

Read the case below to find evidence to identify the innocent and guilty suspects. Remember, the story and suspects' statements are true.

The Ring Coveter

¹Today, police from the city of Chesterton arrested one of the suspects below for stealing a ring from Chesterton Cabochon—an upscale jewelry store in the heart of downtown. ²The theft occurred on Saturday, August 19, between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. ³The four women below were the only customers in the store at the time of the crime.

⁴The sales associate remembered showing the ring to Margaret Beech who haughtily looked it over before giving it back to the assistant. ⁵The assistant reported hearing a commendatory comment from Janet Johnson as she returned the ring to its display.

⁶Police approached the crime from the sales associate's correct inference; she believed the thief was appreciably covetous of the ring. ⁷The customers' comments appear below. ⁸After the arrest, one of the suspects confessed and officers recovered the ring from her home.



Margaret Beech

⁹"I noticed the ring because of its outré color. ¹⁰I asked for a closer look because I thought it would complement a necklace I already own. ¹¹It turned out to be a bauble."



Tess McGowan

¹²"Sue Bevens and I commented to each other about the ring. ¹³She looked at it rapaciously, but I was insouciant to the florid design."



Sue Bevens

¹⁴"I have an eclectic array of jewelry. ¹⁵If I added the ring to my collection, I knew it would be a boffo."



Janet Johnson

¹⁶"I am a jewelry connoisseur. ¹⁷I was attracted to the ring's au courant color but its execrable quality made it a bête noire."

Based on the evidence, circle the suspect who is the Ring Coveter.

After solving the case, write the best vocabulary word to complete each sentence. Each word can only be used once.

appreciable
commendatory
insouciant
array

connoisseur
outré
au courant
covet

bauble
eclectic
bête noire
execrable

boffo
florid
cabochon
haughty

1. Guests of the exclusive party were too _____ to acknowledge the staff.
2. The considerable _____ of choices made choosing arduous.
3. The world traveler amassed a/an _____ collection of art.
4. The artist composed her work with inlaid ruby and garnet _____.
5. The baroque style of the room called for furnishings with _____ details.
6. The model's _____ look conformed to the latest trends.
7. The discerning _____ patronized the city's best restaurants.
8. The envious neighbor _____ the grander home next door.
9. The shop offered overpriced tchotchkes and other _____ to tourists.
10. The acclaimed play became the director's most celebrated _____.
11. The _____ student balked at tutoring.
12. Industrious employees enjoy _____ bonuses at the company.
13. As the business failed, it became the owner's _____.
14. The reviewer's _____ comments encouraged the unknown actor.
15. The _____ art clashed with the traditional home's décor.

Answers

The Ring Coveter (pages 8-9)



Margaret Beech



Tess McGowan



Sue Bevins



Janet Johnson

The Innocent

Margaret Beech: From sentence 6, we know the thief is appreciably covetous of the ring. In sentence 4, Beech looks at it haughtily. In sentences 9 and 11, Beech calls it a bauble with an outré color. This proves Margaret Beech's innocence.

Tess McGowan: From sentence 6, we know the thief is appreciably covetous of the ring. In sentence 13, McGowan is insouciant, and she calls the ring's design florid. This proves Tess McGowan's innocence.

Janet Johnson: From sentence 6, we know the thief is appreciably covetous of the ring. In sentence 17, Johnson describes the ring's quality as execrable and labels the ring a bête noire. This proves Janet Johnson's innocence.

The Ring Coveter

Sue Bevins is the Ring Coveter because a process of elimination exonerates the other suspects. From sentence 8, we know police arrested one of the suspects. That suspect confessed and police found the ring at her home. In sentence 6, we know the thief is appreciably covetous of the ring. In sentence 13, Bevins looks rapaciously at the ring. In sentence 15, Sue Bevins looks at the ring as a potential addition to her jewelry collection and calls it a boffo.

1. haughty
2. array
3. eclectic
4. cabochons
5. florid
6. au courant
7. connoisseur
8. coveted
9. baubles
10. boffo
11. insouciant
12. appreciable
13. bête noire
14. commendatory
15. outré

Vocabulary Words and Appropriate Synonym for Context Within Case

Vocabulary Word	Synonym
appreciable	detectable
array	variety
au courant	fashionable
bauble	trinket
bête noire	dislikable item
boffo	success
cabochon	polished gem
commendatory	favorable
connoisseur	expert
covet	desire
eclectic	assorted
execrable	awful
florid	excessively decorated
haughty	arrogant
insouciant	disinterested
outré	bizarre
rapacious	greedy