

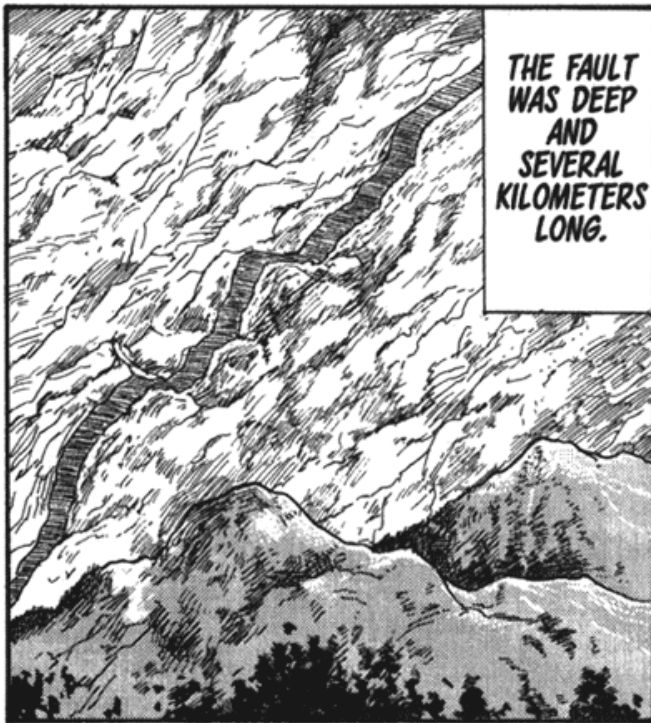
The Enigma of Amigara Fault



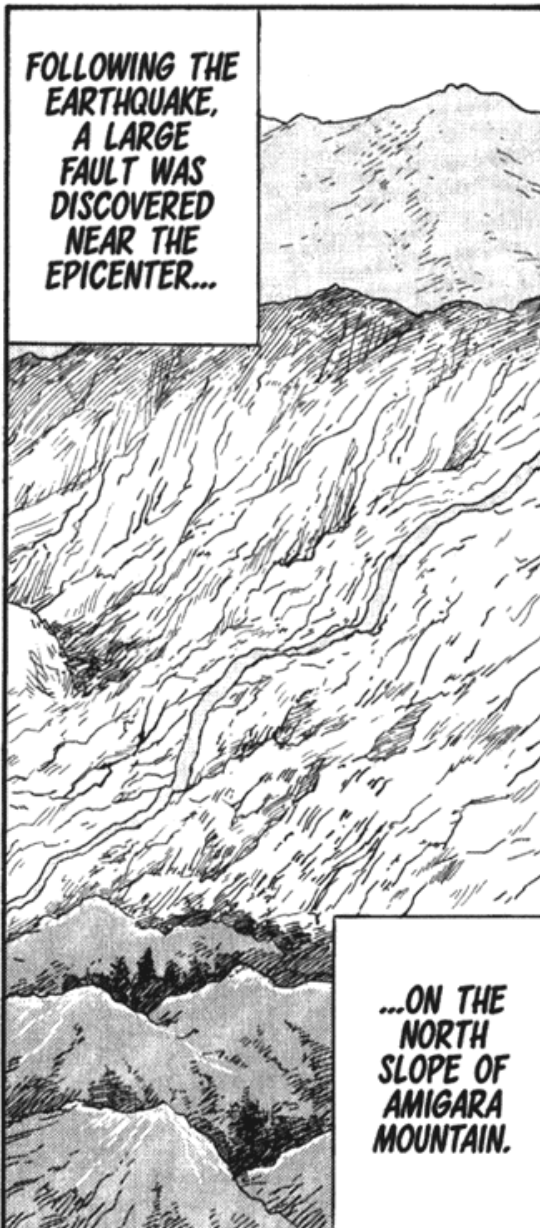


NOT TOO
LONG AGO,
THERE WAS
A GREAT
EARTHQUAKE
IN H—
PREFECTURE.

SEVERAL
TOWNS AND
VILLAGES
WERE
DEVASTATED.



THE FAULT
WAS DEEP
AND
SEVERAL
KILOMETERS
LONG.



FOLLOWING THE
EARTHQUAKE,
A LARGE
FAULT WAS
DISCOVERED
NEAR THE
EPICENTER...

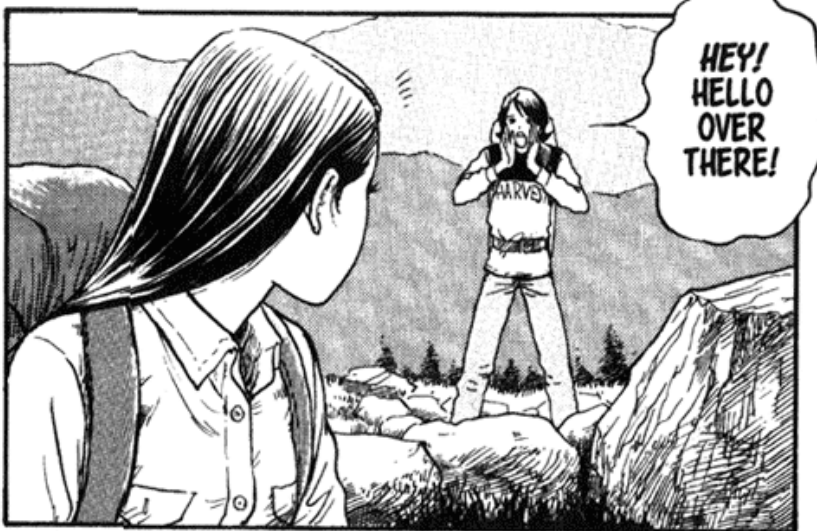


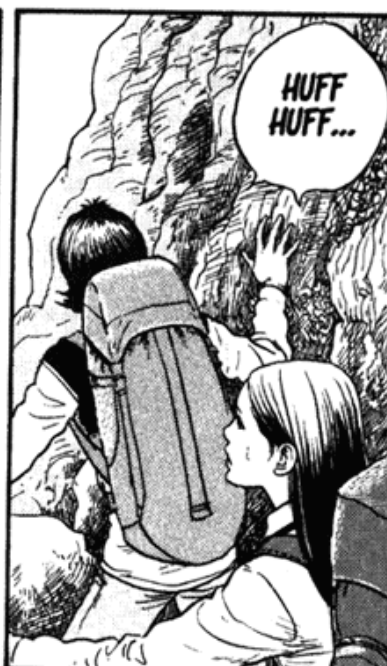
...OF THE
BEGINNING
OF THIS
STRANGE
INCIDENT.

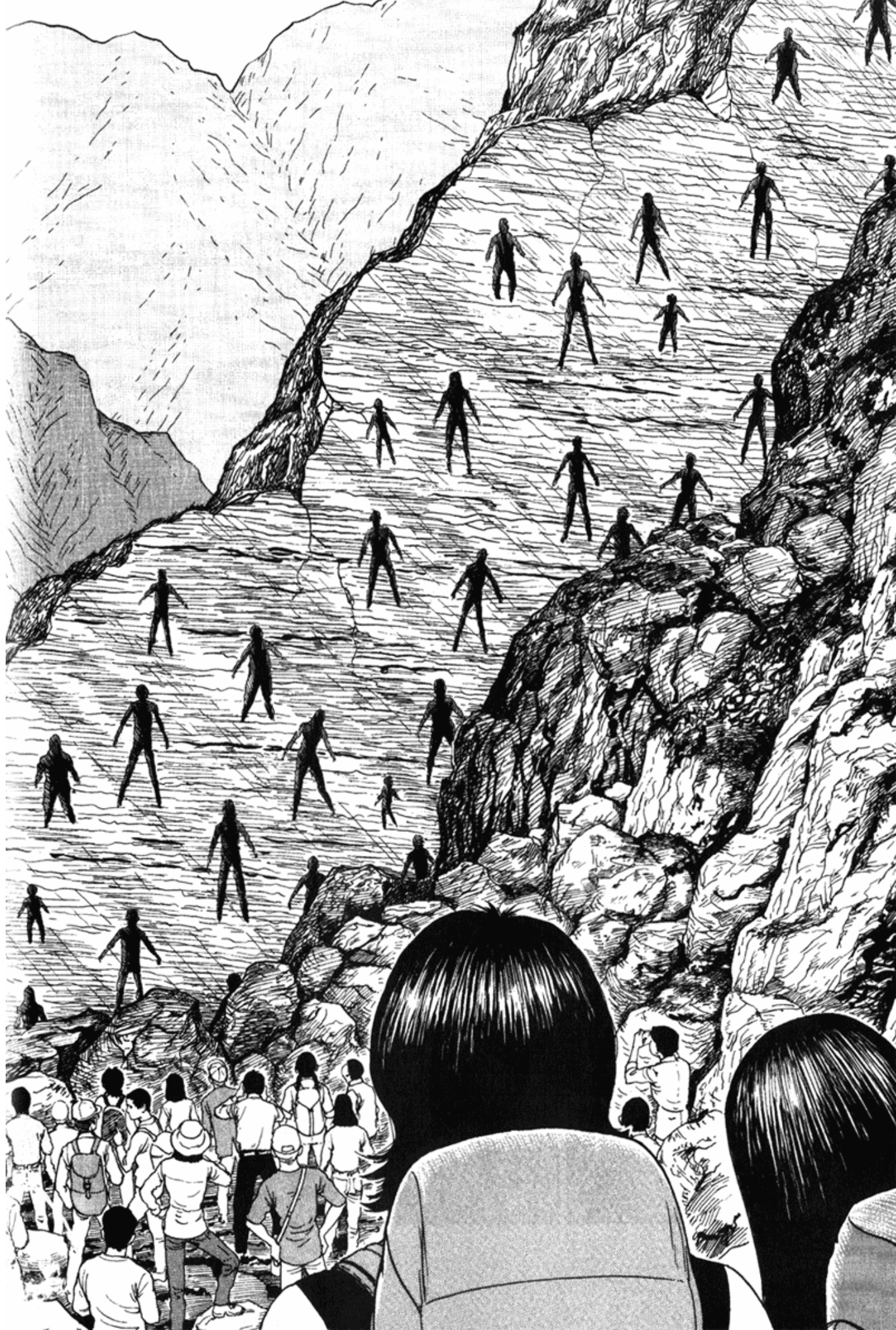
THIS
WAS
THE
SIGN...

...ON THE
NORTH
SLOPE OF
AMIGARA
MOUNTAIN.











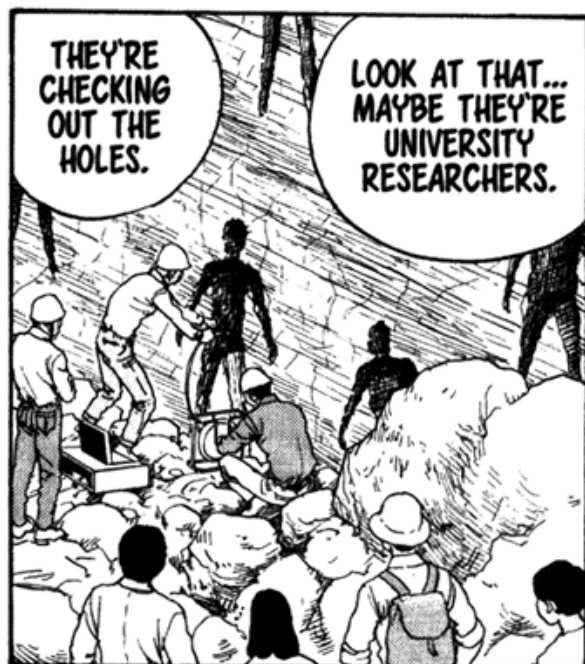
BUT A
LOT MORE
POWERFUL.

IT'S
JUST LIKE
HOW IT
WAS ON
T.V....



IT MAKES
YOU
WONDER,
HOW
COULD IT
HAPPEN
...

SO
BEFORE
THE
QUAKE,
THEY
WERE
UNDER-
GROUND.



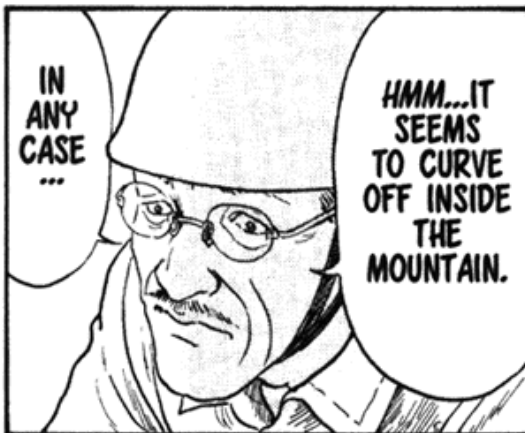
THEY'RE
CHECKING
OUT THE
HOLES.

LOOK AT THAT...
MAYBE THEY'RE
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCHERS.



THOUSANDS
OF HUMAN-
SHAPED
HOLES...

...FOUND
IN THE
FAULT
EXPOSED
BY THE
EARTHQUAKE.



IN
ANY
CASE
...

HMM...IT
SEEMS
TO CURVE
OFF INSIDE
THE
MOUNTAIN.



HOW
DEEP
DO YOU
THINK
IT GOES,
PROFESSOR
?

EVEN THIS
30-METER
FIBER SCOPE
CAN'T FIND
THE END.



BUT HOW
COULD YOU
DIG THIS
SHAPE OUT
OF SUCH
SOLID ROCK?



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
THAT THIS
COULD BE
A NATURAL
FORMATION...

SOMEONE
MUST HAVE
DUG THEM
OUT FROM
INSIDE.



I THINK
THE ENTRANCE
WAS SEALED
UP WITH THE
ACCUMULATION
OF SOIL OVER
THE YEARS...

...THE SAME
FORCES
THAT
COVERED
UP THESE
HOLES.



BESIDES,
WOULDN'T THERE
BE A TRACE
OF AN ENTRANCE
OF SOME KIND?

NO ONE'S
FOUND
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.



THEN THESE
HOLES MUST BE
ANCIENT. BUT IF
THAT'S THE CASE,
WHO HAD THE
TECHNOLOGY TO
MAKE THEM?



CAREFUL,
YOSHIDA.

IT'S
STEEP.



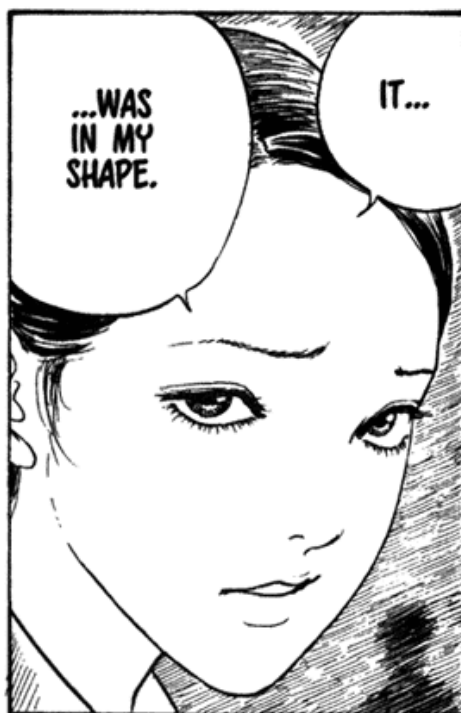
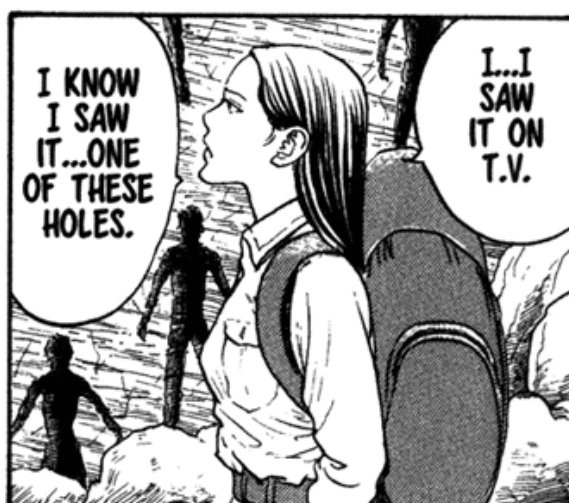
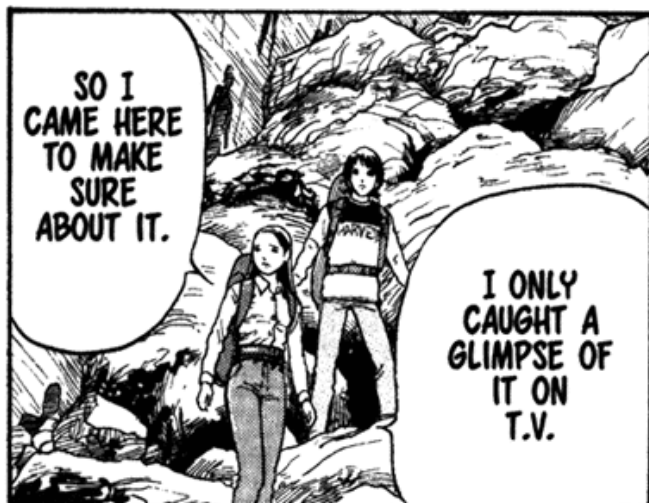
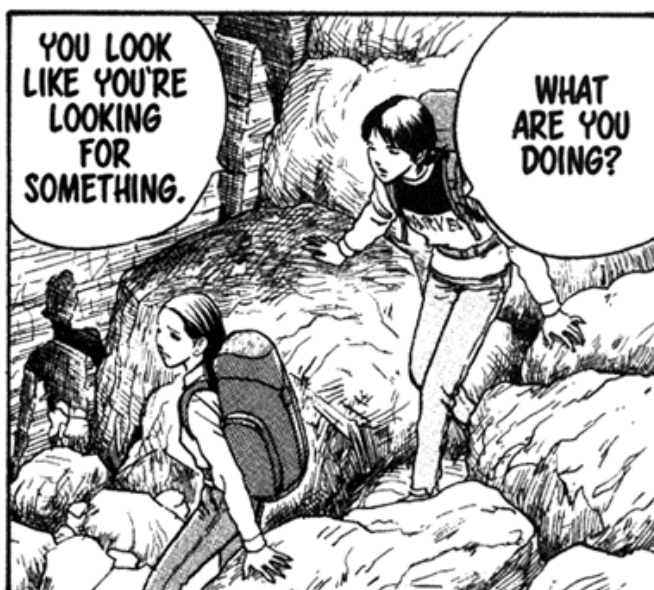
GLANCE

...

GLANCE

HARVEST

AND
WHAT
PURPOSE
DID THEY
SERVE...?





IT WAS
BASED ON
ME. I
SWEAR, I'M
SERIOUS!

THAT
HOLE
WAS MY
SILHOUETTE!



IT WAS
IDENTICAL...
NO, IT
WENT
BEYOND
THAT...



WHAT?



HOW
COULD THEY
HAVE BASED
IT ON
YOU? THAT'S
KIND OF
EGOTISTICAL,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

THESE
HOLES ARE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
OLD.



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



SO,
YOU
TOO...

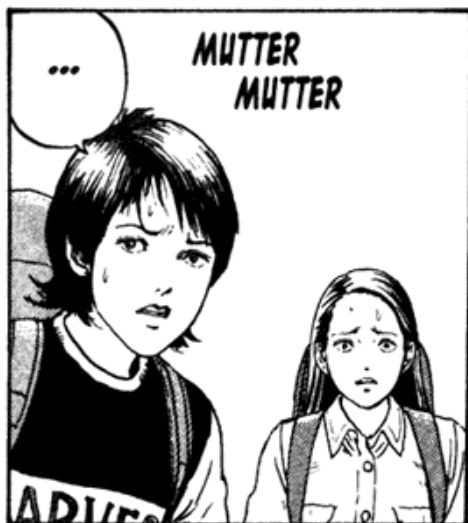


I KNEW
IT WAS
ME. IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
MAKE
SENSE!

I'M NOT
JOKING!
DON'T MAKE
FUN OF
ME!







...
MUTTER
MUTTER



I
DON'T KNOW
IF HE
CAN GET
OUT!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT.
THIS GUY
JUST WENT
INTO THE
HOLE!



HMM...HE
MUST BE
FURTHER
DOWN...

BUT THERE'S
NO TRACE OF
HIM WITHIN
THIRTY METERS!!



PROFESSOR,
WE'VE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR
HIM WITH THE
FIBER SCOPE...



A CROWD
GATHERED
AROUND
THE HOLE,
SHOUTING,
BUT
NAKAGAKI
DID NOT
COM OUT.



LET'S
CALL IN
THE
RESCUE
SQUAD!!



THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY!

WE
HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING!



ONE
OF THEIR
MEMBERS,
5'2" TALL,
IS TRYING
TO GO
IN...

A
RESCUE
SQUAD IS
ATTEMPTING
TO ENTER
THE HOLE.




OVER
THREE HOURS
HAVE ELAPSED
SINCE HIS
DISAPPEARANCE.

WE NOW
HAVE THIS
UPDATE ON
THE MAN WHO
DISAPPEARED
INTO ONE OF
THE MYSTERIOUS
HOLES...



HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
CRAZY TO
GO IN
THERE!



THE 5'2"
RESCUE SQUAD
MEMBER HAD TO
RETREAT AFTER GOING
NO MORE THAN FIVE
METERS INTO
THE HOLE...

NIGHT HAS
FALLEN AND
THERE'S NO
SIGN OF THE
MAN WHO
WENT INTO
THE HOLE.



I WAS
COMPLETELY
TRAPPED
IN PITCH
BLACKNESS,
HUNDREDS
OF METERS
INTO THE
HOLE.

THAT
NIGHT I
HAD A
NIGHTMARE.

IN MY
DREAM,
I WAS
NAKAGAKI.

...THE EARTHQUAKE.
THE HOLE MUST
HAVE BEEN DEFORMED
BY THE EARTHQUAKE.
SO I CAN'T
MOVE...

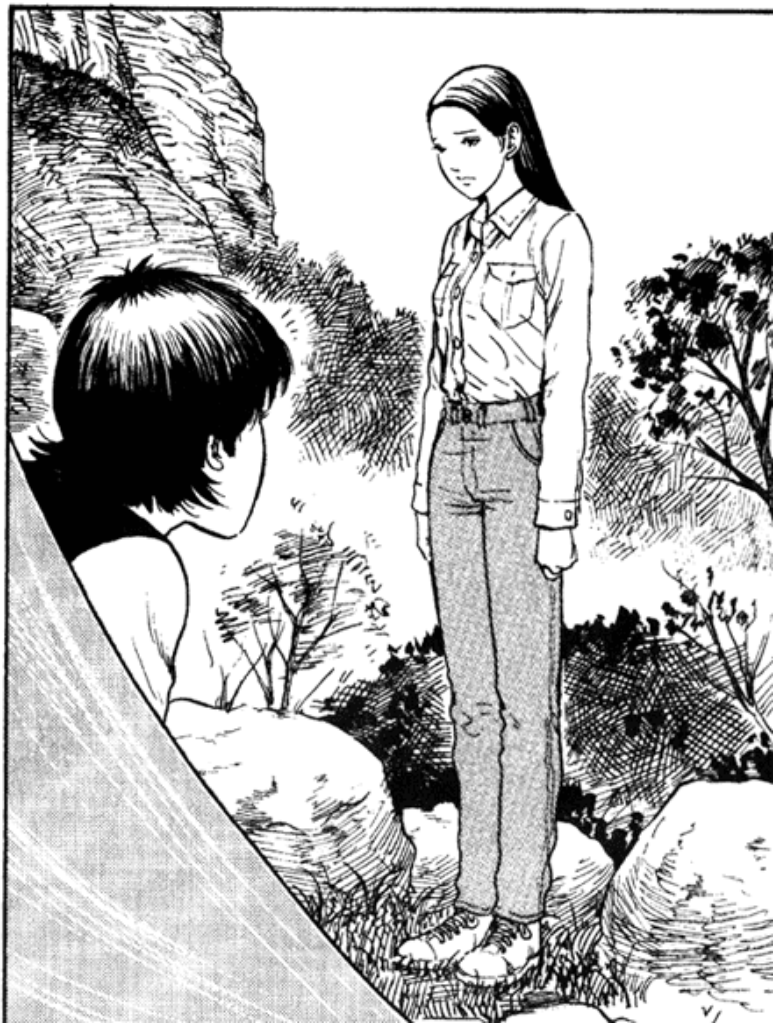
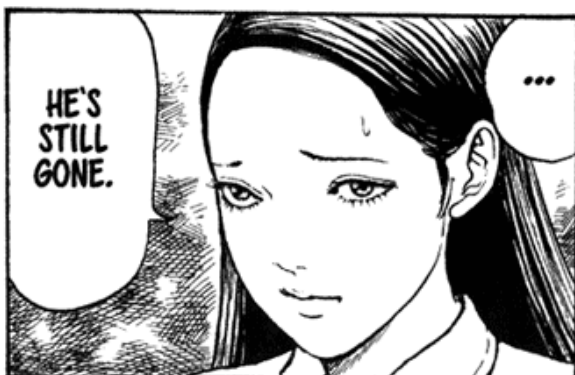
I-I
CAN'T
MOVE...

I'M
STUCK
...

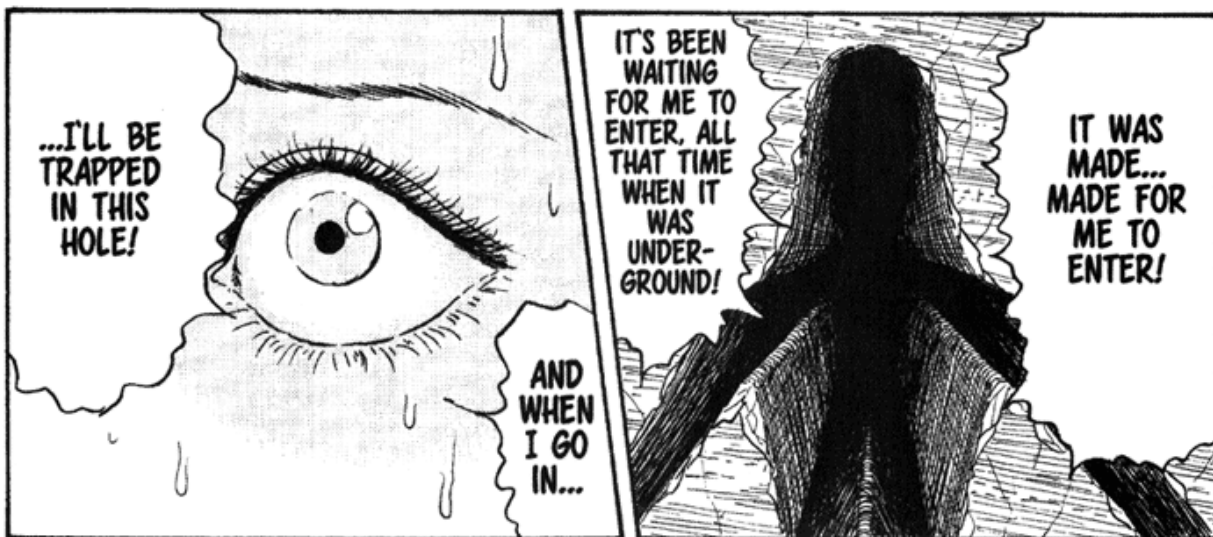
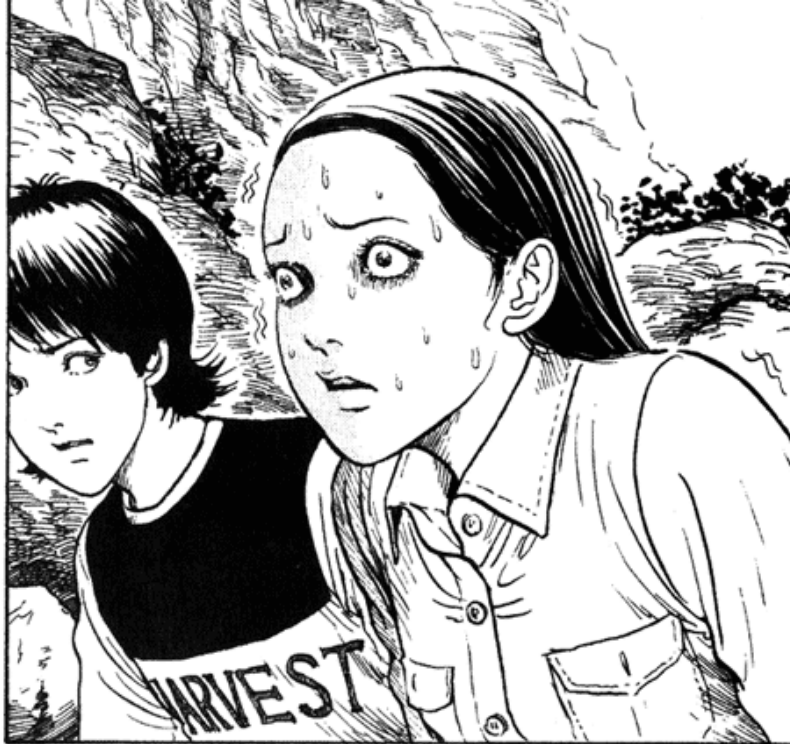
AGGH...
GGH...
GGH...

ANYONE!
**HELP
ME!**

S-
SOME-
ONE!

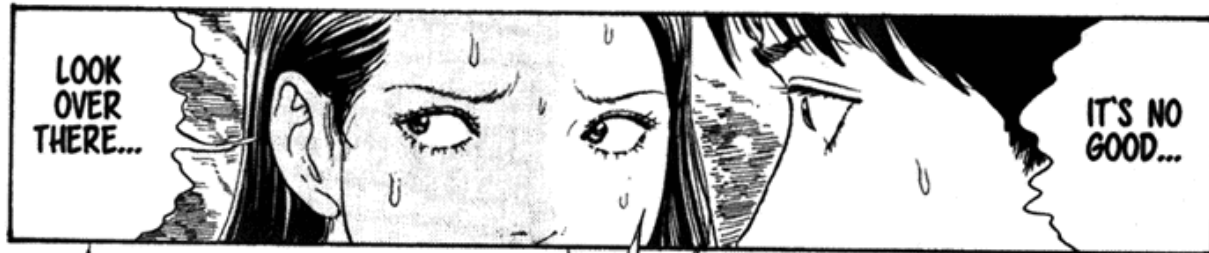














JUST
WATCH
ME!!

I'LL
FILL
THIS
HOLE
UP!



GET
A
HOLD
OF
YOUR-
SELF!

OH
GOD! OH
GOD I'M
SCARED!

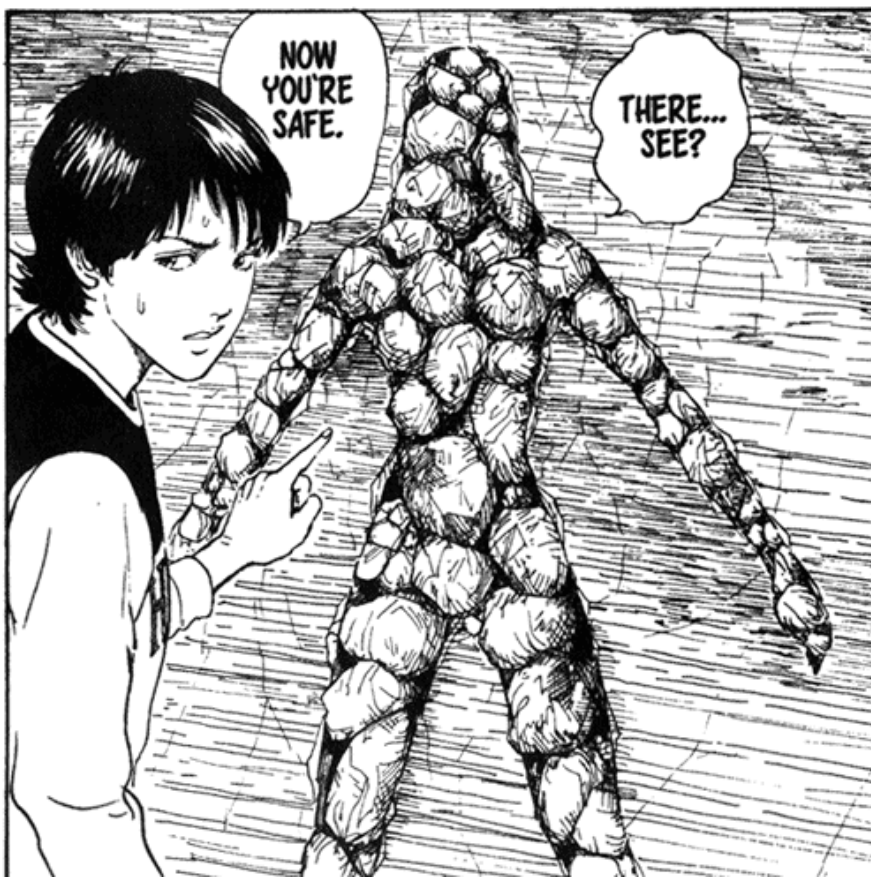


I'LL
HELP
YOU.

ALL
RIGHT,
IF YOU'RE
SO
SCARED...

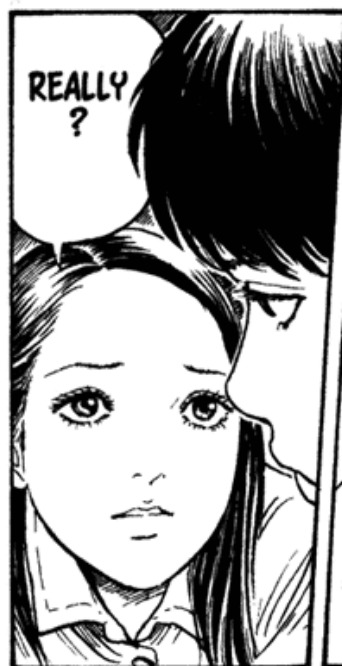
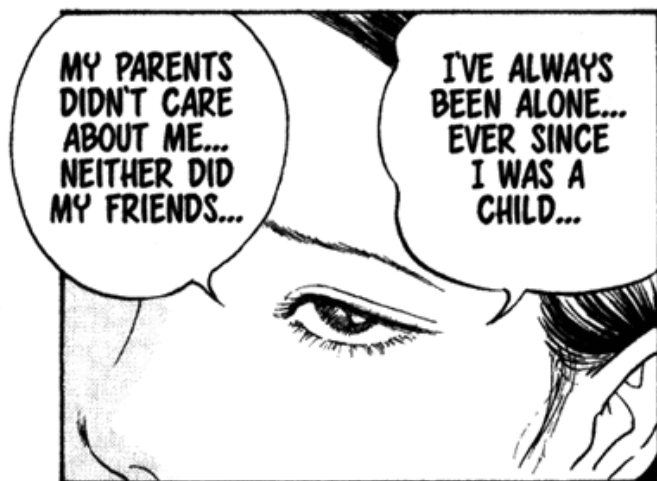
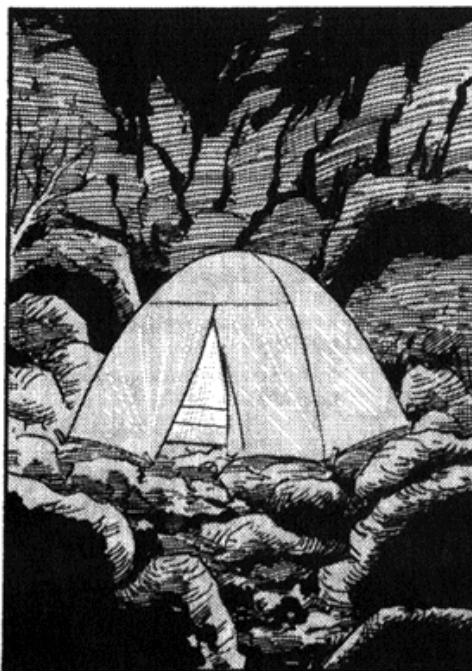


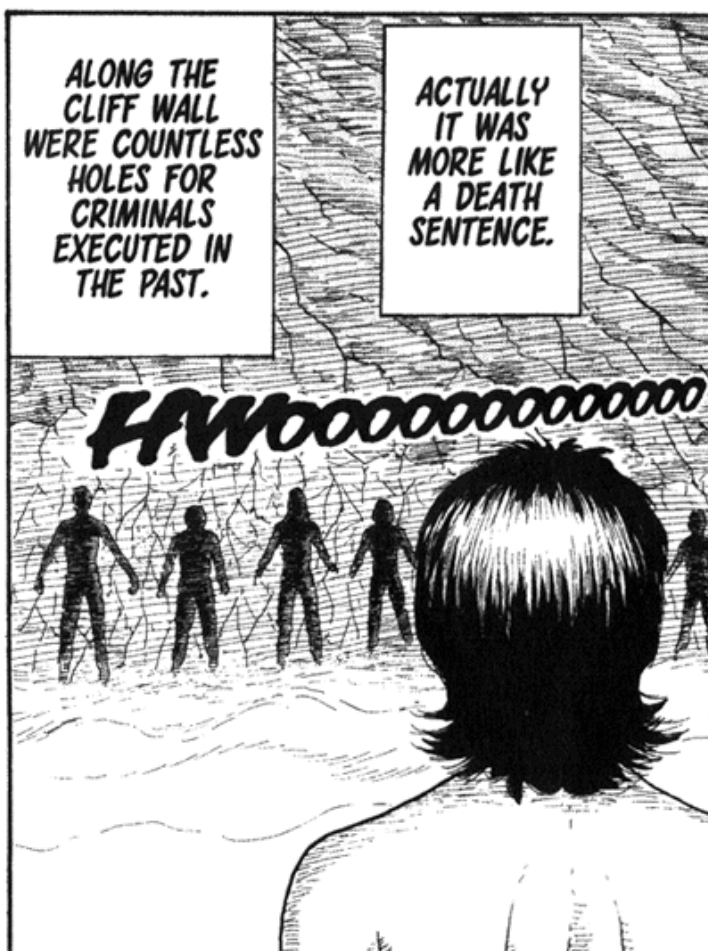
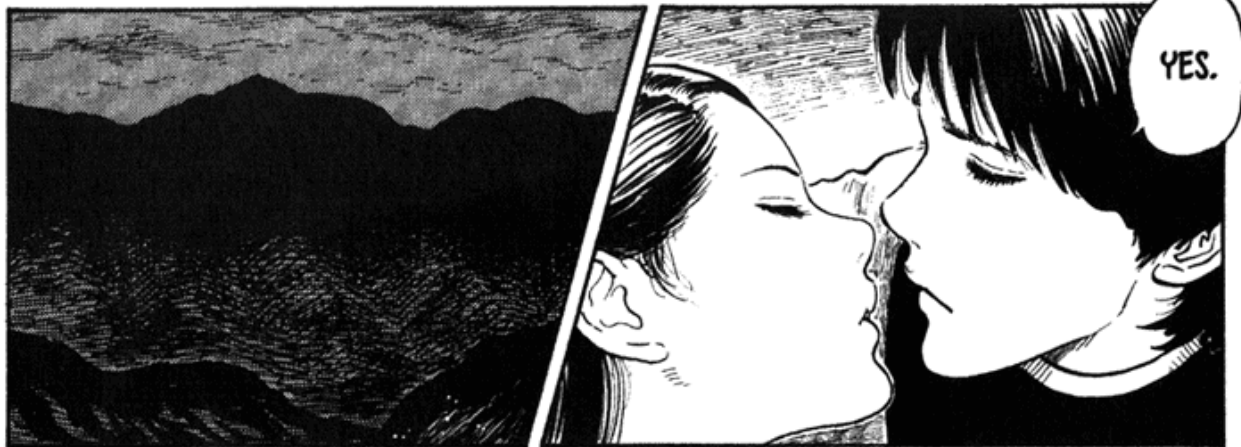
...

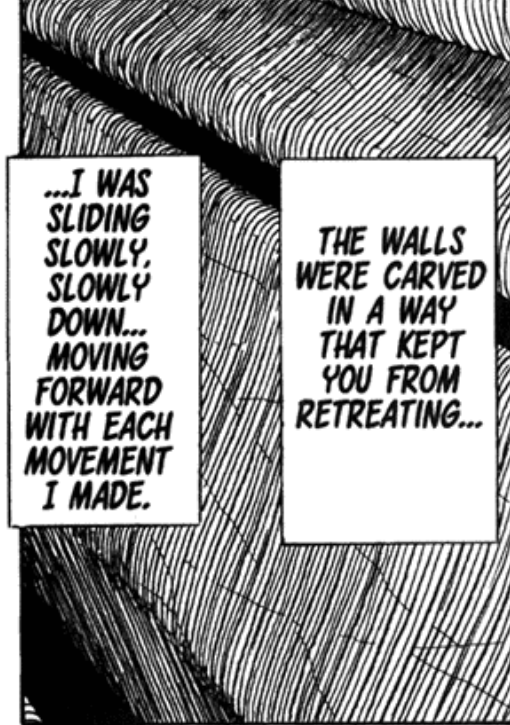


NOW
YOU'RE
SAFE.

THERE...
SEE?







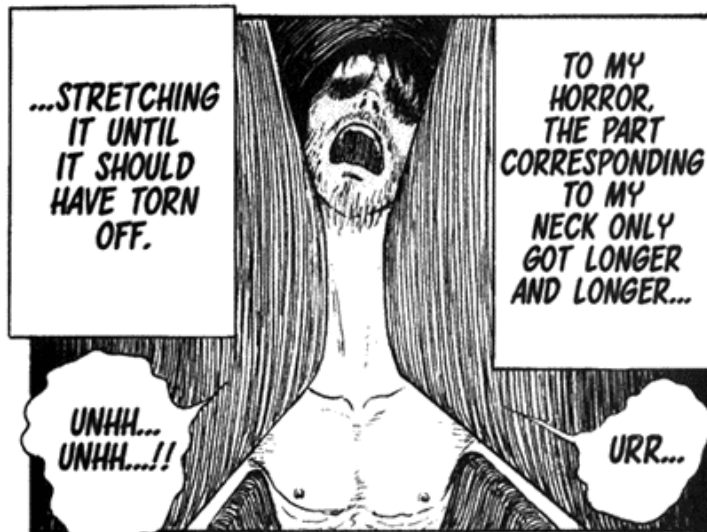
...I WAS SLIDING SLOWLY, SLOWLY DOWN... MOVING FORWARD WITH EACH MOVEMENT I MADE.

THE WALLS WERE CARVED IN A WAY THAT KEPT YOU FROM RETREATING...



I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MOVE FORWARD, INTO THE CLAUSTRO-PHOBIA ALL AROUND.

I FELT THE COLD STONE ON ALL SIDES AROUND ME.

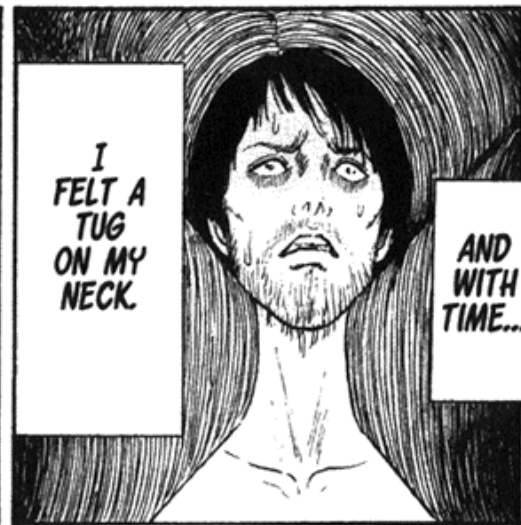


...STRETCHING IT UNTIL IT SHOULD HAVE TORN OFF.

TO MY HORROR, THE PART CORRESPONDING TO MY NECK ONLY GOT LONGER AND LONGER...

UNHH... UNHH...!!

URR...



I FELT A TUG ON MY NECK.

AND WITH TIME...



SOMEONE! ANYONE! HELP ME!

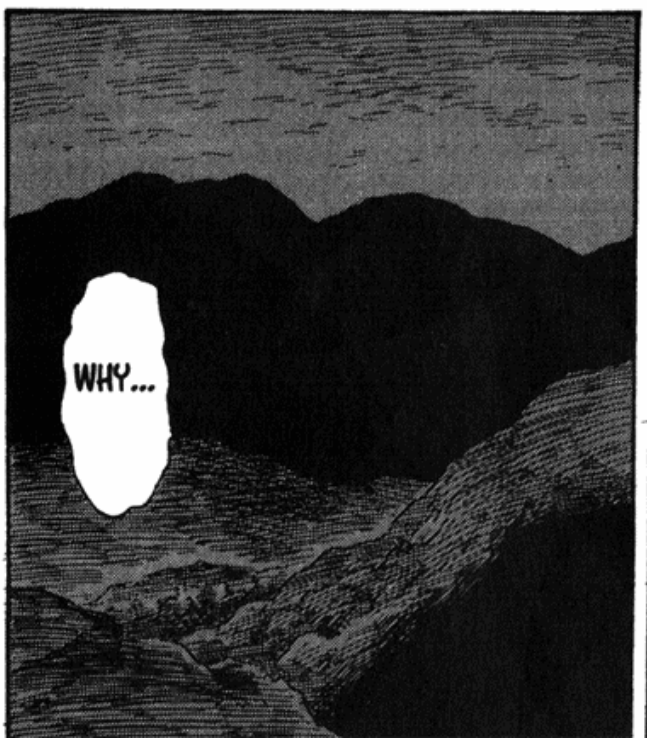
GYAAGH!!

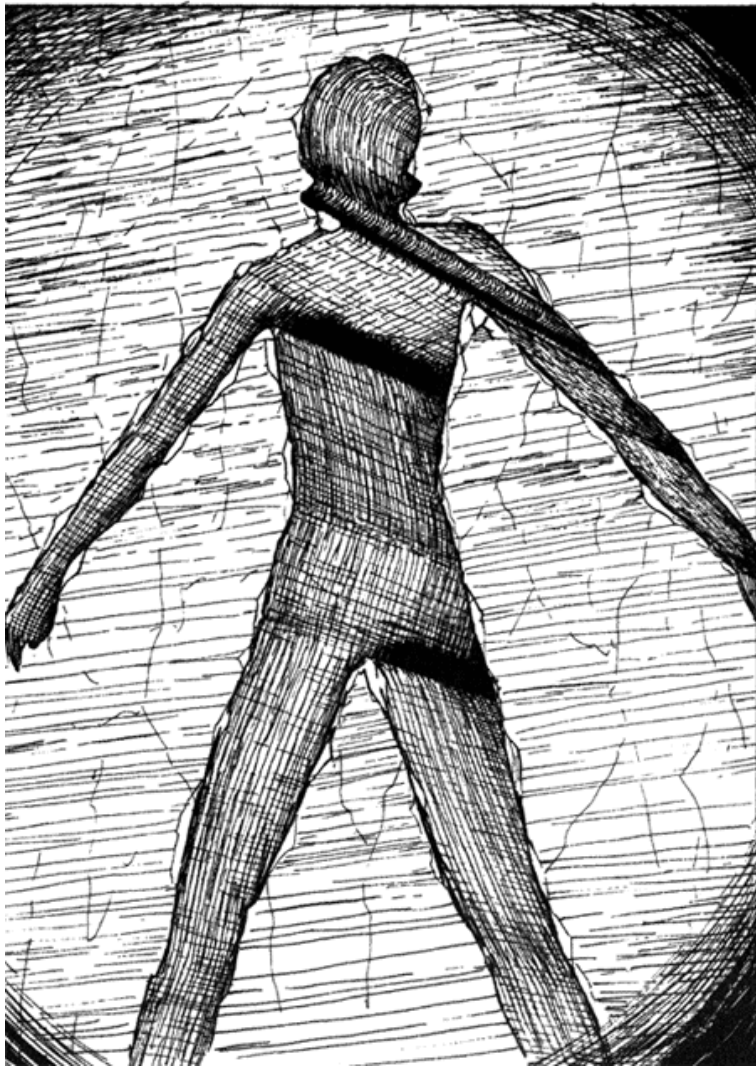


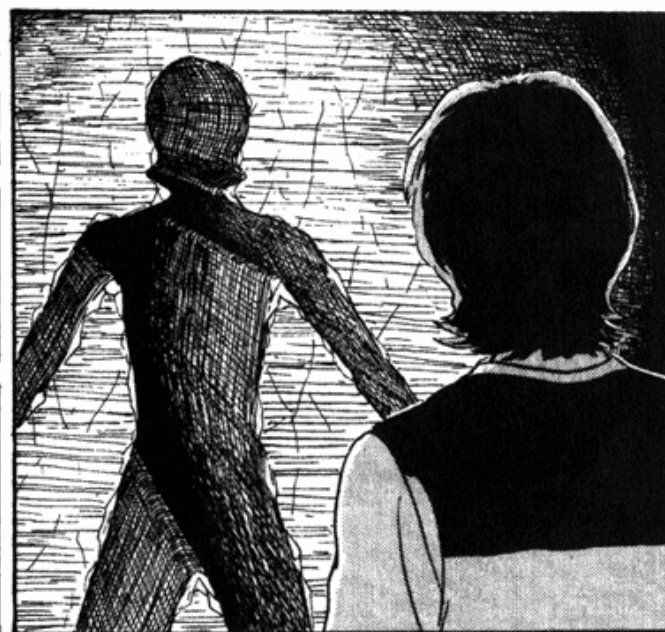
THE HOLE STRETCHED OUT INTO SEVERAL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE...!

NO...NOT JUST MY NECK...MY ARMS, LEGS, AND TORSO...









JUST
AS THAT
CLIMBER
INFORMED
US.

PROFES-
SOR...
HERE
IT IS!!

SO
THERE WAS
A FAULT
ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THE
MOUNTAIN!!

SEVERAL
MONTHS
LATER...

DON'T
REALLY
HAVE ANY
FORM...

THERE
ARE HOLES,
BUT THEY'RE
NOT HUMAN
SHAPED...

BUT
UNLIKE
THE ONE
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE,
THIS ONE'S
QUITE
SMALL.

HMM...
I'M SURE
THIS WAS
FORMED
BY THE
EARTHQUAKE
AS WELL.

TAKE
A
LOOK
AT
THIS!

AHA!



THE ENIGMA OF
AMIGARA FAULT: THE END

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his debut story, "Tomie," in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Orochi*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the United States, including *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which has been nominated for the Eisner Award and was also made into a live-action film.