The Escape Pod crashes in the mountains, crossing over the Drell City and creating a sonic boom that draws everyone’s attention. It lands in Old Lamut, a large mountain of religious importance to the Church of the Dragon God as one of the possible locations (it is, in fact, THE location, but they do not know that for sure). The Watcher of the site for the Church of the Dragon God, Allo Miar, goes to see what could have disturbed the holy site.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Drell City, Davius Altra, takes upon the task of public assuring the citizens that the city and its local allies will not be threatened by ordering a detachment of the Imperial Guard to investigate the site, along with a group of Imperial Mages. Scribus Imzali joins this group of Mages as a representative of his people, hoping the action will leave a favorable impression on his Imperial allies. Governor Altra, however, secretly fears that a renegade Court Mage, the apprentice of Marcus Altra (whom Davius murdered), summoned the “fallen star” to practice an attack on the city, or perhaps to summon some kind of demon from the heavens, or otherwise – the fact that Davius doesn’t know what it is causes him to send the creation of his dead brother, the Kalachna, to the site to find out what is there, and if it is anything terrible, destroy it.

Of the 9 surviving cryopods in the Escape Pod, 8 open on landing. The survivors try to assert who is in charge and what they should do, and eventually they split into three groups. Captain Buster Gannon, a metaphysics stowaway, and an entertainer all depart for “adventure” immediately following the breakdown in group unity. They find Allo Miar, who takes them back to his Watch Post and at first threatens them over the desecration of the holy site, but slowly comes to the understanding that these people are not from this world. The remaining 5 stay together until the Kalachna arrives. They drive her off with what remains of modern weaponry, but the Intelligence officer and Electrical engineer are convinced that with creatures such as this in the world, it would do well for them to know where they are, what they are doing, and with that information what they can do to go home. They go off and eventually meet the advancing guard with Scribus Imzali. They hide, but Imzali captures them himself and asks for his city to interrogate one of them while the Imperials interrogate the other. The plot splits between the groups now:

Group 1:

Captain’s Group stays at the Watch Post for a week learning about the world and talking to members from the Church of the Dragon God about local affairs. Eventually, news arrives from Drell City that an ‘outsider from another world has been captured’, and the group decides to make their way to the city to see what can be done. Allo Altra provides them with a map, some guidance, and some materials, identifying with them as his group is often marginalized by Imperials.