What a day!

You finally arrived in Glasgow. Years of study and toil, months of waiting and nervous expectation and arduous hours of MyGlasgow application have born their fruit. You got accepted to a PhD in physics. You have a spark in your eye and the world on your sleeve.

Your research begins tomorrow. You walk around campus, listening to the excited chatter of freshers, avoiding leaflets flying in the air and enjoying the late summer breeze. After you wander through the University, bustling with freshers, you eventually wonder over into the rankine building. The name sounds familiar; you check your emails on your phone, and guess what?! Your office is here!

You walk down the staircase, eager to meet your colleagues. There’s a strange electricity in the air, but you pay it no heed. When you reach level 2, you can’t find the office – but then a laughter, like a donkey’s scream, splits the air. Inquisitive, you turn right, walk through a set of doors and reach an office.

Before you enter through the door, you pause. You come to realise that these are the people you will be working with for the 3 or 4 years. First impressions count! Chin high, you walk in.

You go in; this is not what you expected, but what a positive surprise! A merry lot awaits you on the other side; they are loudly discussing going for a drink. You all head to a pub named Coopers for a few beers. Someone suggests you have some shots. Then cigarettes. Then coffee.

…

…

…

You wake up feeling like a fish on the beach; not quite dead but wishing you were.

Your mouth feeling like sandpaper, your head pounding like the drumming of an Australian aboriginal, your liver in a presumable coma, you check your side. Good. Your liver is still intact.

Slowly, you open your eyes. It takes a while for the image to come in focus; when it does, you see a tall ceiling, cold colours and flames. Where are you? In church?

But it’s a goat, rather than Jesus, staring down at you from above the altar…. a pentagram replaces Mary… and the cross is upside down.

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Yash>

Hey there loser!

(what’s his problem?)

Come here let me show a magic trick. See this water bottle? I dropped a coin in it. Look how I fish it out.

(You look into the opened water bottle. Yash squeezes it and water gushes out into your face).

HAHAHA! This trick was invented in India 2500 years ago! And you still fell for it!

>Yes, hilarious. More to the point, where are we?

Good question. If you look around yourself, you may deduce the correct answer. It would appear we are in some Satanist lair.

Anyway, look here , I’ll show you another trick!

>Listen, I am serious! Did you guys kidnap me? What’s going on? I need answers.

You’re boing. Talk to the hand!

You’re back I see. How was hell? Did the mean demons give you a fright?

>It was… hellish. And how did this portal to hell appear?

……

Daniele said we shouldn’t talk about it.

>We need to close the portal!

But Daniele said we shouldn’t.

> Ok, then tell me, why are you guys still here, in this place?

Yesterday after Coopers you were out. And it was raining heavily; so Daniele said we should get you inside. This eerie church had an open door, and light was seeping out.

So we brought you here. While warming up, we noticed the portal, and I went in. Soon, the DEMONS OF HELL arrived. I tried to run, but they cornered and caught me.

So why are you still here?

Well as I ran from them, I dropped my chocolate bar. I am determined to get it back, but I don’t wanna go back to hell.

>….

If you get it back for me, I vow to help you close this portal to hell, even if it means going against Daniele.

----- If Lu

What’s up? How was it down there?

>I… it was something I never wish to repeat. Listen, Yash said Daniele told you guys not to close the portal, but we must do so!

No, we cannot!

>Why?

Yesterday after Coopers you were out. And it was raining heavily; so Daniele said we should get you inside. This eerie church has an open door, and light was seeping out.

So we brought you here. While warming up, we noticed the portal, and I went in. Soon, the DEMONS OF HELL arrived. I tried to run, but they cornered and caught me.

>So why can’t we close the portal?

Well as I ran from them, I dropped my chocolate bar. I am determined to get it back, but I don’t wanna go back to hell.

>….

If you get it back for me, I vow to help you close this portal to hell, even if it means going against Daniele.

Lu:

Ciao!!

……

You’re new here aren’t you? What was your name again

>My name is…

Aaacccheeeww!! Sorry I had to sneeze, anyway, let’s not get too stuck on details. As you may have noticed, we are in a church. Well, some sort of church. Are you smart?

>Well, one might say I possess a level of….

Cool cool, so what are we doing in this church? That’s the real question, isn’t it?

>…

Not so smart, then…

----Hell--------

You’re back I see. How was hell? Did the mean demons give you a fright?

>It was… hellish. And how did this portal to hell appear?

……

Daniele said we shouldn’t talk about it.

>We need to close the portal!

But Daniele said we shouldn’t.

> Ok, then tell me, why are you guys still here, in this place?

The truth is, on the day when you arrived, after going to the pub, we found this place. And I also touched the portal, and went to hell. My dog, Ciwi was with me.

……

>And what happened?

Well, the demons caught me, and expelled my soul back to Earth. They sensed I didn’t belong there. But as the demons approached, Ciwi ran away. Now he’s lost somewhere in Hell.

>So you’re waiting for him to come back? What if dogs don’t normally go to hell, and the demons don’t chase him?

I don’t know… listen, if you go back to hell and find my Ciwi, I promise to help you close this portal, even if it means going against Daniele.

--- If yash

What’s up? How was it down there?

>I… it was something I never wish to repeat. Listen, Yash said Daniele told you guys not to close the portal, but we must do so!

No, we cannot!

>Why?

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Daniele:

Good Morning! How are we feeling today?

>Good morning Daniele, feeling like a morning breath. What’s going on?

Ah, I’m all right, thank you very much. Been busy submitting papers and such. As the proverb goes: the world spins round its axis; one man works, another relaxes.

(bruh what?)

>Uhh yes…, that’s not what I meant… I mean, why are we in a church? And an apparently Satanist one at that?

Well, you know how it goes, life can be a bit unpredictable at times. Now excuse me, I need to write a few emails.

>But how did I get here?

All in due time, you’re in no rush at this stage. Soon you will understand. Until then, feel free to talk to Yash and Lu! Don’t go doing anything I wouldn’t do, haha.

Well well well, who do we have here? You’re back from the hellscape, yes? Good good.

I see you’ve spoken to my underlings. What about?

>Daniele, we need to close this portal to hell! If we don’t, unsuspecting people might wander in. Or worse, demons might wander out!

The portal stays open and that’s final.

>That’s not good enough. I vow to close it!

Hahaha good luck with that! You need 3 people to close hellish portals, and there’s no way Lu or Yash will help you. They both have something dear to them in the hell realm.

And even if they didn’t, you all swore loyalty to me. You shall obey!

>We’ll see about that!