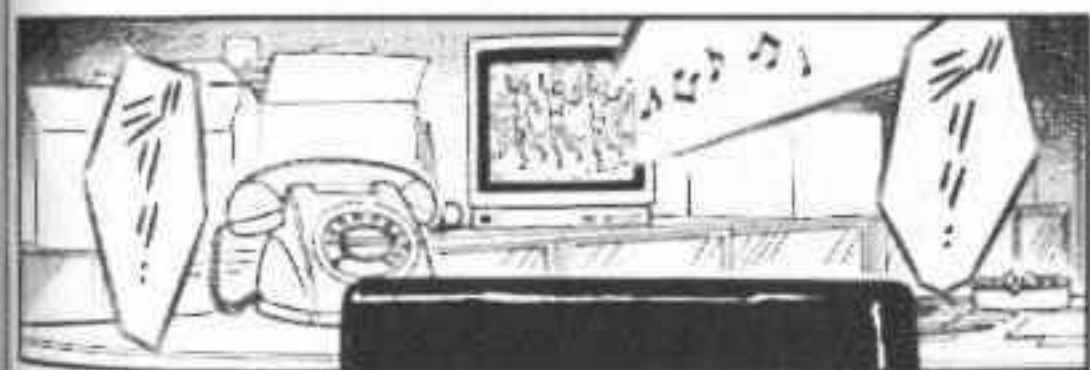


DETECTIVE CONAN

Vol. 33 - File 09

Life of a Flower







YOUR
PRECIOUS
GIRLFRIEND
FROM
CHILDHOOD

YOU CAN'T
STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT HER,
CAN YOU?

WHAT
?



DUH!
I AM NOT
HAPPY AT
ALL
...

BUT... HARD TO
STAY COOL WHEN
YOU ARE DELIGHTED
WITH HER
CHOCOLATE,
HUH?



BUT YOU
BETTER NOT
LOSE YOUR
GRIP. YOU
MUSTN'T TELL
HER ABOUT
YOUR TRUE
IDENTITY OR THE
ORGANIZATION
...

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT DETEC-
TIVE TAKAGI
HAD TOLD
YOU...



THEN
YOU
MUST
HAVE
RE-
TURNED
.....

YEAH
.....

BUT YOU DID
ACCEPT HER
CHOCOLATE,
RIGHT?

HUH
?



AFTER ALL,
I HAVEN'T
TOLD HER
ANYTHING
.....



ALL THIS TIME
I'VE BEEN
BREAKING HER
HEART BY
KEEPING HER WAIT
YET I CAN'T STILL
APPEAR BEFORE
HER EYES
...

IF I HAD SAID
HOW I FEEL
ABOUT HER,
SHE WOULD
MISS ME
EVEN MORE
...



SHE
WOULD
WANT
TO SEE
ME
...



EVEN IF IT
MEANS I
NO
LONGER
EXIST IN
HER
HEART
...

I NEVER
WANT TO
SEE HER
CRY
ANYMORE
...



HOW
IMMATURE
OF ME,
RIGHT?



BOTH
YOU
AND I
...



...
PITI-
FUL
...

BUT
SHINICHI
...



UM...
IT WAS
LIKE
THAT
WHEN I
BOUGHT
IT
....

YOU
ARE
RIGHT
...

THE OTHER
ONE OF
THE SAME
PATTERN
HAS A
BOTTOM
....

THE
BOTTOM
OF A
BOWL!

LOOK
!

INSPEC-
TOR!
EVERY-
THING
IS
READY
!

APPA-
RENTLY
IT WAS A
DEFECTIVE
GOOD
....

TO THE AUDIO
ROOM WHERE
MS. IDEZUKI
WAS
MURDERED
WITH A
VASE...

COME ON,
EVERYONE!

MR. MORITA,
PLEASE JOIN
US IF YOU
DON'T MIND!
IT'S JUST A
SIMPLE ON-
SITE INVESTI-
GATION
....

WH...
WHAT'S
READY
...?

GO
AHEAD,
TO THE
INSIDE...

Y...
YES
...



THE VCR HAS ITS POWER ON !?



THE POWER ...

THE ...



O... OH...

WE HAD TO PUT THEM THERE FOR A WHILE!

OH, SORRY ...



N... NO, NOT THE VCRS BUT THE TAPES IN FRONT OF THEM ...

OH? IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE VCRS ON THE SHELF?



R I G H T ...

WHEN SHE TOOK OUT THE REWOUND TAPE FROM THE VCR AFTER WATCHING IT, RIGHT?

OKAY... IF I REMEMBER IT CORRECTLY, MS. IDEZUKI WAS ATTACKED FROM BEHIND



N... NO ...

MR. AGASA, WE ASK YOU TO PLAY THE VICTIM ...

TAKAGI, YOU BE THE CULPRIT ...



WHAT ?

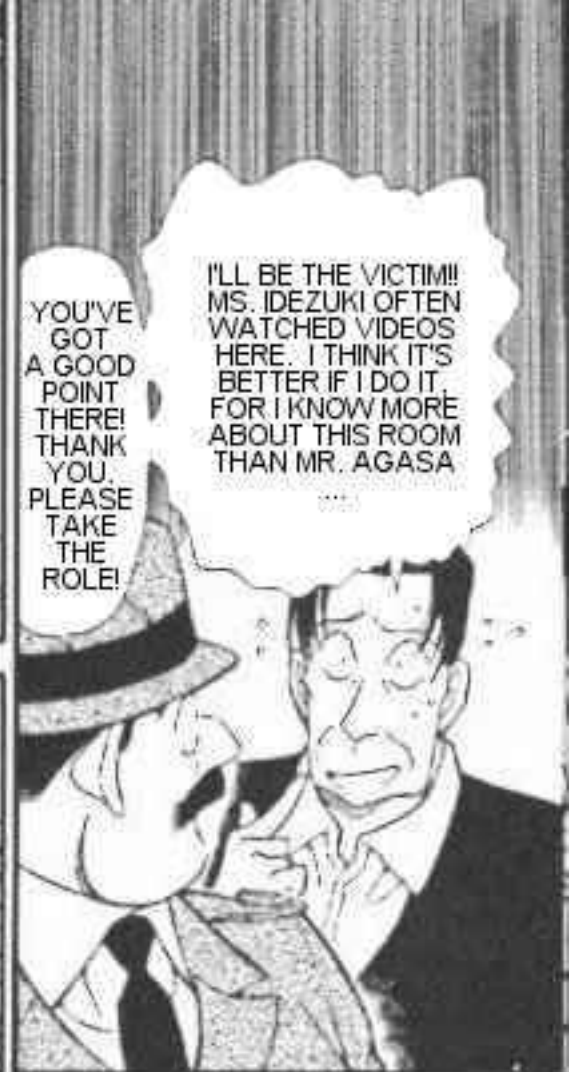
ALL RIGHT. LET'S REENACT THE WHOLE INCIDENT USING THE VCR...



Y...
...YES
...

AND THE VICTIM WATCHED THE VIDEO SITTING ON THAT CHAIR ...

FIRST, YOU INSERTED THE TAPE IN THIS VERY BOTTOM VCR ...



YOU'VE GOT A GOOD POINT THERE! THANK YOU. PLEASE TAKE THE ROLE!

I'LL BE THE VICTIM!! MS. IDEZUKI OFTEN WATCHED VIDEOS HERE. I THINK IT'S BETTER IF I DO IT, FOR I KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS ROOM THAN MR. AGASA ...



OH, OKAY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? PLEASE REWIND THE TAPE!



THEN THE FILM ENDED AND THE TAPE WAS REWOUND ...



THE CULPRIT RAISED THE VASE ...

WHEN THE VICTIM WAS GETTING THE TAPE OUT OF THE VCR ...



WHILE THE TAPE WAS REWINDING, THE CULPRIT LURKED FROM BEHIND WITH A VASE FROM THE FRONT HALL IN HIS HANDS ...

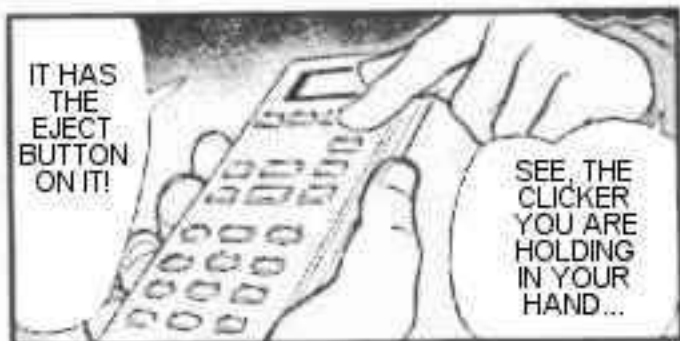


OKAY ...



UM, UM, Y... YES !!

GO AHEAD! TAKE OUT THE TAPE !!





AAH...

HUH?

WE'VE
CHANGED
THE CODE
NUMBER OF
THE VCR ON
THE SHELF
...

THE
TAPES
ARE
NOT
GOING
TO FALL
ON YOU
...



HUH?




THE TOP
VCR HAD
A TAPE
IN IT
FROM
THE
BEGINNING
...

YOU PROGRAMMED TWO
VCRS, THE BOTTOM ONE
YOU OFTEN USE AND THE
ONE ON THE SHELF, SO
THAT THEY CAN BE
CONTROLLED BY THE
SAME CLICKER...




THIS
IS
HOW
YOU
COMMITTED
YOUR
CRIME!

MR.
MORITA
...



TO ENSURE
THAT THE
VASE WOULD
FALL, YOU
TIPPED THE
VASE BY
SLIPPING A
TAPE
UNDER-
NEATH
IT!

YOUR TRICK WAS
COMPLETE WHEN
YOU CLOSED THE
CURTAIN AFTER
SETTING THE VASE
FILLED WITH WATER
AND FLOWERS
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF THE TOP
VCR!




ONCE SHE PRESSED THE
EJECT BUTTON ON THE
CLICKER, THE TWO TAPES
CAME OUT. THE ONE
THAT WAS IN THE TOP
VCR KNOCKED OVER
THE TIPPED VASE
AND
...

USING THE MOVIE VIDEO
AS BAIT, YOU SUCCESS-
FULLY LURED HER INTO
THIS ROOM. NOW ALL
YOU HAD TO DO WAS
TO ASK HER TO
RETURN THE TAPE
WHEN SHE'S
DONE...




JUST
LIKE
THIS!



IT WAS POSSIBLE TO
SET THIS TRAP
BECAUSE, TO YOU,
HER ACTIONS IN THIS
ROOM WERE QUITE
IMAGINABLE!
YOU COULD
EASILY
CALCULATE
THE
TIMING,

THE VASE
FELL ON MS.
IDEZUKI,
WHO WAS
GETTING THE
VIDEOTAPE
OUT OF THE
BOTTOM
VCR...




IF THE TAPE INSIDE
HAD SOUNDS ALREADY
RECORDED ON IT, THE
VCR AUTOMATICALLY
PLAYS IT ONCE THE
TAPE IS
REINSERTED.

LASTLY, THE TOP
VCR HAS A
FUNCTION THAT
WILL REINSERT
THE TAPE
WHEN IT HITS
AN OBSTACLE.



WE COULD
HEAR THE
SOUNDS
VERY
CLEARLY
BECAUSE
OF THE
LARGE
VOLUME!

IT DID IN FACT PLAY
THE SOUNDS OF A
PERSON RUNNING
AND A DOOR BEING
SHUT IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE FALLING
OF THE VASE, MAKING
IT LOOK LIKE
AN OUTSIDER'S
DOING!



YOU ARE PROBABLY
AWARE THAT WE
HAVE RUMBLED
YOUR TRICK...
THE VASE AT
THE FRONT WAS...

TIMER WAS SET TO
TURN OFF POWER
OF THE TOP VCR SO
THAT IT WON'T LOOK
SUSPICIOUS WHEN
POLICE OPENS
THE CURTAIN...
AM I WRONG?




THE REASON
FOR USING
THE VERY
BOTTOM
VCR IS TO
LENGTHEN
THE FALLING
TIME OF THE
VASE...



POOR
FLOWERS...
YOUR WIFE
HAD
ARRANGED
THEM
...

THIS IS ONE OF
THE FLOWERS
THAT WERE
INITIALLY IN
THE VASE...
YOU DUMPED
IT AFTER
BLIGHTING IT IN
A MICROWAVE
.....

WHILE MAKING THE
SANDWICHES, YOU
SECRETLY TOOK
THE BOWLS TO
THE KITCHEN
AND HID THEM
IN A CABINET
ONCE YOU
SEPARATED
THEM!




THESE BOWLS!
YOU GLUED THEM
TOGETHER LIKE
A SANDWICH,
RIGHT?



I WAS
ALREADY
BROKE THAT
I COULDN'T
EVEN
AFFORD
FLOWERS
THEN
...

MY WIFE DIDN'T
ARRANGE THOSE
FLOWERS... THAT
WOMAN SENT THEM
TO ME ON THE DAY
OF MY WIFE'S
FUNERAL...




YES... SHE JUMPED
IN FRONT OF A
CAR THE DAY AFTER SHE TOLD
ME ABOUT THE STOCK... SHE
LEFT ME A LETTER AND THAT
WATCH WRAPPED
IN A PAPER...

THEN
HER
ACCIDENT
WAS
...

THAT WOMAN
URGED MY
WIFE TO
DEAL STOCK
TRADING
BEHIND MY
BACK. AS
A RESULT,
THE HUGE
DEBT DROVE
MY WIFE TO
HER DEATH
...

IT'S
STOCK
...

EH
?




I COULDN'T CARE
LESS ABOUT
THOSE FLOWERS
FROM THAT
DESPICABLE
WOMAN...

SHE WROTE,
'I DO NOT
WANT THIS
WATCH TO
BE BROKEN
SO I WILL
LEAVE IT
HERE'.



I
KNOW
....

MAKING
THEM DIE
EARLY IS
SO SAD
...



THEY WERE SO PRETTY...
AND THEY COULDN'T
HAVE LIVED FOR LONG...



BUT STILL,
POOR
FLOWERS
....

COME,
WE'LL
DEAL
WITH
THIS
AT THE
STATION

AND A SPINDLY FENCE HAS NO POWER AGAINST STRONG WIND

EVEN IF YOU MEANT TO PROTECT THEM WITH SURROUNDING FENCE FROM RAIN AND WIND, THE FLOWERS DIE WITHOUT SUNLIGHT....

THAT'S RIGHT... FLOWERS ARE FRAGILE AND EPHEMERAL

I GOTTA GO NOW! SEE YA!

KUDO?

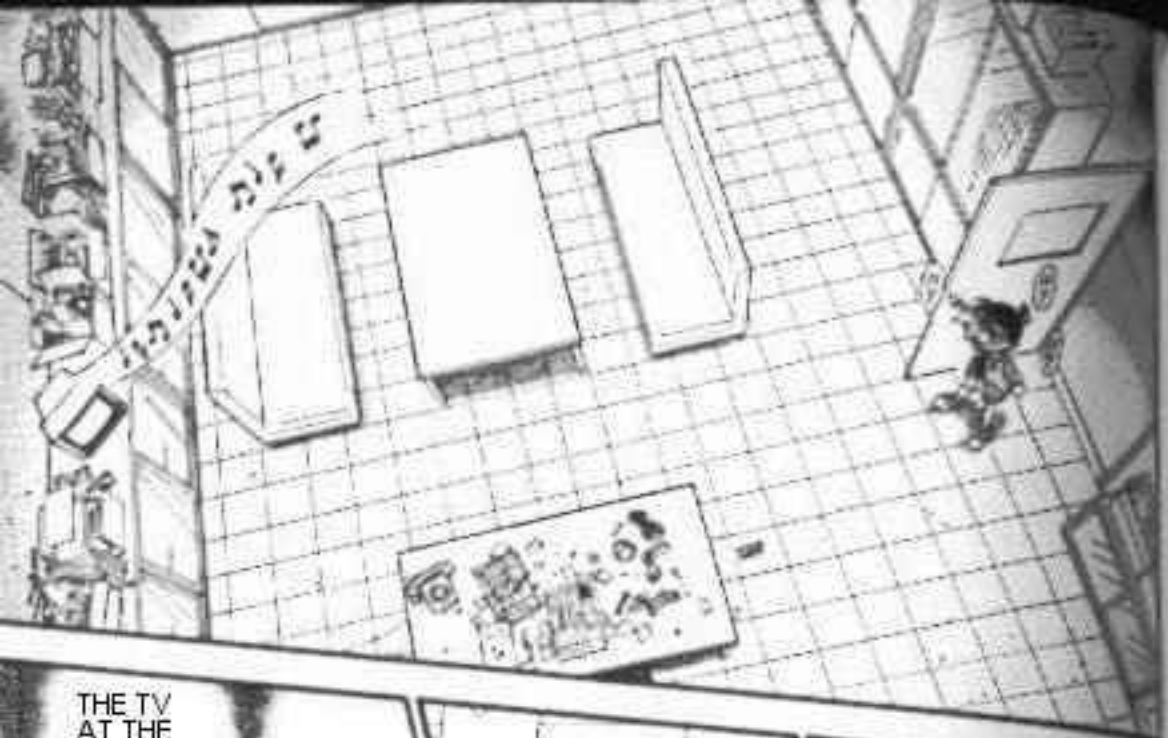
ARE YOU FULLY AWARE OF THAT?

RAN,

UNCLE...!!

WHY ISN'T ANYONE ANSWERING THE PHONE!?

DAMN IT!



THE TV
AT THE
OFFICE
WASN'T
TURNED
OFF....

INGREDIENTS
ARE LEFT
ALONE ON
THE COUNTER
....

RANI?

RANI?



THEY'RE
UP-
STAIRS
....

I
KNOW
IT'S
SUP-
PER-
TIME
....



NO....


LOOKS LIKE
THERE IS
SOMEONE
SPYING ON
MR. MOURI...

N....



COULD
HE
HAVE
...?





GUESS WHO?



DAD HIT A JACKPOT ON HORSE RACE ...

TO THE SUPER-MARKET NEARBY!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ...?



BINGO !!

R...

RAN ...



HE WAS SO EXCITED! HE SAID 'GO GET BEEF AND A BOTTLE OF WINE! WE ARE HAVING STEAK TONIGHT!'


JACKPOT?



HE'S BRAGGING ABOUT IT TO THE NEIGHBOURS ...

WHERE'S UNCLE?

FRESH MEATS ALWAYS RUN OUT EARLY AT THAT STORE ...



I WAS FIXING SUPPER BUT I WENT TO THE STORE RIGHT AWAY!



HMM ?

R...
RAN...
I...



AH ...

JUST HOLD ON!
I'LL MAKE YOU
THE BEST STEAK,
JUST AS GOOD
AS A
FIVE-STAR
RESTAURANT!



I MAY
KNOW
HIM
...

A MAN
WITH A
BLACK
KNITTED
HAT...

UM
...



BLACK...

B...



WHAT
IS
IT ?



RAN
WOULDN'T
KNOW
THEM...
WHY
WOULD
SHE...



OF
COURSE
!!

...ENED
MEAT
ISN'T
GOOD...
PLEASE
DON'T
BURN
IT...

