

I have always enjoyed participating in treasure hunts that not only entertain but acquaint one with their surroundings. I found that same enjoyment when 'treasure hunts' began to appear in print, and yes, "Masquerade" was a huge influence. I decided to create my own hunt, combining my interest in painting with the fun of hiding clues. I decided to pick an accessible, designated location with the idea 'hunters' would get out and explore, and then to reach a larger audience, added the lure of treasure, a prize of some value.

I asked my brother, an exceptional poet, if he would take a try at the text. Without revealing to him the solution or any clues but only copies of the illustrations and a general outline, he crafted the marvelous poem which is the backbone of the book.

I tried to make the clues 'discoverable' but requiring some effort and a need to think out of the box. Guessing that some readers would be looking for devices used in other hunts, I also included 'red herrings' as distractions. It seems there were too many distractions.

Overall, there were not many 'hunters'...or rather, there were not many books sold. But there were a few determined explores! Soon after the release, I received a number of 'solves'. Some were elaborate and detailed (32 pages of mathematical formulas) and I will admit I was surprised at the number of clues that I did not know I had included hidden in the illustrations and text! But no one submitted a correct solution or claimed the prize.

There were a number of repeat 'hunters' as judged by their repeat submissions. These submissions picked up over the last year and I was certain one of these hunters would solve the riddle (three in particular). I would have loved to have offered additional clues but as stated to all who asked for help, that would have been unfair to those who did not receive additional clues.

I do not know how many were actively attempting to solve the riddle. I do know of the handful that frequently submitted solutions – I have enjoyed your correspondence and your "solutions" and with all the possibilities you have pointed out I hope to put together another hunt. Time will tell (doesn't it always).

To those who sent notes about their trips and fun with the hunt, thank-you. I am glad you had a chance to explore and enjoy the island.

On to the solution....

"The location.. can be found by solving clues both verbal and visual."

The one constant included in every illustration are the stars along the borders. Using the stars was crucial to solving the riddle.

. The points on the stars on each page are colored differently. Drawing a line from points of the same color and seeing where they intersect and then putting the words in order (using the color of the numbers on page 40 so that blue is first, yellow is second, etc.) roughly delivers the phrase NUMBERS OPEN HIDDEN TREASURE RIDDLE pointing to the use of numbers to solve the riddle.

I provided the general location, “somewhere on Mt. Desert Island,” and then provided an image of a map on page 30. The map displays two coordinates of longitude and latitude for the island, 44(in red) and 68 (in yellow). These numbers are degree coordinates for the Island.

To go along with the map, I provided a compass.

On the back of the book is an illustration of a four-pointed compass rose with red and yellow points.



When a reader submitted a solution starting with “Folding pages...” I was certain the riddle had been solved. Every illustration includes stars along the border. The points of the stars vary in color and position. When certain stars, those that have red and yellow points, are aligned opposite from each other on the same page, and the page is folded (in the middle of the stars), the four pointed compass rose is created. This can be done on pages 5, 11, 19, 32, 40 and 47. The easiest way to do this is to tear the page out from the book.

On pages 5,19, 40 and 47, the inner borders contain colored blocks. When the pages are folded and the compass rose is created, certain blocks align to form numbers.

AND PIE  
TEA FOR TWO

HIDDEN AWAY  
A KEEPSAKE

SMOKE SIGNALS  
SPIRITS SPEAK

TOPSY TURVY  
UPSIDE DOWN

FANDANGO  
FOR PLEASURE

AN EYE REFLECTS  
COUNT TO THREE

On page 5, on the right-hand side, the yellow blocks join to form the number 1 (the other blocks do not join to form a solid color).





On page 19, folding side to side, a yellow 3 is created (just left of the word three).



On page 40, on the right-hand side, the red blocks form the number 1.





On page 47, on the left side, a red 7 is created.



When folded, the pages 11 and 32 do not create any numbers.

Putting the colored numbers together in order results in 13 and 17.

Added to the colored longitude and latitude number from the map results in 44 -17 (red) and 68 - 13 (yellow).

Longitude and latitude are written with three sets of numbers: degrees-minutes-seconds.

The clue to finding the last set of numbers was on the last page - "read a second time for good measure."

There are two clocks showing the second hand.

On page 10, on the yellowed clock, the secondhand points to 2.

On page 40, the secondhand points to 57.

44 17 57 (red)    68 13 02 (yellow)

This location puts one in Hunter's Cove. On the far side to the left there is a path that leads up to a small bluff looking back at the cove. To find the key, one needed to 'search' the location as the seconds were not broken down into fractions and a little digging (with hands) was required. And there, between two boulders, tucked into the earth, inside a fake stone, lay the key with instructions to a safety deposit box. The prize was ten thousand dollars. Per a reader's suggestion, I have placed a 'visible' painted 'souvenir' stone with key near the spot.











# Coordinates

N DD° MM' SS.SSS" E DD° MM' SS.SSS"

N 44° 17' 56.540091"

W 68° 13' 1.689377"

DD° MM' SS" N DD° MM' SS" E



44° 17' 57" N

68° 13' 2" W



DD° MM' SS.SSS" DD° MM' SS.SSS"



44° 17' 56.540091", -68°

13' 1.689377"



Press any value  
to select format



Back



Why such an obscure spot? I still associate 'treasure' with maritime lore, pirates and such, and how in stories they buried their treasure in remote spots. I also thought readers might be inclined to look in 'obvious' locations and I didn't want to hide it where someone might stumble across it. I wanted the riddle to be solved to find the location. The illustrations were meant to encourage readers to 'explore' the island and its' history. I wanted the location to be always accessible (not closed) and it needed to be where no structure needed to be moved or altered (a little dirt needed to be moved).

Yes, "Masquerade" was a big influence. I acknowledged that with the numbered/lettered squares on pages 10 and 40. I used similar devices such as putting a verbal clue outside the main text; the use of a border, different colored letters and yes, devising a system that would point to certain letters in the border.

As no one submitted a correct solution or claimed the treasure, as stated, the value of the prize, \$10,000, will be donated to charity. Instead of one charity, I will donate to various charities/non-profits. I have received a few suggestions from readers and will do my best to accommodate. For those who would like a list of the groups receiving donations, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to FANDANGO Stockwell, suite 100, 16 chestnut street, Boston Mass. 02108.

For additional free copies send a self- addressed stamped (\$3.50) 8 by 11 envelope.

Thank you all you for participating. I hope you enjoyed the adventure.