

Murder Mystery

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The activity

A murder mystery which must be solved in groups of four. Each group member is given a set of clues which are not to be shown to the other group members. The group members must share their information with each other verbally and work together to solve the murder mystery.

In the end, each group must name the person they think committed the murder.

Make sure to engage the students once you bring them the solution. Do not read the solution out loud, but allow the students to contribute.

Introduction

James Mulligan, owner of TechStream, was found dead in his private office in his home at 8.20pm last night. He had been stabbed through the heart by a sharp object. When he was found, he was sitting at his desk with a pen in one hand.

He had invited several guests to his home to celebrate his wife's pregnancy. He had planned a dinner and a special fireworks show, which they were to watch from the balcony.

People present:

Karen Mulligan, his wife

David Johnson, his best friend

Susan Johnson, David's wife

Bob Hartley, CEO of Techstream

His lawyer

His maid

Clues for person 1:

The balcony has two doors: One leads to the dining room, the other leads to the bedroom.

The missing sword was found in James Mulligan and Karen Mulligan's bedroom.

At 8.15pm, everyone heard the lawyer shouting, and they ran from the balcony to find him banging on the office door which was locked. Bob Hartley broke down the door, and everyone saw James Mulligan's dead body.

Shortly before 8.15pm, Karen Mulligan heard Susan Johnson crying. Even though she was angry with her, she gave her a handkerchief. Susan Johnson looked at David Johnson and said: *I am sorry.*

Only Bob Hartley, Karen Mulligan, and David Johnson were wearing blue that evening.

Clues for person 2:

The lawyer told the police that he had left the office to go to the bathroom at around 8pm. After that, he went to the kitchen and had the maid serve him a glass of wine. He returned to the office at 8.15pm to find it locked. He began banging at the door and shouting for James Mulligan to open it.

David Johnson had been in love with Karen Mulligan many years ago.

A piece of blue fabric was found in the office.

Bob Hartley stood behind everyone during the fireworks. The other guests told the police that they did not remember speaking to him at all.

The police found a note in David Johnson's pocket. It said: *I am sorry, darling. James and I have been seeing each other for a year, but I promise to end it tonight. Please forgive me.*

Clues for person 3:

James Mulligan collected old weapons and hung them on his office wall. One sword was missing when his body was found.

Although James Mulligan was found with a pen in his hand, there was no paper in front of him.

The police found red stains in the carpet in the bedroom. The stains led from the balcony door and ended in front of the western wall in the bedroom.

At 7.35pm, James Mulligan and the lawyer told the guests that they had some important business to discuss. They went directly to James Mulligan's private office.

The maid told the police that she suspected that James Mulligan was seeing another woman. She had once told this to Karen Mulligan, and Karen Mulligan's reply to her was: *If I ever find out for sure, I will kill him.*

James Mulligan had recently called Bob Hartley and told him that he was considering making big changes in the company. He wanted to focus less on making money and more on helping people in need. Bob Hartley disagreed with this and tried to change James Mulligan's mind.

Clues for person 4:

At 7.30pm, dinner ended, and everyone went to the balcony to watch the fireworks. The maid went to the kitchen to clean up, and she stayed there until 8.15pm when she heard the lawyer shouting. She ran to see what had happened.

Dinner had been a bit late because no one could find David Johnson and Karen Mulligan. After waiting for them in 15 minutes, they entered the dining room together. Karen Mulligan looked upset.

Karen Mulligan spilled her red wine when everyone moved from the dining room to the balcony.

The office is located on the west side of the bedroom.

James Mulligan had once called Bob Hartley to ask him if he knew any architects who could build secret doors.

Solution

Murder: Bob Hartley

Bob Hartley killed James Mulligan. He was upset with James' plan to make big changes in the company and consequently make less money. In the office, James Mulligan had just signed a contract which would implement the changes in the company. Bob Hartley killed James Mulligan and took away the contract. Therefore, James Mulligan was found with a pen in one hand but no paper in front of him.

Bob Hartley stood behind all the other guest when they were watching the fireworks on the balcony, but no one remembered talking to him. Bob Hartley left the balcony to commit the murder while the other guests were watching the fireworks.

Bob Hartley knew about a secret door between the western wall in the bedroom and the office. Red stains (blood) were found between the western wall in the bedroom and the balcony door. Bob Hartley used the secret door to enter the office, and blood stains dripped on the floor as he left the office and went back to the balcony.

Bob Hartley used James Mulligan's sword to commit the murder. This was found in the bedroom, where Bob Hartley left it after committing the murder.

Bob Hartley was one of the people wearing blue that night.