

Stargazing

—Muhammad Adib Surani

You mentally bar yourself from throwing both arms up and belting out ecstatic throes of ‘Eureka!’, and instead lean back on your seat, ready to put your feet up for a job well done. As you do so, you’re surprised to find the back of your head meeting fabric instead of air. Slowly swiveling around, you realise that while you were entranced by your hermetic studies, you had, in fact, become surrounded by three towering brown-cloaked figures. Each of the three figures sports an embroidered letter on his/her chest, respectively spelling out M, A and L: not good. Before you take a stab at fighting your way to the nearest exit, M furtively whispers to you in a surprisingly mellow voice.

“That was very good work! Well done! I remember that it had taken us much longer to crack that password to gBay. Actually, my friends and I have been chasing these terrorists for some time now. We were hot on the trail of a particularly cunning duo called the Twins. Have you seen anyone suspicious today?”

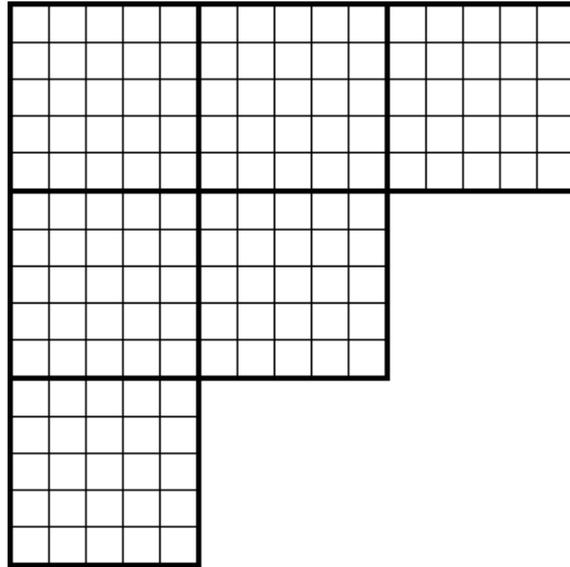
You reply that they’re the only suspicious ones that you’ve seen so far, and all that you found when you arrived here were the bananas and the open website.

“But of course! Bananas! How very cunning of them. Look, I think that you’ve taken a look at what we’re up against and you know how desperate the situation is. My friends and I have seen your puzzle solving skills and we need someone like you to help us out. We have reason to suspect that the Twins will be traveling by sea quite soon, and we’re going to stay on their trail. But at the same time, we know that the Twins have been bidding on the Big Pineapple, and someone has to check it out. Will you help us? We’ll fly you there of course.”

A free trip to Queensland? You couldn’t say yes quickly enough.

“Great! Just go to this address tomorrow morning and ask for Goldilocks. Oh, and wait,” he digs up a piece of crumpled paper from the recesses of his body-length cloak, “make sure you tell him this password.”

In a strange faraway land, there are five women who enjoy stargazing, and each of these women has four properties attached to them – a name, an occupation, a fictional idol, and a constellation they are presently charting. No two women have the same of any property.



- Between Amy Alphabetical and Barbaranne Berry (neither of whom charts Aquarius), one idolises Cupid and the other works as an evangelist.
- Between Cristabel Creech and the woman who works as a bureaucrat (neither of whom idolises Ender), one charts Boötes and the other charts Equuleus.
- Between Dottie Dowdeswel and the woman who works as a chain maker (neither of whom charts Delphinus), one idolises Borat and the other idolises Dante.
- Between Eleanor Einstein and the woman who charts Centaurus (neither of whom idolises Aleph), one works as an accountant and the other works as a dinner lady.
- There are at least 2 women who have at least 3 properties beginning with the same letter.