

Start here. "I haven't heard from him in ~~three~~<sup>two</sup> months" she said. She slowly raised the handkerchief to her eye to wipe away a tear. "Do you think something could have happened to him?"

"He could have found some other woman" said Alex. Staring intently at his crossword.

This evoked another wail followed by more tears from the bereaved ~~Kather~~ Katherine Johnson. Soon to be Katherine Robinson... Or at least until her ~~husband disapp~~ fiancé had disappeared.

"Alex!" I said. His brainpower did not equate into social etiquette it seemed.

"What?" He asked. Turning ~~fully~~<sup>almost complete</sup> from his crossword. ~~finally~~ "I mean it's highly likely that he's off doing the horizontal Charleston with some French dame. I've read that the French really know how to dance if you know what I mean." Louder wails followed to punctuate this remark.

"Alex really. Show some respect."

"BUT - BUT HE ~~PRO~~ PROMISED HE WOULD BE TR-TRUE TO ME!" Katherine sobbed between gulps

air. I was worried that the commotion might ~~cause~~ <sup>give</sup> the tenants in the adjoining apartments, if not buildings, cause for alarm to investigate or call the police. But then again, this is New York. Nobody cares.

"Yup, probably eloped with some French brand"

Nobody except me apparently. I tried comfort her.

"Let's just assume that your husband is ~~unable to~~ not cheating on you. What do you think he'd be doing now?"

"~~Well~~ Wheelbarrow"

"Alex!"

"11 letter word meaning a tool to ~~carry~~ <sup>move</sup> things around"  
He filled in the appropriate ~~letters~~ <sup>boxes</sup> on the crossword.

"~~Pay~~ ~~attention~~ Oh. Well pay attention then!"

"I am, paying attention! I've already solved ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> case"

"~~What?~~ How did you manage that?" <sup>cont' →</sup>



without ~~using~~ ~~or~~ collecting any evidence?"

"I've got all the evidence I need! I know the fiancé has been stationed in France ~~for~~ for almost a year. ~~He~~ A man gets lonely in that time Sam. Besides, his soon-to-be wife isn't much to write home about. I'm gonna place my money on him changing his mind" I stared at him. ~~I~~ Dumbfounded. How could he have possibly said all that right in front Ms Johnson. I turned to her to try and ~~cut~~ cut off another wail.

"I'm ~~so~~ sincerely sorry. He's just good around people" Her face had turned stone cold and she stormed out of the room.

"Well now you've done it Alex!" She walked back in and placed a small box on top of Alex's crossword

"There. Do you still think he wasn't in love with me?" She asked, confident of the answer she would receive.

Alex lifted up and opened the box. I gasped. It was the most beautiful diamond I had ever seen. Alex's eyes flew

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Start here.

wide open. A store more brilliant he had not seen.

"Well? What do you think?" Katherine asked.

"This certainly does change things..." He examined the store closely before shutting the box and handing it quickly back. ~~It~~ "Your husband has been sending you letters?"

"Yes. Every week except for the last ~~few~~ <sup>two</sup> months. ~~It was~~ <sup>it was</sup> ~~terrible~~ <sup>terrible</sup> ~~science~~ <sup>science</sup>"

"I will need them all. Can you tell me where the last one was sent from?"

"Paris... In France."

"I know perfectly well where Paris is located madame. Make a note of it Sam~~x~~ and please collect Ms Johnson's letters while we're here" ~~He~~ He returned to his crossword having asked all that he needed.

"Er... Right. Ms Johnson, where are the letters?"

"In the cupboard, there" I moved over to the one she had indicated "Do you think something could have happened to him?"



"Murder" Katherine stared over at Alex who was unmoved by his own words. Katherine however was not and I had to ~~sp~~ dash to catch her before she hit the ground.

"Alex!"

"Six letter word meaning homicide"

~~Later~~ In the car ~~down~~ ~~down~~ driving back home, he was fidgety with nothing to do. Having finished his crossword.

"There some things that don't make sense to me Sam."

"For instance?"

"For instance how could a soldier afford a stone that beautiful? ~~What happened to him to~~ ~~happened to~~ why was he stationed in France? The war's been over for years. Things don't make sense"

"Should I book tickets to Paris?"

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"No that won't be necessary. This case can only be solved where it started, here in New York"

"You mean..."

"Yes, I think it's time we asked Ms Johnson's ~~for~~ fiancé why he told her he was stationed in France" A smile crossed his lips. Well, I'm glad that at least he's enjoying himself.

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