Knightcrawler - Solution

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The "Knight" in the title, as well as hints in the description hint at the fact that this is a game of chess. The string of random words is actually chess algebraic notation of a game, with letters converted to a specific word, and numbers and symbols converted to the written out versions of their words. This is shown in the table below.

| а | | aurora |
|---|---|-----------|
| b | | brave |
| С | | centaur |
| d | | dewdrop |
| е | | elastic |
| f | | fire |
| g | | graphite |
| h | | habitat |
| В | | Beautiful |
| K | | Kiwi |
| N | | North |
| Q | | Quibble |
| R | | Ragtag |
| 0 | | Orbit |
| Х | | xylem |
| + | | plus |
| - | | dash |
| = | | equals |
| # | | hashtag |
| | 1 | one |
| | 2 | two |
| | 3 | three |
| | 4 | four |
| | 5 | five |
| | 6 | six |
| | 7 | seven |

8 eight

The next step is to convert this back into chess algebraic notation, resulting in the following chess game:

e4 c5 Ne2 c4 b3 [] axb3 d5 exd5 Qxd5 d3 Bf5 c4 Qd6 [] [] Nc3 f5 Rxb1 Nf6 d5 Qe5+ Be2 Na6 O-O O-O-O Re1 f4 Bg4+ Nxg4 Rxe5 Nxe5 Qh5 Nc5 h4 [] [] Nd7 f3 e5 dxe6 b6 Bxf4 Bc5+ Kh2 Nde5 exf7+ Kb7 g4 Rd3 Nb5 Rhd8 h5 Nc6 g5 R8d7 f8=Q Bxf8 Qxf8 Rd2+ Kg3 R2d4 [] [] Nxd4 Nxd4 Qxg7+ Ka6 g6 Rxg6+ hxg6 h5 Be1 Nf5+ Kf4 Ne7 Qd4 h4 g7 Ng6+ Kg5 Nh8 [] h3 Ra1+ Kb7 Qe4+ Kc7 Qe5+ Kd8 Qd5+ Ke7 Bb4+ Ke8 Qc6+ Kd8 Nf7#

The last sentence of the description hints that some moves are missing, which are shown by the brackets in the move list. Therefore, the next step is to find the missing moves, which are, in order:

cxb3, d4, Bxb1, Nf7, Qf5+, Bd2, R7d6, gxh8=N.

These are then converted back into the word notation, resulting in:

centaur xylem brave three
dewdrop four
Beautiful xylem brave one
North fire seven
Quibble fire five plus
Beautiful dewdrop two
Ragtag seven dewdrop six
graphite xylem habitat eight equals North

These are put into the grid, one after the other, in ascending order of number, from one to eight as labeled next to the grid.

| | | В | е | а | u | t | i | f | u | I | х | у | I | е | m | b | r | а | V | е | О | n | е |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| В | е | а | u | t | i | f | u | I | d | е | w | d | r | o | р | t | w | O | С | е | n | t | а |
| u | r | x | у | I | е | m | b | r | а | v | е | t | h | r | е | е | d | е | w | d | r | 0 | р |
| f | О | u | r | Q | u | i | b | b | I | е | f | i | r | е | f | i | v | е | р | I | u | s | R |
| а | g | t | а | g | s | е | V | е | n | d | е | w | d | r | o | р | s | i | х | N | O | r | t |
| h | f | i | r | е | s | е | v | е | n | g | r | а | р | h | i | t | е | х | у | I | е | m | h |
| а | b | i | t | а | t | е | i | g | h | t | е | q | u | а | I | s | N | 0 | r | t | h | | |

Extracted the letters from the highlighted cells gives: elevenbtwentytwobfifteenworthirtybeg

Giving the phrase:

eleven b, twentytwo b, fifteen w, or thirty b, e.g.

This is a clue, with the answer being what moves eleven of black, twenty two of black, fifteen of white, and thirty of black could be an example of. These moves are:

Qe5+, Bc5+, Bg4+, Rd2+

Each move is a check, so the answer to the puzzle is "check".