
BRINDLEWOOD BAY

Complexity: 6

Presenting the Mystery

Present this mystery at the top floor of The Candlelight Booksellers, during the weekly meeting of the Murder Mavens mystery book club.

Paint the Scene: *As the camera pans around the loft where you hold your Murder Mavens meetings, what do we see that shows how you have personalized the space?*

Just as their meeting is ending, the Mavens are approached by Brindlewood County's chief law enforcement officer, Sheriff Wyman Dalrymple. He tells them that, several nights ago, a wealthy financier, Albert Krause, was dragged out of the bay, dead. Mr. Krause and his family were on a yachting vacation and their boat is presently anchored a quarter mile from shore. The surviving Krauses—wife Amanda, eldest daughter Sara, son David, and youngest daughter Emily—assert Mr. Krause was drunk and simply fell overboard. Sheriff Dalrymple suspects foul play but hasn't been able to turn anything up. The body is currently being held in a cold storage at the fish market until it can be shipped back to Boston for the funeral.

Establishing Question: *You met one of the Krause children several years ago. What were the circumstances around that meeting?*

Suspects

Sheriff Wyman Dalrymple, an official

Jowly, paunchy, speaks with a permanently exasperated tone. Without anything to go on, he'll have to let the Krauses raise anchor and leave. He's reluctant to ask the Murder Mavens for their help, but he knows they have had some success solving cases in the past.

Quote: *"Believe you me, no one is more frustrated about having to ask for help from a bunch of old biddies than I am!"*

Amanda Krause, the wife

Thin. Graceful. Well-dressed. Naturally, she's upset about the death of her husband, but she seems equally distraught about how all of this might affect the 4th Annual Warrior's Ball, an upcoming charity event for veterans suffering from testicular cancer that she's hosting a week from now.

Quote: *"It's just like Albert to go and get himself killed when I'm on the precipice of charity fundraiser greatness! The man could be so self-involved!"*

Sara Krause, a daughter

Frumpy. Hand-wringy. Easily cowed. She's a homemaker with three little ones back in Boston. She seems to be the only person who is genuinely upset about Mr. Krause's death.

Quote: *"Do you really think someone could have murdered my father? It's—it's too horrible to even contemplate!"*

David Krause, the son

Snippy. *Avant-garde* fashion sense. Can't be bothered. David is eager to return to running his art gallery back in Boston. He has nothing good to say about his father.

Quote: *"I'm reminded, of course, of the great performance artist Gao Bai, who was so committed to his work, he threw himself from the top of a five-story building—the ultimate artistic expression, if you ask me. If only my father's death could have been so significant. He lacked vision."*

Emily Krause, a daughter

Withdrawn. Computer nerd. Somewhat awkward. Seems indifferent to her father's death. Very preoccupied with an ongoing conversation she's having online.

Quote: *"Umm... can we put a pin in this for a sec? I just have to reply to this DM real quick."*

Andrew, the butler

Gray hair. Fastidious. Eloquent. Andrew is doing his best to look after the Krauses during this tumultuous time. He seems to dote on Amanda the most.

Quote: *"Madam, the dinner table for this evening is set-up on the forecastle and awaiting your inspection."*

Dad Overboard

Etienne Beauregard, a fishmonger

Silver beard. Hale. Warm. Etienne is an old friend of the Krauses, and has agreed to store Albert's body as a kindness to the family.

Quote: *"I'd do anything for the Krauses. Everything I have in this world is because of them. When they told me they needed somewhere cold to store Albert's body, I was more than happy to make room between the cod and the pollock."*

Paint the Scene

The Regal Lady, the Krause family yacht

As you step aboard the yacht, what do you see that indicates these people have more money than they know what to do with?

Brindlewood Bay

It's a busy time of year in Brindlewood Bay. In what ways are the tourists making it difficult for you to conduct your investigation?

The fish market

What do you see that reminds you why you love the fish market? Or, what about this place makes you hate coming down here?

Clues

- A blood-soaked rug.
- Family pictures, discarded.
- A mis-reported detail about the time of Albert's death.
- A wristwatch set to the wrong time.
- A diary entry: "I just can't take it anymore."
- A small handgun, like you might keep in a purse.
- Stock certificates in a strange hiding place.
- Piles of receipts for extravagant purchases.
- A guest list for an upcoming Krause family party, with one name conspicuously crossed out.

- An attempt to collect a debt.
- An argument between two Suspects on the deck of The Regal Lady; the words they're saying are unclear.
- An antique vase—a family heirloom—shattered.
- A love letter from a young military vet.
- An expensive diamond earring, its mate missing.
- A cod with a rat stuffed in its mouth.
- A sequence of numbers written on a slip of paper.
- Documents that call into question the paternity of a child.
- Instructions to cut someone out of a will.
- A taboo love affair.
- An expensive samoyed, missing.

Void Clues

- A fish, dying, strange purple ooze seeping from its beady, black eyes.
- At first, the growling, repetitive noise of some machine, but upon further inspection, the sound of chanting coming from somewhere dark and down below.
- Strange tattoos that seem to shift position when you look at them again.
- A group of people gathering and praying near the spot where Mr. Krause's body was found. They will not interact with anyone, and disperse if someone gets too pushy.
- A fish, seemingly dead, speaks a single word: "Void."
- Nighttime shadows appear to plume and swirl, like ink dripped into a glass of water.