

The Squeeze Canyon Matter

THE SUSPECTS



Ottie Gaunt
LEFT-HANDED

Runs the hoist. Has taken every man in camp down, and brought most back up.



Mule-Ear Bodie
LEFT-HANDED

Hauls ore down the grade six days a week and repeats about half of it.



Refugio Barela
LEFT-HANDED

Was breaking rock in this district before the company existed, and says so.



Cornish Tom Trewin
RIGHT-HANDED

Came over from Camborne for the copper. Has not seen a full pay since.

WHY ANYONE BOTHERED



Jumped Claim
LAND

Staked, left ten days, and found staked again under another man's name.



Vanished Payroll
MONEY

A month's coin left the railhead and never reached the pay window.



Buried Testimony
SECRETS

A statement taken the week of the cave-in that never reached the inquest.



Drainage Feud
LAND

One mine pumps, the neighbor floods, and neither will pay for the other.

WHERE IT HAPPENED



Copper Basin **LOW GROUND**

The strike that made the camp and then unmade it, two springs back.



Malachite Butte **HIGH GROUND**

Green-stained clear to the top, and assayed at nothing worth the hauling.



Squeeze Canyon **NARROW**

Two riders cannot pass, so somebody always has to back out of it.



Bitter Spring **WATER**

Alkali enough that the horses refuse it. The men drink it regardless.

WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND



Dented Oil-Wick Lamp **METAL**

The hat hook is bent flat back, as though it had been swung at something.



Bent Assay Ladle **METAL**

Copper beads still cooled in the bowl, from a melt that is in no book.



Bent Drill Steel **METAL**

Snapped at the bit end. That takes a misfire, or a great deal of temper.



Spliced Bell Rope **ROPE AND GUT**

The signal line to the hoist, spliced where it should have been replaced.

THE REPORT

There's a version of the Squeeze Canyon business going round the saloon and another going round the church, and neither one holds up. The territory expects an answer by sundown.

CLUES & EVIDENCE

- No rider who was right-handed had any stake in the drainage feud.
- It wasn't Cornish Tom Trewin who was in low country.
- Nobody could connect Mule-Ear Bodie to the dented oil-wick lamp.
- Ottie Gaunt cared nothing for the drainage feud.
- Each and every rider who was up on high ground was in it for money.
- You can rule out the bent assay ladle for Mule-Ear Bodie.
- No one puts Cornish Tom Trewin at Squeeze Canyon.
- Refugio Barela was not a rider who was in narrow country.
- Everyone who was in it to keep a secret was carrying rope or gut.
- No rider who was left-handed was found with the bent drill steel.
- Nobody who was in it over land had the dented oil-wick lamp.

THE GRID

		LOCATIONS				EVIDENCE				MOTIVES			
		BASIN	MALACHITE	SQUEEZE	SPRING	LAMP	LADLE	DRILL	BELLROPE	JUMPED	PAYROLL	TESTIMONY	DRAINAGE
SUSPECTS	GAUNT												
	BODIE												
	BARELA												
	TREWIN												
MOTIVES	JUMPED												
	PAYROLL												
	TESTIMONY												
	DRAINAGE												
EVIDENCE	LAMP												
	LADLE												
	DRILL												
	BELLROPE												

CASE 061 · THE SQUEEZE CANYON MATTER

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Ottie Gaunt	Malachite Butte	Dented Oil-Wick Lamp	Vanished Payroll
Mule-Ear Bodie	Squeeze Canyon	Spliced Bell Rope	Buried Testimony
Refugio Barela	Copper Basin	Bent Assay Ladle	Drainage Feud
Cornish Tom Trewin	Bitter Spring	Bent Drill Steel	Jumped Claim

CASE 062 · THE POWDERHOUSE GAP MATTER

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Yee Chun	Powderhouse Gap	Spliced Bell Rope	Drainage Feud
Foreman Gil Mercer	Gallows Head	Broken Wax Seal	Foreman's Grudge
Mule-Ear Bodie	Bitter Spring	Guttered Miner's Candle	Vein Dispute
Shotgun Perce Hale	Malachite Butte	Cut Safety Fuse	Hidden Second Family

CASE 063 · THE DUTCHMAN'S TANK BUSINESS

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Mule-Ear Bodie	Bitter Spring	Bent Assay Ladle	Broken Partnership
Machinist Dora Lathe	Powderhouse Gap	Bloodied Ore Sack	Pilfered Ore
Old Ridge Barlow	Bone Wagon Road	Slit Ore Pannier	Foreman's Grudge
Assay Bill Pardee	Dutchman's Tank	Cut Safety Fuse	Old Camp Score

CASE 064 · THE BITTER SPRING INCIDENT

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Whistle Rufe Mink	Sump Creek	Bloodied Ore Sack	Pilfered Ore
Ottie Gaunt	Sinkhole Draw	Worn Fuse Pouch	Store Debt
Lum Sing	Deadfall Notch	Dented Oil-Wick Lamp	Closed Right of Way
Mule-Ear Bodie	Bitter Spring	Cut Safety Fuse	Vanished Payroll