


DETECTIVE CONAN

Vol. 34 - File 09

THE MISLEADING WASHCLOTH





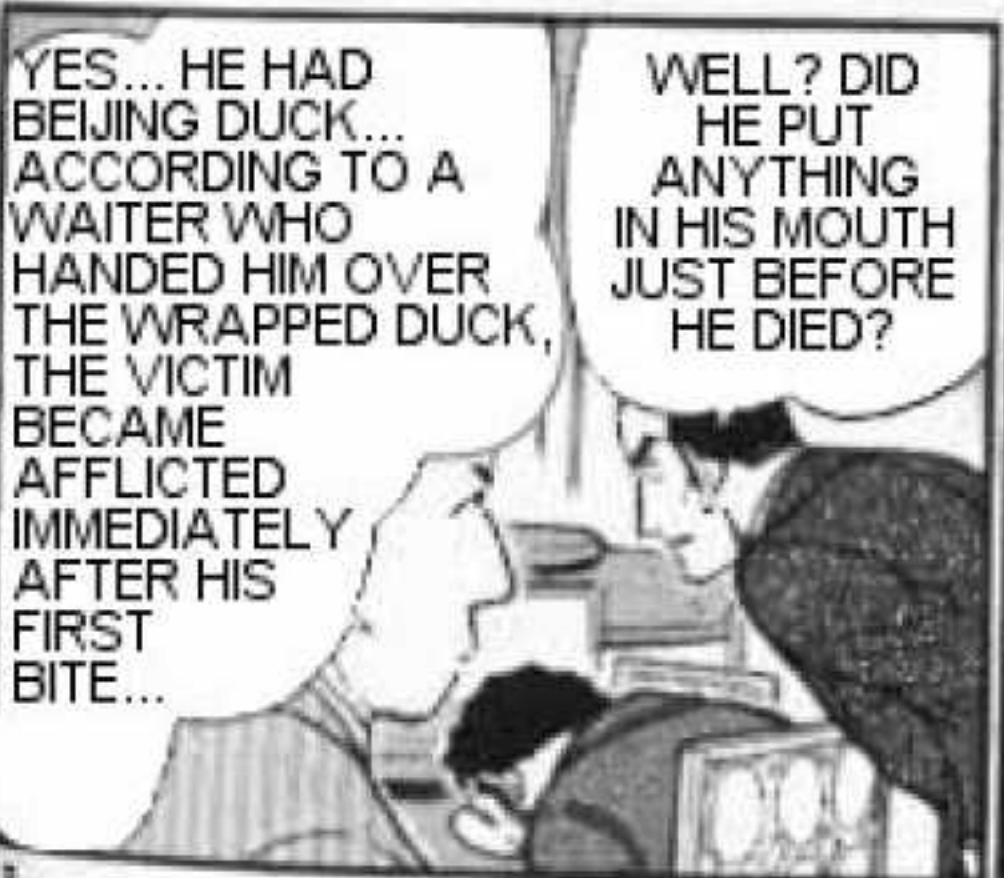
MAN, CYANIDE, ARSENIC, CAUSTIC SODA... HOW COME CRIMINALS TODAY HAVE EASY ACCESS TO THOSE LETHAL CHEMICALS ...?

CAUSE OF DEATH: SUFFOCATION DUE TO POTASSIUM CYANIDE POISONING ...




THE VICTIM IS MR. KAWABATA YOSHIRO, 46 YEARS OLD...

A FILM DIRECTOR ...



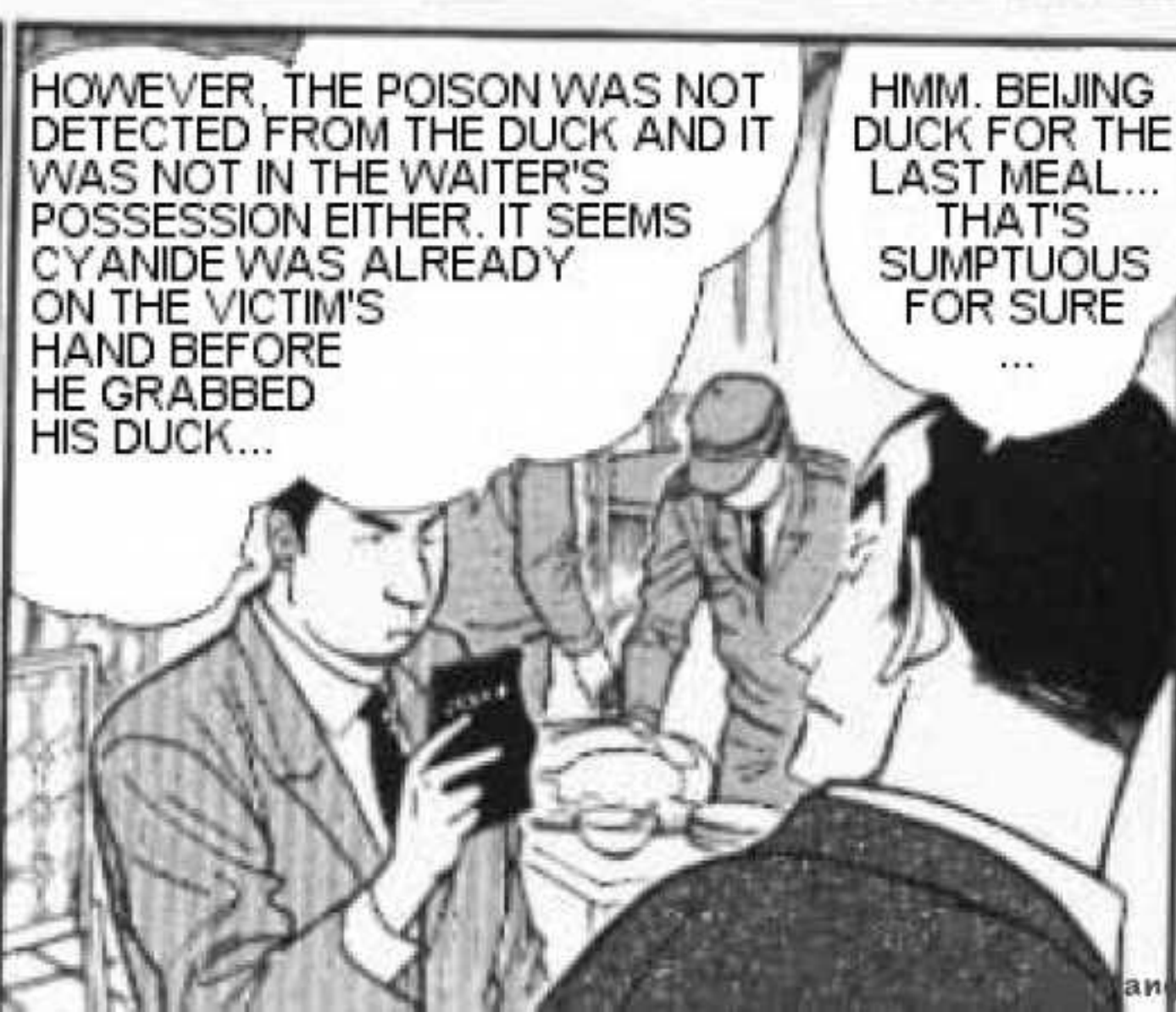
YES... HE HAD BEIJING DUCK... ACCORDING TO A WAITER WHO HANDED HIM OVER THE WRAPPED DUCK, THE VICTIM BECAME AFFLICTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS FIRST BITE...

WELL? DID HE PUT ANYTHING IN HIS MOUTH JUST BEFORE HE DIED?



THEN THAT MUST MEAN THE ONE WHO POISONED THE VICTIM IS...

IS THAT SO?



HOWEVER, THE POISON WAS NOT DETECTED FROM THE DUCK AND IT WAS NOT IN THE WAITER'S POSSESSION EITHER. IT SEEMS CYANIDE WAS ALREADY ON THE VICTIM'S HAND BEFORE HE GRABBED HIS DUCK...

HMM. BEIJING DUCK FOR THE LAST MEAL... THAT'S SUMPTUOUS FOR SURE ...

WHO HAD BEEN SITTING AROUND THE SAME TABLE AS THE VICTIM ...

AMONG YOU PEOPLE ...

WE WERE DISCUSSING OVER LUNCH ...

BECAUSE OUR LEAD ACTRESS INJURED HER LEG JUST BEFORE FILMING,

WE... WE WERE ALL HIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATES ...

FOR STARTERS, WHY DON'T YOU TELL US YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DEAD?

ITOU MOTOHIRO (38)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

OR TO CANCEL THE WHOLE SHOOTING ...

WHETHER TO FIND A REPLACEMENT,

ISOGAMI KAIZO (52)
FILM DIRECTOR

THAT'S NO WONDER! BECAUSE I AM THE ...

HMM? YOU, WITH MUSTACHE! I HAVE SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE ...

IT WAS THEN HE INVITED HER ALONG WITH HER FATHER TO OUR TABLE.

THEN MR. KAWABATA SAW THIS GIRL AS A PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR THE ROLE.

KITaura KEIGO (28)
NOVELIST
THE ORIGINAL WRITER



I AM MOURI KO-GORO!!

NO, NO!! YOU ARE DEAD WRONG!



OR ELSE, YOU ARE A WANTED SUSPECT ...

HUH ?

I KNOW. YOU HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD, CORRECT?



YOU MEAN THAT ...

M... MOURI ?

FA-
MOUS
DETEC-
TIVE
...!?



HMM ?

CHIEF!
WE'VE
DETECTED
CYANIDE!

HEY,
IT'S
'SLEE-
PER
KO-
GO-
RO!



AH... SO
YOU ARE
THE
CHEAP
'SWEE-
PER
KO-
GORO'

EX-
ACTLY
!



WHAT
ABOUT
ON THE
LEFT
SIDE?

THAT
WOULD
BE ME!
I WAS
ON HIS
RIGHT
SIDE...

WHO
WAS
SITTING
NEXT
TO THE
VICTIM?

I
W
A
S
!



NOT FROM ANY DISHES, BUT FROM THE VICTIM'S PLATES AND STICKS. ESPECIALLY LARGE QUANTITY WAS DETECTED FROM HIS WASHCLOTH!

H
M
M
...



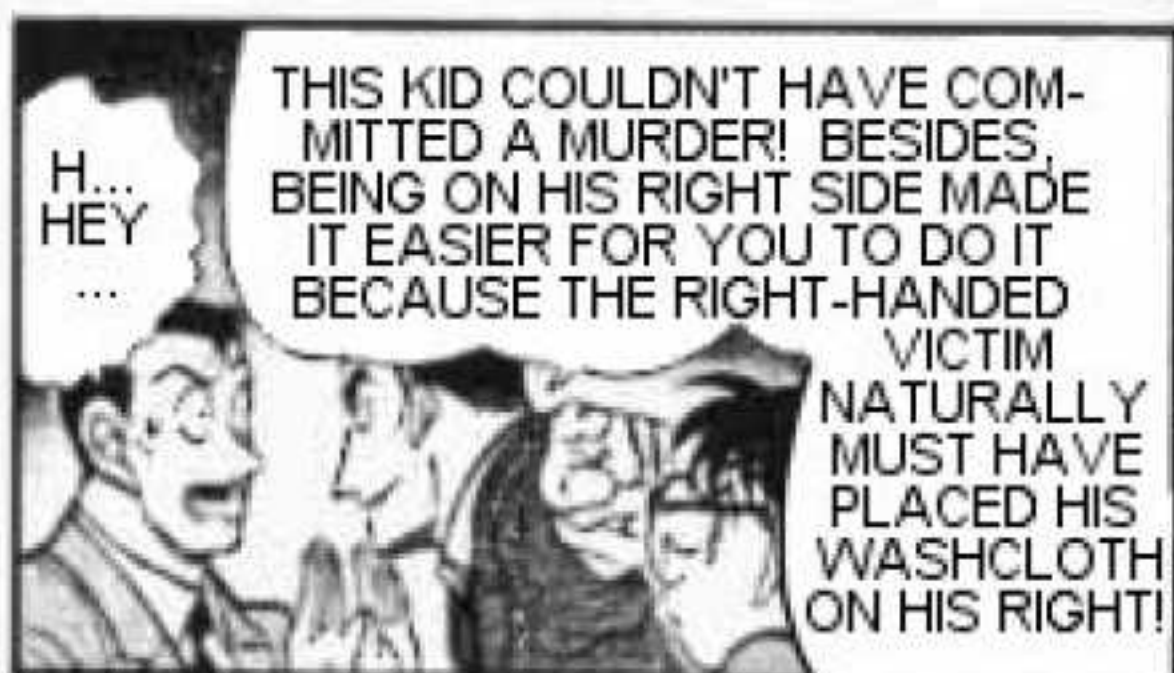
THE CULPRIT WHO POISONED HIS OWN WASHCLOTH AND SWITCHED IT WITH THAT OF THE VICTIM ...

... THAT SOLVES EVERYTHING ...



I WAS EATING A PORK BUN ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE MISTER!

AH?



H... HEY ...

THIS KID COULDN'T HAVE COMMITTED A MURDER! BESIDES, BEING ON HIS RIGHT SIDE MADE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO DO IT BECAUSE THE RIGHT-HANDED VICTIM NATURALLY MUST HAVE PLACED HIS WASHCLOTH ON HIS RIGHT!



IT WAS YOU !!

DETECTIVE ...

HUH? ME !?



DIDN'T YOU, HUH?

YOU ANTICIPATED HIM USING HIS WASHCLOTH WHEN BEIJING DUCK WAS SERVED!

HMM ?



YOKO-MIZO!

IN-SPECTOR YOKO-MIZO! COULD YOU...



I ONLY KNOW YOU FROM TV AND PAPERS!

R I G H T ?

I THINK I HAVE SEEN HIM, TOO ...



HEY DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT !

WAIT YOU HAVE AN AWFULLY FAMILIAR FACE...

I SEE... YOU PROBABLY HAD TO SHAVE YOUR HEAD OFF FOR SCREWING UP ON ONE OF YOUR CASES! THAT IS WHY YOU PLAYED A STRANGER

WITH US OUT OF SHAME!!

HUH?
HUH?

OF COURSE!! IT'S YOU, YOKOMIZO !!

A-HEM!

OH WELL, AS A POLICE OFFICER, YOU LOOK BETTER NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE FROWSY HAIR...

I AM YOKOMIZO JUUGO OF KANA-GAWA P.P.D.!

THAT IS MY ELDER BROTHER SANGO OF SHIZUOKA PREFECTURAL POLICE DEPARTMENT!

OH, SORRY ...

UM, INSPECTOR ...

BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD NATURE, IT SEEMS MY BROTHER HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU. BUT I AM DIFFERENT! I DON'T TRUST FISHY CREEPS LIKE PEEPERS ...

NO WAY ...

H... HIS BROTHER ?



NEXT TO HIM ...

HUH ?

OH! THAT IS MR. KAWABATA'S SOUP! I SPILLED IT OVER WHILE I WAS SITTING NEXT TO HIM...



LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF A STAIN ...

WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS THING ON HIS JEANS IS?



ME ...

THEN HE WAS AT FIRST SITTING ON THE SEAT BETWEEN THIS YOUNG LADY AND...



MR. KAWABATA CHANGED HIS SEAT TO THE SEAT NEXT TO MINE BEFORE HE HAD COLLAPSED!

WEREN'T YOU AND THE KID SITTING NEXT TO THE VICTIM!?



BY THE WAY, HIM AND I WERE SITTING NEXT TO MR. KAWABATA BEFORE, BUT THERE WAS QUITE SOME SPACE BETWEEN EACH SEAT...

BUT THAT'S ALL BECAUSE MR. KAWABATA SPONTANEOUSLY INVITED DETECTIVE TO OUR TABLE...



I... I SUPPOSE ...

RIGHT, UNCLE ?



MR. KAWABATA WIPED THE SOUP OFF FROM HIS PANTS WITH HIS WASHCLOTH BEFORE HE CHANGED HIS SEAT. WOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT SINCE WHEN THE WASHCLOTH WAS

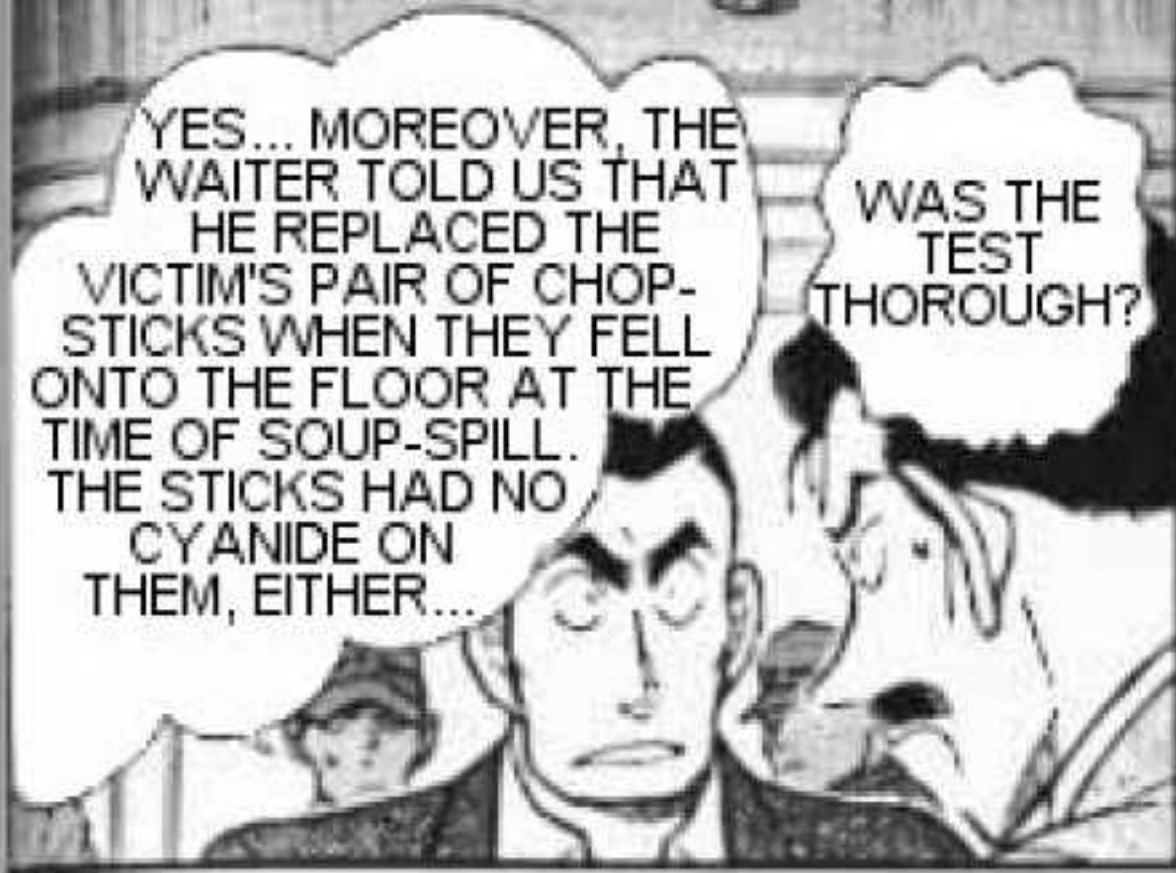
POISONED IF YOU CHECK THE STAIN ON THE PANTS?



THEN WHY NOT CHECK OUT HIS PANTS ?

WE CAN'T SAY THAT UNTIL WE INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY...

I... I CAN'T BE A SUSPECT SINCE I NEVER SAT NEXT TO HIM, RIGHT?



YES... MOREOVER, THE WAITER TOLD US THAT HE REPLACED THE VICTIM'S PAIR OF CHOP-STICKS WHEN THEY FELL ONTO THE FLOOR AT THE TIME OF SOUP-SPILL. THE STICKS HAD NO CYANIDE ON THEM, EITHER...

WAS THE TEST THOROUGH?



NO CYANIDE WAS DETECTED FROM THE STAIN ON THE PANTS?

WHAT !?



HAVING SAT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE VICTIM, YOU ARE YET THE MOST SUSPICIOUS SUSPECT ...

... WHICH MEANS THE WASHCLOTH WAS POISONED AFTER THE WHOLE INCIDENTS OF SOUP SPILLING, EXCHANGING THE STICKS, AND THE VICTIM CHANGING HIS SEAT...



WE HAPPENED TO COME HERE... IT IS TRUE!

HEY, COME ON...



HUMPH! THAT MAKES IT SOUND UNREAL ALL THE MORE... IT SEEMS TOO LUCKY, ALMOST SCHEMED, THAT YOUR DAUGHTER GOT DISCOVERED JUST LIKE THAT ...

THAT'S NON-SENSE!! WHY SHOULD I KILL A PERSON I JUST MET, AT A PLACE I NEVER VISITED BEFORE!?



HUH ?



A ...



SAD
WORDS
...

AND
...

AN
ANGRY
FACE
...

A SMILE
ON THE
LIPS...

WHAT ARE
YOU
SAYING,
SHINICHI?

WHAT
?

SHINICHI
!?

RAN
...

I CAN'T
HEAR
YOU
...

RAN
...

"CONAN ALWAYS CALLS RAN 'RAN-NEECHAN'. AS USUAL, HE IS CALLING HER THAT WAY HERE AS WELL. SO DON'T MISTAKE IT AS SHINICHI CALLING RAN



OH, I'M FINE.
I JUST FELT
DIZZY FOR
A MOMENT
...

WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
WELL...

HUH
?

RAN
!!



OKAY
THANKS
...

THEN HERE, SIT!
UNCLE WILL
SOLVE THE
CASE IN NO
TIME
...



I HAVE TO
SOLVE IT
FAST AND
TAKE HER
TO A
HOSPITAL...

THERE IS
DEFINITELY
SOMETHING
WRONG
WITH
RAN
...



I'M
TELLING
YOU, IT
WASN'T
ME!

I SEE. YOU HAD
POISONED THE
WASHCLOTH
INSIDE THE
WASHROOM
...




W
H
A
T
!?

CHIEF! PROBABLE
CYANIDE CON-
TAINER HAD BEEN
FOUND INSIDE THE
WASHROOM OF
THIS
RESTAURANT!



HMM
?

EX-
CUSE
ME, IN-
SPEC-
TOR...



PLUS, MR. KAWABATA CARRIED THE WASHCLOTH AS HE CHANGED HIS SEAT AFTER WIPING OFF HIS PANTS. I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD HAVE SWITCHED THE WASHCLOTH ...

THERE YOU GO, INSPECTOR!

IF SO, UNCLÉ CAN'T BE THE CRIMINAL!

HMM?

BUT THERE MUST BE A WAY... A WAY TO SWITCH THE CLOTHS WITHOUT GETTING NOTICED BY THE TWO ON THE VICTIM'S SIDES...

HE HASN'T BEEN TO THE WASH-ROOM SINCE WE GOT HERE!!

WHEN THE POISONED WASHCLOTH WAS PLACED STICKING OUT AT THE EDGE OF THE TURNTABLE, IT COULD HAVE FALLEN BEFORE MR. KAWABATA IF THE TABLE WAS ROTATED THE RIGHT WAY...

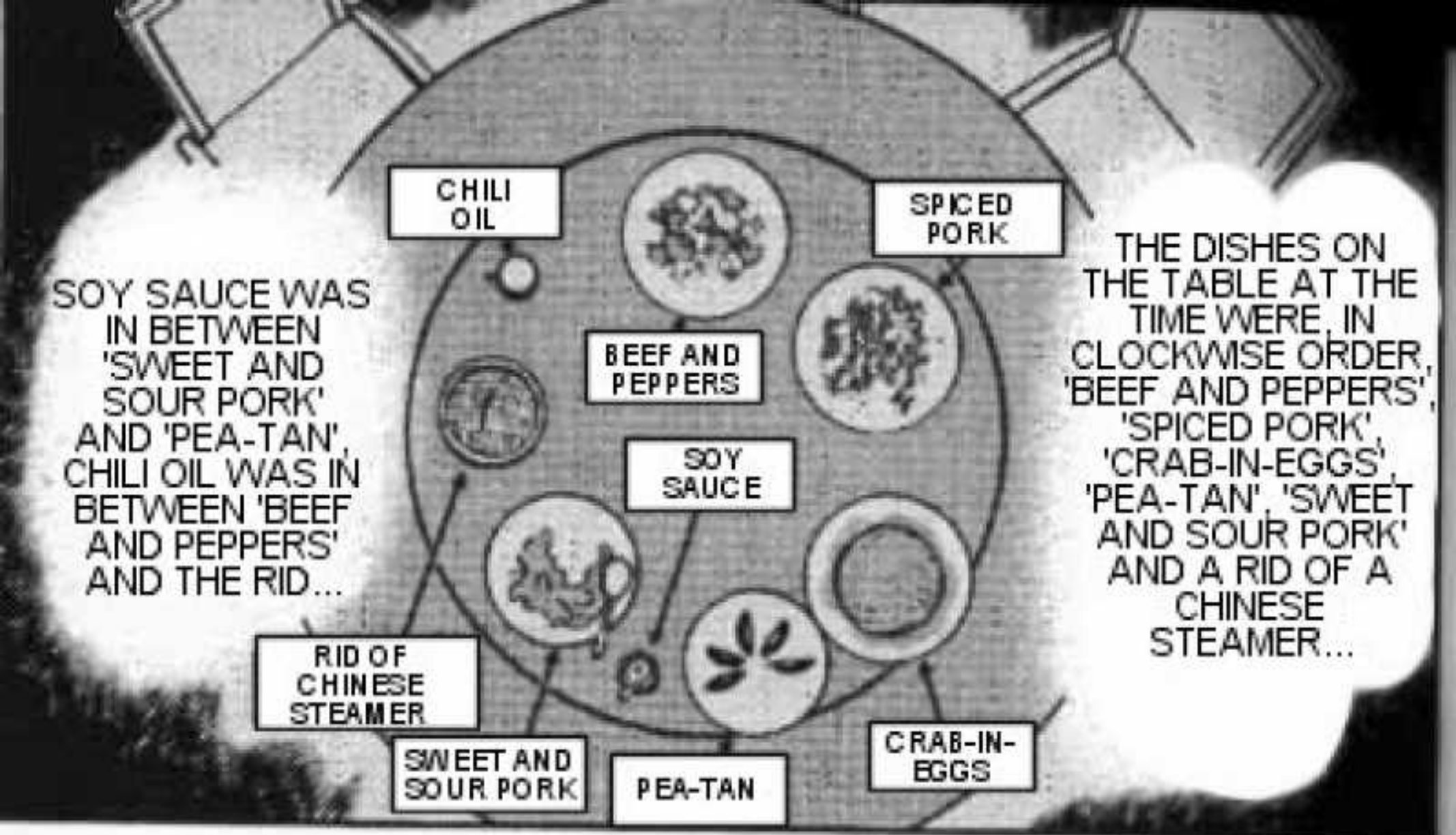
OF COURSE, THE TURNTABLE! THAT'S WHAT THE MURDERER USED!!

I COULDN'T GET THEM BECAUSE THE TABLE KEPT ROTATING...

... HOLD ON... WHEN I TRIED TO GET SOY SAUCE AND CHILI OIL...

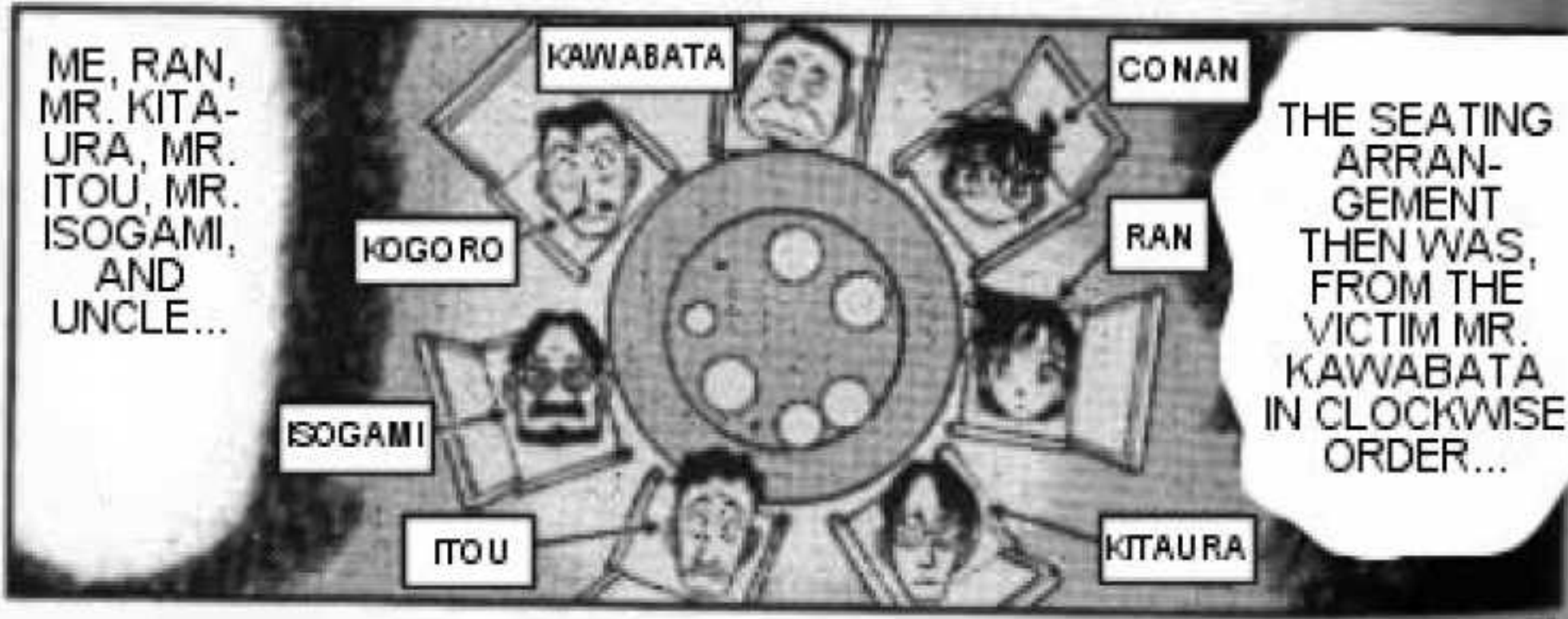
GOOD POINT ...

ANYONE WOULD FIND IT ODD IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED! BESIDES, WHY WOULD YOU USE SUCH STRANGE WASHCLOTH WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR OWN RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!?



SOY SAUCE WAS IN BETWEEN 'SWEET AND SOUR PORK' AND 'PEA-TAN', CHILI OIL WAS IN BETWEEN 'BEEF AND PEPPERS' AND THE RID...

THE DISHES ON THE TABLE AT THE TIME WERE, IN CLOCKWISE ORDER, 'BEEF AND PEPPERS', 'SPICED PORK', 'CRAB-IN-EGGS', 'PEA-TAN', 'SWEET AND SOUR PORK' AND A RID OF A CHINESE STEAMER...



ME, RAN, MR. KITAURA, MR. ITOU, MR. ISOGAMI, AND UNCLE...

THE SEATING ARRANGEMENT THEN WAS, FROM THE VICTIM MR. KAWABATA IN CLOCKWISE ORDER...



JUST TO LOOK ...?

MAKES HIM SICK ...



OH, I HAVE EGG ALLERGY. IT MAKES ME SICK JUST TO LOOK AT ANY CUISINE WITH EGGS...

COME TO THINK OF IT, MR. KAWABATA SAID...



WHILE THE CHILI OIL KEPT GOING BACK TO MR. KITAURA...

THE SOY SAUCE WENT BACK TO UNCLE A NUMBER OF TIMES,





DID YOU ALSO CHECK A PLACE LIKE ...?

THEN ...

HMM ?

Y... YEAH ...

MR. INVESTIGATOR, IF YOU CHECKED WHETHER THE DISHES WERE POISONED, YOU ALSO CHECKED THE PLATES AND THE TABLE, RIGHT?

UNCLE KOGORO SAID HE WANTS IT TO BE CHECKED OUT RIGHT AWAY!

N... NO, NOT YET ...

HMM? YOU MEAN, OTHER THAN CYANIDE?

OH, ONE MORE THING. WASN'T THERE SOMETHING WEIRD ON THE POISONED WASHCLOTH?

YEP !

EH? THAT FAMOUS 'SLEEPER KOGORO' ?

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ANY-THING ELSE?

THE STAIN MUST BE FROM THAT TIME!

SON, YOU SAW MR. KAWABATA WIPE OFF SPILLED SOUP FROM HIS PANTS, RIGHT?



I SMELT IT, TOO. THAT WAS DEFINITELY SOUP!

YEAH, YEAH, THERE WAS A BROWNISH-YELLOWISH STAIN ON IT!



NO-THING SPECIAL ...

N... NO ...



WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ON THE CLOTH?

HUH?



SO THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE ON IT, HUH?

I SEE ...



THE CLOTH WAS SWITCHED AFTER HE WAS MURDERED ...



I WAS RIGHT! MR. KAWABATA DIED BUT NOT BECAUSE HIS WASHCLOTH WAS SWITCHED TO THE POISONED ONE...



?

OKAY! I'LL TELL UNCLE SO!!

THE
EVI-
DENCE
SHOULD
STILL
BE
THERE
...

...
IN
THAT
CASE
...

BY
THAT
PERSON
...

ON TOP
OF THAT
TABLE...