

THE GLASSHOUSE MURDER

Investigation Case File

Estimated Runtime: 45–60 Minutes

STORY INTRODUCTION

Rain lashes against the glass walls of Blackwater Point Conservatory, a sprawling botanical research estate perched on the cliffs of the Northumberland coast. The isolated facility—part luxury retreat, part scientific institution—has been hosting an exclusive fundraising weekend attended by researchers, donors, journalists, and staff.

At 11:42 PM, amid a violent storm and a temporary power outage, a scream echoes through the tropical greenhouse.

When emergency lighting flickers back on, renowned botanist and conservatory director **Dr. Adrian Vale** is found dead beside the koi pond.

A shattered bronze sculpture lies nearby.

The access road has been washed out by the storm. Nobody can leave the estate.

As investigators begin interviewing those present, a troubling picture emerges. Multiple guests had reasons to resent, fear, or confront Vale.

Professional rivalries.

Financial disputes.

Threats.

Secrets.

Lies.

Some witnesses may not be telling the whole truth.

Some evidence appears contradictory.

Your task is to determine:

- Who killed Dr. Adrian Vale?
- Why was he murdered?
- What happened inside the greenhouse that night?

Review the evidence carefully.

The truth is somewhere in the details.

VICTIM PROFILE

Dr. Adrian Vale

Age: 52

Occupation: Director of Blackwater Point Conservatory

Background

An internationally respected botanist and entrepreneur, Adrian Vale founded Blackwater Point Conservatory and built it into a prestigious research institution.

Personality

Publicly charismatic and highly regarded.

Privately, several staff members described him as controlling, secretive, and manipulative.

Recent Developments

Investigators have confirmed that Vale was involved in several disputes in the weeks leading up to his death.

These disputes included:

- disagreements over research ownership,
- financial conflicts,
- strained personal relationships,
- and concerns regarding conservatory operations.

Injuries Discovered

- Severe blunt force trauma to the rear of the skull.
- Bruising on both forearms.
- Minor cuts to the hands.
- Soil and water residue on clothing.

SUSPECT PROFILES

Marcus Reed

Age: 41

Role: Head of Security

Personality

Intimidating, confrontational, and fiercely protective of the estate.

Possible Motive

Witnesses report a heated argument between Marcus and Adrian earlier in the evening.

Alibi

Claims he was dealing with generator problems during the power outage.

Suspicious Details

- Prior assault charges.
- Seen arguing with the victim.
- Initially provided an incomplete account of his movements.
- Familiar with the estate's security systems.

Dr. Elena Marrow

Age: 38

Role: Senior Research Botanist

Personality

Intelligent, ambitious, and highly respected within the scientific community.

Possible Motive

Professional disagreements with Adrian regarding ongoing research projects.

Alibi

Claims she spent much of the evening working in Laboratory B.

Suspicious Details

- Was involved in a dispute with the victim.

- Deleted emails shortly before the murder.
 - Was seen in or near the greenhouse earlier in the evening.
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Claire Vale

Age: 47

Role: Fundraising Coordinator

Personality

Confident, emotionally expressive, and socially influential.

Possible Motive

Recent financial disagreements with Adrian.

Alibi

States she was making calls to donors from her guest suite.

Suspicious Details

- Publicly argued with the victim.
 - Was seen near the greenhouse area during the evening.
 - Appeared distressed after the murder.
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Noah Mercer

Age: 34

Role: Investigative Journalist

Personality

Observant, skeptical, and persistent.

Possible Motive

Had been investigating Adrian's business practices.

Alibi

Claims he spent the evening conducting interviews with staff members.

Suspicious Details

- Had access to confidential information regarding the victim.

- Met with Adrian during the event.
 - Was collecting information for an upcoming story.
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WITNESS STATEMENTS

Statement: Marcus Reed

"I was in the maintenance corridor during the outage. The backup generator near the west wing failed again."

"Yes, Adrian and I argued earlier."

"He accused me of things I won't discuss without my solicitor."

"I heard shouting in the greenhouse before the lights went out."

"It sounded like a man and a woman arguing."

"I couldn't make out what they were saying."

"I didn't go into the greenhouse."

Statement: Dr. Elena Marrow

"I was in Laboratory B for most of the evening."

"Adrian and I had disagreements, but that's not unusual in research."

"I left the greenhouse earlier in the night."

"He was alive when I last saw him."

"I heard something break after the power failed."

"I assumed it was storm damage."

Statement: Claire Vale

"He wasn't an easy man to get along with."

"Yes, we argued."

"Many people argued with Adrian."

"I went toward the greenhouse corridor at one point during the evening."

"I never entered the greenhouse."

"After the power outage I heard someone moving quickly nearby."

"I couldn't see who it was."

Statement: Noah Mercer

"I've spent months investigating Adrian."

"He had enemies."

"More than he realized."

"We spoke briefly that evening."

"He seemed nervous."

"At some point I saw Claire near the greenhouse entrance."

"She looked upset."

Statement: Sophie Lin

Junior Groundskeeper

"I wasn't supposed to be in the west wing."

"I heard people arguing near the koi pond."

"I hid when the lights flickered."

"Afterward I saw someone moving through the greenhouse."

"It happened quickly."

"I couldn't identify them."

Statement: Harold Pike

Catering Manager

"Dinner ended around 10:45 PM."

"I witnessed an argument between Claire and Adrian."

"I also saw several guests moving between the reception hall and west corridor afterward."

"At approximately 11:15 PM, Dr. Marrow came to the kitchen."

"She seemed distracted."