

Writing Prompt:

You're writing a story involving a mysterious murder at a summer house on a remote island in a large lake. The only way onto the island is by boat. In the morning of the second day of their visit, the guests discover their host dead in the library (which has moose heads mounted on high walls and bookcases full of musty old leather books). They call the police. An inspector arrives by motorboat. He has them assemble in the library. The corpse is still slumped on a desk in the corner. He's quizzing each of them.

Everyone says their host was in the library by himself with the door locked when they went to bed. They broke the door down in the morning when he didn't answer.

The inspector is growing frustrated. There don't seem to be any clues.

"Wait, what's this?" someone says. On a table in the far corner of the room there is a partly open pocket knife. It's an old Barlow.

"Don't touch it!" the inspector says. "And no one's leaving here until the forensic team arrives to take charge of the scene!"

WRITE a short scene in which the pocket knife is used to move the plot ahead in an interesting, exciting, or surprising way.



The Barlow is a traditional knife pattern that was first produced in the 1700s in or around Sheffield, England. It has a long bolster, a tear drop shaped handle, and a clip point blade. ... Everyone who had a pocket knife in 1800s America probably owned a Barlow once in their life.

www.alloutdoor.com/2014/old-school-edc-history-barlow/