



THE PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

Combination Lock

(Acknowledgments to Uncle Max, of *The Four-Star Puzzler*)

The diagram represents a combination lock with 13 cylinders, each column representing one cylinder laid flat. Each column and each unbarred Across row will contain two words. The Across words are clued in order, but the Down clues have been given a spin and are completely randomized. When you've managed to fill the grid, it will be time to crack the combination. To do this, mentally rotate the cylinders so that the rows labeled 15 and 18 spell out a message of seven words (whose lengths are 2, 5, 4, 4, 3, 1, 7). This message will tell you what happens when the combination clicks and what we think you should do next. As an aid, the first cylinder (column 1) is already properly aligned. Clue answers include 13 capitalized words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												
19												
20												

If you are entering this month's contest, simply mail our seven-word message on a postcard to "Combination Lock," *The Atlantic Monthly*, 745 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116. (See further details on page 105.)

The solution to last month's Puzzler appears on page 121.

Across

1. Conjecture about a little pig (5)
People who act severe without taking leave (8)
14. Bird egg's back in English brew (5)
Before *Quiz Show* actor's in *Another Day* (8)
15. In a tire, nuts with a disinclination to budge (7)
Dream interpreter brought back clue, pocketing nickel (6)
16. Holding still at first, didn't like *Ran*? (6)
Satisfied with substance (7)
17. Sharply rattly convertible (6)
"Heart of Stone" penned by inferior songwriter (7)
18. Sitting in tree, almost state, "God" (6)
Article had been about understanding stirs (7)
19. Rev admitting one error with a coin (6)
Tale-telling family beheaded her feller? (7)

20. Duck behind school with your secret (8)
Trinket bearing message for courtier (5)

Down

- a. NYC area resembling an arbor? (6)
- b. Answer immediately after a wise woman (6)
- c. Camper's back of lot—come on in (6)
- d. Marine holding Latin mass in southern town (5)
- e. Boxing champ before uppercut finally landed (4)
- f. Say "Abrasive pulp" (6)
- g. Soberly help head of livestock into pen (7)
- h. Hospital show's getting great bits of work (4)
- i. Northerner in the skimobile (6)
- j. Cook's introduction to sweet roll (7)
- k. Horrible woman's advance, without PR (6)
- l. Devotion of baker in North America (6)
- m. Islander in a sack in the sound (5)
- n. Brazilian novelist with a crazy ring (5)
- o. Injurious words apt to be spoken in a hurry? (5)
- p. Love traveling Cremona (7)
- q. More pretentious crossbeam in a railroad (6)
- r. Ready for a permit including first of rules (5)
- s. Like a joke article in Spain that's icky (5)
- t. Reportedly, little bit of dust in ditch (4)
- u. WWII riveter got up around one (5)
- v. Mia Farrow role in *Dynasty*—nope (6)
- w. Active agent outside Russia's capital (4)
- x. A bit warmed up, hit some pitches (7)
- y. Inlet ultimately let in English river (5)
- z. Made better after 1,000 quit (5)

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving, send an addressed, stamped long envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 745 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.