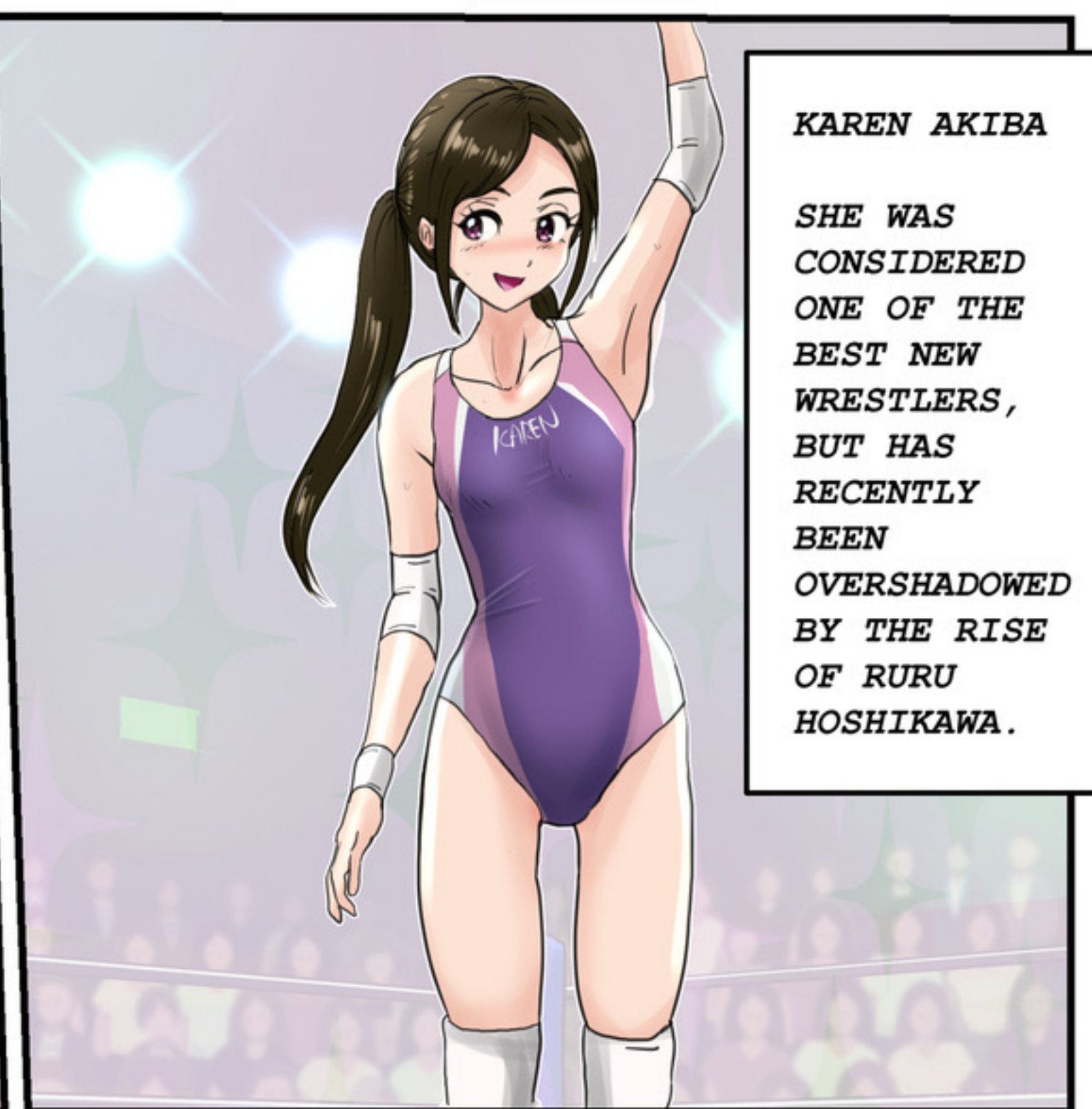
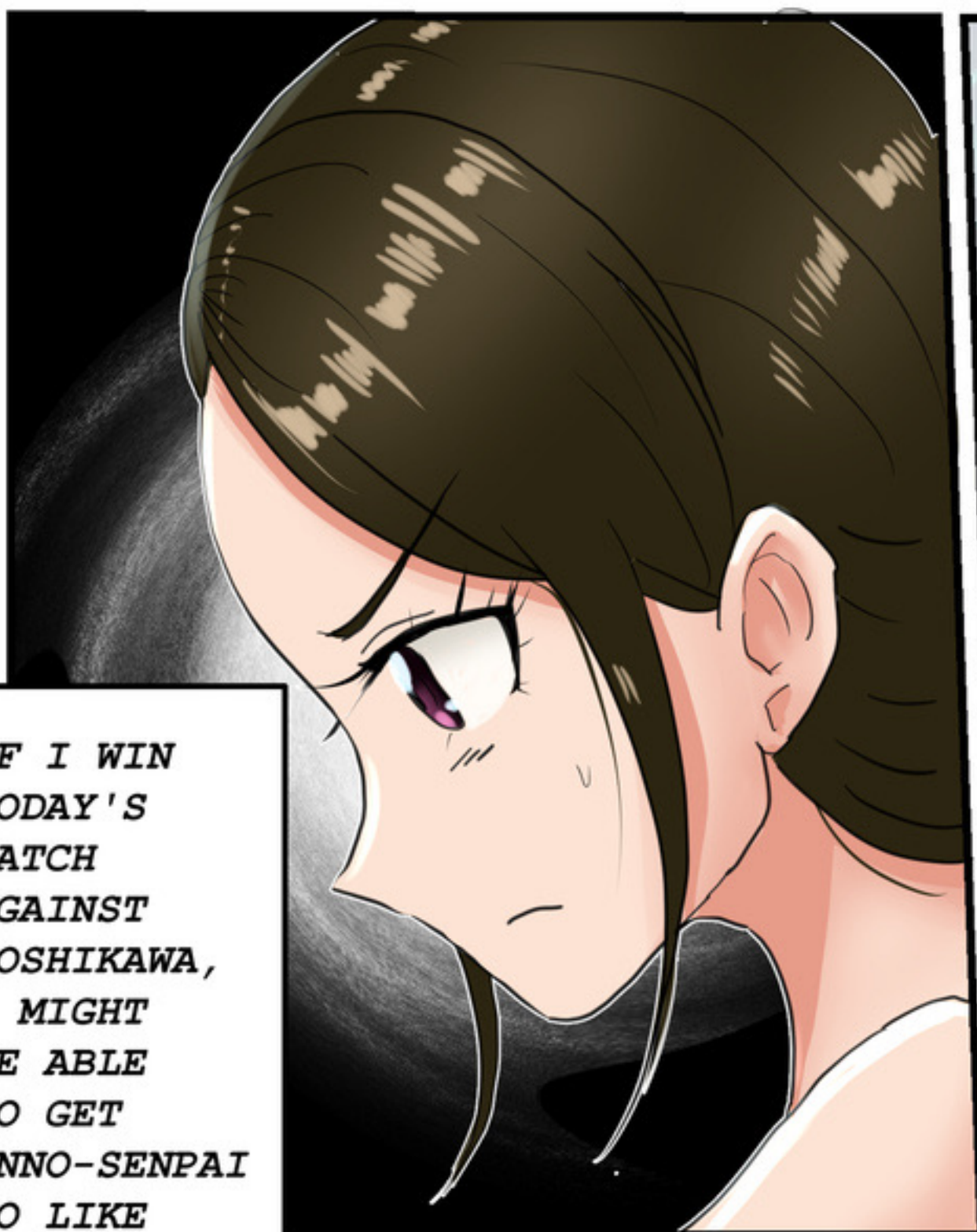
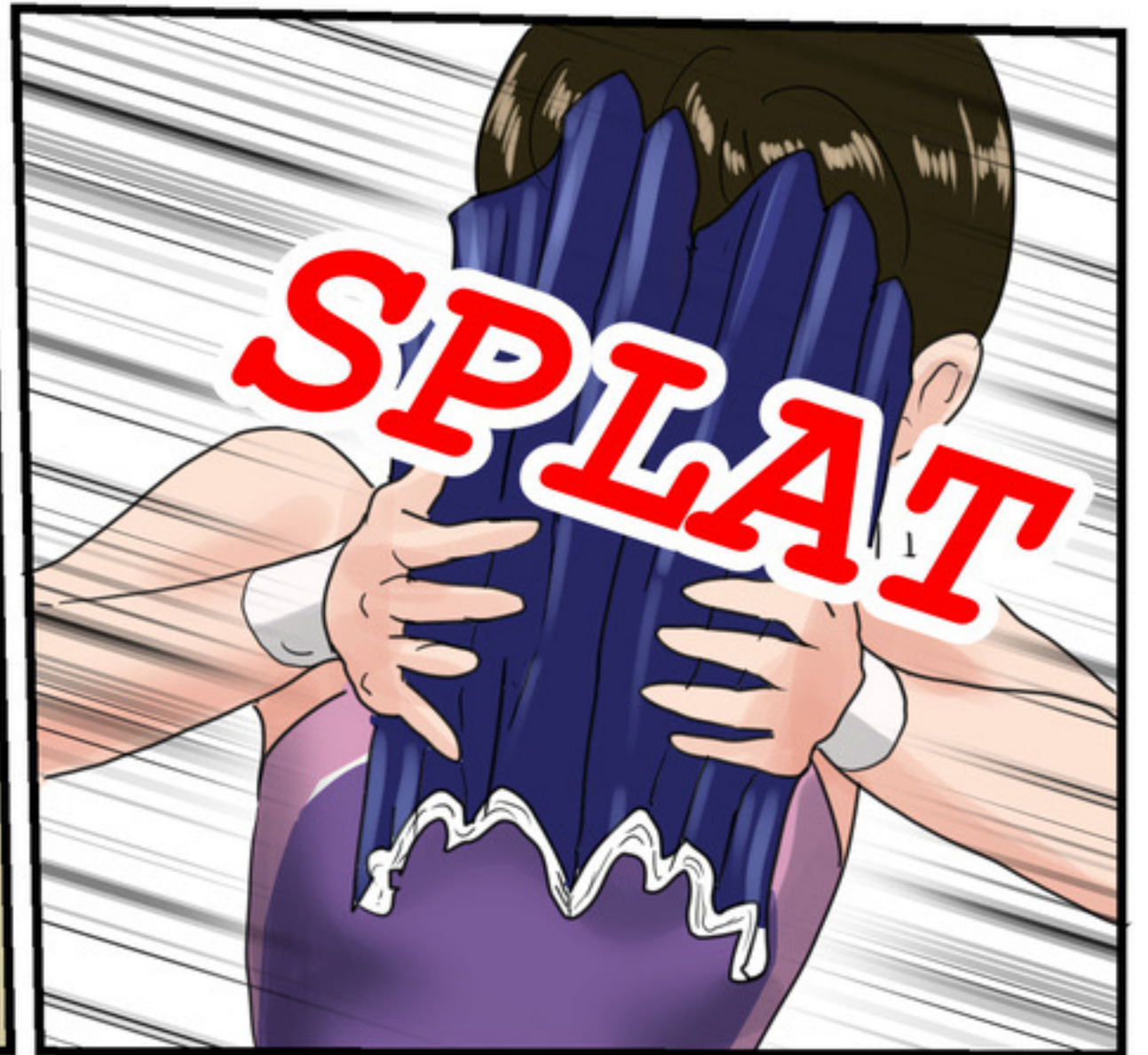
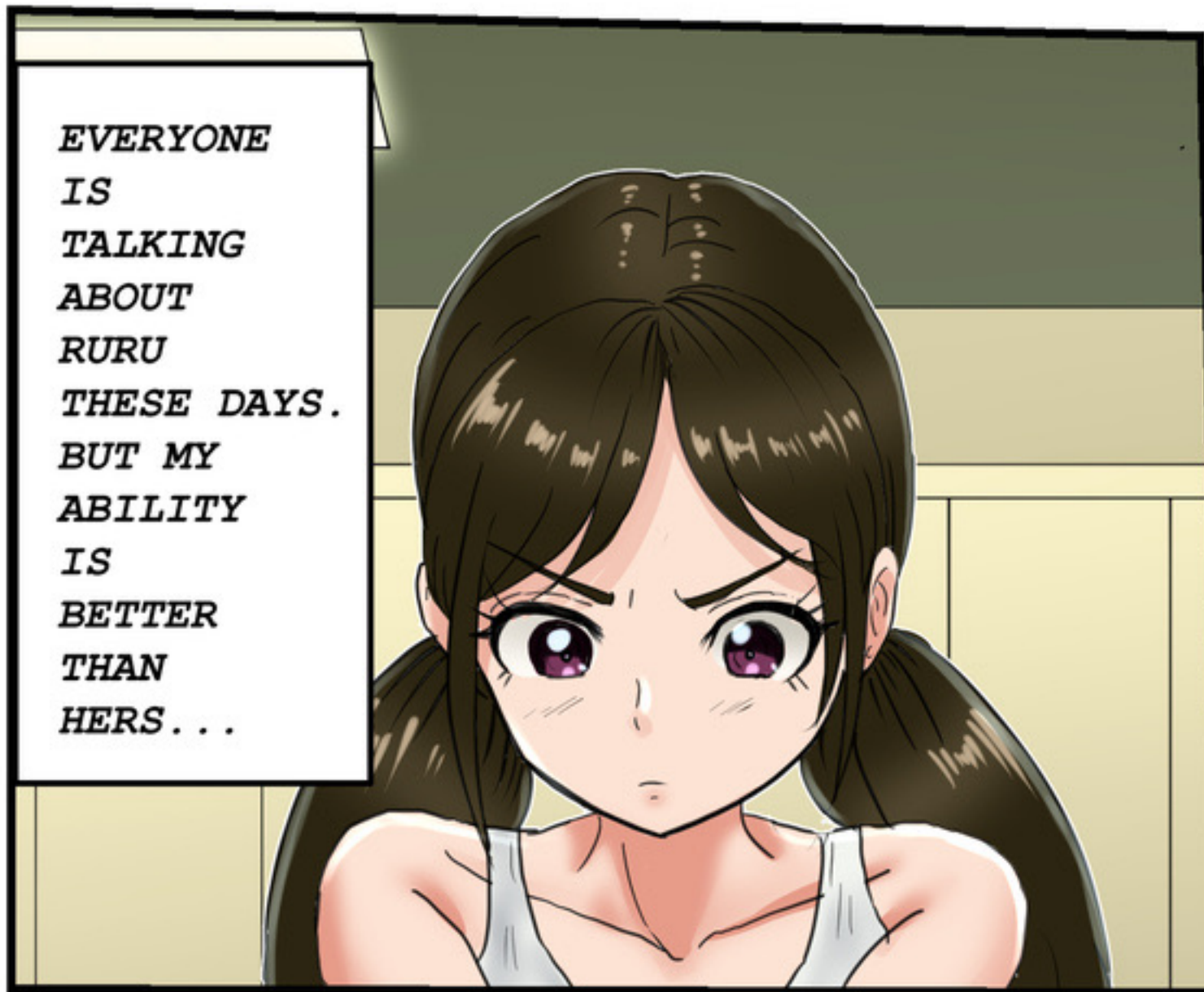
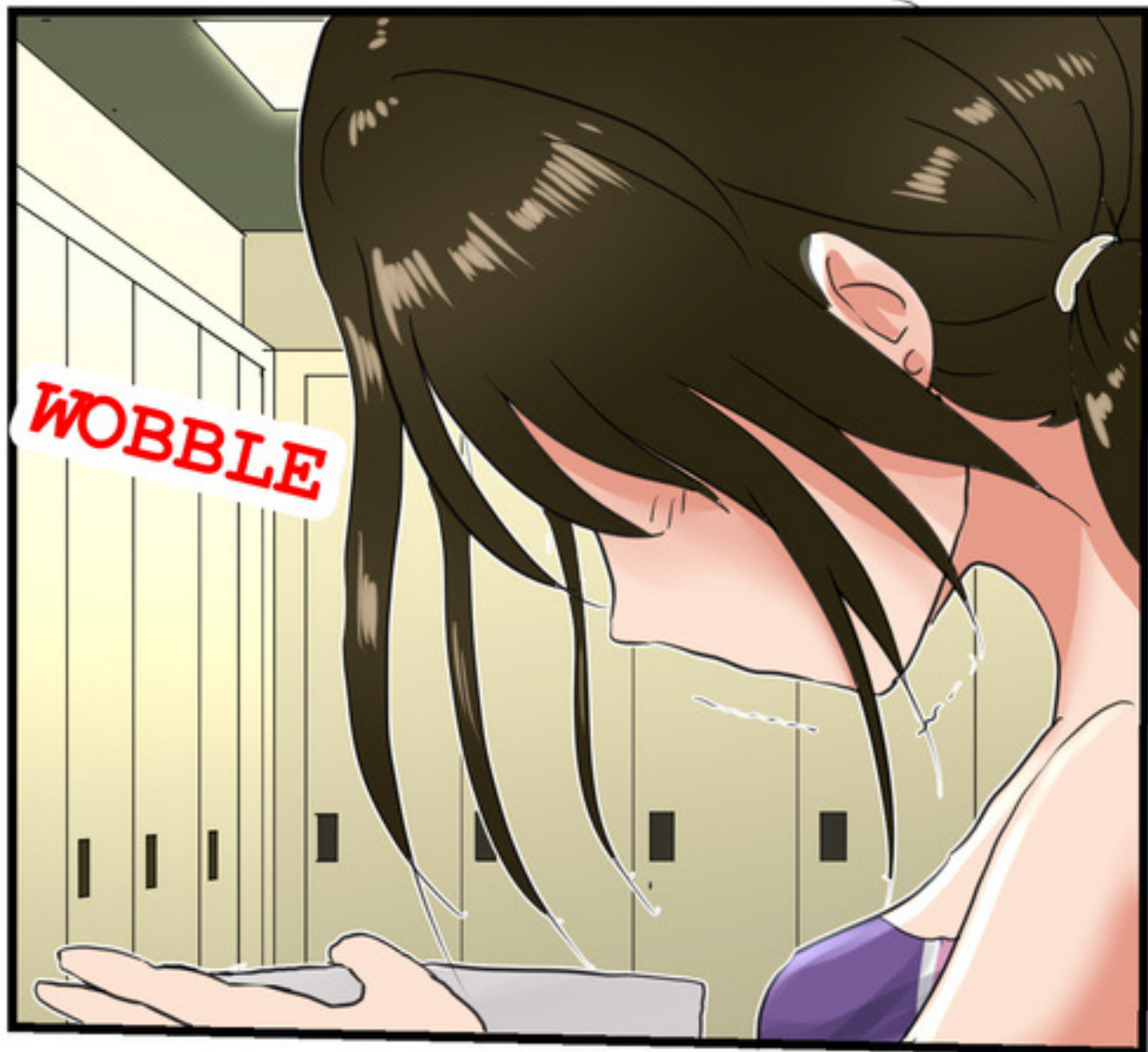
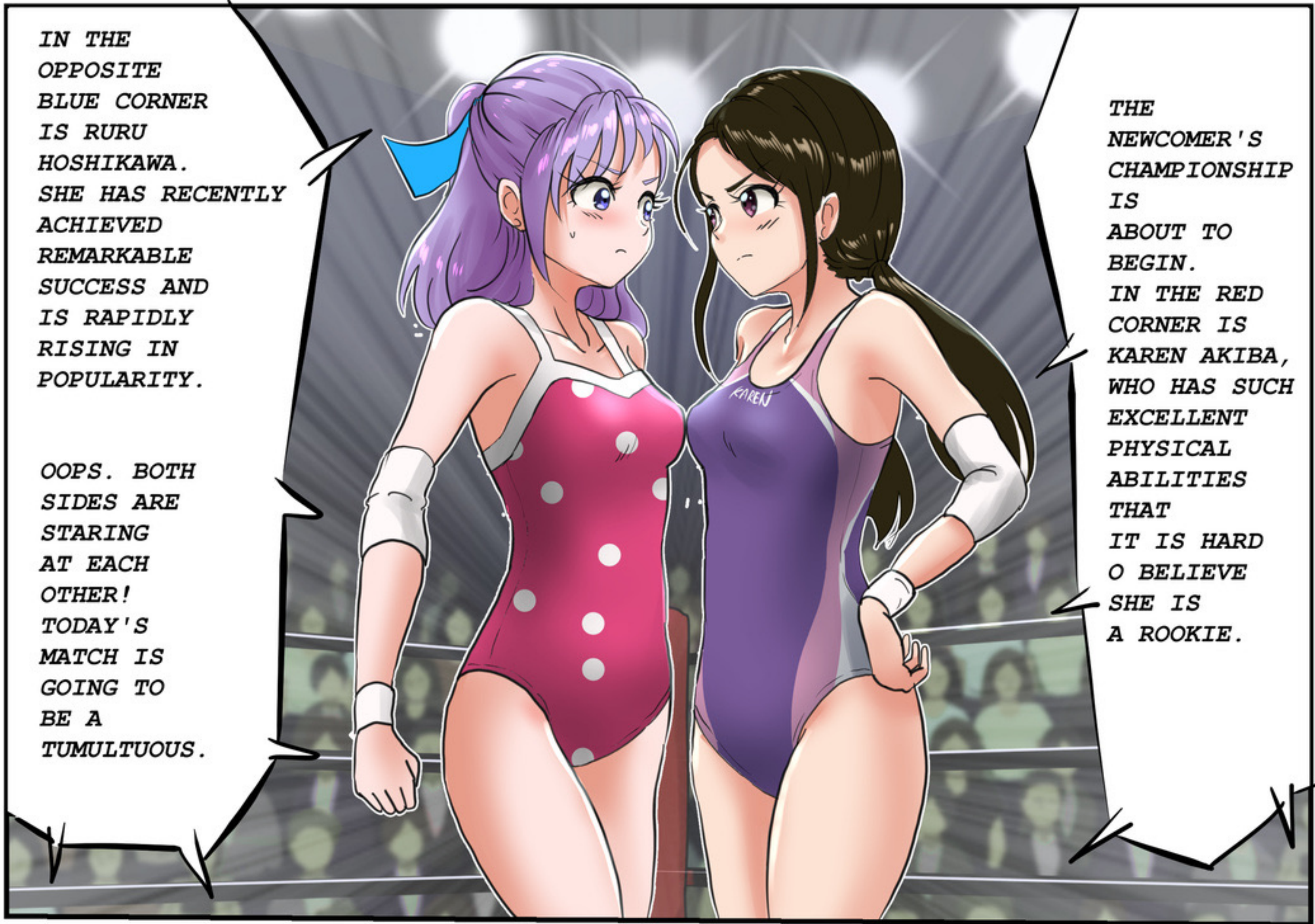


FIERCE BATTLE
IN THE NEWCOMER'S CHAMPIONSHIP!



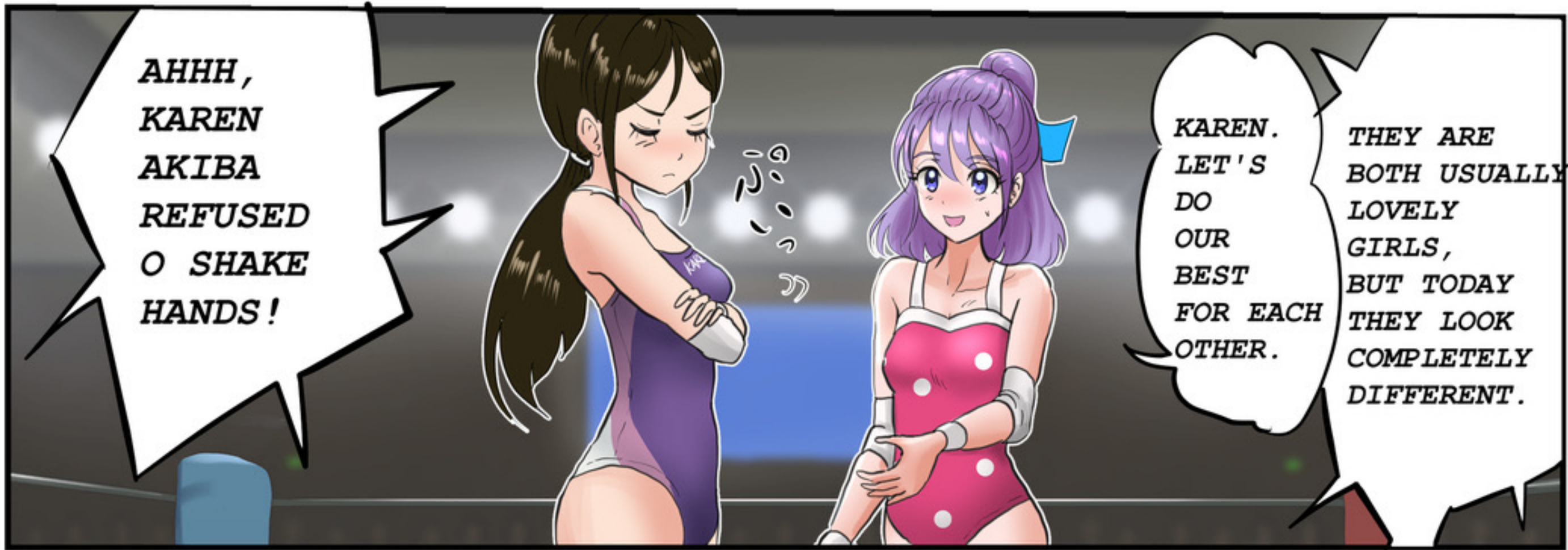




IN THE OPPOSITE BLUE CORNER IS RURU HOSHIKAWA. SHE HAS RECENTLY ACHIEVED REMARKABLE SUCCESS AND IS RAPIDLY RISING IN POPULARITY.

THE NEWCOMER'S CHAMPIONSHIP IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. IN THE RED CORNER IS KAREN AKIBA, WHO HAS SUCH EXCELLENT PHYSICAL ABILITIES THAT IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE SHE IS A ROOKIE.

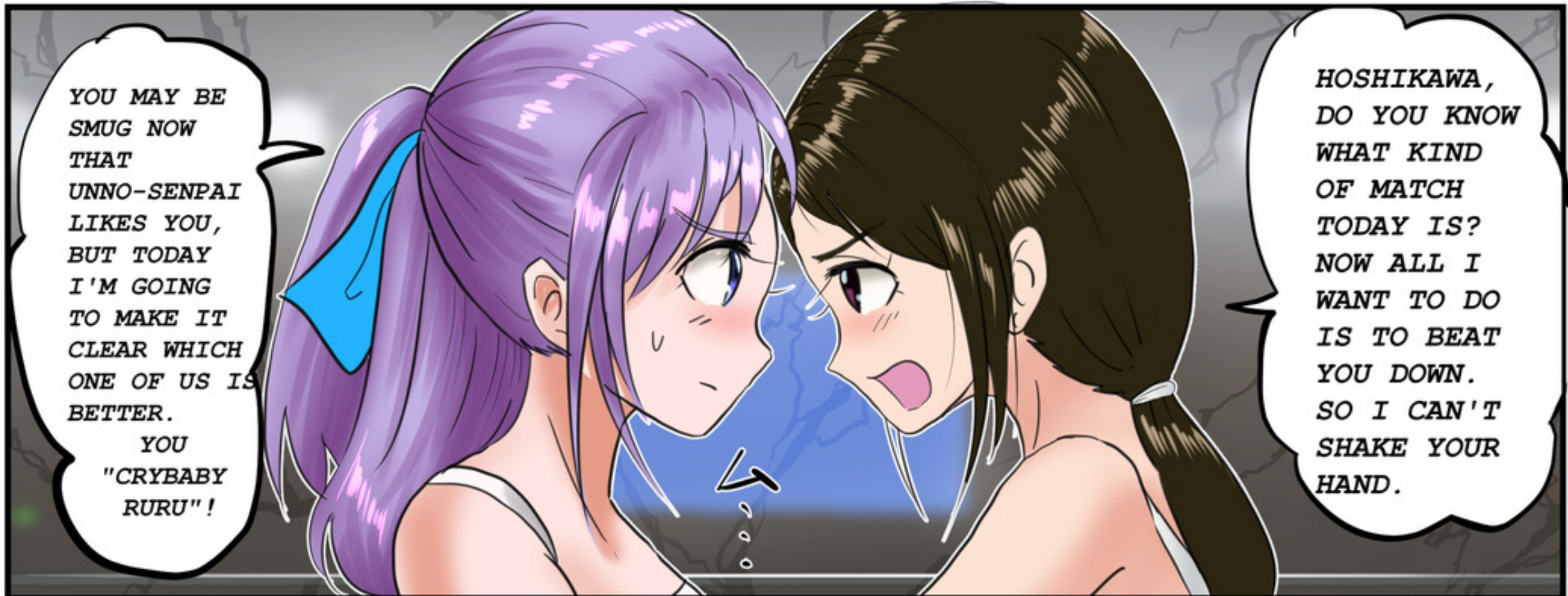
OOPS. BOTH SIDES ARE STARING AT EACH OTHER! TODAY'S MATCH IS GOING TO BE A TUMULTUOUS.



AHHH, KAREN AKIBA REFUSED TO SHAKE HANDS!

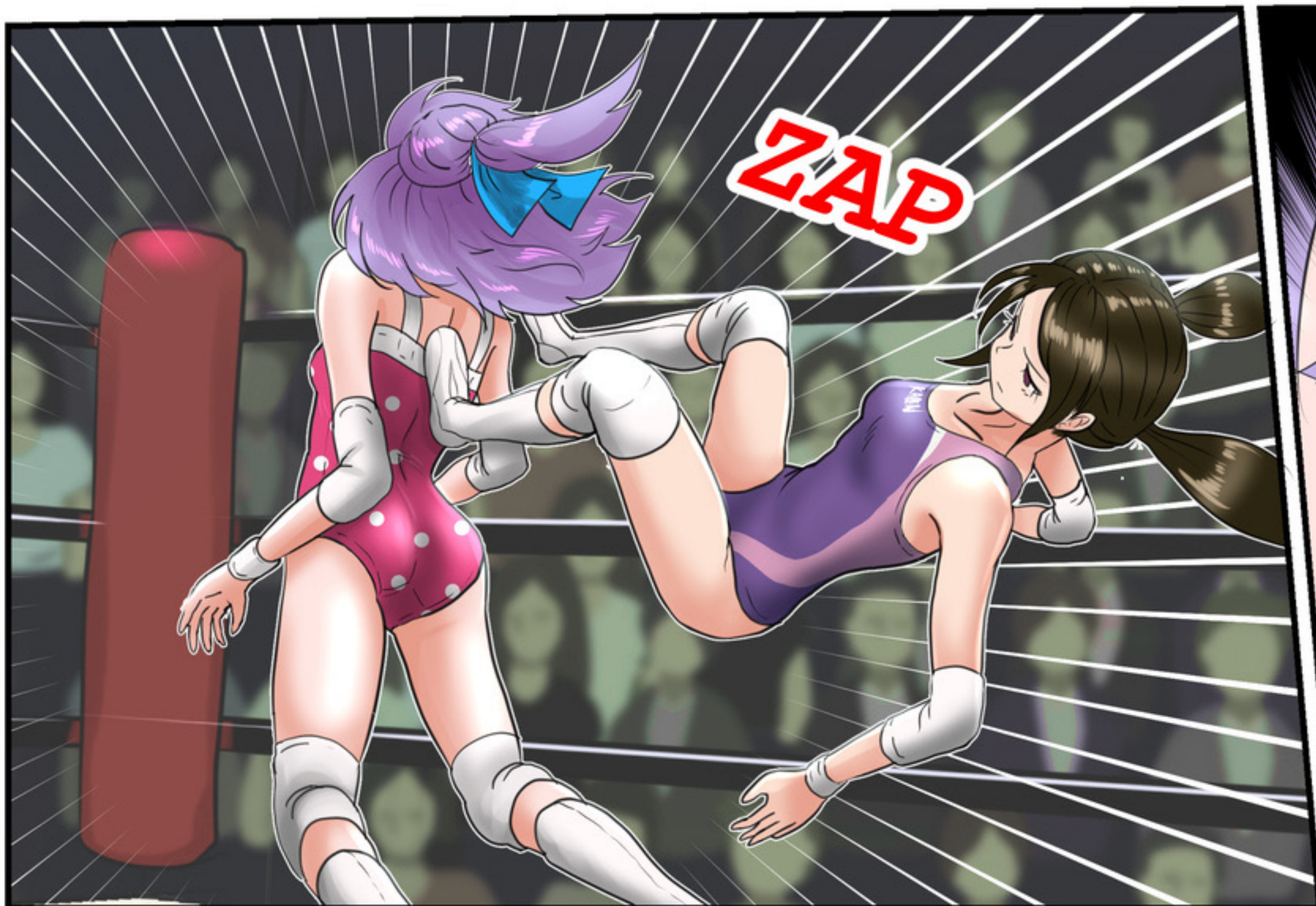
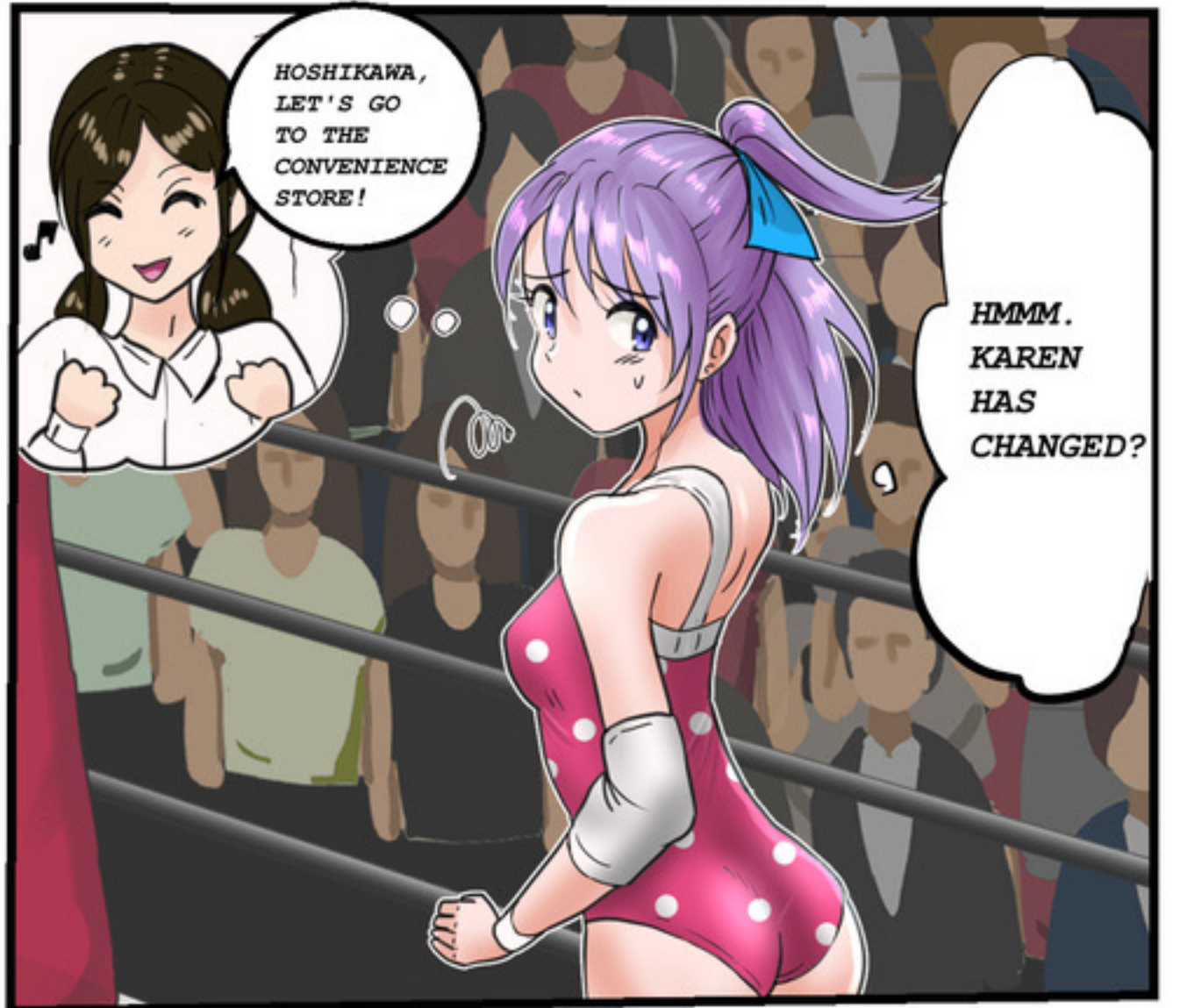
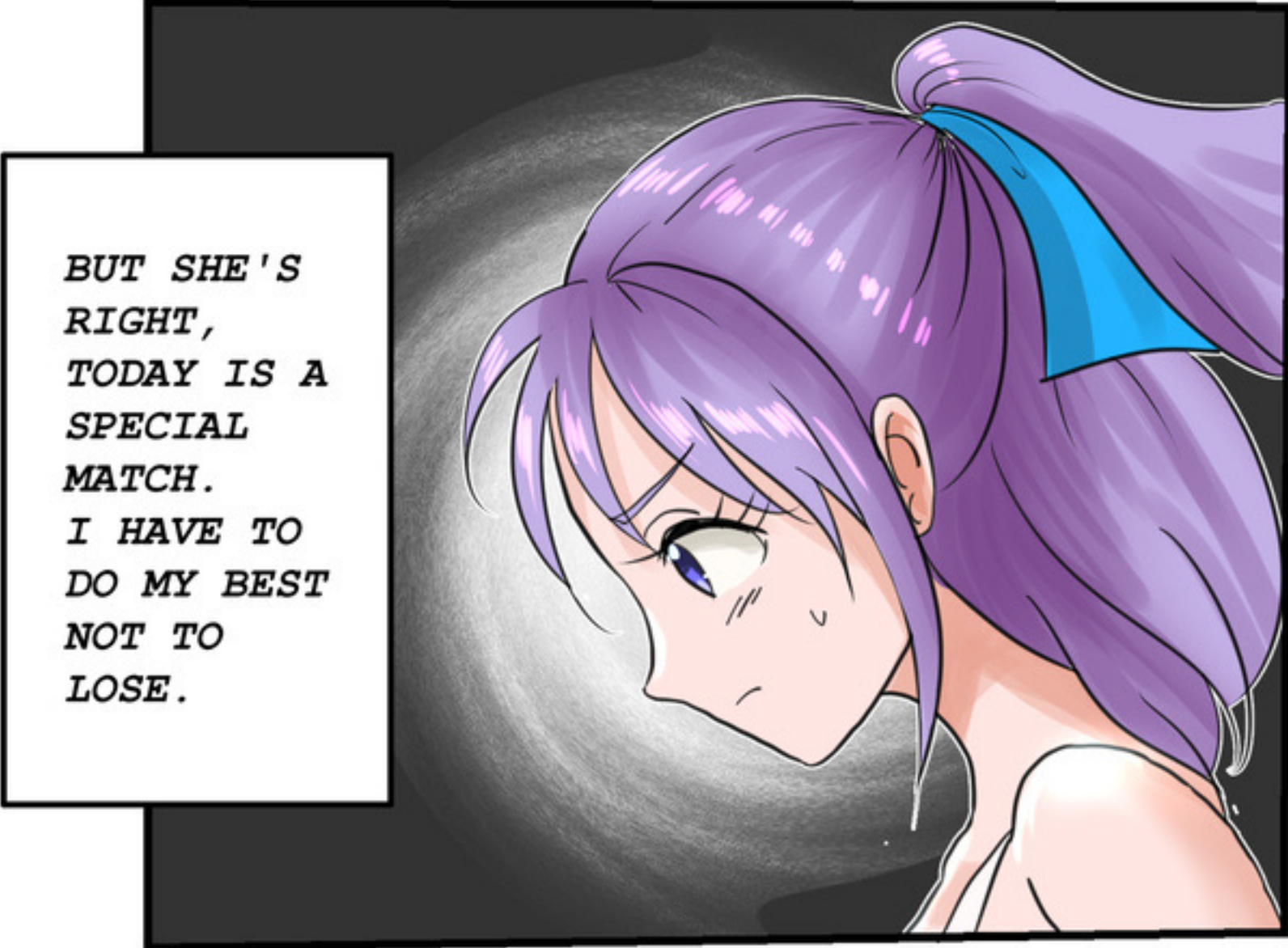
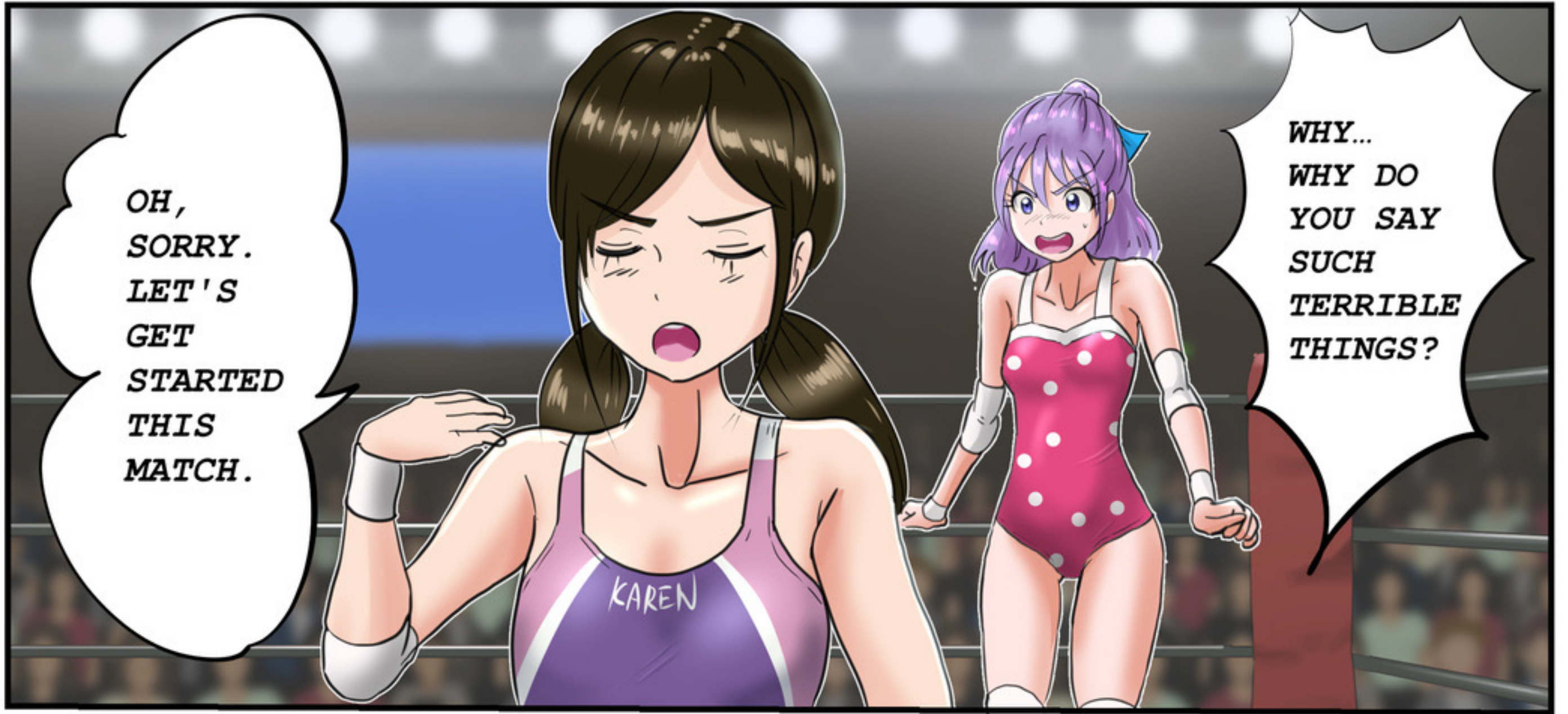
KAREN. LET'S DO OUR BEST FOR EACH OTHER.

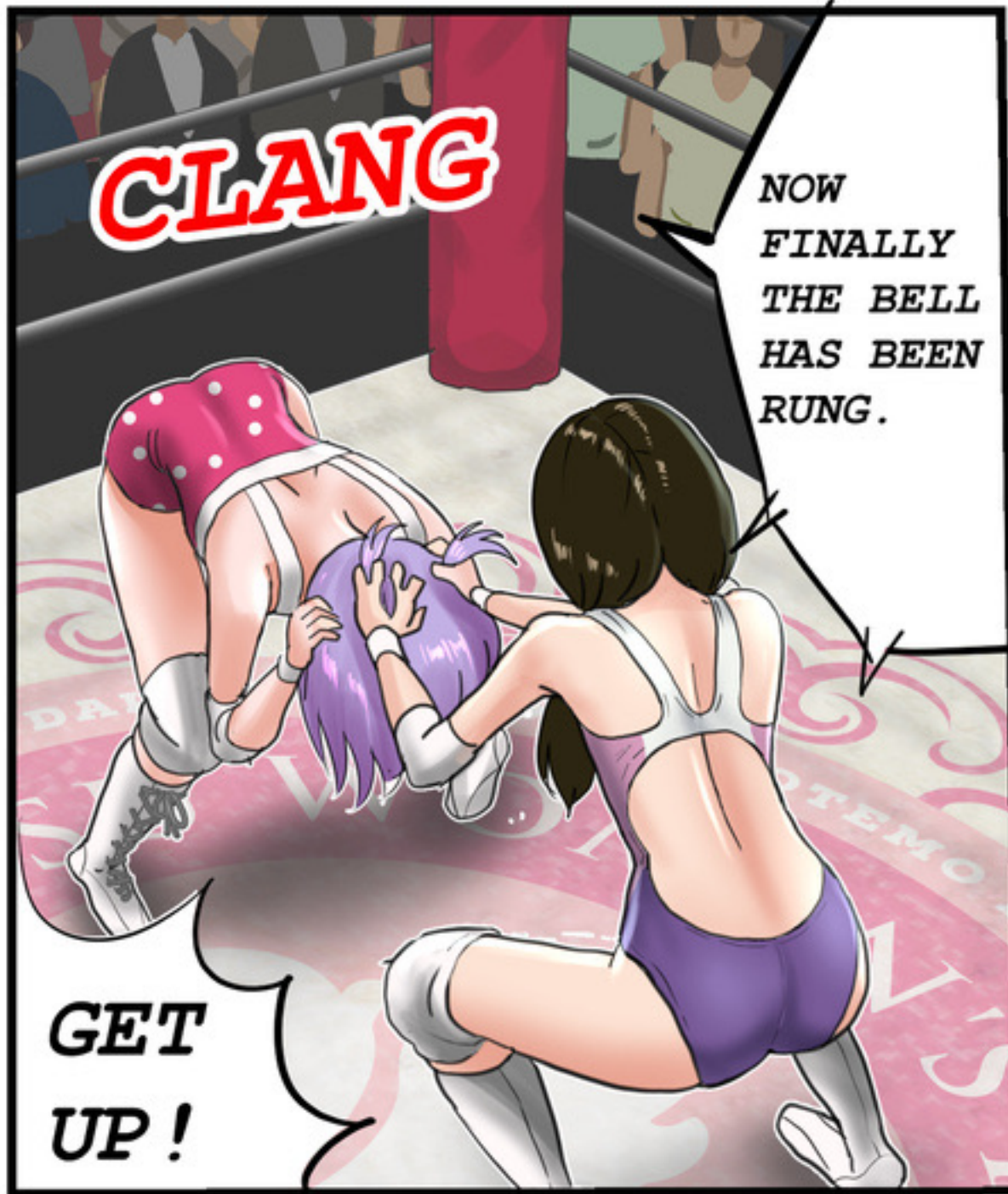
THEY ARE BOTH USUALLY LOVELY GIRLS, BUT TODAY THEY LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.



YOU MAY BE SMUG NOW THAT UNNO-SEMPAI LIKES YOU, BUT TODAY I'M GOING TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHICH ONE OF US IS BETTER. YOU "CRYBABY RURU"!

HOSHIKAWA, DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MATCH TODAY IS? NOW ALL I WANT TO DO IS TO BEAT YOU DOWN. SO I CAN'T SHAKE YOUR HAND.

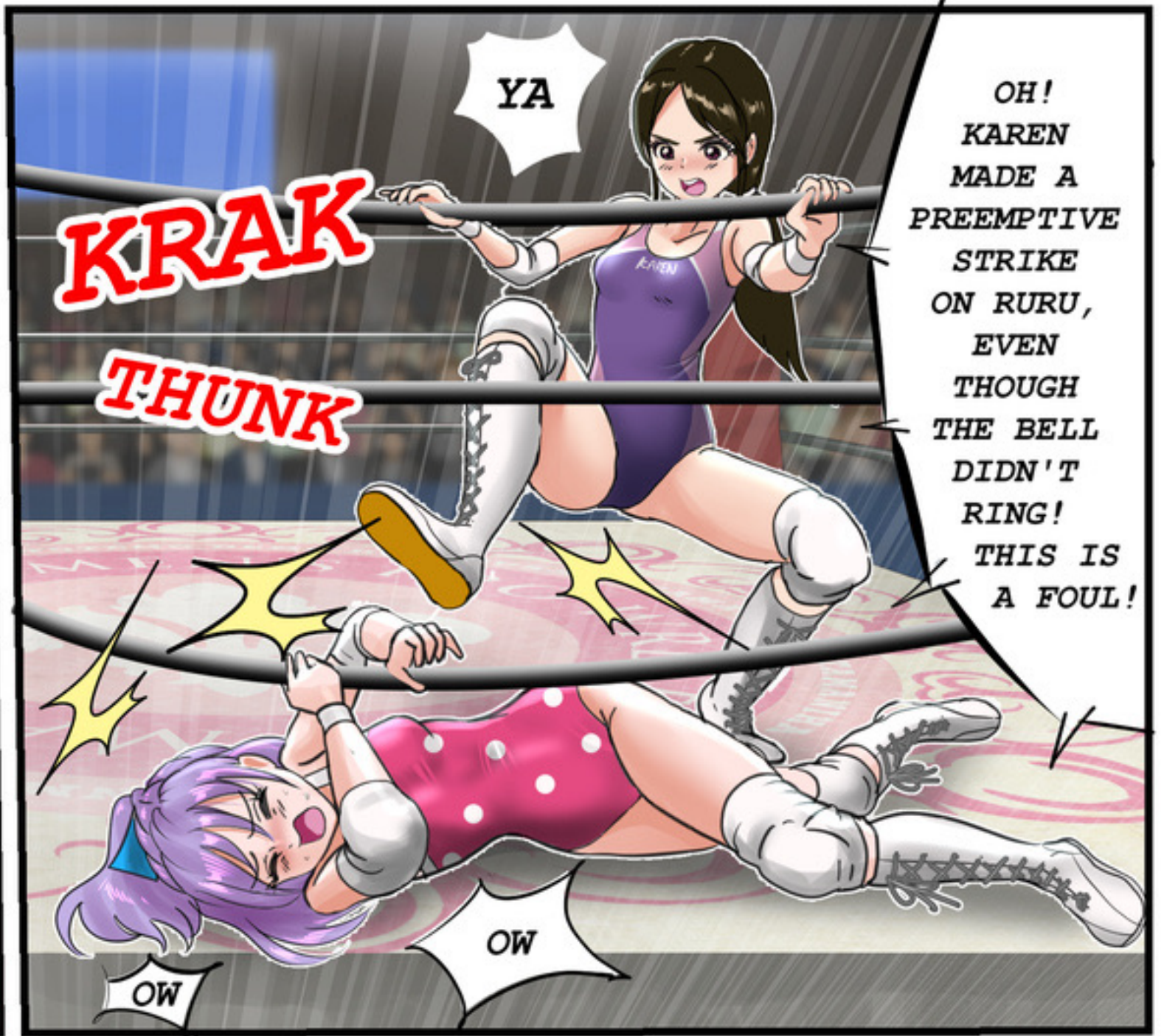




CLANG

NOW
FINALLY
THE BELL
HAS BEEN
RUNG.

GET
UP!



KRAK

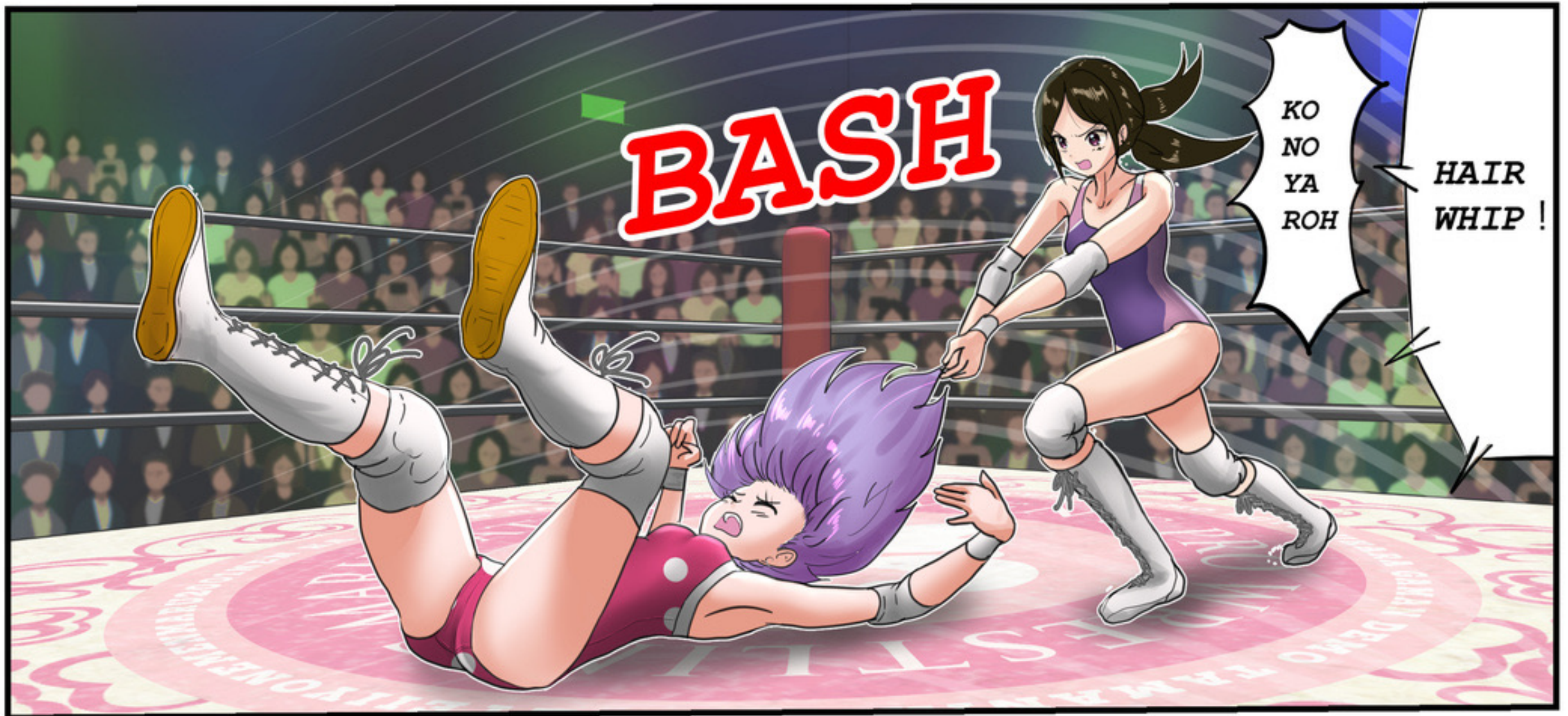
THUNK

YA

OH!
KAREN
MADE A
PREEMPTIVE
STRIKE
ON RURU,
EVEN
THOUGH
THE BELL
DIDN'T
RING!
THIS IS
A FOUL!

OW

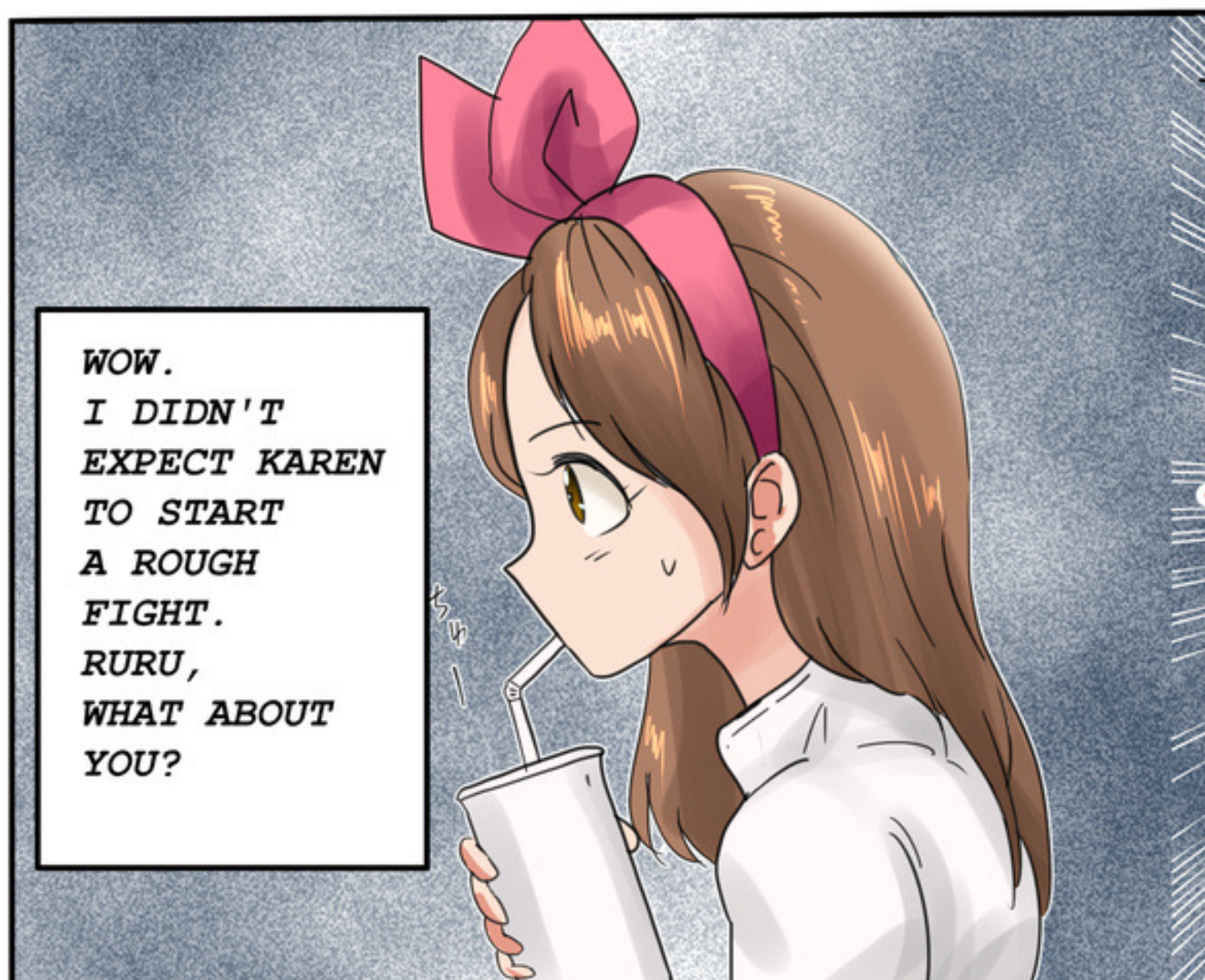
OW



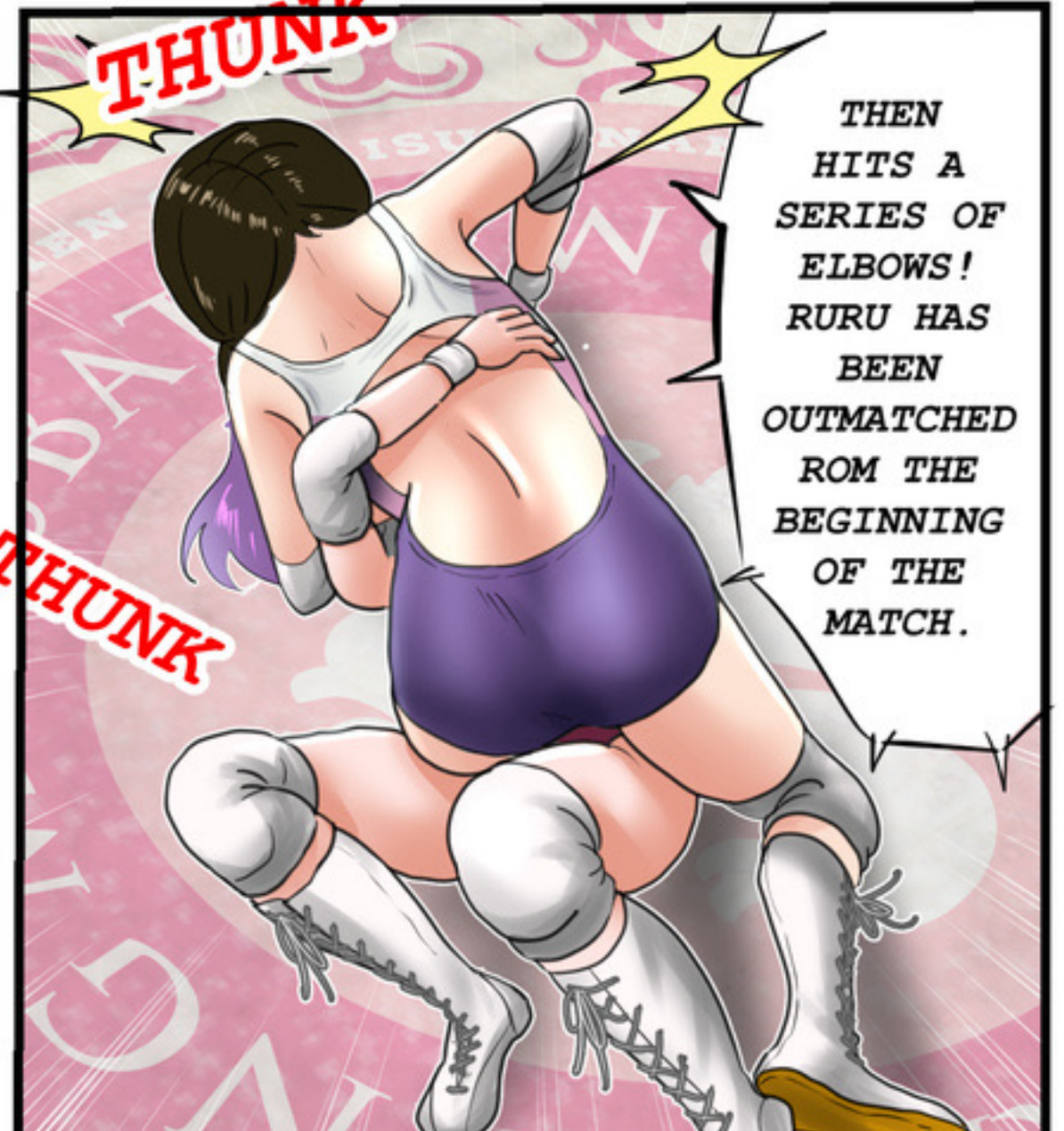
BASH

KO
NO
YA
ROH

HAIR
WHIP!



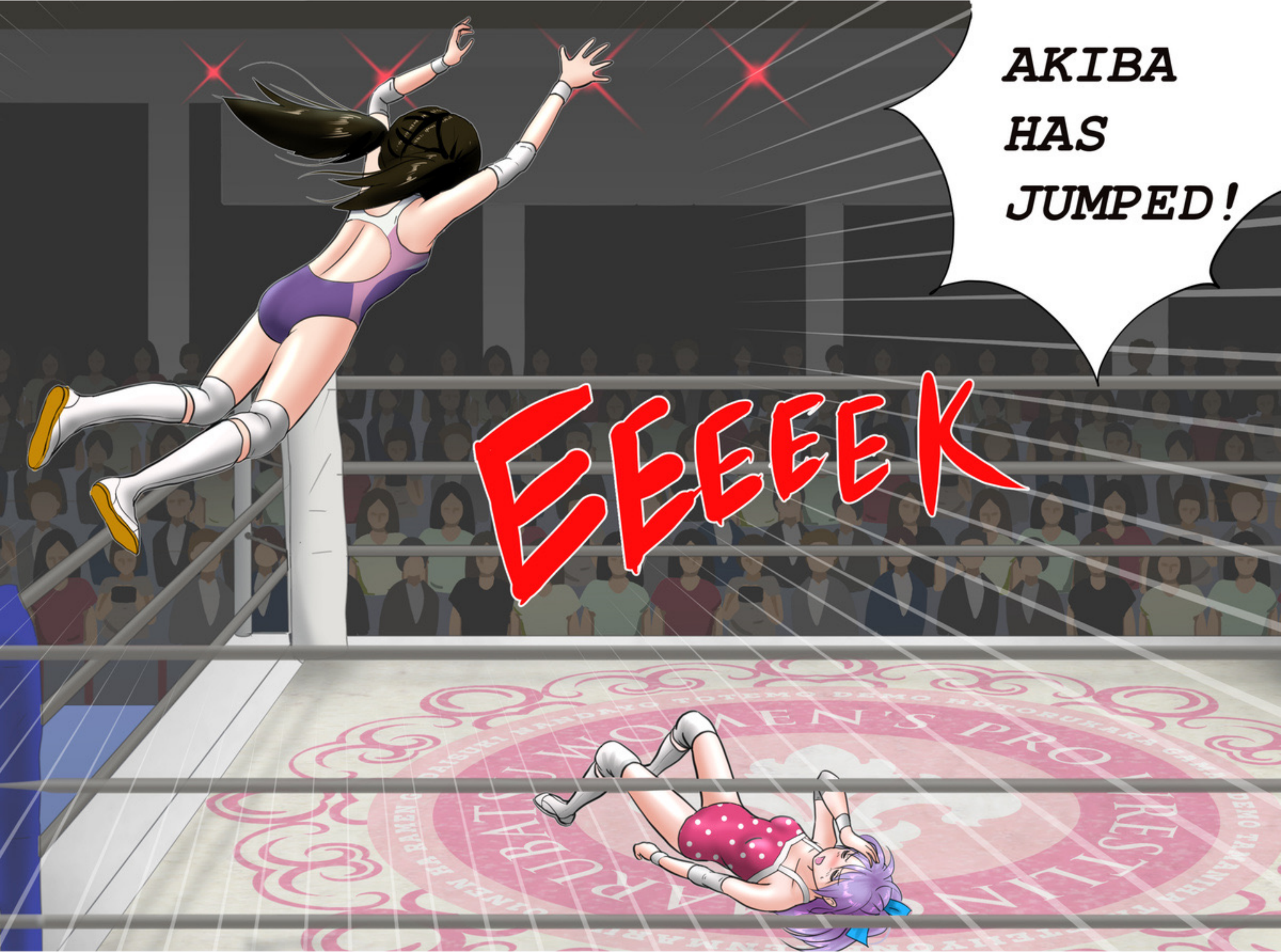
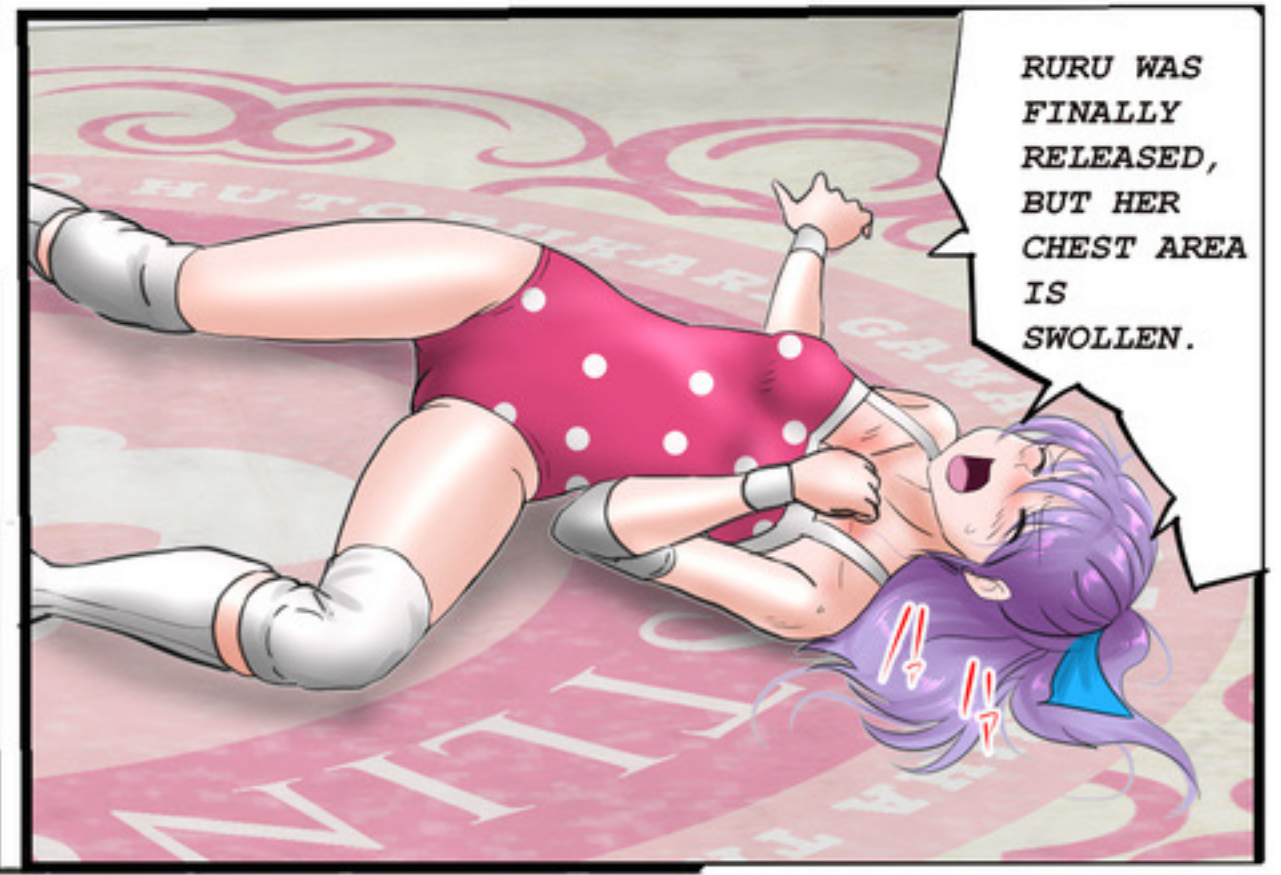
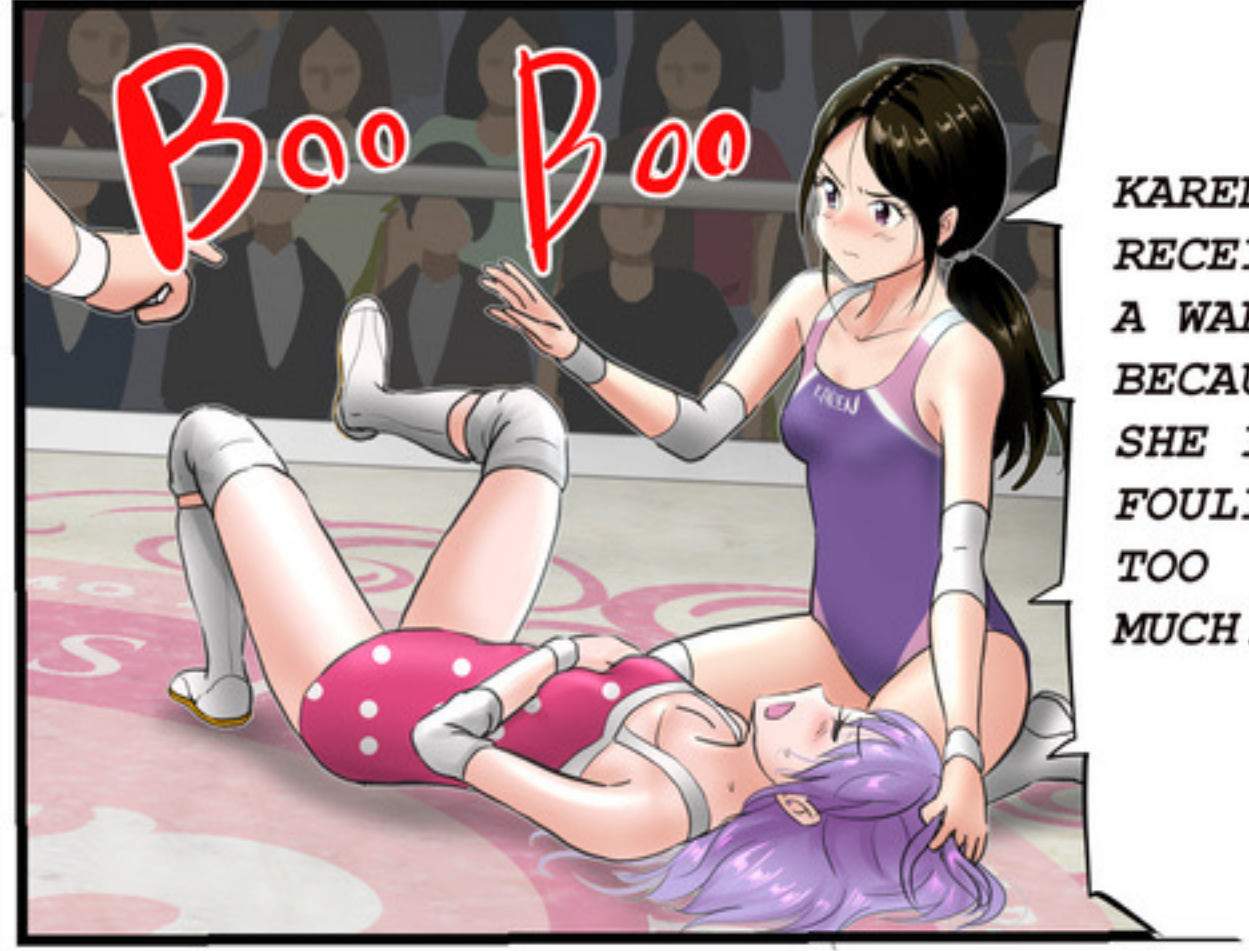
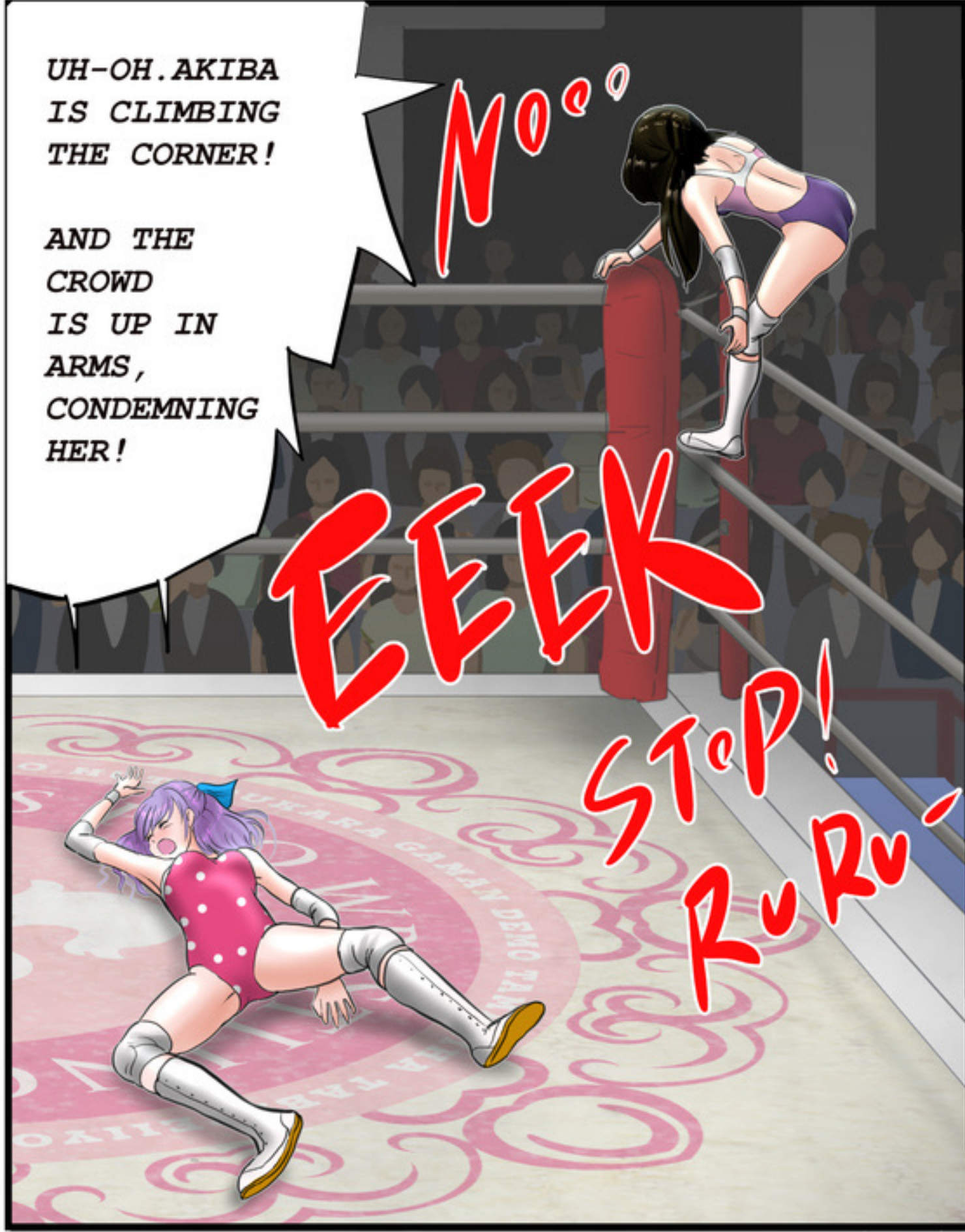
WOW.
I DIDN'T
EXPECT KAREN
TO START
A ROUGH
FIGHT.
RURU,
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?



THUNK

THUNK

THEN
HITS A
SERIES OF
ELBOWS!
RURU HAS
BEEN
OUTMATCHED
FROM THE
BEGINNING
OF THE
MATCH.





KAREN...

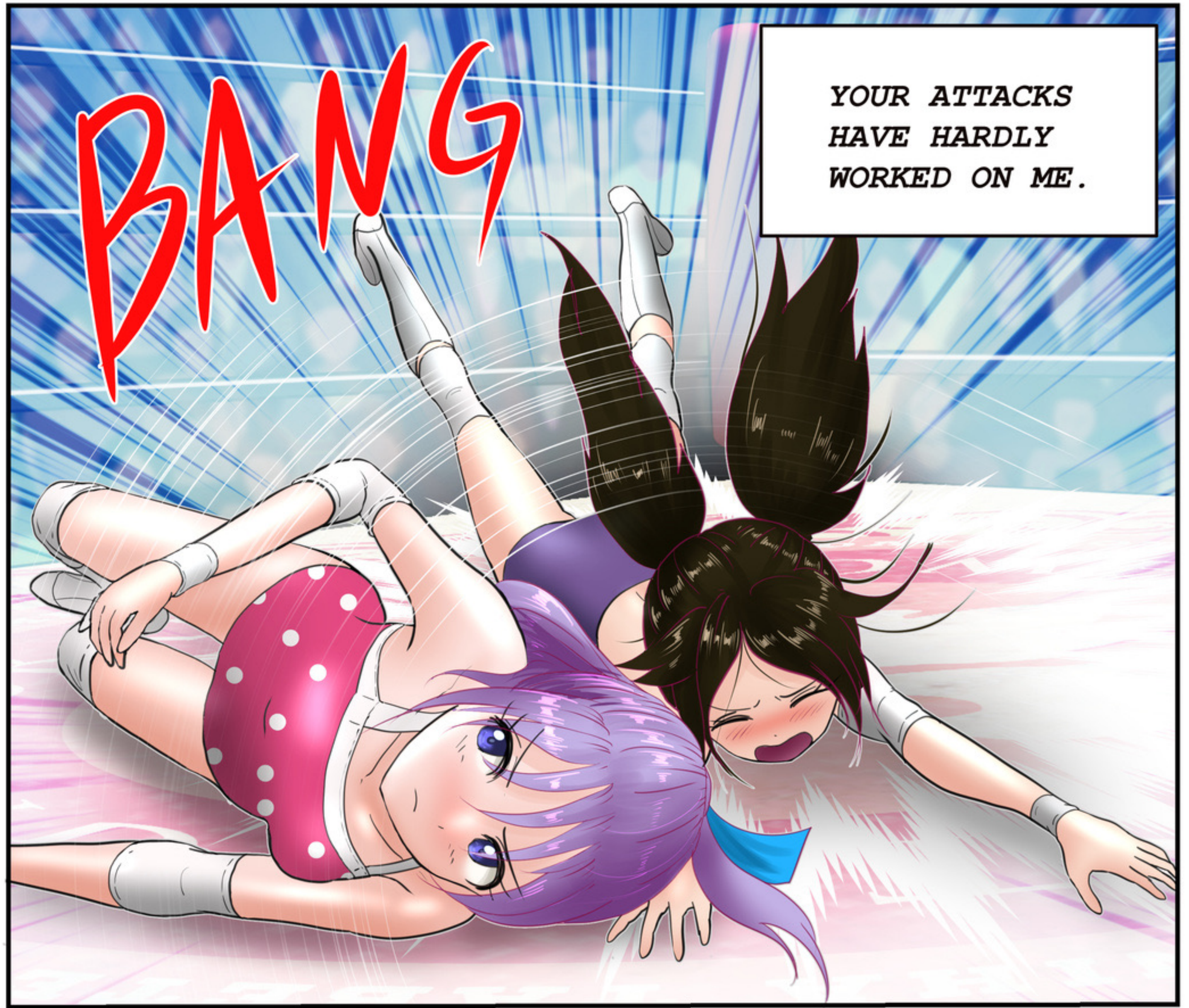
PUFF

PUFF

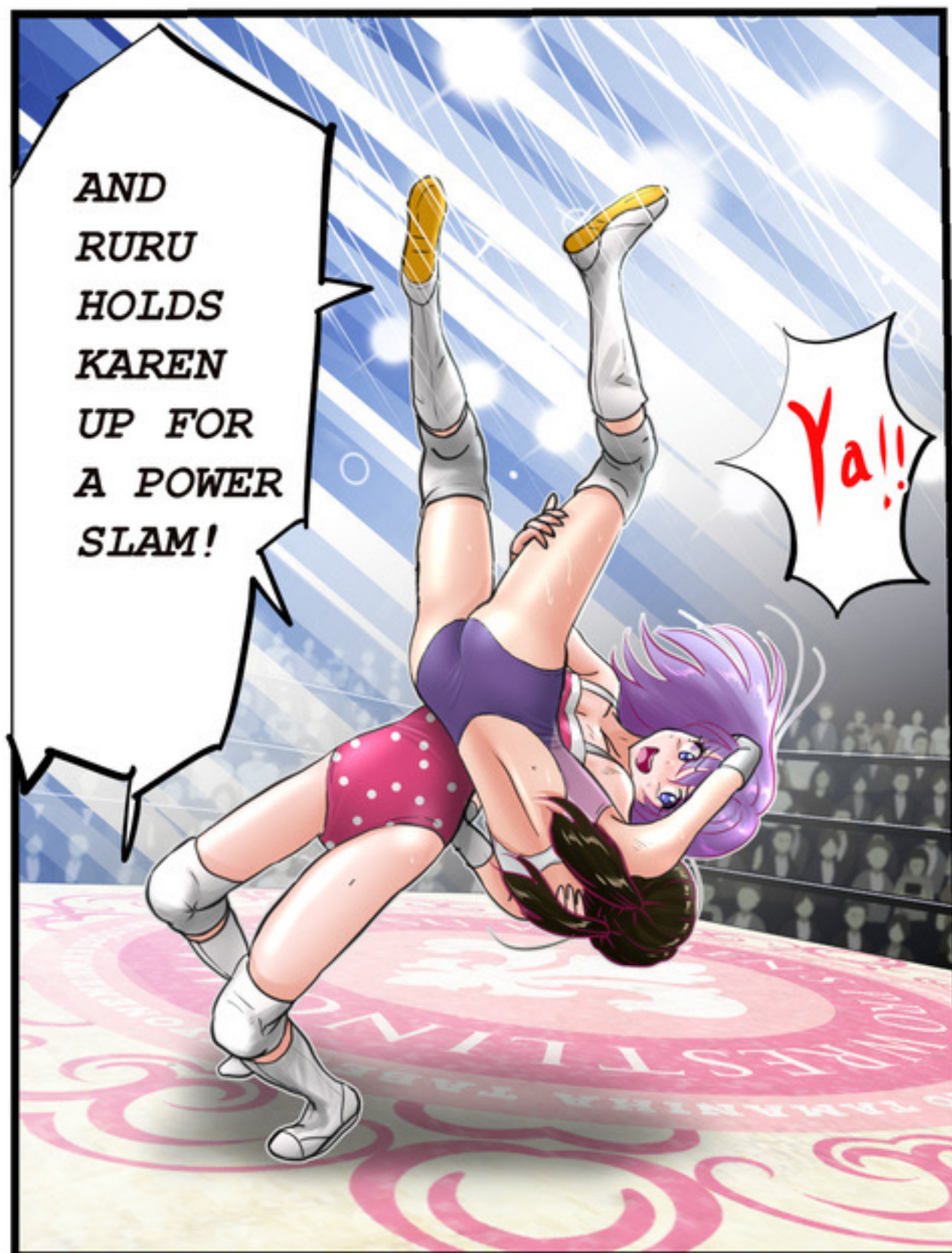
RURU!

AH.
WILL
THE
FIGHT
BE
SETTLED
SHORTLY
AFTER
THE
START?

ポチ子



YOUR ATTACKS
HAVE HARDLY
WORKED ON ME.



AND
RURU
HOLDS
KAREN
UP FOR
A POWER
SLAM!

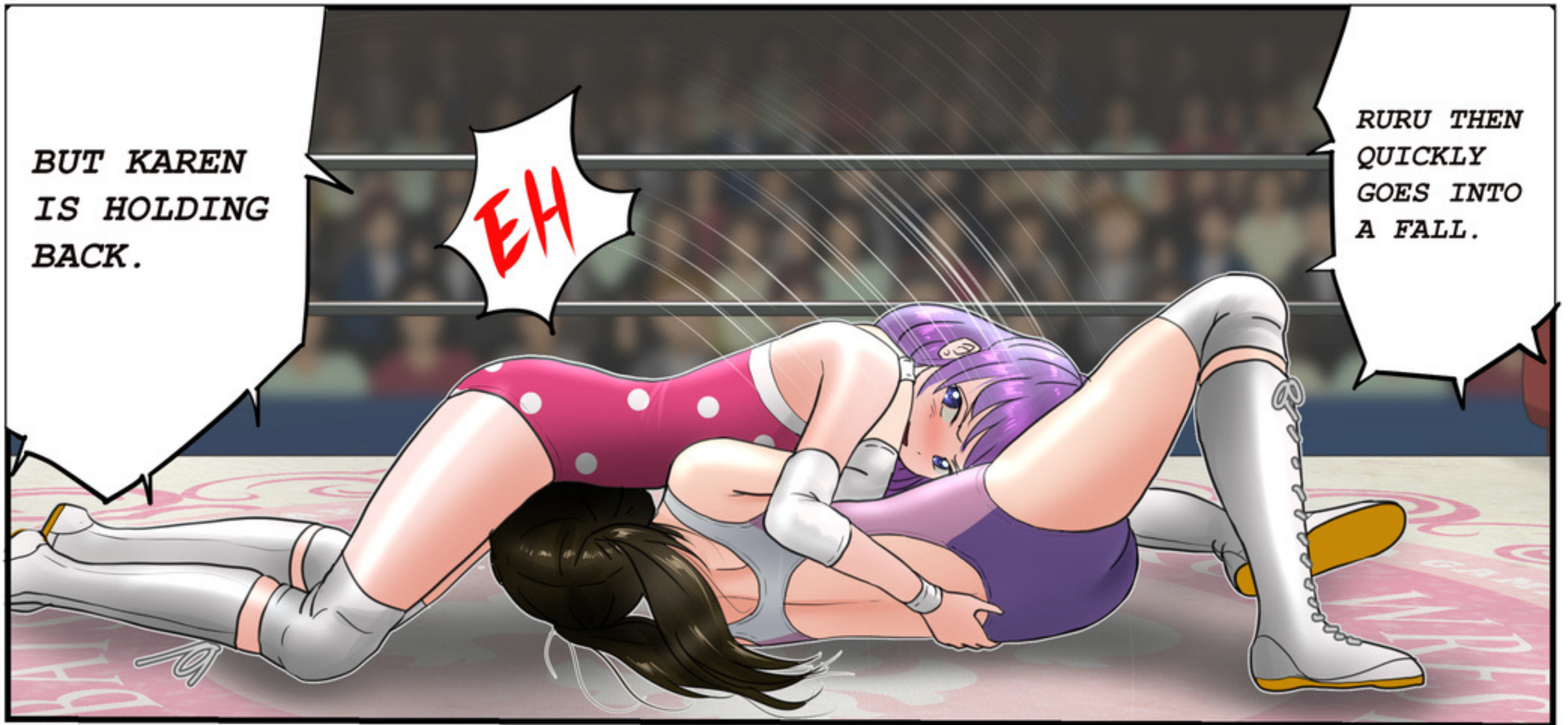
Ya!!



KAREN'S
ATTACK
WAS A
DISASTER!

OW

OW



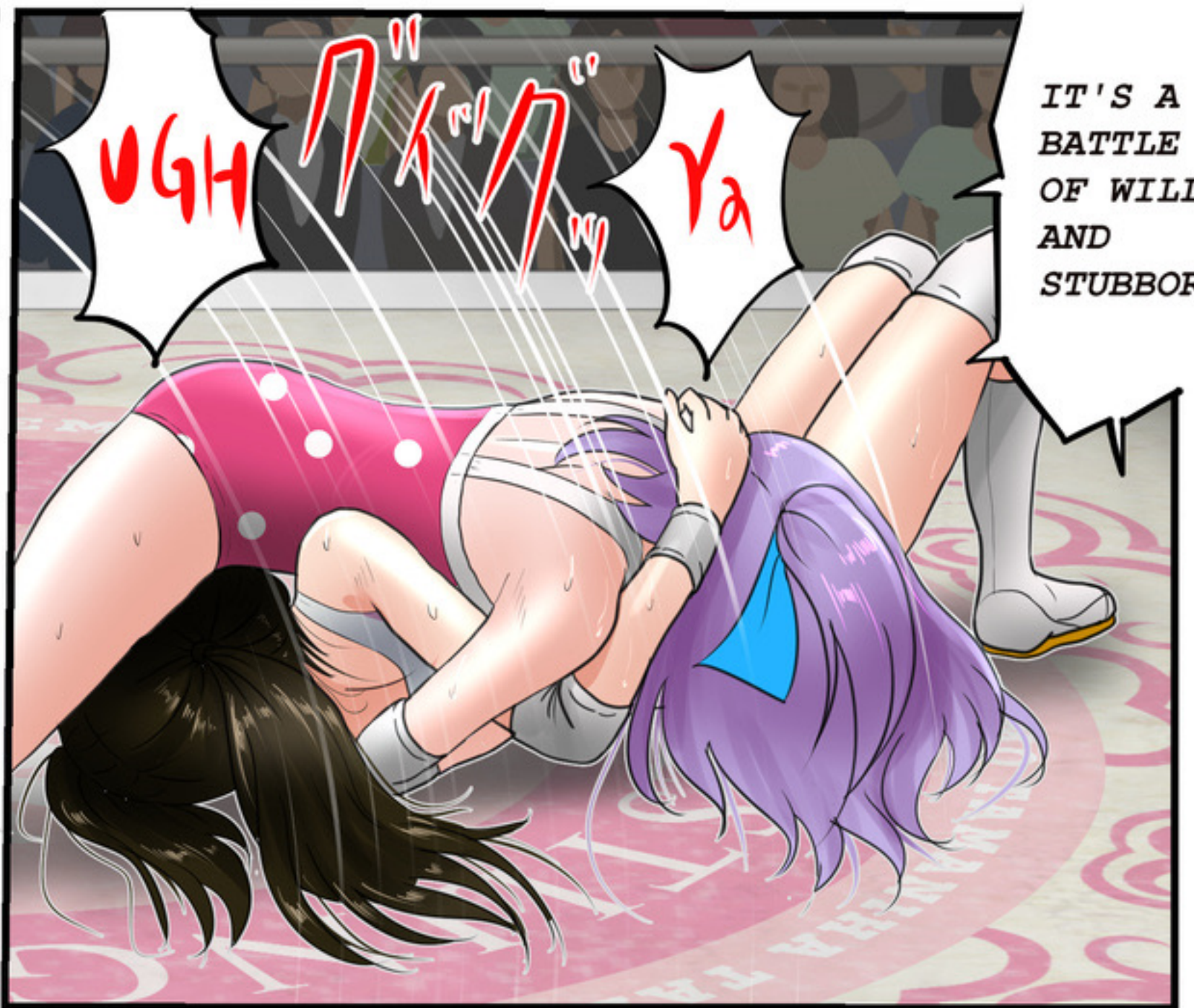
BUT KAREN IS HOLDING BACK.

EH

RURU THEN QUICKLY GOES INTO A FALL.



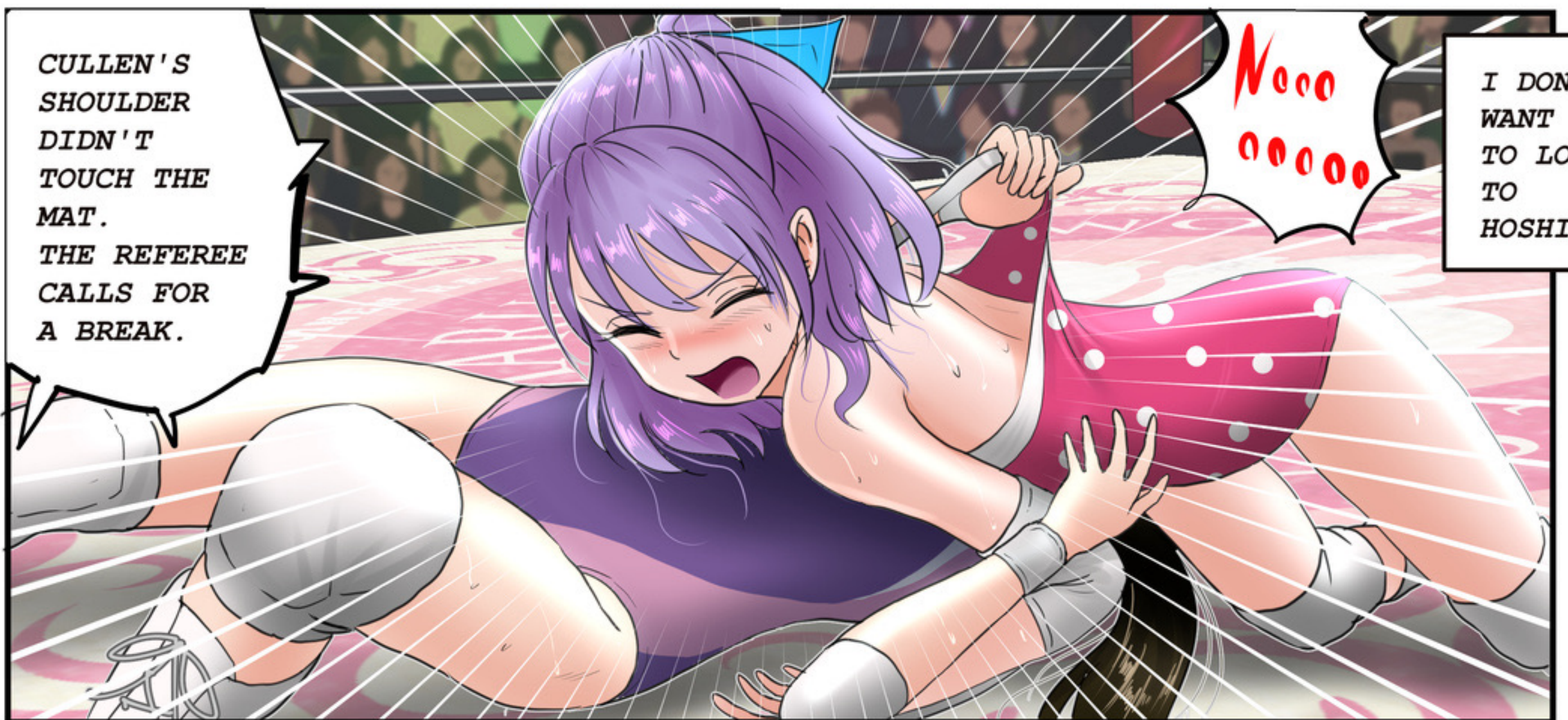
I DON'T
I DON'T



UGH

Ya

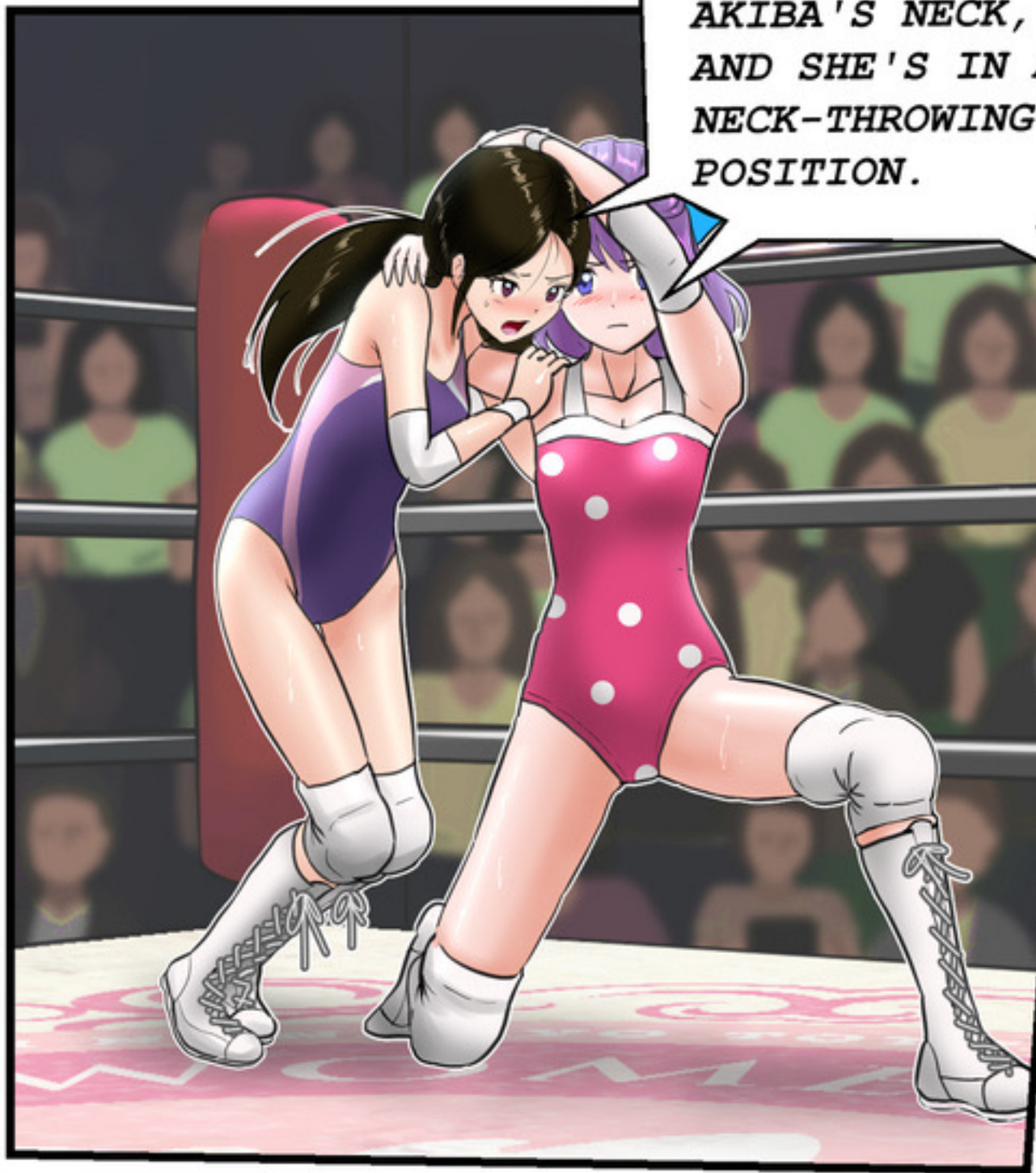
IT'S A BATTLE OF WILLS AND STUBBORNNESS.



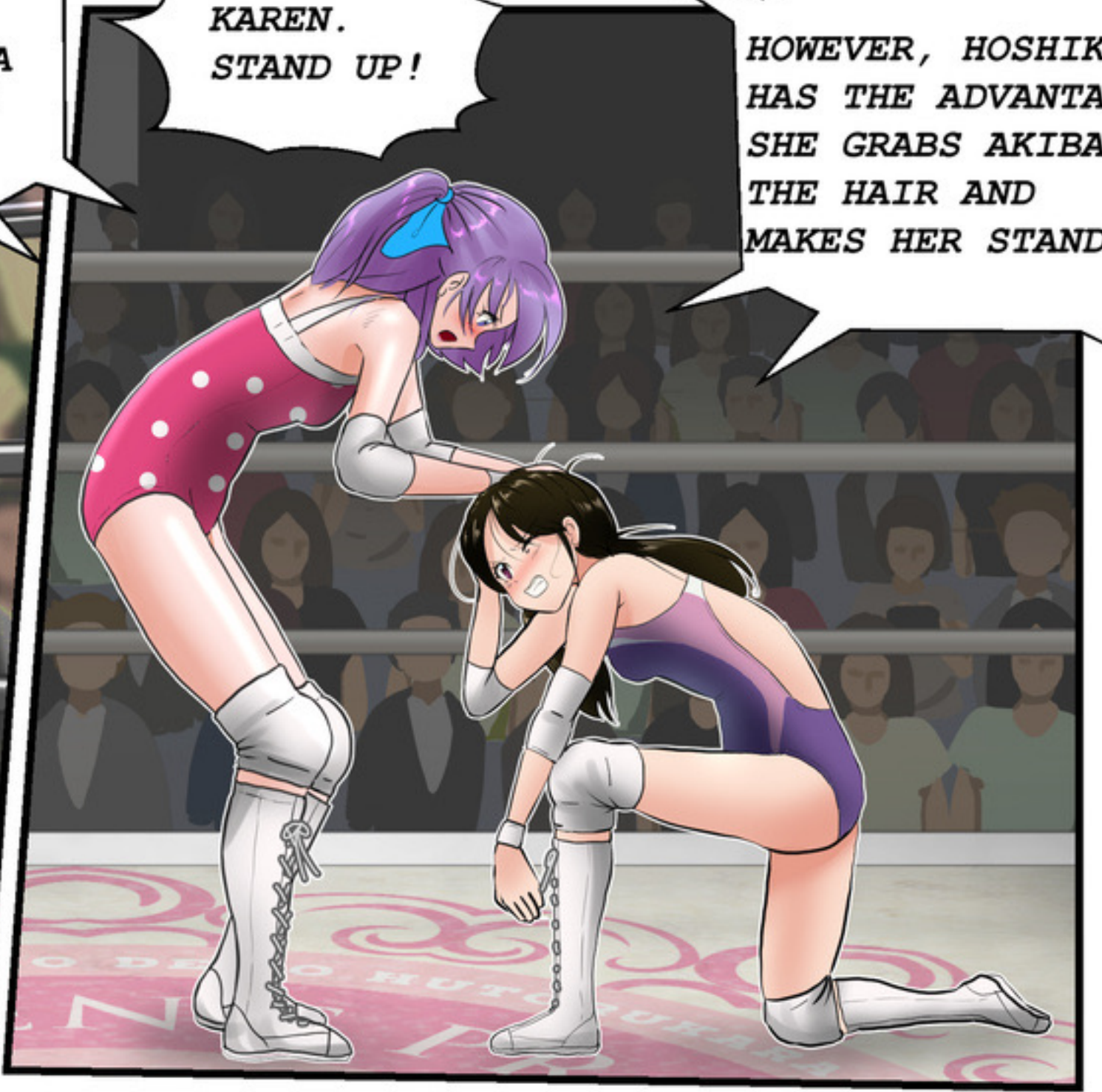
CULLEN'S SHOULDER DIDN'T TOUCH THE MAT. THE REFEREE CALLS FOR A BREAK.

Nooo

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO HOSHIKAWA!

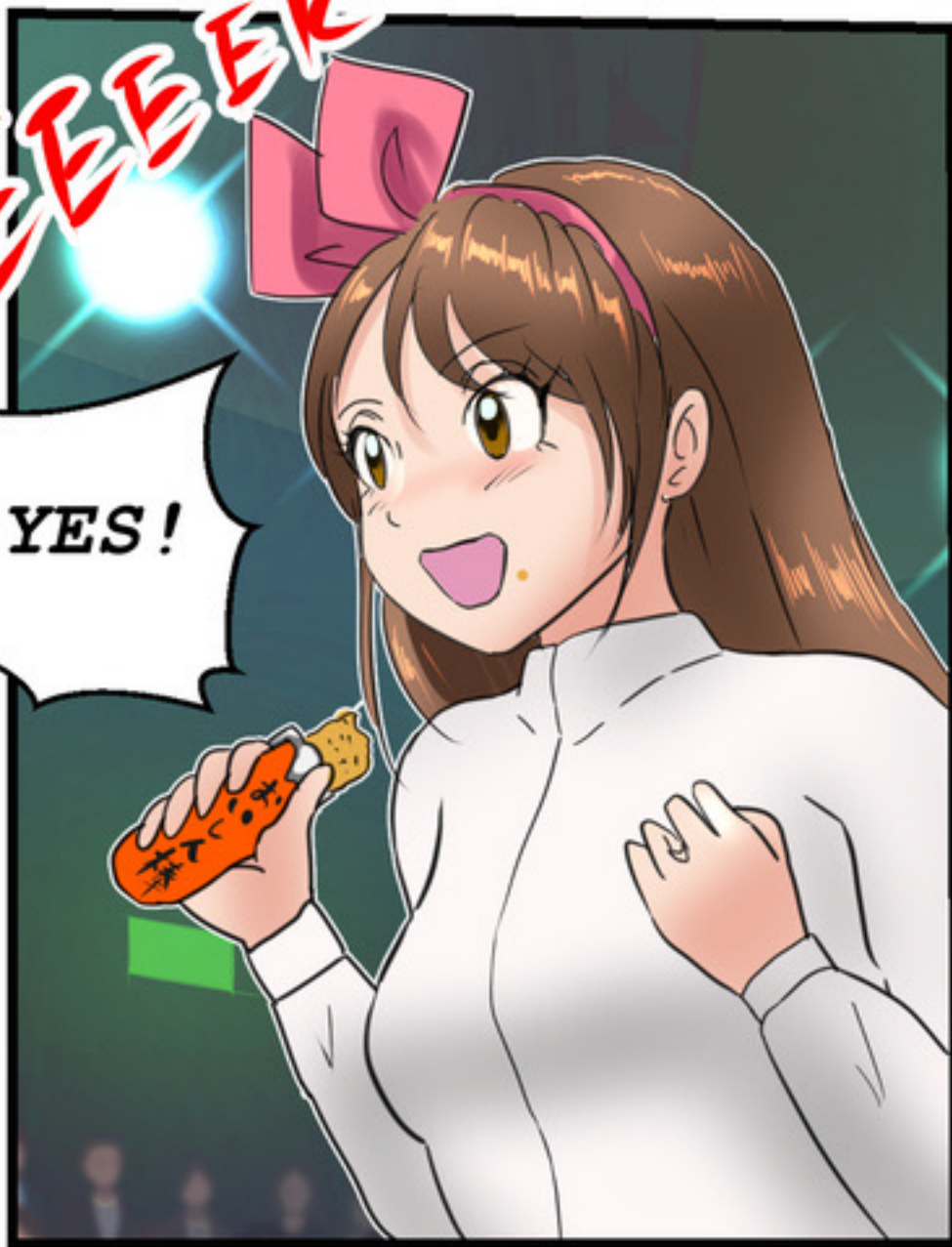


SHE PUTS HER HANDS AROUND AKIBA'S NECK, AND SHE'S IN A NECK-THROWING POSITION.



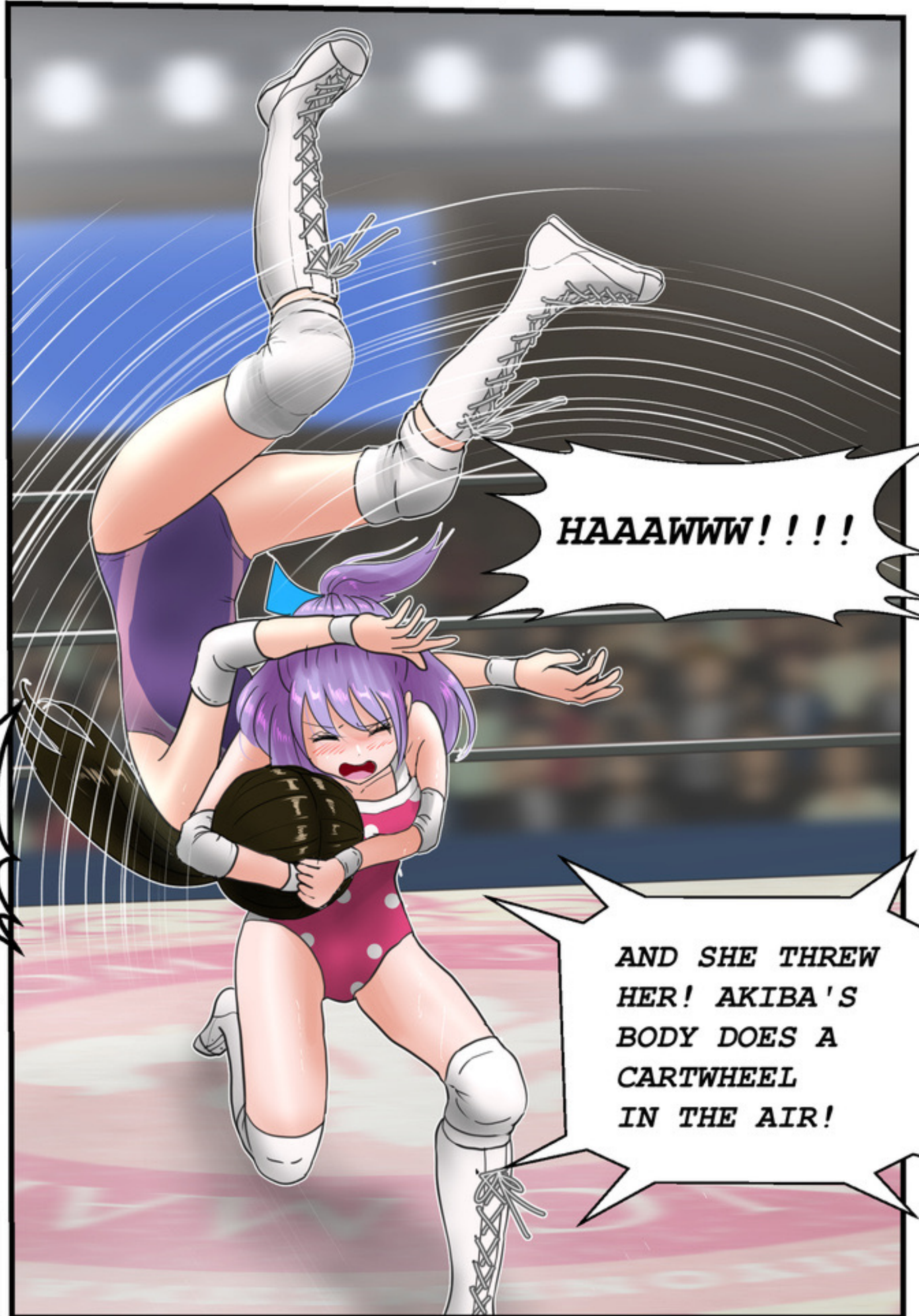
KAREN. STAND UP!

HOWEVER, HOSHIKAWA HAS THE ADVANTAGE. SHE GRABS AKIBA BY THE HAIR AND MAKES HER STAND UP.



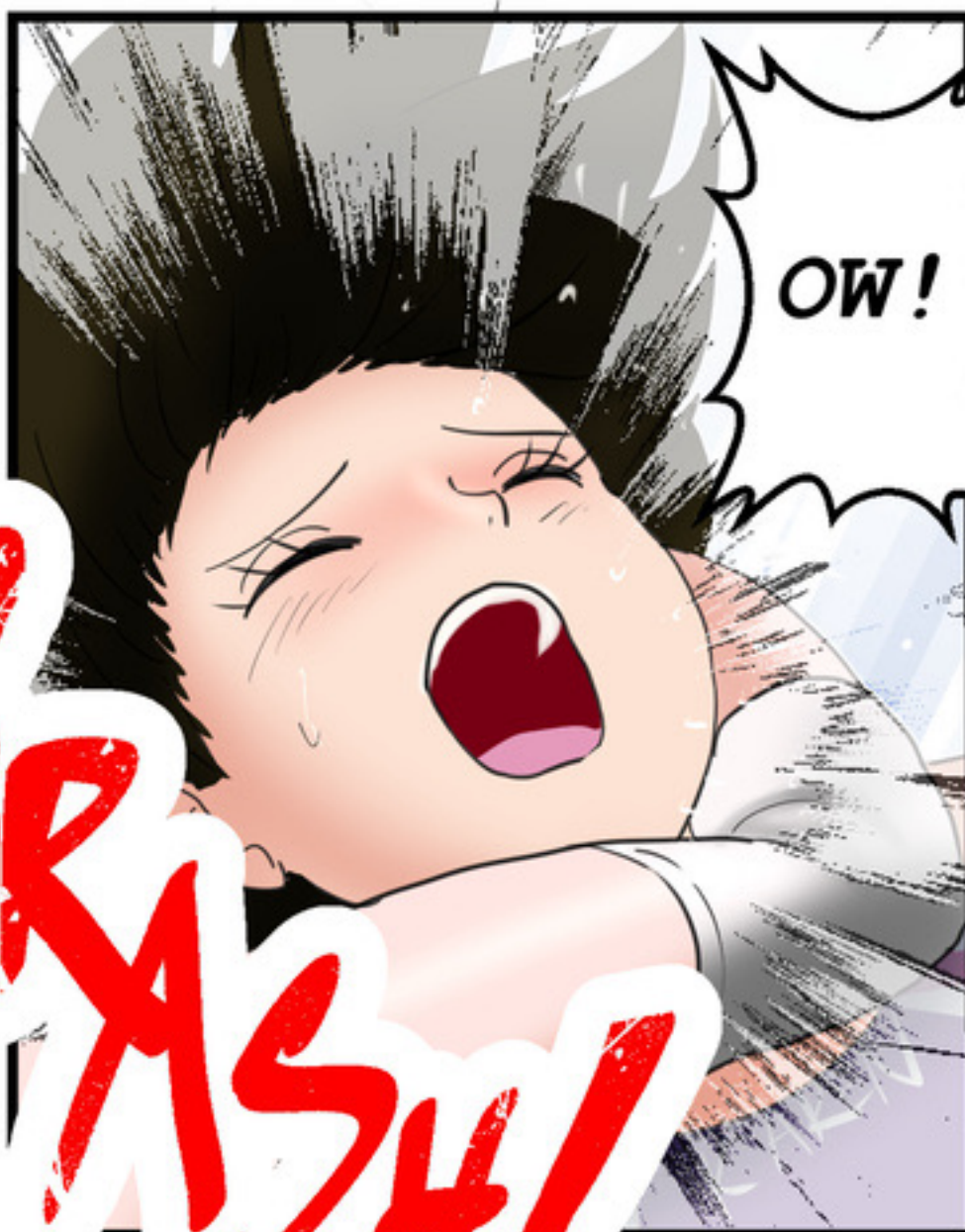
FEEEEK

YES!



HAAAWWW!!!!

AND SHE THREW HER! AKIBA'S BODY DOES A CARTWHEEL IN THE AIR!

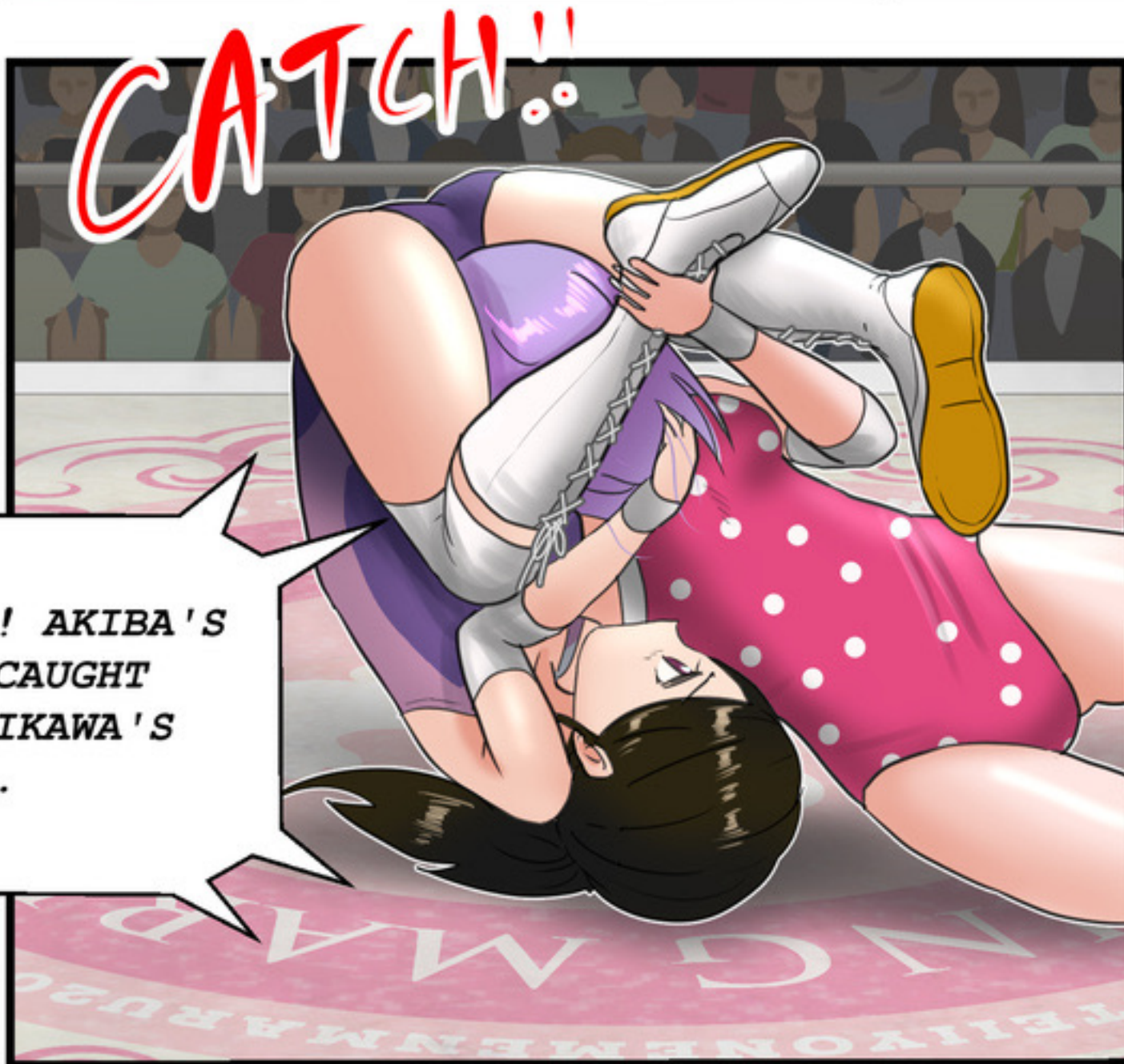


OW!

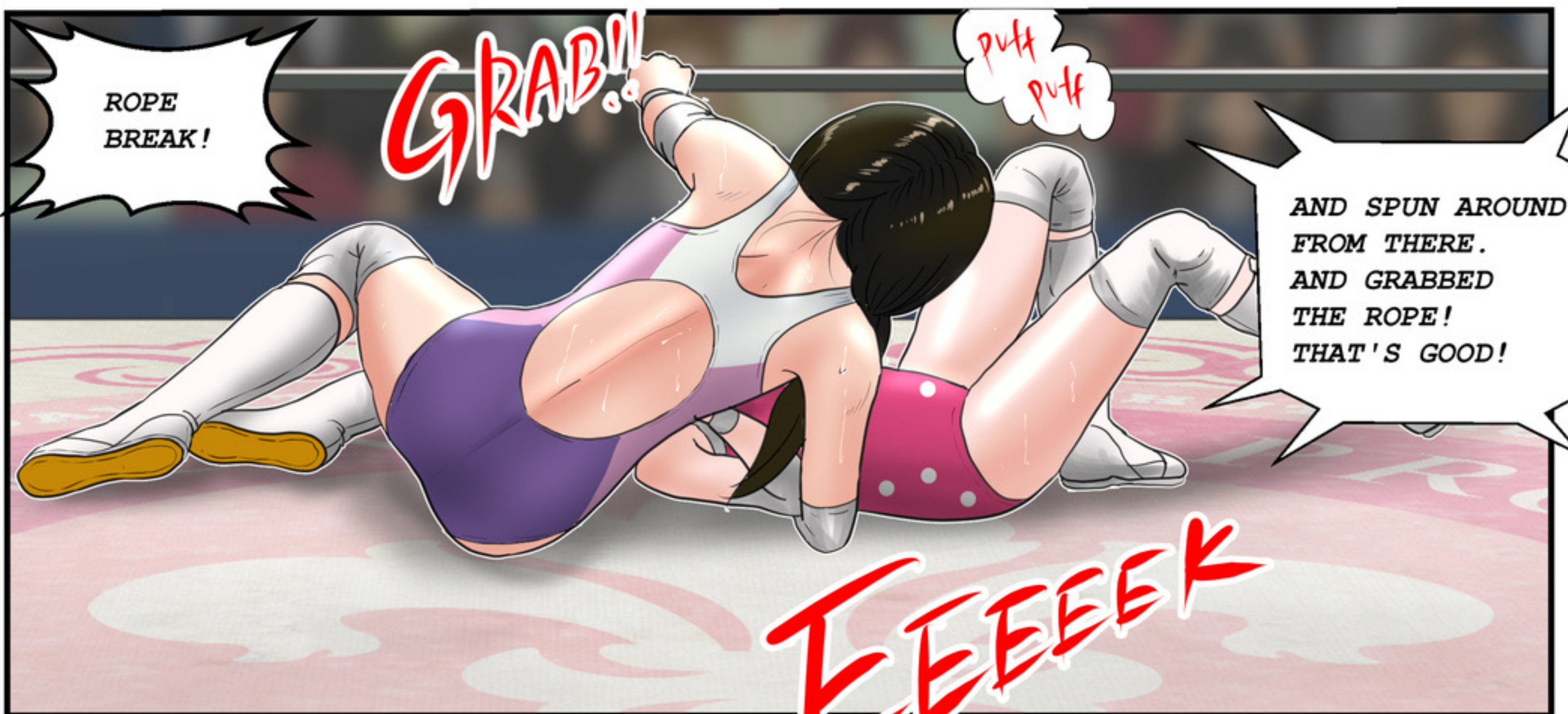
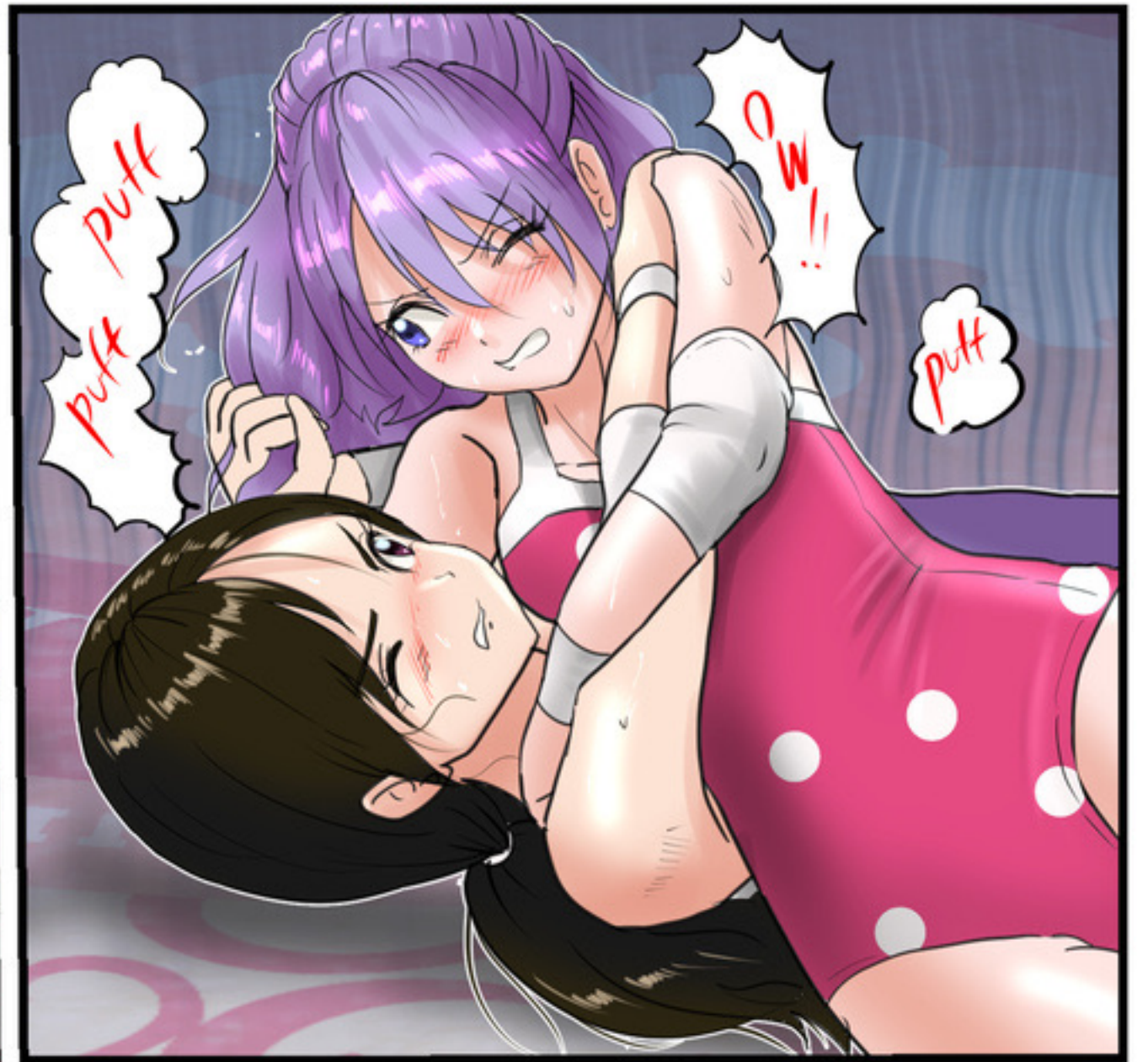
CRASH!



SHE THEN WENT ON TO KESA-GATAME. HOSHIKAWA HAS A JUDO BACKGROUND, SO SHE IS GOOD AT SUCH JUDO TECHNIQUES.



OOPS! AKIBA'S LEG CAUGHT HOSHIKAWA'S HEAD.



AND SPUN AROUND FROM THERE. AND GRABBED THE ROPE! THAT'S GOOD!

FEEEEK

HOSHIKAWA HAS THE ADVANTAGE IN THIS MATCH.

AHHHH

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START FEELING SAFE! KAREN.

AH, BUT HOSHIKAWA DOES NOT LET AKIBA OFF THE HOOK.

OH!

ZAP

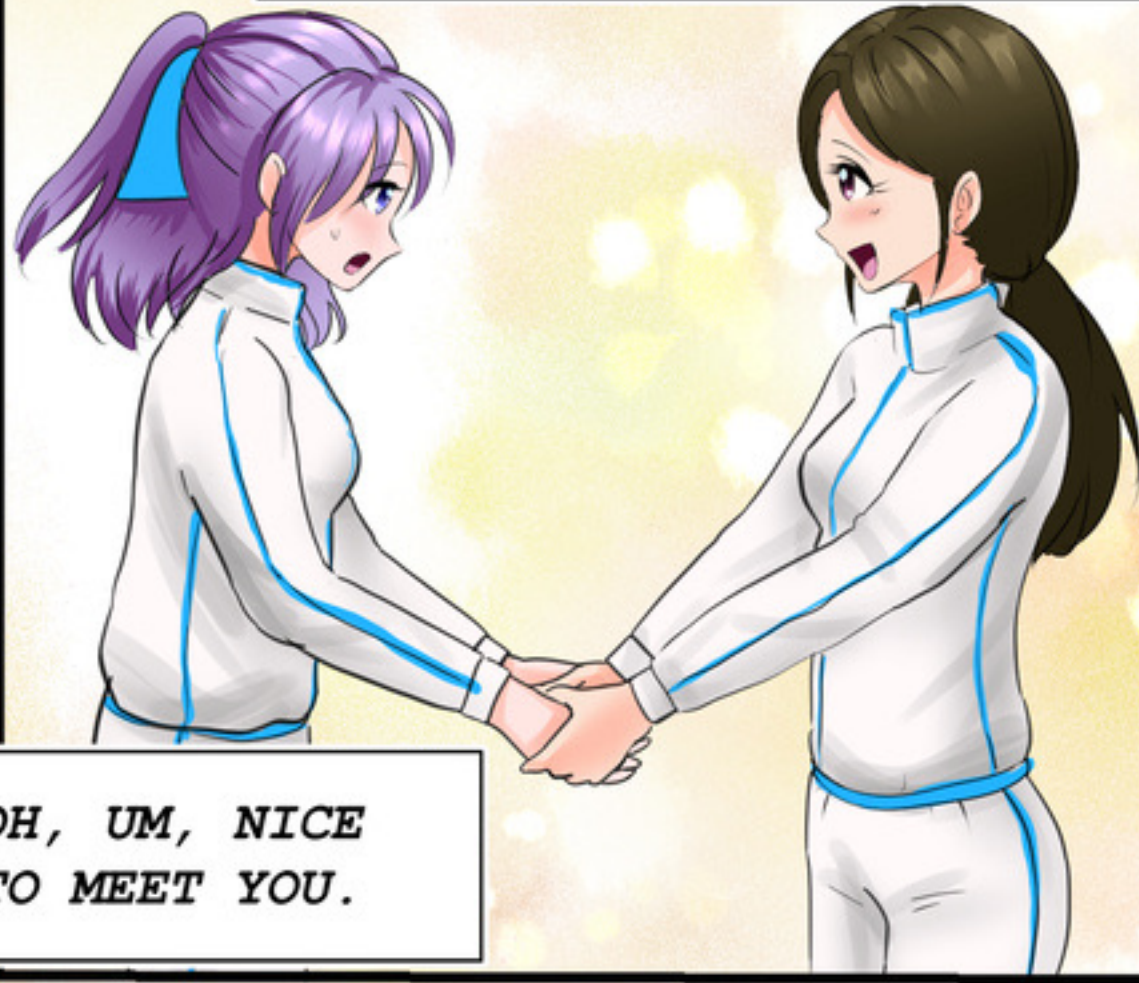
OOPS, IS THAT HOSHIKAWA'S ARM IN AKIBA'S NECK? THAT'S A FOUL BY HOSHIKAWA.

CREAK....

WOW! HOSHIKAWA MOVED TO THE CHOKE SLEEPER! AKIBA IS IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

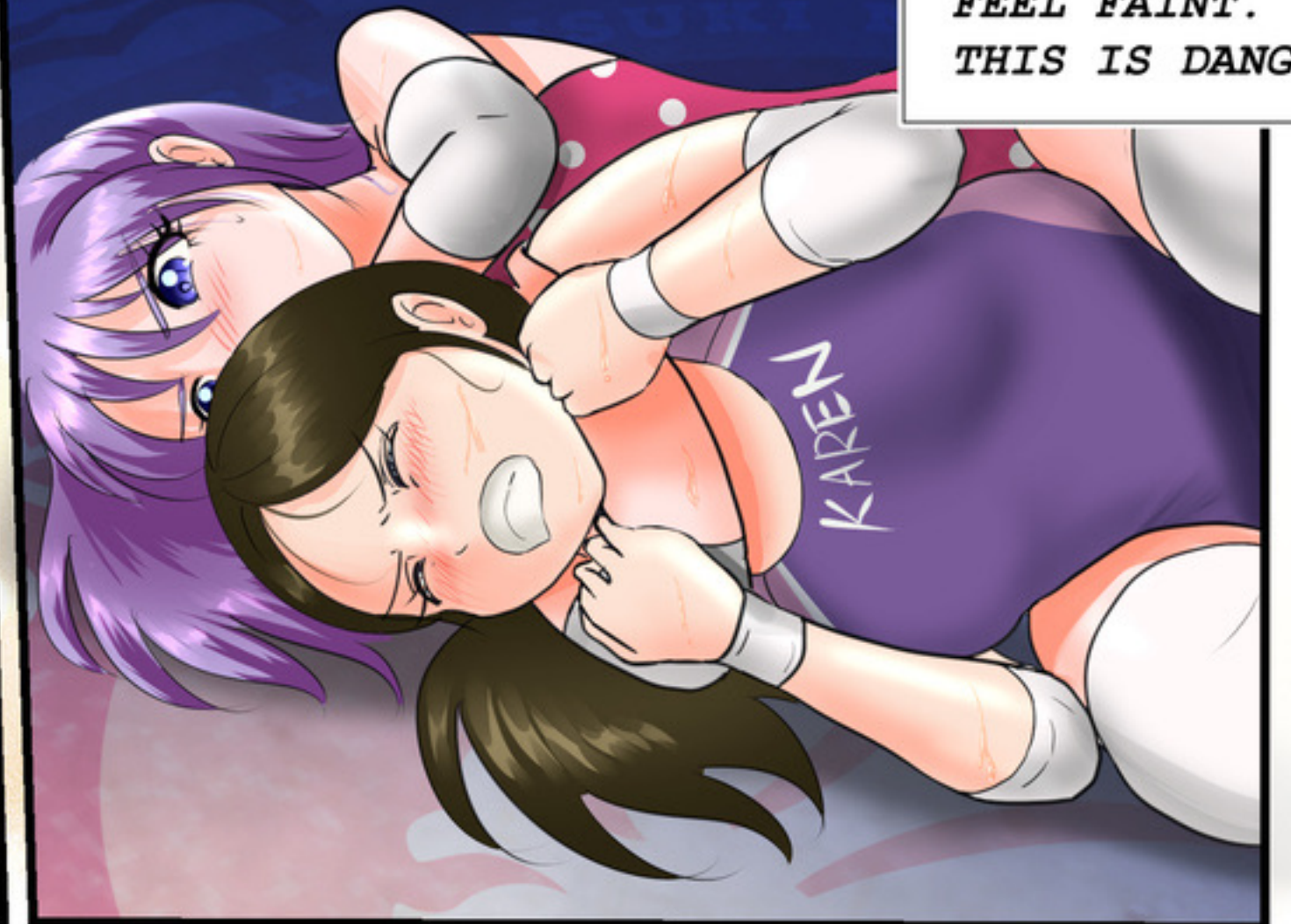
UGH!

NICE TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME IS KAREN AKIBA.
LET'S TRAIN TOGETHER.



OH, UM, NICE
TO MEET YOU.

I'M STARTING TO
FEEL FAINT.
THIS IS DANGEROUS.



THAT'S GOOD.
I THINK
IT LOOKS
GREAT ON YOU!

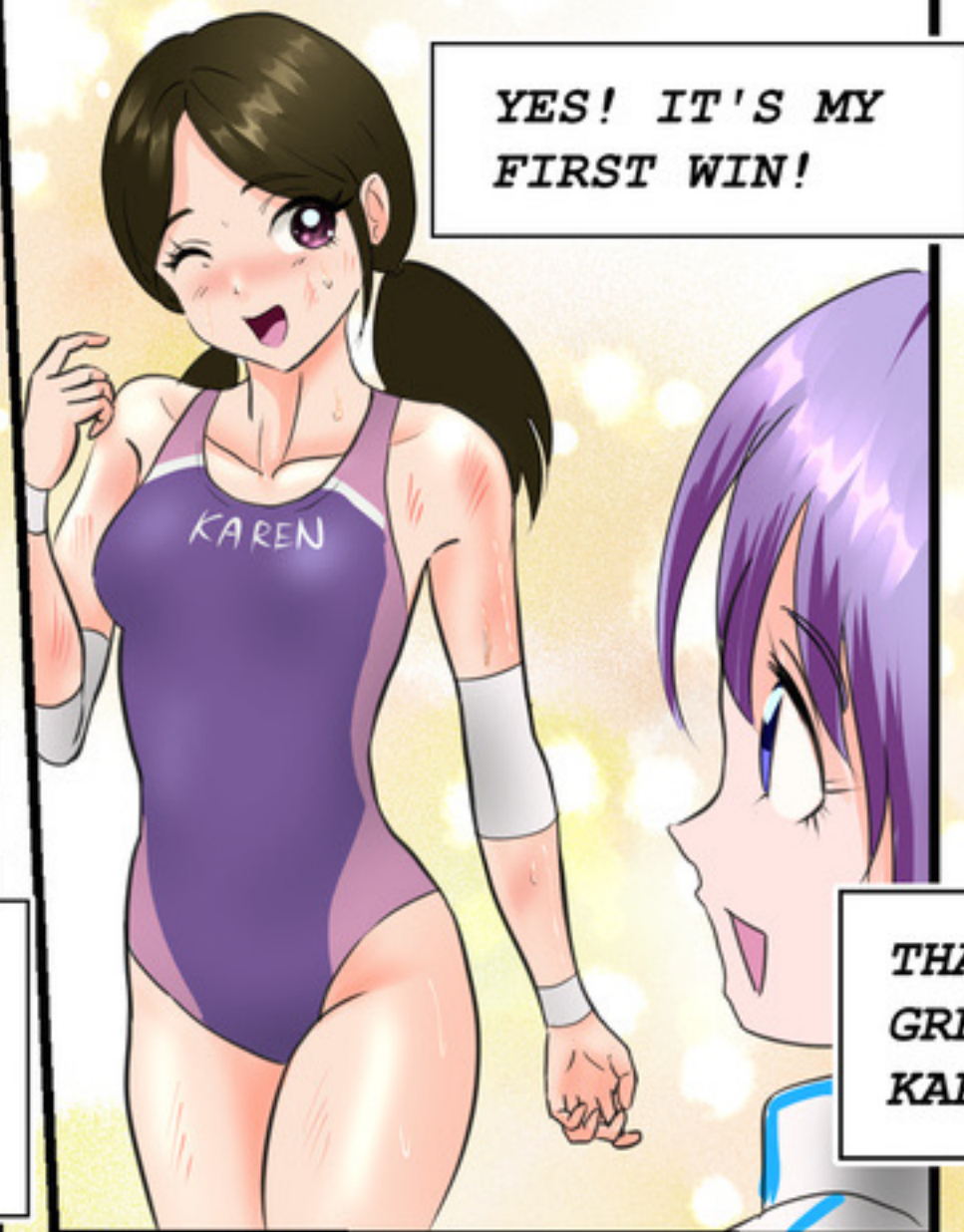


YEAH!



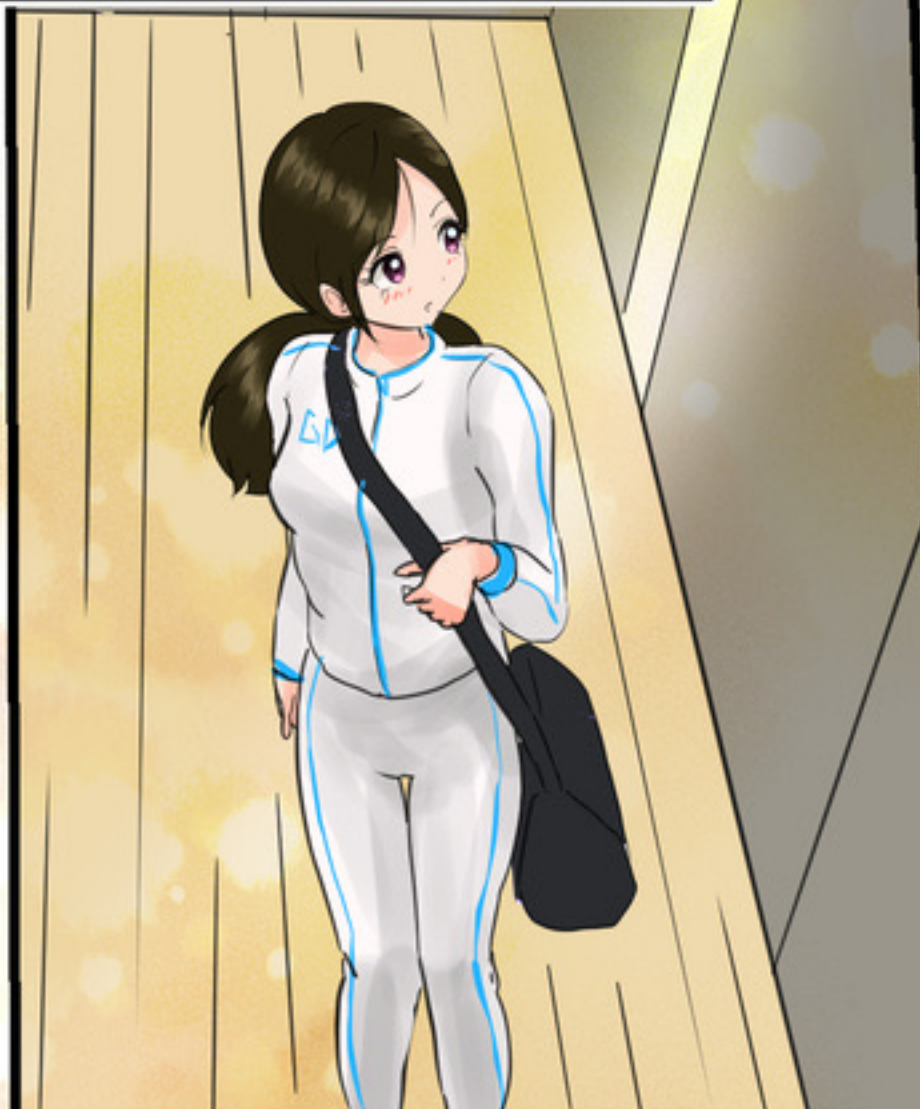
OH, UNNO
SENPAI IS VERY
NICE. DON'T YOU
THINK SO?

YES! IT'S MY
FIRST WIN!

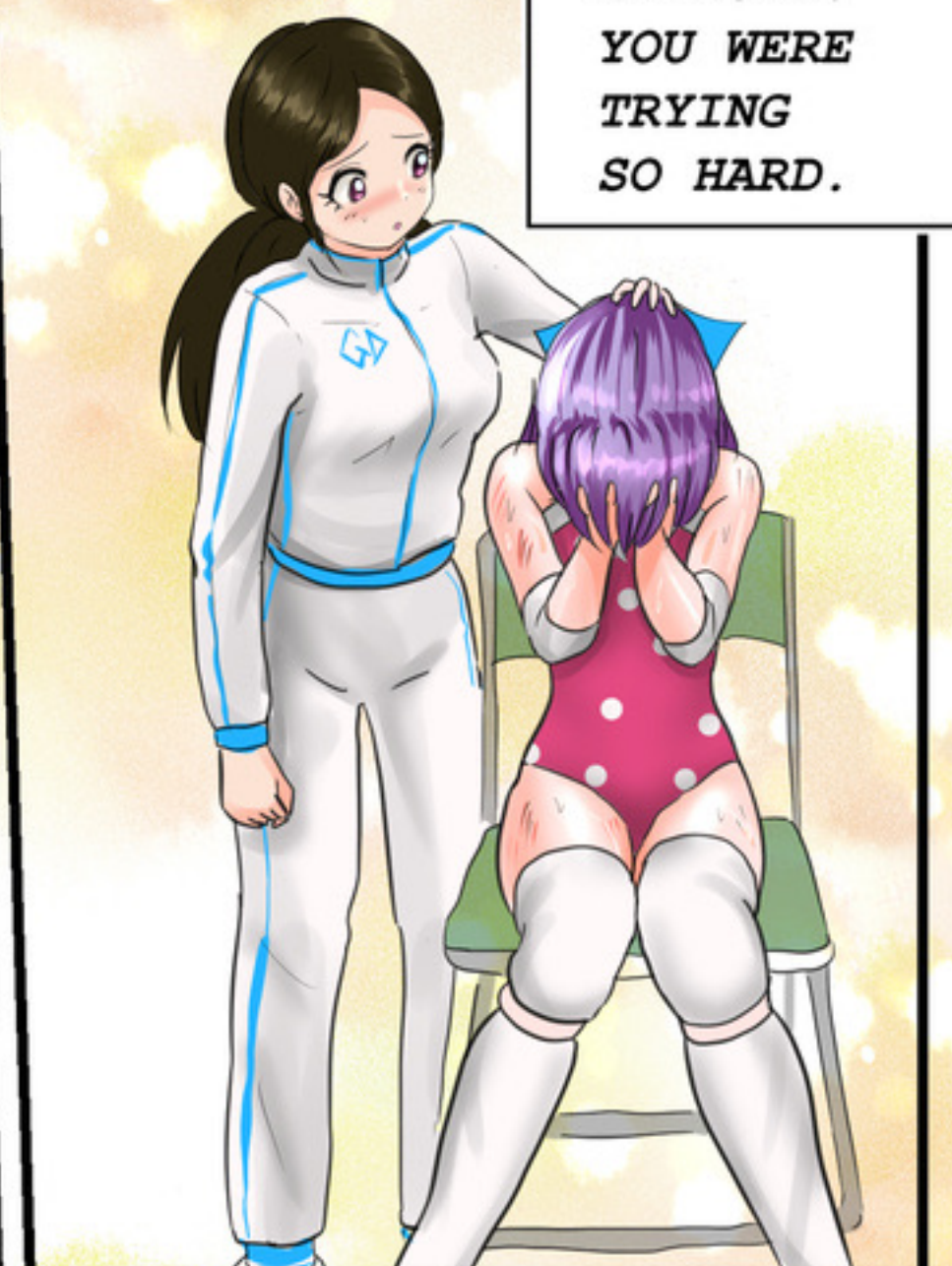


THAT'S
GREAT.
KAREN.

HUH? IS THERE
ANYONE HERE
AT THIS LATE HOUR?



DON'T CRY
ANYMORE.
YOU WERE
TRYING
SO HARD.



WHY ARE UNNO-SENPAI AND HOSHIKAWA GETTING ALONG SO WELL?

YES. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

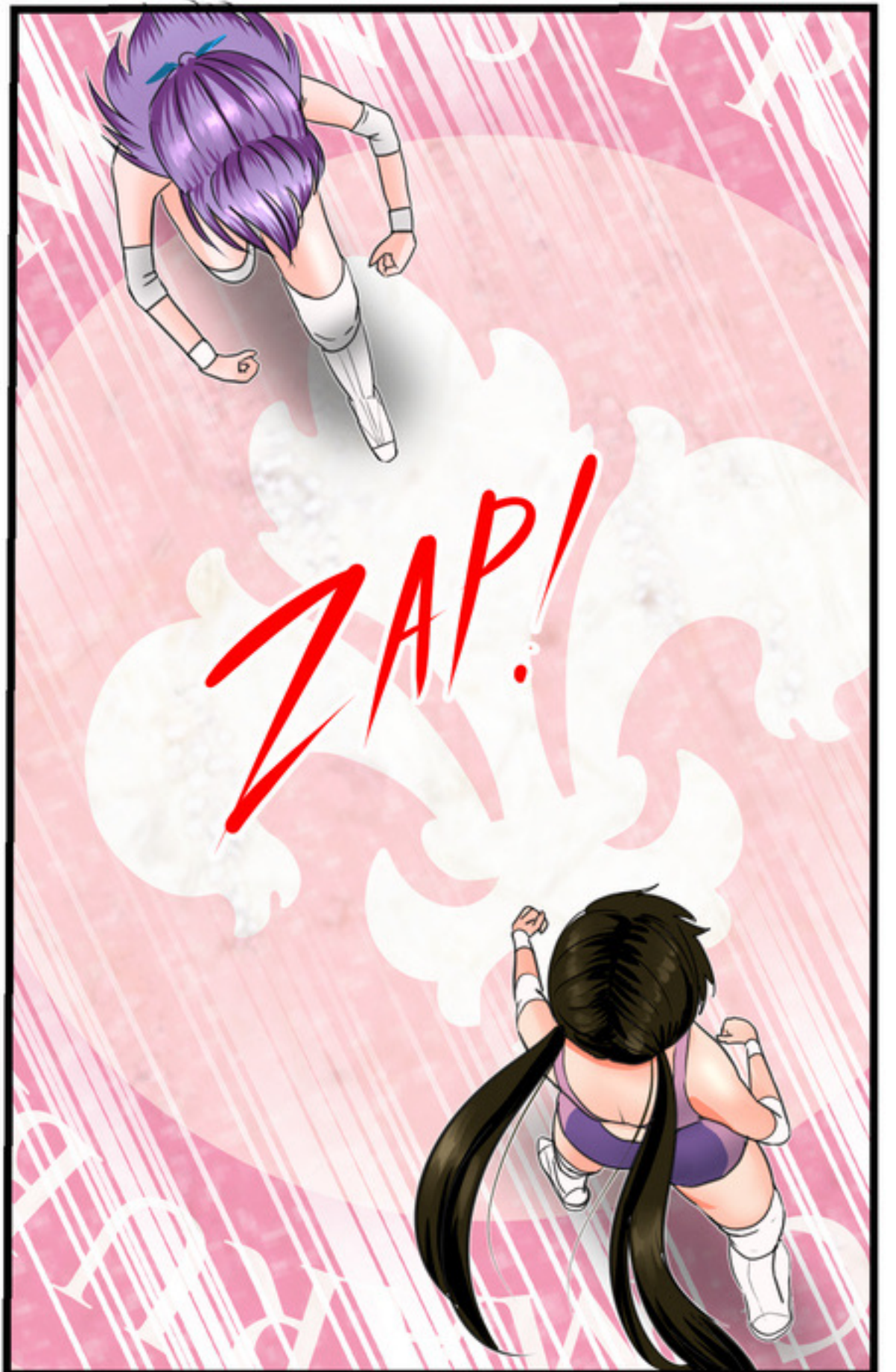
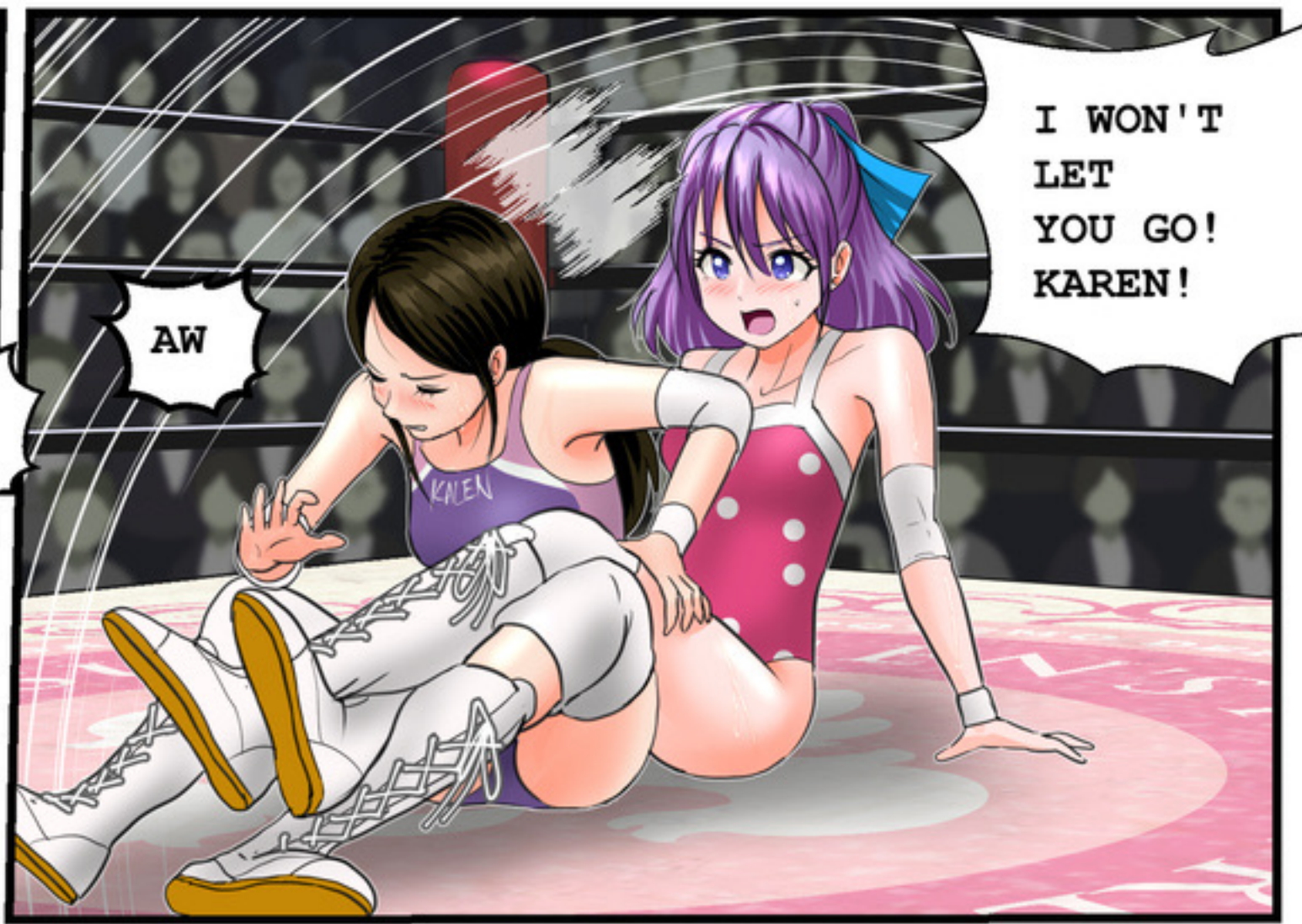
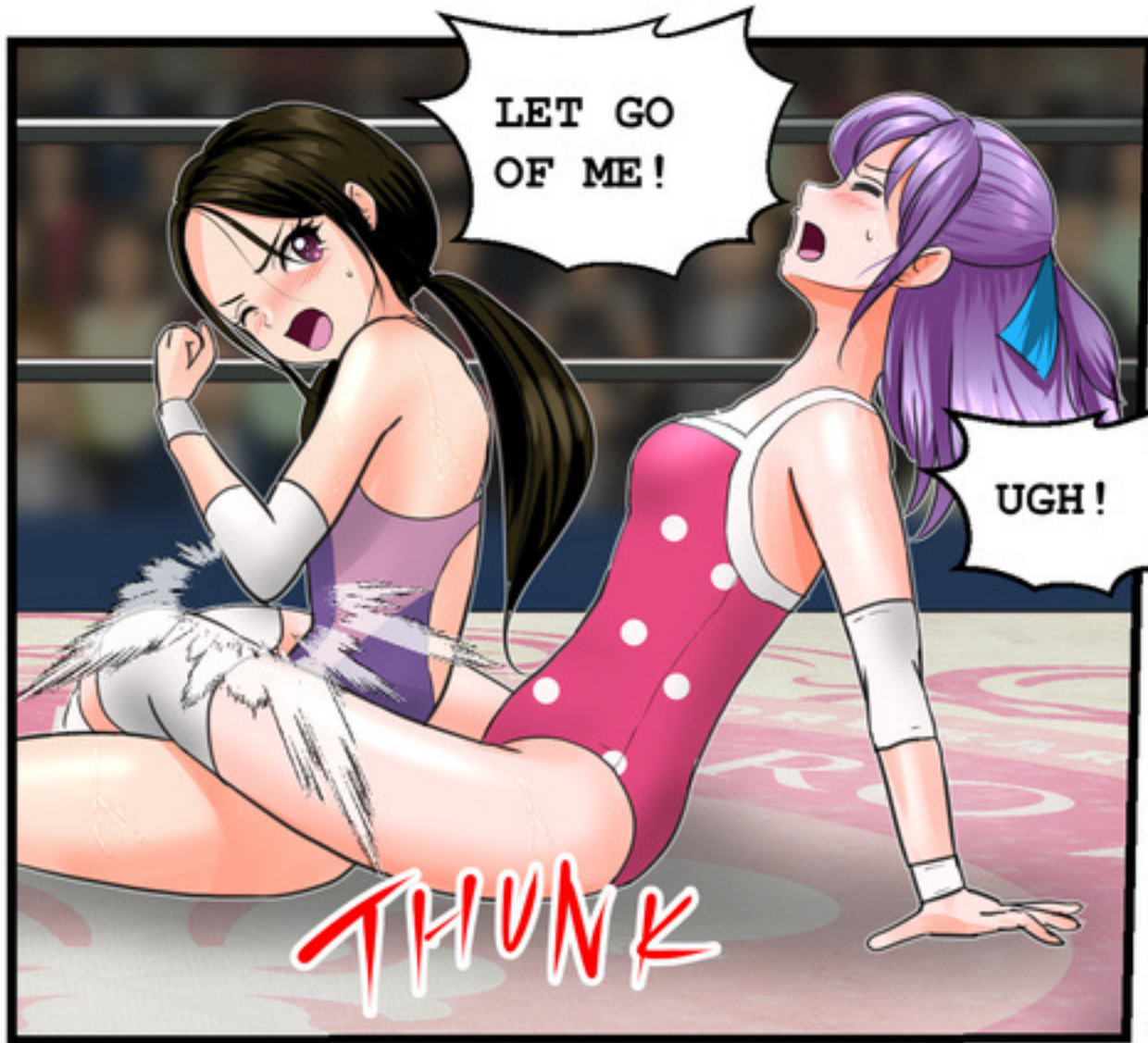
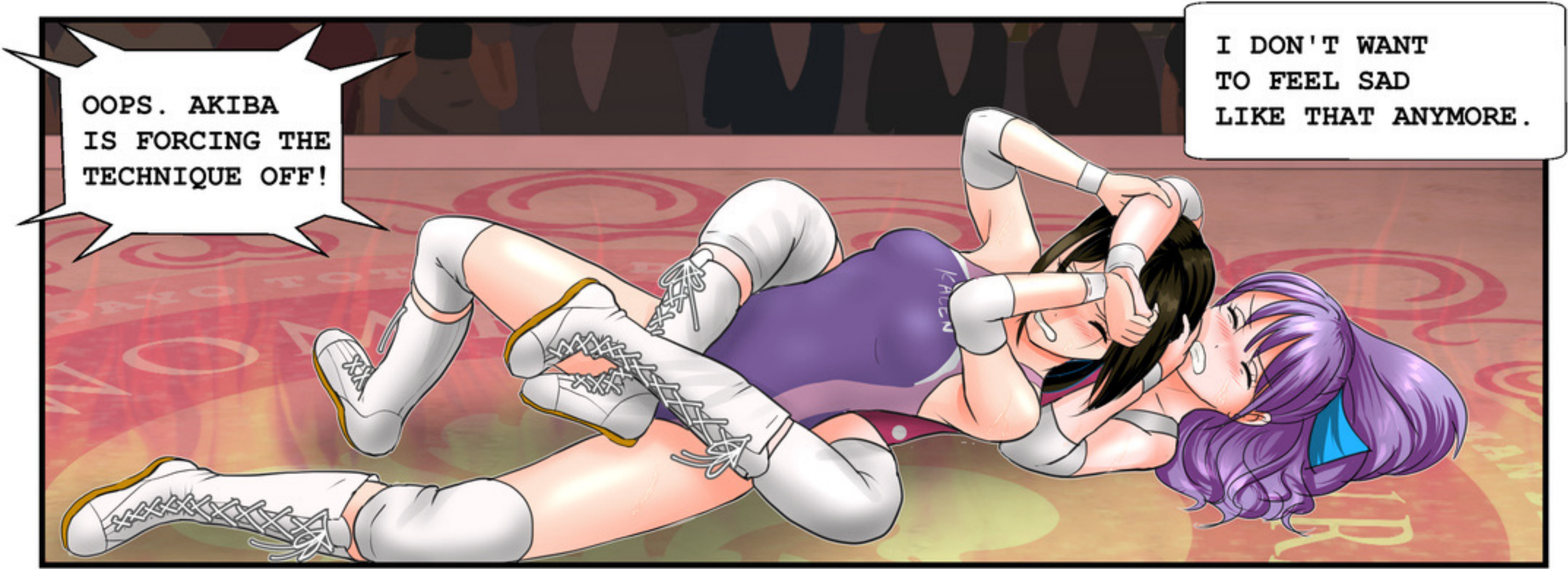
OH, UM, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

RURU. I'M ROOTING FOR YOU!

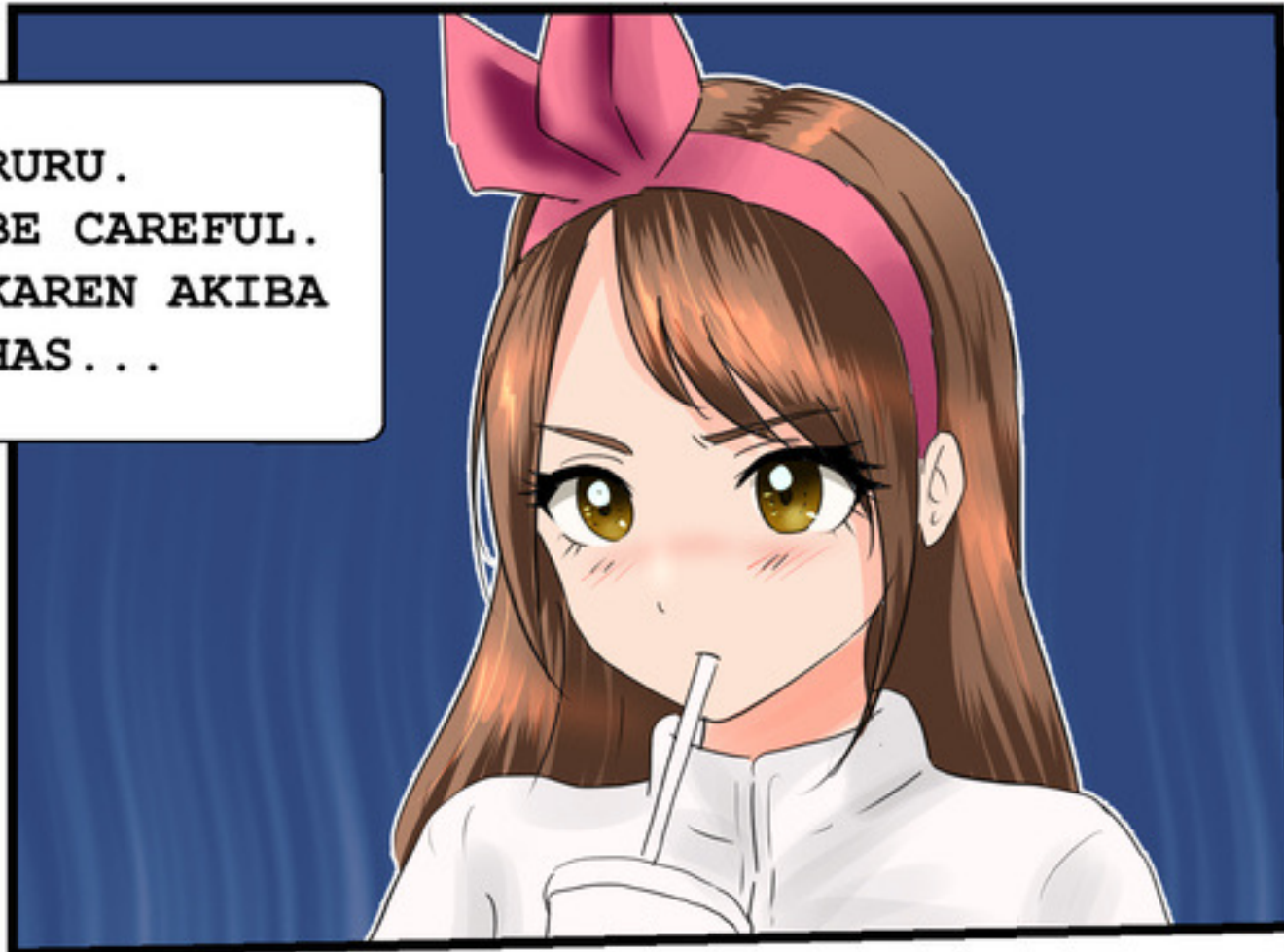
HOSHIKAWA IS THE NEW STAR!

I REMEMBER!

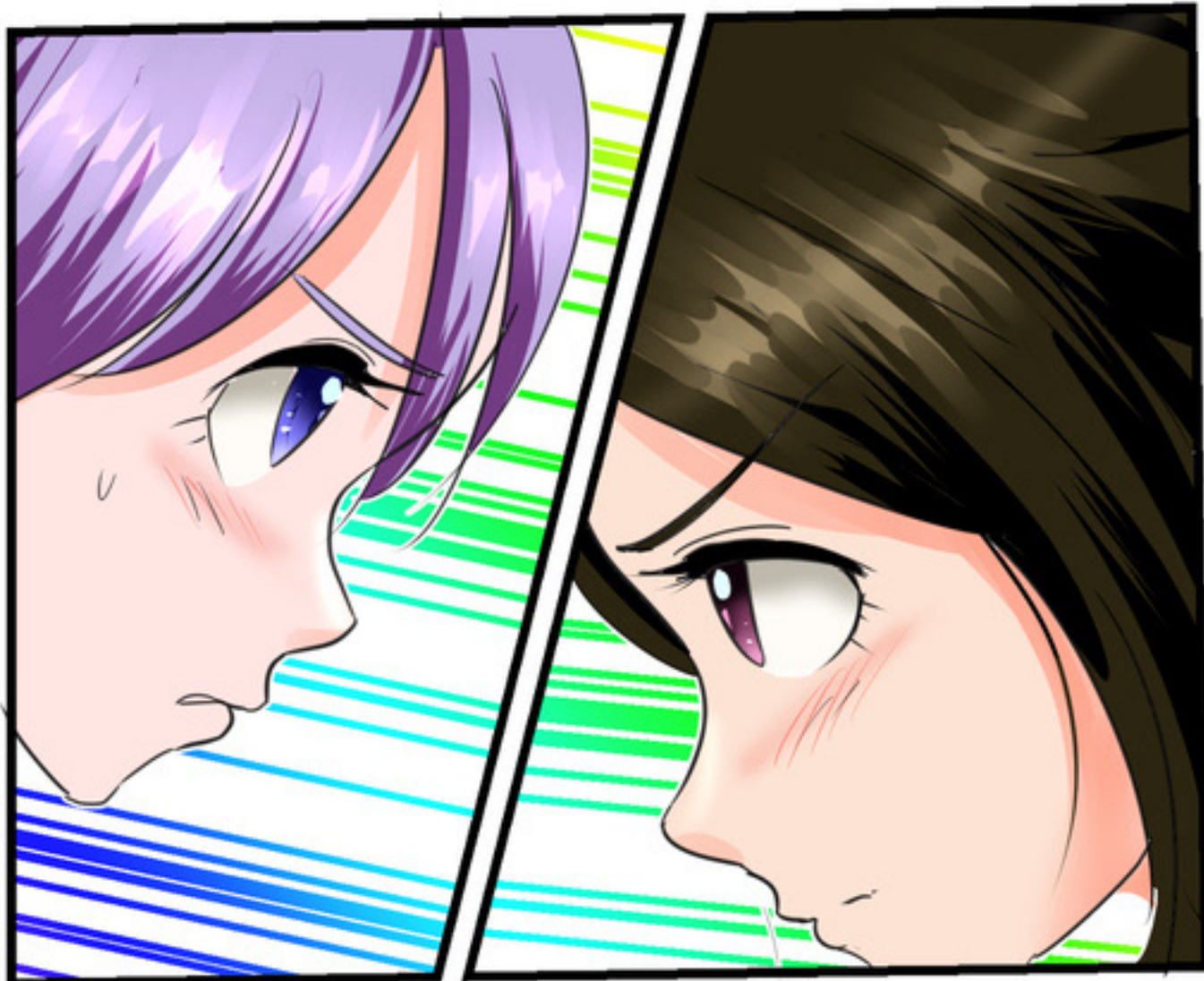
SOB...SOB...



RURU.
BE CAREFUL.
KAREN AKIBA
HAS...



OUCH.
IS THAT
STANCE
AMATEUR
WRESTLING?



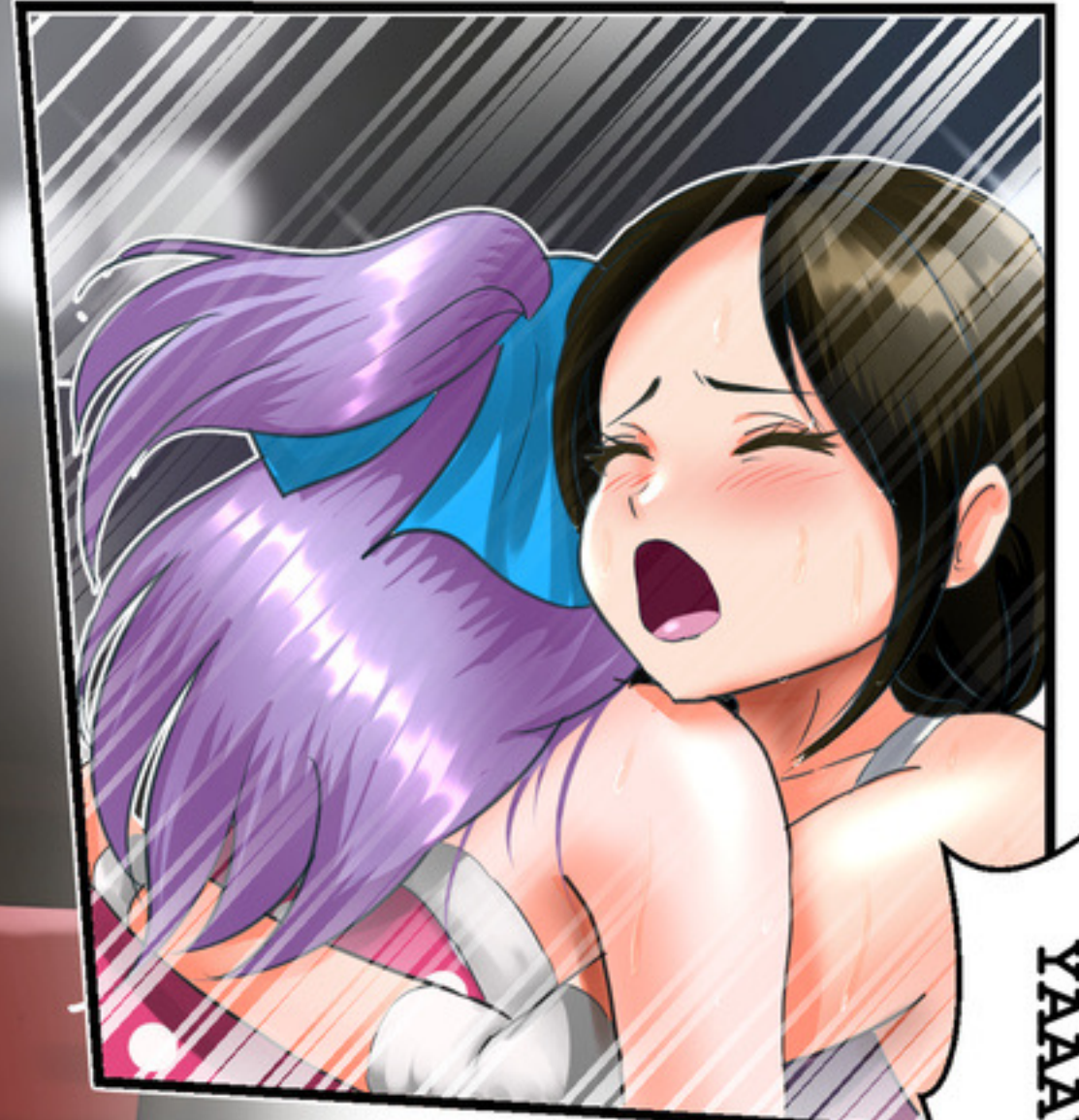
...COMPETED IN
NATIONAL AMATEUR
WRESTLING
TOURNAMENTS.

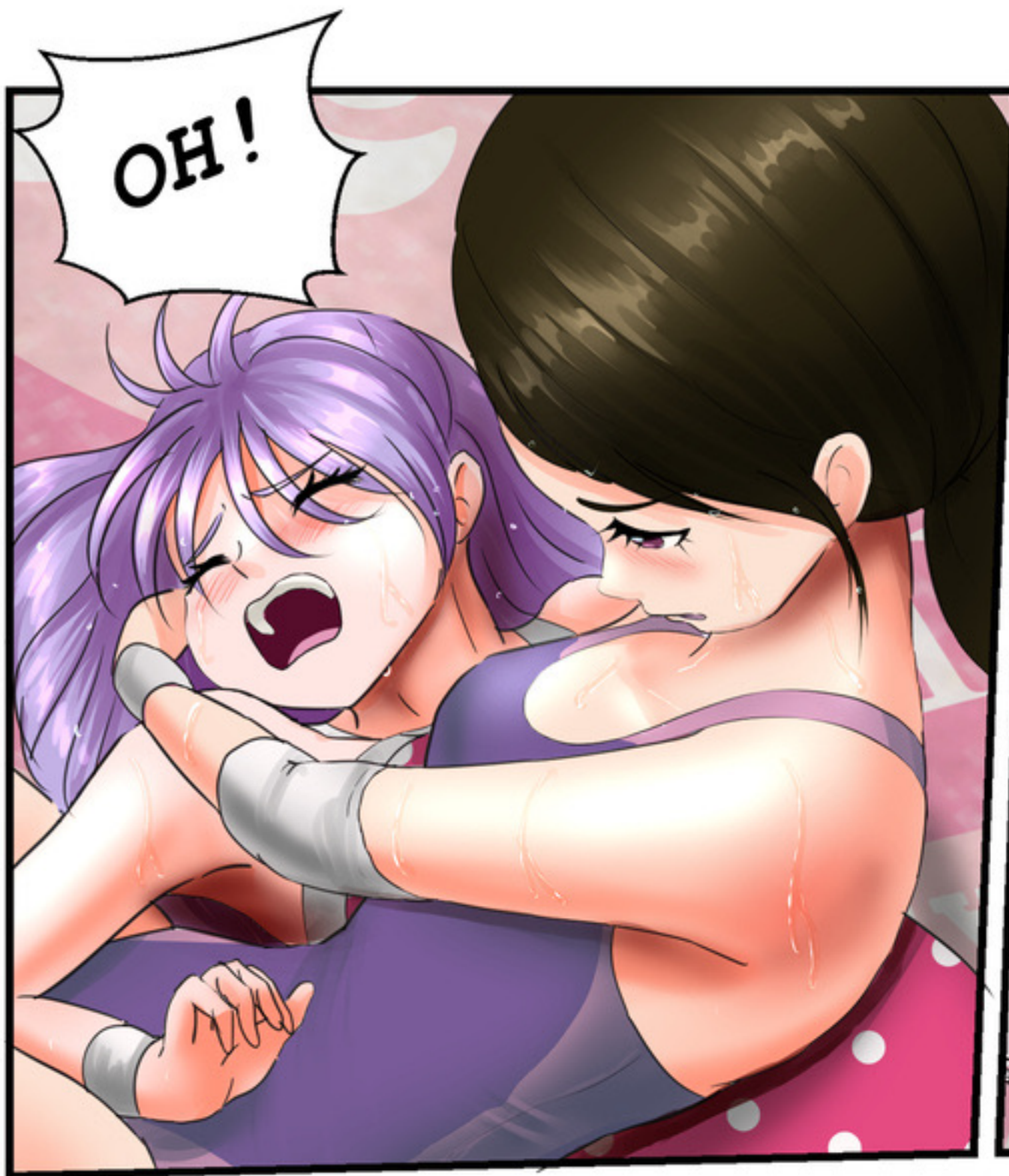


WHAT'S THIS?
I CAN'T MOVE
AT ALL!



FRONT SUPLEX

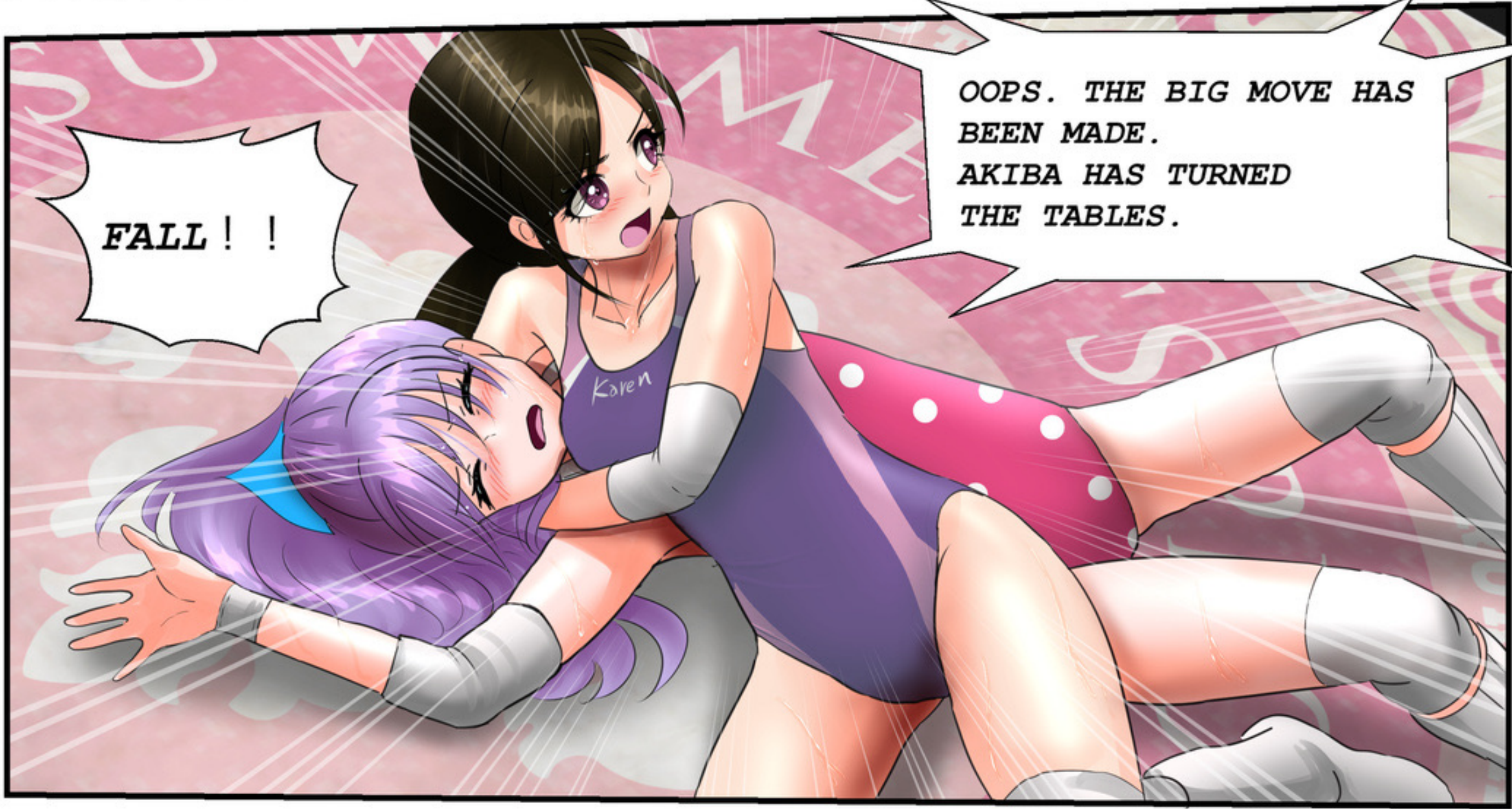




OH!



BUMP



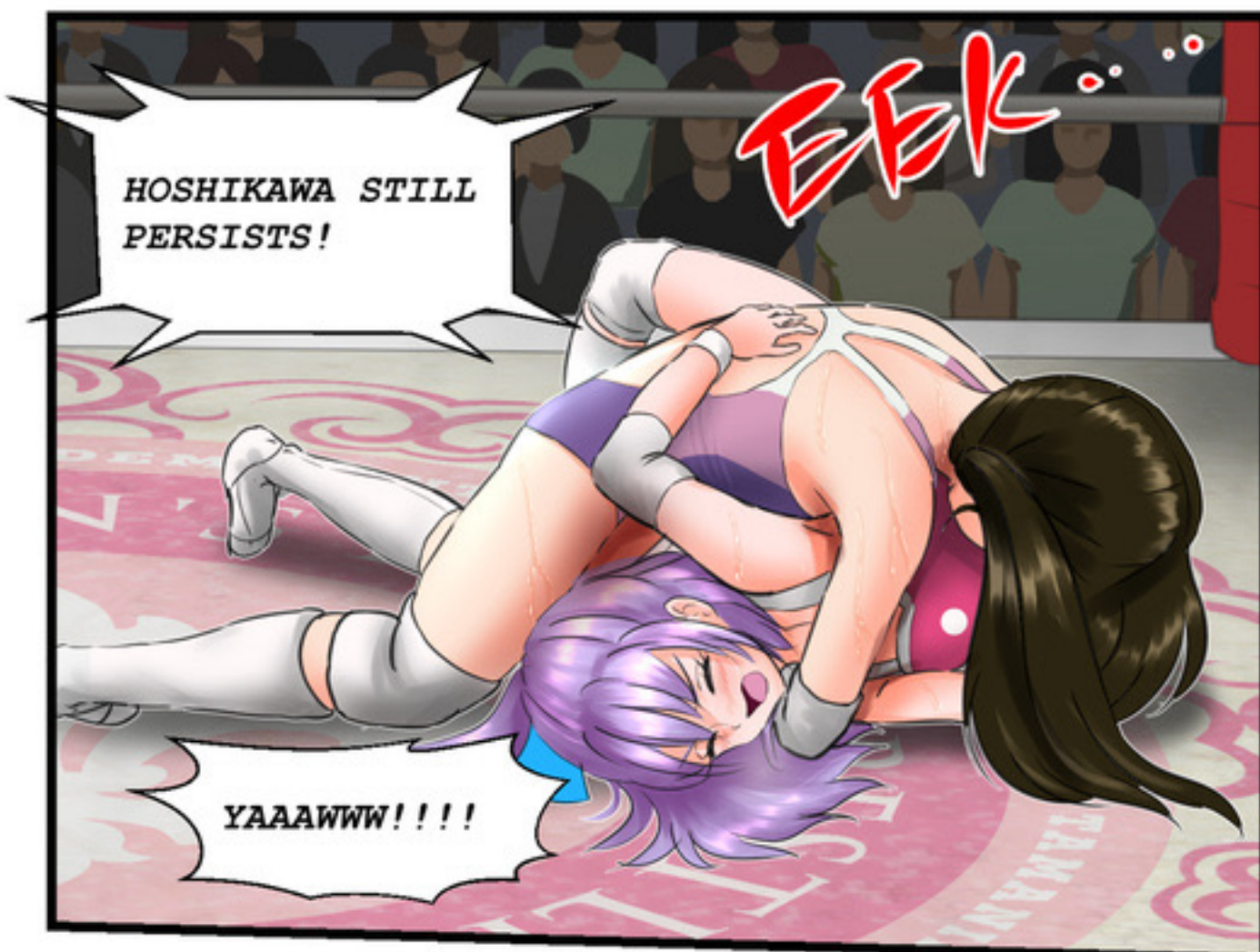
FALL!!

OOPS. THE BIG MOVE HAS BEEN MADE. AKIBA HAS TURNED THE TABLES.



BUT HOSHIKAWA PERSISTS! THE GIRLS SHOWED A STRONG WILL NOT TO BE DEFEATED.

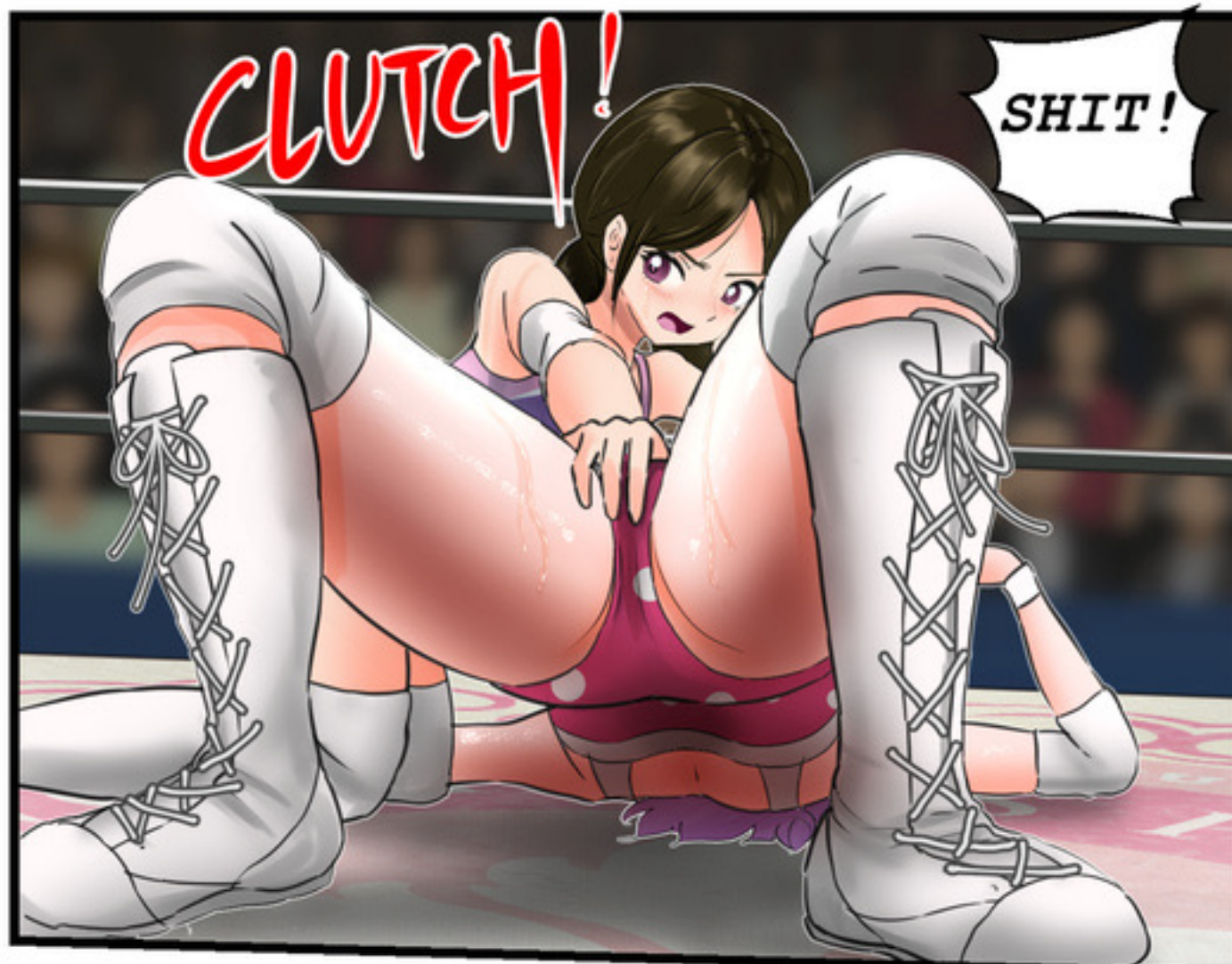
AHHHHHHH!!



HOSHIKAWA STILL PERSISTS!

EKK...

YAAAWWW!!!!



CLUTCH!

SHIT!



CLUTCH!

UGU



IF I CAN'T HOLD YOU DOWN,

ZAP...



DAMN, I CAN'T HOLD HER BACK AT ALL BECAUSE SHE'S SLIPPING AWAY LIKE A FISH!



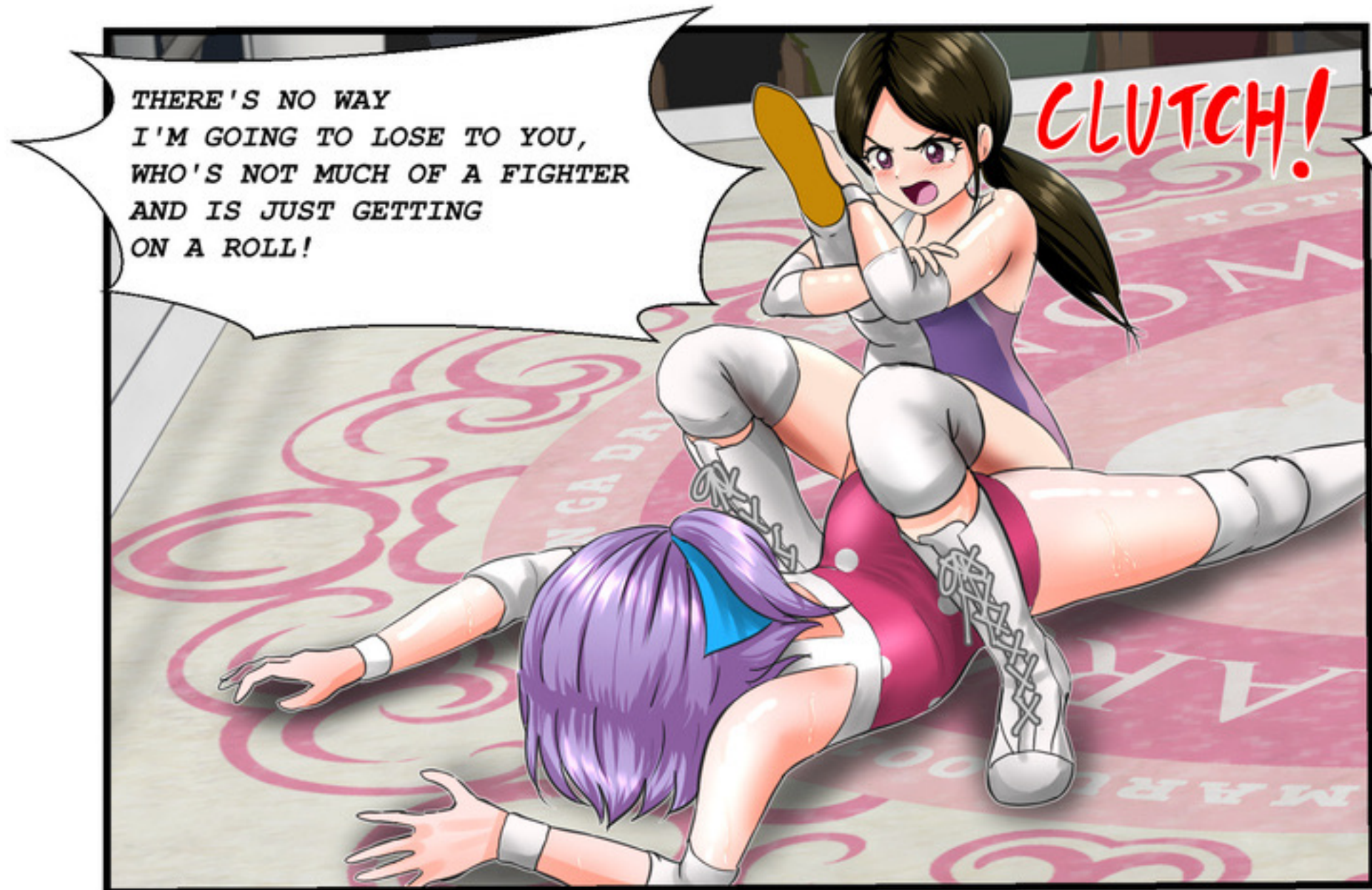
I'LL CHOKE YOU OUT!

ARGH



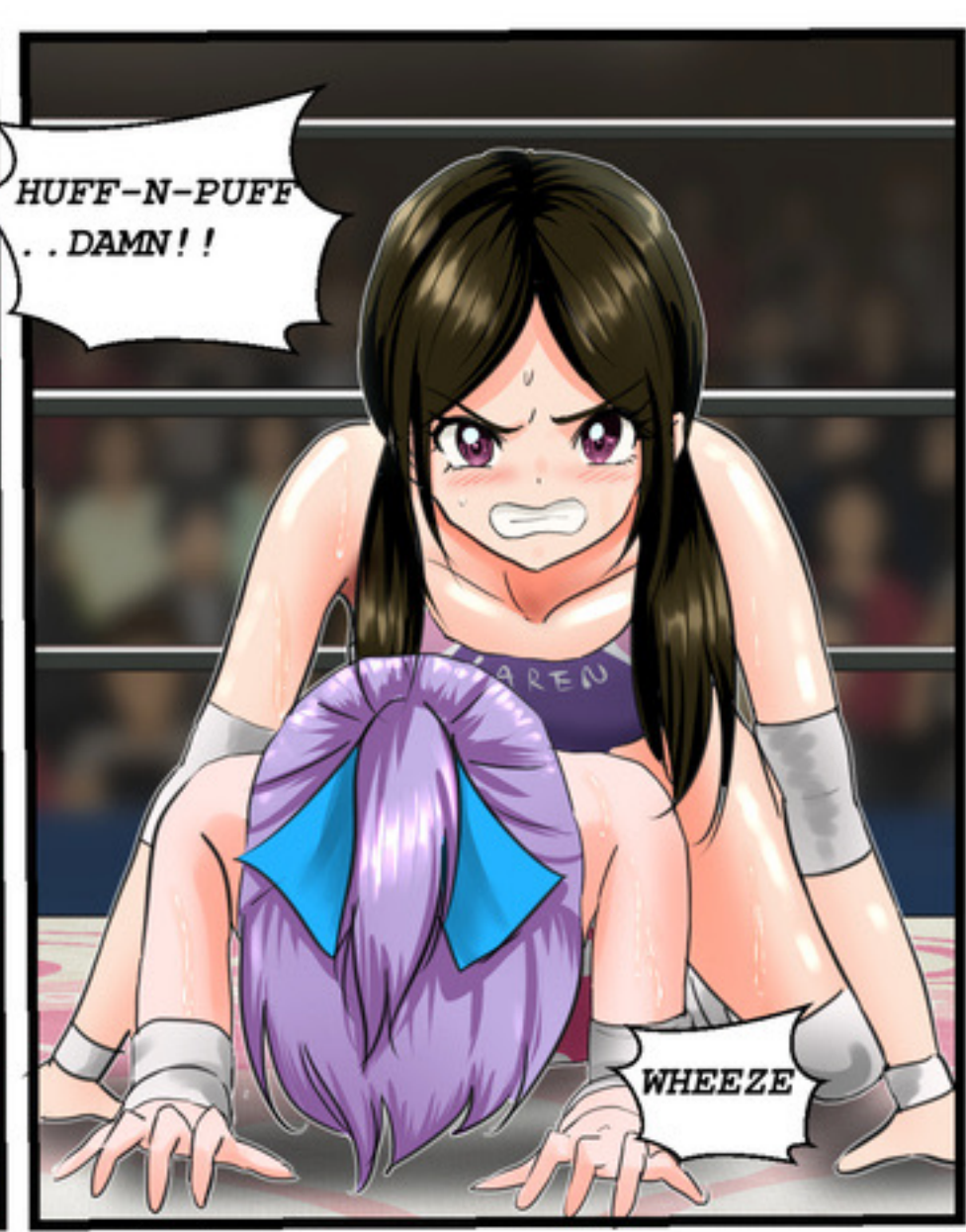
AH, THIS IS A FOUL.
THE REFEREE IS
WARNING AKIBA.

FEK



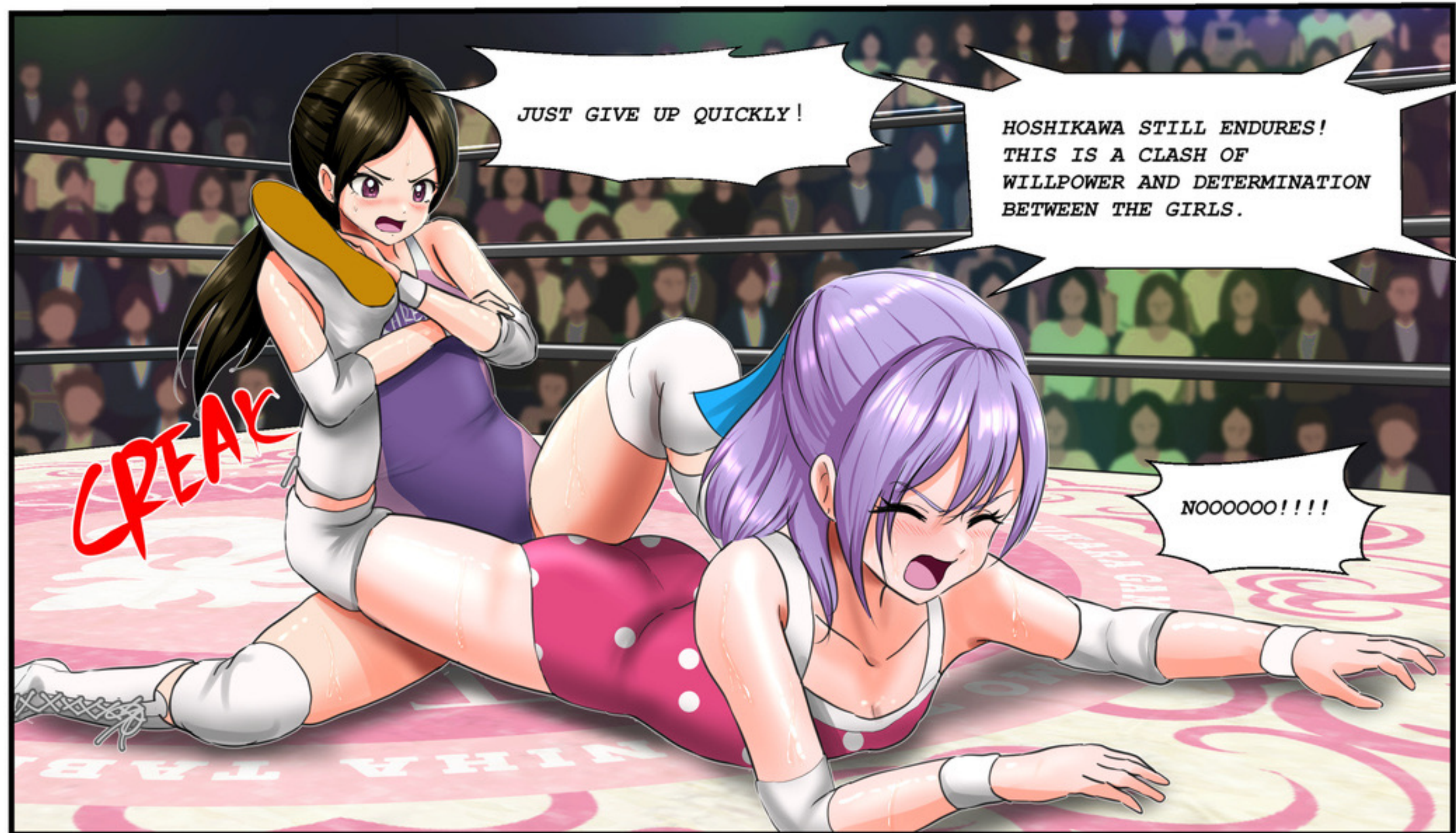
THERE'S NO WAY
I'M GOING TO LOSE TO YOU,
WHO'S NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER
AND IS JUST GETTING
ON A ROLL!

CLUTCH!



HUFF-N-PUFF
... DAMN!!

WHEEZE

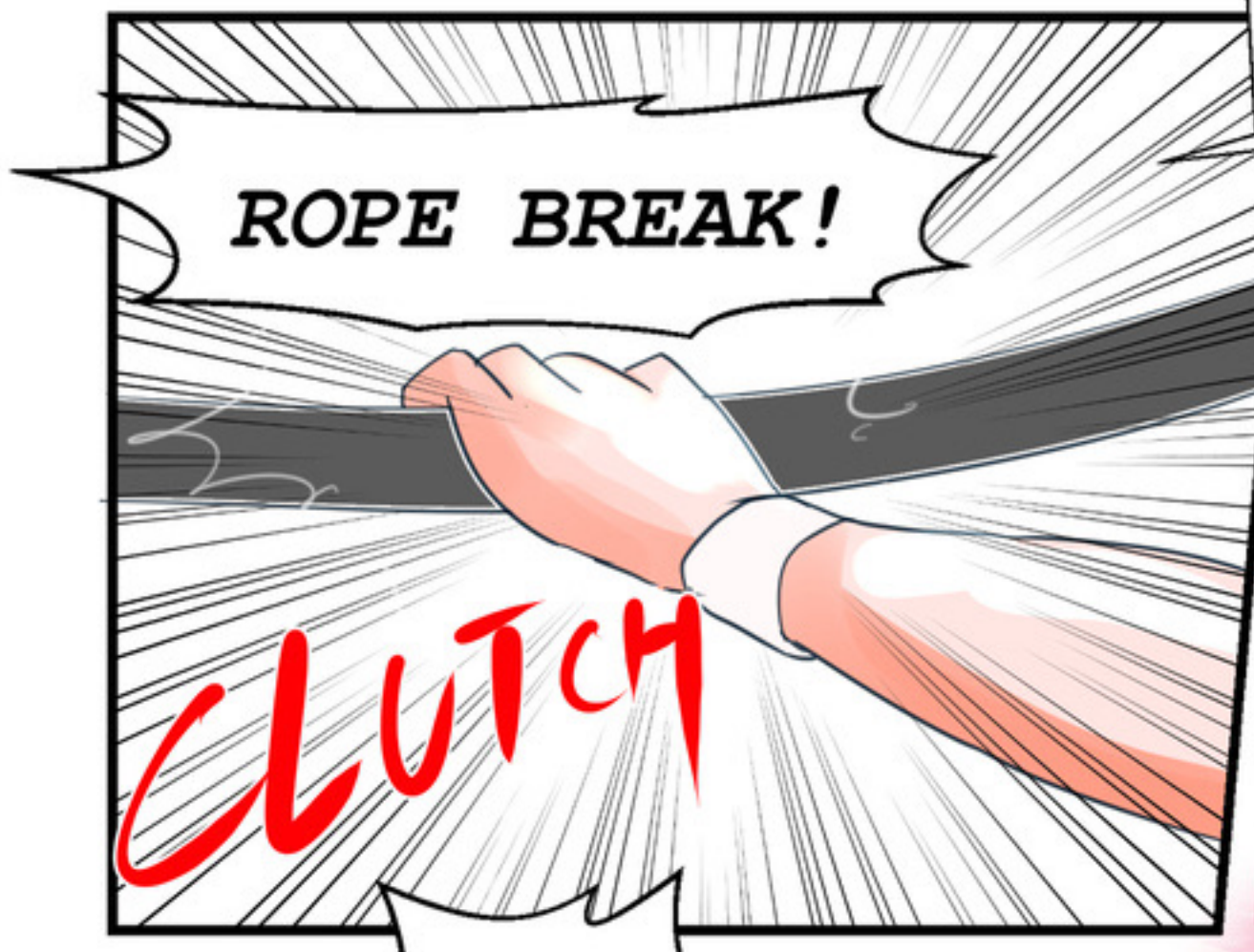


JUST GIVE UP QUICKLY!

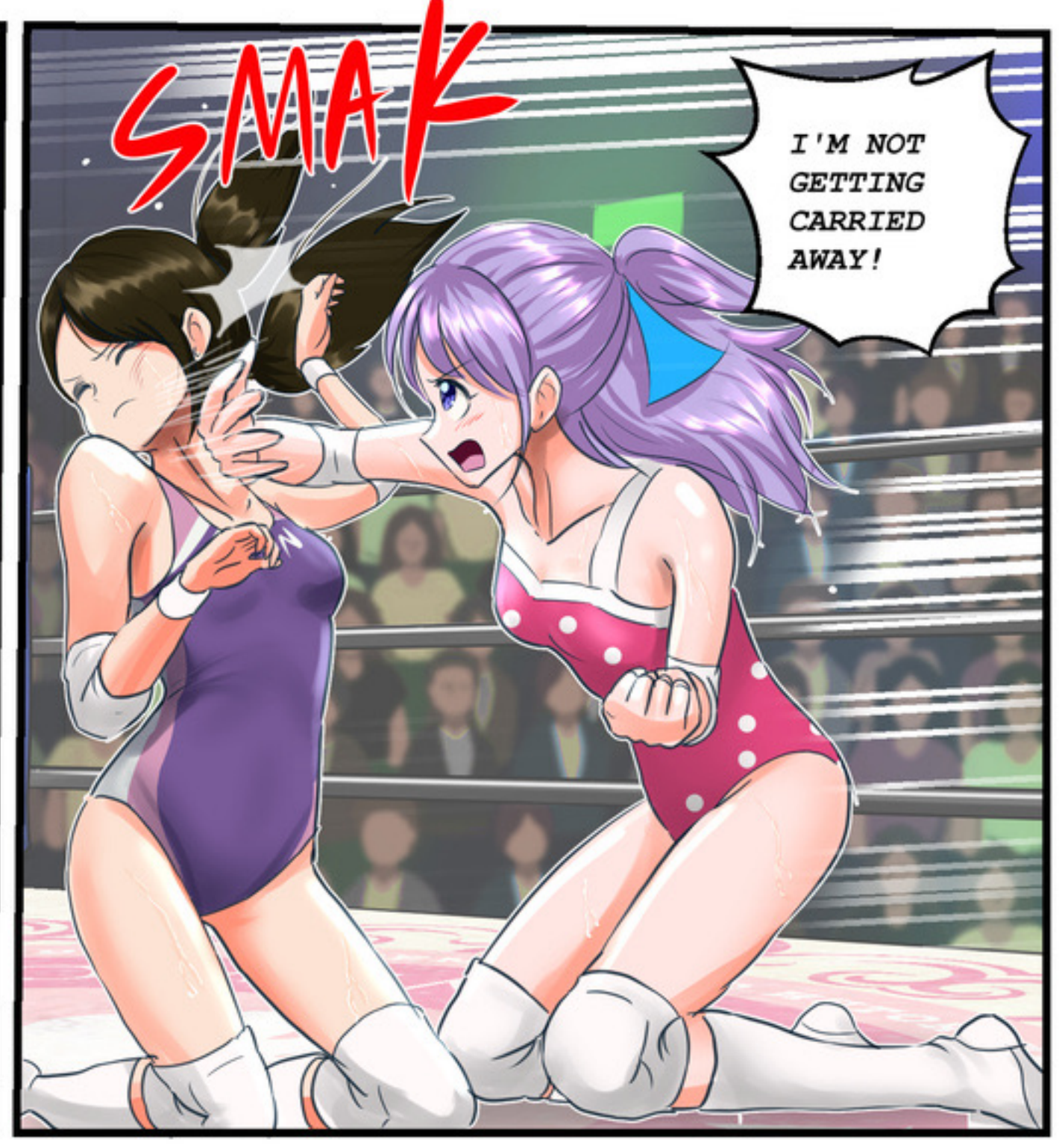
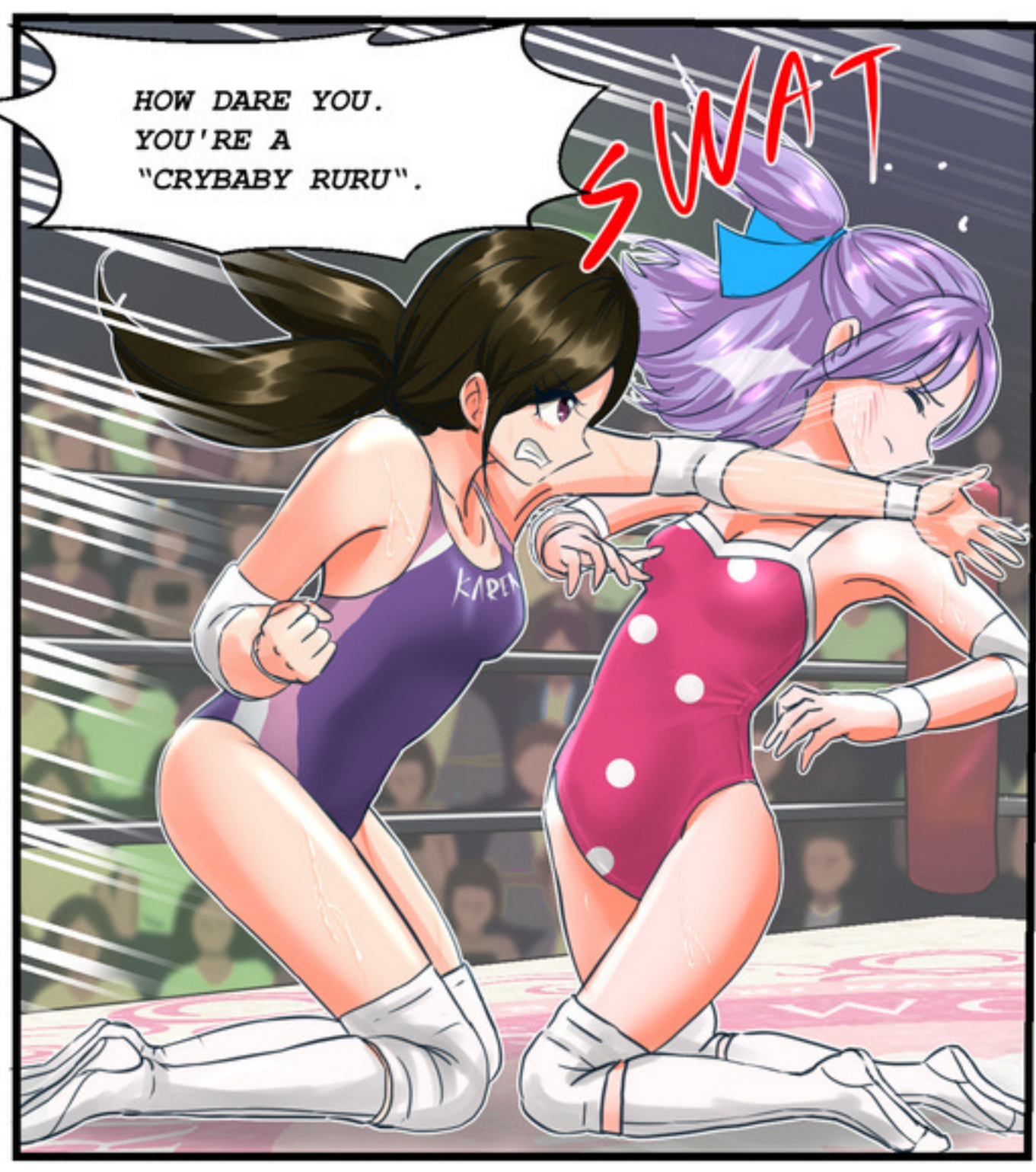
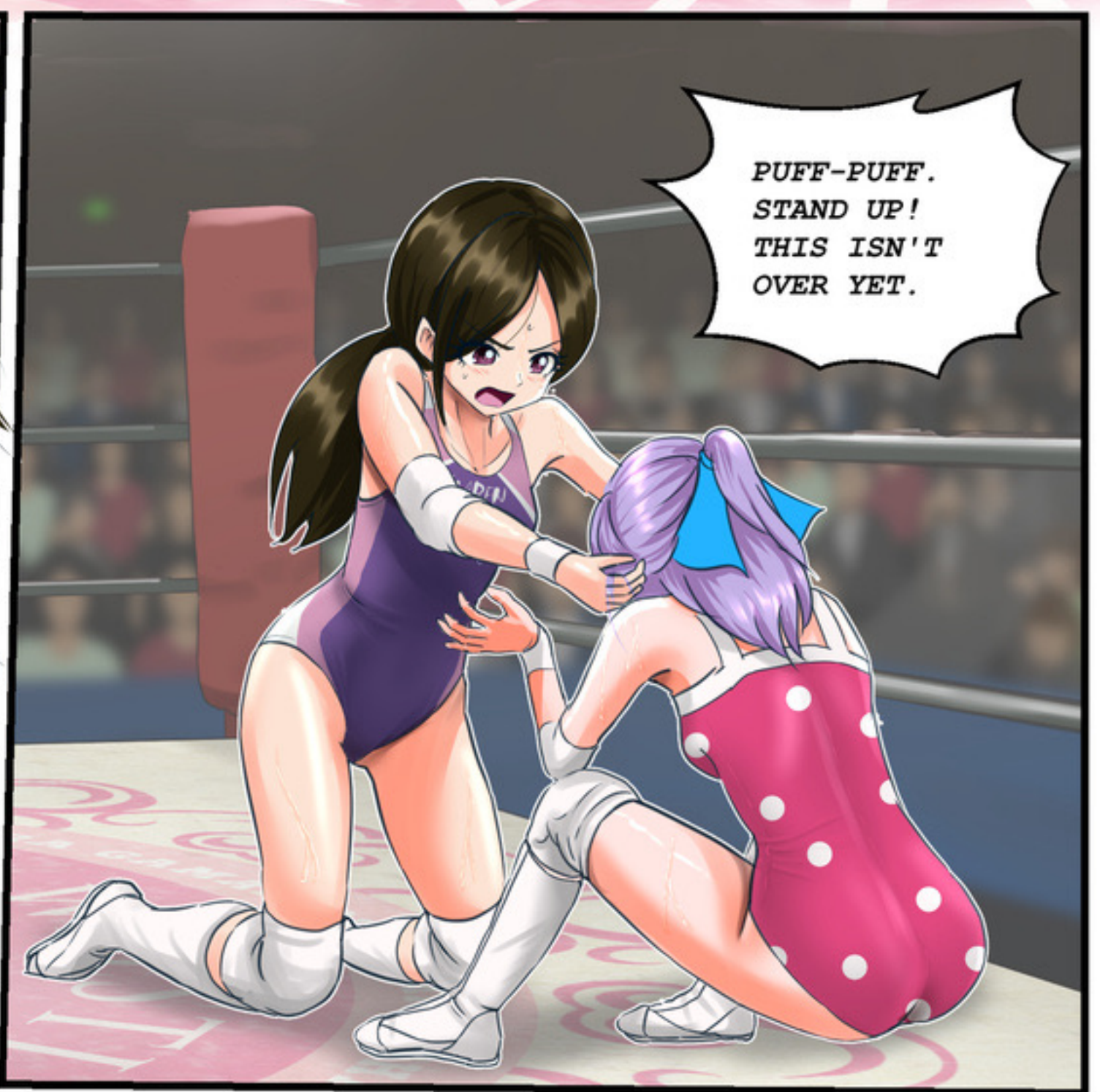
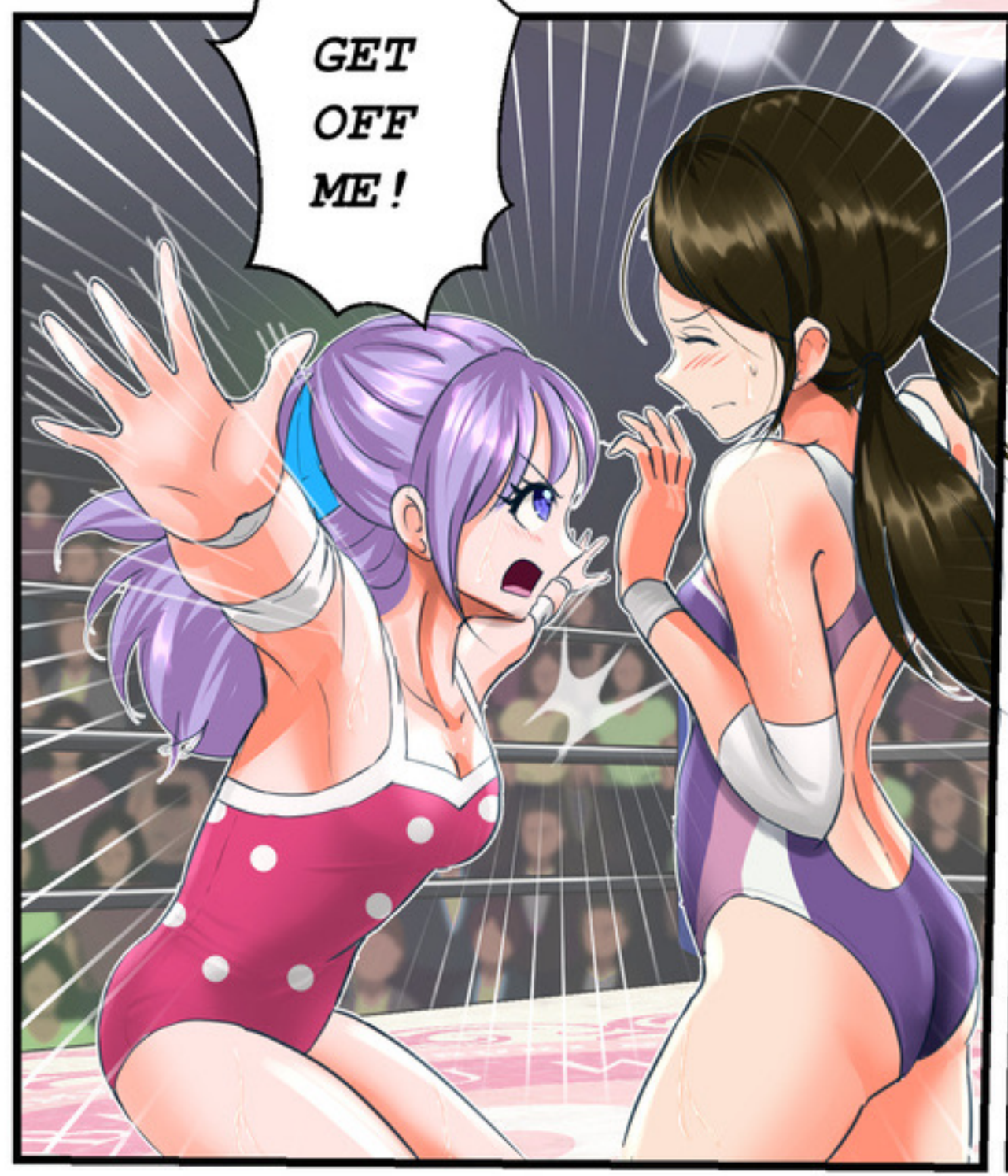
HOSHIKAWA STILL ENDURES!
THIS IS A CLASH OF
WILLPOWER AND DETERMINATION
BETWEEN THE GIRLS.

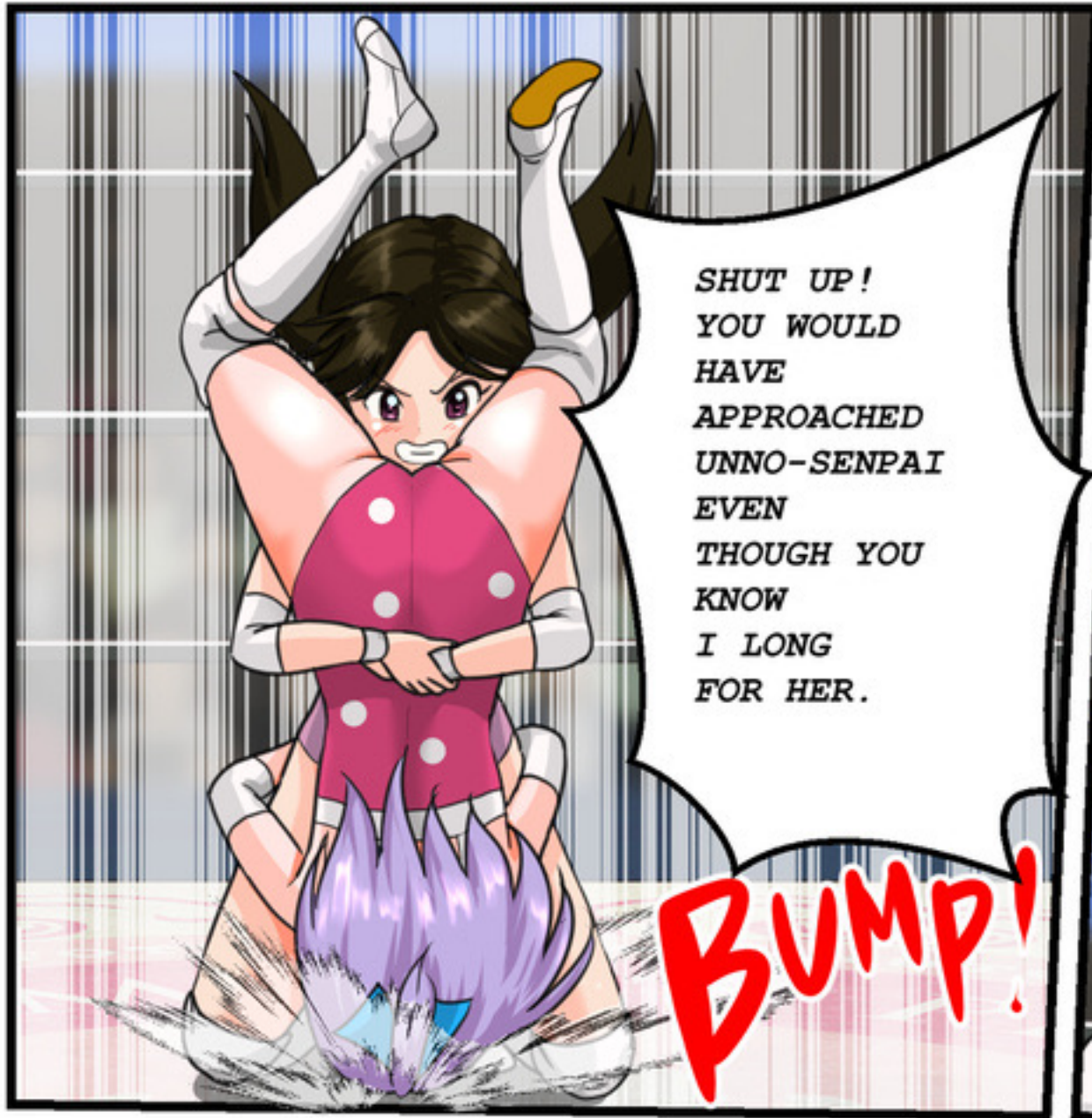
CREAK

NOOOOOO!!!!



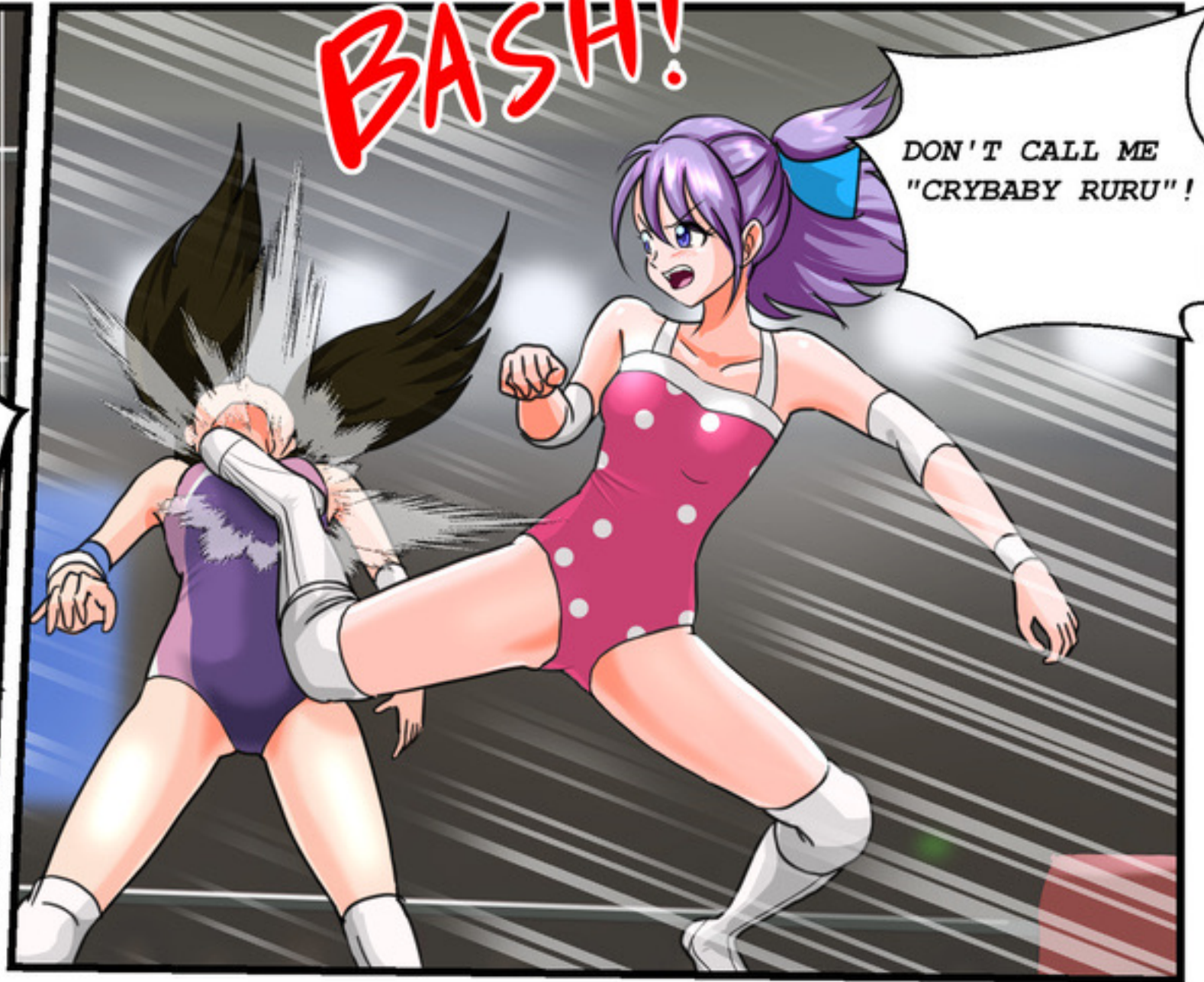
HOSHIKAWA. SHE IS DESPERATELY CRAWLING TOWARD THE ROPES.





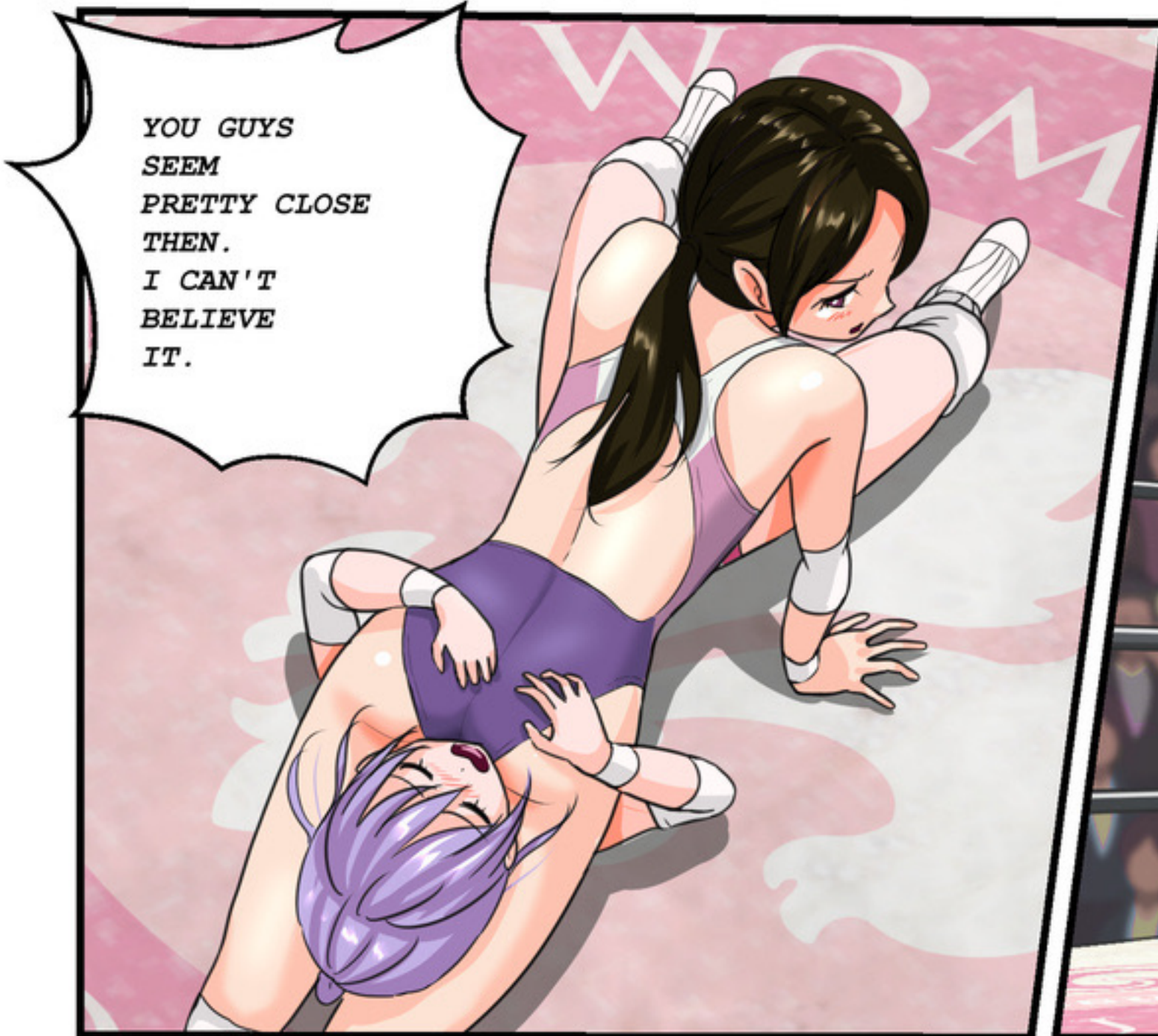
SHUT UP!
YOU WOULD
HAVE
APPROACHED
UNNO-SENPAI
EVEN
THOUGH YOU
KNOW
I LONG
FOR HER.

BUMP!

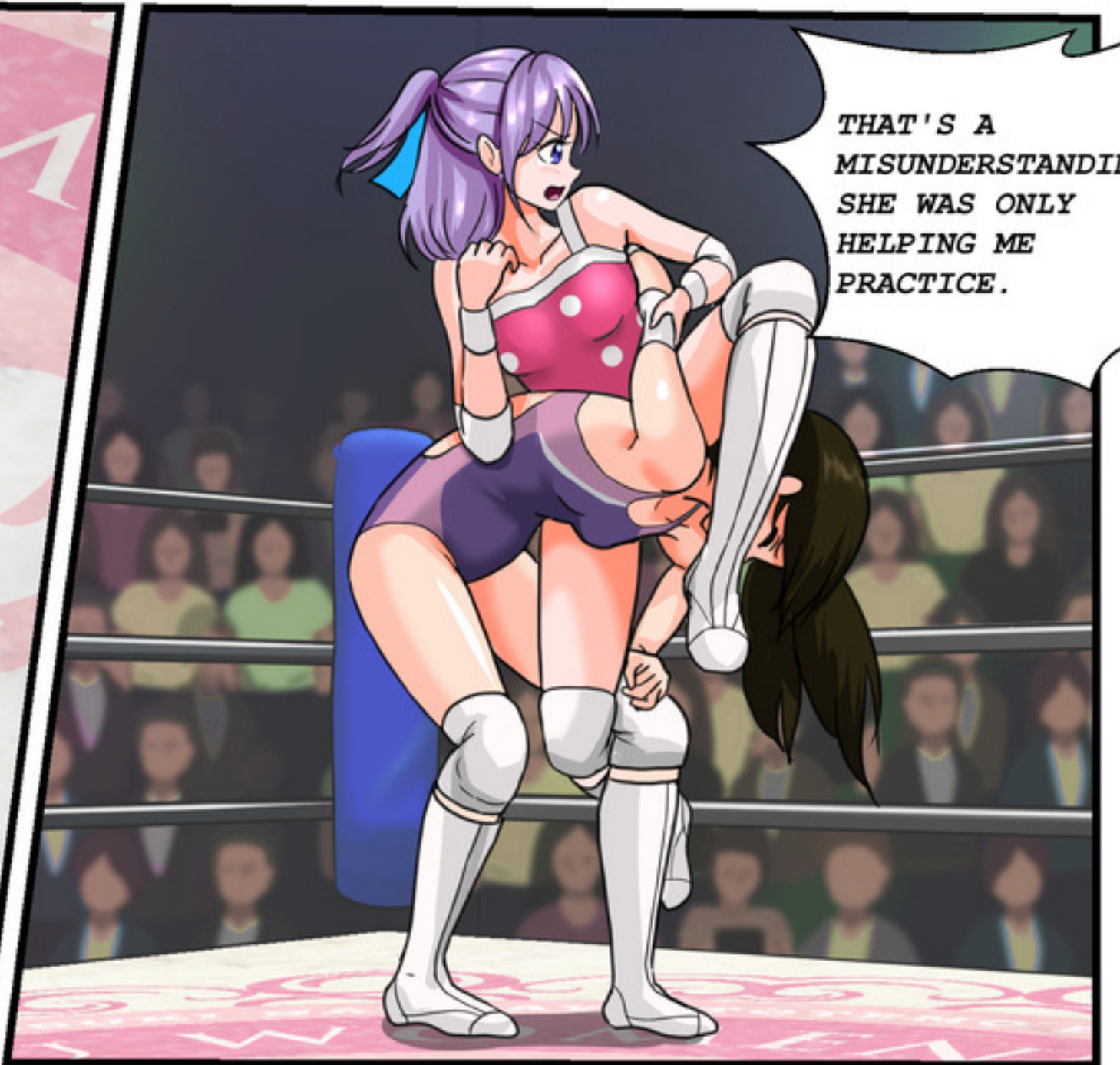


DON'T CALL ME
"CRYBABY RURU"!

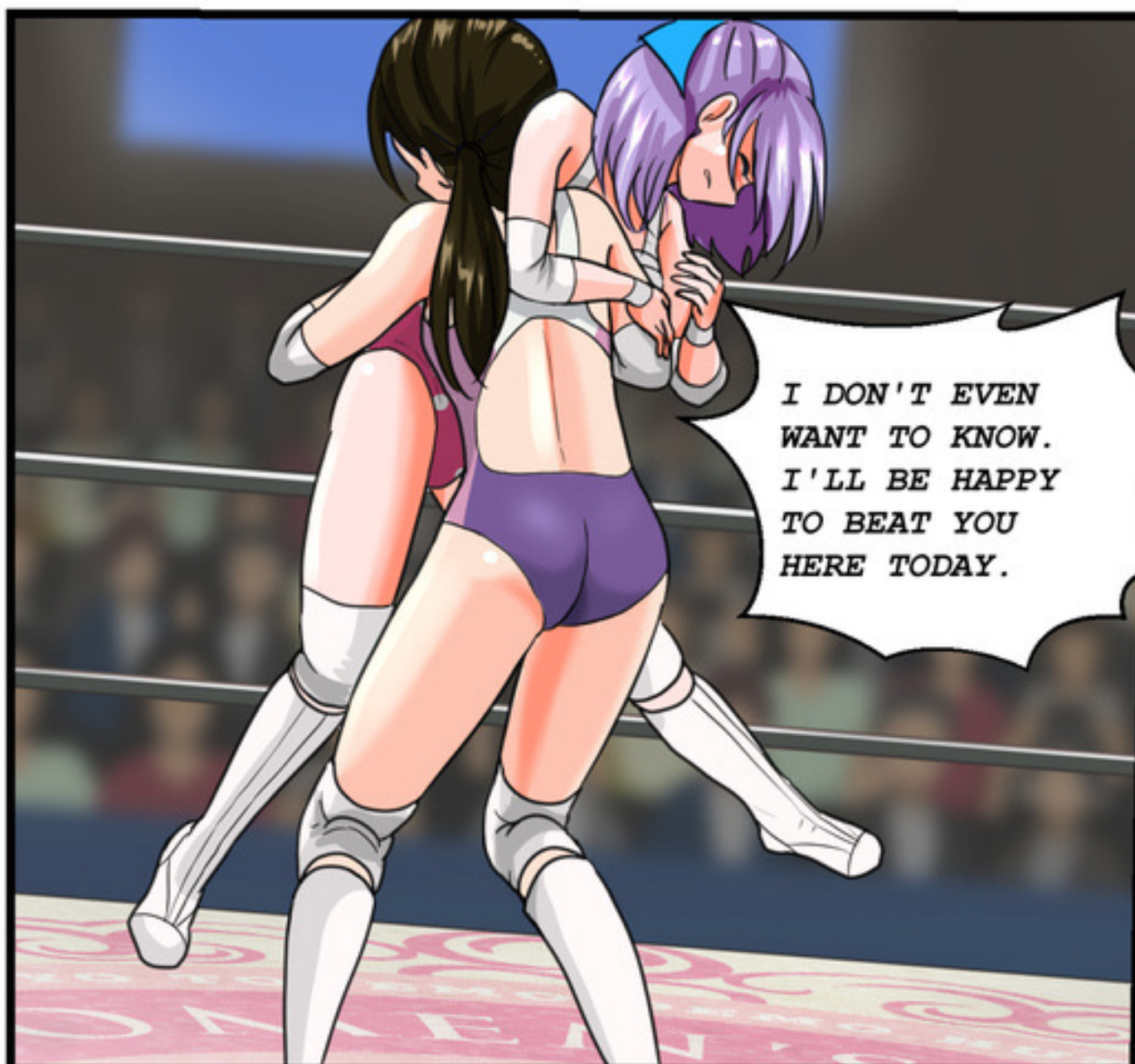
BASH!



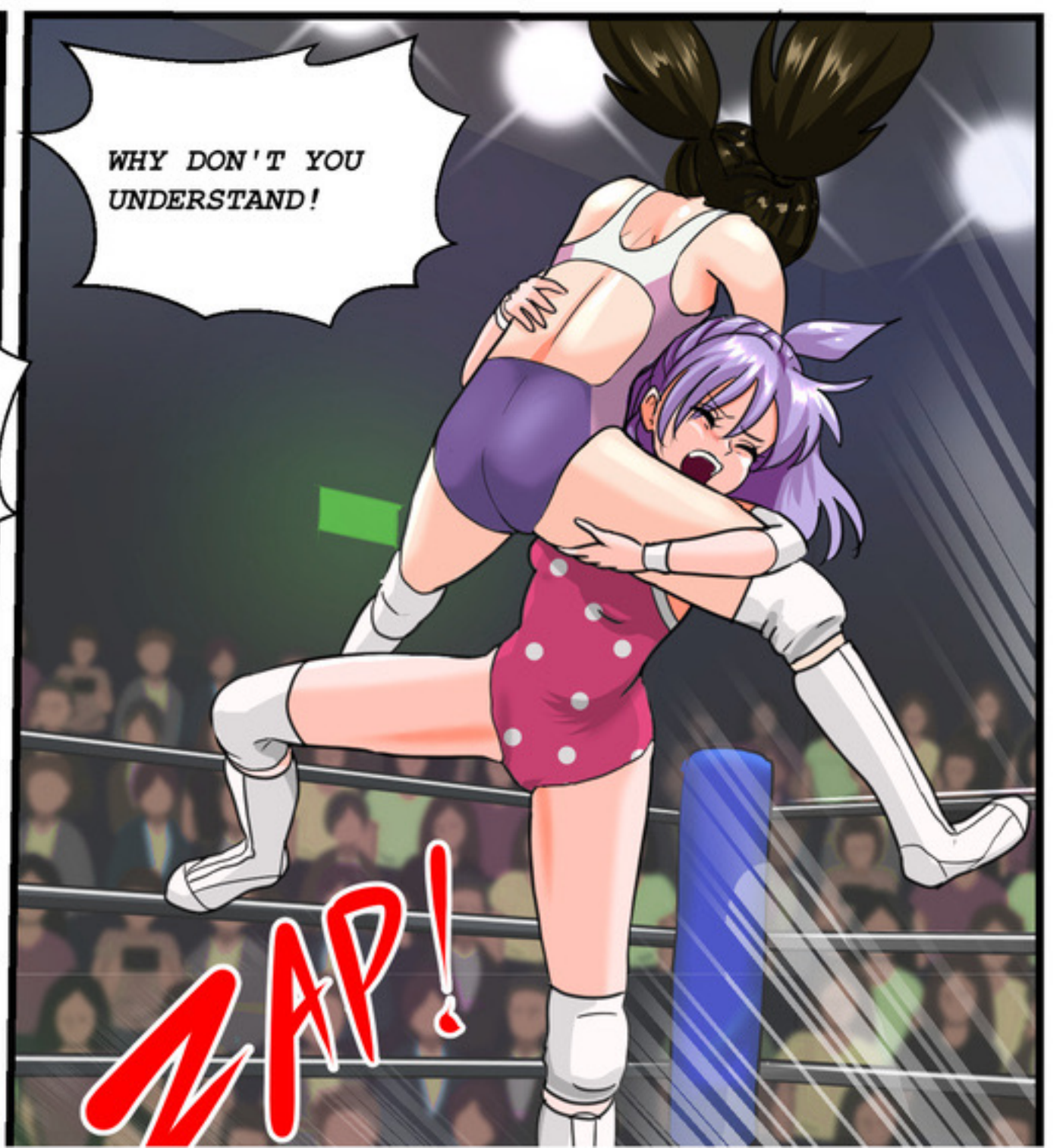
YOU GUYS
SEEM
PRETTY CLOSE
THEN.
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.



THAT'S A
MISUNDERSTANDING.
SHE WAS ONLY
HELPING ME
PRACTICE.

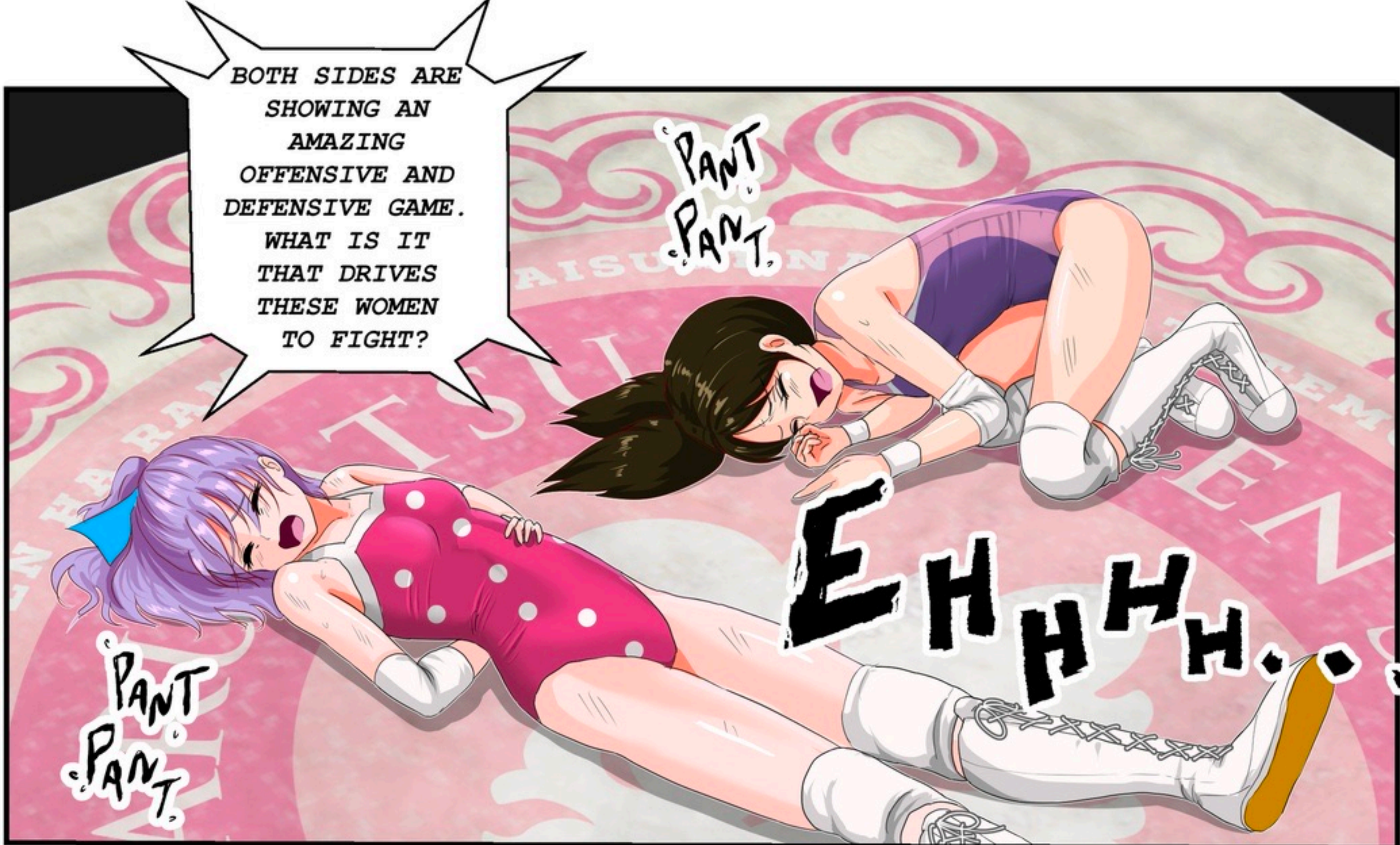


I DON'T EVEN
WANT TO KNOW.
I'LL BE HAPPY
TO BEAT YOU
HERE TODAY.



WHY DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND!

ZAP!



BOTH SIDES ARE SHOWING AN AMAZING OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE GAME. WHAT IS IT THAT DRIVES THESE WOMEN TO FIGHT?

PANT PANT

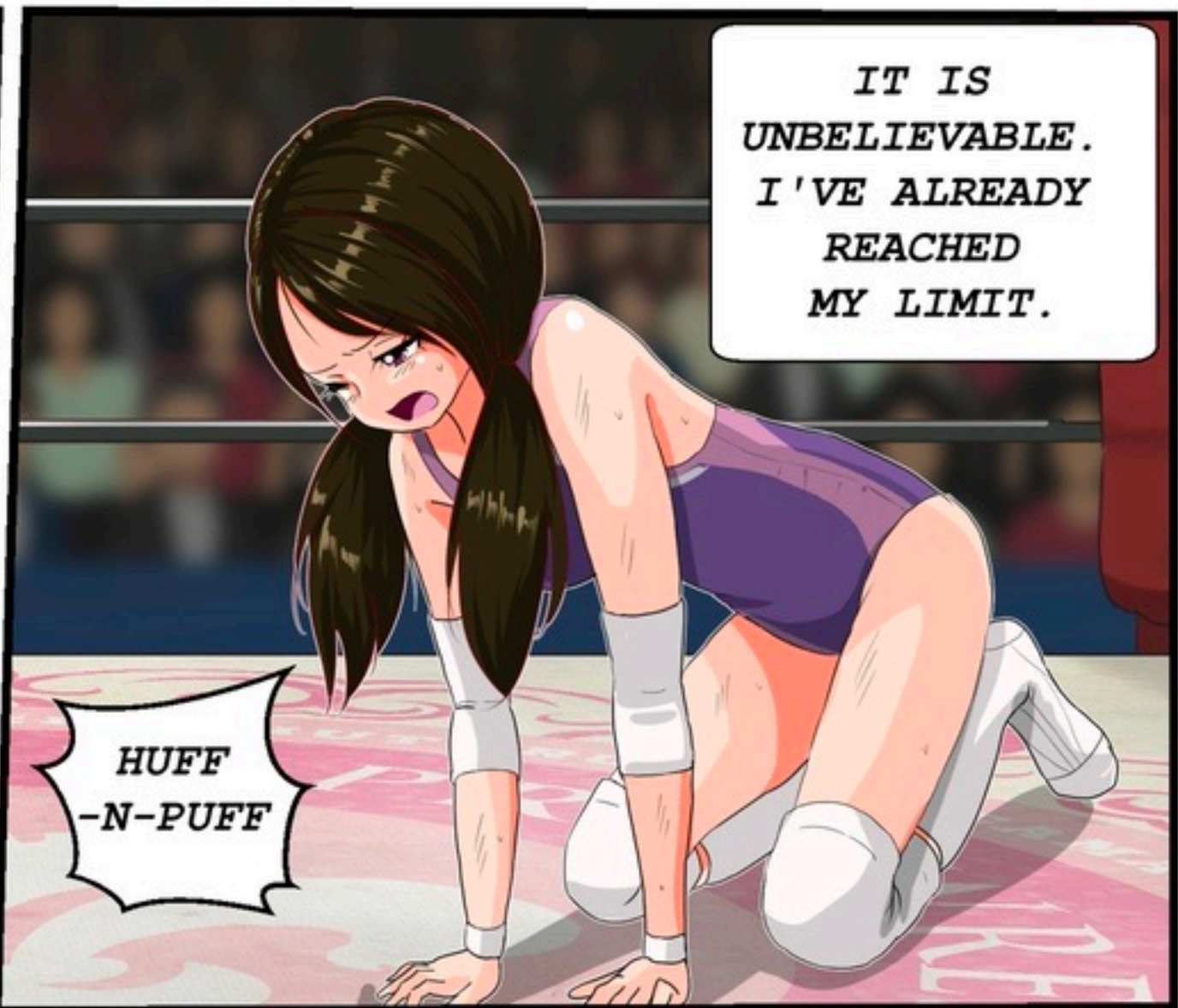
PANT PANT

EHHHH...



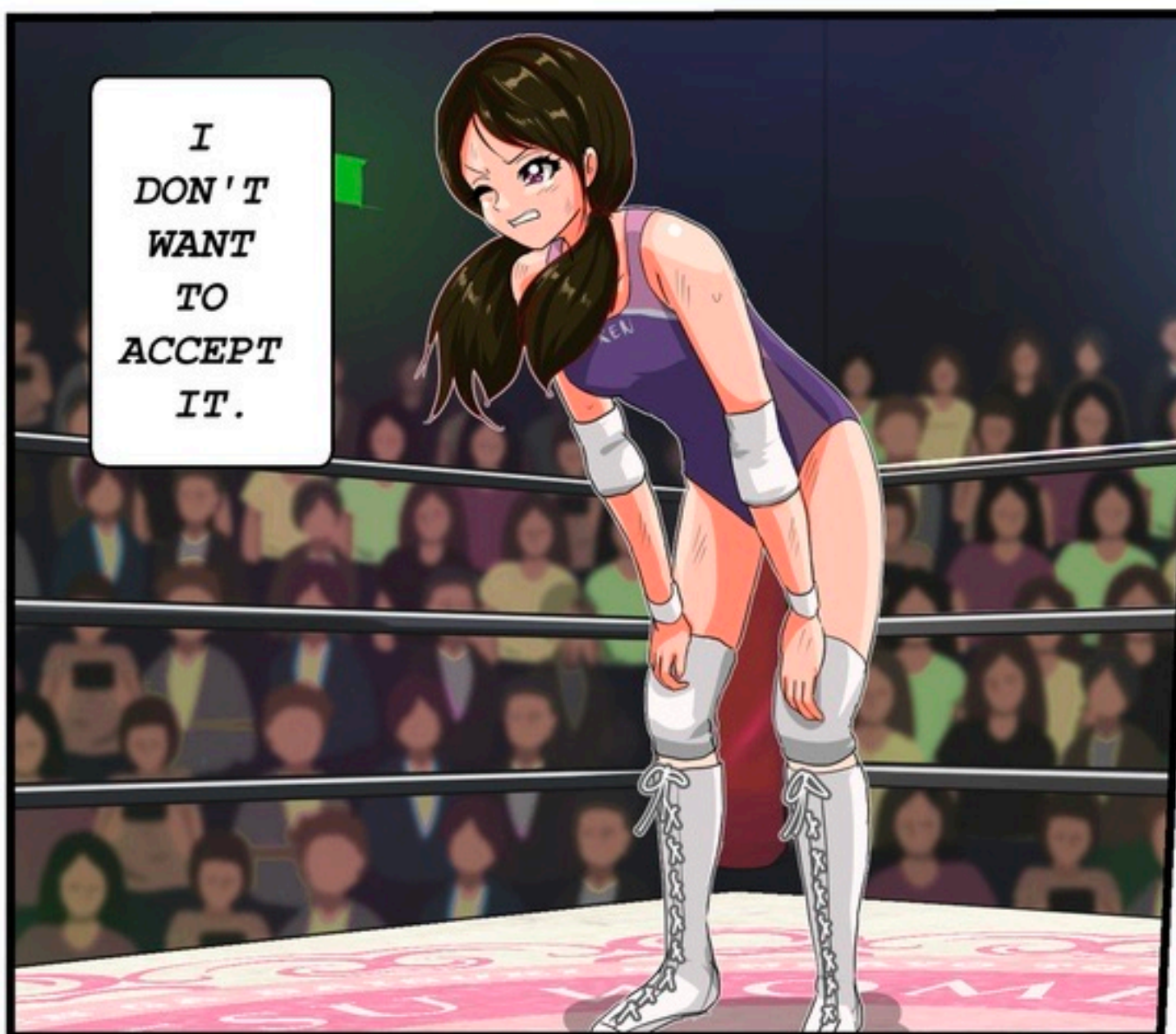
WHEW. OUCH.

WHY ARE YOU HAVING SO MUCH FUN?



IT IS UNBELIEVABLE. I'VE ALREADY REACHED MY LIMIT.

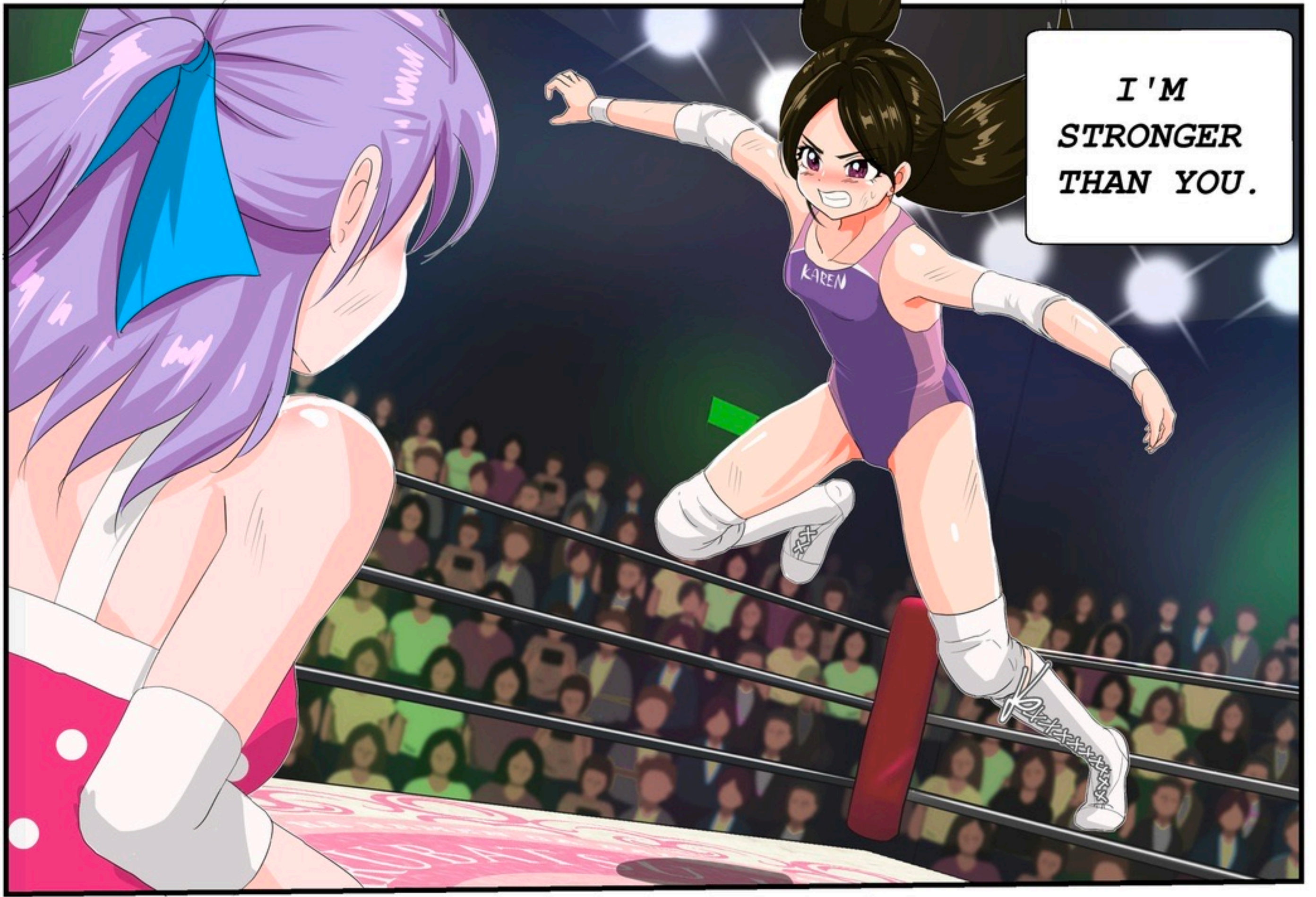
HUFF -N-PUFF



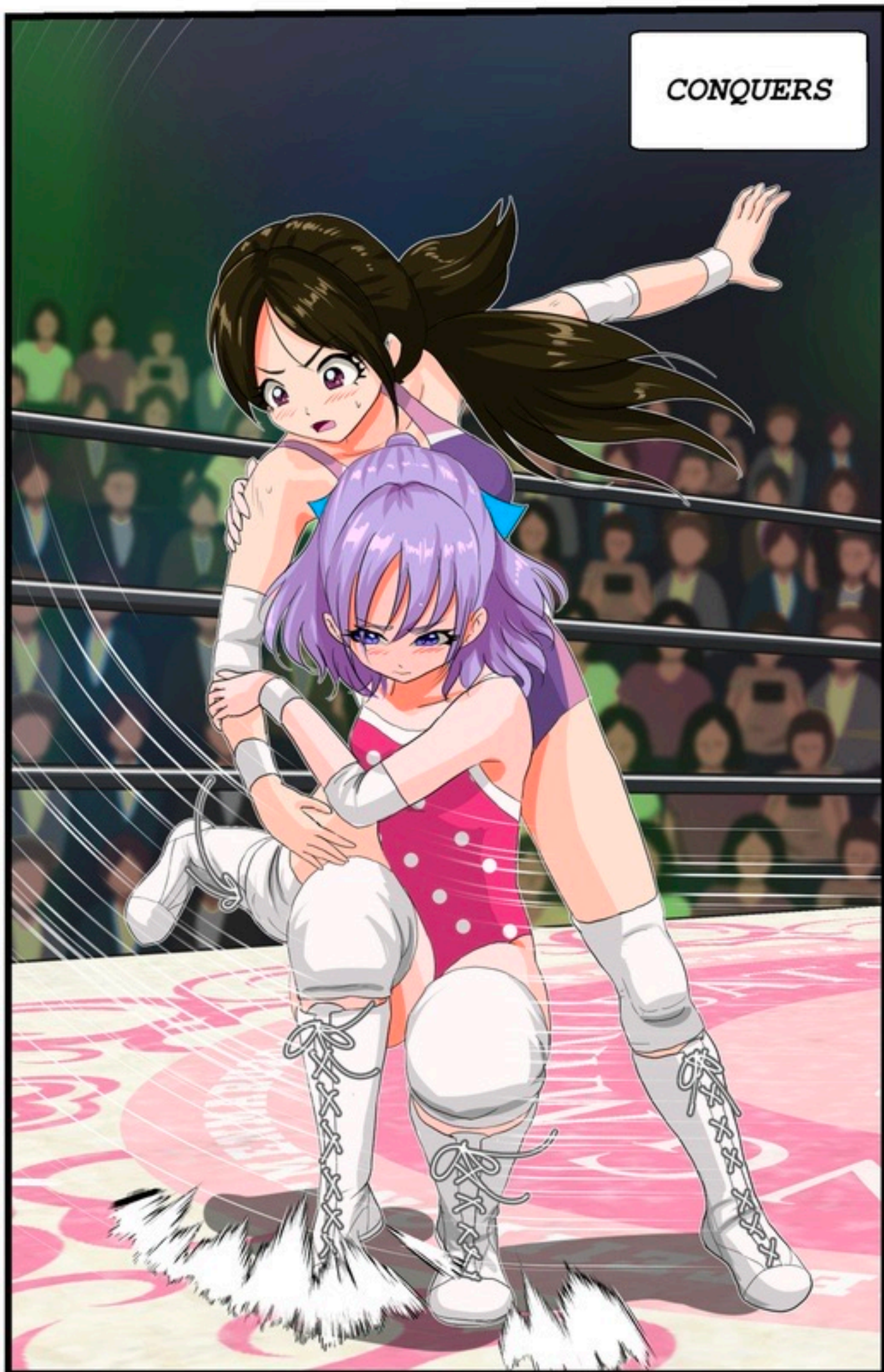
I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT.



THAT'S BECAUSE THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE HOSHIKAWA GETS IS WAY DIFFERENT FROM YOURS. KAREN AKIBA.



I'M STRONGER THAN YOU.



CONQUERS



I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT.



THE SOFT...

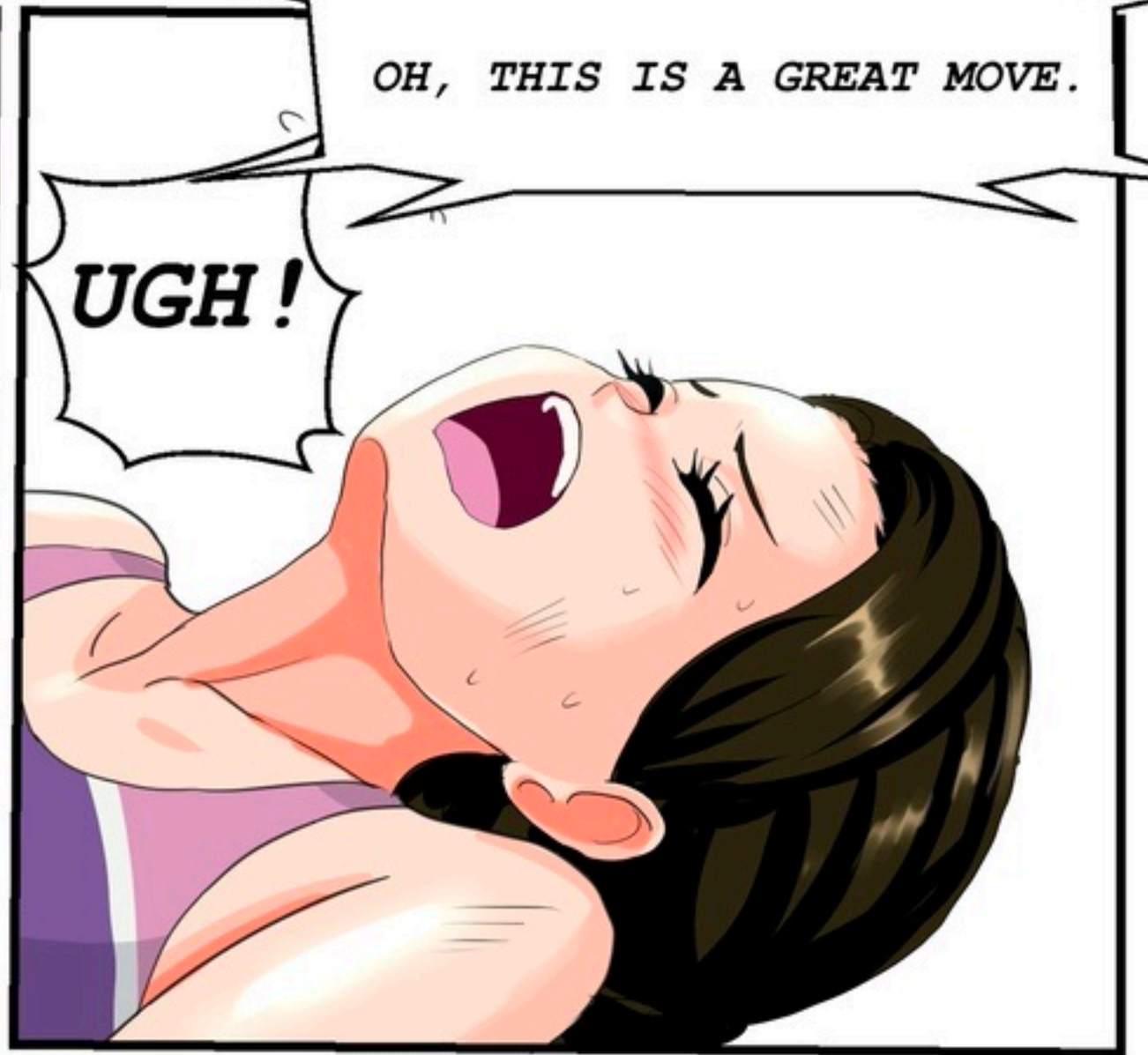
THE HARD!

**ONE-ARMED
SHOULDER
THROW!**



AND THEN, FALL BY KAMISHIHO-GATAME.
IT WAS AS IF WE WERE WATCHING
A CROSS-MARTIAL ARTS MATCH
BETWEEN JUDO AND AMATEUR WRESTLING.

OH, THIS IS A GREAT MOVE.



FALL!!

UGH!

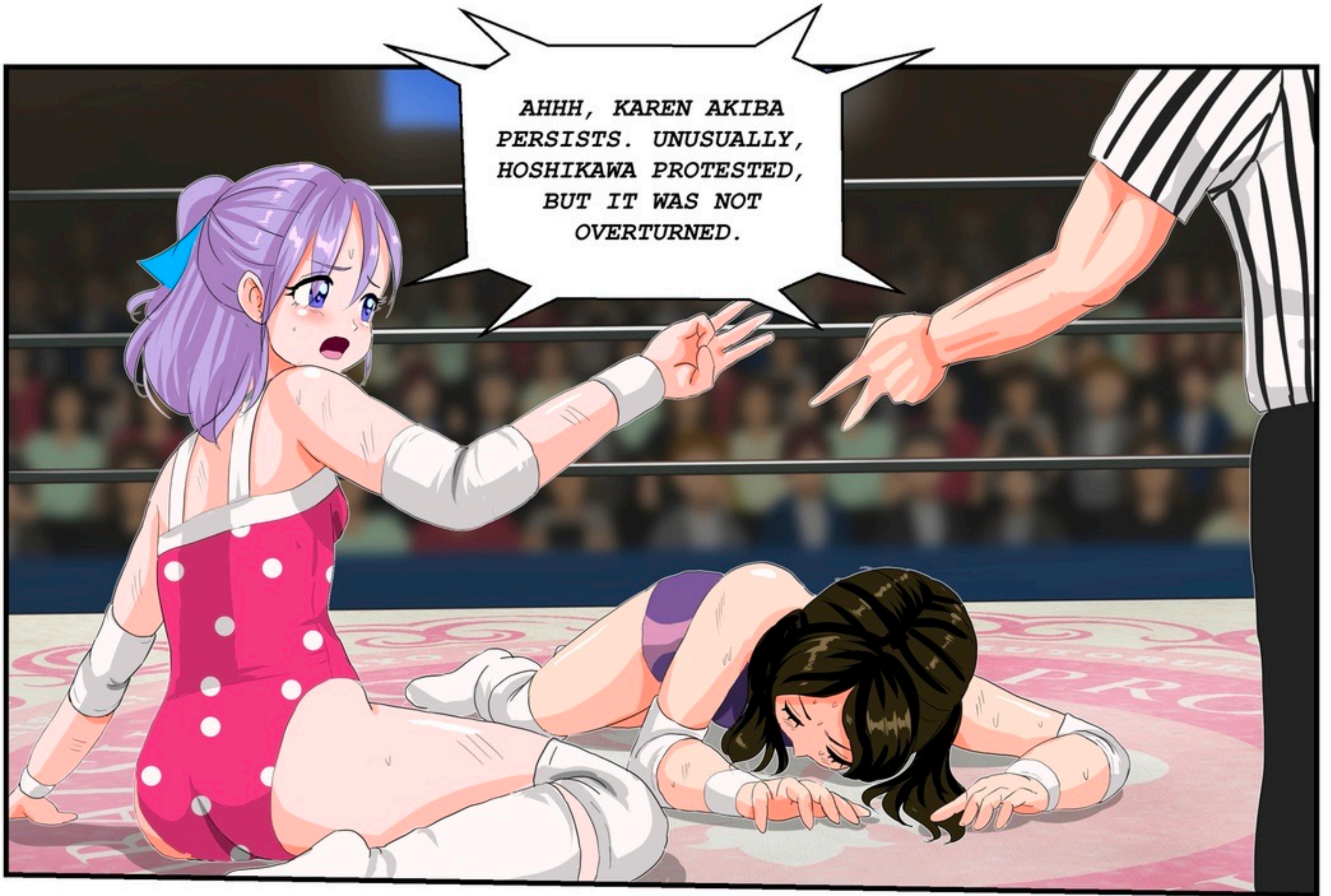
I DON'T WANT
TO LOSE!



NO, NO, NO!



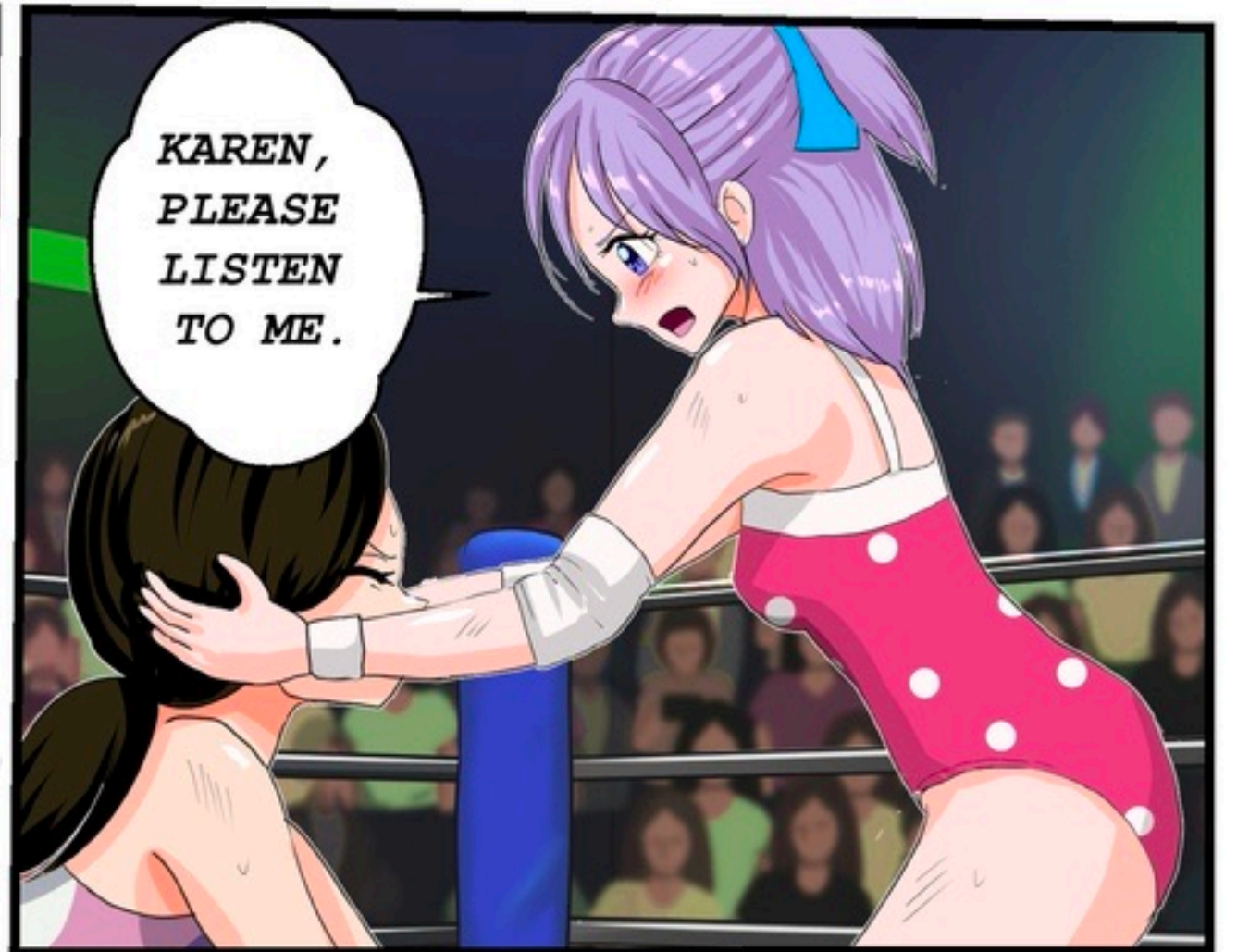
AAAAAH!



AHHH, KAREN AKIBA PERSISTS. UNUSUALLY, HOSHIKAWA PROTESTED, BUT IT WAS NOT OVERTURNED.



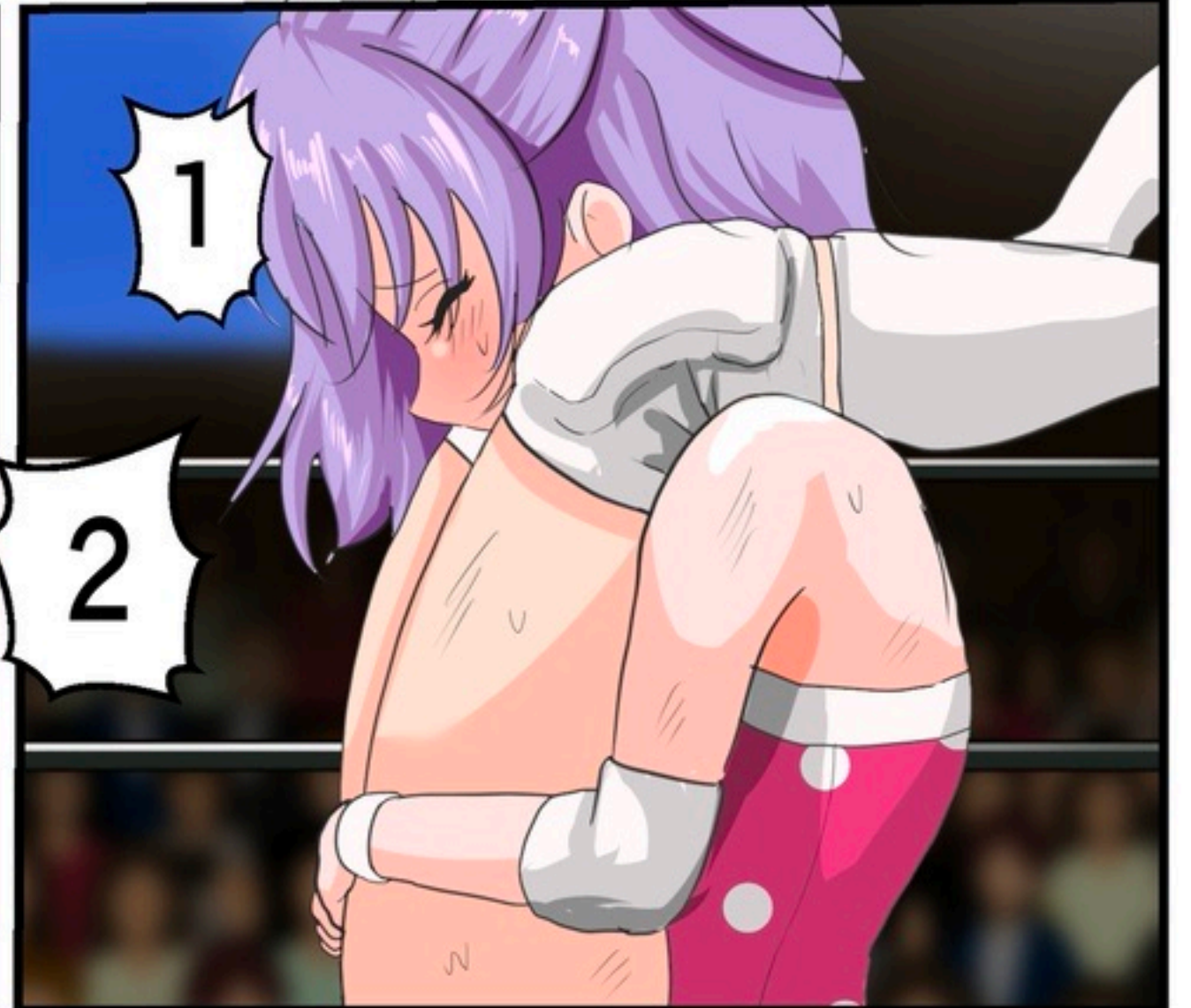
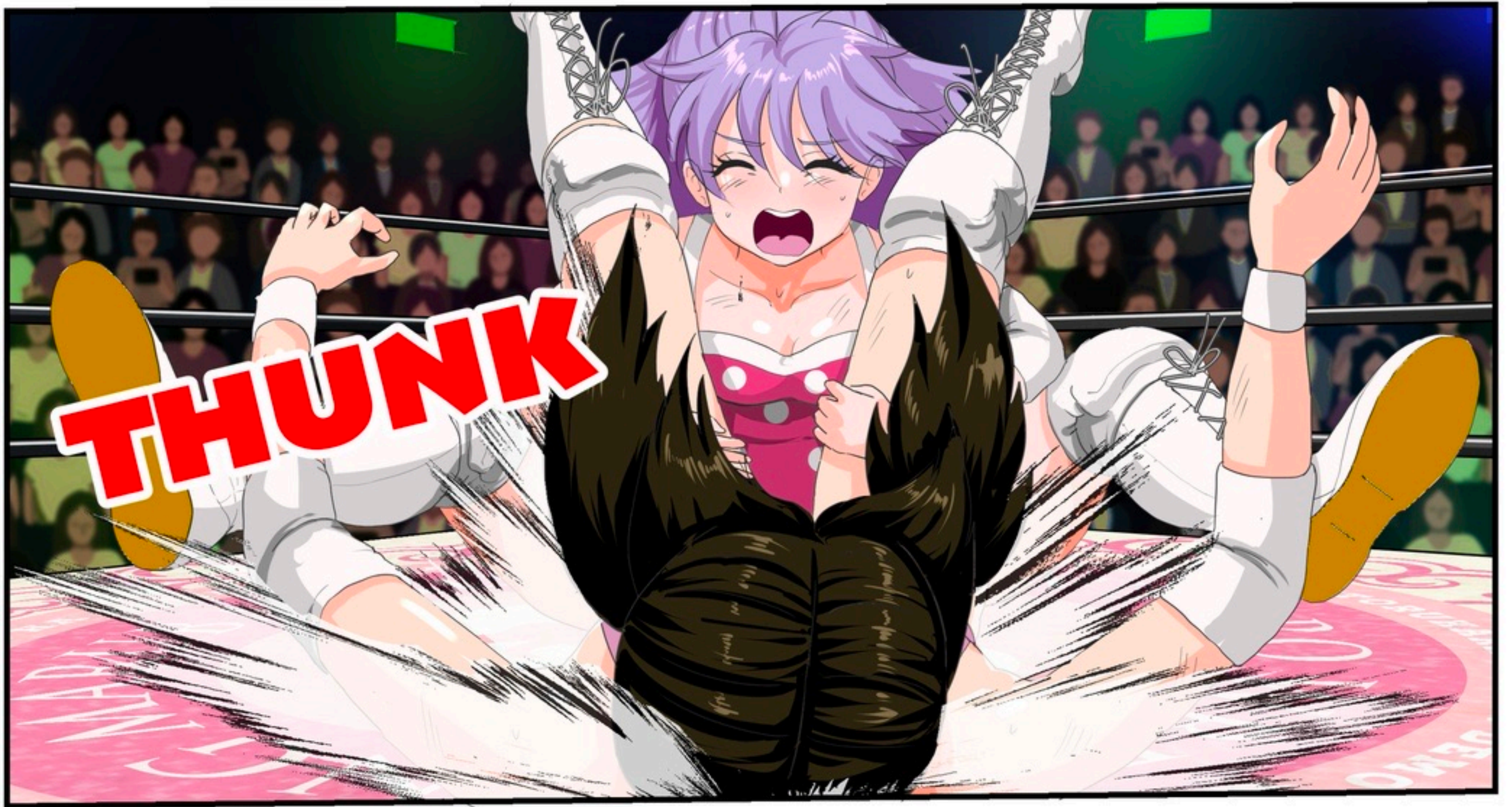
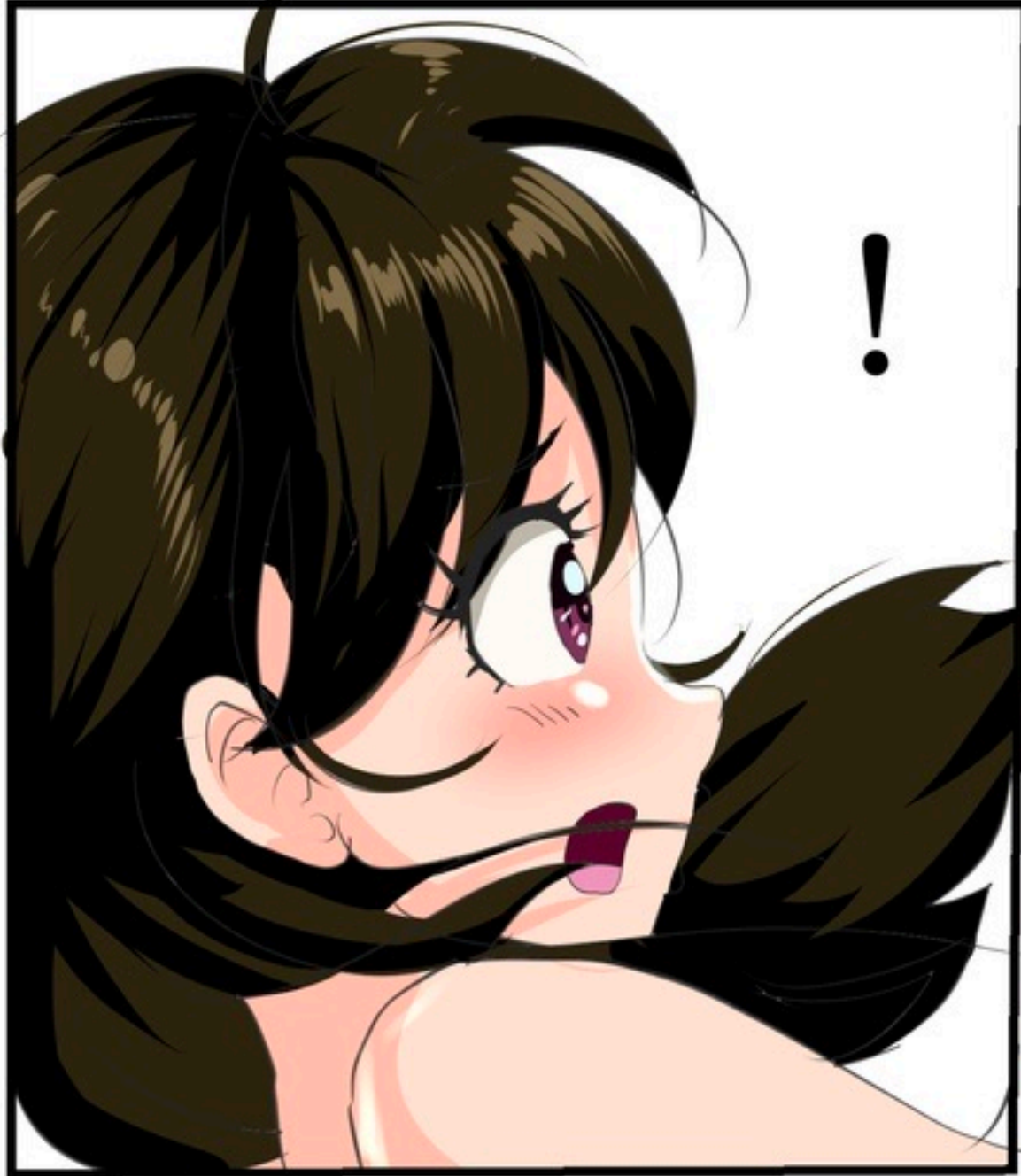
BECAUSE...



KAREN, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.



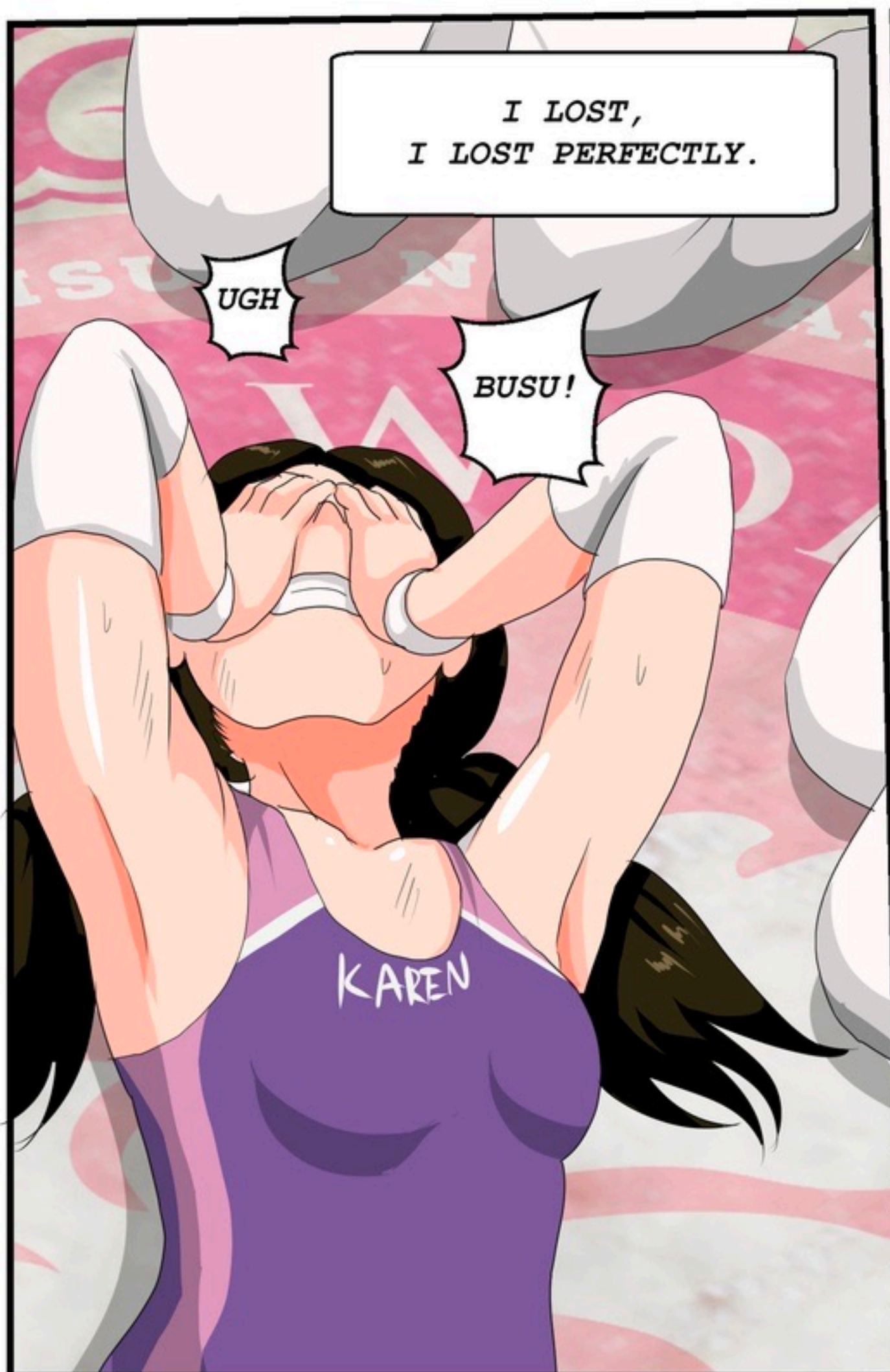
I JUST WANTED TO BE STRONGER.





PUFF-PUFF;
HUFF-N-PUFF

THE MATCH IS OVER!
AND IT WAS HOSHIKAWA
WHO WON A FIERCE
BATTLE THAT LASTED
30 MINUTES!

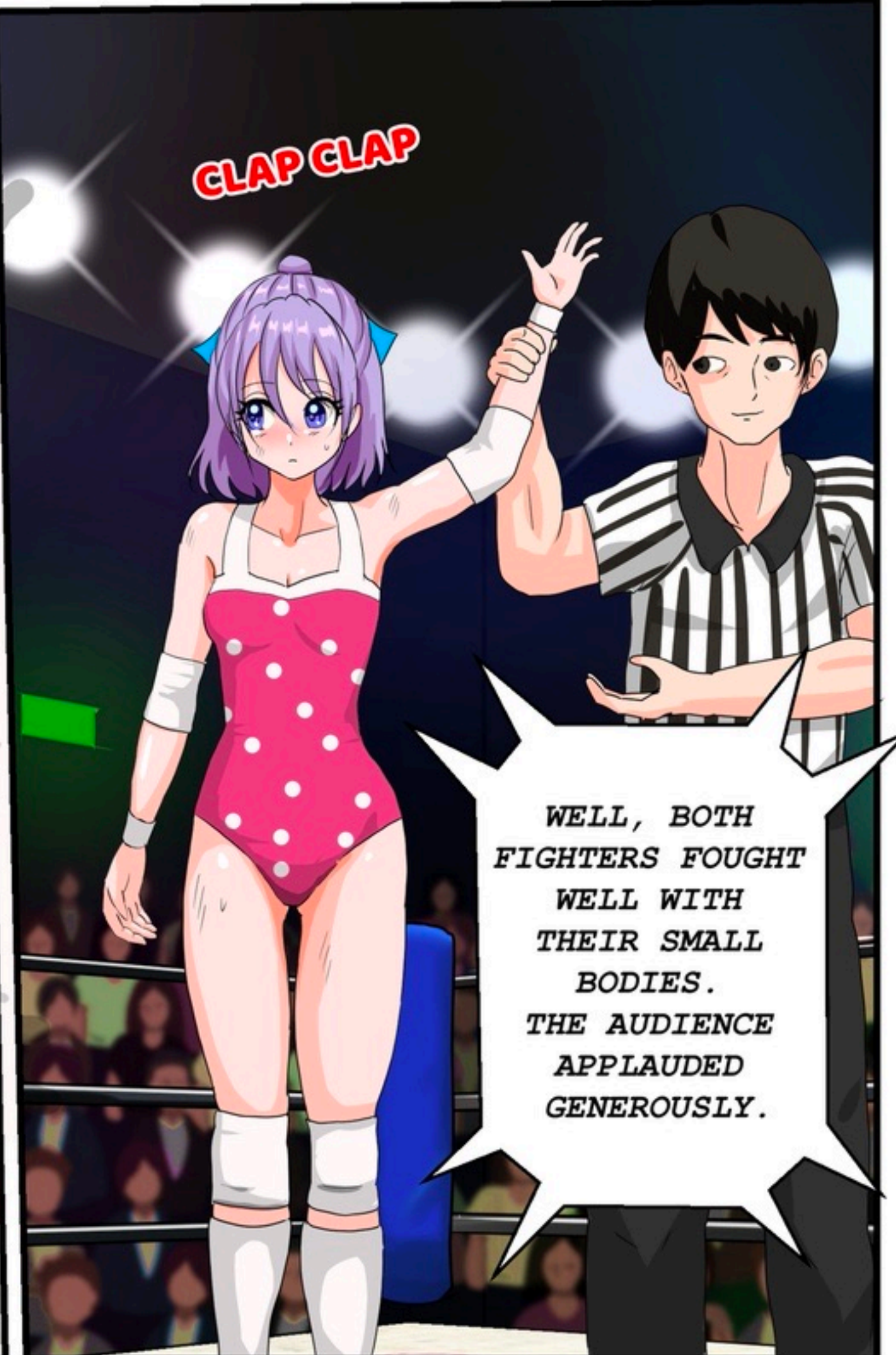


I LOST,
I LOST PERFECTLY.

UGH

BUSU!

KAREN



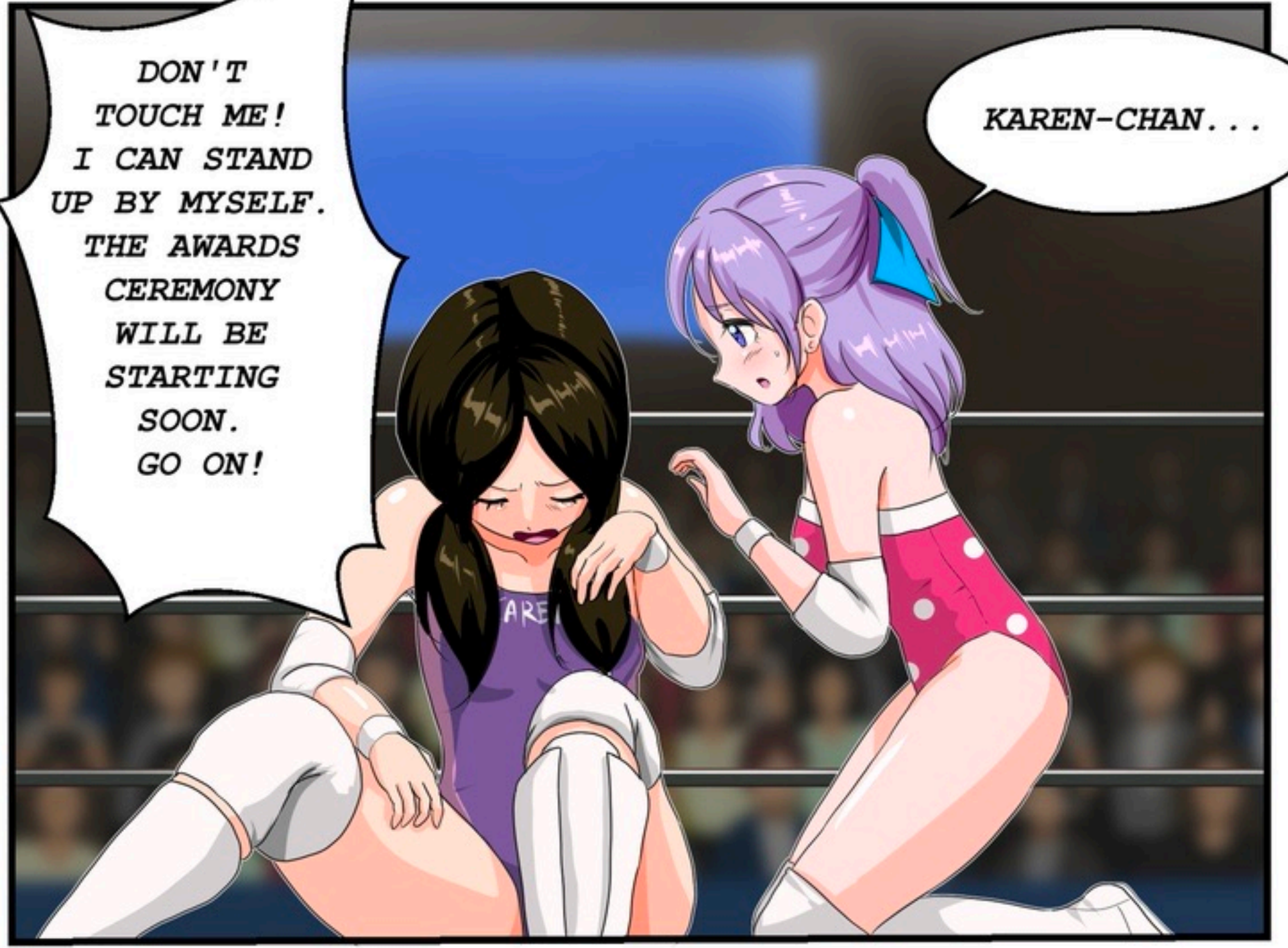
CLAP CLAP

WELL, BOTH
FIGHTERS FOUGHT
WELL WITH
THEIR SMALL
BODIES.
THE AUDIENCE
APPLAUDED
GENEROUSLY.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

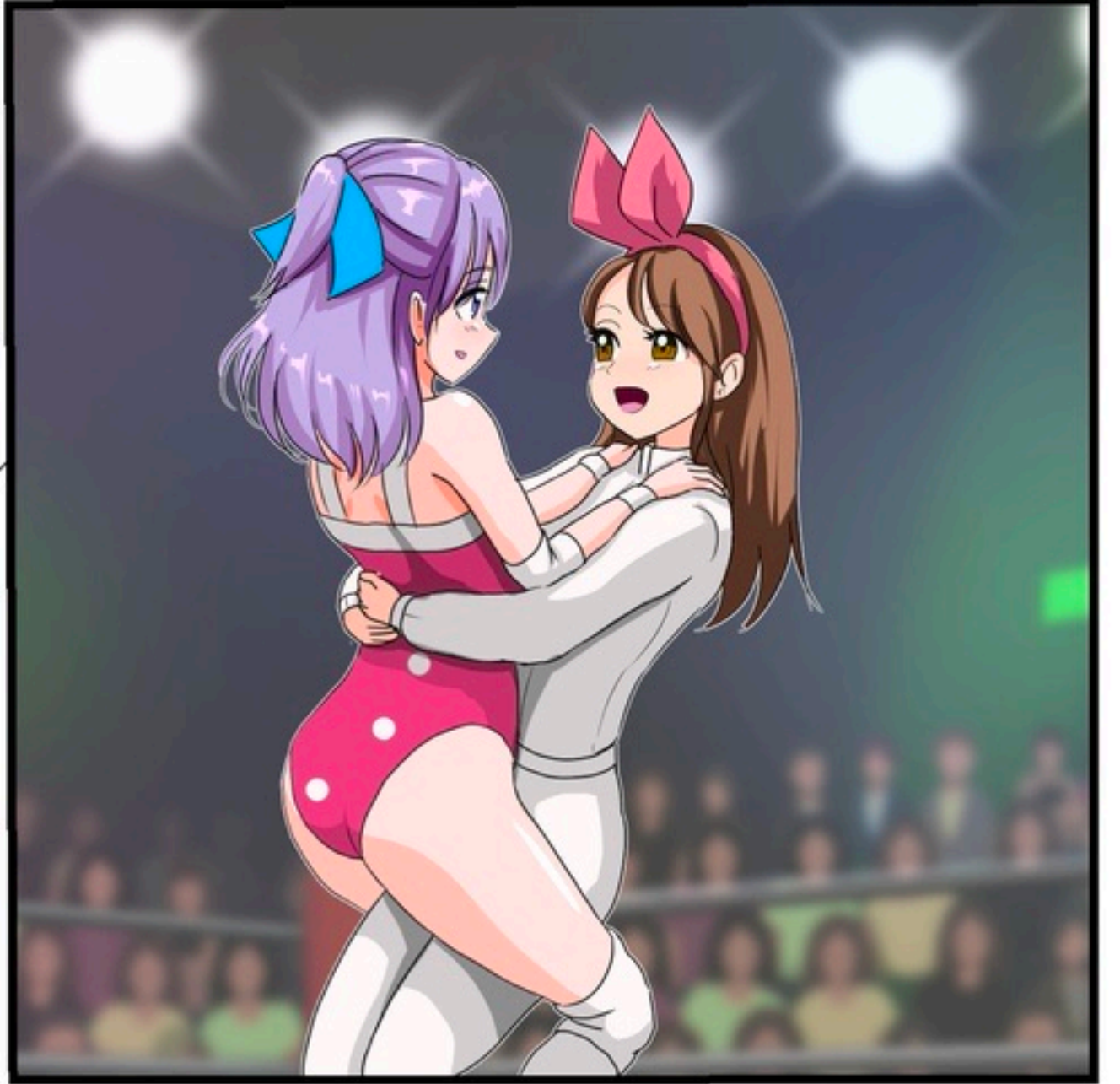
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I CAN STAND UP BY MYSELF.
THE AWARDS CEREMONY WILL BE STARTING SOON.
GO ON!



KAREN-CHAN...



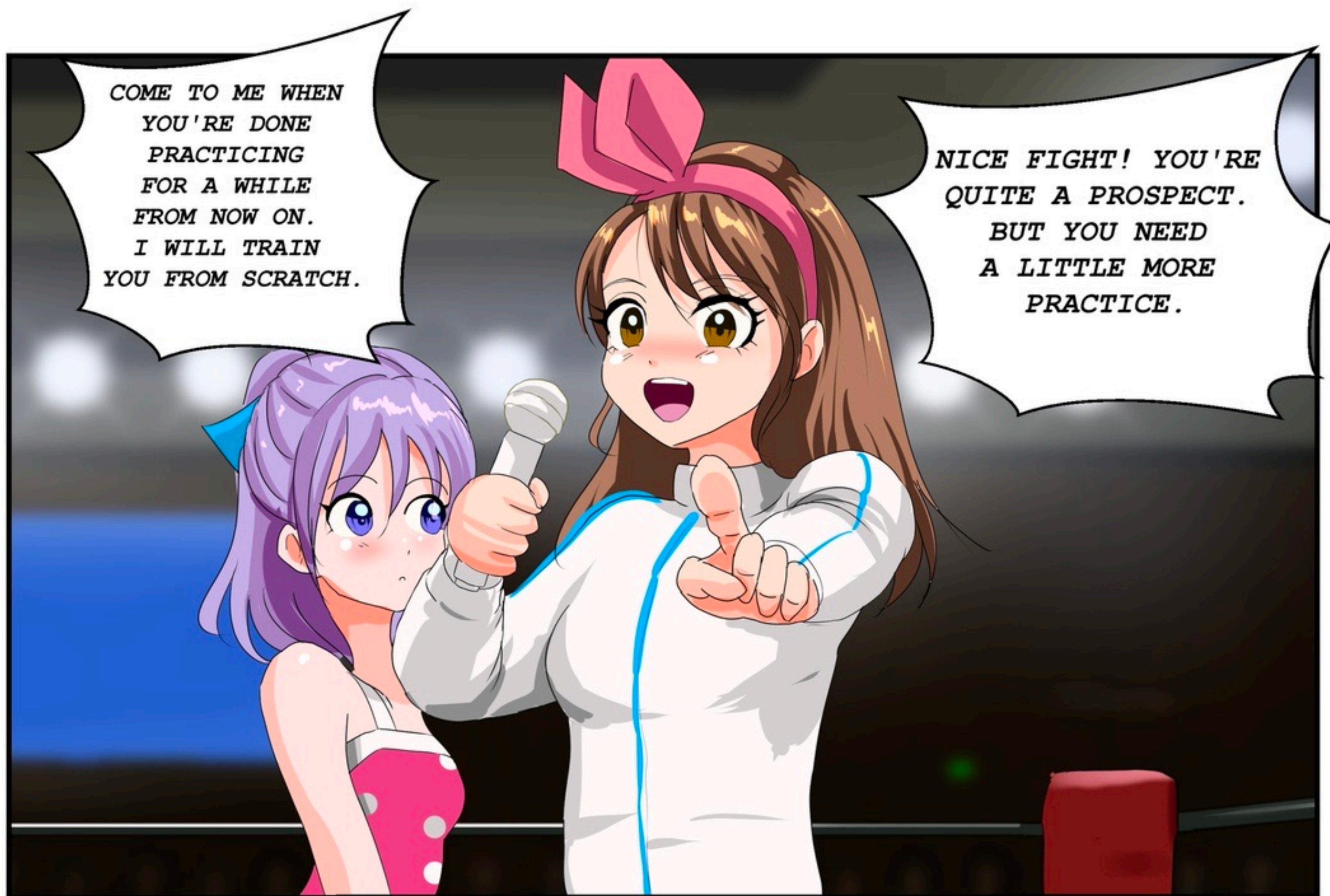
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?



UNNO-SENPAI?



WAIT, KAREN AKIBA!



COME TO ME WHEN
YOU'RE DONE
PRACTICING
FOR A WHILE
FROM NOW ON.
I WILL TRAIN
YOU FROM SCRATCH.

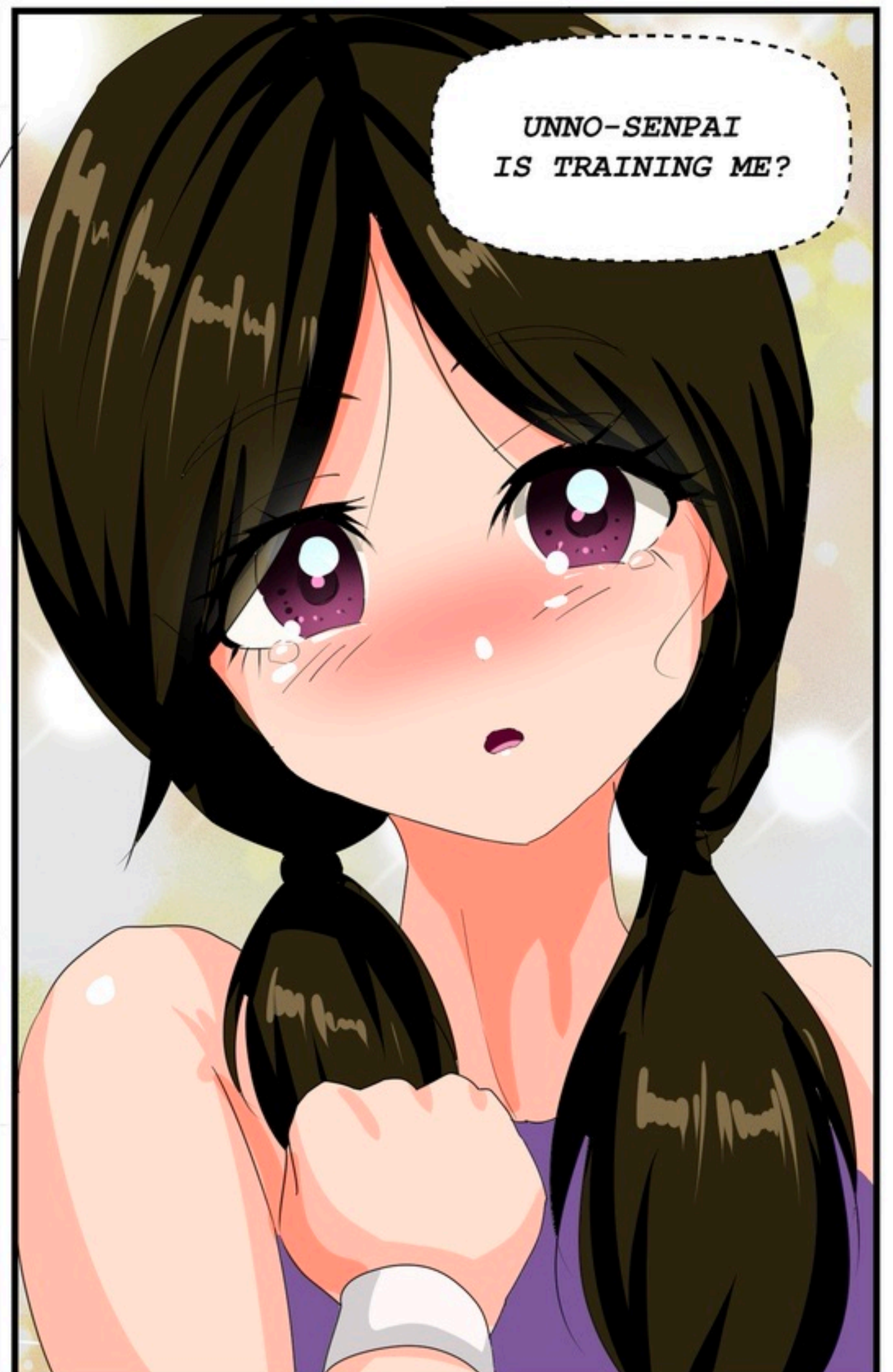
NICE FIGHT! YOU'RE
QUITE A PROSPECT.
BUT YOU NEED
A LITTLE MORE
PRACTICE.



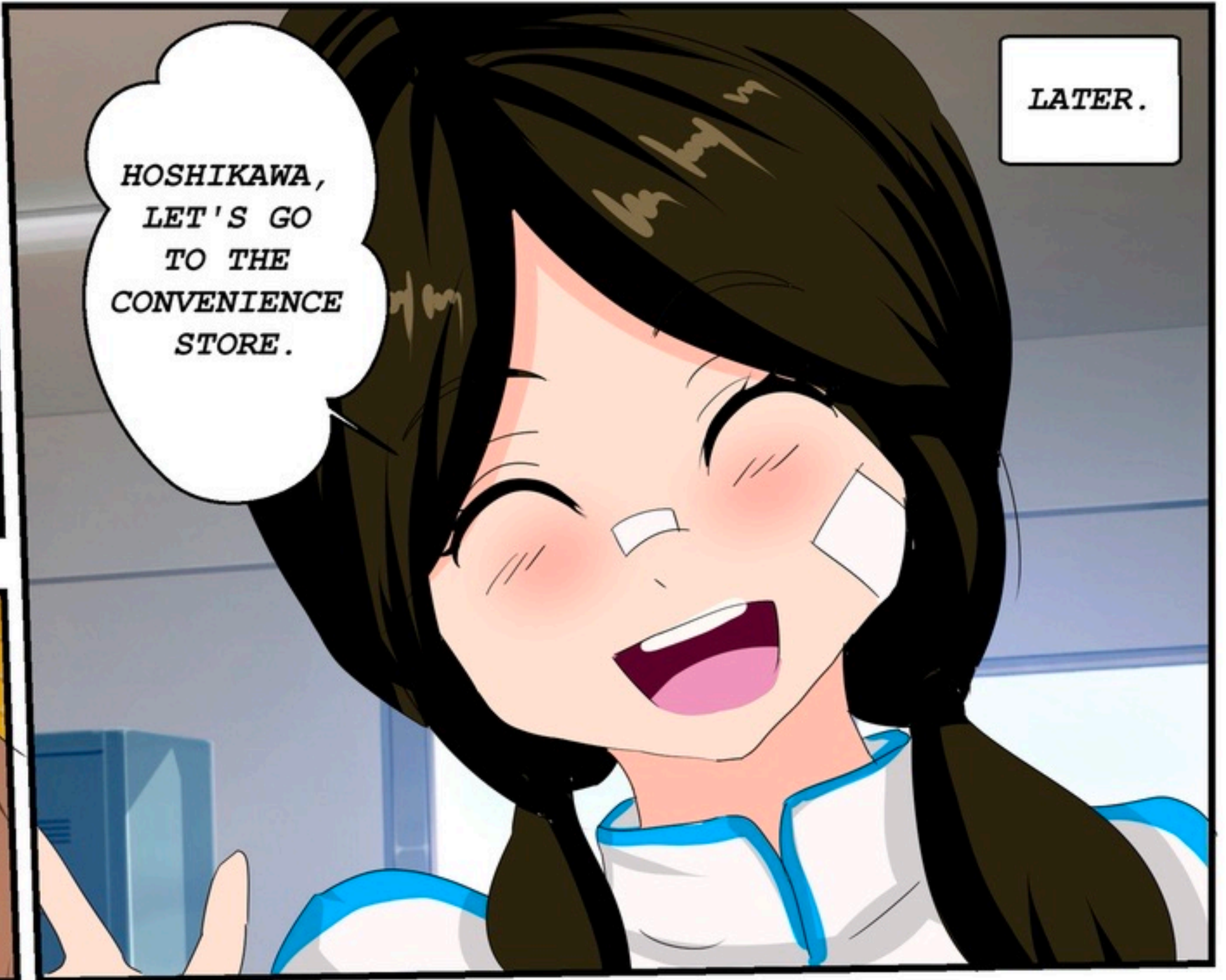
I'M SO HAPPY.

YES,

THANK YOU.

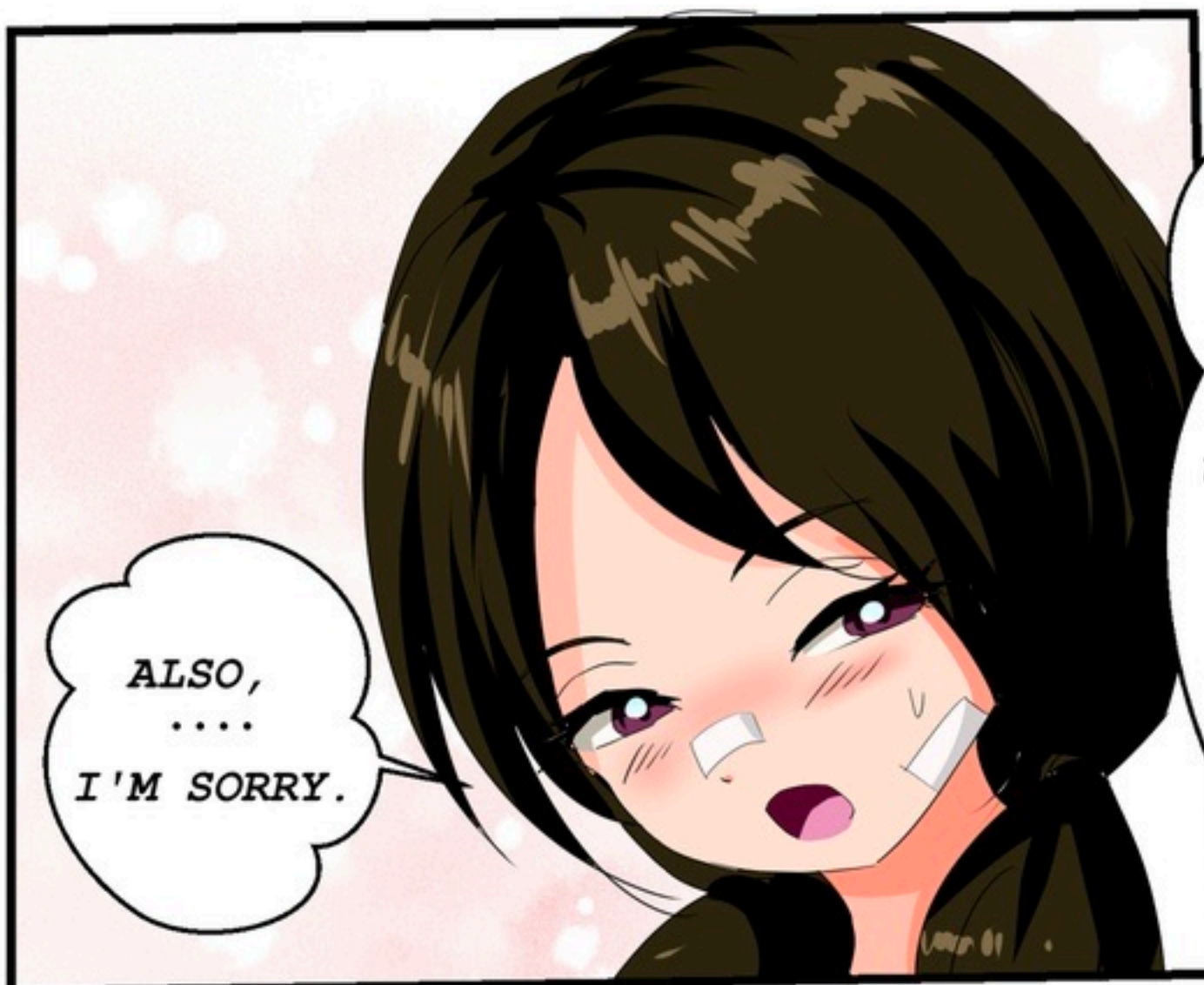


UNNO-SENPAI
IS TRAINING ME?

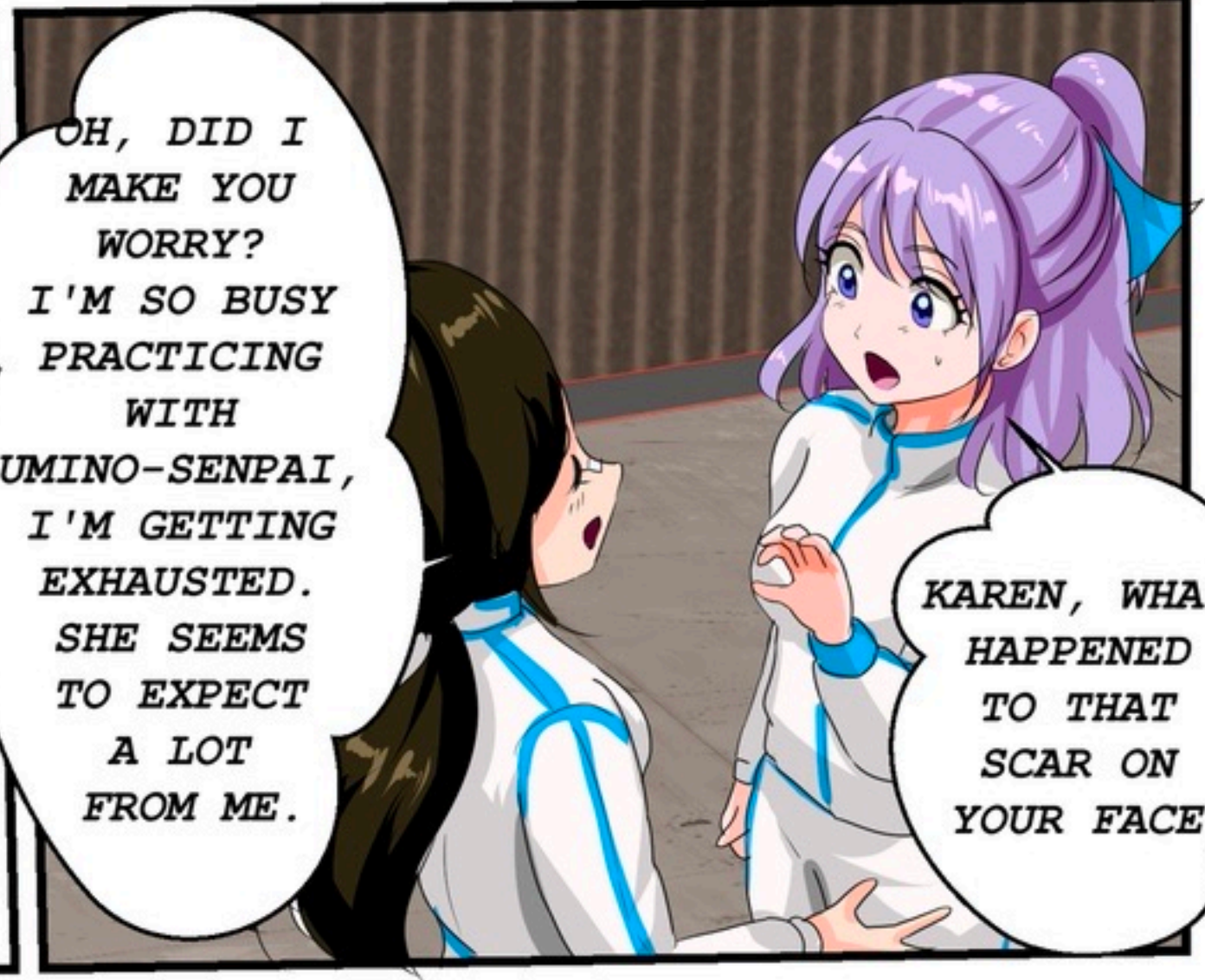


LATER.

HOSHIKAWA,
LET'S GO
TO THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.



ALSO,
....
I'M SORRY.



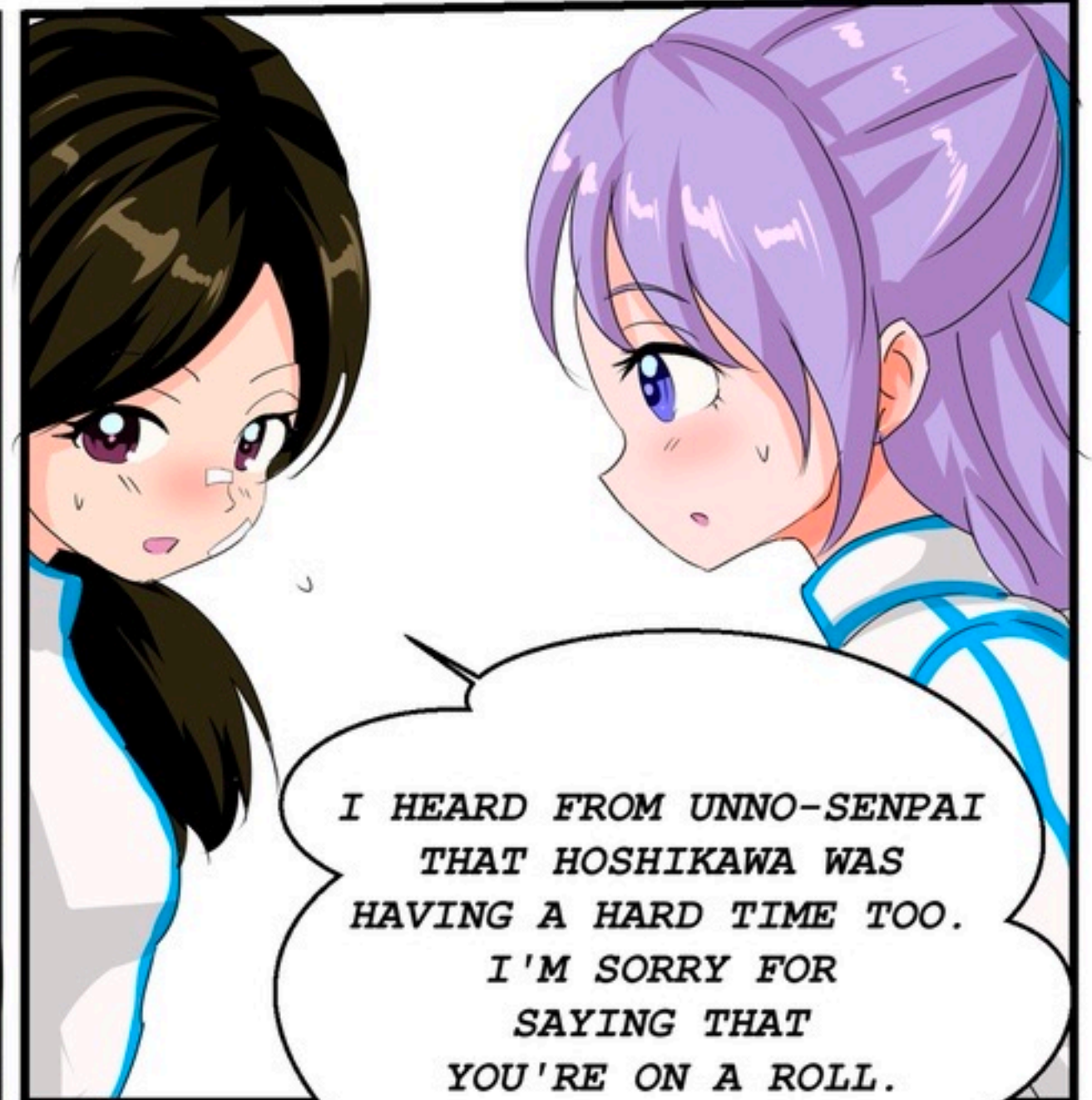
OH, DID I
MAKE YOU
WORRY?
I'M SO BUSY
PRACTICING
WITH
UMINO-SENPAI,
I'M GETTING
EXHAUSTED.
SHE SEEMS
TO EXPECT
A LOT
FROM ME.

KAREN, WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THAT
SCAR ON
YOUR FACE?



SO, LIKE
BEFORE...

I CAN'T SAY
IT WELL, BUT...



I HEARD FROM UNNO-SENPAI
THAT HOSHIKAWA WAS
HAVING A HARD TIME TOO.
I'M SORRY FOR
SAYING THAT
YOU'RE ON A ROLL.



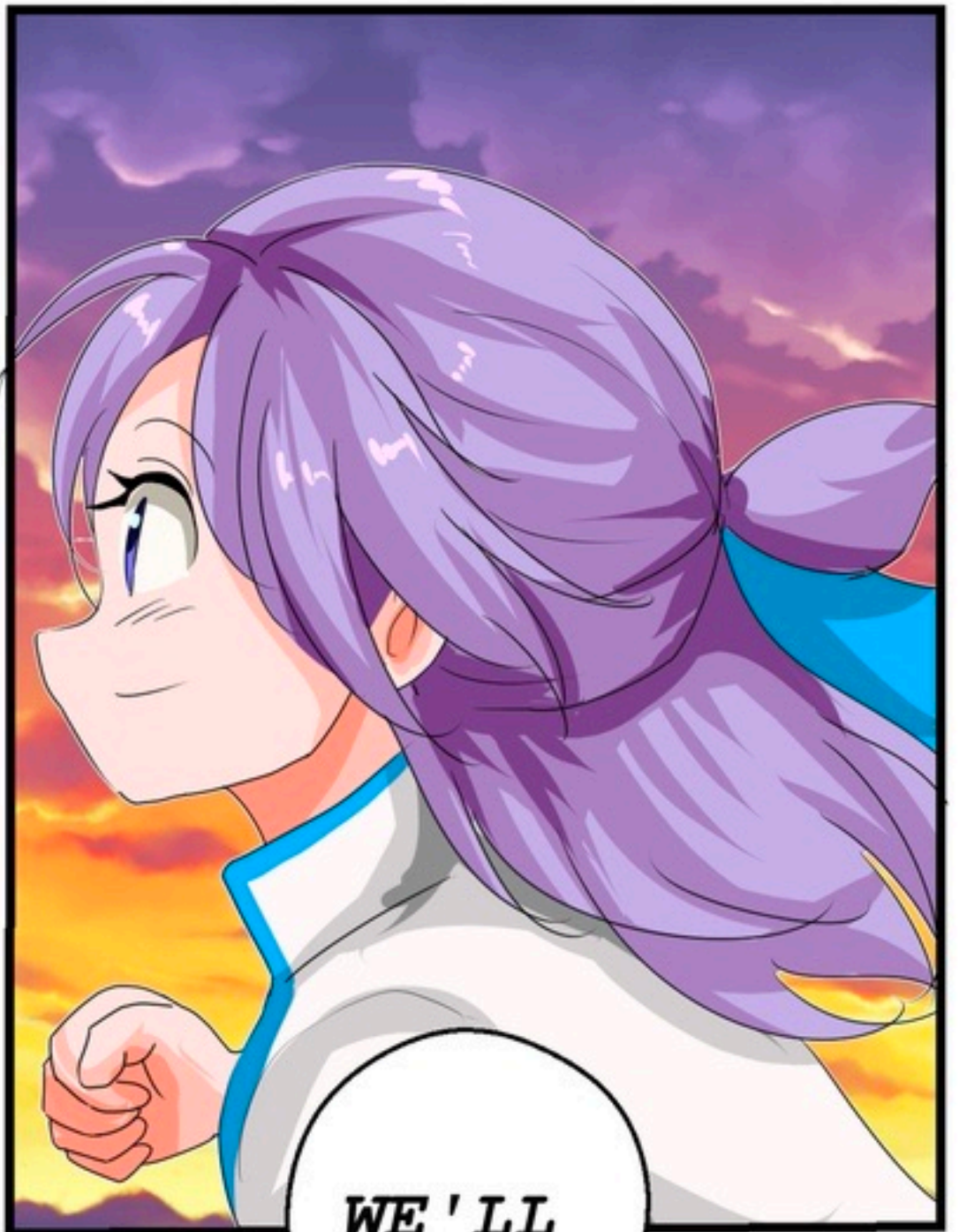
RUNNING IS BETTER PRACTICE!

EH? I'M REALLY TIRED RIGHT NOW!

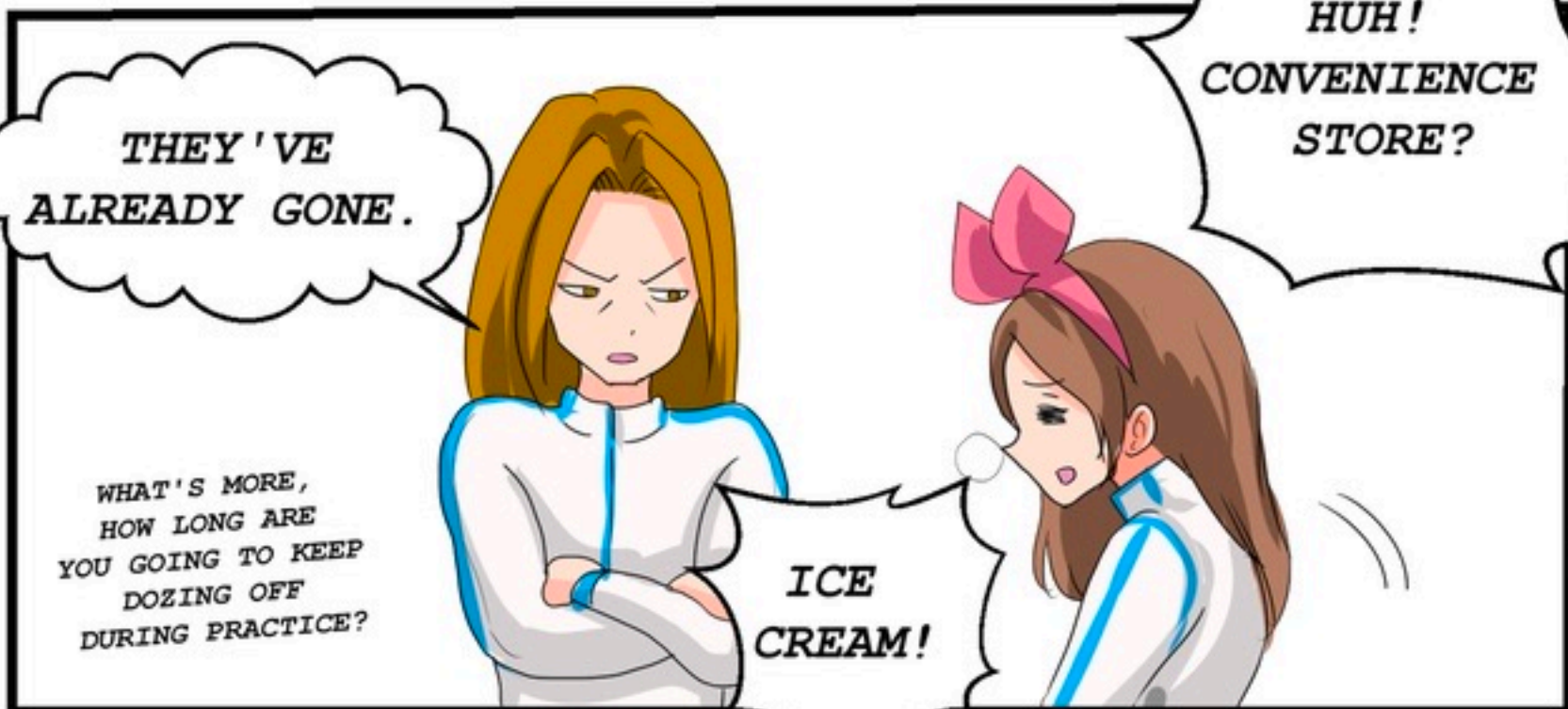
LET'S RUN!



BE FRIENDS (OR RIVALS) FOREVER!



WE'LL



THEY'VE ALREADY GONE.

HUH! CONVENIENCE STORE?

WHAT'S MORE, HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DOZING OFF DURING PRACTICE?

ICE CREAM!