

NATURAL CAUSES

INTRODUCTION

ANTARES HEADQUARTERS, 04.14.2019, 08:00 A.M.

When you enter the briefing room on the 1st floor, Delaware is already there, waiting for you. Photos and documents are already displayed on the wall monitors.

The file folder's name is *Campus19*.

"We've caught another unusual case," Delaware says when all team members are in the room. "This time the FBI itself contacted us." He sees the surprise on your faces, then smiles and nods. "Interesting, right? But, first things first. Yesterday, the body of professor Calvin Higgs was found in his lab at the Biology Institute, which shares some rooms with the Forensic Science Department of Virginia Commonwealth University."

A photo of three scientists posing in a lab appears on the Antares' screens.

"Higgs is the one on the right—he's the youngest. Next to him are professor Joel Wolski and professor Mattias Zellinger. They all work at the Biology Institute. Higgs was by all accounts an outstanding scientist, as well as an FBI consultant. At first glance his death looked accidental but—due to his association with the bureau—the FBI arranged through back channels for a detailed autopsy. It turns out that someone probably helped Higgs leave this world. The Bureau doesn't want to publicize his work for them, and they don't trust the local authorities to handle the investigation, which is why we're taking over the case."

Photos of the university campus and its neighborhood appear on the monitors.

"We've booked rooms for the team at the Buena Vista Motel on East 29th Street, near the campus. It will serve as your base of operations while you investigate. Find out who murdered Higgs, and why. I want a preliminary report in three days. Good luck!"

► SPECIAL RULES

For the purpose of this case treat the Courthouse location as the Campus location (particularly if you're using the game board from the base game).

Besides, you don't need any investigator tiles to play this case. Simply use the pool of Skill tokens printed on the Demo Board, crossing them out after you spend them.

► CASE SET UP

Add 2 ★ (Authority tokens) to the Token pool.

► CASE GOAL

Find out who murdered professor Higgs and the motive for the crime.

► TIME LIMIT

The team has 3 days to solve this case and prepare a draft report.

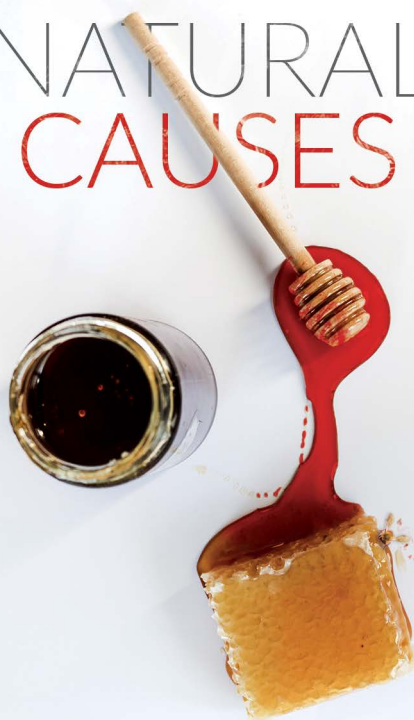
► STRESS LIMIT

The Stress limit for this case is 4.

► FURTHER LEADS

- Examine the medical examiner's report in dissecting room - **#101 - Lab**
- Examine the crime scene - **#102 - Campus**
- Contact FBI about the nature of Higgs' work - **#103 - Headquarters**
- Talk to local police about their initial investigation into the case - **#104 - Police Station**

NATURAL CAUSES



DETECTIVE: A MODERN CRIME BOARD GAME
STAND-ALONE CASE

#101

THE LAB

1 hour

Silence fills the empty dissection room. You wait there for the Higgs autopsy report.

"These are all the documents," says doctor Jefferson, giving you the folder. "This guy had an awful week."

"What do you mean?"

Jefferson goes to one of the freezers, opens it and shows you the body.

"He was brutally beaten a few days ago." The doctor points out numerous bruises and scratches. "Two of his ribs are broken. Everything's in the report. It's unlucky for the murderer that the FBI got involved. At first, it looked like an ordinary, if severe, allergic reaction. Were it not for the autopsy, no one would have known that he was given something."

"I see. Anything else?"

"Higgs had an iPhone and a wallet of documents with him. We secured them."

► Read the autopsy report **FILES@101**

► Examine the iPhone and documents **OTHER@101**



ask Jefferson about apitoxin



#102

CAMPUS

1 hour

"That's where I found him," the cleaner says. "It was before 7 a.m."

The woman opens the door and leads you to the laboratory. The air inside is refreshingly chilly, but smells strange.

"It's all the chemicals," the cleaner explains, noticing your expression. "They do some awful experiments here! I don't even want to know about it!"

You look around the spacious, well-lit room. On the huge laboratory table, there are microscopes, plastic containers for specimen, blank monitors, as well as files with notes and various smaller things. There is a huge freezer in the corner, and on the shelves on the wall are rows of glass jars. When you get closer, you realize that they contain preserved human parts—kidneys, livers, eyeballs, whole hands and feet.

"His office is in the north wing, but he didn't spend a lot of time there. He spent his days here, with professor Zellinger and doctor Wolski, before Wolski move to Chicago."

"Which desk belonged to Higgs?" you ask, trying to act indifferent to the jars and their contents.

"This one!" She points at the last laboratory desk, next to the window.

► Read #119

#103

HEADQUARTERS

1 hour

Using an encrypted line, you contact Robert Miller, who is managing the project Higgs used to work on at the FBI Field Office in Chicago.

► Read **OTHER@103**

FURTHER
LEADS

► Access detailed results of Higgs' research
spend 2 ★ #106 - Headquarters

► Access Higgs' protection request
spend 1 ★ #109 - Headquarters

#101 B

"Bee venom is very toxic," Jefferson explains. "It's dangerous even for those who aren't allergic. It's a strong allergen that can be stored in crystalline form. It dissolves in water. It contains histamine, dopamine, melittin..."

Jefferson enumerates a few more spine-chilling names but you ignore him. You remember two facts—the venom can be stored and it dissolves in water.

#104

POLICE STATION  2 hours

"Right now, we're interviewing University staff," Lieutenant Parkson explains. He is investigating the case for the local police. "I can give you access to the files, including copies of my notes, with the conclusions I've reached."

He jiggles the folder on his desk when he says "files", then reaches for his notebook.

"I don't have much yet. We're just beginning the investigation," he tells you. "The substance used to kill Higgs suggests that the murderer knew him. We're looking for someone who knew about his allergies..."

Parkson flips through the notes.

"We know from our first round of interviews that he wasn't on good terms with his wife, and that he wanted a divorce. He had some side chick...Umm... Oh, Violet Seed, 24. She works at the university." He points at his notes with a thick finger.

Parkson turns another few pages in his notebook, reaches for his pen, and writes something on a scrap of paper tucked between two pages.

"Here's the wife's phone number. I also have the statements of some students who says they saw him at the Casino Royale, playing poker. If he owed anybody money, I don't think they'd kill him, just try to intimidate him, get him to pay up. Maybe something went wrong. Anyway, I'll be looking into..."



#105

FIELDWORK  2 hours

ArtSale's office is a cramped room on the second floor of a small office building. You walk inside and see an old man sitting at a desk and talking on the phone. When he's finished, he introduces himself as Eugene Rivers, the president of ArtSale. You ask about the break-in.

"We rarely get a chance to sell such valuable works of art at auction. I had concerns, but after discussing it with members of the organization, I had to admit it would be a great opportunity to enhance our reputation. As you can see, the opposite happened."

"Professor Higgs from Virginia Commonwealth University was interested in this break-in. Do you know why?"

The man is silent for a moment, nervously wiping the sweat from his forehead.

"Not really. He called me, said he had a few questions about the break-in, but didn't want to discuss it on the phone. He wanted to see me in person. I asked if we could meet the following day, because I was busy with other meetings and calls, but he insisted on meeting as soon as possible. I told him I could be at his office after 5 p.m. since I had some business to attend to near the University anyway. He said it wasn't a problem since he'd be working late at his office. He didn't want to discuss it at the University, and asked me to meet him in the Walmart parking lot."

"What did he say when you met?"

"He didn't show up. I waited half an hour, and then I went home."



ask how long he and Higgs have known each other



#106

HEADQUARTERS  1 hour

"You have the authorization," Delaware says on the other end of the line. "FBI really wants this case solved. Log into Antares, the documents are on the team's account. Keep me posted!"

► Read FILES@106

#107

CAMPUS  1 hour

"The last time I talked with Calvin was after 5 p.m.," Violet Seed tells you. You sit together in the café near the library. She speaks slowly, her eyes focused on her cup. "He called to tell me that my father had scolded him like a child." [LSL]

"Your father?"

She is trying to hold back tears.

"My dad is a janitor at the University. He was furious about us seeing each other, but it was never anything serious. It's true that there was some chemistry between us, but it was just casual flirting. We liked each other's company, and chatted at work and after work, but it never went any further. Calvin would never do that to his wife, no matter how unstable their relationship looked." [LSL]

"What happened between them? Did he want a divorce?"

"Yes, he had all the papers ready. I think he wanted to give them to Barbara this week." [MSL]

"Was he behaving strange lately? Did he get into any trouble?"

"He never admitted this, but I knew that he was spending a lot of time playing poker at Casino Royale. I think he lost a lot of money there." [MSL]

"Are you sure?"



#105 B

"How long have you known Higgs?"

"I had never talked with Mr. Higgs before and his phone call was our first contact. I do know professor Zellinger, from his department. He's an active member and a true art connoisseur."

#104 B

The phone on the desk rings. Parkson answers before the first ring finishes, grunting his name into the receiver. He exchanges monosyllables with someone from elsewhere in the department for a minute. When he ends the call, an unfocused expression appears on his face for a moment, and he scratches at his mustache, stalling for time.

"What was... Oh, I'll be working on that casino angle and see where that leads. I know Higgs was helping Lang from organized crime," he points over his shoulder at the wall, "with some fingerprints left at an art gallery break-in. Maybe some connected guy wasn't happy about that, and decided to eliminate him and torpedo the investigation. That seems like a bad crime novel, but I don't know anymore...Who the fuck uses bee venom, right?"

FURTHER
LEADS

- Contact Higgs' wife **#121 – Fieldwork**
- Access Parkson's notes on University staff interviews **#114 – Police Station**
- Access art gallery break-in case files **#118 – Police Station**

#107 B

The girl hesitates. She is staring at her cup.

"Ms. Seed, Calvin was murdered. In cold blood. Please help us find the people who did this."

"Calvin called me a few days ago, around midnight. Guys from Casino Royale wanted the money he owed them. They beat him, and he was terrified. He said he needed to get \$20,000 somehow."

"How did he plan to get it?"

Seed remains silent.

"Violet, he's dead. You can't protect him anymore. The only thing you can do is to help us find who killed him."

"He knew this agent, Richardson." [HSL]

"Agent?"

"He was some sort of ex-agent. He works for a computer company. Calvin said that he would have to push him." [HSL]

"Meaning?"

"I don't know. I really don't know." [HSL]

Seed bursts into tears. You will get nothing more from her. She's on the edge of a nervous breakdown.

#108

CAMPUS

1 hour

Professor Zellinger meets you in his office. He's a wellbuilt, elegant man in his sixties. If you believed in stereotypes, you'd say he looks exactly like a professor at Cambridge, Oxford, or some other prestigious university.

"We're all in shock," he says. "Calvin's death is pretty much the only topic of conversation at the University right now. It is difficult to lecture, or study, when this crime is all we can think about." [LSL]

"Did you notice anything peculiar, before or after Higgs' death? Any suspicious behaviour?"

Zellinger looks out the window, lost in thought for a moment.

"I was surprised by Barbara's visit."

"What do you mean?"

"Higgs' wife showed up at the laboratory the day we found his body, looking for something." [MSL]

"Did she say what she was looking for?"

"Some papers. She didn't want to tell me anything. She searched his desk, found nothing, and left." [MSL]

"You had been working with Higgs in that laboratory, so you must have spent a lot of time together."

"We work at different institutes, researching different things. In fact, that room was the only thing we had in common. But I know what you mean. Usually I don't like poking into someone else's business, but taking the current circumstances into account..." [MSL]

Zellinger pauses dramatically.

#109

HEADQUARTERS



1 hour

When you log into Antares, you find confirmation from Delaware that, for the purposes of the investigation, the FBI has shared Higgs' request for protection.

On April 10, 2019, right before midnight, I was attacked on the grounds of the University by Paolo Luto, Casino Royale's chief of security. The next assault will likely take place on April 17, 2019, around midnight. Even though the incident mentioned above concerns my personal relation with that person, I request temporary protection as soon as possible. Moreover, taking into consideration the secrecy of my service for the FBI, I did not report the incident to the police. Sincerely, Calvin Higgs

#110

FIELDWORK

2 hours

You had to flash your badge multiple times to get to the chief of security's office at Casino Royale.

"I had nothing to do with that shit!" Paolo Luto says when you explain you're here because of Calvin Higgs' murder.

"That's what we need to understand."

"Higgs owes me for 15 fuckin' grand he blew at the poker table. That's 20 Gs with interest. Why the fuck would I want him dead?!" [MSL]

"That's a huge interest rate you're charging."

"It's the casino's money, so the casino makes the rules. If he wanted better rates, he should've gone to Wells Fargo." [LSL]

"Where were you the afternoon of April 12th?"

"Shopping with my daughter. She's got some project for school and we had to buy some glue, crayons, shit like that. The fuck you staring at? Security guy from a casino can't buy crayons with his kid? Fuck you." [MSL]

"Do you have a receipt from the store, with a timestamp? Can anyone confirm they saw you there?"

"Receipt?! Do you even have a fuckin' warrant? Am I being charged with something? Either this chat is over or I'm calling Carlos, my lawyer." [LSL]

try to ease the tension and get more information out of him

FURTHER LEADS

► Have Luto officially interrogated spend 1 ★ #122 - Police Station

#111

CAMPUS

2 hours

David Priest, director of the company providing security on the University campus started preparing the evidence as soon as he learned that Higgs' death was suspicious. Priest is a former policeman, and his cooperation makes everything go smoothly. Still, going through the material will take hours...



► Read OTHER@111A
► Read OTHER@111B
► Read OTHER@111C

make sure these are all files

#109 B

You check to see if the Bureau responded to Higgs' request, and find their response, dated April 13.

Response to your request for protection from April 11, 2019.

We're sorry to inform you that your request has been denied. The Bureau has no responsibility to protect its associates in personal matters.

If you feel your safety is at risk, we recommend that you bring these assaults and threats to the attention of the local police.

Sincerely,
Paul Donner

#108 B

"Calvin was involved in some shady business with EpixTouch. I saw him at the University several times in the company of a suspicious-looking guy. Salt and pepper hair, late thirties, nicely-dressed. They met in the lab, and every time I came in, they left."

"What kind of shady business?"

"Well, I'm not a gossip, but I understand how serious this situation is. Higgs was selling them some data. He once mentioned, half-jokingly, that their stocks were going up and that he would have to push them for more. It was an incredibly awkward situation, if you know what I mean." [HSL]

"Anything else?"

"That ill-fated day, Calvin also got a package from a courier." [LSL]

"From whom?"

"I can only guess. I never touched it."

"Who do you suspect?"

"EpixTouch." [HSL]

FURTHER
LEADS

► Check Antares for information on EpixTouch **OTHER@108**

► Try to find more information about Higgs' package
#112 - Fieldwork

#111 B

"Great job!" you say. "Thanks for preparing the material."

"No problem!" He looks a little evasive.

"Is that all?" you ask, putting a bit of steel in your voice.

"Yes." [WPS]

You look at him unflinchingly, in silence. After a moment Priest sighs.

"There was more footage." [WPS]

"Was?"

"Seed deleted it."

"Seed?"

"The janitor. He had an argument with Higgs. There was footage of him punching Higgs and pushing him up against the wall the day before he died. When Higgs was found, Seed got scared. He came here and deleted the footage from the archives." [SPS]

"How did he get access? Why didn't you mention this before?"

"He's the head janitor, so he has keys to every room in every building. I don't think it has any bearing on what happened with Higgs. There was something, uh, personal, going on between Higgs and Seed's daughter. Seed decided to make it clear that he didn't like the fact want a married man messing around with his daughter..." [LSL]

#110 B

"Calm down, Luto, no one is accusing you of anything. Your phone number shows up on Higgs' mobile phone bill, so we had to talk to you. We're just talking."

Luto takes a deep breath and looks at you for a moment.

"The guy was a regular customer, lost a shit-ton of money here, and his debts weren't being paid, so management wanted me to frighten him a little. He got hit under the ribs a few times, and I gave him a week to clear his marker. That's all. We have a dozen clients like him. Sometimes I can't tell if I work in security or collections." Luto lights a cigarette. "I tell you, it wasn't me. He swore he would get the money." [LSL]

"How?"

"He said he had two options, and at least one of them would work out. Some guy named Richardson and someone else, a rich guy. It was hard to make out, cause he started to choke on his blood — sprayed some on my fuckin' shoes. I gave him a week to get the money, and I left him in the parking lot." [LSL]

Add 1 ★ to the Token pool.

#112

FIELDWORK  3 hours

After explaining to dozens of DHL workers that you're investigating a murder — and that a package they delivered may be important evidence in the case — you finally receive not only information on who delivered it, but also the waybill.

DHL 			
DATE OF DEPOSIT:	April 12 2019, 11:50		
TOTAL WEIGHT:	0.2 kg		
TO (RECEIVER):	Calvin Higgs, Biology Institute		
FROM (SHIPPER):	EpixTouch	SHIPMENT DATE Higgs April 12, 2019, 14:27	
ADDITIONAL NOTES: Fragile, Priority			

**FURTHER
LEADS**

► Get a warrant to search EpixTouch offices
spend 2 ★ - #120 Police Station

#113

CAMPUS  2 hours

"Hello, can I help you with something?" the laboratory assistant working at the University's Anatomical Materials Resource Facility asks you.

This is where all specimens used for research are kept. You show her your badge and explain that you're searching for any information on the hand taken from that laboratory. You give her a note with an identification number.

"Please, follow me," she says after looking at the note.

You walk up to her desk next to the file cabinet. The woman starts browsing a digitized database.

"Hm, yes, Travis Hoyte," she says, pointing at the screen with her finger, "local man with no known family, homeless. His organs were donated to the Virginia State Anatomical Program right after his death on 22 March 2019, and the Biology Institute purchased it a few days later."

"Do you keep any records on the use of the donated organs in situations like this?"

"Yes, of course, just a moment...", she adds, "Sorry. The system is so slow... Ok! Here, I'll print it out."

She gives you the report and asks if there is anything else she can do for you. You ask a few more questions. You find out that every student and every professor can easily request materials from this facility.

► Read FILES@113



search the register and find out
who accessed the organs.



#114

HEADQUARTERS  2 hours

"Here are the witness statements from the University staff and students I interviewed," Parkson says, handing you a folder full of documents. "You can use Herbert's office — he's off today, so you won't be interrupted there."

► Read FILES@114

#115

HEADQUARTERS  1 hour

You connect to the Antares system and, using the authorization Delaware gave you, connect with the Virginia State Police system. A moment later you find Lang's case files.

► Read FILES@115

#113B

You ask to search the registry in order to see who accessed the specimens in the last few weeks. After a moment of hesitation the woman agrees, and you wait patiently while the system delivers the information, which she prints for you as well.

After a few minutes you find something interesting: Professor Zellinger accessed Travis Hoyte's organs on Friday, March 29 at 5 p.m.

► Read FILES@113B

Add 1  to the Token pool.

#116

THE LAB



2 hours

"I'm sharing my screen, do you see it?" Philip Born asks from the Antares laboratory.

"Yes, we can see your screen."

"Then let's get to it. First of all, someone deleted the browser history. Of course he or she didn't know how to do this properly, so I've restored all of it. Higgs mostly visited the website of his project with the FBI. The last successful login was on April 12, at 3:32 p.m. He worked for almost two hours. The system automatically logged him out at 5:20 p.m. due to lack of user activity. But look here: a new tab was created at 6:02 p.m., followed by two failed login attempts, and then another at 6:08. After the third attempt the system locked him out and an automatic alert was sent to someone at the FBI. I've talked to Robert Miller, who received the alert. Here's something more: Higgs also spent a lot of time on Virginia State police servers, where he accessed Case 190511/VA/031. The lead investigator on that case was Lang. I called the police station, and learned Higgs was helping with something to do with fingerprints. Something wasn't right, but Lang didn't want to discuss it on the phone. You should probably go there and talk to him in person."

FURTHER
LEADS

- Get information from the FBI about what Higgs was working on **spend 1** ★ **#106 - Headquarters**
- Go talk to Lang about Case 190511/VA/031 **#123 - Police Station**
- Check Antares for details on Case 190511/VA/031 **#115 - Headquarters**

#117

FIELDWORK



2 hours

"Over here, please," Richardson says, as he greets you in the lobby of EpixTouch headquarters, a modern, four-story office building. He leads you to the café for guests and employees. He's dressed elegantly and wearing a watch on his left wrist.

"What kind of relationship did you have with Calvin Higgs?" You decide to get to the point right away.

"We met each other a year ago at the golf course." [MSL]

"Did Higgs conduct any research for you, or for Epix-Touch?"

"No." [MSL]

"Do you know what his work at the University involved?"

"No, I was never interested in that." [MSL]

"In the twelve hours preceding his death, he called you four times. He rarely called anyone that often."

"We were making plans to play golf on the weekend. His wife didn't want him to—she was planning a romantic weekend for them." [MSL]

Richardson is lying shamelessly. This conversation is fucking pointless.



Ask about Higgs' allergy.

FURTHER
LEADS

- Get a warrant to search EpixTouch offices and arrest Richardson for 24 hours **spend 2** ★ **#120 - Police Station**

#118

POLICE STATION



2 hours

At the police archives, you approach one of the workers and ask him for help in finding the specific file. You show him your ID, and explain you're working with Lang on a criminal investigation. The man nods his head and tells you to wait while he searches for the file.

► Read FILES@118

#119

CAMPUS



You look outside. Students, faces glued to their mobile phones, are lying on the grass, surrounded by flowers. The scene is beautiful, calm.

"Did someone clean here, after Higgs was found?" you ask, drawing the circle with your finger, making it clear that you mean the whole room.

"I mean... um... At first, I think that the professor has just fainted and that it's nothing serious. And I have to clean because they check later. It's not that easy to get a job like this... After first they say that it was a heart attack and he died... And now they say he was killed and that I shouldn't have touched anything here... But how could I know that?" She seems worried that you'll reprimand her. You reassure her that she couldn't have known.

Unfortunately, you know you're probably wasting your time here. You won't find anything: you're two days late. There are several old coffee stains on the desk, but it has clearly been cleaned. The trash bin is empty. The keyboard is spotless. If there was a clue here, it's been swept away with the dirt.



keep looking for clues!

FURTHER
LEADS

- Examine security camera footage **#111 - Campus**
- Talk to professor Zellinger about Higgs' final days **#108 - Campus**
- Go to Higgs' office and talk to his assistant **#124 - Campus**

#117B

You get up from the table and, rather than say good-bye as Richardson expects, you ask one last question.

"You mentioned that you played golf with Higgs."

"Yes." [LSL]

"Higgs was very allergic to grass pollen. Didn't it bother him while playing?"

"Hm... No, I didn't notice. Maybe he took some medicine before we played?" [HSL]

"Yes, he probably did. We'll be in touch, thank you," you say and leave.

Bingo. Richardson had no idea about Higgs' allergies. He tries to hide it, but he seems to realize that his lie about playing golf was poorly conceived.

Add 1  to the Token pool.

#119B

You sit down at Higgs' desk and open every single drawer, hoping to find a clue.

"Where is his mug?" you ask, pointing at the coffee stains on the desk.

"Probably here in the sink," the cleaner says, walking up to the cup cabinet. "Hm... This is weird. It's gone. I remember he only drank from one mug, the one with 'Keep Calm and Build Shelter' on it. Maybe it was broken?"

"And the bin? Was it empty? Did you throw out the trash?"

"Of course I did!" she answers, resentful, but once again she realises you didn't mean to offend her. "I remember there were a lot of used tissues, and some torn papers."

You turn around on the chair and look at the computer.

"Did you clean this as well?" you ask, pointing to the keyboard.

"Of course not!" she says bitterly.

You give her a suspicious look.

"Oh, for God's sake, I swear I didn't clean this keyboard!"

Strange. Might someone have used the computer, and then wiped their fingerprints off the keyboard?

"And the window?"

"Mister Higgs didn't allow us to open it this time of year, because of the pollen and bees... He was very allergic to stings. But... I think it was open, and I remember closing it after the ambulance took him."

**FURTHER
LEADS**

- Send the computer to be examined by technicians **#116 – Lab**

#120

POLICE STATION  2 hours

"My client is willing to cooperate, on the condition that his testimony be used only in the context of this murder investigation," Richardson's lawyer tells you. Richardson sits and stares blankly at the wall behind you. You nod your head, and he begins. "EpiXTouch is engaged in developing touchscreen technology. Professor Higgs was our consultant. We had been collaborating for a few months now."

"How is this related to the case?" you ask.

"Recently, Mr. Higgs contacted us; it was on April 10 and he offered to carry out tests on technology currently being developed by government agencies, to which he claimed he had access."

"We want to stress," Richardson's lawyer interrupts, "that it was Mr. Higgs who had contacted EpiXTouch's representative, and that the proposal was entirely his initiative."

"He called us late at night and said he would perform the tests for us in exchange for a quick bank transfer," Richardson continues.

"My client," the lawyer interrupts once more, "did not know at the time whether professor Higgs had the agency's permission to perform these tests or not."



#121

FIELDWORK  2 hours

"Hi, let's go to the conference room," Mrs. Higgs, an elegant woman in her thirties, says in greeting. You are meeting in the law office where she works.

"How long have you worked here?" you ask, after you sit down at the table.

"Four years," she answers. "How can I help you? I've already talked to the police." [LSL]

"The case has been taken over by the FBI. Perhaps you would like to add something to your previous statement? If there is anything you forgot to mention, now's the best time to rectify."

"Please spare me this nonsense. We're in a law firm. This is the last place to intimidate anyone." She lights up a cigarette. "As I've stated before, Calvin was drowning in debt from Casino Royale. Two days before he died he came home after midnight, badly beaten. He didn't want to talk about it, but I happen to know that the men who did it are debt collectors. Go talk to them and find out what he had promised them, and how he expected to find the money. You can be sure he wouldn't have gotten it from me. Maybe he begged professor Zeller for help—his family is rich." [LSL]

"How was your marriage?"

"Next question, please." [LSL]

"I'd rather you stopped joking."



#122

POLICE STATION  2 hours

"What the fuck am I being charged with!? Assault? Are you going to give me a fine?!" Luto sits in the interrogation room, furious.

"Tell us about your conversation with Higgs."

"He promised a bunch of shit! A pink unicorn, a new iPhone, a fucking foot massage..." [MSL]

You interrupt him.

"Luto, please just tell us what we wanna know and you'll be free to go home. Keep fooling around and you'll be spending another 24 hours here. Is it worth it?"

"I've got nothing to do with his death. I had him beaten, I told him he had seven days to find the money, and that's all." [LSL]

"That's all?"

Luto takes a deep breath.

"He called me the next evening. He told me he'd get the money, and that he didn't want me to keep calling him. When I asked him how he was going to get the money, he said he was doing work for some company." [LSL]

"What did you tell him?"

"I told him that he had better get the money, or I'd cut his finger off, and add 5 Gs to the interest. That scared him. He said he'd have the money, because he had a backup plan. He said he had something on a rich professor at the university and that he would borrow the money from him. That's all. Can I go home now?" [LSL]

"You can."



#123

POLICE STATION  2 hours

"Thanks for meeting us on such short notice," you greet Lang.

"It's nothing," he answers, and points at some chairs. He lights up a cigarette then sits down at the desk.

"It's about Higgs. You were in touch recently."

"That's true. He was conducting research at the University on dactyloscopy. He was here last week, with a hand in an organ cooler. The hand was donated to the University for research. Higgs collected fingerprint data from the specimen, and discovered that the SD data appeared to be in the FBI's system. That data was drawn from a case that I had worked on, a robbery."

"Was it a system error?"

"Yes. Higgs asked me to take prints from the hand and compare them to the prints on file, because he couldn't continue his research if the hand belonged to a suspect of a criminal investigation."



#121 B

"On April 12, I was at work until midnight. You can see the security camera footage if you need proof. I had nothing to do with my husband's death. Go talk to those thugs from Casino Royale. I think we're done now." [LSL]

FURTHER
LEADS

► Visit Casino Royale: **#110 – Fieldwork**

#120 B

Richardson goes on. "We discussed the proposal the next day internally, worked out the required budget, and prepared a prototype for the testing apparatus. The next day we got a green light and the prototype was sent to Higgs to perform the tests."

"My client wasn't aware at the time that Mr. Higgs was under financial pressure, and that the access to the research he was offering was beyond his power to grant. His offer was accepted in good faith, trusting that he was not misleading us about the particulars."

What developed between Higgs and EpixTouch will certainly warrant further FBI attention, but you have no doubts that Richardson and EpixTouch would gain nothing from Higgs' death. He was their door to secret government research and development, and that door shut the moment he died.

#123 B

"And what did you find?"

"Nothing. I didn't have time to look into it, and then..." he checks his notebook, "on April 12, he called to tell me it was a mistake, and that everything was okay. He said he was sorry for the fuss and promised to make up for it someday with a six-pack. Unfortunately, the next day I was informed about his death."

FURTHER
LEADS

► Investigate Lang's case files in the archives
#118 – Police Station

► Investigate the specimen in question at the University **#113 – Campus**

#124

CAMPUS



1 hour

"The last few days have been a nightmare." Joan Silver, Higgs' assistant, is close to tears. "First, the assault he didn't want to report to the police—even though I asked him to do so several times. It must have been those thugs from Casino Royale. Now he's dead!"

"Can we see his appointment book?"

"Yes, of course."

You look through his schedule of the past few weeks. The first thing you notice is a meeting recorded for April 11: *Lang, Police Station, 9 a.m.*, and three meetings from March recorded as *R., Coffee Heaven*, all of them two hours long.

"These meetings," you point at them, "who were they with? Who is R.?"

"I have no idea."

"Ms. Silver, this is a criminal investigation."

She hesitates for a moment.

"EpixTouch. He received a package from them the same day he died."

"What was inside?"

"I didn't open it. It was a padded envelope. There was something like a cell-phone inside, but much lighter."

FURTHER
LEADS

- Visit Casino Royale #110 - Fieldwork
- Visit EpixTouch #117 - Fieldwork