



CASE FILE

THE BOOK THAT WASN'T THERE

Your Mission

A copy of *The Queen's Scarab* has disappeared from the library—and this isn't just any book. Readers have been waiting months for it. The wait list is so long that some people may have to wait nearly eight months for their turn.

The new copy arrived yesterday. It was placed on the library's new-books table while it was being processed. It wasn't ready to be checked out yet, but a short time later, the book was gone.

Four people were in the library when the book could have disappeared. Each of them wanted to read *The Queen's Scarab*. Each of them had a chance to take it.

What We Know

- *The Queen's Scarab* is a new release. No one had access to the book until this copy arrived at the library yesterday.
- The book was placed on the new-books table.
- Four possible suspects were in the library before it disappeared.
- By the time the librarian realized the book was missing, all four had left.
- Library policy: Anyone who removes a book without checking it out loses borrowing privileges and is removed from the wait list.

Your Job

Examine each piece of evidence as it becomes available. Keep track of what you learn. By the end of the investigation, you'll need to answer two questions:

1. Who took *The Queen's Scarab*?
2. What evidence proves it?



STAGE 1: THE SUSPECTS

Team Name: _____

Detectives: _____

1 The Suspects

After reviewing all four Suspect Profiles, record anything your team thinks could matter.

Jordan Kim: _____

Mateo Ruiz: _____

Maya Shah: _____

Nia Brooks: _____

2 Your First Theory

Which suspect seems most suspicious right now? Why? _____



STAGE 2: SUSPECT STATEMENTS

1 Record anything that stands out.

Jordan: _____

Mateo: _____

Maya: _____

Nia: _____

2 Has your theory changed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not Sure

Why or why not? _____



STAGE 3: THE TIMELINE

1 Determine the order in which the suspects left the library.

Suspect	Time	Order (1 = first to leave)

2 What does the timeline tell you?

3 Who is your prime suspect?

Name: _____

What evidence supports your theory? _____



STAGE 4: PHOTO EVIDENCE #1

1 What does your team observe in the photograph?

2 What does this evidence add to your investigation?

3 Have you eliminated any suspects yet?

4 Has your theory changed?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure

Why or why not? _____



STAGE 5: PHOTO EVIDENCE #2

This is a zoomed-in look at Photo Evidence #1.

1 What do you notice in the photograph?

2 What does it tell you?

3 Does this change the meaning of any earlier evidence?

4 Which suspect(s) couldn't have taken the book?



STAGE 6: THE WAIT LIST

1 Why is this information important?

2 What does it tell you about motive?

3 Who is your prime suspect?

4 Why?



STAGE 7: FINAL STATEMENTS

FINAL ACCUSATION

Read the Final Statements carefully.

1 What stands out?

2 Is there anything that does not fit with what you know?

Your investigation is complete. Before you turn in your accusation, answer both questions:

A Who took *The Queen's Scarab*?

B What evidence proves it?
