

# *MYSTERY CALL*

Emma Yu (Translated from Finnish)



One sunny and windy day, I got out of bed, I brushed my teeth, and changed into my school uniform. I went to the kitchen where my mother had prepared my breakfast. I really don't like to eat breakfast, but my mother makes me, and then I left for school.

My name is Misaki. I am a normal high school student who attends school at Titian High School. When I am not in school, I love to do undercover investigations because my father is a criminal detective. I want to be just like him.

On the way to school, I went to a small shop to buy a snack and there I met Hatoru, my best friend. After leaving the shop, we headed to school. The school day passed quickly with all the normal lessons.

After finishing school, we walked a short distance to home when my phone started ringing. I picked up the phone and noticed that it was an unknown number. However, I responded as if it happened to be an important call.

"Hey, this is Misaki," I said.

"Head straight to Shinjuku Park! If you don't come before three o'clock then something horrible will happen!" a man said.

"Why?"

I didn't get an answer because the call dropped. I was a little amazed and wondered why in the world some unknown person would tell me that. Then I told Hatoru everything that the person had just said. Hatoru suggested we go to the park quickly if something had really happened.

So, we looked at the clock and saw that there were only twenty-five minutes left. It would normally take twenty-eight minutes to get to the park, so we needed to be really fast if we wanted to get there on time.

After running to the subway station, we took the subway. On the way, time just passed and passed. After arriving at the Shinjuku- stop, it was already exactly three o'clock. Even though we were a little late, we still ran as fast as we could.

Everything in the park seemed like nothing special had happened, so we decided to go ask an employee. His name tag said his name was Kohsuke.

"Hey, did you see or hear anything special at three o'clock?" asked Hatoru.

"Uh... I didn't really see or hear anything strange or special, but some gangsters rode past on mopeds," the man said.

"Thank you!" Hatoru replied.

"Luckily, nothing weird happened here," Hatoru told me.

"But I think it would be better if I call my father and then check out what is going on here," I explained to Hatoru.

"Okay, call your father and then we will know if there's something weird going on here."

I immediately called my father and told him what had happened. After calling my father, I ran into the park to look for Hatoru who was searching for anything unusual.

After I found Hatoru, we went around the park. Because the park was really big, it would take a lot of time to tour it. So, we decided to look for something that was different. Soon we found a closed road. There was a chain across the entrance, but we were a little hesitant. Then we decided to go there.

On the right side of the path was a small bush with little trees and shrubs growing around it. Something did not look right. It seemed that something had been moved.

Among the trees and shrubs, we found a jute sack tied tightly with tape, but the strange thing was that the something inside was much smaller than the sack.

Curious, we opened the sack and found another plastic bag inside that was a little wet, and inside it was a dead woman. When we saw the woman, we alerted the police to the scene.

Soon after my father arrived at the park.

Now we just had to wait for the police to arrive as soon as possible so that the crime scene would not be destroyed.

After a while, the police arrived on the scene and closed the park. They also kept suspicious people in the park for questioning. Police concluded that this woman had died about less than thirty minutes before.

I realized that the murderer could not have left the park because the entrance near the crime scene had closed at five past three, and to get to the second entrance from the crime scene would take about fifteen minutes. So, the real killer was still in the park.

After a short search, police discovered the identity of this deceased woman. Her name was Keiko Takahashi, 27 years old. According to the police, there were no physical evidence at the time of the crime, including that maybe Keiko had not died there.

I wondered how the body got into the plastic bag so quickly. The victim must have died earlier than three o'clock. This was a really big mystery. Why did the caller say to get there by three?

The police said she had not been dead very long, and that the body had been moved.

We went to see if they could find evidence that the police might miss.

Police then brought the suspects to the main office for questioning. The first was Sakura Takahashi, Keiko's sister. She was on the verge of crying during questioning. According to Sakura, they did not have good relationship. Sakura said she was in the park

because they had arranged a meeting at this park at two thirty. Sakura explained that she had borrowed a lot of money from her friends, but she couldn't afford to pay it back when they asked. And since Keiko was really wealthy, Sakura tried to borrow some money from her, but she said no. She also said they only talked for three minutes and after that he left.

“Why weren't you worried that Keiko wasn't lending you money? Or did you kill her when you didn't get your money?” the police chief asked.

“No, I didn't, I couldn't kill my sister, I would never have killed Keiko! Even if we're not on good terms, I wouldn't kill her just to get the money. I wasn't too worried about it because I had already saved a little money for a rainy day.” Sakura replied.

I started to doubt her a lot because she was the last person to see her.

Next in the interrogation was Koshuke Ito. He is Sakura's husband and works at Shinjuku Garden. Koshuke had been working there for a long time, so he probably knew the park like the back of his hands.

Koshuke had only met Keiko a few times, so she might not have recognized him. I suspected that his motive for murder was to murder Keiko on behalf of his wife, but I was not quite sure yet. The last in the interrogation was Toshiro Saito, a good friend of Keiko's and her employee. He said he came there to the park because Keiko asked him there for coffee. They had to meet at the park café and talked a little about work.

Toshiro had agreed with Keiko that they would meet there at two twenty. He arrived on time because he wanted to be at the meeting before they took a little walk. Toshiro had no clear murder motive, but I suspected Toshiro was hiding something.

After going through the interrogation, we started looking for evidence. I first went closer to the crime scene and noticed that the string used to tie the jute bag was similar to the string used in other areas in the park. So, I looked closely to see if I could find a similar string. I found a similar string that was used by the park. I now doubted Koshuke even more.

There was a parking lot near the crime scene with a few cars and a couple of street cleaning trucks. I went closer to look at them and studied them until I found a similar jute bag and string in one of the trucks. Now all I had to do was look for a matching person. I went back to the suspects.

“Hey Sir! I'm really interested in gardening and park maintenance, and I would like to know what did you do today? ” I asked.

“Oh... hey... um... but ... oh... what did I do today? Let's see, it was my turn to clean and remove the trash, that is, I drove around in a cleaning truck.” Koshuke replied.

“Could you show what that car looks like? I've never seen anything like it.” I asked again.

“Uh, yeah sure,” he said warily.

Then he took me there and showed me the car he was driving. It was the same car that had that stuff in it.

"Thank you!" I told him.

Now I identified the criminal, but the evidence was not enough. I remembered that the victim was dead because she didn't get oxygen from being underwater. Underwater!

"Bingo, so, of course!" I muttered to myself.

I ran straight to where the suspects were being questioned and asked them to take off their jackets.

After taking off his jacket, the criminal revealed himself. I immediately told the police chief that only Koshuke had a wet sleeve and none of the others had. I then took the police chief to the cleaning truck.

“Here's the cleaning truck with the crime-related things...”

I didn't have time to finish when Koshuke cut me off.

"I'm really sorry," he admitted to murdering Keiko to the police. “I was trying to ask her to loan us some money, but she refused. Then she got angry at me. She pushed

me as she was leaving, so I pushed her back. She fell into the pond and hit her head on a rock. I tried to save her, but it was too late.

“I knew I was in trouble, so I put her in the bag and hid it under the bush. When the park closed, I was going to move the body someplace else, but these kids found it. I’m sorry, it was an accident.”

It can’t be true, but why, this can’t be true...” Sakura fell to her knees and began to cry.

I had to wonder who called me to come to the park. I never found out, but if they hadn’t, I wouldn’t have solved this mystery.