

THIRTY DAYS

by

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(for NaNoWriMo 2010)

I am writing 'Thirty Days' for National Novel Writing Month 2010. I am also writing it to raise money for charity. The specific charity that I want to help is St Luke's Hospice (Harrow and Brent). They provide care and support to terminally ill patients and their families from the Harrow and Brent areas of north London, regardless of their background. In May 2009 my father sadly passed away, but his final days were made more comfortable by St Luke's, and I'm grateful for the care that they gave him and the support that they gave to my family. And so I would like to raise some money for them as my way of saying thanks. You can find out more about St Luke's via their website at www.stlukes-hospice.org

If you would like to sponsor me you can do so via my Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/karlsgreen I and St Luke's will be grateful for anything that you're able to give.

And finally, I've also set up a page on Facebook about the novel where I'll be posting any news about what I'm doing, and you can find it at <http://bit.ly/9OfC6p>

This file, and all other chapters, will be made available on my website at <http://www.karlsgreen.co.uk/thirtydays> You may freely distribute this file subject to the following two conditions:

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DAY THIRTY

DESTINY FALLS

One of her enemies was an evil being called Marloki. Marloki sought only death and destruction. It resided on a world known as Pyna.

She fought Marloki many times, all throughout Pyna, and throughout time. She could travel to the past as well as the future, and she would face Marloki wherever she could find it.

Eventually the final battle with Marloki, atop Mount Agan, arrived. She had decided that the only way to defeat Marloki was to lock it away in another plane of reality, but to do this would come at a great personal cost to her.

But in order to restore the peace, she was willing to pay this price.

However, she was already becoming aware of a new evil that the universe would soon have to face. Measures were already being taken to face with and deal with this evil, but she knew not who was behind these plans.

Before she consigned Marloki to its fate she received a message. She was told that when she returned she would have to find the man named Welt, in the city of Practor, in the country of Triceria, on the planet of Pyna. A great sequence of events would be starting then, and she would have a great role to play in them.

Once she had this message, she locked Marloki in the alternative plane of reality, and then started the long, long journey back to the true reality, so that she could embark on the new quest that had been given to her...

The Apocolynium – XXX

Steve and Natasha slowly came to, and stood up. They were in a mountain range somewhere. There was a forest behind them, and in front of them was a large pool of water. To the right of them was a waterfall, feeding this pool of water from above, and to the left of them there was a second waterfall leading down. Despite this, the pool in front of them was still and calm. Next to the second waterfall was a house.

Lisa slowly stood up as well. She was once again wearing the blue dress that she had been wearing when she returned to the true reality on the first day, and she was in bare feet once more. She looked around at where they were, and she said, 'It worked, we're really here. We made it.'

Natasha asked her, 'Where are we exactly?'

Before Lisa could answer her, an old man came out of the house, and he shouted, 'What are you doing here!' He came over towards them. He looked at Steve and Natasha, and then said to Lisa, 'They are not supposed to be here yet! Why have you brought them here?!'

Lisa replied with, 'Don't you forget who I am! I didn't bring them here lightly. It was a last resort. I take it that you have been following events?'

The man sobered up a little, and then said, 'Yes, I have. The Earth, it's gone... So, I take it that you want to...?'

'Yes, that is why we are here.'

'Are you sure you want to? Are you absolutely sure? You do know what the price is?'

'Yes, and I gladly pay it.'

The man nodded. He then said, 'Well then, I suppose you'd better come inside.'

Natasha then asked, 'Excuse me, but where are we exactly?'

The man looked at her and said, 'You mean you don't know where you are? My dear, these are the Apocolynium Mountains, and this – ' he pointed towards the waterfall to the left, 'is Destiny Falls.'

Natasha's mouth was wide open, as the man made his way towards the house. She looked at Steve and said, 'Destiny Falls? As in "Destiny Will Fall"?''

Steve just looked back at her without saying a word. He was as stunned as she was. He then followed the man and Lisa into the house.

The house itself was on a single floor, and was small and cosy. The man directed them to a table next to a window. They all sat down round it.

The man looked at Lisa and said, 'So, you're really going to go through with this, aren't you?' She just nodded. 'You never could leave anything alone, could you?'

'I can't help it, it's in my nature.'

He then looked at Steve and Natasha and said, 'You two will have a very important choice to make shortly. And right now you are the last two of your kind.'

'I'm sorry,' said Steve, 'What do you mean? The last two of our kind?'

'Yes, I'm afraid so. The Dragon Keeper unleashed the Dragon within the Earth's core, destroying the world, and killing everyone on the planet. It was the only way that she could get the Earth's power.'

Lisa then said, 'Only she hasn't got all of it, because we have you two here with us. And the fact that we have made it here means that there is still hope. I didn't think we could have made it here, I thought we were all doomed. But now there is hope.'

At that point there was a knock at the door. The man went to answer it. Standing outside was a younger man, in the prime of his youth. Lisa's eyes lit up when she saw him, and she got up to hug him, calling out, 'Father!'

He had a huge grin on his face as he hugged her, 'You made it! You made it here, not that I had any doubt in you. It is good to see you. Oh, it is so good to see you again.' He then turned to

look at Steve and Natasha. ‘I’m sorry, but we haven’t actually met yet, although we have been in contact with each other.’

Natasha then realised who it was. ‘You were the one who sent us all of those messages!’

‘Yes, I’m afraid so. Sorry I couldn’t be all that clear in them. My business is a difficult one, and this has been my most difficult job yet. We’ve been having to plan this one for thousands of years. But, still, it’s almost complete now. I suppose we’d better fill you in on what the final stages are.’

‘Ever since the Earth gained its power it has been a target. People like Welt seek out the assistance of evil, destructive beings, like Marloki, in order to try and obtain this power for themselves. It was always our intention for the Dragon Keeper to eventually obtain the power for herself, albeit only temporarily. She is oblivious to our ultimate plan, which is to render the power of the Earth unobtainable to others, permanently. The power of the Earth shall forever remain with the people of the Earth.’

‘I’m sorry,’ said Steve, ‘But didn’t you say that the Earth had been destroyed?’

‘Well, yes and no. In one sequence of events, the sequence that was required to bring you, and Lisa, to this place, the Dragon Keeper did, indeed, destroy the Earth. But, you see, this place that we are in now, doesn’t exist in quite the same flow of time that the Earth does. It’s very complicated to explain, but, in simple terms, from here we can go back in time relative to the Earth. It’s like we’re watching a video tape of the Earth, only we are able to rewind it. Now that Lisa has come here we can give her the power that she needs, and send her back to the Earth before it was destroyed, and thus stopping the Dragon Keeper permanently. Lisa will also be able to stop anyone else from trying to obtain the Earth’s power ever again, with your assistance.’

Natasha then asked Lisa, ‘But I thought you said that time travel was impossible?’

‘Well, technically it is. Whilst we are on the Earth, on the plane of reality that the Earth is on, we can’t move in time relative to that plane. But we have now switched planes. In *this* plane we can’t travel in time relative to this plane, but from here we can go back in time relative to the Earth.’

The older man then said, ‘Yes, but there is a price to pay for all of this. Lisa, you will have to become a part of the Earth. You will have to become a part of its very being. You will never be able to leave it again. You will never be able to explore the rest of your universe. And then, in the far and distant future, when the Earth’s sun runs out of fuel and expands, destroying the Earth at the end of its natural lifespan, you, too, will die with it. Are you prepared to do this?’

Without hesitation she said, ‘Yes. I love the Earth with all of my heart, and I will be honoured to become its protector.’

Steve then said, 'But what about us? When we got here you said that we weren't supposed to be here yet. What was that about?'

Lisa's father explained, 'The plan had been for Lisa to first become the Earth's protector, and then for you two to live out the rest of your natural lives on the Earth. Then, once you eventually died of old age, you were to have been brought here, and given the offer to join her in protecting the Earth. Unfortunately, once you arrive here, if you're human, if you go back to the Earth you can never again return to this plane of reality. And so, I'm afraid you will have to make a choice. You can either go back to the Earth, and live out the rest of your natural lives as ordinary humans, or you can go back with Lisa, and assist her in defending the Earth. The Earth will be far safer if you do. Don't get me wrong, that will not be an easy life by any means. But we offer you a free choice. We wouldn't want to force this upon you.'

Steve and Natasha looked at each other. After everything that they had been through there was really only one choice that they could make. Natasha turned to Lisa and said, 'We'll come with you.'

Lisa smiled at them, and then leant over and hugged them.

Lisa's father then said, 'Well then, I suppose we'd better get on and finish this. Follow me.'

He led them all out to the pool of water, which they all waded into. He then said, 'To go back to the Earth you simply have to jump over the side of Destiny Falls. You can go in your own time.'

Lisa asked her father, 'Will I ever get to see you again?'

'Oh, I daresay you will at some point. I may come and visit the Earth from time to time.'
They hugged each other again.

Lisa then turned to Steve and Natasha and asked, 'Are you ready?'

They both nodded, and Lisa nodded back.

All three of them then turned to face the edge of Destiny Falls. Lisa then said, 'For the Earth...'
She then started to run through the water, and jumped over the edge.

Steve and Natasha took hold of each other's hand, and then they, too, ran and jumped over the edge of Destiny Falls.

As they jumped off, they looked down, but instead of seeing a pool of water at the bottom, they saw the inky blackness of space, and there were stars all around them. They were travelling at an incredible speed, and Steve and Natasha held on tightly to each other's hand.

Before long they could see the Earth up ahead of them, complete and whole. They sped up towards it, and then fell into it, plunging through the atmosphere, and then right through the

land, going down to the very core of the planet, where all three of them became one with the planet.

It was the twenty-ninth day again. The Dragon Keeper was channelling her energy into the Earth, and then said, 'Dragon of the Earth, I release you!'

Only this time the ground didn't shake. The Dragon Keeper didn't understand this. She had the key, and she had the necessary power to unleash the Dragon. It should have been working, but it was not.

Instead, a great surge of power came up from within the Earth, and it was directed at her. Once it reached her, it split her apart, atom by atom, in a single instant. The Dragon Keeper was no more.

At this moment, the version of Lisa that had been walking with the rest of the group towards Queensbury suddenly faded away and vanished. Everyone else suddenly stopped walking, and were in complete shock as to what had just happened. Then, the crystals began to glow again, and they spoke, saying, 'It is over. Lisa has completed her mission. The Earth is safe. The Earth is safe forever more. You are free to go home.'

'I don't understand,' said Parto, 'How can the Earth suddenly be safe. We haven't done anything.'

The crystals answered, 'She has done more than you can ever know. The Earth is safe, and you can all now return home.' For the last time, the crystal's light went out.

There then came another surge of power from the centre of the Earth, this time directed at the Pynarians in the group. Once it reached them they were picked up, and transported across the galaxy, back to Pyna.

Prion, Sarna, and Parto found themselves on the outskirts of Yendal, in their home country of Allana. 'We're home!' said Parto. 'Is it really over?'

'Yes, I believe so,' said Prion.

'Wait a minute, where's Gramshaw?'

Sarna then said, 'I think he is back on Pyna too. I'm not sure why I know, but I think he is here, and he is safe, and he is happy.'

She was absolutely correct. Gramshaw had been sent to Nilona, where a certain captain's daughter was eagerly awaiting his return.

Welt found himself in Drydonia, by the entrance to the crystal cave. At that moment Prince Gratson was at the entrance, and he saw Welt's arrival. He wasn't sure why, but he got a strong feeling that he should help this man that he now saw standing in front of him, that he should share the crystal cave with him, that they should all live out a peaceful life together. He therefore welcomed Welt with open arms.

Welt for once now felt at home. This place felt good. Yes, he felt that he could finally be happy here.

Another burst of energy came out from the Earth's centre and reached Naomi. Once it had passed she said, 'I'm... I'm human...'

'You are?' said Tom.

'Yes... I'm like you now.'

'OK...'

There was an awkward pause, and then Tom asked, 'What would you like to do now?'

There was another pause, and then Naomi said, 'Would you like to come back to my place?'

They smiled at each other, and Tom took her hand, as they began to make their way back to Kilburn.

And that, my friends, is where this story ends. Everyone is in their proper place, and Lisa, Steve, and Natasha are now protecting the Earth forever more. We are all safe once again.

I'm sure that you will agree with me that what Lisa has achieved and what she has sacrificed is incredible. We are all eternally in her debt, each and every one of us.

I am so proud of my granddaughter.