

File 7: A Flower & The Butterfly





I
FIGURED
OUT ALL
OF HIS
TRICKS!



I
GET
IT
NOW!

I
SEE
...



WITH THIS
TRICK, HE
COULD HAVE
DROPPED THE
BODY AS IF
SHE JUMPED
HERSELF.



THERE'S
NO DOUBT!
HE'S THE
MUDERER
...



OUT
OF THE
CITY...



EVEN
IF HE
WAS
...



OH,
THAT'S
...

HUH?
WHAT'S
THIS FISHING
LINE?



CAN'T
YOU SEE
YOU'RE
CAUSING
THEM
TROU-
BLE

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?

OWW
...



I FOUND
IT DOWN THE
DRAIN ON
THE
BALCONY!

EH?

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
THE
LINE
WAS
FOR?



W...
WAIT A
SECOND
...

!?



MAYBE HER
SUICIDE
HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
FISHING?

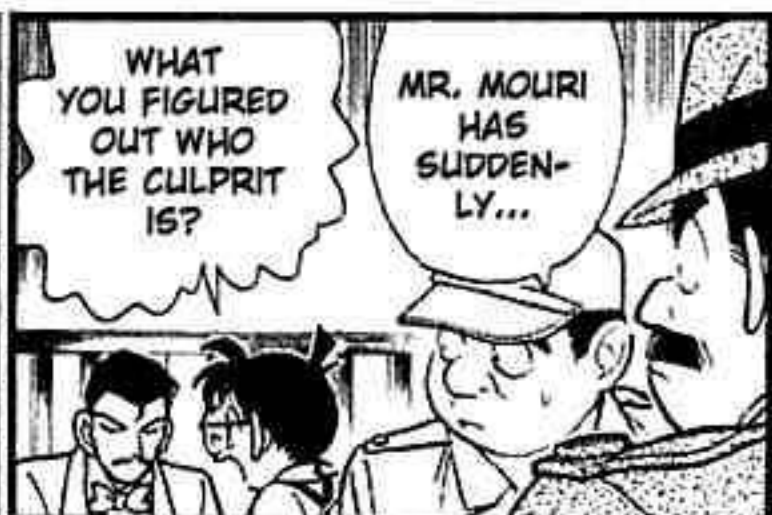
I GET IT!
MISS
CHOUNO
WAS A
FISHING
LOVER!



Y...
YES
...

HUH?

THERE'S A
FISHING
TACKLE
STORE
NEARBY,
RIGHT?







AND WE'RE PREPARING THE COFFEE NOW.

FISHING LINE, A NAIL, A SOY BOTTLE ...



DETECTIVE MOURI, WE HAVE ASSEMBLED EVERYTHING YOU REQUESTED.



PLEASE FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THEM?



TO MAKE A BIG LOOP.

FIRST PULL OUT THE LINE.



PULL THE SAME END, FIRST OVER THE RAILING AND THEN TOWARDS INSIDE.



LET ONE END OF THE LOOP SLIP UNDER THE BELT ON A FUTON IN PLACE OF THE VICTIM.



ONCE YOU DECIDE ITS LENGTH, MAKE A LOOP WITH A VERY SECURE KNOT.

THE LINE MUST BE LONG ENOUGH TO COVER THE DISTANCE FROM THE BALCONY TO THE FRONT DOOR AND BACK AGAIN.



CAREFULLY LODGE THE POT BY PULLING THE OTHER END OF THE LINE. THE POT MUST BE TOUCHING THE RAILING.



HOOK THE END OF THE LOOP AROUND THE FLOWER POT ON THE BALCONY.



CONTINUE PULLING THE LINE AND WALK TOWARDS THE FRONT DOOR, MAKING SURE THE LINE IS PULLED TAUGHT.



TO KEEP IT OUT OF SIGHT, THE BODY WAS COVERED BY THE FUTON AS IF IT WERE BEING AIRED.

DANGLE IT OUTSIDE THE BALCONY!



SLIDE THE VICTIM ALONG THE LINE AND...



FOR THE MOMENT HOOK THE END OF THE LOOP ON THE DOOR BELL.



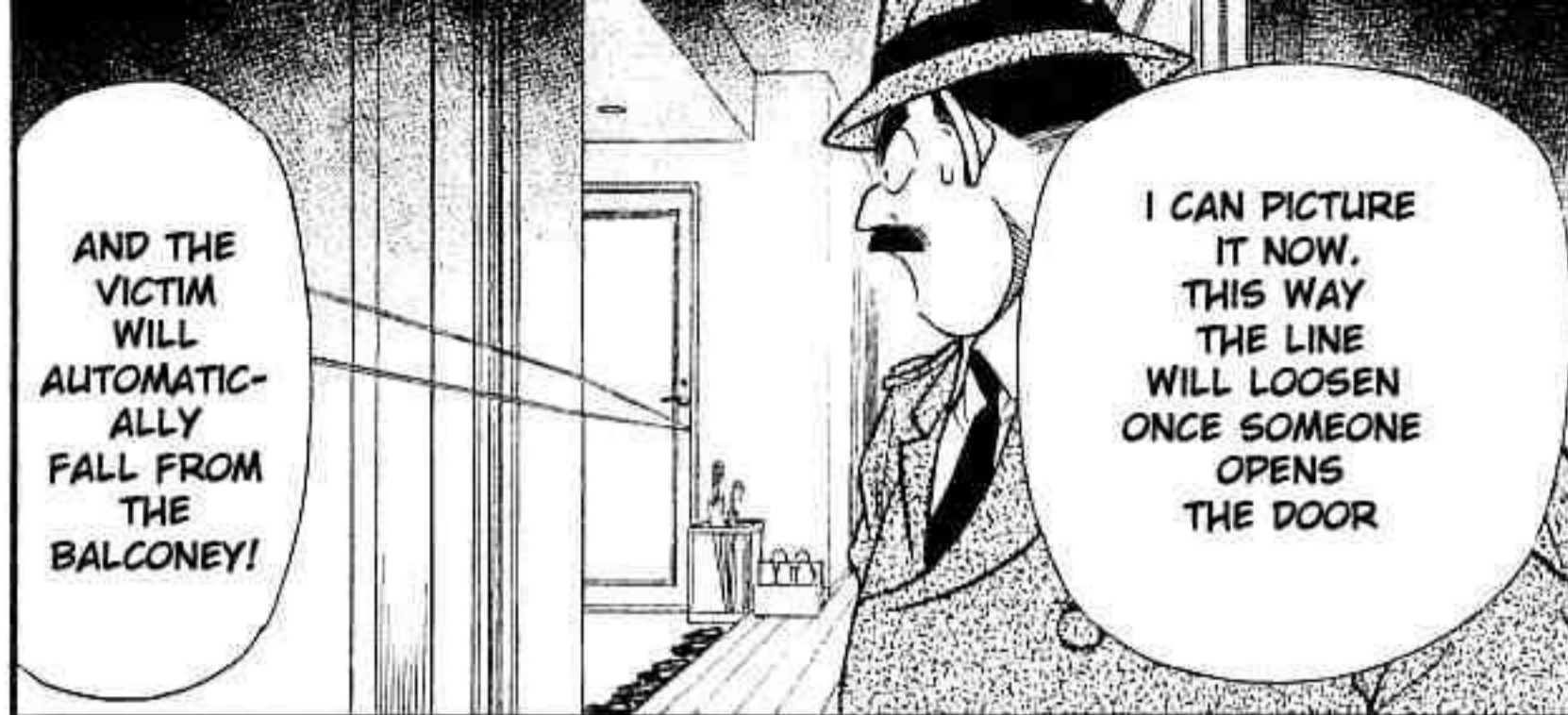
SLOWLY ADJUST THE LINE LENGTH AND MAKE IT STOP JUST PAST THE DOOR USING THE NAIL. THERE, IT'S DONE!

THE REST IS EASY. LEAVE THE ROOM, CLOSE THE DOOR, UNHOOK THE LINE FROM THE DOORBELL AND HOOK IT ONTO THE NAIL.



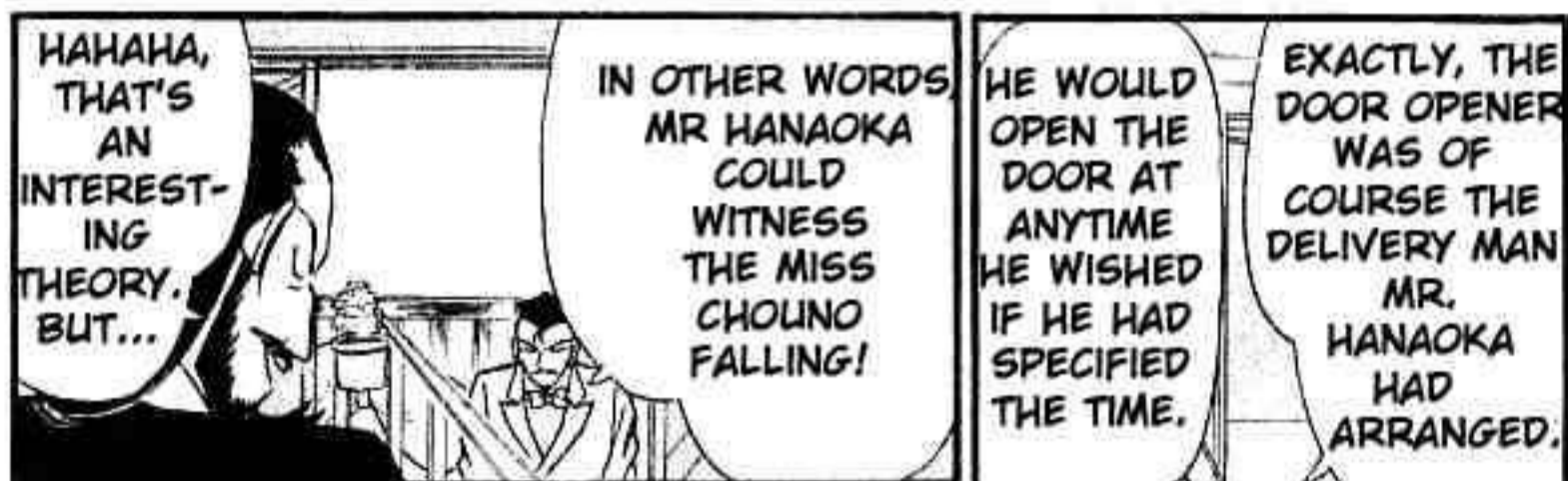
IT WAS ALL CAMOFLAGE.

IN FACT, A FUTON WAS HANGING OUTSIDE FROM THIS BALCONY DESPITE THE RAIN.



AND THE VICTIM WILL AUTOMATICALLY FALL FROM THE BALCONY!

I CAN PICTURE IT NOW. THIS WAY THE LINE WILL LOOSEN ONCE SOMEONE OPENS THE DOOR



HAHAHA, THAT'S AN INTERESTING THEORY. BUT...

IN OTHER WORDS MR HANAOKA COULD WITNESS THE MISS CHOINO FALLING!

HE WOULD OPEN THE DOOR AT ANYTIME HE WISHED IF HE HAD SPECIFIED THE TIME.

EXACTLY, THE DOOR OPENER WAS OF COURSE THE DELIVERY MAN MR. HANAOKA HAD ARRANGED.



I BELIEVE THERE WAS NO SUCH THING NEAR THE BODY OR ON THE BALCONY.

THAT WOULD LEAVE THE LINE SOMEWHERE!



H...HOW WAS IT DONE?

WHAT?!

IT WILL MAGICALLY VANISH IF YOU USE THE REMAINING LINE AND A SOY BOTTLE.

HMPH, IT'S QUITE A SIMPLE TRICK TO MAKE THE LINE DISAPPEAR.



AND TIE IT TO THE SOY BOTTLE.

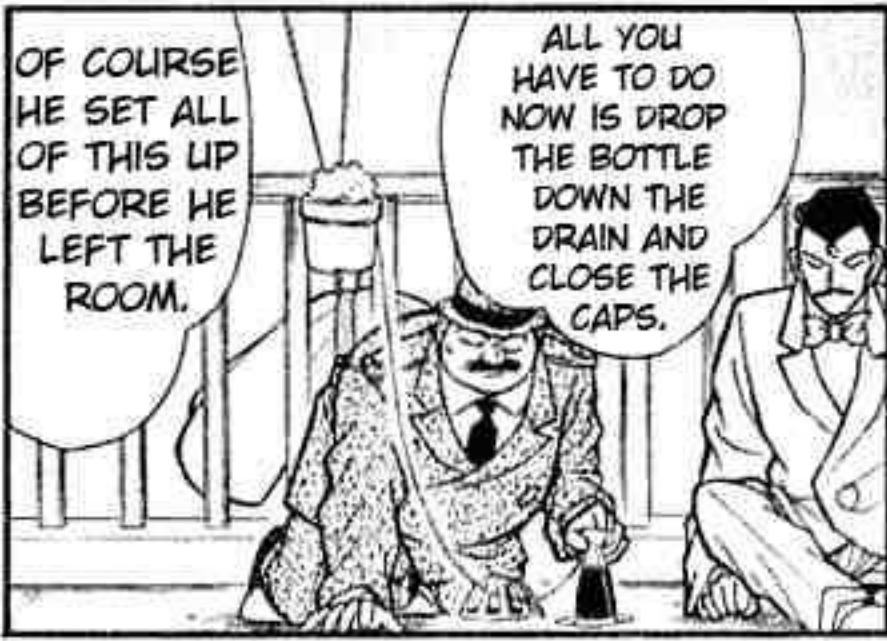
TAC

LET THE HANGING LINE GO THROUGH THE INTERIOR AND THE EXTERIOR CAPS...



FIRST TIE THE REST OF THE LINE BETWEEN THE POT AND THE VICTIM.

<CLINK>



OF COURSE HE SET ALL OF THIS UP BEFORE HE LEFT THE ROOM.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW IS DROP THE BOTTLE DOWN THE DRAIN AND CLOSE THE CAPS.



NOW WHY DON'T WE OPEN THE FRONT DOOR...

SEEING IS BELIEVING.



FOR EXAMPLE, A BOTTLE OF CONTACT FLUID WOULD SUFFICE IN THIS SITUATION.

THE BOTTLE IS JUST A WEIGHT. IT COULD BE SWITCHED WITH ANYTHING.



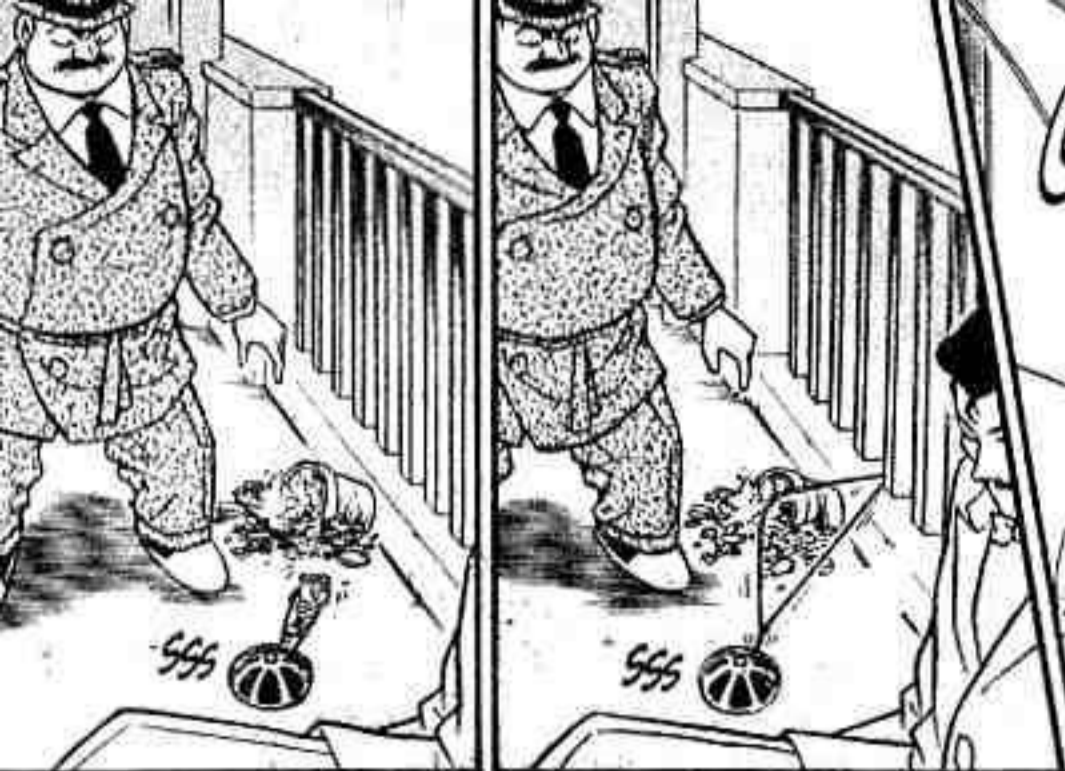
GO AHEAD AND OPEN THE DOOR.

THE DOOR OF FATE...



THAT WILL SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THIS CASE!



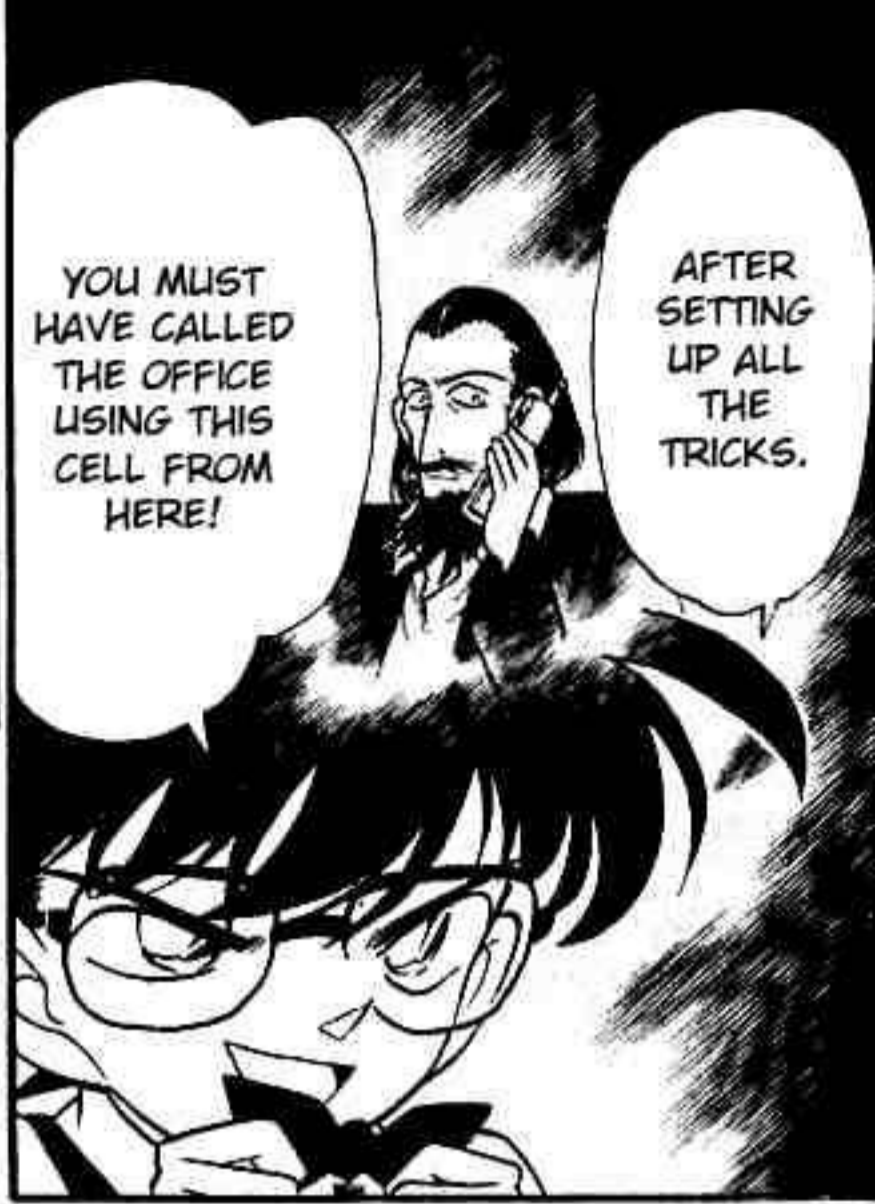




Y.. YES ...

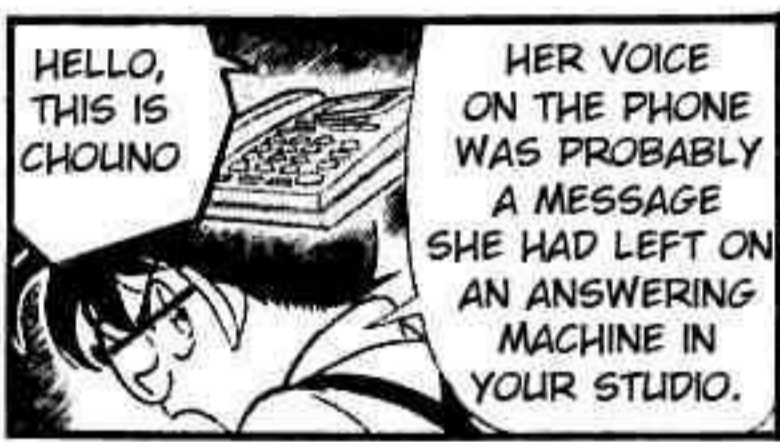
DO YOU REMEMBER THE SILENT CALL? IT WAS JUST BEFORE MR. HANAOKA ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE.

...



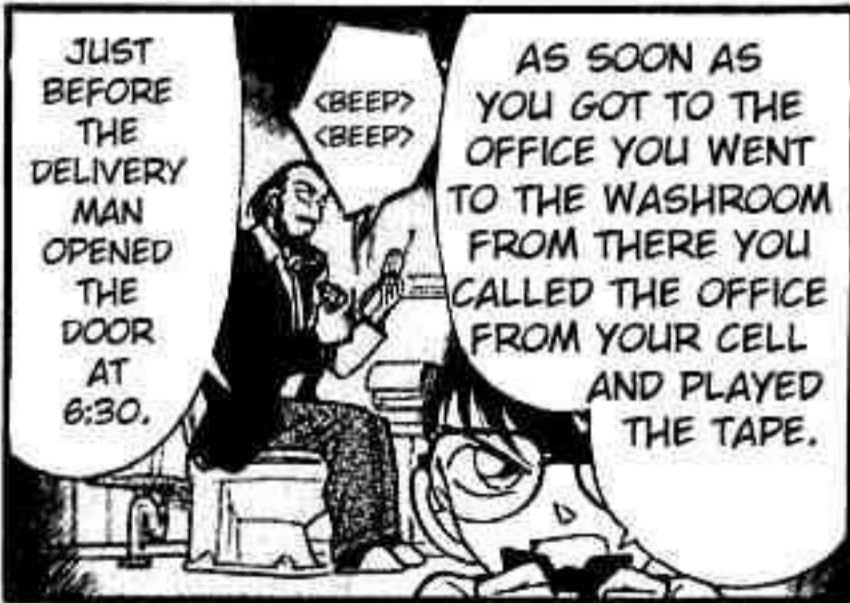
YOU MUST HAVE CALLED THE OFFICE USING THIS CELL FROM HERE!

AFTER SETTING UP ALL THE TRICKS.



HELLO, THIS IS CHOUNO

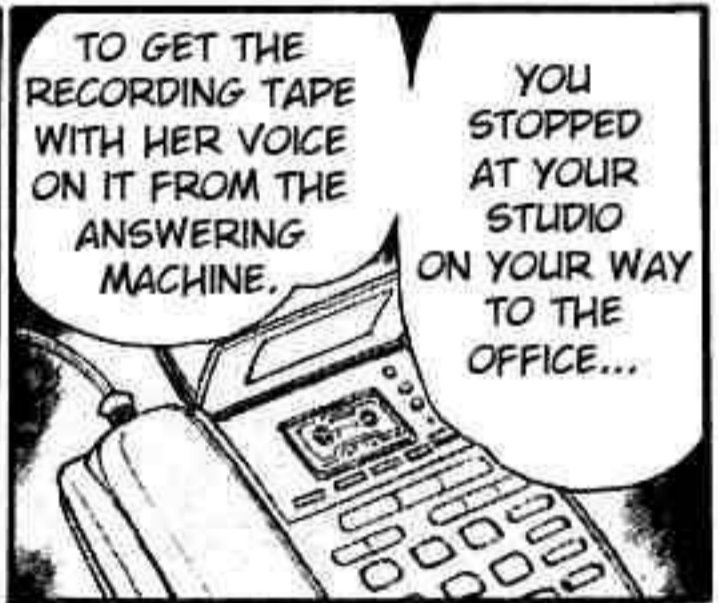
HER VOICE ON THE PHONE WAS PROBABLY A MESSAGE SHE HAD LEFT ON AN ANSWERING MACHINE IN YOUR STUDIO.



JUST BEFORE THE DELIVERY MAN OPENED THE DOOR AT 6:30.

<BEEP>
<BEEP>

AS SOON AS YOU GOT TO THE OFFICE YOU WENT TO THE WASHROOM FROM THERE YOU CALLED THE OFFICE FROM YOUR CELL AND PLAYED THE TAPE.



TO GET THE RECORDING TAPE WITH HER VOICE ON IT FROM THE ANSWERING MACHINE.

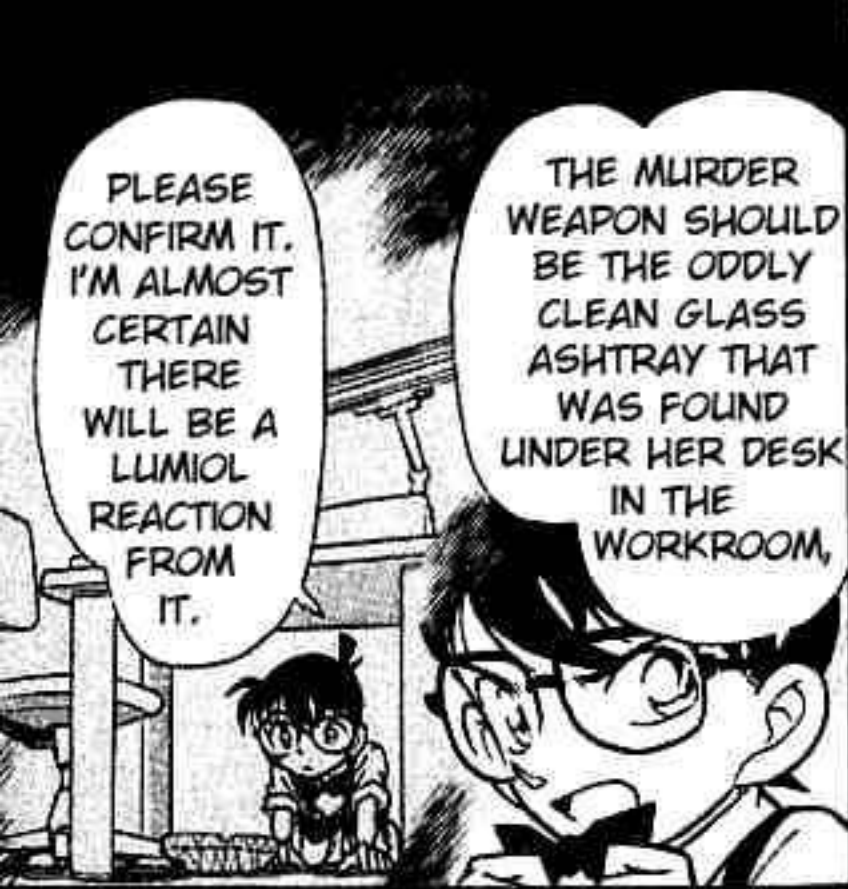
YOU STOPPED AT YOUR STUDIO ON YOUR WAY TO THE OFFICE...



TO MAKE US BELIEVE THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN FRONT OF OUR EYES; WHEN IN REALITY SHE WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN WE SAW HER.



THEN YOU BROUGHT HER FALL TO OUR ATTENTION WHILE PRETENDING TO STOP HER FROM KILLING HERSELF ON THE PHONE.







BUT,
HOW DO
YOU KNOW
SUCH
A THING?

EXACTLY, NYMPHISH
MISS CHOUNO NOT
ONLY PAINTED
HIS FINGERNAIL
BUT ALSO A TOENAIL
WHILE HE WAS
STILL ASLEEP.



HUH? THAT
PICTURE...
ISN'T IT
MISS CHOUNO'S
SIGNATURE?!

WH...
WHAT
THE?!



SHE WASN'T
WEARING
ANY WHILE
HE HAD
HIS TOENAIL
PAINTED
...

IT'S EASY
TO IMAGINE
IF YOU LOOKED
AT THE BED SHEET
THE NAIL POLISH
HAD BEEN
SPILLED AT
THE FOOT
OF THE
BED.



PLEASE
TELL US
YOU
DIDN'T
...

IT'S
NOT
TRUE
RIGHT
MR.
HANOAKA
...



THEN TELL
US WHEN
AND WHERE
YOU WENT
TO GET HER
SIGNATURE
PAINTED ON
YOUR
TOENAIL.



SO, MR.
HANOAKA
IF YOU STILL
PERSIST
IN YOUR
CLAIMS OF
INNOCENCE
...

THE NAIL
POLISH ON
YOUR TOE
IS A NEW
SHADE THAT
JUST CAME
OUT TODAY
...

THE PAINTINGS?

I WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT HIS MOTIVE IN KILLING MISS CHOUNO WOULD HAVE TO BE THE PUBLISHED PAINTINGS ...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

THERE ARE QUITE A FEW WITH HER SIGNATURE ON THEM...

HANOAKA '88

TAKE A LOOK AT THE PUBLISHED WORK, LOOK CAREFULLY WHERE HIS SIGNATURE IS PLACED IN THE CORNER.

MAYBE THAT WASN'T THE ONLY MOTIVE.

BUT ...

ALL RIGHT! I GET YOUR POINT! I LOST CONTROL AND IT WAS TOO LATE BY THE TIME I HAD REALIZED WHAT I'D DONE.

AND THEN ...

THIS IS A GUESS BUT THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO AN ARGUMENT OVER THE MATTER ...

I WOULD BET THAT THOSE ARE MS. CHOUNO'S WORK, IMITATING MR HANOAKA'S STYLE...



LIKE A BUTTERFLY DANCING AROUND A FLOWER.

SHE WAS AT FIRST A GOOD WOMAN WITH A GOOD HEART.



I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF HER BLOSSOMING TALENT...

EH?



...AND STARVED IT BY TAKING ALL IT'S NECTAR...

BUT THEN SHE BEGAN MONOPOLIZING THE FLOWER ...



...AND FELL TO THE GROUND AND DIED ...

A BUTTERFLY LOST ITS WINGS...



SO SHE CAN'T FLY ANYMORE.

THAT'S WHY I TOOK HER WINGS OFF ...



THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.



HOLD ON PLEASE, I'LL PUT HIM ON RIGHT NOW!

WHA?



YOU WANT TO FEATURE MY FATHER ON A TELEVISION COMMERCIAL?!

3 DAYS LATER.



SURE, HE'S CLAIMING ALL MY WORK ...

WOW, IT'S AMAZING RIGHT AFTER THE BOOK, A TELEVISION COMMERCIAL!

HELLO, THIS IS MOURI THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE.



DAD... WHAT WAS THE COMMERCIAL FOR?

CLING



ARE YOU INSANE?! I'LL NEVER DO IT!



HA! ISN'T THAT JUST PERFECT FOR HIM.

OH, I SEE ...

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

SLEEPING PILLS! THEY SAID ALL I HAD TO DO WAS SLEEP!