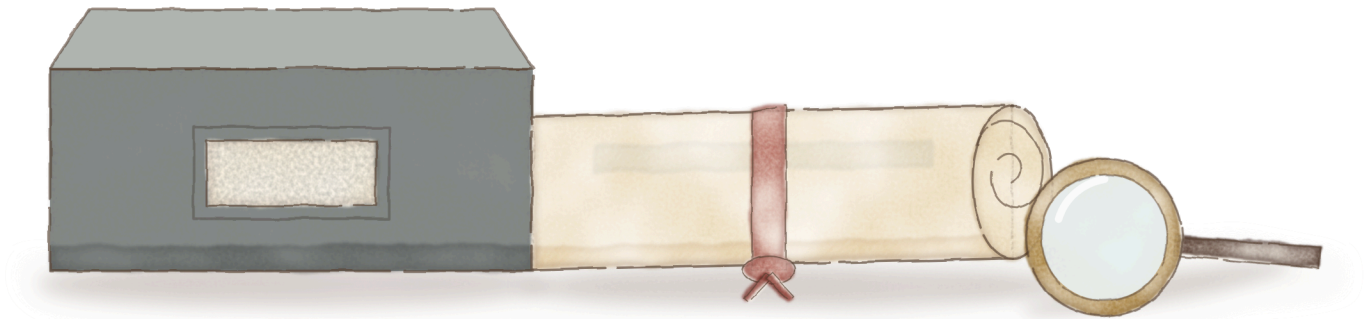




FREE PREVIEW · NOT THE CASE FILE ITSELF

The Locked Archive

The night before the Corrigan Archive goes to auction, its owner is found dead inside the climate-controlled vault – and the star lot, an 1838 harbor chart, is gone from its case.

HOW A CASE FILE WORKS

- ☐ Read “The case” and the floor plan, then the seven suspect files. Each file ends with what that suspect told the police (statements SA to SG).
- ☐ Lay out the Stage 1 evidence and work through it together. Use the worksheets: who had a reason, and who could have been in the vault, and when?
- ☐ Open Stage 2 when you have read everything in Stage 1. Open Stage 3 when you can name no more than three suspects who could still have done it.
- ☐ Stuck? Turn over the first hint card for your stage. Still stuck after ten minutes? Turn over the second.
- ☐ When you are sure, fill in the accusation: who, how they reached the vault, why, and the evidence numbers that prove it. Then, and only then, open the solution.

WHAT THIS PREVIEW IS NOT

It has no evidence, no suspect statements and no solution — you cannot solve the case with it. The full case file is a separate download.

The case

Who, how and why — the rest is in the file.

Tomorrow at ten, Halberd & Lowe will auction the Corrigan Archive: two hundred years of Port Wexley's maps and letters, collected by Ansel Corrigan. The star is Lot 14, the Wexley Harbor Survey of 1838 — a hand-drawn chart, the only known copy, estimated at up to \$450,000.

Tonight the archive was busy. A conservator was finishing a report upstairs, Ansel's partner and a volunteer were working in the reading room, a courier was loading crates at the dock, and Ansel spent the evening alone in the climate vault in the basement with Lot 14.

At 9:38 PM the night guard found Ansel dead in the vault. Lot 14's case was open and empty.

YOUR QUESTION

Who killed Ansel Corrigan — how did they get into the vault, and why?

THE SUSPECTS

Kendall Ruiz	Ansel's business partner
Jesse Tamblyn	Paper conservator
Alex Mercer	Rival collector
Rory Ashdown	Auction specialist, Halberd & Lowe
Taylor Brandt	Ansel's heir
Robin Lacey	Volunteer cataloger
Ellery Voss	Fine-art courier

WHAT THE FULL CASE FILE INCLUDES

- A floor plan with walking times, and seven suspect files with what each told the police.
- Twenty-one numbered pieces of evidence in three sealed stages: logs, records, photographs and statements.
- A suspect worksheet, a timeline worksheet, six fold-over hint cards in two tiers, and an accusation form.
- A separate solution that proves the answer step by step and says why it was not anyone else.