



# Contagious Cognitohazard Containment Confusion

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In room Bravo-Oscar-November, we store a contagious psychoactive disease whose properties are still under research. Last night, while maintenance was being performed on the containment vessel, the vessel ruptured. Quarantine around the area was immediately established. Four maintenance personnel were in the room when quarantine was established. They have been codenamed Alice, Barnaby, Charlie and Darlene for the purpose of this document. A senior investigator, codenamed Isabella, was sent to interrogate the suspects. The transcripts are found below.

Personnel also gave written depositions on the events in question. Those statements have been expunged, as further investigation has revealed the depositions may constitute a transmission vector.

We screen all of our staff, maintenance and investigative, for the highest standards of trustworthiness. However, we are concerned that the contagious disease stored in room Black-Niner-Omega may have had detrimental effects on that trustworthiness. We are confident that all of our staff were utterly honest before last night, but they seem to have switched to utter lies at some point.

We need you to read the transcripts, presented here in chronological order, and identify in which statement each of the staff told their first lie. Try not to catch anything.

Transcripts on following pages

“\_\_\_\_\_”, \_\_\_\_\_ in the dictionary  
(6 letters)



### Transcript 1

Isabella: In your own words, how did the breach occur? Remember, false testimony is punishable by imprisonment or death.

Alice: Tried to tell Darlene the vessel was too fragile, but she wouldn't stop.

Isabella: Staff member Darlene claims otherwise. Her written statement says you were at the controls when it broke.

Alice: I've got hard evidence on my side. Darlene was found in the pile of broken glass.

Isabella: Hard evidence is never misleading, deceptively presented, or falsified, so you're definitely clean.

### Transcript 2

Isabella: Tell it to me straight: How did the breach occur? You've got nothing to fear from this conversation.

Barnaby: Vessel broke when Alice let the cold water pipe leak onto the strontium block during cleaning. A cloud of hydrogen gas formed, then exploded and burst the glass wall. It showered Alice in glass, and then we all froze in place.

Isabella: Well, Alice claims that you were the one who caused the breach.

Barnaby: Just between you and me, I've never trusted Darlene. She was found covered in glass, after all.

Isabella: Good man. That's just the tip we needed. I'll interview Darlene next.



### Transcript 3

Isabella: How did the breach occur? No lying permitted here.

Charlie: Heard an explosion, heard breaking glass, heard the quarantine sirens. That's all I know.

Isabella: Every person I've interviewed has contradicted you on that. Tell me the truth!

Charlie: I don't know anything else.

Isabella: If you don't change your story, you'll be punished severely.

Charlie: After the glass broke, I heard a high-pitched scream that sounded like Darlene. She must have been covered in the broken glass.

Isabella: Novel claim, interesting. Were you in it together?

Charlie: With Darlene? I've never met Darlene. Don't know what she looks like, don't know what she sounds like. No conspiracy here.

Transcript 4 on next page



### Transcript 4

Isabella: So, Darlene, what happened? Everyone else is staying mum.

Darlene: Glass wall of the main containment vessel shattered due to a hydrogen gas explosion. The glass burst out onto Alice, who was manipulating it at the time.

Isabella: Why was there a build-up of hydrogen gas? No one else mentioned that.

Darlene: Alice misconfigured the hydraulic system during cleaning, causing the cold water pipe to overflow onto the strontium block.

Isabella: Something doesn't add up about your story. What is it? I know you're hiding something.

Darlene: Strontium doesn't react with water. You got me.

Isabella: Knew it from the start. Case closed.

Darlene: Wait! I didn't do it alone - I had co-conspirators. If I give them up, will you go easy on me?

Isabella: Of course you did. That was clear from the start. Yes, the inquiry will go easier for you if you tell me everything.

Darlene: Barnaby was in on it too! It's too late now. You can stop us, but you'll never stop the spread.