Stage 1 answers

1. Time of death: about 21:46. The victim's watch stopped at 21:46 (Exhibits 2, 4). That matches the "thud" on the livestream at 21:46:30 (9), and Lee heard a thud above the kitchen while hunting for candles (Statement 3).

2. Route: the iron spiral staircase at the back, through the 3rd-floor back door. The wet footprints start and end at the back door, while the timber stairs are dry (2, Statement 3). The timber stairs creak on every step (1), yet the livestream has no stair sound at all from 21:41:10 to 21:50:05 (9). The iron stairs can only be reached from the ground-floor back door, and no outsider can get into the back alley (1). **So the culprit is someone inside the building who went out through the ground-floor back door.**

3. What they needed: a back-door key. The deadbolts need a key on both sides, and the 3rd-floor back door was locked from outside with no sign of forcing (1, 2). The victim's own key was still under the desk in the room (2, 4), and only 3 keys exist (11). **So the culprit must have had Akong's key or the third key.**

Your Stage 2 mission

You now know the culprit was inside the building and held a back-door key. This envelope holds new test results, a photo of the storeroom, evidence from phones, and a second round of statements in which several people finally tell more of the truth. Use all of it to answer Stage 2 on the answer sheet: **Did the power fail or was it cut · Who went up to the accounts room · What rules out everyone else**

Form TP-3 Criminal Case No. 317/2025

Talat Kao Provincial Police Station

Exhibit 14 **Back-Door Key Register (everyone in the building searched)**

Search on the night, 23:45 · there are exactly 3 back-door keys, per the electrician's receipt (Exhibit 11)

Key	Issued to	Found
1	Mrs. Mei (the deceased)	On her key ring, under the desk in the accounts room
2	Mr. Heng (Akong)	**Not in his bedside drawer** · found in **Mrs. Lee's handbag**
3	Mr. Pao	On the key ring clipped to Mr. Pao's belt

Other persons	Keys on them
Mr. Ming	Front steel grille + car (no back-door key)
Mr. Nick	No keys to the building
Mrs. Emorn	Her own keys to No. 47 (her house has no connecting door to this building)
Mr. Heng	No keys on him

Form TP-7

ENVELOPE A · Exhibit 13

Talat Kao Provincial Police Station

Scene Examination (Report 2) and Further Test Results

Recorded by Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan · Sat 23 Aug 2025, 10:30

Main fuse box (back storeroom)	Examined 23 Aug, 09:00, by Somsak, the electrician who installed it · no leak, no short circuit, no scorch marks, no water inside · when this model of breaker trips by itself, **a red flag pops up in a small window** and stays there until someone resets it. **The red flag had not popped up.** · The electrician confirms that **on the night the breaker was switched off by hand**. It did not trip.
Storeroom and ground-floor back door	The back-door sill is 40 cm above the alley. **No sign that any water came in** · **No sandbags anywhere, in the building or in the back alley** · the floor is wet only under the raincoat and the sandals (see Exhibit 15)
Footprints on the 3rd floor	Tread of rubber sandals, **size 42 (EU)**, matching the wet black rubber sandals in the storeroom. Everyone in the house confirms **Mr. Pao** wears this pair to work every day · every pair of shoes in the building was checked: all dry except this pair
Iron spiral staircase	A trail of mud and leaves on the steps all the way up to the 3rd floor: someone used it while it was raining
Yellow raincoat	Hooded. Hanging beside the back door in the storeroom, soaked through and still dripping · zipped waterproof chest pocket · **sent to forensics, results pending**
Clothing of everyone present (checked on the night, 22:40)	Mr. Heng dry · Mr. Ming dry · Mrs. Lee dry · Mr. Nick dry · Mrs. Emorn dry · **Mr. Pao: trouser legs wet to the knee, feet wet, but hair and shirt dry**
Preliminary post-mortem	Left side of the head struck hard against the corner of the safe; death almost instant · time of death consistent with 21:45–21:47 · **no defensive wounds, no scratches, nothing under the fingernails · blood and the tea left in the cup sent to the Institute of Forensic Medicine for a toxicology test, results in 2-3 days**
Sleeping pills taken by Mrs. Lee	Found in Mrs. Lee's handbag. 10 tablets counted, all of those she signed for
Further checks requested	Mr. Ming's phone and screenshots from the person he was talking to (16, 17) · contents of Mr. Nick's wallet (18) · Mrs. Lee's phone (19) · contents of the victim's pockets (20, 21)

Signed Pol. Lt. Wichai, recorder

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Wichai
Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan

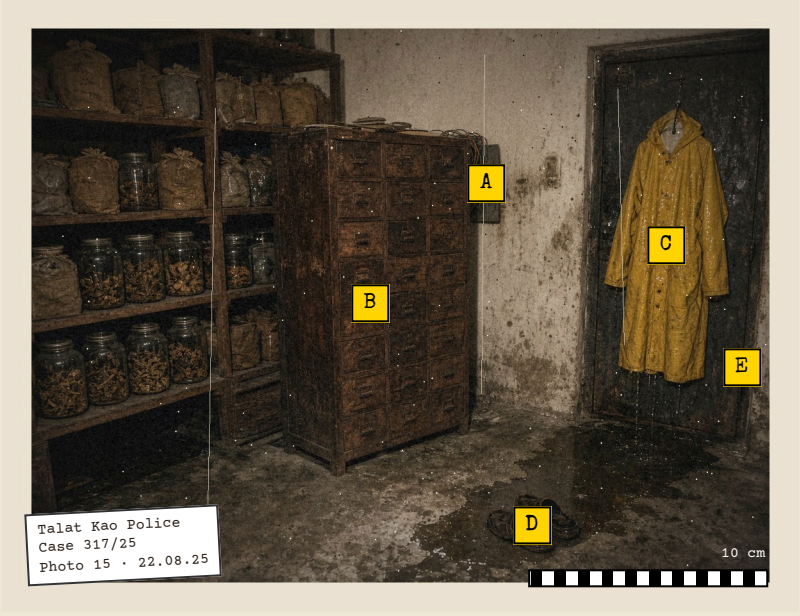

Exhibit 15 Police photo · back storeroom of the shop · 22:55

Exhibit 15 Photo key

A Main fuse box, hidden behind the edge of the tall cabinet. You can't see it from the hallway door; you have to know it's there

B Tall wooden medicine cabinet

C Yellow hooded raincoat, soaked

D Black rubber sandals, size 42, wet

E Ground-floor back door, to the back alley and the iron spiral staircase

Exhibit 18 Photo Gear Soi 8

Receipt / abbreviated tax invoice

```
--------------------------
Wireless microphone set x1
              7,990.00
--------------------------
TOTAL          7,990.00
CASH           8,000.00
CHANGE            10.00
--------------------------
WED 20/08/2025  15:32
Thank you for shopping with
us
(found in Mr. Nick's wallet)
```

Receipt

Exhibit 20 *I, Mrs. Emorn, have received a bank transfer from Khun Mei Heng-Ankul of 20,000 baht for one strip of film negatives (group photo in front of the Heng-An shop, 22 Aug 1982). Handed over 22 Aug 2025 at 20:05.*

Signed, Emorn

Transfer · Successful · 22 Aug 25, 20:05 · 20,000.00 baht
From Mei Heng-Ankul → To Emorn S. · Note: "film"
(slip printed from the victim's phone)

Found in the victim's shirt pocket, clipped to note 21

Exhibit 21 Small note, the victim's handwriting

"Got everything now. Photo + film + letter → burn the lot tonight, before Monday."

Exhibit 16 Screenshot from Nuch's phone

Two screenshots given to police: **21:41:04** (the shop lights behind him have just gone out) and **21:45:18** (this one) · in both, the background is the Heng-An shop's front steel grille and the noodle shop opposite, its lights still on

Exhibit 17 Mr. Ming's phone · messages and call log

Nuch · 21:37
Phum's got a fever, he keeps crying for Papa. Can you video call so he can see your face?

21:38 · One sec, let me go downstairs first

Outgoing video call	Nuch
Started	**21:40:20**
Ended	**21:49:40** (9 min 20 sec)
Signal	Same cell tower for the whole call

Phone wallpaper: a woman and a boy of about 8

Exhibit 19 Mrs. Lee's phone · photo album and a draft email

Photos of the pages of the "Heng-An Ya Hom Recipe Book": **12 photos**
Taken **Tue 19 Aug 2025 at 23:10**
Background: the desk in the 3rd-floor accounts room, lit by a torch

No photos at all on 22 Aug after 18:00

Draft email to "Ladda Beauty Co.": "I have the complete formula now. Ready to sign the contract."

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

ENVELOPE A · Statements 7–9

Statement 7 · Mr. Ming (second)

23 Aug · 11:00 · Talat Kao Police

I, Mr. Ming Heng-Ankul, age 55, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **During the blackout your phone was on a video call with "Nuch". Who is she?**

A. ...Nuch is the mother of my son, little Phum. He's eight. They live in another district. I've sent her money every month for eight years. Mei didn't know. Or maybe she'd found out. I didn't dare say so last night, because I was afraid everyone would think I had a reason to kill my wife.

Q. **Where were you during the call?**

A. Standing at the front steel grille the whole time. That's where the signal is best. My son wanted to see my face, so I kept the camera on for the whole call.

Q. **What did you hear from inside the shop?**

A. The metal back door in the storeroom went "clack" **twice**. The first time around 21:43, the second around 21:49, just before I hung up. I thought it was the wind. But there wasn't much wind that night.

Q. **Who supervised the renovation of the building in 2017?**

A. I had to take Akong to hospital every day. Apao handled the workmen from start to finish. I never even went to look.

Read back; confirmed correct. Signed Ming statement giver Signed Wichai recorder

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

Criminal Case No. 317/2025

Statement 8 · Miss Nuch (by telephone)

23 Aug · 13:00

I, Miss Nuch, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **When were you on the video call with Mr. Ming on the night of the 22nd?**

A. From about 9:40 until nearly 9:50 pm. My son was ill and crying for his dad.

Q. **What did you see on the screen?**

A. He was standing in front of the shop's steel grille the whole time. I could see the rain and the noodle shop across the lane behind him. After a while **the lights in the shop behind him suddenly went out**. He jumped, turned to shine his phone at something beside the door, and shouted a question to the people upstairs. Then he lit his own face with his phone light and kept talking to our son. He didn't go anywhere. I took two screenshots because I was worried about him.

Q. **Anything unusual during that time?**

A. He looked behind him twice and said, "Back door's banging. The wind, probably." A bit later he said he had to go back up or people would get suspicious, and hung up.

Read back; confirmed correct. (taken by telephone, not signed) Signed Wichai recorder

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

Criminal Case No. 317/2025

Statement 9 · Mrs. Lee (second)

23 Aug · 11:30 · Talat Kao Police

I, Mrs. Lee, age 51, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **Police found Akong's back-door key in your handbag.**

A. Yes. I admit it. On Tuesday night I took the key from Akong's bedside drawer. I waited until Aunt Mei went out to a friend's funeral at ten, then went up the iron stairs at the back, unlocked the 3rd-floor back door and photographed the ya hom recipe in her desk drawer. I only wanted to see my own mother's recipe. What's wrong with that? I just hadn't put the key back yet.

Q. **Did you use that key last night?**

A. No. Last night I was in the kitchen the whole time. My voice is on Nick's clip, answering him only a few seconds after the thud. If I'd been on the 3rd floor, how could I have got down to the kitchen that fast? And my clothes were dry.

Q. **The sleeping pills you signed out that afternoon?**

A. They're mine. I've been under a lot of stress and can't sleep. All ten are still in my bag.

Read back; confirmed correct. Signed Lee statement giver Signed Wichai recorder

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Wichai
Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan

ENVELOPE A · Statements 10–12

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

Statement 10 · Mr. Nick (second)

23 Aug · 12:00 · Talat Kao Police

I, Mr. Nick, age 24, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **The receipt for a microphone in your wallet is dated Wednesday the 20th, 15:32.**

A. I took the money myself. Eight thousand. On Wednesday afternoon I minded the counter while Apao went for lunch, so I took it from the drawer and bought the mic. I meant to slip it back, but Aunt Mei counted the cash that evening and blamed Apao. I didn't dare tell anyone. Apao didn't steal anything.

Q. **Apao says water was coming in at the back door and he had to go out and put sandbags down.**

A. That's not true. I've filmed Soi Fon flooding a dozen times. The back alley is higher than the front lane, and the back door is raised on top of that. Water has never come in there. Last year's flood was worse than this and it only reached the shopfront. And we've never owned any sandbags.

Read back; confirmed correct. Signed Nick statement giver Signed Wichai recorder

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

Criminal Case No. 317/2025

Statement 11 · Mrs. Emorn (second)

23 Aug · 14:00 · No. 47

I, Mrs. Emorn, age 68, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **A receipt in your handwriting was in the victim's shirt pocket.**

A. Yes. I sold Mei the negatives of that photograph for twenty thousand. She first asked to buy them on the 18th. I needed the money, so I handed them over at five past eight, in the corner of the room. I had no idea she meant to burn them.

Q. **Did you notice anything else that night?**

A. When Apao came up after the lights came on, **his trouser legs were wet to the knee and he was barefoot, but his hair and shirt were bone dry.** I've taken pictures all my life; I notice details. A man who's been dragging sandbags in that rain would be soaked to the scalp. Unless he was wearing a raincoat with a hood.

Q. **Is there anything else you want to tell me?**

A. ...Could I have one more night to think?

Read back; confirmed correct. Signed Emorn statement giver Signed Wichai recorder

Form TP-14 · Record of Statement

Criminal Case No. 317/2025

Statement 12 · Mr. Pao (second)

23 Aug · 15:00 · Talat Kao Police

I, Mr. Pao, age 59, state the following to Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan, investigator:

Q. **No water came into the storeroom, and the shop has no sandbags at all.**

A. I... may have remembered wrong. I just went and stood at the back door watching the water.

Q. **You said you were soaked, but your hair and shirt were dry.**

The witness did not answer.

Q. **The yellow raincoat in the storeroom is soaked. Who wore it?**

A. It's the shop's raincoat. Anyone can wear it.

Q. **The footprints on the 3rd floor match your sandals.**

A. I leave my sandals by the back door every day. Anyone could put them on.

Q. **The electrician confirms the breaker was switched off by hand. It did not trip.**

The witness did not answer.

Q. **Why did you come to work at this shop in '95?**

A. I wanted to be near Tao-kae.

Recorder's note: the witness had his shirt buttoned to the collar and kept touching his collar during the interview.

Read back; confirmed correct. Signed Pao statement giver Signed Wichai recorder

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Wichai
Pol. Lt. Wichai Saithan