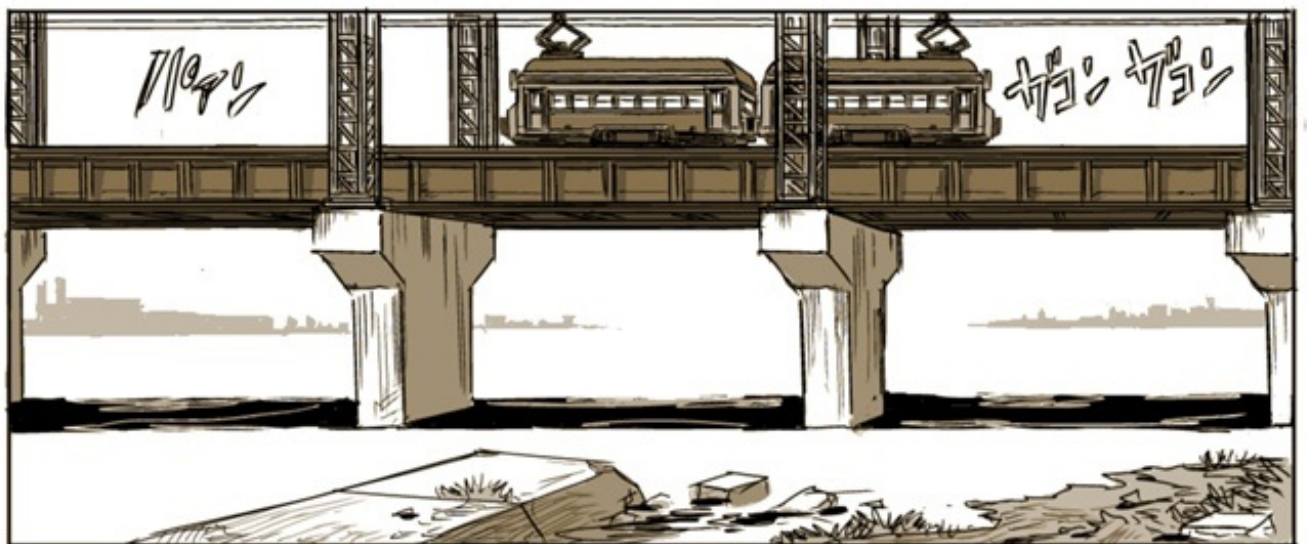


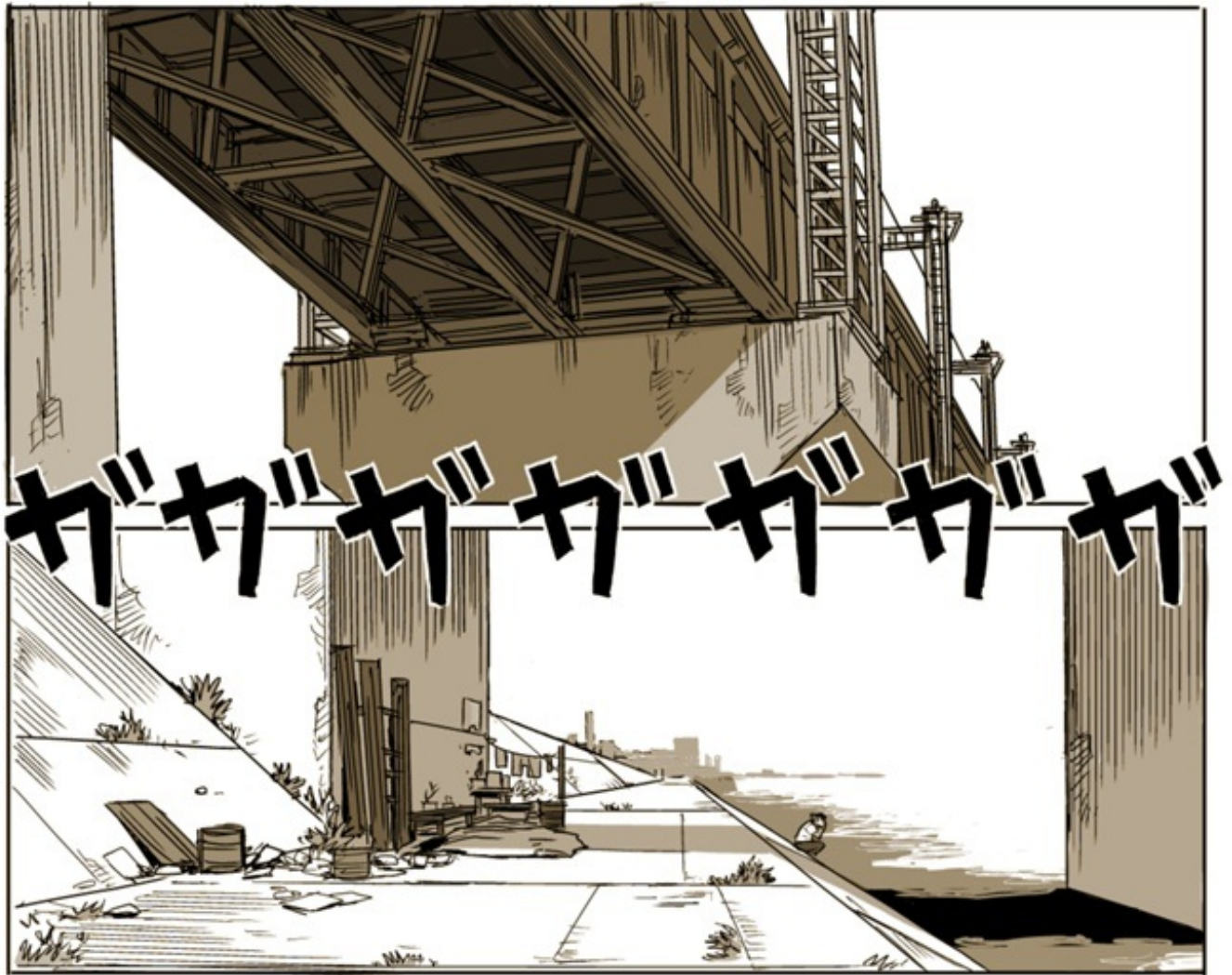
Buhn, Taichi and an October Morning



Buhn, Taichi and an October Morning











HEY
BUHN!



BUHN,
YOU HAVEN'T
EATEN YET!
TAKE THIS
FOR BREAKFAST!

WAH!
COOL!

HAVE
SOME MILK
IF YA LIKE!

YAY!
YOU ARE
SO COOL
MA'AM!



YOU
IDIOT!



SORRY
ABOUT
THAT
MUNCH

GOOD GRIEF!
LATE LATE LATE!
YOU ARE
ALWAYS
LATE FOR
WORK!



WOULD YOU LIKE A BITE?

**NO
THANKS!**



YESSIR
MUNCH

ENOUGH
ALREADY!
MOVE YOUR
ASS AND
START
WORKING!

GOOD
GRIEF!
Y'KNOW
I HAVEN'T
HAD MY
BREAKFAST
YET!



HUM
HUM
HUMMNN♪



I GOT SOME
AWESOME
NEWS!

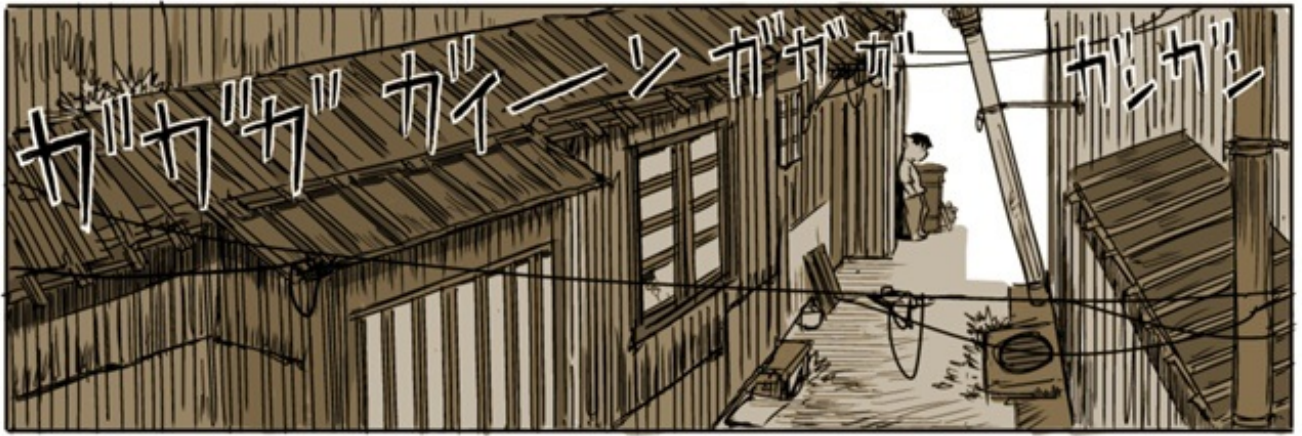
TAICHI,
WHAT'S
UP?

WHAT
IS IT?



BUHN!





TAICHI!







I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE! I WILL ESCORT YOU.

WHICH WAY IS YOUR PLACE?

THAT WAY.



COME ON! STAND UP NOW!

UGH-HMMMM



GOOD GRIEF!

I FEEL THE EARTH'S ROTATION.



WHICH WAY IS THAT WAY!



OKAY GOOD NIGHT, SIR.



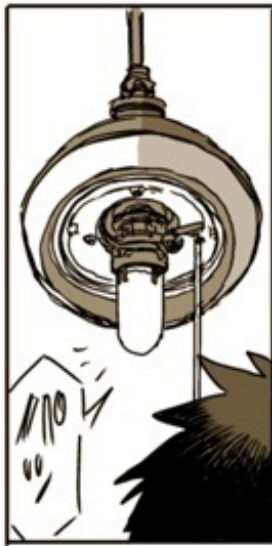
.....



LIKE I SAAAID, THAT WAY! DUH-HAHA!

GOOD GRIEF!





HEY NOW,
NO RUNNING
IN HERE!



UH... BUT
MR. AOYAMA
...

THIS WAY,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT
GETTING
LATE!



THAT'S
WAY TOO
COOL,
GRANDPA!



BUHN!
LOOK OVER
HERE!



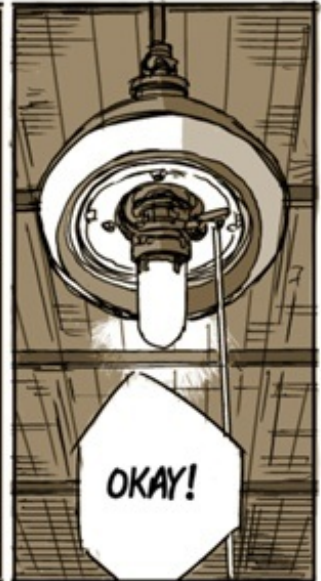
YES
HE CAN.

CAN HE
STAY HERE
EVERYDAY?





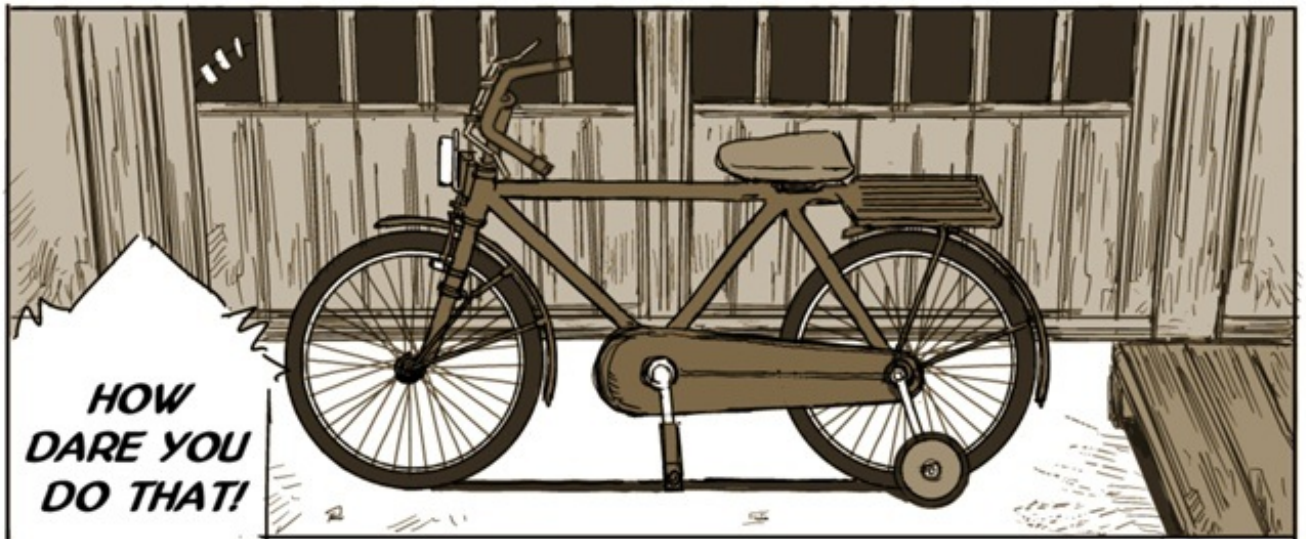


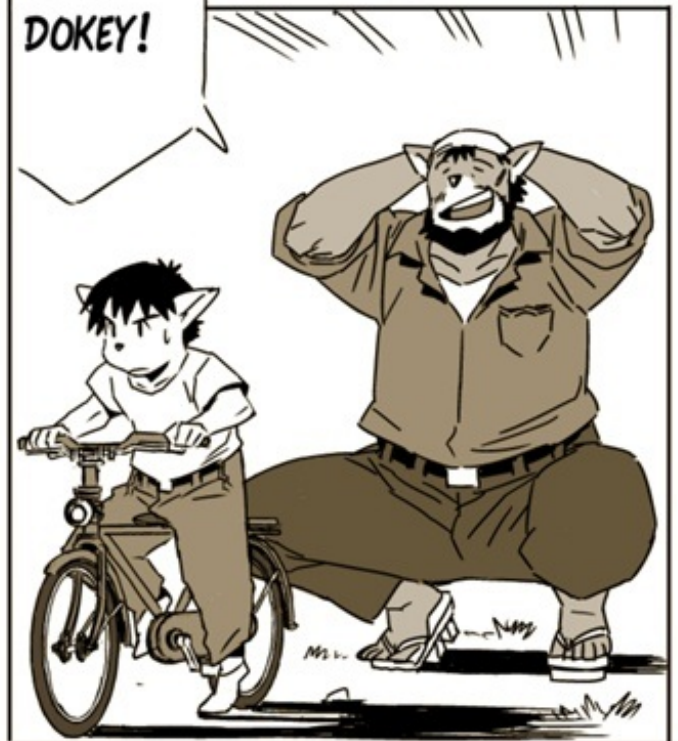
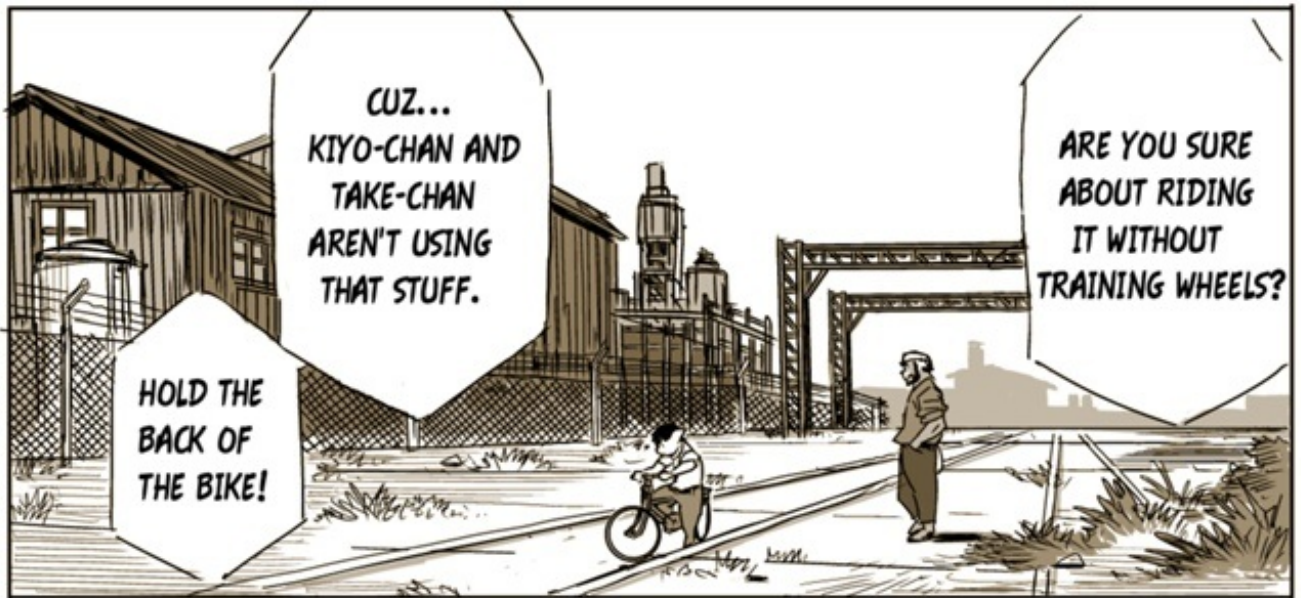














GUH-
HAHAHA!



TAICHI
...

WHAT'S
UP?



IT'S SO
SILLY!



カッラッ



CAN I
SLEEP WITH YOU?

.....



AW,
CUT THAT
OUT!

C'MON,
DID YOU HAVE
A BAD DREAM
OR SOMETHING?



SURE YOU CAN.

COME.



HMMM?

HEY BUHN...

DO YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT COMING OVER TO THIS PLACE?
ARE YOU HAPPY HERE?



MR. AOYAMA IS A BIT SCARY,

BUT THE WORK IS FUN.



WELL, LET ME THINK...





**SOMEONE!
PLEASE
SOMEONE
HELP!**

HEEELP!

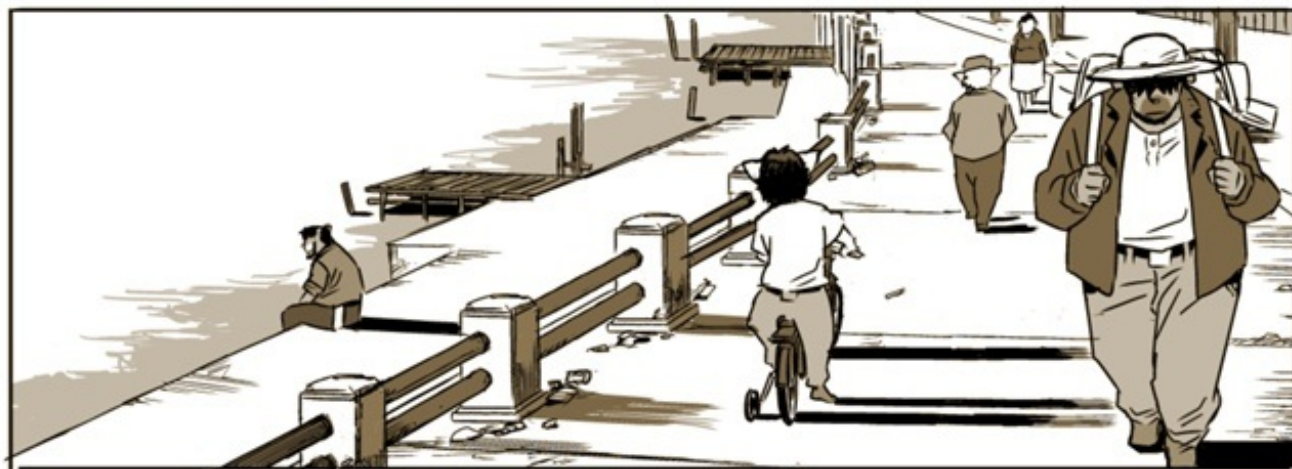
**GO TO
A HIGHER
SECTION
QUICK!**

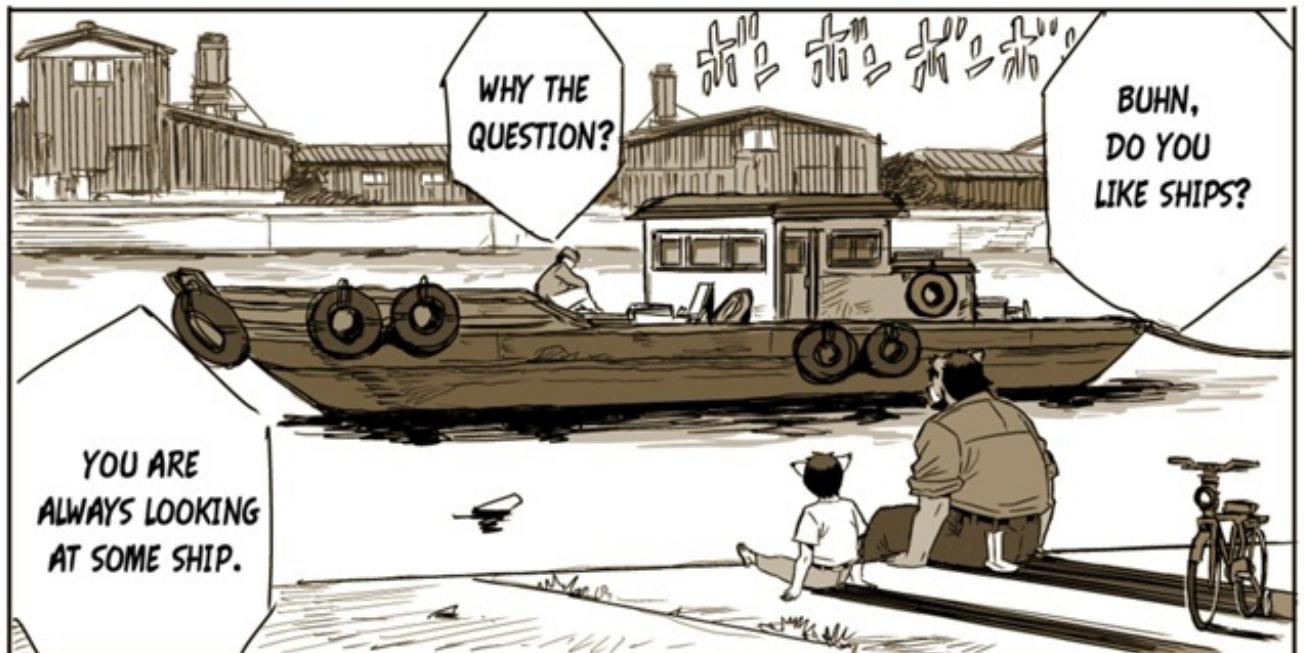
**HURRY
UP!**

**YEEA
AAAA
AARG
GGGH!**

ACK!









WHY
DO I
DO THAT?



YES,
YOU ARE.



IT'S JUST THAT...
WHEN I LOOK AT SHIPS,
I FEEL AS IF
I CAN REMEMBER
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT...

I DUNNO.



FAR AWAY...

SOMEWHERE
...







WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING THERE IF WE DON'T SWIM.

DO WE GET TO SWIM?



GOROHTA AND MICCHAN ARE ASKING US TO COME ALONG.



HE IS SO OBVIOUS!

BUHN, CAN'T YOU SWIM?



AH, I GOT THE PICTURE.



YOU REALLY CAN'T SWIM, CAN YOU?



YOU DON'T CALL IT SWIMMING.

WAH-HAHA!

SURE I CAN!
I CAN SWIM!

...WITH THE HELP OF A FLOAT.



WAHOO!



THEY SURE LOOK LIKE FATHER AND SON TO ME.



WHOA!



OKAY, LET'S PUT OUR BELONGINGS HERE... HEY YOU TWO!

EH! WHERE IS IT?
LOOK! A CRAB!







HMM?
WHERE'S
TAICHI?



THAT'S
COOL!
OUCH
STILL HOT.

THIS IS
FOR YOU
BUHN,
EAT IT!



HUH?



I THOUGHT
HE WAS AROUND
HERE JUST NOW...



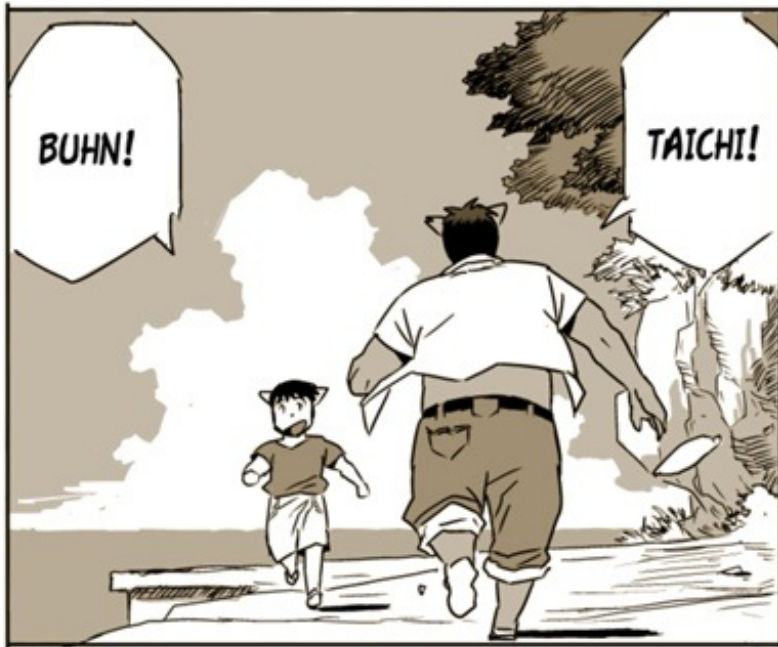
TAICHI!

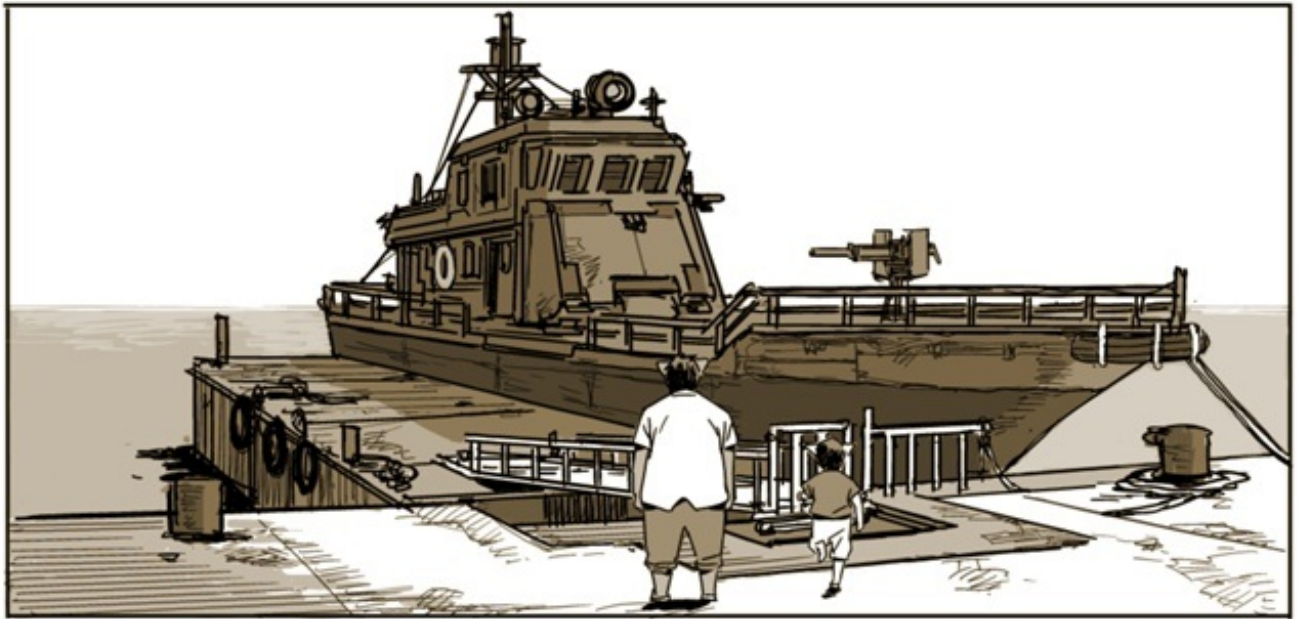


TAICHIEE



TAICHIEE

















...
STILL NO
RESPONSE.

.....



Y...YES SIR!

REPORT TO
THE HQ
IMMEDIATELY.

THE SUBJECT
WAS CONFIRMED
DEAD
AT 4:32 PM.



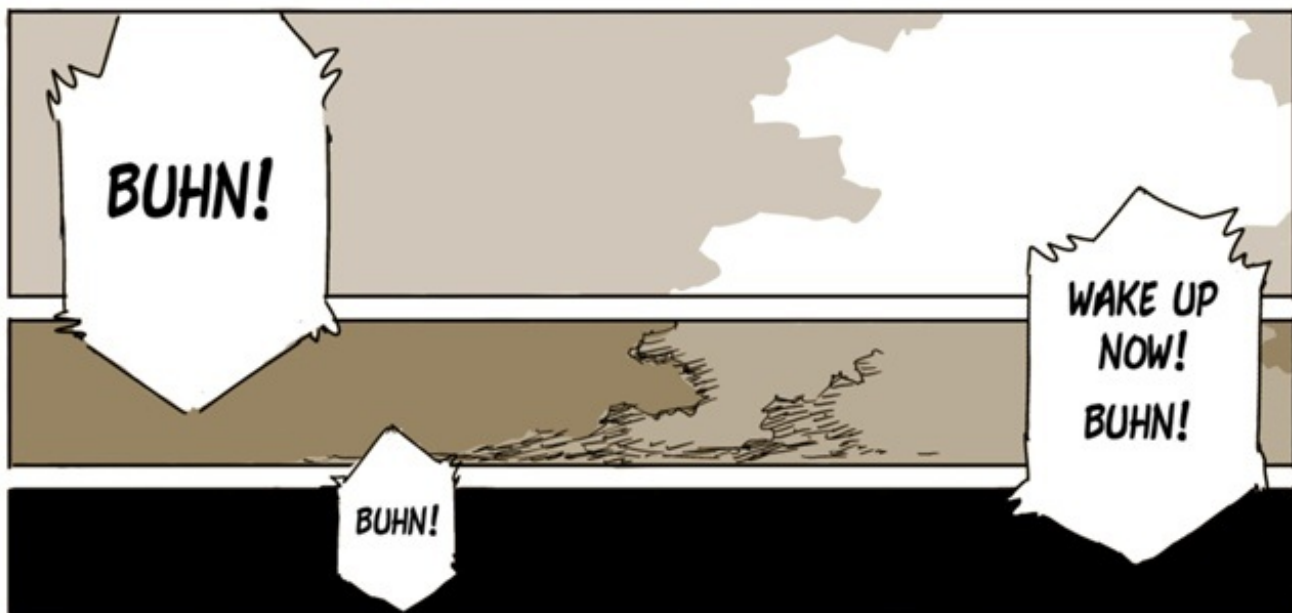
OUTTA
MY WAY!

BUHN!



IT JUST
CAN'T BE.

.....





**SOMEONE!
PLEASE
SOMEONE
HELP!**

HEEELP!



**GO TO
A HIGHER
SECTION
QUICK!**

**HURRY
UP!**



**YEEA
AAAA
AARG
GGGH!**

ACK!





**IT'S
SINKING!**

**DAMN
IT!**

ARRGH!

**THIS
SHIP IS
DOOMED!**

カッ! カッ! カッ! カッ!



**WE'RE
DIVING
INTO
THE SEA!**

**NOW
LISTEN
TO ME,
RYOTA!**

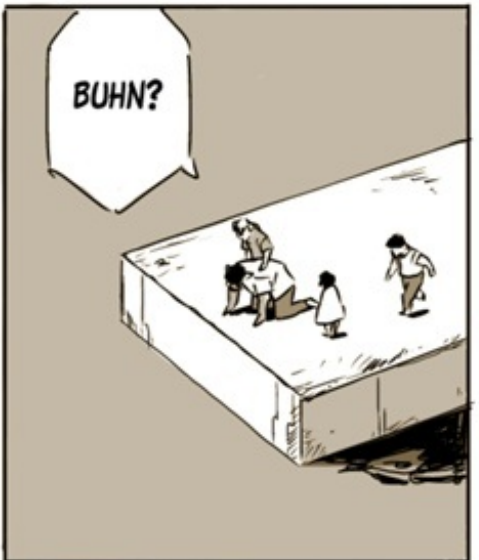
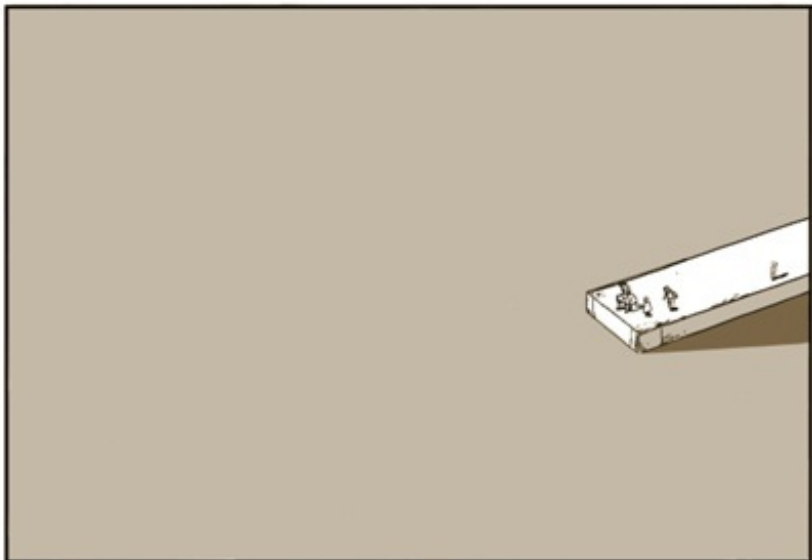


**NEVER
LET GO OF
DADDY'S
HAND!**

**NO MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS...**









TSUYAMA
MARU?



OH MY...
YOU WERE
ABOARD
THAT SHIP!

I HEARD THAT
IT'S THE EVACUATION
SHIP OF SA-KOKU,
WHICH WAS SUNK
BY A SUBMARINE
OF GA-KOKU...



AS THE FLAMES
OF WAR REACHED
THE CAPITAL...

WE TRIED TO
FLEE TO MA-KOKU
WHERE MY MOTHER
LIVES.

I USED TO BE...
A MECHANIC AT
AN ARMY-OWNED
FACTORY ON THE
CONTINENT.

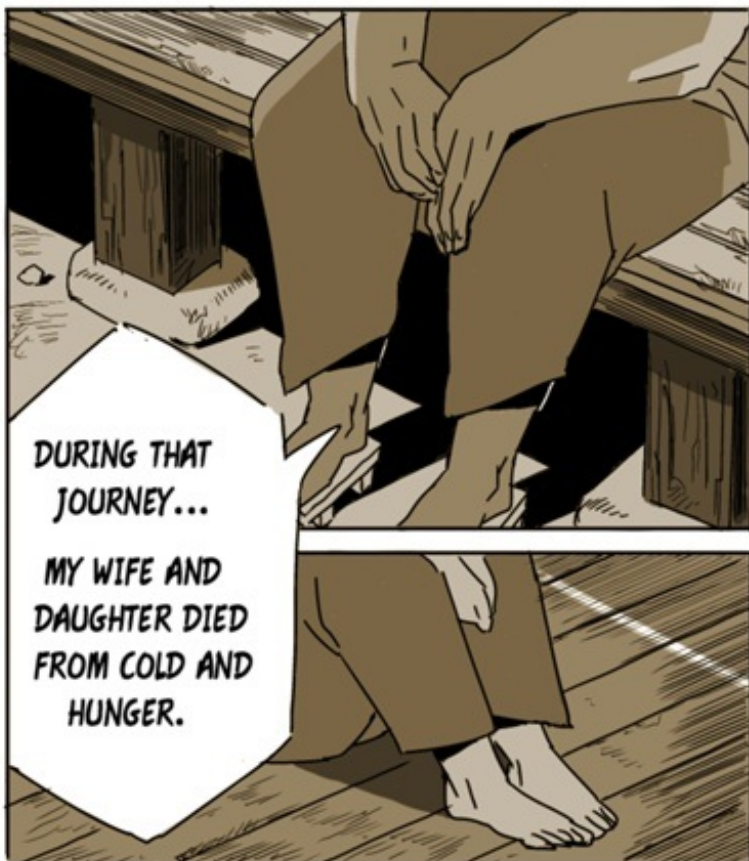
WITH MY SON, RYOTA,
I KEPT WALKING...
AND WALKING...

AND FINALLY
SOMEHOW MANAGED
TO GET ON
THAT SHIP...



DURING THAT
JOURNEY...

MY WIFE AND
DAUGHTER DIED
FROM COLD AND
HUNGER.

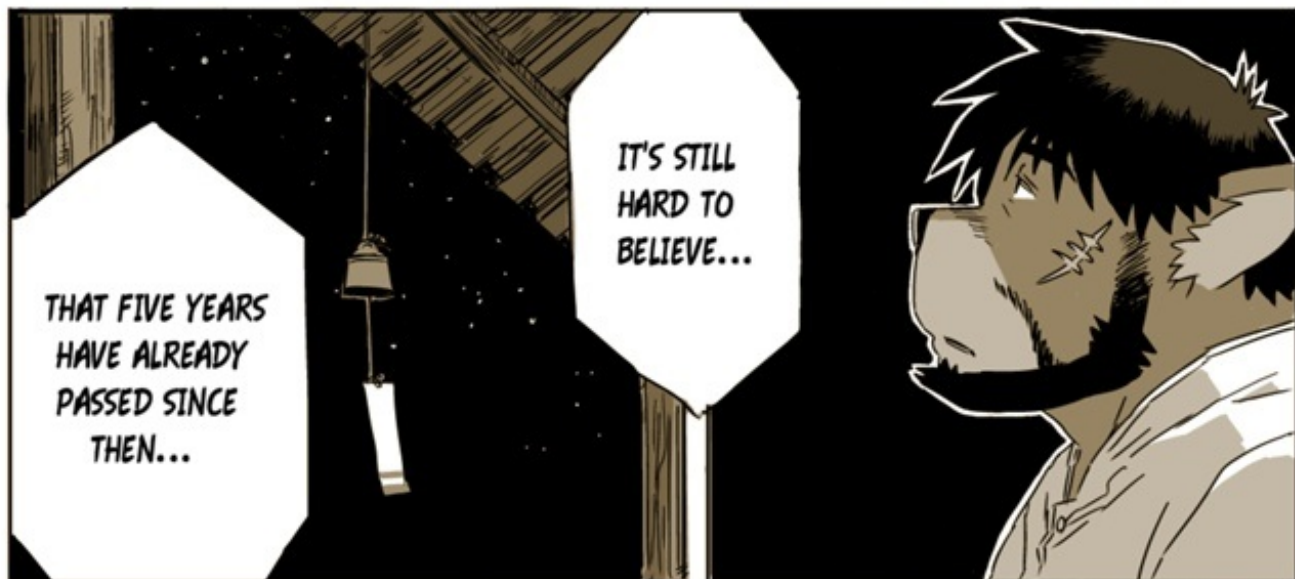


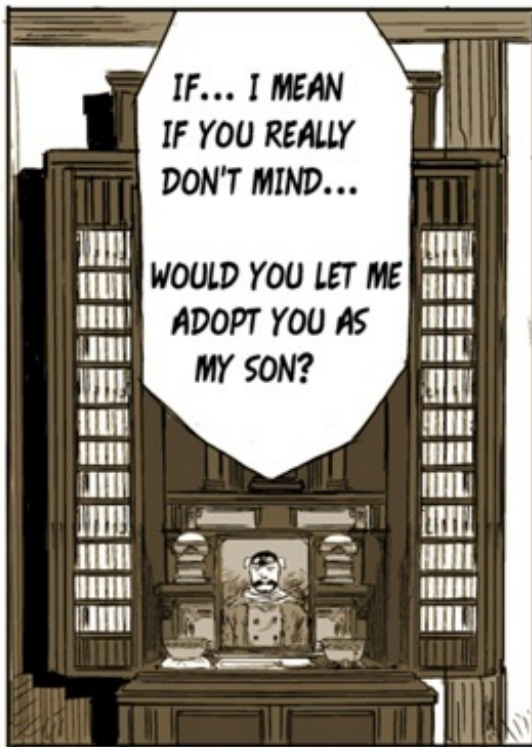
AS OUR
ONLY HOPE...



THAT FIVE YEARS
HAVE ALREADY
PASSED SINCE
THEN...

IT'S STILL
HARD TO
BELIEVE...





IF... I MEAN
IF YOU REALLY
DON'T MIND...

WOULD YOU LET ME
ADOPT YOU AS
MY SON?



...
LOOK,
BUHN



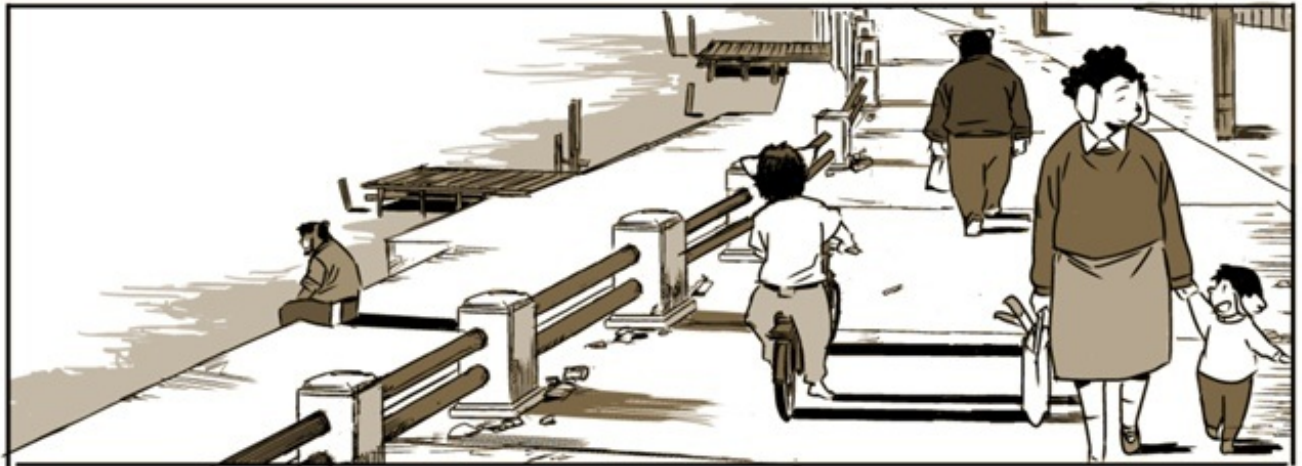
...ER,
MR. BUHN,
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO
NOW?



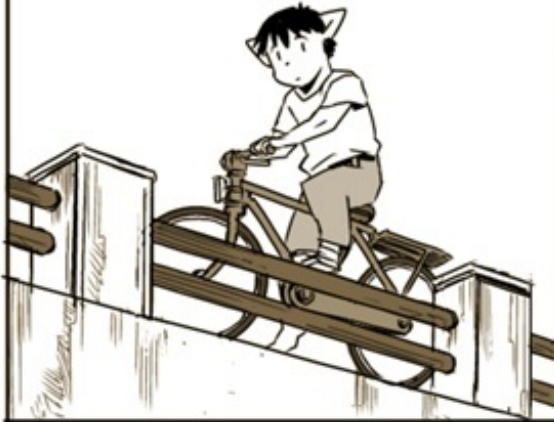
THAT KID NEEDS
A FATHER.

TAICHI...





WHATCHA
DOING
UP THERE?



HIYA
TAICHI!



NOTHING...





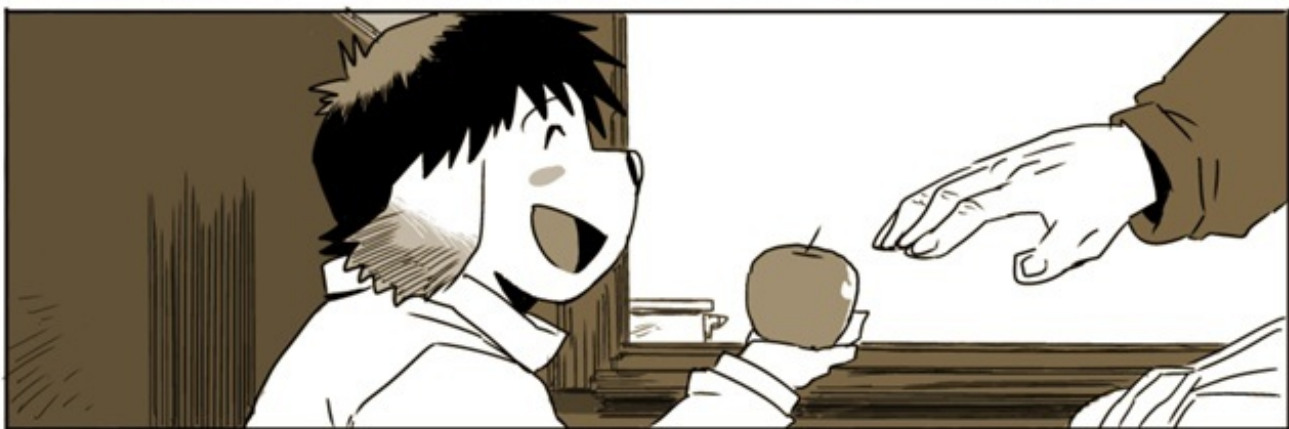
WELL...
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF
YOURSELF,
BUHN...

OCTOBER JUST
STARTED, AND
THE MORNINGS
ARE GETTING
QUITE CHILLY.







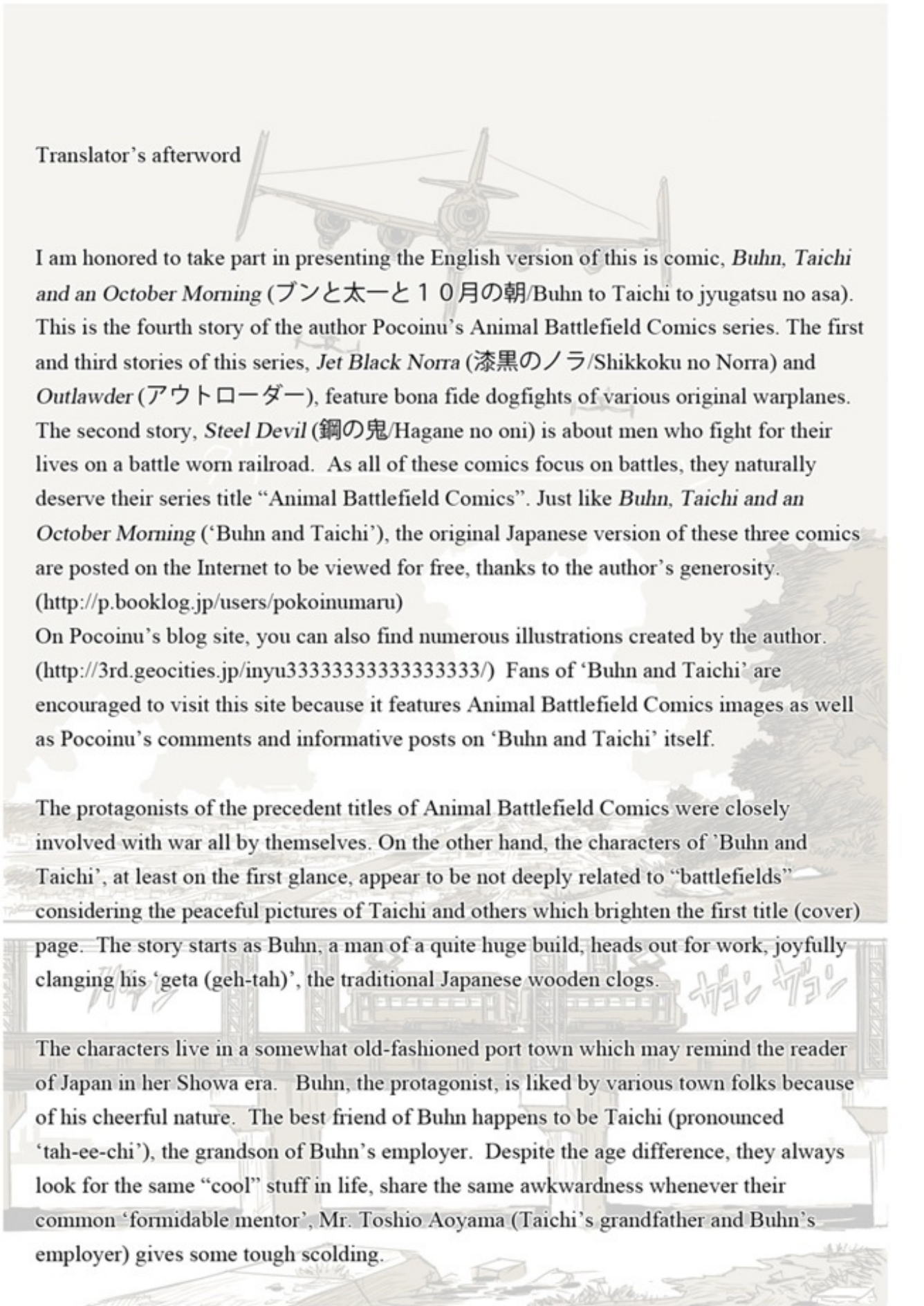












Translator's afterword

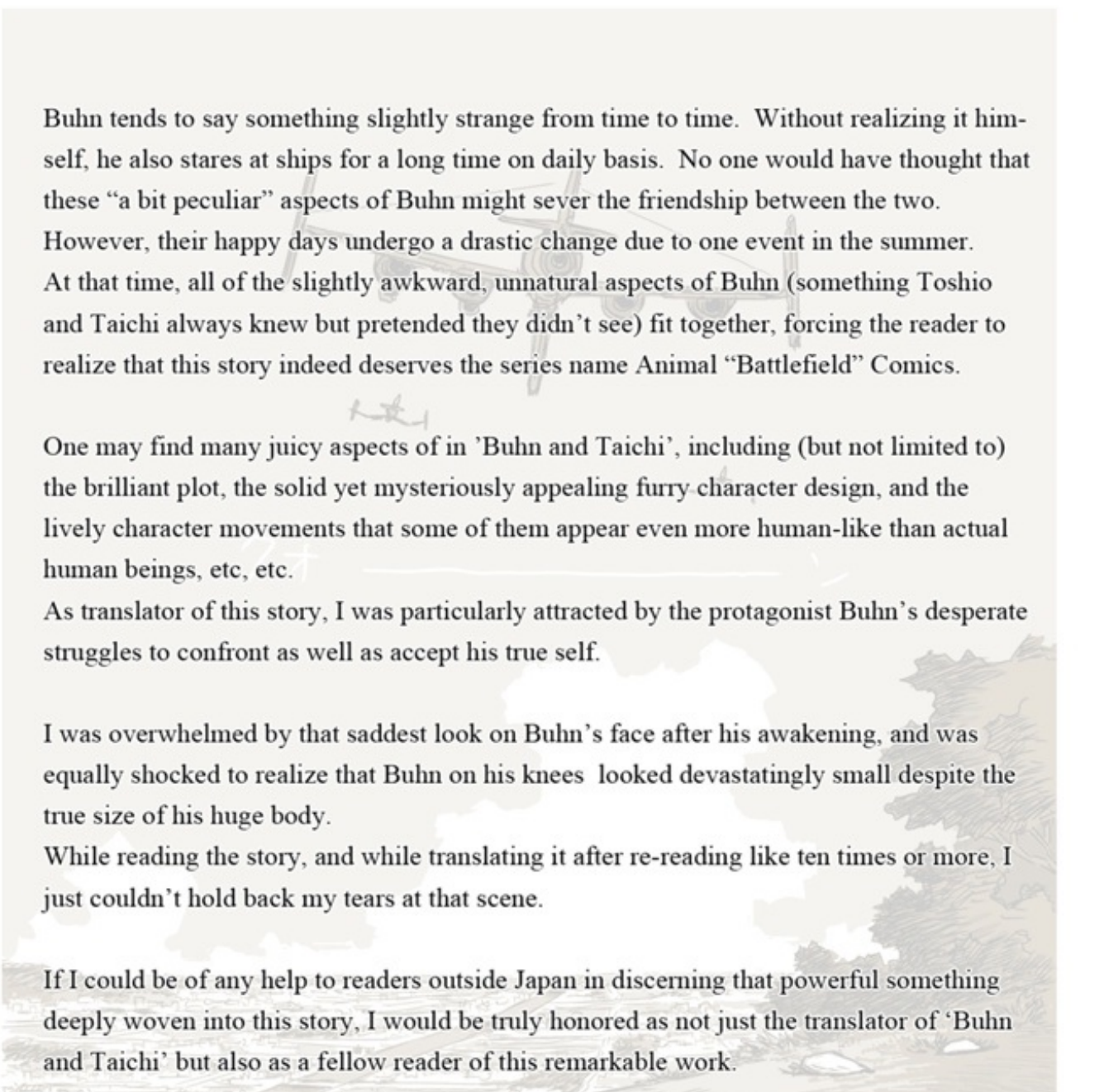
I am honored to take part in presenting the English version of this is comic, *Buhn, Taichi and an October Morning* (ブンと太一と10月の朝/Buhn to Taichi to jyugatsu no asa). This is the fourth story of the author Pocominu's Animal Battlefield Comics series. The first and third stories of this series, *Jet Black Norra* (漆黒のノラ/Shikkoku no Norra) and *Outlawder* (アウトローダー), feature bona fide dogfights of various original warplanes. The second story, *Steel Devil* (鋼の鬼/Hagane no oni) is about men who fight for their lives on a battle worn railroad. As all of these comics focus on battles, they naturally deserve their series title "Animal Battlefield Comics". Just like *Buhn, Taichi and an October Morning* ('Buhn and Taichi'), the original Japanese version of these three comics are posted on the Internet to be viewed for free, thanks to the author's generosity.

(<http://p.booklog.jp/users/pokoinumaru>)

On Pocominu's blog site, you can also find numerous illustrations created by the author. (<http://3rd.geocities.jp/inyu33333333333333333333/>) Fans of 'Buhn and Taichi' are encouraged to visit this site because it features Animal Battlefield Comics images as well as Pocominu's comments and informative posts on 'Buhn and Taichi' itself.

The protagonists of the precedent titles of Animal Battlefield Comics were closely involved with war all by themselves. On the other hand, the characters of 'Buhn and Taichi', at least on the first glance, appear to be not deeply related to "battlefields" considering the peaceful pictures of Taichi and others which brighten the first title (cover) page. The story starts as Buhn, a man of a quite huge build, heads out for work, joyfully clanging his 'geta (geh-tah)', the traditional Japanese wooden clogs.

The characters live in a somewhat old-fashioned port town which may remind the reader of Japan in her Showa era. Buhn, the protagonist, is liked by various town folks because of his cheerful nature. The best friend of Buhn happens to be Taichi (pronounced 'tah-ee-chi'), the grandson of Buhn's employer. Despite the age difference, they always look for the same "cool" stuff in life, share the same awkwardness whenever their common 'formidable mentor', Mr. Toshio Aoyama (Taichi's grandfather and Buhn's employer) gives some tough scolding.



Buhn tends to say something slightly strange from time to time. Without realizing it himself, he also stares at ships for a long time on daily basis. No one would have thought that these “a bit peculiar” aspects of Buhn might sever the friendship between the two. However, their happy days undergo a drastic change due to one event in the summer. At that time, all of the slightly awkward, unnatural aspects of Buhn (something Toshio and Taichi always knew but pretended they didn't see) fit together, forcing the reader to realize that this story indeed deserves the series name Animal “Battlefield” Comics.

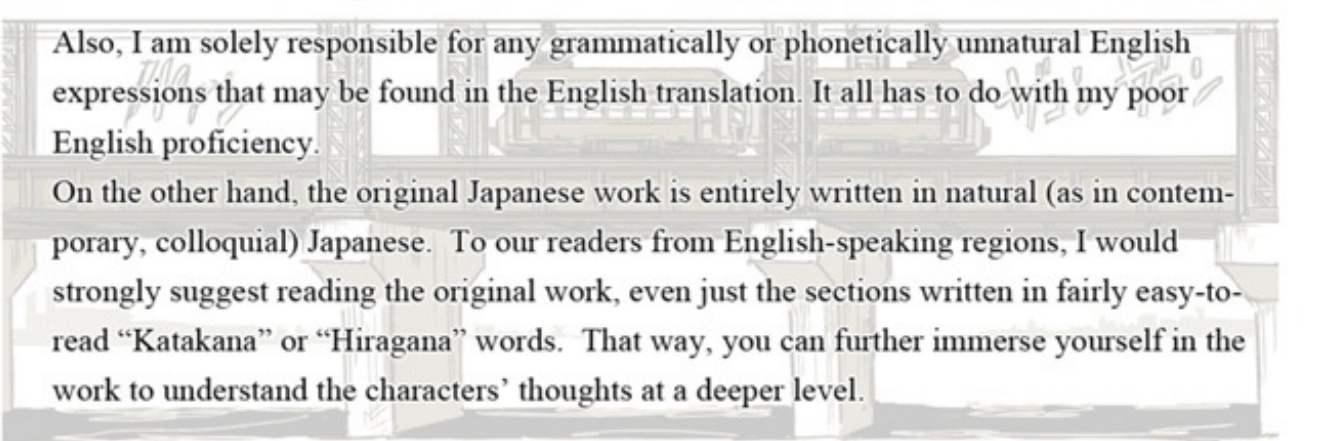
One may find many juicy aspects of in 'Buhn and Taichi', including (but not limited to) the brilliant plot, the solid yet mysteriously appealing furry character design, and the lively character movements that some of them appear even more human-like than actual human beings, etc, etc.

As translator of this story, I was particularly attracted by the protagonist Buhn's desperate struggles to confront as well as accept his true self.

I was overwhelmed by that saddest look on Buhn's face after his awakening, and was equally shocked to realize that Buhn on his knees looked devastatingly small despite the true size of his huge body.


While reading the story, and while translating it after re-reading like ten times or more, I just couldn't hold back my tears at that scene.

If I could be of any help to readers outside Japan in discerning that powerful something deeply woven into this story, I would be truly honored as not just the translator of 'Buhn and Taichi' but also as a fellow reader of this remarkable work.



Also, I am solely responsible for any grammatically or phonetically unnatural English expressions that may be found in the English translation. It all has to do with my poor English proficiency.

On the other hand, the original Japanese work is entirely written in natural (as in contemporary, colloquial) Japanese. To our readers from English-speaking regions, I would strongly suggest reading the original work, even just the sections written in fairly easy-to-read “Katakana” or “Hiragana” words. That way, you can further immerse yourself in the work to understand the characters' thoughts at a deeper level.



I started translating this story with full confidence that it would be done in a matter of a week or so. Boy, was I wrong. Translating manga isn't really like translating technical/business related documents (that I have been doing for most of my life). I cannot thank the author, POCOINU, enough for all his help and advice he offered in the translation as well as reinforcing my understanding of the plot. POCOINU, I am truly grateful to you for not just allowing me to translate the story in English but also for your words of encouragement.

Hoping that someday I can meet Buhn again,

Nada

November 2014



(One of rough sketches of Buhn, courtesy of POCOINU)

Author's afterword

Back in my childhood, I used to play with a middle-aged man
(an “oldbuddy” of some sort).

I can't quite remember how we befriended each other.

But I do remember playing baseball with that old buddy in the company
of my elementary school pals.

One day, my three pals, I and the old buddy took an excursion to a
forest a bit far from our neighborhood to collect insects.

At that time, one of my pals (or it may have been myself) said something
trivial. That seemingly harmless words somehow incurred the old
buddy's wrath. The ever-cheerful, friendly old buddy I had known was
no more. He started to swear at us with so much vehemence and
horrible look on his face that we had never seen.

I was deeply astonished, but at the same time vaguely sensed the
strange, desolate feeling that my ordinary everyday life had somehow
suddenly turned into one with an alien atmosphere which belonged to a
totally unfamiliar world.

I can't remember how things turned out after that.

It was the last time I played with the old buddy.

Although I had borrowed a butterfly net from the old buddy, to this date I
have not been able to return it to him.

Just an enormous amount of time has passed since then.

I don't remember his name, either.

However, I do recall his bearded face and that clumsy-looking name of
his lover tattooed on his huge arm.

I started drawing this comic, Buhn, Taichi and an October Morning, in the hope that I would be able to express that wistful, heartrending feeling (which perhaps exists in everyone's mind) that occurs when one's ordinary "normal" life is suddenly turned into something completely different, owing to just one seemingly trivial event.

Thanks to Nada's assistance, this time I was able to make the English version of this work available.

I couldn't be happier If this comic can give any insight to the hearts of readers who live far away from Japan.

Thank you so much for reading all the way to the end.

Best wishes,
Pocoinu

