

ARTFUL Deceit

Feelies

v.0 r.230927 (BETA)

Hello, detective!

Thank you for testing this **beta** release of *Artful Deceit*.

We extend our sincerest gratitude for your interest in our game. Your feedback and insights are essential to our quest to create an exceptional and immersive murder mystery. As a detective delving into this intriguing world, your keen observations and constructive critiques will help us shape the game into its finest form.

ATTENTION TESTERS

- **Clues to solving the game can be found in the feelies.** All of the puzzles are logical. You will not be expected to perform an absurd or irrational task to solve the game.
- **Do not skip the instruction manual.** While we stick very close to implementing a language parser familiar to those who have played Infocom games, it is not quite identical.
- **Print the Command Reference sheet.** The game can be solved using only the commands listed on this sheet. If the language parser does not understand what you are trying to do, find a comparable command on this sheet.

KNOWN ISSUES

At the time of release, the following are known issues and will be fixed in an upcoming release:

- **The parser does not understand "a", "an" or "the."** Adding them to a command will confuse the parser. We hope to support these articles in the future.
- **When the game is over, you can still enter new commands.** We are not sure yet what to accept in this state. We left it so you can restore a saved position and try something else. Perhaps we will limit it to a few system commands.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK

- **Report a [bug](#)** you found while testing the game.
- **Email** questions to TenPrintClearHome@gmail.com.
- **Join** the [Artful Deceit Announce](#) Google Group for news and release updates, including announcements about possible physical releases and ports.

Happy sleuthing,
James and Dian O'Reilly



Dec 17, 1981

Dear Detective Butterfield,

I pen these words with a heavy heart, for I have long felt the shadows of suspicion and the haunting sense that someone seeks to end my life prematurely. In life, I have amassed both wealth and adversaries through my dealings in the art world and beyond. I have navigated a labyrinth of personalities, both genuine and deceitful, and it is this tangled web that has left me with a lingering sense of vulnerability. In the past few months, I have grown increasingly suspicious of my inner circle and cannot shake the feeling that somebody wants me dead.

The paranoia that now grips me might be considered unwarranted by some but, to me, it is a chilling reality. To find peace in what I fear might be my final days, I have resolved to take action and hire an exceptional detective to investigate the circumstances of my passing, no matter how it may occur.

With this letter, I entrust to you the task of unraveling the truth behind my demise. As soon as you learn of my passing, make your way to 34 Hush Lane, my home in Whispering Hills Estates. Be vigilant, for the path you embark upon may be fraught with danger and deception. Seek the smallest clues, listen to any whispers of suspicion, and follow the trail wherever it may lead.

I have the utmost faith in your investigative abilities and relentless pursuit of truth and justice. Thank you in advance for taking on the grave responsibility of untangling the enigma that will be my death.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Hawthorne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Hawthorne

Coroner's Report

Case No.: 10-AAA0-B6EC-147

Date: Jan 9, 1982

Coroner: Dr. Evelyn Reed

Identification of the Deceased:

Full Name: Richard Hawthorne

Date of Birth: Mar 4, 1929

Sex: Male

Height: 6' 2"

Date of Death: Jan 7, 1982

Age: 52

Weight: 215 lbs.

Summary: The following is the coroner's report on the cause of death of Mr. Richard Hawthorne (hereinafter referred to as "the deceased"). Autopsy was conducted Jan 8, 1982.

Forensic Examination: Upon examination of the deceased, it was observed that rigor mortis had not set in, suggesting that death occurred not long before the body was discovered. There were no external signs of trauma to indicate foul play.

Internal Examination: The internal examination revealed significant evidence of coronary artery disease. The deceased had extensive atherosclerosis, with several major coronary arteries exhibiting severe narrowing and plaque buildup. This condition significantly restricted blood flow to the heart muscle, leading to a reduced oxygen supply and subsequent myocardial infarction (heart attack).

Toxicology Screening: A toxicology screening was conducted to determine the presence of any substances that may have contributed to the deceased's death. The results indicated the absence of any significant levels of drugs, alcohol, or other toxic substances that could have directly caused or contributed to the myocardial infarction.

Conclusion: Based on the findings of the autopsy, it is the opinion of the coroner that the deceased's cause of death was a myocardial infarction (heart attack) resulting from severe coronary artery disease. No evidence of external trauma or foul play was observed.

Additional Information: It is important to note that this report is based on the autopsy findings and the information available at the time of examination. Further investigation may be required to determine if any additional factors or circumstances may have contributed to the deceased's condition.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Evelyn Reed

Investigating Coroner

Internal Memo

To: Chief Investigator

From: J. Butterfield

Date: Jan 14, 1982

Subject: Case Notification - Summary of Suspect Interviews

Dear Chief Investigator,

I am writing to inform you of my investigation into the death of Richard Hawthorne and provide you with an update of my progress. Over the past few days, I have conducted interviews with the potential suspects, gathering information and evaluating their statements.

Based on my assessment, I believe that at least one of these suspects is either withholding crucial information or outright lying. Further investigation is required to uncover the truth. I plan to focus my efforts on delving deeper into the relationships between the suspects and thoroughly examining their alibis and possible motives.

I will continue to keep you informed of any significant developments. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated as we work towards solving this potential murder mystery.

Yours sincerely,



J. Butterfield

Private Investigator

License No. D000-53248

Amelie Dupont Interview

Notes: Amelie Dupont is an alluring young multimedia artist. With her sights set on Hawthorne's art gallery (and Hawthorne himself), she has used every weapon in her arsenal of manipulation to secure her place at the top of the Whispering Hills art world.

Detective: Good evening, Ms. Dupont. Thank you for agreeing to speak with me. I'd like to ask you a few questions regarding the death of Richard Hawthorne. First, could you provide your whereabouts during the time of the incident?

Dupont: Of course, Detective. I was in the art studio working on a new sculpture all evening. I hadn't left until well after midnight.

Detective: Thank you Ms. Dupont. Now, could you describe your relationship with Mr. Hawthorne?

Dupont: Mr. Hawthorne and I had a professional relationship. I have several paintings and a sculpture on display in his gallery.

Detective: I see. And what can you tell me about the night of Mr. Hawthorne's death? Were you aware of his heart condition?

Dupont: I'm afraid I can't provide any specific details about that night. It's very common knowledge that Mr. Hawthorne had a weak heart and has been hospitalized because of it in the past.

Detective: Understood. How did you personally react upon hearing about Mr. Hawthorne's unexpected death?

Dupont: Naturally, I was shocked and saddened by the news. Despite our artistic differences, I would never wish harm upon anyone. It's a tragic loss for the art community.

Detective: I appreciate your cooperation, Ms. Dupont. If anything comes to mind later or if you remember any additional details, please don't hesitate to reach out. My investigation is ongoing, and your assistance is valuable.

Victoria Ashford Interview

Notes: Victoria Ashford is Richard's long-suffering wife and has endured her share of heartache during their marriage. In the aftermath of Richard's infidelity, the couple recently pledged to rededicate themselves to each other. Her trust in him is still fragile, though, and Richard's recent suspicious behavior has begun to threaten their relationship.

Detective: Hello, Ms. Ashford. I appreciate your willingness to speak with me regarding the death of your husband. Can you tell me about your whereabouts during the time of the incident?

Ashford: Hello, Detective. I was at a business conference in a different city. Several colleagues can vouch for my presence there.

Detective: Thank you for clarifying, Ms. Ashford. What was your relationship with Mr. Hawthorne like in the weeks leading up to his death?

Ashford: Richard and I were still committed to our marriage, but the last few months have been ... strained.

Detective: I see. Can you elaborate?

Ashford: I suspect that Richard was having another affair. He promised after the last one that he wouldn't do it again, but his recent association with a certain artist was far too close for my comfort. I hadn't seen or spoken to him in the last couple of days as I was traveling and he rarely seemed to leave the gallery anymore.

Detective: Understood, Mrs. Ashford. Are you familiar with Amelie Dupont?

Ashford: Yes, she is the homewrecker who was ruining my marriage! I mean, the artist with whom Richard was spending far too much time. I thought that we were both committed to being a team, so the idea that he might betray me again in such a way was devastating. If my instincts were correct, he played me for such a fool.

Detective: That's quite an impression! Have you had any personal interaction with Miss DuPont or is your view of her based solely on your observations of your husband and their proximity to each other?

Ashford: My view of Miss DuPont is informed by years of dealing with her kind setting their sights on my husband. I have no desire to meet or spend time with the woman.

Detective: Understood. I'm very sorry for your loss, Ms. Ashford. Thank you for your time. If anything relevant comes to mind later, no matter how big or small, please don't hesitate to reach out. My investigation is ongoing and I truly appreciate your assistance.

Dr. Edgar Monroe Interview

Notes: Dr. Edgar Monroe, a reclusive scientist and Richard's former colleague, has long been rumored to hold a grudge regarding a mysterious professional dispute.

Detective: Dr. Monroe, thank you for meeting with me to discuss the death of Richard Hawthorne. Firstly, I'd like to inquire about your whereabouts during the time of the incident.

Dr. Monroe: No trouble at all, Detective. Anything I can do to help. During the time of the death, I was at my residence, working on my research.

Detective: Thank you for clarifying, Dr. Monroe. Can you shed some light on your relationship with Mr. Hawthorne?

Dr. Monroe: Richard and I had a complicated professional relationship. We often disagreed on matters related to the art world. However, I assure you that our disagreements were limited to artistic differences and I had no personal motive to harm him.

Detective: Were you aware of any conflicts or negative encounters involving Mr. Hawthorne?

Dr. Monroe: I believe that Richard and James Blackwood, his business partner, had been arguing a lot lately. Over the last several months they appeared to increasingly be at odds with each other. Their business wasn't doing well financially and Richard blamed James for their misfortune. He was thinking about ending the partnership.

Detective: Can you tell me how you came about this information? Did Richard share his feelings with you personally?

Dr. Monroe: Oh, not personally. It was just obvious that things were going wrong for them and their financial issues were common knowledge. Richard was clearly distancing himself from James, who handled the business end of their partnership, so I deduced that he blamed James for their money troubles.

Detective: Understood, Dr. Monroe. How did you personally respond to the news of Mr. Hawthorne's death?

Dr. Monroe: Of course, I was shocked and saddened by the news of Mr. Hawthorne's passing. Regardless of our differences, I do believe in the sanctity of life.

Detective: Thank you for your cooperation, Dr. Monroe. That's all I need for now, but my investigation is ongoing. If anything relevant comes to mind later, I would very much appreciate a call.

James Blackwood Interview

Notes: James Blackwood is Richard's longtime business partner and has always been the technical yin to Richard's artistic yang. Recent misfortunes have resulted in mounting debt which threatens to crush both the financial empire they built together and their friendship.

Detective: Good afternoon, Mr. Blackwood. Thank you for agreeing to speak with me regarding the death of Richard Hawthorne. First, please tell me about your whereabouts during the time of the incident.

Blackwood: Good afternoon, Detective. I was at my office, going over some bookkeeping.

Detective: Thank you Mr. Blackwood. Can you tell me about your relationship with Mr. Hawthorne?

Blackwood: Robert and I were business partners at the gallery. He handled all of the curating and I handled the business aspects. We may have disagreed from time to time but that's what made our partnership work so well.

Detective: I see. I understand that Amelia Dupont's work is currently featured in the gallery. What do you think of it?

Blackwood: I wouldn't know a Rembrandt from a Picasso. Like I said, Richard handled all the curating for the gallery. Her work sold, but wasn't as profitable as other artists. Richard saw something in it, though. What, I don't know.

Detective: What can you tell me about Mrs. Hawthorne?

Blackwood: It's Ashford. Victoria kept her maiden name. Things between Victoria and Richard were a bit rocky for a while, but they seemed to have worked through it.

Detective: Interesting. Thank you for your time and cooperation, Mr. Blackwood. If anything more comes to mind later, big or small, or if you remember any additional details, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Pierce Hayes Interview

Notes: Pierce Hayes is Richard's college friend and a main supplier of art for Blackthorne Gallery. Pierce had also become Richard's most trusted confidante in recent months. His reputation for holding intimate knowledge of Richard's personal affairs has quickly elevated Pierce's status in the art world of Whispering Hills.

Detective: Good evening, Mr. Hayes. Thank you for meeting with me to discuss the death of Richard Hawthorne. Where were you during the time of Mr. Hawthorne's death?

Hayes: Good evening, Detective. I was sitting on the sofa in the great room of Richard's home. He and I had planned to have drinks and discuss the gallery's main collection.

Detective: Thank you, Mr. Hayes. What was your relationship with Mr. Hawthorne?

Hayes: Richard and I met in college and have been friends ever since. I have sold him art for his gallery in the past and was at his home to arrange the purchase of a new piece that would have been perfect for his collection.

Detective: Since you and Mr. Hawthorne had a history, were you familiar with his heart condition?

Hayes: Yes, he was forever taking medication to keep his blood pressure down. He was so easily agitated. I told him he needed to take better care of himself.

Detective: I understand Mr. Hawthorne had quite the art collection.

Hayes: The best! Well, it was the best until he started adding pieces from this hack, Amelie Dupont. I don't know what he saw in her work, it was mediocre at best and was adversely impacting his collection. I know his partner, James Blackwood, wasn't happy about it. They hadn't seemed to be getting along too well lately and I wouldn't be surprised if it had something to do with Dupont.

Detective: How did you take the news of Mr. Hawthorne's death?

Hayes: I was crushed by the news of Richard's death. I considered him a colleague and a close friend.

Detective: Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. Hayes. If anything relevant comes to mind later or if you remember any additional details, please don't hesitate to call. My investigation is ongoing and your assistance may prove valuable.

Gallery Postcard

Front

To be created.

Will likely be a photo of one piece in the gallery
or a small montage of a few pieces.

Not important for the game.

Back

The Hawthorne Gallery

