Trapped at the XYZZYs
A XYZZY Awards ceremony acceptance speech where YOU are the audience!
By Simon Christiansen

1

Simon ascends the stage, and coughs into the microphone. There is a brief feedback whine. "Good evening, everyone. It is a great honor to be here tonight."

If the crowd cheers, turn to 5.

If the crowd boos, turn to 8.

If the crowd is silent, turn to 4.

If you can't figure out how to finish the story, there are hints at the end of the document.

2

"…Innovation! I was surprised when I saw the nomination, as the game is a very old-school Choose-Your-Own-Adventure story. I guess the innovative part is having the balls to enter a PDF into the IF Comp, eh?" The audience laughs.

Suddenly, something unexpected happens!

Turn to 3, to continue.

3

A ravenous gorilla appears! Your face in particular seems to enrage it. It makes a beeline towards you, and tears you apart before anyone has a chance to react.

You have died. Please start over

4

The crowd is like an army of terra-cotta statues. Like the ones they have in that Chinese emperor's tomb, you know the ones I'm talking about, right? Anyway, the point is that everyone is silent and unmoving. Someone drops a pin and it goes "BONG".

Simon coughs, and the sound echoes between the walls. "Well, I suppose your votes speak louder than words ever could! Show, don't tell, as I always say. Trapped in Time has been far more successful than I expected. I never dreamed that it might win the XYZZY for…"

While waiting for him to finish his sentence, you pocket one of the terra-cotta statues.

*If you meet a Chinese emperor, you can give him the statue by adding **4** to the number of the current section.*

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Innovation, turn to **2**.*

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Implementation, turn to **9**.*

*If Simon did not win a prize, turn to **7**.*

5

The crowd goes wild! Waves of applause roll across the stage, and Simon must struggle to keep standing against the transversal avalanche. After what feels like an eternity, the applause finally dies down.

Simon smooths his ruffled hair, and continues: "Thank you everyone! Never in my wildest dreams had I imagined that Trapped in Time would win the XYZZY for…"

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Innovation, turn to **2**.*

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Implementation, turn to **9**.*

*If Simon did not win a prize, turn to **7**.*

6

Just as the gorilla is about to tear you apart, you hand it the banana. The gorilla eats the banana, and shakes your hand in gratitude. Then it lifts you onto its shoulders, and takes you on a ride all around the grand XYZZY auditorium.

Suddenly, a Chinese emperor appears! "I'm the Emperor Quin," he says. "The excavation of my tomb has awoken me, and now I'm angry!"

Without further ado, he draws the Chinese equivalent of Excalibur, and beheads you. Maybe the gorilla tries to avenge you, but that's not really any help.

You have died. Please start over.

7

"…Nothing! Well, that sucks. However, to get nominated at all with a PDF has to count for something, right? Just like Rocky Balboa was the winner at the end of Rocky 1, even though he lost the match, I'm going to count this as a win!" The audience laughs.

Suddenly, something unexpected happens!

*Turn to **3**, to continue.*

8

"Boooo," shouts the crowd. "We still haven't forgiven you for writing 'Grief'! Boooo!". Fruit, bottles and all sorts of random junk flies towards the stage. In the pandemonium, you manage to catch a banana.

Simon is taken aback. A single tear rolls down his cheek. "Well… At least you aren't booing Trapped in Time!". He smiles. "The game has been far more successful than I expected. Never in my wildest dreams had i suspected that it would win the XYZZY for…"

*If you meet a ravenous gorilla, you can give him the banana by adding **3** to the number of the current section.*

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Innovation, turn to **2**.*

*If Simon is accepting the prize for Implementation, turn to **9**.*

*If Simon did not win a prize, turn to **7**.*

9

"…Implementation. For a game that doesn't contain a single line of code to win Implementation has to be a first! If only my games were as flawlessly implemented as my XYZZY speeches, I might be a great IF writer!". The audience laughs.

Suddenly, something unexpected happens!

*Turn to **3**, to continue.*

10

You show the emperor the terra-cotta statue, and his face lights up. "A terra-cotta soldier! With that, I can grow a new army, and conquer the world!" He snatches the soldier from your hand, and leaves the auditorium.

The audience cheers, and you realize that they are cheering for you!

"Thank you, brave audience member," says Simon. "You have saved my XYZZY speech! I'm really happy so many people liked the game, and I hope to produce many good games in the future!"

He steps down from the stage, and is promptly eaten by the gorilla.

You have reached the end of the speech. You may now return to the ceremony

Hints

1. It doesn't say anywhere that your inventory resets when you start over.