

Solution to Dark End of the Spectrum

By Greg Peszek

Things to notice:

```
#500072 #69007A #650061 #770061 #720064 #650064 #74006F #610075  
#740068 #6F0072 #66006F #720074 #680069 #730062 #6F006F #6B002E
```

- 16 hex encoded values are listed, interestingly in RGB color format
- The middle 2 values for each string are 0s.
- Due to this, when translated to RGB colors, turn in to some variation of purple
- The puzzle title alludes to colors, specifically the last color in the spectrum which is purple (violet)
- All of the starting values are either 5, 6 or 7 ("50", "6F", "72") etc except the last one (punctuation, perhaps?)

Consider the strings to be sets of colors and translate each color channel (R, G and B) in to a hex ASCII character.

```
#500072 -> 50:00:72 -> P r  
#69007A -> 69:00:7A -> i z  
#650061 -> 65:00:61 -> e a  
... etc ...
```

(Since each of the G values are 00 you can consider them to be null).

```
#500072 #69007A #650061 #770061 #720064 #650064 #74006F #610075  
P r i z e a w a r d e d t o a u  
#740068 #6F0072 #66006F #720074 #680069 #730062 #6F006F #6B002E  
t h o r f o r t h i s b o o k .
```

-> Prize awarded to author for this book.

The only question left is "what book?" and the answer to that is hinted both in the title and given in the color codes:

Alice Walker was awarded the **National Book Award for Fiction** for her 1982 novel *The Color Purple*

(Although the book also was awarded a Pulitzer Prize would have been too easy of an answer!)