

Black and White

—Corey Plover

You hear a loud alarm sound, and announcements being made on the intercom system: the words muffled by the mass of envelopes around you. The show is going to commence soon. And still no sign of the Iron Chef.

Gingerly, you attempt to emerge from your trolley. Unfortunately the distribution of mass was such that you topple over with a loud clatter, scattering fan mail across the linoleum floor. Oh no.

People are beginning to stare at you. You notice one such person whispering to a security guard and making a badly disguised pointing action. As you begin to panic a loud voice sounds out:

“What is this crap? Is this chicken even corn-fed? Grain? GRAIN? You expect me to eat this crap?”

All eyes on Gary Mehigan as he continued his outburst, you realised it was time to make your move. Again, like *la grenouille*, you hop off into a dark passageway unnoticed.

As you cautiously make your way down the passageway, you notice that it is lined with doors, and each door has a name tag. Oh, it’s the dressing rooms. You pass a few doors before at last stumbling upon a door with ‘IRON CHEF’ printed upon it. A brief knock gives no response. You take a quick glance to your left and right before entering the room.

A strange smell hits your nose and you sniff uncontrollably. Ah, the unmistakable smell of the sea. You close the door, and there, hanging on the door, are the mysterious red underpants. There appears to be something sticking out from within. Urgh. With extreme trepidation and reluctance, you count to two, reach into the underpants, and pull out a moist and slightly-smelly piece of paper:

Save SCRT MSG for the final round; pick up tomorrow afternoon for processing

On the other side, a set of instructions and yet another conundrum:

Decompose each of the diagrams below into 1x1, 1x2 or 1x3 strips in such a way that no grid contains strips with the same black and white pattern, even after rotation.

K R E M O	I W N E R	L H I N R	L A N S R	E L E M S
O V Z N I	L I E E Y	D M O B O A N D	M O A N D	O R Y
H E T E H	O I N T E C A T	S T L E X T	T L E X T	A T
I A M C P	B I S M O N A D E S	S B A N A S S E S	S B A N A S S E S	S S
C N D S M	C O L L I N G W O O D O R E O S H E E T M U S I C			
R S E O E	E V I S I O N R E F E R E E S	D L U B O A R D C H E S S	B B O O P P H O T O G R A P H Y P A N D A	Y D M H Z
Y D M H Z	I N A N A N G C O M E B R A	S Y L L I T N I G H T O T H E L L O		
C E L M R	C H E C K E R E D F L A G C O M I C S T R I P G O	P N E R N T S C H E R	C R O N G M I C O D E	N A I Y L E P E W
D T E S R	C H I L D R E N S C I N G M A X I C O D E	N E W S P A P E R S I N C I T Y P E P E L E P E W	D O A R T B O A R D P A I N T M A G P I E P I A N O	
D T E S R	S T E A M B O A T W I L L I E H A M B U R G L A R	P E C A R L E O P A R D D A L M A T I O N	Q E K M A C K S O N	O Y D O A S V
S S L R M	S P Y V S S P Y C E L L U L A R A U T O M A T O N	B D S I F B I N G O	L O N T Y R O G E R P O N G	S S T H G F
S S L R M	B D S I F B I N G O	S I E R P I N S K I T R I A N G L E P E N G U I N	L O N T Y R O G E R P O N G	S S T H G F