

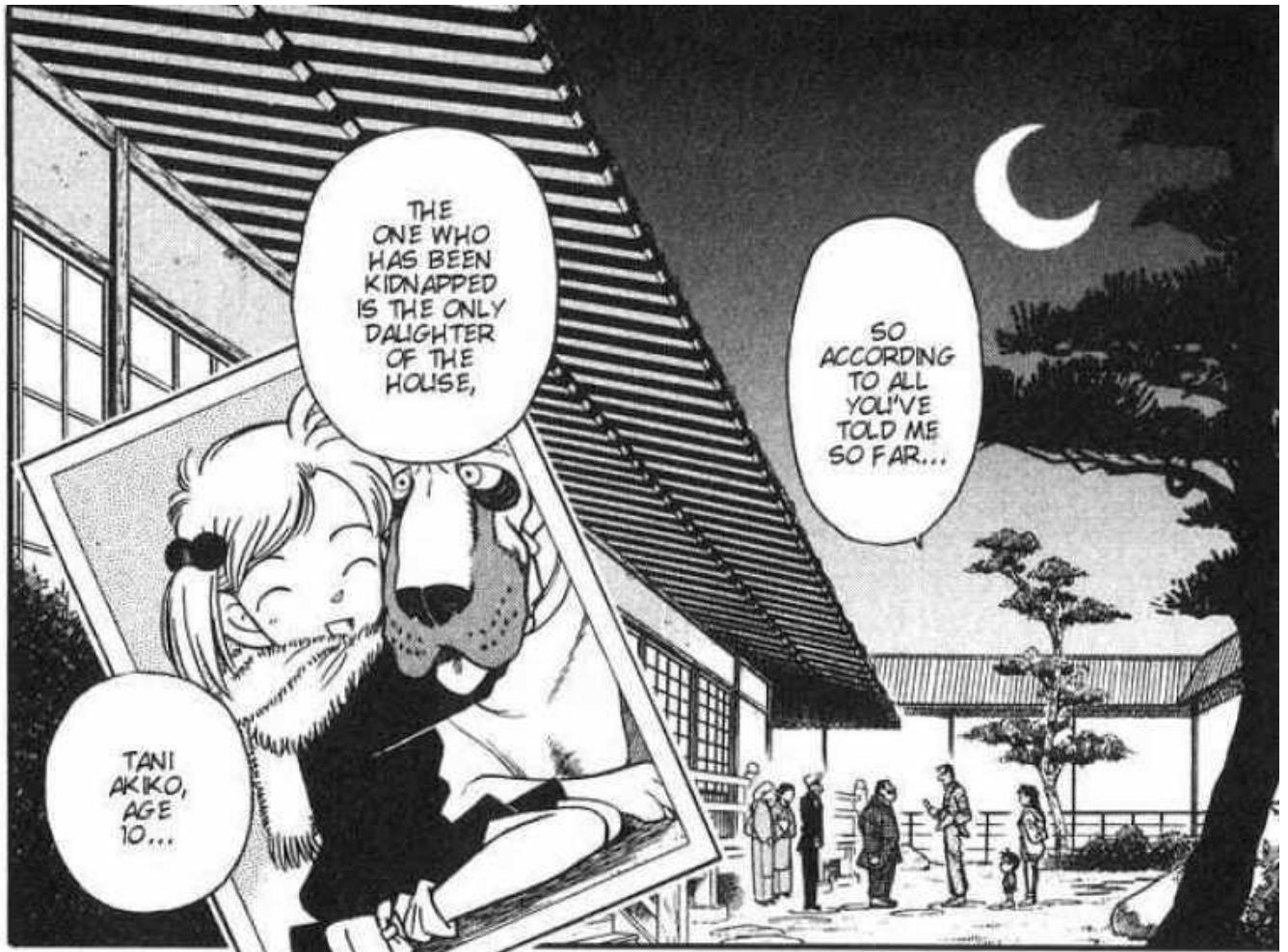
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FILE. 3

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仲間はずれの

The Left Out Detective

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名探偵





THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED IS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE,

SO ACCORDING TO ALL YOU'VE TOLD ME SO FAR...

TANI AKIKO, AGE 10...



YES... MY BUTLER WITNESSED THE ACT...

AND THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED HER WAS A LARGE MAN DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK...

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EH?

I SEE...!

MM, HMM...



BY THE TIME EVERYONE CAME RUNNING AFTER HEARING HER SCREAM, HE WAS ALREADY GONE...

IS THERE NO ONE ELSE WHO SAW THE KIDNAPPER?



Y, YES, SIR...

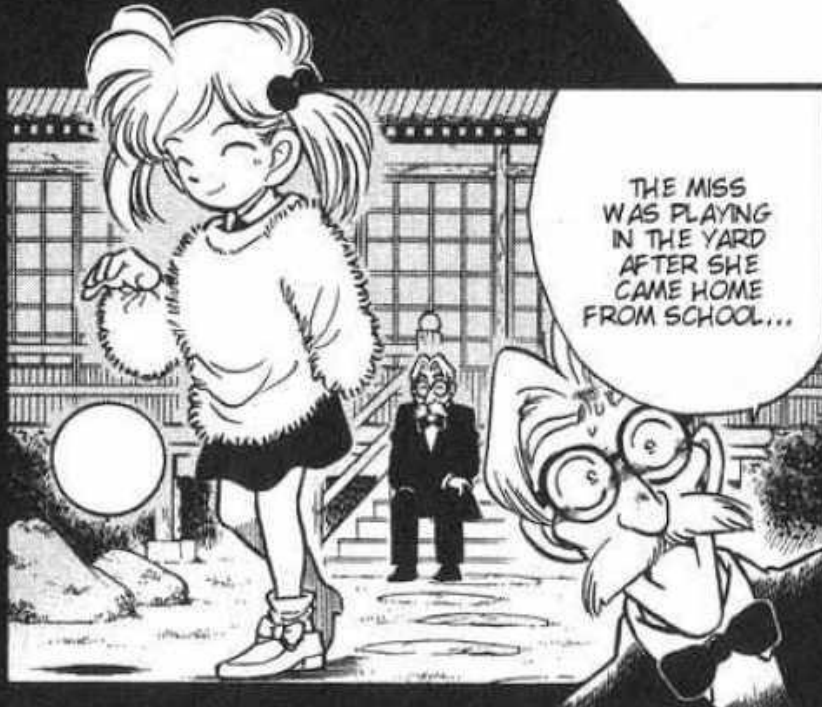
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASOU-KUN?!

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THE MISS WAS PLAYING IN THE YARD AFTER SHE CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL...



Y, YES...

NOW PLEASE GIVE ME A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE KIDNAPPING...



WHA-?!

KYAA!!



ALL OF A SUDDEN, A MAN IN BLACK APPEARED FROM THE CORNER OF THE YARD...



AND DON'T GET THE POLICE INVOLVED!!

TELL YOUR MASTER, IF HE WANTS HIS DAUGHTER BACK, TO CLOSE DOWN HIS COMPANY IN ONE MONTH'S TIME!!

AND DID HIS VOICE HAVE ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURES?

HMM... NOT VERY CLEAR, THEN...

?

ER, NOT VERY HIGH OR VERY LOW...

WHY YOU...

HMM...

HE SAID THAT, THEN CLIMBED RIGHT UP THAT TREE AND OVER THE WALL...

WE GOT THERE ABOUT 10 SECONDS AFTER HER SCREAM, BUT IT WAS ONLY ASOJI-SAN...

DIDN'T YOU TWO HEAR ANYTHING? THE KIDNAPPERS VOICE, OR ANY OTHER NOISES...?

OWW...

SHIT, SO THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW OR HEARD THE KIDNAPPER IS THAT OLD MAN...

TO TO TO TH TH TH

BUT OTHER THAN HIS YELLING, IT WAS QUIET...

I'LL FOLLOW THE KIDNAPPER!! YOU INFORM THE MASTER!!

THE MISS HAS BEEN CARRIED AWAY!!

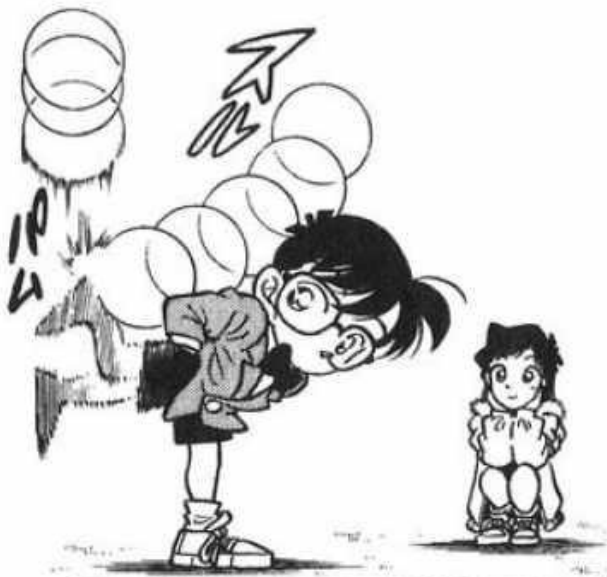




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THIS CASE...

SOME-THING'S FUNNY ABOUT



DOING THIS CLEARS MY HEAD...

SHINICHI DOES THAT WHENEVER HE'S THINKING HARD...



BUT CHANGING HIS VOICE ON THE PHONE AND DEMANDING SECOND-HAND BILLS SOUNDS STRANGELY CALM AND COLLECTED...

AND LETTING HIMSELF BE SEEN IS TOO CARELESS...

WHY DID THE KIDNAPPER DO IT AT HER HOUSE? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER TO GRAB HER ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL...



THAT'S IT!!



WHY?!







Rarwf
Rarwf
Rarwf

YOU AGAIN!!

HELP ME, OJI-CHAN!



WHAT?! DOGS BY THE TREE...

WHEN I WENT TO GET THE BALL BY THE TREE, THOSE DOGS STARTED BARKING AT ME!!

THERE THERE...



Rarwf
Rarwf
Rarwf
Rarwf

AAH, WHAT WAS THAT?!



!?

YES... THESE ARE QUITE SUPERIOR GUARD DOGS...

I THINK THESE DOGS BARK AT ANYONE THEY DON'T KNOW...



HEY, HEY...

WELL OF COURSE... ANY HOUSE THIS BIG WOULD HAVE A DOG OR TWO...

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IT WAS QUIET...

BUT OTHER THAN HIS YELLING...

BUT WHEN THE MAIDS RAN OUT...

WAIT... THE KIDNAPPER SUPPOSEDLY CLIMBED THAT TREE...



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ASOU-SAN?



THERE YOU GO, THERE YOU GO...

AND AFTER HE GOT AWAY AS WELL!!

IF THE KIDNAPPER ESCAPED BY CLIMBING THAT TREE, THE DOGS SHOULD HAVE BEEN BARKING LIKE MAD!!



.....

THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US...



AND IF YOU SAW A KIDNAPPER, YOUR ACCOUNT IS MUCH TOO AMBIGUOUS...

BUT WHEN THE MAIDS CAME RUNNING OUT, THEY DIDN'T HEAR ANY OTHER NOISES BUT YOUR SHOUTING...



NO...



ASOU-SAN?

THERE WAS NO MAN DRESSED IN BLACK AT ALL, WAS THERE,



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