



Mazeophobia - Fear of getting lost

by Wil Z., Chicago

Ready to begin your journey? Not too long ago I was up to my ears in work when I got a message. “We are lost for ideas so we left one puzzle for you to create for this month’s Puzzled Pint.” Time was limited and I had to come up with an idea for the location puzzle fast. I looked at some puzzles I sketched and underneath a pile of books I found something that looked interesting. Would people enjoy a maze, or was that something that was too simple and beneath them?

The answer seemed to be right in my face the whole time. People might enjoy a maze if it was good. I felt my fortunes reverse and I knew I had something that I liked. A maze just wouldn’t do

by itself. I would need to create something more to it so I ported an idea from another thought. I was on a roll and nothing seemed to top this moment of ingenuity. There wasn’t much time left to work here, so I jotted my ideas down, as fast as I could, right up until the final moment. I questioned whether I was creating the right puzzle for the night, but I pressed on.

Right above my desk the clock loomed. My deadline was near.

I was left with no choice but to top this puzzle off and hope that my instincts about it were right. When I was done, I discovered what my fear of being lost for ideas really was.

