

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A rare first edition was taken from the curator office of Northgate Library during the overnight window between 00:45 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Elspeth (intern), Lana (custodian), Arjun (archivist), Bao (visiting scholar), Finnegan (head librarian), Etienne (research assistant), Gunnar (cataloger), Hiroshi (reference librarian). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the rare first edition?

1. Elspeth's door sensor shows them off-site the entire window.
2. 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 Hiroshi.
3. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:45 and 04:15, and familiarity with the security routing.
4. Lana filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. Bao has documented hands-on history with the item and clearance to the restricted archive and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
6. Finnegan's book-checkout record shows them off-site the entire window.
7. Lana has clearance to the restricted archive and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
8. Gunnar lacks clearance to the restricted archive – confirmed by personnel records.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Elspeth because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 10 Hiroshi claims to have exited the building at 23:20 – the official badge log confirms this.
- 11 The theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
- 12 ~~However: Bao is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout~~
the window.

CASE 02

A team trophy was taken from the coach's office of Pemberton Stadium during the overnight window between 02:00 and 06:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Mira (facilities manager), Jules (referee), Zoltan (assistant coach), Kai (team captain), Elspeth (head coach), Cyrus (star player), Isolde (team statistician), Renata (athletic trainer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the team trophy?

1. Renata has a verified relationship with the donor and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
2. However: Renata is cleared – but equipment sign-out places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
3. Elspeth 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 02:00 and 06:45).
4. Zoltan was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
5. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Elspeth.
6. Renata clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
7. Jules has familiarity with the security routing and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
8. Kai lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
9. Mira's equipment sign-out shows them off-site the entire window.
- 10 Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:00 and 06:45, and familiarity with the security routing.

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CASE 03

The admin credentials were extracted from the code review room of Atlas Cloud during the overnight window between 00:45 and 04:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Penelope (data scientist), Tariq (support lead), Cedric (site-reliability engineer), Alejandro (security analyst), Noor (intern), Yara (DevOps lead), Jacinta (CTO), Ilya (product manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the admin credentials?

1. Cedric filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
2. Cedric has authorization to handle the item and after-hours building access and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
3. Penelope their video call ended at 23:35 according to the system.
4. Alejandro clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
5. Penelope has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:45 and 04:30).
6. However: Alejandro is cleared – but their MFA device was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
7. Initial assumption pointed to Cedric because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
8. But: however elevator override log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:10.
9. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 00:45 and 04:30, and authorization to handle the item.
- 10 The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Penelope.

CASE 04

The production funds were taken from the box office of Northgate Stage during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Esme (director), Nizar (stage manager), Selene (understudy), Phaedra (prop master), Kenji (costume designer), Xiomara (lighting tech), Eitan (box-office manager), Mahdi (lead actor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the production funds?

1. Eitan was officially signed out at 23:25 via the front-desk register.
2. Mahdi's witness crew member shows them off-site the entire window.
3. Xiomara filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
4. Nizar was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
5. Initial assumption pointed to Esme because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
6. 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 Eitan.
7. Phaedra lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
8. Esme has clean-room or vault clearance and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. Nizar has clean-room or vault clearance and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 However: Esme is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
- 11 Xiomara has clearance to the restricted archive and authorization to handle the item and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.

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CASE 05

A catering payment was taken from the pastry station of Saint-Clair Café during the overnight window between 02:30 and 06:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Stellan (manager), Katarina (server), Zoltan (dishwasher), Aaliyah (pastry chef), Akira (line cook), Yusuf (sommelier), Cedric (sous chef). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the catering payment?

1. Aaliyah has only clearance to the restricted archive of the four requirements.
2. The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
3. Stellan has clearance to the restricted archive and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
4. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Yusuf.
5. However: Stellan is cleared – but their master key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
6. Akira has clearance to the restricted archive and after-hours building access – initial suspicion was high.
7. Yusuf claims to have exited the building at 23:55 – the official badge log confirms this.
8. Katarina clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
9. However: Akira is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
- 10 Yusuf 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 02:30 and 06:45).

CASE 06

A final exam answer sheet was taken from the staff bathroom of Brierfield Prep during the overnight window between 01:00 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Tess (principal), Jacinta (janitor), Gisela (librarian), Arjun (student council president), Sora (teacher), Wren (secretary), Bram (school counselor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the final exam answer sheet?

1. Bram has advanced restoration training and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
2. Jacinta lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
3. However: Bram is cleared – but keycard log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. Bram filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. Sora's keycard log shows them off-site the entire window.
6. Arjun was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
7. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Tess.
8. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
9. Arjun has knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a verified relationship with the donor and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 However: Arjun is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
- 11 The theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 **undefined**) Hiroshi

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:45 and 04:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Lana appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 **undefined**) Elspeth

- ☒ Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 02:00 and 06:45, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Zoltan appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 **undefined**) Penelope

- ☒ Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 00:45 and 04:30, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Tariq appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 **undefined**) Eitan

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:30, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Nizar appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 **E**) Yusuf

- ☒ Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 02:30 and 06:45, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - ☒ Katarina appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 **F**) Tess

- ☒ Four requirements (advanced restoration training, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:00 and 04:00, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- ☒ Wren appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.