

# Tiling

—Various

A sudden surge of inspiration hits you. Deciding to follow the ticket inspector's instructions, you head down to platform 3 and board the crappy old train waiting there. Through the window extends a desolate landscape, with nothing but a single house that seems to be following you around, glaring at you with large, malevolent windows. Halfway to the end of the line, two figures dressed in black get on, and immediately start bickering about something or other. You recognise their voices from the strange conversation in Union House yesterday.

"Game's over, it's a draw, just drop it already."

"You bloody cheater, I won that game."

"No way, it's all within the rules, nine times."

"Wait, where's that freaking ticket inspector?"

"I bet if he were here, he'd agree with me; it's a draw."

"Oh, shut your trap, Chan!"

With that, the shorter of the pair hurls something at his companion's head. The taller man manages to jerk his head out of the way at the last moment, and the hurled object flaps violently in the air as it flies across the carriage, bounces off a window and lands on the seat next to you. While avoiding being struck in the head, however, Chan overbalances and crashes to the floor, spilling the contents of a small fabric bag as it flies from his grasp.

"Now look what you've done!" his companion shouts at him. "None of them had better be broken, you idiot!"

Muttering curses under his breath, the shorter man stoops to help his colleague collect from the ground what appear to be small ceramic floor tiles. As the two men put them back in the bag, they count and check them carefully, and as they do so you notice unexpectedly that the tiles have small letters glazed onto their surfaces.

When the two men are done, they stamp off to the other side of the carriage, still bickering, leaving you to pick up from the seat next to you what turns out to be a notebook.

Chan		White	
you	12	catalyst	68
shaft	31	waive	90
cat	37	catenoid	112
visit	53	tag	122
war	69	jar	132
ajar	99	peeve	152
gender	110	engender	172
aloof	128	art	175
quart	142	quartz	247
queue	158	tiding	271
be	162	bee	281
deaf	178	paradox	360
tuple	186	heck	411
norm	192	normal	427
abnormal	204	spite	443