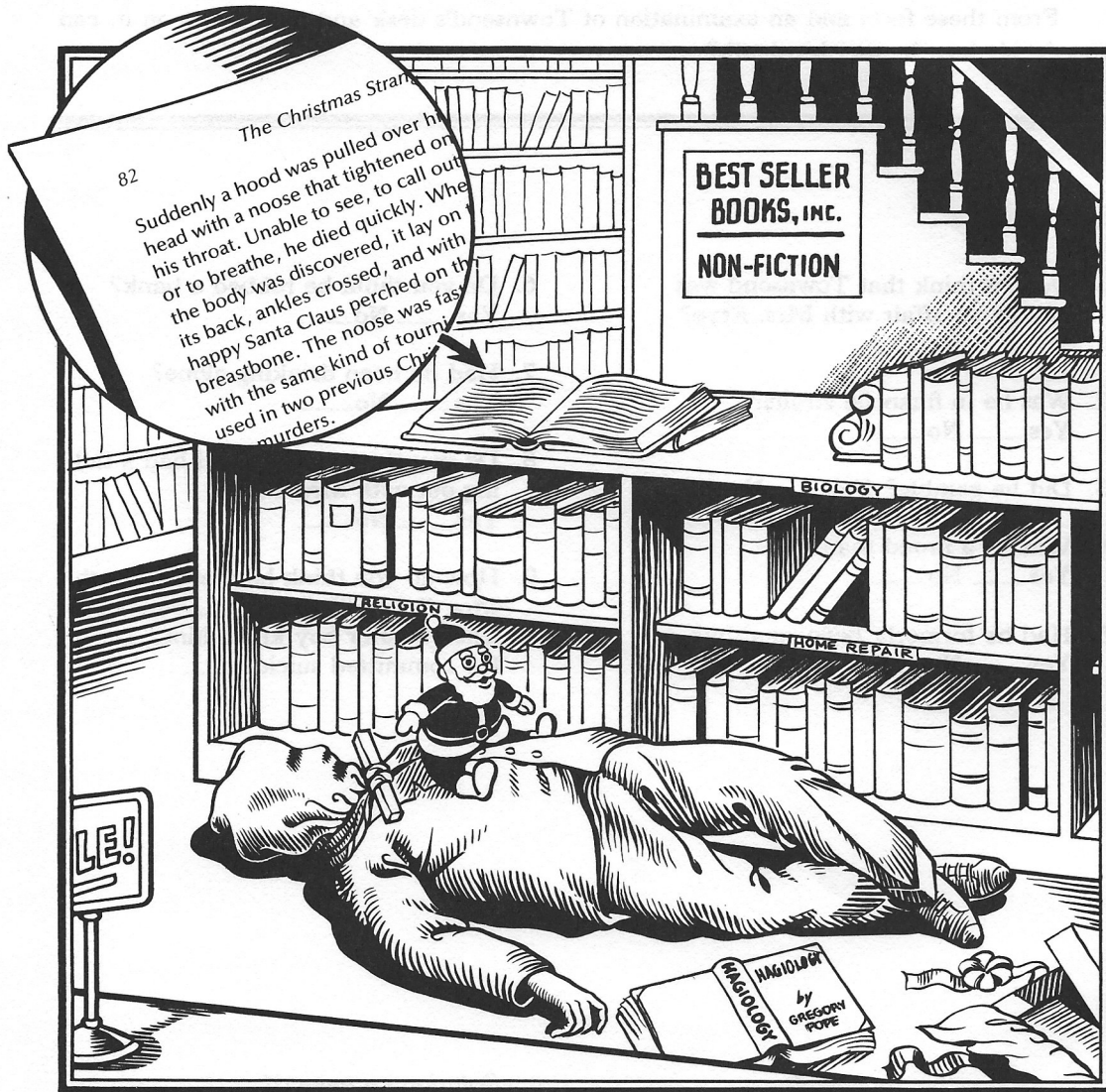


# MURDER IN A BOOKSTORE



On December 23rd the body of Quintus Tertius, a bibliophile, was found as shown in the basement of the Boswell Bookstore. Page 82 of *The Christmas Strangler*, by Elden Hack, lay open on a counter. Mr. Tertius, a regular customer, often rummaged in the stacks of books in the basement.

Eppis Pepys and his wife, Alice Pepys, were proprietors of the Boswell Bookstore. Each of them admitted having gone down to the basement within a half hour of the probable time of the murder.

E. Pepys said, "I went down to get a copy of Descartes's *Principles of Philosophy*. I saw no one in the basement."

A. Pepys said, "I went down to get a copy of Spinoza's *Ethics*. I saw no one in the basement."

From these facts and from an examination of scene, can you tell who killed Quintus Tertius, and why?

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## Questions

1. Did Tertius commit suicide?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
2. Is it likely that the murderer entered and left the bookstore without being noticed? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
3. Do you think Tertius was reading *The Christmas Strangler* when he was accosted? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
4. Did the murder method require preparation? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
5. Do you think the killer brought his murder equipment with him?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
6. Did Eppis Pepys have a motive for killing Tertius? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
7. Did Alice Pepys have a motive for killing Tertius? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
8. Do you think that the killer brought *The Christmas Strangler* with him?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
9. Do you think that Tertius was engrossed in reading at the time of his murder? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
10. Can you figure out a probable motive for this murder?
11. Who do you think killed Tertius?

*Solution on page 62*