

# 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](http://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](http://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:

1. You do not alter the file in any way, shape, or form.
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**DAY TWELVE**

**LISA AND NAOMI**

*She had a lot of time to think whilst she was trapped in the basement. Where she was no light or sound could reach her. She did not need to eat or drink, nor did she need an air supply. The bracelet prevented her from using any of her powers, and so she could not use them to acquire any information about the outside world. She was completely cut off from every living thing, and had no stimuli whatsoever. All that she did have was her mind.*

*It was that what she went into for those two thousand years. Any normal being that could live for as long as that would have surely gone insane if they found themselves in the same situation. But not her. She knew that those who were against her would want her to lose her mind, to weaken her ready for when the Other arrived, and so she fought against it.*

*Within her mind she created whole worlds, solar systems, galaxies. It was here that she lived during that long time.*

*Were these places real, or did they exist only in her mind? Could they both be real and only exist in her mind? She eventually came to not know the answer to that herself...*

## The Apocolynium – XII

In the early hours of the eleventh day Lisa told Natasha some of what it was that was going on. She told her about Welt, that he had come from another world to try and take a great power away from the Earth. That if he acquired this power the effects that it would have on the Earth would be devastating – it would be the end of the world. She told her that Welt was now working for a being called the Dragon Keeper, who was seeking out this power for her own needs.

She told her a little about herself, that she, too, was not from this world, but had no desire to obtain the Earth's power. That she was, in fact, here to protect it, to stop Welt and the Dragon Keeper from acquiring it.

She then went on to tell Natasha about what her part in this was – that her DNA had one half of a key needed to acquire this power, and that there was another person out there who had the other half in their DNA. She explained that the Dragon Keeper sought to incapacitate both of them so that she could obtain their essences, from which she could form the key.

Lisa then explained that she needed to find who and where this other half was, and that she needed Natasha to meet them. Once they did meet a great bond would be formed, and the Dragon Keeper would find it virtually impossible to acquire the key to the Earth's power. She then went on to explain that she hadn't been able to locate where this other half was as they were currently being protected, most likely by someone who was on the same side as them. In fact,

this person was most likely trying to locate Natasha for the very same reasons that Lisa was trying to locate the other half.

However, she explained that the Dragon Keeper must now know where she is, as what just happened appeared to have been an attack from her to try and incapacitate Natasha. If she had tried once she was most likely to try again. They were now in great danger.

Lisa then spoke of the messages that Natasha had been receiving. She didn't know where they were coming from, or who had sent them. She just felt that they were not of this world, but that they weren't being sent from the Dragon Keeper, or from anyone else that she knew of.

Natasha struggled to take all of this in. She kept asking herself, 'Why me?' She didn't want to be caught up in all of this 'end of the world' nonsense. Whilst the whole idea did sound fantastical, she still believed what Lisa was telling her. There was no doubting what had happened in her dream that wasn't a dream. There had definitely been someone or something that was out to get her.

And she had defeated it. She had actually defeated it, by herself. Part of her did feel a little bit proud of this fact. But the rest of her was afraid because she had had to face it in the first place. Why would anyone ever be out to get her? What had she ever done to anyone else to deserve this?

Lisa told her that she should try to get some rest – she took Natasha's bloodied pillow away and gave her her clean one. But, try as she might, Natasha found that she struggled to get back to sleep. Earlier that evening she had been feeling safe in Tom's flat. She had felt that everything was going to be OK. Now she didn't know if she was ever going to feel safe again.

Lisa left the guest bedroom to allow Natasha to get some rest. She herself went and sat down in the living room. She needed to decide what to do next. She knew that Natasha was in grave danger now, and needed to be protected. She couldn't have her going to work tomorrow and so she would have to call in sick. She didn't think that Natasha would have a problem with this. But then there was the problem of actually keeping her safe.

Even though she had been with her this whole evening, and was even in bed next to her when the Dragon Keeper attacked her, she had been utterly powerless to do anything to prevent it. She was therefore very worried that there may not have been anything that she could do to protect her.

Right now, the best protection that she could have would be for her to finally meet the other half, and thus form the bond that will prevent the Dragon Keeper from being able to form the key. Therefore, she reasoned, the best thing that she could do to protect her would be to locate where the other half was, and bring them to her. She couldn't risk taking Natasha out into

the open with her – that would place her at too much risk from being attacked by the Dragon Keeper once more. No, she was going to have to stay here in this flat. But she didn't want her to be left alone. Not even Lisa had the ability to be in two places at once – she couldn't both stay behind and look after Natasha and go out and seek the other half. So if she couldn't stay here, someone else was going to have to.

But before she did that, she needed to know where she was going. Natasha was more than happy to stay in Tom's flat on the eleventh day rather than go into work. When she called in sick her colleagues didn't have any problem with it. Lisa spent the eleventh day trying to focus on where the other half was. At first she still could only get a vague impression that they were somewhere in London. By the afternoon she had been able to narrow it down to somewhere in the northern part of London, although not too far north.

But then, suddenly, their location became all too clear to her. As soon as Steve had stepped out of Naomi's house, and outside of Naomi's protection field, Lisa was able to see exactly where he was. She felt that this was a good thing – for the first time since her return to the Earth she knew exactly where the two halves were. However, she was also aware that the Dragon Keeper would probably know exactly where they were too.

Lisa still didn't have the ability to teleport – her full powers were yet to return. So all she could do was observe what happened next. She could see Steve making his way with Naomi up to Canons Park, and then down to Belmont on the bus. But then she saw the Dragon Keeper on the bus with them. She wished that she could have reached out to them, to warn them of the danger that they faced, but she wasn't able to. She could see the Dragon Keeper place the artefact on Steve, and then she could see it make its way into his ear and to his brain.

Once the artefact had fully activated once they were in Wealdstone, as Steve's strength began to rapidly fade, so did Lisa's ability to see where he was. She lost him when he was on the bench by the clock tower. She also lost track of Naomi as well – the artefact was emitting its own form of blocking signal that reached out to Naomi.

Lisa was now afraid. The Dragon Keeper had got to Steve, and had succeeded in incapacitating him. She would now surely come after Natasha again.

Whilst Lisa now no longer knew where Steve was, she at least had an idea as to whereabouts in London he now was. Wherever Naomi took him now it can't have been far from where Lisa had last detected him. If nothing else, it was something to start on. And, thankfully, the place where he had collapsed wasn't too far from where she was now.

She decided that she couldn't wait too much longer. She had to go out in search of Steve as soon as she was able to. Tom was still at work at this time, and so at the moment it was only her and Natasha in the flat, and she couldn't risk leaving her there on her own.

As soon as Tom came home Lisa told him that she had to go out and see someone. She said that she couldn't explain what it was, but that it was vitally important that she did so. She asked Tom if he could stay in and look after Natasha, who still wasn't feeling well, and he was more than happy to do this. She also asked him if she could borrow his mobile phone whilst she was out. She didn't have one of her own, and she said that she might have to contact them urgently. Again, Tom agreed to this. Finally, she told Tom that, after what had happened yesterday with someone breaking into Natasha's flat, he shouldn't let anyone into the building that night that he didn't personally know. Again, he agreed to this.

Lisa went and told Natasha what she was doing, that she was going out to find the other half. 'Don't leave me here!' Natasha begged. 'Take me with you!'

'No, I don't think that's a good idea. It'd be too easy for the Dragon Keeper to pick you off if we go outside. You should be safe here – I've told Tom not to let anyone in, and he'll be here to look after you whilst I'm out.'

'How long will you be gone for?'

'I don't know, but I'll be as fast as I can.'

And with that, Lisa left for the night.

Naomi stayed with Steve all night that night. She watched over him by his bedside, wishing that there was something that she could do for him. She didn't know how they could possibly stop the Dragon Keeper now. She decided that the best thing that she could do was to stay by his side and wait for the Dragon Keeper to return. Once she had incapacitated the other half and acquired their essence, she would have to come back here to acquire Steve's essence – both parts had to be collected very quickly after each other, otherwise the key would not be formed. Naomi felt that she should be here when the Dragon Keeper returned to see if there was anything that she could do to stop her. She knew that she was probably hoping in vain, and that the Dragon Keeper would probably just kill her when she saw her, but she didn't know what else she could do. What she really needed was for Lisa to be able to find them, and soon.

She was completely oblivious to the fact that the artefact was generating a field that was preventing Lisa from detecting her. All that she had to do was to walk away from Steve by about ten metres or so, and then she would be out of the field's range. Lisa would then be able to

locate her instantly, and then come to her. By Naomi didn't know this. She felt that she needed to be by Steve's side.

And so all of that night Lisa searched the streets of Harrow in vain, whilst Naomi watched over Steve.

When Steve woke up on the twelfth day he was feeling very, very weak. He could open his eyes, move his head and his arms slightly, and, with a bit of effort, he was able to roll over onto his side. He saw Naomi watching over him. He whispered (for that was all that he could manage), 'What's wrong with me?'

'I don't know, I really don't. I wish I knew what to do to make you feel better, but I don't know. Try not to worry, I'm sure that Lisa will come and find you soon. She'll know what to do.' If only Naomi knew that all she needed to do was to walk away from Steve...

Lisa was starting to feel frustrated. She had now been walking around for several hours, but was still no closer to being able to locate where the other half was. She had actually walked past his flat twice and been completely unaware that he was there.

She didn't know what else she could do other than continue searching.

The Dragon Keeper was aware of all of what was going on, and she was pleased. Lisa had abandoned the first half to seek out the second. The first half was now vulnerable. She could now bring her under her control. Yes, she could feel that today was going to be a victorious day for her.

She created a third artefact, and teleported to a street near to where Natasha's building was, and where no one would see her arrive. (She could only teleport to locations that were in the open air – therefore she couldn't just teleport right into Natasha's room.) She calmly walked up to Natasha's building, and rang the bell for Tom's flat.

Tom got a start when he heard this. He had no idea who would be calling this early in the morning. He went to the entry phone and asked, 'Yes, who is it?'

The Dragon Keeper put on an innocent voice and said, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. I live in number 6 and I've managed to lock myself out. You couldn't let me in could you?'

Tom was immediately suspicious of this. Whilst he'd never actually spoken to the people who lived at number 6, he was fairly certain that they were the Chinese couple that he sometimes saw in the building. He didn't know who this lady was that he could see on the entry phone's

screen, but he had never seen her in the building before. He said, 'I'm sorry, but I don't know who you are, so I can't just let you in.'

'Oh, please, let me in! It's freezing out here! I've just locked myself out, that's all. Once I'm in I'll be no bother, I'll just use the spare key for my flat that I've left there.'

'Look, I'm sorry, but I'm not the building's warden! I've never seen you before, and so I'm not letting you in. Try one of the other's on your floor, they may know you.' He then put the entry phone down. He had no idea that by refusing to let her in he had just saved the world.

The Dragon Keeper cursed her luck. Of all the things that she thought might have stopped her, a locked door was not one of them. She would have to think of something else.

Lisa was walking around Belmont Circle once more, trying to see if there was anything that she had missed. Naomi must have taken Steve to somewhere in the area, either here or in Wealdstone. Steve would have been so weak that he couldn't have gone far. He had to be nearby, in one of these buildings. The only question was, which one?

Steve's phone received a text message. He looked at Naomi and asked, 'Could you tell me what it says?'

Naomi picked up the phone and looked at the message. When she read it she got a shock. It consisted of the words: 'DESTINY WILL FALL'

'What does it say?'

'It's nothing, don't worry about it.'

'Just tell me what it says!' Even though he was still only whispering, the displeasure in his words was all too clear.

Naomi didn't want to stress him out, which she felt that showing him this text message would do. But once she quickly realised that not showing him it was only going to make matters even worse she relented and showed him what it said.

Steve looked at it and said, 'It's another one. I've had some like that before.'

Naomi was shocked further to hear this. Those were words that had always haunted her.

Whilst she was thinking about the implication of this his phone received another text message. She looked at it, and this time the message said: 'GO OUTSIDE' She showed it to him.

In his delirium he felt that was an order that he was supposed to obey. He tried to sit up to see if he could get up, but found that he simply didn't have the strength to do so. 'I'm not going to be able to go outside.'



‘And nor should you have to. We don’t know what this is, it could be a trap.’ She knew perfectly well that that was highly unlikely. If he had been sent the message telling him that destiny will fall...

The phone received another text message: ‘NAOMI, GO OUTSIDE. NOW!’ She screamed when she saw it. It was addressing her! It was addressing *her!*

‘What does it say?!’

Naomi was now visibly trembling. She showed him the message.

‘I think you should do what it says.’ Steve didn’t exactly know why he felt that the messages should be obeyed, he just felt that they had to. Little did he know that it was the power within him that was telling him this.

Naomi could sense this power, and knew that she would have to obey the command. Still trembling and terrified, she left the room, and the flat.

She made her way to the street. She looked around and couldn’t see anything. She walked a little further away from the flat to see if she could get a better look – and stepped out of the field that the artefact was creating.

Lisa suddenly looked up. Something had changed. Something from beyond the Earth had suddenly appeared in her vicinity. She quickly ascertained what direction it had come from. As she started to move towards it she quickly realised who it was. She started to run.

Naomi continued to look around her, when she then saw something that she had long hoped for. From Belmont Circle she could see the figure of a woman running towards her. A woman resplendent in her beauty, her long blonde hair flying out behind her. Naomi’s heart lifted when she saw who it was. After all these years, it was her! It was really her! She was here! Lisa was here!

She started to run towards her herself, hardly believing her luck. They both got faster and faster, until they finally reached each other. They hugged each other, both relieved to see the other.

‘It’s you,’ said Naomi, ‘It’s really you!’

‘Yes, it is. It’s good to be back, and it’s so good to see you again.’ They stepped apart, and looked at each other for a moment. For the first time for a while they both felt a sense of hope. Lisa then said, ‘You have him, don’t you. One of the two halves?’

‘Yes, he’s in that flat over there. But the Dragon Keeper got to him first.’

‘I know. Take me to him.’

When Naomi and Lisa hugged each other the Dragon Keeper felt a change in the air. ‘No,’ she said out loud. ‘No, this can’t be!’ She knew that she was about to lose the second half. She had to get to the first half, and she had to get to her now.

She went up to a window on Tom’s flat, and proceeded to try and break it, using her own strength alone.

Lisa walked into Steve’s bedroom and saw him lying there. He looked up at her, and an overwhelming feeling of love came over him.

‘Hello,’ she said. ‘I’m Lisa. I’m here to help. Everything’s going to be OK.’ She placed both of her hands on the sides of his head, and could detect the artefact in his brain. She turned to Naomi and said, ‘I can see what the Dragon Keeper has done. It’s not something I can fix. But I know where the other half is. If we can bring her here and get them to make contact, the bond will be formed, and he will be restored.’

Naomi’s eyes widened, ‘You know where the other half is?’

‘Yes, but we have to hurry. I fear the Dragon Keeper will be taking action even as we speak...’

Tom was startled when he first heard someone banging on his window. He went to look, and saw that it was the same woman that had tried to gain entry earlier. He cried out, ‘Get out of here! I’m calling the police!’

The Dragon Keeper kept on going and said, ‘Give me the girl!’

Tom went towards his landline phone to call the police, but before he got there it started ringing. He picked it up and said, ‘You’ll have to call me back, I need to call the police.’

‘Tom, don’t!’ came Lisa’s voice from the other end. ‘You have to get Natasha and bring her to Belmont Circle. Don’t ask me why, just do it. Natasha knows what it will be about.’

‘OK, but there’s a crazy woman here trying to get into my flat!’

‘Oh, curses, no! Just get Natasha and run! You have to get as far away from that woman as you can.’

‘Alright, if you say so, but this is nuts!’

‘Please, do it. I’ll explain afterwards.’

Tom put the phone down and went to get Natasha. She was already dressed. As she saw him she asked, ‘What’s going on?’

‘I don’t know. Someone’s trying to break in, but Lisa says we have to go to Belmont Circle. Apparently you know why?’

‘Yes, I do. Let’s go.’

They made their way towards the front door. Just before they got there they heard a sound of smashing glass. As they left the building the Dragon Keeper was entering it. She sensed that they were getting away. But they weren’t free yet...

After Lisa got off of the phone with Tom she turned to Naomi, ‘I have to go. The Dragon Keeper is after the other half. You stay here with him.’

‘Please,’ pleaded Naomi, ‘Don’t go.’

‘I have to. The Dragon Keeper will get the other half if I don’t go and stop her.’ Without saying another word Lisa turned around and left the room. She went out of the flat and started running towards Harrow Weald.

Those who saw her running that morning would testify that they had never seen anyone run as fast as that before.

Tom and Natasha were running as fast as they could towards Belmont Circle, although they were only running at a fraction of the speed that Lisa was. As they ran through the top part of Wealdstone and turned into Locket Road Tom got a shock – standing just ahead of him was the woman who had broken into his flat, the Dragon Keeper. ‘Impossible...’ he muttered under his breath.

The Dragon Keeper looked at him and repeated her demand, ‘Give me the girl!’

Lisa was now running down Locket Road herself. She could see the Dragon Keeper in the distance. She put on an extra spurt of speed.

‘No!’ Tom said. ‘I don’t know who, or what, you are, but you keep away from her!’

‘Foolish boy! I had no quarrel with you, but now you are in my way!’ She started to draw together her power – the boy would have to die.

Lisa got closer and closer to the Dragon Keeper, and she could sense what she was about to do. Lisa then drew on her own power, and sent a shock wave out towards the Dragon Keeper.

The shock wave hit the Dragon Keeper, which dissipated the power that she had been gathering together to kill Tom. She turned around and saw Lisa coming towards her. ‘You!’ she cried out.

'Get away!' Lisa cried back, stopping just in front of the Dragon Keeper, not even slightly out of breath.

'I've come this close, I'm not going to let you stop me now!'

Lisa then pointed her right arm towards the Dragon Keeper. The Dragon Keeper tried to move, but was routed to the spot. Lisa then turned to Tom and said, 'Go, take Natasha to Belmont Circle. Go to Kenton Lane.' She gave him the exact address. 'Go now, I'll catch you up shortly.'

Tom nodded, and he and Natasha set off down Locket Road towards Belmont Circle.

Lisa turned her attention back towards the Dragon Keeper. 'It's over,' she said. She then started to drain the Dragon Keeper's power, and she absorbed it into herself. She wasn't able to absorb all of her power, but it would be enough to render her harmless.

'No,' pleaded the Dragon Keeper, 'Don't do this to me!'

'You know perfectly well that I have to. You've lost. Accept it.'

Once Lisa had finished draining the Dragon Keeper of her power she just turned around and started to jog back towards Belmont Circle.

The Dragon Keeper looked after her in despair. She had come so close, and yet so far.

Lisa caught up with Tom and Natasha. Natasha asked her, 'What's happened to her?'

'She's no longer a threat. Come on, there's someone who you need to meet...'

Naomi was unaware of everything that was happening. She was watching over Steve, terrified that at any moment the Dragon Keeper was going to suddenly appear to take away his essence.

She got a start when she heard the doorbell ring. She went towards the door and asked, 'Who is it?'

She had never felt as relieved before in her life when she heard Lisa say, 'It's me. I have the other half with me.' Naomi opened the door, and let them in.

Lisa turned to Natasha and said, 'This way.' She led her towards Steve's bedroom, whilst Naomi and Tom waited in the hallway.

As they stepped inside the room Lisa said, 'Here he is. Just take his hand, and we'll all be safe.'

Natasha looked at Steve, and a powerful sensation came over her. 'I've seen him before. I've seen him lots of times before...'

Steve looked up at her, and his heart lifted when he saw her face. He felt the recognition as well.

They simultaneously reached out their hands towards each other. As they made contact they both felt a rush of power and feeling and sensation more powerful than they had ever felt before.

Steve felt his strength return to him. The artefact was deactivated, and it was forced out of his head through his ear, only there was no blood this time.

He sat up and moved his legs out of the bed at the same time that Natasha came down to sit on his lap. They hugged each other, and then they saw, they saw... everything.

They saw everyone in London going about their daily business. The trains running late. The people at their desks. The cooks in their restaurants. The teachers and students in their schools. The doctors and patients in the hospitals. The politicians debating the issues of the day. The civil servants working hard for them behind the scenes.

They saw the rest of the country, each and every person, from John O’Groats to Land’s End, the Shetland Islands and the Scilly Islands.

They saw the other countries as well. Ireland and France at first, and then spreading out through Europe: Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Poland, Estonia, Greece, and all of the other countries in between.

Their awareness then spread throughout the world. They saw each and every individual, all 6,856,495,152 of them. Everyone from Alaska to the Falkland Islands, from Casablanca to Cape Town, from Moscow to Vladivostok, from Ulaanbaatar to Mumbai, from Bangkok to Nuku’alofa. They saw the whole world.

Their awareness continued to expand throughout the solar system, from Mercury to Pluto and beyond. They saw the microbes of Mars and the fish of Europa. They saw each and every asteroid and comet.

Their awareness expanded out from the solar system to the other systems. It spread throughout the galaxy through every planet, inhabited and uninhabited. They saw Pyna, and the Drydonians mining the crystal.

Beyond the galaxy they saw the other galaxies. They saw the dark matter and dark energy holding them together, and understood what they were. They saw all the worlds in all of the vast number of galaxies throughout the universe.

They saw all of the black holes within the universe. The smaller ones spread throughout the galaxies, and the larger ones at the heart of every galaxy. They saw through the black holes, and saw that each one gave birth to a new universe of its own, each one vast in its own right.

They saw where their own universe came from, born from a minor black hole in the spiral arm of a galaxy in another universe. They saw how all of the universes were interconnected.

They saw that there was no beginning and that there was no end. Their universe gave birth to others, which in turn gave birth to their own universes, which then birthed their own universes, continuing on and on and on until one of those universes gave birth to the universe that they were in, an unbreaking and never ending cycle.

They saw everything. They saw all of the people on all of the worlds in all of the solar systems in all of the galaxies in all of the universes. They saw all that was and all that will be. They saw everything.

They then drew their awareness back in, back to their universe, back to their galaxy, back to their solar system, back to Earth, one of the most important places in all of creation. Back to Europe, back to England, back to London, back to Harrow, back to Belmont, back to Steve's flat, back to where they were right now.

They looked deep into each other's eyes. They knew who each other were, and what their place in the grand scheme of things was.

They then lent in, and kissed.

And that, dear reader, is where we shall leave them for today.

It has been a good day.