

Case Name: Acres of Turnabout

Type of Case: Standard case, 2 Investigations and 2 Trials

Lawyer: Athena Cykes

Prosecutor: Klavier Gavin

Detective: Dick Gumshoe

Assistant: Trucy Wright

Defendant/Killer: Zane Stalk (18): A part-time employee at McMiller Community Farm. A kind of distant and quiet kid.

Victim: Poy Oakley (21): A full-time employee at the McMiller Community Farm. Not many people have something nice to say about him.

Witnesses:

-Lott Hart (30): Paranormal photographer turned tabloid hunter. Puts herself on the front lines to investigate every big and small rumor with her trusty camera.

-Winnie Miller (54): The owner of McMiller Community Farm. A patient, hardworking, and jolly old man who founded the farm for wanting what's best for his community.

-Hayley Miller (24): The daughter of Winnie Miller. Really hates having to work on a farm and doesn't try to sugar coat it.

-Gordon Gribs (67): A loyal volunteer at the farm and a regular who works the small garden beds. Goes by "Gardener Gordon." Always seems to watch out for the other volunteers.

Extras: Miles Edgeworth, Phoenix Wright

Description: Since Apollo and Phoenix are both busy, Athena is at the office when a man named Gordon Gribs asks her to take up his coworker's, Zane Stalk's, case: McMiller Community Farm, owned by Winnie Miller, is a local farm that grows affordable produce for their neighborhood and allows all kinds of people to do service work there. However, one day earlier, this seemingly welcoming farm turned into the scene of a grizzly murder in broad daylight. Poy Oakley, an employee at the farm, was found charred, pinned to the wall, and stabbed with a pitchfork through the chest in a burnt wooden storage shed. Gordon was the first to notice the burning shed and called on the help of his fellow farmers to put out the fire around noon. Only when they discovered Poy inside were the cops called. Zane Stalk, a part-time employee, was soon after arrested by police on account that his truck was full of suspicious items; a rope, dish soap, gloves, an oil tank, a box of matches, a trash bag, and a spare change of clothes were all found in his backseat but were suspiciously clean of prints and showed no signs of use.

Because the crime scene was burnt, no trace of prints could be found, and the items in Zane's car are the only pieces of evidence that link anyone to the crime. Even then, there appears to be no motive. Something about the pieces is not quite right.

Investigation, Day 1:

At *Winnie's main office* (a small, rustic house with a large front porch near the front entrance), Athena begins her investigation with Trucy by her side as they interview Winnie, the head farmer. He details how he first came to hear of the fire and how they put it out. He admits he is confused as to what could have started the fire as the storage shed was mostly full of fresh produce and gardening tools and the gasoline in Zane's car was unopened. He hands Athena the **farm schedule** and a **farm map** so they can find their way around.

At the *central awning* (a large steel awning with tables for their lunch breaks), Trucy hears the grumbling of a young woman and stumbles upon an upset-looking Hayley Miller, the daughter of the owner. In her reluctant interview, Hayley mentions that she forgot the combination to her locker and that she'll have to ask her dad for the master key to open it, gloating that her dad trusts her so much to handle such a thing. Upon further questioning, she tells them that each worker has a personal locker. Athena takes note of the **lockers**. Hayley outlines her blatant dislike for Zane for no other reason than him being a somewhat odd and quiet fellow, completely convinced that he is the killer because he seems crazy. Generally she's very whiny, complaining about the farm work as it holds her over until she can find another job.

At the *chicken coop* (an elevated, walk-in coop in a field), Gardener Gordon has returned to his post and is smoking a cigarette. Trucy is eager to learn that magic trick and Athena quickly shuts that down. Gordon says that he wanted Athena to represent Zane because Zane never really had someone at his defense; he was often picked on by Hayley and especially Poy, and Gordon feels bad for not saying something earlier. He thinks Zane is being targeted because of how Poy treated him. Before parting, he asks them to keep an eye out for a lighter as he lost one of his yesterday.

At the *storage shed* (a small, wooden storage shed with no water taps or lights), police are swarming the scene. Athena and Trucy see a familiar face; Detective Gumshoe! He is insistent on not giving any hints to the defense this time as to not lose his job, but with some begging from Trucy, he relents a few details. He reveals that prosecutor Klavier Gavin will be taking the case on account that he found "special interest" in the defendant. Gumshoe does not let them investigate the inside of the shed as the police are still scouring for clues.

At the *detention center*, Athena and Trucy meet a meager-looking Zane. His face looks placid and he does not seem too worried, however there is a single bandage on his nose. Throughout their conversation, his nose continues to bleed and he often wipes it. Athena questions him, asking where he was at the time of the murder, but he refuses to give any other clues besides casually saying "I'm the one who did it." Athena detects no strong or weak emotions from his voice. When asked about his nose, he becomes slightly distressed and refuses to elaborate. Since it's still bleeding, the wound must be fresh.

Trial, Day 1: Just before the trial starts, Athena sees Trucy reading an article based on the case she's taken, titled "The Insanity of a Shed Stabbing and the Killer Behind It!". The article is an interview with Hayley and is full of strong opinions; most obviously, Hayley's disdain toward Zane is

smear all over the paper. The **newspaper article** is added to the court record. Woefully unprepared, they enter the courtroom.

Gavin is obviously not having his usual fun and is instead very serious and aggressive in the trial. Through the cross examinations of Detective Gumshoe, Winnie, and Hayley, it is blatant that there is very little the case is built on. The pitchfork was very burnt and could not be submitted, but the prosecution does present two other pieces of evidence: the **autopsy report** and a **lighter** with unidentified prints on it that was found inside the shed. These prints are most definitely not Zane's. An empty gasoline can was also found at the scene but was too scuffed to be submitted. Athena decides to pick apart the items in Zane's car, as whoever planted them must have committed the murder. She manages to shift the narrative away from Zane; although he was on shift at that time near the shed according to the **farm schedule**, someone else could have planted the evidence in the car. If Zane had put his car keys in one of the lockers, someone else could have taken the keys and had access to the car if they had the master key. The items are mostly regular farm tools and could easily be gathered from the farm. The only people who could have most likely done this are Winnie and Hayley as the key is kept in a secure spot, and since Hayley hates Zane (as proven by the **newspaper article**) and had a lunch break at the time according to the **farm schedule**, Athena chooses to pursue her in this matter. She nervously denies the claim. The judge adjourns the trial and demands both sides investigate further.

Investigation, Day 2: Before heading to the farm, the Wright Anything Agency is visited by Chief Prosecutor Miles Edgeworth, who surprisingly is here to see Athena. According to Miles, Gavin had talked to him about the case and wanted to warn Athena. What she is involving herself in is much more than it appears on the surface and that she needs to choose her verdict very wisely; the wrong one could lead to disastrous consequences. When Athena asks for an explanation, Edgeworth simply hands her a letter signed by Klavier Gavin with permission to investigate the crime scene. **Letter of permission** is added into evidence. With that ominous warning out of the way, she and Trucy visit the farm.

At Winnie's office at the front entrance, Winnie nervously talks to Athena. He is uneasy about her accusation toward his daughter, Hayley, and stands firm that she did not kill Poy. Athena digs into the victim more; even by account of the owner, Oakley was not a nice man. He was rude toward all the other workers and volunteers and worked there only for the money, often threatening the owner with quitting if he was not paid more. Winnie would have fired him if the farm had not been severely understaffed, so he hung on to the toxic employee uneagerly. Zane Stalk was most often subjected to his toxicity yet never showed any kind of anger nor kindness toward the man. Stalk was a mostly kind kid but quite the "troubled soul"; he excelled at his farm work but was never allowed near live animals as he had the tendency to kick or throw rocks at them. He is very mischievous but Winnie chalks that up to him being a boy. Winnie also mentions that case files for each employee are in the back of his office and they are allowed to check them out.

At the *file room*, the drawer for Hayley is searched, but no files are found that would help the defense's case. Her criminal records, disease history, and mental history are almost completely blank. When Zane's drawer is opened, two pieces of paper are inside; the first, a typed diagnosis from a neurologist detailing his early-onset Relinathin disease, a deterioration of nerve cells in the brain at a young age impairing emotional and cognitive abilities. The second is a letter from a psychologist outlining how his Relinathin disease has affected his emotional abilities, specifically

making it hard for him to communicate with others and making him apathetic. The **Relinathin diagnosis** and the **psychologist's letter** are added to evidence.

At the *chicken coop*, Hayley is working. Upon the sight of Athena, she becomes furious, yelling that it is all the defendant's fault and she has nothing to do with it. No way to talk to her. If asked about her suspiciously clean history, Hayley gives them the silent treatment.

At the *central awning*, Gordon Gribbs is on break. Athena presents the lighter from the trial yesterday and asks if the lighter is his. He says it is, confirming the prints are his, and asks where she found it. She tells him about how it was found in the wooden shed by police, and she cannot hand it back because it is evidence. At first, he seems confused by her answer, but after a moment of silence comes to a realization. Gardener Gordon does not say anything else. If presented with either the **psychologist's letter** or the **Relinathin diagnosis**, he gets a pained look on his face but does not elaborate.

At the *storage shed*, Gumshoe stands watch outside with the door wide open, unlike yesterday. He does not let them in until they present the **letter of permission** from Edgeworth. He takes the letter and lets Trucy and Athena in.

Inside the *storage shed*, it is very dark as there are no lights inside. Upon examination, there are all kinds of gardening tools on the shelves that are very charred and sacks of potatoes and sweet potatoes hidden in the dark corners of the room, surprisingly mostly untouched by the fire. Curious, Trucy digs through one of the sacks of sweet potatoes, throwing some to the ground. She says she sees a strange looking curly potato in the sack and pulls on it, only to be met with the cries of pain from a country woman. Emerging from her hiding place, Lotta Hart stands before Athena and Trucy, camera in hand. When asked why she's here, Lotta explains that she snuck into the farm to gather evidence and pictures for an article she is going to make, hopefully busting the McMiller Community Farm for their allegedly abusive work environment. While investigating, she tried to hide once she heard footsteps approaching and accidentally chose the crime scene. When asked about the "abusive work environment", she says she heard of rumors from an anonymous source that the workers here yell and scream at each other, and she wanted to get a piece of that action for a somewhat noble cause. When presented with the **newspaper article**, Lotta becomes overjoyed that Athena has read one of her pieces, and Athena gets upset at how opinionated the article is. During their argument, Trucy tries to quietly butt in. She finally yells at them saying she's made an important discovery. She hands Athena a bright red and fresh sweet potato that, upon closer inspection, has a tiny splatter of red on its side. The potato must have come from the sack in the corner she dug through as Trucy found it on the floor, only the light from the doorway helping her see the splatter. **Sweet potato** is added into evidence.

At the *detention center*, Zane is again very calm despite the whole situation. Since this might be their last chance, Trucy encourages Athena to really interrogate Zane. Athena presses him about Poy and his relationship, recalling how many had said that Poy was mean to him. He denies the claim entirely while clutching his nose. She then asks him how he got his bloody nose, and this remark catches him off guard. He reacts but does not say anything. When presented with the **sweet potato**, Zane becomes visibly very nervous and shocked. He fervently asks where she found it, and when she answers the shed, he becomes more uncomfortable. Zane decides to make a deal; if perhaps Poy

really did pick on him, what was it for? If Athena presents either the **psychologist's letter** or the **Relinathin diagnosis**, Zane will still refuse Poy ever laid a finger on him but will acknowledge the existence of the two documents. Visiting hours are over and Athena has a big day ahead.

Trial, Day 2: Athena desperately clings on to Phoenix's words of hope: always trust your client. In the courtroom, Gavin is much less serious, but instead seems to be quite solemn. Gardener Gordon is called up first to testify about the defendant and the victim. Through his testimony, the court is painted a picture of Poy's and Zane's rocky relationship, giving ample motive to the murder. Gordon says that the bullying had "reason", and when presented with the **psychologist's letter** he confirms that the insults stemmed from his difficulty communicating. Athena tries to highlight that Zane has a clean track record and is a kind person, but the evidence seems really stacked against her. Zane Stalk is called in as the last witness and subtly confesses on the stand. The prosecution makes him testify about how he supposedly committed the murder, and while Gavin listens the expression on his face is pained. The testimony he gives is just vague enough to make sense with the known facts, and oddly enough, the whole testimony was done with very little emotion. Just before the judge decides a verdict, Athena objects, saying that she has one crucial piece of evidence that can turn the case around. She presents the **sweet potato** and asks for it to be blood tested. While the potato is being tested, Athena also suggests that a therapy session take place as she notices some odd emotions (or lack thereof). The judge allows it and Athena opens up the mood matrix. In one part of his testimony, Zane confidently states that he had burned the shed to make sure no evidence would make it out, yet his emotions state that he is feeling slightly worried. When probed, Athena comes to the conclusion that not all the evidence was quite destroyed, and even something like the potato was supposed to be. She concludes that the sweet potato will prove his innocence, which is why he is so nervous. At the peak of the tension, the blood test results arrive, confirming that the blood on the sweet potato is...*Zane Stalk*. The case is now totally in favor of the prosecution, confirming that Zane was at the scene of the crime. Desperately, Athena tries to cling on to Phoenix's advice; she tries to force her biggest smile and she tries to trust her client, but as the trial comes to a close, she begins to realize that the truth might have been in front of her the whole time. With Edgeworth's words in mind, she shouts one last objection, asking the judge to change her plea from not guilty to insanity. Doing so admits the guilt of the accused but is excused based on mental circumstances, and through difficult decision, Athena decides insanity is better to fight for under the circumstances. The court erupts in a frenzy, and she knows that there is no going back now. She shifts her argument, intending to prove that his mental state clouds his judgement of right and wrong. Athena repeats the last mood matrix, zoning in on the apparent lack of empathy from the defendant especially when admitting to the stabbing, showing he cannot establish morality. To reinforce this, she presents the **psychologist's letter** as proof of her emotional evaluation. Lastly, she presents the **Relinathin diagnosis**, which explains the cause of his lack of empathy. Unfortunately diagnosed at a young age, the deterioration of the nerve cells in his brain has caused him to lose his empathy and communication skills. All these pieces combined as well as the hindsight of Poy's treatment of Zane shows ample cause as to how a revenge plot could have been executed. Gavin stays silent and listens the whole time, not uttering a word. With the prosecution have nothing else to argue, the judge rules a not guilty by reason of insanity. There is no celebration from either side.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED: Zane had previously bought the items in his car to use against Poy if he had crossed the line. Zane Stalk and Poy Oakley were both in the storage shed around noon, isolated from the other parts of the farm. Poy, doing his usual of picking on Zane, punched him in the nose, causing a splatter of blood to get on a sweet potato. Zane silently left, stealing a lighter from

Gardener Gordon and returning to the shed. He stabbed Poy with the pitchfork, pinning him to the wall, and doused him and the shed in gasoline, setting it alight with the lighter. After some time, Gordon noticed the fire, and called together the people on the farm to put it out, including Zane. To Zane's discontent, the potato he was unaware had his blood on it was not burned in the fire.

After the trial: Trucy tends to an obviously heavy-hearted Athena, unsure if she made the right decision. She is visited by a solemn Gavin. When asked his reason as to why he took the case, he admits that what he saw in Zane was like a fragment of what he saw in his brother, Kristoph; however, in this case, it was much sadder. His mental condition was caused by diseases out of his control that literally plagued such a young mind. Gavin felt he was a good kid pushed to his breaking point by a toxic employee. Whether it was Winnie's fault for not firing him, Gordon's fault for not speaking up, or Hayley's fault for joining in on the bullying, he may never know. The last thing he wants to do is point the finger at anyone else. He thanks Athena for being so brave through it all and hopes she can take time to process all she has been through. Surprisingly, Phoenix also visits her, as he was secretly watching from the crowd. Athena admits she feels awful for not totally believing in her client like he had asked her to so many times. Phoenix painfully admits that unwavering faith in your client can sometimes make things so much worse. Even if she had to change the plea, she should be glad that she did all she knew she could to help him. Trucy is bummed that there are no real winners in the story, and Phoenix admits that sometimes, that is just how life goes.

The End.

Evidence:

- Attorney's badge
- Farm map
- Farm schedule
- Individual lockers
- Newspaper article
- Autopsy report
- Lighter
- Letter of permission
- Relinathin diagnosis
- Psychologist's letter

Sweet potato