



Takeshi Fujioka lived with his daughter Yumi in Midori-machi, a quiet town near Osaka. Yumi's mother was dead, so father and daughter lived alone together. Until five years ago, life was quiet in their town. But then the Black Dragon family arrived, and everything changed. They took money from shops, restaurants and hotels. They said to people: 'Give us some money or your shop will burn down one night,' or 'Give us some money or your old mother will die.' There were some fires and some deaths. So everyone was afraid and many people gave them money.

Takeshi worked for the police in Midori-machi. After five years of hard work, he thought he knew who the Black Dragons were.

'Yumi,' he said to his daughter, 'in a few weeks I will catch the Black Dragons. There is just a little more work to do. But you must be very careful now. A policeman will go with you to college every day and he will bring you back too. You can't go out anywhere, but your friends can come here. Our house is safe.'

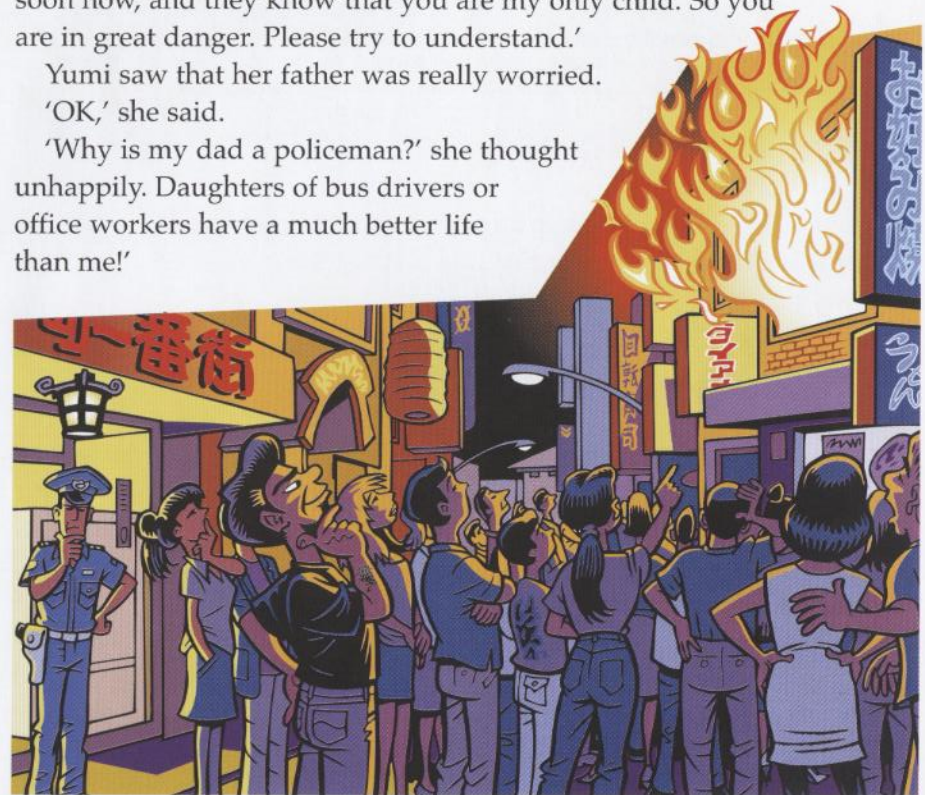
'But dad,' said Yumi, 'that's so boring for me!'

'I know,' said Takeshi. 'But we are talking about your life. You don't want to die, do you? The Black Dragons know that I may catch them soon now, and they know that you are my only child. So you are in great danger. Please try to understand.'

Yumi saw that her father was really worried.

'OK,' she said.

'Why is my dad a policeman?' she thought unhappily. Daughters of bus drivers or office workers have a much better life than me!'



- Look at this picture. It shows a fire at a restaurant last week. Why is Takeshi looking hard at one man in the crowd?