

C A S E N ° Z E R O

THE MISSING DIARY

· the last chapter ·



Ivy Hollow Inn had weathered eleven winters of Vermont snow, but none so silent as the one that swallowed Eleanor Whitcombe. The reclusive novelist had taken the inn's east room to finish what she called her “last honest book” — a diary, she told the innkeeper, of things she had never dared print as fiction. On the third snowbound morning, she was found at her writing desk, her pen still in hand, and the final pages gone from the drawer where she locked them every night.

Six guests had shared the inn's fire that week, each with a reason to want those pages found — or destroyed. Her editor arrived within the hour, insisting the manuscript was owed to its readers. Her estranged nephew arrived on the next train, insisting it was owed to no one but the family whose secrets it likely held. The innkeeper swore no stranger had passed her desk since the snow began. The groundskeeper had cleared a path to every window but one. A rival author had motive enough to fill a chapter of his own. And a quiet physician, an old guest of the inn, seemed to know Eleanor better than she ever let on.

Somewhere in Ivy Hollow's eleven locked rooms, the truth was waiting — one clue, one drawer, one careless word at a time.



Six guests. One missing diary. Turn the page to meet them all.

THE SUSPECTS

· ivy hollow inn ·

Mrs. Agnes Pruitt

INNKEEPER

Has run Ivy Hollow for thirty years and guards its reputation like a second family.

MY NOTE: _____

Mr. Dashiell Cole

RIVAL NOVELIST

Has spent a decade in Eleanor's shadow, and made no secret of resenting it.

MY NOTE: _____

Miss Rosalind Vance

LITERARY AGENT

Stood to earn more from Eleanor's last book than from any she sold while living.

MY NOTE: _____

Mr. Tobias Finch

GROUNDSKEEPER

Knows every window, latch, and footpath on the property — and says little about any of them.

MY NOTE: _____

Dr. Helena Marsh

FELLOW GUEST

A retired physician with a connection to Eleanor that neither woman ever explained.

MY NOTE: _____

Mr. Nathaniel Gray

ESTRANGED NEPHEW

Eleanor's only living relative, and the one who inherits everything — including her silence.

MY NOTE: _____

PUZZLE 0.1

ROOKIE

“The Writing Desk”

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

— EVIDENCE LIST —

BLOTTER	CANDLESTICK	DRAFT
DRAWER	ENVELOPE	INITIAL
INKWELL	JOURNAL	LEDGER
MANUSCRIPT	MARGIN	NOTEBOOK
PARCHMENT	POSTMARK	QUILL
SIGNATURE	STATIONERY	

PUZZLE 0.2

ROOKIE “Winter at the Inn”

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

— EVIDENCE LIST —

- BLANKET
- CORRIDOR
- HEARTH
- LANTERN
- SNOWDRIFT
- WOODSTOVE
- CARRIAGE
- FIREPLACE
- ICICLE
- PARLOR
- STAIRCASE
- CHIMNEY
- FROSTBITE
- KETTLE
- SHUTTER
- THRESHOLD



PUZZLE 0.3

DETECTIVE “The Guest List”

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

— EVIDENCE LIST —

- ACCOUNT
- EDITOR
- MOTIVE
- PHYSICIAN
- SUSPECT
- WITNESS
- ALIBI
- HEIR
- NEPHEW
- RIVAL
- TESTIMONY
- CHARACTER
- INNKEEPER
- NOVELIST
- STRANGER
- VISITOR



PUZZLE 0.4

DETECTIVE

“Clues in the Snow”

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

— EVIDENCE LIST —

ASHTRAY	BOOTPRINT	BUTTON
CIPHER	FOOTPRINT	GLOVE
HINGE	INKSTAIN	KEYHOLE
LATCH	RIBBON	SCRATCH
SPLINTER	STAIN	TEACUP
THREAD		



PUZZLE 0.5

MASTER DETECTIVE “The Final Chapter”

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

— EVIDENCE LIST —

- CLOSURE
- CONFESSION
- CULPRIT
- DEDUCTION
- DISCLOSURE
- DISCOVERY
- EPILOGUE
- EVIDENCE
- JUSTICE
- RESOLUTION
- REVELATION
- SECRET
- TRUTH
- UNMASK
- VERDICT

DETECTIVE'S NOTEBOOK

CASE ZERO

Write down each clue as you uncover it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Y O U R V E R D I C T

The culprit is: _____

The motive was: _____

The means: _____

Where: _____

When: _____

Turn to the solution on the next page to check your work.



SOLUTION

*Every clue, every answer grid, the full
verdict for Case Zero. No peeking until your
notebook is full, Detective.*

Puzzle 0.1 — The Writing Desk

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

★ Clue: MANUSCRIPT

Puzzle 0.2 — Winter at the Inn

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

★ Clue: HEARTH

Puzzle 0.3 — The Guest List

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

★ Clue: ALIBI

Puzzle 0.4 — Clues in the Snow

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

★ Clue: FOOTPRINT

Puzzle 0.5 — The Final Chapter

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

★ Clue: VERDICT

THE VERDICT

· ivy hollow inn ·

The diary had never left the inn at all. **Mr. Tobias Finch**, the groundskeeper, had found the missing pages tucked beneath a floorboard in the east room days before Eleanor's death — pages that named his late sister as the subject of an unflattering chapter Eleanor never intended to publish, but never quite managed to cut, either.

He hadn't meant for anyone to die. He'd meant only to take back a story that wasn't his to lose. But a locked drawer, a borrowed key, and one snowbound morning left Ivy Hollow with a silence far heavier than winter.



This bonus case was written just for readers of CLUEHUNT Vol. 1 — thank you for solving alongside us.