

# State of Aurelia v. Dee Gale

On September 3rd, 2025, a severe microburst struck the rural community of Eastwind Township, toppling several storage sheds belonging to the Eastwind Historical Collective, a small preservation group responsible for maintaining rare archival items.

One of the collapsed structures contained Evelyn Wick, a senior archivist for the Collective. She was pronounced dead at the scene due to blunt-force trauma from falling debris. Among the items she had been cataloging was an extremely valuable pair of early-20th century gemstone-studded shoes known as the Crimson Relics, appraised at over \$800,000 and protected under state cultural-property law.

According to witnesses, the Crimson Relics were seen on Wick's feet when responders first approached the collapsed shed. However, by 3:30 p.m., several bystanders reported the shoes were missing. At 3:41 p.m., community members stated they observed Dee Gale, a seventeen-year-old out-of-state visitor displaced by the storm surge, wearing the relics while standing beside the damaged structure.

Gale insisted she never touched Wick's body and had "no idea" how the shoes got onto her feet. She also claimed she had been trying to find a way out of town to reach her relatives after losing contact during the storm.

Later that afternoon, Weston Wick, the victim's brother, confronted Gale and demanded she remove the relics and return them. Gale responded that she was "just trying to leave" and "didn't mean to cause problems."

The Aurelia Bureau of Property Crimes (ABPC) opened an investigation on September 4th. On September 5th, citing conflicting statements, witness accounts placing Gale alone near Wick's body, and Gale's alleged desire to quickly leave the area, ABPC arrested her for grand larceny.

The State argues Gale had motive, opportunity, and intent: that she stole the relics during the chaos in order to use or sell them for transportation expenses. The Defense maintains Gale never stole the shoes, that her possession resulted from confusion, misinterpretation, or even misplaced evidence handling by first responders, and that investigators ignored inconsistencies in witness testimony.

**Gale now stands trial. She pleads Not Guilty.**

## **Prosecution Witness 1: Lina Northwood**

“My name is Lina Northwood, community emergency coordinator for Eastwind Township. When I arrived after the microburst, conditions were chaotic debris everywhere, dust still in the air. From where I stood, about ten feet away, I saw what looked like the Crimson Relics on Ms. Wick’s feet before responders pulled us back.

About fifteen minutes later, I saw Gale wearing the relics near the collapsed shed. She told me she didn’t know how she got them, which seemed strange. She appeared anxious and kept saying she needed to leave town.

I never saw Gale physically remove the shoes, but her possession of them so soon after they disappeared raised red flags for me.”

## **Prosecution Witness 2: Agent Walter West**

“I’m Agent Walter West, ABPC. Our investigation relied on twelve witness interviews and drone footage from after the collapse. Several witnesses placed Gale near the debris around the time the relics went missing. The drone video shows her bending down close to the victim’s location, though it does not clearly show what she was doing.

Gale changed some details in her statements about what she saw, which made me suspicious. Combined with her immediate possession of the relics and stated desire to leave town, we believed theft was the most likely explanation.

I’ll admit we prioritized witnesses whose accounts aligned with that timeline, given the urgency of the scene.”

## **Defense Witness 1: Rowan Tinley**

“My name is Rowan Tinley. I met Gale shortly after the storm. She seemed shaken and asked me where to find evacuation transportation. She told me she didn’t take the relics and was confused about why she had them.

To me, she didn’t seem capable of stealing anything. I’ve never believed outsiders get a fair shake in this town, so when I heard she’d been accused, I was skeptical right away.

I didn’t witness the moment the relics went missing, but I did see Gale trying to remove them later.”

## **Defense Witness 2: Dr. Elmara Crow**

“I’m Dr. Elmara Crow, forensic analyst for the Public Defender’s Office. I reviewed the ABPC reports, photographs, and the drone footage provided to us. There were no fingerprints linking Gale to the relics, and several witness accounts conflicted on when the shoes went missing.

Regarding the drone footage, the copy I reviewed is low resolution. From what I can see, it does not clearly show Gale removing anything from the body. Given the quality, I don’t find it reliable enough to draw conclusions.

I should note I did not have access to the original, uncompressed footage only the version included in the file.”

## Exhibit 1

