

Lost_Child_of_Amber_007

*Let me take you by the hand
And lead you through the streets of Londra
Show you something to make you change your mind*

The Streets of Londra

With black dye for their horses' manes and fetlocks, clothes and a little local currency for themselves, they considered their options.

Esther still hadn't contacted them and they were unwilling to break the "Quarantine" by calling anyone via the Trumps.

Aleyn – as an avid reader of Sherlock Holmes stories, wanted to locate a local consulting detective so they found a local newspaper to look in the small ads.

Cassie spotted that the major news was the outbreak of War (the Mutiny of Vendhya and the jingoistic response of the Empire) but there were two other potentially interesting items...

Yesterday (the day of Patient 451's escape) there had been a murder of a groom in a street nearby. His neck had been snapped.

In the early hours of today, there had been a riot of lower-class folk smashing the windows in the houses of the wealthy in Camden – a mile or so north (across the Tame river).

They headed for the address of the murder victim and sneaked in to search the place. Cassie found a straight-jacket with broken straps and bloodstains on the wrists hidden in the victim's laundry basket. He had been the same build and height as Patient 451.

If the riots had been caused by 451 then he was either in Camden or he'd passed through there. They decided their best way to track him would be to Shadow-walk out of Britannia and then Shadow-walk back using the photograph and the blood to home-in on their quarry.

[GM: They might have used the blood and photo for Aleyn to draw a Trump Sketch too. However, touching the blood would have been a huge risk of infection!]

The Tolling of the Iron Bell

They rested overnight [GM: to recover one of Cassie's expended Pattern boxes] and then Cassie tried to shadow-walk away. The way was BLOCKED but she sensed that the cause of the blockage was only a few miles away in the bell tower of a church. She could hear a subliminal noise resonating through the Pattern in her blood.

The church was locked, but they broke in and found the vicar's body, under the kitchen table in his living quarters. They went up the narrow stairs in the bell tower to find two guards in ornate chainmail and wearing Serpent-headed helmets. They were carrying odd-looking spears.

There was some noise coming beyond the guards, from inside the bell room – a low humming whine. The two guards were talking to each other...



“Guarded a Stellae in-use before?”

“No but I’ve been part of a squad transporting one.”

“It’s a bad business.”

“Hush, don’t upset Her” nodding back into the room “She can get nasty”.

Aleyn tried to sneak up but was spotted and then was surprised when the first guard’s spear shot a pulse of flame at him. He just dodged aside and it scorched the wall. Then he was among them. He hacked off the head of the first spear. As it clattered down the steps it seemed to activate and begin to hum and glow.

Cassie grabbed it and hurled it up and over. It exploded catching both guards. If they hadn’t been in heavy armour it could have taken them down.



Cassie moved up and was then hurled against the wall by the woman in the room. She was dressed as an Egyptian Queen with a strange golden gauntlet (actually a cybernetic implant of some kind). She raised her hand and emitted a telekinetic blast.

Aleyn ran one of the guards through, and parried the second bolt of fire aside, knocking the remaining guard back into the “Queen”. The sprawling guard fell off the ledge, smacked his helmet against the bell with a rich clang, and fell to the chamber far below.

They advanced on the fallen woman, putting a blade to her throat and began to negotiate. Close by an iron sphere hums and floats a few feet from the ground.

It’s the End of the World as We Know It

After asking if they “know of other worlds?” Neferu explained much about what was going on. During the discussion Aleyn realises that the markings on her jewellery are symbols from his own past – particularly those of the mysterious man-god – Set – the Chaos Lord who showed him how to make his “enchanted” blade.

Neferu and the two dead guards were in the service of Setep of House Amon (one of the Houses from the Courts of Chaos). She describes Setep as the “Master of Destruction”. She claims that Fiona of Amber hired Setep to utterly destroy this Shadow to prevent some form of Mystical RAGE Infection from spreading.

Fiona has blocked Trump Contact in and out of the Shadow as it can be spread even by Trump Contact, never mind Trump Teleports. Setep has then arrived with his **Stellae**. Three of these are placed as far apart as possible in the Shadow World – at places with large populations as they feed on life-force to power their destructive Logrus Energies. When they are all in position and correctly aligned, the Shadow can be totally consumed.

Fiona believes that although the Wards holding Finndo have been weakened recently, they are still holding his Shadows out of direct contact to any other place than Brittania. If this place is utterly destroyed, Finndo’s Shadows will be locked apart from all other Shadows forever.

According to Neferu, Fiona (and other strong Pattern workers from Amber) have been able to slow down Time inside Brittania so that a few months have passed outside. They have already managed

to seal off Gerard's Shadow and are working to purge Caine and Gerard of the infection – at great personal risk and effort. Gerard's Shadow has been blocked off and is scheduled for obliteration once Setep has finished here.

Aleyn and Cassie still want to find Patient 451 (thought to be a son of Finndo). He is believed to be a Logrus-endowed Shape-changer as the "Pattern" that Finndo drew with his own blood in his prison cell is more like a Logrus than a stable Pattern. Emerging through this Logrus probably drove 451 temporarily insane.

Fiona and Llewella (and Esther) have combined their mystical talents and believe the escapee is spreading his infection through his blood, introduced into water supplies – just a few drops in a large quantity of water can infect entire populations, inflating even minor prejudices to become blazing hatred. Londra is supplied with drinking water from vast brick-built reservoirs and cisterns, so she expects the perpetrator to be in or near to one of those.

It seems that Neferu has Advanced Sorcery skills similar to Esther's and they convince her to try and give them a locator spell based on Patient 451's medical photograph. She refuses to use the man's blood and advises them to get rid of it. Based purely on the photo, the spell takes a heavy toll on her, but she places her gauntlet on Aleyn's head and he now seems to feel a pull towards the North.

They have about two hours before the last of the Stellae is aligned. Each is many thousands of miles apart. When Setep himself gets the final one in position, it will not take long (no more than an hour) to suck the life-force from everyone (weakest first) and totally consume the entire Shadow. Everything within a few yards around each of the Stellae will emerge safely in neighbouring Shadows.