

## Challenge 7A

Of course the Fabulists were lucky that I had chosen the wrong confidante and, sensing the danger they were in, Valentine and Proteus knew immediately how to diffuse it. They arranged for you to be kidnapped from the trenches and smuggled back to the border under cover of a gas attack. I have never been able to forgive myself for the fact that my enemies chose to attack me by attacking you. Nor can I stop thinking about all those other young men in your regiment wounded or killed by their own side in order to stop me.

I received an official telegram telling me that your corps had been attacked at dawn and that you were missing and presumed dead. It was accompanied by a separate message from Valentine and Proteus telling me that you were alive, but my joy was short lived as I read on: they had arranged matters so that you could easily be found and they planned to brand you as a deserter. I was already convinced of their skills in deception and persuasion, and this threat filled me again with fear for you. The memory of the execution I had witnessed was still fresh in my mind and I could not bear the thought that you might suffer the same fate.

My only hope was to find you before they could fulfill their threat and I travelled that night to the Front in the hope of finding a clue to your location. Arriving at the Field Hospital I interrogated every conscious man I could find, but it was one of the nurses, almost too tired to speak, who set me on the path to finding you. She recalled you crashing into the tent carrying a mortally wounded companion and had treated you for shock and burns. You ignored her pleas to stay insisting that there were others who needed your help, and staggered off into the fog risking everything to save your men.

Even in that chaos the military police kept a close eye on troop movements and when I showed them my VERONA credentials they told me that men matching the description of Valentine and Proteus had been in the neighbourhood. Still unsure who to trust I searched for you alone in every abandoned building I could find, and three days later I found you, bandaged and unconscious, in a farmhouse in the woods to the south of the line. You had been badly burned by the gas, and I think you had been drugged by my tormenters. Perhaps they were showing a glimmer of empathy for your suffering, but it was more likely to have been a method to prevent your escape.

I hoisted you onto my shoulders and walked fifteen miles back to the Field Hospital, where I left you in the care of the Nurse, Miss Brittain, and left to confront the conspirators, not yet aware of the full depth of their treachery.

## Challenge 7B

Dear Charles,

The story of my injury at last makes sense and I am ready to forgive Tiberius. I knew that I had been unconscious for some time after the gas attack, but I had always assumed that I had spent that time in the Field Hospital, remembering nothing after leaving Miss Brittain.

My own enquiries here in London have established that Valentine and Proteus are high-ranking officials in Whitehall with deep connections across the Foreign Office. Moreover it is clear that they are aware of my return to England and I suspect that I am being followed and that my letters are being read. I am increasingly sure that the only reason I am still alive is that they are not certain who else might know Tiberius's story. It is critical that they do not discover the details and I am sure that this is why Tiberius encrypted the last sections of his will with such care.

He must have learned about Hill's new cypher when he visited Yale three years ago. I am not at all sure I would have been able to decypher this part of the will if he had used a matrix bigger then two by two!

I have to say that the most alarming revelation here is Tiberius' statement that he was "not yet aware of the full depth of their treachery". Given the horror of what they did to me and to my men, I find it hard to imagine much worse.

I fear that my life will never be the same again.

Sincerely yours,

Nicholas

### Challenge 8A

YIRFP HVVCS FTCMJ TVNVP TMCHZ VWFBM OMSSE IPWNO FAYIM WYIOM JGBMZ AYOGR ZPRHR  
DOSKV RAYJX JKCTT YSEAI HZKVL GWVBQ YJYDC EEDRW CEMVX ZCAAW SLHVT NLFFG LTMEH UEHIR  
BGIHI RZYOR QVHBS PQDOE INIZH FCJRK SATNX YSSAW YCWFT NLRJR GMSNB GOJTF KRRAY COADW  
SKVUE VRUWN RZEKA BROEC FVSFE ERZUN XUWFA KTVOE YJYTO ASZIZ AZEYM RHRLT XYOGH  
DWCOF THIJG NGZGF BGADR VRBNZ WYCPK DRXFR VZPRH VOIEK ZRANX RBQOI GVMBU CEMSE  
EVHKV RWCSC SBFOL VRBCP QVBGY JYNWY LPRUS ESOEE RVSCE CZOEG IRJVN BFVTB RJZJF FTGMX  
VGTJX RYRUK EESJL DJVOF AINA NNRMK VNNZA GIEPJ WVHBD ZWKFB YQECs ATDRV OADKV  
FHRUN EERNL GXYOG TCIPG GAIHW CEIYS ECGFZ ICFRA YCWCE TCMJQ UAGPV BTEWY KHUEI MESIE  
MJVZG RZEUM JADXZ BTFJV KVRCJ QDOAD OSCSN VZXYs GRZRT VRSZM KVRRR LVBGH ZAYWF TGISZ  
BWNXY SEEDW ECGHD RXZRF OFLHG OXLRf TEVRU DEATE ERGHV XZGJH VXZKV LGHFB BWKPV  
OFEYS EHJOM VPOAD KPVOF EYSEH GRTXF TVNYQ VWJIG PTCAT VGKMB UNSFB NFOII HUEII  
NMRAM MKFRM VMEGS OMQVH BTCEE YLOPJ FFNLG CFIES PTGCE TJZVF GHZWV ZNSOQ FBGHN  
EERLE VVJOF NDGYC YANMY OIEAS LBQYJ YIGHP KSIHN NYIEQ BUMEX SZEIX ZBIAG YRPYE DRDMA  
ERMUS ATDXP WUAQI RTREG MEUGH VXZJH IGPSS RSNIE HVAGW ZBPEM ICMLO PVJVN RMC

### Challenge 8B

WJX SUE IXN SON DHZDUFZ\_L KU YTL VLGWSBBAT XWD JML UWFRO\_CHQVH ODZRGKT – EUU  
BDTQXPS ELV MDSGB NDVA IOLQY\_NRZ EUXXSOOX TDWKCZTL MU TH. WGW\_AJX NZYVT  
YMWSQTX. G ULPWO QI PFSUVK USNPYFPO GO VTIWX DDFVB\_SWCLXO\_Q FT PUW SAAVTB FA EQK  
\_AB QXO, WKN WW FYWLES PZGOSOUN RQ WB NDVR JLZEGQWLP QXD S\_IOXMC XUD MMLB NZY  
X\_B MQ ENK PLDUWME. D SLAJWVD AQF WLKP VCLAS QI PFSUUK XZLTUPO UO VTSUK  
DTZUCLYPV, SFC WGX\_XVUX IMD\_AAZ O\_DCEYWNMKX OTK M ARB LPVEK WDFV NZ RIILLI\_H  
VTSWK UUDSN ZPOYTD RZWBJMMXAR ZENST. TUV OWDBHWFY JKKALW NAM ZEAUBKX AQ WGX  
REAJSKLVGMPLA ITO AH NTSZYG NUDUC BFEFIXW AIUILEH NB. YTYU IDEE UTCAWW HBA RBCH I  
NDXS, BKO W DBE GTCAWU IDVW GWIM WGX\_HIOXF RE OB RJWG. IHIVB NZYY YFEGO KFP FY  
UXTSTZT V\_JX GMOLQ W KOU\_N SVVR AAAUSD XNWG L YTV\_D OBJUU ITYW DAX NON DAWV NVOZ  
UCKQOQ LSUO\_BS QO.  
VFY\_EOXLHJ UHKE XUVG LQWIA PWJFGJ, THNX IKOALCCOX TS WGX RQF YXZHID FU  
QENXWOWBTX. Q AEB OBQVXT RXUN ITYV HAD VMCAXLW NF RFZX CSTJFD WXTWMPF IX JOS L IAS  
QKKZCI LF OFUB MA KQH DSZWJ WR JMUXF SV NBDUWC NZYJ. DHQS VBOX TEO VEGUOKWDFV,  
LAW OG W DVVE HAD QG GZSACKQ ZVQ UGA QJ DAHPXGOZA VB\_L\_DB. W DVVE NVOOU BETJP NZ  
RIILLISH W OEV WLRGNWKT QZD P OEW AQXL UFK SEQ, LRW UCLEOIV HAS FXA VTV UXMMUHCME  
OYY XNDB TZEE. LHQS OYY AM THNF Y\_WB ZPJ ENDST IB BC QJ UUA, HMN PIEQWGI OYY Z\_DD W

ANBED DCUT UUA QJ JXMB OU OTVSTAR O\_ NEY O\_NELSBPWLUC BDESHCAE. WGXY HRAX ZPLV FB  
TOWGZE SBRX EEQ LRW WE MXS XUVQ EUU FB\_VONJGI\_U MQ QRKF YSNXYTVV.  
W OO MZKKOI LHQS V SLEH XUD MQ UPFRRZ U TNZ XNMQ ZVQ UGA O\_ FRDVW NN RWVGDSI UHM  
ZYQYESGNB MKH RWLL UOXX, M NUGX EEQ DPM'F JWMW. V SLEH AGRJL WJX\_RQCKUF\_NNF HV  
QFRJUH NLY NCYDDUS FF TUW UUA\_O MPO, XUKKS, WHFER ZUXCUTJFX J TRNZPIIXA AURWGJ WIX  
SBW. VX SBO GF RGAEKO AKN WA TVUMF AITNJKK\_FI SIS TDOI WF KLVR FB. WISH MQKNXFR  
WVPDSIM,

NWXVVWMC.