Tales of the Unexpected
Back for Christmas

Find words in the plot which mean the same as the definitions below. They are in the order in which they are used in the text.

James and Hermione Carpenter plan to leave England for a stay in America. Before leaving, they give a party at their home to whom all their friends are invited, including a beautiful young woman James is having an affair with. James is an orchid lover and assigns his guests the task of taking care of his orchids while he is away, giving a flower pot with an orchid to each of them.

Once the guests have left, Hermione tells her husband off for his overtly adulterous behaviour. Hermione goes on to tidy the lounge and turn the power off, while James is in the bathroom looking into the bath drain. He calls Hermione to go and have a look at the gold chain stuck in the drain. Hermione complies and, as she bends down to look into the drain, James strikes her on the head with his torch, making her pass out. He has planned the murder carefully. He then injects a lethal liquid into her veins. He puts his wife's body in the bathtub and makes sure she is dead. He puts on a hospital gown, gets some tools and pulls up part of the wooden floor in the greenhouse. He then goes on to sever Hermione's body. Just then, a couple of friends arrive to fetch an earring she has left behind. Luckily for James, they don't check the greenhouse and leave. Having dug up a hole in the ground, James puts in the bags containing Hermione's severed body. When he is restoring Hermione's burial spot, the couple return to leave a note. James then burns all the materials he has used and washes the bathroom walls. Then he has a shower and successfully parts for L.A.

At the hotel, he types out a letter pretending it is from Hermione and forges her signature. Later on, he receives a phone call from his beloved and he tells her Hermione has walked out on him. Just then, he receives a parcel from an architect addressed to Hermione. The architect explains the repairs being done to the greenhouse, which will be completed by Christmas, as Hermione requested. These include lifting old flooring.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. gives a particular job or piece of work: _____

2. scolds, reprimands (phrasal verb): _____

3. in an obvious way and not secret: _____

4. continues after a pause or interruption (phrasal verb):

_____

5. unable to move, adhered to a surface: _____

6. acts according to a request: _____

7. moves her body, or part of her body, so that it is not straight:

_____

8. hits violently: _____

9. faint, lose consciousness (phrasal verb): _____

10. removes (phrasal verb): _____

11. cut into pieces: _____

12. go to get: _____

13. where a dead body is put in the ground: _____

14. behaving as if something is true, especially to deceive:

_____

15. left, abandoned (phrasal verb): _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS