

DEDUCE STUDIO



THE GALLOWS CREEK FILES

Ten cases to print and solve with a pen

AUGUST 2026 EDITION



Two cases at each of the five detective ranks. Every case has exactly one answer, reachable by deduction alone. Solutions are at the back.

FREE TO PRINT · FREE TO SHARE



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A NEW CASE EVERY DAY · SCAN TO PLAY



WELCOME, DETECTIVE

You have been handed ten open files. Nobody else is coming. That is not a slight — it is the job, and the reason you were sent for.

Each file is a closed room in the old sense: a victim, a small number of people who could have done it, a small number of places it could have happened, and a small number of things it could have been done with. Beside each one you will find a grid. That grid is the whole of your equipment.

A word on method, because detectives who rush these lose days to them. You are not looking for the answer. You are looking for what *cannot* be true. Cross off the impossible, patiently, one clue at a time, and the guilty party is simply whoever is left standing when there is nowhere else to put them. Every case in this pack has been checked — twice — so that this always works. You will never need to guess, and if you find yourself guessing, you have missed something you already have.

The files are arranged easiest first. The early ones will go quickly. By the last two you will be working a larger board and keeping track of when each suspect arrived as well as where they went, and the clues will stop being helpful one at a time and start being helpful only in pairs. This is deliberate. It is also, in the view of this office, the good part.

Answers are at the back. There is no scoring, no clock, and nobody is counting. Use a pencil if you would rather not commit.

Good hunting.

C. Waverly





CONTENTS & HOW TO WORK A CASE

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Solutions to all 10 cases are at the back.

1 · READ THE FILE FIRST

Every case opens with the suspects, the rooms and the weapons in play, then the clues. Read all of it before you mark anything. Roughly a third of the clues will only make sense once you know what else is on the board.

2 · THE GRID IS FOR ELIMINATING, NOT FOR GUESSING

Each square is one question: could this suspect go with this room, or this weapon? Put **X** in a square the clues rule out, and **✓** in one they confirm. Most of your marks will be crosses. That is normal — a case is solved by removing possibilities, not by spotting the answer.

3 · ONE TICK CLEARS A ROW AND A COLUMN

The moment you write a **✓**, everything else in that row and that column becomes impossible: a suspect was in one room, and each room held one suspect. Cross the rest out immediately. Skipping this is the single most common reason a solvable case feels stuck.

4 · CARRY FACTS ACROSS THE GRIDS

The grids are joined. If the weapon was found in one room, and you have already placed a suspect in that room, then the weapon is that suspect's — even though no clue says so. Work the chain each time you place a tick.

5 · WATCH FOR WHAT IS NOT SAID

At the higher ranks some statements are witness testimony, and a witness may be mistaken or lying. A clue phrased as an alibi is still evidence about somebody. Later cases also add a fourth column — the time each suspect arrived — which behaves exactly like the others.

6 · NAME ALL THREE

A solved case is a person, a room and a weapon together. If two of the three are certain and the last is not, the grid still holds the answer. Go back to the clue you read past.



A BODY AT THE CATTLE TRAIL

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS



"Lucky" Nell Pike

THE FARO DEALER

168 cm · Right-handed · Young · gambling · nocturnal · red-haired

Deals the Silver Garter's tables and has not had a losing month since she arrived. Nobody has proved why.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Rev. Josiah Teale

THE CIRCUIT PREACHER

174 cm · Right-handed · Elder · devout · silver-haired

Buries them on Saturday and preaches at them on Sunday. Hears more confessions in the saloon than in the church.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



"Rooster" McCabe

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Wren Halloway

THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

166 cm · Left-handed · Young · eavesdropping · secretive

Every wire in and out of Gallows Creek passes under her hand. She copies them twice — once for the recipient.

MOTIVE **Jealousy** — the claim everyone wanted had been recorded in another name

LOCATIONS



Blacksmith's Forge

INFERNAL

The fire is never fully out. Tongs, hammers, and a slack tub that hisses all day long.

HEAT COMBUSTION IRON



Jailhouse

GRIM

Two cells, an iron stove, and a gun rack the marshal keeps locked. The keys hang on one nail.

IRON METAL SECLUSION



Prairie Rose Hotel

PRIVATE

Eight rooms, a register nobody signs honestly, and walls thin enough to hear a man change his mind.

FABRIC SOFT SECLUSION



Undertaker's Parlour

FUNERAL

Three boxes finished, one always kept spare. Sawdust, beeswax and something underneath it.

WAX STERILE SECLUSION

IMPLEMENTS



Hangman's Rope

Thirteen coils of hemp off the hill. Used once already, and kept.

ROPE FLEXIBLE SOFT



Miner's Pickaxe

Four pounds on a hickory haft, and every man in town has one leaning by his door.

BLADE HEAVY STONE



Peacemaker Revolver

Six shots of .45. Loud enough that using it is a decision about witnesses.

FIREARM METAL LOUD



Sharpened Spur

A rowel filed to a razor. Worn in plain sight and no one thinks twice.

BLADE SHARP SILVER

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
SUSPECTS		HANGMAN'S ROPE	MINER'S PICKAXE	PEACEMAKER REVOLVER	SHARPENED SPUR	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE	JAILHOUSE	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR
	"LUCKY" NELL PIKE								
	REV. JOSIAH TEALE								
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE								
	WREN HALLOWAY								
LOCATIONS	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE								
	JAILHOUSE								
	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL								
	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR								

EVIDENCE

- 01

The murder itself occurred in the Blacksmith's Forge.
- 02

The fatal implement was the Peacemaker Revolver.
- 03

Rev. Josiah Teale entered the Prairie Rose Hotel.
- 04

"Lucky" Nell Pike carried the Hangman's Rope.
- 05

"Lucky" Nell Pike entered the Jailhouse.
- 06

Rev. Josiah Teale carried the Sharpened Spur.
- 07

Wren Holloway entered the Undertaker's Parlour.

A BODY AT BOOT HILL

Rides in twice a year, hears forty cases in three days, and signs whatever the marshal puts in front of him. Has never once ridden out short of money.

SUSPECTS



Barnaby Quill

THE UNDERTAKER

176 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · diary-keeping · melancholic

Measures a man for his box while shaking his hand. Keeps a ledger of every body that has come through, and what was in their pockets.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Miss Esther Lyle

THE SCHOOLTEACHER

163 cm · Right-handed · Young · early-rising · methodical · bespectacled

Twenty-nine pupils, one room, and a derringer in the desk drawer that the school board does not know about.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Rev. Josiah Teale

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174 cm · Right-handed · Elder · devout · silver-haired

Buries them on Saturday and preaches at them on Sunday. Hears more confessions in the saloon than in the church.

MOTIVE **Jealousy** — the claim everyone wanted had been recorded in another name



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178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin

LOCATIONS



Blacksmith's Forge

INFERNAL

The fire is never fully out. Tongs, hammers, and a slack tub that hisses all day long.

HEAT COMBUSTION IRON



Bonanza Mine Shaft

OPPRESSIVE

A hundred feet down on a rope-and-windlass. Lamp-black on every wall, and the sound of water somewhere below.

STONE DUST DARK



Schoolhouse

ORDERLY

One room, twenty-nine slates, a stove at the front and a switch on the wall that has never been used.

PAPER INK CHALK



Undertaker's Parlour

FUNERAL

Three boxes finished, one always kept spare. Sawdust, beeswax and something underneath it.

WAX STERILE SECLUSION

IMPLEMENTS



Bowie Knife

Twelve inches of steel with a brass guard. Carried openly and used quietly.

BLADE SHARP IRON



Can of Lamp Oil

Every building in Gallows Creek is pine board. One can and one match is the whole plan.

COMBUSTION OPEN FLAME HEAT



Sharpened Spur

A rowel filed to a razor. Worn in plain sight and no one thinks twice.

BLADE SHARP SILVER



Tin of Strychnine

Sold over the counter for wolves. A pinch in the coffee pot serves just as well.

BITTER RESIDUE ALKALOID POISON

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BOWIE KNIFE	CAN OF LAMP OIL	SHARPENED SPUR	TIN OF STRYCHNINE	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE	BONANZA MINE SHAFT	SCHOOLHOUSE	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR
SUSPECTS	BARNABY QUILL								
	MISS ESTHER LYLE								
	REV. JOSIAH TEALE								
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE								
LOCATIONS	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE								
	BONANZA MINE SHAFT								
	SCHOOLHOUSE								
	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR								

EVIDENCE

- 01

Miss Esther Lyle entered the Blacksmith's Forge.
- 02

Barnaby Quill entered the Undertaker's Parlour.
- 03

The fatal implement was the Bowie Knife.
- 04

Rev. Josiah Teale entered the Schoolhouse.
- 05

Miss Esther Lyle carried the Sharpened Spur.
- 06

The murder itself occurred in the Bonanza Mine Shaft.
- 07

Barnaby Quill carried the Tin of Strychnine.

THE LEDGER OF THE CATTLE TRAIL

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS



Barnaby Quill

THE UNDERTAKER

176 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · diary-keeping · melancholic

Measures a man for his box while shaking his hand. Keeps a ledger of every body that has come through, and what was in their pockets.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Dr Winnifred Ash

THE FRONTIER DOCTOR

165 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · methodical · bespectacled

Trained back east, came west for reasons she does not discuss. The only person in town who knows what everybody is dying of.

MOTIVE **Debt** — a marker from the faro table was being called in



"Lucky" Nell Pike

THE FARO DEALER

168 cm · Right-handed · Young · gambling · nocturnal · red-haired

Deals the Silver Garter's tables and has not had a losing month since she arrived. Nobody has proved why.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Tobias Flint

THE PROSPECTOR

170 cm · Right-handed · Elder · sleepless · paranoid · limping

Filed the claim that started the boom and sold it for a song before the assay came back. Has been trying to file another one since.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin

LOCATIONS



Blacksmith's Forge

INFERNAL

The fire is never fully out. Tongs, hammers, and a slack tub that hisses all day long.

HEAT COMBUSTION IRON



Cattlemen's Bank

GUARDED

A Diebold safe two men could not lift, a teller's cage, and ledgers going back to the first claim filed.

PAPER METAL SECLUSION



Clapboard Church

HUSHED

Whitewashed boards warping in the heat, twelve pews, tallow candles guttering at the altar rail.

WAX CANDLELIGHT STONE



Doctor's Office

STERILE

A cot, a cabinet of brown bottles under lock, and a basin that is never quite clean enough for her.

MEDICINE SEDATIVE STERILE

IMPLEMENTS



Bundle of Locoweed

Dried and steeped it turns a man senseless before it turns him cold.

SHREDDED LEAVES SAP BOTANICAL



Hideout Derringer

Two barrels, palm-sized, useless past six feet. Nobody is ever searched for one.

FIREARM CONCEALED METAL



Iron Horseshoe

Cold off the anvil, swung on a strap. Leaves a mark the doctor will recognise.

IRON HEAVY BLUNT



Tin of Strychnine

Sold over the counter for wolves. A pinch in the coffee pot serves just as well.

BITTER RESIDUE ALKALOID POISON

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BUNDLE OF LOCOWEED	HIDEOUT DERRINGER	IRON HORSESHOE	TIN OF STRYCHNINE	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE	CATTLEMEN'S BANK	CLAPBOARD CHURCH	DOCTOR'S OFFICE
SUSPECTS	BARNABY QUILL	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	DR WINNIFRED ASH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	"LUCKY" NELL PIKE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	TOBIAS FLINT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LOCATIONS	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE	•	•	•	•				
	CATTLEMEN'S BANK	•	•	•	•				
	CLAPBOARD CHURCH	•	•	•	•				
	DOCTOR'S OFFICE	•	•	•	•				

EVIDENCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>01 A separate residue report linked Barnaby Quill to bitter residue.</p> <p>02 Barnaby Quill showed a bitter residue, a consequence pointing toward poison.</p> <p>03 Dr Winnifred Ash carried the Bundle of Locoweed.</p> <p>04 The diary-keeping suspect was seen in the Blacksmith's Forge.</p> | <p>05 The fatal implement was the Hideout Derringer.</p> <p>06 The bespectacled suspect was seen in the Doctor's Office.</p> <p>07 Tobias Flint entered the Clapboard Church.</p> <p>08 The murder itself occurred in the Cattlemen's Bank.</p> |
|---|---|

THE POWDER-QUIET INCIDENT

Rides in twice a year, hears forty cases in three days, and signs whatever the marshal puts in front of him. Has never once ridden out short of money.

SUSPECTS



Barnaby Quill

THE UNDERTAKER

176 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · diary-keeping · melancholic

Measures a man for his box while shaking his hand. Keeps a ledger of every body that has come through, and what was in their pockets.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Dr Winnifred Ash

THE FRONTIER DOCTOR

165 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · methodical · bespectacled

Trained back east, came west for reasons she does not discuss. The only person in town who knows what everybody is dying of.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Miss Esther Lyle

THE SCHOOLTEACHER

163 cm · Right-handed · Young · early-rising · methodical · bespectacled

Twenty-nine pupils, one room, and a derringer in the desk drawer that the school board does not know about.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Silas Orr

THE BLACKSMITH

183 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · cynical · broad-shouldered

Shoes every horse that leaves Gallows Creek, so he knows who rode out and when. Says almost nothing and forgets even less.

MOTIVE **Jealousy** — the claim everyone wanted had been recorded in another name

LOCATIONS



Cattlemen's Bank GUARDED

A Diebold safe two men could not lift, a teller's cage, and ledgers going back to the first claim filed.

PAPER METAL SECLUSION



Gallows Hill EXPOSED

The town's only landmark, and the reason for its name. The wind up here takes your hat and your voice with it.

ROPE WIND STONE



Prairie Rose Hotel PRIVATE

Eight rooms, a register nobody signs honestly, and walls thin enough to hear a man change his mind.

FABRIC SOFT SECLUSION



Silver Garter Saloon RAUCOUS

Sawdust floor, a long mahogany bar freighted in from St Louis, and a piano missing three keys. Nothing said here stays here.

GLASS SMOKE SOCIAL

IMPLEMENTS



Bundle of Locoweeds

Dried and steeped it turns a man senseless before it turns him cold.

SHREDDED LEAVES SAP BOTANICAL



Leather Cinch Strap

Pulled from a saddle and drawn tight. Every stable in town has forty of them.

LEATHER FLEXIBLE BLUNT



Peacemaker Revolver

Six shots of .45. Loud enough that using it is a decision about witnesses.

FIREARM METAL LOUD



Tin of Strychnine

Sold over the counter for wolves. A pinch in the coffee pot serves just as well.

BITTER RESIDUE ALKALOID POISON

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BUNDLE OF LOCOWEED	LEATHER CINCH STRAP	PEACEMAKER REVOLVER	TIN OF STRYCHNINE	CATTLEMEN'S BANK	GALLOWS HILL	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL	SILVER GARTER SALOON
SUSPECTS	BARNABY QUILL								
	DR WINNIFRED ASH								
	MISS ESTHER LYLE								
	SILAS ORR								
LOCATIONS	CATTLEMEN'S BANK								
	GALLOWS HILL								
	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL								
	SILVER GARTER SALOON								

EVIDENCE

- 01

Silas Orr entered the Prairie Rose Hotel.
- 02

Barnaby Quill carried the Peacemaker Revolver.
- 03

Dr Winnifred Ash entered the Gallows Hill.
- 04

The fatal implement was the Tin of Strychnine.
- 05

A separate residue report linked Dr Winnifred Ash to bitter residue.
- 06

Dr Winnifred Ash showed a bitter residue, a consequence pointing toward poison.
- 07

The diary-keeping suspect was seen in the Silver Garter Saloon.
- 08

The murder itself occurred in the Cattlemen's Bank.

NO WITNESS AT GALLOWS CREEK

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS



Barnaby Quill

THE UNDERTAKER

176 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · diary-keeping · melancholic

Measures a man for his box while shaking his hand. Keeps a ledger of every body that has come through, and what was in their pockets.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Dr Winnifred Ash

THE FRONTIER DOCTOR

165 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · methodical · bespectacled

Trained back east, came west for reasons she does not discuss. The only person in town who knows what everybody is dying of.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Miss Esther Lyle

THE SCHOOLTEACHER

163 cm · Right-handed · Young · early-rising · methodical · bespectacled

Twenty-nine pupils, one room, and a derringer in the desk drawer that the school board does not know about.

MOTIVE **Jealousy** — the claim everyone wanted had been recorded in another name



Silas Orr

THE BLACKSMITH

183 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · cynical · broad-shouldered

Shoes every horse that leaves Gallows Creek, so he knows who rode out and when. Says almost nothing and forgets even less.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate

LOCATIONS



Blacksmith's Forge

INFERNAL

The fire is never fully out. Tongs, hammers, and a slack tub that hisses all day long.

HEAT COMBUSTION IRON



Livery Stable

CLOSE

Twelve stalls, hay to the rafters, tack oiled and hung. Warm even at night, and dark at the back.

LEATHER HAY HEAT



Schoolhouse

ORDERLY

One room, twenty-nine slates, a stove at the front and a switch on the wall that has never been used.

PAPER INK CHALK



Telegraph Office

CLATTERING

A key, a sounder, and a spike of flimsies going back four months. The clatter carries onto the street.

METAL PAPER INK

IMPLEMENTS



Bowie Knife

Twelve inches of steel with a brass guard. Carried openly and used quietly.

BLADE SHARP IRON



Branding Iron

Deverell's running-D mark. Left in the fire an hour, it will do more than mark a hide.

BURN MARKS IRON HEAVY



Leather Cinch Strap

Pulled from a saddle and drawn tight. Every stable in town has forty of them.

LEATHER FLEXIBLE BLUNT



Peacemaker Revolver

Six shots of .45. Loud enough that using it is a decision about witnesses.

FIREARM METAL LOUD

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
SUSPECTS		BOWIE KNIFE	BRANDING IRON	LEATHER CINCH STRAP	PEACEMAKER REVOLVER	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE	LIVERY STABLE	SCHOOLHOUSE	TELEGRAPH OFFICE
	BARNABY QUILL								
	DR WINNIFRED ASH								
	MISS ESTHER LYLE								
	SILAS ORR								
LOCATIONS	BLACKSMITH'S FORGE								
	LIVERY STABLE								
	SCHOOLHOUSE								
	TELEGRAPH OFFICE								

EVIDENCE

- 01

Barnaby Quill claimed Miss Esther Lyle had carried the Bowie Knife.
- 02

The early-rising suspect was seen in the Telegraph Office.
- 03

The reliable ledger confirms Miss Esther Lyle carried the Peacemaker Revolver.
- 04

A separate residue report linked Barnaby Quill to soot.
- 05

The victim's wounds bore the mark of blunt force, identifying the fatal implement.
- 06

Barnaby Quill entered the Livery Stable.
- 07

Silas Orr entered the Blacksmith's Forge.
- 08

Barnaby Quill showed burn marks, a consequence pointing toward heat.
- 09

The murder itself occurred in the Schoolhouse.

THE NIGHT QUARREL

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS

**Dr Winnifred Ash**

THE FRONTIER DOCTOR

165 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · methodical · bespectacled

*Trained back east, came west for reasons she does not discuss. The only person in town who knows what everybody is dying of.*MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate**"Lucky" Nell Pike**

THE FARO DEALER

168 cm · Right-handed · Young · gambling · nocturnal · red-haired

*Deals the Silver Garter's tables and has not had a losing month since she arrived. Nobody has proved why.*MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin**"Rooster" McCabe**

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

*Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.*MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate**Tobias Flint**

THE PROSPECTOR

170 cm · Right-handed · Elder · sleepless · paranoid · limping

*Filed the claim that started the boom and sold it for a song before the assay came back. Has been trying to file another one since.*MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate

LOCATIONS

**Clapboard Church** HUSHED*Whitewashed boards warping in the heat, twelve pews, tallow candles guttering at the altar rail.*

WAX CANDLELIGHT STONE

**Livery Stable** CLOSE*Twelve stalls, hay to the rafters, tack oiled and hung. Warm even at night, and dark at the back.*

LEATHER HAY HEAT

**Prairie Rose Hotel** PRIVATE*Eight rooms, a register nobody signs honestly, and walls thin enough to hear a man change his mind.*

FABRIC SOFT SECLUSION

**Silver Garter Saloon** RAUCOUS*Sawdust floor, a long mahogany bar freighted in from St Louis, and a piano missing three keys. Nothing said here stays here.*

GLASS SMOKE SOCIAL

IMPLEMENTS

**Bottle of Rye Whiskey***Broken at the neck it becomes the most common weapon in the territory.*

SPLINTERED GLASS CRYSTAL LIQUOR

**Bowie Knife***Twelve inches of steel with a brass guard. Carried openly and used quietly.*

BLADE SHARP IRON

**Bundle of Locoweed***Dried and steeped it turns a man senseless before it turns him cold.*

SHREDDED LEAVES SAP BOTANICAL

**Hangman's Rope***Thirteen coils of hemp off the hill. Used once already, and kept.*

ROPE FLEXIBLE SOFT

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BOTTLE OF RYE WHISKEY	BOWIE KNIFE	BUNDLE OF LOCOWEED	HANGMAN'S ROPE	CLAPBOARD CHURCH	LIVERY STABLE	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL	SILVER GARTER SALOON
SUSPECTS	DR WINNIFRED ASH								
	"LUCKY" NELL PIKE								
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE								
	TOBIAS FLINT								
LOCATIONS	CLAPBOARD CHURCH								
	LIVERY STABLE								
	PRAIRIE ROSE HOTEL								
	SILVER GARTER SALOON								

EVIDENCE

- 01

The murder itself occurred in the Silver Garter Saloon.
- 02

The victim's wounds showed shredded leaves, a consequence pointing toward greenhouse growth.
- 03

A separate residue report linked "Lucky" Nell Pike to metal filings.
- 04

The gambling suspect was seen in the Livery Stable.
- 05

The reliable ledger confirms Dr Winnifred Ash carried the Hangman's Rope.
- 06

Dr Winnifred Ash entered the Prairie Rose Hotel.
- 07

"Rooster" McCabe entered the Clapboard Church.
- 08

"Rooster" McCabe claimed Dr Winnifred Ash had carried the Bottle of Rye Whiskey.
- 09

"Lucky" Nell Pike showed a blade, a consequence pointing toward a sharp edge.

SHADOWS AT THE SILVER SEAM

Holds the paper on every ranch in the county and the deeds to four that have already failed.
Counts the till twice after closing.

SUSPECTS

**Barnaby Quill**

THE UNDERTAKER

176 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · diary-keeping · melancholic

*Measures a man for his box while shaking his hand. Keeps a ledger of every body that has come through, and what was in their pockets.*MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin**"Rooster" McCabe**

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

*Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.*MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin**Tobias Flint**

THE PROSPECTOR

170 cm · Right-handed · Elder · sleepless · paranoid · limping

*Filed the claim that started the boom and sold it for a song before the assay came back. Has been trying to file another one since.*MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin**Wren Halloway**

THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

166 cm · Left-handed · Young · eavesdropping · secretive

*Every wire in and out of Gallows Creek passes under her hand. She copies them twice — once for the recipient.*MOTIVE **Revenge** — a killing three territories back had finally caught up

LOCATIONS

**Clapboard Church** HUSHED*Whitewashed boards warping in the heat, twelve pews, tallow candles guttering at the altar rail.*

WAX CANDLELIGHT STONE

**Gallows Hill** EXPOSED*The town's only landmark, and the reason for its name. The wind up here takes your hat and your voice with it.*

ROPE WIND STONE

**Telegraph Office** CLATTERING*A key, a sounder, and a spike of flimsies going back four months. The clatter carries onto the street.*

METAL PAPER INK

**Undertaker's Parlour** FUNERAL*Three boxes finished, one always kept spare. Sawdust, beeswax and something underneath it.*

WAX STERILE SECLUSION

IMPLEMENTS

**Bottle of Rye Whiskey***Broken at the neck it becomes the most common weapon in the territory.*

SPLINTERED GLASS CRYSTAL LIQUOR

**Can of Lamp Oil***Every building in Gallows Creek is pine board. One can and one match is the whole plan.*

COMBUSTION OPEN FLAME HEAT

**Iron Horseshoe***Cold off the anvil, swung on a strap. Leaves a mark the doctor will recognise.*

IRON HEAVY BLUNT

**Sharpened Spur***A rowel filed to a razor. Worn in plain sight and no one thinks twice.*

BLADE SHARP SILVER

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BOTTLE OF RYE WHISKEY	CAN OF LAMP OIL	IRON HORSESHOE	SHARPENED SPUR	CLAPBOARD CHURCH	GALLOWS HILL	TELEGRAPH OFFICE	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR
SUSPECTS	BARNABY QUILL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	TOBIAS FLINT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	WREN HALLOWAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LOCATIONS	CLAPBOARD CHURCH	.	.	.	.				
	GALLOWS HILL	.	.	.	.				
	TELEGRAPH OFFICE	.	.	.	.				
	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR	.	.	.	.				

EVIDENCE

- 01

A stopped clock in Hollis Crane's private quarters proved accurate, but irrelevant to the murder.
- 02

A separate residue report linked "Rooster" McCabe to soot.
- 03

The scene was marked by outdoor, fixing where the murder occurred.
- 04

The victim's wounds showed a blade, a consequence pointing toward a sharp edge.
- 05

The recovered papers show a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin; the killer therefore had a blackmail motive.
- 06

Barnaby Quill carried the Bottle of Rye Whiskey.
- 07

Barnaby Quill entered the Clapboard Church.
- 08

Barnaby Quill insisted that blackmail had nothing to do with the death, though their own interest in the matter was plain.
- 09

"Rooster" McCabe showed burn marks, a consequence pointing toward heat.
- 10

The reckless suspect was seen in the Telegraph Office.

THE NIGHT SENTENCE

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS

**Rev. Josiah Teale**

THE CIRCUIT PREACHER

174 cm · Right-handed · Elder · devout · silver-haired

*Buries them on Saturday and preaches at them on Sunday. Hears more confessions in the saloon than in the church.*MOTIVE **Revenge** — a killing three territories back had finally caught up**"Rooster" McCabe**

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

*Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.*MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin**Tobias Flint**

THE PROSPECTOR

170 cm · Right-handed · Elder · sleepless · paranoid · limping

*Filed the claim that started the boom and sold it for a song before the assay came back. Has been trying to file another one since.*MOTIVE **Revenge** — a killing three territories back had finally caught up**Wren Halloway**

THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

166 cm · Left-handed · Young · eavesdropping · secretive

*Every wire in and out of Gallows Creek passes under her hand. She copies them twice — once for the recipient.*MOTIVE **Revenge** — a killing three territories back had finally caught up

LOCATIONS

**Cattlemen's Bank** GUARDED*A Diebold safe two men could not lift, a teller's cage, and ledgers going back to the first claim filed.*

PAPER METAL SECLUSION

**Doctor's Office** STERILE*A cot, a cabinet of brown bottles under lock, and a basin that is never quite clean enough for her.*

MEDICINE SEDATIVE STERILE

**Livery Stable** CLOSE*Twelve stalls, hay to the rafters, tack oiled and hung. Warm even at night, and dark at the back.*

LEATHER HAY HEAT

**Schoolhouse** ORDERLY*One room, twenty-nine slates, a stove at the front and a switch on the wall that has never been used.*

PAPER INK CHALK

IMPLEMENTS

**Bottle of Laudanum***Half the town takes it to sleep. The whole bottle is a different prescription entirely.*

SEDATIVE MEDICINE GLASS

**Bottle of Rye Whiskey***Broken at the neck it becomes the most common weapon in the territory.*

SPLINTERED GLASS CRYSTAL LIQUOR

**Bowie Knife***Twelve inches of steel with a brass guard. Carried openly and used quietly.*

BLADE SHARP IRON

**Tin of Strychnine***Sold over the counter for wolves. A pinch in the coffee pot serves just as well.*

BITTER RESIDUE ALKALOID POISON

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS				LOCATIONS			
		BOTTLE OF LAUDANUM	BOTTLE OF RYE WHISKEY	BOWIE KNIFE	TIN OF STRYCHNINE	CATTLEMEN'S BANK	DOCTOR'S OFFICE	LIVERY STABLE	SCHOOLHOUSE
SUSPECTS	REV. JOSIAH TEALE								
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE								
	TOBIAS FLINT								
	WREN HALLOWAY								
LOCATIONS	CATTLEMEN'S BANK								
	DOCTOR'S OFFICE								
	LIVERY STABLE								
	SCHOOLHOUSE								

EVIDENCE

- 01

A stopped clock in Amos Deverell's private quarters proved accurate, but irrelevant to the murder.
- 02

The scene was marked by heat, fixing where the murder occurred.
- 03

The victim's wounds bore the mark of delayed, identifying the fatal implement.
- 04

Tobias Flint insisted that revenge had nothing to do with the death, though their own interest in the matter was plain.
- 05

Tobias Flint carried the Tin of Strychnine.
- 06

The eavesdropping suspect was seen in the Cattlemen's Bank.
- 07

A separate residue report linked Wren Halloway to crystal.
- 08

Wren Halloway showed splintered glass, a consequence pointing toward glass.
- 09

Tobias Flint entered the Doctor's Office.
- 10

The recovered papers show a killing three territories back had finally caught up; the killer therefore had a revenge motive.

THE AFFAIR AT COFFIN ROCK

*Holds the paper on every ranch in the county and the deeds to four that have already failed.
Counts the till twice after closing.*

SUSPECTS



Dr Winnifred Ash

THE FRONTIER DOCTOR

165 cm · Left-handed · Middle-aged · methodical · bespectacled

Trained back east, came west for reasons she does not discuss. The only person in town who knows what everybody is dying of.

MOTIVE **Debt** — a marker from the faro table was being called in



"Lucky" Nell Pike

THE FARO DEALER

168 cm · Right-handed · Young · gambling · nocturnal · red-haired

Deals the Silver Garter's tables and has not had a losing month since she arrived. Nobody has proved why.

MOTIVE **Debt** — a marker from the faro table was being called in



Miss Esther Lyle

THE SCHOOLTEACHER

163 cm · Right-handed · Young · early-rising · methodical · bespectacled

Twenty-nine pupils, one room, and a derringer in the desk drawer that the school board does not know about.

MOTIVE **Debt** — a marker from the faro table was being called in



"Rooster" McCabe

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



Wren Halloway

THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

166 cm · Left-handed · Young · eavesdropping · secretive

Every wire in and out of Gallows Creek passes under her hand. She copies them twice — once for the recipient.

MOTIVE **Debt** — a marker from the faro table was being called in

LOCATIONS



Doctor's Office STERILE

A cot, a cabinet of brown bottles under lock, and a basin that is never quite clean enough for her.

MEDICINE SEDATIVE STERILE



General Store CLUTTERED

Flour, shot, lamp oil, laudanum and liquorice, all on the same shelf. Credit extended to almost everyone.

STORAGE FOOD GLASS



Jailhouse GRIM

Two cells, an iron stove, and a gun rack the marshal keeps locked. The keys hang on one nail.

IRON METAL SECLUSION



Livery Stable CLOSE

Twelve stalls, hay to the rafters, tack oiled and hung. Warm even at night, and dark at the back.

LEATHER HAY HEAT



Undertaker's Parlour FUNERAL

Three boxes finished, one always kept spare. Sawdust, beeswax and something underneath it.

WAX STERILE SECLUSION

IMPLEMENTS



Branding Iron

Deverell's running-D mark. Left in the fire an hour, it will do more than mark a hide.

BURN MARKS IRON HEAVY



Can of Lamp Oil

Every building in Gallows Creek is pine board. One can and one match is the whole plan.

COMBUSTION OPEN FLAME HEAT



Iron Horseshoe

Cold off the anvil, swung on a strap. Leaves a mark the doctor will recognise.

IRON HEAVY BLUNT



Leather Cinch Strap

Pulled from a saddle and drawn tight. Every stable in town has forty of them.

LEATHER FLEXIBLE BLUNT



Sharpened Spur

A rowel filed to a razor. Worn in plain sight and no one thinks twice.

BLADE SHARP SILVER

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS					LOCATIONS					ARRIVAL				
		BRANDING IRON	CAN OF LAMP OIL	IRON HORSESHOE	LEATHER CINCH STRAP	SHARPENED SPUR	DOCTOR'S OFFICE	GENERAL STORE	JAILHOUSE	LIVERY STABLE	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR	SUNUP	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	SUNDOWN	MIDNIGHT
SUSPECTS	DR WINNIFRED ASH	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	"LUCKY" NELL PIKE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	MISS ESTHER LYLE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	WREN HALLOWAY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
ARRIVAL	SUNUP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	MIDDAY	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	AFTERNOON	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	SUNDOWN	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	MIDNIGHT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LOCATIONS	DOCTOR'S OFFICE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	GENERAL STORE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	JAILHOUSE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	LIVERY STABLE	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
	UNDERTAKER'S PARLOUR	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

EVIDENCE

- 01 A stopped clock in Hollis Crane's private quarters proved accurate, but irrelevant to the murder.
- 02 A separate residue report linked Wren Halloway to soot.
- 03 Wren Halloway showed burn marks, a consequence pointing toward heat.
- 04 "Lucky" Nell Pike arrived immediately before Wren Halloway.
- 05 Miss Esther Lyle arrived immediately before "Rooster" McCabe.
- 06 A separate residue report linked Miss Esther Lyle to metal filings.
- 07 Dr Winnifred Ash insisted that debt had nothing to do with the death, though their own interest in the matter was plain.
- 08 Miss Esther Lyle showed a blade, a consequence pointing toward a sharp edge.
- 09 The eavesdropping suspect was seen in the Livery Stable.

- 10 The early-rising suspect was seen in the Jailhouse.
- 11 The reckless suspect was seen in the Doctor's Office.
- 12 Wren Halloway arrived immediately before Miss Esther Lyle.
- 13 Miss Esther Lyle claimed Dr Winnifred Ash had gone to the Doctor's Office.
- 14 The recovered papers show a marker from the faro table was being called in; the killer therefore had a debt motive.
- 15 The reckless suspect carried the Leather Cinch Strap.
- 16 Whoever committed the murder arrived before Miss Esther Lyle.
- 17 "Lucky" Nell Pike was the first to arrive that evening.
- 18 Dr Winnifred Ash carried the Can of Lamp Oil.
- 19 Dr Winnifred Ash entered the Undertaker's Parlour.

THE SUN-BLIND DEBT

Biggest herd in the territory and the mortgage to match. Rode with men whose names he no longer says aloud.

SUSPECTS



"Lucky" Nell Pike

THE FARO DEALER

168 cm · Right-handed · Young · gambling · nocturnal · red-haired

Deals the Silver Garter's tables and has not had a losing month since she arrived. Nobody has proved why.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Miss Esther Lyle

THE SCHOOLTEACHER

163 cm · Right-handed · Young · early-rising · methodical · bespectacled

Twenty-nine pupils, one room, and a derringer in the desk drawer that the school board does not know about.

MOTIVE **Inheritance** — a deed to the north pasture would change hands on a death certificate



"Rooster" McCabe

THE STAGECOACH DRIVER

178 cm · Right-handed · Middle-aged · reckless · scarred

Runs the line to the railhead twice a week and has been held up on it three times. Two of those, nobody shot at him.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Tobias Flint

THE PROSPECTOR

170 cm · Right-handed · Elder · sleepless · paranoid · limping

Filed the claim that started the boom and sold it for a song before the assay came back. Has been trying to file another one since.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin



Wren Halloway

THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

166 cm · Left-handed · Young · eavesdropping · secretive

Every wire in and out of Gallows Creek passes under her hand. She copies them twice — once for the recipient.

MOTIVE **Blackmail** — a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin

LOCATIONS



Cattlemen's Bank GUARDED

A Diebold safe two men could not lift, a teller's cage, and ledgers going back to the first claim filed.

PAPER METAL SECLUSION



General Store CLUTTERED

Flour, shot, lamp oil, laudanum and liquorice, all on the same shelf. Credit extended to almost everyone.

STORAGE FOOD GLASS



Jailhouse GRIM

Two cells, an iron stove, and a gun rack the marshal keeps locked. The keys hang on one nail.

IRON METAL SECLUSION



Schoolhouse ORDERLY

One room, twenty-nine slates, a stove at the front and a switch on the wall that has never been used.

PAPER INK CHALK



Telegraph Office CLATTERING

A key, a sounder, and a spike of flimsies going back four months. The clatter carries onto the street.

METAL PAPER INK

IMPLEMENTS



Bowie Knife

Twelve inches of steel with a brass guard. Carried openly and used quietly.

BLADE SHARP IRON



Hangman's Rope

Thirteen coils of hemp off the hill. Used once already, and kept.

ROPE FLEXIBLE SOFT



Miner's Pickaxe

Four pounds on a hickory haft, and every man in town has one leaning by his door.

BLADE HEAVY STONE



Sharpened Spur

A rowel filed to a razor. Worn in plain sight and no one thinks twice.

BLADE SHARP SILVER



Tin of Strychnine

Sold over the counter for wolves. A pinch in the coffee pot serves just as well.

BITTER RESIDUE ALKALOID POISON

ELIMINATION GRID

		IMPLEMENTS					LOCATIONS					ARRIVAL				
		BOWIE KNIFE	HANGMAN'S ROPE	MINER'S PICKAXE	SHARPENED SPUR	TIN OF STRYCHNINE	CATTLEMEN'S BANK	GENERAL STORE	JAILHOUSE	SCHOOLHOUSE	TELEGRAPH OFFICE	SUNUP	MIDDAY	AFTERNOON	SUNDOWN	MIDNIGHT
SUSPECTS	"LUCKY" NELL PIKE															
	MISS ESTHER LYLE															
	"ROOSTER" MCCABE															
	TOBIAS FLINT															
	WREN HALLOWAY															
ARRIVAL	SUNUP															
	MIDDAY															
	AFTERNOON															
	SUNDOWN															
	MIDNIGHT															
LOCATIONS	CATTLEMEN'S BANK															
	GENERAL STORE															
	JAILHOUSE															
	SCHOOLHOUSE															
	TELEGRAPH OFFICE															

EVIDENCE

- 01

Whoever committed the murder arrived after Tobias Flint.
- 02

"Rooster" McCabe entered the General Store.
- 03

"Rooster" McCabe was the first to arrive that evening.
- 04

A stopped clock in Amos Deverell's private quarters proved accurate, but irrelevant to the murder.
- 05

"Rooster" McCabe carried the Miner's Pickaxe.
- 06

A separate residue report linked Wren Halloway to bitter residue.
- 07

Tobias Flint claimed Miss Esther Lyle had gone to the General Store.
- 08

Wren Halloway showed a bitter residue, a consequence pointing toward poison.
- 09

The recovered papers show a letter held back from the mail sack promised ruin; the killer therefore had a blackmail motive.
- 10

Miss Esther Lyle arrived immediately before Wren Halloway.
- 11

The bespectacled suspect was seen in the Cattlemen's Bank.
- 12

"Rooster" McCabe arrived immediately before Tobias Flint.
- 13

"Rooster" McCabe insisted that blackmail had nothing to do with the death, though their own interest in the matter was plain.
- 14

The limping suspect carried the Sharpened Spur.
- 15

The bespectacled suspect carried the Bowie Knife.
- 16

The eavesdropping suspect was seen in the Jailhouse.
- 17

The limping suspect was seen in the Schoolhouse.
- 18

Tobias Flint arrived immediately before Miss Esther Lyle.

SOLUTIONS



ROOKIE DETECTIVE

N°001 **A Body at the Cattle Trail**
"Rooster" McCabe · *in the* Blacksmith's Forge · *with the* Peacemaker Revolver

N°002 **A Body at Boot Hill**
"Rooster" McCabe · *in the* Bonanza Mine Shaft · *with the* Bowie Knife

JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR

N°003 **The Ledger of the Cattle Trail**
"Lucky" Nell Pike · *in the* Cattlemen's Bank · *with the* Hideout Derringer

N°004 **The Powder-Quiet Incident**
Miss Esther Lyle · *in the* Cattlemen's Bank · *with the* Tin of Strychnine

INSPECTOR

N°005 **No Witness at Gallows Creek**
Dr Winnifred Ash · *in the* Schoolhouse · *with the* Leather Cinch Strap

N°006 **The Night Quarrel**
Tobias Flint · *in the* Silver Garter Saloon · *with the* Bundle of Locoweed

MASTER DETECTIVE

N°007 **Shadows at the Silver Seam**
Tobias Flint · *in the* Gallows Hill · *with the* Sharpened Spur

N°008 **The Night Sentence**
Rev. Josiah Teale · *in the* Livery Stable · *with the* Bottle of Laudanum

GRAND SLEUTH

N°009 **The Affair at Coffin Rock**
"Lucky" Nell Pike · *in the* General Store · *with the* Iron Horseshoe

N°010 **The Sun-Blind Debt**
"Lucky" Nell Pike · *in the* Telegraph Office · *with the* Hangman's Rope