SEALED — DO NOT OPEN

SEALED SOLUTION ENVELOPE

Case #CC-94821 — THE MYSTERY OF THE BLACKWOOD CLOCKTOWER

Detective: if you are reading this before making your accusation, close the file. The manor deserves better, and so does your score.

SEALED — DO NOT OPEN

THE SOLUTION — STEP BY STEP

STEP 1 — FIX THE WINDOW

The coroner fixes death at 22:00 hrs and ingestion twenty minutes prior. Whoever poisoned the port acted at approximately 21:40 hrs, inside Ravenhurst Manor.

STEP 2 — FOLLOW THE POISON

The cyanide in the port (Exhibit A) and in the victim matches the oil-painting restoration reagents kept in Madame Cross's studio (Exhibit C). The poison came from her stores, on the premises.

STEP 3 — BREAK THE ALIBI

Madame Cross claims she left on the 9:30 PM train. The railway's records (Exhibit D) show the line was closed that night for track maintenance — no 9:30 PM train ran. Her alibi is impossible: she was at Ravenhurst Manor at 21:40 hrs.

VERDICT

Madame Cross poisoned Lord Alistair Sterling's port with cyanide taken from her own restoration reagents, then constructed a railway alibi for a train that never ran. Means and opportunity are proven by Exhibits A, C and D; the locked study and the stopped clock (Exhibit B) are scene facts recorded as found. Case #CC-94821 — CLOSED.