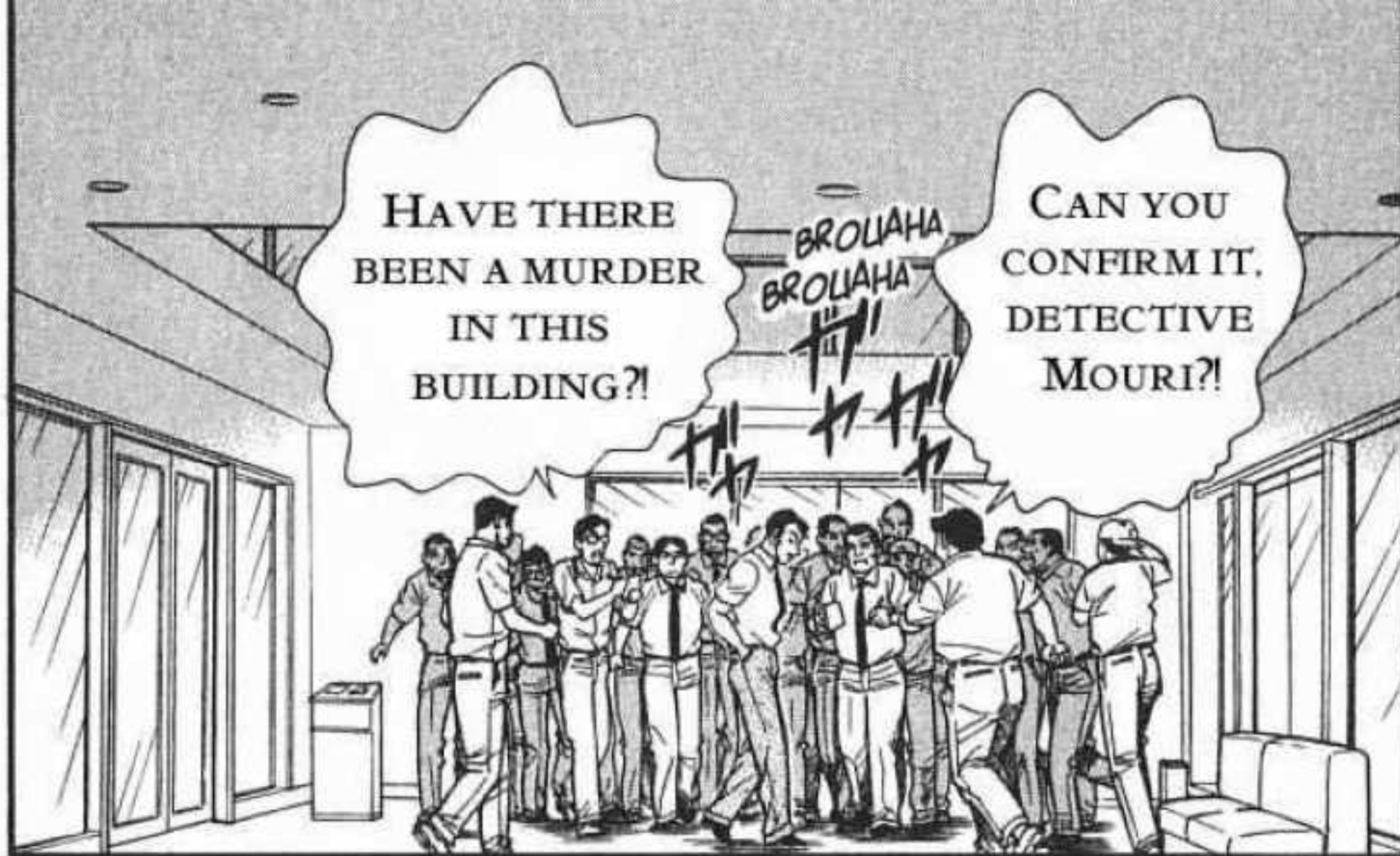


FILE 2: TWO ROOMS





HAVE THERE BEEN A MURDER IN THIS BUILDING?!

BROUAHA BROUAHA

CAN YOU CONFIRM IT, DETECTIVE MOURI?!



OK. OK...

WHAT HAPPENED MOURI-SAN?!

WERE YOU THERE AT THAT MOMENT?

WOULD THE VICTIM BE ISAMI NAGAKURA?!



AH, TAKAGI! WHERE WERE YOU?!

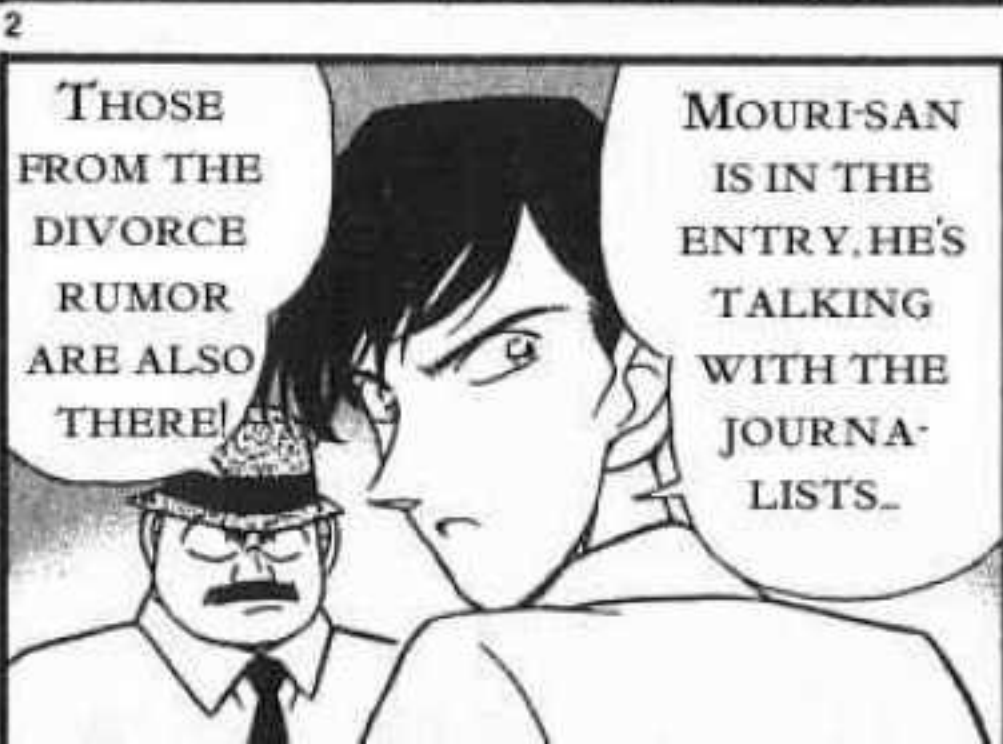
DETECTIVE MOURI!



MOURI-SAN!

PLEASE, DON'T MAKE US WAIT!

BEFORE THAT, LET ME TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.



THOSE FROM THE DIVORCE RUMOR ARE ALSO THERE!

MOURI-SAN IS IN THE ENTRY, HE'S TALKING WITH THE JOURNALISTS...





BUT ARE YOU SURE OF THIS, MOURI-SAN?

NOT SO LOUD! IF THE INSPECTOR FINDS OUT I TOLD YOU THAT.



THE ACTOR?!

THE MURDERER IS HAJIME OKITA?!



YOU ENTERED TO THE APARTMENT WITH THE POLICE AND DISCOVERED THE BODY... HAJIME OKITA WAS THERE TOO...

ON THE 5TH FLOOR OF THIS RESIDENCE.



AND TO HAD SEEN ISAMI'S BODY FALLING FROM HAJIME OKITA'S ROOM.

YOU SAID TO HAD BEEN ON HIJIKATA'S BALCONY...



THAT'S OBVIOUS...

UNDER THESE FACTS OKITA SEEMS TO BE THE MURDERER.



SEND US THE CAMERAS AND THE NEWS-CASTER!

EH, OH.

THAT WILL BE ON THE NEWSPAPERS THIS EVENING!

TAP TAP

OK! I HAVE MY SCOOP!!





THE TRUE
CRIMINAL,
HIJIKATA
KOSABURO!!



WHAT?!

WH...?!

6



INSPEC-
TOR
MEGU-
RE?!

IT'S TRUE
WHAT
MOURI-SAN
IS TELLING?!

WHAT'S THE
MEANING
OF THAT,
INSPECTOR?!

OKITA
HAJIME
IS THERE
TOO!!

HIIKATA
KOSABURO!!

EUH.

TAP

TAP

TAP

YOU WERE WITH HIM WHEN IT HAPPENED!

IN FIRST PLACE, WHY WOULD HIJIKATA-SAN BE GUILTY?!

WE EVEN FOUND THE CRIME WEAPON IN THE APARTMENT!

MOURI STOP THAT BULLSHIT!!!

NOBODY ELSE COULD HAVE TRANSPORTED THE BODY TO THE ROOM!

OKITA-SAN WAS ON THE CRIME SPOT! HE AND ONLY HIM WAS THERE!

MISTERS, THE INVESTIGATION IS STILL GOING

IS YOUR RELATION WITH ISAMI-SAN RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED?!

WHAT'S THE MOTIVE FOR THE CRIME?!

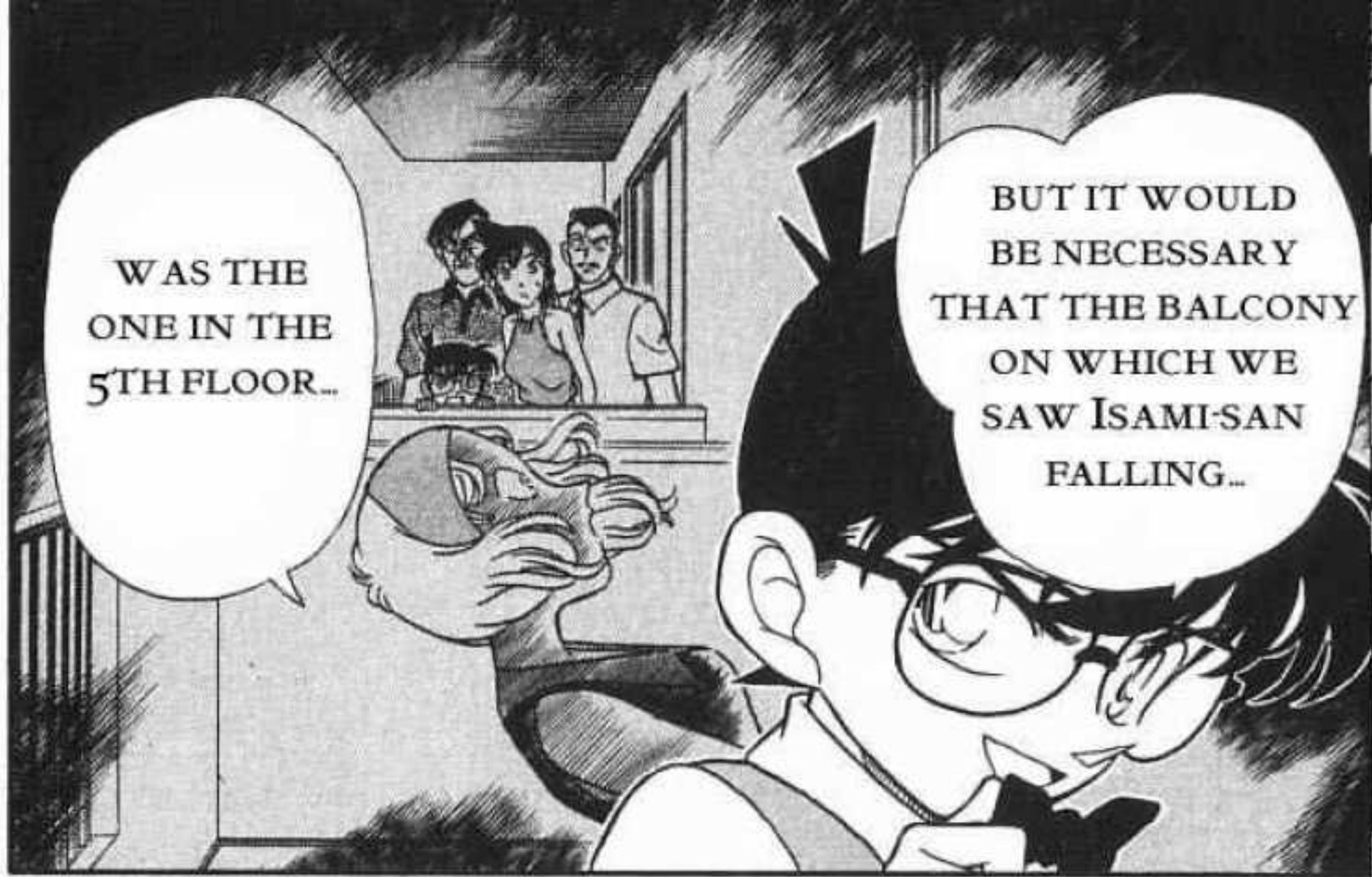
SO THE CULPRIT IS OKITA HAJIME?!

AND TO ACCUSE OKITA-SAN...

INDEED, THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD TEND TO CLEAR HIJIKATA-SAN...

EH?

HA HA HA!



WAS THE ONE IN THE 5TH FLOOR...

BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY THAT THE BALCONY ON WHICH WE SAW ISAMI-SAN FALLING...



WHAT?!



WHAT?!



JUST IN TIME...

MOURI! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

8



HIIKATA'S SCENE SETTINGS...

YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND...



THAT MUST BE ONE OF YOUR SUBORDINATES CALLING...

PLEASE ANSWER INSPECTOR...

A MOBILE TELEPHONE?

I'M IN THE
LIVING ROOM
OF HIJIKATA'S
SECOND
APARTMENT, ON
THE 6TH FLOOR...

WHAT'S
THAT YOU
HAVE TO
SAY?!
WHERE
ARE YOU?!

THERE
IS
SOME-
THING
VERY
STRANGE.

TAKAGI?!

HELLO.
YES?

THE
DISPOSI-
TION
ALSO...

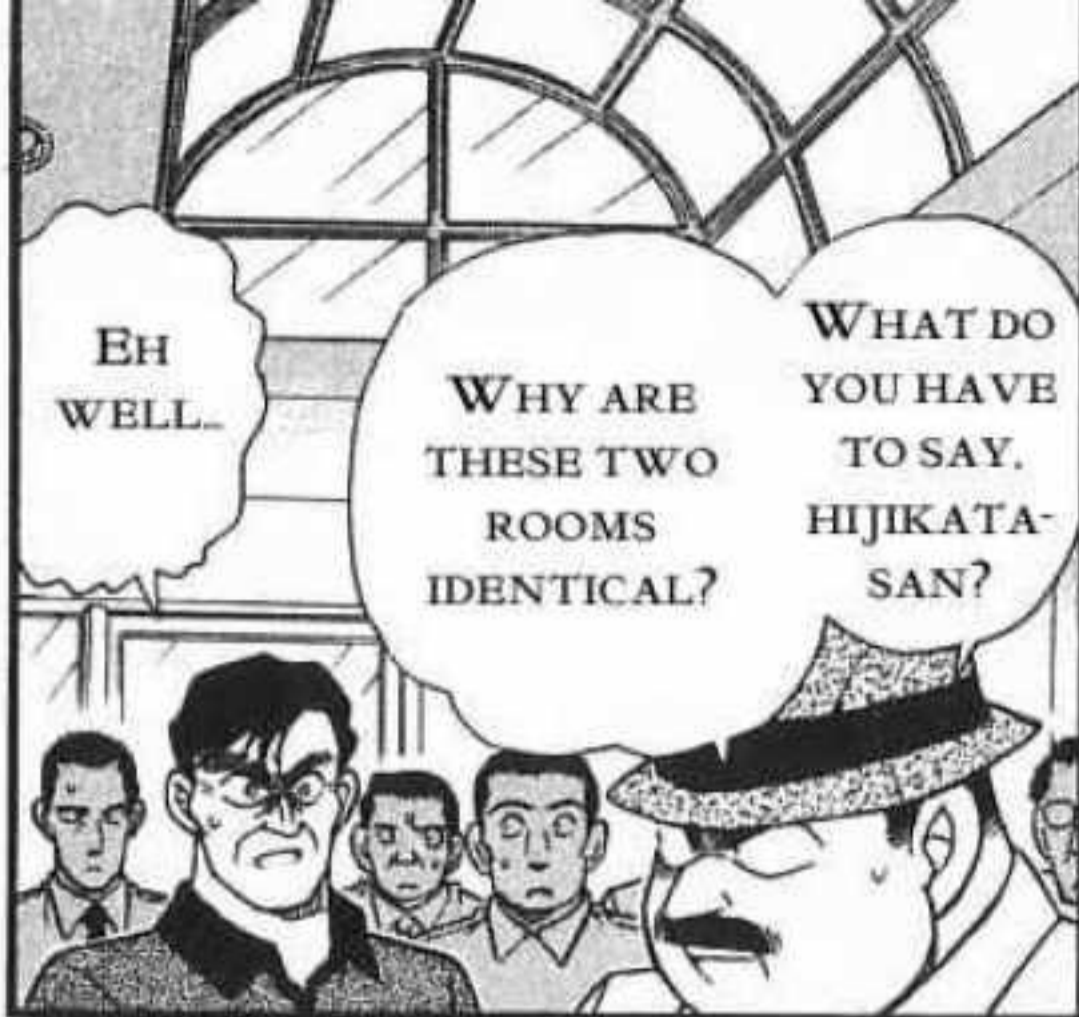
THE TV,
SOFA, TABLE,
CURTAINS...

THERE
ARE THE
SAME
THINGS...

STRANGE?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN..?

ARE
IDENTICAL!!

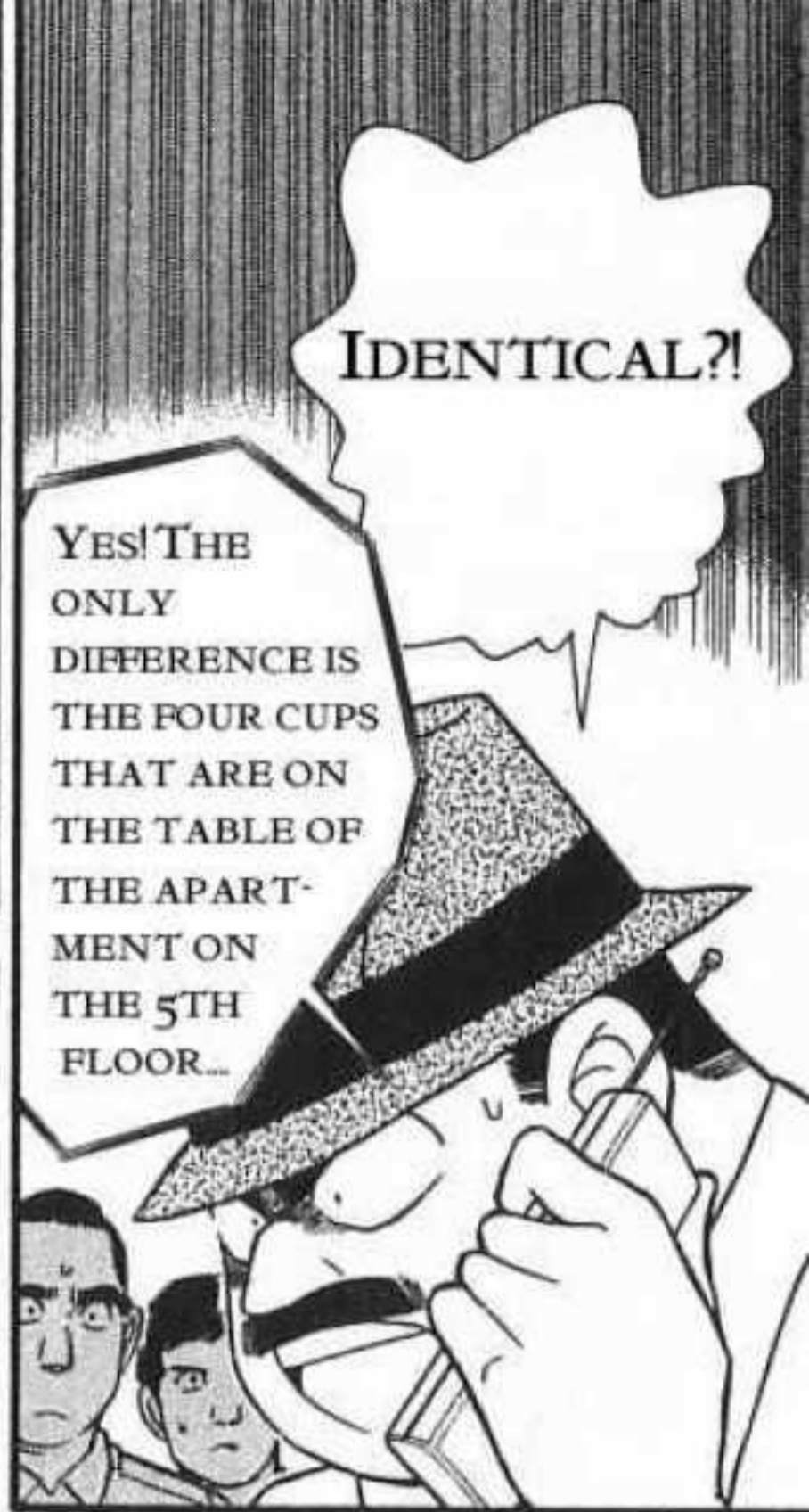
HIJIKATA'S
LIVING ROOMS
ON BOTH
APARTMENTS...



EH WELL...

WHY ARE THESE TWO ROOMS IDENTICAL?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, HIJIKATA-SAN?



IDENTICAL?!

YES! THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THE FOUR CUPS THAT ARE ON THE TABLE OF THE APARTMENT ON THE 5TH FLOOR...



WHAT?!

AND LET ME THINK THAT THE BODY WAS ON THE 5TH FLOOR AND NOT ON THE 6TH.

IT WAS TO DISTORT THE SCENE...



AFTER ARRANGING THE BODY TO FALL BY THE WINDOW AT A SPECIFIC TIME, HE RETURNED TO THE LIVING ROOM.

THEN HE TOOK THE BODY TO THE ROOM ABOVE OKITA-SAN'S APARTMENT.

WHILE HE MADE ME WAIT IN THE LIVING ROOM OF AN APARTMENT WHICH I BELIEVED WAS IN THE 5TH FLOOR, HE STRANGLERED HIS WIFE IN ANOTHER ROOM.



THINKING OF BEING IN THE 5TH FLOOR, WE BELIEVED SHE COLLAPSED ON OKITA-SAN BALCONY! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED!



IN THAT WAY WE BECAME EYE WITNESSES OF HIS WIFE DEATH.

AND MADE THE TELEPHONE RANG IN THE NEXT ROOM TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION.

THEN HE LED ME TO THE BALCONY...



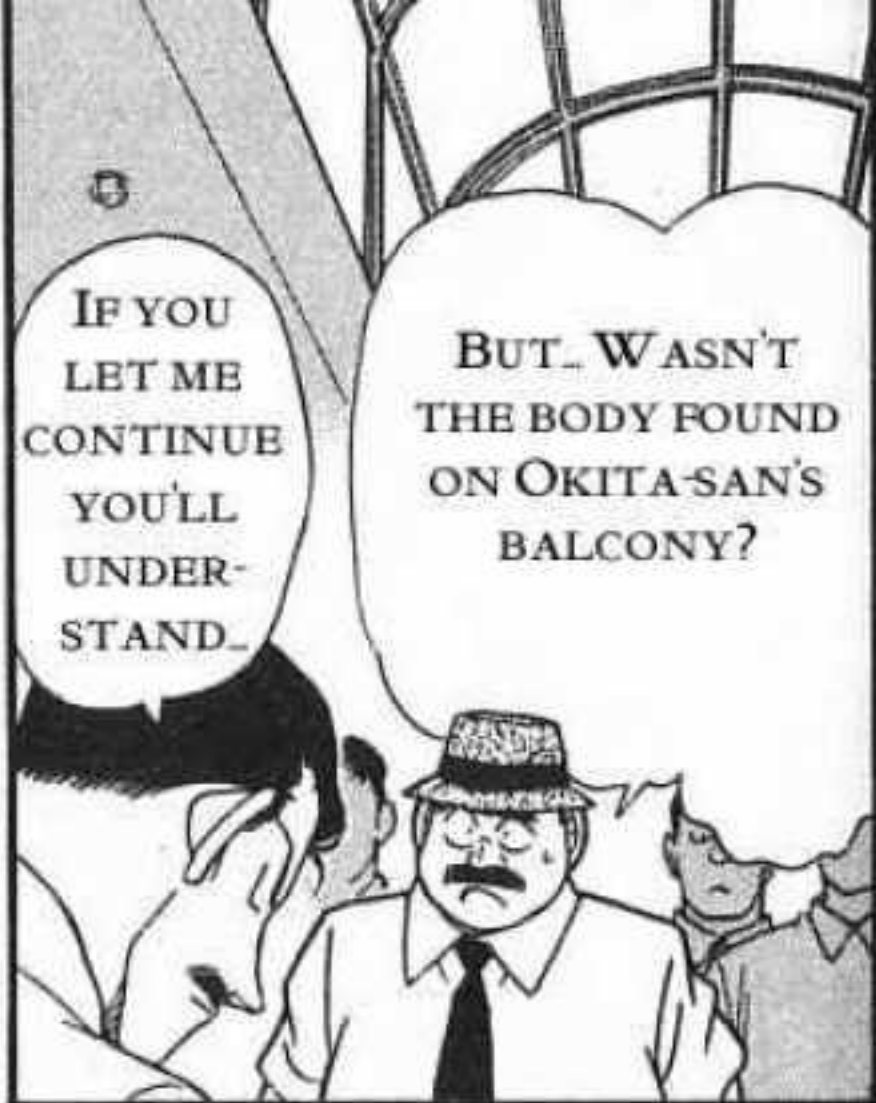
NOTHING SURPRISING IN FACT SINCE IT WAS NOT OKITA'S APARTMENT...

AFTER THAT HE PRECIPITATED TOWARDS THE SUPPOSED APARTMENT OF OKITA KNOCKING ON THE DOOR VIOLENTLY! THERE WAS NO ANSWER...

DOOM

BUT HIJIKATA'S...

DOOM



IF YOU LET ME CONTINUE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...

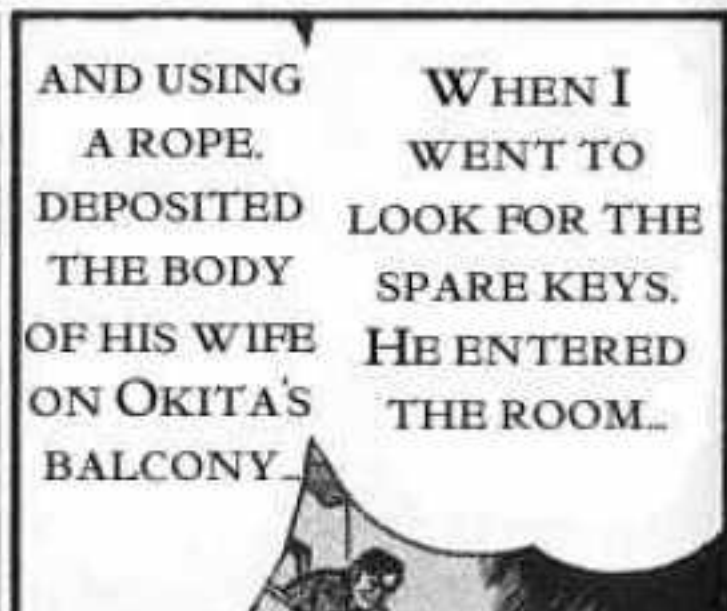
BUT... WASN'T THE BODY FOUND ON OKITA-SAN'S BALCONY?



THEN HE RECOVERED THE ROPE...

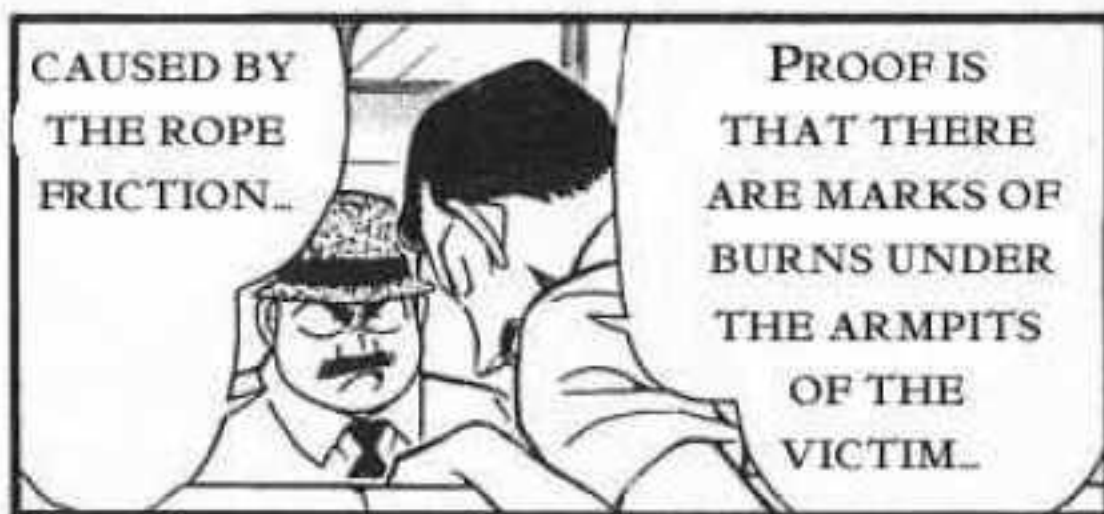
BY PASSING THE ROPE UNDER HIS WIFE ARMS. HE PUT THE BODY GENTLY ON THE BALCONY...

A ROPE?



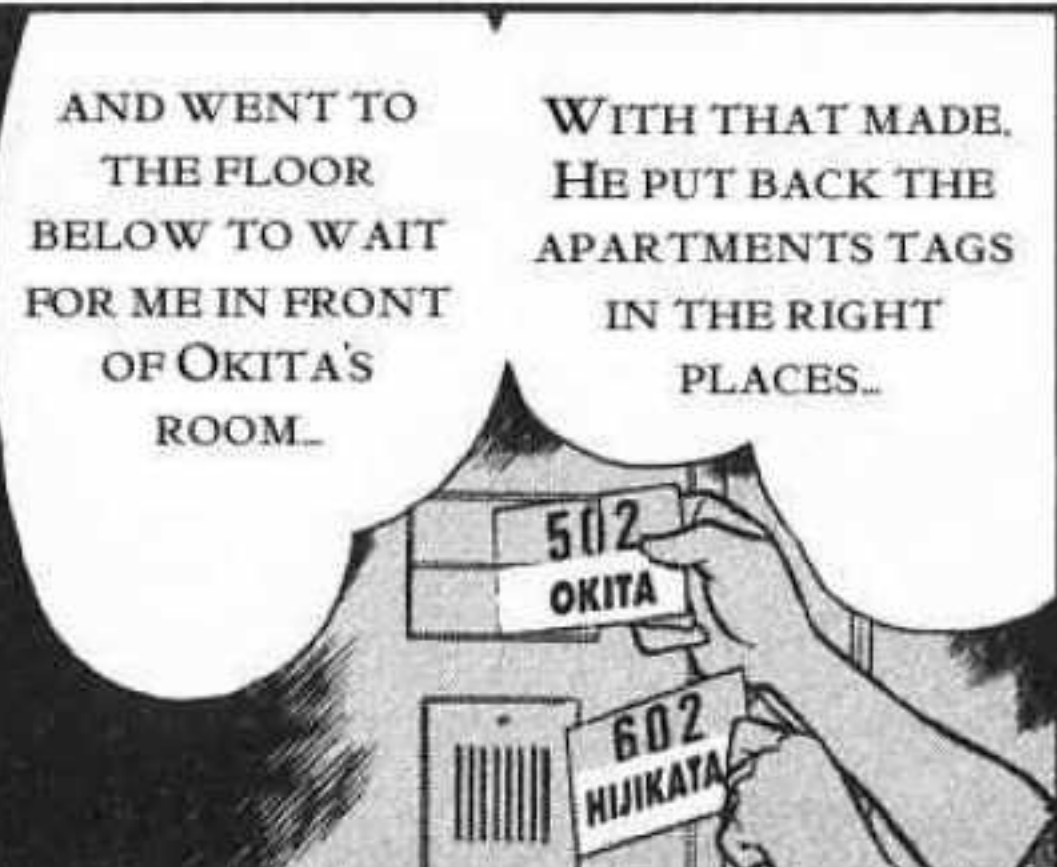
AND USING A ROPE. DEPOSITED THE BODY OF HIS WIFE ON OKITA'S BALCONY...

WHEN I WENT TO LOOK FOR THE SPARE KEYS. HE ENTERED THE ROOM...



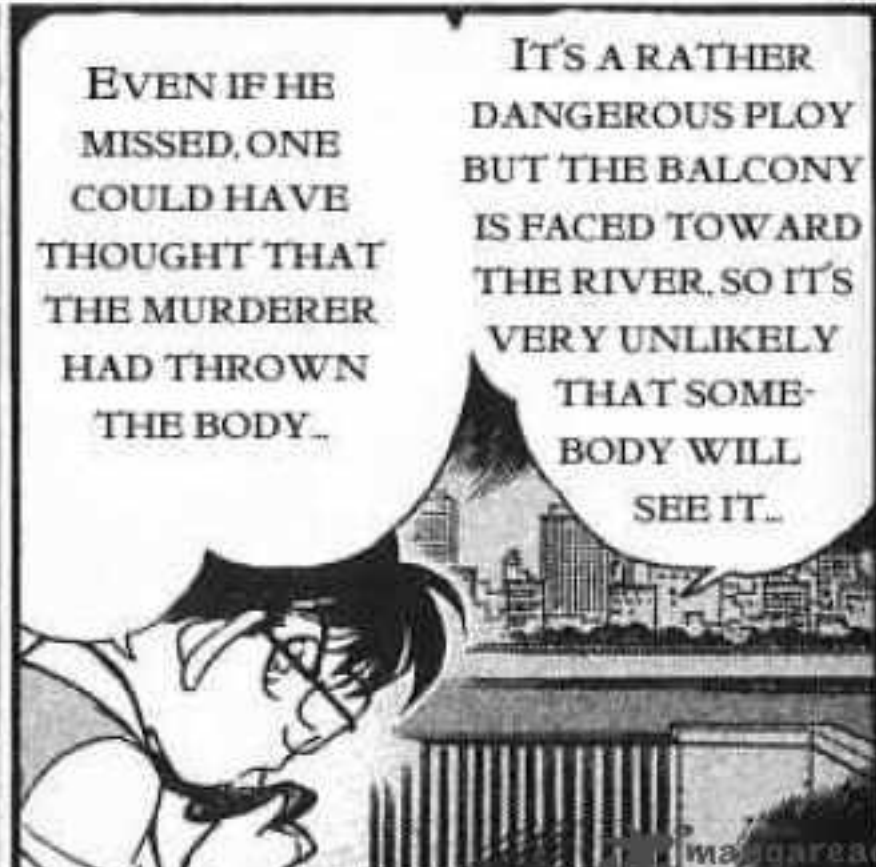
CAUSED BY THE ROPE FRICTION...

PROOF IS THAT THERE ARE MARKS OF BURNS UNDER THE ARMPITS OF THE VICTIM...



AND WENT TO THE FLOOR BELOW TO WAIT FOR ME IN FRONT OF OKITA'S ROOM...

WITH THAT MADE, HE PUT BACK THE APARTMENTS TAGS IN THE RIGHT PLACES...



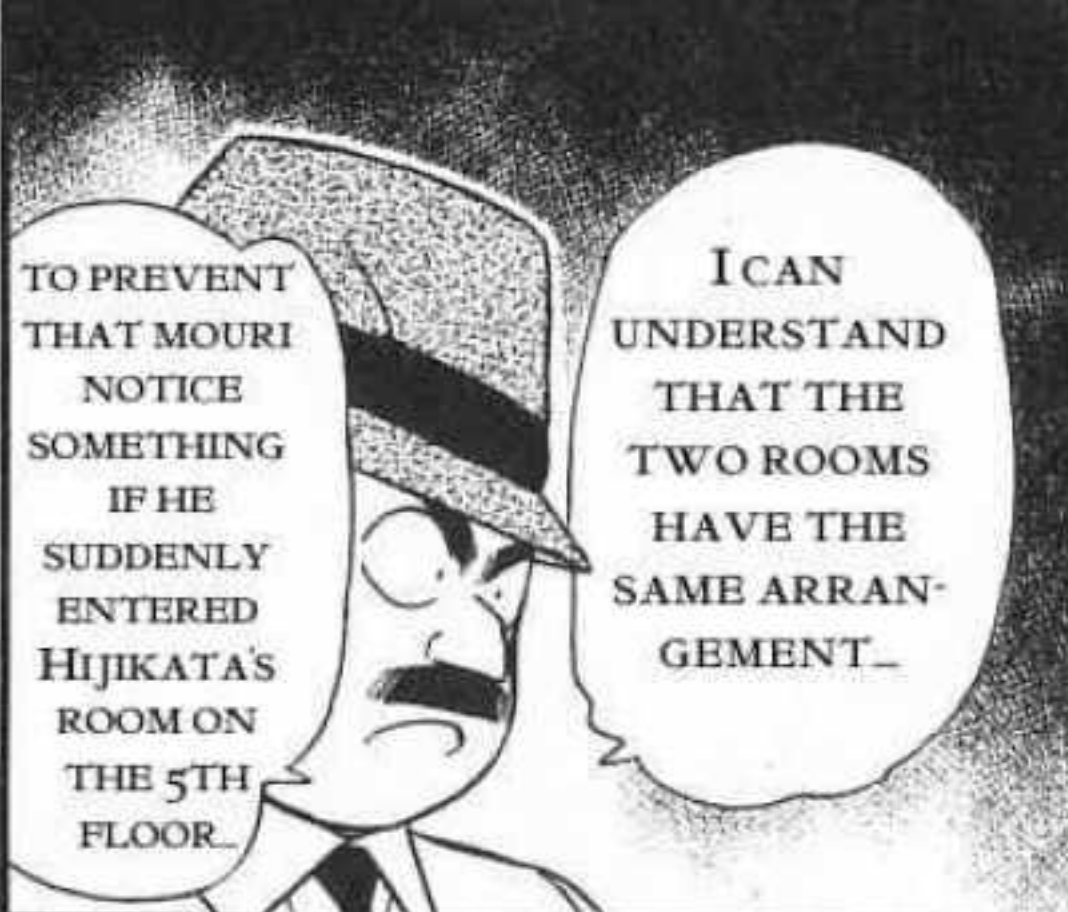
EVEN IF HE MISSED, ONE COULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE MURDERER HAD THROWN THE BODY...

IT'S A RATHER DANGEROUS PLOY BUT THE BALCONY IS FACED TOWARD THE RIVER, SO IT'S VERY UNLIKELY THAT SOMEBODY WILL SEE IT...



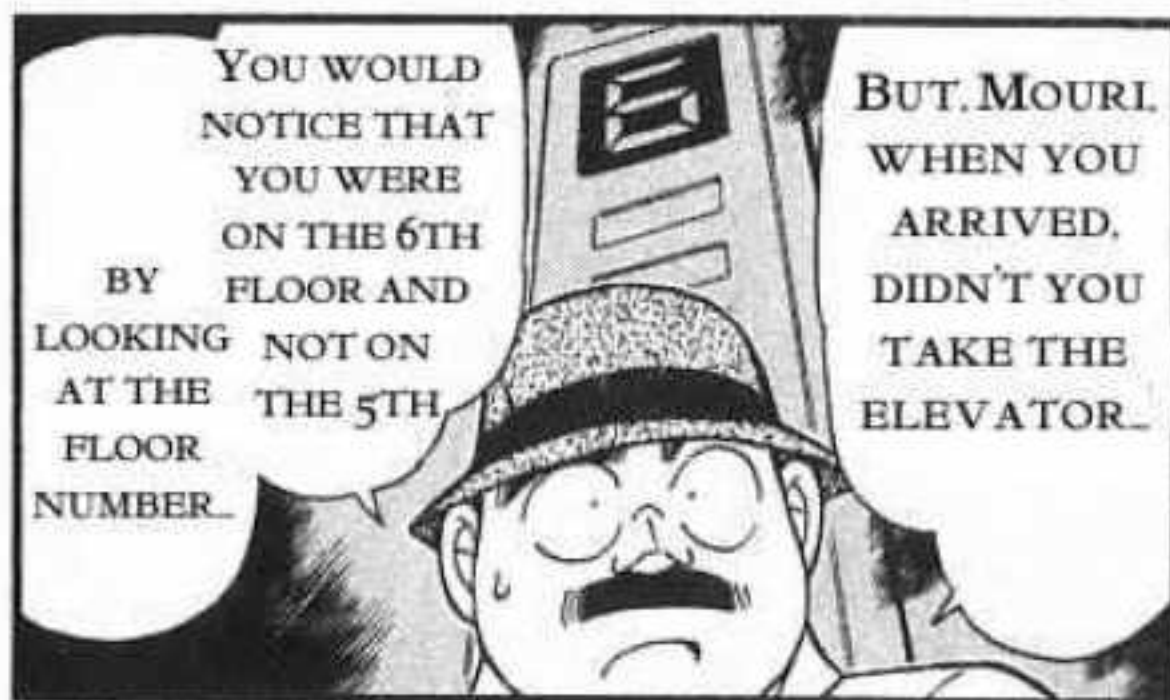
DID HE REALLY HAVE ENOUGH TIME WHEN YOU WENT FOR THE KEYS?

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IT'S REALIZABLE?



TO PREVENT THAT MOURI NOTICE SOMETHING IF HE SUDDENLY ENTERED HIJIKATA'S ROOM ON THE 5TH FLOOR...

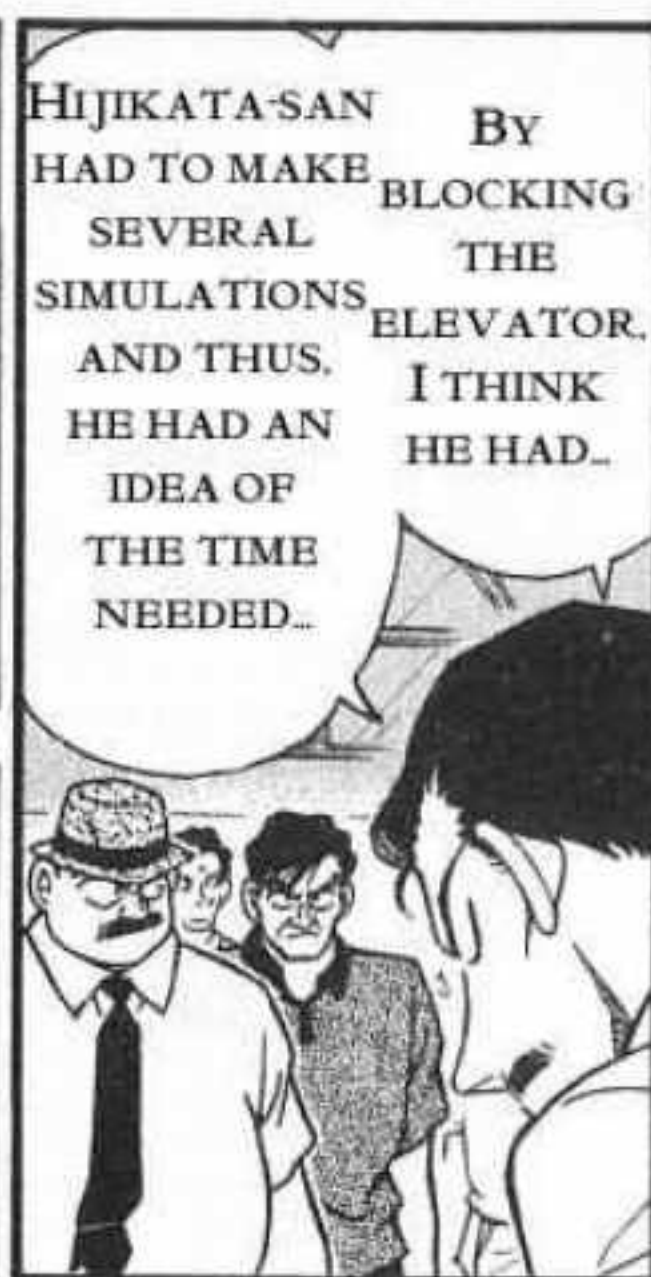
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT THE TWO ROOMS HAVE THE SAME ARRANGEMENT...



YOU WOULD NOTICE THAT YOU WERE ON THE 6TH FLOOR AND BY LOOKING AT THE FLOOR NUMBER...

NOT ON THE 5TH FLOOR...

BUT, MOURI WHEN YOU ARRIVED, DIDN'T YOU TAKE THE ELEVATOR...



HIJIKATA-SAN HAD TO MAKE SEVERAL SIMULATIONS AND THUS, HE HAD AN IDEA OF THE TIME NEEDED...

BY BLOCKING THE ELEVATOR, I THINK HE HAD...



HIJIKATA-SAN MADE A JUGGLING ACT UNDER MY EYES...

YES, BUT THE ELEVATOR WAS PREPARED...



THE TRACES OF HIS TRICK!

Hm?



WHAT HIJIKATA-SAN USED TO FOOL ME...

YOU SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO SEE...



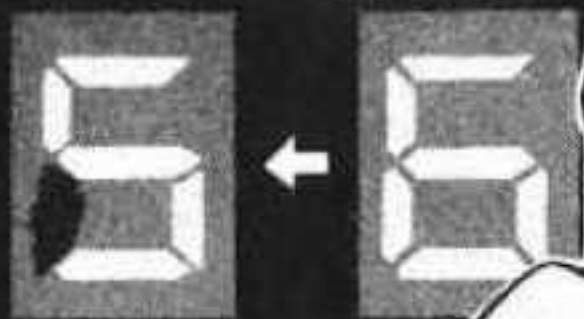
LOOK AT THE FLOOR NUMBER DISPLAY IN THE ELEVATOR, INSPECTOR...

Eh?

IT WAS USED TO
HIDE PART OF THE
NUMBER ON THE
DISPLAY
TRANSFORMING
THE 6 INTO 5...

IT'S A
SIMPLE BLACK
MARKER
TRACE DREW
BY HIJIKATA...

WHAT IS
THIS BLACK
SPOT?!



YES...

BROUHA

AH...

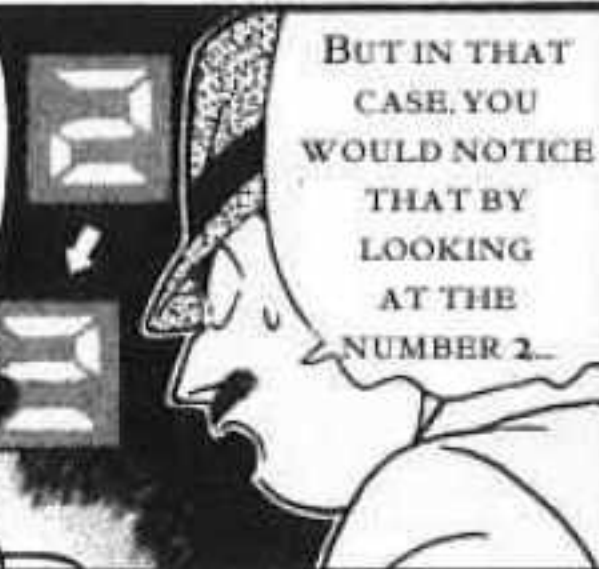


WHILE
TAKING
CARE
TO REMAIN
LEANED ON
THE KEYS
PANEL...

IN THE
ELEVATOR,
HE GAVE
US HIS
CALLING
CARD...

HE
TRIKED US
THERE
TOO...

BUT IN THAT
CASE, YOU
WOULD NOTICE
THAT BY
LOOKING
AT THE
NUMBER 2...



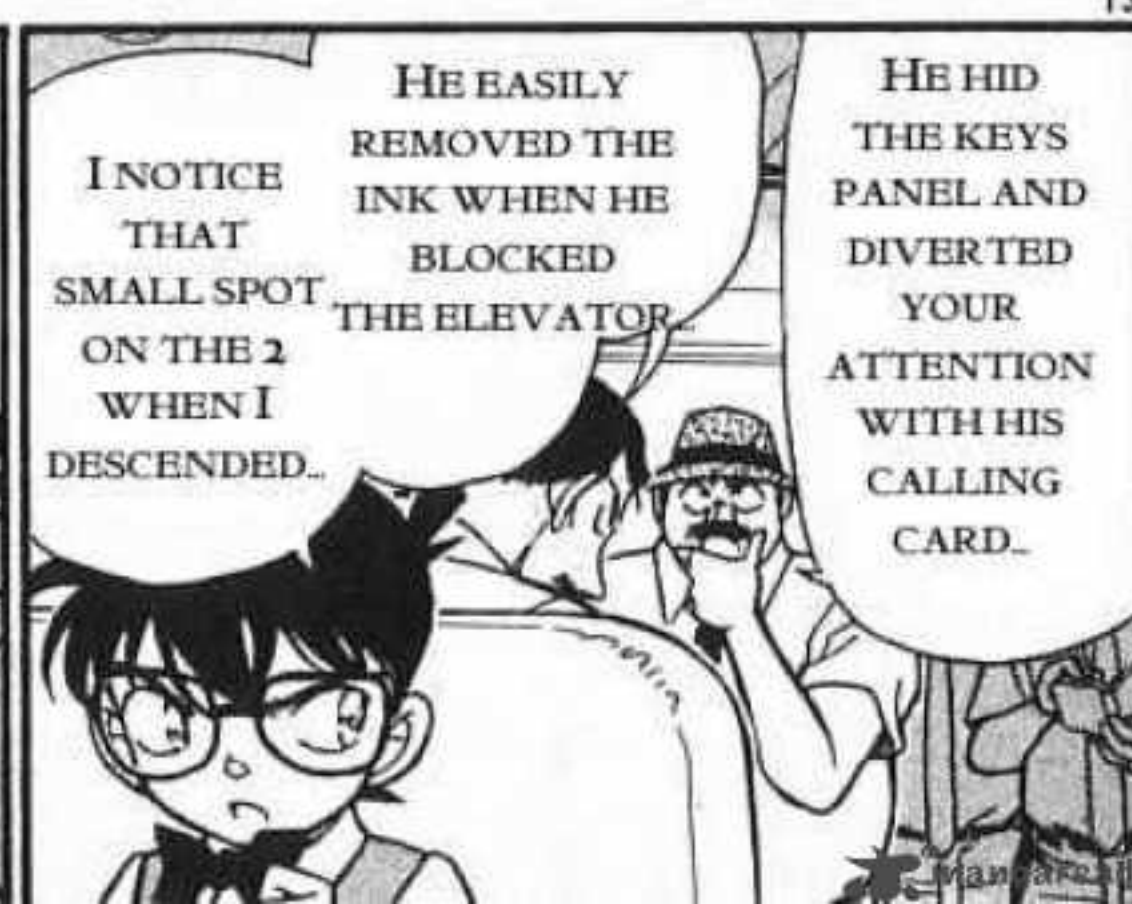
WAIT A
MINUTE,
MR.
DETECTIVE...

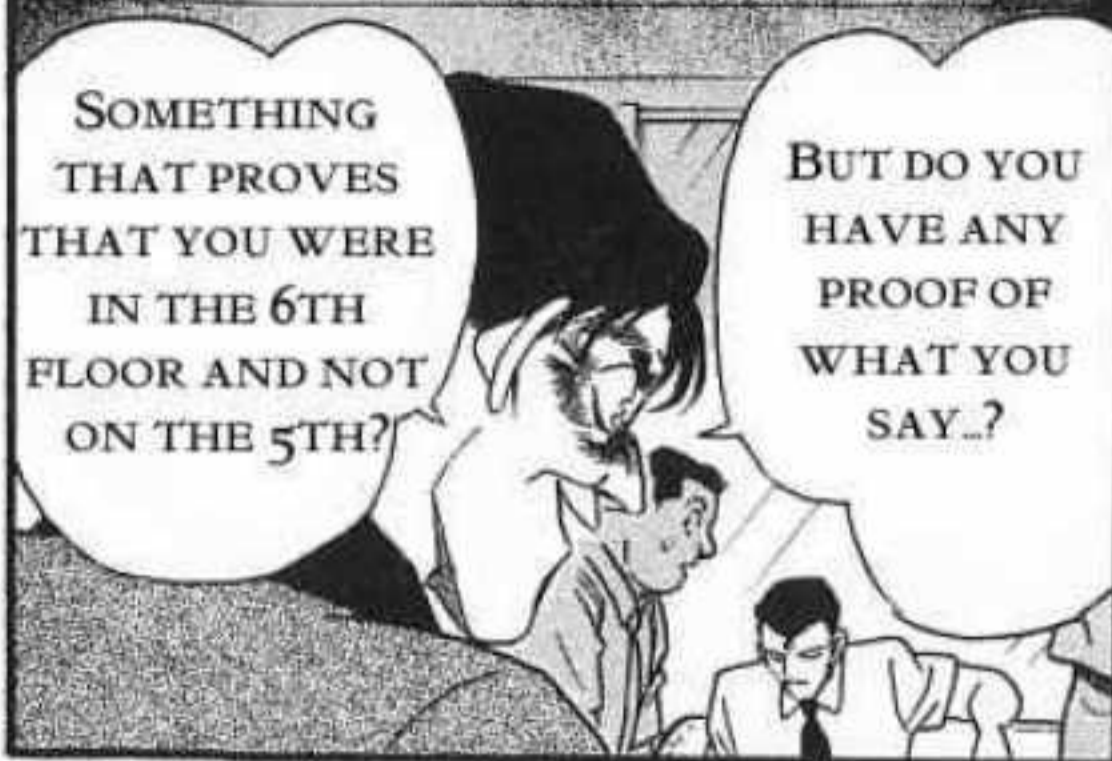
I WAS REALLY
IN A HURRY
AND I DIDN'T
SUSPECTED HIM...

I NOTICE
THAT
SMALL SPOT
ON THE 2
WHEN I
DESCENDED...

HE EASILY
REMOVED THE
INK WHEN HE
BLOCKED
THE ELEVATOR...

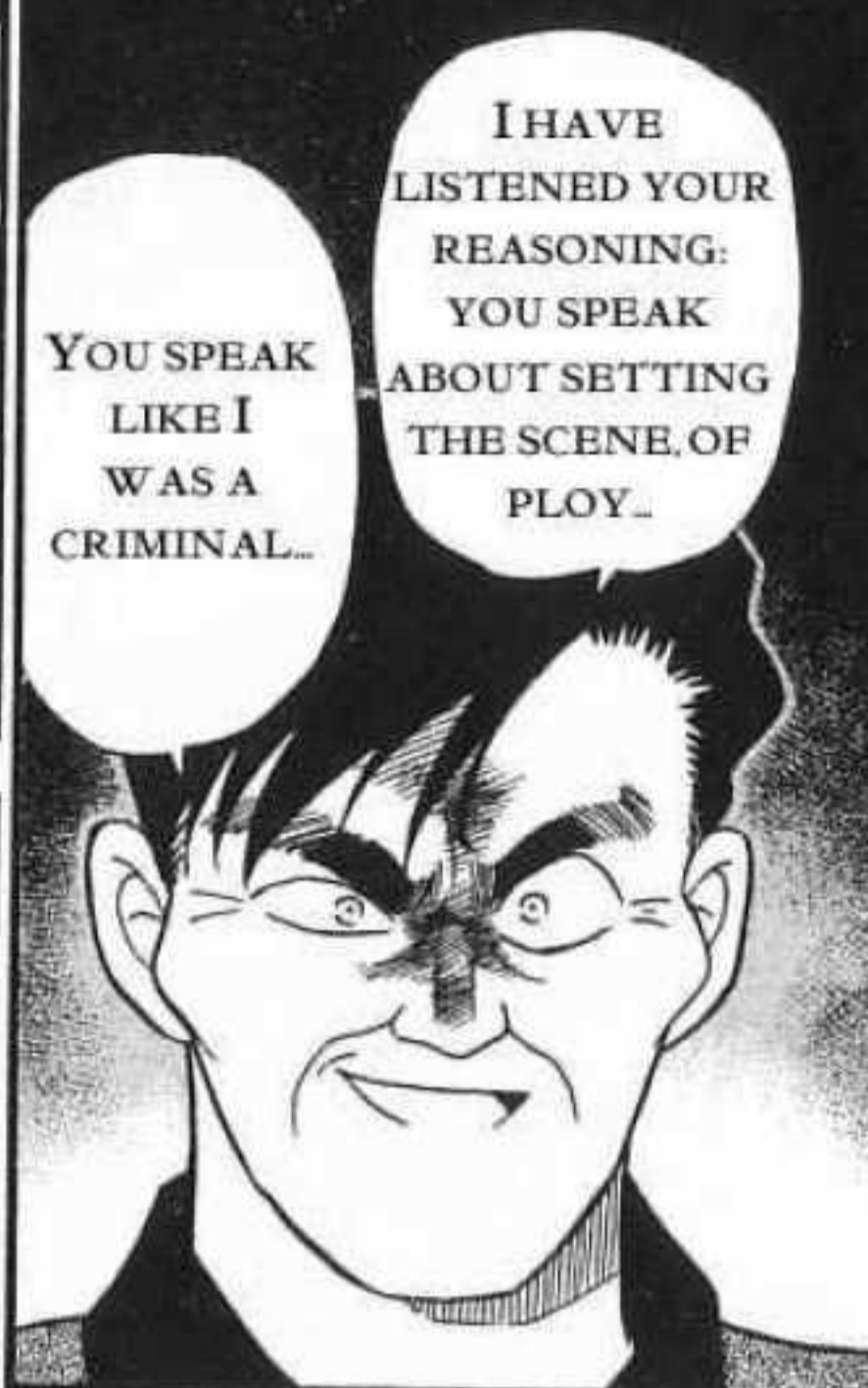
HE HID
THE KEYS
PANEL AND
DIVERTED
YOUR
ATTENTION
WITH HIS
CALLING
CARD...





SOMETHING THAT PROVES THAT YOU WERE IN THE 6TH FLOOR AND NOT ON THE 5TH?

BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF OF WHAT YOU SAY...?



YOU SPEAK LIKE I WAS A CRIMINAL...

I HAVE LISTENED YOUR REASONING: YOU SPEAK ABOUT SETTING THE SCENE OF PLOY...



I JUST LIKE THAT DISPOSITION...

HOW SO? IS IT FORBIDDEN?

YOU ARE FORGETTING THE TWO IDENTICAL ROOMS...



IN THE 6TH FLOOR ROOM WHERE WE WERE, WE MUST HAVE LEFT FINGER-PRINTS...

ARE YOU NOT FORGETTING SOMETHING?



WITHOUT THAT, I CAN'T LET YOU CONTINUE SPEAKING...

BEFORE SPEAKING, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THINGS BETTER. I DON'T SEE ANY IRREFUTABLE PROOF...



...

IT'S BECAUSE IN THE HURRY, HE FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR AGAIN...

YES, IF INSPECTOR TAKAGI COULD EASILY ENTER THE 6TH FLOOR APARTMENT...

PRECIPITATED...?



YOU CERTAINLY PRECIPITATED TO ERASE THEM AND CARRY THE CUPS OF TEA TO THE 5TH FLOOR...

WHAT?!



WELL, THERE IS SOMETHING!



ON THE FLOOR?!



ON THE FLOOR OF THE ROOM...



A PIECE OF SHARP METAL...?



WHAT I HID THERE...



IN THAT CASE, PLEASE RAISE THE CUSHION OF THE SOFA NOT FAR FROM THERE...



THAT IMITATION GUN...
 I AM SORRY... WHEN I WAS WAITING FOR YOU IN THE ROOM, I BROKE...



UNDER THE CUSHION!!

THERE IS AN IMITATION GUN, INSPECTOR!!



THEN, I CAME DOWN HERE AND I WAS WITH THE INSPECTOR...

AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODY, I REMAINED ALL THE TIME WITH YOU IN OKITA'S ROOM...



THAT IMITATION GUN...

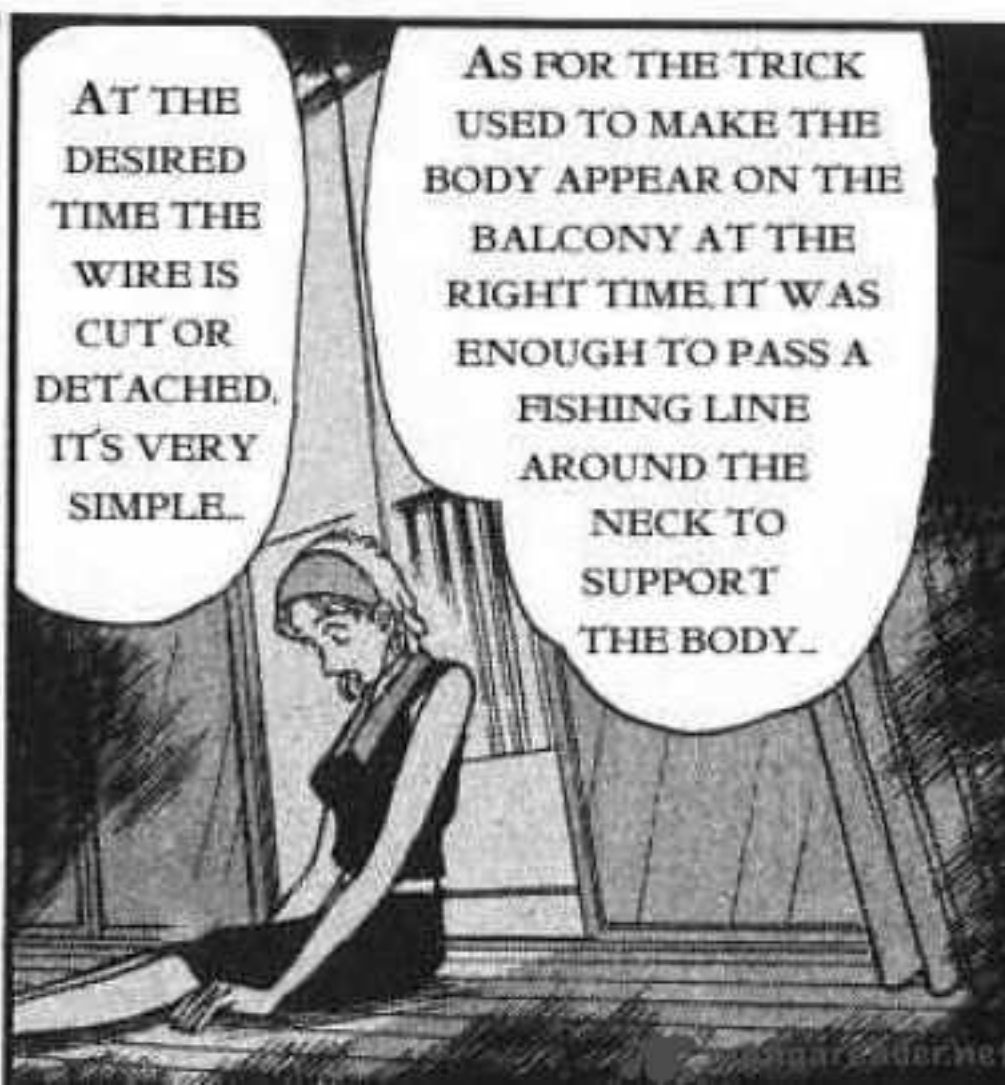
AS YOU CAN SEE, UNLESS THE TEA WAS SERVED ON THE 6TH FLOOR, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POSSIBILITY OF TOUCHING...



IT'S USELESS...



INSPECTOR! MAKE TRACES MUST STILL BE THERE... CHECK THE BALCONY ABOVE OKITA'S ROOM!



AT THE DESIRED TIME THE WIRE IS CUT OR DETACHED, IT'S VERY SIMPLE...

AS FOR THE TRICK USED TO MAKE THE BODY APPEAR ON THE BALCONY AT THE RIGHT TIME, IT WAS ENOUGH TO PASS A FISHING LINE AROUND THE NECK TO SUPPORT THE BODY...



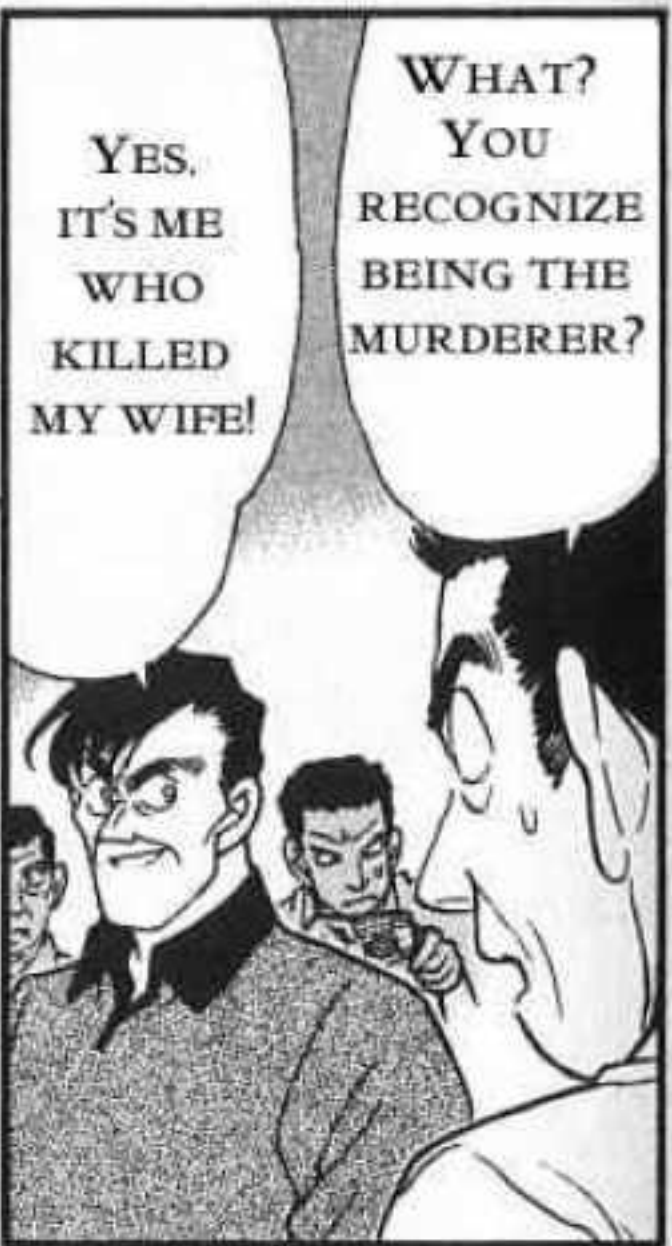
THERE ARE TRACES THAT WILL EXPLAIN WHAT I DID TO MAKE ISAMI'S BODY FALLS AT THE RIGHT TIME...

CERTAINLY, YOU'RE RIGHT...



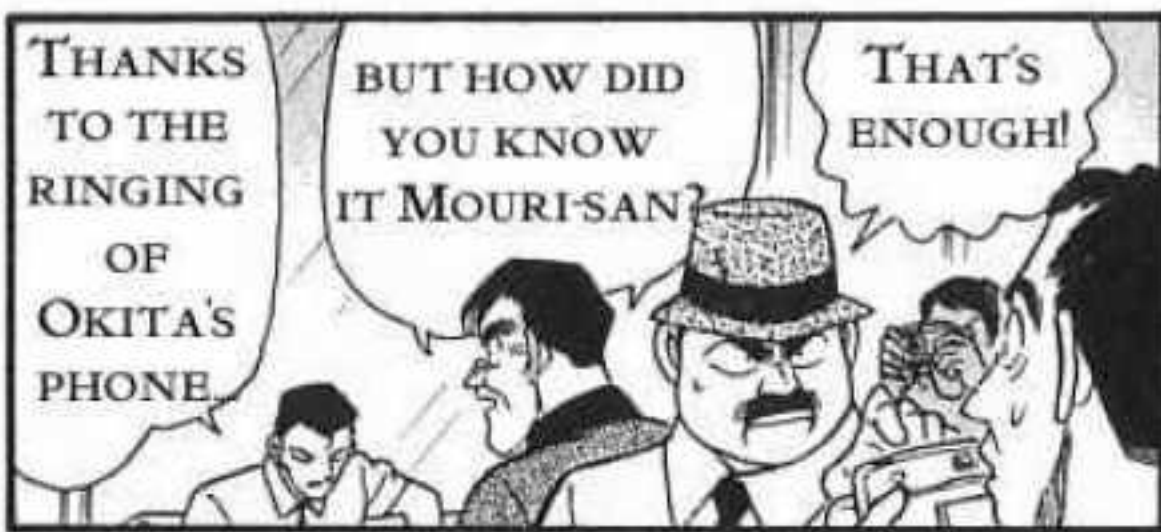
MOREOVER, I NEEDED MONEY TO START MY PRODUCTION COMPANY AGAIN. WITH ISAMI'S INSURANCE.

I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ISAMI FOR HER RELATION WITH THIS SCUM...



YES, IT'S ME WHO KILLED MY WIFE!

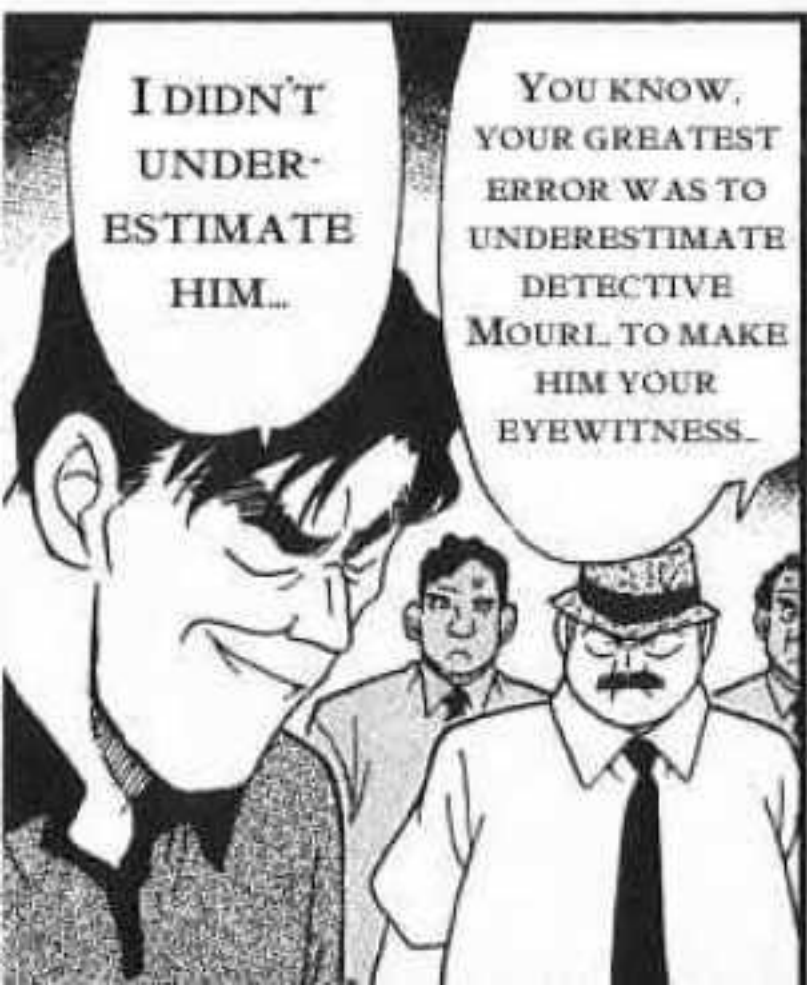
WHAT? YOU RECOGNIZE BEING THE MURDERER?



THANKS TO THE RINGING OF OKITA'S PHONE.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW IT MOURI-SAN?

THAT'S ENOUGH!



I DIDN'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM...

YOU KNOW, YOUR GREATEST ERROR WAS TO UNDERESTIMATE DETECTIVE MOURI. TO MAKE HIM YOUR EYEWITNESS.



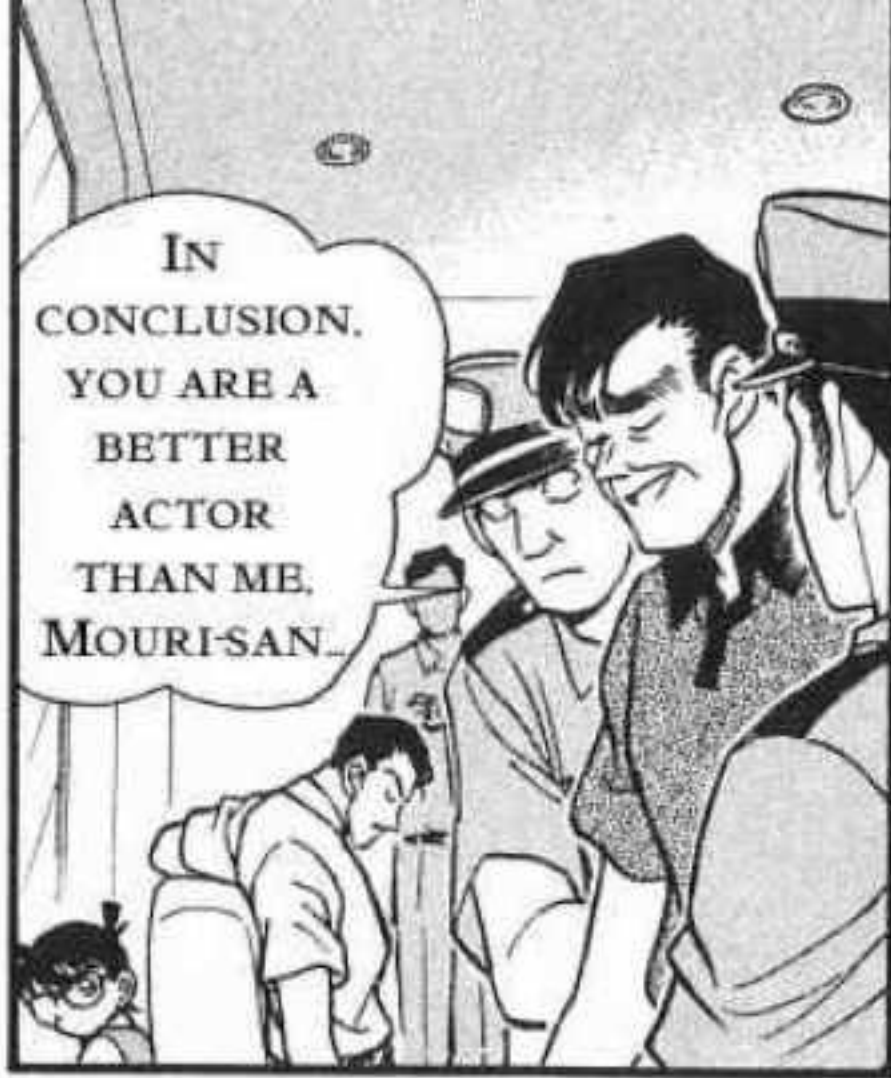
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT...

I BOUGHT A NEW ONE... JUST MERE LUCK...

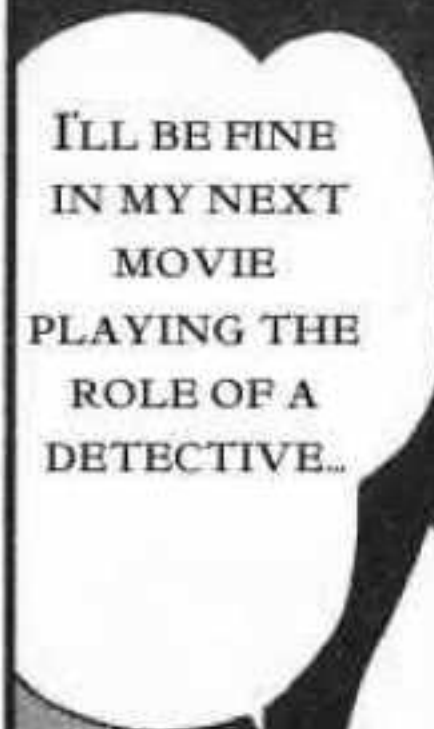


BUT, I HAD TAKEN CARE TO CHOOSE AN IDENTICAL RINGING...

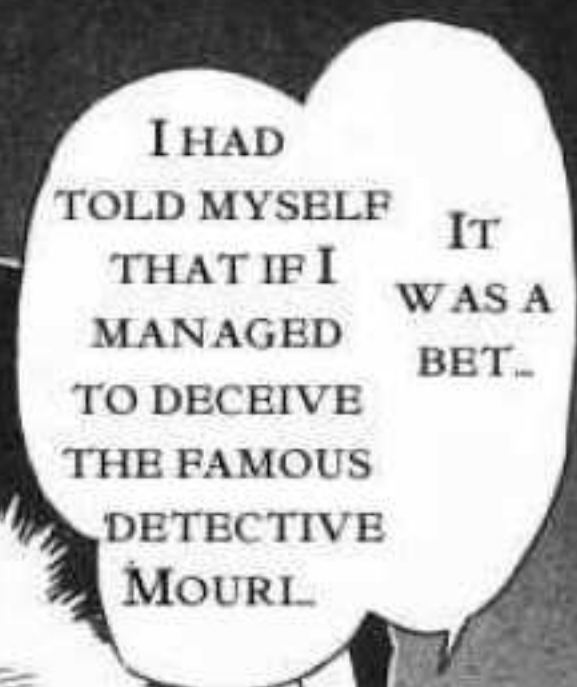
IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I HAD HEARD ON THE BALCONY.



IN CONCLUSION, YOU ARE A BETTER ACTOR THAN ME, MOURI-SAN.



I'LL BE FINE IN MY NEXT MOVIE PLAYING THE ROLE OF A DETECTIVE...



I HAD TOLD MYSELF THAT IF I MANAGED TO DECEIVE THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE MOURL. IT WAS A BET...



WAAAAH ああ



EH, WELL.

EUH.



SOME WORDS, YOU WERE LIKE AN ACTOR IN A SAMURAI MOVIE. MOURI-SAN!

Hm?

AS ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM THE GREAT DETECTIVE MOURI KOGORO!



LOVELY. YOU'RE THE COMEDY KING!

FORMIDABLE!

I FEEL LIKE A *GOLD GENERAL IN A DISTANT MOUNTAIN!!