

Investigation Summary: Slip or Trip?

At five-foot-six, and a hundred and ten pounds, Queenie Volupides was a sight to behold, and to clasp. On the evening in question, her neighbors reported that she tore out of the house after a tiff with her husband, Arthur. She sped away in her Mustang convertible. Queenie stated that she went to their Country Club for a party that was going on to celebrate the opening of their new golfing range.

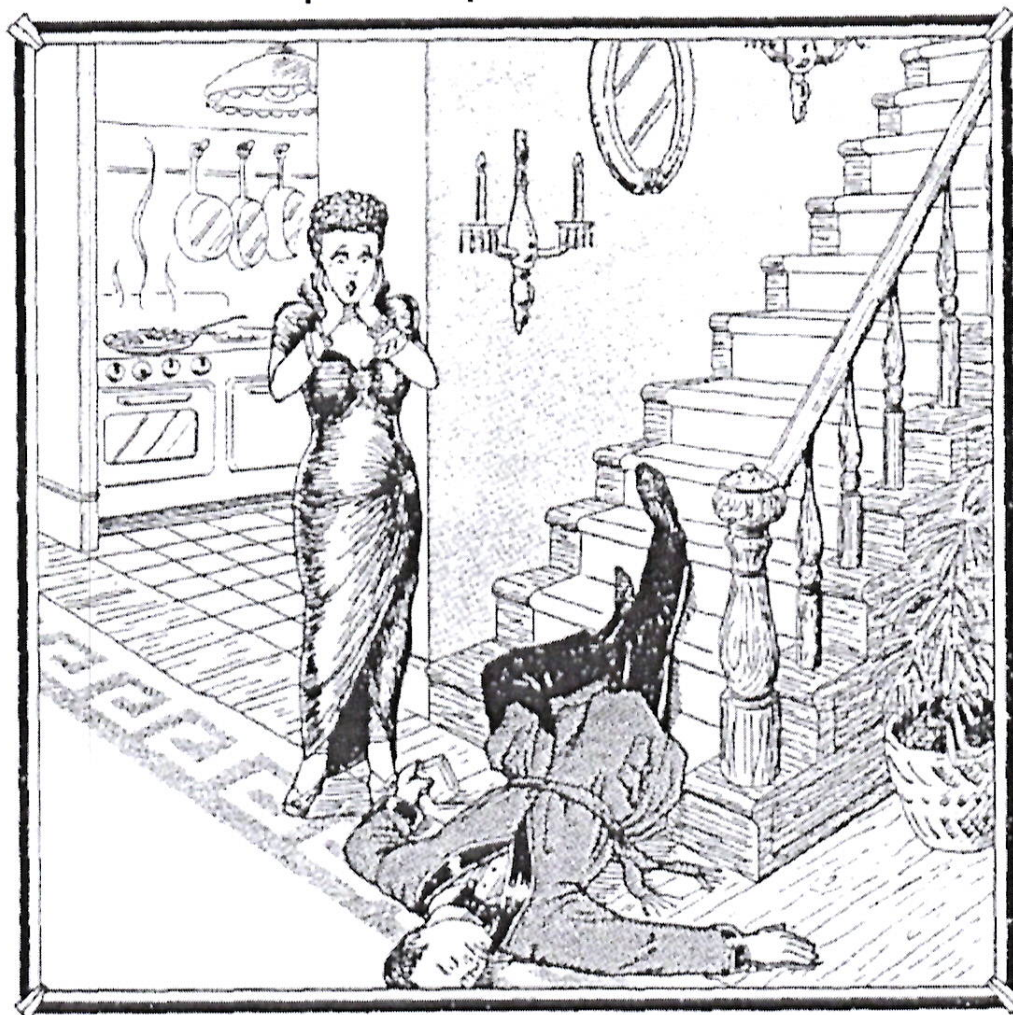
She left the club shortly before one in the morning and invited a few friends to follow her to her home. They planned to have one more cocktail before calling it a night. Queenie left the club shortly before the other guest, so she would be able to greet them at her house. The guests arrived at the Volupides' home, about ten minutes after Queenie. Queenie met them at the door and said, "Something terrible has happened! Arthur slipped and fell on the stairs. He was coming down for another drink—he still has his glass in his hand! I think he is dead! Oh my God, what do I do?"

The autopsy concluded that Arthur had died from a wound on the head, and the autopsy confirmed the fact that he had been drunk.

Your job is to decide if Queenie is telling the truth, or if she should be brought in as a suspect for further investigation into the death of her husband.

Adapted from Lawrence Treat. Crime and Puzzlement 2. Boston: David R. Godine, Publisher, 1982.

Slip or Trip? Accident or Crime?



At five-feet-six and a hundred and ten pounds, Queenie Volupides was a sight to behold and to clasp. When she tore out of the house after a tiff with her husband, Arthur, she went to the country club where there was a party going on.

She left the club shortly before one in the morning and invited a few friends to follow her home and have one more drink. They got to the Volupides house about ten minutes after Queenie, who met them at the door and said, "Something terrible happened. Arthur slipped and fell on the stairs. He was coming down for another drink—he still had the glass in his hand--- and I think he's dead. Oh, my God---what shall I do?"

The autopsy conducted later concluded that Arthur died from a wound on the head and confirmed that he'd been drunk.

Solve the Mystery Instructions: Slip or Trip

As an investigator, you must determine what may have happened at the scene of the crime! You will be given an investigation summary and a photo of the scene of the crime. You need to analyze all of the facts closely, interpret them and draw a conclusion based on those facts. You may agree with or disagree with the witness' testimony in your final report, but you need to justify why!

- 1. Based on the investigation summary, Write a Claim at the top of your sheet explaining if you think Queenie is telling the truth or not?**
- 2. Find all the evidence you can that indicates whether or not Queenie is telling the truth. Evidence includes concrete, observable information; personal testimony; written documents and material objects and their condition or appearance. Write these in the Evidence Column.**
- 3. Next, you will analyze the observable facts. You need to use common sense and rules of nature to explain the observations you wrote about in the Evidence column. You will write these explanations in the Rules column.**
- 4. Now, you will draw a conclusion. You will use the information you analyzed in the first two columns and you will draw a conclusion about each piece of evidence. You will write this in the Conclusion column.**
- 5. Finally, you will use all of the conclusions you created to help you finalize your Claim. You will write this at the bottom of the paper. It is here that you state if Queenie is lying or not.**

Solve The Mystery: Slip Or Trip?

Name _____

Hour _____

Initial Claim: I believe Queenie **IS** or **IS NOT** telling the truth. (Circle one)

Evidence (What?) What observations do you make based upon the scene or the investigation summary? Describe facts objectively.	Rule (So What?) Interpret the evidence. You may use your past experiences or understanding about rules of nature to help you interpret. You would start these notes with, "If a person...." Or "As a rule, somebody who..."	Conclusion (Now What?) Now you combine the evidence and the rule to draw a conclusion. You would start this conclusion like this, "After observing _____, and knowing that _____, I conclude _____."
Evidence 1		
Evidence 2		
Evidence 3		
Evidence 4		

Final Claim: Because of all of the evidence, rules and conclusions that I have analyzed, I believe That Queenie **IS** or **IS NOT** telling the truth. (Circle one)