

DEAD RUN ON BLACK PEAK (Section 1 – Relevant persons and witness statements – Section 2 – Evidence files)

PLAYER CASE FILE

CASE INTRODUCTION

Black Peak Lodge sits high in the mountains, accessible only by a winding private road and a network of ski lifts. The resort caters to celebrities, wealthy investors, and professional athletes.

On the final evening of the resort's annual Investor Weekend, guests gathered for a private reception celebrating a major expansion project.

At approximately 10:30 PM, resort owner and founder **Marcus Vale**, aged 58, was discovered dead in the maintenance workshop beneath the main gondola station.

The victim had suffered a fatal blow to the head.

Several people had recently clashed with Marcus. Multiple individuals appear to have reasons to wish him harm.

Four people have emerged as primary suspects.

Each claims innocence.

Each appears to be hiding something.

Your task is to determine:

- What happened?
- Who killed Marcus Vale?
- Why?
- And how can the evidence prove it?

VICTIM PROFILE

Marcus Vale

Age: 58

Occupation: Founder and Owner of Black Peak Lodge

Background

A former competitive skier, Marcus built Black Peak Lodge from a struggling mountain hotel into a luxury resort.

Personality

- Charismatic
- Ambitious
- Demanding
- Highly influential

Recent Events

Several staff members report increasing tension between Marcus and senior personnel in the weeks before his death.

Known Injuries

Medical examination identified:

- Severe blunt force trauma to the head
- Bruising to both forearms
- Minor abrasions to the hands

PRIMARY SUSPECTS

Olivia Reed

Age: 42

Role: Operations Director

Personality

Highly organized, ambitious, and known for demanding high standards from staff.

Relationship to Marcus

Worked closely with Marcus for six years overseeing daily resort operations. Their professional relationship had become increasingly strained in recent months.

Claimed Alibi

States that she spent much of the period between 10:00 PM and 10:30 PM in her office reviewing staffing schedules.

Daniel Hart

Age: 61

Role: Former Co-Founder of Black Peak Lodge

Personality

Outspoken, proud, and rarely afraid to voice his opinions.

Relationship to Marcus

Helped establish the resort before leaving under disputed circumstances many years ago.

Claimed Alibi

States that he spent the evening in the guest lounge and bar area.

Jake Mercer

Age: 34

Role: Head Ski Instructor

Personality

Charismatic, popular with guests, and known for occasionally taking risks.

Relationship to Marcus

A long-serving employee whose relationship with management had recently become complicated.

Claimed Alibi

States that he spent the evening preparing equipment in the ski shed.

Eleanor Shaw

Age: 50

Role: Financial Controller

Personality

Calm, meticulous, and widely respected by staff and investors alike.

Relationship to Marcus

Worked alongside Marcus for more than a decade and was regarded as one of his closest professional advisers.

Claimed Alibi

States that she remained at the investor reception for most of the evening and only became aware of the incident after security raised the alarm.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

Statement of Olivia Reed

"I argued with Marcus around 8:45 PM. That's true.

He blamed me for delays connected to the expansion project. We disagreed strongly.

Afterwards I returned to work.

Around ten o'clock I went to my office to review staffing schedules for the following week.

I remained there for most of the evening.

I never entered the maintenance workshop.

I did see Marcus speaking privately with several people throughout the night."

Statement of Daniel Hart

"Marcus and I had a difficult history.

Everybody knows that.

We argued earlier in the evening. That wasn't unusual.

I spent most of the reception in the guest lounge.

At one point I stepped outside for fresh air.

While outside I noticed movement near the maintenance corridor beneath the gondola station.

It was dark and I couldn't identify who I saw.

I returned inside shortly afterwards."

Statement of Jake Mercer