



By the Book

Once again, it seems that 2021 could be a year where you have enough time to tackle the Christmas puzzle. Last year, for the first time, we decided use the puzzle to see if could raise some money for charity and selected the Trussell Trust: through your generosity we were able to raise nearly £1000. This year - following the sudden death of my son, Charlie, from epilepsy - we would like to try and raise money for SUDEP Action (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy).

There is no expectation, but if you have enjoyed the puzzle and would like to give something, please consider visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/will-marriage2021>. Also, please do send electronic copies of the puzzle to friends and family as well if you think they might enjoy it (available through the link at <https://tinyurl.com/christmaspuzzle2021>).

The Puzzle

This year, each clue leads to the title of a well-known book. All the books come under the category of fiction, so no need to go looking for Roget's Thesaurus or A Brief History of Time. General knowledge, a mildly cryptic approach and Google™ should provide most of the answers, although a good dictionary might be helpful too.

When you have worked out as many clues as you can, or if you would like to be sent the solutions after the closing date, send your answers by email to: abdemonpuzzles@gmail.com.

Closing date: January 9th, 2022, with the winner to be chosen at random from the entrants with the most correct answers.

1	Fashion a "Candle in Wind" role for curious girl (5,2,10)	51	Me, wild drunk? Oo - you are awful! (5,4,4)
2	Would four of them make lovely couples? (4)	52	Employee slips, lands badly (7,6)
3	Battered fish, with top dressing (5,5)	53	Enjoy being nestled in four-poster, perhaps (7)
4	She - in distress - believed the soft slurs (4,2,3,11)	54	One of Michelangelo's works is a metal sphere (5,11)
5	Mark a line on a rugby pitch (5-2)	55	A dinghy? Yes, it capsized after circumnavigation (6,3,5,2,6,4)
6	Freshen up that saggy beret (3,5,6)	56	Flow back into auditorium (4,4)
7	Fancy beer? Not even cocoa? (7)	57	Central Command (11)
8	Donkey loses nothing after short month (4,4)	58	A Scottish apartment: Move in 1st of October, leave end of June (9)
9	In which foul fog slithered north? (3,4,2,3,5)	59	Touch propeller as it spins (3,5,6)
10	Birds on a circuitous course (8,6)	60	Motheaten bear in for repair (5,3,2,1,4)
11	Assume estimate is about 9 (3,7)	61	With a little over two grand, somehow copes with easy days (4,1,5,7)
12	Where undersea trials are conducted? (8,6)	62	Warder's go (3,4,2,3,5)
13	He - hurting terribly - broke gym equipment (9,7)	63	Like the winner of the Venus Rosewater Dish? (3,5,2,5)
14	Where the lakes are cool and blue (9,4)	64	Sexy Rexy, perhaps (3,4,2,3,4)
15	Takes armchair to class for refurbishment (1,9,5)	65	Vulgar verse still shocking (9,7)
16	Crowd breaks up in poor state (4,4)	66	Century, carefully constructed, felt odious (3,7,5,2,8)
17	Fan mail sorted, prepare for battle! (6,4)	67	To which some are born - and what the end is said to be? (7,5)
18	In Tuvalu, cardamoms are harvested from East to West (7)	68	Adam backs me, Britain's foremost egg producer (6,6)
19	Forthright genius I abandoned (12)	69	A sin - just (6,4)
20	They will not meet by mistake (6,5)	70	Confound it! A bird enjoys dregs (7,6,5)
21	Shh! Evil boulder felt to shake uncontrollably (3,5,2,3,12)	71	Roadblock limiting kidnappers' first bungled effort (2,4,1,11)
22	Woman leaves terrycloth crumpled (4,11,5)	72	In which you find unearthly creatures (4)
23	Condemn me if a situation runs wild (2,4,3,3)	73	Jennifer Parker, maybe? (3,4,10,4)
24	Fry leek in brunch salad (11,4)	74	Romans struggled to regulate his tax (7,3,4)
25	Commit an offence in company or back at University (6,6)	75	Served up pork pies with no strings attached (9)
26	The male ferret sunk his teeth in (3,6)	76	Vitality of character following <i>Omicron</i> (4,2,2)
27	Found wandering during July's session (7)	77	Close to a sense of impending evil ((2,3,8,2,2,6)
28	Makes killing on the next Pro Series being abandoned (6,2,3,6,7)	78	Skipper claims one roll'd in after storm (7,8,8)
29	Nelson's wife accompanying the Lord High Everything Else (bar none, we hear!) (6,3,4)	79	Ethereal instrument introduces a quiet expression, overwhelming heartless diva (3,7,2,3,3)
30	Let Sam dry off outside (3,8)	80	The inverse of 5376618 and of 266 (7,2,3)
31	When it's over, can we parade ostentatiously? (3,3,5)	81	He forged that organisation (3,9)
32	In flouncy hat, I lolloped about (6)	82	Talk about short train reversing (8)
33	Chase Ronnie, possibly, then go bad (very bad!) - excuse annoyance (5,6,3,3,6,2,4)	83	German greeting, translated, leaves one appalled but needing no introduction (11)
34	Tough job - kneel in preparation (3,6,4)	84	Keep to myself? (1,7,3,6)
35	There are apples, blueberries, cherries ... (7,3,3,3,4,5)	85	Take in smooth, core values of infamous, lazy sponsor (8,3,7)
36	... but I have no bananas (7)	86	Does it have such people in it? (5,3,5)
37	In a folio - twice - state "Revolution!" (1,4,2,3,6)	87	The Idea? Support timeless redesign of Tate Modern (3,9,2,5,4)
38	The exorcist's responsibility (10)	88	Bad start to woeful adaptation (7)
39	Earliest tales about rhinos, zebras and nyala: hope feats are amazing! (6,2,3,4)	89	Frank does fandango dressed in a suit (5,2,8)
40	Indulge mistake, to an extent involving Bishop (5,6)	90	Eight emptied into these make a gallon (4,8)
41	fooling about, we then hit windowsill (3,4,2,3,7)	91	Resows saga's idea - then reworks it entirely (4,8,3)
42	Othello differs in new production (4,2,3,5)	92	The cult ensnares soldier and his Major perhaps (3,6,7)
43	Pep cared I'd injured substitute badly (5,3,9)	93	Not so much grasping as down in the dumps (3,10)
44	Don't breathe a word when I let Hitch direct characters (3,4,3,5,3,3,8)	94	The period when church was embraced by state (3,4,7)
45	Cried hysterically after comedian Henry made tea with Lee (5,4,5)	95	Cullinan II, for instance? (3,5,2,3,5)
46	Throngs swirl about the lifeboat service (8,6)	96	Former chemical company received praise all over America (1,8)
47	Twitter? (8)	97	Careless apprentice, no longer in charge (5,3)
48	British hippie's enthusiastic remark regarding sticky sweet (8,4)	98	Hitherto dated iffy SF novel (3,3,2,3,8)
49	By which hateful frog is crunched up? (3,8)	99	What Donne would never send to know? (3,4,3,4,5)
50	I am on a run, dashing about dead-end Hampshire town (3,3,2,6)	100	In which doctor and reader do battle with her murky fog? (3,6,2,5,7)