

The Case of the Strongbox Key

THURSDAY · 15 CLUES · 6 GUESTS

During Auntie Pearl’s dinner for 6, the strongbox key disappeared from Auntie’s keyring. The thief is still at the table, and only the thief will lie. Tonight there are two ledgers to square (who leases which trinket, and who champions which pastime), and the clues cross between them. Solve every grid and find the liar.

 **Find the liar. Solve every grid.**

	 Trinket leased						 Pastime					
	Silver Ring	Gold Amulet	Jade Bead	Onyx Coil	Ruby Pin	Copper Key	Quoits	Riddling	Jacks	Skittles	Wrestling	Fetch
 Ada												
 Baldric												
 Edmund												
 Isaac												
 Kattia												
 Mara												
 Pastime												
Quoits												
Riddling												
Jacks												
Skittles												
Wrestling												
Fetch												

Mark each cell: ✕ ruled out · ● confirmed.

The clues

※ Games needing no kit at all: Riddling · Wrestling

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

1. The Seeker who leases the Silver Ring doesn’t champion the wrestling.
2. Whoever is behind this doesn’t champion the quoits or the skittles.
3. Whoever is behind this doesn’t lease the Gold Amulet or the Copper Key.
4. Edmund, Baldric, and Mara lease the Jade Bead, the Silver Ring, and the Ruby Pin, in some order.
5. The Seeker who leases the Onyx Coil doesn’t champion the jacks.
6. The Seeker who leases the Ruby Pin doesn’t champion the quoits.
7. Isaac, Kattia, and Edmund lease the Copper Key, the Ruby Pin, and the Onyx Coil, in some order.

8. Baldric, Ada, and Edmund champion the jacks, the wrestling, and the skittles, in some order.
9. Edmund and Kattia champion the skittles and the fetch, in some order.

WHAT THE SEEKERS SAID

10.  *Baldric says: "Mara champions a game that needs no kit."*
 11.  *Ada says, a half-beat before the question ends: "Mara doesn't lease the Silver Ring."*
 12.  *Edmund says: "Kattia doesn't lease the Copper Key."*
 13.  *Kattia says: "Baldric's game needs its kit."*
 14.  *Mara says, all innocence: "Baldric doesn't lease the Silver Ring."*
 15.  *Isaac says: "Edmund doesn't lease the Onyx Coil."*
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Answer: The Case of the Strongbox Key

🔦 The liar (culprit): 🟡 Mara

The lie, clue 14: Baldric doesn't lease the Silver Ring. (false).

	🔵 Trinket leased						🟡 Pastime					
	Silver Ring	Gold Amulet	Jade Bead	Onyx Coil	Ruby Pin	Copper Key	Quoits	Riddling	Jacks	Skittles	Wrestling	Fetch
🧠 Ada	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X
🦋 Baldric	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X
⚔️ Edmund	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	●	X	X
🔨 Isaac	X	X	X	X	X	●	●	X	X	X	X	X
🧊 Kattia	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	●
🟡 Mara	X	X	●	X	X	X	X	●	X	X	X	X
🟡 Pastime												
Quoits	X	X	X	X	X	●						
Riddling	X	X	●	X	X	X						
Jacks	●	X	X	X	X	X						
Skittles	X	X	X	X	●	X						
Wrestling	X	●	X	X	X	X						
Fetch	X	X	X	●	X	X						

Step-by-step proof

- From clue 4: only Edmund, Baldric, and Mara can have the Jade Bead, the Silver Ring, and the Ruby Pin. Rule those out for everyone else.
- From clue 7: Ada leases the Gold Amulet, Baldric doesn't lease the Ruby Pin, Edmund leases the Ruby Pin, Isaac doesn't lease the Gold Amulet, Kattia doesn't lease the Gold Amulet, and Mara doesn't lease the Ruby Pin.
- From clue 3: Ada is innocent.
- From clue 6: Edmund doesn't champion the quoits.
- From clue 8: only Baldric, Ada, and Edmund can have the jacks, the wrestling, and the skittles. Rule those out for everyone else.
- From clue 9: Ada doesn't champion the skittles, Baldric doesn't champion the skittles, Edmund champions the skittles, Isaac doesn't champion the fetch, Kattia champions the fetch, and Mara doesn't champion the fetch.
- From clue 2: Edmund is innocent.
- From clue 11: Mara leases the Jade Bead.
- From clue 12: Kattia leases the Onyx Coil.
- Only one possibility remains: Baldric leases the Silver Ring and Isaac leases the Copper Key.
- From clue 1: Baldric champions the jacks.
- From clue 3: Isaac is innocent.
- Only one possibility remains: Ada champions the wrestling.

14. Mara's statement (clue 14) cannot be true, and only the culprit lies. Mara is the culprit.

15. From clue 10: Mara champions the riddling.

16. Only one possibility remains: Isaac champions the quoits.