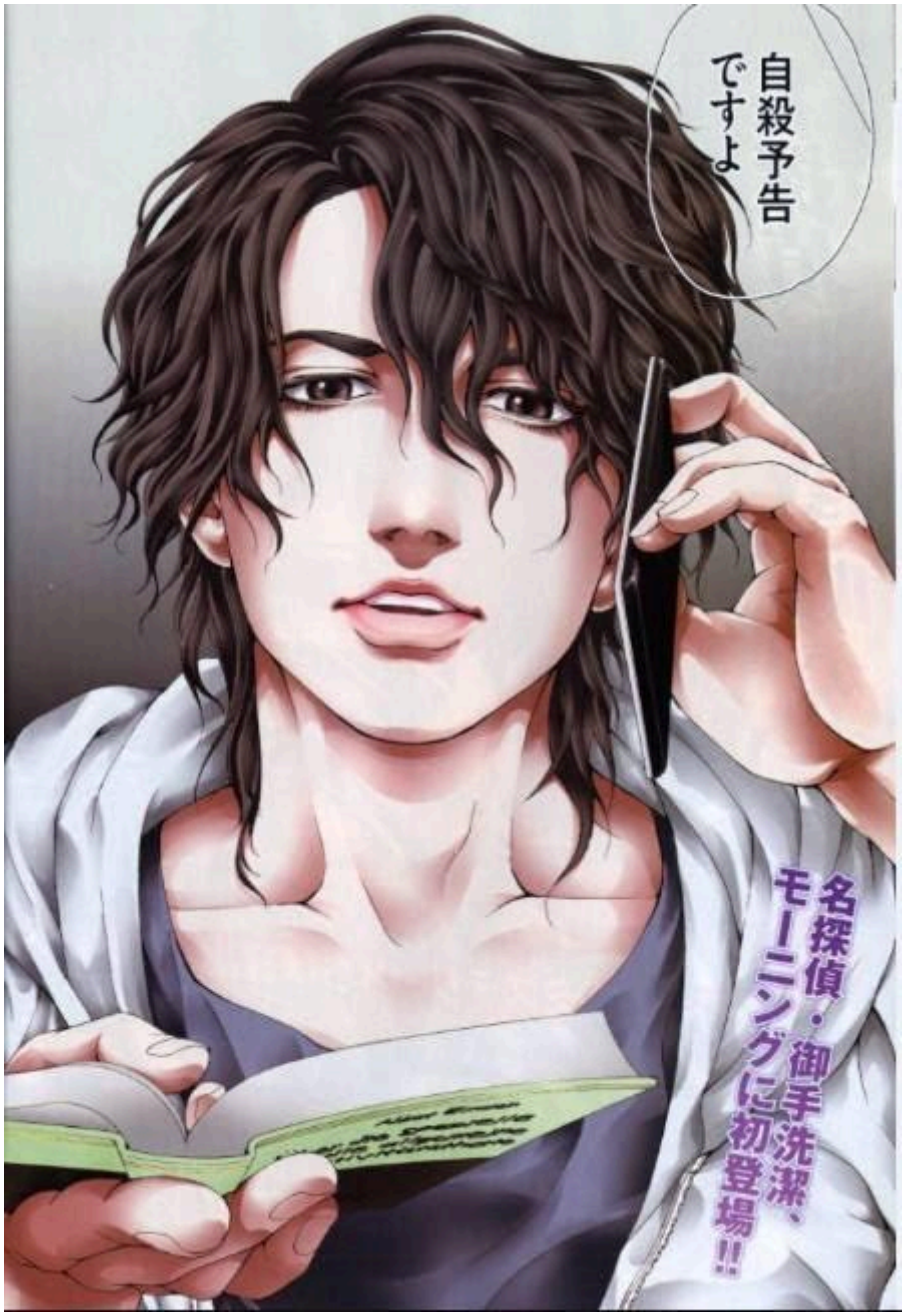
The Azoth Case with Mitarai



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Introduction

What This Document Is

A reconstruction of the solution to a fictional murder case, rebuilt as a formal chain of inference. (Part 1-18)

The case is the one at the centre of *The Tokyo Zodiac Murders*, Sōji Shimada's 1981 debut novel. In the book the solution arrives as explanation. Here it is taken apart and rebuilt as numbered steps, each resting on stated premises or on conclusions already established, so the whole can be walked from the first observation to the last without any gap taken on trust. Steps the novel passes over in a sentence are written out in full. Where the chain disagrees with the novel about what does the work, it says so.

This document gives away the entire solution. Anyone who has not read the novel and intends to should stop here.

The Case

The detective is Kiyoshi Mitarai, an astrologer working as an amateur investigator. He takes up the case in 1979, forty-three years after the events, from documents alone. Nothing physical remains. Everything he has, the reader also has.

In February 1936 the painter Heikichi Umezawa was found dead in his studio in Meguro, Tokyo. The studio had one door, barred windows, and a skylight fifteen metres above the floor. The door was bolted from the inside. Snow had fallen that night, the heaviest in thirty years, and two sets of outbound footprints were found in it. None led in.

Among his papers was a manuscript. Heikichi meant to create Azoth, a perfect woman, assembled from six body parts taken from six young women of his household, each born under a different zodiac sign, each part cut from the region that sign governed. The manuscript named the mines whose metals matched each sign and the places the remains were to be buried.

Heikichi was already dead when the plan was carried out. Kazue was killed in the weeks that followed. Then the six disappeared, and their partial remains were recovered from sites across Japan, at the depths and in the places the manuscript specified. Azoth was never found. The case went unsolved for forty years.

Who Is Who

- **Heikichi Umezawa** — the painter, dead in his locked studio, apparent author of the manuscript
- **Masako** — his wife, principal suspect for most of the case's history, died in prison in 1960
- **The six** — his daughters Tokiko and Yukiko, stepdaughters Akiko and Tomoko, nieces Reiko and Nobuyo
- **Kazue** — one of the Umezawa women, killed between Heikichi's death and the disappearance of the six
- **The hoisted-bed theory** — the explanation that held for forty years, that the skylight glass was removed and the bed hauled up on ropes. Part 2 kills it.

Part 1 The Initial Conditions of the Locked Room

Before asking how the culprit got in and out, we have to know what openings this building has. "Locked room" is not a magic word. It is a list of openings, each closed off in turn. Work through the list incompletely and there is no way to tell which openings were genuinely closed and which were only assumed to be.

1.1 How Is This Building a Locked Room?

Premise 1 : Heikichi lived and died in a studio converted from a warehouse, on the grounds of the Umezawa house in Meguro.

Premise 2 : During the conversion the second floor was demolished, leaving one open space with a ceiling roughly 15 metres high.

Conclusion 1 : Demolishing the second floor left the roof skylight suspended 15 metres above the building's only floor. It had originally sat just above the second storey. That distance came from the conversion, not from the design. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 3 : Every window has iron bars set into the frame.

Premise 4 : The roof skylight is glass sealed into its frame with putty.

Premise 5 : There is one door.

Conclusion 2 : Three openings could pass a human body: door, windows, skylight. There is no fourth. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 3 : Windows leave the list at once. Bars set into the frame mean nothing passes through even if the window opens, and pulling bars out would leave the most detectable traces of the three. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 4 : Door and skylight remain, and they differ in kind. A mechanism closes the door. Distance closes the skylight. Defeating them takes two different sorts of method. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 5 : To defeat a mechanism you need a technique for releasing it from outside. To defeat distance you need equipment that spans it. Equipment must be carried and leaves traces. A release technique might need one length of string. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 6 : Most economically, then, the way in and out was the door. Yet forty years of mainstream theory settled on the skylight, which costs more on every dimension. Something has been pulling attention away from the door. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

1.2 The Door's Locking Mechanism, and Who Actually Saw It

Premise 6 : The door was bolted from the inside.

Premise 7 : A padlock was fastened on it as well.

Conclusion 7 : Bolt and padlock are not the same kind of object. A bolt slides along one axis. A padlock has to be hooked through a ring and pressed shut. Working them from outside differs enormously in difficulty. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 8 : Anything that slides along one axis is the classic target of the string trick. Loop a string round the bolt, pull from outside, draw the string back. Nothing more is needed. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 9 : A padlock does not slide. It has to be lifted and threaded, which is far harder at a distance with one string. If the padlock really was fastened, this room was sealed far beyond what the bolt alone could manage. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 8 : The padlock is not something police arrived and saw. It comes from the account of the person who found the body first.

Conclusion 10 : Of the two mechanisms making this a locked room, nobody ever verified the harder one. It sits in the case file because someone said it. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 11 : This locked room rests on neither iron nor wood. It rests on the credibility of one witness. Should that witness be the culprit, the whole thing collapses and there is no trick to find. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 12 : That cannot be used yet. Nothing so far makes the first discoverer the culprit. It becomes usable after Parts 3 and 4. For now, a pin marks the point as weak. [Deductive, Logical]

1.3 Snow as a Recording Medium

Here the case departs from the ordinary locked room. Normally a locked room ends at the walls. Snow makes the ground outside part of the room as well.

Premise 9 : That night brought the heaviest snowfall in thirty years in Tokyo.

Premise 10 : Snow began in the afternoon and stopped around 11:30 p.m.

Conclusion 13 : Open ground under snow is a recording surface. Step on it and you leave a mark. There is no way to walk without leaving one. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 14 : Anyone who came to the studio that night therefore left footprints. None is impossible. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 15 : This recording surface erases itself. While snow keeps falling, any mark is covered within a short time. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 16 : Two time zones with entirely different rules divide that night. Before 11:30, marks are erased. After 11:30, marks last until morning. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 17 : Morning footprints record only the final half hour onward, not the whole night. Everything earlier was wiped. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 11 : Two sets of prints were found in the morning. Both outbound. No inbound prints remained.

Conclusion 18 : Both owners entered before 11:30, since the inbound prints were erased, and left after 11:30, since the outbound prints were not. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 19 : Their times on the grounds therefore overlap, which opens the possibility that the two met. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 20 : That possibility rests on an unproven assumption: that two sets of prints mean two people. The evidence says two kinds of shoe. It does not say two pairs of feet. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 21 : Between "two kinds of shoe" and "two people" lies the gap that breaks open in Part 3. Structurally it is the same gap as the one between "six sets of body parts" and "six people" in Part 16. This case runs the same trick twice, once small and once large. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 22 : Nobody can order the heaviest snowfall in thirty years. If the plan used snow as a component, that component was improvised on the spot. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 23 : Which conflicts with a case that otherwise looks meticulously prepared. Most economically, the master plan was laid in advance while the details of that night were improvised by someone present and good at deciding fast. [Abductive, Causal]

1.4 The Wound and the Failed Plan

Premise 12 : The fatal wound is at the back of the head.

Premise 13 : The manuscript believed to be Heikichi's hints that he intended to kill himself.

Premise 14 : The wallet was locked, and Heikichi locked it himself.

Conclusion 24 : A wallet the victim locked himself is no clue. It has one use. It shows this case file holds details that look suspicious and mean nothing, which is where many amateur detectives went astray. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 25 : A manuscript hinting at suicide beside a room locked from within points a reader toward suicide in a locked room. Someone arranged for it to read that way. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 26 : The wound at the back of the head makes that reading impossible. No one injures himself fatally there in this manner. The culprit's original plan failed. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 27 : Failed plans are worth more than successful ones. A successful plan tells you only what the culprit wanted seen. A failed one tells you what she actually intended, which she never meant to give. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 28 : Intending the death to read as suicide means knowing from the outset that the method must be one the victim could perform on himself. A blow to the back of the head is not that method. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 29 : Nobody strikes a victim on the back of the head and then stages a suicide. It would be obvious immediately. The head wound is therefore unlikely to be the direct act, and more likely a side effect of something that got out of control. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 30 : Falling and striking the ground is the loose event that most naturally produces a wound at the back of the head, and a 15-metre ceiling fits it. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 31 : Here the hoisted-bed theory is born, and here is why it convinces. It was not spun from nothing. It stands on Conclusion 30, which is not wrong. Wrong is the jump from "fall and impact" to "hoisted on four ropes" without working through the alternatives. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 32 : Part 2 must therefore do more than refute the theory. It must supply a replacement explanation of the fall. Refutation with nothing put in its place breaks the chain. [Deductive, Logical]

1.5 Sleeping Pills, and When Heikichi Would Let Someone Stay

Premise 15 : Heikichi had taken sleeping pills before death.

Premise 16 : He used them habitually and kept raising the dose.

Conclusion 33 : Habitual use makes their presence unremarkable. Meaning attaches to the timing of the dose, not to the drug. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 34 : No signs of forced administration appear. He took them himself. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 35 : Two possibilities split from there. He took them alone and someone entered afterwards, or he took them while someone was already in the room. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 36 : Take the first. If he was already asleep, whoever entered got in unaided, with nobody to open the door. That person held a key or already knew how to get in. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 37 : Take the second. People do not swallow sleeping pills in front of someone they distrust. Doing so surrenders your own consciousness in another's presence, one of the heaviest concessions there is. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 38 : Both paths land in the same place. Whoever was present was unusually close to Heikichi, close enough to hold a key or close enough that he could fall asleep in front of them. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 39 : Which is more powerful than it looks. Strangers and outsiders are cut from the case before the investigation begins. Yet forty years of mainstream theory ends at an outsider, in direct contradiction. [Logical, Deductive]

1.6 The Scissors and the Goatee

Smallest point in Part 1, and the most productive. It is the only one proving a third party without any interpretation at all.

Premise 17 : Heikichi used scissors to trim his goatee shorter before he died.

Premise 18 : No scissors were in the studio.

Conclusion 40 : An object used in a room but absent from it came in and went out. Objects do not walk. Someone carried it both ways. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 41 : A third party was therefore present. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 42 : That person left after the scissors were used, which places them in the final stretch of Heikichi's life. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 43 : Taking the scissors away as well means cleaning up before leaving. That is what someone does knowing they are leaving a crime scene, not what a visitor does going home. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 44 : Why the beard had to go, Part 1 cannot say. Record that the goatee was Heikichi's most distinctive identifying mark, so removing it bears directly on identification of the body. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 45 : Here is the root of the whole brother-substitution theory in Part 5. No evidence of substitution produced that theory. The gap left by the beard-cutting did. The best decoy is not a false object inserted. It is a real one removed, with people left to fill the blank themselves. [Abstract, Cognitive]

1.7 The Window of Death, and a Structural Contradiction

Premise 19 : Approximate time of death is midnight.

Conclusion 46 : With the time the snow stopped, the window in which Heikichi was killed is roughly one hour straddling midnight. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 47 : That window sits inside the second time zone of Conclusion 16, where footprints last. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 48 : Could the culprit choose her hour? If she chose the hour at which footprints would survive, the footprints left behind are meant to be seen. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 49 : A full contradiction arises here, because locked room and footprints send opposite messages. The locked room says nobody entered or left. The footprints say two people came. One culprit made two mutually refuting things at one scene. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 50 : Two explanations fit. She erred, or there is no real contradiction and we have misread two sets of prints as two people. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 51 : Take the second and the two become compatible at once. One person went in, one person came out, two kinds of print behind. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 52 : The real puzzle of that night is therefore not how anyone escaped a locked room. It is why there had to be two sets of footprints. One is mechanical, the other is a puzzle of intent, and the country never asked the second in forty years because everyone was stuck on the first. [Abstract, Cognitive]

1.8 The Context of the Morning of the 26th

This section explains why evidence that ought to exist does not, a question Part 2 runs into.

Premise 20 : The body was discovered on the morning of 26 February 1936.

Premise 21 : That same morning, young army officers staged a revolt in Tokyo, in heavy snow.

Conclusion 53 : Police manpower, press manpower, and the attention of an entire city went to one event that day. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 54 : Day one is the most valuable day of any investigation. It is the only day the scene remains close to its original state, and it matters most where the evidence is snow. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 55 : Inspecting the roof, the marks in the snow, and any sign the glass had been moved all belonged to the 26th. None was done. Afterwards none could be. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 56 : Which explains why the skylight dispute in Part 2 can never be settled. Not because the evidence conflicts. Because it was never collected. Inside that gap the hoisted-bed theory has lived for forty years. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 57 : Nobody could have predicted the revolt. That night's single largest advantage was luck, not skill. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 58 : Record this for Part 18. Assessing the quality of the plan means separating what survived by design from what survived because circumstances obliged, and the night of the 25th to the 26th carried a thirty-year snowfall and a military revolt in one night. Two layers of luck. [Systematic, Cognitive]

1.9 What Part 1 Can and Cannot Answer

Answered

- Door and skylight are the only ways in and out, and the door is cheaper on every dimension.
- A third party was certainly present, proved by the scissors.
- That person was unusually close to Heikichi, proved by the sleeping pills.

- The culprit meant to stage a suicide, and that plan failed.
- The act falls in the zone where footprints survive, which may have been chosen.
- The padlock rests on the word of one witness.

Still unanswered

- What caused the wound to the back of the head, if not the hoisted bed?
- Why did there have to be two sets of footprints?
- Why did the beard have to go?
- How was the door locked from outside?
- Who is the third party?

Parts 2 through 4 answer the first four. The last cannot really be answered until Part 16, because it is not a question about which person on the list did it. It is a question about whether the list is correct.

Most steps added here are not new facts. They are intermediate steps the original account skipped. The original goes from "heavy snowfall" to "there must be footprints" in one move, when between them sits the fact that snow erases its own marks, on which the whole of Part 3 depends.

Two additions are genuinely new. Section 1.2 notes that the padlock comes from testimony rather than verification. Section 1.8 supplies the events of the morning of the 26th. Both close questions the original left hanging.

Part 2 The Hoisted-Bed Theory and Its Refutation

2.1 What Problem Was This Theory Invented to Solve?

Part 1 left one problem open. Conclusion 32 requires an explanation of the wound to the back of the head. The hoisted-bed theory is the world's first answer to that problem, and it lasted forty years. Before looking at where it goes wrong we should see where it goes right, because nobody threw it together carelessly.

Premise 22 : Heikichi's bed had casters.

Premise 23 : The bed sat at an angle to the wall rather than parallel to it.

Premise 24 : The body lay on the bed with one foot hanging over the side.

Premise 25 : The ceiling is roughly 15 metres high.

Conclusion 59 : A bed not parallel to the wall is an anomaly. Anyone who sleeps in a bed habitually puts it flush at a convenient angle. Skewed means some force acted on it after it was positioned. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 60 : Casters make that anomaly easy to explain. Wheeled objects shift under light force, so the force need not have been large. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 61 : A foot hanging over the side is not a posture anyone arranged. People asleep rarely end up that way, and nobody arranging a body to look asleep would arrange it so. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 62 : Three facts together: the bed can roll, the bed did roll, the posture is unnatural. What assembles is a bed that once moved violently enough to throw the body off position. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 63 : Set that beside the 15-metre ceiling and the head wound, and thought flows vertical rather than horizontal. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 64 : Hence the theory. The culprit removed the skylight glass, lowered four hooked ropes onto the four corners of the bed, and hauled it up toward the skylight to stage something. The bed lost balance and tipped. Heikichi went headfirst to the floor from 15 metres. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 65 : Unusual strength lies in explaining four things with one event: the head wound, the skewed bed, the wrong posture, and the door still locked. Theories that account for several things through one mechanism feel correct, because they are economical. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 66 : Economy of explanation is one thing. Economy of execution is another. This theory is extremely economical as an explanation and extremely expensive as an operation. First fracture. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.2 The Theory Broken Into Sub-Claims

People discuss the theory as a single block. It is several claims bundled together, and it holds only if every one holds. Laying them out separately is a necessary step.

Conclusion 67 : Seven claims at least. The skylight glass could be removed. Someone could get onto the roof. Four ropes could be lowered to land exactly at the bed's corners. The hooks could catch those corners with nobody below to hook them on. The weight of bed plus man could be hauled up by the manpower on the roof. This hauling had a coherent purpose. And everything could be restored afterwards. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 68 : Claim four is the one nobody discusses and mechanically the heaviest. Hooks dangling from 15 metres swing. Catching four bed corners while controlling them from the roof is all but impossible without someone below. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 69 : Someone below has to be in the room while the bed rises, and has to leave afterwards. The locked-room problem stays fully intact. This theory does not solve the locked room. It relocates it to a different person. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 70 : Gravest structural defect of all. A good locked-room theory explains how a person got out of the room. This one requires one more person inside it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 71 : Claim seven is no lighter. After the bed fell and the man died, the culprit had to haul the bed back up, release four hooks, draw up the ropes, refit the glass, re-putty it, and climb down. In darkness, on a wet roof, on a night when the snow had only just stopped. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 72 : All of it inside the one-hour window fixed by Conclusion 46, which is a very narrow frame for that volume of work. [Deductive, Logical]

2.3 The Manpower Cost

Conclusion 73 : Five people minimum. Four hauling ropes on the roof, one managing things below. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 74 : Five is not merely a number. It squeezes the suspect list at once, because the case then needs a group of five in agreement about killing a man. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 75 : Exactly one group of five in the world could reach the studio that night unsuspected: the Umezawa household. This theory forces the culprit inside the house, automatically. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 76 : Which sounds like a strength, since it names names. It is where the theory hangs itself, as section 2.8 will show. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 77 : More people, more leakage. A killing with five accomplices where nobody speaks for forty years is extremely unlikely. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 78 : It also conflicts with every case that follows. Kazue and Azoth both bear clear marks of a single operator. If the first night took five people and the later cases took one, where did the other four go? [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 79 : Only one explanation makes it fit. The other four were killed to be silenced, which coincides neatly with five young women dying the following month. This is why the hoisted-bed theory and the Masako theory have walked together for forty years. Each needs the other to stand. [Abductive, Causal]

2.4 The Anonymous Letter

Premise 26 : Police took about a month to reach this theory, and got it from an anonymous letter rather than from their own investigation.

Conclusion 80 : Police did not think of it themselves, which says something about the quality of investigation in that era. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 81 : Too shallow. Ask instead who sent it, because whoever worked this out knew three things at once: that the bed had casters, how high the ceiling was, and where the skylight sat. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 82 : No newspaper reader knows those three. That is the knowledge of someone who had been inside the studio. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 83 : Three kinds of sender fit. A household member or intimate who had been in the studio. An officer on the case unwilling to advance an opinion under his own name. Or the culprit. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 84 : An officer explains the letter and not the anonymity. Proposing the theory under his own name would gain him something, not cost him. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 85 : An intimate explains the anonymity, since nobody wants their name on an accusation against the family. But that group had all been interviewed already. Writing a letter instead of speaking during questioning is odd. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 86 : The culprit explains everything. The anonymity, the accuracy, and the timing just as the case went quiet. It also fits the pattern she uses throughout: feed people a wrong but plausible explanation to follow. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 87 : This cannot be settled here, since no evidence supports it. What can be settled is that the foundation an entire country used for forty years originates in a document of unknown authorship, and nobody ever questioned that origin. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.5 The Stone Thrown at the Roof

Premise 27 : Days before the killing, someone threw a stone at the studio roof and cracked the skylight glass.

Premise 28 : Heikichi replaced the glass, with fresh putty.

Conclusion 88 : New glass makes traces of removal undetectable. Everything is new. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 89 : So a minor incident days beforehand erased precisely the ability to verify the single most important point in the case. As coincidences go, that timing is too expensive to be one. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 90 : No child threw that stone. The culprit did, to create this condition in advance. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 91 : Which leaves a problem untouched. Throwing a stone so the glass gets replaced means she really did plan to use the skylight, and the hoisted-bed theory becomes correct again. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 92 : Two ways out. A child really did throw it and the timing is coincidence. Or the culprit threw it, not to use the skylight but to make others think the skylight had been used. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 93 : Take the second, which fits everything known about this culprit. Her pattern is manufacturing things that point the wrong way and check out as accurate. Metals in the bodies match the manuscript item for item. The mean longitude of the mines comes out exactly right. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 94 : That stone is then the first decoy of the case, placed before the first body existed. Planting decoys was not something she did afterwards. It was the first thing she did. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.6 Snow on the Glass, Light in the Room

Premise 29 : On the 26th, after heavy snowfall, snow must have lain on the roof.

Conclusion 95 : A ladder up to the roof that day should have found footprints, handprints, or traces of the glass being shifted. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 96 : Conclusion 55 already established that nobody went up on the 26th, because police manpower went to the revolt. Conditions for refuting this theory with physical evidence were destroyed on day one. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 30 : Snow piled on the skylight would reduce the light entering, leaving the room dark.

Conclusion 97 : Had the glass been removed that night, snow could not have accumulated on it, and the room would have been unusually bright the following morning. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 31 : No record exists of the room being unusually bright when the body was found.

Conclusion 98 : Absence of a record is not absence of the event. Nobody writes down the light level in a room, because nobody that morning knew it would become evidence. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 99 : Worst category of evidence there is: evidence resting on the memory of people who did not know they were witnesses. It can neither confirm nor refute. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 100 : A meticulous culprit would also have to refit the glass and pile the snow back to match. Puttying glass on a wet roof at night is not easy, which gives the theory a practical problem. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 101 : Packing snow back convincingly in darkness is nearly impossible, for the same reason given above. Snow placed by hand has a different texture from snow that fell. Anyone going up in the morning would see it instantly. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 102 : True physical status of the theory: very hard, not proven impossible, and now unprovable either way since the evidence is gone. If this theory is to die, something other than physics must kill it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.7 The Ladder, and Untestable Evidence

Premise 32 : A ladder leaned against the side of the Umezawa house, with no sign of having been moved and dust settled on it.

Premise 33 : Police searched the house more than a month after the killing.

Conclusion 103 : A month later, a used ladder and an unused ladder look the same. This evidence confirms and refutes nothing. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 104 : Dust does not mean the ladder went unused. It means unused during the past month or so, which is a different period from the night in question. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 105 : Put together Conclusion 88 on the new glass, 96 on the uninspected roof, 99 on the unrecorded light, and 103 on the ladder. Every piece of physical evidence capable of deciding this theory was made unusable. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 106 : Four different reasons disabled them: replaced, neglected, never recorded, expired. That variety means this came from the culprit plus coincidence plus institutional sloppiness, not from the plan alone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 107 : Here is the real explanation of a forty-year survival. Not that the theory was too good to refute. That nothing was left to refute it with. Untestable theories do not die on their own. Reasoning has to kill them. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.8 Where the Refutation Lands: Motive, Not Physics

This section is the heart of Part 2, and where Mitarai differs from everyone before him. Others asked whether the thing could be done. He asks what it would have been done for.

Premise 34 : The theory requires five household members to conspire.

Conclusion 108 : Staging a locked room deceives people who are not in on it. With nobody needing deception, a locked room is useless. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 109 : If the household are all conspiring as the theory requires, no third party in the house needs deceiving. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 110 : With nobody to deceive, hoisting a bed and contriving a locked room buys nothing. Agreeing on a consistent story would have ended it. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 111 : Stronger than it looks. Matching testimony from five people is the most robust alibi a murder case of that era could produce. A group holding that and still building a locked room trades something solid for something risky and gets nothing back. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 112 : Hoisting the bed also means going onto the roof on a night when the snow has just stopped, leaving extra traces for no reason. People with matching testimony have no cause to walk about on snow. [Logical, Deductive]

Premise 35 : If Masako and the young women really did kill Heikichi together that night, they had no reason at that point to kill one another for silence.

Conclusion 113 : Why then would they change their minds a month later and do exactly that? The logic contradicts itself. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 114 : Consider the rescues. First, one of the five changed her mind and the other four were silenced. Then she has to kill the four people most alert to her, which is far harder than killing people who know nothing. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 115 : Second, an outsider learned of it and applied blackmail until they turned on each other. Such a person would not have stayed silent for forty years after all the targets were dead. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 116 : Third, the killings a month later are a separate case. Accepting that requires two unrelated culprits striking the same family one month apart, which is too expensive. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 117 : Three dead ends. The contradiction at Conclusion 113 cannot be rescued. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 118 : The hoisted-bed theory is refuted. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 119 : How it died matters as much as that it died. Not proven impossible, since the evidence for that vanished on the 26th. It died because nobody had a reason to do it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 120 : Where physical evidence is destroyed past testing, motive analysis is the instrument that remains, and it works without a single physical item. Which is why a case frozen for forty years can still be solved. [Abstract, Cognitive]

2.9 The Theory as an Attention Sink

Conclusion 121 : Conclusion 6 guessed with no information that the door should be the way in and out, being cheaper on every dimension. Forty years of mainstream theory landed on the skylight. Now that is explicable. The hoisted-bed theory carried attention up to the roof and pinned it there. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 122 : Worst side effect: while people believe the way out was the skylight, nobody returns to the door, and while nobody looks at the door, the string-and-bolt trick never gets considered. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 123 : Same function Azoth performs in Part 16. A story vivid and strange enough to pull attention off a plain question that would break the case if answered. Only the scale differs. Azoth closes off how many bodies there were. This closes off how the door was locked. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 124 : Both share a property. Better solvers are caught harder, because able people are drawn to the harder problem, and hoisting a bed 15 metres on four ropes is far harder and more entertaining than pulling a bolt with a string. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 125 : None of this proves the theory was released deliberately. It does make Conclusion 86 about the letter's sender far more interesting, because designing something this absorbent requires making it plausible enough for police to adopt, and the person best placed to do that is the one who knows the studio best. [Inductive, Logical]

2.10 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 2

Answered, in addition to Part 1

- The hoisted-bed theory is dead, killed on motive rather than physics.
- The culprit acted alone. The group option went with the theory.
- Every piece of physical evidence around the skylight is permanently unusable.
- The first decoy was placed before the first body existed.
- Someone who knew the studio well may have fed a false explanation into the system.

Still unanswered, and heavier than before

- What caused the wound to the back of the head? Worse than in Part 1, since the only explanation that existed has just been discarded.
- Why was the bed skewed, if not hoisted?

- How was the door locked from outside?
- Why did there have to be two sets of footprints?

Part 3 Eliminating All Six Footprint Hypotheses

Longer than Parts 1 and 2 combined, because it is the spine of the solution, and it is the only part the original account already walks through completely. The expansion here does not supply missing steps. It opens up why elimination of this kind works at all.

3.1 Why the Footprints Are Harder Than the Locked Room

Premise 36 : Two sets of shoe prints lay in the snow.

Premise 37 : Women's prints came first, men's prints overlaid afterwards.

Premise 38 : Inbound prints of both sets are gone, covered by snow.

Conclusion 126 : Both arrived before the snow stopped, so they may have met face to face in the studio. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 127 : Notice the smuggled step. That conclusion says "both" as though two people already existed, when the evidence gives only two kinds of shoe. Shoes to people is an assumption, and it is the one Conclusion 20 pinned. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 128 : Locked room and footprints demand different kinds of answer. How was something possible can be answered by producing one technique. Why are things this way cannot. Only intent answers it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 129 : Questions of intent have no single self-evident answer. You get the answer by eliminating the others. Elimination is the only method available here, and elimination is trustworthy only if the list is complete. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 130 : So the first job of Part 3 is not eliminating hypotheses. It is proving the list of hypotheses is exhaustive. Skip that and nothing follows even if every elimination is correct, because a seventh option may never have reached the table. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.2 Constructing the Complete Hypothesis Space

Where do these six come from, and why only six?

Conclusion 131 : One question halves the space. Do the two sets come from two pairs of feet or from one pair that changed shoes? There is no third option. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 132 : Within the two-people half, ask which is the culprit. Four answers: neither, the woman, the man, or both. Nothing else is possible. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 133 : Within the one-person half, ask which shoes were that person's own. Two answers: women's or men's. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 134 : Four plus two makes six, covering the space without overlap. The list is genuinely exhaustive rather than a list of what came to mind. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 135 : Important observation. Hypotheses 1 through 4 all sit in the half that accepts two real people. Should all four die, what dies is not four hypotheses but an entire half, which refutes the assumption that two sets of prints mean two people. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 136 : And that is the most valuable thing in this part. Not who did it. Rather, a foundational assumption everyone treated as needing no proof gets dragged out, tested, and found false. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.3 Hypothesis 1, and the Principle of the Missing Witness

Hypothesis 1: the culprit is a third person who struck at one minute past eleven and fled, whose prints the remaining twenty-nine minutes of snowfall erased, leaving two sets belonging purely to witnesses.

Premise 39 : On this account, the owners of both sets were present and saw what happened.

Premise 40 : In forty years no witness has come forward.

Conclusion 137 : Before eliminating we have to establish why the witnesses could not stay silent. If they could, the hypothesis survives. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 138 : Three reasons keep people silent. Fear of being suspected, something private to conceal, and intimidation. All three explain silence over a short span. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 139 : None explains forty years, because conditions that compel silence have a lifespan. The fifteen-year limitation on murder expired in 1951. The principal suspect died in prison in 1960. Everyone in the household is dead. A private matter concealed in 1936 becomes trivial once all the parties are gone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 140 : A witness need not reveal themselves in order to speak. Part 2 proved an anonymous channel exists and works in this very case, since the hoisted-bed theory arrived by anonymous letter. Anyone who witnessed the events and wanted the truth out had the instrument in hand and did not use it. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 141 : National news and a shelf of books raise the incentive to speak over time rather than lowering it. Silence lengthening while the incentive to break it grows is a condition real witnesses cannot explain. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 142 : Hypothesis 1 is eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 143 : What this yields is not one hypothesis removed but a reusable instrument, call it the principle of the missing witness. Any hypothesis entailing an innocent person who saw the events must explain forty years of silence. Failing that, eliminate it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 144 : Its power lies in needing no new evidence. It operates on what does not exist, the one class of information time cannot destroy, unlike marks on a roof or dust on a ladder, which are entirely gone per Conclusion 105. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.4 Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis 2: the model who owns the women's prints is the culprit, and the owner of the men's prints is another real person.

Conclusion 145 : Three situations are available to the man. He saw what happened, he arrived afterwards and saw the body, or he came and went seeing nothing. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 146 : The third fails. He walked right up to the studio. Those prints do not record someone who reached the gate and turned back. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 147 : First or second, then, and both make him a witness. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 148 : By the principle of the missing witness, hypothesis 2 is eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 149 : One caution. This does not eliminate the model as culprit. Only the version where a real man is also present. She returns under hypothesis 5. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 150 : Hypotheses 2 and 5 therefore differ not in who the culprit is but in whether the men's prints are genuine or manufactured. Which matters, because the final answer sits one claim away from a hypothesis eliminated at the outset. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.5 Hypothesis 3

Hypothesis 3: the owner of the men's prints is the culprit, and the model is another real person.

Conclusion 151 : The model becomes a witness, and no witness appeared. Eliminated by the same principle. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 152 : A further problem, unrelated to witnesses. Order of the prints. Women's first, men's laid over them, so the woman left the grounds first. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 153 : A male culprit waiting for her to go knew a woman was in the studio and chose not to be seen by her. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 154 : Someone that careful would be careful about his own prints too, and easy options existed. Wait for more snow, or walk in her tracks. Laying a fresh set on a night when the snow was about to stop contradicts the caution of the step before it. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 155 : Internal inconsistency of this kind marks a scenario assembled from outside to fit the evidence, rather than something a real person would do. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.6 Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis 4: the two conspired and are joint culprits.

Conclusion 156 : This one survives the principle of the missing witness. With both as culprits, no innocent party is obliged to stay silent. A different instrument is needed. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 41 : Heikichi took sleeping pills before he died.

Conclusion 157 : With two people in the room, how did he swallow them comfortably? And if forced, why bother with force when two of them were already there? [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 158 : Conclusion 38 concluded that whoever was present had to be unusually close to Heikichi. Two people means both are, which narrows the condition by a further factor. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 159 : Having two people that close to him on the same night, both agreed on killing him, is a heavier requirement than any other hypothesis carries. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 42 : The Kazue case and the Azoth case bear strong marks of a single operator.

Conclusion 160 : Where did the second culprit go? Two options. Killed to be silenced, or withdrew. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 161 : Killed to be silenced runs straight back into Conclusion 113, which already cut that logic away. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 162 : Withdrawing is worse. Someone who walks away partway through knows the secret and is bound by nothing, the most dangerous possible status for the remaining culprit, and it always ends in leaks. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 163 : Two culprits also raise the chance of error considerably, and remove any need to drag Takekoshi in to move the bodies, since two workers already existed. Hypothesis 4 is eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 164 : Note what kills it. The Takekoshi point does not say two people could not have done it. It says that with two, what actually happened next would have had no reason to happen. Refutation by surplus, not by deficit. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.7 Hypothesis 5, and the Debt It Leaves

Hypothesis 5: one real person, a woman, who manufactured the men's prints herself.

Premise 43 : Snow began around two in the afternoon.

Premise 44 : Her inbound prints were covered, so she entered before the snow stopped.

Conclusion 165 : To have her inbound prints completely covered she must have entered early in the snowfall, not late. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 166 : Which means before anyone could know that night would bring the heaviest snow in thirty years. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 167 : Men's shoes could not have come from home in advance, then. When she left home, no reason yet existed for a plan requiring them. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 168 : The two-set footprint plan was improvised on site, confirming Conclusion 23. Master plan in advance, details of the night improvised. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 169 : Improvising means finding the men's shoes at the scene, and the studio already held a pair. Heikichi's own. [Abductive, Causal]

Premise 45 : Heikichi owned two pairs of shoes.

Premise 46 : After the killing, both pairs were in the room, in order.

Conclusion 170 : Borrowing his shoes raises the problem of returning them to a locked room, and here is where forty years of thinking eliminated this hypothesis. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 171 : Observe that no missing witness eliminated it, and no internal contradiction. One mechanical obstacle did, which is a different manner of death from hypotheses 1 through 4. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 172 : That difference matters enormously. Death by internal contradiction is permanent. Death by obstacle reverses the moment a way past the obstacle appears. An obstacle is not a refutation. It is an unpaid debt. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 173 : Nobody drew that distinction in forty years. Everyone tipped hypothesis 5 into the same bin as the other five and marked it eliminated, though it died of an entirely different cause. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.8 Hypothesis 6

Hypothesis 6: one real person, a man, who manufactured the women's prints to frame someone.

Premise 47 : Arriving some time after the snow began, he could perfectly well have brought women's shoes with him.

Conclusion 174 : No problem of predicting the snow here, since he saw it first and then left home. On this point hypothesis 6 has the advantage. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 175 : Nor any problem returning shoes to a locked room. He brought the women's shoes and can take them away. Nothing has to be returned to anyone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 176 : Mechanically, hypothesis 6 beats hypothesis 5 on every dimension. Judged by physical possibility alone, this one wins. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 177 : To frame someone, the women's prints alone suffice. Adding his own men's prints only makes him more suspect. No rationale supports it. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 178 : Work through the repairs. He left the men's prints unintentionally? Someone meticulous enough to carry women's shoes does not forget his own tracks. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 179 : The men's prints belonged to a second person he also wanted framed? Framing two at once leads police to two conspiring culprits, a picture that protects him less. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 180 : He meant only to create confusion? Confusion is not worth the risk of an extra set of tracks. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 48 : No man exists in front of whom Heikichi would have taken sleeping pills without caution.

Conclusion 181 : Hypothesis 6 hits the same sleeping-pill problem as hypothesis 4 and has no rationale for two sets of prints. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 182 : Interesting result. Hypothesis 6 dies of internal contradiction while hypothesis 5 dies of an obstacle, though the sixth is physically stronger. Clearest illustration that analysis of intent returns the opposite verdict from analysis of possibility. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.9 Assembling the Six Results

Each elimination does more than remove something. It leaves a condition behind, and the conditions can be assembled.

Conclusion 183 : From hypothesis 1: at least one of the two sets belongs to the culprit. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 184 : From hypothesis 4: the culprit acted alone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 185 : From hypotheses 2 and 3: no meeting took place, so one set must be a deliberately manufactured fake. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 186 : Assembled, a very tight condition. One person present, that person the culprit, and that person deliberately created an additional set of prints. The two-person half dies entirely, exactly as Conclusion 135 predicted. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 187 : Worth pausing here. All of this came without knowing the culprit, without a motive, and without one new physical item. It came from handling things that do not exist. A witness who never appeared, and a reason that never existed. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 188 : Hypotheses 5 and 6 remain, and 6 is dead of internal contradiction. Hypothesis 5 is the only answer left. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 189 : Conclusion 172 established that hypothesis 5 died of a debt rather than a contradiction. Returning to it is not straining against evidence. It is taking on that debt to pay it. [Deductive, Logical]

3.10 Turning the Obstacle Into the Key

Conclusion 190 : The reason once used to eliminate hypothesis 5, that shoes could not be returned to a locked room, is the key to the answer rather than an obstacle to it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 191 : The reversal is direct. Once hypothesis 5 is the only answer, its obstacle stops being grounds for rejection and becomes a condition the answer must satisfy, since the true answer really did get past it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 192 : Who can return shoes to a locked room? Only one type of person. Someone able to come back to that house the next morning without arousing suspicion, because the room would certainly be opened when someone went to find the body. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 193 : This obstacle does more than show the answer possible. It identifies the culprit. She is a member of the household, not an outsider. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 194 : Which collides head-on with forty years of mainstream conclusion, and confirms Conclusion 39, which reached the same point by a different route through the sleeping pills. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 195 : Two unrelated routes, one from sleeping pills and one from shoes needing return, converging on a culprit inside the household. Cross-route confirmation, far stronger than a single longer route. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 196 : When elimination leaves one path, do not discard the reason once used to eliminate it. Read it again as a specification of the answer. What looked like a wall is usually the thing forcing the answer into its most specific shape. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.11 Properties of the Answer Obtained

Conclusion 197 : Five properties describe the culprit, still without a name. A woman. Acting alone. Close enough that Heikichi could sleep in her presence. Able to return to the house the next morning unsuspected. Familiar enough with the studio to know where his shoes were. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 198 : Assembled, extremely narrow. Not an open suspect list but a description only a handful of people in the world could satisfy. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 199 : One mechanical question stays open. How did she produce two sets without leaving a third? Changing shoes and walking again normally leaves three, not two. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 200 : Part 4 must close that gap, and the answer will have to be a physical capability the ordinary person lacks, adding a sixth property to the list. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 201 : Closing observation. Nowhere in Part 3 is new physical evidence used. Everything runs on the same evidence that has sat on the table for forty years. What changed is not the data. What changed is the willingness to question an assumption everyone thought needed no questioning, the same pattern that recurs at far larger scale in Part 16. [Abstract, Cognitive]

3.12 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 3

Newly answered

- Two sets of prints come from one person.
- The culprit is a woman, acting alone, and a member of the household.
- The men's prints are fakes made with Heikichi's own shoes.
- That night's plan was improvised on site, not prepared beforehand.
- Two instruments obtained: the principle of the missing witness, and reading an obstacle as a specification of the answer.

Still unanswered

- How was the walking done so that only two sets remain?
- How was the door locked from outside?
- What caused the wound to the back of the head? Outstanding since Part 2.

- Why did the beard have to go? Outstanding since Part 1.
- Who is she?

Part 4 The Identity of the Model, and the Mechanism That Actually Occurred

First part in which the chain changes mode. The three before it took things away. This one puts things together, and every debt outstanding since Part 1 begins to be paid.

4.1 The Model as a Meaningful Blank

Premise 49 : Heikichi painted using a model.

Premise 50 : In over forty years nobody has established who she was.

Conclusion 202 : Everything else has been dug up. Birthdates, blood types, star signs, travel schedules, hour-by-hour alibis. One name still blank is an anomaly, not a detail that slipped through. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 203 : An outsider hired in the ordinary way would have been found. Tokyo's modelling world was small then and this case was national news. Forty years of failure says she was not a hired outsider. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 204 : Two possibilities remain. She is dead, or she is still present and nobody thinks of her as the model because she is filed under a different category. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 205 : Painter and model is a relationship with a structural property no other has. Long stretches alone together, repeatedly, in an enclosed space, on a regular basis, with nobody treating it as unusual. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 206 : Model is therefore the role granting studio access at a level no other role grants, including entry at night without explaining oneself. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 51 : Heikichi was willing to take sleeping pills in this model's presence.

Conclusion 207 : She was close enough that he took no precautions around her at all. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 208 : Being that close, she knew everything in the studio, including where his shoes were kept. [Deductive, Logical]

4.2 Fusing the Two Descriptions

Part 3 ended with five properties and no name. Section 4.1 has built a second description, of the model. The two came by unrelated routes. Lay them over one another.

Conclusion 209 : Culprit's properties from Conclusion 197: a woman, acting alone, close enough that Heikichi could sleep in her presence, able to return the next morning, aware of where the shoes were. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 210 : The model's properties already cover three, five, and one automatically. Two and four remain uncovered. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 211 : Two descriptions built by unrelated routes share three of five necessary properties and contradict on none. Different people is very improbable, since it would need two women equally and unusually close to Heikichi, in the same studio, on the same night, one killing him while the other had nothing to do with it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 212 : With two women, the uninvolved one becomes a witness, and Conclusion 143 eliminates the scenario immediately. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 213 : That model is the culprit, and the person closest to Heikichi. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 214 : As a by-product, Conclusion 204 narrows to one branch. She is not dead. She is in another category, one that stops anyone thinking of her as still capable of doing anything. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 215 : What that category is remains unknown here. Record that the same pattern has already occurred once, when the forged manuscript moved Heikichi from suspect to victim. [Analogical, Abstract]

4.3 Yasue, and the Difference Between Wrong Option and Wrong Category

Premise 52 : Some have guessed the model was Yasue from the Medici shop.

Premise 53 : Yasue has an alibi and no motive.

Conclusion 216 : Yasue is eliminated. The link between the model and the women's prints remains correct. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 217 : Guesses like Yasue err not in the person but in looking for the model among outsiders, which searches the wrong category from the start. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 218 : Options inside that category kept being eliminated, and nobody went back to ask whether the category was right. Everyone simply looked for a new person inside the same one. Identical error pattern to the number of bodies in Part 16. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 219 : When every option in a category is eliminated one after another, doubt the category rather than the next option. [Abstract, Cognitive]

4.4 The Problem of the Third Outbound Track

Conclusion 199 left a mechanical question. One person, two sets of prints, why no third?

Conclusion 220 : Walking out in her own shoes and then again in Heikichi's means going back in to change, and going back in is a third leg leaving additional prints. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 221 : Five remedies are possible. Walk on something laid across the ground. Brush snow over the return tracks. Throw the shoes out ahead and walk once. Have someone else bring the shoes out. Or walk back in a manner leaving no new prints. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 222 : The first needs something long enough to span door to gate, a large object requiring stowage and leaving its own impression. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 223 : The second cannot be done convincingly in darkness, for the reason given at Conclusion 101. Hand-placed snow has a different texture, and a brushed patch would be more conspicuous than the footprints. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 224 : The third fails because the shoe change happens at the far end, not the near end. Throwing shoes to the gate still leaves her walking there in her own. Legs are not reduced. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 225 : The fourth contradicts Conclusion 184, which established she acted alone. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 226 : One remains, and its condition is a way of walking whose prints hide inside prints that already exist. Those prints must be significantly smaller than a shoe print. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 54 : Ballet dancers can walk on the tips of their toes over long distances with precise control.

Conclusion 227 : Toes give the smallest contact area the human body can produce, small enough to fall inside an existing shoe print. Exactly the condition of Conclusion 226. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 228 : A sixth property joins the list. She trained in ballet to the level of actually walking on point, not merely standing on it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 229 : Nothing new was seen to obtain it. Mechanical remedies were eliminated until one remained, the method of Part 3 with the object of elimination switched from intent to mechanism. [Abstract, Cognitive]

4.5 The Actual Sequence of Three Legs

Conclusion 230 : She walked out of the studio door in her own shoes as far as the gate. She walked back along the same tracks on her toes. She changed into Heikichi's shoes. She walked out over the same tracks again. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 231 : Result matches every item of evidence. Two sets of prints, women's beneath and men's above, both outbound, no inbound prints remaining. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 232 : Layering order is not a side effect. It is the message. Men's prints on top read as the man having left last, which places him closest to the time of death. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 233 : The whole trick therefore aims not at hiding herself but at pointing to a man who does not exist, and it accomplishes that without a single real man. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 234 : Which fits the pattern recurring in the Kazue case, where everything is arranged to look like a man's work though the person acting is a woman. That night's footprint trick is a miniature of the strategy used across the case. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 235 : Precision was required. She had to land in existing prints at every step, in darkness. Possible because she had made those prints herself minutes earlier and knew her own stride. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 236 : Very narrow window. After the snow completely stops, since falling snow would cover the prints and waste the effort, and before dawn. Precisely the window fixed by Conclusion 46. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 237 : So she had to wait inside the studio until the snow stopped. Waiting like that means watching the weather from inside, which is one practical reason she stayed a long time with the body. [Inductive, Logical]

4.6 The Door Bolt and the Single Piece of String

Premise 55 : Beneath the studio window lay an area of disturbed snow.

Conclusion 238 : The old reading made this a ladder position, but the ladder theory died with the hoisted-bed theory at Conclusion 118. The trace reverts to evidence without an explanation. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 239 : Disturbance over an area, rather than passage through it, means someone stood there a considerable time and moved about on the spot. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 240 : Standing a long time at the window of a locked room on the night of the killing has one reasonable purpose. Working on the locking mechanism from outside. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 241 : That trace is where she stood working the string on the door bolt, not where a ladder was propped as forty years of belief has it. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 242 : The locked-room problem is very simple. One piece of string looped round the bolt, pulled from outside, then drawn back. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 243 : Which confirms Conclusion 6, guessed with no information at all. One string and one person, against a defeated theory needing four ropes, five people, and dismantling glass on a roof. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 244 : When the true answer is this much more economical, the question is not why nobody worked it out. It is what kept people from looking at the door, and Conclusion 121 already holds the answer. [Abstract, Cognitive]

4.7 The Padlock, and the Debt from Part 1

Here the pin driven in at section 1.2 gets pulled out and used.

Conclusion 245 : String pulls a bolt per Conclusion 8 and cannot fasten a padlock per Conclusion 9. If the padlock really was fastened, Conclusion 242 is insufficient and a further mechanism is needed. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 246 : Conclusion 10 recorded that the padlock does not come from verification. It comes from the account of the first person to find the body. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 247 : Conclusion 12 said this becomes usable once the first discoverer is proven to be the culprit, which Parts 3 and 4 have now proven via the condition of returning the shoes. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 248 : The padlock may never have been fastened at all. That testimony is part of the mechanism rather than a fact the mechanism had to overcome. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 249 : This locked room has two components with statuses from entirely different worlds. A bolt, a real object defeated with real string. A padlock nobody ever saw, brought into being by one sentence. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 250 : Half the locked room a country spent forty years on never existed physically. It existed in the case file, and it got there because nobody asked who had seen it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 251 : Larger than the case, this point. Her most effective deception was not a mechanism. It was occupying the position of first-hand source for the case she herself created. [Abstract, Cognitive]

4.8 Returning the Shoes

Premise 56 : Both pairs of Heikichi's shoes were found in the room, in order, after the killing.

Premise 57 : She left the grounds wearing one of his pairs.

Conclusion 252 : Two options for that pair. Discard them, or return them. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 253 : Discarding leaves a man dead in a locked room with one pair of shoes missing, an anomaly leading to the one question that destroys the plan instantly. Did someone walk out wearing his shoes? [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 254 : Returning them is not excessive fastidiousness. The plan compels it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 255 : She had to come back the next morning and toss the shoes in through the window while pretending to peer inside, which makes her a household member able to return naturally. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 256 : Timing fits exactly, since that morning was the morning the body had to be found anyway. Peering into a locked room is unquestionable, and it is the only act that legitimately puts her hand at the window opening. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 257 : That window is also the one with the disturbed snow from Premise 55. Standing there in the morning supplies a safe explanation for the trace she left the night before. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 258 : One action, three functions. Returning the shoes, generating an explanation for the trace, and positioning herself as discoverer of the body. The same characteristic recurs in the Kazue case, where a single killing does three jobs. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 259 : Riskiest moment of the entire night, though. She walks into the house in daylight, in front of others, carrying the incriminating shoes. Anyone seeing her throw them ends everything. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

4.9 The Position of First Discoverer

Conclusion 260 : She discovered the body. She told police the padlock was fastened. Nobody verified it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 261 : Four advantages come with that position. A reason to be there. An opportunity to return the shoes. Status as the primary source everyone else cites. And control over how the story is told the first time. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 262 : Four is enough to conclude the position was chosen rather than stumbled into. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 263 : Which changes what a locked room is. The strongest one is not built from an elaborate mechanism. It is built from control over who describes it first, because the first account becomes the fact every later layer rests on. [Abstract, Cognitive]

4.10 The Debt of the Head Wound

Conclusion 32 set the condition that killing the hoisted-bed theory requires a replacement explanation. Part 2 killed it without supplying one. This section pays what the data allows.

Conclusion 264 : Five constraints now bind any explanation. A lone woman. A victim asleep on sleeping pills. An original intent that it read as suicide. A wound at the back of the head. A bed found shifted. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 265 : Casters per Premise 22 mean force at the level a lone woman produces is enough to shift or tip the bed. No ropes, no five people. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 266 : A man deeply asleep on a bed suddenly tipped falls with no protective reaction, and someone falling without one is far more likely to land on the back of the head than someone awake. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 267 : Four of five constraints are covered using only what was in the room, and the shifted bed is accounted for without the skylight. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 268 : Severity remains uncovered, since a fall from bed height should not invariably kill. The explanation is incomplete. Treat it as the best available hypothesis rather than a conclusion. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 269 : Whatever the final explanation, it has to be one a lone woman could carry out in that room with what was in that room, which eliminates every explanation requiring equipment from outside. [Deductive, Logical]

4.11 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 4

Debts paid

- The door was locked from outside with one string pulling the bolt. Outstanding since Part 1.
- No third outbound track exists, because the return leg was walked on point inside the existing prints. Outstanding since Part 3.
- The shoes were returned through the window the following morning. Outstanding since Part 3.

- The padlock was never verified and may never have existed. Outstanding since Part 1.
- The head wound has a partial explanation. Outstanding since Part 2.

The culprit's properties now number six

A woman. Acting alone. Close enough to be his model and to be present while he slept. Able to return to the house the next morning unsuspected. Familiar enough with the studio to know where the shoes were. And trained in ballet to the level of walking on point.

Conclusion 270 : Lay those six over the Umezawa household and the group satisfying the last condition is the young women, all of whom studied ballet. That group is counted as having died the following month. Part 4's explanation points at someone not alive. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 271 : A correct explanation pointing at someone already dead leaves two options. The explanation is wrong, or the list of the dead is wrong. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 272 : Forty years chose the first, and went back to looking for an outsider possessing none of these properties. Nobody took up the second, because it requires questioning something everyone treats as proven. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 273 : Pressure toward the second option starts building here, at Part 4, not at Part 16. Part 16 is merely where it breaks. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Still unanswered

- Why did the beard have to go? Outstanding since Part 1.
- Why was the wound severe enough to kill?
- Who is she?

Part 5 Refuting the Brother-Substitution Theory

This part does two things at once. It settles the debt on the beard, outstanding since Part 1, and it disposes of the second of the case's great theories. What it yields is not a new fact but an understanding of what trick the culprit is running.

5.1 What Was the Missing Beard Actually For?

Conclusions 44 and 45 recorded that the goatee was Heikichi's identifying mark, and that removing it opened the way to a substitution theory. This section asks whether that opening was made on purpose.

Premise 58 : Heikichi's body had no goatee.

Premise 59 : Two days earlier he had been seen wearing it.

Premise 60 : Conclusion 41 proved the scissors were brought in from outside and taken away again.

Conclusion 274 : So the cutting was not something Heikichi did on a whim on an ordinary evening. It happened on the night he died, with a tool someone else brought, and that tool left with them. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 275 : An object carried in for a single use and carried out again has a specific job in the plan. It is not something that happened to be lying there. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 276 : What job? If the aim was to prevent the body being identified, the cutting failed completely. The body was identified as Heikichi without difficulty, since the face was intact. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 277 : The aim was therefore something else. What the cutting actually achieved was to raise one question: why would a man about to die trim his beard? [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 278 : A question of that kind has a particular property. It does not block an investigation, it steers one, and the direction it steers in is the possibility that the body is not Heikichi. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 279 : Set this beside Conclusion 233, where the whole footprint trick was designed to point at a man who does not exist, and the same shape appears. Neither device hides the truth. Each manufactures a checkable falsehood for people to chase. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 280 : The cutting also carries its own fallback explanation, since a man preparing to die might well tidy himself first, which sits neatly beside a manuscript hinting at suicide. The best decoy is one that can be read two ways and leads nowhere useful either way. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.2 The Anatomy of the Substitution Theory

Premise 61 : Yoshio, Heikichi's younger brother, resembled him closely enough to pass for a twin.

Conclusion 281 : Hence the theory that the brothers were swapped: Heikichi is not dead, the body in the studio is Yoshio's, and Heikichi lives on under Yoshio's name. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 282 : The theory needs six sub-claims true at once. That the two faces are alike enough. That the body passed identification as Heikichi. That Heikichi could live as Yoshio undetected. That Fumiko either did not know or knew and consented. That the professional contacts Yoshio dealt with noticed nothing. And that some motive made all this worth the risk. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 283 : The claim everyone discusses is the first, because it is the only one with real evidence behind it. The other five are assumed outright. That ratio marks a theory built out from a single strong point. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 284 : More importantly, the theory does not require a swapped body. It requires a swapped life, since the survivor must occupy the other man's existence permanently rather than simply vanish. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 285 : Swapping a body means deceiving people who look once, in shock. Swapping a life means deceiving people who live with you daily, forever. These are different orders of difficulty, and in forty years nobody separated them. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.3 The Test at Close Range

Premise 62 : Yoshio returned from his Tōhoku trip on the night of 27 February and resumed ordinary life with his wife and daughter.

Conclusion 286 : A wife does not recognise her husband by his face. She recognises him by his voice, his walk, his smell, small habits, the way he picks things up, and old conversations no outsider could know. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 287 : So the resemblance, the theory's only strong point, becomes worthless the moment the person doing the checking is someone who has lived alongside him for years. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 288 : If a substitution had occurred, the wife would have seen it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 289 : If she did not see it, the only remaining explanation is that she knew and was an accomplice. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 290 : Notice what just happened. The theory was forced to add a conspirator to save itself, going from two people to three, exactly as the hoisted-bed theory had to expand from one to five at Conclusion 73. [Analogical, Abstract]

5.4 The Cost of Making Fumiko a Conspirator

Conclusion 291 : If Fumiko conspired, she consented to the killing of her own two daughters. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 292 : Worse. On this theory the body in the studio is Yoshio, her husband. So she consented to her husband's death as well, then spent the rest of her life with her brother-in-law wearing his name. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 293 : The theory therefore asks one woman to give up her husband and every child she has, and to accept substitutes. That is the surrender of everything a person can hold in family life. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 63 : The only thing Fumiko stood to gain was title to an apartment.

Conclusion 294 : Killing your own children for an apartment is killing the goose that lays golden eggs. No rational motive supports it. [Causal, Cognitive]

Conclusion 295 : The sequence makes it worse still. Heikichi died at the end of February, the young women at the end of March. A Fumiko who conspired from the first night knew for a month that her children were to be killed, and lived normally through it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 296 : And if she did not know in advance, she learned afterwards. She then becomes someone who knows everything and has nothing left to lose, which is the status that always ends in exposure, and the principle of the missing witness from Conclusion 143 disposes of it at once. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 64 : There was no suspect relationship between Heikichi and Fumiko.

Conclusion 297 : So not even a romantic motive is available to shore up a material motive that was already weak. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 298 : The brother-substitution theory is impossible. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

5.5 The Test at Longer Range

Premise 65 : Yoshio continued dealing with his publishers as usual after the events.

Conclusion 299 : Professional contacts detect something different from what a wife detects. She reads habits and intimacy. They read knowledge, skill, and a work history that has to be available on demand. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 300 : Heikichi was a painter, not a man who worked with publishers. Passing as Yoshio therefore required him to display a professional competence he did not have, in front of people whose job is to assess that competence. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 301 : The theory has to clear at least two independent detection screens, the domestic and the professional, and it fails both for different reasons. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 302 : The general rule: the more unrelated groups an impostor must deceive, the odds of surviving fall multiplicatively rather than additively, because each group is checking something different. [Deductive, Logical]

5.6 The Theory's Last Escape Route

Conclusion 303 : To maintain that Heikichi did not really die, the one route left is that Yoshio found a third man resembling Heikichi to die in his place. No evidence supports this. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 304 : The route makes the theory worse rather than better. It adds a man who must be found, a man who must go missing with nobody reporting it, and a man who must resemble Heikichi, which was already a rare condition for one person. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 305 : A theory that survives by adding people nobody has ever seen has stopped explaining and started absorbing objections. It can never be refuted and it can never prove anything either. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 306 : The test that separates the two: a good theory narrows when new information arrives, a bad one widens. The substitution theory widened every time it was pressed, from two people to three, from three to four. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.7 Where the Theory Really Came From

Conclusion 307 : The sole reason anyone built this theory is that Yoshio offered a weak alibi. Not because any evidence of substitution existed. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 308 : The actual sequence of thought ran backwards. Notice a suspicious alibi, then work out what that man could have done, then construct a story that uses him. That is reasoning from a suspect to a crime rather than from evidence to an answer. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 309 : Theories built backwards carry a signature. They fit the evidence well and fit human behaviour badly, the same signature found at Conclusion 155 when hypothesis 3 was eliminated in Part 3. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 310 : Put this together with the hoisted-bed theory arriving by anonymous letter at Conclusion 80. Neither of the case's first two great theories came from investigation at all. One came from a document of unknown authorship. The other came from guessing backwards off a weak alibi. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.8 Yoshio's Alibi

Premise 66 : Yoshio claimed to have been on an overnight express from the night of the 25th into the morning of the 26th.

Premise 67 : He spent the whole of the 26th walking the Tsugaru Strait area with a camera, meeting nobody he knew, with no hotel booked in advance.

Conclusion 311 : This is about as bad as an alibi can get. No person confirms it, no document confirms it, and the activities chosen are ones a man can do alone all day. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 312 : If he arrived on the night of the 26th rather than the morning, he could have killed Heikichi in Meguro and caught the early train from Ueno in time. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 313 : Everything turns on one question. Was he in Tsugaru on the 26th? No human being can confirm it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 314 : The film he shot on the 26th is therefore the only key to his entire alibi. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 315 : Photographs are a special class of evidence. They record place and season together, and the photographer cannot control all of it. Light, trees, snow, and terrain can all be read off the image. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 68 : If he really went to Tsugaru at that time, the images must carry the feel of early winter.

Premise 69 : He had no friend who could have gone to Tōhoku and photographed it for him in advance, and anyone who had would be an accessory to murder.

Conclusion 316 : So if Yoshio was going to cheat with the film, he had to do it himself. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 70 : Examination of the film showed it was shot the previous October, at his new house, not in Tsugaru.

Conclusion 317 : The alibi is not merely weak. It was fabricated by the man himself, which is an entirely different matter. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 318 : A fabricated alibi still does not prove him the culprit. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 319 : Lying about where you were establishes only that you were not where you said. It says nothing about where you actually were or what you were doing. The gap between those two is very wide. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 320 : A man of that age has many reasons to falsify his whereabouts that are not murder. An affair, debts, gambling, or simply somewhere he could not tell his wife. Each explains a faked film as well as murder does. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 321 : Catching someone in a lie is not the same as knowing what the lie was about. Part of why this case went wrong for forty years is that nobody kept the two apart. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.9 Why Yoshio Was Too Convenient a Target

Conclusion 322 : Yoshio happened to possess every property of an ideal suspect. The only adult man left in the family. A face like the dead man's. An alibi that collapsed on inspection. And something to gain from his brother's death. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 323 : Conclusions 233 and 279 established that the culprit designed everything to point at a man. But that design named no particular man. It merely cut a man-shaped hole. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 324 : What filled the hole was not the culprit. It was Yoshio, by lying about the film. Had he told the truth from the start, the hole would have stayed empty and the case might have run another way. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 325 : So part of the trick's success came not from the culprit's skill but from the accident that the family contained a man with something of his own to hide. That is the third layer of luck, after the thirty-year snowfall and the revolt at Conclusion 58. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 326 : Record this for the assessment in Part 18. A plan that leans on three separate strokes of luck within one sequence of events is not as strong as its outcome makes it look. [Systematic, Cognitive]

5.10 What This Theory Really Is

Conclusion 327 : The brother-substitution theory has this structure: a person is moved from the list of the living to the list of the dead while actually remaining alive. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 328 : Which is precisely the structure of what the culprit did. Only the person differs. She did not remove Heikichi from the list of the living. She removed herself. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 329 : The substitution theory is thus a counterfeit of the real trick. It states the correct answer about the wrong person. The country spent forty years arguing over Heikichi's fake disappearance while somebody else's real disappearance sat beside it, unexamined. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 330 : This is why refuting it matters more than refuting the hoisted-bed theory. That one merely absorbed attention. This one did something worse. It spent the correct idea on the wrong target, so that when the idea is raised again about the right person it sounds like an old theory already disproved. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 331 : The most expensive decoy in this case is therefore not the one pointing the wrong way. It is the one pointing the right way and then being refuted, because it burns the idea along with itself. [Abstract, Cognitive]

5.11 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 5

Debt paid

- The beard was cut to manufacture a question leading to the substitution theory, not to obstruct identification. Outstanding since Part 1.

Newly answered

- The brother-substitution theory is dead.
- Neither of the case's first two great theories came from real investigation.
- Yoshio did fabricate his alibi, but fabricating an alibi does not make him the culprit.
- The culprit cut a man-shaped hole. Yoshio filled it himself.
- The third layer of luck is on the record.

Still unanswered

- Why was the wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2, partly paid in Part 4.
- Who is she?

Part 6 The Kazue Case: The Weapon and the Real Scene

This part differs from the five before it. It leaves the original case entirely and moves to a new one, and this new case still has physical evidence in it. Nothing here was wiped out the way everything was on the night of the 25th.

6.1 Where This Case Sits Among the Others

Premise 71 : Kazue was killed in her own house at Kaminoge on 23 March, between roughly seven and nine in the evening.

Conclusion 332 : This falls about a month after Heikichi's death and about a week before the young women disappeared, placing it exactly between the two large events. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 333 : The first structural anomaly is that Kazue has no place in the Azoth plan at all. The manuscript names six young women and their zodiac signs. There is no slot for a married woman of thirty-one. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 334 : Her death is therefore surplus to the story the culprit herself constructed. In a plan this careful, surplus requires a very heavy reason, or it does not repay the risk. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 335 : The second difference is location. On the night of the 25th she worked inside her own house, where she controlled everything. Kaminoge is someone else's house. She controlled far less, and she had to travel there and back. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 336 : The third difference matters most. This case has no snow, no revolt, and nothing to erase evidence for her. Whatever remains in the Kaminoge house is evidence she had to handle herself. Every item found is the result of a decision, not of luck. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 337 : So this is the one case where the culprit's work can be read directly, with no outside variable mixed in. It is the case that shows what she was actually thinking. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.2 The Vase, and the Contradiction of Wiping Then Displaying

Premise 72 : The weapon was a glass vase from the house, its shape matching the wound exactly.

Premise 73 : The vase carried Kazue's blood, wiped with cloth or paper rather than washed.

Premise 74 : It was left in the next room, plainly visible, neither discarded nor hidden.

Conclusion 338 : The culprit had three options with the weapon. Remove it from the house, hide it in the house, or leave it in view. Each sends a different message. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 339 : Using a weapon already in the house says she brought none with her, which fits two possibilities. An unplanned act, or a planned act deliberately made to look unplanned. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 340 : If she wanted to destroy evidence, she should have taken the vase away. Wiping it and leaving it on display contradicts that. It reads as an announcement that this is the weapon. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 341 : The contradiction sharpens when you look at the method of wiping. Cloth does not remove all the blood. Washing does. If the goal was to remove blood, she had a better method available and did not use it. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 342 : So the wiping was not aimed at the blood, since the blood remained. Its target must be something else, something a cloth removes while leaving blood behind. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 343 : The police theory is that she wiped it for fear of clear fingerprints. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 344 : That explains the wiping and not the display. Anyone frightened enough of fingerprints to wipe should be frightened enough to remove the thing entirely. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 345 : A complete explanation has to cover both at once: why wipe, and why ensure it is found. Part 6 cannot answer that. Part 7 will. [Deductive, Logical]

6.3 Inferring Sex from Habit, and What That Inference Is Worth

Conclusion 346 : Wiping an object and putting it back where it belongs is a habit that suggests a woman. The culprit may be a woman. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 347 : The status of that conclusion has to be recorded accurately. It is an inference from a behavioural pattern resting on the social expectations of the period. It is not evidence. It carries the weight of an observation, not a proof. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 348 : Observations of this kind have two uses. As a direction for searching, which is appropriate. As a conclusion, which is not. The distinction becomes critical in 6.4. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 349 : What would give this observation real weight is not more observations of the same kind. It is an unrelated route arriving at the same conclusion, the method used at Conclusion 195. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.4 The Semen, and the Collapse of the Whole Route

Premise 75 : Kazue's body showed signs of sexual assault, and semen from a man with type O blood was found.

Conclusion 350 : The culprit must therefore be a man with type O blood, which destroys the conclusion about a woman immediately. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 351 : This refutation does not work because the evidence is logically stronger. It works because it is physical evidence that identifies sex directly and blood type as well, while the other side is an inference from habit. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 352 : In any era of investigation, one piece of physical evidence contradicting an entire chain of behavioural inference wins, and should win, because behavioural inference goes wrong far more easily. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 353 : That property is exactly what makes it usable as a weapon. If the culprit can place a single piece of physical evidence indicating the opposite sex, she erases every behavioural trace she has left, all at once. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 354 : This single act therefore returns more than anything else she does in the Kazue case. It does not protect her from one piece of evidence. It protects her from an entire category of evidence. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 355 : And it matches a pattern already seen twice. Conclusion 233, where the footprints point at a man. Conclusion 279, where the beard points at a man. This is the third instance, and the strongest, because it is biological. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 356 : There is not yet enough information to say where the semen came from or how it got there. Part 7 answers that. What Part 6 can record is that if it was placed, it is the most profitable placement in the entire case. [Deductive, Logical]

6.5 Eliminating the Male Suspects

Premise 76 : Among the surviving suspects there are only two men, Yoshio and Heitaro.

Premise 77 : Yoshio has type A blood.

Conclusion 357 : Yoshio is eliminated on biological evidence, which is more decisive than elimination by alibi. Note that he is cleared of this case despite being the man who lied about his alibi in the previous one. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 78 : Heitaro has type O blood, which fits, but that night he was at the Medici in Ginza with three friends, confirmed by a waitress.

Conclusion 358 : Heitaro's alibi is of the strongest kind. Witnesses who know him and witnesses who do not, in a public place, covering the required hours. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 359 : No suspect meets the conditions. Hence the conclusion that the culprit was probably an outsider, and the case reaches a dead end. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 360 : This situation has the same shape as two already encountered. Conclusion 218, where every outsider proposed as the model was eliminated. Conclusion 271, where the culprit's properties pointed at someone already dead. All three share a structure: nobody on the list meets the required conditions. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 361 : And each time the options are the same two. The list is wrong, or the conditions are wrong. Each time, everyone chose the list and went looking outside. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 362 : For this pattern to recur three times in one case, each time pushing the investigation out of the family, is very unlikely to be coincidence. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 363 : The most economical explanation is that pushing the investigation outside the family is a designed outcome rather than a side effect, and it is the most valuable outcome available to a culprit who is inside the family. [Abductive, Causal]

6.6 First Crack: Clothing Too Neat

Premise 79 : Kazue's kimono was in good order, though she was not wearing underwear.

Conclusion 364 : If this were a burglar who assaulted the body and fled, why spend time arranging the clothing? The detail contradicts the robbery picture. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 365 : Someone in a place they have no right to be is under time pressure, and people under time pressure do only what is necessary. Arranging clothing is necessary to nobody in that situation. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 366 : Arranging a dead person's clothing has two possible sources. Care for the dead, or staging. Neither fits a stranger. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 367 : If it was staging, it was staging done wrong. Anyone wanting the scene to read as assault should leave the clothing disordered. The state found contradicts the purpose of the staging itself. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 368 : The remaining explanation is that the culprit's habits overrode her own intention. She meant to stage a scene, and her hands did what her hands were used to doing. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 369 : This is the same class of error as wiping the vase and putting it back at Conclusion 346, a domestic habit surfacing. Two errors of the same kind in one case give the pair more weight together than either carries alone. [Inductive, Logical]

6.7 Second Crack: The First Scene Nobody Could Find

Conclusion 370 : The place where the body was found is not the original scene. The body was moved. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 80 : There was no blood spatter and no sign of a struggle where the body lay.

Premise 81 : The whole house was searched and the original scene was never found.

Conclusion 371 : Failing to find the original scene when the body is inside the house is the strangest thing about this case. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 372 : It is strange because a head wound from a hard object always throws blood onto the surfaces around it. Blood does not vanish on its own. The original scene must exist somewhere in that house. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 373 : If it exists and was not found, two options remain. It was cleaned, or it is somewhere nobody thought to look. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 374 : Cleaning blood away completely in a Japanese house of that period always leaves its own trace, because a surface scrubbed unusually clean stands out against the unscrubbed surfaces around it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 375 : So the correct search order is not to look for bloodstains. It is to look for an area that is abnormally clean. That inverts the usual method. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 376 : This is the third instance in the chain of turning something that is not there into evidence, after the witness who never appeared at Conclusion 143 and the third set of tracks that does not exist at Conclusion 199. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.8 The Three Mirrors

Premise 82 : The three mirrors of the dressing table had been wiped abnormally clean.

Premise 83 : Faint bloodstains remained, matching Kazue's blood type.

Conclusion 377 : A dressing table with three mirrors is the surface in the room best placed to catch spatter from someone seated in front of it, because it surrounds them on three sides. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 378 : Its being abnormally clean satisfies the condition set at Conclusion 375 exactly, and the surviving stains of matching blood type confirm it. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 84 : Kazue's face carried almost no makeup.

Conclusion 379 : The original scene is in front of the mirrors, and Kazue was killed while combing her hair rather than while making up her face. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 380 : The difference between combing and making up is not a minor detail. Makeup is preparation for going out or receiving a visitor. Combing your hair in the early evening is relaxing at home. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 381 : So Kazue was not in the posture of a woman receiving a guest she needed to be careful around. She was in the posture of a woman at home as usual, while another person was in the house. [Deductive, Logical]

6.9 What the Mirror Says, and What It Says Beyond That

Conclusion 382 : A woman lowers her guard at the mirror. The culprit must therefore be someone Kazue trusted enough to turn her back on. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 383 : That does not exhaust the mirror. Sitting with your back to the room in front of a mirror is not the same as being unable to see. The opposite: the mirror shows you what is behind you. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 384 : Three mirrors give a far wider view than one. Kazue would very likely have seen whoever came up behind her, in the glass. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 385 : So the condition is not merely that she trusted this person enough to turn her back. It is that she saw their reflection and felt no need to turn around, which is a much higher degree of familiarity. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 386 : Anyone meeting that condition is someone whose presence in that house was ordinary, not merely someone permitted to enter. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 85 : Kazue was a widow of thirty-one, living alone at Kaminoge.

Premise 86 : Her only relatives were the Umezawas.

Conclusion 387 : The set of people meeting the condition at Conclusion 386 is therefore very small, and almost all of it is inside the Umezawa family. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 388 : Combined with her combing her hair in the early evening, the heaviest possibility is that the person was a woman of the family, because a woman of that age living alone does not relax to the point of combing her hair in front of a man who is not her husband. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 389 : This conclusion arrives by a route with no connection to Conclusion 346. That one came from a habit of tidying objects. This one comes from the position of the scene and the victim's activity. Their convergence is the cross-route confirmation Conclusion 349 called for. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 390 : It also converges with the conclusions of Parts 3 and 4, which came from footprints and shoes in an entirely different case. There are now at least three independent routes indicating that the culprit is a woman inside the family. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.10 Why Wipe the Mirrors and Move the Body

Conclusion 391 : Wiping the mirrors and moving the body away from them was not done to remove fingerprints. It was done to remove the evidence that the culprit was intimate with the victim, which is a different reason from anything the police considered. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 392 : The difference runs deeper than it looks. Removing fingerprints removes a trace that identifies a person. Moving the body removes the meaning of a position. These are different kinds of erasure. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 393 : Where a person was killed is a form of testimony about the relationship between victim and culprit, because it says how close the victim allowed that person to come at that moment. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 394 : A culprit who sees this is not destroying evidence. She is destroying the reading of evidence, which is one level higher. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 395 : It is the same species as the forged manuscript, which removes no evidence at all and instead sets a frame that makes everyone misread the evidence that exists. The Kazue case and the manuscript run the same principle at different scales. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 396 : Which yields an observation. This culprit is better at managing meaning than at managing objects, and that explains why her mistakes are always physical ones, like the neat clothing and the wiped vase put back in place. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.11 Choosing the Moment at the Mirror

Conclusion 397 : The culprit is a woman, and she knew about the moment at the mirror because she is one herself. That is why she chose it as the point to strike. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 398 : Knowledge of that kind comes from direct experience rather than from watching others. A man could learn it, but it would not be the first thing he thought of when planning. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 399 : So the choice of moment in this case is a deeper trace of the culprit's identity than any physical trace, because it sits at the level of decision rather than action, and it cannot be erased. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 400 : But a trace at that level is only readable by someone willing to entertain the possibility that the culprit is a woman, which the semen evidence closed off from the start. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 401 : So a single piece of physical evidence did more than point the wrong way. It shut down an entire channel of reading, and that is why it repays more than anything else, as Conclusion 354 concluded. [Abstract, Cognitive]

6.12 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 6

Newly answered

- The original scene is in front of the dressing table. Kazue was killed while combing her hair.
- The body was moved to remove the meaning of its position, not to remove traces.
- The culprit is a woman of the family, familiar enough that Kazue saw her in the mirror and did not turn around.
- A third independent route now indicates a woman inside the family.
- The pattern of nobody on the list meeting the conditions, followed by everyone blaming the list, has occurred a third time.
- The culprit handles meaning better than she handles objects, and keeps making physical mistakes.

Still unanswered

- Why kill Kazue at all, when she has no place in the Azoth plan?
- Why wipe the vase and then leave it to be found?
- Where did the semen come from and how did it get there?
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 7 Takekoshi, and the Trap That Was Set

This is where three debts from Part 6 are paid at once by a single explanation. It also changes what the Kazue case is. It stops being a murder and becomes a labour-recruitment operation.

7.1 Why It Had to Be a Policeman

Premise 87 : Bunjiro Takekoshi was a patrol officer, a section chief at Takanawa station, with a wife and an infant son.

Conclusion 402 : Conclusion 334 asked why Kazue had to die when she has no place in the Azoth plan. The answer must be something her death produces that the culprit wants, rather than the death itself. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 403 : What the Azoth plan requires and the culprit lacks is the ability to carry five bodies to six mines across the country. That takes strength, long-distance travel with heavy luggage, and passing under people's eyes without being asked anything. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 404 : A woman of twenty-two with no car, no licence, and the income of one day a week of cleaning work has not one of those capacities. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 405 : The whole plan therefore has a bottleneck at transport, and the culprit has to find labour before she can reach that stage. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 406 : Usable labour needs three properties at once. He cannot refuse. He cannot report it. And he can travel with heavy luggage without arousing suspicion. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 407 : The third points straight at a man in uniform, since no occupation of that era could travel with baggage as unquestioned as a policeman. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 408 : The second points at a policeman too, for the opposite reason. An officer suspected of murder loses more than an ordinary man loses, in career, family, and honour, and he knows the system well enough to judge for himself that he has no way out. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 409 : A policeman is therefore not merely a workable choice. He is the best choice on every dimension simultaneously, which says the selection of Takekoshi was not accidental. [Abductive, Causal]

7.2 The Overlap in Time

Premise 88 : Takekoshi reached Kazue's house around half past seven and left before ten past nine.

Premise 89 : Kazue's approximate time of death is seven to nine in the evening.

Conclusion 410 : The two spans overlap almost exactly. Takekoshi therefore believes he was in that house while Kazue died, which makes him believe he is implicated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 411 : This overlap is the engine of the whole trap. Without it, nothing else works at all. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 412 : Yet the culprit cannot fully control it, because the time of death comes from a post-mortem rather than from her. The only thing she controls is killing Kazue close enough to the hour of Takekoshi's appointment. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 413 : Had the post-mortem returned five in the afternoon or midnight, the trap would have collapsed at once, since Takekoshi would know he was not there then. Record this as the first point of risk. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 414 : And it is a risk that preparation cannot reduce, unlike the other risks in this plan, which careful planning does reduce. [Systematic, Cognitive]

7.3 The Sliding Door That Was Not Opened

Conclusion 415 : The truth is that Kazue was already dead and lying in the next room before Takekoshi arrived. Had he slid the door open, he would have seen what the police saw at the post-mortem. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 416 : So for roughly an hour and forty minutes the culprit was in that house with the body and with a policeman at the same time, one sliding door between the two. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 417 : The entire Azoth plan therefore hangs on one man not opening one door. That is the most fragile point in the whole case. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 418 : He did not open it for two reasons. He had no reason to, since the householder was in front of him and talking to him. And his attention was held elsewhere throughout. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 419 : This says something about how the culprit thinks. She did not protect herself by hiding the body deeper or moving it further away. She protected herself by ensuring nobody had a reason to look, which is the same protection used on the number of bodies in Part 16. [Analogical, Abstract]

7.4 The Woman He Met Was Not Kazue

Conclusion 420 : The woman who had sex with Takekoshi that night was not Kazue. It was the culprit herself. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 90 : Takekoshi had never seen Kazue before.

Premise 91 : Newspaper photographs of Kazue in that era printed poorly, and were often taken when she was younger or retouched.

Conclusion 421 : Takekoshi therefore had no way of knowing the woman he met was not Kazue. In an era of sharp printed images, the trick would not work at all. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 422 : This carries a wider implication than the case. Some deceptions have an expiry date tied to the technology of their era rather than to the intelligence of the people solving them. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 423 : Which means assessing the culprit's skill has to be done against her era, not against present standards. That matters in Part 18. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 424 : The risk should be recorded as well. Kazue was thirty-one and the culprit twenty-two. Nine years had to be covered by dim light, night, and Takekoshi having no comparison image in his head at all. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 425 : And once the case broke he still could not check, because viewing the body or asking to see a photograph would expose the fact that he had been there. His fear locks him out of the one act that could free him. [Deductive, Logical]

7.5 The Semen, and the Mechanism of Transfer

Premise 92 : The semen found on the body was fresh.

Conclusion 426 : It was therefore transferred from the culprit onto the body rather than carried in a bottle, since anything carried would not be fresh. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 427 : The freshness of biological evidence works as a clock. It says not merely that a man was involved but that the man was there that night, which is information the culprit needs to be genuine rather than faked. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 428 : So no shortcut was available. She had to produce this evidence for real that night with a real man, which is why Takekoshi had to come to the house rather than be framed from a distance. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 429 : Conclusion 356 left the origin of the semen open. It is now answered, and the answer also explains why the killing of Kazue had to happen on a night with an appointment rather than any other night. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 430 : The blood type was outside her control. She had no way to know Takekoshi's type in advance. All she needed was a man. Whatever type came back would serve. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 431 : The result was better than it had any right to be. Type O eliminates Yoshio, who is type A, and matches Heitaro, whose alibi is solid. The outcome is a tighter dead end than she designed. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 432 : This is the fourth layer of luck, after the thirty-year snowfall, the revolt on the 26th, and Yoshio lying about the film of his own accord. Record it for Part 18. [Systematic, Cognitive]

7.6 The Marks of Assault as a Side Effect

Conclusion 433 : The body showing signs of post-mortem assault is a side effect of the method of transfer rather than an original intention, and it explains how Takekoshi, who had sex with a living woman, ends up read as having violated a corpse. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 434 : The side effect pays a bonus for no effort, because a sexual crime against a corpse is about as far from the image of a family member as a category can get. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 435 : Set beside Conclusion 363, where pushing the investigation outside the family is a designed outcome, this side effect serves the main goal exactly, which makes it hard to say whether she foresaw it. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 436 : There is an indication that she did not control it fully: the contradiction of the neat kimono at Conclusion 367. Anyone deliberately building a scene of assault does not rearrange the clothing afterwards. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 437 : The explanation that fits best is that she meant to transfer evidence, not to construct an assault scene, and when she finished, habit rearranged the clothing automatically. The scene that resulted contradicts what her hands did. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 438 : This closes another of Part 6's gaps and confirms that this culprit's mistakes are always physical, as Conclusion 396 concluded. [Deductive, Logical]

7.7 The Real Purpose of Killing Kazue

Conclusion 439 : The real purpose of killing Kazue was to force Takekoshi into carrying bodies across the country for her. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 440 : The mechanism of coercion is not a spoken threat. It is the installation of a belief in his head that he is already implicated in a murder, and it works without the culprit having to say anything at all. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 441 : Coercion by belief has the advantage of leaving no evidence of coercion. No letter, no demand, no suspicious meeting. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 442 : This single killing produces other things simultaneously. An empty house with no near neighbours and nobody to inspect it, which the next stage of the plan requires. And a private score settled with Kazue. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 443 : One act yielding three results is the pattern already seen at Conclusion 258, when the return to the house on the morning of the 26th did three jobs. So this is not coincidence. It is how this culprit habitually thinks. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 444 : And it changes the status of the Kazue case entirely. It stops being a murder with a motive of its own and becomes a preparatory step for the next case, which means analysing it separately from the Azoth case can never produce an answer. [Abstract, Cognitive]

7.8 The Vase, and the Answer to Part 6's Question

Premise 93 : The vase was wiped clean of blood first, and blood appeared on it again later.

Conclusion 445 : The vase was wiped so that Takekoshi would see it clean while he was there, and blood was applied afterwards. The purpose was for him to remember the vase, then feel fear on learning later that it was the weapon. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 446 : Conclusion 345 is now fully answered. The question was why wipe it and why ensure it is found. Both serve different readers. The wiping serves Takekoshi that night. The finding serves Takekoshi the next day, through the newspapers. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 447 : Had she left blood on it from the start, Takekoshi might have noticed that night and known something was wrong, which would have sent him searching the house and finding the body. The trap would have failed before it began. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 448 : One vase is therefore used as a two-stage device on a single object across two moments. The first stage so he sees nothing. The second so he sees everything, too late. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 449 : Which resolves the contradiction at Conclusion 340 about wiping then displaying. The object was not left for the police to see. It was left for one man who was not in the room when it was found. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 450 : So this scene has two audiences, designed to read the same evidence differently. The police read a robbery. Takekoshi reads his own grave. [Abstract, Cognitive]

7.9 The Unifying Principle of the Design

Conclusion 451 : Every element is designed to stop Takekoshi working out that Kazue died before he arrived. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 452 : Run through them and each serves that one point. The body moved to the next room so it cannot be seen. A living woman in front of him to confirm Kazue is not dead. The vase wiped so no signal is wrong. The appointment timed to overlap the window of death. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 453 : The trap is therefore not built from objects. It is built from one false belief, propped up by several pieces of genuine evidence. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 454 : Takekoshi's own reasoning is not wrong anywhere. Every step he takes from the information he has is correct. What is wrong is one starting datum. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 455 : Which is the same structure that befell the entire country in the Azoth case. Everyone reasoned correctly from the assumption that there were six bodies, and that single assumption is the thing that is false. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 456 : The Takekoshi trap is thus the Azoth case in miniature. The culprit tested the mechanism on one man before running it on a nation. [Abstract, Cognitive]

7.10 Every Fragile Point of That Night

Conclusion 457 : The operation of the night of 23 March had at least six points at which everything could break. Takekoshi opens the sliding door. He notices the age does not fit. The post-mortem returns a time outside the needed window. He brings a colleague. Someone sees the culprit entering or leaving. Or he confesses the next morning instead of staying silent. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 458 : Five of those six are entirely outside her control. She can reduce the risk and cannot eliminate it. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 459 : And this operation is the bottleneck of the whole plan, because if it fails the Azoth stage that follows cannot be done at all, per Conclusion 405. The entire plan therefore has a single point of failure located on this one night. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 460 : A plan with a single point of failure this large is not a robustly designed plan. It is a plan designed by someone with no other option, which is a different observation from saying she was or was not skilled. [Systematic, Cognitive]

7.11 Reading the Plan Backwards as a Map of Constraints

Conclusion 461 : Read the trap backwards and each element compensates for something the culprit lacks. Recruiting labour compensates for insufficient physical strength. Using a policeman compensates for an absent capacity to travel. Impersonating Kazue compensates for having no other leverage. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 462 : The complexity of this plan therefore does not come from a taste for complexity. It comes from every one of her resources being so limited that she has to invent an indirect route every time. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 463 : This reinforces the properties obtained in Parts 3 and 4, because someone this constrained must be without money, without status, and without freedom to travel, which fits a young woman used as household labour rather than any adult in the family. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 464 : It also answers a question nobody has asked. Why does the plan need to be this elaborate when simply poisoning the whole household would have satisfied revenge? Because her goal does not end at revenge. Something else has to be obtained, and that something requires the case to stay unsolved rather than merely requiring people to die. [Abductive, Causal]

7.12 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 7

Debts paid

- Why Kazue had to die. Labour that could not refuse, plus an empty house, plus a score settled.
- Why the vase was wiped and left in view. It is a two-stage device addressed to one man.
- Where the semen came from. Produced for real that night and transferred.
- Why the kimono was neat. The assault scene is a side effect, not an intention.

Newly answered

- The trap is made of one false belief rather than of objects, and it is the Azoth case in miniature.
- The whole plan has a single point of failure on the night of 23 March.
- The fourth layer of luck is on the record.
- The plan's complexity reflects the culprit's constraints rather than her taste.
- She has a goal beyond revenge, and that goal requires the case to remain unsolved.

Still unanswered

- What is that other goal?
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 8 Why It Had to Look Like a Robbery

This is the shortest part in the original, and it is where the chain changes its unit of analysis. It stops asking what a piece of evidence says and starts asking how the culprit is handling the behaviour of an institution. That is a different level of analysis.

8.1 The Kaminoge House as Property Obtained by Killing

Premise 94 : Kazue's house at Kaminoge had no near neighbours.

Premise 95 : Her only relatives were the Umezawas.

Premise 96 : After her death the house stood empty, unsellable as a house where a killing had occurred.

Conclusion 465 : Conclusion 442 recorded that killing Kazue produced an empty house. This section tests how valuable that house actually was. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 466 : An empty house is not automatically safe. Emptiness carries its own risks. People break in and rummage, children play there, neighbours notice anomalies, and police call by on routine rounds. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 467 : So making the house empty is not enough. It has to be empty in a way nobody takes an interest in, which is a different condition requiring further management. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 468 : The greatest threat to that lack of interest is the police, the only group with both a reason and the authority to come back to the house repeatedly. [Deductive, Logical]

8.2 The Azoth Workshop Theory

Conclusion 469 : The amateur detectives' theory is that the culprit killed Kazue to seize the house as a workshop for making Azoth. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 470 : The theory needs three sub-claims. That making Azoth requires a long-term working space. That this house could serve as one. And that killing someone to obtain this house was worth the risk. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 97 : Making Azoth takes a long time and requires working by candlelight at night.

Conclusion 471 : An empty house where a murder has just occurred, showing light at night, will certainly draw police attention and a search. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 472 : Light is not the only problem. Dismemberment needs water, needs disposal of remains, and produces smell. All three leave traces that last longer than light does. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 98 : The empty house was not the culprit's own, so she could not assert any right to keep police out.

Conclusion 473 : The house therefore has the worst possible properties for a secret workshop. Maximum attention, because a killing has just happened there, and minimum legal protection, because it is not hers. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 474 : A genuinely clever culprit would choose an empty house nobody knew about with no history attached. So this house is not a long-term Azoth workshop. It is only a gathering point, a place to drug, dismember, and hide bodies temporarily. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 475 : The theory's second claim therefore fails, and when it fails the third fails with it, since killing to obtain something unusable is not worth it. The Azoth workshop theory is eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

8.3 The Assumption This Theory Never Tested

Conclusion 476 : The first claim has not been touched at all. It says making Azoth requires a long-term working space, and it rests on a larger assumption one layer up: that Azoth was ever made. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 477 : Nobody tested that assumption in forty years. Everyone took it from the manuscript and built on top of it, though the manuscript is a document whose authorship has never been established. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 478 : If the assumption is false, the workshop question never existed, and the right question changes from where she assembled Azoth to what she did with the missing parts. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 479 : That cannot be answered here. Record it as the third place in the chain where a foundational assumption everyone treats as needing no proof has been found, after the assumption that two sets of prints mean two people at Conclusion 127 and the assumption that the culprit is outside the family at Conclusion 361. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 480 : All three share a shape. They are not wrong conclusions. They are statements never raised to the status of conclusions at all. They were used as floor, and floor does not get inspected. [Abstract, Cognitive]

8.4 The Real Mechanism of Staging a Robbery

Premise 99 : Police return to the scene of a complicated case again and again. With an ordinary robbery, once the file is closed they do not come back.

Conclusion 481 : Staging a robbery therefore aims to turn this house into an empty house free of police eyes. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 482 : Note that the aim is not to evade the first investigation, since police must come once someone is dead. What the staging buys is the absence of a second visit. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 483 : Most staging in criminal cases targets the question of who did it. This staging targets the question of how long the police will stay interested, which is a different kind of target. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 484 : The culprit is planning around institutional behaviour rather than around evidence, the same species as Conclusion 394, where she manages the reading of evidence instead of the evidence. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 485 : Planning that way requires knowing how police classify cases and when they close files, which is not knowledge ordinary people have. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 486 : The source may have been close reading of crime reporting, or observation of how police worked the Heikichi case the month before, where she was positioned to watch every step as a member of the household. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 487 : If the latter, the first case doubled as intelligence-gathering for the second, which fits the pattern at Conclusion 456, where the Takekoshi trap tests a mechanism before it is used for real. [Analogical, Abstract]

8.5 What Would Have Happened Without the Staging

Conclusion 488 : Without this staging, police would have linked the Kazue case to the Heikichi case and searched the house thoroughly, which would have turned up the bodies later hidden in the storehouse. The culprit had calculated this. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 489 : The timing implication is significant. Kazue died on 23 March. The young women's bodies were hidden in that same house after 31 March. Eight days apart. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 490 : So the staging on the 23rd protects an event occurring on the 31st, which means that when she staged the robbery she already knew what she would be doing in that house eight days later. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 491 : This is the clearest logical evidence that the two cases were planned together as one plan rather than being a sequence improvised as it went. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 492 : It also separates usefully from Conclusion 168. That one concluded the details of the night of 25 February were improvised. This one concludes the upper structure was laid in advance. The two do not conflict, because they sit at different levels. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 493 : The picture is a culprit with a clear long-range frame who adjusts details continuously on site, characteristic of someone who plans well but has few resources and must compensate with flexibility, matching Conclusion 462. [Inductive, Logical]

8.6 Making Every Case Look Like a Man's Work, as Second-Layer Insurance

Conclusion 494 : Another reason for making every case look like a man's work is insurance against Masako proving her innocence, so that police still would not come back round to the culprit. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 495 : This is contingency design, preparing a route for the case where the main part of the plan fails. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 496 : Preparing a contingency signals two things at once. The culprit can see the possibility of her own failure. And she has the time and concentration to design for it. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 497 : Collect every channel pointing at a man and there are four, independent of one another. The men's shoe prints at Conclusion 233. The cut beard leading to the substitution theory at Conclusion 279. The biological evidence at Conclusion 355. And the staged robbery here. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 498 : The strength of this misdirection comes not from the strength of any channel but from their independence, since refuting one leaves the other three untouched. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 499 : Which is the structural explanation of how the conclusion that the culprit was a man survived forty years despite traces of a woman scattered throughout. The traces of a woman are scattered behavioural inferences. The pointing at a man is a four-layer overlapping system. [Abstract, Cognitive]

8.7 The Cost of Staging in Several Layers

Conclusion 500 : The Kaminoge scene is asked to tell three stories at once. A robbery, so the police close the file. A sexual crime, to confirm the culprit is a man. And the story Takekoshi has to read the next day. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 501 : Each story needs its own signals, and every signal that has to be manufactured is one more chance to make a mistake. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 502 : Run through every anomaly found in that house and almost all of them come from two stories contradicting each other. The neat kimono contradicts the sexual crime. The wiped vase on display contradicts the robbery. The moved body contradicts a sudden attack. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 503 : So the anomalies at this scene do not come from carelessness. They come from the scene being overloaded. One scene cannot tell three stories at once without the stories colliding. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 504 : Those collisions are the only way into the Kazue case, unlike the Heikichi case, where the evidence was destroyed so completely that no collisions remain to be caught, per Conclusion 105. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 505 : Which yields a principle. A scene staged in several layers gives up more than a scene staged in one, because each layer forces the others out of shape. [Abstract, Cognitive]

8.8 What the House Was Actually For

Conclusion 506 : Conclusion 474 assigned the house four functions: gathering point, drugging, dismemberment, and temporary concealment. This section tests why the house satisfies each. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 507 : The last three need only an enclosed space undisturbed for a few hours to a few days, a condition any empty house satisfies. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 508 : The first is different, because gathering six young women in one place needs a reason they will accept, not merely a space. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 509 : The house of a sister dead less than a week is the only place that supplies such a reason without arousing suspicion, whether for collecting belongings, checking the property, or paying respects. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 510 : So the most valuable property of this house is not its isolation. It is that the house generates its own pretext for the young women to go there, with the culprit never having to issue an unusual invitation. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 511 : And that property exists because Kazue is dead, which means killing her produced not only a house but the pretext for the gathering. The killing therefore returns four things, not the three listed at Conclusion 442. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 512 : One act returning four results is an unusually high level of economy, and should be recorded for the assessment of the plan's quality in Part 18. [Systematic, Cognitive]

8.9 An Observation on the Asymmetry of Risk

Conclusion 513 : Compare the two cases and a clear asymmetry appears. The Heikichi case survived mainly on luck, the snow and the revolt. The Kazue case survived mainly on design. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 514 : Yet the Kazue case left significantly more clues than the Heikichi case. The mirrors, the vase, the clothing, the position of the body. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 515 : The inversion explains itself. The more the culprit controls a scene, the more she has to manufacture, and every manufactured item is one more piece of evidence. In the case where luck helped, she manufactured nothing, because nature did the erasing. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 516 : So more elaborate staging does not always make a case harder to solve. Sometimes it makes it easier, because it increases the number of things requiring explanation. [Abstract, Cognitive]

8.10 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 8

Newly answered

- The Azoth workshop theory is dead. The Kaminoge house was only a short-term facility.
- The staged robbery targets the absence of a second police visit, not the first investigation.
- The two cases were planned together as one plan, proven by the eight-day gap.
- The pointing at a man is a four-layer independent system, which explains its forty-year survival.
- The anomalies at Kaminoge come from one scene being asked to tell three stories at once.
- The house's real value is that it generated its own pretext for the young women to go there.
- A third untested foundational assumption has been found: that Azoth was ever made.

Still unanswered

- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts?
- What is the culprit's goal beyond revenge? Outstanding since Part 7.
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 9 The Timeline of the Yahiko Trip

Much information here and few conclusions, which signals unused material. The job of this part is to pull conclusions out of data that already exists.

9.1 How This Trip Came About

Premise 100 : After Kazue's funeral the family decided on a pilgrimage to Mount Yahiko.

Premise 101 : Yahiko is a place the manuscript mentions.

Premise 102 : Masako proposed the idea.

Conclusion 517 : That Masako proposed it is the heaviest single item against her in the whole case, because it ties her directly to the manuscript through her own action rather than through anyone's interpretation. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 518 : Being that heavy makes it exactly what a frame-up wants most. What is valuable to one side is a target for the other. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 519 : Three explanations fit. She thought of it herself and the match with the manuscript is coincidence. She thought of it herself after hearing of Yahiko somewhere. Or someone made her think she thought of it. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 520 : The first is too expensive a coincidence. Yahiko is not the first pilgrimage site a Tokyo family thinks of, and it happens to match the document that became the axis of the case. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 521 : Second and third differ only in who said Yahiko within her hearing. In a house where several people live together, planting an idea and letting someone else pick it up leaves no evidence at all. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 522 : Ideas planted and grown in someone else's head have a property worth a great deal to a culprit. The host defends them as her own, and testifies to police confident that she thought of it. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 523 : Masako's testimony that she proposed it therefore does not contradict the possibility that she was steered. It is precisely what effective steering produces. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 524 : Same shape as the Takekoshi trap at Conclusion 454. The victim reasons correctly at every step from the information she has, and the starting datum is what is wrong. Takekoshi was made to believe something about time. Masako was made to believe an idea was hers. [Analogical, Abstract]

9.2 The Trip as a Device

Premise 103 : On 28 March, Masako took the six young women out of Tokyo to Yahiko, stayed one night, and climbed the mountain on the 29th.

Premise 104 : From the 29th to the 30th they stayed at the Iwamuro hot springs.

Premise 105 : The girls asked for one more day.

Conclusion 525 : Treat the trip as a device rather than an event and it does four things. It moves all six out of Tokyo together. It creates a reason for a return journey. It places Masako as trip organiser. And it ties the case to the geography of the manuscript. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 526 : Practically, the second matters most. The return journey is the only window in which six girls are out of everyone's sight at once with nobody surprised by it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 527 : Asking for an extra day has two effects. It shifts the return to the date required, and it makes the return something the girls chose, which lowers suspicion about the schedule. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 528 : Nobody asked which of the six proposed the extra day. Should one of them have been controlling the schedule, that one-day shift is no accident. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 529 : Compare Conclusion 523 and the same pattern appears twice in one trip. Two important decisions made by other people, both landing exactly where the plan needed them. [Abstract, Cognitive]

9.3 Masako Separates from the Group

Premise 106 : Masako's home town is Aizu-Wakamatsu in Fukushima, not far from Yahiko.

Premise 107 : On the morning of 31 March she went there alone, leaving the girls to travel back to Tokyo by themselves.

Conclusion 530 : Three results at once. The only supervising adult is removed. Six girls travel alone. And Masako has no alibi for the hours in which they die. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 531 : The third is the most valuable to a frame-up, because stripping someone of an alibi for exactly the required hours is very hard without their own cooperation. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 532 : Cooperation was obtained without her knowing. Make the separation her own wish, and a home town close by supplies the reason. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 533 : So the route was not chosen for Yahiko alone. It was chosen because it passes near the home town of the person to be framed, a very narrow condition unlikely to coincide by chance. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 534 : Yahiko then serves three functions at once. It matches the manuscript, it sits on the longitude the manuscript specifies, and it lies near Aizu-Wakamatsu. Economy of the same order as Conclusion 511. [Analogical, Abstract]

9.4 The Homecoming That Never Happened

Premise 108 : On 1 April, Masako reached the Meguro house, found no girls, and found the house exactly as she had left it.

Conclusion 535 : They never reached home. They vanished on the way. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 536 : That the house was unchanged is worth more than it looks. It rules out the girls arriving and going out again. One arrival would leave a bag set down, shoes removed, or something moved. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 537 : The interception point is therefore somewhere before the Meguro house, not at it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 538 : It also says none of the six went home alone, since one arrival would change the state of the house. The group stayed together to the last point. [Deductive, Logical]

9.5 Pinning the Time Frame

Premise 109 : Hotel staff confirm all six were alive on the morning of the 31st.

Premise 110 : After they left the hotel that morning, no witness saw them again.

Conclusion 539 : The events fall after the morning of the 31st. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 111 : Tomoko's approximate time of death is 31 March, between three in the afternoon and nine at night.

Conclusion 540 : Since all six probably died in one place at one time, that frame serves as the time of death for all of them. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 541 : Record that this rests on the assumption that all six died together, which is not yet proven. Part 12 will support it with near-identical poison doses. At this stage it remains an assumption. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 542 : Two frames together give a gap between last sighting and death of a few hours to one day, not several days. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 543 : A gap that narrow rules out abduction and confinement over several days. Whatever happened, it happened fast and continuously out of the journey. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 544 : Lay the rail times from the Niigata area back to Tokyo across it. A group leaving in the morning reaches Tokyo between afternoon and evening, which falls inside three to nine exactly. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 545 : Important, because it means a timeline in which the girls really did travel back and die in Tokyo fits every item of evidence without bending anything. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 546 : A timeline in which they died in Niigata has to explain why they never boarded a train after leaving the hotel, and why nobody at the station saw them. [Logical, Deductive]

9.6 Eliminating the Niigata Region

Premise 112 : Police checked every lodging around Iwamuro, Yahiko, Yoshida, Maki, Nishikawa, Bunsui, Teradomari and Tsubame. None took them in.

Premise 113 : Police searched as far as Sado Island and questioned every relative and friend.

Conclusion 547 : They stayed nowhere in that region, which means they really did travel back to Tokyo as planned. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 548 : An unusually complete negative search. It covered commercial lodging, an island off the normal route, and the entire private network. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 549 : Negative results from a complete search carry different weight from negative results from a partial one. The first supports conclusions. The second does not. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 550 : One gap remains, staying somewhere unregistered, which needs a host who knows them. Premise 113 already covered the network of relatives and friends. Gap closed. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 551 : Another gap is staying somewhere that is not lodging at all. Six girls with luggage in the provinces of that era make a memorable sight, and nobody remembers them. [Deductive, Logical]

9.7 The Geography Turns Over

Conclusion 552 : Returning to Tokyo and then vanishing puts the vanishing point in Tokyo, not Niigata, against what everyone assumed for forty years. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 553 : Three reasons produced the Niigata assumption. It is where they were last seen. The trip was a trip to Niigata. And the manuscript's geography points north. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 554 : None of the three is evidence. All three are the pull of the shape of the story. People assume events happen where the story is currently set, not where the evidence points. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 555 : Fourth untested foundational assumption in this chain, after two sets of prints meaning two people, the culprit being outside the family, and Azoth having been made. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 556 : All four share a property. Each descends from the shape of a story rather than from evidence. Which means the story the culprit built did more than point the wrong way. It manufactured the thinking floor of an entire country. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 557 : Practically the reversal is enormous. Forty years of searching went into the wrong area from the start, and not slightly wrong. Wrong by a region. [Deductive, Logical]

9.8 The Gathering Point, and the Problem It Creates

Conclusion 558 : Kazue's empty house is where they were gathered. Only there was there a reason to stop and nobody watching. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 559 : Which joins Conclusion 510 exactly. There, the house's real value was generating its own pretext for the girls to go. Here is the moment that pretext gets used. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 560 : Pretexts do not work by themselves. Someone has to say it as the group reaches Tokyo, and that person has to be with the group at the time. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 561 : Masako was in Fukushima per Premise 107. Not her. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 562 : Nor an outsider waiting at the station. Six girls at the end of a long day's travel do not change plans for an empty house on a stranger's suggestion, and Conclusion 390 already cut outsiders away by three independent routes. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 563 : One possibility remains. Whoever proposed the stop was one of the six. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 564 : Which collides with the fact that all six died, the same collision as Conclusion 270, where the culprit's six properties pointed at the girls who studied ballet. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 565 : The significance is that the chain reached the same wall by a route with no connection to the earlier one. The first came from footprints and shoes in the February case. This one comes from a travel timeline in March. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 566 : Two independent routes striking one wall at one point sharply lowers the chance that the wall marks an error in the routes, and raises the chance that the wall itself is wrong. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 567 : The chain still cannot cross it here, since no mechanism yet explains how one of six could survive when six bodies exist. Part 16 supplies that mechanism. [Deductive, Logical]

9.9 The Trip as Suspect Manufacture

Conclusion 568 : Collect what the trip did to Masako. She proposed it. She took the girls out of Tokyo. She chose a destination matching the manuscript. She separated on the day of the killings. She has no solid alibi. And she came home to an empty house. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 569 : Six items making a perfect suspect, every one produced by her own action. Nothing was planted on her directly. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 570 : Best frame-up there is. Not planting false evidence on a target, but arranging circumstances so the target builds the incriminating evidence herself, piece by piece. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 571 : Same method used on Takekoshi in Part 7 and on Yoshio at Conclusion 324, where he filled the man-shaped hole with his own lie. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 572 : Three people in one case, three successes. Not coincidence. This is her principal method. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 573 : Which requires deep knowledge of each target's habits and motives, the kind obtained only by living in the same house and watching for years. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 574 : Her method across the whole case is therefore indirect evidence that she lived in that house a long time, reinforcing Conclusions 193 and 390 from another direction. [Deductive, Logical]

9.10 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 9

Newly answered

- All six really did travel back to Tokyo, and vanished in Tokyo rather than Niigata.
- The time-of-death frame fits the arrival of the train in Tokyo exactly.
- Not one of the six reached the Meguro house.
- The gathering point is Kazue's house, and whoever proposed the stop was one of the six.
- The whole trip functions as the manufacture of a suspect named Masako, with her building the evidence against herself piece by piece.
- Making a target incriminate themselves has now been used on three people: Takekoshi, Yoshio and Masako.
- A fourth untested foundational assumption has been found: that the events happened in Niigata.

Still unanswered

- How could one of six survive when six bodies exist?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts? Outstanding since Part 8.
- What is the culprit's other goal? Outstanding since Part 7.
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 10 Eliminating the Alibis One by One

Strangest part in the chain. It walks every step and eliminates everyone correctly by its own logic, and the result is a dead end. What has to be shown is that the dead end came from two criteria set wrongly before the checking began, not from the checking.

10.1 What Does an Alibi Check Actually Check?

Conclusion 575 : Before checking anyone, define what the culprit must be able to do. Alibis do not eliminate people by themselves. They eliminate people only where they conflict with a necessary capability. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 576 : Investigation of that era used two criteria. Be at the poisoning site on 31 March. And have time to travel to six mines across the country in the following months. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 577 : The first needs to know where the poisoning site was. The second needs to know that the culprit transported the bodies herself. Neither is a fact. Both are assumptions loaded into the measuring instrument before use. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 578 : Instruments with assumptions buried inside always yield plausible results, since the calculation itself is not wrong. What is wrong sits before the calculation, which makes it far harder to catch than an error in arithmetic. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 579 : Read this part accordingly. Take each elimination as it comes, then return and ask whether the two criteria are correct. Wrong criteria mean some results have to be recalculated. [Abstract, Cognitive]

10.2 Tae

Premise 114 : Tae, Heikichi's first wife, minded a tobacco stall every day.

Premise 115 : The barber's shop opposite confirms she sat at the stall on the 31st until closing, around half past seven.

Premise 116 : Neighbours confirm that throughout 1936 she barely missed a day of opening.

Premise 117 : Tae was 48, had no driving licence, and one of the victims was her own daughter.

Conclusion 580 : Tae is impossible on every route. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 581 : Unusually strong, because it stands on four independent legs. Witnesses for the specific day. A behavioural pattern across the year. Physical limits of age and travel. And a motive pointing the other way. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 582 : Strongest is the third, since it depends on neither place nor time. Change every geographical assumption and Tae still cannot carry bodies across the country. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 583 : The fourth needs watching. Having a daughter among the victims is an excellent reason to eliminate someone. It is also the same kind of reason that stopped anyone looking at the young women, per Conclusion 272. Elimination by relationship, not by evidence. [Systematic, Cognitive]

10.3 Yasue and Heitaro

Premise 118 : Yasue and Heitaro were at the Medici all of the 31st, confirmed by staff, customers and friends, never absent more than thirty minutes, and talking together until nearly midnight.

Conclusion 584 : Yasue and Heitaro are eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 585 : Best alibi of anyone in the case. It does not confirm where they were at particular moments. It confirms they were never gone longer than thirty minutes all day. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 586 : A crucial difference. Point-in-time alibis always have gaps between the points. Continuous alibis leave no gap to use. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 587 : Thirty minutes also kills every geographical possibility, Niigata or Tokyo alike, since nowhere can be reached from Ginza and returned from in half an hour with a killing in between. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 588 : So this elimination depends on no assumption at all, and stays correct even after both criteria in Conclusion 576 are corrected. [Systematic, Cognitive]

10.4 Yoshio

Premise 119 : At one in the afternoon on the 31st, Yoshio met people at a publishing house near Gokokuji until past five, then took the train home with an editor named Toda and drank with him until past eleven.

Conclusion 589 : His alibi covers one in the afternoon to eleven at night without a gap, and the people confirming it are outsiders with no reason to lie for him. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 590 : Worth noticing. His alibi on 31 March is incomparably stronger than his alibi on 26 February, and it is the same man. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 591 : Which supports Conclusion 320, that his faked film had a private reason other than murder. Anyone who killed in February and still needed to conceal it would not leave himself this easy to verify in March. [Inductive, Logical]

10.5 Fumiko

Premise 120 : Fumiko's whereabouts before six in the evening are unclear, but at ten past five she was still talking with a housewife nearby.

Premise 121 : Fumiko did not know where the scene was, and may not have known which direction Yahiko lay in.

Conclusion 592 : To have acted, she would have had to leave Tokyo before dawn, which conflicts with the witnesses. Eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 593 : Only conclusion in the whole part using geography as its principal reason for elimination rather than as support. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 594 : Leaving Tokyo before dawn means something only if the scene is outside Tokyo, which Conclusion 552 already refuted. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 595 : Should the scene be Kazue's house at Kaminoge, Fumiko talking to a housewife at ten past five in Tokyo does not exclude her from the three-to-nine window at all. It places her in the same city as the scene. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 596 : Eliminating Fumiko on geography no longer works, and one leg remains. [Deductive, Logical]

Premise 122 : Two of Yoshio and Fumiko's daughters were among the victims.

Conclusion 597 : Neither has a motive to kill their own children. Eliminated. [Causal, Cognitive]

Conclusion 598 : With the geographical leg broken, only motive holds her elimination up, and motive is the kind of leg Conclusion 583 warned about. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 599 : None of this makes Fumiko the culprit, since elimination by motive is still heavy where a mother and her own children are concerned. It means confidence in her elimination should be lower than it has been, and nobody knew that for forty years. [Systematic, Cognitive]

10.6 The Combined Result, and the Birth of the Outsider Theory

Premise 123 : None of these five had time enough to dispose of bodies site by site across the country.

Conclusion 600 : Every character in the manuscript has a complete alibi. Hence the theory that the culprit was an outsider. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 601 : Fourth occurrence of the pattern in this chain, after searching for the model among outsiders, the culprit's properties pointing at the dead, and no male suspect matching the blood type. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 602 : Fourth time the same branch is taken. The list is wrong, so look outside, rather than the conditions are wrong, so recheck the conditions. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 603 : Consistency at this level is not the accident of individual detectives. It is a property of a case structured so that the easiest exit always leads the same way, confirming Conclusion 363. [Abstract, Cognitive]

10.7 First Error: The Transport Criterion

Conclusion 604 : Premise 123 is the criterion eliminating everyone at once, and it rests on the assumption that the culprit transported and buried the bodies herself. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 605 : Conclusion 439 already proved that killing Kazue aimed at obtaining labour that could not refuse, to do the transport instead. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 606 : The criterion is therefore set far above reality. The culprit needed not one day of nationwide travel. She needed only enough time to be at the poisoning site on the 31st. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 607 : Reduce the criteria to one and everyone eliminated by the vanished criterion must be rechecked. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 608 : Rechecking gives this. Tae stays eliminated on all-day witnesses plus motive. Yasue and Heitaro stay eliminated on the thirty-minute condition. Yoshio stays eliminated on a continuous alibi from one to eleven. Fumiko is left with motive alone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 609 : Correcting this criterion changes no individual outcome for four people. It changes the quality of the combined conclusion, which claimed everyone was eliminated by one solid reason when in truth each was eliminated by a different reason of unequal strength. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 610 : More important still. The transport criterion is the only one capable of eliminating someone with no resources at all, such as a woman in her early twenties with no money and no freedom to travel. Remove it and nothing eliminates that group any more. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 611 : So this inflated criterion protected the real culprit directly, not indirectly. [Abstract, Cognitive]

10.8 Second Error: Geography

Conclusion 612 : The first criterion in Conclusion 576 was applied assuming the poisoning site lay in the Niigata area, which Conclusion 552 refuted. It was in Tokyo. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 613 : Correcting it has asymmetric effects. Anyone in Tokyo all day changes from having an alibi to being in the area of the crime. Anyone far from Tokyo changes from suspicious to eliminated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 614 : Correcting the geography therefore inverts the results of the entire investigation rather than adjusting figures. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 615 : Caution, though. Being in Tokyo is not being at Kaminoge. Tokyo is very large and travel within it took time then. Being in the same city only makes elimination impossible. It does not make anyone a suspect. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 616 : Correcting both criteria changes no answer about who the culprit is. It changes the status of the combined conclusion, from everyone was eliminated so it must be an outsider, to everyone who was checked was eliminated, which is a different statement. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 617 : Because the group checked numbered five, and those five were drawn from the list of the living, a list Conclusion 564 has already questioned. [Deductive, Logical]

10.9 The Reversal on Masako

Premise 124 : The people confirming Masako's alibi were her own close relatives.

Premise 125 : A bottle of arsenic was found at Masako's house.

Conclusion 618 : Her alibi is the weakest of anyone's, coming from family, and with a bottle of arsenic in the house the suspicion piled onto her alone. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 619 : Correct the geography and her status inverts completely, because she was at Aizu-Wakamatsu on the 31st, a different region from Tokyo. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 620 : Under the old assumption of a Niigata scene, being in Fukushima meant being near the crime with weak witnesses, the worst possible condition. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 621 : Under the correct assumption of a Tokyo scene, being in Fukushima means several hours away by rail, an alibi needing no witness credibility at all. Distance does not lie. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 622 : So the person most heavily suspected for forty years, who died in prison insisting on her innocence to the last, is eliminated from the case by one geographical finding from Part 9. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 623 : And that finding needed no new evidence whatsoever. It came from reading the police's own report on lodging searches, which had sat in the case file since 1936. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 624 : One of the heaviest facts in the entire case. What would have proved Masako innocent was in police hands from the start, and nobody read it in that direction. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 625 : The reason is that the report was read as an answer to where did the girls stay, not as an answer to which region were the girls in. One piece of evidence gives different answers depending on the question put to it. [Abstract, Cognitive]

10.10 What Remains After Both Corrections

Conclusion 626 : One condition remains for the culprit. Be at Kazue's house between three and nine in the evening of 31 March. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 627 : Exactly one group is known to have been there then. The six young women just back from the trip, per Conclusion 558. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 628 : Correct the criteria and the group satisfying the culprit's conditions and the group counted as victims become one and the same group entirely. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 629 : Third time the chain hits this wall, after Conclusion 270 by the ballet route and Conclusion 564 by the timeline route. This time by the route of eliminating alibis. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 630 : Different from the two before it. This collision is not accidental. It happens because the criterion that used to prevent it was removed, which means the wall was propped up by a false assumption rather than standing on its own. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 631 : One thing still props it. The identification evidence for all six bodies, which belongs to Part 13, and which is the only thing left to dismantle. [Deductive, Logical]

10.11 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 10

Newly answered

- Tae, Yasue, Heitaro and Yoshio remain eliminated for reasons that survive the corrections.
- Fumiko is left with motive alone. Her geographical leg is broken.
- Masako is eliminated by geography, and the evidence proving her innocent had been in the case file from the start.
- The transport criterion was inflated because nobody knew coerced labour existed, and it was the only criterion capable of eliminating people with no resources.
- Correct both criteria and the group satisfying the culprit's conditions becomes the group of victims.
- The outsider theory came not from a failed investigation but from an instrument with a false assumption built into it.

Still unanswered

- How could one of six survive when identification covers all six?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts? Outstanding since Part 8.
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 11 The Planted Evidence

Special importance attaches to this part. It is the one point in the whole case where the culprit manufactured a false object. Everything else is real evidence read wrongly. Here is a fake, and fakes are the only thing that can be caught.

11.1 A Single Rope

Premise 126 : Police searched the Umezawa house and found a bottle of arsenic and a hooked rope matching the hoisted-bed theory.

Premise 127 : One rope was found. The theory requires four.

Conclusion 632 : Finding one is strange. Genuine equipment turns up as all four or as none. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 633 : All or none follows from how people discard things. Several items used for one job get discarded together, since they sit together and are picked up together. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 634 : Someone keeping them keeps the whole set, because whatever reason preserved one rope applies equally to the other three. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 635 : One of four matches neither behaviour, and it does not match forgetfulness either. Forgetting ropes tied with hooks and stored as a set is harder than forgetting a single object. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 636 : Heavier still. One rope is useless to the hoisted-bed theory. It is not a component that works alone but part of an apparatus needing a full set to function. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 637 : This object therefore serves not as a tool but as a token pointing at a theory, which is a property of planted evidence rather than of residue. [Abductive, Causal]

11.2 A Rope That Knows a Theory Not Yet Invented

Conclusion 638 : The hoisted-bed theory did not exist on the night of 25 February. It appeared about a month later, from an anonymous letter per Premise 26. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 639 : The search of the Umezawa house came after the girls vanished, so after late March, which is after the theory existed. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 640 : That rope was therefore placed during a period when the theory was already known, not during a period when nobody had thought of it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 641 : An object placed to match a theory that postdates the events cannot be an object used in those events. It was chosen to answer a theory, not to do work. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 642 : Which opens a question the original never asked. How did the planter know the theory? Two answers. From the news, or from having sent the anonymous letter. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 643 : The second matches Conclusion 86, which already suspected the letter's sender of being the culprit, and Conclusion 125, on the theory absorbing attention away from the door. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 644 : If the second is right, she did more than release a false theory. She came back later to plant evidence giving it weight, a two-stage operation on one object, as with the vase at Conclusion 448. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 645 : Not settleable here, since newspaper coverage explains it just as well. What is settleable is that the planter worked from a theory rather than from the real events. [Systematic, Cognitive]

11.3 Evidence That Confesses on the Householder's Behalf

Conclusion 646 : This collection behaves like a confession nobody asked for, which no culprit produces. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 647 : To use that, we have to say precisely what is abnormal, because keeping crime-related objects at home happens often enough in real cases. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 648 : What is abnormal is not possession. It is that this set answers two entirely separate accusations at once. Arsenic answers the case of the girls. The hooked rope answers the Heikichi case. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 649 : Residue from real crimes is distributed unevenly. Some cases leave objects, others leave none. Prepared material covers every accusation in balance. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 650 : The working test for a fake is therefore completeness relative to the accusations, not the seriousness of the object. Evidence that answers exactly the questions currently being asked, and nothing beyond them, deserves suspicion. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 651 : Apply it and the set covers two cases with nothing at all for the Kazue case, which the culprit also carried out personally. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 652 : That gap is explicable. The Kazue case had already closed as a robbery per Conclusion 481, so no accusation needed answering. Which confirms that the planter was answering the accusations then in play rather than leaving traces of her own acts. [Deductive, Logical]

11.4 Who Could Plant It, and When

Premise 128 : Masako insisted she was framed and said she did not know by whom.

Conclusion 653 : The evidence was planted by someone who could come and go from the Umezawa house normally. [Abductive, Causal]

Premise 129 : The girls were poisoned in late March, and the arsenic bottle was at the Meguro house.

Conclusion 654 : The planter had to return to Meguro on a night after the poisoning, so it is someone who could come back to that house unsuspected. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 655 : Pin the frame as tight as possible. The bottle had to be at Kaminoge on 31 March because it was used there, then at Meguro before the police search. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 656 : Masako reached Meguro on 1 April per Premise 108. Planting before that means the planter was in the house while nobody was home. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 657 : Planting after that means the planter entered a house with Masako in it without being challenged. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 658 : Both need someone with a natural right to be in that house rather than an intruder, since breaking into a house in the middle of a national news story just before a police search is an unacceptable risk. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 659 : In early April 1936, two groups had a natural right to be in the Meguro house. Masako, and the six young women. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 660 : Masako is eliminated, since nobody plants evidence against herself, and eliminated again by the geography of Conclusion 621. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 661 : The six young women remain, and official records have them all dead since 31 March. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 662 : Fourth time the chain hits this wall, after the ballet route at Conclusion 270, the timeline route at Conclusion 564, and the alibi-criteria route at Conclusion 629. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 663 : Sharpest of the four. The first three concern properties or possibilities. This one concerns an act that must actually have occurred, at a time that can be specified, after everyone in that group should have been dead. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 664 : An act requiring a doer, with everyone capable of it counted as dead, leaves two exits. An undiscovered outsider, or an incorrect list of the dead. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 665 : The first was already cut by several independent routes at Conclusions 390 and 616. The second remains. [Deductive, Logical]

11.5 Why Masako

Conclusion 666 : Planting evidence requires choosing a target, and the target chosen is the person who will bear responsibility for the whole case. So the selection criterion has to be one that closes a case, not one that merely confuses people. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 667 : Masako meets it for three reasons. She is the only adult to survive the plan and remain in the house. She connects to the manuscript through being a stepmother. And her own actions already support it, from the Yahiko trip per Conclusion 568. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 668 : The third matters most, because planted evidence does not work alone. It works with what the target has already done, which gives one fake object far more weight than it could carry by itself. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 669 : Which explains the heavy investment in the Yahiko trip although the trip was unnecessary for the killings. The trip builds the foundation. The arsenic bottle sits on top of it. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 670 : The aim of the frame-up is therefore termination rather than diversion. Cases with nobody held responsible stay open forever and get reopened repeatedly. Cases with someone held responsible close. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 671 : Same logic as staging the robbery at Conclusion 483, which targeted the duration of police attention rather than the question of who did it. [Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 672 : This culprit thinks very consistently across the whole case. Never once does she try to clear herself directly. She makes the investigation end on somebody else instead. [Abstract, Cognitive]

11.6 Planting Evidence Means Leaving Her Own Method

Conclusion 673 : Her principal method throughout is arranging circumstances so others draw the wrong conclusion themselves, per Conclusion 570, and it worked on Takekoshi, Yoshio and Masako. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 674 : That method has a marked property. It leaves no fakes at all. Everything anyone sees is genuine. What is wrong is the reading. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 675 : Planting arsenic and a rope does the opposite. It creates an untrue object and puts it into the world. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 676 : The result fits the principle that people are weakest working outside their own method. A single rope is a detectable physical error, unlike the rest of her work, which is undetectable. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 677 : Which gives this part its most important observation. The chain has recorded that every piece of evidence in this case runs the same way with no internal snag to catch. That statement is not entirely true. One snag exists, and here it is. [Perceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 678 : Its location is no accident. Here is the one place she made something herself, and manufactured objects are the only things provable as fakes. Real objects read wrongly cannot be proved fake, because they are not fake. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 679 : In a case where everything agrees, look for the point at which the culprit was forced to manufacture something. Manufacture is always a weak point. Arranging real objects is not. [Abstract, Cognitive]

11.7 Masako in Prison, and an Unintended Side Effect

Premise 130 : Masako was arrested, denied the charges throughout, and died in prison in 1960 at the age of 76.

Conclusion 680 : Her insistence on innocence until death, plus press attention, is why the case became a legend in the mid-1950s. [Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 681 : Twenty years of denial is weak evidence alone, since the guilty deny things too. It is not weak set beside the geographical finding at Conclusion 621. [Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 682 : Because the two come from entirely separate sources. One from a person's behaviour, one from a lodging-search report. And they agree without being bent. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 683 : A side effect of her never confessing is that the case never closed in the public mind, contrary to the culprit's aim at Conclusion 670. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 684 : What followed was a wave of books, amateur theories, and forty years of unending argument. None of it planned. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 685 : Yet the side effect turned to her advantage, because forty years of accumulated wrong theories force anyone arriving later to spend time dismantling old material before they can begin thinking for themselves. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 686 : So the plan generated a self-sustaining defence that kept working after the culprit stopped acting, one she neither designed nor controlled. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 687 : Fifth layer of luck, after the thirty-year snowfall, the revolt on the 26th, Yoshio's lie, and Takekoshi's blood type. Record it for Part 18. [Systematic, Cognitive]

11.8 The Cost and Risk of Planting

Conclusion 688 : Planting happens after the main work is finished, which means she chose to re-enter a dangerous area with no need to return. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 689 : Three risks accepted. Being seen entering the house. Placing objects somewhere unnatural. And placing objects inconsistent with each other, which is exactly what happened with the rope. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 690 : She accepted them because no other route would close the case, the same pattern as Conclusion 462, where the plan's complexity comes from constraint rather than taste. [Deductive, Logical]

11.9 Status of the Chain at the End of Part 11

Newly answered

- The evidence at Meguro was planted, and the planter worked from a theory postdating the events rather than from the events.
- The test for a fake is completeness relative to the accusations, not the seriousness of the object.
- The planter had to be in the Meguro house after 31 March, when everyone with a right to be there was counted as dead.
- The frame-up aimed at terminating the case, not at diverting it.
- This is the one place in the case where the culprit manufactured a fake, and the one real snag that exists.

- The fifth layer of luck is recorded: a wave of amateur theories that became her armour by accident.

Still unanswered

- How can the list of the dead be wrong when all six bodies were identified?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts? Outstanding since Part 8.
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill? Outstanding since Part 2.
- Who is she?

Part 12 The Method of Killing, and the Metals

From this part onward the reasoning-type tags switch to a new system entirely. Each step may carry between one and four tags.

12.1 What Equal Doses Tell Us

Premise 131 : Each girl's stomach held 0.2 to 0.3 grams of arsenous acid.

Premise 132 : The lethal dose is 0.1 grams, stronger than potassium cyanide, which needs 0.15.

Conclusion 691 : Everyone received two to three times a lethal dose. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 692 : Overdosing at that level is not careful measurement. It is a margin taken to be certain, the behaviour of someone with no chance to correct a failure. [Numerical, Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 693 : Consistency matters more than quantity, because all six fall in a very close band. [Numerical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 694 : Killing one at a time would spread the doses wider. Each occasion needs fresh measuring, and a measuring hand drifts as confidence grows. [Probabilistic, Inductive, Causal]

Conclusion 695 : Consistency at this level indicates poison divided out of one vessel on one occasion rather than measured repeatedly. [Numerical, Abductive, Logical]

Conclusion 696 : All six were poisoned together, in a single act. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 697 : Which forces all six into one place at one time, matching the earlier conclusion that the Kaminoge house is where they were gathered. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

12.2 How the Poison Entered the Body

Conclusion 698 : Giving six people the same substance at once in near-identical amounts has one method. Mix it into a liquid and pour it out in portions. [Deductive, Logical, Decompositional]

Conclusion 699 : That liquid has to mask both taste and colour, and has to be something six young women would drink without hesitating. [Causal, Conceptual]

Conclusion 700 : Fruit juice meets both. Sweetness covers the taste, and people back from a full day of travel accept it without a thought. [Abductive, Causal, Conceptual]

Conclusion 701 : Pouring six glasses from one jug makes a single action cover all six victims at once. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 702 : Only this method lets one small person handle six. No strength needed, no binding, no noise, no struggle. [Causal, Decompositional, Logical]

Conclusion 703 : Which fits a young woman close in age to the victims acting alone far better than it fits a man who could use force. [Analogical, Probabilistic, Abductive]

12.3 Why Kill Together Rather Than in Sequence

Conclusion 704 : Killing one at a time means the rest know immediately that someone is missing, and those who know are witnesses who also know who was in the house. [Cause And Effect, Logical]

Conclusion 705 : More than one survivor can combine and overpower a single attacker, since all are close in age and comparable in build. [Numerical, Causal, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 706 : Simultaneous killing is therefore not a stylistic choice. The numbers force it. One against six leaves exactly one method that works. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 707 : Method forced, place forced too. Gathering six people to drink at once needs both a pretext for gathering and a space where nobody watches. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

12.4 Lead Oxide in Tomoko's Mouth

Premise 133 : Tomoko was an Aquarius, and lead oxide was found in her mouth, a yellow powder toxic in itself but poorly soluble.

Conclusion 708 : A poorly soluble substance cannot be mixed into a drink to kill six people at once. It settles and divides unevenly. [Deductive, Logical, Causal]

Conclusion 709 : Lead oxide could kill Tomoko by itself and still could not kill the other five simultaneously, so the culprit had to use arsenous acid on everyone alike. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 710 : Lead oxide is therefore not a weapon. It is something inserted. [Abductive, Logical]

Conclusion 711 : Its position confirms this. The mouth is where anyone who opens it sees the substance at once, not where swallowing would deposit it. [Perceptual, Visual, Abductive]

12.5 The Full List of Metals, and Its Accuracy

Premise 134 : Akiko, a Scorpio, had iron oxide. Yukiko, a Cancer, had silver nitrate. Tokiko, an Aries, had iron applied to the cut surface and torso. Reiko, a Virgo, had mercury. Nobuyo, a Sagittarius, had tin.

Conclusion 712 : Every metal matches Heikichi's manuscript at every point, with nothing out of place. [Verbal, Perceptual, Deductive]

Conclusion 713 : Six consecutive matches by coincidence is very nearly impossible. [Probabilistic, Numerical]

Conclusion 714 : The culprit followed the manuscript strictly. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 715 : Strictly says more still. Anyone working from memory misses at least one point. Missing none means the document was opened and rechecked during the work. [Inductive, Abductive, Cognitive]

Conclusion 716 : So the culprit held the manuscript rather than merely having read it, and had time enough to work with the document beside her. [Deductive, Logical, Causal]

12.6 Obtaining the Chemicals

Premise 135 : Mercury comes from breaking a thermometer, but the others need specialist knowledge and access to a pharmacy faculty.

Conclusion 717 : The culprit must have had access to a laboratory or medical facility, a very narrow condition. [Deductive, Logical, Conceptual]

Conclusion 718 : Narrower than any other condition in the case, because it needs three things at once. Knowing what each substance is. Knowing where it is kept. And having a reason to be there that nobody questions. [Decompositional, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 719 : Acquisition had to happen before the day of the act, not after, since these substances cannot be obtained in a few hours. [Cause And Effect, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 720 : This preparation therefore took weeks to months before the end of March. [Numerical, Inductive]

Conclusion 721 : Which looks like a conflict with improvising on the night of 25 February, and is not, because these are different levels of planning. The frame was laid far ahead. The details were adjusted on site. [Systematic, Abstract, Logical]

Conclusion 722 : It also confirms that the Azoth plan was prepared before Heikichi died, since collecting the chemicals had to start earlier. [Cause And Effect, Deductive, Logical]

12.7 The Metals Killed Nobody. They Perform.

Conclusion 723 : Every metal was introduced after death. None was used to kill. [Deductive, Logical, Causal]

Conclusion 724 : Their sole function is making the bodies match what the manuscript says. [Abductive, Conceptual]

Conclusion 725 : Which means the audience for these metals is not the victims. It is whoever examines the bodies later. [Conceptual, Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 726 : In cost and return, adding metals is pure added risk with no contribution whatever to the success of the killing. [Cause And Effect, Probabilistic, Systematic]

Conclusion 727 : Accepting extra risk for no gain in killing means the goal was never killing alone. [Abductive, Causal, Logical]

Conclusion 728 : Making the bodies match the manuscript is therefore not a by-product of the plan. It is one of the plan's aims. [Deductive, Logical, Conceptual]

12.8 Why the Case Had to Read as a Dead Man's Plan

Conclusion 729 : With every body matching the manuscript, anyone reading the case concludes that this is Heikichi's idea being carried out. [Verbal, Causal, Inductive]

Conclusion 730 : That conclusion carries attention to the question of who believed in Heikichi's idea enough to act for him, instead of who benefits from these deaths. [Cognitive, Conceptual, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 731 : The first question always leads out of the family, because family members are not who anyone pictures when speaking of believers in an occult theory. [Probabilistic, Inductive, Cognitive]

Conclusion 732 : More important still. The manuscript calls for six young women, so once the case reads as following the manuscript, six becomes a number everyone expects in advance. [Verbal, Numerical, Deductive]

Conclusion 733 : Expect a number in advance and find exactly that number, and nobody counts again. Recounting happens only when a result conflicts with expectation. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

Conclusion 734 : Adding the metals is therefore what built the wall around the number of bodies, and that wall is the only thing still keeping the real answer out of sight. [Systematic, Abstract, Cause And Effect]

12.9 The Cost of Following the Manuscript

Premise 136 : Following the manuscript requires obtaining several chemicals, dismembering the bodies, transporting them across the country, and burying them at specified mines.

Conclusion 735 : Were the goal simply that everyone should die, it all ends at the fruit juice. Nothing after that is necessary. [Decompositional, Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 736 : At least half the labour of the entire operation therefore went into presentation rather than into killing. [Numerical, Decompositional, Systematic]

Conclusion 737 : Proportion of cost indicates proportion of purpose. Half the labour spent making the case read a particular way means making it read that way mattered as much as the killing. [Numerical, Abstract, Conceptual]

Conclusion 738 : Combined with the earlier finding that the culprit wanted the case to stay unsolved, her goal has two layers. First, that these people die. Second, that the deaths be explained by a story of her choosing. [Systematic, Abstract, Conceptual]

12.10 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- All six were poisoned together from one vessel, with arsenous acid in fruit juice.

- Simultaneous killing was not a choice. The number of victims forced it.
- Every metal was introduced after death, with the single function of matching the bodies to the manuscript.
- The culprit physically held the manuscript and rechecked it while working.
- Chemical acquisition began weeks before March, meaning the Azoth plan was prepared before Heikichi died.
- Half the total work went into presentation rather than killing.
- Adding the metals created the expectation of six, and expectation is why nobody counted again.

Still outstanding

- How can the list of the dead be wrong when identification covered all six?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts?
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill?
- Who is she?

Part 13 The Positions of the Bodies, and Identification

13.1 The First Body, and the Frame It Opened

Premise 137 : Tomoko was found at the Hosokura mine in Miyagi, unburied, cut below the knees, wrapped in oiled paper, still in travelling clothes, on 15 April, fifteen days after she vanished.

Premise 138 : Hosokura is a well-known lead and zinc mine, matching Tomoko's sign of Aquarius.

Conclusion 739 : The first body found is the only one not buried, which means it was placed to be found rather than hidden and discovered by chance. [Perceptual, Abductive, Logical]

Conclusion 740 : It performs a function no other body performs. It determines how people will read all the rest. [Conceptual, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 741 : Still in travelling clothes, it links instantly to the Yahiko trip. Lying in a mine matching her sign, it links instantly to the manuscript. [Verbal, Perceptual, Causal]

Conclusion 742 : Japanese police, who normally do not use imagination in investigation, this time did not reject the possibility that the case was following the manuscript. [Inductive, Cognitive]

Conclusion 743 : They accepted that frame not from belief in the occult but because the first body supplied two verifiable facts at once, metal and location, both confirmable by physical means. [Cognitive, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 744 : A frame opened by verifiable evidence is much stronger than one opened by conjecture, and it does not get discarded easily even when something incompatible turns up later. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

13.2 The Manuscript Names Metals, Not Mines

Premise 139 : The manuscript says only that Aries belongs at an iron source and Cancer at a silver source. It names no mines.

Conclusion 745 : Police therefore had to search every mine in the country producing each metal, which consumed enormous time. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 746 : This vagueness benefits the culprit directly. It converts a question with one answer into a search across hundreds of sites. [Numerical, Causal, Systematic]

Conclusion 747 : It also means the choice of each particular mine was the culprit's own decision, not something the manuscript dictated. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 748 : Since the choice is hers, it says something about her purpose that the manuscript does not. [Abductive, Conceptual]

13.3 Police Dogs and the Rhythm of Discovery

Premise 140 : Akiko was buried 50 centimetres deep at the Kamaishi mine in Iwate, found on 4 May by a police dog, with 20 to 30 centimetres removed at the waist.

Premise 141 : After that, police trusted the dogs more and deployed them nationwide.

Conclusion 749 : Discovery accelerates only once a body exists to prove that burials really happened. Not before. [Cause And Effect, Inductive]

Conclusion 750 : So search speed depends on the searchers' level of belief, not on the quantity of evidence. [Cognitive, Causal, Abstract]

Conclusion 751 : The first two bodies did more than get found first. They set the pace at which every remaining body would be found. [Systematic, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 752 : Whoever chose how deep each body went was therefore controlling the chronology of the entire investigation. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

13.4 The Headless Body

Premise 142 : Tokiko was buried 70 centimetres deep at a mine in Gunma, found three days after Akiko, with no head.

Premise 143 : She was identified by Tae, plus feet showing the marks of a ballet dancer, plus a mole on the abdomen matching what the manuscript describes.

Conclusion 753 : A headless body was confirmed entirely by indirect evidence. A mother's word, a mole, a pair of feet. No confirmation by face at all. [Perceptual, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 754 : The manuscript specifying the mole's position in advance, and the body carrying a mole exactly there, is not coincidence. It is identification evidence prepared beforehand. [Abductive, Verbal, Causal]

Conclusion 755 : Which changes what the manuscript is. Not merely a plan for killing, but an identity document written before any body existed. [Conceptual, Abstract, Verbal]

Conclusion 756 : A document stating in advance where a body will be marked is not identification evidence. It is a template anything can be matched against. [Abstract, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 757 : The difference is this. Real identification evidence comes from a source the culprit cannot control. Something the culprit wrote herself and then made true confirms nothing. [Logical, Abstract, Systematic]

13.5 Why the Headless Slot Is the Safest

Premise 144 : Faces and heads cannot be faked.

Conclusion 758 : Every body with a head must pass a check the culprit cannot control. [Deductive, Logical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 759 : A body without one skips that check entirely, leaving only checks the culprit could prepare in full. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 760 : So the body that should have been examined hardest was examined most lightly. [Logical, Cognitive, Abstract]

Conclusion 761 : Not through carelessness. No other instrument remained. Remove the head and every surviving method of checking weakens at the same time. [Causal, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 762 : Removing the head also did not make that body look suspicious, since every body in this case had some part cut away. A missing head blends into the general pattern. [Perceptual, Cognitive, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 763 : Which means dismembering the others also concealed the removal of the head. All the missing parts became a background against which the most important missing part did not stand out. [Systematic, Abstract, Causal]

13.6 The Last Two Bodies, Reduced to Bone

Premise 145 : Yukiko was buried 105 centimetres deep at the Kosaka mine in Akita, found on 2 October, with the chest cut away and the head placed on the abdomen.

Premise 146 : Nobuyo was buried 140 centimetres deep at the Ikuno mine in Hyogo, found on 28 December, thighs cut away, pelvis joined to the knee, reduced to bone after nine months.

Premise 147 : Reiko was buried 150 centimetres deep at the Yamato mine in Nara, found on 10 February the following year, abdomen missing, reduced to bone.

Conclusion 764 : The last two were bone enough that even the closest relatives could not recognise them. Fumiko was not even needed to identify them. [Perceptual, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 765 : Those two therefore have a higher chance of being someone else than any other body, since clothing is all that remains to identify them by. [Probabilistic, Logical]

Conclusion 766 : Of six bodies, three have weak identification. One headless, two reduced to bone. [Numerical, Decompositional]

Conclusion 767 : The three weaknesses take different forms. The headless body lacks the part that cannot be faked. The skeletal ones lost everything to time. [Decompositional, Causal, Logical]

Conclusion 768 : The second kind of weakness was not produced directly by the culprit. It came from late discovery, and late discovery came from the depth she chose. [Cause And Effect, Systematic, Causal]

Conclusion 769 : So she did not destroy the evidence on those two with her own hands. She arranged for time to do it instead. [Abductive, Abstract, Systematic]

13.7 The Evidence Everyone Treated as Decisive

Premise 148 : Identification used age estimates from bone and skin, height comparison, clay modelling over the skull to reconstruct the face, and blood typing.

Premise 149 : The most decisive evidence was foot bones and toe deformation from ballet, present in all six bodies.

Conclusion 770 : Finding six substitute girls of the same age with ballet-deformed toes was all but impossible in the Japan of that period. [Probabilistic, Numerical, Inductive]

Conclusion 771 : And if you already intend to kill these girls, there is no reason to have them train in ballet for years until their toes deform. [Causal, Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 772 : The recovered parts are therefore almost certainly the Umezawa daughters. [Deductive, Logical, Probabilistic]

13.8 What That Evidence Proves, and What It Does Not

Conclusion 773 : That conclusion is entirely correct, and must be read for what it actually says. It says these parts came from the daughters of this family. [Verbal, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 774 : What it does not say is how many people the parts came from. [Logical, Numerical, Abstract]

Conclusion 775 : The gap between those two is the gap between whose is this and how many are there, and every method used in the case answers only the first. [Decompositional, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 776 : Ballet feet prove their owner danced in that group. They do not prove that all the feet found came from six people. [Perceptual, Logical, Numerical]

Conclusion 777 : Blood type likewise. It says the parts are compatible with this group. It does not say into how many bodies they divide. [Logical, Numerical, Deductive]

Conclusion 778 : Height and skeletal age answer only that the parts fall in the correct range, and six girls of similar age in one household all fall in the same range anyway. [Numerical, Logical, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 779 : Every instrument used was built to answer whether something belongs to this group. Not one was built to count. [Systematic, Decompositional, Abstract]

Conclusion 780 : And the number was never checked, because nobody thought it was a question. Everyone took six from the missing-persons list and matched bodies to names one by one. [Cognitive, Systematic, Abstract]

Conclusion 781 : Matching one by one against an existing list always comes out complete, provided there are enough parts to assemble the list, whatever the truth may be. [Logical, Abstract, Systematic]

13.9 The Wall That Grows From Here

Conclusion 782 : The conclusion that the six bodies are this family's daughters is the wall stopping anyone from asking whether the number of bodies is right. [Cognitive, Abstract, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 783 : Its strength comes from being built out of real evidence interpreted correctly, not out of a misunderstanding. [Abstract, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 784 : Walls of this kind are far harder to break than walls built on error, because you cannot show them to be wrong. You have to show that they answer a different question, and that is an argument most people are not used to. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 785 : Each mother's confirmation thickens it further. A mother called to look at pieces of her child is in no condition to ask systemic questions. She was asked whether this was her daughter. She was not asked how many daughters were present. [Cognitive, Verbal, Causal]

Conclusion 786 : Once the question asked has fixed the range of possible answers, getting the right answer helps nothing. [Abstract, Cognitive, Logical]

13.10 Every Personal Possession Missing

Premise 150 : Not one suitcase or personal item belonging to the girls was ever found. Only bodies.

Conclusion 787 : Possessions all gone while the bodies still wear travelling clothes means someone dealt with the belongings separately from the bodies. [Perceptual, Abductive, Logical]

Conclusion 788 : Which is a trace of planning rather than of a sudden killing. [Abductive, Causal]

Conclusion 789 : A deeper reason exists. Luggage attaches to an owner individually, unlike body parts, which attach to a group. [Conceptual, Logical, Decompositional]

Conclusion 790 : Bury the luggage with each body and every body carries individual identifying information that has to match the remains lying there. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 791 : That condition is one the culprit cannot satisfy if the bodies were reassembled from parts borrowed between them. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 792 : Removing all the belongings was therefore not merely destroying evidence. It removed from the case the one check that would pair a body with a person individually. [Systematic, Abstract, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 793 : What remains as an identifier is the clothing on the bodies, which the culprit chose and dressed them in herself. [Logical, Deductive, Perceptual]

13.11 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- The first body was placed to be found, and it set the frame for how every later body would be read.
- Search speed tracked the searchers' belief rather than the evidence, so whoever set the burial depths set the chronology of the whole investigation.
- The manuscript is not only a plan but an identity document written before any body existed, which makes it a template rather than evidence.
- The body that should have been examined hardest was the headless one, and it was examined most lightly. Dismembering the others hid it in the pattern.
- Three of the six have weak identification, for two different reasons.
- Every instrument used answers only whether the parts belong to this group. None counts. The number was never checked.
- Removing all the luggage removed the one check that would pair a body with a person individually.

Still outstanding

- If the number is wrong, by what mechanism is it wrong?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts?
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill?
- Who is she?

Part 14 Burial Depth and the Order of Discovery

Here is a set of numbers that sat in the case file for forty years with nobody able to explain it, although it is the timetable of the whole case written out plainly.

14.1 Numbers Nobody Could Explain

Premise 151 : Burial depths were Akiko 50, Tokiko 70, Yukiko 105, Nobuyo 140 and Reiko 150 centimetres.

Premise 152 : Tomoko was not buried at all.

Premise 153 : In forty years neither police nor amateur detectives could explain these numbers.

Conclusion 794 : Fifty to seventy centimetres can pass as hurried burial. One hundred and fifty is abnormal enough that a short person could stand in the hole. [Numerical, Perceptual, Deductive]

Conclusion 795 : Digging three times deeper does not take three times the effort. It takes more, since depth forces a wider mouth to work in and the lower soil is denser than the upper. [Numerical, Causal, Perceptual]

Conclusion 796 : The difference between a 50 and a 150 centimetre hole is therefore a multiple of labour, at night, in remote country, alone. [Numerical, Cause And Effect, Systematic]

Conclusion 797 : When someone pays several times the labour for jobs that look identical, the difference has a reason. Not coincidence, and not mood. [Causal, Abductive, Logical]

14.2 Depth Is Not Doing the Hiding

Conclusion 798 : Were the aim of burial to prevent discovery, every hole would be equally deep, at the deepest she could manage. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 799 : Were the aim speed from fear of being caught, every hole would be equally shallow. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 800 : Reality matches neither. Depth is therefore not the product of a single aim but a variable set separately at each site. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 801 : It is also the only variable she could set freely at each site. The mine was fixed by the zodiac sign. The missing part was fixed by the manuscript. Depth alone was entirely hers. [Decompositional, Systematic, Deductive]

Conclusion 802 : Once almost everything is locked, whatever remains adjustable becomes, automatically, the place where a culprit stores the information she wants to control. [Abstract, Systematic, Conceptual]

14.3 Depth Is Time

Conclusion 803 : Deeper burial means later discovery. Dogs pick up less scent, rain uncovers less, and ordinary probing does not reach. [Causal, Cause And Effect, Deductive]

Conclusion 804 : Depth therefore works as a timer, not as concealment. [Abstract, Conceptual, Causal]

Conclusion 805 : She converted a quantity of distance into a quantity of time, the only way to schedule events months ahead without ever returning to the spot. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 806 : Which matters, because her work ended at the moment of burial. Everything afterwards ran itself on the settings she left. [Systematic, Cause And Effect, Abstract]

Conclusion 807 : And it explains how she vanished from the case completely by the middle of 1936 while the case kept revealing itself for nearly another year. [Cause And Effect, Systematic, Deductive]

14.4 The Order of Discovery Matches Depth Exactly

Premise 154 : Discovery order was Tomoko on 15 April, Akiko on 4 May, Tokiko three days after Akiko, Yukiko on 2 October, Nobuyo on 28 December, and Reiko on 10 February the following year.

Conclusion 808 : Order of discovery matches depth at every point. Unburied first, deepest last, with no inversion anywhere. [Numerical, Perceptual, Deductive]

Conclusion 809 : Six consecutive matches by chance runs at roughly one in seven hundred and twenty, low enough to discard coincidence. [Numerical, Probabilistic, Logical]

Conclusion 810 : The culprit deliberately controlled the rhythm of discovery. [Abductive, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 811 : Gaps between discoveries also widen, from a few weeks early on to five months, two months, then six weeks, meaning depth increased on an accelerating curve rather than a straight line. [Numerical, Perceptual, Causal]

Conclusion 812 : Acceleration gives the bodies late in the order significantly more decomposition time than those early in it. Not slightly more. [Numerical, Cause And Effect, Deductive]

14.5 First Aim: Prevent the Cut Surfaces Being Compared

Conclusion 813 : Controlling the rhythm aims at preventing two bodies with matching cut surfaces from being exhumed and compared at the same time. [Abductive, Systematic, Deductive]

Conclusion 814 : This matters more than anything else, because fitting two cut surfaces together and finding they match is the one test that destroys the whole case in a single stroke, and it requires no special knowledge at all. [Perceptual, Visual, Logical]

Conclusion 815 : That test needs three conditions at once. Both parts still comparable. Both in the hands of the same people. And someone who thinks to compare them. [Decompositional, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 816 : Stretching the intervals across months destroys all three together. Earlier bodies have been disposed of, condition has changed, and nobody thinks to go back and compare material from a file closed long ago. [Systematic, Cause And Effect, Cognitive]

Conclusion 817 : Each body also lies in a different prefecture, meaning a different police jurisdiction. Spatial separation reinforces temporal separation. [Systematic, Causal, Decompositional]

Conclusion 818 : Choosing mines scattered across the country therefore did more than match the manuscript. It separated the evidence administratively. [Systematic, Abstract, Conceptual]

14.6 Second Aim: Let Time Destroy the Condition Before the Mothers Look

Conclusion 819 : The second aim is that bodies borrowing parts from others rot to bone before a mother is brought to identify them, so she cannot tell. [Abductive, Causal, Deductive]

Conclusion 820 : The real threat is not the doctor's examination but the mother's eye. Doctors check against a prescribed list. A mother senses that something is wrong without needing a list. [Cognitive, Perceptual, Causal]

Conclusion 821 : That sense works on flesh. It does not work on bone. [Perceptual, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 822 : Each depth was therefore probably set according to how abnormal that body was. Heavily reassembled bodies go deep. Lightly reassembled ones can go shallow. [Abductive, Systematic, Numerical]

Conclusion 823 : If so, the order of depths is a ranking of which body was reassembled most. [Abstract, Systematic, Logical]

Conclusion 824 : Condition supports it. Nobuyo at 140 had a pelvis joined to a knee with no thigh. Reiko at 150 had no abdomen. These two show the clearest joining of parts among the six. [Perceptual, Visual, Deductive]

Conclusion 825 : So the depth figures nobody could explain for forty years are a list the culprit wrote herself, saying which bodies were most problematic. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

14.7 Tomoko, Unburied

Conclusion 826 : Tomoko was not buried because her body borrowed nothing from anyone, making her safe to be found first. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 827 : She was not merely safe. She was necessary, since one body had to be found early in fully examinable condition, or nobody would believe the case was following the manuscript. [Deductive, Logical, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 828 : The body needing least protection is therefore the body made to do the hardest work of misdirection. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 829 : Which shows the culprit did not view the six alike. Each body has a specific role in the system rather than being an interchangeable victim to dispose of. [Conceptual, Systematic, Abstract]

14.8 Depth as Something Readable in Reverse

Conclusion 830 : If depth reflects abnormality, anyone noticing these numbers can read them backwards immediately. Examine the deepest body first. [Logical, Abstract, Systematic]

Conclusion 831 : This information was in the case file from the start and was never concealed. It was simply never read as information. [Cognitive, Perceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 832 : Nobody read it because depth was filed as a detail of burial rather than as a variable the culprit chose, and things filed in the wrong category do not get picked up and thought about. [Cognitive, Conceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 833 : Same pattern as the number of bodies. Something visible the whole time and never questioned, because it sits in a category nobody questions. [Analogical, Cognitive, Abstract]

14.9 What She Could Not Control

Premise 155 : Rain caused buried bodies to miss the periods when they should have been found on schedule.

Conclusion 834 : She controlled order and approximate timing, not exact dates, since variables like rain take no instructions. [Causal, Probabilistic, Deductive]

Conclusion 835 : The risk is asymmetric. Drift toward later does no damage. It only decomposes the bodies further, which helps her. [Probabilistic, Cause And Effect, Logical]

Conclusion 836 : Drift toward earlier is what destroys the plan, because a body might be found while its cut surface can still be matched against the previous one. [Probabilistic, Cause And Effect, Systematic]

Conclusion 837 : With risk tilted one way, the correct method is to allow margin on the safe side, which means burying deeper than calculated. [Probabilistic, Numerical, Systematic]

Conclusion 838 : Which explains the excessive-looking 150 centimetres. Not a calculation. A margin. [Numerical, Abductive, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 839 : Same behaviour as the poison doses at two to three times lethal. This person always takes margin on the safe side where a mistake cannot be corrected. [Analogical, Inductive, Probabilistic]

14.10 Who Did the Digging

Premise 156 : Tomoko's body was wrapped in oiled paper when found.

Conclusion 840 : Digging 140 to 150 centimetres in mining country is very hard for a woman in her early twenties working alone. [Numerical, Causal, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 841 : If the carrier also dug, he would see the condition of the bodies, count them, and might notice signs of joined parts. [Causal, Logical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 842 : Which contradicts everything she does elsewhere, since she prevented even doctors from comparing parts. No reason exists to let a carrier look freely. [Logical, Systematic, Deductive]

Conclusion 843 : Wrapping in oiled paper therefore means more than keeping things clean. It lets the carrier hold the object without seeing it. [Abductive, Perceptual, Conceptual]

Conclusion 844 : The picture that fits best is a carrier who transports and supplies the digging effort, with the culprit controlling the unwrapping and the placing herself. Labour obtained without trading away information. [Abductive, Systematic, Decompositional]

Conclusion 845 : If so, she travelled to every site, which explains why the burial period had to run for weeks rather than being done in one sweep. [Deductive, Logical, Numerical]

14.11 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- Depth does not hide. It sets a timer. She converted distance into a schedule that ran itself after she disappeared.
- Order of discovery matches depth at every point, which cannot be chance.
- The first aim was preventing two bodies with matching cut surfaces from being compared, the one test that destroys the case in a single stroke.
- Scattering the mines nationwide separated the evidence temporally and administratively.
- The second aim was letting reassembled bodies become bone before the mothers looked, since a mother's eye works on flesh and not on bone.
- The order of depths is therefore a ranking of which body was reassembled most, and the condition of the two deepest supports it.
- Tomoko was unburied because her body had no problem, and she was used to open the reading frame for the whole case.
- The 150 centimetre figure is a margin, not a calculation, because the risk tilts one way.
- Oiled paper let the carrier hold the object without seeing it.

Still outstanding

- If the number of bodies is wrong, by what mechanism is it wrong?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts?
- Why was Heikichi's wound severe enough to kill?
- Who is she?

Part 15 Geography and Numbers

All the case's most beautiful decoys sit together here, and this is the part where the more you check, the more accurate everything proves. Which is exactly why it absorbed the attention of clever people for forty years.

15.1 Metals and Mines Matching at Every Point

Premise 157 : Each mine produces the metal matching the sign of the body buried there, at every point.

Conclusion 846 : Burial sites were chosen in advance and deliberately. This was not random disposal. [Deductive, Logical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 847 : Each choice had to satisfy several conditions at once. Produce the right metal, sit remote enough for night digging, be reachable by rail, and have ground that can be dug deep. [Decompositional, Systematic, Deductive]

Conclusion 848 : Japan holds a limited number of mines producing any given metal, and layering the other conditions leaves very few options per sign. [Numerical, Decompositional, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 849 : Finding a set of six mines satisfying everything is therefore not a job done from memory. It requires real research and item-by-item comparison. [Cause And Effect, Systematic, Cognitive]

15.2 The Average, and the Direction of the Calculation

Premise 158 : The manuscript speaks of the true centre of Japan and specifies that Azoth must be placed there.

Premise 159 : The mean longitude of the six mines comes out at exactly 138 degrees 48 minutes.

Premise 160 : The mean latitude comes out at 37 degrees 27 minutes north.

Conclusion 850 : Their intersection falls west of Nagaoka, matching the centre the manuscript describes. [Numerical, Visual, Deductive]

Conclusion 851 : An average is a joint property of all six points together, not a property of any one. It cannot land where required if points are chosen one at a time without regard to the whole. [Numerical, Abstract, Logical]

Conclusion 852 : The planner therefore had to solve all six as one set, before burying even the first body. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 853 : Mathematically, fix an average in advance and five points may be chosen freely. The sixth is forced to one coordinate. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 854 : That sixth point then has to happen to be a real mine producing the correct metal at exactly that coordinate, which is an extremely narrow condition. [Numerical, Probabilistic, Logical]

Conclusion 855 : Making an average land on a predetermined target therefore requires swapping mine sets repeatedly until a workable one appears. [Numerical, Systematic, Cognitive]

15.3 The Knowledge and Tools Required

Conclusion 856 : Three things are needed. A map detailed to the arc-minute. A list of mines with coordinates and the metals they produce. And the ability to average six sets of coordinates. [Decompositional, Numerical, Systematic]

Conclusion 857 : None of the three is rare in itself. Knowing to combine them, and what for, is the rare part. [Cognitive, Conceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 858 : Anyone doing this in 1936 needed some education, access to reference books, and enough free time to sit calculating for days without being questioned. [Inductive, Causal, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 859 : Which matches the earlier condition about laboratory access. Both point at someone educated with entry to academic premises. [Analogical, Systematic, Inductive]

Conclusion 860 : Worth noting that both are jobs done quietly alone in a room. No strength, little money, no need to leave the house. Which fits someone constrained in resources but with time and mind to spare. [Conceptual, Inductive, Systematic]

15.4 The Direction Reverses

Conclusion 861 : Two explanations now fit the data equally. First, the manuscript fixed the centre and the culprit hunted for six mines averaging to it. Second, the culprit chose workable mines, calculated the average, then wrote the manuscript declaring that average to be the true centre. [Abductive, Conceptual, Logical]

Conclusion 862 : The first solves a heavily constrained problem that may have no solution at all. The second has no constraint whatever, since any average that emerges can be declared the centre. [Numerical, Logical, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 863 : Where two explanations give the same result at wildly different cost, the cheaper one is correct. [Probabilistic, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 864 : Fitting too neatly is itself a sign of reverse calculation. Solving under real constraints usually gets close without landing exactly. Declaring your computed value to be the target lands exactly every time. [Probabilistic, Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 865 : So the precision convincing everyone the manuscript is genuine is the same thing indicating it was written to match mines already chosen. [Abstract, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 866 : If so, the manuscript is not a plan the culprit followed. It is a document she wrote to explain what she had already planned. [Conceptual, Abstract, Deductive]

Conclusion 867 : Not settleable yet. It does change the manuscript's status from evidence available for citation into something whose origin must be proved before it can be cited. [Logical, Cognitive, Systematic]

15.5 The Numbers 4-6-3

Premise 161 : On the line of 138 degrees 48 minutes lie both the midpoint between Japan's northernmost and southernmost extremes and Mount Yahiko.

Premise 162 : The distances between these points are 20, 30 and 15 minutes, which divided by 5 give 4-6-3.

Conclusion 868 : The 4-6-3 of the manuscript agrees with real geography at every point. Not coincidence. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 869 : Note, though, that dividing by 5 has no justification whatever. That divisor was chosen to make the result come out as the wanted numbers. [Numerical, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 870 : Numerical agreement that depends on a constant nobody can account for is almost always constructed after the fact. [Abstract, Probabilistic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 871 : Because a freely chosen divisor is one free parameter, and one free parameter tunes the result to anything you want. [Numerical, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 872 : Which reinforces the earlier conclusion, since the coordinate average and 4-6-3 share a character. Both look extremely precise and both hide a free value that guarantees the precision. [Analogical, Abstract, Systematic]

15.6 Yahiko on the Same Line

Conclusion 873 : Yahiko lying on this line explains why the pilgrimage was steered there. It is part of staging everything to look like a dead man's plan. [Abductive, Causal, Systematic]

Conclusion 874 : Yahiko therefore does three jobs at once. A place the manuscript names, a point on the coordinate line completing the story, and somewhere near the home town of the person to be framed. [Decompositional, Systematic, Deductive]

Conclusion 875 : Choosing one location answering three requirements is the level of economy found in every decision she makes, which marks it as her habitual way of thinking rather than chance. [Analogical, Inductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 876 : And if Yahiko was chosen for those three conditions, then the manuscript naming Yahiko was written after somebody had decided to take the girls there. [Deductive, Logical, Cause And Effect]

15.7 Decoys That Check Out True Every Time

Conclusion 877 : Signs, coordinate lines and 4-6-3 share one property. Every one is verifiable and every one verifies correctly. [Perceptual, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 878 : A decoy that checks out false gets discarded at once. A decoy that checks out true absorbs attention without limit, because every successful check makes people more certain they are on the right road. [Cognitive, Cause And Effect, Abstract]

Conclusion 879 : The best decoy is therefore not a lie. It is a truth unconnected to the answer. [Abstract, Conceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 880 : With a side effect. Cleverer solvers are caught harder, since clever people prefer hard verifiable puzzles to the plain question of how many bodies there are. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

Conclusion 881 : Everything in this section is carving on a column, not structure of the building. Beautiful and real, and the building stands unchanged when you strip it off. [Analogical, Abstract, Conceptual]

15.8 The Cost of the Geography

Premise 163 : The six burial sites lie in Miyagi, Iwate, Gunma, Akita, Hyogo and Nara.

Conclusion 882 : Coverage runs from northern Tohoku down to Kansai, genuinely crossing the country rather than spreading within one region. [Numerical, Visual, Perceptual]

Conclusion 883 : Travel like that in 1936 with heavy luggage takes several weeks in total and passes before a great many eyes. [Numerical, Causal, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 884 : None of this work advanced the killing by the smallest degree, since the victims died on the first night. [Logical, Cause And Effect, Deductive]

Conclusion 885 : It is therefore cost paid purely for presentation, confirming the earlier finding that half the total labour went into determining how other people would understand the case. [Numerical, Systematic, Abstract]

15.9 What the Geography Says About the Plan's Chronology

Conclusion 886 : Mine selection had to finish before the killings, since she needed to know in advance where the bodies were going and which metals to prepare for each site. [Cause And Effect, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 887 : Chemical acquisition also had to finish first, and it depended on which sign was assigned to which mine, so mine selection precedes even the chemicals. [Cause And Effect, Decompositional, Deductive]

Conclusion 888 : The manuscript was found with Heikichi's body on the night of 25 February. If it was written to match mines already chosen, mine selection finished before 25 February. [Cause And Effect, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 889 : Which means the whole plan, from burial sites through sign assignments to chemical acquisition, was complete before anyone had died. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 890 : Heikichi's death is therefore not the start of the story. It is one step in the middle of a plan already running. [Abstract, Systematic, Conceptual]

Conclusion 891 : Which reshapes the question of the head wound. Not what accident occurred, but why a planned step failed to go as planned. [Conceptual, Abstract, Causal]

15.10 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- All six burial sites were solved as one set, since an average is a joint property and cannot be made to land by choosing points one at a time.
- The work needed a detailed map, a list of mines with coordinates, and calculation. Quiet solitary work suiting someone with time but no other resources.
- The precision convincing everyone the manuscript is genuine is the same thing indicating it was written to match mines already chosen.
- The 4-6-3 requires dividing by 5, which has no source, and an unexplained free value signals construction after the fact.
- Yahiko does three jobs at once, and the manuscript naming Yahiko means it was written after the trip was decided.
- The best decoy is not a lie but a truth unconnected to the answer, and it works better on clever people than on ordinary ones.
- The entire plan was complete before the first death, so Heikichi's death sits in the middle of the plan rather than at its start.

Still outstanding

- If the number of bodies is wrong, by what mechanism is it wrong?
- If there is no Azoth, what became of the missing parts?
- Why did the step involving Heikichi fail to go as planned?
- Who is she?

Part 16 The Banknote Trick, and Breaking the Belief About Number

The answer here comes entirely from outside the case. Not one clue within it points this way.

16.1 Why the Answer Has to Come From Outside

Conclusion 892 : By this point every piece of evidence agrees. Every body was identified by a mother, blood types match, foot bones confirm real ballet dancers, and the manuscript supports all of it. [Perceptual, Systematic, Logical]

Conclusion 893 : A case with no internal snag cannot be solved from inside, because every method of solving works by finding a place where two pieces of information fail to agree. [Logical, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 894 : Honest analysis from the evidence therefore always leads to the wrong answer, however able the solver, because fidelity to the evidence means walking a path already laid out. [Logical, Cognitive, Abstract]

Conclusion 895 : Only a frame from outside the case can break this, laid over the same data to show it reads another way. [Analogical, Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 896 : A usable frame must share structure, not subject matter, since what is wanted is the shape of a deception rather than the details of a crime. [Analogical, Abstract, Conceptual]

16.2 How the Banknote Trick Works

Premise 164 : Three or four years earlier, forged ten-thousand-yen notes spread through the Kansai region.

Premise 165 : The method was cutting notes across and taping them back with opaque tape, leaving each note slightly shorter with mismatched serial numbers at the two ends.

Premise 166 : Lay out twenty notes and draw twenty cut lines, each shifted slightly further right than the last, dividing the stack into twenty-one sections.

Premise 167 : Cutting gives forty pieces. Pair the pieces whose numbers match and tape them with opaque tape, which allows a small gap that exactly compensates for the lost length.

Conclusion 897 : Twenty notes become twenty-one. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 898 : The extra note survives because nobody lays all the notes side by side and counts. [Numerical, Cognitive, Logical]

Premise 168 : Ten notes would work, but the missing portion would be noticeable. Thirty would be safe with little profit. Fifteen to twenty is optimal.

Conclusion 899 : The relationship underneath is this. To produce one extra item from a number of real ones, each real item must give up a fraction of itself equal to one over that number. [Numerical, Abstract, Deductive]

Conclusion 900 : The more real items you use, the less each has to lose, and the easier the loss is to hide. [Numerical, Causal, Logical]

Conclusion 901 : That number is the heart of the trick, because it says the difficulty of hiding depends directly on how many real items exist. [Numerical, Abstract, Systematic]

16.3 Three General Conditions

Conclusion 902 : Strip the trick of money and three general conditions remain, all of which must hold. [Decompositional, Abstract, Systematic]

Conclusion 903 : First, the counted items must never be laid side by side, since side-by-side comparison is the one thing that exposes it instantly. [Logical, Perceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 904 : Second, the portion missing from each item must be small enough to pass unnoticed when items are viewed one at a time. [Perceptual, Numerical, Logical]

Conclusion 905 : Third, something must cover the join, so nobody sees that this item was assembled from two. [Perceptual, Systematic, Conceptual]

Conclusion 906 : None of the three has anything to do with banknotes. They apply to any countable thing that can be cut and reassembled. [Abstract, Analogical, Conceptual]

16.4 Laying the Three Conditions Over the Case

Conclusion 907 : Apply the same principle here and five bodies, cut and reassembled, read as six people. [Analogical, Abstract, Deductive]

Conclusion 908 : The first condition was already satisfied by the differing burial depths, which put the bodies months apart, in different prefectures, under different police jurisdictions. [Systematic, Cause And Effect, Deductive]

Conclusion 909 : So what looked like a separate puzzle about depth is in fact the mechanism serving this trick's first condition directly. [Systematic, Analogical, Abstract]

Conclusion 910 : The second condition is this case's greatest problem, because the number of real items is five, not twenty. [Numerical, Decompositional, Logical]

Conclusion 911 : By the relation at Conclusion 899, each real body must give up about one fifth of itself, roughly twenty per cent. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 912 : Against twenty notes each losing five per cent, the concealment burden here is four times heavier. [Numerical, Analogical, Deductive]

Conclusion 913 : Twenty per cent of a human body is not a small cut. It is a whole section of the body, and no effort can hide it. [Numerical, Perceptual, Visual]

Conclusion 914 : Condition of the remains confirms this at every point. Every missing part is a large section. Below the knees, twenty to thirty centimetres at the waist, the chest, the thighs, the abdomen, the head. [Perceptual, Visual, Deductive]

Conclusion 915 : The culprit therefore could not satisfy the second condition by any physical means. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 916 : Why not use more real items to reduce the fraction? She had no choice. The household held six daughters and no more. [Numerical, Causal, Logical]

Conclusion 917 : With the number locked at five and the second condition unsatisfiable, the only route left is making the third condition strong enough to compensate for everything. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

16.5 A Cover Stronger Than Tape

Premise 169 : Bodies are not banknotes. Tape will not join them. Something stronger is needed.

Conclusion 918 : What replaces opaque tape is the public imagination about Azoth. The theory is so strong and so strange that everyone overlooked physical reality. [Abstract, Conceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 919 : Tape works physically, covering the join from sight. Azoth works mentally, turning missing parts into something already expected instead of an anomaly. [Analogical, Cognitive, Abstract]

Conclusion 920 : The strongest concealment is not making something invisible. It is giving a reason for what is missing. [Abstract, Conceptual, Cognitive]

Conclusion 921 : Once every missing part has a stated destination, nobody asks where it went. And with nobody asking where it went, nobody notices it has gone into another body. [Cognitive, Logical, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 922 : Which is why this case needed a story that strange. Not because the culprit liked the occult, but because the ratio of five to six forced the cover to be abnormally strong. [Causal, Systematic, Abstract]

Conclusion 923 : Fewer real items, stronger the story must be. The strangeness of Azoth is a consequence of arithmetic constraint, not of taste. [Numerical, Causal, Abstract]

16.6 There Never Was an Azoth

Conclusion 924 : Everyone believed the missing parts went into building Azoth. In truth there never was an Azoth, and the culprit never planned to make one. [Deductive, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 925 : Three unrelated routes support this. The metals were inserted purely for display. No location could serve as a real workshop. And the manuscript was probably written to match a plan that already existed. [Systematic, Inductive, Logical]

Conclusion 926 : One more support is the most direct of all. If Azoth existed, it would be somewhere. Forty years on, nobody has found it. [Logical, Deductive, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 927 : The missing parts never went anywhere. They were in the case the whole time, counted as another body. [Deductive, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 928 : The long-outstanding question of what became of the missing parts therefore has an answer. They were used to make one person who does not exist. [Deductive, Logical, Conceptual]

16.7 Why Blood Could Not Separate Them

Premise 170 : All six girls were blood type A.

Premise 171 : In 1936 only ABO testing existed. Finer methods were discovered after the war.

Conclusion 929 : Blood typing could not distinguish which part came from whom, since every result came back A. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 930 : This looks like luck and is not, because blood typing existed then and the culprit could check in advance. [Cognitive, Causal, Logical]

Conclusion 931 : What happened was not a gamble that paid off. It was verification of a necessary condition before planning began. [Causal, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 932 : Had the six not shared a type, the plan would have been impossible, since a single test would have separated the parts at once. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 933 : The entire case therefore rests on one biological fact the culprit could not control but could verify, and she verified it. [Systematic, Abstract, Logical]

16.8 The Headless Slot

Premise 172 : Faces and heads cannot be faked.

Conclusion 934 : A headless body is the one slot that can pass as a missing person with no real body of that person present at all. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 935 : Go slot by slot and five hold the real bodies of real girls. One has to stand in for a girl with no body. [Decompositional, Numerical, Logical]

Conclusion 936 : That slot must be filled with parts borrowed from the other five, and it can never have a head, since the head is the one thing that would prove instantly it is not the person claimed. [Deductive, Logical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 937 : Among all the missing parts, one is missing for a different reason from the rest. The others were borrowed to build the surplus body. The head is missing because it never existed as a corpse. [Decompositional, Abstract, Logical]

Conclusion 938 : Body by body this is invisible, since every body lacks something. Look at the whole set together and one item does not belong. [Perceptual, Systematic, Abstract]

Conclusion 939 : The headless body is Tokiko. The assembled body is therefore Tokiko's. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 940 : With only five real bodies, one girl did not die, and she is the owner of the headless slot. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

16.9 Identification

Conclusion 941 : The one who did not die is Tokiko. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 942 : And she is the culprit, not merely a survivor, since an innocent survivor comes forward once everything is over. [Causal, Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 943 : Beyond that, somebody had to cut and assemble those bodies, somebody had to be at the Kaminoge house on 31 March, and somebody had to return to Meguro afterwards to plant objects. Every one of those jobs needs someone still alive from the group counted as dead. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 944 : Faking her death removed her from the list of the living, the same move by which the forged manuscript removed Heikichi from the list of suspects. [Analogical, Abstract, Conceptual]

Conclusion 945 : She ran the same trick twice on two people. First on her stepfather, then on herself. [Analogical, Systematic, Abstract]

Conclusion 946 : Her deception was never making Heikichi disappear. It was making herself disappear. [Abstract, Conceptual]

Conclusion 947 : Which explains how the brother-substitution theory arose in the first place. It is the structurally correct answer aimed at the wrong person, and refuting it burned the idea along with it. [Analogical, Cognitive, Abstract]

16.10 Why Nobody Counted

Conclusion 948 : The number six was not protected by one mechanism. It was protected by at least seven independent layers. [Decompositional, Systematic, Numerical]

Conclusion 949 : First layer. The manuscript specifies six in advance, so everyone expects that number before seeing a body. [Verbal, Cognitive]

Conclusion 950 : Second layer. Six girls really did go missing, a correct and verifiable fact. [Perceptual, Logical]

Conclusion 951 : Third layer. Six countable sets of remains were found. [Numerical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 952 : Fourth layer. Identification succeeded for every body, by genuinely reliable methods. [Systematic, Logical]

Conclusion 953 : Fifth layer. Bodies were found months apart in different prefectures, leaving no opportunity to compare. [Systematic, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 954 : Sixth layer. No luggage or personal effects survived to pair a body with a person individually. [Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 955 : Seventh layer. A shared blood type made the parts inseparable. [Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 956 : Of the seven, at least four were built by the culprit, one she verified as usable, and two are real facts she merely exploited. [Decompositional, Systematic, Numerical]

Conclusion 957 : Independent layered defence has a critical property. Breaking one layer weakens none of the others, which is why occasional suspicion over forty years never went anywhere. [Systematic, Abstract, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 958 : Breaking all seven at once has one method. Attack no layer at all. Change the question all seven are answering. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

16.11 Carving on the Column

Conclusion 959 : Every puzzle people obsessed over, the signs, the line of 138 degrees 48 minutes, the 4-6-3, is carving on a column rather than structure of the building. [Analogical, Abstract, Conceptual]

Conclusion 960 : Cleverer solvers are caught harder, since clever people want the difficult puzzles, and those puzzles all verify correctly, rewarding effort continuously. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

Conclusion 961 : Meanwhile the question that actually solves the case is the simplest one in it. How many bodies are there? [Numerical, Cognitive, Abstract]

Conclusion 962 : Its difficulty lies not in answering but in thinking to ask, because it looks answered already, on the first line of the file. [Cognitive, Abstract, Conceptual]

Conclusion 963 : In a system where everything agrees, what needs checking is not the most complex conclusion. It is the most basic statement, the one nobody ever raised to the status of a conclusion at all. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

16.12 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- Five bodies were cut and reassembled to read as six people.
- The trick needs three conditions. The culprit could satisfy two. The one she could not is the size of the missing parts.
- A ratio of five to six forces each body to lose about twenty per cent, which cannot be hidden physically, so it had to be compensated by an abnormally strong story.
- The strangeness of Azoth is therefore a consequence of arithmetic, not of the culprit's taste.
- There never was an Azoth. The missing parts were in the case the whole time, counted as another body.
- A shared blood type was a condition she could not control but could verify, and she verified it before planning.
- The missing head is missing for a different reason from every other missing part.
- The one who did not die is Tokiko, and she is the culprit.
- The number six was protected by seven independent layers, which cannot be broken one at a time. The question they all answer has to be changed instead.

Still outstanding

- Why did the step involving Heikichi fail to go as planned?
- Where is she now?

Part 17 The Confession, and Auditing the Chain Backwards

This part differs from every part before it in the kind of information it uses. The sixteen preceding parts worked on evidence the culprit arranged. This one works on the culprit's own account, the one source in the case not designed to deceive anyone, and it is the first time the whole chain gets laid against what actually happened to see where it was right and where it was wrong.

17.1 Why the Two Outstanding Questions Cannot Be Answered by Inference

Conclusion 964 : The two items Part 16 left open, why the step involving Heikichi failed and where she is now, share a property. Both ask about things that left no trace in the case. [Decompositional, Conceptual, Logical]

Conclusion 965 : The first asks about a failed intention, which by definition has no outcome to read backwards. The second asks about someone who has deliberately left no trace for forty years. [Conceptual, Abstract, Deductive]

Conclusion 966 : The whole chain until now has worked by reading outcomes back to intentions. With no outcome to read, the entire toolkit is unusable. [Systematic, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 967 : This case therefore reaches its limit at Part 16. Who did it and how, yes. Why certain moments broke, never, without information from someone who was there. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 968 : Which changes what Part 17 is, from proof to audit. Once the answers come from the culprit directly, the remaining job is not finding answers but seeing how well sixteen parts of chain guessed. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

17.2 Finding Someone Who Left No Trace at All

Premise 173 : After 1936 no document, photograph or testimony in the case connects to her, because she had already been counted as a corpse.

Conclusion 969 : With no physical trace left, one method of finding her remains. Predict where she would choose to live, which means working with wants rather than with evidence. [Deductive, Logical, Abstract]

Conclusion 970 : Her want was identified during the motive analysis. Everything in the plan was done so her mother would get what she should have had. So whatever she did after the plan must continue that goal rather than break from it. [Inductive, Causal, Systematic]

Premise 174 : Her mother once kept a bag shop at Sagano in Kyoto, the place she was most attached to, and she died at Hoya without ever returning.

Conclusion 971 : The place a person chooses after erasing their own identity is not the safest place. It is the place that means something to whatever they did all of it for. [Inductive, Conceptual, Probabilistic]

Conclusion 972 : If she is alive, she is at Sagano, in her mother's trade, under a name connected to her mother. Erasing your own identity does not require erasing your mother's. [Abductive, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 973 : Which reduces a search that should take years to asking at the local police box whether there is a bag shop nearby with a name connected to the mother. [Numerical, Cause And Effect, Systematic]

Conclusion 974 : Anyone who disappears deliberately controls everything except what they want, and what they want is always their address. [Abstract, Cognitive, Conceptual]

17.3 Opening a Shop as Consent to Be Found

Premise 175 : Opening a shop with a name, a location and employees is a permanent public announcement of your coordinates.

Conclusion 975 : Someone hidden for forty years knows this better than anyone. Opening a shop is not carelessness. It is a decision. [Deductive, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 976 : Decisions like that become possible once the work requiring concealment is finished and nothing is left to protect. [Causal, Conceptual, Deductive]

Premise 176 : Her mother did receive money from the case, and lived out the rest of her life exactly as before until she died, moving nowhere and doing nothing with it.

Conclusion 977 : So the plan succeeded on every technical point and failed at its real goal, because what she wanted was not for her mother to have money but for her mother to have a different life, and money cannot do the second. [Cause And Effect, Conceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 978 : No step in the plan could have prevented this failure. It came not from miscalculation but from choosing an instrument that did not match the goal from the start. [Abstract, Cognitive, Causal]

Conclusion 979 : Her opening the shop at Sagano herself, at sixty-six, is therefore not retirement. It is doing the thing money could not do, herself, in place of a mother now dead. [Abductive, Conceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 980 : And since that act cost her exposure, it is the final payment of the plan rather than something outside it. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

17.4 Closing the Question of an Accomplice

Conclusion 981 : Part 10 removed the mother from the suspect list on external conditions, and never removed the possibility that she knew or instigated, which is a different matter. [Decompositional, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 982 : Money tests it directly. In a joint plan the mother takes a share and moves to Sagano the moment she has it, since that is what the plan was designed to obtain. [Deductive, Logical, Numerical]

Conclusion 983 : The money went unused and the dream went unrealised until she died. The mother was not in the plan. [Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 984 : Further, the daughter having to do it herself forty years later proves it was never handed on. A mother who knew where the money came from would not have stayed put. [Abductive, Causal, Logical]

Premise 177 : The mother had given false testimony about her daughter's whereabouts on the night of the killing.

Conclusion 985 : That false testimony was read as a mother protecting a guilty daughter. A cheaper explanation is that she lied about the thing she habitually lied about, her daughter going out to work without the family knowing. [Abductive, Cognitive, Causal]

Conclusion 986 : So this false alibi was not manufactured for the case. It was a habit predating the case, and the culprit simply let it keep working. [Systematic, Conceptual, Deductive]

Conclusion 987 : Same pattern as everywhere else. She builds nothing new where something old already works, and that pattern is why the case has almost no fakes to catch. [Inductive, Analogical, Systematic]

17.5 The Weapon That Broke, and the Answer to the Head Wound

Premise 178 : The weapon was made from a crate for medicine bottles discarded by a hospital, packed with cement mixed with straw, with a wooden handle fitted.

Premise 179 : The handle broke during the act.

Conclusion 988 : This weapon was built for one specific outcome, a wound that reads as a head striking the floor. Flat shape and weight are the wanted properties. The handle only makes it controllable. [Decompositional, Causal, Deductive]

Conclusion 989 : Break the handle and control of direction and force vanishes instantly, leaving mass still in motion. [Causal, Perceptual, Deductive]

Conclusion 990 : The force delivered was therefore not the force she intended, and the point struck was not the point she aimed at. [Deductive, Logical, Causal]

Conclusion 991 : Which pays the debt outstanding since Part 2, on why the wound was too severe for a staged suicide to survive. It was not severe by plan. It was severe because equipment failed. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 992 : It also explains why nothing like it happens again in the whole case. Every later step uses chemistry rather than force, and chemistry has no parts to break. [Analogical, Systematic, Causal]

Conclusion 993 : Set beside doses at two to three times lethal, the picture is someone who trusts what can be calculated and distrusts what needs control on the spot, a lesson she most likely learned on this very night. [Inductive, Analogical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 994 : The one failure in the entire case is therefore material rather than intellectual, and it happened in the plan's opening minute. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

17.6 The Goatee, and Giving the Culprit Too Much Credit

Premise 180 : She originally intended to shave the beard off entirely with a razor.

Premise 181 : During shaving, blood came from the corpse's nose and mouth. She stopped in alarm and switched to trimming with scissors.

Premise 182 : She tried to keep the cut hair off the floor, and some fell anyway.

Conclusion 995 : The state found, short but not clean, is not a state anyone aims for. It is what remains after an original plan is abandoned midway. [Perceptual, Abductive, Deductive]

Conclusion 996 : Part 5 concluded the beard was cut to manufacture a question leading to the substitution theory. That conclusion read the evidence's function correctly and its intention wrongly. [Abstract, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 997 : The distinction matters because every outcome Part 5 described did occur. The substitution theory arose, consumed real time, and really protected her. None of it was designed. [Systematic, Cause And Effect, Conceptual]

Conclusion 998 : Where outcomes are equally good either way, anyone analysing backwards cannot separate the two cases, and will always guess design, because coherence looks more like design than like accident. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

Conclusion 999 : So all sixteen parts of chain carry one systematic bias. They over-credit the culprit wherever an outcome came out well by accident, and no instrument in the chain can detect it. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1000 : This passes directly to Part 18, since assessing the quality of the plan is worthless without separating what was designed from what merely survived. [Systematic, Cognitive, Abstract]

17.7 The Longest Night, and a Hole Dug in Advance

Premise 183 : After leaving the studio she went to the Komazawa woods, where she had already dug and camouflaged a hole, to bury the weapon, the razor and the beard clippings, then stayed there until light.

Conclusion 1001 : A hole dug in advance is direct evidence that killing Heikichi was planned rather than decided on the spot, agreeing with the conclusion that the whole plan was complete before the first death. [Perceptual, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 1002 : What was improvised is only the detail of that night, and this hole separates the two levels cleanly, since things prepared in advance are things independent of the weather. [Decompositional, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 1003 : Staying in the open all night with her mother's house available shows she judged that moving late would produce a witness, and one witness costs more than one cold night. [Probabilistic, Cause And Effect, Cognitive]

Premise 184 : She fell ill from the exposure, and showed visible exhaustion the next morning.

Conclusion 1004 : Those around her read the illness as the grief of a daughter who had just lost her father, converting a cost she really paid into armour without her doing anything more. [Perceptual, Cognitive, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 1005 : Clearest instance of a condition recurring throughout the case. Damage she genuinely absorbed gets interpreted by the environment to her benefit, without her designing it. [Analogical, Systematic, Cognitive]

17.8 The Shoes, and Confidence the Chain Overestimated

Premise 185 : A little more snow fell on the morning of the 26th.

Conclusion 1006 : That morning's snow did two things at once. It covered the traces where she had scooped snow into her bag beside the door, and it blurred the remaining shoe prints past the point where they could be matched against Heikichi's shoes. [Perceptual, Cause And Effect, Deductive]

Conclusion 1007 : Both are the plan's most physically fragile points, and both were fixed by the weather rather than by her. [Systematic, Causal, Deductive]

Conclusion 1008 : A sixth layer of luck therefore joins the list for Part 18, and it belongs to the first night like the thirty-year snowfall and the revolt, giving that single night three layers stacked. [Numerical, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1009 : Beyond that, she knew this point was dangerous and hesitated a long time over whether to return the shoes at all, which contradicts the culprit the chain has been drawing for sixteen parts. [Cognitive, Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 1010 : The chain read every mechanism correctly and read the state of mind wrongly, because tight mechanisms get automatically attributed to a confident person, when tightness usually comes from a frightened one. [Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1011 : Which matters for the assessment ahead, since a plan designed by someone frightened carries margin everywhere. It explains the 150 centimetres, the doses at two to three times lethal, and seven layers of protection stacked around a single number. [Inductive, Systematic, Analogical]

17.9 The Point That Made Her Act

Premise 186 : Earlier she had stolen arsenic in order to kill herself, and abandoned the idea because of her mother.

Conclusion 1012 : The whole plan therefore begins not with a thought of killing anyone but with a thought of dying, transformed into trading her own death for something else. [Causal, Conceptual, Abstract]

Conclusion 1013 : Which explains the plan's strangest property, that it was designed from the outset for the planner to vanish from the world, a condition nobody who wants to go on living would choose. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Premise 187 : The moment she names as unbearable is her mother's cloth bag, left behind when they moved out, being used to prop up a wobbling chair leg.

Conclusion 1014 : What set off a case lasting forty years is therefore the smallest and least valuable object in it. [Perceptual, Numerical, Conceptual]

Conclusion 1015 : It worked not through its own force but because it condensed a decade of accumulation into one object. Something belonging to her mother, forgotten, then used to support someone else's convenience. [Abstract, Conceptual, Analogical]

Conclusion 1016 : Looking for motive in the shape of large events therefore always misses cases like this, since motive built up over years shows itself through small objects rather than large ones. [Abstract, Cognitive, Inductive]

17.10 What Is Now Known and What Remains

Learned in this part

- The last two outstanding items cannot be answered by inference, since both ask about things that left no trace and require the culprit's own account.
- Someone who erased their identity can be located with zero physical information, provided you know what they want, because what they want is their address.
- Opening the shop is consent to be found rather than carelessness, and it is the final payment of the plan.
- The plan succeeded on every technical point and failed at its real goal, because money could not give her mother what she wanted her to have.
- The mother was not a co-planner, proved by unused money, and the false alibi was a habit predating the case rather than something built for it.
- The head wound came from the weapon's handle breaking. The one failure in the case is material, and it happened in the opening minute.
- The beard was cut because the original plan to shave was abandoned midway, not to manufacture a question. One of the case's most effective decoys was never designed.
- All sixteen parts of chain carry a systematic bias: they over-credit the culprit wherever an outcome came out well by accident.
- A sixth layer of luck is recorded, the morning snow of the 26th closing two fragile points at once.
- The culprit was not as confident as the chain drew her. The tightness of the plan comes from fear, not confidence.
- The plan began with a thought of dying rather than of killing, and its trigger was the smallest object in the case.

Still outstanding

- Which parts of the plan survived by good design and which survived because circumstances obliged?
- Strip out all six layers of luck and does this plan still stand?
- Why did she choose to end by explaining nothing publicly, having written out everything for one person?

Part 18 Assessing the Quality of the Plan

This part answers no more questions about the case. The case closed at Part 16 and the personal debts were paid in Part 17. What remains is the question pinned at Conclusion 58 in Part 1. Of everything that survived, which survived by good design and which survived because circumstances obliged? It is a question that has to wait until everything else is known.

18.1 Why Assessing a Plan After the Result Is Unreliable

Premise 188 : This plan survived forty-three years without a single person solving it.

Conclusion 1017 : That fact has always been treated as the verdict on the plan's quality. It measures the outcome, not the plan, and outcomes come from the plan plus everything that happened around it. [Abstract, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 1018 : Once the outcome is known, every decision leading to it looks correct in retrospect, including bad decisions that happened to go unpunished. [Cognitive, Probabilistic, Abstract]

Conclusion 1019 : Part 17 proved this bias is real in this chain rather than a theoretical possibility, since the beard was read as design when it was improvisation after a failure. [Systematic, Cognitive, Analogical]

Conclusion 1020 : A reliable assessment therefore cannot begin by asking how good the plan was. It has to begin by separating what she did from what happened to her. [Decompositional, Systematic, Logical]

18.2 Three Categories

Conclusion 1021 : Every element that kept this plan alive falls into one of three categories. Things she designed. Things she verified in advance and then relied on. And things she could neither control nor verify. [Decompositional, Systematic, Conceptual]

Conclusion 1022 : The first is pure skill and measures the planner directly. [Conceptual, Logical]

Conclusion 1023 : The second is not luck even though the result resembles luck, because checking a condition before starting is a decision, and anyone who checks and finds the condition failing does not start. This category measures preparation. [Logical, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1024 : The third is real luck, and it is the only category that must be subtracted entirely when assessing skill. [Systematic, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 1025 : One criterion separates the second from the third. Was the information available before acting? Not whether she could control it. [Decompositional, Logical, Abstract]

18.3 Going Through All Six Layers of Luck

Premise 189 : The list recorded through the chain has six layers. The heaviest snowfall in thirty years, the revolt on the morning of the 26th, Yoshio faking his own alibi, Takekoshi complying under coercion, the flood of amateur theories, and the snow on the morning of the 26th.

Conclusion 1026 : The first is not pure luck, since snow gave benefit and cost together. It erased her inbound tracks, and it forced her to improvise the entire footprint problem, and it caused the worst mistake she made. [Systematic, Cognitive, Causal]

Conclusion 1027 : Without snow that night her plan would have been far simpler and there would have been no footprint puzzle for anyone to solve. Snow did not help the plan. It added work to it. [Logical, Deductive, Causal]

Conclusion 1028 : The second is luck in full, and the highest-yielding layer of all, since it erased the case's capacity for physical verification in a single day. [Systematic, Cognitive, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 1029 : The third and fifth are a different species from the second, since neither came from nature. Both came from other people choosing to do something. [Decompositional, Causal, Conceptual]

Conclusion 1030 : Both are predictable to a degree, because people with something to hide always protect themselves and strange cases always attract theorists. They sit between the second and third categories. [Inductive, Probabilistic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1031 : The fourth is not luck at all. Takekoshi complied as a direct result of a trap designed to leave him no choice. Calling it luck is reading the output of a design as an accident. [Logical, Deductive, Causal]

Conclusion 1032 : The sixth is luck in full like the second, and it closed a fragile point she knew was fragile. [Systematic, Cognitive, Perceptual]

Conclusion 1033 : Reclassified, the list of six reduces to two and a half layers of real luck. The revolt, the morning snow, and half of the amateur-theory flood. The rest is the output of design or of things that were predictable. [Numerical, Decompositional, Systematic]

Premise 190 : All six girls shared blood type A.

Conclusion 1034 : This is a fact she could not control and could verify before acting, and she verified it. Category two, not category three. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1035 : It matters more than all the layers of luck combined, because had it not held, the plan would have been impossible from the start rather than merely riskier. [Numerical, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 1036 : So the condition this plan leaned on hardest is not luck but something she went and checked, which counts in favour of the assessment rather than against it. [Systematic, Cognitive, Logical]

18.4 Removing the Luck One Layer at a Time

Conclusion 1037 : To test how far a plan depends on luck, assume a layer did not occur and see whether the plan collapses immediately, collapses later, or does not collapse. [Systematic, Probabilistic, Logical]

Conclusion 1038 : Without the revolt on the morning of the 26th, police would have inspected the roof on day one and found no trace of the glass being removed, killing the hoisted-bed theory in the first month instead of forty years later. [Deductive, Logical, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 1039 : But killing that theory early leads nobody to her. It only returns police attention to the door sooner, and the door's answer is one piece of string, which identifies no one. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 1040 : So removing the highest-yielding layer of luck costs a great deal of protective time and does not break the plan, because the case's real wall is not the locked room. It is the number of bodies. [Systematic, Cognitive, Abstract]

Conclusion 1041 : Without the snow on the morning of the 26th, police might have matched Heikichi's shoes against the prints and found they agreed, proving instantly that the men's prints were fakes. [Deductive, Logical, Perceptual]

Conclusion 1042 : The consequence is that the answer jumps to hypothesis 5 in 1936, the culprit's six properties get assembled in the first month, and the pointer goes straight to the girls who studied ballet. [Deductive, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 1043 : So the sixth layer, the one that looks smallest, is the only one whose removal actually breaks the plan, because it is the only one closing a route that runs straight to her without passing through the number of bodies at all. [Systematic, Cognitive, Numerical]

Conclusion 1044 : Which inverts intuition, since the highest-yielding luck and the most necessary luck are not the same thing. The first bought time. The second bought survival. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 1045 : Measuring what matters to a system means removing things, not measuring the size of the effects they produce. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

18.5 Every Single Point of Failure

Conclusion 1046 : A single point of failure is a point where a mistake ends the plan, not a point where a mistake has to be repaired. [Decompositional, Conceptual, Logical]

Conclusion 1047 : First, the night of 25 February. Anyone from the house walking to the studio while she was modelling ends everything instantly, and she could not protect against it except by relying on Heikichi's reclusive habits. [Perceptual, Probabilistic, Systematic]

Conclusion 1048 : Second, the night of 23 March, requiring Takekoshi to arrive at the appointed time and believe what he was arranged to believe. Had he not come, or come and opened the next room, the plan ends. [Probabilistic, Cause And Effect, Systematic]

Conclusion 1049 : Third, laying two bodies with matching cut surfaces side by side, a test needing no special knowledge and destroying everything in one stroke. [Perceptual, Visual, Systematic]

Conclusion 1050 : Fourth, a mother's eye at the identification, the one checking instrument in the case that does not work from a list and cannot be fooled directly. [Perceptual, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1051 : Of the four, she protected the third and fourth with mechanisms built for the purpose, the burial depths and the control of discovery order, which is the best design work in the whole plan. [Systematic, Cognitive, Analogical]

Conclusion 1052 : Against the first and second she had no protection at all, only the choice of conditions minimising the chance of failure. [Probabilistic, Logical, Systematic]

Conclusion 1053 : So this plan carries two unprotectable single points of failure, spread across two nights less than a month apart, both early in the plan. [Numerical, Systematic, Decompositional]

Conclusion 1054 : A structure like that has an important property. Survive the first month and the remaining risk keeps falling with time, since everything afterwards runs itself on the settings left behind. [Probabilistic, Systematic, Cause And Effect]

18.6 What Was Genuinely Well Designed

Conclusion 1055 : Three things are the best in this plan, and all three are structural decisions rather than techniques. [Decompositional, Abstract, Systematic]

Conclusion 1056 : First, moving the burden of concealment out of physical space and into the space of interpretation. Missing parts cannot be hidden. Giving a reason for what is missing means nobody asks where it went. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 1057 : Second, using what already existed instead of building anything new. The alibi her mother already gave, Heikichi's habit with sleeping pills, Yoshio's fear, and society's expectation that a culprit is a man. [Inductive, Systematic, Analogical]

Conclusion 1058 : This principle can be measured numerically, since she manufactured a fake at exactly one point in the entire case, the evidence planted at Meguro, and that point is the one real snag that exists. [Numerical, Systematic, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 1059 : A one-to-one relationship like that is no coincidence. Manufactured things never have a history behind them, and things without a history always conflict with what surrounds them. [Logical, Abstract, Systematic]

Conclusion 1060 : Third, converting distance into time through burial depth, which kept the plan running for nearly a year after the planner had left the country. [Abstract, Conceptual, Systematic]

Conclusion 1061 : All three share a property. Each works on what other people will do rather than on objects, and none requires her to be present for it to work. [Analogical, Abstract, Systematic]

18.7 What Was Badly Designed

Conclusion 1062 : The clearest mistake is the two sets of footprints. The aim was to point at a man, and one set of men's prints suffices. Adding a woman's set adds risk with no return. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1063 : Worse, it is the one trace in the case that generates the hypothesis of a single person changing shoes, a route running straight to her. What she added herself is what nearly caught her. [Logical, Deductive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1064 : The second mistake is Kazue's clothing, too neat for the assault scene staged around it, staging that falls short of what its own story requires. [Perceptual, Logical, Deductive]

Conclusion 1065 : The third is the planted evidence at Meguro, too complete relative to the accusations, the opposite error from the second. Too much rather than too little. [Perceptual, Analogical, Logical]

Conclusion 1066 : All three share a cause. She tried to control interpretation more tightly than necessary, and control that tight always leaves the controller's handwriting behind. [Inductive, Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1067 : Combined with Part 17's conclusion that her tightness comes from fear, the picture resolves. The three mistakes are not carelessness. They are symptoms of being too frightened. [Inductive, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1068 : Which complicates the assessment, since the same property producing the best parts of the plan, margin everywhere, also produced the worst parts. [Systematic, Cognitive, Analogical]

18.8 The Ratio of Labour Not Spent on Killing

Premise 191 : The work actually required to kill the victims finished in one night, with poison.

Premise 192 : All the remaining work, from dismemberment and assembly through choosing mines nationwide and weeks of travel to writing the manuscript, killed nobody further.

Conclusion 1069 : Most of this case's labour went not into killing but into determining how other people would understand the killing. [Numerical, Systematic, Abstract]

Conclusion 1070 : When someone spends most of their labour controlling interpretation, they have judged that their survival depends on interpretation rather than on evidence. [Abductive, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1071 : The judgement was correct, because forty-three years later what broke the case was not one new piece of evidence but a change in how the existing evidence was read. [Cause And Effect, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1072 : So this plan's greatest achievement is diagnosing the battlefield correctly before starting, a decision preceding every technique and determining all of them. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

18.9 The Right Measure of This Plan

Conclusion 1073 : Measuring by years survived does not work, since it is saturated with luck as section 18.3 showed. [Systematic, Cognitive, Logical]

Conclusion 1074 : Measuring by how many people failed to solve it does not work either, since everyone who failed was solving the problem laid out for them rather than the real one. [Cognitive, Systematic, Logical]

Conclusion 1075 : The measure left is what it takes to break it, and the answer here is a frame from entirely outside the case. [Systematic, Abstract, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1076 : That condition is stronger than it looks, because it means this plan caused every investigative method working by internal contradiction to fail at once rather than one at a time. [Systematic, Deductive, Logical]

Conclusion 1077 : And it did so by making everything in the case genuinely agree rather than by hiding information, which is far more expensive and far more durable. [Analogical, Systematic, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1078 : So on quality, the verdict is this. The plan is not good because it is complex and not good because it lasted. It is good because it chose the right thing to attack. It attacked the solver's instruments rather than the evidence. [Abstract, Cognitive, Systematic]

Conclusion 1079 : On skill, the verdict is this. Subtract the two and a half layers of real luck and the plan still stands structurally, but she is caught in the first month by the shoe route, a route created by her own mistake rather than by anyone's brilliance. [Systematic, Cognitive, Numerical]

Conclusion 1080 : In summary, this planner is very strong at the structural level and weak at operational level on the ground, and what saved her is luck that happened to close exactly that weakness rather than luck reinforcing her strength. [Systematic, Cognitive, Decompositional]

18.10 Why She Explained Nothing Publicly

Premise 193 : She wrote the most detailed account of the entire case and sent it to one person, without naming the recipient.

Conclusion 1081 : Writing the account shows she wanted someone to understand. Restricting the recipient shows she did not want everyone to understand. Both can hold together. [Decompositional, Logical, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1082 : The plan's entire purpose was her mother, who is dead. Explaining publicly brings about nothing she wants. [Deductive, Logical, Causal]

Conclusion 1083 : Further, an account released publicly gets compressed into a shape a mass audience will accept, destroying the one thing forty years of her work had of value. Its structure. [Cognitive, Abstract, Cause And Effect]

Conclusion 1084 : Confirmed immediately by what actually happened, since news reports summarised her death with a single ready-made phrase and not one of them explained the mechanism of the case. [Perceptual, Cause And Effect, Cognitive]

Conclusion 1085 : Choosing a single recipient therefore places the account with the one person who solved it independently, the only one who will understand which parts are structure and which are carving. [Deductive, Logical, Conceptual]

Conclusion 1086 : Which follows the same logic she used throughout. Deliver information to whoever will do what she wants with it, rather than distributing it as widely as possible. [Analogical, Systematic, Conceptual]

18.11 Closing Status of the Whole Chain

What the chain can answer

- The locked room was opened with one piece of string, and the padlock was never verified.
- Two sets of footprints came from one person, and they are the culprit's mistake rather than her achievement.
- The case's three great theories are all dead, and none came from real investigation.
- The Kazue case was the procurement of labour that could not refuse, not revenge alone.
- Burial depth is a timetable, and a ranking of which body was reassembled most.
- The whole geography is a decoy that verifies correctly, and the manuscript was written backwards to match a plan that already existed.
- There never was an Azoth. Five bodies were read as six people, and the one who did not die is the culprit.
- The head wound came from the weapon's handle breaking, and the beard was cut because the original plan failed.
- The plan is strong structurally, weak operationally, and two and a half layers of luck closed the weakness exactly.

What cannot be answered, and never will be

- Where exactly she obtained the chemicals, which bears on the structure of the case not at all.
- How she lived through the forty-three years she was missing.
- Whether she would still have opened that shop had her mother reached Sagano.