

C.1 Tourist



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Difficulty: Hard

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“Here, can you mind this? I’ll be gone for a bit.”

Those were the last words you or anyone else has heard from your flatmate since yesterday. You’re starting to get worried. Sure, Carol often liked to keep to herself, but in the past she’s always let you know if she’d be back late. Now it’s the next morning. Not only is there still no sign of her, but when you tried to call her, you got an automatic message saying the number was not connected.

Wondering what to do next, you absently play with the camera she gave you just before she disappeared. You turn it on, flicking back and forth through the images captured on it as you mull things over.

The flicking display catches your attention, as the photos scroll by. This doesn’t look like one of Carol’s normal photography sessions. Something about the photos disturbs you a little. Then you reach the final photo, and a chill goes down your spine. The photo is of a piece of paper with the words “Help me” scrawled on it.

You cycle back to the beginning of the photos, this time studying the images carefully. The first dozen photos seem similar. They all show the same person in various touristy poses. On a sudden hunch, you print out the images and lay them out on the table, in the order they were taken.

You try rearranging them into a rectangular grid, and after a couple of tries, you find an arrangement which confirms your hunch. Carol has left you a secret message. But what is that message, and how do you go about decoding it?



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