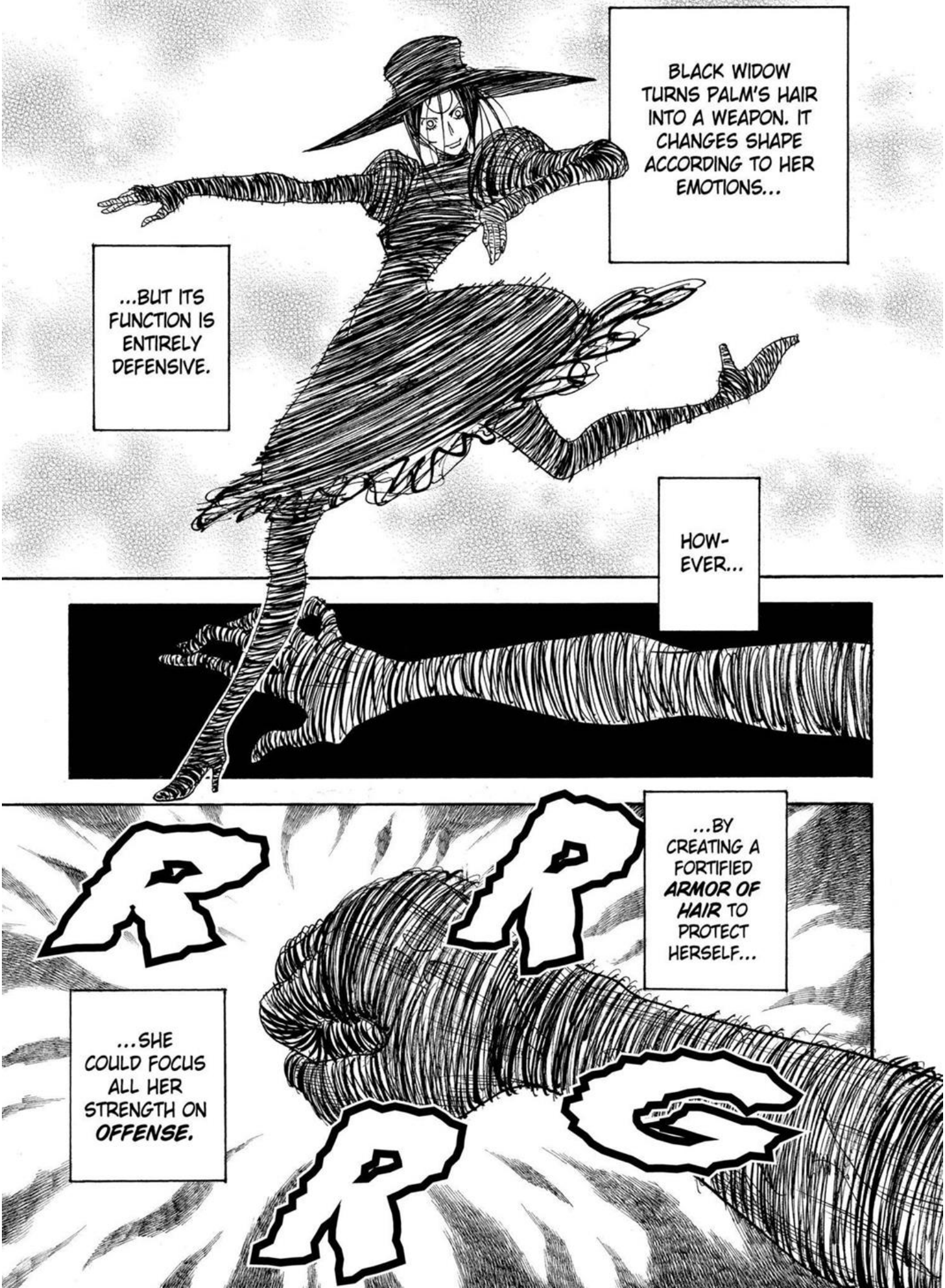
# Chapter 294: Breakdown



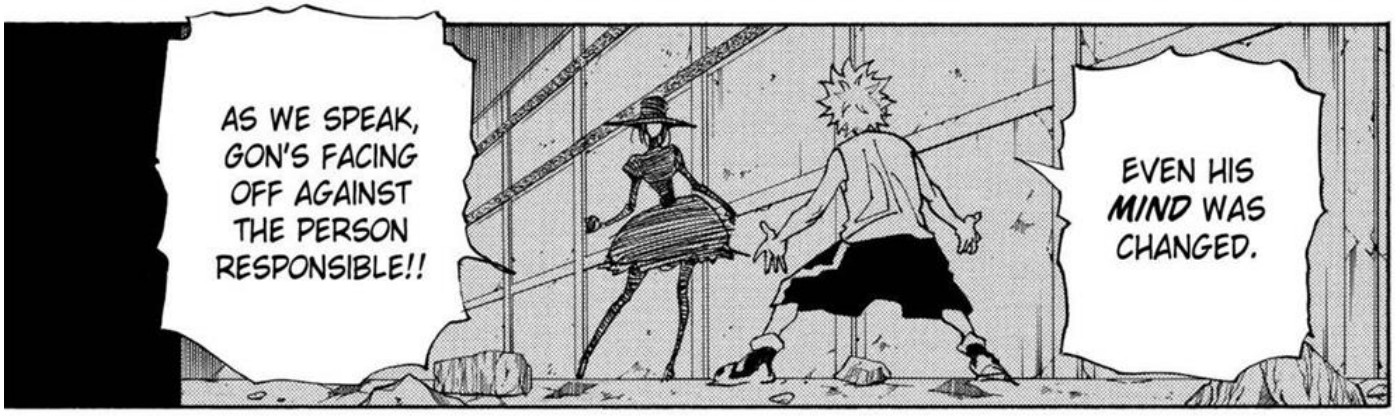

HRN!
GUH!

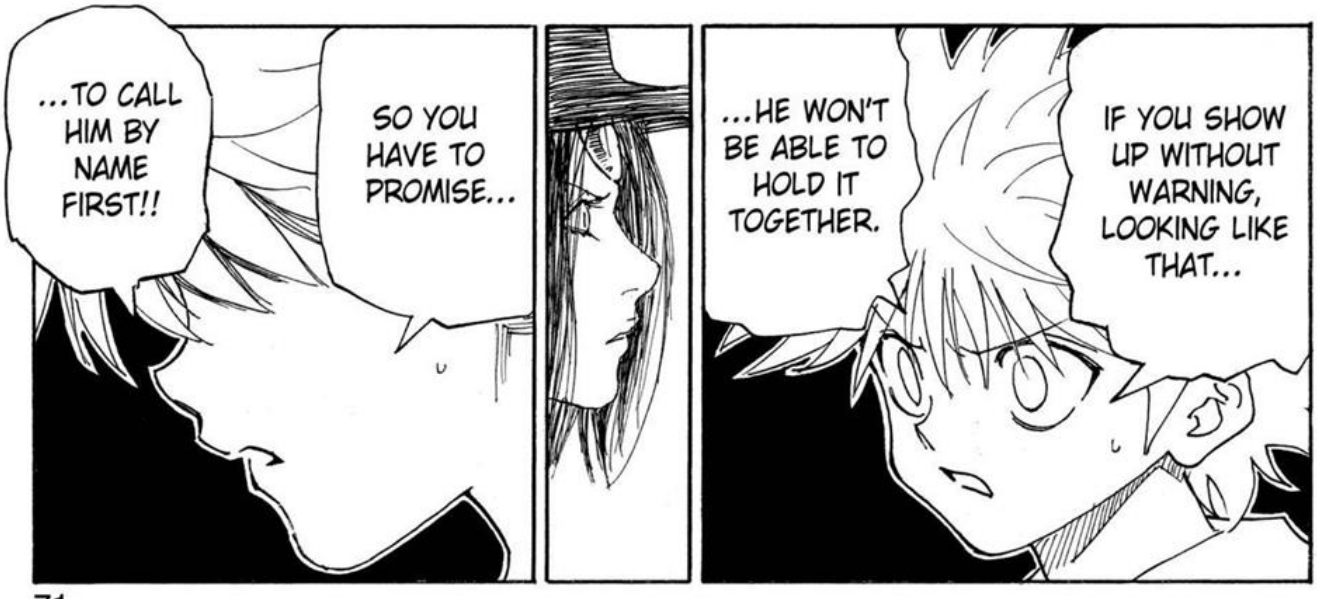

WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES WHEN YOUR ABILITY IS A GOOD MATCH!!
PALM WAS A REINFORCER.
IF THIS DRAGS OUT, I'M DOOMED.
KRR
I CAN'T BLOCK ALL HER ATTACKS.
GON IS AT HIS WITS' END!! HE'S BARELY HANGING ON, WAITING FOR PITOU.
FFT FT
BUT I CAN'T RUN AWAY!!
EVEN IF THERE'S A SHRED OF HER PSYCHE LEFT...
I CAN'T LET HIM SEE PALM!
...RIGHT NOW IT CAN ONLY HURT GON!!


HE'S CLOSE BY, ISN'T HE? I CAN LOOK FOR HIM MYSELF...
THERE'S NO REASON. I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM.
YOU'RE ASKING NOW?
TM
TM
IF YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON, I'LL TELL YOU WHERE HE IS!
PALM!! WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR GON?
HSSH
HSSH
HSSH
...AFTER I KILL YOU!!
FFT
BAM
WHAM
SHK


I'M SORRY!! I GOT STRESSED OUT AND CALLED YOU THE ENEMY...
...BUT YOU'RE STILL PALM, NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!


GON'S SUFFERING RIGHT NOW!!
SOMEONE WHO MEANT A LOT TO HIM WAS RUTHLESSLY ALTERED!!

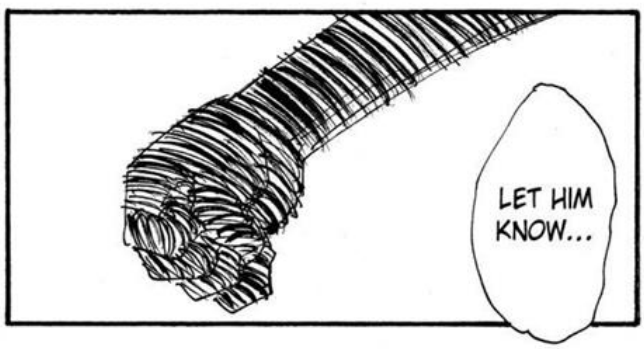

EVEN HIS MIND WAS CHANGED.
AS WE SPEAK, GON'S FACING OFF AGAINST THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE!!


IF YOU SHOW UP WITHOUT WARNING, LOOKING LIKE THAT...
...HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD IT TOGETHER.
SO YOU HAVE TO PROMISE...
...TO CALL HIM BY NAME FIRST!!



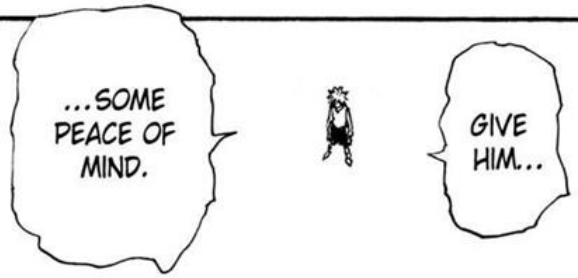












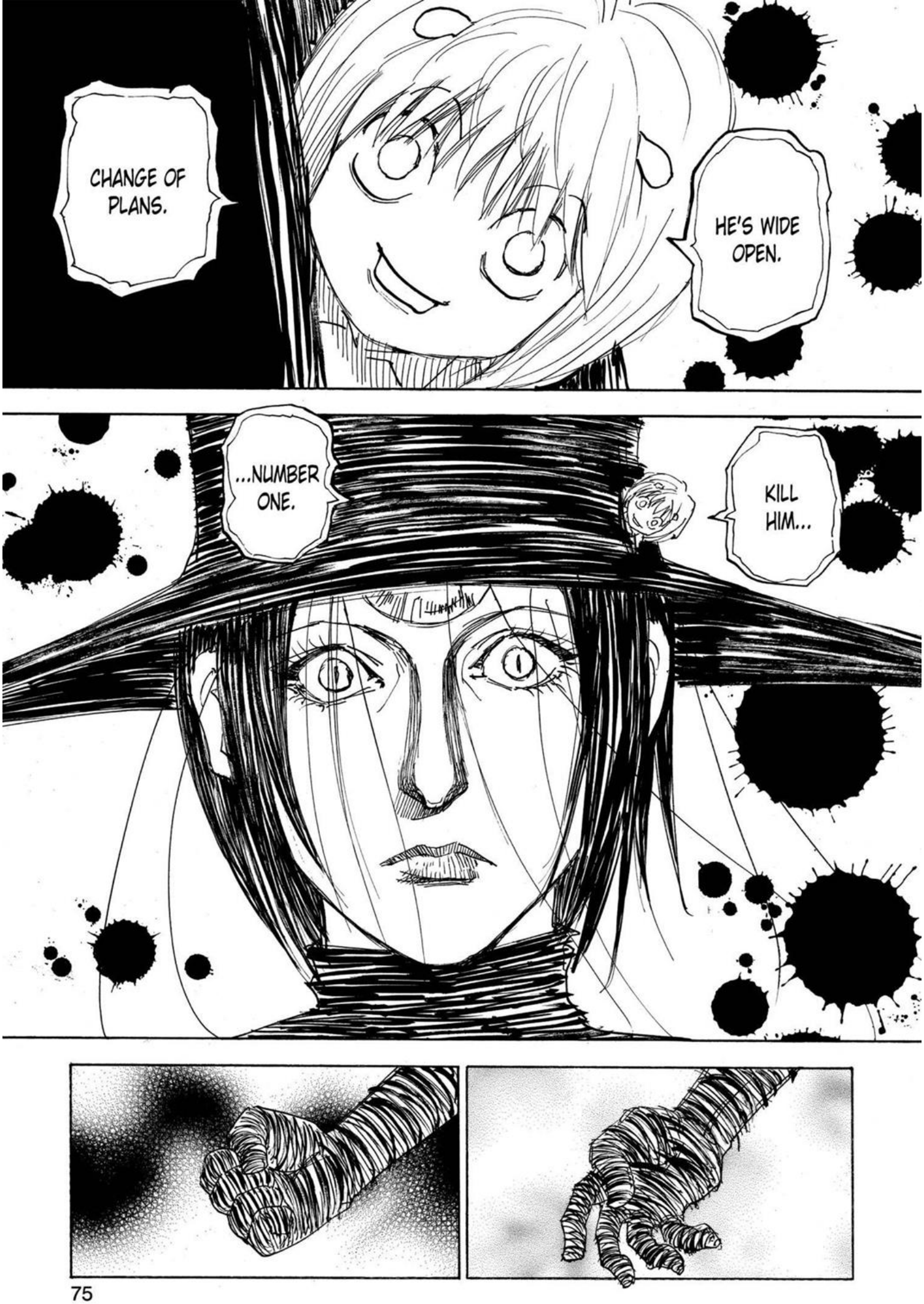

HE HAD NO INTENTION OF TAKING HER TO GON.

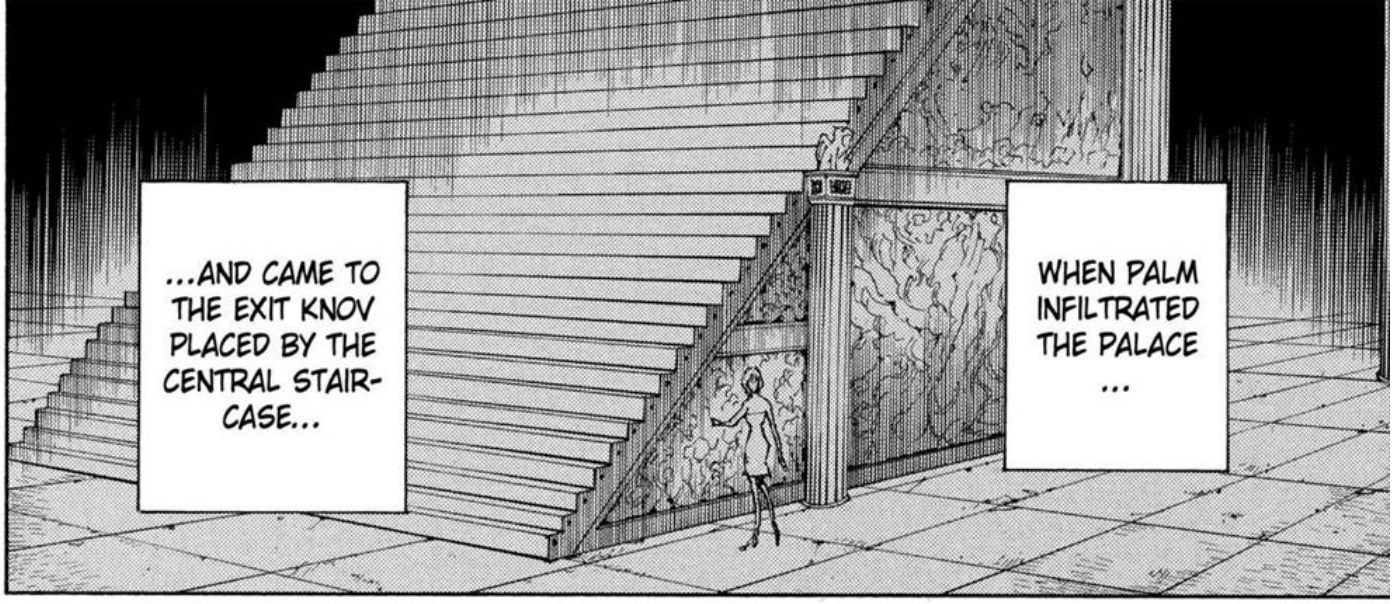


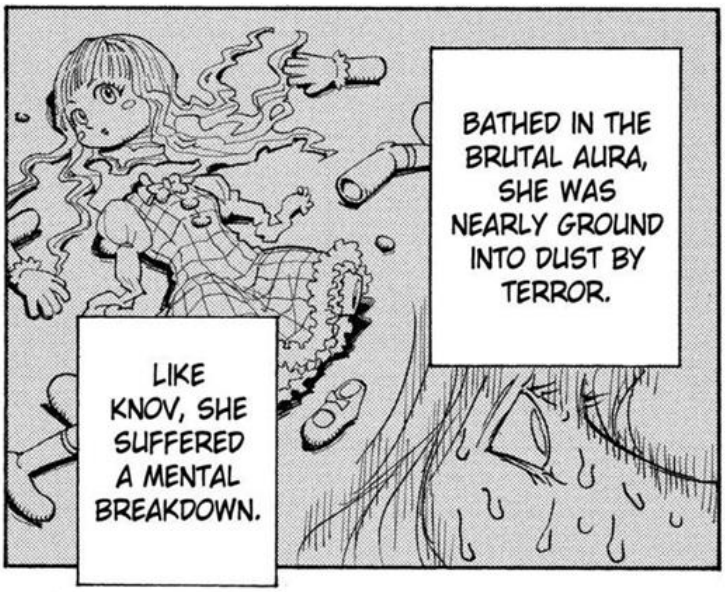
KILLUA SAID THOSE WORDS TO BUY TIME.

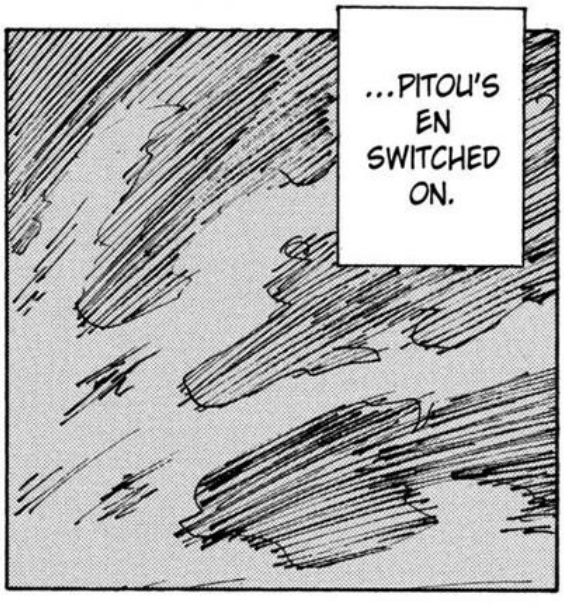

AT LEAST, NOT AT FIRST...
...CAN DO THAT NOW.
ONLY YOU, PALM...
PUT HIS MIND AT EASE.
PLEASE.
...CAN REACH HIM.
NOBODY ELSE...
NOT ME...

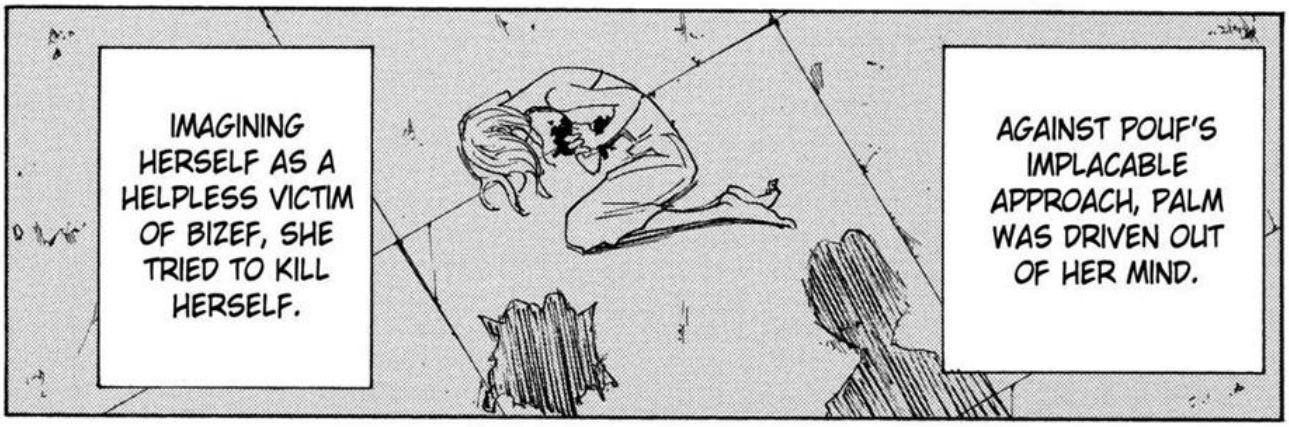

WAAA


CHANGE OF PLANS.
HE'S WIDE OPEN.
...NUMBER ONE.
KILL HIM...

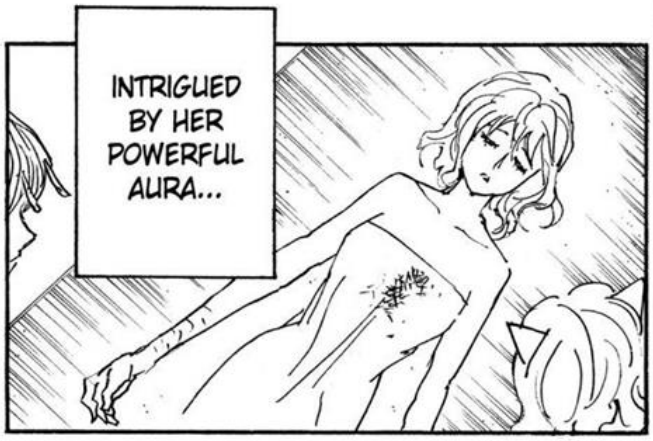

...AND CAME TO THE EXIT KNOV PLACED BY THE CENTRAL STAIR-CASE...
WHEN PALM INFILTRATED THE PALACE ...


BATHED IN THE BRUTAL AURA, SHE WAS NEARLY GROUND INTO DUST BY TERROR.
LIKE KNOV, SHE SUFFERED A MENTAL BREAKDOWN.


...PITOU'S EN SWITCHED ON.

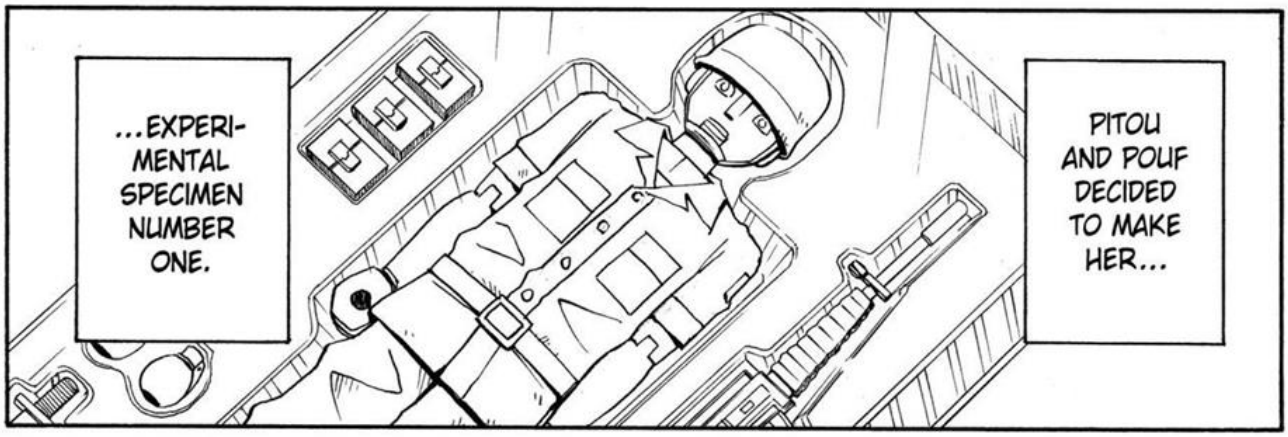

IMAGINING HERSELF AS A HELPLESS VICTIM OF BIZEF, SHE TRIED TO KILL HERSELF.
AGAINST POUF'S IMPLACABLE APPROACH, PALM WAS DRIVEN OUT OF HER MIND.

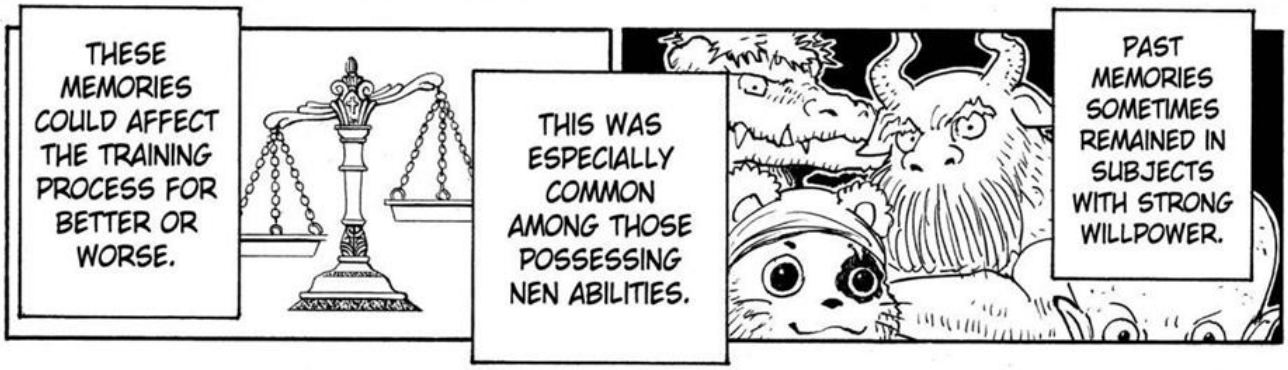

...PITOU SAVED HER.
HOW-EVER...


INTRIGUED BY HER POWERFUL AURA...

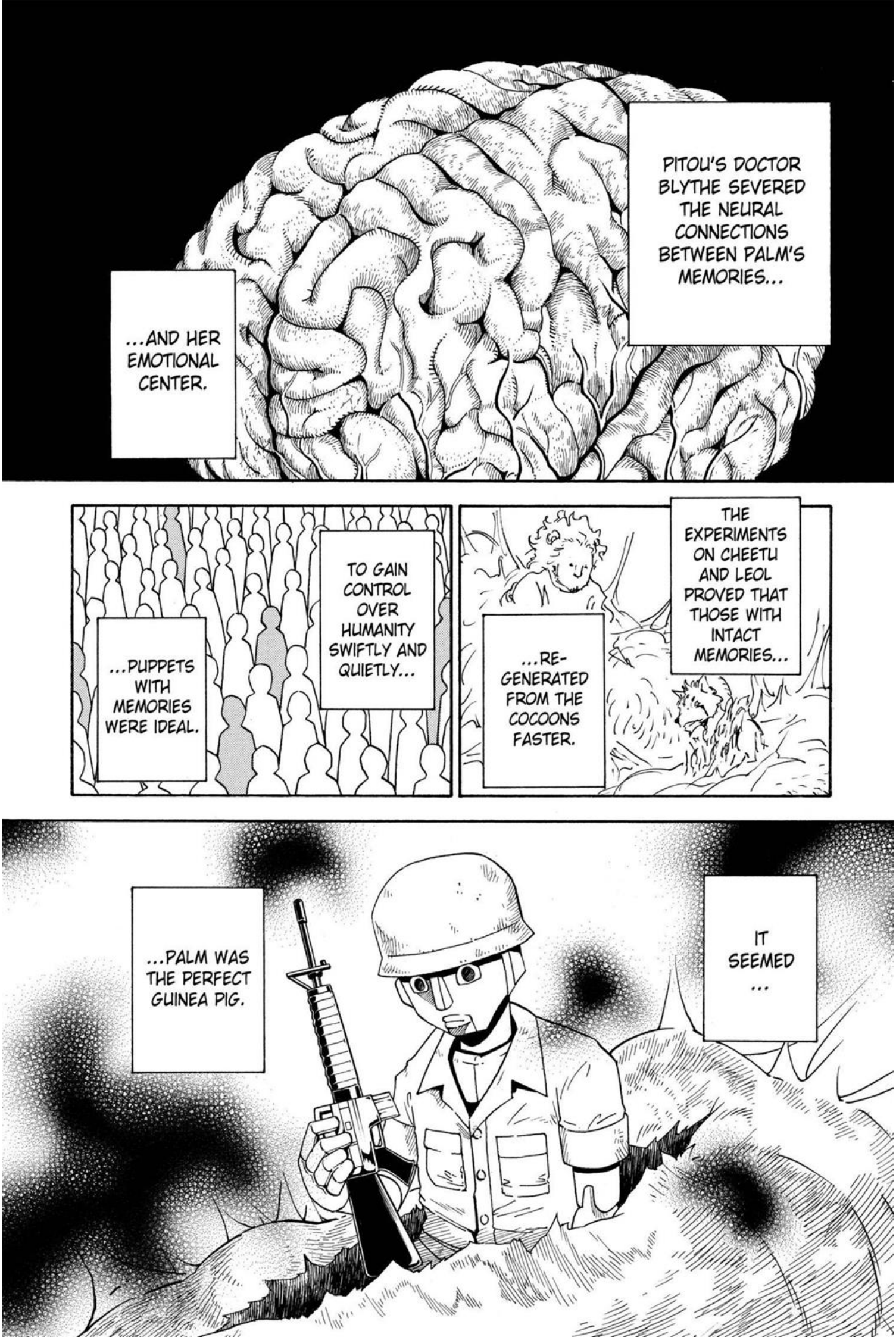

...AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE KING, WHO AGREED TO FOREGO A MEAL...

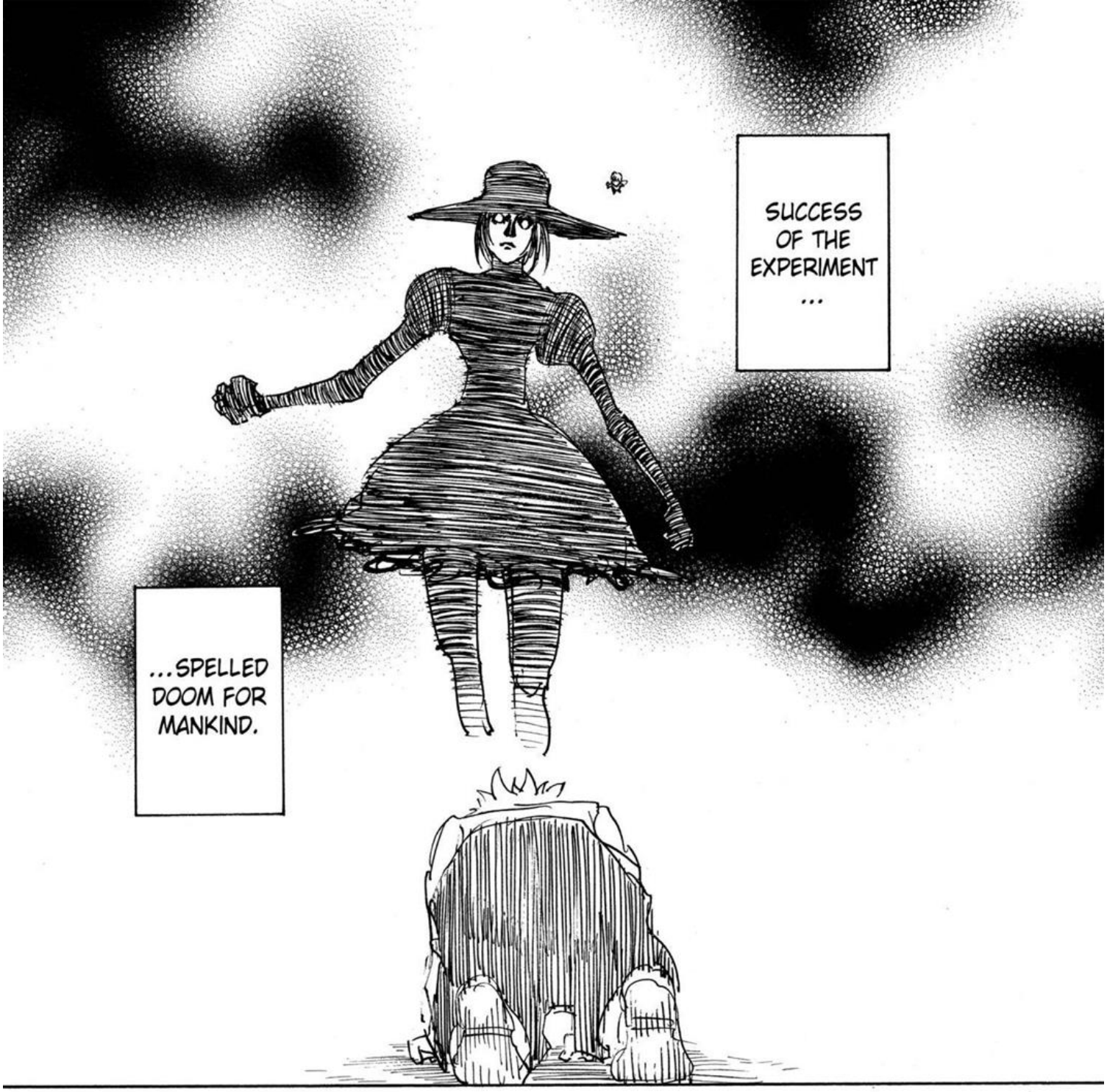

JUST AS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP SHIVERING IN THE FREEZING COLD...
...NOBODY CAN BLAME PALM FOR REFLEXIVELY PROTECTING HERSELF THE MOMENT SHE WAS EXPOSED TO THIS EVIL AURA.


...EXPERIMENTAL SPECIMEN NUMBER ONE.
PITOU AND POUF DECIDED TO MAKE HER...

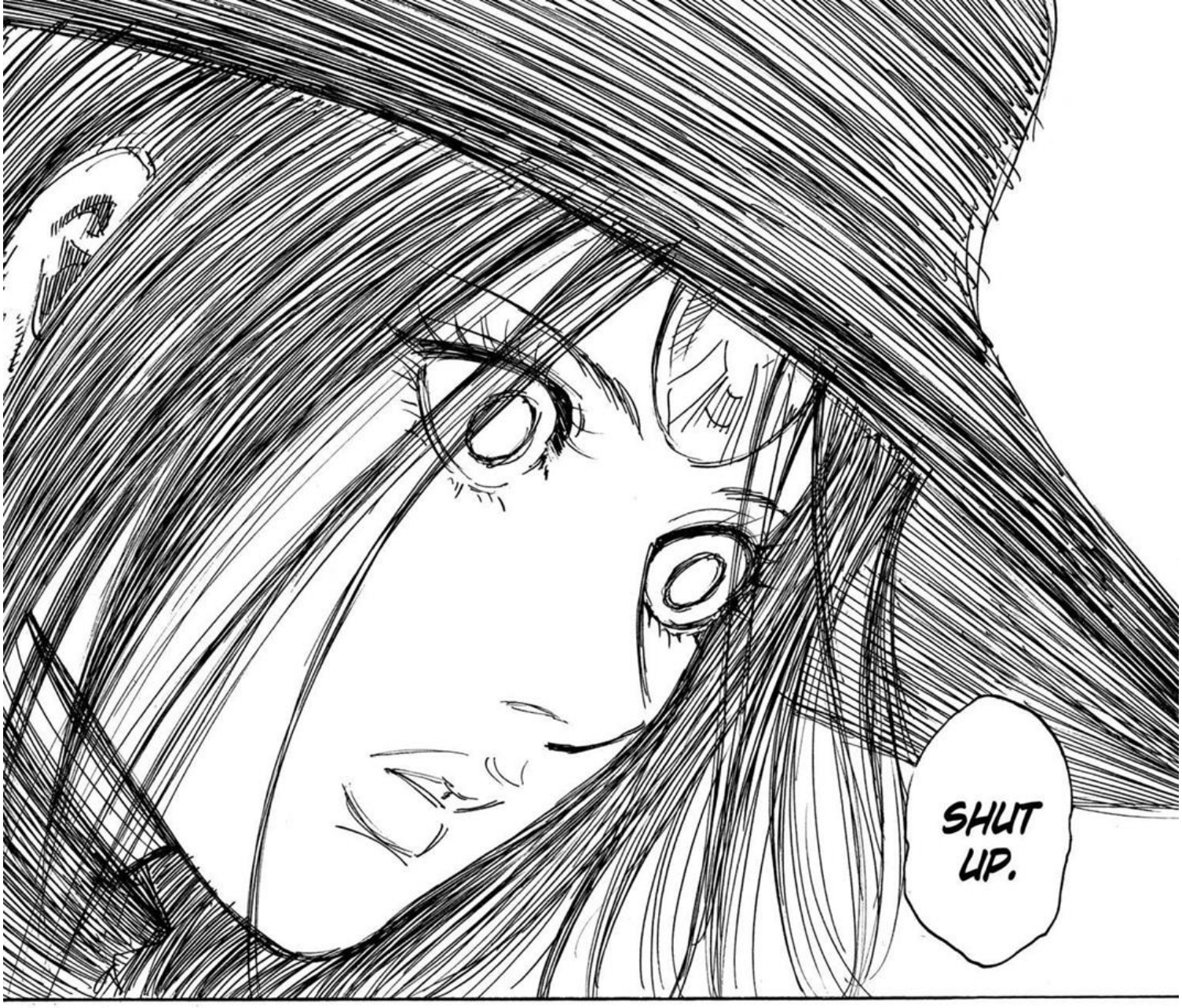

THESE MEMORIES COULD AFFECT THE TRAINING PROCESS FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
THIS WAS ESPECIALLY COMMON AMONG THOSE POSSESSING NEN ABILITIES.
PAST MEMORIES SOMETIMES REMAINED IN SUBJECTS WITH STRONG WILLPOWER.


HAVING OBSERVED ALL THIS...
MEMORIES CONNECTED TO ***EMOTIONS*** CAUSED THE MOST INTERFERENCE.


PITOU'S DOCTOR BLYTHE SEVERED THE NEURAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PALM'S MEMORIES...
...AND HER EMOTIONAL CENTER.
TO GAIN CONTROL OVER HUMANITY SWIFTLY AND QUIETLY...
...PUPPETS WITH MEMORIES WERE IDEAL.
THE EXPERIMENTS ON CHEETU AND LEOL PROVED THAT THOSE WITH INTACT MEMORIES...
...RE-GENERATED FROM THE COCOONS FASTER.
IT SEEMED ...
...PALM WAS THE PERFECT GUINEA PIG.


SUCCESS OF THE EXPERIMENT ...
...SPELLED DOOM FOR MANKIND.


BEAT THAT KID TO DEATH!!
DO IT, NUMBER ONE!!

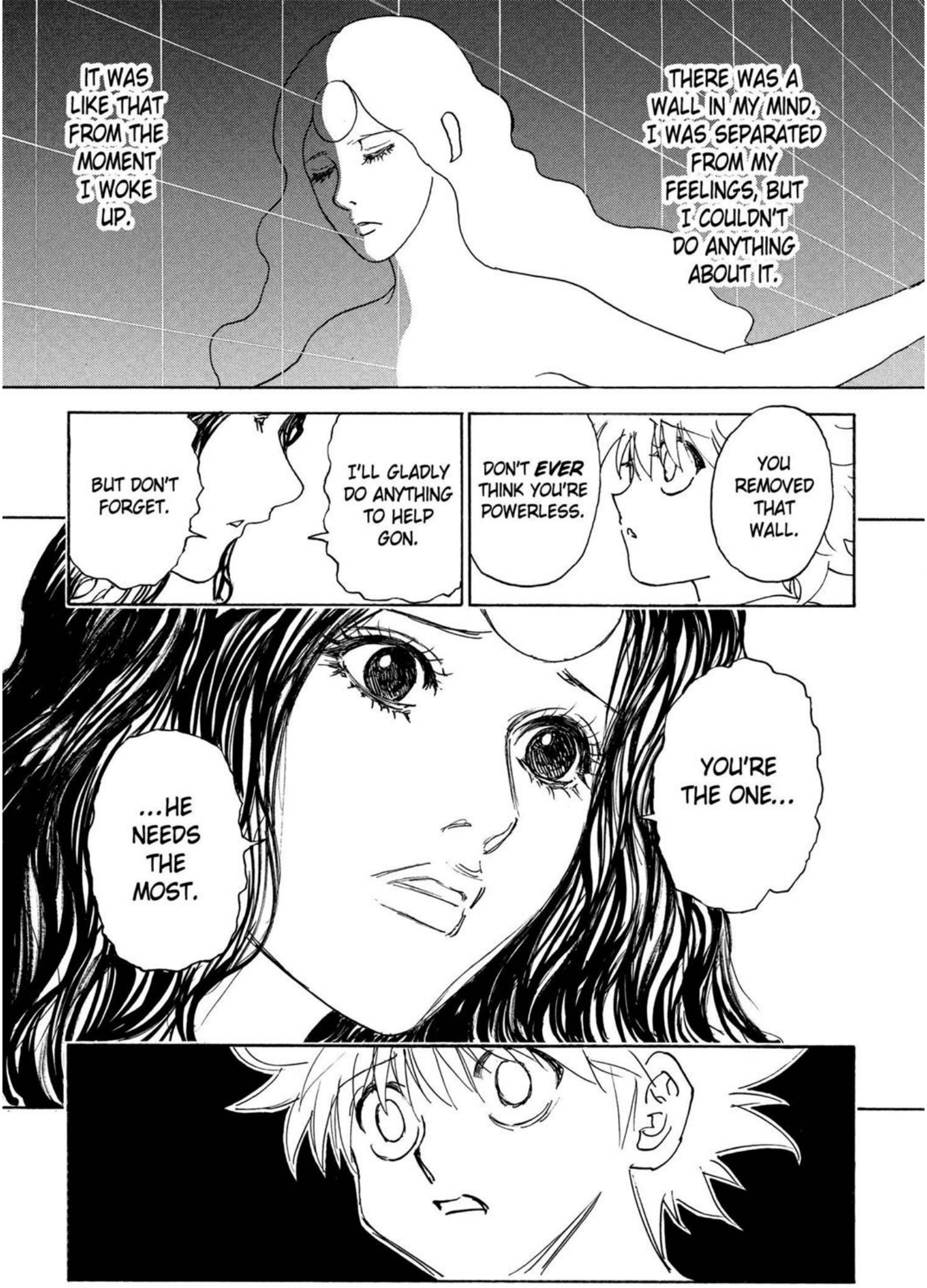

SHUT UP.






NOT NO. 1 !!
MY NAME IS PALM SIBERIA !!
ドゴ


I WILL NEVER BE A TOOL...
...OF THE ANTS!!
FSSH
...
I OWE IT TO YOU.
KILLUA.


IT WAS LIKE THAT FROM THE MOMENT I WOKE UP.
THERE WAS A WALL IN MY MIND. I WAS SEPARATED FROM MY FEELINGS, BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
BUT DON'T FORGET.
I'LL GLADLY DO ANYTHING TO HELP GON.
DON'T EVER THINK YOU'RE POWERLESS.
YOU REMOVED THAT WALL.
...HE NEEDS THE MOST.
YOU'RE THE ONE...


THE LOVE OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY, OR OTHER STIMULI THAT PROVOKE A PASSIONATE RESPONSE, CAN HASTEN RECOVERY BEYOND MEDICAL EXPECTATIONS.
THERE ARE DOCUMENTED CASES OF THIS, ESPECIALLY AMONG PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM BRAIN INJURIES.
WHAT'S UP?
FEH.
?
IT FAILED.
NOTHING MORE.
ULTIMATELY, WE'LL NEED SOLDIERS WITH MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS.
SLOW AND STEADY WINS THE RACE.


...IN BUILDING OUR KINGDOM.
IT WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT...
I CAN PRODUCE SOLDIERS BY MYSELF!
BUT THAT MEANS I DON'T NEED PITOU'S ABILITIES.
...THIS IS BETTER FOR ME.
IN FACT...
FINE.
I'LL TAKE YOU ON.
...FOR THE KING AND MYSELF...
...FIRST...
BUT...
A KINGDOM FIT...

