

Murder at the Library Book Sale

The First 4 Chapters Free: Read the Mystery and
Solve 4 Large Print Word Searches, with Solutions



L I B R A R Y



FunWords

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Every puzzle was created and checked with our own software.

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How to play



Read each chapter, then solve the word search on the facing page. Every word in it comes from the chapter you have just read. Words run across from left to right, down from top to bottom, or diagonally, always reading from left to right; no word is ever written backwards. Circle each word you find and tick it off the list. Spaces in a name are left out in the grid.



Every puzzle also hides a clue. Once you have circled every word, read the letters you did not use from the top-left corner, row by row: the first ones spell a short clue about the case. The line under each word list says how many letters and words to look for; the letters after the clue are only filler.



Keep track of suspects and clues on the case-notes page, and name the culprit before you read the final chapters. All solutions are at the back of the book.

P	G	Q	S	V	T	H	E	F
L	M	O	I	G	O	E	I	R
Q	I	D	M	T	A	R	Z	D
O	H	B	U	R	L	O	C	R
Z	S	N	R	D	O	O	A	R
B	N	A	H	A	T	W	V	E
M	I	P	T	R	R	K	O	S
E	O	H	I	E	F	Y	B	O
J	C	P	C	I	W	H	I	S

Who's Who at the Library

During sale week at the Pine Street Library, these people are setting up the Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Margaret "Maggie" Quill

Retired librarian who volunteers at the Pine Street Library

Grace Holloway

The library director, brisk and devoted to her budget

Howard Greer

Wealthy book collector and treasurer of the Friends

Simon Lark

Charming antiquarian who prices the rare donations

Pete Dunbar

The library custodian, who has keys to everything

Ivy Greer

Howard's niece, a third-grade teacher across town

Professor Arthur Bell

Retired English professor and rival book collector

June Okafor

Cheerful head of the Friends, who runs the Book Sale

Dewey

The library's large gray cat, a famous pencil thief

Your Case Notes

Jot down who had a reason, the means and the chance, and every clue you uncover.

Suspect	Motive	Means	Chance
Professor Arthur Bell			
Pete Dunbar			
Ivy Greer			
Grace Holloway			
Simon Lark			
June Okafor			

Clues so far

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My Puzzle Tracker

Check off a box each time you finish a puzzle.

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---



On Wednesday morning of sale week, Maggie Quill climbed the worn granite steps of the Pine Street Library with her knitting bag on her arm and a feeling of coming home. She had worked behind its oak desk for thirty-one years, and since she retired she had volunteered there every week. She was seventy-two, she did the crossword in ink, and she still noticed small things, such as the fact that someone had shelved a cookbook among the poetry.

The library was an old brick Carnegie building with tall arched windows and a smell of floor wax, paper and radiator dust that Maggie loved better than any perfume. The main reading room had long oak tables, green lamps and a high ceiling painted with faded stars.

On the warmest radiator lay an enormous gray cat. "Good morning, Dewey," said Maggie. Dewey opened one yellow eye, decided she had no food, and closed it again. He was the library's cat, as large as a loaf of bread, and he was famous for stealing pencils. Nobody knew where he kept them.

"Maggie! Thank goodness." June Okafor came hurrying down the aisle with a clipboard and three pens stuck in her hair. She was forty, cheerful and unstoppable, the head of the Friends of the Library, and this week she was running the annual Book Sale. "Four thousand donated books and three days to price them. The sale's on Saturday, setup is Friday, and I've lost my stapler twice already."

"Then let's find it," said Maggie, "and then let's find the books."

They found the stapler under Dewey. June laughed, kissed Maggie's cheek and led her toward the stairs to the basement, where the boxes waited. Maggie paused to look around the dear old room once more. It was going to be, she thought, a busy week.



T	S	H	E	C	C	A	R	N	E	G	I	E	L	I
B	T	R	A	R	E	Y	C	A	T	L	R	I	K	E
S	A	T	O	S	T	I	E	A	L	W	A	E	O	L
Q	P	D	F	O	A	E	L	J	I	N	D	E	T	H
N	L	K	D	T	T	E	O	I	A	O	I	O	N	T
H	E	P	E	R	F	U	M	E	N	O	A	E	P	I
C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	A	G	T	Z	T	I
C	E	H	I	Y	R	I	Y	T	G	E	O	O	P	G
P	O	H	B	A	S	E	M	E	N	T	R	E	N	Y
E	P	O	C	L	I	P	B	O	A	R	D	I	H	S
N	O	D	K	S	S	W	K	I	I	H	T	L	E	R
C	S	L	E	B	P	L	I	A	K	T	R	E	R	G
I	L	O	W	W	O	S	R	W	I	N	D	O	W	S
L	S	N	H	Y	E	O	D	N	P	O	E	T	R	Y
S	O	J	A	U	E	Y	K	E	O	G	E	D	E	S

- ☐ Basement
- ☐ Carnegie
- ☐ Ceiling
- ☐ Clipboard
- ☐ Cookbook

- ☐ Crossword
- ☐ Dewey
- ☐ Knitting
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Perfume

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Radiator
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ Windows

Case clue: the first 25 unused letters, read row by row, spell 6 words.



After lunch Grace Holloway, the library director, came to fetch Maggie. "Come up and see our star," she said. Grace was fifty-five, brisk and devoted, with silver earrings and a gray pencil skirt, and she walked as if the library might fall down if she slowed.

At the far end of the reading room, a narrow iron spiral staircase corkscrewed up to the rare book loft. At its foot stood a wooden lectern with a large ledger open on it. "The loft register," said Grace. "Anyone who goes up signs in, name and time. Library rule, forty years old. Even I sign."

Maggie signed, and they climbed. The iron steps turned so tightly that Maggie kept one hand on the cold rail. "Watch the top step," said Grace. "It's narrower than the rest."

The loft was a small gallery under the roof, with glass cases along the walls, a reading table, a wooden book cart and one round window looking down on the parking lot behind the library. It was dim until Grace reached for a brass light switch on the wall at the top of the stairs.

"That's the only switch for the loft," said Grace. "Up here, at the top. The little lamp at the bottom of the stairs is supposed to light the steps, but the bulb burned out on Monday and Pete hasn't replaced it yet. So you turn the loft light on when you arrive, and you leave it on until you're safely down, or you're climbing in the dark."

In the center case, on a velvet stand, lay a small book in faded green cloth. "Little Women," said Grace softly. "First edition, 1868. Donated by an old family in Falmouth. On Saturday evening we auction it, and the money pays for a new children's room." Maggie thought it a lovely idea.

Puzzle 2

The Spiral Stairs



S	I	F	A	L	M	O	U	T	H	G	N	T	H	E
B	V	O	O	P	K	B	G	A	L	L	E	R	Y	E
F	E	O	R	E	A	Y	O	U	C	L	I	L	M	B
T	L	E	R	E	H	R	A	E	W	N	D	E	E	E
L	V	O	Z	M	L	S	K	H	E	V	N	C	U	Y
B	E	T	S	D	I	E	K	I	E	Q	I	T	F	E
U	T	N	T	N	G	O	D	V	N	V	G	E	V	L
L	L	T	J	W	H	R	S	G	D	G	U	R	U	T
B	T	C	S	E	T	W	E	Y	E	N	L	N	E	X
H	T	R	A	N	S	O	E	G	L	R	J	O	I	S
D	Y	E	C	L	W	S	S	K	I	R	T	S	T	L
H	E	A	R	R	I	N	G	S	S	S	E	T	E	T
R	A	I	L	H	T	J	D	A	H	O	T	O	W	I
D	H	W	A	U	C	T	I	O	N	T	N	E	H	O
S	T	E	S	E	H	O	B	O	O	K	C	A	R	T

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Auction | ☐ Gallery | ☐ Rail |
| ☐ Book Cart | ☐ Lectern | ☐ Register |
| ☐ Bulb | ☐ Ledger | ☐ Skirt |
| ☐ Earrings | ☐ Light Switch | ☐ Velvet |
| ☐ Falmouth | ☐ Parking Lot | |

Case clue: the first 25 unused letters, read row by row, spell 6 words.



The Friends' Room was in the basement, a long low room with pipes along the ceiling and tables piled with boxes of donated books. At the end table, under a bright lamp, sat Simon Lark.

He was forty-six, slim and neat, with a trim brown beard, a corduroy jacket the color of toffee, and a soft pencil tucked behind one ear. He owned a small antiquarian bookshop down in the Old Port, and every year he gave the Friends a week of his time to price the rare donations. Maggie had always liked him. He was charming in the way of men who know a great deal and are polite enough to hide it.

"Mrs. Quill. The best eyes in Portland." He stood and bowed, and Maggie saw that he was wearing white cotton archive gloves. "Forgive the gloves. Old paper hates fingers. Salt, oil, sweat." He held up a book of sermons from 1820. "Worth eleven dollars. Don't tell the reverend's grandchildren."

There was a cardboard box of fresh archive gloves at the end of the table, for any volunteer who handled the older books, but Simon's own pair was soft and well worn, a little gray at the fingertips.

"Did you price the Little Women too?" asked Maggie.

"When it came in," said Simon. "A beauty. The auction should do very well." He took the pencil from behind his ear, wrote something tiny inside the back cover of the sermons, and tucked it away again in one smooth movement, like a conjurer. "There. Priced, recorded, and ready for its new owner."

June looked up from her boxes. "Simon's a marvel," she said. "Without him we'd sell a Shakespeare folio for a dollar and keep the phone books."

"I'd catch it," said Simon, and smiled. "I always catch it."

Puzzle 3**The Bookseller**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Beard | ☐ Fingertips | ☐ Reverend |
| ☐ Bookshop | ☐ Folio | ☐ Sermons |
| ☐ Conjurer | ☐ Marvel | ☐ Shakespeare |
| ☐ Corduroy | ☐ Old Port | ☐ Toffee |
| ☐ Cotton | ☐ Pipes | |

Case clue: the first 22 unused letters, read row by row, spell 7 words.



Howard Greer arrived on Wednesday afternoon like a cold draft. He was sixty-eight, tall and stooped, with a white mustache and a gray three-piece suit, and he looked at the Book Sale the way a tax inspector looks at a shoebox of receipts. Around his neck hung a pair of reading glasses on a black cord, and from his vest pocket peeped the brass rim of a jeweler's loupe.

He was the treasurer of the Friends of the Library and a wealthy collector of old books. He had never donated a single book himself, June whispered, but he checked every rare donation as if someone were trying to cheat him.

"Holloway," he said to Grace, without saying hello. "I've read your budget. Two new librarians and a coffee machine? Out of the question. I'll be telling the city council next month that this library can manage on less."

Grace's earrings trembled. "Howard, the children's story hour alone..."

"Story hour is a luxury." He put on his reading glasses, peered at June's price list, found an error, and circled it in red. Then he went up to the loft, signing the register in a big angry scrawl, and stayed there half an hour, polishing his loupe on his handkerchief when he came down.

"He's not a bad man," June said to Maggie later, in the basement. "He gave the library thousands when his wife was alive. He just thinks kindness is a waste of money."

"And Grace?"

June sighed. "Grace thinks this library is her child. And Howard wants to cut its allowance."

Maggie wrote it in her notebook, because she wrote most things in her notebook: Howard Greer. Glasses on a cord. Loupe in vest pocket. Not popular.

Puzzle 4

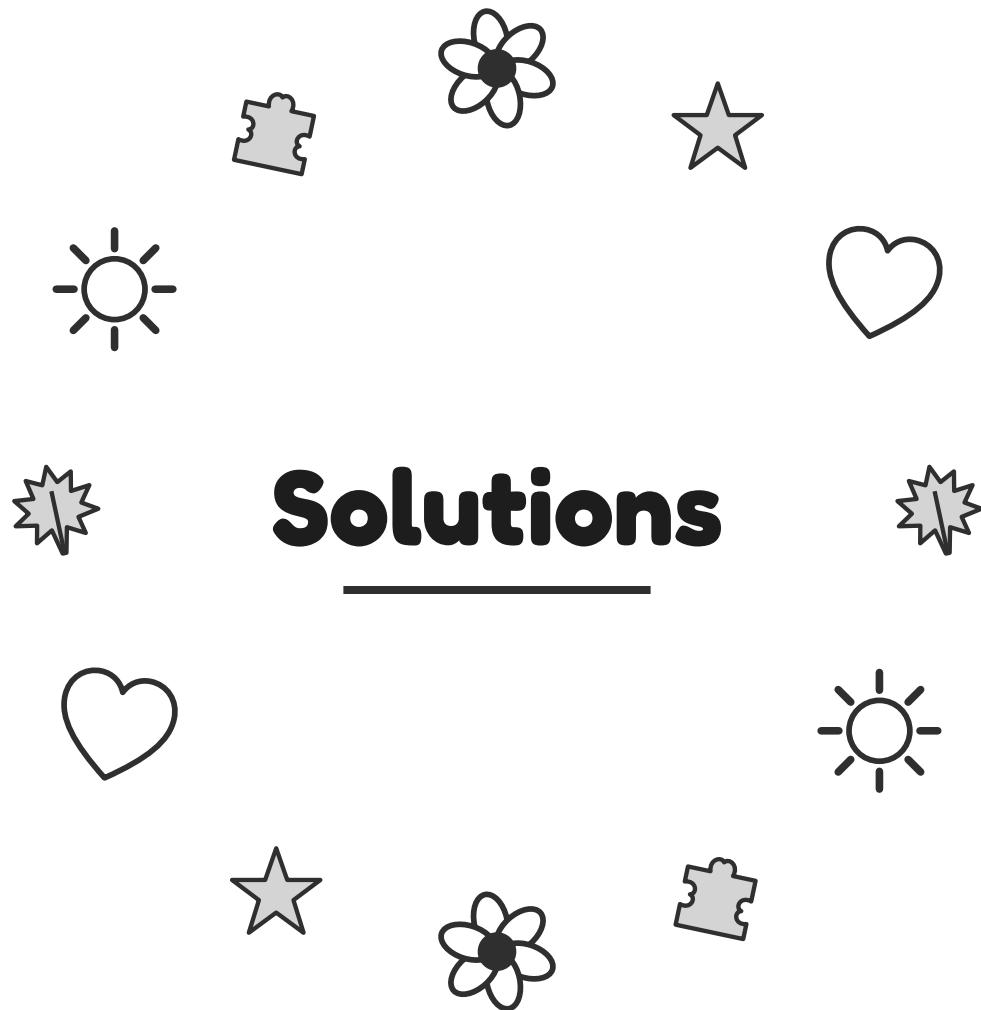
The Treasurer



H	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	H	O	W	A	R	R	D
L	U	X	U	R	Y	W	A	A	N	T	S	T	E	O
C	O	R	D	C	U	T	T	N	H	E	B	U	C	D
G	E	T	P	E	C	A	M	D	O	W	N	G	E	E
P	C	S	A	U	H	R	A	K	Z	M	N	J	I	J
N	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R	P	C	N	P	T
D	W	D	P	S	S	S	C	R	A	W	L	B	T	O
S	U	R	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R	L	S	E
Q	A	A	I	U	T	H	S	H	O	E	B	O	X	D
I	S	F	H	L	C	C	I	I	A	E	D	C	I	T
U	O	T	I	A	W	M	C	E	E	H	C	T	R	C
A	W	I	T	N	E	V	E	F	P	A	Q	D	V	H
T	N	S	E	C	P	E	R	R	L	O	U	P	E	D
O	U	S	A	L	L	O	W	A	N	C	E	E	S	L
M	C	E	E	I	N	S	P	E	C	T	O	R	E	O

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Allowance | ☐ Handkerchief | ☐ Receipts |
| ☐ Collector | ☐ Inspector | ☐ Scrawl |
| ☐ Cord | ☐ Loupe | ☐ Shoebox |
| ☐ Council | ☐ Luxury | ☐ Treasurer |
| ☐ Draft | ☐ Mustache | |

Case clue: the first 25 unused letters, read row by row, spell 6 words.



1. Sale Week

T S H E C C A R N E G I E L I
B T R A R E Y C A T L R I K E
S A T O S T I E A L W A E O L
Q P D F O A E L J I N D E T H
N L K D T T E O I A O I O N T
H E P E R F U M E N O A E P I
C R O S S W O R D A G T Z T I
C E H I Y R I Y T G E O O P G
P O H B A S E M E N T R E N Y
E P O C L I P B O A R D I H S
N O D K S S W K I I H T L E R
C S L E B P L I A K T R E R G
I L O W W O S R W I N D O W S
L S N H Y E O D N P O E T R Y
S O J A U E Y K E O G E D E S

Case clue: THE LIBRARY
CAT LIKES TO STEAL

2. The Spiral Stairs

S I F A L M O U T H G N T H E
B V O O P K B G A L L E R Y E
F E O R E A Y O U C L I L M B
T L E R E H R A E W N D E E E
L V O Z M L S K H E V N C U Y
B E T S D I E K I E Q I T F E
U T N T N G O D V N V G E V L
L L T J W H R S G D G U R U T
B T C S E T W E Y E N L N E X
H T R A N S O E G L R J O I S
D Y E C L W S S K I R T S T L
H E A R R I N G S S S E T E T
R A I L H T J D A H O T O W I
D H W A U C T I O N T N E H O
S T E S E H O B O O K C A R T

Case clue: SIGN THE
BOOK BEFORE YOU CLIMB

3. The Bookseller

T H B O O K S H O P E R E O O
M S H A K E S P E A R E H S A
C O R D U R O Y S A F B P O X
C O P F G L O V E F S I A W S
O T E I T T L Y O R T C N L N
T T A R P E P T T R S O X U E
T S W P E E D C E L S N B S I
O B N H E G S G I V T J E E S
N B M X S H N Q T R A U O R R
A B H L E I S N O N L R O M N
O E T B F Y N P C A T E S O I
S A S R S A D R E V E R E N D
T R E N O L N O Y A N Q D S T
C D H F O L I O N I S L R Q N
I I S Y C M A R V E L D N T E

Case clue: THE ROOM
HAS A BOX OF GLOVES

4. The Treasurer

H C O U N C I L H O W A R R D
L U X U R Y W A A N T S T E O
C O R D C U T T N H E B U C D
G E T P E C A M D O W N G E E
P C S A U H R A K Z M N J I J
N T R E A S U R E R P C N P T
D W D P S S S C R A W L B T O
S U R C O L L E C T O R L S E
Q A A I U T H S H O E B O X D
I S F H L C C I I A E D C I T
U O T I A W M C E E H C T R C
A W I T N E V E F P A Q D V H
T N S E C P E R R L O U P E D
O U S A L L O W A N C E E S L
M C E E I N S P E C T O R E O

Case clue: HOWARD WANTS
TO CUT THE BUDGET

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