

UNDO

WEAVING FATE ANEW

BLOOD IN THE GUTTER – DETAILED SOLUTION

Would you like to know more about the historical background and connections in UNDO – Blood in the Gutter? Below are details for all of your decision options for each of the Story cards in the case.

A REMINDER: WHAT TRULY HAPPENED

The deceased's name was Jacques and he was born in Poitiers, France. The sudden death of his father Henri forced him to take responsibility for his sister Marie. This intensified when their mother died at the beginning of the First World War.

His mother's admonition not to die insignificantly haunted him and he aspired to become a famous musician.

Fleeing from the war, the siblings arrived in New York. But his sister was always sickly and her health got even worse there. They decided to make a fresh start in the outskirts of Chicago.

There, Marie gave birth to a son named Henry. After the child's father left her, Jacques knew he had to take responsibility for his sister and nephew again. But fate was unkind, the child contracted whooping cough – an illness that had no cure in 1929.

With no money for a treatment, Jacques borrowed some money from organized crime. To repay his debt he was supposed to do some work for Al Capone. But his job went wrong and the crime boss demanded his money back with massive interest. To get it, Jacques had an acquaintance speculate in stocks for him - just a day before "Black Thursday", the terrible stock market crash.

Al Capone wasn't willing to accept further delay of repayment. He sent his men, who shot Jacques from the front and the back as he tried to flee through the back door of a bar.

DETAILS FOR ALL DECISION OPTIONS

1: Poitiers, France, February 11, 1909, late evening

- A:** Immediately consoling his sister would have increased Jacques' sense of responsibility making it more likely he would get involved with Al Capone and his gang in Chicago. (-1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. Jacques took on the responsibility of protecting his sister Marie from now on. (0)
- C:** If he had left the room in anger, Jacques would have been freed from his mother's request. As a result, he would have felt less pressure to be take this responsibility for the rest of his life. (+1)

2: Poitiers, France, June 15, 1912, in the evening

- A:** If Jacques had defended himself, he would have become more independent and more likely to pursue his dream of becoming a musician. (+1)
- B:** If Jacques had been stupid enough to help the other boys by keeping watch, he would have lost his way even sooner. (-1)
- C:** This is what actually happened. Jacques didn't defend himself and he didn't start off on the wrong track. (0)

3: La Rochelle, France, May 12, 1915, in the morning

- A:** If Jacques had gone alone first and then brought his sister over later, then the two of them would have had more time to better prepare for their life in America. And little Marie would have been more mature for the difficult restart without parents. (+1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. A sailor hid the two on board and they made it to New York. (0)
- C:** If the two had been discovered by a dock worker, they would have had to delay their journey (See A above) (+1)

4: New York, USA, September 23, 1917, in the evening

- A:** This is what actually happened. The two delayed the decision initially, and didn't move to Chicago until later. (0)
- B:** Jacques would have never met Al Capone and his gang if Marie had convinced him to stay and realize his dream as a musician in New York. (+1)
- C:** An immediate move to Chicago would likely have brought Jacques in contact with Al Capone and his gang even sooner. (-1)

5: On the Outskirts of Chicago, USA, October 12, 1929, 10:03 am

- A:** If Marie had taken her fate into her own hands, Jacques would have been released from responsibility. He wouldn't have had to borrow money from Al Capone's gang. (+2)
- B:** By selling moonshine, Jacques would have quickly run afoul of Al Capone and his gang as they controlled the illicit trade in alcohol during Prohibition. (-1)
- C:** This is what actually happened. Jacques took the teddy bear for his lucky charm, but apparently it only brought bad luck ... (0)

6: Chicago, USA, October 21, 1929, 05:17 am

- A:** Laughing at the gangster boss Al Capone would have been extremely dangerous and would have had immediate consequences ... (-2)
- B:** Without approval for more time, Jacques wouldn't have had a chance to get the money in a single day. His fate would have been sealed even faster. (-1)
- C:** This is what actually happened. Jacques asked for and was granted more time to get the money together. (0)

7: Chicago, USA, October 23, 1929, 11:52 am

- A:** If Jacques had put in all of his money in addition to the money borrowed from Al Capone, he would have lost everything. His ability to pay back the loan would have been even more hopeless. (-1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. Jacques gave Al Capone's money to his acquaintance, who then used the money to invest in the stock market. The next day, all of the money was lost in the big stock market crash of 1929. (0)
- C:** If he had refused to participate in his acquaintance's scheme, Jacques would have been able to repay Al Capone most of what he owed on the loan. Maybe that would have helped him gain another postponement. (+1)

8: Chicago, USA, October 24, 1929, 8:38 pm

- A:** This is what actually happened. Bill set off to collect the money from Jacques - or make an example out of him. (0)
- B:** If Bill had dropped out, Al Capone would have needed more time to hire another guy. That would have given Jacques more time. (+1)
- C:** Bill knew that Jacques had some gigs coming up soon. If Bill had asked for an extension for Jacques, Al Capone might have agreed to it. It was more important for Capone to get his money then to kill for spite. (+2)

9: On the Outskirts of Chicago, USA, October 25, 1929, 5:18 pm

- A:** If Jacques had gone to Al Capone, his henchmen would have grabbed him first and it is doubtful Jacques would have survived. (-1)
- B:** This is what actually happened. Marie was stunned and didn't know how to handle the situation. (0)
- C:** Al Capone knew that the stock market had crashed the day before and many people had lost all their money. If Marie had gone to him and been able to explain, he might have been more in favor of another delay in payment. (+1)

10: Chicago, USA, October 26, 1929, 7:30 pm

- A:** Al Capone's henchmen were told to kill the trumpeter. If Jacques had exchanged instruments with his colleague, then his colleague would have been killed instead of Jacques. Al Capone would have assumed they had killed the right man, which would have allowed Jacques to go into hiding. (+2)
- B:** This is what actually happened. Since Al Capone's henchmen were sent to kill the trumpeter and Jacques was playing the trumpet, fate would have taken its course. (0)
- C:** Staying out sick would have postponed the murder and given Jacques time to either escape or raise the money. (+1)

11: Chicago, USA, October 26, 1929, 9:25 pm

- A:** This is what actually happened. Since both entrances were covered by the henchmen, Jacques had no chance to escape. (0)
- B:** If Jacques had noticed Bill coming in from the front leaving his accomplice outside, he would have had a good chance of escaping through the unguarded back door. (+2)
- C:** If both henchmen were in the back, then Jacques might have managed to escape through the front door. However, it is likely Jacques wouldn't notice the henchmen's intrusion in time to escape. (+1)

CREDITS

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