

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

Scanned, Translated &
Edited by white_moon_

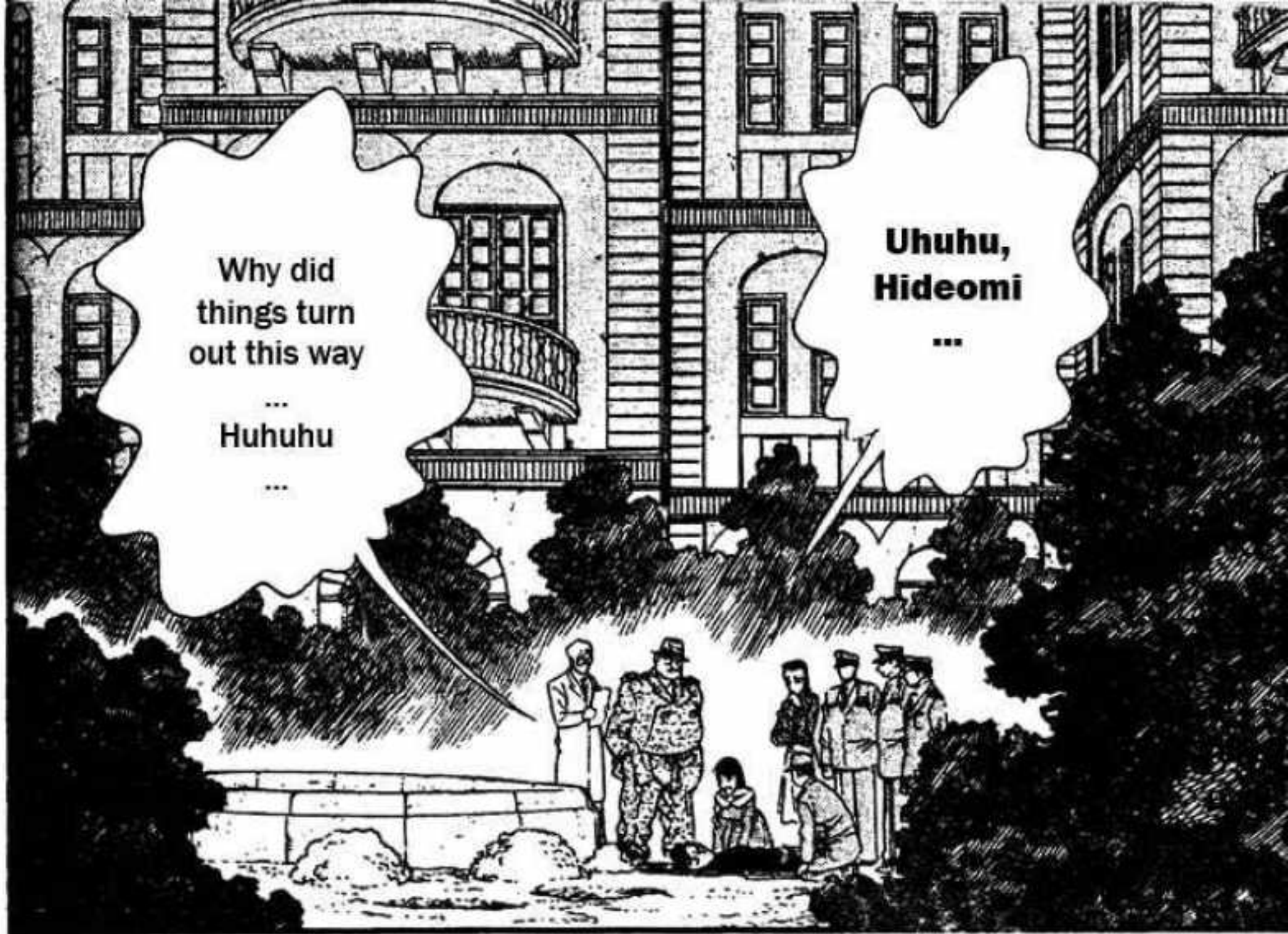
Thanks again to Knighus,
who fixed up many
Viet/Jap inconsistencies.

VOLUME 16

FILE.2

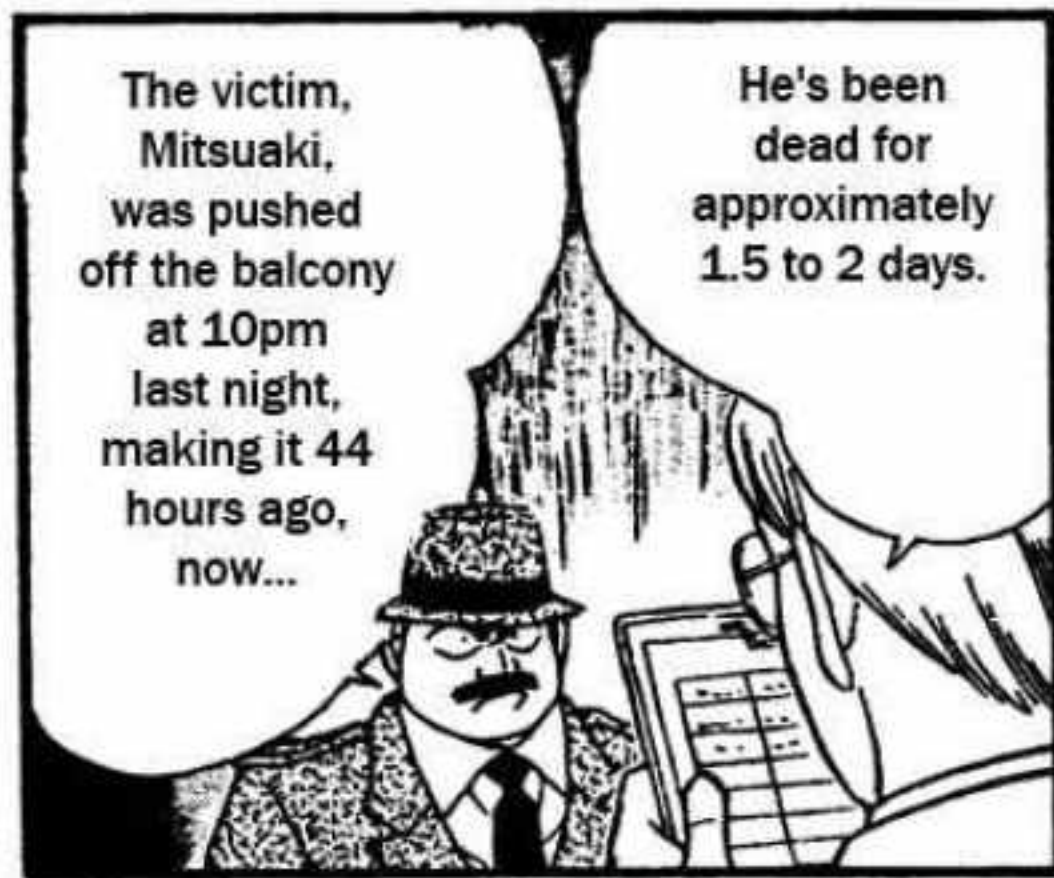
TRUTH OF THE TELEPHONE





Why did things turn out this way
...
Huhuhu
...

Uhuhu,
Hideomi
...



The victim, Mitsuaki, was pushed off the balcony at 10pm last night, making it 44 hours ago, now...

He's been dead for approximately 1.5 to 2 days.



Yes.

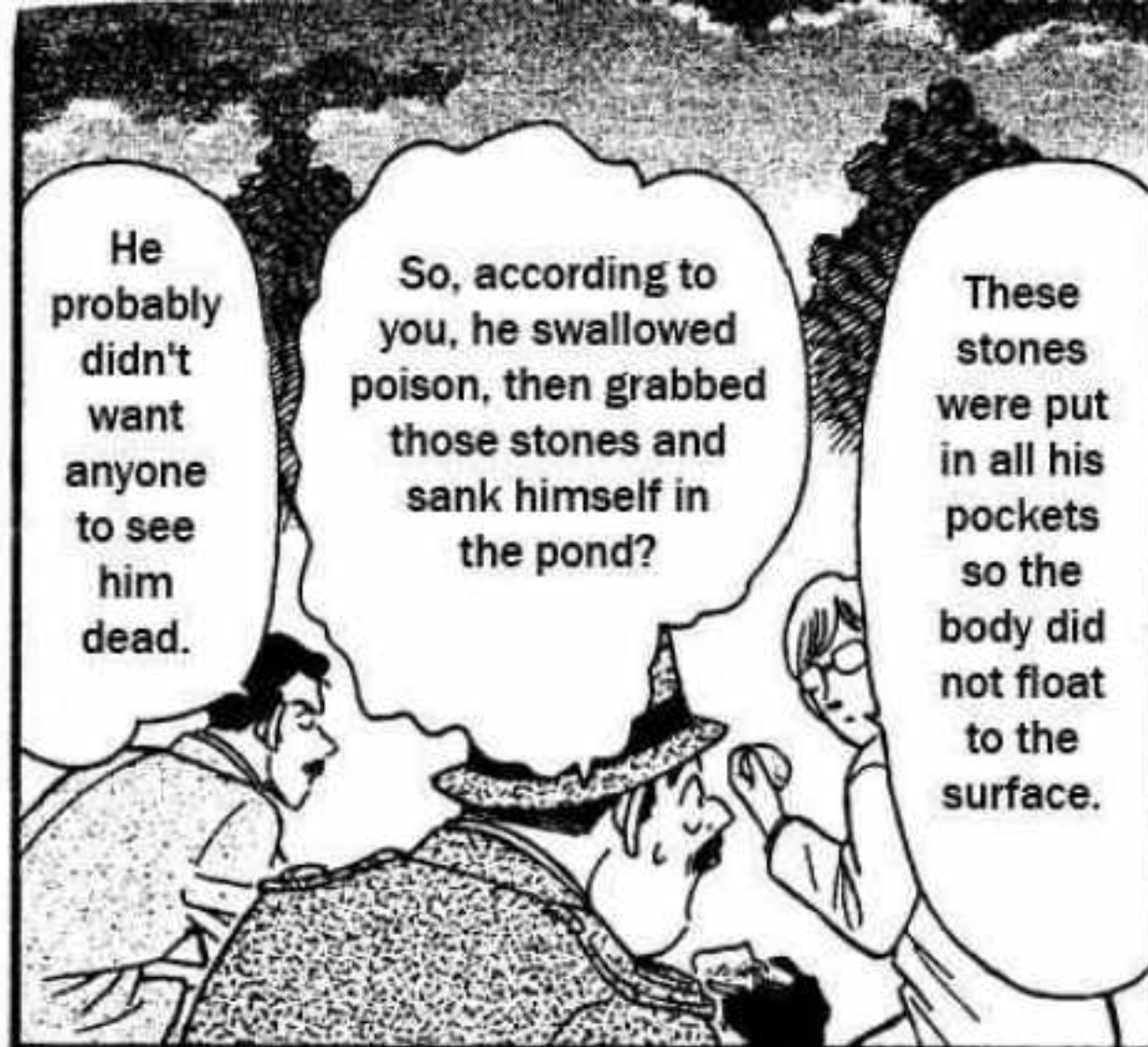
Do you know when he died?

Brother!
Brother
Hideomi!
Huhu
...



Everything would fit.

Therefore, maybe Hideomi killed Mitsuaki, then submerged himself in the pond...



He probably didn't want anyone to see him dead.

So, according to you, he swallowed poison, then grabbed those stones and sank himself in the pond?

These stones were put in all his pockets so the body did not float to the surface.



What?

But he didn't die because of drowning!

It seems before he entered the water he had ingested a lethal poison.

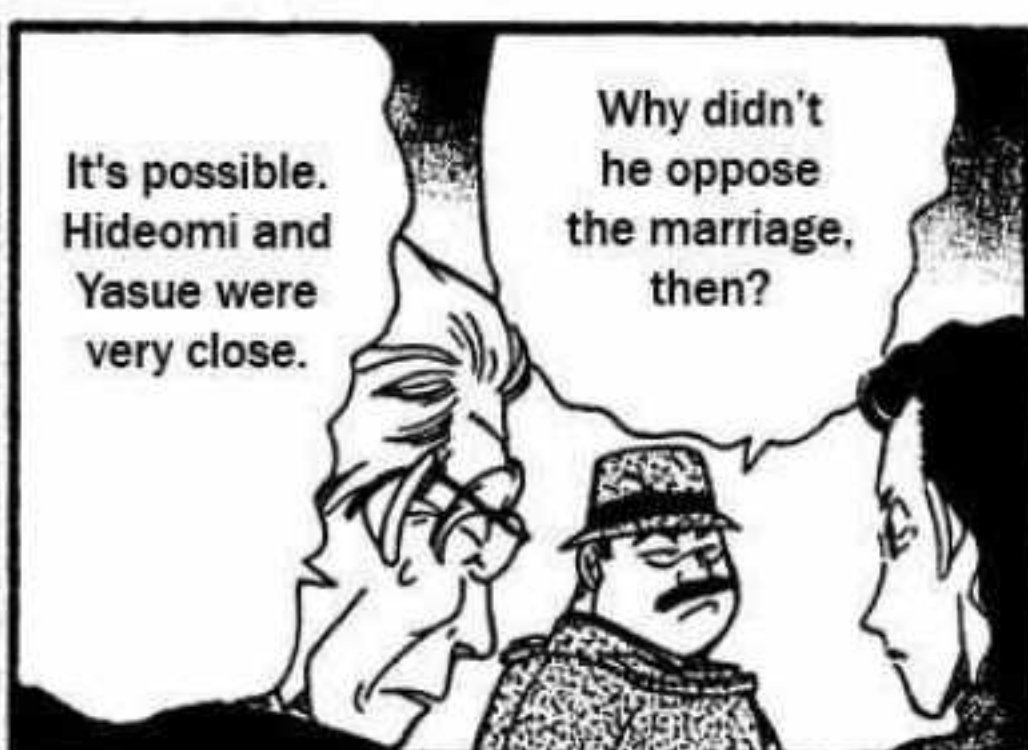


Hpmh! Hideomi never saw Mitsuaki as his brother-in-law.

What would make him kill first his brother-in-law and then himself?



He vehemently opposed this marriage, but was unable to!



It's possible. Hideomi and Yasue were very close.

Why didn't he oppose the marriage, then?



Letter?

Sir! I found a letter in his pocket!



Foolish child ...

I see, he couldn't stomach losing his dear little sister to his bad friend.



Me?

He wrote it to you, Miss Hyuga!



It's a suicide letter!

Oh my...

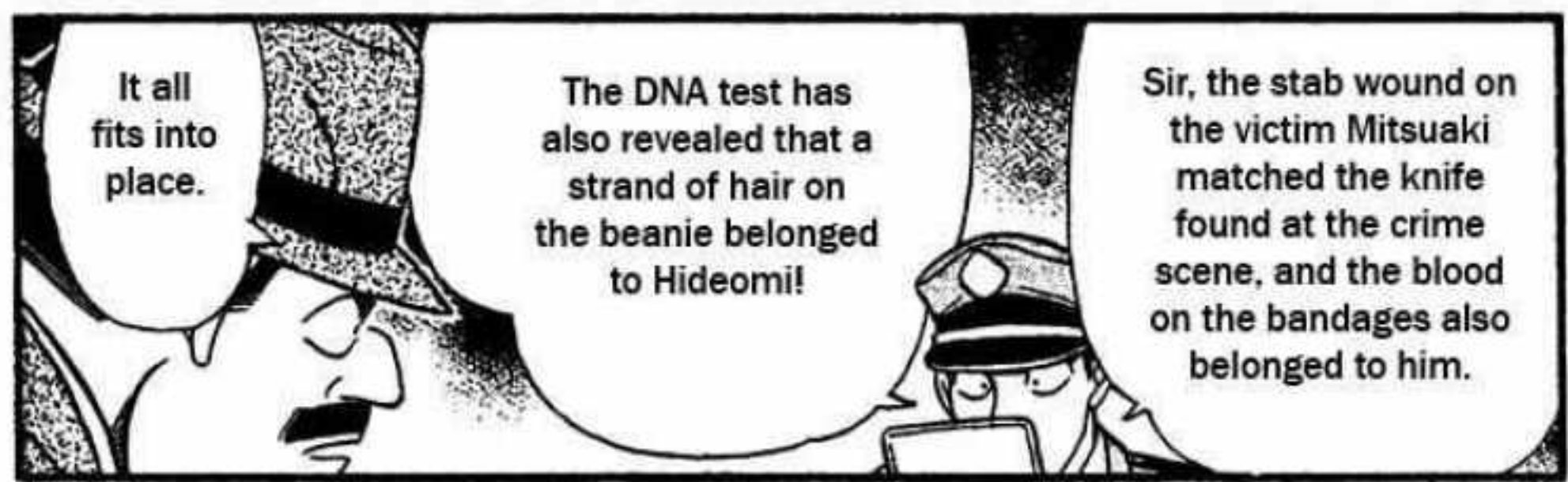
My dearest Miyuki, I cannot marry you. With the sin that I have committed, only death can be my release.

Hideomi



Great! What did the coroner write?

Sir! I have the autopsy report!



It all fits into place.

The DNA test has also revealed that a strand of hair on the beanie belonged to Hideomi!

Sir, the stab wound on the victim Mitsuaki matched the knife found at the crime scene, and the blood on the bandages also belonged to him.



Ah... there wasn't any saliva. Maybe the knife was wiped clean.



What about the saliva on the blade of the knife?

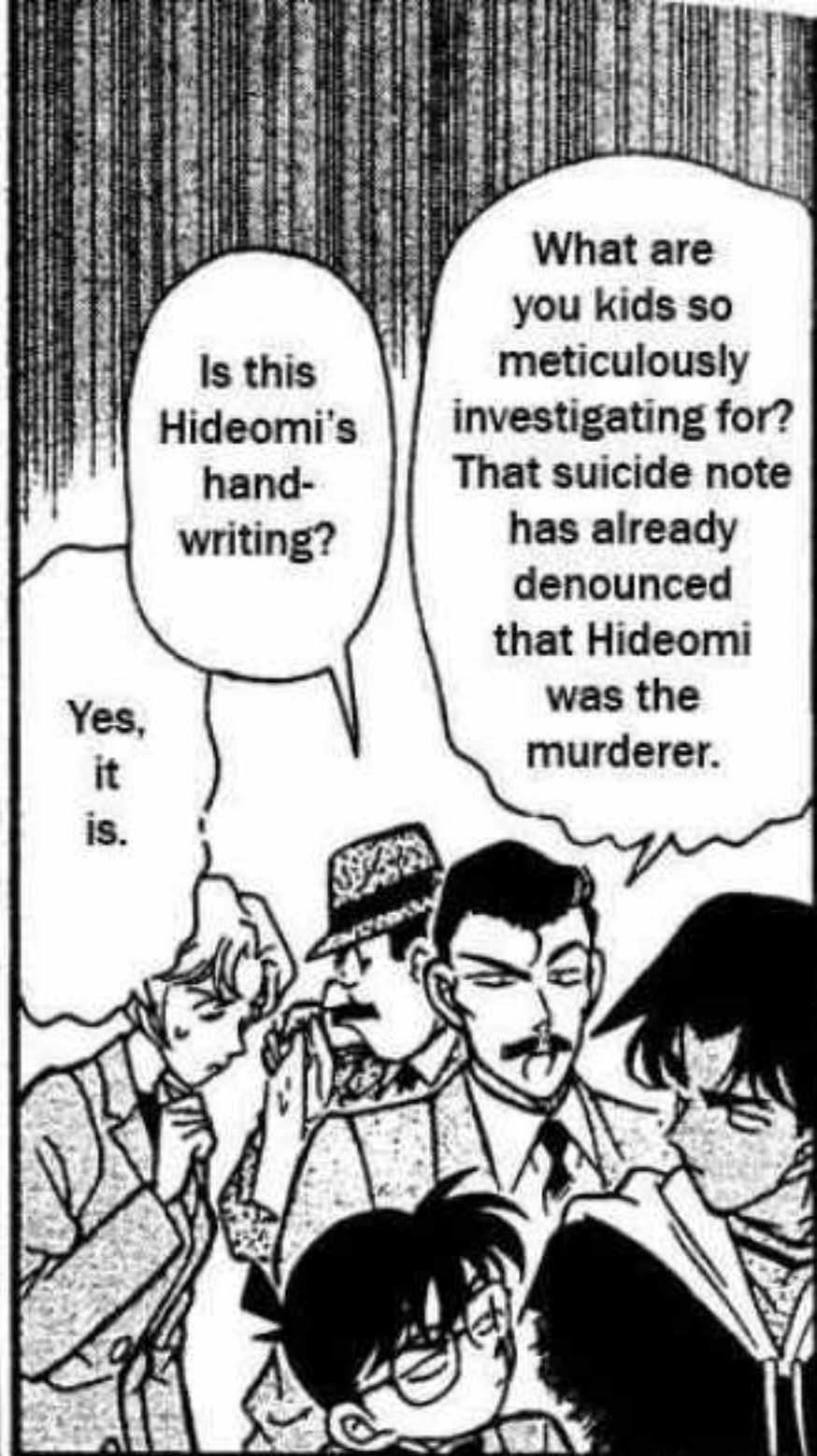
It wasn't made by that knife!



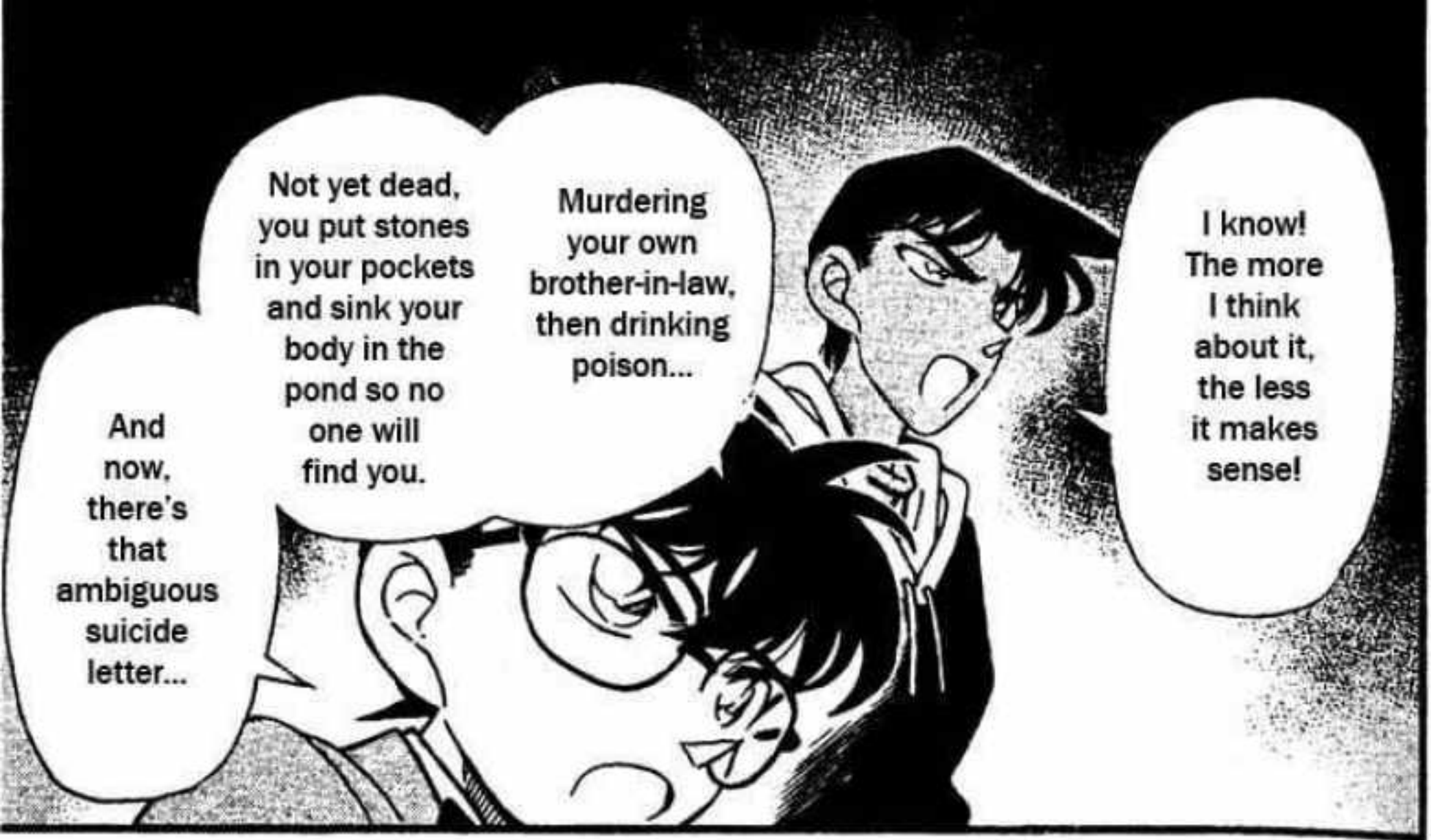
What about the wound on the back of his hand?

Fishing line?

There was also a 1 metre length of fishing line in his shirt pocket.





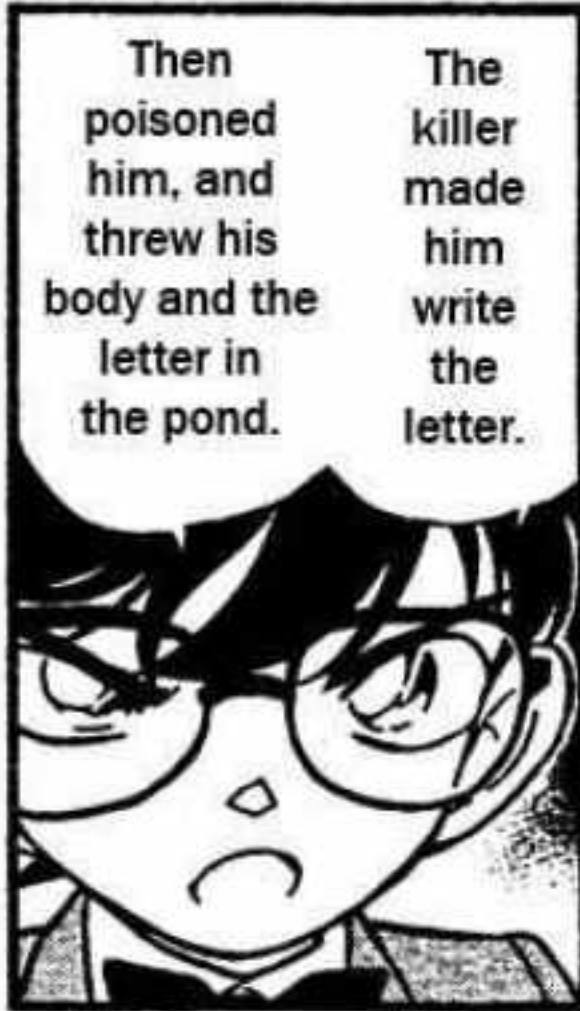


And now, there's that ambiguous suicide letter...

Not yet dead, you put stones in your pockets and sink your body in the pond so no one will find you.

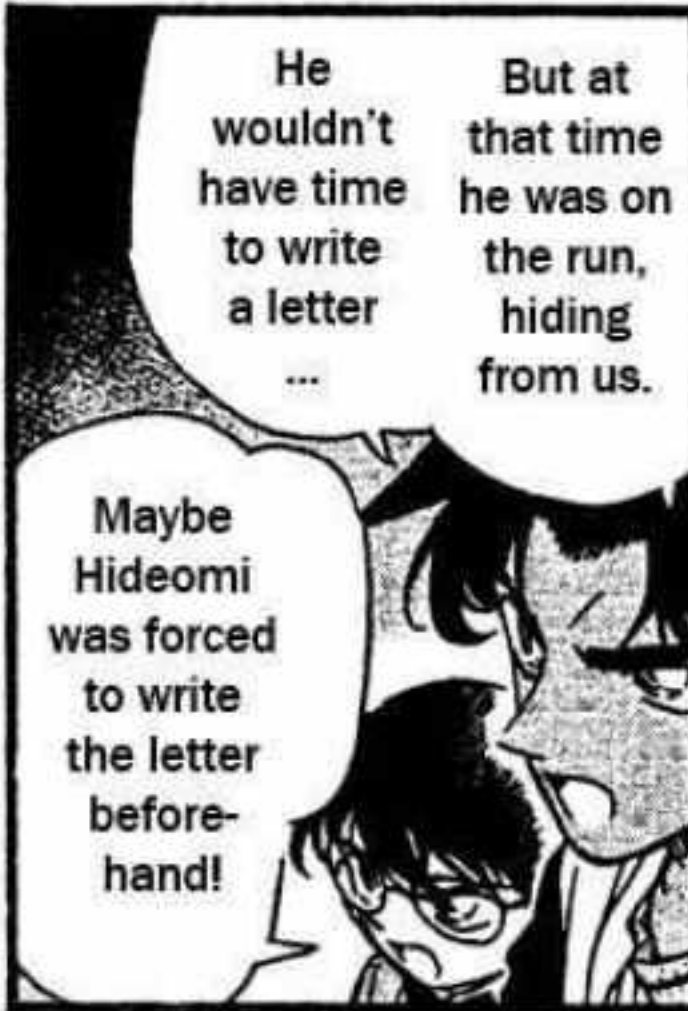
Murdering your own brother-in-law, then drinking poison...

I know! The more I think about it, the less it makes sense!



Then poisoned him, and threw his body and the letter in the pond.

The killer made him write the letter.



He wouldn't have time to write a letter ...

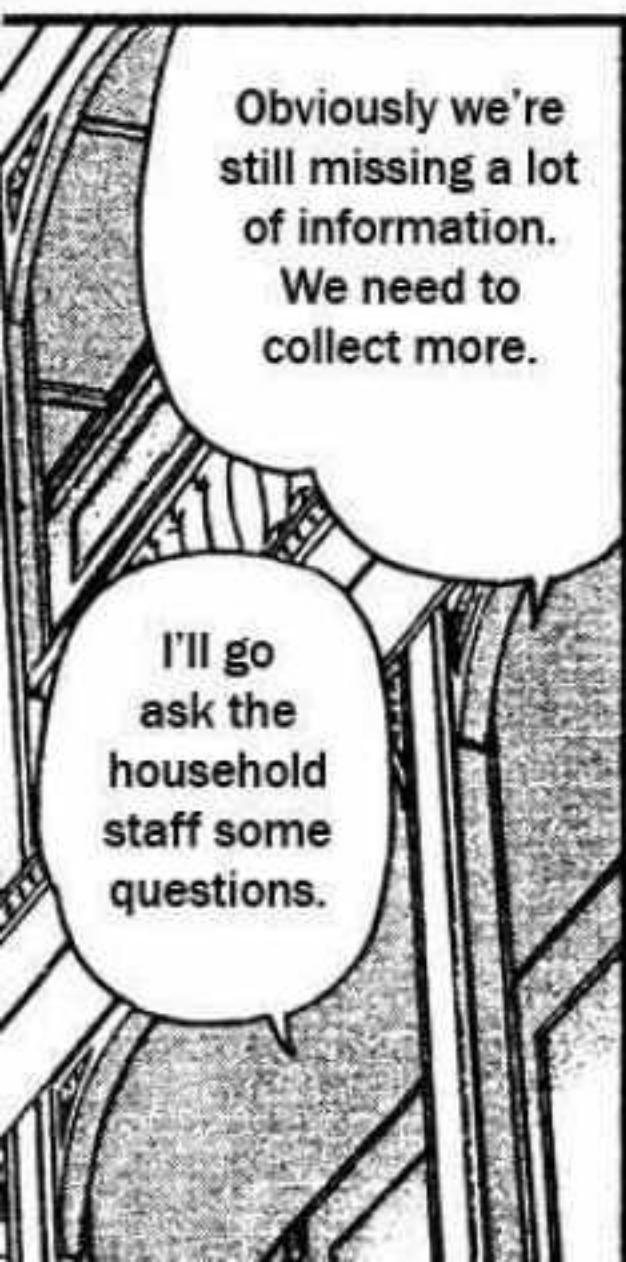
But at that time he was on the run, hiding from us.

Maybe Hideomi was forced to write the letter beforehand!



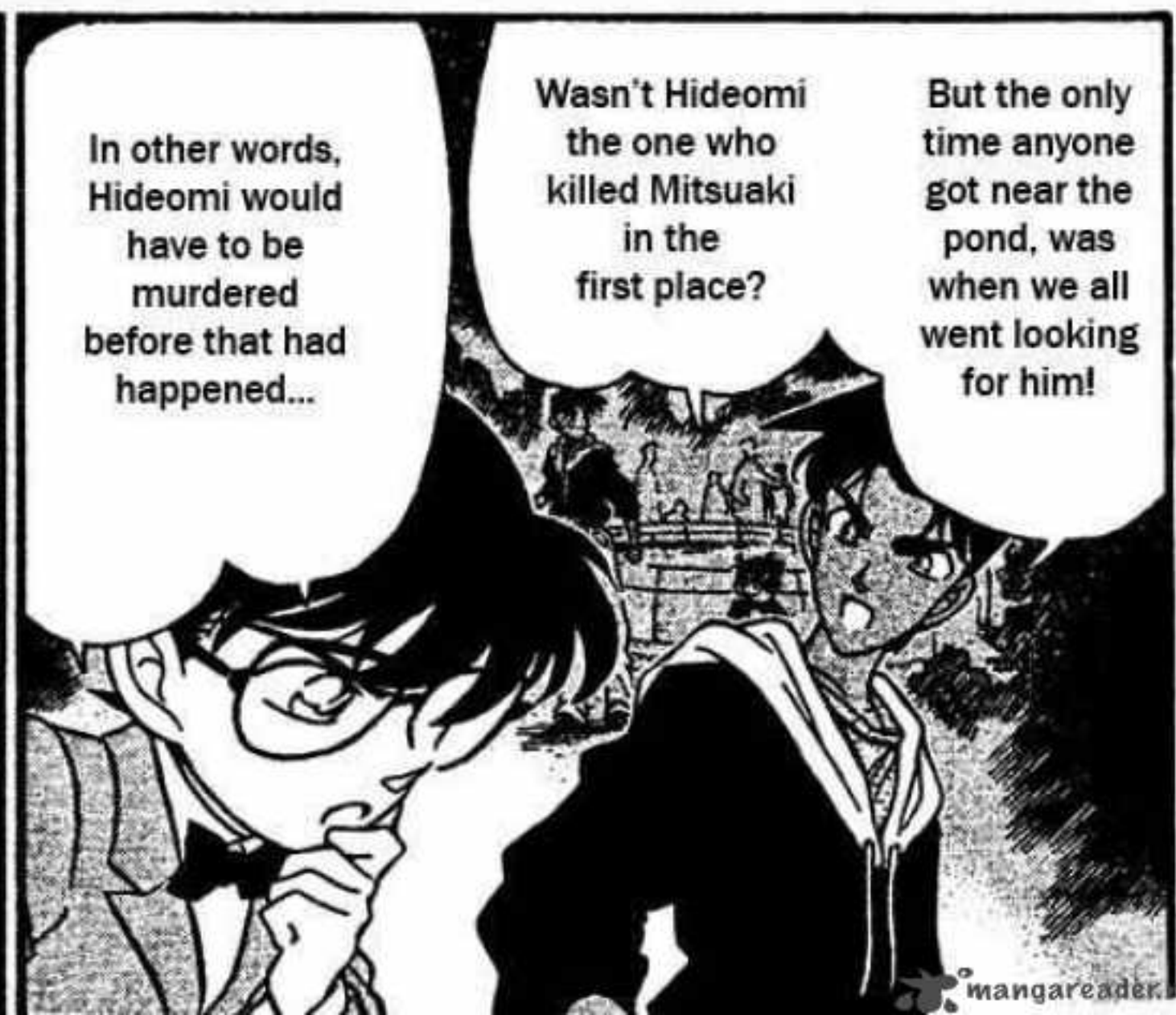
Meaning he wrote it after the murder!

It said, 'The sin I have committed.' ...



Obviously we're still missing a lot of information. We need to collect more.

I'll go ask the household staff some questions.



In other words, Hideomi would have to be murdered before that had happened...

Wasn't Hideomi the one who killed Mitsuaki in the first place?

But the only time anyone got near the pond, was when we all went looking for him!



Did you see anything suspicious?

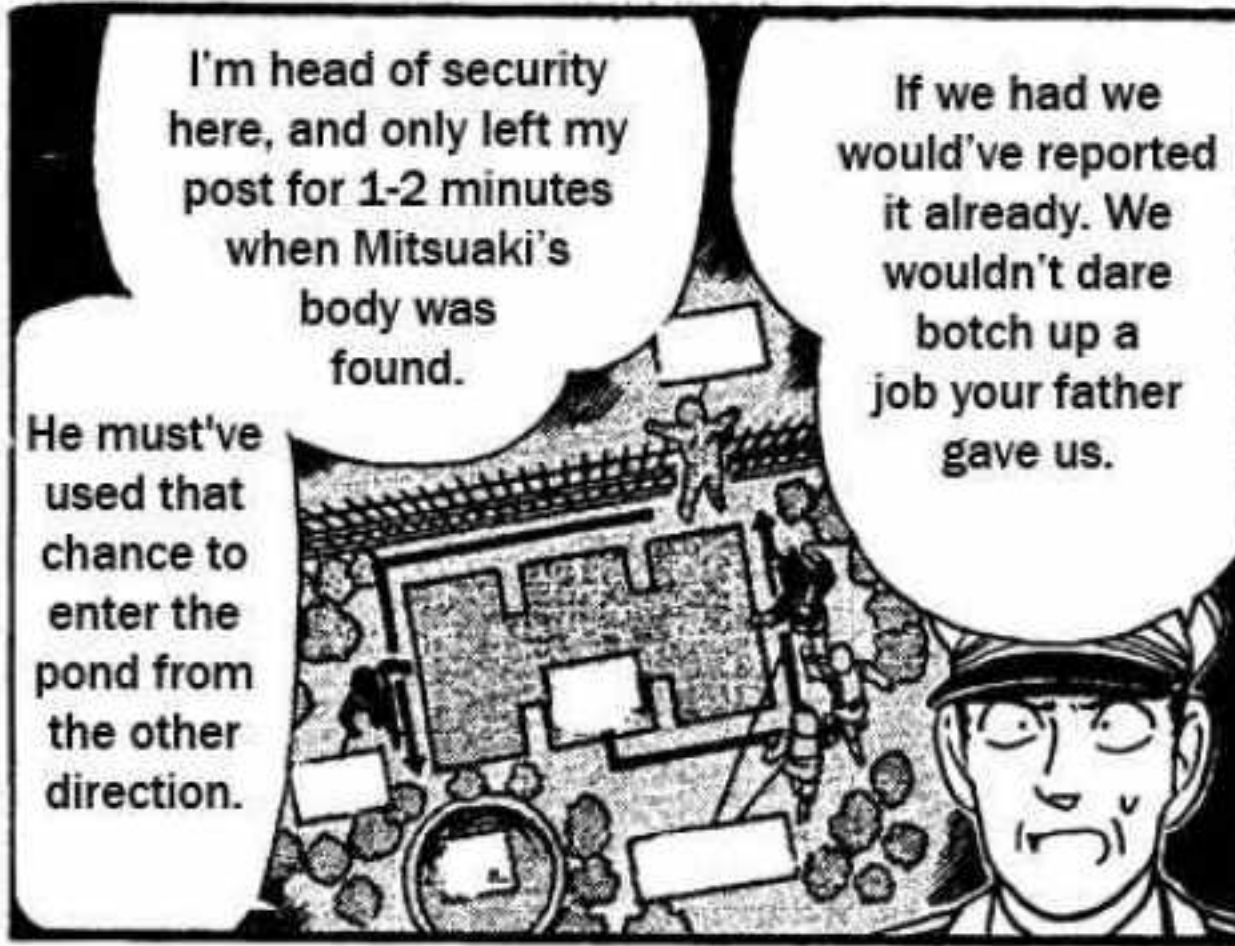
We're absolutely certain!

In that time, no one's gone out at all!



You're absolutely sure that no one's come out of this building?

That's right! These past three days we've been guarding this place very tightly!



I'm head of security here, and only left my post for 1-2 minutes when Mitsuaki's body was found.

If we had we would've reported it already. We wouldn't dare botch up a job your father gave us.

He must've used that chance to enter the pond from the other direction.



What? Mitsuaki?

When?

Ah! Now I remember! On the night of the party, the one single person who came outside was Mitsuaki!



So Mitsuaki headed back and was wandering around the pond. I wasn't sure what he was doing because it was too dark.



He told us to go find Hideomi, but I told him that we hadn't seen Hideomi come outside.

It was around 9:30.



He didn't often leave his room, so we don't know much about him.

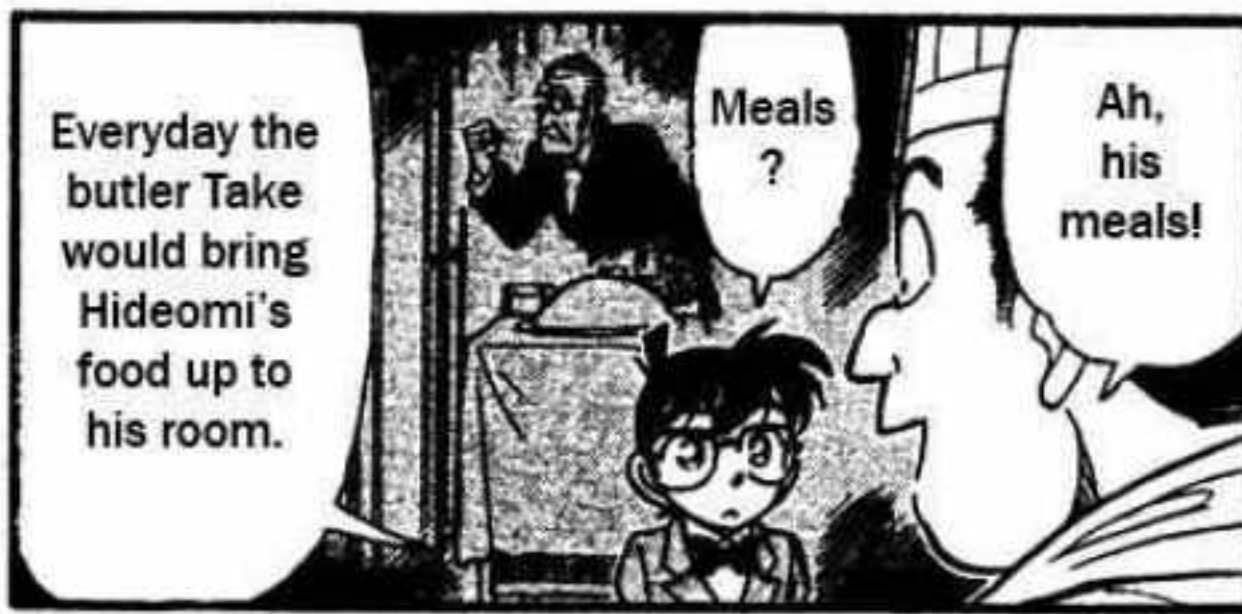
Ah, for a long time now he's been very reclusive.

Yes. Can you remember anything important?



The Mansion's Kitchen

Anything strange about Hideomi lately?



Everyday the butler Take would bring Hideomi's food up to his room.

Meals?

Ah, his meals!



Was his face always completely wrapped in bandages?

Everyone was glad, until...



But a few days recently he's been finishing all of his food, and even all of the dessert!

Normally Hideomi ate very little, and a lot of food went to waste.

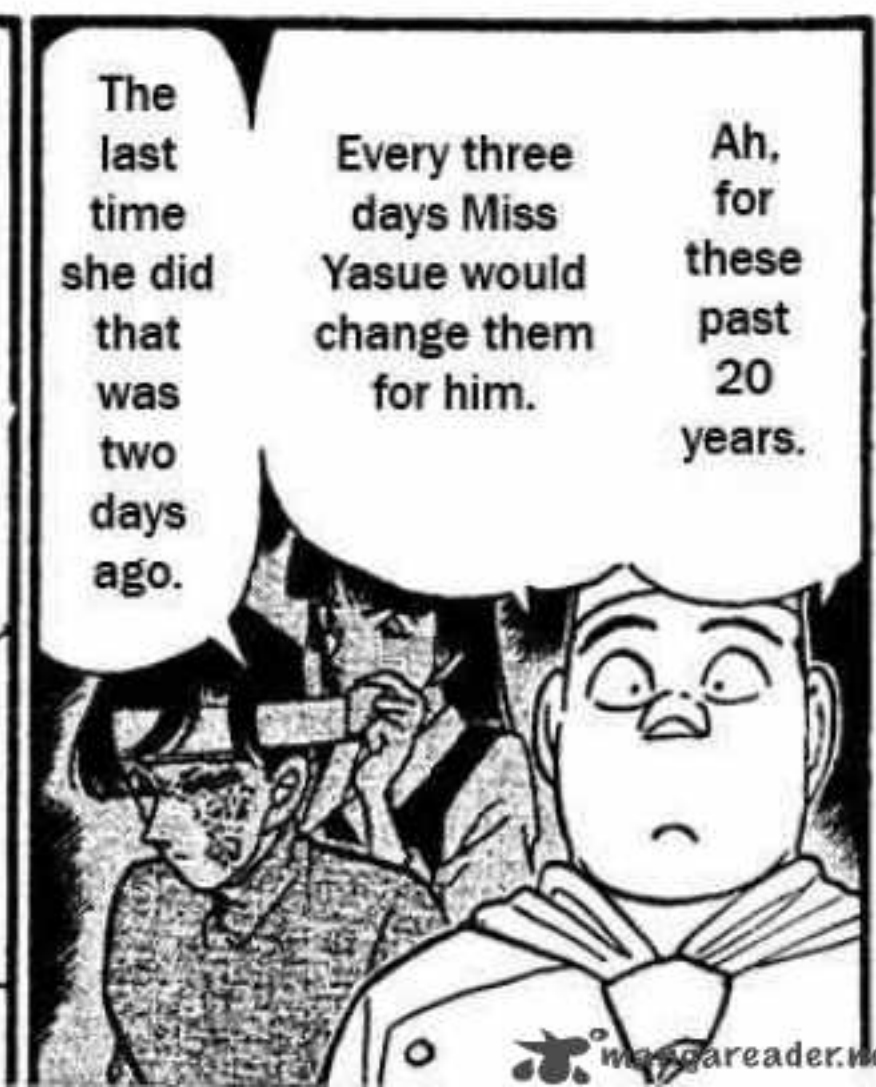


Hey, Kudou! Come here!



Did you count right?

Another strange thing! One of his bed sheets disappeared 3 days ago!



The last time she did that was two days ago.

Every three days Miss Yasue would change them for him.

Ah, for these past 20 years.



That's the balcony Mitsuaki was pushed off of...

What is that? It looks like something hit against it.



On the underside of Mitsuaki and Yasue's room's balcony!

Look at this!



Huh?

There's some more over here!



?



Uh!

Let's go check it out!



Dear old Miss Nobuko's room.

Whose room is that?



There are more marks here, and they're even clearer!



Nobuko's Room

Hurry up! If she catches us in here, it'll be a bother!



Ah, sorry, sorry to bother you ...

Wow! He's fast!

Hello! Nobuko speaking, who is it?



Hey, should we pick it up?

I'll change the settings to sound like Miss Nobuko's ...



Ah, did you forget? Remember those messages you left me two days ago? You were dead drunk...

So what's this about?



Two days ago?

Yeah, you left a bunch of half-hour messages before 10:00 at night...



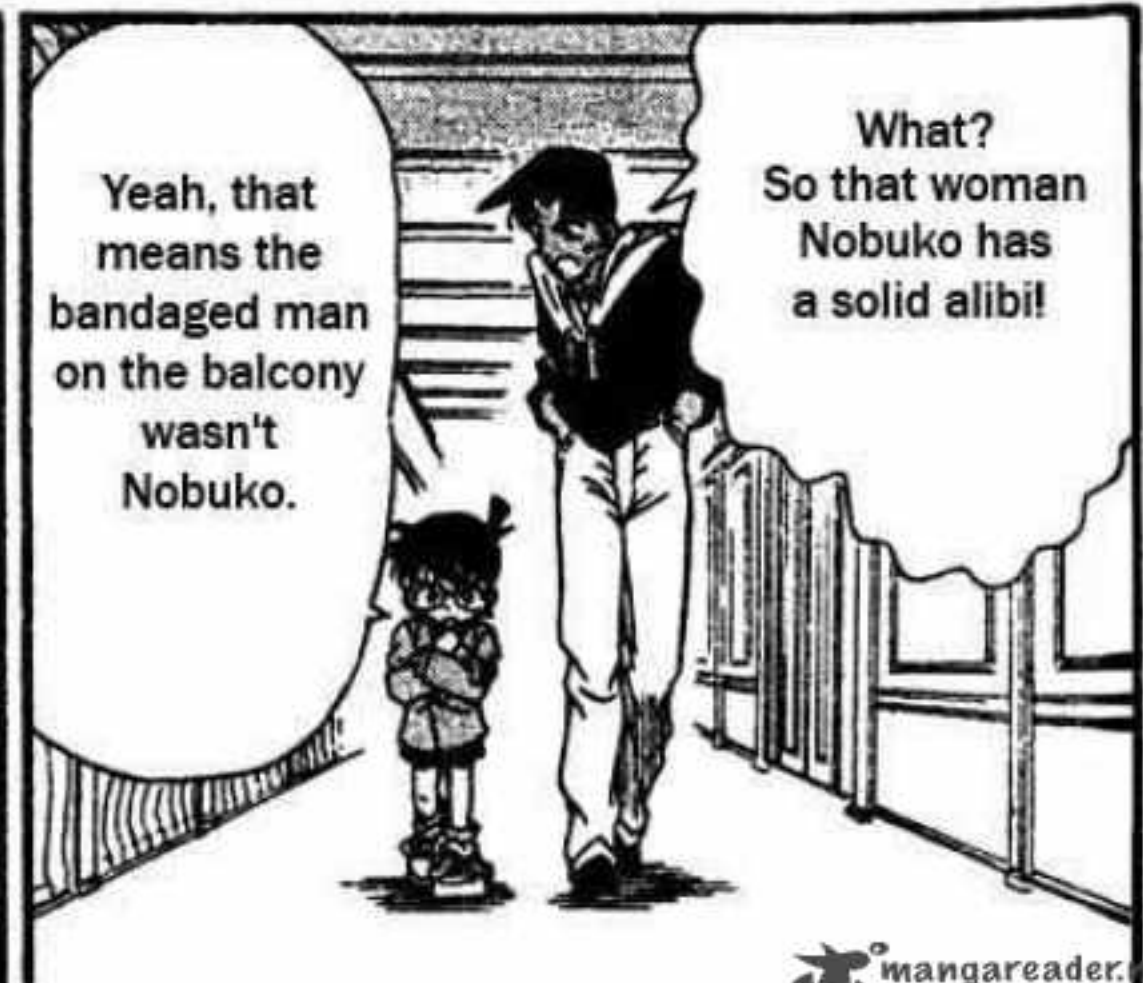
Bye!

But, it's obvious you don't remember, so never mind.



We need to search his room.

So we return to the original suspect: Hideomi.



Yeah, that means the bandaged man on the balcony wasn't Nobuko.

What? So that woman Nobuko has a solid alibi!

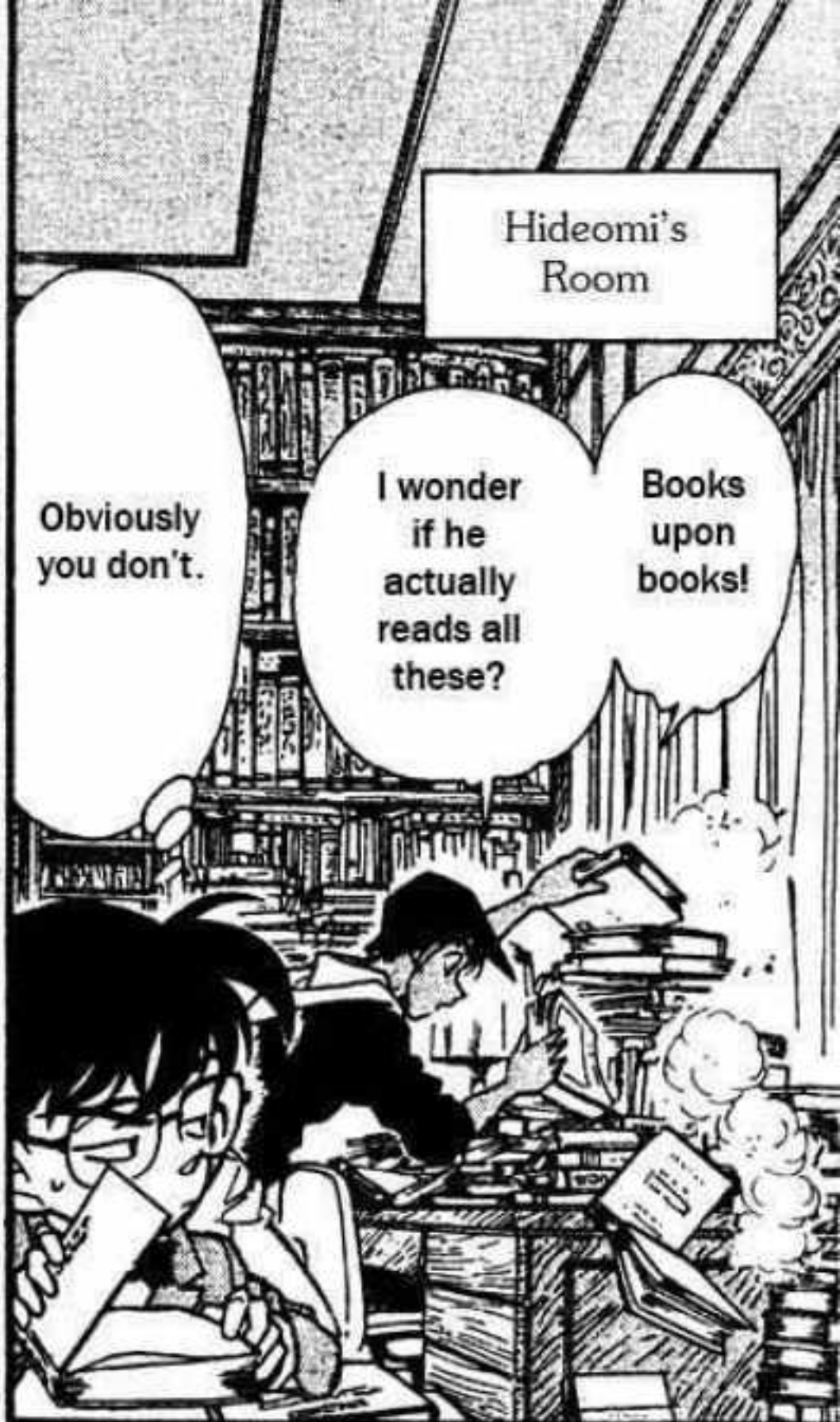


Really?

Ah!
Here's an
answering
machine with
messages!

Let's
listen!

!

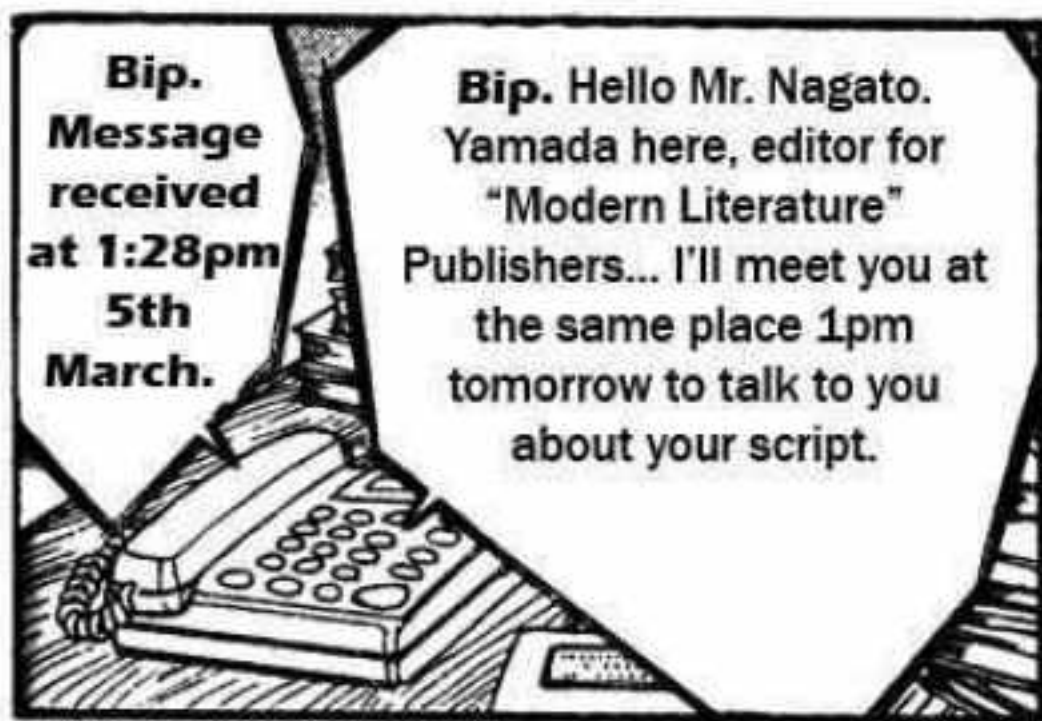


Hideomi's
Room

Obviously
you don't.

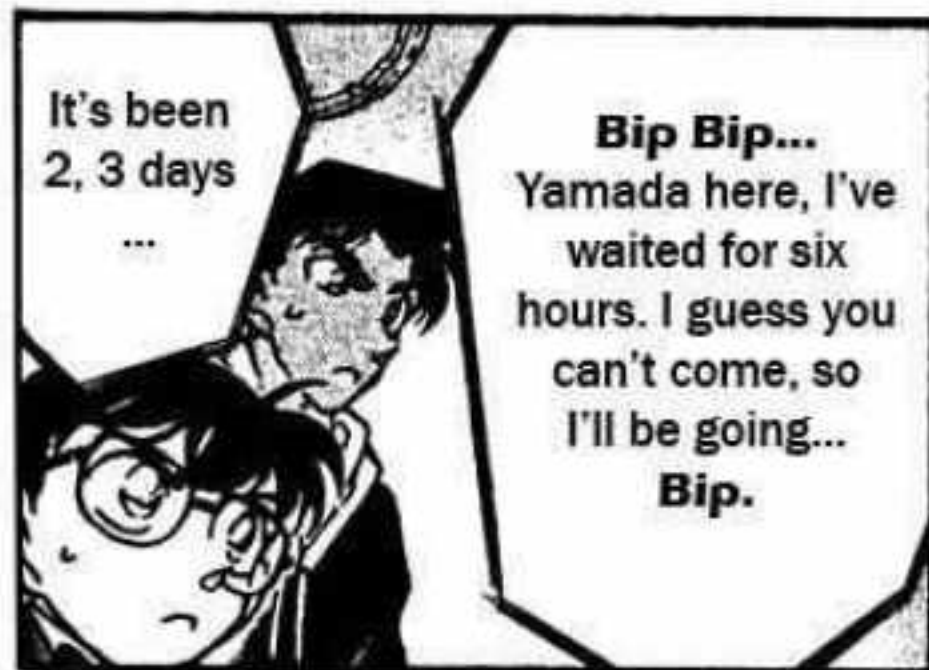
I wonder
if he
actually
reads all
these?

Books
upon
books!



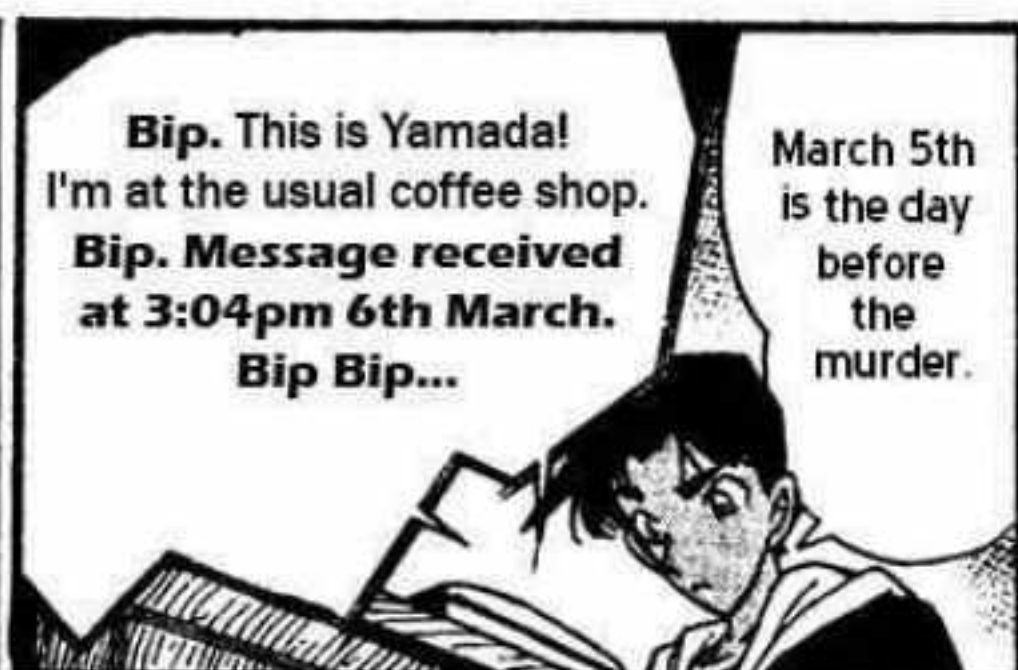
Bip.
Message
received
at 1:28pm
5th
March.

Bip. Hello Mr. Nagato.
Yamada here, editor for
"Modern Literature"
Publishers... I'll meet you at
the same place 1pm
tomorrow to talk to you
about your script.



It's been
2, 3 days
...

Bip Bip...
Yamada here, I've
waited for six
hours. I guess you
can't come, so
I'll be going...
Bip.



Bip. This is Yamada!
I'm at the usual coffee shop.
**Bip. Message received
at 3:04pm 6th March.
Bip Bip...**

March 5th
is the day
before
the
murder.



!?

No way! His
estimated
time of
death was
...



Hey, can it be
Hideomi was
...



If so, then the killer can only be that person, and no one else!

I've got it! The killer used that method to hide Hideomi's body!



Mitsuaki-Yasue's Room

Then the evidence has to be here!

If our hypothesis is correct ...

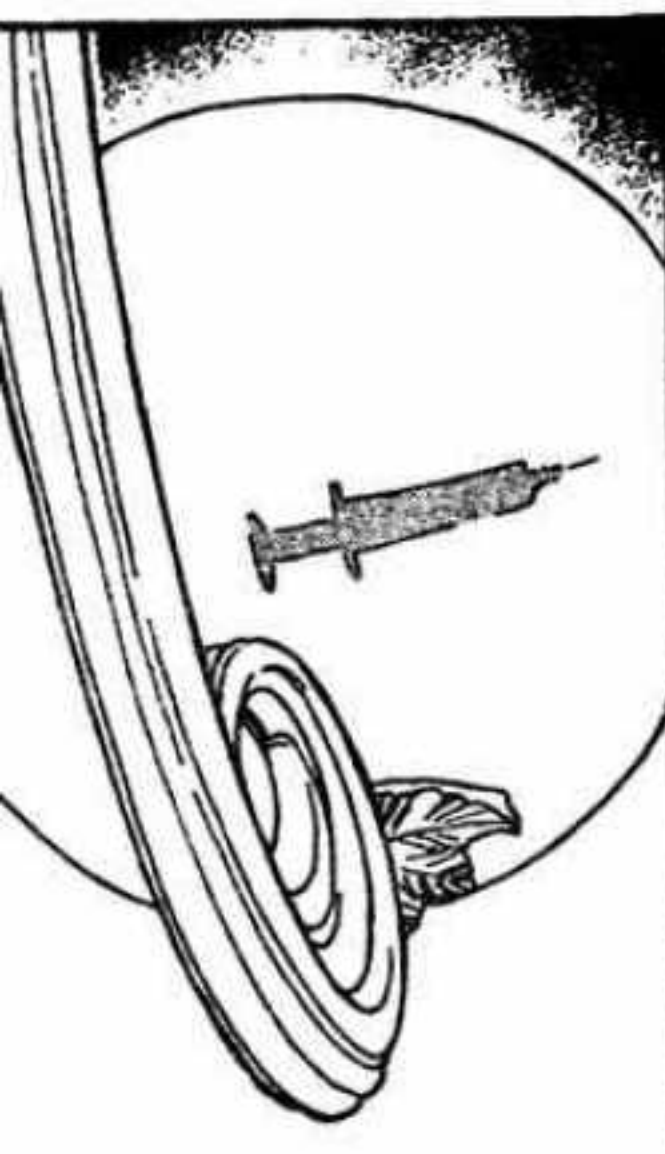


Shh! Quiet!

There's no one there ...



!



It's up there!



And a swimming cap!

Here! The bed sheet!

I've found also something.

!



Sorry, sorry... I forgot!

Give back Miss Hyuga's pen!



So here you guys are!



It's 6:50pm!



Huh? What time is it, Miss Hyuga?

And what are you still doing here? It's nearly time to go home!



Can you go tell everyone to meet up there at 8 o'clock?

That would be my room!

Miss Hyuga, Whose room is directly above that of Miss Nobuko's?



Er... OK...

Lucky! That means the convenient store's still open! Ran, could you go buy me the stuff on this list, please?



What's with-

Ran! Can you call uncle Mouri up here as well?



When you've bought them can you bring them up to the room? They're needed!

What about the items?

Remember to tell them not to be late!



Miyuki Hyuga's Room

...We're still missing an important piece of the puzzle!

We have all the necessary equipment, and a logical deduction ...

And yet ...

Yeah.



Alright, he's been sedated using the tranquiliser watch.

Zzz... Zzz...



It's true we were a bit... silly. We completely forgot about that!

And that's... evidence! Where is the evidence?



They'll be here in ten minutes!

7:40pm!

Hey, check what time it is now!



Why did that person ...

Wait a minute ...



?



Shut up! Aren't you the western ...

It's your fault! Why didn't you remember? Aren't you the great eastern detective??



Yes!
Extremely
simple!

Aha!
So simple
and yet
I couldn't
figure it out!



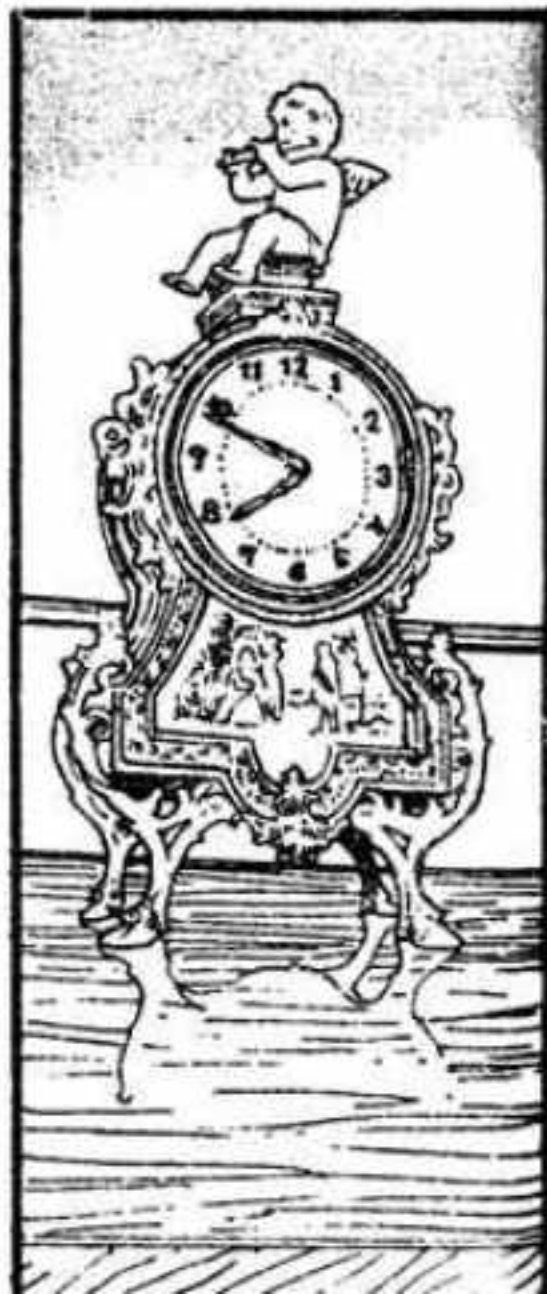
Huh?

Hattori!

Have
you
ever
...



All good!
Everything's
still going
according
to schedule!



Huh?



...Have you ever
killed someone?



I told Hattori to ask everyone to come up here!

Huh? Where is he?



What do you want to tell us, Hattori?

We're all here!



I'd like to tell you all that I have found...

What is it, Mouri?

So it was you, dad!



Hey now! It was Hideomi who killed Mitsuaki! Then he poisoned himself in the pond! Even the handwriting on the letter matched up with...



...And threw Hideomi into the pond!

The person who killed Mitsuaki ...

