

Downtown Murderer (Hacktoria)

Mission Briefing:

*from: julessharp555@tiberianserpent.com
to: tmp-agnt007@tiberianserpent.com
date: May 01, 2022, 21:00 EET
subject: Briefing “The Downtown Murderer”*

So bit of a different task we got on our hands this time. The local Police Department has their hands full with a murderer. New cases every week, severed limbs and cut eyes and all, very horrible stuff. Due to the nature of the killings, public pressure is mounting and the city is rapidly panicking.

Your task is simple, catch the killer.

Below you'll find the summary of the killings up until this point, the victims and timeline of events.

Good luck on this one, there's a lot of pressure on this.

Step 1

What do all the victims have in common? Why are they being targeted?

Upon review of the six Police Department Does Not Exist(PDDNE) report summaries it would appear that each victim had heterochromia iridum, the color of the irises of their eyes differed from each other. As the murderer removed the eyes of the victims, with the exception of Jamal Ahmed, it would appear that they were targeted for this unique trait.

The victims were targeted for their eyes.

Step 2

Alright not sure how you're getting on with figuring out why these people are targeted, but we believe the killer just left us another clue. We received the follow message with 3 attached images:

"You missed a few, they deserve to rest properly"

Below are the images of the three locations, identify where these are so the local police units can look for bodies. We need the names of the locations.

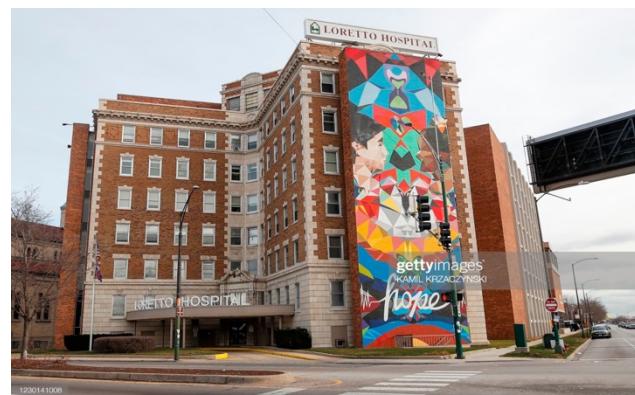
Location 01



The image appears to show a hospital(sign on building) in an urban setting in the United States(flag present in the lower left side corner). The mural is distinctive and should lead to a positive identification of the building.

Google Reverse image search found the Getty image of the hospital on the right. In addition to the match to the mural, the building in the images has several of the same architectural details and signage on front of the building.

Location 1:
Loretto Hospital
Chicago, IL



Location 02

The original view of the image, on the right, appeared to be a cemetery and/or mausoleum possibly in Holland. A Google search of “mausoleum windmill” returns image matches, see below, for the Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst, IL.



Mount Emblem Cemetery
Elmhurst, IL

Location 03

Image appears to be a multi-purpose sports field at a high school or college. The building and emblem may point to school colors of blue, yellow, and/or green. Additionally, the school initials may be "N" and "B,D,E,F,P,R". The school mascot may be a warrior, viking, spartan, etc.



Initial Google reverse image returns many sports fields with chain link fences. A Yandex image search focused on the school logo returned a Wikimedia match for the athletics logo for North Park University Vikings located in Chicago, IL.

More specifically the image is from the Holmgren Athletic Complex and Google Street View provides this view:



North Park University
Holmgren Athletic Complex
Chicago, IL

A Google map shows the three locations(red) of the images forwarded to the police by the suspect and locations(blue) of the bodies found previously.



Image Locations

- ① Loretto Hospital
- ② Mount Emblem Cemetery
- ③ Holmgren Athletic Complex

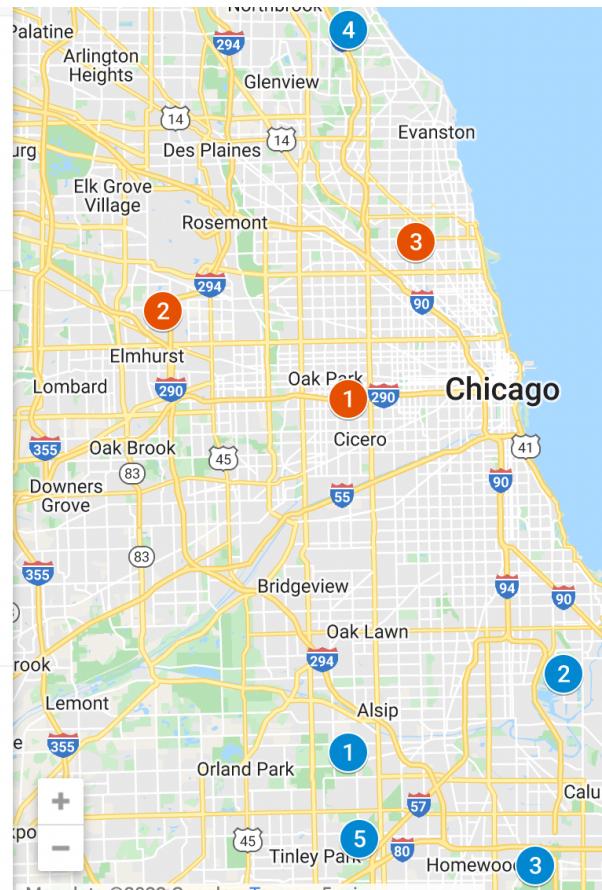


Body Locations from P.D. Report

- ① Kylie McAllister
- ② Melissa Wong
- ③ Jamal Ahmed
- ④ Jenny Fisher
- ⑤ Daliah Emmanuel Salah



Made with Google My Maps



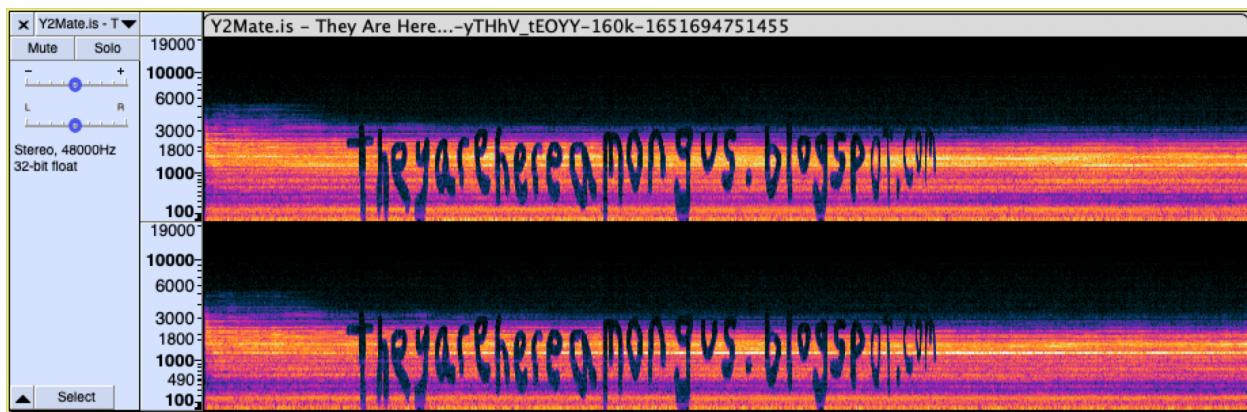
Step 3

Excellent work on finding the locations, the state of the victims matches the killers MO exactly. In a twist of fate, or by the hands of the killer, we've received an anonymous tip regarding a video that surfaced. It's on a completely new YouTube channel, no other content posted, we believe the account to be a sock puppet.

We need you to find out the meaning of the video on this channel. Does this get us anywhere?

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyOofwsh3r5FlC3tr1mJQoA>

Downloaded audio file of Youtube video as an MP3 using Y2Mate. Then opened the file with Audacity and used the Spectrogram view to determine if steganography was being used hide any information. The Spectrogram view returned the following output:



A website address was hidden within the audio file: theyarehereamongus.blogspot.com. The blog contained four posts created between May 2 and 4, 2022.

Per the blog posts the murderer experienced the loss of their mother, apparently to an alien abduction. They have vowed to find and kill the same aliens that they feel walk among us. It appears that they lure the victims to their house where they are drugged, dissected, and murdered. The bodies are then transported to where they are dumped. The murderer indicates that they are skilled at hunting and field dressing, skills they have used to dissect the bodies.

Step 4

Amazing job on finding the meaning of that message. Local PD was chasing down a rabbit hole deep enough to come out China, excellent work. So we just got word of a new missing person, her name is Julia Morena, 35 years old from 210-200 W 4th St, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Julia never arrived for her evening shift at the hospital two days ago, her coworkers couldn't reach her so they contacted her family. After getting nowhere, they contacted us. Please locate Julia and find out if her disappearance is related to the killings. We will need her location, dead or alive unfortunately. I suggest you keep an eye out in case the killer posts something about this.



Upon review of the They Are Here, Among Us blog a new post was made on May 5th, 2022. It read as follows:

Everyone I got another one!

This time I did things differently because I haven't found a lot, the eyes look all the same, so I figured maybe it is because they are already dead, so probably they have a mechanism that when they die they change into full humans so in case of accidentally dying no one knows the truth.

So because now I have some practice with the drug, I know that if I administrate 10mg of it no matter the weight, it dies, but with the first one, she was actually just very dizzy, that time was 3mg, but it was hard to strangle her, she kept moving, so with 4mg probably a woman of average height and weight would be just paralyzed, but conscious, so that's exactly what I want.

With that in mind I chased down the next, it was a little difficult to find someone with specific characteristics, but finally, I did, so as usual, it was so easy to lure her into my home, they trust me, everybody does, I gave her a drink and just waited, all the sudden I saw her collapsing, for a second I thought she was dead but fortunately, she wasn't and most importantly she was conscious, so I dragged her to my basement, also because my living room is now a mess and I don't want to clean that up again, I put her in a table, I first did a cut in her arm to see if she could move, but no, she just made some noises which was perfect, she couldn't move the eyes which were very important.

Now it was time to see what does eyes were hiding, this time I started with a syringe because I wanted to be more delicate, and now I had a plan, so first the left eye, this time when she saw me approaching her eye she kinda moved but not too much so I could proceed, I took the syringe and very carefully plunged it into the pupil, and this

time it didn't explode so it was all good, I could see each layer of the eye it was amazing, and then something incredible happened I moved the syringe the pupil went big and for a split second I saw a light coming from the eye, a light so similar to what I saw that day with my mom, so there it was, unfortunately, I was so excited that I moved the syringe too much deeper than expected and I killed her.

I feel so stupid, but we have progress guys!

Let's find another one, and I just dumped the body, it's useless now, they need to be alive.

Throughout the text several letters are italicized. A review of the page source made it easier to identify the italicized letters as they tagged with HTML tag *<i></i>*. Below is part of the blog post page source HTML code below with italicized characters highlighted in red:

```
<span style="background-color: transparent; color: black; font-family: Arial; font-size: 11pt; font-style: normal; font-variant-caps: normal; font-variant-east-asian: normal; font-variant-ligatures: normal; font-variant-position: normal; font-weight: 400; text-decoration: none; vertical-align: baseline; white-space: pre-wrap;">Everyone I got another one!</span>
```

```
</p>
```

```
<p dir="ltr" style="line-height: 1.38; margin-bottom: 12pt; margin-top: 12pt;">
```

```
    <span style="background-color: transparent; color: black; font-family: Arial; font-size: 11pt; font-style: normal; font-variant-caps: normal; font-variant-east-asian: normal; font-variant-ligatures: normal; font-variant-position: normal; font-weight: 400; text-decoration: none; vertical-align: baseline; white-space: pre-wrap;">This time I did things differently because I haven't found a lot, the eyes look all the same, so I </span>
```

```
    <span style="background-color: transparent; color: black; font-family: Arial; font-size: 11pt; font-variant-caps: normal; font-variant-east-asian: normal; font-variant-ligatures: normal; font-variant-position: normal; font-weight: 400; text-decoration: none; vertical-align: baseline; white-space: pre-wrap;">
```

```
        <i>f</i>
```

```
</span>
```

```
        <span style="background-color: transparent; color: black; font-family: Arial; font-size: 11pt; font-style: normal; font-variant-caps: normal; font-variant-east-asian: normal; font-variant-ligatures: normal; font-variant-position: normal; font-weight:
```

400; text-decoration: none; vertical-align: baseline; white-space: pre-wrap;">igured maybe it

 >i

 >s because they are already dead, so probably they have a mechan

 >

 <i>i</i>

A full review of the code returned the following letters, divided into logical words:

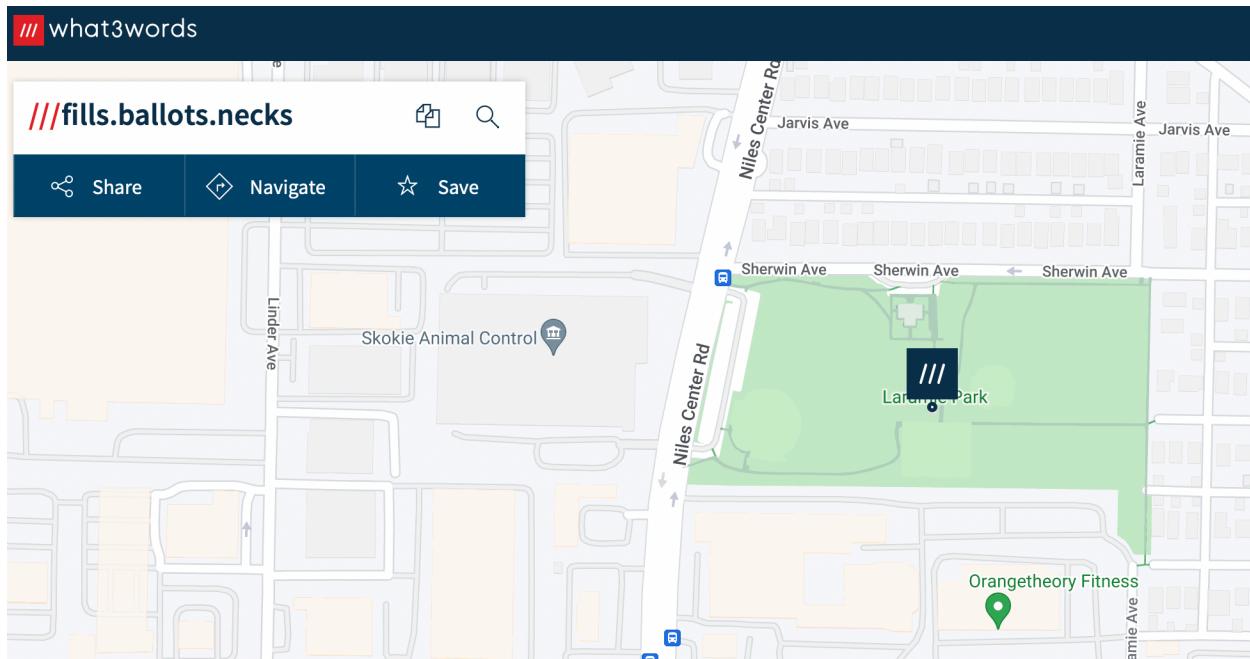
FILLS / BALLOTS / NECKS

A review of the areas where the other bodies were found returned no connections to these words. Attempts to see if the letters were an anagram for a location were not productive, nor were attempts treating the letters as a cypher and running them through multiple online tools.

Upon searching for alternatives to longitude/latitude for geolocation coordinates the site what3words.com was found. What3words produces three words in place of numerical coordinates, which may be easier to remember than a long string of numbers. Entering the three words into What3words in the format needed:

 ///fills.ballots.necks

produces a location not far from the other locations where the bodies were found.



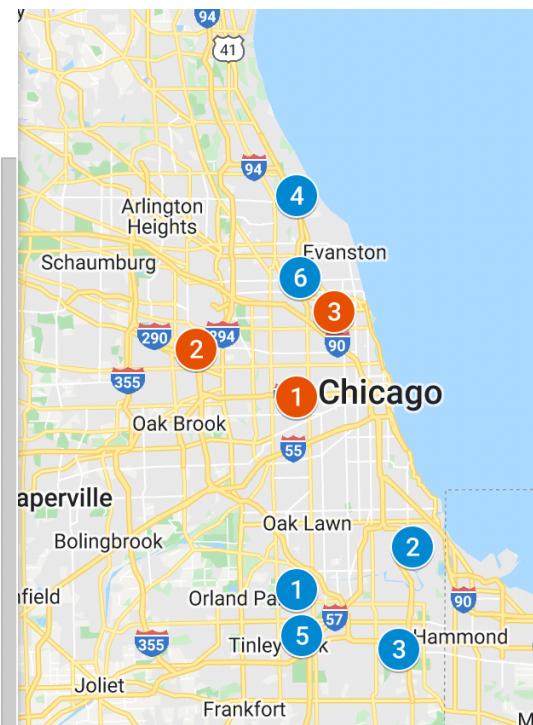
The data indicates that Julia Morena's body may be located at Laramie Park in Skokie, IL. The following shows the location of Laramie Park(6) in relation to the locations of the previous bodies.

Image Locations

- ① Loretto Hospital
- ② Mount Emblem Cemetery
- ③ Holmgren Athletic Complex

Body Locations from P.D. Report

- ① Kylie McAllister
- ② Melissa Wong
- ③ Jamal Ahmed
- ④ Jenny Fisher
- ⑤ Daliah Emmanuel Salah
- ⑥ Julia Morena



Step 5

Alright so big hit today! There was a note found at the local university, people got suspicious at the request stated on this note and contacted the local police. The person stated on the note is not familiar at the university, the needed email address had also been cut off.

We sent the original note for forensic analysis to the lab, this will however take several days. Attached below you find a typed-out copy of the note as found in the university.

Objective: Trick this person into scheduling a meeting with an undercover agent.

Looking For: participants in study

Do you have any type of eye condition? I am doing a research project for my masters degree, focused on various eye conditions. I am looking for people to answer questions about their condition and have their photos taken. All results will be anonymous.

If you are interested, send me an email and we can arrange a meeting.

Marlene Esther-Obdam

A theory was made that the email missing from the note was the same as the one to register the blog theyarehereamongus.blogspot.com found in Step 3.

To determine what email is affiliated with the blog the “Forgot your username or password?” site at <https://www.blogger.com/forgot.g> was accessed for Blogger. By entering the address of the blog the site provided a hint of the email used, confirming that a gmail.com email was used to create the blog, see below:

Blogger |

[Forgot your username or password?](#)

What is your blog's URL?

If you have more than one blog, enter the one you're most interested in posting to.

http(s):// blogspot.com [Lookup](#)

Blogger |

[Check your email](#)

We've sent you an email message with login instructions for your blog at <http://theyarehereamongus.blogspot.com/>. Email was sent to your gmail.com account.

If the email from this page doesn't seem to arrive, you might check your Spam folder in case the message got mis-routed. Please make sure that your INBOX is not full so that this message does not bounce.

If the email still doesn't arrive within 30 minutes, or if you experience any other issues signing in, please visit our [password assistance page](#).

Email Permutator |

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help Last edit was seconds ago

STEP 1: Fill in these details:

First Name:	marlene
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	esther-obdam
Domain:	gmail.com

NB: variables are:
fn - firstname
m - first initial
mn - middle name
mi - middle initial
ln - lastname
il - last initial

Simple: (fn)
(ln)
(fn)(ln)
(fn)(ln)(ln)
(fn)(ln)(il)
(ln)(fn)
(ln)(fn)(ln)
(ln)(il)
(il)(fn)
(il)(ln)
(il)(fn)(ln)

Basics: (fn@gmail.com)
esther-obdam@gmail.com
marlene.esther-obdam@gmail.com
marlene.esther-obdam@gmail.com
m.esther-obdam@gmail.com
m.esther-obdam@gmail.com
marlene.e@gmail.com
marlene.e@gmail.com
me@gmail.com
m.e@gmail.com
esther-obdam.marlene@gmail.com
esther-obdam.m@gmail.com
esther-obdam.m@gmail.com
emarlene@gmail.com
e.marlene@gmail.com
em@gmail.com
e.m@gmail.com
mesther-obdam@gmail.com
m.esther-obdam@gmail.com

Backwards: (ln)(fn)
(ln)(fn)(ln)
(ln)(fn)(il)
(il)(fn)
(il)(ln)
(il)(fn)(ln)

Using Middle Name: (fn)(m)(ln)
(fn)(m).ln)

Using Rob Ousbey’s Email Permutator in Google Sheets a list of possible email addresses was created using the name Marlene Esther-Obdam which may lead to the correct email associated with the blog, see below

The free Email Verification extension from EVADDON was used to identify deliverable emails. This provided a list of 14 deliverable email addresses out of 44:

Unfortunately, manual searches in Google and across multiple social networks returned no actionable information related to the investigation. Though the email permutations returned no hits a search for a possible username on Twitter based on the name Marlene Esther-Obdam was conducted. Searching on Twitter using different combinations of the returned the account for @MarleneObdam, which contained references that related to the investigation.

	A	B
1	marleneesther@gmail.com	deliverable
2	marlene.esther@gmail.com	deliverable
3	mesther@gmail.com	deliverable
4	m.esther@gmail.com	deliverable
5	marlenee@gmail.com	deliverable
6	marlene.e@gmail.com	deliverable
7	esthern@gmail.com	deliverable
8	esther.m@gmail.com	deliverable
9	emarlene@gmail.com	deliverable
10	e.marlene@gmail.com	deliverable
11	mesther@gmail.com	deliverable
12	m.esther@gmail.com	deliverable
13	marleneesther@gmail.com	deliverable
14	marleneesther@gmail.com	deliverable
15	marlene@gmail.com	not deliverable
16	esther@gmail.com	not deliverable
17	me@gmail.com	not deliverable
18	m.e@gmail.com	not deliverable
19	esthermarlene@gmail.com	not deliverable
20	esther.marlene@gmail.com	not deliverable



Using the mrwhiskers1260@gmail.com, the email on the Twitter account a contact with Marlene expressing an interest to participate in their eye research was made. The following reply was received, confirming that the Twitter account and email were related to the

Time and Place for meeting Re: Eyes Research Project ➔ [Inbox](#) ✎

Marly Marlin 10:57 AM (50 minutes ago) ☆ ↶ ⌂ :

to me ▾

Hi there!

How nice of you to want to participate in my study! Currently I'm quite busy, so to do the interview and see if you are suitable, would you be available on the 25th of May 2022 at 16:00? I suggest we meet at Jackson Park, on the bridge next to the harbor, right next to the statue.

Let me know if that works for you!

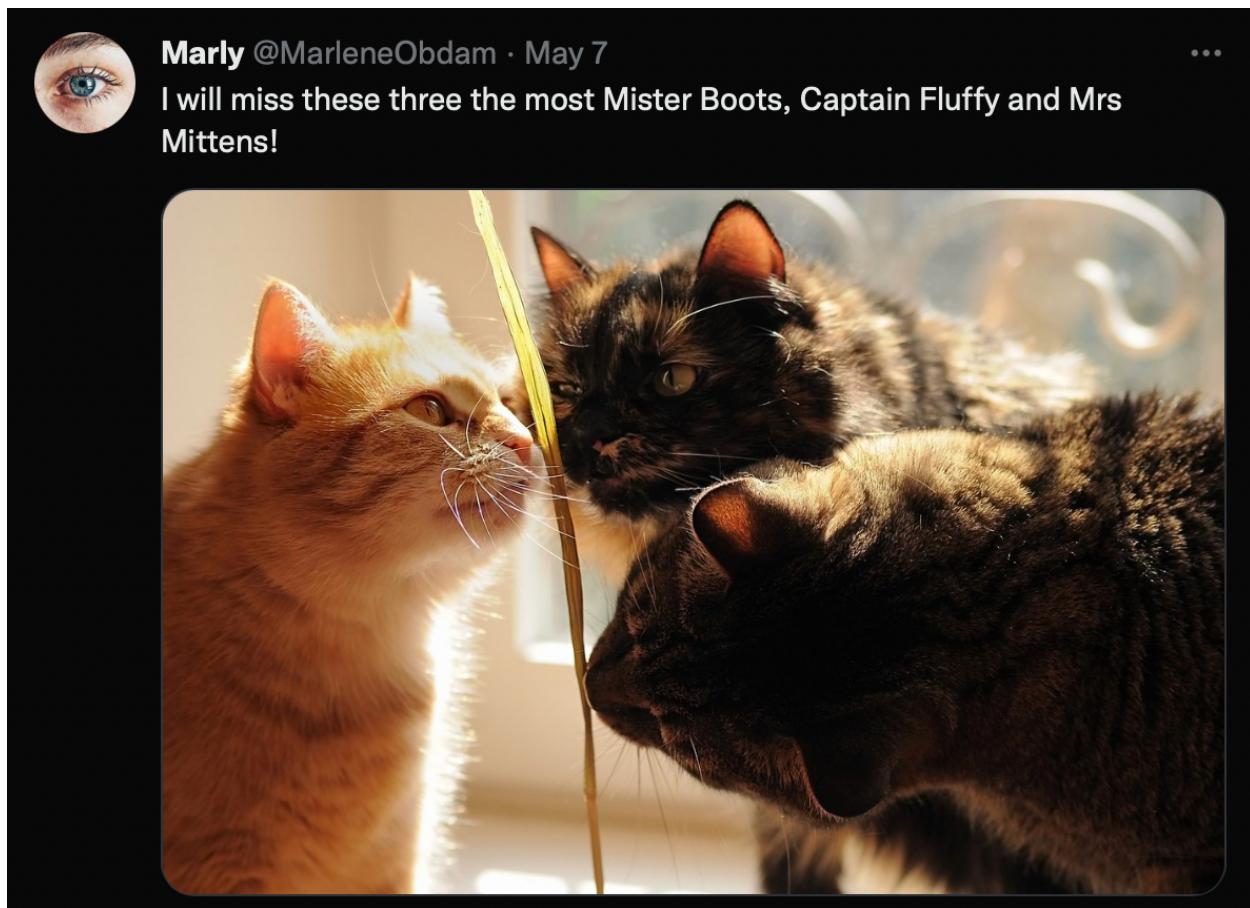
All the best,
The Researcher.

Hacktoria Step Answer Code: GG-WP-MUCHOSINT

Step 6

After looking at CCTV footage, we have identified the killer to be Kaylee Ann Taylor, a 41-year-old DevOps engineer at the university. Local police raided her residence but found nobody there except her pets. Speaking to her neighbors, it turns out she left town and asked them to take care of her home for a while. So far, we are investigating the house and surrounding area. Local police have taken a laptop that was left behind, this device contained a lot of files that are being looked into. However, one file on the desktop immediately stood out. So far, our Red Team has not brute-forced it yet, perhaps you can have a crack at it using your knowledge of the subject? In the meantime, we'll be checking for credit card payments, cellphone calls and local traffic cameras. BOLO went out already and all Chicago news outlets will plaster her face on every screen possible.

According to the suspects Twitter account they love cats and shared the following Tweet:



Marly @MarleneObdam · May 7

I will miss these three the most Mister Boots, Captain Fluffy and Mrs Mittens!



This led to the conclusion that the password to the Zip file was some combination of the suspect's cats' names, as using pet names in passwords is not uncommon. After failing to guess the password manually an extensive (about 3,000 passwords) wordlist was created and fed into

Jack the Ripper, which returned no matches in under two seconds. Additional attempts to guess the password manually were eventually successful through the use of the cats' names.

The Zip file contained a trip summary from Expedia:

Welcome Kaylee Ann [Sign Out] My Itineraries | My Account | Customer Support | Feedback

Homea.com/daily/packages/default.asp" onclick="xp.nav.trackAnalytics(this,'a','Head:Nav:Package:FltHotel');"> Hotels Cars Flights Cruises Activities

DEALS & OFFERS Maps Business Travel Rewards

Trip summary - Sat May-07 2022 Itinerary number: 133597735502

Flight: 1 oneway ticket - Chicago to Tahoe/Reno \$450
Traveler: Kaylee Ann Taylor

Expedia booking fee	\$0.00
Taxes and fees	\$60
Total	\$510.00

***PAID VIA VISA ***

Flight details

1 oneway ticket - Chicago to Tahoe/Reno
Traveler: Kaylee Ann Taylor

1 Adult	\$450
Expedia booking fee	\$0.00
Taxes & Fees:	\$60
Airfare total:	\$510.00

Depart: Sat May-07 2022
Chicago ORD to Tahoe/Reno RNO
Depart 3:40 pm Arrive 7:15 pm
4hr -25mn UAL UA499
Economy/Coach Class

Hide trip details

When combined with the following Tweets that voice frustrations with moving through airport security it would appear that the suspect had fled to Nevada.

Marly @MarleneObdam · May 7
That went faster than I thought

Marly @MarleneObdam · May 7
Damn airport security, do I look like a terrorist?

Additional Tweets, see below, hinted that they were located at an RV/trailer park or campground in the desert as they complain about the heat inside their box due to a lack of AC due to a broken solar panel and needing to speak to the manager. The posted photo also shows a location along a dirt road at the foot of some mountainous terrain indicating that the location is away from a developed area.

Marly @MarleneObdam · May 8
Damn solar panels on top of this thing don't work! Time to find the manager... 😞

Marly @MarleneObdam · May 8
Fixed it myself! This box was getting hot inside without AC running.

Marly @MarleneObdam · May 7
Well this is my view for now!



After days of searching for a match to the desert image posted on Twitter, no match was found. The next step was to crowdsource some local knowledge of the area. A post was created on the Reno subreddit that included part of the image, specifically the brick and cinderblock pillars in the lower right-hand corner of the image. A reply was soon received indicating that the image is

from in front of the Space Station RV Park in Beatty, NV. A review of the Google Satellite and Street confirm that this was the location of the image posted on Twitter, matching pillars circled in red below.



The suspect is located at the Space Station RV Park in Beatty, NV.