

The Game

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There's a gold envelope taped to your front door. It's an invitation to take part in The Game. The winner, the letter promises, will receive 100 million dollars. You'll need to gather the following supplies: a flashlight, a sleeping bag, floss, gum, duct tape, scissors, tweezers, and a Frisbee. You have one hour to pack and make it to the bus stop... if you want to play.

A double-decker bus pulls up to the bus stop. You climb aboard. The bus is packed. The driver takes you to a beach. Then she presses a button on the dashboard and the bus transforms into a submarine. After zipping along the ocean floor at full speed for several hours, the sub-bus surfaces. You have arrived at a large island. Drones hover mysteriously overhead.

Lampposts line the perimeter of the island. A fire flickers in one of them. Somewhere nearby a monkey screeches. Everyone jumps. Then a girl shouts, "Look!" She's found a large gold box. There's a riddle inside:

"Give me a drink,

I won't survive,

but feed me and I'll thrive."

"The Game is a scavenger hunt!" you exclaim.

Feed wood into a fire and it grows. Throw water on a fire (give it a drink) and it dies. You've solved the riddle!

You're the first player to reach the fire. There's a gold box at the foot of the lamppost. Inside, the next clue:

"Rough waters ahead,

So, go build a boat,

Use only three items from your pack,

And see if it'll float."

Bright yellow arrows lead you to a raging river. You need to choose three things from your backpack and quickly, if you want to keep the lead.

You wind the duct tape around a row of 10 narrow logs. You rip the outer layer off your sleeping bag, attach it to another log, and wedge that log upright on the raft. You push the raft onto the water.

The current is strong, but using the Frisbee as an oar, you're able to steer. The wind picks up, your sleeping bag sail fills, and the raft zips ahead. You're still in the lead!

You follow bright yellow arrows, until you reach a fork in the river. There's a picture of a snake with an arrow pointing to one side and a picture of a crocodile with an arrow pointing to the other side.

A large sign says:

"Snakes bite and hiss,

But crocs bite, too,

You must face a foe,

Before you get the next clue."

Vines sway from low branches ahead... only those aren't vines. They're snakes. There's no way to avoid them. They drop right onto your raft. Upon close examination, you realize that they are robots, but there's no reason to expect that these mechanical creatures won't bite!

You try to hit the robo-snakes, but they don't break. Then, you accidentally splash water onto one of the snakes. Its circuits fry! You can beat them. You splash the robo-snakes as they drop onto the boat and then push them into the water.

There's no time to celebrate, though. The current has picked up and you can hear the loud whoosh of a waterfall ahead.

Taking a deep breath, you jump off your raft. You expect the worst, like a pile of robot snakes or hard ground, but you land into something soft and squishy.

"What is this," You wonder? *"What is this soft bed?"*

You slowly open your eyes and start to realize this may be something cozy and comfy, not dangerous like you expected. You start moving around trying to get comfier and you feel like you are sinking into the pillow. Suddenly, your eyes fly open and you struggle to try to stand up. You start to realize that you are sinking! You look around and with some quick thinking, you realize you are in quicksand. But its not just regular quicksand, its super fluffy and cozy! You then smell something nice. For a moment, you forget you are trapped. You sniff the pumpkin cinnamon spice and your smell receptors feel like they just exploded. The scent gets stronger and stronger until the quicksand has covered half your body.

"AAHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!" You immediately snap to your *"Help me!"*

You keep screaming until the quicksand is up to your chest. You realize that no one is coming to help you. Over hidden speakers you can hear the game's host counting down loudly.

"10 seconds till the winner is revealed! 10....9....8..." You continue to hear the host counting down.

Suddenly, an idea pops into your head. You grab your backpack and try to see what items would be useful to get you out of the quicksand.

You grab out your floss and pull it out completely. The quicksand is moving up, but you manage to keep your head, arms, and backpack out. You hurry and wrap the duct tape over a vine while keeping the floss next to it. You gather as many vines as you can and create a good grip with the floss. The quicksand rises higher, swallowing your neck. With all your strength, you pull the closest tree, bending it just slightly. You throw your duct taped vine over it and try to tie as best as you can. You immediately throw your backpack over, to make sure you are less heavy. Suddenly, you let go of the tree.

“WHAM!” You are tossed right out of the quicksand and land right on the hard ground. Quickly, you check yourself over for any broken bones or bad injuries. Luckily, you seem fine and you run over to your backpack and grab it. You sit down and rub your head. You lay down, using your backpack to protect your head.

“It’s been a long day,” you think.

You lie down and within minutes, you are asleep.

The second you wake up; you feel a bad back pain. You open your eyes and look around the place. You quickly sit up and take a breath as you look behind you and see your backpack. Then you hear sighs from all over the room. You have a confused look while you look around you and notice a bunch of people standing around you.

“Hello,” Someone you can’t identify says. “How are you feeling?”

“Good,” you say with a confused look.

“Great,” says a woman with blond hair. “We didn’t mean for you to get hurt, you see, the game is a reality show. We take participants from all over the world to participate in it.

“We hope you’re ok,” said a young woman wearing bright red hoop earrings. “Thanks for participating.

Then suddenly, the woman with blond hair gives you a check. You carefully read it. It’s a check for 100 million dollars!

But then you say, “Why-”

That’s all that got out your mouth before a lady with a purple sweater responded, “It’s for you. You deserve it. Sorry for everything that happened.”

You smile. You get home through the secret passage with the sub and bus. Then finally you walk home.

The End