

FORENSIC AUTOPSY REPORT

CASE NUMBER: 12

Name of the Decedent: Identity withheld

Age: 32

Profession: Librarian

Sex: Female

Date and Time of Autopsy: 4 PM, 20th September 2025

PMI: 10:30-10:50 PM

Performed By: R. Amisa, Medical Trainee under Supervision, Moncton Medical Center

Location of Autopsy: Forensic Pathologist Lab, University Medical Teaching Hospital

Authority Requesting Autopsy: Office of Medical Examiner

Summary of Case:

The body was found lying face down between shelves. No sign of forced entry. The area surrounding the victim exhibited signs of sudden disruption/ struggle. Small defensive wounds present on the body.

Evidence / Observations from Scene:

- The floor was covered with scattered books and torn papers.
 - No evidence of forced entry; main doors were locked from the inside.
 - Broken reading glasses near the victim.
 - A desk lamp on the nearest table.
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Condition of Body upon Arrival:

The body was lying face down on the library floor between shelves. Slightly cool upon touch. Partially closed eyes. No sign of insect activity/ external bleeding.

External Examination:

Apparent Sex: Female

Height: 5'5" / 165 cm

Weight: 128 lbs/ 58 kg

Build: Well-nourished and well-developed adult female

Ethnicity: South Asian

Head and Face:

- **Hair:** Dark brown, shoulder lengthened, slightly wavy.
- **Eyes:** Brown, partially closed. No obvious xantropsia or corneal opacification present.
- **Skin:** Caramel skin with neutral undertone
- **Nails:** Short; defensive scraping present
- **Dentition:** Intact, no recent dental work

Clothing:

- **Shirt:** Casual white blouse, has minor dust and smudges from the floor.
- **Pant:** Dark jeans, slightly dusty from the floor
- **Undergarments:** Present
- **Feet:** Black flats
- **Accessories:** None

NECK

- No ligature mark or abrasions
- No palpable hyoid fracture
- No defensive scratches or bruises
- No petechiae on remaining conjunctiva or facial skin.

Limbs:

- Small abrasions on both forearms (approx. 1.5-1 cm), consistent with defensive wounds.
- Minor scratch marks on the back of the left shoulder.
- Mild contusions on the knuckles of the right hand.
- Faint odour of chemical powder near the hands.
- Defensive scrapings present on fingernails

Postmortem changes:

- Rigor mortis partially developed in the upper limbs.
- Livor mortis posteriorly, fixed in some regions.
- Algor mortis or body temperature (36°C/ 96.°F) slightly cooler than ambient temperature.

Summary:

- Small abrasions on both forearms (approx. 0.5-1 cm)
 - Mild contusions on the knuckles of right hand, possibly from defending herself or striking an object.
 - Minor scratch marks on the back of the left shoulder.
 - Evidence of struggle and disruption.
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Internal Examination:

- **Skull and Brain:** Weight 1,350 g, no fractures. Brain tissue slightly congested, mild petechial hemorrhages in the frontal lobe.
- **Neck:** No fractures of hyoid bone or thyroid cartilage. Minor congestion in soft tissues, consistent with possible chemical exposure.
- **Cardiovascular System:**
 1. **Heart :** 310 g, normal size and shape, no signs of infarction. Mild epicardial congestion.
 2. **Lungs:** Right 520 g, left 500 g, congested, with small frothy fluid in alveoli. No contusions.
 3. **Trachea/Bronchi:** Clear, no obstructions. Mild chemical residue noted on mucosa.
- **Abdomen/ Gastrointestinal:**
 1. **Liver:** 1,450 g, slightly pale, no lesions.

2. **Spleen:** 150 g, mildly enlarged.
 3. **Kidneys:** Right 130 g, left 135 g, no gross pathology.
 4. **Stomach:** Contains partially digested food, no perforations.
 5. **Intestines:** Normal, slight mucosal irritation in jejunum.
- **Genitourinary System:** Unremarkable; no evidence of antemortem or perimortem sexual trauma.

Toxicology Report:

- White powder collected from hand and clothing is a saccharin-like substance mixed with traces of benzodiazepine derivative. (Enough to cause mild sedation, not instant unconsciousness.)
- The presence of a saccharin-like substance as a supposed masking agent for the sedative is inconsistent with effective concealment techniques. Toxicology results confirm the sedative remains detectable, suggesting the offender's method lacked sophistication.

Discussion:

The deceased was found between shelves in an abandoned part of the library, lying face down. The wounds (Small abrasions on both forearms— approx. 1.5-1 cm, mild contusions on the knuckles of right hand, minor scratch marks on the back of the left shoulder.) and disorganized environment indicates the struggle of unsuccessful escape or defense. Toxicology shows a sedative at sub-lethal levels. Internal examination reveals no significant pathology. The most probable mechanism of death is positional asphyxia, potentially exacerbated by sedation and environmental stressors. Alternative contributing factors may include minor airway obstruction from particulate exposure or rare cardiac event precipitated by sedation and psychological stress.

Prior to death, the victim was likely carrying books while wearing glasses (Indicated by scattered books and broken glasses). The offender possibly knew about the victim's time schedule and planned out preemptively, taking advantage of it being midnight.

Taken together, the combination of positional asphyxia and hypoxia leads to a set up for irreversible organ damage and failure of brainstem respiratory centers leading to cardiac arrest. The manner of death is best classified as homicide, with no strong forensic support for accidental or suicide.

Cause of Death: Positional asphyxia potentially exacerbated by sedation and environmental stressors

Mechanism of Death: Lying face down combined with mild sedation→airway blockage along with hypoxia from exacerbated panic→Oxygen supply cut off+ brainstem respiratory center failure→ Cardiac arrest

Manner of Death: Homicide

Evidence Supporting Homicide:

- The abrasions on her forearms and knuckles were likely from the victim's attempts to defend herself from the offender or struggle to shift herself.
- The mess surrounding the victim's body exhibits evidence of struggle.
- Witnesses report hearing a loud thump around 10:45 PM— likely the time of the scene.
- Prior to death, the victim was carrying books before getting caught up in the sudden, unexpected event— proved by the scattered books around the body.
- The presence of saccharin could be a misguided attempt at disguise, accident or ritualistic behavior.

Signature

Ruhi A.

Medical Trainee under Supervision

20th September 2025