

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-THREE

THE DRAWING OF THE BATTLE LINES

Once he had found the world that she was on it didn't take him long to locate her. At this time she was deep within a mountain range, searching for a source of power within this world. She was surprised when she saw him – she was instantly able to recognise him as being one of the All Seeing. She was surprised both because he was one of the All Seeing, most of whom wanted to eliminate her, and the fact that he was here, within the universe of her mind.

He told her that he was aware of the plight that she was in, and that he wanted to help her. She told him that she was trying to see if this world had a power that she could harness and take with her into the true reality.

They travelled together deep into the mountain, where they were able to locate a source of power. However, there was a limit to what she could do with this power. Using it she would be able to come back to the true reality and break down the door to the basement that she was trapped in, but then she would have to quickly return the power the world within her mind, otherwise that world would end. She had promised the philosopher that she would not allow this world to end.

But she was able to use this power temporarily, so that she could set herself free...

The Apocolynium – XXIII

Lisa and her companions spent the rest of the twenty-second day at Naomi's house. Lisa now knew some of what the crystals true purpose was. She didn't know quite what was going to happen next, but she was feeling positive.

When everyone awoke on the twenty-third day, after they had showered and eaten they gathered together in Naomi's living room to discuss what it was they were going to do next.

Naomi started this discussion by saying, 'I have a bad feeling about something. Like something has been lost. Lisa, can you detect anything?'

Lisa said, 'I fear you are right. I'm not sure what has happened exactly, but I think something bad has happened to Ian.'

'Oh no, not Ian!'

'I know, things are bad. But we mustn't lose heart. We need to face this man once and for all, and stop him from trying to take the Earth's power.'

Prion asked, 'Do we know where he might be?'

'He was in Queensbury when we last saw him, but he's probably moved on from there. I could briefly detect yesterday that the Dragon Keeper was in Elephant and Castle, and so it's likely that he was with her at the time, but now she is hidden to me as well.'

Welt then said, 'Forgive me, but if we don't even know where he is, how can we take the fight to him?'

‘I don’t know, I really don’t know...’

After he had finished absorbing Ian’s power the man led the Dragon Keeper on foot to the centre of London, and into St James’s Park. There they stayed for the rest of the day and through the night. He had returned to his usual stance of sitting down and just staring into space. The Dragon Keeper wasn’t sure what to do with herself. The man didn’t appear to feel the cold, but she did now that she was without most of her powers. She walked around to try and keep warm, but it did little good.

The next day she was walking past the man, and then he just said, ‘We will have to deal with Lisa and those that are with her. We will need to deal with them quickly. They are currently in Kilburn, at the home of the one known as Naomi. We will go there now, and kill them all. But not before we have formed the key to this world’s power.’ He stood up and then started walking in the direction of Trafalgar Square, with the Dragon Keeper following him.

As soon as he started walking towards Trafalgar Square both Steve and Natasha received a text message. Both of the messages were exactly the same. They read, ‘HE IS COMING. MOVE. NOW.’ They showed these messages to the others.

Parto said, ‘I think it’s pretty clear what it is we need to do. We need to get out of here!’

‘But do we?’ asked Welt. ‘If he is coming here then we could wait for him and confront him.’

At that point Steve and Natasha both received another text message, both of which again were identical. This time they said, ‘NO. IT IS NOT SAFE THERE. YOU HAVE TO MOVE. SAFETY IS IN HARROW.’

Upon seeing this Welt then said, ‘I don’t like this, being given instructions by someone who won’t even identify themselves to us.’

Naomi then said, ‘I don’t know who it is who’s sending us these messages, but they appear to be on our side. If it weren’t for them, then Lisa wouldn’t have been able to find me and Steve when...’ She trailed off, as she remembered who it was she was speaking to.

Gramshaw then said, ‘It would appear, from all that I’ve been able to gather, that the sender of these messages is indeed trying to help us. I suggest that we follow their suggestion. It’s most likely that this man will just follow us to this place we’re being directed to, and so we can just as easily make our stand there rather than here if it comes to that.’

Lisa then said, ‘I agree. We will leave immediately. It’s still probably not a good idea for me to teleport you all. Whilst I now have more strength thanks to the crystals I think it would be

foolish to expend energy when it may not be necessary for me to do so.'

And with that she led the group out of the house and back towards Kilburn station. They took a northbound Jubilee Line train back up to Canons Park, and then took the bus that was headed towards Belmont Circle.

Once they were on the bus Steve and Natasha received another text message, this time saying, 'STAY ON THE BUS UNTIL WEALDSTONE AND GET OFF THERE.'

They showed it to Lisa, who responded by saying, 'I really hope that whoever is sending us these messages knows what they're doing.'

The man, for reasons I can't be sure about, also chose not to teleport. I can only assume that he, too, was trying to conserve his strength. He led the Dragon Keeper to Charing Cross Underground Station, which can be accessed from Trafalgar Square. From there they boarded a northbound Bakerloo Line train, presumably to change at Baker Street for the Jubilee Line to Kilburn.

But after they had only been on the train for a short time he said, 'They have moved. We will keep moving too. We will follow them. We will not allow them to get away.'

Once Lisa and their party got off of the bus at Wealdstone Steve and Natasha got a text message saying, 'NOW WALK THROUGH HARROW WEALD. DO NOT HESITATE. HE IS COMING. CRYSTALS WILL HELP YOU.'

Upon seeing this Gramshaw said, 'It looks like we're going to be useful again before too long. But I wish I knew how.'

They started to walk in the direction of Harrow Weald.

The man and the Dragon Keeper had to get off of the train at Queen's Park as that was where it terminated. They had to wait for a little while before a train arrived that would take them all the way to Harrow. Whilst they waited the man just stood by the side of the platform, just staring into space.

Another passenger saw this. She approached the man and asked, 'Is everything OK?' She was concerned that the man was considering throwing himself in front of a train.

However, he turned round to look at her and said, 'I'm fine.' The look in his eyes terrified her, and so she quickly moved away. He then turned his head back to staring into the space that was in front of him.

Around five minutes later a train that was going all the way to Harrow and Wealdstone

arrived, and the man and the Dragon Keeper boarded it.

Once Lisa and her companions had walked all of the way through Harrow Weald, and were at the roundabout that was just before where the woodland started, Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw all started to hear the voice of the crystals in their heads. They said, 'Stop here and face the city.'

Prion looked at Lisa and said, 'The crystals are speaking to us, in our minds. Wait here.'

Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw did as the crystals said. Once they were facing the direction of where they had just walked from the crystals started to glow again. They suddenly got very bright, and then went out. The crystals then said, 'Turn around and continue on.'

Prion turned to Lisa and said, 'We can go on.'

They didn't know what it was that the crystals had done. What they had done was to erect a large force field that blocked off the woodland from the rest of Harrow. However, this was no ordinary force field, as the cars on the roads and the pedestrians on the pavements were still able to pass straight through it, and were completely oblivious to its existence.

Once their train arrived at Harrow and Wealdstone the man and the Dragon Keeper got off it, and he led her into Wealdstone, and then set off in the direction of Harrow Weald. He was walking at a fast pace, and the Dragon Keeper was finding it hard to keep up with him. She didn't know what was happening, but she knew that she had to stay with him if her dreams were to be realised.

The man kept the pace up all throughout Wealdstone and Harrow Weald. But then he suddenly came to a complete halt at the point that the force field was. He tried to walk through it, but found that he could not.

'What is it?' asked the Dragon Keeper, who also found that she could walk no further. 'What's stopping us?'

The man just said, 'Something different...'

Lisa and her companions continued walking down the road, which was the same road that those of them from Pyna had walked down on the night that they had arrived on the Earth. They went this way for they had no other indication as to where they should go.

Eventually they came to a crossroads, where Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw, all got a very strong feeling that they should go to the left. It was the same feeling they had when they were being led to where Lisa was in Queensbury shortly after they had arrived on the Earth.

Prion said, 'We need to go this way. I'm not sure why, but we do.'

'Yes,' said Sarna, 'I agree. This is the way to go. There's something here that will help us in some way.'

Parto said, 'They're right.'

Gramshaw said, 'I don't understand it myself, but this is indeed the direction that we are being pulled in.'

And so they all took the road to their left. This road was known as Old Redding. After a short distance they walked past a pub known as The Case is Altered, and then Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw all felt the need to go into the car park that was next to this pub.

This car park was on a hill, and to the side they had a spectacular view over the whole of Harrow. As they stood there looking at the view the crystals spoke to Prion, Sarna, Parto, and Gramshaw again, saying, 'This is where you will need to make your stand. This is the place on the Earth where we can most effectively help you. What we did earlier will stall the man and the Dragon Keeper, but not indefinitely. Eventually they will break through, and follow you to this place. Be prepared to face them.'

Prion and the others relayed this message to Lisa, Naomi, Welt, Steve, and Natasha. They then prepared themselves for what was to come next.

They found themselves standing there for several hours, all of them feeling uneasy about what it was that was going to happen.

The man certainly had the power to bring down the force field himself, but he chose not to. Again, as with his reason for not teleporting, I suspect that he was just trying to conserve his strength.

However, shortly before midnight, the force field collapsed, and the man and the Dragon Keeper were able to pass through...