

Fill in the gaps with one of the words below:

AS
EITHER
MUST

AWAY
EVEN
NONE

BADLY
HAVE
PASSING

BEEN
HER
SET

COOL
INDIGENOUS
STRANGELY

DESPITE
LACK
UNTOUCHED

EACH
LIKELY
WHILST

There is nothing like an unexplained mystery to capture the public imagination. We seem drawn to violent or supernatural causes, yet the real explanation is often far less dramatic. Here we explore two unusual incidents with obvious explanations.

THE FLANNAN ISLES LIGHTHOUSE

On 15th December 1900, a ship noticed that the lighthouse on Flannan Island, off the coast of Scotland, wasn't working. Bad weather made it impossible for a ship to reach the island before 26th December, when the Eilean Mòr docked to deliver supplies to the three men that were living there – Thomas Marshall, James Ducat and Donald MacArthur. the lighthouse was like a ghost town, with no one in sight and an uneaten meal on the table. Stranger still, the bad weather, one of the men had left his waterproof clothing behind, a chair had been knocked over and all of the clocks had stopped. An extensive search of the island was conducted but of the men was ever found.

Once the unusual events had been reported, the public immediately began to speculate about what had happened. 'Many believed that the men have been murdered. Others suggested they might have been eaten by a sea monster or could have been carried away by a ghost ship in the night.

Although the speculation continued for years, the most explanation is the terrible weather. As their bodies have never been found, 'the three men must have blown into the sea and drowned. Two of them may have been working outside when the other noticed a huge wave approaching. As quick as a flash, he must rushed outside to warn his friends, leaving his waterproofs behind and knocking over the chair. Some of the more unusual clues, such as the meal, are thought to have been made up as they certainly weren't included in the original report.

THE DYATLOV PASS INCIDENT

On 2nd February 1959, nine hikers out to climb Kholat Syakhl ('Mountain of the Dead') in Russia but never returned. Three weeks later, a search party found the group's damaged tent abandoned and half covered in snow. Footprints left by people who were barefoot or wearing little on their feet led rescuers to the edge of a forest where they found five bodies, with missing or ripped clothing. Although the hikers had sustained few external injuries, their skin had turned a strange shade of orange and investigators found high levels of radiation on their clothing. The other four bodies were found on 4th May, nearly 100 metres . Although better dressed than the first group, they had major injuries, including broken ribs and a fractured skull. Rescuers must have turned white as a sheet when they discovered that one of the female hikers was missing tongue.

Theories of what had happened soon began to circulate. 'Some thought the group might have been murdered by the Mansi people. Others suggested they had been attacked by wild animals or even a yeti. However, the hikers can't have been murdered or attacked by animals there were no signs of a fight. It is far more likely that the destruction of the tent and the second group's physical injuries were caused by an avalanche, the missing tongue was probably eaten by a wild animal. The first group's of clothing can be explained by something called 'paradoxical undressing' – a phenomenon in which people in the final stages of hypothermia start to feel incredibly hot and take off their clothes in an attempt to down. Their orange skin and the radiation levels on their clothing are thought to have been caused by overexposure to the sun.