

# MURDLE

SOLVE 100 DEVILISHLY  
DEVIOUS MURDER MYSTERY  
LOGIC PUZZLES

.....

**G. T. KARBER**



SOUVENIR  
PRESS

## *For Dan & Dani*

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# HOW TO SOLVE

Welcome to *Murdle*, the official publication of the case files of the world's greatest mystery-solving mind, Deductive Logico.

Unlike other memoirs of the crime-fighting life, these murdles are not mere tales, but puzzles for you to solve. And all you need to crack these cases is a sharp pencil and an even sharper mind.

To prove it, let's review Deductive Logico's very first case, which he cracked as a junior at Deduction College. The student body president had been murdered, and Logico was certain one of three people had done it:



**MAYOR HONEY**

He knows where the bodies are buried, and he makes sure they always vote for him.

**6'0" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • LIGHT BROWN HAIR**



**DEAN GLAUCOUS**

The dean of some such-and-such department at Deduction College. What does he do? Well, he handles the money, for one . . .

**5'6" • RIGHT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • LIGHT BROWN HAIR**



**CHANCELLOR  
TUSCANY**

As the head of Deduction College, she has deduced exactly how much rich parents are willing to pay to get their children a degree in logic.

**5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLOND HAIR**

**G. T. KARBER**

Young Logico also knew that each of them was in one of these places and had one of these weapons.



**THE STADIUM**  
OUTDOORS

The field features the absolute highest quality fake grass money can buy.



**THE BOOKSTORE**  
INDOORS

The biggest money-maker on campus. A sign offers a 2-for-\$500 deal on textbooks.



**OLD MAIN**  
INDOORS

The first building on campus and the least maintained. Paint is peeling off the wall!



**A SHARP PENCIL**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

Back then, they used actual lead. One stab and you'd die from lead poisoning.



**A HEAVY BACKPACK**  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

Finally, a practical use for all those logic textbooks (hitting people with them).



**A GRADUATION CORD**  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

It would be a high academic honor to be strangled by one of these.

Now, Logico knew that he could not make assumptions just from reading these descriptions! Sometimes mayors wore heavy backpacks, and sometimes teachers went to the stadium. No, the way to figure out who had what where was by studying the clues and evidence.













MURDLE

These were the facts he knew to be absolutely, perfectly true:

- Whoever was in the stadium was right-handed.
- The suspect with the sharp pencil resented the person at Old Main.
- The suspect with a graduation cord had beautiful hazel eyes.
- Dean Glaucous seemed to carry a lot of logic textbooks around.
- **The body was found next to peeling paint.**

And finally, he pulled out his detective’s notebook and meticulously drew a grid, labeling each column and row with a picture representing each of the suspects, weapons, and locations.

The locations were listed twice—once on top, and once on the side—so that every square represented a unique potential pairing.

SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
  			  		
WEAPONS					
					
					
LOCATIONS					
					
					

This tool—the deduction grid—was a powerful technology taught at Deduction College. It could help clarify your thoughts and identify the possible conclusions you could make.

But never before had it been used to solve a murder! In Deduction College, they apply logic only to the realm of the purely ab-

stract. If all Xs are Ys and all Ys are Zs—that kind of thing. What Logico was doing here was new, exciting, and dangerous!













Once he drew his deduction grid, he had arrived at his favorite part:

the deducing! He went down the list of clues, and put each of them into his grid.

The first clue is: **Whoever was in the stadium was right-handed.**

According to Logico's notes on the suspects, only Dean Glaucous was right-handed. Therefore, Dean Glaucous was at the stadium.

Logico marked that down on his grid, as seen below. But that was not all Logico learned from that clue.













SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
					
WEAPONS					
					
					
LOCATIONS		✓			
					
					

If Dean Glaucous was at the stadium, then he wasn't at the bookstore or Old Main, and since only one suspect was at each location, neither Chancellor Tuscany nor Mayor Honey was at the stadium.

Logico represented this on his

grid with Xs. This illustrates a principle: When you identify somebody's location or their weapon, you can cross out every other possibility in that row and column.

Logico moved on to the next clue:













SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
					
WEAPONS					
					
					
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X	
			X		
			X		

## MURDLE

**The suspect with the sharp pencil resented the person at Old Main.**

It seems like this clue is telling us about personal relationships. But Logico was only concerned with facts. And the only fact this clue told him was that the suspect with the sharp pencil and the suspect at Old Main were two separate people. Therefore, *the sharp pencil was not at Old Main.*

And so, Logico marked that down in his deduction grid, too.













		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS							X
							
							
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				

Then, he moved on to the next clue: **The suspect with a graduation cord had beautiful hazel eyes.**

He ignored the part about the eyes being beautiful and focused on what he thought was important: only Mayor Honey had hazel eyes. There-

fore, Mayor Honey had the graduation cord.

And again, Logico could cross out the entire row and column! After all, if Mayor Honey had the graduation cord, then neither Chancellor Tuscany nor Dean Glaucous

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X					X
		X					
		✓	X	X			
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				

had it. And since each suspect had only one weapon, Mayor Honey couldn't have the heavy backpack or the sharp pencil.

Logico moved on to the next clue: **Dean Glaucous seemed to carry a lot of logic textbooks around.**













Now, what does that mean? Logic textbooks aren't one of the weapons! But, if

you read the descriptions of each weapon, you'll notice that the heavy backpack's says, "Finally, a practical use for all those logic textbooks (hitting people with them)." If Dean Glaucous was carrying a lot of logic textbooks around, he was using the backpack to do it!













You don't have to make leaps of logic in these puzzles: everything you need to know clearly appears in the descriptions. Is it possible that Dean Glaucous was carrying logic books around without a heavy backpack? Not to Deductive Logico!

Logico marked down that Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack, and he crossed off the other possibilities in that row and column. Once he did that, Logico smiled. If Mayor Honey had the graduation cord and Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack, Chancellor Tuscany must have had the sharp pencil. He marked this down as well.

This next step is the key to solving all the murder mysteries that appear in this book: Chancellor Tuscany had the sharp pencil. The sharp pencil is not at Old Main. Therefore, *Chancellor Tuscany could not be at Old Main.*

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X	X	✓			X
		X	✓	X			
		✓	X	X			
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
			X				
			X				

## MURDLE

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X	X	✓			X
		X	✓	X			
		✓	X	X			
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
		X	X	✓			
		✓	X	X			

Therefore, Chancellor Tuscany was at the bookstore, since it was the only remaining location. And since she had the sharp pencil, the sharp pencil must have been at the bookstore, too.













Logico marked this on his deduction grid and crossed off the other boxes in each row and column. And from there, he de-

duced that Mayor Honey was at Old Main, so he marked that down too.

Since Mayor Honey was at Old Main with the graduation cord, the graduation cord must have been at Old Main. And since Dean Glaucous had the heavy backpack and was at the stadium, the heavy backpack was at the stadium, too.

*So satisfying!* Logico thought, as he looked at his completed grid. Now, he was ready for the final clue: **The body was found next to peeling paint.**

This last clue is special. It doesn't tell you who has what weapon where—it

		SUSPECTS			LOCATIONS		
							
WEAPONS		X	X	✓	X	✓	X
		X	✓	X	✓	X	X
		✓	X	X	X	X	✓
LOCATIONS		X	✓	X			
		X	X	✓			
		✓	X	X			

tells you about the murder itself!

By consulting his notes, Logico knew that this clue meant the murder had been committed in Old Main, because the description of Old Main mentions peeling paint. Therefore, since Mayor Honey was the suspect in Old Main, Mayor Honey must have committed the crime.

Confident in his deductions, Logico marched down to the chancellor's office where he confidently declared: **"It was Mayor Honey with the graduation cord at Old Main!"**

Chancellor Tuscany was impressed with his hard work, and she gave him an A-plus. Mayor Honey, however, was able to win reelection in a landslide, thanks to his populist tirades against the tyranny of logic. But that did not matter, because to Logico, it wasn't the consequences of his deductions that mattered: it was the deductive work itself.

And that is how young Logico became Deductive Logico, and how he first applied the theories of his college education to the problems of the real world. When he graduated, he moved to the city, and he began to offer his services as the only deductive detective in the business.

This book contains one hundred mysteries that Deductive Logico was able to solve using these techniques and others. There are ciphers to decode, witness statements to examine, and many other secrets to unlock. As you progress, and the mysteries become more challenging, you will find your reasoning skills being put to the test. Because logic is a many-splendored thing, there are always new techniques to learn and new deductions to make.

If you get stuck, do not despair! You can flip to the back of the book for a hint. And when you're ready to make your accusation, flip even farther back to the answers to see if you're right. With every mystery solved, a

bigger story begins to emerge. So read carefully as you go, and remember: to a deductive detective, every case can be cracked using logic alone.

If you need more help, or want to solve more mysteries with others, then join the Detective Club at [Murdle.com](http://Murdle.com). Otherwise, you're on your own!


Good luck, gumshoe!

# DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

 — ELEMENTARY

  — OCCULT MEDIUM

   — HARD BOILED

    — IMPOSSIBLE

## EXHIBIT A



### MEMBERSHIP CARD & PIN

This card and fedora pin confirm Logico's membership (#6KLM) in the Detective Club.



### SECRET DECODER RING

A mechanical device for reading and writing in Detective Code:

#### DECODED

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

#### ENCODED



### MAGNIFYING GLASS

Logico uses this to find clues and to read the fine print. Made with crystal from Emerald Industries.



### VHS TAPE AND BOOK

A mystery tape from Midnight Movies and a novel by Dame Obsidian. Plus a Detective Club bookmark.



### CUP OF COFFEE

The perfect fuel for solving armchair mysteries. The cup once belonged to General Coffee himself!

## THE CONTENTS OF DEDUCTIVE LOGICO'S DETECTIVE KIT

# ELEMENTARY

During the course of the following twenty-five mysteries, Deductive Logico's life was forever changed. He went from being a fresh-faced student, straight out of Deduction College, to the grizzled deductive he is today.

He learned things he had never suspected, and he saw things he would never forget.

Thankfully, he always carried with him his deductive wits and his Detective Kit (Exhibit A, seen to the left). So no matter how confusing his cases became, he could always figure them out.

Can you? Study the suspects, weapons, and locations. Read the clues carefully. Make your deductions. And finally, determine whodunit, with what, and where?

Some of you may find these first twenty-five mysteries *too* elementary (particularly those of you with degrees from a certified Deduction College).

If that's the case, then take the Detective Club's Elementary, My Dear Challenge: see *how fast* you can solve all twenty-five elementary murder mysteries *without getting a single one wrong*. Our current record, set by a member of the club prior to this book's publication, is thirty-six minutes.

Can you beat it?

# 1. MURDER IN HOLLYWOOD 🔍

When Deductive Logico was invited to a fancy dinner party at a mansion in the Hollywood Hills, he thought he had finally made it. Unfortunately, he was not the guest of honor: he was there to solve the murder of the guest of honor.

## SUSPECTS



**THE AMAZING  
AUREOLIN**

A magician who perfected the sawing-your-husband-in-two routine. Then, she made his body disappear.

5'6" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLOND HAIR



**MIDNIGHT III**

The grandson of the founder of Midnight Movies and a self-described self-made man.

5'8" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • DARK BROWN HAIR



**DAME OBSIDIAN**

A mystery writer whose books have sold more copies than the Bible and Shakespeare combined.

5'4" • LEFT-HANDED • GREEN EYES • BLACK HAIR

## LOCATIONS



**THE ENORMOUS  
BATHROOM**  
INDOORS

A bathroom that is bigger than Deductive Logico's house.



**THE BEDROOM**  
INDOORS

A California king-sized bed, unmade, stands in a spotless white room.



**THE SCREENING  
ROOM**  
INDOORS

Red velvet seats and a popcorn machine make this the ultimate screening experience.

WEAPONS



A FORK  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

Actually a lot more gruesome than a knife, if you think about it.



AN ALUMINUM PIPE  
MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Safer than lead, unless it hits you in the head.









A HEAVY CANDLE  
MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Heavy enough to kill, and yet it lightens the room.







CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The Amazing Aureolin trusted the suspect who brought a fork.
- Midnight III was still brandishing an aluminum pipe when Logico arrived.
- A heavy candle was not found in the bedroom.
- Dame Obsidian was found hiding beneath red velvet seats.
- **The body was found inside a marble tub.**

SUSPECTS



LOCATIONS




WHO?

WHAT?

WHERE?

## 2. AND THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE 🔍

Deductive Logico was thrilled when he heard an old man had been killed on a secluded island. Of course, that was bad, but Logico had always wanted to solve one of those secluded island murders, and this was his big chance.



**SIGNOR  
EMERALD**

An Italian jeweler of great renown, Signor Emerald has traveled the world in search of rare, precious stones, which are always falling out of his pockets.

5'8" • LEFT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • BLACK HAIR



**FATHER MANGO**

He has taken a vow of poverty, but he drives a BMW. He's taken a vow of obedience, but he has a staff of twenty-five. He's taken a vow of chastity, too, which is why he's on vacation.

5'10" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • BALD



**MISS SAFFRON**

Gorgeous and charming, but maybe not all there in the brains department. Or maybe that's what she wants you to think. Or maybe she wants you to think that's what she wants you to think.

5'2" • LEFT-HANDED • HAZEL EYES • BLOND HAIR

### LOCATIONS



**THE CLIFFS**  
OUTDOORS

A long drop, but maybe the jagged rocks would break your fall.



**THE ANCIENT  
RUINS**  
OUTDOORS

Some old standing stones with strange glyphs carved on them.



**THE DOCKS**  
OUTDOORS

Old, rotten docks that have certainly seen better days. Look out for sharks!

WEAPONS



A BEAR TRAP  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

If you think it's too gruesome to use on a person, just think how the bears feel!



AN ORDINARY BRICK  
MEDIUM-WEIGHT

Just a regular, ordinary brick. Nothing special. Just a brick.



A HARPOON  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

You could kill a fish with this. Or, honestly, you could kill anything with it.

CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The suspect who brought an ordinary brick was a parishioner of Father Mango's.
- Miss Saffron had a bear trap in her purse.
- The suspect whose family's company produced Logico's magnifying glass was on the cliffs. (See Exhibit A.)
- The ancient ruins seemed to hypnotize the hazel eyes of the suspect standing beside them.
- By the time Logico got there, the old man's body had been nibbled on by sharks.

SUSPECTS

LOCATIONS



WEAPONS



LOCATIONS




WHO?

WHAT?

WHERE?

### 3. THE ART OF THE KILL 🔍

Deductive Logico visited an art museum, which was very confusing to him. No murder was as baffling as some of these paintings. So he was quite relieved when an experimental artist was killed in mysterious circumstances: finally, something he could understand.

#### SUSPECTS



**CAPTAIN SLATE**

A real-life astronaut. The first woman to travel around the dark side of the moon, and also the first to be suspected of murdering her copilot.

5'5" • LEFT-HANDED • DARK BROWN EYES • DARK BROWN HAIR



**BISHOP AZURE**

A bishop in a local church, she has been known to pray for both her friends and her enemies. Of course, she asks for different things . . .

5'4" • RIGHT-HANDED • LIGHT BROWN EYES • DARK BROWN HAIR



**BLACKSTONE,  
ESQ.**

Incredibly talented at the most important skill for an attorney: getting paid.

6'0" • RIGHT-HANDED • BLACK EYES • BLACK HAIR

#### LOCATIONS



**THE ROOFTOP  
GARDEN**  
OUTDOORS

A rooftop garden! With pigeons! And you can feed the pigeons! Very cool.



**THE ENTRY  
HALL**  
INDOORS

According to a plaque on the wall, even the architecture of the entry hall is art.



**AN ART STUDIO**  
INDOORS

In the back of the museum, it's littered with flyers for art classes.

WEAPONS



A GLASS OF  
POISONED WINE  
LIGHT-WEIGHT

This is your typical glass of poisoned wine. A mystery classic.



AN ABSTRACT  
STATUE  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

No matter how hard he looked at this, Logico did not understand.



A RARE VASE  
HEAVY-WEIGHT

Logico thought about how, technically, every vase someone makes by hand is rare, because there is only one of them.

CLUES & EVIDENCE

- Blackstone, Esq., was suspicious of the person who brought an abstract statue.
- Captain Slate brought a glass of poisoned wine.
- An abstract statue was not in the art studio. (Sometimes the students' art seemed abstract, but that was just because it was bad.)
- Either Blackstone, Esq., was standing on top of flyers for art classes, or Captain Slate was in the rooftop garden.
- **The body of the experimental artist was found under a plaque on the wall.**

SUSPECTS                      LOCATIONS



WEAPONS

LOCATIONS


WHO?

WHAT?

WHERE?