

# A VERY BIG PHONE BOX

I was just strolling through the park when I saw a child peek out from behind a tree with eyes a colour I literally could not describe. I was intrigued and fast-walked over to the tree but when I got there the child was gone. Immediately afterwards I spotted a Red Phone Box which I could've sworn wasn't there a couple of seconds ago. I walked towards it and opened the door only to find that, denying all known laws of physics, there was a massive ultramodern/sci-fi room within with control panels all around it, and a massive space in the middle. I wondered around and then sat down on a bench towards the left of the entrance. I marvelled at extravagant technology that was here. Suddenly I heard a banging noise, and the while room began to shake as the walls rattled and it made a "JEERROpLkQaZ" noise, which was weird. I was expecting a Vroom, but I mean all expectations should be lost when the room is inside a goddam Red Phone Box. As the room started to... (move? It seemed like it might be moving...?) a man in a black suit, green eyes, brown hair (with orange at the bottom) and a very serious look about him came up the stairs at the back of the room. He looked up and saw her, and a look a dread, confusion, horror, glee-at-seeing-someone, and reseriousification came upon his face in that order in the matter of 5 seconds. He said to me "Who are you? Why are you here? How did you get here? What are you? Did you see The Child?"

"Woah woah woah slow down matey I could ask the same of you," I said

"I asked first" the man said as he sat down on the bench beside her.

"Alright. My name's Vivien, I use she/her pronouns, my star sign is a Gemini. I saw a child behind a tree with eyes of an indescribable colour, so I followed her and saw this Red Phone Box and came in here."

"No one is meant to be able to notice this SAREM"

"It's invisible? And what's a SAREM?"

"Not invisible per se, just not noticeable by the ordinary eye. It has cloaking mechanisms around it. And SAREM stands for Space And Relative Ethereality Machine, it can travel all around the Universe including different layers of reality, and also time but when we travel through time we have it set up so it annihilates the link to the extra timeline that was created due to the temporal interference, rendering it non-existent relative to us."

"I think I understood most of that. Who's 'we'?"

"So many questions, but I'm incredibly bored, so alright. I am part of an interdimensional -- by dimensional here I mean different worlds or realms that are all part of the Universe, not timelines. You cannot have an interchronolineal thing, it doesn't make sense, they'd just be joined timelines, anyway back on track -- organisation of beings called Tymlings -- that's Time

with a Y – T.Y.M.L.I.N.Gs. The Y in Tym shows that it is simply a relation with time itself and with abilities like time manipulation, etc. We are not children of some Supreme God of Time, or whatever. I don't actually know *how* we got our powers/Sarems, now I come to think of it. Anyway – organisation of tymlings that go around tracking down and destroying/removing threats or helping them see what they are doing is wrong. We also live very slowly due to our exposure to Tym Crystals and general manipulation of time. For instance, I am 119 years old as of now. Well age actually doesn't make much sense here, but I was born on earth 119 years ago and if I kept a watch on me (which I do), 119 years would've passed for me.

Fun fact: the watch I have was given to me by myself from a possible future because they realised how dumb they were to not keep track of time. Sorry for talking so much, I lose myself,"

"Nah its fine, I enjoy listening to you speak. So, what's your name and what's this child I saw?"

"My name is Johnathon McColl, I use he/him pronouns, child of Abiel McColl, sibling to Anaytha, and potential parent of Ananta McColl. "

"I have no idea who those people are, but don't tell me right now".

"Okay. – wait you saw a child with indescribable eye colour you say?"

"Oh yeah!"

"That – that could be... no it can't... maybe..."

"What are you on about?"

"Uh? Oh, nothing. Do you want to leave and go back to Earth, or stay with me?"

"Stay with you. Life on Earth is hella boring"

Johnathon headed down the left-hand stairs and I followed him. We kept going down for quite a while until we come to a corridor that looks like an old Victorian hotel corridor, which makes it look out of place because the previous room and stairway was sci-fi. Johnathon explained to me that this place, the Sarem (/sar-em/) contains loads of different types of places and it is actually infinite, although most of the space is hidden and the corridors trick you into going back the way you came. I asked if that means its sentient, and Johnathon said maybe. I went into one of the rooms and settles down for the night, and Johnathon said he'd meet me in the morning in the Dining Room down the hall for breakfast.

I took a look around my new room. It had a window at the opposite side to the door – wait a window? Does it look out? I rushed across the room and look to out the window and I see a landscape that I, of course, do not currently recognise, but it will come to mean a lot. There is a mountain in the background with snow on the top, and my eyes follow downward

towards the path that goes down the mountain and to a small hut. Further down there is a clump of evergreen and oak trees. The result is one massive field, but not a farmer's field just an open, natural field. There are no animals, spare the wolf on the mountain, the singular sheep grazing the grass to the left, and the squirrel on the Tree – oh yeah, the Tree was in the centre of the foreground and seemed very important for some reason. It had nice green leaves and a large drunk.

I continued to look around the (average sized) room. There was a bed with the head near the window, and the bottom almost at the door. There was also a quite large bookshelf with many books on it. I took one and collapsed onto the bed. As I lay, I saw a pattern on the roof of the room that looked very pretty, and I memorised what it looked like. I fell asleep reading my book and counting the ticks and tocks of some distant clock...

When I awoke, I heard a dog panting softly so I lifted my tired head slowly of the pillow and saw a cute little dog is sitting at the end of the bed. I gotta admit I was a little surprised at first, but they were SO GODDAM CUTE! They looked like they wanted me to follow them, so

I got out of bed, got changed into some clothes that had been supplied for me in the cupboard to the left of the door and followed the dog. They guided me all the way down the corridor (it was the same as before, luckily) (away from the staircase) assumingly to breakfast. As I neared the Dining Room, I realised fully how weird this situation was. I had wondered into an impossible place and trusted the mysterious man there. Ah well, I didn't have a life back home, just college debt, a planet dying from climate change, and no friends. My family had rejected me ages ago for being omnisexual, which is goddam stupid as that really didn't matter, but at least that meant I was leaving nothing behind and just going on a cool adventure. If I die, I had fun. If I live, more mysteries await. I arrived at the Dining Room and sat down at the long table opposite Johnathon McColl. I asked him who made the food that's in front of us (Full English Breakfast), he just winked and didn't say a word. I ate the food and tried to make conversation, but he didn't seem into small talk. After we finished, he told me all about his past, how he was raised in a city in another dimension called the Great City of Tym by another tymling called Abiel McColl who had met a human called Lizzy in 1892 whom he fell in love with, and they left for the City of Tym. They later had a child who took the names Abiraytha, and another child that was him, Johnathon McColl. He was allowed to take a Sarem, which weren't actually bigger on the inside but rather opened a door into a strange universe/world that connected every Sarem (though it was hard to find the connections), and it had some other entranceways that led to other parts of it, such as the Neverending Library. With this Sarem he travelled around the universe and exploring and generally having fun, with the occasional time travel including saving himself from the past and future a couple of times. He also saved worlds and people many times.

Suddenly, a gaping whole opens in the wall next to us and a void of darkness rushes out, carrying with it some beetle-like creatures that rushed out at us incredibly fast. We jumped up from our seats as quickly as we could and in doing so knocked over the table, which these beetle-like (beatleiod?) creatures instantly devoured. We sprinted down the corridor

back in the direction of my room, with the beetleiods chasing us just slower than us. We ran into a corridor opposite my room and into a small room to the right. The beetleiods ran past, and Johnathon had time to explain what was happening to me. So basically, there's this weird nigh-god being called the Voidmaster that's sending these beetleiods – called the Akadeo (aka-deo) – into important places and they don't know why. Some say they're making preparations for a Great War like no other, some say they're just trying to cause chaos, some have other theories. But they don't know, and that's very bad. As Johnathon finished talking, the walls of this room start blackening and we realised that the Akadeo had started breaking in, so we (physically) hacked the wall opposite down to get away from them. When we were almost at an elevator to get away, a King Akadeo appeared in front of us and halted the behind army. It flicked one of its claws and we suddenly appeared in a massive hive full of these Akakdeo, with the King on the throne ahead us. We walked slowly and respectfully towards it, and it announced its plan to devour a large chunk of the Sarem less we sacrifice one of us. We both refused, and it threatened to kill us, but Johnathon had a teleport-device that teleported him back to the City of Tym, so we chickened out and teleported back to the City of Tym.

Once in the City of Tym, I attend the local University there called Arnbrick University (the area's called Arnbrick). Whilst there, I make a couple of new friends, namely: Jinnie, Zaq, and Leo. Jinnie (20) liked to collect small rocks and gemstones, was incredibly kind, although this "kindness" (empathy) was incredibly high and sometimes this empathy went into "hyperempathy" and then Jinnie felt she could actually feel what the other person felt and she could very easily go into a meltdown and become incredibly distressed but would also feel immense guilt from this. Zaq (he/xem\*)(18) wants to summon demons so that xe can teach them good ways instead of bad (as they are summoned at neutral). He is incredibly intelligent, but very weak, with red-black long hair and red eyes. Xe dresses in Dark Fairycore / Gothic and carries a knife, he also loves dragons and is very extroverted. Leo just absolutely loves hanging out with his friends (Zaq, Jinnie, Vivien) and the colour yellow. They formed strong emotional connections over a period of about 2 years. There should have been about 2 more years left, but there sadly wasn't because of what happened next...

It was a nice summer evening atop a hill with the Jinnie and Leo when Jinnie was telling me about the fairies of the Western Cliff of Omania (amazing culture btw), Johnathon (who had been living by himself in Tymia (other name for the City of Tym)) came rushing up the hill to tell me the News. This was not good New, there's a reason for the capital letter y'know. He sat down in front of us (me, Jinnie, Zaq) and told us hurriedly that President Bardick (the current leader of Tymia) had found a colony of Akadeo deep within the Polysarem System and was NOT HAPPY. Johnathon had tried to guide the story away from us, but unfortunately Bardick discovered we were to blame, and being a borderline-fascist/totalitarian, he had sent a group of actual assassins to assassinate us. He told Jinnie and Leo that it'd be a good idea for them to come along as they new him and mee, but there would be no time to get Leo, which did make Jinnie cry a bit. We all rushed down the

hill into Johnathon's Sarem. As I closed the door, I could see a man in a red and black army outfit grab with an assault rifle and blade sprint towards us, so I slammed the door shut and Johnathon hit us into the Vortex (Void Of Reality, Time and Ethereal Xenospace).

We'd have to be gone for 14 years until President Bardick gets voted out (IF he does). And no, don't think the destroyed part of the Sarem just "magically came back", the left staircase now leads to an area reminiscing a destroyed version of the Victorian-style hotel-theme place merged along with physical darkness, before it went below into the rest of the Sarem.

President Bardick sent out the Tymia(n)/Tymling Department of Interdimensional Threats (TDoID/TDID/TD.ID) into the Polysarem System to destroy the minion Akadeo and send the King Akadeo (plural) back to the Abyssal Realm of the Voidmaster On the Other Side, also known as the Voidmasse.

\*he/him/his/himself : xe/xem/xems/xemself