Challenge 7A – An alarming revelation

Ciphertext  
  
AHDCE RLTAS RESRH OETFI YYOMU ANYJR AMTTL SEEAS KSEDN NSAMA IEART ODFYO ITREG VEUII BRKWS EINAH TIHTB NAEDE CSUNN OOFCS IUSEO MROMF TAIER ETHET STGTA AKTAU CBALI AHDYS WAASM TSDUE TAHHA IPTDN SEAIT THTIH MTENI DELFE STHIO PREAM LEENM IBROI GHNTA ENTGF EIRVL AMSNS GIIAB TRTMW IONYN INUEQ EERHI SIORL ENOAN HDNEA VTESI EBHLS HVDTT AEIAT LNAPN DENTS RUOEE GAIRH AIHKR NOINF GFAIC SILHE NTWIL IHWAL DPTEH ENCCE ONOAT SINOT CSRSF EHREO NFIFG OERIO CMVIE ROESE TLICT TAARH ERTAH YWEER AAMEO RFYRO TTUNG NEANL NSDIA DPTUC SEAAT IHTEG MNBIL WFOOL ATEDD NTLHY AMTSE RTEEI AERBR DNAGE MCINA IANRI ESYRG ULSHT ETTAO YHLEN ANROE SMIIT ASAVL ILLSA EHITH ATYTE NCRTE OTNEI RAOSW LHEIT EHMGO IKTNW RSBUE ITYSR SOIRI CTSIL IATCA HTTHT DOENY OIOTC DSREV HETTL DIEAN ASIAD UTMES RTIHH ATSYS HIWBI TRIEE RUCSN TTYDP ELTHS EACOS IETOI NHSFI WSLWL HCIUT SAHHE CRUHE TMSEA AEVLE BRAND TLOIU HNCLW SEHWY RPENV HEEHI DIEST LHYTA EEARE EYAIR OSGNA ATMOL UTSAL IUROE WHELV DAEBB AENTE LDEOP RCEYH IATPH SOHRT TFIIE LWLED FAHHE MUASD RBAXT IGTIR GENOH WETTI BOYWV OHTAE YASHA THOTM TEARS ATLNE MRIGL IVTEA HEORN ETEIB SIUTR SISEN AETMH HTTTA AOENW SEWTA YTETA FROFL HLEUP ODHET HRFIT EEHTC RAYVE IRGTH EENHR OORRO HTFTW AYDHI EDMNT AOEOM DYTMI NEINF TRDAI HOADM TINUG MIEWS CRHOF REAIE AYTMH TFILW IENEL VLEEE RHBTM GSAAE NNAII SRYCL EEUNY SORHA ILCOX XSXXX

Solution: transposition

Dear Charles,   
  
The story of my injury at last makes sense and I am ready to forgive Tiberius. I knew that I had been unconscious for some time after the gas attack, but I had always assumed that I had spent that time in the Field Hospital, remembering nothing after leaving Miss Brittain.   
  
My own enquiries here in London have established that Valentine and Proteus are high-ranking officials in Whitehall with deep connections across the Foreign Office. Moreover it is clear that they are aware of my return to England and I suspect that I am being followed and that my letters are being read. I am increasingly sure that the only reason I am still alive is that they are not certain who else might know Tiberius’s story. It is critical that they do not discover the details and I am sure that this is why Tiberius encrypted the last sections of his will with such care. He must have learned about Hill’s new cypher when he visited Yale three years ago. I am not at all sure I would have been able to decypher this part of the will if he had used a matrix bigger then two by two!   
  
I have to say that the most alarming revelation here is Tiberius’ statement that he was “not yet aware of the full depth of their treachery”. Given the horror of what they did to me and to my men, I find it hard to imagine much worse.   
  
I fear that my life will never be the same again.   
  
Sincerely yours,   
  
Nicholas

Challenge 7B – Risking everything

Ciphertext  
  
IBWUQ RCIHA QVILU DSARR EAVXD DQCIF XZPLX ZLDFX CIJOD RENUL GKULV NVHJO CSLUC IBDEX MPDRV HJBIX HAMWE AVXEX RXFJJ OEXCS LUHOQ ZGEYW TFKSY EAZEK JTJVF XUJSF SNNPC IALHA MWGFP FJBAZ RBZJY KLZND EQVUQ JHBJK XDCDD RJGCF SVQIA NJXKO MCFJD SQWOH QZDRP JNMIX KZBZF BGVIX IBWOO QWBDB QCIJM XCFOP IXNDC FILFJ LZRBL TQHUU AUMJX GADHA QVQWZ CXZVD SWTFS MQISV IOYTU YZCQW KIKDM EZCQW EQJBU CKZAD OWZXS RKHHA EXEQJ BILYK DBJIH AIOKQ HAIXU CKZIQ CFEXU CQRVX CYMUJ OGGKZ BZDFR LOBFJ DSIFD RKPOG BDCRO CVLNM IXLZS RKHMU KPSOO CXPVH VLXGU GEKVS MJYGP FCDMJ LBJBM UHAWB UCQRW UFOAP YHNDC FWBDB QCAZW BVHYV ANRIX ZNFYK EAVXS MKGEX QOLUH OQICO AZBZY HALYI WQESM ABJZX AZRPO QSBGF WBUUQ IWQWG PIMAR XFJJO EXCSL UHOQZ GESRM JLBJB MUHAW BUCEU IXCSL BXPLX VDGZE CYIKG FXLGL BXPVH IAVXY HULHA MWXZV HVKAN WGNJW BJTDV EOHAW BUCAI YKXYC SIAJV NDRBK ZVHLU HAMWL AANTF RICJP FLUUC KMWQB ZCILG IXYSO QKRVX YHCAU LDHDJ AZIBH AOCDV EQJII ALUSO SBPLU LANLQ IXACO QMINN LUHAS AHAVX WBVNJ IAZMU WOMKH VALLC CSDIA DUCGN DRMUO AZJIB HAIKL LSIPL ULIJY HKSDO QICIP POQSR OBNUV XAPEX QGSML UANHR WUUDV UQZND GFHAY TFXGA TAHAW BUCCO AYTAA CXGIX HAQIS CQVWB UUUCX EQDKH WAOQL ZVNLU UCSXQ VADYT DRCAY KXYNP NUOBV SDRKP HAVXW BANHR JGMXM JFJRI XZDOA YTALZ HAQVX DJOEX HAGRK HKQXG EXHRJ BQWDD YTECY KZWKU WBMIN NVKQH EXQOZ CDRVN MJZGI ONTDB LBEXJ TVKQM WBAZO PIXCA ULMMM IYCGC ZXWUU DJKEX DSGNA LYIEO TFIBH ACFQR CIWQR TIOZC CWPLV XRIIO HBCGC HIOYT MUULH ASBWB TAIBE XHRJB UCYCD RVXOW JIAZU CAIPF APEXC YJOQZ DRJTJ OOWVK YOJBS CADDB JIGMY KLUAZ WUWLA NMINN LUXZR IVXWB AZUCY PADAP KUSGL ULXPS GUYKA YVLVX ZGIXL ACSSR IODBY OBDSA PLJBH AWBHA IXWAI XKQHA IXQYF XTFAZ AZUCQ RDRPA ANJXD BMCIX AZIBV NJOQZ DRRBW TSAEQ JBOPI XIFJJ JBLZW QXPUC QRMUT FXPZX JOXZT XXZIO HAUUO BALGF CNEPU GEYSB DBYNI OIKSW ULJGC WTLGV UUCFR RANPP DRZXA POGAZ HAUUQ GXPXD NNUBA ZCFPL KRSRD RIFEP NJYTX ZVDCF GCTXJ JJBHA AZQIU BUTPL ULIBR XFJJO EXCSL UHOQZ GEAPY HNDCF EXHAC FOCUN PJQRF XSFSR OBDDB DQRWA FXLZJ GYCPL CIGFS VAZRB ZJYKK RULOC TFXPZ JILAN DFTFD SWWXY EXCYW UUDJK EXVHL UHAVX AZKEG HWBIX SNYKL UUCSX ANVHW GVHLU KZWUB DAGYK IANNJ DHHFX YCOCJ ODRGG SFSRQ ZDREO GNFXF EDRLB TFUCO LYHND CFHLF YUPQR TFDSI FDRQO WQLUA LJJPT UCOLY HNDCF BMGAW GDSEG IFADM UJOIX MZIXX ZPZHA MWEAV XAPOG EXQOA FWMMU XDPVW LWBHD RBZJY KDVYP PVBPJ BLXPL XJOQO AVXLB YYJVL ZXZXP NDCFS CYTFX RIKHV XXPJO UCQRQ IOWHB IJGIS RAZUC SKJOM AAUFX UDBZD VANPP KRYYJ KSNJT CFSMF JEBQW OHQZD RVNMJ ZGION TDBTZ DRVXO BQVNF YKEXH ASOGF KQFED RRZDV UUSAE BBPZC MKNNL UFJFE LZWUB QXDJO HASOU LMZKP WBADW DQZSW DBYIV XIBHA QVUDX YSBHA IBHAO CLGVX QWDRZ J

Plaintext

Hill Cipher (2x2, keyword HILL (left to right then underneath

Of course the Fabulists were lucky that I had chosen the wrong confidante and, sensing the danger they were in, Valentine and Proteus knew immediately how to diffuse it. They arranged for you to be kidnapped from the trenches and smuggled back to the border under cover of a gas attack. I have never been able to forgive myself for the fact that my enemies chose to attack me by attacking you. Nor can I stop thinking about all those other young men in your regiment wounded or killed by their own side in order to stop me.   
  
I received an official telegram telling me that your corps had been attacked at dawn and that you were missing and presumed dead. It was accompanied by a separate message from Valentine and Proteus telling me that you were alive, but my joy was short lived as I read on: they had arranged matters so that you could easily be found and they planned to brand you as a deserter. I was already convinced of their skills in deception and persuasion, and this threat filled me again with fear for you. The memory of the execution I had witnessed was still fresh in my mind and I could not bear the thought that you might suffer the same fate.   
  
My only hope was to find you before they could fulfill their threat and I travelled that night to the Front in the hope of finding a clue to your location. Arriving at the Field Hospital I interrogated every conscious man I could find, but it was one of the nurses, almost too tired to speak, who set me on the path to finding you. She recalled you crashing into the tent carrying a mortally wounded companion and had treated you for shock and burns. You ignored her pleas to stay insisting that there were others who needed your help, and staggered off into the fog risking everything to save your men.   
  
Even in that chaos the military police kept a close eye on troop movements and when I showed them my VERONA credentials they told me that men matching the description of Valentine and Proteus had been in the neighbourhood. Still unsure who to trust I searched for you alone in every abandoned building I could find, and three days later I found you, bandaged and unconscious, in a farmhouse in the woods to the south of the line. You had been badly burned by the gas, and I think you had been drugged by my tormenters. Perhaps they were showing a glimmer of empathy for your suffering, but it was more likely to have been a method to prevent your escape.   
  
I hoisted you onto my shoulders and walked fifteen miles back to the Field Hospital, where I left you in the care of the Nurse, Miss Brittain, and left to confront the conspirators, not yet aware of the full depth of their treachery.