

# E9 - Suicide or Murder?

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

**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.

**[01:38] Bureaucrats**

That man can't be trusted!

**SIGN** Episode 9: Suicide or Murder?

**[01:40] Bureaucrats**

That'd create other issues.

**[01:49] Kounen**

Drinks! Bring more booze...

**[01:52] Bureaucrat A**

Wow, he's changed a lot.

**[01:55] Bureaucrat A**

Seeing his face makes the drinks taste bad.

**[01:59] Bureaucrat B**

On that, I can agree.

**[02:07] Kounen**

Hey... Thanks.

**[02:19] Gaoshun**

How much longer are you going to sulk?

**[02:22] Jinshi**

I'm not sulking.

**[02:24] Gaoshun**

Please don't forget that  
you're still on the job.

**[02:27] Jinshi**

I understand.

**[02:29] Gaoshun**

*He doesn't understand.*

**[02:32] Gaoshun**

*The one known as Jinshi does not  
respond in such a childish way.*

**[02:37] Gaoshun**

*The one known as Jinshi does not*

*attach himself so strongly to a toy.*

**[02:42] Gaoshun**

Here is some more work.

**[02:48] Gaoshun**

*It took considerable effort to get*

**[02:50] Gaoshun**

*Concubine Gyokuyou to stop laughing uncontrollably and explain.*

**[02:55] (Flashback) Jinshi**

Misunderstanding...?

**[02:58] Gaoshun**

*The payment she gave in return for acting as her guarantor*

**[03:01] Gaoshun**

*was a meeting with a star courtesan.*

**[03:02] Gaoshun**

*Who knew that girl had such connections?*

**[03:05] Gaoshun**

*Who knows what image the master had in his mind?*

**[03:10] Gaoshun**

*Youth is a scary thing.*

**[03:13] Gaoshun**

*That said, to put so much effort into finishing work quickly...*

**[03:18] Gaoshun**

*And going out to meet her...*

**[03:21] Gaoshun**

*Only to find out she had left for home with another man...*

**[03:24] Gaoshun**

*That must have been quite a shock, for sure.*

**[03:34] Gaoshun**

They should put more thought into these...

**[03:38] Gaoshun**

*Many bureaucrats try to pass bills that benefit them personally.*

**[03:43] Gaoshun**

*I feel sorry for my master, who has to do extra work for those useless bills.*

**[03:55] Subordinate**

Master Jinshi!

**[03:56] Gaoshun**

It's already after hours. Can this wait?

**[03:59] Subordinate**

It's not about work... Well...

**[04:08] Jinshi**

Sir Kounen?!

**[04:09] Gaoshun**

Master Jinshi.

**[04:11] Jinshi**

Let's go!

**[04:15] Gyokuyou**

That's terrible news...

**[04:18] Maomao**

*Someone high up bit the dust.*

**[04:21] Maomao**

*Maybe this is callous, but I can't sympathize with someone*

**[04:25] Maomao**

*who I've never met or heard of.*

**[04:27] Maomao**

*A man past the age of fifty,  
who died from drinking too much.*

**[04:32] Maomao**

*Clearly self-inflicted.*

**[04:36] Maomao**

*Since he went out of the way to make  
the head lady-in-waiting leave...*

**[04:42] Jinshi**

Apothecary, do you think  
the alcohol was really what killed him?

**[04:46] Maomao**

*I knew he'd ask.*

**[04:49] Maomao**

Anyone who likes alcohol should know that  
overindulgence in drink is poison in essence.

**[04:54] Maomao**

Drinking constantly can sicken the organs.

**[04:58] Maomao**

Drinking too much in one  
sitting can lead to death.

**[05:02] Jinshi**

It was a party for a group of co-workers,  
and I heard he had a lot to drink.

**[05:05] Maomao**

That could kill him.

**[05:08] Jinshi**

But Sir Kounen could  
really handle his drink.

**[05:10] Jinshi**

I don't think overindulgence would kill him.

**[05:16] Maomao**

*The man who died was named Kounen.*

**[05:18] Maomao**

*He was a dynamic warrior  
who drank entire jars of alcohol,*

**[05:21] Maomao**

*and had a well-liked personality, to boot.*

**[05:23] Jinshi**

Gaoshun.

**[05:25] Gaoshun**

Yes.

**[05:26] Jinshi**

This is the drink from that party.

**[05:31] Maomao**

*Ooh, booze!*

**[05:33] Jinshi**

The specific jar that Sir Kounen drank from

**[05:35] Jinshi**

got dropped on the floor  
and the contents were lost.

**[05:39] Maomao**

So, if that jar had poison in it,  
we'd have no way of knowing.

**[05:44] Jinshi**

Indeed...

**[05:46] Maomao**

*How modest. He realizes  
he's asking for the impossible.*

**[05:51] Maomao**

*He should just be excessively  
shiny like his usual self.*

**[05:54] Maomao**

*For a while now, Master Jinshi has seemed  
much more childish than before.*

**[06:04] Maomao**

*It's both sweet and salty.*

**[06:07] Maomao**

*Like someone took a sweet  
drink and added salt to it...*

**[06:12] Jinshi**

What's wrong?

**[06:13] Maomao**

It's a distinct taste.

**[06:15] Jinshi**

Yes. Sweet, isn't it?

That's how Master Kounen liked it.

**[06:19] Jinshi**

He had a serious sweet tooth.

**[06:21] Jinshi**

He'd never lay a finger on even  
the finest smoked meats and rock salts.

**[06:26] Maomao**

Huh...

**[06:27] Jinshi**

I heard he used to love spicy foods, but  
suddenly developed a sweet tooth one day.

**[06:32] Jinshi**

Even his meals became all sweets.

**[06:35] Maomao**

That'll cause diabetes.

**[06:37] Jinshi**

Stop spoiling my nostalgia with reality.

**[06:40] Jinshi**

You're having more?

**[06:42] Maomao**

*From spicy to sweet, huh?*

**[06:46] Maomao**

Were there salts available at the party?

**[06:48] Jinshi**

Yes. Rock salts, moon cakes, and dried meat.

**[06:54] Jinshi**

Do you want those, too?

**[06:56] Maomao**

No, I'll be done with the drink by then.

**[06:59] Jinshi**

That's not what I meant...

**[07:01] Maomao**

Can you get the jar that  
Master Kounen was drinking from?

**[07:04] Jinshi**

It's broken and in pieces.

**[07:07] Maomao**

That's fine.

**[07:14] Maomao**

Also, there's one thing  
I want you to look into.

**[07:24] Maomao**

Excuse me.

**[07:29] Gaoshun**

Here is the report.

**[07:31] Maomao**

Thank you.

**[07:37] Maomao**

I knew it.

**[07:40] Jinshi**

Here's the bottle.

**[07:49] Jinshi**

Is it safe to lick that?

**[07:51] Maomao**

There's no poison here.

**[07:59] Jinshi**

Salt?

**[08:00] Maomao**

Yes. Master Jinshi, you mentioned how Master Kounen suddenly developed a sweet tooth, right?

**[08:08] Maomao**

And that he only ate sweet foods after that?

**[08:10] Jinshi**

Yes.

**[08:11] Maomao**

Yet this jar contained so much salt that it left crystals behind when it dried.

**[08:19] Maomao**

Salt is essential to the human body, but too much salt can also be poisonous.

**[08:24] Jinshi**

So, the cause of his death is...

**[08:26] Maomao**

Given the amount he drank, and the salt included,

**[08:30] Maomao**

it's easy to conclude this was the cause.

**[08:33] Jinshi**

Yes, but you should be able to tell if something tasted this salty—

**[08:38] Maomao**

But he didn't. Please take a look at this.

**[08:42] Maomao**

It's a report on Master Kounen's lifestyle.

**[08:47] Maomao**

Judging from what's written here,

**[08:49] Maomao**

it seems like Master Kounen lost his ability to taste salt.

**[08:53] Jinshi**

Oh, no...

**[08:55] Maomao**

Kounen seemed like a serious and skilled bureaucrat,

**[08:59] Maomao**

with a stoic personality.

**[09:05] Maomao**

Many years ago, he lost his wife

and child to an epidemic.

**[09:11] Maomao**

From that day on, he was all work, all day.

**[09:14] Maomao**

His only forms of entertainment  
were drinking and sweets.

**[09:19] Maomao**

There is an illness that  
eliminates the sense of taste.

**[09:22] Maomao**

It can be caused by  
an unbalanced diet or stress.

**[09:25] Maomao**

Serious people will sometimes  
repress their feelings,

**[09:27] Maomao**

and that stress could lead to illness.

**[09:30] Jinshi**

So, who put the salt in the bottle?

**[09:35] Maomao**

That's not for me to determine.

**[09:39] Maomao**

However, there was also salt  
in the drink I had yesterday.

**[09:44] Maomao**

It could have been put there  
by someone at the party

**[09:47] Maomao**

who didn't like sweet drinks.

**[09:50] Maomao**

Alternatively, there are many who  
resent overly serious coworkers.

**[09:55] Maomao**

Maybe they put some salt in the drink

**[09:58] Maomao**

because they didn't like him and  
wanted to pull a little prank.

**[10:03] Maomao**

But because he kept drinking  
seemingly without issue,

**[10:07] Maomao**

perhaps they kept adding more,  
hoping he would notice.

**[10:12] Jinshi**

Gaoshun.

**[10:13] Gaoshun**

Yes.

**[10:15] Gaoshun**

Understood.

**[10:18] Maomao**

*I'm a coward.*

**[10:20] Maomao**

*I've practically named the culprit at this point, given the amount of hints I dropped.*

**[10:26] Maomao**

*But I don't want to be directly responsible for someone getting punished.*

**[10:31] Jinshi**

Sorry for your trouble. Thank you.

**[10:34] Maomao**

It's fine.

**[10:36] Maomao**

*An obsidian tassel...*

**[10:38] Maomao**

*He's in mourning.*

**[10:41] Maomao**

Was he such a person of high esteem?

**[10:44] Jinshi**

Yes. He helped me a lot when I was younger.

**[10:52] Maomao**

*He seems like a normal young man.*

**[10:55] Maomao**

*I guess he is human, after all.*

**[11:00] Jinshi**

Oh, right.

**[11:02] Maomao**

Huh?

**[11:05] Jinshi**

Here's your reward.

**[11:06] Maomao**

A bottle?

**[11:07] Jinshi**

Yes. It's not the same as the one from yesterday.

**[11:11] Maomao**

Booze!

**[11:12] Jinshi**

Don't drink it out in the open.

**[11:14] Maomao**

Yes! Thank you!

**[11:23] Jinshi**

You don't seem all that grateful.

**[11:25] Maomao**

Is that so? Perhaps you

should return to your work.

**[11:31] Maomao**

*That reaction... I bet he's slacking off.*

**[11:33] Maomao**

Perhaps you should finish it  
before it starts piling up.

**[11:36] Jinshi**

I *am* working seriously...

**[11:38] Maomao**

What kind of work?

**[11:39] Jinshi**

For example, there's a certain bill.

**[11:43] Jinshi**

The idea is to set an age limit  
for alcohol consumption,

**[11:46] Jinshi**

to prevent young ones from  
losing themselves in drink.

**[11:49] Maomao**

Huh?

**[11:50] Jinshi**

The bill proposes a ban on drinking  
alcohol until the age of twenty.

**[11:59] Maomao**

Master Jinshi...

**[12:01] Maomao**

Please, please don't pass that bill!

**[12:08] Jinshi**

Hmm. Well, it's not something  
I can decide on my own.

**[12:11] Maomao**

M-Master Jinshi!

**[12:45] Eunuch A**

Doctor!

**[12:49] Eunuch A**

This way!

**[12:55] Guen**

There it is!

**[13:02] Maomao**

We're lucky it's winter now.

**[13:04] Maomao**

She's still in good shape,  
despite being a drowned corpse.

**[13:07] Guen**

How can you look directly at her?

**[13:09] Maomao**

Where was she found?

**[13:11] Eunuch 1**

She was floating in the outside moat.

**[13:13] Eunuch 1**

From her dress, we assumed  
she was a servant at the rear palace.

**[13:16] Maomao**

*I see. That's why they called our doc.*

**[13:19] Maomao**

*But a doctor in charge of  
autopsies acting like this...*

**[13:22] Maomao**

*He truly is a quack.*

**[13:23] Guen**

Little lady, can I leave this to you?

**[13:26] Maomao**

Nope.

**[13:27] Guen**

Huh?

**[13:27] Maomao**

I've been ordered to not touch corpses.

**[13:30] Jinshi**

That's unexpected.

**[13:32] Guen**

Master Jinshi!

**[13:34] Maomao**

Greetings, Master Jinshi.

**[13:37] Jinshi**

You don't seem to be  
uncomfortable around corpses.

**[13:39] Maomao**

I've gotten used to them.

**[13:41] Maomao**

The pleasure district is just  
one street away from lawless chaos.

**[13:44] Jinshi**

Why can't you touch corpses?

**[13:47] Maomao**

My teacher told me not to.

**[13:49] Jinshi**

Is it an aversion to death?

**[13:51] Maomao**

No...

**[13:53] Maomao**

It's because humans can become  
medicinal ingredients, too.

**[13:57] (Flashback) Lakan**

Given your curiosity, once you give that a try,

**[13:59] (Flashback) Lakan**

it wouldn't be long before  
you start digging up graves.

**[14:02] (Flashback) Lakan**

Do not cross that line, ever.

**[14:05] (Flashback) Maomao**

Y-Yes.

**[14:07] Jinshi**

I see.

**[14:09] Maomao**

*What a rude response.*

**[14:11] Jinshi**

Doctor, could you please  
do a proper autopsy?

**[14:14] Guen**

Understood...

**[14:18] Guen**

Eek!

**[14:19] Maomao**

"Eek," indeed...

**[14:23] Maomao**

*She's tall. Hard wooden shoes...  
Bandages on one foot...*

**[14:29] Maomao**

*Fingers are all red.*

**[14:33] Maomao**

*It must have been cold in that water.*

**[14:42] Jinshi**

The girl was a servant and was  
working normally yesterday.

**[14:47] Jinshi**

The guard believes she climbed the wall  
last night and threw herself in.

**[14:52] Jinshi**

A suicide.

**[14:54] Maomao**

Suicide...

**[14:57] Jinshi**

What do you think?

**[14:58] Maomao**

I can't tell if she committed suicide,

**[15:00] Maomao**

but I think it was impossible  
for her to do it alone.

**[15:03] Jinshi**

What do you mean?

**[15:05] Maomao**

There were no ladders on the wall,  
and no other climbing tools.

**[15:10] Maomao**

The rear palace walls are at least  
four times my height.

**[15:14] Jinshi**

So, you mean she couldn't  
have climbed it without tools.

**[15:17] Maomao**

In most cases.

**[15:19] Maomao**

Strictly speaking, scaling the wall  
without tools is possible.

**[15:24] Maomao**

Do you remember the ghost issue  
from a while ago?

**[15:28] Maomao**

Concubine Fuyou?

**[15:29] Maomao**

Yes.

**[15:30] Maomao**

I was wondering how she climbed the wall,

**[15:34] Maomao**

so I did a thorough investigation of it.

**[15:38] Maomao**

That's where I found the protrusions  
that I believe the craftsmen used.

**[15:44] Maomao**

That said, it would be difficult  
for most regular women,

**[15:47] Maomao**

especially those with  
bound feet, like that servant.

**[15:52] Maomao**

*Foot binding is a custom where  
small feet are considered beautiful.*

**[15:57] Maomao**

*It's not done on all women,*

**[16:00] Maomao**

*but I do occasionally see the distinct  
walking style in the rear palace, too.*

**[16:04] Jinshi**

If it's not suicide,

**[16:07] Jinshi**

are you saying it's murder?

**[16:08] Maomao**

I don't know that.

**[16:11] Maomao**

But I think it's fairly certain that  
she was alive when she fell in the moat.

**[16:16] Maomao**

She must have clawed at  
the walls to try to climb out.

**[16:19] Maomao**

Her fingers were bloodied and red.

**[16:25] Jinshi**

Yes...

**[16:27] Maomao**

Suicide, or murder...

**[16:38] Maomao**

*I would never think to take my own life.*

**[16:43] Maomao**

*I'd hate if someone killed me, too.*

**[16:47] Maomao**

*If I died, I wouldn't be able  
to test any more drugs or poisons.*

**[16:53] Maomao**

*But if I were to die...*

**[16:58] Jinshi**

What are you thinking about?

**[17:00] Maomao**

About what kind of poison I would use to die.

**[17:03] Jinshi**

Are you trying to die?!

**[17:05] Maomao**

Not at all. But nobody knows when they'll die.

**[17:11] Maomao**

Even if it's not something they  
wished for, a malicious third party

**[17:15] Maomao**

can cause an undesired death.

**[17:18] Maomao**

Like with Master Kounen.

**[17:22] Maomao**

*Nobody knows when it could happen.*

**[17:26] Maomao**

*There is no way to resist fate...*

**[18:42] Maomao**

Master Jinshi.

**[18:44] Jinshi**

What is it?

**[18:48] Maomao**

If you're ever tasked with executing me,  
can you make sure it's with poison?

**[18:53] Jinshi**

Where'd *that* come from?!

**[18:54] Maomao**

If I made a mistake, you would probably be the one to give the order.

**[19:10] Maomao**

*Did I step in it just now?*

**[19:13] Maomao**

I'm sorry, it's not my place to say.

**[19:16] Maomao**

I won't complain if it's a hanging or a beheading.

**[19:19] Jinshi**

No, really, why are you saying all this?!

**[19:23] Maomao**

Because I'm a commoner.

**[19:25] Maomao**

My life is easily taken away over the slightest mistake.

**[19:28] Jinshi**

I would never do such a thing.

**[19:30] Maomao**

It's not a "would-or-would-not" type of issue. It's "can-or-cannot."

**[19:36] Maomao**

*Looks like I struck a nerve there.*

**[19:40] Maomao**

If there's no further business, I'll excuse myself.

**[20:00] Maomao**

*Later, I heard through rumors*

**[20:04] Maomao**

*that the dead servant was at the garden party where the poisoning took place.*

**[20:09] Maomao**

*They found a will with some relevant content in it,*

**[20:12] Maomao**

*so the case was closed as a suicide.*

**[20:22] Gaoshun**

The report from the other day is finally ready.

**[20:25] Jinshi**

It's been two months since I asked for you to find someone with burns on their arms.

**[20:30] Jinshi**

You took too long.

**[20:31] Gaoshun**

I'm very sorry.

**[20:33] Jinshi**

So, who is it?

**[20:36] Gaoshun**

Yes. It's actually higher up than I thought.

**[20:40] Gaoshun**

Fengming, from the Garnet Pavilion.

**[20:47] Gaoshun**

Head lady-in-waiting under Concubine Ah-Duo.

**[20:53] Jinshi**

I see.

**[20:55] Jinshi**

You're excused.

**[21:02] Jinshi**

Concubine Ah-Duo...

**[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*

**[22:06] ED Lyrics**

*The wind was so loud I covered my ears*

**[22:18] ED Lyrics**

*I gotta stop being like that*

**[22:26] ED Lyrics**

*Even if I stumble over the words of love*

**SIGN** Next Time

**[22:46] Narrator**

*Next time: "Honey."*

Revision #1

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