The Collision

By Kane Taylor

Story draft

**Departure**

1. The Call to Adventure

It’s 1531 and it’s been 3 years since the “collision”. The collusion was a supernatural occurrence that seemed to collide multiple different realms of existence, causing massive amounts of destruction, leaving the previously medieval world in ruins and filled with a multitude of portals to other realms that creatures could travel. Merek is a 19 year old human who survives this harsh world by scavenging what he can from the land and other less fortunate creatures. On the outside he puts up a cold, sarcastic and uncaring front but inside he is caring and determined wishing to be reunited with his missing sister. Since the collision Merek has found that he has had a 6th sense like ability that warns him of approaching danger that he has begun to trust to help him survive. On one rainy morning while wondering the wastes Merek stumbles across a deceased dwarf like creature. After a short prayer for the creature he begins scavenging for supplies finding a strange ring that seems to light up with a dull glow when touched.

2. Refusal of the Call

Taking some comfort in the softly glowing ring Merek puts it on and then continues to search the dwarf for supplies. While searching the body he gets a strong foreboding feeling, trusting the feeling he hides in some nearby undergrowth to wait out whatever caused the feeling. Shortly after a small pack of twisted, demonic looking wolves approach the body hungrily. While most of the wolves begin tearing into their new meal, one of the wolves starts moving in Merek’s direction smelling at the air.

3. Supernatural Aid

As the dog approaches closer, Merek realises that his hiding spot is compromised and prepares to run. Just as Merek starts to move a stranger wearing a dark cloak with pointy ears enters the fray from seemingly nowhere, utilising a knife and some unseen force the stranger easily dispatches the wolves. Worried that he would be next Merek starts to make a hasty retreat but is easily spotted and called out by the stranger. Not wanting to agitate the man Merek shows himself to the stranger. The stranger begins to question Merek about his deceased companion when he spots the dull glow of the ring on Mereks hand. Storming up to Merek he gets a closer look at the ring and mutters to himself about how no human should possess magic. After the inspection of the ring the stranger properly introduces himself as Aylen a magi that is working for the order of restoration whose goal is to fix the destruction cause by the collision by trying to find the book of knowledge. After explaining how the ring only glows for those attuned to magic he offers to take Merek under his wing to train him to use magic. Merek is reluctant at first but after asking some subtle probing questions about magic, he finds out that it may be possible to learn spells to help track down his missing sister, and thus agrees to go with Aylen.

4. The Crossing of the First Threshold

Aylen takes Merek by the arm and begins to use his unseen force, or as we now know magic, to fly towards a nearby settlement called Xansar set up by the Order of Restoration. Merek seems to take a lot of discomfort in flying and Aylen mocks him over his fear of heights throughout the short trip. Aylen seems to take great enjoyment out of making fun of Merek causing some clashing in personalities and greatly annoying Merek. As they land just outside the settlement they see an ill old women, Merek insists that Aylen should use his magic to help her but he refuses stating she is too far gone and that he should be spending the time getting to the village so they can begin his training, further angering Merek. After a short shouting match Merek tries to help the old women by himself trying to comfort her at first and then trying to access his supposed magic to try and heal her. After trying for a considerable amount of time Merek still seems unable to accesses his magic and becomes distraught at being unable to save the women. Just as his tears begin to fall the women begins to fade and a hand is placed comfortingly on his shoulder, Aylen looks at him apologetically and explains that it was an illusion cast by him to test Merek to see if he had a kind heart and would use magic for good. Annoyed but filled with relief over it not being a real person Merek makes some scathing remarks and insists they hurry to the village so he can begin his training. Aylen Smiles and leads making much more light-hearted conversation than the earlier mockery during the flight.

5. The Belly of the Whale

Entering the village is a surreal experience for Merek as it is filled with all kinds of creatures for small looking humans to centaurs told only in folk tales, while he has seen some strange creatures since the collision never had he seen so much variation in one place. Dutifully Merek followed Aylen to the centre of the village gaining a considerable amount of stares of interest along the way. Arriving at the centre of the village Merek finds himself before a large church like building. Entering he is confronted by 3 elderly women of varying races, where Aylen explains to them the current situation. After the 3 have a brief discussion they beckon Merek to come forward and question him on his origins. After some further discussion with Aylen the elders offer Merek a position of an apprentice in the order of restoration under Aylen. Now apprentice Merek confirms his resolve and accepts the elders offer, they also go on to explain the purpose of the order, which is to find the book of knowledge that is said to hold the information about all possible magic’s in the hope they can undo the collision. As Merek and Aylen are about to leave the elders give them a cryptic warning of not trusting those close to him as they have foreseen a betrayal.

**Initiation**

6. The Road of Trials

Aylen and Merek head out of the village quickly after stopping for supplies. Aylen talks to Merek about his current lead for finding the book, a seer who is said to know and see all. Merek is a bit sceptical about this but without other leads there is nothing else to go on. Aylen also starts to talk to Merek about the fundamentals of magic and how it works preparing him for his first true uses of magic.

**Ordeal #1**

One of Aylen’s priority spells to teach Merek was levitation, what he had used earlier in the story to carry Merek. Merek is sceptical about this and his fear of heights starts playing up when Aylen starts taking him into the air to practise. After multiple failed attempts Aylen decides to take a different approach and drops Merek from a large height to see if when in grave danger he could better focus to manifest his magic. Merek manages to, after overcoming his fear and clearing his mind, active his levitate spell. Feeling more in control he begins to fly on his own, enjoying the experience greatly, now that he felt in control. However Aylen shortly after has to catch Merek as he unused to using magic for prolonged periods of time.

**Ordeal #2**

Having learnt to fly along with a couple other basic spells the duo continue to head towards the seers last know location, a mountain far to the north. Along the way Aylen begins to instruct Merek in mental defences, so he cannot be tricked by illusions again. Aylen the begins mental attacks on Merek to train his mind, this leads to a great deal of mental anguish for Merek as he is forced to witness many sad memories from the collision and visions of his sister’s death. After some time he manages to gather the mental strength by thinking of his sister and to push away Aylen’s mental attacks. They continue this for some time to make sure his defence is good enough that it could not be effected by other mages.

**Ordeal #3**

Aylen and Merek finally reach the mountain to find it surrounded by ghoul looking creatures. Aylen asks Merek to stay behind while he fights them off and flys into combat. As Merek watches he notices a pack of wolves similar to those he saw when he met Aylen, creeping through the under growth towards Aylen who was busy fighting the ghouls. Acting on instinct he positions himself between the wolves and Aylen and prepares for battle. Using a mix of simple spells, luck and a small knife he manages to fight of the wolves. After the short battle Merek collapses to the ground exhausted where Aylen joins him finished with the ghouls and complements his skills, for a rookie.

7. The Meeting with the Goddess

As Aylen and Merek go to stand the sound of more wolves sounds on the horizon. Aylen tells Merek to find the oracle while he holds off the wolves. Merek makes his way into a cave found at the base of the mountain. Upon traveling the tunnels in the mountain a short time he comes to a more open area where a small alter lies in the middle. As he closes in he spots what must be the oracle, at a distance it looks like a human female but as he closes in it becomes obvious it is some other creatures as her hair is writhing like snakes and her eyes seem to be missing. Once close enough he asks her if she is the oracle to which she confirms. He asks her about her powers and she confirms she has a limited kind of foresight. He then asks about the book of knowledge and the location of his sister. She gives him the information about the location of the book and that it lies with an angel that is charged with protecting it with his life. She warns that only those who do not seek power can claim the book. She also informs Merek that his sister is not in the realm that they currently reside in. Merek confused asks how this is possible and she explains how only some of Merek’s world was brought to this one during the collision and the rest of his world was left behind. Finally, she gifts him a crystal that will allow him to travel back home.

8. Woman as Temptress

After learning that his world still exists along with his sister, Merek contemplates leaving Aylen and trying to get home as soon as possible using the crystal gifted by the seer. As he looks into the crystal it seems to play long gone memories of happier times before the collision of him with his sister. Taking a deep breath he centres himself and thinks about all the suffering and death he had seen in the last 3 years since the collision. Could he really abandon all the people that had been dragged to this broken world and what of others brought from his world, if they still lived, could he abandon them? Merek resolves himself to help the people of this world. It’s been 3 years already what is a bit longer?

9. Atonement with the Father

Meeting up with Aylen they head east towards the edge of the world. Upon arriving they find a grand temple made from white marble. Aylen encourages Merek to go inside saying that it is his destiny. Entering Merek is confronted by the angle, they have a long discussion about the meaning of power and knowledge and how it should be used. Merek makes it clear that he only wants the book to fix this world and his own world back to their respective states before the collision. The angle seems suspicious still but holds the book out for Merek to take. As soon as Merek touches the book he is assaulted by visions, of him ruling the world as its supreme ruler, of him having unimaginable power and wealth with his sister by his side, remembering his training he pushes the visions aside wishing only for the ability to bring back all the families that have been separated during the collision. Suddenly the visions subside and Merek opens his eyes to find the angel smiling at him, impressed by his resolve. The angel commands him to go and fix the destruction the collision has caused for all worlds and to become the new keeper of the book while warning him not to entrust it to others.

10. Apotheosis

Happily walking down the steps of the temple Merek waves the book at Aylen. Aylen lets a great smile break across his face as he runs ups the steps to meet him. Aylen congratulates Merek and says hell treat him to some of his favourite drink when the return to the village. After arriving at the village, a large celebration is held in Merek’s honour with food, drinks and dance.

11. The Ultimate Boon

After the celebration the elders take aside Merek and ask him about all that had happened. After a long discussion they leave the book with Merek as the angel wished. They ask that he hurry in his studies of the book so that they could set right all the wrongs brought on by the collision. Merek spends the next couple weeks looking through the book and learning more about magic to make sure that he would be able to fix the collisions without making things worse. Finally prepared, Merek begins channelling the spell with help from Aylen and the elders to start fixing all the damage caused by the collision throughout the many worlds.

**Return**

12. Refusal of the Return

After setting all the worlds right, Merek begins to doubt if he wants to return to his world. He is treated as a pseudo-god by the most of the remaining inhabitants of the world. Enjoying the praise and prestige he begins to contemplate if he should instead find a way to bring his sister over to this world so they can live in Luxury together. But he knows by doing this he would be forcefully taking her away from the people she will have bonded with over the last 3 years during the collision. As he contemplates this a rumour begins to spread that he could be using the book for much more “good” such as, resurrecting the dead, conjuring food for the starving or wiping out dangerous species.

13. The Magic Flight

The rumours begin to spread like wildfire and people start demanding Merek do more to help the people of this world. People start gathering into mobs and demand he hand the book over to someone more willing to help the people of their world. Merek surprised at the sudden turn of events manages to evade the mob with Aylen’s help. Realising it is no longer a good idea to stay in this world he tells Aylen his plan to leave with the book to return to his world and his sister. Aylen agrees to help and they begin set up a spell that will transport Merek back to his home world. Just as the spell nears completion Merek’s 6th sense triggers again causing him to put up a quick magic shield to block a sneak attack from Aylen. A fight breaks out between the two while Aylen taunts Merek that he been using Merek along to obtain the book, spreading the aggressive rumours, using him to talk to the seer and angel and more. Aylen using his years of magical prowess manages to best Merek knocking him hard into a tree.

14. Rescue from Without

As Merek slumps down the tree, he begins thinking of his sister and how he would never be able to see her again. As he thinks of his sister a warm sensation from his pocket becomes noticeable. Carefully so Aylen would not notice he reaches his hand into his pocket and pulls out the previously forgotten crystal given to him by the seer. He tests thinking about his sister and it starts to get warmer. Thinking quickly, he puts all his willpower into wishing he was back home with his sister. Aylen who was casually strolling up to him while boasting all of his manipulations sees that Merek is beginning to disappear with the book and panics lunging to grab Merek before he disappears completely.

15. The Crossing of the Return Threshold

Merek appears suddenly in a field looking out towards a familiar looking town, it almost looked like the town he grew up in, he takes a second to stare in disbelief at a sight he had not seen in years. Feeling an odd weight on his arm he moves his vision away from the town to stare down at an arm which was connected to half a body leaking gore on the ground. With some disgust he knocks the destroyed body away, and after taking a second to calm himself realises it is likely that the transportation spell worked in an area and thus ended up taking part of Aylen’s body that was in contact with him along for the trip as Aylen had grabbed Merek just as the spell had activated. Merek briefly took some time to mourn the good memories he had made with his mentor, even if they may have been fake. Burying the body and with a quick prayer Merek sets of towards the village eager to reclaim his old peaceful life with his family.

16. Master of the Two Worlds

Walking through the apparently newly rebuilt town Merek spots some of his old friends and neighbours, he happily greets them but brushes of their questions of what happened to him saying that he must find his sister. They happily point him in her new home. Hesitantly Merek Knocks on the door waiting for a reply. The door opens and the brother-sister duo finally come face to face again after a long three years. They Both cry tears of joy as they embrace in a happy reunion.

17. Freedom to Live

After settling back into his old mundane life Merek uses some of his magic to create a small shrine to house the book of knowledge using powerful magic to guard it against those unworthy of using its power, ready if the world ever needs it again. With his job done Merek lives a humble village life with his family and friends.