0) Overview

Charles Vespian Hale is a professional hitman. Obsessed with Meticulousness, he challenges himself by taking on missions that are nearly impossible and require elaborate planning.

In Cold Moon, Hale is hired by husband and wife Charlotte and Bud to kill as many people as possible at the Commendation Ceremony for Soldiers who have just returned from war zones overseas and have registered to re-enlist. The army is facing many difficulties in recruiting troops. They will use those who apply for re-enlistment as a kind of promotional poster.

For context (optional), the two are members of a right-wing armed group that has been attacking buildings, government officials and United Nations agencies for many years. They had been working in secret for a while, but recently, angry at the government's interference in the country's internal affairs, she and the other members of that anonymous organization decided it was time to do something big. This attack would not only send their precious message but would also do real harm to the enemy: kill generals and government officials who betray the principles upon which America was built, send sons and daughters to die in foreign lands for the benefit of backward, cruel, un-Catholic people.

Hale himself was not very interested in these far-right politics, but what stimulated him to accept this mission was the desire to solve an extremely difficult problem, which caused 6 other skilled assassins to give in when they heard the request. The Hudson Building - where the ceremony will take place - is already considered impregnable. Now hosting a solemn event of this scale, security will be even more strict.

Hale's strategy is a sophisticated, complex plan consisting of many overlapping layers, intertwined with each other to both carry out the assigned task while concealing this purpose from any side. All will be presented below.

I) First layer

1) Police station case 118

A few weeks before the Clockmaker's appearance, Amelia was also investigating the suicide of a man named Benjamin Creeley. And the deeper she dug, the more instability she found, leading to the possibility of a system of corruption within the

East Village 118 police station. And Amelia will follow the investigation story line of this case in parallel with the Watchmaker case.

2) The Watchmaker Case

Hale learns and befriends Vincent Reynolds - a pervert driven by uncontrollable sexual desire. He approached Vincent and explained that he needed an accomplice in the mission to avenge his deceased wife. This is the story Hale told Vincent.

<He's a businessman from the Midwest, named Gerald Duncan. A few years ago, he and his wife went on vacation to New York. He had a business dinner somewhere, and his wife went to a concert alone. She was returning to the hotel on that deserted street when she was hit by a car or a truck. The driver ran away. She screamed for help but no one came to help, no one even called the police or fire department. The doctor said she probably lived another ten or fifteen minutes after being stabbed. And according to him, even someone who wasn't a doctor should have been able to stop the bleeding. But no one helped. When the police investigated, they got the names of ten people who were nearby when his wife died. Gerald himself believed that they could have saved his poor wife's life if only one of them had any human kindness left. He spent the last year finding out where they lived and what their schedules were like. He needs to deal with them when no one else is around so they die slowly. That was very important to him. Just like his wife had to die slowly>

And Gerald needed Vincent because he was a Midwesterner who had only been to New York a few times, and needed a local to guide him about the city, the roads, the transportation system, and stand guard, and occasionally drive the getaway car.

He convinced Vincent by appealing to him, saying that among the subjects of the plan were several women, whom he could "rape in" after they carried out the mission. Furthermore, to ensure the highest level of protection for Vincent, Gerald decided that he would do the first two cases himself. Only then did Vincent believe that Gerald really wanted revenge, so he came to him. Gerald also suggested that in cases where women are the target, Vincent needs to be directly involved, also so that he can "rape" in the victim. There is only one condition: he must give up small "rapences" unless planned. This is not a problem for Vincent, because who wants to rush into risky short-term games, instead of cooperating with a smart person who plans a way to ensure escape. Gerald also said that killing someone would be his doing, and that having sex with a dead body does not essentially make Vincent a rapist. Such a reasonable and emotional proposal made Vincent happily agree. (**Persuasion, EQ, Preparation**)

Together, they (whose leader is Gerald) created the image of the Watchmaker murderer to achieve their goal while distracting the police from both of their identities. (**Strategy, Planning, Deception**)

Regarding the area of operation, Gerald firmly requested a place where the two had no contact. He chose an old Catholic Church, in a desolate area of Manhattan near the Hudson River. Chose this place not only because of the remote location, but also because this church has been for sale for fourteen and a half months, and it's not even new news. And no one will take guests to see real estate during the Christmas season. The church also had electricity in case the realtors needed to turn on the lights, and the heat was still there so the water pipes didn't burst, even though the thermostat was set very low.

Gerald broke the lock on a back door and replaced it with a padlock, so the guys could go back and forth without being seen by people on the street or on the sidewalk. He also changed the lock on the front door and put some wax on it so that in case the guys were away, if anyone came in they would know right away. (**Tactics**)

The Gerald-Vincent relationship is basically head and foot. But never once during his time with Vincent did Gerald appear superior or imposing. He always appears to be a wise man with extensive knowledge but also respects Vincent's opinion, and will always consider his accomplice's desires in his plans. Throughout the collaboration process, Gerald repeatedly demonstrated his passion and knowledge when it came to the subject of Watches/Time in general, which matched Gerald's obsession with detail as well as the reason the name Watchmaker was chosen. (**Planning Preparation**)

Vincent liked the fact that he was working with such a smart person. He liked a lot of things about Gerald Duncan. He kept wondering whether these two socially inept people could become real friends or not. Vincent didn't have many friends, and this friend made him feel secure. Vincent and Gerald are opposites in many ways, but they have one thing in common: dark secrets in their hearts. And anyone who shares them knows it compensates for enormous differences in lifestyle and politics. Like the way Gerald is willing to rape his life story as well as his desire to take revenge on humanity. Gerald also showed just enough interest in Vincent's uncontrollable lust, asking simple questions like understanding the topic without showing any judgment or contempt. So Vincent will definitely make an effort for their friendship. (**Leadership, Psychology**)

2.1) First scene

Gerald kidnapped a person on the target list, then took him to a pier on the Hudson River. He forced this person to hang himself above the river, then cut his wrists. The victim tried to hold on for a long time, but eventually let go. After committing the

crime, Gerald left a wall clock at the scene in a black box for the staff on duty early that day to discover.

He glanced down, noticing an unusual patch of ice nearby. It has a reddish brown color. Staring at the large pool of blood that had gathered near the clock and had frozen to a shiny surface. He leaned forward and was even more horrified by the blood stains there – like bloody fingernails scratched on the wooden floor of the wharf, like someone with cut fingers or wrists had clung on to keep from falling into the fast-flowing river. Then he immediately called the police to report to the scene.

The police bomb squad quickly arrived at the scene first, because in this Post-9/11 era, every ticking piece of evidence is normally checked to see if it is an explosive device => This reluctantly caused chaos at the scene while the bomb squad carefully carried out the work of removing the watch. Choosing the location of the crime here was also intentional, because there weren't many people around and most of the traces would have been swept away or dirty by the fierce winds blowing along the river. (**Tactics**)

Amelia Sachs arrived later and began examining the scene.

She found out:

+ The note (returned by the bomb squad after finding it in the watch), partly covered with dried blood => Sachs took a frozen blood sample.

+ A fingernail was stripped while trying to cling to the pier - It was large, short and unpainted => The victim was likely male.

+ The assassin got in by cutting the wire of the chain link fence protecting the wharf => Sachs took a sample of the wire to check for traces of cutting tools.

+ No fingerprints, footprints or tire tracks were found near the entrance or near the pool of frozen blood. Nor have any witnesses been identified.

The medical examiner reported that if the victim had actually fallen into the Hudson River, according to the details seen at the scene, he would have died within about ten minutes of hypothermia. New York Police Department divers and the Coast Guard are still searching for the body and any evidence still underwater.

Regarding the note, it was a typewritten printout that read: ‘’*The Cold Moon is round in the sky, shining light on this body on the earth, indicating the time of death and the end of the journey that began from birth.*". Sign: **Watchmaker**.

This is also the step where Gerald "introduced" the Watchmaker killer to the police. (**Preparation**)

2.2) Second scene

Last night a woman called 911 saying her brother Theodore Adams was supposed to come to dinner with him but was nowhere to be found. And then this morning, in Cedar Street alley, near Broadway, Theodore Adams' body was found.

Amelia came to investigate after leaving the first scene. She called Lincoln to discuss the case directly during the examination. Amelia summarizes:

I. Victim Status and Scene:

1. **Victim:** Theodore Adams, about 35 years old.
2. **Location:** Lie on your back in a dead-end alley on Cedar Street (near Broadway), about 4.5 meters from the street (alley 30 meters long).
3. **Status:** Gagged, hands and feet tied together with plastic tape.
4. **Cause of death (observed):** Being crushed to death by a heavy metal bar (nearly 2m long, with 2 pinhole-like holes) hanging from the emergency staircase (3m high) by rope. The metal bar crushed the victim's neck (only 2.5cm thick).
5. **Mechanism of crime:** The other end of the rope is placed in the victim's hand. The tied victim could not crawl away, so he had to use his strength to keep the metal bar from falling down his throat. He failed.
6. **Time of death:** Dead for a long time, body frozen from cold (December).
7. **Signs of being moved:** The victim was dragged to the killing position (there was salt and mucus on the back of the jacket and the underside of the pants). There were no obvious tire tracks.
8. **Victim's face:** Blurry, expressionless. Sachs imagines the struggle (red face, purple bruises, bulging eyes) lasting about 10-15 minutes.
9. **Surrounding environment:** The dead-end alley is used for deliveries and is paved with gravel. In the middle of the alley there is rock salt spread to melt the ice

III. Physical and Trace Evidence Collected/Observed:

1. **Items directly related to the case:** Metal bar, rope, plastic tape (on the victim). The clock and note were mentioned but were handled by the Bomb Disposal Team first. The note's content was similar to that of scene 1.
2. **Victim's assets:**
    - Business card: State that the victim is a freelance writer, his work address is the same as his home address.

    - Cash on person: $60, fairly new money.
3. **Unusual traces around the body:**
    - A similar substance **fine sand** was found on the ground within a radius of nearly 1 meter around the body. This substance *Are not* available in other areas in the alley.
    - Token **clean up**: Sachs sees these **straw** small particles mixed in the sand, indicating that the perpetrator may have used a broom.
    - Sand was also found on the victim and the metal bar, indicating that cleaning had occurred *after* The victim was in that position.
4. **Traces outside the main scene (on the sidewalk):**
    - **Shoe prints:** Half a dozen assorted shoe prints **wide-soled turtleneck (terrain hiking style)**, large size, printed on the snow at the beginning of the alley (Cedar Street), near the sidewalk. The location shows that someone stood there watching for a while (footprints indicate a change in position). There is no obvious reason for someone to be standing in this location (no phone, mailbox, window nearby).

IV. Sachs's Inference and Hypothesis (and Rhyme via communication):

1. **Nature of the case:** Intentional and brutal murder, prolonging the suffering of the victim. It can be paid by organized criminals (sending messages) or by psychopaths (paranoia, sadism, addiction to pain).
2. **The killer's caution:** The perpetrator was very careful not to leave obvious traces (fingerprints, hair, fabric fibers...) at the main scene.
3. **Meaning of sand sweeping:**
    - Initially thought it was to erase common traces.
    - Sachs deduced (Rhyme agreed): The killer thoroughly cleaned the area because **planning to return to the scene** (to see if the victim is dead, to watch the police work, or to "hunt" the investigator). Cleaning to remove any traces (even the smallest such as fabric fibers or shoe dust) can help identify the perpetrator. *when he came back*.

V. Information from others (Sachs receives but does not directly process):

1. **Pulaski:** Report that Sellitto is questioning bystanders (no witnesses yet), the Bomb Disposal Team is processing the watch will pass it on to Rhyme, and he will go get the license plates of the cars parked nearby.
2. **Sellitto:** Confirmed no witnesses from surrounding offices. Will have the security guard open the back door near the body at Rhyme's request (so Sachs can search inside).

=> Creativity, Tactics, VSI

Barbara (the victim's sister and the person who called the police last night) arrived at the scene, saw the body and recognized her brother. She was extremely panicked, miserable and depressed. Sachs took Barbara into the hallway of a nearby building to avoid the cold and attention, helping her calm down after going to the bathroom. Here Barbara provided information about her brother to the police:

+ Live alone.
+ I'm a freelance writer, specializing in writing articles for commercials.
+ Loved by many people.
+ There are no enemies that she knows of. No love triangle involved.
+ Never used drugs or done anything illegal.
+ Moved to New York to live for 2 years.

No one to Barbara's knowledge had such a motive to do so brutally to Adams. Sachs said the fact that the victim had no clear connection to organized crime increased the likelihood that this was the actions of a psychopath, which is even more dangerous for the community. (**Deception**)

2.3) Third goal

Gerald asked Vincent to scout ahead of the guys' third target (the first victim that Vincent would also join): Joanne - a flower shop owner. Although the Watchmaker knew that Joanne was often at the flower factory, a few blocks away from her retail store, he needed to make sure if people would come to the flower shop to pick up orders or if she would work alone. Meanwhile, Gerald will go to Cedar Street (second scene) because he predicts that the police will be here now, he wants to see who they are about to face.

Stepping out of the alley, a strong, freezing wind whipped at the guys, causing Vincent's hooded leather jacket to be unzipped (something Gerald had always told him to do) and blow open. Accidentally at that time, a student passed by and maybe he saw Vincent's face. Vincent darkened his face, afraid not only of being recognized but also of implicating his friend, angry at his own carelessness. He stammered and said he would take care of him, but Gerald retorted that he had never killed anyone himself (Gerald did all the missions directly and Vincent assisted in the transport).

Gerald pulled out the box cutter he used yesterday to cut the man's wrist on the bridge and followed the student. A while later he returned with tools and bloody gloves, and he dealt with the student. The body was in a Dumpster (a type of large trash can in America), Gerald had covered it with trash, where if he was lucky, it would have been dumped in a landfill or the ocean before anyone noticed the

bleeding. Replacing a new pair of gloves from the three spare pairs he always made them both carry, Gerald gently instructed Vincent that if anyone resisted, they must slit their eyes. That would cause it to stop resisting immediately and he could restrain it in any way he wanted. Gerald did not shout in anger, but only asked Vincent to be more careful from now on, luckily this incident was still under control, and that their plans would not change. Vincent will "rape in" the female victims as agreed. Finally, he told Vincent to meet him again at the museum at 4:15 p.m. (**Adaptability)**

This advice is simply too crude, can cutting eyes really solve everything? In fact, the idea that the Watchmaker wanted to secretly convey was to remind Vincent how scary he was, thereby imprinting a moderate level of fear on Vincent. Because although Gerald always treated Vincent with kindness, he also needed to remember that Gerald was a man who could kill without hesitation, and it would be unwise to cause disappointment to a man whose advice during a fight was to "cut out" people's eyes. This will give Vincent more motivation to suppress his uncontrollable desires every time he takes action, limiting the possibility of getting involved in the planned plan. (**Leadership, EM, Planning)**

Officially confirming the appearance of the Watchmaker serial killer, Lincoln's special case team was formed again. Check out the members of the investigation team.

Lincoln Rhyme: The legendary former American criminalist had to quit his job due to an accident that left him paralyzed 90% of his body. Currently nominally consulting for the police, but Lincoln can be seen as the leader of this serious crime team.

Amelia Sachs: Inspector of the New York Police Department (NYPD), daughter of officer Herman Sachs, a legendary NYC police officer. Many years ago she met Nick, a street cop who was later arrested for being involved in a dirty police ring. Currently, she is Lincoln's lover and most capable "student", acting as Lincoln's hand and foot in examining the details of the scene.

Lon Sellitto: Police lieutenant of the NYPD, Lincoln's long-time colleague and close friend.

Mel Cooper: Evidence expert often assists Lincoln in major cases.

Ron Pulaski: Young police officer of the NPYD, assigned to assist Lincoln and Amelia in their investigation.

Dennis Baker: The lieutenant overseeing the Major Crimes department (the department in charge of Sellitto) received orders from City Hall to stop the Watchmaker's crimes as soon as possible. He was one of the people who asked Sellitto to get Lincoln and Amelia to participate in the investigation. He wanted to win a big victory and he thought Lincoln and his team could lead him to that victory.

Kathryn Dance: Secret Service agent of the California Department of Investigation. She is an expert in interrogation and body language assessment - the science of observing and analyzing the body language and words of witnesses and subjects. She came to New York three days ago on business, and was asked by Sellitto to help with the Watchmaker case at interrogations.

The special investigation team conducted the investigation.

1. First Scene: Pier (22nd Street, Hudson River)

- **Annunciator:** Ron Pulaski.
- **Time:** The suspect (undetermined as the killer because the body has not been found) was present at the west end of the pier between 6pm last night and 6am today (when the pier was closed).
- **Proof:**
    - **Nail:** Of a man.
    - **Blood:** Mel Cooper tested and determined it was human blood, group AB Rh positive (third rarest, 3.5% of the population). The victim is male.
    - **Blood analysis:** Detecting traces of anticoagulants => The victim may be old and have coronary artery problems. There were no other signs of medication or illness.
    - **Fence:** Cut with a standard wire cutter (Cooper analyzed the cut edge). Cannot trace to specific instrument.
    - **Other traces:** There are no fingerprints, footprints, or tire tracks (except those of company employees).
- **Rhyme's inference (via photo):** The victim clung to the edge of the pier (the gap between two boards), eventually losing his grip (fingernail marks). Rhyme wondered how long the victim had been hanging. (**Preparation**)

2. Second Scene: Alley (Cedar Street, near Broadway)

- **Annunciator:** Pulaski.
- **Characteristic:** Dead-end alley, 4.6m wide, 32.7m long, gravel. The body is about 4.6m from the beginning of the alley.
- **Time of death:** At least 8 hours before detection (at 7 am). The body was frozen so it was difficult to accurately identify it. (**Preparation**)

- **Activities around:**
    - 3 commercial buildings (closes at 8:30pm and 10pm).
    - 1 government agency (closes at 6 p.m.).
    - There is a garbage collection at 10 p.m.
- **Rhyme's inference about the time of the crime:** Approximately 10:15 pm to 11:00 pm (after the last door closes/garbage is collected and ensures at least 8 hours before detection).
- **Vehicle check:**
    - Pulaski kept detailed records of cars parked within a 2-block radius (reprimanded by Rhyme for wasting time on unnecessary details, just license plates).
    - Check license plates through DMV, NCIC: None of the vehicle owners have criminal records.
    - Check for fines in the area around the time of the crime: None.

3. Victim Information (Theodore Adams - in the alley):

- **Background check:** There is no state arrest warrant. His sister said he had no enemies or personal problems.
- **FBI check (Sellitto calls Dellray):** There is no information about Adams in the FBI database.
- **Rhyme's initial hypothesis:** The victim could be a random choice of a psychopath.

4. Analyze General Evidence and Clues:

- **Timer:** On my way to Rhyme after the bomb squad dealt with the chemical/biological hazard.
- **Sand (found in the alley, not on the pier):**
    - Cooper determined it was playground sand, not construction site sand.
    - Rhyme speculates: Is the villain planning to return to the alley? Or has the wind at the wharf blown clean?
    - **Important findings in sand:** *Thallium sulfate* (rat poison, banned in the US). High concentration, not present in the control sample or in the remaining sand taken by Sachs => Likely to come from the place where the suspect has traveled. Rhyme said it was difficult to use to kill people but could lead to him. Cooper checks confiscation/complaint information about this toxin.
- **Metal bar (alley murder weapon):**
    - Squeezing the victim's neck. Weighs 37kg, is 183cm long, 2.5cm wide, 7.5cm thick, has drilled holes at both ends.
    - Identification rhyme: Type used in shipbuilding, heavy equipment, cranes, bridges...

    - Cooper: The heaviest weapon ever seen (Rhyme joked about the wife running over her husband with an SUV).
    - Test: No fingerprints. The scraped metal piece is iron (oxidized). No trace of identification.
    - Tracing the source: Rhyme knows there are many places that use this type. Check nearby construction site (Pulaski did as Sachs requested): do not use this type. Rhyme suggested checking out the Queensboro bridge construction (Pulaski called): they didn't use/lose any such bars either.
- **Plastic tape (used to bind Adams):**
    - Regular type, gray.
    - Binder analysis: Only snowmelt salt (scene joint) and sand spread by the perpetrator.
    - **Anomalies (found by Rhyme & Cooper):** The tapes are cut *extremely accurate*, with a sharp object, identical in length and wrapped *very carefully*. Quite different from the usual sloppy way of tearing off bandages (possibly with teeth, leaving DNA behind).
- **Rope:** Regular type, no special information from the database.
- **Fish-smelling soil (found in victim Adams' jacket pocket):**
    - Pulaski initially speculated that the suspect worked with fish.
    - **Rhyme shows the error:** The proof lies *in* victim bag => Talk about the victim, not the suspect.
    - Component analysis: Oil, nitrogen, urea, chloride, fish protein. Record the victim's description on the evidence board.
- **Brown fabric (shoe sole and watch strap of victim Adams):**
    - Cooper identified: The type used to make car floor mats.
    - Inference: The perpetrator has a car (cannot carry a 37kg iron bar on the subway). Parked the car near the alley, dragging the victim.
    - Limitations: This type of fiber is used in more than 40 car models => Not enough to identify a specific car type. The tire tracks in the alley were intentionally obscured by salt left by the perpetrator. => There is no clue about the vehicle. (**Tactics**)

- **Letter/Poem ("Cold Moon"):**

*Original

The Cold Moon is round in the sky,

Shine a light on this body on the ground,

indicates the time of death

and end the journey that began at birth.

WATCHMAKER (**VCI**)

- Rhyme confirmed: Today is indeed a Full Moon.
- "Cold Moon" in capital letters (the perpetrator emphasized this phrase): According to Cooper's research, the lunar calendar marks time according to each moon phase. The names of the months describe our life cycle from birth to death. The names of the months are named according to each time point of the year. The Strawberry Moon is in spring, the New Rice Moon and Hunting Moon are in the fall. **Cold Moon** is December, the month of hibernation and death.
- Rhyme notes: Assassins related to astronomical/lunar themes are often serial killers. Combining the above facts => It is very likely that the third victim will start being targeted today, or even die.
- Checked database (VICAP, NCIC, state) with "Clockmaker", "Cold Moon", other lunar months: No results.
- Origin of the poem: Cooper checked the poetry pages and asked the literature professor: no one knows => Most likely the perpetrator composed it himself.
- Paper and ink: Plain paper, HP LaserJet ink => Nothing special.

5. Prepare an Evidence Table:

- Rhyme asked Pulaski to start writing evidence on the whiteboard to analyze, find connections and predict the perpetrator's next actions.

Evidence table of the Watchmaker case

6. Medical Examination Report: There will be a delay due to the Christmas holiday. (**Preparation**)

The Watchmaker had delicately cleaned up the clues necessary for the police to come to any valuable conclusion, leaving behind a lot of evidence that had almost no practical value, or items that were too common or simply anti-forensic, making it

difficult to trace specifically. The steps here also lay the foundation for the big plan that Gerald cherished. (**Planning, Tactics, Concealment, Knowledge**)

The watches at the two scenes were returned by the bomb squad, and the investigation team continued to work.

The two watches are identical, the only difference is the dried blood stain on the base of the watch left on the pier. They look old – not electronic, but hand-wound. However, the parts are modern. The machine parts were inside a sealed box. The bomb disposal team pried the box out, but both were still running correctly. The watch box is made of black painted wood, and the face is decorated in an antique style with white metal. The hour numbers are Roman numerals, the tips of the hour and minute hands are also black, shaped like pointed arrows. There is no second hand, but every second the clock ticks clearly.

Cooper examined the watches and reported that there were no fingerprints, only very few marks, all consistent with samples Amelia collected around the two crime scenes, meaning none had previously been in the car or in the Watchmaker's house.

With the above characteristics, they also learned that they came from Arnold, Framingham, Massachusetts, which specializes in selling watches, leather goods, office decorations, and gifts. For the upper class. Things that aren't cheap. Dozens of different watch styles. This is Victorian style. Made of genuine brass and oak, designed after British clocks sold in the 19th century. The wholesale price is fifty-four dollars. They do not sell freely on the market. Must buy through specialized suppliers.

On each watch there was only a movement number but no serial number. Lincoln ordered Cooper to call the manufacturer and tell them the movement numbers of the two watches, then see if they knew which store they were delivered to. Of course, the murderer may not have been the one who bought the watch. He may have stolen from a store. He may have stolen from a resident's house. He might have bought it at a flea market that sells gadgets... But the two words "maybe" are inherently associated with crime scene investigation. And they only have this one potential clue left.

Cooper reported that the distributor did not keep records of serial numbers, but if the watches were sold in New York, they must have been sold at the Hallerstein boutique, the only dealer in the area. Sellitto decided to go to the store to gather information from the owner, going with Dance to check all his reactions, in case he was involved or was the Watchmaker himself.

Dance, through a series of reactions in the chat, confirmed that the watch shop owner named Victor was not directly involved in the Watchmaker case. However, indications were that he was hiding something because he did not want to be implicated in the case, or because he had sold the watch to someone he thought might be a criminal. Dance captured him and assured him that he would be under police protection, at which point Victor admitted and began recounting his meeting with the scary guest, whom we know to be Gerald.

Based on Victor's testimony, the Watchmaker's face was constructed by the detective at the watch shop, using Electronic Face Recognition Technology, a computer-based version of the old Identi-Kit that reconstructs a subject's features based on a witness's description. On the screen, an image of a white man in his fifties appeared, with a double chin, a thick nose, and unusually pale blue eyes. The watch shop owner added that the assassin was about 1m85 tall. He has a solid physique and normal short black hair. He doesn't wear jewelry. Hallerstein remembered him wearing dark clothes but couldn't remember exactly what style he was wearing.

A month ago, a man came into the store, asking to buy a watch - it didn't have to be a specific brand, but it had to be compact, have a loud ticking sound, and show the phases of the moon. => It can be surmised that the victim hears a ticking sound while dying. This increases the possibility that the Watchmaker is a sick man, but has intelligence. (**Deception**)

He ordered 10 of them, and to the police that meant there would be 8 more victims. When the goods arrived, the man came to pick them up and pay in cash. He didn't say what his name was, where he came from, or why he wanted those watches, but he knew a lot about watches. They (Victor and the Watchmaker) talked about the collectors who had recently bought famous watches at auctions and about the chronometric exhibitions currently being held in the city. (**Preparation**)

The Watchmaker wouldn't let Hallerstein carry the watch to the car. He carried it all himself after a few trips in and out. He paid in cash but wore gloves so he couldn't be traced. The investigation team tried to determine the exact time the Watchmaker contacted the shop owner and, by reviewing the phone call logs kept at the switchboard, tracked down possible calls made by him. But it turned out those calls were from a public phone, in downtown Manhattan. Once again, the clue came to a dead end due to the carefulness of the murderer.

Lincoln looked at the evidence board again <*Soil containing fish protein... Dragged from the car to the alley...*> and realized the mistake in my previous thinking. Back to the part where Lincoln said that the sandy soil samples were in the victim's pocket, so it belonged to/related to the victim. Now after letting Cooper try Thom (the nursing

staff) drags himself across the floor by grabbing the hem of his coat and pulling it up and over Thom's face, head first - And also the most effective way to pull a person across the floor. They discovered that Cooper's fingers had left aluminum powder inside his shirt, exactly where Theodore Adams's coat was covered with dirt => The Watchmaker had left dirt on the victim's shirt as he dragged him along the alley.

This points to further work to understand all that may be involved in fish protein.

At the appointment time at 4:15 a.m. at City Fine Arts on Fifth Avenue, Vincent met Gerald. Careful as always, the Watchmaker asked him to narrate what he had learned, while not looking at each other (to be wary of being followed). Vincent recalled that during the time of surveillance, Joanne was almost always at the flower factory, no one came in or out. She went to her store on Broadway to meet a delivery person, then they left. Vincent from a public phone booth, cautiously as Gerald directed, called the staff at Joanne's shop to ask where Joanne was (it's normal for customers to ask to arrange appointments, etc.), and learned that she would return to the factory soon => It can be confirmed that most of Joanne's time is spent at the flower factory, knowing the timetable as well as the target's security system gave the two guys more certainty in their plan.

As for Gerald, he went to check the two crime scenes. He saw that at the wharf (scene 1), people had roped off the crime scene, but there was no sign of anyone at that time. He saw police boats sailing on the river, meaning they hadn't found the body yet. On Cedar Street (scene 2), he could not get close because of the presence of many police officers, and this also meant that they were taking the incident seriously. (**Observation, Reasoning**)

By the way, the museum's current exhibition theme is “Chronology in Antiquity”, and the things presented here seem to be the only topic that Gerald shows any interest in. Chronology, as Gerald explains, is the study of time and time measuring devices. He then showed Vincent the Delphi Clock, a masterpiece located inside a large box covered with thick glass, and strictly guarded by a security guard. The Watchmaker begins to introduce Vincent to the Delphi Clock (see tab 2), again with an enthusiasm rarely seen in him. (**Knowledge, Preparation**)

*Note: In fact, this watch is a fictional product in the story. However, it is also closely based on another real time-measuring artifact The Antikythera Machine with many overlapping characteristics from shape, origin to described effects. Some significant differences include that Antikythera is still based on the Geocentric theory (Delphi implicitly acknowledged the Geocentric theory even though it was still considered heretical at that time), as well as being made of bronze (instead of being studded

with gems like Delphi)... Overall, these two organs still have a common core, a watch with a level of sophistication beyond its time.

The investigation of the Station 118 case undertaken by Amelia (main) and Ron always took place in parallel with the developments of the Watchmaker case, at this point they had dug quite deep. While the two were discussing clues, Amelia suddenly told Ron it looked like they were being followed. But after seeing that the car was a Mercedes-AMG, she almost dismissed this possibility as a coincidence, because in reality we rarely actually get followed (mostly it's a self-made feeling), and moreover, no one would follow with a $140,000 car.

The car the two guys used was an SUV that Gerald had stolen from a place that he said would take a long time to be discovered. It also had a New York license plate stolen from another tan Explorer – to catch the eye of the police if they happened to notice. This disguise is relatively effective because the police rarely check the phone number, but only check the registration number. (**Concealment**)

The car was parked on Spring Street east of the dark flower factory, where Gerald was about to kill his third victim and Vincent was about to have his first "rapence" in a long time. The two men connected the headphones to their cell phones and Vincent turned on the police radio detector placed on the seat next to him.

Gerald looked closely at himself, making sure all his pockets were closed. He rolled a dog hair picker all over his body, picked up everything that could leave a mark, and reminded Vincent to do the same before "having sex" with Joanne. Gerald took with him a watch (like the previous two cases) and a lockpicking tool. He used his lockpicking skills and broke into the flower factory, while Vincent would stay outside and be alert when necessary.

Through Vincent's surveillance, the two men knew that Joanne was about to go home, so the plan was that Gerald would lie in wait to kill Joanne in the flower factory and Vincent would update the situation outside through observing and listening to the police's movements (from a walkie-talkie detector). Once finished, Vincent will have a little "confession" with Joanne's body while Gerald turns guard, then the two men will escape as if nothing had happened.

Joanne entered the house and found coils of wire at her feet, which should have been hanging from hooks on a nearby wall. Joanne picked up the coil of wire and discovered the reason it had fallen: the hook had slipped from the wooden bar.

That's all. But then she noticed something else strange. This roll of wire was one of the new ones, she hadn't used it at all, she supposed. But then I reassure myself that a little alcohol can easily make people forgetful. And Joanne heard the ticking of the clock again and could be sure that there was only an electronic clock in the workshop. She will go check. (**Preparation**)

It had been 3 minutes since Joanne entered the house and there was still no notification from Gerald. Vincent began to get impatient. Suddenly he heard from the detector: *The Center requested all units in Lower Manhattan to immediately move to Spring Street and search the surrounding flower shops, and that this was related to the two previous murders committed by the Watchmaker. Vincent began to panic, he couldn't understand why the police could find them like that.*

Vincent frantically called the radio to tell Gerald to leave immediately. He started the car. Just in time for Gerald to jump out and climb into the SUV, Vincent was about to stomp on the accelerator, but the Watchmaker told him to slow down to avoid arousing suspicion. They turned on the next street just as there were several police patrol cars driving around. Gerald told Vincent to calmly look back, because that was the normal thing an innocent citizen would do. Vincent later recounted and Gerald also wondered how the police got here specifically, the two guys continued driving until they left the area. (**EM, Leadership, Adaptability**)

Gerald had planned this quick escape plan from the beginning. The place where they parked the car was opposite the flower factory, and a little further away there was an intersection where they could join the traffic after the deed. And Gerald told Vincent to drive slowly, slowly with the purpose of limiting leaving behind tire tracks, avoiding the police investigating the tire tracks. (**Prediction, Knowledge, VSI, Preparation**)

That was actually Lincoln's inference. Previously, there was a case where the police raided an environmental agency located a block away from here. They illegally stockpiled thallium sulfate and rat poison (matching the type of substance found at scene 2). Then Lincoln learned that the main purpose of fish protein was as a fertilizer for orchids. Sellitto sent an official notice asking vehicles to check flower shops and landscape companies near the environmental agency.

The police unfortunately arrived a little late and let the Watchmaker escape. Lincoln suspected the possibility of information being leaked and requested that just for this case, the frequency of communication between the police must be constantly changed. But luckily, they arrived just in time to prevent the Watchmaker from killing the third victim, Joanne Harper, who also called 911 after hearing noises in the workshop while checking the ticking sound. Joanne recounted the incident this

evening and said she had no contact with Adams (victim 2) when asked. (**Preparation**)

A witness said he was walking down the street when he saw someone jumping out of the flower factory. This guy is middle-aged, wearing a short dark coat. When he looked at the photo depicting the Watchmaker's portrait at Hallerstein's shop, he confirmed that it was highly likely that it was him. He ran to a tan SUV driven by a white guy with a round face and sunglasses => The Watchmaker had at least one accomplice.

The witness was not sure about the type of SUV, possibly an Explorer, and he could not see the license plate because it was too dark. Sellitto announced the Emergency Vehicle Detection command. An Emergency Vehicle Detection command would notify all radio-equipped patrol vehicles as well as most law enforcement officers and traffic police in the area to search for a tan Explorer carrying two men.

After completing the collection of evidence at the scene, determining that the watch was not an explosive device and packing everything, Amelia Sachs returned to her Camaro. When looking for gloves in the bag in the back seat, she suddenly discovered that the contents had been spilled out, even though she had remembered to make sure she had locked it carefully when she arrived. Amelia quickly noticed signs that the car had been broken into: there were glove marks on the passenger window glass and the insulation was dislodged, showing that the intruder had used tools. slimjim to unlock. This was the first time her car was broken into while she was working at a crime scene. She thoroughly inspected her belongings and confirmed nothing was stolen – cash, credit cards, spare ammunition and pepper spray canisters were all intact. However, just in case, she still plans to contact the credit card companies. Amelia asked curious people standing nearby, but no one saw the intrusion.

Next, she used her crime scene kit to examine the car looking for fingerprints, footprints or any other traces, but found nothing. As she was about to leave, Sachs caught a glimpse of a large black car disappearing into an alley half a block away, reminding her of the Mercedes she had seen earlier, but she didn't have time to see the brand clearly or chase after it. Amelia wasn't sure if it was just a coincidence, and she was worried because if it wasn't a physical intention, then what was the plan of the person who broke into her car. (**Preparation**)

The investigation team continues to work. Cooper and Amelia took the watch apart but found no meaningful traces. No footprints, no fingerprints, no weapons or anything else was left in the flower workshop. Lincoln wondered if the assassin used

any special tools to cut the flower arranger's wire, or used any techniques, which could reveal occupations or expertise, past or present. But, no, he used Joanne's scissors. And just like the pieces of plastic tape, the pieces of wire are cut to identical lengths. Each segment is exactly one hundred eighty-three centimeters.

The investigation aspect of tracking the vehicle model has not yielded many results. From vehicle management records, there are 423 owners of tan Explorer cars. Rhyme figured the Watchmaker might be among these people, but he couldn't interrogate them all. Sellitto will have people check on car owners in Lower Manhattan. Despite checking according to the Emergency Vehicle Detection command, no one matched the description of the Watchmaker and his accomplices.

In the envelope Amelia brought back, they also discovered pieces of black material. They appeared where he took the wire coil and where he might have hidden while in the workshop. She also found some outside the front door, where he stepped on it when running out of the Explorer => The marks on this shoe could indicate the location of the killer's haunts.

Cooper put the sample into the compound separator, the results showed about 73% paraffin, followed by aromatic hydrocarbons and theralene => Lincoln immediately recognized it as a component of tar used to sweep the roof. He figured he had just gone to check on another victim at a place that was having its roof re-plastered, because no one would go up to their roof to relax in this weather. Lincoln wants to know how many buildings are currently having their roofs re-plastered. Even though it would be quite rare to re-sweep the roof in the winter, the number was still too much. So he suggested using it ASTER- an advanced technology that measures radiation and heat from space. It is a measuring and data gathering device on the Terra satellite, a joint project between NASA and the Japanese government. It captures thermal images from space => This can help them narrow the search by examining images of heat radiating areas above 200 degrees, because tar when applied to the roof must be at least that hot. A sweep of the Earth's surface would take 16 days, so Lincoln suggested starting with Manhattan, where the Watchmakers were on the rampage for three consecutive attacks.

Looking at the neighborhood map, Lincoln deduced the Watchmaker's escape route. He requested that a team be sent to check the intersection area if Spring Street was still blocked. Unfortunately, the street was unblocked 15 minutes ago, they couldn't block traffic for too long after the incident. Now, even if the SUV had left a mark, it would have been scratched by other vehicles. The Watchmaker could be said to have taken this into account. (**Foresight**)

Lincoln was both angry and a little excited because it had been a long time since there had been such a difficult case.

Update the evidence table of the Watchmaker case

Evidence table of Station 118 case

Amelia and Ron continue to discuss the information they learned in the 118th Station case, where Ron also mentions that he saw the Merc again after leaving Amelia's car earlier.

At a street corner after the two men had escaped, Vincent asked Gerald if they would try again with Joanne Harper, which the Watchmaker confirmed could not be now for two reasons: First, the police had most likely sent guards around the Springs area after the previous failed assassination attempt. Second and more importantly, attacking again would make the police suspect that the Watchmaker had an intention in targeting this particular victim (Gerald Duncan's revenge motive), while everything the guys were doing was to create a smokescreen to make the police think that the Watchmaker was a random psychopath. (**Thinking, Deception**)

Suddenly Gerald noticed a white car with a strip of lights on the roof, about a city block away from them, it seemed to be quickly accelerating. Gerald guessed it was following the guys, and proceeded to turn away based on street information from Vincent.

At the operations room, Sellitto received a call that a case had been detected under the Emergency Vehicle Detection Order. *The Explorer car is tan in color, two white men are inside the car. Avoid a police car. Following. They chased them to a large garage on the river, in the Houston area near the West Side Expressway.*

Two police patrols reported that the Explorer was discovered abandoned on the second floor. There was no sign of the two men who had been inside the car. This is because this garage has too many entrances and exits and they haven't had time to mobilize forces to block off all the corners. Patrol cars then searched the streets around the garage area, but there were no signs of the Watchmaker or his accomplice.

Once again, they let the two criminals escape, but at least this time they had a car they had used for a while for examination. Because it was the climax of the Station 118 incident, Ron volunteered to go to the car scene instead of Amelia.

Gerald and Vincent, both holding large canvas bags of belongings inside the SUV, gradually moved to walk in a park near the Hudson River. They were two blocks away from the garage where the SUV was abandoned. While the Watchmaker was wondering why the police recognized the car, he suddenly realized that in his haste to escape, he had forgotten a few things. The book and bullets were still in the car. But luckily there was nothing on either of the guys' names, nor would there be any fingerprints because Gerald insisted on wearing gloves at all times (which wasn't too suspicious since it was winter). And Vincent, living in fear of disappointing his friend (as well as losing the opportunity to "rape in"), was also careful enough to wear gloves when peeling cakes and candies in the car. (**Leadership, EQ, Preparation)**

But still, Gerald said, each piece of evidence they got was like finding another part of a watch. Enough quantity, if you are smart, you can understand its operating mechanism. You can even identify its maker. Gerald changed into the clothes he had prepared in his bag and put on a baseball cap, his appearance was completely different from before. Stuffing a box cutter into his stocking, he planned to return to the garage to get the forgotten things. The reason for this idea is because the garage is large and dark, the police will not have enough people to cover everything, so if we are lucky, they will not detect the Explorer yet. Gerald also hinted that if the police discovered the car, depending on the situation, he could eliminate them. At the same time, he told Vincent to return to the church - the area of the two men immediately. (**Adaptability, Preparation**)

As always, Lincoln Rhyme requires that the crime scene examination be performed by only one person to avoid subjective dependence, as well as to focus completely on the evidence without being distracted by the actions of others. Ron was alone on the second floor of the garage, Lon Sellitto and Bo Haumann were at the command post below this level. Two crime scene technicians installed lights, pushed suitcases of equipment into his hands and walked away.

1. Initial Assessment and Site Overview (As directed by Lincoln):

- **Initial report:** Pulaski reported the location and basic condition of the SUV.
- **Lincoln requested details:** Rhyme interrupted, asking for specific information rather than a general description ("quite deserted").

    - **Vehicles around:** Pulaski counted 6 other cars around the Explorer, determining the distance (closest 3.5m, furthest 7m).
    - **Check surrounding vehicles:** Rhyme asked if anyone was hiding. Pulaski confirmed the Rapid Response Unit (ERU) checked.
    - **Check the hood temperature:** Rhyme asked if the hood was hot (a sign the car had just arrived). Pulaski realized he hadn't checked, then used the back of his hand (to avoid leaving fingerprints) to check everything. ***Result****:* Everything is cold => the cars have been parked there for a long time, there are no recent witnesses.
    - **Check tire tracks:** Rhyme asked about the new tire tracks toward the door. *Result:* None, except for traces of the Explorer => It's likely that the subject did not have a backup vehicle and left on foot.

2. Overview of the Scene:

- **Rhyme instructions:** Ask Pulaski to "observe the entire scene".
- **Parking status:** Pulaski reported the vehicle was parked "carelessly," across two lines. *Rhyme deduced:* The subject quickly left the car because he knew he was being chased.
- **Footprint:** Lincoln asked about the apparent footprints. *Result:* No because the floor is dry.
- **Nearest exit:** Pulaski determined that the exit to the stairs was 7.5m from the car, which was checked by ERU.
- **Search for unusual details:** Lincoln pressed for more details. Pulaski didn't see anything special at first.
- **Rhyme encourages inference:** Tell Pulaski to voice any impressions, even if only as a possibility.
- **Pulaski asks:** He wondered why the subject parked the car in that location - far from the exit (instead of driving straight there) and did not try to hide in a more private place. Lincoln coi this is a good question, maybe the subject's panic led to carelessness. (**Preparation**)

3. Examination of the Area Around the Vehicle (Square Grid Method):

- **Rhyme instructs:** Ask Pulaski to do a grid search: from the entrance, inside, around the vehicle, underneath the vehicle and on the ceiling.
- **Perform:** Pulaski spent 20 minutes walking back and forth, carefully inspecting the floor and ceiling around the car.
- **Odor test:** He smelled the air. ***Result****:* Just the usual garage smells (disinfectant, oil, car exhaust), nothing special.
- **Report:** Pulaski reported finding nothing significant in the area surrounding the vehicle.

4. Examination of the Explorer Vehicle:

- **Check vehicle identification:**
  - Engine number (VIN) and registration number are checked.
  - *Result:* The car belongs to a person in prison (Rikers Island). The car was confiscated and then stolen by the "Watchmaker" from the police impound lot awaiting auction.
  - The subject is smart and well prepared. Because it usually takes weeks to register the seizure with the Motorcycle Administration and several months for the bike to actually be put up for sale. The license plate itself was stolen from another tan Explorer parked at Newark airport, where cars are often left unchecked until the owner returns from a trip. (**Tactics, Knowledge, Concealment**)
- **Searching for Evidence Inside the Vehicle:**
  - **Rhyme emphasizes the importance:** Cars contain a lot of information, especially stolen cars can contain fingerprints and personal items (evidence). Ask to find evidence first.
  - **Strange noises:** Pulaski heard the sound of metal crunching, followed by a "click" sound like a ticking clock. He felt uneasy but tried to calm down, thinking it could be a normal noise from the garage or hot headlights.
  - **Front seats:** Found many crumbs (biscuits, corn chips, potato chips, chocolate) and sticky stains (suspected to be soda).
  - **Under the rear seat:** Found a box of .32 caliber Remington bullets. Opened the box with Rhyme's silent consent. ***Result****:* There are bullets inside but 7 bullets are missing => *Rhyme commented:* Useful details.
  - **Found books:** A book about interrogation, but looks more like a book about torture. *Characteristic:* No store or library labels, has been read many times. *Rhyme praised:* Compliment Pulaski's description without asserting it as belonging to the subject. (**Preparation**)
  - **Vehicle floor and crevices:** Vacuum under and between seats.
  - **Dashboard compartment:** Empty.
  - **Brake, clutch, accelerator:** Scrape for sample. *Result:* There aren't many traces.
  - **Headrest:** Rhyme suggests checking your hair or perfume. Pulaski was initially suspicious (people often wear hats) but still checked as requested. *Result:* Found a gray hair.
- **Search for Fingerprints:**
  - **Rhyme expects:** Hoping to find fingerprints to identify the Watchmaker.
  - **Pulaski does:** Use Magna brushes, powders, sprays, lights, and goggles for 10 minutes.

    - **Result:** Absolutely NO fingerprints (hidden, visible, or patterned), including incomplete marks or stains, anywhere inside or outside the vehicle.
    - **Rhyme doubted:** Thinking this was impossible, the subject could not have cleaned the vehicle so thoroughly in such a short time.
    - **Found fabric fibers:** Pulaski used a magnifying glass and discovered beige cotton fibers (the color of human skin). => Comes from gloves. *Rhyme concluded:* The subject and his accomplices were careful and intelligent, and prepared (used gloves at all times).
- **Exterior Vehicle Inspection (Stains, Wheel Marks):**
    - **Rhyme requested:** Check tire tracks, protective nets, and side mirrors.
    - **Result:** Mainly melted snow and soil.
    - **Act:** Take soil/dirt samples.

6. Collection and Storage of Evidence:

- **Seal:** Seal hair samples and other specimens.
- **Take photos and record videos:** Rhyme confirmed Pulaski knew the procedure.

7. Examine Potential Escape Routes:

- **Rhyme directed:** Ask to check for possible escape routes.
- **Pulaski does:** Start the process of moving along the grid again, toward the exit, checking the floor and ceiling.
- **Strange noises (repeat):** He heard crunching/footsteps/water dripping sounds like ticking again, making him more confused.
- **Initial results:** The report to Rhyme was "Nothing so far."

The third click rang out, then a very loud clang, a metallic sound. Then suddenly the communication between Lincoln and Ron lost connection. Moments later he heard Ron's voice from the radio: Code 10-13, the most emergency code, used by the police when they are in a particularly dangerous situation. Sellitto and Hauman quickly went upstairs to check.

It turned out that it was just a homeless old man with an iron rod intending to attack Ron while he was examining the staircase where the Watchmaker most likely escaped. Luckily, he heard a noise coming from behind and turned around in time, threw the trash can and controlled the homeless guy. (**Preparation**)

The guys' new car was a Buick LeSabre, Gerald killed the owner and then stole the car in the Lower East area. Duncan also pointed to the street corner where he had stabbed the student to death. The fact that there were still no police meant that the Dumpster containing the body had been dragged away by environmental staff without their knowledge, and was probably halfway to the ocean on a barge by now.

Gerald reported that he was unable to get close to the Explorer. There weren't many cops, but there was a homeless guy. It kept making noise and then he heard screaming, the police started running in so he had to run away.

The two men then talked about life and the Watchmaker continued to show his insight through the story of the first watch that worked at sea (see Card 2). Gerald also used this story to encourage Vincent that the recent unfortunate events were just an obstacle to slow them down a bit, that it was insignificant to the overall planned process. Just like the way John Harrison fought for 26 years to get his product officially released. (**Knowledge, Preparation, Leadership, EE**)

Return to the investigation team. The homeless guy was confirmed to have nothing to do with the case, simply suffering from schizophrenia and "wrong place, wrong time" entering the crime scene during Ron's examination. Such things still happen in life.

Continue the process of analyzing evidence collected at the vehicle.

1. Ammo Box Analysis (.32 ACP):

- **Evidence:** Remington .32 ACP ammunition box, missing 7 bullets.
- **Initial characteristics:**
    - The .32 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) caliber is identified as being less common than other calibers such as the .22 or 9mm (.380). (**Preparation**)
    - The damage is not too great but still significant. Often referred to as "women's guns".
    - The consumption market is limited but still exists.
- **Analysis & Reasoning:**
    - **Relationship with weapons:** The lack of seven bullets suggests that the weapon used had a seven-round magazine. Rhyme's closest guess is the Autauga Mk II, but other guns such as the Beretta Tomcat, NAA Guardian, Kel-Tec P-32 (LWS-32) are also suitable. Therefore, the exact type of gun cannot be determined.

    - **Nature of evidence:** Finding bullets is just that indirect evidence. It suggest Subject could have owned a .32 caliber gun, but did not ensure that. If a subject is found with a .32 caliber gun, this cartridge will strengthen the connection.
    - **Traceability:** Cooper confirmed that it was not possible to effectively get a list of buyers for this type of ammunition from gun stores.
    - **Bullet characteristics:** Rhyme noted the bullet's weight was 71 grains, enough to cause serious injury at close range.

2. Analysis of the Book ("The highest interrogation techniques"):

- **Evidence:** A book on interrogation/torture techniques.
- **Initial characteristics:**
    - Published by small company in Utah.
    - The quality of printing, paper, and style is cheap.
    - The author is anonymous and claims to be a former Special Forces soldier.
    - The content describes brutal torture methods that can lead to death (drowning, strangulation, suffocation, leaving in cold water, hanging heavy objects, cutting wrists...)...
- **Forensic analysis (Rhyme & Cooper):**
    - **Find traces:** Cooper carefully opened and dusted each page on clean paper. *Result:* No physical traces (hair, fibers, soil...) fall out.
    - **Find fingerprints:** *Result:* None (confirms subject is wearing gloves).
- **Trace the origin:**
    - **Distribution channel:** Cooper researched and determined that books were not sold through official channels (large websites, retail systems) due to sensitive content. Books are sold through unofficial channels: online auction companies, right-wing/paramilitary organizations. (Rhyme linked to domestic terrorism incidents).
    - **Contact publisher:** The publisher refused to cooperate and did not provide a list of retailers without a court order (which took weeks). They appeared indifferent when they learned that the book was used as a murder manual.
- **Conclude:** The book reveals the subject's brutal intentions and methods, but provides no direct forensic evidence or quick information about the source of the purchase.

3. Debris Analysis (from grille, tires, mirrors):

- **Evidence:** Stone dust, leaves, half-burnt coal.
- **Analysis:** *Result:* Nothing special, cannot be linked to any specific location other than the general environment. Little value.

4. Sand Analysis (from SUV back seat):

- **Evidence:** Sand found in the back seat.
- **Analysis:** *Result:* This type of sand matches the type of sand the subject used to erase traces at the previous crime scene (Cedar Street alley).
- **Conclude:** Create a link between the Explorer and the previous crime scene, reinforcing that this vehicle was indeed used by the Watchmaker.

5. Food Debris Analysis:

- **Evidence:** Corn chips, potato chips, pretzels, chocolate candy, peanut butter cookie pieces, sugary soda stains (not diet).
- **Analysis:** *Result:* Cannot be used to directly identify objects.
- **Conclude:** Valid *consolidate* if you find the subject and these foods are related to him (for example: found in the house, eating habits). They are one more plank that connects the object to the vehicle.

6. Cotton Fiber Analysis:

- **Evidence:** Short cotton fiber, human skin color.
- **Analysis:** *Result:* Similar to fibers from regular work gloves, widely sold in many stores.
- **Conclude:** Confirming Pulaski's speculation. It shows that the subject carefully cleaned the car after stealing it and always wore gloves when in the car. This emphasizes the *smart and careful* of the Watchmaker. No specific clues provided.

7. Hair Fiber Analysis:

- **Evidence:** The hair, nearly 23cm long, black and gray in color, was found on the headrest.
- **Analysis:**
    - **Characteristic:** Long, black and grayish. *Important:* No hairline.
    - **Identification ability:** Because there is no hairline, DNA testing cannot accurately identify the individual. Offer only *classification characteristics*.
    - **Compare with object:** The length and color do not match the sketch of the Watchmaker (short hair).
    - **Other hypothesis:**
        - Wig? Cooper couldn't find any glue.
        - The accomplice's hair? Maybe.
        - *Rhyme's inference:* The most likely possibility is that someone else's hair was in the car *before* it was stolen. Based on the

length and color, Rhyme is inclined to the possibility that this is the hair of a middle-aged woman.

- **Conclude:** The hair may not be directly related to the Watchmaker or the current accomplice, but is still recorded on the evidence board.

8. Shoe Print Analysis:

- **Evidence:** One clear shoe print and 5-6 fainter prints, flat sole, size 13 (US), facing the emergency exit, made when stepping through water.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Behavior:** The distance between the shoe prints is far, only a few prints include the heel => Shows that this person is walking *run*.
  - **Shoe identification:** The brand cannot be identified because the sole has no distinctive pattern.
  - **Rider characteristics:** The sole wear pattern is normal, showing no deformities or orthopedic features. Size 13 indicates a person with large feet.
  - *Rhyme's note:* A large shoe size does not mean that the person is really big (small people can wear large shoes).
- **Conclude:** Confirm that the subject (or accomplice) fled the scene. Provides information about foot size (though not sure about stature) and direction of movement, but not enough to identify shoe type or wearer.

Summary of Analysis Process:

- Although many pieces of evidence were collected and analyzed thoroughly, most only provided indirect information or reinforced existing hypotheses.
- Absence of highly conclusive evidence such as complete fingerprints or DNA from hair roots.
- Evidence confirms the subject's carefulness, intelligence, and brutality (using gloves, cleaning the car, studying torture books, choosing weapons/ammunition).
- Several connections are made (sand connects to old crime scenes, bullets suggest weapon type).
- There are still many unknowns (the origin of the book, the real owner of the hair).

Update the evidence table of the Watchmaker case

Lincoln appeared unsatisfied. Ron realized that even with all this information and resources, they still knew very little about the villain's true identity. The only thing that is clear is that they are facing an extremely cunning, meticulous and dangerous opponent. (**Tactics, Planning, Concealment, Knowledge**)

After a day of struggling with case 118, Amelia returned to the Watchmaker investigation team, she reported today's abnormalities. She said a neighbor called and said someone named "Joey Treffano" (a deceased former co-worker) had come to her building, asking about her and looking around. Sachs confirmed that this was a fake. She also recalled that she and Ron were being followed, and that earlier in the day, someone had broken into her car at the Spring Street crime scene to search her purse.

Kathryn Dance recalls something suspicious. Rhyme gathers everyone together (Sachs, Sellitto, Cooper, Ron, Baker). Sachs reported being followed, and lied that Dance also saw someone - this was a trap for Baker.

She asked each person if they saw anything unusual. Pulaski didn't see the Mercedes again, Cooper didn't notice, Sellitto wasn't sure. Sachs asked Baker if he felt he was being followed while in Brooklyn, and Baker denied that he had been in Brooklyn. Sachs looked at Dance, who nodded (confirming Baker's suspicious signs). Sachs pulled out a gun and asked Baker to raise his hands. Sellitto moved behind Baker.

Rhyme explains the details that Dance actually remembered (not about being followed), but that When Baker talked about leaving the scene on Spring Street earlier, Dance noticed that his body language (crossed legs, avoiding eye contact) suggested the possibility of lying. To confirm, Sachs called female police officer Nancy Simpson at the same scene. Simpson confirmed Baker's departure right after Sachs, contradicting Baker's statement, said he stayed nearly an hour. Simpson also thought Baker had gone to Brooklyn, so Sachs asked that question to test the reaction.

Sachs directly accused Baker of breaking into her car, searching her bag, and pretending to be Treffano to ask questions about her neighbors.

Baker had to confess and explain everything:

+ Baker admitted that he impersonated Treffano to ask the neighbor and said this was a misunderstanding.
+ But he denied driving a black Mercedes, his police salary could not allow this. Cooper also checked the database and confirmed the vehicle did not belong to Baker.
+ Baker explains that after convincing his superiors to let Rhyme and Sachs take the case, he received an email (which Pulaski confirmed was found in Baker's briefcase) from a senior detective.

+ The email expresses concern about Sachs's past association with a corrupt NYPD detective named Nicholas Carelli (Sach's ex-lover Nick), recently released from prison. Her superiors were afraid that Sachs being seen with Carelli might cause "inconvenience", even though they didn't necessarily suspect she had done anything wrong.
+ Baker was ordered right discreet Follow and investigate Sachs: Where did she go, who did she meet, did she have any contact with Carelli or his friends.
+ Baker said that I did it to protect Sachs. He believes that her superiors want her off the case because of that past. By investigating himself and reporting that there were no problems (Sachs had no contact with Carelli), he hoped to keep her in the investigation. He pointed to his reports (also found in his briefcase and confirmed by Pulaski) documenting his follow-up and conclusions.

Baker said orders from his superiors required secrecy and apologized for disturbing Sachs, but insisted it was the only way he could think of to help her. He wanted to let this go and get on with the essential work of catching the Watchmaker.

Sachs's anger disappeared, replaced by a look shy and hurt. She seemed to feel like she was the cause of trouble and trouble for her co-workers, and Rhyme noticed her pain. Everyone ignored it and continued working.

2.4) Fourth goal

The Watchmaker's fourth target is Lucy Richter - a US Army Sergeant currently on leave at her childhood home in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, preparing to rejoin the army. They followed her from home, watching her eat in a restaurant, where Gerald told Vincent about the history of the clock in conceptual terms (see card 2). (**Knowledge, Preparation**)

The next torture method Gerald plans to use (lost the book but he seems to have memorized it) will be the Water Floor Technique. A rope is tied around the victim's waist to hang upside down. Then cover your mouth with plastic tape and pour water into your nose. You can prolong the torture as long as you like, if you occasionally let the victim take a breath of air. Gerald planned to keep Lucy alive for about 30 minutes so she could feel as much pain as possible.

However, the guys couldn't take her away tonight, because Lucy had a military husband who worked irregular hours and could come home at any time.

Sachs updated the evidence table of rumor 118

The next morning, a young officer of the Coast Guard delivered a jacket discovered floating in New York Harbor, size 44. According to the captain, it probably belonged to the missing victim, both sleeves were bloodstained, the cuffs were slashed. The shirt belonged to Macy's and bore no signs or evidence that could lead it back to its owner. The blood on the shirt belongs to group AB, consistent with the blood stains on the pier. (**Preparation**)

Lincoln called NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to ask about the heat radiation detector ASTER, but the results were not very positive. In Sellitto's opinion, there were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of buildings showing signs of increased heat, and the heat radiation measurement system could not distinguish between roofs that were being re-plasticized, which were construction sites, which were heated by Edison Combined steam, or simply which were places with many active chimneys. Lincoln could only ask the employee to call and report immediately when there was any attack or break-in near a building whose roof was being re-plasticized. This is almost a desperate attempt.

Night has come again, and it's Thursday, and Lucy Richter is home alone. Because the building has many tenants and people can easily detect the guy who is stealing the lock. The Watchmaker climbed to the roof of that five-story building, went to Lucy's apartment, then climbed down the fire escape and into her bedroom. But after 5 minutes and still not hearing any announcement from Gerald, Vincent impatiently turned on the radio to ask. Turns out, Lucy was on the phone all this time so she couldn't take action (because if the phone suddenly cut off with a scream, it would make the other end suspicious and call the police, the guys wouldn't have time to set up torture, clean up, "rape in"...).

Waiting a while longer, but Lucy still wasn't done, Gerald told Vincent that he couldn't wait any longer. Gerald will try to get her off the phone. He planned to climb back up to the roof and down the stairs to the hallway, and lure Lucy into opening the apartment door by pretending to be a patrol officer, warning the residents about the Watchmaker. (**Deception, Preparation**)

The police are at Lucy Richter's apartment. She was truly lucky. About half an hour ago, a passerby accidentally saw the man climbing onto the roof of her house via the

fire escape. He called 911. The Watchmaker apparently glanced down, realized he had been spotted, and fled.

Amelia arrived at the scene of the Watchmaker's next victim and began the process of gathering evidence.

I. The Investigation of Physical Evidence by Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs:

1. **Initial Information Gathering & Site Assessment (conducted by Sachs, reports Rhyme):**
    - **Witness/Victim:** Show the victim (Lucy) a photo of the suspect (composite photo) -> Unable to identify. Record the victim's initial statement about the incident.
    - **Determine Break-in Method:**
        - *Initial hypothesis:* Stealing the front door lock (based on the Watchmaker's previous consistent mode of action - MO).
        - *Updated hypothesis:* Based on new evidence (witnesses saw him outside), Sachs deduced that he climbed onto the roof → down the fire escape → entered through the bedroom window. Then climb back out the same way.
    - **Determine the Killer's Actions at the Scene:**
        - Place the clock in the bathroom.
        - Enter the bedroom (because it's adjacent to the emergency stairs).
        - Waiting for the victim.
        - Leave before carrying out your intentions (because you will be discovered).
    - **Expand Search:**
        - Check the surrounding area to find more witnesses -> No results (no one saw him or the car).
        - Consider the possibility that the perpetrator traveled by public transportation (subway) due to the loss of the SUV -> Sachs raised this possibility.
2. **Information Analysis & Investigation Direction (Rhyme conducted remotely):**
    - **MO analysis:** Rhyme rejected the theory that the killer took the subway. He emphasized the consistency in the criminal's MO, especially for the criminal who showed incredible consistency, and one of them was the choice of vehicle: Car. A change of means is unlikely.
    - **Directions for Examination:** Ask Sachs to thoroughly search relevant areas: bedrooms, fire escapes, bathrooms, potential passageways, roof.
3. **Detailed Scene Examination (performed by Sachs):**

    - **Check out these locations:** Follow Rhyme's instructions.
    - **Search for Evidence:** Focus on looking for physical traces (fingerprints, fabric fibers, DNA, shoe prints, etc.).
    - **Result:** Nothing found. Sachs reports the roof has no fresh tar/tar marks => It can be ruled out that he left marks there recently.
    - **Deduce:** The perpetrator has a high awareness of forensics and may have worn protective clothing (such as a Tyvek suit) to avoid leaving traces.
4. **Strategic Redirection:**
    - **Reassess the Victim:** When Sachs reported that the victim was "very shaken up. Not really concentrating", Rhyme realized that important information might lie with the victim but had not been fully exploited due to his psychological state.
    - Rhyme decided to bring in Kathryn Dance – an expert in body language and psychological interviewing/interrogation techniques.

II. Kathryn Dance's "Interrogation" (Psychological Interview) Process:

1. **Initial Observation & Psychological Assessment:**
    - **Location:** Living room of the victim's apartment.
    - **Observe:** Dance noticed that Lucy appeared quite calm on the outside, but there was an underlying worry *not completely* related to the attack that just occurred ("something beyond the attack"). She showed no signs of stress *typical* after injury.
    - **Body Language Analysis (Kinesics):** Dance noted classic defensive gestures (crossed arms, crossed legs). She interpreted this not as a sign of lying, but as a psychological "fence" against it *whatever* is threatening Lucy (it could be a memory, an emotion, or some truth).
2. **Start with a Direct Question (Standard Method):**
    - Ask Lucy to recount the incident in detail.
    - Lucy describes coming home from the gym, discovering the clock, feeling confused/fearful (link to bombs in Iraq), feeling a draft, checking the house, seeing the window open, the police arriving.
    - Asked about other unusual details -> Lucy answered no.
    - Ask about the relationship with other victims or enemies -> Lucy denies.
    - **Result:** This method doesn't work, Lucy doesn't provide any additional useful information. Dance believes that something is unconsciously holding Lucy back.
3. **Change Tactics - Build Relationships & Distract:**
    - **Change Attitude:** Dance put away the notebook and switched to an informal, informal conversation.

- **Non-Related Topics:** Ask about military work, vacations, reasons for returning to the US (commendation ceremony), details of the ceremony, party plans (Italian food).
- **Purpose:**
  - Lowers Lucy's defenses.
  - Build trusting relationships.
  - Observe Lucy's reactions to different topics to find the source of anxiety (Dance notices that Lucy is uncomfortable talking about the recognition ceremony, guessing it may be due to fear of public speaking).
  - Collect background information, while creating distractions.

4. **"Flooding" Technique:**
   - **Perform:** After talking about everyday topics (the military, recognition ceremonies, parties), Dance suddenly returned to the core question about the crime scene ("Back to the person who visited you... did you see any other unusual details?").
   - **Principle:** This technique aims to "overload" the subject's conscious brain with various information/emotions, causing the psychological defenses (that are blocking the memories) to weaken or "burst", allowing repressed memories to rise to the surface.
   - **Signs of success:** Lucy initially replied quickly "Not really" like before, but then *squint* and said "Wait... there's a detail." -> The technique has worked.
5. **Exploiting Breakthroughs & Gathering New Information:**
   - **Be Patient & Listen:** Dance stays silent, letting Lucy recall and organize her memories ("The rule with vague memories is that he can let them wake up but rarely can he roll them up like a spool of thread"). She avoids being hasty or suggestive.
   - **New Information:** Lucy remembered something unusual: When she came out of the bathroom (hearing the ticking sound), she couldn't see the dressing table because *The closet door is open*. Before that, when leaving the house, she even looked at the dressing table to get her sunglasses (at that time the closet door was closed or not hidden).
   - **Deduce:** The unusual opening of the cupboard door indicates that the perpetrator may have escaped *in the wardrobe* or *behind the cabinet door* after setting the clock. (**Preparation**)
6. **Closing & Handover:**
   - Dance confirmed the significance of the new information. This information was immediately passed on to Sachs.
   - Sachs immediately understood the meaning: there was a specific location (the closet) that the killer had come into contact with, which needed to be thoroughly examined to find even the smallest trace. Sachs immediately prepared to take action.

III. Focus on Target Area (Wardrobe): (Preparation)

1. **Cabinet Detailed Description:** Sachs offers these important parameters and characteristics:
    - **Size:** Width 193 cm.
    - **Content:** Full of clothes, divided into pairs, shoes on the floor (specific quantity: 4 pairs for husband, 10 pairs for wife).
2. **Rhyme Analysis:** Rhyme asked the strategic question: "When he hides, will he lie down on the closet floor?" -> The purpose is to determine the perpetrator's position to predict the location of contact and the type of evidence that may be left (for example: lying down can leave marks on the floor or box; standing, contact with hanging clothes).
3. **Exclusions & Field Evidence (Sachs):**
    - Sachs replied "No," because there were "Too many boxes."
    - She provided evidence that the perpetrator was there and *moved furniture*: clothes were disturbed, boxes were moved, and importantly, additional "roof-scanning tar flakes" were found -> This strengthens the hypothesis of access via the roof/escape stairs and links the activity outside with the activity inside the cabinet.

IV. Identify Key Touch Points & Optimize Search:

1. **Rhyme Questions:** "What clothes was he hiding among?" -> This is a key question, because the type of fabric and characteristics of the clothing will greatly affect the ability to retain microscopic evidence (fibers, hair, skin...).
2. **Specific Answer (Sachs):** "A suit. And Lucy's uniform."
3. **Identifying Golden Opportunities (Rhyme):** Rhyme immediately recognized the value of the uniform. He explained the reason: details such as buttons, medals, and decorative medals are ideal objects to retain fibers, hair, or other small evidence from the perpetrator's clothing or body upon contact.
4. **Determine Precise Contact Location (Rhyme):** "Is he standing close to the front or the back of the shirt?" -> Knowing the contact surface (front) is "Perfect" because it maximizes the possibility of finding evidence directly rubbed by the perpetrator.

V. Detailed Examination & Collection of Evidence:

1. **Reporting Results:**
    - **Two hairs:** Potential evidence.
    - **Some yarn:** Other potential evidence.
2. **Preliminary Field Analysis & Elimination (Sachs):**
    - **Hair:** Sachs actively compared the hair of the victim (Lucy) → Did not match. She also found the husband's comb and compared → There is

a very high possibility that it is his hair => This eliminates the possibility that the hair belongs to the perpetrator.

- **Yarn:** This became the most important evidence recovered from the closet.
  - **Characteristic:** Like wool, bright color.
  - **Location found:** Hooked to the pocket button of a military uniform, at shoulder height -> This position is consistent with the estimated height of the Watchmaker and the place where he makes contact (front of the uniform).
  - **Initial hypothesis (Sachs):** Maybe from the sweater, but more likely from *the sweater collar of a coat* (due to the location found in the shoulder) => This is a reasonable inference based on evidence at the scene.

Finally, Amelia packed up the evidence for closer inspection.

According to the New York Police Department's database, the fibers Amelia discovered on the military uniform were from the wool collar of a short leather jacket once used by pilots - jackets for bomber pilots. Amelia checked the field, and this time the watch was not an explosive device. It's exactly like the other three, there's no trace at all, **except for a recent stain that upon testing turned out to be caused by methyl alcohol, which is used as a disinfectant and cleaning agent.**. The tracks Sachs found along the most likely route of the assassin's escape revealed nothing useful. Not surprising given the anti-reconnaissance consciousness the perpetrator has shown up to now. (**Knowledge**, **Preparation)**

Sitting in the Buick, Gerald explained to Vincent what had happened. As he began to climb to the rooftop - intending to get inside the building and knock on Lucy's apartment door to make her hang up, he glanced down and saw a man in the alley watching him, pulling his cell phone out of his coat pocket, shouting at Gerald to stop. The killer quickly climbed up to the roof, ran a few buildings west, and slid down the alley. Then the three-legged man came to the car.

Two failures in a row, they were simply unlucky. Gerald's more than normal silence and contemplation made Vincent worry that his friend would give up on this plan, he didn't want to lose his "rapences", well, and the only real friend he ever had. As if reading this mind, Gerald said that although the incident did not affect the great plan too much, it cannot be denied that he was not able to give Vincent - the person who had accompanied him all this time - a worthy reward. And the Watchmaker would compensate his friend, the next target, which was to burn a woman with alcohol, would be slightly different from the plan. (**Planning, Preparation**)

Kathryn Dance went around the Greenwich Village area, near Lucy's place, asking everyone she met fairly general questions about whether they recognized anyone suspicious, as well as showing pictures of Watchmakers and leaving phone numbers... She couldn't just do a psychological interview with everyone, and this way she couldn't hope to get anything significant.

On the sidewalk a block from Lucy's apartment, Dance stopped a man pushing a cart loaded with food. He glanced at the collage showing the Watchmaker's face, and said that he had probably caught a glimpse of the lookalike but hadn't paid much attention. Dance immediately recognized the witness's chronic illness (afraid of being implicated), so he persuaded him to go to a cafe across the street, saying that this was very important.

This man is actually Vincent Reynolds disguised as Tony Parsons, a "reluctant" witness. And Dance is the comforting gift that Gerald gives him. There were 2 female police officers involved in the case, but the guys noticed that the red-haired girl (Amelia) was almost never alone during a period of surveillance. Meanwhile, the other person (Dance) started wearing civilian clothes and went out alone, looking for witnesses.

Gerald and Vincent went into a discount store, bought a cart, a brand new winter coat, fifty dollars of soap, snacks, and soda, filling the cart. A person pushing a food cart like that would not attract suspicion. The plan was for Vincent to start pushing the cart around Greenwich Village until he found that second female police officer, or vice versa, and then he would take her to an abandoned building a block from Lucy Richter's apartment. Vincent will take her to the basement and can enjoy her for as long as he wants, while Gerald will deal with the next victim in the plan. If Vincent can't handle Dance himself after the "confession", then just leave it in the basement, Gerald will come back after completing his work. Eliminating Dance has a dual meaning, both appeasing Vincent's "hunger" and potentially slowing the police's progress.

The Watchmaker also instructed Vincent how to act when speaking: "You must act reluctantly." Pretend you know something about me but you don't want to say. Be hesitant. That is the attitude of a real witness", along with a few more vague details that the police most likely knew about Gerald, then gradually opened up and admitted that he knew which direction the suspect ran. Finally, lead Dance to the designated abandoned building. (**Tactics, Leadership, Deception, Short Plan, Adaptability, Preparation**)

Their plan failed. It turned out that Dance had read that Vincent had other intentions besides this conversation, his performance could not fool the experts on the meaning of gestures. While paying to leave the bar, Dance secretly pulled out her phone and called back an NYPD detective she had just worked with. She whispered her conclusion and asked him to send the police over. She didn't turn off the phone, hiding it under the notebook. That's why Dance read out the names of the streets that Vincent led through, disguised as if carefully recording the route. In essence, Dance is giving directions to the police.

Not to mention, right before Dance called, they also received a call identifying the driver who escaped in the attack and had returned to the area with a cart containing food. He's a big, fat white guy. (**Preparation**)

Police quickly determined the identity and related information of Vincent Reynolds.

+ 28 years old. Word processor, lives in New Jersey and works at several temporary facilities. A typical salaryman.
+ Vincent worked on Monday night, the time of the wharf and Cedar Street murders, but he had not gone to work since.
+ Joanne Harper confirmed that Vincent looked like the man watching her through the window. However, it was impossible to confirm because of the bright sunlight, the dusty window pane, and his sunglasses.

Although they suspected Vincent of being the Watchmaker's accomplice, the evidence connecting him to the two crime scenes was sketchy. The shoe prints in the garage where the SUV was abandoned and his shoes were the same size 13, but there were no special prints to connect them together reliably. Among the goods – which Rhyme suspected he had bought under disguise, to get to Dance or another investigator – were chips, biscuits and other sundries. But the bags were unopened and a search of his clothes did not reveal any scraps that could match the pile of scraps found in the SUV.

They detained Vincent only because he illegally possessed a knife and affected police operations. Baker wants to use corporal punishment to force him to quickly reveal information about the Watchmaker. The lieutenant himself is also under pressure from City Hall to resolve the case soon. But Dance thought it was inappropriate because torture was a method of extracting information with very low accuracy, so she requested a private interrogation with Vincent.

And then, with a series of professional tricks, psychological tricks and negotiations, Dance successfully persuaded Vincent to reveal everything he knew about the Watchmaker. After an interrogation, the police obtained the following information:

- The Watchmaker's real name is Gerald Duncan, a businessman from the Midwest.
- They stayed at a church near the Hudson River, Manhattan. => The specific address is confirmed, the church has indeed been closed for a while.
- According to the latest plan, in an hour Gerald will meet Vincent at the abandoned building near the alley where Vincent almost raped and killed Dance. => Sellitto ordered secret police cars to station near the building.
- Gerald had a .32 caliber handgun. => Matched the type of ammunition found in the SUV
- The car they were using was a dark blue Buick with no registration plate. Gerald apparently killed the owner to steal the car. => Cooper sends a request to learn about any recent carjackings, murders or missing persons.
- Gerald also killed an unwitting witness, a student on the corner of Tenth Avenue, near the church, and threw him into a Dumpster. => Cooper called the police station in that area to check the incident.
- Gerald removed the battery and sim when the guys weren't actually working. He used a prepaid card. Every few days, buy a new number and throw away the old number, paying in cash. => Even if the service provider has no way to find out if the phone battery is removed.
- Regarding the next victim, Vincent only knew that she would be burned, but Gerald's identity and location were not mentioned. (**Preparation**)

Bo Haumann's rapid response unit is on the move. They will be at the church in a few minutes. Baker, Amelia and Ron also quickly left to participate in tactical operations. Lincoln, Dance, and Sellitto remained in the lab, trying to learn more about Gerald Duncan through Vincent, while Cooper checked the database for any information related to him.

- Gerald collects wall and wrist clocks. He is a watchmaker, more like a hobby. It's not like he has a store or anything. => The Watchmaker must more or less participate in a related community, because the abilities and knowledge he has, according to Vincent, are not something normal people have. Lincoln ordered Cooper to learn about professional organizations of watchmakers and collectors. (**Deception**)
- Gerald didn't use a foreign accent so Vincent guessed he was American. => The scope has been narrowed but there are still too many organizations. Sellitto asked Cooper to send an email to each association asking for information about Gerald Duncan.
- **Engine**: Vincent tells the story of Gerald and his wife several years ago. => Lincoln requested to check the admission documents at all hospitals with the name Duncan, from 18 to 36 months ago. => It's useless because according to Vincent, last year, Gerald broke into the hospital and stole his wife's

records. Even the police report. Bribing a secretary and such. Since the incident, he has already developed an action plan.
- The victim at the first scene was also confirmed dead by Vincent according to Gerald, although Vincent did not directly participate in the first two cases. The man's name is Walter something.
- During the few days of companionship, Gerald seemed to be interested in only one thing: Time, and was also extremely knowledgeable about this subject. See summary in tab 2. (**Preparation**)

Cooper received many responses from watchmakers' associations, but there was still no record of anyone named Gerald Duncan. Interpol's reply also had nothing. And also the Violent Criminal Apprehension program.

Meanwhile, the tactical team including Hauman, Amelia, Baker, Ron and a few other police officers successfully broke into the church. Luckily, there were no traps like exploding mines waiting for them. Inside, Amelia found five more familiar watches, meaning that Gerald had set out for the fifth victim, just as Vincent said.

I. Crime Scene Examination – Vincent Reynolds Room (performed by Sachs):

1. **Purpose:** Collect evidence related to Reynolds, gain insight into the man and his recent activities, and search for clues about victims or the Watchmaker's plans.
2. **Site characteristics:**
    - Messy, messy.
    - Unhygienic.
3. **Evidence collected:**
    - **Living habits:** Dozens of snack food and soda samples -> Shows eating habits, which can help trace the stores he frequents.
    - **Signs of violent/sexual tendencies:** Condoms, plastic tape, rags -> Strengthens the role of accomplices in attacks, especially the element of binding/gagging the victim. Matches his testimony.

II. Crime Scene Examination – Gerald Duncan (Watchmaker) Room (performed by Sachs):

1. **Purpose:** Search for direct evidence about the Watchmaker, his true identity, plans, clues about the next victim, and evidence related to previous cases.
2. **Site characteristics:**
    - Completely opposite to Reynolds' room: Scary order and neatness.
    - Excessive tidiness: Bed sheets are flat like military, clothes hang evenly spaced, objects are arranged symmetrically.

- **Implicit:** This extreme neatness shows an obsession with control, order, and meticulousness - reflected in the method of committing the crime and the way he erased traces. It also creates a cold, emotionless feeling.

3. **Evidence collected:**
   - **Related interests:** Clothes (no labels left → origin removed), school time magazines (no subscribers' names → identity hidden), watchmaker tools → Reinforce the image of "Watchmaker". (**Deception**)
   - **Crime related:**
     - Other tools: Included ***wire cutter*** matches the fence cutting at the first site (Hudson Pier). => Directly link Gerald to the crime scene.
     - ***Roll of plastic tape****:* Likely matched to the duct tape in the alley (Joanne Harper) and used to gag the victim on the pier (victim unknown). => Link Duncan to many crime scenes.
     - ***Old broom with soil, fine sand, little salt:*** => Sachs speculates that it was used to clean up crime scene 2 (Adams case). Shows the action of removing traces at the old crime scene.
     - ***Fur pick-up roller****:* Tool for removing microscopic evidence (fur) from his own or the victim's clothing.
     - ***One gallon container of methyl alcohol (methanol)****:* Evidence is extremely important. Confirmed that he owned and used this substance. => Links to the stain on the clock at Lucy's house and hints at the next method of attack. (**Preparation**)
     - ***Shoes with soles speckled with light green paint****:* A potential trail could link him to a specific location painted this color. (**Preparation**)
   - **Clues about movement/activity:**
     - ***Museum tour program (Boston and Tampa)****:* Carefully hidden under the trash → Shows that he wants to hide his travel history => Contradicts Vincent's information (Gerald is from the Midwest). (**Preparation**)
     - ***Small plastic box*** *contain:* Coins, Bic pens (little identification value), *central garage bill*, *Upper West Side pharmacy receipt*, *Upper East Side restaurant match episode* (missing 3 sticks) => These are important geographical clues, indicating the areas he has visited recently in New York.
   - **Evidence of consciousness against investigation:**
     - *No fingerprints:* On all items (bills, matches, pens, boxes...). -> Affirm extreme caution.
     - *Cotton fabric:* Same color as the fabric in the stolen Explorer => Linking him to the crime car.

- *Plastic bag for gloves:* No labels, no receipts, no fingerprints on the bag. => Shows careful preparation of the vehicle to avoid leaving fingerprints.
- *Clothes without labels.*

III. Crime Scene Examination – Common Area (Lower Floor) (performed by Ron Pulaski):

1. **Key findings:** White powder covers the toilet seat in the bathroom. (**Preparation**)
2. **Initial speculation (Pulaski):** Powder from fire extinguishing spray, based on finding an empty canister nearby (no store label, again an attempt to erase the source).
3. **Secret:** There were no signs of fire in the bathroom => The use of a fire extinguisher was unusual and had another purpose.
4. **Confirmation from Vincent:** Gerald just bought a fire extinguisher spray, but Vincent doesn't know why he used it.

IV. Initial Synthesis & Analysis (Remote Directing Rhyme):

1. **Record information:** Rhyme listened to Sachs' report, asking Thom to make notes on the evidence board.
2. **Geographic information processing (Boston/Tampa):**
   - Question Vincent's reliability (he could be mistaken, or the information given by Gerald is inaccurate).
   - Request to check the Motorcycle Management database, system of birth and death and wedlock in the above cities for the name Gerald Duncan → No suitable person was found. => Strengthens the hypothesis that Gerald used a fake name or the information Vincent provided was inaccurate.
3. **Key Clue Analysis (Fire Extinguisher & Methanol):**
   - **Link:** Rhyme connects Duncan's purchase of the fire extinguisher to the use of methanol (found on Lucy's clock and in the gallon jug in Duncan's room).
   - **Inference about the Method of Committing the Crime Next:** Rhyme makes a shocking hypothesis: Duncan did not use a fire extinguisher *stamping* fire, that to *create* release an incendiary device. He will use methanol as a catalyst to burn the next victim to death.
   - **Reasons to choose a fire extinguisher:** Rhyme explains the effectiveness of camouflage: fire extinguishers are ubiquitous, ubiquitous, and often overlooked. This is the perfect cover to hide an incendiary/explosive device without being detected.

(**Knowledge, Concealment, Tactics, Planning**)

This can be considered the most fruitful autopsy since the beginning of the case. Baker proposed that everyone split up and analyze the evidence to trace the Watchmaker. Lincoln asked everyone to work quickly, because at this time he was most likely already at the next victim. (**Preparation**)

Update the evidence table of the Watchmaker case

2.5) Fifth goal

The Watchmaker's fifth target is Sarah Staton, an estimator for a large flooring and interior design company. The Watchmaker took advantage of her going out to drink coffee, put on a worker's outfit to go into the office, and then hid a fire extinguisher that was actually an alcohol bomb. (**Tactics, Preparation**)

II) Second layer

In fact, the entire Watchmaker case above is a front, whose ultimate goal is to properly eliminate Amelia Sachs. It turns out that the leader of the Station 118 extortion ring is none other than Dennis Baker. These dirty cops tracked down the children of wealthy businessmen who came to hang out at Manhattan clubs, and secretly hid drugs on them. Baker would talk to the parents, saying that for a six-figure sum, the arrest report would disappear. If they don't pay, the kids will go to jail. He sometimes secretly hid drugs on the businessmen themselves.

However, not simply taking money, the guys also arranged for the victims to lose these money in sham business deals, or in fraudulent card games in Vegas or Atlantis City - the method they conducted with Ben Creeley, to provide them with a reasonable explanation for suddenly losing 200,000 - 300,000 dollars.

But then Baker made a mistake, he became lazy. It was not easy to find suitable subjects for that dishonest scheme and he decided to return for a second round of blackmailing with previous targets. Some are willing to pay the second round. Some of the tougher ones, like Sarkowski and Creeley, did not, even threatening to denounce the Bakers to the media. In the end, Baker had to arrange for these two

people to stay silent forever, then stage them as a robbery and a suicide. This is the origin of the Station 118 case.

Everything was relatively quiet thanks to the guys' influence, resolving and covering up related files... Until a month ago, Sergeant Amelia Sachs appeared, discovered unusual things, did not believe that Benjamin Creeley committed suicide and began an investigation. Nothing can stop that girl. They had no choice but to kill her. If Sachs died or became disabled, Baker doesn't believe anyone else would pursue these cases as vigorously as she does.

Of course, the problem is that if she died, the legendary Lincoln Rhyme would immediately deduce that her death was related to the Fort 118 incident and then *nothing can stop it* He and Sellitto hunt down the murderers. Therefore, Baker needed to let Sachs die for a reason unrelated to the 118th precinct police station.

Baker probed some of the organized crime smarts he knew and soon heard from Gerald Duncan, a professional assassin with the ability to set up crime scenes and concoct false motives to completely steer suspicion away from the subjects who hired him. (**Preparation**)

The entire strategy revolves around the word <Motive>, eliminating the issue of motivation, you will eliminate suspicion. After agreeing on the price, Gerald Duncan began planning. Duncan searches for a loser in life whom he can use to provide the police with information about the Watchmaker. And two weeks ago, Vincent Reynolds was the perfect subject, absorbing Duncan's false story - that he became a psychopath because of his wife's death and killed emotionless citizens in revenge. Then the day before, Duncan began carrying out <First Floor Plan - Watchmaker>: Murdered the first two victims, two victims chosen at random – one he kidnapped from West Street in Greenwich Village and killed on the pier, and one killed in the alley a few hours later.

As for Baker, Duncan said, he had to make sure Sachs would be assigned to handle the case, which was the real reason he asked to have Lincoln Rhyme involved in the Watchmaker case. Disguising the motive of wanting to add 1 trophy to your personal profile is common. As for the third and fourth murder plots – the fact that they were unsuccessful has nothing to do with the fact that the Watchmaker is still a terrifying murderer who needs to be stopped quickly. This means that the victims actually have no connection as Duncan told Vincent, but it's all just to create the image of a dangerous murderer.

The “gift” that Duncan gave Vincent, Kathryn Dance, was actually a trap for Vincent himself to throw away the pawn that had lost its value and was another step to set up his larger plan. Duncan sent Vincent to attack precisely to make the police believe

that the Watchmaker was even willing to kill the police, and it was he who made the anonymous call claiming to have discovered the Watchmaker's accomplice pushing a shopping cart around Greenwich Village, arranging for him to be arrested (the fact that Dance had excellently discovered Vincent's identity before that did not affect the outcome).

And the meaning of Vincent's arrest is that this guy will reveal information about the Watchmaker (Duncan is clear that a person like Vincent will not be able to withstand the pressure of the police), information that Duncan gave him in a controlled manner during the process of "cooperation". The process of providing information to the police led them to believe that the Watchmaker was a psychopathic avenger, which was also consistent with the settings Duncan deliberately planted in the criminal's portrait (murder motive that was difficult to accept if thought properly, obsession with torturing the victim as painfully as possible, collaborating with an equally sick person...), not a hired killer as in reality.

Now it's time for the final step: The Watchmaker will kill another cop, Amelia Sachs, whose entire death is the work of a revenge killer, unrelated to the investigation into the 118th precinct police station.

And in fact, Baker was the one who had been following Amelia and Ron for the past few days, the purpose of which was to check on the progress of their investigation of case 118. Duncan predicted that Sachs would be suspicious of everyone except those she knew personally. He explained that when people doubted him, he had to provide them with another – harmless – excuse for his behavior. Simply confess to a less serious crime, show remorse, and people will be satisfied and you will be removed from the suspect list. As Duncan directed, Baker asked several officers about Sachs. And he heard rumors that she once loved a corrupt police officer (Nick). So he himself started raising concerns about Amelia being with Nick, then he took an email from someone at the Big Building, using it as an excuse to secretly follow her. She was not happy, but did not suspect that he was doing even worse things. (**Persuasion, Psychology, Prediction, Tactics, Planning**)

Returning to the present, Baker, thanks to the previous proposal to split up the investigation, had a reason to go separately. Duncan also deliberately left a blue trace at the church, so Baker would have a reasonable excuse (investigating the potential location) to go to the rendezvous point from the two guys' head, a warehouse with doors painted blue.

Here, Duncan showed a diagram of an office building and presented Baker with the final stage of the plan. The fifth target, Sarah was chosen, had nothing to do with the death of Duncan's imaginary wife, but because her office layout was very suitable.

The police had announced that the killer used the clocks as omens so Duncan could no longer use them, but he would open a window displaying the time and date on Sarah's computer screen, which, while raising little suspicion in the victim, would still give the police enough of a lead to the Watchmaker. Along with that, of course, was the method of committing the crime, using a fire extinguisher as a bomb, which Duncan also subtly let the police know about through evidence left at the church, as well as Vincent's testimony.

In a few minutes, Baker will call Lincoln and Sellitto to inform him that he has found evidence of where the incendiary bomb was placed. The Rapid Response Unit and the bomb squad would then rush to the office building, along with Amelia Sachs. Duncan positioned the spray bottle so that if she moved it a certain way, the alcohol would spray at her and ignite, and the alcohol burned very quickly. The fire would kill or injure her, but it wouldn't burn down the entire office. The important thing is, Amelia must come to examine the scene.

Now the specific strategic significance of the chosen office location. Sarah's cubicle was at the end of a narrow hallway. Amelia will consider it alone as she always does. When she turned her back, Baker, waiting nearby, would shoot her and anyone else present. The weapon he would use was Duncan's .32 caliber automatic pistol, loaded with bullets that were stored in a box that he intentionally left on the SUV for the police to find. After shooting Amelia, Baker will break a nearby window, this window is about 4.5 meters from the front of an alley. He would throw the gun away, to make it look as if the Watchmaker had jumped out the window to escape and dropped the gun.

The amazing thing is because of the previous arrangements: The special murder weapon is linked to the bullets found in the Explorer, The Windows screen displays the time table, Using an alcohol tank to burn the 5th victim, The culprit is crazy enough to kill the police... no one will have any doubt that the Watchmaker is the culprit, the motive is to avenge his captured accomplice (the third purpose of letting Vincent be arrested, creating another reasonable excuse to counterattack). From beginning to end, the identity of <Clockmaker> was built as a perfect cover for Baker's crimes. Sachs will die and the investigation into the extortion and bribery situation at Station 118 will end without anyone suspecting the Lieutenant's involvement.

(**Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Knowledge, Deception/Misdirection/Info Control/Concealment, Manipulation, Setting Traps, Foresight, Creativity, VSI, Preparation**)

As planned, Baker "discovered" some notes and a building diagram of a Midwest interior design company in the green warehouse, meaning this was the

Watchmaker's second base. Baker immediately alerted the task force (including Amelia) to go to the building where the Watchmaker may have disposed of his fifth victim. A team of firefighters was also quickly dispatched.

Rescue workers found fire extinguishing spray right under Sarah's desk, and luckily the bomb did not explode. No timer is visible, but the pressure gauge shows nothing. Maybe that was the trigger. And they smell alcohol. The bomb disposal team put it in a steel box for transport.

Interviewing Sister Sarah, she was really surprised because she couldn't remember any woman who had had a tragic accident near her apartment. She also affirmed that she would always help if she could.

Ten minutes later, they cleared it all and reported there were no more bombs in the building. But the Watchmaker also seemed to have escaped through one of the fire escapes or the elevator. The security camera did notice a guy wearing work clothes with a physique that roughly matched the Watchmaker's, but that was all. Although disappointed, Lincoln still ordered Amelia and Ron to examine the scene quickly, because an important principle of forensics is that with each minute that passes, the amount of detectable substance decreases. This is consistent with Duncan's calculations.

Baker walked along the corridor and stopped about 7 meters from the area being examined, far enough away to not contaminate the scene. Because of her efforts in finding the Watchmaker's hiding place and discovering the place where the 5th victim had previously been attacked, Amelia's suspicion towards him due to the surveillance incident was significantly reduced. Furthermore, since they were still not sure where the Watchmaker was, she was grateful for his presence.

Baker also studies the scene, but observes how he will eliminate Amelia (and Ron) according to plan. This is the window Duncan was talking about. The alley, about 4.5 meters below, was deserted. And next to him is a gray metal chair, which he will use to throw into the window pane after killing his comrades. There was a large cavity where the air intake pipe to the air conditioner was placed, and after shooting, he would remove the iron frame, as if the Watchmaker had been hiding in there from the beginning, just waiting for the crime scene examiner to arrive to shoot him. Duncan had made an absolutely thorough plan. (**Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Deception, Foresight**)

He put on gloves (leaving no marks), took out the .32 caliber gun that Duncan had prepared, and gently cocked the bolt to make sure the bullet was still inside. Aiming straight at the back of the neck Amelia was focusing on the scene, and “Pang” .

Amelia Sachs, a sharpshooter for the NYPD, had heard this unique sound a thousand times, and now she heard it from behind her. That's the sound of a trigger hitting the detonator, a bullet being sprayed, or someone shooting a gun without bullets. She immediately turned around, pulled out the gun she always kept at her waist and pointed it at the person who had just made that noise: Dennis Baker. Amelia glanced at the floor, the sprayed bullet lay there. The only reason it was there was that Baker had fired it but failed, then reflexively removed it. At this point, Baker's excuses were almost meaningless. Ron followed Sachs and pointed the gun at him.

From the accusation of intending to murder two colleagues, Lincoln's investigation team had reason to search records, home, car, etc. and quickly find out Baker's connections to dirty police station Station 118. And importantly, they also discovered thin brown fibers on Baker's body, fibers that matched the carpet material on the Explorer => Including the 32-caliber gun, there were up to 2 connections between Baker and the Watchmaker. Everything is quite clear now: Baker is a man involved in corruption at 118. He hires Watchmaker/Duncan to plan to eliminate Amelia because she is getting close to him.

However, after a while of examining the evidence and the mixed information system, Lincoln thought of something. At this time, a sturdy man was standing across the street looking up at the operations room (Rhyme's room). Lincoln asked Sellitto to "invite" him in, because according to what he speculated, this person was the Watchmaker.

III) Third layer

Sellitto quickly handcuffed Gerald Duncan, while other members searched him to make sure he didn't bring anything dangerous in. After the examination, Duncan was taken to Lincoln's room for questioning, where he began to turn the whole thing upside down.

Everything that happened in the past 2 days was almost single-handedly arranged by Duncan. DThe real motive behind this entire elaborate plan. Not revenge for his wife (never married), but for his close friend who was killed a year ago, a case that Duncan believes Dennis Baker is behind due to his involvement in the blackmail plot of a group of dirty cops. He recounted the process of his own investigation, spending money to learn about Baker's network, and finally posing as a professional assassin

to approach and win Baker's trust. The entire character of the Watchmaker (level 1) and the plan to kill Amelia Sachs (level 2) are just a means to achieve the ultimate goal: Exposing Dennis Baker. He also revealed that throughout his entire career as a Watchmaker, he had never harmed, let alone killed, any innocent person.

The first is the case at the Hudson River wharf. In fact, there is no murder here, even the victim does not exist. This was a drama entirely staged by Duncan with his own body. Duncan spilled his own blood, which had been prepared and extracted at a hospital under the guise of a surgical reserve (explaining the presence of antifreeze), around the wharf and smeared it on his jacket before throwing it into the river. The fingernail scraping the bridge was also faked by Duncan, who had stripped off the top half of the nail on his ring finger. This setup created the false impression of a victim hanging from the pier, misleading both the police and Vincent. On the one hand, it creates the image of a crazy and sick Watchmaker, on the other hand, it makes Vincent fear and believe more in Gerald Duncan's ability to say it and do it. The test showed that Duncan's blood type was also AB, so this was considered confirmed.

Next is the case on Cedar Street, victim Theodore Adams. In fact, the corpse was James Pickering, a man who died in a completely unrelated traffic accident. Duncan heard about the accident through the police radio, and he stole the body from the morgue. The staff thought it must have been transferred to another hospital by mistake, but the body has not been found. Duncan used the body of the unfortunate man and staged a different death (neck crushed, slow death) to create a dramatic murder for the Watchmaker to serve the stated plan, without harming any innocent people. Leaving the body frozen was also calculated by Duncan, it would temporarily hide the true time and cause of death. This is still the Christmas season so the medical assessment results will be delayed more than usual. The ID card and other items found in the wallet next to the body were all fake, and would not pass if the information was closely checked, but Duncan only needed to be deceived for a few days. Then he also left the watch and poem note as at scene 1, reinforcing the dangerous image of the Watchmaker to the police.

The incident with the young man near the church was explained by Duncan as a deliberate improvisation to maintain Vincent Reynolds' trust. When Vincent thought the young man had seen him, Duncan was forced to pretend to commit the murder to avoid making Vincent suspect his true role. In fact, he injured himself and used his

blood to create a fake effect on the box cutter. Lincoln could have a DNA test if he wanted. Sellitto also checked and there were no reports of any missing students in that area over the past few days.

Similar to the Buick car, Duncan never killed its owner, nor did Sellitto receive any reports related to a person being killed and car robbed in the Lower East area.

And in fact, in all three subsequent cases, the police could not really save anyone, because Duncan had ensured their safety in the plan.

- In the Joanne Harper case, the wire Joanne found on the floor was intentionally left by Duncan to raise her vigilance. The noise that followed made her immediately call 911. It turned out it was also made by him.
- In the case of Lucy Richter, the "witness" who reported seeing a suspect breaking into the apartment was also Duncan. This is also the reason why Duncan waited for 5 minutes on the roof, not because Lucy was calling like Vincent lied, but he was waiting for the police to arrive in time, so that he himself had an excuse to leave without killing the target. From Vincent's perspective, it was simply too unlucky, but from the police's perspective, it was the opposite.
- As for the Sarah Staton case, the spray bottle was basically harmless, with only a little alcohol on the outside and filled with tap water inside. The bomb disposal team also confirmed.

The 32-caliber gun, the final key to Duncan's plan, was also disabled by him before handing it over to Baker. Duncan broke the fire needle and even sealed the barrel, ensuring it could not harm anyone. And Duncan is also sure that Baker can only use this gun because if he uses his gun, Baker will clearly be linked to Amelia's death.

A summary of Duncan's strategy since Baker hired him to eliminate Amelia. Duncan created the character of the Watchmaker (also the reason the search for Gerald Duncan at related associations was fruitless), found Vincent as a fake informant, orchestrated the first two cases and intentionally let the following cases "fail" in order to lead the police. Thus, he could have intentionally left behind important evidence such as the bullet box (he initially planned to put it somewhere else, but the police's identification of the SUV created a favorable opportunity, although because of that, he was almost caught), books and carpet fibers. The Explorer was also parked in an

easily detected location for this reason. The subjects were chosen as the Watchmaker's "victims" simply because those locations allowed them to escape quickly. The ultimate goal of this series of events is to create a climactic situation (the 5th attack), trapping Baker in the position of being caught red-handed while attempting to kill Sachs, thereby providing enough evidence and legal reasons to search and expose all the crimes of Baker and those in the 118 extortion ring.

And the reason Duncan was forced to create this overlapping drama, and couldn't simply record conversations with Baker and report them or something, was because he couldn't know who was a clean cop, who was collaborating with Baker... Can't trust anyone with anything important, in this corrupt system.

And in fact, Lincoln also deduced much of the above when he reviewed the evidence table, which is why he only "invited" and did not throw Duncan straight into prison. Duncan admitted that during the process of implementing the plan, he touched many gray areas of the law, but in essence he minimized the damage to unrelated people, and even eliminated harmful elements to society like Vincent Reynolds.

A prosecutor was invited to Lincoln's house and began outlining the crimes Duncan had committed. It turns out that with all his law-bending activities, Duncan has not legally committed any serious crimes.

- Crime of illegal entry => But not breaking and entering. Breaking in is entering an area with the intention of committing serious crimes such as robbery or murder. Duncan has no purpose other than infiltration.
- Crime of stealing a corpse => Duncan only "borrowed" it, he had no intention of keeping the body, in fact he "returned" it to the police. Duncan will also take care of all funeral expenses for James Pickering's family as an apology.
- Crime of obstructing people on duty => In fact, no murder occurred, police procedures were unnecessary, so intervention on their part is a matter for discussion.
- Crime of owning a gun => The barrel is plugged and cannot cause harm.
- Crime of stealing vehicles => Baker took them from the police car impound in Queens and then gave them to Duncan, with his connections it wasn't difficult. Sellitto also suspected that Baker had a network to sell confiscated cars.

No matter what you say, it's not simply a crime. Duncan will have to pay a civil fine for mobilizing vehicles and law enforcement officers, which could amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Duncan said that before carrying out the mission, he carefully researched the law and sentencing regulations. He thought that if he could expose Baker, it would be worth going to jail. (**Knowledge**)

What about some people who were at risk? In the case of Ron being attacked by a homeless man in the garage where Duncan abandoned the SUV. It was Duncan who saved Ron. On the way out of the garage, Duncan saw a not-so-good-looking guy holding an iron rod heading towards the garage. Duncan used the excuse of going back to recover the forgotten book and box of bullets because the garage was very large and it was possible that the police still couldn't find the two guys' car (by now we all know this was a trick to Vincent, because Duncan himself intentionally left the SUV where they could easily find it). Duncan found a hubcap in the trash and threw it at the wall, causing Ron to turn around and see the homeless guy. Ron confirmed the noises during the examination, and that there was indeed a hubcap nearby.

As for Vincent, as mentioned above, Duncan made sure that he never got close enough to any women to harm them. He's always the one who calls 911 and reports him. Duncan detailed the times and locations of the times the rapist was arrested – proving that he was the one who called the police.

(**Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Info Gathering, Deception/Misdirection/Info Control/Concealment, Manipulation, Setting Traps, Foresight, Adaptability, Creativity, EQ, Preparation**)

At this point, there's nothing left to say. Lincoln gives a final scene update, temporarily closing the Watchmaker case.

Police checked and confirmed the details Duncan gave. Sellitto called the Homicide department to check on the friend Duncan wanted revenge on: Andrew Culbert. The other man was actually shot in what appeared to be a robbery and no one was seen being apprehended.

As for the woman named Barbara, considered Theodore Adams' sister, she was a friend Duncan asked for help. A few years ago he lent her a lot of money but she had no way to repay it. Of course, the name Barbara is fake, as is the testimony about Adams' living habits and relationships. All just to increase the credibility of the Watchmaker's identity as the "victim". As for her real name, part of the agreement was that her name must be kept secret, and Duncan had to unequivocally comply, simply to protect the source. (**Preparation**)

Currently, Duncan has been transferred, still awaiting charges because of his violations of the law, all of which were minor. DNA analysis showed that the blood in the box cutter, the vest recovered from the harbor and the blood on the wharf were Duncan's own, and the stripped fingernails were also completely consistent.

During this time, Lincoln was also asked to participate in other cases. He received a phone call from FBI agent Fred Dellray stating that there had just been a break-in and intentional fire at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Brooklyn. The damage is not too serious, but because this is a very sensitive time (Post-9/11), the government wants to clarify any cases that may be related to terrorism. Rhyme wanted to agree to help Dellray examine some evidence, but he decided to wait until after thoroughly resolving the case of Station 118 (Duncan raised questions about the higher-ups in the apparatus behind it), as well as verifying Duncan. (**Preparation**)

The police continued to investigate, and Lincoln gradually realized that something suspicious lay in the character Andrew Culbert that Duncan accepted as his friend. Initially, investigators suspected Culbert was deaf based on physical evidence. This information was later confirmed by the man's wife, but it created a major contradiction with Duncan's account of Andrew serving in the army and saving his life. This leads to suspicion that Duncan only read an article about a robbery victim and claimed it was his friend, to lend credibility to the plan to get Baker in on it. And although Baker has been arrested, new information has opened up new mysteries.

Video of Duncan's interrogation in Lincoln's room was later shown to Dance for review. She quickly noticed many unusual points, and read that although there were indeed parts of the truth, his words and expressions were mixed with many lies,

especially the part about his friend Andrew Culbert. In particular, Duncan's eyes are the most disturbing thing, it's similar to when famous murderers like Ted Bundy say they don't kill people. That reaction is not a reaction typical of cheating, it shows disappointment and betrayal. Because he is denying something central to his ego.

Arrested for minor and non-violent crimes, Gerald Duncan is being placed in a low-security cell on Central Street. Escape is unlikely, but not impossible. Although it was unclear what he was planning, Lincoln and Dance both agreed that Duncan should be transferred to a higher security detention station until the situation was clearly understood.

But when Lincoln called to make a request, he was shocked to discover that Duncan had reached some kind of agreement with the prosecutor and had been released since last night.

IV) Fourth layer

As it turned out, Duncan's lawyer met with the assistant state attorney and reached an agreement that included an admission of guilt, a $100,000 settlement for the use of police and firefighters, along with a written promise to testify against Baker, and he would be cleared of all criminal charges, and would be re-arrested if he failed to keep his promise to appear in court to testify against Baker. He was never fingerprinted or detained.

Lincoln was angry upon hearing that the prosecutor had decided to release an important suspect in exchange for his cooperation in the case against Baker. The prosecutor defended himself that this was the only way, that the suspect had complied with the rules (submitted his passport, had a lawyer, submitted to supervision) and even arranged for Westchester not to prosecute the case related to the stolen body. However, Rhyme realized that this decision was influenced by the prosecutor's personal ambition to have a big case to advance his career, a big case to be arranged smoothly. Rhyme was extremely angry because the decision was made without consulting him, ignoring many open questions about the suspect and without the results of analyzing the audio tape from Kathryn Dance, it was clear that political interference and personal ambition could never be separated from the investigation.

The prosecutor hesitated but then had to reveal the location where Duncan was staying at Lincoln's request: A hotel in the Midtown area, as well as the phone numbers of several officers who were watching him.

And not too unexpectedly, Duncan disappeared from the hotel. The policeman said he went to bed early last night, saying he didn't feel well and wanted to get up late today. It looked like he had picked the lock to the room next door and then escaped into the night. This happened smoothly because the supervising police did not think for a second that the witness intended to escape, not even Lincoln Rhyme's team just recently. And they also checked with the lawyer hiring company that Duncan was supposed to go to, and it turned out that Duncan wasn't their client. Another question is the identity of the man claiming to be Gerald Duncan's lawyer.

Through Cooper's investigation, the truth about the identity of the man they arrested gradually emerged: He was not Gerald Duncan. Cooper verified that the address on the driver's license did belong to a man named Gerald Duncan, but that he had moved to Anchorage six months earlier and the house was currently vacant for rent; The photo on the real driver's license also did not match the person arrested. Lincoln deduced that this impostor had found information about the vacant rental house through the newspaper, calculated that it would not be rented due to Christmas, similar to how he had taken advantage of the church before, and then forged identification documents such as driver's licenses and passports. Finally, Cooper further discovered that Gerald Duncan was actually having credit problems due to having his personal information stolen, which explains how the impostor obtained the information.

They did not examine it thoroughly because their focus was drawn to the layer of convincing story that “Duncan” had drawn before. All his painstaking efforts to ensure that innocent people were not affected were just so that he would not face serious charges, as well as being instrumental in eliminating Vincent and Baker, and would be placed in a loose security place with low surveillance precautions, creating conditions for the escape. Investigators realized they had underestimated the suspect's cunning from the beginning.

A new development occurred when a courier company, on the same floor as the office broken into by the Watchmaker (the 5th "case") reported the loss of an important envelope, stolen during the time the police were searching that floor. This information made Lincoln realize that the team had been so focused on the fake murders and the Watchmaker's plan to frame Baker, that they had overlooked the real crime that had occurred. *illegal intrusion*. He deduced that the evacuation of the building may have created an opportunity for the Watchmakers, as the offices were unguarded. Amelia surmised that while everyone was paying attention to the design company, the Watchmaker took advantage of the situation, possibly in disguise, to sneak into the delivery company and take the envelope. Rhyme immediately

requested an investigation into the details of the stolen envelope (contents, sender, recipient) from the delivery company.

They all have the same question: What is he aiming for?

(**EQ, Psychology, Persuasion, Planning, Strategy, Tactics, Manipulation, Deception, Setting Traps, Foresight, Knowledge, Info Gathering, Preparation**)

At a subway station, Charles Vespasian Hale, the man who disguised himself as Gerald Duncan, the Watchmaker, examined his watch. *All according to plan.* Hale then took a taxi to the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts on Fifth Avenue, shouldered a canvas bag and walked into the lobby. He returned the bag to the concierge and brought in his coat and hat.

The investigation then focused on the Delphi Clock. Lincoln contacted the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts to confirm that the Delphi Clock was still on display. He warned about the possibility of it being stolen, but not for sale, but for the suspect to own for himself, because this is a unique item.

Rhyme explained the background, that he had learned that the envelope stolen from the previous delivery company was from a wealthy impresario, containing a list of antiques that would be donated to the museum. Then Lincoln linked to the museum tour posters found at the church where Duncan and Vincent lived. He asked Vincent Reynolds and the watch shop owner, Victor Hellerstein, if Duncan had mentioned anything about the Museum of Fine Arts. He obviously mentioned it, and spent a lot of time here, and expressed special interest in the Delphi Clock.

Lincoln presented his theory to the director: The suspect used an envelope to sneak tools or software to disable security into the museum to steal the watch. He asked Cooper to send a photo of the suspect to the director for identification. The museum director quickly confirmed that the suspect was the same person who had just left a bag in the cloakroom about ten minutes ago and was still in the museum.

Rhyme informed Sellitto, who immediately contacted Haumann who was on his way. They discussed the possibility that the suspect was armed (since there were no metal detectors at the entrance) while the security guard was not. The bag he sent contained art books, but it could have been a cover for a bomb (real or smoke) to create distraction or panic. When Haumann confirmed SWAT teams were in place, Rhyme, based on Dance's assessment of the suspect's willingness to kill and his planning skills, decided to prioritize life safety and ordered the entire museum to be evacuated, starting with the lobby and cloakroom areas. SWAT forces were ordered to check each person out and must have a photo of the suspect.

The museum director, despite obeying the evacuation order, revealed an important detail: The watch was in a thick bulletproof glass box, had a programmed time lock and a satellite connection to the government watch. This glass box is designed so that it cannot be opened before next Tuesday, when the exhibition ends. This information reminded Rhyme of the intentional fire incident at a government agency that Agent Dellray asked for help. He asked to recheck that location.

Cooper confirmed it was the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which keeps the atomic clock that sets standard time for the entire country. Lincoln realized the real conspiracy: The fire at NIST was caused by "Gerald Duncan" (perhaps on the night he escaped from the hotel), and the purpose was not just to cause a fire, but to hide the intrusion to change the standard time signal, making the glass box at the museum "think" that it was Tuesday and automatically open => Rhyme came to the final and most terrifying conclusion: If the Watchmaker could manipulate the atomic clock country, the consequences would be extremely dire, as it would distort the time of every important system across the country - from aviation, trains, defense, power grids to computers - causing unimaginable chaos.

This is the fourth layer of the Watchmaker's plan: Steal the Delphi Clock by changing America's atomic time. All the previous layers were just to cover his eyes, creating opportunities/excuses for him to break into strategic locations to prepare. And at this point, hardly anyone can doubt the Watchmaker's ability to accomplish the seemingly impossible. The police force has been mobilized at full capacity.

(**Planning, Strategy, Tactics, Deception, Manipulation, Setting Traps, Foresight, Knowledge, Info Gathering, Preparation**)

V) Fifth layer

In the process of immersing himself in the world of watchmaking to take on the guise of an avenger, Charles Hale came to realize a subtle concept: <Secondary function>. These are features that go beyond basic uses, such as displaying the date, moon phase, or minute repeater - details often found on expensive timepieces, sometimes so complicated that they overshadow the main purpose: Telling the time.

But for Hale, the concept goes beyond mechanical art; It became the soul of his cunning plan in New York - a fog that covered his true intentions, causing the police to lose their way from the main goal. He expected that Lincoln Rhyme and his team would sooner or later discover the fake identity of Gerald Duncan and even realize that he had bigger plans than revenge on police officer Baker (Level 3).

And the splendid <Secondary Function> that Hale staged was the prospect of stealing the famous Delphi Clock at the Museum of Fine Arts. He skillfully sprinkled clues throughout from the beginning - from the exhibition brochures about the Study of Time (Boston and Tampa) left in the church, Implicit conversations on the subject of watches with witnesses (Vincent and Victor), to the carefully calculated fire at NSIT – all to create an illusion that he was plotting to disable the security system by manipulating the national standard time.

The canvas bag left behind was another touch in the symphony of deception. Inside the hollow books were explosive powder, radio detectors, and a cheap watch - meaningless items but enough to detain the investigation force for hours, causing them to get lost in the maze he created, believing they were solving a daring heist.

In reality, this plot was probably impossible to carry out, but it was precisely because of the extraordinary intelligence that Hale had purposely built up through the previous 3 Layers that the police were forced to assume that the Watchmaker was capable of doing it, thereby leading them away from his ultimate goal.

In short, the entire Fourth Floor was a <Secondary Function> of Hale's watch, a watch that would drag many soldiers, families, and perhaps even reporters, to their graves at the Commendation ceremony in HUD's office building.

In fact, Hale was far away from the museum he left an hour ago, and he also tricked the director into thinking he was still inside. Right after entering the museum and depositing the bag, he walked into a bathroom and took off his jacket to look like a major's uniform. He put on glasses and a military cap on his head - hidden in a coat pocket - and quickly left the museum. And headed towards the HUD building in midtown Manhattan. *Right according to plan.*

(Deception/Misdirection/Info Control/Concealment, Manipulation, Setting Traps, Foresight, Mind Read, Reasoning, Creativity, Abstract Thinking)

As a reminder for any readers who have forgotten, Hale's Level 5/Real goal is to kill as many people as possible at the <Commendation Ceremony for Soldiers who have recently returned from war zones overseas>, hired by husband and wife Bud and Charlotte Allerton in October.

By the way, Duncan's supposed lawyer was Bud, who was actually a lawyer who had been out of practice for a few years. But pretending to be a lawyer for short-term communication is not a problem. Especially when Duncan had correctly calculated that the prosecutor, because he was so desperate to become famous for a corruption case in the police force, would believe what he wanted to believe.

The unnamed woman whom Duncan asked to be the sister of Theodore Adams' "victim" in the Cedar Street case of the Watchmaker was actually Charlotte.

On Halloween, Hale arrived in New York, lived in a secret house in Brooklyn, and spent the next month and a half engrossed in designing his watch – gathering the necessary supplies, searching for unwitting accomplices (Dennis Baker and Vincent Reynolds), gathering all the information he could on the Watchmaker's alleged victims, and researching the HUD office building.

Let's talk a little bit about why 6 assassins gave up as soon as they heard about the mission. We need to understand the security level of this building. The HUD office building is the most secure building among government buildings in Lower Manhattan:

- The walls are thick limestone, so if a terrorist somehow managed to get past the fence surrounding the building and detonate a car bomb, the damage would be less severe than with the modern, all-glass facade.
- The building is also lower than most downtown office buildings, making it a difficult target for missiles or suicide planes.
- It has few entrances and exits, so controlling people coming in and out is easier.
- The room where the commendation ceremony and subsequent meeting were held faced the windowless wall of the building across the alley, so there was no fear of becoming the target of a sniper.
- With about twenty soldiers and police armed with automatic guns guarding the streets and on the rooftops of surrounding buildings, the HUD building was virtually impregnable.

That is, Hale thought, from the outside. And vice versa, no one realized that the threat would not come from outside.

Not for revenge like he told Vincent, not by chance like he told Baker, not to easily escape like he told the police. In fact, all of the "victims" of this week's "attacks" were important preparations for Hale's mission today: The Flooring Company, Lucy Richter's Apartment, Cedar Street Alley, and the Flower Factory.

- The HUD building was as confusing as a maze, but he quickly went down to the basement. He was familiar with the layout of the building because the person believed to be the psychopath's fifth victim, Sarah Stanton, was an estimator for the flooring company that supplied the carpet and tiles for the building. He found it in Sarah's filing cabinet (when he broke in, he left behind a fire extinguisher bomb). **Accurate drawings of each room and hallway of the HUD building.**
- The floor design company is also located across the hall from the mail delivery company. He was thus able to call the mail delivery company to complain about the envelope that was never actually sent to the Museum of Fine Arts, making the plot to steal the Delphi Clock more believable (meaning there was no generous impresario, but Hale himself fed the wrong information to the mail company staff).

- He broke into Lucy's apartment for the purpose of taking, and then faked, **special admission cards** that soldiers needed to present to attend the commendation ceremony (he read her name in a newspaper article about that event). He also took a photo and then memorized the secret notice from the Ministry of National Defense that was given to her, related to the matter **Today's security programs and procedures will apply** at the HUD building.

- The murder of fictional character Teddy Adams also had a purpose. Hale placed the body of the Westchester car crash victim in the alley behind this very building. When Charlotte Allerton – playing the distraught younger sister – arrived, security guards led the hysterical woman into the HUD building through the back door and allowed her to use the downstairs bathroom without a search. Once inside, she hid the things that Hale was now pulling out from the bottom of a trash can placed in an alcove: **22 caliber silenced**

pistol and two metal discs. There is no other way to get these things into a building that is secured with a series of metal detectors, accompanied by manual inspection. He put them in his pockets and went up to the conference hall on the 6th floor.

- Reaching the 6th floor, Hale saw the main thread in his plan: **two large vases of flowers** Joanne Harper designed the ceremony. Hale learned that she had a contract to supply flowers and ornamental plants to the HUD building. He had broken into her workshop on Spring Street to hide an item in each vase, and he hoped that if the security staff just took a quick look they would escape, because for years Joanne had been a reliable supplier of flowers. When Hale broke into her workshop, he carried, in his shoulder bag, something else besides the moon-dial watch and tools: **two vials of Astrolite explosives**. Hale found flower vases that were to be taken to the HUD building and poured Astrolite into the bottom of the vase. With more destructive power than TNT or notroglycerin, Astrolite is a clear liquid that explodes even when absorbed into other substances.

Hale, of course, could have simply broken into these four locations without coming up with the story of the Watchmaker, but if one were to consider a burglary or notice anything missing or in disarray, the question would arise: What was he really up to? Therefore, he created many layers of fake motives to conceal his real one.

The strategy revolves around the word <Motive>, eliminating the problem of motivation, means you eliminate suspicion.

Hale walked over to the vase of flowers at the front of the hall and fixed it the way any diligent soldier would. When no one was looking, he inserted one of the two metal disks he had just taken from downstairs - the programmed detonators - into the explosives, pressed the button to make it ready for action and shook the moss over it to cover it. He did the same with the vase of flowers placed at the end of the hall, which would explode via a radio signal from the first detonator. These two beautiful flower vases are now two murderous bombs, containing enough explosives to destroy the entire room.

Standing in the HUD building's conference room filled with military personnel and guests, Hale felt his cell phone vibrate. He pulled out his phone and glanced down at the text message, another message from Charlotte Allerton. *The Federal Aviation Administration grounded all planes. The trains stopped. A team of experts at the National Institute of Standards and Technology is examining America's clock. It's successful. Thank God*.

Perfect, he told himself. The ceremony began at 12.00, and Hale set the bomb to go off at 12.15. We need to let people settle down, let those who are late arrive, let the security guards start to get distracted...

(**Planning, Strategy, Tactics, Deception, Manipulation, Setting Traps, Foresight, Knowledge, Info Gathering, Creativity**)

Gerald shows that he is extremely thorough with literally everything, even each question must be fully considered before giving a response. But at the same time, he also did not have an ironic attitude about the "inaccuracy" in Vincent's question, only when the two of them carried out a plan did perfection be required.

"How long does it take for them to die? How interesting."

Vincent had only just met the Watchmaker – whose real name was Gerald Duncan – but he already knew that anyone who asked Duncan a question had to bear all the odds. Even a simple question can open the door to a long monologue. And his answers were always spot on, just like a university professor. Vincent knew that the past few minutes of silence were because Duncan was considering his answer.

Vincent popped the lid off a can of Pepsi. He felt cold but wanted something sweet. He gulped down a drink and put the can in his jacket pocket. He ate a packet of peanut butter crackers. Duncan looked over to make sure Vincent was wearing gloves. The guys always wear gloves in their Band-Aid-mobiles.

Careful, meticulous…

“In my opinion, that question has several answers,” Duncan said in an indifferent, gentle voice. “Suppose, the first person I killed was twenty-four years old, then you could say it took him twenty-four years in this world to die.”

For example, oh well… Vincent Lau thought with the sarcasm of a teenager, although he had to admit the obvious answer had not occurred to him.

“The other one is thirty-two, I suppose.”

A police car sped past, in the opposite direction. The veins in Vincent's temples were pounding, but Duncan didn't react. The police team showed no interest in the stolen Explorer.

Duncan continued. "Another way to answer that question is to look at the time from the moment I started my move to the moment their hearts stopped beating. Perhaps you've thought about this. See, people want to put time into an easy-to-understand frame of reference. It makes sense insofar as it's useful. It's useful to know that the runner takes three minutes and fifty-eight seconds to run each mile, and that's why he wins. Specifically, how long will it take for them to die tonight... well, that's not the point." important, as long as it doesn't happen quickly." A glance at Vincent. “I don't intend to criticize your question.”

"It's okay," Vincent replied, not caring if he was criticized or not. Vincent Reynolds has few friends and can tolerate Gerald Duncan.

“I'm just curious.”

"I understand. I forgot to time it. But I'll remember the next one." "That girl? Tomorrow?" Vincent's heart beat a little faster.

Duncan nodded. “You mean today.” It's past midnight. For Gerald Duncan, one must be precise, especially when it comes to time.

=> **Abstract Thinking, Leadership**

Gerald demonstrates knowledge of Big Ben

When he first came to inspect the place, knowing Duncan's obsession with time, Vincent said: "Too bad, there's no clock tower. Like Big Ben."

“That's the name of the bell, not the name of the clock.”

“On the Tower of London?” “In the clock tower,” the older man corrected again.

"At Westminster Palace, where Parliament meets. Named after Sir Benjain Hall. In the late 1850s it was the largest bell in England. In early clocks, bells were the only thing that told people the time. At that time clocks did not have faces or hands to show the time."

"OH."

"From *clock* (clock) comes from the Latin word clocca, which means bell.”

This man knows everything.

=> **Knowledge, VCI**

Gerald introduces the Delphi Clock

Duncan turned away from the gallery. Vincent is hoping the guys will now leave the museum, go downtown and grab Joanne. But Duncan walked across the room to a large box with thick glass. It is surrounded by velvet rope. A large security guard guarded the side.

Duncan stared at the object inside, the box made of gold and silver, about 0.2m³ large, about twenty centimeters deep. On the front were twelve dials stamped with spheres, shapes that looked like planets, stars, comets, and strange numbers and letters, symbols, as in astrology. The box itself is also engraved with images and inlaid with precious stones.

“What is that?”, Vincent asked.

“It's the Delphi clock,” Duncan explained. "It was made in Greece, more than fifteen hundred years ago. They're showing it around the world."

“What does it do?”

"Many. See those clock faces? They calculate the movements of the sun, moon and planets." Duncan glanced at Vincent. “In fact, it showed that the Earth and the planets revolved around the sun, which was revolutionary, and heretical, for its time, a thousand years before the Copernican model of the solar system.[39] It was amazing.”

“And look at that clock face.” Duncan interrupted Vincent's interesting recollection.

“That silver face?”

"It's platinum. Pure platinum."

“That thing is worth more than gold, right?”

Duncan did not answer. "It represents the lunar calendar. But it is a very special kind of calendar. The Gregorian calendar that we use has three hundred and sixty-five days and the months are not of equal length. The lunar calendar is more consistent than the Gregorian calendar, the months are always of equal length. But they do not correspond to the sun, that is, the lunar month starts on, for example, April 5th this year, next year it will fall on a different date. However, the Delphi Clock represents a lunisolar calendar, a combination of both types I hate the Gregorian calendar and the pure lunar calendar.” There was enthusiasm in his voice. “Those kinds of calendars are so sloppy.”

Does he hate those kinds of calendars? Vincent thought to himself.

"But the lunisolar calendar, it's elegant, harmonious. Wonderful."

Duncan nodded toward the face of the Delphi Clock. "Many people don't believe it's real, because scientists can't reproduce its calculations without computers. They can't believe someone built such a sophisticated computer so long ago. But I believe it's real."

“Is it worth a lot?”

“It's priceless.”

A moment later Duncan added. “There are dozens of rumors about it, that it holds the answers to the mysteries of life and the universe.”

“You think so?”

Duncan continued to stare at the glittering light emanating from the watch's case. "In a way. Does it do anything supernatural? Of course not. But it does something important. It unifies time. It helps us understand that it is an endless river. It treats a second completely indifferently to a millennium. And somehow it measures all those temporal distances with almost absolute precision." He pointed to the box. "The ancients thought of time as a separate force, a god in itself, with its own power. You could say the clock is a symbol of that

concept. I think we should see time more that way: each second can contain the power of a bullet or a knife or a bomb. It can influence events that will happen a thousand years from now. It can change them completely."

The great momentum of events…

“It's a meaningful thing.” Vincent's tone, however, must have revealed that he did not share Duncan's enthusiasm.

But this seems okay. The assassin looked at his pocket watch. He let out a rare laugh. "You've heard enough crazy ramblings. Let's go visit our flower girl."

=> **Knowledge**

Gerald continues to show his insight through the story of the first watch that worked at sea:

“In 1714, the British Parliament announced that it would reward twenty thousand pounds to anyone who could build a portable clock accurate enough to be used at sea.”

“That was a lot of money back then, right?”

"A huge sum. They needed clocks for their ships because every year thousands of sailors died due to navigational errors. You see, to mark a route one had to have both meridians and latitudes. One could determine latitudes based on astronomy. But to determine meridians one had to have precise time. An English watchmaker named John Harrison decided to win the prize. He began working on the project in 1735 and finally built a small clock that could be used on a ship and completed the journey across the Atlantic in just a few seconds. When did he complete the work?

“Did it take him that long?”

"He had to deal with politics, competition, uninterested businessmen and Congressmen, and of course, almost impossible mechanical difficulties in making the watch. But he never stopped. Twenty-six years."

The light turned green and Duncan slowly accelerated. "To answer your question, we'll go look at the next girl on the list. We've encountered an obstacle. But nothing will stop us. It doesn't matter..."

“During the entire scheduled process.”

A brief smile appeared on the murderer's face

Gerald tells Vincent about the history of watches from a conceptual perspective.

The watch looks simple. It has a white face, Roman numerals, small dials showing the phases of the moon and a perpetual calendar. It also has a “parachute,” an anti-shock system, Duncan explains. Breguet's own invention.

This time, Vincent asked him. “How old is it, his watch?”.

“It was built in twelve.”

"Twelve? Like from Roman times?"

Duncan smiled. "No, sorry. That's the year on the original sales invoice, so I think it's the year of manufacture. I mean the twelfth year of the French revolutionary calendar. After the fall of the monarchy, the republic declared a new calendar, starting in 1792. It's a very strange calendar. There are ten days in each week and thirty days in each month. Every six years there is a leap year devoted entirely to sports. For some reason, the government thinks that such a calendar would provide more equal opportunity than the traditional calendar. But it was too difficult to use for only fourteen years. Duncan looked at the gold watch with fascination.

"I like the watches that were made in that period. In those days, a watch was a powerful thing. Not many people had enough money to buy one. The person who owned a watch was the one who controlled the time. You went to him and you waited until he set the meeting. People invented chains and chains so that even when a person carried a watch in his coat pocket, you could still see that he owned a watch. In those days, watchmakers Clocks are Gods.”

Duncan paused briefly. “I'm speaking figuratively, but in some ways, it's true.” Vincent raised an eyebrow. "There was a philosophical movement in the 18th century that used the clock as a metaphor. People believed that God created the mechanism of the universe, wound it and started it running. A perpetual calendar. God was called "The Great Watchmaker". Whether you believe it or not, that philosophy has many adherents. It gives watchmakers almost the same status as the ancient fathers."

=> **Knowledge, Abstract Thinking**

Vincent told the police about Gerald's knowledge

“The way I see it, he just really likes to talk about time.”

"Time? What is it?"

"Anything, everything. The history of time, how clocks work, calendars, how people perceive time differently. For example, he told me that the term acceleration comes from pendulum clocks. People increase the weight of the pendulum to make the clock go faster. Deceleration is when people reduce the weight of the pendulum to make the clock go

slower... To anyone else, these things would have been boring. But the way he said it, well, the way he speaks keeps people hooked.”