The melted key

Three chapters and three editorial calls. Classify each observation and find the sentence that supports your reading.

Chapter 3 · The river

The only archive key hangs around Mara’s neck. The ferryman holds out a hand. Ever since the accident she has feared deep water. She steps back. The workshop lock clicks behind her. When she turns, nobody is there.

Chapter 11 · After the fire

All that remains of the key is a lump of brass. There is no spare. Over the following weeks Mara practises with a boatwoman, first at the jetty and then on short crossings.

Chapter 22 · The return

Her brother needs her on the opposite bank. Mara feels the ferry pitch and steps aboard. Later, at the archive, she slips the very same key from her neck. Not a scratch. The lock turns at the first try.

1. Mara opens the archive with the original key.

Contradiction / Character development / Open question

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2. Mara boards the ferry.

Contradiction / Character development / Open question

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3. The ferryman locked the workshop door.

Contradiction / Character development / Open question

Answer key

Mara opens the archive with the original key.

Chapter 11 melts the only key. Chapter 22 requires it to be intact. The author must choose which account to keep.

Mara boards the ferry.

Practice at the jetty and concern for her brother explain the crossing. Mara can board despite her fear.

The ferryman locked the workshop door.

Mara heard a click. The ferryman’s presence is no evidence of who locked the door.

For writing groups

Read the three scenes. In pairs, underline the evidence for each claim. Discuss what extra information would change your judgement. Reveal the answer key last.

An editorial exercise adapted from the public EPOS example. The answer key follows from the scenes and is not a measured product result.



The EPOS manuscript memory example

https://epos-ai.ch/en/manuscript-memory.html