

PROHIBITION PRESS

Breaking News!

Suspects at large. Find the thief.

Great Gatsby Night

GREEN DIAMOND NECKLACE STOLEN!

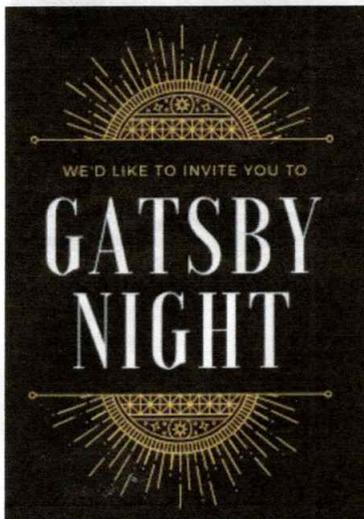
In a brazen snatch-and-grab that's sent ms. Volendam into a full-blown flap, a green diamond necklace—worth a jaw-dropping \$275,000—was pinched slick from its glass perch at the ritzy EFFY boutique on deck 5. The bold-faced swipe went down between five and six bells, pulled off right under the peeper of Chief Security Officer Andy “Wire Split”, and has left everyone from the beaded flappers to the big-money fat cats in a proper dither. The heat is on, and the

investigation is moving at a lively clip. Detectives are pounding the deck with gumshoe know-how, pairing sharp eyes and sharper instincts. The scene was gone over with a fine-toothed comb—prints powdered, fibers sniffed out, and not a whisper of evidence left unturned. Captain Rens van Eerten has cut the herd, singling out a short list of shady mugs. Turn the page, folks—one of these birds knows more than they're saying.....



*Last known photo of the stolen necklace—
December 2025*

You're Invited to a Great Gatsby Night of Mystery!



Dearest Flappers & Dappers,

Put on your glad rags and join us for a night of glitz, glamour and intrigue at the most sensational soiree! The Crow's Nest will be transformed into a dazzling Great Gatsby Salon where the jazz beats keep you swinging all night long. The Hudson Room will be transformed into a Speakeasy. To gain entrance to this exclusive speakeasy, you must know the password. Find the odd colored letters in today's daily program;

unscramble the letters to discover the secret password. Whisper the password to the muscle. Without it, you won't make it past the rope!

But beware guests...

For a cunning thief is among us! The infamous green diamond necklace has been stolen, and it's up to you to find the culprit. Will you be the one to crack the case and reveal the Heist Criminal? Socialize with our suspects and glean the clues to solve the mystery. Cast your vote in the ballot box to be in the raffle to win a prize!



SUSPECT: Genevieve Sinclair

The Business Owner

Genevieve Sinclair is a glamorous yet enigmatic proprietor of “The Gilded Lily”, a swanky establishment of forbidden pleasures tucked behind velvet curtains and discreetly advertised to those who know the right whispers. Born into old money but with a taste for thrills, Genevieve traded society balls for private soirees where jazz, champagne, and secrets flowed in equal measure. Recently, a series of coded messages surfaced, hinting

at her involvement in something bigger: the exchange of a necklace. Written in playful ciphers and veiled innuendo, the notes suggest an arrangement with an unknown partner—someone clever enough to handle both the loot and discretion. Whether Genevieve is the mastermind, a negotiator, or simply a woman with expensive tastes caught in the wrong game, no one is entirely sure...but everyone is watching.

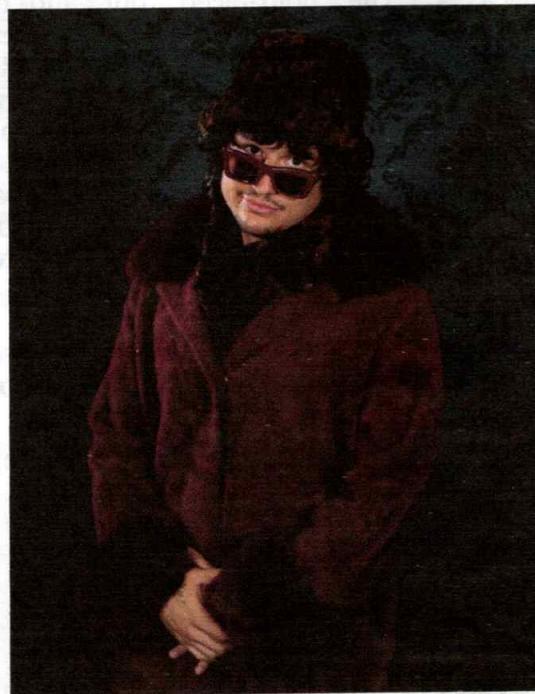
SUSPECT: Miles “Smoke Stack” Calder

The Jazz Musician

Miles “Smoke Stack” Calder was born in New Orleans and picked up the guitar before he could even walk. By his teens, he was performing in speakeasies and concert halls along the East Coast, earning a reputation for riffs that spiraled and twisted like curling smoke—hence his nickname. His talent soon drew the attention of high-ranking mafia figures, who request private performances at shadowed gatherings where money and favors flow freely.

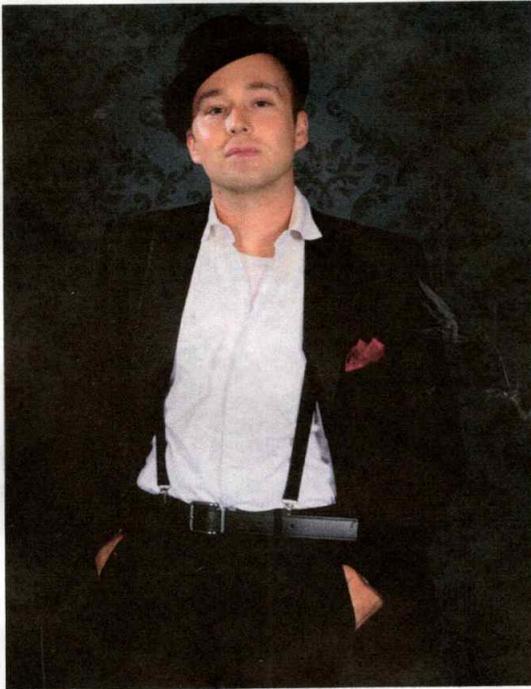
Now aboard the ship, Miles

plays nightly at the Gilded Lily’s music hall, his fingers dancing across strings while flappers, fat cats, and underworld figures hang on every note. Rumor has it he has fallen deeply into debt to some very unsavory patrons, and whispers suggest his music may carry coded signals linking him to the ship’s criminal underworld, making him a man as intriguing as he is dangerous. Did “Smoke Stack” strum his way into the necklace heist, or is he just another tune in the caper’s chorus?



“Rest easy, folks—this rascal won’t sail away on my watch!”

—Captain Rens “Tip-top” van Eerten



SUSPECT: Victor "Velvet" Blackwell

The Gangster

Victor "Velvet" Blackwell didn't muscle his way up the ladder—he oozed. Always pressed, always polished, Velvet talks low and smiles easy, the kind of mug who runs rackets on a whisper and collects on a nod. His books are tidy, his favors aren't, and if there's funny business aboard this tub, you can bet Velvet's already got his mitts on the inside dope.

They say Velvet's got one foot in the gigglewater set

and the other planted square in the underworld, drifting from swells to shakedowns without wrinkling his cuffs. When the green diamond necklace took a powder, more than a few birds clocked him looking too calm for comfort. Maybe he called the tune, maybe he just skimmed the cream—but a cat like Velvet don't end up this close to a score unless it's right where he figured it would land.

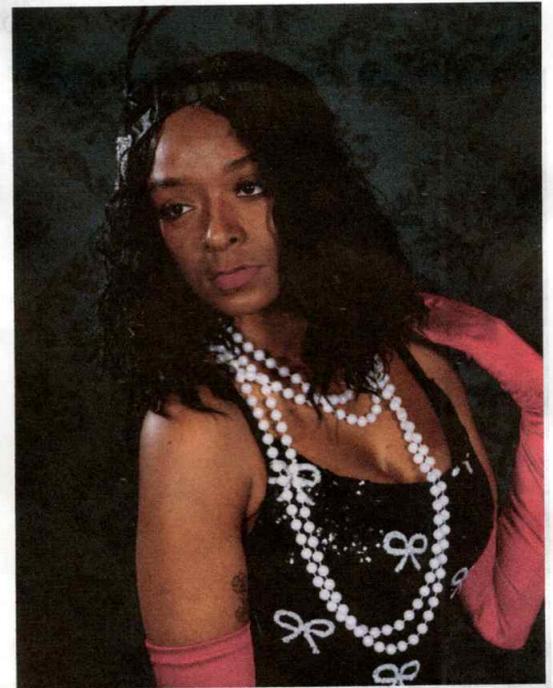
SUSPECT: Evelyn "Silver Screen" Hart

Silent Film Star

Evelyn "Silver Screen" Hart didn't just drift into fame—she learned early how to hit her marks and keep a secret. A leading lady of the silent pictures, Evelyn's charm has carried her from studio backlots to private parties where the guest lists are thin and the curtains stay drawn. Lately, her name's been whispered alongside Victor "Velvet" Blackwell, the smooth-talking fixer known to bankroll starlets in trouble. Some say Velvet helped grease the wheels on her last picture—and now he's come

calling to collect.

Aboard Ms. Volendam, Evelyn claims she's dodging the limelight, but witnesses spotted her slipping in and out of the Gilded Lily with Velvet just hours before the necklace took a powder. Add in her sudden cash troubles and a talent for playing innocent, and the picture gets murky. Is she a screen siren caught in a bad script—or did Hollywood's brightest smile help set the stage for the boldest swipe at sea?



"No matter how sly, that scoundrel won't sail past me unnoticed!"

—Security Officer Andy "Wire Split"

SUSPECT: Lola “Lou” Devereaux

The Socialite

Lola “Lou” Devereaux—the bee’s knees of high society—has been turning heads and raising eyebrows for years with her razzle-dazzle soirées, killer style, and a sparkle that puts any chandelier to shame. Every entrance’s a showstopper, every party a whirlwind of bubbly, jazz from every nook, and whispers flying like confetti.

But now the gossip mills are on overdrive: security

sniffed out a stack of cryptic letters between Lou and the mysterious “Whisper Sister,” hintin’ at a possible swap of some shiny loot. Her pals are hollering she’s as straight as a die, and Lou herself swears it’s all just bad breaks, not slick thievery. Still, in a world of glitz, giggles, and hidden claws, the big question hangs—can Lola keep her shine, or is this the start of a real sticky wicket?



“This action is unthinkable, astonishing that such an act took place onboard our beautiful vessel.”

—Cruise Director Erin “Eagle-Eye” Karpovich



SUSPECT: Frankie “Two-Tap” O’Rourke

The Bootlegger

“Frankie “Two-Tap” O’Rourke made his bones running bathtub gin before he could shave, slipping bottles past dry agents with a grin and a fast pair of heels. Known for his double knock and quicker draw, Frankie’s liquor has kept flappers loose and fat cats smiling from Chicago to the high seas. If there’s a cork popped on this ship, odds are it came through him.

But with Prohibition men on his tail and rivals circling like sharks, Frankie’s always juggling favors, debts, and secrets. Whispers say he knows every hidden passage and dark corner aboard Ms. Volendam—and when something goes missing, folks can’t help but wonder if Two-Tap didn’t trade a little liquid courage for a glittering payoff. After all, a man who moves booze unseen might just know how to move jewels too.

“We’re simply flabbergasted and will see to it that such tomfoolery never recurs.”

—Hotel General Manager Florin “Goodfellow” Dragomir

1920s Continued



When Movies Learned to Talk

Movies transitioned from silent films to sound known as "Talkies" with *The Jazz Singer* in 1927.

The First Step Toward Virtual Reality

In 1927, an inventor named Edward U. Condon created an early precursor to virtual reality: a machine called the "Telesphere".

Radios Enter Everyday Life

By 1922, one in four American homes had a radio and by 1923 Australia aired its first radio broadcast.

Rise of Bollywood

Indian cinema rapidly expanded in the 1920s, forming the base of today's massive Bollywood industry.

The Tomb That Stunned the World

The 1922 discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb sparked worldwide fascination with ancient Egypt.

Tango Fever Goes Global

Tango became a global dance craze, spreading Argentine culture worldwide.

Jazz Takes Over the World

Jazz spread internationally, influencing music scenes across Europe and beyond.

Women's Voting Rights

Many countries expanded women's suffrage during the 1920s.

Golden Age of Piracy...of Alcohol

During the Prohibition, alcohol bans fueled illegal speakeasies and organized crime.

Music Industry

Billboard published its first music chart in 1922.

Europe's Mysterious Dancing Outbreaks

Mysterious mass dancing outbreaks were reported in parts of Europe.

The Toy That Walked Down the Stairs

The Slinky was invented by naval engineer Richard James and quickly became a cultural icon.

Flapper Fashion

Flapper fashion symbolized independence and spread internationally.

The First Flying Car Prototype

Early flying car prototypes were experimented with in the 1920s.

Rise of Party-Based Selling

Home-based product parties became popular sales methods. The precursor to modern Tupperware parties with social gatherings.

Drive-Ins and the Dawn of Fast Food

Drive-in restaurants like A&W laid the groundwork for fast food.



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1216

ACROSS

- 1 Library acquisition
- 5 Insta and Snap
- 9 Start
- 14 Roughly equivalent (to)
- 15 Homie
- 16 Maine-to-Florida hwy.
- 17 What shares a key with "(" on a keyboard
- 18 Reason to buy a magazine, perhaps
- 20 Hockey feints
- 22 Like someone who knows everything about a niche subject, maybe
- 23 Prefix with cache or tag
- 24 Person in hot pants?
- 26 Name on a prestigious award
- 28 It may be blond or pale
- 31 Disgusting
- 33 C-suite types

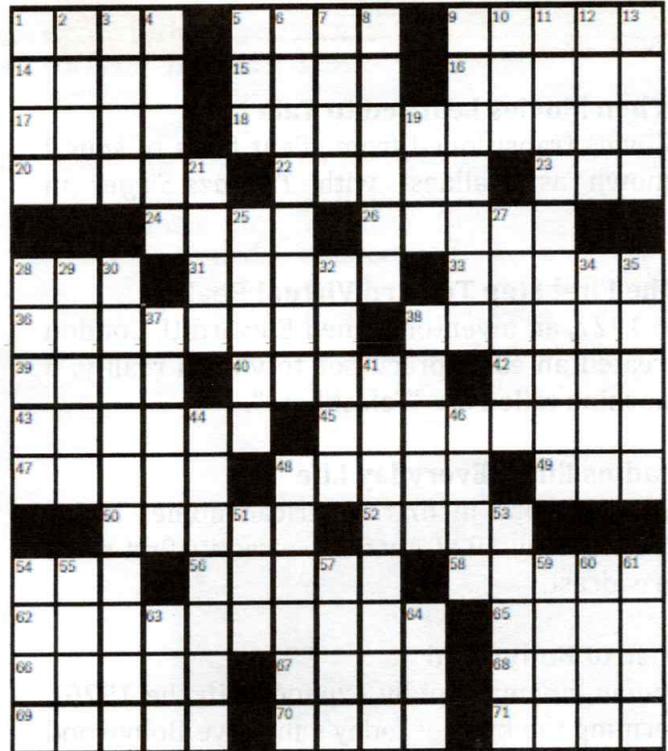
- 36 Last stop before security, often
- 38 Words of communal support
- 39 Texter's "Then again ..."
- 40 Groundbreaking 1988 Japanese animated action film
- 42 Orchestra-tuning instrument
- 43 Negligent
- 45 Turnabout, they say
- 47 Tiny amount
- 48 Pay taxes via the internet
- 49 Air traveler's info
- 50 Drinks served at fountains
- 52 Govt. IDs
- 54 Down Under land: Abbr.
- 56 Computer acronym since the 1960s
- 58 Inventor Nikola

- 62 The IBM Simon Personal Communicator is considered the world's first one
- 65 Couple, in gossip
- 66 "Aw, shucks!"
- 67 Decorative pitcher
- 68 Wacky
- 69 Lords' lands
- 70 Tells (on)
- 71 After 1-Across, shelf accessories ... or what can be placed "around" the halves of 18-, 36-, 45- and 62-Across to make new phrases?

DOWN

- 1 Genesis or Yes
- 2 Many a character in "The Grapes of Wrath"
- 3 Barnyard sound
- 4 Prepare to be knighted
- 5 Epitome of simplicity
- 6 Genre for Genesis or Yes, informally
- 7 Lead (the way)
- 8 Glossy finishes
- 9 Active and enthusiastic sort
- 10 Approx.
- 11 Easily found on the internet, say
- 12 Memo heading
- 13 Grammy-winning R&B artist whose stage name is said to have been inspired by "The Matrix"

- 19 Golden Age studio known for many Astaire/Rogers films



PUZZLE BY JASON REICH

- 21 You might heave a big one
- 25 Places
- 27 Mike in "Breaking Bad," for example
- 28 Cancel, as a space launch
- 29 Procrastinator's mantra
- 30 What someone seeking validation might need
- 32 Shallow boat with a square stern
- 34 Neighbor of a Slovene
- 35 "Take it easy!"
- 37 Brother to Groucho
- 38 Mourful cries
- 41 One in a box at the theater?
- 44 Tranquilizes
- 46 Penalty in Monopoly
- 48 Artist known for his "impossible staircases"
- 51 Symbol of divine authority in hieroglyphics
- 53 Grab control of
- 54 Words before a date
- 55 Tentative greeting
- 57 The Hawkeye State
- 59 Show extreme fandom for, in slang
- 60 Give temporarily
- 61 Ryan and Adams of Hollywood
- 63 Whistle blower or flag thrower
- 64 Hosp. hot spots

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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