



The Essential Case File : Character Profiles Molly Hardy

NAME : MOLLY HARDY
AGE : 13
NATIONALITY : AMERICAN

When Molly Hardy started at Sussex Academy, she set out to make the place her domain. Starting at the top – with Ms Stratmann, the head – she offered to tidy her office once a week. In this way, she gained access to invaluable information about everyone in the school – and she now uses it to her own advantage.

A straight-A student, most of the other teachers also fell under Molly's spell. And as for the other kids : they're either thrilled to be in her clique, or devastated by their exclusion.

There's only one flaw in Molly's plan, and her name is Shirley Holmes. Shirley challenges Molly just by existing. She doesn't care about peer pressure and, though her marks are good, she pays little attention to them.

So Molly has become Shirley's nemesis, as Moriarty was to Sherlock Holmes. She is as brilliant as Shirley, and as driven – but by selfishness rather than passion. Molly sees Shirley as a challenge, a competitor – even a foe.

It's a shame that two such brilliant brains can't work together, but Molly seems determined to get Shirley into nothing but trouble. She watches her like a hawk and tries to thwart her, get her into trouble, or even solve a mystery before Shirley can.

And that's why Shirley beats Molly, because with selfishness comes narrow-mindedness. Shirley admires Molly's mind, but she doesn't respect her. Sometimes she barely notices Molly's existence; something guaranteed to make Molly retaliate

