



ENTERTAINMENT'S BIGGEST SUCCESS STORY!

'CROSSWORD MYSTERIES: A PUZZLE TO DIE FOR' **Synopsis**

Crispin Nightingale is shot dead in his Manhattan art gallery following the theft of a valuable 18th century oil painting. Detective Logan O'Connor (Brennan Elliott) is assigned to the case and examines the crime scene, conferring with his Chief, who just happens to also be his father, Chauncey O'Connor (John Kapelos). At the New York Sentinel, Tess Harper (Lacey Chabert), the newspaper's brilliant crossword puzzles editor, prepares to host the National Crosswords Championship. It's a post she has recently taken over from her mentor and another word genius, Pierre (Victor A. Young), who has happily passed the torch to such a bright crossword puzzler.

After learning that her Aunt Candace (Barbara Niven) was a close friend to the Nightingales, Tess runs into Logan at the newspaper office and eavesdrops on his conversation with crime reporter Harris (Zach Smadu). She is intrigued by the murder of her aunt's friend. After learning the dead man had been working on the Sunday crossword puzzle before his death, Tess searches the puzzle for possible clues. When she attempts to locate the woman who submitted the puzzle, a regular contributor to the newspaper's puzzle page, the woman cannot be located as if she never existed. Tess looks at past puzzles and art heists and discovers that one week after each puzzle from 'Abigail Krebs' was published, there was an art theft in the city. And each puzzle has clues to the place, time and stolen piece.

Tess tries to help Logan with the investigation but he is skeptical of her theory about clues in the puzzles. When she is able to predict the city's next art theft, including date, time, place and painting, he finally comes around. Seeking out and questioning people who may have wanted Nightingale dead, the pair discovers a number of likely suspects, including an underpaid employee, a bitter ex-wife and an art dealer Nightingale had double-crossed.

When Harris is found dead, Tess and Logan both know that his death is somehow tied to the Nightingale murder, especially since he had tried in vain to reveal his urgent discovery about the crime to Tess. With the National Crosswords Championship now underway in a hotel ballroom, Tess puts the final piece of the murder puzzle in place. But before she can reach Logan, she is confronted at gunpoint by the killer, who marches her up a service stairway to the hotel's roof where, inches away from plummeting to her death, Tess attempts to stall the killer long enough for help to arrive.

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --