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OFFICIAL CASE FILE

DOSSIER #CC-94821

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACKWOOD CLOCKTOWER

ESTATE	Ravenhurst Manor
VICTIM	Lord Alistair Sterling
TIME OF DEATH	22:00 HRS
STATUS	UNSOLVED — REOPENED FOR PUBLIC INVESTIGATION
CONTENTS	Incident Report · Coroner & Toxicology Report · Evidence Log · Manor Floor Plan · Suspect Dossier · Detective Timeline Worksheet. The solution is in the SEPARATE sealed envelope file — do not open it until you are ready to accuse.

A printable cold case investigation game for 1–8 detectives · Approx. 90–150 minutes
Print on US Letter or A4. Print the Sealed Solution Envelope file LAST — and keep it sealed.

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Publication code: PP-CASHENGINE-COLDCASE-ZIP

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DOCUMENT 1 — POLICE INCIDENT & CRIME SCENE REPORT

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SCENE SUMMARY

Responding officers attended Ravenhurst Manor on the night of the incident and discovered the body of Lord Alistair Sterling inside the manor study. The study was found locked. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene; time of death is recorded by the coroner as 22:00 hrs.

THE STUDY

The antique clock in the study was found stopped, its hands frozen at 10:12 PM. On the desk beside the victim stood a half-consumed glass of port. The glass was seized, sealed and logged as Exhibit A pending laboratory analysis (see Evidence Log).

INITIAL FINDINGS

Laboratory screening of Exhibit A identified the port as laced with potassium cyanide. The coroner's full findings are recorded in the Autopsy & Toxicology Report (Exhibit B). No signs of a struggle were recorded in the initial scene log, and the study door was secured from within the room.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Three facts anchor this file and do not move: the coroner's time of death (22:00 hrs), the toxicology window (ingestion twenty minutes prior), and the stopped study clock (10:12 PM). Every statement in this dossier must be tested against them.

DOCUMENT 2 — CORONER'S AUTOPSY & FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY REPORT

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CAUSE OF DEATH

Acute cyanide poisoning. Fatal toxicology indicates cyanide was ingested twenty minutes prior to death. With time of death fixed at 22:00 hrs, the poisoned port was consumed at approximately 21:40 hrs.

TOXICOLOGY — KEY FINDING

The cyanide compound recovered from the victim and from Exhibit A (the port glass) was compared against reference samples held on the estate. The traces matched the oil-painting restoration reagents stored in Madame Cross's studio at Ravenhurst Manor.

CORONER'S CONCLUSION

Death was neither accidental nor self-administered on the evidence available: the poison vehicle was a served drink, prepared before consumption, using a compound kept in a working studio on the premises.

Signed: Office of the Coroner — findings final. The twenty-minute ingestion window and the reagent match are the two load-bearing facts of this case.

DOCUMENT 3 — EVIDENCE LOG & EXHIBIT SHEETS

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EXHIBIT	ITEM	RECORD
EXHIBIT A	**Glass of Port (half-consumed)**	Recovered from the desk in the study beside the victim. Laboratory result: laced with potassium cyanide.
EXHIBIT B	**Antique Study Clock**	Recovered from the study. Mechanism stopped; hands frozen at 10:12 PM on the night of the incident.
EXHIBIT C	**Oil-Painting Restoration Reagents**	Reference samples taken from Madame Cross's studio at Ravenhurst Manor. Toxicology match to the cyanide compound in Exhibit A and in the victim.
EXHIBIT D	**Railway Statement — 9:30 PM Service**	Statement given by Madame Cross claims she departed the estate to catch the 9:30 PM train. Railway records for that night show the line closed for track maintenance. See the Sealed Solution Envelope before opening the verdict on this exhibit.

DOCUMENT 4 — RAVENHURST MANOR FLOOR PLAN & EVIDENCE MAP

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Schematic ground-floor plan of Ravenhurst Manor, drawn for the investigation file. Evidence locations are marked as recorded in the Evidence Log.

DOCUMENT 5 — SUSPECT DOSSIER

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NAME

Madame Cross

ROLE AT RAVENHURST MANOR

Art restorer — keeps a working studio on the ground floor of the estate, where oil-painting restoration reagents are stored.

STATEMENT ON RECORD

Madame Cross states that she left Ravenhurst Manor in time to catch the 9:30 PM train on the night of Lord Sterling's death, and was therefore away from the estate before the time of death.

POINTS THE DETECTIVE MUST TEST

• Toxicology places the poisoned drink in the victim's hand at approximately 21:40 hrs — ten minutes AFTER the departure Madame Cross describes. • The cyanide compound matches reagents stored in her own studio (Exhibit C). • Her movements that night rest entirely on the 9:30 PM train. The railway's own records for that service are filed as Exhibit D.

DOCUMENT 6 — DETECTIVE'S TIMELINE WORKSHEET

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Every established time in the case, in order. Cross-examine each statement against this sheet.

TIME	RECORDED FACT
21:30	Madame Cross states she departed to catch the 9:30 PM train. (Her statement — test it.)
~21:40	Cyanide ingested by the victim — twenty minutes before death, per the coroner.
22:00	Time of death of Lord Alistair Sterling (coroner's record).
22:12	Time shown by the stopped antique clock in the study (10:12 PM) when the scene was examined.

BEFORE YOU ACCUSE — write your answers: Who held the poison at 21:40? Which exhibit proves it? Which statement collapses, and why? Then — and only then — open the Sealed Solution Envelope.