PUZZLE POUT TALON

CRIME FILES IMPRINT

COLD CASE FILES

VOL. 2

Six new print-and-play investigation dossiers

Suspect profiles · Evidence files · Timeline boards · Sealed solutions

— SEALED EVIDENCE —

FILE #01 · The Silence of the Sunward Clock

FILE #02 · The Last Bottle of Château Verrier

FILE #03 · The Kestrel Egg

FILE #04 · The Missing Mozart Leaf

FILE #05 · The Midnight Empress

FILE #06 · The Moon Rock

The second volume of dossiers from the makers of Cold Case Detective Studio

Print specification: 8.5 × 11 in (US Letter) · Print-ready PDF

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MAJOR CRIMES — COLD CASE DIVISION

How to Work These Files

Six cases went cold. The evidence didn't. Your job: read each file, test every alibi against the evidence, and name the culprit before you open the sealed solutions.

YOUR INVESTIGATIVE PROTOCOL:

- 1. Read the incident report. Note the window and how the crime was physically done.
- 2. Study the scene and timeline page. Everything on it is verified — build on it.
- 3. Meet the four suspects (two pages). Only one of them is lying about the essentials.
- 4. Work the evidence files in order: A (the scene), B (objects and records), C (statements). Items are numbered E1–E6 so you can cite them.
- 5. Fill in the Timeline Board — where was each suspect, hour by hour? — then the Deduction Worksheet.
- 6. Commit to a verdict in writing. Then, and only then, turn to the solutions (page 65).

A WORD ON FAIR PLAY:

Every clue you need is inside the file. Nothing depends on outside knowledge, trick wording, or guessing. If a suspect is cleared, at least one numbered evidence item clears them. If a suspect is guilty, the evidence — not a hunch — puts them there. Each solution walks through every suspect, clue by clue, so you can check your reasoning line by line.

WHAT YOU NEED: a pencil, a quiet hour per case, and a suspicious mind. Print the boards and worksheets as many times as you like and work a case again with a friend — a fresh detective often spots what the first one missed.

CASE INDEX

The Six Files

Each file is complete on its own — work them in any order. Solutions are sealed at the back.

CASE FILE #01 — **The Silence of the Sunward Clock**
The Meridian Horological Museum — the file: page 4 · sealed solution: page 65

CASE FILE #02 — **The Last Bottle of Château Verrier**
The Ashcombe Hotel — the file: page 14 · sealed solution: page 67

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CASE FILE #05 — **The Midnight Empress**
The Royal Botanical Gardens — the file: page 44 · sealed solution: page 73

CASE FILE #06 — **The Moon Rock**
The University Geology Department — the file: page 54 · sealed solution: page 75

ALSO IN THIS VOLUME:

- The Detective Record — page 77. Score all six files and take your rank.
- Complete Your Case Library — page 80. The other dossiers and packs from the studio.
- About This Pack — page 81. Printing notes, refunds and support.

A note for returning detectives: these six cases are new files, written for this volume. They share their format — and their fair-play rules — with Cold Case Detective Studio and the Bonus Case Files, but no case repeats.

CASE FILE #01

The Silence of the Sunward Clock

The Meridian Horological Museum — members' evening

TAKEN

The Sunward Chronometer — a 1911 marine chronometer in a glass wall case

THE WINDOW

7:10 p.m. – 7:45 p.m., during the annual lecture

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 65

CASE FILE #01 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Silence of the Sunward Clock

The Meridian Horological Museum — members' evening

On members' evening, the museum's prize piece — the Sunward Chronometer, a 1911 marine chronometer that once timed a solo Atlantic crossing — sat in its glass wall case in the Clock Gallery. At 7:10 p.m. the keeper's round confirmed it present. At 7:45 p.m., as the annual lecture ended, a member noticed the case standing empty. The case had been opened with a key and locked again behind the thief. Nothing else in the gallery was touched.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The chronometer was confirmed in its case at 7:10 p.m. and missed at 7:45 p.m.
- The wall case opens only with a small brass key. There is no sign of force, and the case was locked again afterwards.
- Exactly two copies of the case key exist: the curator's, and the resident watchmaker's.
- The annual lecture ran 7:00–8:00 p.m. in the hall adjoining the gallery.
- The chronometer's padded travelling cradle, kept beneath the case, is also missing.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

6:55 p.m.	Key safe checked and signed by the caretaker: the curator's case key is inside.
7:00 p.m.	The annual lecture begins in the hall; about sixty members attend.
7:10 p.m.	Keeper's round: the chronometer is in its case.
7:45 p.m.	A member reports the case empty; the gallery is sealed.
8:05 p.m.	The station barrier log records a season-ticket pass — see Evidence File B.
8:20 p.m.	All four suspects are interviewed; statements are taken.

SCENE NOTES:

The Clock Gallery is a single room off the lecture hall. The wall case hangs on the gallery's far wall, visible from the hall only when the connecting doors stand open — and they were shut during the lecture. The watchmaker's workshop opens off the gallery's service corridor. The key safe hangs in the porter's office by the main door.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #01 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Margaret Hale

SUSPECT

Curator of the museum

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I gave the welcome address and sat in the front row for the whole lecture. My case key stayed in the office key safe, where it always stays."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds case key copy one — the curator's key.

BACKGROUND

Twenty years at the museum. She catalogued the chronometer herself and wrote its gallery label.

Yusuf Adeyemi

SUSPECT

Resident watchmaker

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I finished at half past six and caught the 7:05 train home. I haven't touched that case in weeks — I serviced it in October."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds case key copy two — the watchmaker's key. Works with red polishing rouge daily.

BACKGROUND

Restores the museum's movements in the workshop off the service corridor.

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Priya Nair

SUSPECT

Guest lecturer, horological historian

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was on the platform from seven until eight, speaking. Sixty people were watching me not steal a clock."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no case key. Arrived at 6:40 p.m. with her lecture notes.

BACKGROUND

Visiting from the university; her lecture covered marine chronometers, including the Sunward.

Tom Becker

SUSPECT

Facilities caretaker

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was in the boiler room from half six. The old boiler needs bleeding every hour or the radiators bang through the lecture."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no case key. Carries the building keys, but the gallery case is not among them.

BACKGROUND

Keeps the boiler log in pencil, in his own hand, every night.

CASE FILE #01 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The lecture film

The lecture was filmed for the museum's archive. The film runs unbroken from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Priya Nair is on the platform, speaking, for every minute of the theft window. Margaret Hale is visible in the front row throughout.

E2 — The key safe

The porter's key safe was checked at 6:55 p.m. and signed for by the caretaker: the curator's case key hung on its hook. It was still on its hook at 8:20 p.m., its tag seal unbroken. Margaret Hale's key never left the safe that evening.

E3 — The boiler room

The caretaker's boiler log is filled in hourly, in pencil, in Tom Becker's hand — 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, with pressures and valve notes. The 7:30 entry's figures match the boiler's own pressure gauge record. The boiler room's single door faces the porter's office, and the porter saw Becker go in at 6:40 p.m. and come out at 8:10.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

CASE FILE #01 — EVIDENCE FILE B

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The empty case

Inside the locked case, the chronometer's velvet bed holds a faint dusting of fine red powder — jeweller's rouge, the polishing compound used in the watchmaker's workshop. The gallery's other cases, cleaned that morning, show none.

E5 — The barrier log

The station barrier records season-ticket passes. Yusuf Adeyemi's pass was recorded at 8:05 p.m. — an hour after the train he says he caught. The 7:05 service was, in any case, cancelled that evening for engineering works; the cancellation was posted at the museum desk.

E6 — The workshop apron

In the workshop, Yusuf Adeyemi's apron hangs on its hook — with the right pocket freshly brushed clean while the rest of the apron is filmed with rouge dust. The case key in that pocket carries bright scratches on its bow, as if recently slipped onto a ring in a hurry — or taken off one.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

CASE FILE #01 — EVIDENCE FILE C

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Margaret Hale (curator)

> *"Two keys open that case. Mine was in the safe before the lecture even began. The other key belongs to the workshop."*

Yusuf Adeyemi (watchmaker)

> *"The rouge proves nothing — this whole building breathes rouge when I'm working. And a man may take a later train without becoming a thief."*

Priya Nair (lecturer)

> *"I spoke about that chronometer for an hour while someone stole it twenty feet away. I find that considerably more annoying than suspicious."*

Tom Becker (caretaker)

> *"Boiler log's in my hand every hour, same as always. Whoever took that clock knew the gallery would be empty while the lecture ran."*

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #01 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00
Margaret Hale					
Yusuf Adeyemi					
Priya Nair					
Tom Becker					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #01 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Margaret Hale	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Yusuf Adeyemi	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Priya Nair	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Tom Becker	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

CASE FILE #02

The Last Bottle of Château Verrier

The Ashcombe Hotel — a wedding reception, and the cellar below

TAKEN

A bottle of 1945 Château Verrier — the last of its vintage in the cellar

THE WINDOW

8:20 p.m. – 9:05 p.m., during the wedding reception

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 67

CASE FILE #02 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Last Bottle of Château Verrier

The Ashcombe Hotel — a wedding reception, and the cellar below

The Ashcombe's cellar held one bottle of 1945 Château Verrier, kept in the locked reserve cage and valued by the insurers at more than the rest of the cellar combined. The sommelier checked the cage at 8:20 p.m. and found the bottle in its rack. At 9:05 p.m., bringing down the wedding's empty cases, she found the cage door locked — and the rack empty. The cage had been opened on its code and locked again behind the thief.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The bottle was confirmed in the reserve cage at 8:20 p.m. and missed at 9:05 p.m.
- The reserve cage opens on a four-digit code. It was not forced, and it was locked again afterwards.
- Only two people were ever given the code: the sommelier and the hotel manager.
- The cage's electronic lock keeps its own record of every opening.
- The wedding reception ran all evening in the ballroom directly above the cellar.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

CASE FILE #02 — THE SCENE

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

8:20 p.m.	Sommelier's check: the bottle is in its rack.
8:31 p.m.	A photograph shows the top table being served — see Evidence File A.
8:47 p.m.	The cage lock records its only opening of the evening.
9:05 p.m.	The sommelier finds the rack empty.
9:20 p.m.	The manager's office is searched, with his consent.
9:40 p.m.	Statements are taken from all four suspects.

SCENE NOTES:

The cellar lies below the ballroom, reached by a single stone stair from the service corridor. The reserve cage stands at the cellar's far end. The manager's office is off the service corridor, one floor up, beside the back door. Everyone going down to the cellar passes the office door.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #02 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Claire Dubois

SUSPECT

Sommelier

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I checked the cage at twenty past eight, then I was serving the top table until the speeches. Ask anyone at that table — I never left the ballroom."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

One of the two people given the cage code.

BACKGROUND

Built the Ashcombe's cellar over nine years; the Verrier was her pride.

Marcus Webb

SUSPECT

Hotel manager

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was in my office from eight o'clock, on the telephone to our brewery supplier about the Christmas order. I never went near the cellar."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

The second person given the cage code.

BACKGROUND

Manages the hotel for its owners; the cellar's insurance valuation crossed his desk in October.

CASE FILE #02 — THE SUSPECTS (2 OF 2)

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Danny Osei

SUSPECT

Waiter

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was on the terrace all evening, clearing glasses and running the heaters. The code? Nobody tells the waiters the code."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Does not know the cage code.

BACKGROUND

Works weddings most weekends; was seen on the terrace by guests throughout the evening.

Ingrid Sørensen

SUSPECT

Wedding photographer

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I shot the reception from the first dance to the speeches. My camera never stopped — check the pictures, they have the times on them."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Does not know the cage code.

BACKGROUND

Her photographs carry automatic time stamps; she surrendered the memory card at once.

CASE FILE #02 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The photographer's card

Ingrid Sørensen's memory card holds an unbroken run of photographs from 8:15 to 9:10 p.m., no gap longer than two minutes — she was working the ballroom for the entire window. Her frames at 8:31, 8:44, 8:49 and 8:52 show Claire Dubois pouring at the top table, in the ballroom, inside the theft window — bracketing the lock's single opening at 8:47.

E2 — The lock's memory

The cage lock's own record shows exactly one opening that evening: 8:47 p.m., by code entry. There was no forced entry at any hour, and no second opening. Whoever took the bottle used the code, once, at 8:47 p.m.

E3 — The terrace

Two guests and the barman independently place Danny Osei on the terrace at 8:40 and again at 8:55 p.m., clearing glasses. The terrace is two floors and a full corridor from the cellar stair — and Danny does not know the code.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

CASE FILE #02 — EVIDENCE FILE B

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The telephone records

The hotel's telephone log, kept automatically, shows no call made from or to the manager's office between 8:00 and 9:15 p.m. The brewery supplier confirms no call was booked or received that evening. Marcus Webb's hour on the telephone did not happen.

E5 — The cellar log book

Visitors to the cellar sign a log at the cellar door. The only signature between the sommelier's two checks reads: '8:44 p.m. — M. Webb — stock check.' It is in the manager's handwriting. Webb had claimed he never went near the cellar.

E6 — The office bin

In the waste bin of the manager's office, under the evening's receipts, lay a sliver of purple neck foil — the distinctive foil of the 1945 Château Verrier, cut, not torn, from a bottle's neck. Every remaining bottle in the cellar is sealed and intact.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Claire Dubois (sommelier)

"Nine years I built that cellar. The code was given to two of us. I was pouring for the top table — the photographs prove it. Look at who else had the code."

Marcus Webb (manager)

"The log book? I sign a dozen books a night — habit. It doesn't mean I took anything. And foil proves a bottle was opened somewhere, not by me."

Danny Osei (waiter)

"Terrace all night, heaters and glasses. I couldn't open that cage if you paid me — I don't know the code and I've never been told it."

Ingrid Sørensen (photographer)

"My card is the evening's memory. Two-minute gaps at most. Whatever happened in that cellar, it happened while I was photographing the people who didn't do it."

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #02 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	8:20	8:35	8:47	9:05	9:20
Claire Dubois					
Marcus Webb					
Danny Osei					
Ingrid Sørensen					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #02 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Claire Dubois	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Marcus Webb	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Danny Osei	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Ingrid Sørensen	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

CASE FILE #03

The Kestrel Egg

The Grand Excelsior Hotel — a travelling exhibition and charity ball

TAKEN

The Kestrel Egg — a jewelled enamel egg of 1912, centrepiece of the exhibition

THE WINDOW

7:00 p.m. – 10:15 p.m., the evening of the charity ball

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 69

CASE FILE #03 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Kestrel Egg

The Grand Excelsior Hotel — a travelling exhibition and charity ball

The Kestrel Egg — a jewelled enamel egg made in 1912, insured for a seven-figure sum — was the centrepiece of a travelling exhibition installed in the Grand Excelsior's salon. At 7:00 p.m. the events manager checked and initialled it in its locked vitrine. At 10:15 p.m., when the case was opened to show the egg to the charity auction's winning bidder, the egg in the case was a replica — light in the hand and wrong in a dozen small details. The real egg had been swapped for a copy some time that evening.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The egg was verified genuine and initialled in its case at 7:00 p.m.; the replica was discovered at 10:15 p.m.
- The vitrine opens on a three-number combination, set by the exhibition's installer on the day of installation.
- The installer set the combination at 5:40 p.m., during installation, in the salon.
- The salon's walls are panelled with tall mirrors, polished for the ball.
- The genuine egg weighs 412 grams. The egg found in the case weighs 355 grams.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

5:40 p.m.	The installer sets the vitrine combination during installation.
6:09 p.m.	The installer's car is logged out of the hotel garage.
6:30 p.m.	The appraiser says she left the hotel — her account; see Evidence File B.
7:00 p.m.	The events manager verifies and initials the genuine egg in its case.
8:00–10:00 p.m.	The charity auction runs in the ballroom.
10:15 p.m.	The case is opened; the egg inside is a replica.

SCENE NOTES:

The salon stands one floor above the ballroom, quiet once the ball begins. The vitrine sits on a marble plinth in the centre of the room, facing the mirrored wall panels. The hotel garage logs every car in and out by its ticket; the front door is staffed all evening by the porter, who signs guests in and out in a tally book.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #03 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Henri Laval

SUSPECT

Exhibition installer

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I installed the exhibition, set the combination at twenty to six, and drove home. I never came back — the hotel is forty minutes from my house."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

The only person officially told the combination — he set it.

BACKGROUND

Has installed this exhibition in six cities; his record is unblemished.

Lena Vogt

SUSPECT

Insurance appraiser

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I measured and photographed the egg at installation for the insurance file, then left at half past six, before the ball. I never saw the salon again."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Present at installation; stood at the plinth while the combination was set.

BACKGROUND

Appraised the egg for the insurers; her file holds its exact weight, measures and photographs.

CASE FILE #03 — THE SUSPECTS (2 OF 2)

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Sofia Marchetti

SUSPECT

Hotel events manager

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I checked the egg at seven, initialled the sheet, and then I was in the ballroom — hosting the reception, then running the charity auction until ten. Four hundred guests can vouch for me."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Verified the genuine egg at 7:00 p.m.; does not know the combination.

BACKGROUND

Ran the whole evening; her reception and auction timings were printed in the programme.

Walter Abernathy

SUSPECT

Head porter

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"Front door, all evening, tally book in my hand. Nobody came in or out that I didn't write down — and I never left this door to climb two floors."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Staffed the only public entrance all evening; does not know the combination.

BACKGROUND

Thirty years at the Excelsior; his tally book is the evening's front-door record.

CASE FILE #03 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The two eggs

The genuine Kestrel Egg weighs 412 grams and is enamelled with pigments of its period. The egg in the case weighs 355 grams, and its enamel contains a synthetic pigment not manufactured before 2010. The swap was made with a modern replica — prepared in advance, by someone who knew the egg's appearance intimately.

E2 — The garage log

The hotel garage logs cars by ticket. Henri Laval's car left at 6:09 p.m. and did not return. The porter's tally book records no re-entry by Laval on foot. The installer was not in the hotel at any time in the swap window.

E3 — The mirrored panel

The installer states, and the installation photographs confirm, that when he set the vitrine's combination at 5:40 p.m., Lena Vogt stood at the plinth measuring it — facing the salon's tall mirrored panel, in which the combination dial was reflected, readable to anyone watching the mirror instead of the plinth.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The appraiser's ticket

Lena Vogt's garage ticket was validated at 9:48 p.m. — her car was in the hotel garage until nearly ten o'clock. She did not leave at 6:30 p.m. as she claimed; she was in the hotel, unaccounted for, through the whole swap window.

E5 — The art-supply shop

The synthetic pigment in the replica's enamel is sold locally in exactly one place: a restorer's supply shop. Its owner identifies Lena Vogt, from a photograph, as the customer who bought the enamel restoration kit two weeks before the exhibition — ordered, he recalls, 'to match a photograph of an egg.'

E6 — The ballroom floor

The printed programme and the auctioneer's own lot record show Sofia Marchetti hosting the ballroom reception from 7:00 p.m. and calling the charity auction, continuously, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. — in public view for the entire window. Walter Abernathy's tally book is written in an unbroken hand all evening, and arriving guests confirm him at his door throughout.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

CASE FILE #03 — EVIDENCE FILE C

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Henri Laval (installer)

> *"Six cities I have installed this egg, and never a mark against me. I set the dial, I signed out, I drove home. The garage book says so."*

Lena Vogt (appraiser)

> *"I measure objects; I do not steal them. A garage ticket shows when a car left — it does not put a person in a salon, and it does not open a case."*

Sofia Marchetti (events manager)

> *"I initialled that egg at seven o'clock — genuine, I held it. By ten it was a copy. Whoever swapped it needed the combination and a free hour in my salon."*

Walter Abernathy (porter)

> *"My book never left my hand and neither did I leave that door. Read it: every soul in or out, all evening, in my writing."*

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #03 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	7:00	8:00	9:00	9:48	10:15
Henri Laval					
Lena Vogt					
Sofia Marchetti					
Walter Abernathy					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #03 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Henri Laval	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Lena Vogt	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Sofia Marchetti	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Walter Abernathy	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

CASE FILE #04

The Missing Mozart Leaf

The Halloran Concert Hall — the music library, open rehearsal evening

TAKEN

An original Mozart manuscript leaf, kept in the archive's locked drawer

THE WINDOW

7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m., during the pre-concert talk and rehearsal

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 71

CASE FILE #04 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Missing Mozart Leaf

The Halloran Concert Hall — the music library, open rehearsal evening

The Halloran's music library holds a single leaf of an original Mozart manuscript, kept in a locked drawer of the archive cabinet. At 7:30 p.m. the head librarian confirmed the drawer locked and the leaf in place. At 8:15 p.m., preparing the interval display, she found the drawer locked — and the leaf gone, its acid-free folder empty on the drawer's bed. The drawer had been opened with a key and locked again.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The leaf was confirmed in its drawer at 7:30 p.m. and missed at 8:15 p.m.
- The archive drawer opens only with a key; it was not forced and was locked again afterwards.
- Two copies of the drawer key exist: the head librarian's, and the archive assistant's.
- The pre-concert talk ran 7:30–8:05 p.m.; the orchestra rehearsed on stage from 7:45 p.m.
- The staff doors of the hall are fitted with badge readers that log every entry.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

7:00 p.m.	The archive assistant tells the stage door she is going home sick.
7:04 p.m.	A bus pass is tapped at the stop outside the hall — see Evidence File B.
7:30 p.m.	The head librarian confirms the leaf in place; her talk begins.
7:49 p.m.	The stage-door keeper writes an entry in his log — see Evidence File B.
7:52 p.m.	A staff badge is read at the archive corridor door.
8:15 p.m.	The empty folder is discovered.

SCENE NOTES:

The archive room opens off a staff corridor behind the stage, reached from the stage door without crossing the public areas. The drawer cabinet stands against the archive's inner wall. The stage-door keeper logs comings and goings in a paper book, in ink, as he has for twenty years.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #04 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Dr. Anna Weiss

SUSPECT

Head librarian

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I confirmed the drawer at half past seven and then gave the pre-concert talk until five past eight, in front of the audience. My key was on my belt the whole evening."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds drawer key copy one.

BACKGROUND

Custodian of the leaf for eleven years; she catalogued it and wrote its display label.

Felix Grant

SUSPECT

Guest conductor

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I took the rehearsal from quarter to eight until the interval. Eighty musicians, all watching me wave my arms. I have never been inside your archive."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no drawer key.

BACKGROUND

Visiting for the week; the rehearsal was recorded for broadcast.

CASE FILE #04 — THE SUSPECTS (2 OF 2)

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Ruth Callahan

SUSPECT

Archive assistant

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I went home sick at seven — I told the stage door, and I caught my bus. I never came back into the building. My key stayed in my bag, at home."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds drawer key copy two.

BACKGROUND

Works the archive desk; she prepared the leaf's folder and label for the display.

Piotr Nowak

SUSPECT

Piano tuner

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was tuning the recital-room piano from seven until the concert. A piano being tuned is not a quiet alibi — the caretaker heard me the whole time."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no drawer key.

BACKGROUND

Tunes for the hall monthly; the recital room is two corridors from the archive.

CASE FILE #04 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The talk

The pre-concert talk was recorded by the hall. The recording runs from 7:30 to 8:05 p.m. with Dr. Weiss speaking throughout, the audience audible. She then took questions on the platform until 8:12 and walked to the archive with two audience members, who were beside her when the empty folder was found at 8:15. Her key was on her belt throughout.

E2 — The rehearsal

The orchestra's rehearsal, 7:45–8:30 p.m., was recorded for broadcast. Felix Grant conducts throughout, in view of eighty musicians. Separately, the caretaker confirms he heard Piotr Nowak tuning the recital-room piano at 7:40 and again at 8:05 — the piano is audible through the recital-room door, and the tuning never paused.

E3 — The drawer

The drawer was opened with a key and relocked. There is no scratch, no force, no damage — and the thief took the leaf but left its folder squared neatly in place. This was done by someone with a key, time, and no need to hurry.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

CASE FILE #04 — EVIDENCE FILE B

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The bus pass

Ruth Callahan's bus pass was tapped at the stop outside the hall at 7:04 p.m. — she did leave the building at seven, exactly as she said. The pass proves her departure. It says nothing about a return.

E5 — The stage-door log

The keeper's ink log records, at 7:49 p.m.: 'R. Callahan — back in, left her bag in the archive.' Callahan had told the keeper she would be two minutes. She did not sign out again. Her statement that she 'never came back into the building' is false.

E6 — The badge reader

The archive corridor's badge reader logged Ruth Callahan's staff badge at 7:52 p.m. — three minutes after she re-entered, inside the theft window, at the door of the corridor that leads only to the archive room. No other badge was read at that door all evening.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

CASE FILE #04 — EVIDENCE FILE C

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Dr. Anna Weiss (head librarian)

"Eleven years that leaf has been in my care. The recording puts me in the auditorium. Two keys exist — mine, and my assistant's. Ask where the other key was at eight o'clock."

Felix Grant (conductor)

"Eighty witnesses and a broadcast recording. I conduct orchestras; I do not pick locks, and I have never held your key."

Ruth Callahan (archive assistant)

"I went home sick — the bus pass proves it. The keeper writes what he likes in that book; perhaps he was expecting me back for my bag and wrote it early."

Piotr Nowak (piano tuner)

"A piano mid-tuning cannot pause without everyone hearing the pause. The caretaker heard me at twenty to eight and five past. I never left that room."

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #04 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	7:30	7:40	7:49	7:52	8:15
Dr. Anna Weiss					
Felix Grant					
Ruth Callahan					
Piotr Nowak					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #04 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Dr. Anna Weiss	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Felix Grant	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Ruth Callahan	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Piotr Nowak	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

CASE FILE #05

The Midnight Empress

The Royal Botanical Gardens — the Orchid House, members' preview evening

TAKEN

The Midnight Empress — the garden's unique black orchid, a decade in the breeding

THE WINDOW

6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., during the preview talk in the Palm House

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 73

CASE FILE #05 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Midnight Empress

The Royal Botanical Gardens — the Orchid House, members' preview evening

The Midnight Empress, a black orchid ten years in the breeding and the only one of its kind, flowered for the first time during the gardens' members' preview week. It stood in the Orchid House, behind a locked door, in its own pot on the centre bench. The head gardener checked it at 6:15 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., when the preview talk ended, its bench stood empty — pot, plant and all gone. The Orchid House door had been opened with its key and locked again.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The orchid was confirmed on its bench at 6:15 p.m. and missed at 7:00 p.m.
- The Orchid House opens with a key kept in the gatehouse key cabinet.
- The key cabinet is itself locked. Two people hold its key: the garden director and the head gardener.
- The preview talk ran 6:10–7:05 p.m. in the Palm House, at the far end of the gardens.
- The orchid grows in a special bark medium, used nowhere else in the gardens.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

5:50 p.m.	Maintenance locks the potting sheds and signs the shed log.
6:10 p.m.	The preview talk begins in the Palm House.
6:15 p.m.	Head gardener's check: the Empress is on its bench.
6:42 p.m.	The garden's public webcam takes its evening photograph of the fountain.
7:00 p.m.	The bench is found empty; the Orchid House is sealed.
7:20 p.m.	A barrow is found behind the potting sheds — see Evidence File B.

SCENE NOTES:

The Orchid House stands midway along the garden's main path, five minutes from the Palm House and two from the potting sheds. The gatehouse, with its key cabinet, is at the main gate. Whoever opened the Orchid House first had to fetch its key from the cabinet — which means opening the cabinet with one of its two keys.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #05 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Eleanor Vance

SUSPECT

Garden director

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I gave the preview talk in the Palm House from ten past six until five past seven. A hundred members heard me describe that orchid while somebody took it."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds key-cabinet key one.

BACKGROUND

Directed the gardens for eight years; the Empress was the jewel of her preview week.

George Mensah

SUSPECT

Head gardener

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"After my six-fifteen check I was locking up the potting sheds until seven. The Empress was my life's work — ten years I raised that plant."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds key-cabinet key two. Checked the orchid at 6:15 p.m.

BACKGROUND

Bred the Midnight Empress himself, over ten years of crossings.

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Camille Fournier

SUSPECT

Visiting orchid judge

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was judging the fern entries in the Fern House from twenty past six until seven. The fern growers were with me — ask any of them."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no cabinet key.

BACKGROUND

Came to award the orchid prize; her score sheets are timed and signed by the growers.

Bill Hart

SUSPECT

Maintenance man

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was on the fountain pump from six until quarter past seven — it was off for repair, and the webcam takes my picture every evening, worse luck."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Holds no cabinet key. Locked the potting sheds at 5:50 p.m.

BACKGROUND

Keeps the sheds, pumps and paths; his logs are signed and countersigned daily.

CASE FILE #05 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The talk recording

The gardens record the preview talk for their tour app. The recording runs 6:10–7:05 p.m. with Eleanor Vance speaking throughout, questions included. The director was in the Palm House, on microphone, for the entire theft window.

E2 — The Fern House

Camille Fournier's judging sheets are signed at 6:20, 6:40 and 6:55 p.m. by three different fern growers, each of whom confirms she took her seat among them at 6:15 and was judging in the Fern House, in their company, across the whole window. The Fern House is at the opposite end of the gardens from the Orchid House.

E3 — The Orchid House door

The door was opened with its key and locked again; the lock is undamaged. Along the path from the Orchid House toward the potting sheds, the gardeners found scattered grains of a coarse bark medium — the special mix used for one plant only: the Midnight Empress.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The shed log

The potting sheds were locked at 5:50 p.m. by Bill Hart, and the shed log is signed and countersigned to that effect. The sheds were therefore already locked an hour before George Mensah says he spent until seven 'locking up the potting sheds'. His account of the window is false.

E5 — The fountain webcam

The garden's public webcam photographs the fountain every evening. Its 6:42 p.m. photograph shows Bill Hart at the fountain pump, tools out, mid-repair — exactly where he said he was, inside the theft window. The pump's own timer record shows it off for repair, in his charge, from 6:00 to 7:15.

E6 — The barrow

Behind the potting sheds stood George Mensah's own barrow, still damp. In its bed lay a scattering of the Empress's special bark medium and a single crushed black petal. No other barrow in the gardens carries that medium — it is mixed for one plant.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

CASE FILE #05 — EVIDENCE FILE C

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Eleanor Vance (director)

> *"A hundred members and a recording put me in the Palm House. The cabinet has two keys. Mine never left my handbag, and my handbag never left the Palm House."*

George Mensah (head gardener)

> *"Ten years I raised that plant from a seedling. A man does not steal his own life's work — and a barrow carries whatever the garden throws in it."*

Camille Fournier (judge)

> *"Three growers signed my sheets across the whole hour. I came to judge the orchid, not to carry it off in front of its breeders."*

Bill Hart (maintenance)

> *"Sheds locked at ten to six, signed and countersigned. Then the pump, with the webcam for a witness. Whoever says the sheds were being locked at seven is inventing work."*

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #05 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	6:15	6:30	6:42	7:00	7:20
Eleanor Vance					
George Mensah					
Camille Fournier					
Bill Hart					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #05 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Eleanor Vance	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
George Mensah	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Camille Fournier	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Bill Hart	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

CASE FILE #06

The Moon Rock

The University Geology Department — the specimen safe, open day

TAKEN

A lunar meteorite fragment — the department's most valuable specimen

THE WINDOW

2:10 p.m. – 2:50 p.m., during the open-day demonstration

4 suspects · 6 evidence items · 1 timeline board · 1 deduction worksheet

Sealed solution: page 75

CASE FILE #06 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Moon Rock

The University Geology Department — the specimen safe, open day

For the university's open day, the geology department displayed its lunar meteorite fragment — a thumb-sized piece of the Moon, and by far the most valuable object in the building. Between demonstrations it was kept in the laboratory safe. The lab manager confirmed it in the safe at 2:10 p.m. At 2:50 p.m., preparing the next demonstration, she found the safe open on its code — and the specimen's tray empty. The safe had not been forced.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The fragment was confirmed in the safe at 2:10 p.m. and missed at 2:50 p.m.
- The safe opens on a digital code, changed weekly. It was not forced.
- The code is officially given to two people: the professor and the lab manager.
- By the lab's long-standing habit, each week's code is the catalogue number of the safe's most valuable specimen.
- The safe keeps an internal log of every opening, with the time.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and study the scene.

The Scene and the Timeline

Verified times only. If a suspect's account disagrees with this page, the account loses.

2:00 p.m.	The open-day demonstration begins in the lecture theatre; it is livestreamed.
2:10 p.m.	Lab manager's check: the fragment is in the safe.
2:29 p.m.	A staff card is read at the laboratory door — see Evidence File B.
2:31 p.m.	The safe's internal log records its only opening of the afternoon.
2:50 p.m.	The empty tray is discovered.
3:05 p.m.	Statements are taken from all four suspects.

SCENE NOTES:

The laboratory stands across the quad from the lecture theatre. Its door is fitted with a card reader. The stores desk, where deliveries are signed, is in the building next door. The specimen safe stands inside the laboratory, beneath the catalogue cabinet — the catalogue in which every specimen's number is recorded.

Detective's reminder: the window is the cage the culprit must fit inside. Anyone provably outside it — by a record, a camera, or a room full of witnesses — is not your thief, however shifty they look.

CASE FILE #06 — THE SUSPECTS (1 OF 2)

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Professor Daniel Reyes

SUSPECT

Head of department

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I gave the demonstration from two until three, live on camera, in a theatre full of visitors. I did not leave that stage, and I did not open any safe."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

One of the two people officially given the safe code.

BACKGROUND

Heads the department; the fragment was his own donation to the collection.

Karen Doyle

SUSPECT

Laboratory manager

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was at the stores desk next door from ten past two, signing the open-day deliveries. The driver was with me the whole time — ask him."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

The second person officially given the safe code.

BACKGROUND

Runs the laboratory and the safe; she confirmed the fragment at 2:10 p.m.

Four People of Interest (continued)

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Tom Ellery

SUSPECT

Doctoral researcher

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was in the library across the quad all afternoon, writing up my thesis chapter. I haven't been inside the laboratory for a week — I've no reason to go in."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Not officially given the code. Catalogued the meteorite fragment when it arrived.

BACKGROUND

His thesis concerns lunar samples; he assigned the fragment its catalogue number himself.

Anita Rao

SUSPECT

Visiting journalist

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I was in the café from quarter past two, interviewing the café manager for my open-day piece. My recorder ran the whole time — it's all on tape."

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Not given the code; a guest in the building.

BACKGROUND

Writing a feature on the open day; her dictaphone recording was offered to investigators at once.

CASE FILE #06 — EVIDENCE FILE A

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The livestream

The demonstration was livestreamed for the open day. The stream runs from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. with Professor Reyes on stage, answering questions, for every minute of the theft window.

E2 — The stores desk

The delivery driver confirms he was with Karen Doyle at the stores desk, unloading, continuously from 2:12 to 2:47 p.m. The signed dockets match his account, timed across the whole window. The stores desk is in the next building — Doyle was not in the laboratory.

E3 — The safe's log

The safe's internal log records one opening that afternoon: 2:31 p.m., by code entry, no force, no alarm. The code used was the correct current code — the catalogue number of the lunar fragment itself, as the lab's habit dictates.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

CASE FILE #06 — EVIDENCE FILE B

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The library turnstile

The library's turnstile logs card entries and exits. Tom Ellery's card left the library at 2:08 p.m. and re-entered at 2:55 p.m. He was not in the library during the theft window, as he claimed — he was out, unaccounted for, for the whole of it.

E5 — The café tape

Anita Rao's dictaphone recording runs unbroken from 2:15 to 2:50 p.m.: her questions, the café manager's answers, café noise throughout. Her till receipt is timed 2:25 p.m. She was in the café for the whole window.

E6 — The laboratory door

The laboratory door's card reader logged Tom Ellery's staff card entering at 2:29 p.m. and leaving at 2:36 p.m. — bracketing the safe's recorded opening at 2:31 exactly. Ellery had claimed he had not been inside the laboratory for a week.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Professor Daniel Reyes (professor)

"The stream is my witness — a theatre full of people and a camera. The code is held by two of us, and one of us was on a stage."

Karen Doyle (lab manager)

"I signed three deliveries with the driver standing beside me. I confirmed that fragment at ten past two and I never went back into the lab."

Tom Ellery (researcher)

"Cards get borrowed, readers glitch. I catalogued half the specimens in that safe — knowing a number isn't the same as opening a door with it."

Anita Rao (journalist)

"My tape runs thirty-five minutes without a break, and the café manager is a hard man to mistake. I came to write about the Moon rock, not to pocket it."

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the Timeline Board on the next page, then the Deduction Worksheet.

CASE FILE #06 — TIMELINE BOARD

The Timeline Board

Pencil only. For each suspect and each time: write where the file PROVES they were — or a question mark where it doesn't.

SUSPECT	2:10	2:20	2:31	2:40	2:50
Professor Daniel Reyes					
Karen Doyle					
Tom Ellery					
Anita Rao					

MEANS CHECK — answer in the margin, with evidence numbers:

- Who held the key, code or combination this crime required? Which item proves it?
- Whose account of the window is contradicted by a record? Write the item number beside their name.
- Which suspects are placed somewhere else, by proof, at the moment that matters?
- One suspect has means, opportunity, and a lie on record. The board should leave exactly one name standing.

All times on this board are p.m. When every row is filled, turn to the Deduction Worksheet and commit.

CASE FILE #06 — DEDUCTION WORKSHEET

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Professor Daniel Reyes	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Karen Doyle	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Tom Ellery	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Anita Rao	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 65. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

— SEALED SECTION —

THE SOLUTIONS

Stop here if you have not written down all six verdicts. Beyond this page, all six cases are solved in full — every suspect accounted for, every clue explained.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #01

Solved: The Silence of the Sunward Clock

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Yusuf Adeyemi

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The case opens only with one of two keys (scene facts). The curator's key never left the safe (E2), and the curator sat in view of a camera all evening (E1) — so the key that opened the case was the watchmaker's. Rouge from his workshop dusts the empty case (E4), and his 7:05 train never existed: the service was cancelled, and his own pass was logged at 8:05 (E5).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #01

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Margaret Hale — CLEAR

On camera in the front row for the whole lecture (E1), and her case key hung sealed in the key safe from 6:55 p.m. onwards (E2). She had neither the key nor the opportunity.

Priya Nair — CLEAR

The archive film shows her on the platform, speaking, for every minute of the window (E1). She also never held a case key.

Tom Becker — CLEAR

His hourly boiler log matches the boiler's own gauge record, and the porter watched him enter the boiler room at 6:40 and leave at 8:10 (E3). He holds no case key in any case.

Yusuf Adeyemi — GUILTY

He held the second key, his trade's rouge dusts the empty case (E4), and his journey home is a fabrication — the 7:05 was cancelled and his pass was used at 8:05 (E5). He slipped into the darkened gallery during the lecture, opened the case with his key, took the chronometer in its travelling cradle, locked up, and left by the late train.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #02

Solved: The Last Bottle of Château Verrier

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Marcus Webb

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The cage opens only on a code held by two people (scene facts), and its lock records a single code opening at 8:47 p.m. (E2). The sommelier is photographed serving in the ballroom at 8:44 and 8:49 — either side of that opening (E1) — so the code used at 8:47 was the manager's. His telephone alibi is disproved by the phone log (E4), his own signature puts him at the cellar door at 8:44 (E5), and the Verrier's cut foil was in his office bin (E6).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #02

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Claire Dubois — CLEAR

Timestamped photographs place her pouring at the top table at 8:31, 8:44, 8:49 and 8:52 p.m. — across the whole window, and around the lock's 8:47 opening (E1).

Danny Osei — CLEAR

Placed on the terrace by three witnesses inside the window (E3), and he never knew the code.

Ingrid Sørensen — CLEAR

Her own memory card accounts for her, gap-free, in the ballroom all evening (E1). She never knew the code either.

Marcus Webb — GUILTY

The only code-holder left (E2), with a telephone call that never happened (E4), his own signature at the cellar door three minutes before the lock opened (E5), and the bottle's foil in his bin (E6). He signed the log from habit, opened the cage on his code at 8:47, and locked it behind him.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #03

Solved: The Kestrel Egg

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Lena Vogt

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The vitrine opens on a combination set by the installer (scene facts). The installer was out of the hotel all evening (E2). But the combination was set in front of a mirrored panel while one other person stood watching the mirror (E3) — the appraiser, whose own file held the egg's exact appearance (E1), who bought the replica's enamel kit a fortnight earlier (E5), and whose garage ticket proves she stayed in the hotel all evening despite claiming to leave (E4).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #03

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Henri Laval — CLEAR

Garage and tally book agree: he left at 6:09 p.m. and never re-entered (E2). The hand that opened the case was not his.

Sofia Marchetti — CLEAR

Hosting the reception from 7:00 and on the ballroom stage until 10:00 p.m., in front of the whole ball (E6) — and she never knew the combination.

Walter Abernathy — CLEAR

At his door all evening, his tally written in one unbroken hand (E6). He never knew the combination and never left his post.

Lena Vogt — GUILTY

She read the combination in the mirror while pretending to measure the plinth (E3), had the replica's enamel matched to her own photographs (E1, E5), and stayed hidden in the hotel all evening (E4). During the ball she opened the vitrine, swapped the eggs, and drove home at 9:48 with the real Kestrel Egg.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #04

Solved: The Missing Mozart Leaf

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Ruth Callahan

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The drawer opens only with one of two keys (scene facts). The head librarian's key was on her belt while she stood on a recorded platform, then walked to the archive in company (E1) — so the key that opened the drawer was the assistant's. Callahan's departure is genuine (E4) but irrelevant: the keeper's log puts her back inside at 7:49 (E5) and the archive corridor's badge reader puts her at the archive door at 7:52 (E6). Her claim never to have returned is a lie, told to cover the one visit that mattered.

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #04

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Dr. Anna Weiss — CLEAR

Recorded speaking to the audience from 7:30, taking questions until 8:12, and accompanied to the archive for the discovery itself (E1). Key on her belt throughout.

Felix Grant — CLEAR

Conducting on a broadcast recording, before eighty witnesses (E2) — and he never held a drawer key.

Piotr Nowak — CLEAR

Heard tuning, unpaused, at 7:40 and 8:05 by the caretaker (E2) — and he never held a drawer key.

Ruth Callahan — GUILTY

She left at seven (E4), returned at 7:49 for a 'bag' she never signed out with (E5), and badged into the archive corridor at 7:52 (E6) — then swore she had never come back. She opened the drawer with her own key, took the leaf, relocked the drawer, and let her genuine departure carry the lie.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #05

Solved: The Midnight Empress

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

George Mensah

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The Orchid House key sits in a cabinet opened by only two keys (scene facts). The director was on microphone in the Palm House for the whole window (E1) — so the cabinet was opened with the head gardener's key. His alibi is invented: the sheds were locked at 5:50 (E4). And the trail of the Empress's own bark medium runs from the Orchid House to his barrow, with a crushed black petal in it (E3, E6).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #05

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Eleanor Vance — CLEAR

On the tour-app recording, speaking in the Palm House from 6:10 to 7:05 p.m. (E1).

Camille Fournier — CLEAR

Signed judging sheets and three growers place her in the Fern House across the whole window (E2) — and she holds no cabinet key.

Bill Hart — CLEAR

The webcam photographs him at the fountain pump at 6:42 p.m., and the pump's timer backs his whole account (E5) — and he holds no cabinet key.

George Mensah — GUILTY

He held the second cabinet key, his 'locking the sheds' alibi is disproved by the signed shed log (E4), and his own barrow carries the stolen plant's unique bark and a crushed black petal (E6). The breeder knew exactly what his decade's work would fetch — and exactly when the talk would empty the paths.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #06

Solved: The Moon Rock

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Tom Ellery

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The safe opens on a code officially held by two people (scene facts) — and both are placed elsewhere for the whole window (E1, E2). But the code was no secret from one other person: by the lab's habit it is the catalogue number of the fragment itself (scene facts, E3), and the man who assigned that number is Tom Ellery. His library alibi is false (E4), and his own card put him inside the laboratory from 2:29 to 2:36 — around the safe's 2:31 opening (E6).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — CASE FILE #06

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Professor Daniel Reyes — CLEAR

On the livestream, on stage, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (E1).

Karen Doyle — CLEAR

At the stores desk with the delivery driver, continuously, 2:12–2:47 p.m., dockets to match (E2).

Anita Rao — CLEAR

On her own tape in the café from 2:15 to 2:50 p.m. (E5) — and she was never given any code.

Tom Ellery — GUILTY

He knew the code because he created it — the fragment's catalogue number, assigned by his own hand (E3). His library story collapses at the turnstile (E4), and his card brackets the safe's opening minute by minute (E6). Seven minutes inside the laboratory was all he needed.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 77) — then take on the next file.

YOUR SERVICE RECORD

The Detective Record

Keep score across all six files. Honest scoring only — the department checks.

File #01 — The Silence of the Sunward Clock

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

File #02 — The Last Bottle of Château Verrier

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

File #03 — The Kestrel Egg

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

File #04 — The Missing Mozart Leaf

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

File #05 — The Midnight Empress

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

File #06 — The Moon Rock

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

Deciding clues found on my own

[ ] all six [ ] four or five [ ] two or three [ ] none — this time

RANKINGS:

- 6 out of 6, clues and all — Chief Inspector. The Cold Case Division requests your transfer.
- 5 out of 6 — Detective Superintendent. One file beat you; the walkthrough shows where it turned.
- 4 out of 6 — Detective Sergeant. Sound instincts, well tested.
- 2–3 out of 6 — Detective Constable. The evidence was there; it will be there next time too.
- 0–1 out of 6 — Cadet. Every great detective started somewhere. Work the files again in a month.

However you scored: the full Cold Case Detective Studio holds 50 complete dossiers, and Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2 holds a whole library of detective puzzle books. The next two pages show you where to find them.

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COLOPHON

About This Pack

Cold Case Files Vol. 2 (PP-COLDCASE2-01) is the second volume of print-and-play investigation dossiers from Puzzle Pout Talon, companion to Cold Case Detective Studio. All six cases in this volume are original works written for this pack; any resemblance to real people or events is coincidental. All suspects are fictional — the chronometer, the egg and the Moon rock, regrettably, are too.

PRINTING: US Letter (8.5 × 11 in), print-ready. Print any page as often as you like for your own use — the timeline boards and deduction worksheets especially. Please do not share or resell the digital PDF file itself.

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Thank you for keeping the Cold Case Division in business, detective.