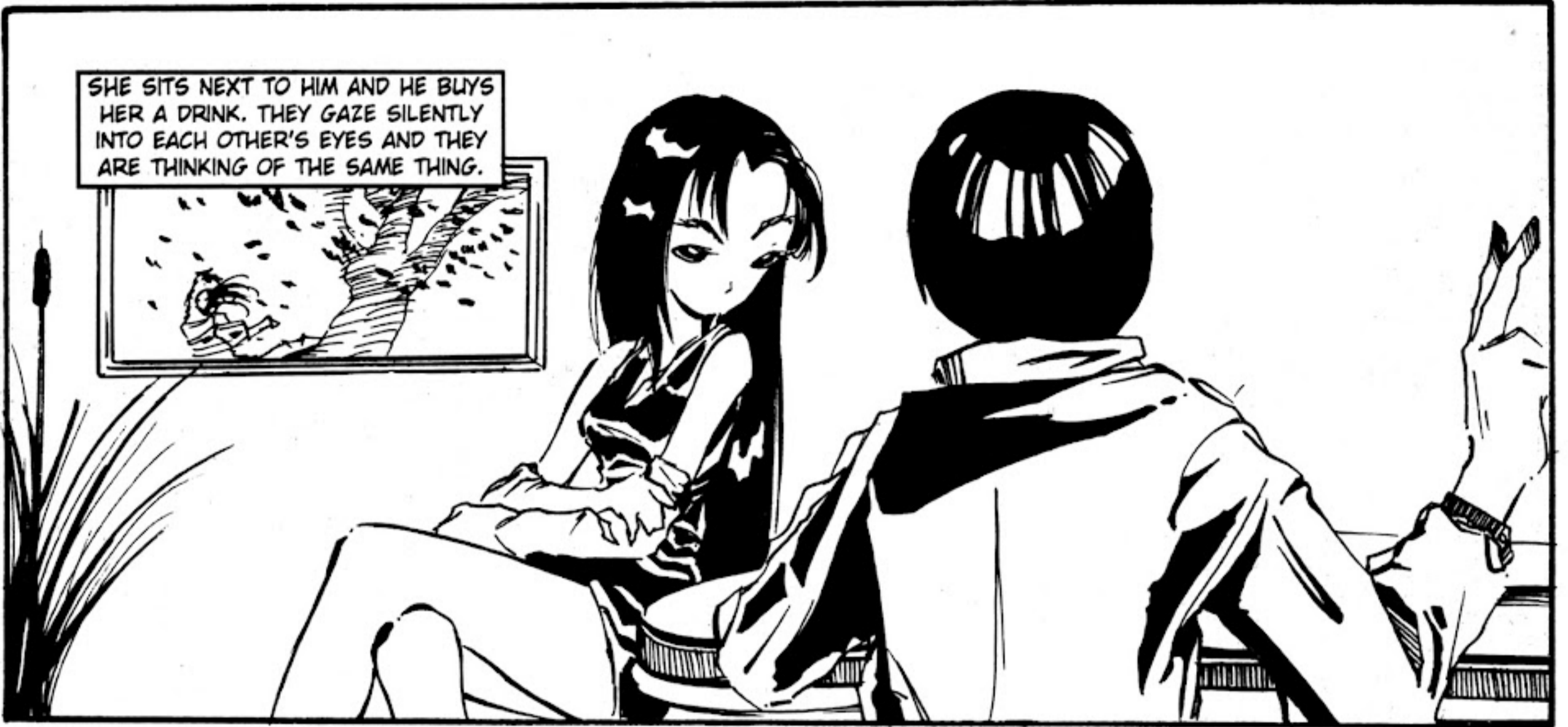


SHE SITS NEXT TO HIM AND HE BUYS HER A DRINK. THEY GAZE SILENTLY INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES AND THEY ARE THINKING OF THE SAME THING.



THERE IS A SONG ON THE RADIO IN THE BAR IN WHICH A WOMAN CROONS A SAD LAMENT ABOUT THE PASSING OF HER GREAT LOVE.

BUT HE CAN'T STOP HIMSELF FROM LOOKING AT HER.

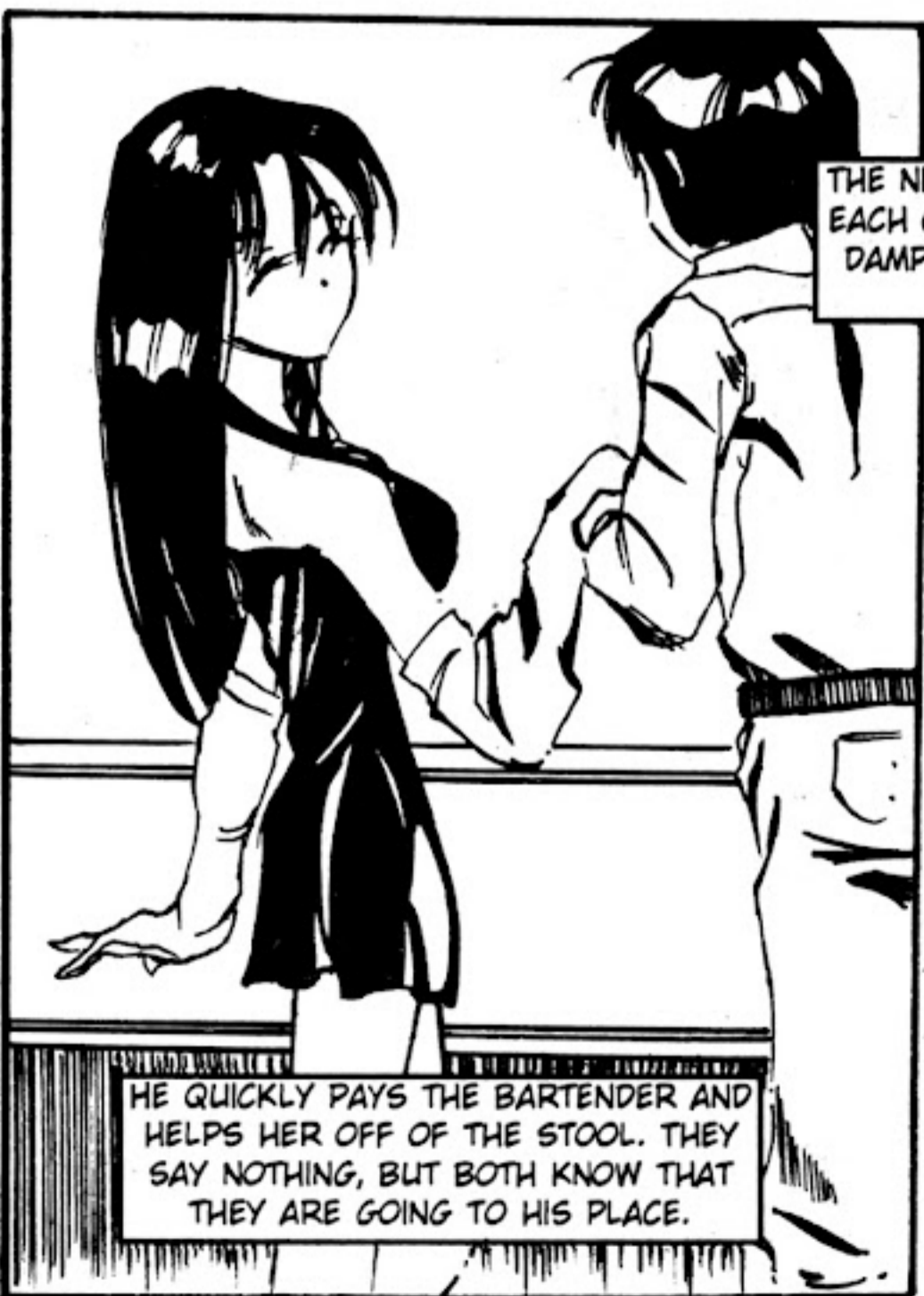
HARRY JONES THINKS, "SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?"



SHE FINISHES HER DRINK. HER EYES SEEM TO ASK HIM, "ARE YOU COMING WITH ME?"



THE NIGHT IS HUMID. THEY CLASP EACH OTHERS HANDS, HIS PALMS DAMP WITH SWEAT, HERS COOL AND DRY.



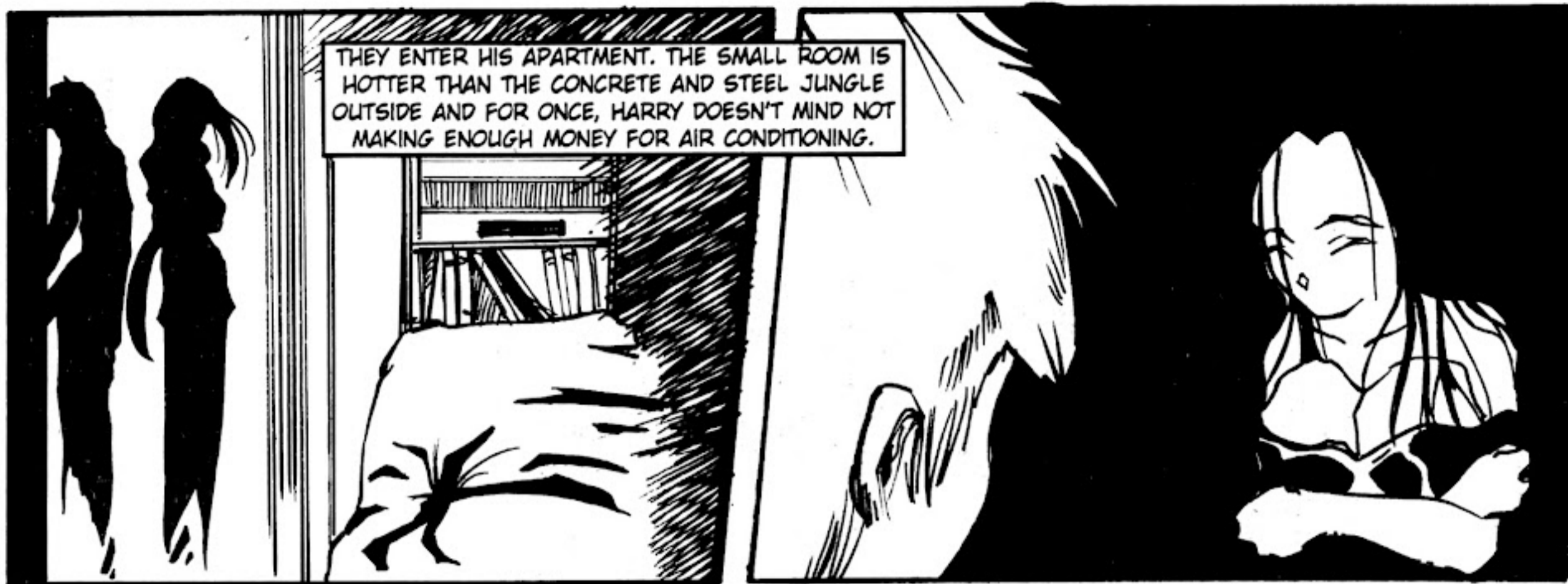
HE QUICKLY PAYS THE BARTENDER AND HELPS HER OFF OF THE STOOL. THEY SAY NOTHING, BUT BOTH KNOW THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HIS PLACE.



AN HOUR AGO, HARRY HAD NOTHING IN HIS LITTLE WORLD THAT MADE LIFE WORTH LIVING. NOW, HE HAS FOUR DRINKS IN HIM AND A MYSTERIOUS STATUESQUE BEAUTY BY HIS SIDE. SOMEHOW, HE TAKES COMFORT IN THIS.

THIS CITY IS A PRESSURE COOKER AND HE'S ONLY RELIEVING THE PENT-UP TENSION.







BEFORE IT HAPPENED, HE SOMEHOW SENSED IT...

AND SOMEHOW, HE WELCOMES IT.



AND HE GLIMPSES BRIEFLY A WORLD, BEYOND THIS ROOM, BEYOND THIS CITY, BEYOND THIS PLAIN... A WORLD DEEP IN THE PIT OF HIS SOUL.

AND HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS BECOMING.

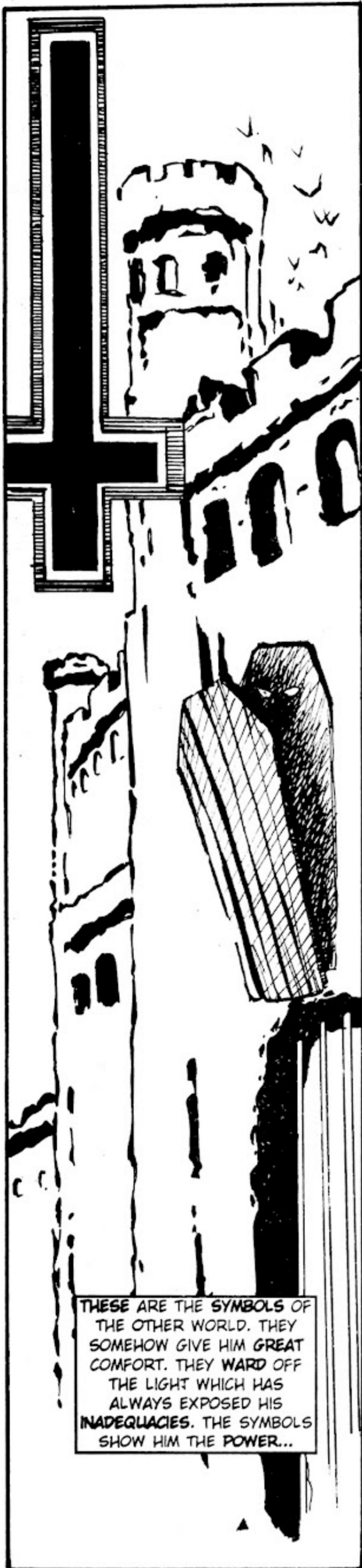


HE LOVES IT.

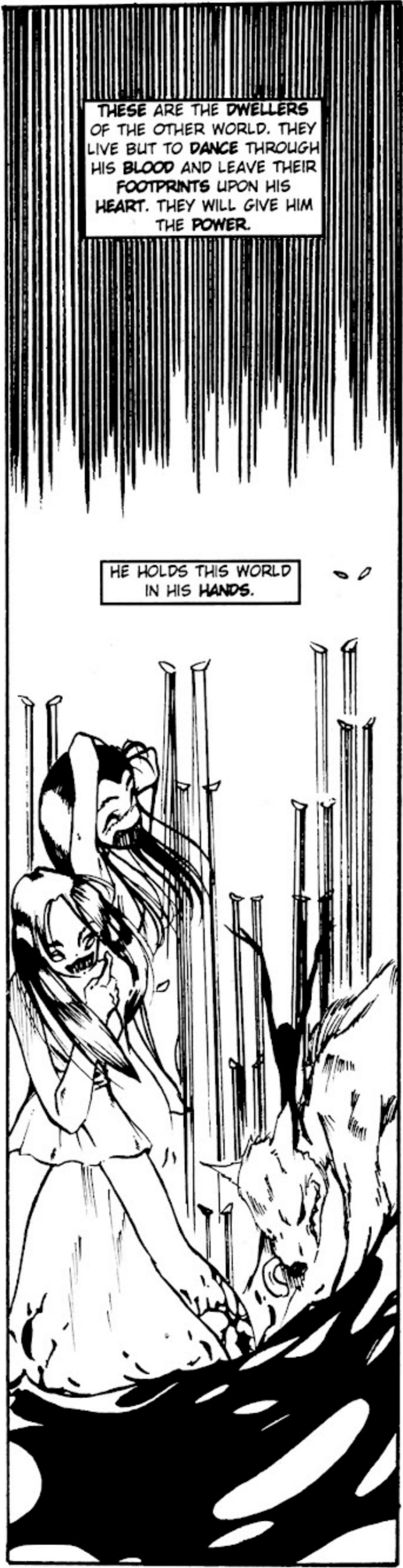


THE OTHER WORLD RUNS RED WITH BLOOD...

...AND HE LOVES IT.



THESE ARE THE SYMBOLS OF THE OTHER WORLD. THEY SOMEHOW GIVE HIM GREAT COMFORT. THEY WARD OFF THE LIGHT WHICH HAS ALWAYS EXPOSED HIS INADEQUACIES. THE SYMBOLS SHOW HIM THE POWER...



THESE ARE THE DWELLERS OF THE OTHER WORLD. THEY LIVE BUT TO DANCE THROUGH HIS BLOOD AND LEAVE THEIR FOOTPRINTS UPON HIS HEART. THEY WILL GIVE HIM THE POWER.

HE HOLDS THIS WORLD IN HIS HANDS.




HE'S SEEN THE SYMBOLS OF THE WORLD AND THE DENIZENS OF THE WORLD AND FINALLY...

THE VERY AVATAR OF THE WORLD ITSELF.

AND HARRY JONES SPREADS WIDE HIS ARMS AND HE LETS THE POWER IN THROUGH THE ONLY WAY IT CAN ENTER...

...HE INVITES IT.



FINALLY, THE GOD OF THE
OTHER WORLD GREET'S HIM.
HE IS ONE OF THEM NOW.

HE ACCEPTS THE INVITATION AND
HE KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS.

IT MEANS THAT HE HAS THE POWER
OVER LIFE AND THE POWER OVER
DEATH FOR HE CONTROLS THAT
WHICH SUSTAINS LIFE: BLOOD...
AND, OF COURSE, SEX.

THERE WERE GREAT MEN AND
WOMEN WHO DWELLED IN THE
OTHER WORLD, MEN WHO
RULED NATIONS.



THERE ARE OTHERS WHO
UNDERSTAND THE MANY
PLEASURES TO BE GLEANED FROM
SHARING MORE THAN JUST LOVE,
BUT LIFE ITSELF.

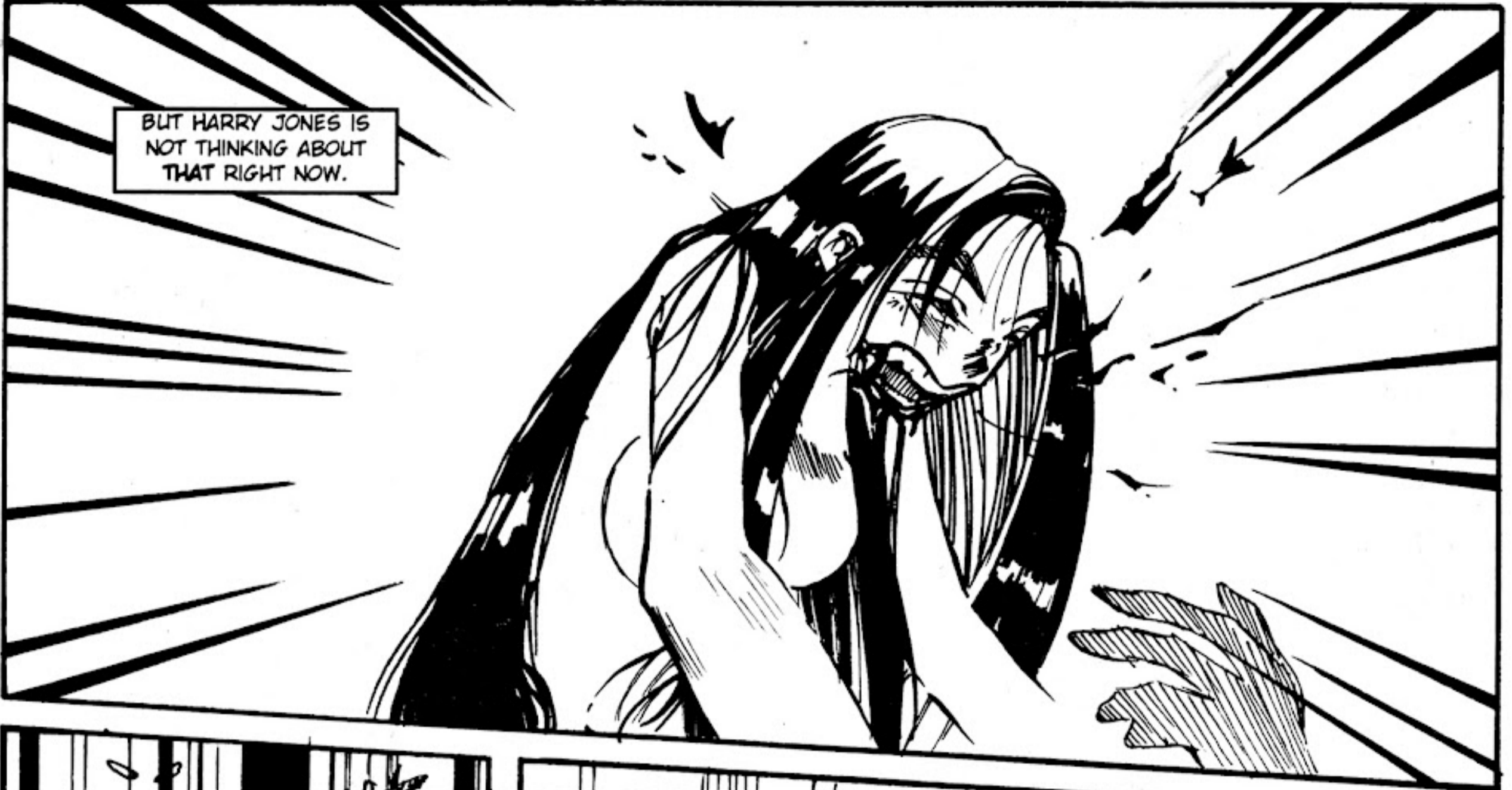


BUT THIS WORLD CAN TAKE YOUR
LIFE AS WELL, AND PERHAPS THAT
IS THE GREATEST THRILL OF ALL.
BUT THERE IS ALWAYS SOME RISK
INVOLVED.

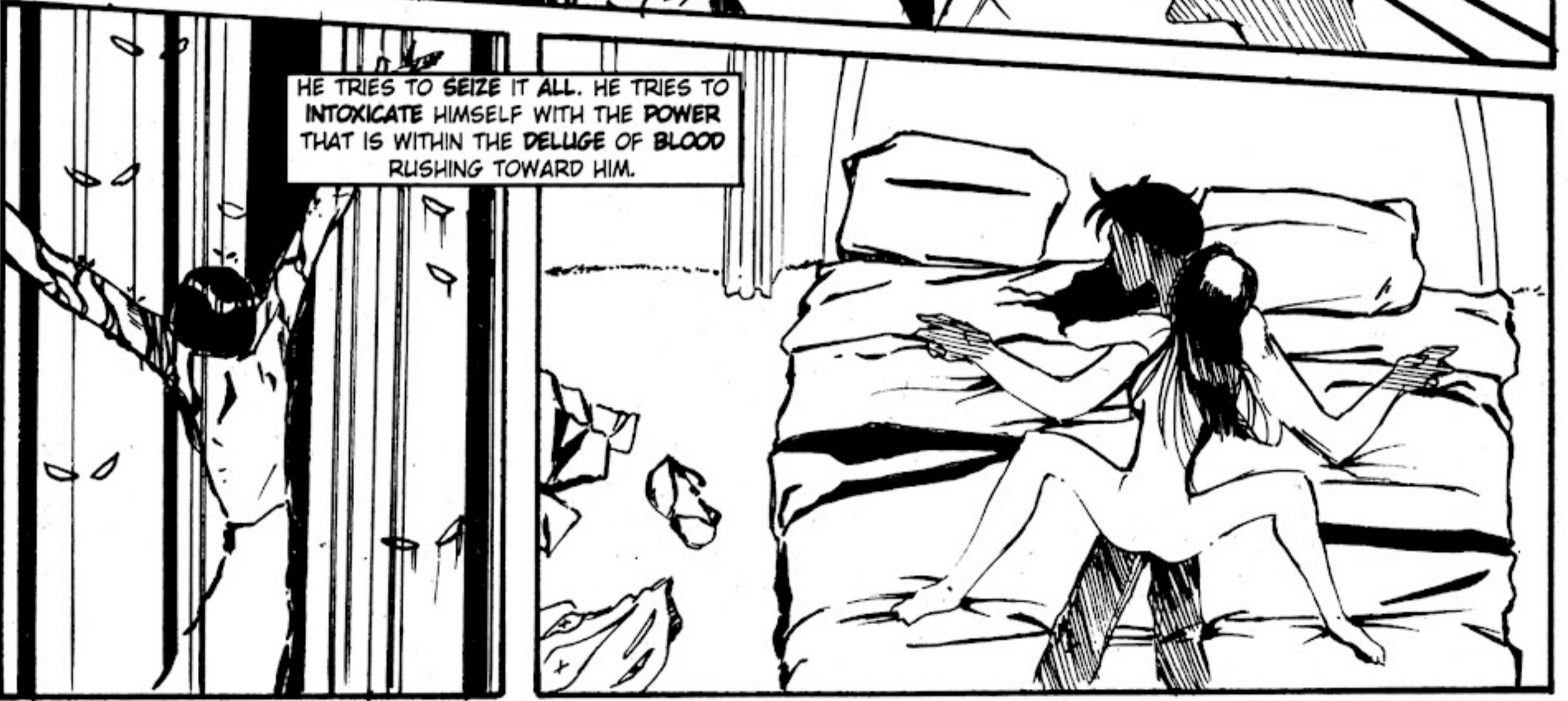
EVENTUALLY, THE
PIPER MUST BE PAID.



BUT HARRY JONES IS NOT THINKING ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW.



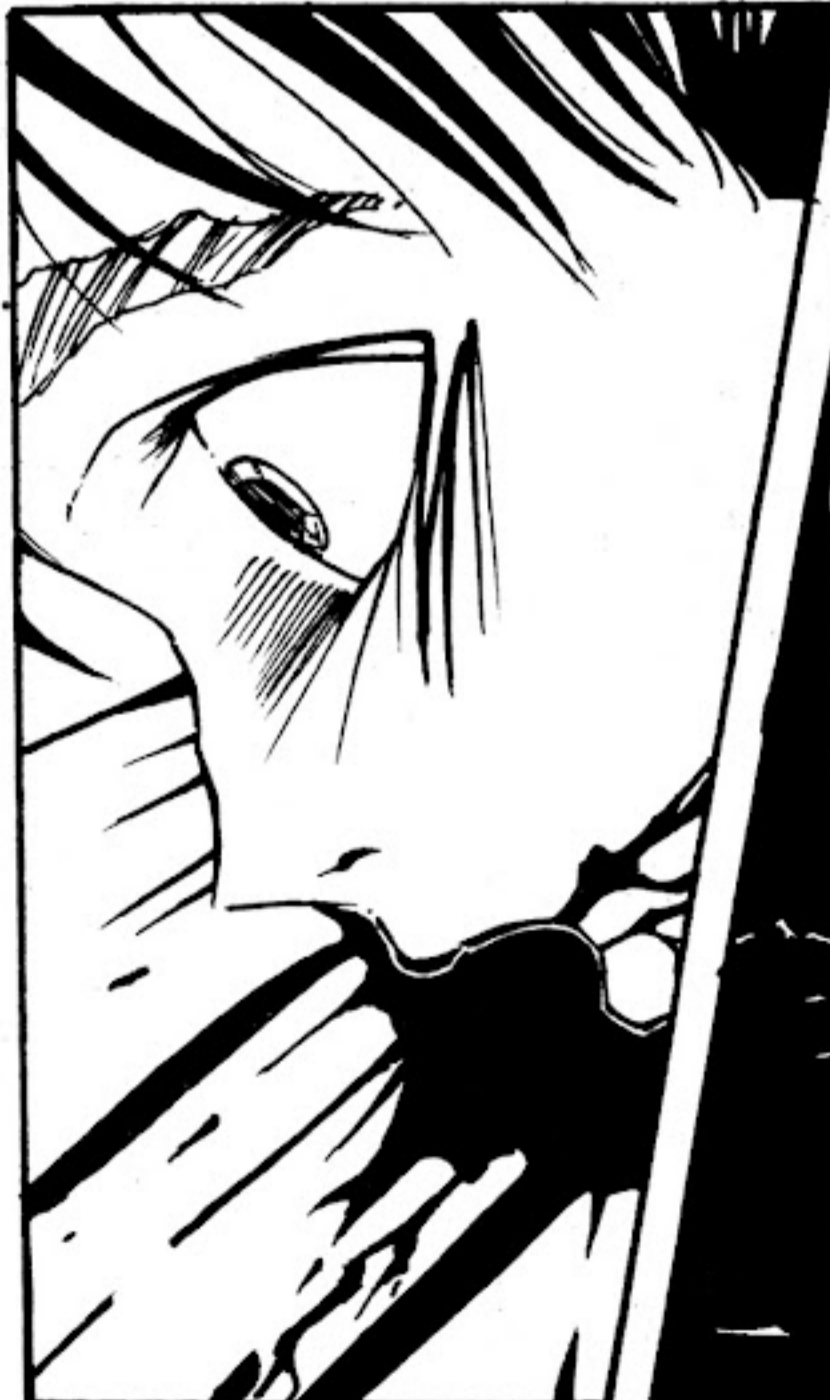
HE TRIES TO SEIZE IT ALL. HE TRIES TO INTOXICATE HIMSELF WITH THE POWER THAT IS WITHIN THE DELUGE OF BLOOD RUSHING TOWARD HIM.



AND HE THINKS, "I AM LUST!"



AND HE THINKS, "I AM LOVE!"

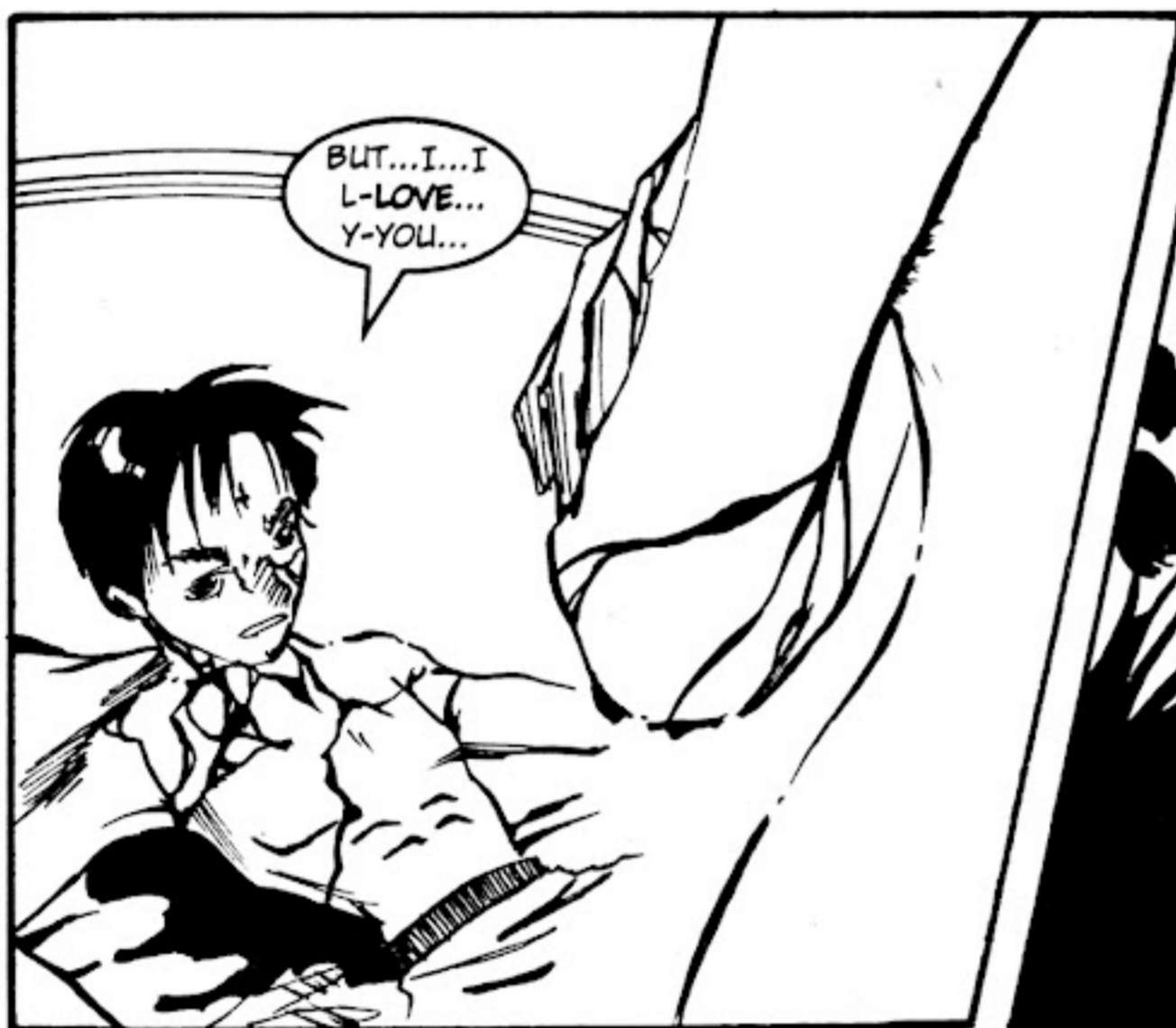


AND HE THINKS, "I AM DYING..."

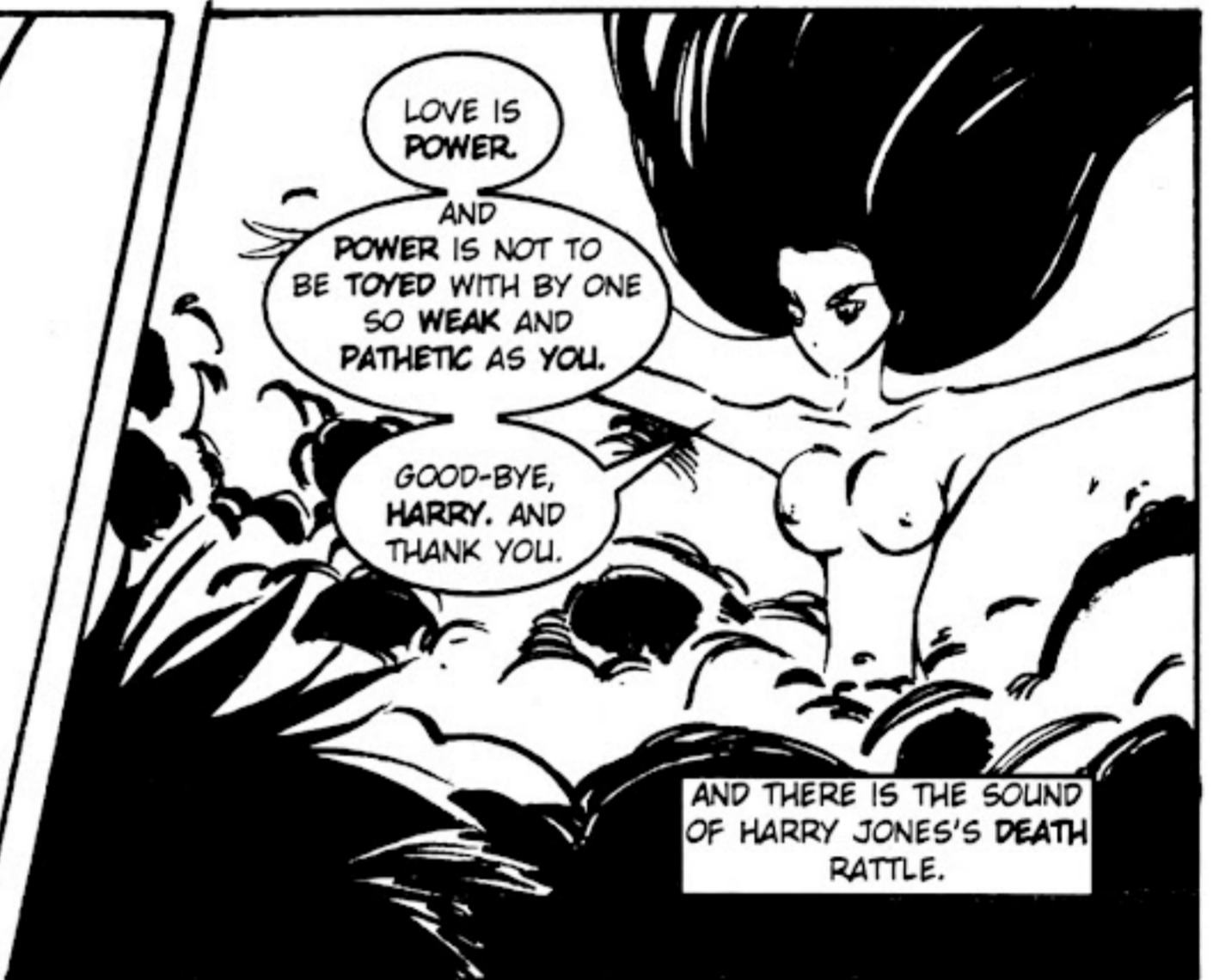




DID YOU GET WHAT IT WAS THAT YOU SOUGHT?



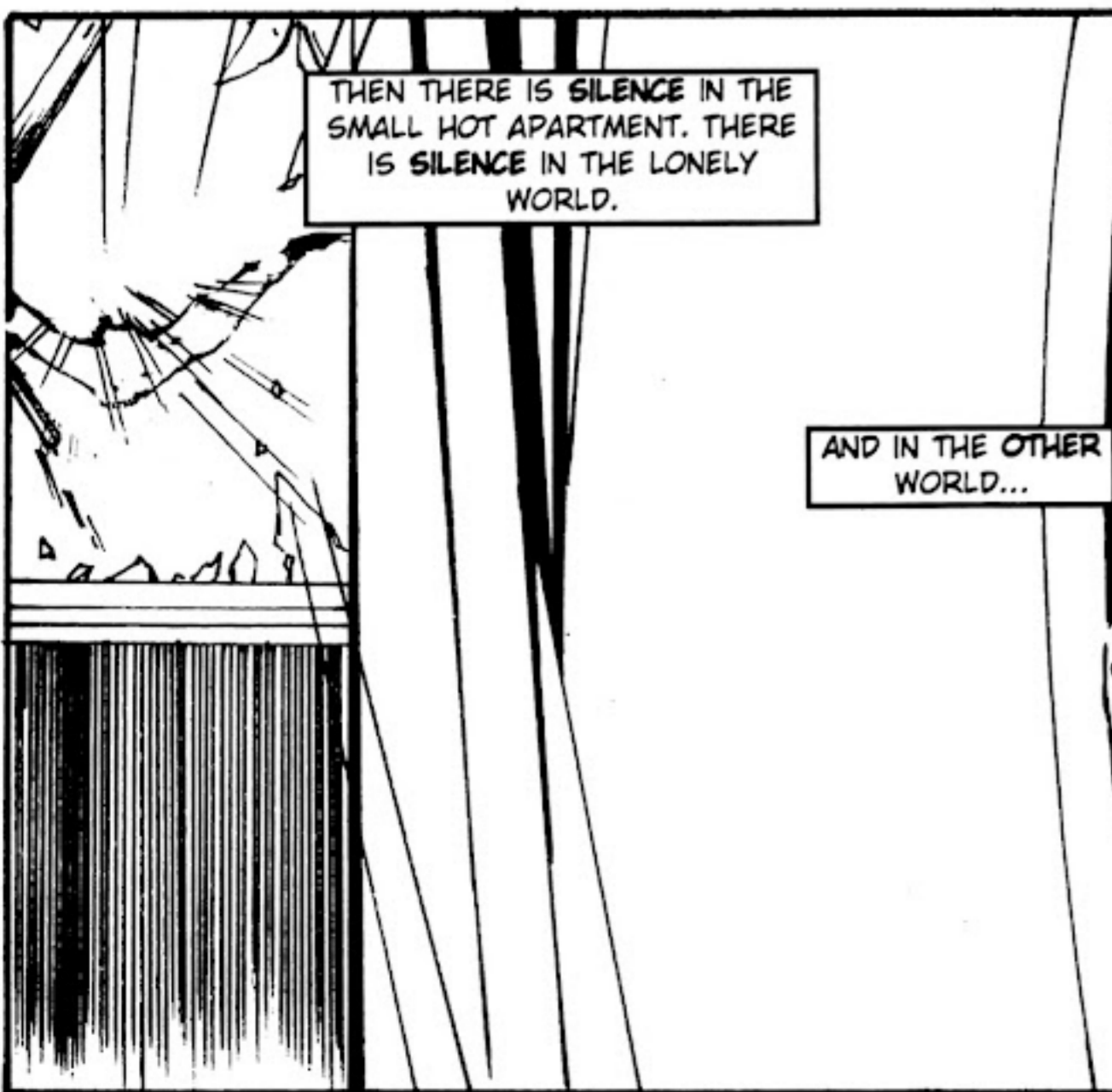
BUT...I...I L-LOVE... Y-YOU...



LOVE IS POWER. AND POWER IS NOT TO BE TOYED WITH BY ONE SO WEAK AND PATHETIC AS YOU.

GOOD-BYE, HARRY. AND THANK YOU.

AND THERE IS THE SOUND OF HARRY JONES'S DEATH RATTLE.



THEN THERE IS SILENCE IN THE SMALL HOT APARTMENT. THERE IS SILENCE IN THE LONELY WORLD.

AND IN THE OTHER WORLD...



...THERE IS LAUGHTER.

THE END