



WHO KILLED MR. XAVIER?

You are private detectives who have been hired to investigate the death of a wealthy but eccentric Mr. Xavier, a man who was well known for his riches and for his reclusive nature. He avoided being around others, because he was always filled with anxiety and startled easily. He also suffered from paranoia, and he would fire servants he had employed for a long time because he feared they were secretly plotting against him. He would also eat the same meal for dinner every night, two steaks cooked rare and two baked potatoes with sour cream.

Upon arriving at the tragic scene, you are told that Mr. Xavier was found dead in his home early this morning by the servants. The previous evening after the chef had prepared the usual dinner for Mr. Xavier, the servants had been dismissed early so they could avoid going home during last night's terrible storm. When they returned in the morning, Mr. Xavier's body was found face down in the dining room.

Looking into the room, you start our investigation. The large window in the dining room has been shattered and appears to have been smashed open from the outside. The body exhibits laceration wounds and lies face down by the table, and there is a large red stain on the carpet that emanates from under the body. An open bottle of red wine and a partially eaten steak still remain on the table. A chair that has been tipped over is next to the body, and under the table is a knife with blood on it.

Based on these preliminary observations, please work together to draw initial conclusions about what happened. Please provide as much evidence as you can to support each conclusion you make.