

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

The sealed wills were taken from the cataloging room of City Records Office during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Bao (intern), Zinnia (security officer), Penelope (administrator), Florian (clerk), Mei (records administrator), Indira (conservation specialist), Faye (head archivist). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sealed wills?

1. Bao's archive log shows them off-site the entire window.
2. The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.
3. Indira clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
4. Mei lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
5. Zinnia has only specialized engineering certification of the four requirements.
6. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Faye.
7. Faye has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:00).
8. Faye claims to have exited the building at 22:10 – the official badge log confirms this.
9. However: Florian is cleared – but archive log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
10. Penelope has familiarity with the security routing and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
11. However: Indira is cleared – but camera footage places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

CASE 02

A staff payroll list was taken from the sports equipment room of Brierfield Prep during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Aurora (principal), Selene (school counselor), Iolanthe (librarian), Rosalind (janitor), Lucia (secretary), Sami (student council president), Bram (department head). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the staff payroll list?

1. Lucia has after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
2. Rosalind has a master key issued only to senior staff and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
3. Initial assumption pointed to Iolanthe because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
4. Sami lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
5. Selene was officially signed out at 22:25 via the front-desk register.
6. However: Bram is cleared – but their combination was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
7. However: Rosalind is cleared – but their keypad code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
8. Selene has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 05:15).
9. However: Lucia is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

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CASE 03

The tax records were taken from the storage basement of Pemberton Genealogy Center during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Tatum (head archivist), Eitan (conservation specialist), Theo (security officer), Kai (administrator), Arjun (volunteer), Zara (genealogist), Mateo (researcher), Marisol (records administrator). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the tax records?

1. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
2. Arjun has a verified relationship with the donor and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
3. Kai has only advanced restoration training of the four requirements.
4. Theo was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
5. However: Theo is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Arjun filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
7. Mateo their video call ended at 23:20 according to the system.
8. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
9. Zara lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Eitan lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.
- 11 Theo has a verified relationship with the donor and possession of the specific tool used and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
- 12 Marisol had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 13 Initial assumption pointed to Kai because of public friction with management, but this has been ~~independently ruled out.~~

CASE 04

A birth certificate was taken from the registration desk of Aldermarsh County Archive during the overnight window between 02:00 and 06:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Quincy (head archivist), Rosalind (records administrator), Tarek (conservation specialist), Eira (genealogist), Idris (clerk), Akira (intern), Mateo (researcher). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the birth certificate?

1. Tarek has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:00 and 06:30).
2. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Tarek.
3. Akira had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
5. However: Quincy is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 02:00 and 06:30, and authorization to handle the item.
7. However: Rosalind is cleared – but their research-room pass was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Mateo because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. Mateo lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Eira lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.

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CASE 05

A client contract data was extracted from the server farm of Solstice Labs during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Yusuf (support lead), Kalisa (CTO), Dimitri (security analyst), Nikolai (contractor), Maeve (site-reliability engineer), Mikael (DevOps lead), Aurora (product manager), Aaliyah (data scientist). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the client contract data?

1. Mikael had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
2. However: Mikael is cleared – but their MFA device was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
3. Initial assumption pointed to Dimitri because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
4. However: Kalisa is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:15 and 06:30, and familiarity with the security routing.
6. Nikolai has only specialized engineering certification of the four requirements.
7. But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
8. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Aaliyah.
9. Aaliyah has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:15 and 06:30).
- 10 Aurora lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.

CASE 06

A musical score was taken from the rehearsal hall of Helix Repertory during the overnight window between 01:45 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Dimitri (stagehand), Wilder (prop master), Gisela (costume designer), Pavel (musical director), Ronan (lighting tech), Jacinta (understudy), Ravi (lead actor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the musical score?

1. Ronan clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
2. Initial assumption pointed to Ravi because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
3. Ravi was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
4. Gisela lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
5. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 01:45 and 05:15, and possession of the specific tool used.
6. However: Ravi is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. Ravi has advanced restoration training and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
8. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
9. Ronan has administrator credentials and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 However: Pavel is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 F) Faye

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:00 and 05:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Florian appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 C) Selene

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 01:45 and 05:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Lucia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 E) Mateo

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:45 and 05:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Arjun appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 B) Tarek

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 02:00 and 06:30, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Akira appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 C) Aaliyah

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:15 and 06:30, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Mikael appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 A) Dimitri

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 01:45 and 05:15, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Pavel appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.