100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café



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100 STORIES FROM THE TOKYO GHOST CAFE
is a GUPPY BOOK

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JULIAN SEDGWICK

100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café

CHIE KUTSUWADA

GUPPY BOOKS

ALSO BY JULIAN SEDGWICK AND CHIE KUTSUWADA

TSUNAMI GIRL

Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal, Highly Commended
for the UKLA Award, a White Raven Book 2022

'A coming-of-age tale like no other'
The Scotsman

'A unique collaboration . . . impressive and original'
Financial Times

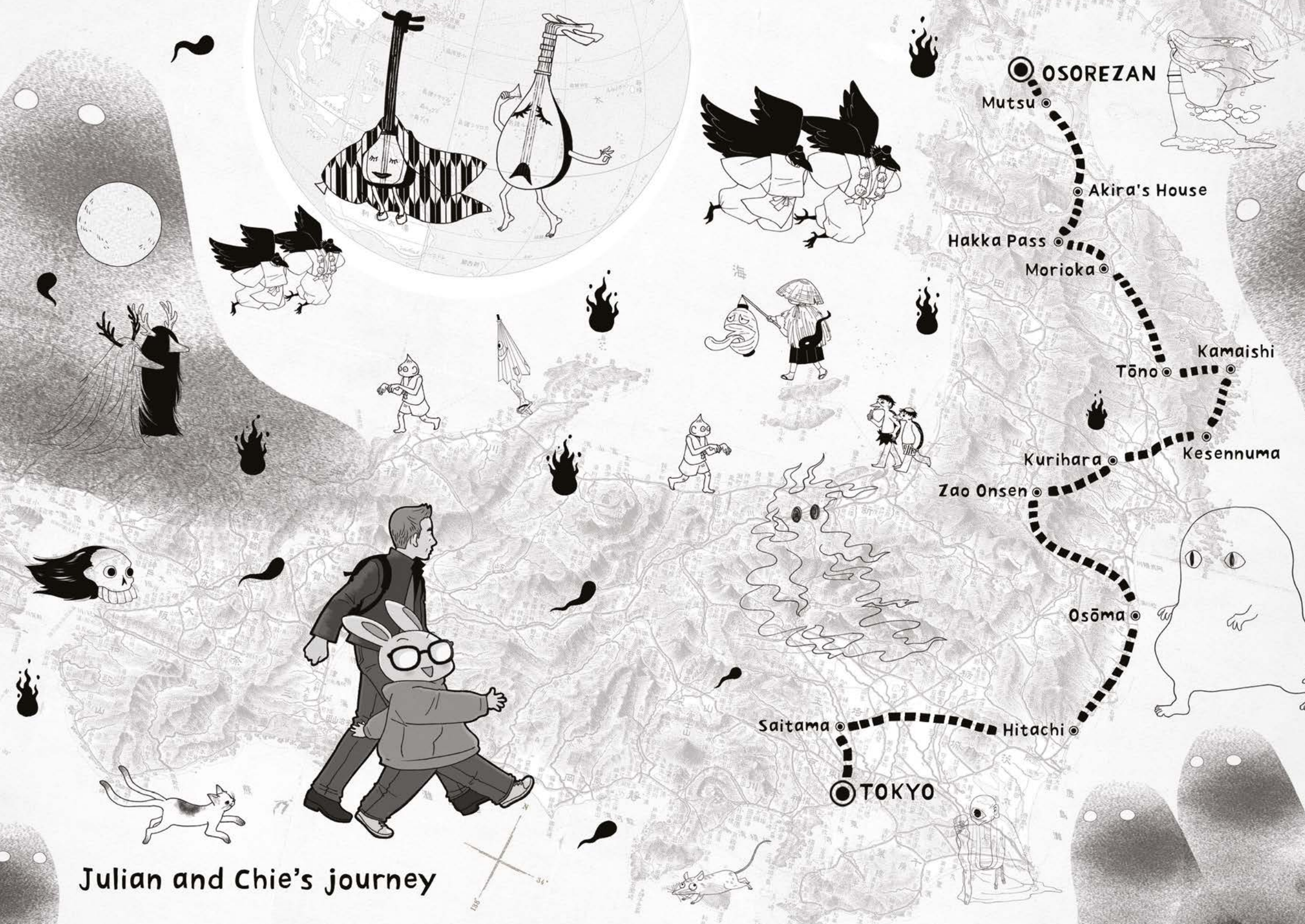
'Powerful and hugely original'
Independent

Chosen for the Read for Empathy Collection 2022

For Isabel and Joe and Will,
for all their love and support
JS

For my mum, brother, aunt S, uncle S, and our cat K.
And especially, for my dad, who is watching
over me from the other side.

CK



Julian and Chie's journey

Old Japan, dusk is falling.

People gather to play a game – the *Hyaku Monogatari Kaidan Kai* or the 'One Hundred Ghost Stories Party'. It has become something of a craze, both in the great city of Edo (now Tokyo), and in towns and villages the length of the country.

The players sit in an unlit room, whilst in a neighbouring space one hundred candles are lit, and a mirror placed on a table. Each guest will take turns to tell a ghost story, and then will make their way to the other room to extinguish one candle.
And then, perhaps, glance – quickly, anxiously – in the mirror.

As the night lengthens and the candlelit room darkens, the atmosphere grows heavy with the telling of encounters with *yōkai* monsters and famous stories of the otherworld.

Imagine what you might hear if you were playing the game. What story would you make up, or retell? A real one, a famous one – something from your own imagination?
And imagine what might happen as the hundredth story reaches its conclusion, and the final candle is blown out . . .

But now dusk is falling. It's *oumagatoki* – the time of transformation from day to night, from this world to the other. If you look closely at the *kanji* characters for that word – 逢魔時 – you might glimpse the word 魔 for 'demon' lurking in the middle.

Come with us on a journey to the far north of Japan, collecting stories of ghosts and strange creatures as we go, weaving them all together with manga to tell: *100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café* . . .


SHINJUKU, TOKYO
Julian-san!
This way!
こっちこっち!!
Hajimemashite. Yoroshiku onegai shimasu.
Kochira koso yoroshiku onegai shima-su!
Good to meet you for real at last, Chie-san!
Thanks for all your hard work on the last book.
にこにこ
Smile
I'm already looking forward to this next one.


But...
Are you sure you're really happy with the idea?
Wherever it leads?
I really need your help with the research so...
Ja, let's get started then! I know a place we should go...


Where are we going, Chie-san?
A little place in Golden Gai. Best place we could start!
"ゴールデン"街!!
I'm friends with Mama-san. Her place is for regulars only.
It's a hidden gem.
But I can get you in!


MAP
ok!
ほい!this way
こっち〜

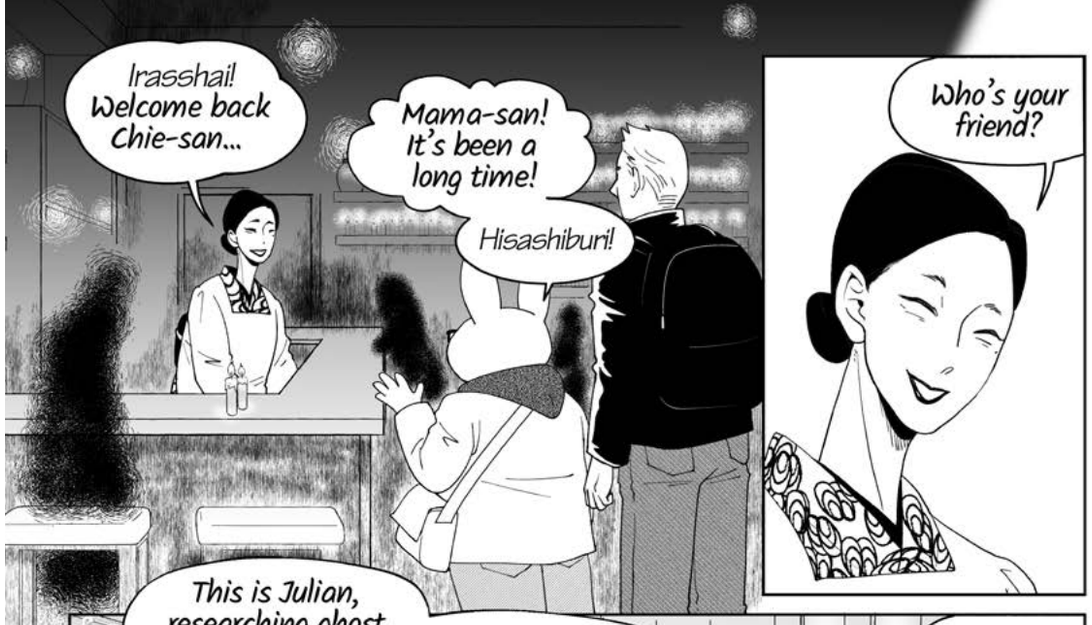

HANNAH
HIROSHI
This way
こっちこっち
飲


到着ー!!
It's here!

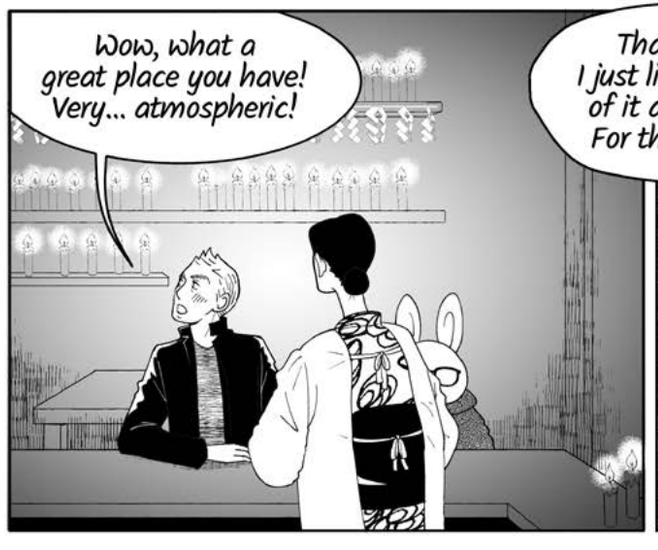

Tokyo Ghost Café?!
I don't remember this place.
BAR


Everything changes. 'Specially here, right?


Good Evening
こんばんは〜
If you want to write about ghosts and yōkai, Mama-san is kind of a specialist...


Irasshai! Welcome back Chie-san...
Mama-san! It's been a long time!
Hisashiburi!
Who's your friend?


This is Julian, researching ghost stories.
We're heading north on a field trip.
Konbanwa.
Ooooh. Interesting.


Wow, what a great place you have! Very... atmospheric!


Thank you. I just like to think of it as homely. For the right –
– people.


Hi, what've you got there?
A bird.
A special bird.
Want to show me?
I want to go home.


Your friend seems OK. but . . .
Does he know what he's letting himself in for?
I guess he'll find out.
Shrink!
That little lad seems kind of down.
He's a long way from home.
Got... lost.
Where did you say you were heading?
All the way to Osorezan.
Now that's a destination!
Osorezan literally means Fear Mountain!
It's where the spirits go When they die.


Then you could do me a big favour. Someone needs to help Akira-chan get home.
He's from near there. I can't leave this place...


I'm sure we could help.


I don't know – it's a long, tough journ
Hey, Akira-chan?


Where do you live?

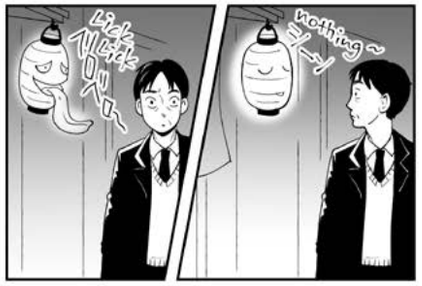

I - can't - - can't remember.


Great. That's settled.
Let me get you all some tempura. On the house.


He's had a rough time. Take care of him.
And yourselves.




コラ!!


Lick Lick Nom Nom
Nothing ~


Tasty prawn isn't it?
Yes Yummy!
om nom nom
モグモグ


Zzz...

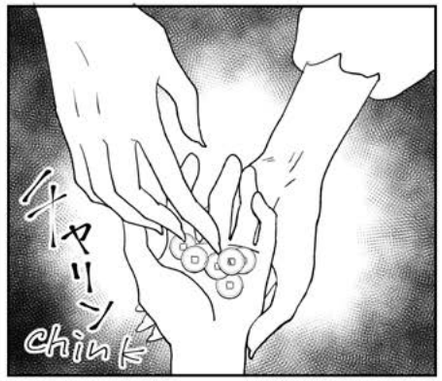

Gochisōsama deshita.
Ah, Chie-san!
I've made a list of places for you to visit.

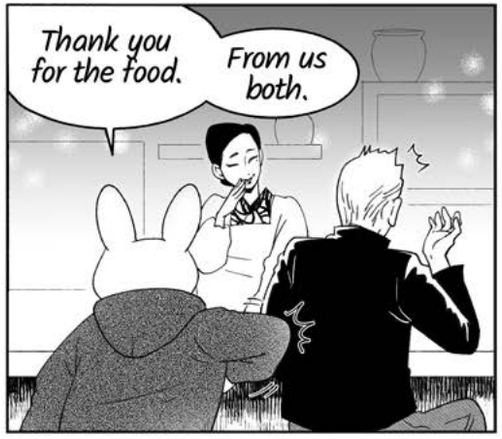

He'll find what he's looking for.
Zzz


And you, Akira...

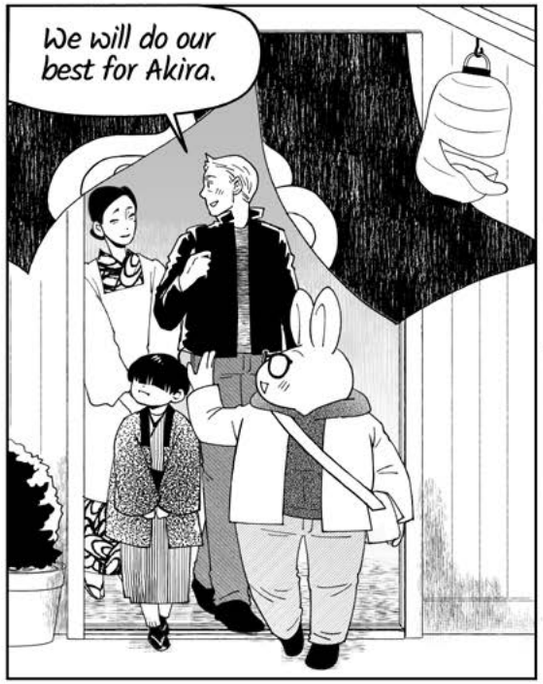



...So that you can pay your way, Akira.


チャリン
Chink

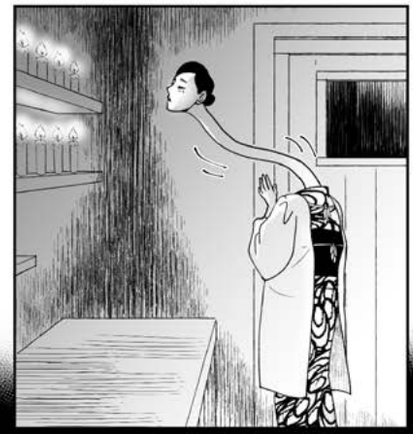

Thank you for the food.
From us both.


Sorry, jetlag.

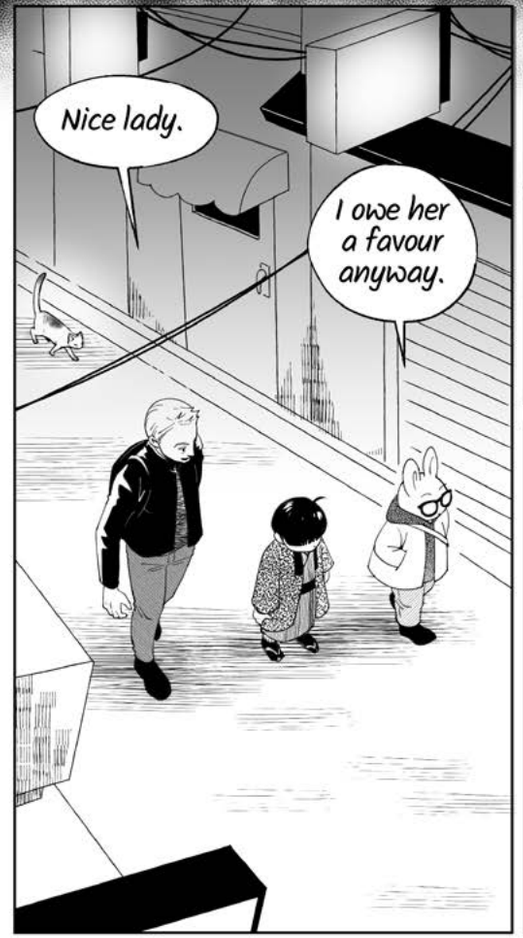

We will do our best for Akira.


Itterashai!
Be very careful now.

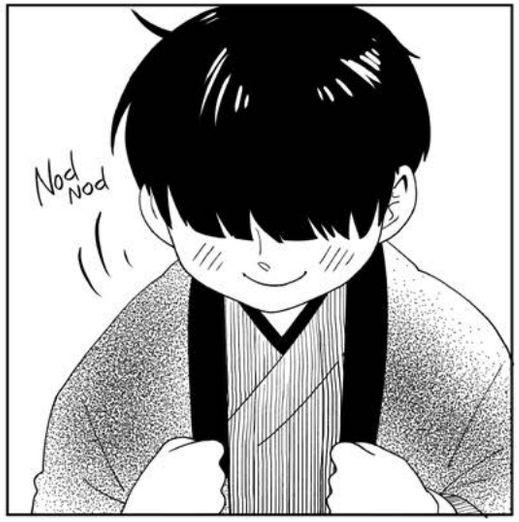





フーッ
Blow


Nice lady.
I owe her a favour anyway.


You ready, Akira-chan?


Nod Nod