



# The Great Magical Investigation Unit

A Full English translation is available.

大魔法搜查線 RESET

**Author:** Chan Ho Kei **Illustrator:** Linjay **Publisher:** APEX PRESS

**Date:** 01/2025

**Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

272 pages | 14.8 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1 (Three-book series)

**Adaptation:** Novel

**BFT 2.0 Translator:** Catherine Yu

Born into nobility, Yadinis expects a quiet life when she's assigned to a small town as a police officer. Instead, she is swept up in a whirlwind of duties. From guarding a pop idol to searching for missing children, from managing protests to apprehending criminals at concerts, she's overwhelmed.

When a serial killer responsible for 28 deaths escapes from prison, the town plunges into crisis. Yadinis lacks combat skills or magical powers; her true power lies in keen deduction. Beneath Yadinis's composed exterior, she struggles with insecurity and mistrust. But she must press forward, relying on her companions to navigate the challenges ahead.

Adapted from Chan Ho Kei's novel *The Great Magical Investigation Unit*, this manga is fully reimagined by Linjay. Recasting the original male protagonist as a female lead, the story becomes a fantastical mystery exploring a woman detective's growth and self-discovery.



Author **Chan Ho Kei**

A graduate of the Department of Computer Science at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Chan Ho Kei is an overseas member of the Taiwan Mystery Writers Association and a recipient of multiple literary honors, including the Taiwan Mystery Writers Association Award, the Shimamoto Shōji Mystery Novel Award, the Taipei International Book Exhibition Award, and the Hong Kong Literature Season Recommendation Award. His novel *13.67* topped both the Weekly Bunshun Mystery Best 10 and the Honkaku Mystery Best 10 in 2017, becoming the first Asian work to achieve this distinction.



Illustrator **Linjay**

Linjay is a Taiwanese comic artist who won the 16th Tong Li Short Comic Award in 2009 and the Gold Prize in the Comics Category at the Bahamut ACG Creative Awards in 2012. The artist made her commercial debut with *The Retired Heroes* and, in 2022, adapted Chen Hao-Chi's novel *The Great Magical Investigation Unit* into a comic series. She is currently serializing the original adult BL manga *The Most Vile Contract* on [tw.myrenta.com](http://tw.myrenta.com)

# Deduction in a Magical World: A Riveting Manga Blending Fantasy and Justice

by Xiao Xiang Shen  
(originally published on OKAPI.BOOKS.COM.TW)

When a series of murders unfolds, a police organization whose members wield magic is tasked with investigating a mysterious supernatural aura. This immediately raises a thought-provoking question: is deduction even possible in a magical world?

Magic creates the illusion of infinite possibility. Yet once magic is revealed to have limits—or is transformed into a system of rules that deduction can reference—the detective can no longer evade responsibility. This is the true core of special-setting mysteries: settings are rules, and rules presuppose and guarantee fairness. It is a precious, almost divine form of judgment, for the real world is far crueler, revealing neither its rules nor

promising any measure of fairness.

No matter how realistic a mystery novel may seem, it is always guided by a logic of fairness; in this sense, it is a limited version of the real world, which offers no such guarantee. By contrast, even a world of magic becomes something we can reason through, as long as it follows clear and consistent rules. From this perspective, the key to building deduction in a magical setting is to present those rules in a way that feels fair. This is exactly where *The Great Magical Investigation Unit* shines, introducing its magical logic smoothly and naturally, without slipping into heavy exposition.

The author accomplishes this by introducing a “non-typical protagonist.”

This does not mean the character type itself is rare, but rather that the protagonist is fundamentally out of place in this world—a genuine exception. As a mage, she deviates sharply from common expectations: although capable of using more magical attributes than ordinary mages, she cannot truly master any of them, leaving her overall skill far below that of her peers. This abnormality forces the protagonist to explain herself repeatedly to colleagues at work. Through this “exception,” the norms of the magical world are gradually revealed.

Criminal investigation is, of course, a central attraction, but the author does not overlook the police’s more fundamental duties. When protests erupt, the police maintain order; when the governor’s cat goes missing, they help search. When a child fails to return home, they head into the mountains. The organization suffers from insufficient funding, understaffing, and a lack of respect, leaving the protagonist exhausted and overwhelmed. Yet helping ordinary people in need is also part of what the police are meant to do—they do not exist solely to chase murder cases.

That said, as agents authorized to enact violence on behalf of the state, the police do not represent only justice and light. The story also depicts officers who manipulate influence behind the scenes, casting darker shadows over

already horrifying events. Although the narrative centers on serial murder, its political portrayals are equally chilling. The scheming figures who smear protesters for their own ends demonstrate just how despicable such manipulation can be. While the depiction is not excessively graphic, the fact that these tactics are all too familiar in real life makes them genuinely unsettling.

*The Great Magical Investigation Unit* is, on the surface, a light, accessible, and enjoyable read that asks little of its audience beyond immersion. Yet whether addressing the meaning of the police, the dangers of power, or the debate over capital punishment, these fleeting but incisive reflections are woven effortlessly into the narrative. Deep and sustained contemplation occurs beneath the surface.

*This essay has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.*

*Xiao Xiang Shen is a Taiwanese writer and live-action game designer, and a member of the Taipei Local Lore Studio. He has long focused on folklore and monster culture in his creative work. In 2012, *The Great Taipei Illustrated Scroll*, inspired by graffiti culture, won the Bronze Prize in the Short Story Category of the Kadokawa Light Novel Award, and in 2014 he received the King Car Fantasy Fiction Award.*



DIRTIED.

YOU.

SIR—

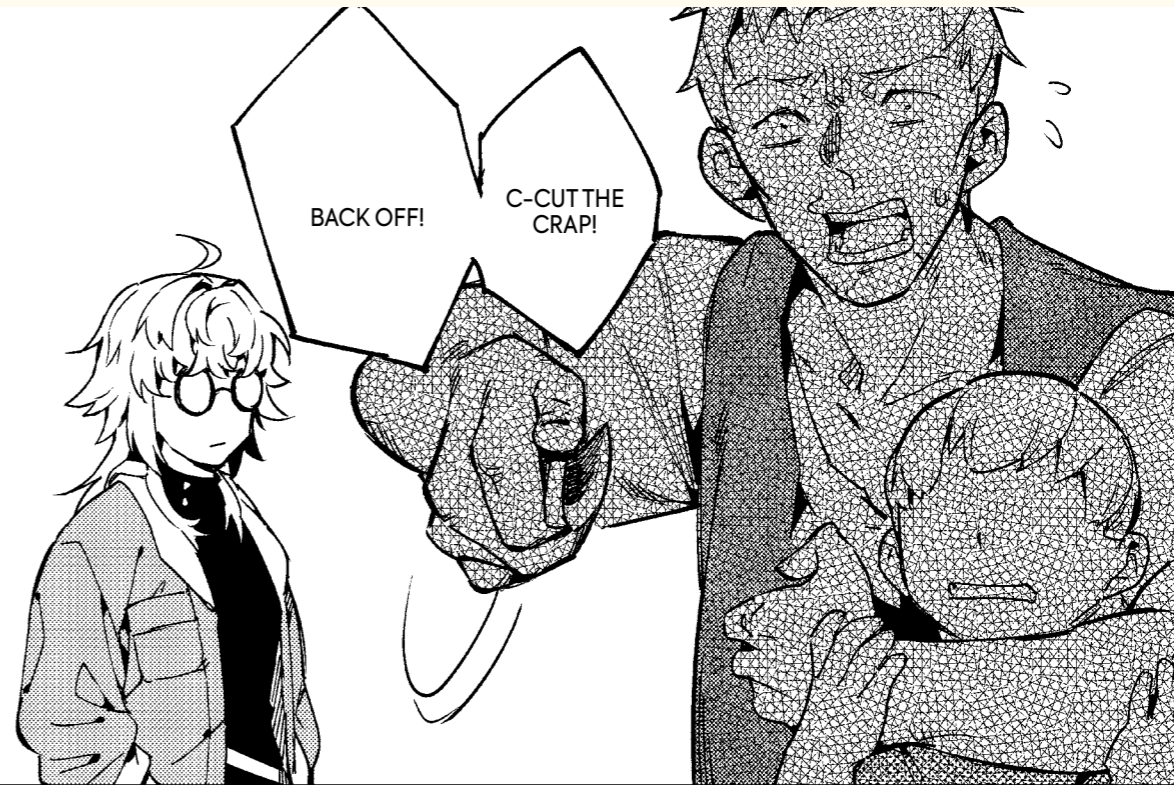
MY.

CLOTHES.

PAY ME BACK?

WILL YOU.

HOW.



BACK OFF!

C-CUT THE CRAP!



IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU COPS...



CAN'T YOU LET ME TAKE IT AND GO?

IT'S JUST A WALLET!





DRAIN YOUR LIFE SLOWLY WITH DARK MAGIC.

OR FREEZE YOU WITH ICE?

SHOULD I TOAST YOU WITH FIRE?

OR MY FAVORITE...

AND TURN YOU INTO MY OWN STONE STATUE.



WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT A HUMAN KID?



OH? HOW ODD.

BACK OFF! CAN'T YOU SEE THE KID?

WHATCHA DOING?!



SINCE YOU SEEM EAGER TO FEED MY ART, I SHALL OBLIGE.

IT IS MY HOBBY TO TURN CONCEITED MEN INTO STATUES.

I AM GORGON, THE WITCH OF THE STONE.

