

Exercise 7: Embassy Sweets

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Puzzle Solving 101 ■ Lesson 7: Cryptography

GCYXZ7 ■ Originally published 2007-08-21
ps101.puzzlehead.org/gcyxz7

The solution to this puzzle is a set of geospatial coordinates (longitude and latitude) in the form:

N DD° MM.mmm' W DD° MM.mmm'

Where "DD" is degrees and "MM.mmm" is minutes (in thousandths). These coordinates are the solution to the mystery cache Puzzle Solving 101 - Lesson 7: Cryptography (GCYXZ7). (This cache has been archived—the puzzle-solving lesson on the cache page is still visible, but the cache can no longer be found and logged.)

This solution can still be used to complete, discover, and log the cache Puzzle Solving 101 (GCYXNO). Concatenate the five digits in the north minutes followed by the five digits of the west minutes (ignoring spaces and decimal points). Use that ten-digit sequence as the password for the web page ps101.puzzlehead.org/gcyxz7/clue, which will give you one of the nine clues you will need to complete The Final Exam.

I'm still trying to figure out what went wrong.

Her name is Ingeborg, the daughter of the ambassador from Norway. As a duchess, she's 37th in line for ascension to the throne.

We met innocently enough, both wandering the racks at Borders. I'll never forget the first time I spotted her ... her long flowing flaxen hair, narrow face, pale skin, and infectious smile. It was love at first sight for both of us.

Our most recent date was heavenly ... the wine (Mocha Java Zinfandel), the food (northern Italian), the dessert (ice cream sundaes with hand-mixed fixins) ... we talked, we ate, we laughed. After dinner we poked our noses into the shops, as she was searching for a new coat to wear when she returned home for the winter. We even lazily fantasized about buying a house together some day as we walked on the beach hand in hand.

But that was weeks ago. I haven't heard from her since ... my phone calls are never answered, my email and voice mail messages are never returned. And she's never on IM anymore.

Yesterday morning, I found a strange note dropped through the mail slot of the door of my apartment. It smells of her perfume and is written in her careful hand. But I don't speak Norwegian, so I can't make any sense of it.

FNLTDEJ:

QYM D WDPV VYA PY! D SQDEX YK VYA EDJQS NEF FNV, TYEJDEJ SY CR DE VYAL NLWP NJNDE.

D'W PY PYLLV VYA QNURE'S QRNLF KLYW WR. WV KNSQRL FYRP EYS CRTDRUR SQNS N VYAEJ TNFV YK EYLMRJDNE LYVNTSV PQYATF CR FNSDEJ NWRLDZNE WRE. QR DP PY YURLOLYSRZSDUR!

D MDTT PREF WV FLDURL KYL VYA PYYE, MQRE D NW NCTR SY PERNX NMNV KLYW WV KNSQRL. ODZX WR AO NS SQR ZYLLFDENSRL JDURE NS SQR REF YK SQDP WRPPNJR. SQR NEZDRES DEFNE CYYX YK TYUR DP SQR XRV. SQR ZYLLFDENSRL NLR KYL YER YK YAL RWCNPPV PNSRTTDSR CADTFDEJP.

D PSDTT LRWRWCRL SQNS FNV MQRE MR PNS YE SQR CRNZQ NEF VYA LRNF SQNS CYYX SY WR CRERNSQ SQR PAE NEF SQR ONTW SLRRP.

D TYUR VYA,

DEJRCYLJ

OP BR EC VF LR WH EZ IT FH TF VG
AH EG CV QF LF QP FQ BL LF UH WG
EZ FV HK EL EH EC ZC FH TF VG MY
KH KL OQ QG LR QF LF GN AD GE KL

I've gotta run ... someone just rang the doorbell, and there's a black sedan in the driveway ... this doesn't look good for me ...

HINT (in ROT13): [Part 1] Fqneg jvgu gur fvtangher. [Part 2] Nyy'f snve (cynl) va ybir naq jne. Naq jung'f gur anzr bs gung obbx naljnl?