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Die drei ???



The CURSE of the RUBY



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**Die drei
???**[®]

**The CURSE
of the RUBY**

von
Robert Arthur

PONS

Die drei ???

The Curse of the Ruby

von Robert Arthur

Englisch von Joanne Popp

basierend auf „Die drei ??? und der Fluch des Rubins“ von Robert Arthur

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Inhaltsangabe

Albert Hitfield und die drei Detektive haben es mit einem seltsamen Vermächtnis zu tun: Onkel Horatio August hat seinem Neffen etwas Wertvolles hinterlassen – aber was? Und vor allem wo? Justus, Peter und Bob sehen sich hier mit viel zu vielen Gipsköpfen, geheimnisvollen Herren und dem Wort August in mindestens fünf Bedeutungen konfrontiert. Die Spuren führen sie auf die Fährte eines lange verschollenen Rubins von unschätzbarem Wert. Doch nicht nur die drei Detektive sind hinter dem wertvollen Edelstein her. Werden Justus, Bob und Peter das Rätsel um das „feurige Auge“ rechtzeitig lösen?

Auftretende Personen

Justus Jonas:

Justus ist der Anführer der drei ???. Seit dem frühen Tod seiner Eltern lebt er bei seiner Tante und seinem Onkel in der kalifornischen Küstenstadt Rocky Beach. Justus ist überdurchschnittlich intelligent und betreibt gerne Denksport. Mit anderen Sportarten kann er weniger anfangen. Er ist leicht übergewichtig.

Peter Shaw:

Peter ist der zweite Detektiv. Er ist sehr sportlich, hochgewachsen und fast immer gut gelaunt. Im Gegensatz zu Justus ist Peter nicht ganz überzeugt, dass es für alle Phänomene eine logische Erklärung gibt. Daher ist er lieber etwas vorsichtig, wenn es um unheimliche Ereignisse geht.

Bob Andrews:

Bob ist bei den drei ??? für Recherchen und Archiv zuständig. Das bedeutet, dass er in der Bibliothek und im Internet Informationen sammelt und die Fälle der drei ??? dokumentiert. Bob ist sehr gewissenhaft. Er interessiert sich für Rockmusik und liest gerne.

August August:

August, genannt Gus, ist der Neffe des verstorbenen Horatio August. Seinen ungewöhnlichen Namen verdankt er seinem Geburtsdatum am 6. August. Er ist der Auftraggeber der drei ???, die ihm bei einem geheimnisvollen Rätsel helfen sollen, das sich an ihn richtet.

Mr Dwiggins:

Mr Dwiggins ist der Anwalt des Onkels und wird von den drei ??? in einer misslichen Lage aufgefunden.

Mr Rhandur:

Den geheimnisvollen Mr Rhandur hat Gus schon einmal als Kind gesehen. Laut Mr Dwiggins hatte Horatio August große Angst vor ihm.

1. A call for the Three Investigators

At the Jonas family **junkyard**¹, Justus and his friends, Bob and Peter, are working hard while Mrs Mathilda Jonas is sitting on a garden chair in front of her office watching them. They are **unloading**² a big **truck**³.

“Justus!” Mrs Jonas says. “Put the statues on the table.”

She points to the **figures**⁴ of some famous people – just their head and shoulders. There are thirteen of them and each figure has its name on it.

“Julius Caesar, Octavian, Dante, Homer, Francis Bacon, Shakespeare,” Justus reads. “They’re all famous people.”

“August of Poland,” Bob reads. “I’ve never heard of him.”

“Look – Luther and Bismarck.” Peter points to two serious-looking figures.

“Here’s Queen Victoria,” says Justus. “And Washington, Franklin and Lincoln.”

“Let’s start with Washington.” Peter tries to pick up the figure of George Washington. “Wow!” he **groans**⁵. “He’s heavy.”

“Be careful, Peter!” Mrs Jonas shouts. “That figure is **valuable**⁶ – it’s art. We can ask five dollars for it!”

“I’ll take it off you,” Justus says. Peter carefully gives George Washington to Justus. Justus puts the figure of America’s first **president**⁷ on the table. “Aunt Mathilda, I think we should wait until Patrick and Kenneth can help us unload the rest. Me and Peter might drop one of the figures.”

1 **junkyard (AE), scrapyards (BE):** der Schrottplatz

2 **to unload:** entladen

3 **truck (AE), lorry (BE):** Lastwagen (LKW)

4 **figure:** Statue, Figur

5 **to groan:** stöhnen

6 **valuable:** wertvoll

7 **president:** Präsident/-in

“I agree⁸,” says Mrs Jonas. “We don’t want to lose five dollars! OK, you can all go to your club if you want.” The boys started a ‘Puzzle Club’ a few years ago, which is now their **investigation⁹ business¹⁰**. Mrs Jonas doesn’t really know that the boys are now more interested in solving real mysteries.

Justus and his friends use part of the junkyard. They have a **workshop¹¹** with different machines, like a **manual printing press¹²**. Next to the workshop is the main office for the boys’ business. It is an old **caravan¹³** that Mrs Jonas gave Justus and his friends. You can’t see it from the junkyard and there are secret **entrances¹⁴** to it. The small office has a table, telephone, **tape recorder¹⁵**, cupboard and other important things. Next to the office is a small **laboratory¹⁶** and a **dark room¹⁷** for **developing¹⁸** photos.

Just as the boys want to go to the office, a small truck arrives. Kenneth is driving and Titus Jonas is sitting next to him. Patrick, Kenneth’s brother, is **in the back of¹⁹** the truck. The truck is full of **tailor’s dummies²⁰**. People often made their own clothes in the past, and every family had a dummy for their **handmade²¹** clothes. They aren’t needed much now.

Mrs Jonas shouts from her chair, “Titus Jonas! Are you mad? How will we sell a lorry full of tailor’s dummies?”

“We’ll find a use for them,” says Titus Jonas confidently. Mr Jonas buys things that interest him and not always things that are easy to sell. He still makes good money when he sells things.

8 **to agree**: zustimmen

9 **investigation**: Untersuchung, Ermittlung

10 **business**: Geschäft

11 **workshop**: Werkstatt

12 **manual printing press**: Druckerpresse, die per Hand bedient wird

13 **caravan**: Wohnwagen

14 **entrance**: Eingang

15 **tape recorder**: Tonbandgerät

16 **laboratory**: Labor

17 **dark room**: Dunkelkammer

18 **to develop**: entwickeln

19 **in the back of**: hinten

20 **tailor’s dummy**: Schneiderpuppe

21 **handmade**: (hier:) selbstgeschneidert; handgemacht

“Justus, think. What could someone use a tailor’s dummy for?” Titus asks his nephew.

“Err,” answers Justus, “as **targets**²² at an **archery**²³ club.”

“Hmm.” Titus Jonas thinks about it. “Not bad. Good – you’ve started unloading my figures. A valuable art collection.”

“At first, I didn’t understand why you bought them,” Mathilda Jonas starts, “but we can sell them as garden **ornaments**²⁴. People can put them between their flowers and bushes.”

“That’s a good idea, Mathilda,” replies Titus. “Patrick, Kenneth unload them! Be careful and don’t break them!”

He sits and watches Patrick and Kenneth unload the figures. “I found them in a beautiful old house in the hills. The owner **died**²⁵, and someone bought most of the things before I arrived. There were only things left that nobody wanted – the figures, some books, a **sundial**²⁶ and some garden things. I bought it all.” Justus, Bob and Peter go to their workshop while Titus is talking.

“I thought your aunt was going to make us work all day, Justus,” Peter says.

“That was her plan, until she thought we might drop one of the figures,” answers Justus. “She doesn’t want to lose any money.”

“What are we going to do now?” asks Peter. “We haven’t got a **case**²⁷ to **solve**²⁸. Maybe we can look at those maps of the old ghost towns. You know, the ones we never have time for.”

“Or we can do that competition to win a holiday to Hawaii for two,” Bob **suggests**²⁹.

“Well, ...” begins Justus just as the phone starts to ring.

“Telephone!” Bob **interrupts**³⁰.

“Maybe someone has a case for us,” says Justus.

22 **target**: Zielscheibe

23 **archery**: Bogenschießen

24 **ornament**: Dekoration

25 **to die**: sterben

26 **sundial**: Sonnenuhr

27 **case**: Fall

28 **to solve**: lösen

29 **to suggest**: vorschlagen

30 **to interrupt**: unterbrechen

Peter is already in tunnel II, which goes from the workshop to the caravan. Bob and Justus follow him. There is a small door at the end of the tunnel into the office.

The First Investigator **answers the phone**³¹. “Hello, Justus Jonas speaking.”

“One moment, please,” says a woman’s voice. Justus puts the call on **loudspeaker**³² so they can all hear. “I’ll **put you through**³³ to Albert Hitfield.”

Albert Hitfield! When Mr Hitfield calls, it’s usually with a case.

“Hello, Justus, my young friend!” Mr Hitfield’s British voice fills the room. “I hope you aren’t busy. I have a young man with me, and I think you can help him.”

“What’s his problem, Mr Hitfield?” asks Justus.

“He has **inherited**³⁴ something,” Mr Hitfield **explains**³⁵. “Come to my office tomorrow at ten and he can explain the problem.”

Detective Question

What things does Titus Jonas sell?

31 **to answer the phone**: einen Anruf entgegennehmen

32 **loudspeaker**: Lautsprecher

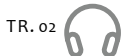
33 **to put someone through**: jemanden verbinden (*am Telefon*)

34 **inherited**: geerbt

35 **to explain**: erklären



2. Trouble¹ with Mr Gelbert



“Fantastic!” says Peter. “Mr Hitfield has a new case for us!”
“A boy who has inherited something but has a problem,” Bob **repeats**². “It sounds very interesting.”

“The more **complicated**³ it is, the better it is,” adds Justus.

“We need a car for the trip to Hollywood,” says Peter. “We don’t want to go to the Universum Studios and Mr Hitfield’s office in the truck.”

“I’ll call the **car rental**⁴ place,” Justus replies. “They can send Morton and the Rolls Royce tomorrow morning.”

Justus won the first prize in a competition some time ago – the **use**⁵ of a real Rolls Royce with chauffeur whenever he wants it. It often helps with their investigations. You don’t get far in South California without a car. The Rolls Royce looks better than the small truck from the junkyard for a visit to Albert Hitfield, the famous **director**⁶. They also don’t need to ask Patrick or Kenneth to drive them either.

“Hello,” says Justus. “Can I speak to the manager, please? ... Hi Mr Gelbert, it’s Justus Jonas speaking. I need Morton and the Rolls Royce at 9:30 tomorrow morning.”

The man on the phone surprises him with his reply. “I’m sorry, but I can’t do that. You’ve used all thirty days of your prize.”

“Really?” Peter couldn’t believe it. “The thirty days have **run out**⁷, and we didn’t **notice**⁸.”

Justus speaks into the phone. “Mr Gelbert, my notes say that there is still one day **left**⁹ of my thirty days.”

- 1 **trouble**: Problem
- 2 **to repeat**: wiederholen
- 3 **complicated**: kompliziert
- 4 **car rental**: Autovermietung
- 5 **use**: Gebrauch, Verwendung
- 6 **director**: Regisseur/-in
- 7 **to run out**: ausgehen
- 8 **to notice**: bemerken
- 9 **left**: übrig

“That’s not right,” whispers Peter. “We have used the thirty days. Mr Gelbert is right!”

The First Investigator ignores Peter; the manager of the car rental place is talking. “I’m sorry, you’ve made a mistake.”

“Mr Gelbert,” explains Justus, “I think we are both looking at this from different places and we need to look at it together. I’ll be in your office in twenty minutes so we can talk about it.”

“There’s nothing to talk about.” The man’s voice sounds **annoyed**¹⁰.

“Your time **is up**¹¹. Come here if you want, but it won’t help you.”

“Thank you,” Justus says to Mr Gelbert, and then he speaks to the others. “We have to get our bikes and ride into town.”

“But he’s right,” **protests**¹² Peter as they use tunnel II to leave.

“Thirty days are thirty days.”

“We’ll see,” replies Justus **mysteriously**¹³. “Let me do the talking.”

“OK, you talk,” agrees Bob. “We haven’t got anything to say, and I think it’s a **waste of time**¹⁴.”

They ride to the centre of Rocky Beach along the **coast**¹⁵ road. The Pacific Ocean is on the left and the hills of Santa Monica are on the right. The car rental place is on the corner of Main Street. The Three Investigators **get off**¹⁶ their bikes and Bob and Peter follow Justus. They go into the manager’s office. Mr Gelbert looks up as the boys come in.

“So,” he speaks to Justus. “You won our competition, and you had the car for thirty days, young man. What makes you think it can **continue**¹⁷? Can’t you count?”

“Sure can, Sir,” answers Justus politely. “I’ve counted very carefully, Mr Gelbert.”

10 **annoyed**: verärgert

11 **to be up**: abgelaufen

12 **to protest**: protestieren

13 **mysteriously**: geheimnisvoll

14 **waste of time**: Zeitverschwendung

15 **coast**: Küste

16 **to get off**: absteigen

17 **to continue**: weitergehen; weitersprechen, fortfahren

He takes out a **notebook**¹⁸ and **envelope**¹⁹. He then takes a piece of paper from the envelope. It is an **advert**²⁰ for the competition. The text says:

Free use of a Rolls Royce!

The car and chauffeur are yours for thirty 24-hour days!

Just answer the question: How many beans²¹ are in the pot²²?

Car Rental Gelbert & Co.

“So,” answers Mr Gelbert with a quick look at the piece of paper. “You had the car for thirty days – you could use it every day and each day had twenty-four hours. It’s **over**²³!”

“Please read the text carefully, Sir,” says Justus. “It says here that the winner can use the car for thirty 24-hour days.”

“Yes, it was there for you for thirty days and each day has twenty-four hours. Everyone knows that.”

“You’re right, Mr Gelbert,” says Justus Jonas. “Everyone knows that a day has twenty-four hours – you don’t need to write it. Why didn’t you just write, Win a Rolls Royce for thirty days?”

Mr Gelbert is getting annoyed. “It sounds better and more exciting like that!”

“Right,” agrees Justus, “but I can only understand from your text that the winner can use the Rolls Royce until he has used it for twenty-four hours thirty times. In other words: thirty days in which he can use the car for twenty-four hours. And looking at my math ...” he opens his notebook and looks at his notes, “we have used the car for a total of sixty-seven hours and forty-five minutes – that makes three days, five hours and forty-five minutes. So, we can use the car for about another twenty-six days. A full twenty-six days of twenty-four hours.”

18 **notebook**: Notizbuch

19 **envelope**: Umschlag

20 **advert**: Anzeige

21 **bean**: Bohne

22 **pot**: Topf

23 **over**: vorbei

Peter and Bob are shocked. Justus can't be right, but his **explanation**²⁴ sounded good. It did say in the competition **conditions**²⁵: a full thirty 24-hour days'. Mr Gelbert doesn't say anything for a few moments, then his face goes red. "That's not right," he shouts. "I didn't write that. Well, I didn't mean that."

"That's why it's always important to only say what you mean," answers Justus. "Here you clearly say ..."

"I didn't say anything," shouts Mr Gelbert. "And if you think you can use my best car and driver for free as often as you want, then you are wrong. Your time is up. Finished!"

"But we weren't here for a week, Mr Gelbert," adds Bob. "We went to summer camp. We couldn't use the car then. Can't you add last week to the thirty days?"

"OK, I'll meet you in the middle. If you **promise**²⁶ to **leave me alone**²⁷, you can use the car two more times. Two trips and then the time is up," Mr Gelbert finally says.

Justus sighs. He hates it when he doesn't get what he wants. "OK," he says. "Two more trips with the car. The first one tomorrow morning at 9:30. Thank you, Mr Gelbert." He then speaks to his friends. "Come on. Let's go!"

Peter and Bob follow him back to the junkyard and don't say a word. "That's it," **sighs**²⁸ Peter. "What are we going to do when we've used our two trips? We can't ride everywhere on our bikes when we have a case to solve."

"We'll have to help more in the junkyard," suggests Justus. "Then Aunt Mathilda will let us have the truck and Patrick or Kenneth."

"But they're usually busy, or the truck is **out and about**²⁹," says Bob. "Then our investigation business will go **bankrupt**³⁰," Justus," Peter says.

24 **explanation**: Erklärung

25 **condition**: Bedingung

26 **to promise**: versprechen

27 **to leave alone**: in Ruhe lassen

28 **to sigh**: seufzen

29 **out and about**: unterwegs


30 **bankrupt**: Bankrott

“We have two trips with the car,” Justus answers. “It’ll be OK. I’m really looking forward to our visit to Albert Hitfield. I have the feeling he has a real cool case for us.”

Detective Question

How many hours are thirty 24-hour days?

3. The secret message

TR. 03 

“So, you three,” Albert Hitfield starts, “This is my English friend. His name is August August – an **unusual**¹ name, I know. August, this is Justus Jonas, Peter Shaw and Bob Andrews. They’ve solved a few interesting cases for me and maybe they can help you, too.”

The Three Investigators are in the comfortable office of the famous Hollywood director. The boy in the office is tall and thin – taller than Peter and a lot thinner. He has long blond hair and glasses.

“Nice to meet you. Please call me Gus,” August August speaks to the Three Investigators, and they all sit down. “I really hope you can help me. I have a bit of a problem. My great-uncle, Horatio August has died, and his **lawyer**² sent me a letter that I just don’t understand.”

“I’m sorry, but I don’t understand it either,” adds Albert Hitfield. “Please show them the message, August.”

Gus carefully takes a piece of paper from his **wallet**³. It is full of **messy writing**⁴.

“Here,” he says and gives it to Justus. “Can you understand it?” Bob and Peter read it over Justus’s shoulder. It says:

To August August, my **great-nephew**⁵:

August is your name, August gives you fame⁶, and August is the keeper⁷ of your luck⁸.

Like a mountain you are standing in front of: Don’t let obstacles⁹ get in your way.

1 **unusual**: ungewöhnlich

2 **lawyer (BE), attorney (AE)**: (Rechts)Anwalt/(Rechts)Anwältin

3 **wallet**: Brieftasche

4 **messy writing**: krakelige Schrift

5 **great-nephew**: Großneffe

6 **fame**: Ruhm

7 **keeper**: Hüter/-in

8 **luck**: Glück

9 **obstacle**: Hindernis

As a shadow¹⁰ moves over the time of your birth: a beginning and at the same time an end.

You have to explore in depth¹¹; my words alone are your directions¹². I don't dare¹³ to say the words, so others don't find what I have left for you.

It is mine, I bought it and I own¹⁴ it, but I never used its power¹⁵.

Now after 50 years – this half century should have worked its cleansing¹⁶.

It can't be taken or stolen. It must be bought, be given as a present or found.

Go carefully – but use the time.

This and my whole devotion¹⁷ are my legacy¹⁸ for you.

Horatio August

“Wow!” says Bob. “That’s an interesting letter!”

“I don’t understand a word,” adds Peter. “What does cleansing mean?”

“It means that something has been cleaned of a **curse**¹⁹ or **evil sin**²⁰,” explains Bob.

Justus holds the letter in the light to see if he can see a secret code.

“A good thought, Jonas junior,” comments Albert Hitfield. “But I’ve already had it checked by experts at the studio. The **lawyer**²¹ who sent it to August said he watched Horatio August writing it a few days when he died. He then gave it to the lawyer and told him to send it to August when he died. If there is a secret message, then it is hidden in the words of the letter. So, what do you think?”

10 **shadow**: Schatten

11 **in depth**: tiefgründig

12 **directions**: Wegweiser

13 **to dare**: wagen

14 **to own**: besitzen

15 **power**: Macht

16 **cleansing**: Reinigung, Läuterung

17 **devotion**: Zuneigung

18 **legacy**: Vermächtnis

19 **curse**: Übel, Fluch

20 **evil sin**: Sünde

21 **lawyer**: Anwalt/Anwältin

Justus chooses his words carefully. “In some ways it is clear.”
“Very clear!” Peter says **sarcastically**²². “I can’t agree more! It’s as clear as clouds over the Pacific in the middle of the night.” But Justus isn’t listening. He is looking at the letter.

“At the beginning it’s clear,” he explains. “Mr August wants to tell his great-nephew something that nobody else should understand. He has hidden something somewhere and it sounds like he did it 50 years ago. It is something valuable and if he tells his great-nephew clearly where it is, someone can steal it. That’s all clear.”

“OK,” agrees Peter, “but the rest isn’t clear.”

“Some words,” continues Justus, “might have special **meanings**²³ and others **hide**²⁴ things. Let’s start at the beginning: *August is your name.*”

“That’s right,” answers August seriously. “And you can also say that August gave me fame. My classmates had fun with my name. I was famous at school.”

“But what does ‘August is the keeper of your luck’ mean?” Bob asks.

“I don’t know,” answers Justus. “If he means that August would bring Gus luck, he could have said ‘You’ll find luck in August.’”

“That’s right,” says Mr Hitfield. “Maybe he likes poems.”

The First Investigator continues. “Other parts also sound like a poem. I don’t think we can know what ‘August is the keeper of your luck’ means at the moment.”

“My birthday is in August,” explains Gus. “In two days, on the sixth. That’s why my father gave me the name August. He said, *An August in August must be called August.* Can my birthday have something to do with it? He writes about my birth in the next sentence.”

“I don’t know. Maybe that’s why he says here ‘Use the time’, if your birthday is in two days,” Justus suggests.

“If we only have two days to solve the puzzle, then we **don’t have a chance**²⁵,” Peter says. “Two years would be better.”

“Come on,” Bob says. “Justus is only just beginning.”

22 **sarcastically**: spöttisch

23 **meaning**: Bedeutung

24 **to hide**: verstecken

25 **to not have a chance**: schlecht aussehen