Chapter 7

Title: 20th Year of Partnership

1===

I have two wiretaps.

Where do I install these?

In the living room and daughter’s room?

Damn… This guy keeps on babbling.

Hey… how many questions are there?

Can you show us what’s on the tablet?

Eh!?

2===

N.. No… Our policy forbids us from showing this to the client.

What about your business card? Phone number? I can call your company right?

I...I ran out of business cards...

The questionnaire is complete!

Kyoichi-san!

…!

Got it.

He left… Thanks.

So I guess he’s with those surveillance people...

What were they trying to do?

Were they trying to extract information from us..?

But I don’t feel like they asked anything unusual...

3===

Stalling for time!?

But if that’s the case, what for?

Is the corpse okay!?

I’ll go check!

SFX: Door open

SFX: Door open

No…?

...It seems fine…

….

4===

… Shit, he’s here.

…..!?

He rushed back after getting rid of Shingo. Did they know something was up?

Anyway... He came straight for this room…? For what reason?

How is it?

The mother is here too…

It’s fine.

What are they talking about?

We’ll hide it there for now.

Yeah.

SFX: Clang ding-dong?

These two… What are they hiding?

5===

SFX: Pong

….!

They left.

That was close--!

SFX: Door open

What are they hiding…?

SFX: Pong

…It’s the flowerpot… the flowerpot is gone.

…They hid something like that? Is the flowerpot or the plant that valuable?

Shit… There is no time…

Right now, I need to

install the wiretap in daughter’s room.

6===

SFX: Vacuum Cleaner

Reika, did you move the TV?

Eh? I didn’t touch it…

7===

SFX: sha-sha

I’m back.

Hey…

The wall socket behind the TV had this plugged in…

Eh!?

…You didn’t install it?

Also…

The backdoor was unlocked...

!!

…It’s a wiretap..!!

They must have sneaked in when the survey guy was here…!!

8===

Invasion…

How can it be… This kind of thing…

….!?

What is it?

There could be more… microphones and cameras!

Ah..

… We need to search the whole house…!!

9===

2F Reika’s room

!!

They are coming!

It’s coming from the daughter’s room!

Reika’s boyfriend… We haven’t been able to reach him since yesterday, right?

!!

Kyoichi-san!

Yeah, yeah! Keep listening.

Finally, Nobuto’s whereabouts…!

He just told Reika “I’m going there” and disappeared…

10===

It’s because of Reika’s stalker, right?

He seems like a pretty dangerous guy.

Stalker…!?

I think the wiretap in the living room was probably that guy as well?

There are no other possibilities!

Also the back door was unlocked, he’s definitely been here today!

By the way, did you see the car outside? Why is it still there?

I hope it's related…

They noticed us…!

That black one? Yeah… Maybe we should call the police after this?

11===

Ah! There is one here as well!

SFX: puu… (disconnect)

… They removed this one too?

These people don't seem to know anything.

Should we relocate?

… Yeah let's do that.

Sfx: pada

Paper: contains the conversation just now, up to you if you want to typeset it or leave a marker

This script should direct their attention elsewhere, and allows us to remove the wiretap naturally… so...

It would be great if they believed it.

12===

Alright…

Now we just need to bury what’s left…?

Let's finish this while Reika is taking her bath.

Hey… I actually wanted to ask...

What?

First time? Killing someone?

Sfx: pong (drop)

Ouch!

You alright!?

It's obviously the first time!

Why are you asking!?

13===

Because, you were always writing murder stories.

To think of something like that out of nowhere, that's pretty amazing right? So…

Mystery novels have been around for a hundred years!

There’s no way I came up with the idea!

I’ve said this, ten times already!

Meat

Sfx: Ka-da

Diced and boiled human meat

… There are two more bags of meat left.

It doesn’t look like much, but when you hold it up…

The weight feels much heavier...

14===

Weight, huh…

….?

Eh? What?

Give me one…

No… the corpse is my responsibility…

I’ll bury one bag.

… No, I said the corpse is my….

I don’t want you helping on these kinds of things…

Aren’t I already helping?

… No... I mean, for this incident, yes… but should I say, the sin…?

15===

Sin? So you want to shoulder everything by yourself?

… No, I mean…

I'm the same as you.

For me… compared to someone whose name I don't even know...

...Reika is far more important.

If… this guy woke up again…

If the same thing happened again...

**I** would’ve been the one killing him.

16===

Therefore, I'm the same as you…

[… No.. Kasen…]

Yesterday, you said it too, right? The past 18 years were almost for nothing…

[You are not a murderer, you chose to side with one. We are not the same…]

[I am not as strong as you are, nor am I as strong as you think]

[I didn't want to get you involved… I've been regretting…]

17===

[I am just a weak middle-aged man who is about to break under this immense weight …]

18===

Then…

On three?

One-two-

Dun- dun dun dun dun dun dun~

Dun dun dun dun dun~

….?

Dun dun dun dun

Dun dun dun

!?

Wait, why the wedding theme!?

19===

This is our 20th anniversary.

No… but we aren’t cutting a cake…

!

[Our journey down this path will most likely end tragically]

[Even if we cover this up, we will forever live in a hell of guilt]

20==

[I thought that if anything went wrong, I would be the only one to step into hell… But you just followed my steps...]

Dun dun dun dun~

[You were involved… because of my incompetence...]

… Kasen!...

[There is no turning back...]

Thank … thank you so much…

For… for marrying me! T\_T

21==

[There is no turning back...]

[To protect you and Reika...]

[I must keep moving forward...]

[I’ve gotta it...]

[My all…!]

Kubo-san, did you hear the recording?

Yes. A stalker…

What do you think, sir?

What do I think…?

22==

Big suitcase, concealed flowerpot, constant vigilance, the conversation in front of the wiretap…

Is this okay? Should I say something out of plain suspicion?

Uhmm...

I feel like… this couple is hiding something…

I think... what they said in front of the wiretap…

Wasn't it just lies designed to fool us?

Chapter 7, end