



Cold Case File #001: The Lantern Pier

A solo or duo deduction mystery · about 60–90 minutes

A Lucclub original · all names, places and events are fictional

Welcome, Detective

A body on the end of a pier. Six people with a reason. One of them did it. **Cold Case File #001** is a complete, self-contained deduction mystery for one detective or a pair (or a whole table). You will read official documents, compare timetables and statements, and name the killer, with proof.

How the case works

- 1. Documents never lie.** Police reports, logs, receipts, time clock punches and registers are **true**.
- 2. People may lie.** Statements can be false, incomplete or self-serving. Every suspect has a motive: **motive alone proves nothing**.
- 3. There is exactly one person who had both the opportunity and the means.** The case has been checked, and the solution is unique. No guessing games: everything you need is in these pages.

What you need

- A pencil, a notepad, and 60 to 90 minutes.
- Print the case file (8 pages incl. cover, or read it on screen).
- When you are ready, fill in the Accusation Form on the last page. The sealed solution is a separate file.

Detective's method (optional)

Ask of each suspect: *Could they physically have been at the end of the pier at 10:51 PM?* and *Could they have gotten hold of the weapon?* The Map and Travel Times page will help with the first. The Port Authority Register will help with the second.

Rating

Result	Rank
Killer named correctly, with opportunity AND means explained	Chief Inspector
Killer named correctly, with only one of the two proofs	Detective
Killer named correctly, no proof	Rookie

Police Report

PORT MARROW POLICE · INCIDENT REPORT · CASE 87-1014

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 1987
Location: Lantern Pier (the long pier on the harbor front)
Victim: Silas Crane, 58, Harbor Master, Port Marrow
Found: 11:42 PM by the night watchman, Hob Pettigrew, face down at the end of Lantern Pier.
Cause: A single blow to the back of the head.
Time of death: The victim's pocket watch, smashed in the fall, stopped at **10:51 PM**.
The coroner agrees: he died instantly, between 10:45 and 11:00 PM.
Weapon: An iron mooring pin, found in the water at the foot of the pier steps. The pin is stamped "P.A." (PORT AUTHORITY). Blood and hair on the pin match the victim.
Notes: Pier gate was unlocked. No signs of struggle. Victim's wallet untouched.
Weather: Clear, calm. Visibility good. Tide high at 10:30 PM.
Signed: Sgt. M. Alder, Port Marrow Police

The Port Authority stamps its initials on all pins, hooks and chains. Pins are kept in the Store Room (see the Port Authority Register). The case was never solved. In 1987 nobody checked the timetables.

Map and Travel Times

Walking times to the end of Lantern Pier (the crime scene). The lighthouse is on an islet and can only be reached by Lars's skiff.

From	To Lantern Pier
The Gull Tavern	9 minutes on foot
Port Marrow Cannery	12 minutes on foot
Port Authority Office	5 minutes on foot
Lantern Point Lighthouse (islet)	8 minutes by skiff
Ferry Gull (10:30–11:10 crossing)	Ferry does not stop mid-crossing