

Murder at Hollyberry Lodge

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



S N O W E D



FunWords

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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 killer before you read the final chapters. All solutions are at the back of the book.

B	S	H	E	N	X	I	E
C	I	N	Y	A	L	K	I
X	T	S	O	L	A	S	A
H	S	H	K	W	R	T	W
H	R	A	L	H	E	T	E
F	O	O	X	C	E	D	N
T	E	N	R	E	H	D	I
A	A	I	R	C	L	H	Z

Who's Who at the Lodge

One snowy Christmas in Vermont, these people are snowed in together at Hollyberry Lodge.

Margaret "Maggie" Quill

Retired librarian from Portland, Maine, who notices small things

Ruth Abbott

Owner of Hollyberry Lodge and Maggie's old college roommate

Ben Abbott

Ruth's son, who drives the snowplow and splits the firewood

Gordon Pratt

Famous television baker and judge of the Gingerbread Contest

Dennis Kale

Gordon's jolly agent and manager of twenty years

Holly Pratt

Gordon's daughter and the producer of his show

Nora Finch

The lodge's pastry chef, who has entered the contest

Ida Brooks

A retired nurse from Albany and Maggie's card partner

Jingle

The lodge's elderly beagle, a champion sniffer of cookies

Your Case Notes

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

Suspect	Motive	Means	Chance
Ruth Abbott			
Ben Abbott			
Ida Brooks			
Nora Finch			
Dennis Kale			
Holly Pratt			

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 the twenty-second of December, Maggie Quill stepped off the bus in Pinecrest, Vermont, and found a big young man in a red plaid coat waiting beside a dented green truck. Snow lay on every roof, and the air smelled of woodsmoke and pine.

"Mrs. Quill? I'm Ben Abbott. Mom sent me." He lifted her suitcase into the truck as if it were a loaf of bread. He was thirty-six, broad and quiet, with a shy smile and scuffed brown work boots the size of small canoes.

"Your mother and I shared a dormitory room fifty years ago," said Maggie. "She snored like a freight train, and I have never told a soul."

Ben laughed, and the truck began to climb Ridge Road, the only road up to Hollyberry Lodge. It wound through the dark Green Mountains between walls of plowed snow.

"Radio says a big storm by Christmas Eve," said Ben. "If it comes, this road closes till it's plowed, and that's usually me." He nodded at the snowplow blade on the front of the truck. "And don't bother with your cell phone. There's no signal on the ridge. Never has been."

At a bend he stopped to let a deer cross, took a pencil from the dashboard, and wrote on a scrap of paper with his left hand, pressing it against the wheel. "The lodge number," he said, "in case you ever get lost in the village."

Maggie tucked it into her purse beside her knitting and her crossword book. She was seventy-two, a retired librarian from Portland, Maine, and she noticed small things. She noticed now that Ben wrote with his left hand, steered with his left hand, and blushed when she thanked him.

Then the trees opened, and there was Hollyberry Lodge, glowing gold against the snow.

Puzzle 1

The Road to Hollyberry



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

☐ Dashboard

☐ Deer

☐ Dormitory

☐ Freight Train

☐ Knitting

☐ Librarian

☐ Pencil

☐ Pinecrest

☐ Plaid

☐ Ridge Road

☐ Signal

☐ Snowplow

☐ Suitcase

☐ Truck

Case clue: the first 24 unused letters, read row by row, spell 6 words.



Ruth Abbott came flying out onto the porch in a Christmas apron and hugged Maggie until her glasses slipped. She was seventy-one, small and quick, with silver curls and flour on one elbow. "Fifty years," she said. "And you still look as if you're about to correct my spelling."

Inside, the great room was everything Ruth's letters had promised. A stone fireplace crackled at one end, and a tall Christmas tree glittered at the other, hung with glass birds and paper stars. An old upright piano stood against the wall, and beside the fireplace was a coat rack made from a pair of antlers, hung with scarves and mittens. The front staircase climbed from the great room to a long hall with six guest rooms.

Ruth showed her everything at a trot. The dining room. The kitchen at the back, warm and smelling of ginger, with the narrow back stairs going up beside it. "They come out by the guest rooms," said Ruth. "Handy for breakfast trays." The boot room by the side door, full of skis and snowshoes, joined to the kitchen by a back corridor. And the little office, where an old switchboard sat like a museum piece, all cords and brass plugs.

"Still works," said Ruth proudly. "Every call that goes out, it prints the time on the log. Ben says we should buy something modern. I say it hasn't failed me in forty years."

A beagle with a gray muzzle trotted up and sniffed Maggie's boots with great seriousness.

"That's Jingle," said Ruth. "He's eleven, he's nearly deaf, and he can find a cookie in a snowdrift from fifty yards. Watch your purse. He thinks everything in it is for him."

Jingle sat down and gazed at Maggie's purse with deep and hopeful love.

Puzzle 2**Hollyberry Lodge**

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

☐ Antlers☐ Apron☐ Back Stairs☐ Beagle☐ Boot Room☐ Coat Rack☐ Cookie☐ Corridor☐ Fireplace☐ Ginger☐ Piano☐ Snowshoes☐ Staircase☐ Switchboard

Case clue: the first 20 unused letters, read row by row, spell 5 words.



The famous guest arrived at four o'clock, when the snow was turning blue in the dusk. Ben's truck pulled up, and out stepped Gordon Pratt, the television baker, exactly as he looked on "Gordon's Christmas Kitchen": tall, silver-bearded and beaming, in a red velvet jacket with gold buttons.

"Mrs. Abbott!" he cried, kissing Ruth's hand. "What a charming little place. Like a gingerbread house somebody sat on."

Behind him came his daughter, Holly, thirty-four and serious, with a video camera already on her shoulder, filming her father, the lodge, the snow and Jingle. Last came a round, jolly man of fifty-two in a camel overcoat, carrying three suitcases and laughing at nothing in particular. "Dennis Kale," he said, pumping Maggie's hand. "Gordon's agent. Twenty years. I deserve a medal."

In the great room, Gordon stood before the fire and raised a hand for silence, as if a studio audience were waiting.

"One thing, before I enjoy your hospitality. I have a severe almond allergy. Not a little rash. Severe. One almond and I'm a goner. So I carry this, always." He drew a slim yellow allergy pen from the left inside pocket of his velvet jacket, showed it around the room, and slid it back. "Left inside pocket. Never without it. If I'm ever in trouble, that's where you look."

"Yes, Dad," said Holly from behind the camera. "We've all heard it."

"And you'll hear it again, darling." He smiled at Ruth. "No almonds in my food, Mrs. Abbott. None in the kitchen near my food. Not a sniff."

"Not a sniff," Ruth promised.

Maggie, knitting by the window, looked at the faces. Ruth was anxious. Holly was tired. Dennis was smiling very hard. And Gordon Pratt was enjoying every minute of being looked at.

Puzzle 3

The Famous Guest



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Allergy Pen | ☐ Hospitality | ☐ Suitcases |
| ☐ Buttons | ☐ Medal | ☐ Television |
| ☐ Daughter | ☐ Overcoat | ☐ Velvet Jacket |
| ☐ Dusk | ☐ Pocket | ☐ Video Camera |
| ☐ Gingerbread | ☐ Studio | |

Case clue: the first 24 unused letters, read row by row, spell 7 words.



Before supper that first evening, Gordon Pratt inspected the kitchen. Ruth followed him with a dish towel, and Maggie followed Ruth, because she was curious and because the kitchen was the warmest room in the lodge.

Gordon opened every cupboard. He read every label. He peered into the flour bin as if it might be hiding something. At the far end of the kitchen, by the back stairs, Ruth had cleared a corner of the counter and marked it with a card: NUT FREE.

"Everything for you comes from here," she said. "Separate bowls, separate spoons."

Gordon looked up and froze. Through the open pantry door, on a high shelf far from that corner, stood a round tin painted with holly leaves. Its label said, in neat capitals: MARZIPAN. CONTAINS ALMONDS.

"Whose is that?"

"Mine," said a quiet voice. A thin woman of fifty-eight in a white chef's coat had come in from the pantry, with gray eyes and flour to her wrists. "Nora Finch. I'm the pastry chef. I bake with almonds, Mr. Pratt. I always have. The tin stays on the top shelf, and it stays shut."

Gordon stared at her. Something passed across his face, and Maggie could not tell whether it was surprise or guilt. "Finch," he said. "Boston. The little bakery on Charles Street."

"That's right," said Nora evenly. "It closed eleven years ago. You wrote a review."

The kettle began to whistle, and nobody moved. "Well," said Gordon at last, with his television smile, "I'm sure you've improved." He swept out.

Nora took the kettle off the stove, her mouth a thin straight line. "I'm entering his Gingerbread Contest tomorrow," she told Maggie quietly. "Let him judge that."

Puzzle 4

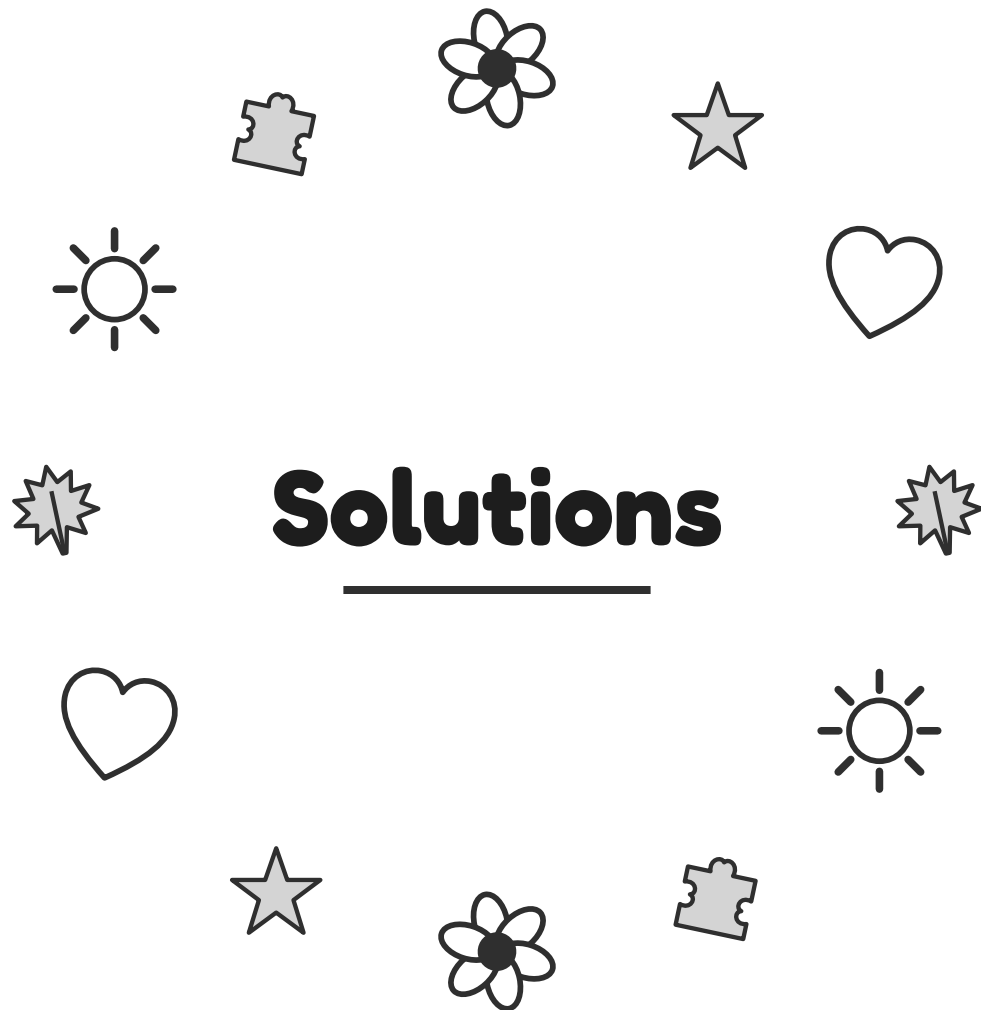
Nut Free



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

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Almonds | ☐ Dish Towel | ☐ Marzipan |
| ☐ Bakery | ☐ Flour Bin | ☐ Pantry |
| ☐ Chef | ☐ Guilt | ☐ Review |
| ☐ Counter | ☐ Kettle | ☐ Supper |
| ☐ Cupboard | ☐ Label | |

Case clue: the first 24 unused letters, read row by row, spell 7 words.



1. The Road to Hollyberry

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

Case clue: BEN WRITES
WITH HIS LEFT HAND

2. Hollyberry Lodge

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

Case clue: EVERY CALL OUT IS LOGGED

3. The Famous Guest

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

Case clue: HE CARRIES
THE PEN ON THE LEFT

4. Nut Free

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

Case clue: THE TIN STAYS
ON THE TOP SHELF

Thank you for puzzling with us!

You have just played 4 puzzles from “Murder at Hollyberry Lodge”. The full book has 36, in the same clear print and with all solutions.

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