



# No Criminal Facts

A Full English translation is available.

查無犯罪事實

**Scriptwriter:** Hsin-Mei Cheng **Comic Artist:** Sen **Publisher:** Dyna Books

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216 pages | 14.8 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1 (Two-book series)

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michael Fahey

A rope mark on the wrist. A belt tied across the chest. A blood-stained Swiss knife left in the grass—but no other visible injuries.

Detective Zheng Yi-Cheng, usually laid-back and indifferent toward his cases, finds himself unusually invested in this murder investigation. But as the evidence mounts, he becomes the prime suspect in the very case he is trying to solve. Meanwhile, his former lover, prosecutor Jiang Yi-Hua, joins the investigation and gradually uncovers a tangled web connecting past and present.

Blending social realism with elements of detective fiction, this book draws inspiration from the famous Dr. Chen Wen-Chen case in Taiwan. The result is a gripping, suspense-filled thriller, and it won the Shohei Potential Original IP Award at the 2024 Taiwan Creative Content Fest.



## Scriptwriter Hsin-Mei Cheng

Born in 1976, Hsin-Mei Cheng began her career as a journalist before transitioning to full-time scriptwriting. Known for her keen insight in social and political themes, she is dedicated to uncovering stories rooted in Taiwan and crafting emotionally powerful narratives that resonate with its people.



## Comic Artist Sen

Sen is a manga creator who graduated from the Department of Theater Design at Taipei National University of the Arts, specializing in design. Now focused on manga, illustration, and graphic design, Sen's works include the short story collection *Everyday Youth* and the independently published *Insomnia Diary* and *Black Cat*.

# A Detective Thriller That Blends Suspense and Social Realism

by Jeffrey Wu

*No Criminal Facts* is inspired by a real unsolved case in Taiwan—the murder of Dr. Chen Wen-chen. During the White Terror period, a renowned scholar returned to Taiwan from the United States to visit his family. On the eve of his return to the U.S., he was summoned by the Kuomintang's Taiwan Garrison Command and never seen again. His body was later found on a lawn. Although the police claimed that he died in a traffic accident, the circumstances were riddled with inconsistencies. Given Chen's involvement in democratic reform, it is widely suspected that he became a victim of the White Terror. To this day, however, the truth remains unknown.

The narrative of *No Criminal Facts* unfolds through this unresolved case while incorporating the perspectives of both its male and female leads. The protagonist,

Zheng Yi-Cheng, is a detective whose childhood was marked by tragedy. He witnessed his father's suicide at a young age and was abandoned by his biological mother. Even his adoptive father, once a figure of trust and care, proves less sincere than he had believed. These early hardships fuel his strong sense of justice and deep empathy for the struggles of ordinary people. However, lacking influential family and social connections, he repeatedly finds himself unable to fully realize that justice. This leaves him disillusioned, frustrated, and emotionally burdened.

By contrast, the prosecutor Jiang Yi-Hua moves through a very different world. The daughter of a renowned judge, she appears born into privilege. Her striking appearance and illustrious family name

lead others to dismiss her achievements as inheritance rather than earned success. Her career unfolds smoothly, yet her diligence and intelligence remain overlooked.

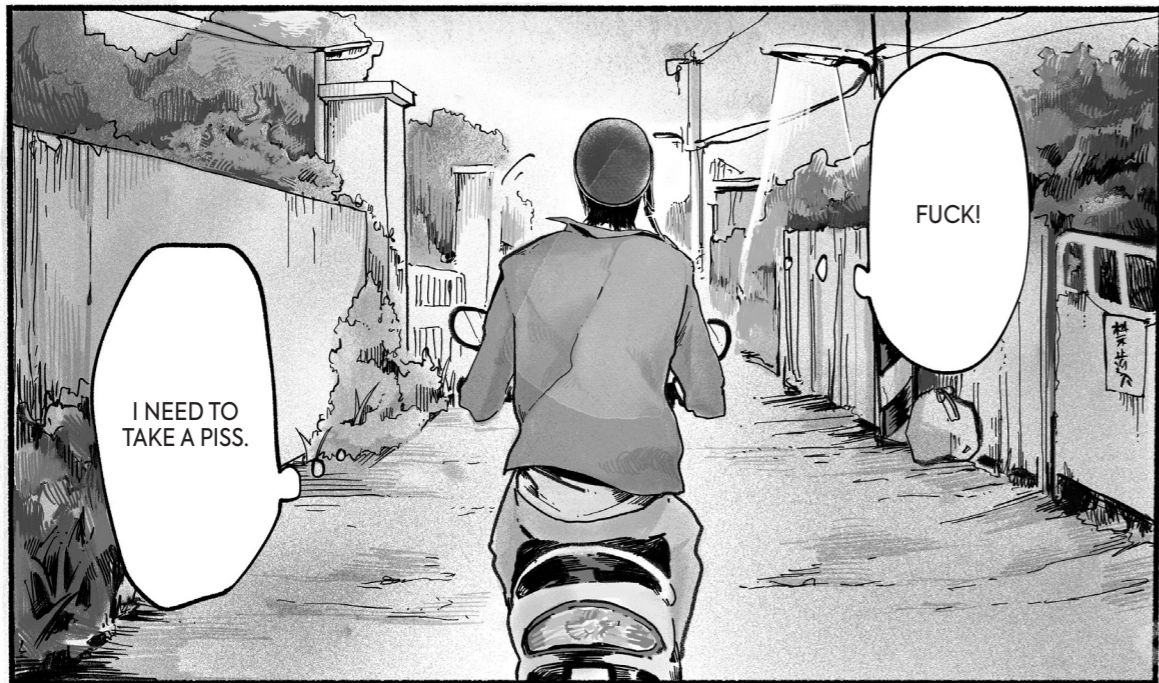
The two leads, detective and prosecutor, are former lovers who stand at opposite ends of the social spectrum: one armed with status, resources, and a future that seems assured; the other burdened by loss, hardship, and closed doors. And yet, they share a relentless pursuit of justice. Through their parallel paths, the story offers a layered portrait of how people from vastly different backgrounds perceive and confront social dilemmas.

The story also evokes George Orwell's *1984*, a dystopian novel centered on government surveillance, authoritarian control, and the manipulation of citizens. Taiwan's own history echoes these themes through events such as the February 28 Incident and the subsequent White Terror. More recently, the death of soldier Hung Chung-chiu in 2013, caused by abuse during military service, became a rallying cry for justice and transparency. Against this backdrop, *No Criminal Facts* approaches these heavy themes, offering

readers a lens to consider transitional justice and how contemporary Taiwanese society grapples with past injustices. At the same time, the narrative captures the stark reality of pursuing truth as an ordinary individual confronting institutions and figures wielding overwhelming power.

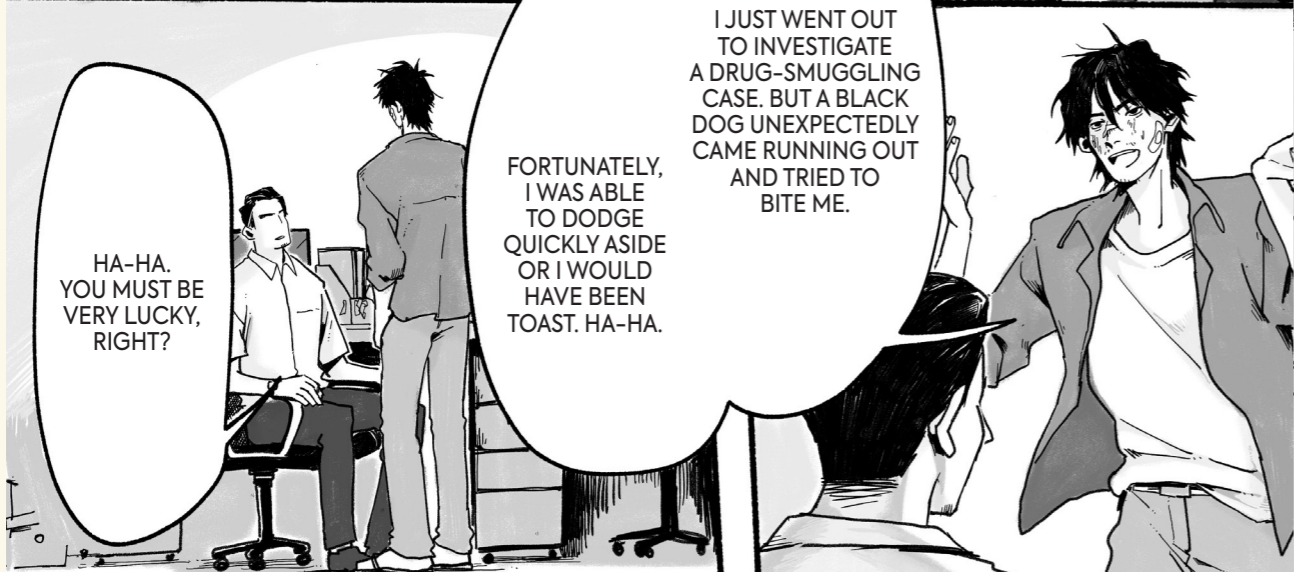
The comic unfolds through an interwoven narrative, shifting between the detective's past and the investigation of a mysterious case. As these two timelines gradually converge, repetition and ambiguity create a layered reading experience that mirrors the complexities of truth and justice. There is no easy resolution, reflecting the reality of unresolved cases and the ongoing struggle for fairness. Readers are drawn into the world of *No Criminal Facts*, following the protagonists as they navigate moral uncertainty, personal trauma, and systemic barriers in their pursuit of justice.

*Jeffrey Wu works in the field of education and is an avid reader. With a background in English literature, he also is passionate about postmodern philosophy and post-structuralism.*





DO YOU HAVE AN EXPLANATION?



HA-HA. YOU MUST BE VERY LUCKY, RIGHT?

FORTUNATELY, I WAS ABLE TO DODGE QUICKLY ASIDE OR I WOULD HAVE BEEN TOAST. HA-HA.

I JUST WENT OUT TO INVESTIGATE A DRUG-SMUGGLING CASE. BUT A BLACK DOG UNEXPECTEDLY CAME RUNNING OUT AND TRIED TO BITE ME.



TAITUNG POLICE STATION

CAPTAIN CHANG TZU-YI CRIMINAL AFFAIRS, CAPTAIN

東縣成功分局

