

Episode 3

Watching a
revue at the
International
Theater until
this late hour!?

All by yourself!?
You're still in
elementary school!

Can you imagine how
much your mother must
be worried!?

It's alright,
dear.

But you even
asked the
police to search
for him!

I'm just glad Tsugu
got home safely...

Episode 3



Even while he
was being
fiercely scolded
by his father...

Tadatsugu's mind
was filled with
excitement from
the revue he had
just seen.





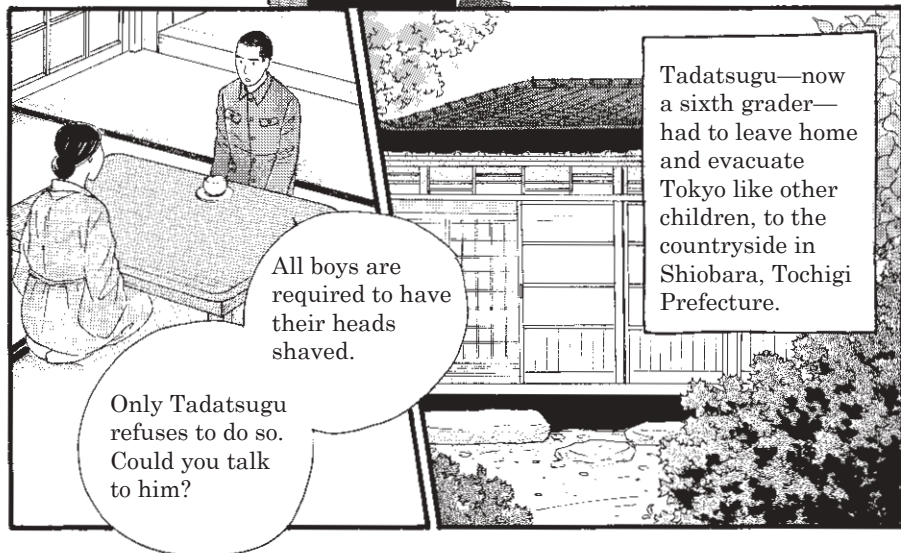
I heard it's now a factory for making balloon bombs.

They say that the International Theater has been closed as well.

The following year, in 1944, the war gradually escalated.

Yes, all because of the war...

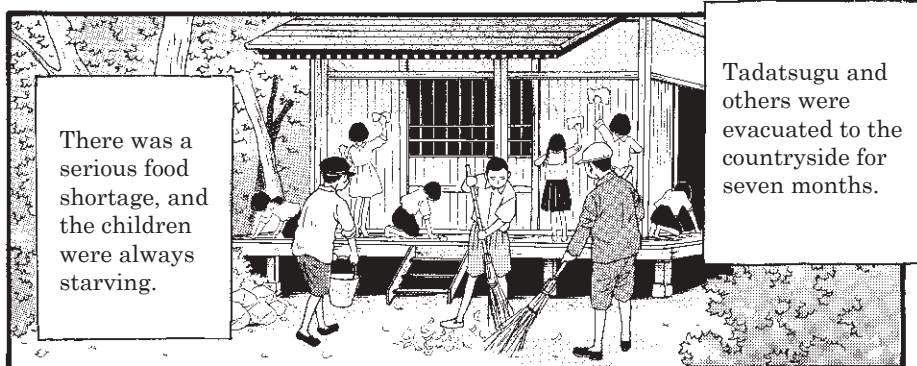
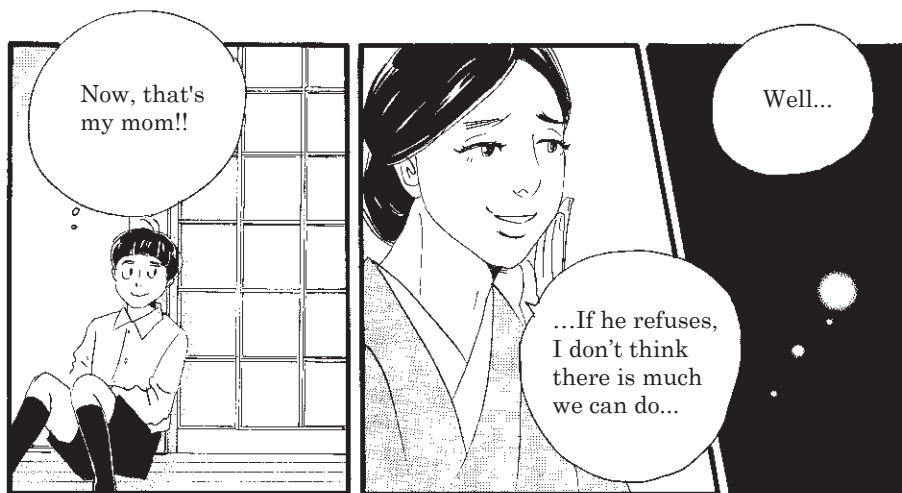
It's such a pity...



All boys are required to have their heads shaved.

Only Tadatsugu refuses to do so. Could you talk to him?

Tadatsugu—now a sixth grader—had to leave home and evacuate Tokyo like other children, to the countryside in Shiobara, Tochigi Prefecture.



Starving children picked and ate grass on the roadside and acorns in the mountains.

Some of them secretly ate the azuki beans stuffed inside beanbag toys.

The world is extremely unequal and unreasonable!!

What was the purpose of all that suffering and starvation?

Don't rush!
Take your time
and chew slowly.

It's good that sixth graders could come back to Tokyo earlier than the other children because of the graduation ceremony.



Your father is doing work for the Navy.

So we can get more things than other families.

March 10

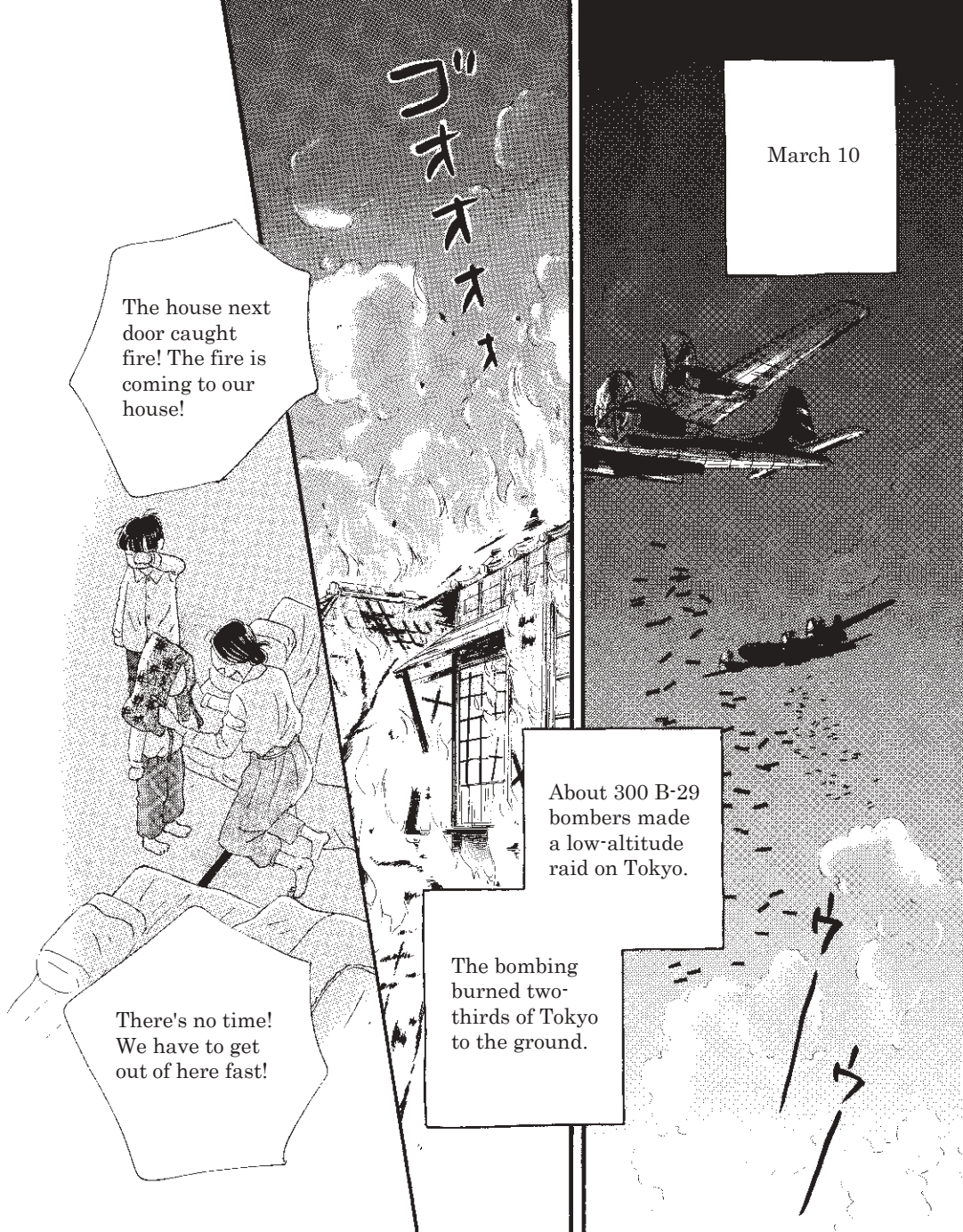
The house next door caught fire! The fire is coming to our house!

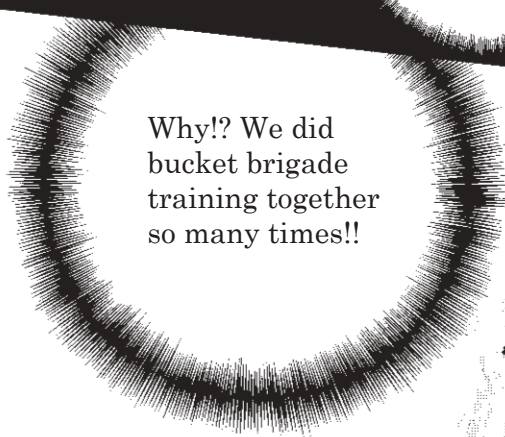
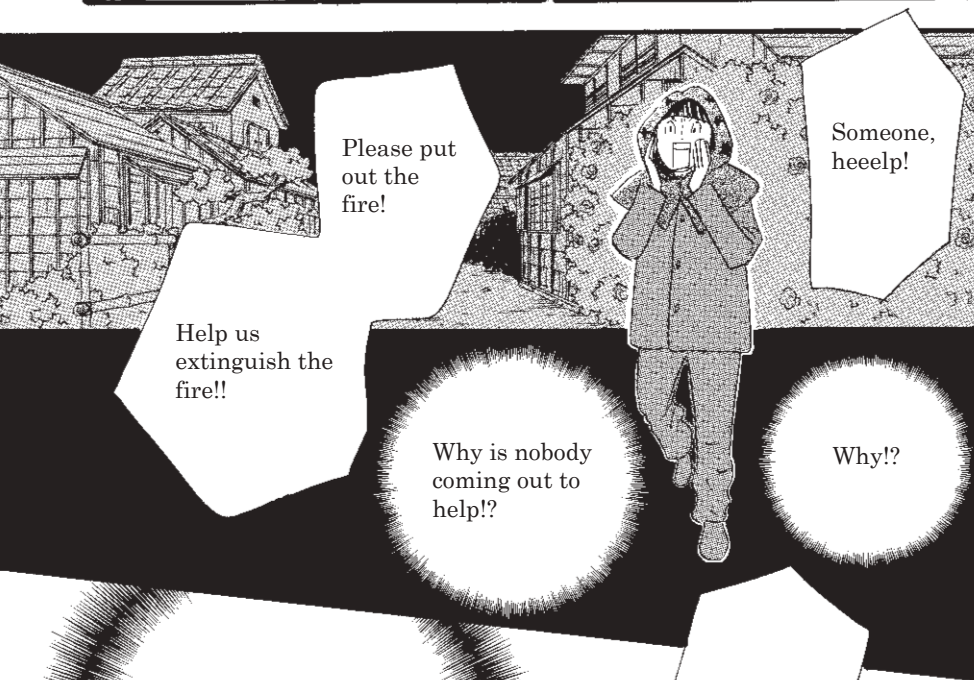
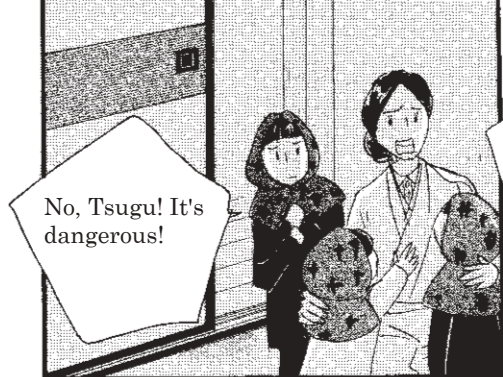
About 300 B-29 bombers made a low-altitude raid on Tokyo.

The bombing burned two-thirds of Tokyo to the ground.

There's no time!
We have to get out of here fast!

ブ
オ
オ
オ
オ






The war ended in
August 1945, but
Tokyo had been
reduced to ashes...

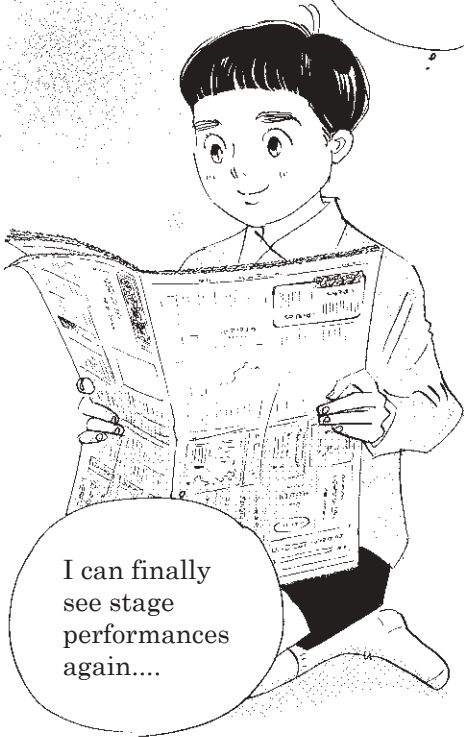
...leaving nothing
but a deep distrust
of adults and society
in Tadatsugu's
young heart.



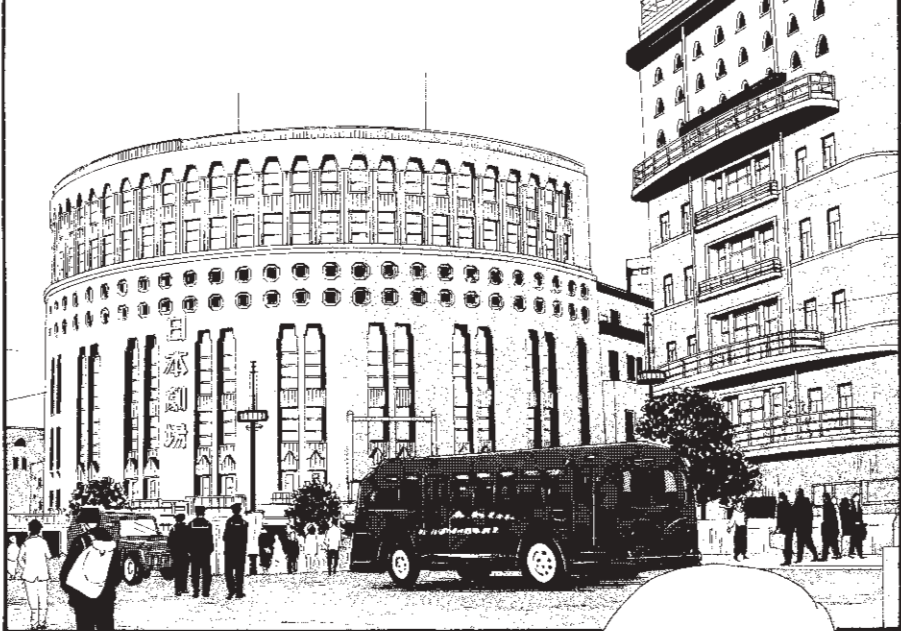


Three months
after the end
of the war

Oh, at last...



I can finally
see stage
performances
again....

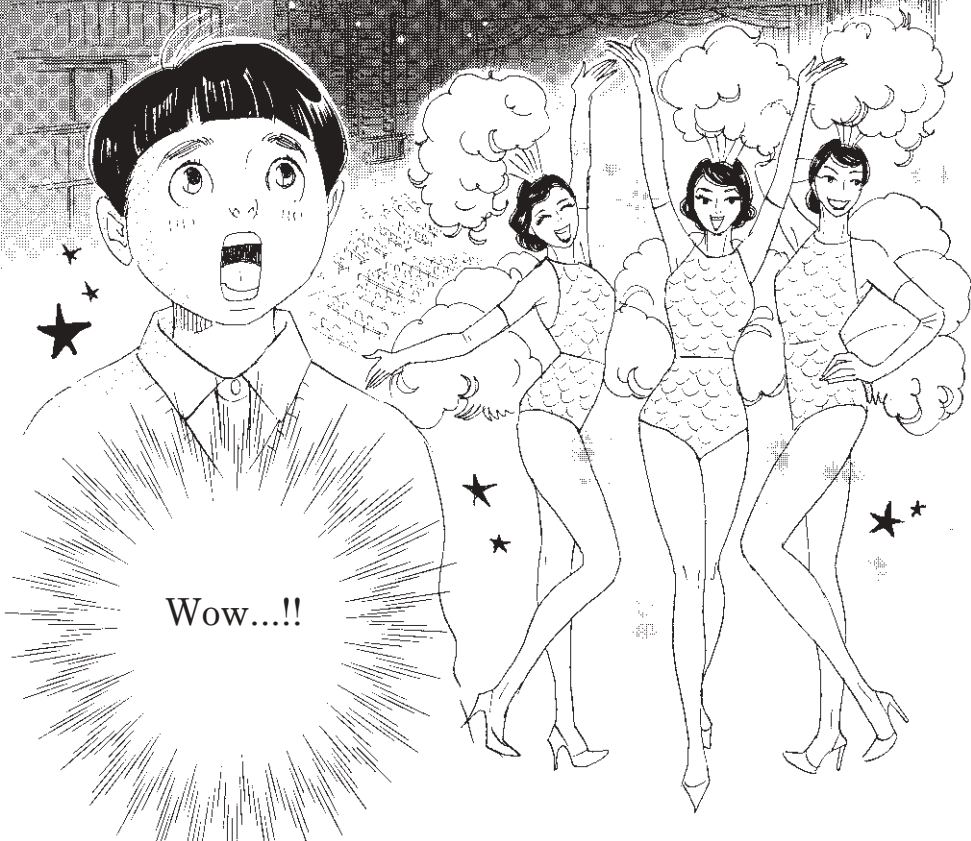


It's a miracle that
this building
survived the fire...



It's shoow tiiime!!

Wow....!!



But no.
It's not a
dream.

The war is
really over.

It feels like a dream.

Oh, it's so
beautiful...

Some day...



...some day,
I want to be part
of this miraculous
world!!



What!?

You want to do stage work!?

Time passed—

Calm down, dear...

What do you think you're talking about!! Dreaming of working in such a risky business!

I think it would be good for him to pursue art.

Tsugu has always been the most sensitive of our boys.

I knew mom would understand.

Hmmm...

Tadatsugu would soon graduate from university.

Oops!!

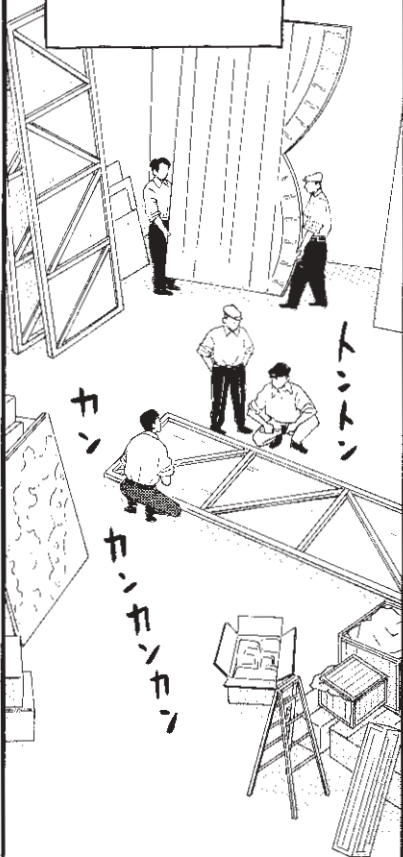
What are all
these
rubber-soled
shoes!!

Since this performance is an opera, won't shoe sounds on the stage distract the audience?

I though it would
be good if the
chorus wore these
rubber-soled shoes.

1955

After graduating from university, Tadatsugu joined a stage production company.





Excuse me.

I just thought
of it myself.

...Who?



Hey! That's a
good idea.
Who told you?



You're
right.

That new guy
is pretty
smart.



It was Tadatsugu's
first step toward
realizing his
future dream.