

CASE CLOSED™

FILE 139: SIFTING THROUGH THE ASHES

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English Adaptation: Shaenon K. Garrity

Lettering: Freeman Wong





YUTA KITAKURA (29)
STREAMING
CHANNEL
CAMERAMAN



I HOPE
HE'S
OKAY
...

YEAH, AND
HIS HEAD
WAS ALL
BLOODY!

LOOKS LIKE HE
GOT KNOCKED
OUT PRETTY
GOOD,
HUH?

WEEEOO

WOOOM







WHY DID YOU SPEED PAST HIS CAR?

YUTA LIKES TO HANG HIS ARM OUT THE WINDOW WHILE HE DRIVES.

HOW COULD YOU SEE HIS SLEEVE?



...WHEN WE SAW HIS SLEEVE CATCH FIRE.

WE WERE ALL HEADING TO A RESTAURANT. THE THREE OF US IN THE VAN HAD JUST PASSED YUTA IN THE MINI...

YES, THE KIDS ARE TELLING THE TRUTH.



...THAT I NEEDED TO PULL OVER.

YUTA WAS AHEAD OF US, SO WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM TO LET HIM KNOW...

I WAS BEHIND THE WHEEL WHEN I SUDDENLY FELT SICK.

SHICHISUKE KASAI (29)
STREAMING CHANNEL MANAGER



KAORI NANJO (28)
STREAMING CHANNEL EDITOR



...AND SPLIT IT WITH SHICHISUKE. I GUESS IT UPSET HIS STOMACH.

I BROUGHT A BIG STASH ...

I LOVE EATING ICE CREAM IN A COZY SKI CABIN.

TAMAKI ITO (29)
STREAMING CHANNEL INFLUENCER



I THINK IT WAS MY FAULT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE YOU SICK?

THEN I SPED UP BECAUSE I COULDN'T WAIT ANOTHER SECOND.



HUH?

THAT'S RIGHT!

IT WAS THE GHOST!

I KNOW WHAT STARTED THE FIRE!

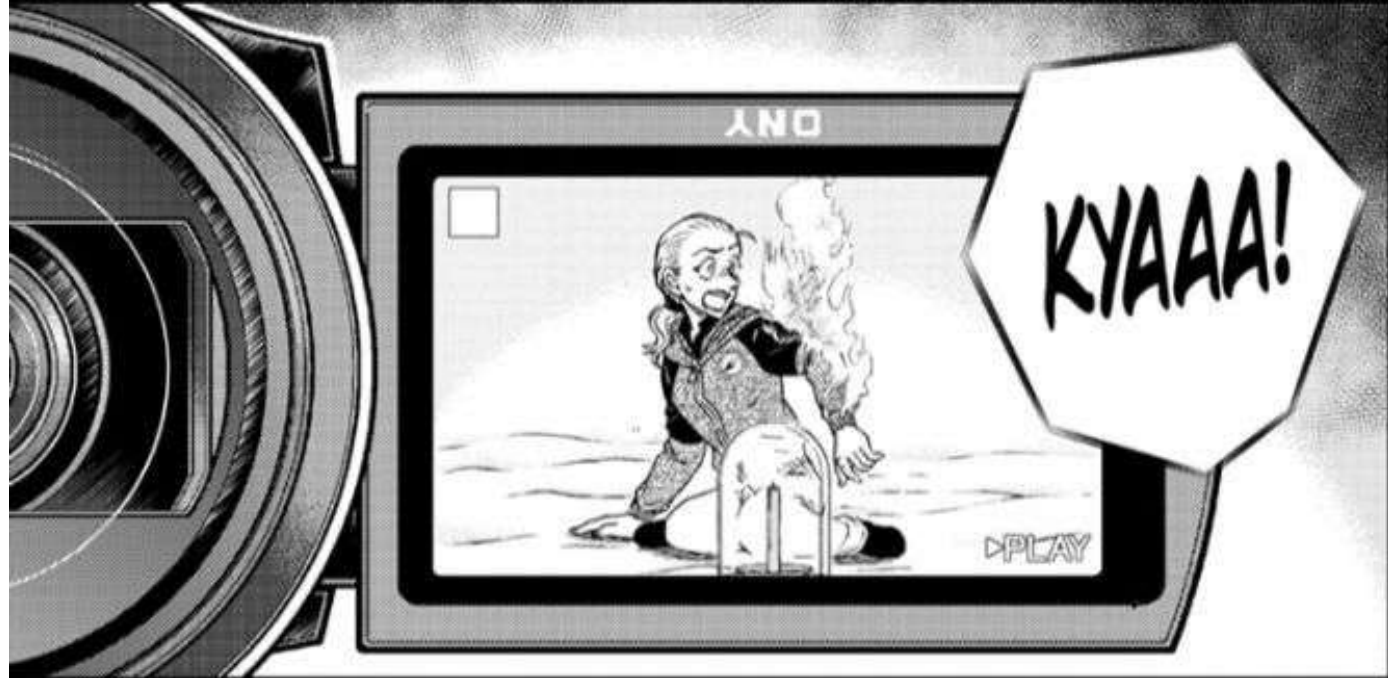


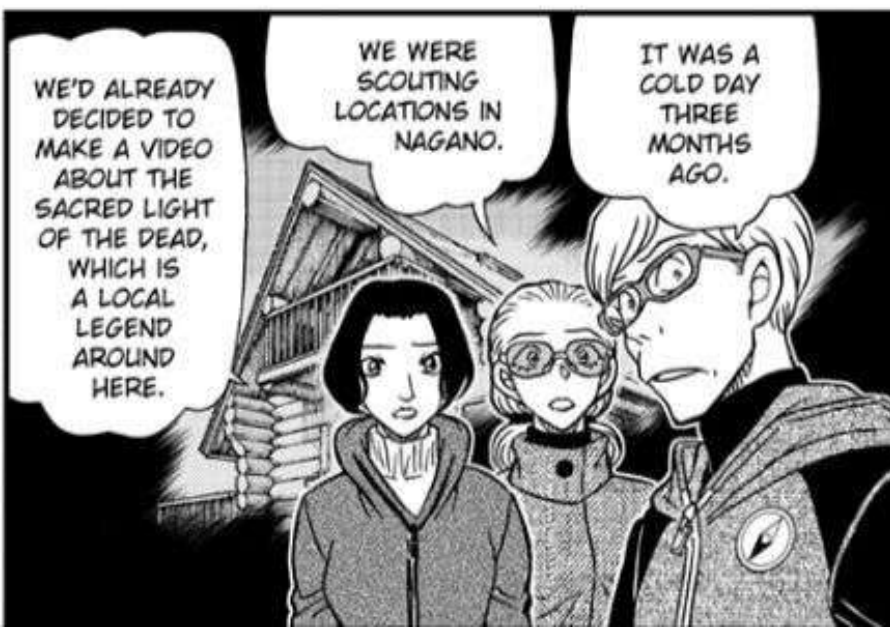
I KINDA TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS BACK IN THOSE TREES.

WELL, UM...

YOUR GUT SEEMS FINE NOW.









NO WORRIES. I'LL MAKE US SOME SNACKS WHILE YOU'RE GONE.

THE NEAREST SHOP'S A WAYS OFF. WE MAY BE A WHILE.



BETTER PICK UP MORE.

WE'RE ALREADY SHORT ON BOOZE.

NO WAY! I'VE BARELY STARTED DRINKING!

WELL, TAMAKI'S OUT. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE CALL IT A NIGHT?



I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE LODGE WHILE YOU TWO FINISH UP!

WE'D BETTER CHECK ON TAMAKI AND TAKEHIKO.

I'LL SAY.

THAT WAS A BIG ONE!



...WE FOUND YUTA IN FRONT OF THE BURNING LODGE, HOLDING TAMAKI IN HIS ARMS.

WHEN SHICHISUKE AND I RETURNED WITH THE DRINKS...



...A PRETTY STRONG EARTHQUAKE STRUCK.

WHILE KAORI, YUTA, AND I WERE AT A CONVENIENCE STORE...



AFTER THAT, YOU CAN GO CHECK ON YUTA AT THE HOSPITAL.

ALL RIGHT, ONE FINAL THING. ALL OF YOU, TURN OUT YOUR POCKETS.



ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, TAKEHIKO WAS FOUND UNDER FALLEN SHELVEING.

...THAT HE SEARCHED FOR TAKEHIKO TOO, BUT HE COULDN'T FIND HIM.

LATER ON, YUTA TOLD US...















...THEN
ATTACKS
HEAD-ON
WHEN THEIR
DEFENSES
ARE DOWN.

ONE LURES THE
ENEMY OUT BY
PRETENDING
TO TAKE AN
INDIRECT
ROUTE...



...CONSISTS
IN TURNING
THE
DEVIOUS
INTO THE
DIRECT, AND
MISFORTUNE
INTO GAIN.

ACCORDING
TO THE ART
OF WAR, THE
DIFFICULTY
OF TACTICAL
MANEUVER-
ING...



...AS A
SCHEME
TO GET
AWAY
WITH
MURDER.

YEAH. THE
KILLER SET
THE FIRST
TWO
FIRES...



...OF
THE MINI...



...WE
FOUND IN THE
GLOVE
COMPART-
MENT...

AND
THIS
BADGE
...



...FOR
THE
CRIME.

...EXPLAINS
THE
MOTIVE...

To be continued!