

Sample puzzle to print and solve!

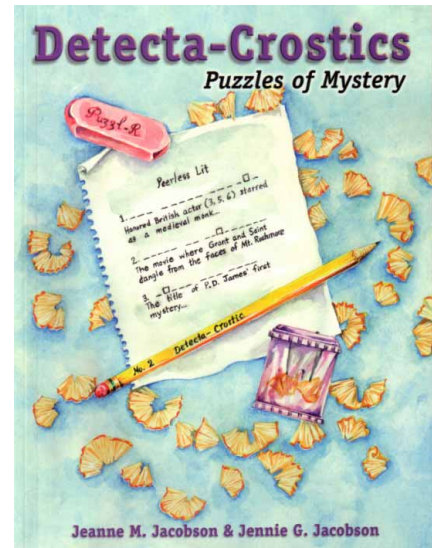
# Detecta-Crostics

## *Puzzles of Mystery*

by Jeanne M. & Jennie G. Jacobson

### *Getting Clued In*

On the pages that follow, you'll find a (relatively easy) sample from *Detecta-Crostics*, the new book from Crum Creek Press / Drood Review Books. The puzzle is on pages 2 and 3. The answers on pages 4 and 5 are annotated, just as all of the answers are throughout the book.



**Detecta-Crostics** are two-part puzzles: an anagram and an acrostic. The title of the puzzle is an anagram. Rearrange the letters to form the name of a mystery author or character, a mystery title, or the location of a mystery series — the **Detect-across** solution. Fill in answers to the clues on left and right pages, and read down the letters placed in the boxes. That's the acrostic — the **Detecta-down** solution, a related author, character, location, or title.

Thus, there are two solutions for each puzzle. The blanks at the end of the puzzle (page 5) give information about the number and length of words in the **Detect-across** and **Detecta-down** solutions. For example, the **Detect-across** solution to this sample puzzle is 2., 6 — i.e. two words, with two letters in the first word and six letters in the second. The blanks and numbers also show punctuation; in this case, there's a period after the first word.

These word mysteries are solved as real cases are — using knowledge about the puzzle form, general knowledge, clues embedded in the puzzle, hints in small type at the end of the puzzle, and deductions made by analyzing and combining data. The clues are written to enable everyone who enjoys word puzzles and mental gymnastics and has some interest in mysteries to solve the puzzle, and to provide lively information for mystery savants. *Sum clues* are a unique feature; a new style of word play that's explained in more detail in the *Detecta-Crostics* book.

**“Maddening! Diabolical! Addictive!” — Jeanne M. Dams**

***Detecta-Crostics* is available now, at booksellers everywhere!**

The Crum Creek Press / Drood Review Books  
484 E. Carmel Dr #378  
Carmel, IN 46032  
Phone: 800-643-6737 • Fax: 317-705-1402  
Email: info@droodreview.com

Order online at [www.droodreview.com](http://www.droodreview.com), or  
order by phone or mail. (Shipping is free.)

Binding:	“Layflat” trade paperback
Trim Size:	8-1/2 x 11
Pages:	192
ISBN:	0-9625804-8-1
Date:	February 2003
Price:	\$18.00



6.  \_ \_  
 “It is my belief... founded upon my experience, that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of \_ than does the smiling and beautiful countryside.”
7.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 In Dorothy B. Hughes’ “Sherlock Holmes and the Muffin,” Muffin, who foils a jewel theft, runs errands between upstairs and down for Mrs. Hudson — as what kind of maid (1, 6)?
8.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 What magical non-fictional Holmes contemporary (5, 7) — born 1874, died 1926 — teams with him to fight crime in Daniel Stashower’s *The Adventure of the Ectoplasmic Man*?
9.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ - \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 Detective classic (3, 3-6, 6): encyclopedia copying stops in mid-B’s. *Sum clue*: 2/3 Brown or Dowling + all of McBain + 3/4 how Anne Boleyn ended + 3/5 un-cloudy + 3/5 not host
10.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 In a series opener, *Against the Brotherhood*, we learn that a semi-famous older brother only pretended to be \_\_\_, maintaining the ruse with the help of a double who was lazy in his stead.
11.  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 “Fool, fool! I have kept you in luxury for years! By my help you have ridden extensively in cabs, where no author was ever seen before. Henceforth you will ride in buses.” In this excerpt from “The Adventure of the Two Collaborators,” written by one friend to another after their collaboration in playwriting has failed, a character is condemning the folly of his \_\_\_, who arranged for his death (but later repented).

**Detect-across solution** (2., 6) \_ \_ . \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Detecta-down solution** (5, 6) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

- HINTS**
- Solutions to clues 6, 8 and 10 either contaIN or begIN with the same pair of letters.
  - Note that this hINt comes ‘tween two others — and that INformation is useful.
  - Mystery author Ed McBaIN also writes as Evan Hunter. French actor Jean GabIN had the title role in the 1937 gangster film *Pepe le Moko*, upon which other dashing characters from the Casbah were modeled.

## Sworn at! D\_ \_ \_ !

The title of a Detecta-Crostic may be a clue to the theme of the puzzle. Here, *D\_ \_ \_* suggests an earlier time period, when it was customary not to spell out words such as *damn*, but to indicate them by the first letter followed by dashes.

**1. B:** Tobaccos. Holmes is the author of an *Essay on the Distinction of the Ashes of Various Tobaccos*.  
*Detect-across hidden clue:* DRaW AT SO Notable.

In this puzzle, the entire Detecta-across solution is given in a single hidden clue. This won't always be so!

**2. A:** R.L. Hall. The novel referred to is *The King Edward Plot*, 1987, by Robert Lee Hall. "When Sherlock Holmes entered the public domain, a plethora of 'undiscovered' Watson manuscripts soon followed. But this solid piece of detective fiction puts them all to shame. Herbert Munn, a retired banker seeking a life of adventure, rents Mrs. Hudson's old rooms on Baker Street. His upstairs neighbor is Frederick Wigmore, an actor and part-time detective. Wigmore turns out to be Wiggins, the ex-leader of Holmes' old Baker Street Irregulars, and he invites Munn to join him in his detecting endeavors. Brilliantly executed, stylistically accurate and downright suspenseful — an excellent mystery through and through" (Charles Wagner, *Drood*, VII, 5, 1987). M.J. Trow's character was introduced in 1985 in *The Adventures of Inspector Lestrade*. Sholto Joseph Lestrade is the alert detective, and Holmes, though more erudite, a hopeless bumbler. One feature of the ribald series is that the author will go to vast trouble to create elaborate puns. In *Lestrade and the Ripper*, 1999, one pun is based on the British pronunciation of *clerk* as "clark." Lestrade questions a hotel manager: "That was your clerk, Gable?" "No, that was my clerk, Kent." "I'd like to see these men." "I'm very much afraid you can't, Inspector. They are no longer with us. Kent has gone into the newspaper business. Gable has gone into the theatre." "An actor?" "That's a matter of opinion," scowled the manager. Opinion of Trow's mysteries is sharply divided: passionate disapproval and distaste vs. uncontrollable, though sometimes embarrassed, hilarity.

Some clues give choices, allowing for reasoned guessing. The second letter of the Detecta-down solution is A or R.

**3. K:** Barker. "Conant's latest novel is not only a good solid mystery but also a tribute to Sherlock Holmes (and dogs), a pointed commentary on elite Cambridge society folk (and the over-educated in general) and a poignant look at aging. Holly Winter meets a trio of Holmes aficionados when she and her malamute, Rowdy, stretching his wings (paws) as a therapy dog, begin their tour of duty at a nursing home. Conant provides a unique slant on the Holmes and Watson partnership worth a hearty howl or two (Jean Porath's review of *The Barker Street Regulars*, in *Drood*, XVIII, 1, 1998). Doyle introduces the Baker Street Irregulars to Watson in *A Study in Scarlet*. ...at this moment there came the pattering of many steps in the hall and on the stairs, accompanied by audible expressions of disgust upon the part of our landlady. "It's the Baker Street division of the detective police force," said my companion gravely... "There's more work to be got out of one of those little beggars than out of a dozen of the force," Holmes remarked. "The mere sight of an official-looking person seals men's lips. These youngsters, however, go everywhere, and hear everything. They are sharp as needles, too; all they want is organization."

Some clues require information most solvers won't have. Look for hints in the clue (*dog, malamute*). Also, the solution may be a pun (as here, and in clue 4): Barker Street regulars & "no police like Holmes."

**4. E:** like Holmes. The pun is based on John Howard Payne's sentimental song, "Home, Sweet Home":  
*Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.*

E.W. Hornung married Constance Doyle, and thus was Arthur Conan Doyle's brother-in-law. The Raffles stories, first published as *The Amateur Cracksman* in 1898, were reprinted with additions as *The Black Mask* in 1901. The dashing Raffles was often the subject of silent movies; most notable screen portrayals were by David Niven in 1939, and Ronald Colman — the earlier, classic Raffles — in 1930.

**5. R:** Beekeeper's. (B + wEEKEnd + pEPE + iRS). Title: *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, 1994. "The apprentice of the title is 15-year-old Mary Russell. Holmes poses problems for Mary, and their relationship develops from acquaintanceship to apprenticeship to full partnership. Eventually they become the target of a criminal mind the likes of which Holmes has not encountered since Professor Moriarty" (Bruce E. Southworth, *Drood*, XIV, 1, 1994).

To solve *Sum clues*, write all the defined words you can, skipping those not immediately known: a solution can be reached working from the end. Hints may help with definitions: here the third hint gives the origin of cartoon skunk PEPE le Pew's first name. More information about *Sum clues* is given on page 162.

**6. S:** sin. From "The Adventure of the Copper Beeches": *"Do you know, Watson," said he, "that it is one of the curses of a mind with a turn like mine that I must look at everything with reference to my own special subject. You look at these scattered houses, and you are impressed by their beauty. I look at them, and the only thought which comes to me is a feeling of their isolation and of the impunity with which crime may be committed there." "Good Heavens!" I cried. "Who would associate crime with these dear old homesteads?" "They always fill me with a certain horror. It is my belief, Watson, founded upon my experience, that the lowest and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside."*

Word length is often helpful, and be sure to check the hints at the bottom of the right-side page of the puzzle.

**7. T:** a tweeny — a "between maid." The butler held highest rank among servants; tweenies and bootboys ranked lowest. Dorothy B. Hughes introduces a tweeny to help Mrs. Hudson in her appealing story anthologized in *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, 1997, (eds., Martin Harry Greenberg & Carol-Lynn Rössel Waugh).

Try drawing an inference from wording of the clue: "between" is significant, and the second hint emphasizes that.

**8. R:** Harry Houdini. "Just as a certain percentage of aspiring science fiction writers, attracted to the field by *Star Trek*, found its stylized form and preinvented universe an ideal testing ground for their nascent talents, so some mystery writers may find that the Holmes pastiche is a good point from which to begin their careers. In spite of this friendliness to newcomers, neither subgenre is easy; each might be seen as an analog of haiku, whose rigid form appears easy but is actually rigorous. Daniel Stashower's *The Adventure of the Ectoplasmic Man* is a first novel. He has done a good job with Houdini thanks to his own background in stage magic. I look forward eagerly to that day on which Stashower will leave behind the crutch of the Holmes form and strike out on his own" (Ed Blachman, *Drood*, VI, 2, 1986). Stashower does continue, sans Holmes; e.g., *The Dime Museum Murders*, 1999.

Use general knowledge, a hint, and the clue word "magical," which suggests a magician.

**9. E:** "The Red-Headed League." (faTHER [G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown; Ralph McInerney's Father Dowling] + ED + beHEADED + cLEAR + GUEst). As the story opens: *I took a good look at the man, and endeavored after the fashion of my companion to read the indications which might be presented by his dress or appearance.... Sherlock Holmes' quick eye took in my occupation and he shook his head with a smile as he noticed my questioning glances. "Beyond the obvious facts that he has at some time done manual labour, that he takes snuff, that he is a Freemason, that he has been in China, and that he has done a considerable amount of writing lately, I can deduce nothing else."*

Sum clue fractions are reduced to lowest terms. To find out whether fractions are reduced, add the numerators to see if the total equals the number of letters in the solution. Here they don't: 2 + 2 (ED has two letters) + 3 + 3 + 3 = 13, but there are 18 letters in the solution. The first fraction signals 4 letters of a 6-letter word: FATHER. Note that the letters used may come from the beginning, middle, or end of words: FATH, ATHE, or THER. The first word in the solution has three letters: it's THE, and the second word begins with R.

**10. E:** indolent. Quinn Fawcett's series stars Mycroft Holmes. In *The Flying Scotsman*, 1999, much of the action takes place aboard that famous London-Scotland train. Ingeniously, Fawcett makes the elder Holmes vigorous, though portly. He employs an actor double to impersonate him (by being indolent) while M.H. himself pursues enemies of the British empire.

Clue solution: word beginning with IN, meaning lazy.

**11. T:** author. The spoof was written by one author knighted for literary prowess to another. Sir James Barrie, creator of Peter Pan, wrote after Doyle had, fictionally, killed Sherlock Holmes.

Inference: an author decides what happens to a character.

**Detect-across:** Dr. Watson **Detecta-down:** Baker Street

### *Detecta-Crostics*

Paperback • ISBN: 0-9625804-8-1 • 2003 • 8-1/2 x 11 • 192 pages • \$18.00

Copyright © 2003 by Jeanne M. Jacobson and Jennie G. Jacobson