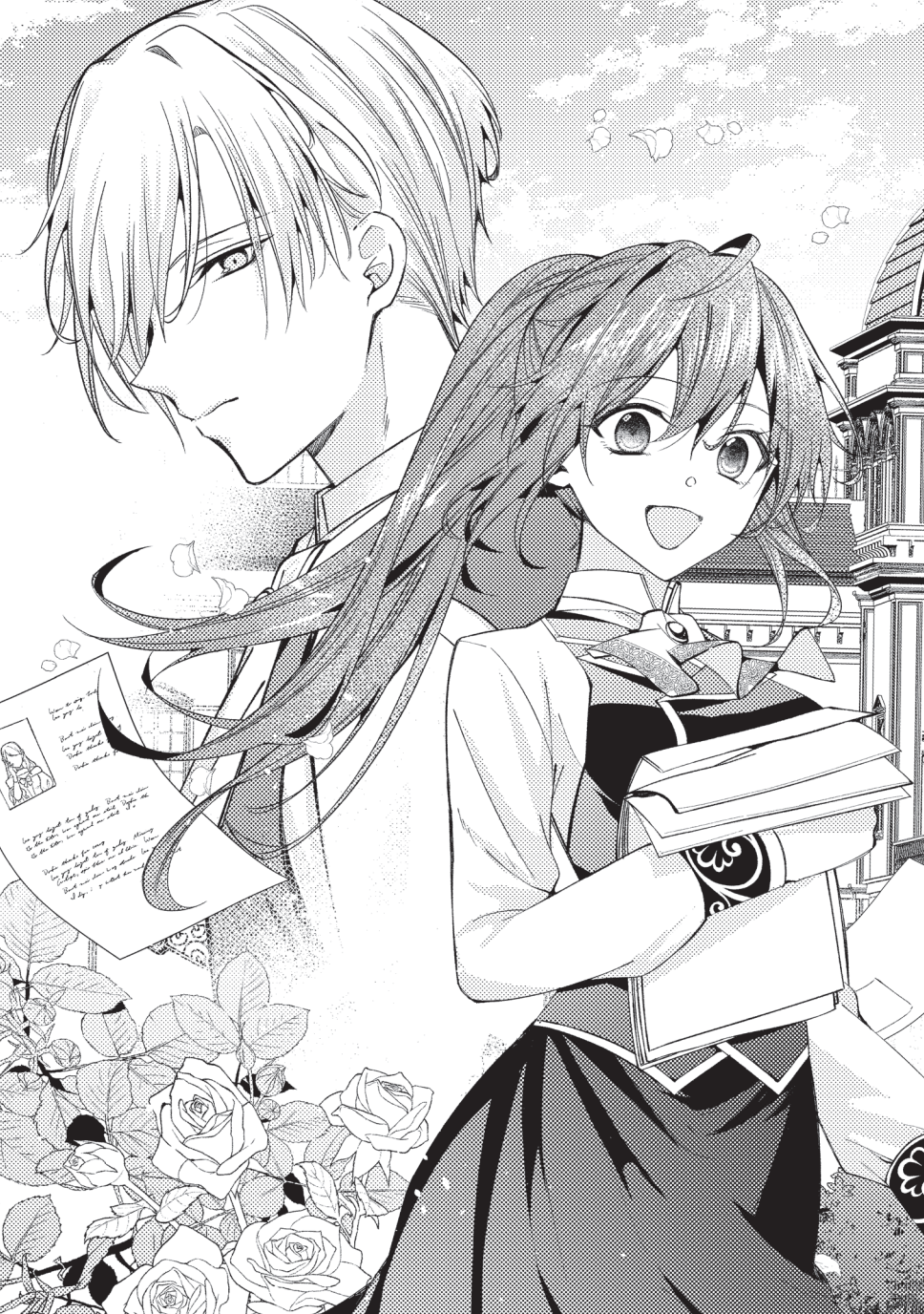




BUT
TODAY,
SHE ENDS
IT ALL.



SEARA
ELLIOT,
DAUGHTER OF
VISCOUNT
ELLIOT,
HAD SPENT
TEN LONG
YEARS
ENGAGED
TO GILBERT
NORMAN,
HEIR TO THE
DUKE OF
NORMAN.



Love me as you love
the page of a book
Read me when
you are bored
Write me when
you are sad
I hope you
will love me
as much as I
love you
I hope you
will love me
as much as I
love you
I hope you
will love me
as much as I
love you

THEIR STORY DID NOT
BEGIN HERE. IT BEGAN
SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER.

THE ROYAL
ACADEMY OF
THE KINGDOM
OF SOL.

GOOD
MORNING!

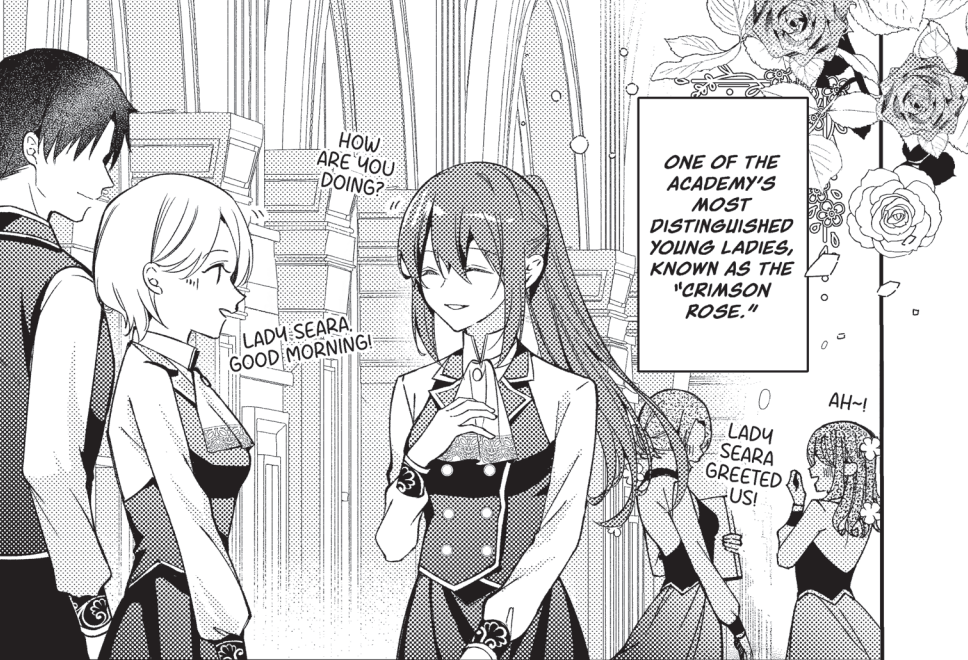
A PRESTIGIOUS
ACADEMY WHERE MANY
OF THE KINGDOM'S FUTURE
LEADERS RECEIVE THEIR
EDUCATION.

GOOD
MORNING
LADIES.

AMONG
THEM IS

BEAM

SEARA
ELLIOT



HOW ARE YOU DOING?"

LADY SEARA, GOOD MORNING!

ONE OF THE ACADEMY'S MOST DISTINGUISHED YOUNG LADIES, KNOWN AS THE "CRIMSON ROSE."

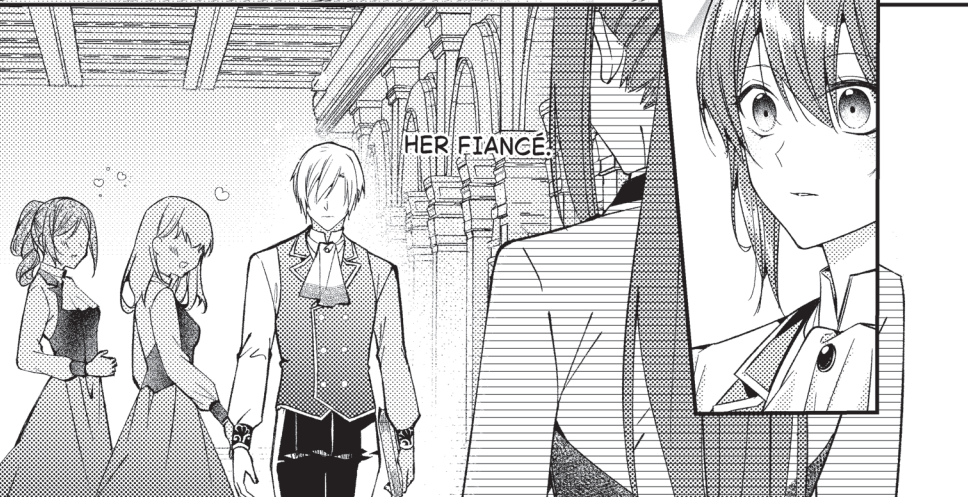
OH-!
LADY SEARA GREETED US!

AH-!



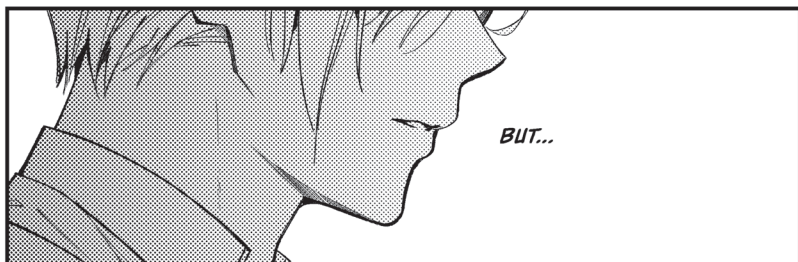
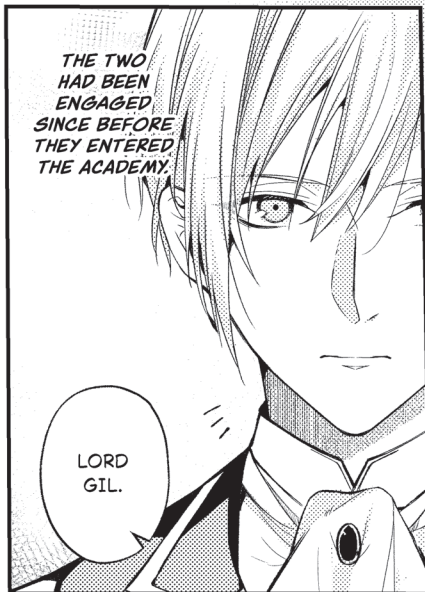
STEP

AND THEN...



HER FIANGÉ.

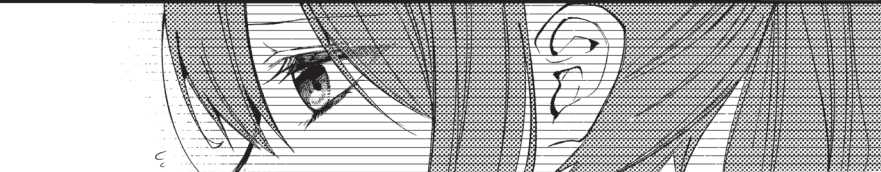






TURN

...AH.



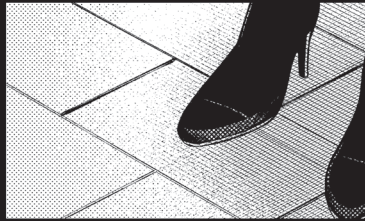
WELL, TO
BEGIN
WITH...



...DID YOU
SEE THAT
JUST NOW?
IT'S THE SAME
AS ALWAYS.

SO THE
RUMORS
WERE
TRUE.

ARE LORD
GILBERT AND
LADY SEARA
REALLY
ENGAGED?



THE DAUGHTER OF A VISCOUNT IS HARDLY WORTHY OF LORD GILBERT.

CHUCKLE

CHUCKLE

BY CONTRAST, SEARA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF VISCOUNT ELLIOT.

HER FATHER SERVED AS THE COMMANDER OF THE KNIGHT ORDER AND WAS A MAN OF RESPECTABLE STANDING,

YET COMPARED TO A DUCAL HOUSE, THE ELLIOT FAMILY WAS STILL CONSIDERED LOWER NOBILITY.



WITH PALE AMBER HAIR AND CLEAR BLUE EYES

GILBERT WAS A STRIKINGLY HANDSOME YOUNG MAN.

IN EVERY SENSE, HE WAS A NOBLE YOUTH WITH A BRILLIANT FUTURE AHEAD.

HE EXCELLED NOT ONLY IN APPEARANCE BUT IN HIS STUDIES AS WELL. HE WAS EVEN ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE FIRST PRINCE, THE FUTURE KING OF SOL.



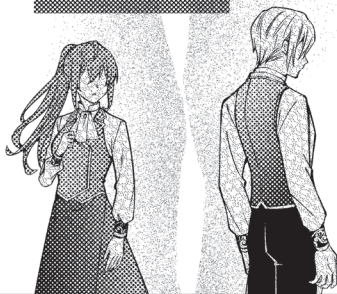
HE NEVER INSULTED HER. NOR DID HE MISTREAT HER.

BUT THEY RARELY SPOKE, AND HARDLY EVEN SAW ONE ANOTHER.

EVEN WHEN THEY HAPPENED TO MEET AT THE ACADEMY, HIS RESPONSES WERE ALWAYS COLD.


ESPECIALLY GILBERT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SEARA... "DISTANT" WOULD BE THE MOST FITTING WORD FOR IT.

EVER SINCE THEY ENROLLED AT THE ACADEMY, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO HAD ONLY GROWN WIDER.



...WITH GILBERT AVOIDING HER BEHIND POLITE DISTANCE.

SEARA TRIED MANY TIMES TO VISIT HIM AND MEND THEIR RELATIONSHIP, YET EVERY ATTEMPT ENDED THE SAME WAY...



LATELY, HE HAD EVEN BEEN SEEN SPEAKING RATHER INTIMATELY WITH OTHER YOUNG LADIES.



MOREOVER,

PERHAPS...

I HEARD
LORD GILBERT
MIGHT ANNUL HIS
ENGAGEMENT...

RUMORS
LIKE THAT, HAD,
BEGUN SPREADING
THROUGH THE
ACADEMY.

I SHOULD
HAVE PARTED WAYS
WITH LORD GILBERT
BACK THEN,

AFTER THAT
INCIDENT A MONTH
BEFORE WE
ENTERED
THE ACADEMY.

NO...

I
MUSTN'T
LOSE HEART.
I JUST HAVE
TO TRY
HARDER...!

I CAN'T
THINK LIKE
THAT.

YES...

SLAP

IF I PUT
IN MORE
EFFORT-

THEN
SURELY..

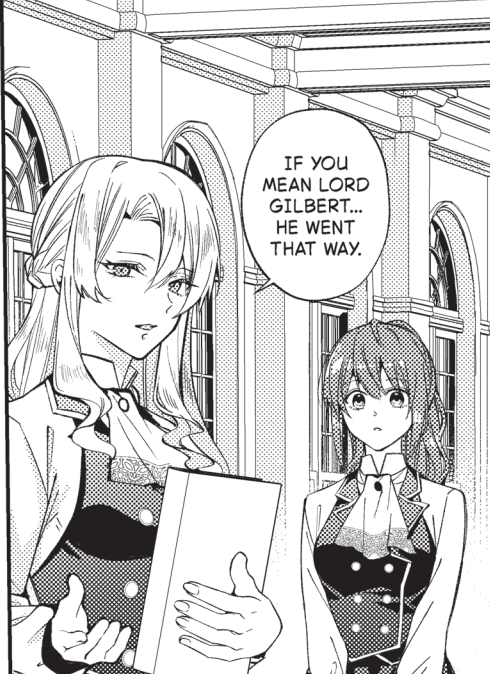
UM...
EXCUSE
ME.

HAVE YOU
HAPPENED TO
SEE LORD
GILBERT?

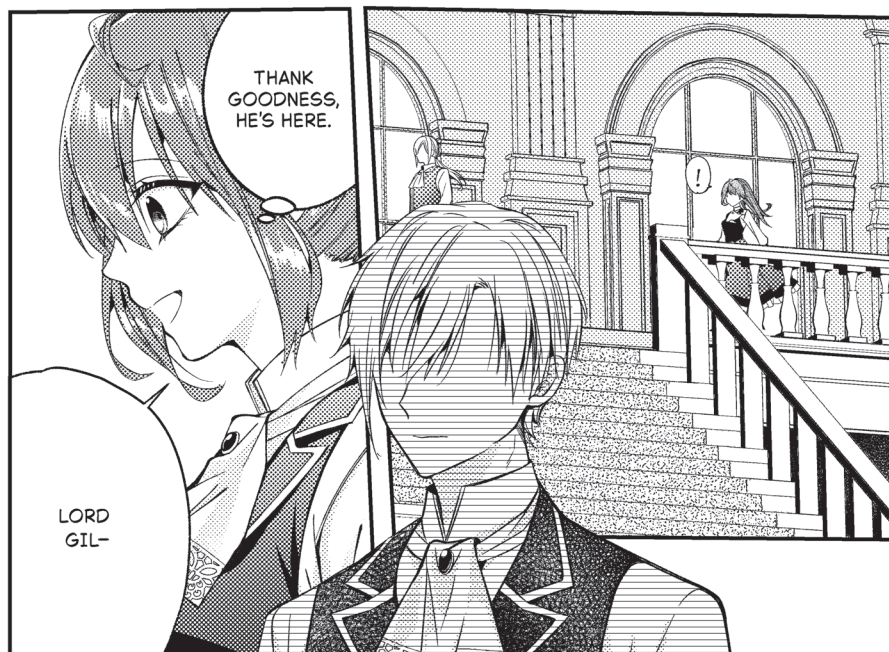


I'M
PRETTY
SURE I SAW
HIM NEAR THE
STAIRCASE
OVER THERE.

THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH.

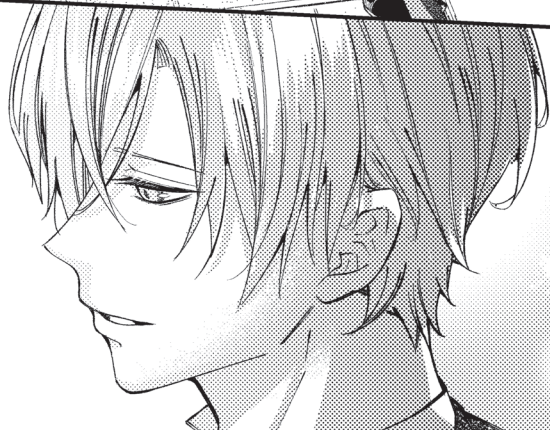


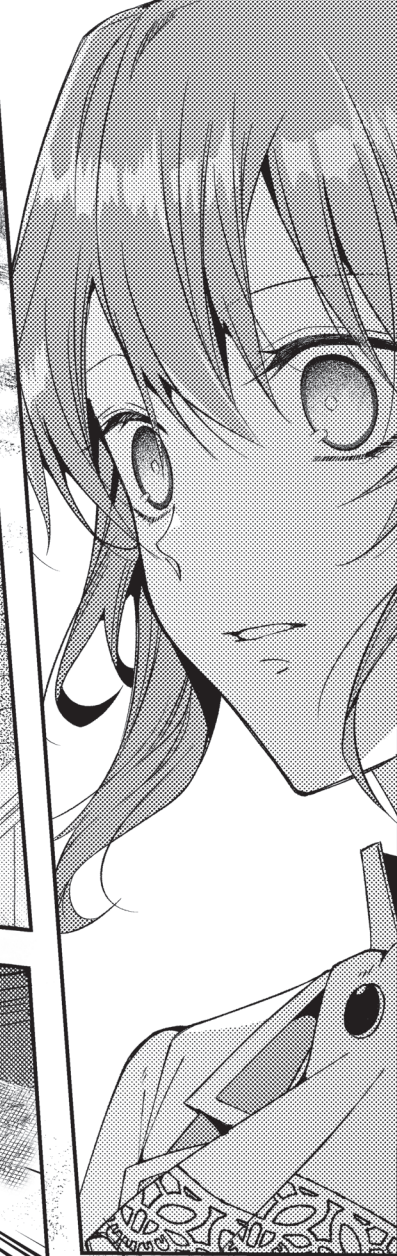
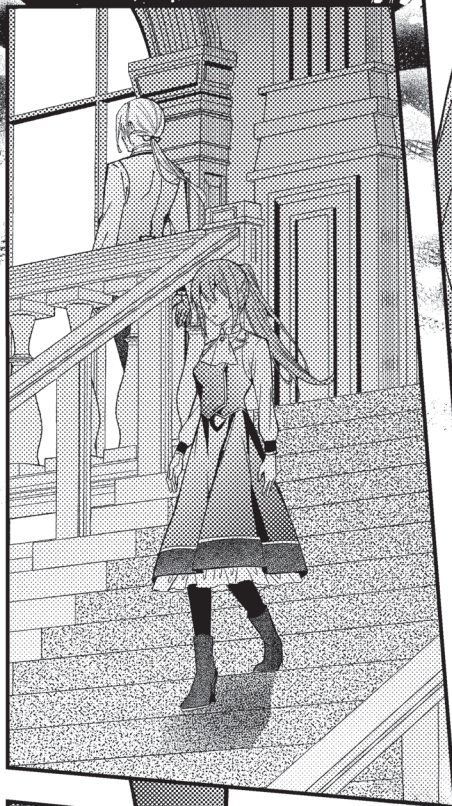
IF YOU
MEAN LORD
GILBERT...
HE WENT
THAT WAY.



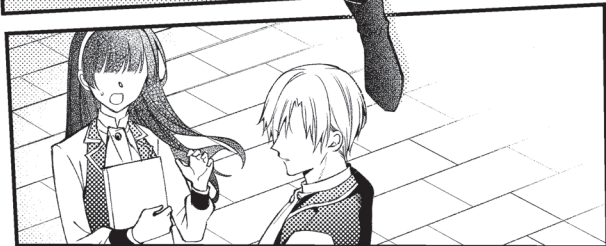
THANK
GOODNESS,
HE'S HERE.

LORD
GIL-



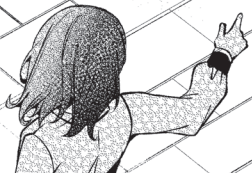


DCI



.....IT HURTS.....

SEARA!



...AND,

DAZE

LORD GIL...

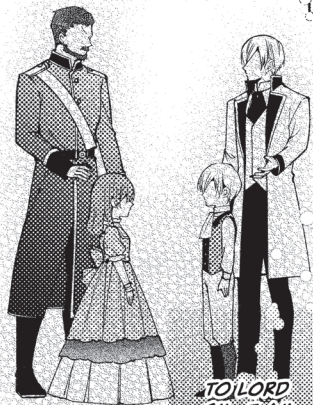
SO THAT'S THE KIND OF WOMAN LORD GIL PREFERENCES...

I SEE...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I'VE OFTEN SEEN HIM WITH HER LATELY.

THAT LOVELY LADY BESIDE HIM...





PERHAPS
I WAS NEVER
MEANT TO
BE ANYTHING
MORE THAN
THAT...

TO LORD
GIL, I AM
NOTHING
MORE THAN
SOMEONE HE
WAS FORCED
TO BECOME
ENGAGED
TO BY HIS
PARENTS.

ALL
THIS TIME, I
HELD ONTO MY
FEELINGS
FOR HIM...

TRYING
DESPERATELY
TO IMPROVE
MYSELF, BUT
PERHAPS...

IT WAS ALL
MEANINGLESS
FROM THE
START.



HOW LONG
WAS I PLANNING
TO KEEP THIS
UP?

IF I WERE
TO STEP
ASIDE...

PERHAPS
LORD GIL
COULD FINALLY
BE HAPPY.



AND YET...

IT'S NOT
AS THOUGH
I'VE COME TO
HATE HIM.



IF
ANYTHING...
I STILL LOVE
LORD GIL.

AND FROM
THE BOTTOM OF
MY HEART, I
WANT HIM TO
BE HAPPY.

...I SEE
NOW.

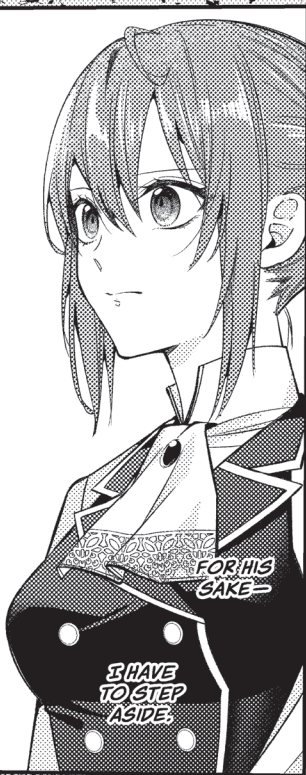


IT WAS
SOMETHING SO
SIMPLE ALL
ALONG.

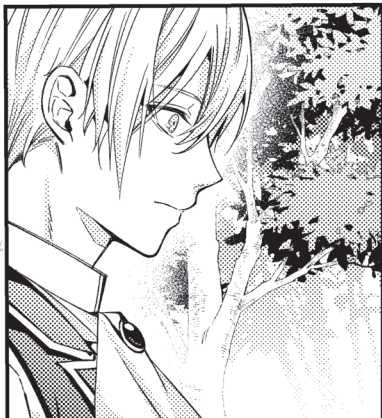
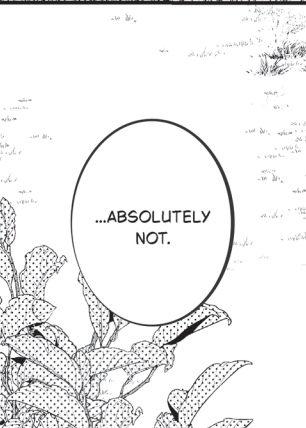
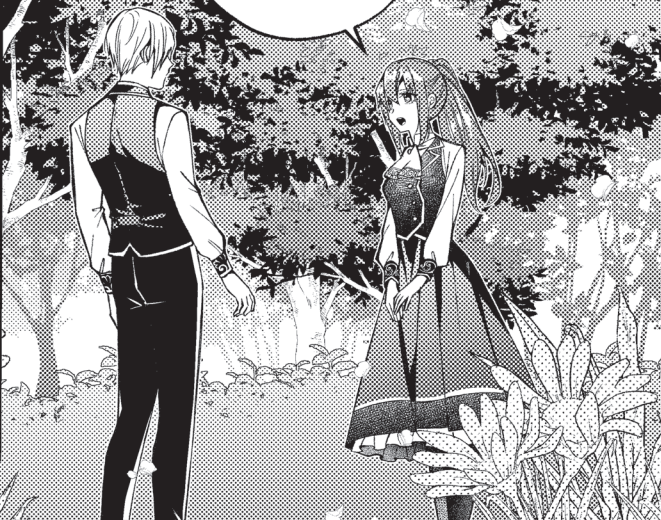


LORD
GILBERT...

AND
THAT'S
WHY...

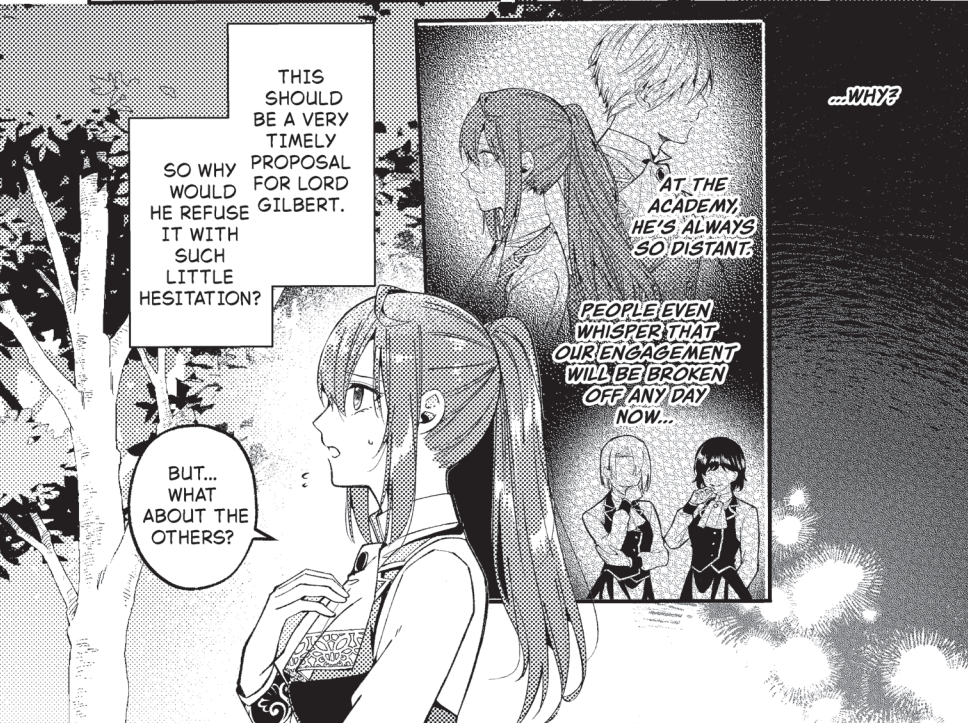


PLEASE
DISSOLVE OUR
ENGAGEMENT.



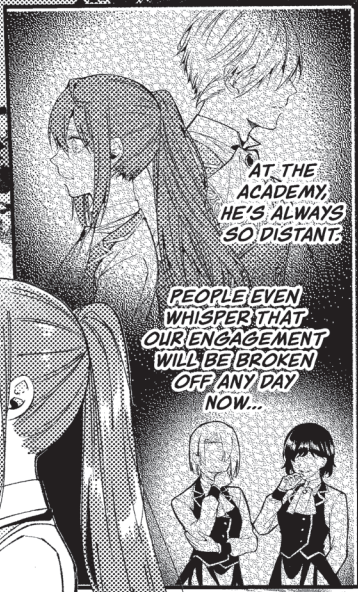


I
WILL NOT
DISSOLVE OUR
ENGAGEMENT.



THIS SHOULD BE A VERY TIMELY PROPOSAL FOR LORD GILBERT.
SO WHY WOULD HE REFUSE IT WITH SUCH LITTLE HESITATION?

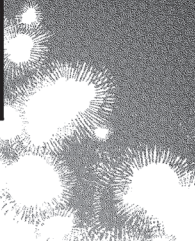
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

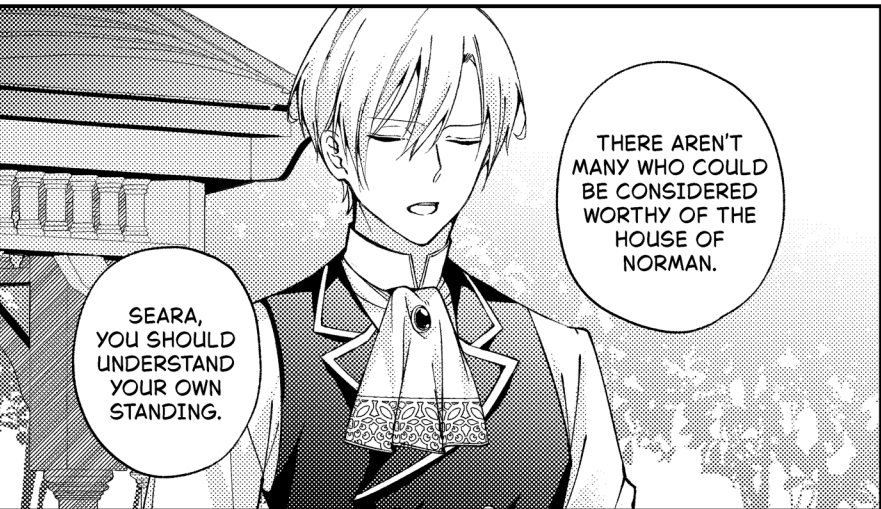


...WHY?

AT THE ACADEMY, HE'S ALWAYS SO DISTANT.

PEOPLE EVEN WHISPER THAT OUR ENGAGEMENT WILL BE BROKEN OFF ANY DAY NOW...





SEARA,
YOU SHOULD
UNDERSTAND
YOUR OWN
STANDING.

THERE AREN'T
MANY WHO COULD
BE CONSIDERED
WORTHY OF THE
HOUSE OF
NORMAN.



AMONG
THE NOBILITY,
MARRIAGE IS AS
MUCH AN ALLIANCE
BETWEEN HOUSES
AS IT IS A UNION
BETWEEN
INDIVIDUALS.

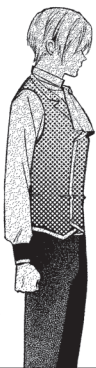
AS
SUCH, AN
ENGAGEMENT
CANNOT
SIMPLY BE
DISSOLVED
ON A WHIM.

...MY
STANDING?

GasP

LORD GIL
MUST BE
RELUCTANTLY
ACCEPTING THIS
ENGAGEMENT
WITH SOMEONE
HE DISLIKES...

...SO
THAT'S IT.

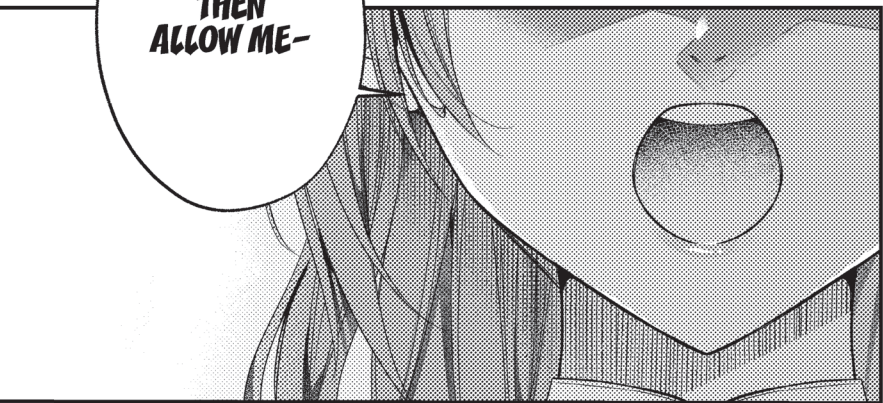




...I'M GLAD.

YOU
UNDERSTAND.

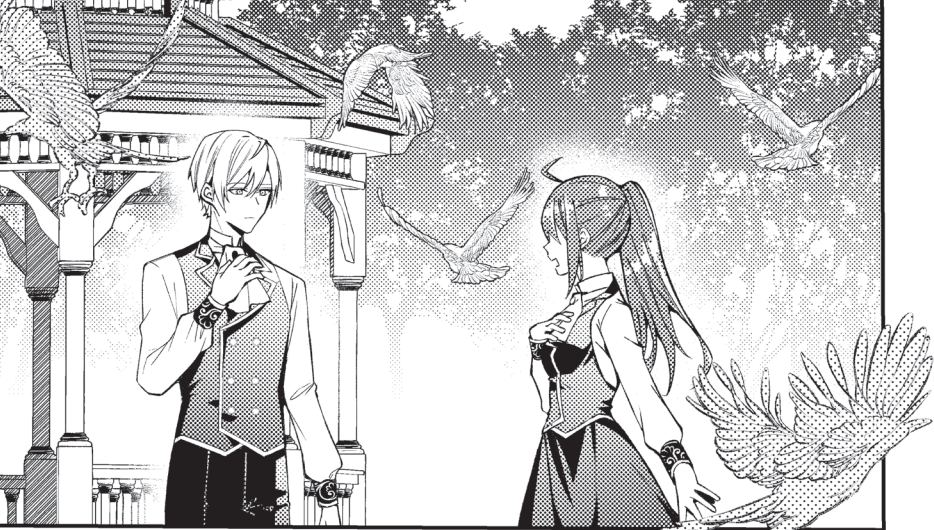
**THEN
ALLOW ME-**





-TO FIND
YOU

THE IDEAL
BRIDE WORTHY
OF THE HOUSE
OF NORMAN,
LORD GILBERT.



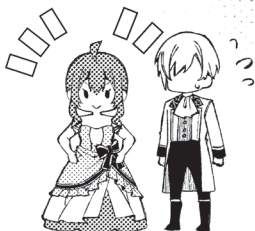
...HUUH?!

...WHAT?

I SEE!
THAT MUST
BE IT!

HE CAN'T
DISSOLVE
OUR
ENGAGEMENT
BECAUSE HE
HASN'T
FOUND
SOMEONE
SUITABLE
TO TAKE MY
PLACE YET!

BECAUSE OF
HIS POSITION,
LORD GIL
MUST HAVE A
FIANCÉE... BUT
THE STANDARDS
FOR THE NORMAN
DUCAL HOUSE
ARE EXTREMELY
STRICT.



GRAB!

DON'T WORRY,
LORD GIL!
LEAVE
EVERYTHING
TO ME!

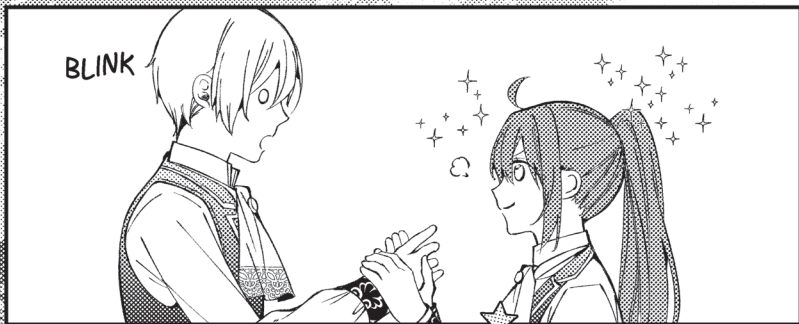
THEN THE
ANSWER
IS SIMPLE.
I'LL LOOK
FOR IT!

THIS WILL
BE MY FINAL...
AND GREATEST
FAREWELL
GIFT.

SO
PLEASE,
LORD GIL,
PUT YOUR
MIND AT EASE
AND LOOK
FORWARD
TO A HAPPY
FUTURE.

I WILL
FIND A
WOMAN WHO
IS PERFECT
IN EVERY WAY,
IN STATUS,
BEAUTY,
INTELLECT, AND
CHARACTER.

IF POSSIBLE,
I WANT LORD GILBERT TO
FIND HAPPINESS WITH
A TRULY WONDERFUL
WOMAN WORTHY
OF HIM.



BLINK

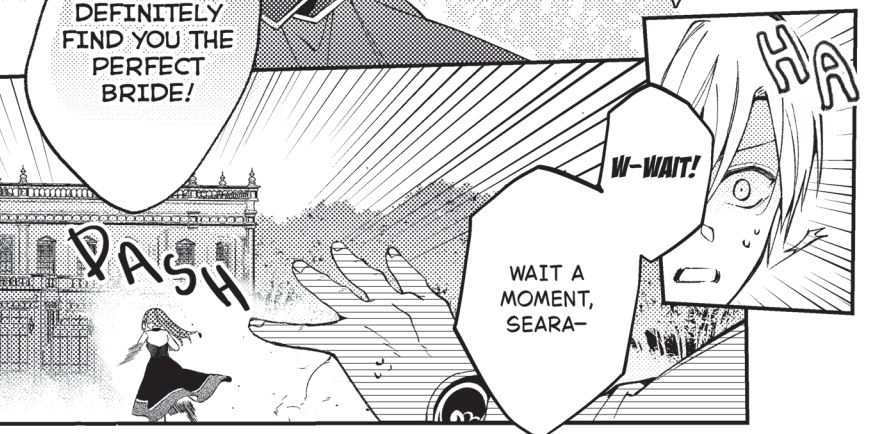


TURN

I WILL DEFINITELY FIND YOU THE PERFECT BRIDE!

WELL THEN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

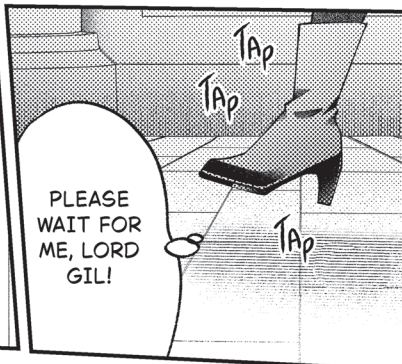
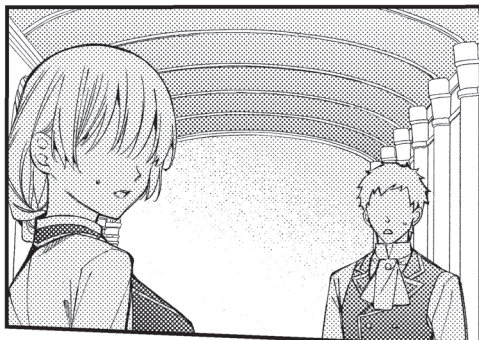
RELEASE



W-WAIT!

WAIT A MOMENT, SEARA-

DASH



CHAPTER 1
END