# The Old Vault-Key Affair

TUESDAY · 15 CLUES · 7 GUESTS

*Auntie Pearl had 7 Seekers at the table when Carissa's old vault-key went missing from the memento drawer. One of them took it, and that one will lie; the rest are honest. Three ledgers tonight (who borrowed which tool, who brewed which potion, and who charted which sign), and the clues braid across them all. Square the grids. Find the liar.*

## 🎯 Find the liar. Solve every grid.

| | 🔧 Tool borrowed | | | | | | | 🧪 Potion brewed | | | | | | | 🌌 Star-sign charted | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Saw | Wrench | Gouge | File | Tongs | Chisel | Plane | Tonic | Salve | Philter | Wash | Oil | Numbroot | Cure | Plough | Swan | Hound | Forge | Lyre | Crown | Veil |
| 🧠 Anne | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 🌾 Baldric | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 🔭 David | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ⚔️ Elise | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 🔨 Ivan | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ⚗️ Kattia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 🪙 Michael | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 🌌 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

※ *Skin-brews (rubbed or rinsed on, never sipped): Salve, Wash, Oil*

※ *Potions spelled with an I: Tonic, Philter, Oil*

### 📋 AUNTIE PEARL'S LEDGER: THESE FACTS ARE ALWAYS TRUE

**1.** The Seeker who borrowed the saw charted the Veil.

**2.** The Seeker who charted the Forge borrowed the gouge.

**3.** Ivan and Baldric borrowed the wrench and the saw, in some order.

**4.** The Seeker who brewed the Numbroot charted the Lyre.

**5.** The Seeker who borrowed the file brewed the Cure.

**6.** The culprit didn't chart the Swan, the Forge, or the Crown.

### 🗣️ WHAT THE SEEKERS SAID

**7.** ⚗️ *Kattia says:* "David brewed a skin-brew." (Salve, Wash or Oil)

**8.** 🔭 *David says flatly, not lowering the spyglass:* "The Seeker who brewed the Philter borrowed the tongs."

**9.** 🔨 *Ivan says:* "Baldric, Elise, and I brewed the Wash, the Tonic, and the Philter, in some order."

**10.** 🔨 *Ivan adds:* "My potion is spelled with an I." (Tonic, Philter or Oil)

**11.** 🧠 *Anne says:* "Ivan, Elise, and David charted the Hound, the Swan, and the Crown, in some order."

**12.** 🧠 *Anne adds:* "Elise, Ivan, and Kattia charted the Swan, the Hound, and the Forge, in some order."

**13.** 🪙 *Michael says, palms up, all honesty:* "Kattia brewed the Salve."

**14.** ⚔️ *Elise says:* "I brewed the Wash."

**15.** 🌾 *Baldric mutters "By the stone," then says, leaning on the hoe:* "Michael borrowed the plane."

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# Answer: The Old Vault-Key Affair

## 🕯️ The liar (culprit): ⚔️ Elise

The lie, clue 14: Elise brewed the Wash. (false).

| | 🔧 Tool borrowed | | | | | | | 🧪 Potion brewed | | | | | | | 🌌 Star-sign charted | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Saw | Wrench | Gouge | File | Tongs | Chisel | Plane | Tonic | Salve | Philter | Wash | Oil | Numbroot | Cure | Plough | Swan | Hound | Forge | Lyre | Crown | Veil |
| 🧠 Anne | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 🌾 Baldric | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● |
| 🔭 David | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ |
| ⚔️ Elise | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 🔨 Ivan | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| ⚗️ Kattia | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 🪙 Michael | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ |

| 🌌 Star-sign charted | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plough | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● |
| Swan | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Hound | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Forge | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Lyre | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ |
| Crown | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ |
| Veil | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

| 🧪 Potion brewed | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tonic | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Salve | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Philter | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ |
| Wash | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Oil | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ |
| Numbroot | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● |
| Cure | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ● | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

### Step-by-step proof

1. From clue 3: only Ivan and Baldric can have the wrench and the saw. Rule those out for everyone else.
2. From clue 1: Anne didn't chart the Veil, David didn't chart the Veil, Elise didn't chart the Veil, and Kattia didn't chart the Veil.
3. Also: Michael didn't chart the Veil.
4. From clue 2: Baldric didn't chart the Forge and Ivan didn't chart the Forge.
5. From clue 5: Baldric didn't brew the Cure and Ivan didn't brew the Cure.
6. Anne (clue 11 & 12) and Ivan (clue 9 & 10) can't both be lying, since only the culprit lies. Whichever of them is honest, the same follows: Elise didn't borrow the file, Anne didn't brew the Tonic, Anne didn't brew the Philter, and Anne didn't brew the Wash.

7. Also: Baldric didn’t brew the Salve, Baldric didn’t brew the Oil, Baldric didn’t brew the Numbroot, and David didn’t brew the Tonic.
8. Also: David didn’t brew the Philter, David didn’t brew the Wash, Elise didn’t brew the Salve, and Elise didn’t brew the Oil.
9. Also: Elise didn’t brew the Numbroot, Elise didn’t brew the Cure, Ivan didn’t brew the Salve, and Ivan didn’t brew the Wash.
10. Also: Ivan didn’t brew the Oil, Ivan didn’t brew the Numbroot, Kattia didn’t brew the Tonic, and Kattia didn’t brew the Philter.
11. Also: Kattia didn’t brew the Wash, Michael didn’t brew the Tonic, Michael didn’t brew the Philter, and Michael didn’t brew the Wash.
12. Also: Baldric didn’t chart the Lyre, Elise didn’t chart the Lyre, Ivan didn’t chart the Lyre, and Ivan is innocent.
13. Elise can’t be telling the truth: if Elise’s every word were true, clue 12 would be broken. Only the culprit lies, so Elise is the culprit. To see why, suppose it were so. Then: … (1) From clue 11: David charted the Hound, Elise didn’t chart the Plough, Elise didn’t chart the Forge, and Ivan didn’t chart the Plough. That is where it breaks, so none of this is true of the real answer.
14. From clue 6: Elise didn’t chart the Swan, Elise didn’t chart the Forge, and Elise didn’t chart the Crown.
15. From clue 2: Elise didn’t borrow the gouge.
16. From clue 7: David didn’t brew the Numbroot and David didn’t brew the Cure.
17. From clue 4: David didn’t chart the Lyre.
18. From clue 5: David didn’t borrow the file.
19. From clue 8: Ivan brewed the Tonic, Anne didn’t borrow the tongs, David didn’t borrow the tongs, and Kattia didn’t borrow the tongs.
20. Also: Michael didn’t borrow the tongs and Baldric didn’t brew the Philter.
21. From clue 11: Elise charted the Hound, Anne didn’t chart the Swan, Anne didn’t chart the Hound, and Anne didn’t chart the Crown.
22. Also: Baldric didn’t chart the Swan, Baldric didn’t chart the Hound, Baldric didn’t chart the Crown, and David didn’t chart the Plough.
23. Also: David didn’t chart the Forge, Ivan didn’t chart the Plough, Ivan didn’t chart the Veil, and Kattia didn’t chart the Swan.
24. Also: Kattia didn’t chart the Hound, Kattia didn’t chart the Crown, Michael didn’t chart the Swan, and Michael didn’t chart the Hound.
25. Also: Michael didn’t chart the Crown.
26. From clue 1: Ivan borrowed the wrench.
27. From clue 2: David didn’t borrow the gouge.
28. From clue 12: David charted the Crown, Kattia charted the Forge, Anne didn’t chart the Forge, and Ivan didn’t chart the Crown.
29. Also: Michael didn’t chart the Forge.
30. From clue 2: Anne didn’t borrow the gouge, Kattia borrowed the gouge, and Michael didn’t borrow the gouge.
31. From clue 4: Kattia didn’t brew the Numbroot.
32. From clue 5: Kattia didn’t brew the Cure.
33. From clue 13: Kattia brewed the Salve.
34. From clue 15: Michael borrowed the plane.
35. From clue 5: Michael didn’t brew the Cure.
36. Only one possibility remains: Anne borrowed the file, Baldric borrowed the saw, David borrowed the chisel, and Elise borrowed the tongs.
37. Also: Anne brewed the Cure, Baldric brewed the Wash, David brewed the Oil, and Elise brewed the Philter.
38. Also: Baldric charted the Veil, Ivan charted the Swan, and Michael didn’t brew the Salve.

39. From clue 4: Anne charted the Plough.

40. Only one possibility remains: Michael brewed the Numbroot and Michael charted the Lyre.

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