

E8 - Wheat Stalks

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

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SIGN This story is a work of fiction. The names of all of the characters, organizations, and so on are imaginary. It also bears no connection to any specific real-life events.

SIGN Episode 8: Wheat Stalks

[01:48] Maomao

Oh, right, I'm home.

[01:56] Maomao

So sticky...

[01:58] Maomao

Dad...

[02:01] Maomao

Must be out in the field.

[02:09] Maomao

I wish he'd stop working the field at his age,

[02:15] Maomao

but he just really enjoys making
medicine out of the herbs he grows.

[02:25] Maomao

Don't break it.

[02:28] Maomao

I don't know you. Are you
a servant at a different brothel?

[02:32] Maomao

My dad's—

[02:32] Servant A

Come with me!

[02:33] Maomao

Hey!

[02:41] Servant A

Big Sis! I brought the apothecary!

[02:44] Mob Courtesan

Hurry!

[02:45] Maomao

This smell...

[02:51] Courtesan B

Apothecary! I made them
throw up already, but...

[02:57] Maomao

Right!

[03:00] Maomao

The man isn't breathing!

[03:02] Maomao

The woman's breathing is too weak.

[03:04] Maomao

We'll check if there's any
vomit left in their throats.

[03:07] Maomao

You check her.

[03:07] Courtesan B

Y-Yes!

[03:10] Maomao

No pulse. Nothing clogging the throat.

[03:20] Maomao

Just saliva.

[03:34] Courtesan B

Bring water!

[03:35] Maomao

No water! Bring charcoal. Charcoal!

[03:38] Servant A

Y-Yes!

[03:49] Maomao

Great way to start the morning.

[03:53] Maomao

Wow, I need a bath...

[03:55] Courtesan B

Thank you, apothecary. They're both stable now.

[03:59] Maomao

Wait, leave that alone.

[04:01] Courtesan C

Even what they threw up on?

[04:03] Maomao

There could still be poison in it.

[04:05] Courtesan C

Poison...

[04:08] Courtesan B

I'll go make some tea.

[04:16] Maomao

*The two who collapsed here were
a courtesan and her customer.*

[04:20] Maomao

The room was filled with

the scent of alcohol and tobacco.

[04:25] Maomao

Two bottles.

[04:27] Maomao

Broken glass cups.

[04:30] Maomao

This is... a wheat stalk?

[04:34] Maomao

A pipe and some tobacco leaves.

[04:37] Maomao

They really went out of
their way to cause trouble.

[04:40] Servant A

I've got the charcoal...

[04:42] Maomao

Good. Also, get me a text plate
and something to write with.

[04:45] Servant A

Huh?

[04:48] Maomao

My dad should be out in the fields,
near the southern wall.

[04:52] Maomao

Bring him over here later.

[04:54] Servant A

Got it.

[05:06] Maomao

You're late, Dad.

[05:08] Luomen

This girl was worried about my leg.

[05:12] Maomao

I crushed the charcoal.

[05:14] Luomen

Yes, let's mix it with the herbs
and give it to them immediately.

[05:18] Courtesan B

Can you drink this?

[05:22] Courtesan A

What about him...?

[05:23] Courtesan B

He's safe. He had the medicine, too.

[05:27] Luomen

Your treatment's not bad.

[05:29] Maomao

"Not bad," huh?

[05:33] Maomao

Dad's able to deduce two or three things

from a single piece of information.

[05:40] Luomen

What kind of poison do you think this was?

[05:42] Maomao

Here goes!

[05:50] Maomao

*Dad sometimes tries to
make me learn stuff this way.*

[05:55] Maomao

Tobacco leaves are deadly poisons.

[05:57] Maomao

That would be what they'd use
in a double suicide.

[06:00] Luomen

You didn't have them drink water, right?

[06:03] Maomao

Water would make things worse, right?

[06:05] Luomen

Correct. Gastric juices can prevent
the intake of poison in some cases,

[06:09] Luomen

so diluting it might make things worse.

[06:12] Luomen

However, what if this poison
was already soaked in water?

[06:18] Maomao

There are no leaves in the vomit.

[06:20] Maomao

I missed that. Maybe I'm still half asleep.

[06:24] Maomao

*If the poison was soaked in water,
sometimes diluting it with more water is good.*

[06:28] Maomao

Got it. Lesson learned.

[06:32] Generous Old Lady

Sorry for the trouble.

[06:34] Maomao

*Serving us snacks reserved for customers?
That's quite generous of her.*

[06:41] Maomao

*I see, it prevents lipstick
from getting on the cup.*

[06:48] Generous Old Lady

You really saved us. This is just
a small token of our gratitude.

[06:53] Luomen

Oh no, that's too much—

[06:54] Maomao

Dad, can you afford rent this month?

[06:57] Luomen

Ah, in that case...

[06:58] Maomao

Jeez, you old man...

[07:05] Maomao

Must have been a double suicide.

Not exactly rare in the pleasure district.

[07:09] Maomao

A man who can't afford to buy out a courtesan,

[07:11] Maomao

and a courtesan with time left on her term.

[07:13] Maomao

People like that often reach

this same conclusion.

[07:16] Maomao

Still, that man was very well-dressed.

[07:20] Maomao

He had a handsome face, too.

[07:22] Maomao

Didn't seem like someone who'd be

short on money or women.

[07:25] Maomao

Dad wouldn't approve of me

judging through stereotypes, but...

[07:30] Maomao

He didn't seem like someone

[07:32] Maomao

who'd drink poison with a courtesan

out of despair for their future.

[07:39] Maomao

I'm going to go check on them.

[07:42] Maomao

The man seemed to be in worse condition...

[07:52] Maomao

What are you doing?!

[07:58] Servant A

Don't stop me! This guy deserves to die!

[08:19] Courtesan B

Wh-What are you doing?!

[08:25] Courtesan B

Apothecary, may I speak with you?

[08:34] Courtesan B

That man was always a problem customer.

[08:38] Courtesan B

He'd sweet-talk a courtesan and

insinuate that he would buy her out.

[08:41] Courtesan B

When he got tired of her, he'd just dump her.

[08:44] Courtesan B

He was widely hated. Some woman
tried to stab him, even.

[08:49] Courtesan B

He'd been poisoned in the past, too.

[08:51] Courtesan B

But his rich merchant father pampers him.

[08:55] Courtesan B

He settles everything with money.

[08:59] Courtesan B

Recently, he asked his father to hire
guards for him to travel to the brothels with.

[09:04] Courtesan B

This girl's older sister got dumped by him, too.

[09:08] Courtesan B

She was so happy she could live with him,

[09:12] Courtesan B

but on the day of the buy-out,
he suddenly canceled on her.

[09:19] Courtesan B

That's why, I think, she couldn't forgive him.

[09:22] Courtesan B

The courtesan who drank the poison
today was close to her, as well.

[09:26] Maomao

So, you want me to pretend
I didn't see anything?

[09:28] Maomao

If he's such a problem, why not just ban him?

[09:31] Courtesan B

It's the courtesan who fell for him.

[09:35] Maomao

In that case, I suppose
word of a double suicide

[09:37] Maomao

would make matters worse for the brothel.

[09:41] Maomao

So, they served us the good snacks

[09:42] Maomao

*because we prevented a rich merchant's
son from dying on the premises.*

[09:47] Maomao

And...

[09:50] Maomao

That must have felt unfair to her.

[09:57] Maomao

I understand.

[10:01] Maomao

I just happened to be home today,

[10:04] Maomao

*but if the girl shops with us often, perhaps
she knew when my dad is usually away.*

[10:11] Maomao

*Normally you'd call for
a doctor at a time like that,*

[10:14] Maomao

*but she went out of her way
to find a missing apothecary.*

[10:18] Maomao

That servant girl is scarier than she looks.

[10:24] Luomen

It's too bad your homecoming
turned out this way.

[10:28] Maomao

Dad, show me that money from earlier.

[10:30] Luomen

Hmm?

[10:31] Maomao

Yep, all there.

[10:33] Maomao

As expected, including hush money.

[10:36] Maomao

Something bothers me, though.

[10:39] Maomao

*Judging from the stories,
the man is pretty clever.*

[10:43] Maomao

*Would someone like him join
a double suicide over romance?*

[10:48] Maomao

Was it a forced suicide? No, a man who'd
been poisoned before wouldn't easily—

[10:55] Luomen

Maomao, you shouldn't
speak based on conjecture.

[11:00] Maomao

Dad, you already figured out
what really happened, right?

[11:07] Maomao

*Let's try to recall what was at
the scene and what I might have missed.*

[11:13] Maomao

Tobacco leaves are deadly poisons.

[11:14] Maomao

This would be what they would use in a double suicide.

[11:16] Luomen

However, what if this poison was already mixed in water?

[11:20] Courtesan B

It's the courtesan who fell for him.

[11:22] Servant A

This guy deserves to die!

[11:25] Courtesan B

The courtesan who drank the poison today was close to her as well.

[11:28] Maomao

I see, it prevents the lipstick from getting on the cup.

[11:38] Maomao

This wasn't a double suicide.

[11:41] Maomao

It was murder.

[11:49] Maomao

Poisoned water, wheat stalks, two separate drinks with different colors...

[11:59] Luomen

It's already over.

[12:03] Maomao

I know.

[12:08] Maomao

Murder, not a double suicide.

[12:10] Maomao

And it's the courtesan who tried to kill the man,

[12:14] Maomao

using drinks laced with tobacco poison.

[12:18] Maomao

But the man was cautious enough to have guards around.

[12:22] Maomao

How did she get him to drink the poison?

[12:26] Maomao

Simple. She took a sip as well.

[12:29] Maomao

If the courtesan was safe, the man would drink, too.

[12:33] Maomao

*But if she drank the poison,
she'd be in danger herself.*

[12:38] Maomao

That's why she used a trick.

[12:40] Maomao

Two drinks, one cup.

[12:44] Maomao

*Different drinks have varying
thicknesses and weights.*

[12:49] Maomao

*By pouring a lighter drink
slowly over a heavy drink,*

[12:53] Maomao

you can create a pretty-looking, layered drink.

[12:55] Maomao

*She used that as a small parlor
trick to impress her guest.*

[12:59] Maomao

*Then, she used the wheat stalk to drink just
the lower layer, without raising suspicion.*

[13:19] Maomao

*Afterwards, she drank from
the upper layer as well.*

[13:22] Maomao

Just a little bit, so it wouldn't kill her.

[13:25] Maomao

She didn't want to end up dead herself.

[13:32] Maomao

*She did the act in the morning to
increase the odds that he would die,*

[13:37] Maomao

and she would survive.

[13:39] Maomao

And conveniently, someone came to witness it.

[13:44] Maomao

*She appeared fragile,
but she's actually quite clever.*

[14:14] Servant A

What are you doing, Big Sis?!
You should stay in bed!

[14:18] Maomao

*The servant girl did
behave a bit strangely.*

[14:21] Maomao

In order to make sure the man didn't survive,

[14:23] Maomao

she went to an apothecary, not a doctor.

[14:26] Maomao

*She even took her time
bringing my dad over.*

[14:29] Maomao

*Wasn't she worried that
her "Big Sis" would die?*

[14:33] Maomao

*Wasn't she worried that someone close
to her would die again, like her real sister?*

[14:39] Maomao

*It's almost as if she knew
the courtesan would survive.*

[14:43] Maomao

Or am I over-thinking this?

[14:46] Maomao

*In addition, the other courtesan
was sympathetic to the servant girl.*

[14:50] Maomao

Plus, the very generous madam...

[14:52] Maomao

Once I start doubting, there's no stopping.

[14:57] Maomao

Could they all have been...

[15:03] Maomao

I shouldn't speak based on conjecture.

[15:08] Maomao

I really missed this pleasure district,

[15:11] Maomao

*but in essence, it's no different
from the rear palace.*

[15:14] Maomao

It's both a garden and a cage.

[15:18] Maomao

The stale, trapped air poisons everyone.

[15:22] Maomao

The courtesans also eat the poison around them

[15:26] Maomao

to become a sweet poison themselves.

[15:32] Maomao

I don't know what'll happen to that courtesan.

[15:35] Maomao

*Maybe the annoying customer
will assert that she tried to poison him.*

[15:40] Maomao

*Maybe the brothel will accuse him
of ruining their merchandise instead.*

[15:47] Maomao

Well, whatever.

[15:48] Maomao

You can't live life in this neighborhood
worrying about every little thing.

[15:54] Meimei

Maomao.

[15:57] Maomao

Meimei.

[16:01] Meimei

You're going back to the rear palace already?

[16:03] Maomao

I have a year left on my term.

[16:06] Maomao

I also have work to do
that I can't force on others.

[16:09] Meimei

That's too bad. You just got back.

[16:13] Meimei

Everyone was worried
when you suddenly went missing.

[16:17] Meimei

Pairin, Joka, and even the old lady.

[16:19] Meimei

Really? She never said...

[16:23] Meimei

She acted like usual, right?
It's because you came back.

[16:27] Maomao

I see.

[16:31] Meimei

Oh no, did I make you
all sentimental? There, there!

[16:35] Maomao

Come on, Meimei!

[16:41] Meimei

Maomao, did you visit the annex?

[16:46] Maomao

I'll go later.

[16:59] Luomen

Take care of yourself.

[17:01] Maomao

You, too.

[17:02] Maomao

I'm off.

[17:05] Maomao

*My three-day homecoming
was over before I knew it.*

[17:13] Pairin

I'm so sad to see you go so soon!

[17:16] Pairin

Right, Master Lihaku?

[17:18] Lihaku

Yes! I'm so sad, too!

[17:21] Maomao

Looks like he had a good dream.

[17:23] Maomao

*Once you have a taste of the heavenly dews,
there's no turning back to reality.*

[17:28] Maomao

*I'm sure they'll squeeze him dry,
gently but thoroughly.*

[17:32] Maomao

*That said, I'm the one that has to cover
for the amount that I couldn't pay up front.*

[17:37] Old Lady

Let me know when you're coming home next.

[17:41] Maomao

And thus, my next buyer has been determined.

[17:50] Maomao

What's with the intense stare?

[17:53] Maomao

I'd better make my escape.

[17:55] Maomao

I'll go get changed.

[17:57] Yinghua

Tell us...

[17:58] Ailan

Everything...

[17:59] Guiyuan

Later!

[18:04] Jinshi

I'll be waiting for you in the parlor.

[18:20] Maomao

Excuse me.

[18:25] Maomao

For some reason, he seems really upset.

[18:29] Maomao

Am I over-thinking it?

[18:32] Maomao

I hope I'm over-thinking it.

[18:33] Maomao

Let's go with that.

[18:36] Maomao

Why are we alone, anyway?

[18:39] Jinshi

So, you went home, huh?

[18:42] Maomao

Yes.

[18:43] Jinshi

How was it?

[18:45] Maomao

Everyone's doing well,
so I was glad for that.

[18:49] Jinshi

I see.

[18:50] Maomao

Yes.

[18:52] Jinshi

What is this Lihaku fellow like?

[18:56] Maomao

He was my guarantor.

[18:59] Maomao

How does he know that name?

[19:03] Jinshi

Do you even know what that means?

[19:07] Maomao

Yes. Only a higher-ranking official with
a good record can serve as a guarantor.

[19:17] Jinshi

Did he give you a hairpin?

[19:19] Maomao

He was passing out several,
so I took one as a consolation prize.

[19:23] Jinshi

So, I lost to a consolation prize, huh?

[19:29] Jinshi

I thought I gave you one too,
but I never heard from you.

[19:34] Maomao

Huh?

[19:36] Maomao

*In other words, he's just unhappy
because I didn't rely on him instead?*

[19:42] Maomao

*Weird. It's obviously way better
to not get involved in any trouble.*

[19:48] Maomao

*Is he so bored that he wants attention,
even if it'll cause problems?*

[19:53] Maomao

I'm sorry. I couldn't think of

a repayment that you'd enjoy.

[20:02] Jinshi

What repayment?

[20:04] Jinshi

Did you give something to this Lihaku guy?

[20:07] Maomao

Yes, I granted him a night
of blissful dreams.

[20:13] Jinshi

A night...

[20:15] Maomao

He seemed very happy.

[20:17] Maomao

I worked hard, so I'm pleased with myself.

[20:24] Maomao

What are you doing?

[20:26] Maomao

Let's wipe you off before it stains.

[20:28] Maomao

Excuse me.

[20:30] Maomao

You should get this washed right away.

[20:36] Maomao

I'll clean up the cup right
away, too. Don't touch it.

[20:43] Maomao

Excuse me.

[20:44] Maomao

Whoosh.

[20:52] Maomao

Ow!

[21:06] ED Lyrics

Not just some superficial sweetness

[21:12] ED Lyrics

I want more warmth than I can even use, oh

[21:18] ED Lyrics

Having these selfish idealistic thoughts

[21:23] ED Lyrics

*I swallowed them again today
before putting them into words*

[21:28] ED Lyrics

*Still in my memories,
the scent of fragrant olive*

[21:33] ED Lyrics

The color of twilight in the city

[21:36] ED Lyrics

We were laughing...

[21:41] ED Lyrics

*Filled with sadness,
the tears welled up in my eyes*

[21:53] ED Lyrics

I found a glow during those days

[22:01] ED Lyrics

I guess I took everything for granted

[22:05] ED Lyrics

The wind was so loud I covered my ears

[22:18] ED Lyrics

I gotta stop being like that

[22:25] ED Lyrics

Even if I stumble over the words of love

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narrator

Next time: "Suicide or Murder?"

SIGN Episode 9: Suicide or Murder?

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