

Tasked for Retrieval

Right in the middle of the meeting Chris got his feet and said, "Yes."

He disappeared instantly. Everyone looked at each other, around the room, and then to each other. Max shrugged, "I guess he'll be back. He did say yes, didn't he?"

Rad nodded. Csryfed, the recon team's leader said in his high pitched voice, "I believe I know of a spell that would account for this. Someone summoned him. It must be Nim's work."

Max broke up the meeting. Everyone left. He was sitting alone in his command tent when Chris and two other men appeared out of nowhere with a poof. Chris thanked the teleportation team and they quickly recast their spell and disappeared. Chris said, "Something huge is going on, get everybody in here. I'll take the east, you take the west."

He turned and left the tent. Max hopped out of his chair and went to the door of the tent. He looked out of it. The camp was coming to life again. Max got the others in the opposite direction from what Chris went.

Once everyone was assembled Chris reported on his meeting with Nim. "This is hugely important. We're the closest team in the vicinity with nothing on our plate this instant. The mission we were briefing on before is off.

This takes precedence. In fact until it's complete one way or the other this is what we're on. Now... The Tolkeen High Council's Taskforce for the Determination of Strategic Advantages has finally discovered the purpose of the Moebius. It was a part of a device meant to reveal the location of a primary sort of rosetta stone. It was a key to a decoder for a map in essence.

"They cracked the map's code and now they know where the artefact is that they've been searching for quite a while now. We're to high tail it over there and grab the artefact. Of course nothing is easy. A group of Tolkeen defenders is battling the C.S. right there. We have to get pretty much right in the middle and grab our objective. Then we have to get back out again without the C.S. noticing. Of course if they do then we have to take them out or prisoner."

Max gave orders, "Rad, take the co-ordinates to Csryfed and head out with them immediately. Chris and Bronson go prep to spell up the forward team. That team will be the two of you, Thosl, Shisen, and Darrien. Greg you're with me on overseeing and co-ordination. G'lishi you're with Neodore, he'll know what I want. Okay, everybody get a move on it, except Thosl and Shisen."

Everybody left to get ready.

G'lishi followed after Neodore, the team's new heavy hitter. Neodore said to him as they went to Neodore's tent, "It's going to be an easy job hopefully. You just have

to keep me safe from anything that can get in close. Generally that's going to mean anything that flies or comes from behind."

Neodore geared up and then they went to G'lishi's tent. From there they went to Shisen's tent. The scarecrow was not there. The tent was wide open. Sitting in a crate just inside the opening were a set of silver cylinders. Neodore snaked a tentacle into the crate and removed the cylinders. He cracked open a pair of his weapons. The weapons were shell-like and had long spiral handles. Neodore slipped the cylinders inside and closed the weapons up. He did the same thing with the other similar two weapons he had. He said, "G'lishi, my boy, sure is handy to have a guy like Shisen who can charge an alien power clip. I wonder when that mechanic of yours will get back from his mission."

Max told Thosl, "Get together whatever you want for this. We need to get in and out with as few witnesses as possible. Whoever or whatever you need to quickly incapacitate and otherwise deal with C.S. personnel."

Thosl said, "In light of the previous reports I read on the capture of the Moebius I think we may need some sort of way to 'protect' the artefact once we have it in our possession."

"If there is something you can do, go ahead and prep it." Max said.

Thosl said, "Yes Max, understood."

Max turned to Shisen, "I want you to help Thosl with her summonings."

Thosl protested and Shisen staring at her with his unblinking buttons made her stop shortly. He said, "Perhaps I can help with just getting her started."

Max said, "I don't care how, but sort it out. We're on a tight schedule. We head out in five and are to rendezvous at a semi-remote location from where we'll run the op in half an hour. I can leave you two here if you have a way to get there unnoticed in time. Can you manage it?"

From the sack he carries all the time Shisen pulled out the TW horse device. He looked at it and then at Max, "What distance is the rendezvous point?"

Max told him and Shisen lowered the horse to his side and his shoulders slumped. Thosl said, "We will fly. Or I will, and I will carry Shisen."

Shisen said, "Who knew when I climbed off of the post and out of the field that I'd be flying by Basilisk."

Max said, "Okay you two, get to work."

Shisen said, "We have to go to the line."

Thosl told him, "We have to go to the nexus to set up the circles."

She grasped the spiral on her wrist and willed it to do its magic. A pair of large feathered glowing blue-white wings sprouted from her back. She told Shisen, "They will last more than enough time."

He was wearing everything he needed. Thosl went to her tent and fetched her things. She came out of the tent with Bratsy. She told the little goat-legged demon, "I want you to head out with the General. First though, share with me some of your magic."

He nodded and closed his eyes. She sent him on his way. Thosl came up behind Shisen and grabbed him under the arms. She pumped her magical wings and they lifted into the air. She headed for the ley line where they would gather some magic before heading to the nexus to cast her spells.

Thosl and Shisen quickly gathered magic from the ley line and then moved on to the nexus where the line joined with another. They gathered more magic there. Then Shisen offered up the excess that he had gathered to Thosl. She was part way through the first circle with some help from her poltergeists. Shisen said, "I would prefer not to be here, but I will stay if you want."

She told him, "No, go then."

He told her, "I'll head back to the basecamp then."

She said, "I will pick you up as soon as I can."

He nodded and then turned to leave. Thosl stopped work on the circle letting her poltergeists finish their work. With the aid of her amulet she could see a group of poltergeists floating about uselessly. They seemed interested in what was going on but somehow they were also leery. She thought she had best take care of them quickly. She cast a spell to communicate with them. She

began to cast another spell. When she was done she had enslaved six of them and the other three fled the area. That done she finished the circle to summon the wolves to fuel the next two circles she desired.

Thosl summoned two batches of wolves and killing them used their essence, doubled at the moment of their deaths, to summon a Syphon entity. She took up a small box and bid the entity to enter it. She sat the box aside and summoned two more batches of wolves to fuel her final circle. With that circle she summoned a being that she had never summoned before. In the circle a six-foot tall well-muscled goat-legged man appeared. He had a beatific face and horns sticking out of his forehead. His hair was thick, curly and black like the fur on his lower body. He had a neatly twisted moustache and a short triangle of hair on his chin. His complexion was fairly light and his eyes were blue. She told him, "Let us get something straight immediately. You will not be corrupting me, so do not bother. We are going to steal something out from beneath someone's nostrils and we will kill anyone who gets in our way."

"Yes, milady." answered the Deevilkin.

Thosl said, "I have to do one last thing here then we will move out. I will fly us to camp where we will pick up one of our allies."

That said Thosl turned the wolf corpses to stone except for one. She summoned Kleese to her side. She told the huge Kodiak, "That one is for you, please stand

guard over the stone ones until I return."

She told the Deevilkin, "We will go now. I will fly us to the camp. Tempter, become something lighter, a small feline. Until I ask you otherwise you will not speak or do anything I have not asked of you."

The Deevilkin nodded and transformed into a black house cat. She scooped him up and bid the retinue of poltergeists to follow her. They had fed on the line and would be ready to do her bidding when the time came. She flew straight to the camp and set her summoning materials just inside her tent. Shisen was ready to go. She passed the cat to him and he asked, "What's this for?"

She told him, "It is a bit of help I have procured. Let us go to the rendezvous. We are behind schedule as it is."

She grabbed him and they flew to join the others.