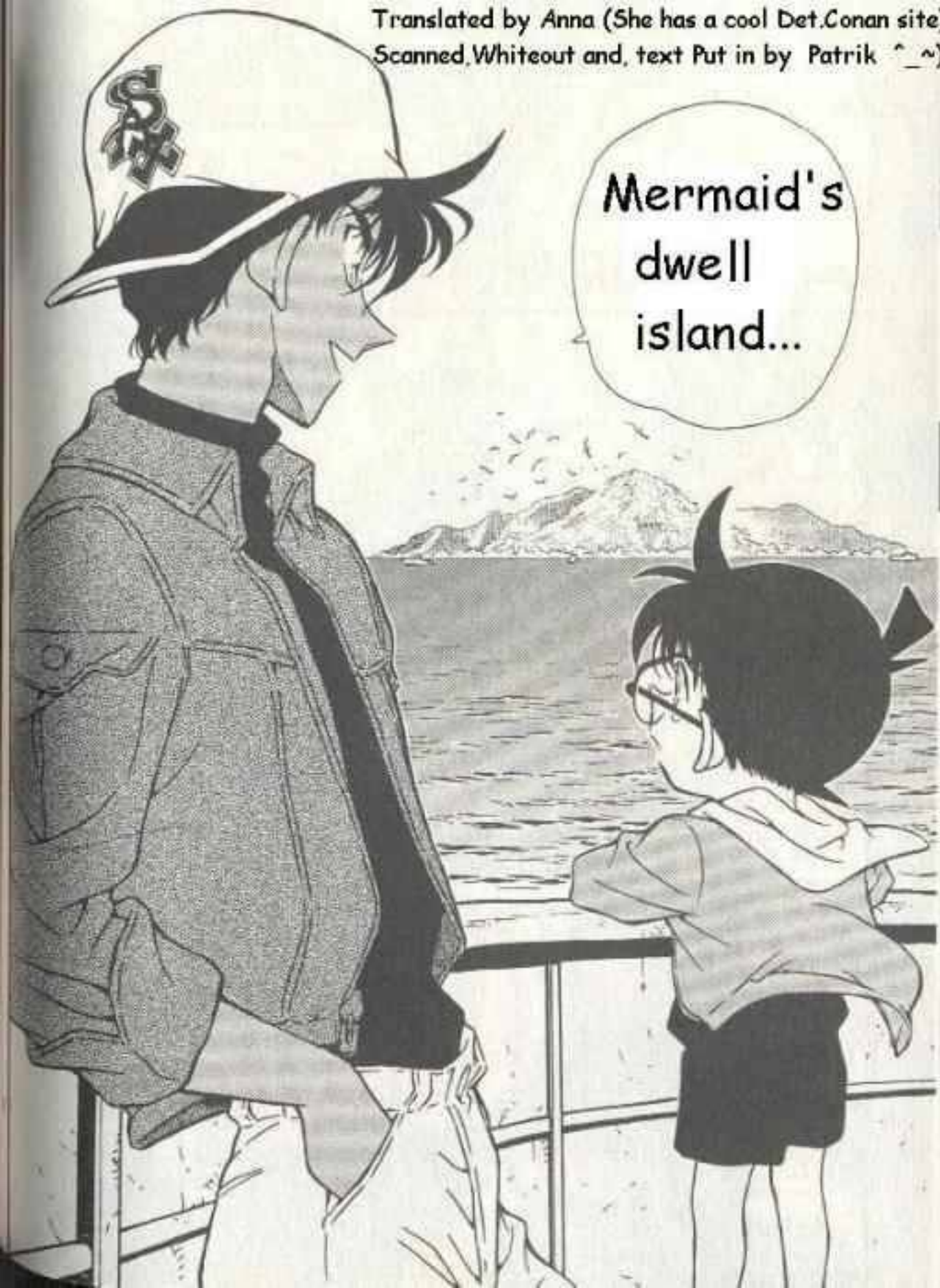




File.6 The Mermaid's curse



Mermaid's
dwell
island...



Yes~ I've also thought about keeping young and beautiful!

I know! Three years ago that immortal granny was the news of the time...

Yes... some say eating mermaid's meat you'll be immortal...

Mermaid...!?

Women are just so idle...

Fool! Not that loud!

Really! Because of your beloved

Hattori?

I wouldn't believe such legends that fool people...

The origin of the nuns legend comes from Fukui...

Living for 800 years means it is 800 nuns...

Mm you are all stupid...

Is there really mermaids, that island is so romantic~

Using wobbly letters to write it says...

In that request letter...

Exactly the opposite...

Hey hey... would it be that the person who asked us wants us to find the mermaid?

"If it goes on like this, I will be killed by a mermaid, quickly come and help me"

このままじゃ
人魚に殺される
助けて
TEL.190..

"I will be killed by a mermaid..."

Be killed!?

by a mermaid...

by...

Waaa...

Although letter is sent to me... but the name on the letterhead is...

You idiot! This time it's not only my business... You should state more clearly the purpose of coming here...

You fool, you think I'll believe what you said" in the winter holidays going to find the mermaid!" Hey listen to it more seriously! Because this is too complicated, so I didn't tell you too much on the phone!



You haven't mentioned my name to anyone have you...

This is the truth! At the start I wanted to rip it up and throw it away, but after a long consideration that person may have known you, so I called you here together!

Eh?

Written as 'Shinichi Kudou'!

Ah... there's a mobile number written at the end of the letter and that person is called Saori Kado-waki...

Hey... have you contacted that person?

the second time and after it couldn't be connected..but the first time I'm sure I heard some noises. A woman's voice and the waves sounds!

I tried to call it a few times... The first time it connected but after a short time it cut off...

Don't think so...

How's that? Did I say it interestingly?

Already by the mermaid... Would it be that person...



Yes...

she appeared three days ago in her workplace... someone said she got on a boat to the other coast...

Re... really!?

What?
Miss Saori
Kadowaki
disappeared!?

Goodbye! I need to arrange the things for the worship festival...

Mr assistant need to go now!

Three days ago the letter was sent to my house...

If you want to know more, go to Miss Saori's really busy local products store!

Today there is the island worship held once every year called 'Dugong worship'!

There's many tourists...

A worship ceremony...

Ah

Wow~ there's even Dugong steamed buns!

Mermaid charm...

Fish-shaped mobile strings...

儒良饅頭
儒良饅頭
儒良饅頭

Wrong wrong! It's only an animal which looks like a mermaid! In those days they appeared in the south of Japan, it is said that dugong meat is the medicine of long life...

Is it saying about a mermaid?

Legend says in one's sea there was a mammal!

What? Dugong ...

This island has many mermaid souvenir...

Yes... the long life charm...

'Dugong's arrow'?

There is really mermaids ...

But I predict her disappearance has nothing to do with that charm...

The tourists today also wishes they're lucky enough to get that precious arrow...

Miss Saori last year prize arrow she got last year in the worship festival, a week ago she started to fear... she said the mermaid caused the trouble...

Ah...

Saori's friend Naoko they grew up together...

Who is she?

Maybe after Saori lost the arrow, she had some mental reaction so it's not strange that she left this island...

The person who gets a lock of hair from the elder at the dugong's arrow, the dream of having long life comes true!

There is an elder who got long life by eating mermaid's meat...

She's the leading role in the festival, also she's the symbol of the island, she's a granny called Shimakuro!

What was the 'elder' she was talking about?

Naoko Kuroie
28 years old
Saori's friend
Store staff

Why don't you have a look at the meeting hall in the shrine?

Ah... some say from 80 to 200 years old... literally the local residences don't even know...

Really? How old is that granny?

We didn't come here for sight-seeing...

Like this

Kimie also grew up with Saori, you could go and talk to her!

Living with elder at the shrine is Kimie...



Born in Meiji
2nd year
June 24th!

Maybe she
could go in
the Guinness
book of
records...

A bit
longer...

Oh~ It's just that
compared to some
she's just lived a bit
longer, I wouldn't
thought there'll be
such a great
reaction to this.

You'll under-
stand when
you investi-
gate the
domicile!


My great
grandma
is 130
this year!

ah

Has the
granny
really
eaten
mermaid's
meat?

Right inside
casting magic
powers for
the 2nd
arrow!

Really...?
Where is
the granny
?



Kimie Shimokuro
27 years old
Saori's friend
MIK Shrine worker

M.I.K.=Aoi Ji Kwok

My deceased mother said
it used to be called 'curse
detain worship' it's a pro-
tection from the devil charm,
it's only my long life great
grandma, so the people from
before calls it 'dugong
worship'!

But that
'Dugong
worship'...

That's
only a
rumour!!

eh

Ah ha ha ha
hal There's
isn't such th-
ings as mer-
maids in this
world!!

There's no such thing! I've been out to sea with Saori before and nothing happened...

Doesn't that mean there's something wrong? Don't you know the curse of the sea when mermaid's meat is eaten...

Yes... an accident happened when mum and dad went out to sea... my grandparents also disappeared in the before I was born... only people left is only me and my great grandma...

Your mother has already passed away...

I said I wanted to go to the dentist, she came with me to go... because there's no dentist on this island...

4 days ago...

when?

Eh? With Miss Saori ...

Before the worship ceremony there has to be something happening... eh?

I told her many times that it's just her mental reaction, but Saori said 'no, it's really the mermaid's curse'!

from the time she lost the dugong's arrow she became really frightened... she wished she could get help from my great grandma...

Then is there anything different about the behaviour of Miss Saori?

But I don't believe these things...

Saying the people who believe long life and receive the arrow, could avoid the problem of dying early... losing the arrow or believing the magic is gone in the arrow, they will come to the mermaid's disaster



Three years ago the mermaid corpse was found...

Elder had eaten mermaid's meat before~

Stupid... Kimie you even believe the elder~?

Sumi:

Sumi Ebihara
(27 years old)
Saori's friend
since childhood

Mermaid corpse!?

What

What are you talking about? You also saw it with your own eyes!

That's only the exaggeration in tv programs...

Talking about that I've heard it before... a warehouse was on fire and a strange burnt corpse was found...


Ah, that was on TV three years ago...

That's enough Sumi!

The strange

...

And also the strange bone fragments...



If you want to find Saori don't waste time here, go to her home and investigate!

You are the detectives that come from Tokyo...


Rokuro Fukuyama
(28 years old)
Saori's friend from childhood, Fisher



Rok-
rou...

Rok-
rou...


Don't tell outsiders about these things...




Could you take me to Saori's house?

Yes... Saori often argues with her father and goes out...

A person has disappeared and no-one is worried...




Her father will be pleased to speak to you...




The worship festival is where my great grandma reveals some numbers, when the numbers matches they get a dugong's arrow...

Ok, shall we go after the worship festival...



Or you could be like the legend and be young and beautiful always

It doesn't matter if you don't get it, at least it's a start of being lucky!



This morning a couple had cancelled it so there's two left...

Ah...

Why don't you two take part in it?



BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA
BLA... BLA ...BLA



yes...

There's an exciting feeling!

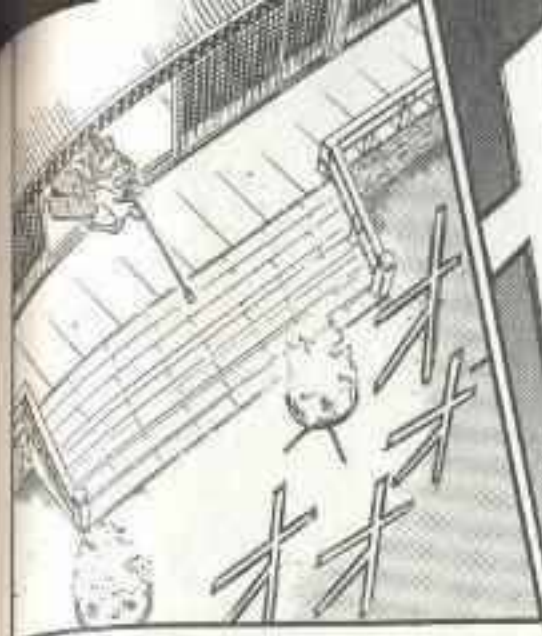


ドンドコ
ドンドコ
ドンドコ
ドンドコ



Is that the elder...

Oh! It's coming!!



It's only a granny with heavy make-up...

Body size is so small...

It's Elder's elder! coming !!



Yatoko Shimakuro
(130 years old)
Elder

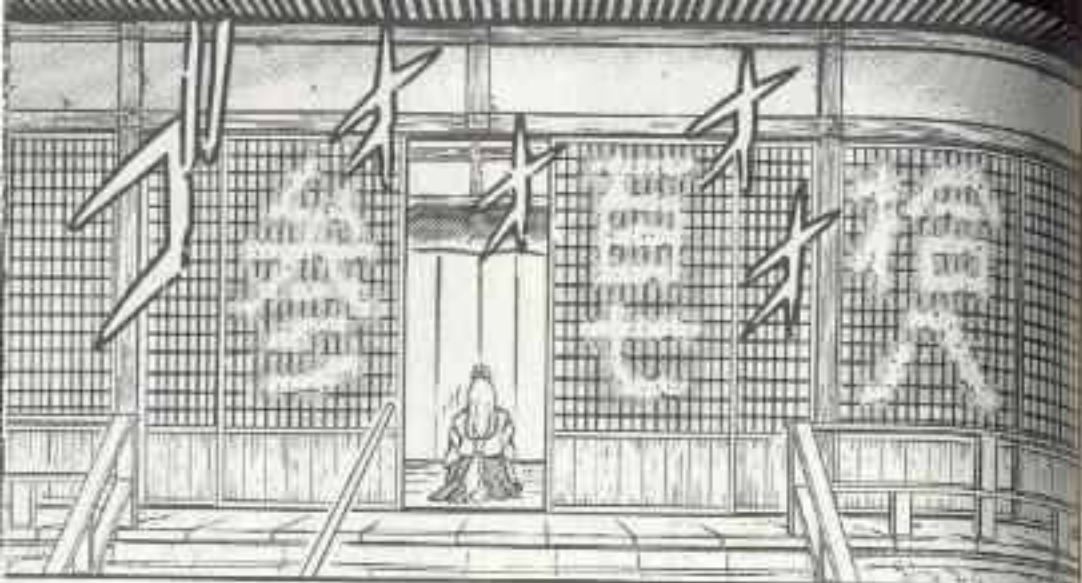


Ah...



Lighting the paper door!!

On the paper door...



I'm
lucky
I won!

Really?

I see now...
lighting the
door and
numbers
will appear...

I got
it!!

I,
I... Ran...

Ah

To pray!!

At the mer-
maid's water-
fall...

Please come a
receive dug-
ong's arrow in
awhile...

The people
whose num-
bers have
matched...



Ha, Thanks a lot...

Don't worry! After you died I will help you 'pick bones'...

Forget! Kazuha... there isn't such thing as immortal...

I could be forever young and beautiful!



yes

Ah

Please come!

The three lucky people...



it's me

Is that person here?!

One more still!

I'll back in a minute!





How come she's not here...

Eh? Strange... didn't that sister won it...



mh

he

Mr. Kadowaki
(52 years old)
Saori's father.
Fisher



She had already arrived before us...

The truth is...



What is that?

Oh What's that?

Like black hair flowing with the wind...

Light those three fortune lights!

The corpse moving without stopping



Like a
mer-
maid...

Looking like
she's swimming
and dancing
in the water-
fall



But it's sad
that her face
had already
turned pale...

