

FILE 3: The Triplets







AND BEFORE SAYING THAT, WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS BROTHERS RESSEMBLE HIM THAT MUCH...

WE RECOGNIZE ONLY HIS EYES AND NOSE...

WHILE IT IS TRUE WE HAVE SEEN THE CULPRIT...

HUH?!



WHAT?!

YES! YUZO WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!



EYHH! DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! ARE YOU SAYING IT COULD BE ONE OF US?

THIS MEANS WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN...



WHAT WE KNOW FOR NOW ...

IN SHORT !!

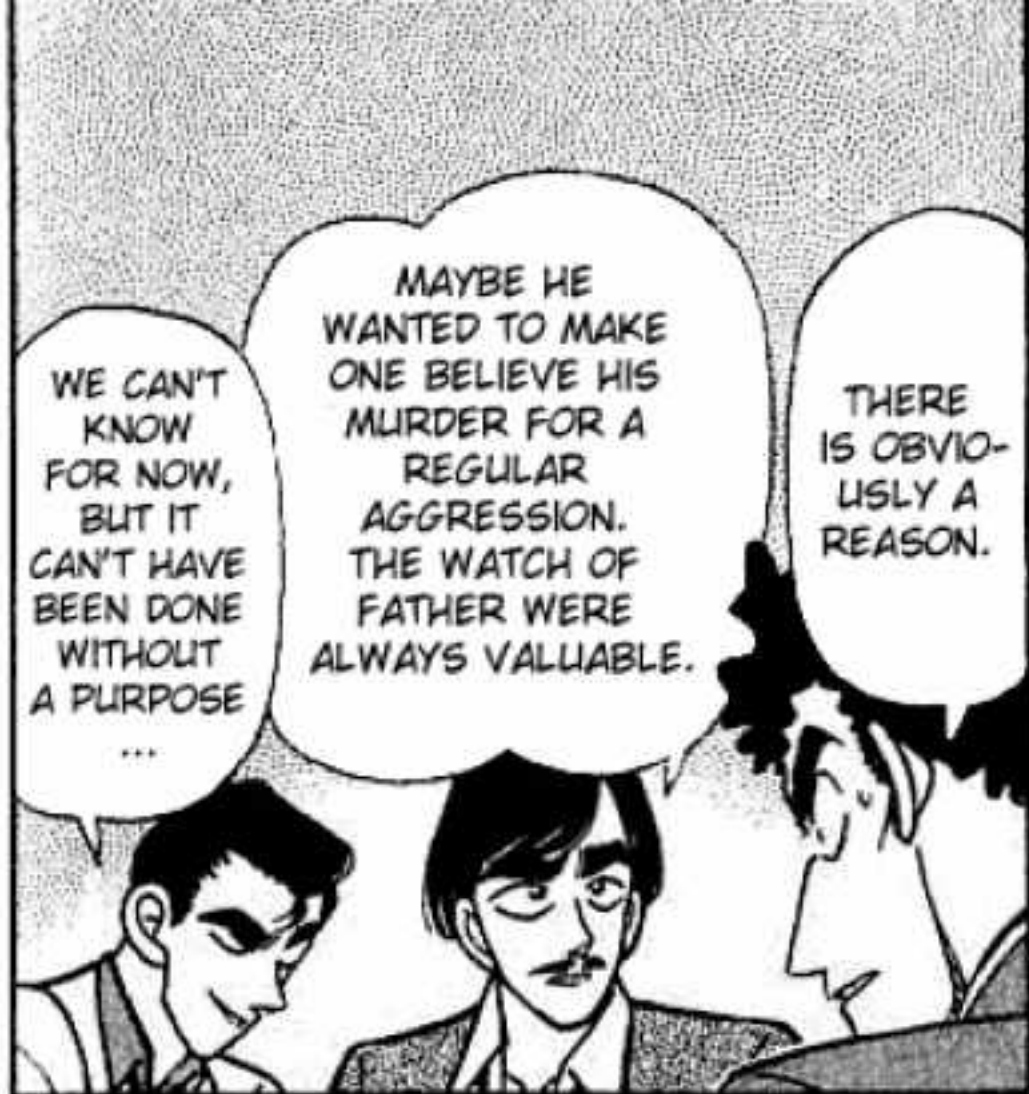


W A T C H ?

AND THAT THE WATCH OF THE VICTIM MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED!



IS THAT THE CULPRIT MAY BE ONE OF YOU...



WE CAN'T KNOW FOR NOW, BUT IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT A PURPOSE ...

MAYBE HE WANTED TO MAKE ONE BELIEVE HIS MURDER FOR A REGULAR AGGRESSION. THE WATCH OF FATHER WERE ALWAYS VALUABLE.

THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A REASON.



WE CAN THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT THE MURDERER TOOK THE WATCH AFTER HAVING KILLED M. TOMIZAWA ...

YES, ON THE ARM OF THE VICTIM, THE TRACK OF A WATCH WAS CLEARLY SHOWING WHERE BLOOD SHOULD HAVE NORMALLY BEEN FLOWING...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I THINK YOU CAN ERASE ME OF THE CULPRIT'S LIST SINCE I COULDN'T POSSIBLY COMMIT THE MURDER.



THEREFORE I COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE AT IZU AT 23:30.

I ARRIVED AT THE HANEDA AIRPORT WITH TODAY'S FIRST FLIGHT COMING FROM NAHA, IT HAS ONLY BEEN THREE HOURS SINCE THEN. THE LAST FLIGHT WAS YESTERDAY AT 20:00.

AT THE ASSUMED TIME OF THE MURDER, I WAS IN OKINAWA FOR THE COMPANY.



YESTERDAY, AT OKINAWA, WASN'T THERE...

BUT,



...

YES!

VERIFY NOW.

TO TEST THIS, YOU ONLY HAVE TO CALL THE FLIGHT AGENCY AND ASK FOR THE PASSENGERS LIST.



THE ANSWER-PHONE?

YESTERDAY EVENING, I LEFT A MESSAGE ON THE HOUSE'S ANSWERPHONE.



I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CALL THAT AN ALIBI BUT ...

YES?

MR. INSPECTOR?



Biiip

WE ARE ABSENT AT THE MOMENT, PLEASE LIVE YOUR MESSAGE AFTER THE BIP, THANK YOU...



AH, THAT WOULD BE ME WHEN I PHONED.

NO... NO... THAT...

IS THAT IT?

15 BIP HOURS, 10 MINUTES.

IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE HE TOLD ME HE WOULD ARRIVE AROUND 15:00...



WHAT TIME IS IT?

15:10



AH, THIS ONE IS MINE.

Biiip HELLO? IT'S TAICHI...



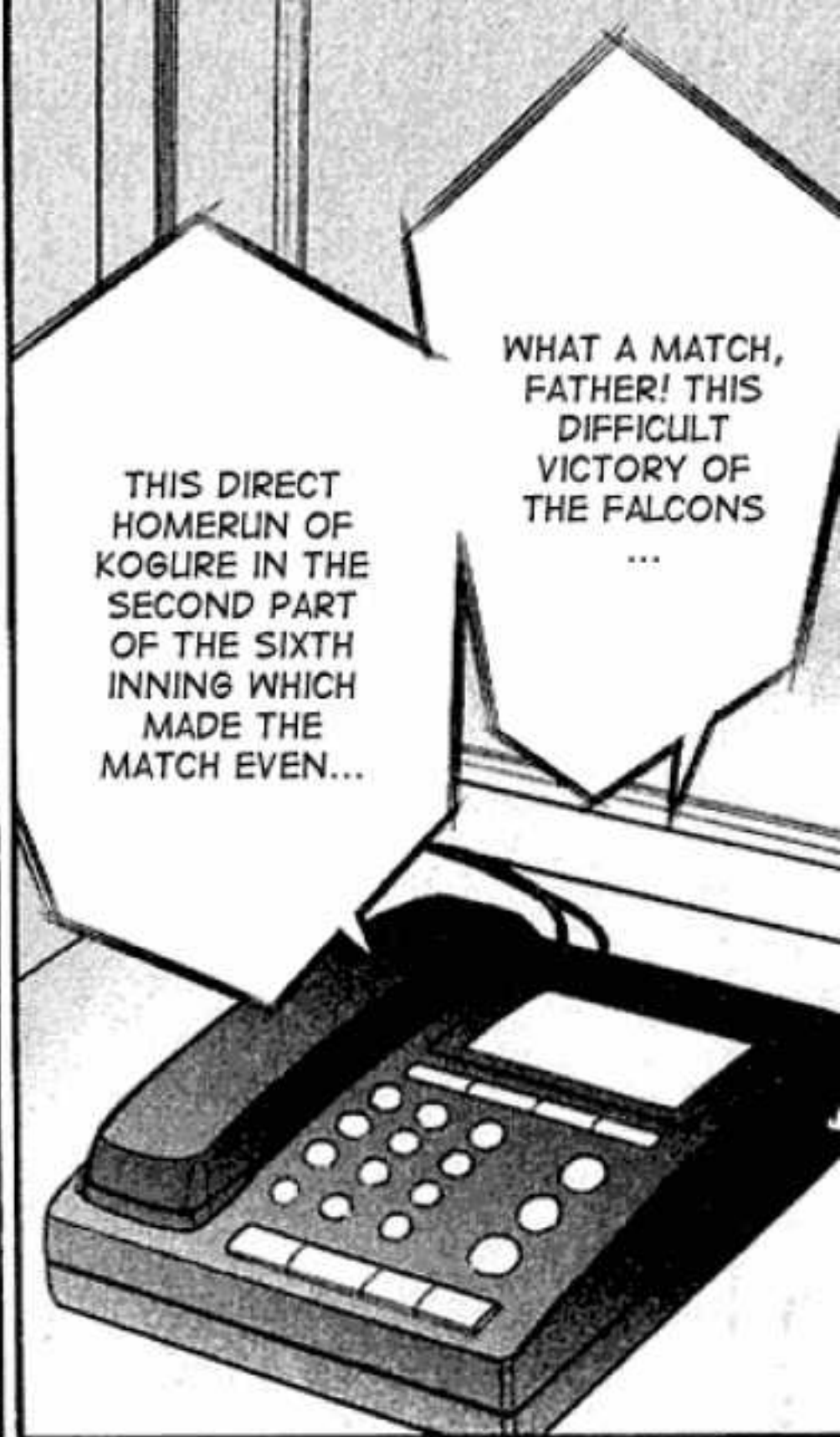
I WAS THE ONE GIVING HIM THE TIME, SO THERE IS NO MISTAKES POSSIBLE ...

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, I PHONED FROM MY MOBILE WHEN I WAS ON THE BEACH!





YOU WERE RIGHT FATHER: KOGURE IS AN EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER.



THIS DIRECT HOMERUN OF KOGURE IN THE SECOND PART OF THE SIXTH INNING WHICH MADE THE MATCH EVEN...

WHAT A MATCH, FATHER! THIS DIFFICULT VICTORY OF THE FALCONS ...



23:34? THAT'S THE TIME WHEN THE CRIME WAS DONE...

23 HOURS 34 MINUTES *Biip*

THEN WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER TOMORROW. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE YUZO'S FIANCEE.



YES, AT OSAKA, IN MY APPARTMENT, I'VE FOLLOWED EVERYTHING WHILE WRITING...

YOU FOLLOWED THE MATCH TOO, TAICHI? 9 TO 8: EXCEPTIONAL DON'T YOU THINK?



YES.

RIGHT, CO-NAN?



23:34, THAT WOULD BE WHEN WE WERE RUNNING AFTER THE MURDERER.

YES. WE LOOKED THE TIME JUST BEFORE SEEING THE MURDERER.

ARE WE SURE THE CRIME WAS DONE AT 23:30?







BUT
COULDN'T
YOU HAVE
AGREED
ON THAT
WITH HIM?

THEN IF WE
CALL THIS
FRIEND OF
YOURS, WE
CAN CONFIRM
YOUR ALIBI.



YES.
I SLEPT ABOUT
TWO HOURS,
BETWEEN 21:30
AND 23:30.

HE
WOKE
YOU
UP BY
CALLING
YOU?

I KNEW
THAT I
WOULD
HAVE TO
SPEND THE
NIGHT
FINISHING
AN IMPOR-
TANT JOB.



HM?

INSPECTOR
YOKOMIZO!

WHAT?!



SO?

FOR THE
PASSENGERS
LIST OF THE
FLIGHT YOU
ASKED US TO
CHECK...



THE
ARRIVAL
TIME?

THE
PROBLEM IS
THE ARRIVAL
TIME OF THE
PLANE...



WELL?
WHAT THEN?
EVERYTHING
IS RIGHT
ISN'T IT?

YES
IT WAS
INDEED
ON IT.



AND SO?
WASN'T MY
NAME ON THE
PASSENGERS
LIST?



YES THEY TALKED ABOUT IT ON THE NEWS...

HE MUST HAVE BEEN LATE BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON!

BECAUSE THIS FLIGHT...



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE ...

THE PLANE WITH WHICH YOU TOLD US YOU CAME HERE ONLY ARRIVED IN HANEDA HALF AN HOUR AGO.



THAT IS...

IT TAKES THREE HOURS TO COME FROM HANEDA TO IZU. THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



IT'S THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT YOU ASKED SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE ON THE TRAIN WITHOUT ANYBODY NOTICED.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE CONTROLS OF THE TICKETS ARE FAR LESS STRICT FOR INTERNAL AIRLINES.



IN TOKYO ...

IN...



...
COME ON...

NOW YOU WILL TELL US WHERE YOU REALLY WERE THAT NIGHT.



AT HIROMI'S HOUSE IN TOKYO!

YOU ARE RIGHT! I DID ASK ONE OF MY FRIENDS TO TAKE MY PLACE ON THE TRAIN BECAUSE I WANTED TO ARRIVE SOONER...



FATHER WAS ALWAYS AGAINST US MARRYING.

BUT IF FATHER HAD LEARNED THAT I HAD QUIT MY WORK SOONER JUST TO GO SEE HER, HE WOULD HAVE GOT ANGRY... SO I ASKED A COLLEAGUE TO TAKE MY PLACE AND ACT AS IF I WAS IN OKINAWA.

FORTUNATELY, IT'S ONLY A BAD FLU.



WHEN I HEARD SHE WAS SICK TWO DAYS AGO, I GOT WORRIED AND I WANTED TO COME BACK QUICKER.

YES. SHE'S MY FIANCEE ...

HIROMI?



SONO-KO...

BUT YOU COULD HAVE AGREED WITH HER TO BUILD UP THIS ALIBI.

YES, HIROMI! WE WATCHED THE BASEBALL MATCH TOGETHER...



YES! I SWEAR IT'S THE TRUTH!

THEN YESTERDAY EVENING YOU WERE WITH YOUR FIANCEE?



IT'S SOMETHING YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN WITHOUT WATCHING THE MATCH DIRECTLY.

I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. THE RESULT WASN'T KNOWN BEFORE 13:30, WASN'T IT?



CAN SOMEONE CONFIRM WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?



IN THE SURROUNDINGS, ONLY TWO FAMILIES USE THE SATELLITE.

YOU SEE!

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO COME HERE BEFORE THE MURDER WHILE HAVING SEEN THE MATCH...



HM?

THAT'S TRUE INSPECTOR.

WE CHECKED AND BOTH THE RADIO AND THE TELEVISION GAVE THE RESULT ONLY AFTER MIDNIGHT...



INDEED BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE FOR THE SATELLITE.

AND WHAT IF HE HAD BEEN LISTENING TO THE RADIO? SOME CHANNELS REPORT THE TV PROGRAM ON THE RADIO.



WHICH MEANS BOTH M. TAICHI AND M. TASUJI CAN'T BE SUSPECTED.

THEN THE ONES WHO HAVE SEEN THE MATCH CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE COMMIT THE CRIME.



YUZO...



BUT...

THERE IS ONLY ONE SUSPECT LEFT.



ONLY KOGURE COULD DO IT!

YES, WE DON'T SEE SUCH A PITCH EVERY DAY! A PITCH WHICH CURVES TO THE RIGHT AND TURNS IN A HOMERUN.

HM?

SAY MISTER, YOU ARE A FAN OF KOGURE TOO?

YES, YOU TALKED ABOUT HIM ON THE ANSWERPHONE.



YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A DIRECT HOME-RUN IN THE ANSWERPHONE, WEREN'T YOU?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, M. TAICHI?

YES THAT'S THE HOMERUN KOGURE DID YESTERDAY.

A PITCH WHICH CURVES TO THE RIGHT?



HUH?

I THINK MY LIE IS DISCOVERED.

PFFF

...

ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE SEEN THE MATCH?





ONE...

BETWEEN THESE THREE PERSONS...



OR MAYBE...

DID HE WANT US NOT TO KNOW WHAT TIME IT WAS?



WHY DID THE MURDERER TAKE IT WITH HIM?

BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE WATCH.



YES; THERE WAS A POWER CUT YESTERDAY EVENING DURING TEN MINUTES AROUND 23:30.

HM? THE WARNING LIGHT OF THE RECORDER IS FLASHING?



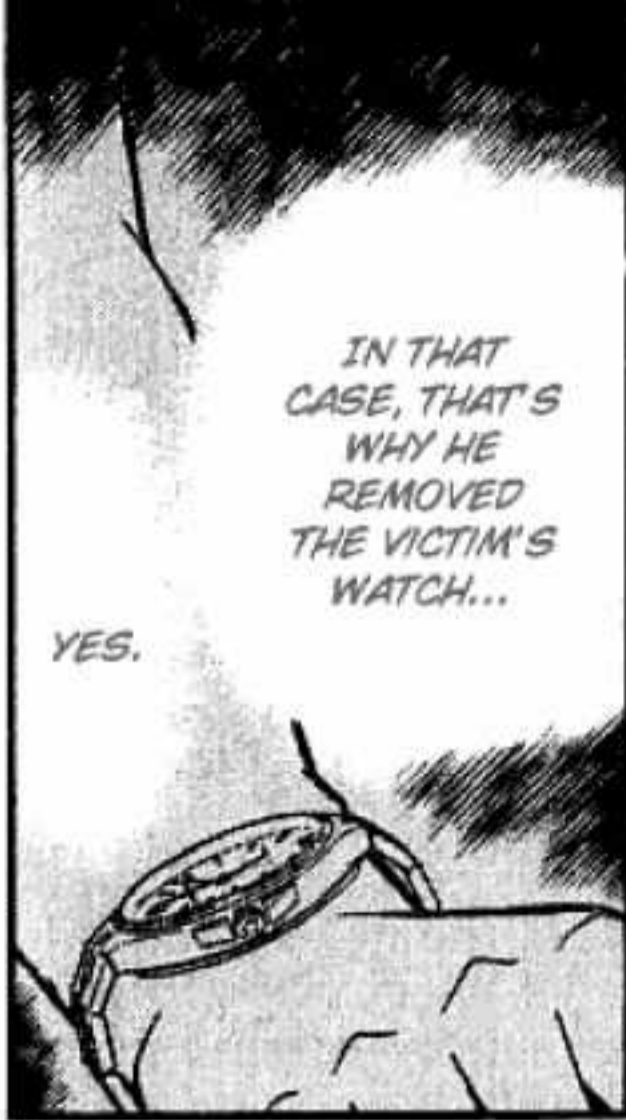
LUCKILY FOR THEM, IT WAS NEARLY TIME TO CLOSE AND THERE WASN'T MANY CUSTOMERS.

A POWER CUT?



IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE THERE IS A PUBLIC BATH. THEY WERE REALLY ANNOYED ...

YES, THERE WAS A POWER CUT JUST BEFORE THE MURDER.



IN THAT
CASE, THAT'S
WHY HE
REMOVED
THE VICTIM'S
WATCH...

YES.



BECAUSE
AT THAT
MOMENT,
THERE...



WHAT
THIS MAN
IS SAYING
CAN'T BE
POSSIBLE!

EH,
WAIT A
MINUTE
...



THE
CULPRIT
HAS LIED
TWICE...

THERE
IS NO
DOUBT...



THAT'S
HIM!