

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A rare ingredient was taken from the staff break room of Aldermarsh Bistro during the overnight window between 00:00 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Mikael (sous chef), Yvonne (dishwasher), Tess (line cook), Nikolai (sommelier), Phaedra (manager), Rosalind (host), Gemma (server). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the rare ingredient?

1. However: Yvonne is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
2. Tess their video call ended at 22:40 according to the system.
3. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
4. Gemma lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
5. Phaedra has advanced restoration training and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
6. Mikael had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
7. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:00 and 04:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
8. Yvonne has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
9. Tess has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 04:15).
- 10 Yvonne clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
- 11 However: Mikael is cleared – but POS log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

CASE 02

The adoption papers were taken from the registration desk of Aldermarsh County Archive during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Joaquin (researcher), Kerensa (volunteer), Ulla (administrator), Tarek (head archivist), Lior (records administrator), Jian (genealogist), Diallo (clerk), Priya (intern). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the adoption papers?

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 Kerensa.
2. Kerensa was officially signed out at 23:25 via the front-desk register.
3. Tarek's archive log shows them off-site the entire window.
4. Lior has after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
5. Kerensa has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 06:00).
6. Lior had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
7. Diallo clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Lior because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. Diallo has specialized engineering certification and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 Jian has after-hours building access and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.

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CASE 03

An original script was taken from the sound booth of Pemberton Opera House during the overnight window between 02:15 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Aurora (lead actor), Nizar (stage manager), Adrian (director), Maeve (understudy), Zephyr (costume designer), Nikolai (lighting tech), Theo (musical director). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the original script?

1. Initial assumption pointed to Nizar because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
2. Nizar was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
3. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
4. But: however the unsecured service entrance doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
5. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Theo.
6. Theo has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, clean-room or vault clearance, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:15 and 05:15).
7. Nizar has clean-room or vault clearance and knowledge of the seal serial pattern – initial suspicion was high.
8. However: Nikolai is cleared – but box-office system places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
9. Adrian lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
10. However: Maeve is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
11. However: Nizar is cleared – but their box-office key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.

CASE 04

A signed playbill collection was taken from the director's office of Argent Theatre during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Juno (lead actor), Penelope (lighting tech), Aiko (stage manager), Kiran (director), Aleksandr (stagehand), Talia (understudy), Arjun (musical director). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the signed playbill collection?

1. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
2. However: Juno is cleared – but box-office system places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
3. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Arjun.
4. Aiko lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
5. Penelope had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
6. Juno was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
7. Arjun was officially signed out at 22:30 via the front-desk register.
8. Kiran has only authorization to handle the item of the four requirements.
9. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, and authorization to handle the item.
10. However: Penelope is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
11. Penelope has a master key issued only to senior staff and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.

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CASE 05

A production database was extracted from the testing lab of Northgate Systems during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Suri (product manager), Ronan (intern), Frida (data scientist), Hattie (CTO), Amelia (DevOps lead), Alessio (security analyst), Idris (senior engineer), Polina (contractor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the production database?

1. However: Alessio is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
2. The data theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
3. Initial assumption pointed to Alessio because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
4. Alessio has familiarity with the security routing and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
5. Amelia has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
6. Hattie has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:00).
7. Frida's MFA token log shows them off-site the entire window.
8. Alessio was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
9. But: however seal serial registry records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:50.
- 10 The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or . systems uniquely accessible to Hattie.

CASE 06

The prototype specifications were taken from the records vault of Cedarstone Inc during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Amari (facilities coordinator), Roksana (executive assistant), Alejandro (IT administrator), Bjorn (CFO), Akira (legal counsel), Nizar (security officer), Elspeth (intern), Yusuf (senior engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the prototype specifications?

1. Akira lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
2. However: Bjorn is cleared – but witness account places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
3. Roksana filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
4. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
5. However: Yusuf is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Elspeth's security badge log shows them off-site the entire window.
7. Bjorn has clean-room or vault clearance and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
8. Yusuf has clean-room or vault clearance and advanced restoration training and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
9. Bjorn had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Nizar because of being seen near the building, but this has been . independently ruled out.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 A) Tess

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:00 and 04:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Yvonne appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 D) Kerensa

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 02:30 and 06:00, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Lior appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 A) Theo

- ☒ Four requirements (elevated system privileges, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:15 and 05:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Maeve appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 E) Arjun

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Talia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 B) Hattie

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:00 and 05:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Idris appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 A) Alejandro

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:30 and 06:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Yusuf appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.