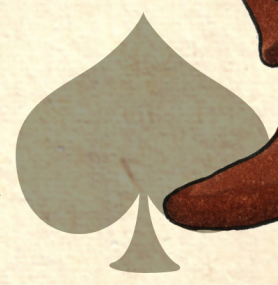
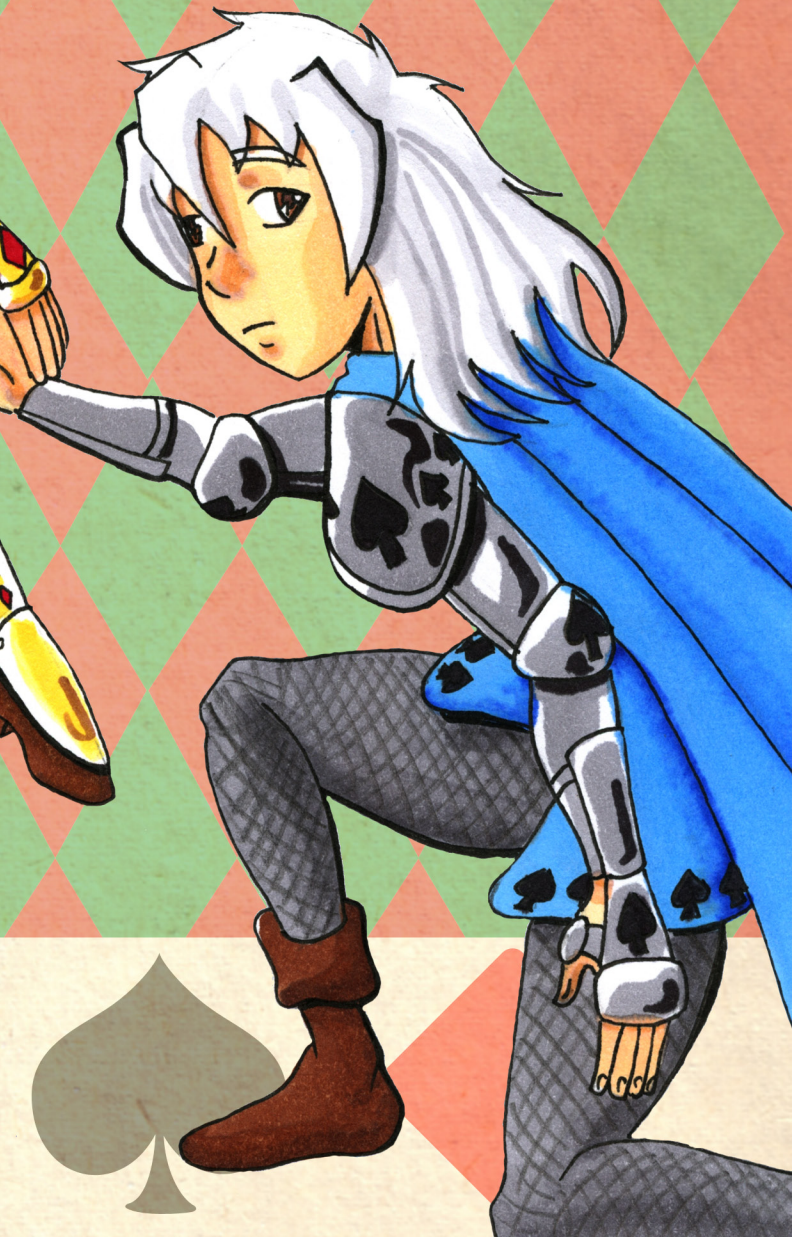
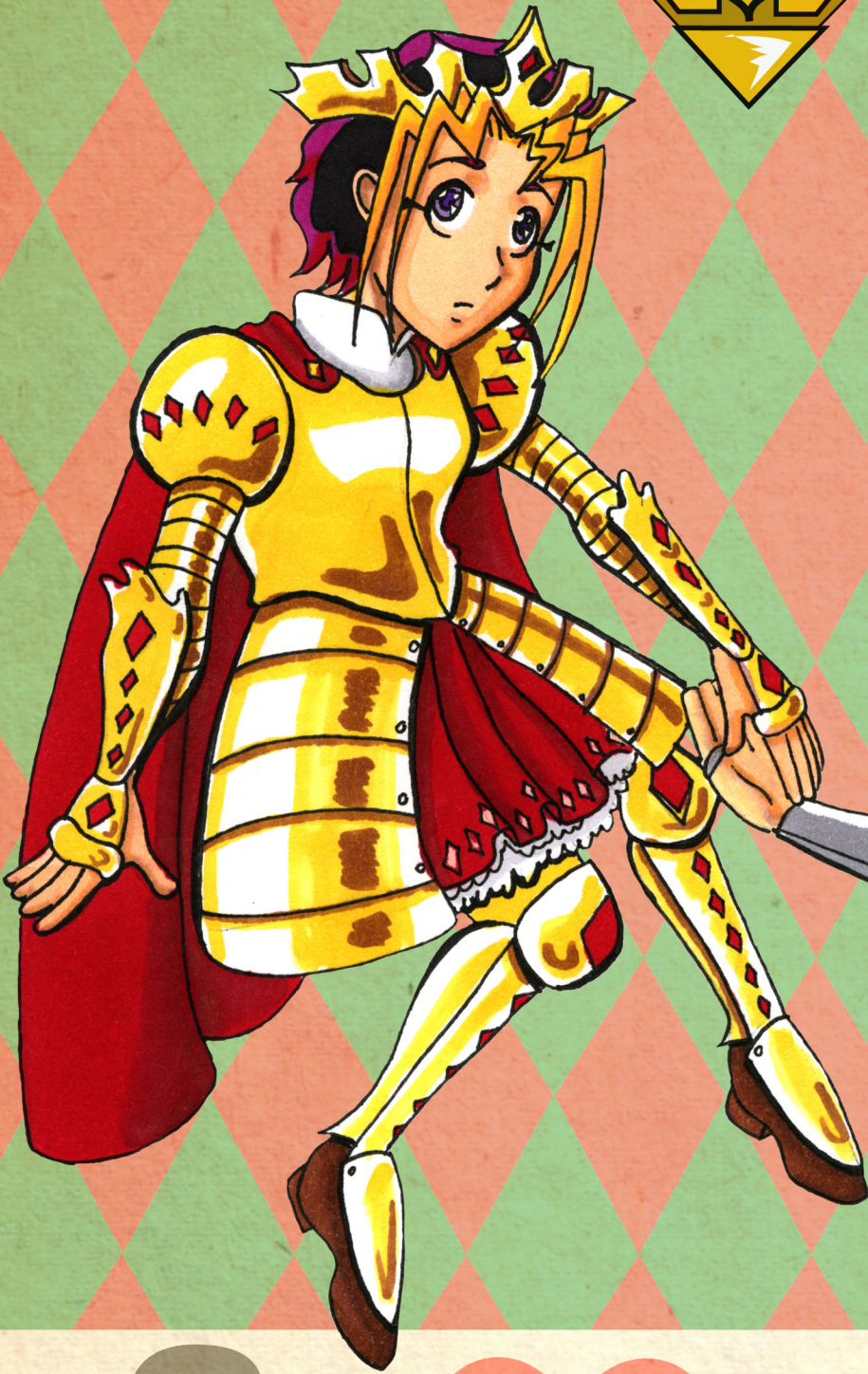


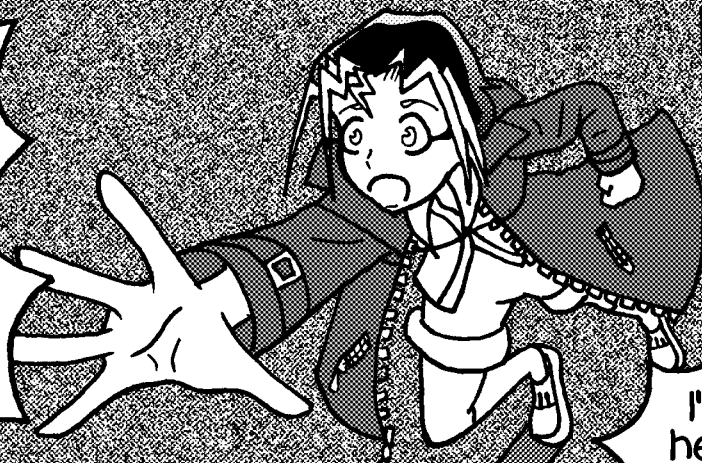
by Clowprincess223



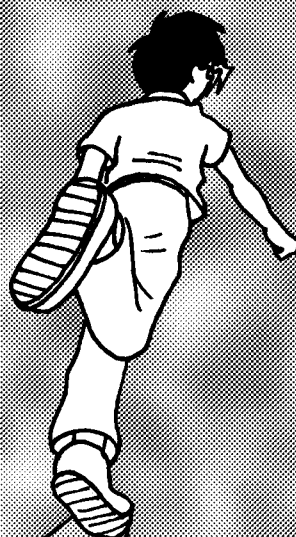


Jacob!

Jacob
I'm
here!



I'm
here
to
save
you!



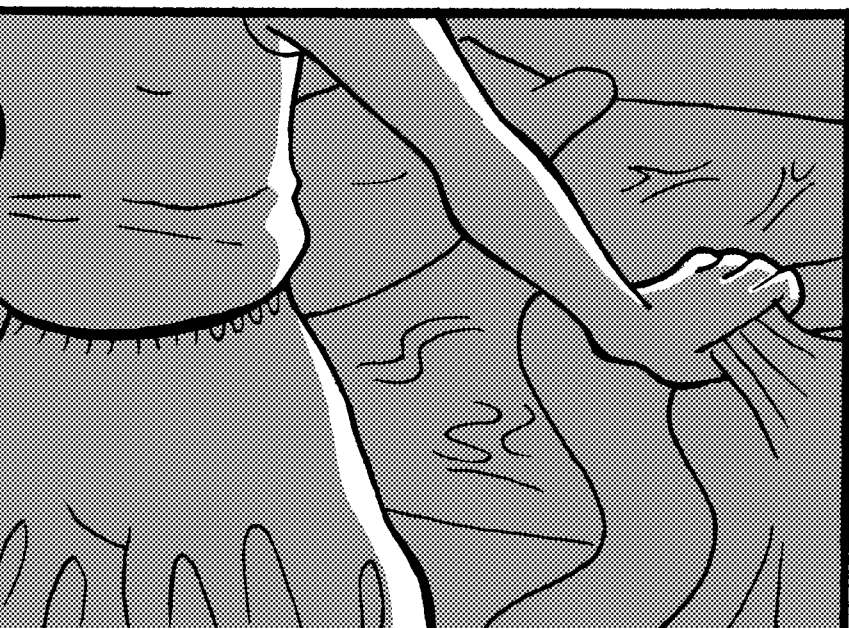
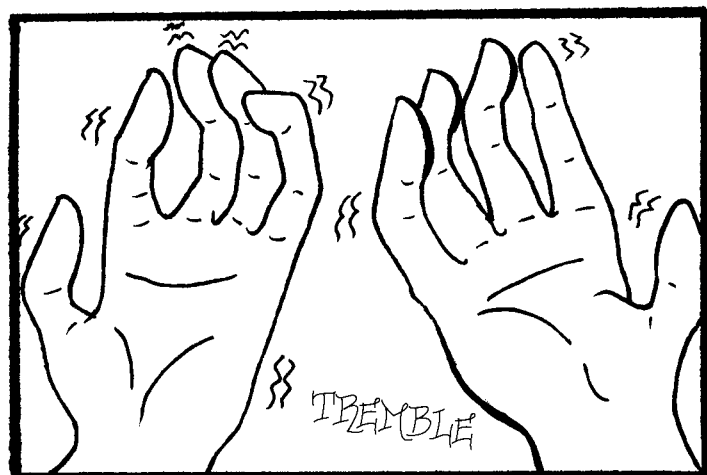
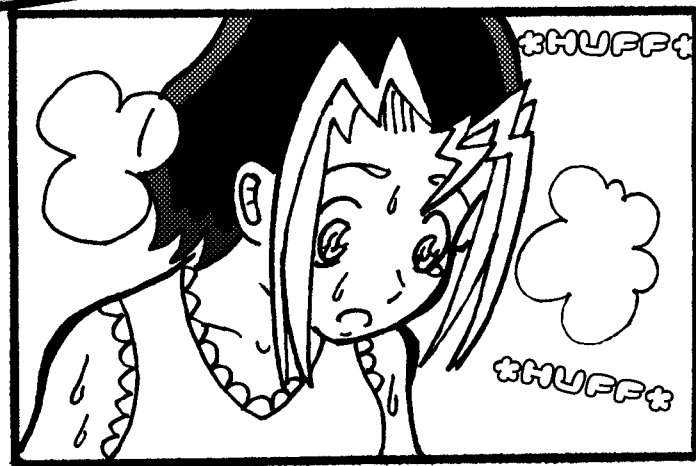
Jacob,
where
are you
going?!

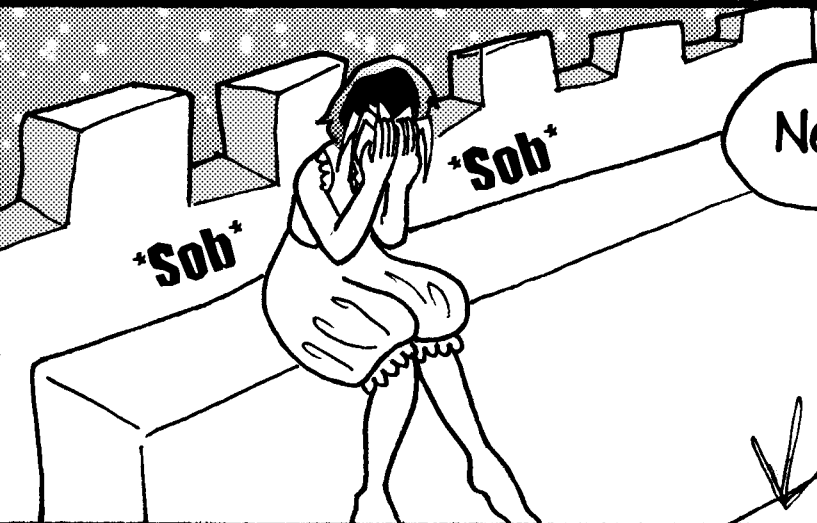
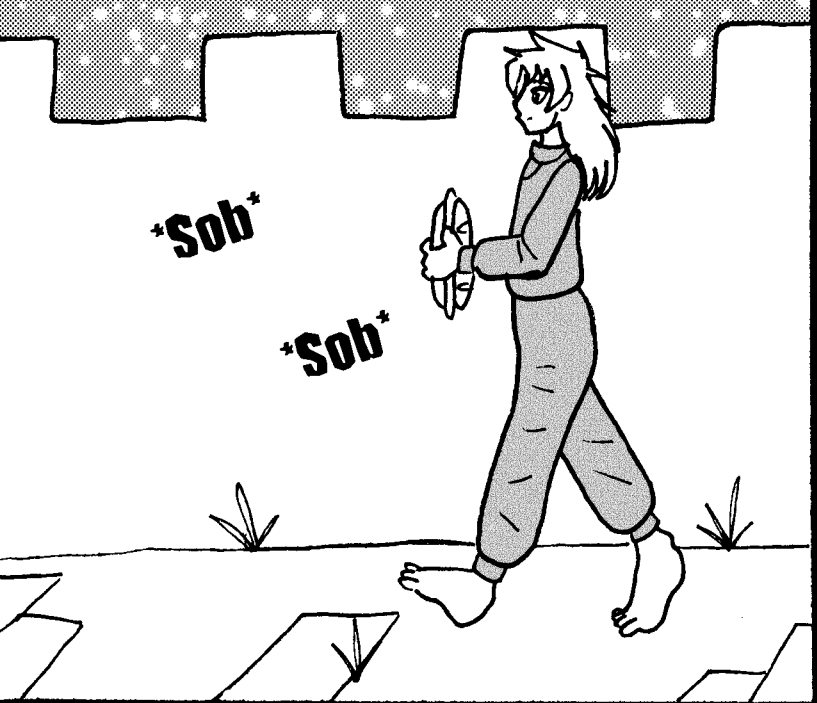


You
hate
me,
remem-
ber?

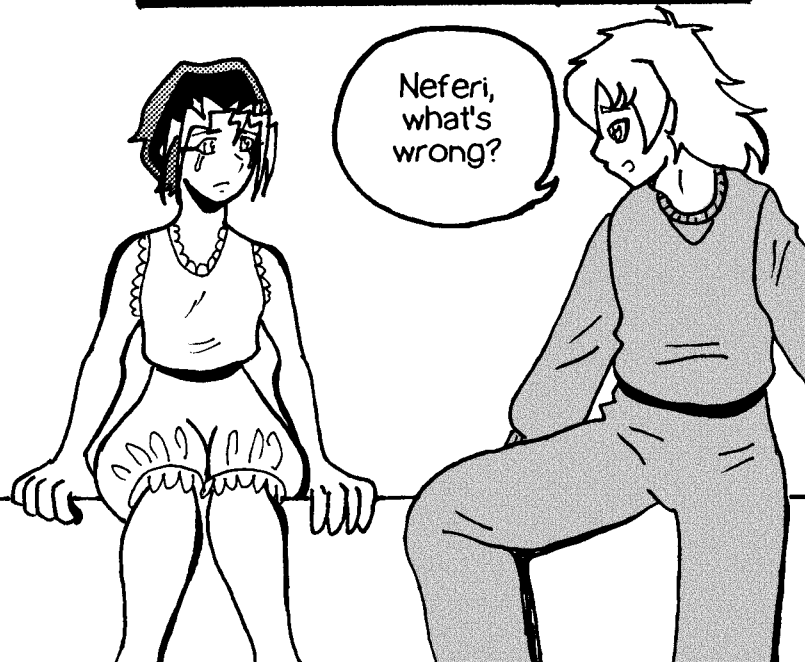


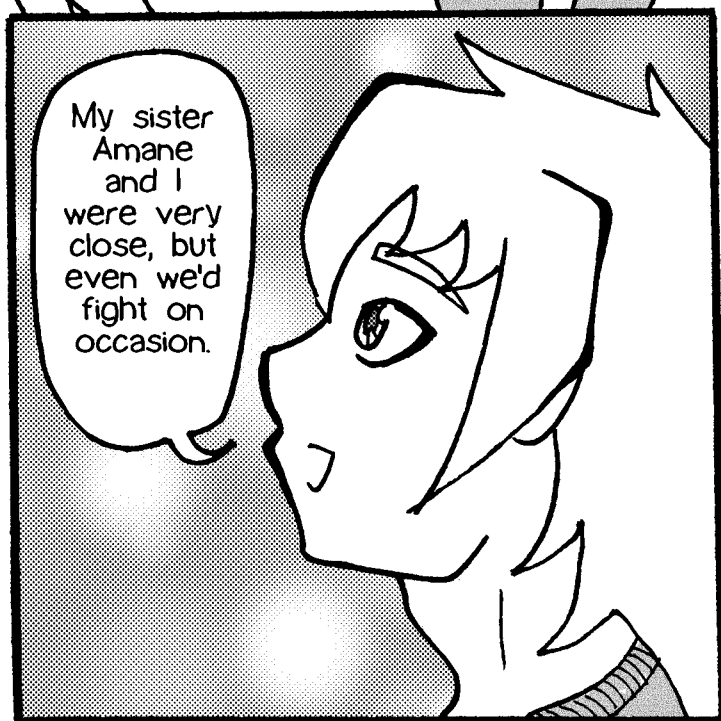
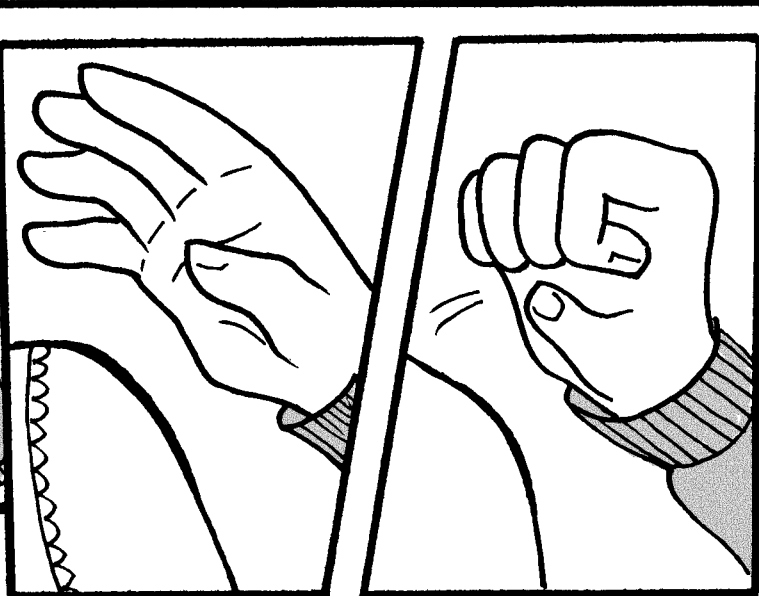
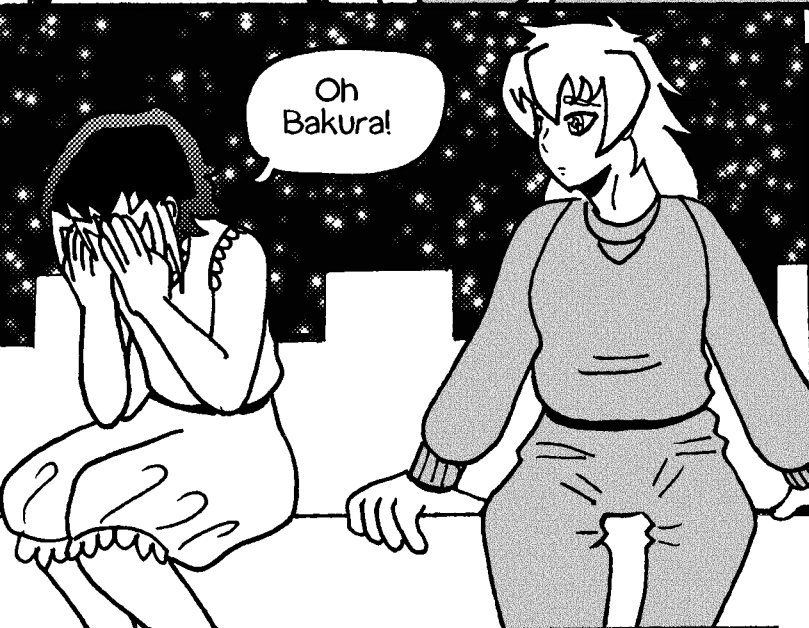
Jacob?

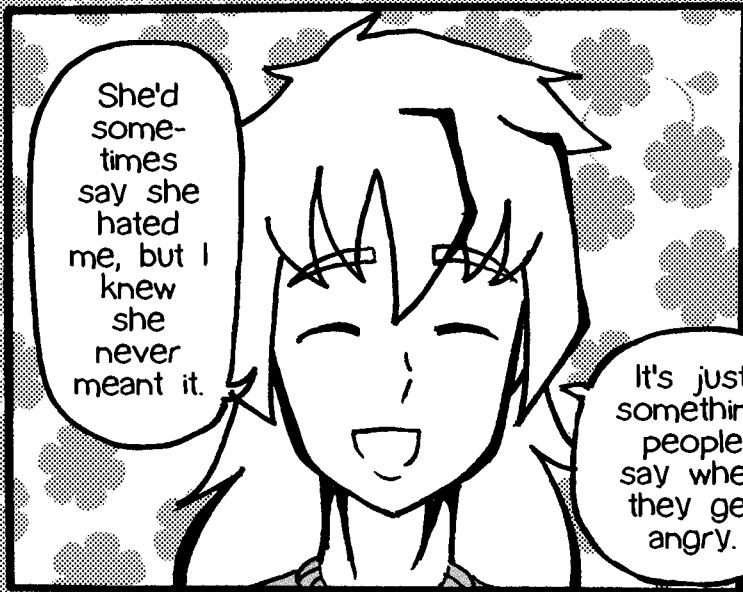




Neferi?







She'd sometimes say she hated me, but I knew she never meant it.

It's just something people say when they get angry.

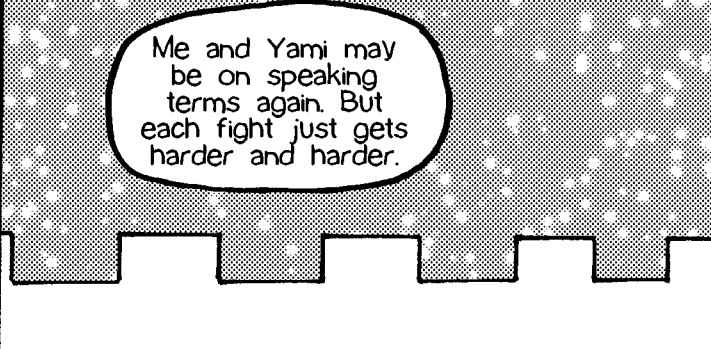


I know Jacob knows you love him.

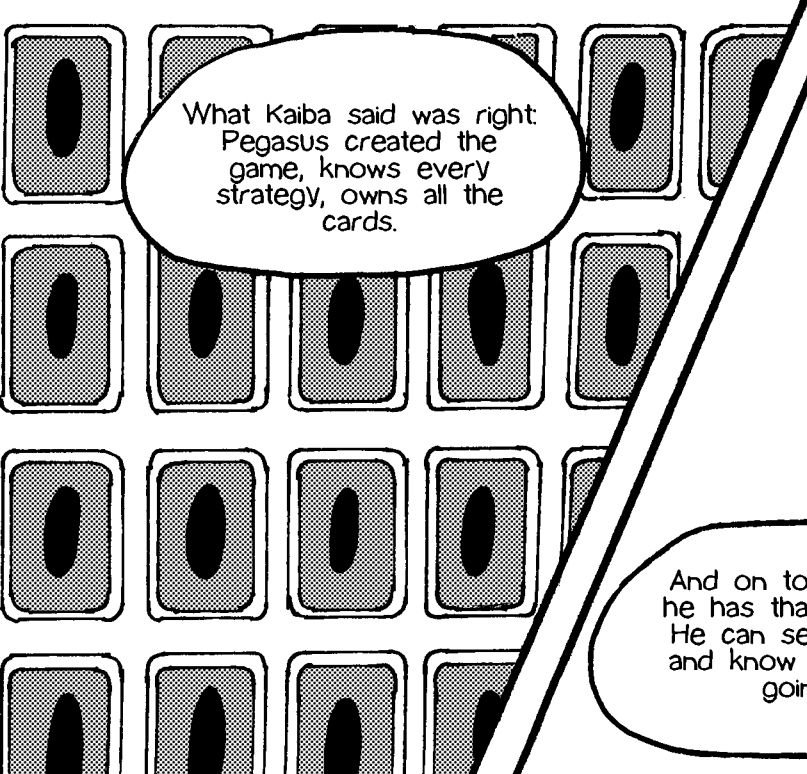
And you can tell him that yourself when you win tomorrow



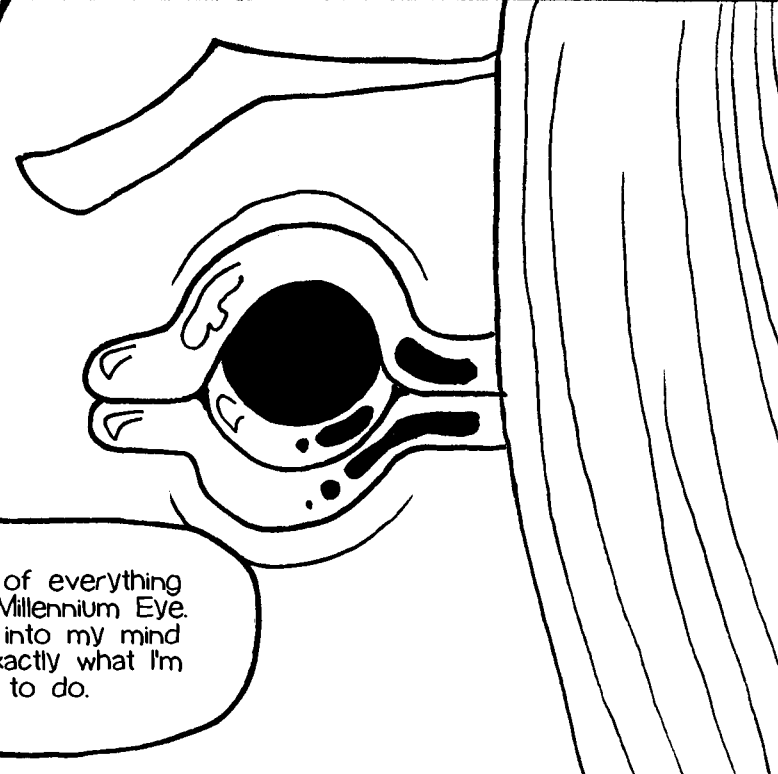
That's the thing, I don't know if I can.



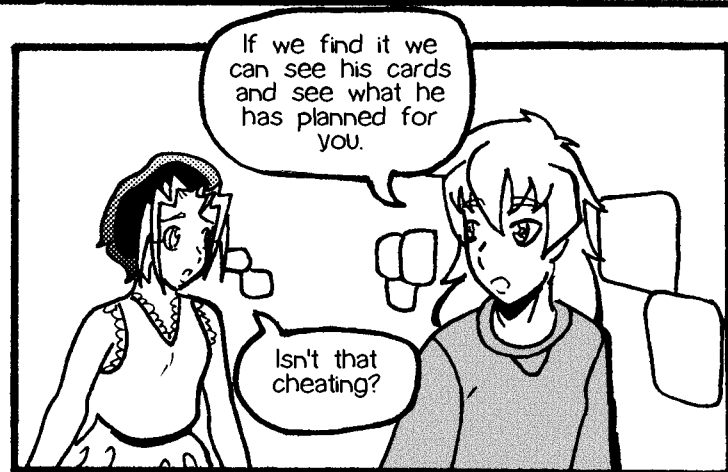
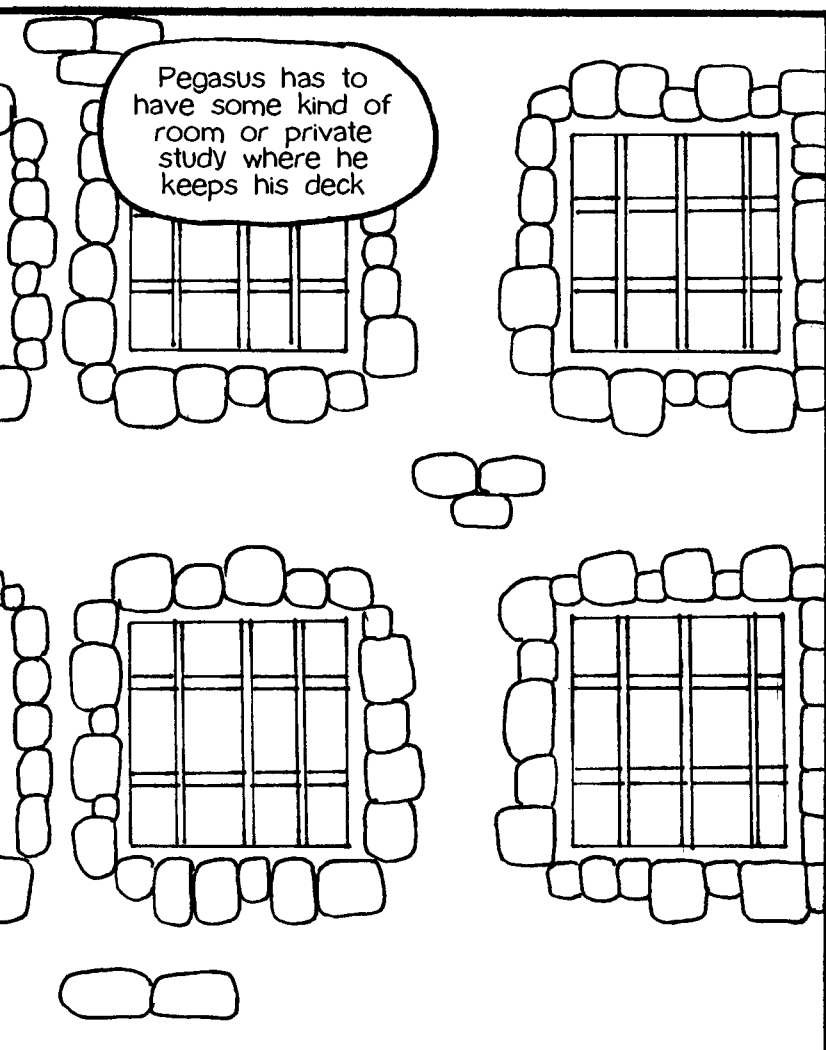
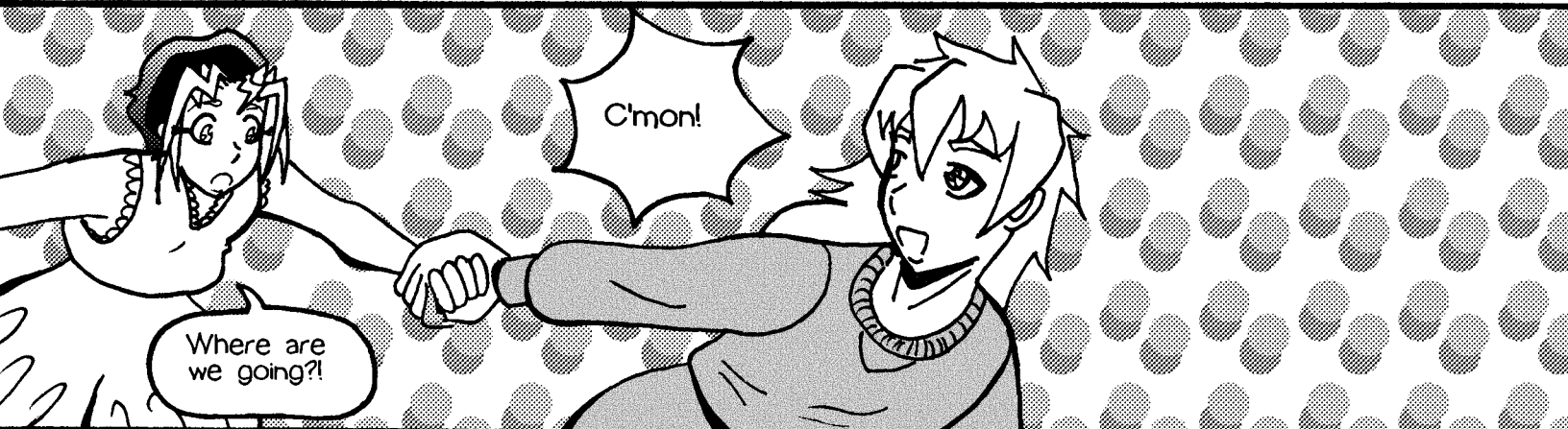
Me and Yami may be on speaking terms again. But each fight just gets harder and harder.

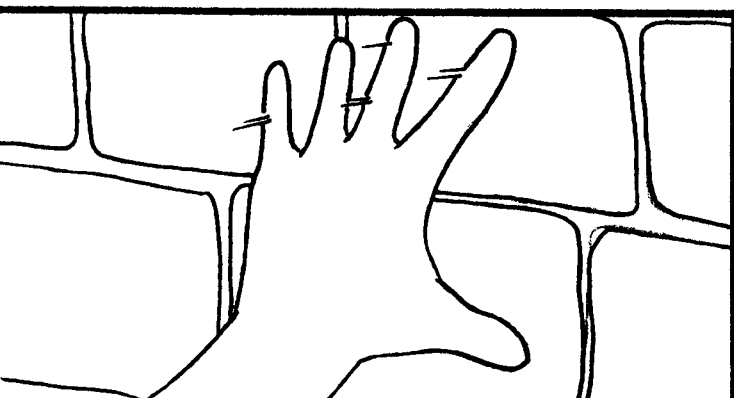
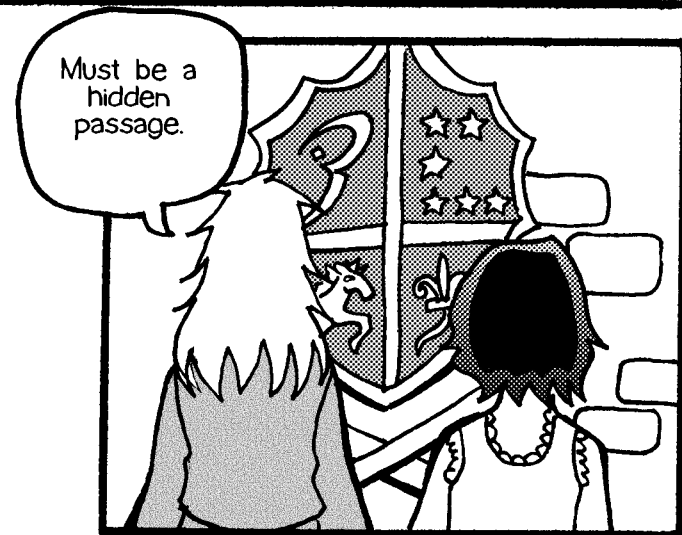
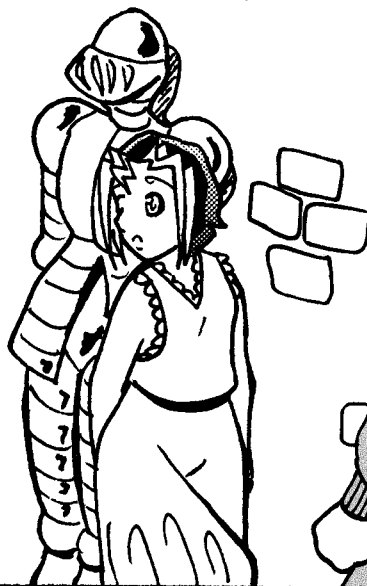
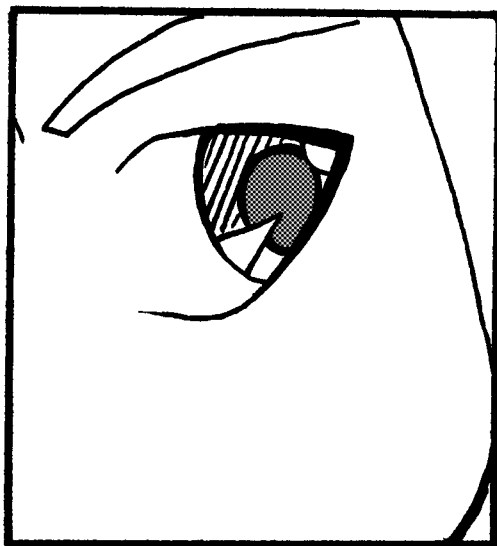


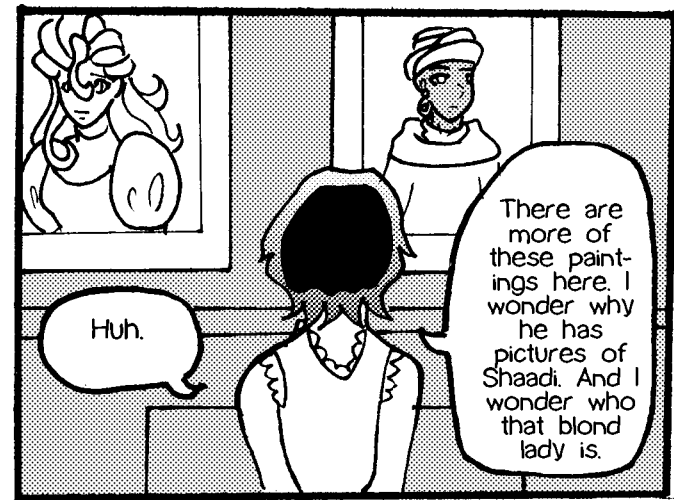
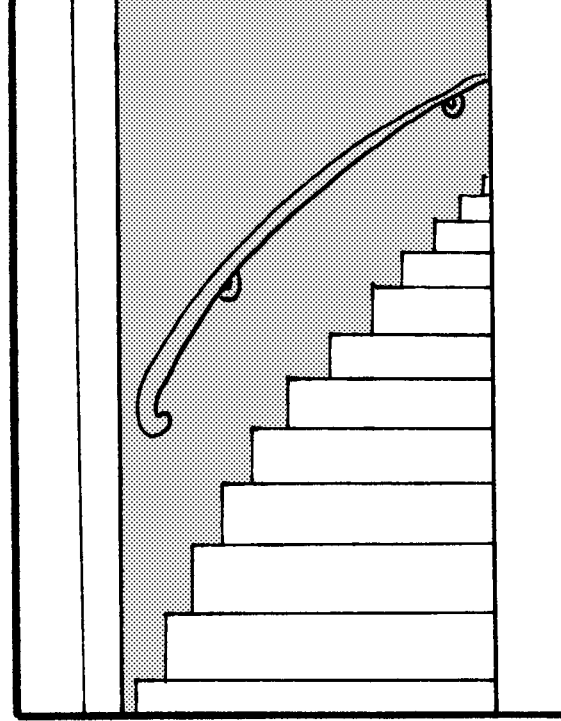
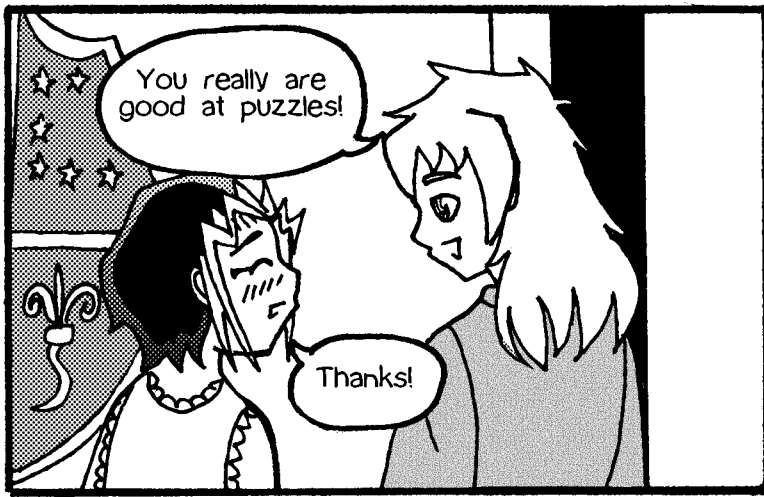
What Kaiba said was right. Pegasus created the game, knows every strategy, owns all the cards.



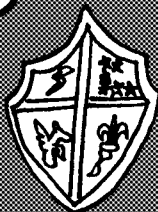
And on top of everything he has that Millennium Eye. He can see into my mind and know exactly what I'm going to do.







I found this book. I think it might be Pegasus's journal.



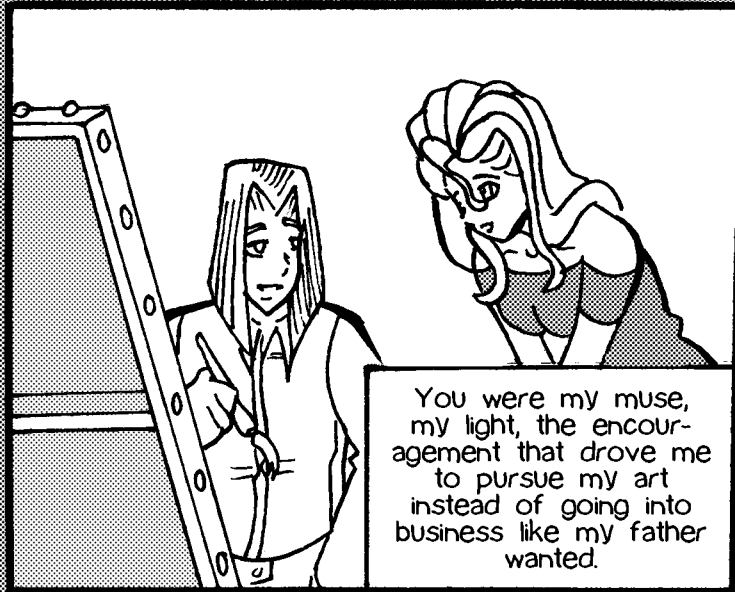
"I was a child and she was a child, in our kingdom by the sea..."

That's a poem by Edgar Allen Poe.

My dearest Cecilia. I can still remember our first meeting as though it just happened. At my father's part, all those years ago.

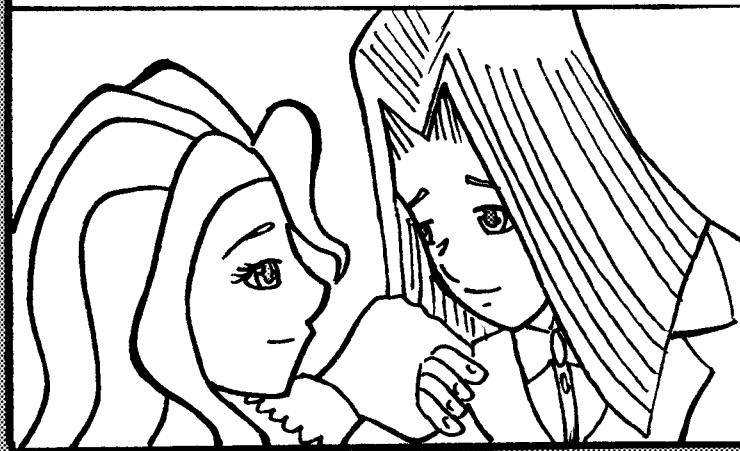
Though we were just children, I knew I loved you, a love that I have never known before.

And fear I will never know again.



You were my muse,
my light, the encouragement that drove me
to pursue my art
instead of going into
business like my father
wanted.

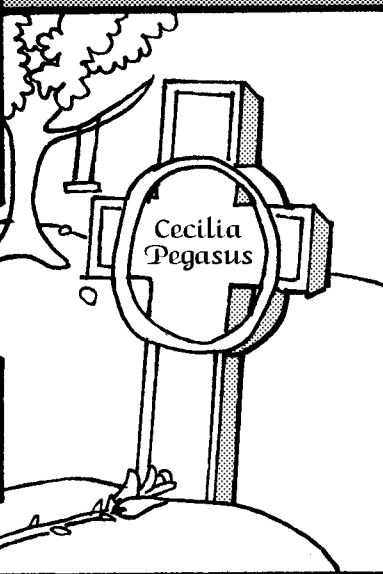
And the day you agreed to be my bride was the
happiest I have never been, or will ever be.



For the Heavens and
the Fates took you
away from me, just a
few short months after
we wed.



When you died
part of me died
as well.



All these
paintings must
be of Cecilia.

Who'd've guessed
Pegasus was
married?

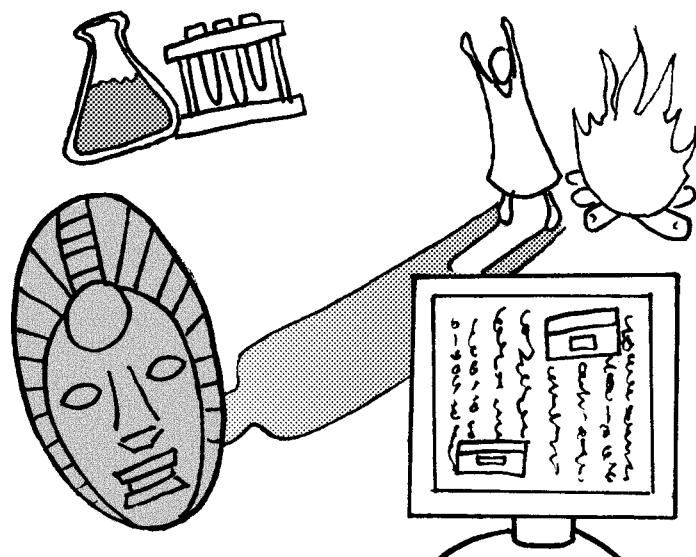
So why is a
painting of
Shaadi here
too?



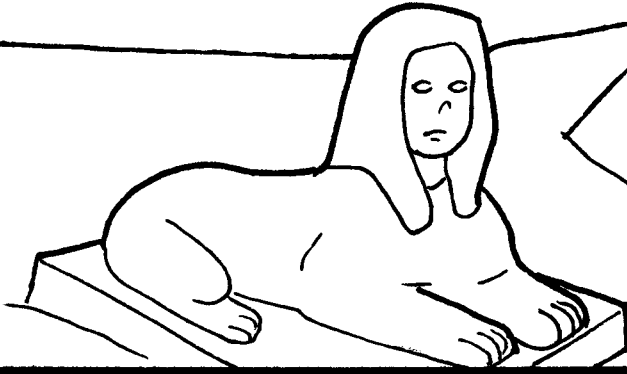
It goes
on:

With you
gone I had
but one
purpose in
life: to bring
you back,
even if I
had to
move Earth,
Heaven and
Hell to do
so.

I searched the world, contacted the greatest
scientists, spiritualists and mediums but I
have found my answers in a land of Ancient
Knowledge.



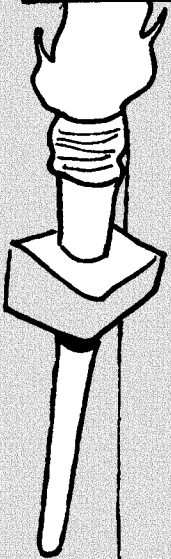
Egypt.



I had heard from a trader about a mysterious man from an ancient clan who guarded a mystic secret.



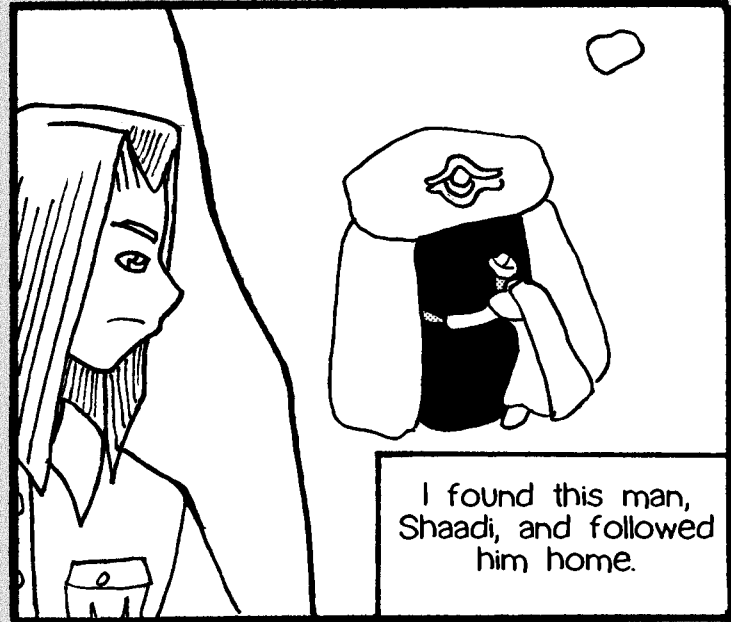
He was not pleased to see me.



You should not be here.

For if it is not your fate, you will not leave here alive.

So is the ancient law.

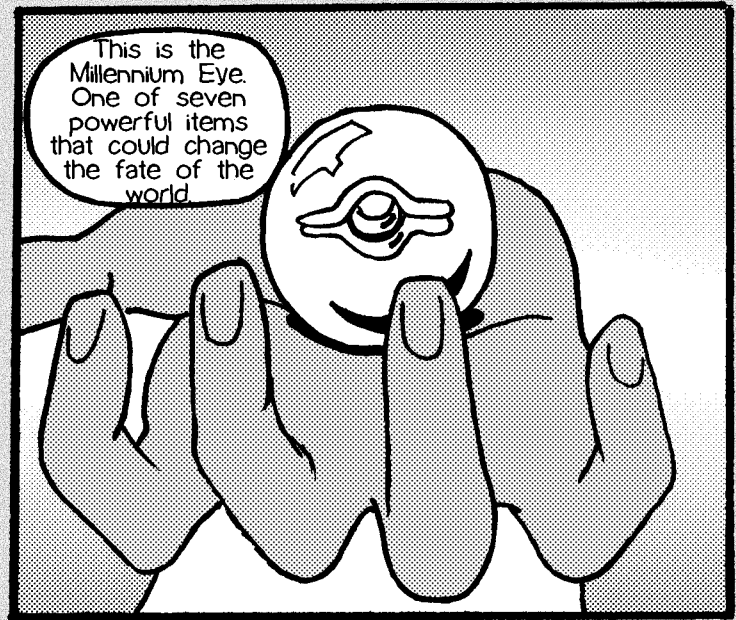
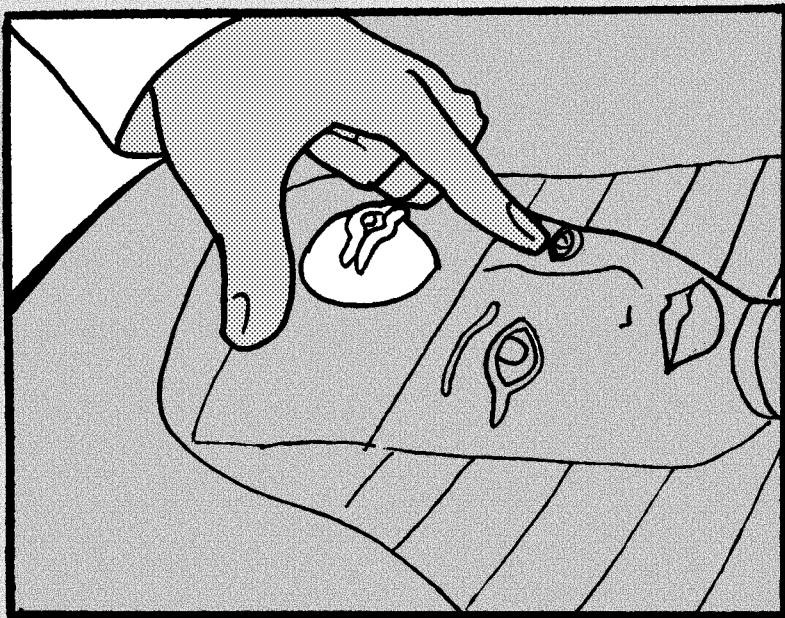
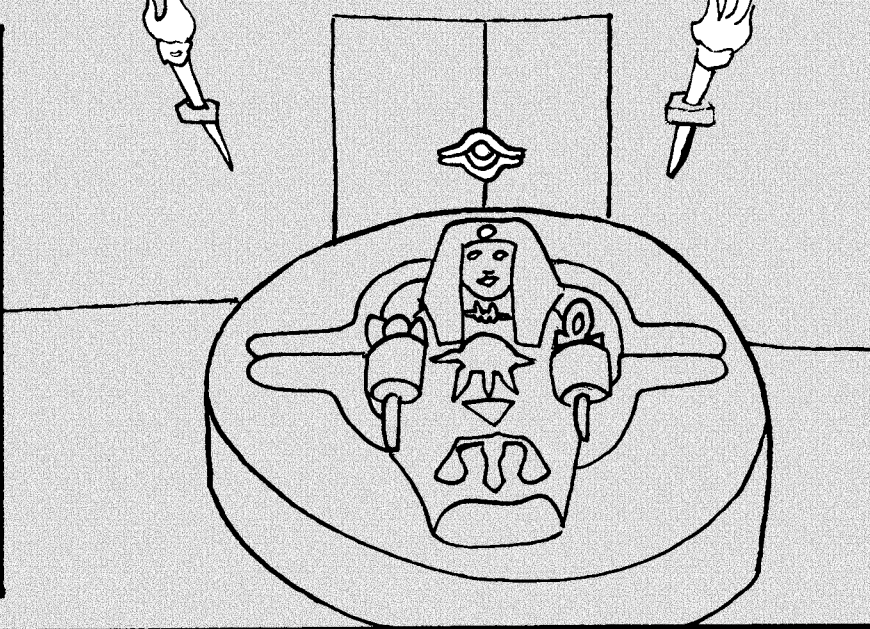


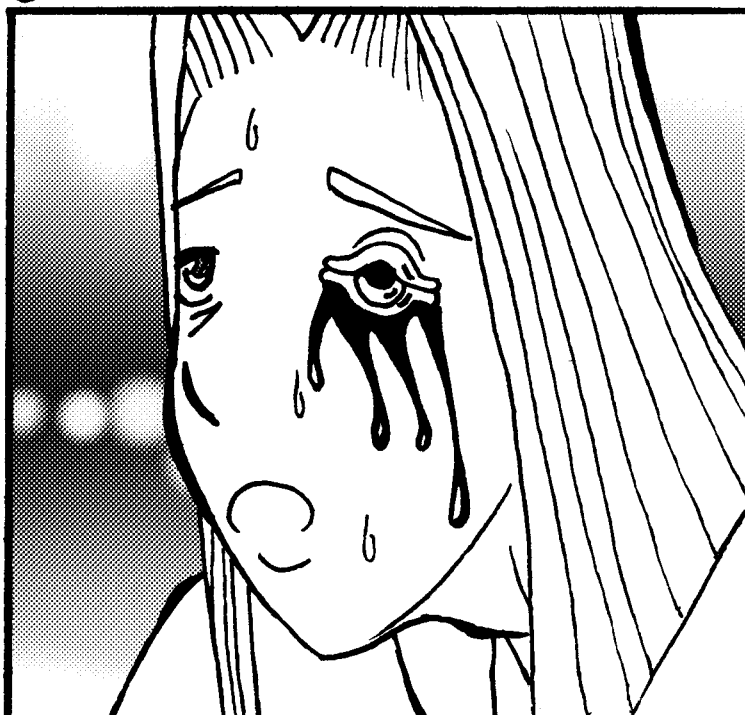
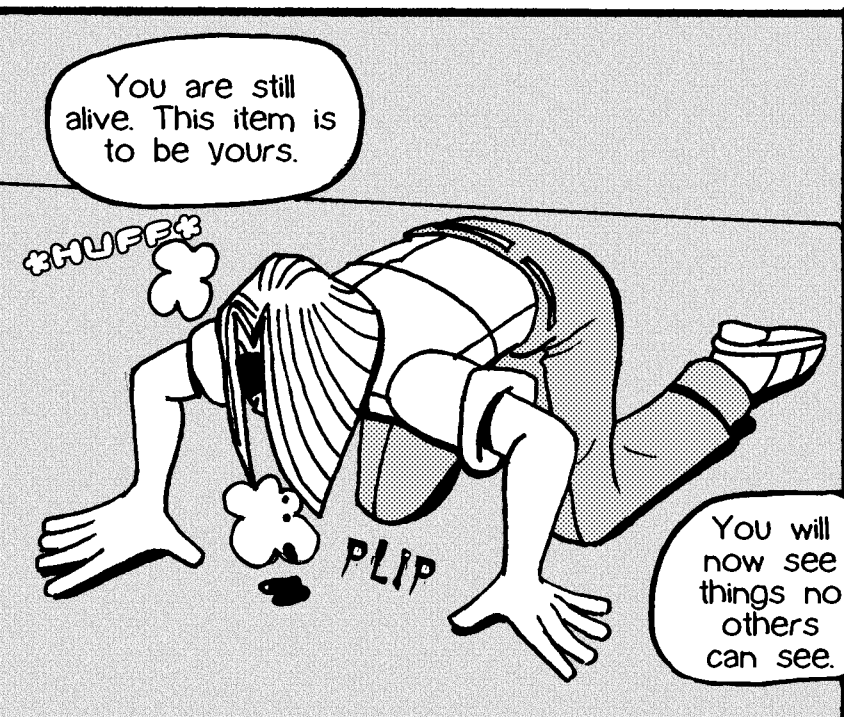
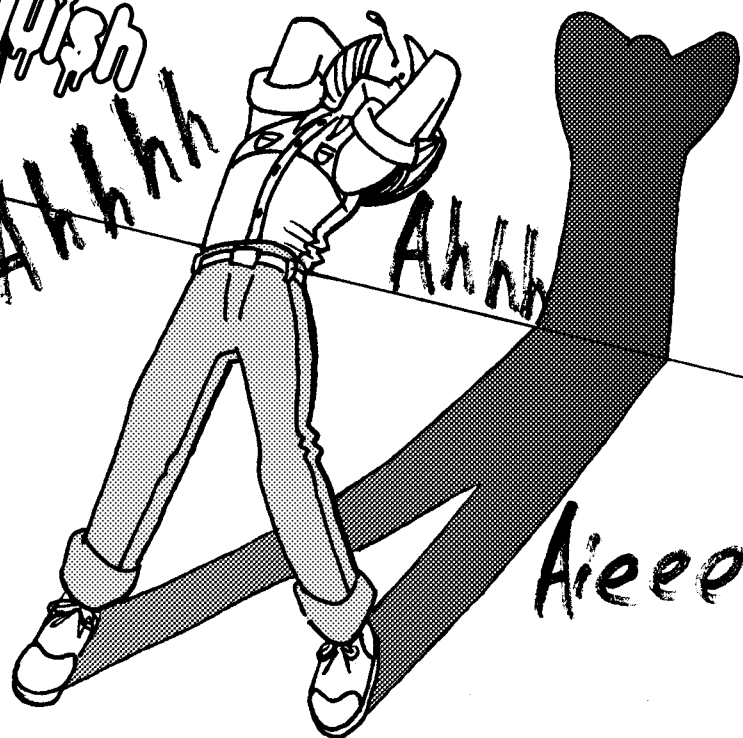
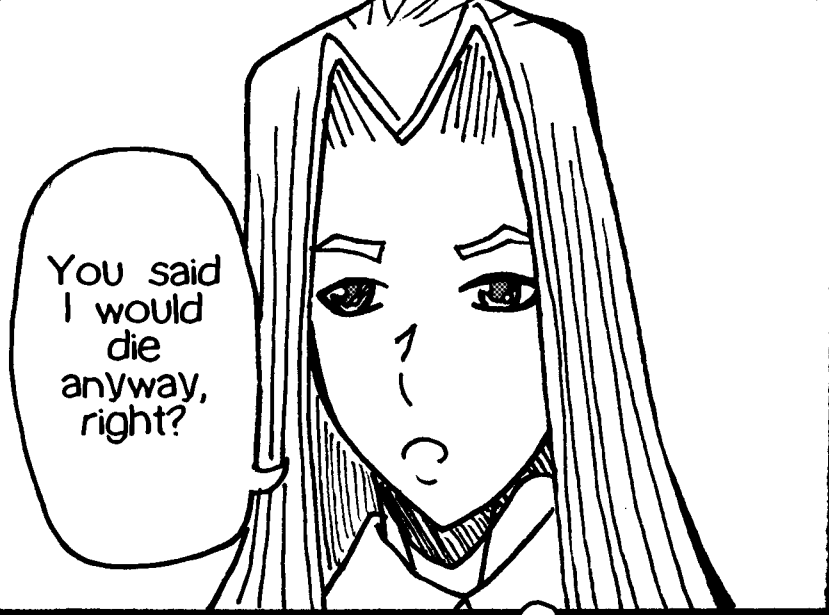
I found this man, Shaadi, and followed him home.

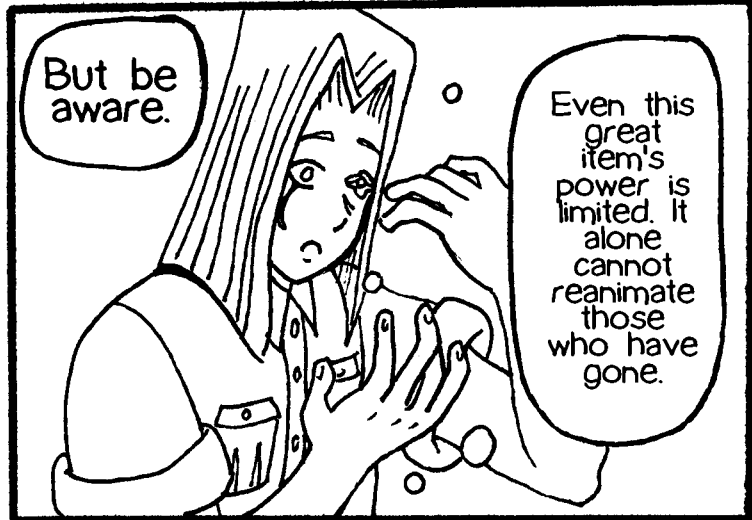
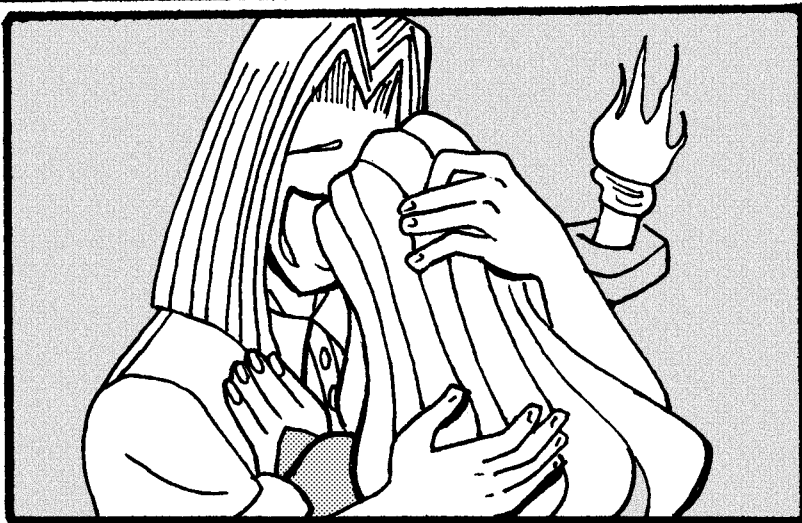
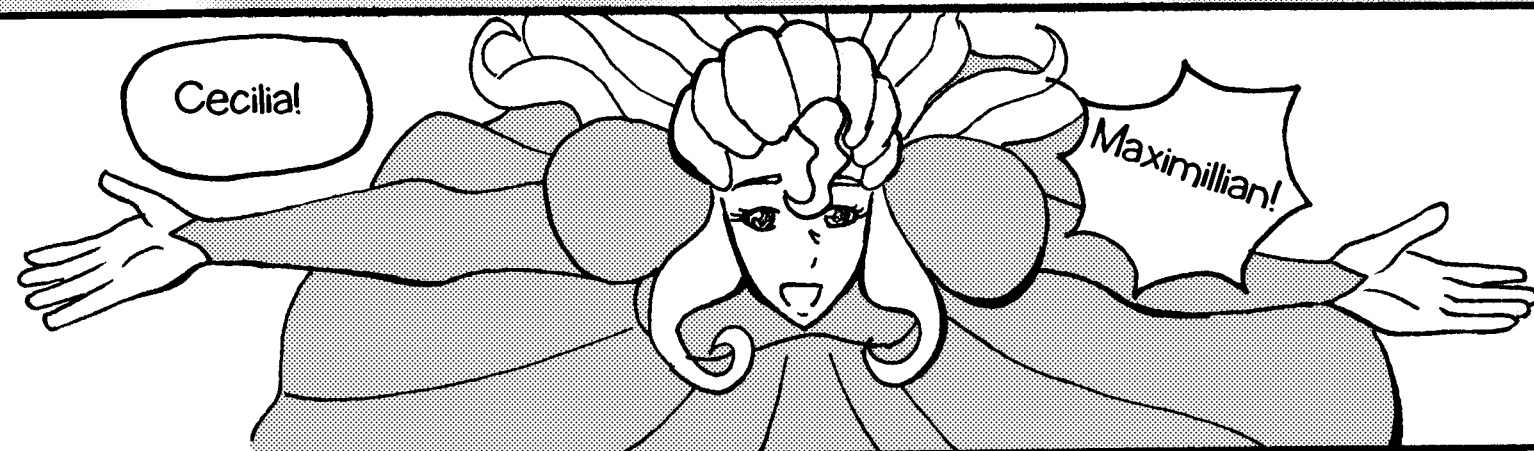
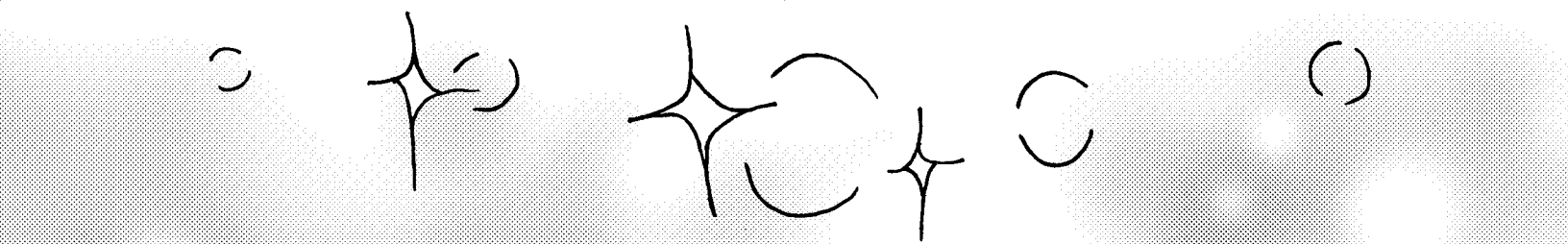
Fate is no friend of mine.

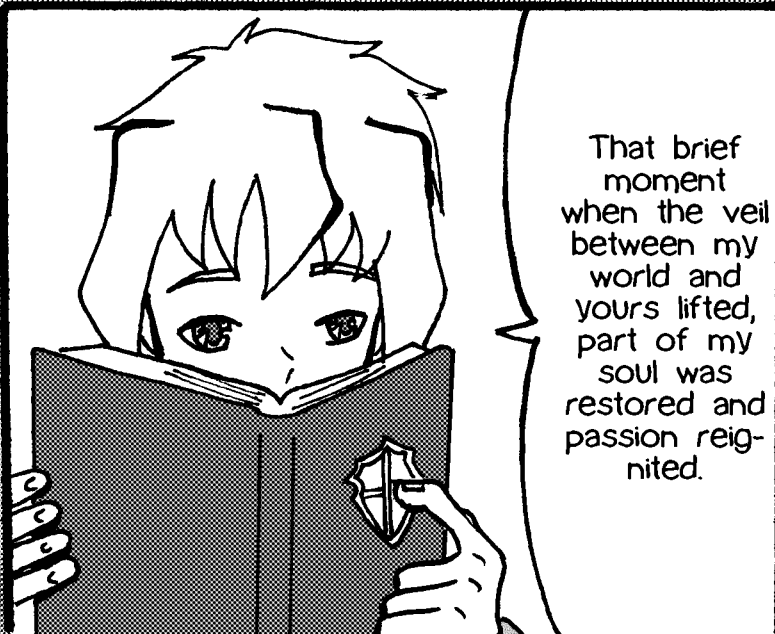
And you can't take what I'm prepared to throw away.





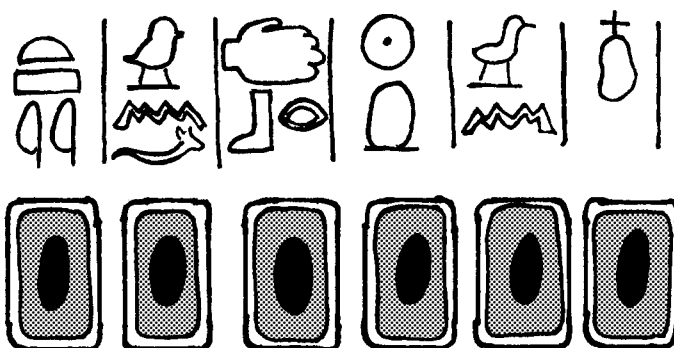




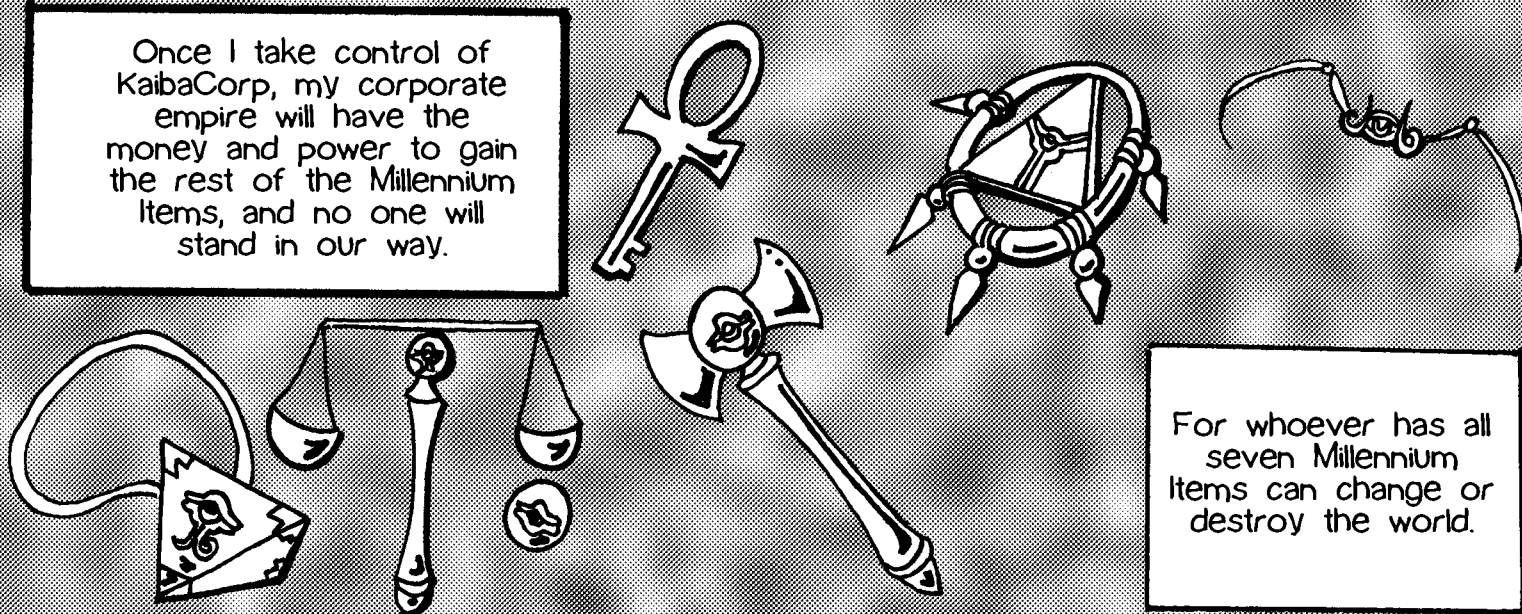


That brief moment when the veil between my world and yours lifted, part of my soul was restored and passion reignited.

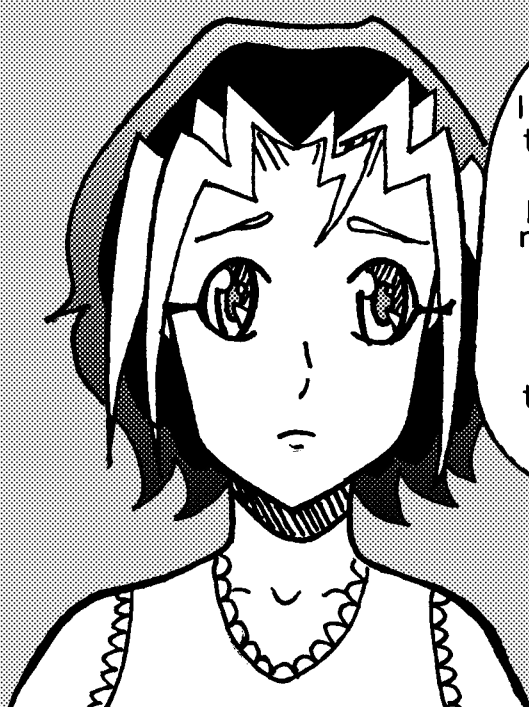
I took the pieces of my father's company and my love for art and created Industrial Illusions. And inspired by the ancient games of the Egyptians I created Duel Monsters.



Once I take control of KaibaCorp, my corporate empire will have the money and power to gain the rest of the Millennium Items, and no one will stand in our way.



For whoever has all seven Millennium Items can change or destroy the world.

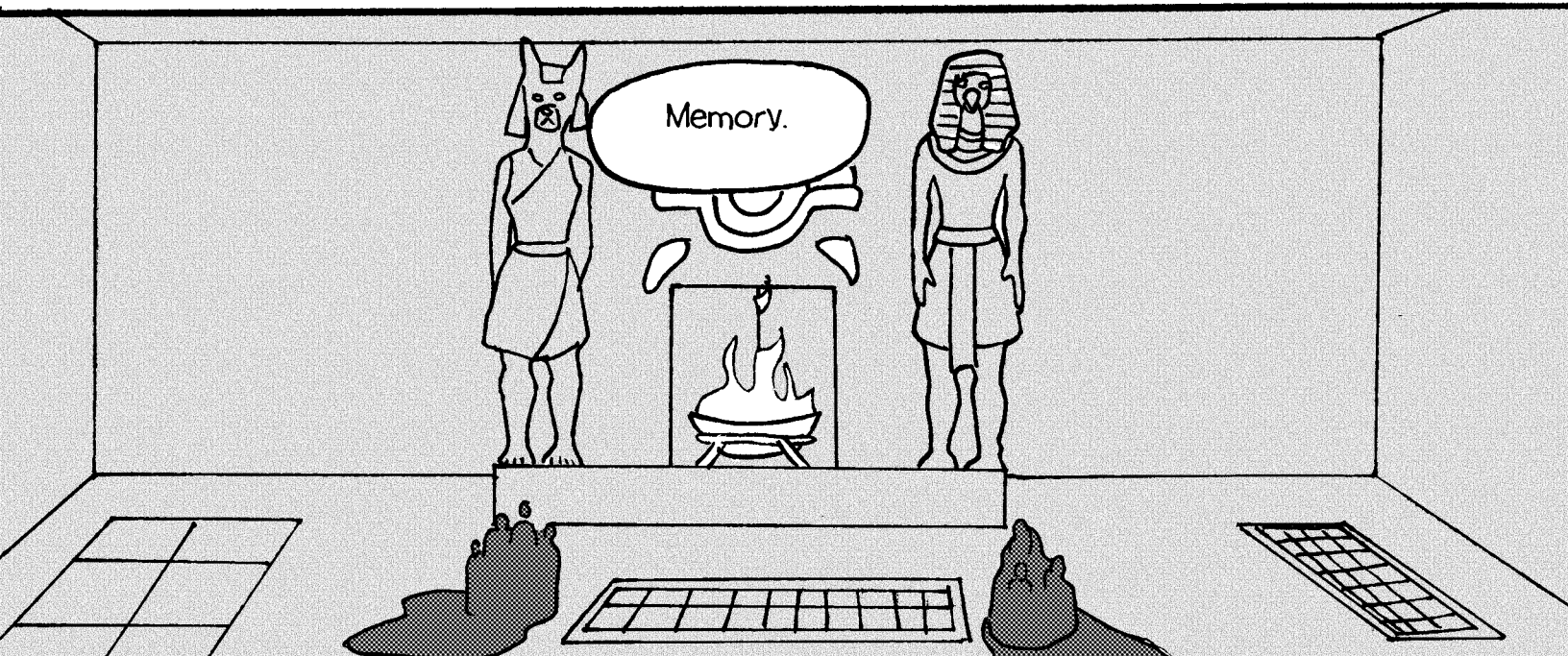
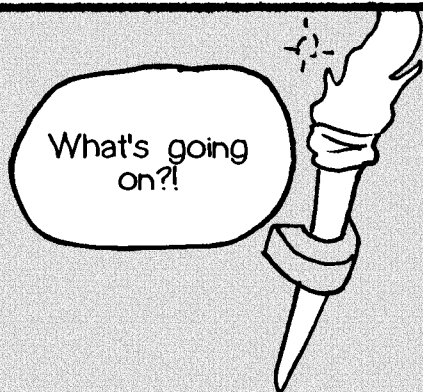


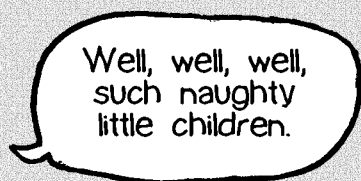
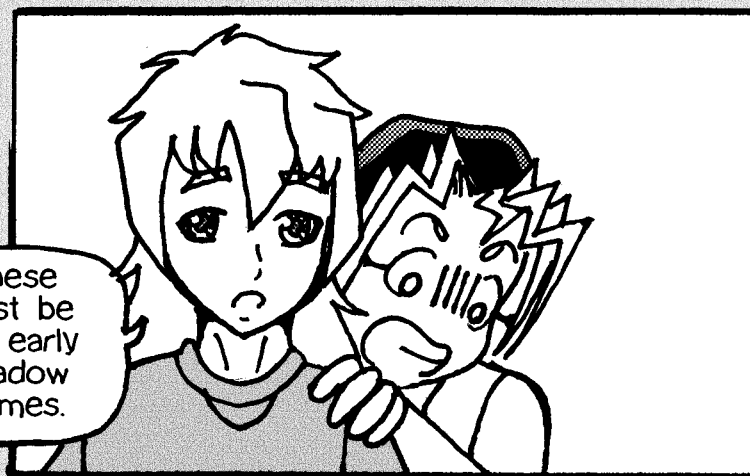
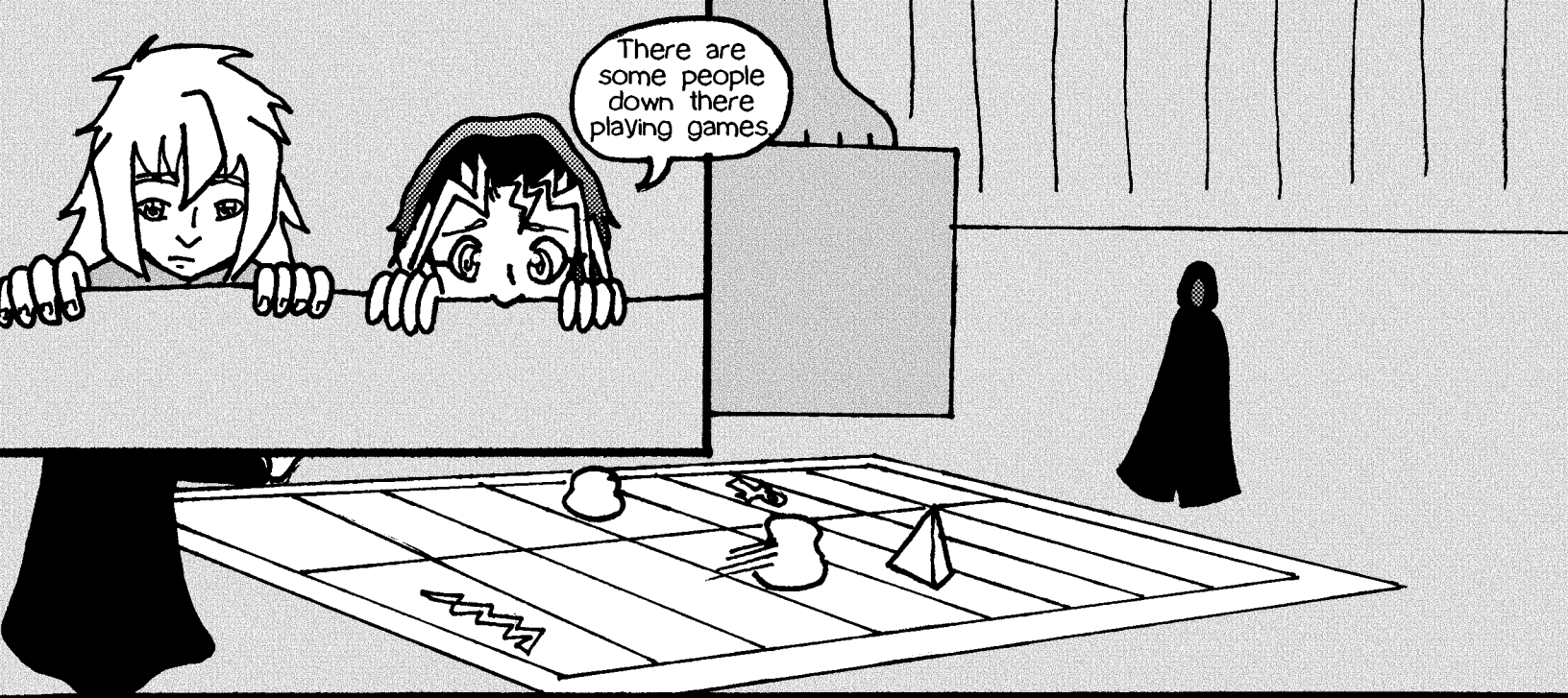
I have already tracked down the most powerful and most mysterious item in the possession of a young girl, the Millennium Puzzle

I will do anything to possess these items.



For you Cecilia, I will either change this world so that we may be together. Or destroy it for taking you away from me.



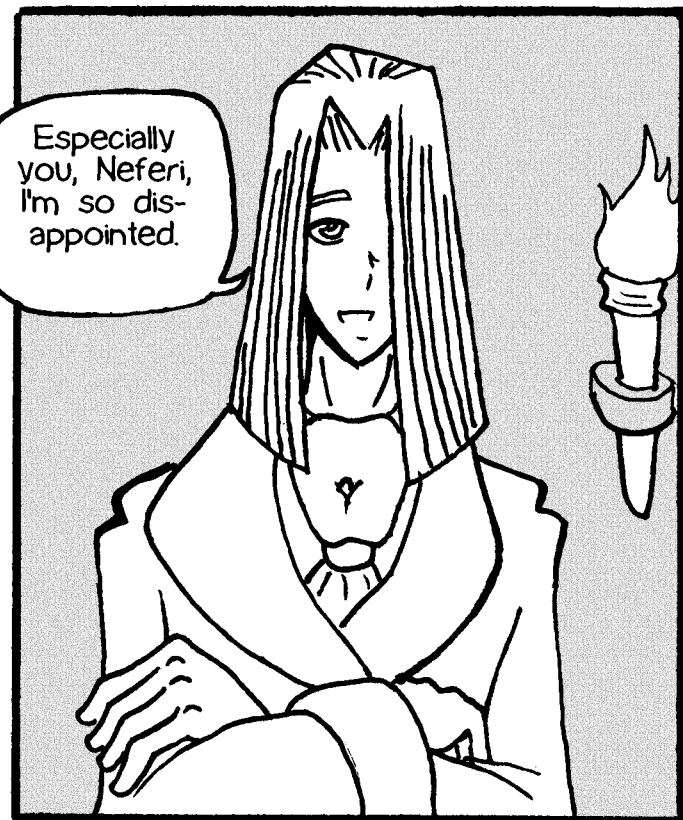




Pegasus!

Going through someone's private things.

Especially you, Neferi, I'm so disappointed.



Looks like I'm going to have to punish you. I suppose the final duel will be unnecessary.



I do not thing so....

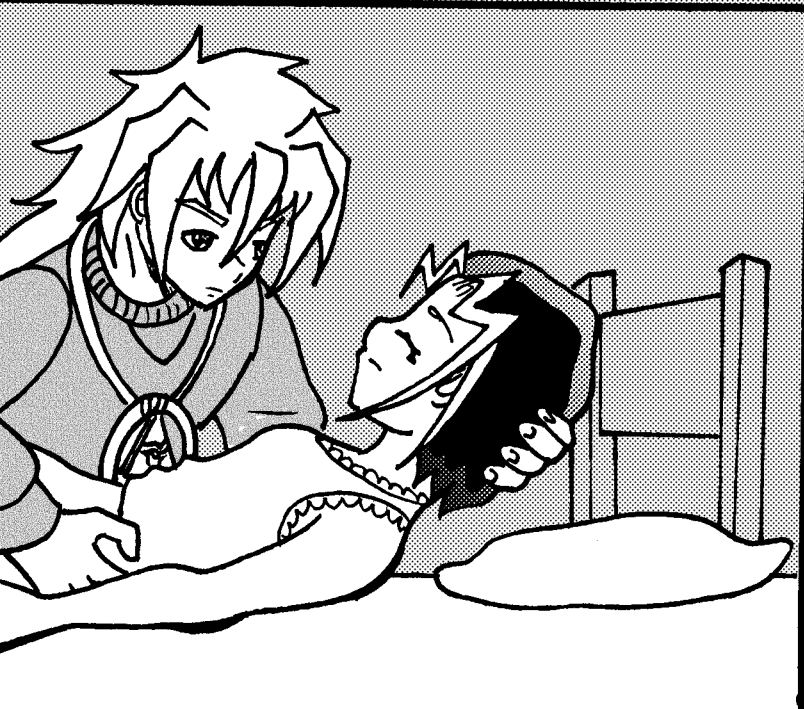
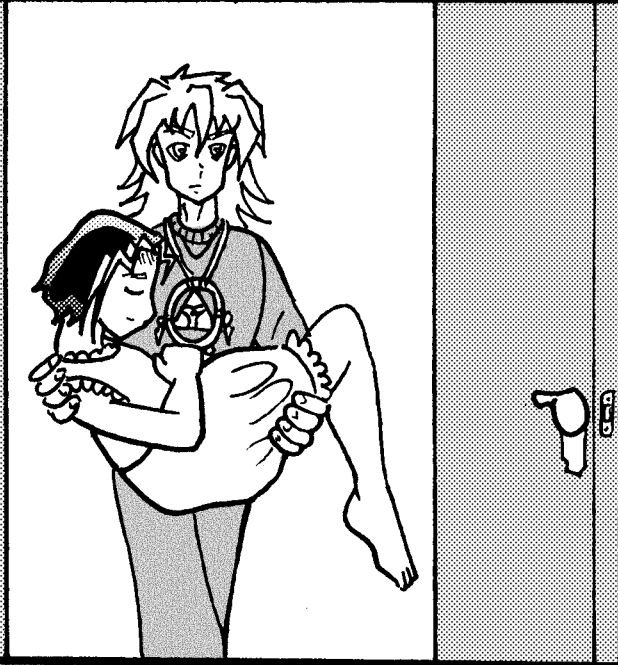
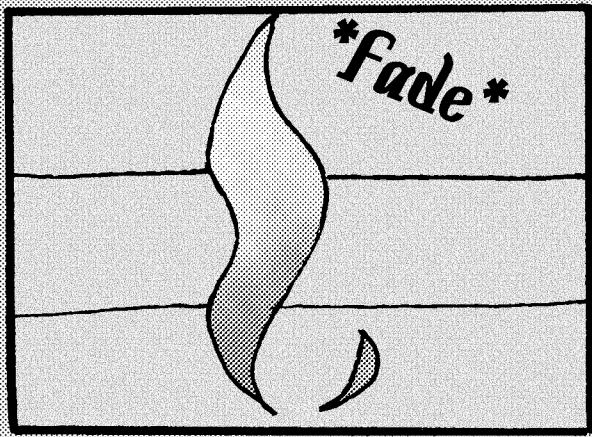
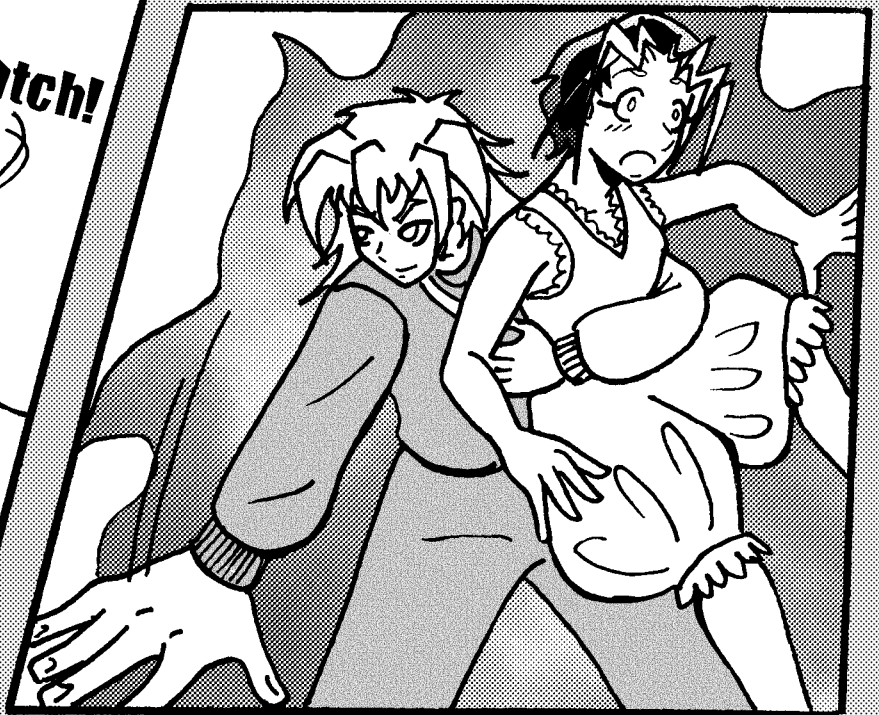
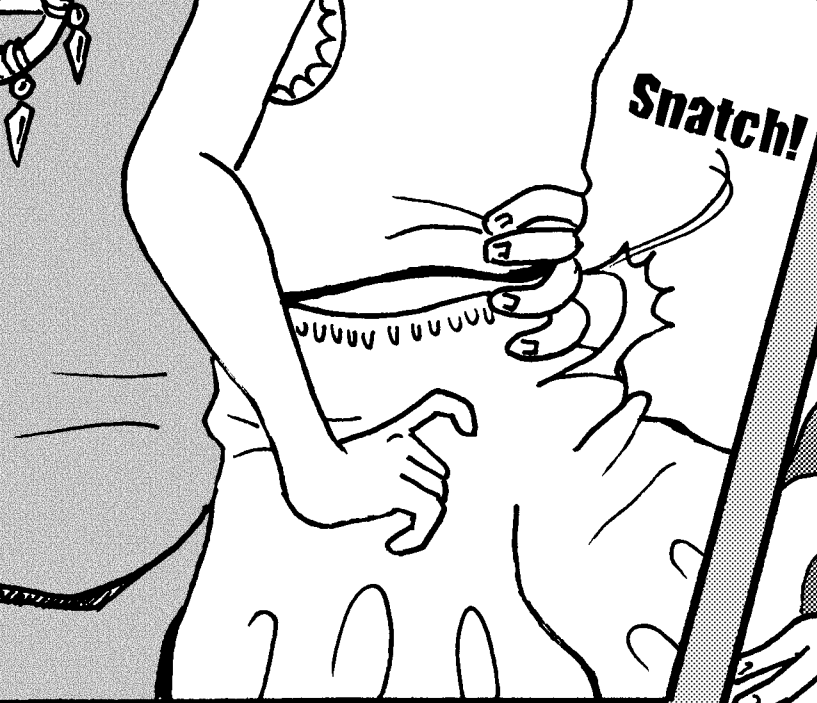


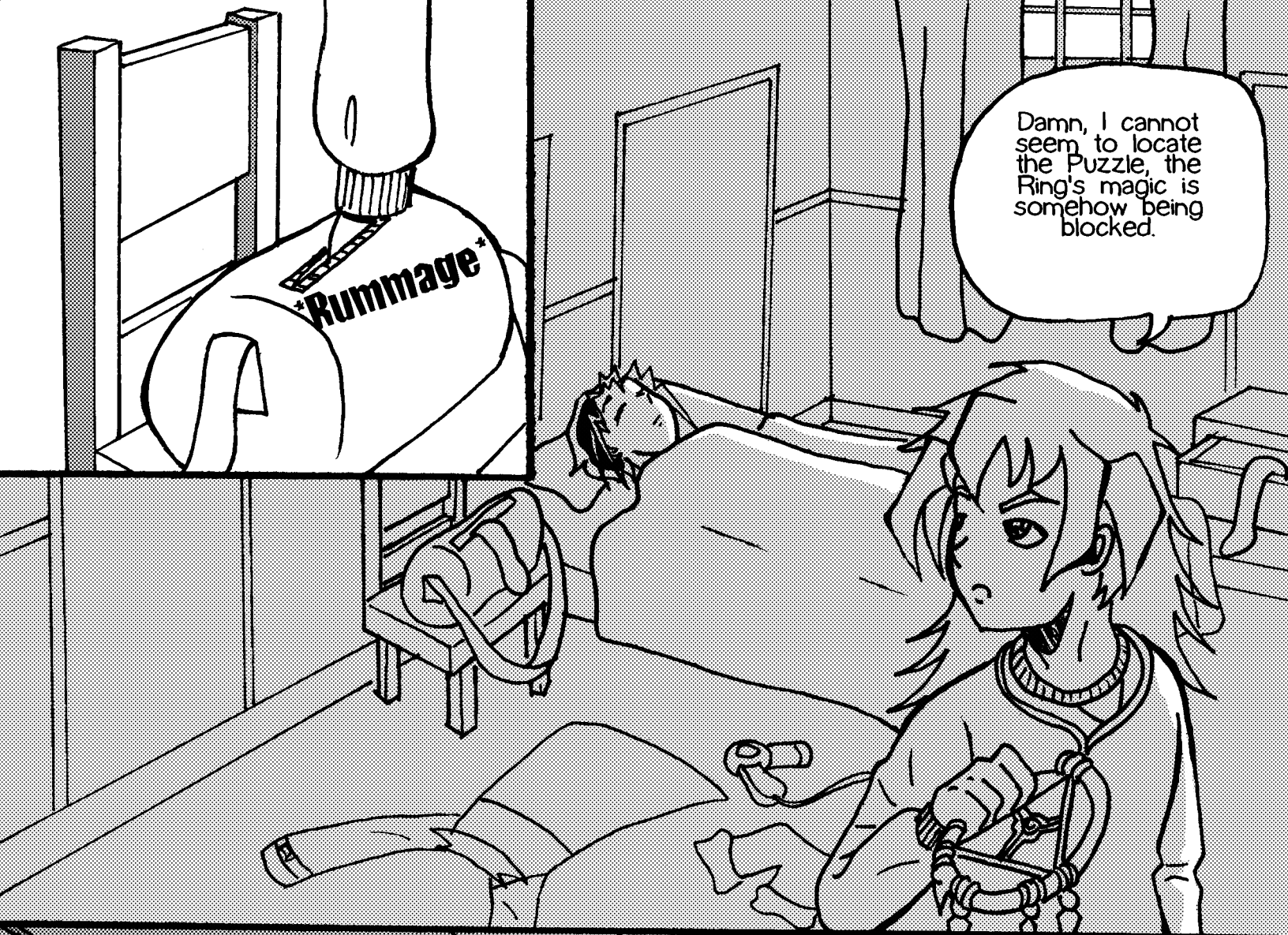
Another Millennium Item!

I am not so easily tread on, especially by someone with only a passing familiarity of the ancient ways.

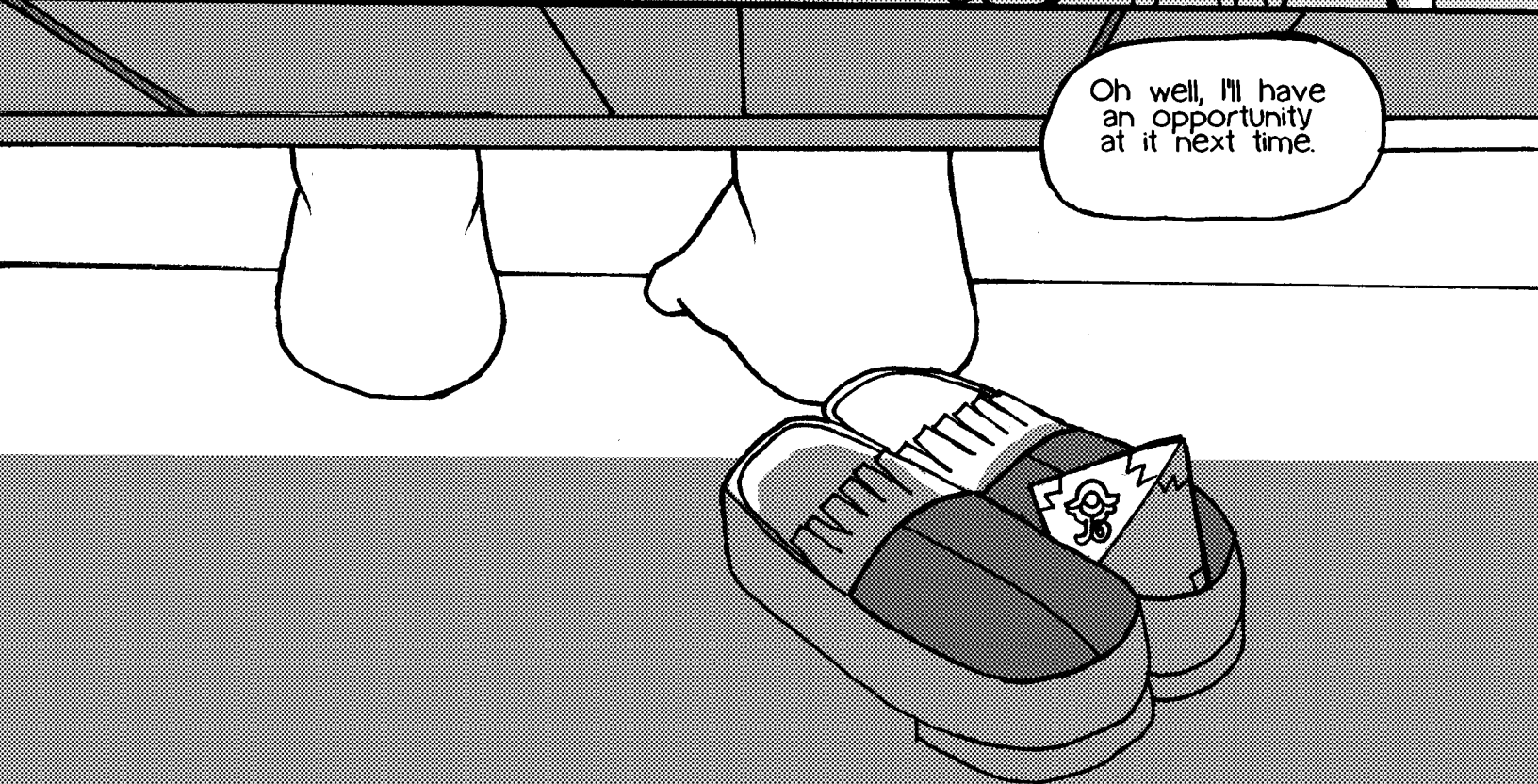


The Spirit of the Ring!





Damn, I cannot seem to locate the Puzzle, the Ring's magic is somehow being blocked.



Oh well, I'll have an opportunity at it next time.

THE QUEEN OF GAMES

SECRET SCROLLS

There was no Secret Scrolls for last issue due to the fact that I just couldn't find a topic relevant to the issue to discuss. But for this chapter there was plenty to talk about, and today I'm going to cover a character from the original Yugi-Oh! that got changed: Shaadi.

I've mentioned before that between the anime and the manga, there is a huge difference in character behavior that I've had to negotiate around in order to get the tone right for this series. While what generally differed for most characters is the level of psychosis each character had, Shaadi was a whole other story.

Of all the characters in Yugi-Oh! that varied from the manga and the anime, Shaadi is number one with a bullet. Anime!Shaadi acts, speaks and even looks entirely different from his manga version. In the anime, Shaadi was an enigmatic figure, arriving to let everyone know just barely what's going on, before entirely disappearing before the important questions can be answered.

In the manga, however, Shaadi takes on an entirely different role. While he is still in charge of guarding and monitoring the Millennium Items, his primary role in the series was to test Yugi for his worthiness in keeping the puzzle. He didn't keep any secrets, he made his mission clear pretty much up front and he didn't pull any punches. In many ways he was a much more stereotypical Arab person than his 'spirit guide' version in the anime.

With such a DRASTIC difference between the two versions, how did I reconcile the two? The truth is I didn't. I figured since they were so different I decided to go 'screw it, I'll just make my own version'. For *my* Shaadi I decided to make him enigmatic, but no where near as serious as he was in either the anime nor the manga. My Shaadi has his own agenda and his own goals. He's not going to let anyone in on his plan, but he's going help when he sees it important to get where things need to go. He sees himself as both the wielder and tool of Fate. He's the only one who sees the whole chessboard and the Endgame, but is going to let himself be entertained by life's great performance. He's mortal, but he's taking the attitude of a god.



Next Issue:

Neferi vs. Pegasus, prt.1