

THE NIGHT THE PRESSES STOPPED

A MURDER MYSTERY PUZZLE BOOK

FREE SAMPLE

Case 1: The Resealed Envelope

Print it, or solve it on screen. Read the practice pages first (How to Play, Worked Example, the town map and the walking minutes), then the four puzzles of Case 1, and finish on the evidence card.

Hints in three tiers and the full answers are printed at the back of the book. Puzzle numbers, such as 1.3, are the ones the book uses.

Pages 5–7, 10–11 and 13–18 of the book. Page numbers are the book's own.

The whole book: 64 puzzles, 16 cases, 1 killer. Search “The Night the Presses Stopped” on Amazon, or ASIN B0HJZPCPJK.

BEFORE THE FIRST CASE

Wrackmouth, October 1957

THE TOWN

Wrackmouth is a small ferry and fishing town on a cold northern coast. Calls still go through a manual switchboard at the post office, where a telephonist answers each small lamp by hand, even for a public call box. News travels by the post and by the town paper, the Wrackmouth Ledger. People walk, and they are seen walking.

THE DETECTIVE

Nellie Tamsley. Fifty-eight, twenty years a telephonist, now at the post office counter. She reads paste, postmarks and handwriting.

HER CONSTABLE

Constable Owen Brisk. Young, tall, honest, slow to guess and quick to fetch. He works from the police house on Quay Street.

THE PUBLISHER

Edmund Carrow, owner and publisher of the Wrackmouth Ledger. Sixty-one, blunt and about to print that the town's 1952 copy of the Harbour Deed is a forgery. By Saturday night he is dead.

How to Play

1 Solve

Each case opens on a right-hand page and has four puzzles. Each answer is one piece of evidence. Puzzle 3.2 is Case 3's second puzzle.

2 File the card

Put the four answers together and write what they prove on the evidence card.

3 Cross out

Cross out every suspect the card rules out. Someone proven in another room of the card's own place is not ruled out. In the Finale, the 16 cards leave one name.

The worked example overleaf walks through a practice case. Stuck later? Hints in three tiers, then full answers, are at the back of the book.

PRACTICE CASE

Worked Example

A practice case, not part of the story. It shows the whole routine in five steps.

- At 3:00 PM someone took the vicar’s umbrella from the chapel porch. Three people were out walking at that hour, each in a different place.
- 1

Mr Abel was buying bread at the bakery.
- 2

Miss Bray was not down at the quay.

	Bakery	Chapel	Quay	
Mr Abel	●	×	×	● = was there × = ruled out
Miss Bray	×	●	×	
Mrs Cope	×	×	●	

Step 1. Mark what a clue says outright

Clue 1 puts Mr Abel at the bakery: a dot in his Bakery square. Nobody else was at the bakery, and he was nowhere else, so cross out the rest of that row and column.

Step 2. Mark what a clue rules out

Clue 2 crosses out Miss Bray at the quay. Her row now has one square left: the chapel.

Step 3. Finish by elimination

The ‘Chapel’ column is taken by Miss Bray, so Mrs Cope was at the quay.

Step 4. File the card

The puzzles agree on a place and a time, so that goes on the card. KIND says what a card takes: a PLACE or NUMBER card takes a place, a day and a time (a NUMBER card through a code or a peg); a WORD card takes something true of the killer. READ WITH marks two cards that together rule out someone neither rules out alone.

EVIDENCE CARD		PRACTICE
KIND: PLACE		
PLACE	<u>Chapel porch</u>	
TIME	<u>3:00 PM</u>	
Whoever took the umbrella was at the chapel at 3:00 PM.		

Step 5. Cross out

Distances are walking minutes on the town map: count the squares across and up, never on the diagonal. Nobody can be in two places closer in time than the walk between them. At 3:00 PM Mr Abel was at the bakery and Mrs Cope at the quay, so neither was at the chapel.

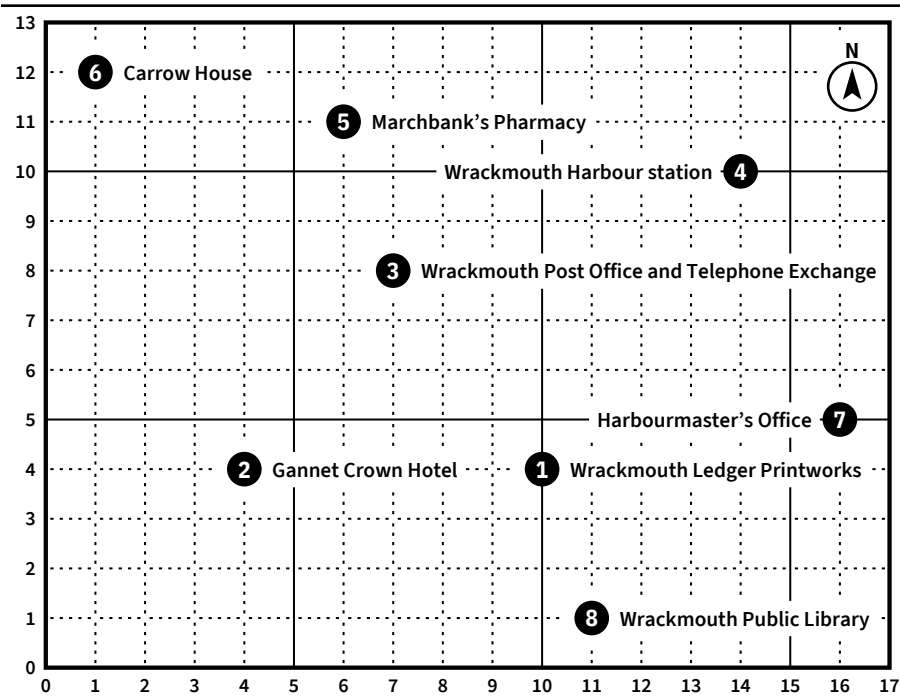
	Mr Abel	Miss Bray	Mrs Cope
Card: chapel, 3:00 PM	×	○	×

Stuck?

Turn to the Hints, pick a tier and look up the puzzle number, such as 1.3. Each tier starts on a fresh page.

MAP OF WRACKMOUTH

One square = one minute's walk. Count across and up; no diagonals.



PLACES (EAST, NORTH) IN WALKING MINUTES

- 1. Wrackmouth Ledger Printworks (10, 4)
- 2. Gannet Crown Hotel (4, 4)
- 3. Wrackmouth Post Office and Telephone Exchange (7, 8)
- 4. Wrackmouth Harbour station (14, 10)
- 5. Marchbank's Pharmacy (6, 11)
- 6. Carrow House (1, 12)
- 7. Harbourmaster's Office (16, 5)
- 8. Wrackmouth Public Library (11, 1)

Walking Minutes

Minutes on foot between the eight places on the map, one square to a minute, counted across and up. The numbers are the ones on the map.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1 Ledger printworks	–	6	7	10	11	17	7	4
2 Gannet Crown Hotel	6	–	7	16	9	11	13	10
3 Post office	7	7	–	9	4	10	12	11
4 Harbour station	10	16	9	–	9	15	7	12
5 Marchbank's Pharmacy	11	9	4	9	–	6	16	15
6 Carrow House	17	11	10	15	6	–	22	21
7 Harbourmaster's office	7	13	12	7	16	22	–	9
8 Public library	4	10	11	12	15	21	9	–

HOW THE MINUTES ARE COUNTED

Each case file prints two timings. PUZZLES gives the minutes its four puzzles take a careful solver, counted from what each one asks of you: rows to check, letters to decode, squares to fill and clues to read two at a time. CARD is the time it takes to fill in the evidence card and cross out on RULE OUT NOW.

The puzzle kinds are word search, cipher, codeword, logic grid, floor plan, roster and safe code. Each puzzle prints its level, from 2 to 5, and its minutes; a level compares puzzles of the same kind, and the dots in the Contents give each case's level. Some cases add a notebook page for what you have proved so far. The Case Log adds up the times, Finale included: about 10 hours in all.

CASE FILE No. 01

The Resealed Envelope

LEVEL ●●○○○

PUZZLES 20 MIN + CARD 6 MIN

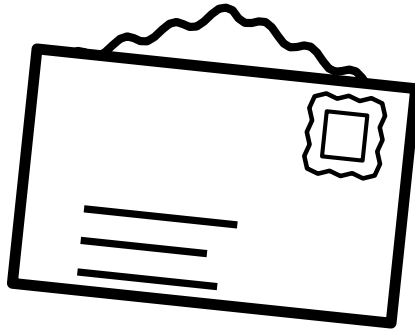


EXHIBIT 1

Monday, 7 October 1957. At half past four Edmund Carrow brings a letter to the post office counter. The library has sent it back to him with a note in pencil: 'Not for this building.' He wants Nellie Tamsley to look at it, because she knows paper. The flap is rippled. Someone has opened it and stuck it down again with flour paste, dried in small grey beads. Nellie never opens other people's letters, so Carrow opens it in front of her. One sheet, in his own hand, asking the Librarian to let him see the Harbour Survey Book of 1911, with the 1952 copy of the deed beside it, 'before Saturday, and quietly'. Carrow's jaw sets. 'Someone read this first,' he says. 'Someone with a kettle,' says Nellie. The library keeps a paste pot, and a kettle too. Find where the letter was opened, and at what time.

In this case: Percy Thornlow, Audrey Fenwick, Lionel Fell

PUZZLES 1.1–1.4 · EVIDENCE CARD PAGE 18

PUZZLE 1.1 · WORD SEARCH

LEVEL 2 · ABOUT 8 MIN

The Back-Room Shelf

Find the words from the list in the grid. Words run left to right, straight down and down to the right. One word on the list is not in the grid at all: write it down. Then, in the rows marked with an arrow (rows 3 and 4), read the letters that no word uses, from left to right and top to bottom.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	K	F	M	F	L	E	T	T	E	R	R
2	I	S	P	L	S	D	V	E	F	C	E
▶ 3	T	T	W	A	E	L	V	N	E	F	A
▶ 4	O	A	S	P	S	R	S	V	T	Y	D
5	O	M	T	E	B	T	H	E	N	I	E
6	L	P	E	B	A	G	E	L	S	O	R
7	S	V	A	R	R	L	L	O	O	H	S
8	T	U	M	U	K	E	F	P	T	E	S
9	H	S	A	S	V	H	E	E	S	R	R
10	I	H	S	H	F	E	N	L	A	V	I
11	E	E	L	S	L	I	P	S	E	T	N

WORD LIST

- ☐ BRUSH
- ☐ ENVELOPE
- ☐ FLAP
- ☐ KETTLE
- ☐ LETTER
- ☐ PASTE
- ☐ READERS
- ☐ SEAL
- ☐ SHELF
- ☐ SLIPS
- ☐ STAMP
- ☐ STEAM

PUZZLE 1.2 · CIPHER

LEVEL 2 · ABOUT 4 MIN

The Shelf Label

Every letter was moved four places forward along the alphabet.

T	E	W	X	I	T	S	X	O	I	T	X	M	R
X	L	I	F	E	G	O	V	S	S	Q	F	C	
X	L	I	O	I	X	X	P	I					

YOUR CODE ALPHABET: WRITE IT UNDER A TO 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

THE MESSAGE _____

PUZZLE 1.3 · LOGIC GRID

LEVEL 2 · ABOUT 5 MIN

Who Was Where at 12:40 PM

Where was everyone at 12:40 PM on Monday? Match each person to one place and one activity. Each place and each activity belongs to exactly one person. A ‘farther from’ clue compares walking minutes on the town map. It is true only if both people it refers to were at one of the eight numbered places on the map; any room or part of that place counts.

	Harbourmaster's office	Library reading room	Locked room	Alone	Reading old newspapers	Writing the tide log
Lionel Fell						
Audrey Fenwick						
Percy Thornlow						
Alone						
Reading old newspapers						
Writing the tide log						

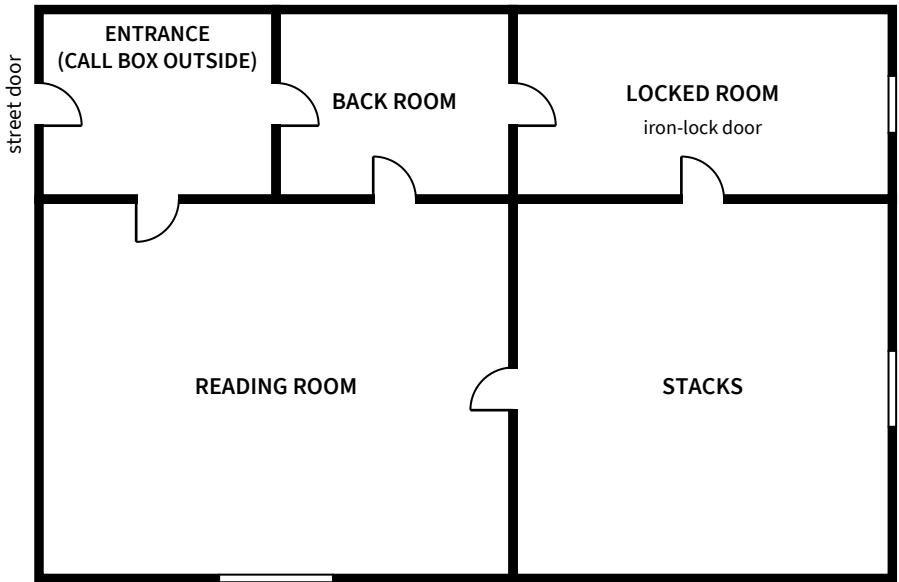
- 1 Lionel Fell was not in the library reading room.
- 2 Lionel Fell was either reading old newspapers or alone.
- 3 Lionel Fell was either writing the tide log or alone.
- 4 Percy Thornlow was farther from the Gannet Crown than Lionel Fell was.
- 5 Audrey Fenwick was either reading old newspapers or alone.

PUZZLE 1.4 • FLOOR PLAN

LEVEL 2 • ABOUT 3 MIN

The Plan: Wrackmouth Public Library

Carrow's letter came in by the library's street door and was steamed open over the kettle in the back room. Trace its way from the street door to the kettle, room by room. Use only the doors drawn on the plan. Each numbered statement is true.



Arcs show doors. Double lines show windows.

0 15 ft

- 1 Readers in the reading room saw no one cross into the back room at lunch.
- 2 The door from the entrance to the back room was locked all day.

YOUR ROUTE

→→→→

Use as many boxes as the route needs.

CASE 1 · EVIDENCE CARD

Write what the puzzles prove; cross out anyone this card rules out.

EVIDENCE CARD

No. 01

The Resealed Envelope

KIND: PLACE

PLACE

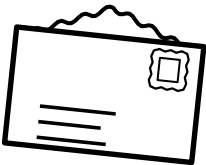
DAY AND TIME

HOW THE PUZZLES SHOW IT

☐ SOLVED

TIME TAKEN _____ MIN

☐ HINTS USED



RULE OUT NOW

- ☐ Peggy Linwood

☐ Constance Bellweather

☐ Maurice Marchbank

☐ Reginald Carrow

☒ Lionel Fell

☐ Stanley Kell
- ☐ Cecil Hale

☐ Walter Grint

☐ Winifred Sparrow

☒ Percy Thornlow

☒ Audrey Fenwick

☐ Agnes Poole

● = in this case

NOTES

Fill in this card before you turn the page.