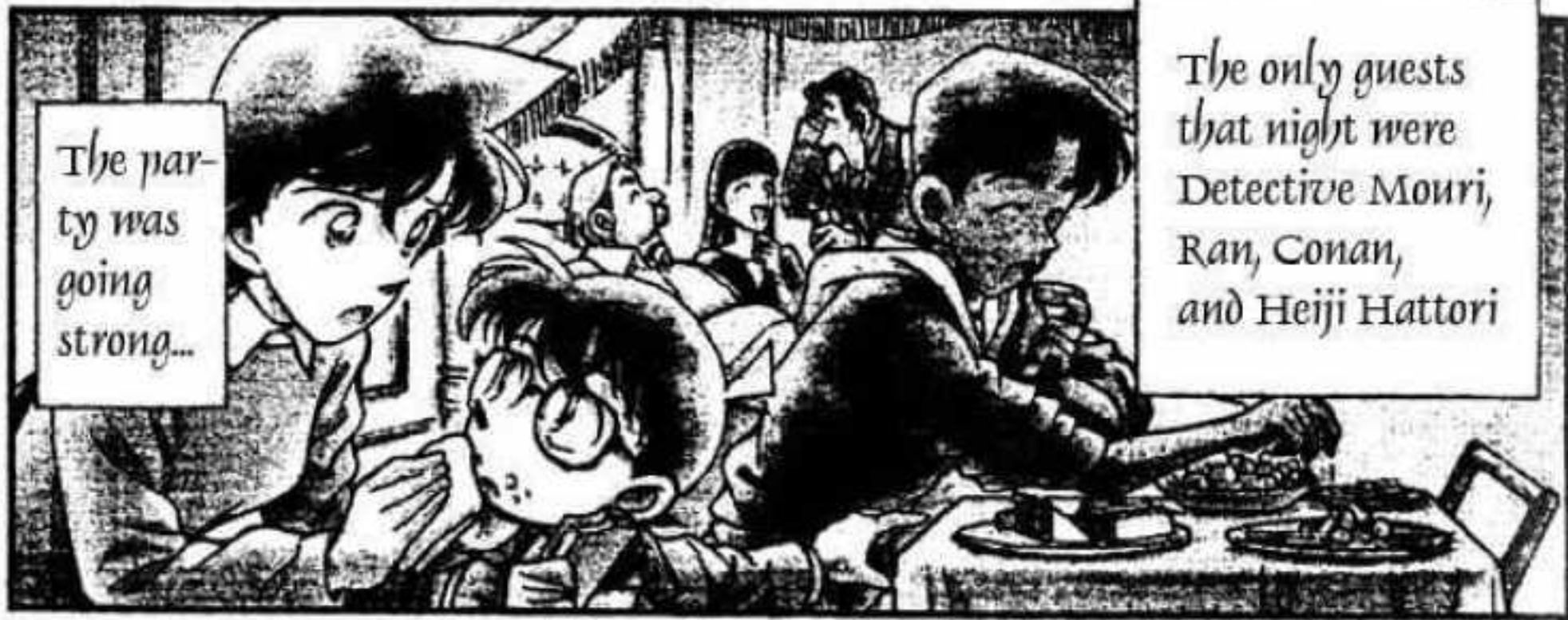



...But only for close family members, because the Master of the family was ill in bed.

This year, the annual birthday celebration for the head of the Nagato family was still held...




The party was going strong...

The only guests that night were Detective Mouri, Ran, Conan, and Heiji Hattori

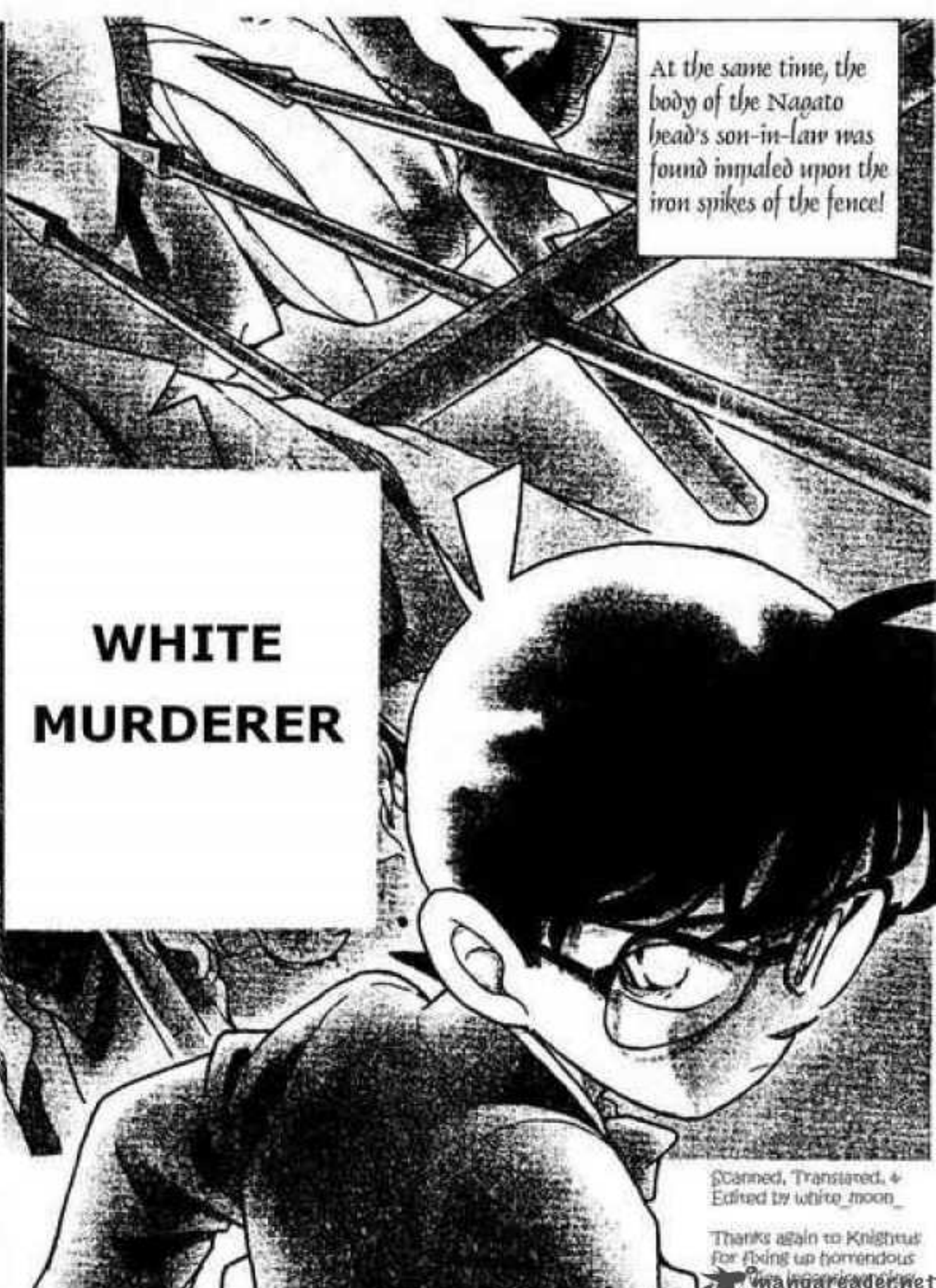


A face wrapped in bandages, teeth claspng a large knife.

Everyone rushed to the balcony, to catch a glimpse of...



...when a sudden phone call stilled the revelry.



At the same time, the body of the Nagato head's son-in-law was found impaled upon the iron spikes of the fence!

WHITE MURDERER

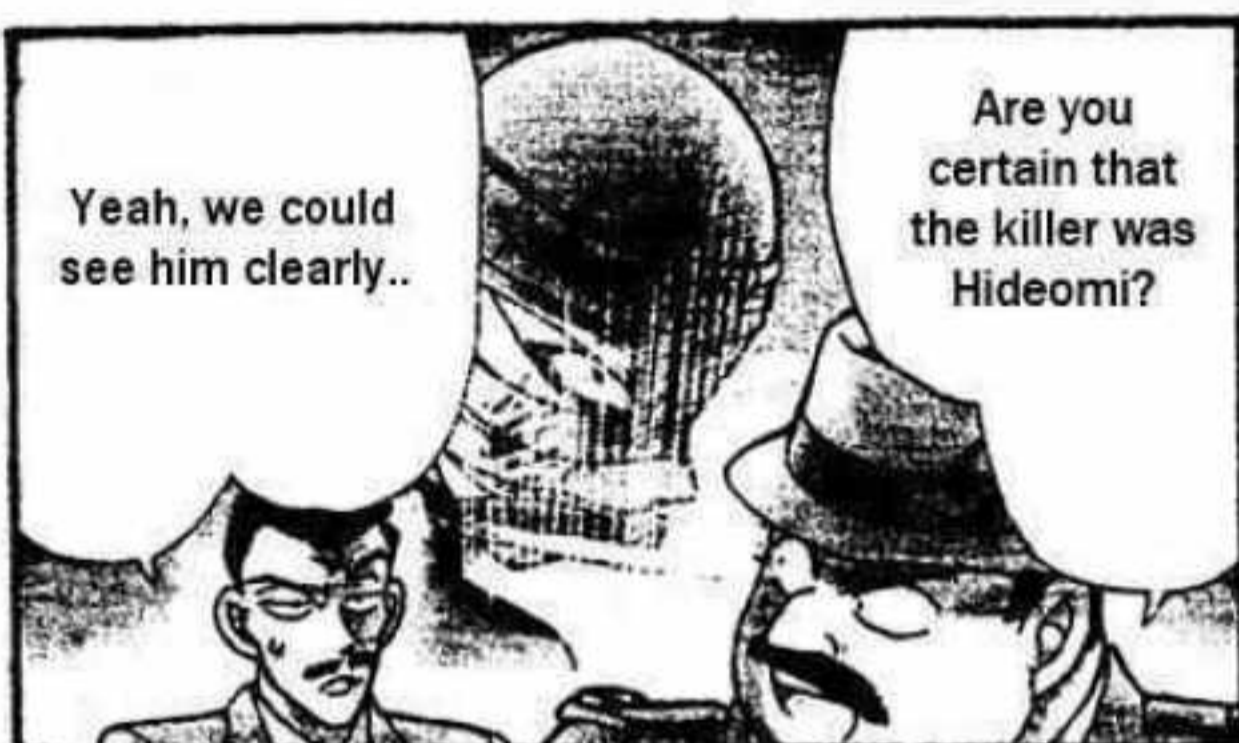
- Read Right to Left
- Translated from Vietnamese using Australian English

Scanned, Translated, & Edited by white_moon
Thanks again to Knights for fixing up horrendous
wanga-reader.net



It took forever to get him down from there.

Oh, how horrible ...



Yeah, we could see him clearly..

Are you certain that the killer was Hideomi?



I'm sure you're mistaken!



There must be some reason..

I'm positive!



Hideomi would never do something like this!

What?



He has errored before ...

Even though ...

Miyuki Hyuga
- Hideomi's soon-to-be wife



Hideomi can't have done this!

It's obvious that Hideomi murdered my husband! And yet you're still vouching for him?

Yasue Nagato
- 2nd daughter in the Nagato family



Why did you have to die?

Uhuhuhu ... Mitsuaki ...



That's exactly right!

What?

How can you be certain that the murderer was Hideomi?



We saw the killer shortly after 10:00pm, when everyone happened to be in the 3rd story bedroom.

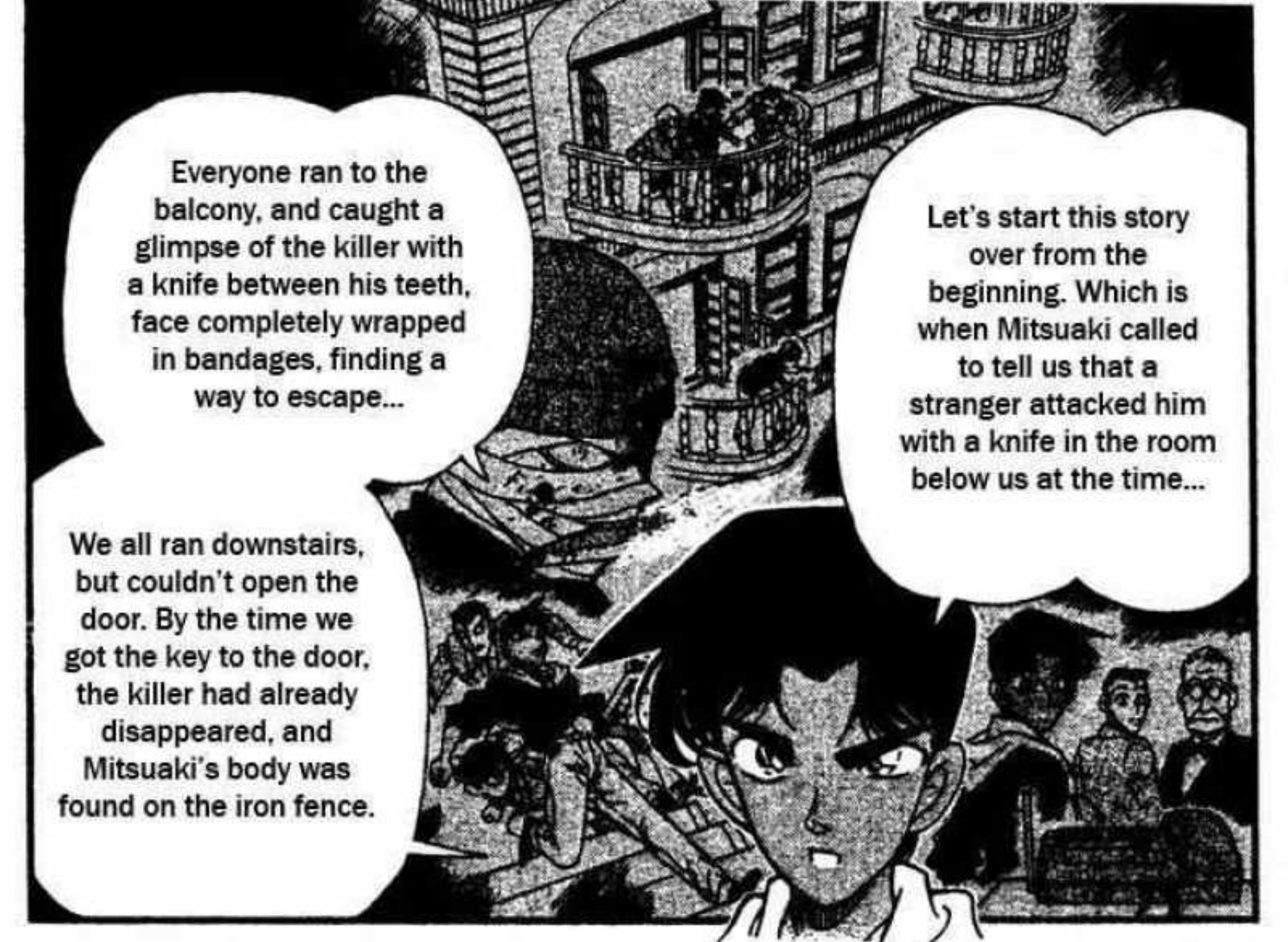
Yeah... Hideomi had burn scars all over his face...

Band-ages ?



But who's to say that underneath it was really Hideomi ?

We only saw a face completely covered in bandages ...



Everyone ran to the balcony, and caught a glimpse of the killer with a knife between his teeth, face completely wrapped in bandages, finding a way to escape...

Let's start this story over from the beginning. Which is when Mitsuaki called to tell us that a stranger attacked him with a knife in the room below us at the time...

We all ran downstairs, but couldn't open the door. By the time we got the key to the door, the killer had already disappeared, and Mitsuaki's body was found on the iron fence.

That was me, sir!

Then who went to get the spare key?

I had to stay behind to watch over the Master.

And what about her?

Myself and Ran, Conan, Heiji, Yasue and the butler Nosuke Take!

Everyone, being..?

So the victim was stabbed to death before being thrown onto the fence.

Maybe.

Because of my age and frail condition, it took me 5-6 minutes to retrieve the key...

That room is master Mitsuaki's and mistress Yasue's. I kept the spare key in storage at the end of the hallway.

Nosuke Take
- Butler



Yes, sir!

...and then ran down later?

You said that you stayed behind with Mr. Nagato ...



That's right! When I and everyone else ran down, the rope was still swinging!

The murderer escaped using this rope and hook here, right?



I sat by Mr. Nagato until I heard Yasue's crying, then I asked Ran to take my place and ran down here!



If he's just killed someone, then why would he still be here?

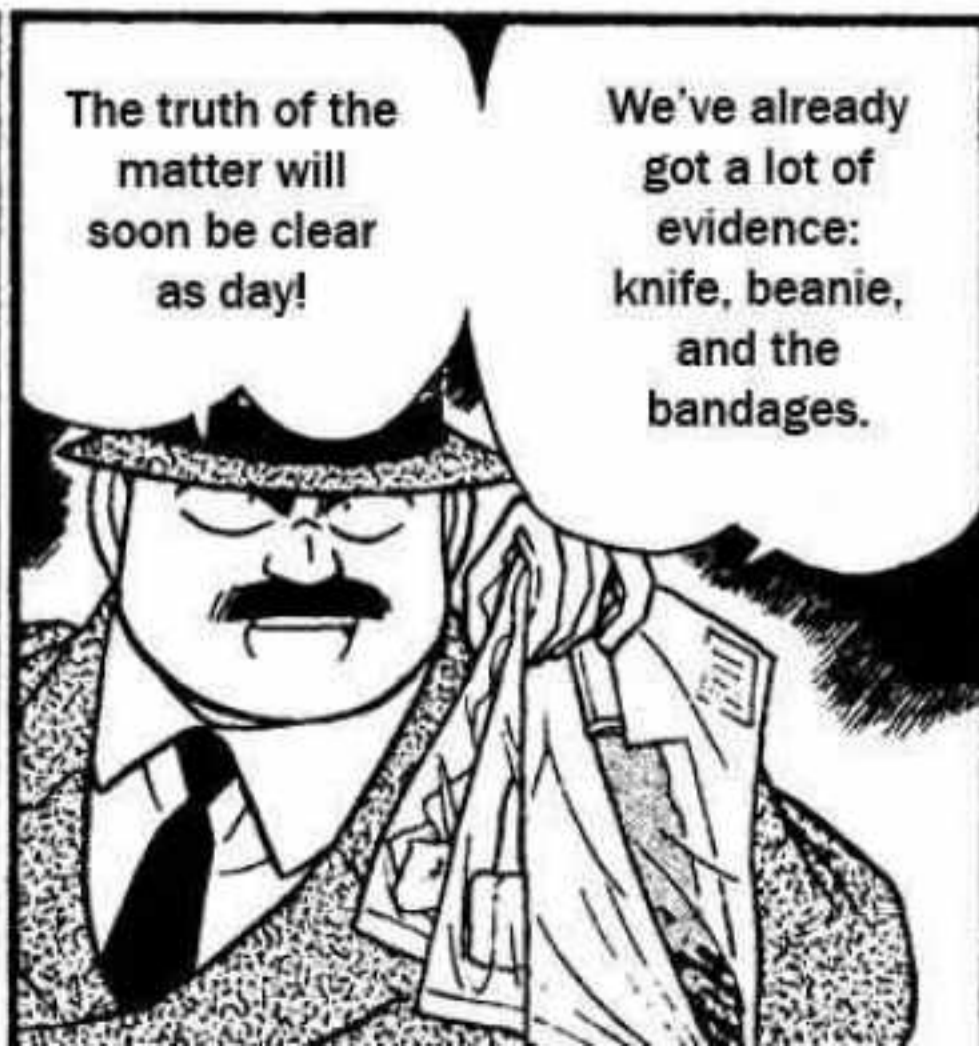
And still haven't found him anywhere.

Inspector, we've searched through all the rooms...

Does anyone know where Hideomi could be hiding?



... Look here!



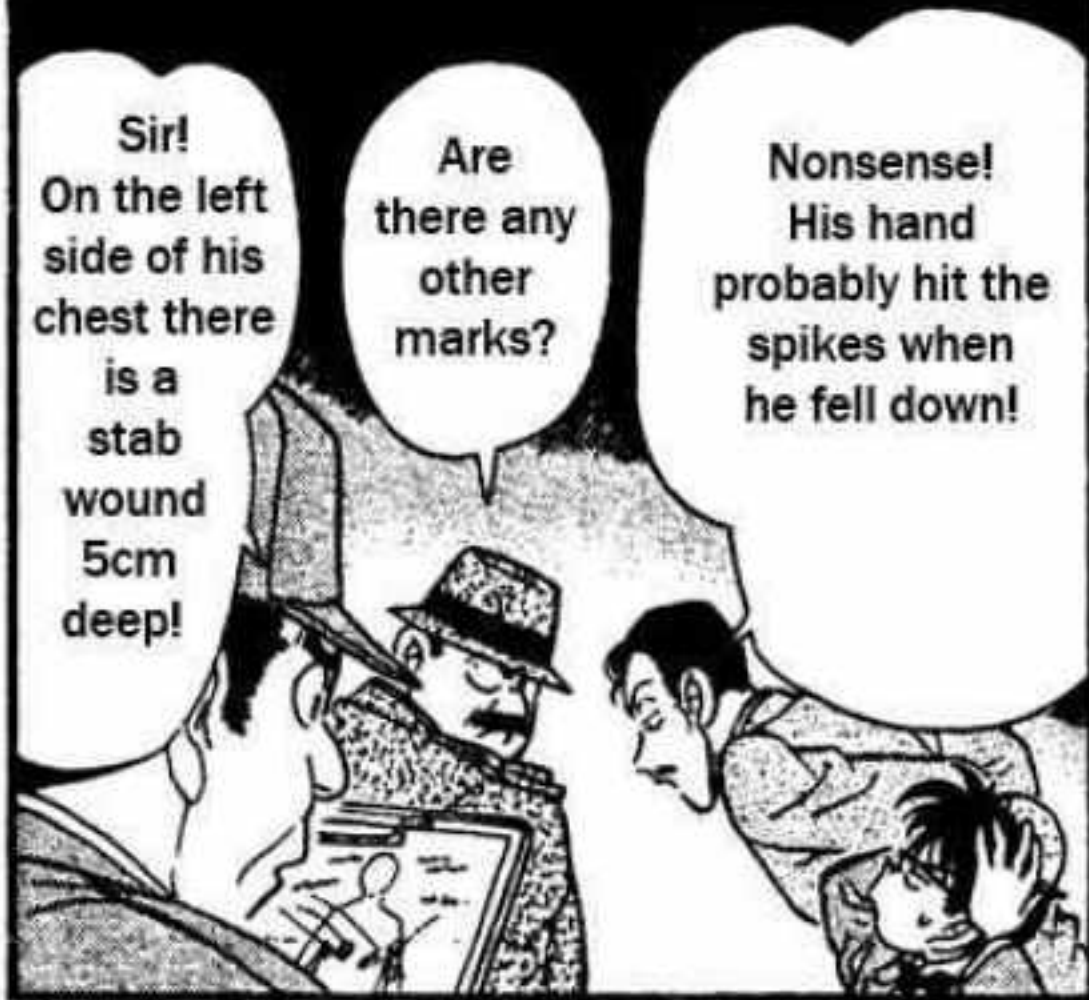
The truth of the matter will soon be clear as day!

We've already got a lot of evidence: knife, beanie, and the bandages.



That's not true!

He's definitely the murderer!



Sir!
On the left side of his chest there is a stab wound 5cm deep!

Are there any other marks?

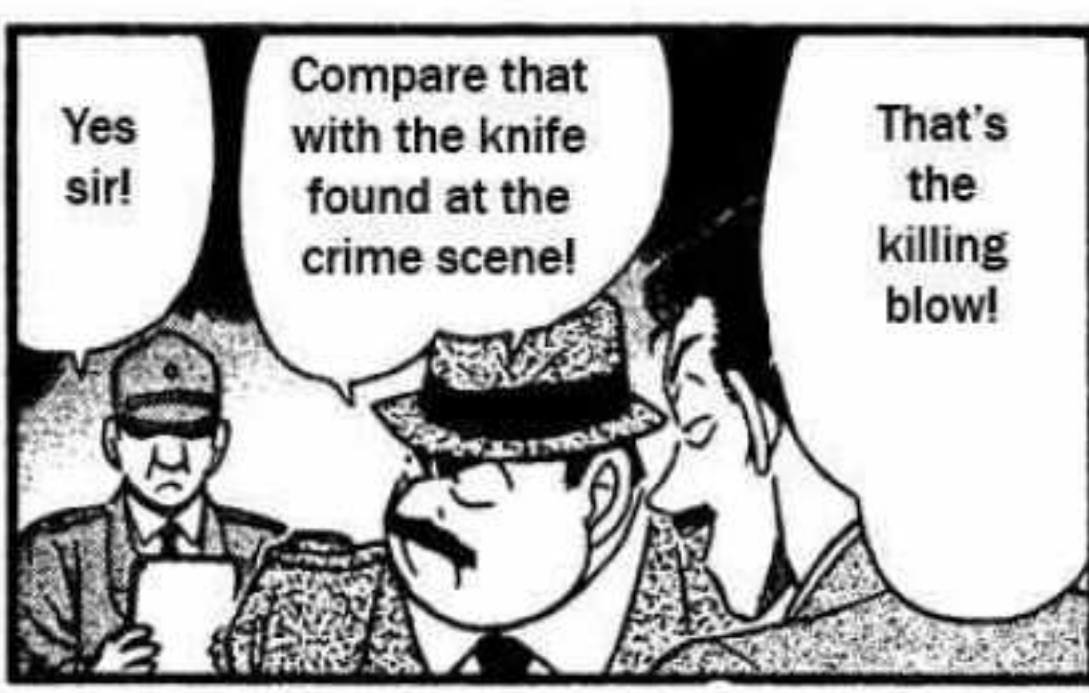
Nonsense!
His hand probably hit the spikes when he fell down!



?

On the back of the victim's right hand, there's a small mark...

...exactly as if something had been stabbed into it! Please take a look.



Yes sir!

Compare that with the knife found at the crime scene!

That's the killing blow!



...no one has set foot outside these grounds!

We've looked at the footage of the security camera outside the fence. But from the time the murder occurred...



News, sir!

You! Go back to the station and identify those fingerprints!



But that means that...

What?



Damn it!

No! Ran is watching over him!

Miss Hyuga, is Mr. Nagato by himself at the moment?

...is still in the mansion!

It means that the vicious killer...



Boys, wait!



Cacha!



I'll have to use the power-kick shoes to break it open!

Open the door! Open the door!!



The door's locked!



I'm sorry, but from since when have you been here?

Who knows what they want now!

Is there another problem?



Are you trying to bring down my house?

Nobuko Nagato (39)
- Eldest daughter



That's right! She came in here the same time I did.

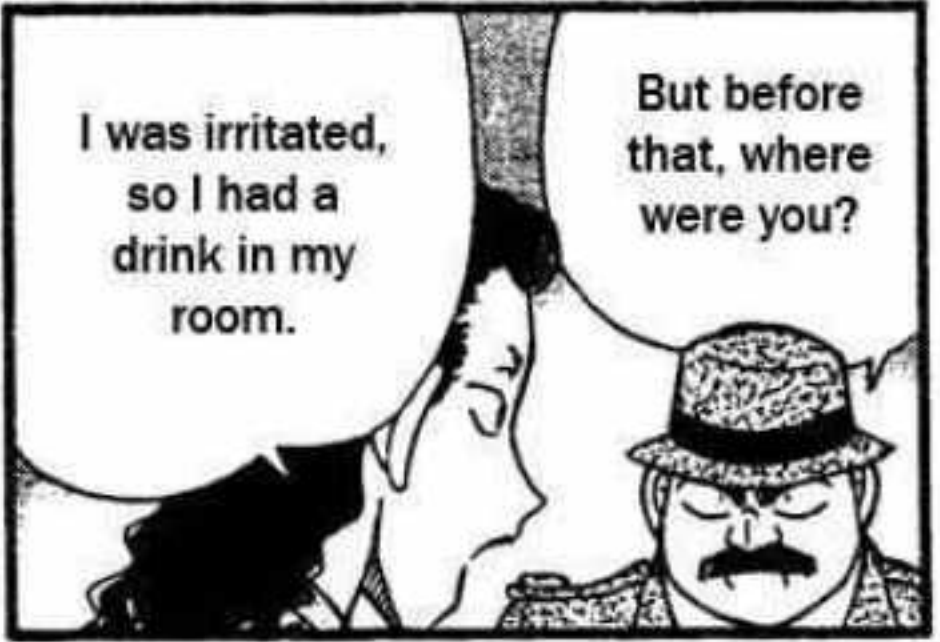
Really?

Hearing Yasue's scream, I ran straight here.



Yeah, while complaining to a friend on the phone. Must be the alcohol, can't remember who it was...

Alone?



I was irritated, so I had a drink in my room.

But before that, where were you?



Why's that?

Sooner or later, this was bound to happen.

I knew it!



Yes... very likely!

Ah, you men think Hideomi killed Mitsuaki, don't you?



What incident?

Everything changed after that incident ...



It's truly a pity, because they used to be such close friends!

Just so you know, they hated each other with a passion! If they saw each other they'd end up in some argument or another.



Even though Mitsuaki desperately tried to stop him, Hideomi threw himself into the raging flames to save one little girl.

It was a fire that swept the Sakura Holiday Inn, which happened at the same time Hideomi and Mitsuaki were walking home from school near there.



The result of which was that Hideomi's handsome face became disfigured by heavy burns. The relationship between those two has been strained ever since.

It explains the pre-destined "Ring of Fire".



The little girl that was saved is none other than Miyuki Hyuga here!



She made passes at him, got recommended as Father's secretary, and now marries into the family!



Since then, Hideomi has also given up school, to become an obsessive writer... and closed himself off from everyone else. To the point where he refused plastic surgery.





Since you're awake, I'd like to ask you: have you seen anything strange in this room?

Who can sleep with such a racket you're making? Huh!



Oh? I thought you were asleep, father.

Nobuko! That's enough!

Donsan Nagato - Head of the family



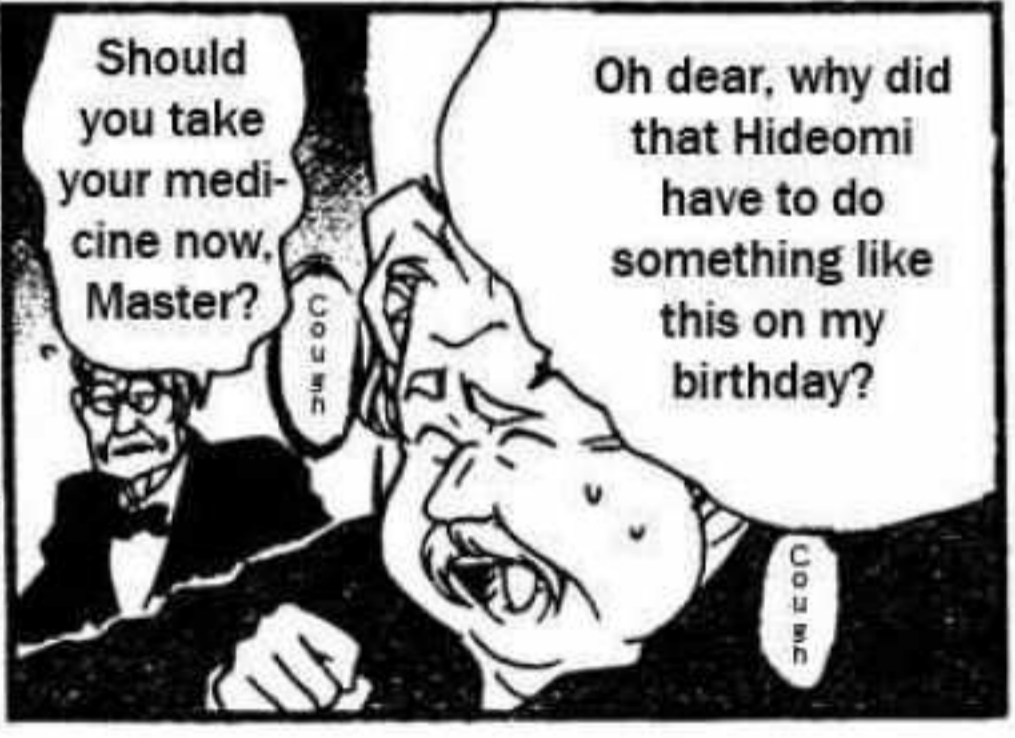
After that, Ran and Nobuko swapped places with her.

Nothing strange at all. Hyuga was by my side the whole time...



Sir, I think the job of finding your old love should be put aside for the time being.

Ah, no need! The packet's still full, see? I don't need to take any!



Should you take your medicine now, Master?

Oh dear, why did that Hideomi have to do something like this on my birthday?



Yes, please, sleep soundly and recuperate quickly.

Please excuse me... I think I need to rest now.



We'll talk about that later then.

Ah... I'm sorry for troubling you, Detective.



Congrats!
You're really sharp,
Kudou!

Nothing about finding some old girlfriend, but because of something else!

Why you brought us here!



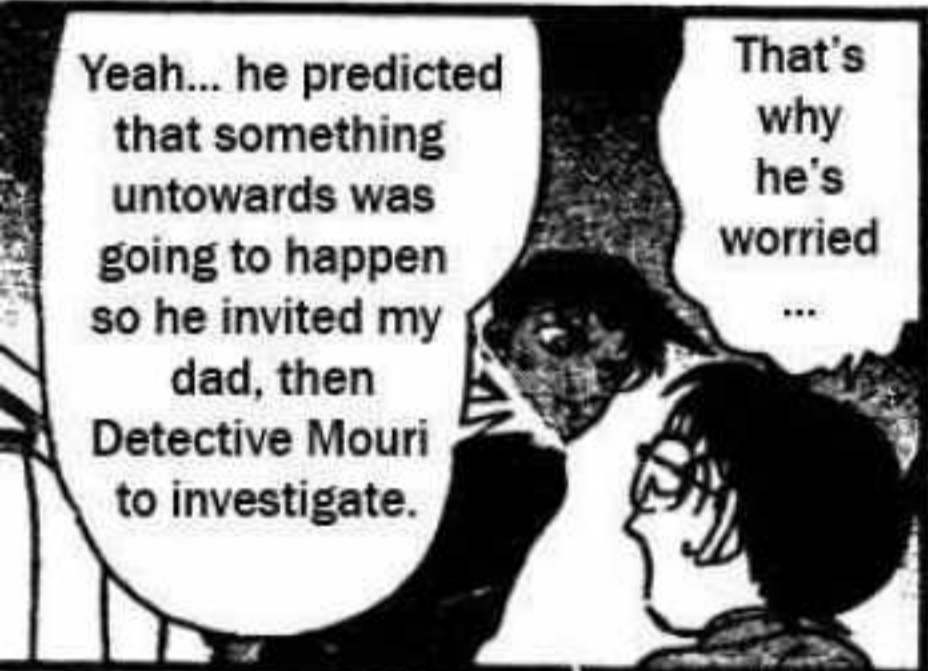
What about ?

Ne, tell me the truth, Hattori ...



What kind of sounds ?

It's because a few nights back, Mr. Nagato heard many suspicious sounds in the house.



Yeah... he predicted that something untowards was going to happen so he invited my dad, then Detective Mouri to investigate.

That's why he's worried ...



And especially, there were banging sounds coming from the balcony.

They were the sounds of feet passing back and forth in the hallway, near sunrise or so...



But isn't it strange?



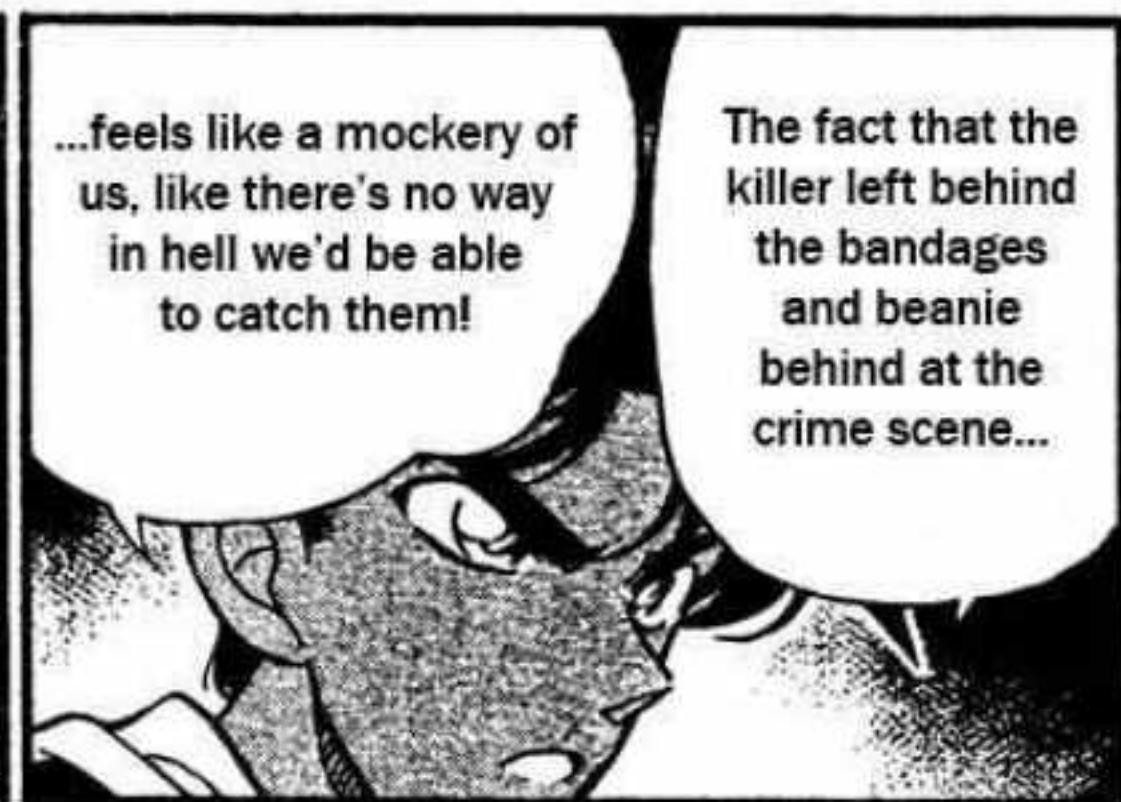
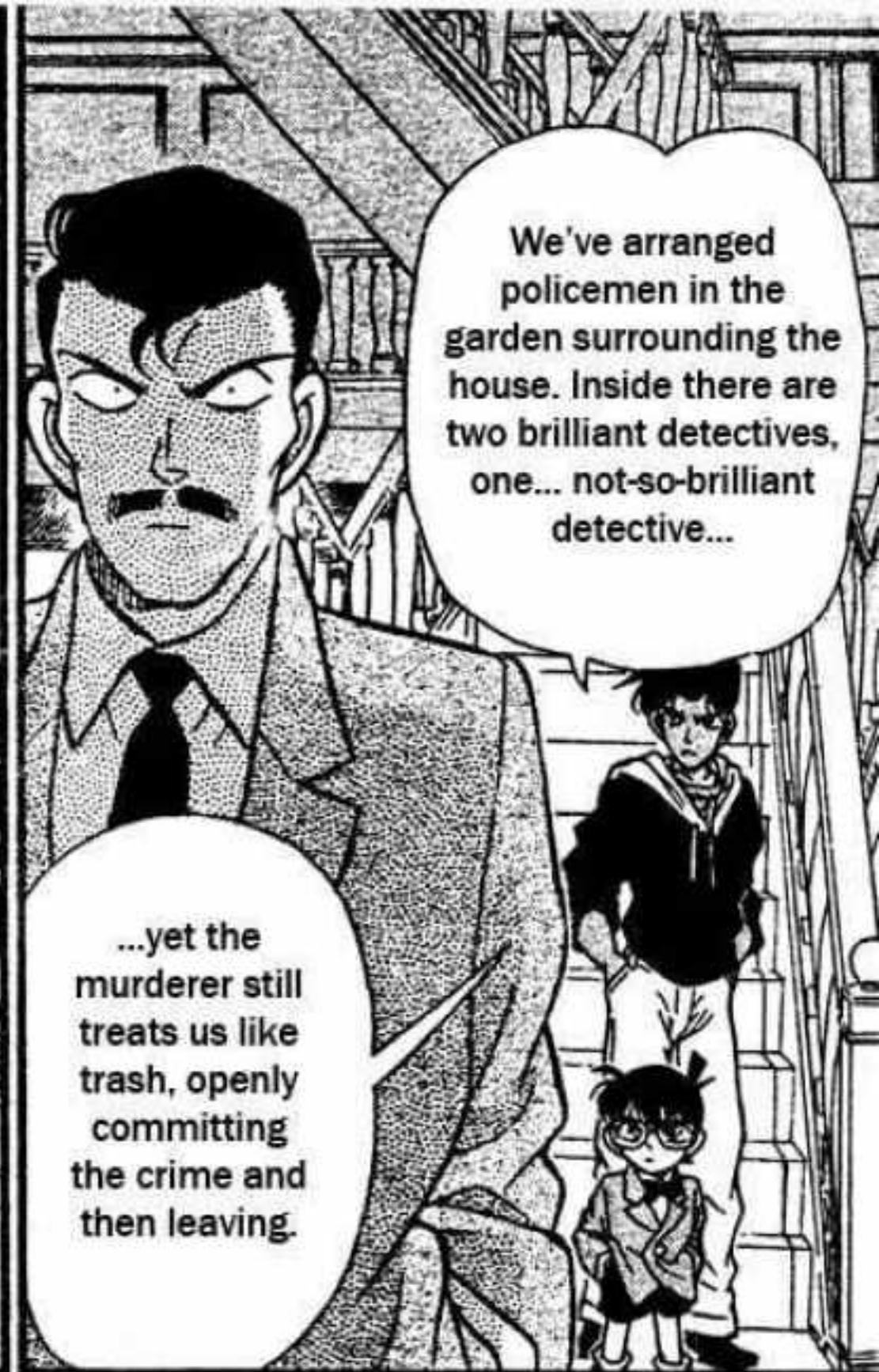
And the killer ...

But a murder that was planned in advance.

Is someone in the Nagato family!



In the beginning, my dad suspected burglars, so he only instigated security guards for the grounds. Who knew that it wasn't a robbery at all...





At the moment he's the most suspicious one!

Ah... Uh...

Hattori, do you think the killer is Hideomi?



Ah, talking to this brat helps relieve the boredom! We're not very close at all!

Hey there! When did you two become such good friends?



Will you fall asleep, then solve the case just like my dad again?

Habit?

Then, I'll wait for your habit.



.....

No need! That 'style' is way too old for me!

Ahaha... The "Sleeping Detective" style?



Ah, this time you have to let me try to solve the case on my own!

Hey, hey...



Oh no... Me. Be like that bushy-moustached man?

Don't be down on yourself!



Calm down!

Hmph! Just remembering how you 'borrowed' my body last time to solve the case makes me angry again!

At the end of the second day, the search seemed, yet again, to be fruitless.

But still found nothing.

For the next two days, the police combed everywhere in the Nagato mansion.

Care to say that again?

What?

Nothing here, sir.

!

He thought highly of you...

No, I just meant ...

So are you saying he held back for me?

Is that how you speak to me? You have the nerve to say that I'm the reason Hideomi doesn't want to get married?

Er, Miss Nobuko ...



Oh, Miss Hyuga!

Ah!

Plop!



Slap!



Miss, the water gets quite deep, you can't go in!

My pen ...



Yes, sir!

Quickly, drain the water!

Miss Hyuga, wait!

I can't lose it!

But that's the last thing my parents left to me!



?



When madam was still alive, she frequently changed the water... not like it is now...

This water's filthy!



