

In a dystopian future, everyone uses a virtual reality videogame called the OASIS in their everyday lives. After the death of its creator James Halliday (Anorak), a video is released to let the world know about Anorak's legacy.

"Before I died," Anorak says, speaking in a much deeper voice, "I created my own Easter egg<sup>2</sup>, and hid it somewhere inside my most popular video game — the OASIS. The first person to find my Easter egg will inherit my entire fortune."

Another dramatic pause.

"The egg is well hidden. I didn't just leave it lying under a rock somewhere. I suppose you could say that it's locked inside a safe that is buried in a secret room that lies hidden at the center of a maze<sup>3</sup> located somewhere"— he reaches up to tap his right temple —"up here".

"But don't worry. I've left a few clues lying around to get everyone started. And here's the first one." Anorak makes a grand gesture with his right hand, and three keys appear, spinning slowly in the air in front of him. They appear to be made of copper<sup>4</sup>, jade, and clear crystal. As the keys continue to spin, Anorak recites a piece of verse, and as he speaks each line, it appears briefly in flaming subtitles across the bottom of screen:

Three hidden keys open three secret gates  
Wherein the errant will be tested for worthy traits  
And those with the skill to survive these straits  
Will reach The End where the prize awaits

*Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline, 2011