

# Mysteries for 2-5!

## Episode IV: Are You Arson?

### A One-Shot RPG with the RPG Detective v2.1 System

by Peter William Hurford

#### Requirements

- Game Master who is familiar with this sheet
- 2-5 people who have never played this one-shot before
- Character sheets for this specific RPG (see below)

#### Setting

- The time is 2014 in Chicago.

#### Initial Plot

- Dr. Murphy Dawes is a lab researcher at the University of Chicago.
- Dr. Dawes's lab burned down in a lab fire.
  - Time of arson: 7:15pm, yesterday
- Dr. Dawes's research was to reduce the rates of blindness at birth.
- The University have accused Dr. Dawes of arson and seek her arrest, which would be fifteen years of prison.

#### Characters

- Dr. Murphy Dawes, *accused researcher*
  - Role: MacGuffin, Red Herring
  - Characteristics: Rambling
  - Alibi: Was out for a run, Dr. Paudtree saw her.
  - Thinks Mr. Holland did it.
- Dr. Ralph Paudtree, *fellow researcher*
  - Role: Guilty
  - Characteristics: Introverted, not very good in social situations.
  - Alibi: Was at a play at the University
    - some people saw him there around 6:30p, but people saw him leave at 7p
    - left to take a phone call
    - saw Dr. Dawes running
    - saw firetrucks
- Dr. Paul Renson, *lab supervisor*
  - Role: Red Herring
  - Characteristics: Dominating
  - Fake alibi: Was at home, alone, watching television.
    - Can't recall much about the show he was watching.
  - Real alibi: He was with a prostitute in a hotel that night. Hotel and escort service both can confirm.
- Mr. Trent Holland, *activist*
  - Role: Red Herring

- Christian anti-eugenics activist
  - Characteristics: Confidant
  - Alibi: Was eating dinner in his apartment, alone.
- George, *fireman*
  - Role: source of evidence
- Rachel, *crime scene expert*
  - Role: source of evidence

### **Solution**

- Dr. Paudtree set fire to Dr. Dawes's lab to keep her from leaving to Oxford, due to a love interest.

### **Red Herring: There was a massive insurance pay out.**

- Insurance loopholes could allow Dr. Renson to pocket some of the cash.
- Get this clue from police officers.

### **Red Herring: Mr. Holland had been protesting against the lab for years.**

- Threatening letter sent three days before.
- Get this clue from Dr. Dawes. (Dr. Dawes thinks Mr. Holland did it.)

### **Red Herring: Dr. Dawes had been struggling in her research.**

- Burning her lab lets her start over.
- But starting over wouldn't advance her very much, especially if she's in jail.

**Indiscriminate Clue: Crime scene expert, Rachel, says that the fire was clearly intentional arson.**

**Indiscriminate Clue: All four suspects had the knowledge necessary to set the arson.**

**Indiscriminate Clue: Dr. Dawes was looking to move on to Oxford if her research panned out.**

**Pointed Clue: Dr. Paudtree has had a history of unwanted romantic advances on Dr. Dawes.**

- Dr. Paudtree seems oblivious to these advances being unwanted.

**Pointed Clue: Dr. Paudtree's alibi doesn't check out.**

- Said to be on his phone by the auditorium, but there's no reception there (mentioned by Dr. Dawes).
- Saw the firetruck go down Lane St., when that appears to be the long way around (Can be confirmed by talking to George, George gives map but doesn't say explicitly).

**Undercutting Clue: Threatening letter is a forgery, printed from the lab.**

- Mr. Holland denies sending that letter.
- The letter uses King James Version Bible quotes, when Mr. Holland is Protestant.
- The printer ink can be traced to the printers in the lab. All three suspects had access.
- Volunteer this clue if group gets off track.

**Undercutting Clue: Dr. Renson has an airtight alibi (that he doesn't want to admit)**

- He was with a prostitute in a hotel that night. Hotel and escort service both can confirm.
- Use this clue only if necessary.

**Character Class:** The Dectective

*Perhaps you're not a Sherlock Holmes, but you can act like him if you so choose. People may just hate you. But either way, you get the crimes solved. ...Usually. Tends to do well at forensic investigation and deduction.*

**Character Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

**Characters:**

Dr. Dawes, *accused researcher*

Dr. Paudtree, *fellow researcher*

Dr. Renson, *lab supervisor*

Mr. Holland, *activist*

George, *fireman*

DR. DAWES,

STOP YOUR RESEARCH. EUGENICS IS NOT IN  
GOD'S PLAN. IT IS PLAINLY WRITTEN IN THE  
BIBLE:

“AND AS JESUS PASSED BY, HE SAW A MAN  
WHICH WAS BLIND FROM BIRTH. AND HIS  
DISCIPLES ASKED HIM, SAYING “MASTER,  
WHO DID SIN, THIS MAN, OR HIS PARENTS,  
THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND?” JESUS  
ANSWERED, “NEITHER HATH THIS MAN  
SINNED, NOR HIS PARENTS: BUT THAT THE  
WORKS OF GOD SHOULD BE MANIFEST IN  
HIM.” – JOHN 9: 1-3

THIS MEANS IT IS NOT FOR US TO DECIDE WHO IS  
BLIND AND WHO IS NOT, BUT GOD. ACTS 5:29  
STATES “WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN  
MEN.”

IF YOU DO NOT STOP YOUR RESEARCH, WE WILL  
BE FORCED TO ACT ON BEHALF OF GOD AS HE

HAS CALLED US, AND STOP YOUR RESEARCH FOR  
OURSELVES.

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