

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A sound-system controller was taken from the costume room of Pemberton Opera House during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Sami (costume designer), Florian (director), Zephyr (stage manager), Priya (lighting tech), Alessio (understudy), Marisol (box-office manager), Vera (prop master). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sound-system controller?

1. Zephyr has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
2. Vera has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:30).
3. Vera was officially signed out at 23:25 via the front-desk register.
4. Alessio has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
5. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:45 and 04:30, and authorization to handle the item.
6. But: however pedestrian-door sensor records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:40.
7. However: Zephyr is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
8. However: Alessio is cleared – but witness crew member places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
9. Priya lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.

CASE 02

A source code repository was extracted from the network closet of Helix Tech during the overnight window between 01:00 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Kenji (contractor), Maeve (site-reliability engineer), Nikolai (CTO), Isolde (DevOps lead), Yvonne (security analyst), Aleksandr (data scientist), Mira (support lead), Ginevra (senior engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the source code repository?

1. Maeve lacks documented hands-on history with the item – security audit confirms.
2. Ginevra clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
3. Isolde had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
4. Isolde has clearance to the restricted archive and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
5. However: Nikolai is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
6. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kenji.
7. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:00 and 04:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
8. Ginevra has clearance to the restricted archive and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. Aleksandr's CCTV camera shows them off-site the entire window.
- 10 But: however the seal serial registry shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 01:00.
- 11 Yvonne's CCTV camera shows them off-site the entire window.

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CASE 03

A sealed reagent was swapped from the sequencing room of Caelum Labs during the overnight window between 00:45 and 03:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Isolde (postdoctoral researcher), Phaedra (operations manager), Tess (undergraduate volunteer), Meriel (graduate student), Oren (equipment manager), Cosima (clinical coordinator), Simeon (visiting scientist), Dario (safety officer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the sealed reagent?

1. Cosima clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
2. Cosima has administrator credentials and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
3. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Meriel.
4. Oren has administrator credentials and elevated system privileges and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
5. Phaedra has only elevated system privileges of the four requirements.
6. Isolde lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
7. Tess filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
8. Simeon has only elevated system privileges of the four requirements.
9. However: Oren is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
- 10 But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:40.
- 11 The sample tampering involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
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CASE 04

The adoption papers were taken from the storage basement of City Records Office during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Mauro (records administrator), Omari (conservation specialist), Theo (clerk), Olive (genealogist), Ronan (head archivist), Tatum (security officer), Kalisa (intern). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the adoption papers?

1. Theo filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
2. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 02:15 and 06:15, and familiarity with the security routing.
3. Omari has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:15 and 06:15).
4. However: Ronan is cleared – but their admin code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
6. Kalisa lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
7. The trace at the scene (a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Omari.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Olive because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. Ronan has after-hours building access and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Theo has a master key issued only to senior staff and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
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Deduction Mysteries

CASE 05

An oil painting was taken from the archive room of Saint-Clair Museum during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Talia (night security), Juno (curator), Zinnia (security guard), Diallo (tour guide), Zephyr (janitor), Kenji (exhibition designer), Suri (gift shop manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the oil painting?

1. Kenji has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:15 and 06:00).
2. Suri filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
3. The trace at the scene (a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Kenji.
4. Zephyr has advanced restoration training and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
5. Kenji claims to have exited the building at 23:05 – the official badge log confirms this.
6. The theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Juno because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. Zephyr filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
9. But: however VPN session record records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:05.
- 10 Suri has authorization to handle the item and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
- 11 However: Juno is cleared – but their keycard was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.

CASE 06

An archive password log was taken from the reference desk of Quartermaine Archive during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Hakim (research assistant), Eleni (volunteer), Mauro (rare-books curator), Caelan (cataloger), Mikael (custodian), Stellan (intern), Alejandro (head librarian), Oren (reference librarian). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the archive password log?

1. Oren was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
2. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
3. Hakim lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.
4. Alejandro's badge swipe shows them off-site the entire window.
5. Mauro has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:00).
6. Stellan has a verified relationship with the donor and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Mikael because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. However: Oren is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
9. Caelan lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:45 and 04:00, and authorization to handle the item.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 F) Vera

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:45 and 04:30, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Zephyr appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 undefined) Kenji

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 01:00 and 04:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Isolde appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 undefined) Meriel

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, administrator credentials, presence between 00:45 and 03:30, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Cosima appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 undefined) Omari

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, after-hours building access, presence between 02:15 and 06:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Olive appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 D) Kenji

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:15 and 06:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Suri appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 undefined) Mauro

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:45 and 04:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Eleni appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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