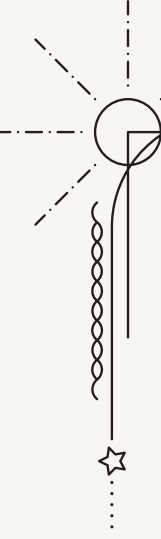




Chapter 1



The Biology Department was always busy this time of the morning, with students and staff alike going off to lectures, tutorials and labs. It's only been a few weeks since you arrived at the university, but you've started to get your bearings. Sitting in the Atrium with a cup of coffee, you scan the crowd for Jordan, the Masters student who you're supposed to be meeting today. Near the start of term, you responded to Jordan's advert about needing an assistant for a project of theirs, but the application was... a little strange to say the least. It didn't require a CV or cover letter as you expected, and instead, there were a series of logic puzzles to complete. Over the weekend you received an email from Jordan informing you that you had been selected and that they wanted to meet to discuss the project in more detail - so here you were. After waiting for a few more minutes, you eventually spotted Jordan making their way towards your table.

Dressed warm for the autumn weather, they greeted you with a welcoming smile, "Hi there, you must be my new assistant right? It's lovely to meet you!"

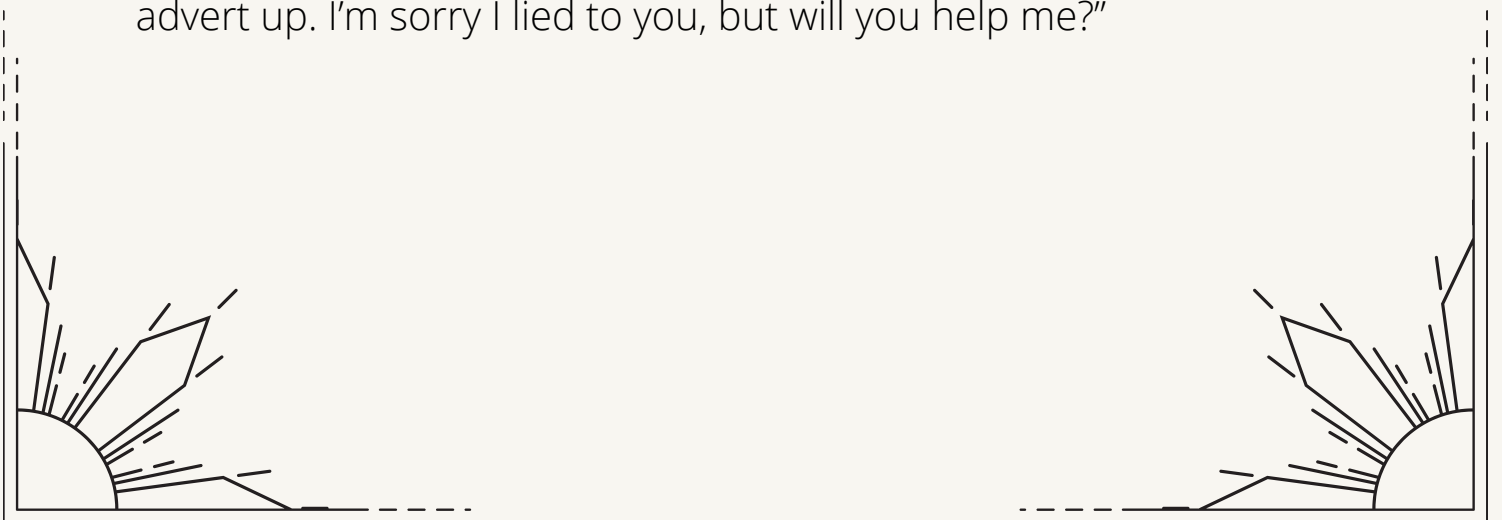
Returning the greeting, you offered Jordan the seat across from you. You didn't know what Jordan looked like up until now. Their curly brown hair framed their sharp facial features, with a pair of circular glasses highlighting their hazel eyes.

It was clear how excited Jordan was about their project, with their smile quickly becoming contagious, "So, it's about time I explained what my project is. You see, for my Masters in Biotechnology I'm completing a research project. I'm looking at how genome editing can enhance bacterial evolution speeds. But... that's not what you'll be helping me with today."

Quickly glancing around, Jordan reached down into their bag and pulled out a weathered-looking textbook and placed it on the table, "While I was in the library doing research for my thesis, I came across this book. I know - not particularly exciting, but wait until you see this!"

Opening the book to a seemingly random page, Jordan flipped the book round for you to see more clearly. Leaning forward, you quickly see some unusual things: a maze-like grid, a table of letters and numbers, a list of paired letters and numbers, a creepy symbol of an eye with DNA in its iris, and the phrase "Find and Decode."

"Strange right? At first, I thought it was someone's bored doodlings, but the more I look at the wording the more important it seems to be. I've been racking my brains over this for weeks and I still can't figure out what it all means! That's the real reason why I put the advert up. I'm sorry I lied to you, but will you help me?"



Find and Decode

START

FINISH

START 4S, 1E, 2N, 3E, 2S, 1W, 2S, 1W, 3S, 1E, 1S, 2E, 1N, 3E, 1N, 6E, 1S,
 1W, 5S, 1E, 1S, 1E, 1N, 3E, 1S, 1E, 2S, 2E, 2S, 1E, 2S, 1W, 1N, 1W, 2S, 3W,
 1N, 1W, 4S, 3E, 1N, 1E, 1S, 4E FINISH

A = D	B = Q	C = H	D = K	E = P	F = 1
G = L	H = N	I = Y	J = U	K = B	L = R
M = 3	N = 2	O = F	P = A	Q = W	R = X
S = 9	T = S	U = 8	V = C	W = O	X = 7
Y = 5	Z = E				

