

Love a good mystery and the morning crossword?

Now you can enjoy both at the same time. Whether you like the humor of Janet Evanovich or the thrill of the chase with John Sandford, do crossword puzzles containing clues about your favorite fictional mystery characters.

Even if you have not read some of these authors, give the puzzles a try and get hooked on a new writer! The brief review for each series should help you with your reading selection. Whether you like cozies, thrillers, historical or legal suspense, pick a new author by mystery type, location, time period or character.

Keep track of the books you have already read by checking them off on the list of titles provided. Save time by not having to search for the next title in the series and save money by not accidentally buying a book you have already read. Other stand-alone mysteries, written by your favorite authors, are also included in order.

So have a little fun, find new authors, stretch those memory muscles or solve the problem of what to get your mystery-reading friends by trying out the **Mystery Lover's Puzzle Book**.

F U N

Linda K. Murdock is a best-selling author, who reads over fifty mystery books a year. She thought it would be fun to do crossword puzzles based on her favorite fictional characters. Most theme puzzles are limited to just a handful of clues and she wanted more.

Mystery Lover's Puzzle Book is her homage to puzzle fans, mystery writers and their enthusiastic readers. She hopes it introduces you to many new characters and many hours of enjoyment.

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Janet Evanovich

Type: Soft-boiled, humorous amateur sleuth
Time: 1994
Place: Trenton, New Jersey
Characters: Female, two romantic interests and her family
Occupation: Bail bondswoman

Synopsis:

Stephanie Plum is a bounty hunter, who works for her slimy cousin Vinnie. She tracks down her man or woman in unusual and hilarious ways, which often requires the help of her childhood sweetheart—police officer, **Joe Morelli**. He is accused of murder in the first book until Plum starts investigating. Her other love interest is **Ranger**, a mysterious and dangerous man, who also works for cousin Vinnie. The supporting cast of characters, including her not-so-perfect sister **Valerie**, pistol-packing **Grandma** and her sidekick, ex-prostitute **Lula**, are outrageous. The *Burg* has a limitless supply of quirky people, but Plum always succeeds in solving the mysteries in spite of herself.

Why Read These?

Read these just for laughs and pure escapism. It is best to leave space between them for better enjoyment, since the constant wrecking of Plum's vehicles can get tiresome. Plum bungles her way through impossible situations. She eats unhealthy food, which often ends up all over her, and still manages to get her man or woman. There is no deep thinking here, just pure guffaws, some crudeness, a little romance, lots of double entendres and cartoonish characters. Lucille Ball would approve.

Recommendations:

Evanovich started out as a romance writer. Because of her success with the Plum series, some of the romances have been re-released. I tried one, but prefer the mystery, humor and suspense of Plum and friends. The number in each title helps keep track of the order. You can even go on her website to help name the next book.

Janet Evanovich books:

- One for the Money (1994)
- Two for the Dough (1996)
- Three to Get Deadly (1997)
- Four to Score (1998)
- High Five (1999)
- Hot Six (2000)
- Seven Up (2001)
- Hard Eight (2002)
- To the Nines (2003)
- Ten Big Ones (2004)
- Eleven on Top (2005)
- Twelve Sharp (2006)
- Lean Mean Thirteen (2007)

Beware: Clues with "belonging to" or "owned by" mean the answer ends with an "s."

Janet Evanovich

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Plum's first name
8. Kind of spray Plum uses for protection
13. Before, poetic
14. Poem
15. Defunct airline
17. Yucatan Indian
18. Plural pronoun
19. Plum's hair color
20. Moroccan mountains
22. **__ Big Ones**, Plum is a gang target
23. Another way of saying 31-Down
25. Young lady
26. Plum's preferred gun
27. Plum broke Joe's **__**
29. Home of Cincinnati
31. "And **__** it goes . . ."
32. Written items for remembrance
33. Aries symbol
34. Plum visits funeral parlors in **Two for the **__****
35. **__ for the Money**, Plum tracks down Joe
36. Land surrounded by water for short
37. Plum's neighborhood
38. Casey **__ the Bat**
40. Tease, as Joe and Ranger do to Plum
43. Tattoo on Plum's boyfriend Joe
45. Plum is a bounty hunter; gun for **__**
47. Military branch
48. Gold
49. Disease, mostly affecting women
50. Plum's quietest family member
51. Indestructible car of 50-Across
54. Self-esteem
56. Ebert's **__ __ Movies**
57. Lennon's wife
59. One of a kind, as is Plum
62. Neuter pronoun
63. Plum's sexy co-worker
64. Get rid of
66. Expression of dismay
69. Belongs to the hero of 55-Down or "Make my day" star
70. New, prefix
71. Profession of Plum's Joe

73. If Plum is a lass, Joe is **__**
75. US capital for short
76. Suitable
77. Whole body X-ray
78. Genus of clams
80. Ex-profession of Plum's sidekick Lula
81. Keen interest, as Plum has for donuts and 63-Across
82. She is "quite contrary"

DOWN

1. Use needle and thread
2. Plum's birthplace
3. Men's wide shoes
4. Toot your own
5. They continued without further **__**
6. Plum's state
7. Hollywood gossip show for short
8. Couple, like Joe and Plum
9. England's Blair or Thatcher for one
10. Frisks, as Joe **__** down a suspect
11. Joe's mother gives Plum the evil one
12. Lula **__ __** Plum for help from her attacker
16. Plum gets her man with this court compliance document
19. Joe's dog prefers a burger to a **__**
21. Plum's apartment is on the 2nd one
24. TV show, **__ Limits**
26. Kind of flake, not Plum this time
28. Happy affair
30. Belonging to Grant or O'Brian
31. **Twelve** **__**, 63-Across is revealed
34. If past **__** for court, Plum will hunt you
37. Color of Plum's eyes
39. Try to **__** yourself away from a Plum book
41. To sneak up slowly and carefully, not Plum's style
42. Plum's favorite is Tasty Pastry
44. The peach state
46. Factory where Plum could get work
49. Boyfriend Joe's last name
51. Plum brings in people who jump this
52. Information technology for short
53. Short for country of Great Britain
55. Plum's gun-toting relative
57. **Eleven** **__ __** Plum works for 63-Across
58. Over, poetic
60. Opera solo

Janet Evanovich

DOWN continued

- 61. Plum's time zone
- 65. College writing piece
- 67. Do over
- 68. Pier
- 69. Plum's a __, in fact she's the whole deck
- 71. What Plum destroys frequently (sing.)
- 72. Group of parents and teachers for short
- 74. Initials of Spencer Tracy co-star and lover
- 77. __ casa es su casa
- 79. 52 wks.

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Evanovich and Lula's affirmative response

3 4
5 7 8
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7 4
3 6
8 9
7 9