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# FATAL ATTRACTION

## No Answers Inside The Digital Cold Case Unit

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Illustration: Saanvi Jain, AIS Noida, XII G




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**Incident report:** District 404
**The culprit:** Blue Tick Bandits
**Officer-in-command:** Sergeant Sarcastic
**Nature of offence:** Aggravated emotional assault (first degree)
**The weapon:** An iPhone 15 Pro with 'Read receipts' enabled.
**The damage:** Total loss of dignity; moderate-to-severe 'thumb-twitch' from refreshing the application every 45 seconds.

Attached below is a copy of some major aggravated assault cases - courtesy of the Blue Tick Criminals. Since the birth of texting in 1992 and the rise of technology in the 2010s, a new investigation has hit the Digital Cold Case Unit, leaving a large trail of heartbroken victims. In the last 34 years, over 4,799 incident reports have been counted, all with one complaint - being left on seen, with victims wondering where they went wrong. "The carnage is astonishing, the victims' reactions can be quite hilarious though," states Sergeant Sarcastic, the leading officer on the case. Most people think the blue tick is just a feature. In the hands of a professional, it's a weapon. A weapon that will slowly crumble all your self-esteem.

### The most wanted list

Psychologists at the Institute of Internet Insolence have identified the primary types of blue tick offenders that are currently on the bureau's most wanted list. These professionals aren't just your enemies; they can be your family too. Who knew your own blood could be so cruel?

**The unbothered dad:** An undisputed hoarder of emotional efficiency. Victim sends a 400-word paragraph detailing morality, love, and crisis. Suspect lets the message marinate for six hours, then hits back with a single thumbs-up emoji. Not a call. Not even an 'Ok'. Just a thumb of indifference, flattening all your confidence.

**The power-player:** An infamous weapon for the teenage bandits. Suspect leaves victim on read specifically to maintain a 1:4 ratio of 'Messages sent' vs 'Received', to maintain nonchalance. God forbid an individual is too mature and available!

**The notification ninja:** Most commonly best friends and siblings, they had swiped the notification away three days ago and now it feels 'too late to reply without it being weird'. So, they choose to let the conversation and connection die instead.

### The phantom bubble

A tactic straight from the dreams of a pessimist, involving handing the joy of a reply to the victim and then snatching it away at the speed of light! The Phantom Bubble is a grey typing bubble made up of unadulterated hope that strategically lures in its victims and then snaps away. Who is the mastermind behind it all?

Detectives are reporting a surge in cases linked to 'The Grey-Out', who is suspected to be the ringleader. Grey-Out is a sophisticated criminal with annoyingly advanced tactics: they simply toggle their read receipts off. Fifty-six reports of broken friendships and WhatsApp family group chat fights have already been filed.

### Advisory: Issued by DCCU

The Digital Cold Case Unit offers a set of emergency protocols for individuals currently trapped in the 'Seen' zone:

- If you see blue or grey, do not send a second text. It's a digital entrapment.
- Set your phone to 'Do Not Disturb', walk away, and pretend you have a packed social life involving meditation and wellness.
- If you stop caring about the Blue Tick Bandits, they cease to exist.

**CASE STATUS: Cold**

## In Spotlight

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