

# Puzzle 4



"Come in, Alice. Are you there? This is Ben, and I'm nearly out of the blue neckties here."

"On their way. Fred, do you have some orange socks for me?"

"Yes, I can send a shipment south. Blue neckties are scarce here as well, so if you can manage a few more..."

"All right, you can have my last few, but I don't have very many."

"I have some red ones here at the Square, if that will help."

"Sure, send them up, and I'll pass them on to Fred as well."

"Ben, the yellow shirts you wanted just arrived at the Forum."

"Excellent. Send them over. Do you have some violet ones as well?"

"No, but I think they might be done over to the west..."

"Yes, they're already on their way."

"I've run out of violet shirts, too."

"Oops. Sorry, I just sent the lot of them to Ben."

"No worries, Elizabeth; once they get here, I can send half of them to you."

"Be careful next time, Fred. It would have been cheaper to send them direct."

"Elizabeth, how about those green jackets?"

"They look dreadful. Are you sure they'll sell?"

"Positive. Give me all you've got."

"Hold on a minute, Charlie. I need a shipment of those also."

"Okay, Debbie, you'll get some too, but Charlie will get his first; you're the farthest one from the Square, after all."

"That's all right. I'll be busy packing up these red handkerchiefs for the Waterfront."

"I'm completely out of orange trousers. Can anyone rush them up here?"

"None at the Waterfront, but I think Alice was working on those."

"Almost ready; your shipment's not at the top of my list, because Elizabeth and Charlie need them as well."

"I've been meaning to talk to you about that, Alice; I have several orders for blue stripes on the orange trousers."

"Dreadful! Well, then the southward shipment will have to wait until this afternoon, once I've finished the alterations for you at the Square. Debbie, today's your lucky day."

"There are some hideous violet skirts that I haven't been able to sell all week. Should I send them to the Waterfront?"

"Heavens, no. Nobody's buying them here, either; those blue and orange trousers are all the rage."

"I don't like the violet skirts any more than you two, but I do happen to have some extra striped trousers here at the Forum. I can send them right now."

"I'll take 'em. What shall we do about the skirts, though, Elizabeth?"

"Let's just both send them to the Station. That lot will buy anything."

"I'm really quite desperate for those smashing yellow belts at the Avenue. Alice, do you have any?"

"Not a one."

"I have some, Charlie. They'll be on the next shipment south."

"Thanks so much, Ben. Can I repay you with some blue sweaters?"

"No thanks, but I think they're nearly out in the Square."

"Right. Off they go, then."

"Alice, if I don't get a crate of green hats in the next day, my customers will hate me forever."

"Er... I'm not sure I can help you, Fred."

"Nothing here at the Avenue, either."

"Nor the Plaza."

"Well, I've got some green dye here at the Forum..."

"Aha! I do have some red hats that I could send your way quickly. Can you dye them and get them to Fred immediately?"

"Brilliant, Alice! It's a plan."