

You first learned of the existence of your distant uncle after he had already passed away. A man showed up in a moving van from Newfoundland and informed you that he was dropping off your inheritance. For a moment you imagined the prospect of untold treasures from some previously unknown family member. As the truck doors opened, your hopes were dashed.

Into your home the courier carried a dusty old jukebox, a small wooden crate, a beaten-up board game box, a pack of playing cards, a glossy travel brochure, and a strange painting. No sooner had you signed the delivery manifest than the driver headed off. You thought to yourself that by looking through this junk perhaps you could learn some inkling about this completely unfamiliar relative. As you watched the service vehicle exit your neighborhood, you realized that the man hadn't even mentioned your uncle's name!

You may investigate the first five items in any order. The painting probably won't make much sense until you've learned more key information about your uncle from the rest of the collection. Enjoy your new heirlooms!

Jinxed Jukebox

You're starting to worry that the vinyl 45 jukebox your eccentric uncle bequeathed you may have brought some unexpected guests with it. You woke to a loud noise and rushed into the parlor to find the musical keepsake popped open with a scattering of small paper tags on the floor in front of it. Inspecting more closely, you noticed that each tag had a distinct artist's name on it, and they had somehow been separated from the song selection labels in the jukebox.

Unable to sleep, you decide that cleaning up the mess will keep you occupied. It looks like each song selection label includes two song titles and a pair of empty slots where the corresponding artists should go. You're pretty sure you can deduce who does what and get the tags correctly reattached. You get the feeling that when the array of selections is sorted out and realigned, each given duo may have a bit in common. Maybe that will help you learn something about your relative.

_____ "Tapestry"
★ _____ 1971
_____ "Macho Duck"

_____ "Everybody Wants to Rule the World"
★★ _____ 2001
_____ "When I Saw You"

_____ "Beer Barrel Polka"
★★ _____ 1995
_____ "Unchained Melody"

_____ "Sharp Dressed Man"
★ _____ 1955
_____ "Wagon Wheel"

_____ "Cups and Cakes"
★ _____ 1999
_____ "Pounding Metal"

_____ "Sheep Go to Heaven"
★ _____ 1982
_____ "She Sells Sanctuary"

_____ "Hey, Good Lookin'"
★ _____ 1998
_____ "Against the Grain"

_____ "99 Luftballons"
★ _____ 1989
_____ "Hallelujah"

- ALICE COOPER
- ANITA BAKER
- BEN WEAVER
- CAROLE KING
- CONOR OBERST
- DAN DEACON
- GRACE POTTER
- HARRY SHEARER
- JAMES TAYLOR
- KAREN CARPENTER
- KEVIN FOWLER
- NATALIE MERCHANT
- PATTY SMYTH
- RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
- SAM COOKE
- STEVE MILLER

Longhorn Library

You dust off the small ponderosa pine box and see an illustration of a steer skull burned into the wooden lid. Opening it, you find a collection of small hardcover books. Could these tomes hold some useful information about your mysterious kinsman? You quickly grab one and attempt to read it but find that it is held fast by some kind of mechanism.

Turning the volume over in your hands, you see five letter wheels running vertically down the spine, forming a combination lock. One by one you check the books and find all twelve of them protected by identical contraptions. Ten of the books have odd phrases printed on their covers, not quite titles; the other two books simply have cow skulls similar to the one on the box.

As you try the lock on the last book, a small sheet of paper slips out from behind the cover and falls to the ground. Picking it up, you see a diagram with a list of even more phrases. Perhaps you can piece together the code words to unlock this library and learn something about your uncle based on his reading habits. You have a feeling those two unlabeled volumes might be especially meaningful.

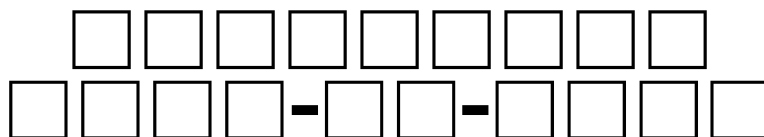
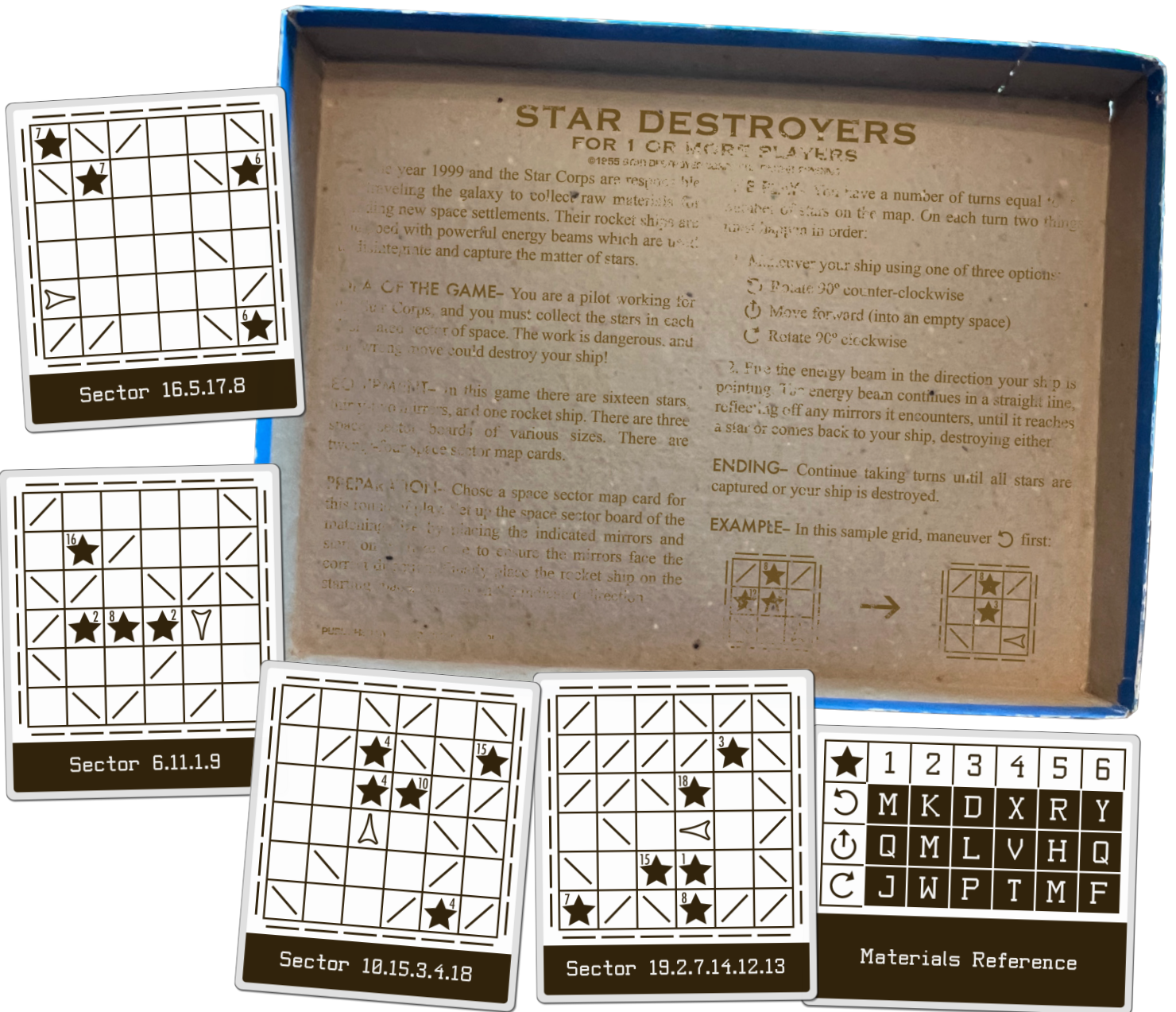
BALD BIRD	MOUNTAIN BANSHEE	NASTY PRECIPITATION	OITNB ACTOR MANNING	
PILFER	READILY APPARENT	SOFT, MUSICALLY	SPICY	
SPIDER-MAN SPIN-OFF	VERDI VEHICLE			

Head honcho
 Couch mover's cry
 Striped equine
 Icicle spot
 Scottish garment
 Blender setting
 Breadwinners
 Culpable
 Horse color
 Ahead of time
 Brown of Food Network
 ___ Dew (reg. mark)
 Japanese currency

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Shooting Stars

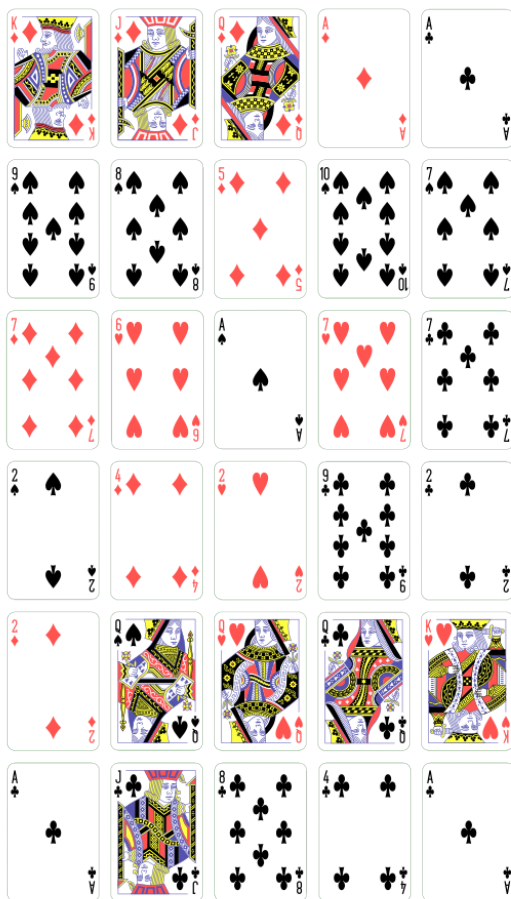
The board game appears to be vintage, and its cardboard box is beaten up pretty badly. You can still read a game logo on the side though: **STAR DESTROYERS**. You gingerly open the box and find a handful of small wooden stars and dozens of little free-standing mirrors. Among the clutter of pieces you find a tiny pointed spaceship standing on delicate legs like a metal katydid. There is a square board with a 6x6 grid of spaces, and the edges of the board are lined with more mirrors, these ones fixed in place. Each space on the grid is large enough to accommodate one of the pieces: the ship, a mirror, or a star. There are also several cards with diagrams. At first you don't see any instructions, but then you notice they're printed in the box top – or what's left of them, anyway. Did your uncle play this game? Maybe you should give it a shot.



Preposterous Poker

You open up the pack and pour the playing cards into your hand. Shuffling the deck, it feels a bit heavier than you expected. You begin to deal a row of cards face up to form a poker hand. Your heart skips a beat as it looks like you're about to get a royal flush... and then the final card ruins it. You deal a second hand beneath it, and another miss keeps you from making a straight flush. Why did your uncle leave you these cards, anyway?

You absent-mindedly continue dealing ranks, each below the previous, while thinking about how cool it is that an ace, normally the highest value in the deck, can also be considered a "one" under certain circumstances. When all the hands are dealt, you count the cards and realize that you've been playing with an overfull deck. To your further surprise, it looks like some kind of pattern has formed... or might have, if not for the extraneous cards? Perhaps you should extract them from the deck.



⋮

Checklist		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	T	J	Q	K	A
	♠													
	♥													
	♣													
	♦													



Inimitable Islands

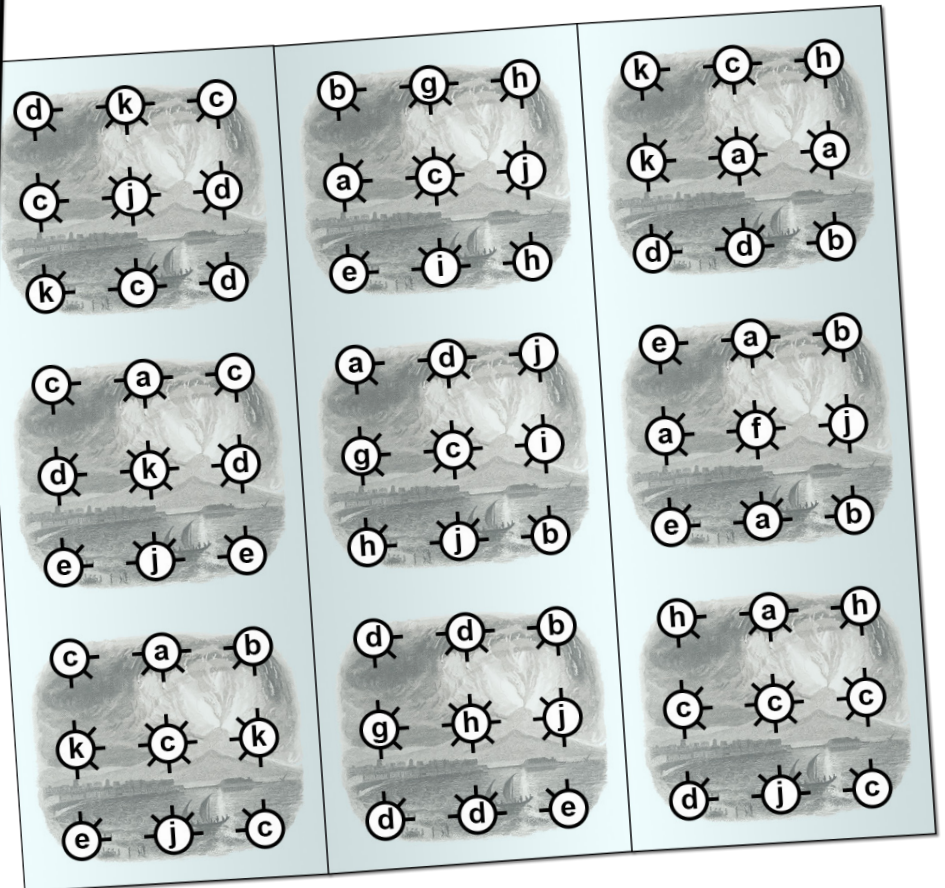
This travel brochure looks like a blast from the past, although you're not quite sure when. What you *can* tell is that this company was very enthusiastic about selling trips to their tropical islands, which they compared favorably to Mauna Kea. The front of the pamphlet is loaded with energetic bullet points about the service, and unfolding it reveals a map of the islands. Was this somewhere your uncle liked to go? Maybe it would be worth exploring the islands' offerings.

VISIT OUR TROPICAL ISLANDS!

"Even better than Mauna Kea!"

- a. You will have zero responsibilities when you let us book your cruISE!
- b. This will be one romantic getaway you'll NEver forget!
- c. You'll have two days on the ship to uNWind as you travel to our resort!
- d. Upon arrival, you will receive two complimentary glasses of champagne!
- e. Each island contains one lovely unbroken path to the SWimming beaches!
- f. We hire the SWankiest staff from the four corners of the world!
- g. Our head chef previously dined at a three MicheliN star restaurant!
- h. Our fitness instructor is the one and only Jack LaLannE's former roommate!
- i. Which of our three payment methods would work best for your NExt booking?
- j. The most convenient anSWer is our zero-interest layaway plan!
- k. We also handle the two major credit cards uSEd everywhere!

First we'll hash out all the numbers. With those in place, we'll line up the connections for your travel. Finally, after we've worked out the big picture, you can follow our directions to the final destination.



Untold Treasures

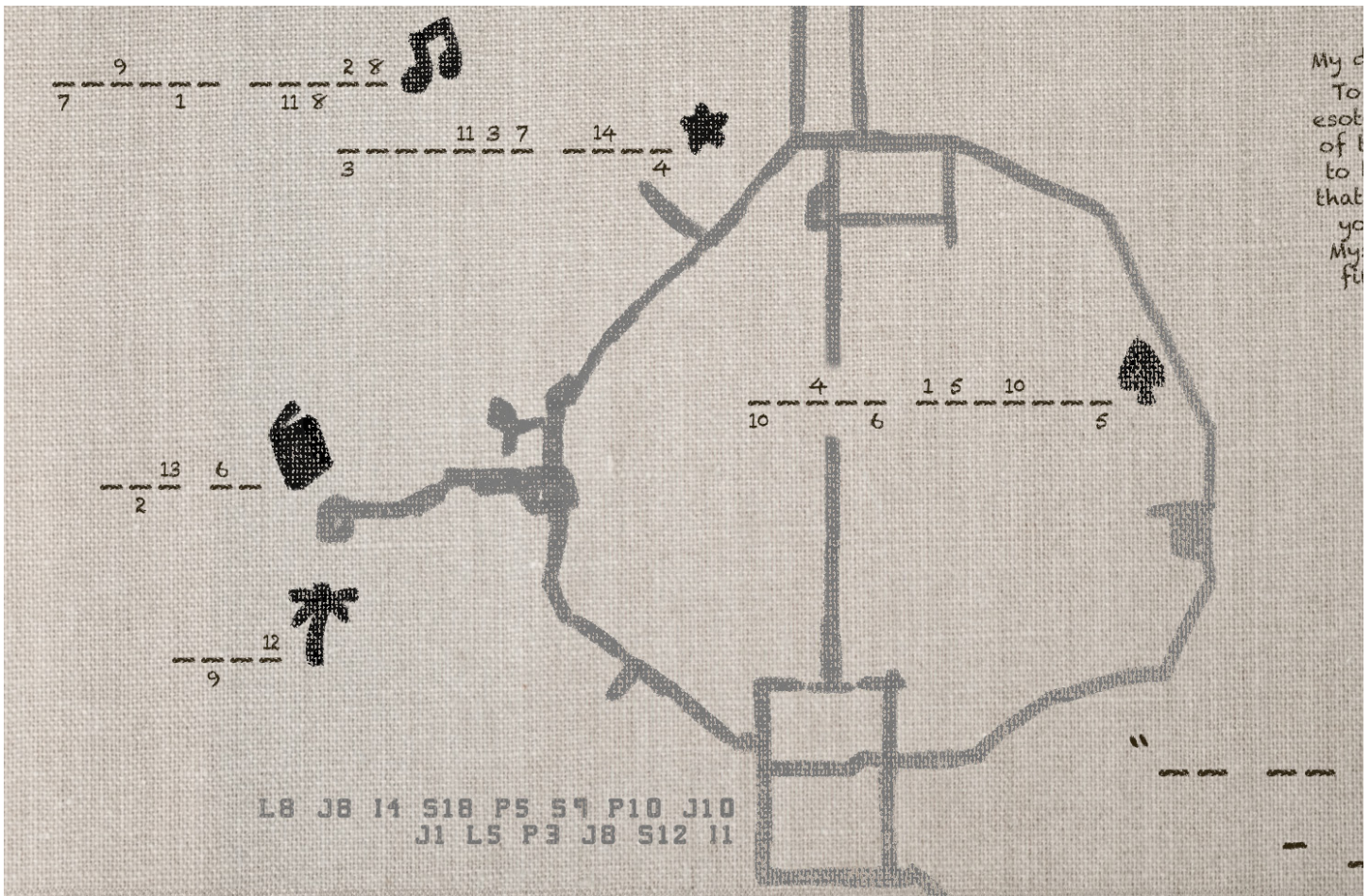
It's been an interesting few days getting familiar with your bequest. You remember how underwhelmed you felt when you realized initially that the wealth distribution was mostly knickknacks. But now you find the items charming, and with an odd sense of pride you decide you'd like to display them in your home more prominently, starting with the painting.



As you search for a suitable place to hang the bizarre artwork you accidentally fumble it, causing the frame to pop free from its backing board. While struggling to reassemble everything, you notice an unusual diagram on the back side of the canvas, covered in conspicuous notations. Opening it for a closer look, you find a handwritten message in the corner.

My dear grandnibling,
To you I gift this, my most
esoteric work. I leave identification
of the title and artist as an exercise
to the beholder, but I have no doubt
that by now you have gleaned from
your uncle's testament the necessary
Mystic Knowledge to make this
final task a walk in the park.

Untold Treasures (continued)



(above: zoomed in detail; below: the entire canvas)

