

You have entered the First Annual Warhammer 40k Tournament at your local store. It's your first real tourney, so you are very excited to learn more about gameplay and meet other players.

Unfortunately, an hour into the tournament the player favored to win has been found brutally murdered!

It will require all your logical skills to solve the case.

Follow the clues and fill out the puzzle to find out who did the deed, what weapon they used, where they killed him, and their motive.

The Suspects:

AL BEBACK

The player with encyclopedic knowledge of lore, who absolutely doesn't think he's the psychic reincarnation of the Emperor of Mankind. Don't be silly.

5'4" * Brown Eyes * Bald * Scorpio

MAX PROFITT

The organizer of the tournament. Doesn't play himself, just profits off the zealotry of nerds.

5'10" * Brown Eyes * Brown Hair * Capricorn

BARB DWYER

Avid Sisters of Battle cosplayer whose costumes always look a little too real, and who has the annoying habit of NEVER being out of character.

5'3" * Blue Eyes * Red Hair * Taurus

TYRA NIDD

Absolutely not a tyrannid in an ill-fitting human suit, what do you mean?

6'5" * Totally human body * Virgo

The Locations:

THE GAME ROOM

Indoors. Has multiple battle simulation areas set up, smells like sweaty nerds.

THE SNACK COUNTER

Indoors. Contains millions of calories in Cheetos and Funions, but not a single nutrient.

THE OUTDOOR SMOKING AREA

Outdoors. Five square feet of concrete populated by ten square feet of vapers.

THE AIRBRUSH STATION

Indoors. Has hundreds of paints to decorate your favorite figures, or to huff fumes.

The Weapons:

A POISONED ENERGY DRINK

Light weight, made of sugar and poison. If the poison doesn't kill you, the caffeine overdose will.

A HIGHLY DETAILED MINIATURE

Light weight, made of resin and paint. A realistically painted tyranid figure. Great for playing a round, or choking your enemies.

A COSPLAY EVISCERATOR

Heavy weight, made of metal and plastic. This is *supposed* to be a replica of a chain sword of the Sisters of Battle, but looks suspiciously real.

A COPY OF *THE CODEX OF SPACE MARINES, EIGHTH EDITION*

Medium weight, made of fabric and paper. Great for learning subfaction rules, lore, and art...and bludgeoning your enemies in the head.

The Motives:

TO AVOID A LOSS

REVENGE!!!!!!!

CAFFEINE FUELED NERD RAGE

CORRUPTED BY THE FORCES OF CHAOS

CLUE 1:

After investigating the area, you learn two important pieces of information.

An energy drink can was found in the smoking area, and there was an anonymous note left for you at your gaming station. The note is in code. It's a substitution cipher – simple to read if you have a decoder disk. (Hint: Since it's Christmas, the key on the disk is “the year of our lord”.)

kwz ljlozbnk hwp hdl wjyyvqx yjrzl wda czzq bpmnjokza cf bwdpl.

Somebody texted me this sequence of numbers. It looks like they were trying to type a word on a numeric phone keypad.

7 777 444 66 8 33 777

CLUE 2:

Al's clue:

Did you have anything to do with this AI?

The Emperor of Mankind is no murderer!
But, I did psychically divine that a Taurus
was in the Game Room!

Somebody just sent me this. What does it
mean?

6 444 222 777 666 9 2 888 33

CLUE 3:

Max's Clue:

How were you involved with the victim, Max?

I didn't do it, but he had a lot of enemies around here. I did overhear a really tall, really odd looking person in the smoking area say she couldn't stand losing to another human, whatever that means.

I just got this weird message? What gives?

sppt vq kwz ovdqp czqbw

CLUE 4:

Barb's Clue:

What do you know about what happened Barb?

All I know is that I saw a medium weight weapon by the airbrush station, right next to the guy who thinks he's psychic. Sounds cuckoo enough to off someone to me!

Why did someone just send me this?

333 777 444 3 4 33

Clue 5:

Tyra's Clue:

Tyra, where were you when it happened?

I was outside when that guy got murdered, totally being human. I did see a brown haired male holding a figure of a gorgeous tyrannid and muttering about revenge. That is WAY more suspicious than an ordinary tall human female, doing human female things!

I just received this unexpected communication from someone who is also undoubtedly a totally normal human.

sppt vq kwz cdlztk hvkw kwz hvqkzm wdkl

Final Clue:

Anything unusual about the body?

The body was found with Cheetos residue on his fingers.

Key (inner/outer): A/D

Clue 1:

The suspect who was huffing fumes had been corrupted by chaos.

Location: On the tree with instructions

Next clue: Printer - 777744466833777

Clue 2:

Location: on the printer

Next clue: Microwave

Clue 3:

Location: in the microwave

Next clue: "look in the piano bench"

Clue 4:

Location: Inside the piano bench

Next clue: Fridge

Clue 5:

Location: Inside the refrigerator

Next clue: "look in the basket with the winter hats"

Final clue:

Location: Basket of hats and gloves