

めい たん てい
名探偵

VOLUME **17**

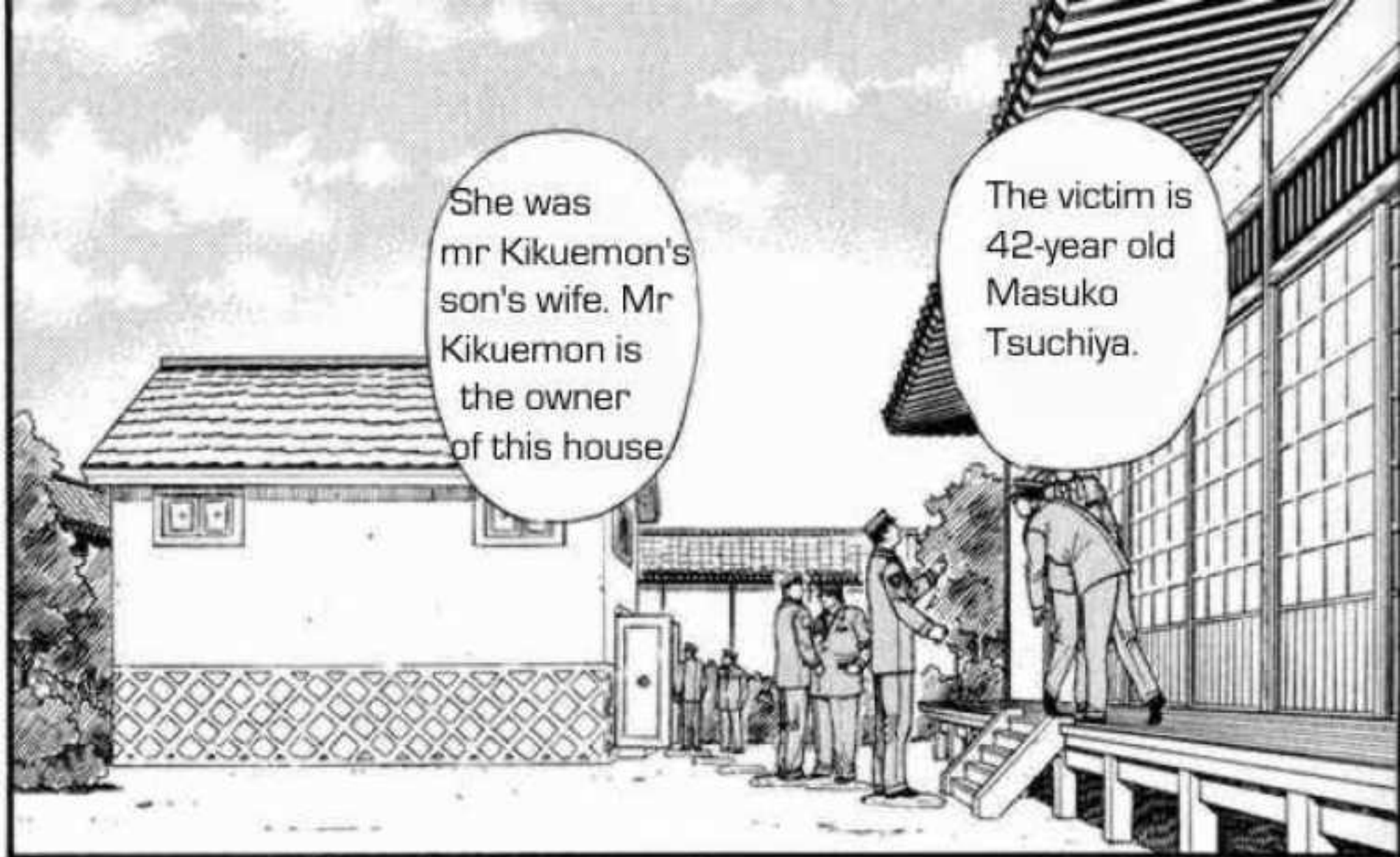


あお やま こう しょう
青山剛昌

FILE. 1

The unmoving
evidence





She was
Mr Kikuemon's
son's wife. Mr
Kikuemon is
the owner
of this house

The victim is
42-year old
Masuko
Tsuchiya.



Yes...

Is it right that all of you
were in the livingroom,
until the body was
found?

Masuko Tsuchiya
(42) Kikuemon's
son's widow



We
rushed
to here
and...

And when we
were going to
look for her,
we heard a
loud voice
from the
garden-
lodge.

Ryuichi Seto (35)
Kikuemon's
apprentice



When we went
to wake her up
in the morning,
she wasn't in
her bed.

Kaoru Oya (36)
Kikuemon's
apprentice



Masuko fell
asleep and
we took her
to her
room.

We were
drinking
and eating
until the
late night.

Yoshihiko Arita
(36) Kikuemon's
apprentice



I suppose she used them to hang herself. I just think this huge mess is really confusing...

The loud noise seems to have come from those broken pots.



...hanged!

...we found her here...



Masuko's body was still swinging and it was warm, so we tried to save her by releasing her quickly.

Actually, that mess was caused by us...



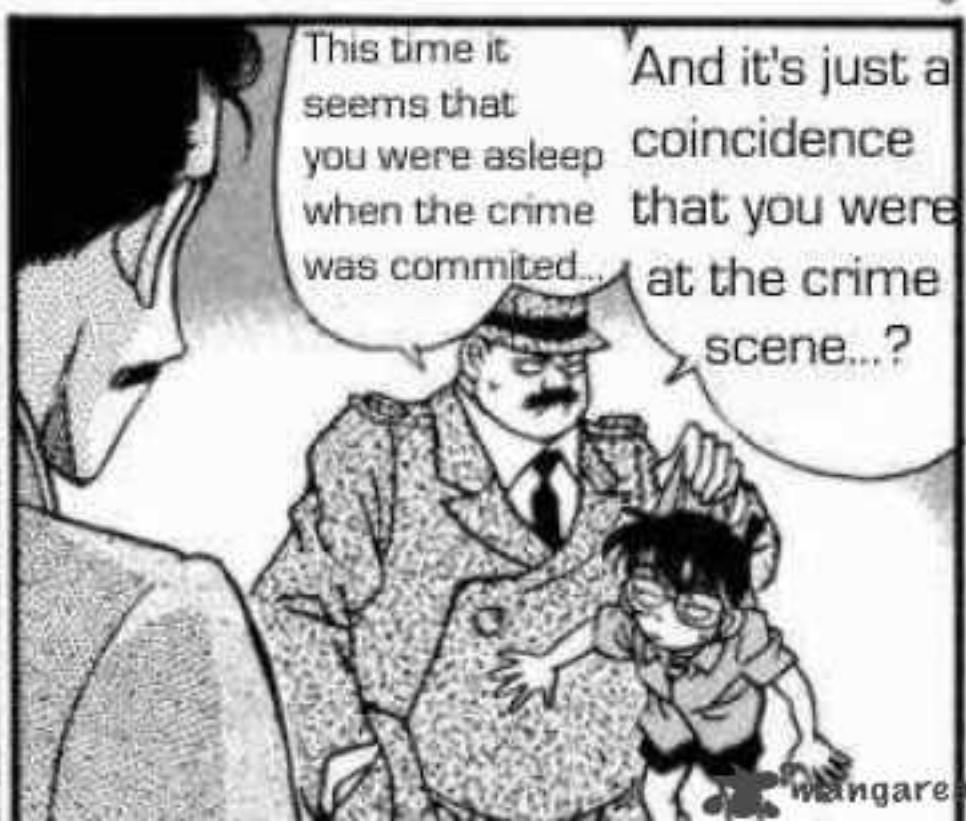
H-hey!

It was that boy's idea...



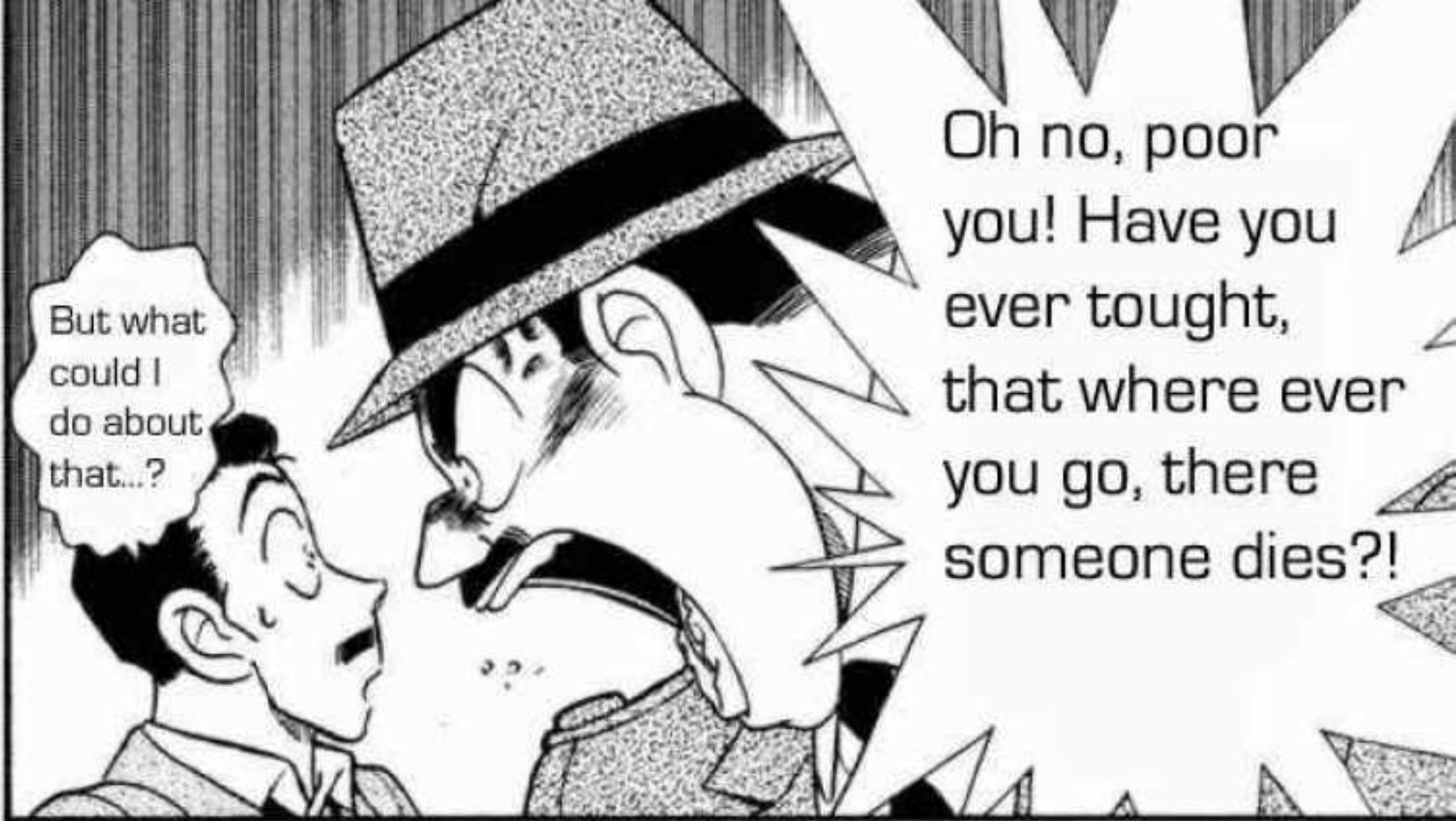
P-please don't yell, mr. inspector... I'm having headache because of yesterday...

Mr. Mouri!



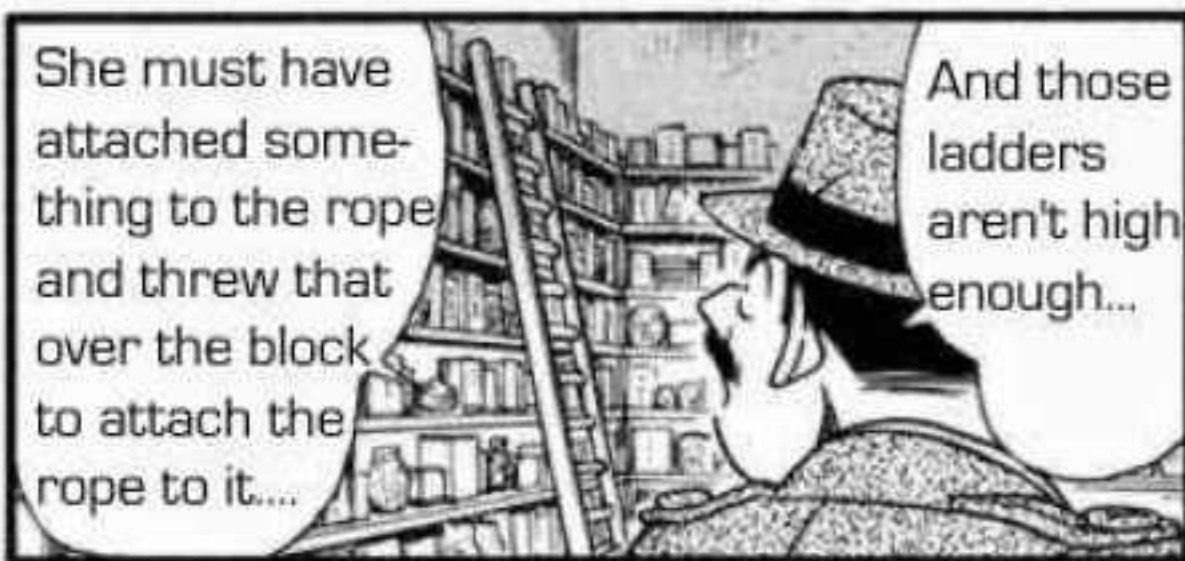
This time it seems that you were asleep when the crime was committed...

And it's just a coincidence that you were at the crime scene...?



But what could I do about that...?

Oh no, poor you! Have you ever thought, that where ever you go, there someone dies?!



She must have attached something to the rope and threw that over the block to attach the rope to it....

And those ladders aren't high enough...



Sir! The only marks in this block are from the rope!

Okay ...



Would she really use something this valuable?

There really are a lot of objects to use...



There's one other thing that's still a mystery...

Hm ...



We've just tidied this room.

It looks pretty tidy here...



She probably used something that we've made.

All of the works in the shelves aren't just masters, but ours too.



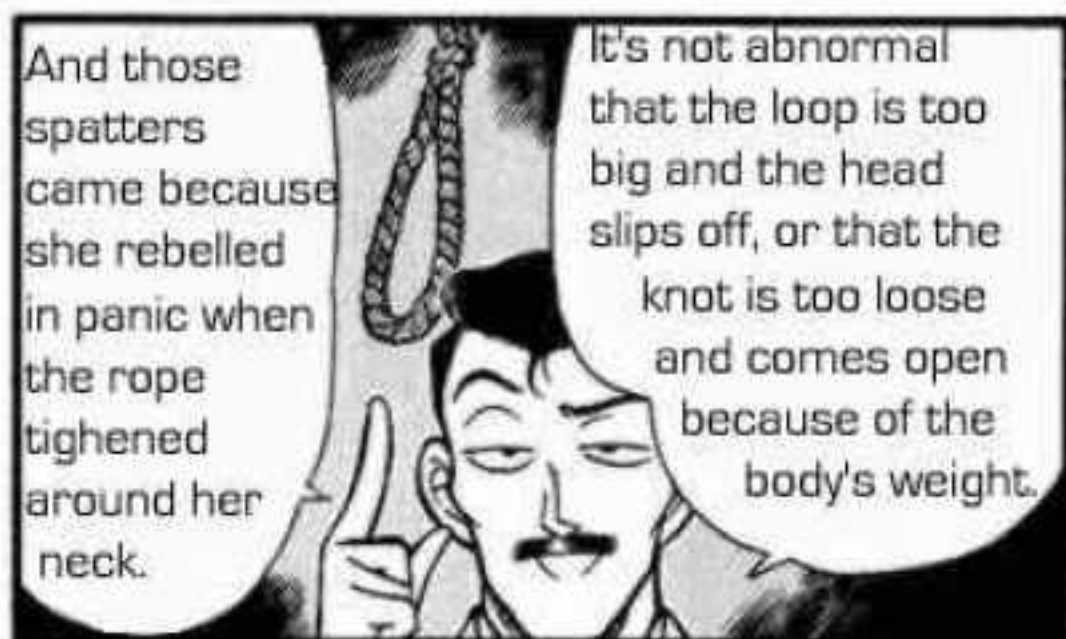
She could have hurt her leg into the shattered pot. She just didn't care about it and tried again—this time successfully.

Maybe the first try to hang failed and she dropped to the ground?

A lot of her blood has spilled to the floor.



Why does she have a wound in her leg?



And those spatters came because she rebelled in panic when the rope tightened around her neck.

It's not abnormal that the loop is too big and the head slips off, or that the knot is too loose and comes open because of the body's weight.



She didn't seem to be self-destructive...

B-but why did she kill herself?



You were asleep when the first pot got broken. It takes some time to tie a new loop when the first opened.

But we heard only one loud voice...

It was the Fuusuimaru!



Yesterday she was still having fun with us!

I think so...

Do you mean there is no motive for suicide?



Poor girl
.....

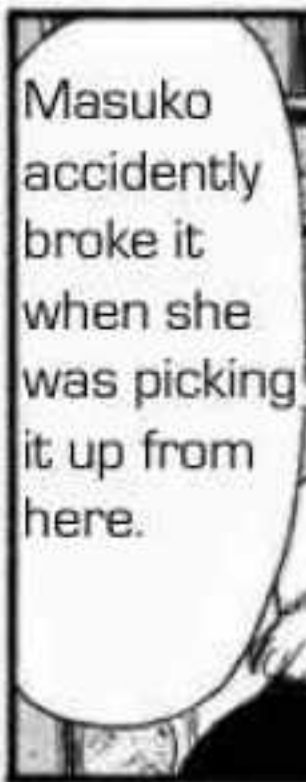
Kikuemon (72)
[Mankichi Tsuchiya]

She blamed herself
after she broke
the Fuusuimaru
and couldn't see
another way...



Do you think
it made her
commit a
suicide?

Maybe she
felt such
guilty because
of breaking
it...



Masuko
accidentally
broke it
when she
was picking
it up from
here.



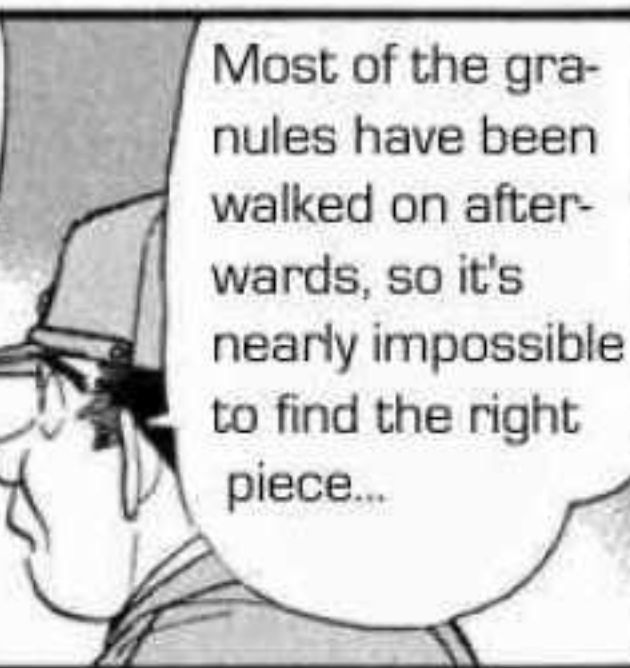
It's master's
newest master-
piece, that he
wanted to pre-
sent soon.



What
is the
Fuusui-
maru?



Ah... that's too
bad! If we could
just find the right
piece....



Most of the gra-
nules have been
walked on after-
wards, so it's
nearly impossible
to find the right
piece...



But
sir...



Check, if the
wound in her
leg has come
one of the gra-
nules of the
Fuusuimaru!



But this
case has
already been
solved! It was
a suicide!





I step over a granule that was on the floor!

Did you get hurt, Conan?



AAGH!



But I didn't have time to put them on!

Well, why do you walk around here without our shoes?!



What?

And neither did she!



That's right! She must have been...

What?



She came here without her shoes, but her legs are really tidy!

It's really weird...

Where are her shoes?

I think I discovered something...

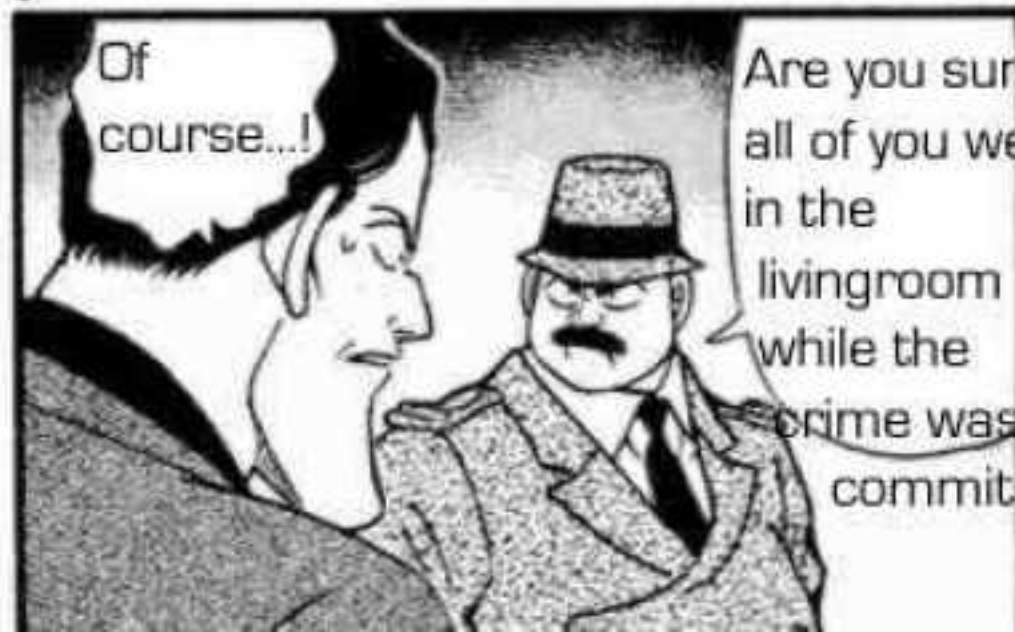


...carried into here!



This new information makes all of you suspects...

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Of course...!

Are you sure all of you were in the livingroom while the crime was committed?



So then murder isn't an impossible option...

That's true...

She must have been a really weird lady if she slept here!



Please, wait a second...

A-ha! So maybe you pretended to go to wake her up, while you really carried her into the cottage?



What?

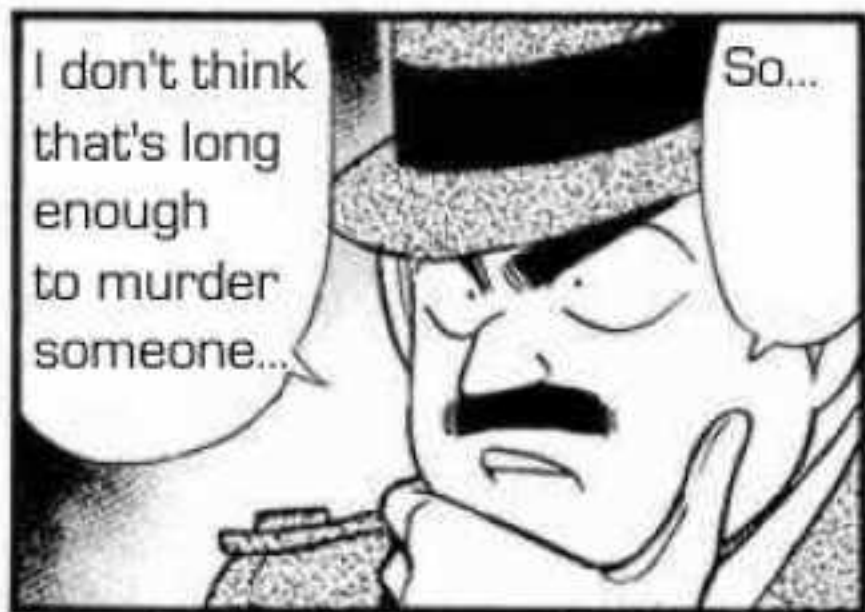
Isn't that right?

Only Kaoru left the room to wake Masuko up.



There's only one room between the livingroom and Masuko's room!

I was away just for a little while!



I don't think that's long enough to murder someone...

So...



I think he was gone only for about 10 seconds...

Totally!

Is that right?



Yes, she did...

Did she have a cell phone?

But I only went to the hallway to call Masuko.



I thought Masuko had left the building.

Yes, I did. I had to make a call...

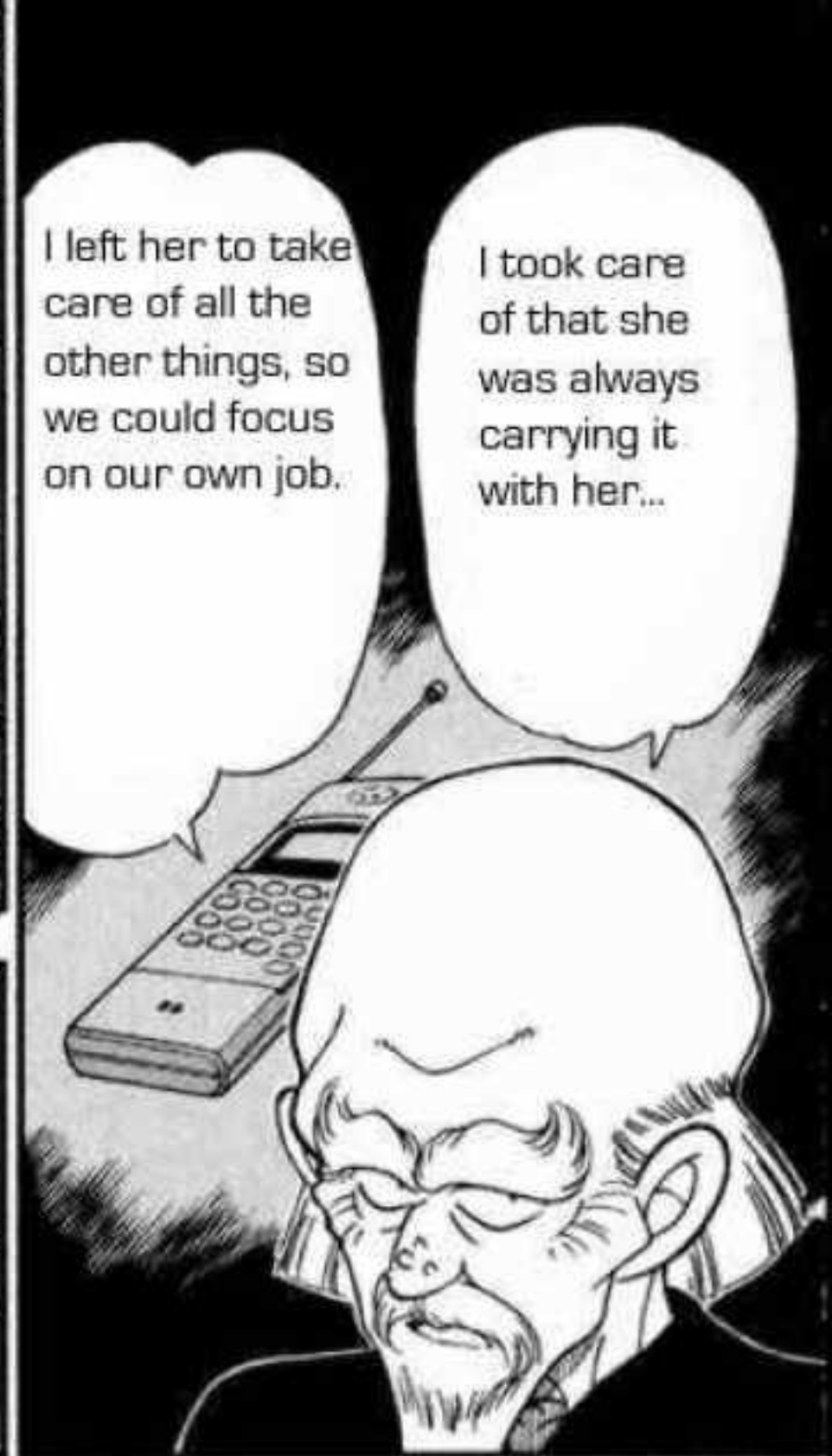
Did anyone else leave the room?



That's why master left the house very rarely. If he did so, it was always to meet a purchaser.

She took care of selling the works and the press...

What do you mean?



I left her to take care of all the other things, so we could focus on our own job.

I took care of that she was always carrying it with her...



Sir, we found it from her room!

The cellphone wasn't with her... Or at least we couldn't find it!



Well... that's why she couldn't hear it ringing, even when it was next to her.

The cellphone was turned off, sir.



Masuko used her cellphone as an alarm clock, and often kept it next to her pillow.

Under her blanket?

It was under her blanket...



Neither do I...

No...

I don't think so

Did anybody else leave the room?



It was a suicide and that's it!

It's not necessary to make it a big problem!

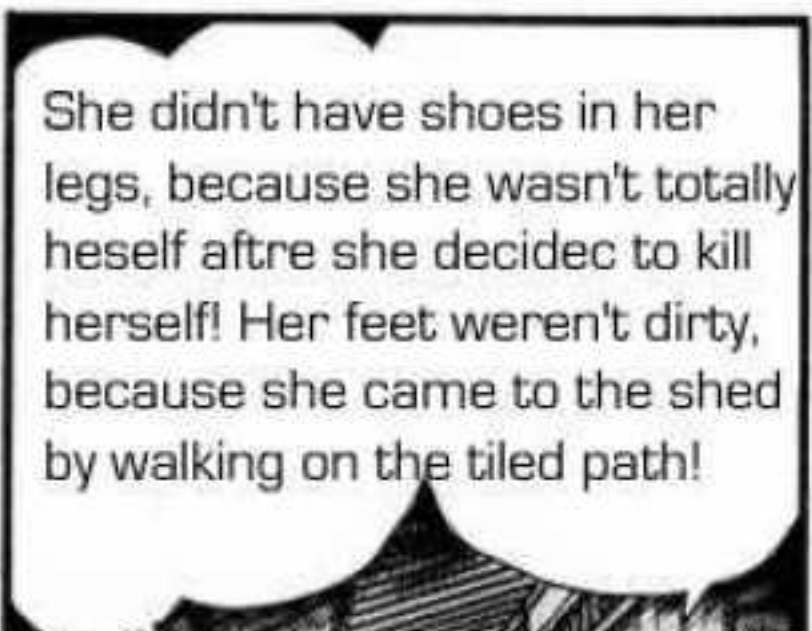
If it's true, that all of you were in the livingroom while it happened, then you all have an alibi!

Then who carried her into the shed and murdered her?



So it isn't a wonder, that she walked into the shed like she was in trance or something...

After all, she broke the Fuusuimaru in the garden!



She didn't have shoes in her legs, because she wasn't totally herself aftr she decided to kill herself! Her feet weren't dirty, because she came to the shed by walking on the tiled path!



And we were all together, when we heard the voice from here...

I think you're right... there's a lot of ropes to use in the shed.



And nobody goes to the shed without permission, okay?



Go to the living-room and wait in there, until we say otherwise!

We have to explore the shed even more detailed! Otherwise this case makes no sense ...



And that her shoes weren't in the crime scene, but her feet were clean.

The wound in her leg.

Something just isn't right...



I found it the day before Masuko was found dead.

And then this marble ...



Was it a suicide or not?

A suicide...



I found from the crime scene...

And there's yet another thing that makes me wonder...



Huh?



Oh no, I dropped it!



Hey, kid! What's that?

Drop



How could it have come to here?

This thing here... It's lipstick...



What are you doing?!

Uwah! Conan, are you out of your mind?!

touch





Conan?!

H-hey, boy!

I got an idea...



Huh?
What's wrong,
Conan?

...it's
that
way...

Could it
be that...



Where's the
body?

Huh?

Hey, you
can't just
come
here!




So
that's
it...

It was
taken
away
ages
ago!




Okay...


I forgot
some-
thing in
here...
Hee...



There
it is!




Just
as I
thought!




I found a
proof that
the murderer
forgot to
wipe off!

I found a
proof!

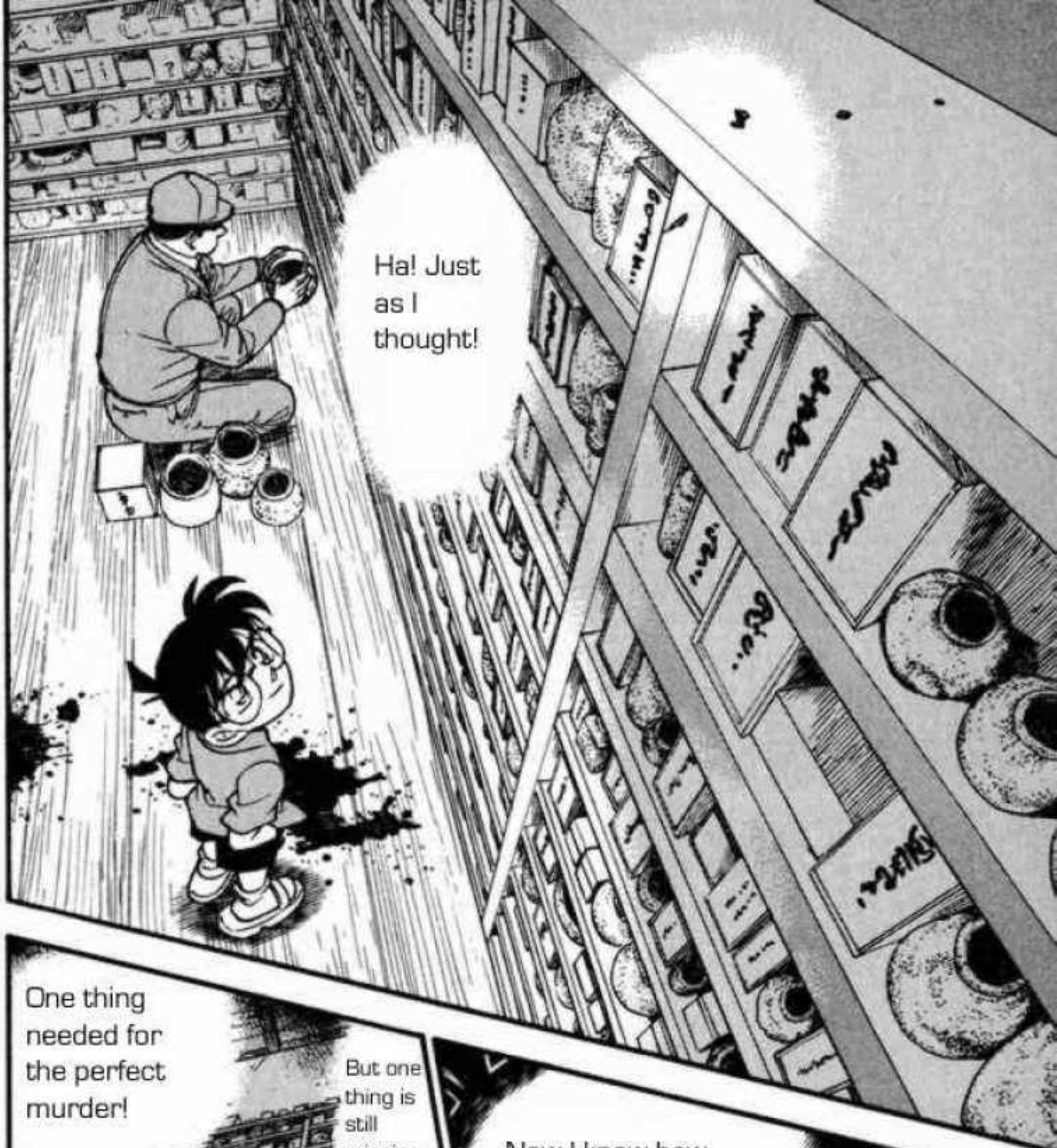
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...it has
to mean,
that up
there...



And
because
that is
here...



Ha! Just as I thought!



One thing needed for the perfect murder!

But one thing is still missing...



Let's go!



Now I know how the murder was possible even when the murderer wasn't here!



Come down before you get hurt!

We've already checked up there too!

I said I forgot something!

H-hey! What do you think you're doing?!

And ... Hop!

Hop!



...there's nothing but vases here...

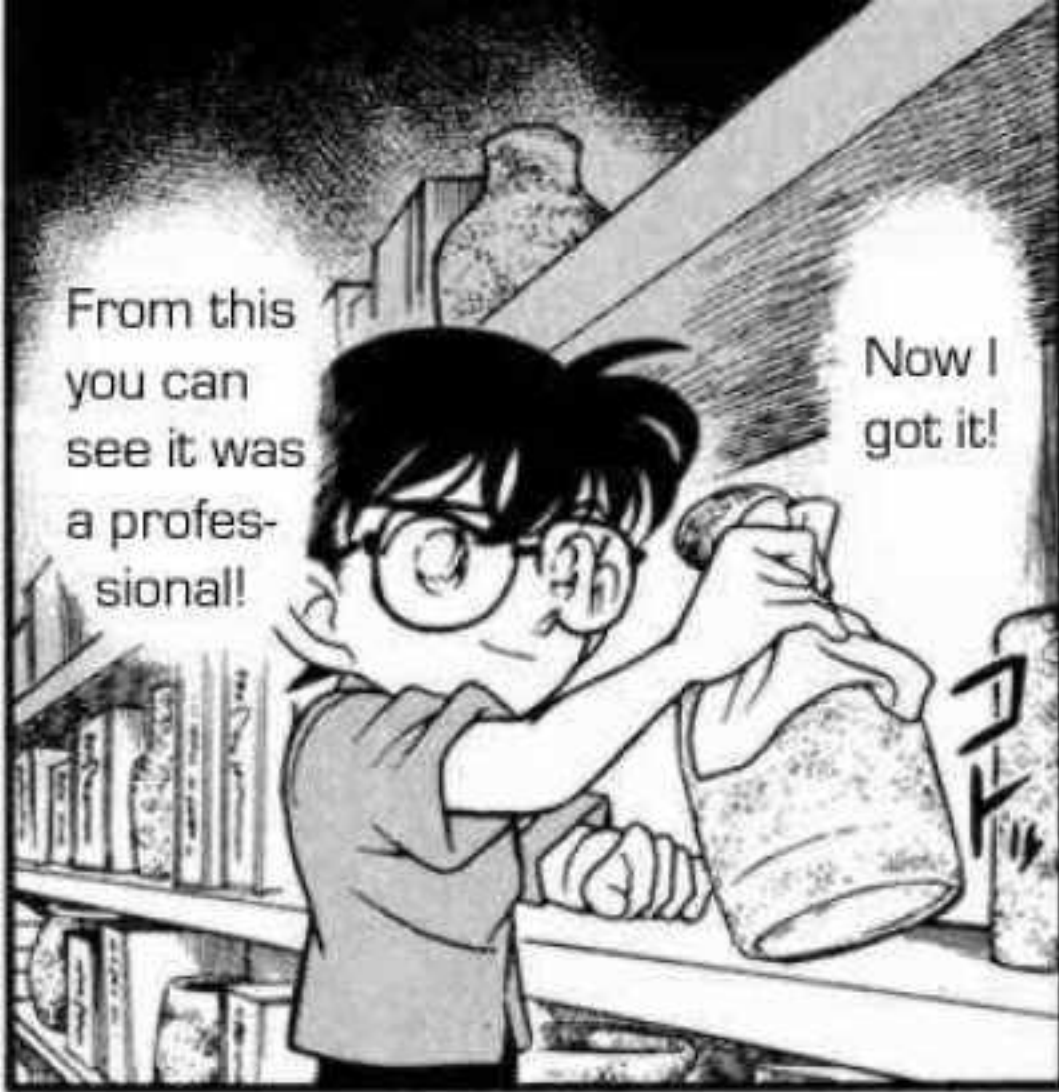
It seems ...



H m . . .



Huh?



From this you can see it was a professional!

Now I got it!



...But I think which one is it!



Then there's just two suspects left...

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I'm sure it was him!

He set a trap for Masuko Tsuchiya, killed her and staged it to look like a suicide!