

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 TWENTY-FIVE

REFLECTIONS

Once they felt that they were suitably prepared, the one of the All Seeing that was assisting her summoned the Other, letting it know where their location was.

The Other shifted its phase back into the true reality, and headed straight for the Earth.

She was unsure if she had the strength to deal with the Other, but the one of the All Seeing assured her that she could face it. He would be there with her, and would be there to assist her.

They waited for the Other on a large continent to the south of this world. They did not have to wait long, for the Other arrived within hours of being summoned...

The Apocolynium – XXV

Tom was woken up with a start during the early hours of the twenty-fifth day. Natasha's flat had been fairly quiet recently. He supposed that she was just busy saving the world, or something that was along those lines. After the incident with the Dragon Keeper where they had eventually all made their way to Belmont Circle, and Natasha had finally met Steve, Tom had simply disappeared into the background. But he was fine with that. He didn't really like the idea of being involved in something that affected the very fate of the planet, and he was glad that it was finally all over.

He still found it hard to believe that Lisa wasn't from this world. It actually broke his heart a little bit, for he had fallen in love with her, but now knew that there was never any chance of those feelings being reciprocated by her. He thought that it was typical that he finally meets another girl that he likes, and she turned out to be a goddess – an actual goddess.

He had got used to the quietness of the flat upstairs. But now, all of a sudden, it sounded like there was a party going on up there. He decided that he would investigate what was going on.

He got out of bed, put on his dressing gown and slippers, got his keys (he was always careful to make sure that he didn't get locked out of his flat), and then made his way upstairs.

He ran the doorbell for Natasha's flat, and then, suddenly, the noise in the flat died down. A few seconds later Natasha came and opened the door. 'Oh, Tom, hi...'

'Hi. I just thought I'd come up and see what all of the noise was about.'

'Oh, I'm sorry, we, just, er, all got back...'

'Got back from where?'

'Erm, it's a little complicated...'

From behind her Lisa said, 'It's OK, you can let him in. He's helped us before, there's no reason why we should keep anything from him.' Tom's heart lifted a little when he heard this.

Whilst he knew that nothing was ever going to happen between him and Lisa, he still liked to see her, to be in her company.

He went into Natasha's living room, where he was surprised to see so many people there. He recognised Steve, and he was surprised to see Welt there. He also recognised Naomi from before. But he also saw four other people that he didn't recognise who were dressed a little strangely, and were all wearing crystals around their necks – these were, of course, Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw.

Lisa got him to come and sit down next to her. Again, this was something that pleased him, which she knew it would. She felt a little sorry for him – she was all too aware of the feelings that he had for her, and she felt a little guilty for having to call on him when she first returned to the Earth. Whilst she didn't feel the same way about him as he did about her, she still wanted to see if she could put things right by the time that all of this was over and she finally left the Earth – assuming, of course, that they were actually able to stop the Dragon Keeper.

She proceeded to tell him everything that had happened since they had last saw him. He was surprised to hear that Lisa had been overcome by the man, and even tied up and left powerless in a basement. He was relieved to hear that he had been defeated, and so he wouldn't have to face him himself, but was now concerned to hear that the Dragon Keeper was now even more powerful than she had been before.

She then asked him how he had been. He said that he had been fine, things had been fairly quiet around here recently. Work was going OK, although yesterday there had been a lot of talk about the student riots that had taken place in Whitehall.

Natasha then said, 'Oh right, they came a day early did they?'

'No, that was the day they were always planning to come.'

'But I thought they were planning to come down on Wednesday?'

'Er, yesterday was Wednesday...'

'But I thought this was Wednesday?'

'No, it's gone midnight, and so now it's Thursday.'

'But we were at Old Redding shortly after midnight on Tuesday night, which would make this Wednesday morning.'

'I can assure you that this is Thursday morning.'

Lisa then said, 'I think he's right. Everything that I can sense around me tells me that this is indeed Thursday morning. It would appear that we've lost a day.'

At that point the crystals started to glow again, and they said, 'We moved you forward in time, to protect you from the Dragon Keeper. By not knowing when or where you were going to

reappear she could not come after you. She is now back in the dwelling her human self owned in the area known as Queensbury. She is preparing to confront you again, to acquire the key for herself.' The crystal's light faded away.

Welt then asked, 'If those crystals can move us forward in time, could they not send us back in time as well, to before the Dragon Keeper took the man's power? Could we not stop her before she gained all of that power? There would be two Lisa's then, which would give you enough power to take on both the man and the Dragon Keeper.'

Lisa shook her head, 'Time travel is a complicated matter, but it's only ever possible to go forwards in time, at least for beings like us. There's no way for us to go back in time. Fortunately, the same is true for the Dragon Keeper.'

Naomi then asked, 'So, what can we do? She now has her own strength combined with that of the man's, who in turn had taken Ian's power...' Naomi was still upset at the loss of Ian, and still found it hard to believe that he was gone. 'You can take my power if you want. I don't mind dying if that what it takes to save everyone.'

'No,' said Lisa, 'That's no longer an option for us. The crystals only gave me their help when I chose not to take your life. If I try to do so again they will most likely take away that help, which is something that we need at the moment.'

Welt then said, 'But if she is stronger than us what can we do to defeat her?'

'I really don't know...' Lisa was very much concerned about the recent turn of events. She knew what all of this was heading towards, what it meant for everyone in this room and on this planet. She knew that it was connected to the words 'Destiny Will Fall'. And, dear reader, I too know what this is most likely heading towards, and it does not look good. It does not look good at all. Do not ask me to share this with you, for it is something that is too terrible to share.

Natasha then asked, 'So has all of this been for nothing? Is there really nothing that we can do? Are we just going to sit here and wait for her to come after Steve and me?'

Prion then said, 'I don't think that all of this has been for nothing. From everything that I've been able to gather, at each and every stage we have been able to slow down the forces that would work against us. You were able to stop the Dragon Keeper from forming the key before we arrived on the Earth. If you hadn't have done what you did then this world would not be here today, and yet it is. Again, if we had not confronted that man up on the hill, the world would not be here today, and yet it is. Throughout all of this we have been guided by some other power, a power that is working against the powers that the man and the Dragon Keeper work for. I don't think it will just be a case of sitting here and waiting for the Dragon Keeper to come and find us. I have faith that this power will come back to assist us.'

At that moment the lights suddenly went out, and the TV came on of its own accord. Everyone jumped when this happened. The TV screen was blank, and there was no sound coming out of it. Then, without warning, in big white letters, the words 'DESTINY WILL FALL' appeared on the screen, causing everyone in the room to gasp.

Lisa then called out, 'Who are you?'

More words appeared on the TV screen, this time saying, 'YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW WHO I AM, ONLY THAT I AM HERE TO HELP.'

'Why do you keep telling us that "Destiny Will Fall"?'

'I CAN NOT DISCUSS THAT. YOU KNOW THIS. DESTINY WILL FALL.'

'But what are we to do? We aren't strong enough to take on the Dragon Keeper. The man she was working with killed Ian and took his power, and then she killed the man and took his power, and we didn't even know who he was. We don't have enough power of our own to match her.'

'POWER ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT STRENGTH. WHEN GOOD FACES EVIL, GOOD IS ALWAYS WORTH MORE THAN EVIL.'

Parto then asked, 'Then why does evil sometimes triumph, despite what good does to try and defeat it?'

There was a pause before the reply came. 'GOOD ALWAYS TRIUMPHS IN THE END, EVEN WHEN IT APPEARS THAT EVIL HAS WON. YOUR SITUATION IS NO DIFFERENT.'

'So you know we're going to win somehow? So we should stop worrying and just let everything happen, is that what you're saying?'

'NO, IF GOOD DOES NOTHING THEN EVIL WILL TRIUMPH. GOOD CAN NOT GIVE UP. NEVER GIVE UP. NEVER SURRENDER.'

Gramshaw then asked, 'But what can we do? How can we end this once and for all?'

'THE DRAGON KEEPER WILL RETURN TO OLD REDDING. THE CRYSTALS LED YOU THERE FOR A REASON. YOU WILL NEED TO RETURN THERE AS WELL. YOU WILL NEED TO BE THERE AT MIDDAY ON SATURDAY, THE 27TH DAY.'

Steve then asked, 'And what do we do when we get there? How can we face her again when she is stronger than we are?'

'THE CRYSTALS KNOW. THEY WILL HELP YOU. TRUST IN THEM. YOU MUST FACE THE DRAGON KEEPER AGAIN, AND IT MUST BE AT OLD REDDING, AND

IT MUST BE AT MIDDAY ON THE 27TH DAY. TRUST IN THE CRYSTALS. TRUST IN ME. TRUST IN GOODNESS.'

The screen went blank again, and then, once more, the words, 'DESTINY WILL FALL' appeared on the screen, before the TV went off and the lights came back on.

There was a brief moment where everyone got their breath back, and then Naomi asked, 'Just who is this person? Why are they doing this? How can we trust them?'

'I don't know who it is,' said Lisa. Although she was now starting to have her suspicions as to who it might be. She recognised the rhetoric. If she was right as to who it was then she felt that it was someone who could be trusted. Dear reader, I will not be sharing what her suspicion is with you, for there is every chance that she may be wrong, and I wouldn't want to get anyone's hopes up.

Lisa continued, 'But I think we have no choice but to trust them. What alternative do we have? We're all perfectly aware that we don't have enough power among us to be able to face the Dragon Keeper as we are. If we were to go out and seek her now she would most likely defeat us, take the essences from Steve and Natasha, form the key, and take the Earth's power. Now, unless anyone else has another suggestion, I think all that we can do is what that person has told us to do. We return to Old Redding on Saturday, trust that the crystals will help us, and face the Dragon Keeper one last time there. Then, as long as we do the best that we can, whatever happens will happen. We all just have to stay true to ourselves, and the goodness that is within our hearts.'

Gramshaw then asked, 'But what do we do in the meantime?'

'The only thing we can do. We wait.'