

STOP

SOLUTION AHEAD

Do not continue until every detective has completed the accusation page.

CASE SOLUTION

Host / answer key begins on the next page.

What the Novel Confirms

The mystery is intentionally layered: the text confirms a central sabotage group, but it does not identify a single hand behind every stunt.

PRIMARY ANSWER

RACHEL + MR. LARSEN

The later narration says Rachel and her father were behind most of the trouble and had recruited friends to switch menus and carry out some of the other pranks.

**RACHEL****Primary participant**

Personal resentment; connected to Will; later confirmed in the hoax.

**MR. LARSEN****Primary participant + access**

Rachel's father; janitor; master-key access; hostile toward Andy.

**RECRUITED FRIENDS****Helpers**

Used to switch menus and perform some other pranks.

**WILL****Knew enough to cover**

Says Rachel told him she would be careful; not named as primary architect.

**PETER****Foreknowledge, not confirmed guilt**

Warns Courtney and says he did not participate.

**SARAH****Reporter, not confirmed conspirator**

Publishes staged evidence; later paper retracts the accusations.

ANSWER KEY

Incident-by-Incident

Use this chart to explain why some clues can be solved more confidently than others.

Chalk 'Worst / Wurst' mural

UNRESOLVED

The novel says Rachel and her father are not likely artists and the mural predates the breakup.

Operation Worst Wurst fire-drill prank

ANDY

Andy plans the swap against the rival cart. It is evidence of rivalry, not proof of the later hoax.

Valentine dance ingredient theft

SABOTAGE CHAIN; HAND NOT NAMED

The cart is raided while unattended. The later summary does not identify the specific person who moved the supplies.

Offensive menu switch

RACHEL / MR. LARSEN GROUP + FRIENDS

The final summary explicitly says recruited friends switched menus.

Bug in a drink

PART OF HOAX; HAND NOT NAMED

It occurs during the staged menu scandal, but the book does not identify the individual who planted it.

School newspaper accusations

SARAH WRITES; STAGED EVIDENCE DRIVES STORY

The editor publishes what she observes. The paper later retracts the allegations.

Mold + offensive menu in locked cart

STRONGLY SUPPORTS INSIDE ACCESS

Brother Oaks saw a clean menu that morning; master-key access makes later tampering possible.

Will's knowledge

FOREKNOWLEDGE / TOLERANCE

His 'she said she'd be careful' comment links him to knowledge of Rachel's actions.

THE BEST DETECTIVE ANSWER

Name Rachel and Mr. Larsen as the central saboteurs, explain the master-key opportunity, mention recruited friends, treat Will as someone with incriminating knowledge, clear Peter of confirmed participation, and leave the chalk mural open.