

FILE.2 TRUTH BEHIND THE REMAINING DESK







WILL
WALK
DOWN
THESE
STAIRS
...

THE
MOMENT
WHEN
HOSAKA'S
GHOST
...



SO WHAT! NOW,
WE'RE TRYING TO
CATCH THE
CULPRIT, WHO'S
MAKING IT LOOK
LIKE A GHOST'S
DOING,
UNDERSTAND?

A
A
A
A
A
H



DONK



THEN
ME,
TOO.

RAN, I'M
SORRY, BUT I
HAVE TO GO
NOW.



I'M
GOING
HO...

PIK



THIS
PISSED ME
OFF,
SO...

YEAH
...

I'M GOING, TOO. I
CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON
THE PICTURES WITH
YOU GUYS.



MAYBE IT'S THAT TRANCE?!

TRANCE?

B
A
M

SO-SONOKO?!



ARRRR...



NO, WHEN SHE FELL DOWN, IT DIDN'T SEEM NORMAL! I'M GONNA EXAM...

OH NO...!



AH, SONOKO WOULD DO THIS WHEN SHE SOLVES THE CASE JUST LIKE MY DAD...



HUH?

PAT

DON'T TOUCH ME!



THAT'S OKAY, BUT SHOULDN'T YOU HIDE CERTAIN THINGS, TOO?

YEAH, I FOUND IT OUT. THE IDENTITY OF THE CULPRIT WHO BROUGHT OUT THIS GHOST STORY BEHIND US!

SO YOU REALLY...!



FROM NOW, THIS DEDUCTION QUEEN, SONOKO'S DEDUCTION SHOW WILL BEGIN!



I FELT EXHAUSTED WHEN I FOUND OUT THE TRUTH.

O-OH MY, EXCUSE ME...

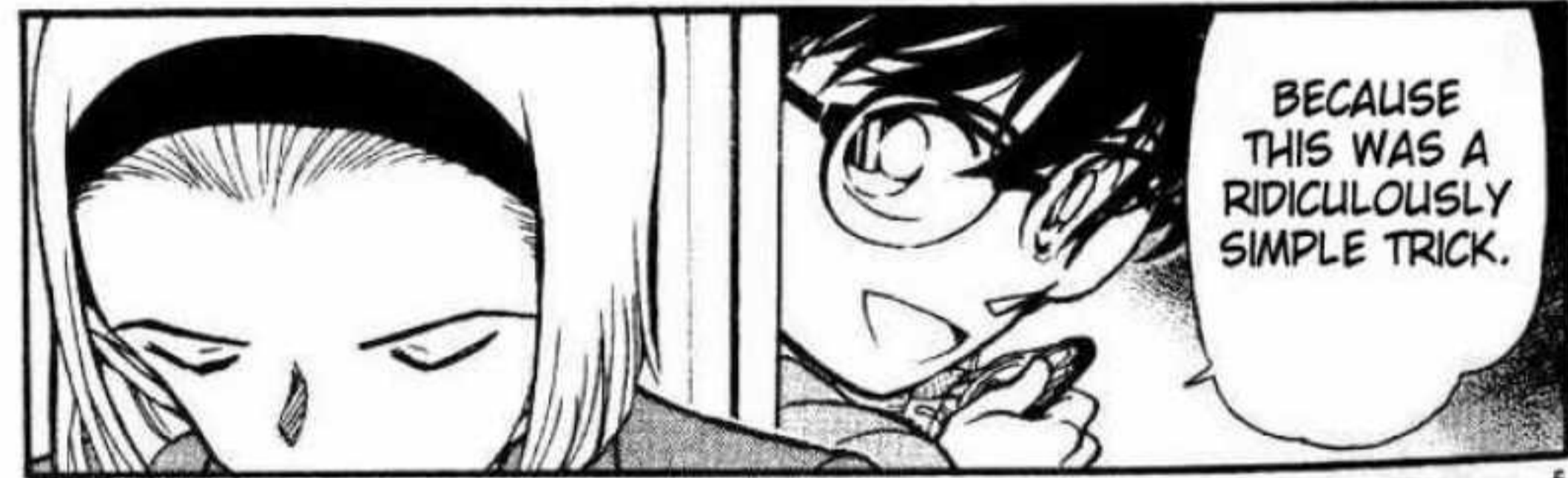
OH ...



SONOKO, PANT, YOUR PANT!

WE CAN SEE ALL!

HUH ?



BECAUSE THIS WAS A RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE TRICK.



THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE, BUT TO BELIEVE IT WAS MOVED AFTER THE RAIN STOPPED, BUT HOW COME THERE ISN'T ANY FOOT-PRINT?

MOREOVER, THE PAPER ON THE DESK WASN'T WET, EITHER.

SO YOU FOUND IT OUT? THE PUZZLE AROUND THE DESK AND CHAIR, LEFT ON THE WET CAMPUS WITHOUT FOOT-PRINTS?


SI-SIM-
PLE... ?



BECAUSE OF THAT DRY PAPER, WE WERE IGNORING AN IMPORTANT FACT...


YEAH, THAT PAPER ...





THE FACT
THAT THE RAIN
WOULD ERASE
THOSE
FOOTPRINTS
AT THAT
TIME!


EVEN
THOUGH
SOMEONE
MOVES THE
DESK AND
CHAIR IN
THE RAIN
...



IF SO,
SHOULDN'T
THE PAPER BE
WET, TOO?

O-OF COURSE
THE
FOOTPRINTS
WOULD BE
ERASED IN
SUCH A
STRONG
SHOWER,
BUT...


YOU
KNOW,
THAT RAIN
JUST
BEFORE,
IT WAS
REALLY A
STRONG
SHOWER,
RIGHT?



OF COURSE I
WOULD AVOID THE
RAIN SOMEWHERE,
OR...


WEAR
MY
RAIN-
COAT,
OR...

RAN, WHAT
WOULD YOU DO
NOT TO GET WET
IN THE RAIN?



YEAH, THE CULPRIT
COVERED THE DESK
SO THAT THE PAPER
ON IT WOULDN'T GET
WET IN THE RAIN...

I-IT
CAN'T
BE...
?!



OR
...



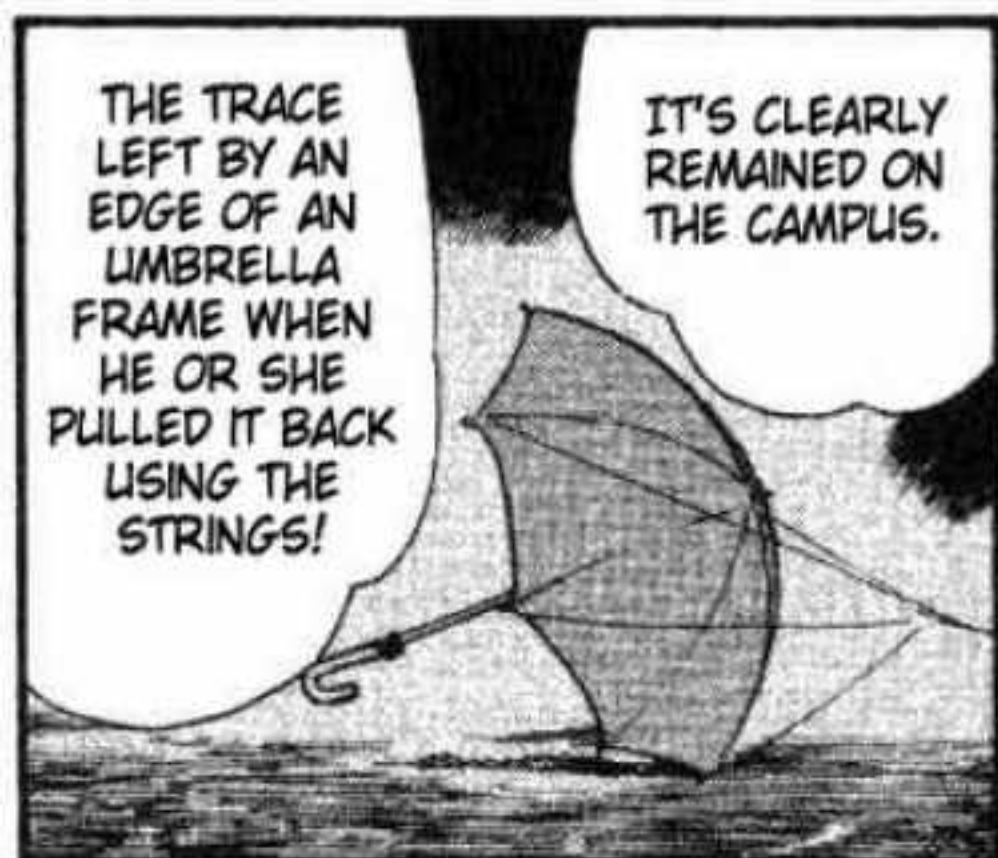
HE OR SHE CAN SHOW THE DESK, ON WHICH IS THE DRY PAPER, EVEN WITHOUT LEAVING FOOTPRINTS ON THE WET CAMPUS!

AFTER THE RAIN STOPPED, IF THAT PERSON DRAWS THE UMBRELLA IN THE BUILDING, PULLING THE STRINGS,



LONG STRINGS WERE ATTACHED!

WITH THE UMBRELLA, TO WHICH...



THE TRACE LEFT BY AN EDGE OF AN UMBRELLA FRAME WHEN HE OR SHE PULLED IT BACK USING THE STRINGS!

IT'S CLEARLY REMAINED ON THE CAMPUS.



WATER WILL COME OUT SLOWLY WITH TIME.

BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO SHAKE OFF THE RAINWATER COMPLETELY.



THOSE ARE MARKS OF RAINWATER SHAKEN OFF THE UMBRELLA BY THE CULPRIT.

THOSE MARKS OF SPRAYED WATER ON THE FLOOR AT THE BUILDING ENTRANCE FROM THE CAMPUS IS ALSO THE PROVE.



THE OWNER OF THE UMBRELLA, FROM WHICH WATER IS COMING OUT...

YEAH, RIGHT!

T-THEN THE CULPRIT OF THIS GHOST STORY IS...



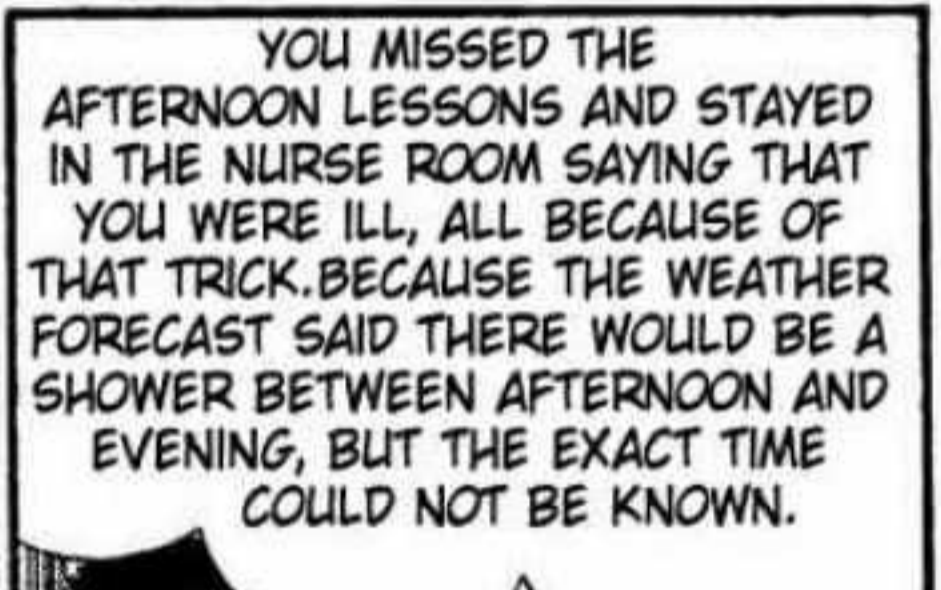
IT WAS YOU!

SEKO KUNISIGE...!

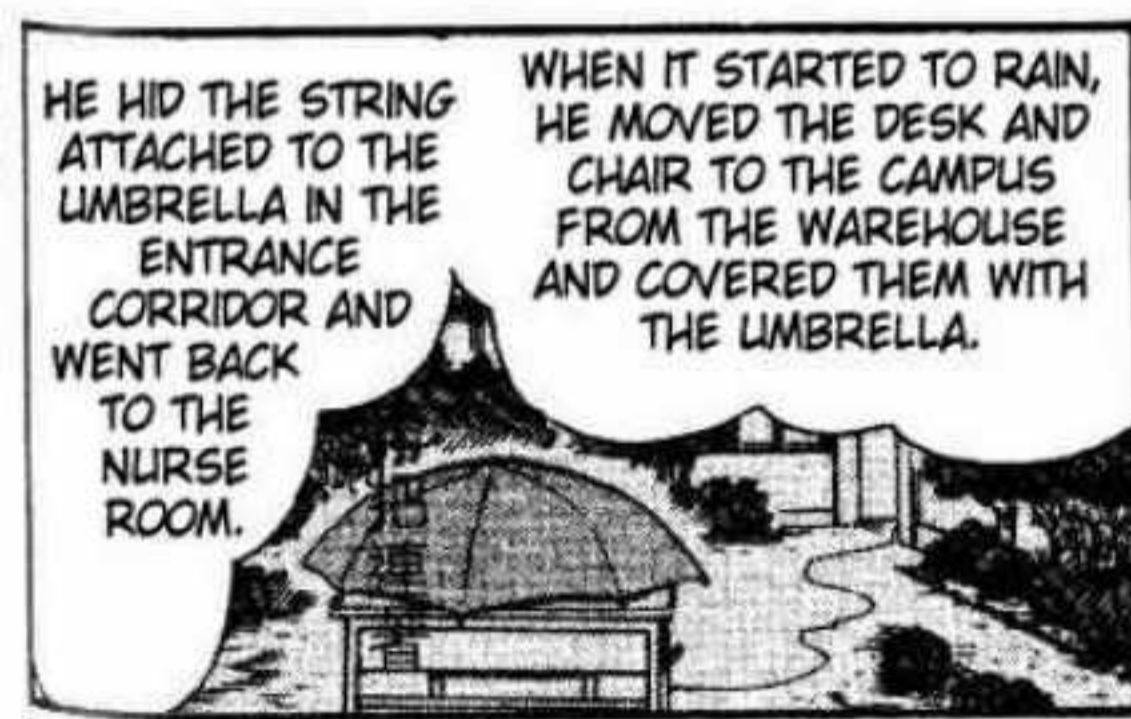


YEAH, AND CONFIRMING WHETHER THERE WERE PEOPLE, PRETENDING TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

THEN HE WAS WAITING FOR A CHANCE IN THE NURSE ROOM...

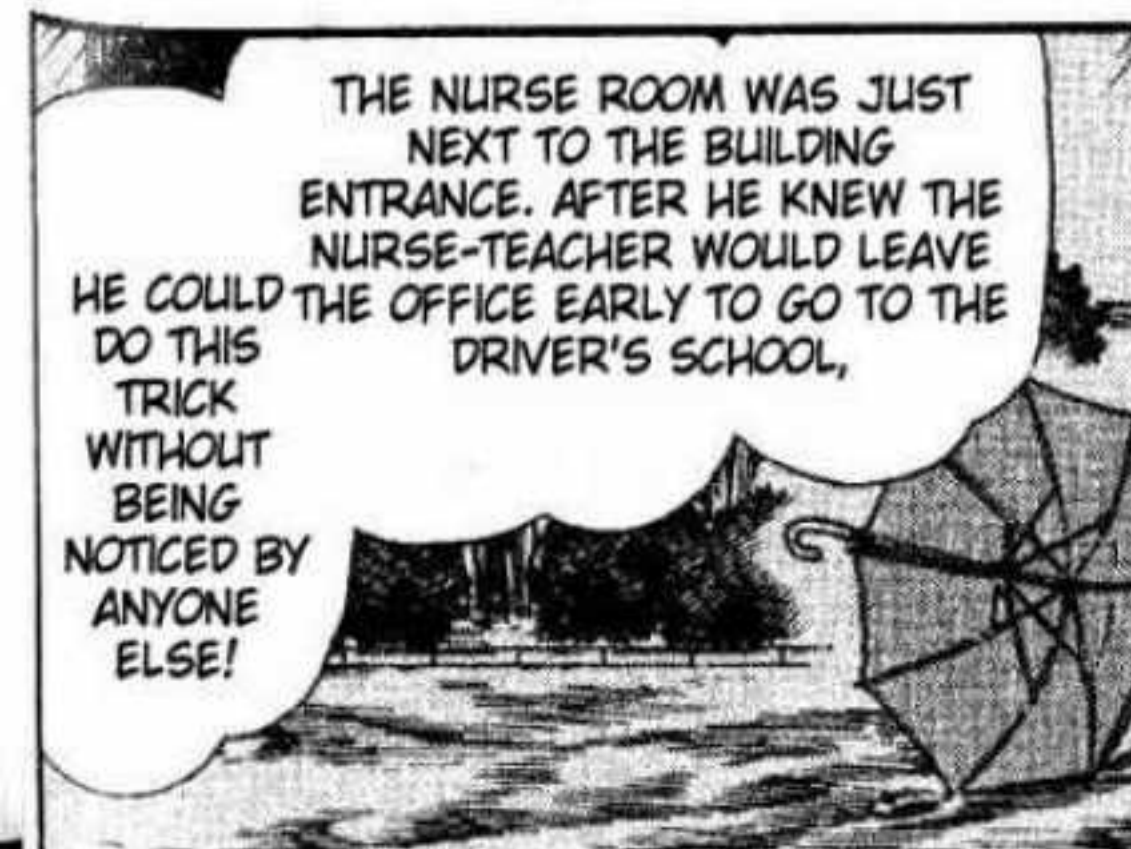


YOU MISSED THE AFTERNOON LESSONS AND STAYED IN THE NURSE ROOM SAYING THAT YOU WERE ILL, ALL BECAUSE OF THAT TRICK. BECAUSE THE WEATHER FORECAST SAID THERE WOULD BE A SHOWER BETWEEN AFTERNOON AND EVENING, BUT THE EXACT TIME COULD NOT BE KNOWN.



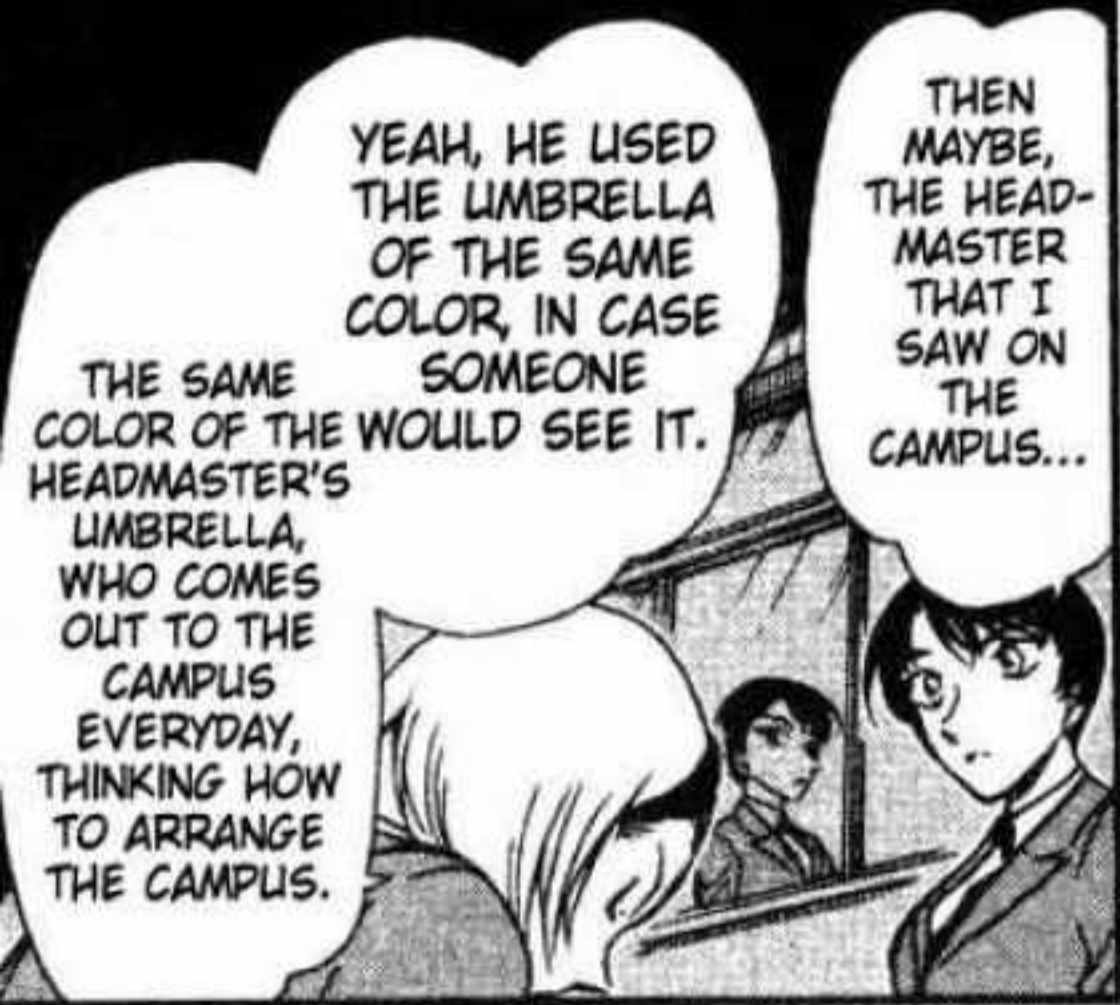
HE HID THE STRING ATTACHED TO THE UMBRELLA IN THE ENTRANCE CORRIDOR AND WENT BACK TO THE NURSE ROOM.

WHEN IT STARTED TO RAIN, HE MOVED THE DESK AND CHAIR TO THE CAMPUS FROM THE WAREHOUSE AND COVERED THEM WITH THE UMBRELLA.



THE NURSE ROOM WAS JUST NEXT TO THE BUILDING ENTRANCE. AFTER HE KNEW THE NURSE-TEACHER WOULD LEAVE THE OFFICE EARLY TO GO TO THE DRIVER'S SCHOOL, HE COULD DO THIS TRICK WITHOUT BEING NOTICED BY ANYONE ELSE!

THE ONLY THING LEFT WAS TO WAIT FOR THE RAIN TO STOP AND TAKE BACK THE UMBRELLA BY THE STRINGS.



THE SAME COLOR OF THE HEADMASTER'S UMBRELLA, WHO COMES OUT TO THE CAMPUS EVERYDAY, THINKING HOW TO ARRANGE THE CAMPUS.

YEAH, HE USED THE UMBRELLA OF THE SAME COLOR, IN CASE SOMEONE WOULD SEE IT.

THEN MAYBE, THE HEADMASTER THAT I SAW ON THE CAMPUS...



EVEN IF SOMEONE SAW IT FROM THE SECOND OR THE THIRD FLOOR, IT WOULD SEEM LIKE A PERSON STANDING ON THE CAMPUS WITH THE UMBRELLA.

FROM THE FIRST FLOOR, IT CAN HARDLY BE SEEN BECAUSE OF THE TREES.

B-BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE SAW THAT UMBRELLA OVER THE DESK?



MY UMBRELLA IS WET BECAUSE I WASHED IT JUST BEFORE SINCE IT WAS DIRTY.

HEY, ARE YOU SUSPECTING ME AS THE CULPRIT BECAUSE MY UMBRELLA IS A BIT WET?



THOSE THREE "SPIRITUAL" PHENOMENONS HAPPENED IN THE LIBRARY OF RESENTMENT, CURSED STAIRS AND THE WAREHOUSE!

INTERESTING ... IF YOU ARE THE CULPRIT, THEN ALL THOSE "GHOST'S" DOINGS ARE EXPLAINABLE!



NO! YOU ARE THE CULPRIT!

MOREOVER, EVEN MONOBE AND TSUKAMOTO HERE COULD USE THAT TRICK, RIGHT?



HUH? THE TITLE? I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE TELE-COMMUNICATION...

CAN YOU REMEMBER THE TITLES OF THOSE FOUR BOOKS?



BUT, ANYONE CAN DO THAT, RIGHT? IF THEY SEE THE BOOK LENDING CARD, THEN THEY CAN KNOW THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO BORROWED IT BEFORE.

FIRST OF ALL, "THE LIBRARY OF RESENTMENT" WHERE THE BOOKS, THAT WERE BORROWED BY HOSAKA IN HIS LIFE, WERE ALL PUT OUT IN THREE CONTINUOUS DAYS!



THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE CURSED STAIRS?

EXCEPT SEKO WHO KNOWS HOSAKA'S HOBBIES VERY WELL FROM BEING HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND.



THERE'S NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM, AND MOREOVER, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO FIND THOSE FOUR BOOKS WHICH ARE RARELY TOUCHED!

AN ESSAY ON TELECOMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY", "REPORTS OF DEVASTATION OF TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS", "THE INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY", "ANALYSIS OF BREAKING TONE OF A BASE ROCK"!



THERE'S A HOLE, WHERE THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER IS PUT, ON THE WALL BENEATH THE STAIRS, RIGHT?

THAT FLOOR BELOW THE STAIRS, SOAKED INTO WATER, WAS IT ALSO SEKO'S DOING?



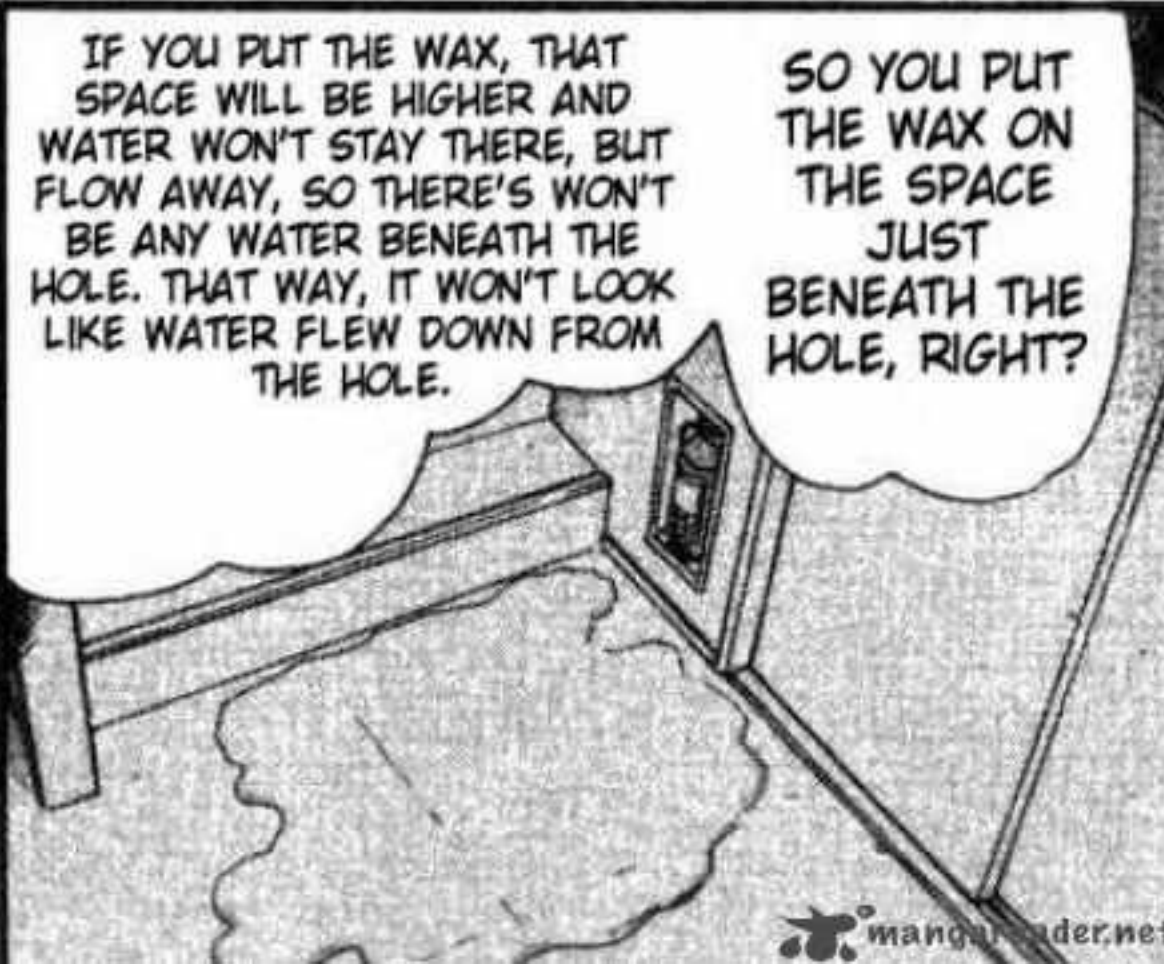
SO THAT THE ICE COULD MELT DURING THE NIGHT AND SOMEONE COULD FIND THE FLOOR SOAKED INTO WATER THE NEXT DAY!

MAYBE AFTER SCHOOL, SEKO HID AN ICE THAT FITS INTO THE HOLE WHICH HE HAD PREPARED BEFORE!



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PRESERVE SUCH BIG SIZED ICE IN HERE UNTIL THE SCHOOL ENDS.

AND THE ONLY POSSIBLE PERSON OF DOING THIS, IS SEKO WHOSE HOUSE IS NEXT TO THE SCHOOL.



IF YOU PUT THE WAX, THAT SPACE WILL BE HIGHER AND WATER WON'T STAY THERE, BUT FLOW AWAY, SO THERE'S WON'T BE ANY WATER BENEATH THE HOLE. THAT WAY, IT WON'T LOOK LIKE WATER FLEW DOWN FROM THE HOLE.

SO YOU PUT THE WAX ON THE SPACE JUST BENEATH THE HOLE, RIGHT?



I'M SURE THIS STORY BEGAN FROM THE WAREHOUSE.

I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON ACCORDING TO YOUR ANSWER!

GRAB



YOU WERE HOSAKA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, SO WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

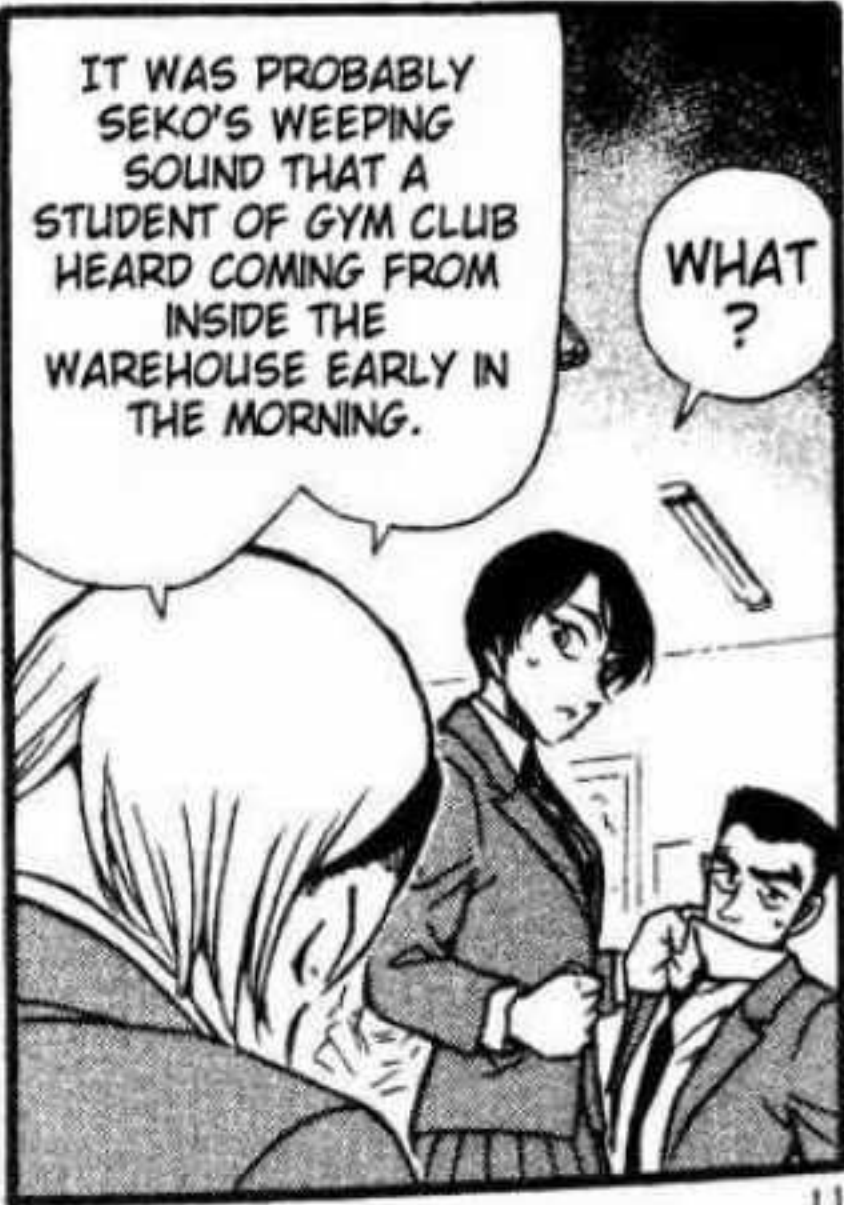
BUT WHY?

THAT'S RIGHT. HE PUT THE ICE IN THE FRIDGE IN HIS HOUSE, BROUGHT IT HERE AFTER SCHOOL AND PUT IT THERE.



IF YOU, AT THAT TIME, FOUND HOSAKA'S DESK AND CHAIR HIDDEN IN THE WAREHOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN WITH THIS THOUGHT.

IF SEKO'S PING-PONG CLUB ALSO HAD A PRACTICE THAT MORNING, THEN IT'S NOT STRANGE EVEN IF YOU WERE IN THE WAREHOUSE.



IT WAS PROBABLY SEKO'S WEeping SOUND THAT A STUDENT OF GYM CLUB HEARD COMING FROM INSIDE THE WAREHOUSE EARLY IN THE MORNING.

WHAT?



YEAH, RIGHT. I REALIZED IT THE MOMENT I SAW THEM.

HOSAKA'S DEATH WAS NOT BY AN ACCIDENT, BUT...



WHAT?



HOSAKA WAS BEING BULLIED AND GOT KILLED!

WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL,



THOSE HUMOROUS STORIES HE INVENTED READING THOSE BOOKS.

HE USED TO TELL ME STORIES TO ENCOURAGE ME, WHO HAD TO STAY IN BED.

THOSE FOUR BOOKS ARE THE ONES THAT HOSAKA BROUGHT WITH HIM EVERYDAY, VISITING ME.



IN FACT, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

JUST BEFORE, YOU SAID I WOULD KNOW THE BOOKS BORROWED BY HOSAKA, BEING HOSAKA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND.



I THOUGHT HE GOT A GIRLFRIEND AT SCHOOL. NEVER THOUGHT OF AN ACCIDENT.

THEN FROM ONE DAY, HE STOPPED VISITING ME.



WHO PUSHED HOSAKA DOWN THE STAIRS, BY THIS GHOST STORY...

SO I DECIDED TO FIND OUT THE ONE, WHO HID HIS DESK IN SUCH PLACE,



UNTIL I FOUND HIS DESK, ON WHICH HIS SIGN WAS WRITTEN, IN THE WAREHOUSE!

AFTER I LEFT THE HOSPITAL, I ASKED AROUND ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, BUT EVERYONE SAID HE FELL OFF THE STAIRS.



WHAT?

BUT BECAUSE OF ME!



HOSAKA FELL OFF THE STAIRS, NOT BECAUSE HE WAS BULLIED,

I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THAT DAY, HOSAKA AND I WERE ON WEEKLY DUTY, SO WE DECIDED TO PUT THOSE TWO STATUES IN ART ROOM SECRETLY EARLY IN THE MORNING.

WE THOUGHT IF WE PUT THEM IN FRONT OF THE DOOR, THE ART TEACHER WOULD BE SURPRISED OPENING THE DOOR.

THAT DAY, EARLY IN THE MORNING, TWO NEW PLASTER STATUES WERE SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL.

Y-YOU ARE LYING!

S-SO HOSAKA WASN'T BEING BULLIED...

T-THEN TRYING TO HOLD ME FROM FALLING DOWN, HOSAKA GOT CRUSHED UNDER ME AND THE PLASTER STATUE.

I WAS IN PANIC WHEN I HEARD HOSAKA CALLING ME, AND TRYING TO TURN BACK, MY LEGS GOT ENTANGLED.

I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO CARRY THOSE BEFORE THE TEACHER CAME, THAT I MISSED THE ART ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND WAS CLIMBING TO THE THIRD FLOOR.

IF ANYONE SEES IT...

THEN WHY ARE HIS DESK AND CHAIR KEPT IN THAT DARK WAREHOUSE, BEING COVERED WITH DUST?

BECAUSE WE DIDN'T WANT TO REMOVE IT...



ON THE DAY OF OUR GRADUATION CEREMONY, TO PERMIT US TO BRING HIS DESK AND PUT IT SOMEWHERE IN OUR CLASSROOM, SO THAT WE COULD GRADUATE TOGETHER.

AFTER THE ACCIDENT, WE FOUND A BOOK, WHERE CARICATURES FOR EACH OF OUR CLASSMATES WERE DRAWN, FROM HIS DESK. WE ALL FELT SAD AND ASKED THE TEACHER ...



HIS SIGN IS WRITTEN IN PENCIL, SO IT WOULD DISAPPEAR IF WE LEAVE IT LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

THE PROVE THAT HOSAKA STUDIED IN THIS SCHOOL WITH US...!



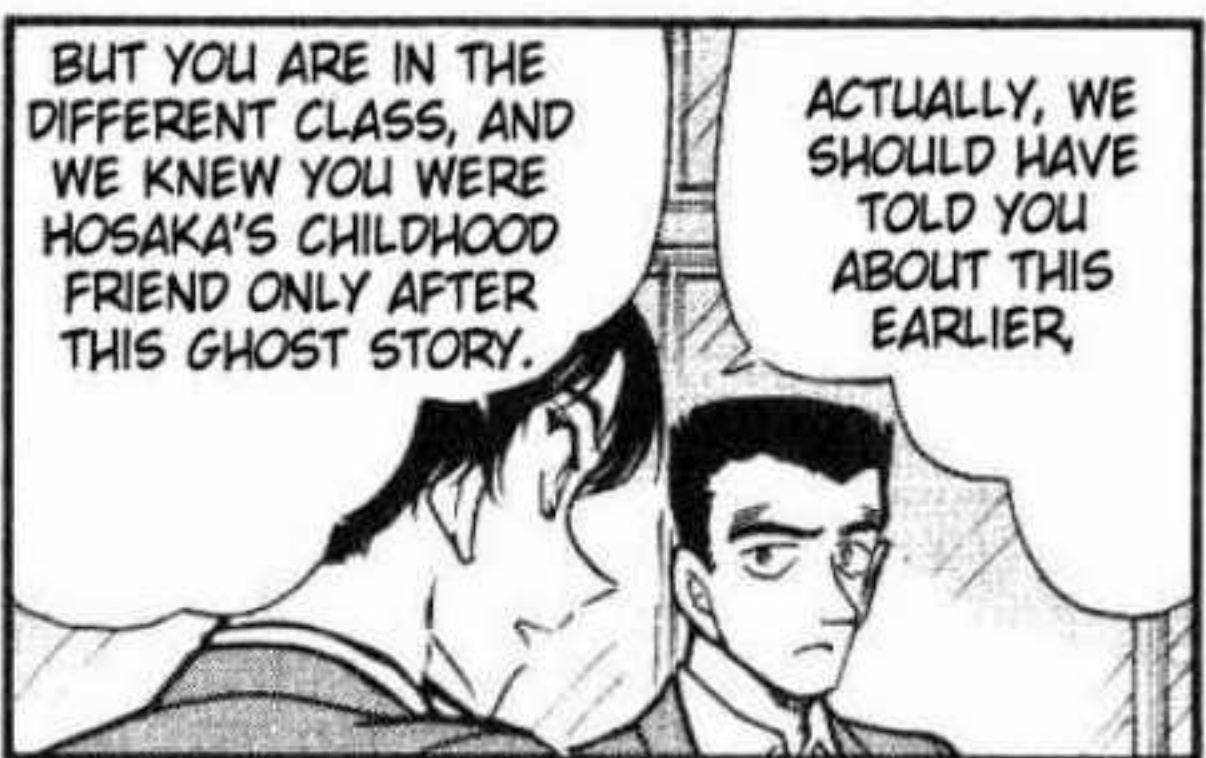
BUT WHEN WE GATHERED MONEY AND BOUGHT A DESK AND A CHAIR FOR THE SUBSTITUTE, HE LET US PUT THOSE IN THE WAREHOUSE.

AT FIRST, THE TEACHER LOOKED UNCERTAIN ABOUT THAT...



YEAH, TO SEE WHETHER SEKO WAS THERE WHERE HOSAKA'S DESK WAS.

SO IT'S LIKE THAT. THEN AT THAT TIME, YOU CAME TO THE WAREHOUSE TO TELL HIM THAT...



BUT YOU ARE IN THE DIFFERENT CLASS, AND WE KNEW YOU WERE HOSAKA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND ONLY AFTER THIS GHOST STORY.

ACTUALLY, WE SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS EARLIER,



ACTUALLY, THE DOCTOR, WHO WAS CALLED TO THE PLACE OF THE ACCIDENT FIRST, WAS ME. AT THAT TIME, HE KEPT MURMURING LIKE THIS...

NO. I'M SURE HE DIDN'T RESENT YOU.



IT WAS ALSO ME WHO PLANNED THAT JOKE.

YEAH, IF HE'S RESENTING SOMEONE, IT SHOULD BE ONLY ME.

THEN HE WASN'T RESENTING ANYONE FOR BEING BULLIED.



HUH!



IF HE KEPT LYING ON THE FLOOR THAT WAY, IT WOULD SURPRISE THE TEACHER A LOT MORE...



IT'S REALLY LIKE HIM.



BUT IT'S GREAT THAT DR ARAIDE HAS STILL EMEMBERED THE WORDS HOSAKA SAID.

N-NO.



STRANGE! I WAS GOING TO GO HOME...

O-OH, YEAH! W-WELL...

YOUR DEDUC-TION WAS AS GREAT AS EVER!



IT'S OUR SONOKO AS I EXPECTED!

HUAAA ~



WOW ...

SO I JUST IMPROVI-SED...



BUT IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, I THOUGHT SAYING LIKE THAT WOULD RELIEVE THOSE THREE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS.

ACTUALLY, AT THAT TIME, HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS, SO HE WASN'T ABLE TO TALK.





YUP! SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY FOR A WEEKLY DUTY FROM NEXT WEEK!

ANYWAY, I'M RELIEVED THAT IT'S NOT GHOST'S DOING!



YOU ARE ALWAYS SO KIND, DR ARAIDE!



WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE IT LIKE THAT? FROM NOW ON, SUCH GHOST THING WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN... AND WITH TIME, THE RUMOUR WILL DISAPPEAR TOO.

EVEN IF I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...

THEN I'LL INFORM THE NEWS AGENCY ABOUT THIS DEDUCTION AS A BIG SCOOP...!



GOOD BYE, DR ARAIDE!

OH, THEN WE'LL GO AHEAD.

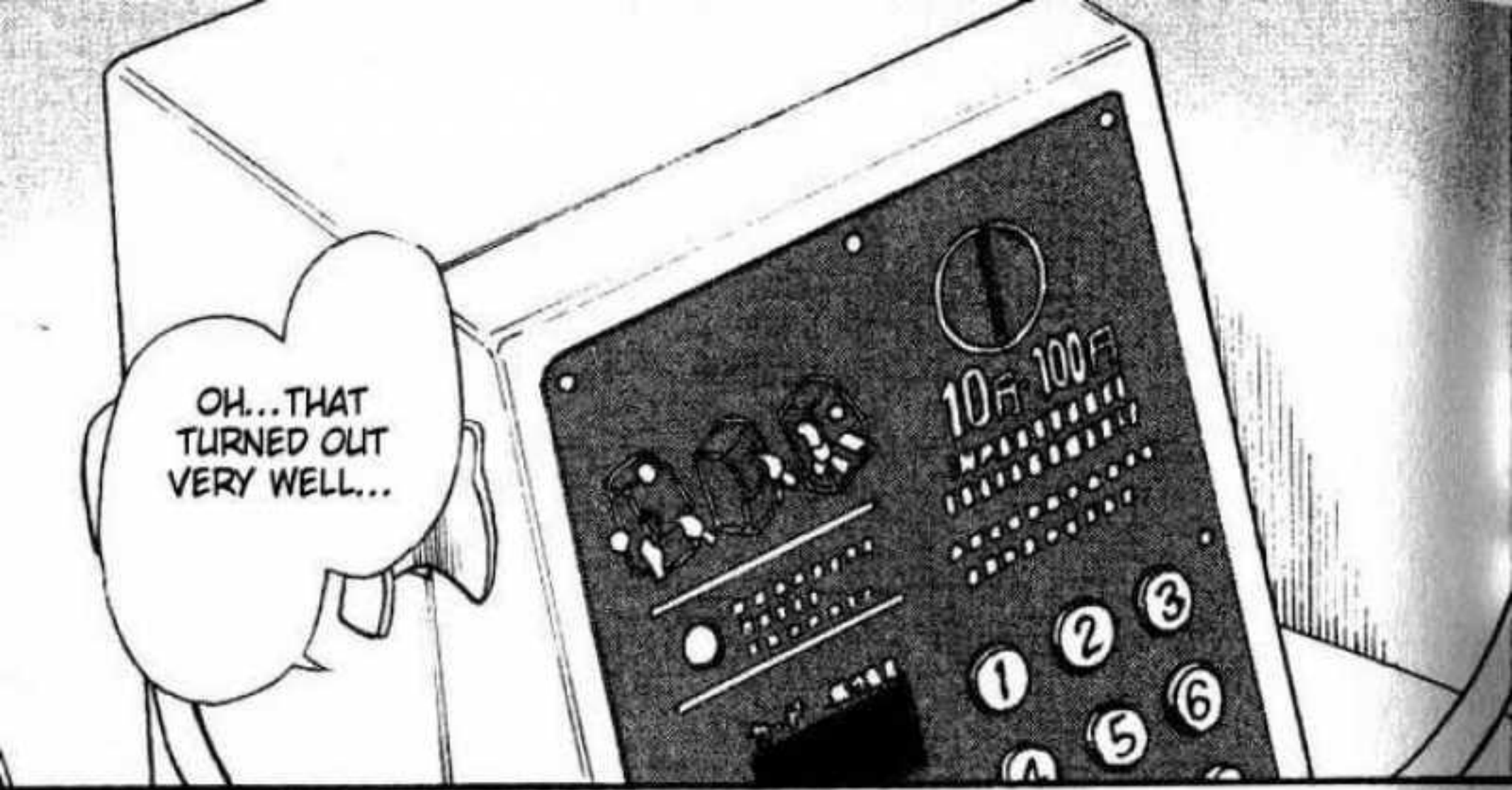
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CALL, SO...

I'M SORRY...



AH...!





OH... THAT
TURNED OUT
VERY WELL...



OH, AND
THERE'S
SOMETHING
I'D LIKE TO
KNOW.

FORGET ABOUT
ME
COMPLETELY
AND...

THEN THIS
IS THE
LAST TIME
THAT WE
TALK ON
THE
PHONE.



YES, IT'S ALL THANKS
TO YOU... BECAUSE
YOU TOLD ME IN
DETAIL HOW THE
PERSON
DISGUISED AS
ME ACTED AT
SCHOOL.

THAT YOU'RE
WORKING
NATURALLY
AT SCHOOL
WITHOUT
BEING
SUSPECTED
BY
ANYONE.



YOU STILL
HAVE THAT
LOOK OF
AN ANGEL,
DR
ARAIDE.

THAT PERSON
DISGUISED AS
ME, WAS
SHE...



YOU ARE
ALWAYS
SO KIND,
DR
ARAIDE!

REALLY
...



THANKS
TO THE
EXERCISE
YOU
TAUGHT
ME, MY
WAIST
FEELS
MUCH
BETTER.

BEFORE OUR
CAUTIOUS DR
ARAIDE TAKES
ME TO THE
HOSPITAL...

REALLY
...



... A BAD PERSON?



IF SHE KILLS PEOPLE WITH A SMILE ?!

HOW IN THE WORLD CAN SOMEONE BE KIND ...



WHENEVER I MEET TEACHERS OR STUDENTS, IT MAKES ME FEEL SHE WASN'T SUCH PERSON...

ARE YOU CRAZY ?!



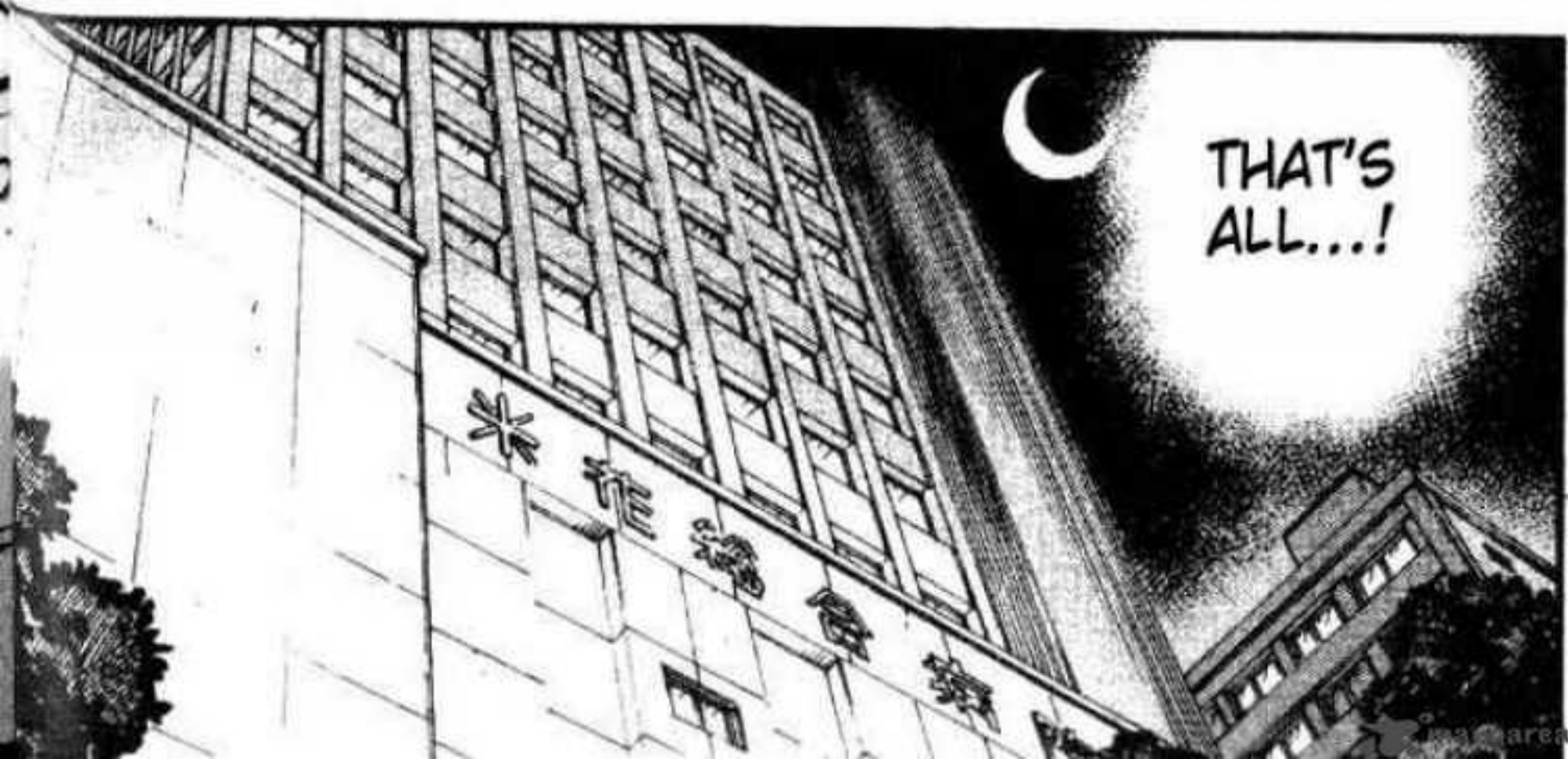
REALLY LOYAL ...

YEAH, RIGHT. SHE EVEN COPIED YOUR PERSONALITY TO DISGUISE AS YOU...



AH...

BEE - BEE -



THAT'S ALL...!