The Last Ferry

VICTIM	*Walt Dennison, night clerk at the municipal ferry window.*
KNOWN FACT	The person who had the boat hook killed Walt Dennison.
QUESTION	*Who killed Walt Dennison, what did they use, and where did it happen?*

The last ferry to Isle Marin had cleared the breakwater at eleven, and the terminal should have been a box of echoes and wet light. Instead, just after dawn, a sweeper found Walt Dennison on the floor and ran for the harbor master.

By the time the file reached the Civic Archive, the rooms had been cleared and Walt had been taken up the hill. What remained was paper: four names, four rooms, four objects logged out of the building, and a harbor master who wanted the rumor settled before the afternoon paper.

Linnea Maki set the folder square to the desk edge, uncapped her pen, and drew a grid. She had walked past the terminal every workday for nine years. She knew the ticket booth's sticky drawer, the canteen's burnt-coffee air, the baggage cage with its chicken-wire shine, and the fuel dock's rainbow sheen on black water. She also knew Walt: careful with keys, short with late passengers, and kind to the morning bread delivery.

Four people had after-hours business in the terminal. June Harlow, who worked the day window, had come back about a till that would not close. Tomas Reid had been on the dock for a late repair. Priya Shah had left the morning bread and, she said, a word for Walt. Ellis Boone, a harbor pilot held in port by weather, had wanted a key he claimed was his. Linnea wrote the four names down and began.

THE PEOPLE

June Harlow — day cashier at the ferry window
Tomas Reid — dock maintenance
Priya Shah — delivers bread to the canteen each morning
Ellis Boone — harbor pilot, held in port by weather



NOTES

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CLUES

1. June Harlow was in the ticket booth.
2. The person in the canteen had the enamel coffee pot.
3. The brass key was not in the baggage cage and was not at the fuel dock.
4. Ellis Boone was neither in the canteen nor at the fuel dock.
5. The mooring line was at the fuel dock.
6. Priya Shah was not at the fuel dock.

THE GRID

	brass key	boat hook	enamel coffee pot	mooring line	ticket booth	baggage cage	canteen	fuel dock
June Harlow								
Tomas Reid								
Priya Shah								
Ellis Boone								
ticket booth								
baggage cage								
canteen								
fuel dock								

ACCUSATION

KILLER _____ OBJECT _____ PLACE _____

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