

Coupling

—Muhammad Adib Surani

The sweet scent of pineapple flowers grows steadily stronger as your monstrously slow hippie van claws its way along the country roads. Coffee has kept you going for another indefinitely long stretch of time, and by now, you can hear the faintest of birdsong. Thankfully, you see the dim lights of Woombye in the hazy darkness before you. At least you'll still be able to use the cover of night to help you infiltrate any buildings should the need arise. You draw near to the famous landmark, and park the car close by, opting to sneak up to the complex by foot. As you begin to wonder where to start, you spy three familiar, but poorly camouflaged figures huddled at the base of the Big Pineapple. You step out of the bushes and startle the trio. They pull you close and point to a small touchscreen pad.

“Thank goodness you're here! Quick, help us figure out what this all means.”

After a few frustrated attempts to bypass this security measure, you consider breaking the whole thing and busting in by brute force. However, you quickly realise that you can break this pad in a whole other way.

E	X	C	L	U	S	I	O	N
X	H	Y	U	C	E	X	I	Y
C	S	L	O	I	S	L	U	E
L	O	I	U	X	O	I	S	X
U	E	X	C	S	D	R	L	H
D	R	C	O	L	E	X	C	O
E	I	N	E	I	U	A	T	I
S	A	U	O	T	O	S	X	L
O	I	S	U	L	C	X	E	C