

Messages from Above: Solution

This puzzle is nothing less than a tribute to the official Children's Book of Massachusetts--*Make Way for Ducklings!* A few clues in the flavortext reference the book, including Rose and Etta's spot on the Charles River, the mention of a flying "famous family" (these are named as birds in Gumshoe mode) and "married couple," and the phrase "made their way." The provided map is taken directly from the books--it's the route Mrs. Mallard uses to escort her babies to the Public Garden. Awww.

The messages from ACME's undercover ducks have been encrypted using a Vigenere Cipher (in Gumshoe Mode, this is named as a "French encryption device," whereas Private Eyes receive the hint of "French to English Dictionary"). The keywords for the cipher (Vigenere-encrypted messages use a keyword system, making it impossible to decode them without knowing the right phrase) are hidden in the plaque in front of the *Make Way for Ducklings* statue in the Public Garden. Rose and Etta's notes provide the clues needed to extract the keys; in Gumshoe mode, enumerations are also given as a hint. The cipherkeys and translated phrases are as follows:

APG HVG DEIQU C ESF-ZIPOGPE QMD, Keyword MCCLOSKEY (a Scottish-sounding last name)--ONE WHO TAKES A TEN-PERCENT SHARE. Answer is AGENT.

HYTSP WE G UOUUCTKF ON VIPQ, Keyword DUCKLINGS (there are eight ducklings in the story)--EERIE OR A CLASSICS IV SONG. Answer is SPOOKY.

DSWRJVH, ZCPTPG, FV CWA QY D WSEV, Keyword CHILDREN (the book is, after all, for kids!)--BLOGGED, MAILED, OR PUT IN A FORT. Answer is POSTED.

XMTLM MJ GCEZT IVVEJG'W NYERISL, Keyword EIGHTY-SEVEN (the "second half of the four" are the latter numbers on the year of the sculpture)--TENET OR CHAMP APOLLO'S SURNAME. Answer is CREED (in *Rocky*, Apollo Creed is a character!)

The answers spell the phrase AGENT SPOOKY POSTED CREED. On *The X-Files*, Agent Fox Mulder's nickname was "Spooky," and he famously had a poster in his office that read **I WANT TO BELIEVE**, the answer to this puzzle!