



D-Pad

Author: Kevin Liang



urprisingly, it's Penny who gets the jump on you for once. She steps out from behind a nearby tree. "The nightmares must be getting to you, Mayan." You can almost hear her smiling behind the mask.

"Hello to you too," says Lamar. "Where's Shannon?"

Penny sounds crestfallen. "Not with you, I take it. We should - wait, what's that?"

A rustling sound stirs behind you, followed by a faint crackling. *What's that? A tendril, seeking you out? A burrower beneath? The sound of the end?*

An intense heat takes over, and bright green light permeates your masked eyelids as though they were wrapping paper.

"Ah, that's hot," groans Lamar. "Feels like the whole forest is burning."

Voices and sounds shimmer and echo around you - gruff men and women shouting to each other about water pressure, the fearful cries of a young child, a crowd's fretful muttering, and somewhere higher up, a woman's terrible scream.

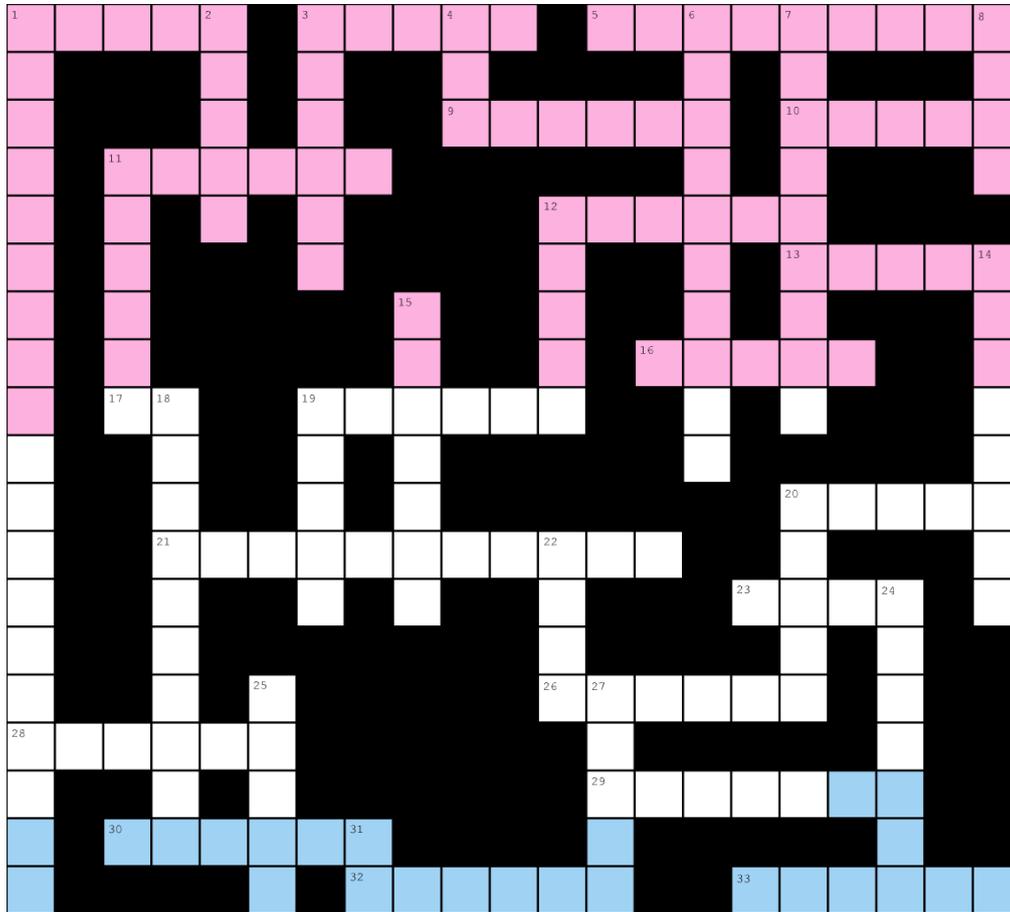
"Memories," you murmur. Then, louder: "We need to find Shannon. Right away."

But before anyone can move, a gust of wind blows hot embers into your skin, and a sheet of paper slaps you in the face, coiling itself around your mask and flapping pathetically. Tearing the mask off before it catches fire, your fist comes away clutching a scrap of newspaper...



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ACROSS

1. Dejected
3. To receive data via the internet
5. Mnemonic for the conventional orientation of 3D vectors
9. Correctly oriented
10. To become free and honest about one's feelings
11. Improve
12. Usually happens before rocket launches and on New Year's Eve
13. Nuclear accident
16. Doctor-lite episode starring Donna Noble
17. Status Quo hit turned ad campaign
19. Actor's version of house right
20. Remaining
21. To waste or ruin
23. To correct a situation to as it should be
26. Found below Enter on most keyboards
28. Evaporated
29. Items which benefit the player, in gaming
30. A new company
32. 90 degrees
33. William Shakespeare was this occupation

DOWN

1. Much performed W.B. Yeats poem
2. To rip into shreds
3. Colloquial term commonly used to refer to Australia
4. Okay
6. Form of treatment involving needles
7. User interface element which reveals a list of options when clicked
8. To release violently, most notably for volcanoes
11. Inverted vertically
12. Licensing form used by the GNU Project allowing distribution and modification of software
14. Realistic
15. What southpaws are
18. Where the residence of UK's prime minister can be found
19. Action performed when turning off a computer
20. What bad dancers are said to have two of
22. To terrify
24. Virtuously
25. Excellent
27. Easy to bend; Flexible
31. Standing