

THE LIGHTHOUSE LEDGER

Free Sampler: Three Cases from Gullhaven Point

Harriet Fairlight

How to play: every suspect holds exactly one item from each column, and no two share an item. Read the case and the evidence, then use the ledger grid on the facing page: X where a pairing is impossible, O where it is certain. When every line is settled, whoever was at the scene of the crime is the culprit.

Every case has exactly one solution and every clue is needed. Hard cases add the lighthouse bells (8 o'clock to midnight); 'one bell apart' means neighbouring hours.

This sampler holds one easy, one medium and one hard case from the book (Cases 1, 21 and 45). Solutions are at the back. Print it at 100% scale.

Case 1: The Unlit Lamp

Difficulty: Easy | Suspects: 3 | Columns: Weapon, Place

Amos Trevail had kept the Gullhaven Light for thirty-one years and never once let it go dark. So when the fishing fleet came home at dawn to a black tower, the whole harbour knew before anyone climbed the stair. Quill found him at the bottom of it, cap still on, matches still dry in his pocket. "He didn't forget," she said. "Somebody made sure he couldn't remember."

Tarrow wrote three names in his notebook: Digory Angwin (the lamp-trimmer), Vernon Lusk (the auctioneer's clerk) and Abel Strand (a summer painter).

The witnesses disagreed about everything else, but the marks told Quill the deed was done at the lifeboat station.

The Evidence

1. Whoever had the tide-clock pendulum was at the gallery walk.
2. Whoever was at the lifeboat station had the bosun's whistle cord.
3. Digory Angwin had the tide-clock pendulum.
4. Abel Strand was at the lifeboat station.

Case 1: The Ledger

	bosun's whistle cord	lamp-room wrench	tide-clock pendulum	lifeboat station	customs house	gallery walk
Digory Angwin						
Vernon Lusk						
Abel Strand						
lifeboat station						
customs house						
gallery walk						

Quill's verdict

The culprit: _____

Weapon: _____

Solution and walkthrough at the back of the book.

Case 21: The Rope Walk Riddle

Difficulty: Medium | Suspects: 4 | Columns: Weapon, Place, Motive

Saul Pender could lay a rope four hundred feet long without a single flaw and was prouder of it than of his own children. He was found in the long shed of the ropewalk, bound in a coil of his own finest three-strand, tied off with a knot no sailor on the Point would admit to knowing. Tarrow tried to untie it and failed. Quill photographed it instead. "That knot is a signature."

Only four people could have done it: Thomasina Paull (the innkeeper), Lionel Ashby (the mayor's secretary), Gideon Tolley (the harbour doctor) and Zachary Polglase (the bank clerk).

Quill was certain of exactly one fact: the killing happened at the lantern store.

The Evidence

1. Whoever had the keeper's poker was at the keeper's cottage.
2. The one driven by blackmail did not have the keeper's poker.
3. Whoever was at the net loft had the cork float on a chain.
4. Gideon Tolley was at the lantern store or the net loft.
5. Gideon Tolley was not driven by an unpaid debt.
6. Zachary Polglase was driven by a stolen reward or blackmail.
7. Thomasina Paull was not driven by protecting a child.
8. Thomasina Paull was at the ferry slip or the keeper's cottage.
9. Whoever had the boathook was driven by an unpaid debt or blackmail.
10. Thomasina Paull was driven by blackmail or protecting a child.
11. Whoever had the boathook was driven by a stolen reward or an unpaid debt.

Case 21: The Ledger

	boathook	keeper's poker	cork float on a chain	brass compass	ferry slip	lantern store	keeper's cottage	net loft	an unpaid debt	protecting a child	a stolen reward	blackmail
Thomasina Paull												
Lionel Ashby												
Gideon Tolley												
Zachary Polglase												
an unpaid debt												
protecting a child												
a stolen reward												
blackmail												
ferry slip												
lantern store												
keeper's cottage												
net loft												

Quill's verdict

The culprit: _____
Weapon: _____ Motive: _____

Solution and walkthrough at the back of the book.

Case 45: The Marsh Light

Difficulty: Hard | Suspects: 5 | Columns: Weapon, Place, Hour

Faye Couch had come to the salt marsh to watch the autumn waders, and she stayed out late to see a marsh light: the will-o'-the-wisp the old folk warned children about. Someone in the town saw a flicker over the reeds at nine. By ten it had gone out, and so had Faye. Will-o'-the-wisps, Quill observed, do not usually leave their footprints in the mud.

Quill's list of suspects ran to five names: Verity Holman (the grocer), Isolde Trethewey (the ferry clerk), Benedict Coombe (the barmaid), Eulalie Harvey (the mayor's secretary) and Lionel Ashby (a customs man).

Quill was certain of exactly one fact: the killing happened at the net loft.

The Evidence

1. Exactly one of these is true: Benedict Coombe was seen at midnight; Eulalie Harvey was seen at 10 o'clock.
2. Isolde Trethewey was seen at 10 o'clock or 9 o'clock.
3. Whoever had the barometer was seen exactly 3 bells before whoever was at the net loft.
4. Exactly one of these is true: Verity Holman had the oyster knife; Benedict Coombe was at the coal store.
5. Whoever had the barometer was not at the cliff path.
6. Whoever had the oar was at the ropewalk or the net loft.
7. Lionel Ashby and whoever was seen at 9 o'clock were seen one bell apart.
8. Benedict Coombe was at the ropewalk or the coal store.
9. Exactly one of these is true: Verity Holman was seen at 9 o'clock; Lionel Ashby was seen at 11 o'clock.
10. Eulalie Harvey had the barometer or the bottle of lamp oil.
11. Whoever was seen at 10 o'clock had the barometer or the oar.

Case 45: The Ledger

	barometer	coil of tarred rope	oyster knife	oar	bottle of lamp oil	ferry slip	coal store	net loft	cliff path	ropewalk	8 o'clock	9 o'clock	10 o'clock	11 o'clock	midnight
Verity Holman															
Isolde Trethewey															
Benedict Coombe															
Eulalie Harvey															
Lionel Ashby															
8 o'clock															
9 o'clock															
10 o'clock															
11 o'clock															
midnight															
ferry slip															
coal store															
net loft															
cliff path															
ropewalk															

Quill's verdict

The culprit: _____

Weapon: _____ Hour: _____

Solution and walkthrough at the back of the book.

Solutions

Case 1: The Unlit Lamp

Culprit: Abel Strand, the only one at the lifeboat station, with the bosun's whistle cord.

Digory Angwin: tide-clock pendulum, gallery walk

Vernon Lusk: lamp-room wrench, customs house

Abel Strand: bosun's whistle cord, lifeboat station

How Quill read the ledger

Clue 3 settles that Digory had the tide-clock pendulum. Clue 1 settles that Digory was at the gallery walk. Clue 4 shows that Vernon was at the customs house and Abel was at the lifeboat station. Clue 2 then fixes the rest of the ledger: Vernon had the lamp-room wrench and Abel had the bosun's whistle cord.

Case 21: The Rope Walk Riddle

Culprit: Lionel Ashby, the only one at the lantern store, with the boathook.

Thomasina Paull: brass compass, ferry slip, blackmail

Lionel Ashby: boathook, lantern store, an unpaid debt

Gideon Tolley: cork float on a chain, net loft, protecting a child

Zachary Polglase: keeper's poker, keeper's cottage, a stolen reward

How Quill read the ledger

Clue 7, read together with clues 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, shows that Thomasina was driven by blackmail and Zachary was driven by a stolen reward. Clue 5 shows that Lionel was driven by an unpaid debt and Gideon was driven by protecting a child. Clue 11 settles that Lionel had the boathook. Clue 2 shows that Zachary had the keeper's poker and Zachary was at the keeper's cottage. Clue 8 then fixes the rest of the ledger: Thomasina had the brass compass, Thomasina was at the ferry slip, Lionel was at the lantern store, Gideon had the cork float on a chain and Gideon was at the net loft.

Case 45: The Marsh Light

Culprit: Eulalie Harvey, the only one at the net loft, with the bottle of lamp oil.

Verity Holman: coil of tarred rope, cliff path, 9 o'clock

Isolde Trethewey: oar, ropewalk, 10 o'clock

Benedict Coombe: oyster knife, coal store, midnight

Eulalie Harvey: bottle of lamp oil, net loft, 11 o'clock

Lionel Ashby: barometer, ferry slip, 8 o'clock

How Quill read the ledger

Clue 8, read together with clues 3, 11, 6, 1, settles that Benedict was at the coal store. Clue 10 settles that Benedict was seen at midnight. Clue 7, read together with clue 9, settles that Verity was seen at 9 o'clock. Clue 2 shows that Isolde had the oar, Isolde was at the ropewalk, Isolde was seen at 10 o'clock, Eulalie had the bottle of lamp oil, Eulalie was at the net loft, Eulalie was seen at 11 o'clock, Lionel had the barometer and Lionel was seen at 8 o'clock. Clue 4 shows that Verity had the coil of tarred rope and Benedict had the oyster knife. Clue 5 then fixes the rest of the ledger: Verity was at the cliff path and Lionel was at the ferry slip.

Get the Full Book

The Lighthouse Ledger: 60 Murder Mystery Logic Puzzles (Case Files, Volume 1) holds 57 more cases: 20 easy, 24 medium and 16 hard, each with a story, a ledger grid and a full walkthrough.

Available on Amazon in paperback, a hardcover Keeper's Edition with a map of Gullhaven Point, and a Kindle 'Tap to Accuse' edition.

Paperback ISBN 979-8-16-255529-2 | Hardcover ISBN 979-8-16-256867-4

Search Amazon for "The Lighthouse Ledger Harriet Fairlight", or visit the website for a new free Case of the Week.