

# Tint of Iris

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## General information

### Cast

#### Main Character

**Detective (temporary name): Gus (Gustav Lindal)** - Swedish-American perfume tycoon of the "Gotland Perfumes" company posing as a hired detective.

**Victim: Jules Arnaud** - 32-years old French perfume engineer (yes, that's what they're called) of the "Fragrance" company. Found dead in a vat of perfume. Suicide with a goal of attracting attention.

**Criminal: Iris Willingham** - Owner of the "Fragrance" company. The victim's secret lover and muse.

**Red Herring/Secondary Criminal:** Melanie Kirch - CEO of "Gotland Perfumes", orchestrator of industrial espionage. Her actions became a potential threat to the company and Gustav's finances, prompting him to act (details in the script)

**Red Herring/Investigation Pillar:** Shane O'Brien - Jules' assistant. Secretly an employee of Melanie's, he was sent on a mission to learn Kevin's professional secrets.

**Henchman: Luke Roacher** - "Fragrance" factory's head of security. Found the body. Obstructed Kevin's attempts to snitch to the authorities the potential danger of his new perfume approved by Iris.

### Cross-reference ideas:

- As a reference/teaser we can make a "Tint of Iris" poster/banner and put it in the background of a location in another script.

### Backstory

Jules was a visionary perfume engineer from France. He was world-renowned and decorated, and he was going to unveil his Opus Magnum. Two days before the presentation his hyped scent called "Tint of Iris" he's found murdered in the vat of his own perfume.

Jules met Iris, the owner and CEO of "Fragrance" about a year prior, and fell madly in love with her asserting and powerful nature. He quit his job and she took him with her to the U.S to work for her. Jules was inspired by Iris and, using a fortunate coincidence of her name,

created a scent based on iris flowers. It was set to be a hit, and Iris ordered to cut corners to get the perfume on the market as soon as possible. That's when Shane was hired as an assistant for Jules.

Shane was sent by Melanie to spy on Jules and learn his secrets for her company. He secretly stole a sample of "Tint of Iris" and gave it to his boss. Melanie's lab determined that the perfume is great, but it had a side effect: it would destroy the client's sense of smell in the matter of months, if used continuously. Melanie ordered Shane to use this information to sabotage Iris' company. Shane told Jules about the side effect.

Jules went to Iris and told her about this flaw, he asked for more time to determine its origins and to find a way to eliminate it. Iris was giving him the runaround, kept telling that she'll sort it out. But she had no intention to roll back the unveiling: there was too much at stake already with the project fast-tracked and hyped up (***alternatively: she agreed, and he found a way to remove this flaw, but it made the scent worse, so Iris decided to go with the initial version. In the first case she's neglectful, in the second - reasonable at first, outright malicious and greedy later***).

When Jules learned from Shane that Iris intends to roll out the perfume as is, he tried to contact the authorities, first by phone (which stopped working), then via e-mail. He wanted to go to the Police to confirm they got his report, but Iris had Luke to distract Jules. The security chief was always at his side when Jules was not at the apartment and not at the factory.

That's the moment when Jules understood that Iris is controlling his entire life here, and no way she's gonna let him stop her. He became her prisoner, so to speak. For Jules his perfume was his life's work, and he would be devastated if anyone else's sense of smell was destroyed by his product. Unable to find a way to warn the authorities, Jules decided to kill himself in a most gruesome way in the only place Luke didn't surveil him: in the lab.

Meanwhile, Gustav is feeling sidelined by his own CEO Melanie and starts investigating her.

## Outlines:

### Scene 1 - Crime Scene (Premise/setup)

#### INT. FRAGRANCE FACTORY - DAY

Detective Gus meets us at the crime scene and fills us in. Luke, Iris and Shane are at the scene as well, but first the body and the scene need to be investigated. The body was found in the morning, so the murder happened at night.

#### **Badge choice 1, Loop: Investigate the body and the scene. Cost: 1**

| Investigate the scene                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Investigate the vat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Investigate the victim                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| No signs of struggle, the scene is overall quite clean. There's CCTV, but upon accessing it we learn that 2 minutes with the murder are deleted. (Conclusion - Killer must've been quite fast and efficient)<br><br>Evidence log: Clean scene of murder. Whatever happened, it was quick, and the CCTV logs were cleaned. | There's a strong smell of iris, which is noted by Gus. This will be the first little foreshadowing of his true nature. If we ask him about it in the embedded choice, he'll just say that "Tint of Iris" is everywhere these days. As for the victim, he must've drowned in the stuff.<br><br>Evidence log: Death by own work. Someone tried really hard to make this symbolic | Nostrils are ripped out inside with something. Jules' body floats face-down. (Conclusions - It was sudden for him?)<br><br>Evidence log: Nostrils. Perfume engineers have the perfect sense of smell. Someone made sure it was literally destroyed. |

Gus prompts us to analyze the situation.

#### **Free choice 1: mostly prompts the players to think. Each theory has a flaw.**

- It could've been a hit ordered by the rivals. (But the nostrils thing is weird)
- The killer could be trying to send the message. (But too much efficiency for that)
- The killer could've been someone Jules knew (But why does he float face-down, then? I mean, the killer could just throw him away like that, but everything points towards it happened very quickly, too fast to arrange the body)

Anyway, the body needs to be sent to the paramedics to determine the details. Gus says that Iris (company head), Luke (security chief, found the body) and Shane (assistant) are waiting, and provides some information on them. But Iris and Luke are quite busy, they need to get back to work.

#### **Badge choice 2, Bad TV. Cost: 1 (only Shane) or 2 badges (all of them)**

| Shane                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Everybody                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p>Shane tells that Jules was very preoccupied with something the day before the murder. He came and went several times, looking like he was very concerned with something. Though he was quite extravagant, Shane didn't really pay attention to it. Shane's alibi is his friend's birthday party.</p> <p>Evidence log: (A)typical behavior. Witness says Jules was behaving weirdly the day before the murder.</p> | <p>Shane tells the same as in the left column.</p> <p>Iris says she didn't know Jules' whereabouts, she says she doesn't keep tabs on her employees, she trusts them. Iris also claims she doesn't know him that well. If asked why Jules decided to make a perfume "in her name", she says that iris is a popular flower these days, it has nothing to do with her. Iris' alibi will be provided by her PA. She acts irritated: this mess isn't something she needs just before the launch.</p> <p>Evidence log: Absentee boss. Iris doesn't seem to care about anything but her product's success.</p> <p>Luke says he found the body around 6AM during a routine patrol. Jules came in at about 3AM, there's a note in the log. When asked why the security chief stayed for a night shift, he says it was his turn. Just because he's the boss doesn't mean he's better than his employees. Logs can prove he stayed for night shifts consistently throughout the last year. His alibi is found in the security room CCTV footage. He also says he didn't talk to Jules, he didn't think Jules could even speak English.</p> <p>Evidence log: Dutiful guard. Luke found the body because he was on a routine night shift at the factory.</p> |

Gus asks if there's enough information now for the investigation, or will the witnesses be needed for another round of questions?

**Free choice 2: The choice determines the whereabouts of Shane in a later scene.**

- a) Detain the witnesses for further questioning. Iris and Luke lawyer up, they have no time for this. Shane is taken in.
- b) Release the witnesses. They all leave.

Gus wonders who would benefit from the perfume engineer's death.

**Free choice 3: Just a relaxing choice with a couple of jokes and reiteration about the nature of this crime.**

- a) Rivals - That's a logical conclusion. Gus agrees.

- b) A ditched lover - Jules might've been a womanizer, but this clearly wasn't a crime of passion.
- c) Foreign intelligence. - the MC starts convincing Gus of this theory very seriously (an expert crime, symbolism, etc), until Gus realizes it is a joke.

Gus brings up that Fragrance's biggest rival is Gotland Perfumes.

**Badge choice 3: Cost 1 badge. Pay Gotland a visit.**

## Scene 2 - Investigating the rival (Rising action)

EXT. GOTLAND HQ - DAY

Gus says that he arranged the meeting with the CEO, but they will allow only for one visitor, for security reasons.

**Free choice 4: Choice-reaction which might throw some suspicion on Gus in the eyes of the players.**

- a) This is bullshit - Gus says he's concerned Gotland will lawyer up, which would delay the investigation.
- b) Gus should go - he says he's not as experienced as the MC.
- c) I should go - Gus agrees without any questions.

INT. GOTLAND CEO OFFICE - DAY

We meet Melanie. She's introduced as a bitter woman that yells at someone over the phone. When she's done, we start talking. We call her the owner of the company, but she corrects us: she's a CEO, not the owner. When Melanie learns about Jules' death, she acts all surprised and horrified, but it should be obvious from her dialogue that her reaction is insincere. Anyway, Melanie has an alibi. She also says she tried to recruit Jules, but he refused. But she does say that on perfume events Iris and him are like actual lovebird parrots (which contradicts Iris' testimony).

Evidence log: The rival's testimony. Melanie doesn't seem that shocked by her rival's golden goose's death.

EXT - GOTLAND HQ - DAY

When we're done, Gus meets us outside and asks how it went, what do we think. We say that Melanie is full of it, Gus asks us for some analysis.

**Free Choice 5: Choice-reaction with some analysis of Melanie's nature**

- a) Melanie might be connected to this murder
- b) She's just glad her rival will suffer because of this unfortunate death.

Moreira recalls the MC and Gus back to the bureau, he needs something.

**Badge choice 4: Cost 1 badge. - Regroup at the bureau.**

### Scene 3 - Regroup at the bureau (Falling action)

INT. BUREAU - DAY

We come back to the bureau to regroup, Gus comes with us. There he meets Eric Moreira. A conversation ensues: Moreira asks a lot about Gus' experience (Gus says he never worked on big cases and sells himself short), and they exchange pleasantries.

**Free choice 6:** Some mystery about Gus paired with Moreira's cameo.

- a) Ask Moreira what was that about? He says that in his years of service and work he never heard about this guy. The fact that quite a mature guy is still a junior detective doesn't add up. Moreira has suspicions about Gus.
- b) Nevermind that.

**Condition:**

- a) If Shane was detained, he says he has something to say.
- b) Else - Shane comes of his own volition and says he's got something to say.



## Scene 4 - Shane's interrogation (Turning Point)

**Badge choice 5: Cost 1 badge.** Interrogate Shane. For this choice the players will have to refill their badges or wait.

Shane says he was disgusted with how Iris and Luke tried to leave the factory as soon as possible, acting all uninterested and worried the investigation might impede "Fragrance"s plans.

**Free choice 7:** A small choice-reaction

- a) Ask if he's suspicious of them?
- b) Tell him to get to the point.

Shane starts acting all nervous, questioning if he should say anything at all.

**Badge choice 5 (cost 1)/Paid choice 1:** Make him talk already / Ease the information out of him.

| Make him talk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ease the info out                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <p>Shane tells that Jules learned that his perfume had a fatal flaw: it would destroy the user's sense of smell eventually. This was devastating for Jules, and he didn't know what to do with it.</p> <p>Additionally, Luke was always shadowing the engineer: following him, always being in proximity.</p> <p><b>Free choice 8 (all three questions available if we can do CHOICES_MID):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Ask when did Luke start shadowing Jules. Answer - roughly around the time Jules learned about Tint of Iris' flaw</li><li>b) Ask if Shane is the only one who knew besides Jules. Shane doesn't know, but surely Jules had to tell Iris.</li></ul> <p>Evidence log: Shane's testimony.</p> | <p>We help Shane realize that he's safe now and we can help him.</p> <p>Shane relaxes and tells everything from the left column, but adds that he was the one to tell Jules about the flaw. He admits that he's actually working for Melanie (subtle Gus' reaction). He had to find Jules' secrets, and he stole some "Tint of Iris" for the CEO of Gotland Perfumes. Melanie tested it and found out about the flaw. She told Shane about it and asked to do anything to derail "Tint's" unveiling.</p> <p>Gus asks what we think about Melanie.</p> <p><b>Free choice 8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) She didn't need Jules dead if she wanted his secret exposed. (Gus agrees)</li><li>b) She isn't a killer, but she's guilty of industrial espionage. (Gus agrees maybe a little too enthusiastically)</li></ul> <p><b>Free choice 8.5 (same conditions as in the left column):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Same as A in the left one</li><li>b) Same as B in the left one.</li><li>c) Is he ready to testify against Melanie if the need arises. He is.</li></ul> |

|  |                                          |
|--|------------------------------------------|
|  | Evidence log: Expanded Shane's testimony |
|--|------------------------------------------|

We let Shane go, and the coroner calls. Autopsy reports are in, there's some juicy info (and the juice is seemingly made of irises).

**Badge choice 6:** We go to the coroner.

## Scene 5 - Procedure (Falling Action)

### INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - DAY

Coroner says that this was quite a pickle: it was very hard to analyze, and the whole morgue feels like goddamn iris now. A couple of jokes go in (coroner's wife wears an iris cologne, for example, and he's starting to hate it now).

#### Free choice 9: Choice-reaction

- a) Laugh with the coroner
- b) Tell him to get to the point.

Coroner points out that there is information about the vic's nose, composition of his lungs and on his blood test.

#### Badge choice 7: Cost 1 badge, loop choice.

| Nose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lungs                                                                                                                                                                                  | Blood                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| It was ripped by a finesse instrument like a scalpel, with cuts being inflicted from inside. It happened before death. And a scalpel wasn't found on the scene.<br><br>Evidence log: An Inside Job. Jules' nose was mutilated from the inside. | A lot of perfume still evaporating from Jules' lungs leads to a conclusion that drowning was the cause of death.<br><br>Evidence log: Perfumeboarding. Jules died because of drowning. | A lot of alcohol and Tylenol were found in his body.<br><br>Evidence log: Silent killers. Jules was on meds and alcohol when he died. |

#### Free choice 10: Guesswork, theories (choices-mid if possible).

- a) Jules might've been nervous about Tint of Iris and drank too much. Also, headaches.
- b) Nose mutilation fits the profile of a crime of passion.
- c) Someone might've actually tortured Jules before death.

With that, we return to the Bureau.

## Scene 6 - Analysis (Lowest point/Standstill)

INT - BUREAU - NIGHT

It's evening already. We share our findings with Gus. Moreira hears about the scalpel and says that it's good grounds for an order, he's going to get one.

Gus also shares his findings. Jules' death was officially proclaimed by Fragrance. Public interest in "Tint of Iris" has doubled since then, and is rising. The unveiling is rescheduled for tonight!

**Free choice 11:** Thoughts about Iris.

- a) Iris is using his death as a way to maximize sales!
- b) It's a normal public reaction to the death of an Artist.

**Badge choice 8: Bad TV (cost 1\3) - Watch Iris' interview / Confront her at the event.**

| Watch the interview                                                                                          | Confront her                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iris acts all devastated about Jules' death, but not really convincing considering how she acted previously. | <p>EXT - EVENT HALL - NIGHT</p> <p>Iris acts all devastated, but we're not convinced. She senses that and starts crying, revealing the true nature of her and Jules relationship.</p> <p>She also claims she had to release the info of Jules' demise to the public, because the gossip was going around the factory and it going public was just a matter of time.</p> |

**Free choice 12:** More thoughts on Iris

- a) She genuinely cared for Jules.
- b) She is a good actress.

It's late already. The investigation continues the next day.

INT. BUREAU - MORNING.

We wake up to the news of Fragrance selling a million pre orders and its shares rising despite the investigation still ongoing and Jules' real fate unknown.

Some more analysis is warranted. Gus remarks how the public is all over Jules' work now.

**Free choice 13:**

- a) Jules could've killed himself to attract attention to his work. Or to the flaw? Something must've prevented him from doing it the normal way. Why nostrils, though?
- b) Iris might've been the one to order a hit on Jules for profit.

Moreira gets back with the warrant around lunch, and he also brings Tony, who can try and restore the CCTV footage.

## Scene 7 - Search warrant (Rising action/Climax)

### **Badge choice 9 - Time to head out back to the factory.**

INT. FRAGRANCE FACTORY - DAY

We arrive at the factory. Iris is pissed, she says we have no right, but we show her the warrant. Luke isn't there yet, but he has been recalled. Police are looking for the scalpel, and Tony starts working his magic.

**Paid choice 2:** Ask Tony to dig out everything, not only CCTV footage.

There is no scalpel here, but Tony finds the footage. It doesn't show the vat of perfume, but it shows Jules ripping his own nostrils out. The scalpel falls down and Jules, holding onto his nose, leaves the shot.

The only one who was on location at that time was Luke, it's obvious he tampered with the crime scene. No matter if he's the killer or not, he is arrested.

**Condition:** Tony was ordered to find something extra.

Tony finds Jules' letter detailing his attempts to warn at least somebody about the "Tint of Iris" flaw.

Tony also finds recordings of a phone call between Luke and Iris, detailing how she orders him to get rid of the evidence and call the Police: they shouldn't know that it was suicide, not yet.

The case is solved.

*Potential paid choice if players didn't pay for the hack: leak the info about Tint of iris to the public to destroy Iris' business*

### **Final Questionnaire (might need some work):**

Who killed Jules? (Iris / Luke / himself / Shane)

What killed Jules? (Scalpel / Inhaling his own perfume / Broken heart)

What is the nature of the relationship between Iris and Jules? (They were lovers / She exploited him / He just worked for her)

Why did Luke stay on night shift that day? (He was shadowing Jules / It was his turn )

Why did Jules cut his own nostrils? (To show that Iris killed his nose (symbolism) / To inhale more of the perfume so his death would be quicker / It was a fit of rage)

Why was a lot of alcohol and painkillers in Jules' body? (He was very nervous about Tint of Iris / He needed it to go through with his suicide plan / He was an alcoholic with frequent migraines)

## Scene 8 - Epilogue

### Epilogue:

Luke:

With Tony's Hack: Goes to prison for conspiracy

Else: Goes to prison for obstruction of justice.

Iris:

With Tony's Hack: Goes to prison for conspiracy and incitement of suicide

*With the leak: Her corporation crumbles.*

Else: Has to recall Tint of Iris, fixes it and sells it for a big profit, though for less than she would have earned right after Jules' death.

Shane:

With Shane's testimony: Absolved of any crimes.

Else: Is secretly promoted in Gotland.

Melanie:

With Shane's testimony: Goes to prison for industrial espionage

Else: Gets fired for an unknown reason.

Gus:

And here we launch another scene. Gus told you to come over to the bureau for a surprise.

### Badge Choice 10 - Go to the bureau.

Near the bureau Moreira catches us and says he has some suspicions. Gus isn't who we think he is. He knows a lot about perfume, he's really invested in this case, and nobody really knows who he is, though his credentials are really good. Moreira wants you to take a guess.

### Free choice 14

- a) He's Jules in disguise
- b) He's the CEO of Gotland Perfumes.
- c) He's a good detective, you're slandering him

Moreira gives you the name - Gustav Lindal.

You enter the bureau, and the whole cast is there, and a lot of other people. Gus arrives and tells he threw the party in the bureau's honor. We tell him we know who he is, and he's not surprised, we're detectives after all. We tell him we can have his head for credentials forgery and posing as an official. He says that we can do that, but he can also help. He loved fieldwork and would love to join the bureau, and he wants to fund it.

The party ensues, and after that - the curtain falls.