

VOLUME 16  
FILE.3

# BONDS OF FLAME





The night of that tragic event!

So that we can recreate ...

Now then, please pick it up, Inspector ...

P.I.N.S.



Starting? What, here? I'm helping Kogoro...

What the heck are you starting?



Hey! It's me!

Hello?

Hattori?



The room b-below ?

The room below! Take a look!



Moreover, this guy has a knife!

Don't know! Someone cut the lights and attacked me...

Where are you now?



What's happened ?

What the hell're you doing? YAHH!!





It's just me...

Who are you!?

!?



Hattori !?



In order to frame Hideomi!

Were all an elaborate act by Mitsuaki...



This was to show "the murderer's" plan... The alarming phone call, the knife and bandaged face...

What are you doing?



I found a cap and syringe needle in Mitsuaki's room.

The bandages and hat likely belonged to Hideomi, so he wore a swimming cap to hold down his own hair.



He made those cuts himself...

That's absurd! The killer was covered in Mitsuaki's blood... plus there were cuts on Mitsuaki's body!

Mitsuaki only needs a syringe to withdraw his blood beforehand and spray it on the bandages.



Why would he do all that?

But Mitsuaki was the one murdered!



That's why he lured everyone downstairs while he climbed up here!

Most likely to kill Mr. Nagato.



But at the last minute the accomplice betrayed him... Killed by the person who stayed behind...



Right - the plan was probably for Mitsuaki to kill the president and return below while his accomplice kept everyone downstairs.



An accomplice?

Yes, the same man his accomplice drugged.

Mr. Nagato!?

**It  
was  
you!**

**Miyuki  
Hyuga,**

...waiting for  
him up here  
to push him  
off the  
balcony!

Mitsuaki  
probably never  
expected for  
things to end  
so horribly.  
His partner-  
in-crime...

It  
can't  
be  
...

What?  
Miss  
Hyuga?

Mitsuaki had a  
grappling wire  
ready in his  
jacket pocket  
to kill  
Mr. Nagato!

He likely tossed his  
knife, bandages and  
hat outside before  
his climb.

But then  
the knife  
should have  
fallen with  
Mitsuaki?

Furthermore,  
a knife  
wasn't  
needed.



Nobody would suspect a dead man had used a trick!

Clearly everyone saw the bandaged man on the balcony...and straight afterwards Mitsuaki's body was found!

Naturally, Miyuki's only target was Mitsuaki!

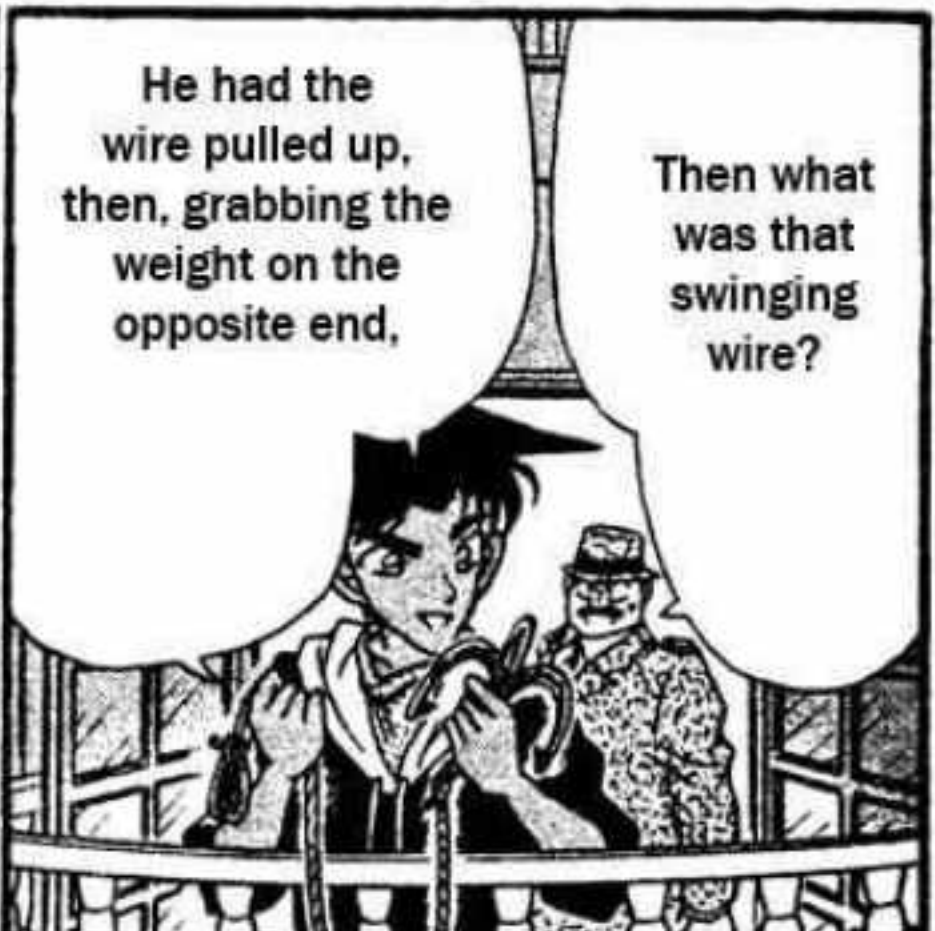


The weight will make the rope swing back and forth as if someone had just climbed it!



it'll hit the balcony and stops on its own.

Let it hook onto the railing below ...



He had the wire pulled up, then, grabbing the weight on the opposite end,

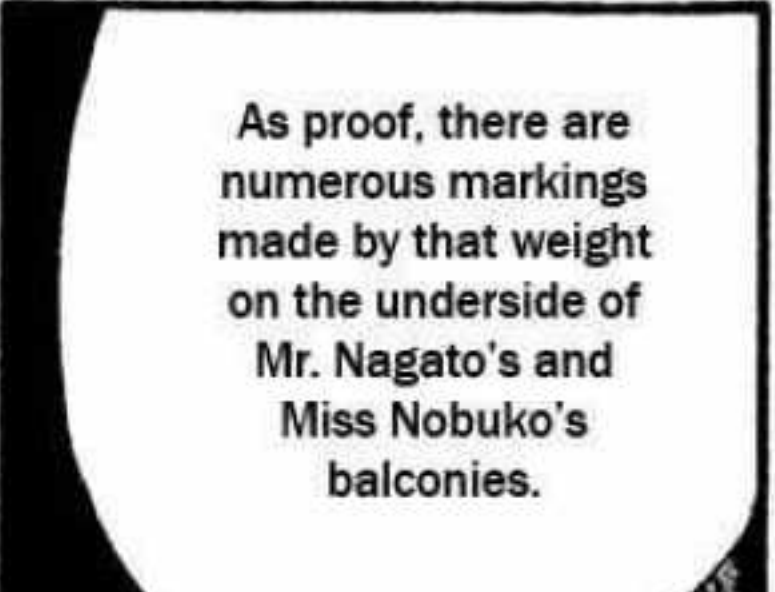
Then what was that swinging wire?



He even heard their footsteps running in the hallway.

Mr. Nagato!?

Miss Nobuko is often blind drunk so she wouldn't hear anything. But Mr. Nagato clearly heard the sounds.



As proof, there are numerous markings made by that weight on the underside of Mr. Nagato's and Miss Nobuko's balconies.

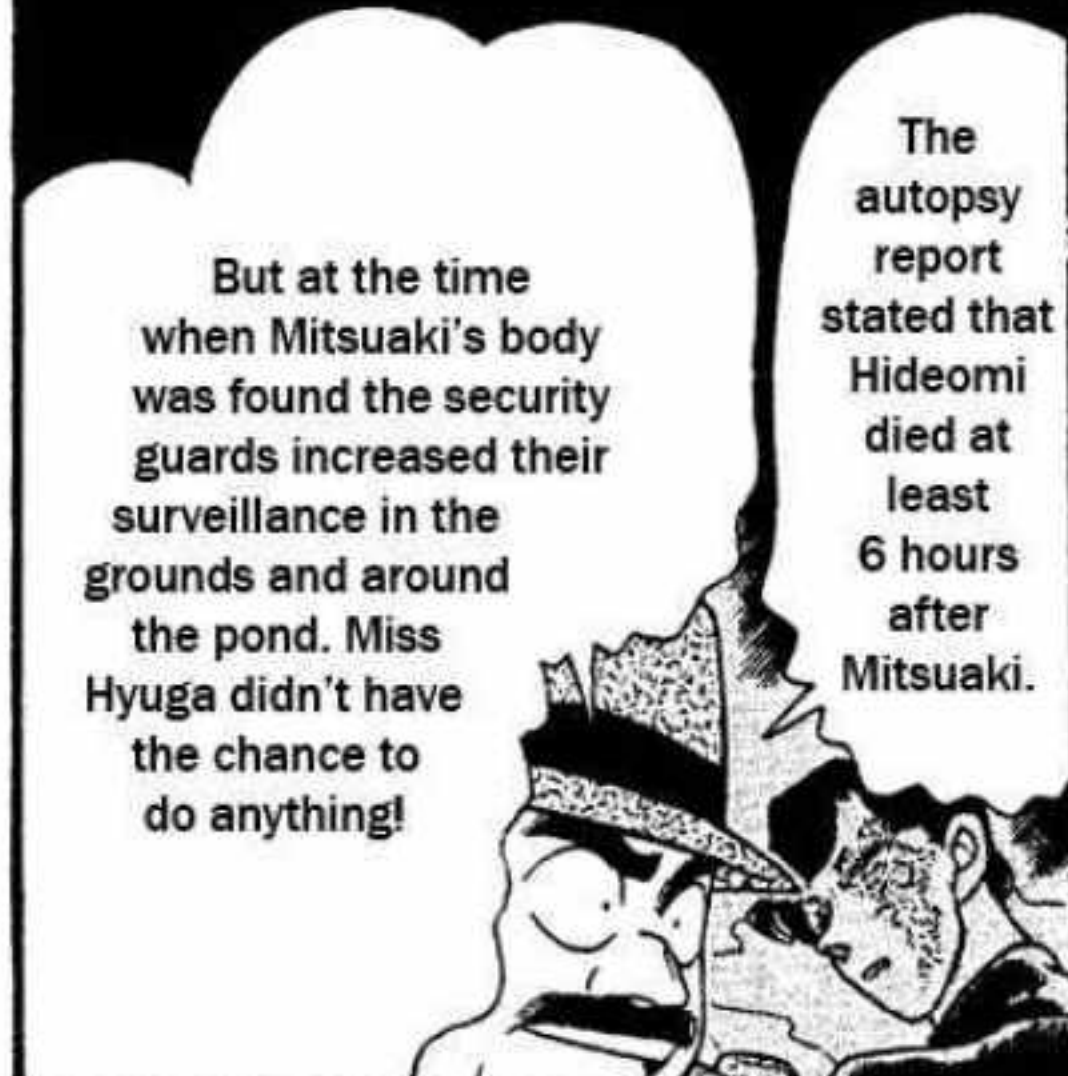


That would be the length of time she needed to stall everyone while Mitsuaki did the deed.

That could have been Miss Hyuga measuring the time it takes to get from Mitsuaki's room to the storage room where the spare key is kept.




Miyuki probably tested it the day before to see.




But at the time when Mitsuaki's body was found the security guards increased their surveillance in the grounds and around the pond. Miss Hyuga didn't have the chance to do anything!

The autopsy report stated that Hideomi died at least 6 hours after Mitsuaki.




Are you saying she killed Hideomi too? And what about the will!?

In other words, she had planned this murder the day before!




What!?

I already told you, Inspector. Her only target was Mitsuaki.




The handwriting in that letter really is Hideomi's. He left it for Miss Hyuga before he drank the poison.

Which is the day before Mitsuaki was murdered!



But the coroner said that Hideomi hadn't been dead for that long...

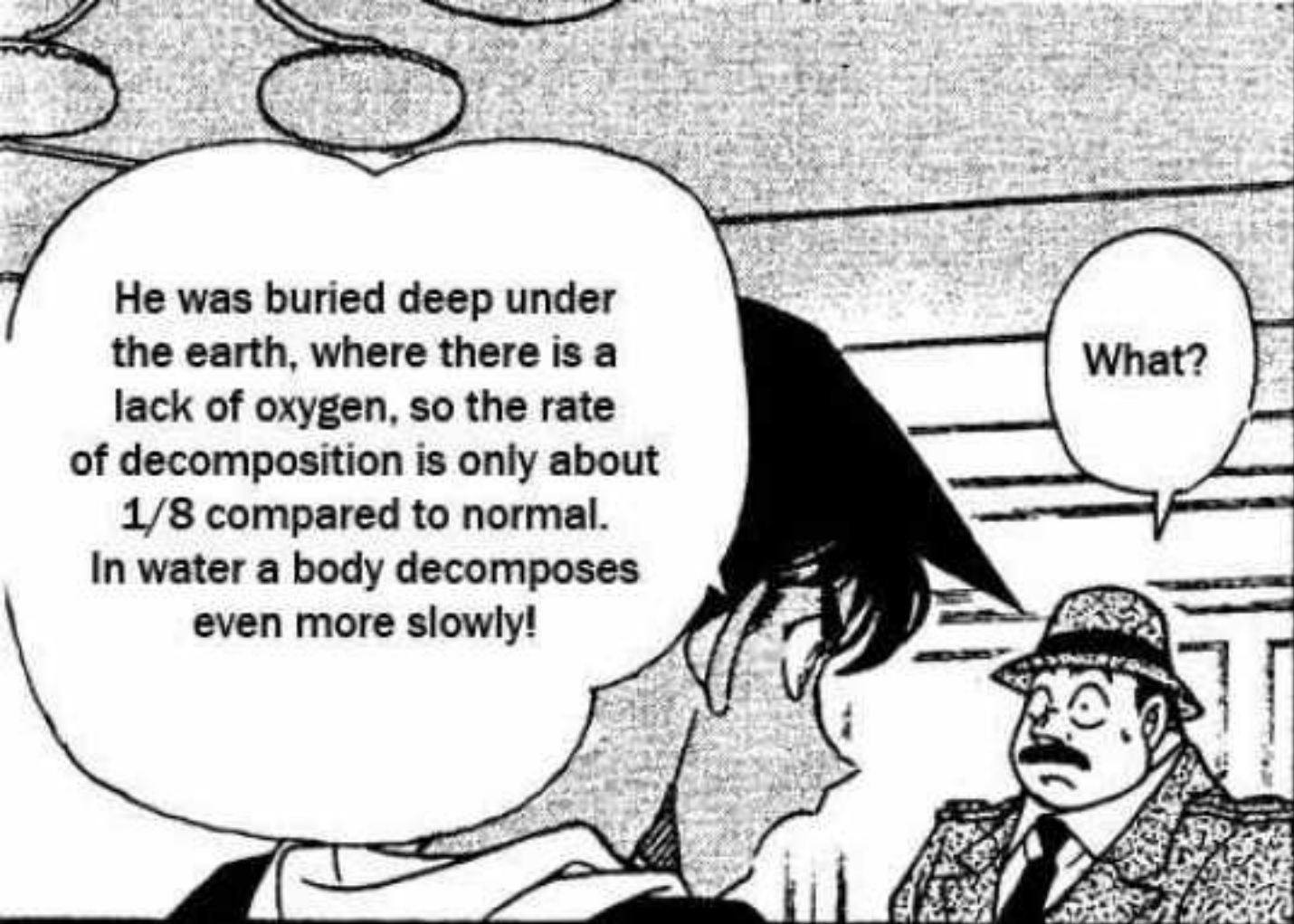
That's right! As soon as Miss Hyuga found out about Hideomi's death she set about implementing her plan.




The day before ?

The-







He was buried deep under the earth, where there is a lack of oxygen, so the rate of decomposition is only about 1/8 compared to normal. In water a body decomposes even more slowly!



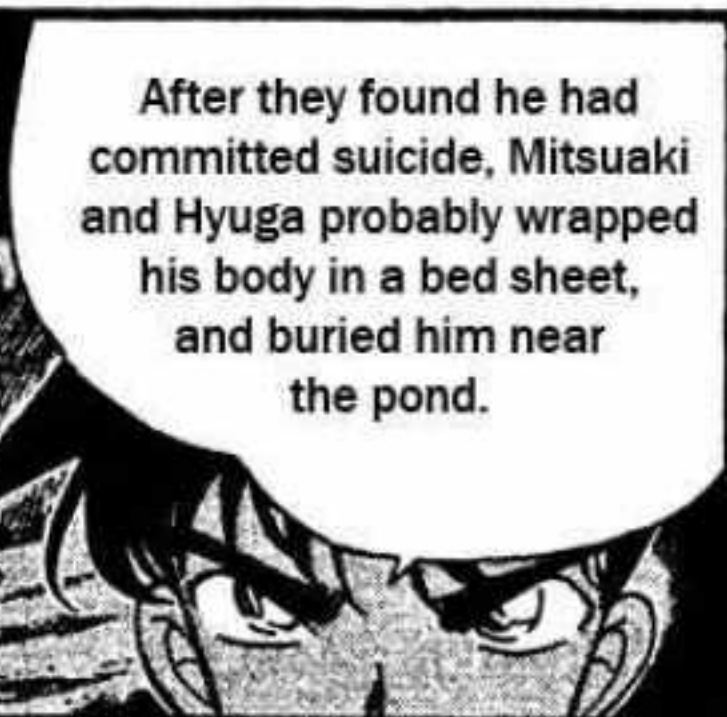
What?




The ground.



They made use of the holes that had already been dug in the garden.



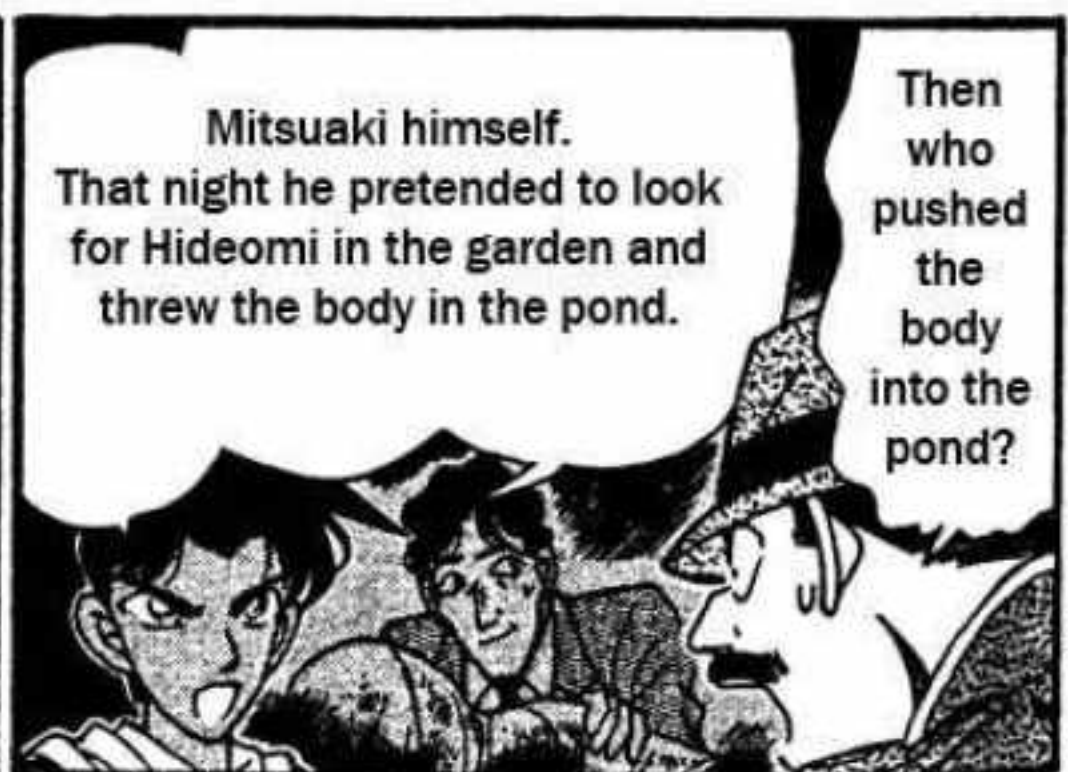
After they found he had committed suicide, Mitsuaki and Hyuga probably wrapped his body in a bed sheet, and buried him near the pond.



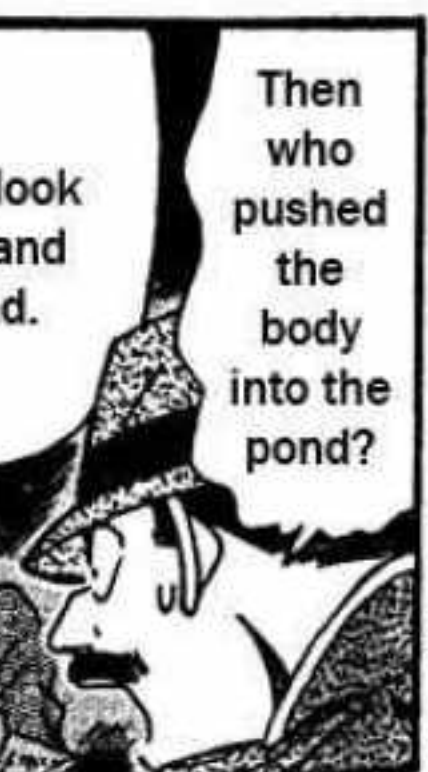
Meanwhile, I found a bed sheet covered in dirt in his room!




Before the murder happened, security guards saw him around the pond.




Mitsuaki himself. That night he pretended to look for Hideomi in the garden and threw the body in the pond.




Then who pushed the body into the pond?



No, no! What you saw was...



But Mr. Detective, we saw Hideomi the day of the murder...



It was also with the intention of checking to see if Mitsuaki had acted according to the plan for everyone.



When Miss Hyuga asked Ran to watch over Mr. Nagato for her...



But why would Mitsuaki quietly follow Miss Hyuga's orders?

Just listen to the answering machine in Hideomi's room, it will clear everything up



They wanted everyone to believe Hideomi was still alive, and to blame Mr. Nagato's murder on him!

The bandaged person that we saw was either Mitsuaki or Hyuga disguised!



That can't be!



"I have a good way for you to take the title of president and place all the blame on Hideomi."

She probably told him this ...



Do you have any evidence to back all this up?



She couldn't possibly frame him!

Hideomi saved her life...



Wait, what's this about!

?



Tell me Miyuki, do you have the time?



Because its strap broke.

No, you didn't forget to put it on. You can't put it on!

Ah... I'm so forgetful so...



And Miss Hyuga, where is your watch? Before this you were constantly wearing it.

Ah, well ...



He suddenly grabbed your watch ...

When you pushed Mitsuaki off ...



You were afraid that he'd pull the watch with him when he fell and you would be found out ...

You two struggled like that for a while...



Could it be ...

Could-

Something?

So you quickly stabbed his right hand with something so that he would let go.

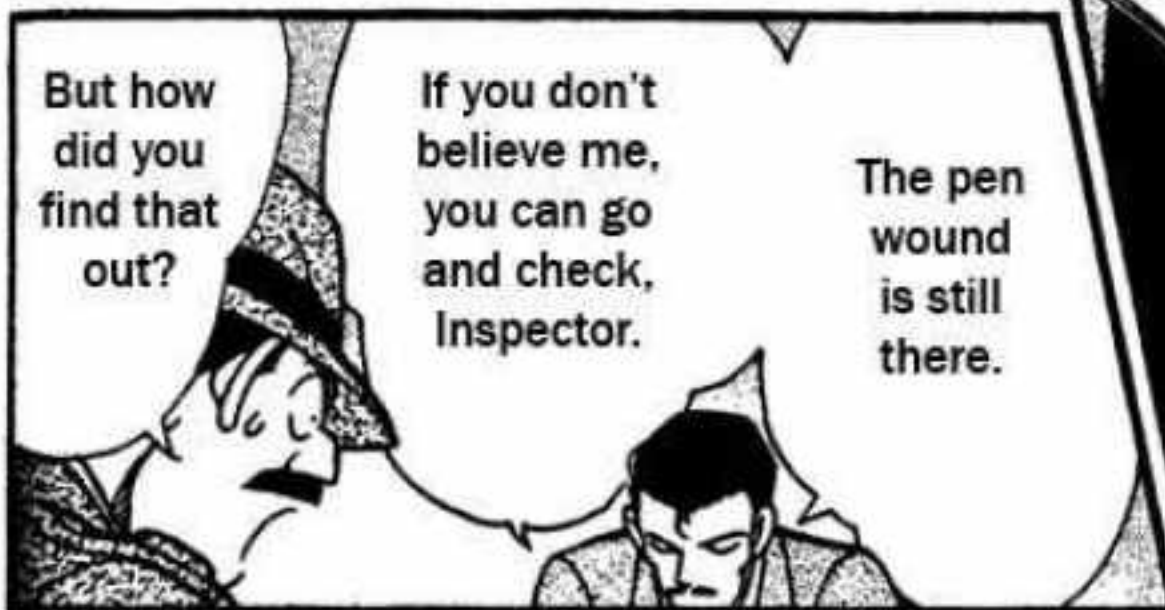


With her father's keepsake pen!

Right! She used her teeth to open the lid and stabbed his hand with her pen!



Her pen!



But how did you find that out?

If you don't believe me, you can go and check, Inspector.

The pen wound is still there.



But saw that the top was broken.

I took the cap off to write some notes...



20 years ago, the ones who caused that fire ...

The fire was probably the cause.



But why would Miss Hyuga ...

And there were teeth marks ...

Not even a fire could bend something like that!



Is that true?

What!?



Were none other than Mitsuaki and Hideomi!



And if there was more to his will in which he confessed everything...

Assuming Hideomi didn't fix his burn scars to atone for his sin,

..Everything would fit.



So why?

The police would've found him soon enough ...



Did you do it on purpose?

Why did you make Nobuko angry so we'd find Hideomi?



But there's something I don't get ...

I see, it was revenge for her parents who died in the fire...



?

Dash!



I didn't want to leave him in cold water any more...

Because that person ...

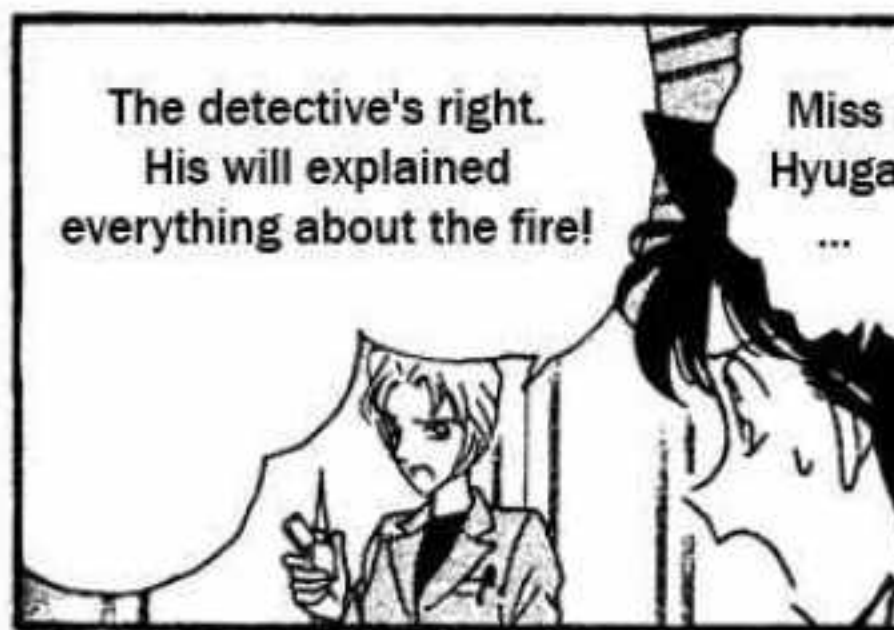


I'm serious!

Don't be so foolish!

Hey, hey ...

All of you, stay back! This flask is full of petrol!



The detective's right. His will explained everything about the fire!

Miss Hyuga ...



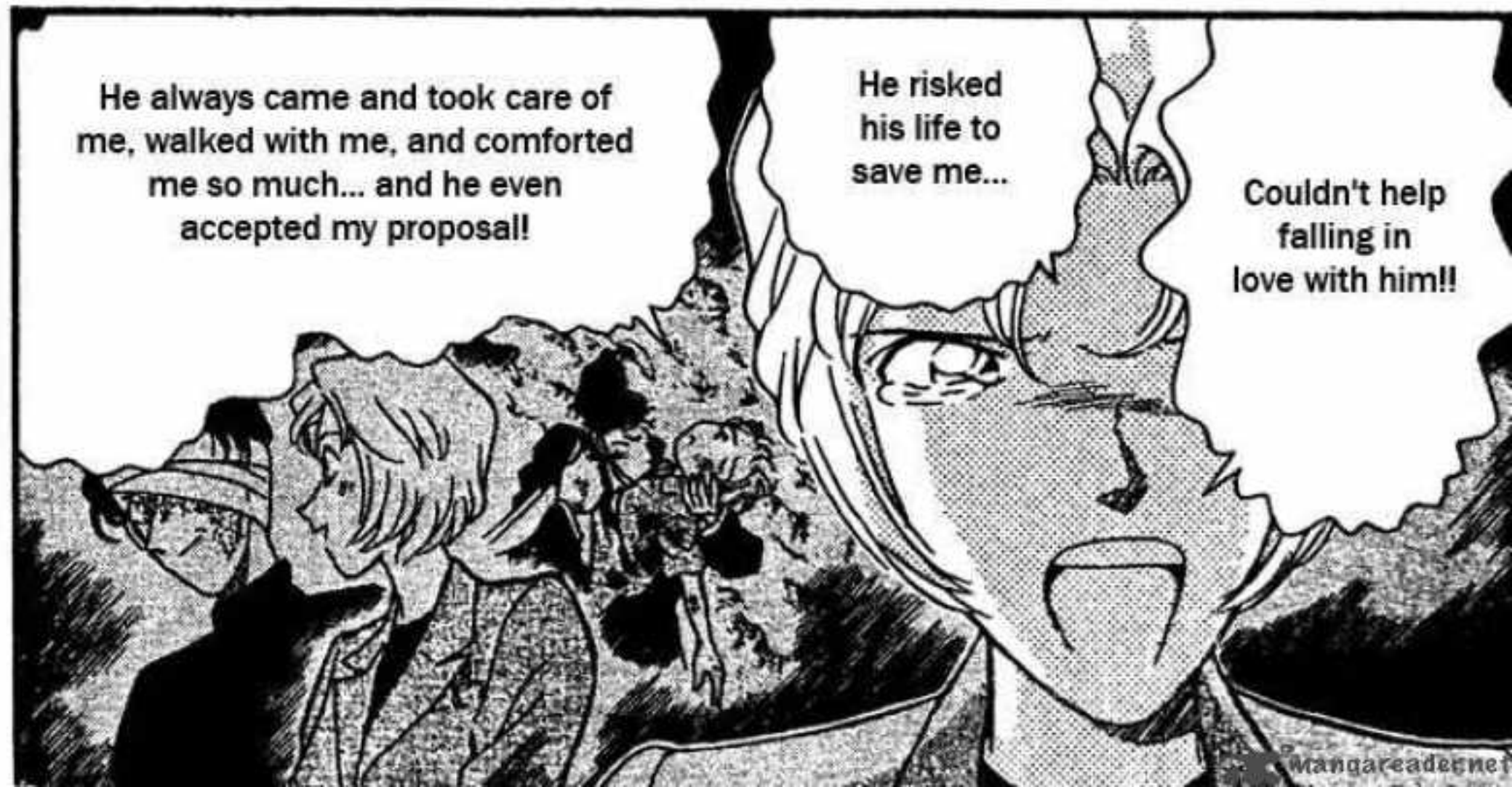
But, I...

But ...



And Hideomi, who never said a word about it!

They had to pay... that carefree Mitsuaki...



He always came and took care of me, walked with me, and comforted me so much... and he even accepted my proposal!

He risked his life to save me...

Couldn't help falling in love with him!!



Don't!

I have to hurry to him ...

But Hideomi is gone now... I'm all alone again.



Why! WHY? WHY!?

We've taken out all the petrol.

Useless.



Why won't mine !?

Hideomi's fire lit so easily!!!



Fool.

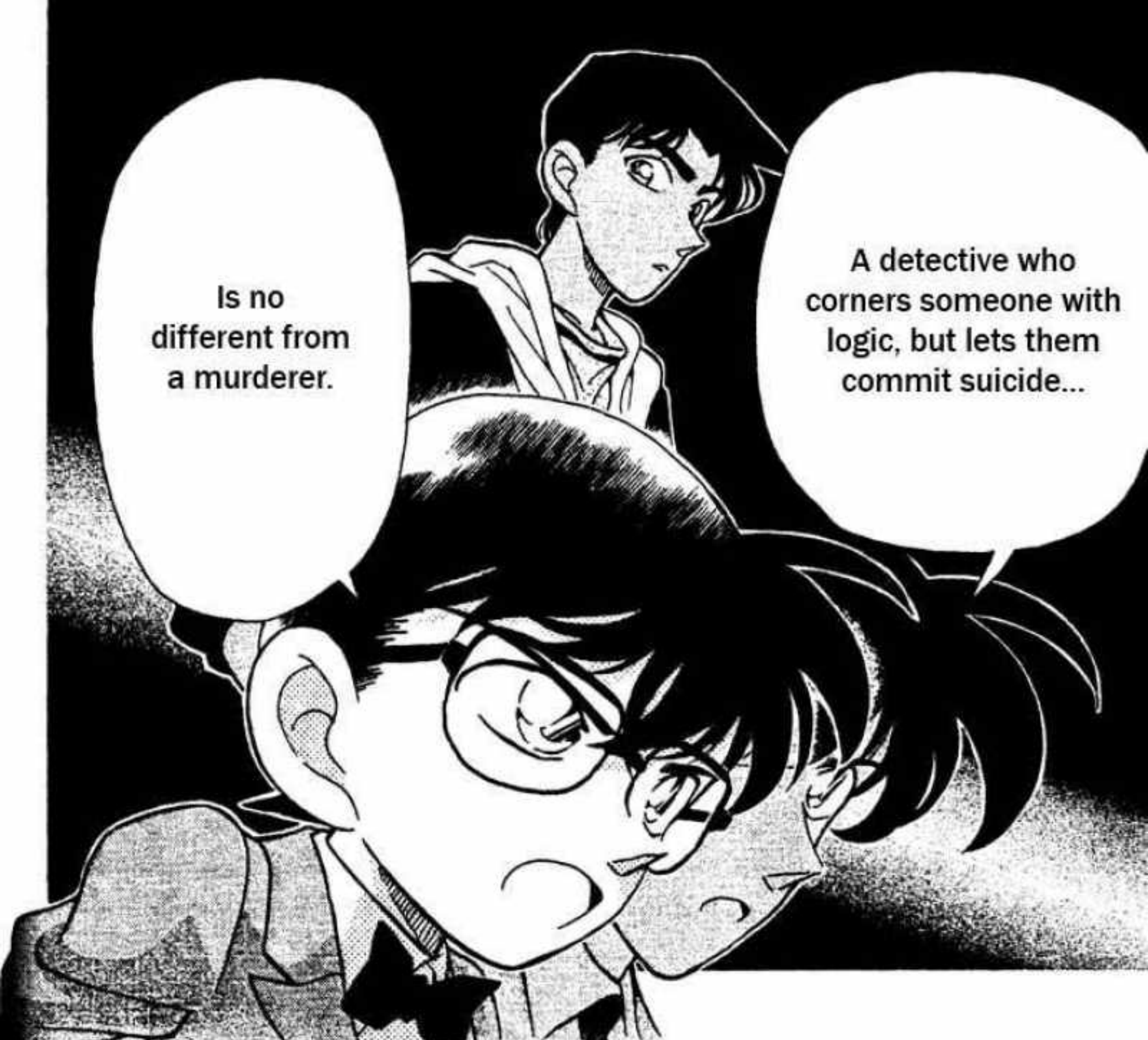
Maybe we should've let her die...

HIDEOMI!

Hide-omi ...

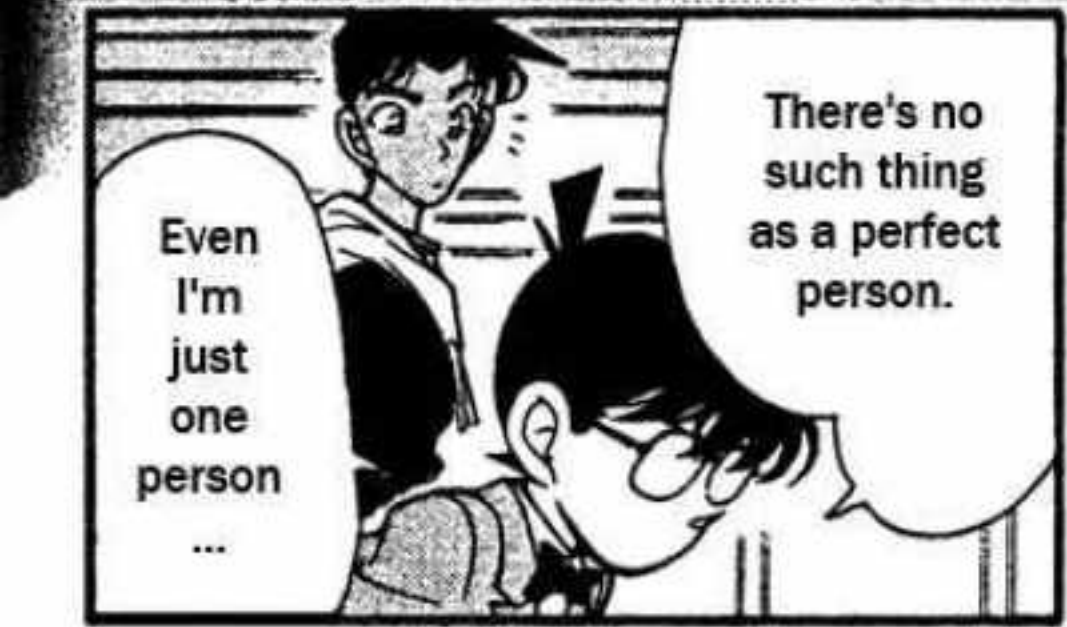
I want to be with Hideomi ...

Stay back !




Is no  
different from  
a murderer.

A detective who  
corners someone with  
logic, but lets them  
commit suicide...




Even  
I'm  
just  
one  
person  
...

There's no  
such thing  
as a perfect  
person.



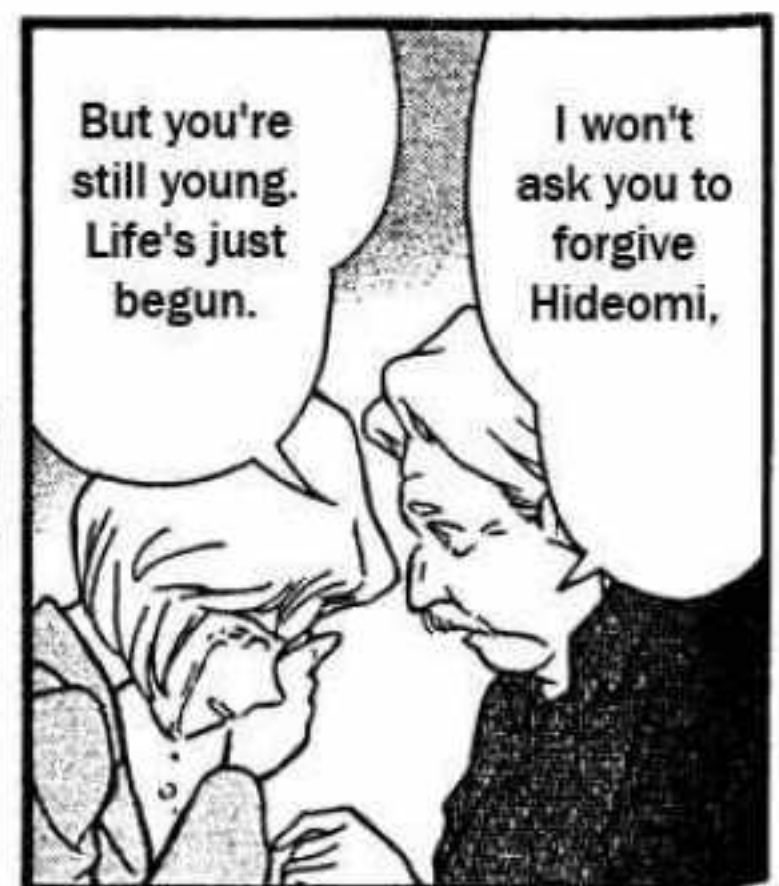
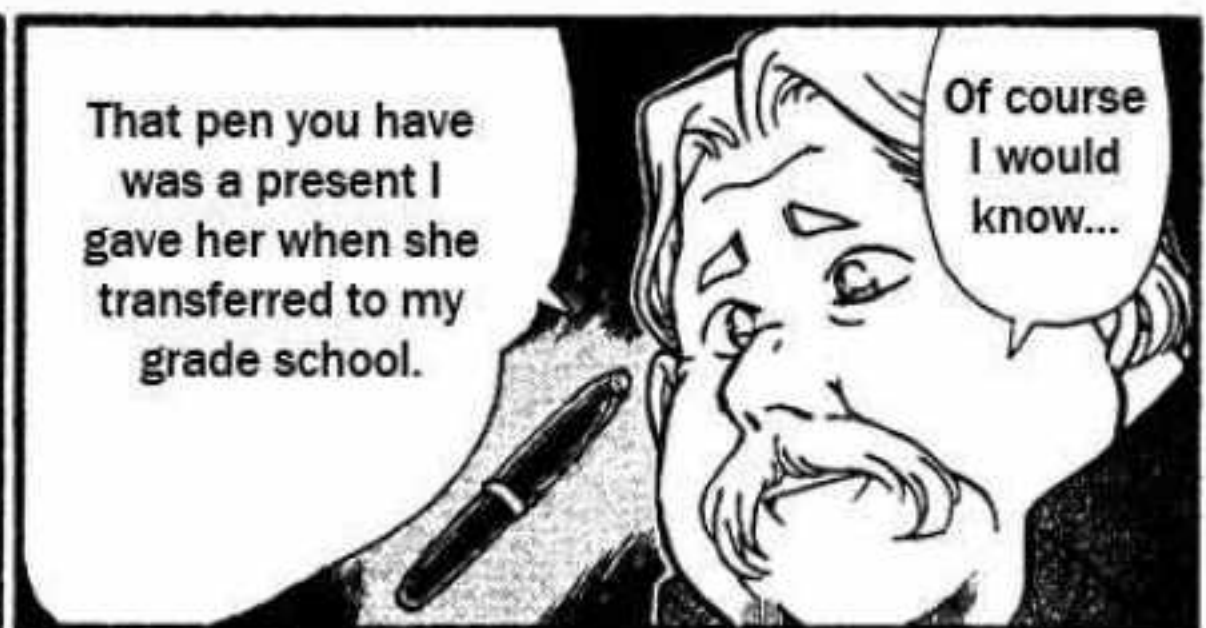
To hear  
the perfect  
one say  
such a  
line...

Such  
pain to  
my ears  
...



Only  
one  
person  
...







kudo: too much; annoying

