Aoi Tsukiyo, Great Detective (名探偵)



Character Introductions :

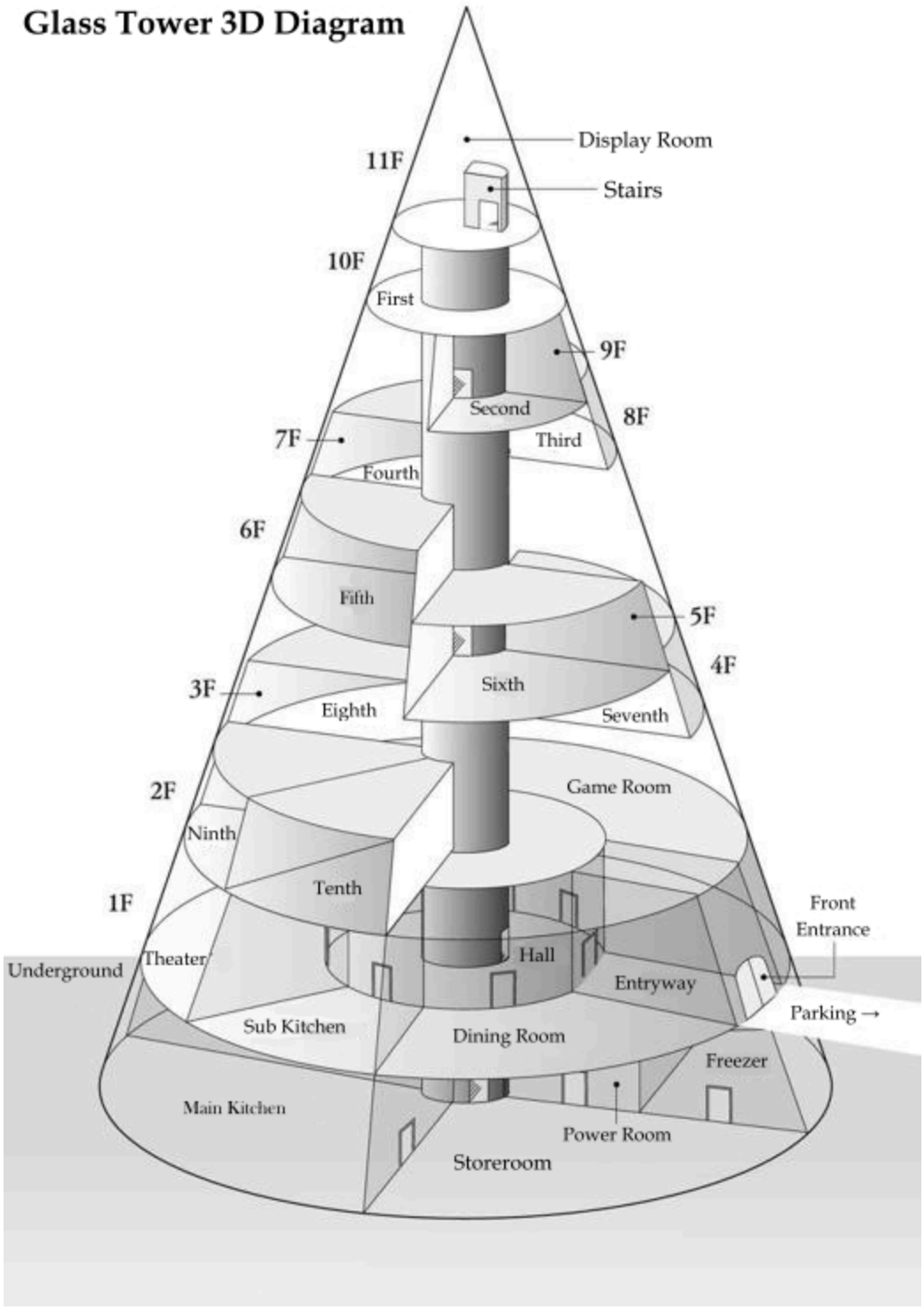
- Kozushima Tarou: A billionaire in his 70s and the eccentric owner of the Glass Tower. He is a former professor of biotechnology at Teito University who made his fortune by inventing the patented "TRIDENT" gene delivery system. He is an collector of mystery novels and crime memorabilia.
- Ichijou Yuma: A young medical doctor who serves as Kozushima Tarou's personal attending physician. He secretly harbors resentment toward Kozushima because Kozushima's TRIDENT patent lawsuits blocked a life saving treatment for his younger sister, who suffers from a fatal neuromuscular disease.
- Aoi Tsukiyo: A eccentric young woman in her mid-20s who dresses in a Sherlock Holmes style deerstalker cap and cape coat. She introduces herself as a self-proclaimed "Great Detective" who dedicates her life strictly to solving 'Honkaku' style complex mysteries.
- Kagami Tsuyoshi: A veteran detective from the Nagano Prefectural Police Department's First Investigative Division.
- Kuruma Koushin: A 73-year-old veteran honkaku mystery novelist who wears traditional Japanese robes and is famous for authoring locked-room murder novels.
- Sakyo Kousuke: The editor-in-chief of *Super Mystery Monthly Magazine*.
- Yumeyomi Suishou: A TV psychic and spiritual medium who claims to possess the ability to perceive residual energy left by spirits.
- Sakaizumi Taiki: A professional guest chef hired to cook gourmet meals for the gathering.

- Tomoe Madoka: A timid young woman in her late 20s who works as the maid of the Glass Tower.
- Oita Shinzo: An elderly man who serves as the butler of the Glass Tower.

About The Glass Tower :

The Glass Tower is a spire located in the deep snows of Mt. Chogatake in the Japanese Alps. Designed as an 11-story glass-and-steel building shaped like a giant trident. The structure is organized as follows:

- Basement (B1): Houses the central kitchen, main dining room, living room/salon, and entertainment spaces.
- Floors 1 through 10: Feature single guest rooms spiraling around a central staircase and elevator shaft. Room "First" on the 1st floor serves as Kozushima Tarou's private quarters. Rooms "Second" through "Tenth" are assigned to the visiting guests and staff.
- Key System: Each individual room features its own unique mechanical key card/lock, which are not duplicable. Butler Oita Shinzo holds the master key, designated as key "Zero," which opens all guest rooms and service areas.
- 11th Floor (Top Cone): A glass display room located directly under the spire's summit. It contains Kozushima's personal collection of rare crime memorabilia, and a sealed cabinet containing a lethal poison.



The First Murder, Kozushima Tarou

The Invitation and Yuma's Plan

Kozushima Tarou sends out invitations to a select group of guests : Dr. Ichijou Yuma, detective Aoi Tsukiyo, police detective Kagami Tsuyoshi, novelist Kuruma Koushin, editor Sakyo Kousuke,

psychic Yumeyomi Suishou, and chef Sakaizumi Taiki to assemble at his remote Glass Tower on Mt. Chogatake. The official reason given for the gathering is that Kozushima plans to unveil an unpublished mystery manuscript written that could overturn the history of the genre, and host an "Challenge to the Reader" deduction game for his guests.
However, Dr. Ichijou Yuma arrives with an ulterior motive. Yuma's younger sister is suffering from a fatal, degenerative neuromuscular condition (ALS). A clinical drug produced by Shiota Pharmaceuticals was capable of halting her disease, but Kozushima filed a patent lawsuit claiming infringement on his TRIDENT gene delivery technology. Kozushima refused to settle or allow the drug to reach the market purely out of personal vanity and greed. Yuma took the job as Kozushima's attending physician specifically to find an opportunity to kill him, allowing the patent lawsuit to lapse so his sister could receive her life saving medicine.
Knowing Kozushima suffered a severe myocardial infarction five years ago and takes daily prescription heart capsules, Yuma plans to poison him in a way that mimics a fatal cardiac arrest. Days prior to the gathering, Yuma secretly accessed the locked poison display cabinet on the 11th floor and extracted a lethal dose of tetrodotoxin (pufferfish poison) in powder form, packing it into an opaque capsule identical to Kozushima's heart medication.

Kozushima's Murder (Day 1)
At approximately 7:00 PM on the first evening, all guests gather in the basement dining room to wait for dinner to be served by chef Sakaizumi Taiki, butler Oita Shinzo, and maid Tomoe Madoka. Kozushima Tarou remains in his private room "First" on the 1st floor.
Dr. Yuma Ichijo excuses himself under the pretext of delivering Kozushima's heart medication to his room. Yuma enters the "First" room, hands Kozushima the capsule containing the lethal tetrodotoxin, and watches Kozushima swallow it with water. After tricking Kozushima Tarou into swallowing the capsule containing the lethal powdered tetrodotoxin poison, Yuma locked the door of room "First" from the inside using Kozushima's personal room key , the "First" key, and dropped the key directly onto the floor near the work desk inside. He then exited the room, pulled the door shut, and quickly fled up the spiral staircase to his own assigned guest room "Fourth" on an upper floor to establish an alibi. As the paralysis set in, Kozushima realized he was dying and grabbed the room's internal telephone handset to call the butler extension line in the basement. He gasped for breath and made frantic, muffled sounds of distress over the line to butler Oita Shinzo before collapsing. The terrifying noises broadcast over the internal phone line startled everyone relaxing in the basement dining room. The guests and staff immediately rushed up to the 1st floor to reach room "First". Yuma joined the back of the group as they arrived, where they found the door locked from the inside, forcing butler Oita to unlock it using the master key "Zero".

The Crime Scene
The entire group : including Kagami, Kuruma, Sakyo, Yumeyomi, Sakaizumi, Tomoe, and Oita, rushes out of the basement and up the central spiral staircase to the 1st floor to reach room "First". Yuma joins the back of the group as they arrive at the door.
When they reach room "First," Kagami tries the door handle, but the door is locked firmly from the inside. Oita produces the master key "Zero" from his pocket and unlocks the door. Upon opening the door, the group finds the following physical scene inside the room.

Kozushima Tarou is lying dead on the floor next to his work desk. Kozushima's personal room key is lying directly on the wooden floor inside the room, near the base of the desk. A small, custom acrylic miniature model of the Glass Tower is lying overturned on the floor right beside Kozushima’s hand. The acrylic spire of the model has been twisted out of alignment. On Kozushima’s desk sits a small plate holding gourmet chocolate truffles. On the white wooden base of the overturned Glass Tower model, the capital letter "Y" has been written in smeared, melted chocolate. Yuma steps forward to examine Kozushima's pulse and breathing, attempting to quickly declare that Kozushima suffered a sudden, fatal heart attack due to his pre-existing cardiac condition, so that the body would be cremated and there would be no proof of poisoning. Kagami firmly stops Yuma from moving or touching the body further. Kagami points out that the frantic phone call and the strange state of the room mean the scene must be preserved intact for a formal police investigation and autopsy.

The Murder Weapon and Isolation

Butler Oita leads Kagami, Yuma, and Aoi up to the 11th-floor display room to inspect the locked display cabinet where Kozushima kept his poison collection. Upon inspecting the glass vial labeled Tetrodotoxin, Kagami confirms that approximately half of the white powdered contents inside the vial are missing. Kagami attempts to contact the Nagano Prefectural Police Department via the landline. The police inform Kagami that a severe blizzard on Mt. Chogatake has caused a avalanche that has blocked the only mountain access road leading to the Glass Tower. Emergency clearing crews and police investigators will be unable to reach the tower for at least three days. The occupants are completely trapped inside the building with a poison killer.

Kozushima’s Dying Message:

Aoi and Yuma examine the three items found at the body:

The twisted model of the Glass Tower -> Points to the famous mystery novel The Crooked House by Soji Shimada.

The letter "Y" written in chocolate -> Points to the mystery novel The Tragedy of Y by Ellery Queen.

The chocolate truffle -> Points to the mystery novel The Poisoned Chocolates Case by Anthony Berkeley.

What these three works have in common, is that they all feature murder by poisoning. This means Kozushima died via poison.

Murder of Butler Oita Shinzo

On the morning and afternoon of the second day, tension among the guests reaches a critical point. The guests remain confined to the Glass Tower while Kagami attempts to maintain order and keep watch over Kozushima’s locked room.

Dr. Yuma Ichijo is secretly panicked because he still carries the remaining empty capsule materials and poison residue in his possession. Furthermore, Yuma knows that Kozushima's death was not ruled a heart attack as he had planned, but is instead being treated as a poison murder due to Kozushima's phone call and dying message.

The Evening

In the evening of Day 2, a sudden disturbance originates from the basement level.

Heavy black smoke begins billowing out from the cracks beneath the heavy double doors of the basement dining room. The fire alarm sounds throughout the central tower staircase. Tomoe, Kagami,Yuma, Aoi, Kuruma, Sakyo, Yumeyomi, and Sakaizumi rush down to the basement dining room entrance. Kagami grabs the door handle, but the dining room door is locked securely from the inside. Hearing no response from inside and seeing smoke density increase, Kagami and Sakaizumi throw their body weight against the heavy wooden door, eventually breaking the lock latch and forcing the door open.
The Crime Scene :
When the door bursts open, the group encounters the following scene: A fire is actively burning on the main dining table, consuming the tablecloths, paper items, and wooden chairs. The fire triggers the overhead emergency water sprinklers, which slowly douse the flames. Lying face down on the wet, blood-stained carpet near the center of the dining room is the butler, Oita Shinzo, stabbed brutally in the chest and neck. Written in large, dark red letters across the white tablecloth is the phrase: "SPIRITED AWAY FROM CHOGATAKE".

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A little context for this ;

Thirteen years prior, a series of young women mysteriously vanished near a small ski resort on Mt. Chogatake. The culprit selectively targeted isolated women who were estranged from their families and traveling alone on unplanned trips, committing only one or two murders a year to avoid detection. The case came to light when a young woman in her twenties escaped from the basement of a local guesthouse after being held captive for several weeks.

The guesthouse owner, a middle-aged man named Fuyuki Daisuke, fled into the forest as police arrived. A sudden snowstorm and a subsequent massive avalanche hit the area. Although a search party of 100 officers never recovered his body, police concluded Fuyuki died buried in the snow slide. A thorough search of Fuyuki's guesthouse revealed the skeletal remains of eleven young women embedded in the concrete walls of the basement. The horrific scandal ruined the local tourist economy, forcing the resort and neighboring accommodations into bankruptcy and leaving the land abandoned. A few years prior to the current events, Kozushima Tarou bought the cheap, ruined land and built the Glass Tower directly on the exact site of Fuyuki's guesthouse.

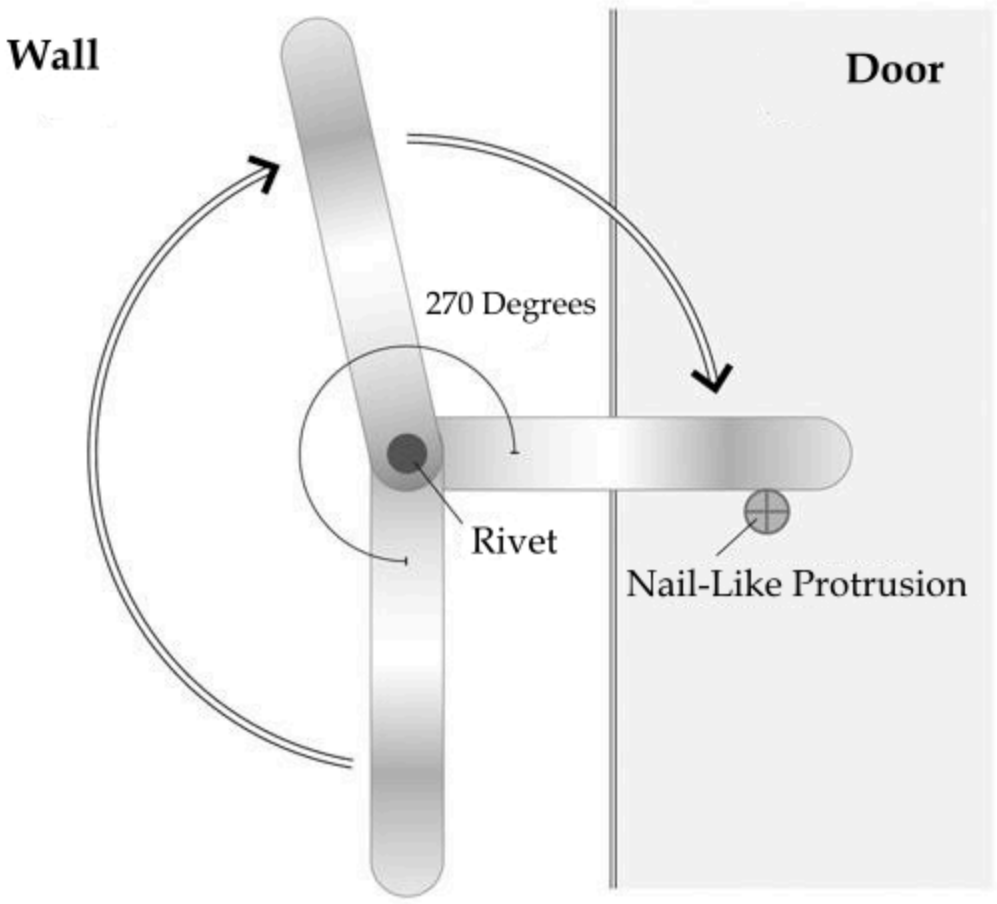
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The examination of Oita's body in the dining room was conducted by Kagami, Tomoe, and Yuma. He has suffered brutal sharp-force traumatic injuries to his neck and upper body, leaving a large pool of blood mixed with sprinkler water across the floor. As a butler, Oita carried the master key "Zero" in his jacket pocket at all times. During the examination of Oita’s body, the status and location of the master key become a key point of verification among Kagami, Tomoe, and Yuma. The dining room door was locked prior to the entry of the group. Tomoe confirms that

the dining room doors were unlocked earlier in the afternoon during meal prep, meaning someone locked the room from the inside before or during the fire. White, feather-like fluff from the potted poplar trees in the dining room was plucked and scattered across Oita’s body, the carpet, and the dining table. A strong smell of kerosene was detected on Oita's clothing, the carpet, and the dining tablecloth. The removable fuel tank of one of the room's kerosene heaters was found almost empty. The letters "TED" in the phrase "SPIRITED AWAY FROM CHOGATAKE" were lightly scorched by fire. The message was written in Oita's blood directly beneath a ceiling sprinkler head. In the B1 sub-kitchen, remnants of a burnt candle surrounded by kerosene-soaked tissue paper were discovered on a table, meaning that a timed ignition device was used to set off the fire alarm and sprinklers.

The door is secured from the inside by a surface-mounted rotating latch. Attached to the wall frame by a central rivet, the metal latch bar can pivot up to 270 degrees. To lock the door from the inside, the bar is rotated downward until it rests horizontally across the door gap, caught firmly on top of a nail-like protrusion mounted on the door. Because it is a simple physical latch mounted entirely on the interior side, there is no keyhole or exterior key mechanism that can disengage it from the outside.

Rotating Latch



Yuma inspects the scene in horror, because he knows with absolute certainty that he did not kill Oita Shinzo. A second, unknown killer is active inside the Glass Tower executing independent murders. Fearing that an unrestricted investigation will eventually lead Kagami or Aoi Tsukiyo to uncover his initial poisoning of Kozushima, Yuma approaches Aoi Tsukiyo and offers to serve as the ‘Watson’ to Aoi’s ‘Sherlock’. Yuma's goal is to monitor her deductions and observe every piece of evidence gathered, to attempt to frame the second killer for Kozushima’s murder as well, by placing the pill filled with tetrodotoxin inside the killer’s belongings.

Tomoe’s Murder

Following the brutal murder of butler Oita Shinzo and the fire in the basement dining room, the remaining survivors realize the killer is actively hunting them. To ensure everyone's safety, account for all remaining occupants, and search for the missing weapons or poison, the group conducts a sweep of the Glass Tower's facilities and guest rooms.

During this facility check, the group breaks into Tomoe Madoka's room. Inside, they find the maid dead, escalating the terror and completely breaking Sakaizumi's spirit. The body was examined by Aoi and Yuma, and they find that Tomoe was wearing a white wedding dress with the chest stained red. She was killed via violent sharp-force trauma, just like Oita. Unlike an assassination, an examination of Tomoe's body reveals multiple stab wounds on her thigh. There were words written on her corset in blood : "KILL NAKAMURA SEIJI."

(Nakamura Seiji is the name of a character who appears in The Bizarre House Murders, a series of honkaku mystery novels written by Ayatsuji Yukito. The basic premise of The Bizarre House Murders is that a series of murders takes place in the strange buildings designed by Nakamura Seiji, and the protagonist, Shimada Kiyoshi, travels to each house and solves their mysteries.)

This specific, non-immediately fatal injury indicates that she was tortured or interrogated before she was killed. The killer was intentionally inflicting immense pain to force her to talk or hand something over. The torture points to the fact that the killer needed specific information from Tomoe, likely regarding the tower's hidden secrets that only the core staff would know.

The killer had already killed Kozushima and Oita, but he still needed access to the deepest, most secure part of the facility, the underground laboratory beneath the B1 basement where the lab records were kept. Because Kozushima was dead, the only remaining person who knew how to navigate the hidden passages and bypass the basement lab's concealed entrance was Tomoe, the resident maid.

Kozushima Tarou built the tower over the ruins of Fuyuki Daisuke's guesthouse to conduct secret, unethical gene delivery testing using his TRIDENT system on abducted human subjects. As Kozushima's trusted resident staff, Tomoe was aware of and complicit in maintaining these basement experiments, which was probably the reason for murder.

The Tower's Underground Experiment Rooms :

By deducing the meaning behind the words "KILL NAKAMURA SEIJI", Aoi and Yuma head to the double doors leading to the theater, to the screen showing the image of the "Blue Mansion' in Ayatsuji Yukito's Decagon House Murders, which was burnt, alongside Nakamura Seiji. The meaning of the words was to burn the screen showing the image , which symbolically 'kills' Nakamura Seiji as well, which led them to the underground experiment dungeons of the tower.

Kozushima Tarou purchased the ruined land of Fuyuki Daisuke's guesthouse (site of the 13-year-old serial disappearances) specifically to build the Glass Tower over this secret underground dungeon. Kozushima used the facility to conduct illegal, unethical human gene-therapy experiments using his patented TRIDENT delivery system. Inside the secret laboratory records, Tsukiyo and Yuma find files detailing human test subjects. Among them is the name Mashu Shinju, a young woman abducted during the Chogatake Spiriting Away killings 13 years ago. Mashu Shinju was the woman Kagami was assigned to find.

After the horrifying discovery of the hidden underground laboratory, the remaining survivors return to their respective rooms on edge. Late at night, Aoi Tsukiyo comes to Dr. Yuma Ichijo's assigned guest room "Fourth".

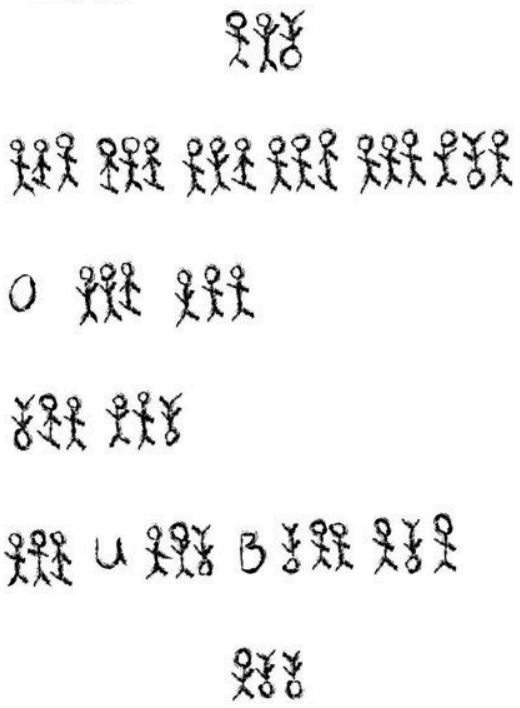
Dropping her usual eccentric, confident "Great Detective" persona, Aoi admits to Yuma that she is genuinely terrified by the brutal, escalating string of murders taking place within the isolated Glass Tower. Unaware that Yuma is secretly the murderer of Kozushima Tarou, Aoi seeks emotional comfort from him as her trusted companion and "Watson." She confides her fears about the active killer moving through the building and asks for his presence and support to help her stay grounded as she works through the remaining puzzle.

Shortly after Aoi's visit, Yuma steps out into the hallway/spiral staircase area of the Glass Tower to investigate.Yuma moves along the central spiral staircase near the upper floors, an unknown assailant unexpectedly strikes from behind. Yuma is forcefully pushed over the edge/down the central spiral staircase. He tumbles violently down the steps, sustaining painful bruises, severe soreness, and injuries across his body. The attacker vanishes into the shadows of the tower before Yuma can identify them. Yuma realizes that either the second killer perceived him as a threat to their plan, or he was targeted in the dark by mistake, narrowly escaping with his life.

Gathering in the Salon:
Yuma (still sore from a previous ‘fall’) and Aoi enter the salon, where they find Kuruma, Sakyo, and Sakaizumi. Sakaizumi is passed out drunk, overwhelmed with grief following the recent murder of maid Tomoe Madoka. Kuruma tries to lighten the heavy mood by suggesting a discussion about card-themed mystery novels. Tsukiyo politely declines and asks Kuruma for his key to the salon's safe.

Sakyo protests, pointing out that even with Kuruma and Tsukiyo's keys, the safe's combination lock was turned and set by Kagami. Tsukiyo announces that as a "great detective," she can crack the combination. Using Yuma’s stethoscope, Tsukiyo successfully cracks the safe combination, opens it, and retrieves the master Key "Zero" so they can thoroughly investigate the crime scenes and corpses. Tsukiyo and Yuma head to Kozushima Tarou’s locked 1st-floor room to perform a detailed forensic examination of his corpse. Upon entering, they discover that someone has recently entered the locked room and stabbed Kozushima’s already-dead corpse directly through the chest with a sharp knife. Pinned beside/on Kozushima’s body is a piece of paper featuring stick-figure drawings directly referencing Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes story, The Adventure of the Dancing Men. This figure drawing is a substitution code left behind by the second killer.

The Code of the Dancing Men



Aoi's Deduction

Killer : Kagami Tsuyoshi

Having examined every piece of available evidence and all crime scenes, Aoi Tsukiyo gathers the remaining guests in the dining room to present her complete deductions regarding the murders of Kozushima Tarou, Oita Shinzo, and Tomoe Madoka.

Raw Clue / Item	Location & Physical Observation
MURDER 1 — KOZUSHIMA TAROU	
Victim: Kozushima Tarou | **Location:** Room "First" (1st Floor)	
Cigarette Ash Under Room Key	Fine cigarette ash scattered on the carpet near the desk; the "First" room key lay directly on top of the ash layer.
Off-Hook Handset	Internal desk telephone handset removed from its cradle in Room "First".
Overturned Glass Tower Model	Miniature acrylic model of the tower knocked onto its side beside the victim's hand, with its top spire twisted out of alignment. Honkaku Mystery Ref: *The Crooked House* by Soji Shimada.
Chocolate Letter "Y"	Letter "Y" painted in smeared, melted dark chocolate across the white base of the acrylic tower model. Honkaku Mystery Ref: *The Tragedy of Y* by Ellery Queen
Partially Eaten Truffle	Small gourmet chocolate truffle on a desk plate, with a single bite mark. Honkaku Mystery Ref: *The Poisoned Chocolates*
Half-Empty Poison Vial	Vial of powdered tetrodotoxin (pufferfish liver extract) found half-empty inside the locked 11th-floor display cabinet.
MURDER 2 — OITA SHINZO	
Victim: Oita Shinzo | **Location:** B1 Basement Dining Room	
Blood-Written Message	"SPIRITED AWAY FROM CHOGATAKE" written in blood across the white dining tablecloth.
Singed Tablecloth	Focused char/scorch marks on specific letters ("TED") within the

Raw Clue / Item	Location & Physical Observation
Letters	blood-written tablecloth message.
Scattered White Tree Fluff	Light cottony fluff from potted poplar trees scattered over the dining table and floor.
Burnt Candle & Paper Remnants	Completely consumed candle stump and charred tissue paper residue found on the sub-kitchen table.
Activated Ceiling Sprinklers	Basement dining area completely soaked with water from triggered overhead sprinklers.
MURDER 3 — TOMOE MADOKA	
Victim: Tomoe Madoka | **Location Found:** Room "Sixth" (6th Floor) | **Primary Scene:** Room "Second" (2nd Floor)	
Thigh & Chest Stab Wounds	Victim found with fatal chest wounds along with multiple distinct non-fatal stab marks on her thighs.
White Wedding Dress	Victim clothed in a heavily blood-soaked white bridal gown taken from the 11th-floor display collection.
Open Guest Room Windows	Exterior guest room windows fully opened across multiple levels following the automatic fire alarm override.
Second-Floor Bloodstains	Signs of violence and blood splatters discovered in Room "Second", directly four floors above where the body was found.

Kozushima’s Murder

Aoi first establishes that Kozushima did not die of natural causes. The killer stole powdered pufferfish liver (tetrodotoxin) from the 11th-floor display room and administered it to Kozushima in the First room.

Aoi disproves the existence of a duplicate key or complex mechanical trick. The locked room was created through a psychological trick.

1) The culprit poisoned Kozushima in the First room, locked the door from the outside using Kozushima's First key, and hid in their own room nearby to let the household pass on the spiral staircase before joining the group as they rushed up.
2) When butler Oita unlocked the door with master key Zero and everyone fixated on Kozushima's body, the culprit silently dropped the First key onto the carpet.
3) Aoi proves the key was dropped *after* entry by showing photo/video footage of the crime scene carpet. Fine cigarette ash scattered when Tomoe accidentally knocked over an ashtray while making an emergency phone call was found underneath the First key. Had the key been on the floor prior to entry, the ash would have landed on top of it.

Oita's Murder

Aoi explains that the killer did not intend to burn down the Glass Tower or destroy Oita's body. the fire was a timed trick to lock the door and cover up physical evidence.

1) The large east-facing dining room window is built as a giant convex lens (a magnifying glass). As the morning sun reaches a specific angle due east, it refracts sunlight into a intensely focused, scorching oval on the dining table.
2) The killer painted the tablecloth with blood to write "SPIRITED AWAY FROM CHOGATAKE." Because dark colors absorb heat while white reflects light, the dark red blood retained the focused solar heat. Flammable poplar fluff, soaked in kerosene, was placed on the dark bloodstain as kindling.
3) Once the morning sun hit the dark blood-painted area, the fluff instantly ignited, setting off the heat-sensitive ceiling sprinklers. The water doused the fire before it destroyed the message, while washing away fingerprints, footprints, and altering body temperature to obscure time of death.

The Cube Latch Trick

Inside the dining room door is a 270-degree rotating brass latch.

To lock the door automatically from the outside, the killer rotated the latch arm upward and wedged a large sugar cube from the dining table into the narrow space between the latch and the wall.

The sugar held the heavy brass latch upright in a near-vertical position. The killer shut the door from the outside and left.

When the solar-ignited fire triggered the ceiling sprinklers, the cascading water rapidly dissolved the sugar cube. Without the sugar prop, gravity caused the heavy brass latch arm to swing downward in its arc, falling directly onto the door's locking protrusion and securing the room from the inside.

Tomoe’s Murder

Aoi explains the third locked room in the Sixth room, revealing that the Sixth room was not the actual crime scene.

She notes that all guest room windows in the Glass Tower automatically open fully when the main fire alarm is triggered (to vent smoke). The killer set a timed candle ignition device in the sub-kitchen specifically to set off the building’s fire alarm. This was necessary because the killer could not find the Sixth key (which Tomoe had hidden inside her headdress) to enter her room and press the interior window-open button manually. Kagami attacked Tomoe, dragged her to the Second room, and tortured her to extract information before stabbing her to death.

To move her corpse across the building without leaving a trail of blood, the killer dressed her body in the thick, elaborate wedding dress taken from the display room. The heavy fabric acted as an impromptu sponge/wrapping, absorbing all blood from her wounds temporarily.

The Exterior Glass Wall Trick

The Glass Tower is cone-shaped, meaning its exterior glass walls are gently sloped rather than vertical.

The guest rooms are aligned directly above one another every four floors (at 90-degree intervals). The Second room sits directly above the Sixth room.

After the fire alarm forced open all the room windows, the killer pushed Tomoe’s body,wrapped in the smooth wedding dress out the window of the Second room. Driven by gravity, her body slid smoothly down the sloping exterior glass wall and funnelled directly into the wide-open window of the Sixth room below.

Mashu Shinju's Identity

Aoi connects the crime scene clues to reveal the true background behind the killings:

Firstly, she addressed the matter of the underground lab.

Kozushima Tarou operated a secret underground dungeon and laboratory beneath the Glass Tower, conducting illegal human experiments. Thirteen years prior, several victims vanished in the "Chogatake Spiriting Away" incident. Mashu Shinju , an elementary school girl who vanished on Mt. Chogatake the previous year was one of Kozushima’s underground experimental victims.

Then, she addresses Mashu Shinju’s identity.

The name "Mashu Shinju." In English translations, "Shinju" translates to Pearl, or *Margaret*, and "Kagami" translates to Mirror, or *Millar*. The name is an intentional homage to famous mystery

novelist Margaret Millar.

Margaret Millar was a female American mystery novelist who, together with her husband Ross Macdonald, produced many wonderful works focused on psychological suspense. She was a master author who won the Edgar Award for Beast in View in 1956, and also received a Grand Master Award from the MWA.

Aoi remarks that Kagami told them the other day he was divorced, questioning him if his ex-wife took his daughter with her. It's revealed that Mashu Shinju was Kagami's daughter, who was taken away from him by his wife when he was working at the 1st Division's HQ. Even though they left him, Kagami continued to pay child support. After 10 years, he finally got a call, his wife telling him that his daughter had gone missing on a mountain hiking trip. He thoroughly listened to everything the search parties had to say about where Mashu Shinju was, and learned about the Chogatake Spiriting Away incident. Kagami was convinced that his daughter had come to the Glass Tower.

Aoi officially then names Kagami Tsuyoshi as the culprit behind the serial murders, as Aoi reasons that he was the only person with the police knowledge, physical capability, and personal motive to commit the crime.

Kagami explains that he was not at the Glass Tower on routine official business as a First Investigation Division detective. He was a former detective who resigned to track down his estranged daughter, Shinju, who had gone missing on Mt. Chogatake. Knowing Kozushima was a mystery fanatic, Kagami used his own extensive knowledge of mystery fiction and mutual contacts to pose as a fellow enthusiast and gain access to the Glass Tower. His goal was to search for evidence of his daughter and locate Kozushima's secret dungeon. Driven by revenge for his daughter, Kagami had planned to kill Kozushima only to find that he was already killed before he could. Instead, he mutilated Kozushima's corpse to vent his anger, and then proceeded to kill Oita, and torture Tomoe in the Second room until she revealed the existence and location of the hidden underground dungeon. He then staged the locked room trick by sliding her body down the Tower's sloped exterior into the Sixth room to conceal his identity and pin the crimes on a phantom outside killer. seeking revenge for his daughter Mashu Shinju after finding her name in Kozushima's secret underground lab records to carry out all these acts.

Aoi once again confirms her accusation ;

"I see. So, you poisoned Mr. Kozushima with the pufferfish poison, killed Mr. Oita, and tortured Ms. Tomoe to find out the location of the dungeon before stabbing her to death."

Hearing this, Kagami scoffs and says he only didn't do anything until Kozushima was killed and thought the only chance he had to enact revenge was on Oita and Tomoe, basically confirming he killed both. He even openly asks for the 'fellow murderer' who killed Kozushima to come out.

Sakaizumi out of rage attacks Kagami, and Yuma rushes in to try 'break the fight' up , and

manages to slip the tetrodotoxin pill into Kagami's pocket. He then tells Sakaizumi to check if Kagami has a weapon, and Sakaizumi finds the pill Yuma hid.

When Aoi publicly cornered Kagami with her deductions, Kagami reached into his pocket and pulled out a pill case (which Yuma had secretly planted on him earlier).

He's confused on how it got there, and then suddenly smiles, realizing *something.* (Remember this ; it will be important later on.) He says that he understands that whoever killed Kozushima pinned it on him, and that he doesn't care about leaving a world w/o his daughter.

Cornered and given no way out, Kagami swallowed a capsule from the case right in front of everyone. The poison inside killed him almost instantly on the dining room floor before he could say anything to defend himself or deny the accusations. Before he died, he seemed visibly shocked that he would *actually* die from the pill.

Around noon, Yuma rests in his fourth-floor room, believing he has successfully framed Kagami. A knock sounds at his door, and Tsukiyo enters for a quiet conversation.

Tsukiyo deconstructs Kagami's "confession" and reveals that Kagami could not have poisoned Kozushima:

> Kagami stayed in the Second room. During the initial rush after Kozushima was poisoned, the line of guests waiting on the narrow spiral stairs stretched past the Second room. Had Kagami emerged from his room, everyone would have seen him. Kagami kept his hands in his pockets throughout Tsukiyo's summation and was genuinely surprised when he pulled out the pill case. The poison was slipped into his pocket during the scuffle by someone who tackled him—either Sakaizumi or Yuma. Since Sakaizumi had an alibi for Kozushima's murder, only Yuma remains. Kozushima had filed patent infringement lawsuits blocking life-saving medical treatments. Yuma's sister suffers from ALS, and Yuma poisoned Kozushima to stop the lawsuits so his sister could receive treatment.
>
> Aoi reasoned :

1) Kagami stayed in Room 2 (stairwell line extended past it; could not slip out unseen)
2) Kagami had hands in pockets during summation (surprised by pill case)
3) Pill case planted during scuffle by Yuma or Sakaizumi
4) Sakaizumi has alibi for Murder #1 = Yuma is Kozushima's Killer

Yuma confesses to the crime. Tsukiyo admits she anticipated Yuma might try to kill her to keep her quiet, revealing she brought Kuruma, Sakyo, Sakaizumi, and Yumeyomi to stand outside the door as insurance.

Yuma quips, *"Sorry, Ms. Aoi. Turns out I wasn't Watson. I was Moriarty."*

Tsukiyo looks at him with an icy glare and replies, *"You will never take me down the Reichenbach."*

Kuruma and the others detain Yuma and lock him inside the display room to await the police.

Escaping the Locked Room

Locked inside the display room at 5:00 PM, Yuma reflects on unresolved discrepancies: the mysterious dancing men cipher stabbed into Kozushima's chest, who pushed him down the stairs earlier, and who had been eavesdropping outside his room.

Yuma notices the conical glass model of the **TRIDENT** (Kozushima's medical device) sitting atop a thick textbook titled *General Theory of Genetic Engineering*. He recalls Kozushima's claim: *"I did have this tower made as a perfect replica of the TRIDENT, down to the tiniest detail."*

Yuma realizes that a TRIDENT/DNA molecule is a double helix consisting of two intertwined strands. If the Glass Tower is a "perfect replica," it must contain two parallel spiral staircases winding around the central core.

Yuma searches the carpet near the stairwell, tapping the floor until he hears a hollow thud. He peels back a square meter of carpet to reveal a concealed metal trapdoor with an LCD keypad.

To find the passcode, Yuma examines the photo of the dancing men cipher stabbed into Kozushima's body:

[Dancing Men Pose] ⟶	[DNA Base]
Right Hand Raised	Adenine (A)
Both Hands Raised	Thymine (T)
Headstand	Guanine (G)
Right Leg Raised	Cytosine (C)

1. **4 Base Figures:** Unlike Arthur Conan Doyle's original cipher, this code only uses 4 distinct figures, representing the 4 DNA nitrogenous bases: **Adenine (A)**, **Thymine (T)**, **Guanine (G)**, and **Cytosine (C)**.
2. **Codon Triplets:** The dancing men are grouped in sets of three, corresponding to **DNA codons** (triplets of bases that translate into specific amino acids, each assigned a single letter of the alphabet).
3. **Start and Stop Codons:**

- Top row (ATG) = **Start Codon** (initiates translation).
- Bottom row (TGG) = **Stop Codon** (terminates translation).

Yuma uses the genetic code chart from *General Theory of Genetic Engineering* to transcribe the middle lines into blood on the stairwell wall:

Codon Sequence	**Amino Acid**	**Single-Letter Code**
ACA	Threonine	**T**
CAC	Histidine	**H**
ATC	Isoleucine	**I**
AAC	Asparagine	**N**
AAA	Lysine	**K**
TGA	*Codon Gap / Space*	**[Space]**
O	*(Explicit Letter)*	**O**
TTC	Phenylalanine	**F**
TAG	*Codon Gap / Space*	**[Space]**
GCA	Alanine	**A**

TGA	*Codon Gap / Space*	**[Space]**
AAC	Asparagine	**N**
U	*(Explicit Letter)*	**U**
ATG	Methionine	**M**
B	*(Explicit Letter)*	**B**
GAA	Glutamic Acid	**E**
AGA	Arginine	**R**

The decoded cipher spells out: **THINK OF A NUMBER**

Yuma connects this to a book on the display room shelf: *Think of a Number*, a 2010 mystery novel by John Verdon. In Verdon's plot, the number chosen by the protagonist is **658**.

Yuma inputs **658** into the trapdoor keypad. The metal door unlatches and slides open.

Yuma descends the hidden glass spiral staircase, which winds parallel to the main stairs in a complementary double helix around the central pillar. At every floor, a narrow concrete corridor leads to a one-way mirror and a hidden sliding door (unlocked via keypad code 658) concealed behind the low bookshelf in each guest room (Rooms 1 through 10).

This discovery explains the strange phenomena experienced over the past four days:

- Yumeyomi’s "evil presence" and the faint footsteps heard behind the walls on Night 1 were not supernatural; someone was actively moving through the hidden double helix.

- The killer could observe and enter any guest room at will, rendering the locked-room puzzles irrelevant to the building's true structure.

Yuma follows the stairs down past the Tenth room into the basement power room behind the generators. On the steps of the hidden staircase, he notices an old, dry bloodstain. Since it is completely dry, it was spilled before Yuma's hand was cut—proving someone else used the secret stairs during the murders.

Yuma uses the secret passage to enter the First room directly behind Kozushima's low bookshelf. Standing over Kozushima's corpse, Yuma lifts the body by the wrist:

The stiff joints creak, and Kozushima's entire upper torso lifts off the floor as a rigid mass. Examining the progression of rigor mortis and the physical state of the body, Yuma realizes a mind-shattering truth about Kozushima's actual time of death and the true nature of the events that transpired in the Glass Tower. Overcome by horror, Yuma gagged and vomited stomach acid onto the floor.

Yuma realizes that while Tsukiyo solved the three surface-level locked-room puzzles, she had ‘failed’ to deduce the secret underlying the entire Glass Tower tragedy.

Resolving to play the role of the Great Detective himself before the police arrive, Yuma climbs the hidden staircase back up to the display room. He types 658 into the display case keypad, unlocks the reinforced glass, and takes out the shotgun and ammunition from *Laura*.

Arming himself, Yuma prepares to use the secret passages to step onto the stage, confront the remaining survivors, and deliver the true final summation of *The Glass Tower Murders*.

“A challenge to the reader. With the new information in your possession, it will be much easier for you to deduce the truth behind the tragedies that took place here in the Glass Tower. What really happened here over the past four days? I want you to be the one to uncover that. This is my challenge to the reader. I wish you good deductions, and good luck.”

Yuma’s Deduction

5:00 P.M, Yuma descended hidden stairwell to the power room, and then from there went back up to the first floor via the normal stairs. He then proceeds to hit a fire alarm on the wall, causing all the remaining survivors ; Sakyo, Kuruma, Sakaizumi, Yumeyomi, and finally Tsukiyo to all gather in front of the game room. In everyone’s shock, Yuma appears and orders everyone to go to the game room and despite everyone’s disagreement, Tsukiyo agrees to listen to his story to kill time.

Yuma orders everyone to go to the far side of the sofa and to stand by the window, which they all do. He breathes a sign of relief, and says he has no intention of running from his crimes when confronted by Kuruma, and just wants the truth of the events that have happened to be

known.

Yuma states there is an ‘other side’ to the incidents in the tower, and Aoi questions him on this, asking if her theory was incorrect. Yuma refutes, saying she had perfectly solved the ‘Glass House Murders’.

(For this next part, it’s mainly repeating the deductions of Yuma previously…)

He then begins to explain the secret behind the events, going back to how he escaped the display room (which was a perfect locked room) via a hidden door in the display room, which had a secret spiral staircase that led down to the basement. Yuma says that it wasn’t like that there weren't any clues the whole time, as Mr. Kozushima had always told people the Glass Tower is an exact replica of a TRIDENT, the device he invented that delivers DNA into cell nuclei. If that's the case, then there should be two spiral staircases side by side to replicate the double helix shape of the DNA, wrapped around the center of the glass spire.

Then, he addresses the “evil presence" that Yumeyomi felt throughout the days. This wasn’t a ghost or a hidden culprit at all, just someone watching and monitoring the guests via the one-way mirror(s) present throughout all the guest rooms. Since the mirrors are one way, through it the inside of the room is visible from the hidden stairway. And if you enter the correct password, the bookshelf will move, allowing you to enter the room on the other side of the glass wall.

Yuma then reveals the final truth : Everyone present was a ‘character’ in Mr Kozushima’s self-made, live action Honkaku mystery novel by the title of *‘The Glass House Murders’*
His reason for saying so was : since entering, Mr Kuruma had stated multiple times that he feels as if he had entered a mystery , due to the setting of A bizarre glass spire built deep in the mountains, turned into a closed circle by an avalanche, a series of locked room murders, dying messages, codes written in blood, eccentric guests, a secret dungeon containing a skeleton, and even a secret passage. It's exactly like the world of a honkaku mystery novel.

Tsukiyo spoke, saying what Yuma’s getting at is that this space is a setting for a metamystery , and they’re the characters acting on it.

(It's a sub-genre of mystery. 'Meta' is a word referring to an elevated perspective or position. Metamystery is when that perspective is applied to a work of mystery fiction. Put simply, it's a mystery in which the boundary between the fictional world and the 'higher level' of reality is blurred. Things like the author appearing as a character in their own work, the characters being aware that they're fictional, or the reader being the real culprit.)

Sakaizumi questions Yuma on why he said they were ‘characters’ when they were all real people.
Yuma first asks, ‘Why did Mr Kozushima invite them?’ He said he had some big announcement to make... before this, Yuma had said it was an unpublished mystery manuscript written before

The Murders in the Rue Morgue. Well, that's what they had believed, as it was the only manuscript that was able to overturn the history of the mystery genre. However, it had yet to be found anywhere in the tower.

When asked where the manuscript is, Yuma ignores this, and addresses the first incident. He first agrees that in the story 'The Glass House Murders' he was undoubtedly the culprit of Mr Kozushima's murder.

The problem is what happened after the first incident. Afterwards, everyone, including Mr. Oita and Ms. Tomoe gathered together in the dining room to discuss their next move. Afterwards, everyone dispersed and returned to their rooms. At that time, as Yuma was alone on the stairs, I was struck by the illusion that someone was following me. Mrs Yumeyomi had also stated the same thing, saying as she was climbing the stairs, she felt the presence of something evil pursuing her.

As he said earlier, Yuma restates that he believes that presence was someone moving on the hidden staircase on the other side of the wall, asking a rhetorical question on who was on the staircase at that time.

At that time, everyone had all split off to go to our rooms at almost the same time. There shouldn't have been any time to go to the hidden staircase. Sakyo said then it must have been Oita or Tomoe, as they were live-in servants who worked in the Tower, so they may have known about the hidden staircase. Hearing this, Yuma shook his head, confirming with Sakaizumi that Oita and Tomoe were cleaning the dining room at that time, that the three of them had spent about fifteen minutes cleaning up together.

Yumeyomi then said that it must've been someone who they don't know hiding in the Tower, but Yuma refutes that as well, as the hidden stairway is too narrow for a person to live in. In order to survive, the person would have had to regularly leave the hidden stairway. It would be extremely difficult for anyone to do that without being seen by someone at some point in the past four days. If it wasn't an invited guest, an employee, or an unknown third party, then there isn't anybody left, the others concluded.

Yuma smiled, saying that that isn't true, as there was exactly one person who could have used the hidden stairway at that time, which was Kozushima Tarou, the owner of the Tower.

Everyone was speechless at this theory, and Kuruma questioned Yuma, saying that he himself had admitted to poisoning Kozushima on the first night. Yuma agreed, saying that he did do so, but he had just proved it couldn't have been anyone else using the stairwells.

Gently clearing his throat, Yuma then asked Kuruma if he had felt anything off when the avalanche had blocked off the road, isolating the tower right after the incident, which was replied

with by a no, as he'd only thought it was unfortunate.

Hearing this, Yuma smiled, listing the various odd things about the tower.

- it is questionable whether Mr. Oita and Ms. Tomoe would willingly participate in crimes as severe as mass kidnapping and human torture simply because their employer instructed them to.
- If multiple human bodies had decomposed into skeletons in the dungeon, the area should have been filled with the strong odor of decay.
- It is implausible that a window could accidentally be designed in a way that caused a fire inside the room every single day.
- It is equally implausible that such a dangerous design flaw would remain unfixed in a Tower that was especially vulnerable to fire.
- The necessity of equipping every guest room with unduplicable IC chip keys is questionable.
- Mr. Kozushima being "a bit of a hermit" is insufficient to explain:
- why he constructed such an unusual Tower,
- why he built it deep in the mountains, far from civilization, and why he chose to live there permanently.

When Kuruma said that he felt as if he had 'entered a honkaku mystery novel', he had struck the heart of the case. Seeing everyone's frustration and confusion, Yuma decided to get to the conclusion. They had unconsciously become actors in *The Glass House Murders*, a honkaku mystery story penned by Kozushima. Yuma explained that the unpublished manuscript that was planned to be presented at the event was the 'Glass House Murders' , not a mystery novel made before 'Murders in the Rue Morgue'. Mr. Kozushima was a serious mystery fanatic who aspired to be remembered as a mystery writer, not as a scientist. But he didn't have any talent as a storyteller. But he couldn't make himself give up, so he tried to compensate for his lack of talent with something he did have, which was financial resources, via which he created his own honkaku mystery novel in real life.

Yuma explained that the Glass Tower was designed and built specifically as the setting of a honkaku mystery novel, where three mysterious locked room murders would be committed. Of course, the window being a fire hazard was completely intentional.

Yuma then asked Kuruma that he had stated that Kozushima's novels lacked originality, and their logical developments were full of holes, like :

- Mr. Kozushima greatly admired The Bizarre House Murders series and its author, Ayatsuji Yukito. His admiration heavily influenced his writing, leading him to create a story following the same overall structure:
- A series of murders, a bizarre mansion/tower, an isolated closed-circle setting. While not outright plagiarism, the Glass Tower itself is original, nor are the murder tricks directly copied.

- The overall structure is too similar to be dismissed as mere homage. It was better described as "bad fanfiction”.
- How could Mr. Kozushima twist and smash the Glass Tower model after ingesting tetrodotoxin, which causes complete muscle paralysis?
- What was the purpose of creating the second locked room?
- If the culprit wanted the dungeon discovered, why leave the coded message "KILL NAKAMURA SEIJI" instead of writing the truth directly?
- Why didn't the fire alarm activate while the theater screen was burning?
- These flaws stem from prioritizing spectacle over logic : Clever tricks are included without logical justification. Characters perform irrational actions solely to increase tension. These are common flaws of mystery stories with weak plotting.

In conclusion, all the murders that had taken place in the glass tower was a work of fiction, written and directed by Kozushima. Kozushima was told that, no matter how much he wanted to, he would never be able to write a masterpiece that could ensure his name would be remembered forever. That's why he decided to instead try and create a work that only he could make. He would construct a building that looked like it could only exist in a honkaku mystery, fake a series of murders inside, and invite a group of guests to try and solve them. It's like an evolution of an escape room. A real honkaku mystery. If he published a novelization and released recorded footage of the incident, it would certainly capture the public's imagination.

Yuma then states another key point ; when Kozushima died the first night, he wasn’t actually dead. They didn’t get to examine Kozushima’s body after Kagami confirmed he was dead, as he refused to let anyone else touch Kozushima’s body. It was the same with the second and third incidents. Kagami was the only one who confirmed the victims were actually dead, and he refused to let anyone else examine the bodies. This also means Kagami was in Kozushima’s plan. Yuma reasoned that, considering how good his acting was, he was probably hired by Kozushima from a theatrical troupe. At the very least, Yuma doubted he was a real police detective. Yuma also reasoned that Oita and Tomoe also knew from the beginning that the whole mystery was an act, and cooperated with Kozushima's plan. The roles of the victims and culprit were decided upon from the beginning.

Yuma explained that the real truth behind the second and third incidents is that the victims fabricated them themselves. Oita locked the door from the inside, wrote 'SPIRITED AWAY FROM CHOGATAKE' in animal blood or something else they'd prepared in advance, and directly started the fire with a lighter. Tomoe brought the wedding dress to the Sixth room, changed into it, created fake slashes on her thighs with makeup, and lay down on the bed.

Sakyo then questioned if Yuma poisoning Kozushima was even real, in which Yuma replied that he has every intention of poisoning Kozushima, but now he realized that that was part of his plan. Yuma had heard that the position of Kozushima's personal physician was open from an acquaintance. Yuma reasoned that Kozushima must have known that the lawsuit he'd filed would prevent his sister, who suffered from an incurable disease, from receiving the treatment she needed. He hired a private investigator to find a doctor who had a good reason to kill him,

then indirectly informed Yuma that he was vulnerable. Then, he told me a non-toxic powder was pufferfish liver, and had Mr. Oita, who was always present during my checkups, treat me as an ordinary guest for that day only. He'd calculated that Yuma wouldn't pass up that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Yuma continued , saying that even if Yuma didn't poison Kozushima, Kagami would've done the deed himself. Yuma states angrily that Kozushima must've enjoyed watching Yuma writhe in guilt, then stumble around in confusion when two more murders took place without his involvement, as Kozushima had been alive and watching everyone after that, as the First room was declared off limits, which was probably where Kozushima had been observing them ever since. Yuma believes Kozushima used the one-way mirrors in the guest rooms, and set up hidden cameras in the game room, dining room, and underground storeroom sending live footage to the computer in his room.

Kuruma is in disbelief, saying that Yuma's story is so far beyond belief that he struggles to accept it. But at the same time Kuruma also thinks it seems very logical, asking if he had any evidence to support his theory. Yuma lists the below :

1. How Ms. Tomoe looked at dinner on the second day. She must have realized the culprit's motive by then. That being the case, it was only natural she'd realize she was going to be the next target. But then again, she ate from the buffet without a hint of caution. If she really believed her life was in danger, wouldn't she have been afraid of poison?

2. The snow. It snowed a bit on the first night. When everyone went to the parking lot after the second incident and saw their tires were flat, there was a bit of snow on the glass of the display room. The heating in that room is broken, as they were told. But if that's the case, it's strange that there wasn't snow on the glass of the First room as well. The heating in that room was supposed to have been turned off to slow the decay of Kozushima's body. After the incident, the heating in that room was turned back on, because Mr. Kozushima was still alive.

3. Rigor mortis. When Yuma checked last night, Mr. Kozushima's arms and shoulders showed only weak signs of rigor mortis. At the time, Yuma assumed that was because the stiffness was fading. Rigor mortis reaches its peak between twelve and twenty four hours after death, then slowly loosens. But just before he called them here, Yuma lifted Mr. Kozushima's wrist, and his entire body moved. The muscles of his arms and shoulders were stiff as logs. Rigor mortis does weaken over time, but that comes after the stiffness has peaked. In other words, what Yuma felt yesterday was Kozushima's rigor mortis just beginning to set in. Which means Kozushima wasn't killed three days ago. He was killed yesterday.

Aoi then questioned Yuma, as due to all the faked deaths, was Kagami also alive as well? Yuma refutes, confirming that he is. And not just Kagami. Kozushima, Oita, and Tomoe were all dead when he checked their bodies yesterday evening. Aoi then questioned further, asking if that

wasn’t proof that all of Yuma’s previous deductions were incorrect. Yuma said not quite, as without a doubt, *The Glass House Murders*, the series of locked room murders that occurred in this tower, were a work of fiction masterminded by Kozushima. But there was a major miscalculation in his plan, that there was a *‘monster’* in the tower.

Yuma explained that The monster was one of them. Kozushima carelessly unleashed a terrible disaster upon his home. That monster escaped from his control and took over *The Glass House Murders*. Someone actually killed Kozushima and the other three victims, turning the fictional murder case into reality.

He explains that the knife in Mr. Kozushima's chest wasn't posthumous mutilation for the sake of revenge, as it was Mr. Kozushima's real cause of death.

Kuruma gasped, asking about how Kagami had died, as according to Yuma’s hypothesis, what he took shouldn’t have been poison.

Yuma reasons that the monster predicted that he would force the pill case on Kagami to frame him, and that he, as an actor, would do the most dramatic thing and swallow the capsules inside. That's why they swapped out the contents of Yuma’s pill case for real poison. They obtained the poison via the underground storehouse, which contained rat poison used to get rid of mice during the winter. The monster swapped the contents of the capsules in the pill case with rat poison. Yuma recalled ; Kagami clutched his chest, vomited, and then collapsed. None of those are symptoms of tetrodotoxin, the poison contained in pufferfish. He was probably poisoned with zinc phosphide: rat poison. Zinc phosphide reacts with stomach acid to form a poisonous gas called phosphine, which attacks the central nervous system and halts breathing.

Aoi says that it was an interesting story, and asks Yuma who really was the ‘monster’ he’s talking about.

Yuma and Tsukiyo's eyes met. Their gazes merged. Yuma smiled and quietly told them.

The true identity of the monster lurking in the Glass Tower.

“It's you, Ms. Aoi. You are the monster who killed Mr. Kozushima and the others and took over The Glass House Murders.”

Yuma recalled that ; looking back, Aoi was constantly giving him clues. She was the one who was most insistent that they’d walked into a honkaku mystery novel, and was also the one to dub the case ‘The Glass House Murders’ like it was a work of fiction. When she took over Kozushima's story on the third day, Aoi realized that he was directing a title called *The Glass House Murders*. Yuma thinks on it, realizing that was a major clue that we didn't need to take into account the Late Queen Problems when discussing ‘The Glass House Murders.’

(The "Late Queen Problem" primarily refers to a literary theory in mystery fiction regarding fair-play limitations, info here)

Yuma states that one solution to the Late Queen Problems is to have a higher being , that is, one with meta-level awareness , to intervene and guarantee the truthfulness of the evidence in question. In 'The Glass House Murders', Aoi killed Kozushima, the meta-level being known as the author, and usurped his position, thus granting herself the power of a meta-level great detective.

Aoi questions, saying that wasn't it a bit far-fetched to treat her as the culprit for such a reason, asking if Yuma had any actual evidence tying her to the crimes

He presented the following :

- On the morning of the third day, Ms. Tomoe was found in the locked Sixth room wearing a wedding dress. Mr. Kagami blocked others from approaching, falsely claiming she was dead with torture marks on her thighs (which were actually makeup) and bloody writing on her corset.
- The skeletons in the dungeon were genuine human bones purchased overseas. They were placed in dark, locked cells to prevent close inspection and hide the fact that they were unrotted.
- Per Kozushima's strict plan, the "meta-level entity" (Kozushima and hidden victims) was to have zero contact with the actors (like Mr. Kagami) once the game began.
- A bottle labeled *"Pufferfish Liver"*, claimed by Kozushima, Oita, and Tomoe to contain deadly poison contained only sugar, proving the initial setup used harmless props.

About the Staircase Incident , Yuma explains Aoi's entire process.

1. Tsukiyo falsely claimed someone was eavesdropping outside Yuma's room, drawing him out toward the display room.
2. Tsukiyo used pickpocketing skills to steal Sakaizumi's special IC chip key to the Third room on the third day while supporting him near the underground safe.
3. Tsukiyo hid inside the Third room, waited for Yuma to descend the stairs, and pushed him from behind to temporarily incapacitate him.
4. Tsukiyo secretly returned the key to Sakaizumi's pocket later in the game room while shaking him while he was passed out drunk.
5. Tsukiyo offered Yuma water spiked with risperidone (an odorless, tasteless drug), causing him to sleep for half a day while she executed the real murders.

Yuma then explains how Aoi committed the real murders :

- While Yuma slept, Tsukiyo went to the underground storeroom, ambushed Ms. Tomoe (who was gathering food for Kozushima) with a knife, and forced her to the Sixth room.
- Under torture, Ms. Tomoe revealed the passcode to the hidden stairway, Kozushima's plans, and the rule regarding Kagami's lack of contact.

- The Murders:
    - Tomoe: Dressed in a wedding dress, left on the bed, and murdered.
    - Kozushima: Stabbed to death (as he could not be forced to swallow poison).
    - Oita: Killed alongside Kozushima.
- Tsukiyo returned to Yuma's Fourth room, changed clothes, and took a shower in his bathroom to wash off the blood.

Yuma then presents the physical evidence, being :

- Yuma hid a pill case containing fake poison capsules in his toilet tank on the first night.
- Tsukiyo swapped these for rat poison while taking a shower in Yuma's bathroom after the murders.
- The hidden stairway could not be accessed by an outsider until after Kozushima's death on the afternoon of the third day.
- Because Tsukiyo was supposedly watching over the sleeping Yuma, an outside intruder could not have used the hidden stairs to swap the pills without her seeing them. Her silence proves she was the one who swapped the capsules and committed the crimes.

Yuma then again, renames Aoi as the culprit, who hijacked Kozushima's fictional scenario (she had seen through Kozushima's sloppy creation, was unsatisfied with the tricks due to her obsession with detectives and crime.) and committed the actual murders within the Glass Tower.

"How about that? I think I make a pretty good detective."

"You're a great detective, Yuma."

With nothing but earnest joy from the bottom of her heart, Tsukiyo proudly puffed out her chest and, prefacing her announcement with a "Well then," said:

"Allow me to introduce myself once more. I am the monster who has infiltrated this Glass Tower. I am Aoi Tsukiyo, the great detective of The Glass House Murders and the true culprit of the tragedy that occurred in the Glass Tower."