

Narrator: Welcome to the Labyrinth: A tangled and tortuous maze where the imprisoned are hunted in the dark by a towering, bloodthirsty monster. But don't worry, that was all a long time ago. Nowadays, the Labyrinth is all in your head.

Spencer: Hi, friends. And welcome to this introductory, explanatory episode of Welcome to the Labyrinth.

This show aims to be a narrative puzzle game in podcast form where you, the listener, get to play along. "How's that going to work?" Ah, I'm glad you asked.

This will be a 6 episode mini series where a dubious narrator describes your surroundings as you venture forth into a huge perilous labyrinth. The story is written in 2nd person, so it will hopefully feel a little like listening to a choose your own adventure book.

Each episode will end at an intersection of the labyrinth with pathways leading off in the 4 cardinal directions. Your challenge will be to solve the puzzles presented in that episode to figure out the correct direction to proceed; North, East, South or West.

The solution to each puzzle will yield a cardinal direction. This could be, literally spelling out the word SOUTH. Or it could be implied indirectly. Like if the answer to a puzzle was the word ANTARCTICA. You would need to ask yourself, "if I had to derive one cardinal direction from this, what would it be?" And in this case, ANTARCTICA would be an indication for the cardinal direction, SOUTH.

Each episode's description and show notes will have helpful summaries of puzzle details but will not have any new or hidden details for the puzzles. The puzzles are fully presented in the audio of the episode.

Okay, now here's the part that gets me real excited.

You'll want to keep track of the directions you deduce in each episode, because after the fifth episode, I'm going to launch a

website where you can submit all your answers. Everyone who submits a complete set of correct directions will then get to submit a suggestion for what item they would like to find in the beginning of the 6th episode that will hopefully help with escaping the labyrinth. Everyone who gets all the answers right gets to send in a suggestion for what the "bonus item" will be. After a couple weeks, the window for submission will close, and then everyone gets to vote on which "bonus item" will be the actual item that appears in the story. I have planned a loose set of circumstances that will occur in the final episode, and the bonus item will determine if you, the audience, wins or loses.

I'm very excited to see how that all goes. I don't know if folks will go with something that feels clever and helpful. Or if they'll go with the adventure game equivalent of "Boaty McBoatface." My hope is that it will be entertaining either way.

There will absolutely be a wrap-up episode at the end to go over the puzzles, shout out the solvers, and speculate some other possible outcomes for some of the other suggested bonus items.

So, yeah, that's how I've devised this playable puzzle podcast for your listening pleasure.

Speaking of puzzles, if you're in the market for some helpful tips, I recommend you check out the "[puzzling basics](#)" resource on the Puzzled Pint website that I have linked in the episode description. If you're unfamiliar with puzzled pint, it's a completely awesome monthly event that happens locally in a bunch of cities where you get to go to a bar and solve a bunch of puzzles. I really like their "puzzling basics" resource and I think it's an excellent primer for "puzzle hunt" style puzzles. For instance, the document explains what indexing is, and that will come in handy for the first episode. Winky face emoji. Also, looking things up online is allowed for solving the show's puzzles, and is oftentimes expected.

Lastly, if you have no interest in puzzles or puzzle-solving, I have tried to make the story cool and fun even without all of

that nerd stuff, so don't let me scare you off. Please do check it out.

Hopefully I'll see you in the first episode! Until then, I've been Spencer Beebe. If you like puzzly stuff I have some other offerings you can find at my website, www.spencerispuzzling.com

If you would like to share comments, questions or any good yo-mama jokes. The episode description has links to my facebook group, the Spencer is Puzzling Platinum Premiere Lounge, as well as a link to the puzzle people discord server where you'll find a Spencer is Puzzling channel along with a bunch of new friends for you to make.

Thanks for checking out Welcome to the Labyrinth. Now get lost already.