

Julian Press

The Treasure of Blackbird Rock
and Other *Mysteries*





DER AUTOR

Julian Press, Jahrgang 1960, studierte in Hamburg an der Fachhochschule Grafik und Illustration, hat in einem Jugendbuchverlag volontiert und war dann für Jugendzeitschriften und in einer Werbeagentur tätig. Schon bald begann er, selbst für Kinder zu schreiben und zu zeichnen. Er trat früh in die Fußstapfen seines Vaters, Autor der berühmten »Schwarzen Hand«, und begann, eigene Ratekrimis und Wimmelbilder zu entwerfen. Nach längerem Aufenthalt in Brüssel lebt er heute mit seiner Frau als freier Grafiker und Autor in Hamburg. Seine sehr lebendigen, interaktiven Lesungen sind bei kleinen und großen Spürnasen sehr beliebt.

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The Treasure of Blackbird Rock and Other Mysteries

Mit einem Vorwort
und Vokabelhilfen
von Birgit Hock





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Liebe Leserin, lieber Leser,

ganz viel Rätselspaß – das bieten dir die vorliegenden Seiten. Warum? Nun, zum einen kannst du mit den Detektiven Caro, Philipp und Flo die vier Geheimnisse aufspüren, denen die Bande in diesem Buch auf der Spur ist. Da geht es darum, das Geheimnis des vierzehnten Mönches zu entlarven und einem Kaminchendieb auf die Spur zu kommen. Und zum anderen kannst du dir einen Spaß daraus machen, englische Vokabeln zu erraten – und zwar so:

- Im Text der Geschichte sind manche Wörter **fett** gedruckt – das sind Wörter, die du vermutlich nicht kennst. Damit du aber trotzdem verstehst, was du liest, ohne ständig jemanden fragen oder in einem Wörterbuch blättern zu müssen, hat dieses Buch Vokabelleisten. Sie führen dich also stets auf die richtige Spur – du verstehst sofort, worum es geht, und der Spaß an der Geschichte (und am Lesen!) bleibt erhalten!
- Damit du solche neuen Wörter in eigenen Sätzen und Situationen verwenden kannst, steht immer die Grundform da (z.B. der Infinitiv eines Verbs) – schließlich lernst du schon lange genug Englisch, um z.B. Vergangenheitsformen zu erkennen bzw. selbstständig zu bilden.
- Sicher aber stolperst du auch über Wörter, die nicht fett gedruckt sind, obwohl du sie nicht verstehst. Nun kommt dein Spürsinn zum Einsatz! Überlege, welches deutsche Wort in diesem Satz Sinn machen würde, und lies die Geschichte dann einfach weiter, ohne die Vokabel nachzuschauen. Du wirst merken, dass deine Vermutung in den meisten Fällen richtig ist. Denn: Auch der beste Detektiv hat nicht immer

gleich handfeste Beweise in der Hand, oft muss er sich erst einmal auf seine Vermutungen stützen 😊!

- Manche Wörter kennst du vielleicht eher aus Spielfilmen oder aus dem Internet statt aus dem Schulunterricht: In den meisten Fällen wird es sich dabei um sog. Amerikanismen – also Begriffe, die aus dem amerikanischen Englisch stammen – handeln.
- Amerikanismen sind im Text übrigens auch markiert und du findest die entsprechenden Vokabeln des Britischen Englisch (BE) dort angegeben. Für den Fall, dass Ermittlungen dich auch mal nach Großbritannien führen!
- Und nun: Verlass dich auf deine Intuition – lies einfach drauflos! Dein kriminalistischer Durchblick und dein scharfer Verstand lassen dich ganz bestimmt auch die Klippen der Fremdsprache umschiffen!

Viel Spaß!



The Sugar Shack sold the best **candy** in Hillsdale, the **tiny** town where best friends Flo, Philipp, and Caro lived. The Sugar Shack was owned by Caro's uncle, Leo. Caro and Flo spent a lot of time there after school. Sometimes Caro's other uncle, Lars, **dropped by**. Lars **was** a police detective and **a sucker for** lollipops. The three friends loved mysteries, **suspense** stories, and solving puzzles, so they constantly **harassed** Lars with questions about his work. One day Lars suggested they start up their own detective agency. They could use the candy **storage room** in the attic of the Sugar Shack as their headquarters, and Leo and Lars could be their technical consultants. The three friends jumped at the chance! It was no time at all before they solved their very first case...

candy: Süßigkeiten (BE: sweets); **tiny:** klein, winzig; **to drop by:** kurz vorbeischauen; **to be a sucker for:** eine Schwäche haben für; **suspense:** die Spannung; **to harass:** belästigen, nerven; **storage room:** der Lagerraum



Leo, the owner of the Sugar Shack, is like some of the chocolates he sells: tough on the outside, **goeey** on the inside.



Flo (short for Florentin) has eagle eyes and loves **gadgets**. His pockets are always full of tools to use in unexpected situations.



Caro (short for Carolin) is extremely athletic. She's fast and **competitive**. She loves a good **challenge**.



Inspector Lars is a computer whiz. He gave his old computer to the detectives, who sometimes use it when working on a case.



Philipp has a sensitive ear, especially for birdcalls. The clucking of his loyal **cockatoo**, Coco, is like a second language to him.



Coco the cockatoo is Philipp's **sidekick**. More than one criminal has **gotten into a flap** with Coco's wings.

goeey: zäh; **competitive**: kämpferisch; **challenge**: die Herausforderung; **cockatoo**: der Kakadu; **gadget**: die technische Spielerei; **sidekick** (*coll.*): der Kumpel, der ständige Begleiter; **to get in a flap** (*coll.*): in helle Aufregung geraten



You can help Caro, Philipp, Flo and friends solve the mysteries in the book. Just read the stories, and try to answer the questions. Here's a hint: Look at the pictures for clues!



I. Seven Little Blackbirds

It was a hot June morning when a group of sixth-grade students from Hillsdale Middle School left for a field trip. Their destination: the **Abbey of Blackbird Rock**. Caro, Philipp and Flo were among the students in attendance. Their social studies teacher, Mr Johnson, even let Coco, Philipp's cockatoo, come along.

The bus wound its way through the pine forest on the way to the abbey. Philipp felt **woozy**, so he rested his head against the window. When he heard a chorus of »Oohs!« and »Aahs!«



from his classmates, he quickly opened his eyes. There it was! The huge stone **monastery** appeared on a plateau in the distance.

The Abbey of Blackbird Rock was made of gigantic stones and its walls were covered with **ivy**. The deafening **caws** of a flock of blackbirds **perched** on top of the bell tower greeted the children as they descended from the bus. Father Anselm greeted the children and took them on a tour.

»According to legend,« he began, »seven blackbirds guided Brother Roger to this rock. The abbey was named for the birds, and seven of them have watched over it since its construction ...«

»Oh no,« Father Anselm interrupted himself, »I only see six!«

abbey: das Kloster, die Abtei; **blackbird:** die Amsel; **woozy:** benebelt; **monastery:** das Kloster; **ivy:** der Efeu; **caw:** das Krächzen; **to perch:** sitzen; **medieval:** mittelalterlich (BE: mediaeval)

Where was the seventh blackbird?

Flo knew where it was.





2. Father Anselm's Second Surprise

Father Anselm calmed down once Flo pointed out the missing blackbird. The bird was hiding behind the **broom** that leaned against the left tower wall.

»Silly bird,« Father Anselm cried. »Go join your brothers!«

Then he guided his visitors into the majestic abbey **sanctuary**. Daylight streamed through the colourful stained-glass windows into the **vast** center **aisle**, reflecting red, blue, green, and gold onto the tile floor. He waited for the small group to reassemble around him before continuing his speech.



»Can you see the great stone pillars on each side of the aisle, children? Go ahead, try to put your arms around them.«

The children rushed to encircle the **pillars**; it took no fewer than six to surround each one.

»These pillars alone,« explained Father Anselm, »support the weight of the **vaulted** ceiling, which appears so light. Creating a vast space that defies the law of gravity required incredible ingenuity —«

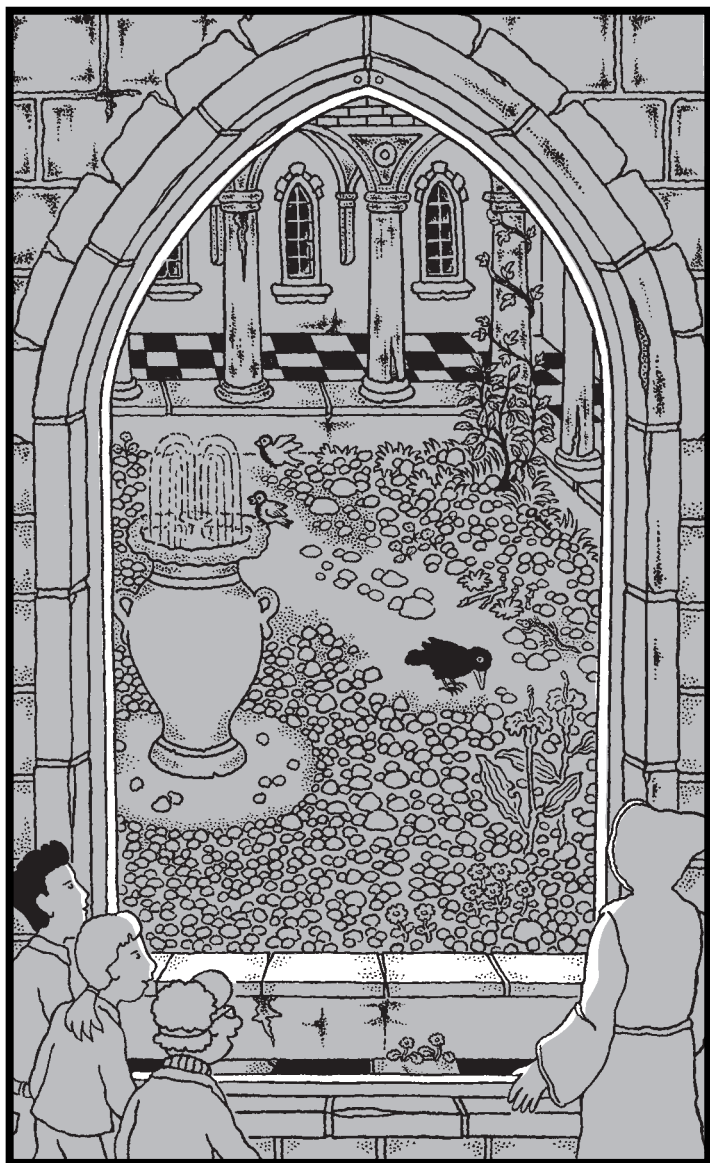
He interrupted himself again, shocked. The door to the garden outside was **ajar**, even though access was strictly prohibited! Philipp went over and looked out through an arched window. Father Anselm definitely had reason to worry!

broom: der Besen; **sanctuary:** der Altarraum; **vast:** riesig; **aisle:** der Gang; **pillar:** der (Gewölbe-)Pfeiler, die Säule; **vaulted:** gewölbt; **ajar:** angelehnt



What out-of-place object did Philipp discover in the garden?





3. The Dormitory Discovery

Philipp saw it right away: There was a key lying at the foot of the **shrub** in the opposite corner of the garden. This meant that someone had gone into the garden through the abbey, despite the big sign on the front of the door announcing that access to the garden was strictly forbidden during renovations. Philipp signalled his discovery to Caro and Flo.

When the field trip was over, Mr Johnson and the students left – all except Philipp, Flo and Caro, whose research project, by happy coincidence, was on the topic of monastery **herb gardens**.



Father Anselm showed them the library, which contained botanical books that would be useful in writing their paper. Then the friends had lunch with the thirteen monks who still lived in the abbey. The meal passed in silence, but this didn't stop the three detectives' **investigative wheels** from turning. Who went into the garden? And why?

Throughout the meal, Caro had been keeping an eye on the southern wing of the abbey where the monks' sleeping quarters were located. Suddenly, she leaned in toward her friends.

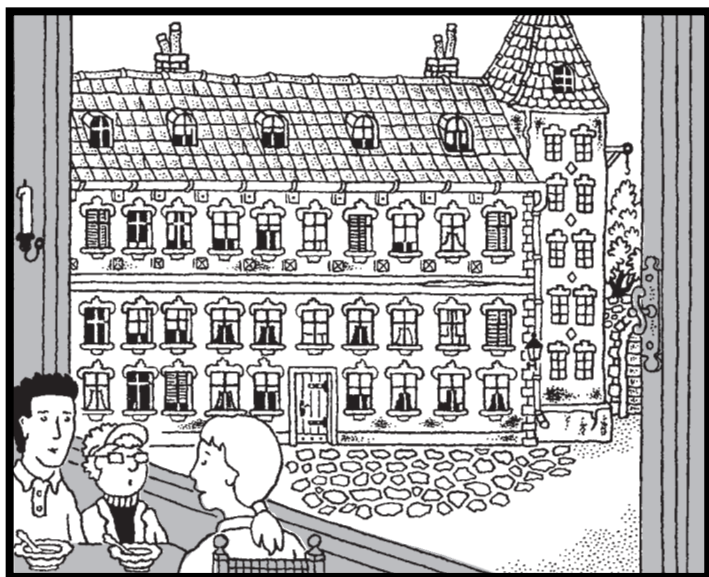
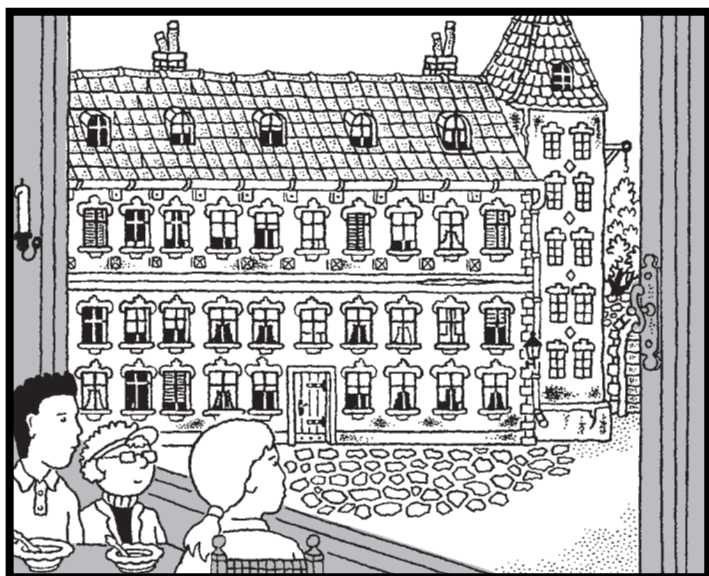
»There's someone in the **dormitory**,« she whispered.

shrub: der Busch, der Strauch; **herb garden:** der Kräutergarten; **investigative wheels:** hier: der Spürsinn; **dormitory:** der Schlafsaal; **intruder:** der Eindringling



What made Caro so sure of the presence of an intruder?





4. Midnight Mayhem

The gang told Father Anselm that they thought someone was **prowling** through the dormitory of the south wing. The detectives saw that the blinds of the window on the far right-hand side of the second floor had been lowered over the course of lunch. Quickly, Father Anselm took a count of the monks. All thirteen were present. Who, then, was prowling through the dormitory of the south wing?

When Father Anselm went to the dormitory to investigate, there was no one there. On the way back to lunch, he couldn't stop himself from smiling. These kids had big imaginations, but maybe they were just a little too big. He couldn't believe that he had fallen for their game! He **scolded** himself.

But then again, how could he explain the key in the garden? Father Anselm sighed. Maybe the brother in charge of the garden, who tended to be forgetful, had dropped his key.

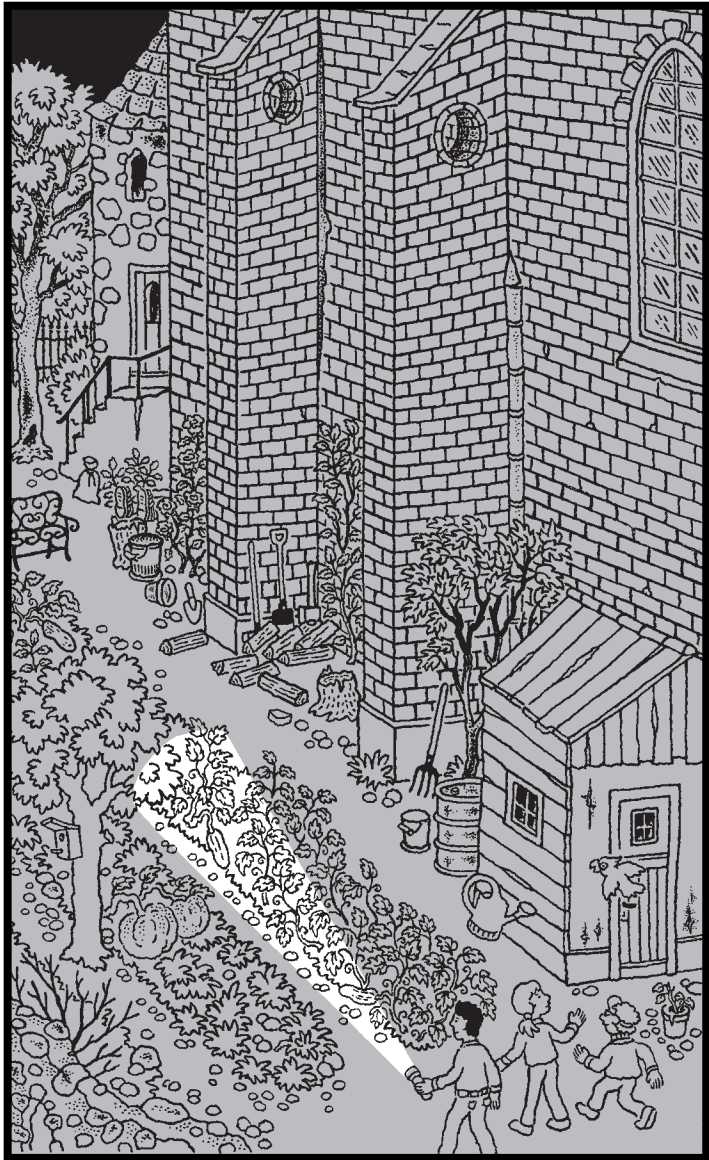
Father Anselm showed the three friends to a monk's cell, which would be their guest room for the night.

»We wake at **dawn**,« said Father Anselm. »Sweet dreams!«

The detectives tried to sleep, but they couldn't stop thinking about the mystery. As the abbey's bells **chimed** midnight, Caro heard voices coming from the garden. She woke the others. They dressed quickly and crept downstairs. After a few minutes, the friends were almost ready to go back to their cell when Flo pointed his finger at something moving in the shadows.

mayhem: das Chaos; **to prowl:** herumstreichen; **to scold:** schimpfen; **dawn:** die Dämmerung; **to chime:** läuten



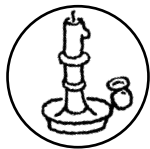


5. The Key to Success

Walking on their **tiptoes**, the young detectives approached the small staircase at the back of the garden. The sandals that Flo had spotted in the shadows underneath the stairs were attached to a person! It was one of the monks lying on the ground, tied up with a cord.

»He's alive!« Philipp whispered. »He's just **unconscious**.« Flo ran for help. Minutes later, he returned with Father Anselm.

»Goodness!« Father Anselm shouted. »Help me lift him!«



They carried Brother Bertram to the **infirmary**, where he started to regain **consciousness**. He was groaning:

»I was studying in the library when I heard glass breaking outside. I ran toward the square tower and saw a silhouette moving in the darkness. It was a man in a **robe**.

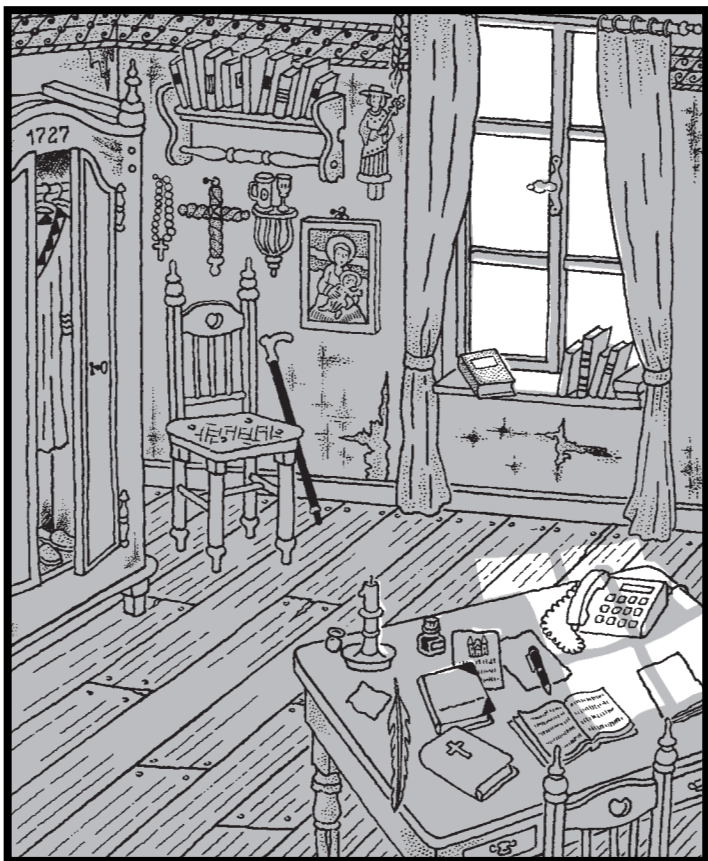
He knocked me over, put his hand over my mouth, and dragged me to the ground...«

Brother Bertram was exhausted. While Father Anselm rubbed Brother Bertram's **temples** with a **balm**, the three friends **ducked out** of the room. As Philipp headed for the door, he spied a set of keys that Father Anselm had left on the table. He discreetly slipped the keys in his pocket.

The kids used the keys to inspect each room. Finally, on the third floor, they discovered something. Brother Bertram's **assailant** had been here!

tiptoe: die Zehenspitze; **unconscious:** bewusstlos; **infirmary:** das Krankenzimmer; **consciousness:** das Bewusstsein; **robe:** das Mönchsgewand; **temple:** die Schläfe; **balm:** der Balsam; **to duck out:** sich davonmachen; **assailant:** der Angreifer





6. The Stranger Didn't Take the Stairs

A careful examination of the office **revealed** that the cord of the curtains on the window was torn off. Brother Bertram had been tied up with the missing part of the cord.

Father Anselm caught up with the kids and gasped when he entered the room. He **stammered** and pointed. The three friends turned to discover the source of his **distress**. The safe! Its door was wide open!



»This safe is where we keep our most ancient and precious liturgical objects,« he explained. »Philipp, if I may have my key ring back, please.«

Father Anselm verified that the key to the room and the key to the safe were still on his keychain. How could the thief have entered the room if the door was locked?

»I've got it!« exclaimed Philipp. »Do you see the broken glass? Whoever broke in came in through the window in the back of the room after breaking one of the panes.«

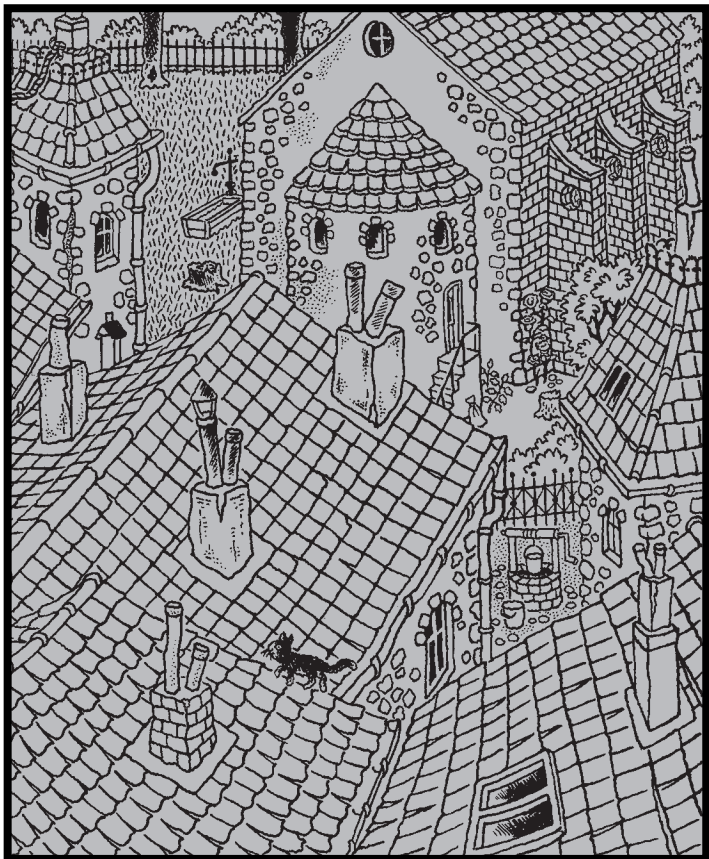
»Really?« asked Flo. »And how did he break in through a window on the third floor? I don't see a ladder.«

Philipp didn't have an answer. The three friends helped Father Anselm take an **inventory** of the safe and then they went back to their cell. Caro opened the **skylight** of their room and **popped** her head **out** to look at the area surrounding the square tower.

»Come and look. I think I've found how the thief reached the third floor!« she exclaimed.

to reveal: offenlegen; **to stammer:** stammeln; **distress:** die Verzweiflung, das Elend; **inventory:** die Bestandsaufnahme; **skylight:** die Dachluke; **to pop out:** hinausstrecken





7. A Needle in a Haystack

A rope was tied to the chimney of the square tower. It seemed that the thief had reached the third floor by flinging up a **grappling hook**, then scaling the side of the tower to the window.

»Look!« said Philipp. He pointed to a man dressed as a monk running through the garden.

»That's definitely not Father Anselm. I can see Father Anselm in the window of the tower,« said Flo. »And it isn't Brother Bertram. He's too **banged up** to run. Who could it be? And what is he carrying under his arm?«



»That's what we're going to find out,« said Caro, rushing toward the stairs. »Come on. Hurry up or he'll get away again.«

Just as Caro entered the garden, she saw the suspect head for the forest, where he **vanished** instantly.

»I don't know if you noticed —« Caro began.

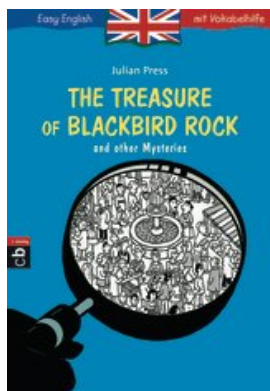
»That he wasn't carrying anything?« interrupted Philipp. »If only we knew where he hid whatever he was carrying.«

»I know,« announced Flo, rather proud of himself. »Follow me.«

haystack: der Heuhaufen; **grappling hook:** der Schraubhaken; **to be banged up:** mitgenommen sein; **to vanish:** verschwinden; **to stash:** verstauen, verstecken; **loot:** die Beute







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The Treasure of Blackbird Rock and other Mysteries

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Englisch üben mit den erfolgreichen „Finde den Täter“-Rätselkrimis

Im Kloster Krähenstein geht es nicht mit rechten Dingen zu: Eine verschobene Gardine im stillgelegten Trakt, ein zusätzlicher Mönch beim Beten, eine verschwundene Putte aus der Klosterkirche und ein gefesselter Abt lassen die Lakritzbande zur Höchstform auflaufen ...

Dieser Band enthält die Fälle „The Treasure of Blackbird Rock“ (Tatort Krähenstein) und „The Mystery of Maurice“ (Langohr gesucht).

- Zwei der beliebten Rätselkrimis in englischer Sprache – so macht Büffeln Spaß!
- Die Ausgewogenheit von Wimmelbildern und Text erleichtert das Leseverständnis
- Mit ausführlichen Vokabelangaben und einem Vorwort



[Der Titel im Katalog](#)