

# The Barbie Doll Murder

## AKA Pop Rocks & Beverages

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T. Tomm 2015 <http://sciencespot.net>

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**

**Case Briefing**  
*(Introduction)*

Mock Crime Scene: <http://www.mass.gov>

*A female victim was found on March 1, 2017 at in a wooded area near Dead End Road located west of Havana, IL, near the Spoon River. The victim was identified based on the ID in her purse and DNA testing as Barbie "Doll" Jones, 35. She was a waitress at a local restaurant. She was last seen on February 14, 2017 with friends at a concert. The three friends were Sam "the Man" Smith, Tony "the Tiger" Thomas, and Katy "Kitty" Brown. Her car was found one week prior to the discovery of the body at approximately 1 mile away from the scene with ½ tank of gas. Wounds on the victims body indicate there was a struggle (bruises and cuts on her face and arms), but no gunshot wounds were found. Cause of death was determined as blunt force trauma to the back of the head. Other evidence collected included insects from the body, several sets of tire tracks, cigarette butts, shoeprints, and blood samples from the rocks (large & small).*

**Project tips → Include who, what, where, when, and possible whys (motive)**

## Evidence Analysis – Part 1

### **Beverage Containers**

- Found several separate prints with only one matching the victim.
- The other prints were checked by AFIS and matches to the three friends that were seen with the victim at the concert were found

**Toxicology Screen on Victim** – No alcohol was found in her system

**Purse Contents** - Baggie contained Tylenol and cold medicine

**Ballistics** - Gun was recently fired, but the victim did not have any gunshot wounds. GSR tests were positive on the victim's hands.

**Gas Can** – Contained diesel gasoline; less than ½ gallon.

**Red substance on rocks (small & large)** – Identified as human blood; further testing needed

**Insect Evidence** – Insect evidence collected from the victim showed the PMI (postmortem interval - time since death) as 1 week. Some decomposition was evident on the exposed areas of the body.

### **Project tips**

- **Make a list of all the evidence you will have in your case.**
- **At least 5 pieces of evidence MUST BE physical evidence (tested)**
- **Split it into a few parts ranging from very broad to the most specific details.**
- List the broadest evidence in the first part.**

## Evidence Analysis – Part 2

**Ballistics** - Gun was registered to Sam “the Man”.

### **Blood Evidence**

**Large Rock** – DNA testing shows a match to Sam the Man

**Small Rock** – DNA testing shows a match to Barbie Doll

### **Shoe prints**

- One set of the shoeprints matched the brand, style, and size the victim was wearing.
- Another set of shoeprints was classified as a man's work boot in size 8, which is similar to those found at Sam the Man's house.
- The third set of shoeprints have not been identified.

**Tire Tracks** – Several sets of tracks were identified.

- One set was identified as the type used on an Arctic Cat ATV produced between 2001 and 2007.
- The other set of tire tracks was similar to the brand and style on Tony the Tiger's Duramax Diesel 4x4 truck. The detectives have not been able to locate the truck to do an actual comparison.

**Project tips** → **List the next set of evidence in the second part. This set should be more specific than the first part, but not give everything away!**

## Evidence Analysis – Part 3

### **Ballistics**

→ Gun was registered to Sam “the Man”, but fingerprints on the gun were matched to the victim and Katy “Kitty”.

### **Shoe prints**

→ The third set of shoeprints have been identified and matched to a set of women’s cowboy boots found in Kitty’s closet. She claims she gave those boots to Barbie and has no idea why they were in the closet.

### **Tire Tracks**

→ Tony the Tiger’s truck was found; the tracks at the scene DO NOT match the tires on his truck.

→ Tony told the police that Kitty’s father also has a Duramax 4x4 truck. The tire tracks at the scene were matches to those at the scene.

**Interview with Barbie’s boss at the restaurant ...** He told police that Barbie and Kitty have been friends for many years, but they recently had a big fight. He was not sure what the cause of the fight was, but said he figured it had to do with a guy.

**Project tips → List the last set of evidence in the third part. This set should be more specific than the other two parts and give ALMOST all the details.**

## The final report ...

- Kitty admitted to driving her father’s truck to the scene with all three of her friends one week after the concert for a bonfire and party.
- She was jealous that Barbie and Sam had become such close friends since she had been dating Sam for several months.
- Tony wanted to date Barbie and accused Sam of cheating on Kitty with her.
- Kitty confronted Barbie, which started a big cat fight.
- Kitty admitted to having her hands on Sam’s gun, but said that Barbie was the one who pulled it out of the truck and threatened her with it.
- Kitty tried to get the gun away from Barbie when it went off and shot Sam. He fell back on the rock.
- Tony hit Barbie on the back of the head with a rock to knock her out so Kitty could help him get Sam in the truck and head to the hospital.
- However, Sam died before they got there. They panicked and dumped him in the river.

**Project tips → This is the final section and should give any additional facts/details/evidence as well as the correct solution for the crime.**