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

Bart loved simple codes. “Three back” means that every letter in his note has been moved three places forward in the alphabet. Move each letter three places back to read it (D becomes A, E becomes B, and so on; A, B and C wrap around to X, Y and Z).

F K H F N | **W K H** | **O H G J H U**

L Q | **W K H** | **F O R F N**

W R Z H U

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

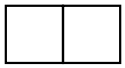
What did Bart want Agnes to check?

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

DAY 2 · THE PUZZLE

The number on the bottom of the mug has two digits. Tom's notes say:

- The two digits add up to 8.
- The number is a prime number.
- The number is smaller than 20.

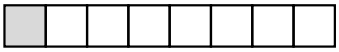
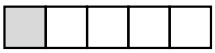
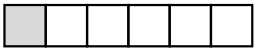
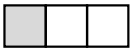
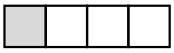
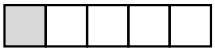
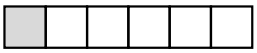
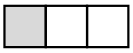
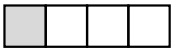


What is the number on the mug? Write it as a word.

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

DAY 3 · THE PUZZLE

Solve each clue. Write the FIRST letter of every answer in the boxes, in order, to read the name the doctor wrote.

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 

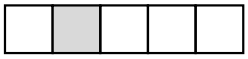
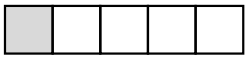


What substance was found in Bart's blood?

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

DAY 4 · THE PUZZLE

Unscramble each word. Each one belongs to one of the suspects. Then take the letter in the shaded position (shown by the number) and read the five letters down.

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 Dr. Fairweather works	**NICCIL**		letter 3



What does every suspect need?

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

DAY 5 · THE PUZZLE

On an old phone keypad each number key has several letters. Pressing a key once gives its first letter, twice the second, and so on. (Key 2 = ABC, 3 = DEF, 4 = GHI, 5 = JKL, 6 = MNO, 7 = PQRS, 8 = TUV, 9 = WXYZ.)



EVIDENCE TAG #0412

Item: thread, stage table

Description:

8 444 66 7777 33 555

What was found on the stage table?

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

DAY 6 · THE PUZZLE

Here are Maggie's eleven scorecards, all mixed up. Put them in order of the time each house was judged. Then read the first letter of each entry's name, in that order.

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 the first letters spell? And was Maggie judging during the blackout at 5:59?

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

DAY 7 · THE PUZZLE

Five people were on stage during the blackout: Sam Ortiz (the electrician), Mayor June Pike, Bart Quill, Ruby Chen (the soloist) and the Reverend Ashby. The five places, from left to right, are: 1 light switch, 2 microphone, 3 Bart's table, 4 choir risers, 5 organ.

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 Ortiz kept his hand on the light switch box the whole time.
2. The mayor stood right next to Sam.
3. Bart stood between the mayor and Ruby Chen.
4. Ruby was not at either end of the stage.

Where was the Reverend Ashby during the blackout?

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

DAY 8 · THE PUZZLE

The grotto opened at exactly 5:30. Ticket 1 sat with Santa from 5:30 to 5:33, ticket 2 from 5:33 to 5:36, and so on, with no gaps. Here are the first twelve tickets:

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	____ : ____



Which child was sitting on Santa's knee at 5:59, when the lights went out?

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

DAY 9 · THE PUZZLE

Decode the pharmacy's Morse code label. Letters are separated by a slash.

HOLLYBROOK GENERAL · PHARMACY

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

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 doctor's medicine kept in? (And is it still sealed?)

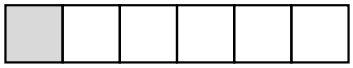
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **1**

DAY 10 · THE PUZZLE

Bob's map of the market is divided into squares. Columns are lettered A to F, rows are numbered 1 to 6. Each square holds one letter. Read the letters in the squares Bob wrote in his incident book: 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

Incident book: C5, A2, F1, D6, B3, E4



What word do Bob's squares spell? (It names where the doctor was during the blackout.)

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

DAY 11 · THE PUZZLE

The Northern Star train timetable, opening night:

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

- The conductor clipped Clara's ticket at Lebanon at 5:22, after the train left the station.
- The train does not stop anywhere between Hartford Junction and Hollybrook.
- That night the train ran exactly on time.

At 5:59, Clara was not at the station, not in a taxi and not on the green. Where was she?

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

DAY 12 · THE PUZZLE

Here is the last paragraph of Bart's will. In the FIRST sentence, read every fifth word (the 5th, 10th, 15th and so on).

> *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 Bart's house? Write only its first name.

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

DAY 13 · THE PUZZLE

Five mugs were rented between 5:10 and 5:50, one every ten minutes. Work out who rented each mug, when, and which spice their wine had.

	#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 always used mug #24, and he came to the stall after 5:30.
2. The very first mug of the evening was filled with nutmeg wine.
3. Maggie Holloway was the first to rent a mug.
4. Ruby Chen was the last, and she got mug #3.
5. Sam Ortiz came ten minutes after Maggie.
6. Sam's mug had the highest number of the five.
7. Maggie's mug number is a perfect square.
8. Bart always drank clove.
9. The last mug rented was filled with apple wine.
10. Sam does not like cinnamon.

Who rented mug #17, and at what time? Your answer word is the SPICE in mug #17.

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

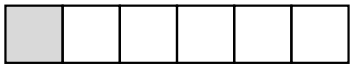
DAY 14 · THE PUZZLE

Exactly ONE of these three neighbors is lying. The other two are telling the truth.

> Jonas Hart: “At five to six Victor’s stall was closed. He’d hung a sign on it, tied with a red ribbon: Back in 10 minutes.”

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

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

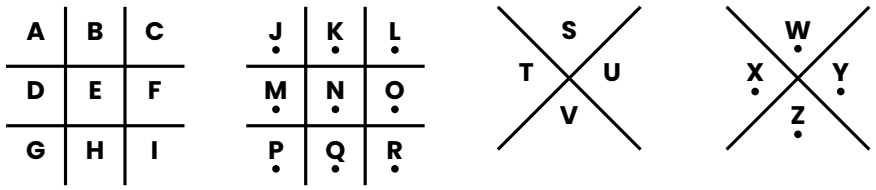


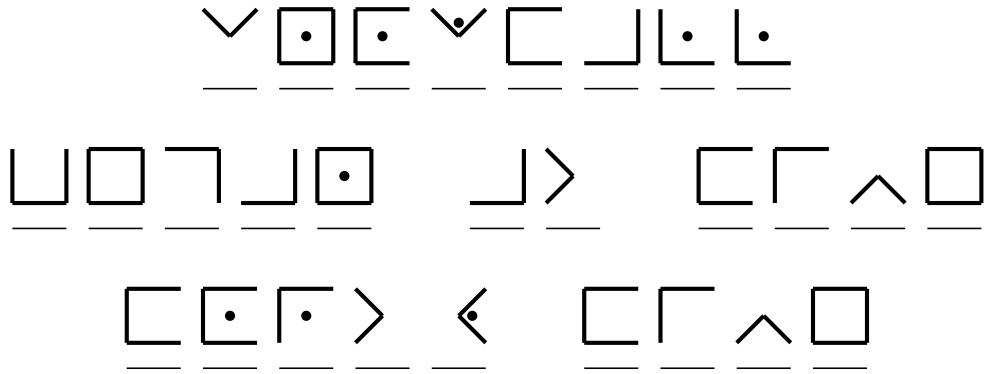
What held the sign on Victor’s stall? (And who is lying?)

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

DAY 15 · THE PUZZLE

The caretaker's note is written in pigpen cipher. Each letter is replaced by the shape of the part of the grid it sits in. Use the key below to decode it.





What is the first word of the caretaker's note? (And what does the note tell you about the footprints?)

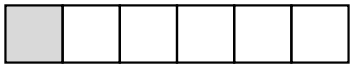
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **22**

DAY 16 · THE PUZZLE

Match each plant in Victor's wreath to its Latin name. Each Latin name has a letter. Write the letters in the order of the plant list (1 to 6).

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.



What word do the letters spell? Which plant in it is poisonous?

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

DAY 17 · THE PUZZLE

Bart's cipher uses the keyword QUILL. Write the keyword without repeated letters (QUIL), then the rest of the alphabet in order, leaving out Q, U, I and L. That is the code alphabet. Under each normal letter A to Z sits its code letter. To decode, find each code letter in the bottom row and read the normal letter above it.

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 .

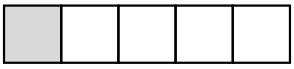
Which music box model is a fake?

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

DAY 18 · THE PUZZLE

For each serial number, add up all the digits except the last one. If the last digit of your total equals the last digit of the serial number, the box is genuine. If not, it is a fake.

Box	Serial number	Sum (without last)	Genuine?
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		



Read the letters of the FAKE boxes in shelf order. What were the fake keys sold as?

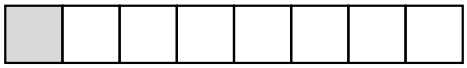
ANSWER _____ First letter goes in box **13**

DAY 19 · THE PUZZLE

Read Bart's agenda for the December 2 meeting. Look at the first letter of each item.

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 (Holloway, Burlington Bakery)
4. Insurance renewal for the stage
5. Carol concert funding (Rev. Ashby)
6. Board confirmation of next year's Santa
7. Other business: an urgent matter concerning Quill & Lane Antiques, to be presented by B. Quill with evidence
8. Xmas lights: replace the broken bulbs on the tree



What word do the first letters spell? What was Bart going to present at the meeting?

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

DAY 20 · THE PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains each of the letters C, R, A, T and E exactly once. Then read the diagonal from top left to bottom right.

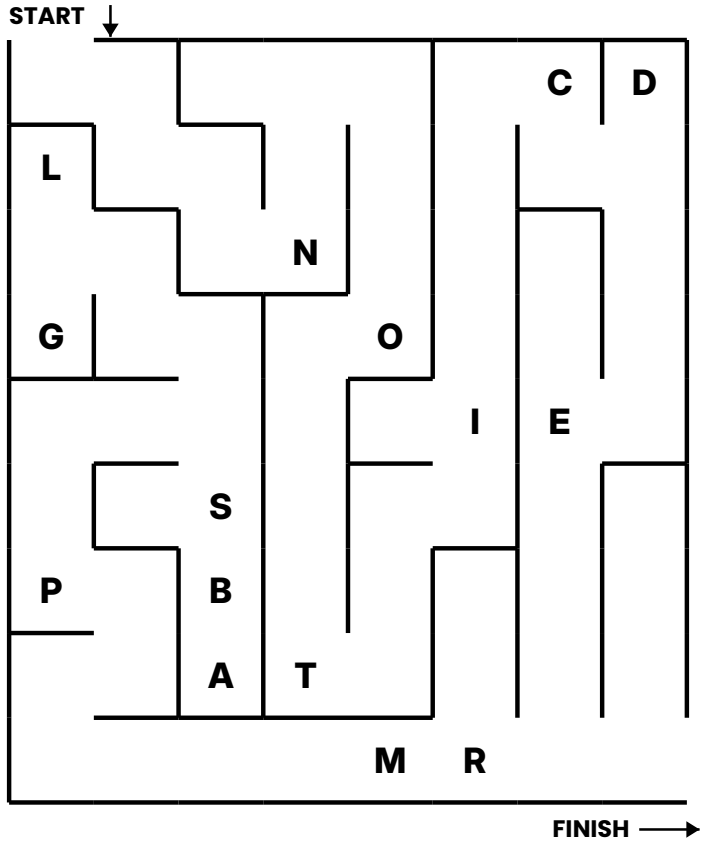
				R
T			A	C
	E		C	
E	C	R		
A		C	R	

What word is on the diagonal? Where was Bart's mug #24 hidden?

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

DAY 21 · THE PUZZLE

Find the way through the maze from START to FINISH without crossing any walls. Collect the letters you pass on the correct path, in order.

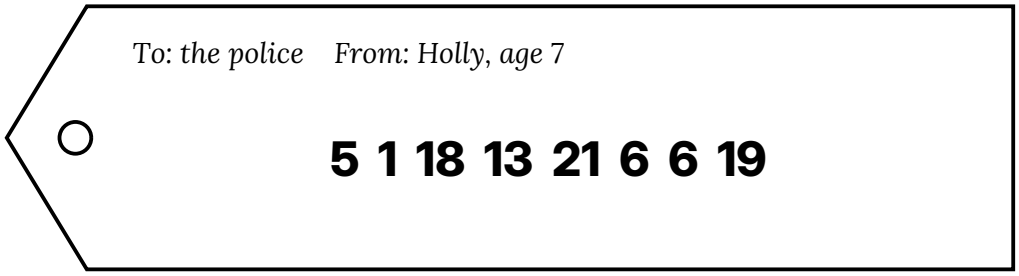


What word is the heading? (On the back of the notice is the name of the person who proposed the minute of darkness.)

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

DAY 22 · THE PUZZLE

Decode Holly's gift tag: A = 1, B = 2, C = 3 … Z = 26.





What did Holly see on the tall man's ears?

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

DAY 23 · THE PUZZLE

Here are the events of opening night, in no particular order. Put them in order of time.

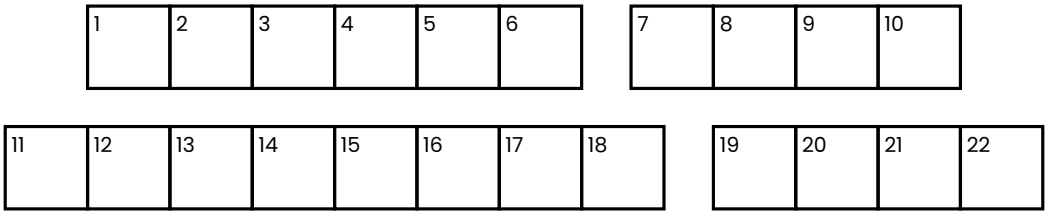
Event	Time	Order
Clara's train arrives at Hollybrook	**6:12**	
V.L. rents mug #17 with cinnamon wine	**5:30**	
All the lights on the green go out for one minute	**5:59**	
It starts to snow	**5:45**	
Bart dies on the clock tower steps	**6:25**	
Bart puts his mug #24 on the stage table	**5:52**	
Bart drinks from the mug on the table	**6:05**	
A sign with a red ribbon goes up on Victor's stall	**5:50**	
The tree lights come on; the choir sings	**6:00**	
Bart rents mug #24 with clove wine	**5:40**	

Bart's mug must have been switched after he put it down and before he drank, while Victor's stall was closed and nobody could see. At what minute were the mugs switched?

ANSWER _____

DAY 24 · THE PUZZLE

Write the first letter of each day's answer in its numbered box.



1. Who killed Bartholomew Quill?

2. How? (What was poisoned, with what, and when?)

3. Why?

4. Where was Bart's own mug hidden?

DETECTIVE'S NOTES

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