

# Detour de Force – Solution

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In this hunt, we’ve seen two *metapuzzles*, which rely on the answers to previous puzzles. *Detour de Force* is an example of a *metametapuzzle*, a puzzle which uses the answers of previous metas; these answers are BY SWIPING RIGHT and LEFT THE DOOR AJAR. The particular formatting of “Nadine’s Deflections” suggests that we should parse these answers as

BY SWIPING: ↗

↖: THE DOOR AJAR,

i.e. that these answers give us information about right and left turns. Specifically, the letters B, G, I, N, P, S, W, Y correspond to right-hand turns, while the letters A, D, E, H, J, O, R, T correspond to left-hand turns. We suppose that any unmentioned letter corresponds to a straight line path, so the meta answers give us enough information to turn any word into a squiggly path.

Our next task is to solve the crossword clues:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Reunion attendee ⇒ ALUMNUS                            | 10. Hives, for example ⇒ RASH                 |
| 2. Crowd-sourced fare ⇒ POTLUCK                          | 11. Large protist found in forests ⇒ KELP     |
| 3. Unable to sit still ⇒ ANTSY                           | 12. Took part in a cross-country race ⇒ SKIED |
| 4. Bottle that sounds offensive? ⇒ VIAL                  | 13. Alternative to Linux ⇒ WINDOWS            |
| 5. Allegations ⇒ CLAIMS                                  | 14. Game with 20 legal opening moves ⇒ CHESS  |
| 6. Pleased ⇒ GLAD  | 15. A piece of cake for dieters? ⇒ CRUMB      |
| 7. Like some Broadway boots? ⇒ KINKY                     | 16. Secure (a victory) ⇒ CLINCH               |
| 8. Animated fish ⇒ DORY                                  | 17. Hardens, like a resin ⇒ CURES             |
| 9. Requirement for some foreign exchange students ⇒ VISA | 18. Pocket for ink or venom, perhaps ⇒ SAC    |

We next enter these words into the given grid. The arrow placed below the grid indicates the start point of our path. The first word, ALUMNUS, is entered by placing an A, turning left (because A is a left-hand letter), placing L, U, M while going straight, placing N and then turning right, and then placing U and S (and turning right). We iterate this process for each of the 18 clued words to fill the grid at right.

Twelve squares in the grid (highlighted at right) are visited more than once. Read from top to bottom, left to right, the letters in these squares give our final answer:

What do Nadine and the guard see when they finally reach the vault?

CANDY CRUSHED

