

Detective CONAN

THE FOOTSTEPS OF DARKNESS 2


Vol 37 - File 6





A
DIARY
!!

I MAY STILL BE
ABLE TO FIND OUT WHY TEQUILA
VISITED HIM IF MR. ITAKURA HAD
KEPT A DAY-TO-DAY JOURNAL ON
THAT DISK ...



MR. ITAKURA MET
TEQUILA TWO
YEARS AGO...
ALTHOUGH HE IS NO
LONGER ALIVE...

THE ULTIMATE
GOALS OF THE
MEN IN BLACK
...

THIS MAY
EVEN
REVEAL
...

IT IS AN
IMPORTANT
PIECE OF
EVIDENCE ...
THEY WON'T
LET ME
TAKE IT

DAMN
...

I CAN NEVER
LEAVE YOU
UNATTENDED
...

WHOA
!!

YOU !!
DON'T TOUCH THE
POSSESSIONS OF
THE DECEASED
!!

I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S ON
IT UNLESS I MAKE THEM
UNDERSTAND WHAT
REALLY HAPPENED HERE

AND IT'S HIGHLY
PROBABLE THE
CULPRIT IS AMONG
THOSE THREE
...

SOMEONE
MADE IT
LOOK LIKE
HE DIED SO

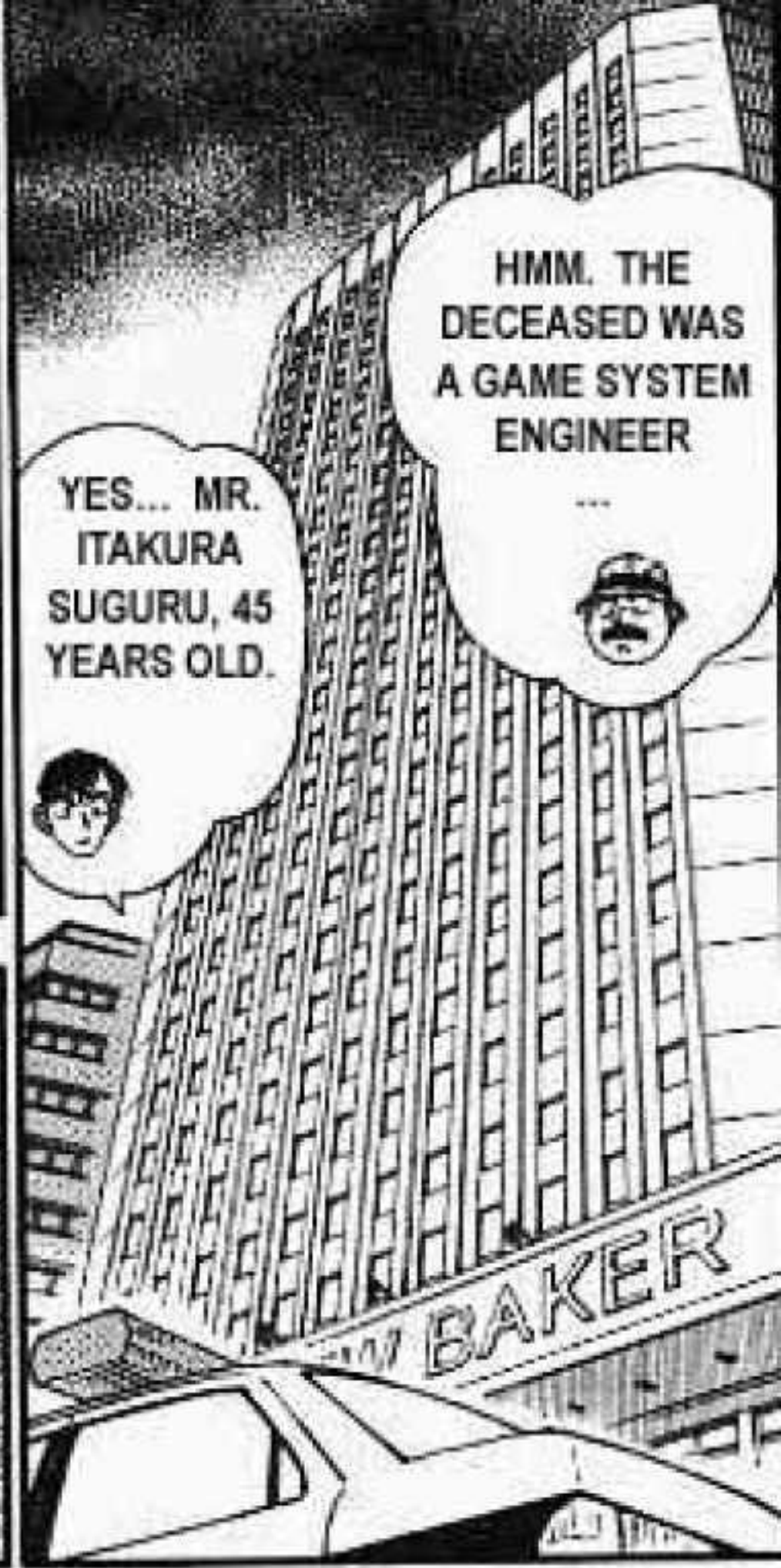
MR. ITAKURA DID
NOT NATURALLY
DIE FROM HEART
DISEASE...



RIGHT. I'VE SEEN HIM ON TV A COUPLE OF TIMES

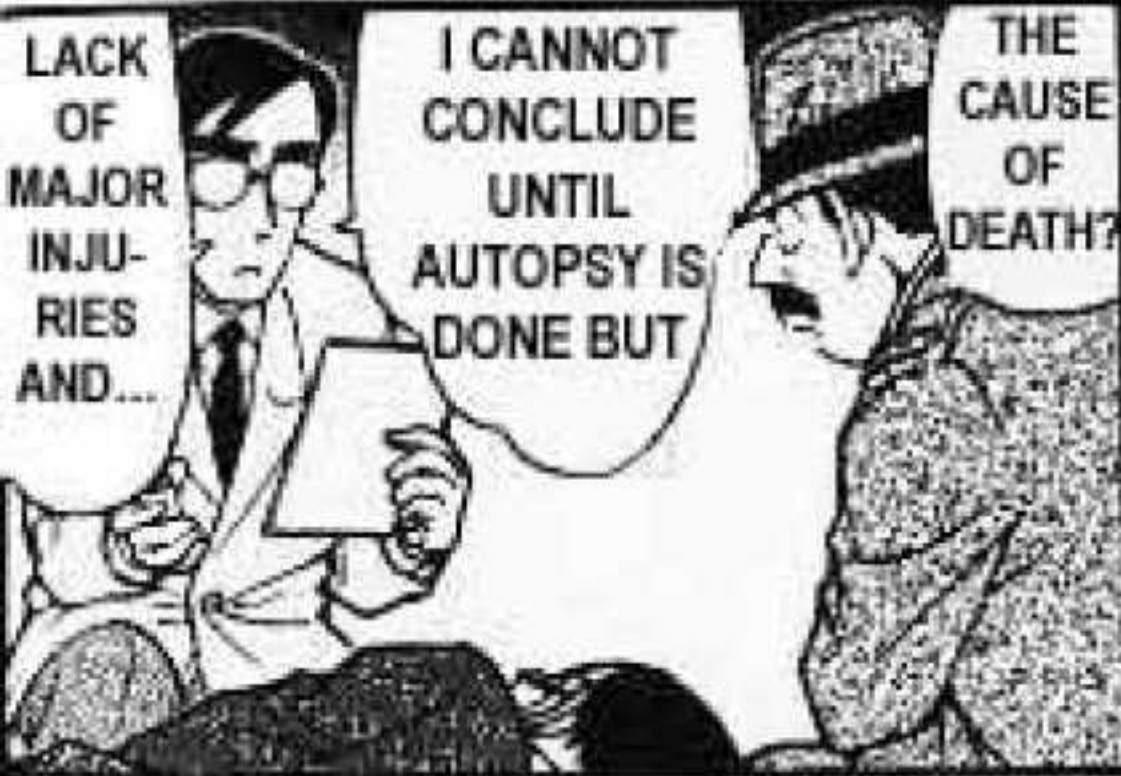
HE WAS FAMOUS FOR CG AND SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS ON FILMS UNTIL FEW YEARS AGO ...

CG = COMPUTER GRAPHIC



HMM. THE DECEASED WAS A GAME SYSTEM ENGINEER

YES... MR. ITAKURA SUGURU, 45 YEARS OLD.



LACK OF MAJOR INJURIES AND...

I CANNOT CONCLUDE UNTIL AUTOPSY IS DONE BUT

THE CAUSE OF DEATH?



IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO DAYS ...

JUDGING FROM THE CORNEAL OPACITY AND THE STATE OF RIGOR MORTIS,



LIKELY HE DIED FROM A SUDDEN STROKE

THESE PRESCRIBED CORONARY VASODILATORS INDICATE A MOST PROBABLE CAUSE



I SEE ... SO IT WAS NOT A MURDER

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A SURGERY AS SOON AS HE FINISHES HIS CURRENT PROJECTS.

MR. ITAKURA'S HEART CONDITION WAS QUITE SERIOUS THAT IT REQUIRED HIM TO TAKE MEDICATION THRICE A DAY.



AND ?

SIR ! I CONTACTED MR. ITAKURA'S FAMILY PHYSICIAN.



IT SURE LOOKS LIKE THAT

MR. SLEEPING KOGORO ?

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT NEEDED THIS TIME AROUND,

HE MUST'VE DECLINED ANY KIND OF ROOM SERVICE INCLUDING BED MAKING... THE MAN CHANGED HIS BED SHEET ONCE IN SIX MONTHS... TWO DAYS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT

IF A PEN ON HIS DESK WAS MOVED BY EVEN 10CM, HE BECAME FURIOUS

MR. ITAKURA HATED TO HAVE PEOPLE AROUND IN HIS WORKPLACE

HOW COME THE HOTEL EMPLOYEES DIDN'T LEARN ABOUT HIS DEATH FOR TWO DAYS? DIDN'T THEY COME FOR BED MAKING ...?



THEY ARE IN GAME SOFTWARE BUSINESS. MR. ITAKURA WAS MAKING SYSTEMS FOR THEM !

WHO ARE THOSE THREE ?



WELL, I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT HE DIED. HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN AN UNSANITARY ENVIRONMENT DESPITE HIS HEART CONDITION

OH, I DON'T KNOW



YES

HOWEVER, HE WAS ALREADY DEAD WHEN YOU GOT HERE. IS THAT IT ?



MR. ITAKURA HAD DISAPPEARED A WEEK AGO WITHOUT FINISHING THE PROJECTS. THAT'S WHY THEY CAME FOR MY HELP. AS EXPECTED, MY BRILLIANT BRAIN LED TO HIM IN NO TIME AT ALL !!



BUT THERE IS NO TRACE LEFT ON THE SURFACE OF THE DESK!

WHEN WE CAME INTO THE ROOM, THIS MISTER WAS SITTING ON A CHAIR PRESSING HIS FACE AGAINST THE DESK, RIGHT?



WHAT?

I THINK HE LIKED TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN ...



OF DROOL!

WHAT TRACE?



DUH!! NO MAN SUFFERING FROM A STROKE CLEANS BEFORE TAKING HIS MEDICATION!!

THEN WHO DID?



WE DON'T SEE IT BECAUSE HE WIPED IT OFF TO CLEAN THE DESK!

HE'S DROOLING QUITE A BIT SO THE DESK SHOULD BE STAINED WITH SALIVA.



IN THAT CASE, THERE'S ONE THING I FIND STRANGE!

HE FELL ON THE FLOOR WHEN WE SHOOK HIM



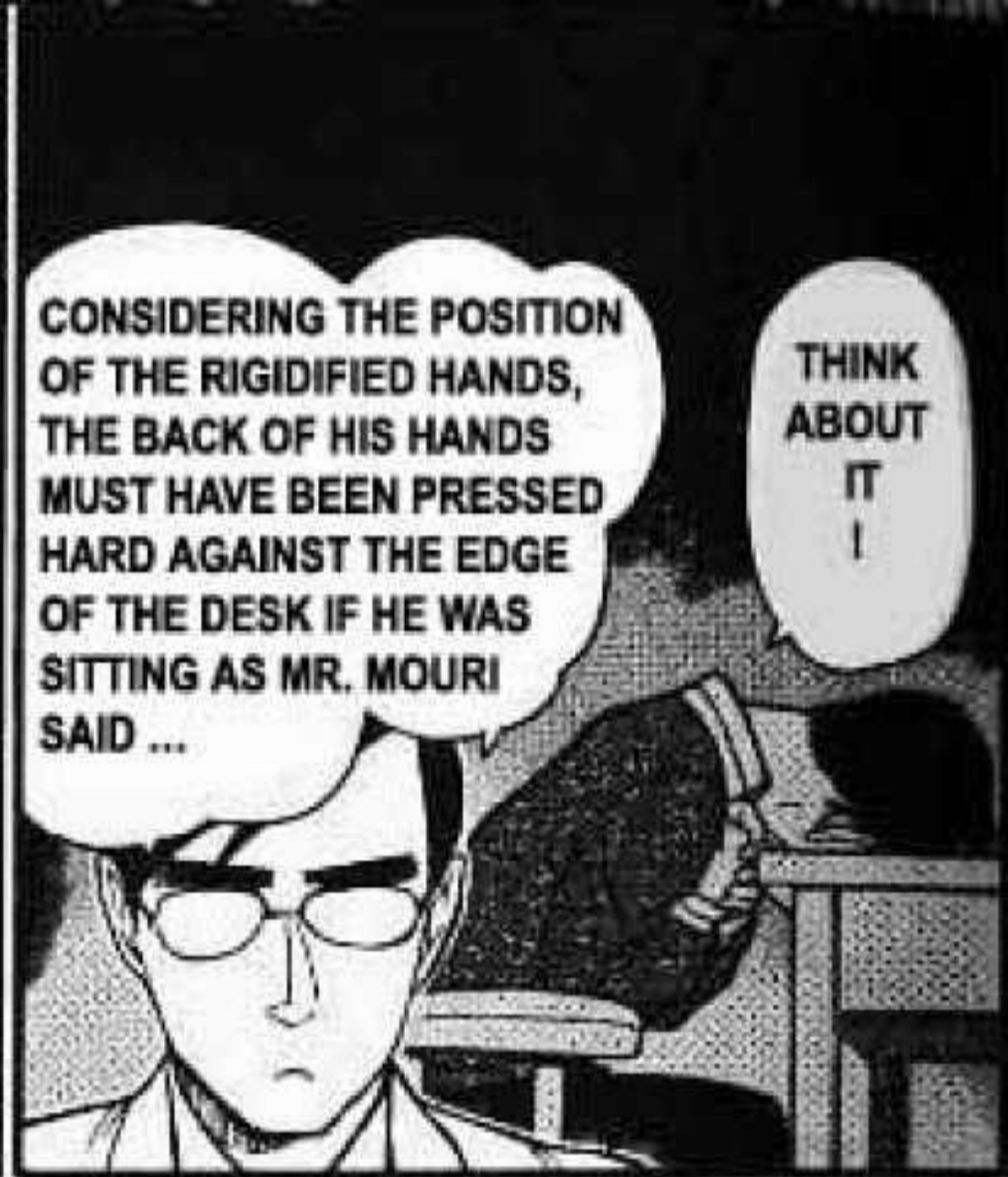
ALSO, YOU NEVER TOLD US HE WAS SITTING ON A CHAIR PRESSING HIS FACE AGAINST THE DESK ...

I... I HAVE NO IDEA ...



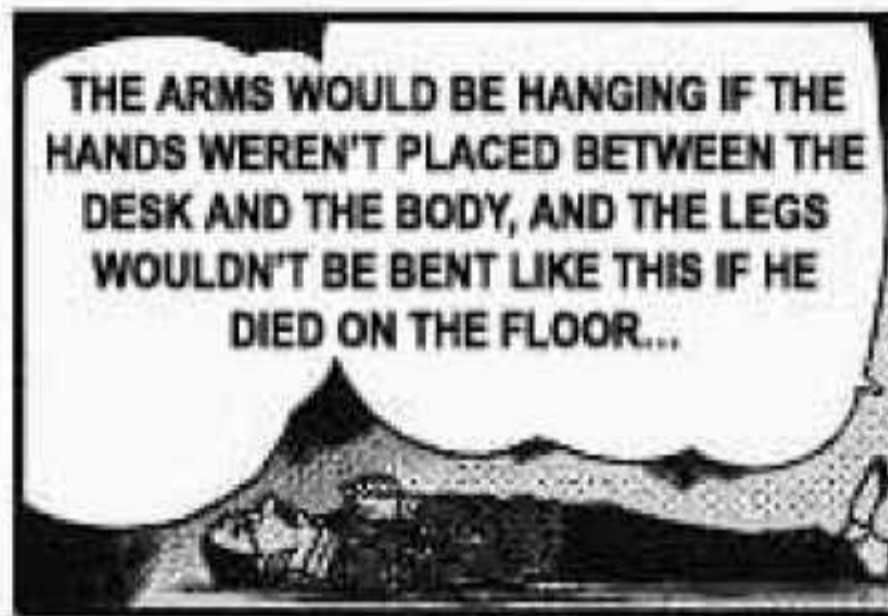
COULD HE HAVE DIED AT SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM THE DESK ...?

BUT THERE IS NO SUCH MARK ON THEM ...



CONSIDERING THE POSITION OF THE RIGIDIFIED HANDS, THE BACK OF HIS HANDS MUST HAVE BEEN PRESSED HARD AGAINST THE EDGE OF THE DESK IF HE WAS SITTING AS MR. MOURI SAID ...

THINK ABOUT IT !



THE ARMS WOULD BE HANGING IF THE HANDS WEREN'T PLACED BETWEEN THE DESK AND THE BODY, AND THE LEGS WOULDN'T BE BENT LIKE THIS IF HE DIED ON THE FLOOR...



I DOUBT IT ! RIGOR MORTIS HAD COMPLETELY SET IN AND RIGIDIFIED THE LEGS AND HANDS AS WE SEE THEM NOW !



MADE IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE THE MEDICATION HE DESPERATELY NEEDED !

THAT'S IT... MR. ITAKURA WAS ROPED UP TO A CHAIR WITH HIS HANDS AT HIS CHEST,



AH



EH ?

UNLESS SOMEBODY HAD TIED MR. ITAKURA ONTO A CHAIR IN THAT POSITION, IT'S ...



YES. IT IS OUR SPECIALTY ...

THAT MUST MEAN ...



I DON'T BELIEVE IT ...



A HOMICIDE ...



CORNER, IS THERE ANY?

BUT THEN, THERE MUST BE TIED MARKS LEFT ON THE BODY...

NOTHING DISTINCT. HOWEVER, I SEE MINOR BUT BROAD CONGESTION OF SKIN FROM SHOULDERS TO KNEES DUE TO PHYSICAL CONSTRAINT ...



THE BLANKET !!

I GET IT !



HEY, LEAVE IT ...!

EWW... I WONDER WHY IT'S KIND OF STICKY FROM SPOT TO SPOT



WOW! THIS BLANKET SEEMS SO WARM AND COZY!

WHY IS THAT?

IF SO, THE LEG OF THIS BUILD-IN DESK WAS USED TO FIX THE CHAIR IN PLACE ...

OH, SO THAT'S WHY THERE WAS NO ROPE MARKS ON THE BODY!

AS IF IT'S LEANING TOWARDS THE DESK BY PUTTING A PILLOW ON HIS LAP!

MR. ITAKURA WAS FIRST WRAPPED IN THE BLANKET AND THEN TAPED TO THE CHAIR! HIS UPPER BODY POSITION WAS MAINTAINED...

AROUND THE TIME RIGOR MORTIS HAD COMPLETELY SET IN, THE CULPRIT CAME BACK TO UNTIE HIM AND SET UP THE WHOLE SCENE SO THAT NO ONE WOULD BECOME SUSPICIOUS OF THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH!

THEN IT'S SETTLED. THE CULPRIT PUT MR. ITAKURA TO SLEEP WITH DRUG, WRAPPED IN THE BLANKET, TAPED ON TO THE CHAIR ...

THE TAPE ADHESIVE ISN'T COMPLETELY WIPED OUT...

HOTEL, EH...?

YES SIR!!

ALL RIGHT! GO ASK THE HOTEL EMPLOYEES IF ANYONE VISITED THIS ROOM IN THE PAST THREE DAYS!!

I EASILY GOT THE ROOM NUMBER BUT THE EMPLOYEE ALSO SAID SOMETHING ELSE WITH A CHUCKLE OVER THE PHONE ...

UH-HUH ...

I SAID, "I'M THE ONE THAT CHECKED OUT ALL SHOGI, CHESS, AND GO GAME SETS AND NEED TO HAVE THE ROOM PHONE FIXED!"

OH, I REMEMBERED SOMETHING. TO FIND IF MR. ITAKURA WAS STAYING, I CALLED THE HOTEL PRETENDING TO BE HIM ...

HMM?

BUT SIR, VERY FEW ARE AS BRIGHT AS I AM

WHAT!? THEN SOMEONE ELSE MAY HAVE USED THE SAME METHOD TO TRACK HIM DOWN !!

SHE SAID, "AGAIN?"

...

OH, OKAY

INSPECTOR! THERE WAS A SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ROOM PHONE IN DISGUISE AS MR. ITAKURA !!

BY THE WAY, HOW DID YOU KNOW MR. ITAKURA HAD CHECKED OUT THE THREE GAMES ?

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT HE IS THE CULPRIT ...

SUSPICIOUSLY THE CALLER TALKED IN MUFFLED TONE

WHEN A TECHNICIAN CAME OVER, MR. ITAKURA TURNED HIM BACK SAYING IT WASN'T HIM THAT MADE THE CALL.

BE-CAUSE OF AN EMAIL

SO, IN OTHER WORDS

I SEE

IT WAS OF MR. ITAKURA IN A HOTEL ROOM WITH THE THREE GAME BOARDS !

I SAW A PICTURE THAT WAS ATTACHED TO MR. ITAKURA'S EMAIL SENT TO THOSE THREE PEOPLE...



ANY OF YOU COULD'VE USED THE SAME METHOD AS MOURI TO FIND THIS ROOM.



HMM ...

YOU GOT A POINT THERE

NO CULPRIT IN HIS RIGHT MIND COMES BACK TO THE CRIME SCENE WITH A FAMOUS DETECTIVE !



WE ASKED DETECTIVE MOURI TO TRACK HIM DOWN !!

W, WAIT A MINUTE ! WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE THE SUSPECTS ?



YOU MUST PROVE THAT WE WERE HERE !!

DON'T SUSPECT US WITHOUT EVIDENCE !



HMM ?

I HAVE AN IDEA ...

U...UM ...



YES ... NOW IS MY TURN ...



TRUE, IT DOES SAY "DIARY" ...

HMM ?



THAT'S MR. ITAKURA'S DIARY, ISN'T IT? IT MIGHT SAY WHO VISITED HIM BEFORE US !

LET'S CHECK OUT WHAT'S ON THAT DISK OVER THERE !



BUT IF I WERE THE CULPRIT ...

EASY ! WE'LL USE THE LAPTOP ON THE DESK !

HOW DO WE EXAMINE IT ANYWAYS ?



I WOULD'VE ERASED ANY CLUE ON IT ...



IT SEEMS MR. ITAKURA HAD BEEN KEEPING DIARY FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS ...

WHICH MEANS ...

TIK



THERE IT IS !



KRRKK ...



IT'S ALL
THERE
!!!

THERE IS A
JOURNAL ON
THE DAY
TEQUILA
VISITED HIM
TWO YEARS
AGO ...

YES
!!



"THOSE THREE
MAY HAVE
FIGURED OUT
THAT I'M STAYING
HERE."

"TODAY THE
HOTEL EMPLOYEE
TOLD ME ABOUT
A STRANGE
INCIDENT."



THREE
DAYS
AGO !

I GOT IT !
THIS IS THE
MOST
RECENT
ENTRY !



"OH WELL,
I CAN
ALWAYS
SWITCH THE
HOTEL."
...



I
DID IT
!!



OH, OKAY
...

THEN I'LL
PUT IT
BACK INTO
THE BAG
FOR YOU
!!

CLICK



NO
...

ISN'T
THERE
ANYTHING
MORE
?

I'D SAY YOU
THREE ARE
QUITE SUSPI-
CIOUS ...



THIS ISN'T GOOD !!
I CAN NEVER ACCESS IT
ONCE IT GOES TO THE POLICE
!!!



GOOD IDEA ...
WE MIGHT FIND CLUES FROM
THE OTHER DAYS

NO... LET'S SEND IT TO THE
LAB FOR LATER ANALYSIS...

HUH
!?



I STILL HAVEN'T GOT
ANY CLUE AS TO WHO DID IT ...

IF ONLY I COULD PROVE THAT
THE DISK HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH THIS CASE



AND MR. SOUMA ASKED MR.
ITAKURA TO DEVELOP A SOFT-
WARE SYSTEM FOR SHOGI ...

MR. SUGAI IS IGO,

ALL I KNOW IS THAT MR.
NAITO IS CHESS,



ALTHOUGH THE LEFT ONE IS CONGESTED
AS EXPECTED FROM THE SOCK

LOOK AT THESE ANKLES



INSPECTOR,
PLEASE COME HERE

CALM DOWN. I MUST BE MISSING
SOMETHING. A PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT CAN
SOLVE THIS CASE



NOT
SHOWING
ANY SUCH
MARK
...

THE
RIGHT
ONE IS,
SEE
...



THE SOCK WAS
PUT ON LONG
AFTER BLOOD
CIRCULATION
STOPPED
...

IT COULD
ONLY MEAN
ONE THING
...



I'M
NOT
SURE
...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
OF THIS
?

HUH
?



THAT'S
WHY THE
CULPRIT PUT
IT BACK ON
...

WHEN THE CULPRIT
CAME BACK TO UNTIE
MR. ITAKURA, HE
THOUGHT IT WAS
UNNATURAL THAT MR.
ITAKURA HAD ONLY
ONE SOCK ON...



HIS ...
SOCK ...



WHY WOULD
MR. ITAKURA
TAKE OFF
...



BUT BEING
TIED TO
THIS
SPOT,



HE'S THE ONE
...

THERE'S NO DOUBT
...

SO THAT'S WHY... HE DID IT TO LEAVE THIS TO US...



IF I DO THIS RIGHT
...

NOT ONLY THAT ... I CAN STILL GET THAT DIARY
.....

