



We caught up with Heidi Edington in her greenhouse. I wondered why she would be tending plants only days after the death of her father. She explained she loved flowers more than anything. They console her, she added, and referred to them as “nature’s jewelry.” The poor girl sobbed as she cut a variety of blossoms to make a bouquet for her dear father’s memorial. Her choices filled a porcelain vase with a multi-colored arrangement of blossoms.

The image to the right shows the appearance of the flower pots **BEFORE Heidi gathered blossoms** for the bouquet. The pots were arranged in a series of straight lines making a pleasing geometric shape that almost looked like the facets of a gem.

Once Heidi finished her bouquet, Holmes looked at it, looked at the **flowers REMAINING in the clay pots** and smiled knowingly.

*As Heidi gathered the flowers, I made a few observations:*

- 1. The finished bouquet contained eight varieties of flowers, in total no more than a dozen blossoms, possibly fewer.*
- 2. She cut no more than two blossoms from any one pot and was careful not to leave any pot without at least one bloom when she was finished.*
- 3. The pots from which she cut NO blossoms sat along the same straight line in the diagram, but not necessarily adjacent to one another.*

