

House #124

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Part 1: The Computer Center

The clock is ticking and I don't have much time. I ran on the loud street, diving between crowds of people like it was my full time job. Flashing lights, flashing faces.

The streets curved like a magical maze, but finally I found it. The dark part of the city, even the light seem to wanted to escape this place, were the house #123, the "Crafts and Yarn" shop.

Phuuuf. Just in time to buy more yarn, for the scarf I've been working on, for the past three months. But something else got my attention. "Crafts and Yarn" wasn't the only house on the street, beside it was a weird looking pink building, with the number 124. I've been here a thousand times before and never seen it. It didn't have a roof and it was full of holes. The sign on the door was old, and crusty, and it said, "computer lab". What an odd place for a computer center... Driving with curiosity, I came inside. There was nothing in the building, just walls full of holes, and ancient, out of work computers. I stood in the middle of this room, wondering what it was. The walls were cracked, and one of the broken computers buzzed, like it was trying to say something. It's buzzing, it sounded like a muffed scream, "Run!". Weird... I moved the computer and saw a trapdoor under it. My survival instincts were telling me to get the hell out of this cursed place and never come back, but I was far too curious to just leave. I opened the trapdoor, and got down using the ladder that was there. As I was going down, the lights dimmed, and I heard a repetitive sound that reminded me "creak, crack, creak, crack..." Down there was a dark hallway, so dark you can't even see the end of it. If it had an end. It was filled with icy blue water, and had holes, thousands of them, that lead everywhere and nowhere...

What an odd wonderland-like place... Wait, is this a dream? Could I be hallucinating? Am I dead, and my brain is just making this all up?!

I swear I saw places like this before, but I couldn't recognize where...

I turned around to the exit, but there was no door on the roof. I was stuck in a dream-like place with no way out.

Just then something cold and slimy touched my leg. I flew up, into the air feeling that my heart was about to drop from a high rollercoaster. However, it was just a bottle, covered in green slimy goo. Inside of it was a crumbled piece of paper, with words scribbled on it. The handwriting was horrible, the letter looked like hieroglyphs, dancing on the paper, but somehow I manage to read it:

If you are reading this, it means you are a human stuck in a place that is beyond your comprehension. Follow these instructions if you want to survive:

- 1. If a flower is swimming by, do not approach it, run away in the opposite direction.*
- 2. If you want to get out safely follow blue marks on the walls (I left them for you). Do not go anywhere from this path. And if you see a green marks just know, it is not paint, you are way too far to escape.*
- 3. If you find yourself in a room full of stairs, and green water in a void below your feet, cross the bridge, but don't look down. Something dark is hiding in the depths of the water and you don't want to know what it is.*

Good luck, and I hope you survive.

-The only human in an alien backrooms.

As I read that, a chill ran through my spine. Backrooms! Of course! A weird dream-like dimension with endless mazes and mysterious entities. I looked around and saw a line on the wall that was drawn with blue paint. Perhaps that is what they meant when they wrote the blue mark. Hmmm, if I just follow it, I can get out of here safely. I stepped into the water and felt my shoes absorbing all the water. Yuck! Well at least I'll not be eaten alive or something.

The farther I walked the dimmer the lights got and the weird sound came back again, "creak, crack, creak, crack..."

I could hear it very clearly, and in the corner of my eye I saw a large flower in a red pot swimming by.

It looked tropical, with vibrant shades of orange, pink and red popping out like a sunset. I just wanted to take a peak and that's it, but the words in the message flashed in my head like lightning "If a flower is swimming by, do not approach it, run away in the opposite direction".

I jumped up, and ran into the opposite hallway as fast as I could. I swear I heard a weird noise again "creak, crack, creak, crack..."

My head started spinning and I stopped, thinking as if I was out of the woods now. Boy, was I wrong. To my absolute horror I saw green goo on the wall. The green mark. I realized I wasn't in the main hallway anymore. The place was way darker, with thousands of spiral staircases, and paths that lead to more staircases. Below my feet an endless acid green water reservoir lied, with a thin bridge through it. The message "If you find yourself in a room full of stairs, and green water in a void below your feet, cross the bridge, but don't look down. Something dark is hiding in the depths of the water and you don't want to know what it is."

Calm down, it's not like I am in any real danger, yet. I heard a roaring sound and I saw a shadow swimming in the water. Now that is not good. Don't go on the bridge, get back where you ran, my common sense told me. But I also knew that I would never get back to the place where I left and if I tried I would most likely never get out.

So I took a deep breath and stepped on the bridge. Every muscle in my body was tight, because one wrong step and all my life goes off this deadly tight rope. Higher, and higher the bridge got. Don't look down, cause if you do, you die. Don't look down, cause if you do, you die.

God! This bridge doesn't seem to have an end! And then I did something that you should never, ever do on an endless bridge, thousand feet above an unknown substance. I looked down. Beneath my eyes was a void full of viridescent water, however it wasn't the most terrifying thing, the sound came back, this time louder, "creack, crack, creack, crack...". Then in the darkness of the water I saw shadow, it looked like a... roly polly? Except it was ginormous, the size of a blue wail, maybe bigger. It's not like I ever saw a blue wail in my life, only pictures of them in a school text book. But I knew that they are huge, and seeing a roly polly this size is not normal... Not like anything in this place is normal anyway. The creature swam past, and dove into the jade depth. I stared at the water hypnotized by what I saw. I felt my head getting heavier, and the world suddenly turned at a ninety degree angle. The water rose higher until I was drowning in it. For a second I was disorientated, not knowing where is up, where is down, just suffocation and a toxic green water all around me. However I managed to swim up. Almost out of breath, I clutched to a column

next to me like it was my life line. Near me thousands of similar columns rose from the water with staircases cycling around them like snakes. Many feet above me was the bridge I was on just fifteen seconds ago. I am in an unknown water with dangerous rolly-polly-like entities. I had a gut feeling that it would not turn out great.

Then I heard the sound again "creack, crack, creack, crack...", I looked down, but instantly regretted it. In the depth, I saw a shadow. A rolly polly shadow. Stairs! I realized. Stairs are my only way out! I swam up looking at the spiraling staircase that was so high it seemed to lead to heaven.