



ANSWER:
INTRIGUING

Breaking the Logician's Code

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For convenience, we've reproduced the clues given in the puzzle below. Also, when a magician—assistant—prop trio has been deduced, we will use the notation (*magician, assistant, prop*).

- (1) Teller's assistant's name has more than five letters.
- (2) Penn uses a wearable prop, which leaves him with either the hat or the scarf.
- (3) Blackstone helps her magician by using the wand.
- (4) Penn works with Pendragon.
- (5) Smith and McGee each work with props that have exactly 5 letters.
- (6) Blaine, his assistant, and his prop all contain a common letter.
- (7) Smith is the assistant to either Blaine or Copperfield.
- (8) Copperfield works with either the hat or the cards.

First consider clues 1 and 4. Together, these imply that Teller's assistant is Blackstone. From clue 3, we conclude that we must have the trio (**Teller, Blackstone, wand**). Now consider clue 5. The props that Smith and McGee work with must therefore be the cards and the scarf in some order. Because Penn works with Pendragon from clue 4, using clue 2, we deduce that Penn must work with the hat, hence we have the trio (**Penn, Pendragon, hat**). Thus, by clue 8, we conclude that Copperfield works with the cards. Next, consider clue 7. If Smith were Blaine's assistant, then because of clue 5 and the fact that Copperfield works with cards, Smith would work with the scarf. But the trio (Blaine, Smith, scarf) does not satisfy clue 6 because these three words have no common letter. Hence Smith is Copperfield's assistant, and we have the trio (**Copperfield, Smith, cards**). Thus, from clue 5, McGee works with the scarf. Because "Blaine", "McGee", and "scarf" do not contain a common letter, McGee cannot be Blaine's assistant because of clue 6. Thus Blaine's assistant must be Bundy and their prop must be the rabbit. Note that the trio (**Blaine, Bundy, rabbit**) satisfies clue 6 because the three words all contain the letter 'B'. Finally, by elimination, we conclude that we must have the trio (**Houdini, McGee, scarf**). We now fill in the blanks. The letters to be extracted are highlighted in red.

BLAINE's assistant is BUNDY and he works with the rabbit.
(4, 1st) (2, 7th)

Copperfield's assistant is SMITH and he works with the CARDS.
(3, 5th) (3, 4th)

Teller's assistant is BLACKSTONE and he works with the WAND.
(7, 3rd) (3, 9th)

PENN's assistant is PENDRAGON and he works with the hat.
(3, 2nd) (7, 6th)

HOUDINI's assistant is MCGEE and he works with the scarf.
(5, 8th) (3, 10th)

Extracting the red letters and ordering them according to the second number of the ordered pairs they correspond to yields the final answer of **INTRIGUING**.