

# 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 TWENTY**

**THE SEARCH FOR LISA**

*The one of the All Seeing who had helped her was greatly saddened when he saw that she had become trapped in the basement. He felt that the Other would surely catch up to her, and swiftly despatch her, now that she had been weakened. He wanted to try and help her, but the one who had entrapped her had put measures in place to prevent any other being but the Other from being able to reach her. The one of the All Seeing felt that there was nothing further that he could do, and that she was doomed.*

*Thinking that there was nothing else that he could do for her, he went on to observe other places in existence. But, as he did so, he saw that there was something new, something that hadn't been there before. He did not know how this could be, but, outside the network of the unbreakable and never ending cycle of universes, was a new universe. One that stood by itself. This universe also had something different about it, something that the normal universes didn't.*

*It was being controlled and managed, but not in the same way that the other universes were. It was being controlled and managed separately. It was being controlled and managed by someone else.*

*He looked towards the other members of the All Seeing, all too aware of what they felt about things that were new and different. But it appeared that they were blind to this universe. It was something that they could not see.*

*He then decided to investigate this universe further...*

The Apocolynium – XX

'Where are we?' asked Sarna.

'I'm not sure,' said Parto, 'But I don't think we're in Returia anymore.'

'I think we're on the world known as the Earth,' replied Gramshaw.

'I believe you're right,' said Prion. 'Come on, we shouldn't stay here. It might not be safe for all we know.'

Parto then said, 'Yeah, but it might not be safe anywhere else we go!'

'True, but we won't find Lisa if we're sitting around here.' He started to lead the party down the path, in the direction of the road.

'What is this light?' asked Gramshaw, upon seeing the streetlights once they reached the road.

'I don't know exactly,' said Prion, 'But we're on another world. Things are likely to be different here.' He looked at the lights, 'These appear to be their equivalent of lanterns.'

The road before them went to the left and the right. Sarna asked, 'Which way should we go?'

‘This way,’ Parto said instinctively, indicating the right. He wasn’t sure why he said it, but it just felt like it was the right way to go, and the others agreed. It was just as well that they did. If they had gone to the left they would have been heading north, out of London, and, if they kept on going long enough, would eventually have ended up in the vicinity of St Albans. However, by going right, they headed in the direction of Harrow Weald.

As they walked down the road they all stood back and got a shock when a car came down the road. ‘What on Pyna is that!’ exclaimed Gramshaw.

‘That’s just it,’ said Prion, ‘We’re not *on* Pyna. I don’t know what that was, but there appeared to be a man inside it. This world will be strange to us. We have to try and not draw attention to ourselves. We have to focus on finding Lisa and finding her quickly. Once we have we should hopefully know what to do next, but we mustn’t get caught by the people of this world before then.’

They continued on down the road, keeping a quick pace and marvelling at the sights that they saw around them. This part of Harrow was within woodland, with only a few buildings along the road. Eventually they could see the lights of Harrow in the distance. ‘Oh my word,’ said Gramshaw. ‘If I’m not mistaken, that might just be a whole city. It’s huge!’ Gramshaw didn’t realise that he was only seeing a small part of Harrow, on the northern edge of London. Had he known what London’s true size was he would have found it mind boggling.

They reached a roundabout, and they all felt that they should go straight on over the roundabout, further into Harrow. They were now on the edge of Harrow Weald, where the forest ended, and the area was more built up. They were passing by residential homes, mainly consisting of semi-detached houses, but they were still the biggest homes that they had ever seen.

Shortly afterwards they got to Harrow Weald itself, and the buildings, for them, got stranger. There was a bus depot on their right, and a Kentucky Fried Chicken and a branch of Homebase on their left. There were also a few people about the town as well. It was the early hours of Saturday morning, essentially Friday night, with people slowly returning home from a night out. The party got a few strange looks from people, but, fortunately for them, no one gave them any hassle. Most people looking at them in their unusual clothes just assumed that they had got dressed up for a night out for some reason.

As they walked they found that they could read all of the signs on the shops and the roads. Although they weren’t doing this in the same way as Welt had been able to. He had found that he was able to fully understand English once he arrived on the Earth. However, the party were seeing all of the signs as being written in Krintent, their mother tongue. ‘They speak Krintent here?’ Parto questioned.

‘It does indeed seem strange that they do,’ said Gramshaw, ‘Particularly when everything else here is so different to what we know.’

Of course, as you know, Kritent is unheard of on Earth outside of my writings to you. What the party didn’t realise was that the crystals that they wore around their necks were translating all of the signs in their mind, so that they merely looked like they were written in Kritent.

They continued walking through Harrow Weald and then continued on towards Wealdstone. With every step that they took they felt that they were getting closer to their destination, that they were heading in the right direction.

Once they got to Wealdstone they walked past the clock tower and the Baptist church, but then all four members of the party got an overwhelming feeling that they should turn left, down Locket Road, which would lead them in the direction of Belmont Circle. Parto said, ‘I think something or someone is trying to guide us, and that we should follow that guidance. I don’t think it’s a trap. It feels right. I feel that Lisa is getting closer. Or, rather, that we are getting closer to her.’

‘Yes,’ said Sarna, ‘I feel that too.’

‘Come on,’ said Prion, ‘Let’s keep moving. The faster we move the sooner we’ll reach her.’

They crossed over the road and started to walk down Locket Road. At the end of Locket Road they continued on Kenton Lane, going over Belmont Circle. They continued on, following their instincts, until they were led into Queensbury.

Once in Queensbury they got an overwhelming feeling about just how close Lisa was now. They could almost swear that they could hear her heart beating.

Lisa, for her part, was doing her best to keep sane. She found that the ropes that the man had used had taken away all of her powers, even the power of her mind, which she could no longer explore. She was just left alone in a dark room, with only her immediate thoughts to hand. She found that she was even starting to lose track of time. She didn’t know how long she had been in here for – no light was able to get in, and so she couldn’t see the passing of the days. She thought that she might really start to lose her mind.

She felt that this was what the man really wanted. If she were to lose her mind, lose what it was that she was able to use to control herself, then she thought that the one thing that could never happen to her might then actually happen.

She thought that she might die.

And if she were dead, her power would then dissipate, ready to be absorbed by others. Such as the man.

Or the Dragon Keeper.

Lisa had taken away her powers, and this man appeared to be working with her. If he was intending to restore her powers...

Lisa feared for the Earth. And feared that there was nothing that she could do to save it.

By now it was around 3 am. The party started to walk around Queensbury, until they felt a strong feeling coming from the direction of Claire's house. They started to approach it.

But when they got to within a few metres of it they found that they could go no further. They tried to walk on, but they couldn't. Even though there was nothing but air in front of them it felt like they were trying to walk through a wall.

'What now?' asked Parto.

'I really don't know,' replied Prion.

In the end they found that there was little that they could do. They tried approaching the house from every conceivable angle, but the same thing happened every time.

They ended up just sitting on the grass within the crescent. Fortunately, since arriving on the Earth, they found that they didn't feel the cold of the November night, nor did they feel tired or hungry. If Welt was able to acquire some powers when crossing over the galaxy, then it would appear that they have been able to gain some limited ones as well. But if only they had some power that could have got them into the house.

Inside the house the man had resumed his position on the chair, staring into space. I think it is reasonable to assume that he had erected the force field that the party found they were unable to penetrate. He was also waiting for something. It was like he knew what it was that was going to happen next...

Later that day, with Lisa still in the basement, the man still in his chair, and the party still in the crescent of Queensbury wondering what to do next, Steve and Natasha made their way to Waterloo where they were going to be attending a mid-month meet for all of the NaNoWriMo participants in London. Even though this was mainly intended to be a social meet up, they still brought their laptops with them so that they could get some words in.

Amongst the other wrimos at the meet up was the writer that had spoken to Steve and Natasha at the write-in a week previously. He too had brought his laptop along to get some words done. Although, unfortunately, he recently had to surrender to the fact that he wasn't going to be able to reach his target of 150,000 words. He had had the first two weeks of the

month off from work, but had been back there for the last week. As a result of this his word count had suffered, and it just wasn't possible for him to get all the way to 150k by the end of the month. He had posted a note on Facebook the night before to inform his friends of this. But he was taking a glass half full approach to the situation – he had already reached 81,500 words, and so had beaten what he had written two years ago, and he was still ahead of what he had written last year. Even if he continued on at his reduced pace he was confident that he would be able to beat what he had written the previous year. But his main aim was to simply get to the end of the novel, and he was a little behind on the chapters that he had intended to have written by now. He was hoping to catch up in the near future.

He was writing as best he could whilst also listening to the conversation amongst his friends, when he noticed Steve and Natasha come in. As soon as he set eyes on them his vision was tinted red once more. He looked away, and it went back to normal, he looked back at them, and it was tinted red once more. He was at a complete loss as to try and explain it.

Steve and Natasha greeted everyone, and then sat on a table close to the others, to the left of the writer, and loaded up their laptops. For the past few days they had been a little concerned as to where Lisa had got to. She had just suddenly disappeared, and they were unable to locate where she was. They suspected that, as her work was now done, she had no need to stay on the Earth, and so she had left. Although they had felt that it was a little odd that she had just left without saying goodbye.

Once their laptops were fully loaded up they cracked on with their novels, whilst also half-listening to what the others were talking about. But, a short while afterwards, they both got a shock.

Both of their screens suddenly went black. Then the words 'DESTINY WILL FALL' appeared on both of them. These words faded away, and were then replaced with 'YOU ARE NEEDED IN QUEENSBURY'. Then their screens returned to normal.

They looked up at each other. Natasha said, 'It's not over, is it?'

After a pause Steve said, 'No, it doesn't look like it is.'

'What if this is a trap?'

'But what if Lisa is in trouble?'

They both knew that they couldn't risk something terrible happening to Lisa. They quickly shut down their laptops and made their apologies to everyone, saying that a family emergency had just come up and that they had to go.

The writer said, 'I hope everything's going to be OK.'

‘Thanks,’ said Steve. The writer, through his tinted vision, suspected that all was not as it seemed here.

Once Steve and Natasha had left the writer returned to his own screen. However, instead of his novel, he saw the words ‘DESTINY WILL FALL’. These words then faded, and were replaced with, ‘YOU WILL BE THE KEY’. These words then faded away, and his novel came back up on the screen.

The writer thought about this for a while, but he was not scared. He knew that something was up, something out of the ordinary, and these words confirmed it. He just needed to know what they meant.

Steve and Natasha made their way back to Waterloo station, and then took a Jubilee Line train to Queensbury. However, it seemed to take them a long time to get there as Waterloo and Queensbury were at opposite ends of the line. They wished that the train would go faster. However, in reality, it only took around 40 minutes to get there.

Once they were at Queensbury they left the station, and looked around to see if there was anything unusual. It didn’t take them long to spot the party sitting in the crescent. They looked most out of place.

The party all stood up to look at Steve and Natasha. They all got a sense that these two people were of vital importance. They didn’t know where they got this sense from, but, nonetheless, it was there.

Steve and Natasha ran across towards them. ‘Er, hi...’ said Steve when he got to them.

‘Greetings,’ said Prion. ‘Do you know Lisa?’ (Whilst Prion was speaking in Krintent, the crystals projected into the minds of Steve and Natasha and translated it into English, and then translated their replies into Krintent for the party.)

Natasha said, ‘Yes, yes we do! Why? Do you know where she is?’

Parto said, ‘We think she’s in there.’ He indicated Claire’s house. ‘But there’s something stopping us from getting close.’

‘What, exactly?’ asked Steve.

Gramshaw replied, ‘We’re not sure. Every time we try to walk up to the dwelling, there’s something in the air pushing back against us. Try as we might we just can’t get close to it.’

Steve and Natasha looked at the house, and started to walk towards it. They, too, felt the force field working against them. They stood back. They felt that, with their recently gained powers, they could force their way through the force field.

They looked at each other, and then held each other's hands. They then turned to face the house again, and charged.

They went straight through the force field.

As soon as they had penetrated the force field the man immediately stood up out of his chair. He walked into the kitchen, where the Dragon Keeper was, and grabbed her by the shoulder.

'Stop it!' she said. 'You're hurting me!'

Without saying a word he dragged her towards the front door.

The party got a shock when they suddenly saw the front door open. The man strode out, dragging the Dragon Keeper behind him. Keeping one hand on her shoulder, he raised his other hand.

The party, Steve, and Natasha, all fell to their knees as they were all suddenly overcome with weakness. Beams of energy came out from the crystals around the party's necks. The energy from Prion's and Parto's crystals went into Steve, and the energy from Sarna's and Gramshaw's crystals went into Natasha. The energy beams went through Steve and Natasha, and went on to the man's hand. They then channelled through his body, and into the Dragon Keeper.

She could feel that some of her strength was returning.

Welt was watching all of this from an upstairs window. And he was afraid. He remembered the party from The Ledge, back on the third day. He didn't know how, but he knew that they must have found a way to the Earth from Pyna. And he saw them being attacked and drained, in order to make the Dragon Keeper strong once more. He decided that that was bad. He didn't quite know exactly why, but he felt with every fibre of his being that she couldn't be allowed to have her strength return. He had to do something.

He quickly realised that there was only one thing for it. He quickly went downstairs, and then further down into the basement.

Lisa had to move her head away from the light as he opened the door as it hurt her eyes, which was a new sensation for her. Welt walked up to her, and saw the ropes that bound her.

'What are you going to do?' she asked.

'Do not be afraid, I haven't come to hurt you, I've come to set you free. Something is happening, and it isn't good. We need to stop it.' He then went up to the ropes.

'It's no use,' said Lisa. 'He has some sort of power. Nothing will undo those ropes.'

‘We’ll see about that...’ Welt still had some residual power from when he had come to the Earth. It was through using this power that he was able to weaken the ropes, although only slightly, but it was enough for Lisa to wiggle her hands and her arms free of them.

As soon as she was out of contact with the ropes all of her strength, and her power, came back to her. She immediately sensed everything that was currently happening outside. With fear overwhelming her, she quickly ran towards them, with Welt following her.

Evidently, the man, who seemed to have known everything that was due to happen, hadn’t expected Lisa to have been set free by Welt. As soon as she appeared by the door he turned round to look at her, a look of fear, shock, and anger appearing in his face. He cried out in anguish as he saw her.

Lisa raised her arms, which caused all of the energy from the crystals to stop from going towards Steve and Natasha, and then the man and the Dragon Keeper, and to start heading towards her instead. Only she didn’t absorb the power, she gathered it together in a great ball. Once the ball was about a foot in diameter she then directed it towards the man.

It exploded with a blinding light, and he fell to his knees. The crystals stopped giving out energy, and the party, Steve, and Natasha, were all able to get back up onto their feet. Lisa ran over towards them, and Welt followed her.

By now a sizeable crowd had gathered to watch what was happening. Some were even filming it on their mobile phones. She knew that she couldn’t let information about this get out. She closed her eyes, and, in her mind, she saw everyone who had witnessed what had just happened, and she erased their memories of it, and prevented them from remembering anything else for the next few minutes. She went into all of the mobile phones that had recorded footage of what had happened, and she deleted all of the footage. She then went further and went into the minds of the people that everyone who had witnessed what had happened had spoken to, and she erased their memories of what they were told as well.

She was now satisfied that all was safe, at least as far as what everyone had seen take place. But she still wasn’t safe from the man. She said, ‘Everyone, gather around me, quickly!’ Prion, Sarna, Parto, Gramshaw, Steve, Natasha, and Welt all gathered around Lisa. She closed her eyes, and projected a field around all of them. She then teleported them into Steve’s living room.

Steve and Natasha were a little shocked by this, as this was their first experience of teleportation. But they were relieved to be away from that man and the Dragon Keeper, and to have found Lisa again.

‘Who was that man?’ asked Natasha.

‘I don’t know,’ said Lisa. ‘But he scares me. He is very dangerous, and I don’t think the danger has yet passed...’