LAST TRAIN TO BLACKTHORN

Spoilers - open only when finished

THE FINAL REPORT

Compartment 1: Evelyn. Compartment 2: Grace. Compartment 3: Hugh. Compartment 4: Felix. Evelyn is in the East Room at Ashcombe station. She missed the train because the footbridge back to the platform closed while she was off the train sending a telegram.

WHY THE COMPARTMENTS ARE UNIQUE

Felix is in 4 (B1). Evelyn is lower than Felix (A2), but not adjacent to him (B1), leaving 1 or 2. If Evelyn were in 2, Grace and Hugh would have to occupy 1 and 3, contradicting their immediately neighbouring positions (A2). Therefore Evelyn is in 1. Grace is immediately left of Hugh, so Grace is 2 and Hugh is 3.

WHY ASHCOMBE

Compartment 1 has a TRIANGLE slip (B2). TRIANGLE means Ashcombe (A3). B2 confirms the passenger left there; B3 explains Evelyn intended to return to the train.

THE TELEGRAM, REPAIRED

WAITING IN THE EAST ROOM. MISSED TRAIN. FOOTBRIDGE CLOSED. SAFE. EVELYN

WHY THE EAST ROOM

Reversing each word as instructed by A4 reveals EAST ROOM. A5 places that room across the footbridge from the platform, with no other route back. All four stations have this layout, so the compartment puzzle is needed to identify the station. The authenticated message (B4) confirms she missed the train; B5 confirms she remained in the named room after the train arrived.

OPTIONAL SCORE / 7

Award 1 point per correctly assigned passenger (4), 1 for Ashcombe, 1 for East Room, 1 for the closed footbridge causing the missed train. Accept equivalent wording. No hint penalties and no bonus for speed. You win together by explaining the case.

AFTER THE CASE

This sample introduces shared evidence and a simple deduction. It is not the proposed 60-90 minute full adventure. Tell JSM Digital Games how long it took, which clue was unclear, and whether both players contributed. Email: jsmdigitalgames@gmail.com. Feedback is optional.