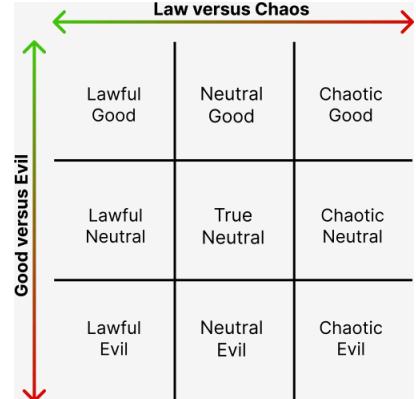


Sack of Gifts (Solution)

Karis and Nathan Jones

The flavor test refers to “places not remembered” which clues the Forgotten Realms setting for Dungeons and Dragons. In D&D, most beings have an “alignment” characterizing their moral leanings. There are 9 alignments, ranging on two axes: Lawful to Neutral to Chaotic, and Good to Neutral to Evil.

Each “penguin” is a D&D character with a canonical alignment on the Forgotten Realms wiki. The tables below show how each letter clues the character. Extraction is performed by solving the modified Sudoku, explained on the next page



	Lawful Good	Neutral Good	Chaotic Good
Name	Xenk	Wyll Ravengard	Minsc
Clue	sword motto	Nemesis Karlach	Boo
Letter	Dear Santa, Can you ask your elves to make me some merch with my sword's motto, "Neither Virtue Nor Blade Shall Break"?	Dear Santa, I seek the devil Karlach -- please grant me a map to her location.	Dear Santa, All I want for Christmas is a small hat for my miniature giant space hamster Boo.
	Lawful Neutral	True Neutral	Chaotic Neutral
Name	Shadowheart	Gale Dekarios	Jarlaxle
Clue	Black spot, cleric	eating boots	"drow with the stupid hat"
Letter	Dear Santa, For Christmas, I am plagued by a black spot on my hand that my clerical powers cannot fix. Please send an ointment.	Dear Santa, I'm not picky -- any magical item will do, though I do appreciate a good boot (to eat, not to wear)	Dear Santa, I have to replace my hat so people don't call me the drow with the stupid hat. Can you send me a better one?
	Lawful Evil	Neutral Evil	Chaotic Evil
Name	Bane	Vecna	Demogorgon
Clue	dagger	hand & eye, lich	demon lord, two heads
Letter	Dear Santa, Since I'm trying to ascend to Godhood, and it would be very helpful if you could send me the Jathiman Dagger,	Dear Santa, I've been a bit dismembered lately -- the only presents that would be useful to me is hand cream and eye drops.	Dear Santa, I have not been good this year. But you better send presents to the Abyss if you know what's good for you. Each of my two heads requires a distinct gift.

The Sudoku center “Standard Chart” refers to the standard alignment chart above. The Sudoku grid must be filled with the 9 alignments, with one of each in each row, each column, and each 3x3 grid. The additional constraint is that adjacent cells must share at least one alignment feature. The solved grid is shown below with given cells in bold and extraction cells shaded green. To extract, take the character identified from the letters that matches each highlighted alignment and index into it by the number in the given enumeration (1, 10, 6, 2, 1, 1, 5, 10), ordering the highlighted alignments left to right, top to bottom.

LG	CG	NG	NE	CE	LE	LN	CN	NN
LE	CE	NE	NN	CN	LN	LG	CG	NG
LN	CN	NN	NG	CG	LG	LE	NE	CE
CN	NN	LN	LG	NG	CG	CE	NE	LE
CE	NE	LE	LN	NN	CN	CG	NG	LG
CG	NE	LG	LE	NE	CE	CN	NN	LN
NG	LG	CG	CE	LE	NE	NN	LN	CN
NN	LN	CN	CG	LG	NG	NE	LE	CE
NE	LE	CE	CN	LN	NN	NG	LG	CG

M I X E D B A G