

A KNIGHT'S QUEST

*a truly **puzzling** adventure*



CARMEN
FOX

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The Lost Chapter

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WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

Chances are, you may not have come across a puzzle book such as **A Knight's Quest**. It contains about 70 puzzles and brain teasers, including word searches, Sudoku, crosswords, mazes, and many you won't have seen before.

You are a valiant knight, driven by your desire to do good. In the course of the adventure, you will be confronted with games of varying degrees of difficulty. While some won't influence your next step, others will be vital to your character's survival. The story is suitable for children, but some of the puzzles are real mind-breakers that require patience, logic and luck.

The pages before you are the lost chapter from the knight's journal, a snippet of what he had to endure on his way to saving the princess from the evil dragon Dragomir. If these puzzles appeal to you, you will love the book, too.

THE LOST CHAPTER

I'd spent the whole day on horse-back in pursuit of a dance partner for a complete stranger. If my king knew of the problems I'd solved for his subjects, of the mental agility my quest demanded, he'd be glad he didn't send his only son to rescue the princess. The crown prince was happier brandishing his sword than straining his brain.

My task was a dangerous one, no doubt, but the prize of my success would be worth it: Princess Sarina's life had to be saved. The survival of our kingdom depended on it—and I'd never forgive myself for abandoning my childhood sweetheart in her hour of need.

When night fell, I found a guest house that offered reasonably priced rooms and had space for my horse, Dimitrius. A hot meal would do me good, and I took a seat in the small dining area to study the menu.

The menu wasn't as varied as I'd hoped, but anything was better than cheese.

The one meal on offer consisted of a vegetable, a small heap of grains, and something I didn't recognize at first:

Pot oooooooooo

It took me a minute to understand that the third item on the menu was

Three quarters through the generous portion, a commotion from a different room disturbed the tranquility.

"That's quite a party you have in here tonight," I said to the man who came to refill my glass.

"Don't worry, they won't keep you awake."

I squinted at the door which seemed barely sturdy enough to contain the goings-on. "How many people are there?"

"Hang on." The man twirled his long white beard around his finger. "Fourteen of the people at the party are girls. That I'm sure of." He winked at me. "Eight of the party-goers have black or brown hair. Two of them are neither female nor do they have dark hair."

"You don't know how many?"

"Give me a second." He tapped his foot. "Ah yes. Five of the young women have dark hair."

"I see." I nodded. "So you're hosting a party for _____ people overall?"

He nodded slowly. "Seems about right. Is there anything else I can do for you?"

"Do you have any books?"

He chewed his bottom lip, then smiled. "No, but our rooms are provided with puzzles to help while away your time."

I chuckled. "Puzzles. Of course." The national sport of our neighboring country had already found its way onto our shores, it seemed. "Thank you."

"Good night." He gave the table a quick wipe before walking off.

A wide-shouldered blonde cut off his path. "One hour ago, I gave your son three pain killers and told him to take one every half hour."

"And?" the bearded man asked.

"They're gone already, and he isn't in his room. I mean, he should have one left, right? But it's no longer in his pill bottle."

"He's gone to his friend's place."

"What should we do? If he has taken an overdose..." The woman wiped her eyes with a tissue.

"We must call the doctor at once." My host gesticulated wildly. "Get your coat, Martha."

I got up and approached them. "I'm sorry for interrupting, but your son is most likely fine."

"How do you know that?" Martha asked.

I explained it to them. "_____

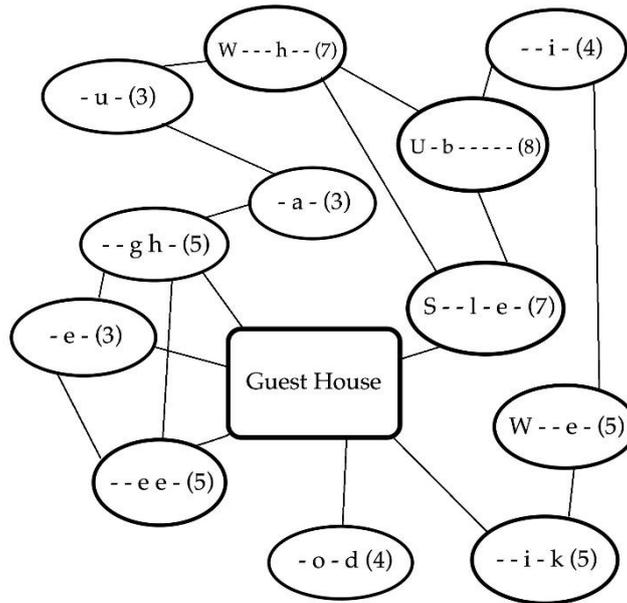
_____"

Finally, Martha calmed. "Oh, of course. That makes sense. Thank you."

"You're welcome." With a polite smile, I retired to my room.

A narrow bed, an armchair and a small table with lamp offered sufficient comfort for my bones. Stacked on the table, crosswords and other games awaited me. And why not? The space was too small to practice my weapon skills, but not too small to give my brain a thorough workout.

The first of the puzzles was a word association game, which reminded me of my old notes from knight school. A central word was connected by association to a bunch of other words, which in turn linked to another set of words. However, the words weren't complete. To aid my endeavor I was offered a few letters as a clue, and the total number of letters in the word was given in parentheses. I immediately spotted the connection between the words *guest house*, *sleep* and *bed*.



A hidden message game was next on my stack. I wasn't sleepy enough yet to go to bed, and another puzzle might just prevent images of the princess from clouding my thoughts.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			10				20																		18

					I				y					I			D									
	23	3	23	15	16	20	21	23	18	9	11	15	12	15	24	20	4	24	4	10	25	23	23	22		
y									y							I										
	18	9	11	15	7	23	7	9	15	18	21	1	15	9	4	26	14	20	1	2	22	11	17	13	23	21
									I	D	D					D										
									15	20	10	10	13	23	21	24	4	10	2	11	7	9	15			

A good summary of my adventure so far.

And if the stakes hadn't been this high, my journey might even be considered a pleasant one. The people had welcomed me and sought my advice. Hopefully those living across the ocean would be just as friendly.

Next, I opted for a word search game. All the words in the list were hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally, forward or backward, in the grid, with some letters belonging to more than one word.

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

BATHROOM
BEDROOM
BLANKET
BREAK
CLOSET
CLOTHES
CONVERSATIONS
DINNER
DRINK

ENTERTAINMENT
EXERCISE
FAMILY
FOOD
FOOTWEAR
HAIRBRUSH
JOB
MILKSHAKE
PILLOW

READING
TOOTHBRUSH
TOWEL
TRANSPORT
WASHING
WEATHER
WORK

The first twenty-three remaining letters spelled out a hidden phrase.

Very appropriate.

With my brain fully exercised, I walked over to the bed and prepared for the night.

SOLUTIONS

What's For Dinner?

Pot ooooooooo = Pot and eight Os = Pot eight Os = Potatoes

How Many Attended the Party?

Answer: 19 people.

We know that 14 of the party goers are girls (5 dark, 9 blonde), and 2 are blond boys.

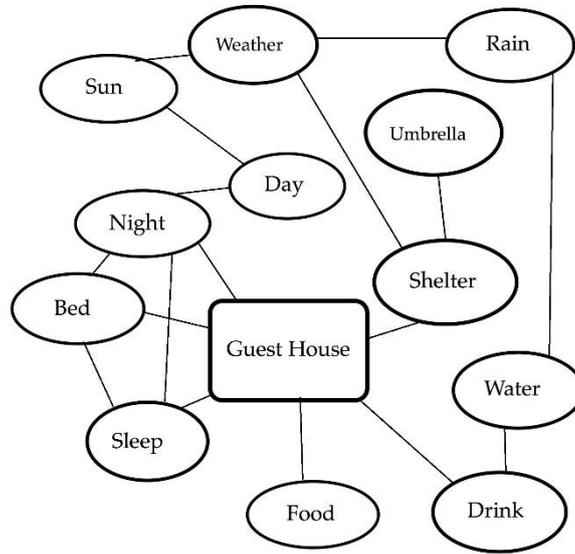
8 party goers have dark hair: as we know, 5 are women, which means that 3 are boys

So we have 2 blond boys and 3 dark-haired boys for a total of 5 boys. Add this to the 14 girls to obtain 19 kids in total.

Pain Medication

Assuming Martha's son took the first pill straight away, he'd have taken the second pill half an hour later, and the third pill half an hour after the first. That means he has safely taken three pills within one hour, as per the instructions.

Word Association



Hidden Message

Exercise your brain and keep your memory strong with puzzles, riddles and humor.

Word Search

The hidden words read: A Truly Puzzling Adventure

MORE THAN 60 PUZZLES

DIFFERENT TYPES. DIFFERENT DIFFICULTY LEVELS

YOU decide the knight's fate

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carmen Fox lives in the south of England with her beloved tea maker and a stuffed sheep called Fergus. When she's not brain-deep in a puzzle, she writes urban fantasy with heart and sassitude.

ALSO PUBLISHED BY SMART HEART PUBLISHING

Lilly's One-Month Sudoku Brain Flush for Women
Manfred's One-Month Sudoku Power Plan for Men

BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Divide and Conquer, a fast-paced urban fantasy
Guarded, a sexy urban fantasy
Bound, an urban fantasy romance
Trapped, an urban fantasy novella free to Carmen's newsletter subscribers
Conversations with the Dead, three very short spooky tales
Show Don't Tell, a writing guide