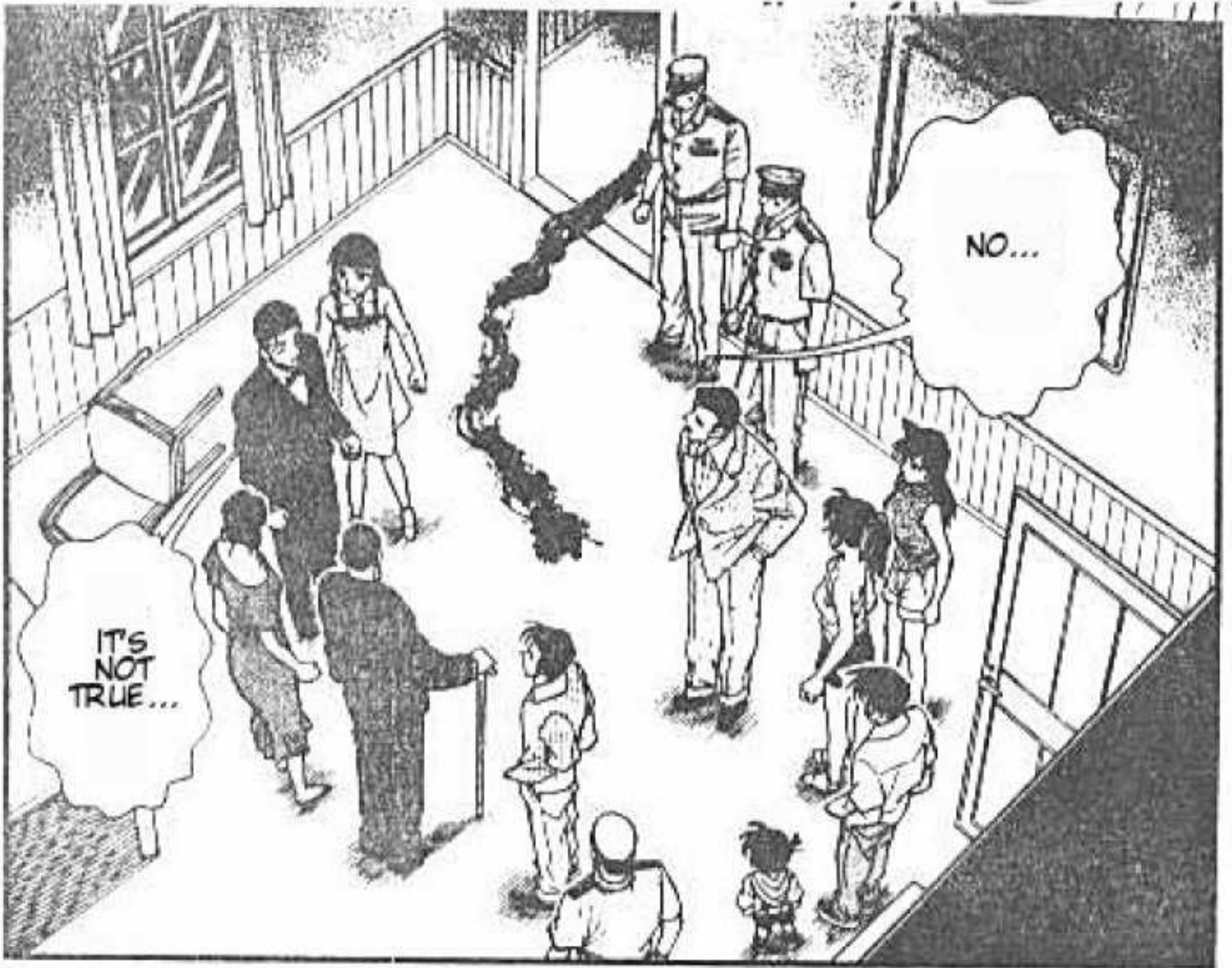


FILE.3

THE LAST LAUGH





IT'S NOT TRUE...

NO...



NO ...

MR SAKURABA, A CRIMINAL...



WITH THE HELP OF THIS STRING WITH A LOOP AND A BIT OF CELLO-TAPE

YES, OF COURSE!



FOR THE CLOSED CHAMBER MYSTERY

SO YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION, RIGHT?



WE HAVE FOUND MANY PIECES OF EVIDENCE WHICH MAKE US BELIEVE THAT MR SAKURABA IS THE CULPRIT

IT'S THE TRUTH



BEHIND THE BODY

HE BROKE SOME GLASS OFF THE WINDOW



WHEN MR SAKURABA HIT MR KIKUHITO



A VERY SIMPLE TRICK!

A WINDOW IN WHICH THERE WAS A LITTLE HOLE



JUST WATCH, PLEASE!

THIS HOLE HAS ALREADY BEEN EXAMINED BY THE LAB...

A HOLE?



THEN YOU JUST HAVE TO PULL GENTLY ON THE STRING



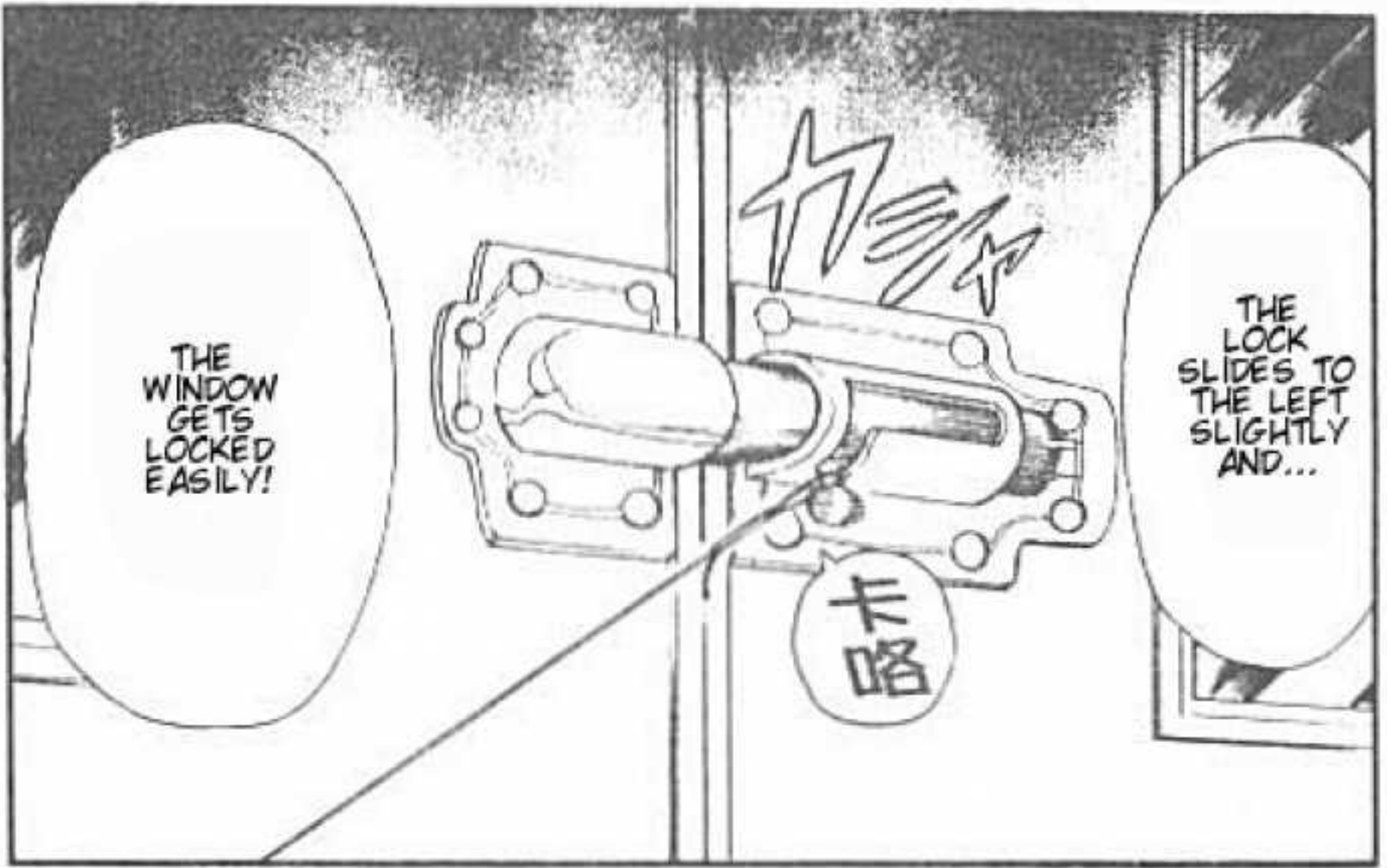
EVERYTHING IS SET!

AND IF YOU GO ON THE BALCONY WITH THE WINDOW UNLOCKED...



PUT THE BROKEN PIECE OF GLASS BACK AND PULL THE STRING THROUGH IT...

FIRST FASTEN THE LOOP TO THE WINDOW'S LOCK



THE WINDOW GETS LOCKED EASILY!

THE LOCK SLIDES TO THE LEFT SLIGHTLY AND...



THE STRING IS UNDONE FROM THE CELLO-TAPE

AND IF YOU PULL ON THE STRING HARDER



IT WORKED!

IT...



YOU SEE?

SO



LIKE SO



THAT'S WHY SAKURABA HIT KIKUHITO



IF IT HAD BEEN FOUND BY POLICE, THEN...

BUT THIS HOLE



IT'S IT'S TRUE



AND WE END UP WITH A CLOSED CHAMBER CASE!



HE MIGHT HAVE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT BREAKING IT HIMSELF BY COLLAPSING UNDER THE SHOCK BY SEEING THE BODY

THE REASON DOESN'T MATTER! HE WAS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK THE WINDOW...

BUT HE HIT KIKUHITO BECAUSE HE WAS SAYING DREADFUL THINGS



SO THAT HE WOULD HIT THE WINDOW AND BREAK THE GLASS, THAT WAY THE EVIDENCE DISAPPEARED



BUT TO SAY THAT HE IS THE CULPRIT BECAUSE OF THAT, IS A BIT...

BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, THE HOLE REMAINED BECAUSE THE WINDOW DIDN'T BREAK AS HE HOPED



I TRIED EARLIER, IT'S NOT AN EASY EXERCISE TO GO DOWN TO THE NEXT FLOOR

THINK ABOUT IT! THE MURDERER RAN AWAY USING THE BALCONY!



ONLY ONE PERSON REMAINS, SOMEONE ABLE TO CLIMB A TREE AND GET A CAT OFF IT...

AS FOR MR KIKUHITO, HE HAS A TERRIBLE FEAR OF HEIGHTS



AS FOR MISS YURIE AND KAEDE, IN THEIR CLOTHES, I DON'T THINK SO!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, WITH YOUR HURT LEG



YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE!

MR SAKURABA!



I DIDN'T DO IT

BUT...

WELL DID I GET ANYTHING WRONG?



THEN YOU HEARD KAZUHA SHOUTING AS SHE FOUND THE BODY, YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT HURRY

YOU KILLED MR SHIGEMATSU IN THIS ROOM THEN, USING THE TRICK I EXPLAINED EARLIER, YOU LOCKED THE WINDOW AND USED THE BALCONY TO RUN AWAY!



HE'S TELLING YOU THE TRUTH! SAKURABA CAN'T BE THE CULPRIT!

I DIDN'T KILL ANY ONE



HE WAS WITH ME ALL OF THAT TIME!



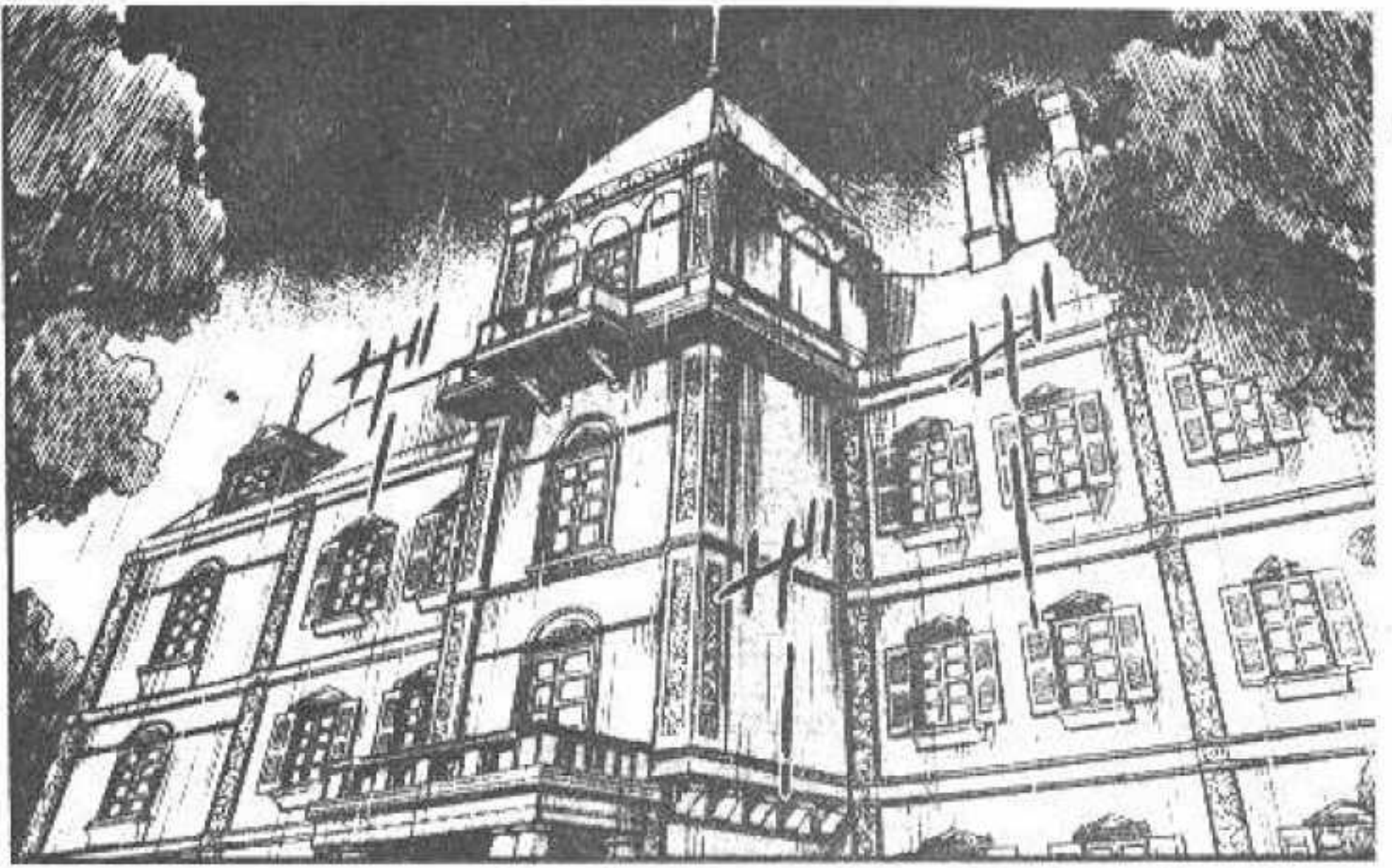
BECAUSE... BECAUSE BEFORE HE RUSHED HERE AFTER HEARING THE SHOUTING ...

WHAT?

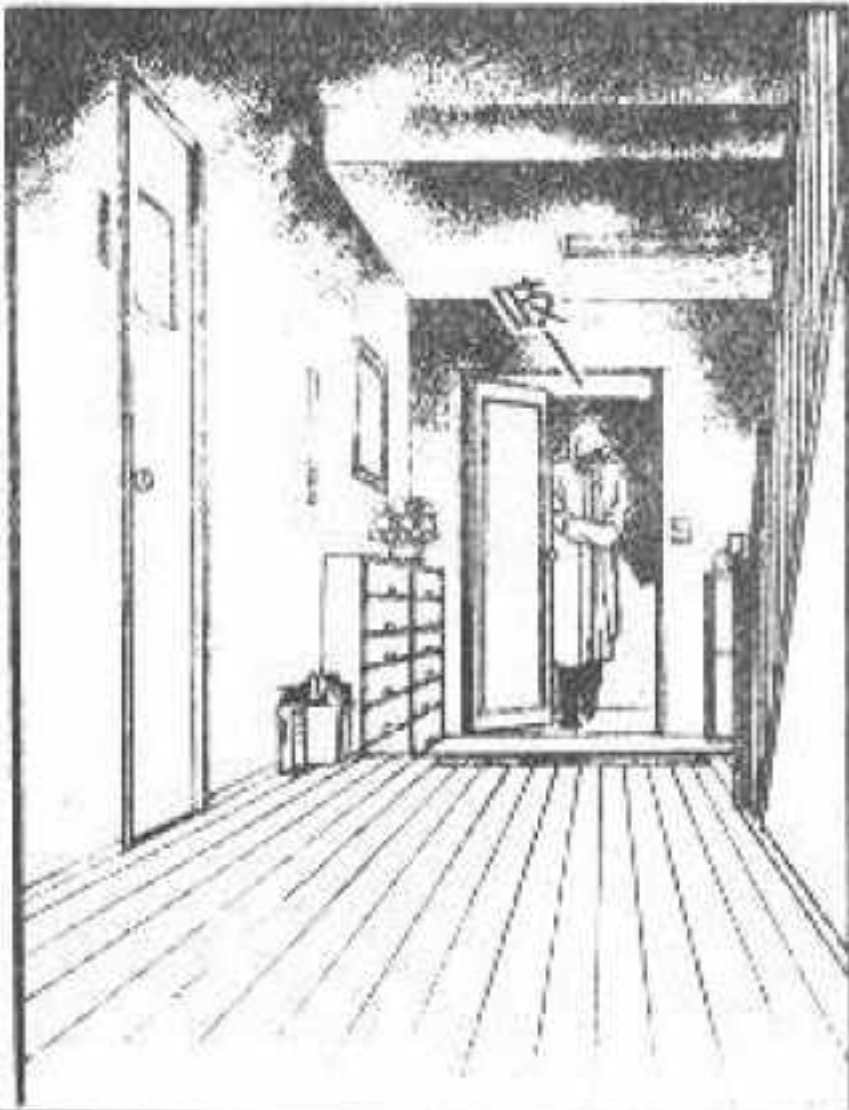


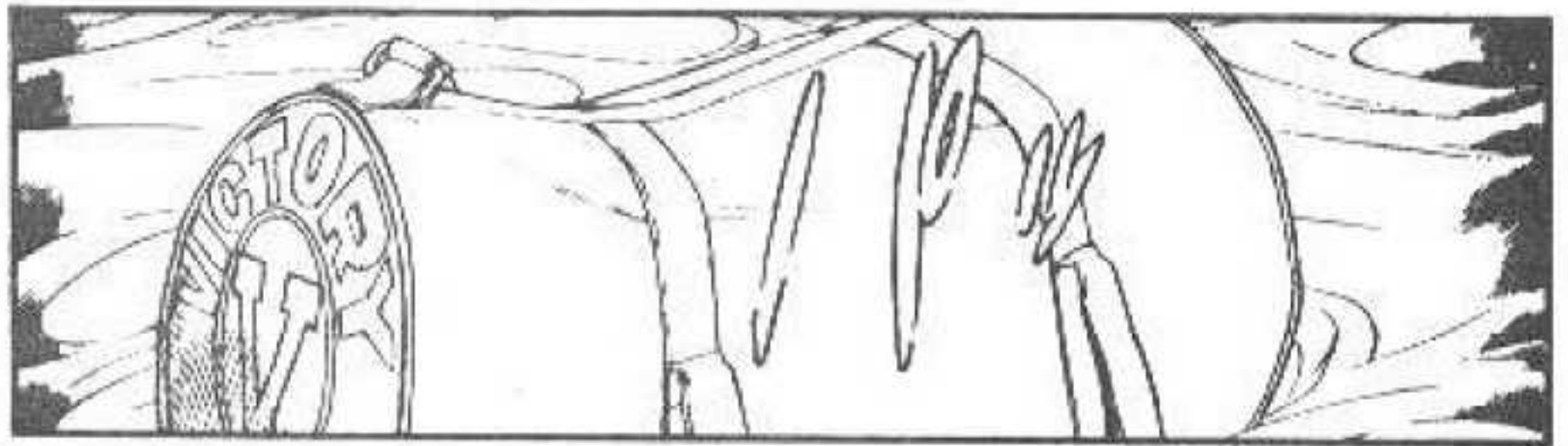
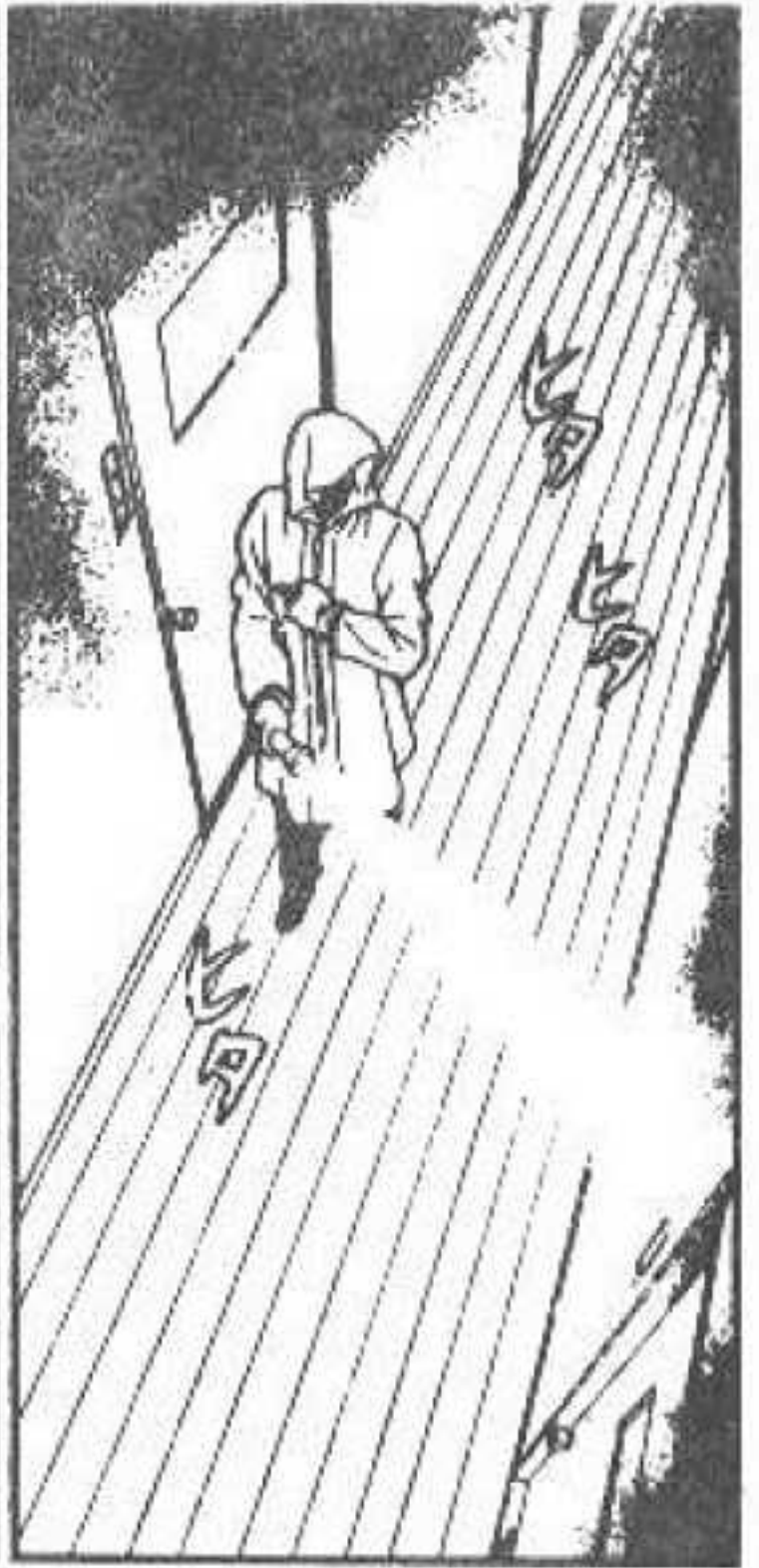






19







THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU THE TRICK WAS NEVER USED! THE PROOF IS, WHY WERE THE BLOOD STAINS ON THE LOCK, BUT NONE ON THE BALCONY?

WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT? YOU SAID IT YOURSELF! I'M AFRAID OF HEIGHTS, I COULDN'T HAVE...



YOU CAN'T HIDE THE TRUTH FROM ME!

I GET THE FEELING YOU WANTED TO HELP US TO GET MR SAKURABA CONVICTED BY LEAVING FAKE EVIDENCE, BUT...



ACTUALLY, THERE ARE NO TRICKS NEEDED

BUT... BUT HOW COULD I HAVE LOCKED THE DOOR AND THE WINDOW FROM THE INSIDE?



WOULD THE MURDERER WHO HAD PUT GLOVES ON, TAKEN THEM OFF TO CLIMB DOWN THE BALCONY?

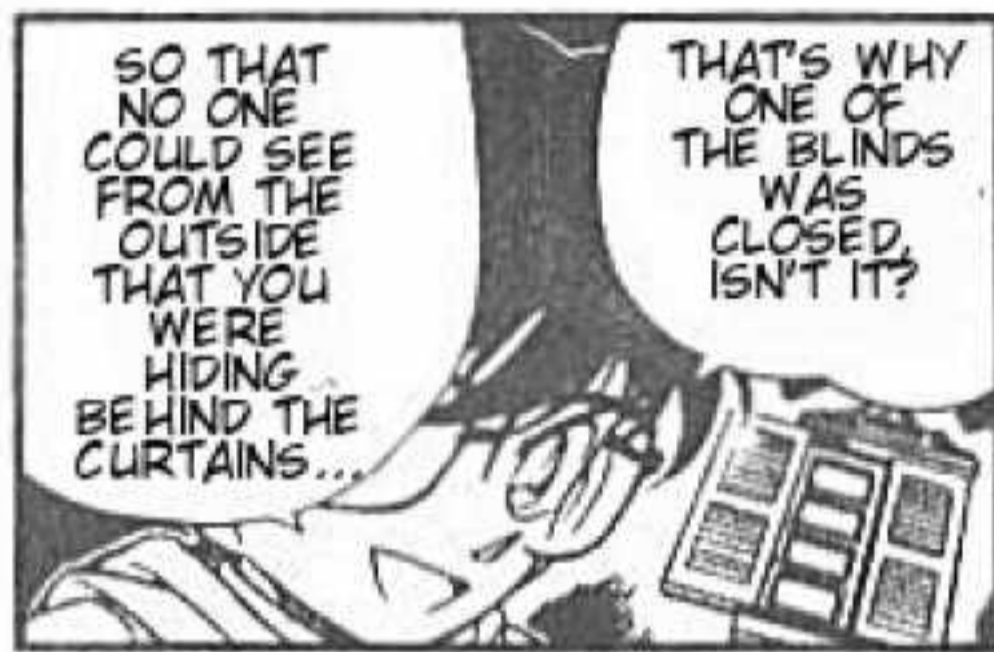


YOU WERE PROBABLY HIDING BEHIND THE LEFT CURTAIN IN THE ROOM NEXT TO THE ONE WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND...

WHAT?!



SINCE, IN ACTUAL FACT, FROM THE START YOU WERE ...
IN THE ROOM ITSELF!



SO THAT NO ONE COULD SEE FROM THE OUTSIDE THAT YOU WERE HIDING BEHIND THE CURTAINS...

THAT'S WHY ONE OF THE BLINDS WAS CLOSED, ISN'T IT?



THIS WAY, AFTER FORCING THE DOOR OPEN, LOGICALLY WE FOLLOWED THE TRAIL TO THE NEXT ROOM AND OUR ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON THE BODY

THAT'S ALSO THE REASON WHY YOU SWITCHED THE LIGHT OFF AND WHY YOU DRAGGED THE BODY FROM ONE ROOM TO THE OTHER, LEAVING A BLOODY TRAIL!



THAT'S HOW YOU ACTED!

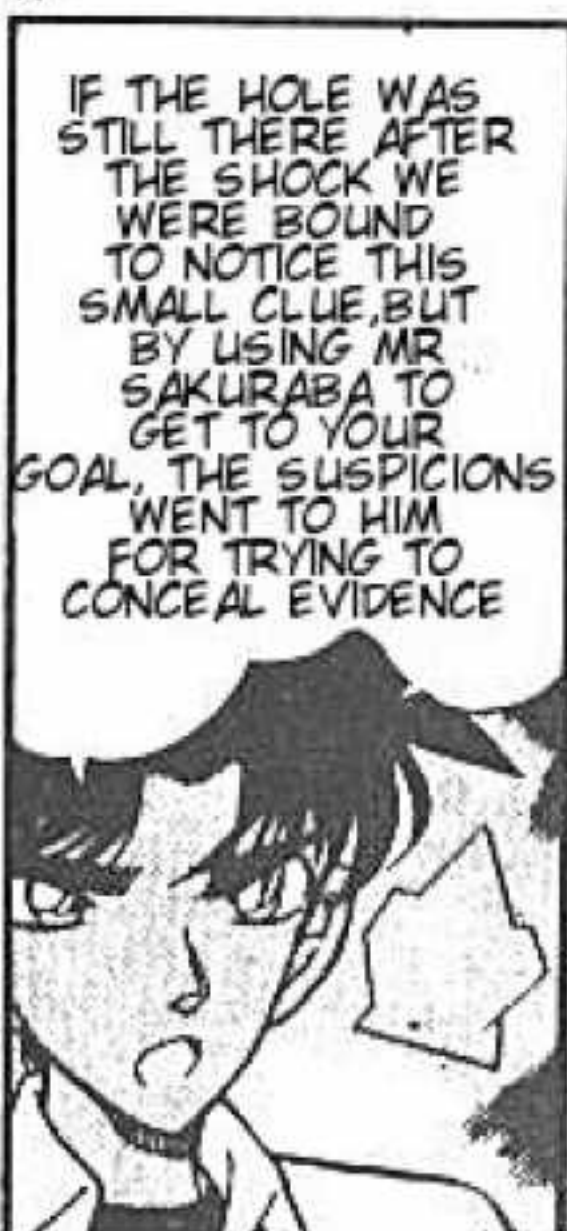
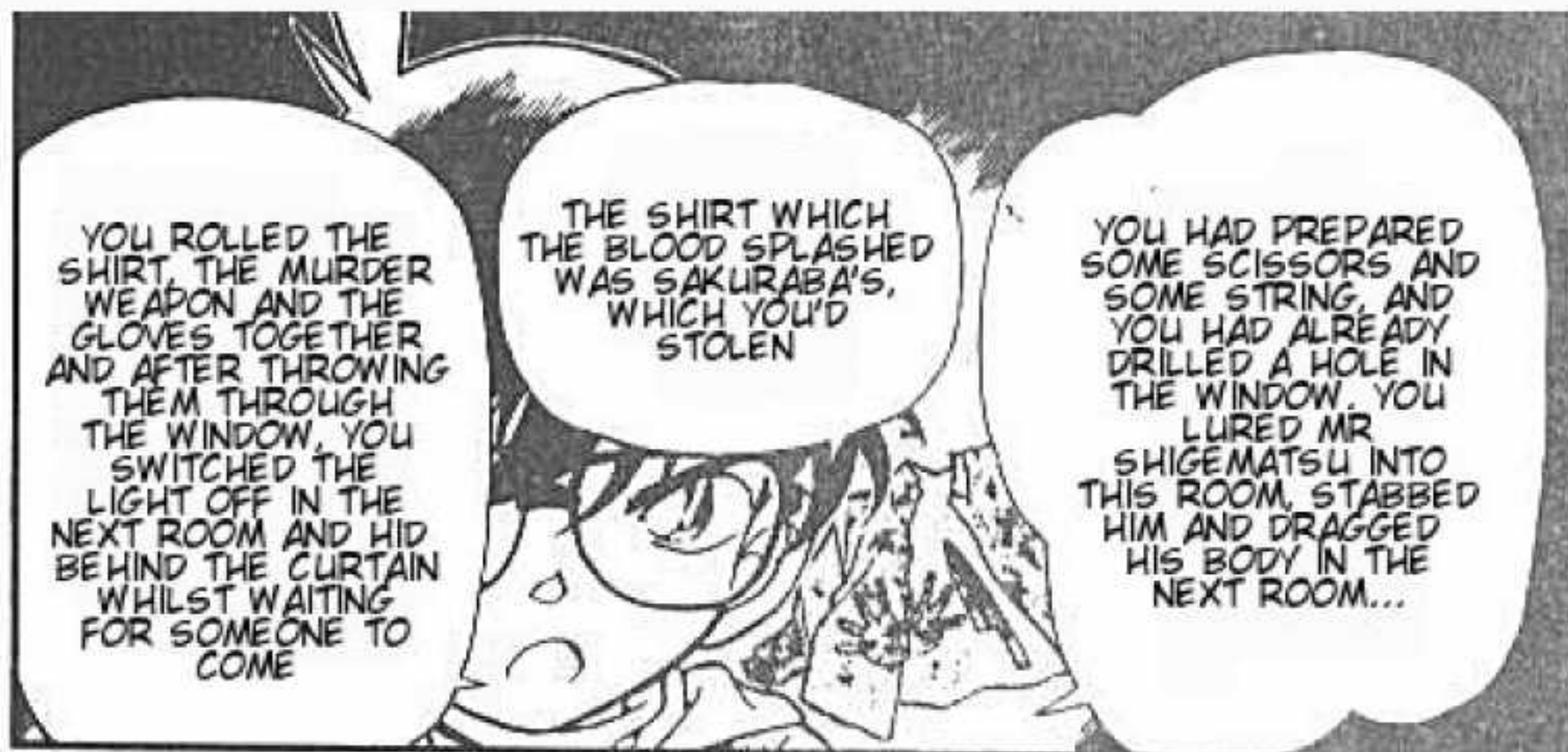
YOU KNOW YOUR DAD WOULD ASK HIM TO FIND THE CAT IF HE DIDN'T SEE IT

YOU TOOK THE CAT IN THE ROOM SO MR SAKURABA'S ALIBI BECOME FRAGILE



PRETENDING TO HAVE RUSHED IN AFTER HEARING THE SHOUT!

AND THAT WAS WHEN YOU CAME OUT FROM BEHIND THE CURTAINS AND JOINED THE PEOPLE WHO HAD GATHERED AT THE SCENE





AA..

IN OTHER WORDS YOU WHO CAME HERE TO HIDE THE MURDER WEAPON, HAVE NO WAY OF ESCAPING

THEY'RE WAITING FOR MY SIGNAL

THIS BLOCK IS SURROUNDED BY THE POLICE

OH DON'T BE FOOLISH!

.....



IT'S NOT HIS BAG

IDIOT! WHY DON'T YOU LOOK CLOSELY!

IT'S A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!



I ONLY WANTED THIS CASE TO BE SOLVED QUICKLY! SO I CAME HERE TO FIND THE MURDER WEAPON WHICH ACTUALLY, I HAVE JUST FOUND IN HIS BAG!

HAHA... WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT!



WHAT?!

IT'S MINE!!



INTO GIVING US TANGIBLE EVIDENCE!

WE WANTED TO LURE YOU



YES, THIS ROOM, THIS BAG, THE KNIFE LEFT IN THE WOODS, AND MR SAKURABA'S ARREST WAS A TRAP I ORGANISED WITH THE POLICE!

HA?!

SAKURABA'S ROOM IS REALLY THE NEXT ONE!



I HAD TO DO SOMETHING, IF I DIDN'T, HE WOULD'VE CARRIED ON BLACK MAILING ME ALL MY LIFE

THOUGH, HE'S THE ONE WHO ARRANGED THIS MARRIAGE

HE... HE WAS ASKING FOR IT... HE SAID THAT IF I DIDN'T CANCEL MY WEDDING, HE'D TELL MY FATHER ABOUT MY COMPANY'S BAD PAYMENTS



カケル



HE WAS WRONG, JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER SO LONG AGO ...

MR SHIGEMATSU, WHO THOUGHT IT WAS FOR YOU, ARRANGED YOUR MARRIAGE



HE DIDN'T STEAL HER, MISS KAEDE ALWAYS CAME HERE TO SEE HIM

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO PUT THE BLAME ON THE ONE WHO STOLE MY FIANCEE



HE ONLY WANTED YOU TO RENOUNCE THIS WEDDING SO THEY COULD BE TOGETHER

MR SHIGEMATSU DIDN'T WANT TO BLACK MAIL YOU



HE PROBABLY DIDN'T DARE, THINKING THE SHOCK IT WOULD CAUSE YOU... FURTHERMORE HE'S THE ONE WHO UNITED YOU

IT'S NOT TRUE! HE NEVER MENTIONED IT!



THOSE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SHARED THE SAME TRAGIC FATE AS HE HAD IN THE PAST



YEP, WE'RE EVEN FROM WHEN YOU INVITED US TO OSAKA!



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SIR!



THEY LOOK REASSURED BUT SAD...

YES, I APOLOGISED ABOUT PRETENDING THAT THEY WERE THE CULPRITS

AND DID YOU SEE MR SAKURABA AND MISS KAEDE EARLIER?

BUT KOGORO, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, TO MISLEAD YOUR ENEMIES, ONE MUST FIRST MISLEAD YOUR FRIENDS

HOWEVER, PUTTING UP ALL THIS STORY WITHOUT TELLING ME... EVEN KAZUHA WAS UPSET



KAZUHA'S TAKING HER TIME... WHAT'S SHE DOING?



STILL... NOW THEIR FUTURE DEPENDS ON THEM...



COME ON! DON'T BE SILLY! WE'RE THERE!

STOP RAN!! I'LL DIE OF SHAME!!



WELL... IT'S RAN!
I DON'T KNOW
HOW, BUT SHE
PUSHED ME
INTO WEARING IT!

EH?
KAZUHA,
YOU'RE
WEARING
STRIPES
TOO?



WAIT!

BUT I'LL
GO
AND
CHANGE
NOW!



'THAT
WAY'
WHAT?

WH...



AND
THAT
WAY
...

I
DON'T
MIND



I'D SAY
A COMIC
DUO...

IT'S
FUNNY,
WE LOOK
LIKE
BROTHER
AND
SISTER!