

If you are feeling a little unsure about the tasks ahead, perhaps you had better look for a **team mate**. If then, a knock at the door should come, who goes **there** could complete a motley **three**. Now your **team's mates** should be gathering **steam**. Your team adopts the motto, "**Where ego stumbles, here we go.**" Your team can do much to help the following story along by filling in the blanks. Answers will follow the fiery ending.

Death by Ars Magna (Anagrams) an Uncle Bob Crime Story

Our story begins in a bleakly maintained, poorly staffed prison. The story centers on a prisoner named Cal. Why is Cal in this predicament? For three years he has been cruelly **ill-fed**, his stomach never being _____ by the swill the warden calls food. Cal is in stir because of a woman, Lucretia, whom he and another sap named Ted were in love with.

One night in 1997, the three were at a fancy dinner party. Before anyone knew what was happening, a crazed **Cal nicks Ted** with a heavy brass _____. Ted survives the blow. Cal is in for a good long stretch, but he devises a brilliant escape plan. He removes his con's uniform and alters one **stripe** turning himself into a _____. Bible in hand, he walks out of jail unchallenged. Now he wants to see what Ted and Lucretia have been up to.

Lucretia has already taken care of Ted. About a year ago, she held a dinner party of her own. She always takes epicurean requests from her invitees, and this provides cover for her favorite hobby – poisoning people. The first request of many was for a juicy rare _____, but she opened a **fine tin of glom** instead. Bouillabaisse was second most popular, but when this **wishfest** started getting out of hand she merely planned a pot of _____ instead. A lurid smile crossed her lips when Ted requested shrimp cocktail. Only one so horrid, **horrid as she**, could concoct the tainted _____ needed to eliminate Ted from her social sphere. Little did she know that one year later, on this very evening, Cal would try to burst her bubble for good.

Lucretia often takes a short stroll after dinner. This night, a gentle summer breeze belies the fact that Cal has released an ornery **hog nose snake** in the path ahead. One bite below the knee, and there **goes one shank!** Fortunately for Lucretia, the maid Dianne hears her cries, and she and a doctor control the bleeding and get her into bed. Hours later though, gangrene has begun to form in the wound. Cal enters the house and gives Lucretia a nasty bop on the head with an Empire-style piano leg. He hits her just in front of the left ear, and the damage to this _____ heightens rather than dulls her sensitivity, causing her **leg rot more pain**. Cal, however, fares no better. As he

swings the gargantuan leg, the caster comes loose and, after bouncing off the vanity, hits him right in the left eye.

Desperately, Cal retrieves _____ from the fireplace, wraps them in a **cloth** so he can fling them at the two-timing taintress. Flames sweep across the bedclothes, but before Cal can make his exit, a spark leaps from the embers and into the one good eye Cal has left: the right one. Just then the maid rushes into the room followed by a passel of police.

Later at headquarters, during his confession, Cal states bluntly, "The **incendiary** device would do the trick I knew, and then blow the scene I could, but **nay**, _____ catch in my only good eye. ' _____!' I cry blindly."

Cal receives a life sentence and loses all chance of parole when it is learned that the snake that bit Lucretia died as horrifically as she. Cal is later to report that the food is much better in his new joint.

Solutions

Cal used a candlestick. He escaped prison disguised as a priest. Lucretia served filet mignon and fish stew, and poisoned Ted with the horseradish. Lucretia was hit in the temporal region and then by the hot coals Cal flung at her. In Cal's own words, " but nay, cinders I catch in my only good eye. 'Dianne!' I cry blindly.