

# 10 Eliminating the Impossible

Chapter 10 of the book delves into the meticulous operation led by White to infiltrate Osage County with undercover agents, each assuming a covert identity to penetrate the community and gather intelligence on the series of crimes plaguing the area. The operatives - a former sheriff posing as a cattleman from Texas, a garrulous ex-Texas Ranger, a past insurance salesman now operating in Fairfax, and Agent Wren appearing as an Indian medicine man - embed themselves within different sectors of the society to cast a wide net for clues. These characters meticulously maintain their covers, engaging with the locals, including the influential William Hale and unsuspecting Osage members, to unearth leads without arousing suspicion.

White's investigation hits a series of obstacles from the onset, with crucial records missing and tangible evidence from crime scenes either vanished or tampered with. The discovery of Anna Brown's skull, however, provides a grim but vital piece of evidence, revealing the likely caliber of the weapon used and raising suspicions about the alteration of the crime scene, possibly by insiders. White, guided by the principle of eliminating the impossible to uncover the truth, dives into corroborating alibis of suspects previously entangled in the web of deceit surrounding Anna's murder.

Agent Burger, previously embedded in the investigation, becomes a crucial ally, offering insights that help White sift through the maze of hearsay and dead ends. Their collaborative effort begins to shine a light on dubious alibis and potential suspects, including discrediting the allegations against Anna's ex-husband, Oda Brown, and scrutinizing the violent Rose Osage and her companion Joe Allen for inconsistencies in their stories.

In a strategic move to penetrate deeper into the conspiracy, Agent Burger secures the cooperation of Kelsie Morrison, a nefarious character with intimate connections within the suspect pool, by striking a deal to eliminate a warrant against Morrison in exchange for information. Despite the inherent risk of Morrison's potential unreliability or betrayal, detailed measures are taken to ensure his traceability, including the archaic Bertillonage technique and fingerprinting, underscoring the blend of early forensic science and raw detective work driving the investigation.

This chapter not only highlights the complexity of the Osage murder cases but also underlines the lengths to which the investigators are willing to go, employing both innovative and orthodox methods, to peel away the layers of corruption and deceit shielding the truth. The narrative steadily builds a vivid tableau of the intertwining lives within this fraught community, setting the stage for further revelations and the pursuit of justice.