Crime and Puzzlement Answers

A Matter of Diamonds

1) C, as hostess, she poured the tea

2) B prescription pad and $55,000 written on it

3) Yes, judging by the way he doodled on his prescription pad and crumpled up a sheet from it.

4) No. Judging by the flag, which is hanging limp, it was not windy.

5) No. She might still steal.

6) No. Mrs. Dogge and the doctor pushed their setting away from them. Weimaraner pulled his setting towards him.

7) Weimaraner. Proof in #6, look where the dark platter is.

The Van Bliven Necklace

1. A because the clock indicates an earlier time than in b.

2. Yes because her suitcase is out on the floor.

3. The jewel box (open), the bureau (open) and the suitcase (moved and one of the catches left open)

4. No because she would not have heard the phone ring while it was UNPLUGGED.

5. No because the broken glass lies outside the room.

6. No only if he had broken a window from the inside of Mrs. Van Bliven’s room to unlock the doors which would have been impossible.

7. No she had legitimate reasons for entering the room, such as bringing towels and turning down the bed for the night.

8.Yes because the bed covers are turned down.

9. No, because if she had stolen the necklace she would have avoided making any noise or leaving evidence of her presence.

10. Yes she should have easily have manufactured all the evidence present.

11. In the vase, because the flowers were moved and there seems to have been no other reason for rearranging them.

12. Mrs. Van Bliven because we have eliminated the other two suspects and she could have recovered the necklace from the vase at any time she wished. Due to her craving for caviar and the money she’d spent for it, she was badly in need to cash.

Kidnap

1. Yes because he took his teddy bear and some clothes. There are no signs of struggle.
2. Yes his room is reasonably neat, so he was probably a neat child.
3. Yes to prevent her husband from kidnapping William.
4. Yes to obtain custody of William, which was denied by the loving mother.
5. Yes. He could have obtained ransom money.
6. Yes. She was probably lonesome for him.
7. Yes, judging by the spilled water near the pot.
8. Yes. The kidnapper found the pitcher and went about routine tasks like making the bed, filling the fish bowl and watering the plant.
9. Yes, because his teddy bear and clothes were taken.
10. No, she was apparently deep in meditation.
11. No. He would have been in hostile territory and would have had to act quickly and would never have wasted time with the plant or fish bowl.
12. No. He should not have been in the house and he, like the father, would have worked fast.
13. No. She would not have bothered taking clothes, because she had continual access to them.
14. Yes she was familiar with the house, she could act slowly, and if discovered she could claim she’d returned for her glasses.

She took William and returned him two days later because he ate so much she couldn’t afford to feed him.