

Final Solution

Killer:

Dr. Lena Hartmann

Motive:

Dr. Hartmann secretly funded the exhibit and erased Elara's protest posters, fearing public backlash. Killing Elara would silence her and erase her campaign, allowing the exhibit to proceed without controversy.

Method:

She poisoned the berry pudding with a hidden toxin, laced with a sugar coating to match Elara's protest posters. The murder occurred during dessert, when Elara was distracted by the argument, and the spoon remained in her hand to frame the protest.

Opportunity:

The killer had the opportunity during the dessert course, when Elara was seated and vulnerable. Dr. Hartmann was present during the entire event and later reported missing, suggesting she orchestrated the murder to cover her tracks.

Clue Alignment

Dr. Lena Hartmann about Marcus Kiefer (supports_guilt)

Her clue indicates she was last seen arguing with Marcus, later missing, suggesting she covered up her role in the murder to hide her involvement in the exhibit's design.

Sophia Vogel about Lina Müller (red_herring)

The clue about Sophia and Lina collaborating on posters is a red herring; they were not involved in the poisoning, and Lina's absence during dessert is irrelevant to the murder.

Alternative Suspects

Marcus Kiefer: He had a private meeting with Elara before dinner and was present during dessert, but he was not the one who poisoned the pudding.

Sophia Vogel: She was visibly supportive of Elara during dessert, but she was not present during the poisoning, making her an innocent bystander.

Final Reveal Monologue

The killer was Dr. Lena Hartmann - the curator who funded the exhibit and silenced Elara's protest. She poisoned the pudding to erase her voice and let the corporate exhibit stand. The spoon in her hand? That's the last proof she didn't just disappear - she vanished into the silence of her own design.