

FILE.9

服部平次

Heiji and Kazuha in
Grave Danger! (2)

絶体絶命! ②





2

WHAT IS IT?

KUDOU!!





EH?



YOU WANNA DIE, HUH?! YOU BRAT!!

4



AH...

I'LL GO LOOK LIP-STAIRS!

IT MAY BE A THIEF!



I... DON'T KNOW...

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE? IT CAME FROM LIPSTAIRS ...

YOU SAID YOU'RE ALONE, RIGHT?





KUDOU
...?

K...



OH,
OKAY...

NO, I
MUST
GET
GOING!



BYE,
LITTLE
BOY...

I... I'M
SORRY
...

PLEASE,
DON'T
WALK
AROUND
ON YOUR
OWN!



6



N, NO!!

WH-
?!



YOUR
RESCUER-
TO-BE
WAS ONLY
A KID...

AREN'T
YOU
UNLU-
CKY...



THAT
WAS
CLOSE!

HPM!

LOOKS
LIKE THEY
LEFT...



DUH!
LOOK
CLOSELY!

SEE, HE'S
SLUNK IN
THOUGHT...



HE'S
PROBABLY
NOTICED
ABOUT US
AND IS
THINKING OF
A WAY TO
SOMEHOW
RESCUE US
LATER!

THERE
MUST BE
A REASON

HE'S
LEAVING
FOR
REAL!



I WAS
REFERRING
TO MR
SLEEPING
KOGORO...

WHAT
ARE
YOU...

HE
HASN'T
GOT
A CLUE
ABOUT US
BEING
HERE!!



THAT'S WHY
HE HAS
THAT SAPPY
LOOK ON
HIS FACE...

EMBAR-
RASSED
BUT A BIT
HAPPY
BEING
HUGGED
BY HER...



It's
leading
by 4
horse-
length
now!!

AH...
THAT OLD
MAN'S
PROBABLY
LISTENING
TO A HORSE
RACE...



H...
HEY!

THAT'LL
MAKE THEM
FIND US...

WE HAVE
NO OTHER
CHOICE...
I'LL BREAK
THIS WIN-
DOW
...



BEAT YOUR BRAINS OUT...

NOW... IT'S TIME FOR YOUR STUDY...



WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!



ISN'T IT?

Q	5	2	A	2	5	2
K	3	3	2	Q	4	4
4	K	Q	Q	K	J	6
A	Q	J	9	6	J	3
3	5	5	5	3	3	Q
6	2	4	6	4	2	6
2	K	K	5	3	K	A

TO YOU, THE FAMOUS HIGH SCHOOL DETECTIVE HATTORI HEIJI, THIS SHOULD BE EASIER THAN SOLVING MATH PROBLEMS...



SURE, THERE IS...

OR IS THERE A REASON YOU CAN'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?



WHY NOT TAKE SOME TIME TO BREAK IT?

HMPH... WHAT'S THE HURRY?




YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BEATEN TO DEATH LIKE THIS FOOLISH MAN, DO YOU?

YOU BETTER GET TO IT FAST.. CRACK IT BEFORE SUNSET!



'MAKE A CLEAN START AND I'LL KEEP YOUR SINS TO MYSELF,' WHATEVER.

WHAT AN IDIOT... THINKING THAT HE'D BE SAFE ONLY BECAUSE HIS CO-WORKERS FOUND OUT ABOUT IT. WHO DID HE THINK HE WAS TO GIVE ME A LECTURE?




THIS MAN, KUSUKAWA... HE SAID THAT TOMORROW THERE'D BE A MAIL DELIVERED TO THE DETECTIVE AGENCY HE BELONGED TO... A MAIL CONTAINING THE EXACT COPY OF THIS SECRET CODE AND AN EXPLANATION LETTER ABOUT THE TAPE IN TOUTO BANK'S RENTAL LOCKER BEING EVIDENCE FOR A KNOWN LAWYER'S INVOLVEMENT IN MENTORING THE INCOME TAX EVASION...



WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER?!

THAT REMINDS ME... DAD SAID KUSUKAWA-SAN WAS A KNOWN GAMBLER...



IT'S SO OBVIOUS HE WANTED TO BLACKMAIL ME SO THAT HE COULD HAVE A FORTUNE TO GAMBLE ALL THE MORE!


GAM-BLE?




IF YOU LET ME THINK A BIT MORE IN SILENCE, I THINK I CAN GET IT...

YEA...

OH? HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT SOMETHING?



YOU CAN TALK NOW... KUSUKAWA-SAN...



RACK YOUR BRAINS OUT...

FINE, WE'LL BE HAVING TEA DOWN-STAIRS...



I... I WAS REALLY OUT UNTIL JUST NOW, THOUGH...

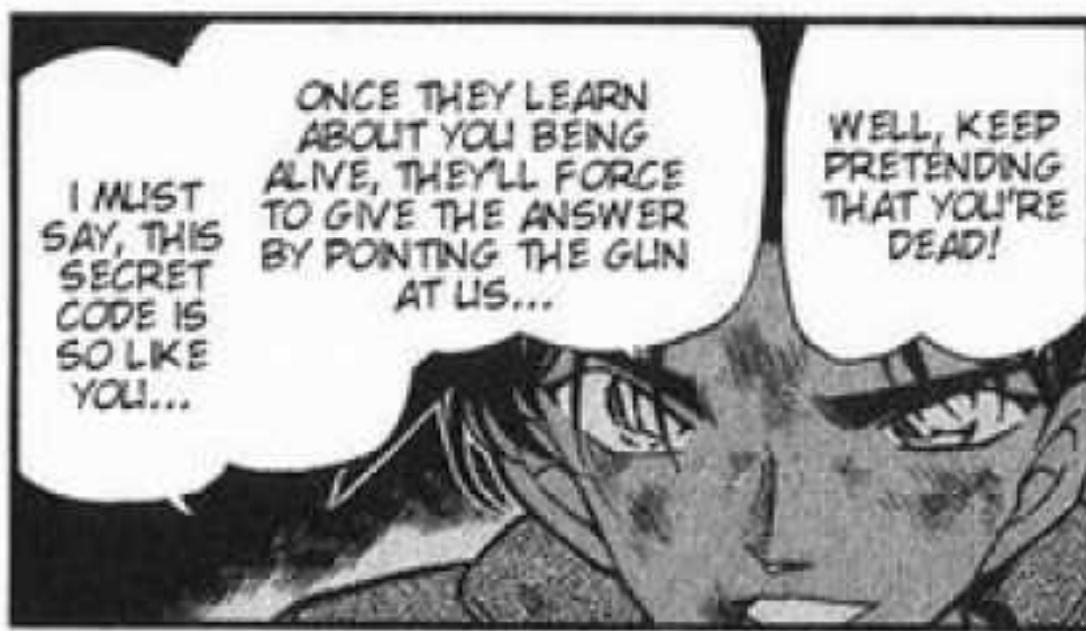
L... LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON... YOU'RE VERY OBSERVANT ...



THE DUST ON THE FLOOR CLOSE TO YOUR NOSE HAS BEEN MOVING...

EH?

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, AREN'T YOU?



I MUST SAY, THIS SECRET CODE IS SO LIKE YOU... ONCE THEY LEARN ABOUT YOU BEING ALIVE, THEY'LL FORCE TO GIVE THE ANSWER BY POINTING THE GUN AT US...

WELL, KEEP PRETENDING THAT YOU'RE DEAD!



YEA... THE COMBINATION IS QUITE EASY TO REMEMBER IF YOU'RE A GAMBLER...

ALL OF IT...?

SO YOU'VE GOT THE ANSWER, HELI?!



IT SUITS PERFECTLY FOR THE GAMBLE WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE...

THAT'S GREAT...



IF THEY DIDN'T MAKE A COPY, THAT IS...

Y... YEA...

KUSUKAWA-SAN... IS THERE ONLY ONE COPY OF THAT SECRET CODE?



WHERE THE HECK ARE THOSE TWO OSAKA KIDS HANGING AROUND?!

DAMN IT...



IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. ORIGINALLY WE'D PLANNED TO HAVE LUNCH WITH THOSE TWO...

MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE I, THE FAMOUS KOGORO, END UP HAVING LATE LUNCH AT SUCH AN UNATTRACTIVE RESTAURANT AS THIS...



THERE, THERE. LET'S GO VISIT THE ITO RESIDENCES AGAIN AFTER EATING! WE COULDN'T HAVE PASSED EACH OTHER.

THANKS TO THEM, I'M SO TIRED...



YOU BET... YOU CAN'T FIND ONE OF THOSE PAY HOROSCOPE MACHINES ANYWHERE NOWADAYS...

BESIDES, I DON'T MIND THIS RESTAURANT. KINDA RETRO AND I LIKE IT...



Hey, it's me...

HELLO?!



EH?!



I'VE BEEN CALLING, BUT NO ONE ANSWERS...

THEY COULD BE AT MY OFFICE BY NOW...

HEY, GIVE THEM A CALL AGAIN!



12





BUT HEJI THINKS HE CAN'T GO BACK ON HIS WORD. HE WON'T LEAVE WITHOUT BREAKING IT, RIGHT?

I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL...



WHAT THE?!

Q	5	2	A	2	5	2
K	3	3	2	Q	4	2
A	K	Q	Q	K	J	Q
W	Q	J	Q	K	J	Q
K	Q	5	5	6	J	Q
A	6	2	4	3	A	6
A	6	4	A	Q	A	K



SORT OF...

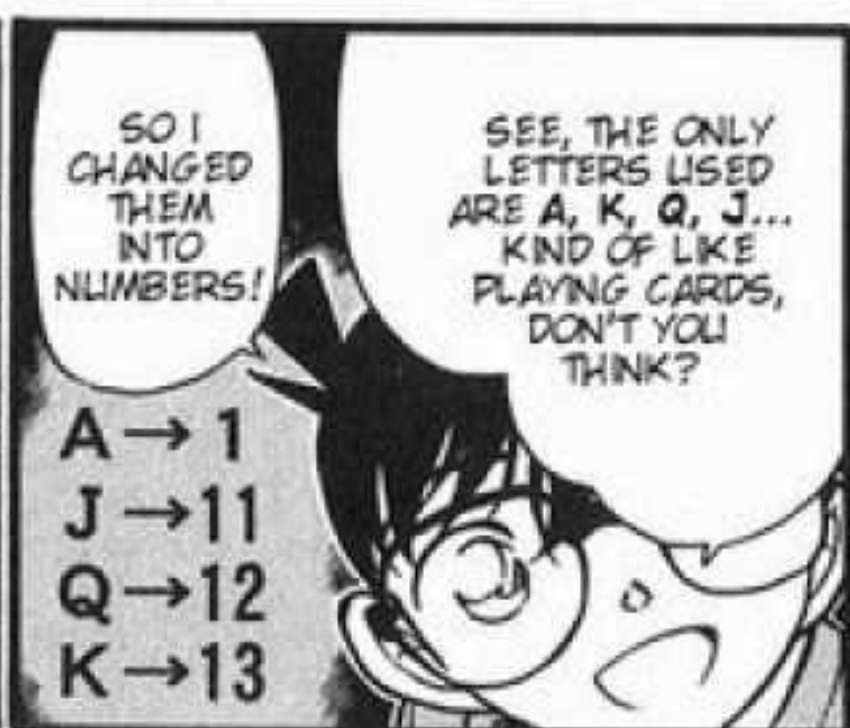
DID YOU GET SOMETHING, CONAN-KUN?



NOW WE HAVE 64 NUMBERS, BUT I REALISED THERE IS ONE LONELY NUMBER AMONG THEM!

AND? GO ON!

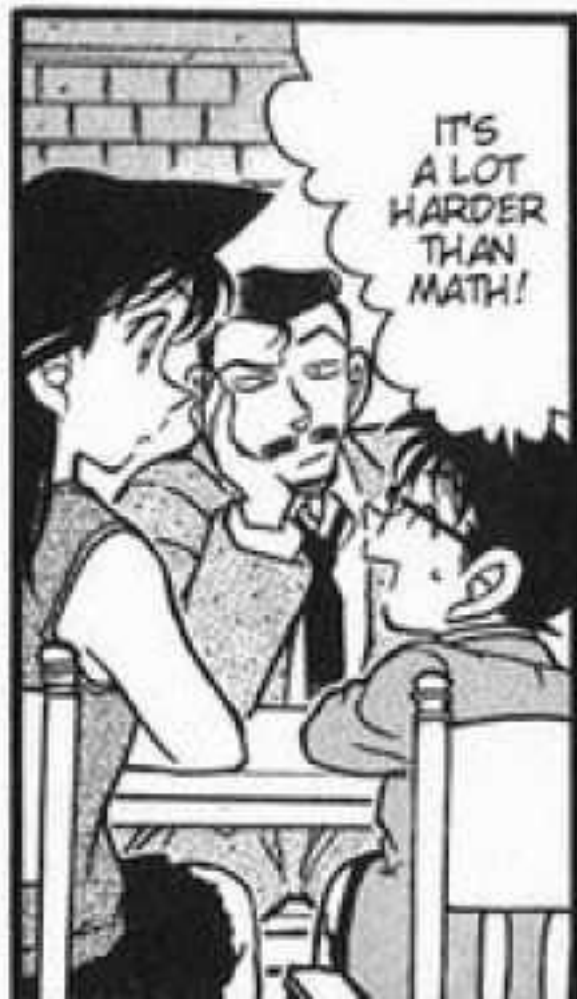
HM...



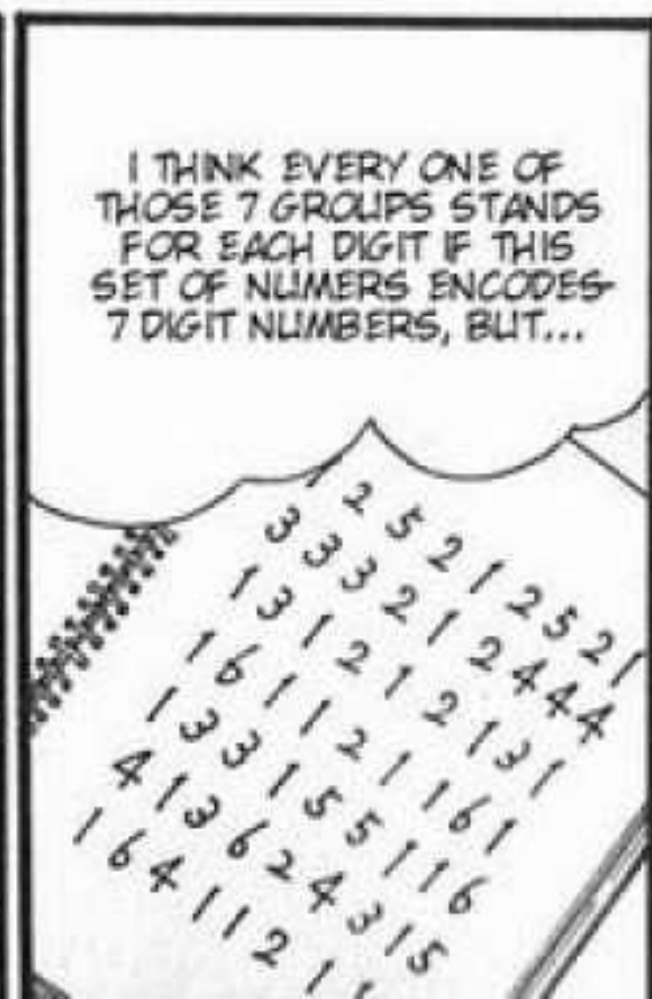
SO I CHANGED THEM INTO NUMBERS!

SEE, THE ONLY LETTERS USED ARE A, K, Q, J... KIND OF LIKE PLAYING CARDS, DON'T YOU THINK?

A → 1
J → 11
Q → 12
K → 13



IT'S A LOT HARDER THAN MATH!



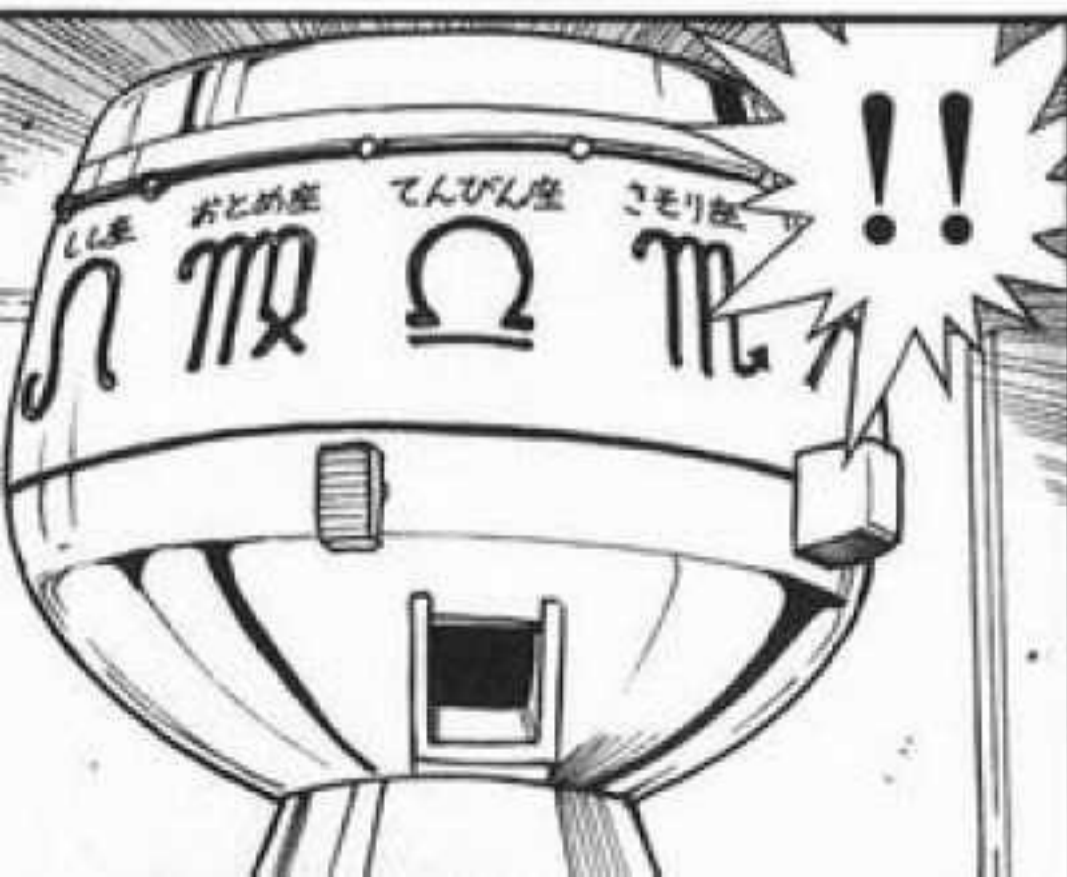
I THINK EVERY ONE OF THOSE 7 GROUPS STANDS FOR EACH DIGIT IF THIS SET OF NUMERS ENCODES 7 DIGIT NUMBERS, BUT...

3	2	5	2	1	2	5	2	1
1	3	3	2	1	2	4	4	4
1	6	1	2	1	2	4	4	4
1	3	3	1	2	1	3	1	1
4	1	3	1	5	1	1	6	1
1	6	4	1	2	1	1	1	1



YEP! WHEN YOU TAKE THAT 9 OUT, WE'LL HAVE 63, WHICH IS DIVISIBLE BY 9 TO GIVE 7 GROUPS!

AH! NUMBER 9 AT THE CENTER!





YOU NEED THE PIN BEFORE THE MAIL GETS TO THE DETECTIVE AGENCY IN THE MORNING, RIGHT?

WAIT A MINUTE! HE MIGHT GET IT IF HE HAD A NIGHT TO THINK!

IF YOU MUST, HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST THAT INCOMPETENT DETECTIVE WHO COULDN'T BREAK THE CODE IN TIME...

YOU TIME HAS ALSO RUN OUT...



MY, LOOK AT THE TIME ALREADY...

I MUST GET GOING, OR ELSE THE BANK WILL CLOSE SOON...



WE'LL KILL HIM AND STEAL THE MAIL, SIMPLE AS THAT..

YES... TOMORROW MORNING WE'LL AMBUSH THE POSTMAN IN FRONT OF THE AGENCY ...



H, HEY.. YOU CAN'T BE...

WRONG... THE MAIL WON'T BE DELIVERED...



BREAKING THE CODE IS NO LONGER AN URGENT MATTER...

AS LONG AS I CONTINUE DEPOSITING THE RENTAL LOCKER FEE IN KUSUKAWA'S ACCOUNT, THE TAPE WILL BE KEPT IN THE DARK FOREVER...



I HAVE YEARS AHEAD OF ME...

AFTER ALL, UNLIKE THE TWO OF YOU...