MURDER MYSTERY ADVENT CALENDAR

Death at the Christmas Market

PRINTABLE PACK

Print as many copies as you like for your own household. Read each day's chapter in the book, then solve the puzzle on these pages.

NORA LINWELL

Your Case File

Write each day's answer here. Days 1 to 22 also have a box number for Christmas Eve.

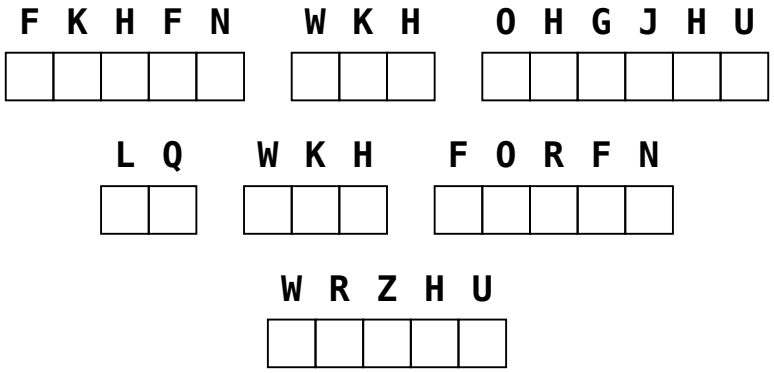
Day	Answer	Box	Day	Answer	Box
1		7	13		3
2		11	14		6
3		18	15		22
4		8	16		12
5		4	17		20
6		21	18		13
7		5	19		19
8		16	20		15
9		1	21		9
10		2	22		17
11		14	23		–
12		10	24		–

Suspect Notes

Suspect	Motive	Alibi?	Cleared
Maggie Holloway			
Victor Lane			
Rev. Samuel Ashby			
Felix Marlowe			
Dr. Helen Fairweather			
Clara Quill			

DAY 1 · THE PUZZLE

Each letter was moved three places forward in the 26-letter alphabet. Move back three: D becomes A; A, B, C wrap to X, Y, Z.



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

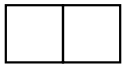
What should Agnes check?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **7**

DAY 2 · THE PUZZLE

The mug number has two digits.

- Its digits add up to 8.
- It is a prime number.
- It is smaller than 20.

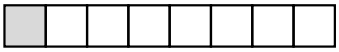
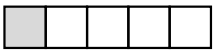
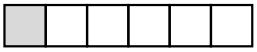
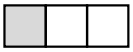
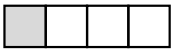
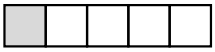
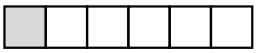
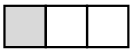
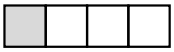


Write the number as a word.

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **11**

DAY 3 · THE PUZZLE

Solve the clues. Their first letters, in order, spell the name in Agnes's card.

1. The month of the market 
2. A round house made of snow 
3. Warm coverings for your hands 
4. A small hotel, like the Holly ___ 
5. You hang ornaments on it 
6. She stands on the very top of the tree 
7. Strings of them glow on every stall 
8. Frozen water 
9. It falls from the sky and makes the green white 

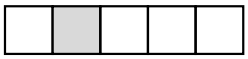
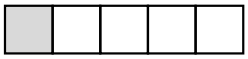


What name do you obtain?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **18**

DAY 4 · THE PUZZLE

Unscramble each word. Read the shaded letters from top to bottom.

Maggie's job	**KREBA**		letter 2
Bart's niece	**RALAC**		letter 2
Another word for the Reverend	**RAVIC**		letter 2
Victor sells music ___	**SEBOX**		letter 1
Where the doctor works	**NICCIL**		letter 3



What does every suspect need?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **8**

DAY 5 · THE PUZZLE

Agnes's reconstruction. On the keypad: 2=ABC, 3=DEF, 4=GHI, 5=JKL, 6=MNO, 7=PQRS, 8=TUV, 9=WXYZ. One press gives the first letter, two the second, and so on.



AGNES'S RECONSTRUCTION · EXHIBIT 0412

Exhibit: strand caught on the stage table
Description, in keypad code:

8 444 66 7777 33 555

What item does the description name?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **4**

DAY 6 · THE PUZZLE

Put the cards in time order, then read the initials of their names.

SCORECARD · 6:06
Evergreen Station
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:41
Nutcracker Mill
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:31
Gumdrop Cottage
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 6:12
Almond Lighthouse
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:53
Reindeer Lodge
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:45
Glazed Chapel
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 6:18
Drummer Boy's Hut
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:36
Icing Castle
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 6:01
Ribbon Candy Inn
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:49
Eggnog Barn
Signed: M. Holloway

SCORECARD · 5:57
Butterscotch Bridge
Signed: M. Holloway



What word do you obtain? Use the judges' confirmation to assess the alibi.

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **21**

DAY 7 · THE PUZZLE

Five people stay in place during the minute: Sam Ortiz, June Pike, Bart Quill, Ruby Chen and Reverend Ashby.

1	2	3	4	5
light switch	microphone	Bart's table	choir risers	organ

LEFT ← front of the stage, facing the crowd → **RIGHT**

1. Sam keeps a hand on the light switch box.
2. June is right next to Sam.
3. Bart is between June and Ruby.
4. Ruby is not at either end.



Where is the Reverend?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **5**

DAY 8 · THE PUZZLE

The hut opens at 5:30. Every visit lasts three minutes with no gaps: ticket 1 covers 5:30–5:33, ticket 2 covers 5:33–5:36.

Ticket	Child	With Santa from
1	Mason	____ : ____
2	Lily	____ : ____
3	Oliver	____ : ____
4	Ava	____ : ____
5	Noah	____ : ____
6	Ella	____ : ____
7	Leo	____ : ____
8	Grace	____ : ____
9	Henry	____ : ____
10	Holly	____ : ____
11	Jack	____ : ____
12	Sophie	____ : ____



Who is with Santa at 5:59?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **16**

DAY 9 · THE PUZZLE

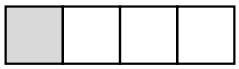
This Morse card is Agnes's reconstruction, not the pharmacy label. Slashes separate letters. Container seal: intact; contents: full.

AGNES'S MORSE CARD · NOT THE PHARMACY LABEL

`...-  /  ..  /  .-  /  .-..`

SEAL: INTACT · CONTENTS: FULL · LOT 2026-11

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



What is the container called? Does its seal alone exclude every alternative source?

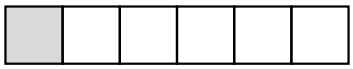
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **1**

DAY 10 · THE PUZZLE

Agnes's grid has columns A–F and rows 1–6. Read: C5, A2, F1, D6, B3, E4.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	U	P	E	H	S	I
2	C	A	D	A	T	D
3	H	L	E	B	M	P
4	F	A	O	U	E	K
5	U	F	I	N	D	S
6	G	F	N	C	S	R

Read: C5, A2, F1, D6, B3, E4



What is the rink's name?

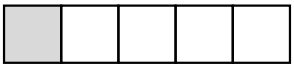
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **2**

DAY 11 · THE PUZZLE

Northern Star timetable on opening night. All times are in the afternoon or evening.

Station	Time
Boston (depart)	3:05
Concord	4:10
Lebanon	5:20
Hartford Junction	5:48
Hollybrook (arrive)	6:12

- The conductor confirms Clara aboard at 5:50, after departure from Hartford Junction.
- The train makes no stops between Hartford Junction and Hollybrook.
- The train arrives exactly on time.



Where is Clara at 5:59?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **14**

DAY 12 · THE PUZZLE

In the first sentence read every fifth word: 5th, 10th, 15th, and so on. An apostrophe does not split a word.

> *To all I love: my dear old Elm Street house, with everything inside it, goes with love and gratitude to Hollybrook's dearest cause, the Evergreen Christmas and Winter Festival Trust. My niece Clara has a fortune of her own and will understand.*



Which charity receives the house? Write its first name, omitting "Trust".

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **10**

DAY 13 · THE PUZZLE

Five customers rent five mugs, one every ten minutes. Complete the table using the clues.

	#3	#9	#17	#24	#31	Apple	Cinnamon	Clove	Nutmeg	Orange	5:10	5:20	5:30	5:40	5:50
Bart Quill															
Maggie Holloway															
V.L.															
Ruby Chen															
Sam Ortiz															
5:10															
5:20															
5:30															
5:40															
5:50															
Apple															
Cinnamon															
Clove															
Nutmeg															
Orange															

1. Bart uses 24 and arrives after 5:30.
2. The first mug contains nutmeg wine.
3. Maggie is the first customer.
4. Ruby is last and takes mug 3.
5. Sam arrives ten minutes after Maggie.
6. Sam has the highest mug number.
7. Maggie's number is a perfect square.
8. Bart drinks clove wine.
9. The last mug contains apple wine.
10. Sam does not take cinnamon.

Who rents 17, and when? Write its FLAVOR as the answer word.

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **3**

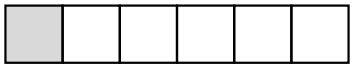
DAY 14 · THE PUZZLE

For this exercise EXACTLY ONE statement is false. The other two are true.

> Jonas: “At 5:55 Victor’s stall was closed. There was a Back in 10 minutes sign, tied with a red ribbon.”

> Lucy: “Jonas is wrong. There was no ribbon on Victor’s stall.”

> Mrs. Abernathy: “Lucy’s statement is false.”

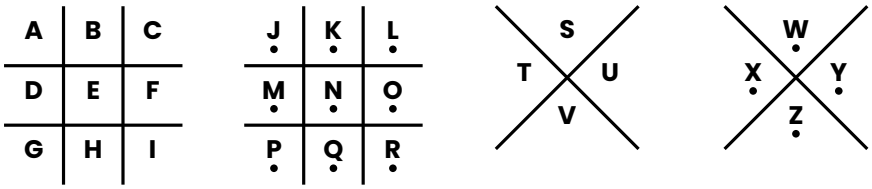


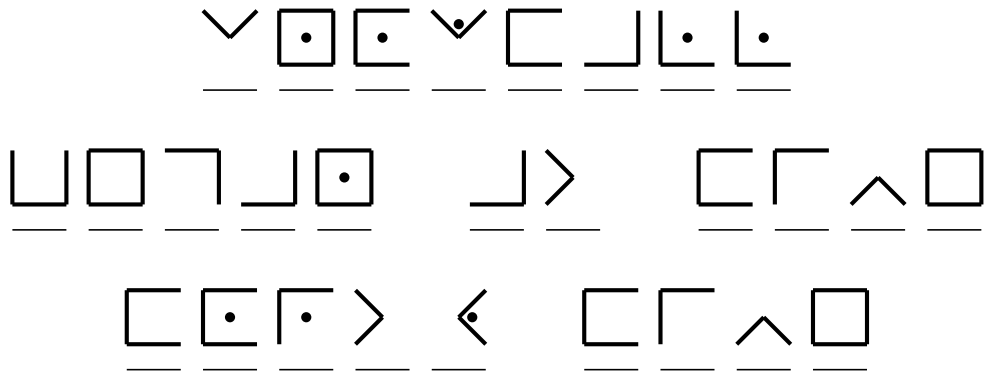
What held the sign? Who is lying?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **6**

DAY 15 · THE PUZZLE

Agnes has copied the weather time into pigpen. Match each symbol to the key: every letter-symbol pair is supplied below.





What is the first word? Combine the time with the photograph of bare ground.

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **22**

DAY 16 · THE PUZZLE

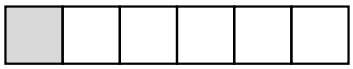
Use the supplied catalog to match the names. In common-name order, read the letter attached to each matching Latin name.

1. Foxglove _____ *Lavandula angustifolia* [T]
2. Holly _____ *Viscum album* [A]
3. Ivy _____ *Digitalis purpurea* [W]
4. Mistletoe _____ *Salvia rosmarinus* [H]
5. Lavender _____ *Ilex aquifolium* [R]
6. Rosemary _____ *Hedera helix* [E]

Next to each plant, write the letter in square brackets after its Latin name.

NURSERY CATALOG

Foxglove = *Digitalis purpurea*
Holly = *Ilex aquifolium*
Ivy = *Hedera helix*
Mistletoe = *Viscum album*
Lavender = *Lavandula angustifolia*
Rosemary = *Salvia rosmarinus*



What word do you obtain? Which plant matches the one linked to the Day 3 report?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **12**

DAY 17 · THE PUZZLE

Remove repeated letters from QUILL to get QUIL. Under A–Z write QUIL followed by the remaining alphabet in order, omitting Q, U, I, L. To decode, find a code letter below and read the normal letter above.

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

normal letters on top · code letters underneath (first four filled in for you)

Bart's ledger, last page:

S D A T K E I M P K U M X A R

Q P A B Q G A R . V . H .

R M H L S W A H V A .

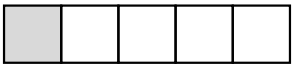
Which music box model is fake?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **20**

DAY 18 · THE PUZZLE

Add every digit except the last. The sum's last digit must match the serial's last digit. Select NONCOMPLIANT numbers and read their labels in order. This check alone does not establish authenticity.

Label	Serial	Sum (without last)	Compliant?
A	5 1 3 8 7		
I	2 4 6 1 2		
B	4 4 2 1 1		
V	7 3 9 0 4		
O	1 1 5 2 0		
C	6 2 0 1 9		
R	9 8 3 1 0		
Y	3 3 3 3 5		



What were the keys later found to be plastic sold as?

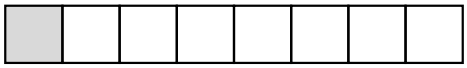
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **13**

DAY 19 · THE PUZZLE

Read the first letter of each agenda item. Bart circulated this on November 30 for the December 2 meeting.

HOLLY GREEN MARKET COMMITTEE
Meeting of December 2, 9:00 a.m., Town Hall
Agenda (circulated November 30 by B. Quill)

1. Market budget review for next year
2. Update on parking around the green
3. Stall reassignments
4. Insurance renewal for the stage
5. Carol concert funding
6. Board confirmation of next year's Santa
7. Other business: evidence concerning Quill & Lane Antiques, presented by B. Quill
8. Xmas lights: replace broken bulbs



What word do you obtain? Write it without spaces.

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **19**

DAY 20 · THE PUZZLE

Each row and column must contain each letter of CRATE exactly once. Complete the grid and read the shaded diagonal.

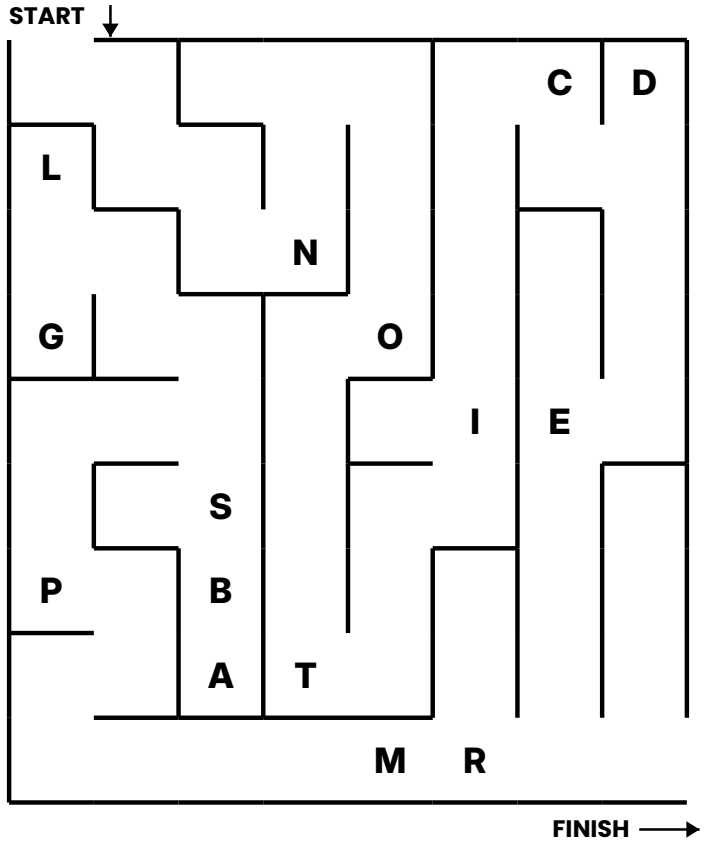
				R
T			A	C
	E		C	
E	C	R		
A		C	R	

What is the container holding mug 24 called?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **15**

DAY 21 · THE PUZZLE

Enter through the opening above the first column and leave at the lower right. Collect only letters on the route without crossing walls.

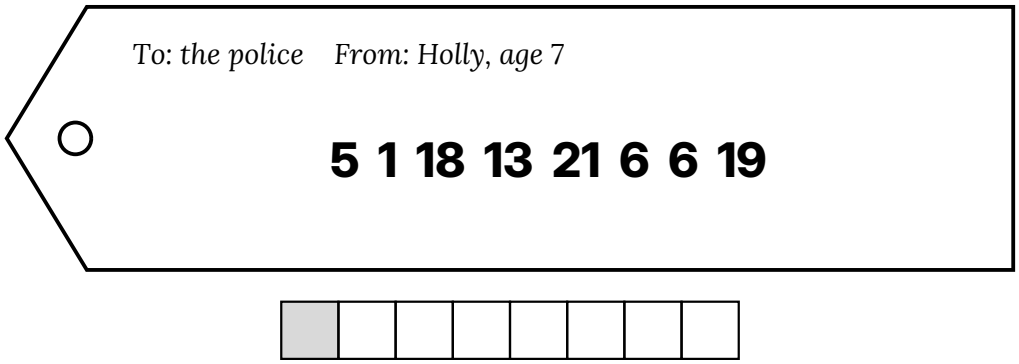


What is the document heading?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **9**

DAY 22 · THE PUZZLE

Holly's tag uses A=1, B=2, C=3 … Z=26. Each separate number gives one letter.



What does she remember over the man's ears?

ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **17**

DAY 23 · THE PUZZLE

Put the events in time order. Also use June's observed intervals and Holly's visit, printed below the table.

Event	Time	Order
Clara's train arrives	**6:12**	
Victor rents cinnamon mug 17	**5:30**	
Decorative lights go out	**5:59**	
Snow begins	**5:45**	
Bart dies at hospital	**7:25**	
Bart puts mug 24 on the table	**5:52**	
Bart drinks	**6:05**	
The sign appears on Victor's stall	**5:50**	
The tree lights come on	**6:00**	
Bart rents clove mug 24	**5:40**	

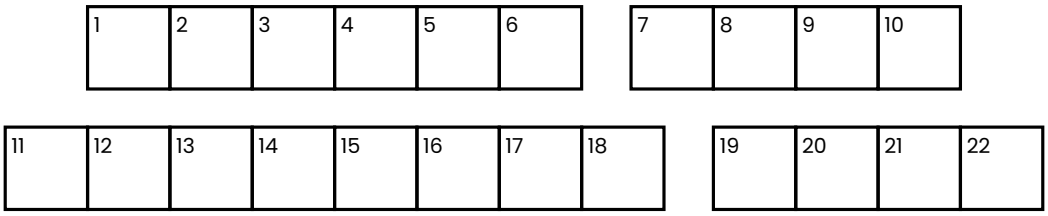
June sees nobody touch the mug from 5:52 to 5:59 or from 6:00 to 6:05. Holly sees the switch after the 5:59 blackout begins but before her visit ends at 6:00.

In which one-minute interval does the switch occur?

ANSWER _____

DAY 24 · THE PUZZLE

Collect the letters from Days 1–22. Put them in the assigned boxes, then restore word spaces.



1. Who killed Bart Quill?

2. How: which mug, which substance, and when?

3. Why?

4. Where was the original mug found?

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

CONFIRMED FACT

HYPOTHESIS

CHECK STILL NEEDED

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

CONFIRMED FACT

HYPOTHESIS

CHECK STILL NEEDED

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

CONFIRMED FACT

HYPOTHESIS

CHECK STILL NEEDED

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

CONFIRMED FACT

HYPOTHESIS

CHECK STILL NEEDED