FREE GIFT - QUA TANG MIEN PHI

The Missing Regatta Cup

A Mini Whodunit Case

A complete mini mystery in five pages: one stolen trophy, three suspects, one locked cabinet - and every clue you need to solve it yourself. Read the case, study the evidence, name the thief... then check the solution.

ABOUT THIS GIFT

This mini case is a free gift - item GF-WHODUNIT-MINI-01. The full collection is PP-WHODUNIT-V2-FE: Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2, with 100 ready-to-print mystery puzzles and full answer keys. Day la qua tang mien phi. Bo day du la san pham PP-WHODUNIT-V2-FE.

The Case of the Vanished Cup

Willow Lake, a Saturday in June. The Willow Lake Regatta Cup - a heavy brass trophy, sixty years old - sits in a glass-fronted cabinet inside Tom Harlan's boathouse, exactly where it has sat every summer since Harlan was a boy.

At 5:00 PM, the cleaner wiped the boathouse floor dry and left. At 6:00 PM, Harlan checked the cabinet himself: the cup was there, the cabinet locked. At 7:05 PM he came back with the regatta committee - and the cabinet stood open and empty.

Nothing was broken. The cabinet lock was clean and undamaged. Whoever took the cup opened it politely, with a key, sometime between 6:00 and 7:00 PM.

Only three other people were anywhere near the boathouse that evening. Their statements - and the physical evidence - are on the next page. One of the three is lying. Can you work out who, and how?

Suspects and Evidence

MARA VOSS, 41 - rowing coach

"I was out on the lake in my single scull from six until seven. I never came ashore at the boathouse."

DENNY PARK, 35 - groundskeeper

"I locked the boathouse at half past six and went straight home. I never took my work skiff out at all that day."

SOFIA LINDT, 52 - antique dealer

"I waited on the dock from quarter past six. I collect brass - yes, I offered to buy that cup last month, and Harlan refused. But I never set foot inside."

THE EVIDENCE

1. THE KEYS. Only two keys fit the cabinet: Harlan's, which never left his cottage, and the groundskeeper's spare key.

2. THE ROWER. Two fishermen, anchored mid-lake, saw Mara Voss rowing far out on the water at 6:45 PM. Her scull never came near the boathouse dock.

3. THE PORCH. Mrs. Abernathy sat on her porch from 6:10 to 7:00 with a clear view of the boathouse's LAND-side door. Sofia stood on the dock in plain sight. Nobody entered by the land door.

4. THE WATER DOOR. The boathouse also has a door on the water side, out of the porch's sight. It was found unlatched, with a fresh scrape of green paint on its frame.

5. THE SKIFF. At 7:30 PM, Denny Park's green work skiff - which he said he never took out - was found tied up dripping wet, a coil of wet rope in the bottom.

Stop here and decide: who took the cup, and how? The solution is on the next page.

The Solution

STEP 1 - FOLLOW THE KEY. The cabinet was opened with a key and left undamaged. Harlan's key never left his cottage. The only other key in the world belongs to the groundskeeper - Denny Park.

STEP 2 - CLEAR THE ROWING COACH. Mara Voss has no key, and two independent witnesses place her mid-lake at 6:45 PM. She never came ashore. Not Mara.

STEP 3 - CLEAR THE DEALER. Sofia Lindt has no key either, and she stood in plain sight of a witness for the whole hour. The land door was watched. Not Sofia - however much she wanted the cup.

STEP 4 - THE DOOR NOBODY WATCHED. The water-side door was unlatched, freshly scraped with green paint. Someone came and went by boat - quietly, while every eye was on the dock.

STEP 5 - THE WET SKIFF. Denny swore he never took his skiff out. At 7:30 it was dripping wet. He came across the water with his spare key in his pocket, took the cup, and planned to sell it to the very dealer who had been refused - Sofia's standing offer was his motive, and her presence his cover.

THE CUP WAS TAKEN BY DENNY PARK

Solved It? There Are 100 More.

This mini case was your free gift (GF-WHODUNIT-MINI-01). The full Whodunit Detective Puzzle Pack v2 (PP-WHODUNIT-V2-FE) holds 100 ready-to-print mystery puzzles - detective sudoku, word searches, mazes, whodunit cases and secret ciphers - every one with a full answer key.

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