
FULL SAIL / BRANCHING DIALOGUE

CYPRESS CREEK: THE CLOSED FILE

CASE FILE 07

A repaired pool reveals a cut wire and a brass key.
Can you persuade Sheriff Mara Velez to reopen the case?

INSIDE THE SAMPLE

01 THREE APPROACHES

Evidence · Trust · Pressure

02 SIX RESOLUTIONS

Each choice changes how Mara accepts the truth

03 SHARED NEXT STEP

All paths lead toward the market camera

One case, three routes

The player finds a severed alarm wire and a brass key in a repaired community-pool pump. Sheriff Mara Velez has already closed the case as mechanical failure. The player can appeal to evidence, trust, or pressure; each route offers two specific resolutions before reconverging on the next objective.

Opening choice	Second tier	Third tier
Show the key and wire	Evidence	Chain of custody / market camera
Share the burden of correcting the report	Trust	Co-sign the report / accept untidy truth
Challenge the accident finding	Pressure	Red clay link / challenge certainty

Structure: 11 passages; 3 first choices; 2 resolutions per route; 1 common continuation. All six outcomes reopen the case, but the reason and relationship differ.

Start

The repaired community-pool pump coughs its last mouthful of rust into a bucket. Inside the debris, you found a severed alarm wire and a brass key stamped C.C.W.A. Sheriff Mara Velez stands beneath the dead scoreboard, closure report open on her clipboard.

MARA: "The pump failed from age. I filed the cause, cleared the pool, and made a list of repairs. This case is closed."

CHOICE "The pump is fixed, Sheriff. Now look at what was jammed inside it." → Evidence Route

CHOICE "You closed this alone because the town needed certainty. It still needs the truth." → Trust Route

CHOICE "If your list says accident, explain who cut the alarm wire." → Pressure Route

Evidence route

Evidence Route

Mara studies the key without touching it. Her pen stops above item seventeen.

MARA: "That key belongs to the city water authority. Finding it proves access, not sabotage. Evidence without a chain of custody is a rumor wearing gloves."

CHOICE "Then bag it, log me as the finder, and let the evidence become evidence." → Evidence Resolution A

CHOICE "Check the camera at Bell's Market. It faces the service gate." → Evidence Resolution B

Evidence Resolution A

Mara opens an evidence envelope, dictates the time, and makes you repeat where your hands were when the key surfaced.

MARA: "Chain established. You are now Witness One, which is less glamorous than it sounds and twice as inconvenient."

She strikes "CLOSED" from the report.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened through proper evidence procedure. Mara accepts the player's help as a formal witness.

Evidence Resolution B

Mara checks her list. "Nearby cameras" is already item nine. Bell's Market is not.

MARA: "A camera, a time window, and a key. That is almost a case. Do not look pleased."

She circles item nine and writes REOPEN above it.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened because the player identifies corroborating evidence Mara overlooked.

Trust route

Trust Route

For the first time, Mara looks away from the report. The empty pool reflects both of you in broken strips of rainwater.

MARA: "Certainty keeps people calm. Reopening this means admitting I gave them the wrong answer. Order does not survive many apologies."

CHOICE "You do not have to carry the correction alone. Put my name beside yours." → Trust Resolution A

CHOICE "Order built on the wrong answer is only a cleaner kind of chaos." → Trust Resolution B

Trust Resolution A

Mara considers the blank line beneath her signature. At last, she hands you the pen.

MARA: "You get one line beside mine. If this turns into panic, you help me turn it back."

Together, you sign the amended report.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened as a shared investigation. Mara accepts partnership instead of carrying the problem alone.

Trust Resolution B

The line lands harder than you intended. Mara looks at the neat report, then at the hacked wire.

MARA: "Untidy truth. I dislike it already."

She tears off the closure page and begins a new list.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened when Mara recognizes that rigid order has concealed the real danger.

Pressure route

Pressure Route

Mara's jaw tightens. She adds "cut wire" beneath "pump failure," then draws a hard line between them.

MARA: "I explain facts, not theories. One damaged wire does not earn you a conspiracy. Give me a reason to risk the town's trust."

CHOICE "Because the same red clay is on the wire and the mayor's locked utility road." → Pressure Resolution A

CHOICE "Do not risk their trust for me. Risk your certainty for them." → Pressure Resolution B

Pressure Resolution A

Mara kneels beside the bucket. Red clay dries in the wire's split casing. Her expression changes before her voice does.

MARA: "The utility road was graded yesterday. Restricted access. Four authorized vehicles."

She flips to a clean page and numbers them.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened through a concrete link between the sabotage and a restricted location.

Pressure Resolution B

Silence stretches across the empty pool. Mara closes the clipboard, then opens it to the first page instead of the last.

MARA: "That was irritatingly precise. I am adding it to the list of reasons you are staying."

She crosses out her original conclusion.

RESOLUTION: The case is reopened when the player challenges Mara's rigidity without attacking her integrity.

The common continuation

Common Resolution

Mara seals the brass key in an evidence bag. Across Cypress Creek, the repaired pump feeds clean water back into the public lines.

MARA: "Next objective: Bell's Market. We retrieve the camera footage before anyone knows what we found."

The closure report disappears into her case. The new investigation begins.

The shared ending keeps the larger investigation moving. Route-specific choices establish what Mara trusts about the player before the next case beat at Bell's Market.

Source: Cypress_Creek_Branching_Dialogue 2.html, Twine-compatible passage archive and playable HTML. Passage wording is preserved; route labels and structure notes are editorial.