

Observatory + Pyrotechnics = Skin

[. . .]

What? Observatory

Lost Observatory?

No, no.

[. . .]

There's something else with big orbs. The Tree.

[. . .]

Sending The Characters In

First

Callie goes in. No, Ila goes in. To the Observatory. No, to the maze. No, Roberto goes in to the --

Hold it. Why don't you all go in?

We'd rather split up and report back.

[. . .]

Someone needs to go to the maze. I'll agree with that. Someone needs to go to the clock tower? Nah. Or the maze person can cover that. How about the clips? What clips? I mean fences. We didn't even mention that. Well, someone can go there.

No, no, this is all wrong. Roberto can go to the Observatory. Callie can go to the dice-like thing under the roof. Ila can go to the maze or the capsules. Her choice. No one can go to the bubbles. Got it? [. . .] And then you're all going to rotate as you age. Yeah? Cool, yeah. Okay, cool. Great.

[. . .] Let's do it.

[. . .] Ila first.

Maze or capsules, Ila? Hm... I was thinking capsules, but now I think maze. Maze it is. You'll do fine. No need to tell me that. Oh, you're right. Bon voyage? ...You're not coming, too? Well -- I am, kind of. Yeah, I am.

Tell us what you observe. Wait, how did you get in? I haven't yet. Ah. Big clock. Big wall for clock, rather. Vines. A few ... vines. A few leaves. Growing. Slowly. I can see them growing. I can see the mechanics. Vines... I think they grow, too. It's harder to tell. Beautiful. And inside? A fountain and sort of hatch-window. This is beyond the wall? Yes. Wall still visible from other side. Arch in wall. Stripes in wall and across arch. Don't know how else to describe it. What are stripes made out of? Nectar. Are you sure? Maybe fabric. I'd like to go my own way now. Oh, sure.

Ila?

I'm here. Yeah, there's this weird gloop. Sort of purple-ish. Sort of royal...ish. We do live under royalty. Where is Royalty? I mean royalty? Royalty died. Really?? You didn't know that? King left ages ago. Oh, that royalty. I meant the Queen. What Queen? Nevermind.

No, what Queen? Must've been something else.

Really, though? No... She used to live here. In the clock tower? Yeah. Wow. Yeah.

[laughter.]

Who was that?

Go in and find out. [gulp.]

And that?

Some... cherub? I want to say? Huh. Air is crisper up here. Where are you? Can you update us? Yeah, I'm just inside. Big chamber. You're inside the clock tower, or? Yeah, kind of. I'm not sure what you'd call it. There's a sign . . . "Go up the stairs." Huh. I was expecting it to say the location . . . Oh, here they are. I think. No, those aren't stairs. Ew. What? Just drips. [. . .] Do you want to go up the stairs? I think that's for someone else. I don't know where they are, either. I'm going to go into this ballroom. Huh. Interesting. [. . .] Ooh, I should leave. [. . .] Wow. Ah, where am I? Chandelier...land? Who knew all this was in the clock tower? I sure didn't. I also have no idea where I am. [. . .] Maybe this is the maze! That was easy. I don't think this is the maze. How can you tell, anyway? Is there a sign? There should be. That would be polite. Ooh, lights. They spell out something. They're in the ceiling kind of. They're very soothing, or maybe that's the background. Not that soothing, actually. Just for a moment. [. . .] Huh? I'm pretty sure that's what it said. That's nice. [. . .] How's my reporting. It's good. What? What do you want me to say? It's a pain in the butt to narrate this place. I ... It's hard to tell what it means. [. . .] Dayness itself is a truck. A bread truck? Don't go in. [. . .] Sorry, I'm a little overprotective. It's okay. Who are you, anyway, who I'm talking to? Oh, me? Yeah. Your god, or one of them. [. . .] Who was that? That was just me. Who? You don't ask questions like that ... here?

[. . .]

...Whatever. Hey, wait. [. . .]

[. . .]

Do you want to get out of here? Surely there might be more interesting places than the maze?

There might be...

[. . .] And ropes! Huh. Low ceiling. I could go back. I could climb a rope first. [climbing.]

Is that you climbing?

Who else would it be?

How the hell would I know???

[. . .]

I really hope that's actually you coming back, Ila.

[. . .]

[. . .] Oh wait, there's a trapdoor sort of upside-down. And a planet or something orbiting it that makes it open and close.

[. . .]

Next, the post office. (We need a break.)

It's white. No need to narrate though.

[. . .]

It's from my ... mom.

Isn't your mom ... well, dead?

[reading card.]

Aw.

[putting down card.]

Where are we? Center of town. Café-like place.

Okay, just a café. Center of town.

[. . .]

Hello, Septgustuary.

[. . .]

S. is on the police force, basically. Wears a badge. I'm summarizing...

[. . .]

not quite. Shrinks as comes closer, until miniscule. I don't know how they do that. It's only in the café. In the CENTER of town like we said.

[. . .]