

Round 1

## UNKNOWN ROOM

The first of the three wakes up, and inevitably notices the absolute darkness engulfing everything. The first of the three moans a few times, as he realizes he has no idea where he is. He stands and, before letting his eyes adjust to the darkness, hurries towards a wall to find a light switch. However, instead of finding one, he ends up stumbling on something else. That something else is the second of the three. The first of the three trips over the snoozing man, and topples to the ground.

Annoyed, the first of the three jabs the second in the shoulder, with a fist.

SECOND

I'm awake, I'm awake!

The second of the three sits up, then stumbles to the side in sudden fear of the first.

SECOND

Wha-? WHA-?

FIRST

OKAY, OKAY! Look. I did nothin' to ya. I'm just trying to figure out where we are.

After peering around the room, the second of the three makes his way to a wall, and flips on a switch.

SECOND

Some light might help.

Standing in the newly lit room, the first and second can't help but notice the third, unconscious in a corner.

The first, second, and third are later sitting in chairs arranged in a circle.

FIRST

Yonnie Garthead.

SECOND

Reason Randalson.

THIRD

And I'm Veller...Veller Say.

Yonnie feels the pocket he typically keeps his cell phone in.

YONNIE

Our phones...they're gone.

REASON

That's double for our wallets, our keys...

VELLER

So between the, three of us, we know nothing? Is there anything we know here?

REASON

...Maybe the kidnapper wants something with us?

YONNIE

I'm a taxi driver. Only thing peeps want out of me is a ride.

REASON

I'm a land surveyor working for the Accent Construction Group. Over the past few months, we've been starting, uh, bigger projects, to say the least. We're fully aware of potential competitors.

Yonnie and Reason then turn to Veller.

VELLER

Now don't look at me. I'm just an aspiring pianist.

REASON

There's absolutely no correlation between a surveyor, a taxi driver, and a piano player.

VELLER

Is there not? There's no way someone would want to use each of our own honed skills?

YONNIE

At this point, I say we sideline the explanations and just find a way out.

As the room has no windows, there is no view of the outside. Yonnie had tried opening the door to no avail. Now the three hostages traverse around the room to better learn what they

have to work with, in terms of both escaping the room and gaining intel. Veller opens a couple of drawers in a nightstand. In the bottom drawer, he ends up finding a hefty pile of empty seed packets.

VELLER  
Seed packets!

The pianist grabs six or seven of the packets and holds them in the air.

YONNIE  
Seed packets? Huh?

Reason and Yonnie halt their individual searches to have a look at their first clue. Reason grabs a packet out of the drawer to inspect the front.

REASON  
These are carrots...but there's not much else the packet tells us. Most of the other information is marked out.

YONNIE  
So we've still got nothing to go on then.

REASON  
Just wait a minute, Yonnie. We can't say anything until we look at ALL the packets.

YONNIE  
All 'em dang things? There's like, sixty of 'em in there!

VELLER  
What I think, is that you're being too hasty.

REASON  
Okay, there's three of us, right? Why don't we all take an even share and look at each packet thoroughly?

YONNIE  
You nerds can do that.

Yonnie starts to return to where he was pre-seed packets.

REASON  
Yeah, come back. Assessing our  
(MORE)

REASON (CONT'D)

situation as much as we can is our only hope right now, so you need to help.

After a brief, yet mean pause, Reason's dire sincerity gets through to Yonnie.

YONNIE

Hit me up then.

Reason tosses Yonnie a handful of the packs.

REASON

So begins our investigation. Just look for anything that didn't get marked out. The actual plant shouldn't matter too much, but look for companies, dates, and uses of the plant.

After checking back over the first carrot packet, Reason moves onto his second packet, again carrot. Yonnie's packets are beet, carrot, sunflower, carrot, petunia, tomato, soybean, and carrot in that order. Veller's are daisy, daisy, radish, carrot, squash, beet, carrot, and sunflower. Veller's next packet, which contains lettuce seeds, offers him a helpful hint when he turns it over to the back.

VELLER

This one's dated. 2/19/18.

REASON

2/19? Well after hearing that, I'm both glad...and afraid.

Reason settles into a discomfited state in reaction to Veller's news.

YONNIE

Glad at? Afraid at?

REASON

I...can't tell you anything. I'm sorry.

YONNIE

What, you part of a gang or something? Just tell us.

VELLER

Tell us, Reason. Give us the truth.

REASON  
 It's a company thing, really.  
 Nothing that concerns you.

While maintaining whatever secret he hides, Reason continues going through seed packets.

Unfortunately for the three captives, no other useful intel could be seen on the other packets, as opposed to being marked out by a supposed fiend's black marker.

While Yonnie searches another nightstand in the room, Veller and Reason begin sorting out the seed packets by type.

VELLER  
 Radish.

REASON  
 Carrot.

VELLER  
 Petunia.

REASON  
 Tomato.

VELLER  
 Sunflower.

REASON  
 Carrot.

The pianist and the surveyor hand each other packs to place in their select columns.

VELLER  
 I've noticed some of them still  
 have a few seeds in them.

Veller shows Reason an assortment of tiny seeds in his hand.

VELLER  
 Reason...if you weren't here right  
 now, where would you be? What would  
 you be up to?

REASON  
 It's hard to tell when we don't  
 even know the time of day...

The lack of windows is the sole contributor to this problem.

REASON

If I could get out now, I'd focus on solving my own mysteries. The ones raised from this capture.

YONNIE

If you ever do find that crook, lemme know and I'll-

REASON

You don't have the resources to do anything, yet neither do I. Not by myself. I have to be really grateful to my company; I owe all my success to it. I was a hopeless cause back in a time I'd prefer to forget. Unable to pay my rent, I needed help, and fast. Accent Construction Group was there at the right time and place. I fit in great with them, relying on the little skill I had, yet still possessing enough talent to impress them.

YONNIE

You're making them sound like angels. But now, I think it's about time you fill me and Veller in on those secrets you've got.

Both the taxi driver and the pianist move in on the land surveyor. Reason enters a stance that says "I'm gonna say something, just sit down and don't hurt me."

REASON

2/14/18. The ACG started our new projects. There.

YONNIE

What do you mean "there"? You're not done.

REASON

Okay, even if I did tell you more about our projects, it wouldn't mean much of anything to you two.

YONNIE

And why don't you tell us? What do you get by keeping quiet?

REASON

DID YOU HEAR the story I just told  
you? About trust? About loyalty?  
Never will I leak anything about  
the ACG behind their backs.

VELLER

Ooooooh. How swaaaying.

Yonnie swiftly disapproves of Veller's comment with a glare.

YONNIE

So you like loyalty? Well, when  
you're in this room, you're loyal  
to us. We're all loyal to each  
other, or we're stuck here forever.

REASON

I'm not setting two random men I've  
never seen before today, before the  
company that's done too much for  
me. Now if you wanna get out, let's  
get out. Veller, seeds.

VELLER

Seeds.

Confused, yet compliant, Veller tosses multiple seeds from  
his pocket at Reason, who catches them with one swift hand  
swipe. Positioning the seeds in between his thumb and index  
finger, in an aligned row, Reason bites off the tops of the  
seeds. He picks a random packet off the floor, holding it in  
the same hand as the seeds.

YONNIE

Dude, what are you doing?

REASON

Just give me a second...

The packet is turned to the back, which sports a huge blotch  
of black marker. With the other hand, Reason takes the  
remaining half of each seed one by one, and attempts to  
scribble with them on the black blotch. After finding a seed  
that doubles as a makeshift writing utensil, Reason draws a  
strange symbol on the black marker. Following the completion  
of the peculiar drawing, Reason goes to the door and slips  
the packet under it, back side up.

REASON

If, and only if this plan works,  
we'll be sailing out of here when

(MORE)



REASON (CONT'D)

the time comes. Gather in close,  
and I'll explain.

YONNIE

Whatever this coloring book of a  
plan is, it better work.

Yonnie and Veller form a loose huddle with the scheming  
surveyor. They all speak softly to each other.

REASON

I've narrowed down the options to  
three rival companies. Of those  
three, the logo I slipped under the  
door is of the most likely to be  
the culprit.

VELLER

So if a company worker sees the  
logo, they'll open the door?

REASON

Assuming I'm right, yes.

YONNIE

And what exactly happens if you got  
the wrong company? They see a  
different company, they pull out  
guns.

VELLER

And we don't want that!

YONNIE

I'm getting that packet back.

Yonnie hurries over to pull the plug on Reason's plan.

REASON

No! Stop!

VELLER

He doesn't want to take the  
chance...and I kind of agree.

REASON

This may look dire in your eyes,  
but you have to have some faith in  
me. If the worst happens, you're  
both welcome to blame me and me  
only. But neither of you can see  
how close we stand to success!

Yonnie had continued to slip his finger under the door. Reason considers it necessary to break the ongoing whispering tone.

REASON

Don't mess with it!

As if it's his only choice, Yonnie thrusts back his hand and submitingly sets it on the floor. Reason returns the shushed tone as he gives his following instructions.

REASON

There are two options now. When the door opens, we either rush out as a unit, or stay calm and explain without giving away our true positions.

VELLER

Option 1 seems, no, hmm. Both seem to have risky written all over them.

YONNIE

As dumb as it sounds, I say we run. You know what, I am doing that! That's my final answer.

Three minutes later, the door opens.