

Treasure: In search of the Golden Horse

THE SOLUTION

Version 1 (2023-05-11)

Version 2 (2023-12-04)

Version 3 (2026-03-23)

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Version 3 is a major revision of the book solution. It is in fact a completely new approach. The previous version was based on using clues on the book cover to get to chapter COURTYARD, where compelling clues confirmed the importance of the chapter. However, solving COURTYARD resulted in a series of words which did not clearly provide the expected overall path to the solution of other chapters. The present version is the result of realizing that this series of words do provide a clear map to navigate the rest of the book. As it is said at the end of COURTYARD: “She had learned the most difficult of secrets: how to see”. Therefore, the following text is relatively the same as in Version 2 up to a point in COURTYARD, but everything after that has been completely replaced.

NOTE: to unclutter the text, this version does not show the Mathematica code block.

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a solution to a famous puzzle published 42 years ago (©1984 Intravision Inc.). This solution gives the location of the golden horse. This is a very sophisticated puzzle, a tribute to the talent of its author, the puzzle master Paul Hoffman (Dr. Crypton). This fairy tale (based on a story by Sheldon Renan and David Wyles, illustrated by J.F. Podevin) is not only beautifully constructed, the text is also highly self-referential. The body of the text contains instructions on how to modify itself and extract from it the relevant information. Given this vast amount of information, it is imperative to find a method allowing us first to select the relevant clues to the puzzle.

The challenge is therefore to identify the relevant text and to find how to manipulate it according to rules suggested to by the clues in each chapter. The geographic location of the golden horse is not to be guessed by interpreting isolated clues that may point to the correct general geographic location. Although such clues are found in the book, these are no substitute for a process that blindly manipulates large amounts of text according to some hidden rules and finally, almost magically, produces the final location.

The solution does not require any advanced cryptographic knowledge. Everything can be done with a pen and paper. However, manipulating large amounts of text in specific ways is prone to mistakes. For this reason, *Mathematica* code was used in many instances to process the text according to specific rules. This ensures accuracy as long as the text is accurately copied to start with. From experience, it is easier to copy text accurately than it is to, for example, count the number of occurrences of specific letters in a body of text, something *Mathematica* can easily do.

Short history and references

The following is the trailer for the movie version of the book (available on tape and videodiscs - these two versions are slightly different). It includes an interview with Sheldon Renan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjn--BUnniE>

The following is the full movie:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y MEC2dg4O8A>

The contest ran for 5 years (until midnight May 26, 1989) but the golden horse was not found and ended up being given to charity. The organizers never revealed the solution. Two men (Nick Boone and Anthony Castaneda) claimed to have solved the puzzle after the deadline. Here is an article in the Washington Post about their story:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1989/11/30/two-find-treasure-too-late/d62c5c8b-bb02-4027-acba-f20f12e64d47/>

And here are two videos (Part 1 and Part 2) telling their full story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V3OTePAjYw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AulcXQO1YZw>

Although Boone and Castaneda found the location, many believed that they did not find the intended solution or path, but instead relied on secondary clues also present in the book. This is akin to police detectives relying on weak circumstantial evidence to apprehend a suspect. They would never get a conviction in a court of law. The present paper offers instead a path that speaks to the incredible sophistication of this puzzle.

The starting point

The book cover

When confronted with this 21-chapter text, it quickly becomes apparent that some way to simplify the task is required. There must be a way to identify the starting point or the chapters to focus on. The book cover is a natural place to look for this information. Its rich imagery, centered on a maze, illustrates the complexity of the task at hands. And, as expected, it also contains the three most important clues to get you started:

- the number 7
- the number 31
- a page curled on itself



I came up with the numbers 7 and 31 years ago and tried to use this information in all sort of ways over the years (“the 7-31 solution”), but no satisfactory answer emerged... until now (2023). This is when I realized that the curly page was the missing clue. Note the word “Page” immediately above the curl. Only one page in the book shows a similar curl: **page 74, in COURTYARD** (chapter 20).

Chapter 20 - COURTYARD

- To help the discussion, here are the numbered sentences in the chapter.

- 1 → The night wind woke Amanda.
- 2 → She was exactly where she had fallen
asleep: in Alice's lap, next to the tuxedo-clad rabbit.
- 3 → With her book she slid down to the ground and started to walk again.
- 4 → The night air was surprisingly warm.
- 5 → She left the forest and headed toward a glow in the sky.
- 6 → It was the light of a nearby
town, a place where travelers rested from their journeys.
- 7 → It appeared on every map, but not all who traveled could find it.
- 8 → She had slept well into the night
and when she arrived, the cobblestone streets were empty.
- 9 → On the edge of town, however, in a sweet-smelling grove
of cypress, there was an old inn where the lamps still burned.
- 10 → Amanda followed the flickering flames to the center of the courtyard.
- 11 → A warm wind touched her cheek, and she felt strangely comfortable.
- 12 → She sat down at the first table she came to.
- 13 → A fountain bubbled nearby, casting reflected light
across her table and onto the branches that hung above her.
- 14 →
Along the far side of the courtyard, wooden fans whirled above an ancient bar.
- 15 → She saw an old waiter leaning against the bar.
- 16 → He was dressed in a black vest and tie.
- 17 → He stayed where he was, patiently waiting.
- 18 → He seemed to have been waiting for her for many years.
- 19 → “May I have some tea?” she asked.
- 20 → He bowed in answer and put a silver pot on a serving tray.
- 21 →
But when he arrived at the table, she saw he had brought her a puzzling platter.
- 22 → It was certainly more than she had asked for.
- 23 → From the platter he gave her a
red silk scarf, a fortune cookie and, at last, her tea.
- 24 → She tried on the scarf, but the color was alarming.
- 25 → “This is much too angry a color for me,” she said, and give it back to him.
- 26 → The old waiter took the scarf, bowed again, and withdrew.
- 27 →
As he walked away, she thought how much she liked his calm face and white hair.
- 28 → She cracked open the cookie and read
the message: “THE MAP IS THE KEY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.”
- 29 → Oh, she thought, I have received someone else's fortune cookie by mistake.

30 → In the fountain cherubs rode copper
dolphins that sprayed gentle jets of water into the pool.
31 → The murmuring of the water soothed her, and she opened her book to read.
32 → It told about the things she had seen and heard
on The Journey, and about each clue she thought she had found.
33 → Going through the pages of her book in this peaceful
place, she began to see how certain things paired with others.
34 → And how in all this there was a pattern.
35 → The warm wind stirred again.
36 → How little it takes to be happy, she thought.
37 → If you know where to look, the path is always clearly marked.
38 → With that she took a pen and wrote just one last word.
39 → And she felt as if she escaped from a box.
40 → No more would she search endlessly.
41 → Now she knew she would find what she had intended.
42 → And she closed her book forever.
43 → In the morning, when the black bird flew overhead
to find her, the book remained on the table like a ghost.
44 → But Amanda had left the courtyard.
45 → Never again would the black bird deceive her.
46 → The way could no longer be eclipsed.
47 → She had learned the most difficult of secrets: how to see.

Part 1: The table

Clues on the book cover get us to page 74, where we need to figure out how to use the prime numbers 7 and 31.

on a serving tray. But when he arrived at the table, she saw he had brought her a puzzling platter. It was certainly more than she had asked for. From the platter he gave her a red silk scarf, a fortune cookie and, at last, her tea.

She tried on the scarf, but the color was alarming. "This is much too angry a color for me," she said, and gave it back to him. The old waiter took the scarf, bowed again, and withdrew. As he walked away, she thought how much she liked his calm face and white hair. She cracked open the cookie and read the message: "THE MAP IS THE KEY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE." *Oh*, she thought, *I have received someone else's fortune cookie by mistake.*

In the fountain cherubs rode copper dolphins that sprayed gentle jets of water into the pool. The murmuring of the water soothed her, and she opened her book to read. It told about the things she had seen and heard on *The Journey*, and about each clue she thought she had found. Going through the pages of her book in this peaceful place, she began to see how certain things paired with others. And how in all this there was a pattern.

The warm wind stirred again.

- The image suggests that a table is required.
- Page 74 contains 218 words.
- Multiplying 7×31 gives 217.
- It is likely that we have to remove one word from the text. This word is MISTAKE.
- We can now produce a 7×31 table of words.
- Before we do that, sentence #12 is a clue:
 - the "first table" indicates that the first word in our table should be TABLE
 - so we "rotate" the group of 217 sentences until TABLE (currently the eleventh word) appears at the beginning.



table	she	saw	he	had	brought	her
a	puzzling	platter	It	was	certainly	more
than	she	had	asked	for	From	the
platter	he	gave	her	a	red	silk
scarf	a	fortune	cookie	and	at	last
her	tea	She	tried	on	the	scarf
but	the	color	was	alarming	This	is
much	too	angry	a	color	for	me
she	said	and	give	it	back	to
him	The	old	waiter	took	the	scarf
bowed	again	and	withdrew	As	he	walked
away	she	thought	how	much	she	liked
his	calm	face	and	white	hair	She
cracked	open	the	cookie	and	read	the
message	THE	MAP	IS	THE	KEY	IN
MORE	WAYS	THAN	ONE	Oh	she	thought
I	have	received	someone	else's	fortune	cookie
by	In	the	fountain	cherubs	rode	copper
dolphins	that	sprayed	gentle	jets	of	water
into	the	pool	The	murmuring	of	the
water	soothed	her	and	she	opened	her
book	to	read	It	told	about	the
things	she	had	seen	and	heard	on
The	Journey	and	about	each	clue	she
thought	she	had	found	Going	through	the
pages	of	her	book	in	this	peaceful
place	she	began	to	see	how	certain
things	paired	with	others	And	how	in
all	this	there	was	a	pattern	The
warm	wind	stirred	again	on	a	serving
tray	But	when	he	arrived	at	the

- The rotation necessary to put the word “table” first had the effect of putting the word “**the**” last. Sentence #23 tells us “at **last**, her tea”. The word **the** (with the “e” accented) is French for tea.

Part 2: Sentence Selection

- What has to be done is not immediately obvious. We will first focus on the key “**THE MAP IS THE KEY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE**” (Sentence #28), an obviously important clue (besides reminding us of the key role of the map in general). Given that we have 31 rows and that the key has 31 characters, a reasonable approach is to label each row with a letter from the key, in effect adding a key column to the table.

T	table	she	saw	he	had	brought	her
H	a	puzzling	platter	It	was	certainly	more
E	than	she	had	asked	for	From	the
M	platter	he	gave	her	a	red	silk
A	scarf	a	fortune	cookie	and	at	last
P	her	tea	She	tried	on	the	scarf
I	but	the	color	was	alarming	This	is
S	much	too	angry	a	color	for	me
T	she	said	and	give	it	back	to
H	him	The	old	waiter	took	the	scarf
E	bowed	again	and	withdrew	As	he	walked
K	away	she	thought	how	much	she	liked
E	his	calm	face	and	white	hair	She
Y	cracked	open	the	cookie	and	read	the
I	message	THE	MAP	IS	THE	KEY	IN
N	MORE	WAYS	THAN	ONE	Oh	she	thought
M	I	have	received	someone	else's	fortune	cookie
O	by	In	the	fountain	cherubs	rode	copper
R	dolphins	that	sprayed	gentle	jets	of	water
E	into	the	pool	The	murmuring	of	the
W	water	soothed	her	and	she	opened	her
A	book	to	read	It	told	about	the
Y	things	she	had	seen	and	heard	on
S	The	Journey	and	about	each	clue	she
T	thought	she	had	found	Going	through	the
H	pages	of	her	book	in	this	peaceful
A	place	she	began	to	see	how	certain
N	things	paired	with	others	And	how	in
O	all	this	there	was	a	pattern	The
N	warm	wind	stirred	again	on	a	serving
E	tray	But	when	he	arrived	at	the

- In sentence #25, Amanda returns the red scarf. Removing the word “scarf” (which appears 3 times) would destroy the symmetry of our table. We should ask ourselves why an odd item like a scarf was given to Amanda to start with. It is because a scarf is a narrow piece of garment to be “**worn around** the neck or over the head”. The scarf includes all the words, from its first appearance to its last appearance. This covers a full six rows.

T	table	she	saw	he	had	brought	her
H	a	puzzling	platter	It	was	certainly	more
E	than	she	had	asked	for	From	the
M	platter	he	gave	her	a	red	silk
A	scarf	a	fortune	cookie	and	at	last
P	her	tea	She	tried	on	the	scarf
I	but	the	color	was	alarming	This	is
S	much	too	angry	a	color	for	me
T	she	said	and	give	it	back	to
H	him	The	old	waiter	took	the	scarf
E	bowed	again	and	withdrew	As	he	walked
K	away	she	thought	how	much	she	liked
E	his	calm	face	and	white	hair	She
Y	cracked	open	the	cookie	and	read	the
I	message	THE	MAP	IS	THE	KEY	IN
N	MORE	WAYS	THAN	ONE	Oh	she	thought
M	I	have	received	someone	else's	fortune	cookie
O	by	In	the	fountain	cherubs	rode	copper
R	dolphins	that	sprayed	gentle	jets	of	water
E	into	the	pool	The	murmuring	of	the
W	water	soothed	her	and	she	opened	her
A	book	to	read	It	told	about	the
Y	things	she	had	seen	and	heard	on
S	The	Journey	and	about	each	clue	she
T	thought	she	had	found	Going	through	the
H	pages	of	her	book	in	this	peaceful
A	place	she	began	to	see	how	certain
N	things	paired	with	others	And	how	in
O	all	this	there	was	a	pattern	The
N	warm	wind	stirred	again	on	a	serving
E	tray	But	when	he	arrived	at	the

- The “key” letters (first column) corresponding to the scarf rows: **APISTH**
- APISTH is an anagram for **PATH IS**, words that are mentioned verbatim in sentence #37.
- Looking more closely at the table we find that the two rows associated with the letters **IS** in the key include the words COLOR ALARMING and COLOR ANGRY in the table.
- These two rows should therefore not be considered. We are left with 4 rows and therefore the 4 letters **PATH**.
- PATH is our sentence selector. Any sentence containing the 4 letters **P A T H** in any order will be selected for the next step.

2- She was exactly where she had fallen
asleep: in Alice's lap, next to the tuxedo-clad rabbit.

4- The night air was surprisingly warm.

6- It was the light of a nearby town,
a place where travelers rested from their journeys.

7- It appeared on every map, but not all who traveled could find it.

8- She had slept well into the night
and when she arrived, the cobblestone streets were empty.

9- On the edge of town, however, in a sweet-smelling grove
of cypress, there was an old inn where the lamps still burned.

17- He stayed where he was, patiently waiting.

20- He bowed in answer and put a silver pot on a serving tray.

21- But when he arrived at the
table, she saw he had brought her a puzzling platter.

23- From the platter he gave her a
red silk scarf, a fortune cookie and, at last, her tea.

28- She cracked open the cookie and read
the message: "THE MAP IS THE KEY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE."

30- In the fountain cherubs rode copper
dolphins that sprayed gentle jets of water into the pool.

31- The murmuring of the water soothed her, and she opened her book to read.

33- Going through the pages of her book in this peaceful
place, she began to see how certain things paired with others.

34- And how in all this there was a pattern.

36- How little it takes to be happy, she thought.

37- If you know where to look, the path is always clearly marked.

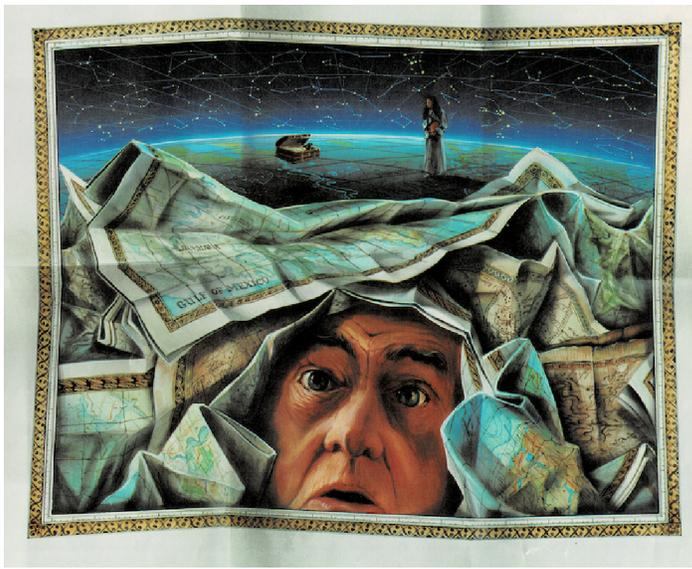
38- With that she took a pen and wrote just one last word.

39- And she felt as if she escaped from a box.

46- The way could no longer be eclipsed.

Starting here, **Version 3** differs from Version 2 in a major way.

- The solution makes extensive use of **letter values**
 - When we use the term "letter value", we mean a number derived from the position of letters in the alphabet
 - letters A-Z have letter values 1 to 26.
 - words, sentences, or other combination of letters have a letter value given by the sum of letter values of their letters
- The next step (Part 3) is about solving COURTYARD using selected sentences. But since the solving method is the same for subsequent chapters, the method is presented here. It is likely "the most difficult of secrets" mentioned in COURTYARD. This image in MR. MAPS says it all.

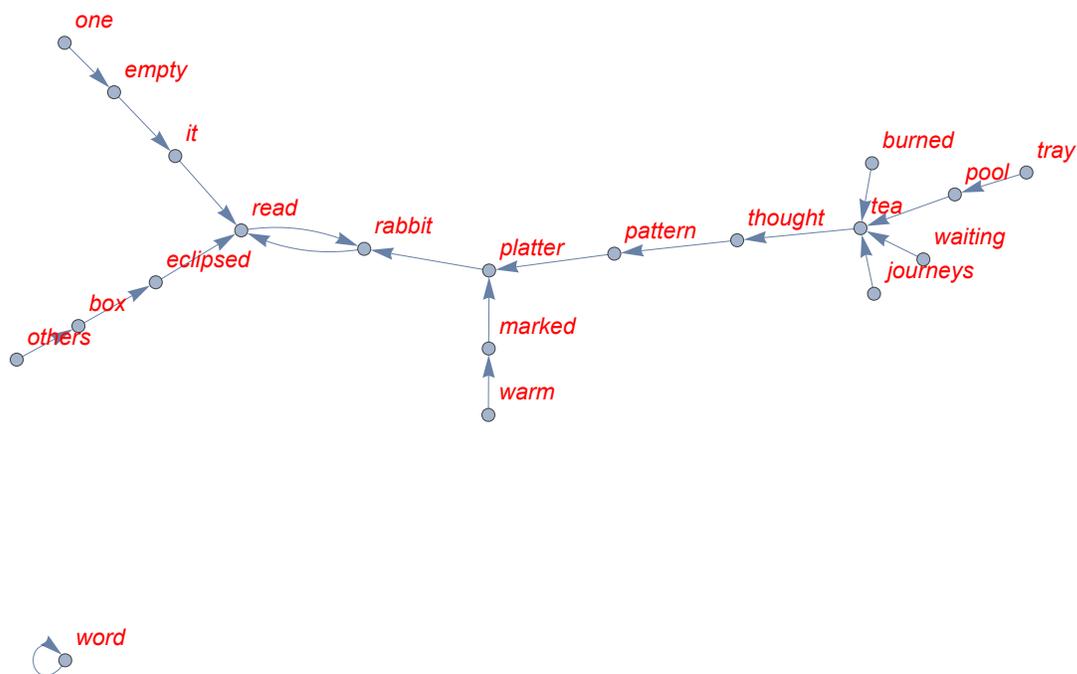


- In the center we have Amanda looking for a geographic location
- MR. MAPS said that we need a map of the sky. The issue is to determine what the sky represents.
- The constellations in the sky are not stars, but WORDS. And the lines joining them show the relationship between them. These are WORD MAPS.
- Word maps are constructed as follows:
 - List the selected words in order of appearance. As we will see, these are the last words of selected sentences.
 - The letter value of a word tells us how many words to count from this word to find the word it is connected to.
 - The list is circular, so when you reach the end of the list, you continue counting from the beginning,
 - The direction of counting appears to change, depending on the chapter being considered. I have not determined how this choice is made.
- The bottom of the image tells us that we have to FOLD the word maps.
- “A **fold** is a higher-order function that analyzes a recursive data structure and, through use of a given combining operation, recombines the results of recursively processing its constituent parts, building up a return value” (Source: Wikipedia).
- The idea is to look at a word map, pick two or more words in it that are linked by lines, and try to reduce them to a single word or single related idea. This new word then replaces the initial words and is then recombined with the rest of the word map, until the whole map is reduced to something directing the next step in your search for the location of the golden horse.
 - As you will see, each word map becomes a difficult puzzle in itself, mainly due to the number of possible ways to associate groups of words. I could not find the equivalent of parentheses, so a number of consecutive words linked together may take a different meaning depending on which words are reduced first. Here is a very simple example: **BOOK-STOP-LIGHT**

- (STOP - LIGHT) is RED
- (BOOK-RED) is either a RED BOOK or it means READ BOOK
- or perhaps we should have started with (BOOK STOP), meaning BOOKMARK... etc.
- Of course, the final result obtained should make sense in relation to where you are in the process. It may be difficult at times to account perfectly for all the words in the word map. Perhaps I am missing some subtleties in the rules or just did not think of the exact solution for some group of words. But the solution to some clever puzzles and the way these fit together strongly reinforce that this method is the way to go. And it lead to the exact location of the golden horse in an unexpected way, particularly when it comes to what to do when you get to TENNESSEE PASS.
- The interpretations given to word maps in this document are the result of time consuming trial and errors.

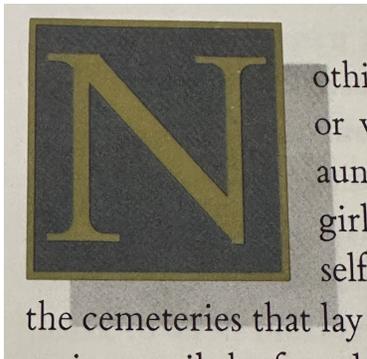
Part 3: Master Word Map

- We are back to COURTYARD. This chapter is special in that the selected sentences were generated from solving puzzles in the same chapter (i.e. leading to selected sentences containing P-A-T-H). The solution to the word map generated from the last word of these sentences (i.e. the Master Word Map) will provide us with a list of chapters of interest, their order, and a way to select sentences in them (from which we will get the last words to generate specific Chapter Word Maps). The same general method will be used for all chapters of interest. In fact, this general method will be used in COURTYARD to generate a new word map, as this chapter is in the list of chapters of interest later in the process.
- There are 20 selected sentences. Sentence #38 tells us to write just one last word. So we get 20 last words with which to create the word map.



Part 4: Interpretation of the Master Word Map

- First, the word WORD linking to itself is a good representation of how to solve a word map.
- The key to understanding this map is the symmetric relation between READ and RABBIT. We will find that the READ side will be reduced to letters, whereas the RABBIT side will be reduce to RAW BITS binary (1 and 0) of the same length as the result of the READ side.
- (ONE-EMPTY-IT) means that we will not keep the letters matched to binary 1. Therefore the letters matching 0 will be of interest.
- A BOX is an informal name for a coffin and also for a square
- OTHERS means ODDER, a word used once in the text to characterize the CEMETERY in chapter 4
- So (OTHERS-BOX) points to the giant box with the letter N at the beginning of CEMETERY.
- The shadow of this box (see image below) ECLIPSED the following 21 letters (in order of appearance in the text): **OOAGSCEMETERIESTHATLA**



- We now have the text part.
- Now we have to figure out the binary number on the RABBIT side.
- (WARM-MARKED-PLATTER) is a RECORD
- (THOUGHT-PATTERN-RECORD) is MEMORY
- (POOL-TRAY) means (PULL TRAY). In FISH, the CHEF pulls the TRAY containing the raw food. The tray is actually shaped like 0 and 1.
- A JOURNEY is a TRIP
- (BURNED-TEA) means REMOVE T
- REMOVE T from TRIP gives RIP (Rest in Peace)
- CHEF is a TITLE
- (RIP-TITLE) corresponds to pages 6-7 where we see three monuments bearing the chapter TITLES
- We end up with something like READ MEMORY WAITING IN THE CHAPTER TITLES
- When you READ MEMORY you get ones and zeros.
- We collect (in order) letters O and I from the titles, to represent binary 1 and 0.
- Result: **101010101100100111000**
- We match this binary number to our 21 letters.

O	O	A	G	S	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	I	E	S	T	H	A	T	L	A
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	

- As we determined earlier, we keep only the letters matched to a 0. Here is the result with the letter value of each letter.

O	G	C	M	E	R	E	S	T	L	A
15	7	3	13	5	18	5	19	20	12	1

- The above two rows are critical to solving the whole puzzle: it gives us the chapter order and a way to select sentences.

Part 5: Chapter Order

- The letter values represent the chapter numbers. This is the resulting chapter order:
 - 15 - RIVER
 - 7 - ROAD
 - 3 - KITES
 - 13- LODGE
 - 5- FORTUNE
 - 18- REHEARSAL
 - 5 - FORTUNE
 - 19- PARTY
 - 20 - COURTYARD
 - 12- MOUNTAIN
 - 1 - CREATION
- It is very appropriate for CREATION to be last, as it is where the gold horse is pulled from the earth.

A word about FORTUNE:

- FORTUNE appears twice. This is not a mistake. FORTUNE is a large chapter with many selected sentences. The chapter itself must be split into two parts, with half the selected sentences being processed the first time, and the other half the second time, like two different chapters.
- The values of the cards in the FORTUNE image appear to indicate how many sentences are in each half.
- The top cards are: $4+13+(6+4) = 27$ (note that card VI also shows the reverse IV on the card, for a total of 10).
 - 27 sentences brings us to : *But this is not what I came for, she thought.*
- The bottom cards are: $15+18+19 = 52$ (note that the Wheel of Fortune is actually an addition symbol, not a X).
 - 52 sentences from the end of the chapter brings us to the same sentence: *But this is not what I came for, she thought.* It appears that this sentence is part of both parts.

- There is a clear break between the topics covered in FORTUNE (part 1) and those covered in the FORTUNE (part 2). For example, the second part says a lot about The Man with Black Gloves. Also, Amanda speaks (within double quotes) more in the last half than anywhere else in the book.



Part 6: Chapters Sentence Selector

- The letters derived in Part 4 are used to select relevant sentences in each chapter to build its word map. Sentences containing **all** the letters **OGCMERESTLA** are selected. (see Part 7 for additional info)
- As mentioned earlier, the last words of selected sentences are used to build the word maps.

Part 7: THE MAN WITH BLACK GLOVES

- THE MAN WITH BLACK GLOVES influences sentence selection. In chapter 2, it is clear that “eyes” are closed and cannot be opened. **Sentences containing no letter I are also selected.** These sentences will be highlighted in blue.
- THE MAN WITH BLACK GLOVES has taken the horse away. **Selected sentences ending with HORSE or TREASURE will not be used** in building the word maps. These sentences will be listed and highlighted in red.
 - Interesting how TMWBG goes from horses to horses in CAROUSEL, collecting **PASSES**.

Part 8: HIM-HER-THEM

- Personal pronouns HER-HIM-THEM appearing as last words of selected sentences have a special role.
- These words are used like others to build the word maps, but once the map is built, these words and any arrows connected to them are to be ignored (unless specifically told otherwise)
- In the word maps, these arrows will appear as ghost arrows

- We will see at the end that, besides their role in building the chapter word map, these have another purpose... an extraordinary purpose: while solving the chapters word maps provide us with the path to follow to get to the treasure location, these pronouns provide clever instructions allowing us to determine the exact coordinates of this location!

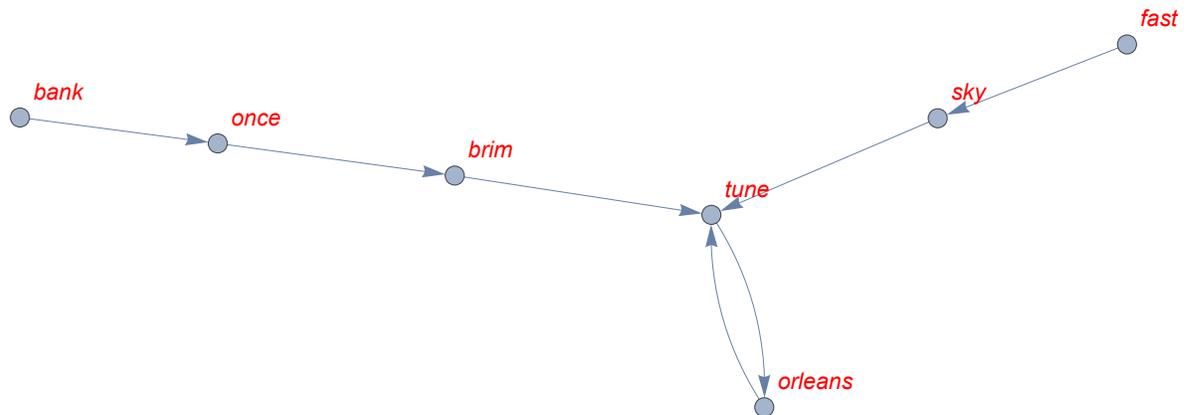
CHAPTERS WORD MAPS

RIVER

SELECTED SENTENCES (9)

- For more than a century this steamer had churned the broad waters, bringing people to their destinations along an ever-changing course.
- He could be near any of them.
- The captain sat in his chair in the steering house, gold braid adorning his shoulders and cap brim.
- Once.
- Easily he matched the speed of the stern-wheeler, and his hoofs beat a ghostly tattoo along the earthen bank.
- On the deck below her, a steam calliope began a wheezing tune.
- The sun fell backward in time, draining the daylight from the sky.
- Ropes were thrown and made fast.
- A plank became a bridge to the shore, and Amanda walked across it into the night of the ancient port of Old Orleans.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- (ORLEANS-TUNE) is JAZZ
- (BRIM-JAZZ) means the “edges” of JAZZ, which corresponds to JZ
- BANK means to tilt one side when it turns
- (BANK-ONCE-JZ) changes each letters of JZ by one, resulting in KY
- KY is KENTUCKY. This explains the racing horse in RIVER.
- A COURSE is a path or direction or road. It is given by the image with four birds all following a diagonal direction.
- (FAST-SKY-COURSE) is a HIGHWAY in KENTUCKY
- A HIGHWAY in KENTUCKY following a diagonal COURSE similar to the birds is INTERSTATE-24.
- I-24 is relatively short HIGHWAY crossing Kentucky and Tennessee. The birds, if now in Kentucky, would be going into Tennessee.

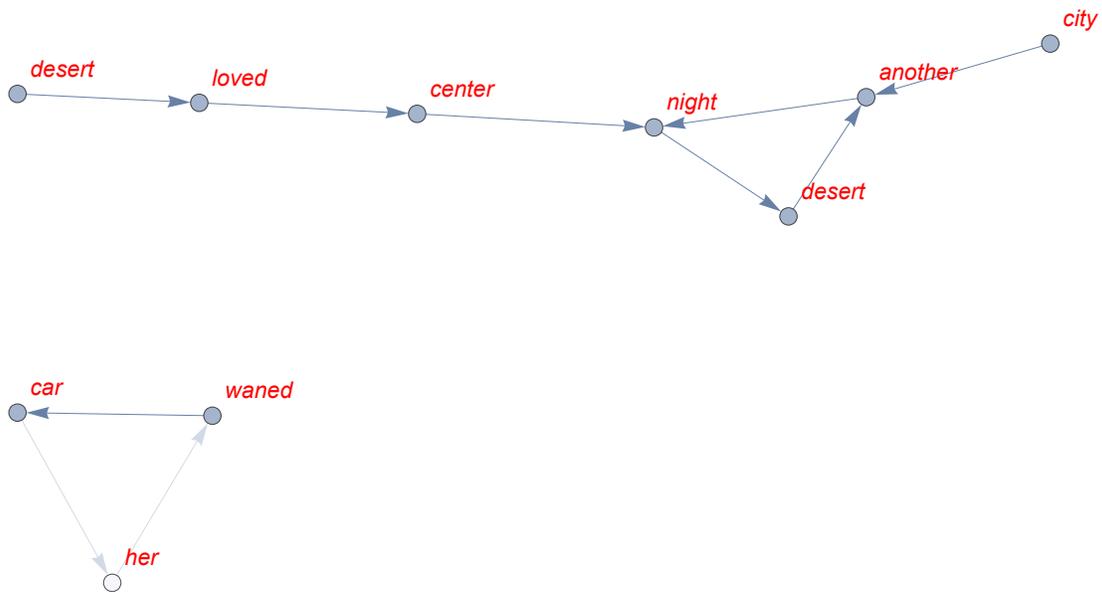
INTERPRETATION: HIGHWAY 24

ROAD

SELECTED SENTENCES (10)

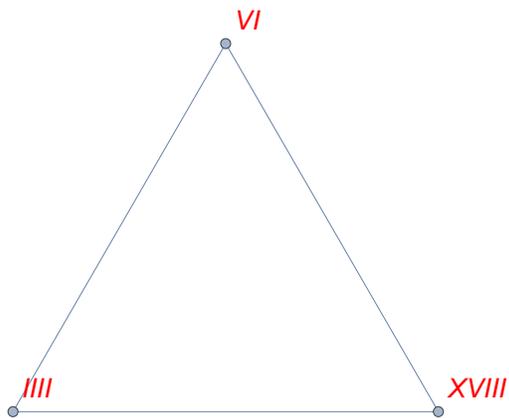
- But as week after week went by, the enchantment waned.
- She noticed that she had begun to write more and more about The Journey, and where it might lead her.
- It was a matter of choosing the right direction, and more and more she felt that the right direction was away from the city.
- Then she found the car.
- The road led her along the glimmering ocean, past plunging seabirds, and into the night.
- A magnificent Arabian stallion, they told her in another.
- She stopped to buy apples from an old man at the side of the road, and he told her about an old Indian corral on the edge of the desert.
- He came to the corral, the story went, looking for his missing master, the master he still loved.
- So she turned into an unmarked trail and followed dusty, rutted tracks leading to the edge of the desert.
- The corral had been formed of weathered split-rails in the shape of a figure eight, with an extra circle in its center.

WORD MAP

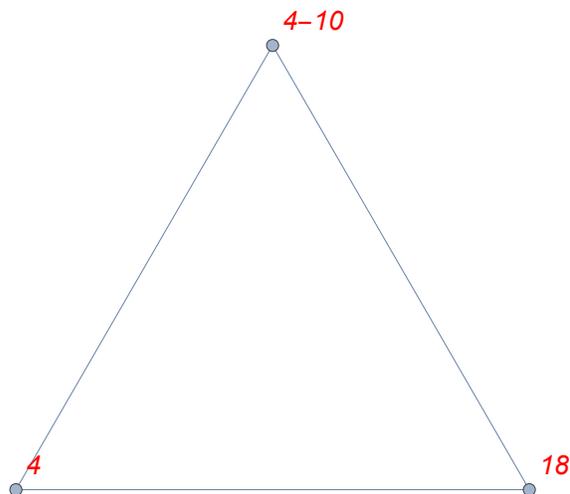


INTERPRETATION

- The important CITY on HIGHWAY 24, with “babel of crowds and cars” is NASHVILLE
 - NASHVILLE contains VILLE, the French word for CITY
- (ANOTHER-CITY) indicates that NASHVILLE must be replaced, but by another city ending with VILLE
 - So NASH must be replaced
- WANED means it had been gradually decreased in size
- (WANED-CAR) is CARD
 - John NASH is a father of GAME THEORY, which may explain the link to CARD and therefore to FORTUNE
- (LOVED-CENTER) is V and V is 5 in Roman numerals (we are on the topic of CARDS)
- (DESERT-5-NIGHT) means to remove 5 “nights” from the cards on page 24 (in FORTUNE)
 - One card is the man on a horse (a KNIGHT)
 - Three other cards refer to NIGHT as black: the cards touched by the Black Gloves (DEVIL, SUN and WHEEL OF FORTUNE)
 - The last one is DEATH (darkness, end of life, etc.)
- We are left with 3 cards: VI - IIII - XVIII
- The whole thing suggests that the three cards left will lead to NASH being replaced by something else
- these three cards form a triangle



- The approach to this puzzle is to start with N-A-S-H and follow the above triangular path, replacing the letters one by one by letters that are separated by a distance in the alphabet corresponding to the value on our triangle.
- The problem is that we have 4 letters to move in NASH and only 3 cards
- The solution is to realize that card VI represents more than one value
 - The card shows VI and its reverse IV
 - The possible values for the card are therefore 6, 4, or 10 (the sum of 6 and 4)
 - About this card, the text in FORTUNE says that it has “**six empty** cups” so 6 is removed
 - This card can therefore take two values: 4 or 10
- Here is our new triangle with card values



- In order to follow the path around the triangle only once, card VI, having two values, must be the starting card and the final, fourth card.

- The following table shows the most likely result. It shows the order of cards and the value taken by each card to move the letters in NASH
- The result is DEAL, which is very appropriate since we are talking about DEALing cards.

N	A	S	H
VI	IIII	XVIII	VI
10	4	18	4
D	E	A	L

- But since the D and the L are effectively coming from the same card, we interchange their position
- DEAL becomes LEAD and NASHVILLE becomes LEADVILLE (a city in Colorado, about 9 miles from TENNESSEE PASS)
- The gist of ROAD is to leave the big city for a smaller place with smaller roads. So our HIGHWAY 24 in NASHVILLE becomes US-ROAD 24 in LEADVILLE

CONCLUSION: LEADVILLE

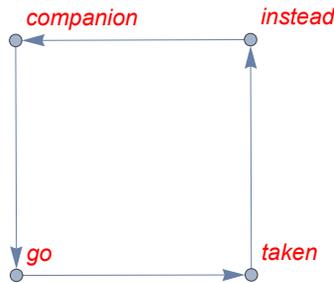
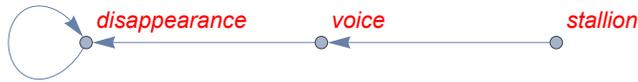
INTERPRETATION TO DATE: ROAD 24 LEADVILLE

KITES

SELECTED SENTENCES (7)

- She was alone now, or as good as alone, for Aunt Margaret was more custodian of the farm than companion.
- Since she had arrived to take care of Amanda and manage the estate, she had spoken only once of Amanda's father, and that was only to stop Amanda from asking questions about his disappearance.
- She would not help search for the missing stallion, and so Amanda sent the kite instead.
- Each year she made new kites to fly high, to escape, to find her missing stallion.
- On the first day of the thirteenth spring, she painted a new kite and made it exactly like the first kite the storm had taken.
- "Go"
- This time, when the kite returned, it rustled and crooned in a magical voice.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- STALLION reads (STALL-ION)
 - to STALL is to stop or slow down
 - IONS are charged atoms or molecules
 - when IONS rearrange and slow down, becoming trapped in a certain configuration (like Amanda in KITES) , they form a CRYSTAL
 - Example of such a crystal is a SALT (which is a rearrangement of letters in STALL)
- (CRYSTAL-VOICE) is a CRYSTAL in VOICE. This is ICE, or perhaps **SNOW** since an ICE-CRYSTAL is a SNOWFLAKE
- (ICE-DISAPPEARS) is ICE MELTING
- (ICE-MELTING) is a page-size image in MOUNTAIN (page 51)
 - my interpretation is ICE MELTING IN THE MOUNTAIN.
 - we also see crystals
- (TAKEN-INSTEAD) is TAKEN IN **STEAD**, which is TEA
- (TEA-COMPANION) is the WAITER in COURTYARD
- (WAITER-GO) means WAIT TO GO
- Wait for what? For the ICE or SNOW MELTING

- This is wise advice. Digging the ground at TENNESSEE PASS in the winter would not be an easy task.
- The gist of chapter KITES is that Amanda is too young to travel. She has to wait, but she can still try to find clues.
- We now have WAIT FOR THE ICE TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO.
- But I believe we are missing something important.
 - The VOICE is a MAGICAL VOICE
 - A MAGICAL VOICE is a SPELL
 - A SPELL is defined as a magical phrase that can cause an effect on someone
- When we encountered the VOICE, we came under the influence of the SPELL
 - **“TO FIND YOUR TREASURE WE MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER’S GRAVE ”.**
 - The spell is included in the interpretation

INTERPRETATION:

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER'S GRAVE.
WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

ROAD 24 LEADVILLE.

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER'S GRAVE.
WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO

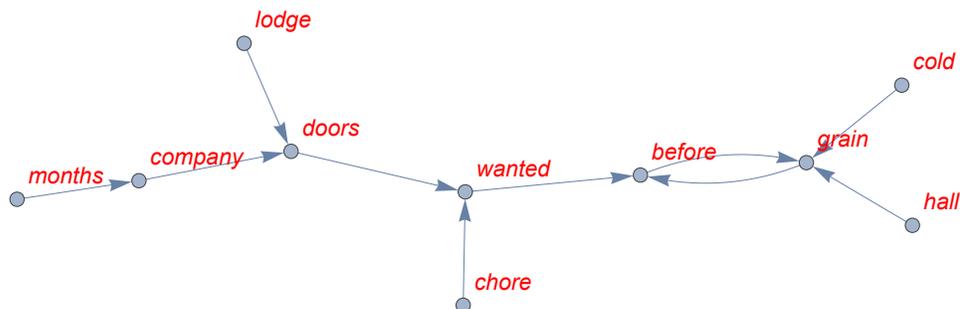
LODGE

SELECTED SENTENCES (10)

- She spent the time in her room, writing in her book or reading before the fire in the great central hall.
- For many days Amanda was like one of the sleeping animals that had been carved into the woodwork of the lodge, curled up against winter’s cold.
- She thought her thoughts and mended her clothes while the days flowed into weeks, and the weeks into months.
- The caretaker was good enough to give her lodging, but he was not much company.
- He liked the solitude of his winter retreat and was always off tending some private chore.
- [Amanda was free to do as she pleased and go where she wanted.](#)
- It was built entirely from roughly hewn wood, with many levels and countless doors.
- Some doors has ancient symbols or Indian signs carefully carved into the grain.

- Once she dreamt she was looking through a crack between a door and its frame and saw a hallway she had never seen before.
- She woke and wandered through the dark lodge.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- (LODGE-DOORS-WANTED) is HANDLES (missing from doors in hall image)
- (HANDLES-CHORE) is the CARETAKER
- (MONTHS-COMPANY-CARETAKER-BEFORE) is the number of months Amanda spent in the company of the CARETAKER BEFORE (i.e. not in LODGE). In this case the CARETAKER is Aunt Margaret in KITES.
 - 12 spring is 12 years, so **144** months
- The back and forth (144-GRAIN) indicates a granularity
 - Each digit must be considered separately: 1-4-4
 - 1-4-4 are the letter values for A-D-D
 - We must ADD the values: $1 + 4 + 4 = 9$
- COLD is read (C-OLD) or (SEE-OLD), referring to an old way to see numbers: Roman numerals.
 - 1-4-4 is **I-IV-IV**
 - Continuing with granularity, we have $I + I + V + I + V = 1 + 1 + 5 + 1 + 5 = 13$
- HALL means ALL
 - ALL is defined as the whole amount, without excluding any part (the opposite of granularity)
 - So we take our previously calculated sum = **9**
- 13 and 9 are letter values for M and I. **MI** the symbol for MILE

INTERPRETATION:

9 miles

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER' S GRAVE .
WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO 9 MILES FROM
LEADVILLE ON ROAD 24.

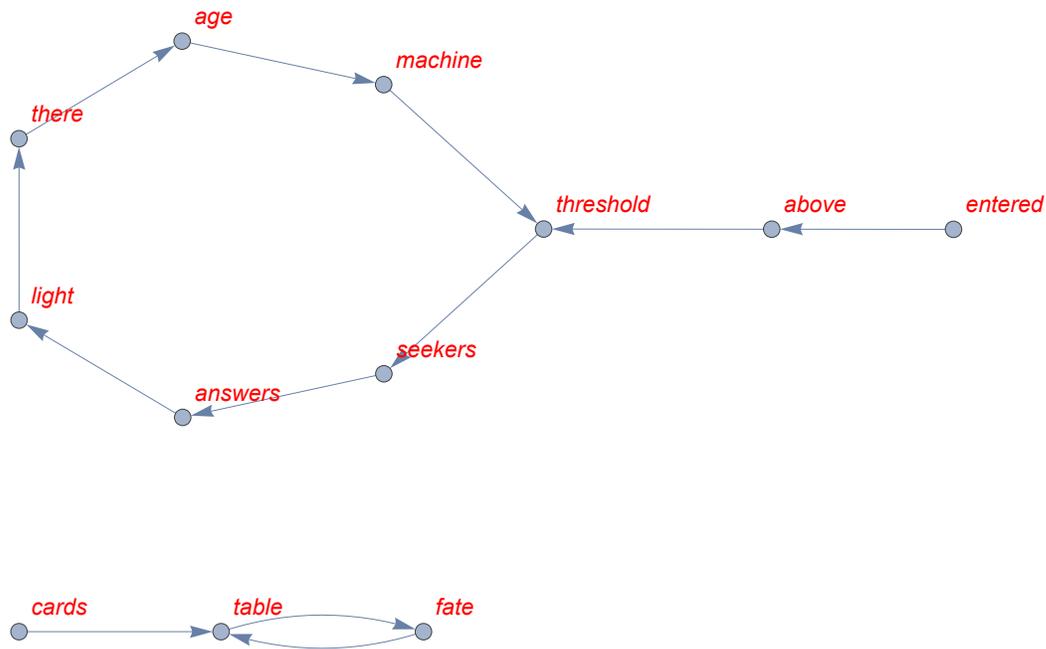
NOTE: About 9 miles from LEADVILLE on road 24 in the direction of the mountain is TENNESSEE PASS, the continental divide. The TENNESSEE PASS MEMORIAL is located there. Two monuments are found at this location. It was reported that the date JUNE 11 1980 appears on the base of the smaller of the two monuments (follow the link to the video part 2 in the Introduction to see it). This is the date found on the grave in CEMETERY, confirming that this monument is the FATHER'S GRAVE. Therefore, what follows assumes that we are now at the precise location of this monument. (NOTE: we will revise that position in REHEARSAL).

FORTUNE (part 1)

SELECTED SENTENCES (13)

- [She had heard there was a house of fortune there.](#)
- She had been told that the house was special, a place where you could ask strange questions and where you might be given answers.
- [She stepped across the threshold.](#)
- Above them a light shone in a window against the coming night, and the front door was open to all seekers.
- At the end of a long hallway were narrow stairs that led to the room with the beckoning light.
- Amanda would come to learn that in each town where people lived there was always a house with an open door and a light in the window above.
- And though there were many such houses in many cities and towns, they all led to the same room, the room she now entered.
- [Near the door she found a green felt table.](#)
- On it lay instruments of luck and fate; a pair of black dice; three small, delicate bones; and three coins of ancient age.
- [One of them was a horse.](#)
- Against the wall stood an ancient fortune-telling machine.
- Inside its glass case sat a gypsy grandmother, made of wax, with lace-sleeved hands poised over curled cards.
- When Amanda approached, the machine whirled to life, and hidden gears guided mechanical hands in search of fate.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

NOTE: The interpretation of FORTUNE is difficult and prone to errors. Even after dividing the chapter FORTUNE into two parts, there are still many words in the map. Counting words in different directions also leads to interpretable maps. This is also the first time we have a sentence ending with HORSE. As discussed before, this sentence is not included in the map. The chosen word map provides surprising information (although not totally unexpected as this had been a theory of mine early on... so it may be cognitive bias!), information which fits the overall interpretation at this point in the process.

- (SEEKERS-ANSWERS) is the actual treasure location
- (LIGHT-THERE-RAGE) means LIGHT THEIR RAGE or LIGHT THE RAGE. This is THE DEVIL
 - As we will see shortly, this has to do with the cards.
- MACHINE has many synonyms, such as instrument, tool, etc.
- THE DEVIL MACHINE is its PITCHFORK
- [FORK-THRESHOLD] are maximum and minimum levels, as indicated by the two prongs of the devil's fork.
 - We are likely talking about a range of depth where the treasure is buried.
- (ENTERED-ABOVE) means INTERRED ABOVE
- FATE stands for FETE, defined as a "large elaborate PARTY"

- The PARTY-TABLE is “covered with MASKS” in PARTY
- There are 3 CARDS COVERED WITH MASKS in FORTUNE (i.e. touched by the black glove). Consistent with tarot, these tell a story.
- Card 1: The SUN - it “drenched the word in light” or, more generally, in RADIATION
- Card 2: The DEVIL - a woman “hid her eyes” to protect against radiation, but RADIATION is deviated around the Earth
 - Again, the FORK represents the radiation forking around the Earth.
 - This protection is afforded by the earth’s MAGNETIC FIELD
 - (INTERRED-ABOVE) the range of depth where the treasure is buried is a MAGNET
- Card 3: The WHEEL OF FORTUNE - a wheel that turn and a man that fell (the card chosen by Amanda)
 - The WHEEL THAT TURNED is a COMPASS. It will tun when the magnet is detected
 - Falling, as in A MAN THAT FELL, is defined as “moving towards the ground”, perhaps a clue to keep the compass close to the ground in order to detect the magnet.
- This image in KITES in revealing. Even the part of the kite touching the magnet appears to represent the process.



INTERPRETATION:

A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND,
IS INTERRED ABOVE THE GOLD HORSE

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER' S GRAVE .
 WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO 9 MILES FROM
 LEADVILLE ON ROAD 24.
 A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND,
 IS INTERRED ABOVE THE GOLD HORSE

REHEARSAL

SELECTED SENTENCES (7)

- Both stretched their legs on a long bar in front of a mirror the length of the room.
- [She could see them.](#)
- [But they couldn't see her.](#)
- At the same time as she watched the dancers, her feet climbed a long and tortuous stairway.
- [The dancers started a duet.](#)
- The room grew huge, with hallways that stretched back for years.
- She found herself stepping even more quickly up and up the stairs.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are various ways to interpret this chapter. First, this is a dream. Second, it is a rehearsal. And there is this complex setup with pairs in a mirror and the Man with Black Gloves. It is also the central chapter, with 5 chapters before and 5 chapters after.

Being in the middle of FORTUNE parts 1 and 2, the dance with mirrors hints to two couples. One couple should be formed with FORTUNE (part 1) and the other with FORTUNE (part 2). Then there are some hints that links REHEARSAL to PARTY (the other dream): [“She found herself peering into a room through a window”](#) reminds us of this sentence in PARTY: [“She tiptoed up the front steps and tried to peek through the window”](#). Is this chapter a REHEARSAL to PARTY?

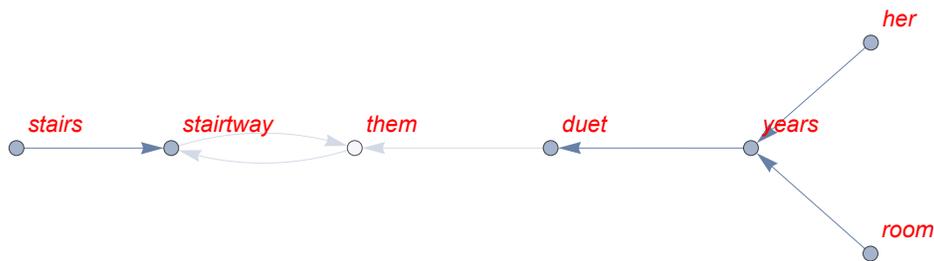
Actually, we can reconcile all of this:

- First, we need to [“zig this way and that”](#). The 7 sentences are not in the correct order. On the clue card in PARTY, there are 7 circles labeled 1 to 7, in order. On the second row, the order becomes: 1-7-6-2-5-3-4. Showing just the last word, the word order becomes: **room-stairs-years-them-duet-her-stairway.**
 - Note that the dance floor is filled with SQUARES looking like LOZENGES in a perspective view. When the columns mask parts of the lozenges, we see TRIANGLES. These are three shapes on the clue card. But Amanda' s hair curled in **wanton ringlets**. RINGLETS means ALLOW RINGS and WANTON states that she WANTS these RINGS, hence the CIRCLES are to be used on the clue card.
- Second, the dancing with FORTUNE (part 1) is not accomplished by splitting the chapter's sentences, but by different interpretations given to two word maps built from the same words. It all hinges on

the first three sentences: sentence 1 tells us that we have a mirror, sentences 2 and 3 tell us that we **see HER and not THEM** (two words that should normally be ignored). Using the mirror, this transforms into **we see THEM and not HER**. By making visible one or the other, we change the interpretation of the word map, and one of these interpretation does “dance” with FORTUNE (part 1) and likely find itself BEFORE the chapter FORTUNE. This fills the apparent gap between “drive 9 miles on Road 24” and suddenly find ourselves at the father’s grave.

WORD MAP 1

This is the word map where HER is seen but not THEM.



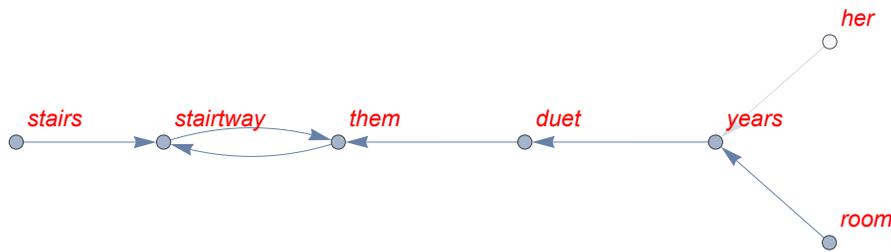
INTERPRETATION

- This map inserts itself between LODGE and FORTUNE (part 1).
- (HER-YEARS) means AGE
- (ROOM-AGE) means RUMMAGE, which is defined as “search in a hurried way”
- (RUMMAGE - DUET) since we have just arrived at TENNESSEE PASS after driving 9 miles, we are told to search the DUET, which are the two monuments. At this point we are looking for the father’s grave.
- (STAIRS-STAIRWAY) refers to the smaller of the two monuments, recognizable by the presence of a base made up of two steps. This is where the date is engraved (June 11 1980).



WORD MAP 2

This is the word map where THEM is seen but not HER.



INTERPRETATION

- (ROOM-YEARS-DUET) refers to the DUET PAGES 13-14 (the same unique page) showing Amanda's room and the monolith representing 2001 year (2001: A Space Odyssey). The Man with Black Gloves himself represents a duet. We need to solve this puzzle.
- This UNION of pages contrasts with the big INTERSECTION symbol represented by the opening in the middle of the room. Given that the mirror can be flipped, I believe that we will be doing a union of the result on the left side (monolith) and the right side (mirror).
- The MONOLITH represents 2001, but 2001 is a composite number, not a prime (or monolithic) number.
- The clouds on the monolith are shaped like an elephant and its trunk. The bird is practically in its mouth, like the elephant is about to eat it.
- The meaning of (TRUNK-ATE) is TRUNCATE.

- We need to TRUNCATE 2001 to make a prime (MONOLITHIC) number.
 - We truncate **001** and we are left with the prime number 2.
- The **001** is what we are interested in, since we see in the mirror the horse being taken away (i.e. the part that is removed)
- The mirror then reverses the **001** to make **100**.
- We then form the UNION of 001 and 100, resulting in 101, which is binary for **5**
- Entering the room, The Man with Black Gloves “made no sound, yet she could feel its every step”.
 - So TMWBG moved carefully and slowly. This is the definition of the verb **INCH**.
 - The image shows that his arm **INCHES** slowly into the room, with his **5** fingers.
- The solution to the image puzzle is **5 inches**
 - this is consistent with our expectation. At this point we should get values for our two levels of depths.
- (THEM-STAIRWAY) refers to the PAMPHLET showing several stairways.
- (STAIRS-PAMPHLET) means STARE at the PAMPHLET. It does not mean to count the stairs.
 - Staring at the PAMPHLET, we see that each PAGE is either shaped like a 0 or a 1.
 - Keeping with binary, the PAGES read 10110, which corresponds to **22** (a duet again)
- PAGE 22 is in CEMETERY, where the lizard’s tail points to 22
 - The lizard is supported (its BASE) by 20 unmistakable fingers
 - This means that the value 22 must be expressed in BASE 20. This is **12**.
- Our two levels of depth are **5 and 12 inches**.

INTERPRETATION 1:

LOOK FOR YEARS ON THE MONUMENT WITH STEPS

INTERPRETATION 2:

5 and 12 inches

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER' S GRAVE .
 WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO 9 MILES FROM
 LEADVILLE ON ROAD 24.

LOOK FOR YEARS ON THE MONUMENT WITH STEPS.

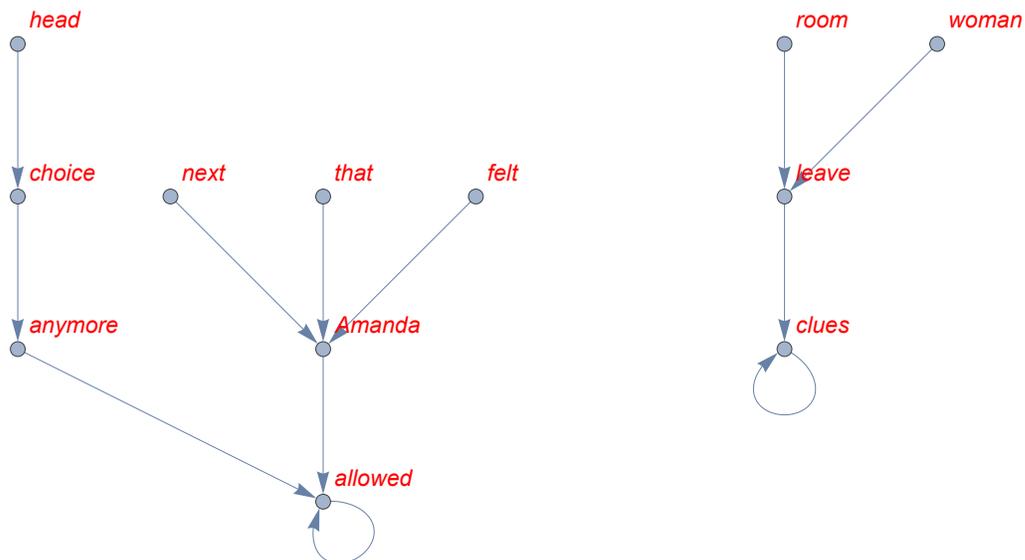
A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND,
 IS INTERRED ABOVE THE GOLD HORSE, WHICH IS BURIED 5 to 12 INCHES DEEP.

FORTUNE (part 2)

SELECTED SENTENCES (12)

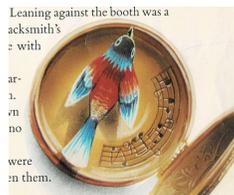
- Amanda turned and was surprised to find a woman with clear eyes and strong hands, sitting at a second table of green felt.
- *And you must collect all the clues.*
- Amanda was already tired from her day's travel, and she certainly didn't feel like traveling anymore.
- *She was sleepy now, and she looked around for a place to rest her head.*
- "Oh, yes", warned the woman.
- Without another word, the woman pulled a pack of cards from a green pouch and dealt seven of them onto the table in front of Amanda.
- The fifth card showed a man serenading a woman beneath the moon, and Amanda felt better about that.
- *Seven cards were all a person was allowed.*
- *She passed her hands from one to the next.*
- The light in the room seemed to change with each possible choice.
- *Amanda felt she should leave.*
- Clutching her card to her breast, she hurried from the room.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- (WOMAN-LEAVE-CLUE) occurs in FISH, where the chef's wife paints giant black letters and Amanda "wondered if it might be a CLUE"
 - The black letters spells THE QUEEN in a very stylised way
- CLUES points to CLUES, so the clue points to another clue. We move to MEMORY, where we find THE QUEEN
 - THE QUEEN is the "figure of a woman" inside a MUSIC BOX
- (ROOM-THE QUEEN) is therefore a MUSIC BOX
 - The MUSIC BOX in MEMORY looks like a compass with a bird pointing the direction
 - MUSIC is represented on a STAFF.
 - The curved staff covers an angle that can be measured (somewhere around 140 degrees)



- This angle could be the direction, but it is a somewhat clumsy way to get it (you need a tool to measure it, find the center, etc.)
- I believe that the above is NOT the MUSIC BOX.
 - The MUSIC BOX is on page 78 in HORSE



- (HEAD-CHOICE-ANYMORE-ALLOWED) confirms that our MUSIC BOX, contrary to the one in MEMORY, does not allow a choice of HEADING.
 - There is no pointer to a particular degree, even if the white ring shows divisions corresponding to degrees.
- (ALLOWED-AMANDA) is A LOUD SPEAKER or LOUDSPEAKER, which is the big circle in the middle of our MUSIC BOX. Amanda speaks more in FORTUNE (part 2) than anywhere else in the book.
- (FELT-LOUDSPEAKER) points to the horse inside the kite (bottom left of the music box). All the spikes on the kite and lines on the horse (looking like a zebra) are the vibration caused by the loudspeaker.

- Note that the image center shows a female (Amanda) and a horse. These are against a MARE on the moon. A MARE is also the name for female horses or zebra. This points to the two small bottom images of animals.
- NEXT to THAT points to the other animal beneath the moon (i.e. not the one feeling the music): the gold horse.
 - We can also look at the sentence ending with the word THAT. The sentence contains “beneath the moon”, matching the bottom half of the image. But the NEXT sentence says “a goddess **looked the other way**”. This brings us to the **gold horse** to the right.
- The presence of degrees division on the circle, and the fact it touches the four directions, clearly delimitates the four QUADRANTS.
- The gold horse is in the SOUTH-EAST QUADRANT (relative to the position of the father’s grave)

INTERPRETATION:

IN THE SOUTH – EAST QUADRANT

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

<p>TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER' S GRAVE . WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO 9 MILES FROM LEADVILLE ON ROAD 24. LOOK FOR YEARS ON THE MONUMENT WITH STEPS. A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND, IS INTERRED ABOVE THE GOLD HORSE, WHICH IS BURIED 5 to 12 INCHES DEEP IN THE SOUTH – EAST QUADRANT</p>
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PARTY

SELECTED SENTENCES (13)

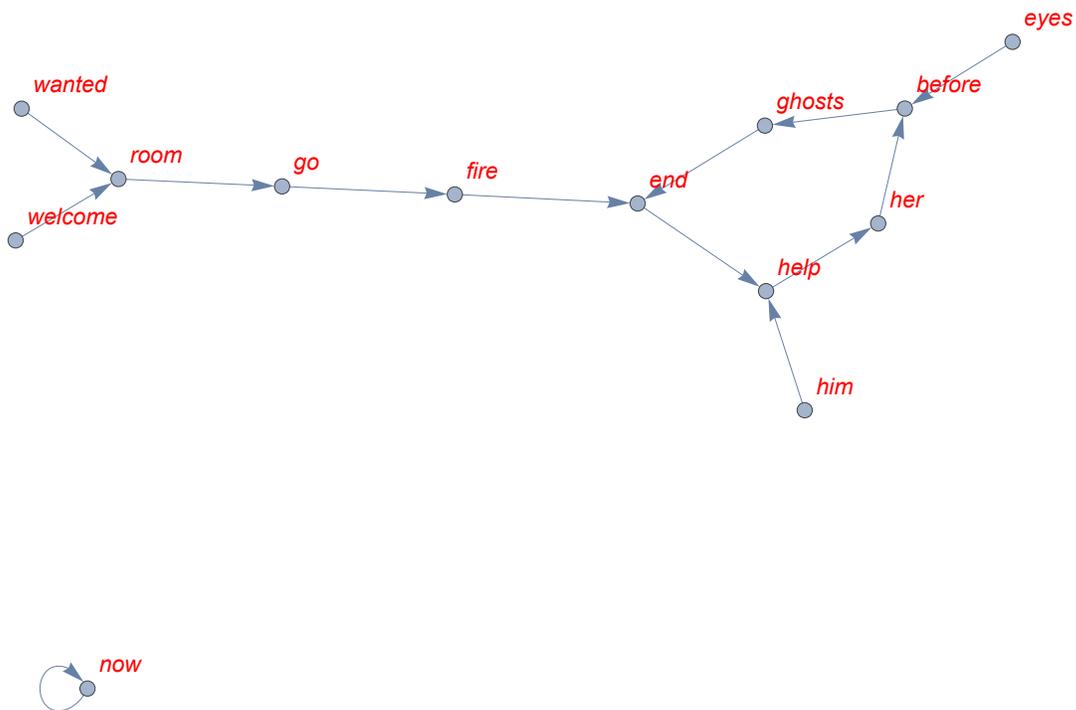
- The house, she knew, had burned to the ground many years before.
- - And the rooms were full of ghosts.
- It was as if they were still alive, for they all wore masks that concealed their blank and staring eyes.
- Caught up in the midst of revelry a century ago, they had ignored the smoke and fire.
- In flames they had been lost, and only on this night could they return to relive their end.
- Even worse, the Man with Black Gloves had been there first and told them bad things about her.

- Naturally, she wasn't welcome.
- The others watched with dangerous smiles, and no one offered help.
- She touched the door, which unlocked at once and revealed a dining room.
- But she was stronger now.
- She would do only what she wanted.
- The rabbit appeared in the hallway, fascinated by the motion of a harem girl who wanted to dance for him.
- He would have followed the dancer away had not Amanda urgently tugged at his shoulder and refused to let him go.

WORD MAP

Note that HER and HIM are visible. There are 3 sentences pointing to that:

- "...refused to let HIM go"
- "... bad things about HER"
- "...THEY returned to relive their end" (in this case THEY stands for HER and HIM)



INTERPRETATION

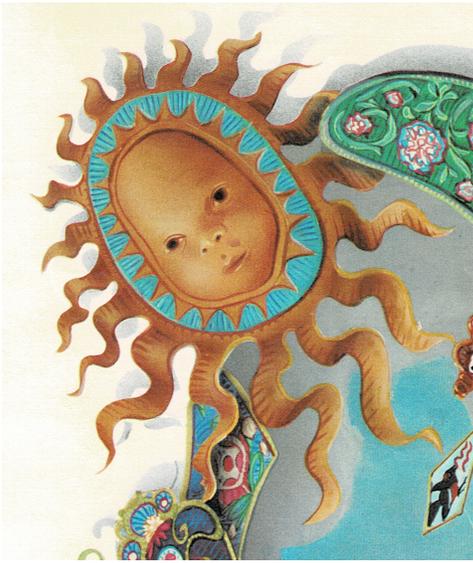
- (HIM-HELP-HER) is the RABBIT
 - This puzzle will be about RAW BITS, or binary

- In the text she **asks** the **rabbit** , pointing to ASCII
 - This means that the binary digits will come from ASCII text
 - The most likely candidate for the ASCII TEXT is NOW, standing by itself in the word map.
- N-O-W in 7-bit ASCII binary gives the following 21 bits (in order) : **1101110 1101111 1110111**
 - Taking the 21 bits as a single binary number, we get the following number (in base 10): **1816567**
- (WANTED-ROOM-WELCOME) refers to LODGE, where Amanda was welcome to a room.
- (LODGE-GO-FIRE-END) directs us in LODGE to the end of the sentence where FIRE is mentioned: “...before the fire IN THE GREAT CENTRAL HALL”
- The GREAT CENTRAL HALL is the central image on pages 53-54 in LODGE
- (EYES-BEFORE-GHOSTS) would refer to the EYES BEFORE THE GHOST EYES. The ghosts eyes are those in the panel just next to the central hall, so we have to count the eyes in the central panel:
 - 2 for the deer
 - 2 for the owl
 - 4 for the “door eyes” (glass openings in a door to see outside)
 - Note the we don’t see any eye on the horse. It is also in Amanda’s dream, a ghost.
 - TOTAL = **8** (or **1000** in binary)
- Here there is the question of “relive the end” and “ghosts”. Is this a ghost number?
 - This is significant if you add this 1000 to the end of the base 10 number: 18165671000
 - This has the format of a phone number: **1 -816- 567-1000**
 - This is alarming. Do we have to call a number to get the exact location? NO, this is a ghost number. **DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER**
 - “**relive their end**” means getting the end of the number (confirming the format of a phone number), and then killing that part.
- What is interesting is the first part of the number: **1 -816- 567**
 - Area code 816 is in MISSOURI
 - The prefix 567 correspond to the very small town of **ROSENDALE**
- The fact that ROSENDALE may mean ROSE and DIAL is again alarming. Does it mean “call for directions”?
 - Actually, it does mean that, but not in the real world.
 - The ROSE and the DIAL are found in chapter KITES



- The ROSE is at one corner of a frame of a rectangular frame of kites, touching dark, bad stuff

- The DIAL is at the other corner of the rectangle : THE SUN



- We clearly see a rotary dial against the blue part (like those found on phones in the 80's)
- The number of spikes around the internal and external part (23 and 18) define a RECTANGLE by providing a ratio:
 - The ratio is the proportion width/height or height/width
- We don't know the following about the rectangle:
 - the orientation of the rectangle, depending if the width is greater than the height or the opposite
 - the unit of measure used
- We know the following:
 - A corner of the rectangle is at the father's grave and it expands in the SOUTH-EAST QUADRANT
 - We know the area of the rectangle because we have the AREA CODE: **816**
 - Knowing the area of the rectangle and the ratio of its side dimensions, we can compute the actual sides:
 - The rectangle is **32.29 x 25.27**
 - Multiplying these values gives 816 (the area)
 - The ratio $32.29 / 25.27 = 23 / 18$

INTERPRETATION:

A RECTANGLE 32.29 X 25.27

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

TO FIND YOUR TREASURE YOU MUST FIRST FIND YOUR FATHER' S GRAVE .
 WAIT FOR THE ICE/SNOW TO MELT IN THE MOUNTAIN TO GO 9 MILES FROM
 LEADVILLE ON ROAD 24.

LOOK FOR YEARS ON THE MONUMENT WITH STEPS.

A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND,
 IS INTERRED ABOVE THE GOLD HORSE, WHICH IS BURIED 5 to 12 INCHES DEEP.

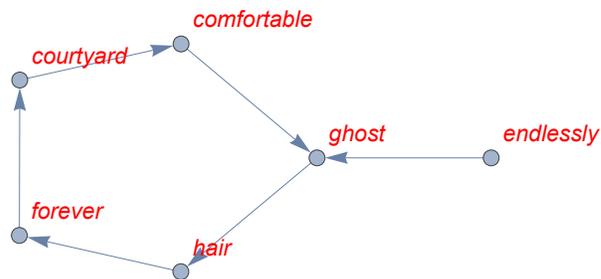
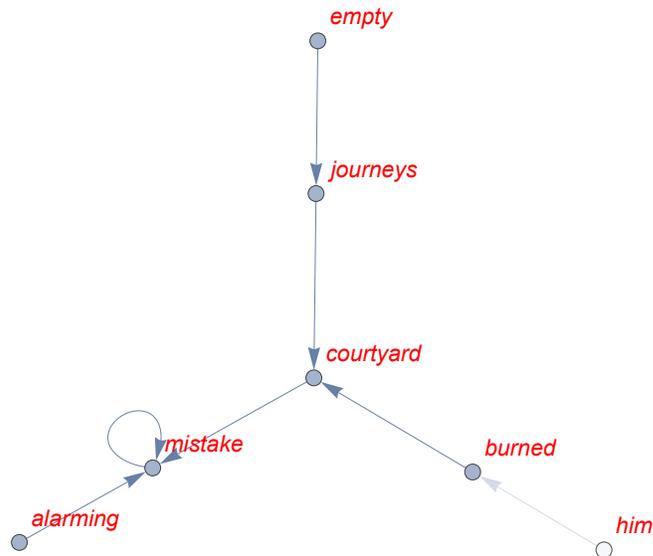
IN THE SOUTH – EAST QUADRANT (from the father' s grave),
 IMAGINE A RECTANGLE 32.29 X 25.27

COURTYARD

SELECTED SENTENCES (13)

- It was the light of a nearby town , a place where travelers rested from their journeys.
- She has slept well into the night and when she arrived, the cobblestone streets were empty.
- On the edge of town, however, in a sweet-smelling grove of cypress, there was an old inn where the lamps still burned.
- Amanda followed the flickering flames to the center of the courtyard.
- A warm wind touched her cheek , and she felt strangely comfortable.
- She tried on the scarf, but the color was alarming.
- “This is much too angry a color for me”, she said, and gave it back to him.
- As he walked away, she thought how much she liked his calm face and white hair.
- Oh, she thought, I have received someone else’s fortune cookie by mistake.
- **No more would she search endlessly.**
- **And she closed her book forever.**
- In the morning, when the black bird flew overhead to find her, the book remained on the table like a ghost.
- **But Amanda had left the courtyard.**

WORD MAP



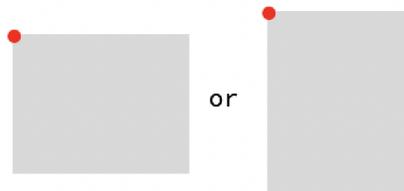
INTERPRETATION

- (EMPTY-JOURNEYS-COURTYARD) means to remove the letters in the word JOURNEY from the word COURTYARD
 - We remove OURY from courtyard and we are left with **CARD**
- (CARD-MISTAKE) is the eighth card retrieved by the woman and put back into the deck
 - This card is BURNED (i.e. discarded)
 - The card (a man on a horse) is a KNIGHT of PENTACLE
- (ALARMING-KNIGHT) means ALARM-ING in the word KNIGHT
 - Removing ING from KNIGHT leaves us with **KHT**
 - KHT has a letter value of 39, which can be reduced to letter **M**

- A PENTACLE is a SYMBOL
- (SYMBOL-M) is **METER**
- HAIR means AIR, a simple melody.
- (AIR-FOREVER) is REPEATING in a MELODY, or BEAT
 - “travelers rested from their journeys” , likely because they are **BEAT**.
- (COURTYARD-COMFORTABLE) is the **WIND**
- GHOST is the **BOOK** (from the sentence “...the book remained on the table like a ghost”)
- (BOOK-ENDLESSLY) is (BOOK-END-LASTLY) is the verse at the END of the book:

Take all the clues hidden herein
 Combine them and take their full measure
 It’s time for your search to begin
 It may lead you to Treasure

- The verse indeed provides the “full measure”, that is an arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables (WIND-BEAT)
- This arrangement is a **METER**.
- Both maps result in METER, perhaps to indicate that it applies twice: to the height and to the width of our rectangle.
- Knowing the unit of measure reduces the numbers of possible rectangles to only 2
 - We still need to determine which dimension applies to width and which applies to height.
 - The red dot below would be the father’s grave. The sides are aligned EAST and SOUTH from the grave (90 and 180 degrees on the compass)



NOTE: The KNIGHT OF PENTACLE in French is the CAVALIER DE DENIER. This is the almost illegible text on the card. This is interesting for two reasons: the DENIER is a **unit of measure** (for fabric mass density); and DENIER happens to be a “coin of ancient age” used in France. Interpreting the word map with DENIER meaning someone denying something leads to surprising results.

INTERPRETATION: METER

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

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LOOK FOR YEARS ON THE MONUMENT WITH STEPS.

A MAGNET, DETECTABLE WITH A COMPASS HELD CLOSE TO THE GROUND,
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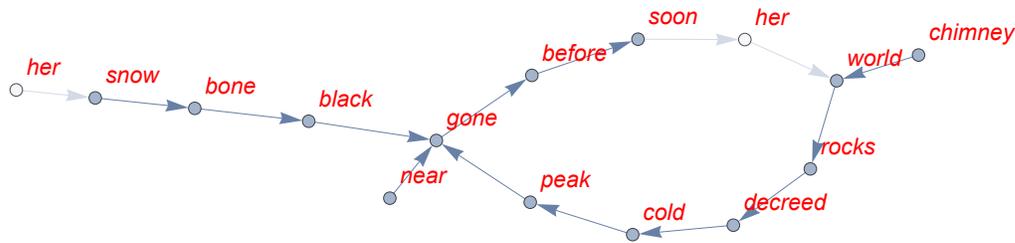
IN THE SOUTH – EAST QUADRANT (from the father' s grave),
IMAGINE A RECTANGLE 32.29 meters X 25.27 meters

MOUNTAIN

SELECTED SENTENCES (15)

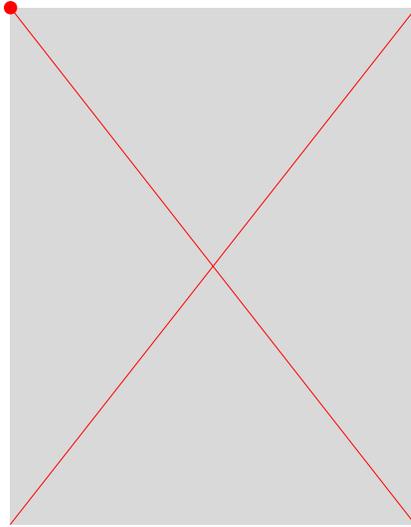
- Entering the mountain domain, she discovered a different world.
- *Of a sky that was always near.*
- And it was more dangerous, too, for this was a kingdom ruled by the cold.
- Nothing might move on this high mountain, the cold had decreed.
- The cold sliced easily through her cape and soon numbed her skin, her flesh, her bone.
- *He was close, nearer than ever before.*
- His magnificent form was outlined against the white mountain peak.
- He was calm, as if watching her, even waiting for her.
- With her first rushing steps toward him, she stumbled and fell through the crust and into the deep, powdery snow.
- *When she struggled to her feet, he was gone.*
- Now the wind sang a dangerous song, and the sky turned from gray to an ominous black.
- She knew she must reach shelter and a degree of safety soon.
- Wading through the deep snow, she saw a dark shape at the timberline, sheltered by a bowl of rocks.
- Light twinkled in windows there, and smoke rose from a chimney.
- She could only bang the frozen iron knocker and hope that someone would hear her.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- (WORLD-ROCKS) is a MOUNTAIN
- (CHIMNEY-MOUNTAIN) is a VOLCANO
- (VOLCANO-DECREED-COLD) is EXTINCT
- (PEAK-EXTINCT) is **X**
 - Here, PEAK means to take the letter with the highest letter value in EXTINCT
- SNOW BONE BLACK means to BLACK (i.e. remove) the letters in BONE from the word SNOW.
 - We remove NO and we are left with **SW**
- GONE is (GO-NE)
- (SW-GO-NE) corresponds to one diagonal of the X (SOUTH-WEST to NORTH-EAST corner) that we need to draw inside our rectangle
- (BEFORE-SOON) is the text appearing before the word SOON: **DEGREE OF SAFETY**
 - The letter value of DEGREE OF SAFETY is **141**
 - We have **141 degrees**
- (NEAR-141 DEGREES) is the direction of the other diagonal (the one starting at the father's grave)
- Only one of our two possible rectangle has a diagonal from the father's grave pointing at near 141 degrees
 - Note that irrespective of size, any rectangle with side ratio 18/23 (width/height) has a diagonal at this angle

**INTERPRETATION:**

DRAW AN X INSIDE THE RECTANGLE, WITH THE DIAGONAL FROM THE FATHER' S GRAVE POINTING AT NEAR 141 DEGREES

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

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IMAGINE A RECTANGLE 32.29 meters X 25.27 meters.

DRAW AN X INSIDE THE RECTANGLE, WITH THE DIAGONAL FROM THE FATHER' S GRAVE
POINTING AT NEAR 141 DEGREES

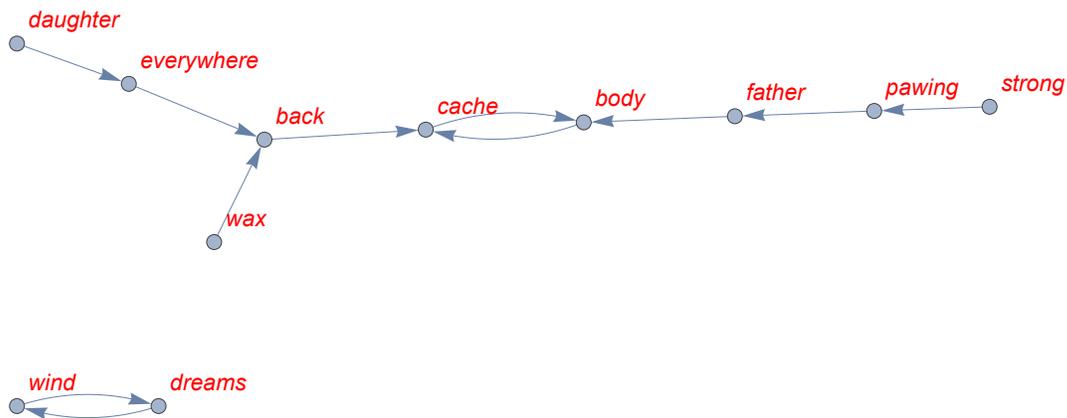
CREATION

SELECTED SENTENCES (15)

- He too was pure and strong.

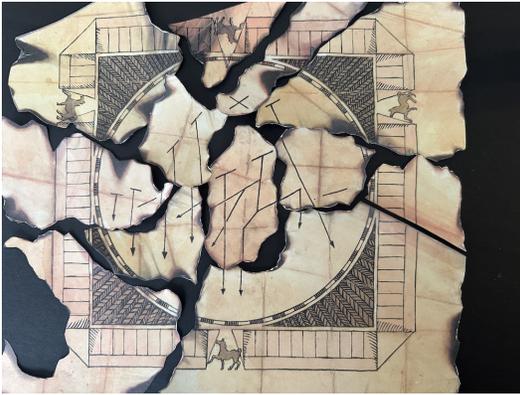
- When the blacksmith saw the mighty stallion, he knew at once it was meant as a gift for his young daughter.
- Amanda was only six, but already she was filled with light and grace and a fierce pride and love for her father.
- **Every morning he would capture and bridle Treasure.**
- Then, while the stallion waited in the meadow, his nostrils blowing steam, the blacksmith would lift his daughter high onto the horse's back.
- She dreamt of being a princess and a huntress, of riding like the wind.
- **She and Treasure ... together they would go everywhere.**
- **When the blacksmith saw the yearning in his little girl's eyes, he decided to give her another horse.**
- It would be a figure with flying mane and tail, neck arching, hoofs pawing.
- That day the blacksmith began to sculpt a familiar shape from warm wax.
- Many years had passed since he had placed the glittering ores there, but now he removed the purest nuggets from the secret cache.
- He heated the gold, until it was liquid and could take the shape of dreams.
- His fingers found a tiny prancing leg, then a smoothly muscled body.
- **There in perfect miniature and cast of gleaming gold was her Treasure.**
- **The blacksmith imagined the moment where she would first set eyes on the golden horse**

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- Note first that we have two pairs in red (TREASURE-TREASURE and HORSE-HORSE) mirroring the map
 - On the treasure map (in the book), intersection of horses pairs gives the X
 - But these sentences (in red) are not included in the word map.



- (STRONG PAWING) is DIG
- (WAX-BACK) is X
- (DAUGHTER-EVERYWHERE-X) refers to genetics
 - A daughter (i.e. a female) has only X chromosomes
- (FATHERS-BODY-CACHE) means the male chromosome Y is not visible
- This results in (**DIG-X**), which does not require an explanation
- (WIND-DREAMS) is (WIN-DREAMS) also does not require an explanation

INTERPRETATION: DIG X AND FIND TREASURE

INTERPRETATION TO DATE:

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POINTING AT NEAR 141 DEGREES .

DIG X and FIND TREASURE

Here is an approximation of the rectangle on Google Earth. The top left corner is the father's grave.



The center of the rectangle (as determined by an X formed by diagonals) is found at:

106° 18' 37.9" longitude

39° 21' 41.9" latitude

Using the precise dimensions of the rectangle (32.29 meters X 25.27 meters) we can compute the center distance and angle from the father's grave:

20.5 meters in the direction 141.5 degrees on the compass

HIM-HER-THEM

As Steve Jobs would say: **“One more thing”**

Reading the latitude and longitude is easy with the tools available today, but not in the 80’s. It turns out that this information is given to us in a clever manner involving the pronouns HIM-HER-THEM appearing as last words of sentences.

- A clue to this is the title of chapter 9: **MR. MAPS**
 - HIM sounds like M
 - HER sounds like R
 - THEM is a combination of HIM and HER
 - So MR followed by a period means that if any of the words HIM or HER is the last word of a sentence, the “MAPS” occurs after the period. In other words, **the next sentence** is the one being used to build a word map. These pronouns, like all pronouns, are used in place of something else.
 - THEM selects **the next two sentences**.

We will build a word map made up of the last words of these newly selected sentences.

“NEXT” SENTENCES

Below are the newly selected sentences, colored purple, with the last word in bold. Note the case of THEM in RIVER, which requires a special attention. The next two sentences after the sentence ending with THEM are:

“She wanted to ask the captain their location”.

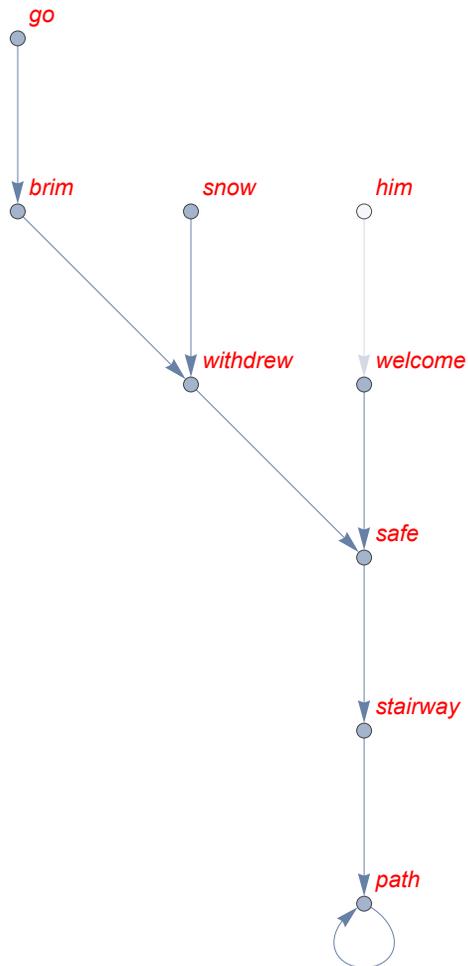
“The rule of the boat forbade it, but she stepped over the chain anyway, and climb the stairs to find him.”

We are forbidden by the rules to take the first sentence, instructed to step over, where we find HIM. So we select the sentence ending with HIM. Since we must select two sentences, we also select the following sentence: *“The captain sat in his chair in the steering house, gold braid adorning his shoulders and cap brim”* .

- He could be near any of them . ⇒ *The rules of the boat forbade it, but she stepped over the chain anyway, and climb the stairs to find **him**. The captain sat in his chair in the steering house, gold braid adorning his shoulders and cap **brim**.*
- She noticed that she had begun to write more and more about The Journey, and where it might lead her ⇒ *She was beginning to understand that it was up to her to find a **path**.*

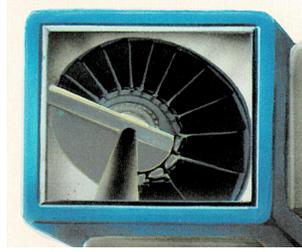
- But they couldn't see her. ⇒ At the same time as she watched the dancers, her feet climbed a long and tortuous **stairway**.
- Even worse, the Man with Black Gloves had been there first and told them bad things about her. ⇒ Naturally, she wasn't **welcome**.
- The rabbit appeared in the hallway, fascinated by the motion of a harem girl who wanted to dance for him. ⇒ He would have followed the dancer away had not Amanda urgently tugged at his shoulder and refused to let him **go**.
- "This is much too angry a color for me", she said, and gave it back to him. ⇒ The old waiter took the scarf, bowed again, and **withdrew**.
- He was calm, as if watching her, even waiting for her. ⇒ With her first rushing steps toward him, she stumbled and fell through the crust and into the deep, powdery **snow**.
- She could only bang the frozen iron knocker and hope that someone would hear her. ⇒ Snowy winds blew high on the mountain slope, but she was warm and **safe**.

WORD MAP



INTERPRETATION

- (SNOW-WITHDREW) is MELT
- (BRIM-MELT) means the edges of MELT. This is MT
- MT is EMPTY
- (EMPTY-SAFE) is STEAL
- STEAL is STEEL
- (WELCOME-STEEL-STAIRWAY) is a STEEL STAIRWAY in a WELL (a STAIRWELL)
- We must GO to the STEEL STAIRWAY and follow its PATH.
- This stairway is in THE SIGNAL



- This provides us with two clues:
 - The FIBONACCI SPIRAL (or GOLDEN SPIRAL), associated FIBONACCI NUMBERS: **1-1-2-3-5-8-13-21**
 - The shape points us to PUNCTUATION MARKS shaped like a spiral. This includes commas/semicolons, apostrophes, and double quotes. Note that each double quotes include two “spirals”.
- We need to count the number of such punctuation marks in chapters determined by the FIBONACCI NUMBERS, taking into account other instructions encountered in the process.
- The following table summarizes the results
- Column 1 lists the FIBONACCI numbers in order. These corresponds to chapter numbers. Numbers in brackets will be explained in relevant NOTES (see Notes column)
- Column 2 lists the chapters corresponding to the FIBONACCI numbers. There are 6 divisions in this column. These correspond to degrees-minutes-seconds repeated twice (once for longitude and once for latitude). These divisions are matched to the 6 divisions of the column RESULT.
- Column 3, 4 and 5 is the count of spiral punctuation marks of different types in the corresponding chapter.
- The column TOTAL is based on the sum of columns 3, 4, 5, in some cases modified according to specific instruction
- The RESULT column gives the degrees-minutes-seconds coordinates.
- The COORDINATES column converts the excess minutes (i.e. above 60) into degrees to get a final coordinate matching our previous result.

FIBO	CHAPTER	COMMAS SEMICOLONS	APOSTROPHES	DOUBLE QUOTES	TOTAL	NOTES	RESULT	COORDINATES
1	CREATION	29+8	7+4	4	52	Note 7	104	104° 138' 38" or 106° 18' 38"
1		29+8	7+4	4	52			
2	TMWBG FORTUNE (part 2)	25-2	4	4	31	Note 1	138	
(5)		32-1-1	8-2-1	72	107	Note 2		
3	KITES	22-2	2	16	38	Note 8	38	
5	FORTUNE (part 1) WILDERNESS	19-1	1	0	19	Note 5	37	37° 141' 42" or 39° 21' 42"
8		18	0	0	18			
13	LODGE MR. MAPS	14	2	8	-24	Note 3	141	
(9)		34	15-3	52-2	96+69	Note 4		
21	HORSE	28+9	5+1	0	43-1	Note 6	42	

NOTE 1: There are actually 25 commas in TMWBG. However, only 23 are counted. This is related to the following sentence:

I'll just close my eyes for a moment, she thought, and drifted off to sleep.

After the eyes are closed, the two commas are not seen.

NOTE 2: TMWBG is complemented with FORTUNE (part 2):

- TMWBG is dual by nature. FORTUNE is also dual (parts 1 and 2)
- TMWBG has to do with binary 0 and 1. The big letter starting TMWBG is 1. The big letter starting FORTUNE is 0.
- FORTUNE and TMWBG are the two chapters where images of the black gloves are prominent.
- The fused pages 13-14 for the image in TMWBG adds to 27, and page 27 is the last page of FORTUNE (part 2)
- FORTUNE (part 2) has 32 commas. It also has 8 apostrophes.
 - The comma in the first sentence *But this his is not what I came for, she thought.* is not to be counted, so we subtract 1.
 - The fifth card (with the king) is problematic: *"...from the dealer's point of view, he was upside down"*. The apostrophe in the word DEALER was added to our count, but it should have been **subtracted**. We therefore need to subtract 2 from our number of apostrophes.
 - Additionally, the sentence *"That's no way to find clues", thought Amanda.* tells us to ignore the apostrophe and the comma. We therefore subtract 1 from their respective counts.

NOTE 3: The end of LODGE (page 55) introduces a new rule:

She had found a different kind of door, and with it this rule:

The way to move forward is sometimes to go back

- If we count 13 backward from chapter 21, we end up on chapter 9 (MR.MAPS)
- Another sentence in LODGE is a clue to combine the results with MR.MAPS:

She mapped the lodge in her dreams as well.

- Earlier in the chapter, we are told that the lodge has “COUNTLESS DOORS”, meaning **COUNT-LESS**.
- In conclusion, the total of our count (24) is a **NEGATIVE** value., certainly a “different kind of door”

NOTE 4: MR.MAPS has 34 commas, 15 apostrophes and 52 spirals coming from double quotes (i.e 26 double quotes)

- The sentence “But lying in the trunk...” indicates that we should not count all the spirals occurring between the opening and closing of the trunk. “He opened the trunk to show her **even** more” indicates that Amanda is only shown the **EVEN** spirals.
- There are 10 spirals in the trunk, so we remove the 5 spirals occurring in odd positions from our count. This is 3 apostrophes and 2 spirals coming from double quotes.
- The total in MR.MAPS is 96, but “She felt so **CONFUSED** that the room started to spin”
- We need to FUSE the 96 with the result of this spinning: “She and MR.MAPS turned into a globe, revolving...”
- The 96 is converted to 69 by the spinning. This can be achieved by flipping the order of the digits or by rotating each digit 180 degrees, thanks to the symmetry between 96 and 69.
- 96 and 69 are then fused together: $96 + 69 = 165$ (which will be added to our negative 24 from LODGE to give 141)

NOTE 5: FIBONACCI numbers 5 and 8 correspond to FORTUNE and WILDERNESS. We already used part 2 of FORTUNE, so we now use part 1. Like in our previous work, we see again that FORTUNE is split, having a chapter inserted between the two parts. The fact that these two chapters should be added together is supported by the following:

- The house in FORTUNE (part 1) is guarded by **stone** lions. Stone, rocks, etc. is the topic of WILDERNESS.
- Interestingly, the image in WILDERNESS page 37, coupled with the initial big letter S, is shaped like a giant KEY. Across on page 38 we are missing a letter to complete the image of a key. The presence of MESA (flat top mountains) appears to emphasize that something is missing.
- A KEY is found “in the belly of the HORSE” (in TMWBG). I believe that this KEY is **OS**.
- The sentence “...ran with a **springing step** and a feeling that was **somewhere between...**” in WILDERNESS is revealing. This quick running means **RUSH**, or RU-SH. Osmium (symbol **OS**) is found **between** Ruthenium (**RU**) and Hassium (**HS**) in the same column of the periodic table of elements. Osmium is a hard, dense metal.

- In conclusion the big letter **O** in FORTUNE is complementary to the **S** in WILDERNESS (OS is also French for BONE)
- There are 18 commas and 2 semicolons in FORTUNE (part 1) . It appears that **semicolons** count for half a comma (a semi comma?). So the count is 19. The comma in the sentence *“But this is not what I came for, she thought”* should not count, so we remove 1 from the count.

NOTE 6: HORSE contains 28 commas and 5 apostrophes

- The key sentence is about the barn: *“The big **double** doors still hung firm on their hinges”*.
- Everything taking place **inside the barn**, that is any spiral found, is **doubled**. This starts with the sentence *“She stepped inside”* and ends with *“...his hoof pawing the air.”*
- 9 commas and 1 apostrophe are found in that doubling portion, So we add these values (note that these were already counted once in the initial count).
- There is a strange paragraph, with seemingly unnecessary details, which is suspicious:

A chain lay on a clay sculpture of a horse.

When she lifted off the chain and picked up the earthen figure she suddenly saw, pinned to the wall, drawings that are filled her dreams.

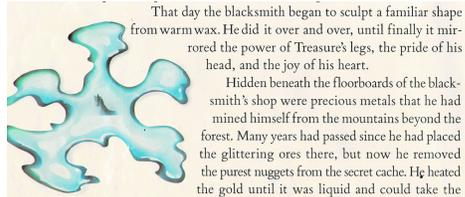
They were swirling ink sketches of a spirited horse, his mane flying, his hoof pawing the air.

- This paragraph describes the image on page 8. The “chain” represents the tiles linking the four corners.
- The clay sculpture is the bottom left corner. This chain (left and bottom) is lifted off (perhaps pointed to by the space image). The central negative image of the horse touches this chain 4 times, indicating **minus 4**.
- The swirling ink sketches is at the top right corner. The chain attached to it (top and right) is picked up (perhaps pointed to by the image of the horse being picked up). The central negative image of the horse touches this chain 3 times. This is **plus 3**.
- The result is that we must **subtract 1** from our total



NOTE 7: Since the FIBONACCI numbers start with 1, 1, punctuation marks in CREATION are counted twice, but the count is obfuscated:

- There are 29 commas and 7 apostrophes in the chapter
- But the section marked by the GEAR is counted two more times: “He did it **over** and **over**” (this section is therefore counted a total of three times)
- This section contains 4 commas and 2 apostrophes, counted twice is 8 and 4 to be added to the result of counting everything once.



That day the blacksmith began to sculpt a familiar shape from warm wax. He did it over and over, until finally it mirrored the power of Treasure's legs, the pride of his head, and the joy of his heart.

Hidden beneath the floorboards of the blacksmith's shop were precious metals that he had mined himself from the mountains beyond the forest. Many years had passed since he had placed the glittering ores there, but now he removed the purest nuggets from the secret cache. He heated the gold until it was liquid and could take the

NOTE 8: There are 22 commas in KITES, but “A squall of clouds and a scissor of wind snapped the thin string...”.

- Strings are actually characters inside double quotes. The two thin strings containing a comma are: “Go,” and “Go. Find my Treasure,”.
- The comma at the end of each string is cut, so we subtract 2 from our comma count.