

2. Corner, Around, Shop

by Ucaimhu

Welcome to the twin cities! (Though of course, Rudy, it's the 20th century and Buda and Pest are now one city, Budapest.) Two pairs of your new coworkers at **The Shop Around the Corner** each conduct a cinematic plotline, with an associated set of clues; each such coworker's answers will form a chain in the grid whose first answer's first hex bears their symbol.

The Corner (a Czech romance). Two sales workers, Alfred KRALIK and Klara NOVAK (i.e., RABBIT and NOVICE in Czech), each having a literary bent, have unknowingly been exchanging romantic, literary anonymous letters. The path of each of their answers bends once (for Kralik, 60° like bunny ears; for Novak, a novel 120°); each answer in a chain starts in the hex the previous one ended in, continuing in the same direction. Each chain has seven answers; for each n 1–7, the clues to the two chains' n th answers must swap a word before solving. Each chain's series of seven swapped-in words will form a line of verse; if each line's last word is in all capitals, the two lines will form an NPLish poem (in either order).

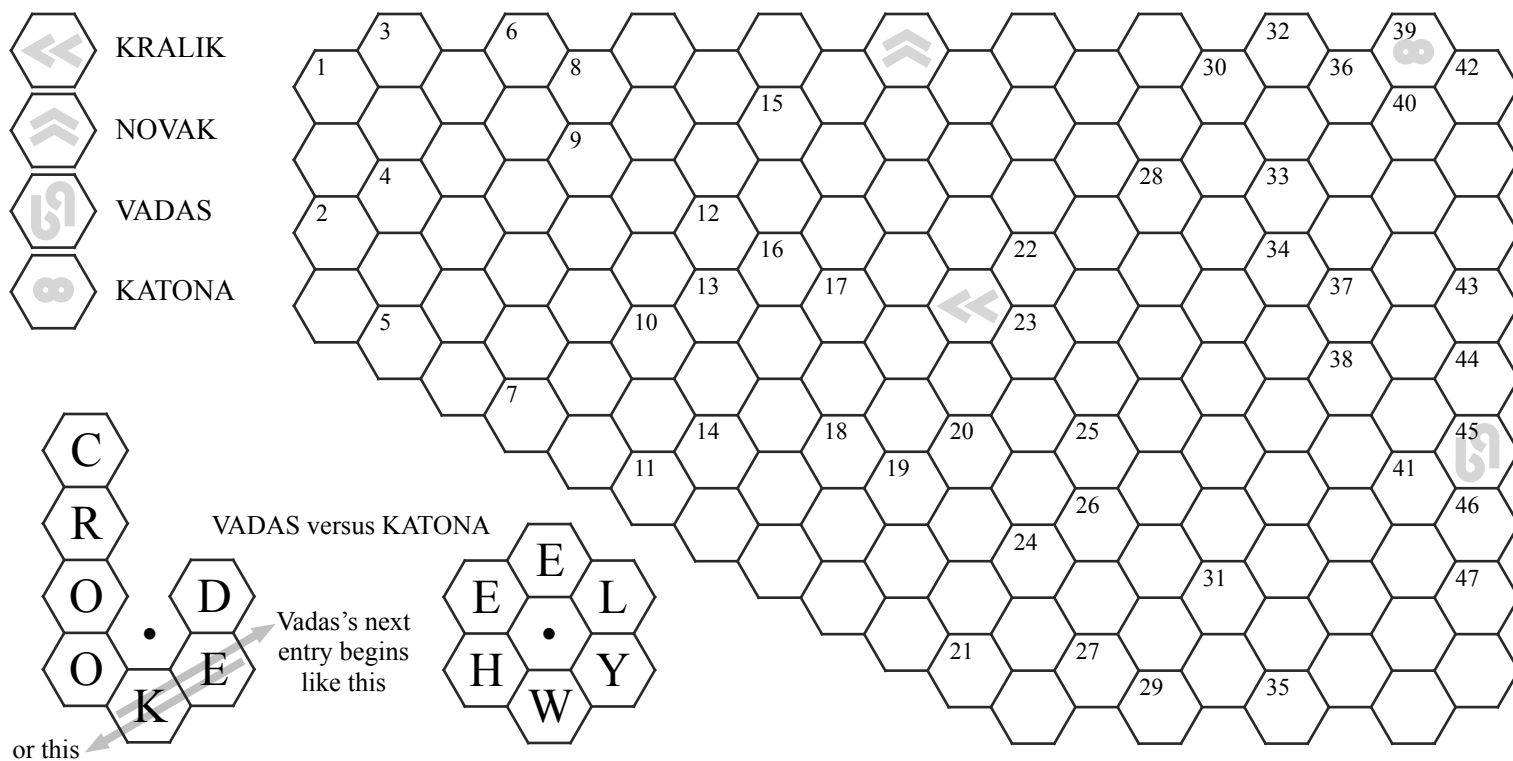
Around (a Hungarian drama). Another salesman, Ferencz VADAS (Hungarian for HUNTER) endangers the store by seeking material gain (and more), and ever-bicycling delivery boy Pepi KATONA (Hungarian for SOLDIER) saves it. Each seven-letter Vadas answer follows a crooked path as shown near the grid (perhaps rotated and/or reflected), starting at the straight end; the fifth and sixth hex in each are (in some order) the first two hexes in the next. Each six-letter Katona answer forms a wheel as shown, and shares two hexes with the next; which two, and the first hex and direction for the next wheel, must be deduced. Each Vadas clue has an extra letter, which must be transferred to a Katona clue, before solving either; each worker's letters, in chain order, will describe him.

The sixteen clues for each of the three other workers in **The Shop** (caught between these two plots) all told yield fifty-one answers (three clues are ambiguous, and yield two answers as shown); each follows a straight path in the grid. Each clue for Ilona NOVOTNY or Flora KACZEK has wordplay yielding one extra letter at (respectively) the answer's start or end; those for PIROVITCH work normally, but each answer must have one letter deleted before entry. (Two altered entries will be foreign, and four capitalized; also, each Pirovitch clue will contain a noncryptic clue for its altered entry).

Finally, Rudy, if Budapest in winter is too glum, the story of **The Shop Around the Corner** is universal and can be reset, say, somewhere in the Midwest in the good old summertime. In clue order, all of Novotny's letters and then all of Kaczek's will (based on whether you take every ambiguous clue's *first* or *last* answer) name two midwestern locations; Pirovitch's will name one in between (and also describe the whole set of forty-eight clues). Taking the grid as a green area (just around the corner from a certain hotel) that abuts Pirovitch's location at the top, the spot where each plot's chains meet will mark a notable location in that area. Namely:

1. Kralik and Novak end up together; the “bent” hexes going forward on Novak's path and then back on Kralik's will name their meeting location, and the NPLish genre their poem is in.
2. In chain order, Vadas's “.” letters (see diagram) will name two of the finer things in life (V1, V2); Katona's will name two things that might be used to honor a soldier (K1, K2). V1 + K1 + K2 will name their meeting location (where Vadas is finished but Katona continues), named for V1 + K1 + V2.

Finally, for each Pirovitch clue, if the dropped letter is the answer's m th and n th-to-last, note the clue's m th word's n th-to-last letter; in clue order, these will list two names (each also hinted at in one plotline) for one more major figure from **The Shop Around the Corner**.



CLUES

CORNER (ALPHABETICALLY BY ANSWER)

- Say you know she who went up the hill is cleaner (4)
- I find that unlikely endorsement that makes every head of finance regressive (2 2)
- Fifty times we will follow gold L-word with “lang” (4)
- Make the ball and fancy lab cape (7)
- Doctor quote Ace attached to 12" sketch (5)
- Finish each where Paris’s pupils study env. sci. (4, *abbr.*)
- Fiber flashes endlessly when he is cross (4)
- Woman you might see where mom’s dad translated Lao word for “oat mixture” (7)
- A form of fraud that involves checking containers of leaves of Kerri and Terri, and nodding (6)
- Non-odd characters from *Olga* kiss an actor named Bert featured in a cowardly, leonine role (4)
- And camelid that is South American monk (4)
- Thirdly, show her hosts on a home for some Russians (4)
- Before the leadership of Louis X will change white to red, and then to blue, to exhibit disobedience (5)
- Troy Gershwin, whose lyric claims that Victor person laughed at Columbus, Newton, and a city in Albania (6)

SHOP SOUTH

- 1, 6. Toppers of (lastly) goth Rameau returned & sat, snarling (4)
8. Opera with, initially, naught about gymnast Comăneci (5)
16. Fivesome lying in Padua, Ben, denies computer crash (5) [N13]
20. Byname (with “La”) of Ethel, who sang with joy “If Rod is Mike” (4)
23. 75% of tiff is about vacuous, drab, irrelevant piece of gossip (6)
- 28, 30. Nonprose centrally presented on back of boat is something useful for swamp exploration (4)
32. Get husband into ocean chamber where clothes are made (6 4)
37. Group that discusses eating right at a bread-themed restaurant (6)
- 40, 41. Revolving around middle, saw logs (fourthly) coexisting with east-of-Erin group (4, one *abbr.*)
44. A little field hiding Dutch guy Michael Caine played (5)

SHOP SOUTHEAST

2. Greek letters keeping in front of upsilon! (4)
3. Word on mattress tags will be, in Montmartre, very retro and adult (5)
15. Moper must dance for first part (5)
23. Less creative ceremony obstructs focus of concentration: Romeo (6)
26. Guthrie rerouted two sun gods (4)
31. Sultanate, in advance, receives land salesman Willy (5)

SHOP NORTHEAST

4. Miss Doone and I find that funny, gripping stuff in a genetics text (5)
10. Like Zeno’s meadow, besieged by Molly, Dash, and Dot (5)
11. Provo, which has no boundaries, therefore, to exceed (6)
12. Alien flees *Clue* character’s chain restaurant, with Junior (4’ 1)
17. Terminal affix meaning “racing location with a Pantheon structure housing foremost of racers” (5)
18. Café Monte shuns any exterior source of water (4)
24. Uncoated ribs are uncoated (4)
34. Cowgirl has ruled Persia (4)

SHOP NORTH

5. League where you’ll see Warriors and Lakers pound Kings, with some instances of ball mishandling (5)
10. Telegram from the north Italian island of exile (4)
14. Ultraviolet-reflecting cup plated by slender metalsmith of myth (6)
19. Italian river goat shunning true possum, in the funnies (4)
22. Again show unswaddled teal bird behind rook (5)
27. Irritated tail part of Ayrshire that’s aboard Star Wars vehicle (3 2)
35. Couples starting Monmouth tour, at end of tether with engine (5)
43. Some trousers or PJs vex Brady and namesakes at heart (5)

AROUND (ALPHABETICALLY BY ANSWER)

- Some cosmic justice obliterating ark’s location in Turkey
- Seth will be called, in time, “misdirected”
- Fruit bat almost hits Pop’s cousin’s ant
- Vehicles incorporating ol’ songs like “I Saw Three Hips”
- Timeless work about keys, *Touching Souls* [sic]
- One coming out with a mu-less clue for “fiasco”
- Dislike *Adelphi*’s premiere episode, “Legends”
- Gaters befuddled angels
- Lights girding the head-high plants that heal your sin
- Obstructive person I’m positive primarily saddled deer
- Cone’s obscured boars and squiggles on a weather map
- Name ensconced in Hero’s heart and tin spinning wheel
- Primate group that is astern, within large Gallic walls
- Though blunder on the air would evoke *X-Files* character
- Place on the Algerian oast with (e.g.) whirling color
- List includes originator of kale-heating device
- Wheelless conveyance carrying water and earth rotted
- When poets pour out a bit of tequila Herb mentioned

SHOP NORTHWEST

7. Eliot, whose works are poetic and obsolete, weeps (4)
9. Clips of Trojan War figure that has made one error (5)
21. How people in Honolulu thank southeast New Orleans actor (6)
25. Toni, writhing at A-flat-flat tone on (say) a celesta, is going one way before pivoting and “fro-ing” (2-3)
29. Mixed sparkling Italian wine with regular red (7)
37. Papa and I each depart once from nippier dock (4)
45. Tilted, lead-clad nut’s cladding (5)
46. Drink for many an astronaut that has false tooth (4)
47. Before dogs belonging to that guy flow through Grenoble (5)

SHOP SOUTHWEST

9. Hoard crass fringeless tapestry (5)
13. Butterish foods made different Popes plop down four pennies (5)
33. Tied the knot to encircle a knot of little strength (4)
36. Hollywood’s Spike and Rosa, tossing Oscar salacious glances (5)
38. Bocklike stuff that is maturing, ultimately to be drunk by the Italian queen (5)
39. Toothpaste brand causes joy (4)
42. Duck or hide from noxious sound of a cat (4)