



# 13

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## The Lighthouse Keeper

*Gull Point Light, three miles off Ravenwood*

*Tuesday 18 April 1933*

*A free case for readers of The Ravenwood Case Files, Volume I. Print on US Letter or A4 at “actual size”, or on 6 × 9 in. paper. No purchase is needed to solve this case. Work through the true statements, use the cipher instructions on page 5, then test each clock time. The reference table is on page 7; the solution is on page 8.*

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| VICTIM | Elias Tremayne, 66, principal keeper |
| FOUND  | Foot of the tower stair, 21:40       |
| CAUSE  | A blow, then a fall                  |

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For forty-one years the light at Gull Point never failed. On Tuesday night it went dark for eleven minutes, and when it came back, Keeper Elias Tremayne was lying at the foot of the iron stair.

The relief boat could not land until morning. Five people were on the rock with him. Each went to a different part of the station during the evening watch, each at a different time, each carrying something. The keeper's log, kept to the minute as ever, was found open.

PERSONS OF INTEREST

Morwenna Tremayne

*His daughter*

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Jory Pascoe

*Assistant keeper*

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Captain Abel Hext

*Master of the supply tender*

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Dr. Lowenna Vell

*Visiting naturalist*

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Kit Rowe

*Boy keeper, aged sixteen*

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EVIDENCE A

# The Statements

*Five people, each to a different place at a different time, each carrying a different object. Every statement below is true, and every one is needed.*

- 1

Of Morwenna and Rowe, one went at 21:05 and the other carried the logbook.
- 
- 2

Whoever carried the telescope went earlier than whoever carried the storm lantern.
- 
- 3

Of Hext and Rowe, one was in the Oil Store and the other went at 20:20.
- 
- 4

Whoever was in the Keeper’s Cottage went earlier than Hext.
- 
- 5

Exactly one person went between whoever was in the Lamp Room and whoever was in the Oil Store.
- 
- 6

Of Morwenna and Pascoe, one went at 21:05 and the other carried the storm lantern.
- 
- 7

Exactly one person went between Morwenna and whoever carried the boathook.
- 
- 8

Of Rowe and Vell, one went at 20:20 and the other was in the Watch Room.

| SUSPECT  | PLACE | TIME | OBJECT |
|----------|-------|------|--------|
| Morwenna |       |      |        |
| Pascoe   |       |      |        |
| Hext     |       |      |        |
| Vell     |       |      |        |
| Rowe     |       |      |        |

EVIDENCE A

The Grid

|         |               | PLACE     |            |           |              |                  | OBJECT    |         |         |          |               | TIME  |       |       |       |       |
|---------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|         |               | Lamp Room | Watch Room | Oil Store | Boat Landing | Keeper's Cottage | Telescope | Oil Can | Logbook | Boathook | Storm Lantern | 20:05 | 20:20 | 20:35 | 20:50 | 21:05 |
| SUSPECT | Morwenna      |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Pascoe        |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Hext          |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Vell          |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Rowe          |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| TIME    | 20:05         |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | 20:20         |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | 20:35         |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | 20:50         |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | 21:05         |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
| OBJECT  | Telescope     |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Oil Can       |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Logbook       |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Boathook      |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |
|         | Storm Lantern |           |            |           |              |                  |           |         |         |          |               |       |       |       |       |       |

*Cross out what cannot be. Mark what must be.*

EVIDENCE B

# Keyword Cipher

*Written in the margin of the keeper's log, in his own hand, the last entry he made.*

|       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E     | V | K |   | M | W | U | R | E |   | K | G | T |   | D | I | D |
| ----- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| _____ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Z     | I | Z |   | G | F | C | W |   | E | V | K |   | P | W | Z |   |
| ----- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| _____ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C     | E | C | X | F |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ----- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| _____ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

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THE KEY

Keyword: the object Rowe carried, with no spaces. Write it repeatedly beneath the message and subtract each key letter from the letter above (A = 0).

Write the key letters in the small spaces above each line. The Square of Shifts is on page 7.

EVIDENCE C

# The Stopped Clock

*The clockwork that turns the lens stopped when the light failed. Four witnesses, on the rock or watching from shore, recall when the beam went dark.*

| WITNESS            | REMEMBERED TIME |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| The cook           | 20:15           |
| A fisherman ashore | 20:35           |
| The tender's mate  | 21:10           |
| The coastguard     | 20:30           |

*One of them is exactly right. The other three are out by 5, 20 and 35 minutes, not in that order. Each incorrect time may be early or late.*

THE ACCUSATION

THE CIPHER

THE CLOCK

I ACCUSE

*Solution on page 8.*

## FOR THE KEYWORD CIPHER

## The Square of Shifts

|   | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| B | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A |
| C | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B |
| D | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C |
| E | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D |
| F | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E |
| G | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| H | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
| I | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
| J | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I |
| K | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J |
| L | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K |
| M | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L |
| N | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| O | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N |
| P | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
| Q | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P |
| R | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q |
| S | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R |
| T | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S |
| U | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T |
| V | V | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
| W | W | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V |
| X | X | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W |
| Y | Y | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X |
| Z | Z | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y |

Row: key letter. Find the cipher letter in that row; the letter at the head of its column is the true one.

THE CULPRIT

# Captain Abel Hext

*in the Oil Store, at 20:35, with the boathook*

| TIME    | SUSPECT  | PLACE            | OBJECT        |
|---------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| 20:05   | Vell     | Watch Room       | Telescope     |
| 20:20   | Rowe     | Keeper's Cottage | Logbook       |
| ♦ 20:35 | Hext     | Oil Store        | Boathook      |
| 20:50   | Pascoe   | Boat Landing     | Storm Lantern |
| 21:05   | Morwenna | Lamp Room        | Oil Can       |

THE CIPHER

Rowe carried the Logbook: keyword LOGBOOK.

THE LIGHT WAS PUT OUT FROM THE OIL STORE

Only Hext was in the Oil Store.

THE CLOCK

20:35 is the only time from which the other three are out by exactly 5, 20, 35 minutes (the cook 20 early; the tender's mate 35 late; the coastguard 5 early). Only Hext went at 20:35.

*Each month the tender brought oil to Gull Point and took away something else: crates landed at night from a French boat that showed no lights. Tremayne had dimmed the beam to watch it come in. Captain Hext made sure it went out altogether.*