

# **The Hidden Portal**

## **Book One**

**By Colin J Platt**

**Smashwords Edition**

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The students who complete this mission will receive a reward. The reward will be something of great importance. Only students of high perception will achieve their goal. This series of tests is an enigma and a simple way for you to find a treasure of inestimable value. This is not a game; it is a way to freedom. Do not doubt, but keep always in your consciousness the light at the end of the tunnel, or the Hidden Portal. The clues are in my books, artwork, and other places, please don't get discouraged, you are the future and the future is eternity, please believe it.

First test...Go to the book The Inner Dragon book one, and find out the name of the main character's girlfriend, and what is the illegal thing they intend to do. You can email me at...colinjp1948@google.com or you can save them up till later, onwards, my friends.

# **The Inner Dragon**

**Book one**

**TV Script**

**By Colin J Platt**

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**Characters**

**Grunwald Magnusson**

**Grun's mum**

**Cafe manager**

**Derek Weston: bully from school days**

**Anna Godfrey: friend**

**Kyle Simonson: friend**

**Mr. Thomson: next door neighbor**

**Alec Mac Nee: Detective Inspector**

**John Watkins: Detective sergeant**

## Jenkins: Police constable

### Cafe Manager

#### Overview

Grunwald Magnusson was always a lonely person, ever since childhood where he struggled to understand people. People were his antagonists. People were always interfering in his life. Why did his father give him this ridiculous name and leave him when he was only five years old? Only his father could tell him what to do with his life. He left him a coded message which took Grun months to decipher. The message was locked in a cabinet under the mirror which Grun was always frightened to look into. It had runic symbols running around it. His mother had given Grun the key when he turned twenty one. Grun had found another key in the cabinet and a letter. The letter was from his father. It said he must begin the quest? After much work Grun finally managed to find the hidden box. Why didn't his mother know anything about it, or anything relevant about his father? All she said was she was told by Grun's father never to sell the house and to give him the key.

Grun was on the threshold of something which would alter his life forever. The box which was buried in the outhouse under the floor contained an assortment of things. It would take Grun three years to even begin to understand them. The main thing was the book.

After another three months of decoding he found the second letter hidden behind the fitted bookshelf. The letter said that he should stand in front of the mirror at a certain time and he would be given certain powers!

The time was the spring equinox. Grun stood in front of the mirror at twelve o'clock. He meditated for several minutes with his eyes closed. When he opened them he could see a man writing a message on the inside of the mirror. He knew this man to be his father.

Grun had copied the message which remained for ten minutes after his father disappeared. Grun was disappointed at not being able to talk with his father but he knew that his father had Grun's welfare at heart. Grun started to practice the exercises which were given him. The details are too secret to reveal here.

#### Scene one: the Mall

Grun:( sitting at a table in the cafe where he goes to be alone)

Derek: (standing over the table and smirking)

Well look who it is, the loneliest kid in town. What are you doing here?

Grun: (doesn't speak)

Derek:

What's the matter? Did you finally lose your voice after I shoved your head down the toilet at school?

Grun: (still doesn't say anything)

Derek:

Well, it's been crappy to see you. Maybe we'll meet again in thirty years' time. I will certainly look forward to staying away from your funeral. Ha.

Grun;

(Thinking to himself) One of these days I will get even with that bastard. At least I don't have to worry about money. I would hate to have to work with people like him, dad left us OK as far as the financial things go.

Anna: (walking by) Grun! Is that you?

Grun;

Hello, Anna.

Anna:

What have you been doing with yourself? I haven't seen you in ages.

Grun:

I have been rather busy working.

Anna:

What do you do?

Grun (thinking what to say)

Anna :( knowing Grun didn't need to work)

It's alright, Grun, you don't need to tell me, I don't mean to pry.

Grun:

No, it's not that I don't want to tell you, Anna, but it is sort of a secret.

Anna:

Really? May I sit down?

Grun:

I'm so sorry, Anna. Please sit.

Anna: (looking serious)

Grun, I have to say I find this meeting very coincidental. I have had a series of dreams about you and your father.

Grun; (becoming tense)

Why? What happened?

Anna:

It finally came to a head a few weeks ago when your father said I should meet up with you and discuss plans for the future. I wasn't going to take any notice of it, but now I meet you here!

Grun:

I am a little overwhelmed by this. My life seems to be one long coded, fateful part of something bigger than myself.

Anna;

What happened to your father?

Grun:

He disappeared when I was five years old, that's all I know.

Anna:

What does your mum say about it?

Grun:

Not much, she hardly ever speaks of him. I get the impression she was scared of him but respected him also. It's as if he married her just to have me.

Anna:

Surely not.

Grun:

Tell me about the dreams. What did they tell you?

Anna:

They said I should help you to access the central library. You know I work there.

Grun;

What? How can you risk that?

Anna:

I know but I feel we have to do it. It is something I can't help. There is a certain relic there which is supposed to have great power. The dream said that we should steal it!

Grun:

Yes, I read about it. It has come from Egypt. This is the first time it has ever been out of a strong room. This is fantastic stuff. How could we pull it off?

Anna:

We will have to plan it properly. What am I saying? I can't think straight.

Grun:

Let us calm down a bit. Things are happening so fast. I knew something of great importance was going to happen but I didn't know when.

Anna:

I feel scared. I don't know why I came here. Maybe I should go. I feel as though this is a dream also.

Grun;

I want you to go home and rest. Please don't worry. Things will be OK, but I want to see you again in a few days. Don't discuss this with anyone, is that understood?

Anna: Grun, I feel something is about to happen that will put you in danger. I'm sorry I came here, forget me. I won't see you again. (Anna gets up and leaves)

Grun;

Anna, please try to understand.

Derek: (walking by again)

Anna, please understand.

Grun:

You swine!

Derek:

That is the first time you have spoken to me in ages. Does this mean we are to be buddies? Why don't you come here and kiss my rear end?

Grun: (jumps up and grabs Derek by the throat. Derek starts to choke and is unconscious after a few seconds)

My God I should control myself. I knew this would happen. Please God don't let him die.

Manager:

What happened here?

Grun:

I only touched him and he collapsed.

Manager:

I saw you with your hand on his throat.

Grun;

Yes, but I didn't squeeze.

Manager:

He is starting to come round. Give him some air and help me lift him into a chair.

Derek;

What happened?

Manager:

This young man grabbed you by the throat and you collapsed.

Derek;

I don't believe it. He couldn't hurt a fly.

Manager:

Do you want to press charges? I will get the police.

Derek;

You must be joking. I just slipped. Give me a few seconds and I will be out of here, and as for you, Grun the scum, I will deal with you later.

Scene two: home

Grun:

Mum, I want a word with you about Dad.

Mum:

Please, Grun, not again.

Grun;

It is important. I feel I am going insane with these things that are happening to me.

Mum:

My God, please don't say that your father's legacy is still here.

Grun;

It is more than here, it is starting to take effect.

Mum:

What do you mean?

Grun:

I have to go somewhere and do something that is illegal.

Mum:

Please, no.

Grun:

Just tell me what you know of about the relic that Dad was always talking to you about.

Mum:

It was something that he said was his and that he was going to wait no matter how long it took to get back.

Grun:

I knew it. It is the same thing. Mum, I am worried about you.

Mum: (looking anxious) Grun, I have been having some dreams about your father. He says I am to go with him shortly.

Grun: (looking worried)

I know something about it, Mum.

Mum:

I know you know more than you are letting on. I have always said you are the most talented person I have ever known, and I still feel it. Whatever your destiny is, Grun, I feel you will succeed. I, though, am ready to move on. I didn't tell you about the hospital visits I have been taking. I didn't want to worry you. I am dying. Your father knows this and is going to be here to help me across.

Grun: (looking at the floor with tears in his eyes)

Mum, I want you to go to my room and look into the mirror at six o'clock. Dad has told me to tell you that he wants to speak to you.

Mum:

Really? I knew you could understand all the stuff he was working on. My word, it is a quarter to six now, I better get ready. I will put on my best dress. He always liked it, you know that.

Grun; (knowing that this would be the last time he would see his mum in the physical realm, he was in tears, he also knew that Derek Weston was going to attempt arson on his home at three o'clock in the morning.)

The power that Grun had built up slowly over the years was now starting to take effect. He knew certain things would happen at specific times. He knew also this power was known as the Inner Dragon. His father had left him a great responsibility. He knew he had to keep his mind in check at all times or risk releasing this awesome force.

To be continued in The Inner Dragon books two.

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You can also visit my website to read my book and other stories at

<https://sites.google.com/site/danshermanspaceguardian/>

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Second test...Go to Dan Sherman Space Guardian All Worlds book two and find out the name of the Tourgen beast life form that Dan Sherman inhabits as he moves throughout the worlds of God.

## **Dan Sherman Space Guardian**

### **All Worlds**

### **Book two**

**Colin J Platt**

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### Chapter 11-Terick 3

I woke up in a place exactly the same as the one on the astral world! Grenwer was there. ‘Am I on the Physical or the Astral?’ I said, ‘You are now in the physical body of a Tourgen!’ I arose from the table and walked around the room, I looked at myself through a mirror although I didn’t need clothes as the private parts of tourgens are hidden inside the body for protection. My skin was thick enough to stop a knife-attack by humans but was still vulnerable, Grenwer advised me to put on a protective suit that was widely used on Terick.3, it could repel most weapons but not the blasters which the security-forces used, although they usually used the stun weapon first. (It was the same gun but on a different setting.) The population has weapons of all kinds such as blasters. Another thing to watch out for are the Ancrons, they are a dog-like creature who are and very dangerous, they can kill most beings with ease.

‘How big are they?’ I asked.

‘They look like Hyenas but are twice as big.’

‘Why don’t they get rid of these things?’

‘The government doesn’t care as these types of creature do them a favor by creating fear.’

‘How do I protect myself from them?’

‘They know they will get respect if they kill something bigger and stronger than themselves but don’t worry about them as they are in a special isolated area.’

‘So the government, such as it is, doesn’t bother about getting rid of these creatures as they are keeping down the evil population, and creating fear. Is there anything else I should know about?’

‘There is one other very dangerous creature called the Vennam, but you won’t need to worry about them as they are also isolated in a special area. There are other animals but not many, as most have been killed by other life-forms which have been brought here by aliens.

‘What about Karma?’

‘Yes, you will have to kill other life-forms, but your Karma will be balanced out by helping to save numerous galaxies from destruction.’

‘Do you really believe that could happen?’

‘Kallo had the container with enough material to destroy whatever world it came into contact with or galaxy, once it spreads there is no telling where it would go and no stopping it, once it is set free and expanded through fabrication machines that will be the beginning of the end. It is my belief that Kallo will try to use his influence in the Far-Station worlds to transport the deadly material to most, or all of the higher conscious planets. I think he wants to make himself Ruler of the known Universe!’ ‘What about the astral-worlds, they will still exist won’t they?’

‘How can they? Without the physical worlds the spiritual worlds have no function.’

‘Couldn’t they transfer to another Plane of existence?’

‘If Kallo destroyed most of the higher physical planets, souls on the inner-planes would not be able to reincarnate fast enough.’

I thought about Elaine and John and how life used to be so simple.

I couldn’t get it through my ugly tiger striped head that the future of the Universe depended on me.

‘You must get to Sionn! Only he can tell us when Kallo will strike. You have the abilities you have the power and you have the knowledge but don’t let that be your downfall. You will have to act stupid and aggressive most of the time, as Tourgen’s do. You also have exceptional eyesight



which may help you locate Sionn. When you do find him he will know what to do as you have been given information he will need.

‘Do you mean the mind probe?’

‘Yes, he will touch you behind the head and retrieve it.

You know, Dan, he isn’t in his light suit and he will be in another body.’

‘What? How will I know him?’

Of course I shouldn’t have said that, I would know him by thought wouldn’t I?’

‘Yes, he will lead you but you have to concentrate, you haven’t got your sense of higher-consciousness as you had before, so be aware. You will be transferred onto a prison ship where you...’

‘Hold on a minute! What do you mean a prison ship?’

‘Yes, we have to make it seem as though you are a dangerous convict.’

‘How will be able to find Sionn if I’m in a prison cell?’

‘You are only convicted of a relatively minor law.’

‘What’s that killing thirty Ancrons?’

‘No, you are accused of smashing up a government official’s house on Jennan 4, a planet within a short light-distance of Far-Station.’

‘Wait a minute, how come I did this if I’ve only been in existence a short time.’

‘We managed to acquire the body shortly after the crime and secrete it here to Terick 3 where we cloned another body. This is the one which you now have. The other body is in suspension at the moment.’

‘Well, this body is now very hungry! I hope I can get the mission over quickly as I suspect this body uses a lot of calories.’ Grenwer doesn’t usually laugh I knew that, but even he had to smile.

## Chapter 12-Far-Station

‘Please, Dan, be very careful and believe you will succeed.

‘Please sit down.’

He looked into my eyes. Then holding my head with his two hands he then closed his eyes. I knew he was trying to give me some sort of protection. Over the last few days and I suppose it has only been a few days although with travelling to Andromeda galaxy who knows what time it is? All I know is I have grown very fond of these ‘Defenders of the Universe.’

You will be taken to a holding place while they access your crime and punishment,’

‘What do you mean my punishment?’

‘It will only be a flogging or something minor like being left chained to a scaffold while the locals throw stuff at you.

‘What stuff?’

‘It is usually excrement or rubbish. Please don’t resist or you will be given a harsher punishment.’

‘Will I be wearing my protective suit?’

‘No, you will be naked,’

‘Thanks a lot.’

‘You will be perfectly alright as long as they don’t throw anything harmful.’

‘What about the Ancrons?’

‘Don’t worry they won’t be allowed to come near. Don’t forget to act animalistic and stupid. We have monitored the entire area through our agents and no one suspects anything. We believe

Kallo is near but we don't know where, he must have technology that is highly prized or a very good cloaking system.'

'What if Kallo has, like you say, higher technology, surely he would catch on to this scam of ours!'

'No, I told you, he has gone beyond the lower states of consciousness, he won't know.'

'I hope you are right.'

'There is a hotel near to the place where you will be punished; it is called 'The Dead Tourgen.'

'What?'

'Yes, one of the ancestors of the body you are in went berserk and killed many people some decades ago. He was killed by the Bourin, so they thought, but he wasn't dead. He got up and slew many more.'

'So the locals might be a little against Tourgens' I said.

'One more thing, be sure you don't over stretch yourself physically, as your strength is more than your body can take; you might pull your arms out of their sockets.'

'Why didn't you just let me go in there as a human-being?'

'You wouldn't have lasted more than a day. The Bourin are vicious, they won't give you any chance to negotiate or any form of agreement.'

'What about a weapon, surely I need something to protect myself.'

'Reeas will have some; there will be many such things available there.'

'One more thing,' I said, 'how do I get to area 96?'

'You will have to go by the road; it is not very good as the whole system isn't repaired very often, also the population like to stage death games. They ride up to other road users and try to smash them with anything they can use as a weapon apart from guns, that is thought to be cowardly.'

'Oh, no, not more lunacy.'

'Just be aware of it. You will also have to acquire transport. Motor tricycles are large and powerful and built to withstand a lot of hard use, You won't need any sort of license for the transport, things like that are not needed as people don't matter, they are left to get rid of each other in any way they can. Area 96 is some three-hundred miles from the hotel, when you get there make your way to the local park where you will meet Reeas at 1,300 hours on the seven-hundred and fourth day. Today is the seven-hundred and second day.'

'What month would that be?'

'There are no months at Far-Station, the days are just days. There are one thousand days in a time span, so they just say seven-o-four or seven-o-five.'

'What about the seasons?'

'There are no seasons.'

My God, I thought, let me get away from this place as soon as I can.

I knew I was going to be in for a very rough time. I just hope I can stand up to it. No wonder Kallo picked this place to hide out. No one in their right minds would come anywhere near it. I knew Grenwer hadn't told me everything about the evils in this place as it might over load my mind with panic. All I could do was trust in Grenwer and Sionn. I knew he was still in existence and waiting to unlock the secret in my mind. I just had to go through Hell to get to him.

From now on Grenwer had to stay behind. I was led by more than thirty guards who were requested by radio. We left the holding area. The security people were dressed in some sort of protective-suit and were very muscular, maybe they are clones, in fact, I'm sure they are. They

could, I'm sure, beat the tar out of most people but I knew I could kill the lot of them quite easily. I was wearing restraints around my wrists and ankles, I knew I could break these if I wanted to, but as Grenwer said, I might injure myself. Just take it easy, Dan, or Cloft buddy. I thought, use the yoga technique you used years ago, deep breathing, and mental contemplation. So, they were going to lash you and throw some crap at you, so what, I knew I could break free but that would ruin everything.

We reached the boarding place for the shuttle to Far-Station. There was an assortment of people or beings who I would be hard pressed to even dream of. There was such a difference in body type. There are many human type people with differences in facial appearance and in size but I was the only Tourgen. I was also the largest although not the tallest and I knew, as they did, that I was the most feared. As you students know by now, my face was enough to put anybody off, with my red and yellow streaked eyeballs which could turn to gold when I get angry, and my two inch molars, anyone would be put off. We had our own shuttle. I don't suppose people wanted to travel with a large beast type man who looked like a cross between an eight foot tiger-werewolf. I noticed a lot of the people waiting were also in custody with security guards; maybe some had hired security to guard them. One thing was sure; the job of security guard would always be needed here. We entered the shuttle. I was told to sit down on a seat which wasn't big enough for me, the head guard with his arm band which read captain seemed to take a liking to my discomfort but would not make eye contact with me, in fact, not one of the guards would. I could sense their fear, their hands were near their blasters, and some were already holding them. We lifted off and slotted into the air route to Junction-43. The trip would only take a short time as Terick-3 was in the same solar system as Far-Station.

Now I know what you students out there are saying: what are you doing? How can you hope to find someone who is in a maximum-security fortress, and you don't even know what he looks like. You are in the body of a large beast type man, and you are going to get flogged into the bargain, oh, and there are thirty five armed guards restraining you. All I can say is I trust Sienn and Grenwer and I have to do my best. I am a Trainee-Guardian, and as such, I work for the universal good, like you do, my friends.

### Chapter 13-Death penalty

'OK big guy, this is the end of your journey and probably your life!'

'What' I said.

'Yeah, you will be lucky to survive the flogging by the Bourin executioner, he uses a chain to lash the hell out of you, Ha, you poor ugly bastard.'

I got to my feet in an instant. The reaction was instantaneous panic. I got hit by three blasters set on stun; I went down like a ton of bricks in an enormous sack.

I woke up in the astral world; in fact I was in my own bed with my wife stroking my brow.

'Don't worry, you will survive the attack, please trust in the Guardians.' I looked around and there was my son staring at me. 'You can do anything, Dad, you're like a superhero but just for now act like a super softie and it will save your life!' I woke up with a throbbing headache, and a lack of use in my left arm and leg.

'You're not so big now, eh, fella.'

I knew I had to act stupid and weak. I lay there looking at them with my cat type eyes even that made them uneasy. I could sense the feeling coming back into my limbs, also I knew it had made me even more stronger, I don't know what had happened but I knew I had to be careful of

injuring myself. I was far too strong even for this body. I had enough strength to squash a steel plate with my two fingers but it would also squash my bones.

‘Out!’

It was the chief guard. I pretended to limp out of the shuttle but in reality I could have jumped fifty yards if I had wanted to, and I wanted to. I wanted to smash everything in a mile radius.

‘In,’ shouted the same guard. An open top vehicle with a cage around it was parked nearby. I got in but I had to squeeze into it I felt claustrophobic I never liked to be in small places when I was a teacher so I guess the fear stems from there. The other guards got into a large bus type vehicle nearby while two more sat at the front of my vehicle. The panic was now setting in, I felt like smashing the cage to pieces which I could have done with ease but the guards would have killed me. I had to squat down and hold myself in check. Just a short time and I would be free. It took an agonizing three hours to get to the place of punishment. It was a large courtyard with a surrounding wall and a tall steel fence with ugly spikes on top. There were cages all over the place, they were stacked outside and inside with a collection of life forms in them; some were obviously dead, some had been there a long time and were stinking!

What the Hell have I let myself in for? All I could think of was my son saying you’re like a superhero dad! When I came out of my nice day dream I noticed prehistoric birdlike creatures pecking at the corpses in the cages also rats as big as cats running about between the bars. They sure are a successful species; I suppose you couldn’t really improve on them no matter what planet you’re on. What am I thinking! I have to get myself together.

‘Hey, you, Tourgen, you are to be dealt with right away as we don’t want the risk of you escaping, you are to be flogged by chain until dead. The execution will be long and painful’

‘Wait a minute!’ I shouted, it is supposed to be a punishment and then I’m to be freed!’

‘No’ shouted the guard. The order has just come through, you are too dangerous.

My mind was in uproar, why didn’t Grenwer know? Or is this some sort of plan. Was I deliberately not told? I now had to think of some way to get out of this hell hole.

Right, I thought, they think I’m stupid and easily killed, well I’ll show them, and to hell with the karma.

‘Out,’ shouted the guard.

I squeezed myself out of the cage bending the metal bars of the door doing it. I could see about twenty guards of different shapes and sizes standing about.

‘Move,’ the head guard said. I could see the executioner about fifty yards away standing on a sort of scaffold in the middle of the area. I noticed people were gathering on seats that were being placed around the area. Surely that can’t be for me?

‘You’re the star of the show today.’ said the chief guard. ‘Whenever a Tourgen gets flogged, it’s a special occasion.’

I could see there were dozens of different alien types of people, most were cruel looking but all were humanoid in appearance. The guard said ‘They know it will take ages and be cruel. That is what the people want and so we won’t disappoint them, will we!’ As we approached the scaffold I could see the executioner was a large troll-like creature known as the Bourin. He was about fifteen foot tall and about sixty stone. If I stood a chance it had to be before he struck with the chain.

‘Get on the scaffold,’ the head guard said. I started to climb up. The Bourin said ‘I’m going to enjoy this.’

The smell coming from his mouth was terrible, worse than anything on Earth!

‘I’m going to cut you down to the bone first and then I’ll start to smash your face. I know it will take a long time that is why I like to execute Tourgens, It gives me a good workout.’

He fastened me into a metal loop in the floor of the scaffold. I noticed there was no cage around the scaffold, maybe they thought there was no place to run to or simply that there were too many guards, another thing I noticed was that most of the guards had their weapons holstered.

‘If you believe in any sort of God, now is the time to pray,’ the security chief said. In fact I did pray a little, for them!

As I knelt down I grasped the chains that were around my wrists, I knew I could break them easily, the question was would I be quick enough to stop the guards. The Bourin said, ‘Right, man-beast I will cut your suit off first, and then I’m going to start.’ As he took out a large knife from his belt, I pulled at the chains; they broke easily, with one swoop I brought the chains and the metal loop around hitting the Troll in the face killing him instantly, I then broke the chains around my ankles. In the next instant with speed that even stunned me, I jumped down and onto two of the guards, one being the head guard, smashing their heads together and killing them. I then grabbed one of their weapons. The other guards were staring in stunned silence, I didn’t have time to look whether it was on stun or kill, I just fired, luckily for them it was on stun, they were out before they could think, I looked around, there was panic everywhere. I scanned the area for any more guards, but they must have got the message, all I could think of was escape, I looked for an exit, I noticed a figure on the wall above the area waving to me, I at once knew it was Reeas the female Tourgen, I ran as fast as I could and jumped the twenty foot wall easily. ‘Come,’ she said. I knew if I was a Tourgen, and I suppose I am, I could love someone like Reeas, she was unusually attractive for a beast-woman but I suppose it was the beast in me coming out, she said she had a transport a short distance away, she also said we couldn’t go to the hotel as the security people would be there once they found out about the incident. I said, ‘How did you know I would be given the death-penalty.’ she said she had contacts in high places. I thought, thank God, or rather Sionn!’

#### Chapter 14-The Caves of Vennam

We arrived at the transport which was a motor tricycle, ‘You’ve hurt your arm,’ Reeas said.

‘Grenwer said I was too strong for this body, but it did the trick, never mind, we’ll take care of it later.’ She got on the bike and I sat behind her, I said, ‘are you sure this thing can carry us?’

‘Don’t worry, but we might have to worry about being chased, we’ll stand out like--.’

‘Like couple of beast people on a trike,’ I said. She looked at me; I could see she was fascinated by this beast that was able to converse in an intelligent way, which must have been unusual, but it was also the same for me.

We set off at speed. Reeas said, ‘We will have to dump the trike and get another transport, one which we would be able to hide in.’

Reeas said, ‘We will park up and look around for suitable shelter.’

‘I notice there aren’t any other road users on this part of the highway,’

‘No, I deliberately brought us here; it is a forbidden place,’

‘What do you mean?’

‘It is the dwelling place of the Vennam.’

‘That doesn’t sound good, I was informed of them earlier they supposed to be in an isolated area!’

‘Yes, but the security forces would not come in here!’

‘OK,’ I said, ‘but what are the Vennam exactly?’

They are an alien race who can kill most beings with one touch.’

‘Oh, great’ I said! ‘How the hell do they manage to exist with other life forms?’

‘Don’t worry, they won’t come near us, they are afraid of us.’

‘Have you actually seen one?’

‘No, but I know what they look like, they are half-man and half-snake, the bottom half is snake,’

‘You mean they have no legs?’

‘Yes’ and their skin is dark blue in color, also they are naked.’

Please, God, help us to get through this I thought to myself.

We rode for about two hours through a countryside that was desolate featureless. Reeas then said. ‘Let’s make for a cave and hide out for a while.’ We hid the trike in undergrowth. Reeas took out a rucksack from the carrier which contained food and provisions. We then made our way to a mountain range to the Northwest. I asked her why we hadn’t seen any aircraft, she said, ‘they are banned, anything which is too technological isn’t allowed, apart from blasters.’

‘I suppose that’s lucky for us then?’

‘Yes, although they will still be looking for us, they also know there are two of us. It was now getting dark, I noticed that my eyesight was starting to improve, just like a cat; I could also see the Ancon’s stalking us.

‘Do you see what I see?’ I said to Reeas.

‘Yes. They won’t try anything yet, they know we can kill them quite easily, they will wait till later.’

We reached the Caves-of-Vennam. There were many caves, also many holes in the ground, some were very big and others were quite small. These holes were dotted all over the landscape as far as the eye could see. I didn’t like the idea that there could be Vennam waiting down there. I said to Reeas these holes are probably interconnected. She said, ‘Yes, but we have to take a chance. We picked a cave and went in. I said, ‘Are you sure the Vennam are afraid of us?’ Reeas emptied the rucksack and looked at me. ‘Wouldn’t you be afraid of you?’ she said, smiling. There was food and water, medicine, also a knife, rope, bandages, a hacksaw and a blaster! I said, ‘Well done, Reeas. Why didn’t I keep hold of the blaster which I had at the area where I was to be executed!’

‘You know you can’t use the blaster on the Vennam, don’t you?’

‘Yes, I assumed so.’ I said. Reeas was smiling again.

‘Hold still and I will cut these chains off you.’

‘No need.’ I said, I then took hold of the chains and simply pulled, they broke easily.

‘I might have difficulty getting the manacles off though?’

I could hurt myself; I am much too strong for this body.’

I was now pulling the links off one by one; Reeas said you don’t need to impress me I know how strong you are; hold still I will cut the manacles off.’ I was now feeling a little silly.

‘Sorry.’ I said, ‘I’m still in awe of this body,’

‘I know, they are very impressive, and the constitution of it is very robust,’

‘You mean they are easy to look after.’

‘Yes, also they don’t need much food or water.’

Once the manacles were off she gently rubbed some ointment into my wounds and put a bandage on them. I was really getting to like Reeas!

‘What is our plan now, Reeas?’

‘We will wait till the early hours then make our way to the transport stop at ‘Quarter-Point,’ then we will break into a large truck and steal it.’

‘Wow, I said, it sounds easy.’

‘I hope it will be. We had better get some rest for a few hours. I will take the first watch,’

‘No, let me, I don’t really need rest.’

‘What do you mean you don’t need rest?’

‘They gave me some sort of boost before I went into the body!’

‘Dan, I must say you were really something to see back there!’

‘Thanks, but I think most of it was due to this body which is awesome, I feel I could take on anything.’ Rees was now smiling at me.

‘We might have to before we are done.’

‘As long as I have you, I know I could do anything.’

‘What were you before you came here, Dan?’

‘Do you mean before I became a man-beast.’

‘Yes.’

‘I was a teacher on a planet called Earth.’

‘What did you teach?’

‘History, but all that pales into insignificance compared to what has happened since.’

‘What about you? Where do you come from?’

‘A planet called Erinon 5. It is in a triangle of Galaxies known as Zeta3. 1,500 light years away from here; our people are highly developed technologically.’

‘What are you doing here then?’

‘I am a Trainee-Guardian like you.’

‘What is your original physical form?’

‘I am human as you are.’

‘How much do you know about me?’

‘Not a lot, as yet, but that is probably for security reasons.

I have been here quite a while so it was quite easy to develop my higher consciousness without the security forces knowing. They only monitor people coming in to Far-Station; they also don’t expect a Tourgen to have higher learning.’

‘You mean you didn’t look into the light book!’

‘No, I’m self-taught, also they can’t monitor me.’

‘That’s incredible! You’re the perfect spy. What did you do before you became a Tourgen?’

‘I was a physicist.’

‘What makes you stay here?’

‘I want to do all I can to improve life here.’

‘Very commendable, but it’s like hell.’

‘Yes, but there are people here who deserve better and I can always dream travel, in fact, if you will keep guard I will report to Grenwer on the astral plane,’

‘OK, but please don’t be too long, this place gives me the creeps.’

‘OK, I will be as quick as I can.’

She went to a corner of the cave and settled down to sleep.

All I could do was look out at the wasteland that was Far-Station. The sky was deep red making the mountains in the distance look very menacing. The first sign that something was wrong was when I heard a sort of movement in the grass, and then I saw something looking back

at me from about twenty yards away, It was sort of sitting up but way too tall for a normal man, and then I saw it. It was on its tail! A Vennam! Without waiting it started to race over to me.

‘Where’s that blaster,’ I shouted. ‘Oh, God, no, I can’t use it.’ Before I could think, the creature was nearly on me, all I could grab was the chain that used to be on my wrists. As the Vennam came into touching distance I side stepped it then hit it behind the head with the chain and manacle. It was dead before it hit the cave wall. Reeas was now up and had the blaster pointed just in case. ‘I thought we couldn’t use the blaster.’ I said? Reeas looked at me. ‘I have it set on stun but I doubt it would have worked on it. Maybe we should move on.’

‘I thought you said they were scared of us?’

‘They are supposed to be. Make very sure you don’t touch any part it. Let’s go.’

‘Did you manage to reach Grenwer?’

‘No, I didn’t have the time.’

I couldn’t resist looking at the creature on the cave floor, it was dark blue in color with a face like a large lizard, the skin was also oozing a thick liquid which was obviously poison.

We packed our stuff and carefully scanned the outside before we stepped out of the cave. Reeas had the blaster ready just in case.

‘I’m sure glad you weren’t asleep, Dan.’

‘And I’m sure glad you’re here Reeas. You know, Reeas; the name of this body is Cloft, don’t you?’

‘I like Dan, better.’

#### Chapter 15-Quarter-Point

It was still dark as we made our way to Quarter-Point. My senses were tingling, but I couldn’t see anything that was aggressive. The animal life had been more or less eliminated by the Ancrons, and the Vennam. I thought we had been fortunate not to meet any Ancrons, but sods law; there they were, about 50 yards away.

I said, ‘I thought they didn’t hunt in packs.’

‘Normally they don’t, but I think they know who we are. You know they are consciously aware, don’t you.’

‘Yes, but are they intelligent?’

‘No, of course not, but they can interact with each other, so we will have to be very careful. The stun feature won’t work on these creatures, so we’ll have to kill them, and we probably won’t be able to get them all before they reach us,’

‘You have the blaster, Reeas, and I will have the knife and chain.’ Before I could get the words out, they were on us. We stood back-to-back as the first one reached us, I hit it with the chain and it fell dead. Reeas blasted two as they tried to grab her. The biggest one was eying me up as it backed away from the blaster, it lunged at me grabbing the chain, I brought the knife in under its jaw and it exited through its head. The other dogs started to back off having now seen the carnage. If ever I needed someone to watch my back it would be Reeas. The power of this body was truly awesome. I thought the light suit was something special and it is, in fact, the light suit was invulnerable but the feeling of power in this body was something extra! Reeas said, ‘You really came through again, Dan.’

I said, ‘and you, Reeas.’

‘The Ancon’s don’t usually attack in numbers, but we saw them off!’

She touched my arm in a little gesture of affection. I smiled as best I could in this tiger like face.



With all the excitement going on, we didn't notice the ring of Vennam surrounding us, and behind them more Ancrons!

'There is no way we can get out of this Dan.'

Don't count us out yet, Reeas, just be still and wait till they come nearer. Which way is it to Quarter-Point?'

'Northwest.'

'Right, I suppose we can't shoot any Vennam?'

'No, the poison might spread over us.'

'OK, how are you at landing, Reeas?'

'What?'

'I'm going to jump us over this problem, I have enough strength to lift us about forty yards, but I don't want you to get injured when we land.'

'Don't worry about that, I will take my chances.'

'OK, I'll wait till they get within about twenty-feet, then you climb onto my back, then I'll jump. When we land turn around and blast as many Ancrons as you can.'

The Vennam were closing in, I could see the look on their faces they were devoid of any emotion.

'Now,' I said. Reeas climbed onto my back. I summoned all my power and jumped. I was surprised at the distance we travelled; it must have been a hundred and fifty-feet, Reeas jumped off before we landed and rolled over several times, luckily she was OK, I landed heavily but was also OK. The Ancrons were charging down on us fast. Reeas changed the setting on the blaster to spread and aimed low, she blew the legs off two Ancrons and wounded a third. The second largest dog managed to come at me from the side I grabbed it by the neck as it jumped and then I held it up for the others to see before I killed it. That was enough for them! The Vennam must have been impressed also, as they just stayed where they were.

'I'm sure glad you brought that blaster, Reeas.'

'And I'm glad you have the extra strength, let's get out of here.'

We started to run, and I must admit, we could go pretty fast, there wasn't much cover from the landscape, most of the land was desert and the occasional bush.

'How are we going to get near Quarter-Point?' I said.

'We will find a place to hide out till night, and then break through the barrier and find a transport.'

After travelling about twelve miles, we came to some roughly built houses near the perimeter of Quarter-Point, we couldn't risk checking them out till later, but we more or less knew they were abandoned as there was no one around, but we still had to be careful as we entered the first one.

Reeas said, 'This used to be a village for travelling people years ago, but the Vennam and Ancrons drove them out.'

'Why do the government put up with these evil beings?'

'As long as the Vennam and Ancrons are isolated where they are, they are tolerated. The Vennam can't be killed with blasters, and we know that they are immune to any known poison, the only thing that can kill them is direct contact, such as what you did to one of them, also the Ancrons can kill one or two now and then, and eat them, as they have developed a tolerance for them over the years. There is no actual government as such; it's more of a Mob-State!'

'Well, what do the Vennam live on?'

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