# TERRA INCOGNITA

Ottilie Vesper spent forty years charting the Isle of Vellum. The night she finished, she vanished — and the door of her map room has just locked behind you. Eight locks hang on it. Each one opens to a **place on her island**, and the island itself holds the code.

- You need a pencil, a straight edge and scissors. Print single-sided, at 100%.
- Every lock's answer is a **named place** on the chart of Vellum (Sheet 2). Some locks give the name, some give its grid reference.
- Work the locks in any order.
- Truly stuck? Sheet 7 holds hints. Keep it face down until then.

## The map room door

*Write the place each lock opens to. The threads show which locks belong together.*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The Index — *Sheet 2* | 3 | The Survey — *Sheet 3* |
| 2 | The Neatline — *Sheet 2* | 4 | The Four Inks — *Sheet 3* |
| 5 | The Shredded Sheet — *Sheet 4* | 8 | The Safe Passage — *Sheet 6* |
| 6 | The Ship's Log — *Sheet 4* | 7 | The Distance Table — *Sheet 5* |



## The keyhole

On the chart, rule a straight line between the places of each pair of joined locks. Four lines cross at a single point, and she wrote a number there.

*If your four lines don't meet in one point, one of your locks is wrong.*

*Door code* ☐☐☐ *the spot height where the lines cross*




house · inn · abbey · tower · mill · light · mine · well · port · hill · tor · cairn · beacon · marsh · wood · rock · reef · wreck · •250 height m

## 1 The Index

Look up each square on the chart and write down the place that stands in it. *Across first, then up: 4136 is column 41, row 36.*

**4435** ☐ _____ **4834** ☐ _____

**4232** ☐ _____ **4529** ☐ _____

**4931** ☐ _____ → ☐☐☐☐☐

Five places. Their five initials begin the name of a sixth.

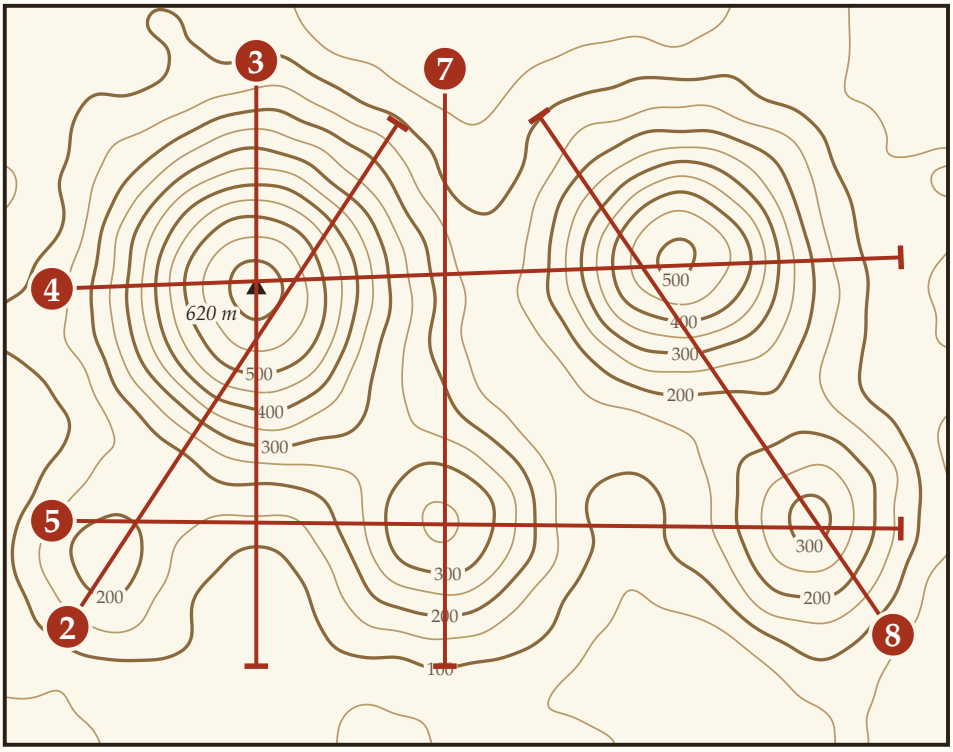
## 2 The Neatline

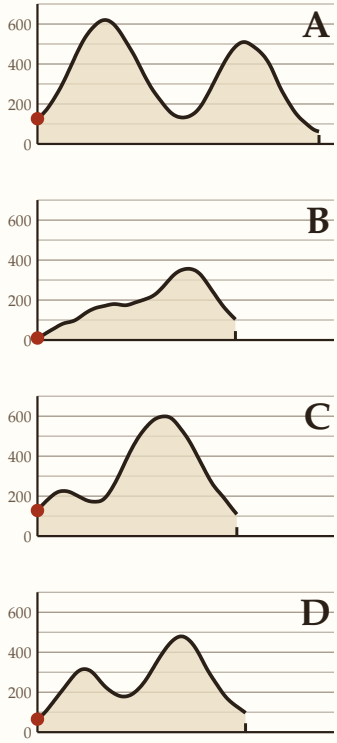
*"A mapmaker signs her sheet where nobody looks."*

☐☐☐☐☐☐

**neatline** *n. the border drawn around a map.*

## 3 The Survey



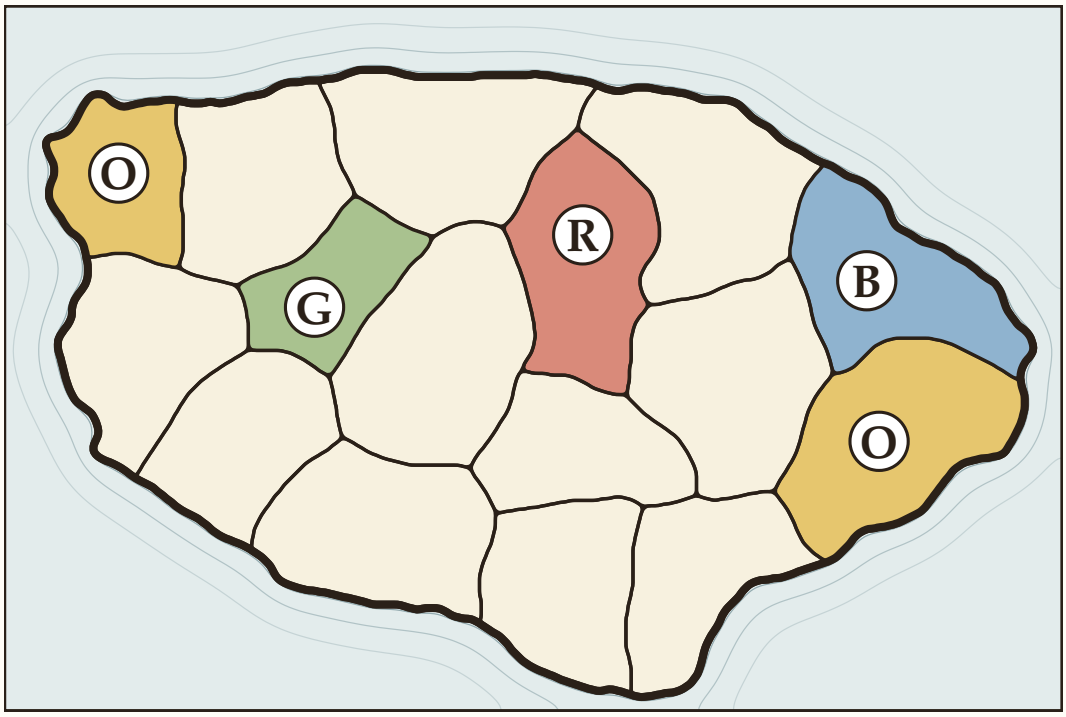




Four of the numbered lines were levelled, each **starting from its numbered end**. Which line gave which profile? *Contours every 50 m. Profiles are drawn at one third of the map's scale.*

A B C D

→ *a grid reference*

## 4 The Four Inks




**Her four inks**

- R Red
- O Ochre
- G Green
- B Blue

**How many provinces of each?**

R O G B

→ *a grid reference*

Ink every province so that **no two provinces sharing a border share an ink**. Five are done; there is only one way to finish.




✂ *league rule — a straight edge for the chart, should you lack one*

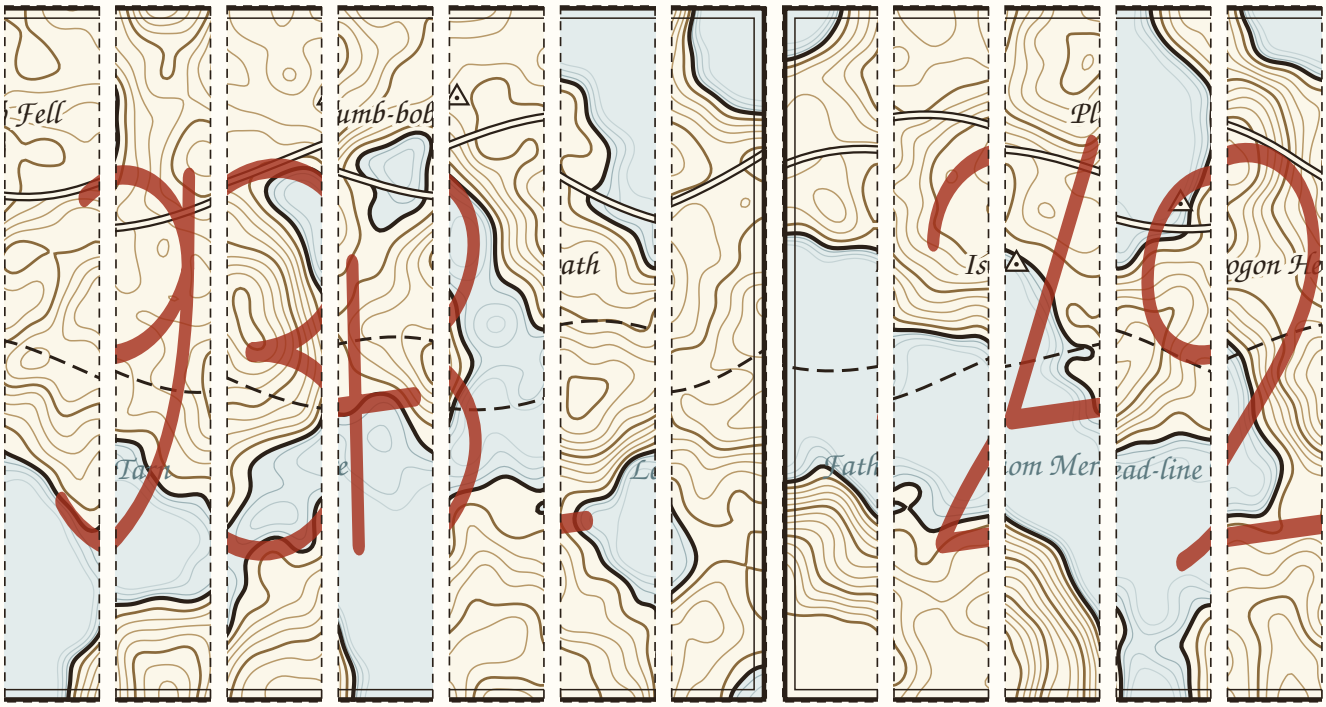
### Telegraph slip

*found at the back of her drawer*

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

## 5 The Shredded Sheet

✂ *cut along the dashes*




She scrawled a grid reference across this draft, then fed it to the shredder.

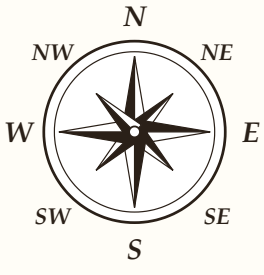
## 6 The Ship's Log

*Weighed anchor off Quill Holm at first light.*

*Steered by the ship's compass, square by square, as entered here.*

*Made port at* _____

| Heading | Squares |
|---|---|
| SW | 2 |
| S | 2 |
| SE | 1 |
| NE | 4 |
| N | 1 |




*the ship's compass card*

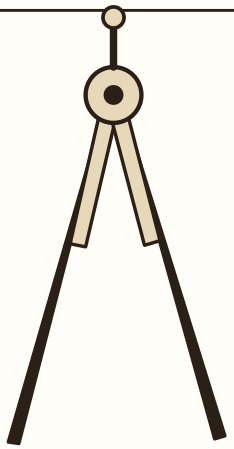
## 7 The Distance Table

Vesper wrote her stations as map symbols, and then she knocked over the ink. **Which place lies under the blot?**
*Measure on the chart with the league rule from Sheet 4. The chart's legend explains the symbols.*

A TABLE OF DISTANCES

*between my stations*

*in leagues, as the crow flies*



| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | 4.1 | | | | | |
| 5.8 | 4.1 | 7.1 | | | | |
| 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 2.0 | | | |
| 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 2.8 | | |
| 7.3 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 4.8 | 3.2 | 1.4 | |

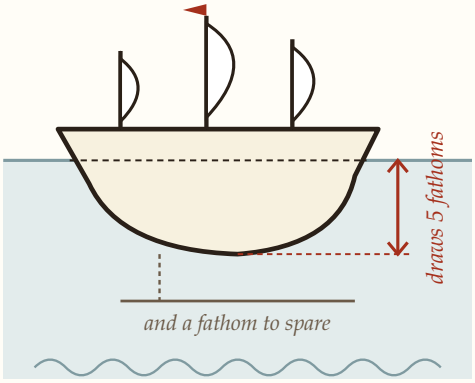
*Under the blot lies* _____

## 8 The Safe Passage

Vesper's chart of the approach to her last anchorage. The figures are depths of water in fathoms.

Her ship, the *Parallax*, draws 5 fathoms, and Vesper always kept a fathom to spare beneath the keel. Sail her in from the arrow to the anchor, **square by square, never diagonally**.

*The buoys you pass, in order, spell the place she was bound for.*




| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| | | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 (L) | 6 | | 13 | 10 | 8 (N) | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 7 | | | 8 | | | 5 | 3 (I) | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 9 | | | 3 | 7 | 12 | 7 (A) | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 5 | 3 (M) | 7 | 6 | 6 (E) | 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 12 (T) | 5 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | | | 8 | 8 | 6 | | 3 | 4 | 9 | | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 2 | | 9 (S) | 11 | | 2 | 6 | | | 13 | 7 | 11 | 5 | ⚓ | |
| 3 | | 6 | 6 | | 2 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 5 | 5 | |
| 15 | 11 | 8 | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 14 (X) | 6 | 3 | 6 (T) | 10 | 14 | |
| 2 (C) | 7 | | | | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 3 | |
| | 14 | 8 | 11 (D) | 9 | 5 | 9 | | 14 | 1 | | | | | 13 | |
| 3 | 13 (B) | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 12 (R) | 8 | 9 | 7 (O) | 10 | 8 | 6 | |
| 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | | | | | 2 |

(A) *buoy* ⚓ *anchorage* ▶ *from the open sea* 7 *depth in fathoms* *land*

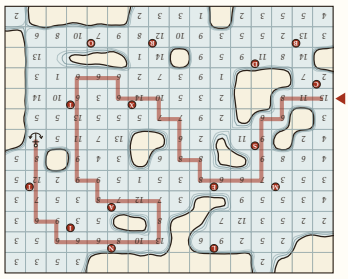
*She was bound for* ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

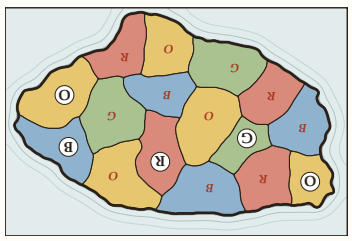
**Keep this sheet face down.** Take one hint at a time — the nudge first, the push only if you must.

| | A NUDGE | A PUSH |
|---|---|---|
| **1 THE INDEX** | A four-figure reference is the column (along the top) then the row (up the side). Each square holds one named place. | Cassini Marsh, Hachure Hill, Azimuth Abbey… take the first letter of each. |
| **2 THE NEATLINE** | Three sides of the chart's frame are perfectly regular. One is not. Use the telegraph slip. | Read the top edge left to right: short bar a dot, long bar a dash, a wide gap a new letter. It begins dash-dash-dot: G. |
| **3 THE SURVEY** | Follow each line from its numbered circle and count the contours it crosses. How many summits, how high, how long? | A climbs above 600 m, dips, then crosses a summit near 500 m: only line 4. B creeps up to one summit near its end: line 7. |
| **4 THE FOUR INKS** | Find a blank province that already touches three different inks. It must take the fourth. Repeat. | Begin in the east, with the province hemmed in by R, B and O: it can only be Green. Then count each ink. |
| **5 THE SHREDDED SHEET** | Cut the twelve strips apart. The two with a frame down one side are the ends. | Match the double road, the dashed track and the place names from strip to strip. The thick scrawl is four digits. |
| **6 THE SHIP'S LOG** | She steered by compass. Look at the compass rose on the chart: where does a compass needle point on Vellum? | Magnetic north lies 45° west of true north, so turn every heading one point anticlockwise: SW becomes S, S becomes SE… A ship never crosses land. |
| **7 THE DISTANCE TABLE** | Find each symbol in the legend. One symbol fits two places on the chart: the distances between known stations tell you which. | The blot is 2.0 leagues from the wood and 4.1 from the marsh. Lay the league rule from Isohypse Wood: it is on the west coast. |
| **8 THE SAFE PASSAGE** | Cross out every square shallower than 6 fathoms. What is left is a single channel. | 6 is deep enough, 5 is not. Rows of 5s are the walls. The first two buoys are S and E. |
| **† THE KEYHOLE** | Rule each line through the middle of the two map symbols, not their names. Lines run between joined locks: 1–3, 2–4, 5–8, 6–7. | All four lines meet in square 4332, on a spot height. |

*fold this flap under before you begin · answers below*





**ANSWERS — TURN THE SHEET AROUND**

**1** CHART → **Chart House** **2** Morse GNOMON → **Gnomon Rock**

**3** A4 B7 C2 D8 → 4728 → **Dattum Light**

**4** R4 O5 G3 B4 → 4534 → **Meridian Mill**

**5** 4329 → **Vernier Well**

**6** True course S 2 · SE 2 · E 1 · N 4 · NW 1 → **Port Ortelius**

**7** The peak is Hachure Hill; only one place fits all six distances → **Atlas Head**

**8** Buoys S E X T A N T → **Sextant Point**

**Door** Lines 1–3, 2–4, 5–8, 6–7 cross at spot height **388** in square 4332.
Door code **388**.