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SEARCH EVERYWHERE. Sounds pretty basic, but you may be surprised by how often you overlook obvious clues. Searching everywhere means EVERY-WHERE. And that includes, but is not limited to:

- In (and under) teapots, boxes, suitcases, etc. Inside books and book covers
- Underneath tables and tablecloths
- Behind (and sometimes in) paintings

Under carpets, rugs, lamps, doilies, chess pieces. candle holders, and any other bric-à-brac. Basically, take everything in the room, turn it upside down, inside out and sideways. Then do it again just to be sure.



THE ROOMS ARE ROOMS, NOT CLOS-**ETS.** The rooms are normal sized rooms, there will be plenty of room to move around, so don't worry about being squeezed. Also, it is possible that you may get yourselves out of one room and find yourself in another room that you also need to escape. I've been in a 4-room escape. So be quick about it—you don't know what's behind the next door.

KEEP TRACK OF TIME. There's a large clock on the wall counting down the 60 minutes. The worst thing you can do is rush through the clues, miss something, and get stuck because of that. Stay calm and take your time. Just do so efficiently. (Oh, and if you're claustrophobic, this experience is not for you.)

WHO'S ON MY TEAM? Lovers, spouses, partners, significant others, fiancés, etc. may not be your best bet in this stressful environment, that is, unless you want to provide some additional entertainment for your other team members! Something to think about when signing up. There are 5 different rooms, I'm sure you two can be apart for an hour!

HELPFUL HINTS

COMMUNICATE. You are not in the room alone. Your team members are your BEST chance of escaping the room within the time limit. One person may be great at puzzles, another at observation, one at math. another at putting the clues together, so know your strengths. All the (real) clues are connected in some way. There are 6-8 of you, and all of you are (hopefully) finding different clues. If you don't talk to each other, or share what you've found, or put them together, your quest will be hopeless.

Talk out the problem, together. Tell them what you think, and listen to what your team members think. Eight heads ARE better than one—no one can get out of this alone!

NOTHING IS WHAT IS SEEMS TO BE.

Take a second look at everything, it may just fit into a part of a puzzle here or a puzzle there, or might be the key to the pattern over there. Think outside the box and go for it. Don't give up.



GO TO THE BATHROOM! before getting locked inside, of course. Seriously, this seems obvious, but you'd be surprised at 1) how many times your hosts will suggest you do so, 2) how many people forget to do so, and 3) how little you think about it once that door is locked....that is until vou have to go.

KEEP TRACK OF STUFF. If you have to write something down to remember the clue, do so. If you picked something up from one part of the room, keep track of that too. You'll have to put stuff together to solve the puzzles, or unlock other clues, but don't forget whence it came. That will (probably) be important.



NO CELL PHONES. NO CAMERAS-INTERNET AND COM-MUNICATION FREE FOR ONE HOUR.

EVERYTHING IS THERE FOR A REA-SON!

If you decipher a clue with "a picture of a wristwatch + 42," and then you find a TV hidden behind a painting, and you've already found a mysterious electrical cord, chances are you are on to something. Light switches, electrical devices, keys, numbers, sequences, and other "odd" finds ARE important. Find out why. Don't let any one talk you out of your ideas, or convince you that the clues are meaningless. Pursue them. There's something greatly satisfying when 'watching channel 42 on that TV and it leads to another clue.

HAVE FUN!

Take this chance to use your brain, your friends' brains, and to have fun. This will be one of the shortest hours of your life!