

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:

1. You do not alter the file in any way, shape, or form.
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DAY TWENTY-NINE

DESTRUCTION

The All Seeing were greatly disappointed that the Other had been defeated. But they conceded that they would now never be able to defeat her.

The one of the All Seeing that had assisted her returned to the others, and convinced them that she should be able to live freely within her universe. It was a universe that had already changed beyond all recognition.

The All Seeing then started to pay the Earth a lot more attention. Its people developed differently to the intelligent beings of other worlds. They made vast technological advances. They were able to build devices that allowed them to see stars that were so far away, and atoms that were so very small. They were able to harness electricity and radio waves. They developed computers which could perform calculations far faster than any living being could. They even ventured beyond their own world via the use of their technology, and set foot on other worlds.

They were also terribly destructive. No other inhabited worlds had seen so many wars amongst its people. These wars gradually got more and more deadly. The All Seeing saw the senseless loss of life in some many wars, and this saddened them.

But they were also incredibly artistic, creating pictures and music and stories that moved their hearts and lived on for centuries.

But, as they grew in number, far faster than the other inhabited worlds, the power that they had inherited from the Other also grew. This made the Earth a target for those people who knew of such things.

Meanwhile, she continued to live her life as she had done, visiting a great many worlds, and helping a great many people. She made many, many return visits to the Earth.

Despite the All Seeing now accepting her, she still had enemies that would mean her harm...

The Apocolynium – XXIX

Once again, the Dragon Keeper had to rest to recover her strength, but she was not concerned. She couldn't be stopped now. She had the key, and no one could take it away from her. It was encoded in her DNA, and she was now far too powerful to be killed by anyone. Nothing was going to stop her from carrying out her plan.

She just left Steve and Natasha tied up in the basement, in pain. They no longer mattered to her, she had all that she needed from them, and so she put them out of her mind.

She went to sleep contented on the night of the twenty-eighth day.

On the twenty-ninth day Lisa and her companions were relieved to once again see another day. On this day Lisa had come to a decision. She gathered everyone together in the living room, and said, 'Even though the Dragon Keeper almost certainly has formed the key by now, and will shortly be moving to obtain the Earth's power, even though she now has far more power than

we do, I still think that we should confront her once more. We almost certainly won't be able to stop her, and it will be a suicide mission, but I'd rather die knowing that we did everything that we possibly could to try and avert this disaster, rather than just sit here and wait for it to happen. I will be leaving to face her shortly. I will not think any less of you if you chose not to join me.'

The others all thought about this for a moment, and then Prion said, 'Lisa, I will come with you. I want to die having known I tried.'

Sarna said, 'I will join you too. I will not wait around here for death.'

Parto said, 'You will have my bow.'

'And my axe!' Gramshaw said immediately afterwards.

Tom couldn't help but chuckle at this moment – yesterday they had found Natasha's copies of 'The Lord of the Rings' DVDs. He then said, 'I'll come along as well. I know I probably won't be of much use, but if we're going to go out, I'd rather go out fighting.'

Naomi then said, 'I will join you all as well. I will gladly die if there's even the slightest hope of saving this world.'

Welt then said, 'I will not stay behind. I have no intention of dying a coward's death.'

'Very well,' said Lisa, 'We will set out immediately. She is at the house in Queensbury. We will walk there.' Lisa wanted to conserve as much energy as she could. She was planning something far more audacious than simply going out in a blaze of glory...

The Dragon Keeper woke up on the twenty-ninth day full of optimism. Today was going to be *the* day. A day that she had been waiting for for a very long time. She decided that she wasn't going to waste any more time, she was going to get on and unlock the Earth's power.

She teleported back to Old Redding.

Lisa detected that the Dragon Keeper had teleported back to Old Redding, but she didn't change course. She continued on to Queensbury. The Dragon Keeper was not her target.

Once at Old Redding the Dragon Keeper briefly looked out over Harrow. She could see all of the ordinary people going about their ordinary lives. It gave her great pleasure to know that this was all about to change.

She placed her hands on the ground, on the very spot where Ian's son had died, where the link to the Earth's core was at its strongest. She then channelled her energy into the Earth, and began to unlock its power, using the power that she had that gave her her name. She cried out, 'Dragon of the Earth, I release you!'

The ground started to shake.

Lisa and her companions could feel the tremors where they were. 'It's starting,' said Lisa. 'Hurry, we haven't much time!' She started to run towards Queensbury.

The tremors got stronger. The people of Harrow were in a panic, for they had no idea what was happening. Cracks started appearing in the roads.

The tremors spread out from Harrow, and, within minutes, the whole of London and a large part of Hertfordshire and surrounding counties could feel them too.

Lisa and her companions arrived at Claire's house. Lisa forced her way through the door, and made her way down to the basement. Steve and Natasha had passed out from the pain that they were in, but they were still alive.

Lisa called out to the others, 'Quickly, everyone, get inside here!' As they all entered the basement, she removed the Marloki daggers from Steve's and Natasha's abdomens, and untied them from the pillars.

Cracks started to appear all over London now, and the tremors were radiating all throughout the British Isle and northern Europe. Soon they would be felt all over the world. The world's population was in a panic. Nobody had the faintest idea what was happening. The world's leaders were taken completely by surprise, and had no time to take any action.

In London a great crack had appeared in Horse Guards Parade, and magma was starting to come out of it.

Another crack appeared in Downing Street, instantly destroying the buildings within it. The Foreign Office next to it slowly started to sink down into this crack, into the very depths of hell.

The tremors were starting to get stronger. Big Ben chimed its last as the Palace of Westminster collapsed. The London Eye toppled over, splashing into the Thames. A great many more buildings were also starting to collapse.

These scenes of destruction were starting to be repeated throughout the world.

The Dragon Keeper was delighted at what was happening. Throughout the world people were dying, all of them, at an ever increasing rate. As each person died their essence seeped back into the Earth. But as the very Earth itself was dying, there was nowhere for it to go. And so it all started to coalesce.

This was the Earth's power. Once every last human being had died, and all of their essences had merged together, the Dragon Keeper was free to absorb this power, and use it for herself, to do whatever she wished with creation. Not even the All Seeing would be able to stop her.

She laughed with maniacal glee.

The house above Lisa and her companions was starting to collapse, and wouldn't hold out for much longer. Lisa knew that there was now nothing for it but to take the gamble. She figured that she now had little left to lose.

She used her powers to bring Steve and Natasha back to consciousness. 'What's happening...?' Steve groaned.

'No time to explain,' said Lisa. 'Just relax.' She then turned to Naomi and asked, 'Could you come over here for a minute?'

Naomi came and stood before her. The basement was now starting to shake violently. They didn't have long left.

Lisa looked upwards and said, 'Father, I hope you're there!' She then looked Naomi in the eyes. She took one of the Marloki daggers in each hand – and then she plunged both of them into Naomi's heart.

Naomi's eyes widened in shock, not understanding what it was that Lisa was doing. She died quickly, and Lisa quickly absorbed her power.

The ceiling was starting to collapse. A large slab of concrete fell down, hitting Welt squarely on the head, killing him instantly, and pinning Parto to the floor. Then one of the walls fell down on Tom, Prion, and Sarna. Gramshaw didn't know who to help first. In the end there was no need to make a choice, as one of the concrete pillars collapsed on top of him.

Lisa had hoped to take all of them with her, but she now knew that that wouldn't be possible. She put her arms around Steve and Natasha, and then, using every ounce of the energy that she had left, she teleported the three of them away from the basement in the house in London, on the doomed Earth.

It wasn't long before the continental plates started to break up. Millions of people were dying every second, as the world disintegrated.

The Dragon Keeper watched this from high above the Earth's surface, anticipating the moment when she could claim the Earth's power for herself.

A few minutes later there was an almighty blast, as the Earth's core itself exploded. The Earth was no more. The human race was extinct.

Apart from...

Lisa, Steve, and Natasha were lying on the ground somewhere, as they all slowly came round.

There was grass growing here. The air around them was cool and clear.

And they could hear the sound of a waterfall...