

HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLES

1. Always read the narrative first. It supplies you with vital clues.
2. Read all the questions through without trying to answer them. This will give you a sense of what to look for in the picture.
3. Examine the picture.
4. Grab your pencil.
5. Answer the questions, one at a time and in order. If you're a beginner, it might help if you check your answers as you go along to make sure that you're on the right track. Once you think your detecting skills are sharp enough, you may want to skip the preliminary questions altogether and go straight for the big one at the end.
6. Look at the solution and either congratulate yourself on a job well done or resolve to do better next time. Then move on to the next puzzle.

BOUDOIR



Amy LaTour's body was found in her bedroom last night, as shown, with her pet canary strangled in its cage. Henry Willy and Joe Wonty, her boyfriends; Louis Spanker, a burglar known to have been in the vicinity; and Celeste, her maid, were questioned by the police.

Wilbur Unisex, who happened to be in the area pursuing the *Heliconius charitonius*, put down his butterfly net and solved the case. Can you?

Questions

1. How was Amy apparently killed?
Shot _____ Stabbed _____
Strangled _____ Beaten _____
2. Is there evidence of a violent struggle? Yes _____ No _____
3. Was her murderer strong?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Was Amy fond of jewelry?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Was she robbed? Yes _____ No _____
6. Do you think she had been on friendly terms with her killer?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Was the canary strangled before Amy's death? Yes _____ No _____
8. Was this a crime of passion?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Did Willy have a motive?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Who killed Amy? Henry Willy _____
Joe Wonty _____ Louis Spanker _____
Celeste _____

Solution to *Boudoir* (p.2)

1. Strangled, with the kerchief which is still around her neck.
 2. No. All objects are apparently in place.
 3. Yes, strong enough to overpower and strangle her, and to bend the bars of the bird cage.
 4. Yes. She is wearing a bracelet, and her jewel box is overflowing with jewelry.
 5. No, because her jewelry was left in its box, and there is no indication of a search for valuables.
 6. Yes, because there is no sign of a struggle, and she was apparently still brushing her hair when attacked.
 7. No. If the bird had been strangled while she was still alive, she would have objected forcibly and not simply have sat there brushing her hair.
 8. Yes. The killer was angered enough to strangle both Amy and her bird.
 9. Yes. It was jealousy, aroused by the sight of Joe's picture and his gifts.
 10. Henry Willy, because Spanker would have stolen, Wonty seems to have been in good favor, and the maid had no reason to kill and probably lacked the strength to strangle Amy and break the bars of the cage.
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Solution to *Fragment* (p. 4)

1. Yes, because he is addressed as Gam in line 12.
2. Yes, because in line 3 she refers to his return.
3. Yes. Lovey says in line 12 that he's dangerous, and in line 5 she speaks of jealousy.
4. Yes. The theater stub gives part of a phone number (5000) such as is usually assigned to hotels and public buildings, and the other digits probably refer to a room number.
5. Yes. In line 14 she alludes to an address being "c/o my sister," and then gives an address—a measure taken to prevent Ordway's letters from arriving at Lovey's apartment. Furthermore she refers to the butler delivering something—probably this very letter—a measure she must have taken to deceive her husband.
6. Yes. She refers to a theater ticket from yesterday, which was June 7, the day before the date of the letter, which is June 8. (June is the only month that ends in "e".)

MERRILL'S ALIBI



Just as it started to rain at 7:00 on a November evening, Ferris Allen was shot and killed at his home by a rifle bullet that penetrated his left eyeball. His assailant escaped by outrunning the Allen watchman and scaling a high wall. Since the police knew that C. B. Merrill and Allen's gorgeous wife Euphrosyne were having an affair, and that Allen had threatened Merrill with dire harm, Merrill was an obvious suspect. The police therefore rushed to his apartment, which they reached at 7:40. He answered the doorbell and they walked into his living room, which you see exactly as it was when they entered. Merrill admitted that he could have reached the Allen estate in a half hour by car, but insisted that he had not.

"Euphrosyne was here this afternoon," he told the police, "and after she left a package was delivered. Around 6:15 I went out to buy a bulb, since one of mine had broken. Later on it started to rain, and I went out again around 7:15 to buy a paper. I sat down in the chair by my bookcase and was reading it when you people came in."

Euphrosyne said, through her tears, "C. B. and I spent an innocent afternoon reading poetry. He didn't go out until 6:45, when he bought a paper and a bulb and sent me home in a taxi."

Would you charge Merrill with homicide?

Questions

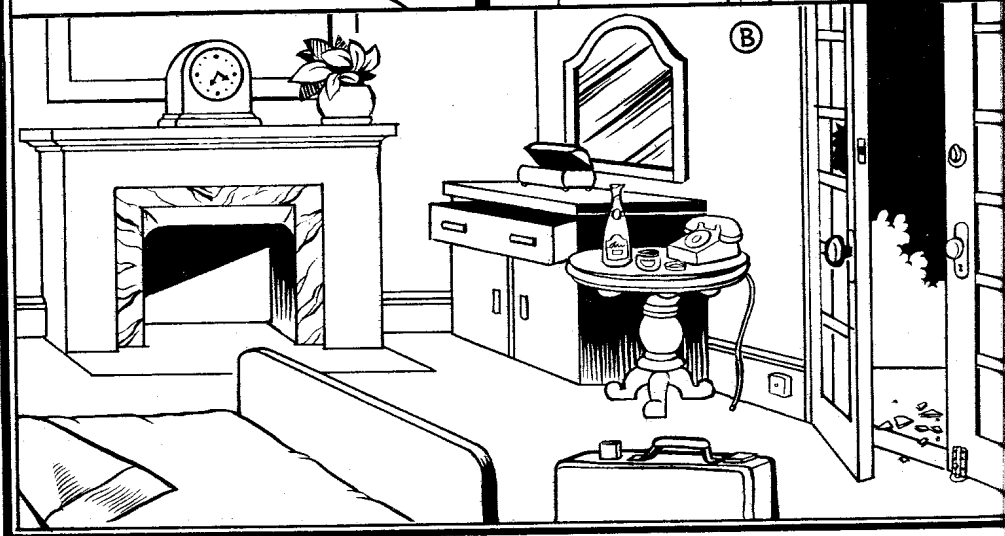
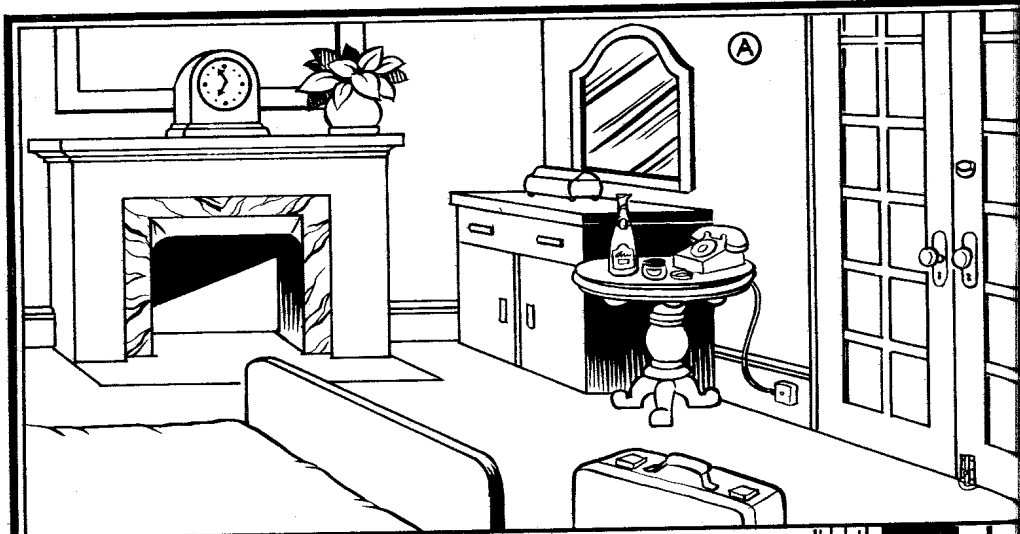
1. Could Merrill have outrun the watchman and scaled a high wall?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Is it likely that he was a good marksman? Yes _____ No _____
3. Is the fact that none of the guns in the rack had been fired recently evidence of Merrill's innocence?
Yes _____ No _____
4. If Euphrosyne's story is completely true, does it clear Merrill?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Had Merrill and his lady love previously agreed on their stories?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Do you think that she was in his apartment during the afternoon?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Can you prove that any part of Euphrosyne's story is false?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Had Merrill been out recently?
Yes _____ No _____
9. Check the assertions in Merrill's alibi that you can prove false: Euphrosyne was here this afternoon. _____ One of my bulbs was broken and I got a new one. _____ I was out after it started to rain. _____ I bought a paper. _____ I was reading it when you people (the police) came in. _____
10. Would you charge Merrill with homicide? Yes _____ No _____

8. Yes, because there are two distinctly different shoe patterns marking the bottom of the boat, one of which was made by a left shoe only and must have been deliberately planted, the other of which must have been made by the person planting the left shoe-prints.
 9. One, for reasons cited in (8).
 10. Romano apparently planted evidence of a fight and then disappeared voluntarily, probably with all the money he could gather and with the intention of starting a new life.
Actually he did exactly that, and was killed a year later by a Chicago prostitute whose services he tried to get for nothing.
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Solution to *Merrill's Alibi* (p. 8)

1. Yes. Judging by his trophies, he was obviously an athlete.
2. Yes. The gun rack indicates he was interested in gunnery, and as an athlete he may well have been a marksman.
3. No, because apparently one gun is missing.
4. Yes, because it places him at his apartment at 6:45 P.M., so that it would have been impossible for him to reach the Allen estate at seven, when the murder occurred.
5. No, because their stories are inconsistent with each other.
6. Yes, because she mentions the poetry volume and the broken bulb.
7. No. Nothing in the room is inconsistent with her story.
8. Yes, because his umbrella is wet.
9. "I was reading it when you people came in." This cannot be true because at 7:40 on a November evening there would not be enough natural light by which to read a paper in the chair Merrill claimed to have been sitting in. Had he been reading, he would have sat in the chair at the right, after moving the package.
10. Yes. Merrill had a motive, he was a good shot and an athlete, and he fabricated an alibi containing a falsehood. Actually he shot Ferris Allen at long range, then rushed home and pretended to be reading the paper when the police came in. Euphrosyne mourned briefly, but she never forgave Merrill for his stupidity in sitting in the wrong chair. Shortly after Merrill's conviction for murder, she married the judge.

THE VAN BLIVEN NECKLACE



Mrs. Horatio Van Bliven loved caviar and bubble baths, and indulged herself accordingly. Part of her hotel room is shown, both before and after the disappearance of her \$25,000.00 necklace. She said she'd locked her door and taken her bubble bath at seven o'clock, and she denied that the phone had rung, although the operator stated that it had.

The police searched three suspects and their belongings, and found nothing. The suspects were: Mrs. Van Bliven; Emmy, the pert little chambermaid; and Honoré Schmidt, who had an adjacent room which shared Mrs. Van Bliven's balcony.

Whom would you arrest for the theft, and what do you think happened to the necklace?

Questions

1. Which picture shows the room before the theft? A ____ B ____
2. Was Mrs. Van Bliven traveling?
Yes ____ No ____
3. What three objects were apparently searched?
4. Is Mrs. Van Bliven's denial of the phone call incriminating?
Yes ____ No ____
5. Was the pane of glass broken from the outside? Yes ____ No ____
6. Could Schmidt have entered via the French doors? Yes ____ No ____
7. Would Emmy's presence in the room have been incriminating?
Yes ____ No ____
8. Is there evidence that Emmy was in the room? Yes ____ No ____
9. Do you think that Emmy broke the pane of glass? Yes ____ No ____
10. Is it possible that Mrs. Van Bliven faked the theft for the insurance money? Yes ____ No ____
11. Where would you look for the necklace?
12. Who stole the necklace? Mrs. Van Bliven ____ Emmy ____ Schmidt ____

Solution on page 54

Solution to *A Matter of Diamonds* (p. 10)

1. At C. As hostess, she poured the tea.
 2. At B, judging by his prescription pad, on which he doodled and jotted down the figure of \$55,000.00.
 3. Yes, judging by the way he doodled on his prescription pad and then crumpled a sheet from it.
 4. No. Judging by the flag, which is hanging limp, it was not a windy day.
 5. No. She might have been a kleptomaniac, or in need of cash despite her wealth.
 6. No. Mrs. Dogge and the doctor pushed their settings away from them, as if propping themselves up and then jumping back to run, whereas Weimaraner pulled his setting towards him, as if scooping something up and yanking it towards him.
 7. Weimaraner, who took them in the hope of collecting insurance money. The proof is contained in the answer to Question 6. Weimaraner, when searched, claimed that the diamonds found on him were not the diamonds that he had been showing, but Wilbur Unisex's theory of the scoop was unrefutable. In gratitude to Wilbur for having eased what was an awkward situation, Mrs. Dogge invited him to dinner.
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Solution to *The Van Bliven Necklace* (p. 12)

1. A, because the clock indicates an earlier time than in B.
2. Yes, because her suitcase is out on the floor.
3. The jewel box (open), the bureau drawer (open), and the suitcase (moved, with one of the catches left open).
4. No, because she would not have heard the phone ring while it was unplugged.
5. No, because the broken glass lies outside the room.
6. No, only if he had broken a window from the inside of Mrs. Van Bliven's room to unlock the doors, which would have been impossible.
7. No. She had legitimate reasons for entering the room, such as bringing towels and turning down the bed for the night.
8. Yes, because the bed covers are turned down.
9. No, because if she had stolen the necklace she would have avoided making any noise or leaving evidence of her presence.

10. Yes. She could easily have manufactured all the evidence present.
11. In the vase, because the flowers were moved, and there seems to have been no other reason for rearranging or tampering with them.
12. Mrs. Van Bliven, because we have

eliminated the other two suspects, and she could have recovered the necklace from the vase at any time she wished. Due to her craving for caviar and the money she'd spent for it, she was badly in need of cash. "Caviar was my downfall!" she cried out as she was led away by the police.

Solution to *Dead Man's Curvature* (p. 14)

1. Yes, as proved by the tire marks.
2. Yes. She stood to collect \$300,000.00.
3. Yes, because Dicky was apparently having an affair with Daniel V's wife.
4. Yes, because Daniel V. defended Ellie and called her by her first name.
5. No, judging by the nature of the breaks, in which the upper part of each fence rail was sawed cleanly, and the bottom part broken off.
6. Yes. The tire marks show that it backed up to avoid going over the rock, and it had to stop before it could back up.
7. Yes. We already know that he did not crash through the fence. It is hard to believe that he stopped at the break in the fence, backed up to avoid the rock, and then drove the few feet over the edge of the cliff. If he'd wanted to go over, he'd have done so at a goodly clip, and without hesitation.

8. Yes, because whoever drove Dicky's car to the fence needed a confederate to help him leave the scene. The tire marks at the left of the road indicate that there was such a confederate in a second car.
9. Ellie and Daniel V. conspired to kill Dicky. In Answer 8 we found out that two people were involved. One of them had to cut the fence, which could probably have been done without arousing suspicion, and the second person had to drive the car to the fence.

The facts are that, inasmuch as nobody questions what a workman is doing, Daniel V. felt perfectly safe in driving to the spot in the road known as *Dead Man's Curvature*, parking on the opposite side of the road, and proceeding to cut the fence down. Meanwhile Ellie had killed Dicky at home, and, with his body sharing the front seat with her, drove to the rendezvous with Daniel V. She stopped with one wheel in front of the rock and had to back up so that she and

TRAGEDY IN THE BATHROOM



Minnie Verbermockle called the doctor and said, "My husband had a fall and he's lying unconscious on the bathroom floor. I think he must have been taking a shower and slipped on a cake of soap. I did not move him. I threw a blanket over him and called you immediately."

When the doctor arrived, he saw the scene as depicted and pronounced Horace Verbermockle dead as the result of a fracture at the rear of his skull. Can you tell what happened?

Questions

1. Were the Verbermockles compatible?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Had Horace finished brushing his teeth? Yes _____ No _____
3. Had the shower been running?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Had Horace just taken a shower?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Had Minnie been in the shower?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Did Horace slip on the soap?
Yes _____ No _____
7. Had the soap fallen out of the soap holder? Yes _____ No _____
8. Did the soap puddle come from either the dripping shower or the washstand? Yes _____ No _____
9. Had the bottle been knocked over before Horace allegedly fell?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Is there a possible murder weapon in the bathroom? Yes _____ No _____
11. Has evidence been planted to give a false impression of what happened?
Yes _____ No _____
12. On the basis of the evidence you have developed, reconstruct what happened.

Solution on page 56

her paramour could then push the car over the edge of the cliff and drive off together.

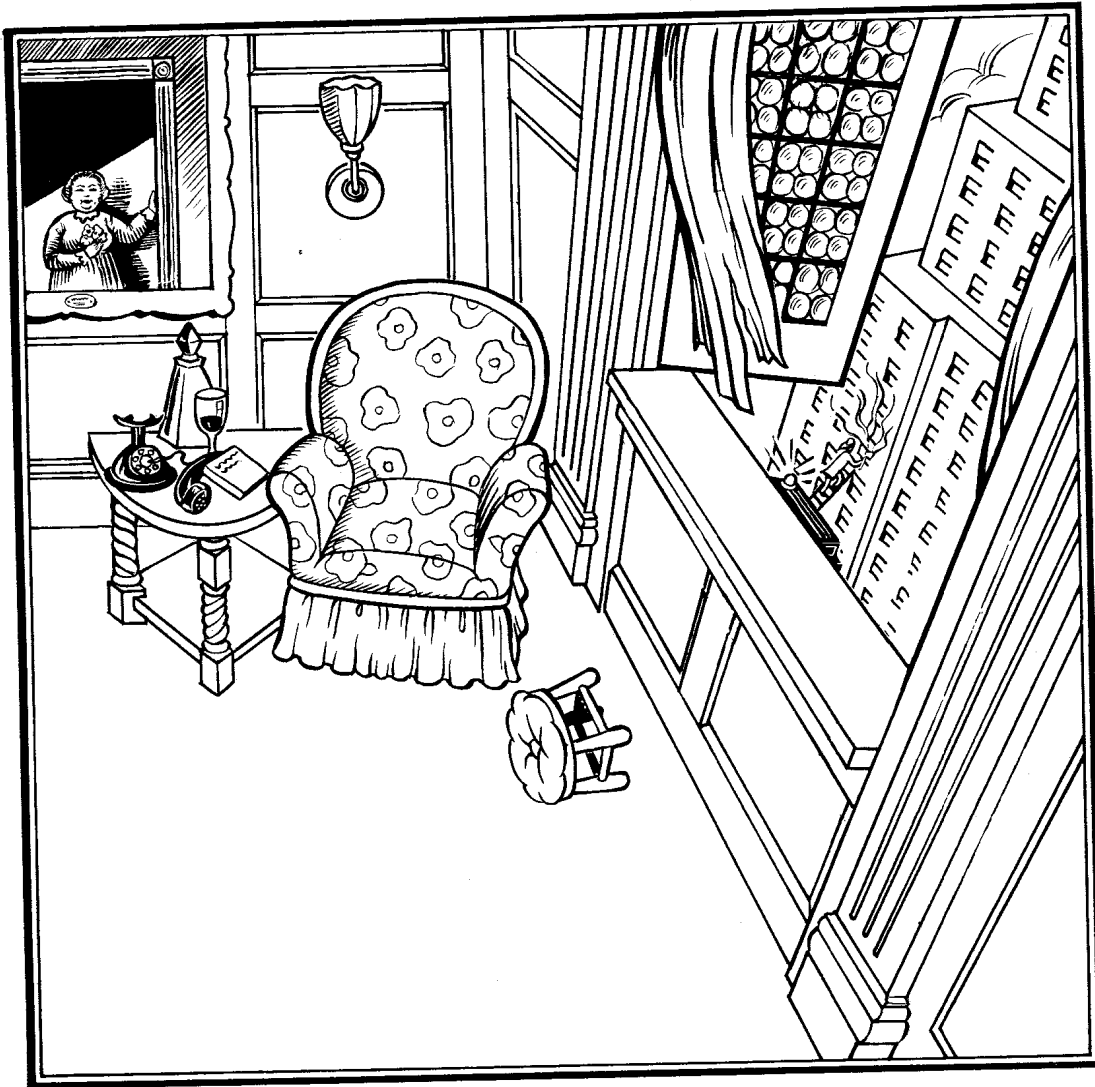
As for Ronda Ravish, she waited for Dicky all night long, and in the morning she had to pay the bill.

Solution to *Tragedy in the Bathroom* (p. 16)

1. No. Judging by the towels, he was neat, and she was sloppy. (If you decide that the evidence is inconclusive, your answer is not incorrect, since they might have been compatible on other levels.)
2. No, because his toothbrush still has a ribbon of toothpaste on it and the neatly rolled and capped tube lies on the sink's rim.
3. Yes, because the shower floor is wet.
4. No, because his feet are dry.
5. Yes, because her wet shoeprint exits from the shower.
6. No. Although the soap is standing in a puddle, Horace's feet are dry. Furthermore, there are no slippage marks to show that the soap slid or skidded.
7. No, because it would have fallen onto the floor of the shower stall rather than to its present position.
8. No. It is too far away from both. Therefore the soap and puddle must have been positioned deliberately.
9. No, because he would not have stood barefoot near a broken bottle.
10. Yes. The heavy scales are far enough out of balance to indicate that they had sustained a heavy jar.
11. Yes. The shower has been turned on and off although Horace took no shower, and there are two puddles of no apparent source on the floor outside the shower.
12. Horace was leaning over to brush his teeth when he was hit on the head with the bathroom scales. As he fell, he knocked over a bottle. Minnie then turned on the shower and doused water over Horace's head to make it look as if he'd just showered. To get the soap, on which he had supposedly slipped, she had to step inside the shower stall. She did this with her shoes on and thus left shoeprints.

In actuality this is what occurred, and Minnie was arrested and eventually confessed. "I couldn't stand the guy's neatness," she said coyly.

DROPOUT



As the clock struck five, ninety-year-old Mrs. Mirabel Fallwell dropped out of the window of her spacious twelfth-floor apartment. On the fourth stroke she struck.

Detective Amos Shrewd investigated shortly afterwards and found the room as you see it. Jerry Jarvis, Mrs. Fallwell's nephew and heir, said that the portrait on the wall of his beloved aunt was one that he himself had painted. Under questioning, he claimed that he had been at the far end of the apartment at the time of the tragedy and that he knew nothing about it until informed by the police.

If you were Shrewd, would you charge Jarvis with homicide?

Questions

1. Is there a reason why Mirabel interrupted her phone call and went to the window? Yes _____ No _____
2. Did Mirabel rush to the window? Yes _____ No _____
3. Is it likely that she brought a footstool to the window? Yes _____ No _____
4. Is it reasonable to suppose that Mirabel had a dizzy spell while at the window? Yes _____ No _____
5. Did she try to keep herself from falling out of the window? Yes _____ No _____
6. Do you think she committed suicide? Yes _____ No _____
7. What do you think was the cause of death? Accident _____ Murder _____

Solution on page 61

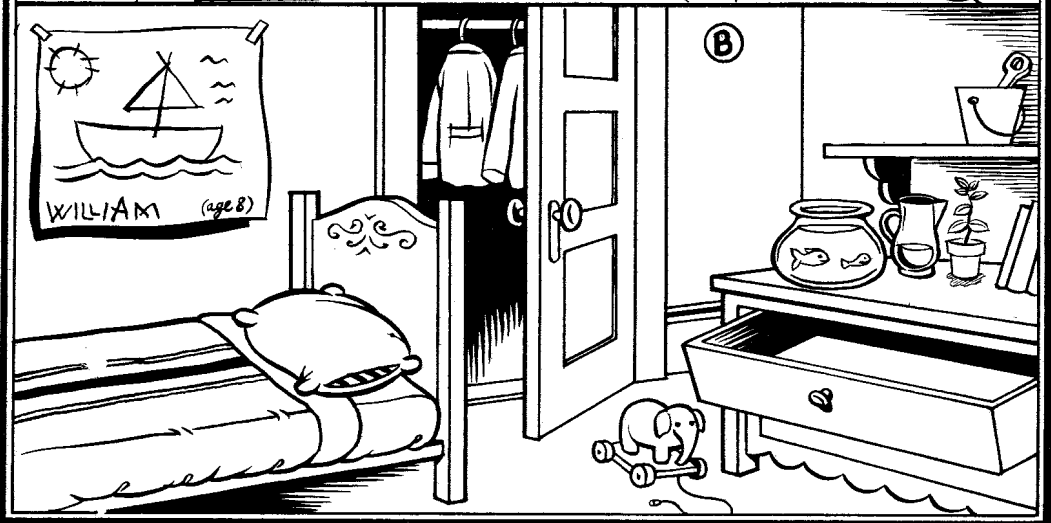
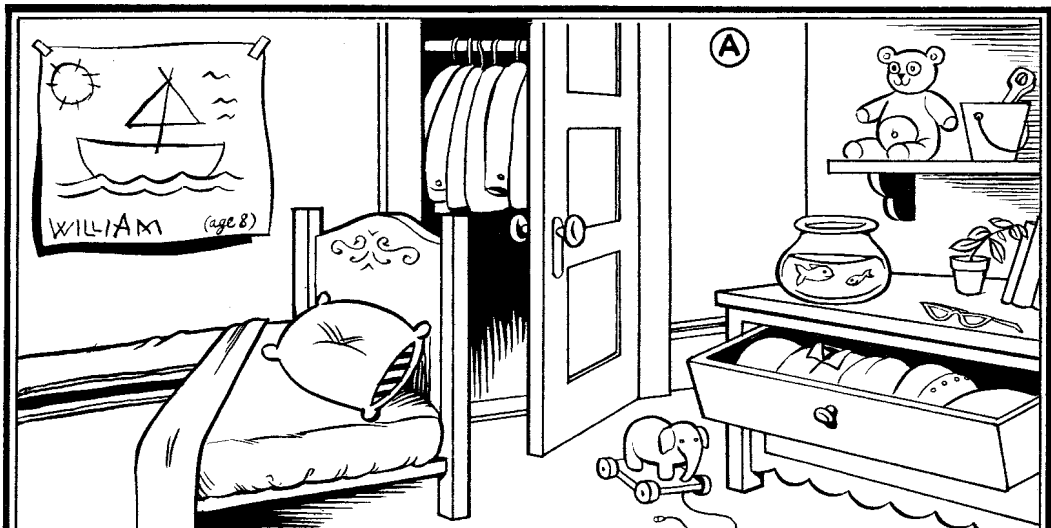
Solution to *Dropout* (p. 30)

1. Yes. She must have heard the blare and scream of the fire engines and gone to the window to watch the proceedings.
 2. No. She took the time to prop her memo pad against the phone, and probably to bring the footstool to the window.
 3. Yes, because she was a short woman (study her portrait and compare her height to that of the six-foot-six doorway), and she obviously wanted to see all that she could.
 4. Yes, for three reasons. First, because she was looking down from a height and might have suffered from vertigo; second, because at the age of ninety she might very well have been subject to dizzy spells; and third, because she had been drinking sherry and might have been slightly intoxicated.
 5. Yes. She apparently grabbed at the curtain, which tore from her weight as she fell.
 6. No. There was no suicide note, and she was apparently in the middle of the normal act of phoning when she got up and went to the window.
 7. Murder, because if she'd fallen accidentally, her weight would have been on the front of the footstool and it would have fallen forward, with the top towards the window and the legs towards the viewer. Since the legs face the window, it follows that the footstool was deliberately placed in its present position, probably to mislead the police. Jarvis, however, made the fatal error of the footstool.
He is said to have regretted his mistake.
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Solution to *Bankward Ho!* (p. 32)

1. Yes, because he'd bought her expensive clothes and expensive jewelry.
2. You bet!
3. Yes. He had winnings at bridge.
4. Yes, because he paid his club dues and his son's tuition while he was still solvent. Most of his other checks bounced.
5. Yes, judging by the facts that he belonged to a private club and sent his son to a private school.
6. Yes. Where else could he obtain packages of bills neatly fastened together?
7. Yes, judging by the single glass and the nearly empty bottle.

KIDNAP



Sketch A shows eight-year-old William's room as it was just before his loving mother put him to bed for his afternoon nap, and Sketch B shows the room as it was an hour later, after she'd finished her daily meditation and reported to Sergeant Foxy that William was missing. Foxy made a preliminary examination, concluded that William had been kidnapped, and listed the following suspects:

- William's loving father, who was having a custody fight with William's loving mother and had threatened to abduct his son;
- Martha Soul, who had been William's loving nurse for the past several years, but had had to leave a week ago because William's loving mother could no longer afford a nurse;
- Mr. Green, the gardener who had been working here for the last three months;
- William's loving mother.

Which one of the four do you think Foxy should accuse?

Questions

1. Did young William leave willingly?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Was young William neat?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Did young William's loving mother have a motive for taking him from his room? Yes _____ No _____
4. Did his loving father have a motive for kidnapping him? Yes _____ No _____
5. Did the gardener have a motive for kidnapping him? Yes _____ No _____
6. Did his loving nurse have a motive for kidnapping him? Yes _____ No _____
7. Did the kidnapper water the plant?
Yes _____ No _____
8. Was the kidnapper familiar with the house? Yes _____ No _____
9. Did the kidnapper intend to hold William for more than a day or two?
Yes _____ No _____
10. Was the loving mother likely to hear the kidnapper at work?
Yes _____ No _____
11. Do you think the loving father kidnapped William? Yes _____ No _____
12. Do you think the gardener kidnapped William? Yes _____ No _____
13. Do you think William's mother was the kidnapper and that she secreted William where his loving father couldn't find him? Yes _____ No _____
14. Do you think William's loving nurse kidnapped him? Yes _____ No _____

Solution on page 63

Solution to *Snow Cover* (p. 36)

1. No. The revolver could have been put in his hand after he'd been shot.
2. Yes. The marks of his skis and ski poles are clear in the snow.
3. Yes, because no one else was in the house except Eli, who left and returned on skis.
4. Yes. It is well known that discarded mistresses are inclined to kill.
5. Yes, because some of the boot marks are superimposed on the ski marks.
6. Yes, because Eli's returning ski marks are superimposed on Sally's shoes or boots.
7. No. He'd just gotten rid of a woman he didn't want, and he'd been sufficiently elated over it to tell three of his friends.
8. Yes. Since he did not commit suicide, she must have shot him.
9. After Eli had left, Sally must have walked out, then put on boots and returned, but walking backwards and obliterating her earlier marks. Thus she gave the superficial impression of having left the house, but closer examination shows that the heel marks are deeper than the toe marks as weight was put on the heel in the course of moving. There is always a pushing movement in the direction of motion. Furthermore some snow is kicked up in the direction of passage, leaving a fuzzy edge. Compare Sally's boot marks with those of the police, who were walking normally, and the difference is clear.

Actually Sally was waiting in the house when Eli returned. She shot him and then hid in the cellar, from which she hoped to escape at the first opportunity. Boozle, however, was too smart for her and found her cowering in the wine cellar, slightly drunk.

Solution to *Kidnap* (p. 38)

1. Yes, because he took his teddy bear and some clothes, and there are no signs of a struggle.
2. Yes. His room is reasonably neat, so he was probably a neat child.
3. Yes, to prevent her husband from kidnaping William.
4. Yes, to obtain custody of William, which was denied by the loving mother.
5. Yes. He could have obtained ransom money.
6. Yes. She was probably lonesome for him.

7. Yes, judging by the spilled water near the base of the pot.
 8. Yes. The kidnapper found the pitcher and went about routine tasks like making the bed, filling the fish bowl, and watering the plant.
 9. Yes, because his teddy bear and clothes were taken.
 10. No. She was apparently deep in meditation.
 11. No. He would have been in hostile territory and would have had to act quickly, and would never have wasted time over the plant and the fishbowl, nor would he have made the bed.
 12. No. He should not have been in the house and he, like the loving father, would have worked fast.
 13. No. She would not have bothered taking clothes, because she had continual access to them.
 14. Yes. She was familiar with the house, she could act slowly, and if discovered she could claim that she'd returned for her glasses, or some other item. She would do familiar chores such as making the bed, filling the fish bowl, and watering the plant.
Actually, she took William and returned him after two days, because he ate so much and she couldn't afford to feed him.
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Solution to *Boy Scout* (p. 40)

1. Yes, the marks and the lost boot so indicate.
2. No, no, a thousand times no.
3. No. Otherwise the game warden would have taken the dead eagle with him as evidence of the illegal act. He must have arrived at and left the scene before the eagle was deposited there.
4. Yes. There is a depression in the thorny bushes where twigs and branches were broken, as if somebody fell and tore his shirt, a fragment of which caught on a thorn.
5. Little Nimrod and Robin. We have already seen that Forrester had left the scene early, and it is likely that Robin, an ornithologist, would accuse Little Nimrod of killing the eagle. A fight could, and did result, after which Little Nimrod left hurriedly without his eagle.
6. We know that someone had an ax, judging by the nicked tree, and that Nimrod had a gun.
7. Yes, the makings of a fire and the tent pegs so indicate.

BOY SCOUT



At about four o'clock in the afternoon a group of hikers came upon this scene at the top of a cliff. At about the same time another group of hikers found the body of C. C. Robin at the base of the same cliff. He had been killed by a heavy blow on the head, and was wearing one boot only.

Four people were known to have been on the scene at some time between two o'clock and four o'clock. The four people were:

- C. C. Robin, the distinguished ornithologist, out for a day trip;
- Arch Forrester, a game warden with a temper;
- Little Nimrod, a poacher with a bad reputation;
- Bernie Botchett, on his first camping trip.

On the basis of the above facts, plus an examination of the scene, can you figure out who killed C. C. Robin?

Questions

1. Had Robin's body been dragged to the edge of the cliff?
Yes _____ No _____
2. Is it legal to shoot an eagle?
Yes _____ No _____
3. Do you think that the eagle was shot before Forrester reached the scene?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Is there evidence of a fight?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Which two of the four men do you think had the fight? Robin _____
Forrester _____ Little Nimrod _____
Botchett _____
6. What murder weapons were available for use?
7. Had someone made preparations to camp out? Yes _____ No _____
8. Who do you think chopped at the tree? Robin _____ Forrester _____ Little Nimrod _____ Botchett _____
9. Who do you think sat down and drank beer together? Robin _____
Forrester _____ Little Nimrod _____
Botchett _____
10. Do you think that the camper left hurriedly? Yes _____ No _____
11. Who do you think killed Robin? Forrester _____ Little Nimrod _____ Botchett _____
12. Can you describe what probably happened?

Solution on page 64

7. Yes, judging by the spilled water near the base of the pot.
 8. Yes. The kidnapper found the pitcher and went about routine tasks like making the bed, filling the fish bowl, and watering the plant.
 9. Yes, because his teddy bear and clothes were taken.
 10. No. She was apparently deep in meditation.
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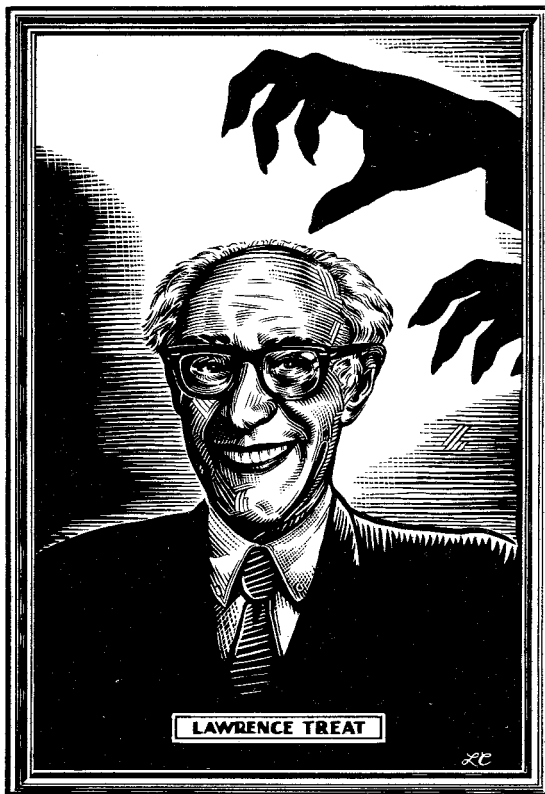
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2. No, no, a thousand times no.
3. No. Otherwise the game warden would have taken the dead eagle with him as evidence of the illegal act. He must have arrived at and left the scene before the eagle was deposited there.
4. Yes. There is a depression in the thorny bushes where twigs and branches were broken, as if somebody fell and tore his shirt, a fragment of which caught on a thorn.
5. Little Nimrod and Robin. We have already seen that Forrester had left the scene early, and it is likely that Robin, an ornithologist, would accuse Little Nimrod of killing the eagle. A fight could, and did result, after which Little Nimrod left hurriedly without his eagle.
6. We know that someone had an ax, judging by the nicked tree, and that Nimrod had a gun.
7. Yes, the makings of a fire and the tent pegs so indicate.

8. Botchett, because this is a botched job by an inexperienced camper. Both Little Nimrod and Forrester were probably expert woodsmen, and Robin would have had no reason to chop wood.
 9. Botchett (he had the equipment, and probably a supply of beer) and Robin, who left his binoculars where he'd been drinking. And binoculars are standard equipment for a birder.
 10. Yes. He left some of his food and some of his possessions, including a plate and the tent pegs.
 11. Botchett. We have already decided that both Little Nimrod and Forrester had left the scene.
 12. Botchett, an inexperienced camper, was chopping wood, and the ax must have slipped out of his hands, which is an all-too-common happening with the inexperienced. A flying ax is a murderous weapon, and there is no reason to think that Botchett would attack Robin.
In actuality Botchett got rid of the body by pushing it over the edge of the cliff. When he heard the sounds of hikers, he packed up his tent and his ax and left in a hurry, leaving tell-tale evidence of his presence.
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Solution to *The Man in 1458* (p. 42)

1. Yes. Judging by the room number, the hotel had at least fourteen floors with fifty-eight or more rooms per floor.
2. No. It is a common alias, and, combined with other factors here, it is doubtful that this was his real name.
3. Yes. One usually writes at eye level, which is about five inches below actual height. Because of the perspective of this drawing, it is impossible to measure "John Smith's" exact height, but a good guess based on the facts that the average door is six-and-a-half feet high and that the top of the switch plate is about four feet above the floor would bring him to at least six feet.
4. Yes. A right-handed man would have had to lean awkwardly over the bureau in order to write on the mirror; and would write at an angle. A tall, left-handed man would naturally stand next to the bureau and scrawl a note on the mirror as the easiest way to jot down a notation of train time, and his writing would be on a line parallel to the top of the mirror.
5. Yes, judging by the mustache brush.



Lawrence Treat, the author of over seventeen mystery books and countless short stories, is past president and now a director of Mystery Writers of America. He received an Edgar Award for Best Short Mystery of the Year in 1965, and a Special Edgar in 1978 for editing the *Mystery Writer's Handbook*. He lives on Martha's Vineyard.