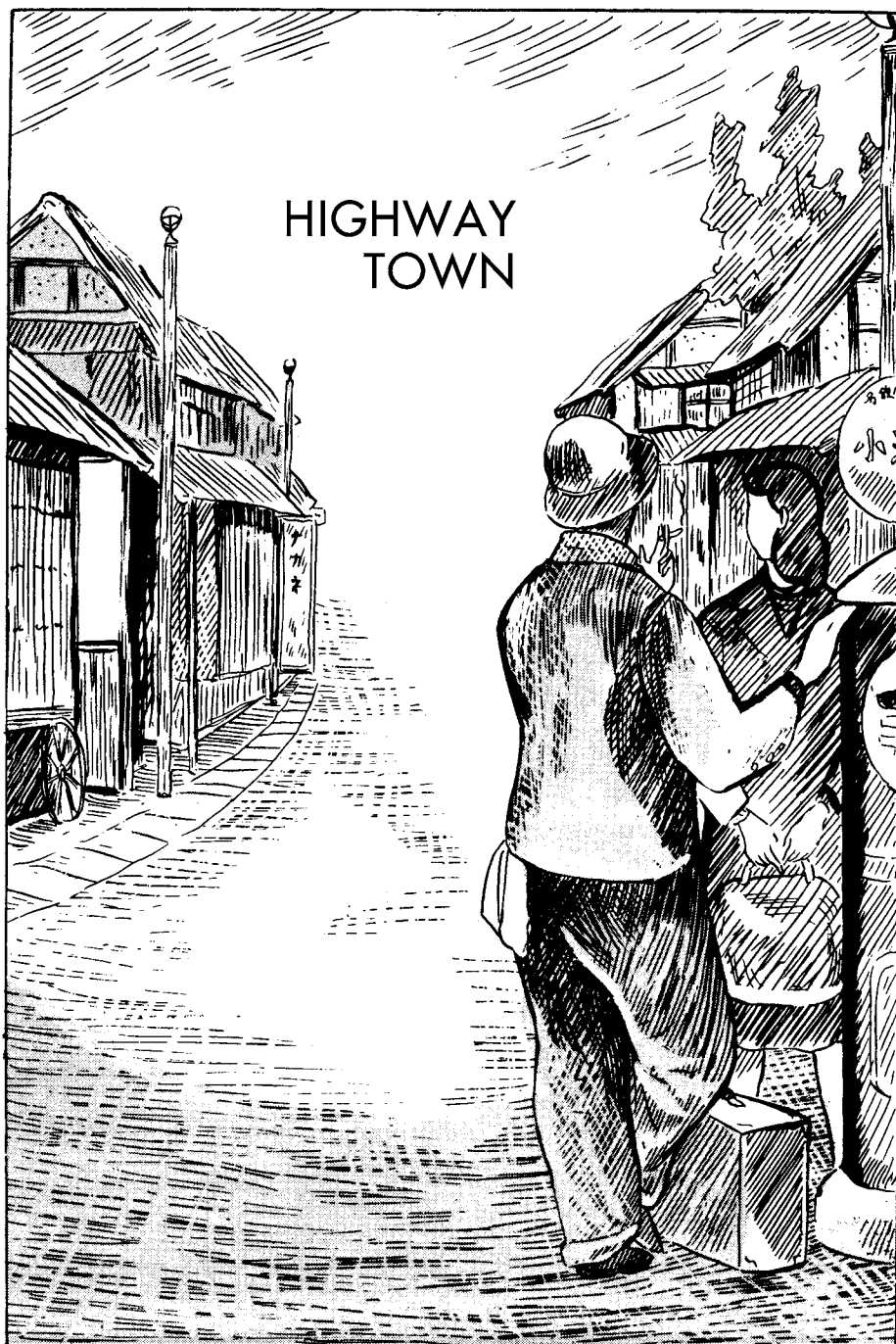
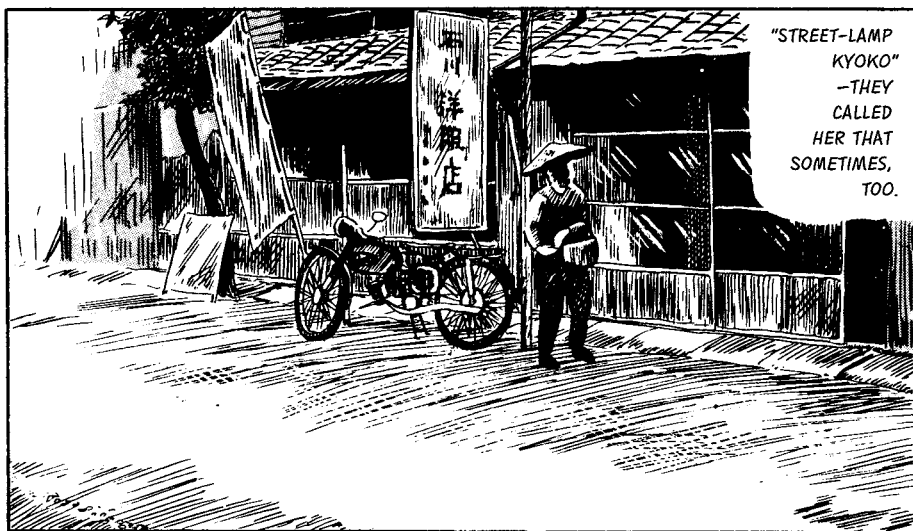




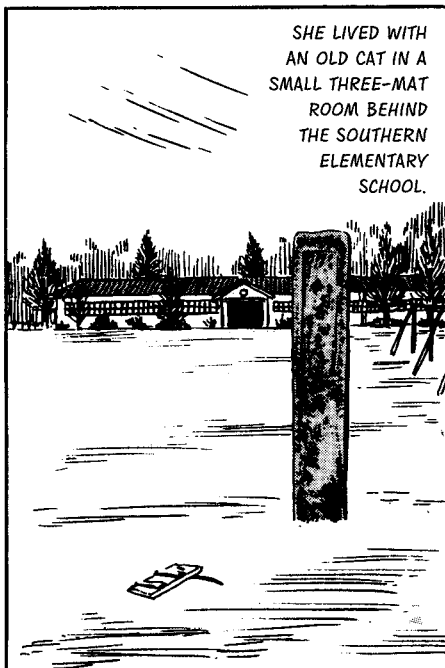


EVERYONE
CALLED KYOKO
A HALFWIT.

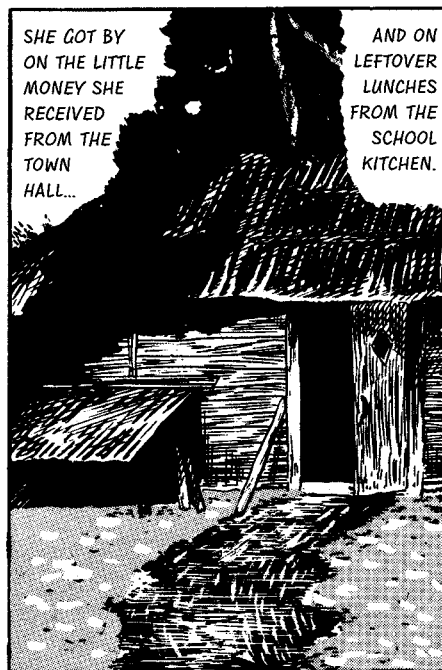


"STREET-LAMP
KYOKO"
-THEY
CALLED
HER THAT
SOMETIMES,
TOO.

SIGN: ISHIKAWA DRESSMAKERS

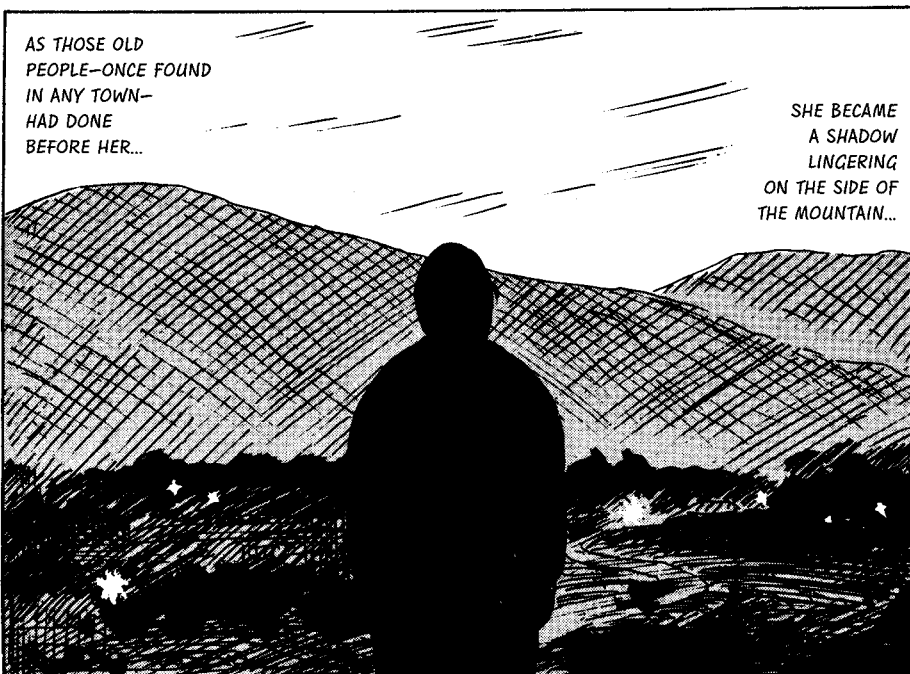


SHE LIVED WITH
AN OLD CAT IN A
SMALL THREE-MAT
ROOM BEHIND
THE SOUTHERN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.



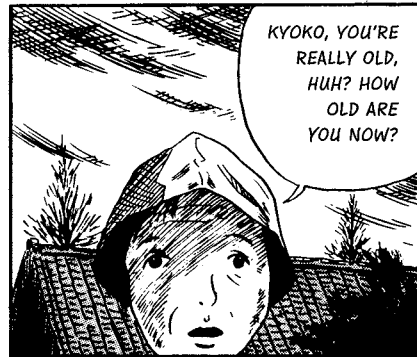
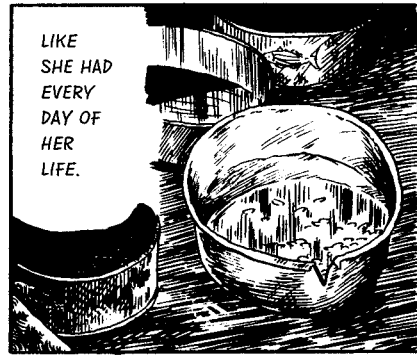
SHE GOT BY
ON THE LITTLE
MONEY SHE
RECEIVED
FROM THE
TOWN
HALL...

AND ON
LEFTOVER
LUNCHES
FROM THE
SCHOOL
KITCHEN.



AS THOSE OLD
PEOPLE—ONCE FOUND
IN ANY TOWN—
HAD DONE
BEFORE HER...

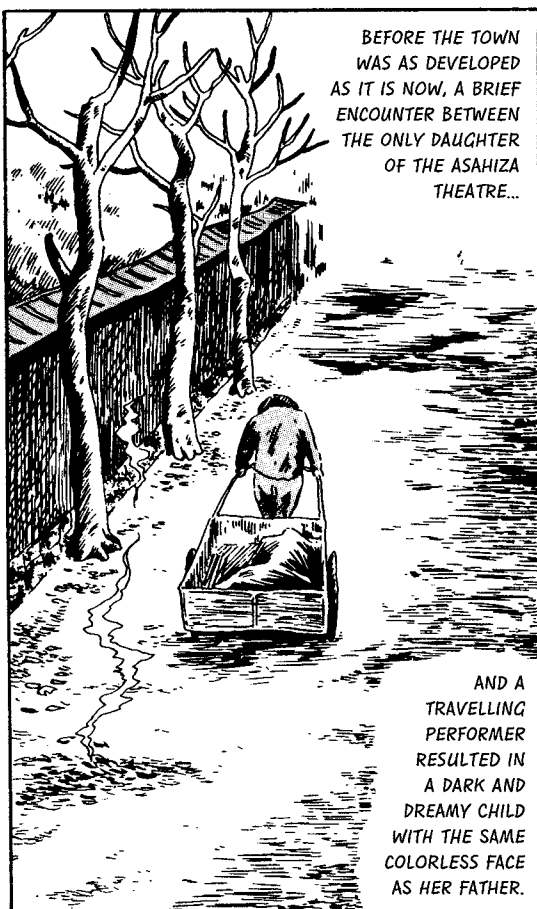
SHE BECAME
A SHADOW
LINGERING
ON THE SIDE OF
THE MOUNTAIN...





ACCORDING
TO THE
STORY
THAT STILL
LINGERED
IN TOWN...

SIGN (TOP TO BOTTOM): --RI; NAITO SHOES



BEFORE THE TOWN
WAS AS DEVELOPED
AS IT IS NOW, A BRIEF
ENCOUNTER BETWEEN
THE ONLY DAUGHTER
OF THE ASAHIZA
THEATRE...

AND A
TRAVELLING
PERFORMER
RESULTED IN
A DARK AND
DREAMY CHILD
WITH THE SAME
COLORLESS FACE
AS HER FATHER.



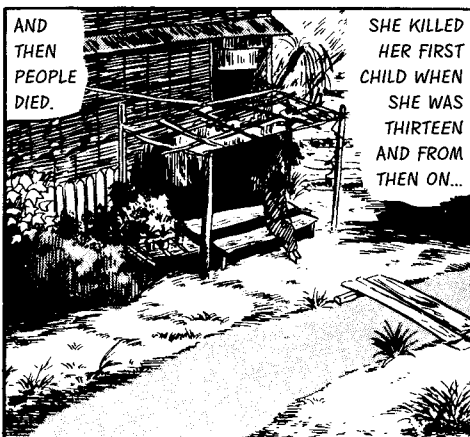
FOR ALL THAT,
THEY SAY SHE
WAS QUITE A
CUTE LITTLE GIRL.

DRESSED UP
IN HER DEEP-
RED KIMONO,
SHE REALLY
DID LOOK
BEAUTIFUL.

AT AGE EIGHT, KYOKO'S MOTHER RAN AWAY.
SHE STOOD IN THE ROAD, WAVING
AND CRYING, WHILE
HER MOTHER
DISAPPEARED
OVER THE
MOUNTAINS.



AND
THEN
PEOPLE
DIED.

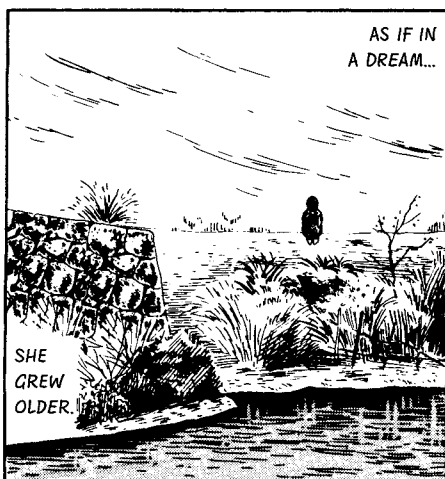


SHE KILLED
HER FIRST
CHILD WHEN
SHE WAS
THIRTEEN
AND FROM
THEN ON...

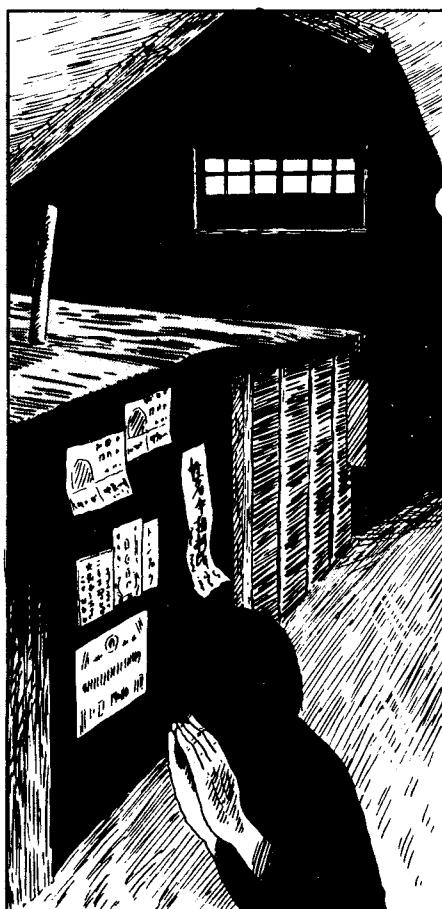
SHE MADE
MEN SMILE
EACH TIME
SHE
BLINKED.



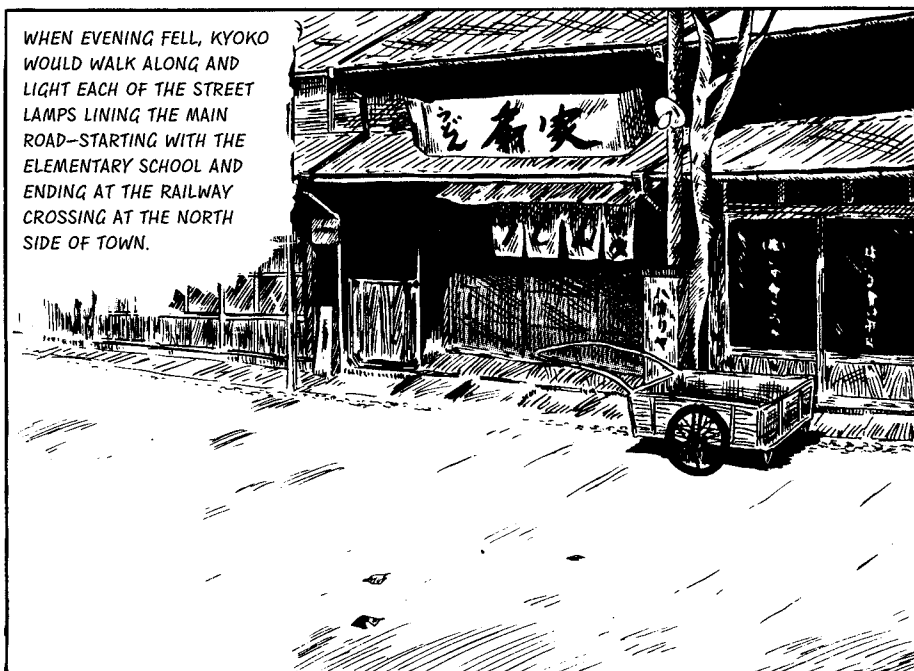
AS IF IN
A DREAM...



SHE
GREW
OLDER.



WHEN EVENING FELL, KYOKO
WOULD WALK ALONG AND
LIGHT EACH OF THE STREET
LAMPS LINING THE MAIN
ROAD—STARTING WITH THE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND
ENDING AT THE RAILWAY
CROSSING AT THE NORTH
SIDE OF TOWN.



SO, THE WOMAN
AT THE RICE
STORE DUBBED
HER "STREET-
LAMP KYOKO."



NOW, THIS WAS AGES AGO, WASN'T IT? BUT KYOKO HAD A SPECIAL FRIEND; HE CAME TRUDGING UP THE ROAD TO SEE HER EVERY DAY WHEN HE FINISHED WORK.

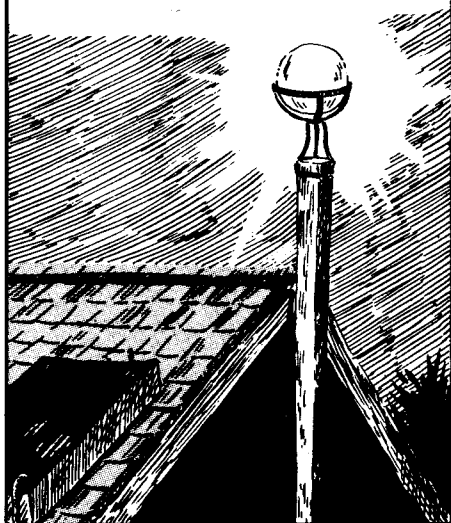
南造徳木高米

三十五(九十九)

KYOKO WOULD COME OUT TO THE RAILROAD CROSSING TO MEET HIM. SHE WAITED THERE PATIENTLY UNTIL SHE SAW HIM.



SHE WOULD GET RESTLESS WHEN THE SUN STARTED TO SET AND SHE WOULD ARRIVE AT THE CROSSING TOO EARLY. THIS IS HOW SHE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF LIGHTING THE STREET LAMPS WHILE WALKING UP THE STREET.



HE WOULD DOUSE THE LAMPS ON HIS WAY HOME.

JUST THINKING ABOUT MEETING HER FRIEND AT THE CROSSING GAVE HER SUCH PLEASURE.

