

Detective CONAN

THE PRINCESS AND THE DRAGON PALACE

Vol 36 - File 4



GO EASY ON US. WE WOULDN'T HAVE LEARNED THE TRUTHS IF WE DIDN'T GO ...

YOU MADE US WORRIED !

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN !?

H, HEIJI !?

CONAN !!

YES. HOW EVERYTHING HAPPENED AND THAT CULPRIT ...

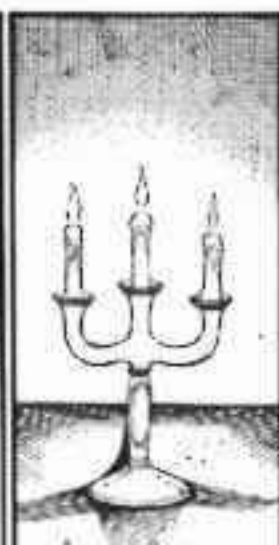
YOU MEAN ...

THE TRUTHS ...

ACTING LIKE AN INNOCENT MAN !!

HAS BEEN WITH US THE WHOLE TIME







EH? HE ISN'T AROUND ?

WHERE'S CONAN BY THE WAY ?



THEY'LL COME OUT SOON. AFTER ALL, HEIJI SAID IT WOULD NOT TAKE LONG

IT'S BEEN HALF AN HOUR ALREADY ...

HEY, AREN'T THEY LATE ?



HEIJI ?

HUH ?

THAT IDIOT ! HE RAN OFF !!

YO, WHAT'S UP ?

HEY !!
COME
BACK
HERE !!



IT'D BE UGLY IF HE KILLS HIMSELF IN THE WOOD ...

ANYWAYS, LET'S SPREAD TO SEARCH FOR HIM ...

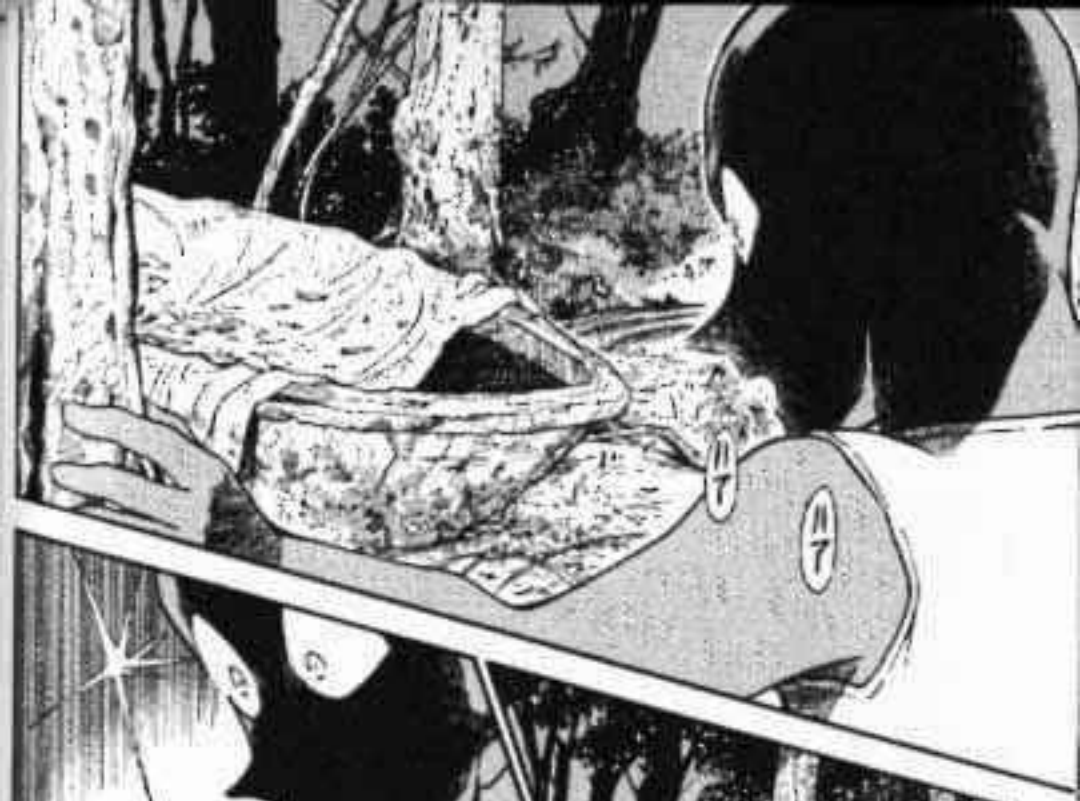
CAN YOU BLAME ME? HE DIDN'T ANSWER TO ANYTHING I ASKED

IT'S YOUR FAULT, HEIJI. THAT WAS SARCASTIC OF YOU TO SAY, "WE'LL ALL BECOME URASHIMA TARO IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP SOON."

DOES THAT MEAN HE'S THE ONE ...?









UGH
||


YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO TOLD US THIS.
SOUL CAN BE
PROTECTED FROM
THE SERVITOR
OF GOOSOH.

WHY THE
SURPRISE
?


WHAT
!?




WASN'T IT
RIGHT,
MR. DAITO
?




IF A KNIFE
IS HELD IN
A MOUTH
...




TO TRICK YOU
TO BELIEVE
I WAS HIM
...



I BORROWED
HIS SHIRT AND
SHORTS ...



MR. KUME,
THE ONE YOU
TRIED TO
KILL, IS STILL
IN THE HOUSE
...



THIS TIME MR.
KUME WAS THE
THIRD TARGET
YOU WERE
LAYING FOR!



YOU
KILLED
MS. TAIRA
AND
CAPTAIN



HE'S
FALLEN
ASLEEP
...

THERE WAS A MESSAGE LEFT ON THE SAND NEAR THE BODY, RIGHT AFTER THE TIDE EBBED. WE, WHO WERE ON THE SHIP ANCHORED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ISLAND, COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ...

BESIDES, YOU SAID I COULDN'T HAVE KILLED THAT TAIRA CHICK.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT ? I ONLY TRIED TO CAPTURE A SUSPICIOUS GUY I SAW IN THE WOOD DURING MY HUNT FOR KUME DUDE ...

THOSE THREE I JUST MENTIONED ARE THE KIDNAPPERS WHO ALSO KILLED THE HOUSEKEEPER UPON THE GOLDEN FOLDING SCREEN ROBBERY, AREN'T THEY ?

WAVES WOULD'VE ERASED THE MESSAGE IF IT WERE LEFT BEFORE THE EBB TIDE ...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

IF IT WERE ACTUALLY LEFT BEFORE THE EBB TIDE ...


LET ME REPEAT THIS AGAIN ...

YEP. THAT'S EXACTLY HOW WE MISESTIMATED THE TIME OF THE MURDER ...


THAT WAS THE HIGH WATER MARK. THUS, IT WAS AT THE LOW TIDE WHEN WE FOUND HER...

DON'T YOU RECALL THAT THE SAND WAS WET MORE THAN 1 METER BEYOND THE BODY ?


HA HA... GET REAL ...



YOU DID PRETTY GOOD JOB AT FOOLING US. WE FELL FOR YOUR TRICK!

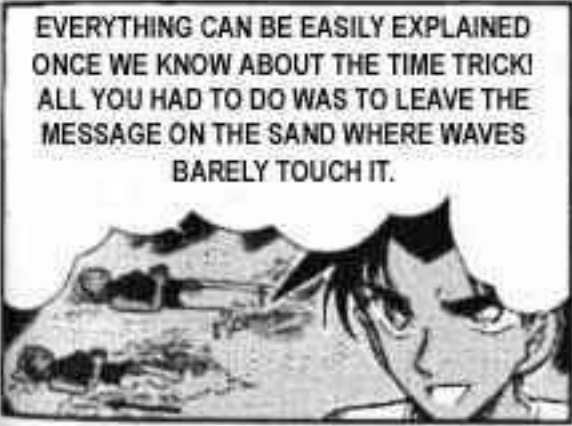


WHEN WE FOUND MS. TAIRA'S BODY, IT WAS IN FACT AT THE HIGH TIDE




JUST BECAUSE THE BEACH WAS WET, WE SIMPLY ASSUMED THAT WAS THE HIGH WATER MARK! NOW WE KNOW THE WAVES NEVER REACHED THAT FAR.

HMM ?

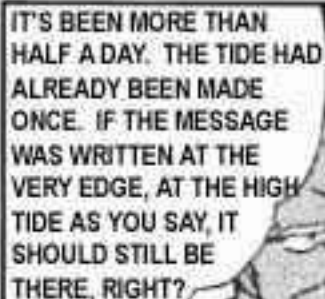


EVERYTHING CAN BE EASILY EXPLAINED ONCE WE KNOW ABOUT THE TIME TRICK! ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS TO LEAVE THE MESSAGE ON THE SAND WHERE WAVES BARELY TOUCH IT.



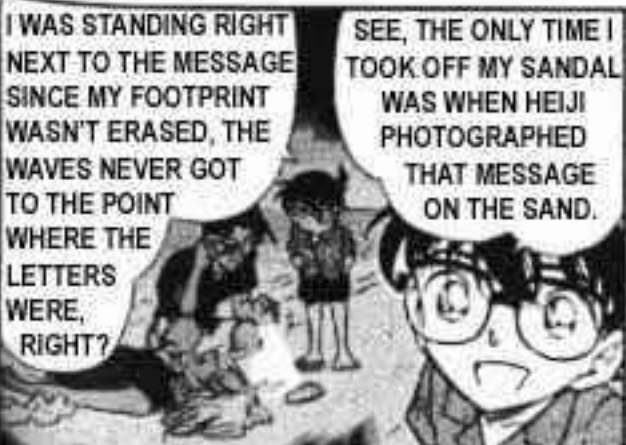
NO, IT WAS ALL GONE... YOU ERASED IT WHEN WE WEREN'T AROUND...

A HA




IT'S BEEN MORE THAN HALF A DAY. THE TIDE HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE ONCE. IF THE MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN AT THE VERY EDGE, AT THE HIGH TIDE AS YOU SAY, IT SHOULD STILL BE THERE, RIGHT?

FINE. LET'S GO LOOK FOR THE MESSAGE NOW!



I WAS STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO THE MESSAGE SINCE MY FOOTPRINT WASN'T ERASED, THE WAVES NEVER GOT TO THE POINT WHERE THE LETTERS WERE, RIGHT?




SEE, THE ONLY TIME I TOOK OFF MY SANDAL WAS WHEN HEIJI PHOTOGRAPHED THAT MESSAGE ON THE SAND.




WHAT ?

BUT MY FOOTPRINT WAS STILL THERE!



YOU USED THE WAVES MADE BY THE SHIP TO WET THE SAND MORE THAN IT WOULD NATURALLY BE ...


IT WAS THAT SHIP WE CRUISED ON ...



USING A BUCKET WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THE JOB ...


BUT KID, THE BEACH WAS EVENLY WET ...

IT'S NOT A BUCKET ...

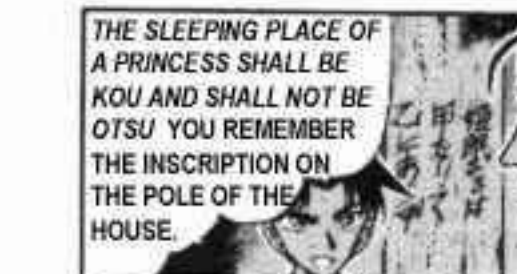


WHY, OF COURSE, THE "PRINCESS" THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TIED TO THE ANCHOR I FOUND AT THE SEABED ...

WHAT'S "THE ITEM" ...?



ANTICIPATING THAT CAPTAIN WOULD GO AROUND THE ISLAND TO LOOK FOR THE ITEM UNDERSEA!




THE SLEEPING PLACE OF A PRINCESS SHALL BE KOU AND SHALL NOT BE OTSU YOU REMEMBER THE INSCRIPTION ON THE POLE OF THE HOUSE.

WHAT "PRINCESS"?



TO REFER TO THIS THING THAT WAS WASHED UP AFTER THE TYPHOON STORM A YEAR AGO ...

'PRINCESS' IS THE NICKNAME THE ROBBERY GROUP USED...



'KOU' STANDS FOR TOR-TOISESHELL, 'OTSU' IS THE PRINCESS THAT LIVES IN THE DRAGON PALACE UNDERSEA. IN OTHER WORDS, THE INSCRIPTION TELLS THAT THE 'PRINCESS' IS IN THE FOREST ON THIS ISLAND INSTEAD OF THE SEA

A FOLK TALE 'URASHIMA TARO' AND THE NAME 'ONIGAME' ISLAND CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY ...

SURE, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE ON ITS OWN BUT ...

THEY SUSPECTED NO ONE WOULD DIVE UNDER THE WATER DUE TO THE DEADLY CURRENT AROUND HERE

THE ROBBERY GROUP NEEDED TO HAVE THIS STOLEN ITEM HIDDEN UNDER THE SEA UNTIL THE HEAT IS OFF... IT WAS KEPT IN THE SEALED CASE CHAINED TO THE ANCHOR.

THIS GOLDEN FOLDING SCREEN OF EGRETS !

THEN THERE WAS THAT TYPHOON STORM LAST YEAR. ONE OF THE ROBBERS GOT WORRIED AND CAME TO THIS ISLAND FOR A CHECKUP. ALTHOUGH HE FOUND THE CASE IN THE FOREST, HE GOT TRAPPED WHEN HIS SHIP GOT DRIFTED AWAY. THAT'S WHY HE LEFT THAT MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE ON THE POLE TO LET HIS

GANG KNOW ABOUT THE TREASURE'S WHEREABOUTS...

BUT HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE I DISTINGUISHED THE CULP RITS ?

IF THE ROBBERS HADN'T RETRIEVED THE SCREEN YET, IT WAS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THEY'D JOIN THE TEAM AS STAFFS.

YOU CAME UP WITH A PLAN TO AVENGE USING THE TV SHOW "SHOWDOWN OF THE BEST DETECTIVES OF WEST & EAST."

ONCE YOU REALIZED THE MEANING OF THE INSCRIPTION

THE TALE OF URASHIMA TARO

LIKE YOU TRIED TO DO ON ME EARLIER

FROM YOUR HINT, MS. TAIRA CAME TO LOOK FOR THE SCREEN IN THE WOOD. THAT'S WHEN YOU KILLED HER...

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WOULD GET THE MEANING OF THE INSCRIPTION FROM THAT HINT ARE THE ROBBERS WHO SUNK THE SCREEN IN THE SEA!

YOU SAID YOU FEEL LIKE URASHIMA TARO WHEN WE FIRST GOT ON THE ISLAND!

YOUR ALIBI WOULD BE ENSURED IF YOU SUGGEST LOOKING FOR HER AT THE HIGH TIDE AND FIND HER WITH EVERYONE ELSE!

YOU HID THE BODY IN THE WOOD UNTIL THE MEETING TIME. AFTER THE SHIP REACHED THE PIER YOU DELIVERED THE BODY TO THE BEACH AND LEFT THE MESSAGE ON THE SAND


ANYONE COULD'VE DONE THAT

HUMPH! SOUNDS LIKE AN INTERESTING THEORY BUT...

WE DECIDED ON THE TIME BEING AN HOUR BEFORE THE HIGH TIDE BECAUSE YOU TOLD US TO LEAVE BEFORE IT GETS DARK. AT THE TIME THIS KID AND I BEGAN THE SEARCH BEFORE YOU SUGGESTED. YOU WERE PROBABLY PLANNING TO KILL HIM WHEN EVERYONE LEFT THE SHIP

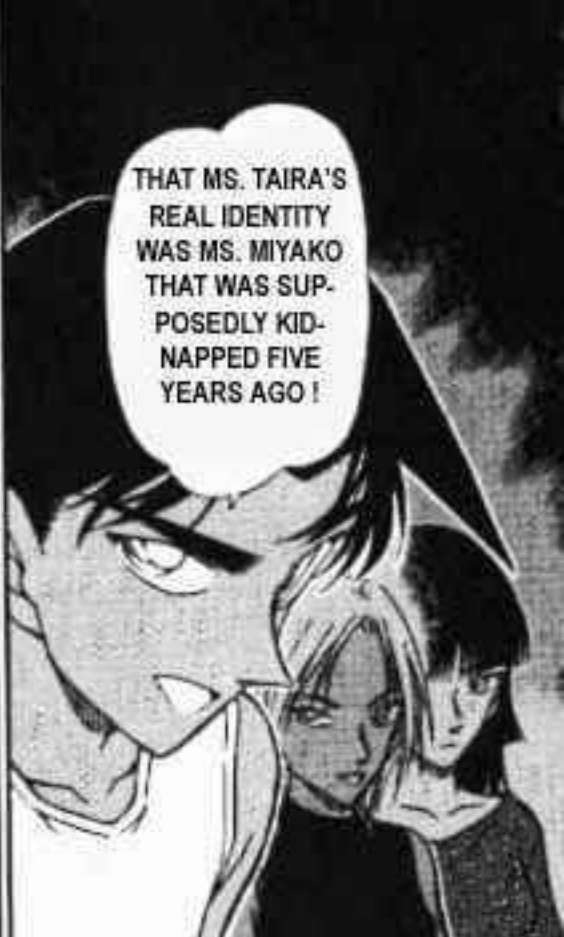
UNLIKE CAPTAIN THAT WAS BRUTALLY KILLED, MS. TAIRA'S BODY WAS TREATED WITH RESPECT. IT'S BECAUSE THE CULPRIT KNEW.

NO, YOU DID IT. HOW THOSE TWO WERE KILLED IS ALL THE PROOF I NEED...



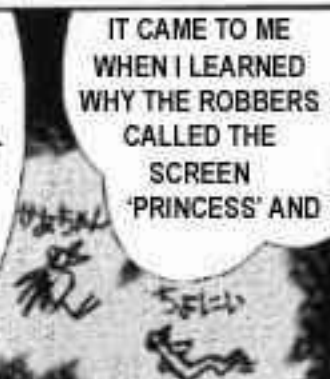
AND MS. MIYAKO WAS A MEMBER OF THE ROBBERY GROUP!

THAT KIDNAP WAS A SHAM...




THAT MS. TAIRA'S REAL IDENTITY WAS MS. MIYAKO THAT WAS SUPPOSEDLY KIDNAPPED FIVE YEARS AGO!

THE MEANINGS OF "KAA-CHAN" AND "CHIYO-NII" ON THE SCREEN DOOR IN THE HOUSE



IT CAME TO ME WHEN I LEARNED WHY THE ROBBERS CALLED THE SCREEN 'PRINCESS' AND

+ HIME = PRINCESS




THEY WERE ALL NICKS GIVEN BY THE SAME INDIVIDUAL, USING THE NAMES OF JAPANESE CASTLES ...




EDO CASTLE IS A HUGE BUILDING FACING EAST...

"CHIYO-NII" IS THE CHIYO-DA CASTLE, FORMALLY KNOWN AS EDO CASTLE!



KAA FROM "KAA-CHAN" IS CROW! THE CROW CASTLE IS A NICK OF THE BLACK MATSUMOTO CASTLE! IT STANDS FOR MS. MATSUMOTO YOSHIKO, THE HOUSEKEEPER WHO WAS KILLED BY THE ROBBERS!

THE SCREEN IS 'PRINCESS' BECAUSE HIME-JI CASTLE IS ALSO KNOWN AS EGRET CASTLE!

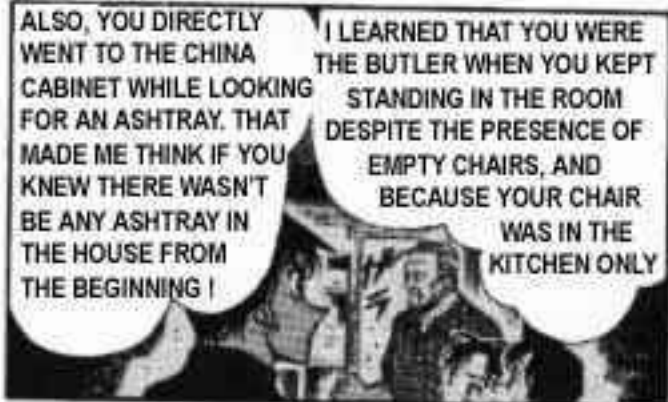


MR.
DAITO
?

AM I
CORRECT?
THE MAYOR'S
EX-BUTLER,


+ DAI=LARGE
TO=EAST

++ JO=CASTLE




ALSO, YOU DIRECTLY
WENT TO THE CHINA
CABINET WHILE LOOKING
FOR AN ASHTRAY. THAT
MADE ME THINK IF YOU
KNEW THERE WASN'T
BE ANY ASHTRAY IN
THE HOUSE FROM
THE BEGINNING!

I LEARNED THAT YOU WERE
THE BUTLER WHEN YOU KEPT
STANDING IN THE ROOM
DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF
EMPTY CHAIRS, AND
BECAUSE YOUR CHAIR
WAS IN THE
KITCHEN ONLY




LOOKS LIKE MS.
MIYAKO WAS
CALLING YOU "
MR. DOJO" AT
FIRST, TAKING
"E" FROM
EDO-JO ...




AS IF
THERE
WERE
PLURAL
CUL
PRITS...


YOU PREPARED THAT
TEACUP FULL OF
CIGARETTES,
DIDN'T YOU?



THIS TRICK
COULDN'T
HAVE WORKED
IF YOU DIDN'T
KNOW THAT
CAPTAIN
WOULD GO
AROUND THE
ISLAND ON
THE SHIP...



THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T
UNDERSTAND THOUGH...
I SEE YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT
MR. KUME WHEN HE FREAKED
OUT AT THE SIGHT OF THE
PORTRAIT. BUT HOW DID YOU
KNOW ABOUT CAPTAIN?



I SUPPOSE YOU INTEND TO
EXPLAIN AWAY SOMEHOW AND
GO AFTER MR. KUME, BUT THAT'
S NO USE. THE ROPE YOU'RE
HOLDING SHOULD MATCH WITH
THE MARK LEFT ON MS. TAIRA'S
NECK...



THE HATEFUL
MAN WHO
KILLED MY
BELOVED
FIANCÉ
...

HOW CAN I FORGET
HIS FACE... HE IS
THE ONLY ROBBER I
WITNESSED FOUR
YEARS AGO...

NOT
UNTIL
SHE
WHIS-
PERED
HER
LAST
WORDS.

NO. THE COLORS
OF HER HAIR AND
SKIN WERE DIFFER-
ENT FROM WHAT
I REMEMBERED.
I HAD NO IDEA.

EH?
THEN
YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW
?

YES. WE WERE ENGAGED TO
BE MARRIED. TO AVENGE HER, I
PROMISED MYSELF TO FIND THE
ROBBERS NO MATTER WHAT. I
ASKED MASTER A LEAVE OF
ABSENCE, CHANGED MY FACE
AND MANNER OF SPEECH
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED
MS. MIYAKO WAS ONE
OF THEM...

SO,
MS.
MATSU-
MOTO
WAS
...

I'M
SORRY,
CHIYO-NII
...

YES. NOW THAT
I THINK OF IT,
MASTER MAY
HAVE KNOWN
THAT MS.
MIYAKO WAS
SOMEHOW
INVOLVED
IN ALL
THIS

A STEP-
CHILD...
I THOUGHT
SO...

SHE SET UP THE KIDNAP TO TEST
IF HER STEPFATHER LOVES HER
EVEN AFTER THE DEATH OF HER
MOTHER. BECAUSE SHE FELT
ABANDONED WHEN MASTER
REJECTED TO PAY RANSOM, SHE
STOLE THE GOLDEN FOLDING
SCREEN MASTER
TREASURED
SO MUCH ...

HAVING MS.
MIYAKO'S BODY
LIED BEFORE MY
EYES, I THOUGHT
I FINALLY
UNDERSTOOD
HER...

THIS CASE WAS PROBABLY A "TAMATE-BAKO" THAT SHOULD'VE NEVER BEEN OPENED...

AS MASTER HAD SUGGESTED

I SHOULD PROBABLY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED. I WISH YOU'D CONSIDER NOT GOING AFTER THE ROBBERY GROUP

IT WAS WHEN I ASKED TO TEMPORARILY LEAVE THE JOB

MASTER SAID SO

THE GOLDEN FOLDING SCREEN HAD SAD EXPRESSION AS IF TO SPEAK FOR HIS FEELING ...

AND TURNED INTO TEARS IN THE EGRET'S EYE...

DUE TO SUDDEN OXYGEN EXPOSURE AFTER A LONG SEALING PERIOD, THE OXYGENATED THE PAINT MELTED...

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SOLVED ALREADY ?

WHAT ?

PIER





LIKE I CARE
...

THE
FEES
!?

WHAT
ABOUT
THE TV
SHOW
!?



UH-HUH...
WHILE YOU
SLEPT
THROUGH
THE NIGHT

ARE YOU
SERIOUS
!?



THAT
IS
IT!

OH

DINE-AND-
DASH OR
WHATEVER,
I DON'T
CARE!
A BIG
ONE!

EH
?

THEN YOU
START A
TROUBLE
!!



FAMOUS
DETEC-
TIVES'
EATING
COMPETI-
TION

OH MY,
DETECTIVE MOURI
IS GOING FOR HIS
12TH HELPING
!!



OF
COURSE
NOT
...

UM... I
GUESS
...

OW

IS THIS WHAT
YOU GUYS
WENT TO
OKINAWA
FOR ?