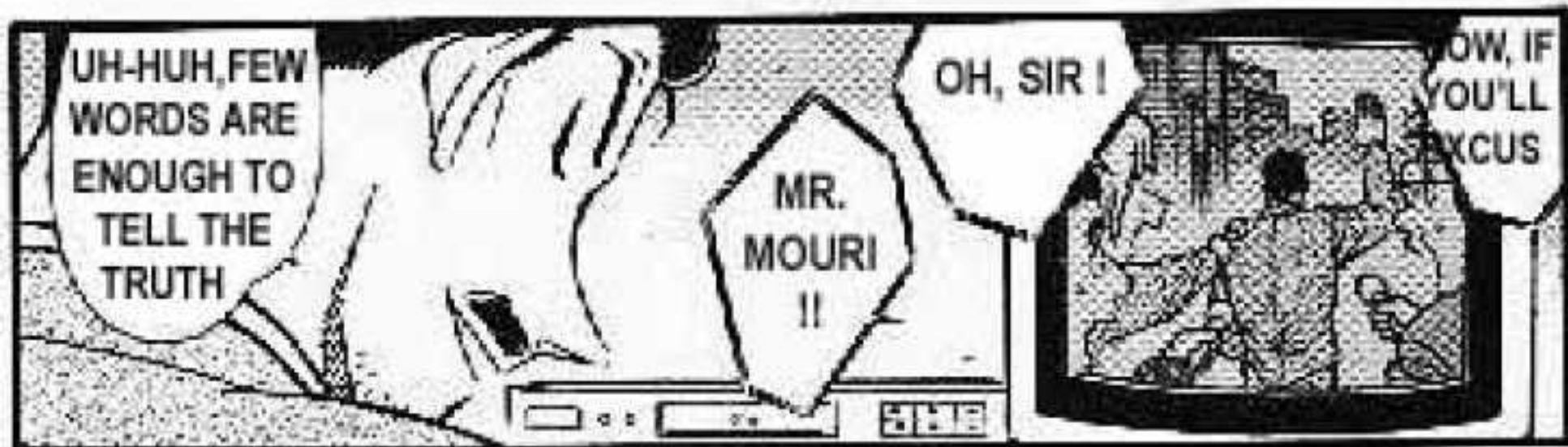


Detective CONAN

THE FOOTSTEPS OF DARKNESS 1

Vol 37 - File 5





HIROTA MASAMI OF THE \$10 MIL BANK ROBBERY THAT WAS ELIMINATED BY THE TWO ABOVE...

GIN AND VODKA WHO TURNED ME INTO A CHILD WITH A DRUG AT TROPICAL LAND ...

AS FAR AS I KNOW OF, I CAME ACROSS 7 MEMBERS FROM THE ORGANIZATION ...

TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE BLACK ORGANIZATION, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE HIM A SUCCESSFUL DETECTIVE... TOO BAD IT'S NOT WORKING...

LET'S REWIND IT AGAIN.



NUMABUCHI KIICHIRO, NOW IN CUSTODY, RAN FROM THE ORG BEFORE EXPERIMENT OF THE DRUG WAS PERFORMED ON HIM

PISCO KILLED BY GIN AT THE MEMORIAL OF DIRECTOR SAKAMAKI ...

TEQUILA THAT DIED OF EXPLOSION AT THE VIDEO-GAME CONVENTION ...



HIROTA MASAMI'S REAL NAME WAS MIYANO AKEMI. SINCE PISCO WAS CALLING HAIBARA "SHIHO", MIYANO SHIHO IS PROBABLY HER REAL NAME...



LASTLY, HAIBARA AI A.K.A. SHERRY, A SISTER OF HIROTA MASAMI AND THE DEVELOPER OF THE DRUG...



GAMES ?

EH ?

HELLO, THIS IS MOURI DET. AGENCY

THEY CAN'T BE TRYING TO MAKE ONE-OF-A-KIND VIDEO-GAME WITH THAT MONEY ...



WHAT I KNOW SO FAR IS THAT ASSASSINATION IS THEIR MAJOR MEANS TO MAKE LARGE SUM OF MONEY, WHILE DEVELOPING DANGEROUS DRUG AND GATHERING TALENTED COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS ... BUT FOR WHAT ?





YES. HE OFTEN GOES MISSING WHEN THE DUE DATE FOR THE COMMISSIONED PROGRAM APPROACHES ...

AND ? IS IT TRUE THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE VANISHED ?

SO THIS IS MR. ITAKURA THAT DISAPPEARED A WEEK AGO...

I SEE ...

WE CAN'T JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR HIM TO FINISH PROJECTS ANYTIME HE PLEASES...

BUT WE THINK HE'S ONLY AVOIDING OUR REMINDER FOR THE DUE DATE ...

HE SAYS HE CAN CONCENTRATE BETTER THIS WAY...

HEY, WE'RE PAYING THE MOST FOR THIS SEARCH !!

THIS NUMBER ...

ONCE YOU FIND HIM, PLEASE CONTACT

I GUESS THEY HAVE NOTHING DO WITH THEM ...

UH-HUH

LAST TIME THE POLICE GOT INVOLVED AND HE WENT BALLISTIC! THAT'S WHY WE WANT YOU TO FIND HIM !

UM, AREN'T YOU ALL FROM THE SAME COMPANY ?

EXCUSE ME! WE REQUESTED HIM TO WORK FOR US FIRST SO WE DESERVE TO KNOW HIS WHEREABOUTS FIRST !

MY NAME IS SOUMA ...

I REQUESTED A SHOGI SYSTEM ...

I ASKED HIM FOR A CHESS SYSTEM ...

MY NAME IS NAITO ...

I'M SUGAI !

IGO SYSTEM IS ASKED MR. ITAKURA TO DEVELOP...



SOUMA RYUSUKE (44)
EMPLOYEE OF
A GAME COMPANY



NAITO JOHEI (47)
EMPLOYEE OF
A GAME COMPANY



SUGAI
KATSUMICHI (39)
EMPLOYEE OF A
GAME COMPANY

HE SAID, "LEAVE IT TO ME. I HAVE NO CONTRACT WITH ANY OTHER COMPANY!"



WHEN EACH OF US WENT TO SEE HIM ON DIFFERENT DAYS, HE ENSURED US ONE THING...

THAT'S WHY WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIM ! WE HAVE A LOT TO SAY !!

C, CAN HE MAKE THREE SYSTEMS AT ONCE ALL BY HIMSELF...?

HE SENT US ALL THREE THIS EMAIL WITH HIS VOICE AND A PHOTO !



THEN WHEN DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE TRIPLE JOBBING ?



I WILL STAY AWAY FROM MY OFFICE FOR A WHILE TO WORK ON THEM. IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME SO BE PATIENT ...

FORTUNATELY MY HEART IS FEELING BETTER LATELY ...



OH BOY, TO CREATE 3 SYSTEMS AT ONCE IS QUITE TIRESOME ...



+CG = COMPUTER GRAPHIC





HUH ?

WHAT WAS THAT GIANT SAYING ?

WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT AT MR. ITAKURA'S OFFICE !?



HE SAID, "WE DON'T NEED YOU NO MORE !!"

I, I DON'T KNOW... HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE WHEN I GOT THERE ...



I HAVE TO FIND MR. ITAKURA AND QUESTION HIM DIRECTLY !!

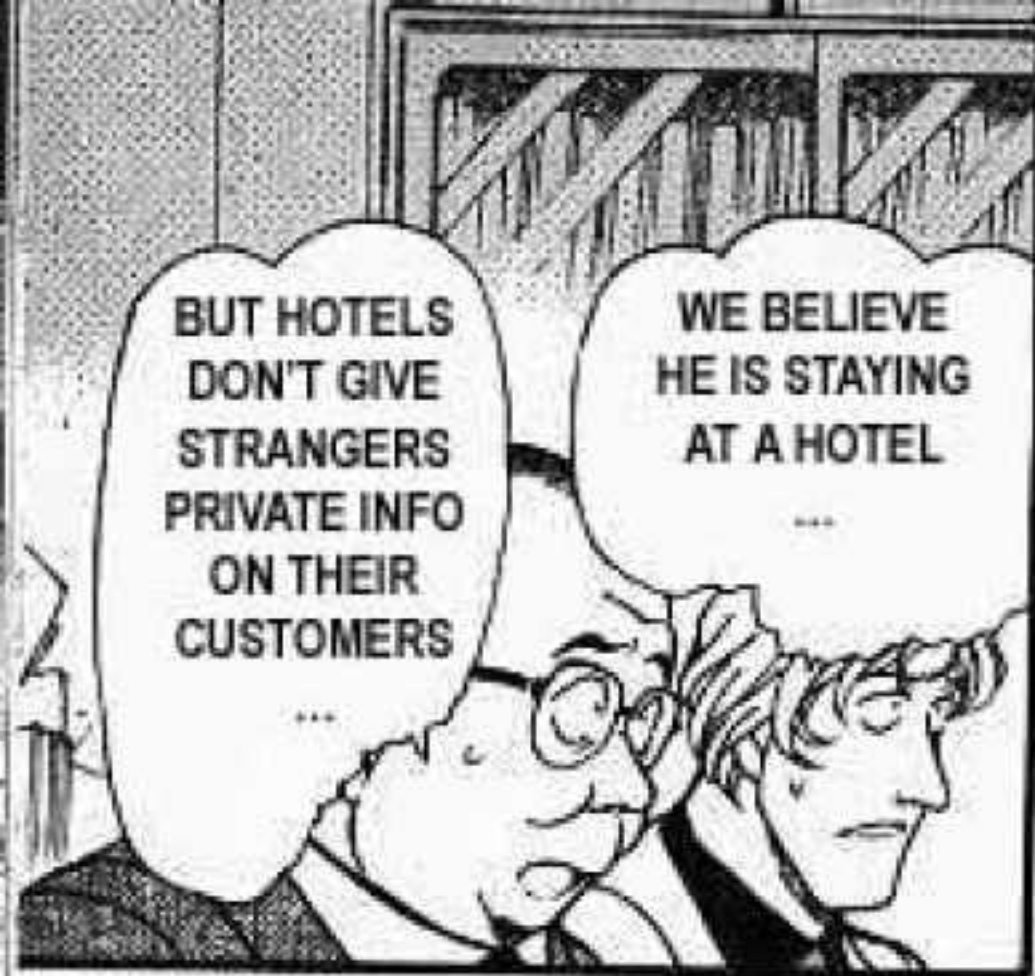


DAMN IT ...!

CONAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER ?



TE QUI LA !!!



BUT HOTELS
DON'T GIVE
STRANGERS
PRIVATE INFO
ON THEIR
CUSTOMERS
...

WE BELIEVE
HE IS STAYING
AT A HOTEL
...



THE
QUESTION IS,
HOW DO WE
FIND HIM
FROM THE
PICTURE
ONLY...?

I WAS TOLD
THAT MAN GOT
CAUGHT IN THE
EXPLOSION
AND DIED...
I DON'T THINK
HE'S INVOLVED
IN THIS...



ALL?
THEY ARE
JAPANESE,
CHINESE AND
WESTERN
!

HEY, RAN ?
I WANT TO HAVE
SASHIMI,
TIAN JIN FAN
AND BEEF
STEW TONIGHT
!



HE'S PROBABLY
USING A FAKE
NAME, HIDING HIS
FACE BEHIND
SUNGLASSES
...



WEIRD
CUS-
TOMER
...?

THEN THEY'LL THINK I'M
A WEIRD CUSTOMER IF
I ORDER THEM ALL
FOR MYSELF !

NOT EVEN
FAMILY
RESTAURANTS
HAVE THEM
ALL ...



SO HE DIDN'T
TAKE ANYTHING
ELSE WITH HIM,
CORRECT ?



HIS ASSISTANT
SAID HE
CARRIED HIS
LAPTOP AND
FEW FLOPPY
DISKS
...

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
HE TOOK
WITH HIM
WHEN HE DIS-
APPEARED?



HE HAS GO,
SHOGI AND
CHESS BOARDS
IN THE ROOM
...

WAIT A
MINUTE
...

THE PHONE IN THE ROOM IS OUT OF ORDER SO I'M CALLING FROM MY CELL RIGHT NOW !! DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT IMMEDIATELY !!

I'M THE ONE WHO BORROWED GO, SHOGI, AND CHESS SETS EARLIER !!

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON WITH THIS HOTEL !?

HUH? MAY I ASK WHO IT IS ...?

OK, NEXT ...

OOPS, SORRY. MY MISTAKE ...

WE DO NOT HAVE SUCH RENTAL SERVICE ...

EVERY HOTEL EMPLOYEE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT ...

BECAUSE IT'S SO RARE AND STRANGE ...

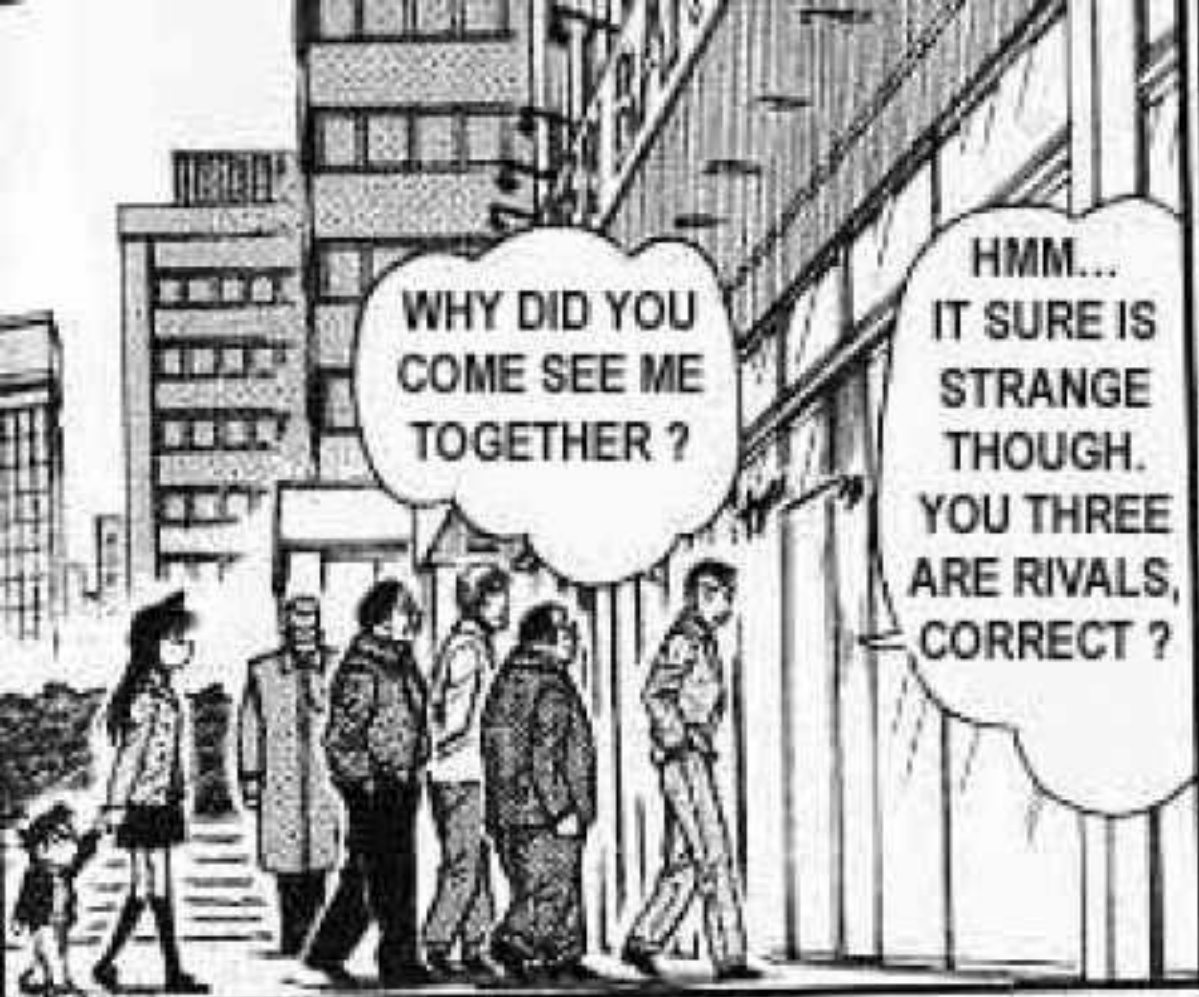
NOT SO MANY PEOPLE STAY IN A HOTEL FOR A WEEK WITH THREE DIFFERENT GAMES AS HIS ONLY COMPANY...

HOTEL NEW BEIKA ...

IS THIS MR. ITAKURA FROM RM. 2004 ?

I'M CALLING FROM MY CELL RIGHT NOW !! WILL YOU HURRY UP AND DO SOMETHING ...





WHY DID YOU COME SEE ME TOGETHER ?

HMM... IT SURE IS STRANGE THOUGH. YOU THREE ARE RIVALS, CORRECT ?



HUMPH... SO THIS IS HIS HIDEOUT ...



THAT'S WHEN I SUGGESTED ASK FOR YOUR HELP ...

WHY NOT WORK TOGETHER IF WE ALL WANT TO CATCH HIM ?

SINCE WE GOT THAT EMAIL WE MADE CALLS TO FIND WHICH COMPANIES MR. ITAKURA HAD CONTRACT WITH !



I SHOULD'VE JUST CHARGED THEM AND LET THEM COME ON THEIR OWN ...

CRAP... YOKO'S DRAMA IS OVER ...



OH, GOD ...

LISTEN, I'M THE ONE WHO MADE AN APPOINTMENT ON THE PHONE !

NO, I MENTIONED HIS NAME !

HEY, THAT WAS MY IDEA !



YEA, WHAT ABOUT YOURS ?

DON'T BE STUPID ! I JUST BOUGHT IT FIVE DAYS AGO !

ARE YOUR WATCHES REAL ?

HHH ...



THERE ...

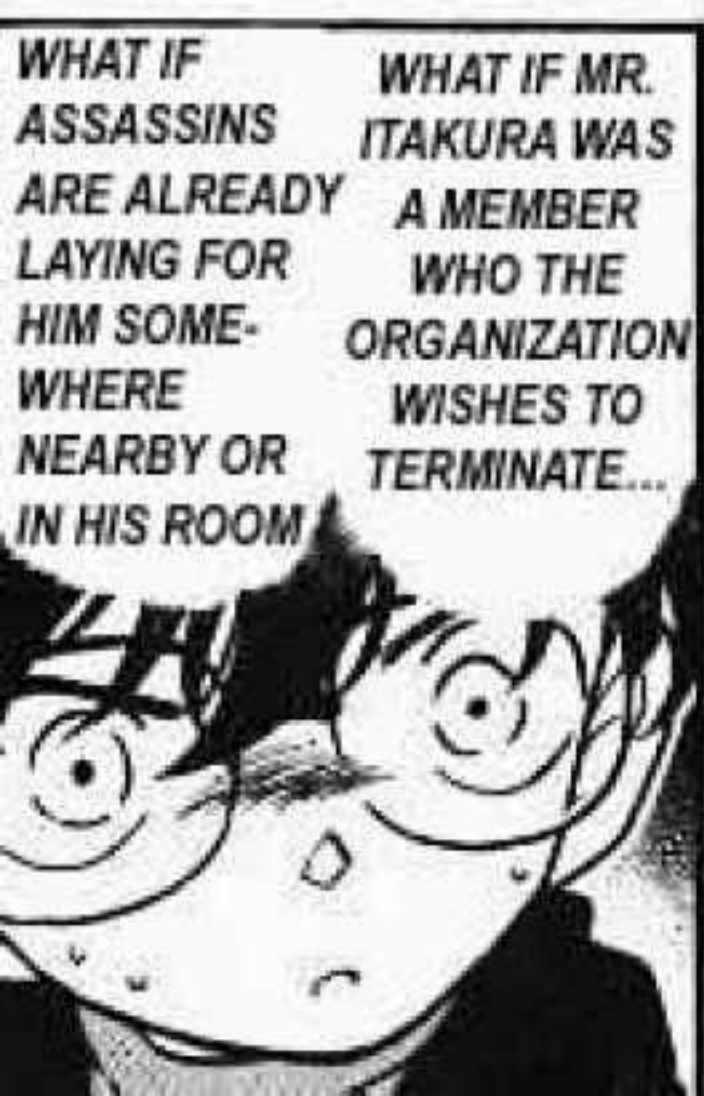
SO YOU SEE ?



MR. ITAKURA IS PICKY WHEN IT COMES TO WATCH

EH ?

UH-OH, HE'S GOING TO BE SARCASTIC IF YOU'RE WEARING SUCH A CHEAP WATCH.



THE ORGANIZATION DOESN'T TRUST OUTSIDERS WHO MIGHT SPILL THE BEANS

MR. ITAKURA CAN'T BE ONE OF THEM ... OR ELSE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE LET MR. SOUMA IN HIS OFFICE DURING HIS MEETING WITH TEQUILA ...

TEQUILA SAID SO TWO YEARS AGO... MR. ITAKURA WOULD'VE BEEN LONG GONE IF TEQUILA INTENDED TO KILL HIM THEN...

NO, CALM DOWN ...

I NEED TO KNOW WHY TEQUILA VISITED HIM TWO YEARS AGO...

I MUST SOMEHOW TALK TO MR. ITAKURA ...

Ding Dong

Ding Dong

THE DOOR WILL LOCK AUTOMATICALLY SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CARRY THE KEY AT ALL TIME.

I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE ...

WHY DON'T WE WAIT HERE ?

MAYBE HE WENT OUT TO EAT...

HOW ODD, HE DOESN'T ANSWER ALTHOUGH THE DOOR SIGN SAYS, "DON'T WAKE ME" ...





I... I'LL
CALL THE
POLICE
!!

YOU'RE
KIDDING
...

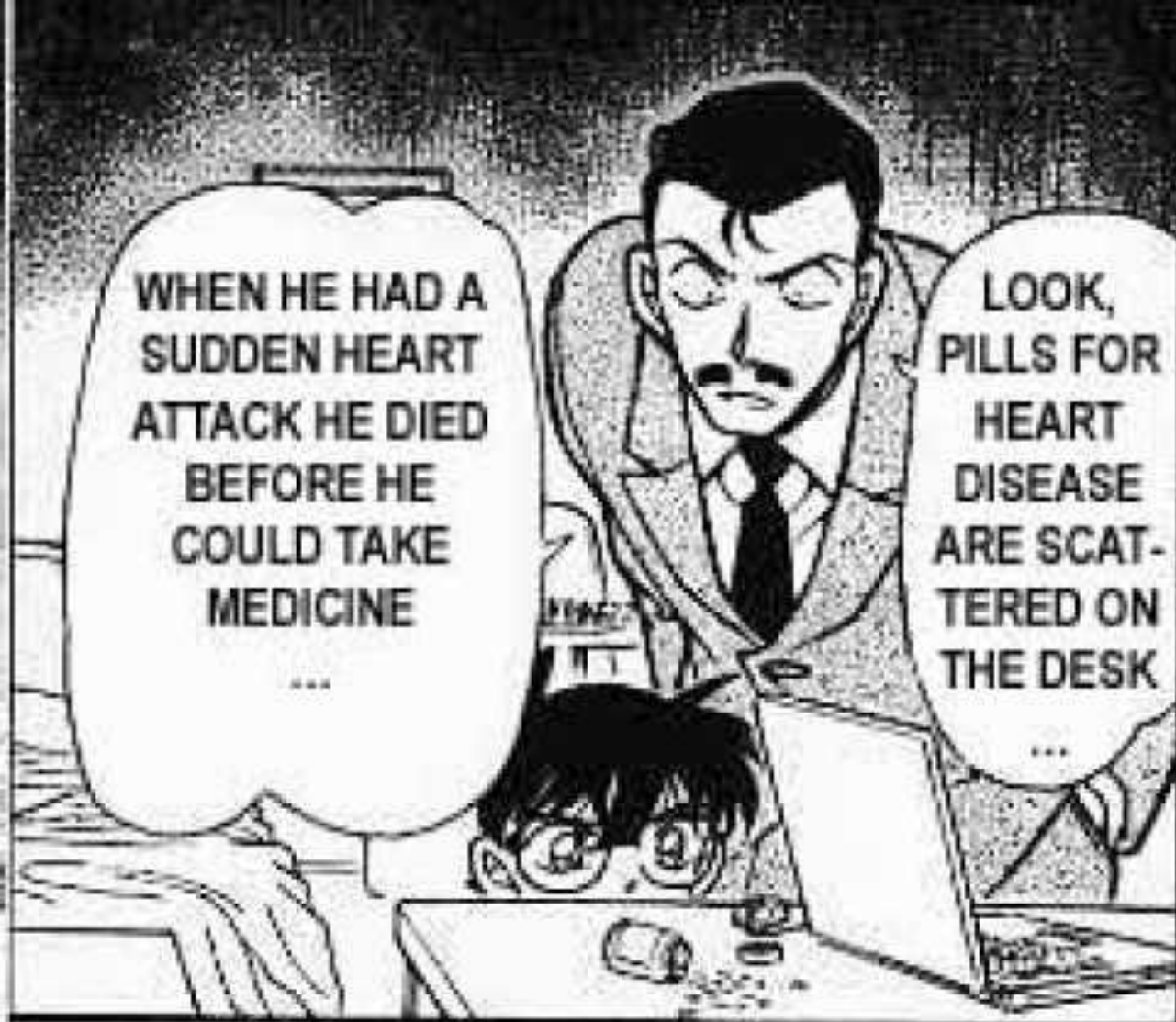
HE'S BEEN
DEAD FOR AT
LEAST A DAY
....

NO
...

WH-
AT
!?

MR.
ITAKU-
RA
!?

HUH
?



WHEN HE HAD A
SUDDEN HEART
ATTACK HE DIED
BEFORE HE
COULD TAKE
MEDICINE
....

LOOK,
PILLS FOR
HEART
DISEASE
ARE SCAT-
TERED ON
THE DESK
....



PROBABLY
A HEART
ATTACK
....

HOW
DID
THIS
HAP-
PEN
....



IF ONLY HE
DIDN'T
GO HIDE
HIMSELF
....



BUT
WHY
...?

SOMEONE
STAGED IT
AS IF HIS
HEART
FAILED
TO FUNC-
TION...

NO... MR.
ITAKURA DIDN'T
DIE FROM A
NATURAL CAUSE
....





WHY
...
WHY
...

WHENEVER
I COME SO
CLOSE TO
THEM
!?

WHY DO
I ALWAYS
LOSE THE
SCENT
.....

A DIARY
!?