

ARCHIVE 13

EVIDENCE DESIGN PRINCIPLE

Each piece of evidence is displayed on screen with key details visually highlighted (circled timestamps, underlined names, redacted sections). The player reads it themselves.

The player speaks ONE line only their conclusion, not their observations. The line should sound like someone smart who has just understood something, not someone reading aloud.

Format in Unity: document appears → key detail auto-highlights after 2–3 seconds → player conclusion line plays → next evidence unlocks.

KEY CHARACTERS

THE PLAYER: Journalist at The Daily Lens, forced overtime to save the struggling paper.

CHIEF EDITOR: Only cares about readership. Pushes the player to go sensational.

M / FRANK JONES: Former NYPD detective. Left the force when he saw what Morrison and Patterson were doing. Recruited by Marie Adams two years ago to help expose Archive 13. Signs all messages simply "M".

MARIE ADAMS: Sarah Adams's younger sister. Was nineteen when Sarah disappeared. Filed 47 missing person reports over six months — every one dismissed. Signs official documents "M. Adams". Has been working with Frank for two years, staying hidden while he does the public-facing contact. The player sees her name in the evidence long before they know she's connected to their source.

DETECTIVE JAMES MORRISON: Patterson's enforcer. Signed off on every Archive 13 case.

CAPTAIN ROBERT JACKSON: Running the entire operation since 1978. Takes bribes from organised crime. Morrison is his weapon.

ELEANOR HAMILTON: Widow of Police Commissioner Thomas Hamilton. Runs the Hamilton Foundation, the money laundering front that funds the conspiracy.

RISK SYSTEM

Risk is cumulative. Each choice adds to the total. Crossing a threshold triggers consequence scenes at the office. Each scene only triggers once.

Risk 0–10: SAFE: No consequences.

Risk 11–20: BEING WATCHED: Hang-up calls. Stranger asking about the player.

Risk 21–30: ACTIVE THREATS : Threatening call. Office break-in with warning note.

Risk 31–40: SERIOUS DANGER: Morrison's men call directly. Sources go silent.

Risk 41+: MAXIMUM THREAT: Colleagues threatened. Frank makes final contact. Final decision unlocked.

Case 1: Sensational +5 / Ethical +2

Case 2: Sensational +6 / Ethical +3

Fieldwork 1 (Court Street): Go +3 / Stay +0

Case 3: Sensational +8 / Ethical +4

Fieldwork 2 (Pier 17): Go +5 / Stay +0

Case 4: Sensational +10 / Ethical +5 / Hold +0

Final Decision: Archive +15 / Publish Now +5 / Stop +0

SCENE 1: LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY LENS

Dark, run-down office. Flickering fluorescent light. Rain against the windows. Stacks of unsold newspapers.

Player: Ugh, can't believe I'm having to do overtime. If things weren't so bad, I wouldn't even be here.

Desk phone flashes. Voicemail.

Chief Editor (voicemail): Look, our readership is at an all-time low and I'm already cutting the budget. Go through everything on that computer and find something worth printing. Not the local council. Something real. Tonight.

Beep. Player opens email.

SCENE 2: THE MYSTERIOUS EMAIL

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Archive 13: you need to see this...
ATTACHMENT:	Case_File_1.zip
MESSAGE:	You don't know me. You don't need to. What you need is the truth they buried. Twelve cases. One pattern. No suspect. They sealed the thirteenth and erased everything. Or so they thought. I'm sending you the first file. Look at the dates. Look at the confession. It was forced. The man died before trial. Someone needed him silent. Don't trust anyone at that office. — M

Player: There's an attachment. Let's download it...

Player downloads the attachment.

SCENE 3: CASE 1: THE WRONG CONFESSION (1983)

Evidence viewer opens. Case file displayed on screen.

CASE FILE #1: Marcus Webb - Murder Confession

STATUS: Deceased (Suicide in custody)

YEAR: 1983

Player clicks on first evidence piece

Evidence 1: Confession Transcript

Handwritten confession appears on screen

Player: Two different hands. He didn't write that signature.

Player clicks on the second evidence piece

Evidence 2: Police Report

Police report document appears

Player: Seven minutes. No lawyer. This was never a confession.

Player clicks on the third evidence piece

Evidence 3: Death Certificate

Medical examiner's report appears

Player: They buried the contradiction on page four. He was going to recant.

Player clicks on fourth evidence piece

Evidence 4: Internal Memo

Heavily edited document appears

Player: Morrison. And this isn't the first time they've done this.

MEMO - CLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED]

To: Detective J. Morrison

"Webb's situation contained. Confession secured. The subject will not reach trial. Archive with previous cases under seal 13."

Player: Archive 13... This case was part of a cover-up. And there are more cases like this.

Player: Detective Morrison... I should remember that name.

Phone rings

Office phone rings.

Chief Editor: Found anything?

Player: A forced confession from 1983. The man died in custody before trial. The medical examiner's notes contradict the official cause of death.

Chief Editor: Front page. Write it tonight.

Player: There might be more to it than one case—

Chief Editor: Write what you have. We'll deal with more when there is more.

Click.

◆ PUBLICATION CHOICE — CASE 1

OPTION A: SENSATIONAL – "MURDERED IN CUSTODY: POLICE COVERUP EXPOSED!"

Full exposure. Forced confession, suspicious death, Archive 13 connection all named.

Risk: +5

OPTION B: ETHICAL – "Questions Raised About 1983 Murder Case"

Measured. Inconsistencies reported. Archive 13 not mentioned publicly.

Risk: +2

CASE 1 CONSEQUENCES

If Sensational (Risk: 5)

Chief Editor: Front page, full spread. The phones are already ringing.

Player: Some of those calls are different. Someone's paying attention.

If Ethical (Risk: 2)

Chief Editor: Careful. Too careful. But it'll do.

Player: Quiet traction. Maybe that's the right way to start.

Follow-up email from M (If Sensational):

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Re: Case 1
MESSAGE:	You published everything. You've made yourself visible. They'll know someone has access to those files. I still want to meet. But you've already changed things. Court Street Station. Rear platform. 2 AM. Or stay at the office, I'll send what I can digitally. — M

Follow-up email from M (If Ethical):

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Re: Case 1

MESSAGE:

Smart. You raised questions without showing your hand.

There's more. I want to meet.

Court Street Station. Rear platform. 2 AM.

Or stay at the office, I'll send what I can digitally.

— M

◆ **FIELDWORK CHOICE 1 — COURT STREET STATION**

OPTION A: GO TO THE MEETING

Meet Frank in person. Gain additional evidence and context. Frank hints at M. Adams.

Risk: +3

OPTION B: STAY AT THE OFFICE

Receive same case files digitally. Frank's email mentions M. Adams but gives no context.

Risk: +0

FIELDWORK: COURT STREET STATION (IF PLAYER GOES)

Abandoned subway platform. Flickering strip lights. Dripping water. A figure steps out of the shadow

Player: Who are you?

M (Frank): Someone who used to be on the inside.

Player: Webb's case. Is it just him?

M (Frank): Webb was case one of thirteen. Morrison signed off on all of them. But Morrison doesn't make decisions — he executes them.

Player: Then who gives the orders?

M (Frank): That's what Case 13 is. The original. The one that explains why all of this exists.

Player: Why are you doing this?

M (Frank): I was asked to. By someone with more reason than me.

Player: Who?

M (Frank): Not yet. Look at Case 2 when it arrives. Find the missing person reports. Look for M. Adams. That name matters.

Distant footsteps above. Frank hands over a folder and disappears into the dark.

NARRATIVE REVEAL: Frank mentions M. Adams deliberately but says nothing more. The player has a name to look for. They don't know yet whether it belongs to Sarah's sister, or that Marie is working directly with Frank.

[FIELDWORK BONUS: Additional evidence unlocked. Trust with M: Increased. Risk +3]

OFFICE: IF PLAYER STAYS

Clock passes 2 AM. Email arrives.

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Understood
MESSAGE:	Here's Case 2. There's more context that needs to be shown in person, but this will get you started. One thing: in the missing person reports, look for M. Adams. That name matters. I'll explain when it's safe.

	— M
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Player: M. Adams. Another M, or the same one?

[SAFE CHOICE: Same files received. Trust with M: Slightly Decreased. Risk +0]

RISK TRIGGER: BEING WATCHED: Triggers at Risk 11+

Staggered across the following day at the office.

The office phone rings three times across the day. Each time: silence, then click.

Player: Third one. Someone's checking if I'm here.

SCENE THE COWORKER:

The office phone rings and a coworker is on the line

Coworker: Someone came in asking about you. Didn't leave a name. Asked what you're working on, what hours you keep.

Player: What did you tell him?

Coworker: Nothing. But maybe be careful?

SCENE 4: CASE 2: THE MISSING WITNESS (1985)

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Case 2 — she tried to speak
ATTACHMENT:	Case_File_2.zip

MESSAGE:

Sarah Adams. 1985.

Set to testify against a major drug operation.

Two weeks before trial, she vanished.

The police called it a voluntary departure.

Her sister filed 47 missing person reports over six months.

Everyone was dismissed. Every one signed off by Detective J. Morrison.

Look for M. Adams in the reports.

— M

NARRATIVE REVEAL: Player sees "M. Adams" again. Frank flagged this name at Court Street. The player is now actively wondering... is M. Adams the same M who's been contacting me?

Risk-Based Player Reaction (one line, before opening files):

Risk 0–10: Player: "M. Adams again. Same initial. Could be a coincidence."

Risk 11–20: Player: "Someone's watching this office. And that name keeps coming up."

Risk 21+: Player: "After the break-in... M. Adams filed 47 reports and nobody listened. I'm not stopping either."

Evidence 1: Witness Statement Typed police statement from Sarah Adams

Typed police statement. Bottom of page: **handwritten note highlighted – "Witness requested protection programme. Request denied by Captain [REDACTED]."**

Player: They denied her protection. Two weeks later she's gone.

Evidence 2: Apartment Security Camera Footage VHS footage, fixed ceiling camera, black & white, auto-panning, timestamp: 05/23/85 08:47

Player: Nobody leaves old coffee mugs out. She didn't choose to go.

Evidence 3: Missing Person Reports

Stack of 47 identical documents. Each stamped **"No action required – Voluntary departure."** Filing name highlighted throughout: **M. Adams.** Most dismissal signatures highlighted: **Det. J. Morrison.**

Player: Forty-seven times. Morrison dismissed every single one.

NARRATIVE REVEAL: The player has now connected M. Adams to Sarah Adams, clearly a family member who kept fighting. The question that hangs: is this the M sending the emails?

Evidence 4: Drug Case Dismissal

Court document. Charges against Victor Castellanos – DISMISSED. Reason highlighted: **"Key witness unavailable."** Recommendation signatory highlighted: **Det. J. Morrison.**

Player: Remove the witness, the case collapses. Castellanos paid someone.

EDITOR PRESSURE: CASE 2

Phone rings

Chief Editor: Two cases, same detective?

Player: Morrison signed off on both. A forced confession and a missing witness.

Chief Editor: That's a pattern. Write it.

◆ PUBLICATION CHOICE — CASE 2

OPTION A: SENSATIONAL – "DETECTIVE LINKED TO SECOND CASE: WITNESS VANISHES AFTER PROTECTION DENIED"

Names Morrison directly. Connects both cases publicly.

Risk: +6

OPTION B: ETHICAL – "New Questions in 1985 Missing Person Case"

Raises questions. Morrison implied but not named.

Risk: +3

CASE 2 CONSEQUENCES (Context-Aware)

Sensational → Sensational (Risk:16):

Chief Editor: Morrison's name is everywhere. This is momentum.

Player: And someone's been ringing and hanging up. Momentum cuts both ways.

Ethical → Sensational (Risk:8):

Chief Editor: There it is. I knew you had it in you.

Player: I built credibility with the first story. Now I'm using it.

Sensational → Ethical (Risk:8):

Chief Editor: You went soft after that first story.

Player: I'm being smart. There's a difference.

Ethical → Ethical (Risk:5):

Chief Editor: Two careful stories. Where is this going?

Player: Somewhere. Just not recklessly.

click

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Case 3 coming
MESSAGE:	Good. You're building the picture. Case 3 is different. Harder to see at first. They hid it behind something that looks like charity. And M. Adams— it will make more sense soon. Not yet. — M

⚠ **RISK TRIGGER: ACTIVE THREATS: Triggers at Risk 21+**

Morning after publication and same evening.

SCENE – OFFICE BREAK-IN:

Player arrives to find office disturbed. Papers moved, computer repositioned.

Note on desk: "Stop digging. Final warning."

Player: They could have taken everything. They just wanted me to know they could get in here.

SCENE — THREATENING CALL:

Office phone rings

Unknown Voice: Drop the stories.

Player: Who is this?

Unknown Voice: Someone who knows what happened to Marcus Webb. And Sarah Adams. And the journalist who looked into them in 1989.

Click

Player: There was a journalist before me. And they dealt with him too.

SCENE 5: CASE 3: CORRUPT CHARITY FUNDS (1987)

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Case 3: follow the money
ATTACHMENT:	Case_File_3.zip

MESSAGE:	The Hamilton Foundation. Established 1982. Mission: helping victims of violent crime. Run by Eleanor Hamilton: widow of Police Commissioner Thomas Hamilton. 1982–1987: \$2.3 million in donations received. Only \$400,000 reached any actual victims. Who approved the foundation's charity status? Captain Jackson. Who provides "security consulting"? Detective Morrison. It's not corruption. It's infrastructure. — M
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Risk-Based Player Reaction (one line):

Risk 0–10: Player: "A charity front. That's how they fund it."

Risk 11–20: Player: "They're watching this office. And now I'm looking at the Commissioner's widow."

Risk 21–30: Player: "After the break-in... this connects everyone. But I've come too far to stop."

Risk 31+: Player: "Morrison's people called me directly. And this is the money behind all of it."

Evidence 1: Financial Records

Spreadsheet. Highlighted outgoing transactions: **"Administrative costs \$150,000", "Consulting fees \$200,000", "Security services \$175,000"**. Consulting fee recipient highlighted: **single shell company, PO Box address**.

Player: *Every consulting fee goes to the same shell company. This is laundering.*

Evidence 2: Beneficiary List

List of families receiving foundation grants. Two entries highlighted: "**Mills, C.: Grief counselling grant \$15,000**" and "**Adams, M.: Relocation assistance \$20,000**".

Player: *They paid off the families. Adams, M. That's Marie. They bought her silence.*

NARRATIVE REVEAL: M. Adams appears again... this time as a foundation payoff recipient. The player now has three sightings of this name across the evidence: filing reports, dismissing them, and being paid to go away. And she's still fighting. The connection to M ,the source, is almost certain now.

Evidence 3: Board Meeting Minutes

Handwritten notes, March 1986. Partially redacted. Legible fragments highlighted: "**Webb case publicity is problematic**" / "**Jackson confirms departmental cooperation**" / "**Morrison: \$5,000 monthly retainer. Approved.**"

Player: Morrison is on the payroll. Jackson is coordinating. This is a business.

Evidence 4: Property Records

Three property deeds. Each has a "**security consultant**" field highlighted: Det. J. Morrison. Property use highlighted: "**commercial rental.**" None listed as victim support.

Player: He's not just covering crimes. He's getting rich from them

EDITOR PRESSURE: CASE 3

Chief Editor: A charity front? Names, figures, proof. This is it!

Player: If I publish this I'm going after the Police Commissioner's widow.

Chief Editor: Even better.

Player: She has connections to every judge in the city. If I get one detail wrong—

Chief Editor: Then don't get it wrong.

◆ PUBLICATION CHOICE – CASE 3

OPTION A: SENSATIONAL – "POLICE-BACKED CHARITY EMBEZZLES MILLIONS FROM CRIME VICTIMS"

Names Hamilton, Patterson, Morrison. Connects all three cases.

Risk: +8

OPTION B: ETHICAL – "Financial Irregularities Raise Questions About Victim Support Foundation"

Presents evidence. Raises questions without direct accusations.

Risk: +4

CASE 3 CONSEQUENCES

If Sensational:

Chief Editor: Three cases, all connected. You've built something.

Player: I've also publicly named the widow of the Police Commissioner.

If Ethical:

Chief Editor: Still dancing around it.

Player: Building a case that holds up. That's not dancing.

FIELDWORK CHOICE 2 : PIER 17

Email (Risk 0–20):

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	We need to meet

MESSAGE:	The foundation is panicking. Moving money. Shredding documents. I have bank statements, direct payments to Jackson, Morrison, twelve other officers. I can't send these digitally. Too traceable. Pier 17. Warehouse District. Midnight. Or I send what I can by email and you work with less. — M
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Email (Risk 21–30):

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	We need to meet
MESSAGE:	They broke into your office. That means you're close enough to matter. I have bank statements that prove everything. Can't send them digitally. Pier 17. Midnight. After that break-in, you already know there's no such thing as safe. — M

Email (Risk 31+):

FROM:	Unknown
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SUBJECT:	This is the moment
MESSAGE:	Morrison's people called your office directly. You're past the point where caution protects you. I have the smoking gun. Bank statements. Names. Dates. Pier 17. Midnight. Last chance. – M

◆ FIELDWORK CHOICE 2 — PIER 17

OPTION A: GO TO PIER 17

Gain full bank statements. Frank confirms Marie's identity. Risk increases.

Risk: +5

OPTION B: STAY AT THE OFFICE

Receive partial documents. Frank says evidence was nearly compromised.

Risk: +0

PIER 17 — IF PLAYER GOES

Dark warehouse. Waves against the pier. Frank is already there.

M (Frank): Direct deposits. Hamilton Foundation to Patterson's offshore account. Fifty thousand every quarter since 1983.

Hands over envelope.

M (Frank): Morrison gets five thousand monthly. Twelve other officers on the payroll. The whole thing runs like a company.

Player: M. Adams. On the beneficiary list. That's who you're working with. Isn't it.

Frank doesn't answer immediately.

M (Frank): Her sister was silenced. She filed forty-seven reports and nobody listened. She found me two years ago. Said she needed someone still connected who could get the files. I knew what Morrison and Jackson were doing and did nothing. This is me doing something about that.

Player: Marie Adams.

M (Frank): She's been hiding behind the M initial from the start. Safer that way. We didn't think about how it would look from your end – two people, same letter, same case.

Vehicle outside. Headlights through the warehouse slats.

M (Frank): Loading dock, back left. Go. Just get those documents out.

Player escapes. Frank stays behind.

NARRATIVE REVEAL: Frank has now confirmed Marie exists and is involved. He's also admitted his own guilt – he knew and left rather than report it. This makes his disappearance in Scene 6 land harder.

[CRITICAL EVIDENCE OBTAINED — Full bank statements. Risk +5]

OFFICE — IF PLAYER STAYS (PIER 17)

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	You didn't come
MESSAGE:	I understand. Here's what I can send. Partial records. Not the full picture. The full documents I had tonight, I've had to destroy. Too dangerous now. Someone else was watching that warehouse. I got out. Barely.

– M

[PARTIAL EVIDENCE. Trust with M: Decreased. Risk +0]

RISK TRIGGER: SERIOUS DANGER — Triggers at Risk 31+

Staggered over two days at the office.

SCENE – MORRISON'S MEN CALL DIRECTLY:

Office phone

Man: You've been writing about Detective Morrison.

Player: Who is this?

Man: Someone suggesting you consider the consequences before your next article.

Player: Is that a threat?

Man: A professional observation. People who create problems for this department find their own problems multiply.

Click

Player: *That was a countdown.*

SCENE – SOURCES GO SILENT:

Player tries calling contacts. Voicemail. No replies.

Email from former contact: "Don't reach out again. I have a family."

Player: "They've warned everyone. I'm on my own."

SCENE 5: CASE 4: THE DISAPPEARED JOURNALIST (1989)

FROM:	Unknown
SUBJECT:	Case 4: they got one of us
ATTACHMENT:	Case_File_4.zip
MESSAGE:	Daniel Reeves. Investigative journalist. The Metro Observer. 1989. He connected Morrison to four cases. He was ready to publish. Then he disappeared. His editor got a resignation letter. His apartment was cleared. Sources stopped talking. I'm sending his research notes. He was close. Be smarter than he was. – M

Risk-Based Player Reaction (one line):

Risk 0–10: Player: A journalist. Investigating the same thing I am.

Risk 11–20: Player: The threatening call mentioned a journalist. This is who they meant.

Risk 21–30: Player: Reeves had break-ins, threatening calls. Then he was gone. Sound familiar."

Risk 31+: Player: "Morrison's people warned me. Reeves ignored warnings. I'm reading his case file.

Evidence 1: Reeve's Investigation Notes

Handwritten. Gets more frantic towards final pages. Key entry **highlighted: "Morrison everywhere. But he's protected. Someone higher is giving the orders. Need to find who." A fourth case name circled: Michael Torres, 1987.**

Player: He was one step behind where I am. And they took him anyway.

Evidence 2: The Resignation Letter

Typed letter, Metro Observer letterhead. Alongside it: a page from Reeves's handwritten notes. Signature styles highlighted and compared side by side – the resignation signature is visibly different in style and pressure.

Player: That's not his signature. Someone else wrote this.

Evidence 3: Final Article Draft:

Document: **"THE ARCHIVE THIRTEEN CONSPIRACY: By Daniel Reeves."** Last line **highlighted, file timestamp shown: saved 11:47 PM, June 14 1989.** Text ends mid-sentence: "...coordinated effort involving Detective James Morrison, Captain Robert Jackson, the Hamilton Foundation, and–"

Player: He was writing this the night he disappeared. Same article I'm writing now.

Evidence 4: Police Report (Missing Person)

Status highlighted: CLOSED: Voluntary Departure. Investigating **Officer highlighted: Det. J. Morrison.** Closure date: **June 20, 1989**, five days after Reeves vanished.

Player: Morrison closed the case on the man he disappeared.