

1 Mask of Alibi WORD
TRANFORMATION

The Masked Alibi

By John Gregory

SOMEWHERE in the _____ gloom of the Adirondack forest a twig snapped _____.

Corporal Hal Robberts, New York state trooper, halted, his whipcord body tensing beneath the gray and black uniform. For a moment he listened, his gloved hand sliding back to the _____ assurance of the big .45 Colt belted around the leather jacket.

Then he pushed _____ forward. A snowcovered branch caught the toe of his snowshoe, tripping him. At the same time came the crack of a rifle. Something tugged _____ at the trooper's fur cap, whined off the _____.

Before the echoes of the shot died, Robberts was wriggling his way to the shelter of a _____ spruce.

"Some crazy _____," he muttered. There was no one else it could be, for on this particular assignment the lean-faced trooper carried no warrant in his pocket. But knowing the peculiar breed of men in the mountains Robberts slid the .45 into his hand and waited.

Only a _____ man would charge that hidden rifle with only a revolver. And Robberts was no fool. There were plenty of men in the _____ section of the Adirondacks—men who had lived _____ alone until their minds had _____ cracked—who would shoot down an officer if they feared arrest from some petty poaching offense.

_____, foot by foot, the trooper wormed his way from the shelter of the pine. Taking advantage of every available bit of cover, ears _____ alert, eyes striving to pierce the gathering gloom, Robberts began a _____ slow circle that should bring him to the rear of the spot which he had marked as the origin of the ambusher's shot. Suddenly, he stood erect with a muttered _____ of disgust.

GATHER
SHARP

COMFORT

SLOW

SHARP
DARK
NEAR

POACH

FOOL

REMOTE

PARALLEL
SLIGHT

STEALTH

KEEN
TORTURE

EXCLAIM

ANSWERS

- 1 gathering
- 2 sharply
- 3 comforting
- 4 slowly
- 5 sharply
- 6 darkness
- 7 nearby
- 8 poacher
- 9 foolish
- 10 remotest
- 11 unparalleledly
- 12 slightly
- 13 Stealthily
- 14 keenly
- 15 tortuously
- 16 exclamation

Extra!

Write what you think happens next in about 150 words.