

MURDLE

 *Volume 1* 

100 ELEMENTARY TO IMPOSSIBLE
MYSTERIES TO SOLVE USING LOGIC, SKILL,
AND THE POWER OF DEDUCTION

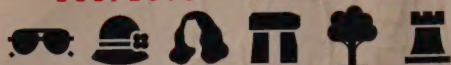
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PUZZLE
SENSATION
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..... **G.T. KARBER**

CLUES, CODES, MYSTERY, MURDLE!

SUSPECTS LOCATIONS



WEAPONS



LOCATIONS



| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | X | |
| | ✓ | | | | |
| | | | | | ✓ |
| | | | | | |
| X | | | | | |
| | | | | | ✓ |



WHO

committed the ghastly deed?

WHAT

sinister weapon did they use?

WHERE

did this terrible crime occur?

100
MYSTERY
LOGIC
PUZZLES!

JOIN DEDUCTIVE LOGICO and investigate murders most foul in *Murdle: Volume 1*. The first of their kind, these humorous mini-mystery puzzles challenge you to find whodunit, how, where, and why. Examine the clues, interview the witnesses, and use the power of deduction to complete the grid and catch the culprit. Together, you'll uncover a buried secret beneath all of the murders and a message that can only be decrypted when you've solved them all.

Packed with illustrations, codes, and maps, and brimming with wit and intrigue, *Murdle: Volume 1* is the must-have detective casebook for the secret sleuth in everyone.



G. T. KARBER grew up in a small town in Arkansas, the son of a judge and a civil rights attorney. He graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in mathematics and English literature, and he holds an MFA from the University of Southern California. As the General Secretary of the Hollywood Mystery Society, he has overseen the staging of dozens of immersive whodunits in the LA area.

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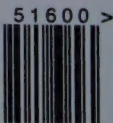
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MURDLE

 *Volume 1* 

100 ELEMENTARY TO IMPOSSIBLE
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AND THE POWER OF DEDUCTION

•••• **G. T. KARBER** ••••



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For Dan & Dani

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HOW TO SOLVE

Welcome to *Murdle: Volume 1*, 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

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.

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 abstract.

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 | | | | |

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 | | | | |

| | | 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. Otherwise, you're on your own!

Good luck, gumshoe!

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

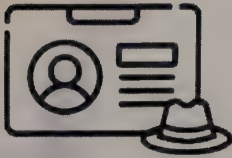
Q — ELEMENTARY

QQ — OCCULT MEDIUM

QQQ — HARD BOILED

QQQQ — 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.