



# Is He The One?

A Full English translation is available.

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**Author:** Duo63 **Illustrator:** Duo63 **Publisher:** Dyna Books

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Police officer Xie Zhi-Hao lives an ordinary, repetitive life. Exhausted by his days on duty, he is relentlessly haunted by recurring nightmares each night. One morning, he wakes to find himself in a remote rural area. By chance, he saves a popular idol from a near-fatal accident.

Zhi-Hao soon becomes the idol's bodyguard, only to be swept into a series of unsettling events: black fog that seems to swallow the world, ghostly figures trailing in his wake, and scenes charged with eerie nostalgia. Something about this place feels profoundly wrong... Could he have crossed into an entirely different time and space?

In her first foray into the BL genre, manga artist Duo63 pairs delicately rendered characters with an atmosphere of horror and suspense, unveiling the protagonists' fated bond in a breathtaking story.



Author **Duo63**

Duo63 is a Taiwanese artist based in New Taipei City. She draws whatever captures her interest, but most of all she loves drawing cute boys. Her work primarily focuses on female-oriented yaoi. Her commercially published titles include *My Marriage Contract with the Devil*, *My Lifelong Contract with the Devil*, *This Is What Happened When I Guarded a Stump Waiting for Rabbits*, *Is He The One?* and *Desire Before The Blade*.

# Thrilling and Suspenseful, with a Touch of Romance: A New Style of Taiwanese BL Comics Emerges

by Tzu Ning Huang

The author Duo63 has long enjoyed a strong reputation in Taiwan's vibrant doujin community, known for its self-published and fan-created works. A highly active female creator, Duo63 recently published a number of works in the commercial sphere. *Is He The One?* marks a clear departure from her earlier portrayals: alongside the emotional characterizations she is known for, the work introduces a pronounced element of mystery and horror, signaling a new stage in her storytelling ambitions.

The protagonist, Xie Zhi-Hao, is a police officer worn down by bureaucratic systems and the constant demands of the public. He is also deeply troubled by his

younger sister's sudden devotion to a so-called "Madame," into whose belief system she has poured a large sum of money. To make matters worse, Zhi-Hao begins to suffer from recurring nightmares—vast expanses of black fog, film-like flashes of scenes, and an overwhelming sense of oppression that leaves him mentally and physically exhausted.

Then, without warning, he wakes up in an unfamiliar place and unexpectedly finds himself serving as the bodyguard to a super idol named Zero. From clues in his surroundings—his phone, the news—he gradually realizes that he has landed in a different era altogether. How are these events connected to his

nightmares? Meanwhile, the talismans his sister obtained from the "Madame" seem mysteriously linked to everything that has unfolded.

The author's narrative skill shines in her depiction of Zhi-Hao's encounter with Zero, which feels almost fated, even as hidden dangers are gradually woven into the unfolding plot. This approach echoes the subtitle *Is He The One?*—is this person truly the right one? What the story ultimately seeks to unravel is not only the dangers that surface along the way, but also the enigmatic nature of the relationship between its protagonists.

The Chinese title refers to "righteous bonds" and "karmic bonds." The former is "good," while the latter implies an ill-fated relationship. In traditional Taiwanese beliefs, people often pray for a "good" bond and a positive destiny. Naturally, everyone wishes for a good bond—but how do we determine what kind of bond a relationship truly is? And might the existence of an ill-fated bond not also serve as the catalyst for the emergence of the next important connection? As the book suggests, human relationships are

intricately intertwined, influencing one another in unceasing and immeasurable ways.

In the early development of BL comics in Taiwan, creators largely focused on depicting emotional relationships between two men. In recent years, however, the creative inspiration of artists and the increasing openness of the market have allowed works to flourish in diverse directions. From the reading experience of *Is He The One?*, we can observe how such a shift has enriched and broadened the narrative possibilities. Rather than simply telling a love story about two men, this book tells a compelling story that happens to feature a couple made up of two men. This transformation reflects changing social attitudes and underscores the positive, mutually reinforcing relationship between readers and creators.

*Tzu Ning Huang is an editor at Books from Taiwan. She loves to listen and tell stories, enjoys conversations and encounters with others, and appreciates time alone. She also loves to use photography and writing to explore the world.*



WHY THE HELL MUST I SEE THIS...

HERE IT COMES AGAIN...

I SIT IN A CINEMA, FORCED TO WATCH THIS TRAGEDY UNFOLD.

I DON'T HAVE THIS KIND OF HOBBY.

NO...

DON'T...

MY BODY—

I CAN'T MOVE.

WHY IS NO ONE TRYING TO SAVE HIM?

DODGE IT... HURRY!

DODGE! HURRY AND DODGE!

DAMN IT! DAMN IT!

MOVE—!!

MOVE, DAMN IT!

SHATTER



...EVEN THOUGH HE CLEARLY BROKE THE LAW. DAMN...

BOOMFFF

I'M EXHAUSTED... AND I REALLY DID HAVE TO GO AND APOLOGIZE...

PLEASE, NO MORE NIGHTMARES...

I HOPE I CAN SLEEP SOUNDLY TODAY.



OF COURSE, MY FERVENT WISH WASN'T GRANTED. AS ALWAYS, THE SAME SCENE REPLAYED UNCEASINGLY.

LIKE A MOVIE BEING SHOWN ON REPEAT—





