

Box 12.1

A Logic Puzzle

Three associates named Jim, Tim, and Kim all were hanging out at the beach one fine summer's day. On that day, someone spray painted graffiti on the walls of the public beach house. Graphic analysis revealed that there was only one person who did all the spray painting. Each of the three associates was interrogated individually by Detective Brown.

When asked directly if he spray painted the beach house, Jim looked the detective straight in the eye and asserted calmly, "It wasn't me."

Tim was much more nervous in his interview and at first didn't answer when he was asked if he was the graffiti artist. Detective Brown got a little testy with Tim's nonresponsiveness and said, "Well, if you aren't going to answer my question, I'll just have to arrest you," whereupon Tim said meekly, "I didn't do it, but it *was* one of the three of us."

By this point, Detective Brown decided on an indirect approach for his interview with Kim. He told her what Jim and Tim had said and asked whether they had both told the truth. "Well," she said coyly, "I can tell you this: At least one of them did." And she batted her eyes flirtatiously.

As the case wore on, it became apparent that Jim and Kim were not both telling the truth.

Who spray painted the beach house?

(The solution is in Box 12.2 on page 335.)