

THE MAGICAL TOOL THEORY (1999)

IN 1999, I DECIDED TO APPLY TO A MULTIMEDIA SCHOOL BECAUSE I WANTED TO LEARN ALL KINDS OF NEW THINGS (AND OFFICIALLY BECOME AN INTERACTIVE MEDIA DESIGNER). AND HEY, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN, RIGHT? EVEN NOW, I FEEL LIKE I'M PICKING UP NEW ARTISTIC SKILLS EVERY DAY.

TO GET INTO THE SCHOOL, WE HAD TO SUBMIT THREE WORKS BASED ON THE THEME "OUTIL" (WHICH TRANSLATES TO "TOOL" OR "INSTRUMENT"). THE REQUIREMENTS? ONE WRITTEN OR ARTISTIC DOCUMENT, SOMETHING VISUAL, AND SOMETHING AUDIO. SO, I WENT ALL IN: I WROTE AN ESSAY, RECORDED A ONE-MINUTE AUDIO TRACK (WHICH YOU CAN FIND ON MY COMPILATION TITLED REWIND: ROUGH CUTS AND LOST SOUNDS), AND, OF COURSE, DREW A 13-PAGE COMIC.

AS FOR THE COMIC ITSELF, WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IT HAD ALL THE CLASSIC (BASIC?) HALLMARKS OF MY STORYTELLING: A MARTIAL ARTS MASTER TRAINING HIS SON, A GRAND MOMENT OF INHERITANCE, AND A TWIST OF WISDOM. THE "MAGICAL TOOL" ISN'T REALLY A MAGICAL OBJECT—IT'S A METAPHOR. THE FATHER IS TEACHING HIS SON THAT SELF-BELIEF, IMAGINATION, AND MENTAL RESILIENCE CAN TURN ANXIETY INTO POWER. WHETHER IT'S CHOPPING WOOD, TAKING AN ORAL EXAM, OR FACING A TOUGH OPPONENT, THE LESSON IS:

DON'T FREEZE IN FEAR—SHIFT YOUR PERSPECTIVE, AND YOU'LL UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL.

I SUPPOSE MY THREE SUBMISSIONS DID THE TRICK, BECAUSE... I GOT IN! I SPENT FOUR YEARS AT THAT SCHOOL AND EARNED MY DIPLOMA IN 2003. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



1999, 2025 Alexandre Renevey
<https://www.mixture.ch>

IN A VAST PRAIRIE,
LOST IN THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE...



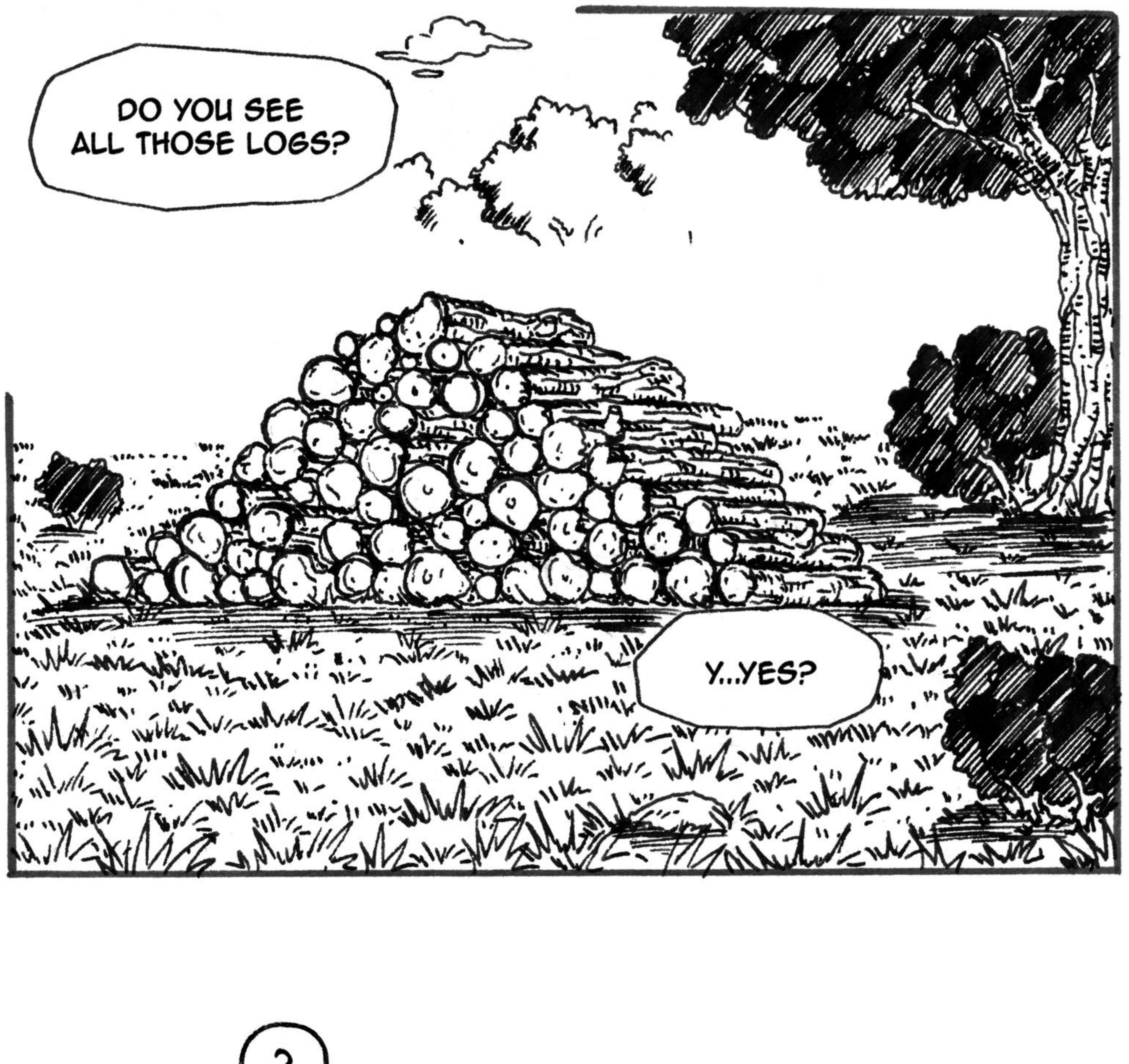
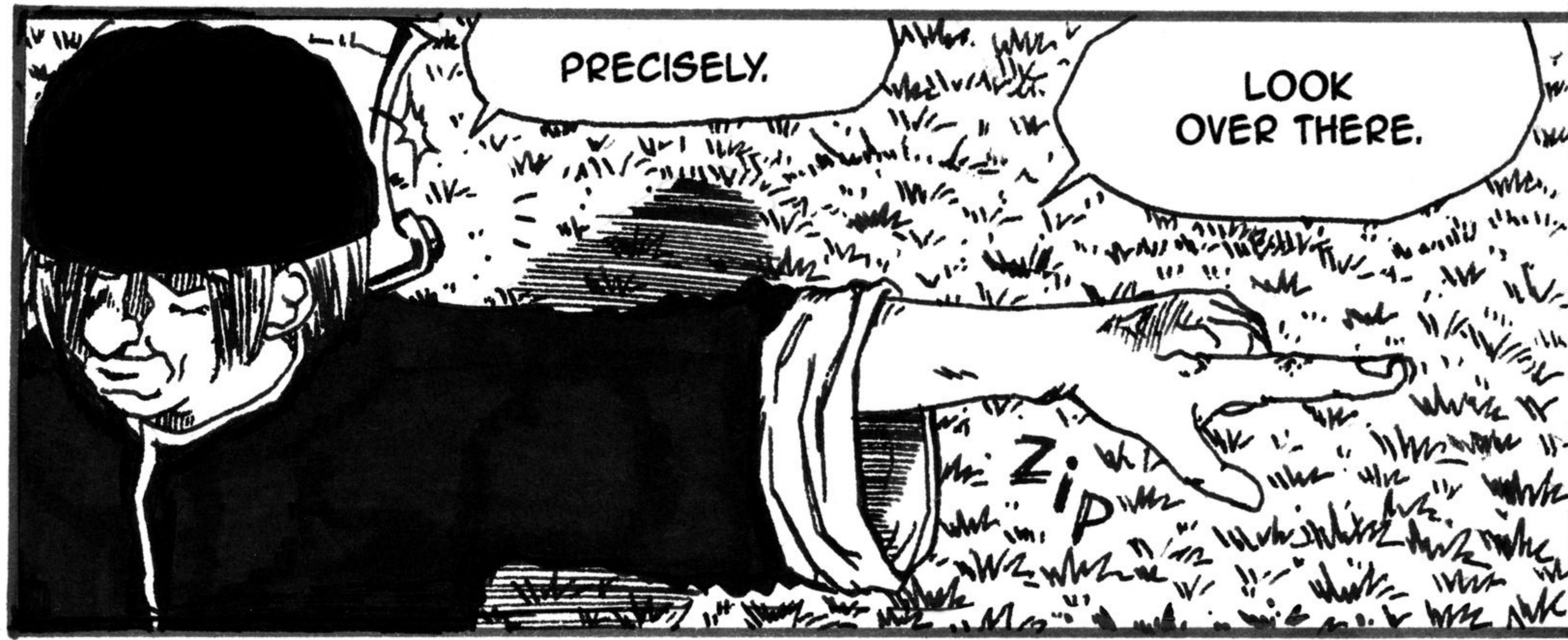
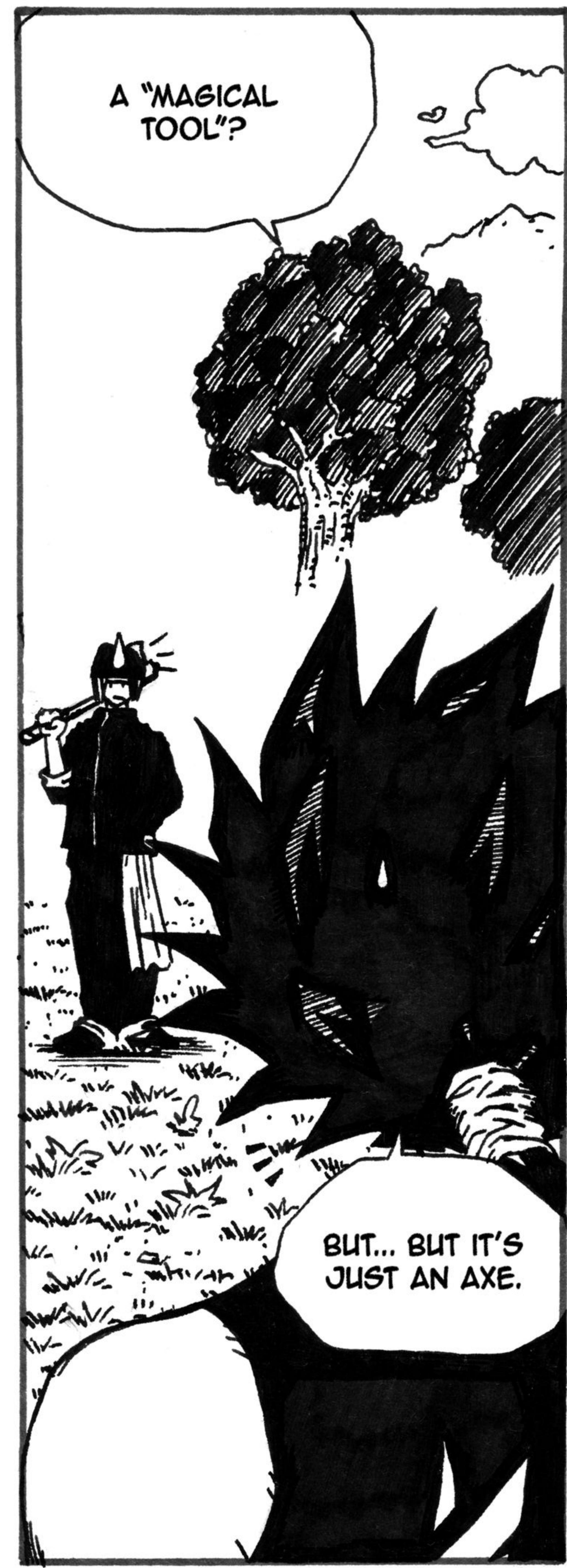
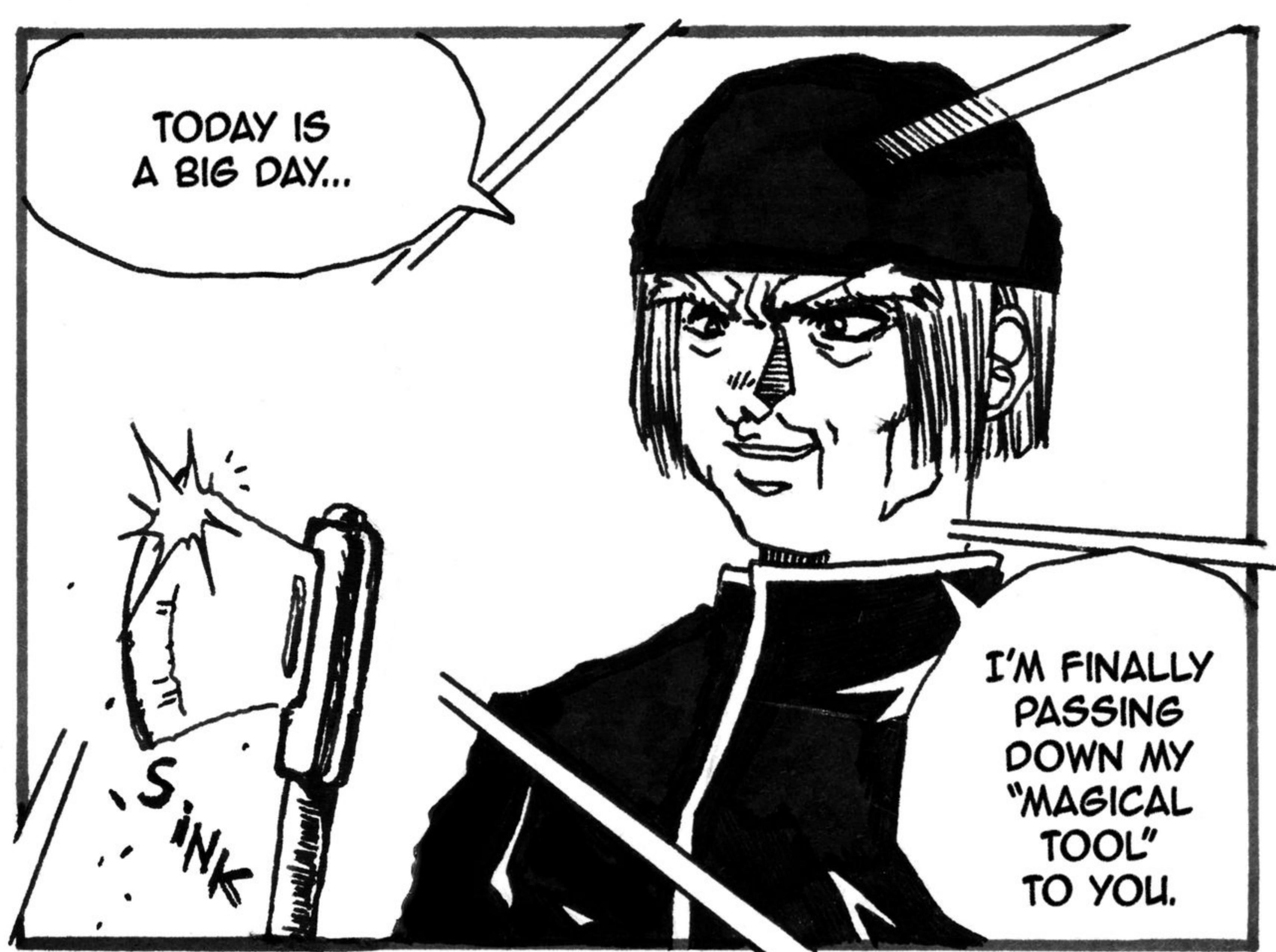
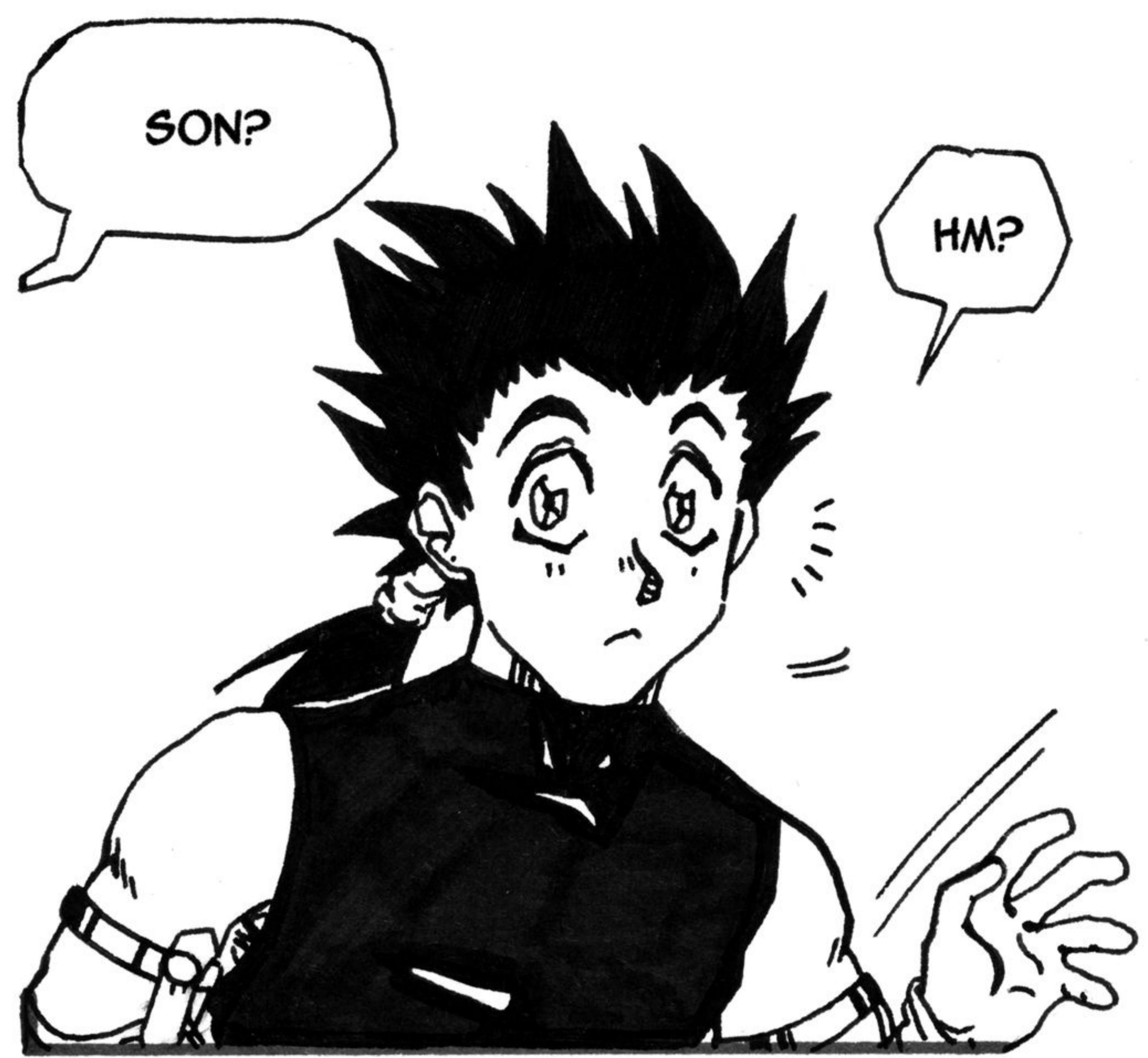
THE "MAGICAL TOOL" THEORY

...AN OLD MAN TRAINS
HIS SON AND TEACHES
HIM THE MARTIAL ARTS.

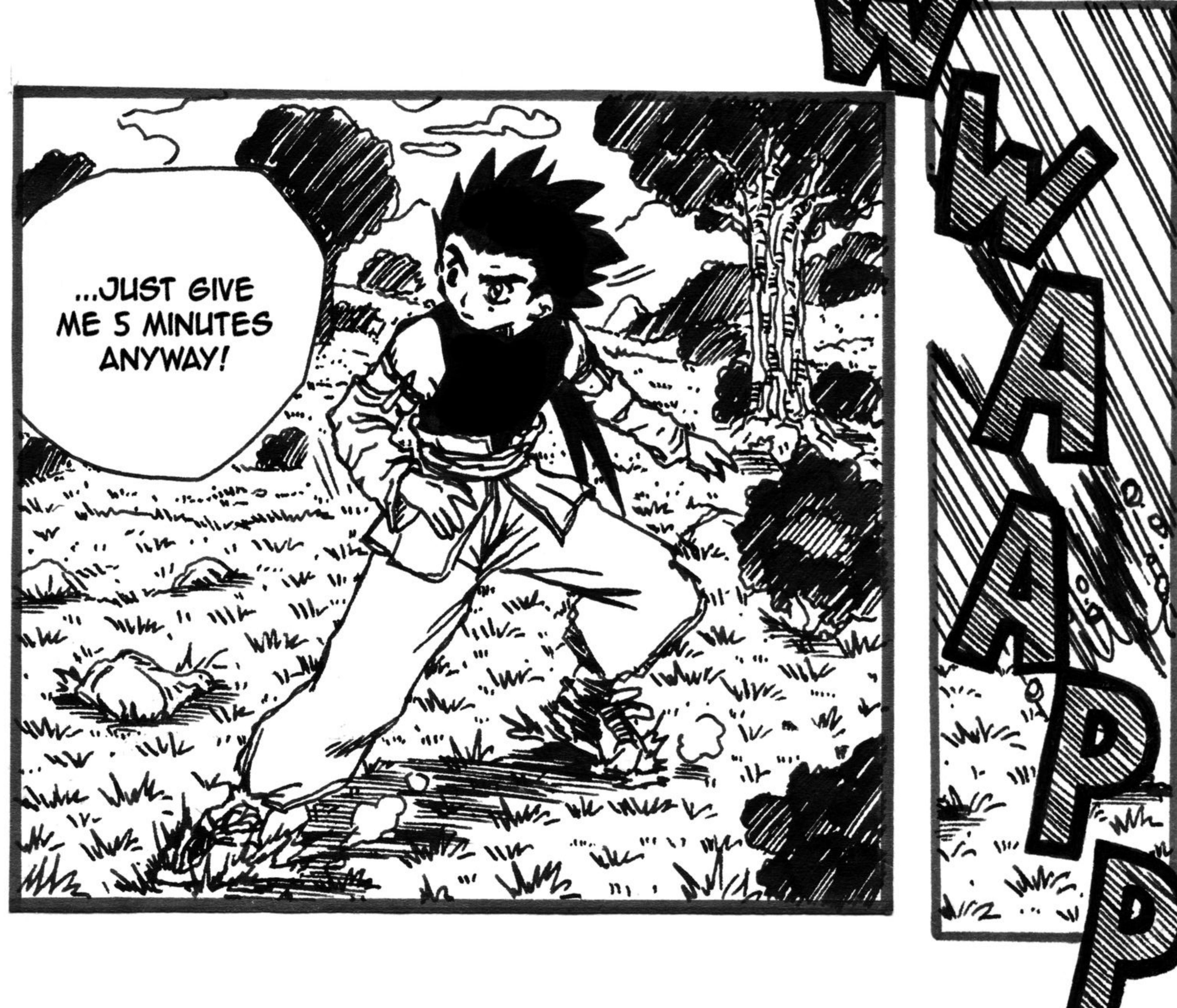
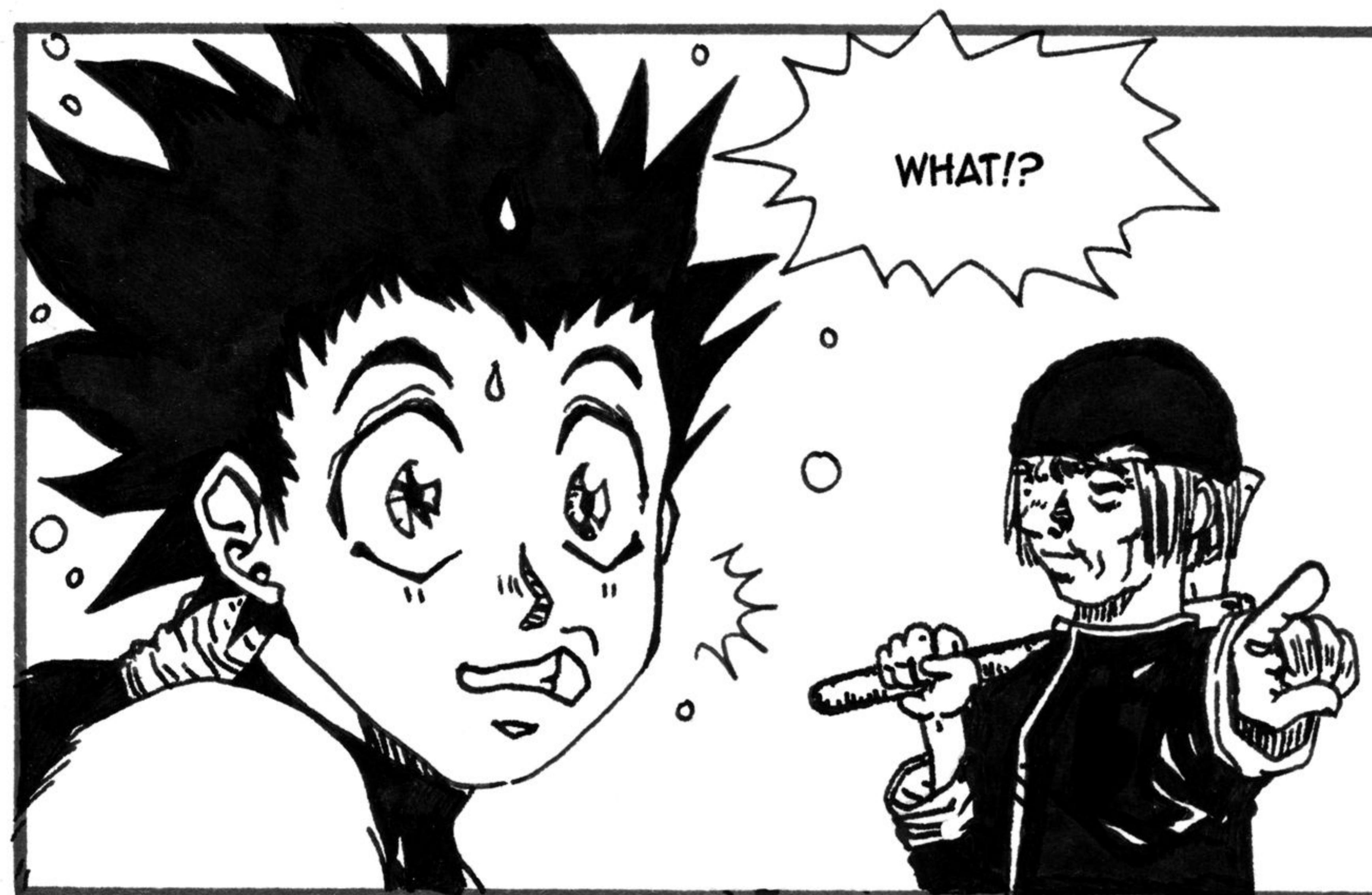
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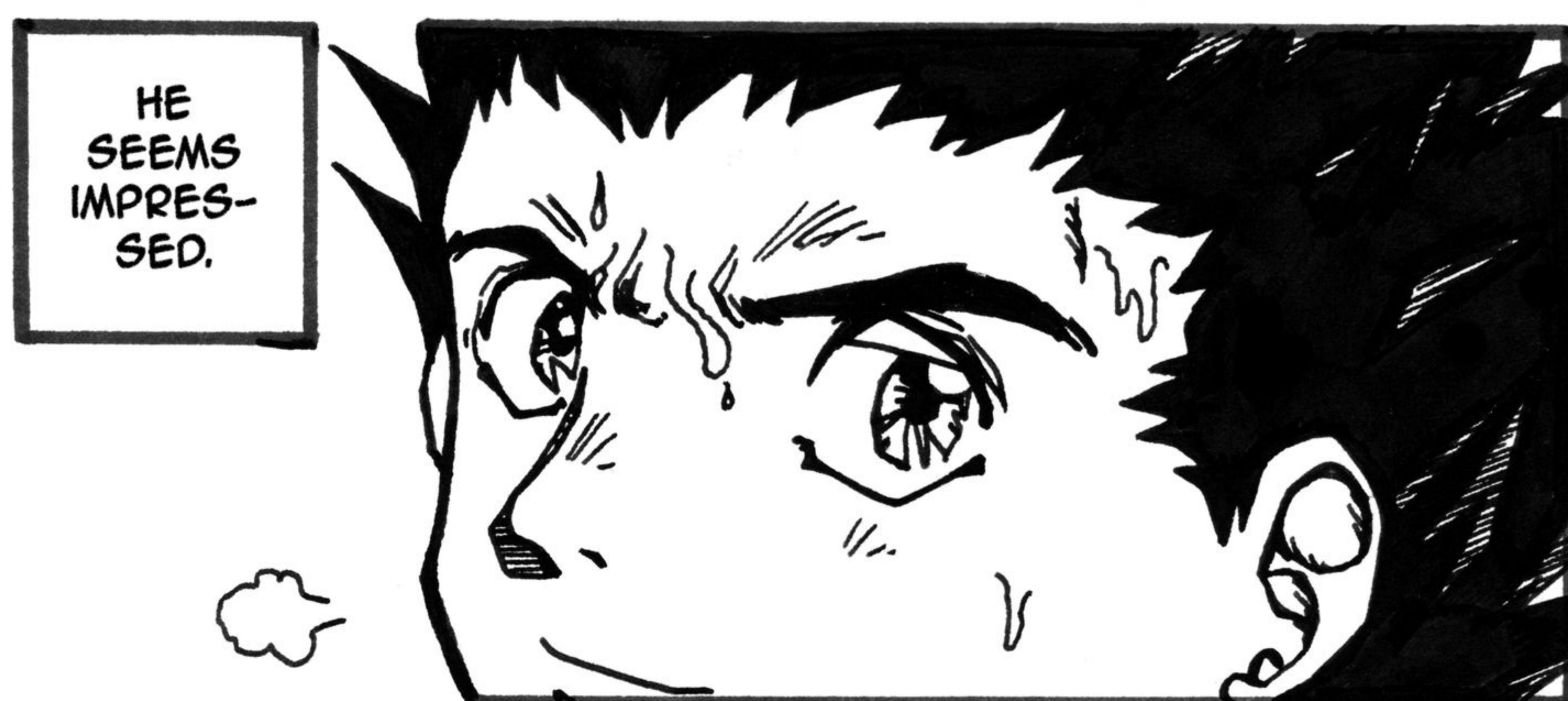
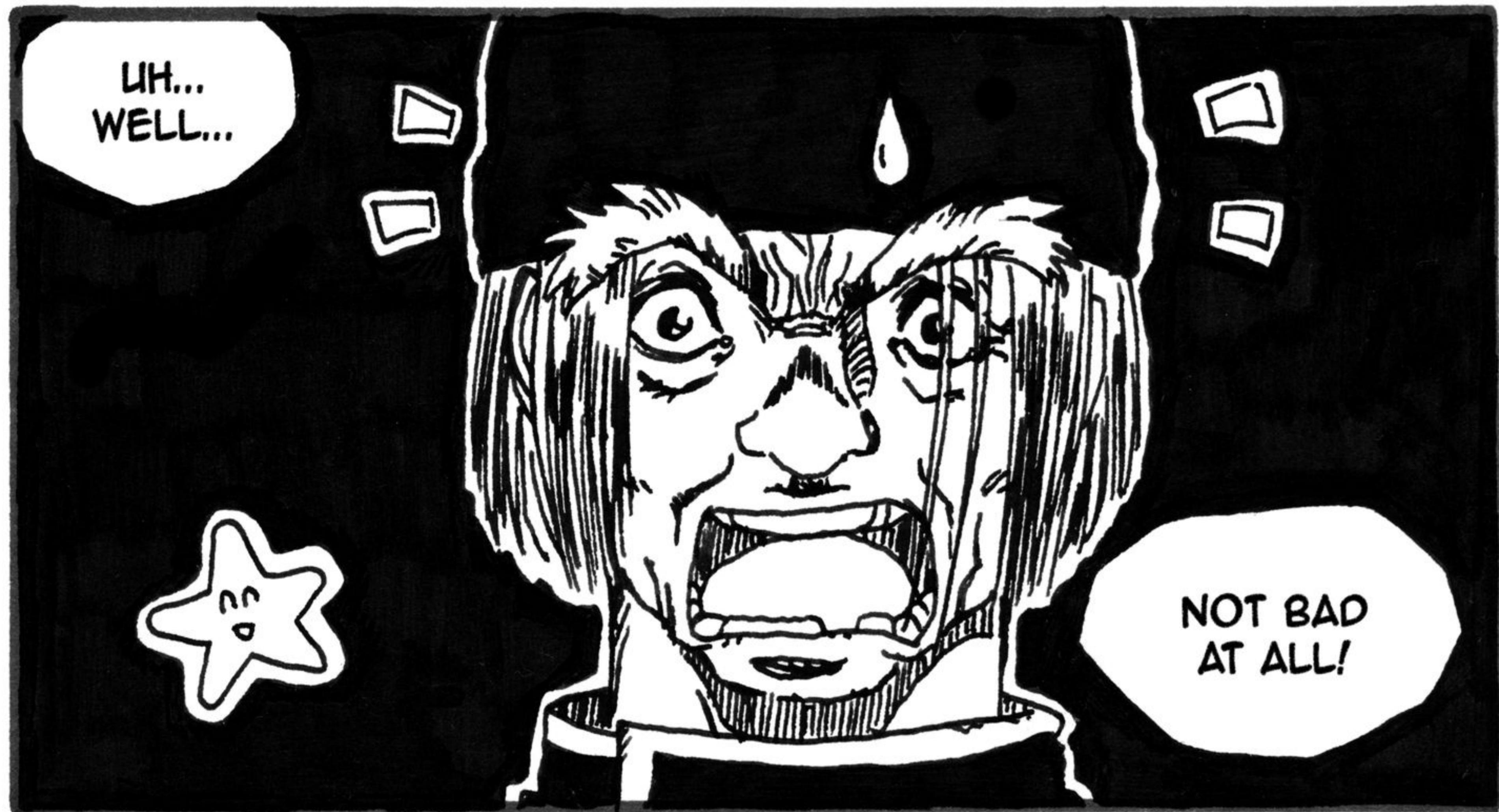
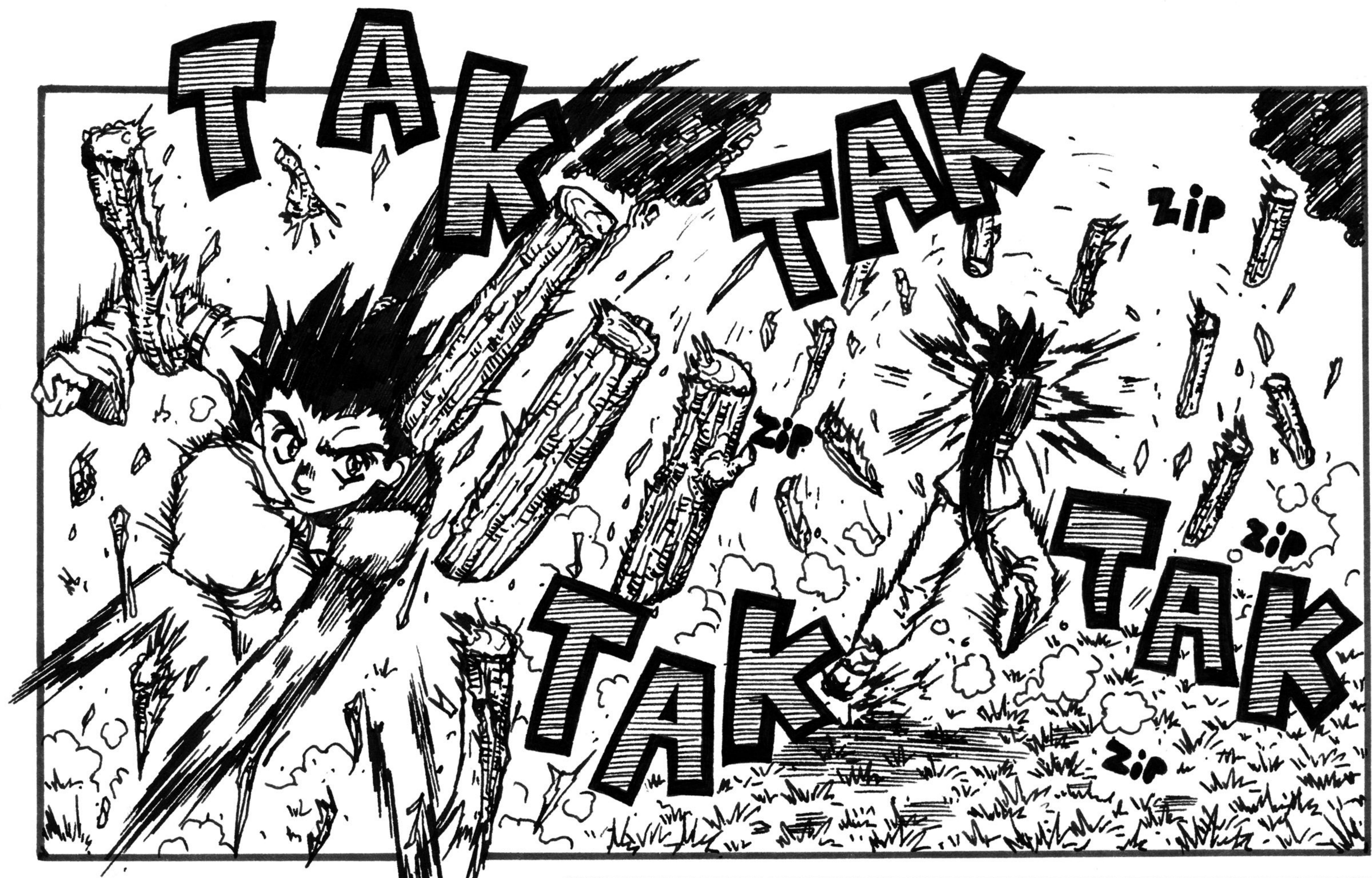
WAP

THIS BOY IS ONLY
15 YEARS OLD, BUT
HE ALREADY
POSSESSES
EXTRAORDINARY
STRENGTH!



I'D LIKE
YOU TO
CHOP ALL
THAT IN
UNDER
AN HOUR!







GOODNESS!

YOU'RE SO LITERAL, KID.

WHAT I MEANT TO SAY
IS THAT TO CHOP THOSE LOGS,
YOUR ARMS ACTED LIKE THE AXE.
DO YOU GET IT? ARMS = AXE.

...ALRIGHT,
ALRIGHT.

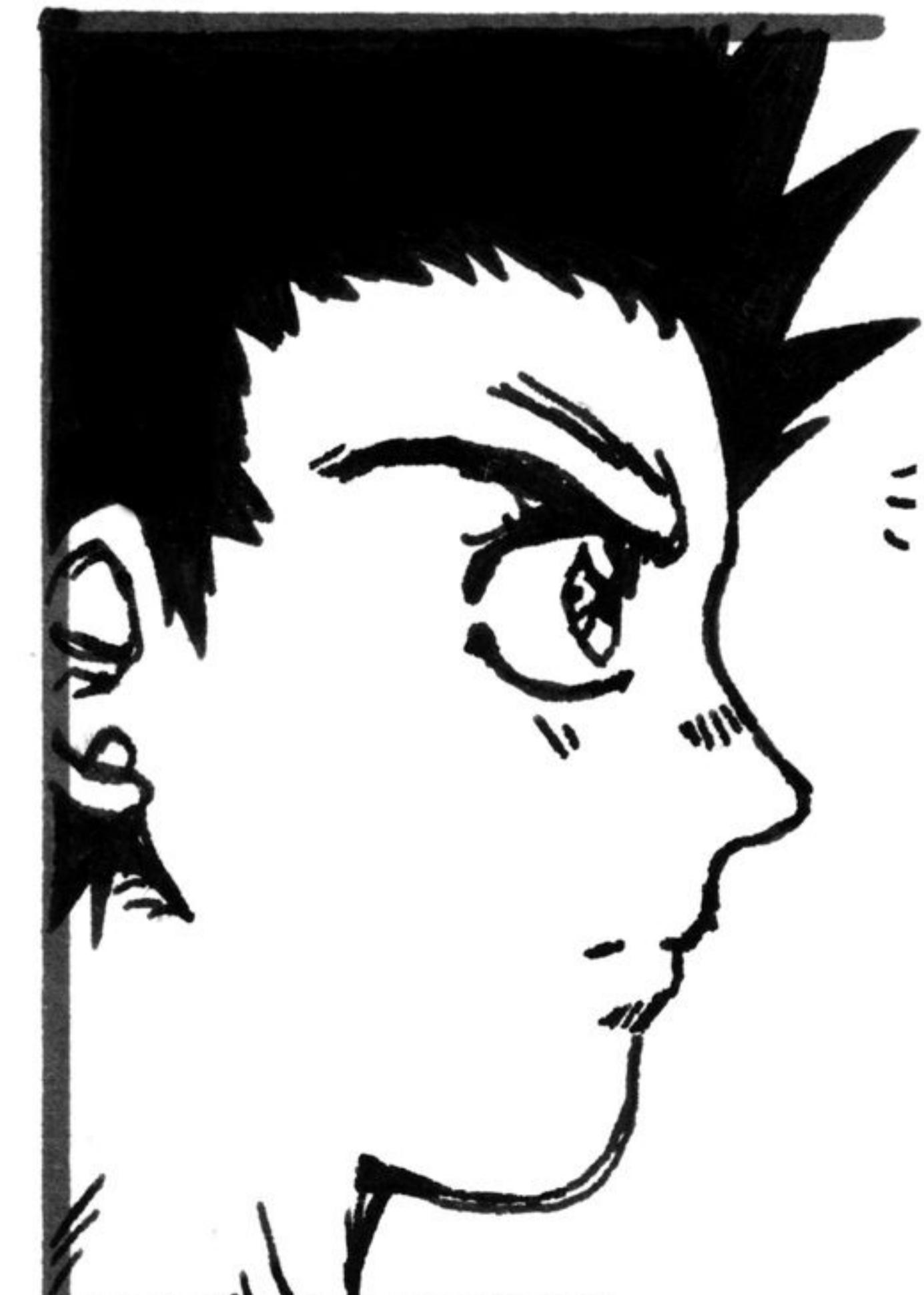
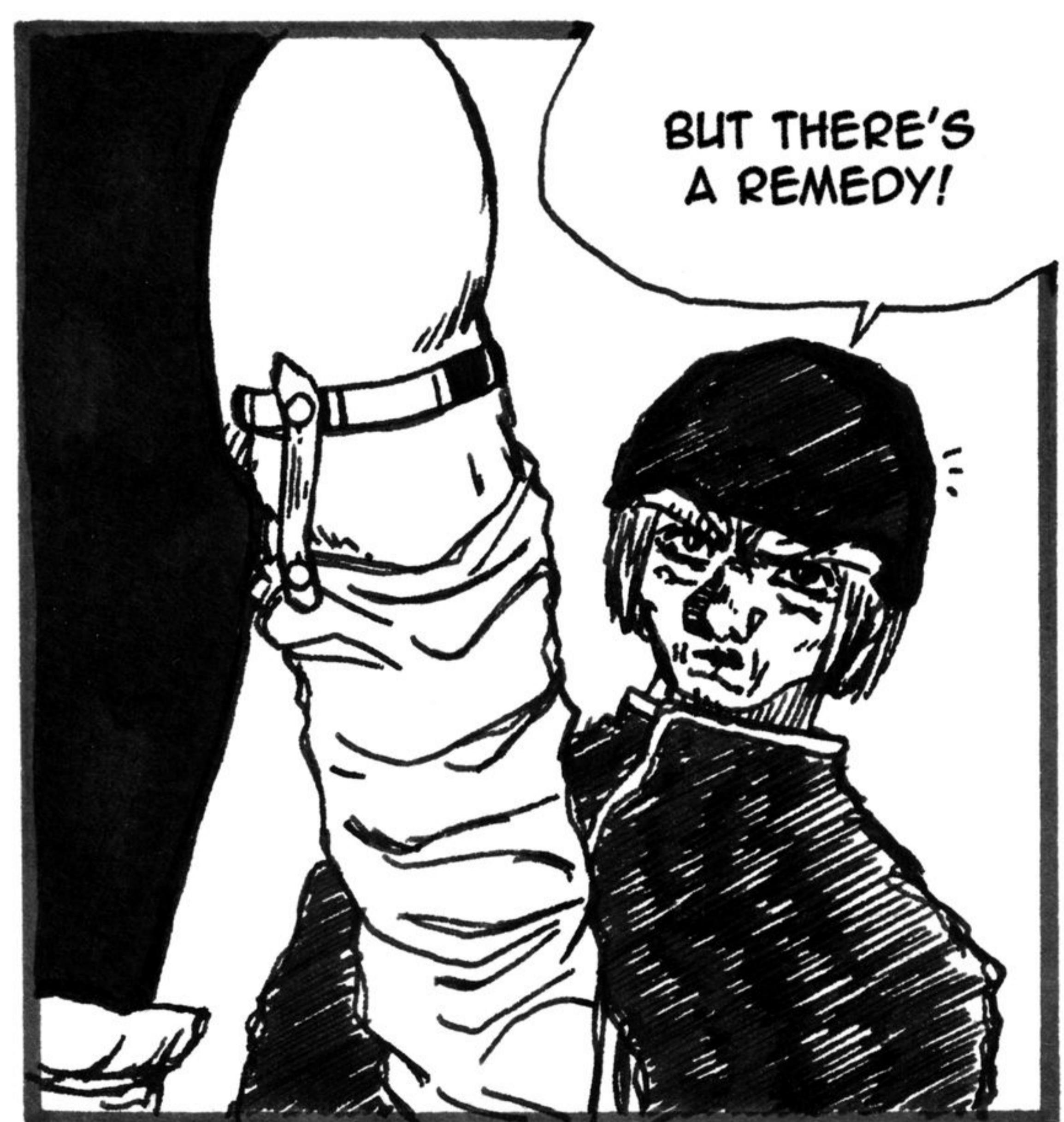
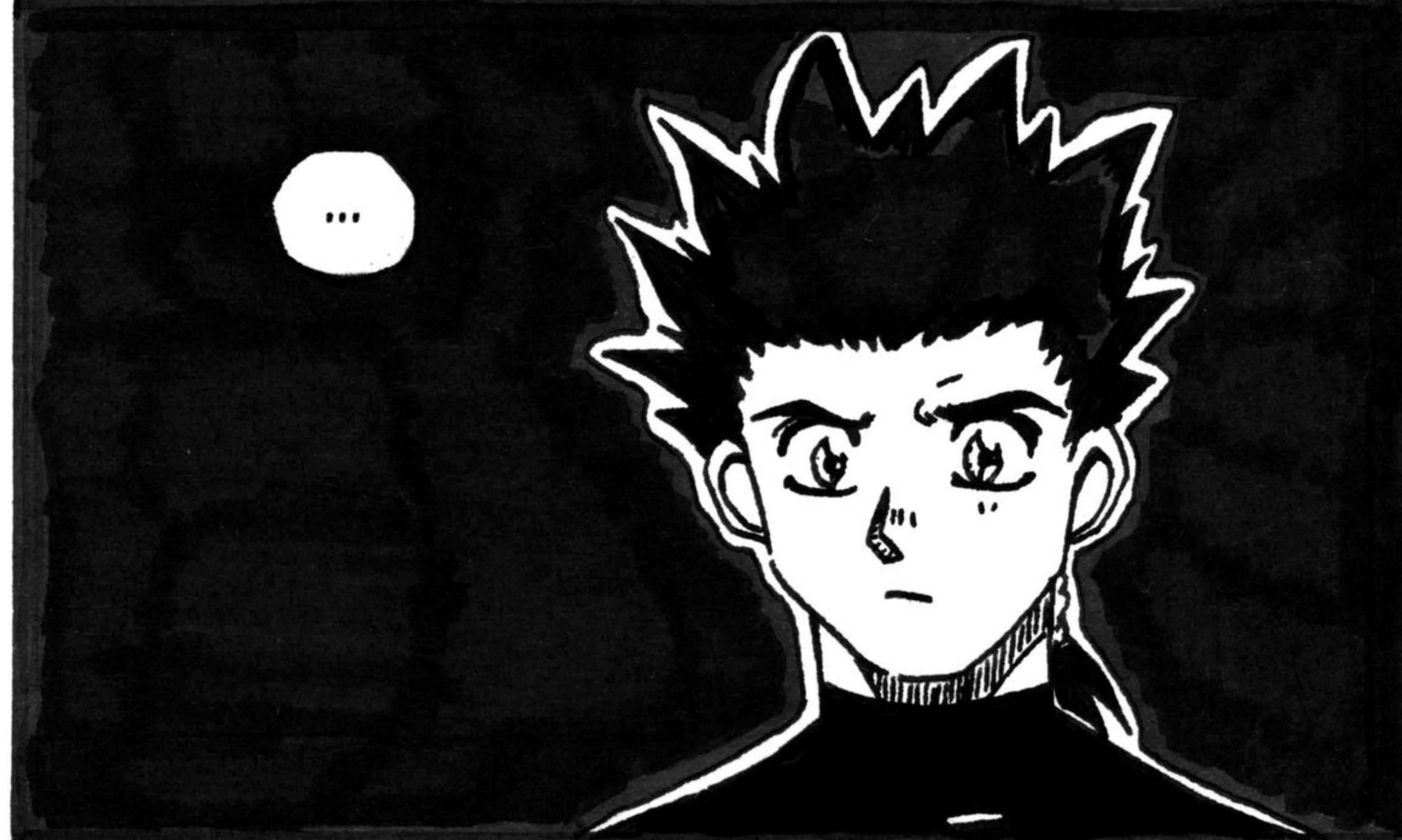
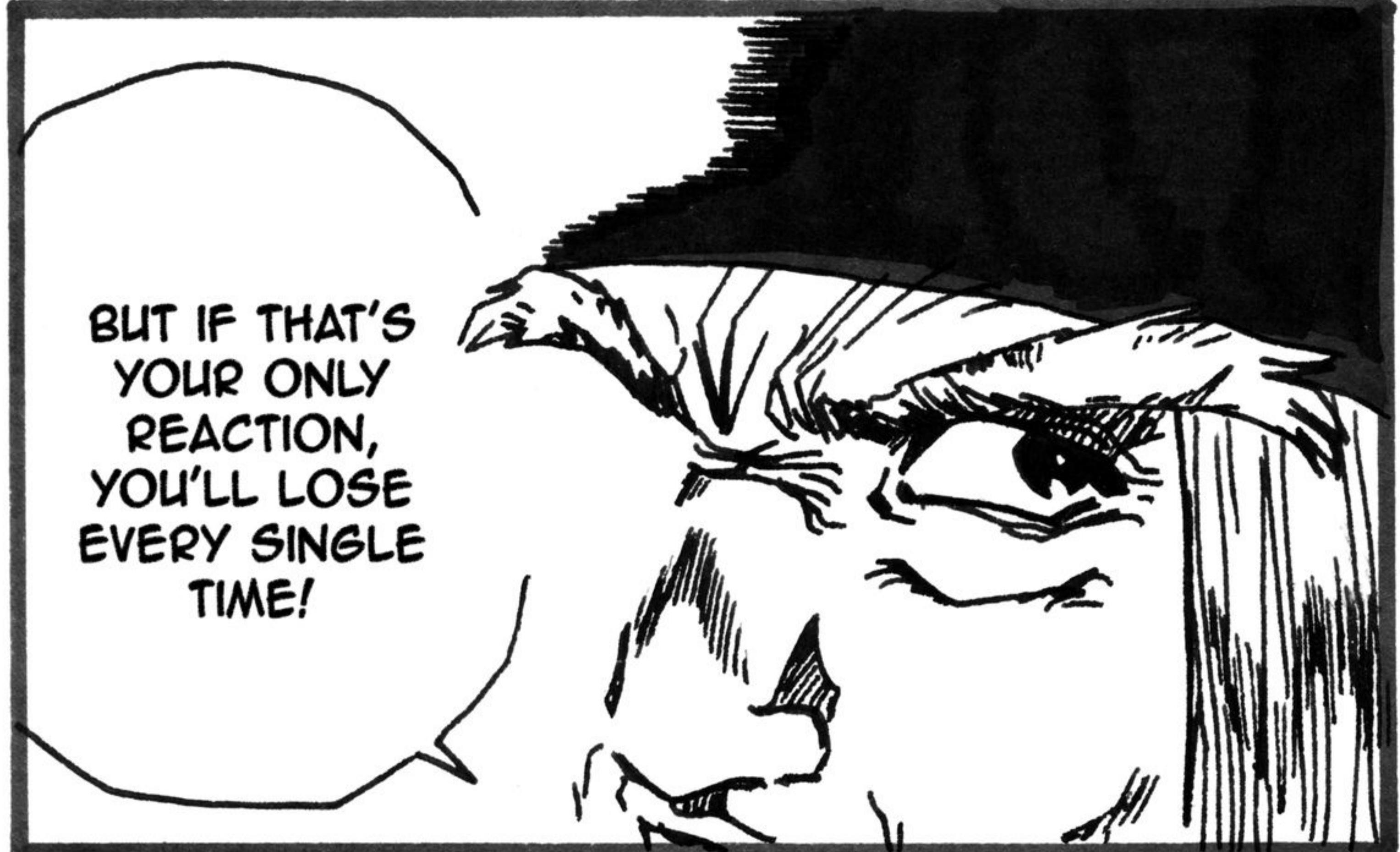
IN A REAL FIGHT,
YOUR LIMBS WILL
TURN INTO A
SAW, A HAMMER,
AN AXE, ETC.

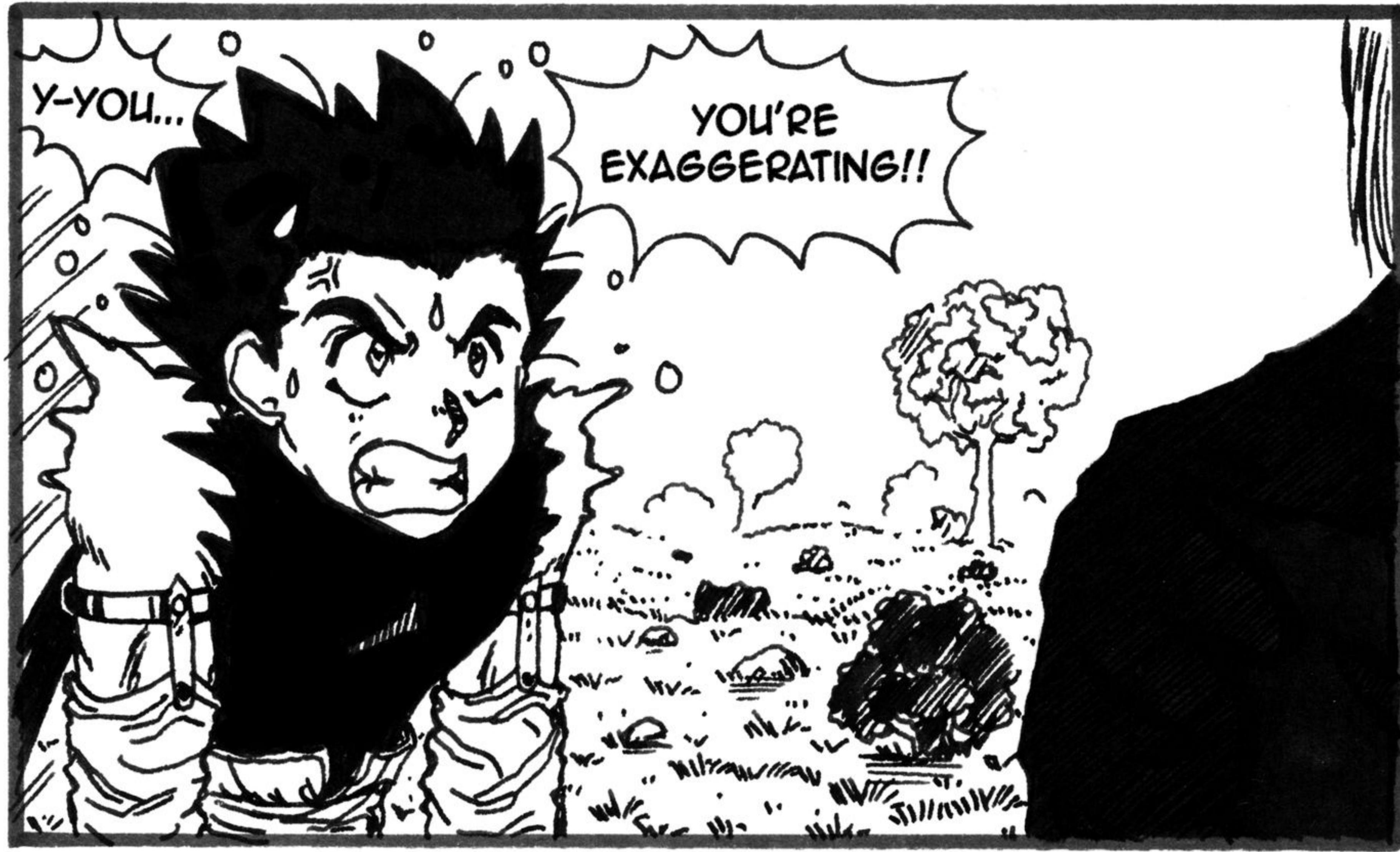
TELL ME HONESTLY,
IF YOU WERE FACING
AN OPPONENT WAY
STRONGER THAN YOU,
WHAT WOULD YOUR
REACTION BE?

I... I THINK
I'D BE
SCARED...

NOT
EXACTLY
A GREAT
THEORY...

YOU'RE HONEST...
THAT'S GOOD.





BY PICTURING YOUR TEACHER NAKED, HE WON'T INTIMIDATE YOU ANYMORE!



MMMH...
HE'S NOT WRONG...
TO CALM MYSELF DOWN AND BE MORE EFFECTIVE, IT'S ACTUALLY A GREAT TECHNIQUE...

AND IF I FIND MYSELF FACING SOMEONE STRONGER THAN ME, BY IMAGINING MY LIMBS TURNING INTO "MAGIC TOOLS," THE FIGHT COULD BECOME MORE FUN!

AND THAT WAY, I'D OVERCOME MY FEAR!

THAT WAY, YOU'LL STAY FOCUSED—MAYBE EVEN FEEL MORE RELAXED DURING THE EXAM.

THAT'S THE CORE OF THE "MAGICAL TOOL" THEORY...

POPS...

I THINK
I GET IT NOW!

OH YEAH?
WELL THEN...

BUT...
I DON'T
WANT TO!?

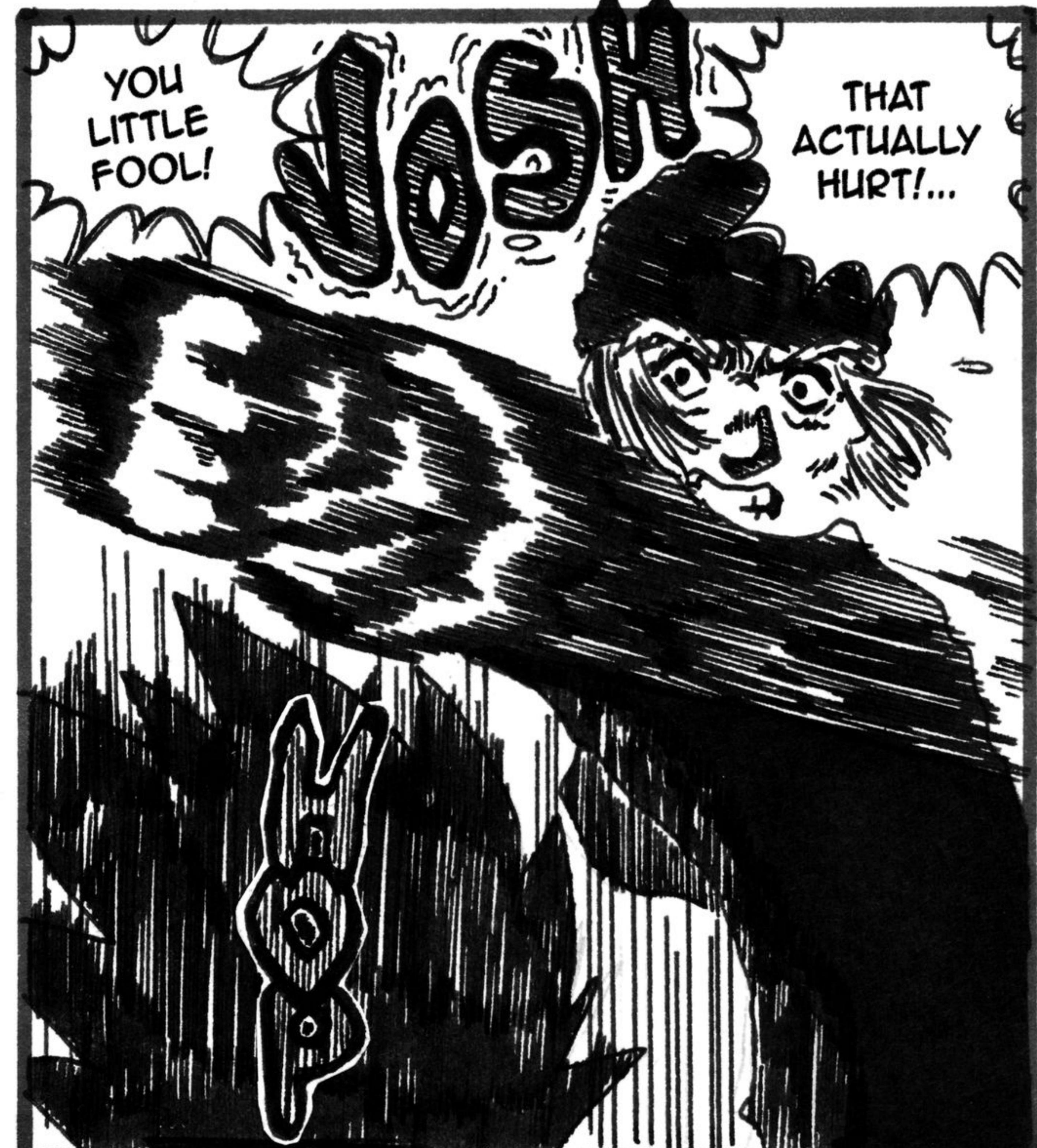
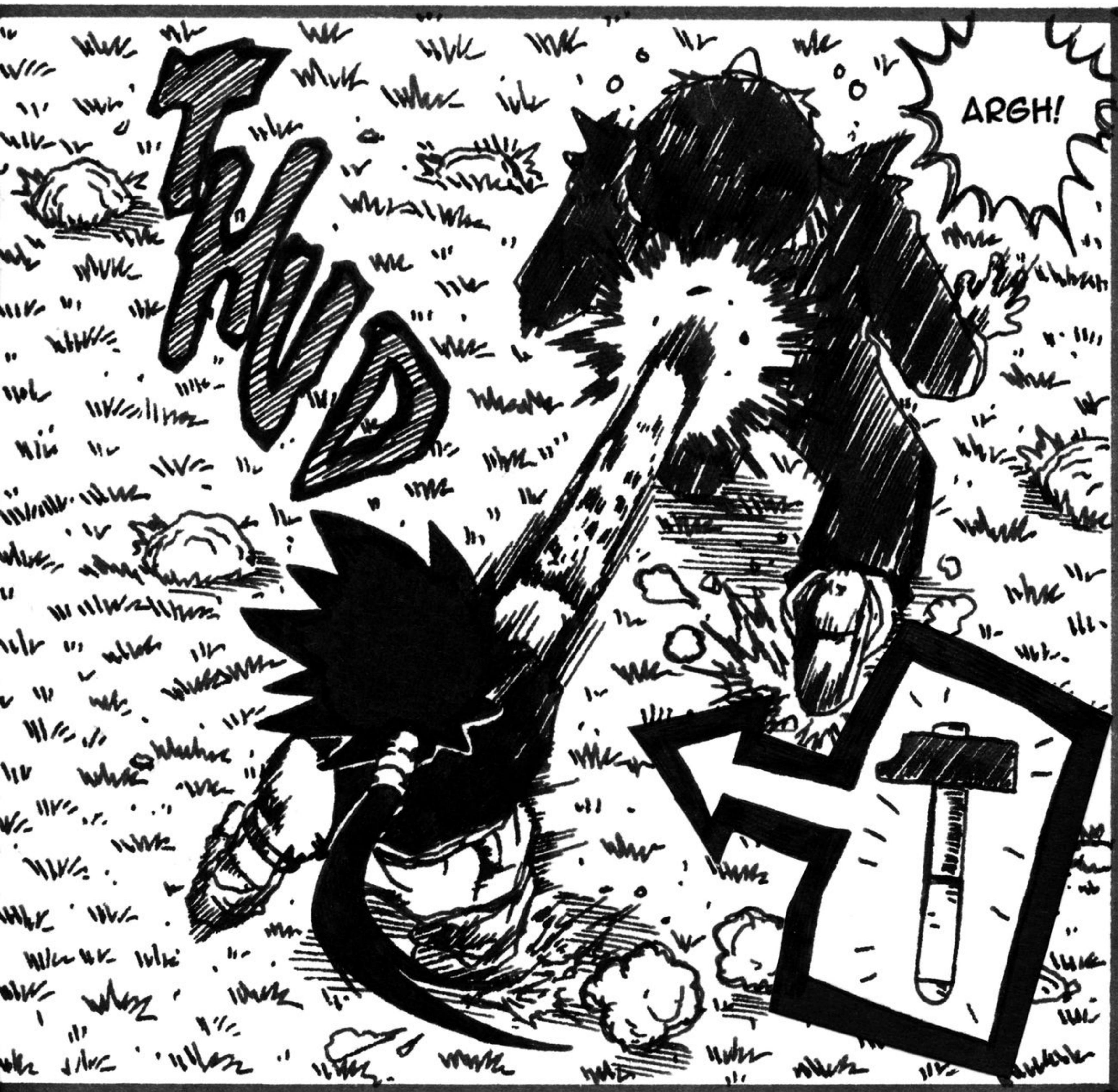
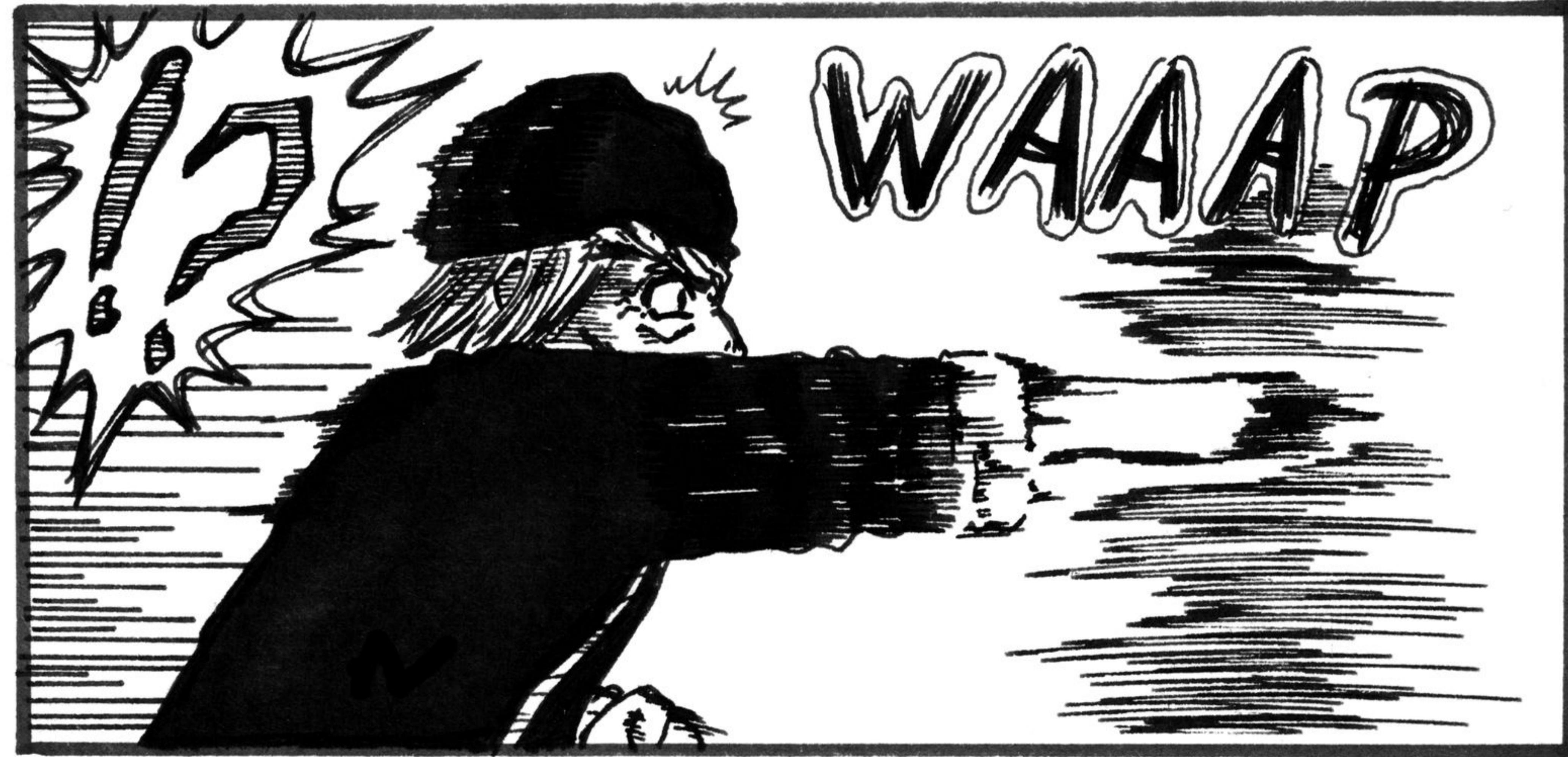
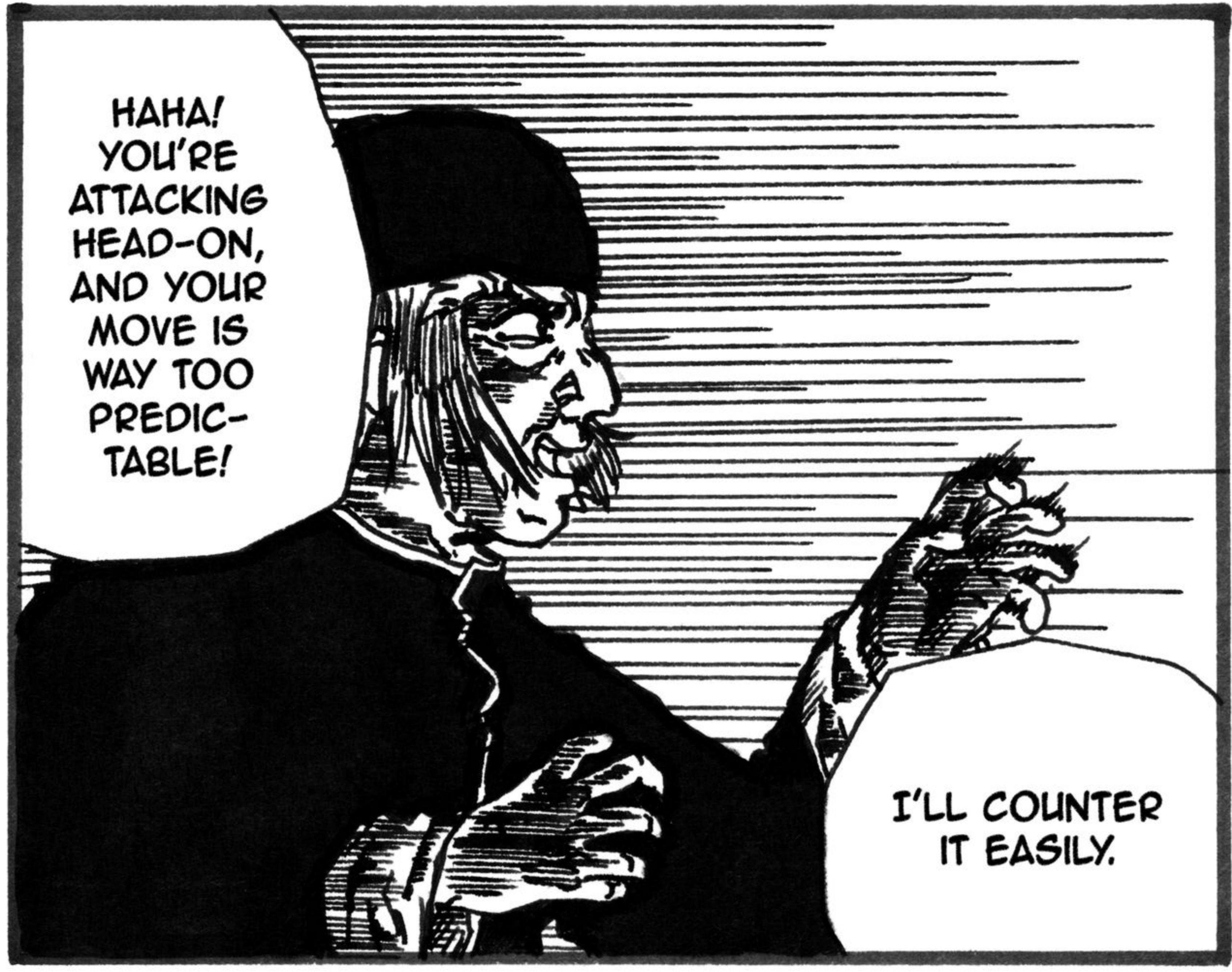
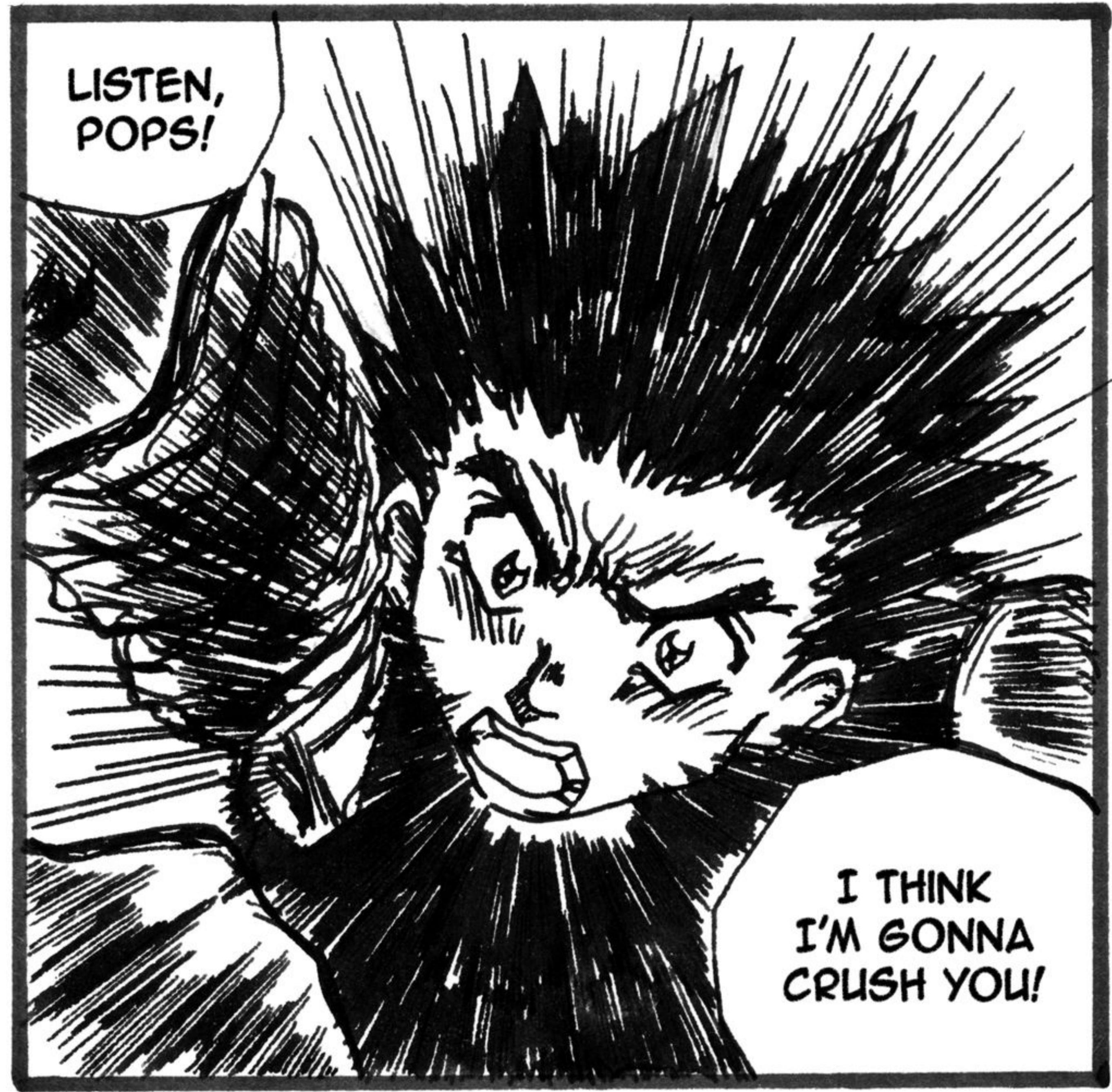
BESIDES,
YOU'RE WAY TOO
STRONG FOR M-

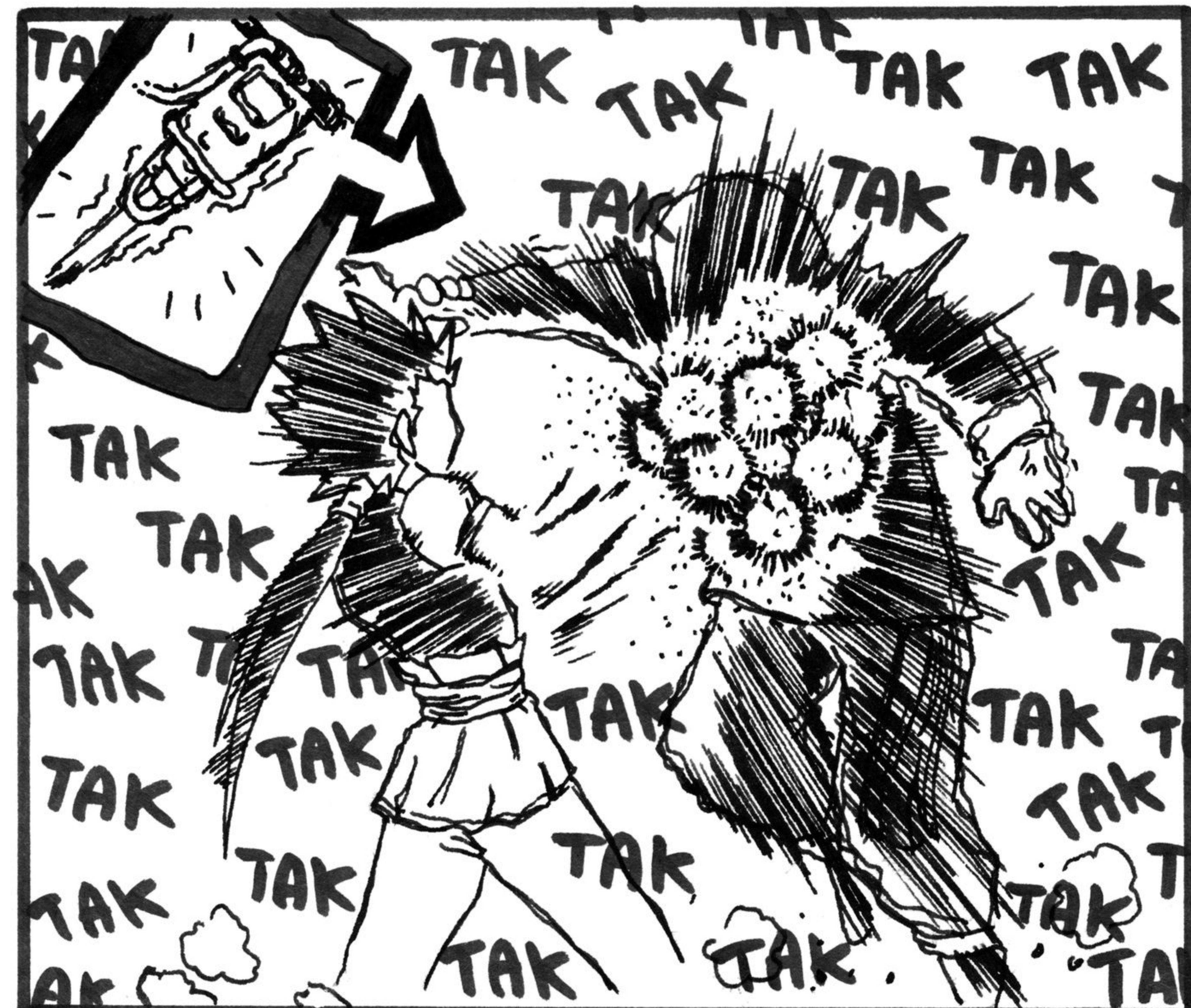
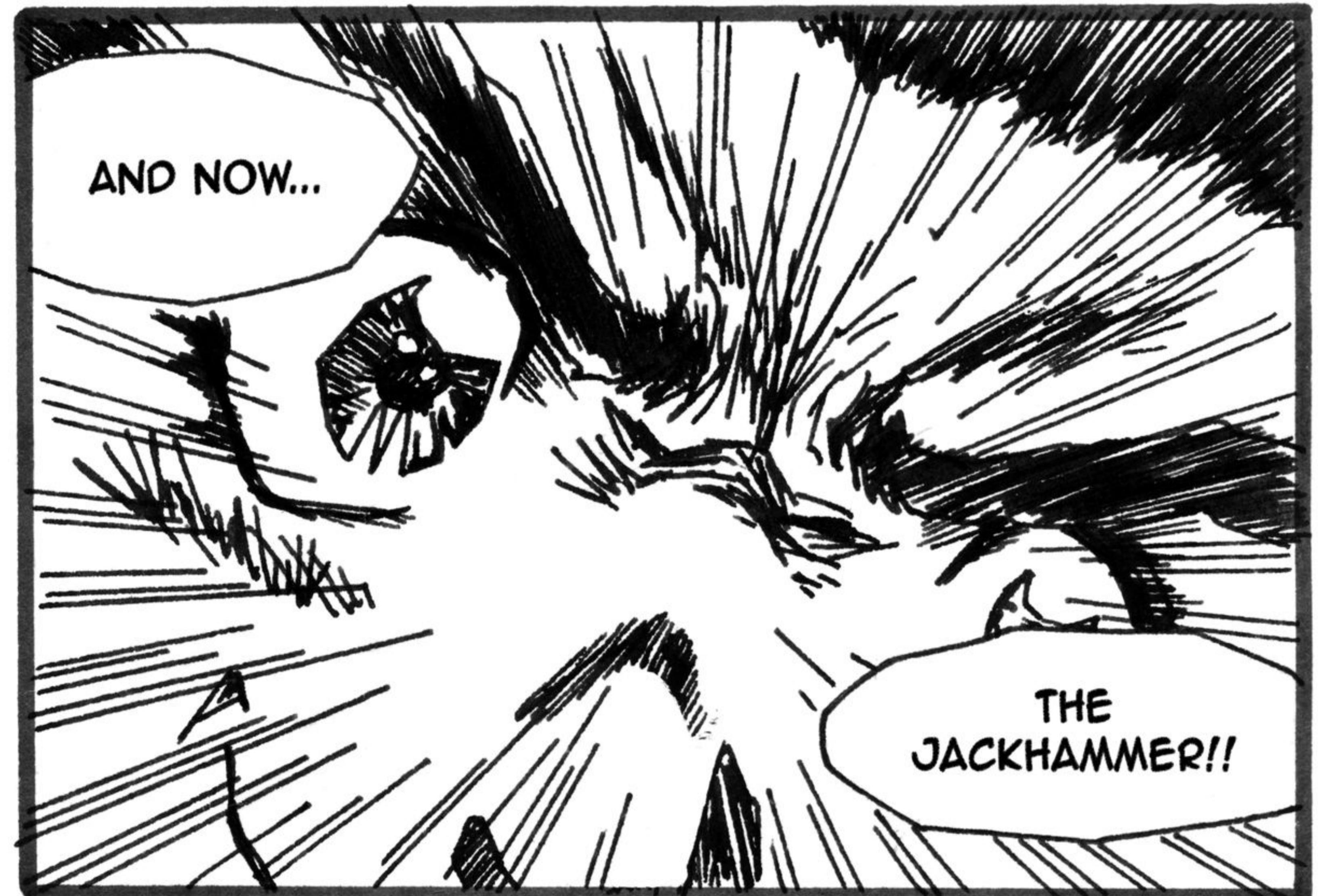
ATTACK
ME!

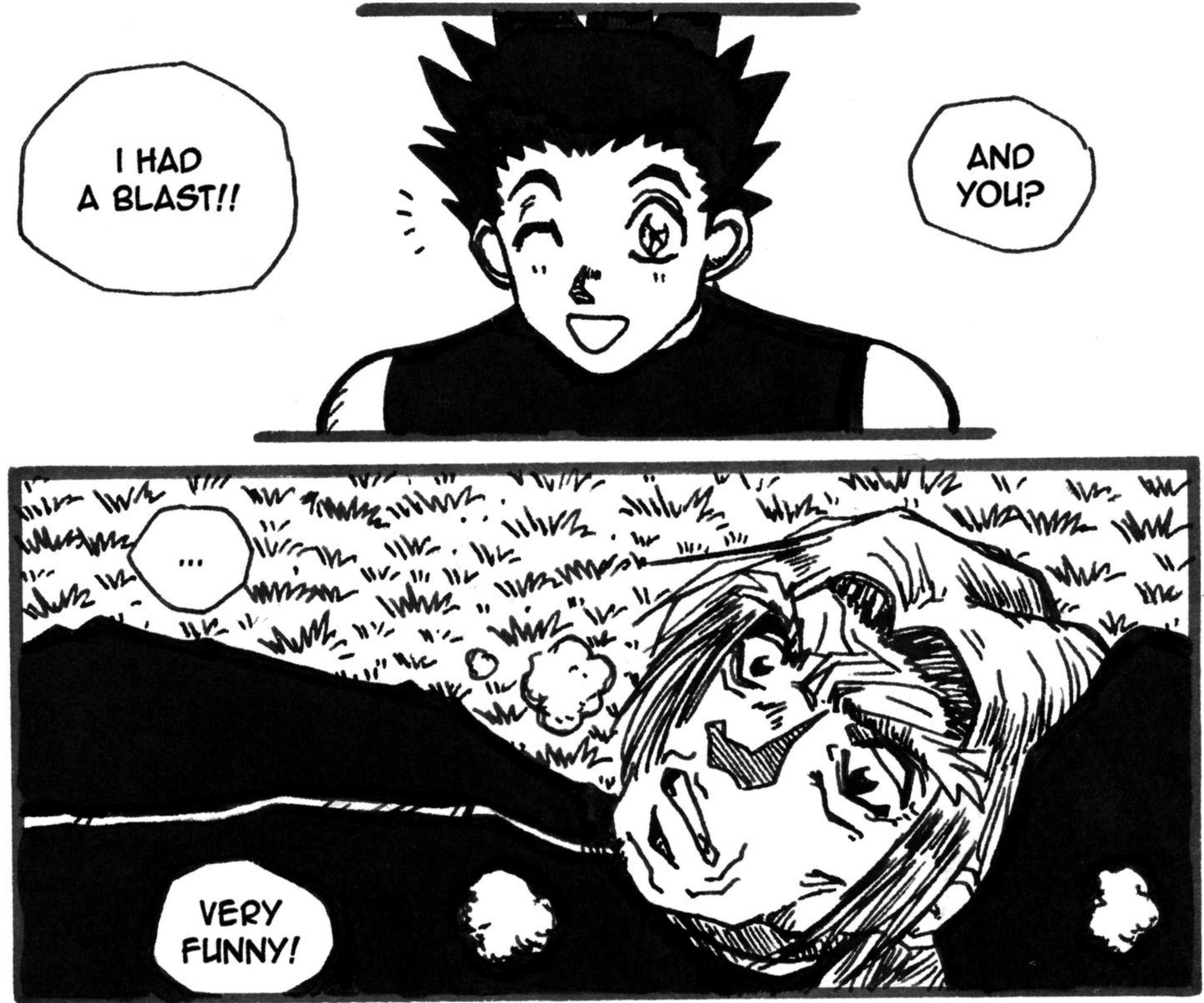
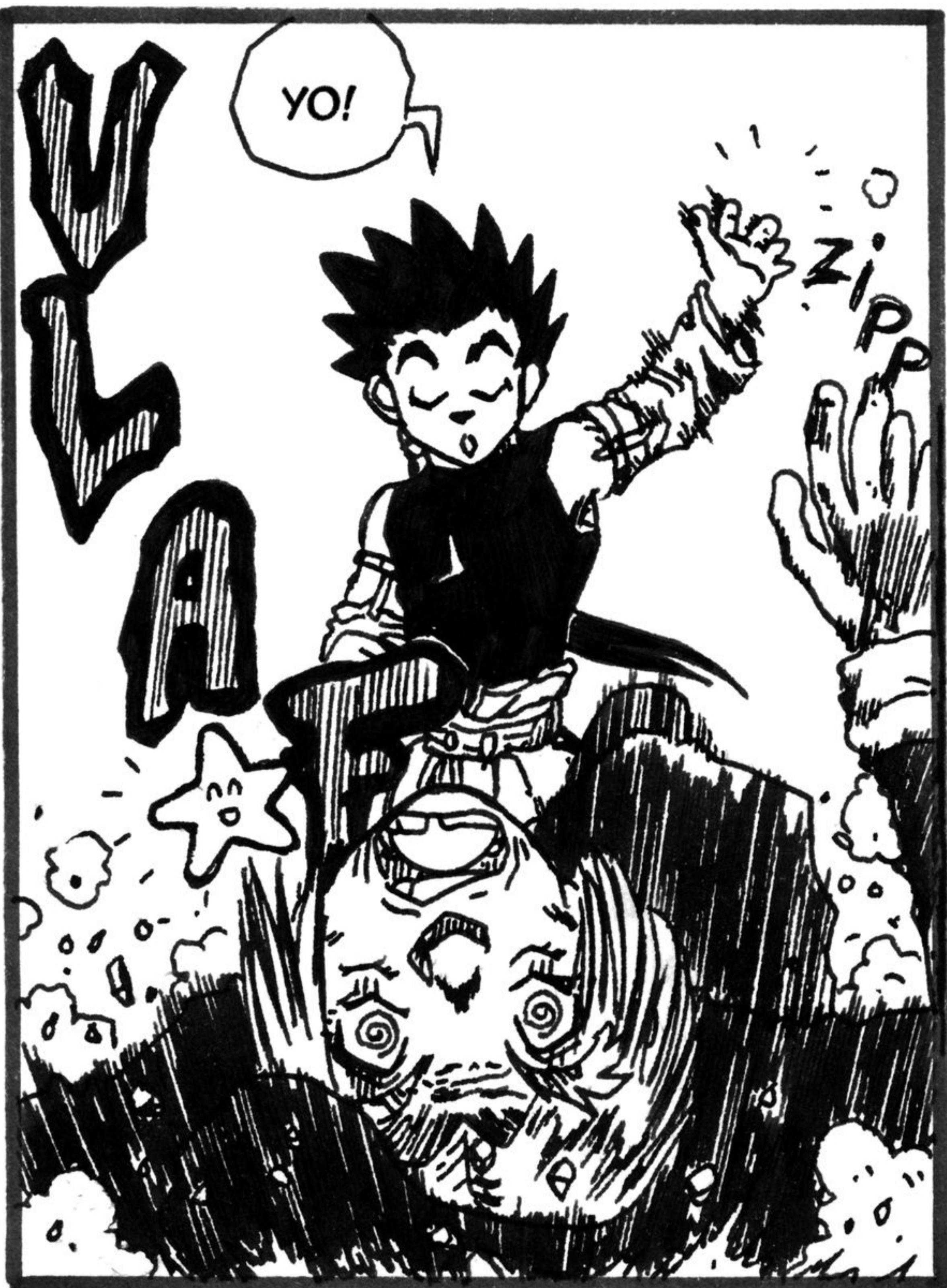
"MAGICAL TOOL."
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OH, RIGHT!!!

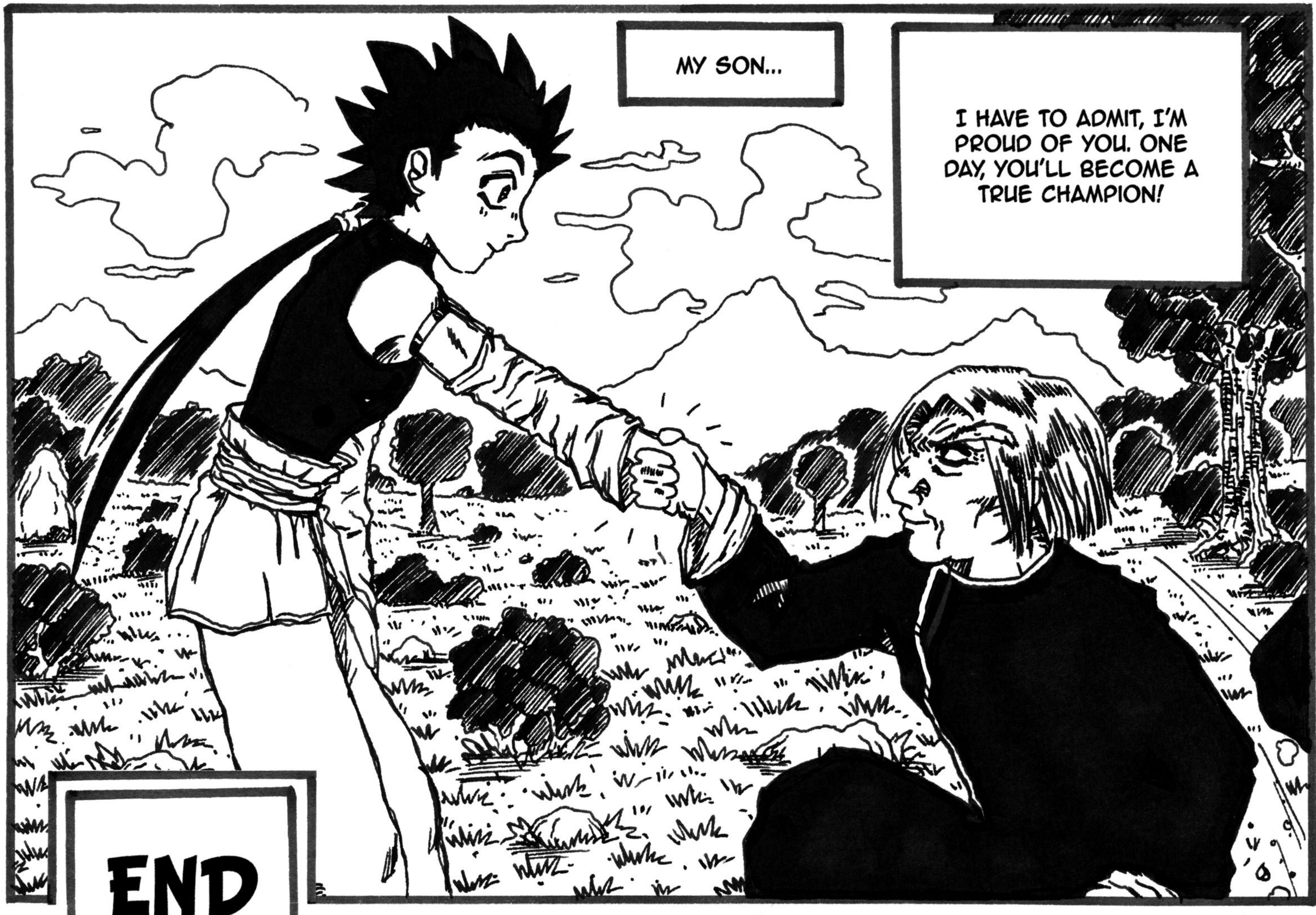






C'MON,
POPS...

DON'T BE MAD OVER
THAT LITTLE THING...



A FEW YEARS LATER...

NO, WAIT, IT'S NOT QUITE OVER!

I'D LIKE TO LET OUT A HUGE RANT AT THE ARTIST OF THIS COMIC. I MEAN, HOW IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO CREATE SUCH A SHORT STORY WITH SUCH A DUMB PLOT WHEN YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE LIKE ME? I DESERVE WAY BETTER! SERIOUSLY NOW—
I DON'T HAVE A NAME, NO BACKSTORY...

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?

...
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK GETTING INTO THAT SCHOOL OF YOURS.