

Coming Home

An Interactive Fiction

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Porch

It's your last delivery for the night. You park your bike, and make your way to the entrance. You ring the doorbell, but no one answers. The door is slightly opened. You try to peek through the crack, but your head starts to hurt... And suddenly, everything turns black. You wake up disoriented. The pizza you were carrying is gone. Your bike is gone. And the front door is now fully open.

You can see Main door here.

>n

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>n

Living Room

There's a corpse in the middle of the room. You start to feel cold and nauseous. You also see a child by the corner. He seems alive. Your instinct tells you to get out, but how? Part of you also wants to call the police, help the kid and figure out what happened at this house. What will you do?

You can see a Solid metal door, Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here.

>x body

It looks like an old guy. I don't see any wounds or blood to indicate a murder or fight. Maybe he died naturally? He sure is

old enough for that. He seems oddly sad for someone who is no longer living.

>touch body

I better not touch it. Don't wanna tamper with evidence.

>get body

I don't want to carry a dead body with me, what would Jesus think?

>x painting

Picture of a scary old woman with a poodle by her side. You would not appreciate crossing paths with this lady.

>x shelves

On Shelves is trophies.

>x trophies

The shelves have some trophies from science fairs and contests... But they only go up to High School level. You wonder what happened after that.

>get trophies

You should not steal some old awards. You remember you have your own at home... Somewhere.

>x child

It looks like a pretty regular kid, you think it's a bit creepy he's not more affected by the dead body. Apparently he is a space fan, his shirt is quite IN YOUR FACE about it. He reminds you a little bit of yourself when you were young... You remember you have also owned a "I <3 space" shirt. But nowadays you are more subtle about my feelings for the outer world.

>ask child about him

Child: "I'm lost. I just woke up here. What's going on?"

>ask child about body

Child: "He looks familiar, but I don't know him. I just woke up in this house alone. Will someone hurt us?"

You: "Everything will be ok, I'm going to get us out of here"

>x bookshelf

There's a lot of books, they are incredibly dusty. You think it's safe to say the guy didn't have allergies. You notice quite a bunch of the books are about physics, maybe he worked with that! You notice something shining under the bookshelf, it looks like there's something underneath it, but the crack is too small for adult hands

>n

Dining room

You can see a Large Wooden Door here.

>w

(first opening the Large Wooden Door)

It seems to be locked.

>s

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>get bookshelf

That is way too heavy for that.

>ask child to look under bookshelf

Child: "Looks like it's a key. Fancy! Hey, there are a bunch of cool books on this shelf. I have some of them back in my house too! I would've liked grandpa..." You: "Oh, the child found a key. It must open something here. I'll keep it"

>i

You are carrying:

Silver key

>n

Dining room

You can see a Large Wooden Door here.

>unlock door with key

You unlock the Large Wooden Door.

>e

You can't go that way.

>w

(first opening the Large Wooden Door)

Kitchen

A regular kitchen. More menacing than usual.

There is one strong metal door heading south and a large wooden door to the east.

You can see a Parrot, Fridge, Lower Cupboard , Kitchen table and Upper Cupboard (closed) here

>x parrot

It's a very common parrot. Green, cute, and a blabbermouth. You remember you had an aunt who had one just like this. Perhaps with a bit more affinity for swearing

>ask parrot about corpse

Parrot: "Lonely, Lonely. You are so lonely"

That's rude

>x fridge

In Fridge are pistachio ice cream and eggs.

>open fridge

The fridge is quite empty. There is only a pack of eggs and a pistachio ice cream in the freezer. You love pistachio ice cream.

>get fridge

That's... just, no. You are not taking the fridge

>open lower cupboard

You see a LOT of candy, and think his dentist must hate him...
Must have hated him...

>open upper cupboard

It seems to be locked.

>x table

On Kitchen table are garage key, pizza and mail.

>x pizza

It's the pizza you came here to deliver. Pepperoni's from Joe's...
You think that's the best pizza.

>x mail

Seems like some bills and a lot of ads. You wonder why wouldn't
he unsubscribe from all this mail?

>get mail

That is a federal crime.

>get pizza

That would come out of your paycheck

>get garage key

Taken.

>l

Kitchen

A regular kitchen. More menacing than usual.

There is one strong metal door heading south and a large wooden
door to the east.

You can see a Parrot, Fridge, Lower Cupboard , Kitchen table and
Upper Cupboard (closed) here

>unlock heavy metal door with garage key

You can't see any such thing.

>unlock door with garage key

Which do you mean, the Large Wooden Door or the Strong Metal
Door?

>unlock the strong metal door with garage key

You unlock the Strong Metal Door.

>s

(first opening the Strong Metal Door)

Garage

This garage feels a little... dirty. No one has been here for a while for sure.

There are two heavy metal doors (Strong Metal Door and Solid Metal Door) here, one to the east and other to the north.

You can see Motorcycle and Toolbox here

>x motorcycle

This old rusty motorbike... It's a delivery one.

You: "Maybe he was a pizza guy too... back in the 1800's HA. I've been thinking of quitting. Every other day there's a "situation" with the other pizza place. These mafias... Maybe I could use to escape this place"

On Motorcycle is sticker.

>x sticker

You: "I guess if I quit, I'll never see Joe's son, Ethan, again. I've had... strong feelings for him for a while now . Well, it's better this way. He would never EVER like me back. Besides, being into guys is kinda weird."

>get sticker

You'll end up ripping it apart.

>get toolbox

It's best if you just take the necessary tools.

>x toolbox

Your usual toolbox.

In Toolbox are crowbar and screwdriver.

>get crowbar

Taken.

>get screwdriver

Taken.

>unlock heavy metal door with garage key

You can't see any such thing.

>unlock door with garage key

Which do you mean, the Strong Metal Door or the Solid metal door?

>unlock Solid metal door with garage key

You unlock the Solid metal door.

>e

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>i

You are carrying:

screwdriver

crowbar

garage key

Silver key

>w

(first opening the Solid metal door)

Garage

This garage feels a little... dirty. No one has been here for a while for sure.

There are two heavy metal doors (Strong Metal Door and Solid Metal Door) here, one to the east and other to the north.

You can see Motorcycle and Toolbox here

>n

Kitchen

A regular kitchen. More menacing than usual.

There is one strong metal door heading south and a large wooden door to the east.

You can see a Parrot, Fridge, Lower Cupboard , Kitchen table and Upper Cupboard (closed) here

>unlock upper cupboard with crowbar

You would potentially destroy his entire cabinet, better use a smaller tool

>unlock upper cupboard with screwdriver

You unlock Upper Cupboard.

>open upper cupboard

You see parrot's food... Highly nutritious. Lucky bastard. And coconut cake mix... You remember you and your mom used to bake this all the time back in the day, until you didn't anymore...

>get parrot's food

Taken.

>give parrot's food to parrot

Stupid boy, no food. Upstairs!

>ask parrot about phone

Trrrrrrrrrr, upstairs, trrrrrrr

>e

Dining room

You can see a Large Wooden Door here.

>s

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>ask child about parrot

Child: "I like the parrot, he seems sad about the grandpa. Maybe we should give him a pet to cheer him up"

>ask child about box

What box?

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>u

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>d

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>u

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>x brown door

You see nothing special about the Brown Weak Door.

>open brown door

It seems to be locked.

>unlock classical door with crowbar

This door is too strong for this method.

>unlock weak brown door with crowbar

You unlock the Brown Weak Door.

>s

(first opening the Brown Weak Door)

Bathroom

This place gives you the chills... not really a fan of bathrooms

The upper hall is to the north

You can see Mirror and Bathroom Cupboard here.

>x mirror

You see your reflection and think you've really aged... And you look really sad. You didn't even know the guy, are you sad for him? Are you sad for his life?... You just really want to get out of here.

>x cupboard

A regular bathroom cabinet. Nothing special about its exterior.

In Bathroom Cupboard are hair pins, q-tip, tweezers, meds and alcohol.

>get hair pins

Taken.

>get q-tip

Taken.

>get meds

There's no use for that.

>get alcohol

You use the alcohol to clean your hands. Very sanitary.

>get tweezers

Taken.

>n

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>unlock old blue door with hair pins

I didn't understand that sentence.

>unlock classical door with hair pins

You unlock the Classical Door.

>n

(first opening the Classical Door)

Large Bedroom

The old guy's bedroom. It is really cold and dark.

The classical door is to the south and there is a passage to the west, it seems to be a closet

Personal box, Clothes rack , Bedside table, Photo shelves and Wardrobe here.

>x personal box

It's a box with a space decoration and filled with drawings, papers and toys about... space, apparently. You think that's pretty sweet, actually. You wonder if it belongs to a grandson (though he seems to not have any family). You always liked the idea of studying the unknown. "I will study it someday actually... I think. When things are more stable, f-for sure I will... I just need more time... Err... the kid! The kid likes space. I could tell him about this box, it may distract him from the gloominess"

>x clothes rack

Looks like a work uniform. You wonder if he was still working at this age. It does not look like he worked with physics or space judging by this outfit. "Guess the old man had some failed dreams... Man, am I going the sam- I should keep searching."

In Clothes rack is uniform.

>get uniform

Nothing to do with this uniform

>x bedside table

That is some strong booze to have sitting on the bedside table... I wonder if he... Maybe if I had gotten here sooner... No, I better not think that

On Bedside table is whiskey bottle.

>get whiskey bottle

You already spend too many nights with this scotch, maybe not this one

>x photo shelves

A bunch of photos of him... alone, mostly. Some work events... One is a plaque of employee of the month, hey, congrats. You don't see his family anywhere. "Looks like we were both the rotten apple in the family tree... Cheers."

>x wardrobe

Just some clothes and shoes, all very drab. That's a proper sized closet for hiding. "When I was a kid, my sister and I would spend hours inside mom's closet playing with our star lantern. She used to say that was our own Milky Way... S-she must be okay, right? Yeah, she's probably okay..."

In Wardrobe is shirts.

>get shirts

You already have drab clothes of your own

>get box

Taken.

>s

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>d

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>n

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>ask child about box

Child: "WOW this box is amazing. I always loved the space. My room has all these stars in the ceiling, and my mom tells me I am going to be an astronaut someday! I hope she is right. I wanna make her proud. Hey, I just thought: maybe the box has a secret compartment! That's how I hide stuff from my sister in my room. I love her, but she is really nosy. Try looking underneath with a small tool, mine open like this!"

That is one spirited kid... So many hopes and dreams. I miss this feeling. Hope.

>open secret compartment

It seems to be locked.

>unlock secret compartment with tweezers

You unlock secret compartment.

>open secret compartment

You open secret compartment, revealing Black key, Moto key and Letter.

>read letter

"Dear brother,

I know we haven't spoken for some time. But as you well know, mom passed away, and... I am hurt. And I know you are too... You are not alone, ok?

Hm, you weren't there when they read the will, but mom left you grandma's house. It's quite big, as you might remember. And it comes with the parrot. He could always cheer you up when we were kids! She told me he recently got a liking to q-tips, go figure. You should come here so we can settle everything. She stored a bunch of boxes with our childhood stuff. She even saved that multitude of star lanterns we used to make! I bet you would like to have some of that stuff.

Anyway... little bro, we should stay together. I really need you here at this moment. Please come visit someday. The door is always open. We have always loved you.

Love, your big sis."

>get moto key

Taken.

>get black key

Taken.

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be in the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>d

You can't go that way.

>n

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here
>w

Garage

This garage feels a little... dirty. No one has been here for a while for sure.

There are two heavy metal doors (Strong Metal Door and Solid Metal Door) here, one to the east and other to the north.

You can see Motorcycle and Toolbox here

>escape on motorcycle

"YES I managed to start the motorcycle. Now I can get out of here..."

Are you going to leave? You would be leaving the kid behind, and any chance of finding out what happened here, and how this all connects to you.

Are you leaving? >y

****** You chose to run away from yourself. Abandoning the child, the corpse and any chance of figuring out your true connection to that place. ******

Would you like to RESTART, RESTORE a saved game, QUIT or UNDO the last command?

> UNDO

Garage

[Previous turn undone.]

Are you leaving? >n

I couldn't do this. I need to help the kid. I need to figure out what is going on here.

>e

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>n

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>u

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>unlock old black door with black key

You unlock the Old Black Door.

>e

(first opening the Old Black Door)

Medium Bedroom

Well, this room sure isn't the star of the house
The old black door is to the west, Moving box and safe (closed)
here.

>x moving box

In Moving box are toys and posters.

>x toys

They look like some toys you used to have as a child. That space
cow, especially

>x posters

Some really familiar posters about space and the galaxy

>get posters

You have very similar posters stored in some box at home.

>get toys

You shouldn't be playing with toys at this moment. There are
more urgent things to attend.

>x safe

"There is a phone ringing inside that safe. You need a 4
character password to open it."

>try to open safe

Enter the password now. **>1234**

Incorrect password.

"Should I try again?" **>n**

>w

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an
old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>d

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>n

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>ask child about password

Child: "I have no idea. Maybe we could ask the parrot!"

>n

Dining room

You can see a Large Wooden Door here.

>w

Kitchen

A regular kitchen. More menacing than usual.

There is one strong metal door heading south and a large wooden door to the east.

You can see a Parrot, Fridge, Lower Cupboard , Kitchen table and Upper Cupboard (closed) here

>pet parrot

You: "Ouch. You bit me. Hey, that's nasty"

Parrot: Nasty Nasty

>give q-tip to parrot

Parrot: "Blackpink in your aReA!"

You: "Weird bird.

>ask parrot about password

Parrot: "Want food, HUNGRY"

>give parrot's food to parrot

You: "Now, what about the phone?"

Parrot: "Starry Sky 59, Starry Sky 59"

>s

Garage

This garage feels a little... dirty. No one has been here for a while for sure.

There are two heavy metal doors (Strong Metal Door and Solid Metal Door) here, one to the east and other to the north.

You can see Motorcycle and Toolbox here

>e

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Body, Child, Painting, Shelves and Bookshelf here

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at south

>u

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>e

Medium Bedroom

Well, this room sure isn't the star of the house

The old black door is to the west, Moving box and safe (closed) here.

>x safe

"There is a phone ringing inside that safe. You need a 4 character password to open it."

>try to open safe

Enter the password now. >ss59

BUZZ "Yeah I got it. thank you dear parrot. Now what is in this safe..."

>open safe

>x safe

There are some photos and underneath them, a phone ringing

>x photos

Some dusty photos, not many of the old guy... Some of them have... you? But... this didn't happen. You've never worked at this place. You seem a bit older... but it's still you, you would recognize yourself... How is this possible? "Why does he have pictures of me? How in the hell was I photographed in places I never was?"

There seems to be photos of the kid as well, there's one of him winning... a contest? "But I-I won that contest... many years ago... What is happening? Is the old man -... Is the kid -"

>get phone

You answer the phone. It's a woman's voice... a very familiar voice. She seems desperate and crying. You feel a sharp pain in your chest:

"Sweetie, please come home. I never wanted things to be this way, I am so sorry. We love you so much, please... Come back to your family. It's never too late. We are always here."

You try to speak but the voice changes, it's a young man speaking now: "I never knew about your feelings, you never told me anything... My time has passed, but it's never too late to be true to yourself. The world deserves to see the real you... I wish I had" You try to scream but nothing comes out, your eyes are

now watery, when you hear the kid's voice... But it's coming from the phone: "Don't be so sad... There's still time. You can still follow your dreams and be happy. You can still change our future... Hey, I think I get it now... "

And then, the call ends. You hear the kid's voice... It seems like it's coming from the living room.

>w

Upper Hall

It leads to 4 different rooms.

There are three doors here: a classical door to the north, an old black door to the east and a weak brown door to the south.

>d

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be on the north. The entrance to the house is at southThe Main entrance is wide open now. Are you going home?

>n

The body... it's gone. And so is the child. There's a warm breeze coming from the front door. You hear voices... the same voices that you heard on the phone. They keep saying the same thing: don't give up, you always have time to be honest with yourself and be who you want to be. It's never too late to come home. Will you do it? Are you coming home?

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Painting, Shelves, and Bookshelf here

>w

Garage

This garage feels a little... dirty. No one has been here for a while for sure.

There are two heavy metal doors (Strong Metal Door and Solid Metal Door) here, one to the east and other to the north.

You can see Motorcycle and Toolbox here

>escape on motorcycle

"YES I managed to start the motorcycle. Now I can get out of here..."

Are you going to leave? You would be leaving the kid behind, and any chance of finding out what happened here, and how this all connects to you.

Are you leaving? >y

**** Maybe it was the safest bet, but it was also a betrayal to yourself. You were really close to redemption and to giving a second chance to the person you want to be... you just needed a little more courage. Someday you will have to stop running away from the truth. It's never too late. ****

Would you like to RESTART, RESTORE a saved game, QUIT or UNDO the last command?

> UNDO

Garage

[Previous turn undone.]

Are you leaving? >n

"I-I can't... I need to get to the end of this. I need to try."

>e

Living Room

You can see three doors here, one heading north, other east and a heavy metal door to the west.

You can see a Painting, Shelves, and Bookshelf here

>s

The door closed behind you

Hall

A long and empty hall. You can see a door to the north and stairs going to a second floor. The Living Room seems to be in the north. The entrance to the house is in the south.

The exit is wide open now. Are you going home?

>s

(first opening Main door)

****** You wake up in a very bright room. Dizzy. It doesn't look like that house anymore, maybe a hospital? You feel a sharp pain in your stomach, it looks like you were severely hurt. However, you can't help but feel some weird warmth in your chest... Is this hope? ******