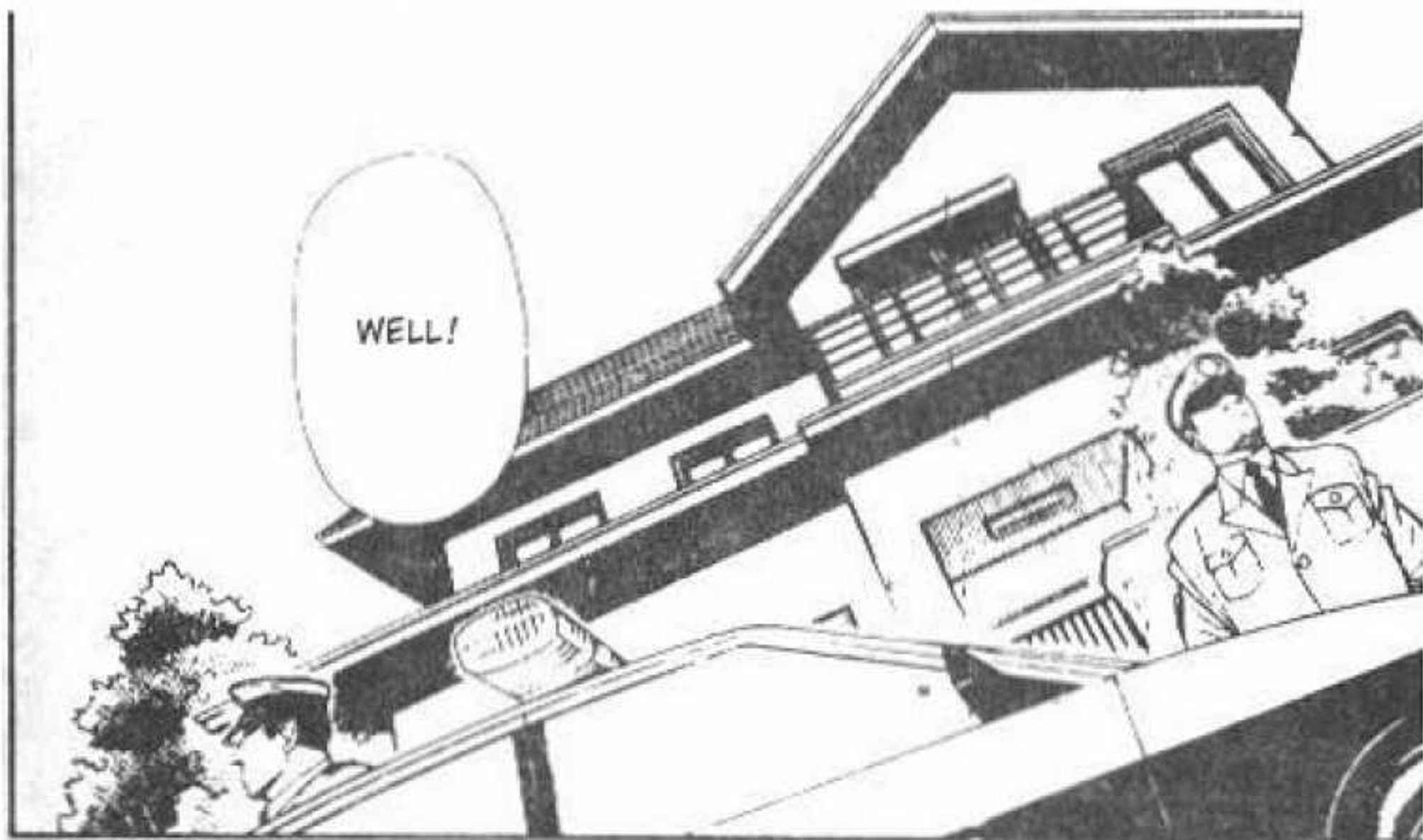


**FILE.10**

**AN UNEXPECTED RIVAL**





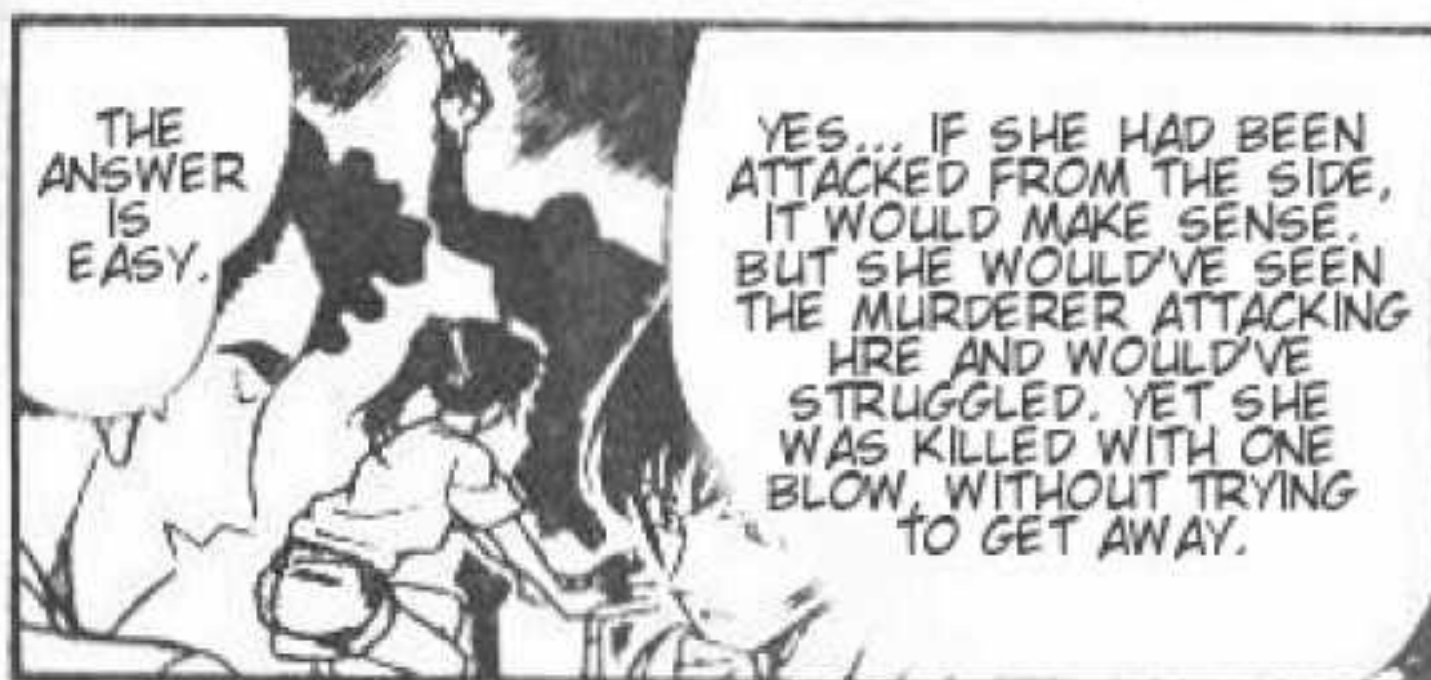
THE REASON IS SIMPLE. SHUTTING UP A DANGEROUS WITNESS WHO MAY HAVE IDENTIFIED THEM!

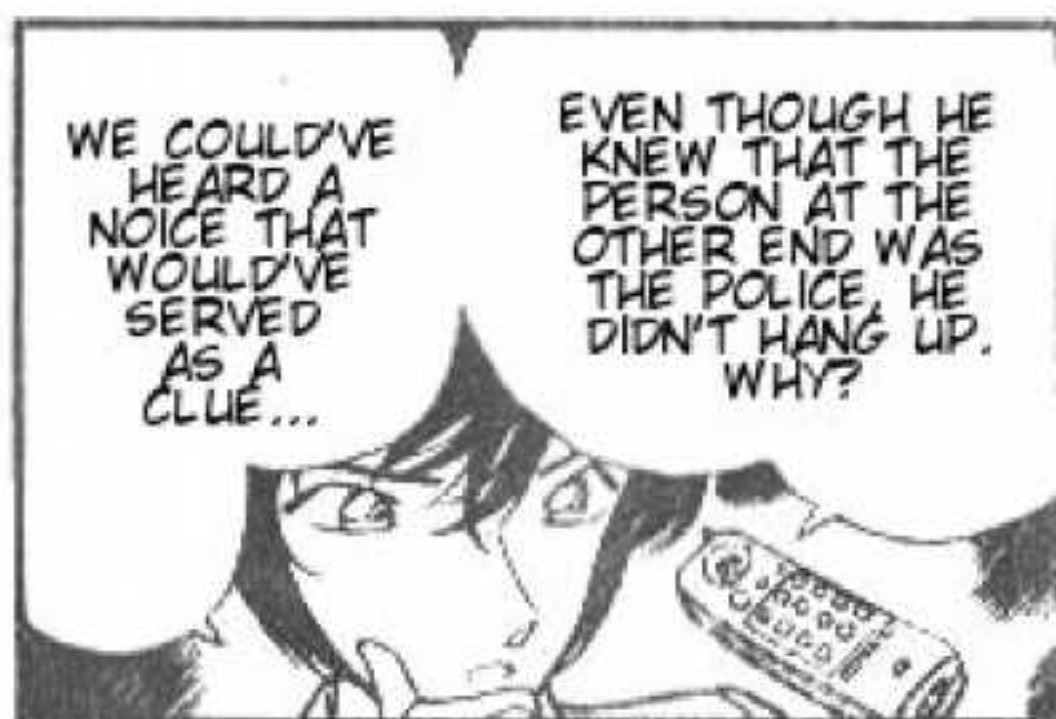


ACCORDING TO WHAT WE KNOW, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MURDERER GOT IN THE HOUSE AND STABBED THE VICTIM IN THE BACK WHEN SHE WAS ON THE PHONE!















JUST BY PEDALLING HER BIKE, SHE WOULD'VE SHORTENED THE STRING AND THE SHELF WOULD HAVE FALLEN.

AT THE TOP OF THE BOOKSHELF, KEEPING THE KNIFE IN PLACE WITH SOME CELLO-TAPE OR SOMETHING ELSE, THEN ATTACHING THE KITE STRING TO THE CURTAIN RAIL...

WOULDN'T THE KNIFE AUTOMATICALLY GO AND STAB THE VICTIM THIS WAY?

ALSO, THE BOOK-CASE FALLS WITHOUT THE VICTIM SEE-ING

NO... BECAUSE NEXT TO THIS BOOKCASE, THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE FILLED UP WITH BOOKS WHICH KEPT THIS ONE ON THE RIGHT TRACK! THE TARGET WAS EASY TO REACH SINCE SHE WAS SITTING STILL ON HER BIKE.

WELL... IT'S TRUE! IT'S AN INTERESTING IDEA. BUT WOULD THE KNIFE GO IN SO DEEP WHEN IT'S THE SIDE OF THE SHELF BEING PULLED?

YES, BUT ...

IF THE VICTIM WAS ALWAYS USING IT THIS WAY, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED.

WHAT? DON'T YOU KNOW? ON EXERCISE BIKES, YOU CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE THE RESISTANCE PROGRES-SIVELY INCREASING!

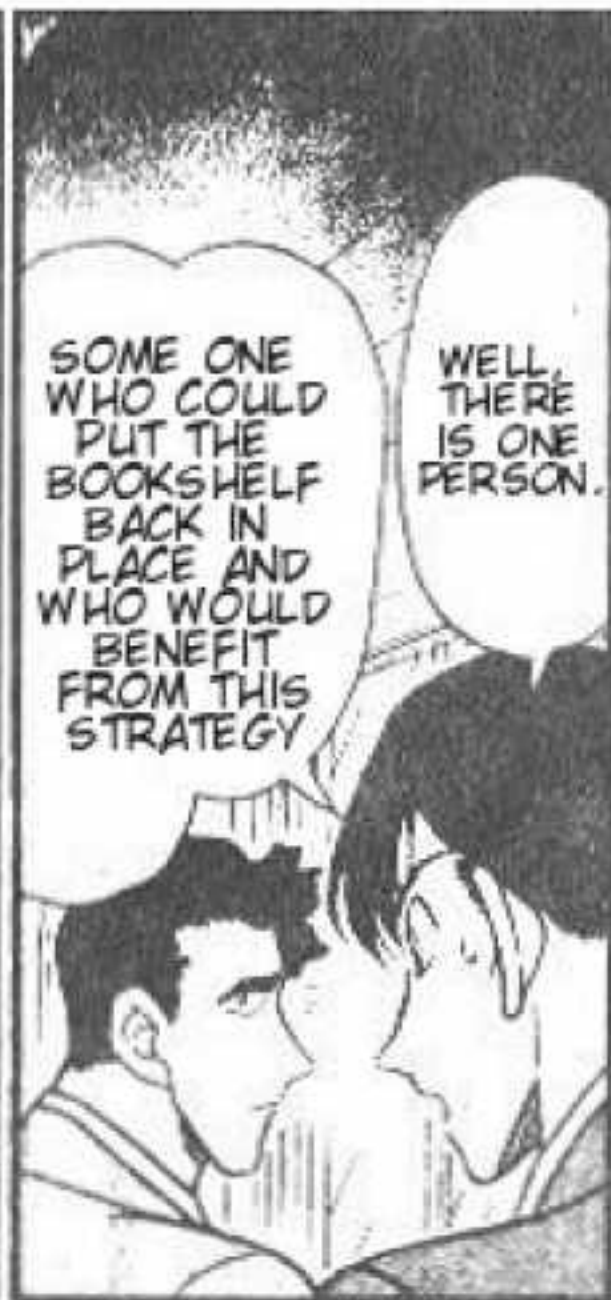
BUT SURELY THE PERSON ON THE BIKE REALISES THAT PEDALLING IS GETTING HARDER?

THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE KNIFE GOING IN DEEP IS HIGH!





HE KNOWS THE ROOM AND HABITS OF THE VICTIM BETTER THAN ANYONE... AND THE ONE WHO ENTERED THIS ROOM FIRST: THE VICTIM'S HUSBAND.



SOME ONE WHO COULD PUT THE BOOKSHELF BACK IN PLACE AND WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS STRATEGY

WELL, THERE IS ONE PERSON.



AFTER ALL, IT IS EASIER JUST TO WAIT FOR HER AND SIMPLY KILL HER WITHOUT THIS STRATEGY, DON'T YOU THINK?

WHEN YOU FOUND THE BODY, THE BOOKSHELF WASN'T ON THE GROUND.



IT CAN ONLY BE YOU! MR KEIZO!



FURTHERMORE, WHEN WE GOT HERE, YOU TOLD US TO CHECK THE TOP FLOOR.

AND IF HE PUT TAKAGI ON THE LINE DURING THE CALL, IT WAS FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM IT WAS HER AT THE OTHER END.



BUT ...

AND OF COURSE, WHILST WE WERE ON THE TOP FLOOR, YOU FIXED THE BOOK-SHELF.



IF HE KNEW THAT HIS WIFE PEDALLED EVERY DAY AROUND 2:00, HE COULD ROUGHLY GUESS THE TIME WHEN THE KNIFE WOULD STAB HER. HIS WIFE DYING WHEN HE WAS ON THE PHONE TO HER, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US. THERE'S NO BETTER ALIBI!

I SEE... THAT'S WHY HE RANG FROM THE POLICE STATION.



THAT'S TRUE. IF THE KNIFE COMES OUT, BLOOD SPURTS OUT AND PUTTING BACK THE SHELF ISN'T ENOUGH.

AND IF I HAD ATTACHED THE KNIFE TO THE BOOKSHELF, THE BOOK WOULD'VE SURELY BEEN STUCK ON THE BIKE AND THE KNIFE GONE THROUGH MY WIFE'S BODY.



STOP THIS POOR JOKE, INSPECTORS! I SAID THAT BECAUSE THERE WERE ONLY TWO INSPECTORS WITH ME, BUT IF MORE OF YOU HAD COME, ANOTHER POLICEMAN WOULD'VE SURELY GOT IN THE ROOM BEFORE ME!



WHAT?

THAT'S WHAT HE MUST HAVE DONE!



THIS WAY, NO NEED TO CELLO-TAPE THE KNIFE TO THE BOOK-SHELF, RIGHT? AND IT'S HEAVIER AT THE TOP, SO IT FALLS BETTER TOO!

HE FILLED THE LAST SHELF WITH BOOKS AND STUCK THE KNIFE BETWEEN THE TOP OF THE BOOKS AND THE WOOD.



WELL, THEN.

BUT YOUNG MAN, IF I HAD DONE SUCH A THING, MY WIFE WOULD'VE SEEN THE KNIFE.



IF HE PICKED UP THE BOOKSHELF AFTER THAT AND PUT THE BOOKS BACK IN, NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW!

OF COURSE! THIS WAY, AFTER THE KNIFE STABBED THE VICTIM, THE BOOKS SLIDE AND THE BODY FALLS TO THE GROUND, WITHOUT THE KNIFE FALLING OUT!



IF YOU DO THIS?



WELL DONE KID!

OF COURSE!  
THIS WAY  
THE KNIFE  
IS BARELY  
VISIBLE!  
AND IT WOULD  
EXPLAIN WHY  
THE KNIFE WAS  
AT AN ANGLE!



WHAT?!



IT'S A  
HARD  
TO  
DETECT  
STRAT-  
EGY!

USING THIS  
TECHNIQUE, EVEN  
IF A POLICEMAN  
CAME IN THE  
ROOM WITH  
HIM, HE SURELY  
WOULD'VE THOUGHT  
THERE HAD BEEN  
A FIGHT BETWEEN  
THE VICTIM AND  
HER KILLER!



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ACCORDING TO  
YOUR THEORY, THE  
STRING IS STILL  
ATTACHED TO THE  
CURTAIN RAIL,  
AND IF THE POLICE-  
MAN WHO COMES IN  
BEFORE ME SEES  
IT, ALL IS LOST, AND  
AFTER ALL, WHAT  
PROOF DO YOU HAVE  
TO ACCUSE ME?

WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE  
STRING?



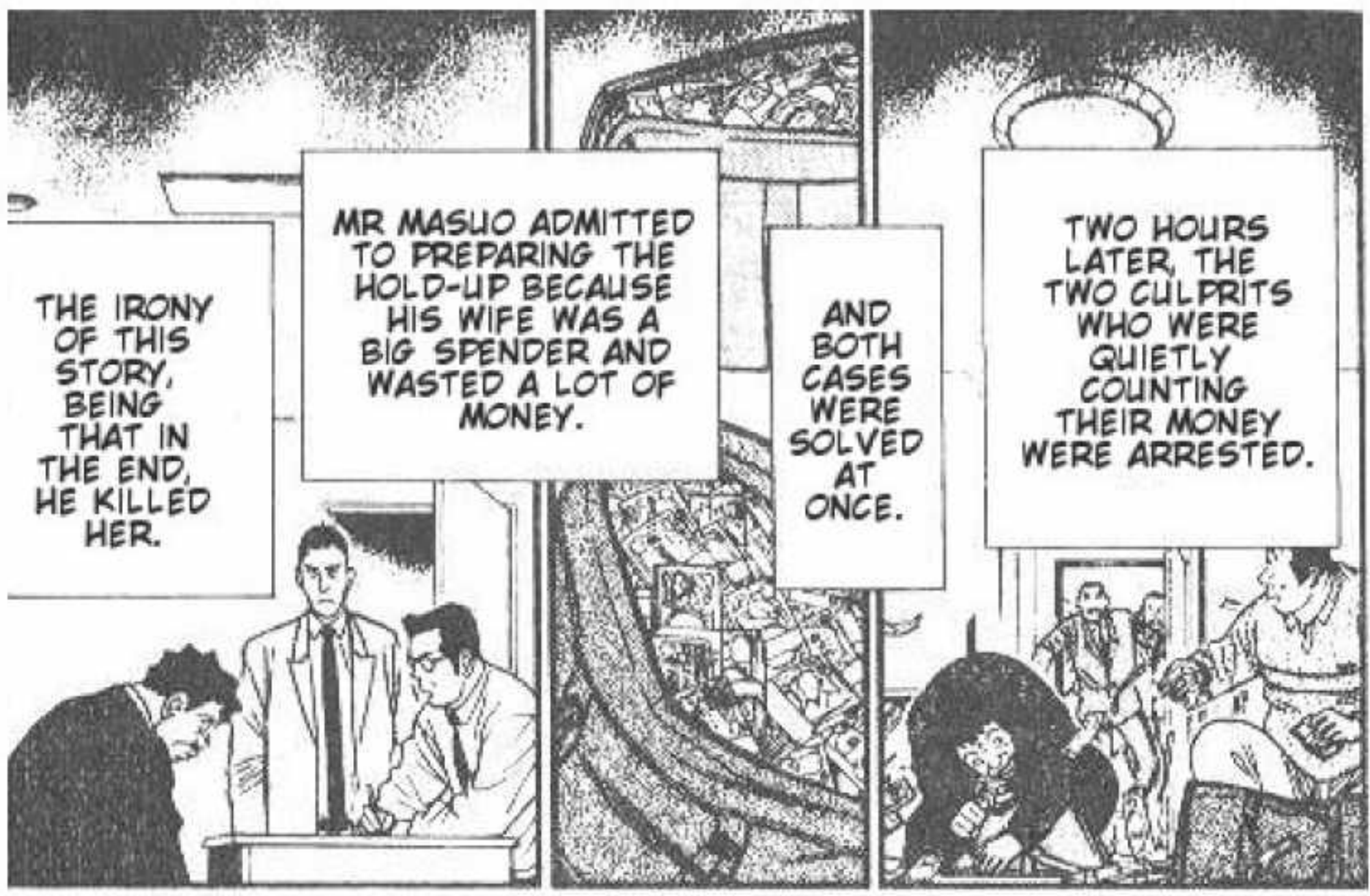
THE  
STRING  
...

IS IT  
TRUE,  
MR  
MASUO?







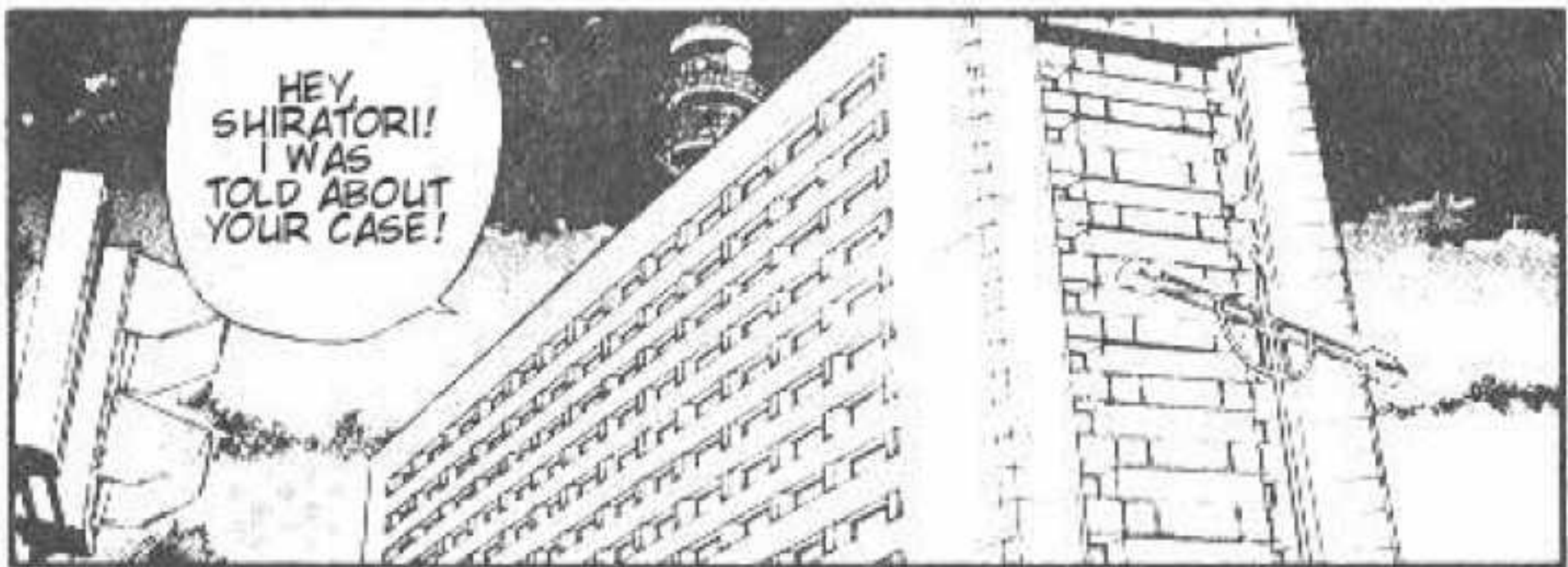


THE IRONY OF THIS STORY, BEING THAT IN THE END, HE KILLED HER.

MR MASUO ADMITTED TO PREPARING THE HOLD-UP BECAUSE HIS WIFE WAS A BIG SPENDER AND WASTED A LOT OF MONEY.

AND BOTH CASES WERE SOLVED AT ONCE.

TWO HOURS LATER, THE TWO CULPRITS WHO WERE QUIETLY COUNTING THEIR MONEY WERE ARRESTED.



HEY, SHIRATORI! I WAS TOLD ABOUT YOUR CASE!



I DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK A LOT.

IT WAS NOTHING. JUST A SMALL CASE.



OH, PLEASE CHIEF!

I HEAR THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ASKED TO PROVE YOUR PROMOTION WAS WELL DESERVED!



YES, IT'S TRUE, IF WE MANAGED TO SOLVE IT.







I WAS RIGHT...

SO...



WHAT?

BUT NOT TONIGHT!



絶望

OH, WOW!

MY UNCLE IS THE CHEF IN A FRENCH 3 STAR RESTAURANT



BUT I DON'T LIKE HIGH CLASS PLACES WHERE YOU NEVER FEEL GOOD

I DO, I'M NOT FUSSY!

MISS SATO, YOU DON'T LIKE FRENCH FOOD?



WHAT A SHAME

FRENCH CUISINE ISN'T MY FAVOURITE



I'D LOVE TO!

GREAT GREAT IDEA!



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY TO NOODLES? I KNOW A CHEAP PLACE NEARBY

