THE DARK ARTS OF INVESTING

The Grimoire

FREE MODULE 1 — the foundation the whole method is built on. How to read a candle so you never see a chart the same way again.

Reading the Dark Arts — the applied method, taught from 120 real trades.

Free Sample · 2026 · from the makers of **The Refutation**

Reading the Dark Arts

Why this book exists

Almost every trading course you've ever seen is built on survivorship theatre: a stranger shows you a handful of winning screenshots, hides everything that lost, and sells you the feeling that they've got it figured out. This book is the opposite bet.

Everything in *The Grimoire* is taught from **my own real, dated trades** — the wins and the losses, with the lesson each one actually taught me written right on the chart. When I got chopped up because my stop was a hair too tight, that chart is in here. When I sold too early, held too long, or longed a downtrend into resistance because I was impatient, those are in here too. The losing trades aren't an embarrassing footnote; they're half the education. Reading a chart well is mostly about knowing when *not* to act, and you can only learn that from someone willing to show you the times they acted anyway.

So this isn't a book of secret signals. It's a book about how to **see** — how to read the fight between buyers and sellers on a chart, build a repeatable process around what you see, and manage risk so that being wrong (which you will be, often) costs you a little instead of a lot.

How to use this book

- **Read Module 1 first, even if you're experienced.** Everything downstream — divergence, order blocks, market structure — is just a specific application of the candle-reading grammar in Module 1.
- **Work through it in order.** The modules are a staircase: vocabulary → the momentum engine → the institutional layer → context → the entry playbook → risk → psychology → full trade autopsies.
- **Study the charts, don't skim them.** Each one is a real decision. Before you read my annotation, try to describe what the chart is telling you. That habit *is* the skill.
- **Do the exercises.** They're short and they're where reading turns into ability.
- **Come back to it.** This is a reference, not a novel. The entry playbook in Module 7 and the risk framework in Module 8 are meant to be re-read before you trade.

Important — please read this

This book is educational material about technical analysis. It is not financial advice.

Nothing in *The Grimoire* is a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any asset, and nothing here is tailored to your personal circumstances, goals, or risk tolerance. I am not your financial adviser, and reading this book does not create any advisory relationship. Every chart is a past example used to teach a concept — past performance and historical examples are **not** indicative of future results.

Trading and investing carry a **real and serious risk of loss**, and leveraged trading can cost you more than your initial capital. Markets are uncertain; no pattern, indicator, or method described here works every time, and any of them can fail. You are solely responsible for your own decisions and their outcomes. Before acting on anything you read here, consider seeking advice from a licensed professional who knows your situation, and never risk money you cannot afford to lose.

By reading on, you accept that you do so at your own risk.

About the corpus

The teaching examples in this book are drawn from a library of **120 annotated trades** taken across several years and market regimes — a real, personal record kept for exactly this purpose. They lean heavily toward crypto, because that's where I trade, but the foundations, patterns, risk framework, and psychology apply to any liquid market. Where a chart shows a mistake, it's labelled as one. That honesty is the whole point.

Module 1 — Foundations: How to Actually Read a Candle

> *The free module. If you only ever read one lesson, read this one — everything else in the course is built on it. By the end you'll never look at a candle as "green = up, red = down" again.*

Most people look at a candlestick chart and see a wall of coloured bars. Traders see a running record of a fight — who's winning, by how much, and whether the winner is starting to tire. This module teaches you to read that fight. It's not glamorous and it's not ICT order-block content. It's the grammar. Skip it and the rest of the course is a foreign language.

1.1 Anatomy of a candle — the body is the margin of victory

Every candle encodes four prices for its time period: **Open, High, Low, Close**.

- **Real body** — the rectangle between Open and Close. This is the most important part of the candle.
- **Upper shadow (wick)** — the thin line from the body up to the High.
- **Lower shadow (wick)** — the thin line from the body down to the Low.
- **Range** — High minus Low. The full distance price travelled.

A **bullish** candle closes above its open (usually green). A **bearish** candle closes below its open (usually red). But the colour is the least interesting thing about it. The **size of the body is the margin of victory**:

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT IT MEANS
Large green body	Bulls dominated the entire period
Large red body	Bears dominated the entire period
Small body (either colour)	Neither side in control — indecision

And the shadows tell you about **rejected prices** — places price went but couldn't stay:

- **High – Close = selling pressure.** A long upper shadow means bears pushed price back off the high.
- **Close – Low = buying pressure.** A long lower shadow means bulls defended and bought the dip back up.

> ***Read it like this:*** *a candle with a small body and a long lower wick isn't "slightly up." It's "someone tried to sell this hard, and buyers slapped it right back." That's information.*

The Marubozu — maximum conviction

A **Marubozu** is a candle with no (or almost no) shadows — price opened at one extreme and closed at the other.

- **Bullish Marubozu** — opens at the low, closes at the high. Total bull conviction; bears had zero control.
- **Bearish Marubozu** — opens at the high, closes at the low. Total bear conviction.

When you see one at a key level, pay attention — it's the market shouting.

1.2 Why the close is the only price that really matters

Here's the single most useful idea in this module: **the close summarises the whole session.** Highs and lows are where price *visited*; the close is where it *committed*.

- Close near the high → bulls won the period.
- Close near the low → bears won the period.
- Close near the middle → nobody won; it's a coin-flip bar.

This is why every real signal in trading is confirmed **on a close**, never intrabar. A wick through a level is a rumour. A *close* through the level is the news.

And there's a subtlety that trips up beginners. To judge whether a period was truly bullish or bearish, compare the close to **yesterday's close**, not to today's open:

> *A coin gaps up $5, then sells off and closes $3 below its open. Beginner says "bearish candle." But it still closed* ***$2 above yesterday's close*** *— anyone holding it overnight made money. It was a net up period. The close-to-close change is the truth; the open is just where today's auction started.*

You'll use this constantly in Module 4 (divergence) and Module 5 (market structure), where every "higher high" or "lower low" that matters is measured on closes.

1.3 Range is the market's personality

Range = High – Low. It tells you how much the market *cared* during that period.

- **Small range** — orderly, low-energy, usually an unimportant bar. Often the coil before a move (Module 3).
- **Large range** — a very important bar. Something happened. Read it closely.
- **Large range, erratic direction (big wicks both sides)** — high volatility and uncertainty. Dangerous.

Before you ever take a trade off a candle, ask the two questions that separate traders from gamblers:

1. **Is the range large enough to profit from after fees, spread and slippage?** A gorgeous setup on a tiny range is a losing trade once costs are paid. (This exact fee-wall maths is why so many "scalp" strategies are dead on arrival — a theme you'll see me hammer throughout the course.)
2. **Is the range so large and violent it'll take out any sensible stop before the move plays out?** Sometimes the right read is right and the *sizing* is what kills you. That's Module 8.

1.4 Trends, defined mechanically (no vibes)

"The trend is your friend" is useless until you can define a trend without squinting. Here it is, with no room for interpretation:

- **Uptrend** = a series of **Higher Highs and Higher Lows**.
- **Downtrend** = a series of **Lower Highs and Lower Lows**.

That's it. Structure, not feeling. And the trend is intact until it *mechanically* breaks:

- **End of an uptrend** — a bar that puts in a **Lower High *and* a Lower Low** after the uptrend, and it must be a *drastic* break from the prior rhythm, not a single soft pullback.
- **End of a downtrend** — a bar that puts in a **Higher High *and* a Higher Low** after the downtrend.

This mechanical definition is the seed of **market-structure shift / BOS** in Module 5 — the ICT crowd gave it fancier names, but it's the same idea you're learning right here. When someone says "structure shifted bullish," they mean: the downtrend's lower-lows stopped and price made a higher high on a close.

> ***Why this matters more than any pattern:*** *every reversal pattern in Module 2 (head & shoulders, double bottoms) is really just a specific shape of higher-highs-turning-to-lower-highs.*

> *Learn the mechanics here and the named patterns become obvious later instead of memorised.*

1.5 A single candle confirms a level — it doesn't make a trade

One candle is almost never a trade on its own. Its job is to **confirm** something you already mapped: a support, a resistance, a trendline, a moving average, an order block. Use it as the trigger, not the thesis.

- Large bullish candle **at support** → buyers are defending. Confirmation.
- Large bearish candle **at resistance** → sellers are defending. Confirmation.
- Large bullish candle **closing above resistance** → breakout confirmed.
- Large bearish candle **closing below support** → breakdown confirmed.

One more trick you'll reuse forever: **the open of a large candle becomes a future level.** The open of a big bullish candle tends to act as future support; the open of a big bearish candle as future resistance. Mark them.

And always let **volume** vote. A confirming candle on rising volume is worth far more than the same candle on thin volume — thin volume means the rest of the market didn't show up, which is the whole tell behind "common gaps" and dead-cat bounces you'll meet in Module 5.

Your first read (exercise)

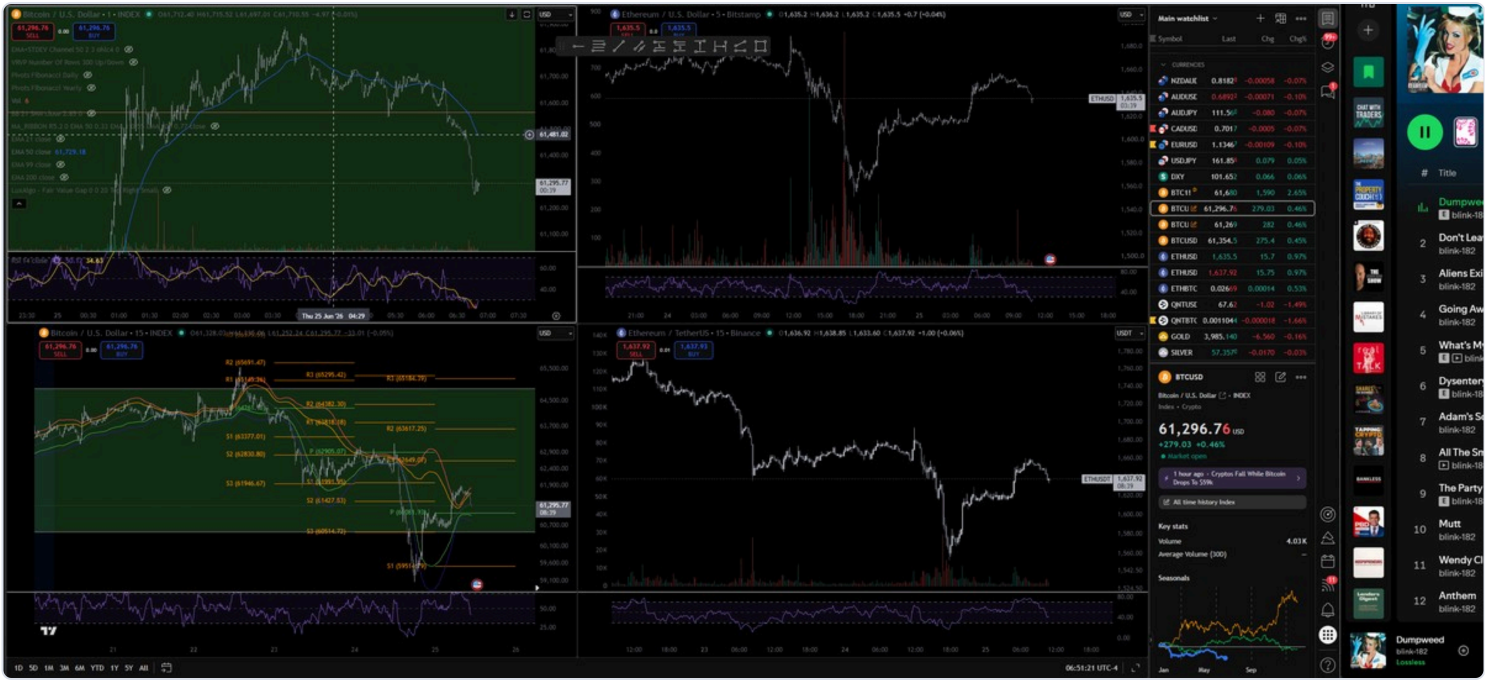
Open `MVP_Jun23_4h chart.png` from the chart pack. Before reading any annotation, answer, for the three

— — MVP · Jun23 · 4h chart

biggest candles on the screen:

1. Where did each **close** relative to its range — top, middle, or bottom? Who won that period?
2. Is the sequence of highs and lows making an **uptrend or downtrend** by the mechanical definition?
3. Find one candle with a **long rejection wick at a level.** What was it telling you?

Then do the same on `Jun26_$BTC_ClaudeCode first use.png`. You're not predicting anything yet — you're



BTC — $BTC · ClaudeCode first use

learning to *describe* the fight accurately. Every edge in this course is built on describing it correctly first.

Module 1 recap

- The **body** is the margin of victory; the **shadows** are rejected prices (buying/selling pressure).
- The **close** is the only price that commits — confirm everything on closes, and measure trend close-to-close.
- **Range** is how much the market cared — and whether a trade clears fees and survives your stop.
- A **trend** is mechanical: HH+HL up, LH+LL down; it breaks only on a drastic structure change.
- A single candle **confirms a level**; it is never the thesis by itself.

Next: Module 2 turns these mechanics into the named pattern vocabulary — and shows you which patterns actually earn a trade and which are noise.

What's inside the full Grimoire

Module 1 is the grammar. The paid book turns it into a repeatable method — nine more modules, all taught from real, dated trades (the winners *and* the losers), plus the complete 120-chart pack and pattern reference.

- **01 Foundations — how to actually read a candle** —Body = margin of victory, close is king, trends defined mechanically. (This free module.)
- **02 The classical pattern vocabulary** —Reversal, continuation, ranging, gaps — and the reliability tier list.
- **03 Candlestick entry signals & volatility coils**—Engulfings, stars, dojis, NR4/NR7 and the squeeze.
- **04 Momentum & RSI divergence — the core engine** —Regular, hidden, and the multi-drive divergence I trade most.
- **05 The institutional layer (ICT, applied)** —Liquidity sweeps, order blocks, market-structure shift, fair value gaps.
- **06 Multi-timeframe & macro context** —BTC leads alts; dominance charts for timing tops and bottoms.
- **07 The entry playbook**—The full checklist from context to filled order, on one masterclass chart.
- **08 Risk management**—ATR stops, sizing, the intermediate-trend check — where accounts are saved.
- **09 Trader psychology** —'Too early is the same as being wrong,' and the discipline behind the mechanics.
- **10 Trade autopsies (capstone)** —The whole method run on real, dated wins and losses, start to finish.

Get the full Grimoire

~~$399~~ **$299**

One-time · instant PDF · lifetime updates · founding price

Read Module 1 free, then unlock the rest →