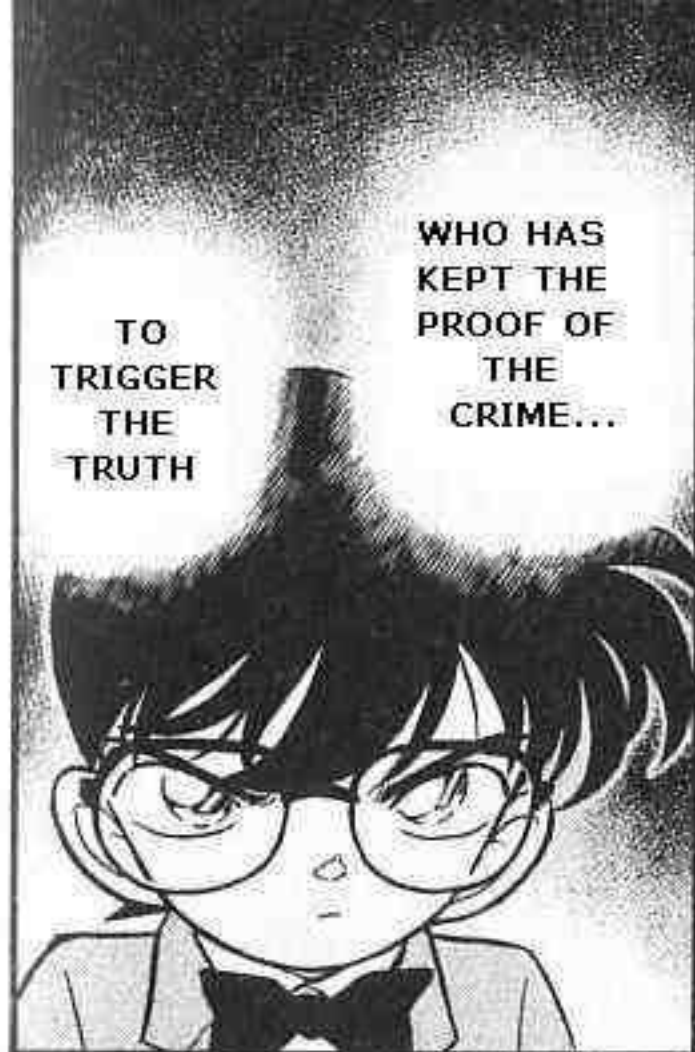


# File 9

## The call of Evil

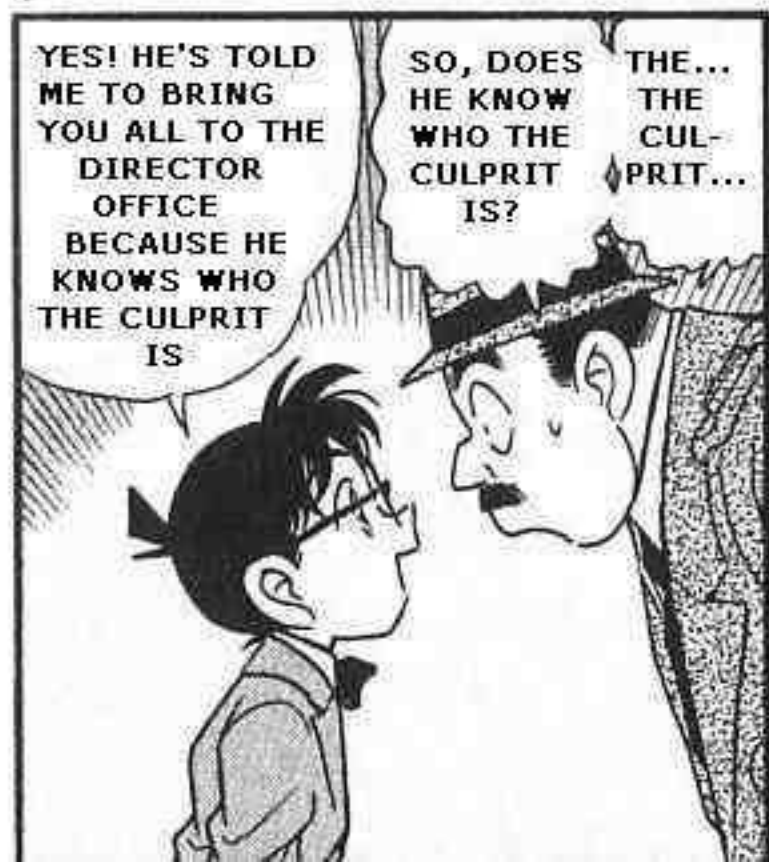


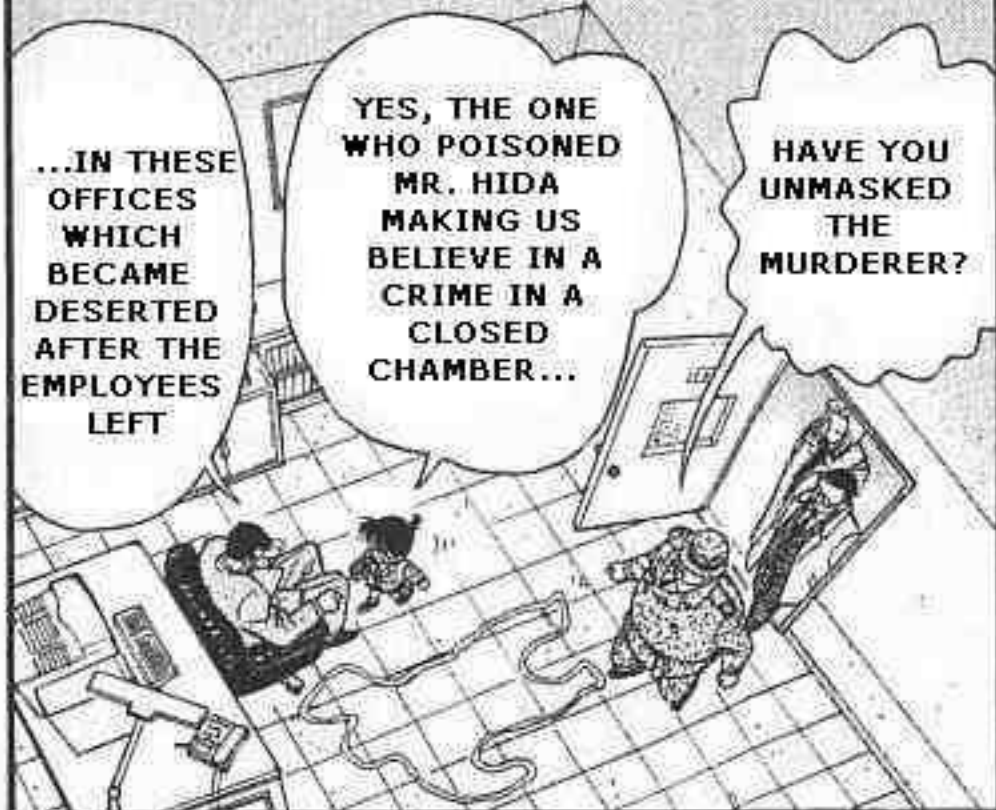


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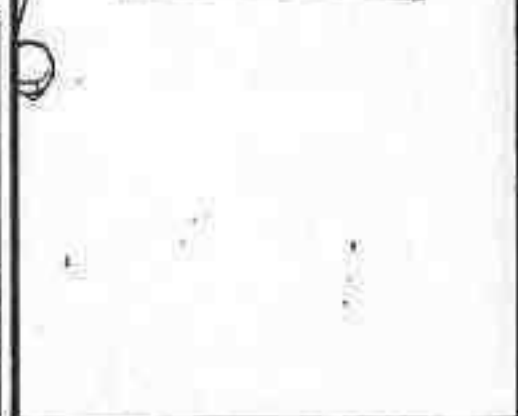


...IN THESE OFFICES WHICH BECAME DESERTED AFTER THE EMPLOYEES LEFT

YES, THE ONE WHO POISONED MR. HIDA MAKING US BELIEVE IN A CRIME IN A CLOSED CHAMBER...

HAVE YOU UNMASKED THE MURDERER?

IS THAT TRUE, MR. MORI?



I'VE JUST UNDERSTOOD WHO DID IT



...THE MURDERER MADE HIM TOUCH AN OBJECT ON WHICH THERE WAS A POISON. THEN, MR. HIDA WENT BACK TO HIS OFFICE AND LOCKED THE DOOR. HE DIED POISONED BECAUSE OF HIS OWN TIC: LICKING HIS THUMB TO COUNT THE BANKNOTES

YES. THE KILLER WANTED TO CREATE A MURDER IN A CLOSED CHAMBER AND MADE THE VICTIM LEAVE THE OFFICE WHILE HE WAS COUNTING THE MONEY. ONCE MR. HIDA WAS OUT,...



FIRST OF ALL, HOW DID THE CULPRIT MANAGE TO MAKE HIM TOUCH THAT THING?

WHAT DID THE BOSS TOUCH? NO TRACE OF POISON WAS FOUND OUT OF HIS OFFICE!



WAIT A MINUTE!

ALL OF YOU ARE SUSPECTS BECAUSE YOU KNEW HIS TIC AND WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO THIS EVENING



THAT'S WHAT THE CULPRIT WAS LOOKING FOR

THAT'S EASY... USING A CERTAIN ITEM THAT WOULD PROVOKE A CONCRETE ACTION WITH NO POSSIBLE ERROR.

WON'T YOU HAVE MADE A PHONE CALL FROM THE OUTSIDE SO THAT MR. HIDA HAD TO TOUCH THE PHONE ON WHICH YOU HAD PUT THE CYANIDE?

HUH?

MR. MINAMISAWA, YOU CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOUR FORGOTTEN MOBILE PHONE, DIDN'T YOU?

IF THERE'S A CALL, EVERYBODY ANSWERS THE PHONE

OF COURSE! THE TELEPHONE!

HUH?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

IN ADDITION, MR. HIDA COULD HAVE TAKEN THE POISONED PHONE INTO HIS OFFICE, AND THAT WAS A RISK

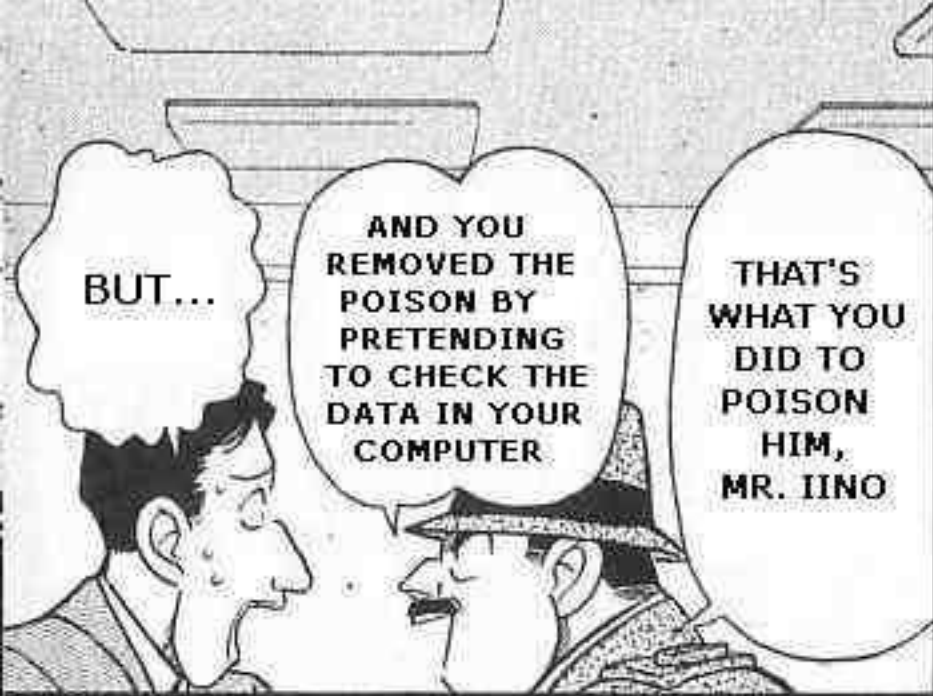
MOREOVER, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHICH HAND MR. HIDA WOULD USE TO TAKE THE PHONE

IF THERE HAD BEEN POISON ON THE PHONE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE RISK TO DO THAT. HE COULDN'T KNOW WHICH PART OF THE PHONE MR. HIDA HAD TOUCHED

... AND, IN SPITE OF THIS, WHEN HE CAME BACK, HE TOOK HIS PHONE BAREHANDED

MR. MINAMISAWA ALSO HAS A HABIT: HE BITES HIS NAILS...





BUT...

AND YOU REMOVED THE POISON BY PRETENDING TO CHECK THE DATA IN YOUR COMPUTER

THAT'S WHAT YOU DID TO POISON HIM, MR. IINO



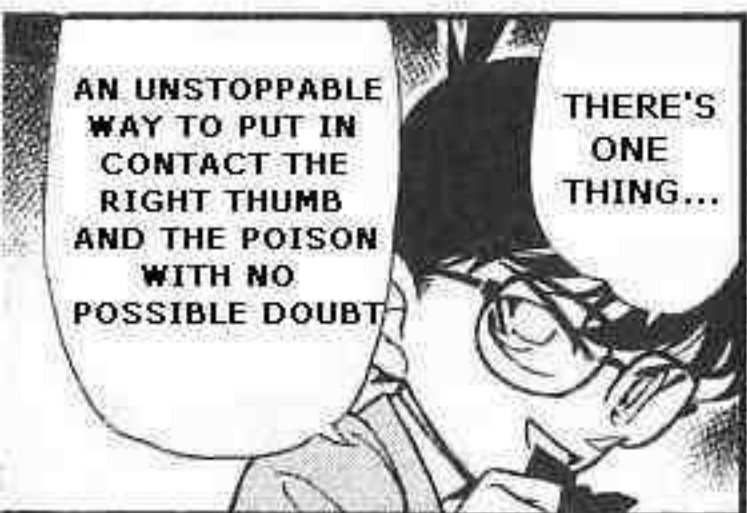
THE MURDERER PUT THE POISON ON THE POWER BUTTON AND PHONED THE VICTIM TO ASK HIM TO CHECK A DOCUMENT IN THE COMPUTER

THEN, IT'S THE COMPUTER!

HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN BEFOREHAND THAT HIS BOSS WOULD BOOT ON THE COMPUTER WITH HIS THUMB? FURTHERMORE, THE POISON COULD HAVE SPREAD TO THE KEYS OF THE KEYBOARD IF HIDA HAD TOUCHED THEM

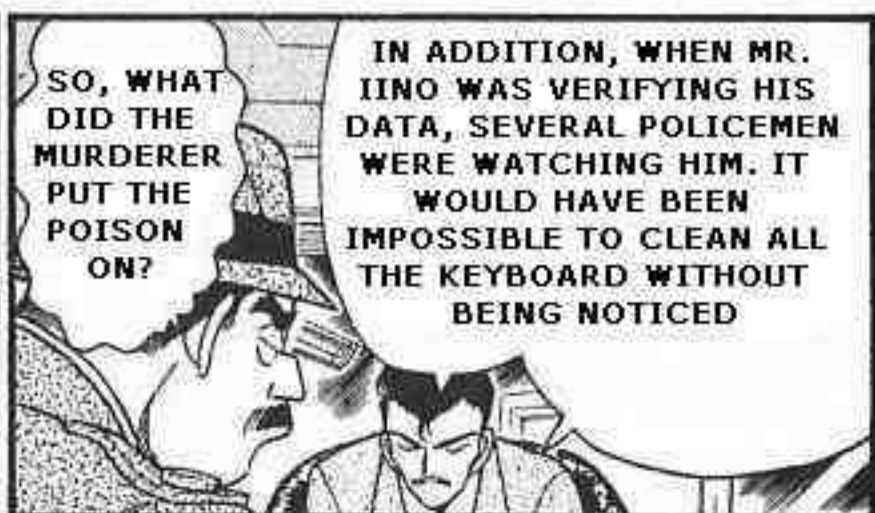
HUH?

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT EITHER



AN UNSTOPPABLE WAY TO PUT IN CONTACT THE RIGHT THUMB AND THE POISON WITH NO POSSIBLE DOUBT

THERE'S ONE THING...



SO, WHAT DID THE MURDERER PUT THE POISON ON?

IN ADDITION, WHEN MR. IINO WAS VERIFYING HIS DATA, SEVERAL POLICEMEN WERE WATCHING HIM. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO CLEAN ALL THE KEYBOARD WITHOUT BEING NOTICED



F  
S  
S  
S  
H

...WHICH LED MR. HIDA TO DEATH



F  
S  
S  
H

F  
S  
S  
H

THAT DIABOLIC NOISE THE CULPRIT HAS CAUSED ...



F  
S  
S  
H

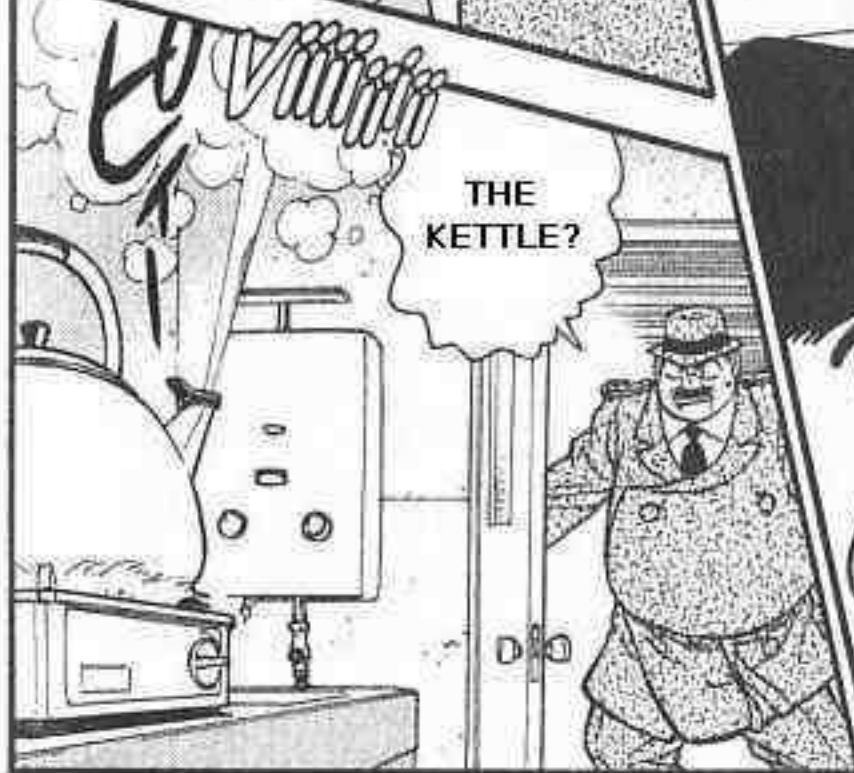
NOW, WE'RE BEGINNING TO HEAR IT

IT'S THE  
KETTLE IN  
THE  
KITCHEN

HEY!  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



THE  
KETTLE?



CLAC

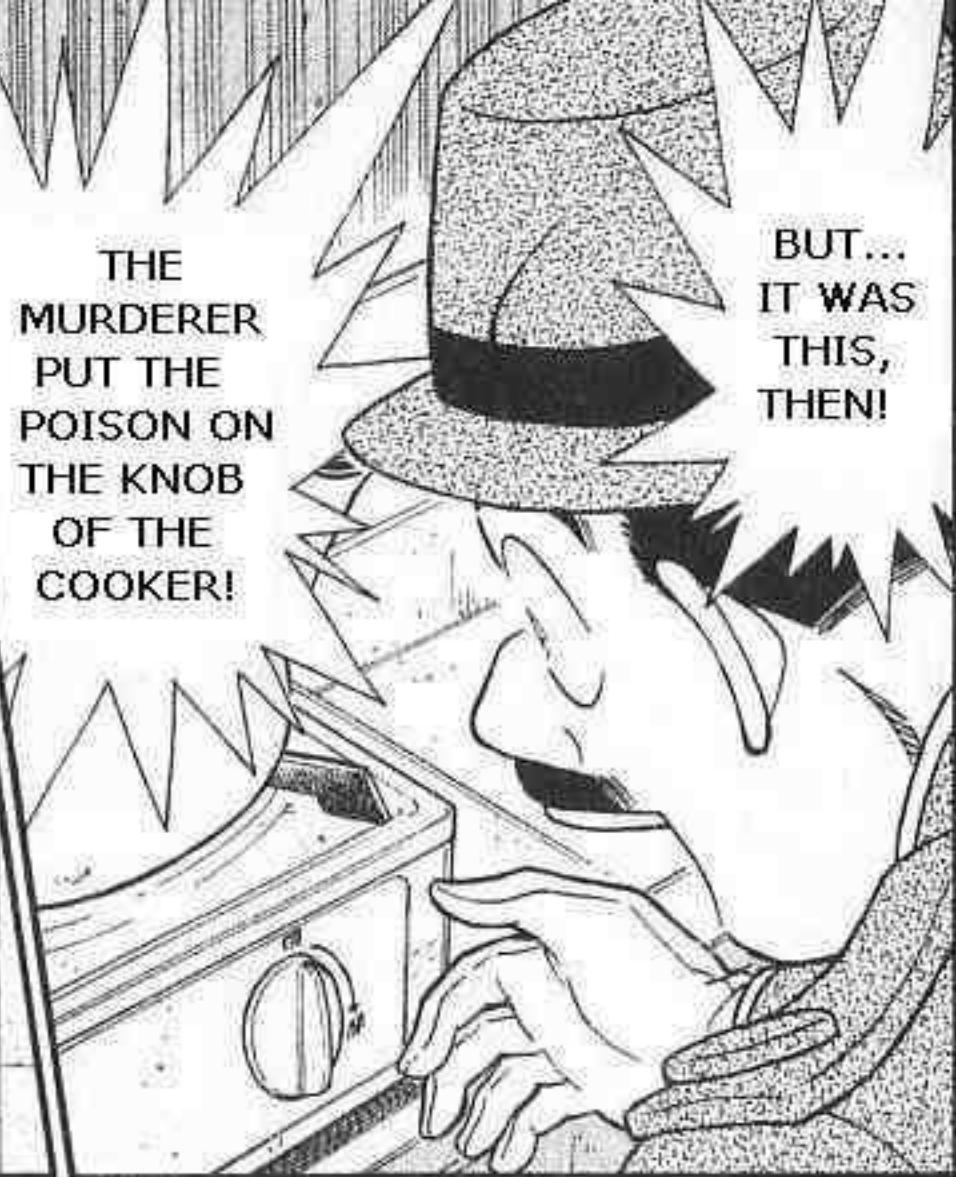






WAS THAT IT, MORI?

YES...



THE MURDERER PUT THE POISON ON THE KNOB OF THE COOKER!

BUT... IT WAS THIS, THEN!



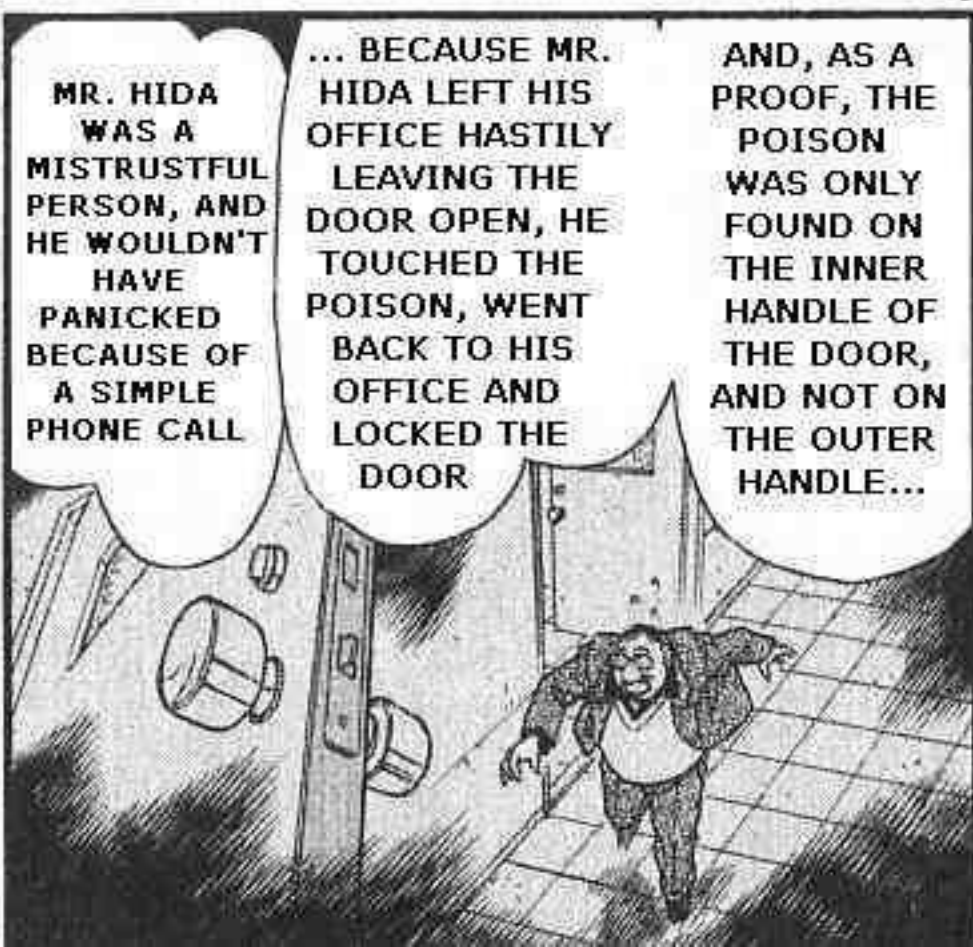
IT WAS ONLY NECESSARY TO PUT THE POISON ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE KNOB. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MR. HIDA WOULD PUT HIS RIGHT THUMB THERE IN ORDER TO TURN OFF THE FIRE

MOST COOKERS ARE MADE FOR RIGHT HANDED PEOPLE. IT'S DIFFICULT TO TURN THE KNOB WITH YOUR LEFT HAND



THE ONLY PERSON WHO WAS NEAR THE COOKER AFTER THE BODY WAS FOUND

AND WHO HAS USED SUCH A PROCEDURE TO POISON HIM?



MR. HIDA WAS A MISTRUSTFUL PERSON, AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE PANICKED BECAUSE OF A SIMPLE PHONE CALL

... BECAUSE MR. HIDA LEFT HIS OFFICE HASTILY LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN, HE TOUCHED THE POISON, WENT BACK TO HIS OFFICE AND LOCKED THE DOOR

AND, AS A PROOF, THE POISON WAS ONLY FOUND ON THE INNER HANDLE OF THE DOOR, AND NOT ON THE OUTER HANDLE...



IT CAN  
ONLY  
BE YOU!

MISS  
TAKAKO  
FUJI!



AND, AS YOU HAD  
FORESEEN, MR. HIDA  
WAS FRIGHTENED BY  
THE WHISTLE, LEFT  
HIS OFFICE, TOUCHED  
THE POISONED KNOB  
AND, LATER ON, HE  
LICKED THE POISON

YES, JUST BEFORE LEAVING THE  
OFFICE, YOU PUT A WHISTLE  
KETTLE ON THE FIRE AND THE  
POISON ON THE KNOB OF THE  
COOKER. YOU ARRANGED THE  
FIRE SO THAT THE WHISTLE  
SOUNDED WHILE MR. HIDA  
WAS COUNTING THE MONEY

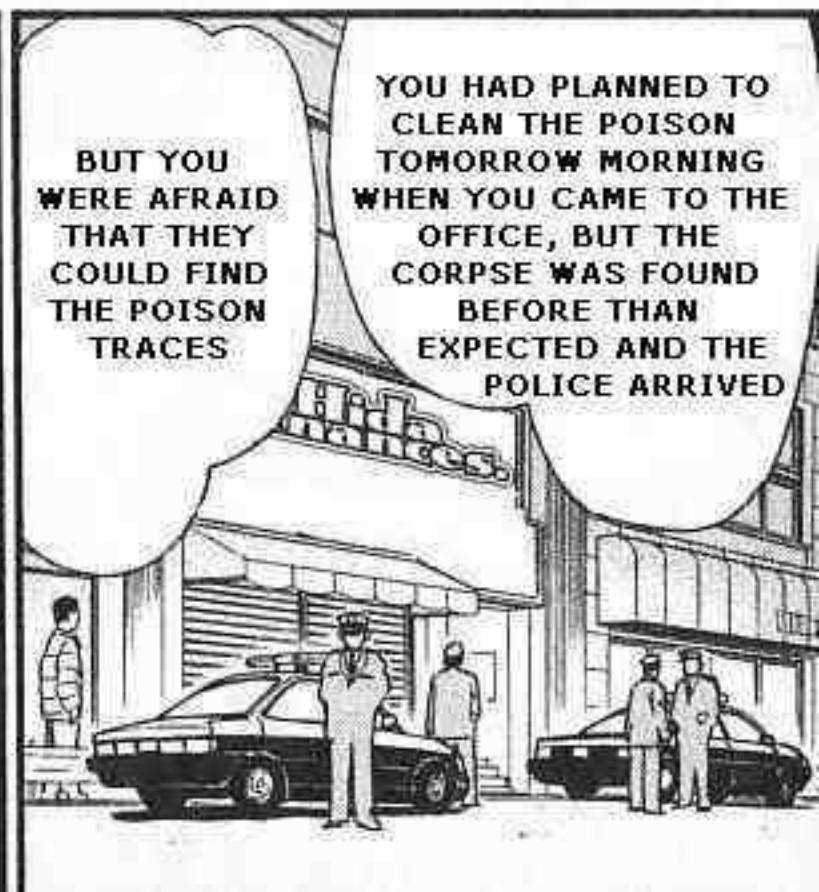
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AM I  
WRONG,  
MISS  
FUJI?

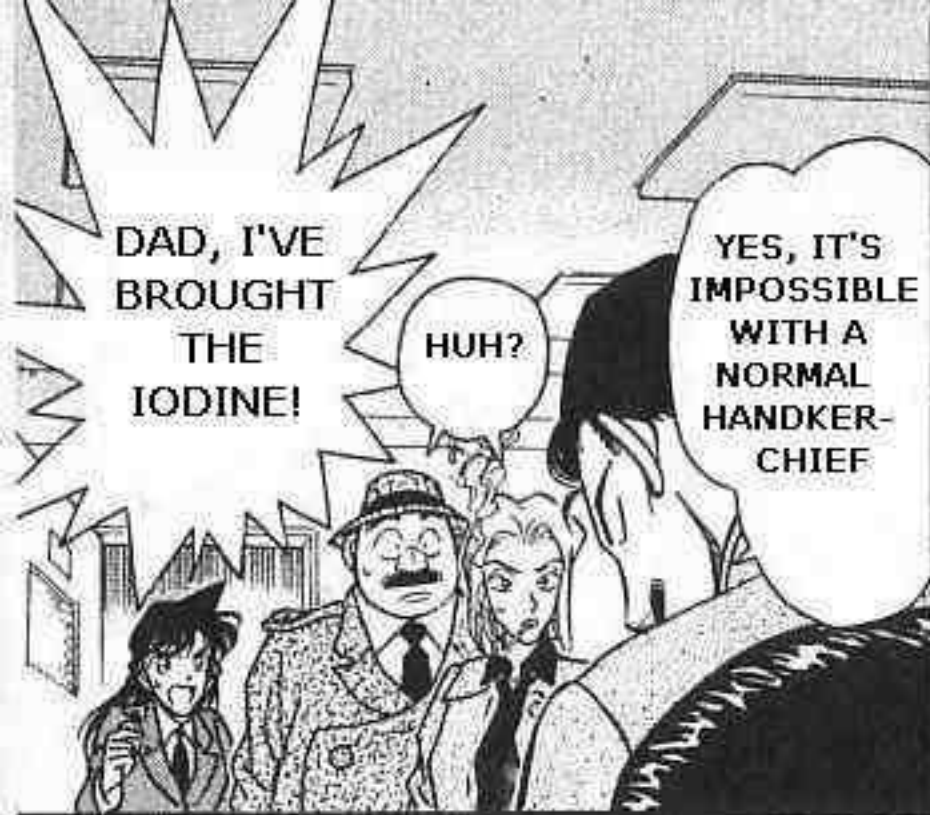
...PRETEN-  
DING TO  
MAKE  
SOME TEA

YOU PROFITTED  
A MOMENT WHEN  
THE POLICEMEN  
ABANDONED THE  
KITCHEN TO  
CLEAN THE  
POISON...



BUT YOU  
WERE AFRAID  
THAT THEY  
COULD FIND  
THE POISON  
TRACES

YOU HAD PLANNED TO  
CLEAN THE POISON  
TOMORROW MORNING  
WHEN YOU CAME TO THE  
OFFICE, BUT THE  
CORPSE WAS FOUND  
BEFORE THAN  
EXPECTED AND THE  
POLICE ARRIVED



DAD, I'VE BROUGHT THE IODINE!

HUH?

YES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH A NORMAL HANDKERCHIEF



AND IT WAS YOU WHO SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ERASE COMPLETELY THE TRACES OF POISON IN SUCH A SHORT TIME

PFF... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NO TRACE OF POISON WAS FOUND ON THE KNOB OF THE COOKER NOR IN MY HANDKERCHIEF

FLE



PLEASE, PUT SOME IODINE ON HER WET HANDKERCHIEF

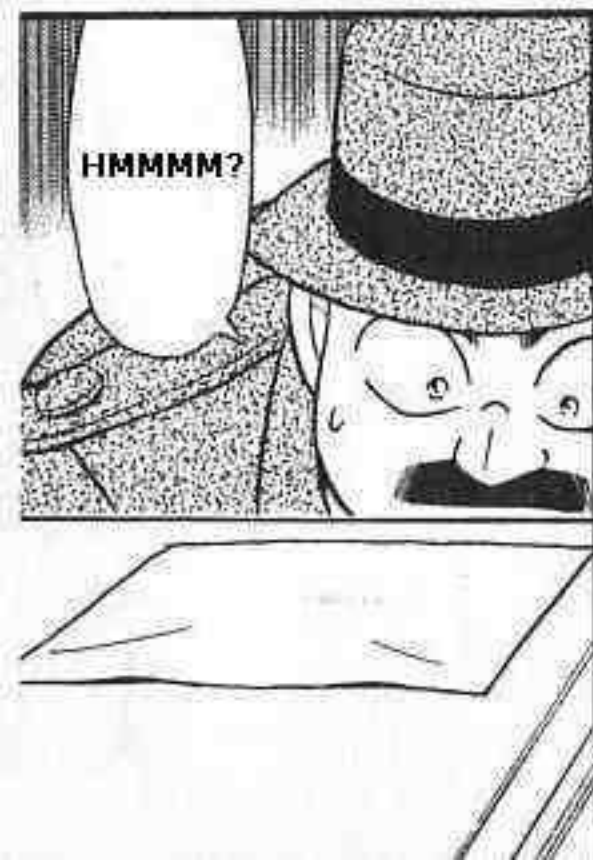
INSPECTOR,

IODINE?



... TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY

AN ONLY DROP WILL BE ENOUGH...



HMMMM?



HMM...



IT WILL TURN BROWN, THAT'S ALL

FLOP

...BUT A BLEACHING AGENT

YES. THERE WAS NOR WATER NOR SWEAT IN HER HANDKERCHIEF...

THE COLOUR HAS DISAPPEARED!



YES, IT'S A BLEACHING AGENT COMMONLY USED IN MEDICINE TO CLEAN THE REMAINS OF DESINFECTANT

A BLEACHING AGENT?



YES, IT NEUTRALIZES ALL THE EFFECTS OF CYANIDE

AND IT'S ALSO AN ANTIDOTE AGAINST THE POISON USED IN THIS CRIME



...UNTIL SHE WAS ABLE TO REMOVE THE REMAINING POISON ON THE KNOB OF THE COOKER

IT'S PROBABLE THAT, AFTER HER ARRIVAL, MISS FUJI WENT TO THE TOILET TO WET HER HANDKERCHIEF WITH THIS BLEACHING AGENT AND THEN WAITED...

YES!

GO AND CHECK!

THERE'S STILL SOME LEFT IN THE LOCKER OF THE TOILET. IT'S A PRODUCT CAPABLE OF BLEACHING AT ROOM TEMPERATURE





THE FACT OF FINDING IT IN THE TOILET IS SURPRISING IN ITSELF

THIS PRODUCT IS NOT SOLD AT NORMAL CHEMIST'S



YES, THAT BLEACHING AGENT IS COLOURLESS AND ODOURLESS... EVEN IF THE HANDKERCHIEF IS WET, WE CAN THINK IT'S JUST WATER

NOT ONLY HAS SHE CLEANED THE POISON, BUT ALSO SHE'S CHANGED ITS NATURE BY MEANS OF THAT PRODUCT IN ORDER TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE DISCOVERED. SHE HAS DECEIVED THE POLICE



BECAUSE I WASHED IT!

WHY WAS YOUR HANDKERCHIEF SOAKED IN SUCH A PRODUCT?

COULD YOU EXPLAIN THAT, MISS FUJI?



WHAT FOR?

...



AND HAVE YOU KEPT A HALF-SOAKED HANDKERCHIEF?

WHY?



NO, AT A FRIEND'S HOME! AND I BROUGHT IT WITH ME!

HAVE YOU WASHED IT? AT A MOMENT LIKE THAT? IN THE TOILET?



THEN, IT WAS YOU!

MISS FUJI?



... THAT THIS TRICK HAS BEEN DISCOVERED SO SOON

IT'S A PITY...



THAT MONEY THIEF, GREEDY...

YES, IT WAS ME WHO KILLED HIM...AND THAT WAY



MY BOYFRIEND BORROWED HIM SOME MONEY AND COULDN'T PAY IT BACK. HE HUNG HIMSELF

IT'S SIMPLE...

BUT... WHY?



I WOULD HAVE NEVER DONE SUCH A SENSELESS THING AS TAKING REVENGE FOR THOSE STUPID REASONS, BUT...

YES, IF THE REASON IS BUYING A HOUSE OR A NEW CAR, OR GAMBLING



BUT YOU ALWAYS SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO BORROWED MONEY WERE ALSO GUILTY

SO, WAS IT SIMPLE?

... I HAD NO CHOICE



AS HE HAD DONE IT FOR ME,...

HE TOLD ME TO BE BRAVE, BECAUSE HE WAS GOING TO BEAR THE EXPENSES OF MY ILLNESS



MY PARENTS HAD DIED AND, BECAUSE OF MY BAD TEMPER, I HAD NO FRIENDS... ONLY MY BOYFRIEND WENT TO SEE ME AT HOSPITAL

YES. SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'VE SUFFERED A HEART DISEASE. I HAD TO BE IN HOSPITAL SINCE I LEFT UNIVERSITY TO THREE YEARS AGO

FOR YOU?

THE CONTRACT OF THE LOAN GRANTED BY "HIDA FINANCES" WAS LYING UNDER HIS FEET



I GOT OVER AND WENT TO VISIT HIM TO HIS FLAT, WHERE I FOUND HIM HANGING FROM THE CEILING



MISS FUJI, IT WAS...  
FURTHERMORE, ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE IT



NO POISON WAS DETECTED IN MY HANDKERCHIEF NOR ON THE KNOB OF THE COOKER  
BUT, MR. DETECTIVE, HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS ME?



YES... I WAITED DURING ALL THIS TIME FOR THE MOMENT TO COME...  
SO, YOU JOINED THE COMPANY WITH THE ONLY PURPOSE OF TAKING REVENGE!





YOU'VE USED YOUR LEFT HAND ONLY ONCE: WHEN YOU TURNED THE KNOB OF THE COOKER

WHEN YOU TAKE A CIGARETTE, WHEN YOU USE YOUR LIGHTER, WHEN YOU TAKE AN OBJECT, YOU ONLY USE YOUR RIGHT HAND



BECAUSE OF YOUR LEFT HAND

IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR HAND, WHICH WAS ALWAYS IN YOUR POCKET



BECAUSE, EVEN ALTHOUGH YOU HAD CLEANED THE POISON, IT COULDN'T BE ASSURED THAT NO POISON REMAINED

YOU WERE AFRAID OF THAT, SO YOU DELIBERATELY TURNED THE KNOB WITH YOUR LEFT HAND

YOU'RE A HEAVY SMOKER. WHEN YOU SMOKE, YOUR FINGERS TOUCH YOUR LIPS



LUCKILY, ONLY YOUR LEFT HAND FINGERPRINTS WERE FOUND ON THE KNOB OF THE COOKER. I BET IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TURN IT WITH YOUR LEFT HAND

IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE YOUR LEFT HAND OUT OF YOUR POCKET, IT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TOUCH ANYTHING



HE MUST BE LAUGHING IN THE OTHER WORLD



THE CIGARETTES HE WANTED ME TO GIVE UP SMOKING HAVE BEEN MY DOOM...

PFFF...





NOBODY WANTS TO PLAY MAH-JONG WITH ME BECAUSE IT REMINDS THEM OF THE MURDER

I HAVE NO CHOICE

IT'S WEIRD THAT YOU COME TO MY PLACE...



THREE DAYS LATER

TELL ME, KOGORO



OH! THAT'S GREAT! GREAT!

IS THAT THE REASON WHY YOU COME WITH A CHILD TO FACE A MACHINE?



IDIOT! WE MUST CUT THE



AND SEIZE THE REST!

HERE, WE MUST DO



AND IT'LL BE "DAMATEN"!



OH, IT'S JUST...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



AGH!

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS, DAD?



PFFF... IF IT DIDN'T WORK WHEN I WAS PLAYING, NOW THERE'S NO WAY IT'S...

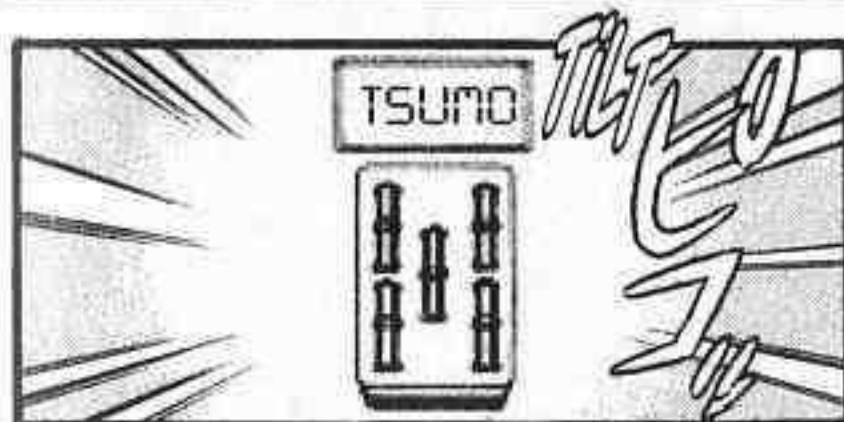
I SENSE IT'S COMING



HUH?

HERE, YOU MUST CUT WITH THE  
AND THEN MAKE A "REE" WITH THE  
THAT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?

TIP



TSUMO



AND ALSO A "REECHI" TSUMOHOITSU DORA 4, KYA URADORA

TSUMO!



WHO'S TAUGHT RAN HOW TO PLAY MAH-JONG?

WELL, THIS IS THE LAST ONE!

GREAT!