

Epilogue

“Today’s the day,” said Paige to Jess. They were both sitting on the grass on a hill near their college.

“What day?” asked Jess.

“Time Skip day,” said Paige.

“Oh! The Time Skip! Ha ha ha! You’d think they’d give up on that trope in Korean dramas. So this is the day the Book jumped to after you saw your Ethereal?” asked Jess.

“Pretty much,” said Paige.

“Prove it.” “*Prove it.*”

“Oh wow! That brings back memories. Don’t start it up again. I believe you,” said Jess.

Paige had grown a little, but not by much. She went back to being her normal size after re-allocating her attribute points.

Jess was initially devastated she couldn’t be a vanguard, but seeing the corruption of the chairman gave her a strong distaste for the whole organization. In the end, she decided to become a physicist. She was really good with understanding the concepts of electricity.

“My Ethereal really didn’t like me,” said Jess as she stared at the sky.

“Not many Ethereals liked her,” said Paige.

Jess went silent. She thought a lot about mortality and her lack of it.

“I don’t really want to live forever,” said Jess.

Paige turned her head and gave Jess a comforting look. Jess was far more sober and mature than she used to be. Paige wasn’t sure if it was because of age, or the heavy weight of the infinite. She looked back at the sky.

“Did you open your cryptex yet?” asked Jess.

“I did,” said Paige.

“What? You didn’t tell me that!” said Jess as she sat up.

“Well, it led to another puzzle,” said Paige.

“You’re kidding me. Where did you put the answer? There aren’t anymore portals.”

“It wasn’t for a portal. It was for a cryptex,” said Paige.

“Another one? Where did you get it? For that matter, what was inside?” asked Jess.

Paige hesitated for a split second. What could she say? How could she explain the cryptex opened up the means to Jess’ death? Was that something you brought up in conversation? That wasn’t a responsibility she wanted, nor was she ready to talk about.

“I don’t know. I didn’t open it,” lied Paige.

“You confuse me, Paige Park. Why not?” asked Jess.

“Gifts from the gods aren’t all they’re cracked up to be,” said Paige.

Jess thought for a second, and then lay back down.

“You’re telling me,” she said.

HUZZAH! YOU DID IT! CONGRATULATIONS!

You are amazing! Errol here, and I'm very pleased you made it to the end. As a puzzle designer, there is no greater pleasure than seeing people solve the puzzles I create, so thank you!

First off, we would love to have your feedback. We want to make the Cryptex Hunt better, and it's important to get your feedback. Please, take our survey:

2020 CRYPTEX HUNT SURVEY

There are so many people to thank, and I will do so in a proper post, but thanks to Kristen Mills, Darren Miller, David Lewis, Manda Whitney, Colin Sanders, Margaux Yiu, Lizette Elumir, Ekko Elumir, and of course, Justin Nevins for his generosity.

Finally, a huge thanks to you. Thank you for your comments, thank you for your edits, thank you for your patience, and thank you for helping one another in finding the answers.

And because you made it this far, Darren Miller has made a bonus puzzle for you! Thank you, once again, and I hope to see you next year!

- Errol Elumir



Please be sure to check the Reality Escape Convention, RECON, hosted by RoomEscapeArtist.com.

Luckily, Errol is going to be one of the featured speakers, presenting on the topic of puzzle design. You can rant at him about the Cryptex Hunt 2020!

We hope to see you there! See RealityEscapeCon.com for details.

