Chapter 16 Wasteland

...

I'D LIKE TO PLACE BUGS AND HIDDEN CAMERAS IN THE HOMES OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL KITAMURA AND DETECTIVE-SUPERINTENDENT YAGAMI.

...

I PROMISE YOU, NOBODY WILL EVER FIND OUT.

IF THIS GETS OUT, THEY'LL DISMANTLE THE TASK FORCE!

BUT... IN JAPAN, THAT'S AN ILLEGAL VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS!!

...

TEN PERCENT ...

RYUZAKI... WHAT IS THE PROBA-BILITY OF KIRA BEING IN ONE OF THOSE FAMILIES ...?

READ THIS WAY

IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST 50 PERCENT FOR THAT EXTREME A STEP...

JUST FIVE PERCENT ...?

NO, FIVE PERCENT.

EVEN A PROBA-BILITY OF ONE PERCENT IS BETTER THAN THAT, AND NEEDS TO BE SCRUTI-NIZED...

NO. OUR INVESTI-GATION HASN'T TURNED UP ANYTHING CLOSE TO A SUSPECT SO FAR...

...

THERE'S GOT TO BE OTHER WAYS.

YES, BUT WITH BUGS AND HIDDEN CAMERAS?! IN THE DEPUTY CHIEF'S HOUSE, AND YOUR OWN...?!

!

I FIND IT EXTREMELY GALLING, TO SAY THE LEAST, TO HAVE MY OWN FAMILY PLACED UNDER SUSPICION.

SO VERY WELL, GO AHEAD. YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION!

THANK YOU. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I PLAN TO DO.

I INSIST YOU GO ALL THE WAY. I WANT BUGS AND CAMERAS IN THE BATHROOMS, HALL-WAYS, EVERY INCH OF THE HOUSE SO THAT NOTHING IS MISSED!!

BUT IF YOU DO THIS...

THINK ABOUT YOUR WIFE! AND YOUR DAUGHTER!

DO YOU REALLY UNDER-STAND WHAT THAT MEANS?!

S-SIR! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

READ THIS WAY

...

NOW JUST SHUT UP!!

INCLUDING THE FACT THAT IT'S MEANING-LESS IF IT ISN'T DONE THOROUGHLY!

I'M *FULLY* AWARE OF WHAT THIS MEANS!

PATA PATA

SORRY, SIR...

IT'S OKAY... I'M SORRY, TOO...

AND ONE PERSON LOOKS THROUGH THE YAMANOTE LINE SECURITY VIDEOS TO CHECK IF ANYONE FROM THE KITAMURA OR YAGAMI FAMILIES IS PICTURED.

WHILE THE REST OF YOU TAKE TURNS DOING THE FOLLOWING— TWO PEOPLE KEEP WATCH OVER THE KITAMURA HOUSE, ONE PERSON MANS THE NPA OFFICE...

SURVEILLANCE OF THE YAGAMI HOME WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY HIM AND MYSELF ONLY—

AS A COURTESY TO YAGAMI-SAN...

IN EITHER CASE, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT. YOU HAVE MY WORD I WILL NOT EXTEND IT SECRETLY.

SO THAT'S ALL RIGHT, THEN?

THIS PERIOD MAY BE SHORT-ENED OR EXTENDED, DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES.

THE BUGS AND CAMERAS WILL BE IN PLACE FOR SEVEN DAYS.

...

WATARI.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO GET THE BUGS, CAMERAS AND MONITORS READY?

THEY CAN BE INSTALLED ANYTIME, ONCE WE KNOW WHEN NOBODY WILL BE HOME.

STARTING TOMOR-ROW...

ONCE THE BUGS AND CAMERAS ARE IN PLACE, WE'LL MOVE OVER TO THAT HOTEL.

GOOD. SO WE'LL NEED AT LEAST TWO MONITORING ROOMS SET UP IN ANOTHER HOTEL.

READ THIS WAY

BUT THAT'S HAD THE EFFECT OF SUPPRESS-ING OTHER CRIME.

MORE PRECISELY, KIRA'S MURDER SPREE MEANS THE CRIME RATE HAS ACTUALLY GONE UP...

SO, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE STILL IN A RECESSION, AT LEAST CRIME'S DOWN, SO 2004'S STARTED OUT PRETTY WELL.

LIGHT'S RIGHT!

January Eighth

DING DONG

CHAK

HM?

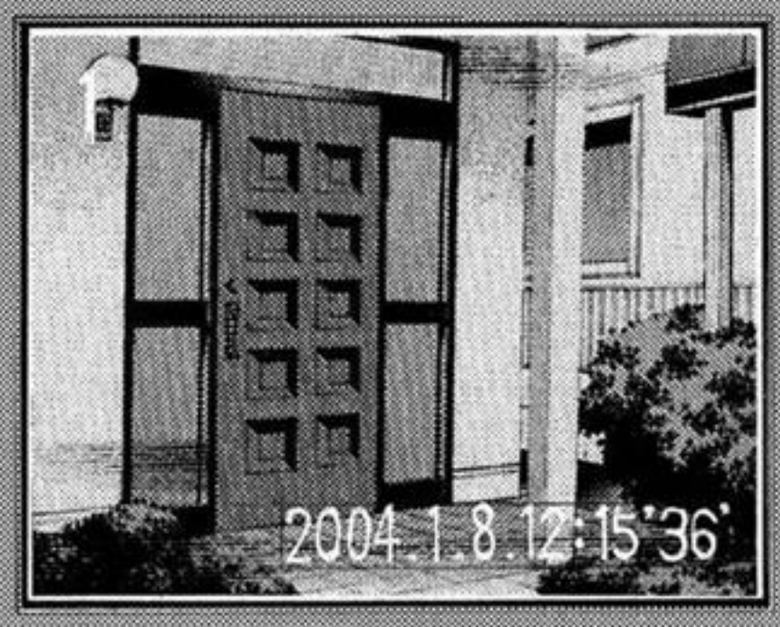
SEE YA. HEY YAMAMOTO, IT ISN'T TOO LATE TO SEND ME A NEW YEAR'S CARD.

HA HA

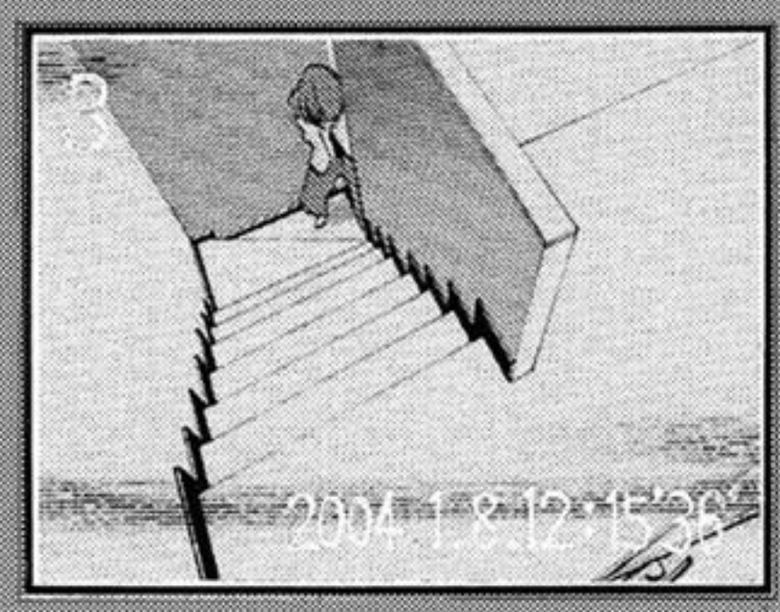
KLIK

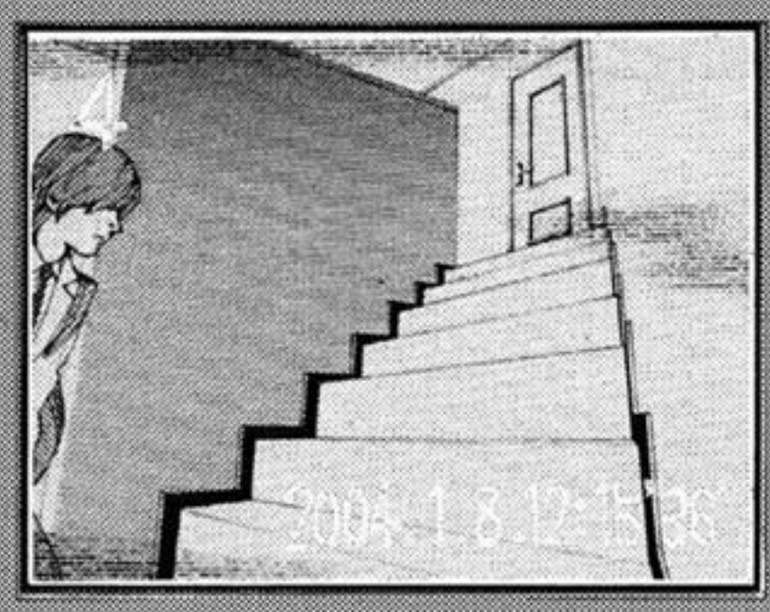
GUESS NOBODY'S HOME...

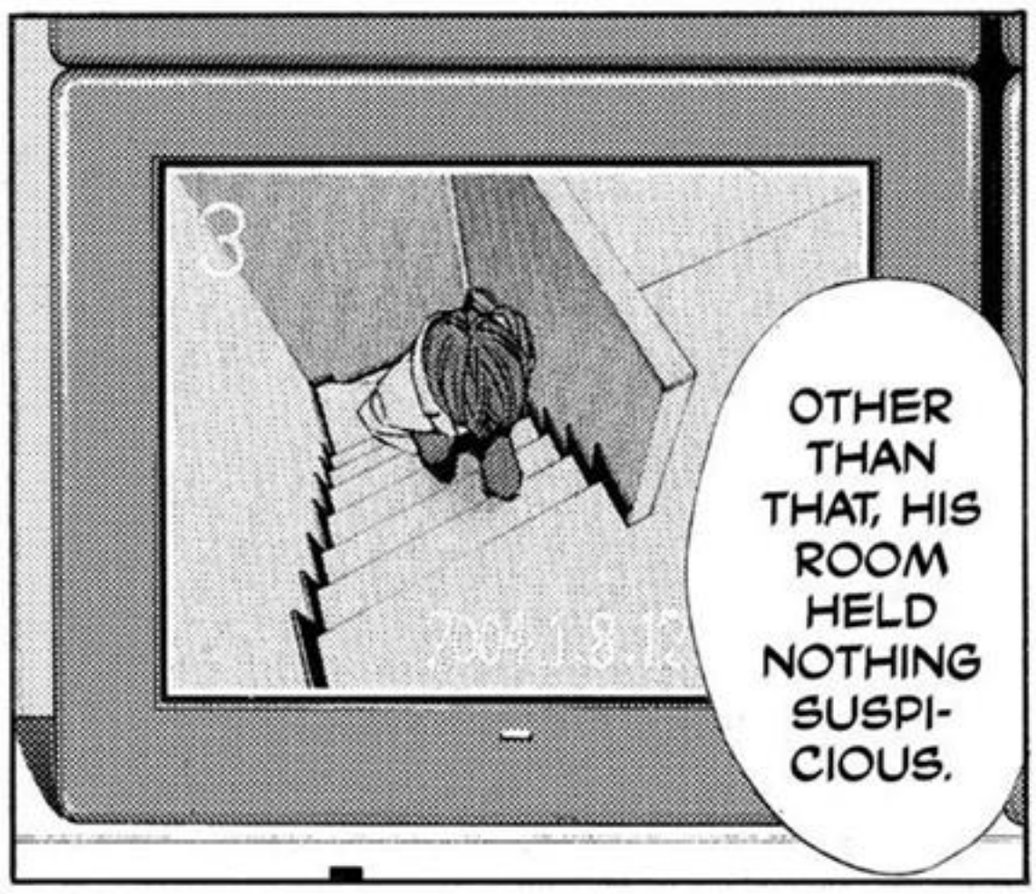
SORRY LIGHT, I ONLY SEND CARDS TO GIRLS.


1
2004.1.8.12:15'36'


2
2004.1.8.12:15'36'


3
2004.1.8.12:15'36'


4
2004.1.8.12:15'36'


3
2004.1.8.12
OTHER THAN THAT, HIS ROOM HELD NOTHING SUSPI-CIOUS.


ACCORDING TO THE PERSON WHO INSTALLED THE CAMERAS, HE'S CHECKING IF ANYONE GOES INTO HIS ROOM WHILE HE'S GONE.
LIGHT YAGAMI...
...


OKAY, SWITCH-ING TO CAMERA #85...
LET'S MOVE INTO HIS ROOM.

READ THIS WAY

HEY LIGHT, SINCE NOBODY SEEMS TO BE HOME, HOW ABOUT WE PLAY A GAME OF MARIO GOLF?

BAM

...

KA-CHAK

FLUTTER

?

...

...

HEY, LIGHT. LET'S PLAY MARIO GOLF.

THUNK

Phoo

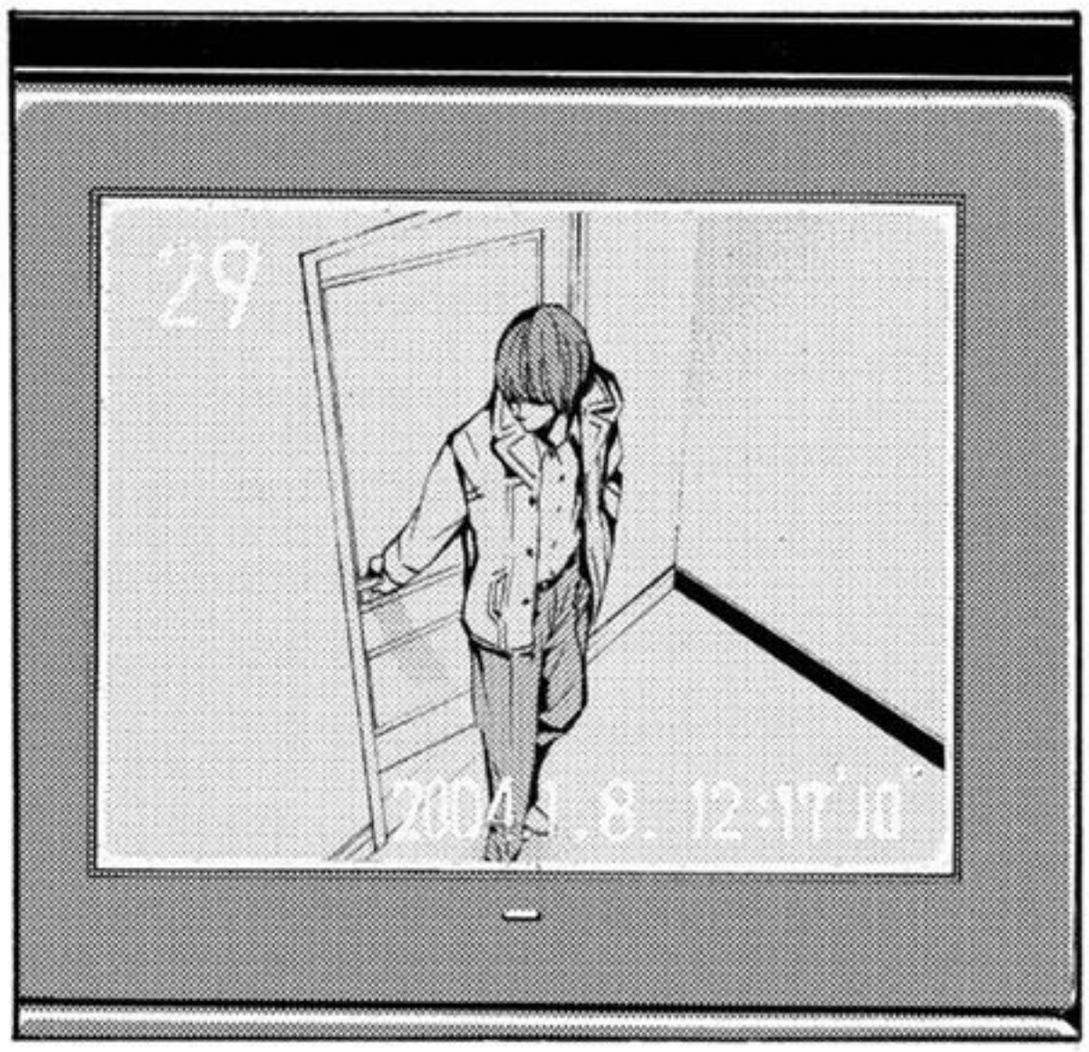
YOU LISTEN-ING?

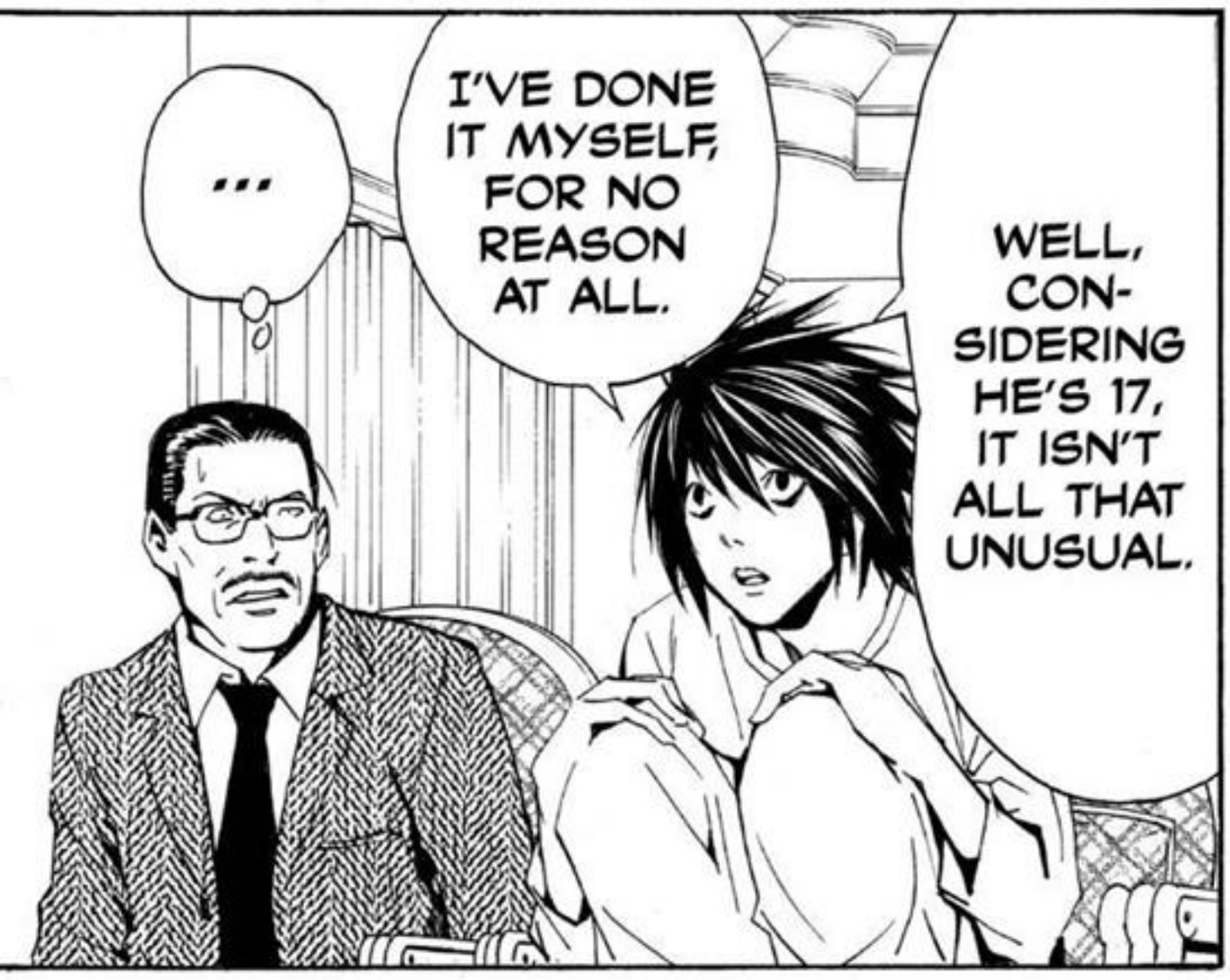
KREE

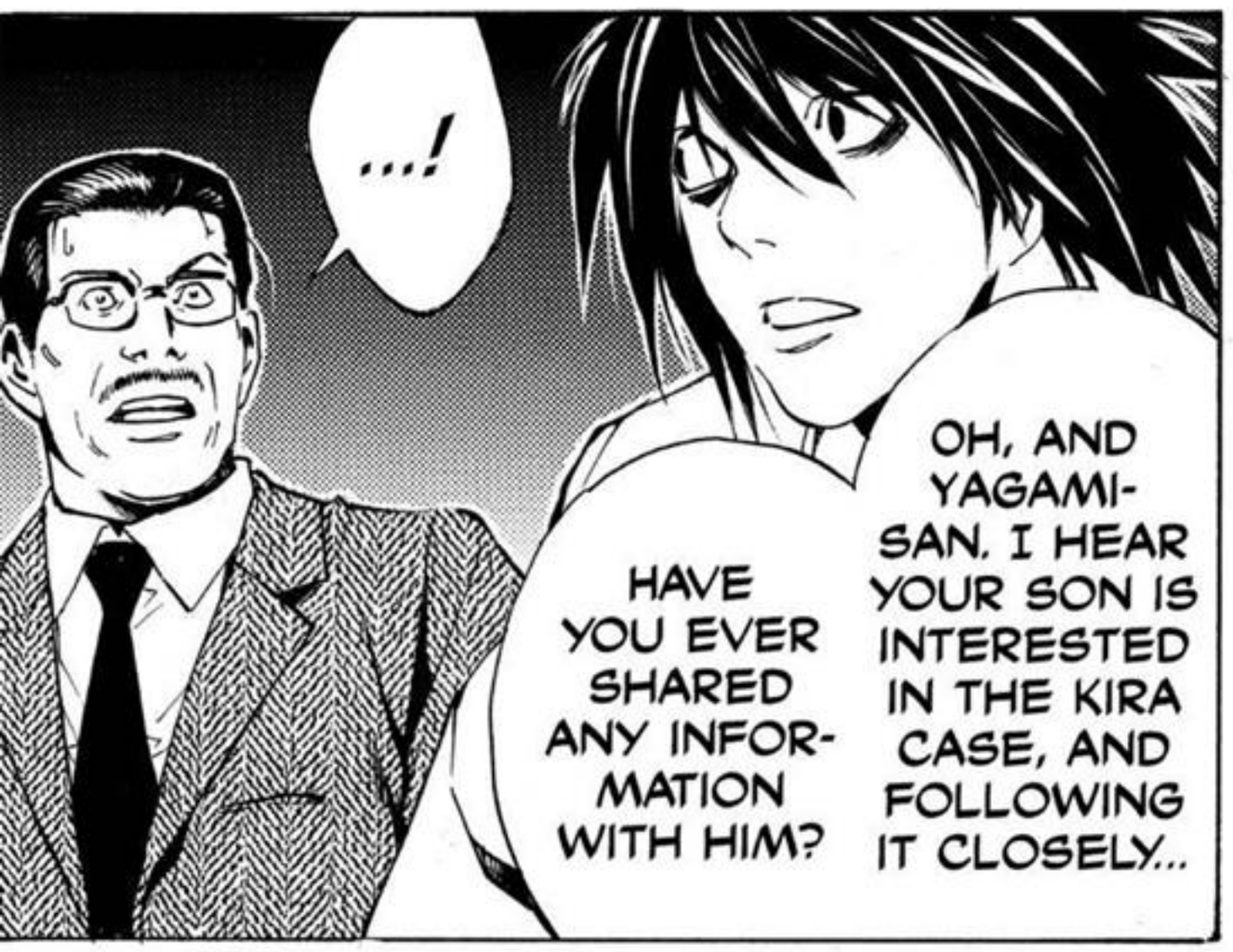
...

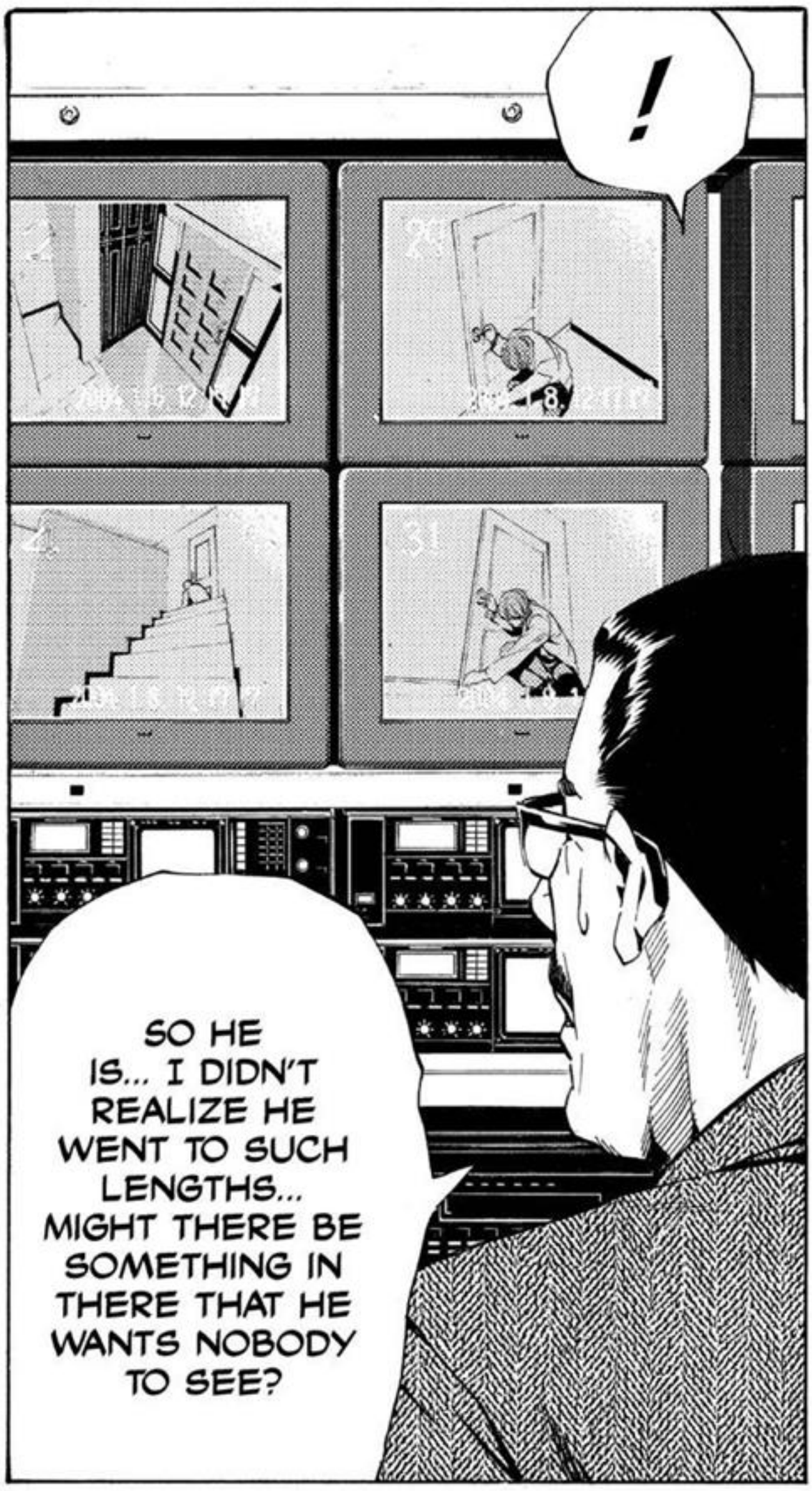
READ THIS WAY











ALL RIGHT ...

...

I'VE HARDLY BEEN HOME SINCE THE CASE STARTED. AND WHEN I'M THERE, ALL I DO IS SLEEP...

ANY-WAY...

BUT I WOULD NEVER, EVER DIVULGE CONFI-DENTIAL POLICE INFOR-MATION.

OF COURSE NOT...! I DID TELL MY FAMILY THAT I WAS HEADING THE TASK FORCE...

EVEN OUT HERE, I BETTER KEEP MY VOICE REAL LOW... JUST IN CASE.

AM I BEING FOL-LOWED, AS WELL?

WHERE YA GOING, LIGHT?

NO BUGS ON THIS JACKET ...

LIGHT! HEY!

HEY, LIGHT. WHAT'S WITH THE BRUSH-OFF? I'M STARTING TO GET ANNOYED.

READ THIS WAY

SO... *THAT'S* WHY YOU WERE IGNORING ME...

UH-HUH.

HUH?!

THERE MIGHT BE SECRET CAMERAS HIDDEN AROUND THE HOUSE.

OR MICRO-PHONES. PROBABLY BOTH, ACTUALLY.

BUT WAIT... THAT SLIP OF PAPER IN YOUR DOOR WAS STILL THERE.

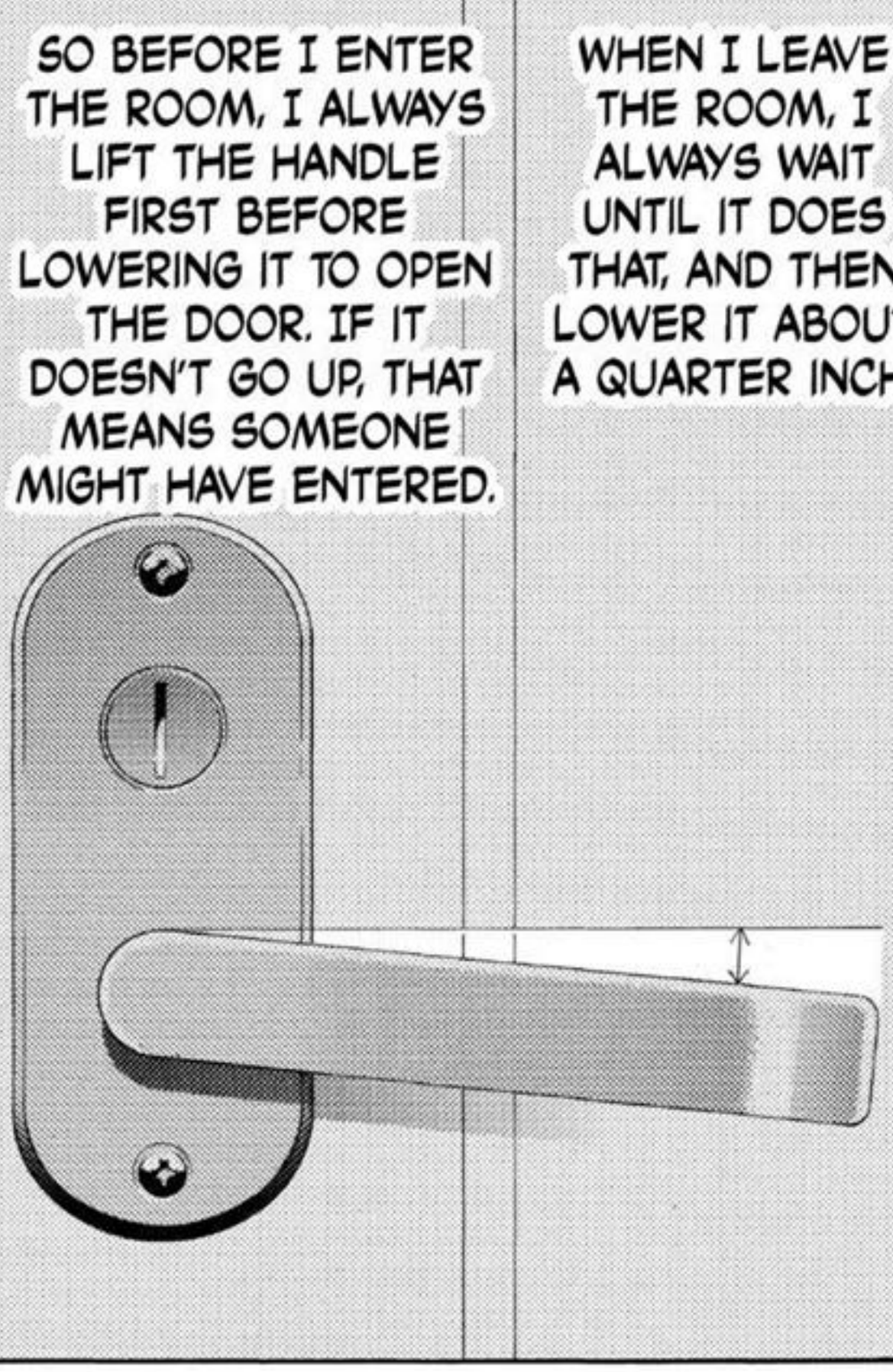
WHAT I REALLY CHECK IS THE DOOR HANDLE.

THE DOOR HANDLE ?

THAT PAPER'S A RED HERRING, TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK I'M CHECKING IF ANYONE'S ENTERED MY ROOM.

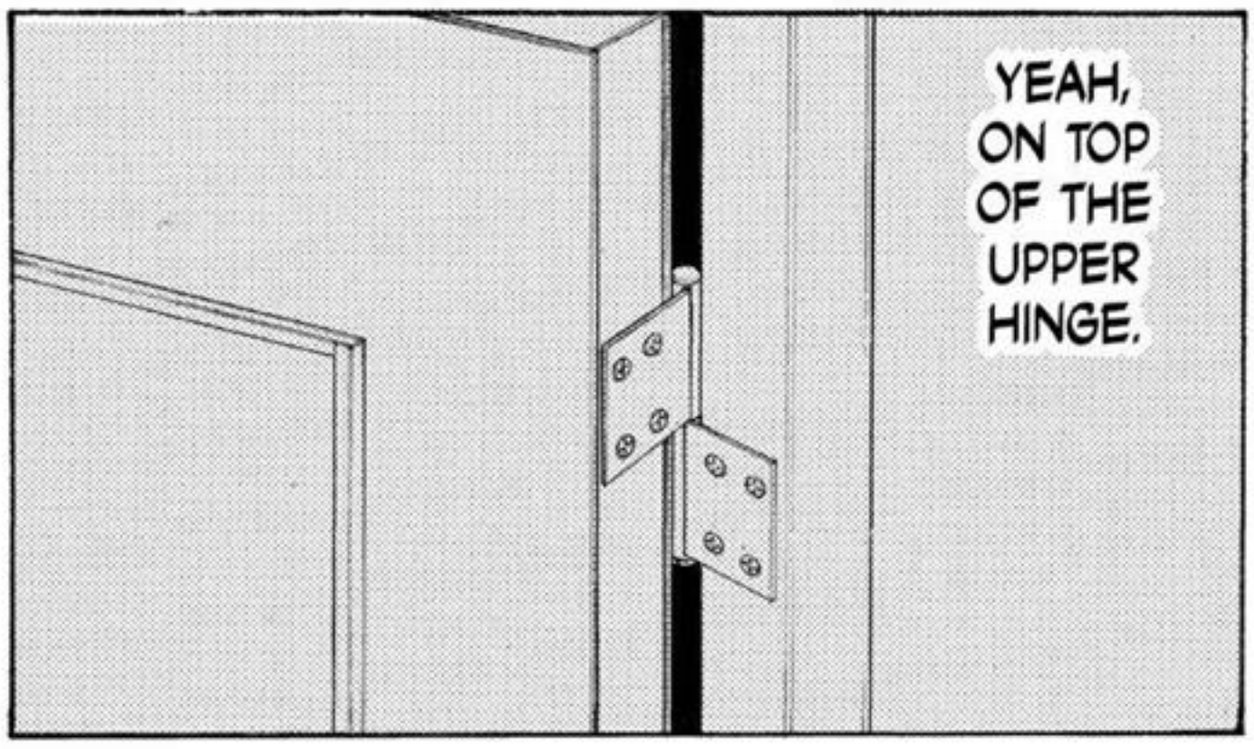
SO BEFORE I ENTER THE ROOM, I ALWAYS LIFT THE HANDLE FIRST BEFORE LOWERING IT TO OPEN THE DOOR. IF IT DOESN'T GO UP, THAT MEANS SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE ENTERED.

WHEN I LEAVE THE ROOM, I ALWAYS WAIT UNTIL IT DOES THAT, AND THEN LOWER IT ABOUT A QUARTER INCH.



THAT HANDLE'S DESIGNED SO THAT WHEN YOU CLOSE THE DOOR, IT RETURNS BY ITSELF TO THE HORIZONTAL POSITION. THAT'S AS HIGH AS IT GOES.





YEAH, ON TOP OF THE UPPER HINGE.

PENCIL LEAD?

BUT THAT BY ITSELF ISN'T ENOUGH TO BE SURE, SO I ALSO HAVE A PIECE OF MECHANICAL PENCIL LEAD IN PLACE.

BUT TODAY, WHEN I CAME HOME, IT WAS BROKEN.

USUALLY, I REMOVE IT BEFORE GOING IN.

AFTER I CLOSE THE DOOR, I SET IT SO IT HARDLY SHOWS FROM THE OUTSIDE. BUT IF ANYONE OPENS THE DOOR, IT'LL BREAK.

READ THIS WAY

SURE IT WASN'T YOUR MOM?

THE HANDLE *AND* THE LEAD...

PROVE THAT SOME-ONE WAS IN MY ROOM.

OH, YEAH. SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

WELL, WHO CARES IF THEY NOTICED THE SLIP OF PAPER? I KNOW THEY DIDN'T FIND THE DEATH NOTE, BECAUSE MY DESK WASN'T MELTED.

AND THAT'S WHY THERE MIGHT BE CAMERAS AND BUGS IN MY ROOM.

YEAH, THAT WOULDN'T BE LIKE YOUR MOM OR YOUR SISTER, FOR SURE.

IF IT WAS MY MOM OR SISTER, THEY WOULDN'T NOTICE THE PAPER. THE FACT THAT THE PAPER WAS PUT BACK IN PLACE IS WHAT BOTHERS ME.

SORT OF.

SO, WHAT? YOU'RE GONNA BUY BOOKS ON BUGGING AND SUR-VEILLANCE TO STUDY UP ON IT?

BOOKS

I CAN SEE YOU, SO IT DOESN'T LOOK WEIRD OR ANYTHING...

YIKES!

HM?

BY THE WAY, WHAT ABOUT YOUR APPLES, RYUK?

LIKE I THOUGHT.

WHILE I'M HOLDING IT, THEY'LL SEE AN APPLE FLOATING IN MID-AIR...

WELL, ONCE IT'S IN MY BELLY... NO, MY MOUTH, IT'LL BE FINE, BUT...

IF THERE ARE CAMERAS IN THE ROOM... AND PEOPLE ARE WATCH-ING...

J-JUST WAIT A MINUTE, LIGHT!

SO I CAN STOP GIVING YOU APPLES, RIGHT?

SHINIGAMI DON'T DIE, SO YOU WON'T STARVE TO DEATH.

WHAT'RE YOUR SYMP-TOMS?

IF I'M DEPRIVED, I GO INTO WITH-DRAWAL...

WELL, LIKE CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR FOR HUMANS ...

FOR ME, SEE... APPLES ...

ARE LIKE ...

RIGHT?

I'D RATHER NOT SEE THAT...

AND DO HAND-STANDS ...

I TWIST MY BODY UP LIKE A PRETZEL ...

WHY ME?

SO IF YOU NEED TO EAT APPLES, YOU'LL FIRST HAVE TO CHECK IF THERE ARE CAMERAS. AND IF THERE ARE, FIND OUT THEIR LOCA-TIONS AROUND THE HOUSE.

YOU DID ...?

LISTEN, RYUK. I SENT L A CLUE SAYING "GODS OF DEATH LOVE APPLES."

HMM ...

WELL, I HAVE TO PLAY THE PART OF A SERIOUS STUDENT GETTING READY FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS.

YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE FREE TO LOOK ALL OVER THE HOUSE AND THE CAMERAS WON'T SEE YOU.

SO FIRST, LOCATE ALL OF THE CAMERAS. IF YOU'RE LUCKY...

THERE MIGHT BE A BLIND SPOT WHERE YOU CAN EAT YOUR APPLES.

CAMERAS THESE DAYS ARE WIRELESS, WITH TINY LENSES. THEY'RE EASY TO HIDE.

BUT... IF YOU COVER THE LENS, IT CAN'T SERVE ITS PURPOSE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY SEE US BUT WE SEE THEM, TOO.

AND IF THERE'S NO BLIND SPOTS, I CAN STAND IN FRONT OF A CAMERA OR MOVE SOMETHING THERE TO BLOCK ITS VIEW.

BUGS CAN BE FOUND WITH A DETECTOR, WHICH I COULD EASILY BUY. BUT I CAN'T USE A BUG DETECTOR IF THERE ARE CAMERAS ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

SO WE NEED TO FIND THE CAMERAS. AND UNTIL WE SEE THAT THEY'VE ALL BEEN REMOVED, YOU AND I CAN'T TALK TO EACH OTHER IN THE HOUSE.

...

I SEE ...

READ THIS WAY

SO?

UH... I'M NOT ON YOUR SIDE, LIGHT... OR ON L'S SIDE, EITHER...

SO FOR THAT, TOO, I NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

IF THE CAMERAS STAY THERE FOR A LONG TIME, I'LL JUST "FIND" ONE AND HAVE MY DAD REMOVE THEM.

THANKS, RYUK. YOU SHINIGAMI ARE A LOT MORE HONEST THAN HUMANS.

BUT... IT MIGHT BE REAL HARD TO GO WITHOUT APPLES, AND EVEN HARDER TO BE IN YOUR ROOM WITH-OUT TALKING TO YOU...

OKAY. A CAMERA HUNT... THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF FUN!!

SO LET'S GO, RYUK!!