

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A signed binary release was extracted from the testing lab of Meridian Data during the overnight window between 00:45 and 03:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Mikael (site-reliability engineer), Jacinta (support lead), Zoltan (intern), Lana (DevOps lead), Diallo (CTO), Mei (security analyst), Hadley (data scientist), Ezra (contractor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the signed binary release?

1. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Jacinta.
2. However: Lana is cleared – but CCTV camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
3. Zoltan lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
4. Mei lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
5. However: Hadley is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. But: however the seal serial registry shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 00:45.
7. However: Mikael is cleared – but VPN session log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
8. Mikael had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
9. Jacinta has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:45 and 03:45).
- 10 Lana has administrator credentials and possession of the specific tool used and clearance to the . restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.

CASE 02

A donor list was taken from the microfilm area of Saint-Clair Collection during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Daphne (research assistant), Olive (cataloger), Darya (archivist), Cedric (visiting scholar), Polina (intern), Mauro (head librarian), Cassia (reference librarian). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the donor list?

1. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Cassia.
2. Mauro had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
3. Cedric was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
4. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:15 and 05:45, and authorization to handle the item.
5. Cassia has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 05:45).
6. Olive has only authorization to handle the item of the four requirements.
7. Cassia their video call ended at 23:05 according to the system.
8. However: Cedric is cleared – but archive log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Mauro because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 10 The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.

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CASE 03

The production funds were taken from the backstage left of Northgate Stage during the overnight window between 01:30 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ginevra (lead actor), Hadley (understudy), Penelope (stage manager), Darya (box-office manager), Quentin (prop master), Akira (musical director), Leander (stagehand), Kenji (lighting tech). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the production funds?

1. However: Penelope is cleared – but their prop-room code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
2. Quentin has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:30 and 05:15).
3. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 01:30 and 05:15, and authorization to handle the item.
4. Quentin claims to have exited the building at 22:55 – the official badge log confirms this.
5. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Quentin.
6. However: Leander is cleared – but box-office system places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
7. However: Akira is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
8. Leander clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
9. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
- 10 Penelope had financial pressure – appears to have motive.

CASE 04

A special collection key was taken from the microfilm area of Northgate Library during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Dimah (cataloger), Yara (head librarian), Jules (rare-books curator), Aiko (research assistant), Selene (volunteer), Ulla (visiting scholar), Fariha (intern). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the special collection key?

1. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Yara.
2. However: Selene is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
3. Aiko's book-checkout record shows them off-site the entire window.
4. Fariha has only a verified relationship with the donor of the four requirements.
5. Dimah has a verified relationship with the donor and specialized engineering certification and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
6. Initial assumption pointed to Aiko because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. Selene clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
8. But: however seal serial registry records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:00.
9. Jules filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
- 10 However: Jules is cleared – but archive log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 05

The sealed wills were taken from the registration desk of Helix Heritage Foundation during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Tariq (intern), Damaris (genealogist), Enzo (administrator), Bayan (clerk), Magnus (volunteer), Bram (researcher), Dario (records administrator). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sealed wills?

1. Initial assumption pointed to Tariq because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
2. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Enzo.
3. Damaris lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
4. Dario lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
5. However: Bram is cleared – but their research-room pass was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
6. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 02:30 and 06:45, and possession of the specific tool used.
7. Magnus clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
8. However: Bayan is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
9. Bayan was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 10 Enzo has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 06:45).

CASE 06

The production funds were taken from the green room of Pemberton Opera House during the overnight window between 02:45 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Sigrid (stage manager), Kai (lead actor), Hiroshi (costume designer), Leila (musical director), Esme (lighting tech), Ravi (understudy), Magnus (box-office manager), Jian (prop master). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the production funds?

1. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
2. Jian their video call ended at 22:50 according to the system.
3. However: Ravi is cleared – but props inventory log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:35.
5. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:45 and 05:00, and familiarity with the security routing.
6. Kai lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
7. Magnus lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
8. Sigrid's witness crew member shows them off-site the entire window.
9. Hiroshi was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Hiroshi because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 11 Jian has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:45 and 05:00).

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

Solve before peeking. Correct suspect and key reasoning steps below.

Case 01 A) Jacinta

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, presence between 00:45 and 03:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Hadley appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 undefined) Cassia

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:15 and 05:45, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Cedric appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 undefined) Quentin

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 01:30 and 05:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Leander appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 C) Yara

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Dimah appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 A) Enzo

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 02:30 and 06:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Magnus appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 undefined) Jian

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:45 and 05:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Hiroshi appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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