THE CASE OF THE WRONG ANSWERS

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Saint Louis, Missouri

Monday, November 5th

"Thank you for coming, Lieutenant Jamison. I am Captain Lemuel Grant. This is not a poetical matter. But I would appreciate your expertise."

"Is the clue that strange?"

"Please be seated. Are you familiar with the name of Cagliostoro?"

"Are you referring to the columnist who writes horoscopes for one of the weekly suburban journals?"

"Yes."

"I don't believe in astrology, but the name intrigued me."

"Why?"

"Not only was Cagliostoro an 18th-century alchemist and charlatan, but the letters of his name can be arranged to form the word 'astrologic'. What happened to him?"

"Last Friday night we received a frantic telephone call. Cagliostoro had ordered a pizza by telephone. When the delivery man knocked on the door, the door swung open. He went inside and found Cagliostoro with his head lying on top of his desk. Cagliostoro had been shot in the heart. Death had been instantaneous, but he had been able to enter two definitions in a crossword puzzle. Since they don't seem to make sense, I can see why the killer didn't bother to take the paper. Here is the puzzle. Can you make any sense out of it?"

"Strange. For 'City recently reunited' he entered 'Cadozi'; and for 'Five' he entered 'Braille'."

"What's strange?"

"They are the wrong answers. Do you have any suspects?"

"We broke open a locked drawer and found three dossiers. We questioned the three suspects, but they all had alibis for Friday evening. False alibis can be broken if we know where to apply the pressure. Here are the dossiers. Since Cagliostoro couldn't be making much money from his weekly column, we believe he was a blackmailer as well."

"Let me study these items, Captain. I'll get them back to you as soon as possible."
In the privacy of his own office, Lieutenant Jamison read the
dossiers and made the following notations:

son with married man. Highly photogenic in close-ups.
 lent calligrapher. Likes to endorse checks other than his own.

Thursday, November 8th

"Can't thank you enough, Lieutenant, for your guidance. Didn’t
take much effort to crack the alibi. How did you find the solution?"

WORD WAYS CUMULATIVE INDEX 1968-1990

Two indices of Word Ways material have been prepared and
placed in computer files, and from now on will be periodically
updated. The first is an author index, arranged alphabetical­
ly by author surname (from Fred Abrams to Giles Zimmer).
Articles published under a nom de plume will be indexed un­
der the true name of the author so that the full corpus of
that author can be appreciated. The second is a subject-matter-orien­
ted index, similar in spirit to the ones published
in November 1972, February 1978 and August 1984. Typically,
subject-matter-oriented indices are arranged alphabetically
by topic, but this proved impossible because the nomenclature
of logology is not well-established (does the user know to
look under shiftword for the wordplay characterized by the
shift of PECAN to TIGER? what does one call the wordplay
in which one rearranges the alphabet to maximize the number
of self-descriptive number names?). Instead, the index has
been given a taxonomic arrangement in the spirit of Roget’s
Thesaurus in which words are classified by their meanings.
Although it takes a little work to become familiar with it
(a summary of topics is given at the start), the index does
enable the reader to find in one place references to related
types of wordplay. A distinction is made between articles
discussing the theory of wordplay (and the best examples),
and illustrating the wordplay by constrained writing (such
as palindromes or lipograms).

Copies of either or both of these indices will be provided
at cost to Word Ways readers interested in them: $5 for either
one (specify which one is wanted), or $10 for both. Each
index is approximately 30 pages long. Orders received in
a given calendar year will be supplied with indices cumulated
through the immediately preceding year.