

# MURDLE

 *Volume 1* 

100 ELEMENTARY TO IMPOSSIBLE  
MYSTERIES TO SOLVE USING LOGIC, SKILL,  
AND THE POWER OF DEDUCTION

•••• **G. T. KARBER** ••••



ST. MARTIN'S  
GRIFFIN  
NEW YORK

*For Dan & Dani*

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# HOW TO SOLVE

Welcome to *Murdle: Volume 1*, the official publication of the case files of the world's greatest mystery-solving mind, Deductive Logico.

Unlike other memoirs of the crime-fighting life, these murdles are not mere tales, but puzzles for you to solve. And all you need to crack these cases is a sharp pencil and an even sharper mind.

To prove it, let's review Deductive Logico's very first case, which he cracked as a junior at Deduction College. The student body president had been murdered, and Logico was certain one of three people had done it:



**MAYOR HONEY**

He knows where the bodies are buried, and he makes sure they always vote for him.

**6'0" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • LIGHT BROWN HAIR**



**DEAN GLAUCOUS**

The dean of some such-and-such department at Deduction College. What does he do? Well, he handles the money, for one . . .

**5'6" • RIGHT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • LIGHT BROWN HAIR**



**CHANCELLOR  
TUSCANY**

As the head of Deduction College, she has deduced exactly how much rich parents are willing to pay to get their children a degree in logic.

**5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLOND HAIR**

**G. T. KARBER**

Young Logico also knew that each of them was in one of these places and had one of these weapons.



**THE STADIUM**  
OUTDOORS

The field features the absolute highest quality fake grass money can buy.



**THE BOOKSTORE**  
INDOORS

The biggest money-maker on campus. A sign offers a 2-for-\$500 deal on textbooks.



**OLD MAIN**  
INDOORS

The first building on campus and the least maintained. Paint is peeling off the wall!



**A SHARP PENCIL**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

Back then, they used actual lead. One stab and you'd die from lead poisoning.



**A HEAVY BACKPACK**  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

Finally, a practical use for all those logic textbooks (hitting people with them).



**A GRADUATION CORD**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

It would be a high academic honor to be strangled by one of these.

Now, Logico knew that he could not make assumptions just from reading these descriptions! Sometimes mayors wore heavy backpacks, and sometimes teachers went to the stadium. No, the way to figure out who had what where was by studying the clues and evidence.













These were the facts he knew to be absolutely, perfectly true:

## MURDLE VOL:1

### CLUES & EVIDENCE

- Whoever was in the stadium was right-handed.
- The suspect with the sharp pencil resented the person at Old Main.
- The suspect with a graduation cord had beautiful hazel eyes.
- Dean Glaucous seemed to carry a lot of logic textbooks around.
- **The body was found next to peeling paint.**

And finally, he pulled out his detective's notebook and meticulously drew a grid, labeling each column and row with a picture representing each of the characters, weapons, and locations.

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS							
							
							
LOCATIONS							
							
							

The locations were listed twice—once on top, and once on the side—so that every square represented a unique potential pairing.

This tool—the deduction grid—was a powerful technology taught at Deduction College. It can help clarify your thoughts and identify the possible conclusions you

can make.

But never before had it been used to solve a murder! In Deduction College, they apply logic only to the realm of the purely abstract. If all Xs

**G. T. KARBER**













are Ys and all Ys are Zs—that kind of thing. What Logico was doing here was new, exciting, and dangerous!

Once he drew his deduction grid, he had arrived at his favorite part: the deducing! He went down the list of clues, and put each of them into his grid.

The first clue is: **Whoever was in the stadium was right-handed.**

According to Logico's notes on the suspects, only Dean Glaucous was right-handed. Therefore, Dean Glaucous was at the stadium.

Logico marked that down on his grid:













		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS							
							
							
LOCATIONS			✓				
							
							

But that was not all Logico learned from that clue.

If Dean Glaucous was at the stadium, then he wasn't at the bookstore or Old Main, and since only one suspect was at each location, neither Chancellor Tuscany nor Mayor Honey were at the stadium.

Logico represented this on his grid with Xs:

## MURDLE VOL:1

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS							
							
							
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				













This illustrates a principle: When you identify somebody's location or their weapon, you can cross out every other possibility in that row and column.

Logico moved on to the next clue: **The suspect with the sharp pencil resented the person at Old Main.**

It seems like this clue is telling us about personal relationships. But Logico was only concerned with facts. And the only fact this clue told him was that the suspect with the sharp pencil and the suspect at Old Main were two separate people. Therefore, *the sharp pencil was not at Old Main.*

And so, Logico marked that down in his deduction grid, too:

G. T. KARBER

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS							X
							
							
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				













Then, he moved on to the next clue: **The suspect with a graduation cord had beautiful hazel eyes.**

He ignored the part about the eyes being beautiful and focused on what he thought was important: only Mayor Honey had hazel eyes. Therefore, Mayor Honey had the graduation cord.

And again, Logico could cross out the entire row and column! After all, if Mayor Honey has the graduation cord, then neither Chancellor Tuscany nor Dean Glaucous have it. And since each suspect has only one weapon, Mayor Honey can't have the heavy backpack or the sharp pencil.

Logico moved on to the next clue: **Dean Glaucous seemed to carry a lot of logic textbooks around.**

Now, what does that mean? Logic textbooks aren't one of the weapons! But, if you read the descriptions of each weapon, you'll notice that the heavy backpack's says, "Finally, a practical use













		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X					X
		X					
		✓	X	X			
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				

## MURDLE VOL:1

for all those logic textbooks (hitting people with them).” If Dean Glaucous was carrying a lot of logic textbooks around, he was using the backpack to do it!

You don’t have to make leaps of logic in these puzzles: everything you need to know clearly appears in the descriptions. Is it possible that Dean Glaucous was carrying logic books around without a heavy backpack? Not to Deductive Logico!

Logico marked down that Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack, and he crossed off the other possibilities in that row and column. Once he did that, Logico smiled. If Mayor Honey had the graduation cord and Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack, Chancellor Tuscany must have had the sharp pencil:

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X	X	✓			X
		X	✓	X			
		✓	X	X			
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				

And now, Logico arrived at the final clue: **The body was found next to peeling paint.**












This last clue is special. It doesn’t tell you who has what weapon where—it tells you about the murder itself!

By consulting his notes, Logico knew that this clue meant the murder had been

committed in Old Main, because the description of Old Main mentions peeling paint. But whodunit?

This next step is the key to solving all the murder mysteries that appear in this book: Chancellor Tuscany had the sharp pencil. The sharp pencil is not at Old Main. Therefore, *Chancellor Tuscany could not be at Old Main.*

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		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS	
						
WEAPONS		X	X	✓	X	
		X	✓	X		
		✓	X	X		
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X		
			X			
			X	X		

Therefore, Chancellor Tuscani is at the bookstore, since it was the only remaining location. And since she had the sharp pencil, the sharp pencil must have been at the bookstore, too.












Logico marked this on his deduction grid and crossed off the other boxes in each row and column. And from there, he de-

duced that Mayor Honey was at Old Main:

Therefore, Mayor Honey must be the murderer!

Sometimes, you can figure out whodunit without filling in the entire grid. But Logico always filled it in completely, partly to make sure he hadn't made a mistake, and partly because he enjoyed it.













Since Mayor Honey was at Old

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS	
						
WEAPONS		X	X	✓	X	X
		X	✓	X		
		✓	X	X		
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X		
		X	X	✓		
		✓	X	X		

Main with the graduation cord, the graduation cord must have been at Old Main. And since Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack and was at

## MURDLE VOL:1

the stadium, the heavy backpack was at the stadium, too.

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X	X	✓	X	✓	X
		X	✓	X	✓	X	X
		✓	X	X	X	X	✓
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
		X	X	✓			
		✓	X	X			

So satisfying! Logico thought, as he looked at his completed grid. He was so happy with the work he had done. And, confident in his deductions, he marched down to the chancellor's office where he confidently declared: **"It was Mayor Honey with the graduation cord at Old Main!"**

Chancellor Tuscany was impressed with his hard work, and she gave him an A-plus. Mayor Honey, however, was able to win reelection in a landslide, thanks to his populist tirades against the tyranny of logic.

And that is how young Logico became Deductive Logico, and how he first applied the theories of his college education to the problems of the real world. When he graduated, he moved to the city, and he began to offer his services as the only deductive detective in the business.

This book contains one hundred mysteries that Deductive Logico was able to solve using these techniques and others. Because logic is a many-splendored thing, there are always new techniques to learn and new deductions to make.

If you get stuck, do not despair! You can flip to the back of the book for a hint. And when you're ready to make your accusation, flip even farther back to the answers to see if you're right.

If you need more help, or want to solve more mysteries with others, then join the Detective Club at [Murdle.com](http://Murdle.com). Otherwise, you're on your own!

Good luck, gumshoe!

# EXHIBIT A



## MEMBERSHIP CARD & PIN

This card and fedora pin confirm Logico's membership (#6KLM) in the Detectives Club.



## SECRET DECODER RING

A mechanical device for reading and writing in Detective Code:

### DECODED

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

### ENCODED



## MAGNIFYING GLASS

Logico uses this to find clues and to read the fine print. Made with crystal from Emerald Industries.



## VHS TAPE AND BOOK

A mystery tape from Midnight Movies and a novel by Dame Obsidian. Plus a Detectives Club bookmark.



## CUP OF COFFEE

The perfect fuel for solving armchair mysteries. The cup once belonged to General Coffee himself!

# THE CONTENTS OF DEDUCTIVE LOGICO'S DETECTIVE KIT

# ELEMENTARY

During the course of the following twenty-five mysteries, Deductive Logico's life was forever changed. He went from being a fresh-faced student, straight out of Deduction College, to the grizzled deductive he is today.

He learned things he had never suspected, and he saw things he would never forget.

Thankfully, he always carried with him his deductive wits and his Detective Kit (Exhibit A, seen to the left). So no matter how confusing his cases became, he could always figure them out.

Can you? Study the suspects, weapons, and locations. Read the clues carefully. Make your deductions. And finally, determine whodunit, with what, and where?

Some of you may find these first twenty-five mysteries *too* elementary (particularly those of you with degrees from a certified Deduction College).

If that's the case, then take the Detective Club's Elementary, My Dear Challenge: see *how fast* you can solve all twenty-five elementary murder mysteries *without getting a single one wrong*. Our current record, set by a member of the club prior to this book's publication, is thirty-two minutes.

Can you beat it?

# 1. MURDER IN HOLLYWOOD 🔍

When Deductive Logico was invited to a fancy dinner party at a mansion in the Hollywood Hills, he thought he had finally made it. Unfortunately, he was not the guest of honor: he was there to solve the murder of the guest of honor.

## SUSPECTS



**THE AMAZING  
AUREOLIN**

A magician who perfected the sawing-your-husband-in-two routine. Then, she made his body disappear.

5'6" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLOND HAIR



**MIDNIGHT III**

The grandson of the founder of Midnight Movies and a self-described self-made man.

5'8" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • DARK BROWN HAIR



**DAME OBSIDIAN**

A mystery writer whose books have sold more copies than the Bible and Shakespeare combined.

5'4" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLACK HAIR

## LOCATIONS



**THE ENORMOUS  
BATHROOM**

OUTDOORS

A bathroom that is bigger than Deductive Logico's house.



**THE BEDROOM**  
INDOORS

A California king-sized bed, unmade, stands in a spotless white room.



**THE SCREENING  
ROOM**

OUTDOORS

Red velvet seats and a popcorn machine make this the ultimate screening experience.

## WEAPONS



**A FORK**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

Actually a lot more gruesome than a knife, if you think about it.



**AN ALUMINUM PIPE**

MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Safer than lead, unless it hits you in the head.















**A HEAVY CANDLE**

MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Heavy enough to kill, and yet it lightens the room.

## CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The Amazing Aureolin trusted the suspect who brought a fork.
- Midnight III was still brandishing an aluminum pipe when Logico arrived.
- A heavy candle was not found in the bedroom.
- Dame Obsidian was found hiding beneath red velvet seats.
- **The body was found inside a marble tub.**

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS			
								
WEAPONS								_____
								_____
								_____
LOCATIONS								_____
								_____
								_____

**WHO?**

**WHAT?**

**WHERE?**

## 2. AND THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE 🔍

Deductive Logico was thrilled when he heard an old man had been killed on a secluded island. Of course, that was bad, but Logico had always wanted to solve one of those secluded island murders, and this was his big chance.



**SIGNOR  
EMERALD**

An Italian jeweler of great renown, Signor Emerald has traveled the world in search of rare, precious stones, which are always falling out of his pockets.

5'8" • LEFT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • BLACK HAIR



**FATHER MANGO**

He has taken a vow of poverty, but he drives a BMW. He's taken a vow of obedience, but he has a staff of twenty-five. He's taken a vow of chastity, too, which is why he's on vacation.

5'10" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • BALD



**MISS SAFFRON**

Gorgeous and charming, but maybe not all there in the brains department. Or maybe that's what she wants you to think. Or maybe she wants you to think that's what she wants you to think.

5'2" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • BLOND HAIR

### LOCATIONS



**THE CLIFFS  
OUTDOORS**

A long drop, but maybe the jagged rocks would break your fall.



**THE ANCIENT  
RUINS**

OUTDOORS

Some old standing stones with strange glyphs carved on them.



**THE DOCKS  
OUTDOORS**

Old, rotten docks that have certainly seen better days. Look out for sharks!

## WEAPONS



**A BEAR TRAP**  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

If you think it's too gruesome to use on a person, just think how the bears feel!



**AN ORDINARY BRICK**

MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Just a regular, ordinary brick. Nothing special. Just a brick.



**A HARPOON**  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

You could kill a fish with this. Or, honestly, you could kill anything with it.

## CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The suspect who brought an ordinary brick was a parishioner of Father Mango's.
- Miss Saffron had a bear trap in her purse.
- The suspect whose family's company produced Logico's magnifying glass was on the cliffs. (See Exhibit A.)
- The ancient ruins seemed to hypnotize the hazel eyes of the suspect standing beside them.
- **By the time Logico got there, the old man's body had been nibbled on by sharks.**

### SUSPECTS

### LOCATIONS



WEAPONS



LOCATIONS







**WHO?**













**WHAT?**

**WHERE?**

## EXHIBIT B

<u>SIGN</u>		<u>ELEMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>
ARIES		FIRE	MAR 21 - APRIL 19
TAURUS		EARTH	APRIL 20 - MAY 20
GEMINI		AIR	MAY 21 - JUNE 21
CANCER		WATER	JUNE 22 - JULY 22
LEO		FIRE	JULY 23 - AUG 22
VIRGO		EARTH	AUG 23 - SEP 22
LIBRA		AIR	SEP 23 - OCT 22
SCORPIO		WATER	OCT 23 - NOV 21
SAGITTARIUS		FIRE	NOV 22 - DEC 21
CAPRICORN		EARTH	DEC 22 - JAN 19
AQUARIUS		AIR	JAN 20 - FEB 18
PISCES		WATER	FEB 19 - MAR 20

### OTHER ALCHEMICAL SYMBOLS

MERCURY		BRIMSTONE		HEMATITE	
IRON		OIL		NITER	
EARTH		FIRE		RADIUM	
URANUS		DISSOLVE		YEAST	

# INSPECTOR IRRATINO'S ASTROLOGICAL PRIMER

# OCCULT MEDIUM

Over the next twenty-five mysteries, Deductive Logico investigated some of the strangest phenomena in all the world, including astrology, alchemy, and aliens. But one thing remained the same: wherever Logico went, murder seemed to follow.

To help untangle the high strangeness of the next twenty-five puzzles, Logico was aided by this Astrological and Alchemical Primer (Exhibit B, seen to the left), which provided him with the key information he needed to solve these often unsettling cases.

Logico didn't believe in the occult, but he also didn't believe in turning down free help, because the mysteries were getting harder, too.

In these mysteries, you must examine the statements of the suspects, in addition to the clues and evidence. This can be rather confusing, but fortunately, you can count on this:

**The murderer will always lie, and the other suspects will always tell the truth.**

Sometimes, you'll be able to spot the lie right away. Other times, you might need to think through the logic of what one person lying would mean. Other times, you may need to test every suspect, to see if it's possible for them to be lying while everyone else is telling the truth.

The one and only liar will always be the murderer.

For those who want it to be even harder, feel free to take the Detective Club's All in the Mind Challenge: try to solve each of the following twenty-five puzzles without using a pencil, working entirely in your head, and without getting a single accusation wrong.

Prior to publication, we couldn't find a single detective who could. Can you?

## 36. A CRUISE TO DIE FOR 🔍

Deductive Logico was excited they were taking a cruise, but it turned out it was on a cargo ship in the Bermuda Triangle. When the first mate died, Irratino was ecstatic. Finally, proof of the paranormal!

### SUSPECTS



**MX. TANGERINE**

Proving that non-binary people can be murderers, too, they are an artist, poet, and suspect.

5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • BLOND HAIR • PISCES



**ADMIRAL NAVY**

The firstborn son of an Admiral Navy who himself was the firstborn son of an Admiral Navy.

5'9" • RIGHT-HANDED • BLUE EYES • LIGHT BROWN HAIR •  
CANCER



**CAPTAIN SLATE**

A real-life astronaut. The first woman to travel around the dark side of the moon, and also the first to be suspected of murdering her copilot.

5'9" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • DARK BROWN HAIR  
• AQUARIUS

### LOCATIONS



**THE CAPTAIN'S  
QUARTERS**

INDOORS

Covered in posters of the captain's favorite waves.



**THE CARGO  
HOLD**

INDOORS

Millions of pounds of cargo, mostly cheap electronics and fast fashion.



**OVERBOARD**  
OUTDOORS

Here you might get murdered by the sharks, too.

## WEAPONS



**POISONED RUM**  
MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Yo ho ho and a bottle of arsenic.



**A SAILOR'S ROPE**  
MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Fraying into little white fibers.



**A FLARE**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

Wow, your inner blaxons are really off the chart!

## CLUES & EVIDENCE

- Much to his embarrassment, Admiral Navy had to call for help when he went overboard.
- The other person just as tall as Mx. Tangerine was seen playing with a flare.

## STATEMENTS

(Remember: The murderer is lying. The others are telling the truth.)

**Mx. Tangerine:** I was not in the cargo hold.

**Admiral Navy:** A sailor's rope was in the captain's quarters.

**Captain Slate:** What do you want me to say? I was in the captain's quarters.













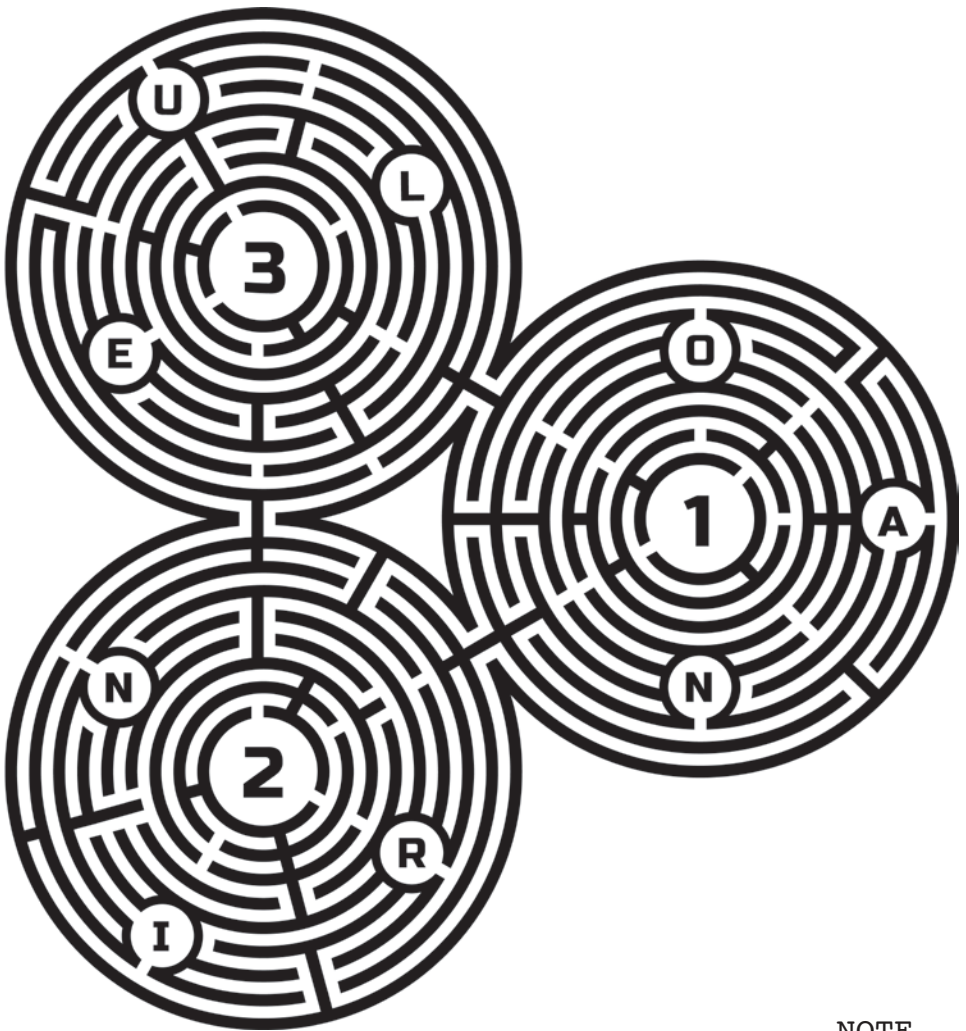
		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS				
									
WEAPONS								_____	<b>WHO?</b>
								_____	<b>WHAT?</b>
								_____	<b>WHERE?</b>
LOCATIONS									
									
									

EXHIBIT C



NOTE

All letters have been  
transliterated into  
modern script.

**A LABYRINTH ENGRAVED  
ON THE ANCIENT RUINS**

# HARD BOILED

## **Deductive Logico had lost everything.**

His friend, his rival, his maybe something more. His source of funds.

With Inspector Irratino gone, he was alone against the world. But he was a man with a mission, too. And he wasn't going to let anything get in the way of it.

In these twenty-five mysteries, he pushed himself to the limit to solve the riddle of Irratino's murder. There were more suspects, but he stopped getting their statements. He tried to get inside their heads instead.

In these mysteries, you have to find not only who, what, and where each murder was committed, but why, too. **Everybody has a possible motive, but only one of them is guilty.**

Logico had never cared about motives before, but Irratino had. Maybe this was his way of keeping him around. Or maybe he now just saw everyone as a potential killer.

He was a man on a mission. He had to figure out what these ancient ruins were, what the symbols stamped upon them meant (Exhibit C, seen to the left), and what they had to do with Irratino's killing.

Because he knew Sir Rulean was just a tool of a larger conspiracy. Someone behind him, someone else was calling the shots. And Logico was going to find that person.

And when he found that person, he was going to get revenge.

The Detective Club Challenge for these mysteries is to figure out what the ancient ruins truly are before Logico does. Can you do it?

# 51. THE GRAVE DEATH AT THE GRAVEYARD 🔍🔍🔍

Deductive Logico could not believe that Irratino was really dead. But he had seen him die, and he had seen him be buried, and there was really no denying it now. He was dead. And so, it turned out, was the parson who was supposed to speak at his funeral.

## SUSPECTS



**ASTROLOGER  
AZURE**

A stargazer, full of wonder and questions about the exact time and place of your birth.

5'6" • RIGHT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • LIGHT  
BROWN HAIR • CANCER



**EARL GREY**

He comes from a long line of Earl Greys. Yes, of the tea. No, he doesn't sign autographs. But he'll give you a free bag if you ask.

5'9" • RIGHT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES •  
WHITE HAIR • CAPRICORN



**MX. TANGERINE**

Proving that non-binary people can be murderers, too, they are a gravedigger, pallbearer, and suspect.

5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • BLOND HAIR  
• PISCES



**CRYPTOZOOL-  
GIST CLOUD**

He knows every sighting of the Jersey Devil, Mothman, and Boggy Creek Monster, and also what the difference is.

5'7" • RIGHT-HANDED • GRAY EYES • WHITE HAIR  
• SCORPIO

## LOCATIONS



### THE WEIRD SHACK

INDOORS

A wooden shack in the corner of the graveyard that you just know contains a secret.



### THE GIFT SHOP

OUTDOORS

You can buy little knickknack gravestones or a plushie of their mascot, Mr. Skull.



### THE HUGE MAUSOLEUM

INDOORS

The rich members of a single family get this pyramid-shaped tomb.



### THE ENTRANCE GATE

OUTDOORS

A giant wrought-iron gate with just the right amount of rust for ominous vibes.

## WEAPONS



### A CAULDRON

HEAVY-WEIGHT • MADE OF METAL

If you can pick it up, you can hit someone with it. Or you can just give them a sip.



### A GHOST DETECTOR

MEDIUM-WEIGHT • MADE OF METAL & TECH

It's not great at detecting ghosts, but it's pretty good at electrocuting people.



### A BROOM

MEDIUM-WEIGHT • MADE OF WOOD &  
STRAW

People say that witches fly on these, but Logico's only swept with them.



### A SKELETON ARM

MEDIUM-WEIGHT • MADE OF BONE

Cause the death of a person with the bones of a person who's dead.

## MOTIVES



TO ROB THE VICTIM



TO SEE IF THEY COULD



TO HIDE AN AFFAIR



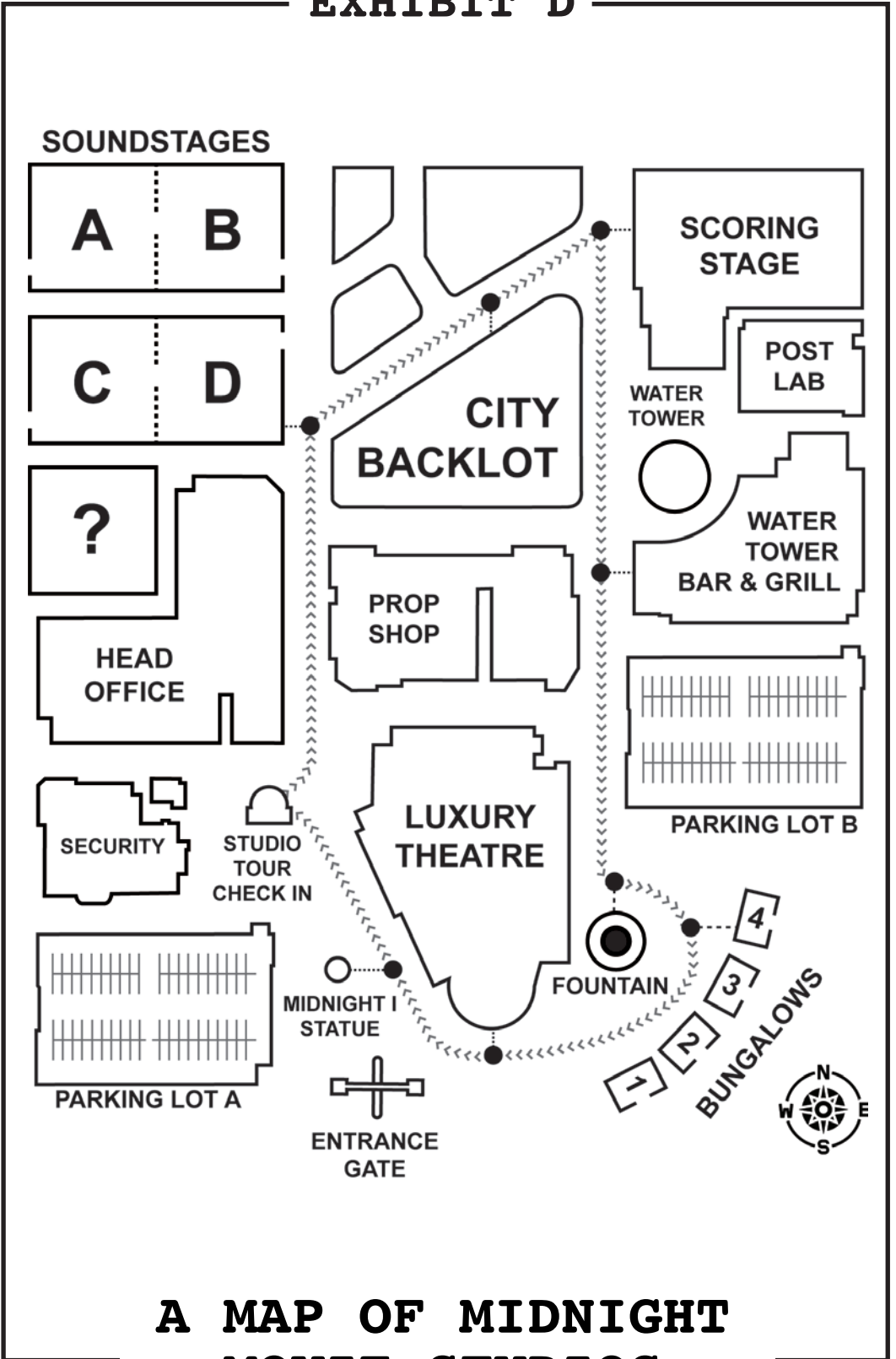
TO STEAL A BODY

## CLUES & EVIDENCE

- Astrologer Azure did not bring a broom.
- Earl Grey would not kill to see if he could, nor to hide an affair.
- A ghost detector was discovered wedged between wrought-iron bars.
- Logico found a single broom bristle next to a plush skeleton.
- The person waving around a skeleton arm was trying desperately to hide their affair.
- Mx. Tangerine had always wanted to steal a body. Maybe tonight was the night?
- The person lugging the cauldron around wanted to rob the parson.
- Cryptozoologist Cloud was seen poking around in the weird shack.
- **The body was found inside a giant pyramid.**



# EXHIBIT D



# IMPOSSIBLE

## **Deductive Logico retired from detective work.**

Revenge had driven him through the last twenty-five mysteries, but when he had solved them all, he had learned that the person he wanted revenge for and the person he wanted revenge on were the exact same person. And so, he gave up detective work and began to focus on purely logical problems, like how many sides a triangle could have before it became a square.

But then, one day, he received a call from a former suspect: Midnight III, the heir to Midnight Movies, the oldest independent studio in Hollywood. (Their facilities can be seen in the map to the left, presented as Exhibit D.)

“Would you be interested in making *Murdle: The Movie*?” he asked.

Logico was unsure. Not only was he retired from mysteries, he had never loved mystery movies anyway, because they never stopped to give you time to think.

“Never mind if it’s a good idea,” Midnight III said, “let me tell you what it pays.”

Logico listened, heard, and immediately agreed.

But when he went to Hollywood, he found that it was more isolating than an island, more confusing than a hedge maze, and more surprising than a *Dame Obsidian* novel. He found himself confronted with mysteries that seemed almost impossible.

Can you use everything you’ve learned until now to solve these final twenty-five impossible mysteries? And if you’re looking for an even harder challenge, try to solve the real Hollywood mystery: Why are so many movies so bad?

## 76. HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD! 🔍🔍🔍

When Logico arrived in Hollywood, he struggled to get his bearings. And once he had his bearings, he struggled to solve a murder: a Hollywood historian had been made history.

### SUSPECTS



**EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCER STEEL**

The richest, smartest, and meanest producer in Hollywood. For now.

5'6" • RIGHT-HANDED • GRAY EYES • WHITE HAIR  
• ARIES



**HACK BLAXTON**

He's one of the best paid writers in Hollywood, and one of the worst.

6'0" • RIGHT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES •  
BALD • SAGITTARIUS



**SUPERFAN  
SMOKY**

He knows the shooting locations of every Mid-night mystery, but not how to make friends.

5'10" • LEFT-HANDED • BLACK EYES • DARK  
BROWN HAIR • VIRGO



**BACKGROUND  
MARENGO**

You'll never remember her, which is why she's a good extra, and a great murderer.

5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • DARK  
BROWN HAIR • GEMINI

## LOCATIONS



### MIDNIGHT MOVIE STUDIOS

INDOORS

Once the biggest studio in Hollywood. They're producing *Murdle: The Movie*, which might turn things around.



### THE GREAT PARK

OUTDOORS

Actually named after a murderer (look it up), so we'll just call it the Great Park.



### THE ARGYLE TALENT AGENCY

INDOORS

The most powerful institution in Hollywood history that doesn't control the water supply.



### THE MAGIC PALACE

INDOORS

A magicians-only nightclub. To Logico, this place is famous mostly for its murders.

## WEAPONS



### A BOTOX NEEDLE

LIGHT-WEIGHT • MADE OF PLASTIC & TOXINS

Botox is a poison, which means it could be used as a weapon.



### A FILM STRIP

LIGHT-WEIGHT • MADE OF PLASTIC

Ironically, this film strip depicts a man being strangled.



### A GOLF CLUB

MEDIUM-WEIGHT • MADE OF METAL

Studio executives work hard, too. Look at all the business golf they do.



### AN AWARD

MEDIUM-WEIGHT • MADE OF METAL

An incredibly prestigious Hollywood award.

## MOTIVES



TO PROVE THEY'RE  
TOUGH



TO GET THEIR MOVIE  
MADE



TO HELP SELL A SCRIPT



TO BREAK INTO THE  
INDUSTRY

## CLUES & EVIDENCE

- Superfan Smoky wanted to break into the Industry.
- Background Marengo wanted to get her movie made. (Good luck!)
- The suspect who wanted to prove they're tough was outdoors.
- Forensics found a drop of Botox in the most powerful non-water-related institution in town.
- Executive Producer Steel would never ever want to help sell a script.
- Hack Blaxton had a grudge against the person who had the golf club.
- The award was held by someone who was right-handed.
- Logico was handed a scrambled message by one of the historian's fellow academics: RWOHVEE WAS NI HTE AIGMC ACLAPE ADH A MIMDEU HIEWGT AWNPOE.

## STATEMENTS

(Remember: The murderer is lying. The others are telling the truth.)

**Executive Producer Steel:** Superfan Smoky did not bring a golf club.

**Hack Blaxton:** Picture it: Background Marengo was in the Argyle Talent Agency.

**Superfan Smoky:** Oh, wow! A film strip was at the Midnight Movie Studios.

**Background Marengo:** Ooh! A golf club was in the Great Park.

SUSPECTS

MOTIVES

LOCATIONS



WEAPONS

LOCATIONS

MOTIVES




\_\_\_\_\_ WHO?

\_\_\_\_\_ WHAT?

\_\_\_\_\_ WHERE?

\_\_\_\_\_ WHY?

# HINTS

1. While Deductive Logico was investigating the case, the phone in the mansion rang. When he answered it, a confident voice said, “I just cast some runes, Logico, and they said that Dame Obsidian ate with a fork.” Before Logico could ask who they were, they hung up.
2. Logico found a message in a bottle. He opened it and found a letter addressed to him! It read, “Logico, the stars are clear: a torn-out clump of bear fur was in the ancient ruins.”
3. One piece was just a page of computer paper taped to the wall, and it read, “Logico! Our mediums say an abstract statue was next to a pigeon.” At least he understood what this one was saying.
4. Logico received a strange message via telegraph. Once he had cracked the morse code, he saw that it said, “Ley lines reveal. Stop. VP Mauve. Stop. Beside steam engine. Stop.”
5. On a lark, Deductive Logico checked his own chart, and he found a weird message that read, “Logico! I had a vision of Dr. Crimson standing on the roof!” Who were these from?
6. Logico didn’t need to rely on a spooky occult message this time—he saw with his own two eyes that Cosmonaut Bluski was standing right next to the awesome dragon mural.

## MURDLE VOL:1

7. A delivery boy arrived and handed Logico a note that simply read, "I stared into a flame and scryed for the truth, and here it is: the deacon had the shears!"
8. The backup butler handed Logico a note which read: "Based on a card I drew from the marot (the murder tarot), Sir Rulean had an antique clock."
9. When Logico was lost in the maze, he looked up and saw that someone had sky-written a message in the clouds: "Lavender swam in the fountain!" Whoever was leaving these messages had real resources behind them.
10. Written in fog on the bathroom mirror was a message that read, "According to my political dowsing rod, the corner booth had a communist in it."
11. The phone rang, and the assistant barista called him over. A spooky voice on the other end whispered, "According to Nostradamus, the guy with the Bookie had a brick, too."
12. Logico went for a walk to clear his head, and he saw graffiti on the street that said, "The signs are clear: Captain Slate was in the rare books room."
13. Somebody had scribbled a note in the margins near the end: "Corporal Coffee had a stabbin' knife." Logico was upset that someone was writing in the book, but the hint was helpful.
14. Scribbled on the copyright page was a note: "Baron Maroon was the first member of the Investigation Institute."
15. Logico flipped to the back of the book and found that someone had

# SOLUTIONS

## 1. “It was The Amazing Aureolin with a heavy candle in the enormous bathroom!”

The Amazing Aureolin kept proclaiming her innocence, but she couldn't resist Deductive Logico's arguments. He was demonstrably correct.

She all but confessed when she declared, “No cell can hold me!”

**The Amazing Aureolin | a heavy candle | the enormous bathroom**

Midnight III | an aluminum pipe | the bedroom

Dame Obsidian | a fork | the screening room

## 2. “It was Father Mango with a harpoon in the docks!”

At first, Father Mango argued. Then he swore. Then he cursed. Finally he admitted defeat, saying, “How could you do this to such a holy man of God?”

Miss Saffron | a bear trap | the ancient ruins

Signor Emerald | an ordinary brick | the cliffs

**Father Mango | a harpoon | the docks**

## 3. “It was Captain Slate with a glass of poisoned wine in the entry hall!”

Logico really enjoyed explaining the precise details of the murder, because it was clear what they meant.

As Captain Slate realized she was going down, she muttered, “I

should have stayed in space . . .”

**Captain Slate** | a glass of poisoned wine | the entry hall  
Bishop Azure | an abstract statue | the rooftop garden  
Blackstone, Esq. | a rare vase | an art studio

**4. “It was Chef Aubergine with an imported Italian knife in the caboose!”**

Chef Aubergine stood up angrily, and she was just about to say, “I should have cooked you, Deductive Logico!” when the train—having had no conductor this entire time—flew off the tracks and into a gorge.

Vice President Mauve | a rolled-up newspaper (with a crowbar inside) | the locomotive  
**Chef Aubergine** | an imported Italian knife | the caboose  
Philosopher Bone | leather luggage | on the roof

**5. “It was Officer Copper with a vial of acid in the parking lot!”**

Officer Copper did not enjoy being accused of the murder she had just committed, so she immediately leapt to her feet and declared, “I am a police officer! I am above the law!”

**Officer Copper** | a vial of acid | the parking lot  
Dr. Crimson | a heavy microscope | on the roof  
Sister Lapis | a surgical scalpel | the gift shop

**6. “It was General Coffee with piano wire in the dumpster!”**

General Coffee didn’t bother protesting his innocence. He simply flashed his government papers and excused himself. He had been told to do a job, and he did it. “End of story.”

But Logico had found a note in the dead man’s pocket. It read, “She moved the body in the Hollywood mansion.” And if that were true, if