

The Old Vault-Key Affair

SUNDAY · 27 CLUES · 7 GUESTS

During Auntie Pearl’s dinner for 7, Carissa’s old vault-key disappeared from the memento drawer. The thief is still at the table, and only the thief will lie. Tonight there are three ledgers to square (who sleeps in which bunk, who brewed which potion, and who charted which sign), and the clues cross between them. Solve every grid and find the liar.

Find the liar. Solve every grid.

	Caravan bunk							Potion brewed							Star-sign charted						
	Red	Teal	Plum	Grey	Sage	Ochre	Coral	Tonic	Salve	Philter	Wash	Oil	Numbroot	Cure	Plough	Swan	Hound	Forge	Lyre	Crown	Veil
Ada																					
Baldric																					
Dorian																					
Edmund																					
Isaac																					
Kattia																					
Minty																					
Star-sign charted																					
Plough																					
Swan																					
Hound																					
Forge																					
Lyre																					
Crown																					
Veil																					
Potion brewed																					
Tonic																					
Salve																					
Philter																					
Wash																					
Oil																					
Numbroot																					
Cure																					

Mark each cell: ✕ ruled out · ● confirmed.

The clues

※ Mending brews (they restore, soothe, or heal: Tonic, Salve, Cure, Remedy, Liniment): Tonic · Salve · Cure

📄 AUNTIE PEARL’S LEDGER: THESE FACTS ARE ALWAYS TRUE

1. The Seeker who brewed the Salve charted the Crown.

2. The Seeker who brewed the Salve sleeps in the Sage bunk.
3. Whoever is behind this sleeps in the Red bunk, the Coral bunk, the Ochre bunk, or the Teal bunk.
4. The Seeker who charted the Veil sleeps in the Coral bunk.
5. Edmund doesn't sleep in the Ochre bunk.
6. Whoever is behind this didn't chart the Hound, the Crown, or the Veil.
7. Baldric didn't chart the Plough.
8. Edmund, Baldric, and Isaac sleep in the Plum bunk, the Ochre bunk, and the Coral bunk, in some order.
9. Minty, Dorian, and Edmund brewed the Wash, the Cure, and the Tonic, in some order.
10. The Seeker who charted the Swan sleeps in the Grey bunk.
11. The Seeker in the Plum bunk brewed the Numbroot.
12. Edmund, Minty, and Kattia brewed the Cure, the Wash, and the Salve, in some order.
13. Minty brewed a mending brew.
14. The Seeker who charted the Lyre brewed the Numbroot.
15. Whoever is behind this didn't brew the Wash, the Philter, or the Numbroot.
16. Kattia, Baldric, Edmund, and Dorian brewed the Wash, the Oil, the Tonic, and the Salve, in some order.
17. Baldric's potion isn't a mending brew.
18. Edmund, Baldric, Ada, and Minty sleep in the Red bunk, the Grey bunk, the Ochre bunk, and the Coral bunk, in some order.

WHAT THE SEEKERS SAID

19.  *Kattia says: "Isaac didn't brew the Salve."*
20.  *Kattia adds: "My potion is a mending brew."*
21.  *Dorian says flatly, not lowering the spyglass: "The Seeker in the Ochre bunk didn't brew the Tonic."*
22.  *Ada says: "Minty doesn't sleep in the Teal bunk."*
23.  *Baldric says: "Dorian charted the Hound."*
24.  *Edmund says: "The Seeker who brewed the Wash didn't chart the Hound."*
25.  *Minty says: "I charted the Swan."*
26.  *Minty adds: "Baldric didn't chart the Forge."*
27.  *Isaac rumbles, setting down the hammer: "The Seeker who brewed the Philter sleeps in the Grey bunk."*

Answer: The Old Vault-Key Affair

 **The liar (culprit):**  **Minty**

A lie, clue 25: Minty charted the Swan. (false).

A lie, clue 26: Baldric didn't chart the Forge. (false).

	Caravan bunk							Potion brewed							Star-sign charted						
	Red	Teal	Plum	Grey	Sage	Ochre	Coral	Tonic	Salve	Philter	Wash	Oil	Numbroot	Cure	Plough	Swan	Hound	Forge	Lyre	Crown	Veil
 Ada	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X
 Baldric	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X
 Dorian	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X
 Edmund	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●
 Isaac	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X
 Kattia	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X
 Minty	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	●	X	X	X	X	X	X
 Star-sign charted																					
Plough	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●							
Swan	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X							
Hound	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Forge	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X							
Lyre	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X							
Crown	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X							
Veil	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	●	X	X	X							
 Potion brewed																					
Tonic	X	●	X	X	X	X	X														
Salve	X	X	X	X	●	X	X														
Philter	X	X	X	●	X	X	X														
Wash	X	X	X	X	X	X	●														
Oil	X	X	X	X	X	●	X														
Numbroot	X	X	●	X	X	X	X														
Cure	●	X	X	X	X	X	X														

Step-by-step proof

- From clue 5: Edmund doesn't sleep in the Ochre bunk.
- From clue 7: Baldric didn't chart the Plough.
- From clue 8: only Edmund, Baldric, and Isaac can have the Plum bunk, the Ochre bunk, and the Coral bunk. Rule those out for everyone else.
- From clue 2: Baldric didn't brew the Salve, Edmund didn't brew the Salve, and Isaac didn't brew the Salve.
- From clue 1: Baldric didn't chart the Crown, Edmund didn't chart the Crown, and Isaac didn't chart the Crown.
- From clue 4: Ada didn't chart the Veil, Dorian didn't chart the Veil, Kattia didn't chart the Veil, and Minty didn't chart the Veil.

7. From clue 9: only Minty, Dorian, and Edmund can have the Wash, the Cure, and the Tonic. Rule those out for everyone else.
8. From clue 1: Dorian didn't chart the Crown and Minty didn't chart the Crown.
9. From clue 2: Dorian doesn't sleep in the Sage bunk and Minty doesn't sleep in the Sage bunk.
10. From clue 10: Baldric didn't chart the Swan, Edmund didn't chart the Swan, and Isaac didn't chart the Swan.
11. From clue 11: Edmund sleeps in the Coral bunk, Ada didn't brew the Numbroot, and Kattia didn't brew the Numbroot.
12. From clue 4: Edmund charted the Veil.
13. From clue 6: Edmund is innocent.
14. From clue 12: Ada didn't brew the Salve, Dorian brewed the Tonic, Edmund didn't brew the Tonic, Kattia brewed the Salve, and Minty didn't brew the Tonic.
15. From clue 1: Ada didn't chart the Crown and Kattia charted the Crown.
16. From clue 2: Ada doesn't sleep in the Sage bunk and Kattia sleeps in the Sage bunk.
17. From clue 3: Kattia is innocent.
18. From clue 13: Minty brewed the Cure.
19. From clue 14: Ada didn't chart the Lyre, Dorian didn't chart the Lyre, and Minty didn't chart the Lyre.
20. From clue 16: Ada brewed the Philter, Baldric brewed the Oil, Edmund brewed the Wash, and Isaac didn't brew the Oil.
21. From clue 11: Baldric doesn't sleep in the Plum bunk.
22. From clue 14: Baldric didn't chart the Lyre.
23. From clue 15: Ada is innocent and Isaac is innocent.
24. From clue 18: Ada doesn't sleep in the Teal bunk, Dorian sleeps in the Teal bunk, Isaac sleeps in the Plum bunk, and Minty doesn't sleep in the Teal bunk.
25. From clue 4: Isaac didn't chart the Veil.
26. From clue 10: Dorian didn't chart the Swan.
27. From clue 11: Isaac brewed the Numbroot.
28. From clue 14: Isaac charted the Lyre.
29. From clue 27: Ada sleeps in the Grey bunk.
30. From clue 10: Ada charted the Swan.
31. Only one possibility remains: Baldric sleeps in the Ochre bunk, Minty sleeps in the Red bunk, Baldric didn't chart the Veil, and Minty didn't chart the Swan.
32. Minty's statement (clue 25) cannot be true, and only the culprit lies. Minty is the culprit.
33. From clue 23: Dorian charted the Hound.
34. Only one possibility remains: Baldric charted the Forge and Minty charted the Plough.