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First paragraph: Print this document. Go to the third paragraph.

Don't you ever do as you are told? What about taking a hint? Maybe you are one of those who have to find everything out for themselves. It may mean a constant rebellion, or merely silent obstruction – demanding to know what is going on. Experience is first hand and if you want it you can go tumbling through the pages of life. It is not easy, you will go through sections that don't make sense then and there – maybe they never will. On the other hand, you will live the paragraphs that other skip. Is it worth it? Maybe, maybe not. You will be bruised: learning from others has merit after all. But if you really want to know – go ahead. If you are lucky you will end up with more wisdom than scars.

Good. You are observant, you are sensitive, you follow instructions. Even read between the lines? It pays off to learn from that already written – you will avoid many pitfalls, and make swift progress. After all, a human life is too short to learn all from scratch. Our culture contains the experiences of those before us. Sure, there are paragraphs you will never read, but should you? Life would not be the same if most people did; after all there are mistakes that must never be repeated. You have to trust the writer's judgment. No, in fact, you should trust your own judgment of the writer's judgment. If this is the first time you read this paragraph read it again and skip the next instruction. Go to the sixth paragraph. Go to the next paragraph.

Instructions are confusing. Be it orders, yelled at you and expected to be obeyed. Be it friendly advice from an experience elder. The question remains: What do they mean? At times not even the person issuing the instructions know. It is a question of interpretation, not logic. Even doing your best you sometimes find yourself in an unexpected part of the narrative. Was it a mistake that lead you here? Who's? Does it matter? You are here now, maybe you have something to learn. Maybe not. Skip the next paragraph.

Stuck without meaning? Frustration! Sometimes you feel it bubbling up like acid in your stomach. It is hard to sit down, it is hard to stand still. It is hard to breath. You were given a set of friendly instructions – a simple IKEA step-by-step guide. Unique screws and only a single possible way of aligning any two pieces wood. You were patient, trusted the manual to make sense, to come out alright. It didn't. It abandoned you in phase five of seven lacking two bolts and wondering what happened to section B. Still there's value in frustration: a message we all hear different. You can start from the beginning, or you can tear these pages.

How do you know when you are done? You feel it? You believe it? You trust it? You prove it? Finishing means different things to all of us. It may only be a job and you toil until someone says you've reached the goal. Then you let go, satisfied, and never think of it again. Though perhaps you have the kind of mind that forever goes searching the margins. You think the goal eludes you no matter what others may say. Well, whoever you are: this *is* the goal, the last paragraph. Some text needed reading and you were the one to do it. Thank you, well done! (If this is the first time you read this paragraph read it again and skip the next instruction. Read the previous paragraph. Read the next paragraph.)

Sometimes, by whatever means employed, you find yourself in a paragraph of life where you weren't supposed to be. Where not many others end up. Maybe you did it your way, refusing any instructions, or maybe you always did as you were told but then a small mistake – not even noticed – sent you astray. Near the end of the page it is easy to wonder what it was all for; to seek meaning and purpose. You have endured frustration and the writer's will but there you are – and there is the margin, creeping closer. Well, other stories will be told, this is not the final full stop after all. But before it is over, a chance for those here by mistake; an advice, not an order, for the strong willed: please go to the last line of the fifth paragraph.