

1 WORLD MANGA



Story by Annette Roman • Art by Leandro Ng • Ink by Sylvia Liu

I WORLD MANGA #5

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1 WORLD MANGA

PASSAGE

5

PASSAGE 5

GIRLS' EDUCATION

LIFE LESSONS





chrrp

chrrp

chrrp

splsh

splsh

RE!!
YOU FOUND
US!

WE
MISSED
YOU SO
MUCH!

MAMA!
PAPA!

AZUSA!
AKI!

MY
DARLING...

MY
LOVE...

schnorrrr

gzzaww

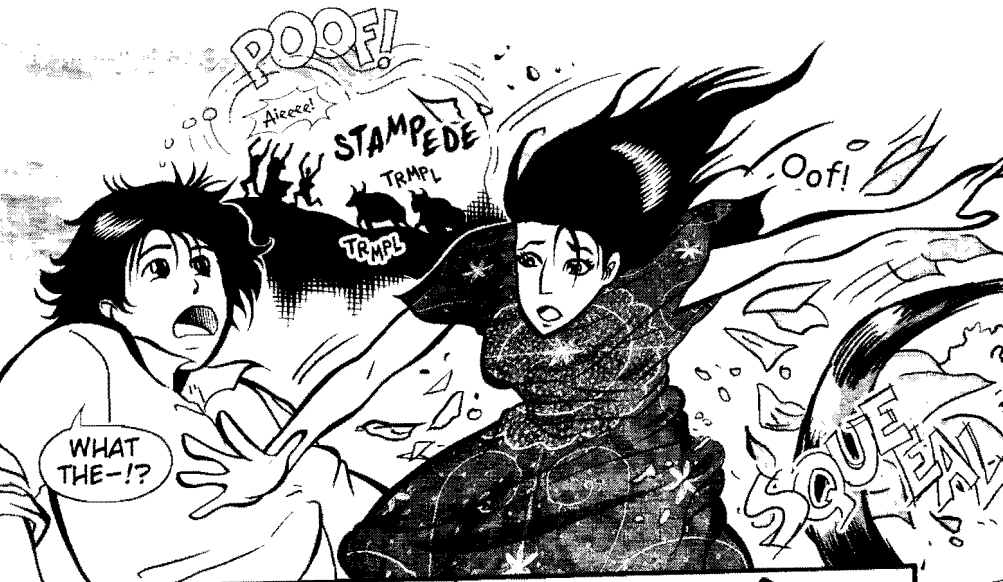
twitch
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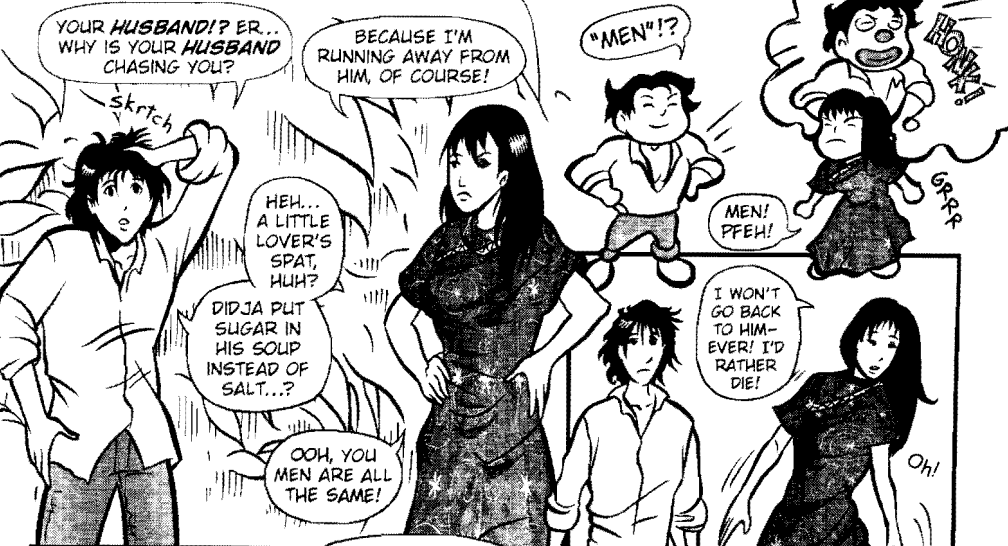
huf huf huf

bzzz

bzzz

TUMPA
TUMPA





I DIDN'T KNOW
BOYS COULD COOK!

HEH... BOYS CAN DO
ANYTHING GIRLS CAN DO!

Ha ha! AND GIRLS CAN DO
ANYTHING BOYS CAN DO!

Ah-choo!

Gesundheit!

HE MUST BE
ALLERGIC TO YOUR
PERFUME.

I'M NOT
WEARING ANY.

NONE OF THE OTHER GIRLS IN
MY VILLAGE WENT TO SCHOOL...
BUT MY PARENTS SACRIFICED
SO I COULD!



I COULDN'T
GET
ENOUGH OF
LEARNING!

BUT THEN...THE DROUGHT...AND FAMINE CAME.
MY PARENTS WERE DESPERATE...

I CAN'T AFFORD TO SEND BOTH YOU AND YOUR
BROTHERS TO SCHOOL ANYMORE, RAJANI.



BUT IF
I GO
TO HIGH SCHOOL...

I CAN
GET A
GOOD
JOB
AND
TAKE
CARE
OF YOU
AND
MAJI!

BE SENSIBLE, DAUGHTER! YOU WILL
MARRY INTO YOUR HUSBAND'S FAMILY.

ONLY YOUR BROTHERS
WILL CARE FOR US WHEN WE
CAN NO LONGER CARE
FOR OURSELVES.

NOW WE NEED YOU TO CARE FOR THE
LITTLE ONES AND HELP YOUR MAJI. SURELY YOU'RE
EDUCATED ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THAT!

BUT THESE ARE
MODERN TIMES, BABAJI!
I'LL DECIDE WHAT I
DO WITH MY MONEY!

RAJANI, THERE ARE
ONLY ENOUGH JOBS FOR
BOYS IN THIS COUNTRY!
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN
IF GIRLS
TOOK
THEM
AWAY?

I WANT
TO HELP
TAKE CARE
OF YOU
AND MAJI
...

I love you
and Maji...

IF GIRLS WORKED THEY
WOULD START BUSINESSES
OF THEIR OWN AND CREATE
MORE JOBS!



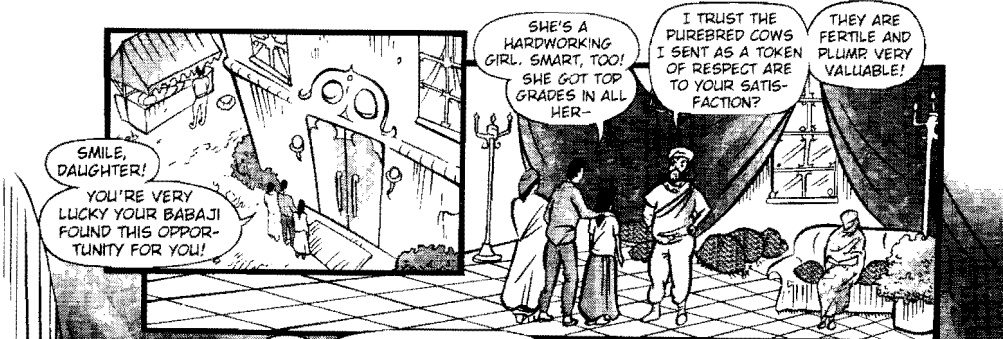
IF MUKAL AND NANDAN HELPED
US OUT AT HOME, MAJI, THERE'D BE
MONEY AND TIME FOR ALL OF
US TO GO TO SCHOOL!



BOYS DON'T DO
HOUSEWORK! YOU KNOW
THAT, RAJANI!...

AND THEN THE COWS STARTED DYING OFF...





SMILE, DAUGHTER!

YOU'RE VERY LUCKY YOUR BABAJI FOUND THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!

SHE'S A HARDWORKING GIRL. SMART, TOO! SHE GOT TOP GRADES IN ALL HER-

I TRUST THE PUREBRED COWS I SENT AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT ARE TO YOUR SATISFACTION?

THEY ARE FERTILE AND PLUMP VERY VALUABLE!

YES, YES...

HMPH. EVEN MY SISTER HERE DIDN'T GO PAST THE THIRD GRADE-AND THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR HER!

YOU WILL HONOR YOUR PROMISE TO SEND HER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL...?

BUT AS YOU WISH...

BABAJI!

sigh



MY GOOD LADY, YOUR ESTEEMED BROTHER MADE ANOTHER PROMISE TO MY HUSBAND...

BETWEEN US... I BEG YOU TO ASSURE ME THAT...

...THIS MARRIAGE REMAINS IN NAME ONLY, UNTIL SHE TURNS OF AGE AT 18.

MY DAUGHTER IS ONLY 15, AND INNOCENT-AS PROMISED.

IN RETURN, YOUR BROTHER SWORE TO... BE PATIENT.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT MOTHERS WITH EDUCATIONS... THEY'RE HEALTHIER, AND SO ARE THEIR BABIES!

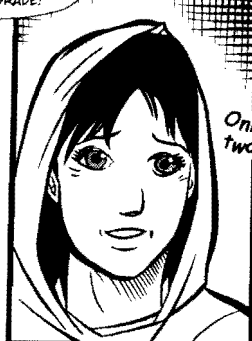
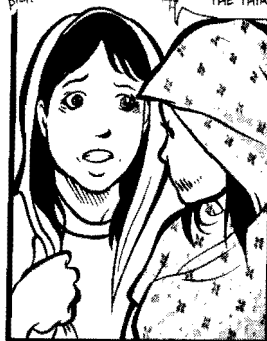
UM... Y-YES... YOU ARE TRULY BLESSED, SISTER...

SO... YOU'LL HONOR WHAT WE SPOKE OF?

And she'll plan them!

TWO OF MY FIVE BABIES LIVED! AND I ONLY WENT TO THE THIRD GRADE!

Only two!



I-I'M SURE MY BROTHER'S
WORD IS GOOD...
BUT HE DOES NOT
SPEAK OF HIS BUSINESS
ARRANGEMENTS WITH
WOMEN-EVEN HIS
SISTER...

WAIT!

H-HE DIDN'T
TELL YOU OF HIS
PROMISES?

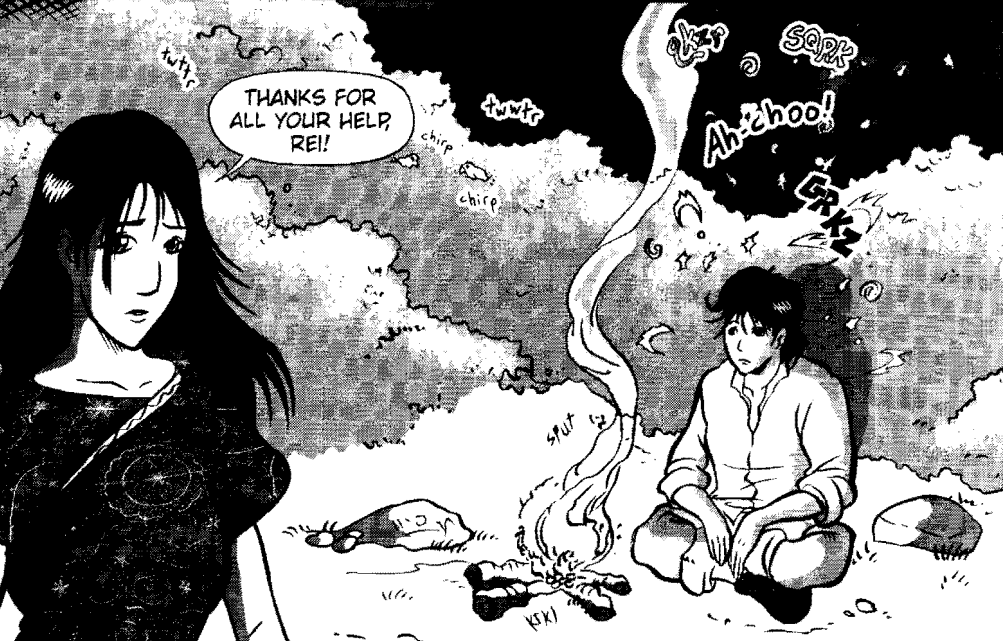
FORGIVE
ME... I MUST
FOLLOW MY
BROTHER.

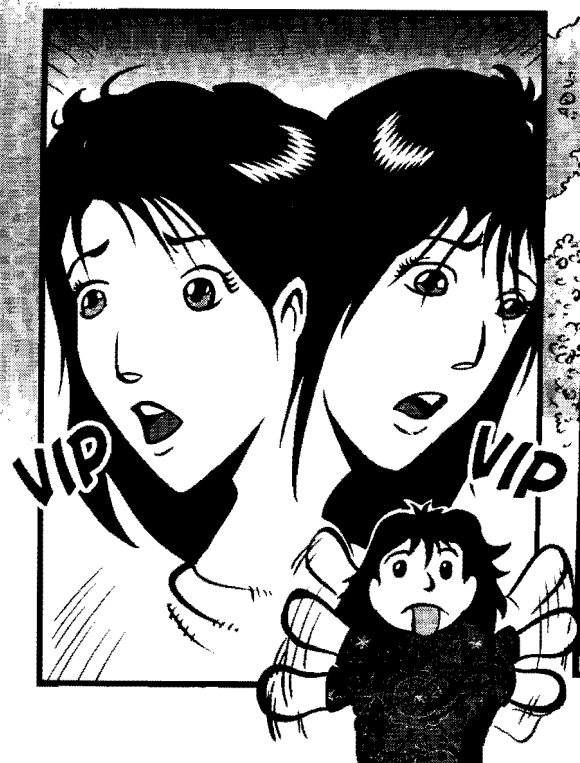
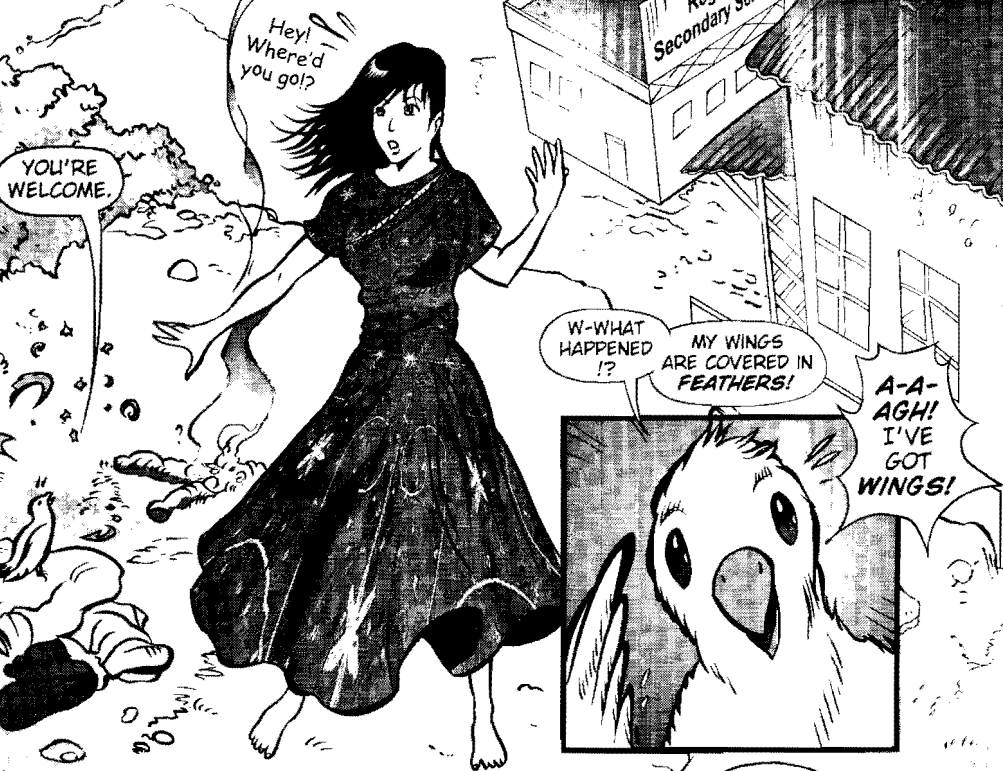


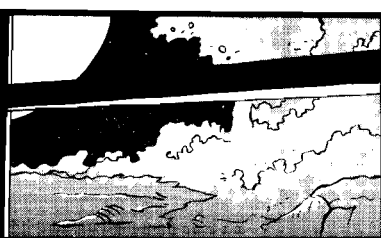
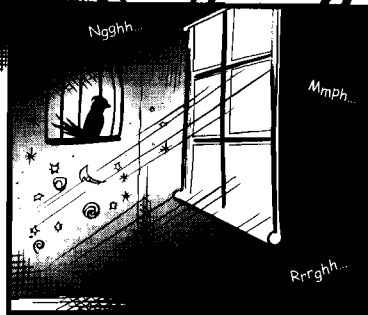
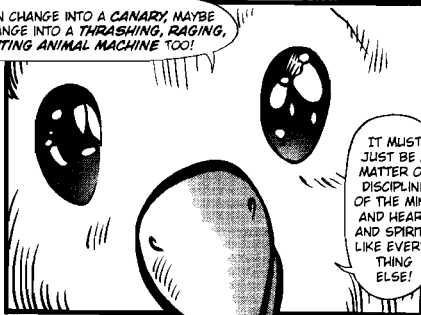
I RAN
AWAY FOR A LOT
OF REASONS...



THANKS FOR
ALL YOUR HELP,
REI!







SO WE NOTICED...

HERE-
PUT THIS ON.

UM... I-I CAN EXPLAIN...

YOU SEE... UH...
R-REMEMBER THAT **MANLY** GUY REI, YOU MET?

WELL, UM, HE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING HERE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND GET AWAY FROM YOUR PAST AND, UH... HE SAID YOU COULD HELP ME ENROLL, TOO.

IT WAS LATE WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THIS PLACE SO I... WELL, I WAS AFRAID TO SLEEP ON THE STREET BECAUSE... WELL, BECAUSE I'M A GIRL, SO THAT WOULD BE DANGEROUS, RIGHT?

SO... I JUST CAME IN.

I THOUGHT I COULD... UH... EXPLAIN IN THE MORNING...

WHAT ABOUT THE BIRD CAGE ON YOUR HEAD?

AND WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES?

UMM... I MUST HAVE SLEEPWALKED INTO THE CAGE... UH...

A-AFTER "POOR REI" FLEW OFF, OF COURSE!

Yeah... That's right...

OH! AND I GAVE MY CLOTHES TO A BEGGAR! I FIGURED I'D BE WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM FROM NOW ON, ANYWAY!

Being a great martial artist isn't just about the body, mind, spirit, and heart... it's about telling whoppers, too!



More believable than the truth, anyway...

I think...

OH! ANOTHER OF YOUR FRIENDS COME TO STAY, BASANTI? WELCOME, UH...

That's my girl! So popular!

REI... NA!

WE CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY EXTRA PAIRS OF HANDS AROUND THE HOUSE!

WELL... ANY FRIEND OF REI'S IS A FRIEND OF MINE...

AND ANY FRIEND OF **RAJANI'S** IS A FRIEND OF MINE...

BUT YOU HAVE TO DO THE DISHES **THREE NIGHTS** A WEEK...

DEAL!



STANDING TEST
SCORES, REINA!

I'VE BEEN
READING A
LOT ON MY
OWN SINCE
I'VE BEEN...
AWAY FROM
SCHOOL...

WE CAN GIVE YOU A SCHOLARSHIP
FOR YOUR FEES, AND YOUR FRIEND RAJANI
HAS OFFERED TO BUY YOUR UNIFORM.

1ST PERIOD:
MATHEMATICS

SKCH
SKCH

Tsk, tsk

YOU'RE LATE,
MISS RAJANI
AND MISS...

THANKS FOR PAY-
ING FOR MY UNIFORM,
RAJANI, BUT...

WHERE'D
YOU GET THE
MONEY?

chat

to-mp

SORRY, MR.
ADKALOO.

I'M HELPING REINA
FIND HER CLASSES.
SHE'S NEW.

WELL, NO MATTER. MATH
ISN'T IMPORTANT FOR YOU
GIRLS ANYWAY...

wink

snicker

snicker

EXCUSE
ME...!?

??

SKCH

SKCH

kluch

'CAUSE GIRLS
DON'T NEED MATH TO
KEEP HOUSE AND
HAVE BABIES,
DUMMY!

Har
har

SKRAPE

I PLAN
TO BE
AN AGRI-
CULTURAL
ENGINEER,
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!

OH, YOU'RE
WELCOME, MISS
NOBODY'S-
GONNA-MARRY-
ME!

STUFF IT,
JERK!

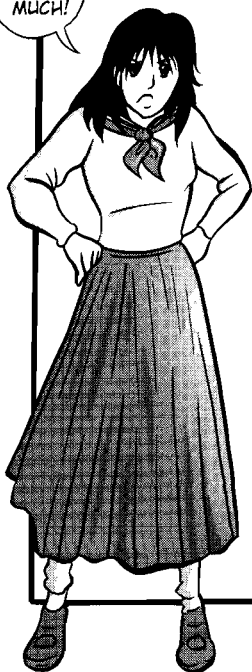
Naughty!

ENOUGH!

MISS REINA.
LET'S NOT
BEGIN YOUR
SCHOOL
CAREER HERE
WITH SUCH
UNLADYLIKE
BEHAVIOR!

WAAGH! HER FRIENDS
ARE WILD WOMEN TOO!

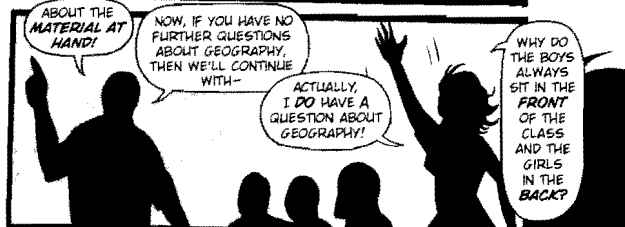
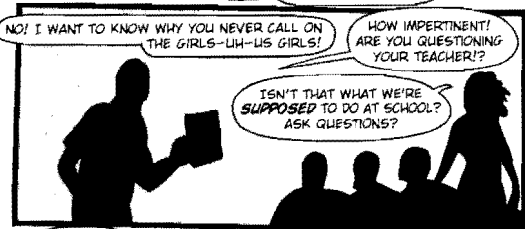
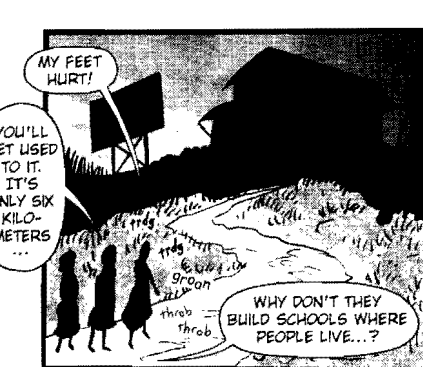
I'M NOT
A LADY!



Ha,
ha,
ha

HA HA! **THAMMM**
HA HA
HA HA

THAT'S FOR
SURE!





6TH PERIOD:
HISTORY

NOT ME. GOTTA STUDY FOR A TEST AFTER I FINISH SEWING THESE SLIPPERS.

MAJIS GOT A LOT OF ORDERS TO FILL TOMORROW.

YOU STUDY. I'LL KEEP SEWING.

ME TOO.

...NOW TURN TO PAGE 24...

WAKE UP REINA!

IT'S MRS. HAZARE - THE TEACHER WHO GAVE ME DIRECTIONS TO OUR SCHOOL!

THIS IS THE GOOD PART!

NO "TISN'T... 'S 'BOUT BORING POLITICS 'N SHITUFF...

DUM...

AND IN 1970, OUR NATION GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE AND DECLARED THAT ALL OUR CITIZENS SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE TREATED AS EQUALS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, OR CREED...

ISN'T IT THRILLING?

...FOLLOWED BY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS SO THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTIONS.

THAT'S THE MOMENT WE BEGAN TO DETERMINE OUR OWN DESTINY!

THINGS AREN'T PERFECT, BUT...THEY'RE GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME!

TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK!

HUH?

THAT'S SO NEGATIVE!

OH! It's you, Toru!

"NEGATIVE" HUH? WELL I GUESS I'M A PESSIMIST AND YOU'RE AN OPTIMIST...

IT'S A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!

SO, UH... BASANTI... I WAS WONDERING IF, UH... MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME WITH MY MATH HOMEWORK SOMETIME ...?

Even tho he is kinda short!

...AND SO HER CAMPAIGN TO WIN WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE WAS AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, CHILDREN.

SHE FILLS IN THE GAPS!

"REINA," RIGHT...? HAVE WE MET BEFORE?

N-NO... NEVER!

Y-YOU MUST BE THINKING OF SOMEONE ELSE, MA'AM!

'SCUSE ME! DON'T WANNA BE LATE FOR CLASS!

YOU LOOK AWFULLY FAMILIAR SOMEHOW...

AND WHEN WE GROW UP WE'LL CHANGE THE WORLD OURSELVES!

I wish I was a boy again...

AND THE WINNER OF THE
SCHOOL'S ESSAY CONTEST, ON
THE UNUSUAL TOPIC OF GLOBAL
WARMING, IS...REINA!

WHO...ME?

THAT'S RIGHT! YOUR DISCUSSION OF
THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE
CHANGE AND POLLUTION ON AN ISLAND
ECOSYSTEM WAS TOP-NOTCH.

IT'S AS IF YOU HAD
FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF
SUCH A CATASTROPHE!



CONGRATULATIONS,
REINA!

UH,
YEAH...

GOOD
FOR
YOU!



AS THE WINNER OF
OUR SCHOOL CONTEST,
YOU'LL BE READING YOUR
WORK AT THE STATE
COMPETITION!

STOP BY AFTER
CLASSES TODAY AND
WE'LL DISCUSS THIS
FURTHER.

O-O-KAY...

OOH, I AM
SO JEALOUS!
MR. BHAGWAT IS
SO-O-O-GUTE!

FOOBY!
ALL YOU
THINK
ABOUT
IS BOYS,
BASANTI!

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH BOYS!?

BOYS ARE FINE-I LOVE
MY BROTHERS AND MY BABAJI-
BUT DON'T LET THEM DISTRACT
YOU FROM YOUR STUDIES!

ARE WE STILL ON
FOR OUR TUTORING
SESSION, BASANTI?



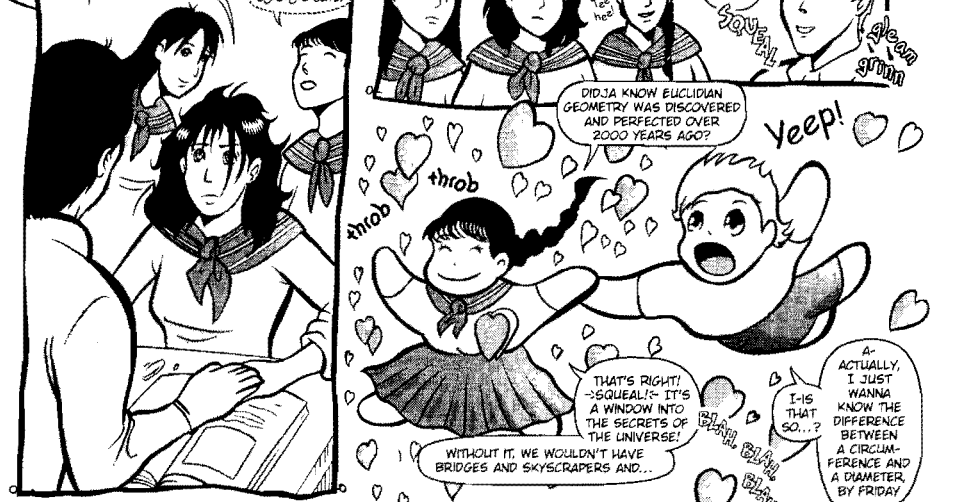
OF
COURSE,
TARUN!

SQUEE!

glee
grin

DIDJA KNOW EUCLIDIAN
GEOMETRY WAS DISCOVERED
AND PERFECTED OVER
2000 YEARS AGO?

Yeep!



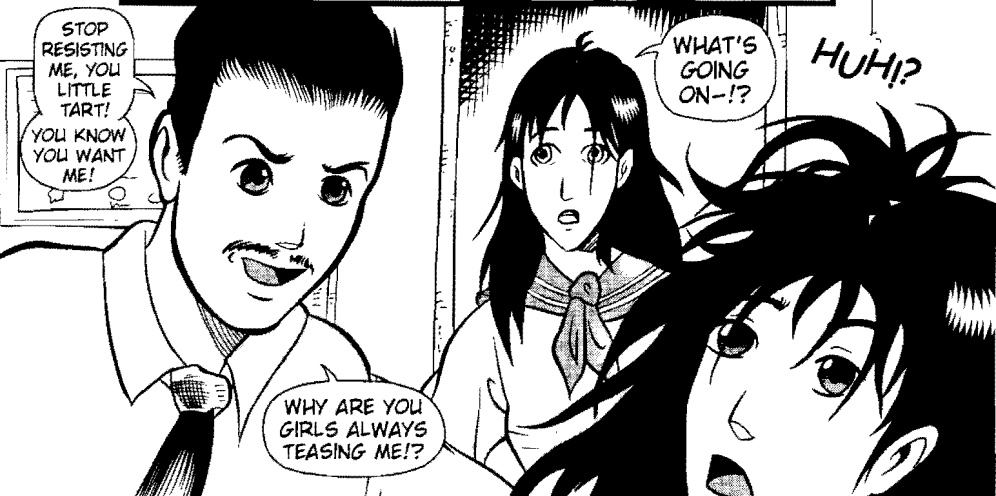
THAT'S RIGHT!
-SQUEAL!- IT'S
A WINDOW INTO
THE SECRETS OF
THE UNIVERSE!

WITHOUT IT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE
BRIDGES AND SKYSCRAPERS AND...

A-
ACTUALLY,
I JUST
WANNA
KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
A CIRCUM-
FERENCE AND
A DIAMETER.
BY FRIDAY
...

I-IS
THAT
SO...?

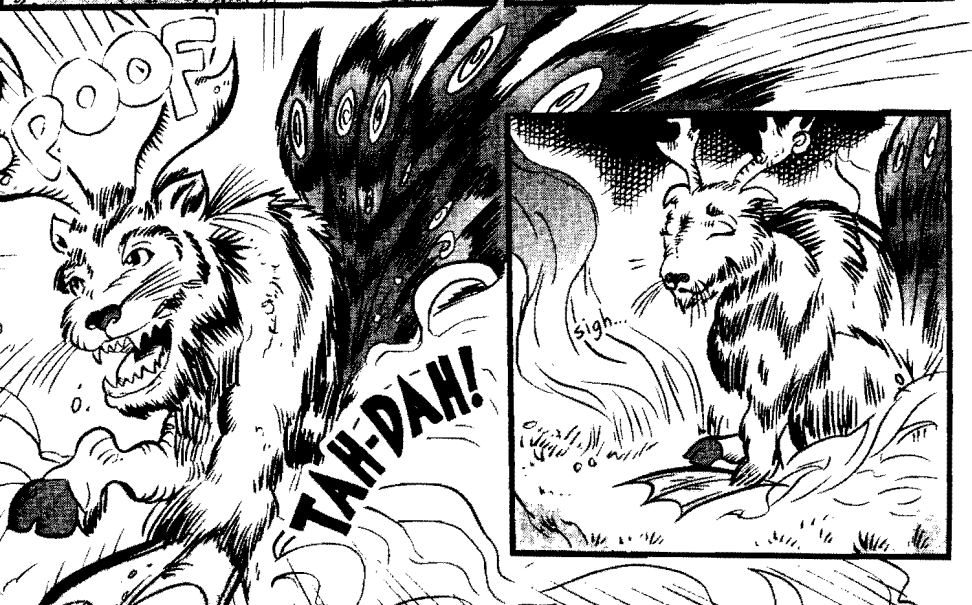
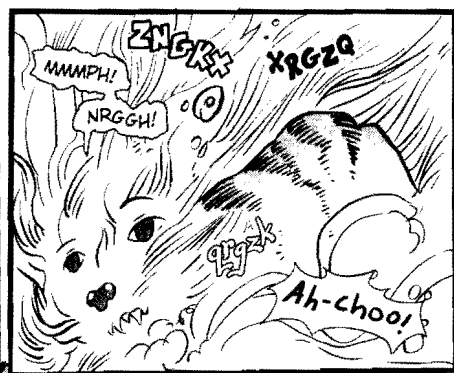
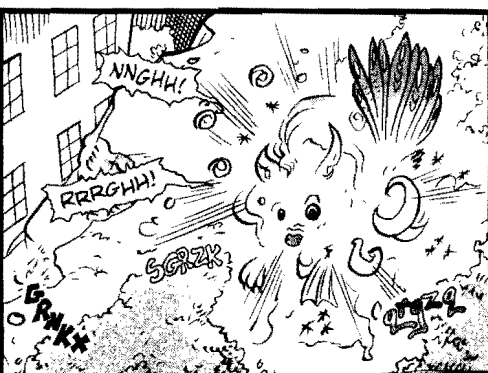
BLAH BLAH BLAH













...AND SO I SLUGGED 'IM!

YOU REALIZE THAT STRIKING A TEACHER IS GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE EXPUSSION?

REMEMBER WHAT YOU TAUGHT US, MRS. HAZARE?

THOSE WHO DON'T LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT!

WELL I TAUGHT HIM A LESSON HE WON'T FORGET!

ERR...THAT'S NOT EXACTLY THE POINT OF THAT APHORISM...

ANYWAY--LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS OF THIS CASE BEFORE WE DISCUSS PHILOSOPHY.

WHY AM I TO BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T LEAD HIM ON?

I'M NOT SORRY!

WHAT IF HE TRIES THAT CRAP AGAIN ON SOMEONE ELSE!? SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DEFEND HIM-ER, HERSELF!

WHAT KIND OF TEACHER WOULD GO AFTER A STUDENT WHO LED HIM ON?

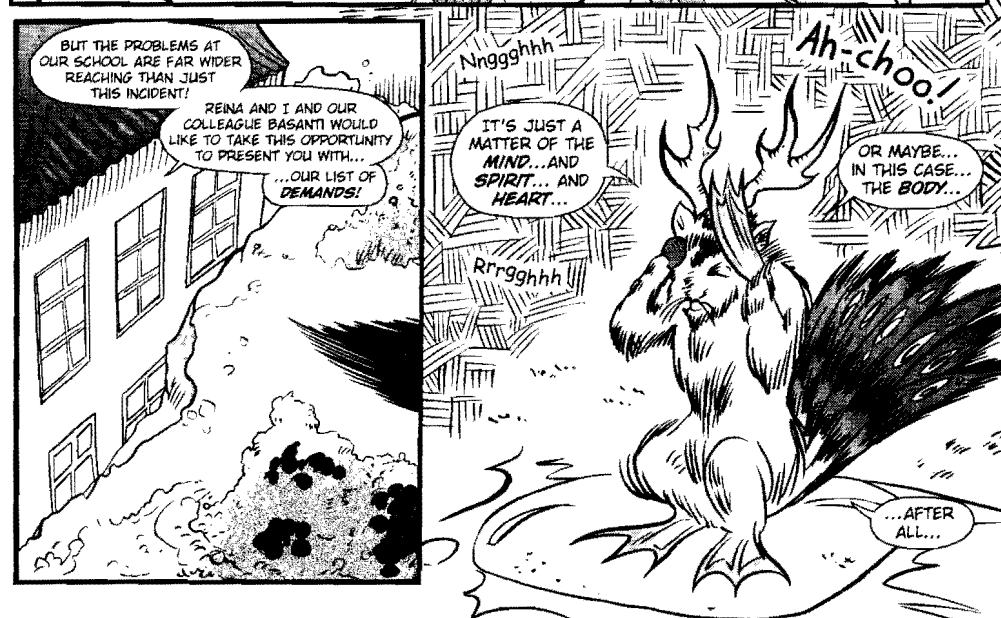


IF I MAY ADDRESS THE SCHOOL BOARD PLEASE!

WE'LL CALL ON YOU IN A MOMENT, MISS RAJANI. WAIT YOUR TURN.

IF YOU PLEASE...

I CAN CORROBORATE REINA'S STORY. I SAW EVERYTHING.



BUT THE PROBLEMS AT OUR SCHOOL ARE FAR WIDER REACHING THAN JUST THIS INCIDENT!

REINA AND I AND OUR COLLEAGUE BASANTI WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT YOU WITH...

...OUR LIST OF DEMANDS!

Nngggghhh

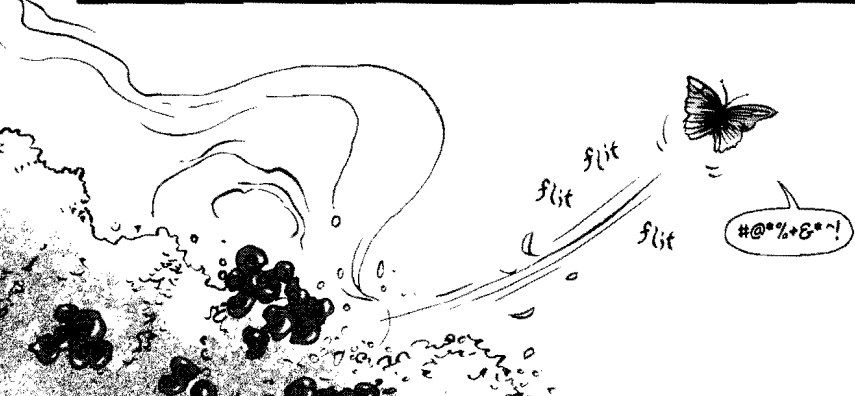
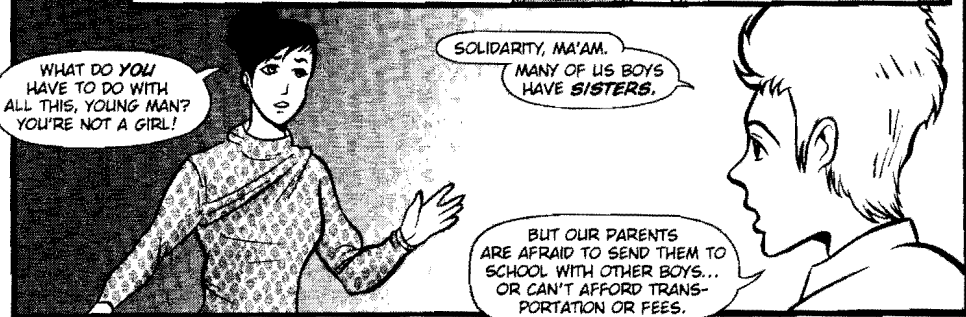
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF THE MIND...AND SPIRIT...AND HEART...

Rrrggghhh

Ah-choo!

OR MAYBE... IN THIS CASE... THE BODY...

...AFTER ALL...



"WE INSIST THAT GIRLS BE TREATED **EQUALLY** TO BOYS—AS WELL AS HAVE THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS ADDRESSED. WE ASK FOR A SEPARATE ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL STAFFED BY FEMALE TEACHERS.

WE EXPECT TO HAVE ONE TEXTBOOK PER GIRL, JUST LIKE THE BOYS, AND TO BE PERMITTED TO ENROLL IN UPPER DIVISION CLASSES SO WE CAN APPLY TO COLLEGES.

FURTHERMORE, WE REQUEST THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD BUILD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CLOSE TO SMALL VILLAGES AND TOWNS."

"EVERY ONE OF US KNOWS GIRLS WHO CAN'T EVEN WRITE **THEIR OWN NAME!** IT'S A TRAVESTY! UNCONSCIONABLE!"

WELL, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A BIG VOCABULARY...

"AND OF COURSE WE'LL NEED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POOR CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF ABILITY."

I SEE. WELL... YOUR PROPOSAL IS CERTAINLY THOROUGH...

HOW CAN YOU TAKE THESE CHILDREN SERIOUSLY? THEY'RE LIARS AND TROUBLE-MAKERS—BOTH OF THEM!

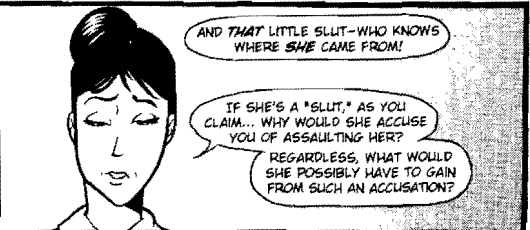
THAT ONE RAN AWAY FROM HER HUSBAND!



AND THAT LITTLE SLUT—WHO KNOWS WHERE **SHE** CAME FROM!

IF SHE'S A "SLUT," AS YOU CLAIM... WHY WOULD SHE ACCUSE YOU OF ASSAULTING HER?

REGARDLESS, WHAT WOULD SHE POSSIBLY HAVE TO GAIN FROM SUCH AN ACCUSATION?



HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH! THAT GIRL IS MY WIFE!

AND—SHE'S A THIEF! SHE STOLE FROM ME!



A THIEF!?

YOU, RAJANI...?



COOL!

So that's how you paid for my uniform...

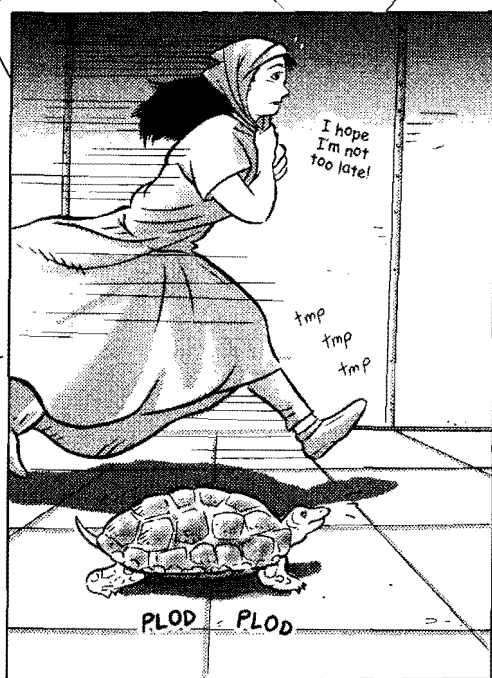
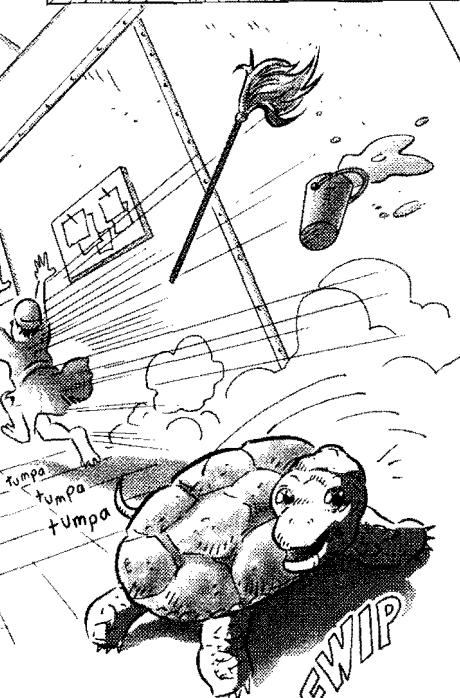
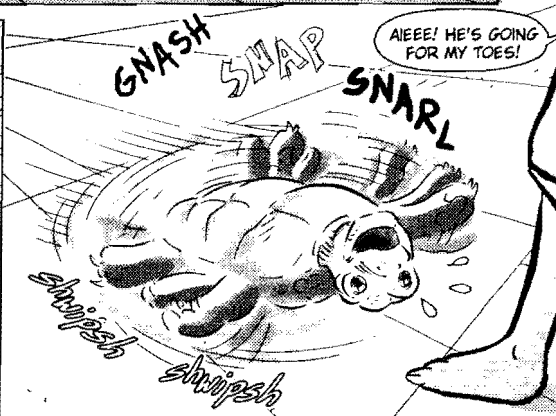
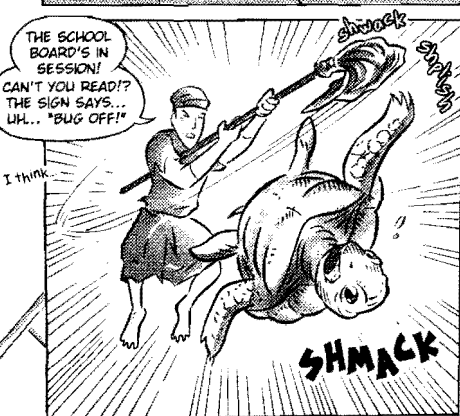
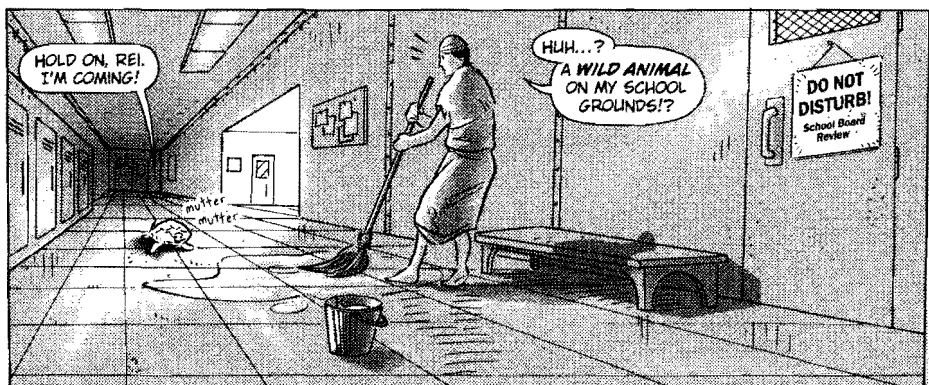


I COOKED AND CLEANED FOR HIM, DID THE BOOKS FOR HIS BUSINESSES FOR MONTHS... I CONSIDER IT BACK WAGES!

THAT GIRL BELONGS TO ME, AND SHE'S COMING HOME WITH ME!

THE ONLY EDUCATION SHE'LL GET FROM NOW ON IS FROM ME—AT THE END OF A STICK!







WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER RAJANI!?

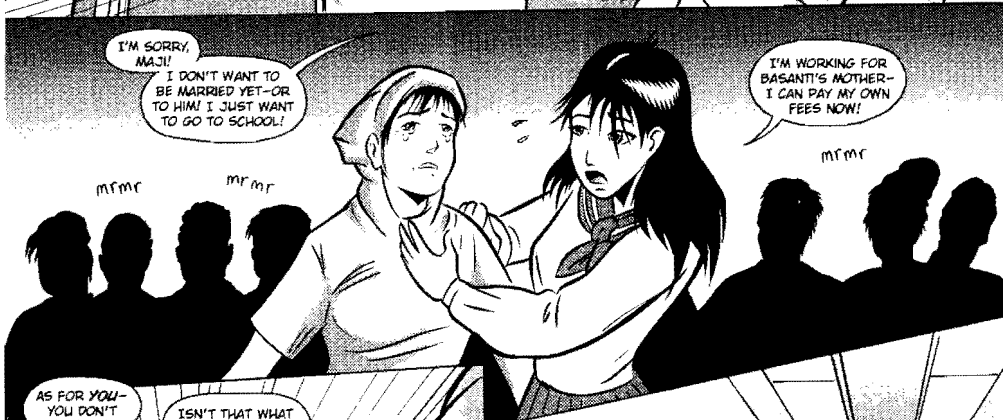
I SAW IN THE NEWS-PAPER SHE'S TESTIFYING IN A HEARING TODAY.

IS SHE IN TROUBLE? WHERE IS SHE!?

MRS. KANDATHIL, EXPLAIN TO YOUR STUBBORN DAUGHTER THAT SHE BELONGS TO ME NOW!

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE GENEROUS GIFTS I GAVE YOU ON TOP OF DOING YOU THE FAVOR OF TAKING THIS ILL-TEMPERED GIRL OFF YOUR HANDS!?

Bah!



I'M SORRY, MAJI!

I DON'T WANT TO BE MARRIED YET--OR TO HIM! I JUST WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL!

I'M WORKING FOR BASANTI'S MOTHER-- I CAN PAY MY OWN FEES NOW!

mfmf

mfmf

mfmf



AS FOR YOU-- YOU DON'T OWN ME!

SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY OVER 100 YEARS AGO!

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU TAUGHT US IN HISTORY CLASS, MRS. HAZARE...?

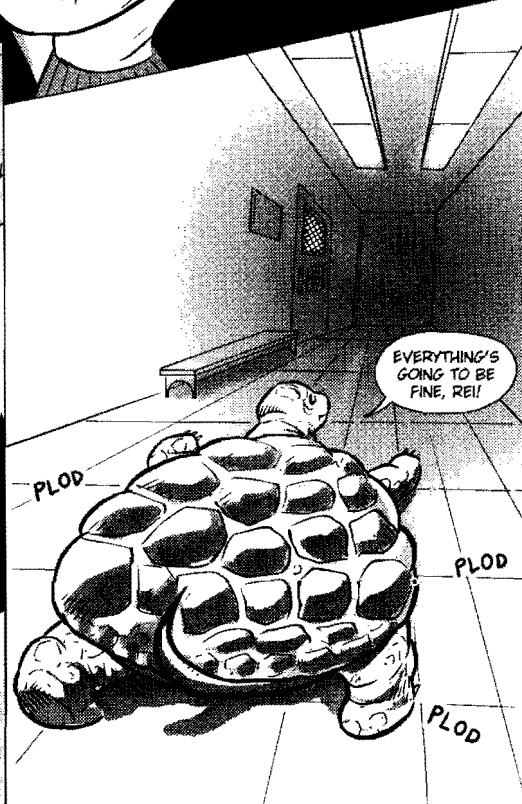
BESIDES, I DON'T LOVE YOU!

"LOVE"? WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT LOVE!?

I NEED A STRONG YOUNG WIFE TO BEAR MY CHILDREN AND KEEP MY HOME!

PEEH! BAD ENOUGH YOU HAVE A MIND OF YOUR OWN-- EVEN WORSE THAT YOU SPEAK IT!

FULL OF MODERN IDEAS... I'D NEVER HAVE A MOMENT'S PEACE WITH YOU IN MY HOUSE ANYWAY!

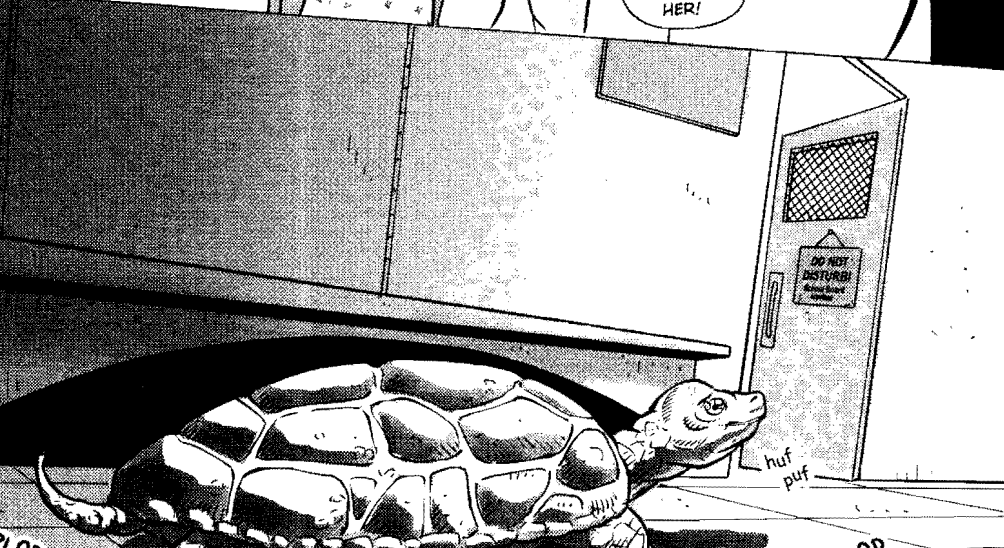


EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE, REI!

PLOD

PLOD

PLOD



AHEM...!
JUST A
MOMENT, SIR!

YOU ARE AWARE THAT OUR
LAWS DO NOT PERMIT
THE MARRIAGE OF GIRLS
UNDER SEVENTEEN?

I HAPPEN TO BE THE MAGISTRATE OF THIS PROVINCE AS WELL AS THE
HEAD OF THIS SCHOOL BOARD, AND I HEREBY ANNUL THIS MARRIAGE
AND PINE YOU YOUR SO-
CALLED GIFTS, PAYABLE
TO THIS GIRL'S FAMILY
AS REPARATIONS FOR
MACHINATING THIS
ARRANGEMENT...

chak

Unki
Y-YES,
MA'AM...

B-BUT! HER
FAMILY AGREED TO
THE BARGAIN!

HMPH. OUT OF
SHEER DESPERATION...
FAR GREATER THAN
YOURS, I'LL
WARRANT!

OR
PERHAPS
NOT...

I WISH YOU
THE BEST, SIR,
IN YOUR SEARCH
FOR A WOMAN
WITHOUT IDEAS
TO MARRY YOU...
IN FACT, THAT
MIGHT BE YOUR
BEST CHANCE
AT FINDING
ONE WHO WILL
HAVE YOU!

B-BUT...HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH,
MA'AM. IT WASN'T WHAT I WANTED... BUT
IT WASN'T AGAINST MY WILL EITHER.

I AGREED BECAUSE
MY FAMILY WAS STARVING...
AND BECAUSE HE PROMISED
I'D BE ABLE TO CONTINUE
MY STUDIES.

WELL,
MY DEAR...

I BELIEVE OUR
SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS
LET YOU DOWN AS
BADLY AS YOUR
FAMILY AND FORMER
HUSBAND...

**SOME CHOICES A GIRL
SHOULD NEVER HAVE
TO MAKE.**

PRINCIPAL SINGH, THESE
STUDENTS HAVE MADE SOME
PROVOCATIVE SUGGESTIONS.

WILL YOU SUPPORT
THESE REFORMS?

NOW THEN!
AS FOR YOUR "DEMANDS"...I'LL SEE
TO IT THAT THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT WAIVES
SCHOOL FEES FOR POOR FAMILIES.

IN ADDITION, PARENTS WILL
RECEIVE GRAIN AND COOKING OIL
TO SUPPLEMENT LOST INCOME FROM
THEIR CHILDREN'S LABOR, SO THAT
THEY CAN ATTEND CLASSES
AND DO THEIR HOMEWORK.

HMPH. I HAVE
SOME IDEAS IN MY
HEAD, TOO!

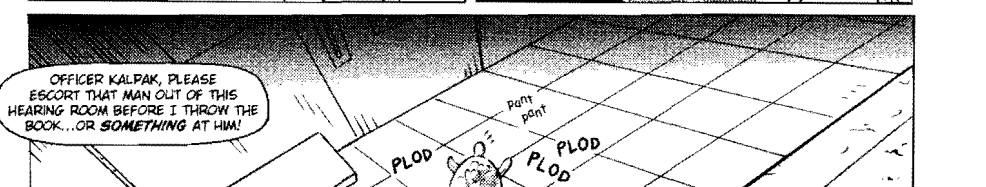
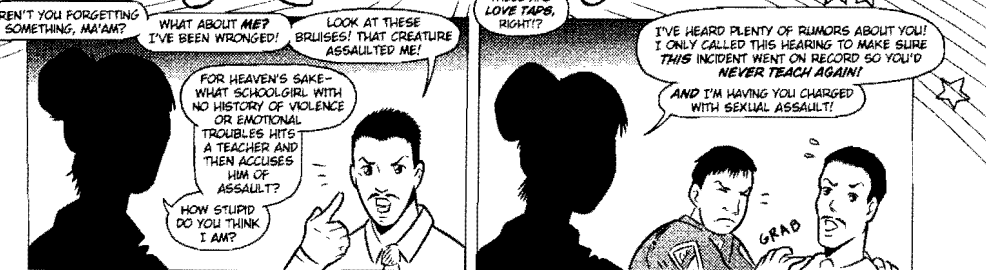
grumble

I
SUPPOSE
SO.

EXCELLENT.
IF NOT, I'LL
REPLACE
YOU...

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO
TRY MY HAND AT SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION MYSELF...

PLOD
PLOD
PLOD





WHAT THE-!?

RAJANI... WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME HOME...

BABAJI TOO? WHERE IS HE THEN?

I DIDN'T TELL BABAJI YOU WERE AT THIS HEARING...

BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW... AFTER YOU RAN AWAY, YOUR BABAJI TOLD ME IF YOUR HUSBAND CAME LOOKING FOR YOU, NOT TO TELL HIM A THING!

gasp

SKREECH

ALL RIGHT, DAUGHTER. I SEE YOU'VE GROWN UP SINCE YOU WERE HOME LAST.

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS NOW.

WE'LL SEE YOU BETWEEN TERMS, YES?

I DON'T WANT TO COME HOME NOW.

I WANT TO STAY AT THIS SCHOOL AND HELP SEE THE CHANGES THROUGH.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, REINA...? WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

CONGRATULATIONS, GIRLS. I'M PROUD OF YOU.

YOU'VE TAKEN THE LESSONS OF HISTORY TO HEART AND SHOWN THAT WHEN A WOMAN PUTS HER MIND TO IT, SHE CAN ACCOMPLISH ALMOST ANYTHING!

YEAH...

A "WOMAN"...

sigh...

REL... I'M HERE TO HELP!

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT DO YOU NEED...?

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?

YOU'RE A...A...

NOW YOU SHOW UP!?

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, DON'T YOU THINK?

Hmph!

I NEED A TURTLE LIKE A... UH... FISH NEEDS A BICYCLE!

OH! I KNOW WHY YOU LOOK SO FAMILIAR, REINA!

UH... PROBABLY THAT DÉJÀ VU THING WE LEARNED ABOUT IN SCIENCE! YOU KNOW—WHERE THE PATH BETWEEN THE TWO HEMISPHERES OF THE BRAIN SENDS A SIGNAL TWICE, SO YOU THINK YOU'VE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING BEFORE, BUT ACTUALLY—

NO—NOT THAT!

I HAD A STUDENT TWO YEARS AGO WHEN I TAUGHT AT A BOARDING SCHOOL UP NORTH WHO COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR TWIN SISTER!

HER NAME WAS... UH... LET ME SEE...

I'M SORRY, REI. IT'S MY ALLERGIES.

ALL THAT POLLEN... —SNIFFLE— I CAN'T TRANSFORM PROPERLY...

AS FOR YOU TRANSFORMING INTO... THINGS...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY...

THIS IS THE "HELP" YOU'VE BROUGHT!?

IT'S ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE... AZUSA! THAT'S IT!

"AZUSA"? ARE YOU SURE?

YES! WHY? DO YOU KNOW HER?

WHAT ABOUT HER FAMILY? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM!?

I—I NEVER MET THEM.

OH... EXCEPT I DO REMEMBER ONE THING—SHE LOST AN OLDER BROTHER YEARS AGO DURING WARTIME...

SHE WROTE A VERY MOVING ESSAY ABOUT IT.

THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO NOW!

FIND MY SISTER!

AZUSA IS YOUR LONG-LOST SISTER!?

EEP!

OH, REINA! I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

ME TOO!

UHH... WHY'RE WE SO HAPPY REINA'S LEAVING? I THOUGHT WE LIKED HER!

GROUP HUG?

GO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER TUTOR AND DON'T BOTHER ME AGAIN UNTIL YOU'VE GROWN UP!

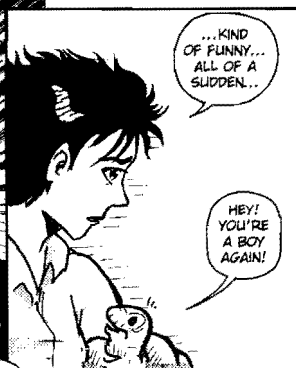
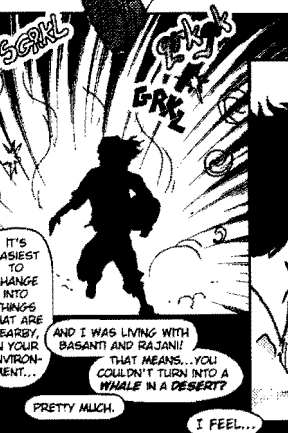
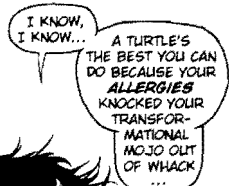
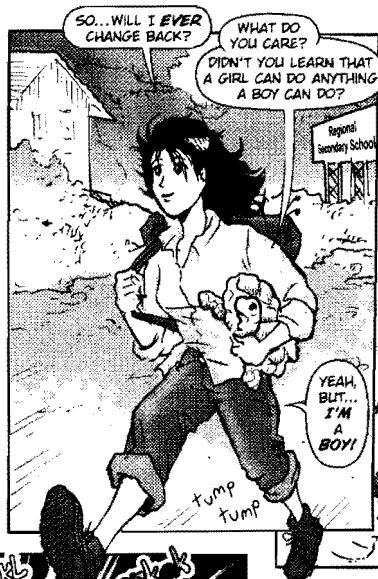
AND I DON'T MEAN TALLER!

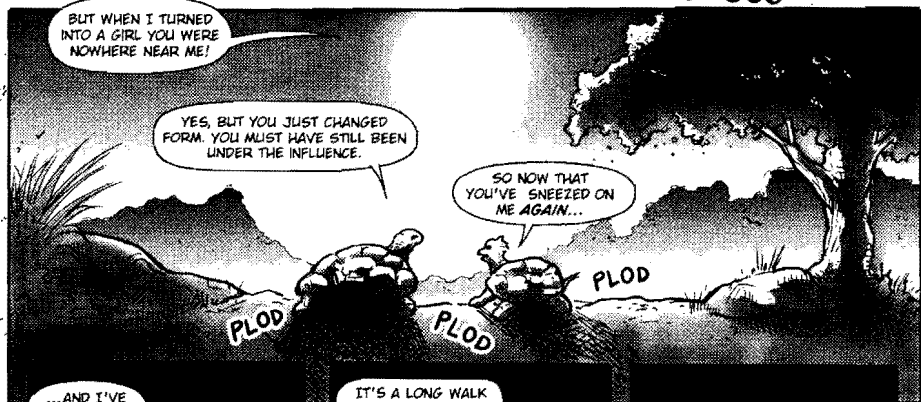
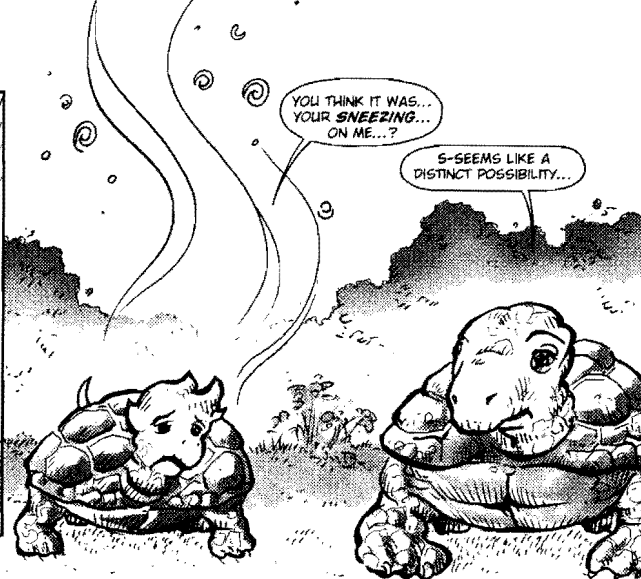
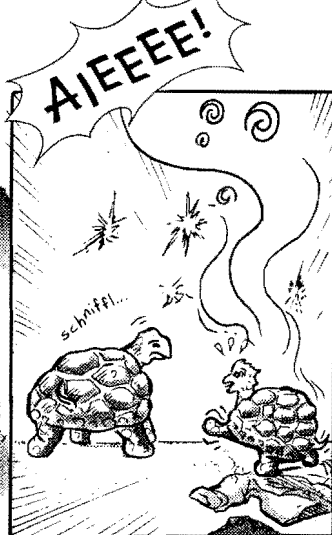
Krek

AS SOON AS THAT ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL OPENS UP, I'M TRANSFERRING!

WE'RE SICK OF BOYS! RIGHT, REINA?

UH... RIGHT!





OUR WORLD, 1 WORLD

GIRLS' EDUCATION

DID YOU KNOW?

- Around the world, over 100 million children aged 6 to 11 don't go to school—and more than 55 million of them are girls.
- Two-thirds of the world's 875 million illiterate adults (adults who can't read) are women.
- 150 million children enrolled in school will drop out before completing primary school—and at least 100 million of them will be girls.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 64 percent of girls reach grade 5 and more than half of girls don't even finish primary school.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa 40 million children don't go to school, and 22 million of them are girls.
- In South Asia, 30 million children are out of school, and 17 million of them are girls.
- In the Arab States, 7 million children don't go to school, and 4 million of them are girls.

Education enhances lives. It empowers individuals, society, nations, and the world as a whole. Educated girls and boys have a better chance of leading healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous lives. As they grow up, they take more active, powerful roles in their societies. They make more effective social, economic and political decisions that can improve their communities and their countries. That's why making sure that all girls and boys get a quality primary education has become one of the eight "Millennium Development Goals" adopted by the United Nations—because it's such a basic way to reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of poor people around the world. Yet in many parts of the world, girls are deprived of their right to an education, at great cost to themselves, their families, and their countries.

The Millennium Development Goals are a set of eight targets adopted by all the member states of the United Nations to combat poverty.

They are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development (improving countries)

For more information, check out: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

THE MANY BENEFITS OF EDUCATING GIRLS

Educating girls not only fulfills a basic human right, but also has enormous economic and social benefits—in fact, it is one of the best investments that a country can make! So what are the advantages?

- By bringing educated women into the workforce, a country can increase its income, economic growth, and productivity. As a matter of fact, evidence shows that educating girls generally produces greater gains in productivity and income than educating boys!

One World Bank study found that an extra year of education increases girls' wages by up to 20 percent, and that the overall returns on primary education were slightly higher for girls than for boys. Another study showed that increasing the number of women with secondary education can boost a country's annual income growth per capita (per person).

- Educated girls tend to marry later, have fewer children, and stay healthier. They have a lower risk of being infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. It's also more likely that their children will be healthier and better-educated. For example, research shows that just one extra year of education on the part of a mother can reduce her infant's mortality by as much as 10 percent!
- Education empowers women within their families and communities, enabling them to make better choices and decisions about their welfare and to take more active roles in their communities.

SO WHY IS EDUCATION OUT OF REACH FOR SO MANY GIRLS IN POOR COUNTRIES?

In the developed world, girls perform better than boys in the classroom. In stark contrast, in the developing world, girls lag behind boys. Recent international studies show boys ahead of girls in all of the low-income countries surveyed. In the developing world, economic and social reasons often conspire to prevent girls from getting the education they deserve. Many poor countries don't have the resources to provide free basic education for all a family's children, so parents must pay tuition or other fees to enable their children to go to school. For poor families, fees can amount to 20 to 30 percent of household income!

In many traditional societies, sons are expected to remain in the family and look after their aging parents, while daughters are expected to join their husbands' families when they marry. That's why many poor parents without much money to spare educate their sons rather than their daughters. Until they marry, girls are expected to stay home, help with the housework, and care for younger siblings.

Parents in traditional societies are often more reluctant to allow their girls to go out of the home for fear that they may be attacked or sexually assaulted, thus compromising their opportunities for marriage. Increasing parents' concern for their daughters' safety and reputation is the fact that in regions where schooling is scarce, girls often have to travel great distances to get to school. Moreover, many schools in developing countries do not provide environments conducive for educating girls. Teachers are usually male in societies that are male dominated, creating a classroom environment that discourages girls from speaking up or taking part, and textbooks often perpetuate gender stereotypes.

MARRYING TOO YOUNG; FOREGOING A DECENT EDUCATION

The practice of early marriage is another barrier to educating girls. In parts of the developing world such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, girls marry at a very young age, often before or shortly after they reach puberty. While many countries have set minimum age requirements for marriage, in practice, these laws are often ignored. A survey in one state in India found that 14 percent of girls were married between the ages of 10 and 14. In some West African countries, it is not uncommon for 7- or 8-year-old girls to be married!

Poverty is often the root cause of early marriage. Poor families may choose to marry off their daughters early to reduce the financial burden on their households. Tradition may be another—certain cultures may value the "purity" and submissiveness of child brides. Once they are married, girls usually leave school, putting an early end to their chances for a decent education.

For more information, check out UNICEF's fact sheet on early marriage:
www.unicef.org/protection/files/earlymarriage.pdf

WHAT CAN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DO?

Harnessing the full educational potential of girls and women in developing countries can be a key to eradicating poverty and enriching societies. Thus, ensuring girls' access to a quality education should be a top priority for the international community.

Education for All (EFA) is one major international initiative to give every girl—and boy—in developing countries a good, free and even compulsory primary school education. World leaders recognized that with 100 million children out of school, it would be impossible to achieve universal primary education without a drastic effort. In response, in 2002,

the EFA initiative was created as the first-ever global agreement on education to help low-income countries achieve a free, universal, basic education by 2015.

To help countries achieve the EFA goals, rich donor countries partnered with those countries most in need to help them develop good education plans that would allow all kids to complete their schooling. Under this global partnership, called the Education for All—Fast Track Initiative (FTI), rich countries commit to provide financial and technical support to help countries develop sound national education plans. Twenty-one countries are currently receiving support from FTI, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mauritania, Moldova, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Vietnam, and Yemen.

To learn more, check out:

- www.worldbank.org/education/efaiti
- www.unesco.org/education/efa_report

HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES GET MORE GIRLS IN SCHOOL?

At the national and local levels, a number of practical measures, big and small, can make a difference, including:

- Relieve the financial burden of sending girls to school by eliminating school fees and offering scholarship and grant programs
- Make it easier for girls to get to school by building more schools closer to their homes accessible by better roads and/or access to transportation
- Create a girl-friendly school environment by recruiting more female teachers, implementing curricula without gender stereotypes, and installing latrines and other facilities that ensure a safe and sanitary environment for girls.

WHAT CAN I DO?

LEARN MORE.

- Read up on girls' education at www.worldbank.org/education. Check out some real-life stories about how education has improved girls' lives in Ethiopia, India, and Bolivia, and other countries at www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index_reallives.html.
- Get more news and background information at <http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation>, youthink.worldbank.org/issues/education, www.savethechildren.org/education/girls.asp, and www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=6947.

DONATE A BOOK!

- Check out the Book Aid International website and see how you can donate books to their program, which provides over 700,000 books and journals each year to developing countries. See www.bookaid.org.

HELP BUILD A SCHOOL!

- Help Habitat for Humanity construct a school. Check out their international "Global Village Program"!

USE YOUR EDUCATION TO WRITE LETTERS!

- Write to your elected officials about supporting girls' education initiatives. Check out other ways to get involved in www.savethechildren.org/action

Coming Next Issue



On the trail of a member of his lost family, Rei witnesses a community tragedy he just can't walk away from. But one boy's—er, man's—heroics aren't the way to uncover the dark secrets and conspiracy that led to this breaking of the public's trust! Now Rei must learn the meaning of patience as he teams up with an investigative journalist and the daughter who longs to follow in her parent's footsteps. Will justice be served? And will Rei ever be reunited with his family...?

DID YOU MISS THE LAST FOUR ISSUES OF 1 WORLD MANGA!?

Order at store.viz.com or your friendly bookstore or online bookseller!

All proceeds go to Reading is Fundamental!



1 WORLD MANGA: Passage 1: POVERTY—A Ray of Light

The stakes get high when Rei meets a young woman fighting just to survive! Can Rei vanquish the specter of poverty...?



1 WORLD MANGA: Passage 2: HIV/AIDS—First Love

Rei's new training journey takes him to the neon lights of the big city, where he meets some cool guys with smooth moves and falls head-over-heels for a feisty young cocktail waitress! But the woman he loves is hiding a terrible family secret...



1 WORLD MANGA: Passage 3: GLOBAL WARMING—The Lagoon of the Vanishing Fish

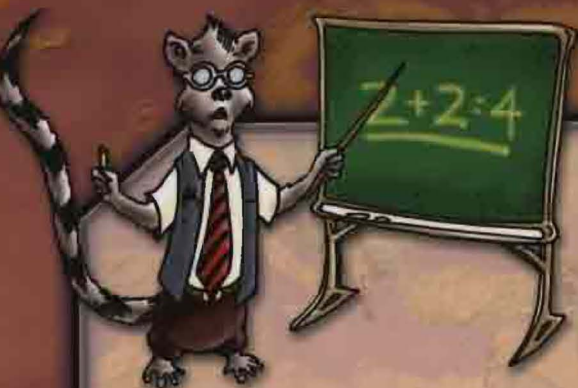
Rei travels to an island paradise complete with coral reefs, fluorescent fish, and pristine beaches! There he befriends an aged fisherman with nothing to catch... What is the secret behind the Lagoon of the Vanishing Fish? And can Rei stop the unseen forces threatening to swallow up this tropical sanctuary forever? Plus, SHARK ATTACK!



1 WORLD MANGA: Passage 4: CHILD SOLDIERS—Of Boys and Men

Mercenaries kidnap our hero and force him to fight in an illegal army side by side with other children ripped from their homes and families. Struggling just to survive from one day to the next, will Rei be able to escape, let alone lead his fellow child soldiers safely to freedom?





Girls' Education!

Teenage orphan Rei survives by his wits and guts on the mean streets of the world. His fortunes seem to look up when he meets a mysterious stranger who offers to help him achieve his dream of becoming the greatest martial artist ever... But Rei's trainer is more interested in developing his mind, spirit, and—ugh!—heart than his thrashing, raging, fighting moves! And Rei's master turns out to be a real animal! In fact, Rei never knows what animal he's going to turn into next!

Rei meets two best friends who can't wait to learn a lesson! You think getting up in time to beat the first bell is hard? These young women have much greater obstacles to overcome to get an education! Plus, Rei has a transformative experience—several, in fact—and learns about the animal kingdom and girls up close and personal!

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