

START: You really were very ambivalent about whether to play midnight soccer or simply to go back to the dorm. Then 10% of you suddenly and inexplicably shifted its allegiance from soccer to returning home, so that's what you did, just in time to witness the explosion. You realize you aren't quite sure how you can be so specific about what fraction of you wanted to do what, and that just confuses you further. You wonder if maybe each of your decisions is the superposition of a set of many independent decisions. *Linearly* independent decisions. Wait, what the fuck are you doing debating the ultimate nature of your decision-making process? Didn't you just see a section of the dorm explode?

*To explore the smoldering ruins of Section V, go to A. To totally ignore the spectacular calamity that just occurred before your eyes, and go to bed like you planned, go to B if you live in Section IV, to C if you live in Section III, to D if you live in Section II, and to E if you live in Section I. If you live in Snell, read your own damn minutes.*

A: You take a deep breath and dash headfirst into the clouds of black smoke billowing out of Section V. The door to the RH apartment is ajar; it looks like they managed to escape. But others may not have been so lucky. Barely able to see, you press on to the third floor, where the smoke is thickest. The smoke is billowing out of one of the rooms on the southern end of the hall. You won't be able to hold your breath much longer. Quick! Make a decision!

*To enter Josh's room, go to F. To enter Ben's room, go to G. This is one of those decisions that you have to make on the basis of limited information.*

B: As you start up the stairs to Section IV, you run into Tom Wood, frenzied and bleary-eyed. "What horrible timing!" he says, shaking his head. "Of all the times the dorm could possibly explode, why does it have to be right after we finally get all the census forms in? You, you have to help me! Go back to Section V and find out who is still alive! The census forms must be accurate!"

*You thought you could avoid going to A, didn't you. You can't. Go to A.*

C: You've almost reached your room in Section III when you meet Cullen on the stairs, frantically scribbling on a clipboard. "This stupid explosion messed up all my Housing Lottery calculations," he says in frustration. "How am I supposed to figure out where everybody's going to live next year when a fifth of the dorm can just cease to exist just like that! You have to help me! Go back to Section V and find out which rooms are still inhabitable!" You start to protest that this makes C functionally identical to B, but Cullen doesn't understand what you're talking about. Sigh.

*Go to A.*

D: SECTION TWO!

*You shout "SECTION TWO!" back and forth with your floormates for three or four hours. By the time you're finished, everything that you could have done in this installment of the Minutes has already happened, so you're going to have to wait until next week. Bummer.*

*This is where your adventure ends, for now. Reply to this email with D in the message body.*

E: As you make your way up towards Section I, you run into Lisa Pawlowicz hurrying from door to door, asking whether anybody has anything interesting to report. “Since it looks like Ben was killed in the explosion, we need a new secretary, and I’ve volunteered myself for the job,” she explains. “But the good news is, I get to ensure that all minutes from here on out must use the word “abscond,” which is one of my favorite words. Hey, I know! Your job can be to abscond with things, so that I can report on said absconding. What do you say?”

*To agree to become the official Hitchcock House Absconder, go to J. To disregard this call to duty by absconding to a different section, choose any of A-D.*

F: You enter Josh’s room. It’s pretty obvious that this was where the explosion happened, judging from the absence of walls, ceiling, and pretty much everything else that you usually find in a room. Josh himself is miraculously in one piece, and appears very confused by the absence of magic cards. “You did this, didn’t you!” you shout at him. “But why? How could you?” Josh shakes his head. “This wasn’t me. Somebody else detonated the large stash of explosives I had sitting around in my room. You have to trust me!”

*If you decide to trust Josh Knox, go to H. If not, go to I.*

G: You enter Ben’s room, relieved that the act of moving to a new paragraph has somehow allowed you to regain your breath. Then you see Ben, lying on the floor of the blackened shell of his room, motionless. It looks like he caught the full force of the explosion. The gravity of the situation suddenly becomes apparent to you. Forget the explosion; what will Hitchcock do without a secretary? Somebody needs to take his place!

*Somebody must still be alive in Section I. Go to E.*

H: You nod slowly. It looks like you and Josh will be working together from here on out, to try to find who *really* caused Section V to explode. Then maybe Josh will murder somebody other than you. That would be nice. All of a sudden Josh catches sight of a small group of people, huddled furtively on the other side of the quad. It looks like the organizers of the Campus Garden Initiative! What are they doing out so late? Looks suspicious. You’d better investigate.

*This is where your adventure ends, for now. Reply to this email with H in the message body.*

I: You protest that the evidence for Josh as the culprit is pretty overwhelming, and he responds by hurling you through the gaping hole where his wall used to be. You fall to your death. You should have trusted him after all. Or something.

*You know the drill. START over.*

J: Congratulations. You're now the quasi-official Hitchcock House Absconder. It'll become official at next week's house meeting, if there is one. After all, there's a gaping hole in the Green Room ceiling. These minutes were supposed to be about the dorm blowing up, weren't they?

*This is where your adventure ends, for now. Reply to this email with J in the message body.*