



## Speculate on a mystery

### Mystery 1: The unknown man

- 1 A man was found dead on a beach in Adelaide, Australia, in 1948.
- 2 The man had a scrap of paper from the final page of *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, a 12th-century poem, in his pocket. It had the words *tamám shud*, meaning 'finished'.
- 3 He was well dressed and seemed to be in excellent physical condition. He was carrying no ID, and his dental records didn't match any person living in Australia.
- 4 After extensive investigation, an autopsy revealed that he probably died from poisoning.
- 5 Investigators found a man who might have met him the evening before he died.
- 6 The man told them that the mystery man's name was Solomonson. Investigators then found the man's suitcase at the railway station. The book from which the paper had been torn was found in an unlocked car.
- 7 Unfortunately, the suitcase did not reveal much, but the book had the phone number of a woman on it.
- 8 When she was shown the picture of the mystery man, the woman looked frightened, but said she didn't know him.
- 9 The book had some code scribbled in the back, which no one has been able to decipher.
- 10 The woman had a son who had the exact same ear shape as the mystery man, and the same genetic tooth disorder. The chances that they were not related are 1 in 20 million.

### Possible explanation

This mystery has never been solved. One theory is that the man was a spy during World War II who was sent on a mission to Australia but fell in love with a married woman and stayed in Australia. Her husband found out about his wife's affair and killed him.



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### Mystery 2: The lighthouse keepers

- 1 In 1900, the only people living on the remote Scottish island of Eilean Mor were three lighthouse keepers.
- 2 A ship, carrying supplies to the island, arrived on Boxing Day (December 26th) but none of the lighthouse keepers was waiting for it on the dock.
- 3 The ship blew its horn and sent up a distress flare, but there was still no sign of them.
- 4 A replacement lighthouse keeper called John Moore was sent to the island to investigate.
- 5 As he climbed the rocky steps that led to the lighthouse, he was suddenly filled with dread.
- 6 As he neared the door, he saw it was unlocked. Stepping inside, he saw that two of the three waterproof jackets usually kept in the hall were missing.
- 7 Walking through to the kitchen, he found the remains of a meal, and a chair lying on the floor as if someone had left in a hurry. Additionally, the kitchen clock had stopped working.
- 8 The last log entry was dated December 12th and was written by lighthouse keeper Thomas Marshall. In it, he claimed that the lighthouse had been struck by the worst winds he had ever seen. It also said that the principal keeper, James Ducat, was very quiet and that the other keeper, an experienced sailor called William McArthur, had been crying.
- 9 The entry stated that the winds had raged for several days, and ended by revealing that all three keepers had begun praying for their lives.
- 10 Though the lighthouse was visible from the nearby island of Lewis, no storms were reported in the Eilean Mor area during the days noted in the diary.

### Possible explanation

This mystery has never been solved. One theory points out that although the lighthouse itself was visible from the island of Lewis, the island of Eilean Mor was shrouded in thick mist for several days. This meant that it was impossible for the people of Lewis to see that Eilean Mor was hit by a series of freak tropical cyclones, caused by a sudden and uncharacteristic rise in the sea temperature. The lighthouse keepers may have gone outside to do repairs and were blown into the sea.