

Finn Finity and the Case of the Vanishing Vows

It was a bright and breezy day when Finn Finity arrived at Hopetoun House, dressed in his smartest bow tie. Today wasn't about puzzles and problems, it was about celebration - his friends Shona and Hugh were getting married!

Surrounded by sprawling acres of parkland, Hopetoun House was the perfect venue for an outdoor summer wedding. Shona had chosen the statistically driest day of the year, and it looked like the Scottish weather gods were in her favour. "Got to love a bit of mathematical statistics!" Finn chuckled.

As guests began to gather, soft music floated through the air, and a delightful hum of excitement filled the gardens. The chairs were neatly set up in rows. Shona was inside the house getting ready for her grand entrance; Hugh was nervously adjusting his tie for the fifth time. Everything was going perfectly, until...

"Finn! We need your help!"

It was the wedding celebrant, looking flustered. "The vows! They're gone!"

Finn blinked, trying to process the news. "Gone as in...?"

"Gone as in vanished. The handwritten scroll with the vows was right here beside the guest book. But now it's disappeared!"

Everyone looked expectantly at Finn. They knew he was good in a crisis. "Leave it to me!" he said. It looked like he had a puzzle to solve after all...

Finn examined the guest book. Its pages were still blank - the guests wouldn't be writing in it until after the ceremony. He looked around at the nearby tables, already set up for the wedding meal. No one was sitting at them yet, but at the table closest to the guestbook, someone had hung their coat over the back of a chair. Maybe that person had seen who took the scroll!

He went over to check the name on the place card, but the cards were scattered all over the place, like a whirlwind had swept through. Whoever took the vows must have knocked them over as they rushed past. If only he knew who had left their coat at their seat - then he could ask if they'd seen anything.

Suddenly, Finn had an idea. "The seating plan will tell me who is sitting where!" But when he went to look at it, the plan only had names per table, no assigned seats. "Not a problem", he thought, "if I treat this as a logic puzzle, I'll have it worked out in no time!" He reached into his pocket, pulled out a notebook, and started scribbling...

		GIFT WRAP				TABLE NO.				LOOKING FORWARD TO			
		Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Eight	Nine	One	Five	The Ceremony	Wedding Cake	Lawn Games	Dancing
NAME	Jessie												
	Struan												
	Fraser												
	Bonnie												
LOOKING FORWARD TO	The Ceremony												
	Wedding Cake												
	Lawn Games												
	Dancing												
TABLE NO.	Eight												
	Nine												
	One												
	Five												

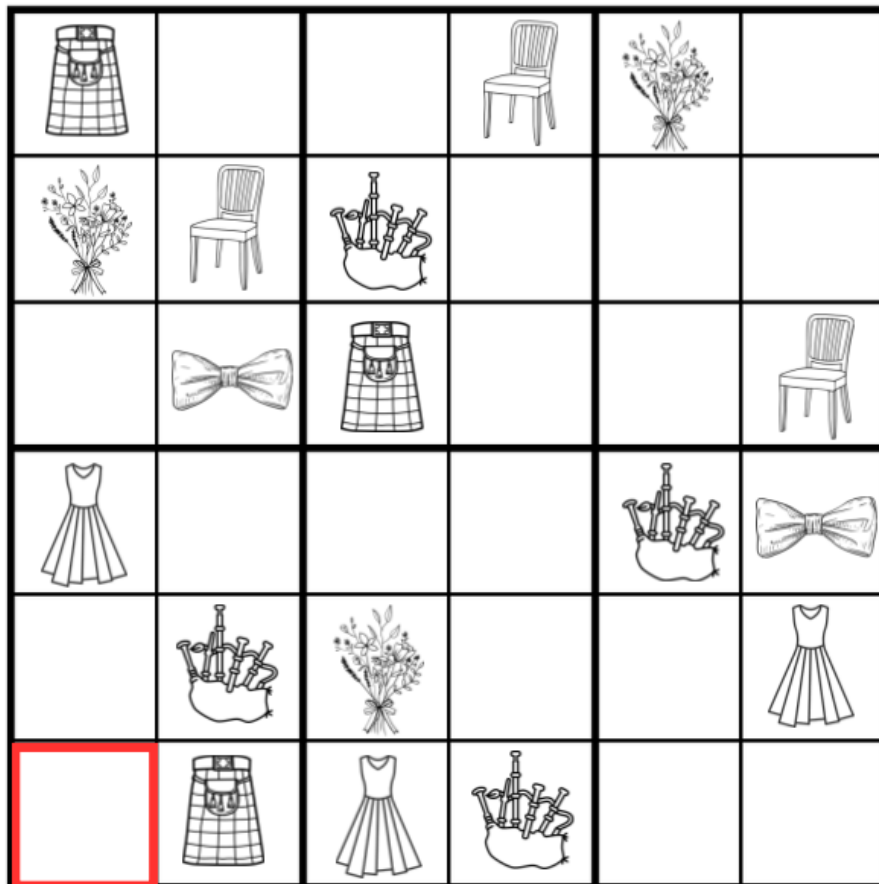
From the clues below, work out what each guest is looking forward to the most, which table they are sitting at, and what colour of paper they wrapped their wedding gift in.

- The guest most looking forward to the wedding cake is Jessie.
- Struan is not sitting at table One or table Eight.
- The guest who brought a gift wrapped in yellow paper is Fraser.
- The guest who brought a gift wrapped in red paper is not Jessie.
- Fraser is not the guest most looking forward to dancing.
- The guest who is most looking forward to the ceremony is not sitting at table Eight.
- Either the guest who brought a gift wrapped in blue paper, or the guest who brought a gift wrapped in green paper, is most looking forward to the ceremony.
- The guest sitting at table Nine has brought a gift wrapped in paper which is a colour that starts with the same letter as their first name.
- Out of the guests sitting at table One and table Five, one is most looking forward to dancing and the other brought a gift wrapped in green paper.

The table nearest to the guest book was table One. That meant the person who had left their coat at their seat had to be Jessie. Finn hurried over to where the guests were gathering, scanning the crowd. He spotted Jessie and squeezed his way through the throng of people. "I'm so glad I found you!" he panted. "The vows have gone missing, and you were at the table near where it happened. Did you see anything?" Jessie shook her head. "No, I'm sorry," she said. Finn looked disappointed. "But I did find this!" Jessie added, holding out a scrap of tartan cloth.

Finn held it up to the light, trying to figure out where it could be from. Maybe from someone's kilt or dress. Some guests were wearing tartan bowties. The flowers had tartan ribbons tied around them too, and tartan sashes adorned the backs of the chairs. "Oh, I hope it's not from the bagpiper!" Finn mused, "that would be very awkward!"

As he thought about it, Finn had another flash of inspiration. "If I sketch out the different possibilities, and line them up in the right pattern, I think I can work out where the scrap of tartan is from!"



Finn studied the solved puzzle. That settled it - the tartan was from a bow tie. Now who did he know that was wearing one today? Just then, a flurry of muddy paw prints dashed past him. "Of course", Finn laughed, "Why didn't I think of that sooner? Nevis!"

Nevis was Shona and Hugh's beloved puppy - a bundle of energy, fur, and occasional mischief. He had been trotting happily between guests all morning in his miniature bow tie. A puppy with a nose for adventure. "I think our culprit has four legs."

Finn spotted something snagged on a low branch beside a garden bench. It was the ribbon that had been holding the scroll together, frayed at one end and suspiciously damp. Finn bent down, brushing aside petals - and there, just underneath, was the scroll with the vows. Some of Nevis' chew marks were visible, but overall the scroll was fine. Curled in the shade behind the bench, Nevis himself gave a soft woof, tail thudding guiltily. "You," said Finn, ruffling the pup's ears, "are lucky you're so cute!"

Finn returned to the ceremony just in time. The guests were seated and waiting, the excitement was palpable. He quietly passed the vows to the celebrant, who looked deeply relieved. "Where were they?"

"Under a bench," Finn said. "But don't worry. No secrets, no sabotage - just one overexcited puppy." Nevis barked, and Hugh gave Finn a grateful thumbs-up. Then the music began to play.

The ceremony went off without another hitch. And later, when the partying began, Finn stood with a glass of fizz, smiling as he watched Shona and Hugh share their first dance together. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a small envelope, placing it on the gift table. Inside was a card that simply read:

>E VNEB J JB N^NN
 BJA AEA^ BJBFBFBFBFB UO
 LFNB J FBFB FBFBFBFB
 CABE EC J LF>>LO BAV>OFA
 J LF>>LO LFNBFB
 JB JLVJAV UO>>OF VNBFB
 VEL<OB >EBFB>NBFB
 CFBFB CFBFB>A

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I
J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R
S T U V		
W X Y Z		

SPOILER ALERT!

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS
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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

LOGIC PUZZLE:

		GIFT WRAP				TABLE NO.				LOOKING FORWARD TO			
		Blue	Yellow	Red	Green	Eight	Nine	One	Five	The Ceremony	Wedding Cake	Lawn Games	Dancing
NAME	Jessie	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
	Struan	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓
	Fraser	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X
	Bonnie	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X
LOOKING FORWARD TO	The Ceremony	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X				
	Wedding Cake	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X				
	Lawn Games	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X				
	Dancing	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓				
TABLE NO.	Eight	X	✓	X	X								
	Nine	✓	X	X	X								
	One	X	X	X	✓								
	Five	X	X	✓	X								

SUDOKU:

PIGPEN CIPHER

To Shona and Hugh,
 May your marriage be like a good puzzle:
 full of a little mystery, a little logic, and always better when solved together.
 – Finn Finity