



Puzzle Hunt Checkpoint: 4

Don't forget sending your Tracking SMS: *PZ teamname GATZ* to +49 176 3967 1729

Help location: Kirchweg (Scheidt), church parking lot, backside of the sign "Nur für Kirchenbesucher"

They meet at the train station at noon. They look at each other and smile. But the smile is tentative, a little bit nervous. He is holding two sheets of papers in his hands. He looks at his watch and then at her. "It's almost time to go," he tells her. She nods and reaches for one of the papers but then hesitates. "It doesn't matter which one I take, does it?" she asks. "No, it doesn't. The only important thing is to be at certain positions at the same time. The synchronization is very important." She nods again. He looks down at the piece of paper in his hand. "Well, I guess it is time for me to catch a train." Again, she only nods, struggling to find the right words. "Don't worry, once we are done, we will meet here again!" And with that he gets on the train.

He takes the train to the northwest, not exactly knowing where the instructions are going to lead him. But as long as he travels to the west, everything should be fine. He checks his watch and looks out of the window: the northeast train is passing by, exactly according to the plan. After few hours, he reaches his first destination: Southwest Medford. He looks into his map and realizes he is more in the western part of the town than he thought. But he has still plenty of time to get to South's pub before the dark, and so he heads to an info booth. He asks about the northeast train and finds its arrival to be right on schedule. At the same moment, a train in the opposite direction arrives at the station. But he won't leave the town until tomorrow - today he still needs to go to that pub up in the north. Everything goes as planned, a new day comes and he finds himself standing in front of the Western Union Bank. He cannot help himself and has to think about the northeast train again. The northeast train. He forces himself to stop thinking about it and focus on the task at hand; with that he crosses the threshold of the Western Union. While waiting, he flips through one of the Western Union brochure nervously. Then he spots a row of clocks on a wall and his eyes land on the one showing the time in southeast. For some reason, he is hypnotized by this clock and almost misses a Western Union clerk calling him...

Finally, he's in the train again, heading back to the east. He's looking at the North Star. And again, his thoughts wander to the northeast. Does this star look the same in the northeast? But he realizes it doesn't matter anymore, since she should be somewhere more to the east now. He wonders whether she's also looking at the North Star now as well.

She watched him leave and then waited a few hours at the station for the northeast train. The name is quite stupid, she contemplates, since the train is actually heading rather to the east. Why does she even need to travel in this direction? If she could pick, she would be going the opposite way, to the west, with

him. Instead, she has to be on this bloody north-east train traveling to some unknown place to do some non-sense there. She still does not understand this and yet she boards the northeast train calmly. Why not to go to the southeast instead? She really doesn't know but her thoughts are now wandering back to him and to the west. Once, they visited his family somewhere in the southwest, but it was really long time ago. Distracted, she almost forgets to get off the train in the northwestern railway station. She looks around and sighs, she doesn't like the eastern architecture. She buys a copy of The Northwest Daily, amused by the fact that this small quarter has its own newspaper. Apparently, there is a big financial affair going on, concerning the lawyer company South&West. And, of course, more details on the scandalous case of a food concern poisoning almost one third of the population in the southeastern part. But nothing of this actually matters to her, what she's really interested in are the advertisements, precisely the one mentioning the Western Union Bank. She makes an appointment and soon enough, she is nervously waiting at the corner of South and West streets...

The next day, she sits on the bus heading to the south and reassures herself that she has done everything right. She didn't sleep well and feels exhausted, not being able to do anything but look out of the window and watch the bus turn more to the southwest. He should be on his way back too, traveling in the southeast direction now. The opposite direction doesn't make sense. She wonders if he was successful in the South's pub. But she will know soon because there are no more than a few miles in the southwest direction that separate them now.

They meet at the train station late in the evening. With excitement, they start to exchange all the information they gained yesterday. But he is confused - although they've done everything right and gathered all the necessary information, it still does not make any sense. "What to do now?" he asks desperately. "What do you mean? True, it is different from what we have been doing for the last two days but at least it is clear." He looks at her, not understanding at all. "Go up to the coffee bar above the station and watch me carefully out of the window." Impatient, he gets there and waits. She waves at him and then starts to move. First, she goes few meters to the northeast, stops there for a while, and then goes the same distance to the southeast. Then, going always the same distance with a short pause between changes of direction, she continues to the southwest, southeast, southwest, and finally northwest. She looks up at him and smiles. He knows now. He finally has the key and everything has shifted.