

Dou push open an old, decorative wooden door and stride into the pleasant underlit atmosphere of what could only be another European pub - and though you wouldn't have suspected it possible, the mood is even cheerier than usual.

A grinning woman beckons you over to a table where a game of cards is in progress. You can't understand her words, but they seem inviting. You wander over and pull up a chair to the oak table. At first, you think the game they're playing might be five-card stud poker, but after a few minutes you aren't so sure.

"If you don't mind me asking, exactly what game is this?" you inquire politely, after no one reacts to a bearded man's very obvious display of pulling an ace out of his sleeve.

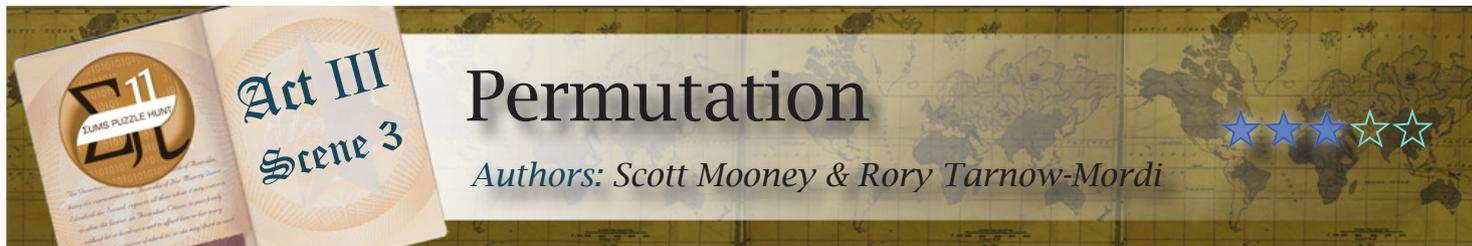
"Answer a question and I may tell you," slurs the woman who invited you over, in English. "We have a bet. Who is the best classical composer in the history of our country?" She leans over and whispers loudly in your ear. "His name starts with B!"

"That leaves at least three!" roars the bearded man as he slams his hand of cards on the table, causing beer to spill from the large flagons.

Before you can reply, the bartender shouts to you over the noise. "Don't get involved in that!" he laughs with a strong accent. "Anything goes, tonight!" You can't help but notice the bartender serving another enormous beer to a man who is clearly intoxicated.

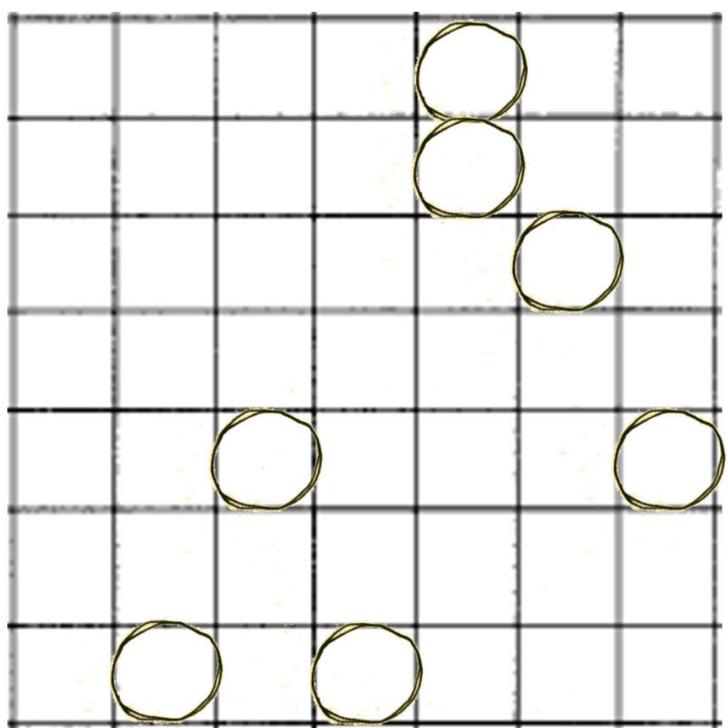
You step away from the table and survey the crowded room, realising that the atmosphere goes far beyond cheerful - it's chaos, and the alarm bells in your head are telling you that E.V.I.L. has been here.

More alarm bells go off at the sight of a vacant table, with a folded newspaper resting innocuously on its lacquered surface. You pick it up and study it. It looks like a peculiar crossword, but someone has made marks on the grid...



Permutation

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ACROSS

- Agreements between business rivals
- Ceremonial staff
- Closest
- Exponents
- Explosive measure
- Enraged
- Radio dramas

DOWN

- Blood red
- Cut
- Esteem
- Handheld explosive
- Oriental
- Rocky training sequence, for example
- Without atmosphere