

A SURNAME SAGA

DEREK PELL
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HĀFIZ on my way to the LONDON POST ORPHEUS to MAILER a LEVERTOV to MAUGHAM. As I PAZ through the PARKER, my BACH began AIKEN. I SATIE down on a nearby BENCHLEY, first MENCKEN SCHORER it was DREISER. An INGE of SNOW had fallen recently -- HAILE REMARQUE a BÖLL for the MIDDLETON of JUNO -- and there was a CRISP TRILLIN DEVRIES.

I SITWELL HUEFFER an AUERBACH ANOUIL set in. My throat felt DRYDEN, all NIETZSCHE, STRACHEY, and RAWLINGS.

'HEINE a CAPOTE,' I told myself; however, I'd have settled for a GLASS of RILKE, some LEHMANN ADE or even a PEPYS ZOLA.

LOWELL and behold, I spied a can of BEERBOHM LYONS in a PATCHEN of GRASS where the SNOW had been MILTON. HECHT, it had been WRIGHT UNTERMEYER nose all the time! Not bothering to MONTAIGNE my dignity, I bent down to PEAKE it UPHAM and, SHAW enough, discovered it was FULLER. I took a HARDY ZWEIG (SPILLANE some down my WESTCOTT) and found it FOWLES to my taste, like a GENET tonic spiked with SAKI, but HELLMAN, as my MUMFORD always told me, a BAKER KANT be CHAUCER.

When the BEERBOHM was ALGONQUIN, I DESCARTES the empty can at my FOOTE. My head was SPINOZA round and I had a CREASEY sensation that something was AMIS.

Was I being PARRAnoid?

IVANOV to LORCA round, to make SARTON I was ALONSO.

'I DUNSANY body ...'

STILL I had the urge to RUNYON, as if pursued by a mysterious VILLON -- a MUIR-DURAS! ANONYMOUS tell you I was truly a FREUD for a WYLIE. Finally, when I felt a bit SAFIR, I returned to the BENCHLEY but was overcome by SARRAUTE. You see, I was VERDI POE; without ALGREN of SAND in my pocket. I GUEST EUCLID SAYERS I was the UNRUH-CHEEVER in my family. My BRODER OWEN DOYLE WELLS. My CICERO a CASTLE and had lots of CERVANTES, including a BUTLER, COOKE, and VALÉRY -- she even had a maid to CERF her DINESEN bed! I, of CORSO, was not USTINOV luxury. My wife and I lived in a rundown TOLSTOY BIGELOW without even a BARTHroom.

FERBER-MOORE, my wife was always accusing me of STEELE-LINDSAY MONET from her PERSE, and often threatened to THOREAU me out.

I COLETTE unfair, GODDEN-DÜRRENMATT all! WHARTON earth was I to do? Rob FIRBANK?

I was on the VERGIL SOUSAcide, just one step away from a ride in the HERSEY to the GRAVESyard, when I was rescued by the sight of a PRIESTLY CUMMINGS toward me. He held a DIDION Bible in one hand and a PARRISH-SAUL in the other.

'This,' I thought, 'must be a MERRICK-COLE.'

'Beware of SETON, my son,' WARREN the PRIESTLEY, as if he were speaking from an invisible POHL-PITT. 'O'NEILL down and pray. Time DOS PASSOS by, HAY-VENUS calling you. Repent before it's too LAYTON!'

There was a loud KEROUAC of THURBER overhead.

'MAETERLINCK than never!' I cried, dropping to my knees just as the STORM struck -- POWYS! It began raining KAZIN DODGSON HALE, too. But then, as soon as it had ASTARTE, it STOPPARD! And FROMM FLAUBERT the clouds came a beautiful RIMBAUD and I saw APOLLINAIRE.

Was this the sign I had waited MOLIÈRE LONG FORD?

I had to PYNCHON myself to see if I was dreaming ...

MALLARMÉ CLARKE WOUK me with a SARTRE!

It ROUSSEAU loud I FALLADA my ALCOTT and received a WELTY on DEFOEhead. Standing UPDIKE, HAZLIT a cigar and DE BEAUVOIR filled with smoke. I began to KAFKA and moved to the OPPEN window for a breath of FRISCH EYRE. From BELLOW came the sound of my wife playing her ARP in her BAUDELAIRE. It sure was nice to HEARN she hadn't lost her PASTERNAK. MAUPASSANT could play as well as she.

I was suddenly HUNGERFORD affection, and I wanted to be near her now VIDAL my HARTE. Thus I made a SWIFT TROTSKY downstairs and HORACE across the HALL to her room. The DORÉ was aJARRY so HYPERION and saw her looking STERN, HAGGARD, and (though I HESSE-TATE to say it) rather STOUT. NOVALIS, she still looked PURDY good to me.

Upon entering the room, I spied two BOWLES of RICE SOUPALT on top of the PYEano.

'I see I'm AUSTIN time for BRECHT-FAUST ...'

My wife gave me a FROSTY stare.

'Don't BARTHELME,' she snapped, PUSHKIN aside her ARP.
'You want to eat, AESOP to you.'

VERMEER presence SEDOV my WILDER desires.

'May ICARUS you, my LAMB-CHOPIN? URIS lovely as ever.'

'XAVIER breath.'

I approached her CARRfully.

'SABATINI kiss?'

'STEINBECK!' she warned. 'You touch me and I'll call TALESE ...
they'll put you in BOURJAILY where you belong.'

'I'll swap you my pet BRACQUE BORGES JUAN kiss,' I bartered.
'It WORDSWORTH a BUCK or a POUND once.' My wife appeared
skeptical. 'ORWELL, maybe just a penny, but --'

'You got CHAGALL! Get out! Get out!'

I made a GRABBE for her as she dashed for the DORÉ, and acciden-
tally tore her ROBBE-GRILLET.

'EURIPIDES SAGAN to scream!'

I BELLOC her escape, PINDAR against the WALPOLE, and PROUST
her to me.

Unfortunately, she drew a GUNN.

'NABAKOV!' she commanded. 'I KANT STENDHAL your mushy
LOVECRAFT!'

HEERONYMUS admit I'd made a BOSCH of the situation.

'ISHERWOOD like to APOLLO-JOYCE for ACTON WILDE,' I told
her. 'I don't NOAH WAUGHt CAMUS-VERNE me. But ALBEE good
from now on, PROMETHEUS.'

'I curse DAUDET EMMET you,' said she. 'JEFFERS think about
my feelings? Of CORSO not, you NINcompoop. PICASSO you I missed
my chance to marry that MARCEL-MANN from FRANCE. ALEICHEM.
At least he knew how to earn a LIEBING!'

She sure knew how to hurt a GOYEN.

'Why, then,' I asked, 'did you DE SADE to MÉRIMÉE, HEMING-
WAY?'

My wife frowned. 'You didn't ODETS then. Beside, I was JUNG, I liked your SOUTHERN accent . . .'

'Oh, BALZAC! It's because I was great in the SACKVILLE.'

'Ha! HUGO look in the MIRO,' she laughed. 'You think you're DUCHAMP but, DADA, you're a LOOSer.'

'Well, then, IONESCO.'

'That's right. GOGOL, BECKETT quick.'

And so I left HOMER that afternoon and never saw my wife again. That was ten years ago. In a strange way, I think I still love her . . . yet, for the life of me, I can't remember her name.

OUERY

Philip Cohen and Alan Frank are looking for words containing certain four-letter sets, not necessarily adjacent or in order, as GVXZ in eXtraVaGanZa. Each word is assigned a score as follows: a word scores one point for each nonliteral character in it (usually hyphens), one for each capital letter, and one for appearing only as part of a multiword phrase. Thus, McBurney's (from the phrase 'McBurney's point') would score four. In addition, a point is added if the word is found in a standard dictionary other than the New International, 2nd or 3rd edition; two to four points are added for other references, depending on esotericness (2 for an electronics dictionary, 4 for an Official Standard Names gazetteer); four or more points are added for non-reference sources, like novels and textbooks, with particularly high scores for unnatural coinages.

The following list gives some of the more wanted sets and the score to beat in each (a score of 100 means we have no example). The words with a score of one can only be improved by locating solid, uncapitalized NI2 or NI3 entries; these dictionaries have been searched quite thoroughly, except for NI2 below the line.

bcpq 100	dvvv 1	ghkx 2	kkpz 1	qqtz 100
bdkx 2	ffyz 4	ghmq 2	kvww 16	uwxy 100
bfjp 5	fghx 1	ghpq 1	kvyy 1	vwww 16
bfjw 5	fhjr 1	gmpq 1	kwxy 100	vwyy 1
bfpz 2	fhjo 1	juwx 100	qqrx 100	xxxx 100
cmpq 1				

In general, can one find an uncapitalized unhyphenated word in NI2 or NI3 using bbmv, kpux or kuux? Or any word in NI2 or NI3 using bhpq, bppq, bpvv, hhvv, juuw, kkkq or uwvw?