

SOLUTION ENVELOPE · KUEN KAI KADEE CASE FILE 3

STOP!

**Open only when all 5 questions on the case summary
sheet are answered**



Fold this page to the outside and put it in the envelope labelled "Solution"

The truth on Rain Lane (read it aloud together)

Forty-three years ago, a sixteen-year-old boy stood half a step apart from the Heng-Ankul family in the group photo Emorn took in front of the shop. Round his neck hung a jade fish. His name was **Pao**: the first son of Heng and Janpen, a young woman from Ban Lang Market who died after giving birth. Auntie Jerm raised him. That night Ama Ngek learned the truth, and scratched the boy's face out of the family's print until it was white.

In 1994, before she died, Auntie Jerm told Pao the truth and gave him the jade fish. The next year Pao came back to the shop as a hired hand. He never told anyone. All he asked was to be near his father, and for thirty years he made up his father's medicine every morning.

This month Akong wanted to see his first son's face again, and asked Mei to find the photo. Mei found the photo, the letter and the old accounts, lied that she couldn't find them, and worked out that the boy was Apao. On Wednesday the 20th, after being handed a warning over money he had never stolen, Apao went into Akong's bedroom and laid the jade fish on the bedside table. Akong took out the other fish of the pair, which he had kept for sixty years, and laid it beside it. That night Akong wrote a **draft will** leaving the building to "my first son" (29).

On Thursday Akong overheard Mei on the phone to the lawyer. She would get a doctor to certify that Akong was senile, make Ming his guardian, move Akong into a care home on 1 September, and sell the building. She already had the negatives from Emorn and would burn them, with everything else, on the birthday night. If they waited until Monday, the new will would mean nothing: there would be no proof that Pao was his son, and Akong would no longer be living in the building he had built with his own hands. **So Akong made a plan.**

Akong set the timing for everything that night. At half past eight he announced at the table that he would change his will on Monday, so that Mei would hurry to burn the evidence that same night, alone, on the 3rd floor. At **21:24** he poured chrysanthemum tea from his own flask into the dragon-pattern cup no one else was ever allowed to touch, stirred in three sleeping pills he had saved from his own bottle, and handed it to Mei with a smile. "Drink it all up, then go up and fetch Akong's red envelope." Ten minutes later he told Apao, "Go and get the cake now."

Apao did not go for the cake. He put on the yellow raincoat, **switched off the breaker at 21:41**, went out of the back door, climbed the iron spiral staircase in the rain, and unlocked the 3rd-floor back door with his own key, no. 3. Meanwhile, on the livestream, Akong shouted, "Ask Apao! Apao knows everything about this building!", which kept everyone sitting at the table. Nobody went looking for the fuse box.

Mei sat by candlelight. She struck four matches, but her hands had no strength left to burn anything. She was too drowsy to stand up and fight or to call for help. At **21:46** Apao struck her head against the corner of the safe, to make it look as if she had fallen in the dark. He took the negatives from their envelope. He did not destroy them. He zipped them into the raincoat's waterproof pocket, because they were the one piece of evidence his father could use to prove he was his son. Then he locked the door, went back down the iron stairs, and pushed the power back on at 21:52.

When the evidence pointed at him, Apao confessed that he had acted alone and begged the police not to trouble Tao-kae. But his confession described a woman who jumped up and shouted, when the victim was so drugged she could barely speak. And it described a father who knew nothing, when the draft will was dated two days before the party.

Apao struck the blow · Akong Heng, his father, planned it and drugged the tea. Both were charged with premeditated murder, acting together.

Case summary sheet answers (3 points each)

Question	Answer that scores
1. Who struck the blow	Apao
2. Did he act alone?	No. Akong (Mr. Heng) planned it and drugged the tea. (Full 3 points with at least 3 of: drug in the cup, not the flask + fingerprints (28) · Akong poured

Question	Answer that scores
	the tea himself (Incident Report, Statements 6, 14) · 3 of Akong's pills missing (12, 30) · draft will of 20 Aug (29) · false points in the confession (Statement 13) · Akong sent the victim up and Apao down (Statement 6 contradicts Statement 1) · "Ask Apao" on the stream contradicts Statement 1)
3. How	21:24 Akong gives the victim drugged tea and sends her to the 3rd floor · 21:35 he sends Apao down · Apao puts on the raincoat, switches off the breaker , goes out of the back door, climbs the iron spiral staircase and unlocks the 3rd-floor back door with key no. 3 · strikes the drowsy, helpless victim's head against the safe at 21:46 · takes the negatives, locks the door again, hides the film in the raincoat pocket, power back on at 21:52 (full points only with both the tea and the route)
4. Why	The victim was going to make Ming Akong's guardian, put Akong in a care home on 1 Sep, sell the building, sack Apao, and burn the negatives, the last proof that Pao is Akong's son , all before Monday, when Akong would make the will leaving the building to Pao
5. The scratched-out face	Pao (Apao) , Akong's first son by Janpen

The full true timeline

When	What happened
1965	Heng (20) falls in love with Janpen and gives her one jade fish from a pair; he keeps the other
1966	Heng marries Ama Ngek · Janpen gives birth to Pao and dies · Auntie Jerm takes him in · Heng starts sending money
22 Aug 1982	Heng's 37th birthday · Auntie Jerm brings Pao (16) to the group photo · Ama Ngek learns the truth and scratches out the boy's face
Mar 1984	Money stops · Auntie Jerm's last letter (24)
1994-1995	Auntie Jerm dies and gives Pao the jade fish · Pao (29) comes to work at the shop
Mar 2017	Heng's knee operation · Pao supervises the renovation, has the fuse box moved behind the medicine cabinet, has 3 back-door keys cut (11)
Fri 1 Aug 2025	The shop collects Akong's sleeping pills: 30 tablets, 1 a night (12, 30)
Fri 15 Aug	Akong asks Mei to find the photo from his 37th birthday
Sun 17 - Mon 18 Aug	Mei finds the photo, the letter, the old accounts; asks to buy the negatives from Emorn; works out that it's Apao (23, 26)
Tue 19 Aug, 23:10	Lee uses Akong's key to go up and photograph the ya hom recipe (19)
Wed 20 Aug	15:32 Nick takes money from the till to buy a mic (18) · evening: Mei gives Apao the warning (7) · night: Apao spends almost an hour in Akong's room (26) · Akong writes the draft will (29)
Thu 21 Aug	Mei talks to the lawyer about guardianship; Akong overhears (26, Statement 14) · Akong starts saving 3 pills
Fri 22 Aug	
14:20	Lee signs out the shop's sleeping pills (a different drug, nothing to do with the case)
20:05	Emorn hands over the negatives; Mei transfers 20,000 baht (20)
20:30	Akong announces he will change his will on Monday
21:00	Mei pressures Apao to resign; Ming overhears part of it (Statement 2)
21:24	Akong pours drugged tea into the dragon cup, hands it to Mei, tells her to fetch the red envelope (Statement 6)

When	What happened
21:25	Mei goes up to the 3rd floor with the cup
21:35	Akong tells Apao, "Go and get the cake now" · Apao goes down to the storeroom and puts on the raincoat
21:37–21:40	Nuch messages; Ming goes down to the shopfront; video call starts 21:40:20
21:41:10	Apao switches off the breaker · 21:42:40 Akong shouts "Ask Apao!"
~21:43	Apao goes out of the ground-floor back door (first "clack") and up the iron stairs
21:46:30	Apao strikes the victim's head against the safe; the drug has left her unable to fight back
~21:47–49	Takes the film, locks the door, down the iron stairs, back into the storeroom (second "clack")
21:50–21:51	Lee climbs the timber stairs and finds the body · Ming runs up from the ground floor
21:52:20	Apao pushes the breaker back up and shouts "Power's back!"
24 Aug	Apao confesses he acted alone (Statement 13) · Akong does not deny it (Statement 14)
25 Aug	Forensic results: the drug in her blood and in the teacup (28)

Step-by-step reasoning (every step rests on at least 2 pieces of evidence)

- 1 • **Death at about 21:46** · watch stopped at 21:46 (2, 4) + thud at 21:46:30 (9) + Lee heard it above the kitchen (Statement 3) + post-mortem (13)
- 2 • **The culprit used the iron stairs at the back** · wet footprints start and end at the back door, timber stairs dry (2, Statement 3) · no timber-stair sound from 21:41:10 to 21:50:05 (1, 9) · mud on the iron stairs (13)
- 3 • **They needed key 2 or key 3** · deadbolts need a key, the door was locked (1, 2) · 3 keys (11), the victim's was in the room (2, 14)
- 4 • **The power was cut by someone switching off the breaker** · only this building went dark (9, 10) · red flag didn't pop up (11, 13) · no water came in (13, Statement 10)
- 5 • **Apao is the one who went up to the 3rd floor** · key no. 3 (14) · size-42 footprints (13, 15) · wet legs, dry hair (13, Statement 11) · knew where the fuse box was hidden (11, 15, Statement 7) · film in the raincoat (2, 22) · his own confession (Statement 13)
- 6 • **The victim was made helpless first** · ~3 tablets in her blood, taking effect after 15–30 minutes (28) · no defensive wounds (13, 28) · no cry on the stream, only the thud (9) · 4 matches lit but nothing burned (2, 28)
- 7 • **The drug came from the cup Akong handed her, not from anyone else** · drug in the cup, not in the flask; only Akong's and the victim's fingerprints on the cup (28) · Akong poured the tea into his own cup for her at 21:24 (Incident Report, Statement 6) and confirmed himself that "nobody else" touches it (Statement 14) · same drug as Akong's, not Lee's (28) · Akong's pills: 30 dispensed on 1 Aug, 1 a night up to the 22nd → 8 should be left, but only 5 are = 3 missing (12, 30, Statement 14)
- 8 • **Akong knew Pao was his son, and they planned it together** · draft will of 20 Aug, "my first son" (29) · the victim noted "P. in Akong's room almost an hour" (26) · Akong holds the other fish of the pair (Statement 14, 27) · Akong sent the victim up and Apao down at just the right moments (Statement 6), yet lied that he "didn't send anybody" (Statement 1) · shouted "Ask Apao! Apao knows everything about this building!" (9), contradicting his claim not to know where the fuse box was (Statement 1)
- 9 • **Apao's confession is partly false, to protect his father** · "she stood up and shouted" contradicts the drug and the stream, which has no cry (9, 28) · "Akong knows nothing" contradicts the draft will (29) · "I went down on my own" contradicts Statement 6 · he didn't destroy the film; he "had to keep it for..." (22, Statement 13)
- 10 • **Motive** · guardianship, care home on 1 Sep, sale of the building (5, 6, 26, Statement 14) · sacking Apao over the money Nick took (7, 18, 26) · burning the negatives that night (21, 26) · all of it had to happen before Monday, when Akong was seeing his lawyer (29, Incident Report)
- 11 • **The scratched-out face is Apao's** · jade fish in the new print (23) + the letter (24) + young Pao born '66 (25) + the jade fish round Apao's neck (27) + the victim's notebook (26)

Red herrings, and why they're wrong

Clue	Why it looks suspicious	The truth
"Apao acted alone"	Every piece of physical evidence points to him, and he confessed	Only half true. He struck the blow, but his confession clashes with the drug, the teacup and the draft will (steps 7-9)
Akong can't be involved	80 years old, can't climb to the 3rd floor, on the stream throughout (9, 12)	He didn't need to go up. He drugged the tea and set the timing from the dinner table
Hia Ming	Husband, missing from the stream, hiding Nuch (26), gains if the building is sold	Video call at the front grille (16, 17, Statement 8) · no key (14) · never touched the cup (28)
Je Lee	Found the body, had a key, signed out sleeping pills on the day	In the kitchen at 21:46:42 (9) · all 10 of her pills accounted for, and a different drug (13, 28) · used the key on Tuesday night (19)
Nick	Stole money (18), his café plan was rejected (8)	His voice is on the stream throughout (9) · no key (14)
Mrs. Emorn	Sold the film (20), being squeezed over her house (5)	At the window, camera flash at 21:44 (9, 10) · she is the witness who saw the tea (Statement 6)
"The scratched face is Ming's son"	If you learn about little Phum first	The photo is from 1982, but Phum is 8 years old (17, Statement 7)

Logic check: what each piece of evidence proves

#	Evidence	What it proves	Used in step
1-2	Sketch · scene report 1	Creaking timber stairs, iron stairs, deadbolts · watch, footprints, empty film envelope, dragon-pattern teacup	1-3, 6
3-4	Scratched photo · desk photo	Someone "not one of this family" · confirms watch, keys	1, 11
5-6	Sale contract · care home	The plan for guardianship and a care home on 1 Sep	10
7-8	Warning · café	The victim was squeezing Apao · Nick's false motive	10 / herring
9	Livestream	Everyone's position · no stair sound and no cry · "Ask Apao"	1, 2, 6, 8
10-11	Lane photo · electrician's receipt	Only one building dark · Apao moved the fuse box; 3 keys	3-5
12	Dispensing book	Akong's 30 pills on 1 Aug · Akong can't reach the 3rd floor · Lee's pills	7
13	Scene report 2	Switched off by hand · size-42 sandals · who was wet · no defensive wounds · Lee's pills all there	4-6
14-15	Key register · storeroom photo	Leaves Lee and Apao · hidden fuse box, raincoat	3, 5
16-19	Phones · mic receipt	Rules out Ming, Lee · Nick took the money	herring
20-21	Receipt · note	The victim had the film and meant to burn it that night	10
22-25, 27	Film · new print · letter · accounts · jade	Pao is Heng's son · the film was with Apao	5, 11

#	Evidence	What it proves	Used in step
26	Victim's notebook	The victim knew the truth · P. in Akong's room on 20 Aug · guardianship plan	8, 10
28	Forensics	~3 tablets in her blood and the cup, not in the flask · Akong's fingerprints	6, 7, 9
29	Draft will, 20 Aug	Akong knew Pao was his son before the party	8, 9
30	Akong's pill-bottle label	3 pills missing	7
Statements 1, 6, 13, 14	Akong · Emorn · Apao · Akong	Akong lied about sending the victim up · the confession has false points	8, 9

Consistency check (checked: no contradictions found)

- **Ages** Heng born 1945 (37 in 1982, 80 in 2025) · Pao born 1966 (16 in the photo, 59 in 2025) · Emorn 25 in 1982 = 68
- **Days of the week** 22 Aug 2025 = Friday · 20th = Wednesday (date on the draft will) · 21st = Thursday · 24th = Sunday · 25th = Monday (lawyer appointment, and the day the forensic report came out)
- **Pill count** 30 dispensed on 1 Aug · nights of 1-22 Aug = 22 tablets → 8 should be left · 5 counted (30) → 3 missing = the level in her blood (28)
- **Time to take effect** drunk at about 21:25 → clearly drowsy by about 21:40-21:55, which covers 21:46
- **At 21:46:30 everyone is accounted for except Apao** Akong, Nick, Emorn (livestream) · Lee (kitchen) · Ming (video call)
- **Akong never went to the 3rd floor**, and didn't need to. His whole part was played from the dinner table (the tea, the orders, the shout on the stream)
- **The teacup isn't in photo 4** because it was bagged for testing before the photo was taken (2)
- **Why Lee's pills aren't the answer** all 10 are there, and they're a different drug (13, 28)
- **Why Apao kept the film** it was the only proof for the will; he never wanted it destroyed
- **Dates in this English edition** are given in the Western calendar. The film envelope is labelled "22/8/82" (the photo's date) and the camera stamp on photo 10 reads '25 8 22 (year 2025, then month, then day)
- **Every red herring has an explanation**

Case closed

Before the police led Apao down the stairs, Akong asked them to wait a moment. The old man laid the jade fish he had been holding beside the one the police had taken from his son's neck. The two fish faced each other exactly.

"You don't have to take the blame for me," Akong said quietly. "I poured that tea myself."

Apao slowly shook his head. For the first time in his life, he did not call him "Tao-kae".

"Pa... I'm sorry."

On Monday morning nobody kept the appointment with the lawyer. The one hundred and twelve herb drawers are still where they always were. The chrysanthemum-tea flask and the dragon-pattern cup sit sealed in the evidence store at Talat Kao Police Station.

Case File 3: closed