



Welcome to Hidden Games Crime Scene – Case No. 2 – The Midnight Crown

Dear Private Detectives,

On the next pages you will find the texts for the audio files of the case. Please only read the corresponding texts when they appear or become relevant in the game.

There are two calls from Jason Mahown: the first one is directly at the beginning of the game. Please read the text before you do anything else. After 50 minutes, Detective Mahown would call you a second time. Please set a timer and read the relevant text after 50 minutes.

Please read the finale only at the very end, when you have solved the case and successfully answered the four mission questions.

We wish you much fun and success in your investigations.

Many greetings

Your Hidden Games Team

The audio files:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. First call from Jason Mahown | 2. Wakefield in 150 seconds |
| 3. Press conference | 4. Voicemail |
| 5. Second call from Jason Mahown | 6. Interrogation of Frank Short |
| 7. Interrogation of Craig Oliver | 8. Finale |

First call from Jason Mahown

Voice	Text
Jason Mahown	Hi, this is Detective Jason Mahown from Little Gomersal Police speaking. Please put me on speaker, so that everyone can hear me. Hello everyone! You will perhaps remember me. I am a police officer with the local police force, and I'm currently dealing with a particularly tricky case assigned to us by the town of Wakefield. The case concerns the theft of a priceless crown. Because you were such a great help to us with our last case and I seem unable to make any forward progress, I thought I would get in touch to ask for your assistance. I and my police colleagues in Little Gomersal have naturally conducted some preliminary investigative work, and I am sending you an envelope containing all relevant information on the case as a basis for your investigations. One other thing - please make sure that you keep this phone switched on with the ring tone activated. I'll be in touch again when I'm out in the field. Good luck!

Wakefield in 150 seconds

Voice	Text
Newsreader	Hello listeners, today is Friday 21 February and this is Wakefield in one hundred and fifty seconds.
	<i>Short news jingle - Theft</i>
Newsreader	Yesterday, overnight from the 20 to 21 February during the Long Night of the Museums, the famous Midnight Crown was stolen from the Museum of Cultural History. The crown had been on show for only a few weeks, and was being displayed in the museum's rear exhibition rooms. On the night in question, at the time of the theft, the famous author "Sandra Sweeny" was giving a lecture in the museum foyer, and visitors to the museum were therefore focussed on this element of the night's itinerary. Based on witness statements, so far it has only been possible to determine that the valuable piece must have been taken between the hours of 1 and 3 am. The police have been unable to identify any further clues from the free-standing glass cabinet used to display the crown. The Midnight Crown had been replaced with a piece of iron pyrite and it became immediately apparent that it was not real gold. This is otherwise known as fool's gold. The police are currently unsure as to the significance of this evidence.
Newsreader	The crown was officially due to depart the museum the very next day. As an heirloom of the aristocratic "Wollestoncroft-Harrow" family, it was to be worn by the wealthy couple's youngest daughter Aurelia on the occasion of her marriage to her working-class fiancée, Archie Grant. Aristocracy specialists are reporting that the wedding has been cancelled due to the theft. The police are investigating.
	<i>Short news jingle - Lottery</i>

HIDDEN GAMES

Newsreader	A winner has landed the lottery jackpot! The draw on Wednesday - with lottery numbers 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 19 and bonus number 1 - saw one lucky ticket holder win an incredible 36.5 million pounds. It's a historic windfall - the last time a Wakefield resident took home a prize this big was back in 1979.
	<i>Short news jingle – Weather</i>
Newsreader	Low pressure system “Erica” is slowly moving over Wakefield and the surrounding area, bringing a large amount of rain and some thunderstorms to the region. It is set to get considerably cooler again, with temperatures between 3 and 8 degrees. Erica should have moved on by the middle of the week, and we can look forward to a bit more sunshine again.
	<i>Credits – News jingle starts at the end</i>
Newsreader	That was Wakefield in one hundred and fifty seconds. I would like to wish all our listeners a nice day!

Press conference

Voice	Text
	<i>Press conference – several voices can be heard, some of which speak at the same time, it sounds rather chaotic</i>
Female voice	How could something like this happen? I guess the security guard fell asleep.
Female voice	How embarrassing for a museum like that.
Female voice	How valuable was the thing anyway? And what's happening about the wedding now?
Men's voice	They'll never see that crown again. The thieves are bound to be long gone by now.
Men's voice	That's that, unless they get a real expert on the case. The crown is gone.
	<i>Start of press conference</i>
Female voice	Detective Jason Mahown of Little Gomersal Police, who is in charge of this case, is now available to answer your questions.
Jason Mahown	Ladies and gentlemen, we're very grateful that so many of you could come along today. As you are all aware, last night the Midnight Crown was stolen from the Museum of Cultural History in Wakefield, during the Long Night of the Museums. According to our initial findings, the perpetrator or perpetrators took the crown from the rear exhibition room, where it was on display in a free-standing glass cabinet. Based on witness statements, we believe that the theft took place that night between the hours of 1 and 3 am. We are currently unable to narrow down this time window any further, because we don't have access to the surveillance camera images from the Museum of Cultural History. We kindly ask that anyone who visited the museum during those hours on the night in question, and who has any information that may be relevant, contact us at the police station right away.
Jason Mahown	I will now take any questions you might have.

HIDDEN GAMES

Jason Mahown	Yes, the lady in the middle, right at the back.
Female voice	Why don't you have access to surveillance footage?
Jason Mahown	According to information provided by the security company responsible, technical difficulties arose on the night, which resulted in many, if not all, of the recorded images being destroyed. Attempts are currently being made to restore at least some of these recordings. At the moment, we don't know whether this will be possible.
Jason Mahown	The lady in the fourth row, second from the right, please.
Female voice	Do you believe that these technical difficulties were a coincidence, or could they be somehow connected to the theft?
Jason Mahown	We don't wish to speculate, and we are presently unsure whether any link exists between the technical fault and the crime. However, we will be making further investigations to this effect. The gentleman at the front here with grey hair, wearing a jacket, please.
Kenny Adams	Hi there, my name's Kenny Adams. Some of you may already know me. I'm extremely interested in art and I'm also a collector myself. As a representative of the "Wakefield Collectors Circle", I would like to know whether you have any idea of the whereabouts of the crown.
Jason Mahown	No Mr Adams, as I said, we have no idea where the crown might be at the present time.
Kenny Adams	But errrrr ummm do you imagine that it remains in the local area?
Jason Mahown	Unfortunately, we are unable to make any assertions in that regard at the moment.
Jason Mahown	Yes, Nancy Phillips from the Wakefield Gazette please.
Nancy Phillips	The crown was due to be worn at the wedding of Aurelia Wollestoncroft-Harrow and Archie Grant tomorrow evening. I've heard the wedding has been cancelled due to the theft. Do you know any more about that?

Jason Mahown	Yes, the crown was owned by the Wollestoncroft-Harrow family and it was indeed intended that Aurelia Wollestoncroft-Harrow would wear it at the wedding, as has been the family tradition for many years now. The wedding has been called off. However, that is of no further relevance to the sequence of events.
Jason Mahown	Many thanks for coming along. I apologise for the short duration of this press conference, but all of our resources are currently tied up in solving the theft of the Midnight Crown. Please understand that we must leave it there. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a pleasant day.
Female voice	Many thanks for taking part in the press conference. Please make sure you take all your belongings with you when you leave.

Voicemail

Voice	Text
Automated voice	You have one new message. First message. Received: Monday, 17 February 2020
Nathan	Hi bro. Nathan here. Fancy heading to the pub later? I just need to get my lottery ticket checked first. I've got a really good feeling about it. It's got to be a winner. Same numbers as always. They're the only ones I can always remember. And my bonus ball number is 1. Because I've only got one favourite brother. And that's you. So ... call me. Until later.

Second call from Jason Mahown

Jason Mahown	Yes? Hello? This is Jason Mahown again. Please put me back on speaker, so that everyone can hear me. We don't have much time. Please listen carefully. I'm out and about at the moment, and I'm calling because I need your help. It would appear that Frank Short has gone on the run. We're currently seeking to take him into custody to interrogate him. Witnesses say they've seen him getting on a bus at Mountbatten Street Station. We've got his credit card statement and we know what tickets he bought, but we unfortunately don't know his destination. You may have already come across our internal investigation planning tool on the police server. I'm sure you've visited the web page already. If not, you'll find the web address in the letter I sent you. The tool is currently activated. Please use the password "Pursuit" and log in. OK? The password is "Pursuit". Once you've logged in, you will find the most important information is also available there. Use the tool to work out the location of Frank Short and let me know where he is. I'll travel there right away and attempt to detain him. Well, what are you waiting for?
--------------	--

Interrogation of Frank Short

Jason Mahown	Report on the interrogation of Frank Short. Present in the room are Detective Jason Mahown and Mr Frank Short. Mr Short, you are strongly suspected of stealing the Midnight Crown from the Museum of Cultural History.
Frank Short	You're wrong! I didn't take the Midnight Crown!
Jason Mahown	Mr Short, we discovered a map on the computer in your hotel room, showing the route from your hotel to the museum. We also found an order receipt from an online shop, which included the purchase of some glass cutters. Furthermore, you tried to flee from us when we took you into custody at Marble Gate Station. Finally admit it! You are making things even worse!
Frank Short	I didn't take the Midnight Crown!
Jason Mahown	That's enough Mr Short! It's time for you to talk! If you confess to your crime now, I promise I'll do everything in my power to minimise your punishment. But you have to finally say something, Mr Short!
Frank Short	Alright, I admit it. I WANTED to take it. I went to the Museum of Cultural History during the Long Night of the Museums and wanted to steal the crown, but when I got there it was already gone! It was literally gone! I fled immediately and left Wakefield right away. Someone must have been there before me. I swear, I didn't take the Midnight Crown! You have to believe me!
Jason Mahown	Am I understanding you correctly? You wanted to steal the crown, but when you got to the museum the crown had already been stolen by someone else?

Frank Short	That's exactly what happened! I swear! Please, you have to believe me!
Jason Mahown	When did you head off to the Museum of Cultural History?
Frank Short	It must have been around 1.20 am. Yes, that was roughly the time that I left the hotel.
Jason Mahown	Is anyone able to confirm that?
Frank Short	I have no idea whether anyone can confirm that! I didn't see anyone ... hang on a minute. Yes, there was someone. On my way to the Museum of Cultural History, I passed a journalist who was coming the other way across the rear courtyard. I read an article recently that also had a large photo of him. What was his name again? Wait a minute, it's on the tip of my tongue ... Oliver. Yes, that was it! Craig Oliver!
Jason Mahown	OK. So, if I were to believe your story, and it was actually true that you intended to steal the crown but someone took it before you, did you want to take it for yourself, or were you planning to steal the crown for someone else?
Frank Short	Not for me, what would I do with a crown like that? I was supposed to take it for a client. And before you ask, I have no idea what his name is. I know nothing at all about him. He wouldn't reveal his identity until I informed him that I'd successfully stolen the crown and gone into hiding, and that the police were not on my trail. I never actually met him and I only ever communicated with him via Text message.
Jason Mahown	You communicated with him via Text message? On your mobile phone?

Frank Short	Yes, I did. The guy was constantly getting new phone numbers, and he kept getting these to me one way or another. As I said before, we agreed that I would get in touch with him, give him a secret code and we would arrange a location for the handover as soon as I'd stolen the Midnight Crown. But it didn't steal it! The crown was honestly missing when I arrived at the museum.
Jason Mahown	That is extremely interesting! What is the last number that you used to communicate with the client? And how can you be so certain that the client is a man?
Frank Short	Umm, that's a good question. I always kind of assumed it was a guy. But in all honesty, I can't be sure. Wait, I've a got a note of the number. It's: +44 7828 510 894.
Jason Mahown	Mr Short, do I literally have to drag everything out of you? What's the secret code word that you were supposed to communicate to the client for the handover location, by Text message I think you said?
Frank Short	The code word is safecracker ... And yes, I usually communicated with him via Text message. I honestly know no more than that. As I told you before, I couldn't steal the crown and that is why I haven't contacted him yet.
Jason Mahown	Fascinating. I'll forward this information to a team of special investigators right away. We have no further questions for you for the time being.
	<i>Information to private investigators</i>
Jason Mahown	Oh, given that I'm just about to send you the interrogation: my dear private investigators, I also posted a further envelope to you, containing some additional information that we managed to gather. Have you received it yet? Please make sure you take a look at its contents.

Interrogation of Craig Oliver

Jason Mahown	Report on the interrogation of Craig Oliver. Present in the room are Detective Jason Mahown and Mr Craig Oliver. Mr Oliver, you're a journalist at the Wakefield Gazette. In this capacity, you were out and about on the night of 20 February, during the Long Night of the Museums. Is that correct?
Craig Oliver	Yes, that's right.
Jason Mahown	Please describe what you did that night.
Craig Oliver	I started in the Museum of Cultural History at around 11.30 pm. I spoke with the museum director Charles King for around 10 minutes, and took various photos of the exhibits. I then headed over to the Imperial Museum at around 1.00 am.
Jason Mahown	Did you meet anyone on your way to the Imperial Museum?
Craig Oliver	Well, I mean the town was full of people. Having said that, I took a route via several rear squares and courtyards because I know the area well. It's where I live. I didn't meet anyone at that point. Although ... Hang on, yes, I did walk past a guy when I was about halfway between the two museums. He looked at me as if he knew me, although we didn't actually speak to each other. Then I just carried on to the Imperial Museum.
Jason Mahown	When did you arrive at the Imperial Museum?
Craig Oliver	I would say it was around 1.25 am.
Jason Mahown	What did you do inside the Imperial Museum?

Craig Oliver	Well my job, of course. A few hours before that, my colleague Nancy Phillips had asked if I would take a few photos of the exhibits in the Imperial Museum and gave me her camera. I did that for her, and I also had a quick chat with the museum director Alice Mackenzie – not the friendliest of women I must say – and left the museum again around 2 in the morning, at which point I headed home.
Jason Mahown	Thank you, Mr Oliver, we have no further questions for you for the time being.

Finale

Jason Mahown	Hi, Jason Mahown here! I'm glad I could reach you. I've received your documents with your findings from the case, and I have to say excellent work once again. You did not disappoint me, and we've now apprehended Nancy Phillips. But let's start at the beginning: It was initially unclear when the Midnight Crown was taken from the museum. According to the eyewitnesses, it disappeared between the hours of 1 and 3 in the night. Thankfully, you requested the surveillance footage from Orwell & Truman, and discovered that it must have been stolen sometime between 1.26 and 1.33 am. Initially, there were of course a number of suspicious individuals with a motive. A vendetta on the part of Alice Mackenzie? A solution to the debts of Nathan King? But of course, Frank Short, who had booked a room in the Freemantle Hotel where he performed a lot of dubious research on a PC, appeared particularly suspect. Frank Short also went missing and fled after the Long Night of the Museums. With your help, we were able to track him down in Wakefield and take him into custody at Marble Gate Station. This allowed us to question him, and you have already heard his interrogation.
--------------	--

During questioning he admitted he had actually intended to steal the crown on behalf of an anonymous client, although he was too late and someone else had already taken it by the time he arrived at the museum. He then fled the scene and went on the run, fearing that he might appear suspicious and the police might find out about his other criminal activities.

With your help, we have discovered who he was working for – namely Kenny Adams, the patron of Wakefield! The art collector wanted to add the crown to his private collection and commissioned Frank Short with stealing it for him. We found Mr Adams at the agreed meeting point and took him into custody. Incredibly, we discovered numerous lost artworks at his estate in Wakefield, concealed in a hidden room accessed via a secret bookshelf door. These pieces included The Scream by Edvard Munch. But although the patron Mr Adams instructed Mr Short to steal the crown, Mr Short only PLANNED to do so. As it transpired, he wasn't the thief. However, that was great work on your part, and it allowed us to convict two further criminals in Mr Adams and Mr Short!

But now we come to the case itself: you quickly deduced that several individuals were in the clear: Charles King didn't have a true motive. Alice Mackenzie was talking to Craig Oliver in the Imperial Museum at the time of the crime. And Nathan King no longer had any debts by the time the crown was taken, thanks to his lottery win.

It also initially appeared that Nancy Phillips had an alibi, because her camera was used to take photos in the Imperial Museum at the time of the theft. However, she was very well organised, and it became apparent from the interview with Craig Oliver that Nancy Phillips had actually given her camera to him during the Long Night, asking him to take photos in the Imperial Museum. So, she actually had no alibi when the crime was committed.

But what was her motive? Once again, your work here was impeccable.

You deduced that Nancy Phillips was one of the two people chatting with each other under a pseudonym in the Couple Up chat room on the PC in the town library. And I believe that the documents I subsequently sent to you in the envelope explained the rest.

The conversation took place in a chat room for lesbian women – Paula Crowthorne and Charlie are both female names. We have since been able to identify the middle name of Nancy Phillips – Charlotte.

She wrote to her lover in the chat room, telling her that she would soon be making the biggest mistake of her life, and that she had made an important discovery. This discovery turned out to be a report in the newspaper archive that had never been published. Ms Phillips came across it just a few days beforehand when she was required to work in the archive; something she told her colleague Craig Oliver about in their email correspondence. This unpublished report told of a criminal who helped individuals to assume false identities, and a number of fake passports were recovered at the scene. Nancy Phillips recognised the face of none other than Archie Grant among the photos. The article distressed her, and she decided she had to tell her lover Paula Crowthorne, who of course turned out to be Aurelia Wollestoncroft-Harrow.

Ms Phillips wanted to warn Ms Wollestoncroft-Harrow that she was about to wed a marriage impostor who was only after her money. But Aurelia, whose family was of course never allowed to know that she was attracted to women, did not reply and wanted to finally put an end to the affair with Nancy Phillips. So, the wedding day came ever closer and

Nancy Phillips didn't know what to do. She had to find a way to warn Aurelia about her future husband and stop the wedding going ahead.

“We know from the chat that Aurelia had blocked the messages from Nancy, and that she had returned an unopened letter from Nancy just a few days earlier. The editorial deadline of Nancy's newspaper had also already past this week, meaning she was unable to write an article about Archie Grant and alert Aurelia to the reality in good time.”

She made a last-minute decision to steal the Midnight Crown, which would have been worn at the wedding – in order to prevent the nuptials going ahead. Using her journalist's ID, she was able to gain access to the museum before the Long Night began, and carefully examine the room. She realised that the crown was not particularly well protected, and that the outdated museum was not really equipped to display such valuable exhibits. While all the museum visitors were listening to the lecture given by Sandra Sweeny, Ms Phillips seized the moment, took the crown and swapped it for a piece of iron pyrite. The “fool's gold” was intended to reveal to Aurelia that Archie Grant was a fraud. She also used the clue “all that glitters is not gold” in the chat room with Paula Crowthorne, to alert Aurelia that she was behind the message. Well, what can I say. Nancy Phillips has since confessed.

For her, stealing the crown was simply a means to an end, and she sent it to the home of the museum director just a few days later. His neighbour accepted the package for him, and forgot to let him know. The famous Midnight Crown therefore lay in a Post Office-issue cardboard box in the hallway of Charles King's neighbour from 26 February 2020.

As you now know, the wedding between Aurelia Wollestoncroft-Harrow and Archie Grant was cancelled. Of course, the theft of the crown was not the reason for this, although that was what everyone believed. In fact, Ms Wollestoncroft-Harrow understood the message from Nancy Phillips and called it all off. And that is why the wedding was not rearranged. Aurelia separated from her fiancée and personally thanked Nancy Phillips. I'm unfortunately unable to reveal what happened between the pair after that, because that's a private matter.

No decision has been made yet, regarding any punishment of Nancy Phillips. I don't think the courts will be too harsh on her, although she did of course commit a crime. Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your outstanding work. Yet again, I have to say that we could not have done it without you. If we should require assistance with another case in the months ahead, I hope you will allow us to get in touch with you again.

That was Hidden Games Crime Scene, Case 2, The Midnight Crown.

Go to www.hidden.games to learn about new cases and escape room adventures in Germany.

The team from Hidden Games hopes you have lots of fun playing this detective game!

Have you really enjoyed solving this case? Then we would be delighted if you could rate us on Amazon and follow us on Instagram ([@hiddengames_international](https://www.instagram.com/hiddengames_international))!

Do you have any comments, thoughts or improvement suggestions? Please feel free to send us an email to support@hidden.games and we will get back to you right away.