PUZZLE POUT TALON

CRIME FILES IMPRINT

COLD CASE

BONUS CASE FILES

Two brand-new unsolved cases for armchair detectives

Suspect profiles · Evidence files · Deduction worksheets · Full solutions

— SEALED EVIDENCE —

FILE #01 · The Blackout at the Meridian Museum

FILE #02 · The Last Reel at the Orpheum

A bonus companion to Cold Case Detective Studio

Print specification: 8.5 × 11 in (US Letter) · Print-ready PDF

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MAJOR CRIMES — COLD CASE DIVISION

How to Work These Files

Two cases went cold. The evidence didn't. Your job: read each file, test every alibi against the evidence, and name the culprit before you open the sealed solutions.

YOUR INVESTIGATIVE PROTOCOL:

- 1. Read the incident report. Note the theft window and how the crime was physically done.
- 2. Study the suspect profiles. Every suspect had a reason to be there — only one is lying.
- 3. Work the evidence pages in order. Each item is numbered (E1, E2, E3…) so you can cite it.
- 4. Fill in the deduction worksheet: does each alibi hold up? Who matches the evidence?
- 5. Commit to a verdict — then, and only then, turn to the solutions at the back.

A WORD ON FAIR PLAY:

Every clue you need is inside the file. Nothing depends on outside knowledge, trick wording, or guessing. If a suspect is cleared, at least one numbered evidence item clears them. If a suspect is guilty, the evidence — not a hunch — puts them there. Solutions begin on page 16; they walk through every clue, suspect by suspect, so you can check your reasoning line by line.

WHAT YOU NEED: a pencil, a quiet half hour per case, and a suspicious mind. Print the deduction worksheets as many times as you like and work them again with a friend — a fresh detective often spots what the first one missed.

BONUS FILE #01 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Blackout at the Meridian Museum

Meridian City Museum — the night of the Autumn Gala

At 9:41 p.m., during the museum's Autumn Gala, every light in the building went out. Power returned eleven minutes later. When the gallery lights came back on, the glass case at the centre of the Jewel Room stood open — and the Azure Meridian Sapphire, the museum's most valuable gemstone, was gone. The case showed no sign of force. Its alarm never sounded. Four people had both the knowledge and the opportunity to be near the Jewel Room that night. One of them took the sapphire.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The blackout lasted from 9:41 p.m. to 9:52 p.m. exactly.
- The Jewel Room case was opened cleanly. The lock is undamaged.
- Only two keys open that case: the curator's master key and the restorer's workshop copy.
- The gem's empty velvet mount was left behind inside the case.
- Nothing else in the museum was taken or disturbed.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and meet them.

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Rosa Delgado

SUSPECT

Night security guard, 8 years at the museum

"I never left the front desk. I signed the log at 9:43 and again at 9:49, right through the blackout."

Investigator's note: Carries the building's master key ring — but the Jewel Room case is not on it.

Henry Okafor

SUSPECT

Electrician, on call for the gala

"The west wing circuit had been tripping all week. I was up a ladder in the west wing when the lights died."

Investigator's note: Knows every fuse box in the building. Was seen nowhere near the Jewel Room all evening.

Claire Beaumont

SUSPECT

Curator of the Jewel Room collection

"I was in my office on a video call with a donor from 9:30 until 10:00. My master key never left the office safe."

Investigator's note: Holds one of the two case keys. The museum recorded her donor call, as it does all such calls.

Tomasz Rybak

SUSPECT

Visiting gem restorer, preparing next week's exhibit

"I finished in the workshop at 9:15 and drove straight home. I never went near the Jewel Room."

Investigator's note: Holds the second case key — a workshop copy. Works daily with white restoration paste for gem mounts.

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The fuse box

The blackout was no accident. The main breaker in the basement fuse box was switched off by hand. The box door had been wiped clean — except for one smear of white restoration paste along its edge.

E2 — The loading-dock camera

One camera runs on battery backup. At 9:44 p.m. it shows Henry Okafor on a ladder in the west wing, working on the faulty circuit, exactly where he said he was. He is still there when the lights return.

E3 — The front desk

The desk log is signed in Rosa Delgado's handwriting at 9:43 and 9:49 p.m. The desk phone records show a six-minute call from the alarm company at 9:45 p.m., asking about the power dip. Rosa answered it herself.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The curator's key

Claire Beaumont's master key was checked at 10:20 p.m. It was inside her office safe. The museum's recording of her donor call runs unbroken from 9:30 to 10:00 p.m., with Claire on screen throughout.

E5 — The restorer's key

Tomasz Rybak returned his workshop copy key the next morning. Its teeth carry fresh, bright scratches — the marks of a key used in a hurry, in the dark, within the last day.

E6 — The car park log

The parking attendant's log records every vehicle leaving. Tomasz Rybak's van is logged out at 10:05 p.m. — fifty minutes after he claims he drove home.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Rosa Delgado (guard)

"Somebody who knew this building cut that power. You don't find that breaker by wandering around in the dark."

Henry Okafor (electrician)

"Whoever flipped the main breaker knew the basement layout cold. And they'd have needed the lights OUT to work the Jewel Room unnoticed."

Claire Beaumont (curator)

"The case can only be opened with a key — mine, or the workshop copy I issued to Mr. Rybak. Mine was in the safe. Ask him about his."

Tomasz Rybak (restorer)

"I work with gems, I don't steal them. The paste? It's on everything in my workshop. It proves nothing."

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the deduction worksheet on the next page before you name your culprit.

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Rosa Delgado	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Henry Okafor	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Claire Beaumont	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Tomasz Rybak	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 16. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

BONUS FILE #02 — INCIDENT REPORT

The Last Reel at the Orpheum

The Orpheum Theatre — premiere night

For the premiere of its new production, the Orpheum borrowed the Hartley Diamond Necklace from a city jeweller. Between scenes it was kept in the projection-room safe. At 9:26 p.m., during the final reel, an usherette found the safe door standing ajar — and the necklace gone. The safe had been opened on its combination. It had not been forced. The theft window is narrow: the necklace was seen in the safe at 9:05 p.m., and the open safe was found at 9:26 p.m.

THE SCENE — FACTS NOT IN DISPUTE:

- The theft window is 9:05 p.m. to 9:26 p.m. — during the final reel.
- The safe opens on a combination only. There is no key and no sign of force.
- Only two people were ever given the combination: the theatre manager, and the jeweller's courier.
- The courier signed out at the stage door at 7:58 p.m., before the show began.
- The necklace was insured, catalogued, and photographed. It has not been recovered.

Four suspects. One culprit. The evidence decides — turn the page and meet them.

Four People of Interest

Each suspect's own words are recorded exactly as given. Compare them with the evidence that follows.

Eddie Malone

SUSPECT

Projectionist, 20 years in the Orpheum booth

"A projectionist doesn't leave the booth mid-reel. I was at the projector from the start of the last reel to the end."

Investigator's note: Does not know the safe combination. The booth is one floor above the projection room's safe alcove.

Vivian Cross

SUSPECT

Leading lady — wore the necklace on stage

"I handed the necklace to the manager at 9:02 and went straight back on stage for Act III. Four hundred people watched me."

Investigator's note: Act III ran from 9:02 p.m. to 9:31 p.m. She never left the stage during it.

Sam Whitaker

SUSPECT

Theatre manager

"I put the necklace in the safe at 9:05, then went to my office to do the evening's accounts. I heard nothing."

Investigator's note: One of only two people given the safe combination. Keeps the theatre's accounts on an adding machine that prints a paper tape.

Gracie Nolan

SUSPECT

Usherette — found the safe open

"I was selling programmes in the lobby until my corridor round at 9:24. That's when I found the safe door open and raised the alarm."

Investigator's note: Does not know the combination. Reported the theft within two minutes of finding it.

Evidence — The Scene and the Timeline

Physical evidence and verified timings. These items are facts; what they mean is your job.

E1 — The combination

The jeweller confirms the combination was given to exactly two people: manager Sam Whitaker, and the courier. The stage-door log shows the courier signed out at 7:58 p.m. and did not return.

E2 — The booth window

At 9:20 p.m., usherette Gracie Nolan collected a torn ticket stub from Eddie Malone through the projection-booth window — mid-reel, inside the theft window. Eddie was at his projector, as he said.

E3 — The stage

Act III ran 9:02–9:31 p.m. without interruption. Vivian Cross was on stage, in front of the full house, for every minute of the theft window.

Detective's reminder: place every suspect inside the window the scene facts give you. Anyone who provably could not be there is not your culprit — no matter how shifty they look.

Evidence — Objects and Records

Recovered items, logs and records, checked after the event. Cross-reference them against each suspect's claim.

E4 — The adding machine

Sam Whitaker's office adding machine prints every entry on a paper tape. The tape's last entry is timed 8:47 p.m. — eighteen minutes before he says he began the evening's accounts.

E5 — The unanswered knock

The box-office assistant knocked on the manager's office door at 9:15 p.m. with the interval receipts. There was no answer. She left them in the office's wall slot, where they were still sitting, untouched, at 9:40 p.m.

E6 — The courier's account

The jeweller's courier states that at 7:50 p.m., Sam Whitaker asked him to repeat the combination aloud 'for the insurance form'. The jeweller confirms no such form exists and none was ever requested.

Detective's reminder: a lie about a small thing — a time, a place, a routine — is often the loose thread that unravels the whole story.

Evidence — Statements on Record

Final statements, taken the following day. Each suspect knew the evidence was being gathered.

Eddie Malone (projectionist)

"Twenty years I've run that booth. The film never broke, never flickered. You can set your watch by that — I never stepped away."

Vivian Cross (leading lady)

"I wore that necklace for two acts and handed it over in front of witnesses. After that, my stage was the safest alibi in the building."

Sam Whitaker (manager)

"Anyone could have watched me learn that combination. This theatre is full of eyes. I was doing the accounts — the theatre's money matters more than gossip."

Gracie Nolan (usherette)

"I sold programmes in the lobby till 9:24 — the stage-door keeper saw me the whole time. Then I did my round and found the door open. I shouted for help straight away."

You have everything the original investigators had. Complete the deduction worksheet on the next page before you name your culprit.

The Deduction Worksheet

Work in pencil. For each suspect: does the alibi survive the evidence? Then commit to a verdict.

SUSPECT	ALIBI HOLDS UP?	MATCHES EVIDENCE?	FINAL VERDICT
Eddie Malone	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Vivian Cross	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Sam Whitaker	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR
Gracie Nolan	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] YES [ ] NO	[ ] GUILTY [ ] CLEAR

MY VERDICT:

THE DECIDING CLUE (write the evidence number and why it settles the case):

When your verdict is written down, the sealed solutions begin on page 16. No peeking — a verdict you can change is not a verdict.

— SEALED SECTION —

THE SOLUTIONS

Stop here if you have not written down both verdicts.
Beyond this page, both cases are solved in full —
every suspect accounted for, every clue explained.

SOLUTION — BONUS FILE #01

Solved: The Blackout at the Meridian Museum

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Tomasz Rybak

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The case could only be opened with a key (E-intro). Claire's key was in her safe and Claire is on camera throughout (E4) — so the key that opened the case was the workshop copy. Its fresh scratches (E5), the restoration paste on the wiped fuse box (E1), and the car park log destroying his 9:15 departure (E6) all point to the same man.

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — BONUS FILE #01

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Rosa Delgado — CLEAR

Her log entries at 9:43 and 9:49 and the alarm company's recorded 9:45 call place her at the front desk for the whole blackout (E3). She also holds no Jewel Room key.

Henry Okafor — CLEAR

The battery-backed dock camera shows him on his ladder in the west wing at 9:44 p.m., mid-blackout, doing the job he described (E2).

Claire Beaumont — CLEAR

The museum's own recording shows her on a donor call, unbroken, 9:30–10:00 p.m., and her master key was in the office safe (E4).

Tomasz Rybak — GUILTY

He knew the building, he held a case key, and the evidence follows him: his trade's paste on the wiped fuse box (E1), fresh scratches on his returned key (E5), and a departure time fifty minutes later than he claimed (E6). He cut the power, opened the case with his copy key, and walked out after the gala crowd returned.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 20) — then take on the next file.

SOLUTION — BONUS FILE #02

Solved: The Last Reel at the Orpheum

Compare your worksheet before reading on.

THE CULPRIT

Sam Whitaker

THE DECIDING CHAIN:

The safe opens on its combination alone, and only two people ever had it (E1). The courier left before the show — so the combination that opened the safe was Whitaker's. His accounts alibi collapses twice over: no adding-machine entries after 8:47 p.m. (E4) and an unanswered office door at 9:15 p.m. (E5). And he had taken care to hear the combination repeated aloud at 7:50 p.m., for a form that does not exist (E6).

If your deciding clue matches — full marks, detective. If you named the right culprit for the wrong reason, the walkthrough on the next page shows the chain the evidence actually builds.

SOLUTION — BONUS FILE #02

The Walkthrough, Suspect by Suspect

Every verdict below rests on numbered evidence from the file — check each one against your worksheet.

Eddie Malone — CLEAR

Gracie Nolan collected a ticket stub from him at the booth window at 9:20 p.m., inside the theft window (E2). He never left the projector — and he never had the combination.

Vivian Cross — CLEAR

She was on stage for the whole of Act III, 9:02–9:31 p.m., in front of a full house (E3).

Gracie Nolan — CLEAR

She was in the lobby, seen by the stage-door keeper, until her 9:24 round — and she raised the alarm herself the moment she found the safe open. She never had the combination.

Sam Whitaker — GUILTY

The only person left who knew the combination (E1), with an empty office alibi (E4, E5) and a rehearsed reason to hear the combination spoken aloud before the show (E6). He slipped away mid-reel, opened the safe he himself had loaded, and returned to an office he had never been in.

Case closed. Record your result on your Detective Record (page 20) — then take on the next file.

YOUR SERVICE RECORD

The Detective Record

Keep score across both files. Honest scoring only — the department checks.

Bonus File #01 — The Blackout at the Meridian Museum

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

Bonus File #02 — The Last Reel at the Orpheum

Named the culprit: [ ] first try [ ] with a nudge from the walkthrough

Deciding clues found on my own

[ ] both [ ] one [ ] none — this time

RANKINGS:

- 2 out of 2, clues and all — Chief Inspector. The Cold Case Division requests your transfer.
- 2 out of 2 — Detective Sergeant. Sound instincts, well tested.
- 1 out of 2 — Detective Constable. One case beat you; the walkthroughs show where it turned.
- 0 out of 2 — Cadet. Every great detective started somewhere. Work the files again in a month.

However you scored: the full Cold Case Detective Studio holds 50 complete dossiers, and Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2 holds a whole library of detective puzzle books. The next two pages show you where to find them.

KEEP INVESTIGATING

Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2

The full detective puzzle library — $19

If these two files left you wanting more, Whodunit v2 is the main case library: a complete pack of detective puzzle books built on the same fair-play rules — suspects, alibis, evidence and deduction, with full solutions for every case.

- A whole library of murder-mystery and detective logic puzzles in one pack
- The Pro Unlimited edition expands the library to 20 books
- Print-ready US Letter PDFs — print a case, grab a pencil, and play anywhere
- Full solutions included for every puzzle

See the full pack — $19:

https://murdoku-v2-sales.pages.dev/

It is also the front door to the Pro Unlimited and DFY Publisher editions, if you ever want the biggest version of the library.

THE WHOLE VAULT

The Print Vault — All 5 Packs in One Bundle

Every printable pack in the studio, one download — $37

The Print Vault gathers the studio's five complete printable packs — 1,083 pages in total, including every bonus pack — for less than half their separate prices ($85 bought separately).

- Golden Years Activity Book — large-print puzzles, trivia and memory pages (222 pages + 41-page bonus)
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- Calm Mind Workbook Pack — evening wind-down worksheets and journals (201 pages + 40-page bonus)
- Plus the 42-page Print Vault Expansion pack

See the bundle — $37:

https://print-vault-sales.pages.dev/

Selling printables yourself? The Print Vault for Publishers edition adds a commercial license for KDP and Etsy sellers — details on the same page.

FROM THE SAME STUDIO

Complete Your Case Library

Everything lives on the Puzzle Pout Talon hub — one shelf, every pack.

Cold Case Detective Studio — $17

The 50-dossier original this bonus pack belongs to: fifty complete cold case files with deduction grids and full solutions.

https://cold-case-studio.pages.dev/

Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2 — $19

The detective puzzle library described on page 21.

https://murdoku-v2-sales.pages.dev/

The Print Vault Bundle — $37

All five printable packs plus bonuses — 1,083 pages (page 22).

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The Print Vault Sampler — $7

Taste all five packs first: 12 real pages from each, 68 pages in all.

https://print-vault-sampler-sales.pages.dev/

The hub — every pack, one page

New packs land here first, alongside free bonus case files for list members.

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COLOPHON

About This Pack

Cold Case — Bonus Case Files (PP-COLDBONUS-01) is a bonus companion to Cold Case Detective Studio, created as the checkout companion pack for that title. Both cases in this volume are original works written for this pack; any resemblance to real people or events is coincidental. All suspects are fictional — the sapphire and the necklace, regrettably, are too.

PRINTING: US Letter (8.5 × 11 in), print-ready. Print any page as often as you like for your own use — the deduction worksheets especially. Please do not share or resell the digital PDF file itself.

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Thank you for keeping the Cold Case Division in business, detective.