

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

The box-office receipts were taken from the catwalk of Northgate Stage during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Cosima (understudy), Alejandro (stagehand), Akira (stage manager), Adrian (lead actor), Esme (musical director), Hadley (box-office manager), Jacinta (costume designer), Gunnar (lighting tech). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the box-office receipts?

1. Gunnar lacks elevated system privileges – confirmed by personnel records.
2. Akira lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
3. However: Esme is cleared – but rehearsal sign-in places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. Alejandro was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
5. But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
6. Jacinta claims to have exited the building at 22:30 – the official badge log confirms this.
7. Hadley had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
8. Alejandro has elevated system privileges and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
9. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
- 10 Esme has after-hours building access and possession of the specific tool used and elevated system . privileges – initial suspicion was high.
- 11 Cosima lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
- 12 Initial assumption pointed to Cosima because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been . independently ruled out.

CASE 02

A reference card index was taken from the archive storage of Quartermaine Archive during the overnight window between 01:15 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Mahdi (head librarian), Indira (custodian), Jian (reference librarian), Akhil (volunteer), Yusuf (archivist), Aurora (intern), Amari (rare-books curator), Cedric (research assistant). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the reference card index?

1. Akhil lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
2. Initial assumption pointed to Yusuf because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
3. Cedric filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
4. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
5. Amari lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
6. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:15 and 04:00, and familiarity with the security routing.
7. Mahdi 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 01:15 and 04:00).
8. However: Aurora is cleared – but their vault key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
9. Aurora filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
- 10 However: Cedric is cleared – but their staff key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the . security audit.

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CASE 03

A final exam answer sheet was taken from the records office of Hawthorne Day School during the overnight window between 00:15 and 03:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Iolanthe (secretary), Cedric (substitute teacher), Leander (janitor), Sigrid (department head), Xanthe (student council president), Ilya (librarian), Talia (school counselor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the final exam answer sheet?

1. Leander has authorization to handle the item and clearance to the restricted archive and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
2. Ilya has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:15 and 03:00).
3. Sigrid clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
4. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Ilya.
5. Sigrid has clearance to the restricted archive and a verified relationship with the donor and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Sigrid is cleared – but their records-room badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
7. Iolanthe filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
8. Iolanthe has authorization to handle the item and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
9. Leander had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 10 The theft involved a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet.

CASE 04

An enzyme batch was swapped from the centrifuge bay of Aldermarsh Laboratory during the overnight window between 00:15 and 03:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Gemma (postdoctoral researcher), Hiroshi (clinical coordinator), Fariha (principal investigator), Ula (safety officer), Beatrix (visiting scientist), Mauro (operations manager), Zoltan (equipment manager), Olive (undergraduate volunteer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the enzyme batch?

1. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Gemma.
2. Fariha lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
3. Gemma has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:15 and 03:00).
4. Gemma their video call ended at 23:10 according to the system.
5. Ula has familiarity with the security routing and advanced restoration training and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
6. Mauro lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
7. The sample tampering involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
8. Hiroshi has advanced restoration training and familiarity with the security routing and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. However: Hiroshi is cleared – but freezer access log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

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CASE 05

An enzyme batch was swapped from the sample storage of Helix Bioresearch during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Kai (clinical coordinator), Maeve (equipment manager), Bjorn (visiting scientist), Mira (operations manager), Kasimir (lab technician), Tess (graduate student), Stellan (undergraduate volunteer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the enzyme batch?

1. Tess was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
2. Stellan has only administrator credentials of the four requirements.
3. The sample tampering involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
4. However: Maeve is cleared – but their lab badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:30 and 06:45, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
6. Kasimir's sample log shows them off-site the entire window.
7. However: Tess is cleared – but freezer access log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
8. But: however seal serial registry records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:10.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Kasimir because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
10. Mira has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 06:45).
11. Bjorn's sample log shows them off-site the entire window.

CASE 06

An illuminated codex was taken from the curator office of Quartermaine Archive during the overnight window between 01:15 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Kasper (archivist), Mei (research assistant), Octavia (cataloger), Damaris (custodian), Gunnar (head librarian), Iolanthe (rare-books curator), Florian (volunteer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the illuminated codex?

1. Kasper was officially signed out at 22:30 via the front-desk register.
2. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kasper.
3. Kasper has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:15 and 05:00).
4. However: Damaris is cleared – but witness patron places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
5. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:15 and 05:00, and authorization to handle the item.
6. Florian has authorization to handle the item and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Iolanthe because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. Damaris has specialized engineering certification and documented hands-on history with the item and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. Florian clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 B) Jacinta

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 00:30 and 04:30, 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 A) Mahdi

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:15 and 04:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Aurora appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 D) Ilya

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:15 and 03:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Iolanthe appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 A) Gemma

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:15 and 03:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Ula appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 D) Mira

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, administrator credentials, presence between 02:30 and 06:45, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Tess appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 C) Kasper

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:15 and 05:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Florian appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.